District Courts
of Baltimore City,
Montgomery County,
and Prince George's County

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN IN ADULT COURT
(2005 - 2019)

Analysis Methodology

Data were collected on August 3, 2021 using Open Justice Baltimore's Case Harvester, a database containing information on Maryland court cases that can be analyzed without the limitations of Maryland Judiciary Case Search (MJCS), and analyzed in Microsoft Excel. The initial SQL query simply asked, "Give me <u>all</u> District Court cases that have a defendant under the age of 18 at the time of the incident."

```
SELECT name, (EXTRACT (YEAR from(AGE(dc.incident_date_from, dd."DOB")))) as age, "DOB",
dd.case_number

FROM dscr_defendants dd

INNER JOIN dscr_charges dc

ON dc.case_number=dd.case_number

where (EXTRACT (YEAR from(AGE(dc.incident_date_from, dd."DOB")))) < 18
```

Once the query returned the cases, another query was run that asked, "Give me all the charges and dispositions associated with these case numbers (i.e. the cases returned in the initial query.)"

```
SELECT * FROM public.dscr_charges

where case_number = '<insert case#>'

or case_number = '<insert case#>'...
```

Such a query allows for the analysis of the entire case outcomes versus the outcomes of individual charges. In other words, with this query, we can answer, "Do all the charges in a case get dropped? Do any charges end in a conviction or sentence?"

To be considered a case in which no charge ends in a conviction or sentence, **all charges in the case must have a disposition of either:**
- **Nolle Prosequi**
- **Dismissed**
- **Stet**
- **Judgement of Acquittal**
- **Not Guilty**
- **PBJ Supervised**
- **PBJ Unsupervised, or**
- **any combination of those seven dispositions**

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Analysis Methodology (cont'd)

The initial query returned 8,069 cases with 53,862 total charges. From that initial dataset:

- **71 cases with 199 charges were excluded** because the defendant's age was either -76, -63, -9, -8, -4, -3, 0, or 1, most likely due to initial data entry errors into MJCS, and

- **1,813 cases with 12,352 charges were also excluded** due to Incident Date being out of the target range of 2005-2019.

This timeframe was chosen because it accounts for:

- 1) the lag from MJCS inception in 2001 to full implementation across all jurisdictions, **and**

- 2) the Covid-19 pandemic (which could skew results in a variety of ways), **and**

- 3) SB314, a bill that has been passed into law, that allows for the sealing (also known as shielding) of juvenile criminal records from public view.

Finally, in order for the case to be included in the dataset of analysis:
- the case disposition must = TRIAL, and
- the case status must = CLOSED.

This requirement established the parameters to identify the cases that did not move up to Circuit Court and that are now fully adjudicated and closed.

NOTE: If cases were expunged and removed from MJCS prior to the data scrape by Case Harvester, they would not be included in this analysis. Consequently, this analysis is an unavoidable underrepresentation of dismissals and acquittals. Those, convicted, however, are all contained in the data because their charges are not expungable.

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Analysis Methodology

To identify the dataset of analysis, the Circuit Court analysis used the excluded cases from the District Court analysis, i.e. those 4,256 that were moved up to Circuit Court. Since Open Justice Baltimore's Case Harvester, separates the various Circuit Courts into individual tables, queries were run in the separate tables to get the Circuit Court case #, the charges, and the dispositions for every charge in every case.

Circuit Court and District Court use different naming systems for the cases. In other words, if a case that started in District Court is moved up to Circuit Court, it is assigned a new case #. Therefore, for this analysis, the Circuit Court case # had to be found:

BALTIMORE CITY:
```
SELECT * FROM public.dsk8
where district_case_number = '<insert case#>'
or district_case_number = '<insert case#>'...
```

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:
```
SELECT * FROM public.mccr_district_court_numbers
where district_court_number = '<insert case#>'
or district_court_number = '<insert case#>...
```

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:
```
SELECT * FROM public.pg_charges
where arrest_tracking number = '<insert tracking #>'
or arrest_tracking_number = '<insert tracking #>'..
```

These queries get us the Circuit Court case #s from their District Court case #s.

NOTE: If the arrest tracking number was blank, the case could not be included in analysis

NOTE: Sometimes one case in District Court is split into multiple cases in Circuit Court; so, total case counts may be greater than total case count in District Court.

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Analysis Methodology (cont'd)

Once the Circuit Court case numbers are retrieved, queries were run to get the charges for every case and the dispositions for every charge in every case.

BALTIMORE CITY:
SELECT * FROM public.dsk8_charges
where case_number = '<insert case#>'
or case_number = '<insert case#>'...

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:
SELECT * FROM public.mcrr_charges
where case_number = '<insert case#>'
or case_number = '<insert case#>...

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:
SELECT * FROM public.pg_charges
where case_number = '<insert case #>'
or case_number = '<insert case #>'..

To be considered a case in which no charge ends in a conviction or sentence, **all charges in the case must have a disposition of either:**
- **Nolle Prosequi**
- **Dismissed**
- **Stet**
- **Judgement of Acquittal**
- **Not Guilty**
- **PBJ Supervised**
- **PBJ Unsupervised, or**
- **any combination of those seven dispositions**

Finally, in order for the case to be included in the dataset of analysis, the case status must = CLOSED.