

Biennial Forum of Government Auditors Data Science Best Practices

May 18, 2022

Jane Wiseman, CEO, Institute for Excellence in Government, Inc.,
Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

Agenda:

- 2 points of context
- 3 bits of advice

Agenda:

- 2 points of context
 - Data science is immensely valuable to government
 - Data informed government is not new, yet still a work in progress
- 3 bits of advice....use your influence to:
 - Improve data quality
 - Improve data literacy
 - Allow for failure
- 1 final thought: give each other grace

Data science is a “power tool” for your data



Public sector data innovation: evolution, not revolution



1993



1997



2011

Turning data into action not yet routine

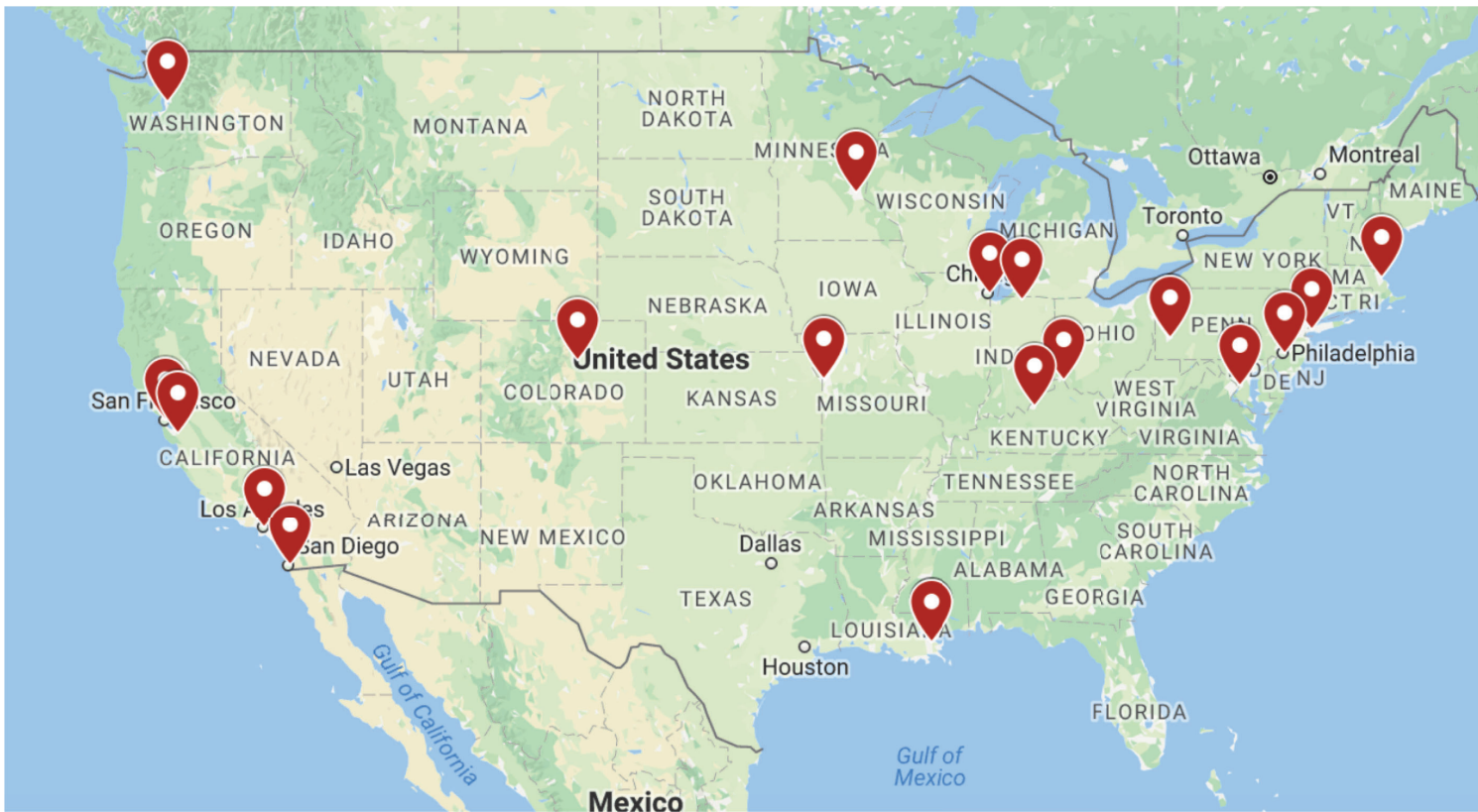
- Less than ½ of federal managers believe staff have the skills needed to collect, analyze and use different types of evidence
- When evidence was available, less than 2/3 use it in decision-making
- Only 1/3 of managers used evidence to inform the public



Source: <https://www.fedscoop.com/gao-survey-of-federal-managers-suggests-progress-needed-on-evidence-based-policymaking>

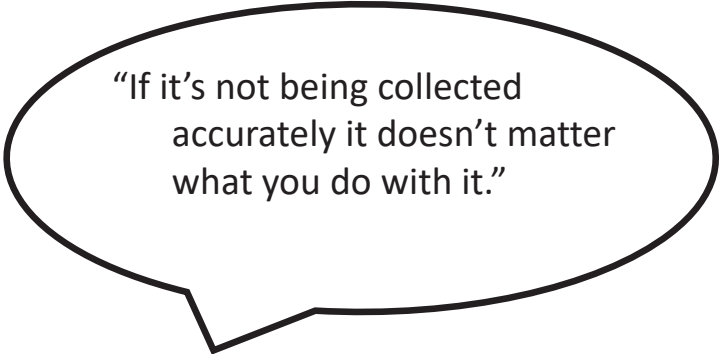
© Institute for Excellence in Government, Inc.

2022 Urban CDO network

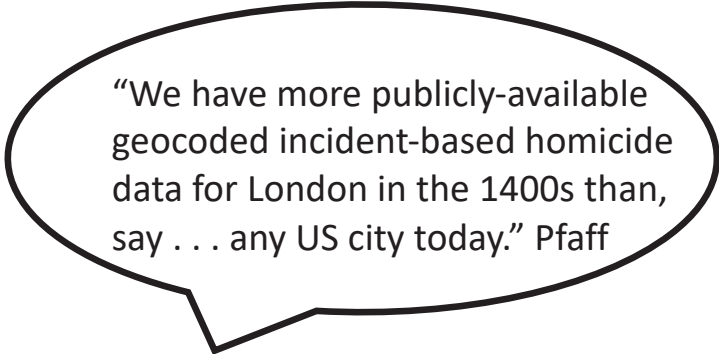


Justice data quality issues

- 68% of state criminal history systems include disposition, in some states as few as 10% of records include it
- One state audit found 18% of records were misclassified, and up to 30% were misclassified at some law enforcement agencies
- In one state, 80% of ethnicity data is blank



“If it’s not being collected accurately it doesn’t matter what you do with it.”



“We have more publicly-available geocoded incident-based homicide data for London in the 1400s than, say . . . any US city today.” Pfaff

Have you decided that the data matters?

BIRTH and Baptismal certificate

Diocese of Killaloe Parish of Birr

On examination of the Register of Baptisms of above Parish I certify that according to it Thomas Tobin was born on 5 day of March 1963, and was baptised according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on _____ day of _____ in the Church of St Brendan by the Rev. J. Scallan cc.

Parents John Tobin
Eileen Halloran

Sponsors James Keffe
Mary Tobin

Confirmed _____ Married _____

igned J. J. Scallan P.P.
iven this 6 day of November 1986 at Birr

BIRTH and Baptismal certificate

L.S.

VERITAS CO. LTD., DUBLIN

1889, Ireland

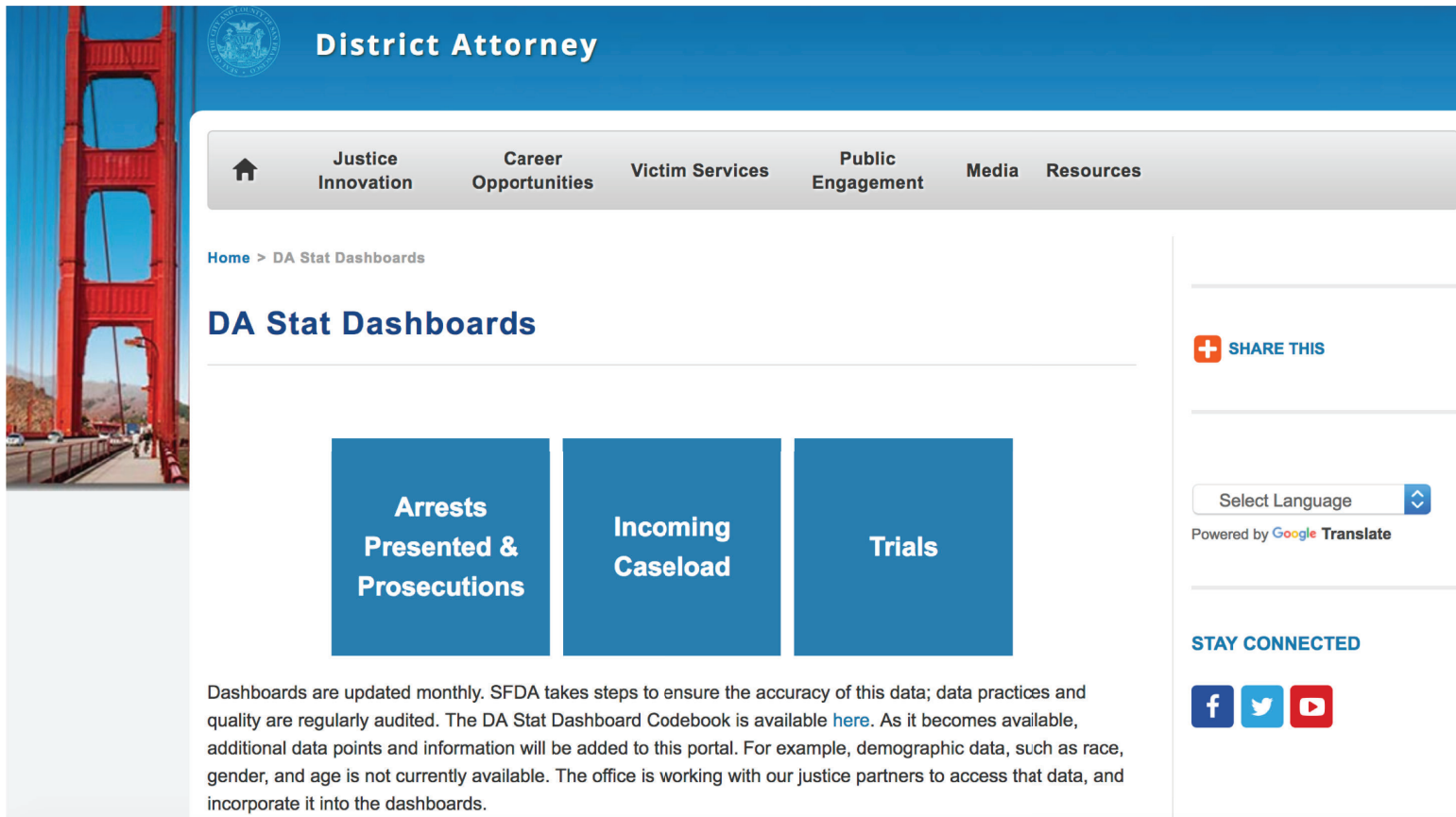


1910, US



1945, US

Accuracy takes time – 6 years for SF DA!



The screenshot shows the San Francisco District Attorney's website. The header is blue with the District Attorney's seal and the text "District Attorney". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Justice Innovation, Career Opportunities, Victim Services, Public Engagement, Media, and Resources. The main content area is titled "DA Stat Dashboards" and features three blue boxes labeled "Arrests Presented & Prosecutions", "Incoming Caseload", and "Trials". A paragraph below these boxes states: "Dashboards are updated monthly. SFDA takes steps to ensure the accuracy of this data; data practices and quality are regularly audited. The DA Stat Dashboard Codebook is available [here](#). As it becomes available, additional data points and information will be added to this portal. For example, demographic data, such as race, gender, and age is not currently available. The office is working with our justice partners to access that data, and incorporate it into the dashboards." On the right side, there is a "SHARE THIS" button, a "Select Language" dropdown menu, and a "STAY CONNECTED" section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

District Attorney

Home > DA Stat Dashboards

DA Stat Dashboards

Arrests Presented & Prosecutions

Incoming Caseload

Trials

Dashboards are updated monthly. SFDA takes steps to ensure the accuracy of this data; data practices and quality are regularly audited. The DA Stat Dashboard Codebook is available [here](#). As it becomes available, additional data points and information will be added to this portal. For example, demographic data, such as race, gender, and age is not currently available. The office is working with our justice partners to access that data, and incorporate it into the dashboards.

SHARE THIS

Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

STAY CONNECTED

f t y