Charleston County Community Survey, 2020 Example

Thank you for clicking on the survey!

In case you are not familiar with us, the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) formed in 2015.  The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to the local criminal justice system (CJS) and thereby improve public safety and community well-being.  The CJCC strives to achieve a local CJS that is increasingly effective, equitable, and efficient.

Membership in the CJCC includes executive leadership from:

•             Charleston County Council

•             Charleston County Sheriff’s Office

•             Charleston Police Department

•             North Charleston Police Department

•             Ninth Circuit Defender

•             Ninth Circuit Solicitor

•             Charleston County Clerk of Court

•             Judiciary, including Circuit, Specialty, Magistrate and Municipal Court Leadership

•             Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina (ex-officio)

•             Charleston Center

•             Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center

•             Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

•             Victim Advocacy

•             Veterans Justice Outreach (Veterans Affairs)

•             American Civil Liberties Union

•             Twelve Diverse Community Representatives

The twelve diverse community representatives voice the diverse needs and concerns of Charleston County residents within the CJCC, including representation from the:

•             Faith Community

•             Nonprofit Community

•             Healthcare Community

•             Business Community

•             Defense Bar Community

•             Crime Survivor Community

•             Previously Incarcerated Community

•             Civil Rights Community

•             Hispanic Community

•             Graduate Program Community in related fields of study

•             Community-at-Large, and

•             Executive Committee designated liaison

Since 2015, the CJCC accomplished several notable milestones, including:

Built a robust data warehouse combining data from across the criminal justice system to provide ongoing analysis and identification of areas for improvement;

Supported law enforcement’s use of jail alternatives, such as citation-and-release for individuals charged with five low level, non-violent crimes, including simple possession of marijuana, open container, misdemeanor shoplifting, trespassing, and public intoxication;

Collaborated with multiple local agencies to reopen the Tri-county Crisis Stabilization Center with a triage line for law enforcement. The center provides an immediate connection to treatment for those living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or homelessness rather than placing them in jail or costly emergency departments;

Started providing text message reminders to defendants with upcoming court appearances to help improve the use of valuable court time and reduce bench warrants for missing court;

Implemented a pretrial services report to inform bond-setting judges and provide better information regarding the risks of re-arrest and/or failing to appear;

Accelerated key aspects of case processing with the implementation of cost-effective technology for more efficient discovery; improved the timeliness of assignment of prosecution and defense counsel; and implemented the first-ever initiation of public defender representation in Centralized Bond Court for poor defendants that qualify;

Provided funding for personnel to support implementation of the Circuit Court led docket management;

Issued several comprehensive reports to inform and update the community about the local criminal justice system, progress to-date, and areas for further improvement;

And launched an expanded community engagement effort to ensure an inclusive process in forming the CJCC’s next set of goals.

The CJCC’s 2020 strategic plan will build on progress to-date and identify further areas for improvement. Data findings, regularly published in reports, and related best practices in the field will form the foundation of the plan. The CJCC is also working to raise awareness of its efforts within the Charleston community and better understand community priorities in improving our local justice system. Collectively, data findings and community priorities will inform development of the next strategic plan and sharpen focus in the areas that need the most attention.

Thank you again for participating in the survey and providing your feedback! It will take approximately 3 minutes to complete. Results will be used to set the course for the CJCC’s 2020 strategic plan.

***CJCC***

**Which of the following statements best describes your knowledge of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)?**

         This is my first time hearing about the CJCC.

         I have a basic understanding of what the CJCC does in Charleston County.

         Prior to today, I have attended at least one CJCC event or meeting.

         I am a CJCC member/ community representative.

***Personal perspective***

*Please share to what level you agree or disagree with the following statement****:***

**I understand how my local justice system works.**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

**I have been personally impacted by the local justice system here in Charleston County**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

         I’m not sure

**I believe the local justice system treats people fairly.**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

         I’m not sure

**I believe that improvements to the local justice system are needed in Charleston County.**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

         I’m not sure

**I am concerned about safety in the Charleston County community.**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

         I’m not sure

**I would like to know more about my local criminal justice system.**

         Strongly agree

         Agree

         Disagree

         Strongly disagree

         I’m not sure

***Priorities***

*The following list gives four areas of concern in most local criminal justice system. When thinking about Charleston County, how would you rant these areas of concern (1 needing the most attention, 4 needing the least attention)? Please only use each number one time.*

**Bond practices (how bond is set, bond conditions required for release (e.g., money, no contact orders, etc.), if/when defendants stay in jail or get out while waiting for court, and if they violate terms of their release)**

How long it takes to bring a case to justice                                                                            1              2              3              4

The overrepresentation of racial & ethnic minorities in the justice system              1              2              3              4

Recidivism (how repeatedly someone gets arrested and/or convicted)                    1              2              3              4

Is there another area that you are concerned about in Charleston’s                           1              2              3              4

criminal justice system that was not listed above? If so, please explain here:

**Does this area rank as a higher or lower priority than those listed above?**

         Higher

         Lower

         I’m not sure

***Demographics***

**How old are you?**

         Under 18

         18-24

         25-34

         35-44

         45-54

         55-64

         65 or older

         Prefer not to say

**What is your residential zip code?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How long have you lived in Charleston County?**

         I do not live in Charleston County

         Less than 1 year

         2-5 years

         6-10 years

         11-15 years

         More than 15 years

         Prefer not to say

**I identify as:**

         Female

         Male

         Prefer not to say

         Other

**I identify my race as:**

         Asian

         Black/ African

         Hispanic/ Latin

         Native American

         Pacific Islander

         White/ Caucasian

         Prefer not to say

         Other

**Please click submit to finish the survey.**

Please stay engaged.

Cjcc.charlestoncounty.org

Join our email list by testing CHSCJCC to 22828

Fine us on Facebook and Twitter @ChsCJCC.

Thank you!