



2024 Tribal Justice Data Listening Webinar Informational Document

Through this series of webinars, the [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) is seeking Tribal Leader, tribal law enforcement and court administrators, justice practitioners working in Indian country, and other interested party input on the development and implementation of the BJS 2024 Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies (CTLEA) and Census of Tribal Court Systems (CTCS).

In order to update the CTLEA and CTCS survey instruments for the 2024 collections, a series of three webinars will be planned for early 2024. The webinars will serve as listening sessions so that those working in the tribal community and affiliated with the tribal justice systems may provide input on the topics to be considered for inclusion in the surveys. Each of the webinars is scheduled for 90 minutes.

The listening sessions will be conducted virtually via webinar with multiple dates available.

- **Tribal Leaders** are invited attend on February 7th from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET.
- **Tribal law enforcement** practitioners are invited to attend on February 12th from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. ET.
- **Tribal court practitioners** are invited to attend on February 20th from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET.

Tribal leaders and justice professionals unable to attend either of their scheduled Tribal listening session are invited to email NORC at the University of Chicago, BJS data collection agent for the CTLEA and CTCS collections, at CTLEA@norc.org.

In addition, participants are encouraged to send written comments to NORC through February 28th, 2024 via email to NORC at CTLEA@norc.org.

About BJS

The mission of BJS is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. BJS also provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments to improve both their statistical capabilities and the quality and utility of their criminal history records.

BJS was first established on December 27, 1979, under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979, Public Law 96-157 (the 1979 Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Public Law 90-351).

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

Tribal Justice Data Listening Webinar Topics 2024

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) of 2010 requires the BJS to (1) establish and implement a tribal crime data collection system, (2) consult with Indian tribes to establish and implement this data collection system, and (3) report annually to Congress on the data collected and analyzed in accordance with the Act. To help fulfill this mandate, BJS developed the Tribal Justice Statistics Program (TJSP), which includes three separate statistical collections on tribal agencies: the Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC), the CTLEA, and CTCS. BJS is planning to conduct new iterations of the CTLEA and CTCS in 2025, with a data reference year of 2024.

The 2019 CTLEA collected data from tribal law enforcement agencies, including tribally operated agencies, BIA police agencies, and the Alaska State Police operating the Alaska Village Public Safety Officers program. The 2019 CTLEA provided a profile of tribal law enforcement by type of agency, the number of agencies and full-time sworn employees, jurisdictional authority, officer equipment and training, the number of calls for service and arrests, and functions performed on a regular basis. The information was published in *Tribal Law Enforcement in the United States, 2018* ([NCJ 306022](#), BJS web, July 2023). The survey was administered to 258 tribal law enforcement agencies responsible for policing in Indian country and Alaska Native Villages and obtained a response rate of 92%.

The 2014 National Survey of Tribal Court Systems (NSTCS), precursor to the CTCS, captured data from the tribal courts and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) courts on their administration and operational characteristics, including the number and types of courts, subject- and person-level jurisdiction exercised, sources of operational funding, handling of juvenile or Indian Child Welfare Act matters, and various aspects of courthouse workgroups—prosecutors, public defense and victim service programs. The information was published in *Tribal Courts in the United States, 2014* ([NCJ 301214](#), BJS web, July 2021). The survey was administered to 234 tribal court systems and achieved a response rate of 84%.

We provide an overview of the topics to be discussed during each webinar below. We hope that this will allow attendees to consider the data needs, challenges, and emerging issues of concern to be included as possible survey topics.

Each 90-minute Zoom webinar will include:

1. CTLEA and CTCS organizational introductions,
2. Overview of the BJS Tribal Justice program,
3. An introduction to the Mural platform to be used during the webinar,
4. Time for BJS and NORC to listen to attendee feedback on the discussion topics and polling items (below) which will inform the survey question development.

I. Tribal Leaders Listening Webinar (February 7, 2024) Discussion Topics and Polling Items:

Objective: Provide information about the combined CTLEA/CTCS data collections. Create a space for tribal leadership to highlight challenges and opportunities they are experiencing in these two areas and discuss how the CTLEA/CTCS data collections can benefit tribes and their justice systems.

Topic area #1 External Factors and Influences (20 minutes) -

- How have recent court rulings and other external factors influenced your community and tribal justice systems?
- For example, have you experienced recent changes in jurisdiction of your tribal justice systems?
- What jurisdictional issues continue to pose a challenge to your tribal justice system?

Topic area #2 Budget and Staffing (20 minutes) -

- Thinking about how your tribe's law enforcement and tribal court needs may have changed in the last five years -- did your tribal justice systems experience changes in budget and staffing needs?
- How have these changes, either negative or positive, changed how your tribal justice systems function?

Topic area #3 New Practices and Topics in Crime and Crime Prevention (15 minutes)

- What new or emerging issues or challenges have affected your community?
- Please talk about ways in which you engage with the community to address concerns about crime and crime prevention, for both emerging and existing challenges.

II. Tribal Law Enforcement Listening Webinar (February 12, 2024) Discussion Topics and Polling Items:

Objective: Provide information to tribal law enforcement agency leadership about the upcoming collection. Create a space for tribal law enforcement leadership to highlight challenges and opportunities they are experiencing in their day-to-day operations, with a focus on what has changed in the last five years since the 2017 CTLEA collection.

Topic area #1 Tribal Law Enforcement Agency Practices and Day to Day Operations (25 minutes) –

- What are the top three challenges that your tribal law enforcement agencies encounter on a day-to-day basis? These can include more long-term and more acute/immediate challenges. Of these, what is the most significant challenge?
- What data does your TLE use to track day to day operations?
- What data does your TLE not collect that would help improve operating your agency?

Topic area #2 Crime and Victimization Trends in the Community (25 minutes) -

- Can you discuss some of the more common calls for service that your officers respond to?
- Describe how you partner or engage with other agencies or community members to address crime and crime prevention in the community.

Topic area #3 Additional questions if time allows –

- Thinking of recruitment, training, and retention of officers, can you discuss some of the challenges your agency has recently faced?
- On that same topic, have specific strategies been effective for recruitment, training, and retention of officers?

II. Tribal Court System Listening Webinar (February 20, 2024) Discussion Topics and Polling Items:

Objective: Provide information to tribal court leadership and stakeholders about the upcoming collection. Create a space for tribal court leadership to highlight challenges and opportunities they are experiencing in their day-to-day operations, with a focus on specific types of data that might be available to gather at the court level since the last data collection, which occurred ten years ago.

Topic area #1 Court Practices and day to day operations (20 minutes) –

- What are the top three challenges that your court encounters on a day-to-day basis?
- What data does your court not collect that would help improve operating your courts?

Topic area #2 Court Structure and Capabilities (15 minutes) –

- What types of tribal courts your tribe operates?
- What kinds of data are collected by your courts?
- What kinds of data are shared with other courts?

Topic area #3 New Topics and Practices in Tribal Courts (15 minutes)

Discuss your tribe's use of specialty courts and diversion programs, such as:

- Behavioral health needs and community-based treatment in the courts
- Alternative courts/dockets
- Diversion programs or special staff or dockets to adjudicate probation violations.
- What promising practices to have been recently adopted by your courts? How might specialty courts demonstrate or “show” they are successful through data?
