

# Results of PA Interbranch Commission Survey Regarding Judicial Districts' Collection of Juror Demographic Data



The Commission distributed to all PA court administrators a survey designed to learn more about whether judicial districts are collecting racial, ethnic, gender, or other juror-based demographic data. Out of PA's 60 judicial districts, the Commission received 37 responses.



87%

32 out of 37 respondents indicated that they use the Statewide Juror List as the source from which they pool jurors.



38%

14 out of 37 respondents indicated that they collect demographic data on the individuals to whom summonses are sent.



27%

10 of the 37 respondents indicated that they collect demographic data on the individuals who appear in the courthouse following receipt of their summons.



19%

7 of the 37 respondents indicated that they collect demographic data on the individuals who are actually chosen to serve as jurors.

"We need direction from AOPC that collecting this information is a priority and specifically what information should be collected . . . I am interested in learning more about . . . what other counties are doing to increase diversity on juries."

- One Court Administrator on Why District Doesn't Collect Demographic Data

For the districts that indicated they do not collect juror demographics, the most commonly cited reasons were lack of resources and a lack of statutory/regulatory guidance. Several districts, however, indicated their software is capable of running robust reports on demographic data and are willing to share that data.



Overall, the Commission found that most judicial districts are using the Statewide Juror List as a means of summoning their jurors. This List draws from information compiled by four state agencies to best ensure diverse juror pools. Most districts, however, are not collecting juror demographic data.

The Commission thanks the court administrators for their participation in the survey and their commitment to ensuring that Pennsylvania juries are being drawn from a fair and representative cross-section of the community.

Learn more about the Interbranch Commission at <http://www.pa-interbranchcommission.com/>.