

Presents the

*integrated*

**Crime**

**Research**

**Information**

**System**

**(iCRIS)**

# A Different Approach to Integrating Criminal Justice Data:

## *A Role for Research*

### Two milestones:

- ✓ Created a research data set of criminal history files - a first for Florida
- ✓ Integrating research data sets from different criminal justice data systems to create new information about crime & punishment in Florida

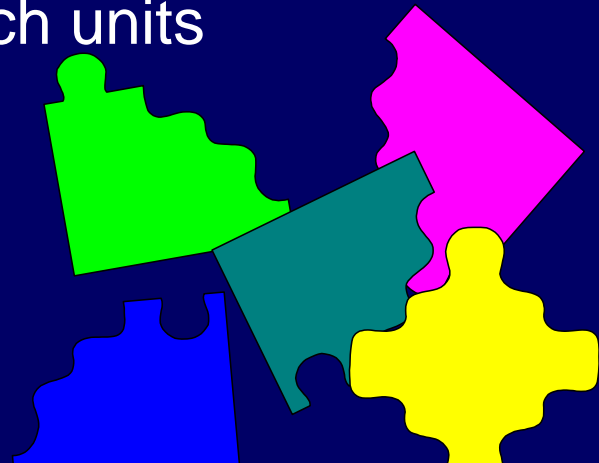
# BACKGROUND

Florida has worked on integrating criminal justice systems for the past 30 years.

We are **STILL** working on the pieces **TODAY**...

Florida has excellent operational / transactional systems used by law enforcement (criminal histories), juvenile justice, courts, and corrections.

There are established, experienced research units working with most of the data in these transactional systems.



# HOW WE STARTED...



Targeted our “most valuable” data source, first  
- Criminal History Files

Sold the need for a decision support system to upper  
management

Got permission to “copy” data from FDLE-maintained  
systems:

- Criminal History Files
- Uniform Crime Reports
- Officer Files

Obtained a grant to purchase a server, software and  
consultant services



# FLORIDA'S CRIMINAL HISTORY FILES

- automated records available from early 1970's
- over 3 million individuals & over 10 million arrest records
- over 20 GB of data
- Corrections & Courts contribute data via tape to records
- a big piece of the picture: arrests, prosecution, sentencing & supervision (OBTS)

**Had never been placed in a maintained research data set**

**Previously, a custom program was written and ran against the live database to answer questions - resource intensive process**

# NEW INFORMATION SOURCE CREATED

Enhanced by adding to the repository:

**UCR data files**

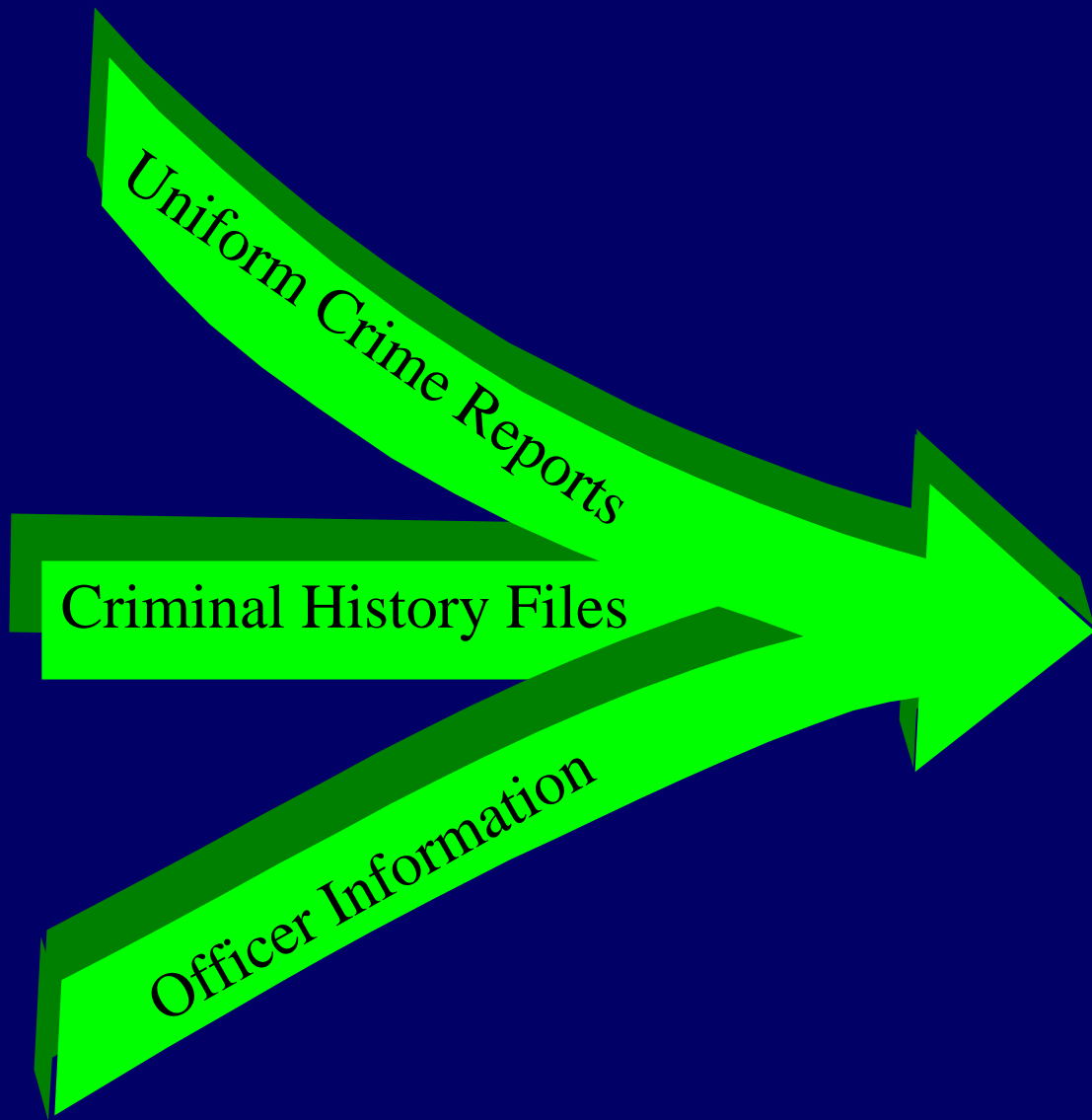
**Officer information files**

## **Uses:**

Created profiles of crime, arrests, & workforce by jurisdiction, county or other geographical region. (COMPSTAT - like information on a statewide basis)

Bill Analysis & other policy support reports based on actual data, (i.e., what offenses are actually being used by police and prosecutors) in place of anecdotal information

Data quality assistance (pulling samples for audits, identifying missing data by county, etc.)



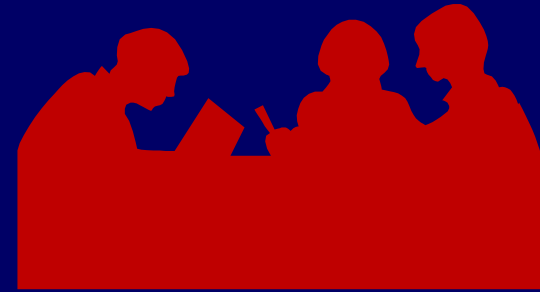
**Crime  
Research  
Information  
System  
(CRIS)**

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM BUILDING CRIS :

“Play well with others”

Importance of working with IT to create extract files and update procedures

Working with data owners & users to create meta-data and a research data dictionary



Services offered : Data quality, etc., for data-owners

Selecting the tool-set: SAS for analysis & repository (using what is being used)



# IF YOU BUILD IT ...THEY WILL COME

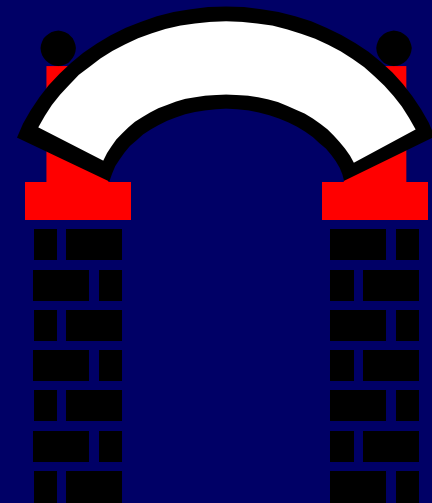
Flexible, current research data sets with data definitions - a hot commodity!

Data in CRIS is updated monthly from the source systems

Each data source has an automated dictionary that is updated as new things are learned about the data

Internal Users coming to CRIS for data, freeing up IT for system programming

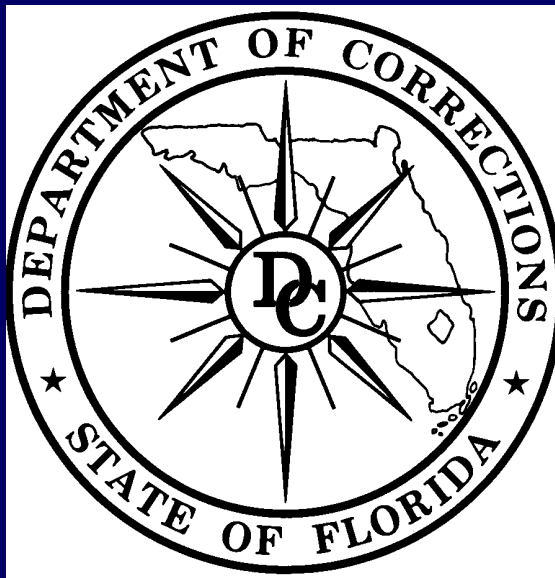
External users see the value of criminal history data in a research data set



# FORGING PARTNERSHIPS:

Florida Department of Corrections

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice



# WORKING WITH FELLOW-RESEARCH UNITS

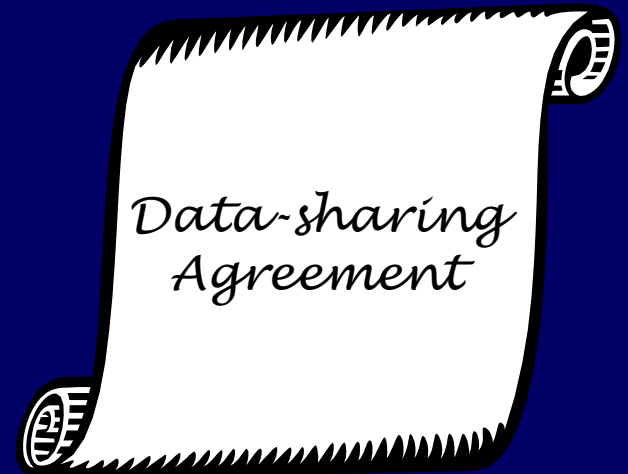
Data shared, is data improved

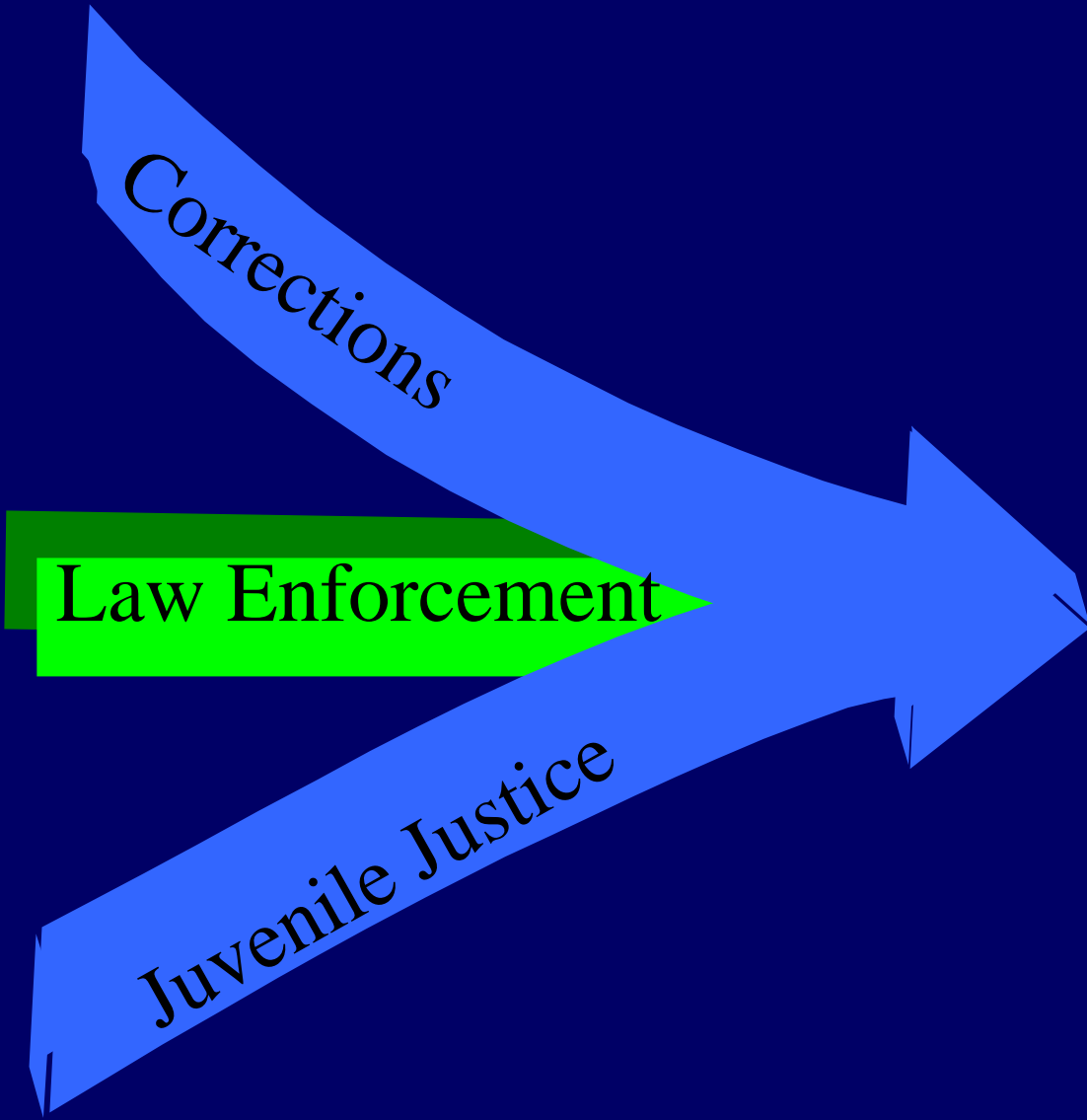
More than enough to go around

Stay in your sand-box

Agreements

Data “cross-walking”

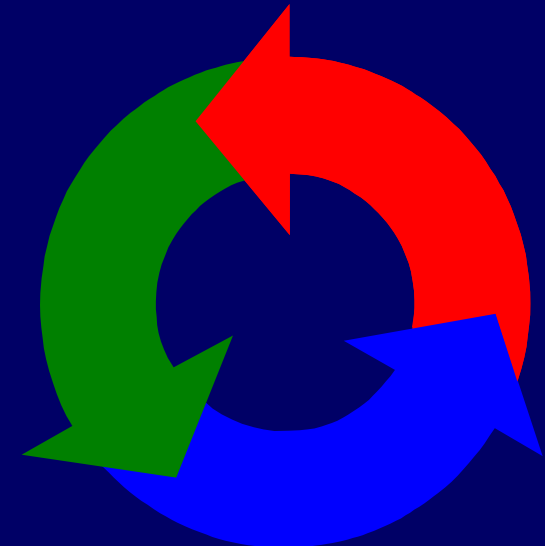




***integrated***  
**Crime  
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# THE VALUE OF *INTEGRATED* RESEARCH DATA

- ✓ Builds or improves relationships with fellow researchers
- ✓ Common mission between units
- ✓ Enhanced understanding of system-wide data
- ✓ Improved data reliability (what's important to me - may not be important to you - we collect well the things we use)
- ✓ EVALUATION of Programs
- ✓ Evolutionary process



**Department of  
Corrections**

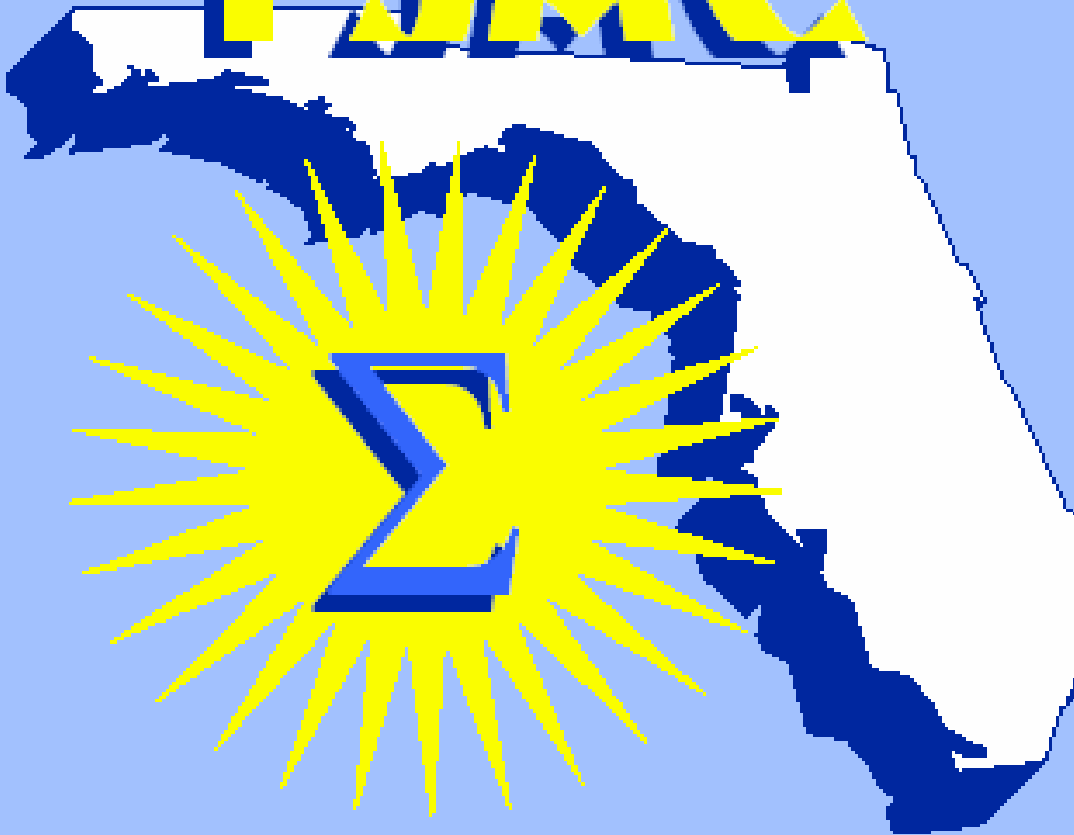
**State Courts**

**iCRIS:  
Completing the Picture**

**Department of  
Law Enforcement**

**Department of  
Juvenile Justice**

# FSAC



Florida Statistical Analysis Center

## Questions?

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