

Assessing Florida's Criminal History Improvement, 2003 and 2006

Using the Records Quality Index

Prepared by:

Susan Burton, Administrator

Debra Livingston, Senior Data Analyst

Jessica Andrews, Government Analyst

Cindy Durrett, Government Analyst

**Florida Statistical Analysis Center
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Tallahassee, Florida**

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INTRODUCTION

The Florida Statistical Analysis Center (FSAC) conducted a study of Florida's criminal history records using the Records Quality Index (RQI). The RQI methodology was developed by Structured Decisions Corporation (SDC)¹ for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.² SDC applied specific techniques to examine the performance of state criminal history records systems using a set of outcome, timeliness, and completion measures for criminal history records over a period of time.

The FSAC used criminal history records for arrests that occurred between 2001 and 2006 to calculate Florida's RQI for 2003 and, for comparison purposes, the RQI for 2006. As part of this project, the FSAC developed computer programs to automate portions of the RQI equation related to computation of the timeliness and completion of the records. The programs allow the FSAC to easily calculate the RQI for future years as well as modify the measures used to provide additional information about Florida's criminal history records to policy makers.

BACKGROUND

Records Quality Index

The purpose of the Records Quality Index is to measure the performance of criminal history records systems over time. The RQI is measurable at the national, state and county levels and has been accepted as an effective standard to assess the performance of criminal history systems. The FSAC examined Florida's criminal history records at the statewide level.

The RQI is a composite of different outcome and process measures. SDC identified outcome measures including: automation of records, response to Interstate Identification Index (III) inquiries, automated transmission of arrests to the repository, criminal history database flagging, transmission of criminal fingerprints to Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS), transmission of applicant fingerprints to IAFIS, electronic data submission to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) files, transmission of dispositions to the repository, authorized access to State files, and National Fingerprint File (NFF) State and Compact signing status. The timeliness of case processing, and completeness of disposition reporting are the two process measure components of the RQI.

Because the RQI measures the performance of criminal history records systems over time, a base year is established from which to compare subsequent years' performance. The first year's RQI is based on arrests that occurred within that year and the two years prior. Subsequent years' RQI

¹ Structured Decisions Corporation. *Measuring the Performance of Criminal History Records Systems: The Records Quality Index*. Retrieved from http://www.sdcorp.net/public/Pub_RQI_Report.pdf.

² Cooperative Agreement #2001-RH-CX-K005 between Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice and Structured Decisions Corporation.

is similarly created from arrests within a three-year period. The FSAC established Florida's RQI for 2003 (using arrest records from 2001 – 2003) and then calculated the RQI for 2006 using arrest records from 2004 – 2006.

A formula for the RQI was created to account for the outcome and process measures³:

$$\mathbf{RQI} = \mathbf{K} \times \mathbf{O} \times \mathbf{P}_2$$

$$\mathbf{P}_1$$

K is an appropriate scaling factor; SDC defined K = 100,000

O is a weighted sum of N outcome measures (O_i)

$$O = a_1O_1 + a_2O_2 + \dots + a_NO_N$$

$0 \leq O_i \leq 1$; currently for Florida, $N = 10$ and $a_i = 1/N$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

P₁ is a normalized and censored process measure that reflects the average elapsed time between arrest and final disposition; $P_1 > 0$, and P_1 has no upper limit; thus RQI is unbounded.

P₂ is a disposition-based process measure that reflects the cohort completeness of records.

Outcome Measures (O): Ten outcome measures were used to determine the *O* for Florida's RQI. A description of the outcome measures used is included in Appendix A.

Timeliness Measure (P₁): The timeliness process measure reflects the average elapsed time between an arrest and its rendered final disposition within a prescribed time frame. For Florida's RQI purposes, all felony and misdemeanor arrests were included.⁴ To determine P_1 , judicial data is *censored* at the end of each three-year period, and a *normalization* factor is applied to the P_1 for each subsequent year's RQI. Censoring the data refers to the practice wherein dispositions which occurred outside the specific time frame are bounded to count as if they occurred within the three-year period. These dispositions are counted as if they occurred on the final day of the three-year period. More specifically, data censoring is applied to arrest events that meet the following conditions:

³ Structured Decisions Corporation. *Measuring the Performance of Criminal History Records Systems: The Records Quality Index*. Retrieved from http://www.sdcorp.net/public/Pub_RQI_Report.pdf.

⁴ The data used for this study includes both adult and juvenile arrests.

1. The arrest has a judicial disposition, but the disposition date is not between the date of arrest and the end of the time period examined;⁵ or
2. The arrest has no judicial disposition recorded.

For records that meet these criteria, the end of the period date is used as a proxy for the actual disposition date.

To control for arrest volume variability across time periods, a normalization factor is calculated based on the total number of arrest events for subsequent years divided by the total number of arrest events for the base period.

Completeness Measure (P₂): The completeness process measure reflects the completeness of records for a particular RQI year determined by the presence of a judicial disposition for the arrest event by the end of the time period. The P₂ for Year N is calculated as a percentage of arrest events that occurred in Year N-2 that had a judicial disposition on or before the end of Year N. For this study, the P₂ for 2003 is calculated as a percentage of arrest events that occurred in 2001 that had a judicial disposition on or before the end of 2003. The P₂ for 2006 was similarly calculated for arrest events that occurred in 2004.

Florida Computerized Criminal History files

Florida's criminal history files are housed in the Computerized Criminal History files (CCH) which contain information on each individual arrested and fingerprinted by law enforcement in Florida. The CCH files contained criminal history records for over 5.6 million individuals and nearly 19.7 million arrest events as of January 1, 2009.⁶

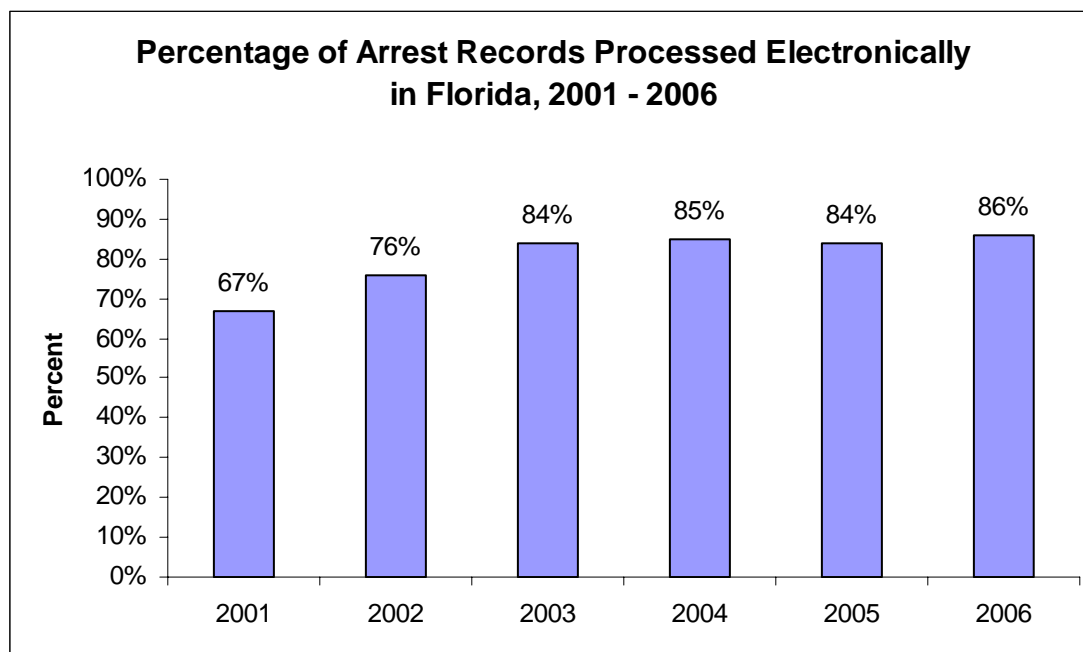
Local and state law enforcement agencies submit arrest data to FDLE to be recorded in the CCH files. While agencies submitted arrest data via paper fingerprint cards, in 1997 FDLE began accepting arrests electronically via Livescan. A major benefit of the electronic submission of fingerprint cards is that the system allows the majority of arrests to be entered in the CCH files within 24 – 48 hours. As seen in Figure 1, 67 percent of arrest records were processed electronically in 2001; by 2006, 86 percent were entered into CCH electronically.⁷

⁵ The RQI for 2003 is based on arrests and dispositions between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2003; RQI for 2006 is based on arrests and dispositions between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2006. Records that required censoring were given a December 31, 2003 or December 31, 2006 disposition date as a proxy for each record's disposition date.

⁶ The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) maintains Florida's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) files which contain arrest information submitted by Florida law enforcement agencies via fingerprint cards or Livescan as well as judicial and custody information submitted by the Clerks of Court and the Department of Corrections, respectively. Note that CCH data are continually updated and arrest/judicial records are subject to change as additional information are received and entered. Caution should be used in comparing individual categories as these may be impacted by events whose records have not yet been added to the database.

⁷ Electronic submissions were processed for 76 percent of the arrests for 2001 – 2003, while 2004 – 2006 saw 85 percent of the arrests entered electronically. Up to 93 percent of arrest data is received electronically by FDLE but approximately seven percent require manual processing.

Figure 1: Arrest Records Processed Electronically



The CCH files also contain judicial disposition data associated with the arrest events. The criminal history records are updated by the Clerks of the Court. While arrests are submitted to FDLE at the time of occurrence, Florida Statute requires the Clerks to submit court data once a month.⁸ As with arrest records, the majority of disposition records are received and processed electronically. CCH records are updated within 24 – 48 hours of receipt with the court data. The judicial records in CCH include data for arrests that end at the prosecution phase as well as those that complete the court phase. Judicial records also include conviction and sentencing data.

METHODOLOGY

The FSAC calculated Florida’s RQI based on records contained in Florida’s CCH, establishing 2003 as the base year and 2006 as the year for comparison.⁹ RQI methodology requires that for any year N, arrest and disposition records will be examined for the years N, N-1, and N-2. For the 2003 RQI, CCH records for 2003 and the two years prior (2002 and 2001) were included. In addition, CCH records for 2004 – 2006 were included to determine Florida’s RQI for 2006.

Each arrest in CCH can have multiple arrest charges, and each arrest charge can have multiple judicial counts. The timeliness (P_1) and completion (P_2) factors of RQI are concerned with entry into the state repository at the event level. Therefore, the FSAC examined the records as events, regardless of the number of arrest charges or judicial counts associated with the event. An arrest

⁸ §. 943.052, Florida Statutes.

⁹ CCH data was retrieved on January 1, 2009.

event is considered *finally disposed* when there is at least one judicial record for any given charge in the arrest event.

The FSAC created a data set with arrest events for 2001 – 2003 and 2004 – 2006 based on the date of arrest. Next, judicial records were selected if they were associated with arrest events that occurred within the aforementioned date ranges. The FSAC accounted for the presence of multiple disposition dates because each arrest event in CCH can have multiple disposition records. Thus, the earliest date on record for the study was selected. In addition, when cases end at prosecution, no court disposition date is available. Therefore, the prosecution date was used as a proxy.

Data censoring was used to calculate the P_1 (time from arrest date to disposition date) for the 2003 RQI. Data censoring refers to the use of a disposition date of December 31, 2003 in cases where there was either a disposition date that occurred after the three-year period or where there was no disposition date available. The actual disposition date was used if it occurred before the end of the period. The average number of days from the date of arrest to the censored date of disposition for 2003's RQI is 337 days.

The data censoring technique was repeated to calculate the P_1 for the 2006 RQI. Arrests that occurred between 2004 and 2006 and either had a disposition date which occurred after the three-year period or no disposition date were given a disposition date of December 31, 2006. The average number of days from the date of arrest to the censored date of disposition for 2006's RQI is 349 days. In addition, the normalization factor was calculated based on the number of arrest events for the 2001 – 2003 period and the events for 2004 – 2006. The normalization factor for 2006 is 1.10.¹⁰ When the normalization factor is applied to the RQI technique, the P_1 for 2006 is 317.

To measure record completeness (P_2) for 2003, the total number of 2001 arrest events with a judicial disposition on or before December 31, 2003 was divided by the total number of arrest events for the same year. Forty-nine percent (0.49) of the 2001 arrest events had a judicial disposition prior to the end of 2003.¹¹ The same method was used to calculate the P_2 for 2006, which yields a P_2 of 0.47.¹²

FLORIDA'S STANDARD RQI

The RQI for Florida's criminal history record system for each year was calculated after the numeric values for each factor were determined (see Table 1 and Figure 2).

¹⁰ CCH contained 2,576,513 arrest events for 2001 – 2003; there were 2,831,952 arrest events for 2004 – 2006 resulting in a normalization factor of 1.10 for calculating Florida's 2006 RQI when the 2003 RQI serves as the base year.

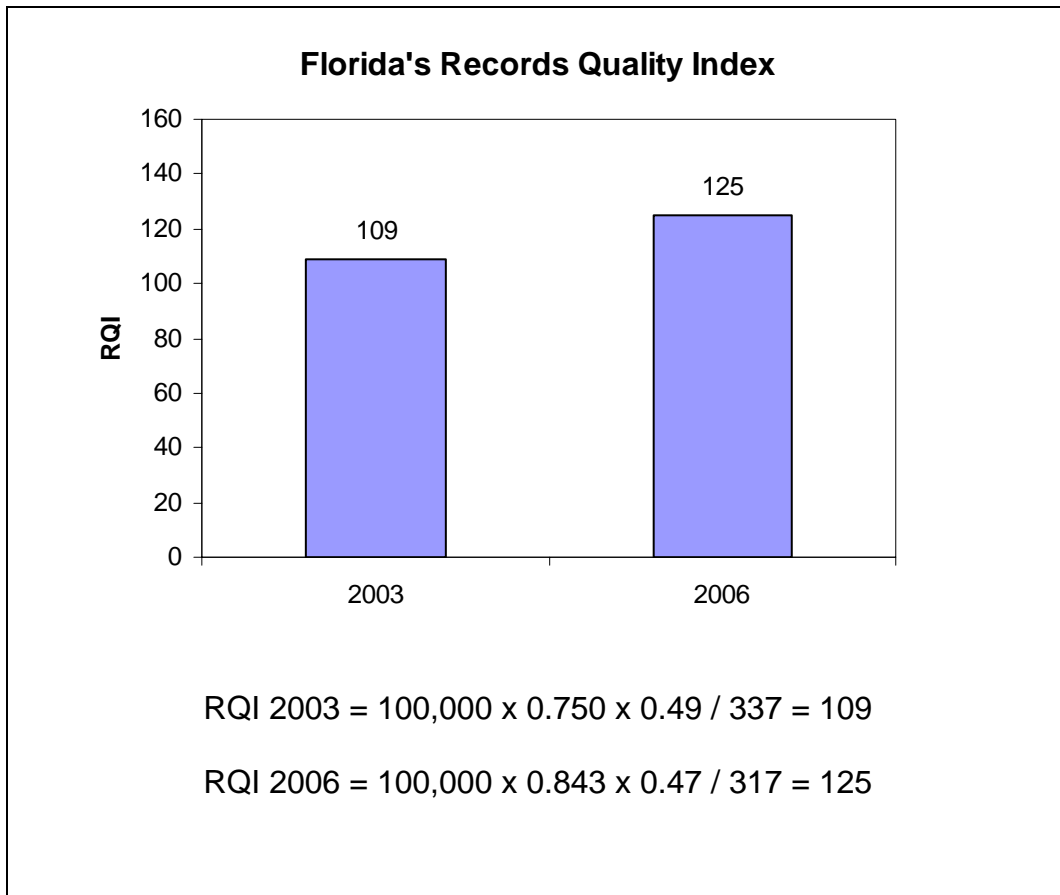
¹¹ P_2 for 2003: 402,722 of the 820,587 arrest events in 2001 had a disposition by December 31, 2003.

¹² P_2 for 2006: 434,074 of the 917,860 arrest events in 2004 had a disposition by December 31, 2006.

Table 1: Records Quality Index (RQI) Factors for Florida 2003 and 2006

RQI (with Scaling Factor = 100,000)		
	2003	2006
Outcome (O)	0.750	0.843
Timeliness (P ₁)	337	317
Completeness (P ₂)	0.49	0.47

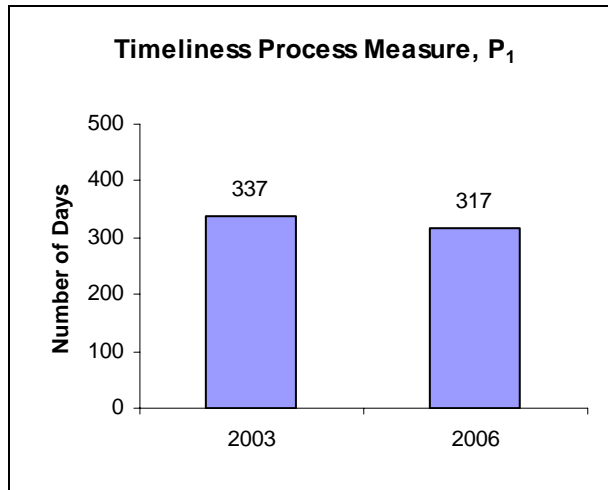
Figure 2: Florida's Records Quality Index (RQI) for 2003 and 2006



Florida's RQI increased from 109 in 2003 to 125 in 2006. The substantial 16-point increase can be attributed mainly to improvements in the timeliness of criminal history record information coming into the State's repository.

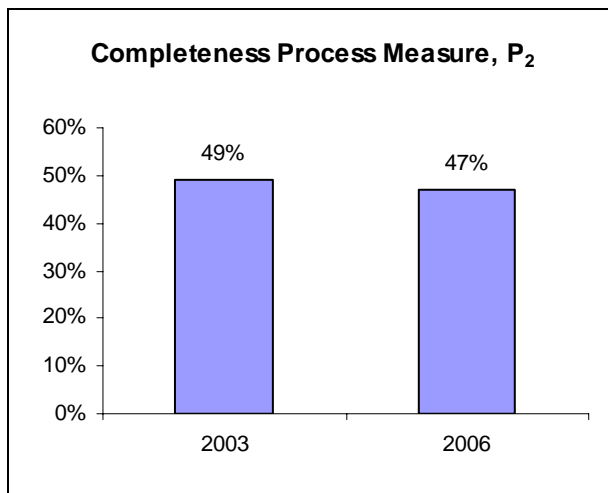
While the average time between arrest and disposition increased in 2006, normalizing the data caused a decline in the timeliness factor (P_1) from 337 days to 317 days (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: P_1 (Timeliness) for Florida's RQI for 2003 and 2006



While there is marked improvement in time from arrest to disposition, record completeness has not improved from 2003 to 2006 (see Figure 4). The State's percentage of dispositions which are complete by the end of the three-year period is down slightly in 2006 (47%) from 2003 (49%).

Figure 4: P_2 (Completeness) for Florida's RQI for 2003 and 2006

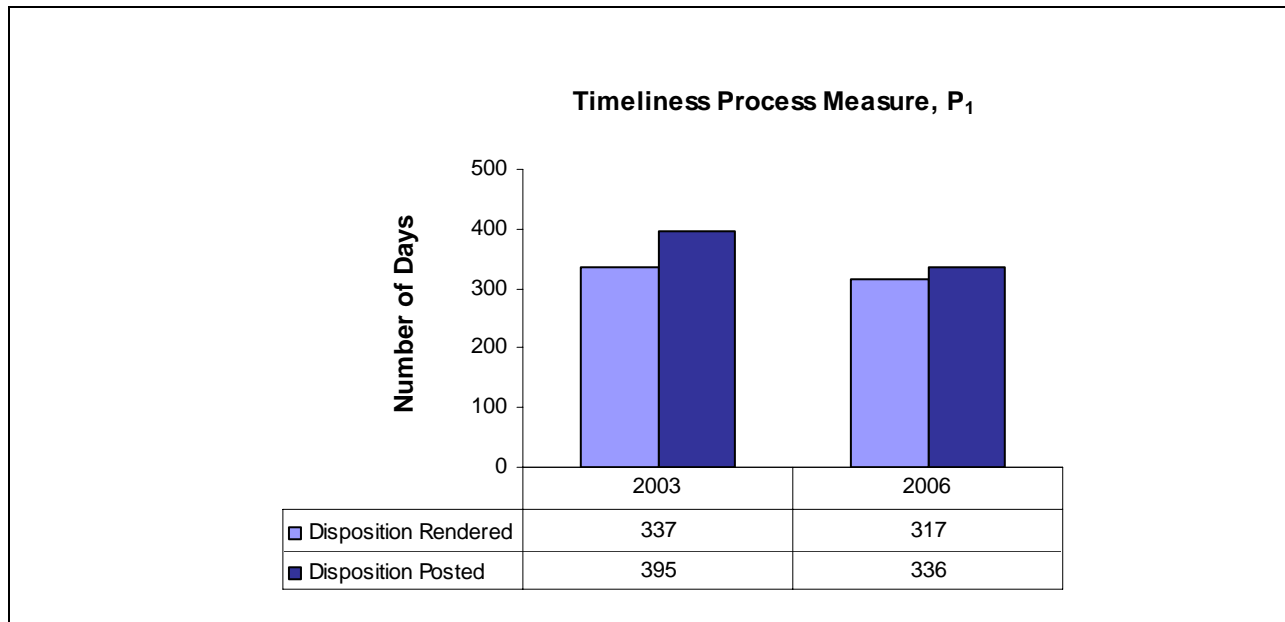


MODIFIED RQI

In addition to calculating Florida’s RQI based on disposition rendering, the FSAC modified the RQI measures to address timeliness measures of interest to Florida’s criminal history records managers and policy makers. The modification was made specifically to address the time from the date of arrest to when the disposition posted in CCH rather than when the disposition was rendered. In fact, SDC suggested that measuring the average elapsed time from arrest to disposition posting in criminal history records systems was preferable for states that capture the posting dates.¹³

The modified P_1 measures the time between the date of arrest and the date that the disposition was posted in the State’s repository. Like the disposition date used for the standard RQI, each arrest event in Florida’s CCH can have multiple disposition entry dates. The earliest date on record was selected for each event. Data censoring was applied to both the 2001 – 2003 arrest events and those that occurred in 2004 – 2006. The modified P_1 for 2003 was 395 days while the modified P_1 for 2006, after normalization, was 336 days. Figure 5 illustrates the impact on P_1 based on whether one considers the date the disposition was rendered or the date the disposition was entered into the CCH files. There is noticeable decrease in the amount of time between when a disposition is rendered and when the record was made available in the repository.¹⁴

**Figure 5: P_1 (Timeliness) for Florida’s RQI, 2003 and 2006
Comparing the Standard Method (Disposition Rendered)
and Modified Method (Disposition Posted)**

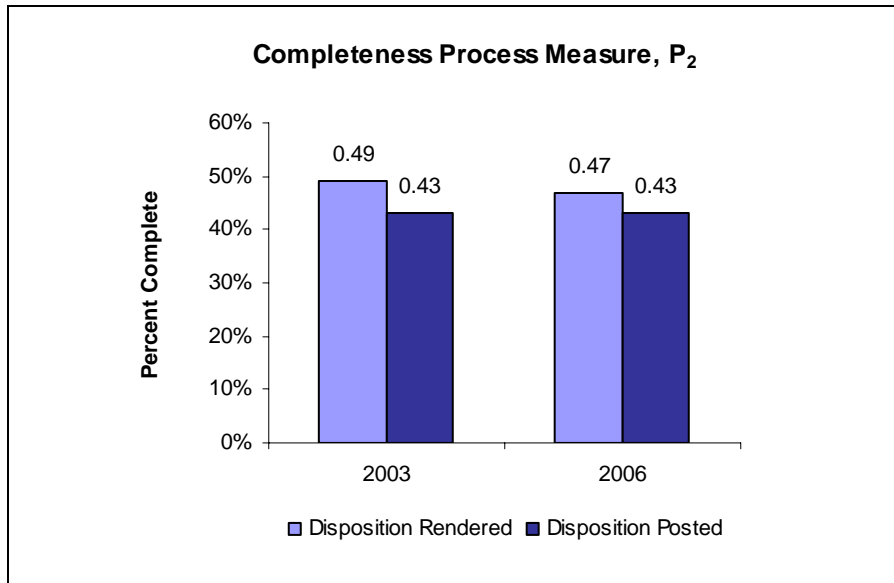


¹³ Structured Decisions Corporation. *Measuring the Performance of Criminal History Records Systems: The Records Quality Index*. Retrieved from http://www.sdcorp.net/public/Pub_RQI_Report.pdf.

¹⁴ The average number of days between disposition rendering and posting for 2003 RQI purposes was 58 days; for 2006 RQI purposes, the time decreased to an average of 19 days.

Continuing the modified RQI process, the completeness measure (P_2) considered the percentage of arrest events from 2001 and 2004 that had a disposition posted by the end of 2003 and 2006 respectively. Both years had a 43-percent completion rate. Figure 6 shows a comparison between using the disposition date and the entry date for calculating P_2 .

**Figure 6: P_2 (Completeness) for Florida’s RQI, 2003 and 2006
Comparing the Standard Method (Disposition Rendered)
and Modified Method (Disposition Posted)**

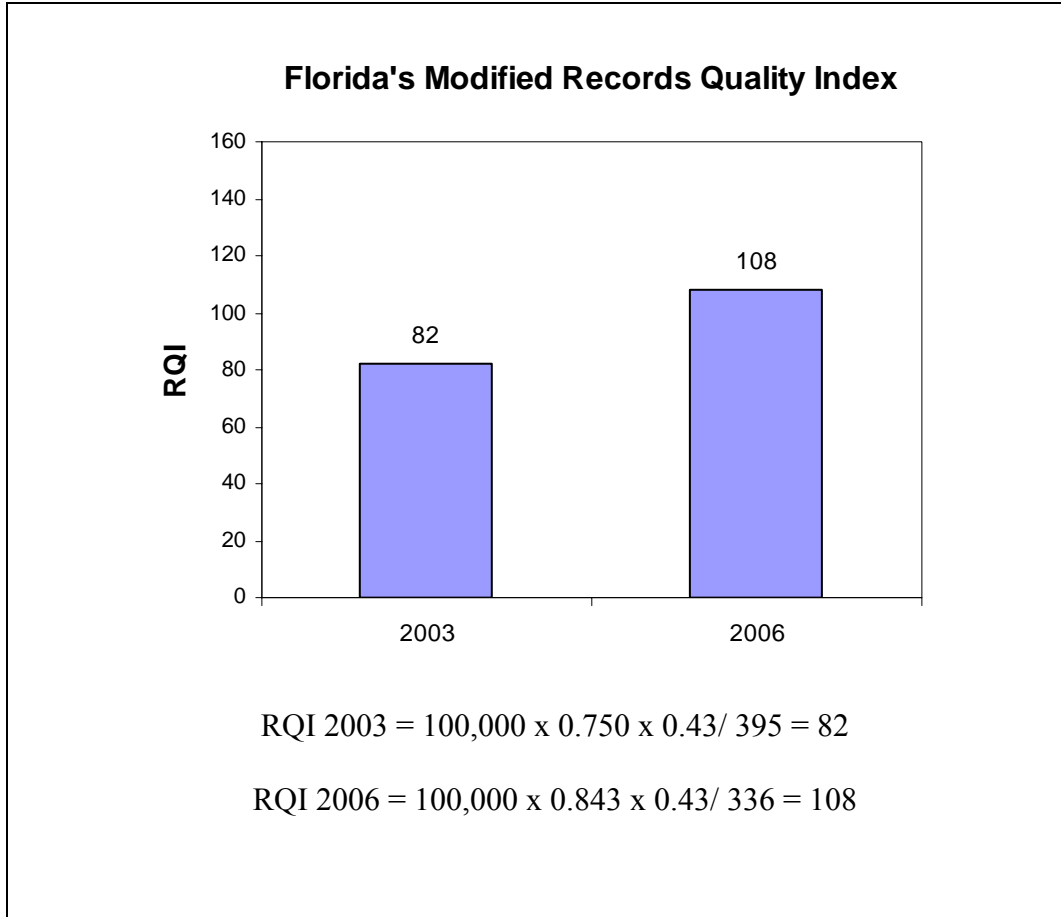


The modified RQI for each year was calculated after the numeric values for each factor were determined. (See Table 2 and Figure 7.)

**Table 2: Modified Records Quality Index (RQI) Factors for Florida
2003 and 2006**

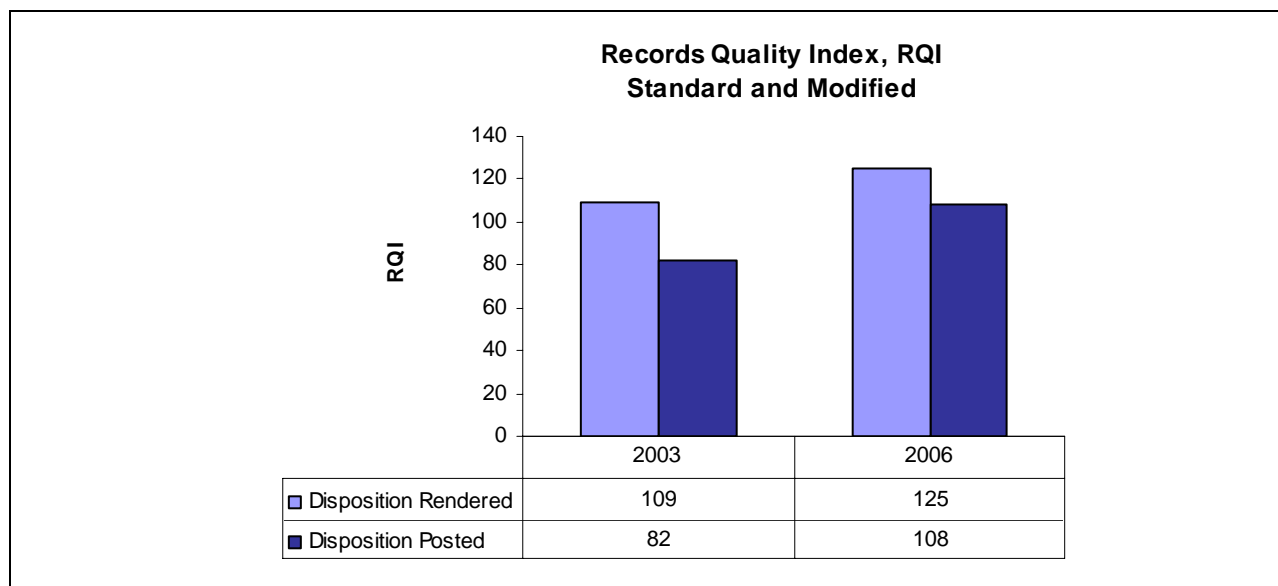
Modified RQI (with Scaling Factor = 100,000)		
	2003	2006
Outcome (O)	0.750	0.843
Timeliness (P_1)	395	336
Completeness (P_2)	0.43	0.43
Scaling Factor	100,000	100,000

Figure 7: Florida's Modified RQI



Using the modified RQI (disposition posting) yields improved timeliness outcomes as compared to using disposition rendering. In fact, from 2003 to 2006, disposition posting shows 26 points improvement over standard disposition rendering methods. However, both methods show improvement in the quality of Florida's criminal history records over time (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Comparison of RQI and Modified RQI



DISCUSSION

To better understand the changes in Florida’s RQI between time periods and methods, the FSAC examined the time between arrest and disposition (both disposition date and entry date) without data censoring and normalization.

Description of the Data

The data used for this study was comprised of arrest events that occurred between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2006, as recorded in Florida’s CCH file as of January 1, 2009. In addition to the arrest events, disposition records corresponding to these arrests were examined. Table 3 shows the number of arrest events both with and without dispositions for the periods covered.

**Table 3: Number of Arrest Events, with and without Dispositions
2001 – 2006**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Arrest Events	820,587	863,983	891,943	917,860	952,766	961,326
Arrest Events with Disposition ¹	408,405	428,935	430,013	437,909	469,088	444,690
Arrest Events without Disposition ²	412,182	435,048	461,930	479,951	483,678	516,636

¹ Regardless of when the disposition was rendered or posted in CCH.

² Regardless of whether a disposition is expected for the arrest event. Examples of arrests where no disposition is expected included federal charges and deportation; military charges including desertion; municipal offenses; out of state fugitives including extradition; arrests for other counties; and probation and parole violations.

As seen in Figure 9, the number of days from arrest date to disposition date fluctuates slightly from year to year, from 142 days in 2001 to 134 days in 2006. Time from arrest date to disposition entry shows a steady decline from 505 days in 2001 to 150 days in 2006, explaining the differences in P₁ measures between the two methods. While time from arrest to disposition rendering remains steady with some improvement, time from arrest to disposition posting decreased by 70 percent from 2001 to 2006.

**Figure 9: Average Days from Arrest to Disposition, Uncensored
2001 – 2006**

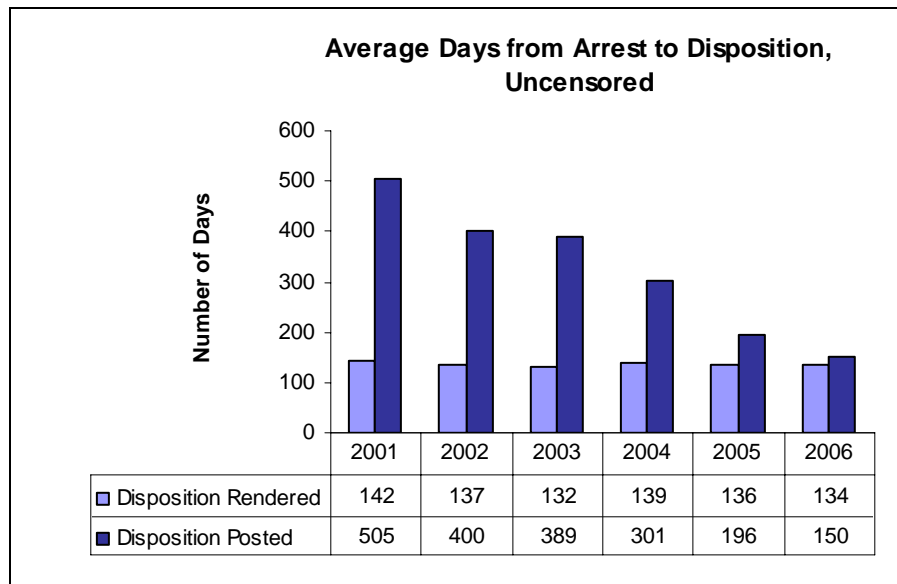
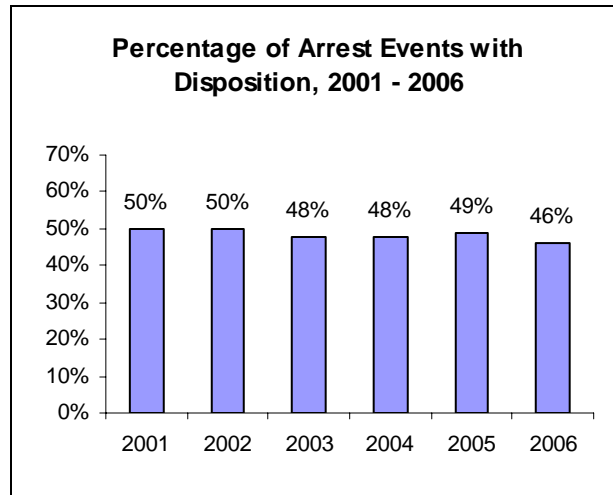


Figure 10 presents the completeness of Florida’s criminal history records for each year considered regardless of when the disposition was rendered or posted. The percentage of arrest events with a disposition available in the repository varied between 50 and 46 percent annually.¹⁵

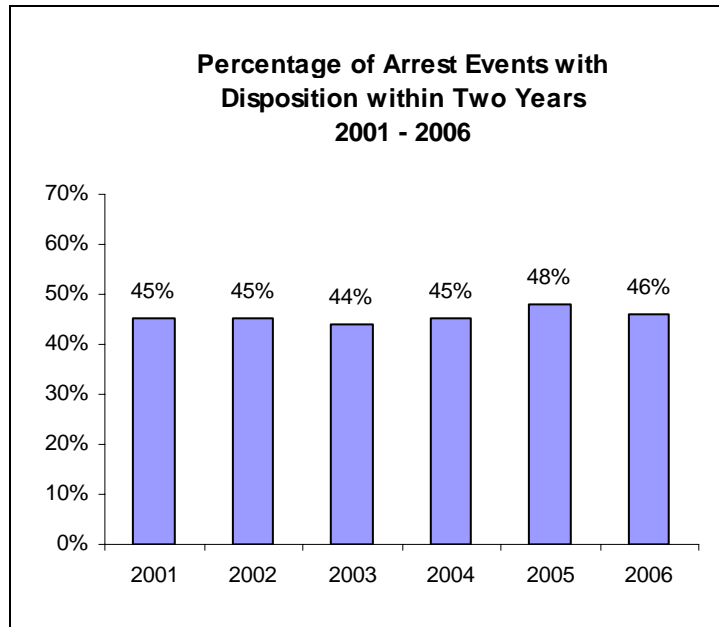
**Figure 10: Percentage of Arrest Events with Disposition
2001 – 2006**



Next, a comparison between percentage of arrest events with disposition over the time period of the study (see Figure 10) and percentage of arrest events with a disposition within two years (see Figure 11) shows interesting patterns. With the two-year limit, the number of arrests with disposition is as much as five percent fewer than without a time restraint. Therefore, when placing a time limit on disposition entry for each year (Year N+2) of the study, it is clear that records are continuing to be added to the repository.

¹⁵ By removing the cut-off date for the disposition, arrests in the earlier years have increasingly more time for their dispositions to be recorded in CCH by the time of this study’s extract (January 1, 2009).

**Figure 11: Percentage of Arrest Events with Disposition within Two Years
2001 – 2006**



Factors Impacting RQI

Florida's RQI is sensitive to the amount of time between arrest and disposition (P_1), regardless of whether one considers the time to disposition rendering or posting. Taking into account other factors, when the days between arrest and disposition are smaller (P_1), the RQI value is driven upwards. However, the completion rate (P_2) is just as important to the sensitive calculations of the RQI. As the number of records with a disposition increases, the RQI can increase as well. In addition, positive changes in the ten Outcome measures also contribute to improvement in the RQI.

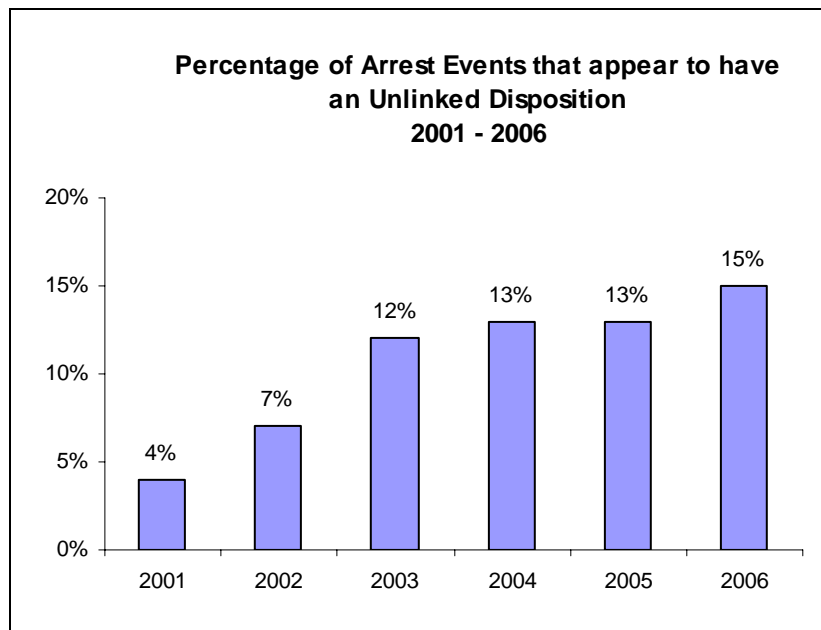
We have noted the improvement annually in reducing the number of days between arrest and disposition, and we have seen slight changes in the number of records with a disposition in the repository. To better understand the changes in these measures, it is important to discuss factors that may affect not only the disposition rates but also the amount of time it takes to have the disposition data available in Florida's CCH.

Judicial dispositions are submitted electronically to Florida's criminal history files at least once monthly from each of Florida's sixty-seven counties. In 2004, the State implemented an automated system (LOGAN) to allow the clerks to provide disposition data to the state repository and included data transfer and data validation functions.¹⁶ Some counties began using LOGAN in October 2004. Since 2006, all Clerks are submitting judicial data through the system.

¹⁶ LOGAN is an automated system for use by Florida's Clerks of Court that provides data transfer, data validation, and reporting of Offender Based Transaction System data to state level agencies including FDLE and the Office of the State Courts

When disposition records are received from the clerks, they are processed to assign the disposition data to the corresponding arrest data. When a match occurs, the disposition data is electronically transferred to the CCH file, completing the criminal history record for the arrest event. However, there are a number of disposition records that are not able to be associated with the arrest record through normal processes. When no match is found, the disposition is retained for reprocessing. When a submission error occurs, the disposition information is placed into a computerized batch to be analyzed and corrected by FDLE staff. The data becomes a part of the temporary judicial file until it can be entered into CCH. The number of arrests events that do not have a judicial disposition in CCH but appear to have a disposition in the temporary judicial file is increasing each year, from four percent in 2001 to 15 percent in 2006 (see Figure 12).¹⁷

Figure 12: Percentage of Arrest Events that appear to have an Unlinked Disposition



Additional Timeliness Measures

In addition to time between arrest date and disposition, the FSAC looked at time between arrest date and arrest entry date and between disposition date and disposition entry date. (See Figure 13.) For the 2001 – 2003 time period, the average number of days from arrest date to arrest entry is 21 days. Taking a closer look at the entry practices shows that 22 percent of the arrest events

Administrator. LOGAN's data validation function ensures that each data field meets defined business rules, and the reporting and monitoring tools allow all parties to evaluate file submission activity.

¹⁷ Not all arrest events will receive a disposition due to the nature of the arrest.

in CCH are entered the same day, 51 percent are entered by the next day, and 73 percent of the events are entered within the week (seven days). For the 2004 – 2006 time period, the average number of days from arrest date to arrest entry is 13 days, which is 38 percent faster than in 2003. Specifically, 25 percent of the events are entered the same day, 58 percent are entered by the next day, and 81 percent are entered within the week.

Figure 13: Average Number of Days from Arrest Date to Arrest Entry

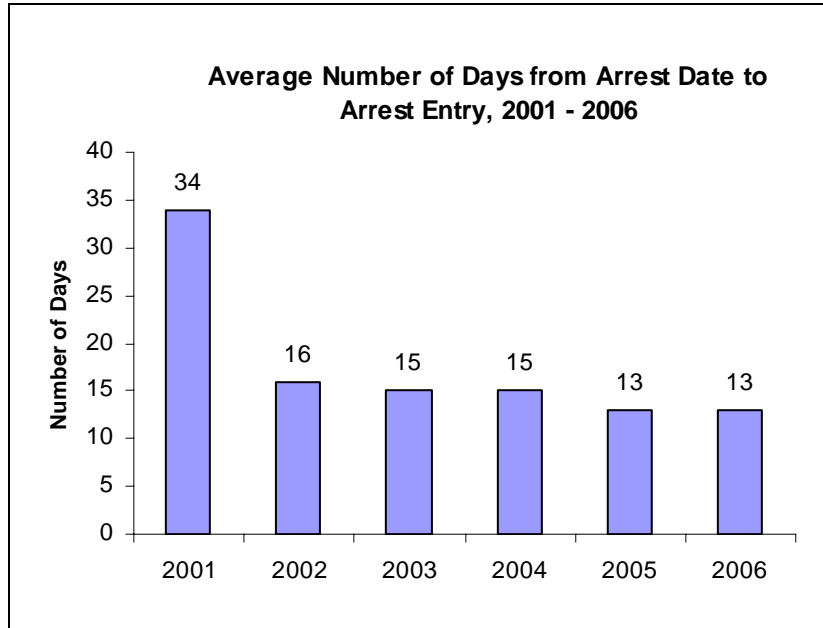
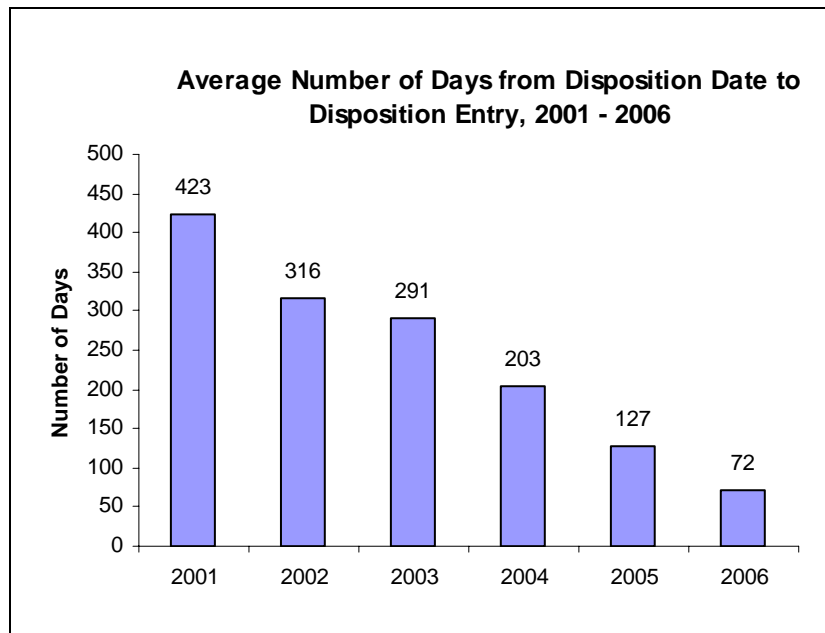


Figure 13 shows the progression of the average number of days from arrest date to arrest entry. There was a dramatic decrease in the average number of days from arrest to entry into CCH from 2001 to 2002, followed by a leveling out at 13 days by 2005 and 2006.

While Florida has seen improvement in time from arrest to arrest entry into CCH, it is the time from disposition rendering to disposition posting that shows the most significant improvement and contributes to the difference in the RQI timeliness component (P_1) between the standard and modified methods. Figure 14 shows that the average number of days from disposition date to disposition entry decreased from 342 days for the 2001 – 2003 time period to 137 days for the 2004 – 2006 period. Therefore, comparing the two study periods, Florida reduced the average number of days from disposition date to disposition entry by 60 percent. In addition, Florida documents a steady decline in average number of days between disposition rendering and disposition posting throughout each of the six years studied. In fact, the average began at 423 days in 2001 and declined to an average of 72 days in 2006.

Figure 14: Average Number of Days from Disposition Date to Disposition Entry



DATA LIMITATIONS

In assessing CCH to measure the performance of records quality over time, several data limitations were identified. Arrest records are received electronically or by hardcopy fingerprint cards and are entered into CCH as arrest events with one or more arrest charge. Each arrest charge may have more than one count associated with the charge, but arrest counts are reported collectively with the arrest charges. All charges initially received for an arrest event are entered at one time, but updates to arrest records can be received and entered by charge as necessary, creating multiple arrest entry dates for the same arrest event.

Conversely, judicial records are received by count. While an arrest event may have one arrest charge with multiple arrest counts, the judicial data will be submitted as multiple records, one for each count. The judicial data for each component of an arrest event may be received on multiple days, creating multiple disposition entry dates for the same judicial event.

As a result, each arrest event in CCH can have multiple arrest entry dates, multiple disposition dates, and multiple disposition entry dates. For the purpose of this analysis, it was necessary to select one date per arrest event. In each event, we selected the earliest date available for our calculations, providing for the most conservative estimates for days between arrest and disposition. Records that end at prosecution, such as those cases that are dropped or abandoned, are considered finally disposed just as those that go through the court process. For these records, the date of prosecution disposition was considered the disposition date for RQI purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To better serve Florida's purposes, a modified RQI should be considered and used to address specific types or categories of crime. Crimes can be examined by charge level (felony or misdemeanor), by the serious nature of the crime (violent, property, or drugs), or by other categories of interest to policy makers.

Florida's CCH files allows for the separation of adult and juvenile records for quality measures. Florida law required the submission of juvenile fingerprints and arrest data for felonies and specific misdemeanors beginning in 1994.¹⁸ In addition, other misdemeanors were allowed to be submitted for inclusion in the criminal history files. However, the submission of juvenile dispositions was optional until July 2008 when the Clerks of Court were required to provide juvenile dispositions. A measure that makes a distinction between adult and juvenile records may be more practical for Florida.

Approximately half the arrests in CCH do not have a disposition and likely never will have a judicial disposition. When included in the analysis, these types of records hinder the appearance of improvement in both the timeliness and completion measures. We recommend the exclusion of arrest records that will never receive dispositions due to the nature of the arrest. Excluding those records from those examined for RQI purposes will allow FDLE to measure those arrests with the potential for improvement.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present report was to assess Florida's criminal history records improvement by establishing a Records Quality Index for the state's criminal history records system, comparing two three-year periods of CCH files. Using arrest and disposition records for 2001 – 2006, these events were evaluated for specific performance measures related to the timeliness and completion of the records stored within the CCH files and their effect on Florida's RQI over the time periods referenced. This analysis describes the progress from one time period to the next and identifies areas of focus for future improvement efforts. Additionally, as a result of automating Florida's RQI, the FSAC has piloted the functionality of modeling the effects of future records improvement activities and their potential impact on Florida's RQI. It is anticipated that this modeling will assist in targeting future improvement efforts.

The present study describes Florida's RQI for 2003 and 2006 as determined by the method developed by Structured Decisions Corporation for the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Additionally, a modified RQI was utilized, demonstrating the ability to use other measures of interest to Florida's criminal history managers and policy makers. Next, the CCH files and processes were discussed to help illuminate strengths of Florida's data. In addition, there was a focus on improvements that have been made since 2003, both to document records improvement activities that had an impact on Florida's RQI and to identify other measures that can be

¹⁸ §. 985.11(1), Florida Statutes.

examined by RQI methodology. The report discusses data limitations found in CCH that inform the RQI.

In summation, the preceding analysis of CCH records found that Florida's RQI has increased from 2003 to 2006. The improvements in the performance of Florida's criminal history records system can be attributed mainly to the significant decrease in time from arrest to disposition. Analysis of record timeliness revealed improvements in both disposition rendering and disposition posting. In addition, Florida has shown improvement in the timeliness of record posting for both arrest records and disposition records via electronic submission systems. While Florida has improved in records quality, improvements in record completeness is still needed. Although the percent of record completeness was down in 2006 from 2003 for disposition rendering, disposition posting has remained constant. Accounting for a possible time lag in disposition reporting, additional time may reveal improvements in disposition completeness for the later years of the study.

Florida's RQI has increased for the time periods examined, indicating improvement in the performance of the state's criminal history records system. With computer programming in place to aid in calculating both the timeliness and completeness process measures, Florida's criminal history records managers and policy makers can continue to monitor the performance over time.

Appendix A

Ten outcome measures were used to determine the value of O for Florida's RQI. These measures were based solely on raw underlying data from which the ratios or percentages were derived. If parts of a multi-part outcome measure were missing the measure was calculated based on the data available.

<i>Measure</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2006</i>
O(1) Outcome Measure 1 – automation of records	1.000	1.000
O(2) Outcome Measure 2 – response to III inquiries	.779	.804
O(3) Outcome Measure 3 – transmission of arrests to repository	.863	.912
O(4) Outcome Measure 4 – criminal history database flagging	.520	.610
O(5) Outcome Measure 5 – transmission of criminal prints to IAFIS	.941	.992
O(6) Outcome Measure 6 – transmission of applicant prints to IAFIS	.323	.580
O(7) Outcome Measure 7 – electronic data submission to FBI files	.550	.750
O(8) Outcome Measure 8 – transmission of dispositions to repository	.771	.833
O(9) Outcome Measure 9 – authorized access to state files	.750	.950
O(10) Outcome Measure 10 – NFF state and Compact signing status	1.000	1.000
O(FL) Overall Outcome Measure	.750	.843