

NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of the COURTS

CourTools: Measuring Performance in North Carolina State Courts

December 15, 2015 Brad Fowler Research and Planning Division





- A court performance framework
- Developed by the National Center for State Courts





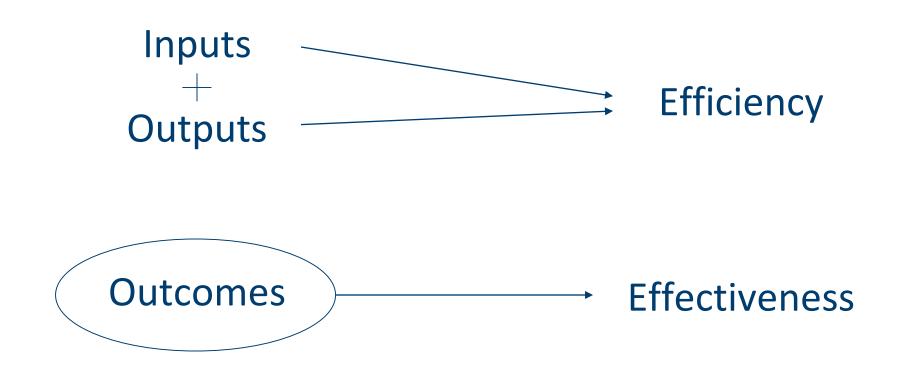
Benefits of Court Performance Metrics

- To validate or dispel perceptions of court insiders
- To focus on areas of importance to a broad audience with multiple indicators
- To foster creativity by standardizing the ends, rather than the means
- To support evidence-based requests for new initiatives and/or additional resources
- To demonstrate accountability for judicial branch resources





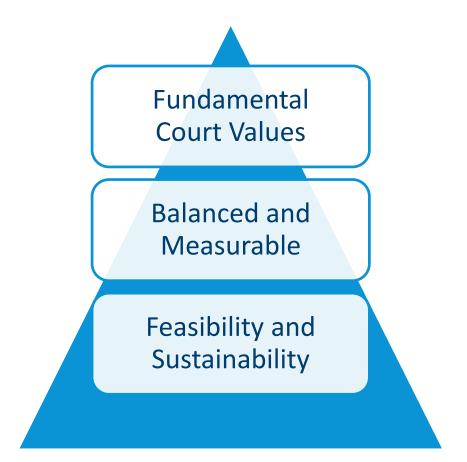
Efficiency vs. Effectiveness





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CourTools Building Blocks

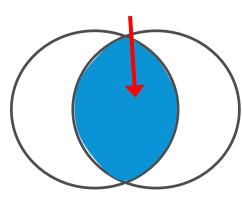




What Should Be Measured?

CourTools

Things that matter



Things that can be measured



Trial Court Indicators

- 1. Access and fairness
- 2. Clearance rates
- 3. Time to disposition
- 4. Age of active pending caseload
- 5. Trial date certainty

- 6. Reliability and integrity of case files
- 7. Collection of monetary penalties
- 8. Effective use of jurors
- 9. Court employee satisfaction

10. Cost per case



Trial Court Indicators – Does North Carolina Have the Data

- 1. Access and fairness CPMS
- 2. Clearance rates Yes*
- 3. Time to disposition Yes*
- Age of active pending caseload – Yes*
- 5. Trial date certainty Not Yet

- 6. Reliability and integrity of case files No
- 7. Collection of monetary penalties – Case Compliance
- 8. Effective use of jurors No
- 9. Court employee satisfaction No
- 10. Cost per case Yes, internal



Is There Data?

- Availability
- Accessibility
 - Technology cost
 - Data collection and entry costs
 - Periodic sampling v. constant collection
- Consumability

Time to Disposition – An Example

Criminal – Felony (FY2014-15)

Standard	District Court	Superior Court
75% within 90 days	45%	22%
90% within 180 days	68%	40%
98% within 365 days	86%	63%



Time to Disposition – Another Example

Infractions (FY2014-15)

Standard	District Court
75% within 30 days	14%
90% within 60 days	44%
98% within 90 days	63%



Resources

- CourTools website by National Center for State Courts
 - <u>www.courtools.org</u>
- Utah State Courts Court Performance Measures
 - <u>http://www.utcourts.gov/courtools/</u>
- Massachusetts Case Flow Metrics (about halfway down the page)
 - <u>http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/court-management/case-stats/</u>
- Montana District Court Performance Measures
 - <u>http://courts.mt.gov/dcourt/measures</u>





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