



What is the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science?

The Ohio Consortium of Crime Science, or OCCS, is a group of researchers from colleges and universities across Ohio who are available to work with local criminal justice agencies to provide evidence-based solutions to the real-world problems they face. The OCCS is implemented through the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS).

OCCS Mission

The Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS) brings together social science researchers into one resource to assist criminal justice agencies conduct research, disseminate knowledge, and foster relationships between practitioners, policy makers and academics.

The OCCS is available to all local criminal justice entities, from law enforcement and corrections to courts and victim services. It is the goal of the OCCS to provide local practitioners with the tools they need to make informed decisions on criminal justice issues in their community. For this reason, services provided by the OCCS are free for practitioners.

How can OCCS help you?

Here are just a few examples of the ways in which researchers have assisted practitioners:

- Researchers have assisted local law enforcement to assess their staffing and structure, evaluate their policing districts, and provide technical assistance regarding data collection
- Researchers have partnered with municipal courts to evaluate their specialized dockets
- Researchers have worked with a prosecutor's office to evaluate a sexual assault and victim advocacy initiative
- Researchers have worked with correctional facilities to evaluate a trauma-focused program, and to develop and implement an inmate survey

How does OCCS operate?

Local agencies initiate their contact with the OCCS by filling out the Request for Assistance form, which is located on the OCCS website: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/occs. In the request they are asked to identify the problem they have encountered, the kind of assistance they are looking for, and the outcomes they wish to achieve.

Members of the OCCS will meet to discuss the feasibility of the request given the resources of the Consortium. If the request is approved, a qualified researcher from the OCCS with expertise in the appropriate area will be provided with resources to assist the agency. The researcher will then work with the agency to develop a solution to the problem that is based on empirical research.

If the request is outside the scope of the OCCS, or if the request is more extensive than what the OCCS can provide, the OCCS will offer the agency guidance on devising a research-based strategy to address their problem.

For more information, contact the Office of Criminal Justice Services at 888-448-4842 or email Lisa Shoaf at lshoaf@dps.ohio.gov.