

# SAMPLE SURVEY

**About this Sample Survey:** The following is a web-based survey administered to Manhattan Assistant District Attorneys in 2015. Questions address their use of the arrest alert system as well as their contact with the office’s Crime Strategies Unit (CSU).

## District Attorney of New York County Intelligence Driven Prosecution Survey 2015

With funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the New York County District Attorney’s Office is working with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Center for Court Innovation to conduct an evaluation of the Office’s intelligence-driven prosecution model. This evaluation focuses on the Office’s arrest alert system and aims to develop a program and tools to support this model’s replication in other jurisdictions.

The purpose of this survey is to collect information regarding how ADAs and others use the arrest alert system and its related resources, and how this information sharing affects decision making. Your responses will provide valuable feedback as to how the current system is utilized and can help improve the Office’s ability to provide appropriate resources to ADAs in the prosecution of their cases.

All information is anonymous. Responses will be collected, tabulated, and analyzed by the Center for Court Innovation and included in a summary report. Individual responses will not be disclosed.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Erin J. Farley, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Court Innovation, at [include contact information].

## Respondent Information

1. What is your current position in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you worked in this position?  
\_\_\_ years (drop down) <1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10+
3. In the past six months, have you been assigned to ECAB<sup>3</sup> (excluding supervisor shifts)?  
\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_ NA (I am not an ADA)

## Section I: Contact with CSU

In answering Questions 4 through 16, only consider the past 6 months.

4. Has CSU contacted you without you contacting them first?  
\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_ No [If no, skip to Question 8]
5. Approximately how many cases or investigations has CSU contacted you regarding?  
1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21 or more
6. How frequently did CSU use the following methods to contact you?  
1 – never, 2 – rarely, 3 – occasionally,  
4 – frequently, 5 – very frequently  
\_\_\_ Phone  
\_\_\_ Email  
\_\_\_ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> “ECAB” refers to the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office’s Early Case Assessment Bureau.

7. When was CSU most likely to contact you?
- Pre-arrest/investigation phase
  - ECAB
  - Misdemeanors – post criminal court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-criminal court arraignment, pre-Grand Jury presentation
  - Felonies – post-Grand Jury, pre-Supreme Court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-Supreme Court arraignment (through trial or plea)
8. Have you contacted CSU, either directly or via a DANY 311 request, without CSU first making the initial contact?
- Yes
  - No (If no skip to question 17)
9. On approximately how many cases or investigations have you contacted CSU (including via a DANY 311 request) about?
- 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21 or more
10. Please indicate your primary reason(s) for contacting CSU.
- To check for video camera locations
  - To obtain general background or intel on a particular person
  - To obtain general intel on a particular gang or geographic area
  - To get help reaching out to a member of the police department
  - To search for additional contact information for a witness
  - To learn whether a particular person is active on social media
  - To set up an arrest alert
  - To expedite a subpoena process
  - Other (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
11. On a scale of 1 to 5, how frequently did you use the following methods to contact CSU?  
1 – never, 2 – rarely, 3 – occasionally, 4 – frequently, 5 – very frequently
- Phone
  - DANY 311
  - Email
  - Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
12. At what point(s) during a case or investigation were you most likely to initiate contact with CSU (including DANY 311 requests)?
- Pre-arrest/investigation phase
  - ECAB
  - Misdemeanors – post criminal court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-criminal court arraignment, pre-Grand Jury presentation
  - Felonies – post-Grand Jury, pre-Supreme Court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-Supreme Court arraignment (through trial or plea)
13. On what types of cases or investigations did you reach out to CSU or DANY 311? Select all that apply.
- Violent felonies
  - Non-drug non-violent felonies
  - Drug felonies
  - Domestic violence felonies
  - Non-Domestic violence non-drug misdemeanors
  - Domestic violence misdemeanors
  - Drug misdemeanors

14. How frequently did you use the following resources or links provided on the CSU SharePoint website?  
1 – never, 2 – rarely, 3 – occasionally,  
4 – frequently, 5 – very frequently
- a. DANY 311
  - b. Glossary of street slang
  - c. DANY InPho (Inmate call summary form)
  - d. Homicides/shootings by precinct
  - e. Precinct information
  - f. NYCHA map
  - g. Photosheets
  - h. SCIM
  - i. Gangs/crews
  - j. Bureau based projects
  - k. Violent crime statistics
  - l. I was unaware of the CSU SharePoint website's existence
  - m. I am aware of the CSU SharePoint website, but I have not used it in the past six months.
15. At what stage of a case or investigation were you most likely to seek out the information provided on the CSU SharePoint website? Please rank from 1 to 6. (Skip to Question 16 if you have not used the CSU SharePoint website in the past six months.)
- Pre-arrest/investigation phase
  - ECAB
  - Misdemeanors – post criminal court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-criminal court arraignment, pre-Grand Jury presentation
  - Felonies – post-Grand Jury, pre-Supreme Court arraignment
  - Felonies – post-Supreme Court arraignment (through trial or plea)
16. What type(s) of information were you provided by CSU or DANY 311 that was not apparent from the defendant's RAP sheet? Select all that apply.
- Defendant/witness gang affiliation
  - Defendant as a suspect in unsolved crimes
  - Defendant victimization information
  - Defendant or witness nickname or other personal information
  - Social media information
  - Crime data
  - Geographic context
  - Priority recidivist for DANY or NYPD;
  - Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- In answering Questions 17 through 20, only consider cases or investigations where you received information from CSU or DANY 311 within the past six months:
17. How frequently did information provided by CSU impact your case or investigation at any point?  
1 – never, 2 – rarely, 3 – occasionally,  
4 – frequently, 5 – very frequently
18. How frequently did the information provided by CSU or DANY 311 impact your decisions or recommendations to the court during the following stages of your case or investigation?  
1 – never, 2 – rarely, 3 – occasionally,  
4 – frequently, 5 – very frequently
- Investigation
  - Charging
  - Bail Recommendation (including specific bail amount)
  - Plea Offer or Sentencing Recommendation
19. On average, how much did the information you received from CSU or DANY 311 affect the amount of bail you requested?  
1 – did not affect, 2 – slightly affected,  
3 – moderately affected, 4 – strongly affected

- 20. On average, how much did the information you received from CSU or DANY 311 affect your plea offers or sentencing recommendations?  
1 – did not affect, 2 – slightly affected,  
3 – moderately affected, 4 – strongly affected

**Section II: Your Use of the Arrest Alert System**

In answering Questions 21 through 33, only consider the past 6 months.

- 21. Approximately how many arrest alerts do you have (excluding automatically generated open case arrest alerts)?  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 or more
- 22. How many of those arrest alerts have been added (by you or someone else) in the past six months (excluding automatically generated open case arrest alerts)?  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 or more
- 23. How many of those added arrest alerts are for witnesses or victims?  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 or more
- 24. How many of those added arrest alerts do not include witnesses or victims?  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 or more
- 25. Have you received an arrest alert notification in the past six months?  
 Yes  
 No  
 NA (I don't have any arrest alerts)
- 26. Have you received an arrest alert notification for a witness or a victim in the past six months?  
 Yes  
 No  
 NA (I don't have any arrest alerts for victims or witnesses)
- 27. Please rank your primary reasons for creating an arrest alert for a witness or a victim.  
 Giglio reasons (i.e. to ensure that you are informed if a witness or a victim with a prior criminal history is re-arrested.)  
 To attempt to locate a missing witness or victim and/or to produce a witness or a victim for a court appearance  
 Other (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. Has another ADA reached out to you regarding an arrest alert that you created?  
 Yes  
 No  
 NA (I have not created an arrest alert)
- 29. When you are drafting a felony case in ECAB, do you routinely check to see whether an arrest alert for that defendant exists?  
 Yes  
 No  
 NA (I do not draft felony cases)  
 NA (I have not been in ECAB in the past six months)
- 30. When you are drafting a misdemeanor in ECAB, do you routinely check to see whether an arrest alert for that defendant exists?  
 Yes  
 No  
 NA (I have not been in ECAB in the past six months)
- 31. While in ECAB, approximately how many times has someone reached out to you regarding an existing arrest alert before or while you are drafting the case associated with that alert?  
NA (I have not been in ECAB in the last six months)  
0,1-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 or more

32. How many times have you found the information contained in an arrest alert useful while you were drafting a case in ECAB?  
NA (I have not been in ECAB in the last six months)  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21 or more
33. Approximately how many times has the arrest alert system caused you to take an investigative step that you would not have otherwise taken? (i.e. reach out to a police officer, reach out to another ADA, reach out to a defense attorney, attempt to take a statement or debrief the defendant)  
0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21 or more

### Section III: Suggestions

34. Do you have any suggestions about how the office's intelligence-driven prosecution model, CSU, or the arrest alert system can be of additional value?

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

### For More Information

Please visit [www.creatingarrestalert.com](http://www.creatingarrestalert.com), contact the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys at [info@apainc.org](mailto:info@apainc.org), visit <http://manhattanda.org/intelligence-driven-prosecution-crime-strategies-unit>, or contact the Manhattan District Attorney's Office's Crime Strategies Unit at [IDP@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:IDP@dany.nyc.gov).

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### Author

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