

CRIME STRATEGIES UNIT OR PROCESS

What is a Crime Strategies Unit or Process?

A Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) is the vehicle for implementing intelligence-driven prosecution. A CSU collects data and intelligence on crime trends and individuals driving crime, analyzes the information, forms partnerships with related agencies and gathers input from the community on public safety issues. This work informs prosecutorial decisions ranging from crime initiatives to alternative sentencing, improves the flow of information into the prosecutor office, and provides support for individual prosecutions and investigations.

Prosecutors that do not have the resources for a separate CSU, can develop processes within their office that provide the benefits of a CSU.

What Staff is Needed?

The minimum staff for a CSU or CSU process is a prosecutor and a crime analyst. It does not require a separate unit and the staff need not be devoted to the CSU full-time.



This is an excerpt from “**The Problem-Solving Prosecutor: Modern Variations on the Crime Strategies Unit**” sponsored by Prosecutors’ Center for Excellence, the New York County District Attorney’s Office, the Bronx District Attorney’s Office and Aequitas. See the full report here: <https://pceinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/20210110-The-Problem-Solving-Prosecutor-Modern-Variations-on-teh.-Crime-Strategies-Unit-PCE-DANY-Bronx-DA-Aequitas-.pdf>



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ELEMENTS OF A CRIME STRATEGIES UNIT

BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Partner with law enforcement
 - Work together on surveying crime problems.
- Partner with the community
 - Collaborate with community organizations to reduce violence
- Partner with prosecutors within the office.
 - Be a resource on individual cases
 - Provide context for prosecutions

GATHERING DATA & INTELLIGENCE

- Gather data and intelligence from law enforcement
 - Participate in inter-agency meetings
 - Use technology to share information
- Organize data and intelligence in the prosecutor office
 - ⚠ Consider legal and ethical obligations related to storing data and intelligence



GUIDING PROSECUTORIAL DECISIONS

- Analyze crime trends to identify office priorities
 - Consider using timelines and crime maps
- Analyze information about individuals
 - Study individuals driving crime trends
 - Provide advice on priority or alternative treatment
- Track arrests of individuals using arrest alerts
 - ⚠ Maintain alerts to avoid alert fatigue

SUPPORTING PROSECUTIONS & INVESTIGATIONS

- Support prosecutions
 - Assist with information requests
 - Leverage CSU relationships to benefit individual cases
 - Assist with social media analysis and other areas involving specialized skills
- Support law enforcement investigations
 - Collaborate on strategy
 - Assist with technical support

