



U.S. Department of
JUSTICE

Chief Data Officer 2023 Annual Report



December 2024

Justice Management Division
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Statutory Authority

This annual report of the Department of Justice (Department or DOJ) Chief Data Officer (CDO) to Congress is prepared pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3520(e). It details agency compliance with the requirements of Title II of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act) – the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act, Pub. L. No. 115–435. In addition, this report also serves as the annual update to the agency’s strategic information resources management plan pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3506(b)(2).

Government-wide Requirements

The OPEN Government Data Act created the CDO position at federal agencies with overall responsibility for lifecycle data management, as well as additional responsibilities to:

- Coordinate with agency officials for using, protecting, disseminating, and generating data to ensure agency data needs are met.
- Manage data assets for the agency.
- Ensure that, to the extent practicable, agency data conforms with data management best practices.
- Support the work and data needs of the agency Statistical Official, Performance Improvement Officer, and Evaluation Officer.
- Engage with agency employees, the public, and contractors in using public data assets and encouraging collaborative approaches on improving data use.

The Act also directs agencies to take steps to maintain a comprehensive data inventory and make data assets open by default, in accordance with published government-wide guidance.

Given the responsibility of the CDO for lifecycle data management regardless of data type or mission, it is important to reference additional statutes and authorities when reporting on the Department CDO efforts under the Evidence Act. The Geospatial Data Act (GDA) designates DOJ as a covered agency, with additional requirements related to the management of geospatial data. Closely related to the Evidence Act is the Federal Data Strategy – Office and Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum M-19-18 – and accompanying action plans. Finally, Executive Order 14110, *Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence*, includes actions for agencies to undertake related to artificial intelligence (AI), which align with data responsibilities.

Though not an exhaustive list, when taken together these authorities emphasize the critical nature of government data and the steps for agencies to take to maximize the utility of this resource for agency operations and the public at large.

Department of Justice Approach

Building on the efforts of individual DOJ components, as well as agency-wide initiatives, the Department continues to take a holistic and collaborative approach to implementing the

responsibilities of the CDO and the requirements of the Evidence Act and additional authorities listed above.

At DOJ, the same individual serves as both the Department Chief Information Officer (CIO) and CDO. This allows the Department to draw upon the resources and institutional knowledge of the CIO's office to enact CDO responsibilities in a way that combines both governance and the technologies needed to implement those responsibilities.

Following the passage of the Evidence Act, in February 2019 the Department published a DOJ Data Strategy – a foundational framework designed to build a standardized, programmatic approach to manage and share data while also advancing the capabilities of DOJ data communities. The DOJ Data Strategy includes numerous agency-wide and component-specific responsibilities designed to develop enterprise approaches across four goals: data management, information sharing, identity and access management, and workforce. DOJ updated the Data Strategy in 2022 to reflect progress since the inaugural publication.¹

Oversight of the DOJ Data Strategy rests with the Department Data Governance Board (Board). Chaired by the CDO, the Board includes: the DOJ Evaluation Officer, Performance Improvement Officer, and Statistical Official; senior Department leaders from operational areas such as information technology, records, acquisitions, and privacy; and officials from DOJ offices representing mission areas including law enforcement, litigation, and corrections. Three working groups, co-chaired by Board members and representing the four goals of the DOJ Data Strategy, lead the day-to-day implementation efforts. In addition to these working groups, the Board chartered two communities of interest to bring together Department stakeholders on the topics of geospatial data and AI.²

To execute the responsibilities of the DOJ Data Strategy, the Board developed an implementation plan with discrete deliverables and timelines. The plan also incorporates requirements from the Evidence Act and related authorities such as the GDA to ensure a comprehensive approach to these requirements. The Board reviews and updates the plan quarterly which provides an opportunity to adjust timelines, as needed, and incorporate any new requirements from statutes or guidance. Through 2023, the Department completed 65 actions from the plan. Highlights of the Board's accomplishments in 2023 include:

- Planned a DOJ Data Challenge with public DOJ data assets (launched in March 2024).
- Conducted an FY 2023 annual Department-wide data maturity self-assessment.
- Established a process utilizing Justice.gov for public engagement on open data.
- Integrated the Data Management Plan Dashboard, Justice Data Catalog, and the Joint Cybersecurity Authorization and Management application to update the authority to operate review process.

¹ The DOJ Data Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1560166/download/>

² The DOJ Geospatial Data Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1347246/download/> and the DOJ AI Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1364706/download/>

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- Closed two recommendations from Government Accountability Office report GAO-22-104574, “Open Data: Additional Action Required for Full Public Access,”³ for DOJ to host public data events/challenges and publish information on public data usage.

In 2023, the Deputy Attorney General issued a memorandum establishing the DOJ Emerging Technology Board (ETB) to support coordination and governance of AI and emerging technology issues across the Department. The memorandum also established the role of the Department Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO) who chairs the ETB. The CDO has collaborated closely with the CAIO regarding implementation of AI and emerging-technology-related taskings, including the Department's internal AI strategy.

Additionally, in 2023, the Department conducted a Department-wide data call to understand how the Department acquires and uses commercially available information (CAI). In support of this effort, the Board launched an internal CAI Dashboard available Department-wide that creates a referenceable catalog of CAI datasets being used across the Department. Authorized users can view their component’s CAI uses, input new CAI uses, and update existing entries. The CAI Dashboard also facilitates visibility across DOJ components by providing users with the ability to contact the component who submitted a particular entry with individual inquiries.

The Department also leverages the expertise and knowledge of the larger government community. The CDO is a member of the Federal CDO Council and continues to ensure the Department’s views are represented in working groups of the Council, specifically the Large Agency Committee. Similarly, as a covered agency under the GDA, the Department participates in the Federal Geographic Data Committee and its Steering Committee.

Looking Ahead

The Board will continue to mature DOJ open data capabilities and supporting artifacts. The structure established by the Board to implement the DOJ Data Strategy ensures the Department has the mechanisms in place to be responsive to new guidance or requirements as they become available.

³ GAO report GAO-22-104574, “Open Data: Additional Action Required for Full Public Access,” is accessible at: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-104574.pdf>.