



# Promising Practices for Improved Record Reporting

**M**any states faced challenges in creating state estimates for the NIAA records report over the three years of data collection. Often, these challenges in estimating were direct results of structural or reporting problems of actual NICS records. This brief presents a strategy that at least one state has implemented to address that problem.

## **Estimation Problem**

Mental health records on involuntary commitments were not available in the AOC database.

## **Reporting Problem**

Historically involuntary commitment recording was done manually in a majority of the counties.

## **Strategy**

Develop a data collection instrument to extract data elements needed for back-loading information into CCATS to communicate with staff at other agencies about NICS.

## Civil Commitment Automated Tracking System (CCATS)

### **About this strategy**

How do you start the technology update where a majority of counties keep manual records for involuntary commitment? Develop a data collection application to compile data elements needed for back-loading information into the Civil Commitment Automated Tracking System (CCATS) and identify the temporary staff that can input the several hundred thousand paper records

- **Who it may work for:** All states seeking to create a common, statewide view of NICS-involuntary commitment reporting.
- **Costs:** Training and utilization of temporary staff to input historical records into the database.
- **Timeframe for implementing:** Immediately after CCATS set-up.
- **Lead agency:** New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts

### **Why this strategy makes a difference**

Using the Civil Commitment Automated Tracking System (CCATS) provides records reporting in a real time manner to state police and has increased communication and facilitates records sharing in the NICS reporting process.

## Who's Doing It? New Jersey

New Jersey received a NARIP grant to improve the recording, automation, and transmittal of mental health adjudications in a real time manner to the New Jersey State Police and NICS.

### **For more information:**

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