

Study on Criminal Record Hits on Record Searches Performed by PRRN Members

In September 2011, the Public Record Retriever Network (PRRN) conducted a survey of Members regarding the frequency of "hits" when performing **onsite** name searches of the criminal record index found at the local courthouse. For example, if 100 different names were searched onsite at the courthouse, on average how many of these names would reveal a criminal record?

Methodology of the Survey

The study was calculated on a state basis. Two questions were posed: 1) What is your normal average range of hits at both the high and low ends? and 2) What is your overall average?

Over 100 of the 479 members of PRRN who provide criminal record search responded to the survey. There were over 300 individual state responses with a minimum of four (4) responses per state.

Of course, it is important to keep in mind there are many factors that help determine a hit ratio, including the following:

- Instructions from the client or CRA (Consumer Reporting Agency) of how far back to search.
- If the client (CRA) asks for misdemeanor to be included in a search.
- If the client (CRA) does a "pre-screen" - meaning if a name search was first performed using an online resource (such as a statewide online source). Usually factor leads to a higher hit ratio because the researcher is asked to find and verify the case files if identifiers are not shown on the online search.
- Survey answers reflect the county (or parishes/cites) courts serviced by the PRRN Member and may not necessarily reflect all counties in the state.
- Survey answers that reflected requests for document retrieval instead of name searches we not used.
- There was one response for Puerto Rico stating that the range was between 20% and 30%.

Results of the Study

ALL 300+ responses were used to calculate the **OVERALL National Average** shown at the bottom of the table.

The **MEAN National Average** was calculated using the 51 states averages.



Frequency of Hits

County On-site Criminal Record Name Searches

State	Average	State	Average
AK	10.6	NC	17.9
AL	6.9	ND	12.6
AR	13.1	NE	17.2
AZ	12.2	NH	5.2
CA	13.9	NJ	6.9
CO	17	NY	4.9
CT	9.4	NM	18.5
DC	11.9	NV	9.2
DE	13.1	OH	14.4
FL	14.4	OK	10.7
GA	8.8	OR	10.1
HI	6.6	PA	6.6
IA	12.7	RI	8
ID	14.8	SC	24.2
IL	13.1	SD	21.5
IN	12.3	TN	16.4
KS	7.6	TX	14.3
KY	17.2	UT	21.7
LA	10.6	VA	16
MA	7.1	VT	7.6
MD	9.1	WA	10.7
ME	4	WI	13.1
MI	10.5	WV	9.2
MN	14.2	WY	24.3
MO	5.1		
MS	8.8		
MT	9.1		
		OVERALL	13.26%
		MEAN	12.06%

If you have any questions, or would like permission to re-print this survey, please call or email PRRN.

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