

# Research Recap: Increasing data quality and transparency in the Shelby County criminal justice system

June 2025

## Several metrics can provide insight into time to disposition for criminal cases

The Shelby County criminal justice system does not currently report aggregate data on the following four key metrics relative to time to disposition for criminal cases:

Metric	Metric	Metric	Metric
Total days for case disposition	Number of continuances and reason for granting	Number of days in custody pending disposition	Trial requested
Definition	Definition	Definition	Definition
The number of days between a case being filed by the General Sessions Court Clerk and case disposition	The number of continuances granted on a case and the reason the continuance was granted	The number of days, beginning with the defendant's booking, that a defendant is held in custody while waiting for their case's disposition	A defendant has indicated they are ready for trial and has requested that their case be tried
Is it reported? Is it collected?	Is it reported? Is it collected?	Is it reported? Is it collected?	Is it reported? Is it collected?
Aggregate data is not reported. The data is collected by the General Sessions and Criminal Court Clerks' offices.	Aggregate data is not reported. Data on the number of continuances is collected in the Shelby County Criminal Justice Information System, but the reason for continuances is not. The Shelby County Criminal Justice Information System is managed by the Shelby County General Sessions and Criminal Court Clerks' Offices.	Aggregate data is not reported. It is unknown if this data is collected.	Aggregate data is not reported. It is unknown if this data is collected.

The Comptroller's March 2025 report includes recommendations for enhancing the transparency, accessibility, and usability of aggregate data on the operations and outcomes of the Shelby County criminal justice system. See the [full report](#) for more, including all 18 metrics for the system that would increase accountability and transparency. An [executive summary](#) of the full report is also available.

To read the full report, visit the Comptroller's OREA website at [tncot.cc/criminaljustice](https://tncot.cc/criminaljustice).