



## Fact Sheet

*The Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis' (BCIA) mission is to maintain accurate criminal history and biometric data and provide it to individuals and organizations to support criminal justice, regulatory and public policy responsibilities.*

Comprised of three branches, the Applicant & Record Quality Services, Records & Biometric Identification, and Records Management, BCIA is responsible for implementing state and federal mandates to compile, maintain, and disseminate state summary criminal history information. It functions as the state central repository and is solely responsible for the submission of fingerprints and related data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

*Together, the bureau manages program services that include:*

**Criminal History:** Maintain state summary criminal history information in the state's repository; implement automatic record relief; and perform mandated purge, seal, and destruction of data.

**Biometric Identification:** Manage the state's central repositories for fingerprints, palm prints, and unsolved latent print records; compare fingerprints and palm prints against a statewide database; and search fingerprints submitted by law enforcement and applicant regulatory agencies.

**Live Scan:** Provide oversight of the thousands of live scan devices used throughout California and enable private businesses to provide live scan services to the public.

**Record Quality:** Provide individuals' own state summary criminal history information upon their request; process challenges made by individuals; research and reconcile missing data.

**Fingerprint Background Checks:** Provide over 20,000 authorized governmental and private organizations with California and out of state criminal history records to facilitate data-driven determinations regarding employment, licensing, and certification (including the suitability of a person working with children, the elderly, the disabled; and firearms eligibility).

**Criminal Justice Agency Support:** Provide electronic disposition and custody data exchanges and train on procedures for updating state summary criminal history information and how to read a Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) sheet.

**Child Abuse Central Index:** Receive reports of child abuse and maintain information in the database which is referenced for certain types of licensing and employment background checks.

*BCIA supports the overall mission of California Department of Justice by:*

**Improving decision-making:** Reliable criminal history data helps support the development of effective public safety initiatives.

**Strengthening investigations:** Timely and accurate biometric and criminal history data helps support law enforcement with critical information.

**Enhancing public safety:** Over 4 million state and federal background checks provide a critical public safety tool to protect vulnerable populations.

**Supporting collaboration:** Data sharing and training allow local, state, and federal partners to work together more effectively.

**Promoting accountability and transparency:** Audits and data reporting systems ensure compliance with laws and build public trust.

For more information, you can [contact DOJ](#), or visit our [Fingerprint](#) and [Record Review](#) webpages.

