

Oregon ICWA Court Data Navigator Guide

*An easy-to-use data collection guide for
Oregon's ICWA courts*

MARCH 16, 2026

NCSC

Contents

Purpose of this guide	1
Step 1: Collect	2
Step 2: Analyze	2
Step 3: Discuss	2
Important Measures	3
Recommended Measures	4
Track Training and Education	12
Sharing Data	13
Appendix A. Team Training Tracker	14

Copyright © 2026 National Center for State Courts.

This document may be reproduced with attribution to National Center for State Courts.

Suggested Citation:

Deal, T., Williams, L. *Oregon’s ICWA Court Data Navigator Guide*. (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 2026).

DISCLAIMER

Development and creation of this document was supported by award no. 90CW1155 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements.



Purpose of this guide

This guide provides helpful information for ICWA court teams to collect, understand, and use program data.

These five principles of ICWA courts frame the 'gold standard of child welfare' practices: ¹

- 1. Judicial leadership**
- 2. ICWA data collection**
- 3. ICWA training**
- 4. Tribal collaboration**
- 5. 'Gold standard' lawyering and social work**

High-quality data and training are the foundation for continuous improvement of ICWA court and effective delivery of services and support to Tribal families. Data can show how an ICWA court is operating, whether it is meeting its goals and timelines and how internal or external changes affect the program. In short, data can be a guide to what is working well and where improvements are needed.

This guide describes three steps to navigating ICWA court data, including tracking team training:

- 1. Collect** accurate and timely program data, including training data.
- 2. Analyze** the findings and turn data into useful information.
- 3. Discuss** findings with the team, considering the impact on Tribal families, and using insights to adjust practices.

¹National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (n.d.). *ICWA courts*. <https://www.ncjfcj.org/child-welfare-and-juvenile-law/icwa-courts>



Step 1: Collect

ICWA team members and court staff play a pivotal role in collecting data. The two most important factors in data quality are **timeliness** (entering information as it happens) and **accuracy** (ensuring the data entered for each case or child is consistently correct). The designated ICWA team member enters data into the court's Odyssey Case Management system for each case. Because the Oregon Judicial Department uses this data to understand how courts across the state are operating, data completeness and quality matter. Local courts can also use the data they enter to learn how their courts operate and identify areas for improvement.

Understanding **why** specific data measures are collected and **how** the information will be used can improve data quality. When individuals entering data recognize its importance, they are more likely to enter timely, accurate information. This matters especially when programs experience internal and external changes, such as staff turnover, process improvements, and funding constraints.



Step 2: Analyze

Analyzing data turns it into patterns and insights that reveal what is working and what is not. This information becomes a roadmap for improving the program and ultimately, the experience of Tribal families.

Data analysis does not always require complex statistical processes. Data analysis can be as simple as looking at numbers over time. Analyzing data through a *programmatic* lens goes beyond entering data for each case; it focuses on reviewing overall case data to understand the program as a whole. When determining a specific timeframe for data analysis (e.g., quarterly), ensure you have at least 10 data points from your caseload to identify program trends. Local data can identify trends in your jurisdiction and community, highlighting training needs, process improvements, and outcomes for families. Comparing your court's data to state data for all Oregon ICWA courts puts local trends into context. [Take advantage of the aggregate, statewide data on child welfare cases and ICWA cases provided by the Oregon Judicial Department.](#)²



Step 3: Discuss

ICWA team members are the driving force in data discussions. These discussions interpret findings, identify areas and opportunities for improvement, and celebrate successes. Active participation of all team members in these discussions strengthens the program and propels it forward. ICWA teams should meet at least quarterly to review data reports and address concerns about program operations. This pace allows real-time adjustments when necessary and immediate recognition of success.

² Oregon Judicial Department. (n.d.). *Juvenile Court Data Dashboard*. <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjojYjhiYmFkYzktZDM4NC00YzJkLTlm2UtNGYzNmMzY2YxNjMxIiwidCI6IjYxMzNIYzg5LWU1MWItNGExYy04YjY4LTE1ZTg2ZGU3MmWY4ZiJ9>



Important Measures

Intentional data collection reveals program trends, timelines, and priority areas, and also facilitates conversations and allows for real-time modifications when reviewed regularly. For new ICWA courts, the first step is to consistently enter the statewide data elements currently collected for all ICWA cases in Oregon through the Office of the State Court Administrator (Figure 1). This data is displayed as deidentified, aggregate date by court and year: [Juvenile Court Data Dashboard](#).

FIGURE 1. CURRENT STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

ICWA Cases Filed	ICWA Cases filed by county and total for state. ICWA cases filed are the cases filed that have been flagged as ICWA cases. Cases Filed could be pending or closed cases.
Cases Pending	ICWA Cases pending by county and total for state. ICWA cases pending are cases that are still designated as pending, meaning they have not been closed. Same as Cases Filed these are cases that have been flagged as ICWA cases.
Time to ICWA Designation	Number of days between the initial petition filing and the ICWA flag (and associated event) are added to the case.
ICWA Length of Cases	Number of days the initial petition is filed until the case is closed. This includes guardianship cases which do not close even after permanency is established.
ICWA Time to Jurisdiction on Both Parents	Number of days an ICWA Case is assigned to jurisdiction by both parent (by 60 and 90-day measures).
ICWA Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to Tribal Court • Motion/Order • Deviate from Placement Preference Events Order/Motion • Active Efforts Findings (active efforts made/not made/aggravated circumstances exist) • Petition to Invalidate (events deviate from placement preference/transfer to Tribal court events) 	Tracking the number of the specific events that occur between filing, designation, jurisdiction and the hearings/closing of case result).
ICWA Hearings	Number of hearings held. Number of hearings held with Tribe present.
Reason for Leaving Care	ODHS data is also received to identify reasons for leaving care by county: guardianship, adoption, other, emancipation, transfer of custody, returned to parent).

Recommended Measures

The following measures are recommended for all Oregon ICWA courts. The measures align with ICWA court principles and are designed with current data management structures and aspirational goals in mind. As ICWA court teams often include a variety of community partners beyond the court system, some important measures may require data collaboration with ODHS and other community organizations to collect service referral data.

Collecting the following data elements as defined, working with the OJD data analyst to analyze the data meaningfully, and discussing findings as a team all support continuous quality improvement processes.

1. Legal representation at ICWA court hearings

Data elements to collect: **Yes, No** for child represented at the ICWA hearing
Yes, No, N/A for mother represented at the ICWA hearing
Yes, No, N/A for father represented at the ICWA hearing
N/A = no father named/no mother named, or deceased

For each hearing, indicate within Odyssey if attorneys are present for child, mother, father (each child = case) by selecting Yes, No, or N/A

High-quality legal representation is a primary input for Oregon ICWA courts that can lead to successful case outcomes. Understanding how frequently parents and children have representation at hearings is one indicator of quality representation, but only one piece of the picture. This information can start important conversations about whether families have adequate representation and where gaps may exist.

Analyze: Find the percentage of children with legal representation present in hearings during a specified time period by dividing the number of cases with representation present in that time period (Yes) by the total number of hearings where children should be represented (Yes + No).

For parents, divide the number of hearings where a parent has legal representation (Yes) by the total number of hearings where parents should be represented (Yes + No). Do not include hearings where legal representation is N/A.

Ideally, all parents and children have legal representation at hearings, however, there may be challenges reaching 100%. Reviewing representation at hearings every quarter or year can help give the team a good sense of current court operations.

Discuss:

- Are children, mothers, and fathers similarly represented?
- Are there enough attorneys available to meet the needs of local Tribal families?
- How can this information be used to help improve the percentage of hearings with legal representation present?

2. Parent attendance at ICWA court hearings

Data elements to collect:

Yes, No, N/A for mother present at ICWA court hearing

Yes, No, N/A for father present at ICWA court hearing

N/A = no father named/no mother named, or deceased

Reason for failure to attend= active military, incarcerated, inpatient treatment, other

For each hearing, indicate in Odyssey if each parent was present in each court hearing by selecting Yes, No, or N/A. Also, collect a reason for failure to attend outside of not named or deceased (active military, incarcerated, inpatient treatment, other).

Parent attendance at hearings is one indicator of family engagement and has been shown to contribute to positive outcomes for families (Gatowski et al, 2023; Korthase et al, 2021; Hunter et al, 2022).³

Analyze:

Divide the number of hearings with a parent present during a specified timeframe (Yes) by the number of hearings where a parent should be present (Yes + No). Do not include hearings where parent attendance is marked as N/A.

For reasons for failure to attend, review the frequency of each reason (active military, incarceration, in-patient treatment, etc.) for mothers and fathers separately.

Discuss:

- Does the number of parents attending hearings align with program expectations? If not, why?
- What barriers keep parents from attending hearings?
- Are caseworkers reminding parents of hearings?
- Are providers encouraging attendance at hearings?
- Are there adequate transportation services parents can use to get to hearings? If so, are parents accessing these services?
- Are parents given information on how to attend via videoconferencing or phone if they are unable to attend in person?

³ Gatowski, S., Summers, A., & Bussey, B. (2023). The effectiveness of an ICWA Court at achieving improved ICWA implementation and outcomes: A pre-post intervention study. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 74, 51–70. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfcj.12233>; Hunter, L., Bensinger, G., Ponder-Gilby, E., & Wilcox, A. (2022). *Indian Child Welfare Act Court Evaluation*. Arizona Superior Court in Pima County. https://www.sc.pima.gov/media/115alyte/icwa_court_evaluation.pdf; Korthase, A; Gatowski, S.I.; & Erickson, M. (2021) *Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Courts: A tool for improving outcomes for American Indian children and families*. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/NCJFCJ_ICWA_Tool_UMD_Final.pdf.

3. Timeliness of case processing

Data elements to collect:	Date of petition filing
	Date of temporary custody hearing
	Date of adjudication
	Date of disposition
	Date of permanency hearing

For each event or hearing above, enter a date to calculate the number of days between each event.

As much as possible, case timelines should align with state and federal laws to achieve timely permanency.⁴

Analyze: Look at the time between dates of each hearing and ask if the:
Time between petition filing and temporary custody hearing >48 hours?
Time between temporary custody hearing and adjudication >120 days?
Time between adjudication and disposition hearing > 6 mos.?
Time between disposition and permanency hearing > 12 mos.?

Discuss:

- Is there one event or hearing that is routinely delayed?
 - What are the reasons for the delays?
 - What can the team do to work with the court to reduce continuances and delays?
- If time between hearings are timely, how can we celebrate and share this information with the court, partners, and community?

⁴ Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1911(d) (1978). <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/25/1911>; Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 et seq. (2000).; Oregon Revised Statutes, OR Rev Stat § 419B.185 and § 419B.340 (2023). https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors419B.html

4. ICWA court cases resulting in termination of parental rights (TPR)

Data elements to collect: **Yes, No** Juvenile Termination of Parental Rights

For each case closure, indicate if its outcome at case closure is TPR or not within Odyssey

Reviewing case outcomes can help to determine if ICWA courts are achieving the goal of reunification.

Analyze: Case closures in a specified period of time—Number of TPR closures divided by the total number of ICWA court cases closed in a timeframe (i.e., in one year).

Discuss:

- What percentage of cases result in termination of parental rights compared to other case outcomes?
- What factors may be contributing to this outcome (i.e., lack of available services for families)?
- What team members and/or court and community partners can we gather to discuss this further?

5. Number of cases (children) reentering ICWA court.

Data elements to collect: **Yes, No** (as to whether a child enters ICWA court has previously entered ICWA court and has a recorded outcome)

For each case opening, indicate if the case was previously in the ICWA court.

Analyzing reentry data can help determine the effectiveness of the ICWA court's family stabilization and reunification efforts.

Analyze: Review reentries for a specified time period by dividing the number of children who reenter the ICWA court in that time period (Yes) by the total number of children who enter the ICWA court during that time period (Yes + No)

Discuss:

- Is this number higher than anticipated?
 - If yes, review data on Tribal involvement, parent engagement, and the quality of ICWA court sessions to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Can the team identify any patterns across cases that reenter ICWA court?

6. Number of hearing continuances and reasons

Data elements to collect: **Yes, No, Reason** (discovery issue, parent's availability, counsel availability, court conflict).

For each case, collect the number of continuances throughout the case. Also, for each continuance, track the reason for the continuance.

Fewer continuances can help maintain adherence to ICWA timelines.

Analyze: Review the frequency of continuances by dividing the number of continued hearings (Yes) by the total number of hearings held during that time period (Yes + No).

Review the frequency of reasons for continuances.

Discuss:

- Are there patterns to when and why continuances are being requested? Are there certain hearing type that are more likely to be continued?
- Why are continuances occurring (quality and/or timeliness of discovery; lack of parent engagement, lack of attorneys available, lack of hearing dates/time/conflict of court space or time to schedule)?
- How can the ICWA court team decrease continuances and improve processes?
- If continuances are low, what is the team doing right? How can the team continue to support this?

7. Number of children in placement, by placement type

Data elements to collect:

- **Trial reunification (In-home with parent)**
- **Resource parent home (Relative)**
- **Tribal home**
- **Resource parent home (Non–relative)**
- **Residential home (BRS)**
- **Detention/correctional facility**
- **Hospitalization/Psychiatric**
- **ILP Subsidized Placement**
- **Run Status**

ICWA courts aim to place children with parents, Tribal family members, or Tribal homes. Reviewing placement data shows ICWA courts if they are meeting these goals.

Analyze:

Because children often change placements throughout a case, it can be useful to review placement data by reviewing where all children on active ICWA court cases are placed on one day. Count the number of children placed in each placement type, and divide the number of children in each placement type by the total number of children active in ICWA court.

Discuss:

- Can the team identify any patterns in the cases not placed with family members?
- Is the number of Tribal homes adequate for the need? If not, how can the ICWA team and partners address this?

8. Identification of needs and timely referral to services

Data elements to collect:

Date of identified service to address need
Date referred to service

For each family member (mother, father, child) record the date each service need was identified and referral was made.

This important measure may require data collaboration with ODHS and other community organizations to collect identified needs and referral data.

Collecting information on identified needs and referral dates can help ICWA courts to understand if they are referring to services timely.

Analyze:

Calculate the number of days between identification and referrals for services. As a team, discuss what length of time seems realistic, and set a goal. This timeframe may vary across courts, based on resources, staff, number of participants, etc.

Discuss:

- What are some of the reasons why services are not being accessed? How can the ICWA team increase access to referred services?
- If a referral is not timely, is there not a service available in the community to match the identified need?

9. Time between family member service referrals and services accessed

Data elements to collect:

Referral dates for services

Date of first contact with referred service

For each family member (mother, father, child) referred to a service, record the date the referral was made **and** the date they accessed each service.

This important measure may require data collaboration with ODHS and other community organizations to collect identified needs and referral data.

Reviewing how quickly families access services reveals how long the process takes and identify barriers that impede case processing timelines. Understanding these delays and addressing barriers can improve outcomes for Tribal families.

Analyze:

Calculate the number of dates between service referral and service access. Then, average the number of days for all services in a specified time period. Wait at least 30 days after the end of the specified time period to review this measure.

The length of time between referral and services can vary across communities based on resources available. As a team, discuss what length of time seems realistic, and set a goal.

Discuss:

- Are there certain types of services that are less likely to be accessed timely?
- What supports can the ICWA court team provide to families to help them access services more quickly?



Track Training and Education

Training (in the spirit and letter of the law) is central for ICWA court success. ICWA federal guidelines and Oregon's state-specific ICWA guidance and expectations require strict adherence to specific processes, activities, and timelines. To uphold the spirit of ICWA, all team members should participate in ICWA, child welfare, and cultural responsiveness training at least once per year.

ICWA judges should help enforce training requirements for their entire ICWA court team and key court staff involved in the ICWA court process. ICWA attorneys and social workers should also participate in continuing training to maintain the highest level of knowledge and skill in their practice of assisting Tribes and Indian children and parents, as well as working with state and local agencies.

Training should consist of information and best practices to help the ICWA team embody and adopt the ICWA court principles, focused on:

- ✓ **Timely and accurate data collection by all team members and partner agencies.**
- ✓ **Gold Standard lawyering and social work** are achieved through proper training and ongoing knowledge-seeking, while also prioritizing legal process and advocacy, service referral, case planning, and cultural humility.
- ✓ **Judicial leadership** is vital on and off the bench in collaboration with ICWA partners. Judicial officers must lead ICWA court teams toward high-quality, continuous improvement.
- ✓ **Cultural responsiveness** is not just an approach, but a commitment to honoring cultural diversity in policies, practices, and interactions. Understanding the area of Tribal cultures and practices is not just beneficial; it's necessary and invaluable to team members helping ICWA court families.

Tracking training for team members ensures that new and experienced team members receive appropriate training opportunities to meet the gold standard of ICWA court practices. Tracking training also helps to evaluate the quality of performance improvement and provide accurate information for grant funding.

- ✓ **Tracking annual training engagements, providing notice to the court each year with dates and topics, and noting whether team members shared training resources with other team members** (Appendix A).

Sharing Data

Ongoing knowledge sharing about training and program outcomes can help ICWA Court teams maintain gold-standard practices and actively engage with Tribal families.

- ✓ **Sharing data and training resources with Tribal and community partners** can also strengthen collaboration and provide longevity and transparency to ICWA court programs.
- ✓ **Using data to secure and continuously inform funding and resources for ICWA courts** is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of the program when participating in local, state, or federal funding streams.

Ongoing, timely, and accurate data collection and analysis can strengthen ICWA court data and demonstrate the value of the information by fostering continuous discussion and the sharing of program data, training, and resources. Collecting, analyzing, discussing, and sharing are the responsibilities of the entire ICWA court team, under judicial leadership, and align with ICWA court principles.

For additional information on reports, statistics, and performance measures, visit <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/about/Pages/reports-measures.aspx> for reports or visit the [Juvenile Court Data Dashboard](#) managed by the Office of the State Court Administrator. If your program or local ICWA court would like assistance in collecting, analyzing, and sharing data, please reach out to the Juvenile Data Analyst at 971-203-6811 or yousef.k.allouzi@ojd.state.or.us.

Appendix A. Team Training Tracker

ICWA Team Training Tracker - 2026

SETUP

Training	Organization	Category	Assigned to	Date	Finish	Training hours	Knowledge-Sharing
Child Welfare from the Bench	Oregon Judicial Branch	Role-specific	Judge	1/20/2026	1/22/2026	10	Shared with team in debrief 1/23/26
ICWA 101	Oregon Judicial Branch	For all team roles	Admin Staff	1/21/2026	1/21/2026	2	Shared with team and Tribe in quarterly meeting 1/29/26
ICWA Best Practices	NICWA Conference	For all team roles	Caseworker	1/22/2026	1/24/2026	5	
ICWA Case Law	Bar Association	Role-specific	Defense	1/23/2026	1/25/2026	8	Shared with Pros/AG's office and other defense attorneys 1/26/26
		For all team roles	Tribal Representative	1/24/2026	1/26/2026	10	
		For all team roles	Pros/AG's office	1/25/2026	1/26/2026	8	
		Role-specific	Judge	1/26/2026	1/26/2026	4	
		For all team roles	Judge	1/27/2026	1/27/2026	3	
		For all team roles	Caseworker	1/28/2026	1/29/2026	8	
Total Training for 2026:						58	
						hours	



NCSC

National Center for State Courts

300 Newport Ave. | Williamsburg, VA 23185

(800) 616-6164 | [ncsc.org](https://www.ncsc.org)