

## 10.2 Pretrial Release

### A. Local Databases

Local databases are a source of data for claims of disparate treatment in the pretrial stage of a criminal prosecution. Some counties maintain their own repositories of data. For example, the City County Bureau of Identification (CCBI) for Wake County contains data on arrestees' race, ethnicity, sex, place of residence, country of origin, employment, prior arrests, and court appearance history. The Wake County Sheriff's Office also maintains a database on pretrial release conditions and offenses charged. In 2008, a student in the UNC School of Government's Masters of Public Administration program used these databases to conduct a study of variability in pretrial release conditions based on race, ethnicity, and sex for arrestees. *See Striving for Equity in Criminal Justice - An Analysis of Variability of Bail Bonds in the Tenth Judicial District of North Carolina* in the Race Materials Bank at [www.ncids.org](http://www.ncids.org) (select "Training and Resources"). Another example of a local database is the Bureau of ID of Buncombe County, which creates and maintains electronic records of warrants, citations, arrests, detention, and criminal history records, including mug shots.

### B. NC-CRED's Pretrial Release Subcommittee

NC-CRED's Pre-Trial Release Subcommittee is currently analyzing pretrial release data in Halifax and Guilford counties for the purpose of determining whether racial disparities may be present in the counties' respective pretrial release processes. The data collected by the Subcommittee includes bond amounts and conditions of release imposed on defendants charged with Class H felonies. This effort involves data collection and analysis by race and ethnicity across a range of variables, including age, sex, economic status, employment, mental and physical health, case disposition, length of time in custody, bond amount, method of posting bond, criminal history, and failure to appear history. The project is supported in part by the [American Bar Association's Racial Justice Improvement Project](#), which has supported similar efforts elsewhere in the country. A report documenting NC-CRED's findings concerning pretrial release in Guilford and Halifax counties will be posted on [the Commission's website](#) when it becomes available.