



Measure 7(a): Ensuring Fairness in Legal Financial Obligations

Definition: Ratings by defendants/ respondents of their treatment by the court in cases in which the court has imposed a legal financial obligation (LFO).

Analysis and Interpretation: This measure evaluates procedural fairness involving providing the opportunity for defendants/respondents to tell their side of the story; treating both sides in a dispute equally; treating people in a courteous and respectful manner; and demonstrating trustworthiness through listening, expressing concern for defendants/respondent, and explaining decisions. Conducting court business with procedural fairness has been shown to improve compliance with court orders. The graphs below show the Overall Fairness Index Score of Courts. A confidential survey was administered as defendants/ respondents exited the courtroom who had been ordered to pay a fine or fee. They were asked to rate their level of agreement regarding their court hearing. A satisfactory fairness index score is established at 60% or higher.







