



# JLARC Process for Addressing Racial Equity Considerations in Study Questions

# JLARC: The Legislature's Performance Auditor since 1973

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JLARC has 8 Senators and 8 Representatives, evenly split between the parties to help ensure independence.

Independent nonpartisan staff follow professional audit standards.

We give the Legislature accurate and unbiased answers to its questions.



## QUESTIONS RECENTLY ASKED OF JLARC



### Tax preferences

Has a preference for housing providers incentivized the construction of new units of farmworker housing?



### Natural resources

Are the Department of Natural Resources' wildfire prevention and preparation activities consistent with science and best practices?



### State government

Does the Washington State Patrol replace pursuit vehicle at the optimal time to minimize costs?



### Economic development

Did the Local Government Infrastructure Financing Tool create more jobs?



### Health services

Does the inspection program for ambulatory surgical facilities meet goals for inspection frequency and ensure patient safety?



### Public safety

Do schools, school districts, and first responders use the state's first responder mapping system to support emergency response activities?

# “The committee shall...

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incorporate a racial equity analysis into its performance audits, sunset reviews, and other audits or reports.

note in its audits, reviews, and reports if a racial equity analysis is not necessary or appropriate.

- *ESSB 5405*

# Five guiding principles for racial equity analyses

Use same professional judgment, evidence, methods, and independence required for performance audits.

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Must be related to the purpose of the original study and fall within the scope of that mandate.

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Staff will not exclude racial equity analysis because of a perceived lack of data.

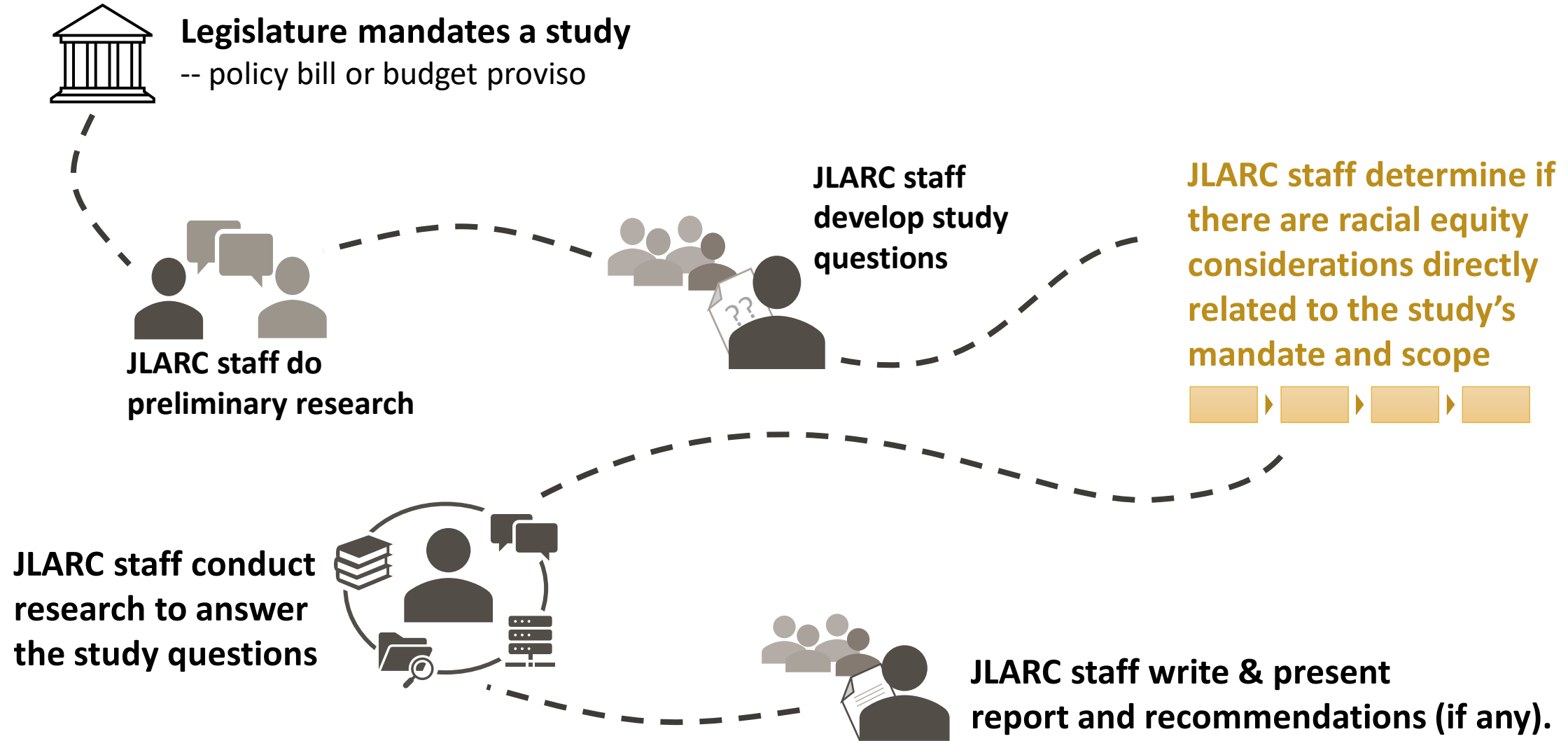
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Staff will prioritize using actual disaggregated data about the race of those affected.

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Initially, prioritize evaluating if data varies by race and whether agencies comply with equity-related statutes.

# Study process



# Steps to determine if there are racial equity considerations

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1. Develop logic model for each question.
2. Ask subject matter experts, Office of Equity, staff of the ethnic commissions, and other stakeholders for review and feedback on the logic chains.
3. Independently decide on whether and how to include racial equity study questions.
4. Discuss results and/or potential racial equity study question(s) with JLARC Executive Committee.
5. Share results and revised questions, if applicable, with full Committee, audited entity, interested parties, and public.



# Logic models are accepted tool and provide transparency

What does the agency do, related to the study question?

So that it achieves...

Ultimate purpose or outcome.

For/to Whom?  
*List affected and/or interested parties*

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# These questions guide review and feedback on logic chains

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1. Are the interested/affected parties limited to the Legislature, the agency itself, or other government entities?
2. Do the interested/affected parties include individuals or entities that could be differentiated by race?
3. Do the logic chains or preliminary research indicate a strong potential for differential impacts based on race?
4. Do the logic chains or preliminary research indicate a strong potential for unintended consequences (positive or negative) from the activities or outcomes that affect different communities?
5. Did preliminary research identify other equity considerations related to the legislative mandate and study questions?





# Washington Statewide Reentry Council

Created to improve public safety and outcomes for individuals reentering the community from incarceration

## Study mandate:

- Extent to which expenditures contributed toward reducing recidivism.
- Achievement of objectives and benchmarks.
- Performance and structure vis-à-vis accountability.

## Study Question #1

What has the Council done to address reentry to the community following incarceration? Have those efforts improved public safety or outcomes of people reentering the community?

**Study Question: What has the Council done to address reentry to the community following incarceration? Have those efforts improved public safety or outcomes of people reentering the community?**

Council performs statutory duties including holding meetings and expending funds.

**Council achieves or provides:**

- Information sharing.
- Policy recommendations.
- Grants for services.

**Resulting in:**

- Improved public safety (e.g., reduced recidivism).
- Improved outcomes for people reentering the community.

**For/to Whom?**

- *Council members.*
- *Governor & Legislature.*
- *Service providers.*

- *People planning or experiencing reentry following incarceration.*
- *General public.*



# Revised study question

Washington Statewide Reentry Council is created to improve public safety and outcomes for individuals reentering the community from incarceration

## Study mandate:

- Extent to which expenditures contributed toward reducing recidivism.
- Achievement of objectives and benchmarks.
- Performance and structure vis-à-vis accountability.

## Study Question #1

What has the Council done to address reentry to the community following incarceration? Have those efforts improved public safety or outcomes of people reentering the community?

- a. How has the Council considered race in its efforts, including the potential for different impacts for various populations? What other factors does the Council consider?

# Contact Us

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