



# Making Bail Better

The scales of justice often tip in unfair ways. When it comes to setting bail, for example, factors that shouldn't matter— income and ethnicity—often carry far more weight than factors that should—such as the probability that a defendant will commit a crime or fail to appear in court. By studying data from nearly one million cases and using a statistical tool known as regression analysis, researchers were able to discover the best objective predictors of a suspect's behavior while on bail. They also incorporated the predictors into an algorithm that has now been proven to be objective and effective in helping judges decide who is at risk to flee or break the law.

