



CHARLESTON COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN .....	4
ABOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL.....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	6
A WORD ABOUT THE DATA .....	7
JAIL USE: AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION .....	8
RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPROPORTIONALITY AND/OR DISPARITY .....	12
STRATEGY ONE: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TOOL.....	15
STRATEGY TWO: TRIAGE SERVICES .....	20
STRATEGY THREE: AUTOMATED COURT REMINDERS .....	24
STRATEGY FOUR: PRETRIAL RISK MANAGEMENT .....	28
STRATEGY FIVE: REDUCE TIME TO DISPOSITION .....	42
STRATEGY SIX: CENTRALIZED DATA WAREHOUSE .....	47
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT .....	48
ENDNOTES.....	53

## A MESSAGE *from the* CHAIRMAN

As Chairman of the CJCC, I am grateful to issue the annual report for 2017. The report highlights our data-guided approach to sustainable change, recognizing successes and areas for growth. During 2017, nearly every strategy in our transformation plan exceeded its goals and/or was making progress in the right direction. We also continue to learn a great deal from our data and implementation efforts.

Change is always challenging, particularly when chipping away at long time, pervasive challenges. Each step along the way, we are continually reminded of our collective commitment to improve public safety, uphold justice, and support community well-being.

Nearly all of the new services we are implementing launched in 2017, with the rest making considerable progress in preparation for launch in 2018. Key highlights include:

- Completion of a baseline pretrial outcome study,
- Increased use of cite and release by law enforcement,
- Expanded crisis stabilization capacity,
- Timelier case processing,
- Growing community engagement, and
- Increased data capacity.

For example, our officers are increasingly choosing non-custodial options for low-level, nonviolent charges. The implementation of this single strategy limits the harmful impact of detention on the lives of those who do not need jail to be held accountable, and as a bonus to public safety, keeps officers on the street rather than tied up in the booking unit of the jail. The amount of options available to law enforcement

and other first responders to address the needs of those living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or homelessness outside of the criminal justice system are also expanding.

As we expand our data capacity, we also become aware of trends we may not have known existed. Through a first-of-its-kind baseline pretrial outcome study, we identified an important trend we must change: three out of four releases on 2014 bonds returned to jail while awaiting the resolution of their cases. We will be working hard to begin to turn this curve in 2018 by:

- Giving bond-setting judges more risk-based information about the defendants who appear before them,
- Reminding defendants of their court dates, and
- Working to bring cases to justice faster.

In 2018, we will use data dashboards to more regularly assess progress and guide adjustments. We will also be exploring other options to strengthen public safety while cases are pending, and more effectively reintegrate offenders returning to our community from our jail.

I look forward to our continued collaboration, and I urge you to continue to hold us accountable, offer us your feedback, and engage with us to help ensure the community we call home has a criminal justice system that is effective, efficient and equitable.

**MITCH LUCAS**

*Chairman*





# ABOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

## MISSION

The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system (CJS) and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. The CJCC strives to achieve a local CJS that improves public safety, upholds justice, and cost-effectively uses taxpayer dollars.

## OBJECTIVES

- Improve data systems for more efficient and effective data sharing and analysis.
- Institute mechanisms to sort high risk from low risk, and prioritize jail use accordingly.
- Ensure similarly situated individuals are consistently treated similarly and work to reduce racial and ethnic disproportionality and/or disparity (REDD) in CJS.
- Enhance capacity to address root causes of behaviors that bring people into the CJS and reduce the likelihood of repeat offending.
- Expand options of law enforcement to inform discretionary decisions to use jail on low-level charges and improve police and community relations.
- Enhance the availability of effective treatment options in the community.
- Reform the management of pretrial populations to uphold justice (i.e., detention based upon risk for flight or danger, rather than one's ability to pay a monetary bond).
- Improve the timeliness of case processing in General Sessions, including assignment of counsel, receipt of discovery, and court scheduling practices.

Drawing on these objectives, the CJCC developed and began implementing a six strategy transformation plan with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge<sup>1</sup>. The CJCC actively advances efforts through the work of diverse implementation teams with related expertise. As each of these strategies advances, the CJCC continues to learn, grow, and adapt to achieve its mission.

## MEMBERSHIP

- Charleston County Council,
- Charleston County Sheriff's Office,
- Charleston Police Department,
- North Charleston Police Department,
- Mt. Pleasant Police Department,
- Ninth Circuit Defender,
- Ninth Circuit Solicitor,
- Charleston County Clerk of Court,
- Judiciary, including Circuit, Magistrate and Municipal Court Leadership and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina (ex-officio),
- Charleston Center,
- Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center,
- Probation, Parole and Pardon Services,
- Victim Advocacy,
- Veterans Justice Outreach (Veterans Affairs)
- American Civil Liberties Union, and
- Ten diverse community representatives.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2017 Annual Report is a publication of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). The report provides the community with a review of progress since the launch of the CJCC's transformation plan. Results between 2014 and 2017 include:

- A reduction of 13% in our local jail population.
- A 51% decline in jail use for single charge bookings for open container, simple possession of marijuana, misdemeanor shoplifting, trespassing and public intoxication.
- A 46% increase in decisions by law enforcement to use cite and release for low-level nonviolent charges that do not need to be jailed to be held accountable, leaving more officers on the street to protect public safety.
- A 42% reduction in familiar faces cycling through the jail each month.
- Increased access to behavioral and public health options across the community to address the needs of individuals living with mental illness, homelessness and/or substance use disorders.

For example, law enforcement now has real-time access to the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center and will soon have additional options for intoxicated individuals with the opening of a Sobering Center in 2018. The CJCC remains committed to implementing common sense, legal and evidence-based practices that will help improve public safety, generate better outcomes, and use taxpayer dollars more effectively. During 2017, other considerable progress included:

- Docket transfer occurred in September 2017, placing the Administrative Order from the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes fully into operation.
- Evidence moved faster from law enforcement to prosecution.
- It took less time to assign prosecutors and defense counsel to cases.

Moreover, significant efforts went into preparations for the launch of pretrial service reports and automated court reminders. Despite these improvements, our pretrial system remains challenged. A baseline pretrial outcome study found that in 2014, prior to the formation of the CJCC, there were an unacceptably high number of returns to jail prior to case disposition. For example, of releases from jail on 2014 bonds:

- 75% returned to jail prior to resolution of their cases.
- 75% of the returns to jail were on new arrests and 20% were on bench warrants.
- 85% of financial bonds returned to jail.
- 53% of personal recognizance bonds returned to jail.

In addition to the work already underway, the CJCC is doing more in 2018 to help improve public safety, uphold justice, and support community well-being, including:

- The launch of pretrial services reports on January 8, 2018 to provide bond-setting judges in Centralized Bond Court with more risk-based information about the defendants before them.
- Automated text court reminder launches in General Sessions and Charleston Municipal Court.
- Developing more strategies to help strengthen public safety while defendants await trial (e.g., risk-based supervision and compliance monitoring).

- Expanding data capacity to continue refining and improving our efforts.

The annual report, as with prior CJCC's reports, is a key component of the CJCC's commitment to accountability and transparency. Please read the pages that follow to learn more about the systematic progress underway and engage with us to help improve our local criminal justice system.

## A WORD ABOUT THE DATA

This report contains a review of progress made in calendar year 2017 as well as the trends since 2014. The review of progress includes a narrative for each of the strategies and overall jail use trends. All data contained in this report was provided through the CJCC's centralized data warehouse and its related databases unless noted otherwise. Items in italics represent the new sources added in 2017.

### CONTRIBUTING DATA SOURCES (14 TOTAL)

**Law Enforcement:** Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston Police Department, North Charleston Police Department, Mount Pleasant Police Department, and the *Officer Tool Database* (OTD)

**Summary Courts:** Charleston County Magistrates (CMS-Mag), Charleston Municipal Court, North Charleston Municipal Court, and Mt. Pleasant Municipal Court

**General Sessions:** Charleston County Clerk of Court (CMS-GS), Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Charleston County (PbK), Ninth Circuit Defender, Charleston County (DD)

**Jail:** Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center (SACDC)

**Pretrial:** *Pretrial Services Database* (PSD)

As mentioned in earlier reports, the transition to data-guided system reform and working with numerous disparate information systems is extremely challenging. Variances among the different systems occur and the data continually change as cases and individuals move through the system and/or expungements occur. Such dynamic activity makes it difficult to mark progress and assess trends over time. For example, analysis of the key statistics for a given time period depends upon when the analysis is completed. In order to combat these challenges in 2017, the CJCC developed a historic database<sup>2</sup> that draws from all of the contributing data sources to provide a static point-in-time record of key statistics. This allows for a more consistent and stable means to measure progress over time.

The historical database marks a significant enhancement to the CJCC's data capacity making for more efficient, timely, and useful data. Therefore, data provided in this report are from the historical database. Another change in this report from prior reports is a concentrated focus on local jail use, excluding the ICE, Federal, and Hold populations in the jail, given the outside decision makers that drive their jail use. Thus, figures may vary somewhat from past reports.

#### A NOTE ON CALCULATIONS

Percent change is determined through the following formula:  

$$\% \text{ change} = (\text{new figure} - \text{old figure}) / \text{old figure}$$

## JAIL USE: AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

### WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The CJCC has an overall, three-year goal to safely reduce the average daily population (ADP) of the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center (SACDC) by 25%. Jail use is driven by admissions, lengths of stay, and releases. All of the transformation plan strategies contribute to this goal while helping our community to rethink jail use in a safe, smart, and cost-effective way.

The graphs on the following pages indicate admissions, lengths of stay, releases, and ADP between 2014 and 2017. The source data for this section is from the SACDC. Key findings include:

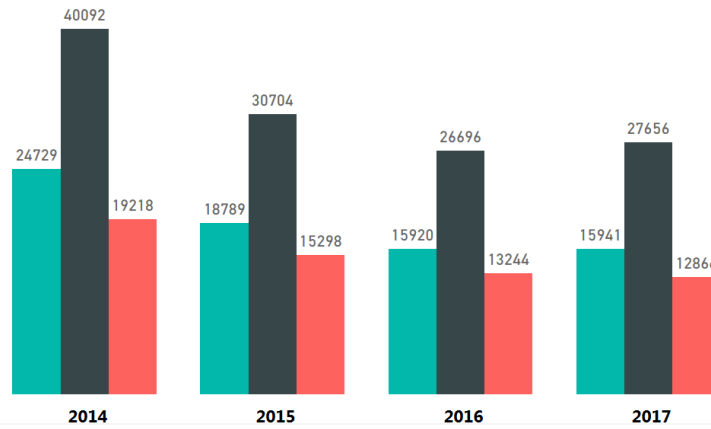
- Admissions between 2014 and 2017 declined:
  - ◊ 31% fewer charges brought to jail,
  - ◊ 36% fewer bookings, and
  - ◊ 33% fewer unique people.
- While the number of charges and bookings in 2017 are slightly higher than they were in 2016, notably 2017 had the fewest unique individuals booked into the jail: 12,866 down from 19,218 in 2014.
- In the same period, roughly the same number that went into the jail came back out.
- Simple possession of marijuana continues to be the most frequently occurring local charge brought to the jail, along with more serious charges such as unlawful carry of a firearm, DUI, domestic violence, and third degree assault and battery.
- Roughly the same number of Summary court level charges were admitted in 2014 (26,922) as Summary and General Sessions court level charges combined in 2017 (26,920).
- The number of family court charges admitted to the jail also decreased, down 48% between 2014 and 2017.
- The average length of stay in the jail steadily increased:
  - ◊ All populations were 12 days in 2014 up to 22 days in 2017.
  - ◊ Pretrial were 10 days in 2014 up to 21 days in 2017.
  - ◊ Sentenced were 19 days in 2014 up to 28 days in 2017.
- The average length of stay by court type has also increased:
  - ◊ General Sessions-driven stays were 27 days in 2014, increasing to 42 days in 2017.
  - ◊ Summary-driven stays were 3 days in 2014 and 2015, and 4 days in 2016 and 2017.
- The annualized average daily local population declined 13% between 2014 and 2017.
- Pretrial status is increasingly driving local jail use, climbing to 91% of local jail use in 2017 up from 85% in 2014.





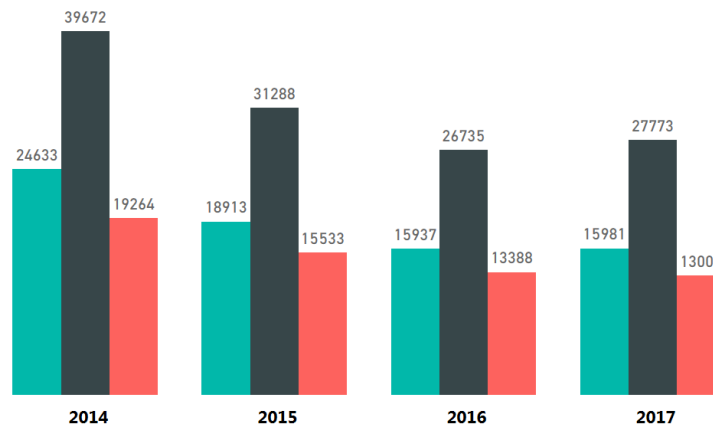
### Annual Bookings (Local Population, excludes ICE, FED or HOLD)

● ANNUALIZED Bookings-ALL ● ANNUALIZED Charges-ALL ● ANNUALIZED Unique People-ALL



### Annual Releases (Local Population, excludes ICE, FED or HOLD)

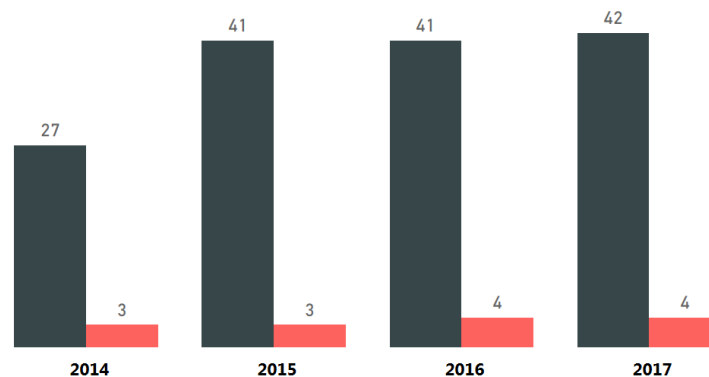
● ANNUALIZED Bookings-ALL ● ANNUALIZED Charges-ALL ● ANNUALIZED Unique People-ALL

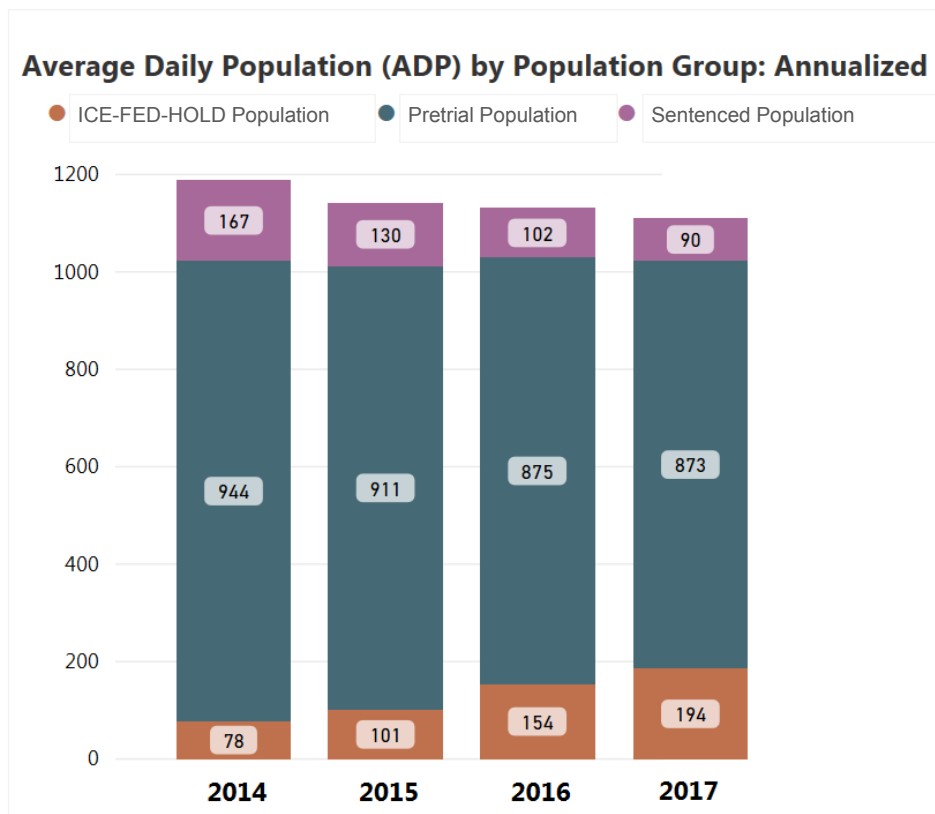
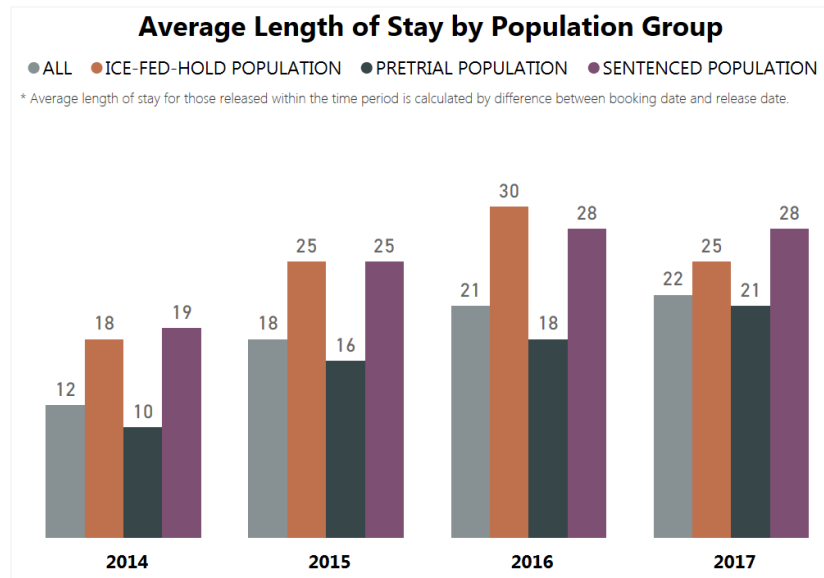


### Average Length of Stay by Court

● GS ONLY OR GS and SUMMARY Charges In Bookings(ANNUALIZED) ● SUMMARY ONLY Charges In Bookings(ANNUALIZED)

\* Average length of stay for those released within the time period is calculated by difference between booking date and release date.





Note: The Safety and Justice Challenge grant period is on a different timeline to coincide with the implementation grant award, baseline Nov. 2015 to April 2016, year one May 2016 to April 2017, year two May 2017 to April 2018.

# RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPROPORTIONALITY AND/OR DISPARITY

## WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Local stakeholders recognize that racial and ethnic disproportionality and/or disparity (REDD) is an ongoing challenge in Charleston County. The CJCC is committed to working with the community and CJS practitioners to reduce REDD.

Before describing the REDD findings, it is important to explain terms for clarity.<sup>3</sup>

**Race:** Population group identified by physical characteristics (Asian / Pacific Islander, Native American / Alaska Native, Black / African American, White / Caucasian)

**Ethnicity:** Population group based on cultural factors (e.g., Hispanic or Non-Hispanic)

**Disproportionality:** Unequal ratio between the composition of two populations (Example: In South Carolina, African American adults make up 24% of the population and 61% of people in prison, indicating disproportionate rates of incarceration.)

**Disparity:** Unequal treatment despite similar characteristics (Example: Same situation resulting in jail use for a person of color and a citation for a similarly situated white person with race being the only difference.)

*Note that disparity is exceptionally difficult to prove. The existence of disproportionality does not necessarily indicate disparity. Nevertheless, recognizing disproportionality and taking steps to address it is a vital early step in creating a more equitable justice system.*

**Relative Rate Index (RRI):** A standard measure of disproportionality. Calculated by dividing the rate at a particular point in the system for a minority group by the rate for a reference group (usually whites). An RRI greater than one indicates that a greater proportion of the minority group is affected than the reference group. The RRI for the reference group is always one. Example:

$$9.73 \text{ (black booking rate per 1,000 population)} / 2.99 \text{ (white booking rate per 1,000 population)} = 3.25$$

The black RRI is 3.25. This means that black adults are booked into jail at 3.25 the rate of white adults.

## WHY LOOK AT RRI?

- RRI is the first step in the process of identifying disproportionality or disparities.
- It provides a context to begin to understand how the experiences of different groups of people in the criminal justice system may differ when compared to whites.
- It allows questions to be asked about what the community wants to do next and how to prioritize a potential response.

## RACE AND POPULATION DATA

Charleston County is a diverse and growing area. However, due to inconsistent methods of recording ethnicity data at all points in the system, it is not possible at this time to analyze REDD accurately for the Hispanic community. This continues to be an area in need of correction. This report, therefore, is focused on REDD as it relates to African-Americans at the point of booking.

## LOCAL BOOKINGS

The table below shows the relative rate (Black:White) of local bookings<sup>4</sup> into the SACDC from all law enforcement agencies in Charleston County, indicating an overall reduction of 3.9% between in 2014 and 2017.

RELATIVE RATE OF BOOKING – LOCAL BOOKINGS (B:W) <sup>5,6</sup>				
2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2014-2017
3.70	3.36	3.18	3.56	
% Change from Previous Year	-9.1%	-5.5%	+11.9%	-3.9%

Sources: SACDC and US Census Bureau

The RRI results for target charge bookings and criminal bench warrant bookings are embedded in the strategy one and three sections of this report, respectively. Moving forward, the CJCC will deepen its work to further explore these trends, examine earlier and later points in the system, such as calls for service, bond setting, and disposition, and advance efforts to reduce REDD. Another important component of this work is the addition of an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer working to elevate REDD reduction efforts.



## ABOUT AMERICORPS VISTA

VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, was conceived by President John F. Kennedy as a domestic counterpart to the Peace Corps and was started by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. It is the national service program that works to eliminate poverty.

AmeriCorps VISTA members serve full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to build the capacity of these organizations to carry out programs that alleviate poverty.



Following an extensive search for a well-qualified candidate, the VISTA position was filled in November 2017. The VISTA volunteer works very closely with CJCC staff and will spend a year helping to develop a sustainable REDD reduction toolkit drawing on the use of the officer tool that can be utilized to further study and reduce REDD. This includes:

- Reviewing relevant background information and literature,
- Conducting REDD analysis and developing data illustrations,
- Developing processes to guide community engagement, mutual education and problem solving efforts among criminal justice professionals and the communities they serve, and
- Developing, testing and finalizing a toolkit for disproportionality and/or disparity reduction.

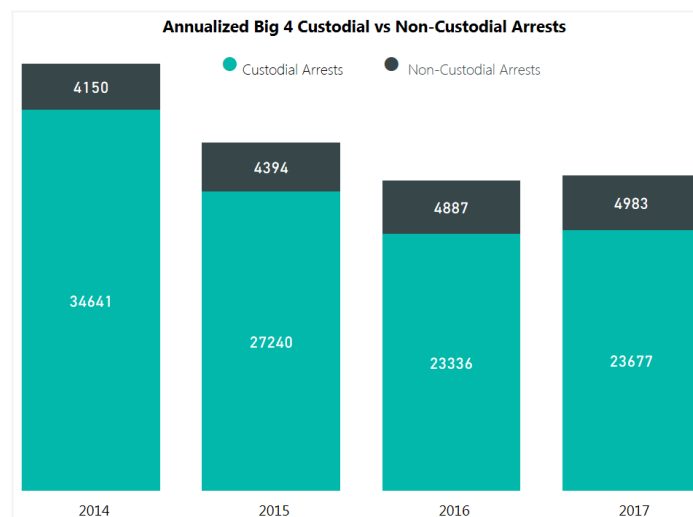
## STRATEGY ONE

### LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TOOL

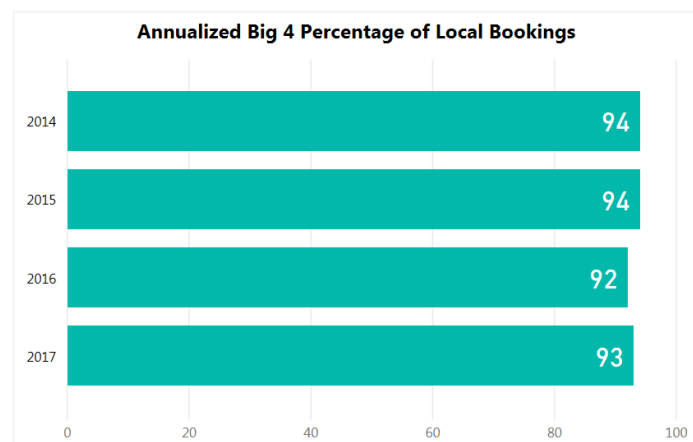
#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CHARGING TRENDS

Overall, data indicate the four largest law enforcement agencies in the County (Charleston Police Department, North Charleston Police Department, Mt. Pleasant Police Department, and the Charleston County Sheriff's Office known as the Big Four) have rethought jail use between 2014 and 2017. The source data in this section are from the Big Four and SACDC.

- The charges brought by the Big Four declined 26%.
- The Big Four increased the use of non-custodial charging practices by 46%.



- The Big Four continually remain the largest volume of law enforcement agencies using the detention center, 93% of local jail use in 2017.

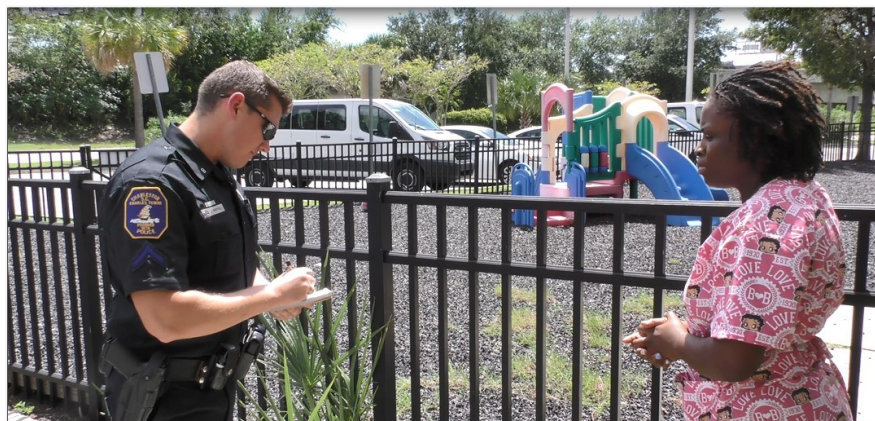


## LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TOOL: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Implement an assessment tool for law enforcement officers that enables greater uniformity in arrest decisions for low-level charges.

A critical part of rethinking jail use in Charleston County is the first strategy in the CJCC's transformation plan. This strategy is reducing single charge bookings for low-level charges such as simple possession of marijuana, open container, trespassing, public intoxication and misdemeanor shoplifting. In addition to growing use of cite and release, officers are becoming equipped with an assessment tool to help guide jail use decisions. Use of the tool keeps officers on the street and can help increase consistency in treatment among similarly situated individuals. For example with the tool:

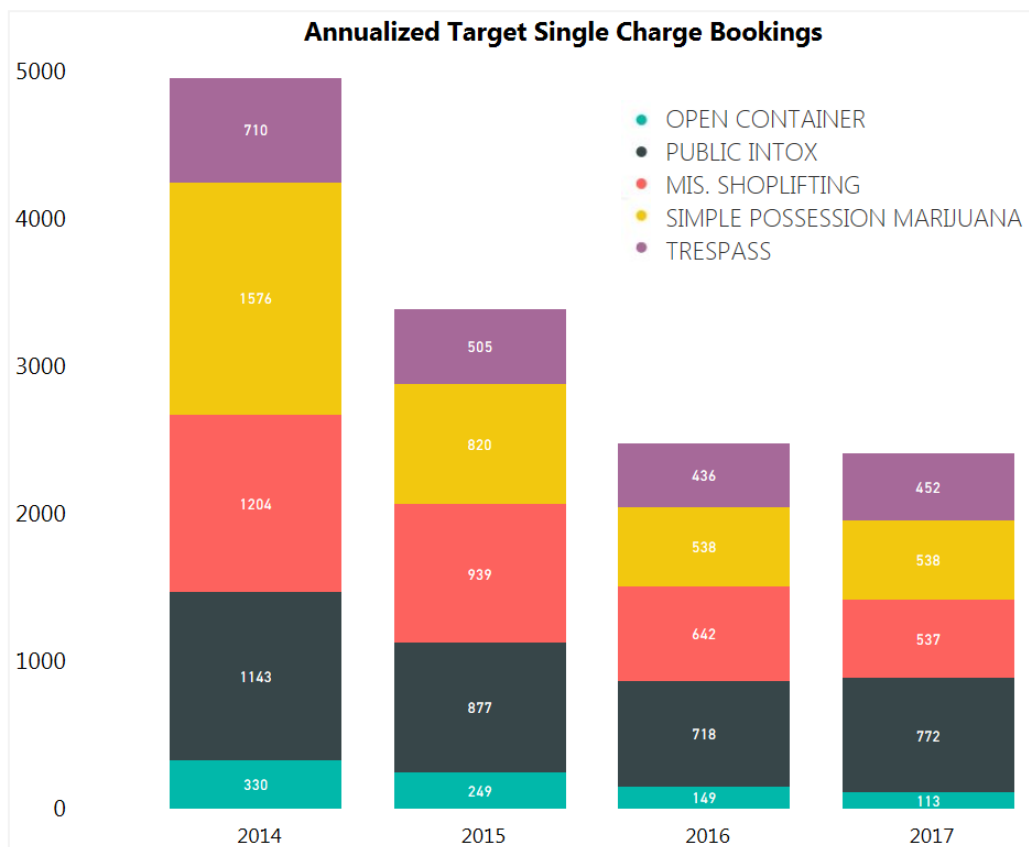
- Individuals scoring low on the assessment would be more likely to receive a ticket and not go to jail, while individuals with a higher score would go to jail.
- When appropriate, prompts access to real-time alternatives to jail (and emergency rooms) that provide individuals living with homelessness, mental illness and/or substance use disorders a path to treatment rather than jail.
- Since many of the target charges were found to have high rates of disproportionately, data provided will also help to further efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disproportionality and/or disparity.



Role-play demonstration

In addition to the increased use of non-custodial options by law enforcement that began in 2015, trends between 2014 and 2017 indicate a decline in the target charges (source data from the SACDC).

- Reductions in single charge booking for target charges went down 51% to 2,412 in 2017 from 4,963 in 2014, exceeding the initial 30% goal.
- Single charge bookings for each of the single target charges are also down:
  - ◊ Trespassing declined 36%,
  - ◊ Simple Possession of Marijuana declined 66%,
  - ◊ Misdemeanor Shoplifting declined 55%,
  - ◊ Public Intoxication declined 32%, and
  - ◊ Open Container declined 66%.
- While the number coming to jail dropped substantially, the average length of stay for individuals booked into the jail on single charge target charges increased, from three days in 2014 to five days in 2017.



Similar to the reduction of target charge bookings, disproportionality among the target charges also declined.

- Disproportionality among all target charge bookings fell 29% between 2014 and 2017.
- The greatest reductions in RRI per target charge were Trespassing and Public Intoxication; both decreased by more than 30% between 2014 and 2017.
- Of all the target charges, Simple Possession of Marijuana, Trespassing, and Open Container continue to show the highest levels of disproportionality, while Shoplifting shows a comparatively small amount and Public Intoxication shows almost none.

The following table<sup>7</sup> provides the Black:White relative rates for the target offenses within strategy one.

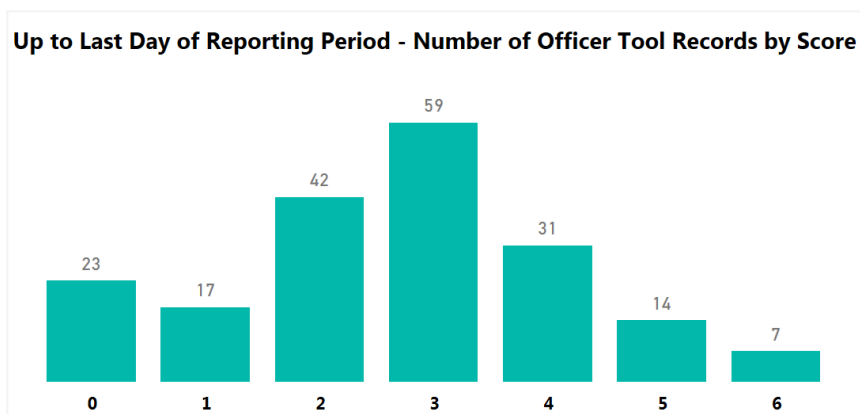
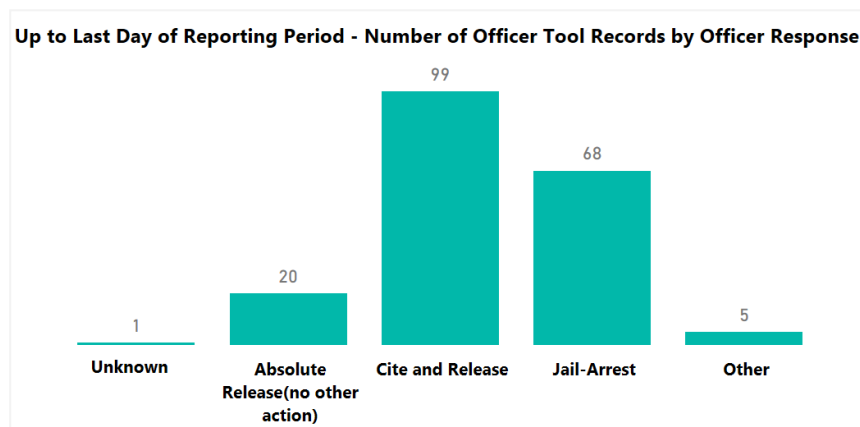
RELATIVE RATE FOR TARGET CHARGE BOOKINGS (B:W)					
TARGET CHARGE	2014	2015	2016	2017	% CHANGE 2014-2017
<b>Simple Possession of Marijuana</b>	8.23	6.66	8.88	8.12	-1.4%
<b>Trespassing</b>	7.05	7.85	5.72	4.56	-35.3%
<b>Open Container</b>	4.43	3.72	4.05	4.06	-8.4%
<b>Public Intoxication</b>	1.52	1.23	1.01	1.02	-33.1%
<b>Shoplifting (Misdemeanor)</b>	2.28	2.03	2.06	1.87	-18.1%
<b>All Target Charges Combined</b>	3.69	2.98	2.84	2.61	-29.4%

Sources: SACDC (Local Bookings) and US Census Bureau



Throughout 2017, local law enforcement continued to expand cite and release practices while the strategy team completed a robust effort to develop the officer tool, install the officer tool database, develop training, and early implementation efforts. The tool went into use during 2017. By the end of the year, there were 193 tool administrations in the officer tool database. The information below provides the results of tool use in 2017 (source data: Officer Tool Database), indicating preliminary administrations consistent with desired results (e.g., lower scores resulting in actions other than jail use).

- Varying levels of risk: 42% low, 47% medium, and 11% high, and
- Most tool uses resulted in actions other than jail use (65%) and 35% resulted in jail use.



Moving forward, use of the officer tool will expand with monitoring and adjusting as needed. Experiences with the tool will also be a critical component of REDD reduction efforts.

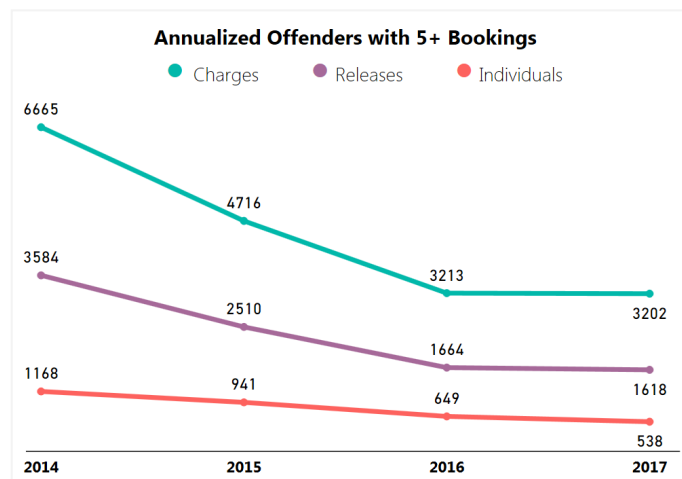
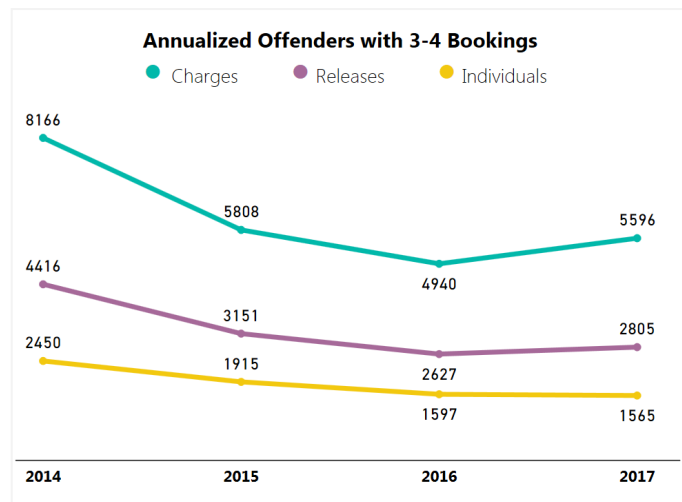
## STRATEGY TWO

### TRIAGE SERVICES

#### FAMILIAR FACES

Another critical component of the CJCC's transformation plan deals with individuals that most often cycle through the jail, known as familiar faces. The graphs below provide a review of familiar face activity in our local jail between 2014 and 2017. Familiar faces is the term used to define individuals that are booked into our jail three or more times in a 24-month period (source data from the SACDC). Trends of note include:

- Jail bed days used by individuals booked three to four times within 24-month periods were down 23%, exceeding the initial 15% goal.
- Jail bed days used by individuals booked five or more times within 24-month periods were down 49%, exceeding the initial 10% goal.
- Combined, individuals booked three or more times within 24-month periods:
  - ◊ Made up 28% of all cycling through our jail in 2017, down from 32% in 2014.
  - ◊ Made up 16% of the unique individuals using our jail in 2017, down from 19% in 2014.
- On average, unique familiar faces that cycled through our jail each month in 2017 were 42% less than they were in 2014, down to 175 per month in 2017 from a high of 302 in 2014.



## TRIAGE SERVICES: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Identify and create appropriate real-time alternatives to jail for individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders and/or homelessness through triage services located within the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center.

The second strategy provides officers a 24 x 7 alternative to jail option through triage services within the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center (TCSC) and a soon to be opened Sobering Center.

- Officers can access a clinician by phone in real-time to identify appropriate alternatives and assistance for individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders and/or homelessness whether or not the person they are trying to help is in jeopardy of a criminal charge.
- The TCSC contains 10 beds operated by the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center (CDMHC), located in the Charleston Center (with an onsite detoxification unit and soon to be opened Charleston Center Sobering Center).
- The TCSC is a community-wide effort collaboratively funded by South Carolina Department of Mental Health, CDMHC, Medical University of South Carolina, Roper Saint Francis, Charleston Center, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Berkeley Mental Health Center, and CJCC.
- The Charleston Center Sobering Center is opening in the Spring of 2018 and will provide safe, short term monitoring and management of inebriated persons as an alternative to jail and emergency services. This new service will provide a place to sober up safely, and be connected with follow-up treatment as needed.



Role-play demonstration of TCSC use by law enforcement

The Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center (TCSC) with its triage services for law enforcement opened on June 5, 2017. The table below provides TCSC activity through the end of 2017. (Data provided by the TCSC.)

2017 TCSC STATISTICS		
492 referrals		
Referral Sources		
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	44	9%
<b>Behavioral Health Service</b>	147	30%
<b>Hospitals</b>	271	55%
<b>Self/Family</b>	16	3%
<b>Other</b>	14	3%
321 TCSC admissions		
321 discharges		
170 diverted from emergency departments		
263 diverted from inpatient hospitals		
11 diverted from jail		

Throughout 2017, the strategy team worked with community partners to support the early implementation of the TCSC. In addition, a grant-funded contract purchased two beds at One80 Place to provide additional options for individuals experiencing homelessness. It is important to note related community efforts also launched and/or expanded during this time, including:

- A telehealth program connecting the Charleston County Emergency Services Department with real-time access to mental health clinicians in the mobile crisis unit of CDMHC.
- Mental health clinicians from the CDMHC expanded the number of embedded clinicians within local law enforcement agencies.
- A homeless court began operating in the city of Charleston.
- Expanded Crisis Intervention Training reached an increased number of law enforcement officers.

While not an exhaustive list, the items mentioned illustrate a growing effort among behavioral health, public health, and criminal justice system leaders to join forces to address the needs of individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or homelessness outside of the criminal justice system. This is part of a broader, growing recognition of the need to identify and address the root causes of what brings these individuals into contact with these systems, while supporting their paths to becoming healthy, productive, law-abiding and contributing members of the community

Moving forward, the strategy team will continue to strengthen relationships among stakeholders in the different systems (i.e., behavioral health, public health and criminal justice) that serve the familiar face population. These relationships allow the CJCC to remain responsive to community needs, and advance opportunities to grow community capacity to address the root issues that bring these individuals into contact with these systems. The strategy team is also focused on:

- The upcoming opening of the Sobering Center in the Charleston Center that will help provide law enforcement additional beds for intoxicated individuals.
- Outreach and training efforts to help expand first responder use of the diverse range of community-based options available for individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or homelessness.
- Development and installation of post-booking opportunities to intervene more directly with the familiar faces that continue to come to the jail.

There are also individuals that must go to jail and/or prison due to the crimes they commit. These individuals are the reason we have jails and prisons and not the individuals this strategy is touching. However, no matter the severity of the sentence, nearly all individuals who go to jail or prison eventually return to the community. Therefore, the CJCC will also begin to dive deeper into options for dealing with more serious, repeat offenders returning to our community from incarceration.



Charleston Center Sobering Center



Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center



## STRATEGY THREE

### AUTOMATED COURT REMINDERS

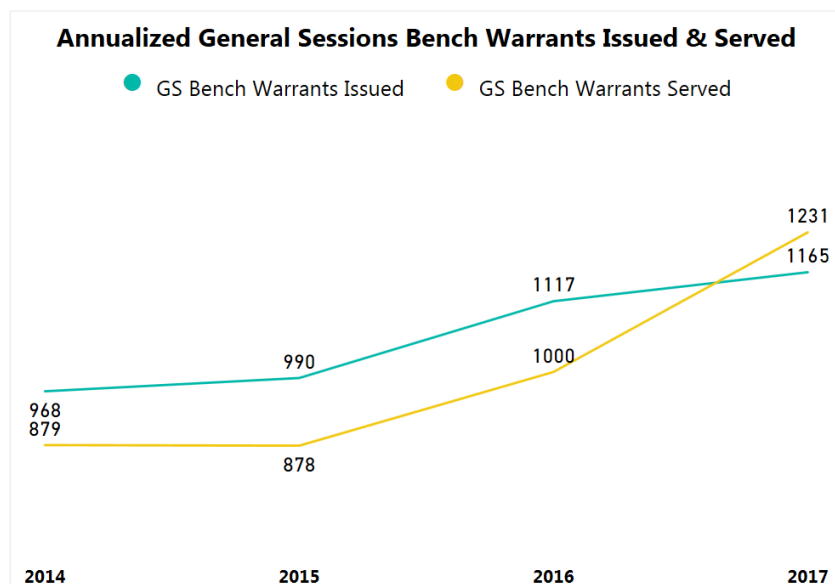
#### CRIMINAL BENCH WARRANTS

The use of criminal bench warrants between 2014 and 2017 has shifted across the County. (Source data in this section from Summary and General Session's court contributors). For example, between 2014 and 2017:

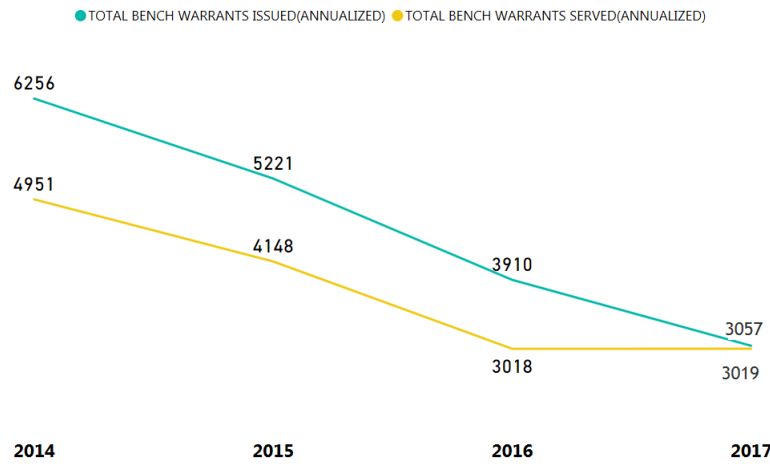
- Criminal bench warrants issued in General Sessions court rose 27%, while the number served rose 33%.
- Criminal bench warrants issued in Summary court decreased 51% while the number served decreased 39%.

It is important to note two significant changes occurred in late 2017 that directly affect this strategy:

- Summary level bench warrant practice changes following statewide instructions from the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina to help ensure standards of due process.
- The criminal docket in the General Sessions court of Charleston County transferred to the Clerk of Court under the leadership of the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes.



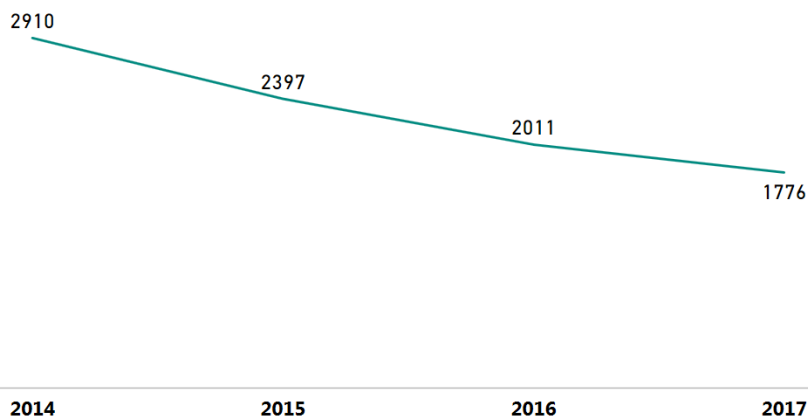
### ANNUALIZED SUMMARY COURT BENCH WARRANTS ISSUED AND SERVED



Criminal bench warrants bookings between 2014 and 2017 declined. (Source data in this section from SACDC.) For example, between 2014 and 2017:

- Criminal bench warrant bookings were down 39%, exceeding the initial 30% goal.
- The average length of stay in the jail on a criminal bench warrant rose to 41 days in 2017 from 25 days in 2014.

### Annualized Criminal Bench Warrant Bookings



Consistent with the decline in criminal bench warrant bookings, we see a decline in the disproportionality of criminal bench warrant bookings between 2014 and 2017. Racial disproportionality for criminal bench warrant bookings dropped 12.9%.

The table<sup>8</sup> below provides Black: White relative rates for Criminal Bench Warrant bookings between 2014 and 2017.

RELATIVE RATE FOR CRIMINAL BENCH WARRANTS (B:W)				
2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2014-2017
5.94	5.22	4.58	5.18	
% Change from Previous Year	-12.2%	-12.2%	+13.0%	-12.9%

Sources: SACDC (Local Bookings) and US Census Bureau

## AUTOMATED COURT REMINDERS: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Launch an automated court-date reminder system to increase court appearances and lower the number of criminal bench warrants.

In addition to changes made as a result of the transfer of the criminal docket and statewide bench warrant instructions as noted earlier, the strategy team made considerable progress in 2017 to prepare for the launch of the automated court reminder service. The third strategy will provide texts and/or email reminders of upcoming court appearances to reduce failures to appear, similar to those used in everyday life (e.g., doctor or hair appointments). When victims, witnesses, judges, prosecutors, defense, and law enforcement show up for court and defendants do not, it creates a burden on all involved. For example:

- Everyone involved may have to come back to court again until the case is resolved.
- Judges issue criminal bench warrants resulting in a likely return to jail for the defendant.
- More time and effort of all involved to serve the warrant, take the defendant to jail, and bring his/her case to justice.

Time and effort that could be better spent bringing more cases to justice.



Following an exhaustive effort to procure vendor services for the automated reminder system, the strategy team has been working with the vendor to complete necessary preparations for launch in 2018.

While the reminders will not be a replacement for official court notices, it is expected defendants receiving the reminders will make it to court more often and receive criminal bench warrants less often. Given the brand new nature of this service, the CJCC anticipates challenges and expects adjustments will occur along the way. Therefore, the focus of this strategy in 2018 will be supporting the launch of the system, promoting effective implementation, and monitoring use to make adjustments as needed. The automated court reminder system will soon launch in General Sessions court in Charleston County and the City of Charleston Municipal Court.

## STRATEGY FOUR

### PRETRIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

#### BASELINE PRETRIAL OUTCOMES

Throughout the fall and winter of 2017, the CJCC conducted a pretrial outcome study to determine the baseline upon which to measure progress. The capacity to conduct the pretrial outcomes study is a significant milestone that revealed a major public safety problem in need of repair - a problem that without the data capacity now available may have gone unnoticed. The study researched how well the status quo bond practices of the past (2014 and 2015) were serving the community. The study also helped to expand data capacity and further cemented the commitment of the CJCC to advance pretrial risk management efforts.

#### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What kinds of bonds were set in 2014 and 2015?
- How did bonds affect defendants' ability to release from jail while awaiting case resolution?
- How often and why did defendants released return to jail prior to the resolution of their cases?
- How often did released defendants comply with court appearances?
- How often did released defendants experience return to jail or missed court appearances?
- How do we expect the pretrial services report (PSR) to affect these trends?

#### METHODOLOGY

All bonds set in Centralized Bond Court were matched with jail and disposition data. The data sources included CMS-Mag, CMS-GS and SACDC. All bonds set in 2014 and 2015 on charges that were disposed at the time of the study were included. Thus, 98% of the 2014 bonds and 89% of the 2015 bonds were part of the study. Type and amount of bonds were determined based upon the totality of bonds a defendant had per incident, also known as "effective bond."

Effective bonds define the combination all of the bonds set on an individual per bond hearing. For example, one person at one bond hearing may have five charges and receive five bonds, some financial at varying amounts per bond and some personal recognizance (PR). The defendant must meet all of these bond conditions in order to secure release from the jail. The combination of these bonds establishes all the conditions to meet to secure release, and the total amount of money required when financial. For example, an effective bond determination in the case of an individual with five charges, three financial totaling \$15,000 and two PR, the effective bond would be financial for \$15,000.

Returns to jail were determined upon returns to the SACDC after the date of release on bond and



prior to the date of case disposition. Court appearance compliance was determined through the existence of an appearance related disposition (i.e., Tried in Absence (TIA), Failure to Appear (FTA), or the issuance of a criminal bench warrant between the dates of release and disposition). Any pretrial failure was determined by the existence of one or more of the pretrial outcomes (i.e., return to jail or appearance conditions).

## FINDINGS

1. Across 2014 and 2015, most bonds issued (71%) were financial (rather than personal recognizance (PR)), and 96% of the financial bonds issued were in an amount greater than \$1,000.
2. 77% of defendants were released on bond during the 2014-2015 years while 23% remained incarcerated throughout the resolution of their cases.
3. The majority released within one day. Of all releases, 45% in 2014 and 47% in 2015, released within a day and 13% of releases occurred after 90 days in 2014, and 14% in 2015. For example, in 2015 there were 2,672 released within a day and 810 released after 90 days.
4. This pattern holds true for financial bonds. Of all financial bonds released:
  - In 2014, 32% released in one day with an average bond amount \$17,790; in 2015, 32% with an average bond amount of \$18,615.
  - In 2014, 18% of financial bonds released after 90 days at an average bond amount of \$114,421; in 2015, 20% with an average bond amount of \$117,671.
5. Three-fourths of the returns to jail were for new arrests, 75% in 2014 and 74% in 2015.
6. In both years, on average returns to jail happened 6-8 months after the release on bond.
7. Financial bonds returned to jail at a rate of 85% and 71% (2014 and 2015, respectively) and PR bonds returned at a lower rate of 53% and 41% (2014 and 2015, respectively).
8. Any failure occurred most often, 76% in 2014 and 68% in 2015.
9. In terms of unique individuals released on bonds, 46% in 2014 and 43% in 2015, experienced pretrial failure, often more than once. The inverse is also true; pretrial success was experienced by 54% in 2014 and 57% in 2015 of all unique individuals released (i.e., stayed out of jail and complied with court appearances).
10. Individualized assessment contained in the Pretrial Services Report will allow for **more targeted** practices to better manage those at greater or lesser risk of pretrial failure.

## LIMITATIONS

The study was a first-of-its-kind study for Charleston community done with the existing data. The data used in this study depended upon the data available within the data sources at the time of the analysis and the quality of the data therein. Returns to jails other than the SACDC or court activity outside of Charleston Magistrate and General Sessions courts are not included. Given the regional dynamics of the area, additional jail stays or court activity outside of these locations are possible. Thus, findings may be under-reported.

## BOND PRACTICES

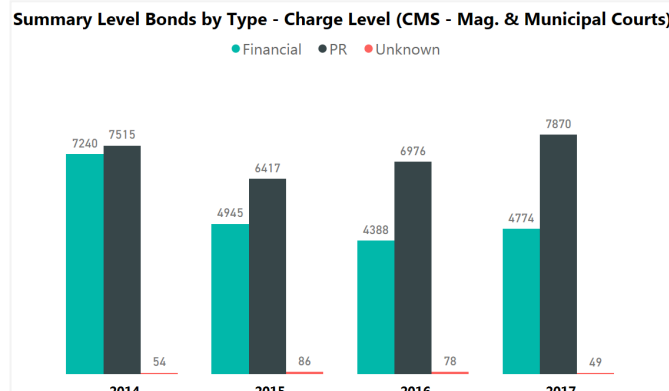
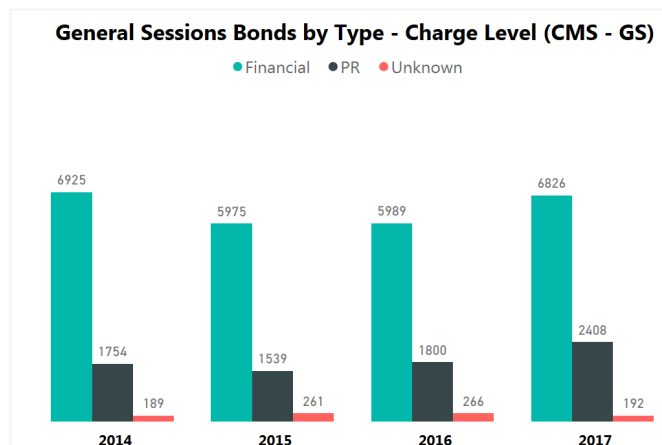
The data below describe bond practices across between 2014 and 2017, organized into four sections:

- A. Charge level bonds (source data: Summary and General Sessions courts)
- B. Effective bonds (source data: CMS Magistrate, CMS General Sessions and SACDC)
- C. Pretrial strategy (source data: Pretrial Services Database)

### A CHARGE LEVEL BONDS

Collectively, charge level bond trends between 2014 and 2017 remained majority financial. There was an increasing use of personal recognizance (PR) bonds in both General Sessions and Summary courts. Between 2014 and 2017:

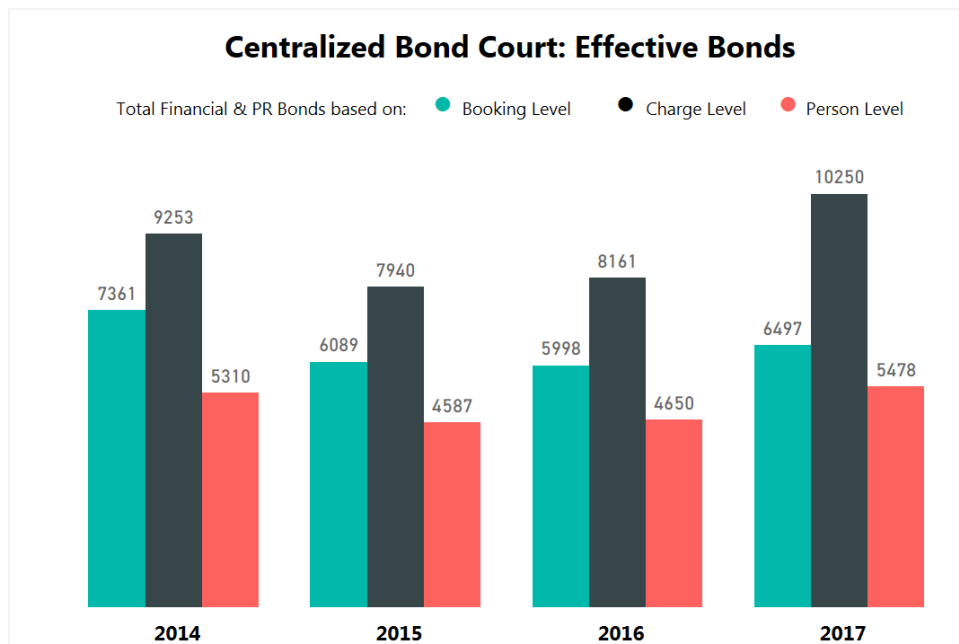
- General Sessions bonds increased PRs by 29%, exceeding the initial 10% goal.
- Summary bonds<sup>9</sup> increased PRs by 22%, exceeding the initial 15% goal.



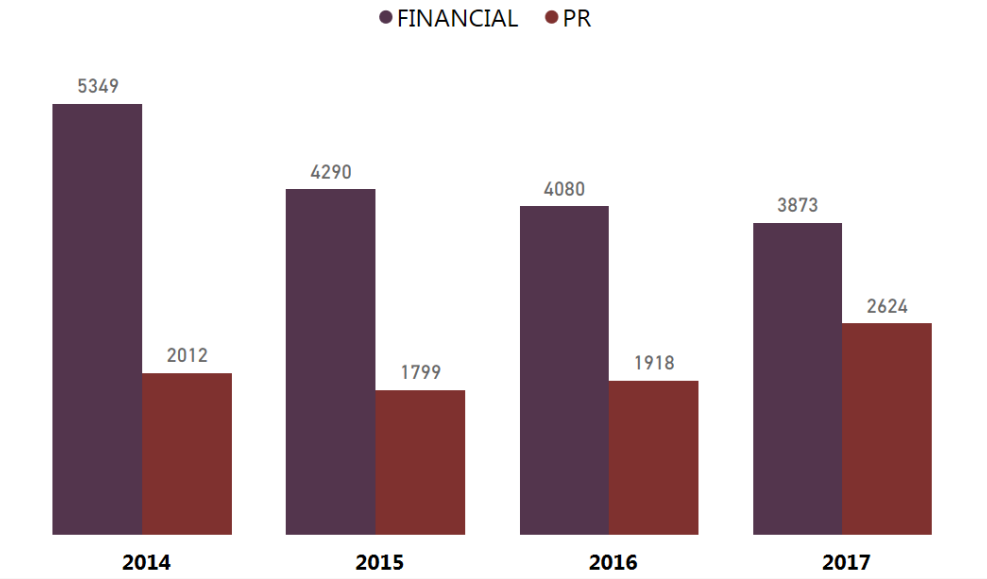
Effective bonds analysis allows for a more informative measure of bond practices rather than counting individual bonds as shown in the preceding graphs. As identified in the baseline outcome study, effective bond analysis provides the ability to combine all of the bonds set on an individual per bond hearing. For example, one person at one bond hearing may have five charges and receive five bonds, some financial at \$X per bond and some PR. The combination of these bonds establishes all the conditions to meet to secure release, and the total amount of money necessary to do so when financial.

Effective bond trends in Centralized Bond Court between 2014 and 2017 indicate:

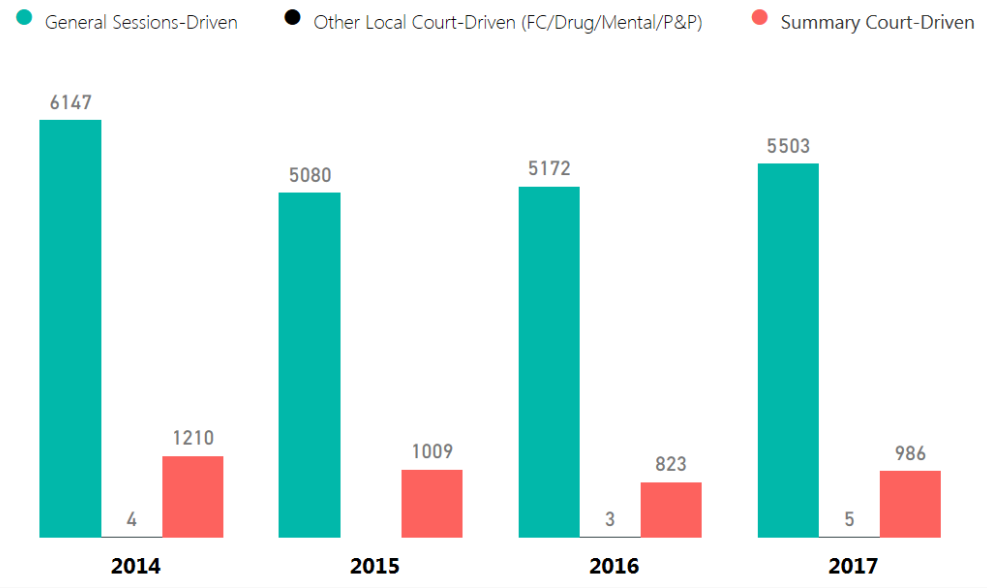
- Effective bonds remain mostly financial overall and expensive.
- When financial, 98% of bonds cost more than \$1,000 in 2017, up from 96% in 2016.
- Effective PR bonds were 27% in 2014 and rose to 40% in 2017.
- Effective financial bonds were 73% in 2014 and declined to 60% in 2017.
- The majority of effective bonds set in Centralized Bond Court are driven by General Sessions level cases (i.e., Summary charges tied to General Sessions are considered driven by the General Sessions).
- Effective bonds vary by court level over time with General Sessions remaining mostly financial (79% in 2014 to 67% in 2017) and Summary remaining mostly PR (58% in 2014 to 80% in 2017).



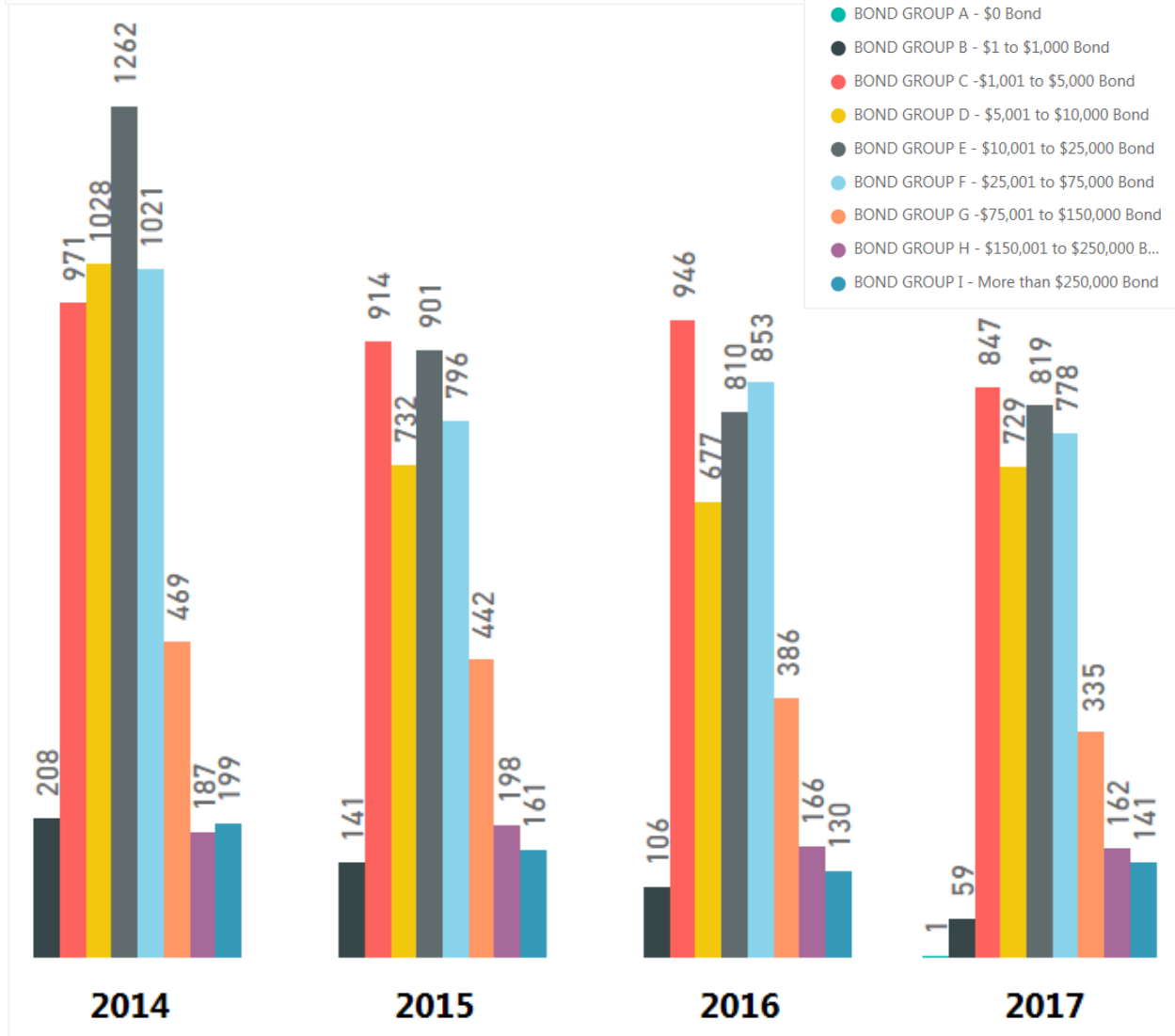
### Centralized Bond Court: Effective Bonds by Type (Booking Level)

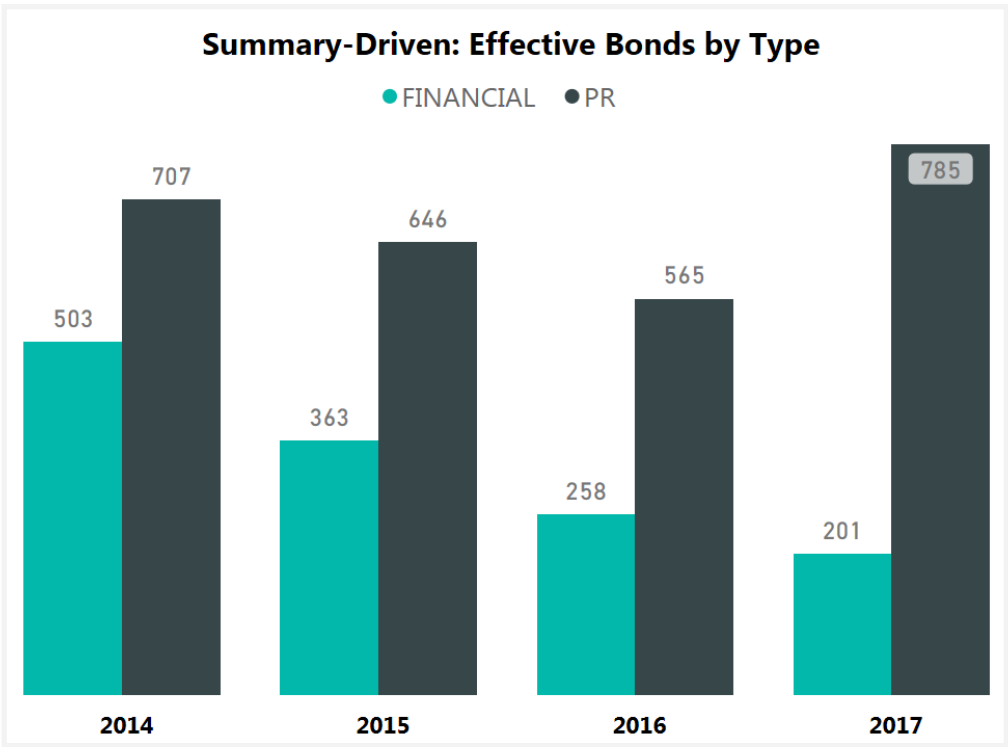
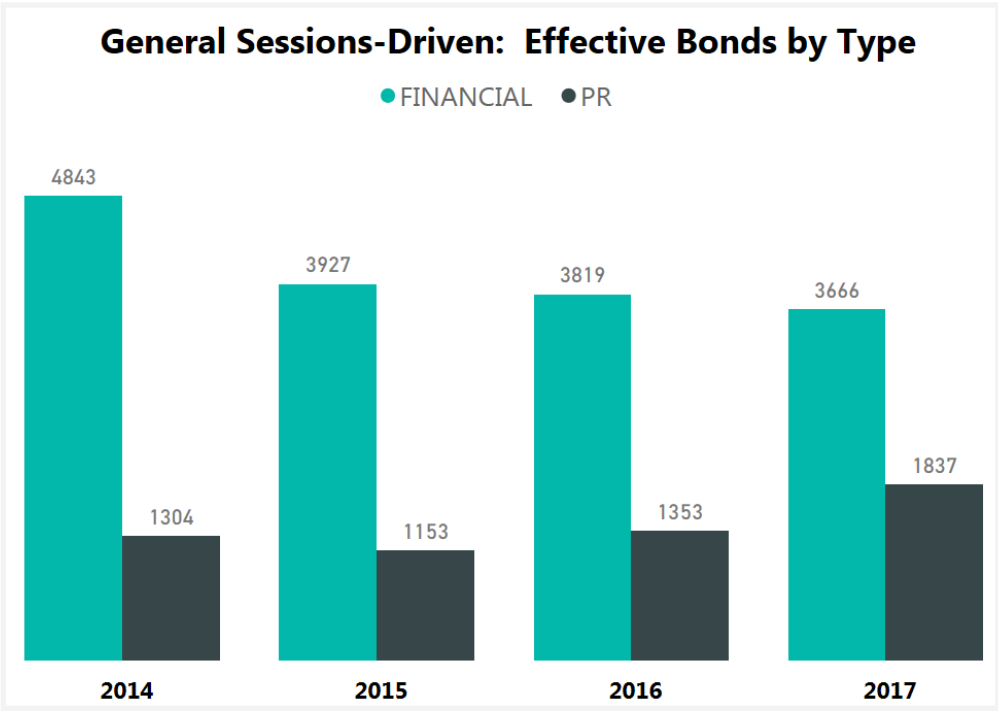


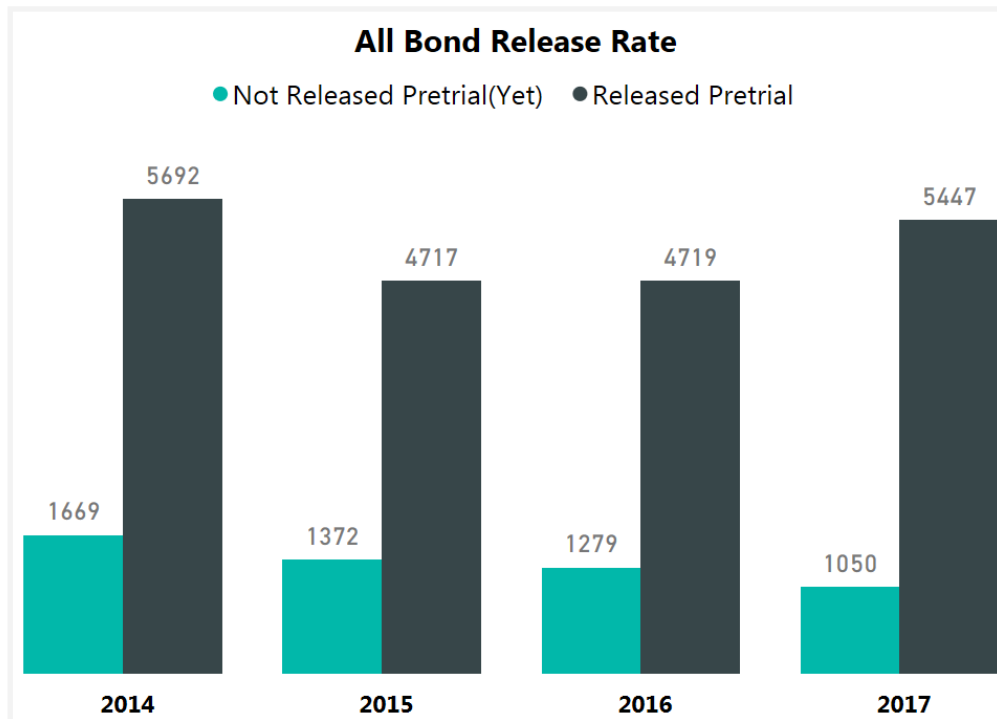
### Centralized Bond Court: Effective Bonds by Court Type



## Effective Financial Bonds by Bond Amount Group







As of the end of 2017, the extent to which effective bond conditions were met to secure release from jail are provided below. Between 2014 and 2017:

- Initial release rates for all effective bonds gradually climbed from 77% in 2014 and 2015, to 79% in 2016 and 84% in 2017.
- Releases most often occur within a day.

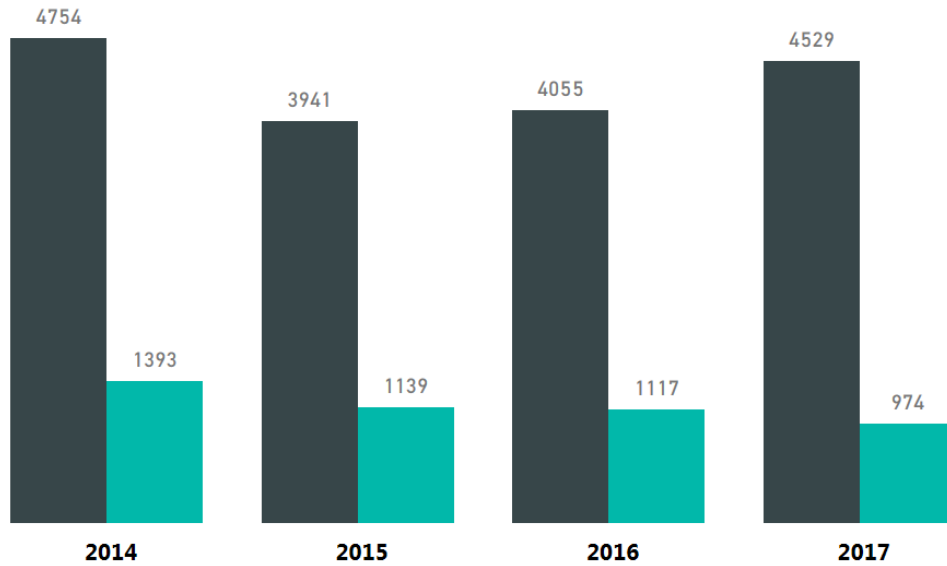
Note: “Not Released Pretrial (Yet)” signifies defendant was either not released before disposition or else the case is not yet disposed and the defendant was still in jail as of year end. This number is likely to fluctuate as more cases reach disposition.



## General Sessions-Driven: Effective Bonds and Release

● Released Pretrial ● Not Released Pretrial (Yet)

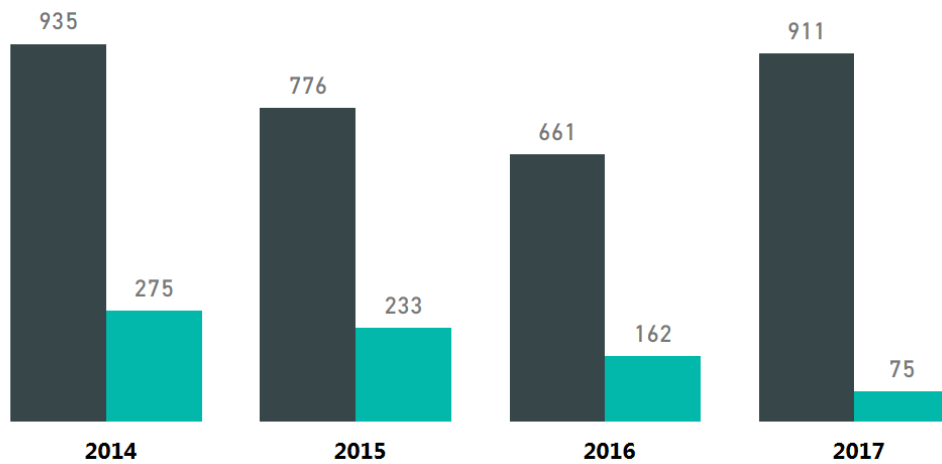
Not Released Pretrial (Yet) signifies defendant was either not released before disposition, or else the case is not yet disposed and the defendant was still in jail as of date run.

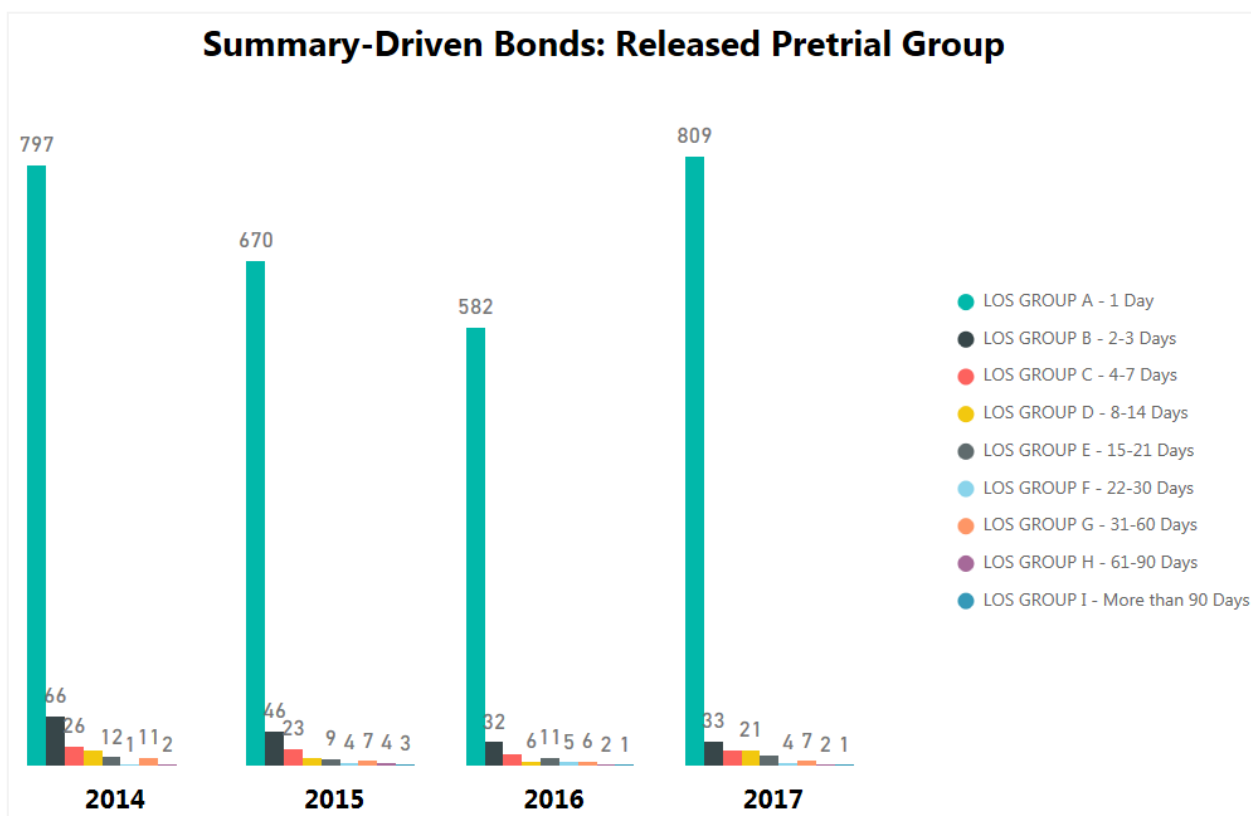
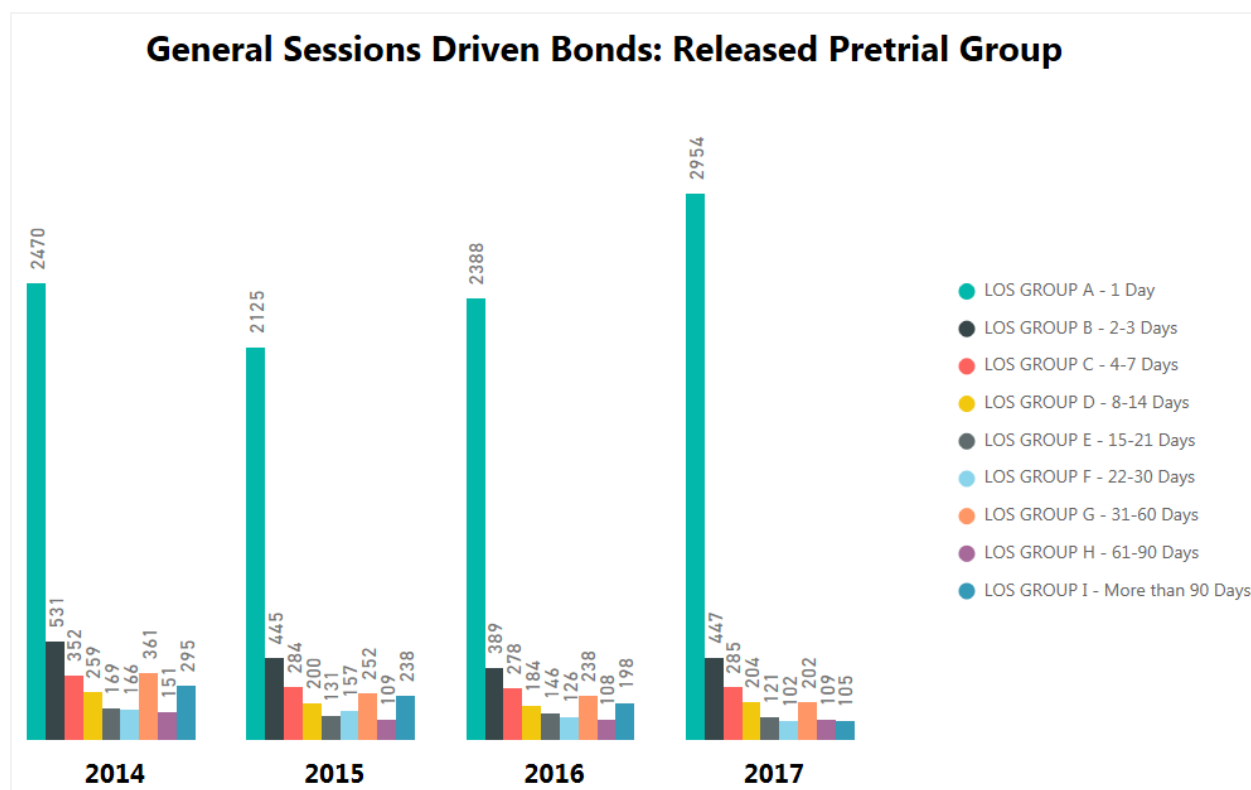


## Summary-Driven: Effective Bonds and Release

● Released Pretrial ● Not Released Pretrial (Yet)

Not Released Pretrial (Yet) signifies defendant was either not released before disposition, or else the case is not yet disposed and the defendant was still in jail as of date run.





Note: Length of stay may be affected by other factors aside from driving court and bond type (e.g., holds and other reasons for confinement beyond those found in CMS).

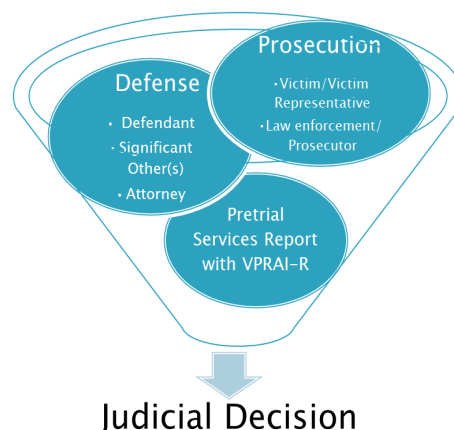
## PRETRIAL RISK MANAGEMENT: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Implement a pretrial assessment for bond setting to be more risk-based and less dependent upon the financial circumstances of defendants. Public defenders are available to begin providing representation at bond hearings for those that qualify.

By law, within 24 hours of arrest (30 days for certain serious cases and repeat violent offenses) a judge must set bond on defendants brought to jail. The law also spells out factors judges consider at bond hearings among a series of legal foundations such as the right to an attorney, presumption of innocence until proven guilty, and the need to substantiate compelling reasons for detention pending trial. Each individual has a right to an individualized decision about release as pretrial detention is only to be used when other reasonable safeguards cannot assure appearance or protect the community from harm.

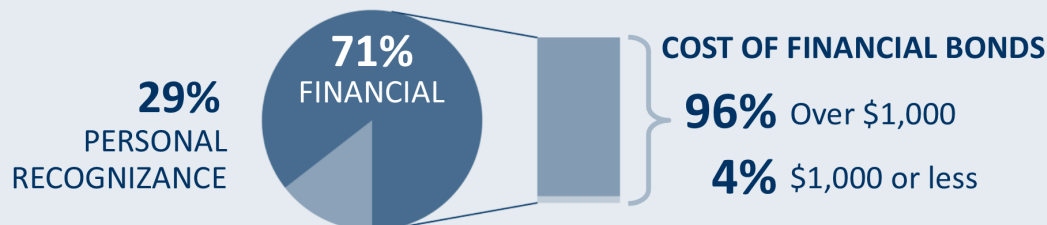
Historically, judges have had limited information to assist in their decision-making, including a review of criminal history, nature of the offense, and statements made by prosecution and/or defense. The fourth strategy provides bond-setting judges additional information to assist with this critical, time-sensitive decision, including:

- An objective assessment of the risk posed by each defendant for missing court appearances and new crime pending trial, similar to those used by insurers and healthcare providers.
- An indication of the financial circumstances of defendants, as public defenders are in place to begin representation at bond hearings for defendants that cannot afford a private attorney.

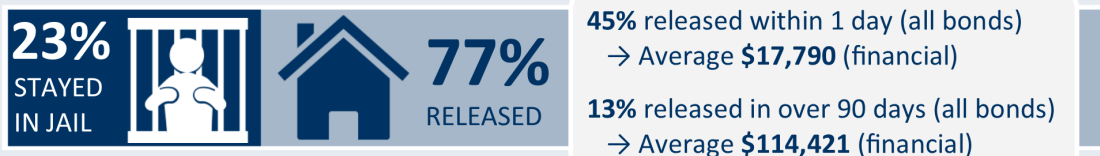


# BOND SETTING IN CHARLESTON COUNTY

## WHAT KINDS OF BONDS WERE SET?



## HOW MANY RELEASED PRETRIAL?



## WHAT HAPPENED AFTER PRETRIAL RELEASE?



### HOW OFTEN DID DIFFERENT BOND TYPES RETURN TO JAIL?



### WHY DID THEY RETURN TO JAIL?



## WE HAVE A PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEM. WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?



Pretrial assessment tool



Reduced time to disposition



Automated court reminders



Exploration of other legal and evidence based options\* (e.g., risk based supervision and compliance monitoring)

Data source: Baseline Outcome Study completed by CJCC in 2017 using data for 2014.

\* National Institute of Corrections. 2017. A Framework for Pretrial Justice: Essential Elements of an Effective Pretrial System and Agency.



[www.cjcc.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.cjcc.charlestoncounty.org)

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## PRELIMINARY PROGRESS

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Throughout 2017, staff were hired and practice changes began to unfold to support implementation efforts. In March of 2017, newly hired pretrial analysts began extensive training in fundamentals of pretrial justice. Pretrial analysts were also equipped to provide indigence screening to bond court defendants. During this time, public defender attorneys began representing indigent clients at centralized bond court, seven days a week at the morning and afternoon bond hearings for the first time.

By the summer of 2017, the team upgraded the pretrial assessment tool (VPRAI-R)<sup>10</sup> to the most recently revised version and sent pretrial analysts to the Commonwealth of Virginia for training specific to that tool. A new pretrial database went into operation with subsequent enhancements for efficiency. As a result, pretrial analysts were able to interview and complete assessments on a majority of all eligible defendants. Technical assistance partners then reviewed the data collected as a preliminary assessment to ensure the tool was a good fit for our community. The results revealed the assessment tool was appropriate for our local population; however, a more robust validation study will be necessary in the years ahead.

By the end of 2017:

- Pretrial Analysts reached 58% of eligible defendants.
- Of the defendants reached, 35% were appointed to public defenders at the bond hearing stage, and 24% reported that they had retained an attorney or were planning to do so in the future. The remainder declined screening or were unable to complete.

Following the results of the pretrial outcome study mentioned above, CJCC members and staff conducted extensive training and outreach to make sure that all bond court stakeholders were familiar with the results of the baseline pretrial outcome study and the expectations for the introduction of the Pretrial Service Report (PSR). By the end of 2017, implementation of specific procedures went into effect in preparation for the launch of the PSR at Centralized Bond Court.

The PSR launched in centralized bond court on January 8, 2018. Moving forward, use of the PSR and pretrial outcomes will be monitored closely and adjustments will be made as needed. Additionally, the CJCC will evaluate and determine additional strategies to help strengthen public safety and uphold justice while defendants await the resolution of their cases. Research has shown that pretrial detention can be **harmful to defendants who pose low risk of pretrial failure**. These defendants may lose important resources such as housing or employment and develop further needs that place them at an elevated risk of future arrests. There are also a variety of legal and evidence-based options that can mitigate the risk posed by defendants at a greater likelihood of pretrial failure, as indicated on the following page. .

During a media information session on December 18, 2017, system leaders discussed the results of the baseline pretrial outcome study and the new pretrial service report (PSR) going into practice in 2018. The PSR includes pertinent information about the defendant as defined in state statute as well as an actuarial assessment of risk of flight and new criminal activity during the pretrial period.



Across the country, jurisdictions apply an array of legal and evidence-based<sup>10</sup> options during the pretrial stage to better assess defendant risk of misconduct, manage risk through supervision, and maximize fair and effective release options while maximizing public safety.<sup>11</sup> For example:

- **Pretrial assessment** tools similar to the one that launched January 8, 2018.
- **Risk-based supervision** to help improve the pretrial outcomes of defendants that are more likely to miss a court date or get re-arrested.
- **Pretrial compliance monitoring** can alert the Court to violations of bond conditions and help reduce risk that bonded individuals might pose to the community.
- **Delegated release:** Certain defendants lacking criminal history and assessed as likely to succeed pretrial can be released from jail prior to a bond hearing so pretrial resources can be focused on those more likely to experience pretrial failure.

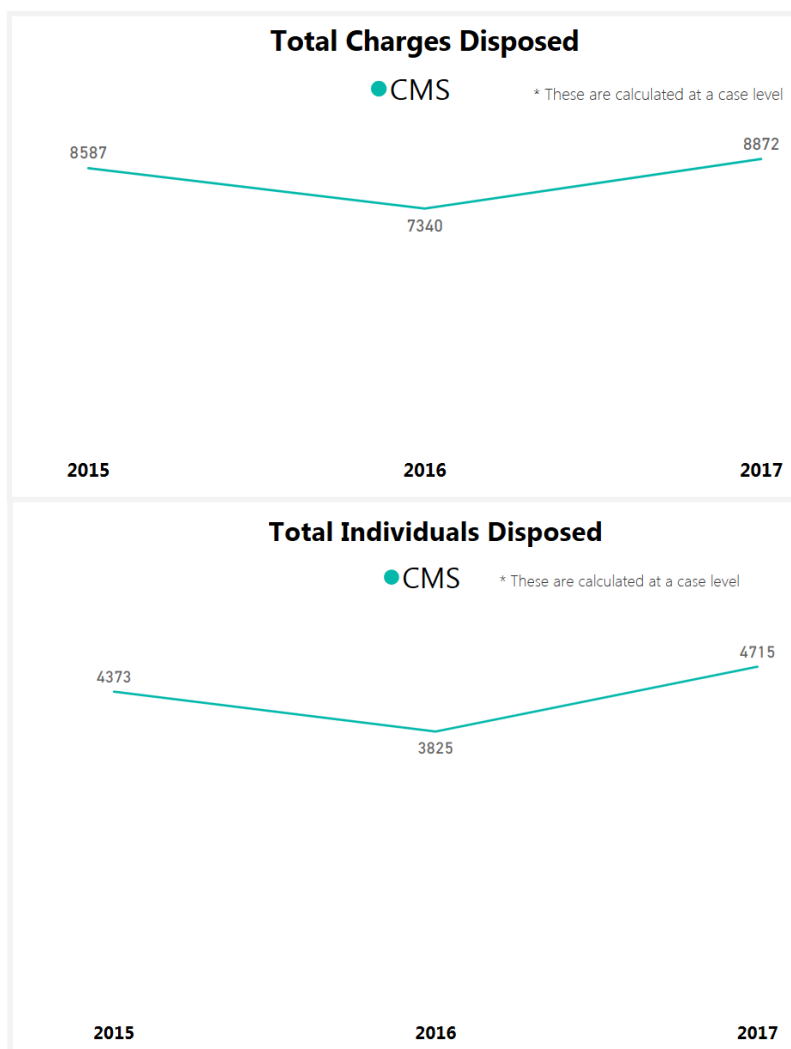
## STRATEGY FIVE

### REDUCE TIME TO DISPOSITION

#### DISPOSITIONS IN GENERAL SESSIONS COURT

The graphs below provide a review of the total criminal charges and unique individuals that reached case disposition in General Sessions Court of Charleston County between 2015 and 2017 (source data: CMS-GS).

- There were more charges and individuals disposed in General Sessions in 2017 than in the previous two years.



## REDUCED TIME TO DISPOSITION: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Redesign expectations for the timeliness of case processing in General Sessions (felony and high-level misdemeanor) court of Charleston County with the leadership of Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, expedited movement of core case processing milestones, and technology.

The fifth strategy is reducing the time to disposition of cases in General Sessions within Charleston County by changing the expectations for case management with a longer-term appointment of a Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes (CJAP). Historically, Chief Judges in circuit courts were in place for six months and the Solicitor's office managed the criminal docket. In this strategy, the Honorable Chief Justice Beatty of Supreme Court of South Carolina appointed the Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr. as CJAP. In turn, Judge Dennis issued an updated administrative order approved by Chief Justice Beatty on May 25, 2017. The order:

- Moved management of the criminal court docket to the Clerk of Court under direction of the CJAP, and
- Assigned timeliness expectations for case movement and information sharing.

The graphs and charts that follow provide a review of core case processing activity (source data: all General Sessions court contributors and SACDC). While data for 2014 are not available for all sources, trends between 2015 and 2017 indicate:

- The median time to disposition in 2017 was 373 days, down 10% from 415 in 2015. This demonstrates progress toward the initial 37% goal.
  - ◊ In-custody median time is down 18% in 2017 from 2015, 149 days in 2015 and 122 days in 2017, and
  - ◊ Out-of-custody median time remained rather consistent, 393 days in 2015 and 395 in 2017.

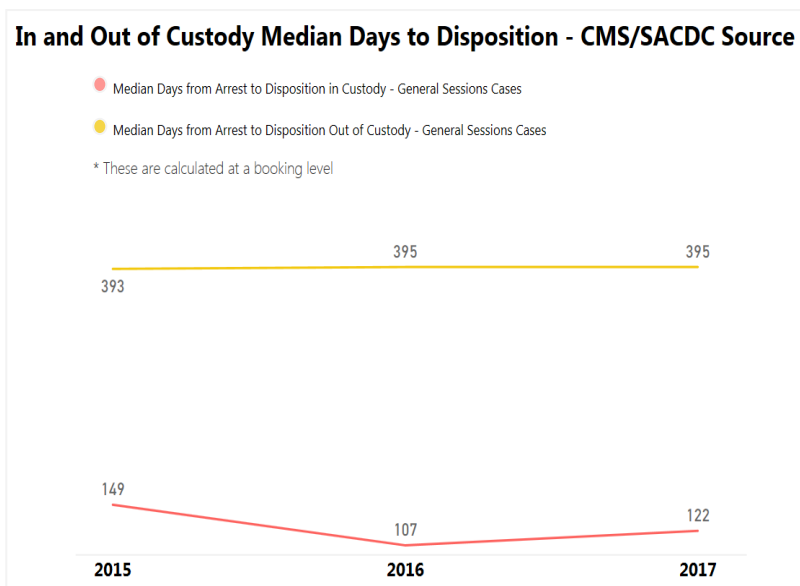
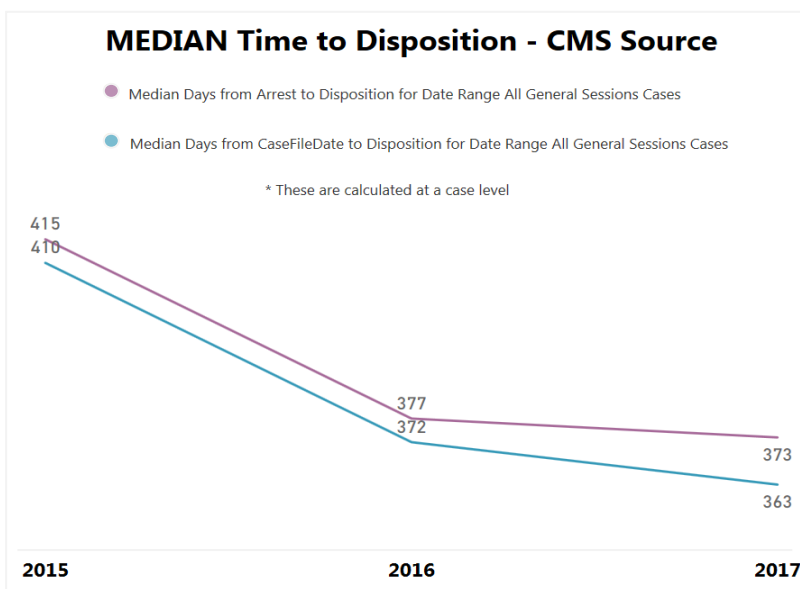
Important front-end components of case processing demonstrated considerable progress between 2015 and 2017. Evidentiary data is moving faster from law enforcement to prosecution and it is taking less time to assign prosecutors and defense counsel to cases. Since 2015 we have seen:

- A 51% decrease in the average time to initial receipt of discovery from 45 days in 2015 down to 22 days in 2017.
- A 13% decrease in the average time for assignment of a public defender, from 101 days in



2015 down to 88 days in 2017.

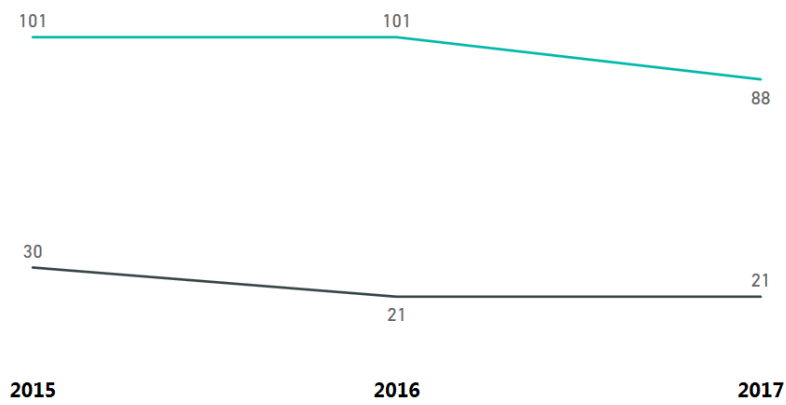
- Months that are more recent are also trending faster, for example, the average time for assignment of a public defender in December 2017 was 33 days. And,
- A 30% decrease in the average time for the assignment of a prosecutor, from 30 days in 2015 to 21 days in 2017.



### Annualized Average Time to Assignment of Counsel

● Average Days for Public Defender Assignment ● Average Days for Solicitor Assignment

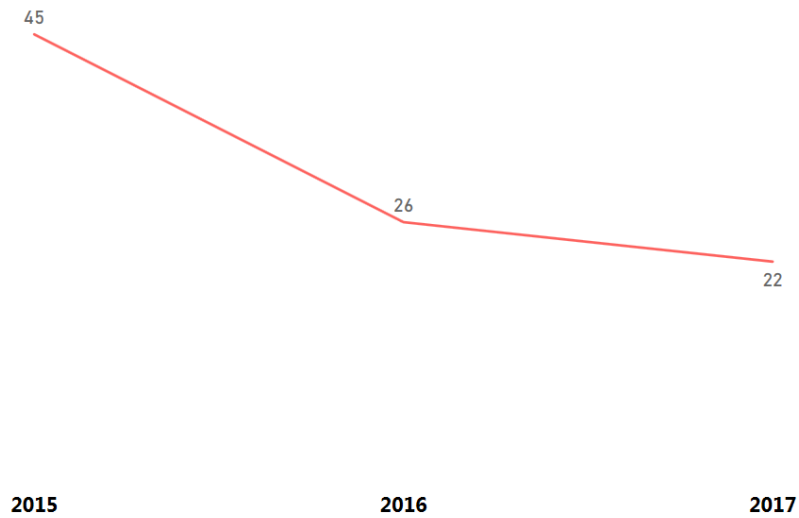
\* These are calculated at a case level



### Annualized Average Time to Discovery Received

● Average Days for Initial Discovery Received

\* These are calculated at a case level



Throughout 2017, efforts included preparations for the Administrative Order, such as hiring staff to support efforts to expedite the time to disposition, efforts within the Clerk of Court's office to prepare to manage the docket, and resolving old cases. The Solicitor's office worked closely with local law enforcement and County IT to install new technology that enabled faster and more efficient transfers of evidentiary data.

Docket transfer occurred on September 11, 2017, placing the Administrative Order from the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes fully into operation. Moving forward, these efforts will continue to be monitored and mid-course adjustments will be made to further reduce time to disposition.



Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr., Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, reviews the administrative order with local attorneys.

## STRATEGY SIX

### CENTRALIZED DATA WAREHOUSE

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#### WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

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Create a centralized database where all agencies can share information and use data analysis to guide ongoing improvements.

The CJCC's centralized data warehouse is critical to the mission and guiding principles of the CJCC. The data warehouse provides an essential tool for bringing together data from across the local criminal justice system for analysis to help accomplish the CJCC's goals and objectives. The central data warehouse includes:

- Data from 14 independent databases in a single data warehouse, and
- Timely analysis of data to guide progress.

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In 2017, the centralized data warehouse expanded its data availability and analytic capacity. Capacity now exists to dig deeper into aspects of every strategy to help support efforts to achieve their respective goals and objectives. Some contributors have also moved to live data views, allowing more efficient data transfers and imports that enable timelier data updates and statistical outputs. Additional accomplishments during the year included:

- Development of the historical database for trend analysis,
- Expansion of contributing data sources to 14 with the addition of officer tool and pretrial databases,
- Development of data dashboards to help guide mid-course adjustments, and
- Completion of the baseline pretrial outcome study.

Moving forward, efforts to further refine, expedite and expand data capacity will continue. For more information about the centralized database, see "A Word About The Data" on page 7 of this report.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Core to the work of the CJCC, is a strong commitment to active community engagement. This helps ensure our criminal justice system is effective, efficient, and equitable.

Throughout 2017, the CJCC emphasized increasing community engagement in order to respond to community needs and concerns. Highlights from these efforts are described below, along with a summary of local and national outreach. The ten community representatives from diverse areas of the community serving on the CJCC continue to be vital to outreach and engagement efforts. Highlights from the community representative efforts in 2017 include:

- Education and immersion in the strategies underway,
- Community representative selection of one designee to have a voting seat on the CJCC, and
- Design and implementation of two-part community forums.

The community forums empower community representatives to gather and share input from the community. The first session is primarily a listening session to gather input from the



Community Forum, ArtPot, November 2017.

community and provide an update on the CJCC's efforts. The second session provides mutual feedback and education opportunities that are responsive to the input gathered in the first session.

Additionally, communications and broader outreach grew steadily to help expand awareness of the CJCC's efforts among the broader community through communication tools, various speaking engagements, outreach efforts, and conference participation. Highlights include:

- Hiring and onboarding a media and community engagement coordinator.
- Launching of CJCC Facebook, Twitter, and Constant Contact accounts.
- Local outreach through conference participation.
- Press releases and events during key milestones, such as report releases, community representative campaigns, and the reopening of the TCSC housing the triage service.
- Local and national search for a highly qualified applicant to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA to help reduce REDD in the local criminal justice system.
- Collaboration with the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina and city of Charleston Illumination Project to plan and execute a community conference titled *Transforming Our Criminal Justice System: Engaging Our Community*.
- Sharing results of the baseline pretrial outcome study and details about the launch of the pretrial services report in centralized bond court with key stakeholders and the broader community.
- Various print, social media and television coverage.

Community engagement in 2018 will include more community forums, speaking engagements, and other outreach efforts. The CJCC will also launch a redesigned CJCC website to be more user friendly.







Charleston blogger Quintin Washington interviews Project Director Kristy Danford about the CJCC.



Recognition of the valuable role of Lydia Cotton, an inaugural CJCC community representative, and the efforts of the CJCC at Charleston County Council. Pictured: Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas, CJCC Chair, Lydia Cotton, Kristy Danford, CJCC Director, and Charleston County Council Chairman Victor Rawl.



*Transforming Our Criminal Justice System: Engaging Our Community* conference held Saturday, November 18 at Trident Technical College Conference Center.



CJCC Co-Vice Chair and Charleston Center Director Dr. Chanda Brown at the CJCC/ Charleston Center exhibitor table in the Lowcountry Mental Health 2017 Conference.

## 2017 LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

### LOCAL

<i>Charleston Legislative Delegation</i>	Presentation by Director Kristy Danford	January
<i>Richardson, Patrick, Westbook &amp; Brickman LLC Litigation Seminar</i>	Presentation by Chief Magistrate Ellen Steinberg, Circuit Defender Ashley Pennington, Co-Vice Chair Dr. Chanda Brown and Director Kristy Danford	April
<i>Tri-County Victim Advocates</i>	Presentation by Director Danford and CJCC Communication and Outreach Coordinator Adina Gross	May
<i>Coastal Crisis Ministries Chaplain Breakfast</i>	Presentations by Co-Vice Chairs Dr. Brown and Deborah Blalock, Director Danford and Melissa Camp of CDMH.	June
<i>Law enforcement training on speed of discovery</i>	Presentation by CJCC member Charles Young of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Solicitor's Office	June
<i>Pretrial Services Symposium</i>	Presentations by Franklin Cruz of Justice Management Institute, Chief Magistrate Steinberg, Circuit Defender Pennington and Director Danford	June
<i>Charleston County Public Library screening of 13<sup>th</sup></i>	Presentation by Director Danford	June
<i>Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center and Triage Service Launch including media question/ answer session</i>	Interviews given by Co-Vice Chairs Brown and Blalock, CHCC Chairman Mitch Lucas, Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center Melissa Camp and MUSC's Dr. Jeffrey Cluver	June
<i>Review of administrative order for case management</i>	Presentations by Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr., Chief Magistrate Steinberg and Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong	June
<i>Charleston County BAR Association</i>	Presentation by Chief Magistrate Steinberg, Circuit Defender Pennington and Director Danford	June
<i>2017 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference</i>	Participation by the CJCC	July
<i>South Carolina Association of Counties</i>	Presentation by Director Danford	July
<i>Interview with Quintin's Close-Ups</i>	Interview with Director Danford	August
<i>Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee question and answer session</i>	Presentation by Director Danford	September



<i>CJCC hosts National Council of State Legislators</i>	Presentations by Chairman Lucas, County Council Chairman Vic Rawl, Director Danford, Co-Vice Chairs Brown and Blalock, City of Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen (retired), Illumination Project Margaret Seidler and CJCC community representatives Charleston Area NAACP President Dot Scott and Coastal Crisis Chaplain Executive Director and Senior Chaplain Rich Robinson	October
<i>Outreach listening session at Art Pot Multicultural Community Center</i>	Presentation by Chairman Lucas, Director Danford, System Utilization Manager Christina Parnall, representatives from The Charleston Center and Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center	November
<i>Transforming Our Criminal Justice System: Engaging Our Community</i>	A one-day community conference by Episcopal Forum of South Carolina, City of Charleston Project Illumination and CJCC	November
<i>Ideas Into Action</i>	Presentation by Mt. Pleasant Chief of Police Ritchie and Co-Vice Chairman Dr. Brown	November
<i>Media information session focused on pretrial outcome study and upcoming changes in centralized bond court</i>	Presentation by Chairman Lucas, Director Danford, System Utilization Manager Parnall, Solicitor Wilson, Circuit Defender Pennington, and Chief Magistrate Linen	December
<i>Multiple trainings on pretrial services report and sharing findings from pretrial outcome study across affected partner agencies</i>	Presentation by Director Danford and System Utilization Manager Parnall	December

## NATIONAL

<i>Worldwide Pretrial Innovators Conference</i>	"Action Lab: Crunch the Numbers" presentation by Director Danford	Alexandria, Virginia	March
<i>National Council for Behavioral Health</i>	Presentation by Co-Vice Chairman Blalock	Seattle, Washington	April
<i>Safety and Justice Challenge All-Sites Conference</i>	Presentation by Co-Vice Chairman Blalock	Denver, Colorado	May
<i>International Association of Chiefs of Police</i>	Presentation by City of Charleston Police Deputy Chief Naomi Broughton	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	October
<i>Safety and Justice Challenge All-Sites Conference</i>	Presentation by Chairman Lucas	New Orleans, Louisiana	October
<i>Smart Decarceration Conference</i>	Presentation by Director Danford	Chicago, Illinois	November

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. (2016). *Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Phase One Final Report*. Retrieved from [https://cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/files/Phase-One-Report\\_CJCC\\_Final.pdf](https://cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/files/Phase-One-Report_CJCC_Final.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> The historical database provides a means for trending analysis from SQL queries. Through these queries data is aggregated for the purpose of statistical analysis based upon the needs of the CJCC. Therefore, there are no person or case level identifiers contained in the historical database. The statistical results in the historical database then feed data dashboards utilized by the CJCC to support data-guided decision-making.
- <sup>3</sup> Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009). *Disproportionate minority contact technical assistance manual*. Retrieved from [https://www.ojjdp.gov/compliance/dmc\\_ta\\_manual.pdf](https://www.ojjdp.gov/compliance/dmc_ta_manual.pdf) [www.ojjdp.gov/compliance/dc\\_ta\\_manual.pdf](https://www.ojjdp.gov/compliance/dc_ta_manual.pdf).
- <sup>4</sup> Past RRI analyses have utilized “All Booking” data, which includes FED/ICE/HOLD populations. This report instead utilizes “Local Booking” data, excluding FED/ICE/HOLD. Local Booking data provides a more actionable picture of justice system involvement under local control. During the process of updating the RRI analysis for the 2017 report an inadvertent error in the 2016 annual report was discovered and corrected.
- <sup>5</sup> Any apparent minor mathematical discrepancies are due to rounding.
- <sup>6</sup> Population data for rate calculations comes from the US Census Bureau ACS 1-Year Estimates for 2014, 2015, and 2016. Because 2017 estimates have not yet been released, 2016 data is used for 2017.
- <sup>7</sup> 2014-2016 rates differ from those published in the 2016 Annual Report due to (a) the use of Local Booking numbers rather than All Booking (b) updated census figures, and (c) the shift from

calculating relative rates based on any booking including a target charge to basing rates on single target charge bookings only.

<sup>8</sup> 2014-2016 rates differ from those published in the 2016 Annual Report due to (a) the use of Local Booking numbers rather than All Bookings and (b) updated census figures.

<sup>9</sup> Summary level bonds within two of the municipal courts, Charleston and Mt. Pleasant, are set within Centralized Bond Court. Therefore, bond data may duplicate in the total number of summary bond calculations. However, this will not affect the percentage results.

<sup>10</sup> VPRAI-R stands for Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument-Revised and is a pretrial risk assessment tool originally developed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and currently used in jurisdictions across the nation.

<sup>11</sup> National Institute of Corrections. (2017). *A Framework for Pretrial Justice: Essential Elements of an Effective Pretrial System and Agency*. National Institute of Corrections Accession Number (Washington, DC). Retrieved from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/032831.pdf>.

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