

Pretrial Supervision: Is it needed?

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Public Service

The work we do to improve the
lives of others in our community

Athenian Oath

We will never bring disgrace on this our city by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the City both alone and with many. We will revere and obey the City's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them naught. We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus, in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

The ESSENCE of Public Service

**Transmit greater and better
(more beautiful) than it was
transmitted to us**

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is Serving the Greater Good

Preserving what is valuable

Applying it today

*Passing it on so that it has the same
meaning in the future*

Public Service vs. Customer Service

Greater Good – Individual Self Interest

Long Term – Here and Now

Stewardship – Transactional

VALUES OF DEMOCRACY

**PROTECT CITIZENS
RIGHTS**

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (1776)

WE hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, *deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

Constitution of the United States (1789)

We the People of the United States, in Order to:

form a more perfect Union,

establish Justice,

insure domestic Tranquility,

provide for the common defense,

promote the general Welfare,

secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,

do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 16. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 1. OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE. (a) All elected and appointed officers, before they enter upon the duties of their offices, shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God."

**If public service means we are stewards
of protecting the public trust**

**Why do we continue to do things which
have been proven not to work?**

Pareto Principle – Or the 80/20 Rule

General Rule for social engineering

- 80% of the problems come from 20% of the population

Pretrial Assessments in action

- 90% of the failures come from 10% of the clients

RESEARCH: SURETY V. ASSESSMENT

2022 Comparative Study Findings

- Money bail does not appear to be related to whether people miss court or experience rearrest during the pretrial period.
- Pretrial Assessment scores, however, are associated with missing court and experiencing rearrest.
- These results do not support the use of money bail and instead suggest that using pretrial assessment instruments to inform supervision levels on release may result in more accurate and appropriate decision-making.



Previous Bail Reform Efforts

Manhattan Bail Project (1961)

- New York already saw the overcrowding start in the 50's.
- Demonstrated those released with strong community ties in lieu of financial conditions continued to show up for court more than those with Surety
- Founding of the Vera Institute of Justice



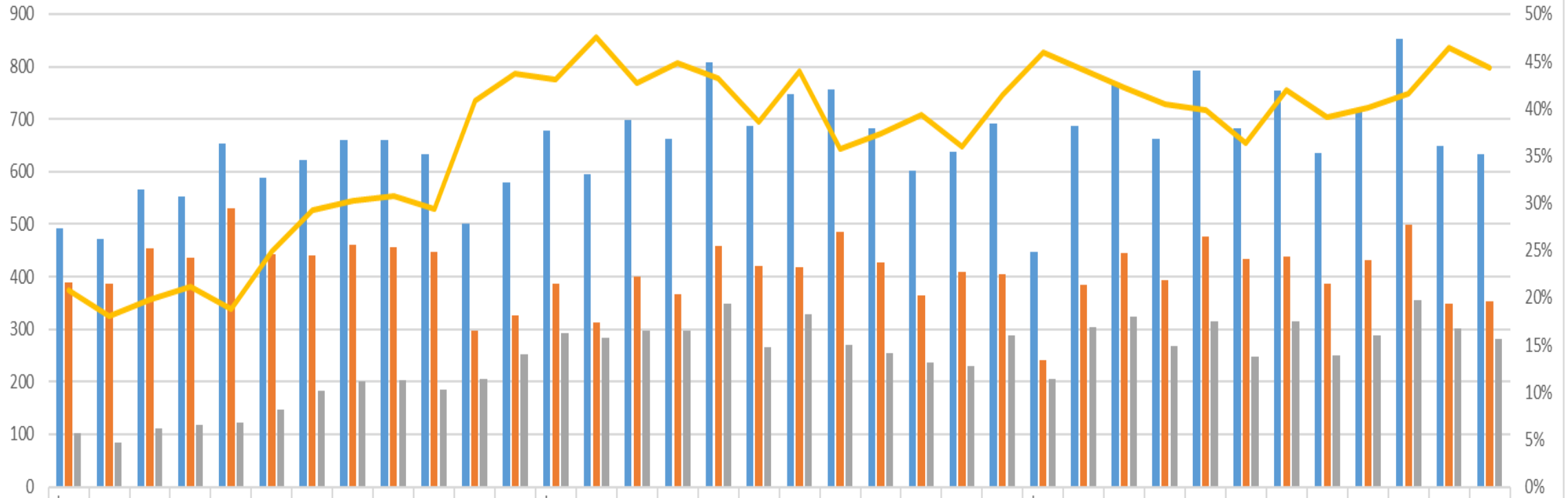
Cost of Incarceration in Texas 2022

Incarcerating an adult in Texas costs \$73.39 per DAY in local Jail

Releasing an adult to Personal Bond in Galveston County costs \$2.49 per DAY in 2023

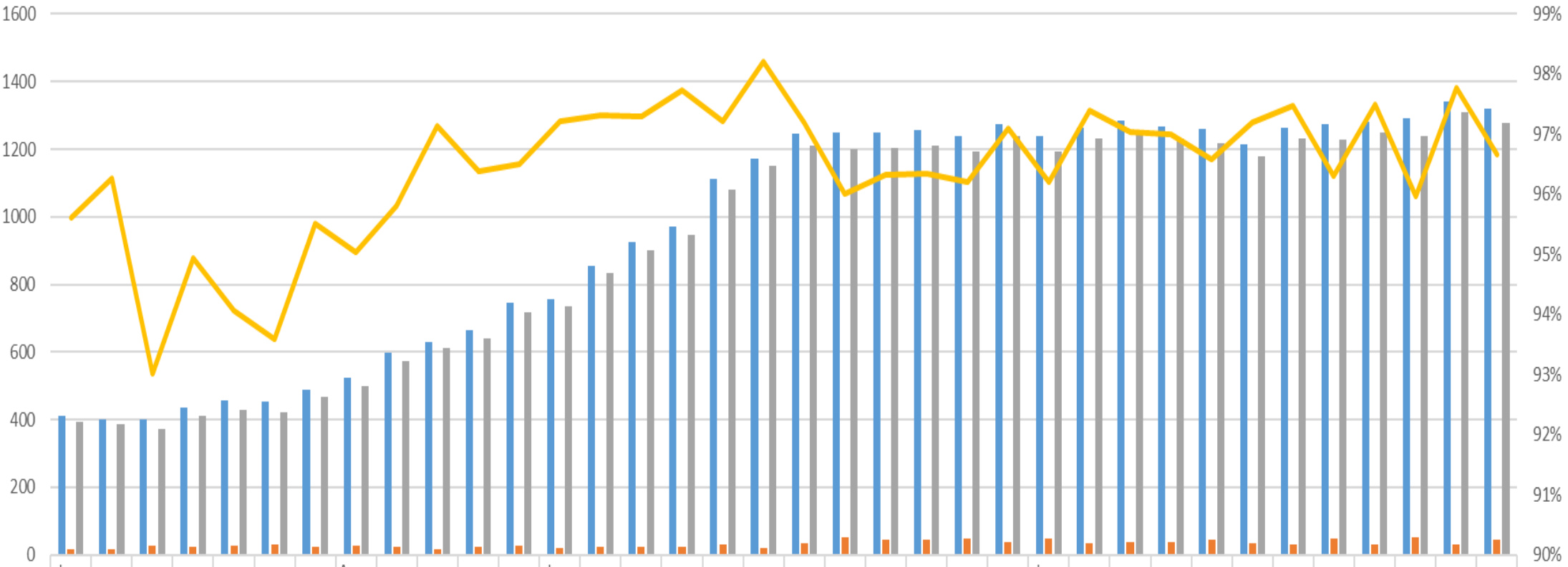


Total Eligible Releases, Type and % to PBO



Eligible Releases Releases to Surety Releases to PBO % to PBO

Personal Bond Compliance Report based on Monthly Average Population



	Jan-22	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-23	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-24	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<div><div></div>Total Active Population</div>	411	401	401	434	455	452	490	524	597	630	664	745	756	855	924	970	1111	1172	1246	1251	1248	1257	1240	1275	1240	1263	1283	1268	1261	1214	1263	1275	1281	1290	1340	1321
<div><div></div>Total Forfeitures</div>	18	15	28	22	27	29	22	26	25	18	24	26	21	23	25	22	31	21	35	50	46	46	47	37	47	33	38	38	43	34	32	47	32	52	30	44
<div><div></div>Total in Compliance</div>	393	386	373	412	428	423	468	498	572	612	640	719	735	832	899	948	1080	1151	1211	1201	1202	1211	1193	1238	1193	1230	1245	1230	1218	1180	1231	1228	1249	1238	1310	1277
<div><div></div>% in Compliance</div>	96%	96%	93%	95%	94%	94%	96%	95%	96%	97%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%	97%	98%	97%	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	98%	96%	98%	97%	

Total Active Population Total Forfeitures Total in Compliance % in Compliance

Charge Distribution

Galveston County vs. State of Texas

Frequency of Offenses Report

Report for felony, misdemeanor and other charges; and for male and female offenders between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024



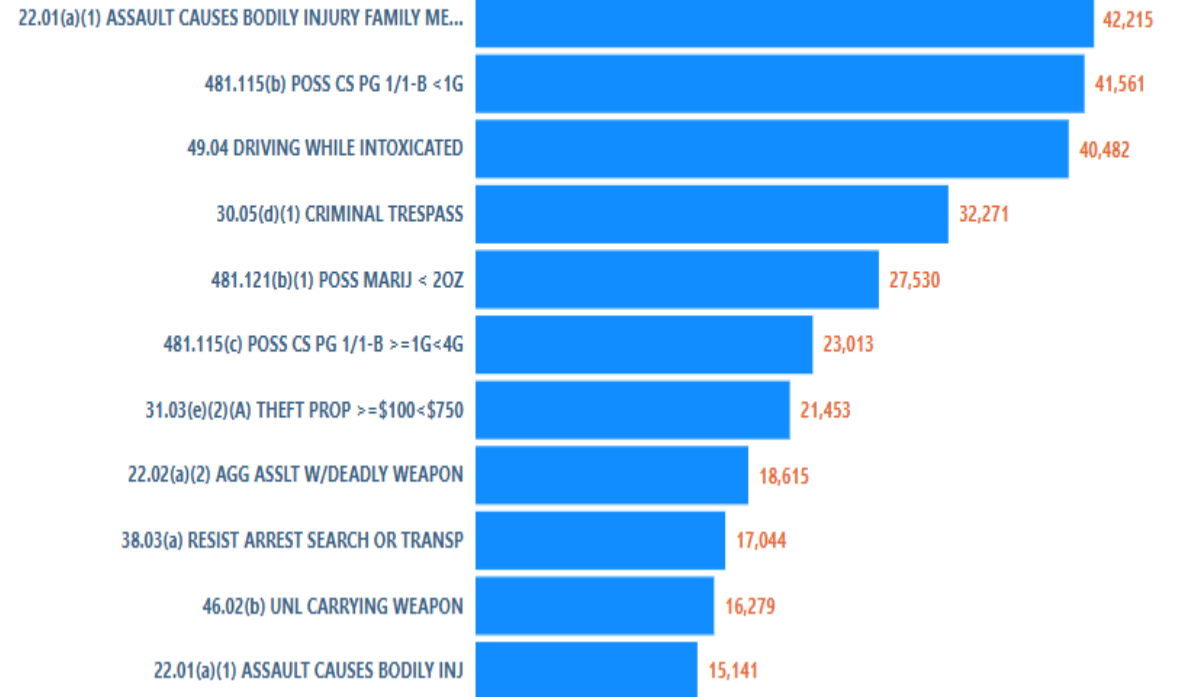
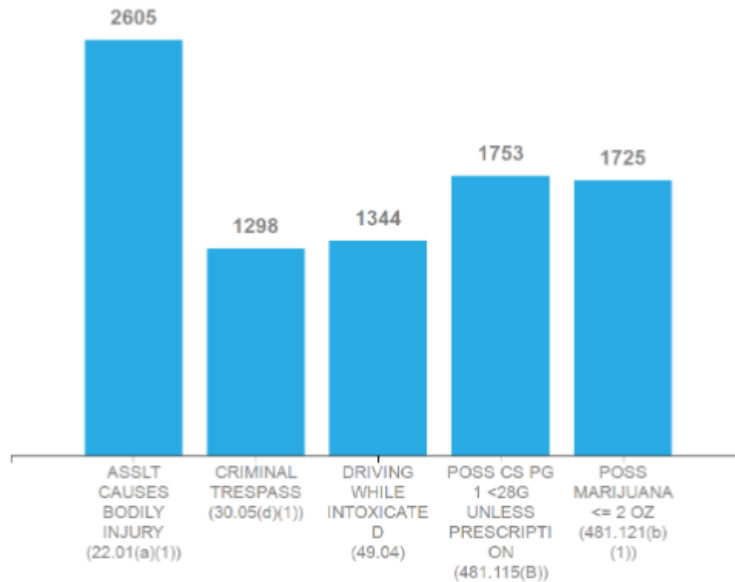
Year ● 2024

Reported offenses

This chart shows the top five offenses by frequency for felony, misdemeanor and other charges; and for male and female offenders within your agency. Charges are ordered by the frequency they are assigned within the charges module.

Below, this report also shows all offenses with the selected criteria, with an offense date between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024 when Yes is selected for Show Details.

Top 5 COUNT OF OFFENSES



Cite and Release Eligible Charges

Charges under the cite and release policy include:

- *Possession of marijuana less than two ounces – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *possession of marijuana between two and four ounces – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *possession of controlled substance in penalty group 2A less than two ounces – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *possession of controlled substance in penalty group 2A between two and four ounces – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *criminal mischief if the amount of loss is between \$100 and \$750 – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *graffiti if the amount of loss is between \$100 and \$2,500 – Arrest vs. Citation*
- *theft if the value stolen is between \$100 and \$750 – Arrest vs. Citation*

SRA Supervision Framework 2024

Recommendation	Percentage	Release Activities and Conditions	Pretrial Release Level		
Personal Recognizance	59%	Statutory Bond Conditions	PR Yes	PB 1 Yes	PB 2 Yes
Pretrial Bond 1	23%	Court Reminders	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Check In Once per Month	Yes		
Pretrial Bond 2	18%	Check in Every Two Weeks		Yes	
		Check in Every Week			Yes
		Other Bond Conditions		As Court Ordered	As Court Ordered

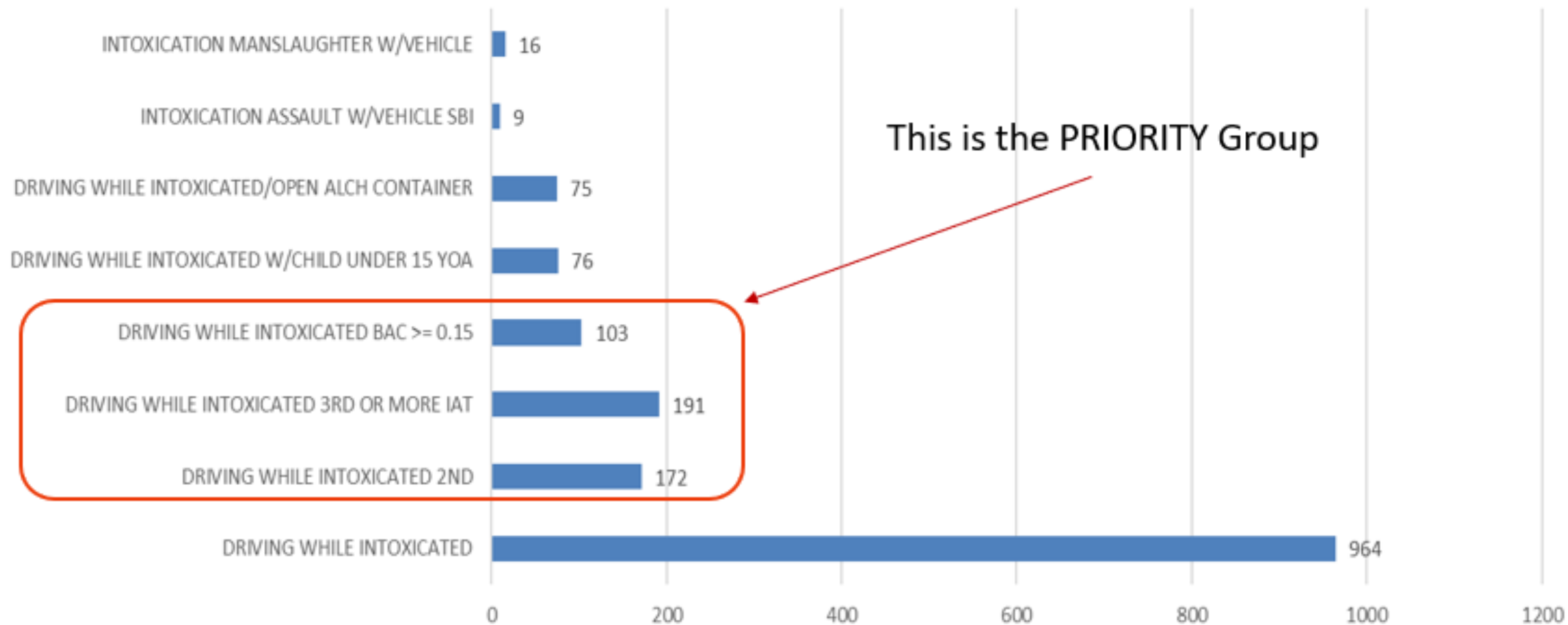
Pretrial Success Outcomes per SRA Validation 2024

Likelihood of Success to similar scoring individuals attending all court dates and not being rearrested to case resolution

	Court Appearance Rate within 120 Days	No New Offense Rate within 120 Days	Overall Success Rate
Personal Recognizance and Personal Bond 1	91%	98%	90%
Personal Bond 2	87%	98%	86%

Please note: 120 Days was utilized as this was the average time cases were resolved during the Aug 2022 – July 2023 time period.

Intoxication involving a vehicle Charge Grouping



Releasing people pretrial doesn't harm public safety

Prison Policy Initiative Research

Reviewed data in four states, as well as nine cities and counties, *where data exist measuring public safety* from before and after the adoption of pretrial reforms.

All of these jurisdictions saw decreases or negligible increases in crime or re-arrest rates after implementing reforms.

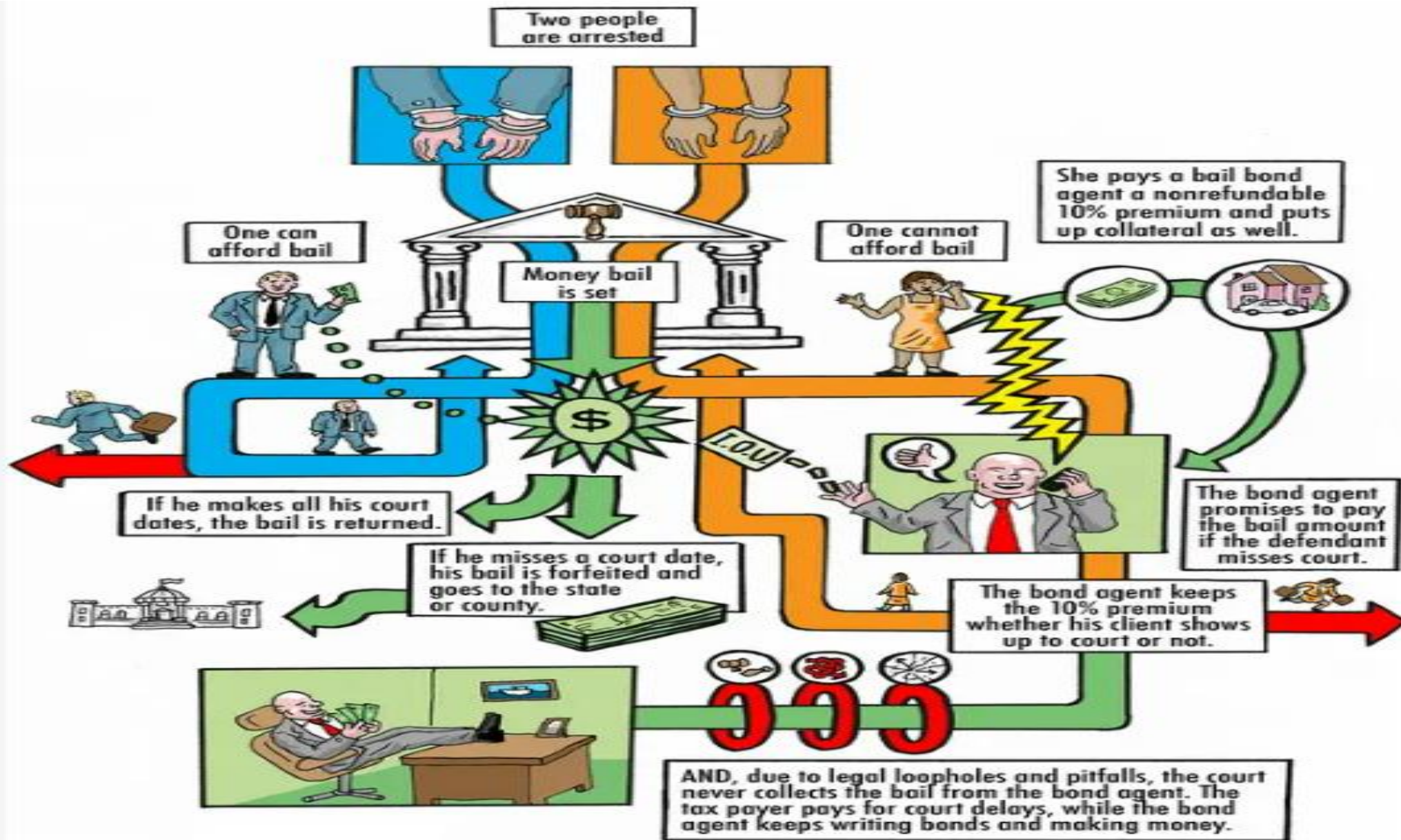


Over-Supervising is the leading cause of failure of the Pretrial Population

University of North Texas 2023 Study

- About 6 in 10 people failed to complete pretrial supervision (they had their bond revoked and were incarcerated until case disposition); but only about 2 of the 6 were for new charges; the other 4 of 6 were for technical noncompliance
- Pretrial releasees with GPS, failure to pay, and drug test (technical, not new law violations) were significantly more likely to fail to complete supervision
- Employed people had far fewer technical violations
 - Which is one of the first things most lose due to being in custody





Surety Does NOT Pay Owed Forfeiture

**April 2022 to December 2022
Nine Month Total**

1,066
Total FTAs



**Bond Forfeiture Liability
\$11,447,180**

**Bond Collections in
Galveston County**

FY 2020 = \$259,731

FY 2021 = \$173,810

FY 2022 = \$424,584*

*FY 2022 may have been driven by one
large forfeiture case

Quick Math

10% Premium
\$1,144,718 paid

Forfeiture
\$200,000 (2%)

Owed
\$11,447,180

Profit
\$944,718

How do you “profit”
From forfeiture?

Public Safety Options – Which does your public want?

High-Risk New Law Violations		
Study Groups Tracked	Received Surety	Received PBO
October 2021 7 Months Later (82 Tracked)	NLV = 33%	NLV = 10%

Predatory Bail Bond Schemes

Bail Capping

- Surety Bail Agencies paid in-custody inmates to “refer” new arrestee’s to specific agents.
- *“Get me some good ones, dude, some Asians, some f*** Hindus, some good domestic violence ones”* – Transcript
- *“I use their code, so they’re not able to call their family to have their family bail them out. They have to go through me and through these bail agencies.”* – Transcript

Balloon Payments

- Payment Plans put cars, homes, and other property at risk if someone fails to appear.
- *Even if they eventually return to court or their charges are dropped/not filed.*



Is Supervision Needed?

Yes, but with limitations

Release non-dangerous/non-violent offenders on own recognizance

- Most are eligible for some type of Cite and Release anyway

Put limited resources towards the highest need or with cases with concerned victims

- Call reminders are the easiest and most effective tools
- Save Supervision for those who actually fail

Remove unnecessary supervision conditions

- Unnecessary Drug Testing, Mandatory in-office report in, stop technical violations to incarceration

Do not subsidize For-Profit industry with Public Funds or Services

- Understand how bonds work in your system and how detrimental private bond agencies are for the community
- Your local Police are the ones picking up warrants in most cases

Get connected and familiar with your public service groups and community services

- You share the same clients and families, leverage available resources to help clients and your community succeed

Following the law may allow you to make a determination on giving or taking away someone's freedom, but it does not give you the right to take away their dignity – or their life.



Stop letting
preventable tragedy
dictate Public Policy

Be a Good Steward

