

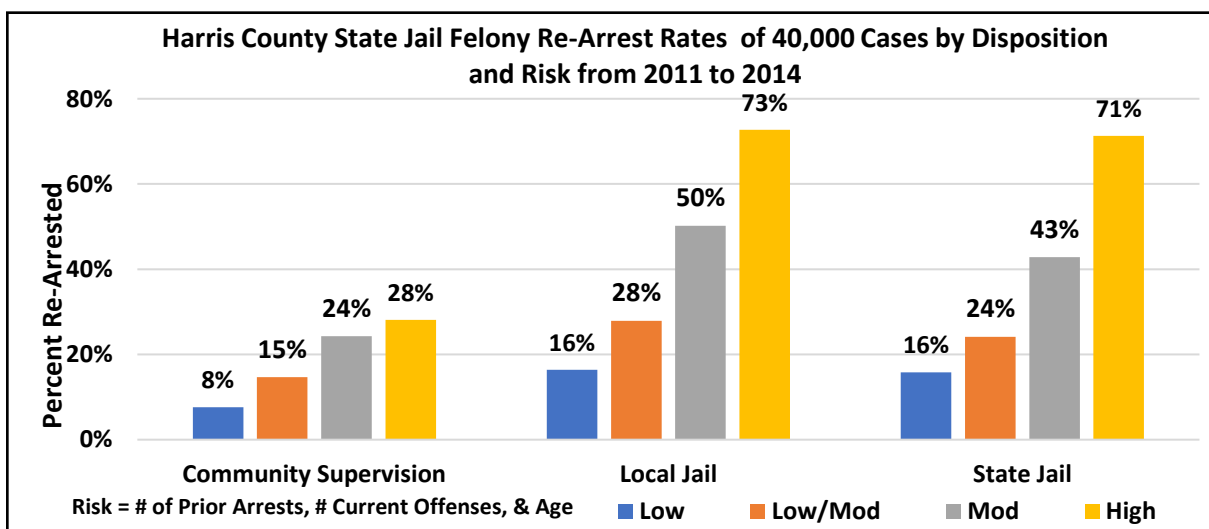
Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Safety & Justice Challenge Responsive Interventions for Change Docket Strategy for Drug Offenders & Prostitution 4th

Why did Harris County create the Responsive Interventions for Change (RIC) Docket?

The RIC Docket was designed to reduce over-reliance on Local and State Jails, high recidivism rates, and racial and ethnic disparity among low-level Felony drug offenders through diversion to community supervision (Deferred Adjudication & Pretrial Intervention). The docket has allowed Harris County to consolidate over 5,000 low-level Felony drug (PCS < 1g & PCS 1 to 4g) and Prostitution 4th offenses, typically distributed across the 22 District Courts each year, into one docket. Ultimately, the RIC Docket has provided an opportunity for non-violent drug offenders to receive treatment in lieu of cycling in and out of jail for years to come.

What did the data tell us about State Jail Felons and Low Level Felony Drug Cases?

- Harris County pre-trial jail detainee population: State Jail Felony (SJF) offenses comprised 29% of the felony pretrial detainee population. Drug Possession accounted for 40% of SJF detainees.
- Held until disposition: In 64% of SJF cases, defendants were in jail at disposition. Defendants in jail at disposition were significantly more likely to accept a conviction and serve County or State Jail time over diversion to supervision and treatment.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparity: People of color accounted for 72 percent (51% African American, 21% Hispanic, and 26% White) of jail detainees charged with SJF drug possession.
- In FY2014, Harris County accounted for 26% of Commitments to State Jail: In FY2014, Harris County committed 5,715 non-violent offenders to State Jail and 44% of the (2,511) commitments were for drug offenses. Of those committed, 62.6% were African American; 14.8% Hispanic, and 21.8% White. In 2014, 79% of Harris County State Jail Felony cases received a conviction and were sentenced to County or State Jail time and 21% were placed on Community Supervision.
- State Jail Offenders sentenced to time over diversion have Very High Re-Arrest Rates: 50% to 70% of Moderate to High Risk State Jail Offenders sentenced to time are re-arrested compared to 24% to 28% of Moderate to High Risk State Jail Offenders sentenced to community supervision within 12 to 18 months post disposition. The median time to re-arrest for those serving time was 9 months post disposition.



Treatment and Supervision Referrals

- 80% of the PTI cases and 96% of the deferred adjudication cases scored Moderate to High Risk on the TRAS.
- Most of the Low to Low Moderate Risk cases are referred to some form of community treatment if needed.
- Most of the Moderate to High Risk cases are referred to more intensive CSCD programs (Intensive Outpatient Treatment or Residential Treatment).
 - 15% were referred to a CSCD residential program
 - 59% are supervised on a regular caseload
 - 26% are supervised on specialized caseloads

RIC Opiate Cases

- 8% of RIC cases are identified with misuse, abuse or dependence on opiates.
- Opiate Users referred to CSCD residential and intensive outpatient programs are screened by an addiction psychiatrist for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- CSCD officers and staff supervising Opiate users receive specialized training regarding opiates misuse, abuse, and dependence, indicators of relapse, Medication Assisted Treatment, and risk and antidote for overdose.
- An Addiction Psychiatrist is available via tele-psychiatry on demand for CSCD opiate users in high risk situations.

Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) for 1st time low-level Felony Drug Offenses and Prostitution 4th.

- DA/CSCD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - 1st time State Jail Felony Arrest for PCS < 1g & PCS 1 to 4g.
 - PTI cases complete a Comprehensive Assessment through the CSCD CAST unit and are required to participate in treatment programs as recommended.
 - Cases are dismissed by the DA upon completion.
 - PTI has an 89% successful completion rate.

Interventions Delivered for RIC Population

- Individualized interventions designed to specifically address the needs of the offender
 - Staff are trained in risk assessment, developing individualized case plans, and delivering effective interventions.
 - Officers are equipped with techniques and strategies to reduce barriers to services and engage offenders in meaningful discussions.
 - Treatment programs are designed to address a combination of substance abuse, mental health, and broader criminogenic needs.
 - Officers continue to monitor and tweak plans to help offender be successful.
 - Interventions are designed to be sequential, giving offenders opportunities to be successful.
- Responsive interventions
 - A behavioral response matrix is utilized allowing staff to work directly with the offender to acknowledge positive growth as well as intervene quickly when the offender has difficulties.
 - Allows for adjustments up and down the treatment continuum efficiently and effectively.

Arrested for
PCS < 1G or
PCS 1 to 4G
Prostitution 4th

Assigned to RIC Docket



Presumptive
Release on
PR Bond or
Surety Bond

Initial Hearings

- Access to attorney (appointed if indigent/hire if financially capable)
- Set bond conditions as appropriate
- Continuously review jail pop for ability to adjust bail/PR
- Provide time to consult attorney
- Access to Recovery Coaches
- Assessment scheduled for disposition

Arrest to Disposition

Disposition

- Results of the assessment to the court w/ recommendations
- Pretrial diversion or deferred adjudication
- Length of supervision and individualized conditions

Pretrial Intervention Program (Diversion)



No Felony
History

Deferred Adjudication



Prior Felony History
Current PCS < 1g
PCS 1 to 4G or
Prost 4th

*3 other outcomes that can occur in RIC: 1) Dismissed;
2) Transfer out to District Court; 3) Incarceration

Risk, Need, and Responsivity

Assessment Driven
Interventions

Criminogenic Targets
Employment
Criminal Attitudes
Peers
Education
Substance Abuse
Family

Low and Regular Risk Caseloads

Specialized Caseload
(Mental health, substance abuse)

Supportive and Intensive Outpatient Treatment

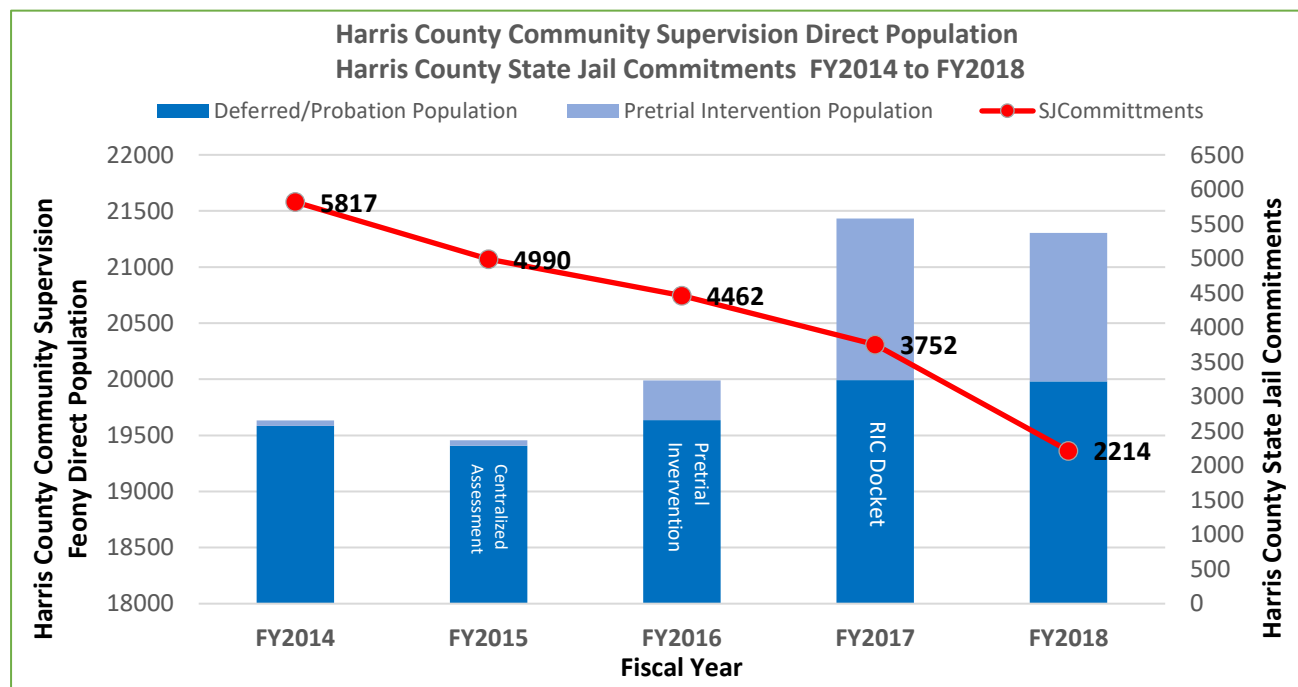
Community Residential Treatment

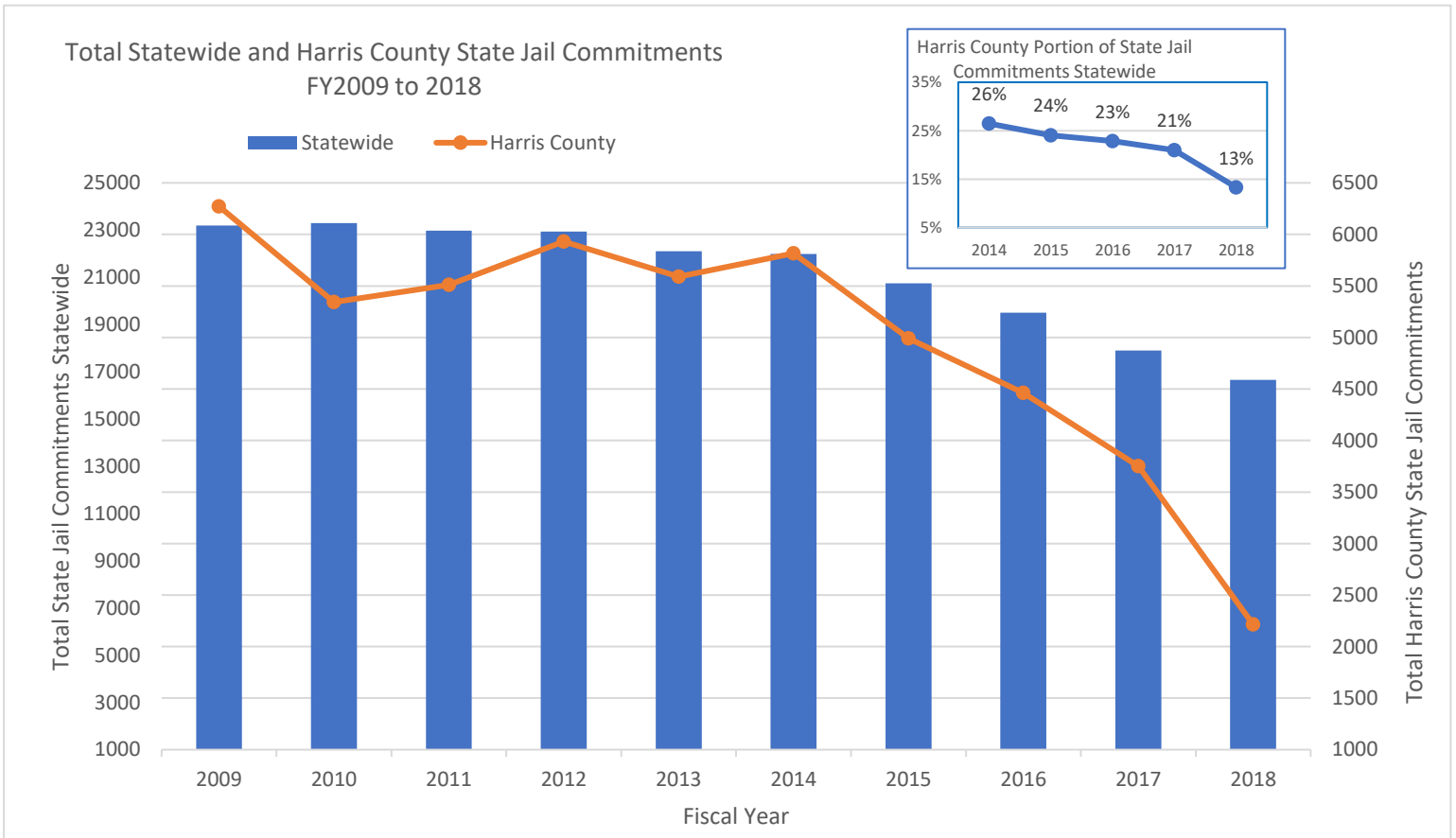
Specialty Courts

Residential Treatment—SATF, CCF, DDRP, SAFPF, ISF

Impacts of the Responsive Interventions for Change Docket and Larger HCCSCD Initiatives

- FY2015—Harris County CSCD’s Centralized Assessment and Screening Team (CAST) was implemented
- FY2016—Harris County CSCD and the District Attorney’s office established the Felony Pretrial Intervention program for 1st time offenders charged with PCS < 1g and PCS 1 to 4g offenses.
- FY2017—The RIC Docket was created and implemented
 - 8,899 cases were filed and assigned to the RIC Docket from October 2016 to July 2018.
 - 6,068 cases have been disposed
 - The number of low-level felony drug and prostitution cases receiving a conviction and sentence to incarceration over diversion to Community Supervision reversed from the years prior to the creation of the RIC Docket.
 - Prior to the RIC Docket 79% of the cases received a conviction and were sentenced to incarceration and 21% of the cases were diverted to community supervision and treatment.
 - Since the RIC Docket began in October of 2016, 85% of the cases were diverted to community supervision (PTI or Deferred Adjudication) and 15% received a conviction and were sentenced to incarceration.
 - One year after the RIC Docket began, the number of jail days occupied by low-level felony drug and prostitution cases were reduced by 100,000 days compared to similarly situated defendants from the prior year.
 - One year after the RIC Docket started, the median number of jail days occupied by people of color were reduced from 40 days to 5 days or less.
 - One year after the RIC Docket started, the number of African American’s charged with low-level felony drug cases or prostitution 4th receiving a Pre-trial Intervention Program doubled from the previous year, providing an opportunity to receive treatment and avoid a felony conviction.





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