



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS PRETRIAL SERVICES

CONTENTS

OUR MISSION 1

PRETRIAL AND COVID-19 2

OUR LEADERSHIP 3

PRETRIAL SERVICES UNITS 4

GENERAL PRETRIAL RELEASE SUMMARY 8

ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY 9

SMART JUSTICE UNIT SUMMARY 13

INTAKE ASSESMENT 17

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY 18

BUDGET 21

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Dallas County Pretrial Services is to enhance public safety by providing supervision for individuals released on bond to ensure court appearance and successful compliance with conditions of bond.

PRETRIAL AND COVID-19

In 2020, Dallas County Pretrial Services, like the rest of the world, was challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, Pretrial Services adapted its model to meet the needs of the community while keeping its employees as safe as possible. From March 2020 to present, Pretrial Services supervision units (including Smart Justice, General Pretrial, Alcohol Monitoring, and Electronic Monitoring units) have been on a rotation of working at home and office – three days working from home and two days in the office.

Early on there was a county-wide effort to obtain PPE. Pretrial services managers assisted with this effort, purchasing PPE, including masks. Dallas County was able to meet all PPE needs for Pretrial Services. All staff have been required to wear masks if not in their office and when dealing with the public. Hand sanitizer stations have also been provided for our staff and the public.

The Intake Assessment Unit, on the other hand works in the jail conducting interviews for the risk assessment and financial affidavits. The unit has always been labeled an essential function of Dallas County and the nature of their job in the jail as a function of magistration and indigent defense necessitated that intake staff continue to come in on 24/7 basis. To meet their safety needs in the jail, plastic barriers have been placed between staff and the defendants.

The Covid-19 pandemic also created a need to expand the number of Electronic Monitoring officers to meet the need of the community. From March 2020 to December 2020, 1,496 defendants were added to Electronic Monitoring supervision. To compare, for the entire year of 2020 there were 788 defendants added. There are now eleven (11) full time ELM Officers.

LEADERSHIP

Dallas County Pretrial Services is a division of Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections (Adult Probation) under the leadership of Director, Arnold Patrick.



Duane Steele, Deputy Director

Duane Steele graduated from Wiley College in Marshall, TX with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He has over 35 years of Criminal Justice experience. He began his career as a Juvenile Detention Officer in Tarrant County. After moving to Dallas County, he continued to work as a Detention Officer and gradually advanced to a Field Probation Officer, Court Liaison Officer and Department Floater with Dallas County's Juvenile Probation Department. Continuing his work with youth, from 2007 to 2010 Duane served as Court Manager of Dallas County's specialized Truancy Courts. In 2010 he was assigned as Coordinator of Dallas County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB), and is currently Deputy Director of Pretrial Services. Duane is a member of the Texas Urban Counties Criminal Justice Planners, North Central Texas Council of Governments' (Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee), and the Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS).



Jeff Segura, Manager

Jeff Segura graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, TX, with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Prior to joining Dallas County, Jeff was a Religion and Social Studies teacher for 6th through 8th graders at Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Academy. In 2001, he began his career with Dallas County as a field officer for the Juvenile Department. During the five years Jeff worked as a field officer, he took on a high risk case load in the Project Spotlight program and specialized as a sex offender officer. In 2006, he left Dallas County to join a private company which aided counties across the country with obtaining federal reimbursement for Title IV-E programs. In 2009, he returned to the Dallas County as a field officer in the Juvenile Department until joining the Dallas County Pretrial Services in 2013. In Pretrial Services, Jeff worked as an Electronic Monitoring Officer and once again specialized in supervising sex offenders. In 2016, Jeff was promoted to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board Program Manager where he worked with the Chiefs of Police and other Community Organizations to help solve problems in the Dallas area related to law enforcement. In 2018, Jeff was promoted to Dallas County Pretrial Services Manager, where he continues to serve today.

OUR STAFF

Rebekah Truxal, Program Manager ~ ELM/ASP/AMU

Tomaso Ortiz, Training/Assessment Manager

April Craig, Pretrial Services Supervisor ~ Smart Justice/General

Julian Lapeyre, Pretrial Services Supervisor ~ ELM/AMU

James Stewart, Pretrial Services Supervisor ~ Intake

Patrick Bailey, Pretrial Services Supervisor ~ Intake

Miriam Villarreal, Administrative Coordinator

PRETRIAL SERVICES CONSISTS OF FIVE (5) UNITS:

GENERAL PRETRIAL RELEASE

In 2020, the General Pretrial Release Unit consisted of 5 Pretrial Officers. Every day, Pretrial Officers in this unit review an overnight report consisting of individuals booked into the Dallas County Jail. After determining the inmate's current offense and criminal history, Pretrial Services interviews inmates within the jail to see if they have an address to return and contact in the community to verify. For those released on a Pretrial Release Bond, Pretrial Officers monitor compliance and provide case management to help defendants make all scheduled court appearances and successfully comply with conditions of bond. (These statistics do not include those who receive a Personal Bond as Pretrial Services does not supervise these individuals unless expressly ordered to do so by the Court.)

The General Pretrial Release Unit supervises defendants who receive a Pretrial Services Bond until disposition of their case or court ordered release. In 2020, a total of 121 defendants were released from jail on a Pretrial Release bond. An additional 38 defendants were court ordered to be supervised by this unit. The total number of defendants that were either court ordered or released via delegated authority was 159 unique defendants. Of those cases released from jail on Pretrial Release Bonds, 87 were accused only of misdemeanor offenses and 82 were accused of felony (or combination of felony and misdemeanor) offenses.

ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT

In 2020, the Alcohol Monitoring Unit consisted of 6 Pretrial Technicians. The AMU Pretrial Technicians supervise defendants released on bond with a court-ordered requirement to have an alcohol-monitoring device as a condition of release. The alcohol monitoring devices include Interlock, Scram, Scram Remote Breath (portable), and BART (portable). Defendants pay a \$10 supervision fee, per the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 17.441, Section (d). The Alcohol Monitoring Unit continues to supervise these defendants until disposition of the case or until the court releases the order.

There was a monthly average of 1,402 cases under active supervision by the Alcohol Monitoring Unit in 2020. The highest number of cases supervised within a month was observed in August with a total of 1,515 defendants supervised. January had the least number of cases supervised within a month with a total of 1,300. Throughout 2020, the AMU unit verified alcohol monitor installations and monitored the maintenance of the alcohol monitoring devices ordered. This unit also conducted 954 orientations, verified 985 installations, and submitted 3,947 non-compliance violations to the courts.

In 2020, there were 983 cases closed out in the Alcohol Monitoring Unit. When cases were closed out, they were classified as either successful or unsuccessful, depending on whether the defendant successfully complied with court conditions until their case was closed out. Of those close outs, 880, or over 89%, were successful. The unit collected a total of \$119,301.78 in supervision fees.

SMART JUSTICE UNIT

In 2020, the Smart Justice Unit consisted of 10 Pretrial Officers, with one dedicated to support SB292 supervising Outpatient Competency Restoration (OCR) cases. The Smart Justice Unit serves defendants who might benefit from being connected with mental health services upon release from jail. Smart Justice Officers assist with gathering information on these defendants for the Courts. The information is presented to the Court for a judicial decision to be made about their release. Defendants who are approved for release on a Mental Health Personal Recognizance (MHPR) Bond are monitored by a Smart Justice Officer for compliance with mental health treatment and medications. Smart Justice officers also provide case management to help defendants successfully comply with conditions of bond.

In 2020, there were a total of 17,450 inmates with a mental health flag who were screened by this unit. Not all defendants were interviewed due to competency concerns, declining mental health assessment, refusing to participate, or being released prior to interview. In 2020, after screening, and mental health assessment (conducted by licensed clinicians), a total of 422 defendants were presented to the court for a judicial decision about their release.

Of those presented, 78 defendants were denied a MHPR Bond and 21 others released on a different type of bond. A total of 323 defendants, or just over 75%, were granted a MHPR Bond in 2020. They consisted of 133 misdemeanor offense bonds and 341 felony bonds. The unit supervised defendants based on level of supervision ordered by the Judge. In 2020, a total of 185 defendants were released on Level 1 supervision, while 98 defendants on Level 2 supervision, and 36 defendants on Level 3 supervision. Only 4 defendants were released on Level 4 supervision. Judges can tweak as necessary, but in general, the Supervision Levels are as follows:

SUPERVISION LEVELS

- **Level 1** - Report by phone twice per month, unless compliance or equipment issues arise.
- **Level 2** - Report by phone once per month and in person once per month, unless compliance or equipment issues arise.
- **Level 3** - Report by phone once per month and in person every other week, unless compliance or equipment issues arise.
- **Level 4 (ELM)** - Report in person every week.

There were 301 Smart Justice cases closed out in 2020. Of those close outs, 95 were successful and 205 were unsuccessful. (Successful completion generally means removed from the program without an insufficient bond being ordered and unsuccessful completion includes defendants whose bond was held insufficient, who are accused of new offenses, or who absconded) There was only 1 close outs deemed as Other. The highest success rate of 47% was observed in the month of November. The month of March had the lowest success rate of 9%.

INTAKE ASSESSMENT

In January 2020, Pretrial Services began administering a different risk assessment, the Public Safety Assessment (PSA). In 2020, administration of the PSA and the financial affidavit moved from a paper manual format to a computerized platform using Techshare. Intake Assessment Technicians complete a financial affidavit and risk assessment for every defendant who is magistrated in Dallas County Jail.

As the Covid-19 pandemic began, Intake Technicians were considered an essential part of the daily court and jail operations and were unable to work from home. Interviews conducted by Intake are done face to face. This did not change during the pandemic, however Dallas County was able to provide plastic protectors to separate the defendants from the technicians.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Electronic Monitoring (ELM) had the largest growth of all Pretrial Services Units in 2020 from both number of officers to defendants supervised. 2020 started with 8 ELM officers but three were added over summer making the total 11 by the end of 2020. The ELM unit supervises defendants on full schedule accountability. Full schedule accountability includes requiring the defendant to remain on House Arrest with only work or school release. This is the highest-level supervision (Level 4 – see chart above) that Dallas County Pretrial Services offers and is often used to supervise high profile cases, sexual offense cases, and violent offense cases including murder.

In January 2020, ELM ended the month supervising 259 defendants and at the end of December 2020, ELM was supervising 737 defendants. The number of defendants being supervised by ELM in 2020 has almost tripled. Violation reports also surged, with ELM sending 1,076 violations to the Court in the year 2020.

The ELM Unit opened a total of 1,698 new cases in both the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) and Bond, which can include surety or personal recognizance. Most of these cases (1,542), were Bond cases (mainly felony), while the rest (156) were ASP, or misdemeanor offenders serving a jail sentence on house arrest (mainly DWI).

ELM closed out 1,191 cases, 623 of them deemed "successful," meaning that the unit was able to successfully supervise those cases to the final outcome of their disposition and/or the ELM restriction was removed by the assigned Judge.

In an effort to provide continued safety to the community, ELM has implemented a 24/7 warrant process with the help of the Jail Intake Unit. If a defendant absconds while on monitor, the ELM Supervisor prepares the paper work and forwards it to the Jail Intake Unit to get a warrant signed by the on-duty judge.

While supervising 1,698 cases that had been released from Dallas County Jail, ELM saved the County \$11,108,322.64 in jail bed money in 2020. This is more than double from last year, with \$4,478,539.34.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR A PRETRIAL RELEASE BOND

Pretrial Services assists in reducing the population of the county jail by supervising qualified defendants who are released while pending disposition of their case. In assisting in screening individuals for release, the agency is concerned with two primary factors: 1) whether the defendant will appear for all scheduled court settings and 2) whether the defendant poses a serious threat to the safety of the community if released on bond.

FACTORS CONSIDERED

- Must be a resident of Dallas County or one of the six contiguous counties
- Must be in jail on a Dallas County offense
- Must provide positive identification
- Must not be on parole or probation
- Must be willing to appear in court for all scheduled court appearances until the case is disposed
- Defendants who have first degree felonies or who have a history of bond forfeitures may be excluded from consideration unless ordered by a judge.

CUMULATIVE DATA

JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

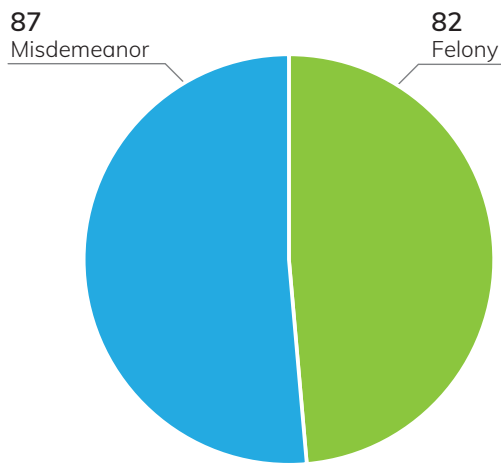
GENERAL PRETRIAL RELEASE SUMMARY

2020 at a GLANCE:

Total Misdemeanor/Felony Bonds:
169

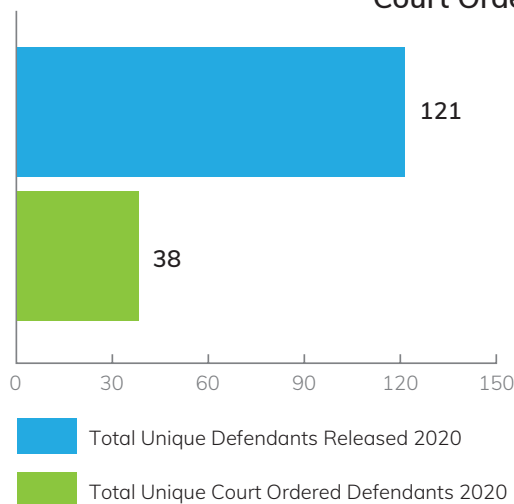
Total Court Ordered Cases /
+ Unique Defendants:
159

Misdemeanor/Felony Breakout



The number of cases of misdemeanor charges vs felony charges. General Pretrial supervises defendants with misdemeanor and felony pending cases.

Court Ordered vs. Unique Defendants



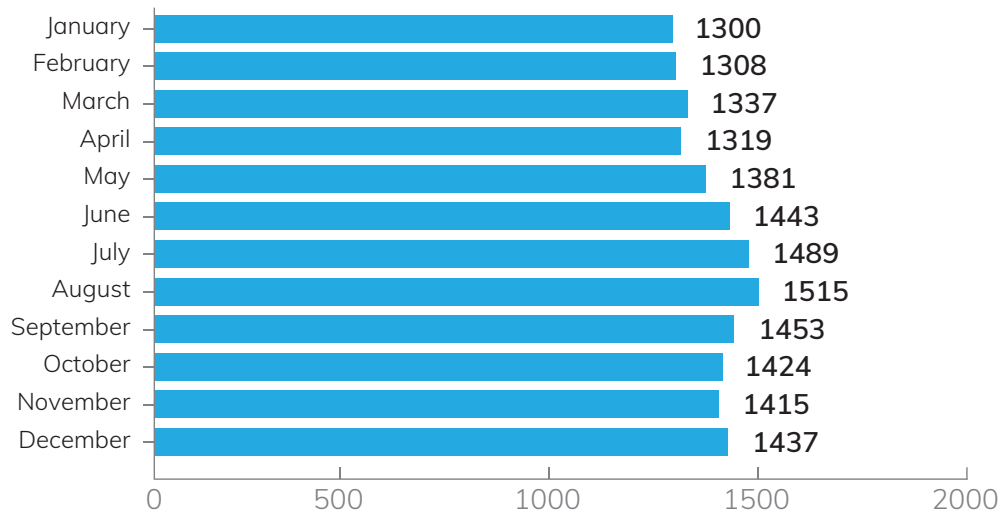
Breakdown of Court Ordered vs Unique Defendants displays the two different kind of defendants that General Pretrial supervises. Court Ordered cases are defendants that the court directly ordered to Pretrial Supervision who may not meet General Pretrial Criteria but the court believes should be supervised. Unique Defendants are the cases that General Pretrial releases using the Delegated Authority Criteria for a Low Cost County Bond.

ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY

2020 at a GLANCE:

Monthly Average:	Total Violations:
1,402	3,947
Total New Cases:	Successful Close Outs:
1,039	876
Total Orientations:	Unsuccessful Close Outs:
954	103
Total Installs:	Supervision Fees Collected:
987	\$119,301.78

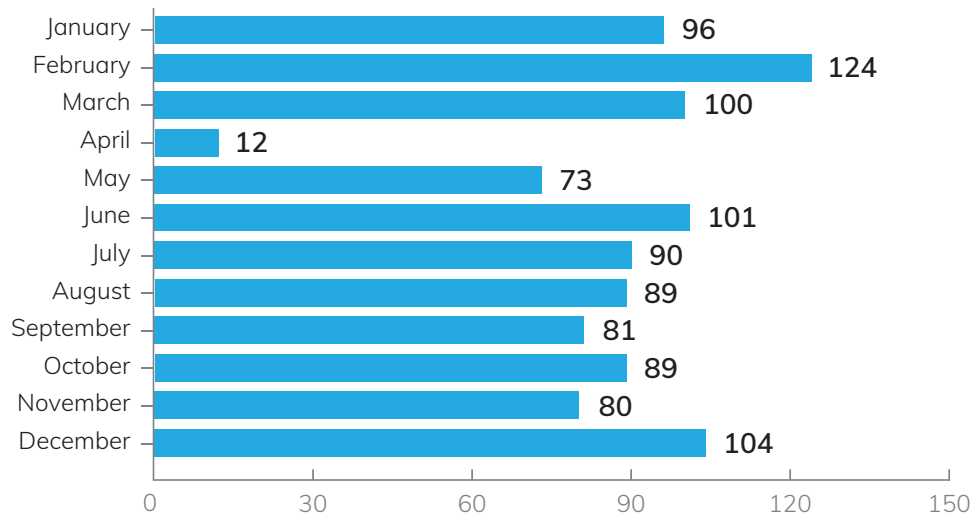
Total Supervised by Month



The total number supervised by Alcohol Monitoring at the end of each month for 2020.

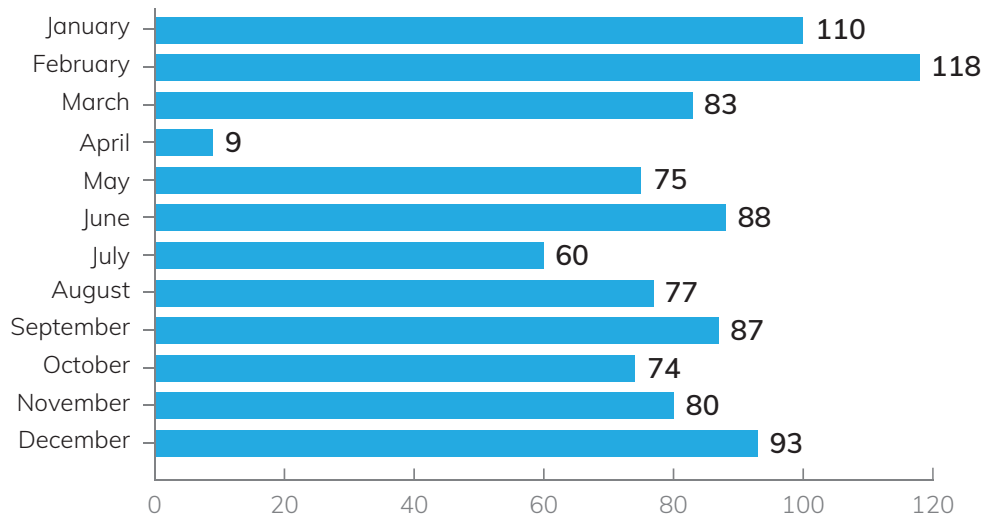
ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY, *continued*

Total New Cases by Month



Displays how many new cases were added for each month of 2020.

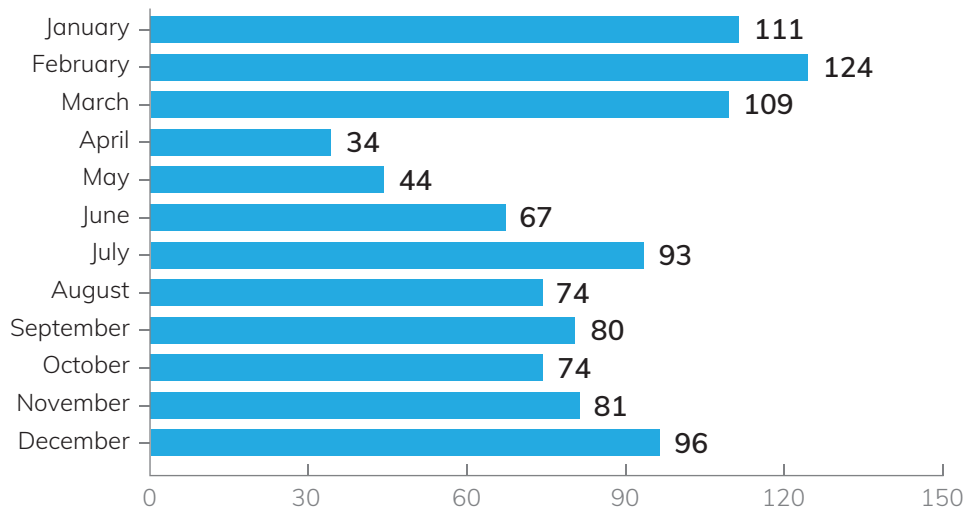
Total Count of Orientations Completed by Month



Displays how many unique orientations were given each month for new defendants. This number may differ from Total New Cases by Month because defendants sometimes miss orientation and are re-scheduled or miss orientation and the court is informed which may result in an insufficient bond.

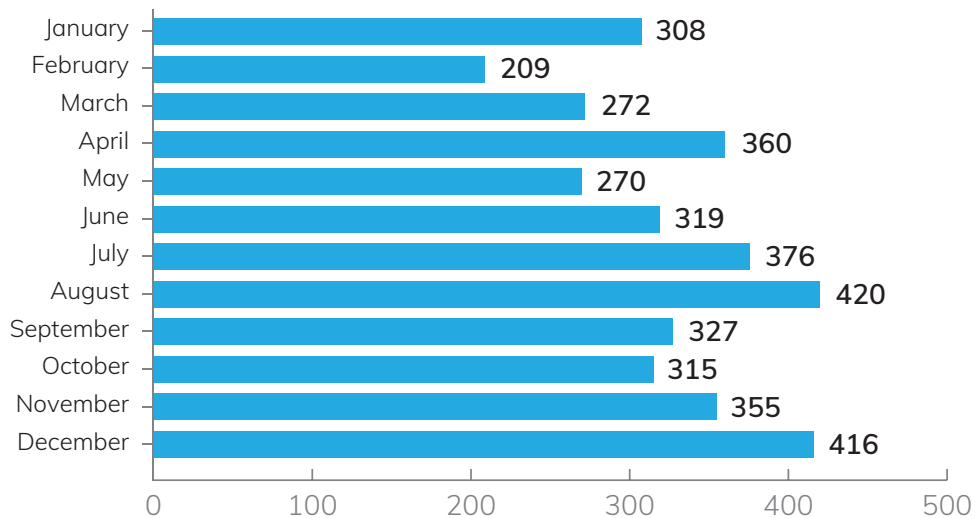
ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY, *continued*

Total Verified Installations by Month



Displays how many installations of alcohol monitoring equipment verified and completed through approved vendors. Equipment can include in home devices, ignition devices, and hand held equipment.

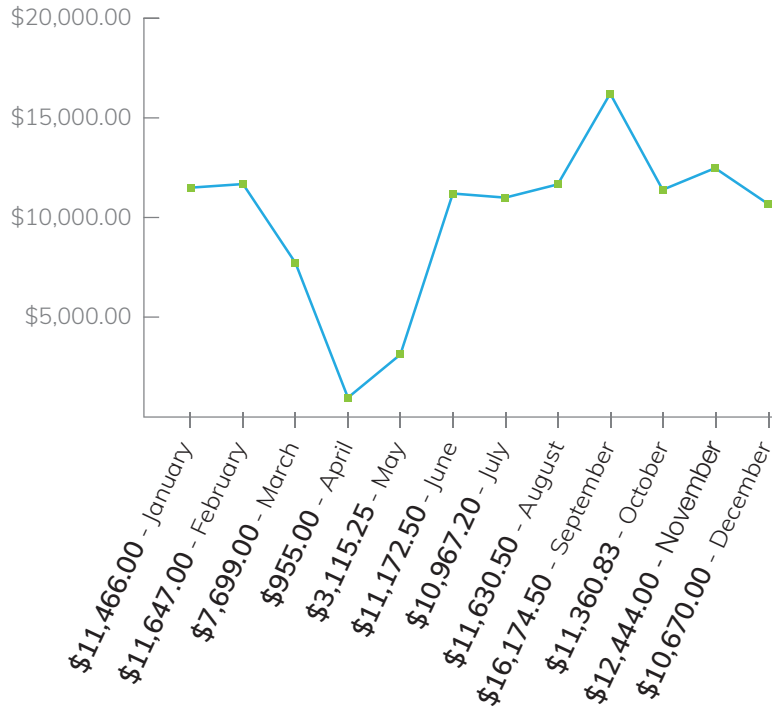
Total Violations Submitted by Month



Displays how many violations submitted to the court. A defendant may have multiple violations in one month. A violation may result in an insufficient bond.

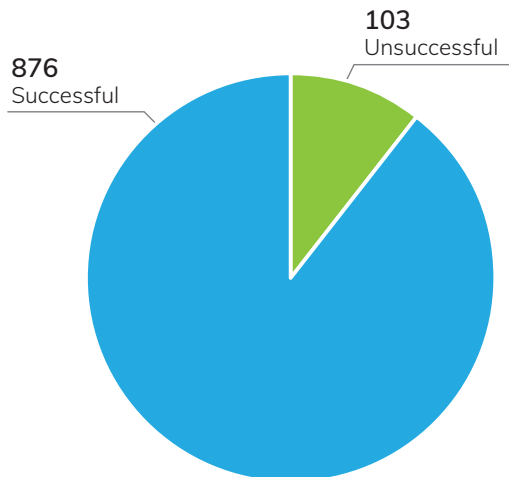
ALCOHOL MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY, continued

Total Supervision Fees Collected by Month



Total amount of money that was collected by the Pretrial Department in supervision fees. A fee of \$10 a month is required on the Alcohol Monitoring Unit, as allowed by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 17.441, Section (d).

Successful/Unsuccessful Close Outs



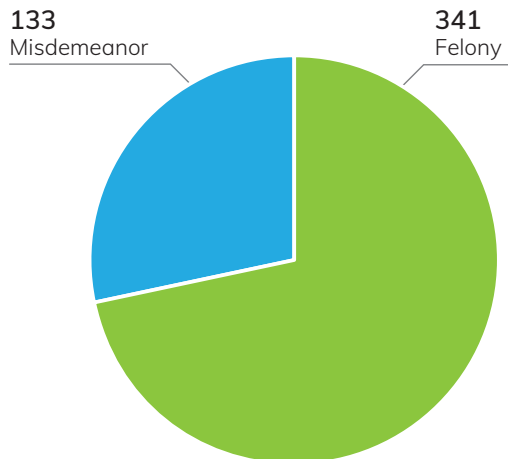
Displays for calendar year 2020 how many were successfully released from the Alcohol Monitoring Unit and how many were not successful. Successful generally means that the ELM was removed without an insufficient bond being ordered.

SMART JUSTICE UNIT SUMMARY

2020 at a GLANCE:

Total Initial MH: 17,450	Total Level 1: 185
Total Eligible: 2,194	Total Level 2: 98
Total Presented: 422	Total Level 3: 36
Total Denied: 78	Total Level 4: 4
Total Other: 21	Total Successful: 95
Total Granted: 323	Total Unsuccessful: 205
Total Misdemeanor: 133	Total Other: 1
Total Felony: 341	

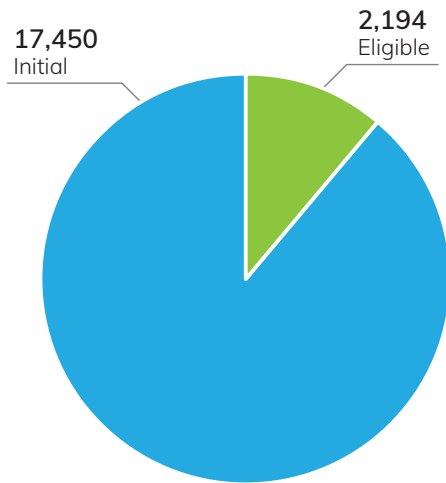
Total Misdemeanor/Felony Cases



The number of cases of misdemeanor charges vs felony charges. Smart Justice supervises defendants with misdemeanor and felony pending cases.

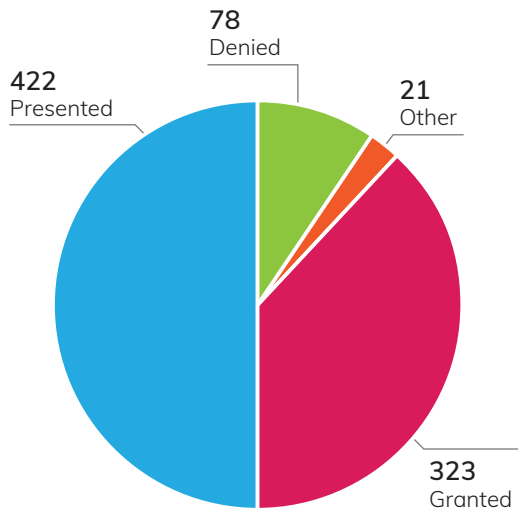
SMART JUSTICE UNIT SUMMARY, *continued*

Total Initial MH#/Eligible Cases



The number of total cases that came into the jail who hit a flag for past mental health services and of that number how many were potentially eligible for a mental health bond.

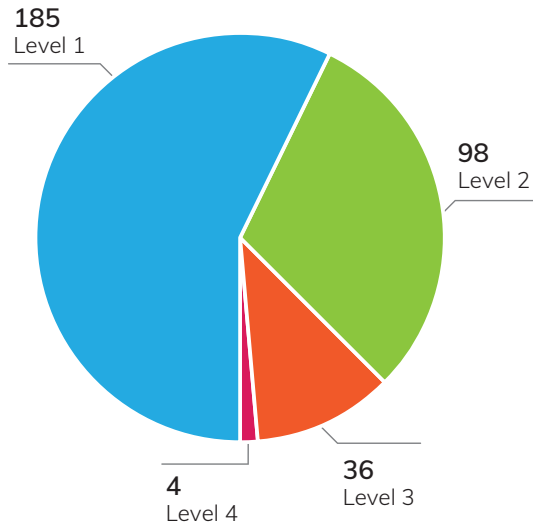
Total Cases Presented/Denied/Granted & Other



The total number of defendants whom after screening for Smart Justice Criteria presented to the court and the outcomes.

SMART JUSTICE UNIT SUMMARY, continued

Total Supervision Levels*

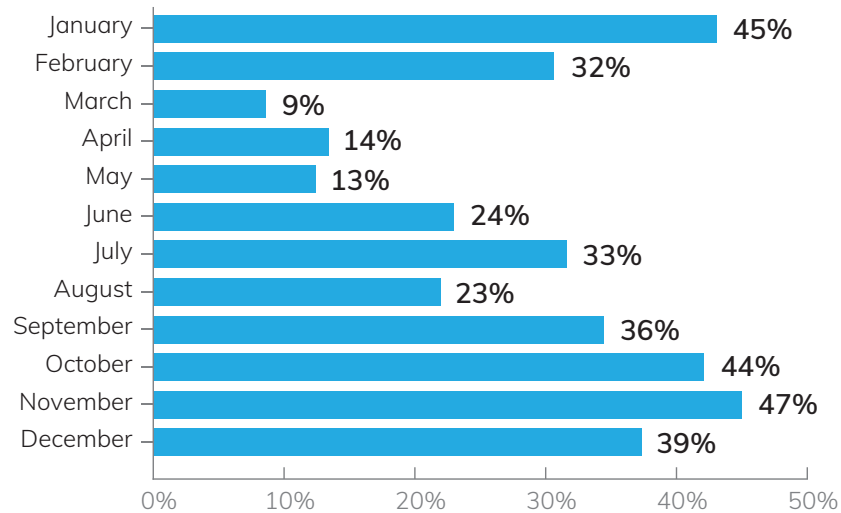


A breakdown of the four levels of supervision done by the Smart Justice Unit.

- Level 1 - Report by phone twice per month, unless compliance issues arise.
- Level 2 - Report by phone once per month and in person once per month, unless compliance issues arise.
- Level 3 - Report by phone once per month and in person every other week, unless compliance issues arise.
- Level 4 (ELM) - Report in person every week.

* Total number of levels approved, does not account for discharged/closed out files.

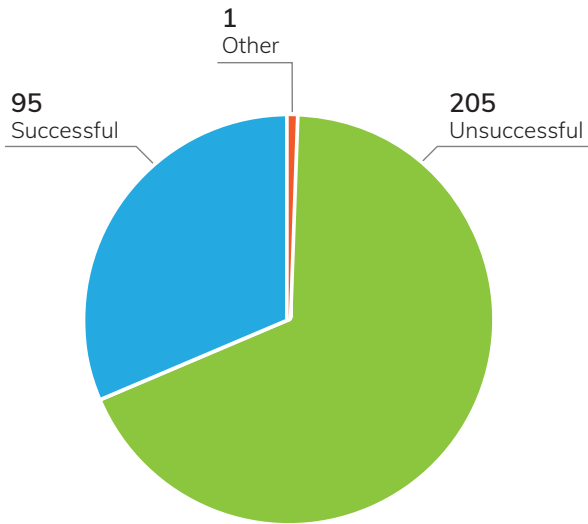
Total Success Rate by Month



The success rate as an average for all nine (9) officers during the months of calendar year 2020.

SMART JUSTICE UNIT SUMMARY, *continued*

Total Successful/Unsuccessful Close Outs



Displays the number of defendants that successfully completed the programs vs unsuccessfully. Successful completion generally means removed from the program without an insufficient bond being ordered and unsuccessful completion includes defendants whose bond was held insufficient, who are accused of new offenses, or who absconded.

INTAKE SUMMARY

2020 at a GLANCE:

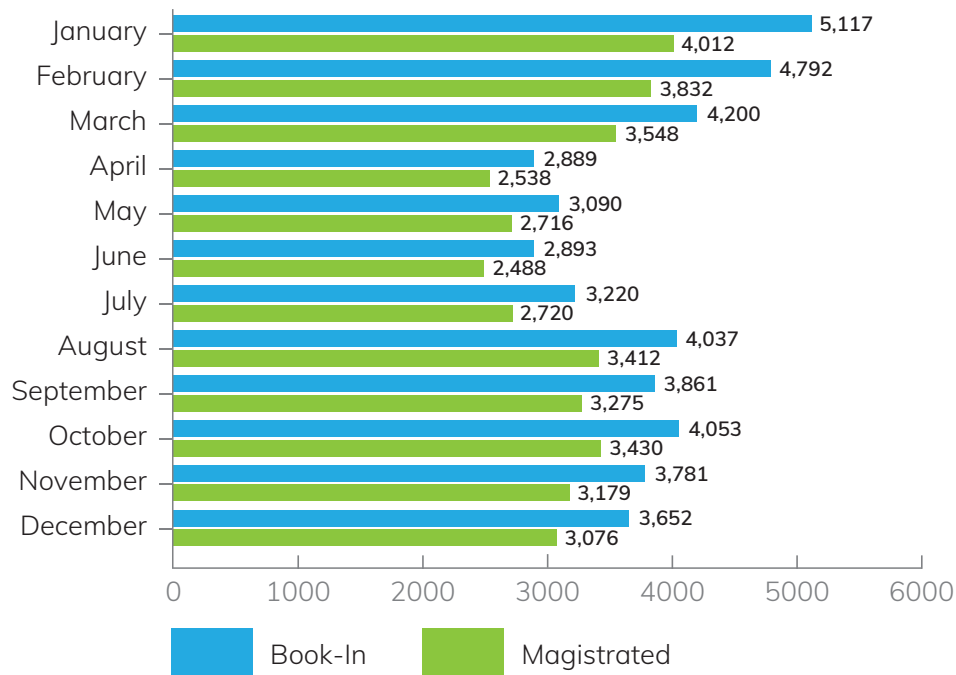
Total Intakes:

45,585

Total Magistrated:

38,226

Total Book-In/Magistrated Intakes



The "Book-In" number includes all Defendants who entered the jail. However, not all defendants will see the magistrate. For example, if a defendant is in jail to complete a jail sentence, they will not be magistrated. A financial affidavit and risk assessment are administered for all defendants who will see the magistrate.

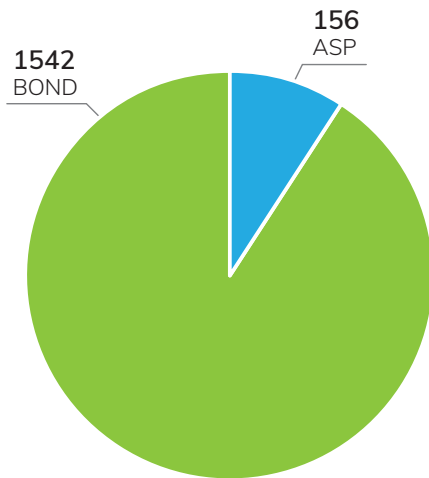
The chart compares these two categories.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY

2020 at a GLANCE:

Total New Cases (ASP/BOND):	Total Violations:
1,698	1,076
Total Successful Close Outs:	Total Orientations:
532	1,698
Total Unsuccessful Close Outs:	Jail Bed Days Saved:
508	\$11,108,322.64

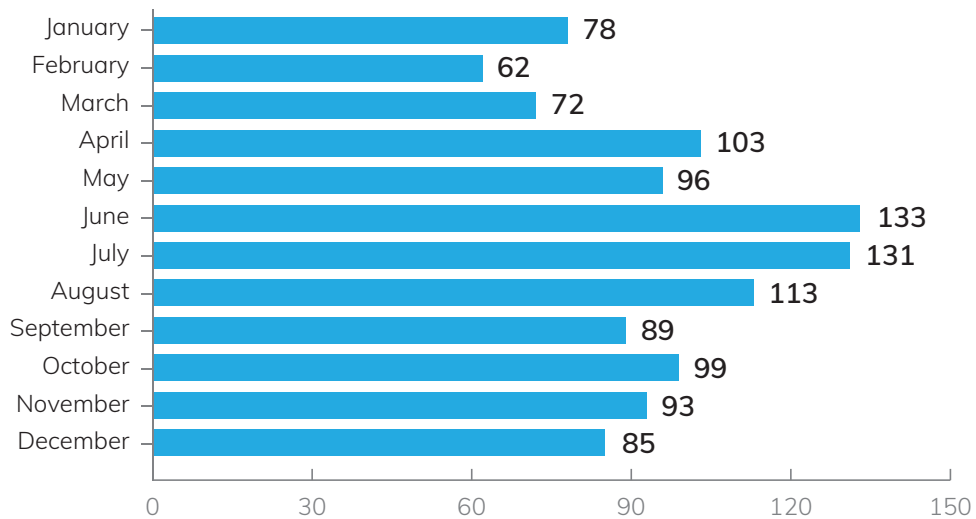
Total New Cases (ASP/Bond)



The total number of cases that were supervised on bond and the total number supervised on the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) a post adjudication program.

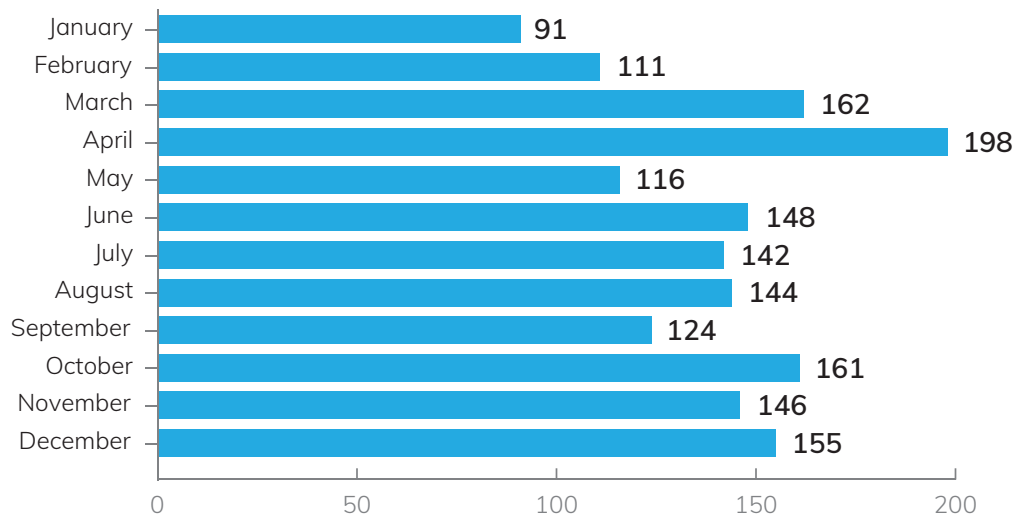
ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY, *continued*

Total Violations by Month



Displays how many violations were submitted to the court. A defendant may have multiple violation in one month. A violation may result in an insufficient bond.

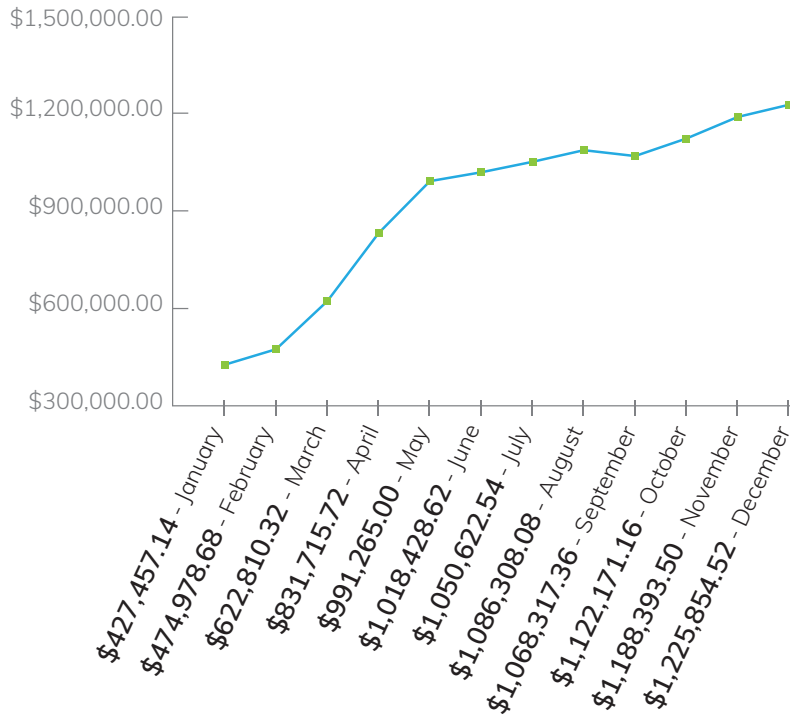
Total Orientations by Month



The number of orientations completed on unique defendants each month.

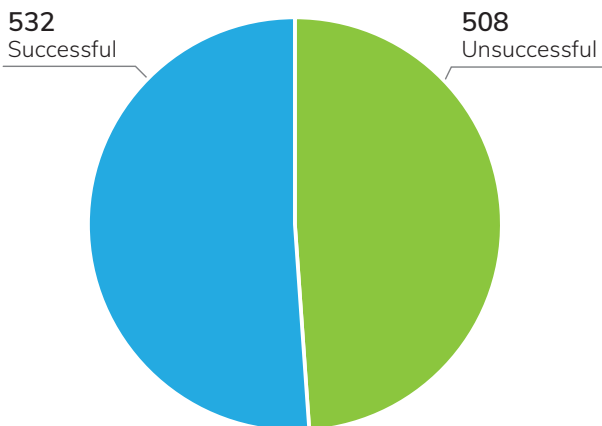
ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT SUMMARY, continued

Total Expenses Saved by Month



Displays cost savings to the county in jail bed days using the Electronic Monitoring Program vs the defendant staying in jail.

Total Successful/Unsuccessful Close Outs

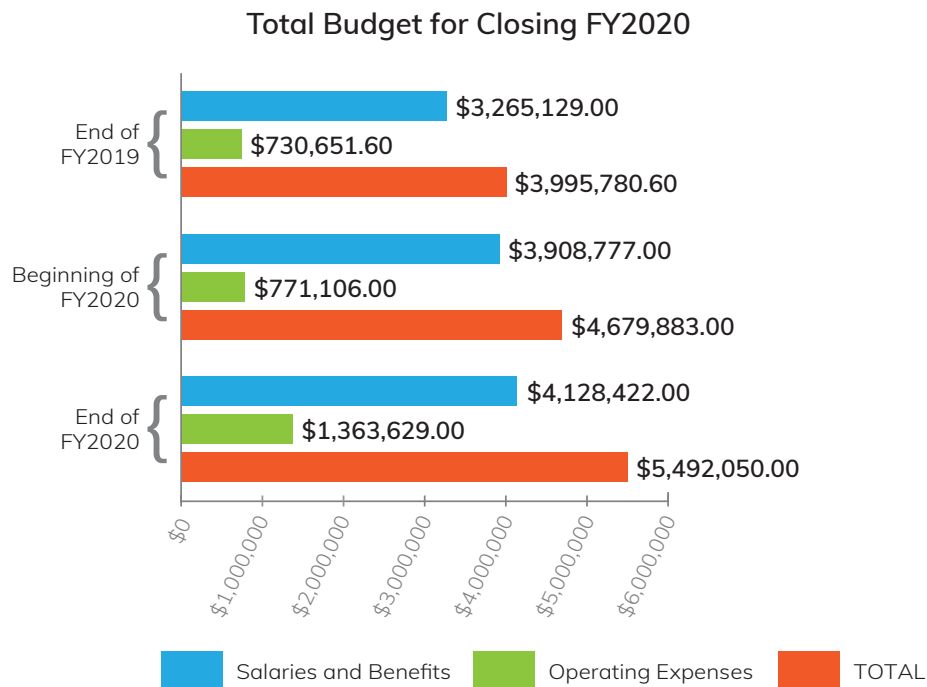


The number of defendants that successfully completed the program vs unsuccessful completion. Successful completion generally means the case was disposed of in court and unsuccessful completion includes defendants whose bond was held insufficient, who are accused of new offenses, or who absconded.

PRETRIAL SERVICES BUDGET

2020 at a GLANCE:

Beginning Salaries & Benefits: \$3,908,777.00	Ending Salaries & Benefits: \$4,128,422.00
Beginning Operating Expenses: \$771,106.00	Ending Operating Expenses: \$1,363,629.00
Beginning Total Budget: \$4,679,883.00	Ending Total Budget: \$5,492,050.00



Dallas County records budget as Fiscal Year and Pretrial Services budget expanded during this time because of new employees added as well as operational expenses added. 3 new positions were added during this time.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2019 Pretrial salaries, benefits, and operating expenses were \$3,995,780.60. In the beginning of Fiscal Year 2020 the expected annual budget was \$4,679,883.00. By the end of the Fiscal Year 2020 the total was \$5,492,050.00.



DALLAS COUNTY
Pretrial Services

Frank Crowley Courts Building
1st Floor - Rm A9
133 N. Riverfront Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75207