



**Chief
Executive
Office.**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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March 20, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
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From: Fesia A. Davenport *FAD*
Chief Executive Officer
FAD (Mar 20, 2023 17:06 PDT)

**FIFTH QUARTERLY UPDATE ON DATA COLLECTION TO SUPPORT
PRETRIAL REFORM IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM NO. 3, AGENDA OF
AUGUST 4, 2020)**

This memo is in response to the Board of Supervisors' (Board) motion directing the Chief Executive Officer to partner with Los Angeles County (County) departments and other agencies that work with individuals involved in the justice system and report back on a quarterly basis with information on the population incarcerated during the pretrial period; the population released during the pretrial period; cases released due to pretrial reform; supportive services provided to individuals released during the pretrial period; and justice involvement outcomes for defendants during the pretrial period.

In 2022, the reporting focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic and reforms that were enacted and/or accelerated during the pandemic have changed the pretrial landscape. We examined three time periods: one year pre-pandemic to establish pre-pandemic trends, year one after the onset of the pandemic to see how the pretrial landscape changed as the crisis unfolded, and year two after the onset of the pandemic to see if changes in the pretrial landscape persisted after some time in the "new normal."

From 2023 onwards, the focus of the report shifts to a more general look at the pretrial population to inform continuing pretrial reform efforts in the County. Each year, we will look at pretrial landscape from the past three years; that is, in 2023, we will examine three pretrial cohorts whose start of the pretrial period was in



years 2020, 2021, and 2022. We will release different facets of the pretrial landscape every quarter, giving a full picture by the release in the fourth quarter of the year.

For the first quarter of 2023, we examine arrests in the County in 2020, 2021, and 2022 to understand how the pretrial landscape is changing and to respond accordingly. In July 2022, we also saw the expiration of the emergency zero-bail policy and this update shows how arrest patterns in 2022 were affected.

The report is publicly available on the Open Data Portal at the following link:

<https://data.lacounty.gov/documents/lacounty::los-angeles-county-pretrial-data-center-1/explore>

Summary of Findings

- To provide contextual landscape before looking at the pretrial cohorts whose starts of the pretrial periods were 2020, 2021, and 2022, years affected by the pandemic, we provide a look at how the number of arrests changed since 2010. Arrests have had a constantly declining trend since 2010 even before the pandemic. However, there was a precipitous drop in the number of arrests at the onset of the pandemic and arrests remain at lower levels up to the present day.
- Separating out felony and misdemeanor arrests, we see different patterns in that the precipitous drop in felony arrests happened in 2014 when Prop 47 was enacted while the precipitous drop in misdemeanor arrests happened in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic. We also see consistent seasonality patterns in arrests. The arrests levels are higher in the hotter months and lower in the colder months.
- Focusing specifically on arrests in the three years of interest, 2020 through 2022, we see that (1) arrests have stabilized at lower levels; (2) seasonality arrest patterns persisted; and (3) arrests have not reverted to pre-pandemic levels when the zero-bail policy expired.
- Demographics of individuals arrested in 2020, 2021, and 2022 were similar. However, there were differences in the charge compositions over these three years. There were progressively larger proportions of felony arrests and conversely smaller proportions of misdemeanor arrests, as well as larger proportions of arrests for violent charges and smaller proportions of arrests for non-violent drug charges, in the later years compared to 2020.

Each Supervisor
March 20, 2023
Page 3

- We also preview how release rates and trends have changed for arrests that happened in 2020 through 2022. However, it is too early to draw inferences on changes in release trends as the release numbers for 2022 are likely to change when this report is updated next quarter to include more recent data. We anticipate higher release numbers for the 2022 cohort when more recent data is included since releases for individuals arrested at the end of 2022 might not have happened by mid-January 2023, the last date for which we had data for this updated report.

As directed by the Board motion "*Data Collection to Support Pretrial Reform (Item No. 3, Agenda of August 4, 2020)*," the Chief Information Office (CIO) will continue to provide quarterly updates.

This report was developed by the Chief Executive Office/CIO staff, in collaboration with a working group that included representatives from the Alternate Public Defender, the Alternative to Incarceration, Catalyst California (formerly Advancement Project), Center for Court Innovation, County Counsel, Dignity and Power Now, District Attorney, Departments of Health Services/Correctional Health Services and Office of Diversion and Reentry, Department of Mental Health, Frontline Wellness Network, Information Systems Advisory Board, JFA Institute, Probation Department, Public Defender, Sheriff's Department, Superior Court, County Prosecutors Association, County Bar Association, The Bail Project, Project 180, and Vera Institute.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Peter Loo, Acting Chief Information Officer, at (213) 253-5627 or ploo@cio.lacounty.gov.

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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
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