



JAIL POPULATION MANAGEMENT

WHY FOCUS ON THE JAIL?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Orleans Parish had the largest jail population per capita in 2010—more than four times the national average. Overuse of detention for pretrial defendants who do not pose a risk to public safety can have deeply negative impacts; African American families are particularly impacted.



WHAT WE'VE DONE



2011

The New Orleans Police Department began issuing summonses rather than making arrests for low-level municipal offenses. In 2014, there were 36% fewer municipal and traffic arrests than in 2010, allowing officers to focus on violent criminals.

2012

Pretrial Services launched to assist the court in release decisions & supervision of defendants. The pre-trial population has decreased 25% since the program began.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON



2015

Mayor Landrieu tasked a Criminal Justice Council Subcommittee to develop a strategic plan centered on smart decision-making in booking the right people/detaining them for the right amount of time.

2016

The City and Sheriff's Office jointly submitted a proposal to the MacArthur Foundation for a two-year grant and up to \$4 million that would improve how the city arrests, detains, & prosecutes individuals.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN 2010: **3,400** | AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN 2015: **1,840**



OUR PRIORITY

In 2015, the administration doubled down on its commitment to address the overuse of jail by enabling low-risk defendants to maintain connections to family, employment & services while awaiting trial. The city continues to emphasize collaboration with local criminal justice agencies, input from community members, and consultation with national experts on best practices.

OUR APPROACH



How to Reduce Warrants Issued:

- Implement a message system to remind defendants of court dates
- Redesign summons & subpoena forms to clarify court expectations for defendants
- Create a tool that assesses ability to pay & scales fines accordingly

How to Reduce Arrests:

- Authorize probation officers to use administrative sanctions in all probation cases
- Work with NOPD to decrease arrests made solely on warrants from other parishes

How to Decrease Detention of Low-Risk Defendants:

- Increase # of defendants released on their own recognizance (ROR)
- Create pretrial decision guidelines for the court
- Decrease # of probationers held on detainer pending revocation proceedings

How to Reduce Unnecessary Delays in Case Processing:

- Decrease screening time in victim-less cases
- Implement technology that provides judges greater access to case information
- Review policies & practices for defendants with multiple open matters across courts

OUR TIMELINE

