

North Carolina Judicial District 30B Pretrial Justice Pilot Project

Overview

This fact sheet provides a summary of the key findings from the North Carolina Judicial District 30B Pretrial Justice Pilot Project. Beginning January 1, 2019, Judicial District 30B (Jackson and Haywood Counties) implemented five pretrial reforms:

- Promote the increased use of citations in lieu of arrest in appropriate cases.
- Promote the increased use of summons in lieu of arrest in appropriate cases.
- Implement a new decision-making framework for determining conditions of pretrial release.
- Provide first appearance hearings for all in-custody defendants.
- Provide for early involvement of counsel at pretrial proceedings.

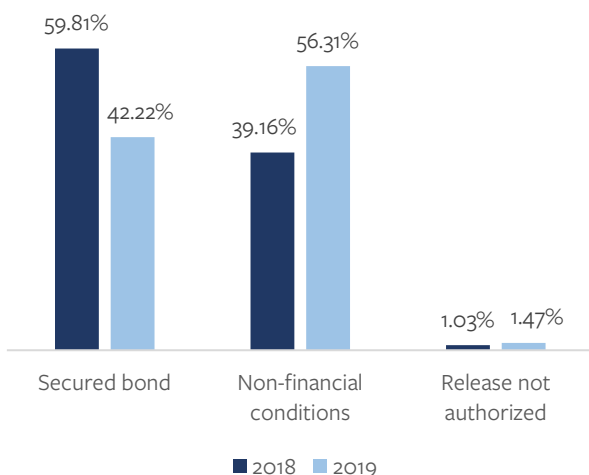
Citations & Summons in Lieu of Arrest

In the district, the percentage of charges initiated via a summons increased 86.33% between 2018 and 2019. The percentage of misdemeanors issued a citation increased 3.09% in 2019 relative to 2018.

Misdemeanor defendants issued a citation were not more likely to fail to appear or incur a new criminal charge during the pretrial period compared to defendants who were arrested.

Conditions of Release

In the district, the percentage of cases receiving a non-financial condition increased 43.79%, while the use of secured bonds decreased 29.41% in 2019 compared to 2018.



New Criminal Charges and Court Non-Appearance

There was a 1.10 percentage point increase in the number of defendants incurring a new criminal charge during the pretrial period in 2019 compared to 2018.

	2018	2019
No new criminal charges during pretrial period	83.2%	82.1%
New criminal charges during pretrial period	16.8%	17.9%

The analyses suggest that recidivating defendants—by and large—returned to offending no faster (and no slower) in 2019 than in 2018. The average number of days between charges was 59.41 days for recidivating defendants in 2018 compared to 61.35 days in 2019.

On average, approximately 80 percent of defendants attended court as scheduled during 2018 and 2019. Both counties experienced a 1 – 2 percentage point increase in court non-appearance rates in 2019.

Average Appearance Rate

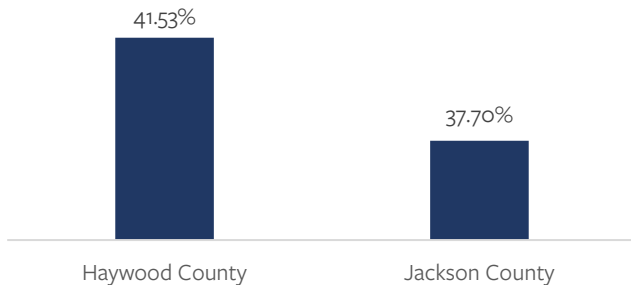
	2018	2019
Court appearance - Jackson	81.25%	80.06%
Court appearance - Haywood	84.76%	83.21%

First Appearance Hearings & Early Involvement of Counsel

Both Jackson and Haywood Counties implemented first appearance hearings for in-custody defendants. However, only Haywood County implement early involvement of counsel at first appearance hearings.

Data suggests defendants who had counsel were more likely to have their bonds unsecured or secured bond amounts reduced. Defendants in Haywood County were more likely to have their bonds unsecured (41.53%) than defendants in Jackson County (37.70%).

Percent of defendants released on an unsecured bond at first appearance



Also, of those defendants who were held on a secured bond at the end of their first appearance hearing, defendants in Haywood County were **two times** more likely to have their bond amounts reduced than defendants in Jackson County.

Pretrial Detention

The number of bookings for pretrial detention in the Haywood County Detention Center decreased, on average, .04% in 2019 compared to 2018.

The percentage of bookings held for 1 or 2 days increased in 2019. The percentage of bookings resulting in longer pretrial jail stays (3+ days and 10+ days) decreased in 2019 relative to 2018.

	2018	2019
0 days	26.00%	25.60%
1 day	22.30%	29.00%**
2 days	7.50%	9.50%**
3+ days	44.10%	34.80%**
10+ days	24.90%	20.60%**
30+ days	8.70%	8.10%

Asterisks (*) indicate that a finding is statistically significant. Findings that are statistically different or statistically significant indicate that differences between the two percentages are not due to chance alone or statistical noise. * $p \leq .05$, ** $p \leq .01$, *** $p \leq .001$. Findings with more asterisks suggest greater confidence that observed differences are not due to chance alone. Note that difference scores without any asterisk (*) means the difference is not statistically significant.

For Additional Information

Visit the UNC School of Government Criminal Justice Innovation Lab
<https://cjil.sog.unc.edu/areas-of-work/bail-reform-2-0/>

Jessica Smith. (2018). *Judicial District 30B Pretrial Justice Pilot Project*. Available at:
<https://cjil.sog.unc.edu/files/2019/02/Judicial-District-30B-Report.pdf>

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