

LAB NOTES

A NEWSLETTER FROM
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB

OCTOBER 2021



COMING SOON: MEASURING JUSTICE DASHBOARD

Later this year we will launch the Measuring Justice dashboard. The dashboard will enable users to interact with key state and county-level criminal justice metrics and better understand state and local systems.

Examples of metrics you'll find on the dashboard:

- 91.00% of all misdemeanor cases in NC (January 2019-June 2021) were initiated by citation.
- 95.93% of traffic misdemeanor cases were initiated by citation. That rate was 62.40% for non-traffic misdemeanors.

Keep an eye out for this new resource!



SPOTLIGHT: NC COURT APPEARANCE PROJECT

The Lab is partnering with The Pew Charitable Trusts to offer free technical assistance to three NC counties to examine the scope and impact of court non-appearances. The technical assistance will include data and policy analysis to support the sites in developing tailored solutions to improve court appearance rates and responses to non-appearances.

The project's three county sites are:

- New Hanover
- Orange
- Robeson

What's next:

The sites will meet monthly to examine the research and explore policy options. The project will continue through spring 2022.

INSIGHTS: THE FIRST CITATION PROJECT REPORT

Background

In partnership with the NC Association of Chiefs of Police, the Lab helped develop a model citation in lieu of arrest policy that is currently being piloted in four police departments: Apex, Elizabeth City, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem. The policy went live in these sites in December 2020, and the project team is conducting an empirical evaluation of its implementation and impact. We recently released the first report summarizing findings from the first four months after implementation began.

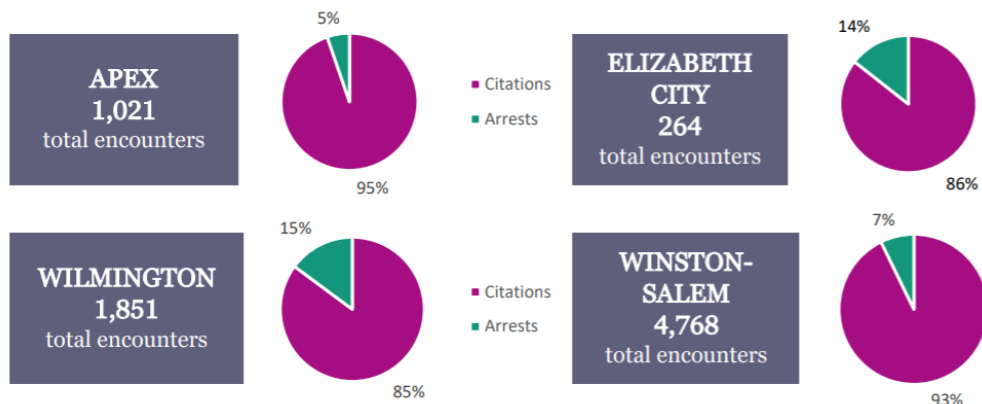
Key Findings

- Officers are using citations for most encounters: Of encounters that ended in citation or warrantless arrest, 91% ended in a citation while 9% ended in warrantless arrest. See the figure below for a breakdown by project site.
- There were no statistically significant differences in warrantless arrests across racial groups.
- Implementation metrics suggest that the implementation of the policy across jurisdictions is strong.
- Only 35% of those arrested were released on conditions other than secured bond, indicating good alignment with state bail law.
- The use of citations yielded significant time savings for the police departments.

What's Next?

The project will continue through 2023. Future reports will include additional metrics such as non-appearance and pre-trial criminal activity rates.

Read the full report [here](#).



HAPPENINGS

In September we released our most recent reports evaluating stakeholders' bail reform initiatives in Judicial Districts 2 and 21. Check them out here: [JD 2](#) and [JD 21](#).

This month we will begin a new project in collaboration with RTI to examine rural criminal justice systems. Stay tuned for more info!

We welcomed two new staff members this summer! [Andre Assumpcao](#) joined us as a post-doctoral fellow, and [Maggie Bailey](#) started as our second project manager.



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