

LAB NOTES

A NEWSLETTER FROM
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB

FEBRUARY 2022



COMING SOON

Over the next few months, the Lab will release the newest reports on the following ongoing pilot projects.

- **The Citation Project:** In partnership with the NC Association of Chiefs of Police, evaluating the implementation of a model citation in lieu of arrest policy in four NC police departments
- **Pretrial Reform in Forsyth & Orange Counties:** evaluating consensus bail initiatives developed and implemented by local stakeholders
- **NC Court Appearance Project:** Supporting local stakeholders in three counties as they seek to improve court appearance rates and responses to non-appearances



SPOTLIGHT: NC RURAL JAIL PROJECT

What: The Lab and RTI International are helping a diverse team of Columbus County stakeholders to better understand the factors that influence local pretrial practices, including incarceration, and support their efforts to develop solutions that fit their community. At a kickoff meeting in December 2021, Columbus County stakeholders convened to share ideas and give direction to the project team.

What's next:

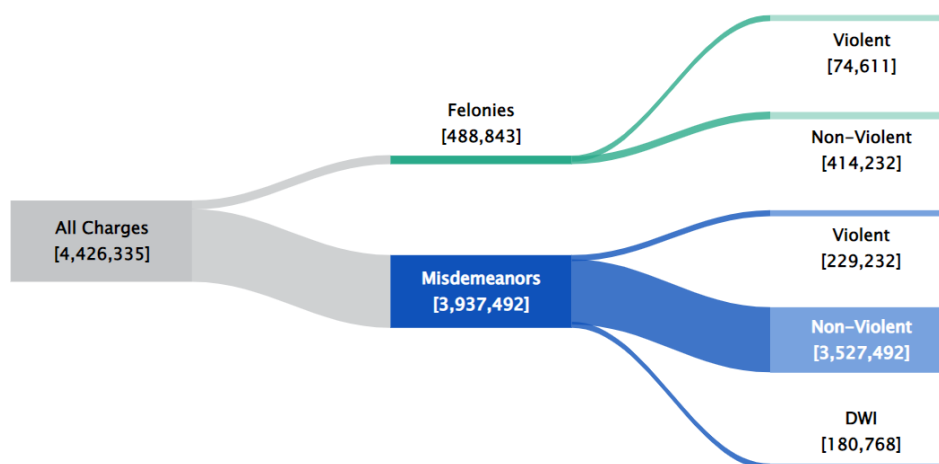
Over the next several months, we'll be analyzing jail and court record data and conducting interviews with local stakeholders to better understand the local systems. We'll also be supporting stakeholders as they explore whether and how to improve these systems.

INSIGHTS FROM THE MEASURING JUSTICE DASHBOARD

NEW: Criminal Charging Metric

The Lab recently launched the [Measuring Justice Dashboard](#), an interactive platform that allows users to explore a variety of criminal justice system metrics. With the new Dashboard metric, users can examine criminal charging rates at the county and state levels, tailor their searches by offense category and time period, compare charging across racial groups, see how charging rates have changed over time, and more. They can even browse lists of the most frequently charged offenses, least frequently charged offenses, and everything in between.

The visual below shows a breakdown of all charges in North Carolina from January 2019 through June 2021, and the table shows the top 5 most common charges for the same time period. They illustrate a key takeaway of the criminal charging metric: **The vast majority of the charges in the system are non-violent misdemeanors.**



Code	Description	Rank ↓	Type	Category	Offense Total
5450	Speeding	1	Misdemeanor	Non-DWI Traffic	829,719
4725	Dwlr not impaired rev	2	Misdemeanor	Non-DWI Traffic	457,755
5461	Expired registration card/tag	3	Misdemeanor	Non-DWI Traffic	439,537
5441	No operators license	4	Misdemeanor	Non-DWI Traffic	283,831
5405	Driving while impaired	5	Misdemeanor	DWI	163,224

For an overview of the new metric's features, read Lab Director Jessie Smith's [blog post](#).

HAPPENINGS

We're hiring! We're looking for a research director and a project manager to join our team. Interested in working with us or know someone who would be a great fit? Check out the job postings at the links below:

- [Research Director](#)
- [Project Manager](#)

We'll also be posting two student positions soon (for PhD and Master's students). Watch the [UNC job board](#) for those.



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