

COVID-19 AND THE HARRIS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

A REPORT FROM THE TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

Jails and prisons have become the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak across the United States, with the Marion Correctional Institution in Ohio, the Cook County Jail in Chicago, and the Rikers Island Jail in New York City now rank amongst the largest COVID-19 hotspots on the planet. Without further action, the Harris County Jail will soon be joining those ranks. **This report aims to provide a snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 on the Harris County criminal justice system since March 19, when Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a statewide health emergency.**

In the words of Sharlyn Grace, Executive Director of the Chicago Community Bond Fund:

"We cannot maintain mass incarceration in jails and prisons and flatten the curve. Those two things are mutually exclusive."

COVID-19 CASES IN HARRIS COUNTY

APRIL 19:
4,653 CASES
↑
14,000%
SINCE MARCH 20
(33 CASES)

COVID-19 CASES AT HARRIS COUNTY JAIL

APRIL 19:
201 CASES
↑
9,950%
SINCE MARCH 20
(2 CASES)

HARRIS COUNTY JAIL POPULATION

APRIL 19:
7,391
↓
11.7%
SINCE MARCH 20
(JAIL POP: 8,368)

Nearly 80% of people in the Harris County Jail are legally innocent and being held pretrial. The following Harris County District Court judges have been responsible for the most jail-bed days for people held pretrial since March 19, 2020:

COVID-19 INFECTION RATES BY LOCATION

PER 1,000 RESIDENTS - AS OF APRIL 19, 2020

LOCATION	COVID-19 CASES	POPULATION	INFECTIONS/ 1K RESIDENTS
HARRIS COUNTY JAIL	201	7,391	27.2
HARRIS COUNTY, TX	4,653	4,713,325	1.0
STATE OF TEXAS	18,923	28,995,881	0.7
UNITED STATES	763,579	331,002,651	2.3
NEW YORK, NY	129,788	8,175,133	15.9
LOMBARDY, ITALY	65,381	10,040,000	6.5
HUBEI PROVINCE, CHINA (WUHAN)	68,128	59,020,000	1.2

JUDGE	BED DAYS:
GEORGE POWELL	10,787
RANDY ROLL	9,872
HAZEL JONES	9,700
RAMONA FRANKLIN	9,563
JASON LUONG	9,392
JESSE MCCLURE	9,164
CHUCK SILVERMAN	9,128
AMY MARTIN	8,454
LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	8,436
NIKITA HARMON	8,286
GREG GLASS	7,981
DANILO LACAYO	7,959
HERB RITCHIE	7,673
KELLI JOHNSON	7,660
JOSH HILL	7,407
BRIAN WARREN	7,342
CHRIS MORTON	7,275
ROBERT JOHNSON	7,011
ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	6,940
HILARY UNGER	6,890
DASEAN JONES	5,956
FRANK AGUILAR	5,643

FOCUS ON DATA: JAIL RELEASES

The average number of releases has dropped from 323.1 releases per day in the 30 days prior to March 19 to 181.7 releases per day in the 30 days following, a drop of over 40%.