Pretrial Release:
New Arrests Filed with the Court
Introduction

In a time of heightened interest in the pretrial justice process, the New York City's Criminal Justice Agency — an independent nonprofit that serves as the city’s main pretrial services and research agency — has sought to provide key facts about arrests and release in New York City.

This has included partnering with the national experts in pretrial data integration and analytics, Luminosity, Inc., to release a series of publicly available and up-to-date dashboards that provide users with the ability to access key information and conduct their own analysis.

This document summarizes key findings from CJA’s newly available Pretrial Release: New Arrests Filed with the Court dashboard. It allows readers to explore data about the cases that were filed with the court in New York City for people arrested and released into the community awaiting case disposition. Data can be searched by borough or citywide and according to customizable new arrest follow-up periods — either 3, 6, 9 or 12 months — as well as a number of other factors.

As the dashboard shows, overall, pretrial new arrest rates increased slightly from 2019 to 2020 and declined somewhat in 2021. Overall pretrial new arrest rates were 18.3 percent in 2019, 22.1 percent in 2020 and 21.5 percent in 2021.* However, the overall rate does not tell the entire story, as pretrial new arrest rates amongst people in the community awaiting trial vary greatly. For most individuals, pretrial new arrest rates remain low (about 10 percent) before and after bail reform. For some small subgroups of the pretrial population, pretrial new arrest rates were very high in 2019 (about 63 percent) and increased to over 70 percent in 2020 and 2021.

No highlights document can summarize the myriad of information available in the dashboard, which is searchable in a number of different ways. The findings presented in this document represent just a fraction of what can be learned. The intention is to bring attention to some important findings — and also inspire visitors to interact with the data in a more detailed and customizable way.

*Data reported in the dashboard and highlights document is based on cases, not people. A person can have more than one case.
The Overall Picture

In 2021, pretrial new arrest rates were down from 2020 but still up from 2019.

* Tracked for 6 months or the entire pretrial period, whichever was shorter.
A More Nuanced Analysis

Pretrial new arrest rates vary from 10 percent (for the largest group of cases) to 70 percent (for a small group). Groups in the middle have pretrial new arrest rates of 26 and 46 percent.

**Fig. 4**

New arrest rates among people in the community awaiting trial, categorized by number of pending cases at arrest and resolved cases in past year, 2019–2021*

- **Group A** 198,632 people
  No pending or resolved cases

- **Group B** 59,998 people
  Either 1 pending case and 0-1 resolved cases or 1 resolved case and 0-1 pending cases

- **Group C** 45,372 people
  Either 2 pending cases and 0-1 resolved cases or 2 resolved cases and 0-1 pending cases

- **Group D** 11,424 people
  2+ pending cases and 2+ resolved cases

* Tracked for 6 months or the entire pretrial period, whichever was shorter.
The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases

The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases

The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases

The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases

The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases

The largest group of cases, Group A’s pretrial new arrest rates are similar in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- No pending case at arrest and no resolved cases in past year
- Accounts for 63% of cases
- 198,632 cases
Pretrial new arrest rates have increased for Group B, while the total number of cases has declined.

2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA

- Either 1 pending case at arrest and 0-1 resolved cases in the past year or 0-1 pending cases at arrest and 1 resolved case in the past year
- Accounts for 19% of cases
- 59,998 cases

**Pretrial new arrest rates** for this group range from 23 to 28 percent.*

* Tracked for 6 months or the entire pretrial period, whichever was shorter.

**Note:** Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
As with Group B, pretrial new arrest rates have increased for Group C and the total number of cases has declined.

**2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA**

- Either 2 or more pending cases and 0-1 resolved cases in the past year or 0-1 pending cases and 2 or more resolved cases in the past year
- Accounts for 14% of cases
- 45,372 cases

---

**FIG. 11**

Percent of total population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIG. 12**

Total number of cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>18,330</td>
<td>13,481</td>
<td>13,561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIG. 13**

New arrest rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pretrial new arrest rates**

New arrest rates for this group range from 42 to 48 percent.*

* Tracked for 6 months or the entire pretrial period, whichever was shorter.
While small relative to other groups, the number of Group D cases has gone from over 3,000 in 2019 to over 4,000 in 2020 and 2021.

**2019–2021 SNAPSHOT DATA**

- 2+ pending cases and 2+ resolved cases in the past year
- Accounts for 4% of cases
- 11,424 cases

**FIG. 14**
Percent of total population

**FIG. 15**
Total number of cases

**FIG. 16**
New arrest rates

Pretrial new arrest rates

New arrest rates for this group range from 63 to 73 percent.*

* Tracked for 6 months or the entire pretrial period, whichever was shorter.

**Note:** Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
More Analysis

Want to learn more? Visit CJA’s Pretrial Release: New ArrestsFiled with the Court dashboard and search by:

- Borough of release;
- Customized follow-up periods: either 3, 6, 9 or 12 months – the default is 6 months, but the reader can use the filter to select another time period;
- The most severe charge for each case;
- The method of arrest (e.g. desk appearance ticket, summary arrest, direct indictment);
- The number of New York City cases a person had resolved in the year prior to arrest, the number of cases a person had pending in court in New York City at the time of arrest and the most severe charge of all pending cases.

Note that data in this document is presented on an annual basis or for the three year period (2019-2021) covered by the dataset. However, dashboard data is presented on a quarterly basis.

Methodology

For a detailed description of the methodology used in the dashboard and how each measure is defined, see the Dashboard Glossary.