

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2020



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**The mission of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, Inc.,  
is to assist the courts and the city in reducing unnecessary pretrial detention.**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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**CJA Publications (inside back cover)**

# Message from the Director of Research & Evidence-Based Practice

## -Tiffany Bergin

For nearly four decades, CJA has produced an annual or semi-annual report on pretrial outcomes in New York City, documenting trends in arrests, release recommendations, court appearance rates, and other key indicators.

The period covered in the 2020 Annual Report saw sweeping changes to New York City's pretrial landscape—from bail reform, to the Covid-19-related court shutdowns, to bail reform's partial rollback.

Despite these challenges, CJA's more than 200 staff members showed remarkable dedication to their work within the pretrial system. To cite just a few examples, in 2020:

- » Operations staff made Release Assessment recommendations in over 65,000 cases, an impressive feat given the necessity for in-person interviews to collect community ties information (see page 12).
- » Outreach Center staff made over 180,000 calls to notify individuals of upcoming court dates (page 38).
- » Queens Supervised Release staff enrolled over 1,500 clients, a massive expansion from the 981 clients enrolled in 2019 (page 41).

CJA's Research and Information Technology teams also continued to process and analyze data throughout this time. As the 2020 Annual Report will show, there were several notable changes in 2020:

- » Fewer than 100,000 prosecuted arrests occurred in 2020, down from over 240,000 in 2017 (page 6).
- » In 2020, a striking 93% of summary arrests were continued at arraignment, up from just 70% a few years ago (page 14).
- » The percentage of cases in which bail was set at arraignment declined from 19% in 2019 to 16% in 2020.
- » The percentage of violent felony offense (VFO) cases in which bail was set at arraignment declined from 59% in 2019 to 49% in 2020, despite these charges being unaffected by bail reform (page 20).

These and other trends can only be identified because of CJA's careful and consistent reporting of pretrial data over time, as well as the agency's unique capacity to track cases from arrest to final disposition and across both Criminal and Supreme Courts.

In partnership with the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and national leaders in pretrial justice research from Luminosity, Inc., CJA recently created several data dashboards as part of its ongoing commitment to data transparency. Available to the public on the CJA website (<https://www.nycja.org/nyc-pretrial-data>), the dashboards are updated monthly, allowing viewers to explore more recent trends in pretrial outcomes. Data from the dashboards are regularly cited by policymakers, academics, and across the media, highlighting CJA's role in bringing evidence-based analysis to contentious debates.

Indeed, amid such contentious debates about crime and bail reform, CJA's rigorous pretrial research seems more essential than ever. Reports like this one provide valuable context necessary to understand recent trends, while evaluations of CJA's numerous programs offer much-needed evidence about "what works," and just as importantly what doesn't work, for pretrial services nationwide.

CJA emerged out of a research project conducted in the early 1960s (see page 3), and a combined commitment to both rigorous research and effective practice remains at the core of CJA's mission. As the director of CJA's new Research and Evidence-Based Practice Department, I am honored to further this mission and my talented team and I are excited for the many opportunities ahead.

Much gratitude is due to the numerous CJA staff members, located in all five boroughs, whose efforts to collect, process, clean, and analyze data made this report possible. I would like to particularly recognize Rick Peterson, former Research Director, whose guidance did so much to shape the Annual Report series. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate the authors of this year's report, Stephen Koppel, Katie Bent-Koerick, and David Topel, for producing such a comprehensive and valuable document.



# Introduction

The New York City Criminal Justice Agency, Inc. (CJA), a not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1977, has over 200 employees in offices in all five counties (boroughs) of the city. With the support of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), CJA provides pretrial services to the justice-involved population as well as research and technical support to criminal justice stakeholders.

## **CJA's Origins: The Manhattan Bail Project**

CJA grew out of a research project of the Vera Institute of Justice, then the Vera Foundation, in the early 1960s. The Vera Foundation's first initiative was the Manhattan Bail Project, launched in 1961 in conjunction with the New York University School of Law and the Institute of Judicial Administration. Project researchers gathered data on the administration of bail in Manhattan and introduced the use of release on recognizance (ROR) as an alternative to bail. They tested the hypothesis that arrested individuals with strong community ties would return for scheduled court appearances, and that a greater number could be released if the courts had access to this information.

As a result of the Manhattan Bail Project, the Vera Institute developed a recommendation system based on objective community-ties information obtained by interviewing arrested individuals. In 1973, Vera created the Pretrial Services Agency (PTSA) to take over responsibility for making ROR recommendations. In 1977, the PTSA became independent from Vera and was incorporated as the New York City Criminal Justice Agency.

## **CJA Operations**

### *Interview and Recommendation*

CJA personnel interview people who, after arrest, are held for arraignment in the lower court (Criminal Court) in New York City. The purpose of the interview is to provide judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel with background information on individuals to assist in determining the likelihood that an individual, if released, will return for scheduled court dates.

### *Research*

The Research Department maintains an ongoing program of evaluation and research aimed at improving CJA operations, providing summary data relevant to criminal justice policy issues, and investigating special interest topics. The research agenda covers a broad array of criminal justice policy concerns.

### *Notification*

CJA attempts to notify all released individuals of scheduled court appearances via telephone or mail. Those issued desk appearance tickets (DATs) are also notified of their scheduled arraignment.

### *Supervised Release*

Since August 2009, CJA has operated a supervised release program in Queens for individuals charged with nonviolent felonies who meet strict criteria. In 2013, CJA began operating a similar program in Manhattan. In 2016, the city expanded supervised release to all boroughs. CJA continues to operate the program in Queens.

### *Bail Expediting Program (BEX)*

CJA operates the Bail Expediting Program (BEX) to help individuals who have had bail set contact potential sureties and obtain release sooner than they would if they had to navigate the complicated bail system on their own.

### *Court Appearance Support Unit*

CJA operates Court Appearance Support Unit (CASU) Units to assist individuals who have missed court to retrain as soon as possible and clear their warrants.

## **CJA Database**

To perform its operational and research activities, CJA maintains a database that includes background and court-processing information on virtually every person arrested in New York City. The database contains case-processing data for Criminal Court since September 1979 and for Supreme Court since July 1987. Demographic information is obtained from CJA's pre-arraignment interview, arrest data are received by CJA through automated electronic transmissions from the New York City Police Department (NYPD), and case-processing data from the Office of Court Administration (OCA). Information about individuals' out-of-court bail making is transmitted to CJA by the New York City Department of Correction (DOC).

CJA's Information Technology Division is responsible for managing the database, the rest of the Agency's computing resources, and the communications infrastructure linking CJA's 11 citywide office locations. Information Technology staff also provide a wide range of support services to CJA staff and partner with various organizations to ensure that data is exchanged and processed securely.

CJA continues to make significant progress towards the modernization and improvement of its operations. It continues to make needed upgrades to the network infrastructure and is migrating the primary database system to a new, more modern architecture. In addition, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, CJA has implemented an updated release assessment tool. To calculate the new risk score, CJA's technology staff has worked closely with MOCJ and DoITT to develop a software tool in the Azure Cloud.

**Aubrey Fox, Executive Director**

## **Departmental and Regional Directors**

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**Queens Supervised Release** - David Lowry

# PART 1

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# ARREST TO ARRAIGNMENT

# Prosecuted Arrests

Figure 1  
Prosecuted Arrests, by Court of Arraignment

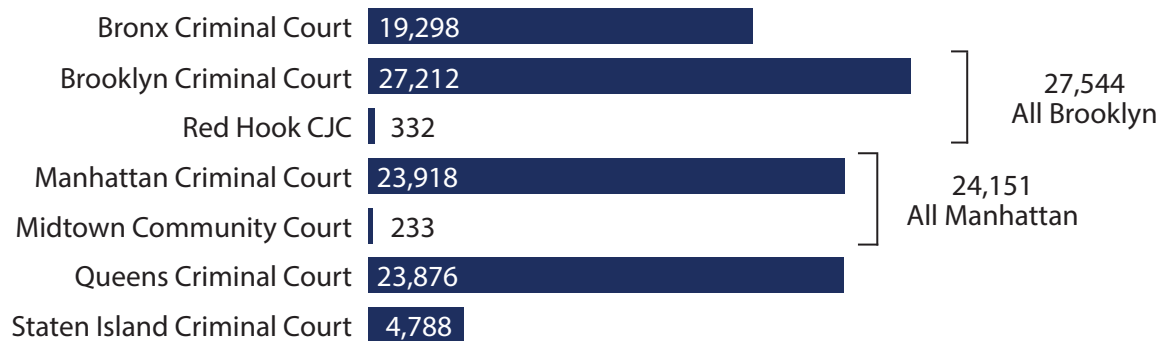
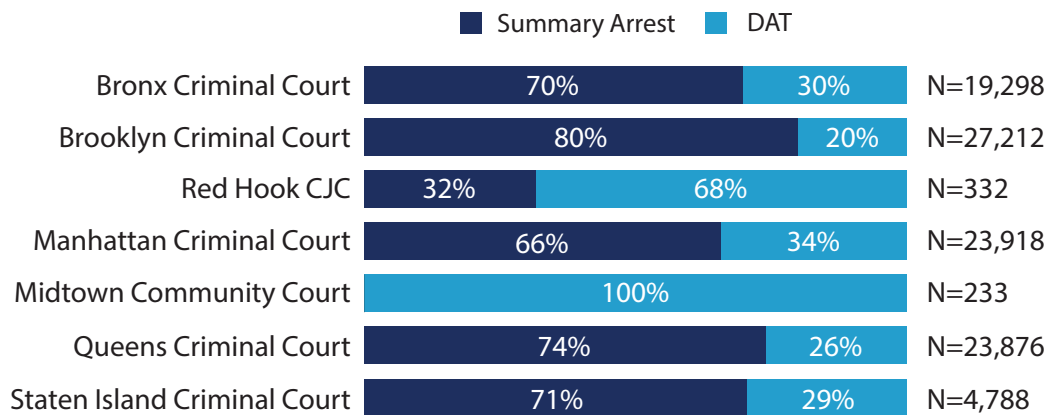


Figure 2  
Arrest Type, by Court of Arraignment



## About The Data

- ▶ Data in this report are restricted to arrests made in 2020.
- ▶ Post-arraignment outcomes are tracked up to final disposition or December 31, 2021, whichever came first.
- ▶ Comparisons to previous years should be made with caution due to COVID-19's impact on court operations during the period covered in this report. For instance, a large share of post-arraignment hearings were held in virtual court parts where warrants were less likely to be issued for failure to appear.
- ▶ Individuals prosecuted in multiple cases may be represented more than once in the data.
- ▶ Community courts—Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn and the Midtown Community Court in Manhattan—offer an array of services and alternative sanctions not available in the central courts. In most other figures in this report, cases arraigned in these courts are included in the totals for their respective boroughs.
- ▶ Sixteen-year-olds subject to New York State's Raise the Age law are excluded from this report.

# Demographics

## RACE

Figure 3  
Race/Ethnicity, Citywide  
N=99,657

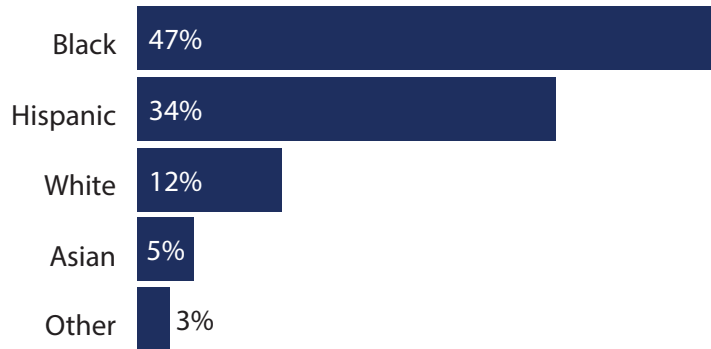
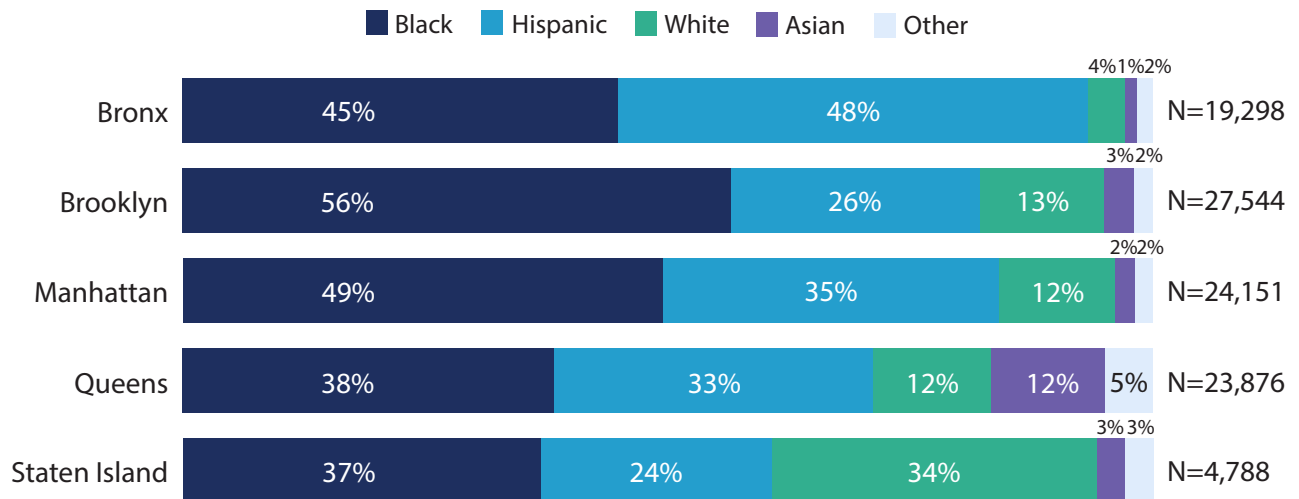


Figure 4  
Race/Ethnicity, by Borough



### About The Data

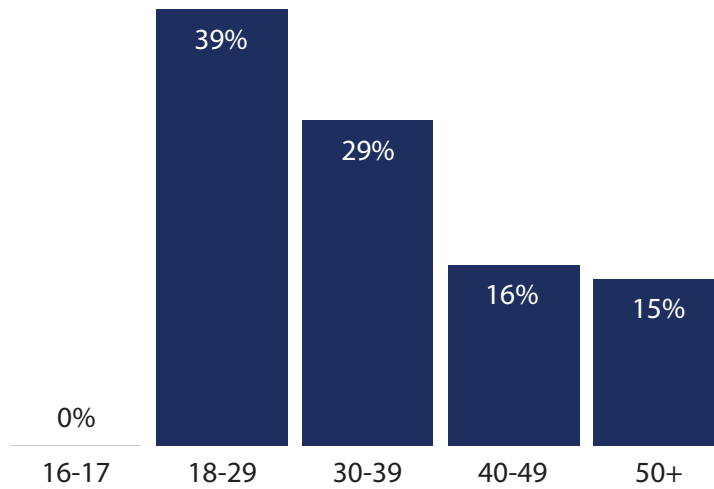
► Information about an individual's race was obtained either from the CJA pre-arraignment interview or from the NYPD.

## AGE

- About 2 in 3 prosecuted individuals (68%) were between the ages of 18 and 39.

Figure 5  
Age, Citywide

N=99,653

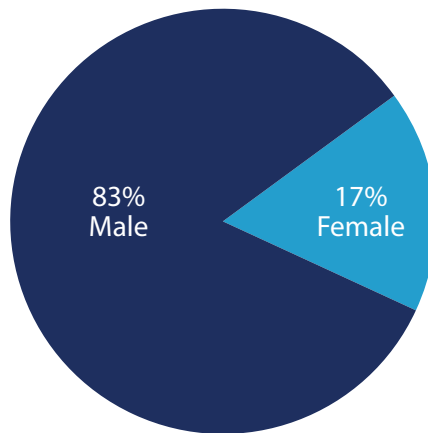


## SEX

- About 4 in 5 prosecuted individuals (83%) were male.

Figure 6  
Sex, Citywide

N=99,636



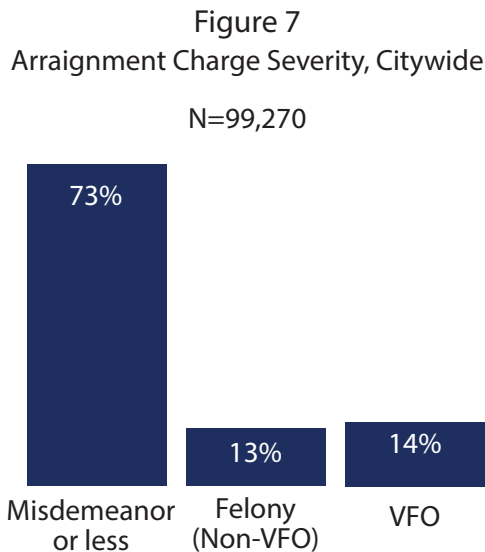
### About The Data

- ▶ Information about an individual's age and sex was obtained either from the CJA pre-arraignment interview or from the NYPD.

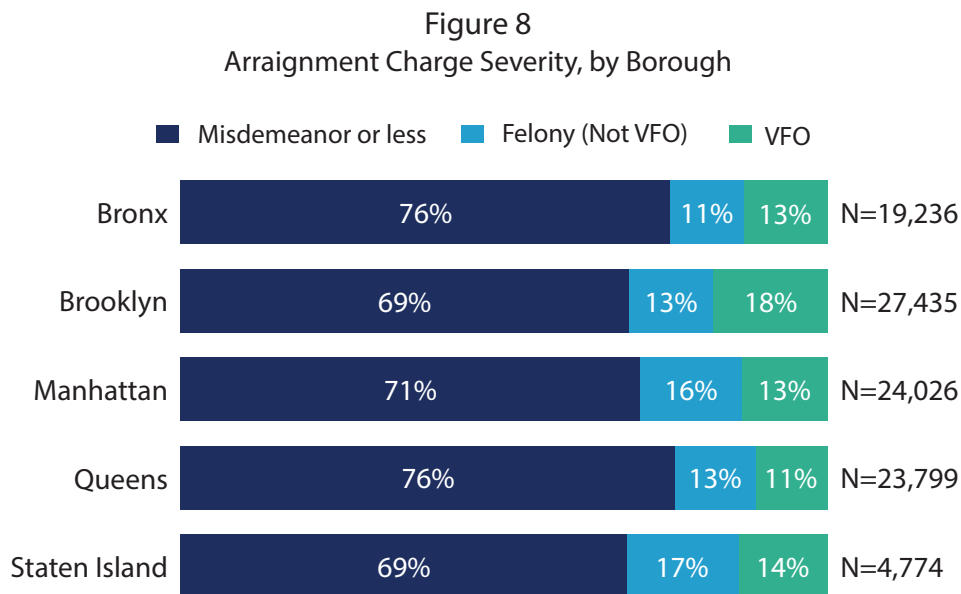
# Charge Severity and Type

## CHARGE SEVERITY

- A misdemeanor was the most serious arraignment charge in about 3 in 4 cases (73%).



- Brooklyn and Queens had the highest percentage of misdemeanor or less charges (76%); Staten Island had the highest percentage of nonviolent felonies (17%) and Brooklyn had the highest percentage of VFOs (18%).



### About The Data

- Charge severity is based on the most serious charge at arraignment. Violent felony offenses (VFOs) are a subset of felonies subject to restrictive sentencing provisions (e.g., manslaughter in the 1st degree, rape in the 1st degree, assault in the 1st degree). Such charges, as well as Class A violent felonies (e.g., murder in the 1st degree, murder in the 2nd degree, kidnapping in the 1st degree), are classified as VFOs throughout this report. Cases with missing charge severity information are excluded from figures broken down by charge severity.

## CHARGE TYPE

- Physically injurious was the most common arraignment charge type citywide and in every borough.

Figure 9  
Arraignment Charge Type, Citywide

N=99,639

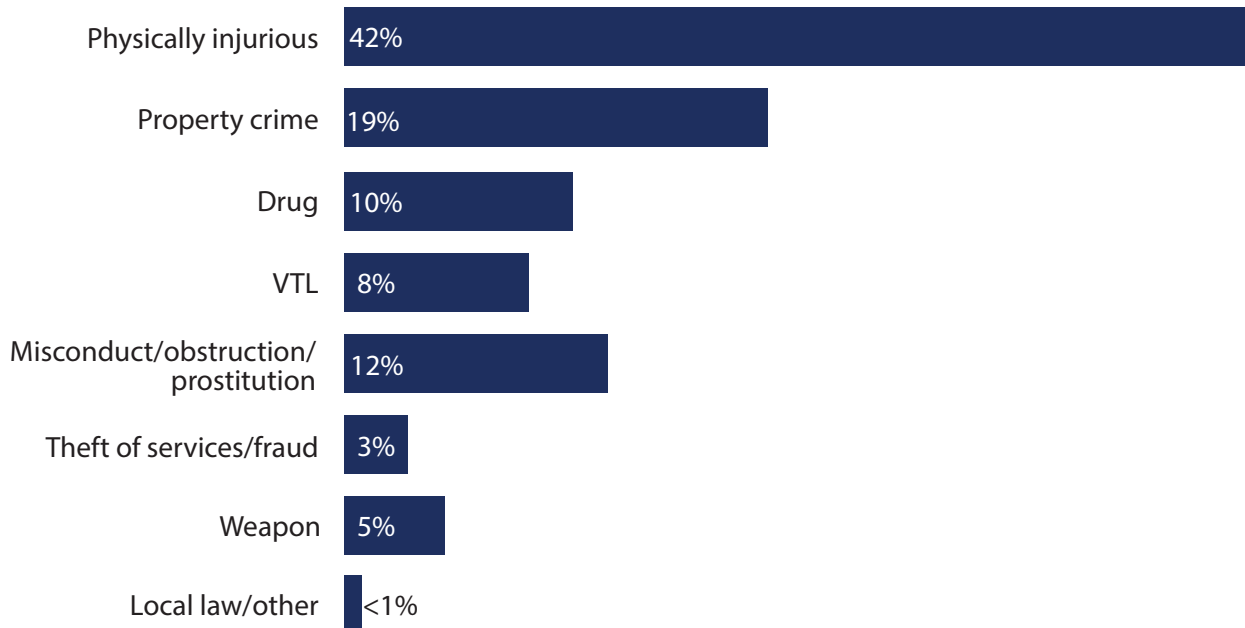
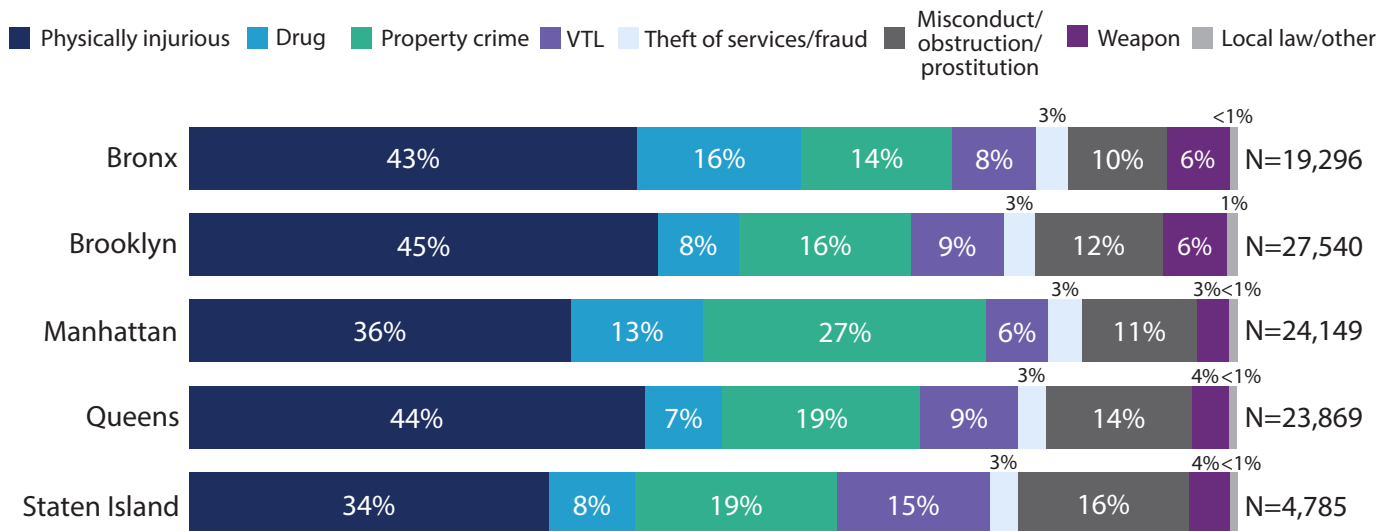


Figure 10  
Arraignment Charge Type, by Borough



### About The Data

- ▶ Physically injurious charges include homicide, arson, assault, violent sex offenses, kidnapping, robbery, and other crimes of physical harm.
- ▶ Drug charges are primarily possession and/or sale of a controlled substance.
- ▶ Charge types can include misdemeanor and felony offenses.



# CJA Release Recommendation

## CJA Recommendation Point System

Predictive Factors	Points Deducted
<b>Years since last bench warrant</b>	
• Within past year	6
• 1-2 years	4
• 2-5 years	3
• No prior warrant or warrant is over 5 years old	0
<b>More than one bench warrant in last 5 years</b>	
• Yes	2
• No	0
<b>Years since last misdemeanor or felony conviction</b>	
• Within past year	2
• No conviction in past year	0
<b>Misdemeanor convictions in last three years</b>	
• 3 or more	3
• 2	2
• 1	1
• 0	0
<b>Felony convictions in last 10 years</b>	
• 1 or more	1
• 0	0
<b>Pending cases</b>	
• 1 or more	3
• 0	0
<b>Length of time at last two addresses</b>	
• No address	5
• Less than 3 years	2
• 3 or more years	0
<b>Reachable by phone</b>	
• No phone	3
• Reachable by phone	0

At arraignments in New York City, CJA provides judges with a **Release Recommendation** based on an assessment of a person's likelihood of appearing in court. Under the auspices of the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), CJA's release recommendation point system was recently updated using more recent appearance data and advanced statistical techniques. Research conducted as part of the new point system's development suggests that it more accurately predicts court appearance. The new point system was rolled out in November 2019.

Each person begins the assessment with a score of 25, and points are subtracted when a predictive factor is present. Depending on the point total and the charge severity in the case, a person can receive a recommendation of Recommended for ROR, Consider all options, or Not Recommended for ROR.

All individuals with a score between 19 and 25 points are Recommended for ROR, while all individuals with a score between 0 and 11 points are Not Recommended for ROR. The release recommendation for those who score between 12 and 18 points depends on the charge severity at arraignment.

## CJA Recommendation Categories

Score	Recommendation
19-25	■ Recommended for release on recognizance (ROR)
16-18	■ Charged with misdemeanor and non-violent felony: Recommended for release on recognizance (ROR)
	■ Charged with violent felony offense: Consider all options
12-15	■ Charged with misdemeanor: Recommended for release on recognizance (ROR)
	■ Charged with felony: Consider all options
0-11	■ Not recommended for release on recognizance (ROR)

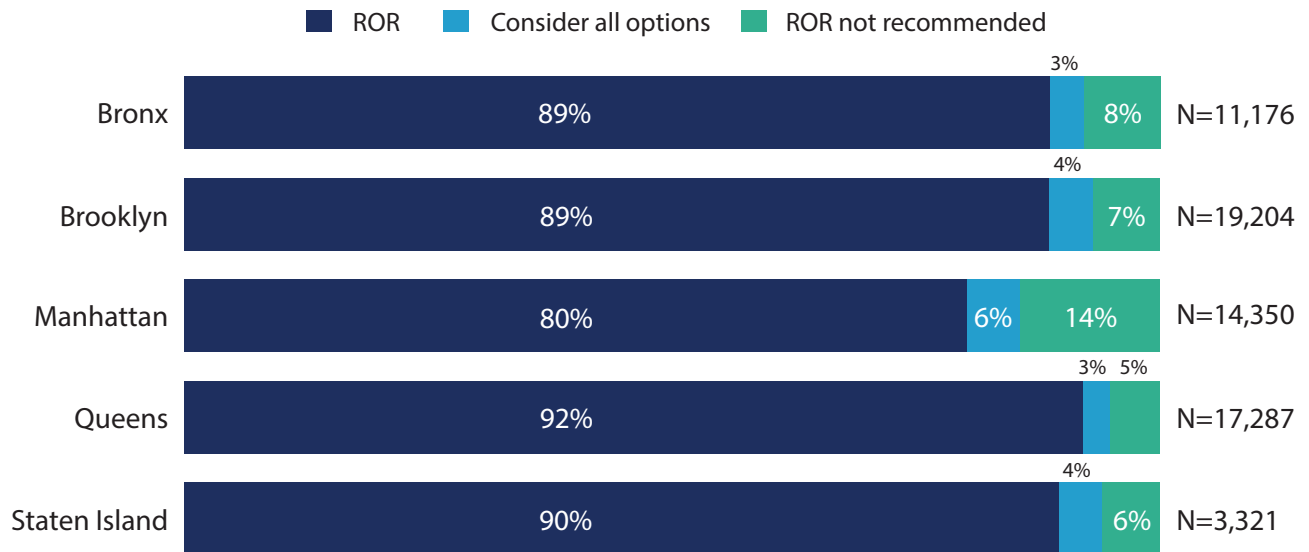
## CJA RELEASE RECOMMENDATION

- Eighty-eight percent of people interviewed were recommended for ROR. Only 8% were not recommended for ROR.

Figure 11  
CJA Release Assessment Recommendation, Citywide  
N=65,338

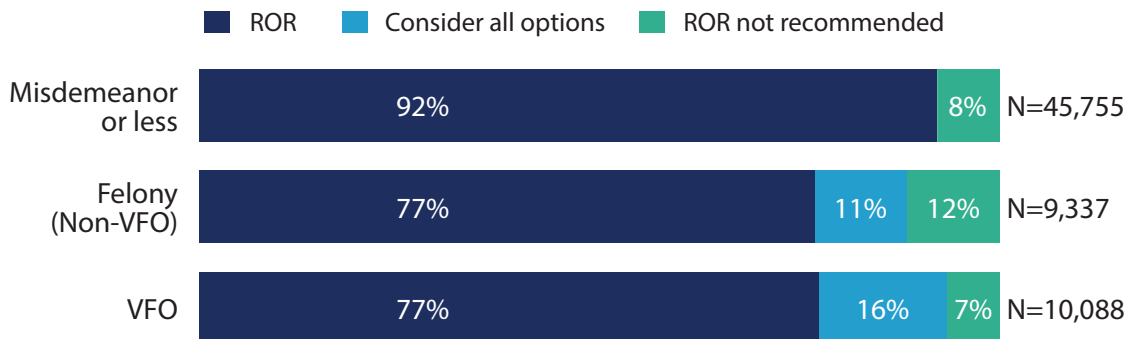


Figure 12  
CJA Release Assessment Recommendation, by Borough



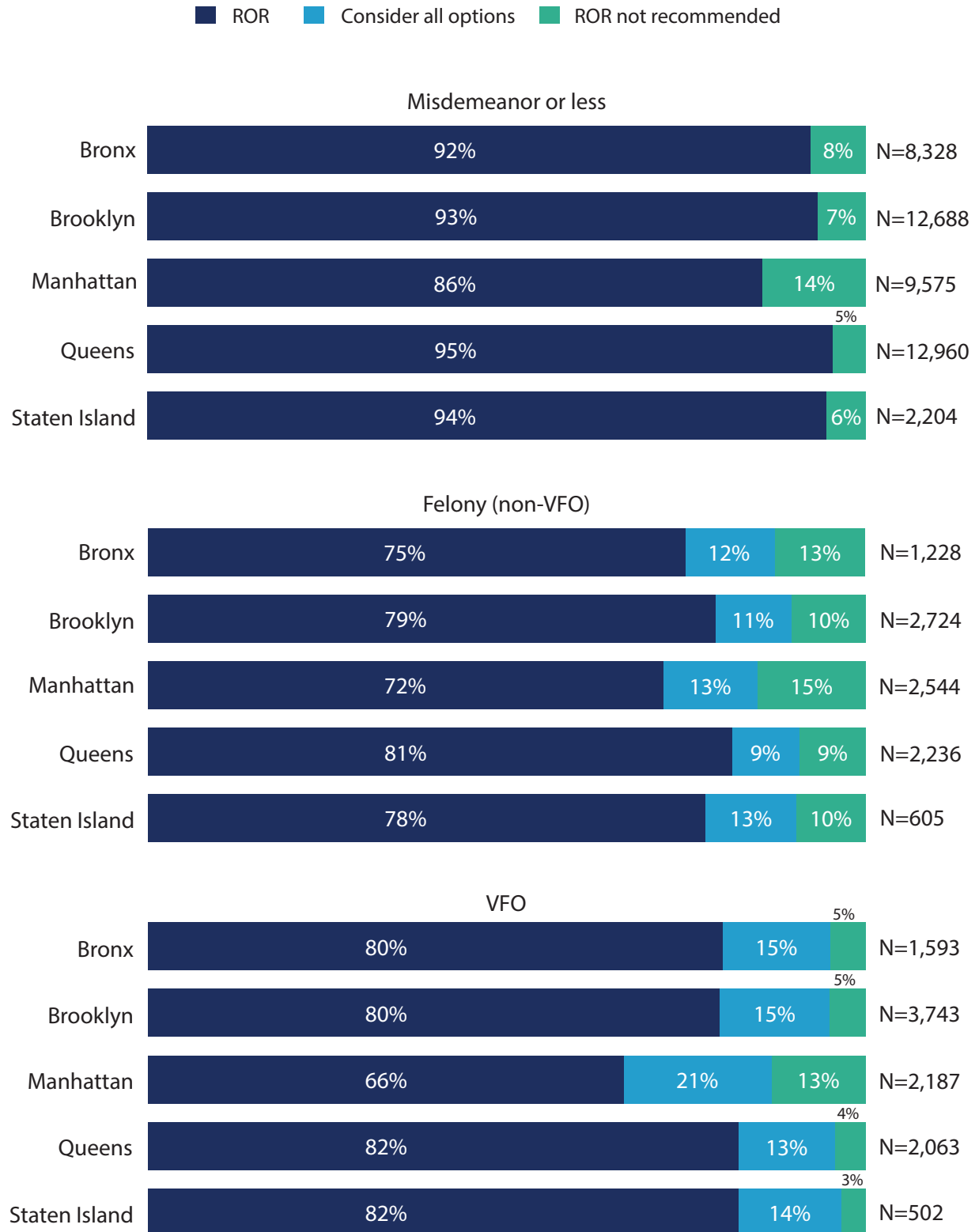
- People charged with a felony were less likely to be recommended for ROR.

Figure 13  
CJA Release Assessment Recommendation, by Charge Severity



# CJA RELEASE RECOMMENDATION AND CHARGE SEVERITY

Figure 14  
CJA Release Assessment Recommendation, by Severity and Borough

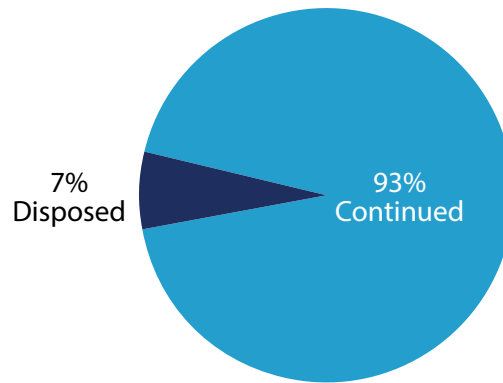


# Summary Arrests: Arraignment Outcomes

## ARRAIGNMENT OUTCOMES

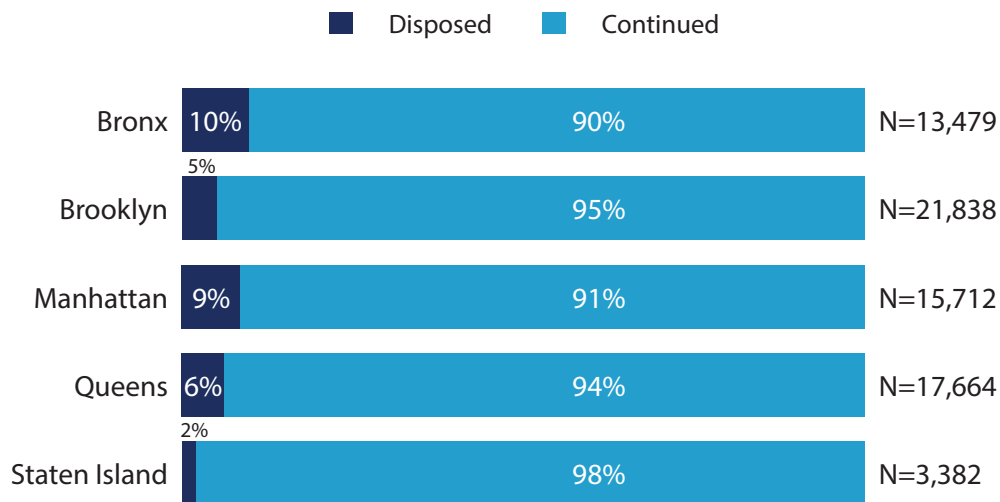
- More than 9 in 10 summary arrests (93%) were continued at arraignment citywide.

Figure 15  
Arraignment Outcomes for Summary Cases, Citywide  
N=72,075



- The percentage of cases continued at arraignment was higher in Staten Island (98%) and Brooklyn (95%).

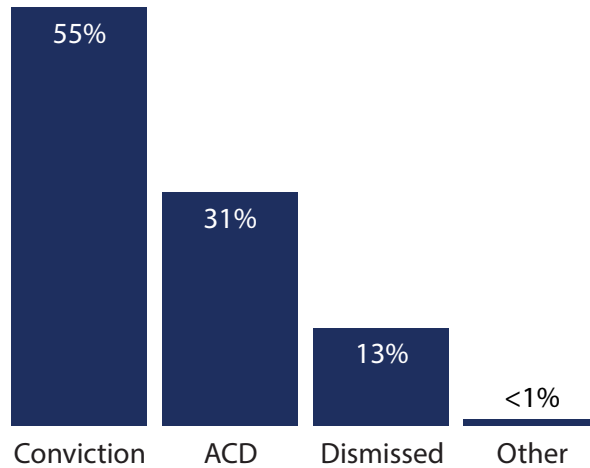
Figure 16  
Arraignment Outcomes for Summary Cases, by Borough



## OUTCOMES IN CASES DISPOSED AT ARRAIGNMENT

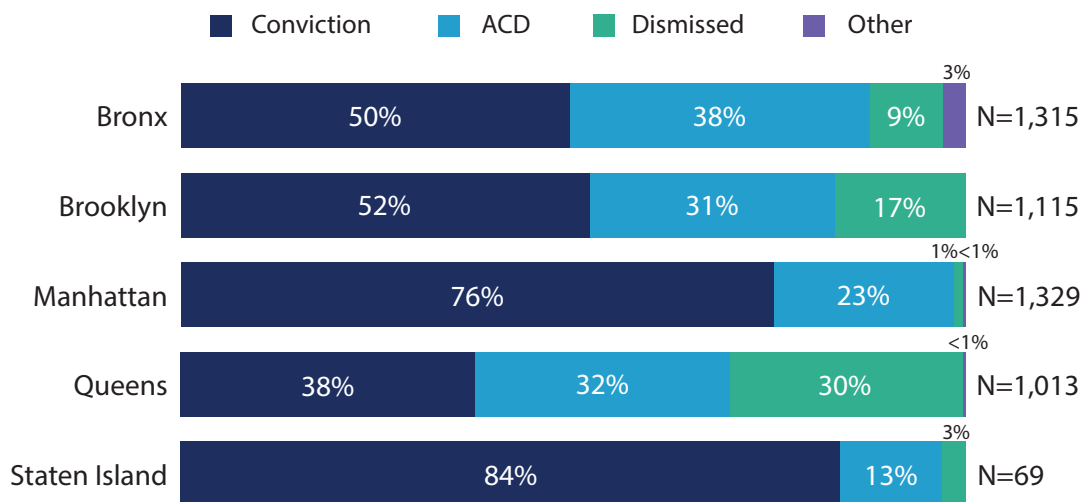
- About half of summary cases disposed at arraignment (55%) ended in a conviction. Thirty-one percent of cases were adjourned in contemplation of dismissal (ACD), deferring a final disposition in the case for six to twelve months. Such cases are typically dismissed at the end of this period. Thirteen percent of cases were dismissed.

Figure 17  
Outcomes for Summary Cases Disposed at Arraignment, Citywide  
N=4,841



- The percentage of cases with a conviction was higher in Staten Island (84%) and Manhattan (76%). The percentage of cases adjourned in contemplation of dismissal was higher in the Bronx (38%) and Queens (32%).

Figure 18  
Outcomes for Summary Cases Disposed at Arraignment, by Borough



### About The Data

- ▶ In most disposed cases with an outcome of "other," the individual's case was transferred to another court (e.g., Family Court), or the case was combined with another ongoing case.

# Desk Appearance Tickets: Arraignment Outcomes

A **desk appearance ticket** (DAT) is a written notice to appear in court for arraignment at a future date. People who are issued a DAT are not detained before arraignment. In 2020, DATs could be issued for any misdemeanor charge as well as several nonviolent Class E felony arrest charges. The NYPD imposes additional restrictions such as denying DATs to individuals with an outstanding warrant.

- Citywide, there were 27,582 DAT arraignments. Thirty-one percent (8,439) were arraigned in Manhattan.

Figure 19  
DATs, by Borough

N=27,582



## ARRAIGNMENT OUTCOMES

- At arraignment, 27% of DATs were disposed, 55% were continued, and about 1 in 5 individuals (19%) failed to appear.

Figure 20  
Arraignment Outcomes for DATs, Citywide

N=27,582

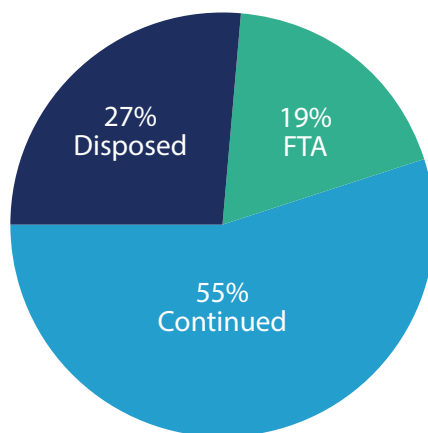
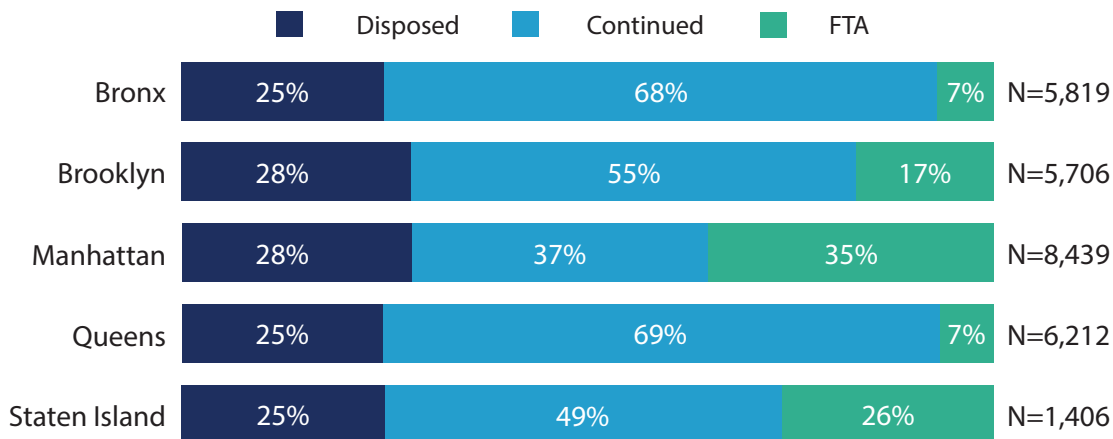


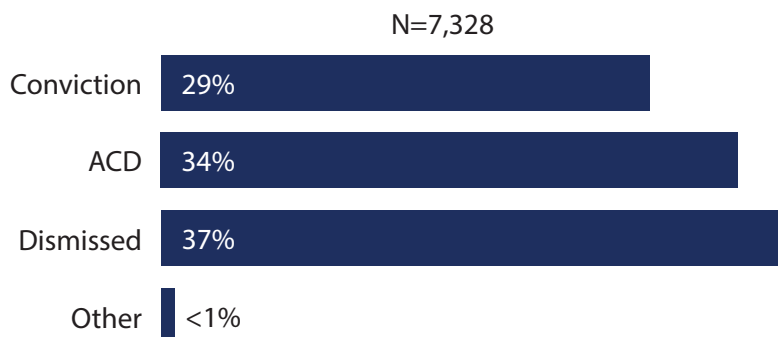
Figure 21  
Arraignment Outcomes for DATs, by Borough



### OUTCOMES IN CASES DISPOSED AT ARRAIGNMENT

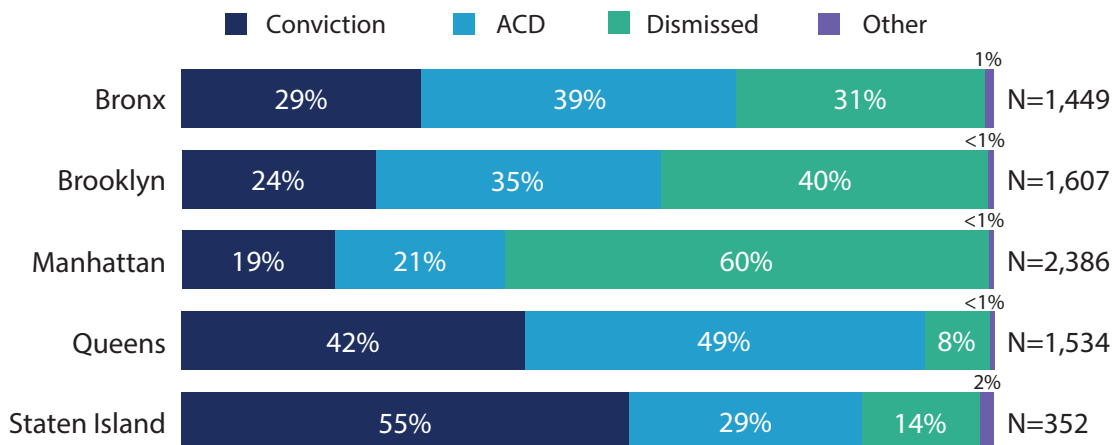
- Twenty-nine percent of DATs disposed at arraignment ended in a conviction. Thirty-four percent were adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, and 37% were dismissed.

Figure 22  
Outcomes for DATs Disposed at Arraignment, Citywide



- The percentage of cases with a conviction was higher in Staten Island (55%). The percentage of cases adjourned in contemplation of dismissal was higher in Queens (49%). Sixty percent of DATs were dismissed at arraignment in Manhattan.

Figure 23  
Outcomes for DATs Disposed at Arraignment, by Borough

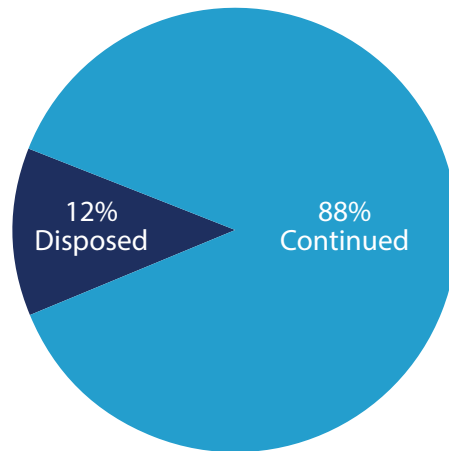


# Summary and DATs: Arraignment Outcomes

## ARRAIGNMENT OUTCOMES

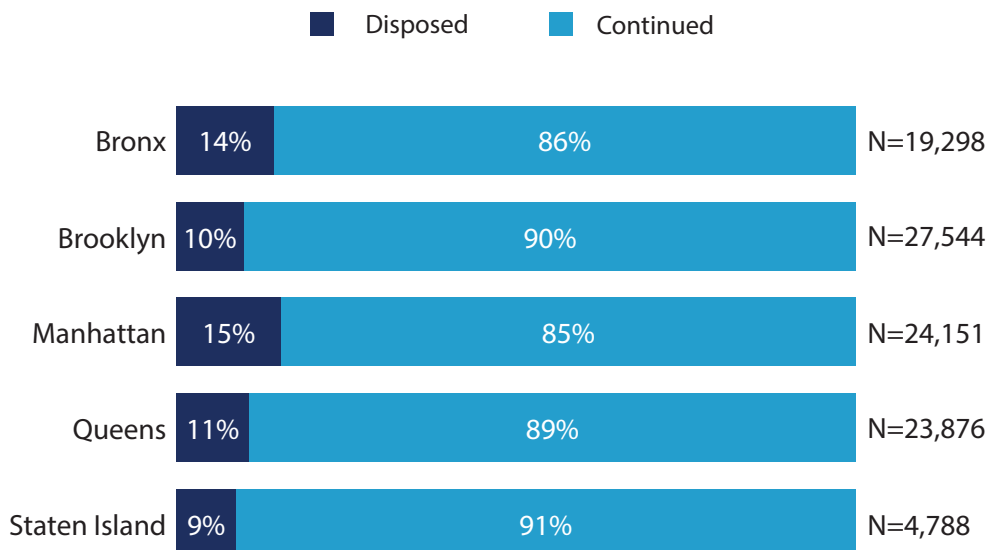
- Of all summary arrests and DATs combined, nearly 9 in 10 (88%) were continued at arraignment.

Figure 24  
Arraignment Outcomes for Summary Arrests and DATs, Citywide  
N=99,657



- In Staten Island, a case was more likely to be continued at arraignment (91%). Manhattan had the highest percentage of cases (15%) disposed at arraignment.

Figure 25  
Arraignment Outcomes for Summary Arrests and DATs, by Borough

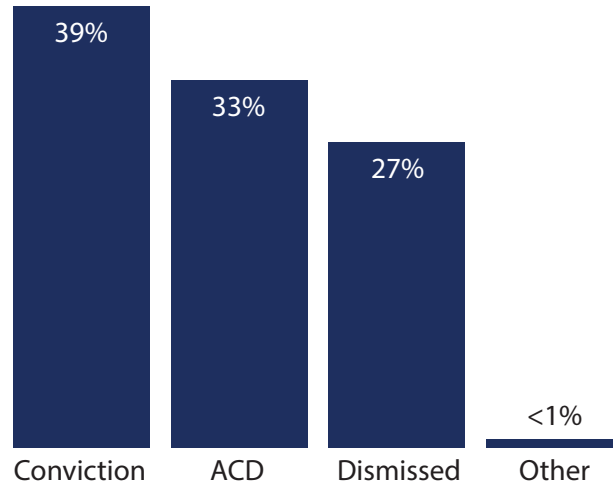




## OUTCOMES IN CASES DISPOSED AT ARRAIGNMENT

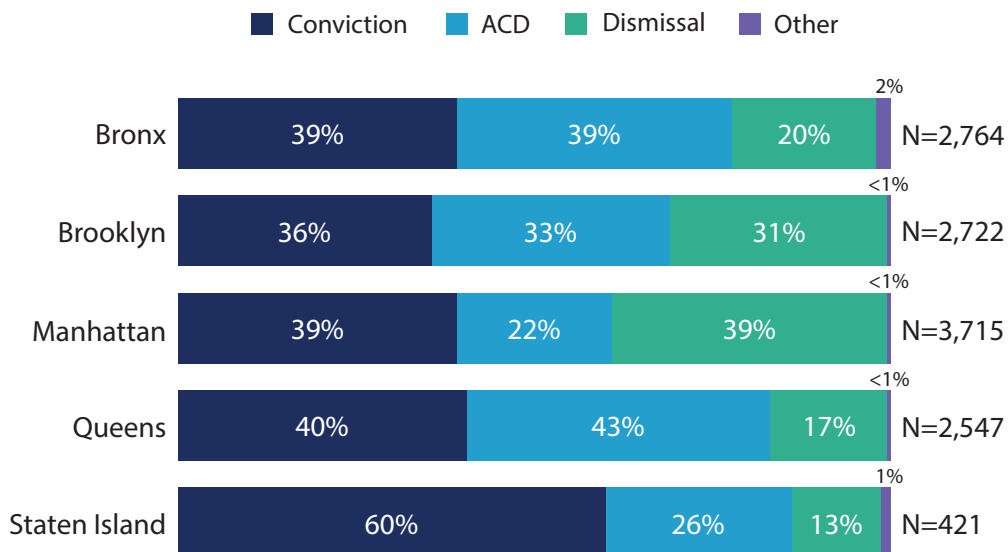
- Thirty-nine percent of cases disposed at arraignment ended in a conviction. Thirty-three percent of cases were adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, and 27% were dismissed.

Figure 26  
Outcomes for Summary Arrests and DATs Disposed at Arraignment, Citywide  
N=12,169



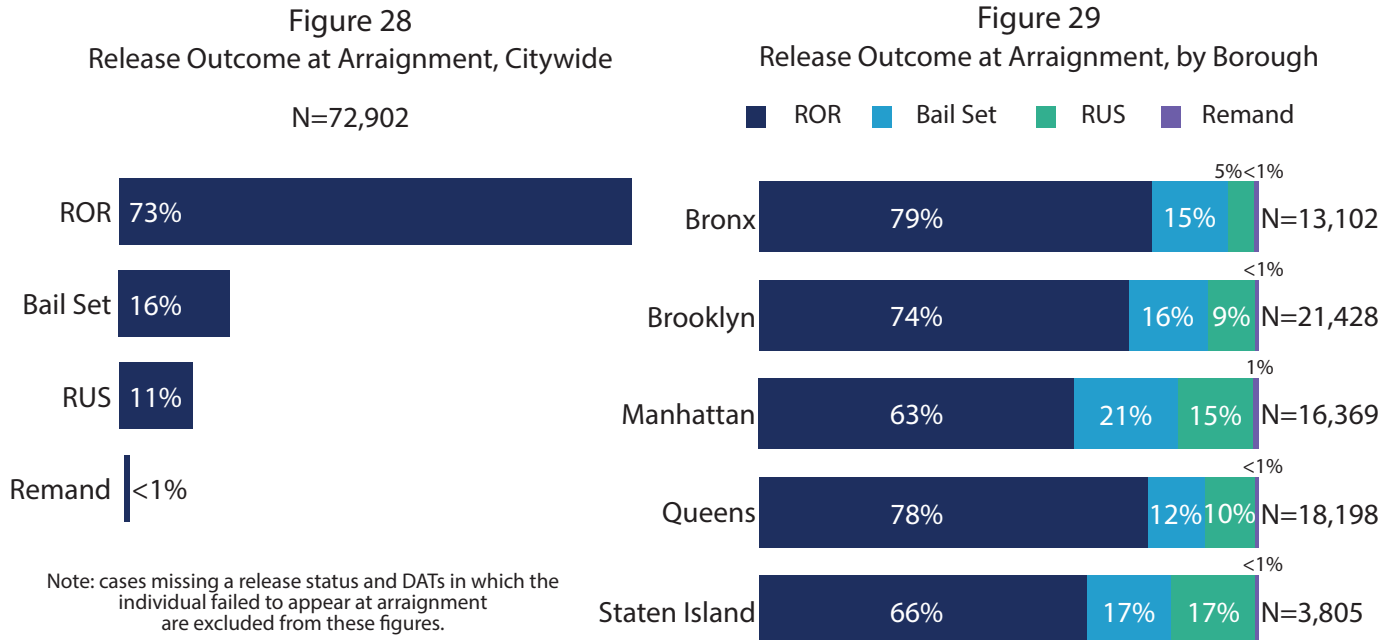
- The percentage of cases with a conviction was higher in Staten Island (60%). The percentage of cases adjourned in contemplation of dismissal was higher in Queens (43%). Thirty-nine percent of cases were dismissed at arraignment in Manhattan.

Figure 27  
Outcomes for Summary Arrests and DATs Disposed at Arraignment, by Borough

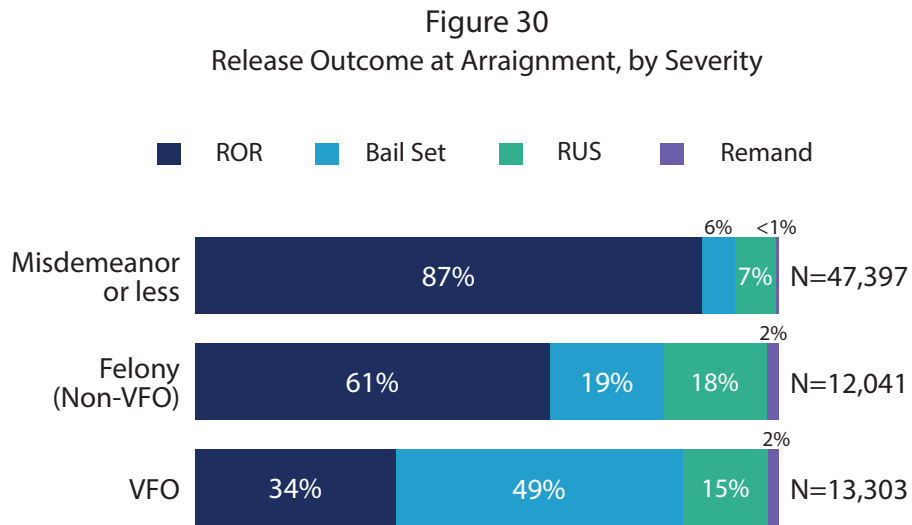


## RELEASE OUTCOME AT ARRAIGNMENT

- In cases continued past arraignment, over 4 in 5 were released without monetary conditions — either released on recognizance (73%) or released under supervision (11%).



- The more serious the charge, the less likely a person was ROR'd at arraignment.



### About The Data

- If a person does not appear for a DAT arraignment, the case is usually continued and a warrant is issued. Such cases are included in previous figures as continued cases, but are excluded from figures showing arraignment release outcomes as no release decision is made at arraignment.
- RUS (Release Under Supervision) indicates the person entered Supervised Release. Supervised Release is a program in which a person works with a social worker during the pendency of the case, with varying levels of supervision that combine phone calls and in-person visits. CJA operates the Supervised Release program in Queens. For a description of that program and data on clients, see pages 41-42.

# RELEASE OUTCOME AT ARRAIGNMENT, BY CJA RELEASE RECOMMENDATION

Figure 31  
Release Outcome for Continued Cases by CJA Release Recommendation, Citywide

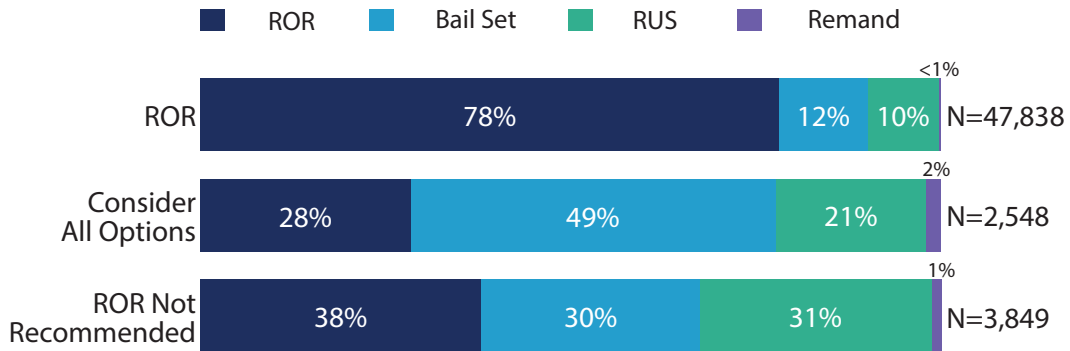


Figure 32  
Release Outcome for Continued Cases by CJA Release Recommendation, by Borough

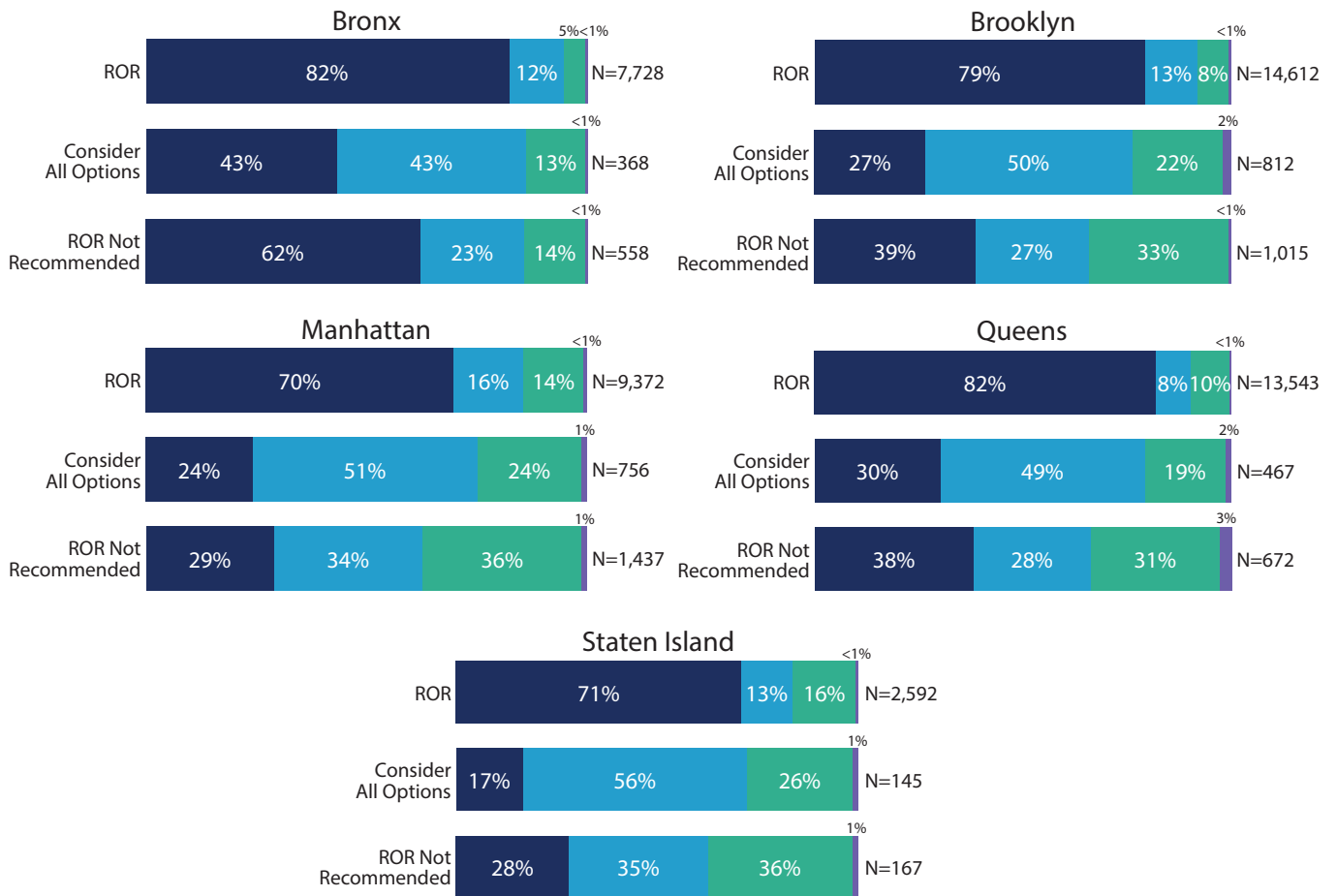
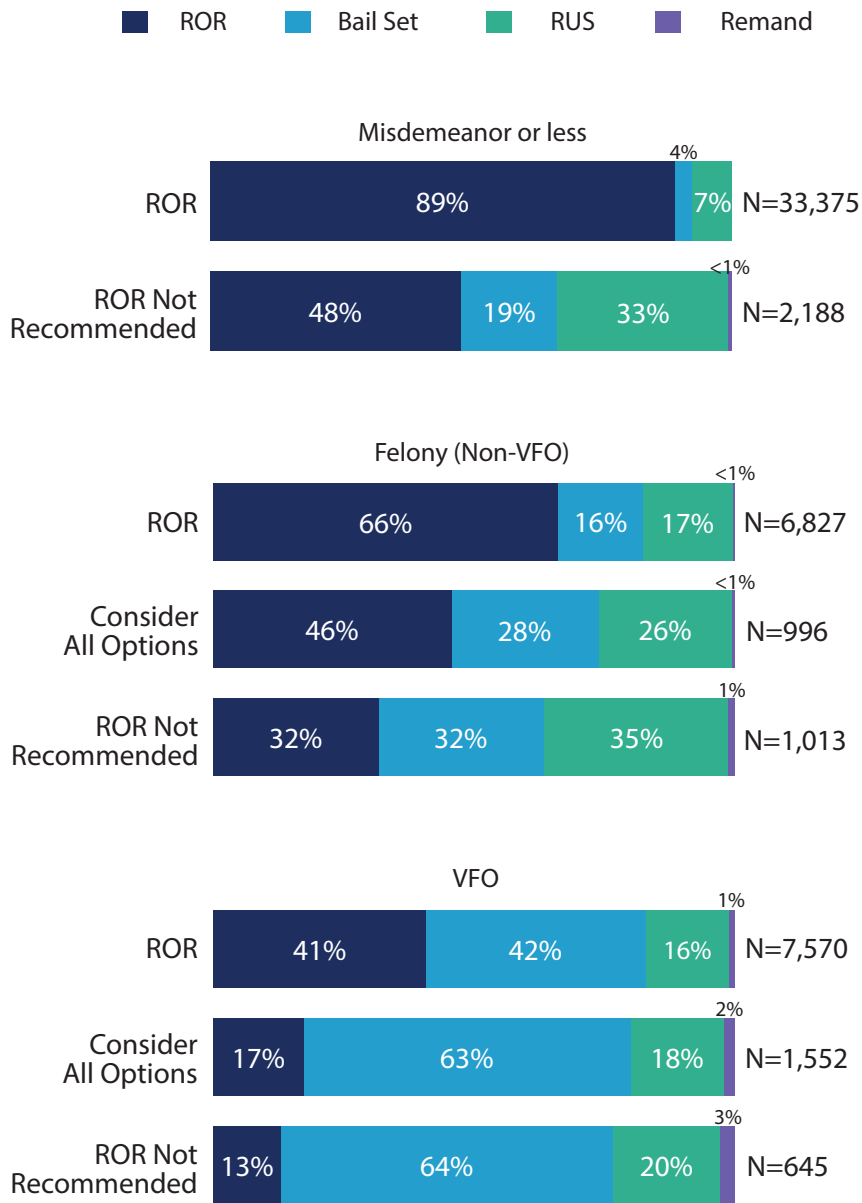


Figure 33  
Release Outcome for Continued Cases by CJA Release Recommendation, by Severity



About The Data

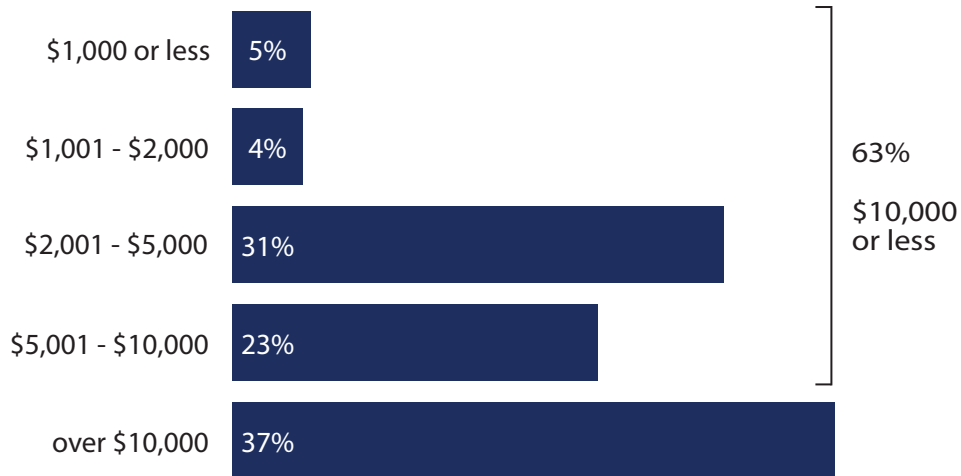
- ▶ Consider all Options is not a release recommendation category in misdemeanor cases.

## BAIL AMOUNT

- Bail was set at \$10,000 or less in about 2 in 3 cases (63%). It was set at more than \$10,000 in about 1 in 3 cases (37%).

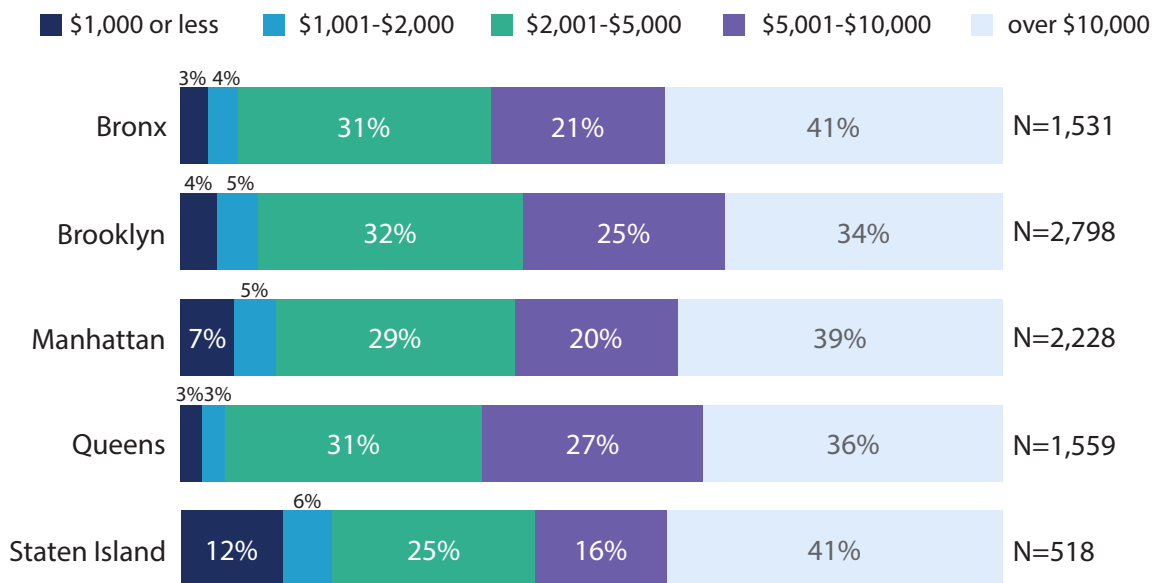
Figure 34  
Bail Amount Set at Arraignment, Citywide

N=8,634



- Bail amounts were similar across all five boroughs.

Figure 35  
Bail Amount Set at Arraignment, by Borough

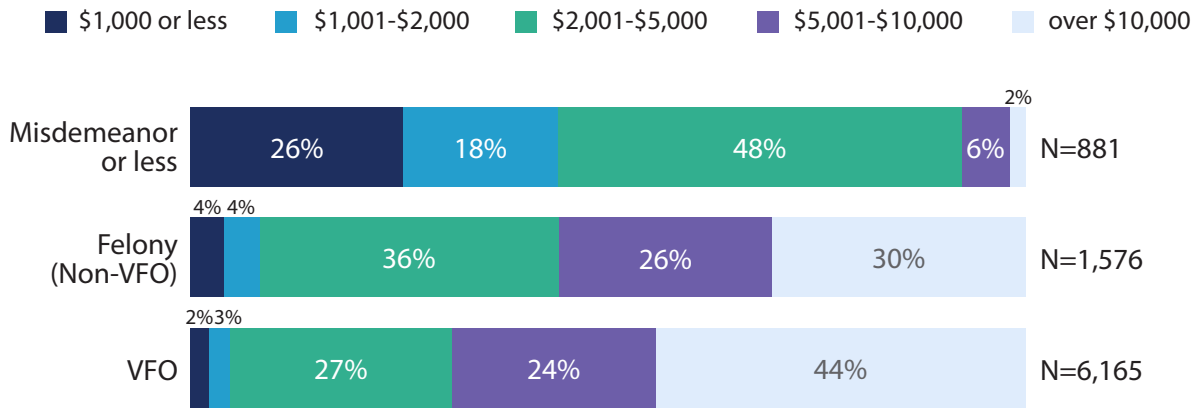


### About The Data

- Cases with bail set at \$1 to indicate a nonmonetary pretrial hold are excluded.

- The amount of bail set was related to an individual's arraignment charge severity: bail was set at \$1,000 or less for about 1 in 4 misdemeanor or less charges (26%); it was set at more than \$10,000 in almost half of all violent felonies (44%).

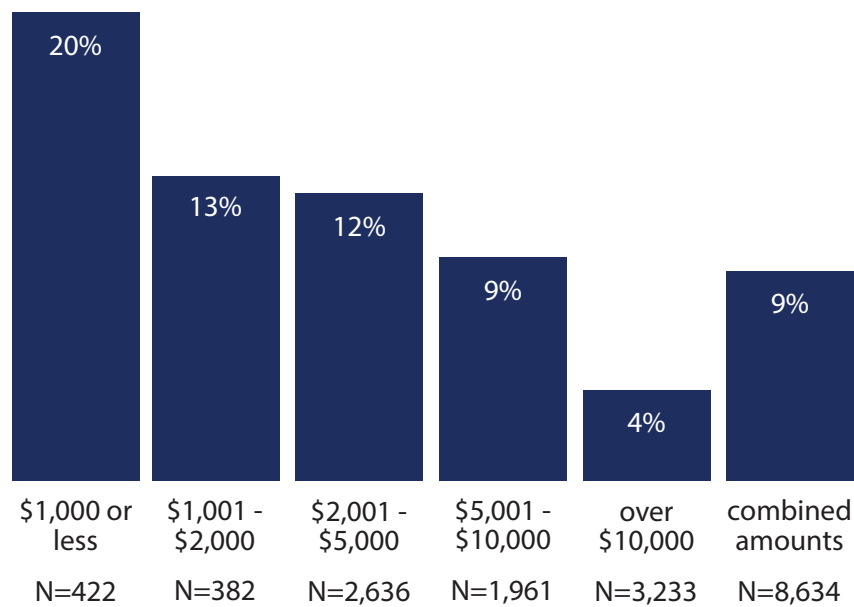
Figure 36  
Bail Amount Set at Arraignment, by Severity



### BAIL MAKING

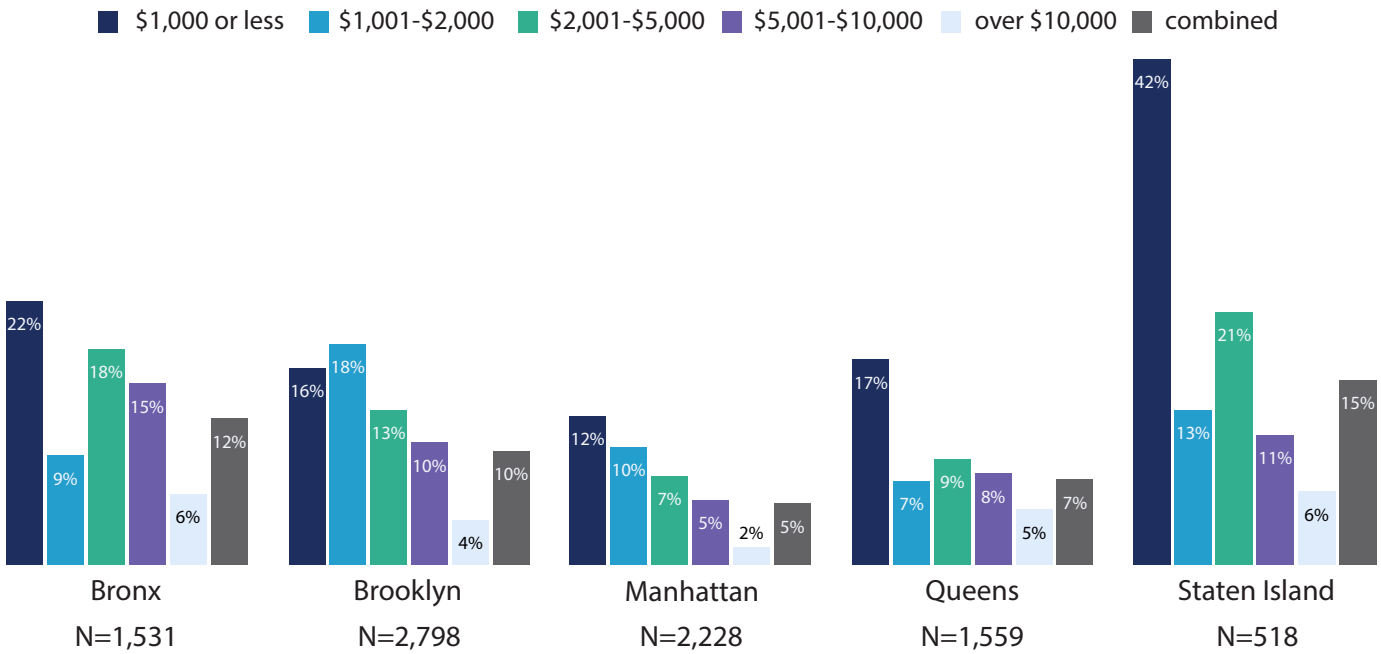
- Nine percent of individuals posted bail at arraignment. The greater the bail amount, the less likely it was paid at arraignment.

Figure 37  
Bail Making at Arraignment, Citywide



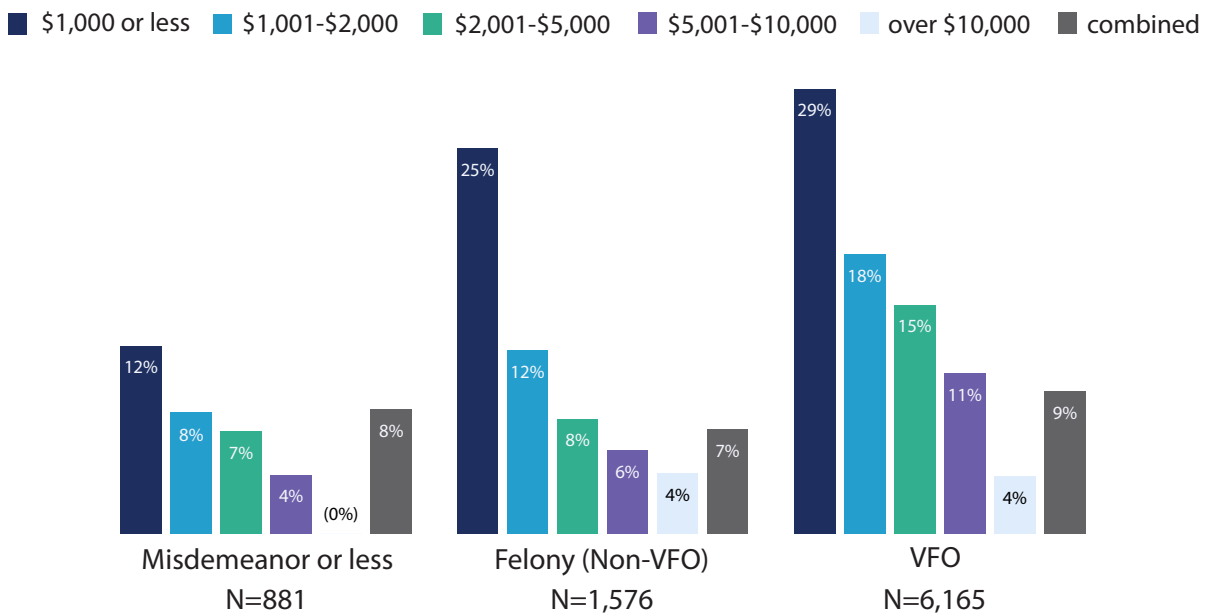
- Bail making at arraignment varied widely by borough. Individuals were more likely to post bail at arraignment in Staten Island (15%) and less likely in Manhattan (5%) and Queens (7%).

Figure 38  
Bail Making at Arraignment, by Borough



- Individuals were about as likely to post bail when charged with a misdemeanor (8%) compared to a felony (7-9%).

Figure 39  
Bail Making at Arraignment, by Severity



**PART 2**

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**POST-ARRAIGNMENT**



# Release Prior to Disposition

- Roughly 3 in 4 bailed individuals (72%) were ultimately released into the community prior to the disposition in the case. Release outcomes for bailed individuals are shown below by borough and by severity.

Figure 40  
Release Prior to Disposition, Citywide  
(cases with bail set at arraignment)

N=8,621

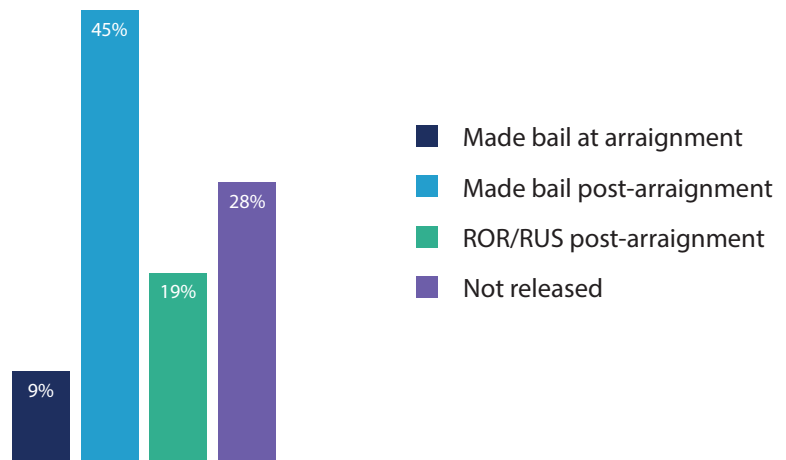


Figure 41  
Release Prior to Disposition, by Borough

Legend: ■ Made bail at arraignment ■ Made bail post-arraignment ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment ■ Not released

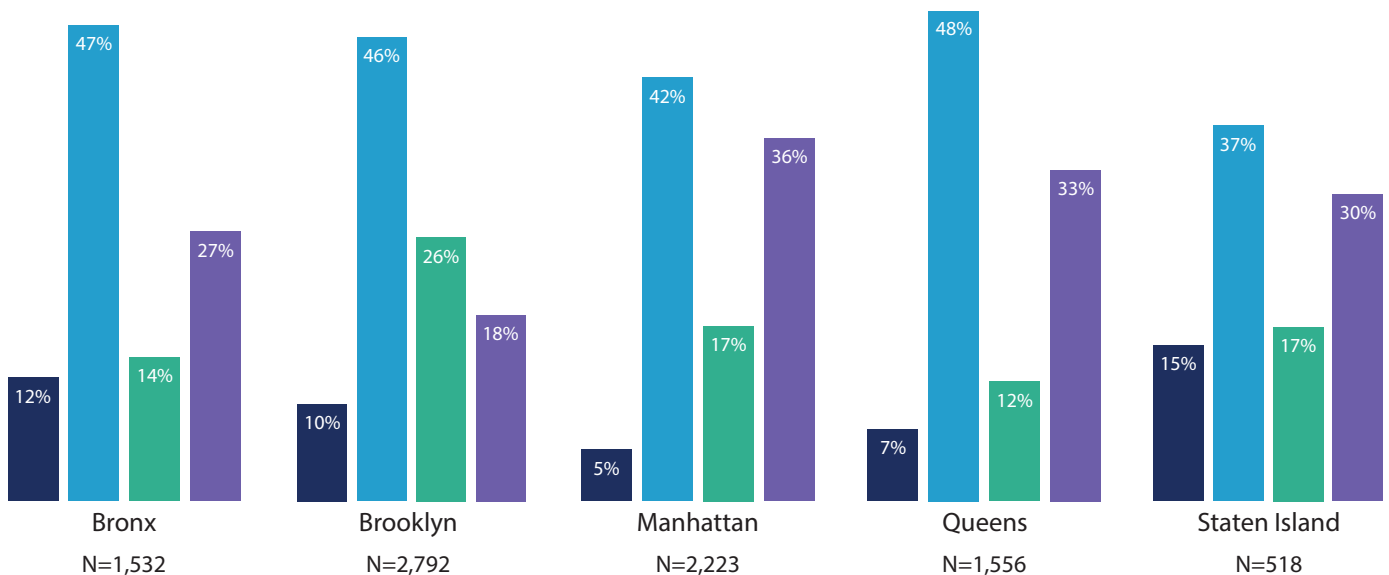
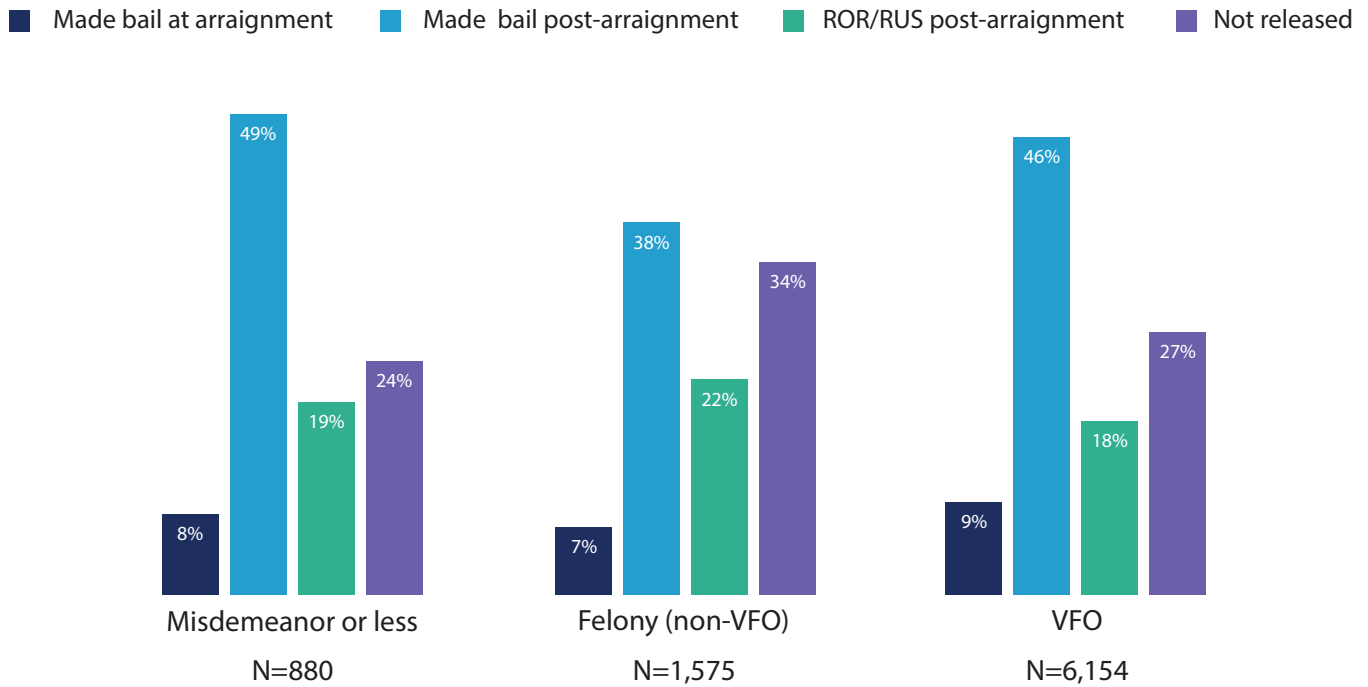


Figure 42  
Release Prior to Disposition, by Severity



- When bail was set at \$10,000 or less (96% of bailed cases; Figure 37), the rate of pretrial release varied by 10% (75-85%).

Figure 43  
Release Prior to Disposition, by Bail Amount

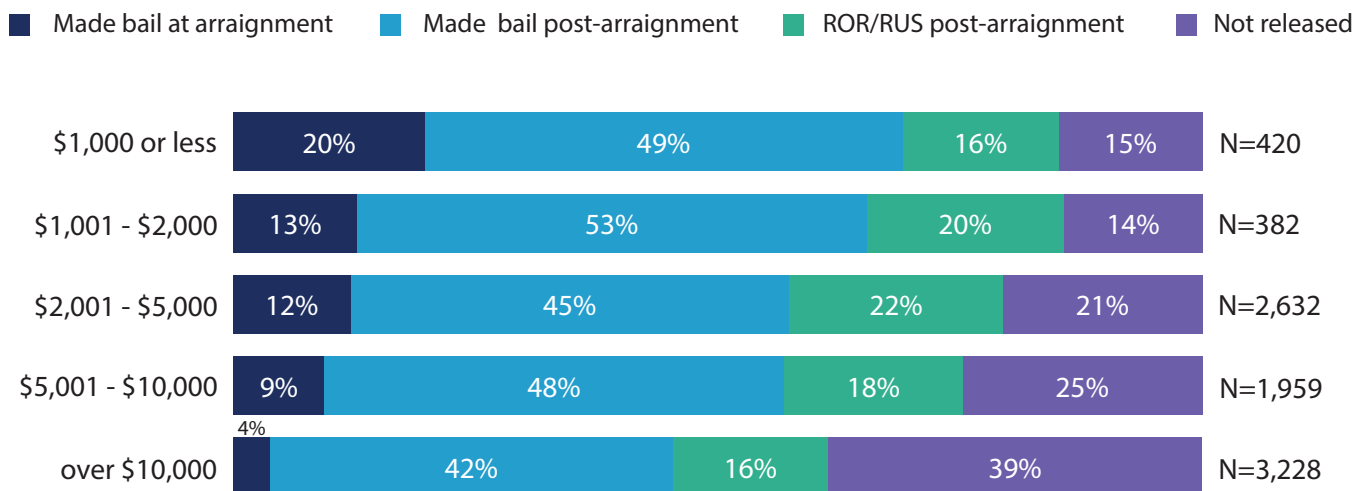


Figure 44  
Release Prior to Disposition, by Severity and Borough

- Release outcomes for bailed individuals are shown below by severity and borough.

■ Made bail at arraignment ■ Made bail post-arraignment ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment ■ Not released

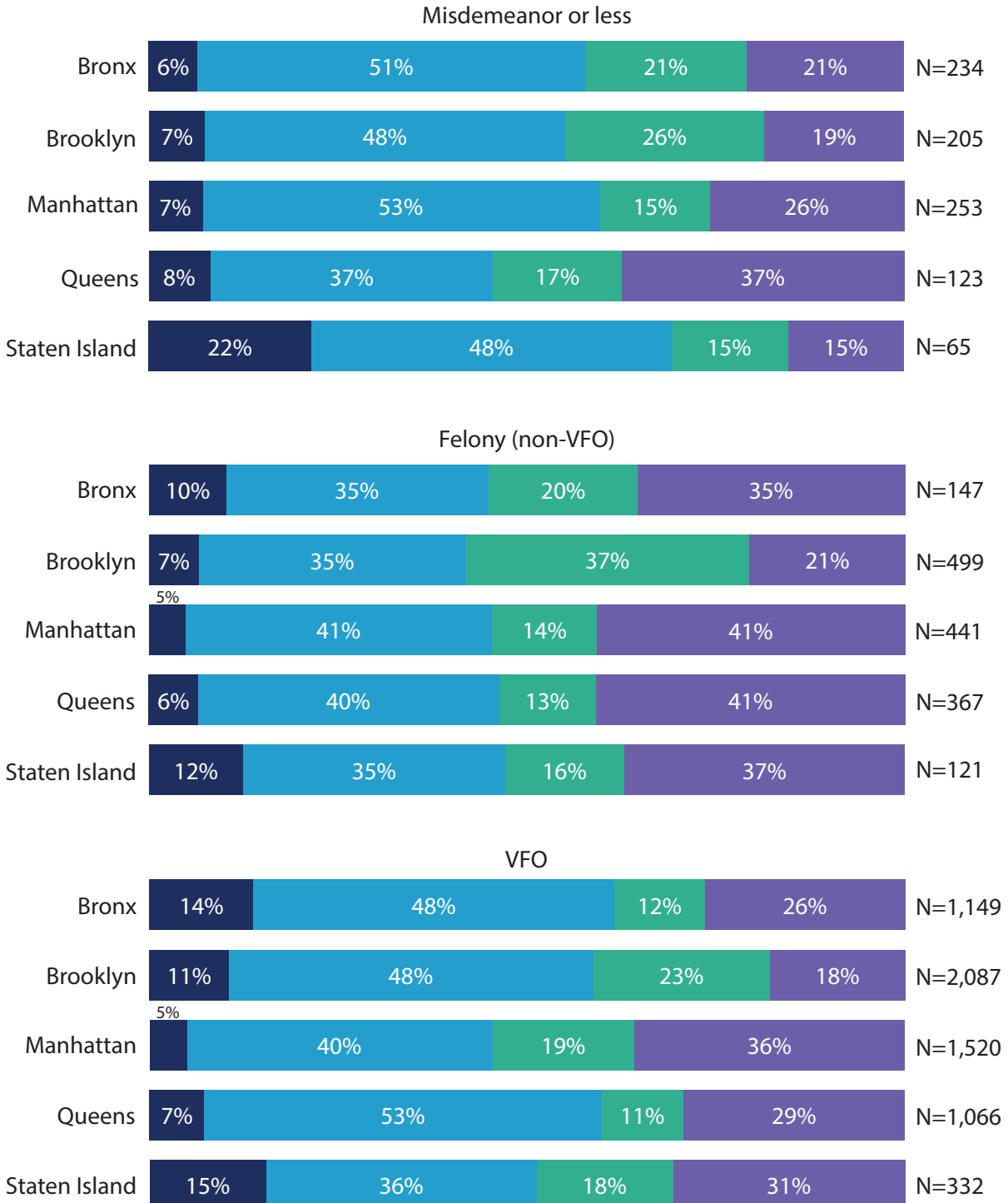
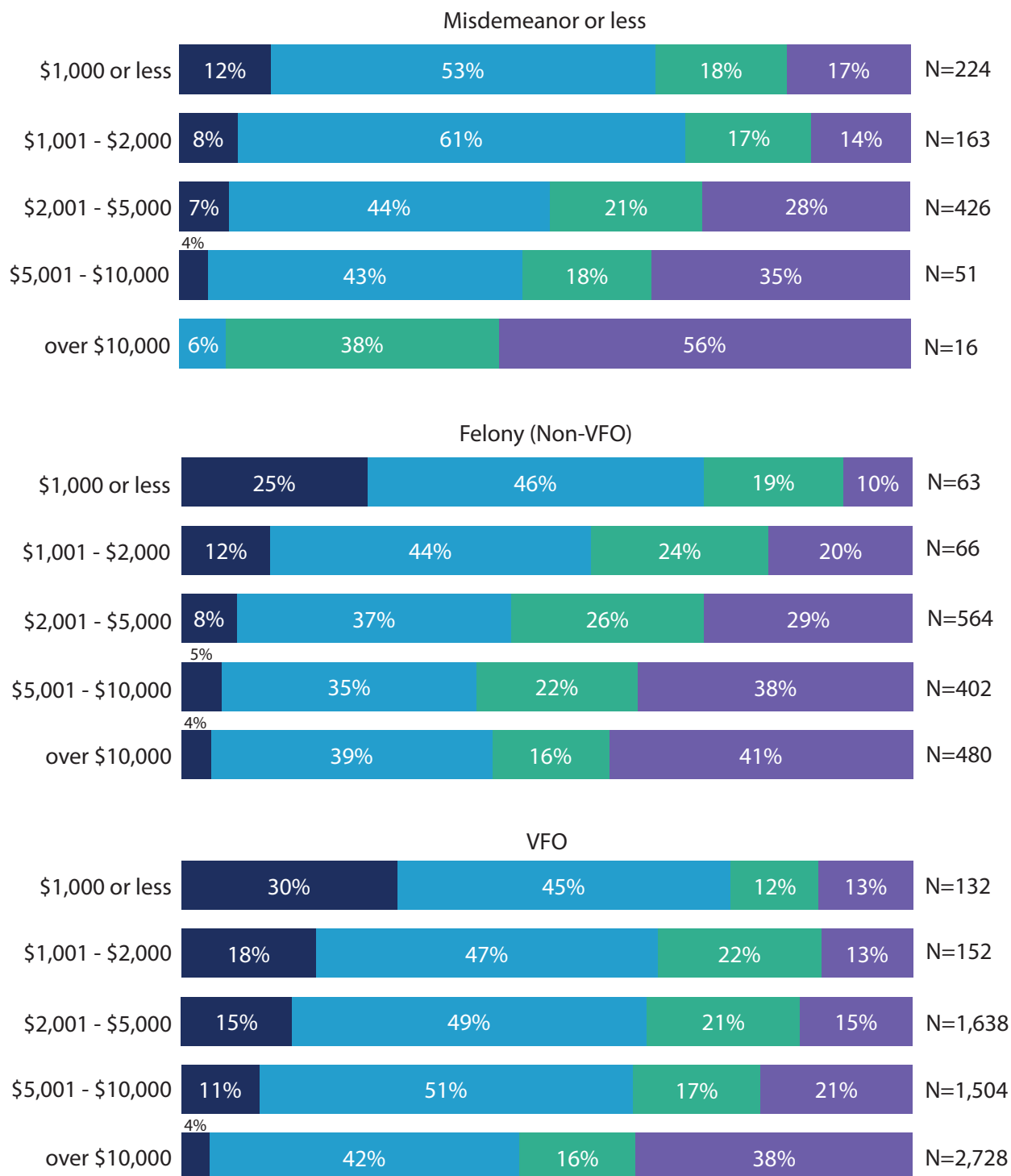


Figure 45  
Release Prior to Disposition, by Severity and Bail Amount

- Release outcomes for bailed individuals are shown below by severity and bail amount.

■ Made bail at arraignment   
 ■ Made bail post-arraignment   
 ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment   
 ■ Not released



- Release outcomes for bailed individuals are shown below by severity, borough, and bail amount.

Figure 46  
Release Prior to Disposition For Nonfelony Cases, by Borough and Bail Amount

■ Made bail at arraignment   ■ Made bail post-arraignment   ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment   ■ Not released

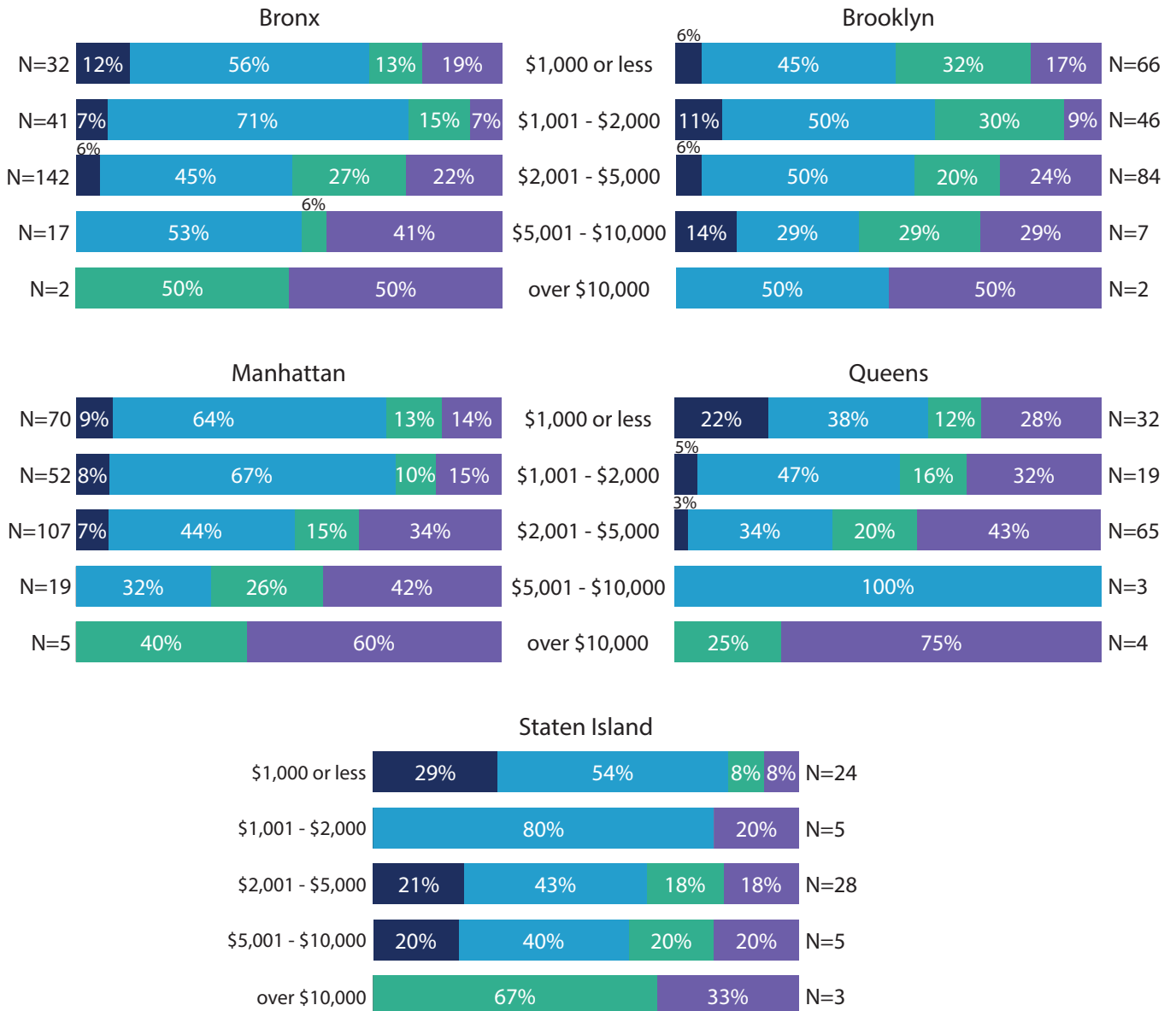


Figure 47  
Release Prior to Disposition For Felony (Non-VFO) Cases, by Borough and Bail Amount

■ Made bail at arraignment   ■ Made bail post-arraignment   ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment   ■ Not released

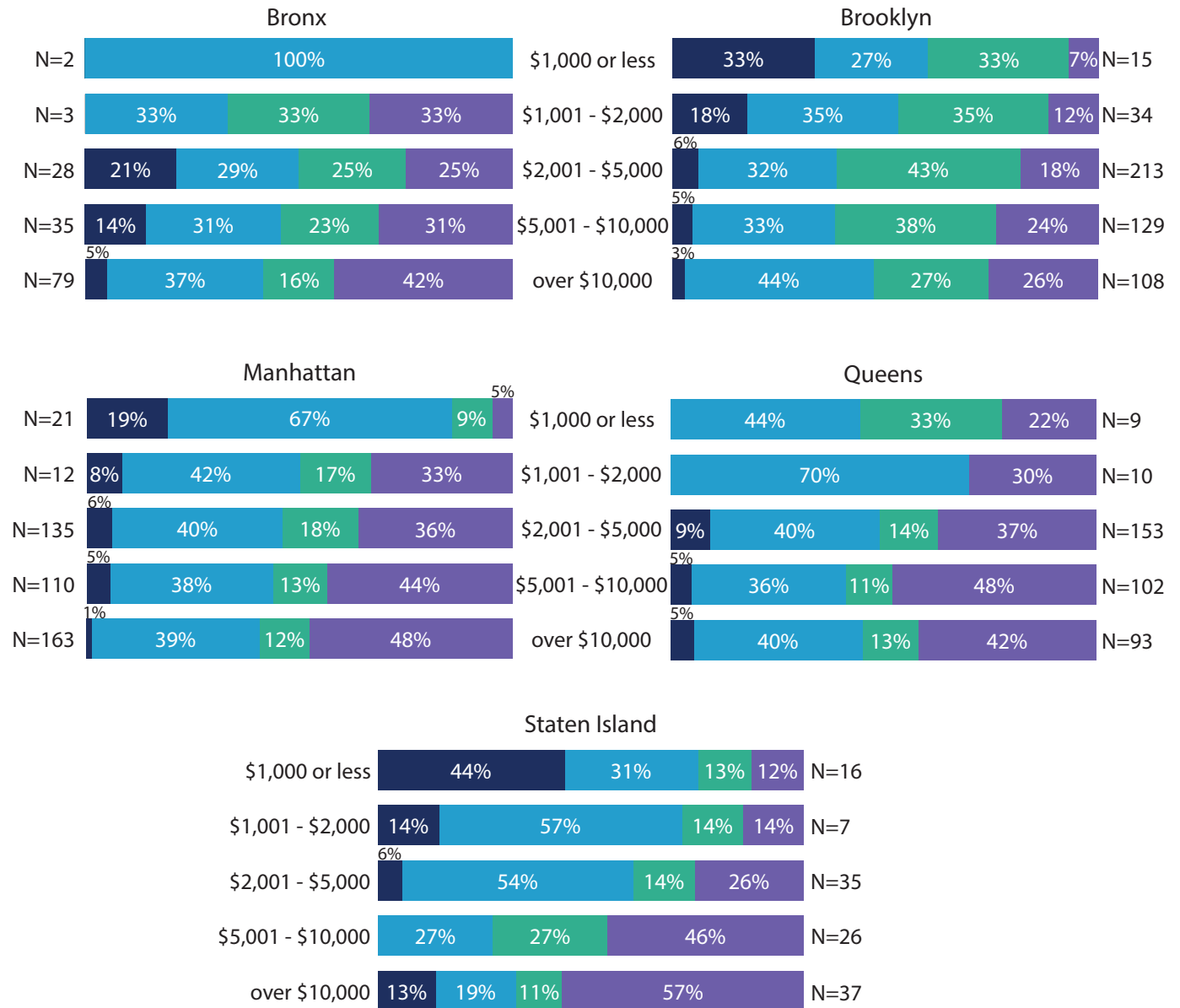
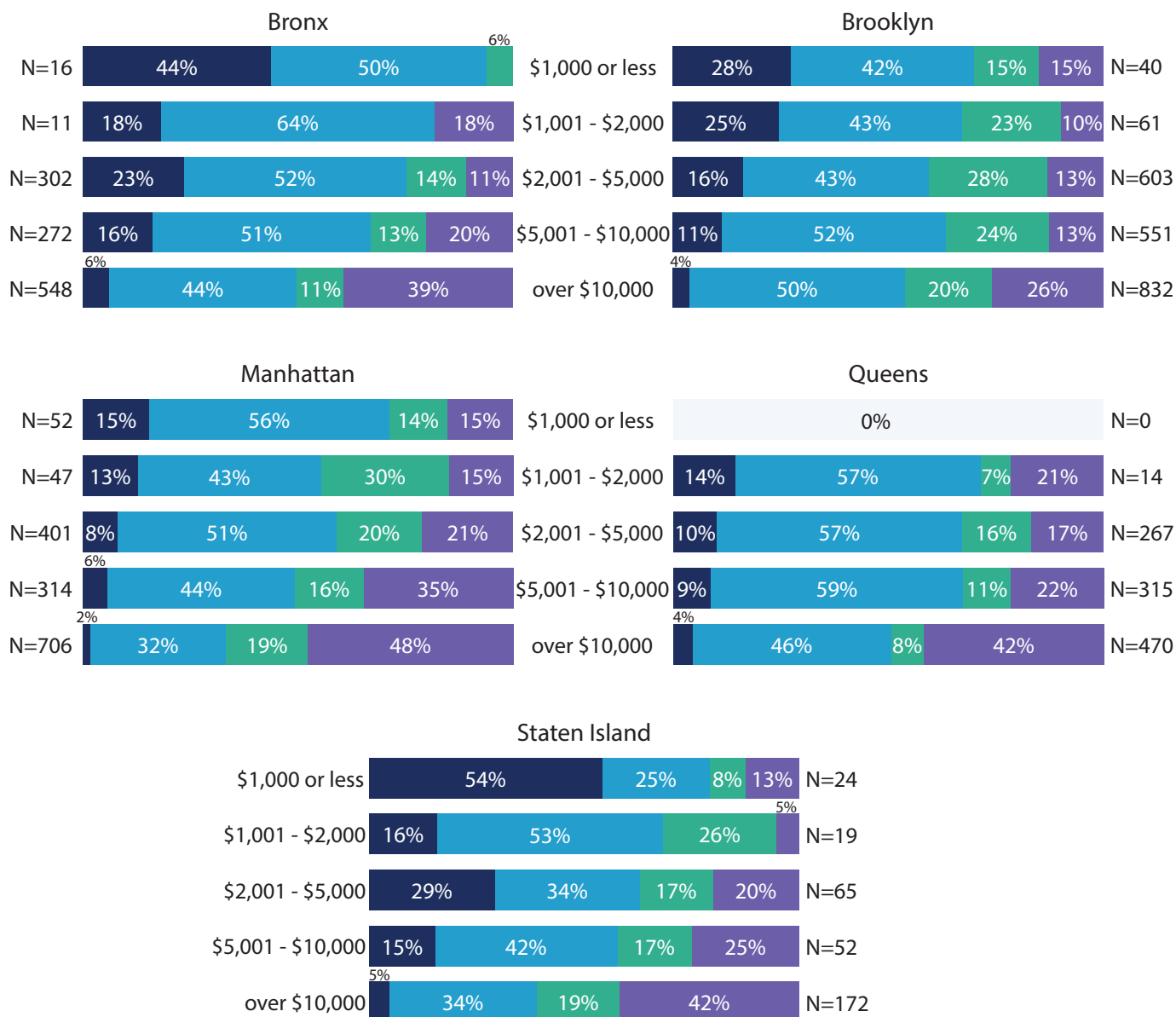


Figure 48  
Release Prior to Disposition For VFO Cases, by Borough and Bail Amount

■ Made bail at arraignment ■ Made bail post-arraignment ■ ROR/RUS post-arraignment ■ Not released



# Failure to Appear

- Ninety-two percent of individuals subject to a summary arrest made every scheduled pretrial court appearance; 8% missed at least one.

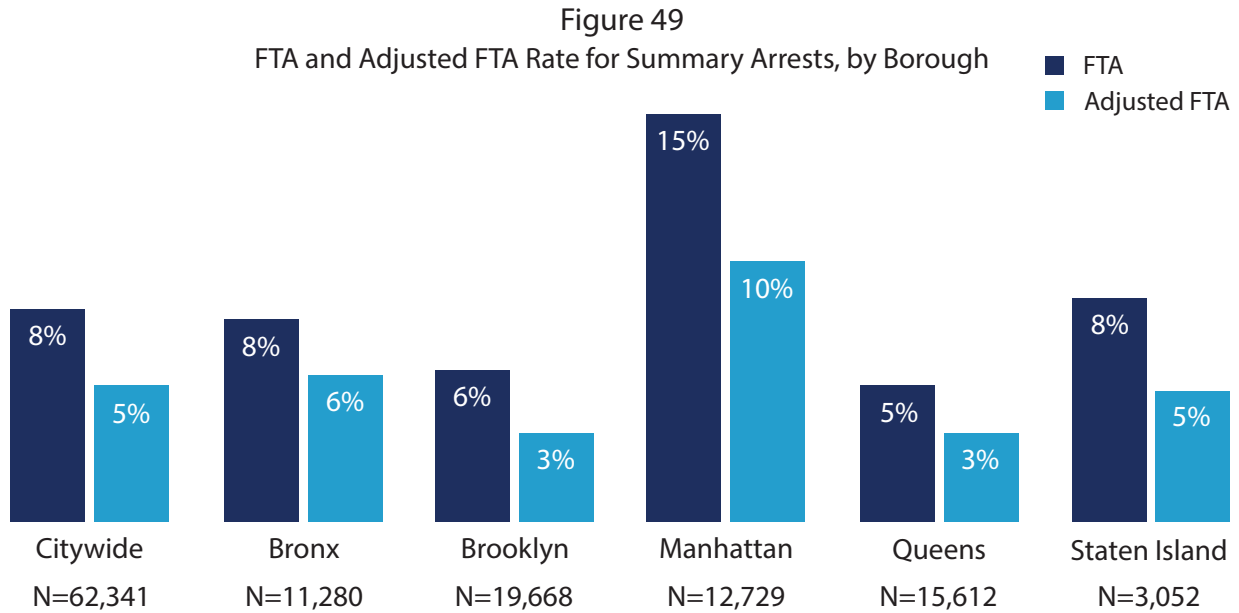
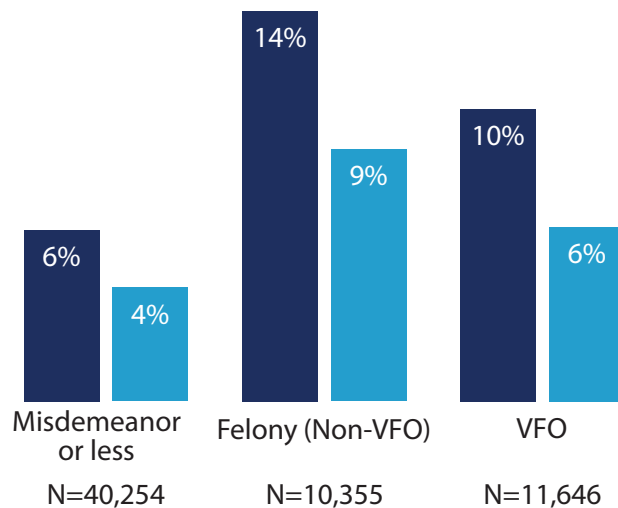


Figure 50  
FTA and Adjusted FTA Rate for Summary Arrests, by Severity

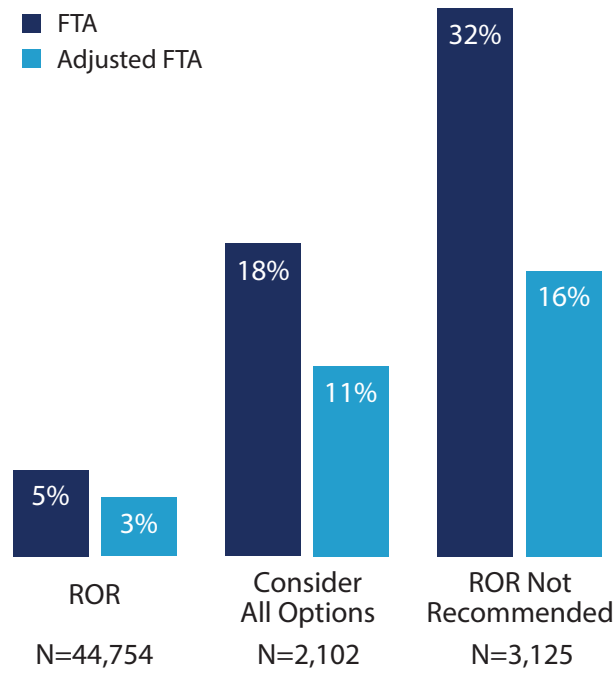


## About The Data

- ▶ The FTA rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases where an individual was issued a non-stayed warrant for failing to appear by the total number of cases where an individual was released pretrial. The adjusted FTA rate is calculated the same way, though excludes cases where the individual returned to court voluntarily within 30 days. Cases were tracked until disposition or December 31, 2021, whichever came first.
- ▶ Comparisons to previous years should be made with caution due to COVID-19's impact on court operations during the period covered in this report. For instance, a large share of post-arraignment hearings were held in virtual court parts where warrants were less likely to be issued for failure to appear. This was particularly true for misdemeanor-level charges, which likely accounts for much of the decline in the FTA rate in these cases (17% in 2019 vs 6% in 2020).

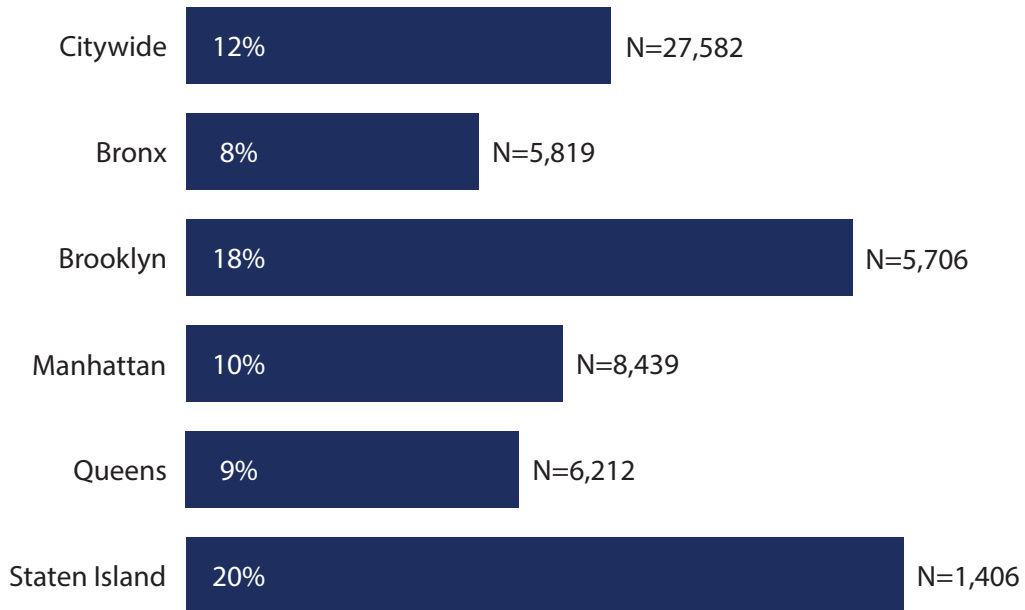


Figure 51  
 FTA and Adjusted FTA Rate for Summary Arrests, by CJA Recommendation



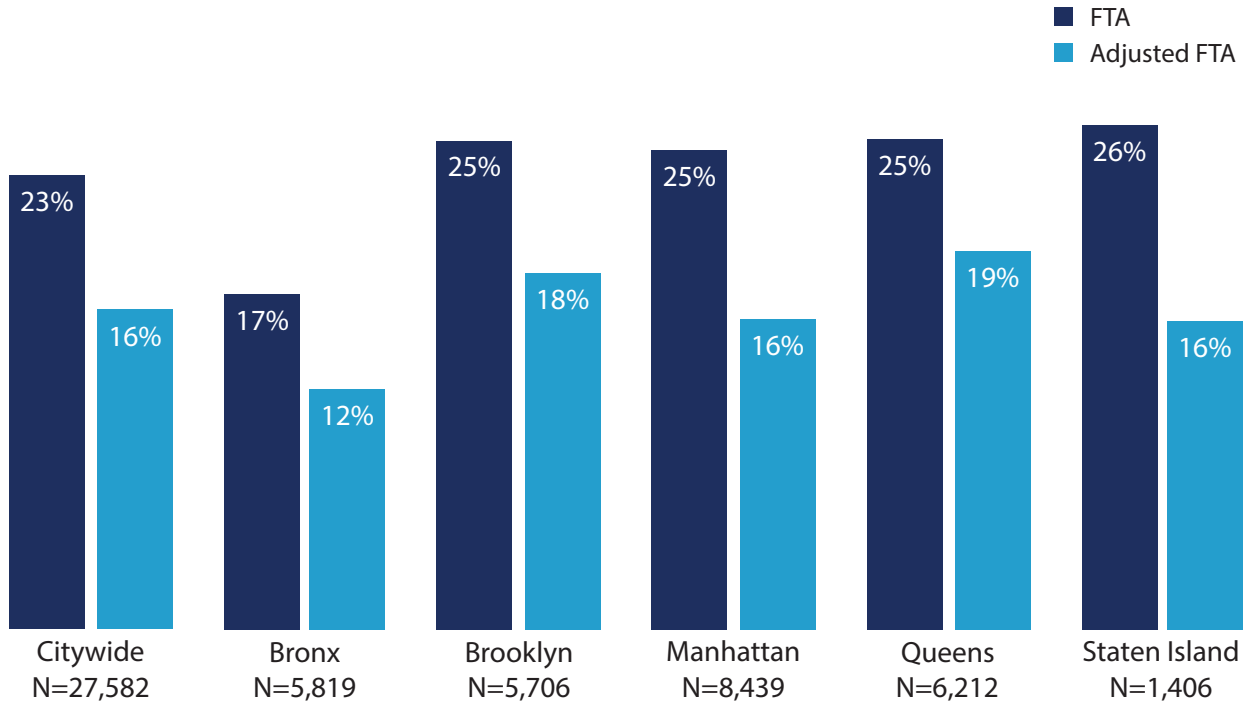
- Twelve percent of individuals issued a DAT failed to appear at arraignment.

Figure 52  
 FTA Rates at DAT Arraignments, by Borough



- Seventy-seven percent of individuals issued a DAT made every scheduled court appearance; 23% missed at least one.

Figure 53  
FTA and Adjusted FTA Rate for DATs, by Borough



PART 3

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CJA PROGRAMS

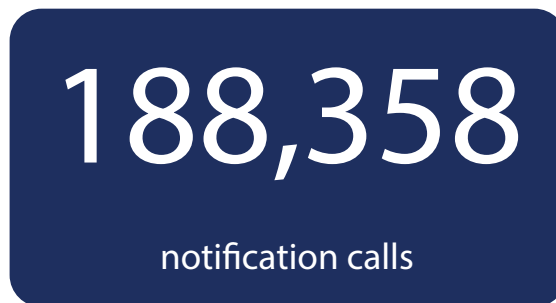
# Notification

CJA has provided **Court Date Notifications** since the 1970s. In recent years a vendor has provided most notification services, including robocalls three days prior to an appearance and on the morning of an appearance, as well as text messages to individuals with mobile phones.

In September 2017, CJA established a new Outreach Center to enable live notification calls. Though robocalls are still made, CJA wanted to add a personal touch. When people speak to a live caller, they have an opportunity to ask questions and are more likely to understand the criminal justice process. CJA has also expanded its Helpline capacities, making it easier for individuals and their families to call if they have questions or concerns about their case.

CJA conducts research to evaluate the effectiveness of various types of notification calls (e.g., Research Brief No. 45), with the aim of providing customized services based on an individual's needs.

- In 2020, CJA made a total of 188,358 notification calls.



# Bail Expediting Program

CJA operates the **Bail Expediting Program (BEX)** in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. The program has operated in the Bronx and Queens since the 1980s and was expanded to Brooklyn and Manhattan in 2010. The purpose of BEX is to identify potential sureties for individuals with bail set, call the potential sureties, and assist them in posting bail.

As part of CJA's pre-arraignment interview, CJA asks every individual to identify potential sureties. For those with bail set, CJA attempts to contact the potential sureties for up to two days after the arraignment. In July 2019, eligibility for BEX was expanded from all cases with bail set at \$5,000 or less to all cases with bail set at \$10,000 or less. In December 2018, CJA launched the Adolescent BEX program for people 17 and younger. All adolescents are eligible regardless of bail amount.

In 2017, the New York City Council passed, and Mayor Bill de Blasio signed into law, a series of bail reform measures to make posting bail easier and more timely. One reform increases the amount of time an individual with bail set can remain in the courthouse. Individuals who are unable to pay bail are typically placed on a bus and transported to a Department of Corrections facility such as Rikers Island. However, if CJA identifies a potential surety who is able to post bail, a hold is placed on that person— keeping them at the courthouse and delaying transfer.

- CJA secured 43 holds in 2020. Seventy-nine percent posted bail at arraignment.

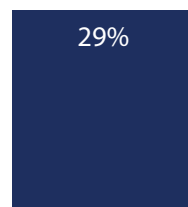
Figure 54  
Rate of Release at Arraignment  
N=43



Holds

- Twenty-nine percent of clients treated under the BEX program posted bail within 2 days.

Figure 55  
Rate of Release within 2 days of Arraignment  
N=934



BEX treated

# Court Appearance Support Units

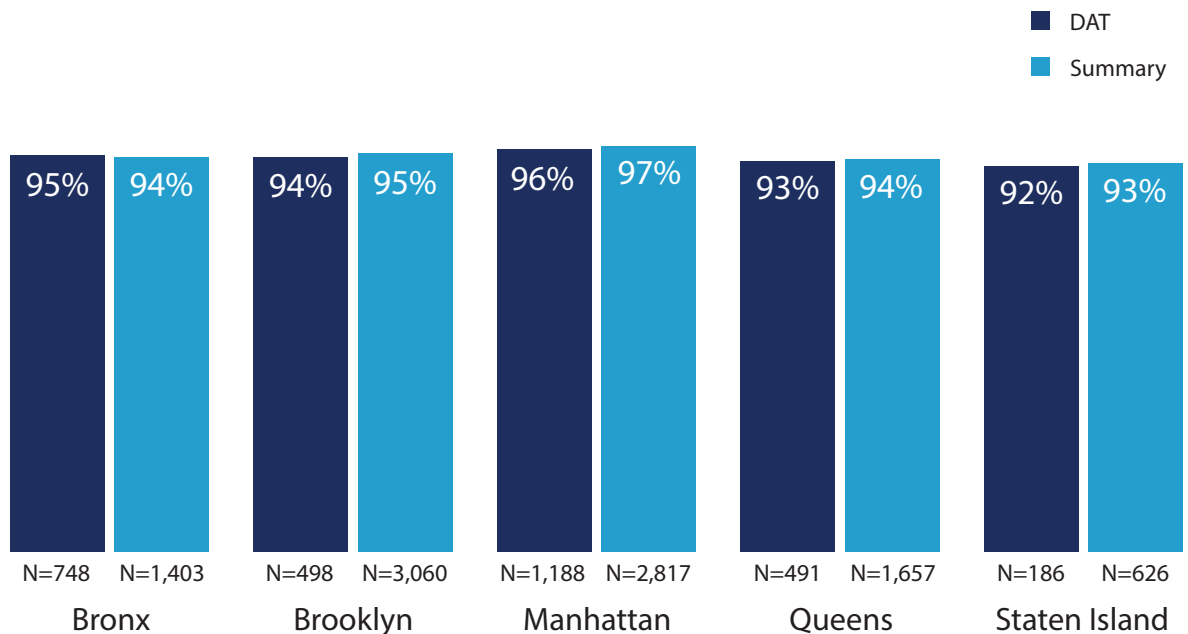
CJA operates **Court Appearance Support Units (CASU)** in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. Staff members identify individuals who failed to appear for a post-arraignment date in Criminal Court, as well as individuals who were issued a desk appearance ticket (DAT) and failed to appear for the scheduled arraignment (or for a post-arraignment appearance). CASU staff attempt to reach these people and persuade them to return to court voluntarily. For those who do return or provide a verified reason for the missed court date, there are benefits: the warrant is often vacated, usually no additional charges result from the FTA, and the individual is more likely to be released without having to post bail.

Attempts are made to contact individuals by telephone and letter. If a phone number is available, CJA continues to try to contact individuals until they return to court, or up to 29 days after the warrant is issued. CJA may also help arrange for the individual's attorney to accompany them to court.

Figure 68 shows the percentage of people CJA attempted to contact who returned to court.

- In DAT arrests, 92-96% of individuals who missed an appearance returned to court within 30 days. In Summary arrests, 93-97% of individuals who missed an appearance returned to court within 30 days.

Figure 56  
Court Appearance Support Unit:  
Return Within 30 Days



# Supervised Release

In 2009, CJA launched the **Queens Supervised Release (QSR)**. In March 2016, the city established Supervised Release programs in each borough. The program seeks to enroll those who would most likely have bail set in their case if not for the option of entering the program. QSR Court Representatives screen potentially eligible individuals and engage with defense attorneys to find people who may benefit from the program. Clients in the program undergo a thorough assessment and are assigned a social worker or counselor who works closely with them. Voluntary referrals are made for services ranging from housing and vocational training to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment. In December 2019, eligibility for Supervised Release was expanded citywide to include all charge types, including violent felony offenses.

- The demographic characteristics of the 1,571 clients enrolled in Supervised Release in 2020 are shown below.

Figure 57  
Queens Supervised Release Clients, by Sex

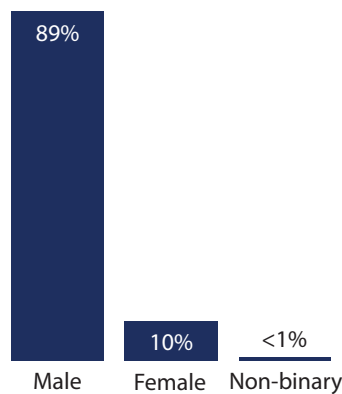


Figure 58  
Queens Supervised Release Clients, by Race

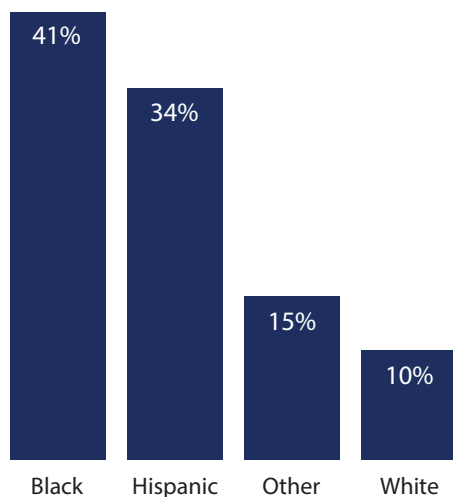
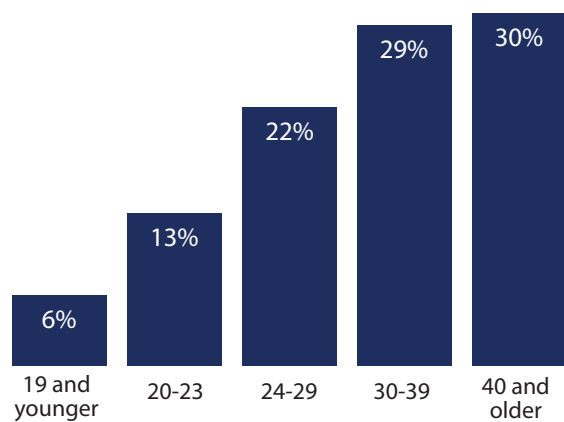


Figure 59  
Queens Supervised Release Clients, by Age



- Roughly half of all clients enrolled in Queens Supervised Release (54%) were charged with a felony. Eighty-five percent of clients successfully completed the program, while 15% had their supervision revoked. Possible reasons for revoking supervision include a rearrest, failure to comply with program requirements, and missing a scheduled court date, though such infractions do not automatically result in revocation.

Figure 60  
QSR Most Severe Arraignment Charge

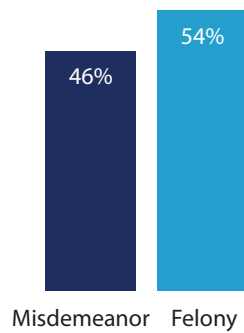
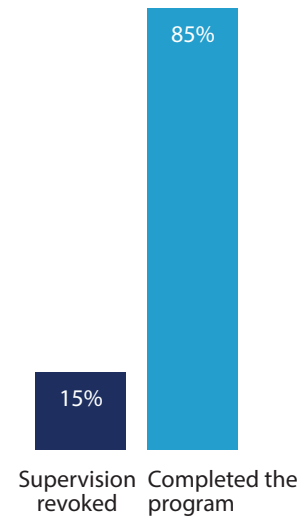


Figure 61  
QSR Program Outcome

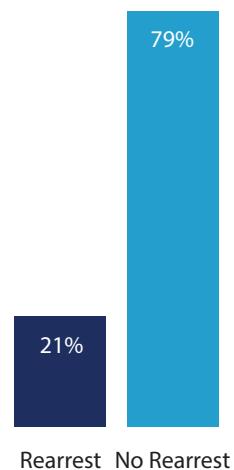


- Among the 1,571 clients who completed the program, the failure-to-appear rate was 2% and the rearrest rate was 21%.

Figure 62  
QSR FTA Rate



Figure 63  
QSR Rearrest Rate  
(prosecuted rearrests only)





# CJA Publications

For a complete list of publications and digital versions, visit [www.nycja.org](http://www.nycja.org)

## Research Briefs

- No. 48 Desk Appearance Tickets Among the Boroughs: 2013-2020 (2020)
- No. 47 Desk Appearance Tickets 2013-2020 (2020)
- No. 46 CJA's Updated Release Assessment (2020)
- No. 45 Desk Appearance Tickets and Appearance Rates — The Benefits of Court Date Reminders (2020)
- No. 44 Pretrial Release Without Money: New York City, 1987-2020 (2020)
- No. 43 Disorderly Conduct (\$240.20) — New York City's Catchall Disposition (2020)
- No. 42 Reducing Unnecessary Pretrial Detention: CJA's Manhattan Supervised Release Program (2017)
- No. 41 Post-Disposition Re-Arrests of Juvenile Offenders (2016)
- No. 40 Marijuana Possession Arrests in New York City - How Times Have Changed (2016)
- No. 39 Re-Arrests of Homeless Defendants in New York City (2016)

## Domestic Violence

- The Impact of the Kings County Integrated Domestic Violence Court on Case Processing (2014)
- Early Victim Engagement in Domestic Violence Cases (2013)
- The Kings County District Attorney's Video Statement Program for Domestic Violence Cases (2012)
- Arrest Histories of Adolescent Male Domestic Violence Offenders in New York City (2011)

## Arrests of Juveniles

- Fact Sheet on the Adult Court Case Processing of Juvenile Offenders in New York City, January Through December 2020 (2022)
- Re-Arrest Among 16-Year-Olds Arrested in the First Year of Raise the Age (2021)
- The Second Year of Raise the Age (2021)
- The First Six Months of the Second Year of Raise the Age (2020)
- Post-Disposition Re-Arrests of Juvenile Offenders (2016)

Recidivism Among Juvenile Offenders in New York City, 2007-2012: A Comparison by Case Outcome (2015)

Annual Report on the Adult Case Processing of Juvenile Offenders in New York City (available from 1998 through 2015)

## Release and Bail

- The Court Appearance Pilot Project (2022)
- What Doesn't Get Measured Doesn't Get Done: A Roadmap for Data Collection and Reporting in the Era of Bail Reform (2021)
- Court Date Notifications (2021)
- Pretrial Release Without Money: New York City, 1987-2020 (2021)
- New York's Credit Card Bail Experiment (2014)
- A Decade of Bail Research in New York City (2012)
- Effect of Release Type on Failure to Appear (2011)

## Annual Report

CJA Annual Report (available from 2003-2020)

## Case Processing

- Factsheet: Identifying and Addressing Pretrial Needs (2021)
- Ethnicity and the Prosecution of DAT-Eligible Charges: 2016-2019 (2021)
- Understanding the Past, Imagining the Future: 13 Highlights from 30 Years of New York City Criminal Justice Data (2020)
- Misdemeanor Marijuana Arrests: New York City 2012-2014 (2015)
- The Past, Present, and Possible Future of Desk Appearance Tickets in New York City (2014)

## Alternatives to Incarceration

- Community Supervision as a Money Bail Alternative: The Impact of CJA's Manhattan Supervised Release Program on Legal Outcomes and Pretrial Misconduct (2016)
- Screening and Selecting Cases and Clients for CJA's Supervised Release Programs in Queens and Manhattan (2014)
- CJA's Supervised Release Programs and Manhattan Start-Up: Case Screening and Participant Selection Process (2014)



# 2020 Annual Report

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New York, NY 10007

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