



# CASE ANALYSIS TOOL

# VARIABLES GLOSSARY

The Case Analysis Tool contains numerous terms that may not be immediately familiar to the user. This document provides more detailed explanations of the variables and their possible values.

To learn more about CJA and the data, we recommend reviewing the CAT Tutorial, visiting the “Who We Are” page of the website, and reviewing CJA’s most recent Annual Report, which is available for download in the Publications section of the website.

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## Data Year

When the New York City Police Department (NYPD) arrests an individual for an alleged offense, the department assigns the arrest an identification number. Embedded within the arrest number is the year of the arrest. The cases included in the CAT are organized based on the year that is assigned to the arrest number. In short, the data for the year 2016 only include cases assigned a 2016 arrest number.

The prosecution of the arrest sometimes does not begin until the next calendar year. For example, if an individual is issued a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) in mid or late December 2016, the arraignment appearance is likely to occur in 2017. Such cases are included in the 2016 data because of the year indicated in the arrest number.

The datasets for the CAT only include prosecuted arrests. Often, a district attorney's office will decide not to pursue a prosecution of an individual for an alleged offense. Those arrests are not included in these datasets.

We track cases for a period of six months after the end of the calendar year. For example, cases in the 2016 dataset are tracked until June 30, 2017.

All prosecuted arrests of individuals 16 years of age and older are included in the CAT. Many individuals are arrested and prosecuted multiple times within a calendar year. Because this is a prosecuted arrest-based file, many records will be of defendants who are in the file for another case. This includes instances where an individual is assigned multiple arrest numbers on the same day, if those arrests are individually prosecuted.

## Demographic Variables

### Sex

The defendant's sex. For interviewed defendants, the defendant's sex is recorded by the CJA Pretrial Associate conducting the interview. For DAT arrests, and summary arrests for which an interview is not conducted, the defendant's sex is provided by the NYPD.

- Male
- Female

### Age

The defendant's age. For interviewed defendants, it is the defendant's age at the time of the interview, and is recorded by the CJA Pretrial Associate conducting the interview. For DAT arrests, and summary arrests for which an interview is not conducted, the age variable measures the age of the defendant at the time of the arrest, and is provided by the NYPD.

*Note: defendants under the age of 16 at the time their age is recorded are not included in the CAT.*

- 16-17
- 18-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50 and over

## Race

For interviewed defendants, the defendant's race is recorded by the CJA Pretrial Associate conducting the interview. For DAT arrests, and summary arrests for which an interview is not conducted, the defendant's race is provided by the NYPD.

- Black
- White
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Other

## CJA Interview Variables

### Full-Time Activity

The defendant is employed full-time, or in school full-time, or in a training program full-time, or participates in a combination of the above activities that is equivalent to full-time, at the time of the CJA pre-arraignment interview.

*Note – as of July 2018 full-time activity is one of the items used in the failure-to-appear risk assessment instrument. The defendant's response must be verified by a contact person identified by the defendant in order for the defendant's score to benefit. In the CAT, the defendant's self-reported response is used, whether or not it was verified.*

- Yes
- No
- DAT, not interviewed

*Note: CJA does not interview defendants arrested on a Desk Appearance Ticket and thus does not have data on the full-time activity status of those defendants.*

- Missing

### Release Recommendation

The CJA pre-arraignment interview release recommendation, derived from the defendant's score on the failure to appear risk assessment instrument.

- Recommended for ROR – recommended for release on recognizance. This indicates the defendant's score on the risk assessment instrument suggests a low risk of failure to appear
- Moderate Risk – the defendant's score on the risk assessment instrument indicates a moderate risk of failure to appear
- Not Recommended for ROR: High Risk of FTA – the defendant's score on the risk assessment instrument indicates a high risk of failure to appear
- Not Recommended for ROR: Policy Exclusion

*Note – CJA automatically does not recommend defendants who meet any of the following criteria: they have an active bench warrant; they were arrested on a bail jumping charge; or the defendant's address could not be verified.*

- No Recommendation Made

*Note – CJA automatically does not make any recommendation for defendants who meet any of the following criteria: there was no criminal history search conducted of the defendant; the defendant is charged with murder or attempted murder; the defendant is charged with escaping custody or absconding; the defendant was incarcerated at the time of the arrest; the defendant declines to be interviewed or does not complete the interview.*

- DAT, not Interviewed – Individuals issued a Desk Appearance Ticket are not held in custody prior to their arraignment and are not interviewed by CJA staff.  
*Note – see “Arrest Type” for an explanation of DAT’s.*
- Missing

## Arrest Variables

### Arrest Type

The type of arrest. The NYPD provides the arrest type. CJA recodes some arrests that appear to have been misclassified.

- Desk Appearance Ticket – NYPD officers have the option to issue an arrestee a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) if the arrestee is charged with certain misdemeanors, violations, infractions, or E felony charges. The arrestee must also meet a series of criteria (e.g., they cannot have any outstanding warrants). When an arrestee is issued a DAT, they are brought to a precinct, processed, and released from the precinct with a physical “ticket” indicating when and where they must appear in court for their arraignment. This allows the arrestee to avoid being detained prior to arraignment.  
*The time between a DAT arrest and the arraignment varies for every case.  
Note – for 2016 cases, the citywide average was 46 days.*
- Summary  
*Note – summary arrests are sometimes also referred to as “online” or “custodial” arrests.*

### Arrest Charge Severity

The severity level of the most severe arrest charge. This data is provided by the NYPD.

- Violent A Felony/Violent Felony Offense  
*Note – in New York State some B, C, D, and E felony offenses are classified as “violent felony” offenses. For example, manslaughter in the first degree (a B felony) and rape in the first degree (a B felony) are classified as violent felony offenses to allow for the possibility of enhanced sentences to be applied to the defendant. Because the enhanced sentence options already apply to the relevant A felony offenses, New York State does not define any A felony as a “violent felony” in the statute. In the CAT, we combine the appropriate A felonies with the statutorily defined “violent felonies” into one category.*
- Other Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Violation/Infraction
- Missing  
*Note: records missing the arrest charge severity are often for local law or administrative law charges.*

### Borough of Arrest

The borough in which the arrest occurred. This data is provided by the NYPD.

- Brooklyn
- Manhattan
- Queens
- Staten Island
- Bronx

## Arraignment Variables

*Note: All arraignment variables are based on data provided by the Office of Court Administration.*

### Borough of Arraignment

The borough in which the case is arraigned.

*Note: two community courts operate in New York City. The Red Hook Community Justice Center is located in Brooklyn and the Midtown Community Court is located in Manhattan. Defendants arrested for certain charges and/or with certain needs are sometimes arraigned in these courthouses rather than the Criminal Court. This variable codes Red Hook cases as having been arraigned in Brooklyn and Midtown cases as having been arraigned in Manhattan.*

- Brooklyn
- Manhattan
- Queens
- Staten Island
- Bronx

### Arraignment Charge Severity

The severity of the most severe arraignment charge.

- Violent A Felony/Violent Felony Offense  
*Note – see “Arrest Charge Severity” for an explanation of “Violent Felony Offense.”*
- Other Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Violation/Infraction
- Missing

### Arraignment Charge Type

The crime type of the most severe arraignment charge.

*Note: the typology of charges in this data are based on CJA’s internal classification.*

- Drugs
- Harm to persons/harm to persons and property
- Misconduct/Obstruction/Prostitution
- Property crime
- Theft of services/Fraud
- Vehicle and Traffic Law
- Weapon
- Local law/Other
- Missing

### Arraignment Outcome

The disposition type of the arraignment hearing.

- Continued
- Adjudicated outcome  
*Note – an adjudicated outcome is one in which a plea is entered, a sentence is imposed after a plea or a trial, a defendant is acquitted, a case is adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, or a case is dismissed.*
- Failure to Appear for a DAT Arraignment  
*Note – see “Arrest Type” for an explanation of DAT’s.*

### Release Status at Arraignment

The defendant’s release status leaving the arraignment hearing.

- Released on recognizance
- Released under supervision – this indicates the defendant entered a Supervised Release program  
*Note – for an explanation of New York City’s Supervised Release program please refer to CJA’s Annual Report.*
- Bail set and made
- Bail set and not made
- Remand
- Case disposed at arraignment
- Failure to Appear at a DAT Arraignment  
*Note – see “Arrest Type” for an explanation of DAT’s.*
- Missing

### Amount of Bail at Arraignment

The amount of money bail imposed at the arraignment hearing.

- \$1,000 or less
- \$1,001-\$2,000
- \$2,001-\$5,000
- \$5,001-\$10,000
- \$10,001-\$100,000
- Over \$100,000
- Money bail not set at arraignment
- Defendant is detained on another case  
*Note – sometimes a defendant has multiple cases in New York City ongoing at the same time, or has ongoing circumstances with another law enforcement agency (e.g., I.C.E.) that require the defendant to be detained. In such cases, the arraignment judge will sometimes set bail (often in the amount of \$1) on the instant case as well. The issuance of such bail serves multiple purposes, one of which may be so the defendant can get credit for “time served” on the instant case if in fact he is convicted. We distinguish such cases in the CAT because the only reason the bail is set in the instant case is because of detention on another case.*
- Case disposed at arraignment
- Failure to Appear for a DAT Arraignment  
*Note – see “Arrest Type” for an explanation of DAT’s.*
- Missing

## Case Variables

### Was the Defendant Ever Released

The defendant was ever released between arraignment and case disposition (or last status, if not disposed).

*Note – for DAT defendants this variable only measures the defendant’s release status after the date of the arraignment.*

- Yes
- No
- Case disposed at arraignment  
*Note – a case is considered disposed at arraignment if a plea is entered, a sentence is imposed after a plea or a trial, a defendant is acquitted, a case is adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, or a case is dismissed.  
If a case is disposed at arraignment there is never the possibility of the defendant being released prior to case disposition*
- Defendant not present at arraignment, case disposed at first appearance for which defendant was present  
*Note – sometimes defendants are not present for the first recorded court date in the case. Cases with this value are those in which the defendant was not present at the first scheduled arraignment, and the case was then disposed at the first appearance for which the defendant was present. For example, if the defendant is hospitalized on the day of the arraignment, and then the case is disposed the first time the defendant appears in court.  
These cases are distinguished from others because while the case is “continued” at arraignment, there was never a need for the judge to make a decision about the defendant’s release status.*

### Did the Defendant Ever Fail to Appear

The defendant failed to appear for one or more court appearances for this case prior to disposition (or last status, if not disposed).

- Yes
- No
- Defendant never released
- Case disposed at arraignment
- DAT (see case outcome at arraignment)
- Defendant not present at arraignment, case disposed at first appearance  
*Note – see “Was the Defendant Ever Released” for a description of cases with this value.*