

Washington Rural Jails Network

A Community-Engaged Research Network



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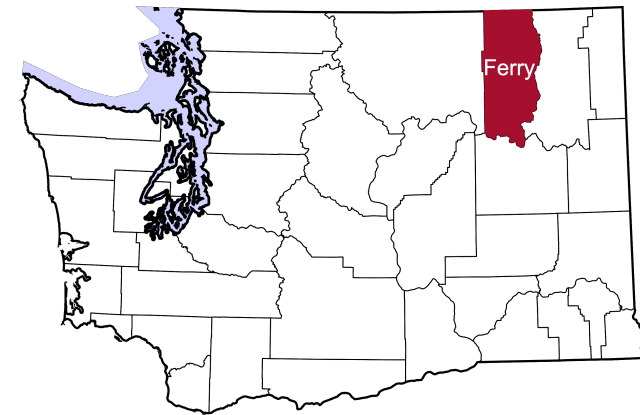
"We're at an unprecedented time in our nation's history where fixing our broken justice system is not only possible but, in some places, it has already become a reality. Looking ahead, it's imperative that we empower and resource overlooked rural counties so they can implement locally tailored reforms."

Nancy Fishman | Former Vera Institute of Justice Project Director

Ferry County Spotlight

Washington Rural Jails Network is a community-engaged project at Washington State University led by the Department of Sociology

In 2019, the Vera Institute of Justice awarded WSU & UGA each a \$235,000 grant, funded by Arnold Ventures, to pilot a hub site to document and understand trends in rural incarceration.



The project had several goals:

- ☒ Gather and analyze administrative jail data from select rural counties in Washington.
- ☒ Build knowledge of specific factors affecting jail population trends.
- ☒ Gain perspective of justice-involved people justice staff via interviews
- ☒ Share lessons from research and data analysis with local representatives and stakeholders.

Sheriff's offices in **Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Whitman** counties shared jail data for January 2015 to June 2020.

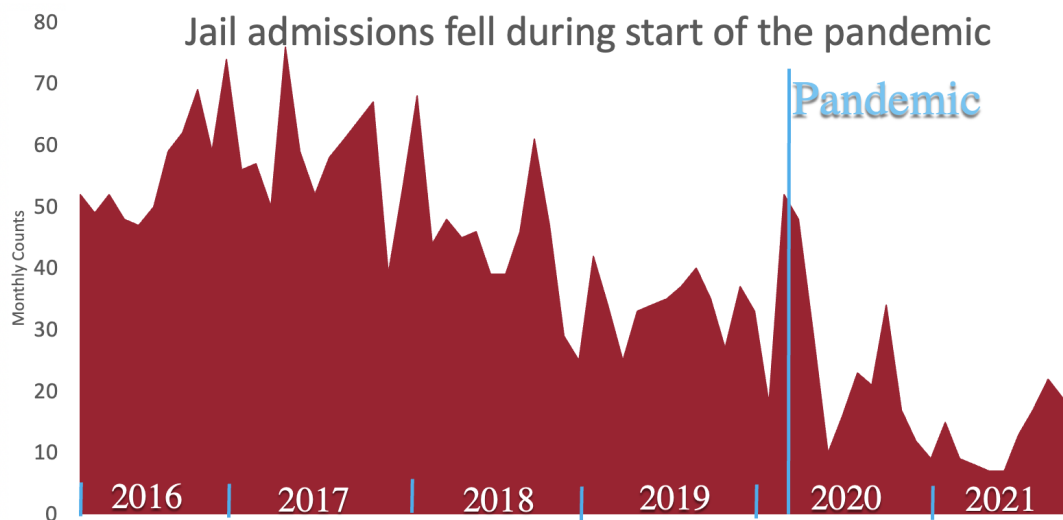
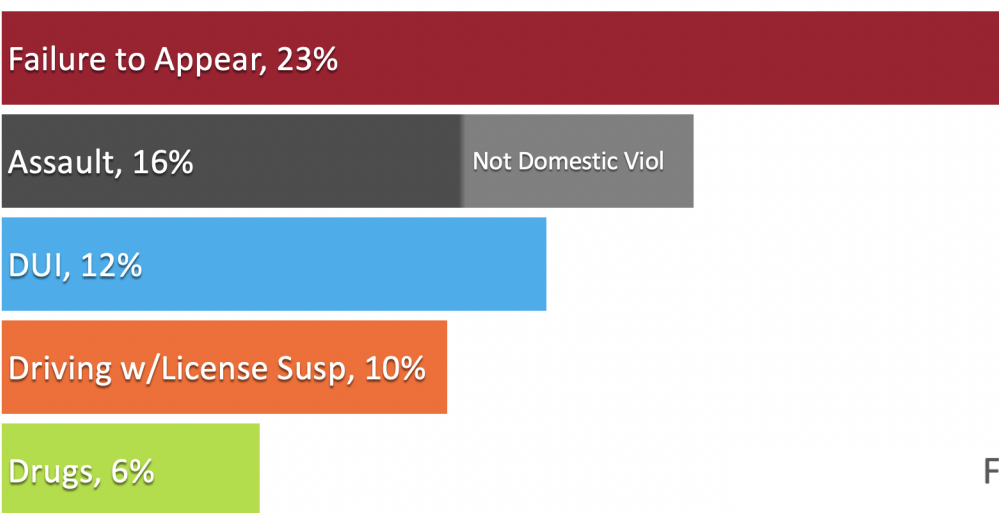
Key Facts

1. Failure to Appear was the dominant driver of pretrial incarceration and jail re-entry.
2. Driving with a suspended license was a common mechanism for jail entry.
3. Most (66%) pretrial jail bookings for assaults were domestic violence related.
4. Some 6 percent of pretrial jail admissions were drug-related.

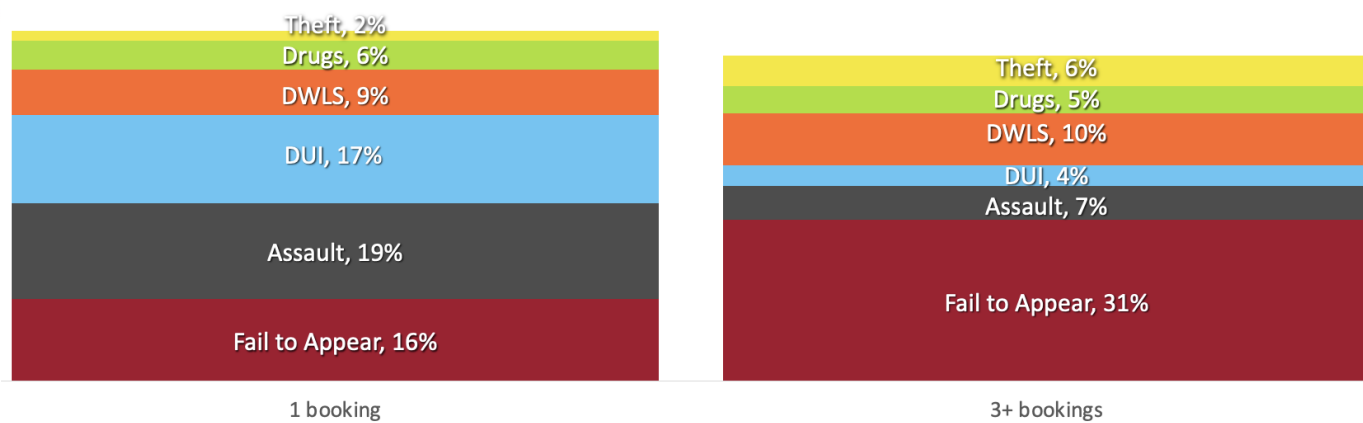
"I was paying off all my [driving-related] tickets and I was making monthly payments. Well, then, in 2015 when we had all the fires and stuff, where I was working, the owner's house burned down in those fires... So we - I got evicted, so I ended up moving in... with my sister for a little while. And, you know, basically starting over. And I didn't have income at the time. So, they re-suspended my license."

- 45 year-old white and Native American woman

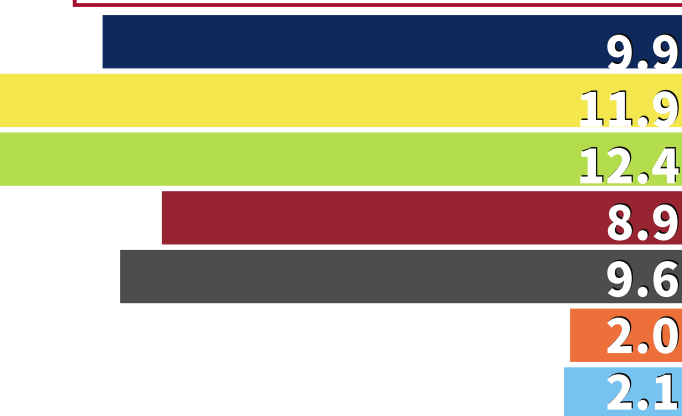
One in four people in jail pretrial were booked into jail for "failure to appear"



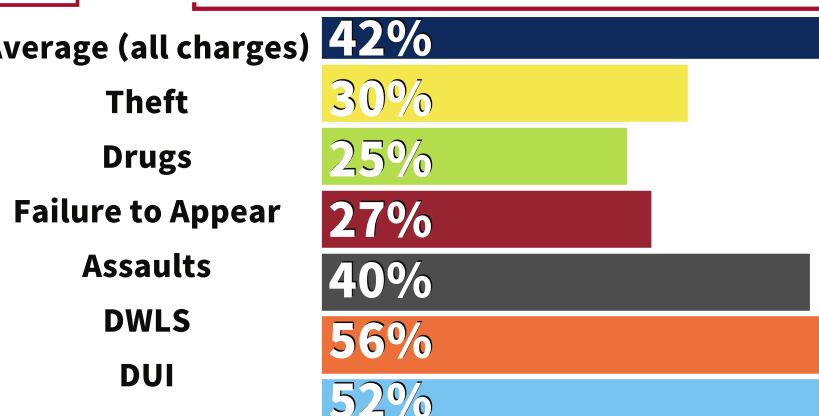
Failure to Appear is a significant driver of reentry



Average # of pretrial days spent in jail by charge



% of people who spend 24 hours or less in jail pretrial by charge



Most people booked into jail pretrial for Failure to Appear stayed longer than a day. Most (52%) jailed at arrest for DUI were released within 24 hours.

