

Clark County

2018 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet

We've got a problem to fix:

- In Clark County, there is an over-reliance on incarceration of repeat offenders who suffer from mental illness, with some having been booked more than 15 times in one year.
- The number of bookings and length of stay are the main drivers of the jail population. The number of bookings alone was 61,599 in 2017. In addition, in 2017, 16% of all low and low-moderate-risk defendants remained detained beyond three days, spending an average of 58 days in jail.
- Roughly 35% of the jail population has been identified as having a mental health or substance abuse issue. Individuals with behavioral health and substance abuse issues who enter the county's jail spend an average of 45.7 days longer in detention than other defendants.
- Unfair and ineffective bail practices take a particularly heavy toll on people of color, low-income communities, and people with mental health and substance abuse issues. Since July 2018, an average of 129 individuals remained in custody for more than seven days on a bail less than \$5,001.
- Pretrial release and length of stay also contribute to the jail population. The jail pretrial population alone was 67% in 2017, with 7.9% remaining in custody more than one year.

There are proposed solutions to create a fairer, more effective local justice system:

- Supported with \$700,000 from the Safety and Justice Challenge, Clark County will implement forward-looking, smart solutions, to address the misuse and overuse of jails in the county and further reduce the local jail population and/or average length of stay by 20% over the next two years.
- To continue safely reducing the jail population, the county plans to implement key strategies aimed at addressing system inefficiencies and disparities.
- Strategies include: improving case processing for pretrial defendants and enhancing data collection capabilities and electronic distribution of arrest documentation to the court and district attorney.
- Strategies will touch all points of the system, ranging from release for non-violent offenders, to case review by a prosecutor at the time of booking. These policy-driven strategies will reduce jail bed usage while ensuring the county advances its commitment to making sure those who pose a risk to the community remain in custody while ensuring access to critically needed services for all.
- Over the next two years, the county will employ an increased focus on risk assessment and low-risk offender release, as well as new prosecutor case screening process.

Who is helping to affect change?

- The strategies and initiatives supported by the Safety and Justice Challenge are being led by the Clark County Detention Center and Las Vegas Metro Police Department in partnership with the Clark County Board of Commissioners, the County Manager's Office, Las Vegas Justice Courts, and the Public Defender's and District Attorney's Offices.
- Locally, this work is also supported by the Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Initial Appearance Court and Improved Responses to Probation Violation sub-committees, which



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focus on issues ranging from bail and release conditions to effective administrative responses in probation supervision, and are comprised of various representatives from the legal system, law enforcement, community-based organizations and advocacy groups, including Metro Multicultural Advisory Council and Clark County Social Services.

