

Key Findings

The *Virginia Pre-Trial Data Project* (“*Project*”) was developed to identify statewide data that could be used to answer many important questions related to the overall pre-trial process in Virginia. The *Project* involved collecting and merging data from numerous government agencies into a singular dataset that resulted in a cohort of nearly 23,000 adult defendants charged with a criminal offense during October 2017 (referred to as the “contact event”). Of the nearly 23,000 defendants in the *Project* dataset, the contact event for approximately half (11,487) of these defendants included a new criminal offense punishable by incarceration where the bail determination was made by a judicial officer. This report represents a statewide descriptive analysis of these 11,487 defendants. Key findings from this statewide descriptive analysis are as follows:

- The majority of defendants were ultimately released from custody during the pre-trial period. Most defendants were released within 3 days of their contact event (Tables 8 and 17).
- The majority of defendants were male, White, between the ages of 18 to 35, indigent, and residents of Virginia; however, defendants who were male, Black, or between the ages of 18 to 35 were significantly overrepresented as compared to their overall representation within Virginia’s population (Table 1).
- A large majority of released defendants were not charged with failure to appear and were not arrested for a new in-state offense punishable by incarceration during the pre-trial period; however, a higher proportion of indigent defendants were charged with failure to appear or a new in-state offense punishable by incarceration during the pre-trial period as compared to defendants who were not indigent (Tables 37, 38, 41, and 42).
- The proportion of released defendants charged with failure to appear or a new in-state offense punishable by incarceration during the pre-trial period increased as the defendants’ assigned Public Safety Assessment (PSA) risk level of failure to appear or new criminal activity increased (Tables 39 and 43; Charts 6 and 8).
- Median secured bond amounts were \$2,500 for felony contact events and \$2,000 for misdemeanor contact events (Tables 28 and 29).
- Secured bond amounts at the time of release generally did not vary widely across sex, race, indigency status, residency status, or whether the defendant received pretrial services agency supervision (Table 25).
- Conviction rates were similar across sex, race, and indigency and residency status (Table 52).
- Defendants who remained detained the entire pre-trial period had higher conviction rates as compared to defendants who were released during the pre-trial period (Table 53).
- Defendants represented by a retained attorney at case closure were released at a higher rate during the pre-trial period as compared to defendants represented by a public defender or court appointed attorney at case closure; however, the conviction rates of defendants were nearly identical across all three of these attorney types (Tables 16 and 54).