



New Findings From the "Understanding the Population of People With Frequent Jail Contact" Project

Policy Research is pleased to announce the findings from its recently completed project, "Understanding the Population of People with Frequent Jail Contact." This mixed-methods project examined the flow of people with frequent jail contact through the criminal legal system across three counties in the United States. The project assessed the counties' strategies to reduce frequent jail contact, especially the impact that those strategies had on People of Color and people with behavioral health conditions.

Through their analysis, the authors developed the following recommendations:

- Create a data sharing ecosystem
- Establish formal, jurisdiction-specific definitions
- Use validated behavioral health screening tools
- Implement psychiatric advanced directives
- Facilitate jail in-reach programs
- Increase peer support programs
- Improve access to housing
- Increase utilization of community-based services
- Center and evaluate efforts for racial equity

To highlight and provide context for these recommendations, Policy Research has assembled a microsite that houses the following resources:

- Policy brief, which provides additional context for the recommendations provided above.
- County-specific fact sheets, which provide demographic information and trends in bookings over time.
- County-specific graphic recording notes, which provide excerpts from interviews conducted during this research study.
- Podcast episode, which dives into the research and offers key takeaways that can be put into action.

[Access the Microsite](#)

New Data Points Episode Highlights Understanding People with Frequent Jail Contact Project

We've released a new episode of the *Data Points* podcast series! This episode of *Data Points*, "Breaking the Cycle of Frequent Jail Contact," features Senior Research Associates Samantha Zottola, PhD, and Lisa Callahan, PhD. Drs. Zottola and Callahan discuss key takeaways from their recently finished project, "Understanding and Preventing Frequent Jail Contact."



Data Points is a podcast series produced by Policy Research that translates research into key takeaways that you can use to enhance your work and advance positive social change.

In this episode, Drs. Zottola and Callahan discuss the following topics:

- Why it's important to focus research on people who frequently cycle through jail
- How a lack of housing influences jail contact
- What's been done to interrupt the cycle of frequent jail contact
- Who is impacted by frequent jail contact, and racial disparities in the study's findings

Listen to the episode and subscribe to the Policy Research podcast today! *Data Points* is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Soundcloud](#).

[Listen to the Episode](#)

This research was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation through the Safety and Justice Challenge Research Consortium, which is managed by the City University of New York Institute for State & Local Governance.

SAMHSA's GAINS Center's Competence to Stand Trial/Competence Restoration Learning Collaborative Continues in Policy Academy



In April 2023, the Competence to Stand Trial/Competence Restoration Policy Academy was held in Rockville, Maryland. This Policy Academy (PA) extended the work of SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation's national technical assistance on this topic. Facilitated by SAMHSA's GAINS Center (operated by Policy Research Associates [PRA]), the PA was centered on best practices in Competence to Stand Trial (CST) and Competence Restoration (CR), focusing on people with criminal legal system involvement within the trial process who exhibit signs or symptoms of conditions that can impair the ability to competently proceed.

Five teams representing Alabama, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Texas attended, along with subject-matter experts (SMEs), SAMHSA's GAINS Center facilitators, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Four of the five teams had previously been involved with SAMHSA's GAINS Center's CST/CR Learning Collaborative (LC). LCs are peer-to-peer models in which local jurisdiction teams work with SMEs to create coordinated strategic plans and implementation strategies for a focus topic.

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Upcoming Webinars

GAINS: Supporting Veterans in the Criminal Justice System—

Part 1: Enhancing Services in Treatment Court

August 8, 2023, 2:30–4:00 p.m. ET

In Part 1 of the "Supporting Veterans in the Criminal Justice System" webinar series, speakers from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will provide an overview of the services that exist to support Veterans involved with the criminal justice system.

HHRC: The Peer Support Experience: In Our Own Words

August 10, 2023, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar, led by panelists currently providing peer services, will introduce a new toolkit developed to provide guidance and strategies to integrate and sustain peer workers within homeless service organizations.

HHRC: Employing Peer Workers: An Organization's Perspective

August 29, 2023, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, panelists will answer questions about the challenges and opportunities organizations experience when establishing new peer roles.

Policy Research in the News

- [Workshop maps out resources for people in crisis](#) [Maryville Forum]
- [Court officials, others talk treatment options during workshop held in Union](#) [emissourian.com]
- [City advocates hosting 2-day conference to explore mental health conditions](#) [WTWVQ]

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



Behavioral Health Impact: Addressing Mental Health Disparities in Local Jails



American Indian and Alaskan Native Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Convening: Reflections and Takeaways



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