Dane County Jail Stress Test Presentation

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JFA Institutute

Who is JFA?

The JFA Institute is a multi-disciplinary research organization. The JFA mission is to conduct theoretical and applied research on the causes of crime and the justice system's responses to crime and offenders. JFA receives funding solely from outside sources including federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as from foundations interested in developing and evaluating innovative crime prevention, law enforcement, sentencing and correctional policies and programs designed to reduce crime and to improve the quality of the adult and juvenile justice systems.

Who is James Austin

Dr. James Austin is one the nation's leading experts in the area of prison reform. He is the President of the JFA Institute a position he has held since 2003.

Prior to that, he was the Director of the Institute of Crime, Justice and Corrections at the George Washington University, and Executive Vice President for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD).

He began his career in corrections with the Illinois Department of Corrections at Statesville and Joliet Penitentiaries. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Davis.

Stress Tests

JFA is a consultant for the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC).

Our primary role is to conduct stress tests for those jurisdictions that have been designated as implementation sites.

To date we have conducted such tests for the following counties:

Orleans (2), Charleston, Palm Beach (2), Cook, Ada, San Francisco, Pima, Harris, Mecklenburg (2), Milwaukee, Spokane, Lucas, St. Louis, and Pennington.

What is a stress test?

- Designed to determine the most effective stratgies for reducing a jail population.
- Consists of statistical analysis and a structured qualitative review of those cases that are having the greatest impact on the size of the jail population.
- The key jail release groups are first identified.
- Random samples of 35 people released from the jail then drawn from the key release groups.
- Detailed court processing data are then collected on each case and distributed to a group that will review each case.
- For each case the group must indicated whether they would be willing to either divert the person from the jail (no booking) or reduce their LOS by 15-25%.

Releases by Release Reason CY 2018
Palm Beach County Jail

Release Category	Number	Average Length of Stay (days)	Percent of Total	Calculated ADP
Total	26,898	27.0	100.0%	1,988
Surety bond/surety bond & SOR	6,908	4.8	25.7%	91
Own recognizance	6,641	1.2	24.7%	22
Time served	4,027	47.7	15.0%	526
Released to SOR	3,015	4.6	11.2%	38
Release to DOC	1,372	225.8	5.1%	848
Court Order	1,403	29.0	5.2%	111
Probation	1,275	50.1	4.7%	175
Release to other county	901	25.4	3.3%	63
Release to other agency	704	44.3	2.6%	85
Cash bond/cash bond & SOR	380	2.8	1.4%	3
Other	187	45.7	0.7%	23
Unknown	85	30.3	0.3%	7

Who is in the "group"

- Must include those agencies that can divert or reduce the LOS.
  - A judge(s)
  - Prosecutor
  - Public Defender
  - Pretrial Services Agency
  - Jail Administrator
  - Law Enforcement (selected jurisdictions
  - Court Administrator(s)
  - Others

Results

- Better understanding of the major drivers of the jail population
- Better understanding on how court processing impacts the jail population
- Opportunities to safely reduce the current jail population by 15-25%
- Opportunities to improve data analysis
- Takes about 60 days to complete from start to finish