

LAB NOTES

A NEWSLETTER FROM
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB

OCTOBER 2020



DID YOU KNOW?

North Carolina charged 1.9 million crimes in 2019

1.6 million charges were for misdemeanors

- 93% were for nonviolent offenses
- 1 million were for non-DWI traffic offenses

343,000 charges were for felonies

- 84% were for non-violent offenses
- One-third were drug related

More info including county level data can be found [here](#).



SPOTLIGHT: THE CITATION PROJECT

What: Executed in collaboration with the NC Association of Chiefs of Police & promoting evidence-based policing practices, this project involves development, implementation & evaluation of a Model Citation in Lieu of Arrest Policy.

What's new: The project's four pilot sites are:

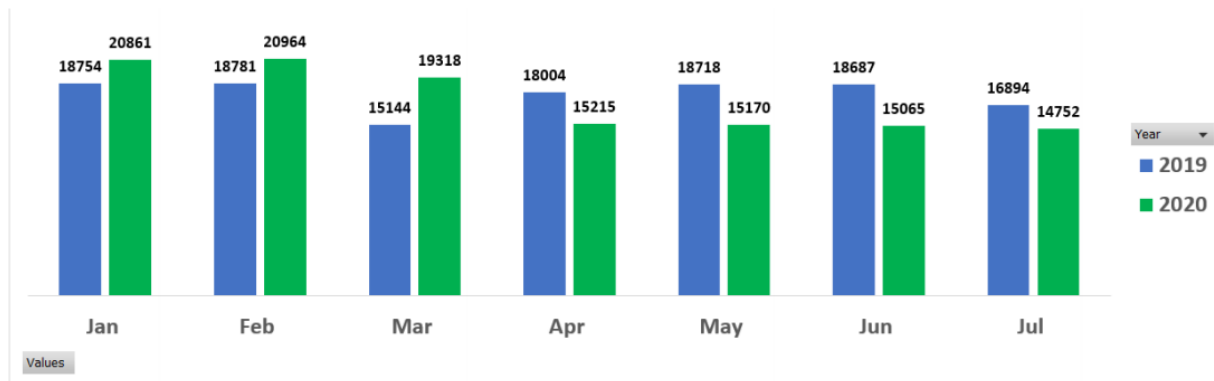
- Winston-Salem Police Department
- Wilmington Police Department
- Apex Police Department
- Elizabeth City Police Department

Implementation & training are ongoing. Pilot sites go live with the Model Policy on Dec 1.

More info [here](#).

INSIGHTS: JAIL OCCUPANCY DURING COVID-19

Figure 1. Number of individuals detained in jail statewide—2019 and 2020



Monthly Net Change in Jail Occupants - 2019 to 2020						
2107	2183	4174	-2789	-3548	-3622	-2142

Note: The figure above shows a significant decline in the statewide jail population in March 2019. However, in March 2019 a large number of facilities—40 of 114—did not report jail data. As a result, the March 2019 figure is artificially low.

Key data points from our newest Jail Occupancy Report ([here](#)):

Statewide

- In January & February 2020 over 20,000 people were detained in NC jails
- In March 2020 jail detentions statewide dropped to 19,318
- By April 2020, detentions dropped to 15,215, and have continued to fall through July 2020
- Statewide detentions for April, May, June, and July 2020 were below rates for the same months in 2019

County-level

- From February 2020 to July 2020 most counties experienced decreases in jail populations, though three counties experienced increases
- Size of county-level population decreases varied significantly, ranging from 2% to 76%
- From June 2020 to July 2020, only 52% of counties experienced a decrease in population, possibly signaling a change in the overall trend

New tool for stakeholders

Included in the spreadsheet accompanying our report is a new tool allowing stakeholders to examine local jail populations throughout the COVID-19 period. Find the tool [here](#).

HAPPENINGS

We've been busy! Among other things, Lab Director Smith spoke with the Governor's Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice & the House Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement, and Justice. She also accepted a position on the Advisory Committee for the SBI's new Center for the Reduction of Law Enforcement Use of Force and partnered with the NC Chamber to offer a webinar on Second Chance Hiring.

A list of past and future events can be found on [our website](#).



SCHOOL OF
GOVERNMENT

Criminal Justice
Innovation Lab



[@ProfJessieSmith](#)



cjil.sog.unc.edu