

# System Needs Analysis and Master Plan Update

for the  
Travis County Adult Correctional System

**STATUS REPORT TO THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
October 28, 2014

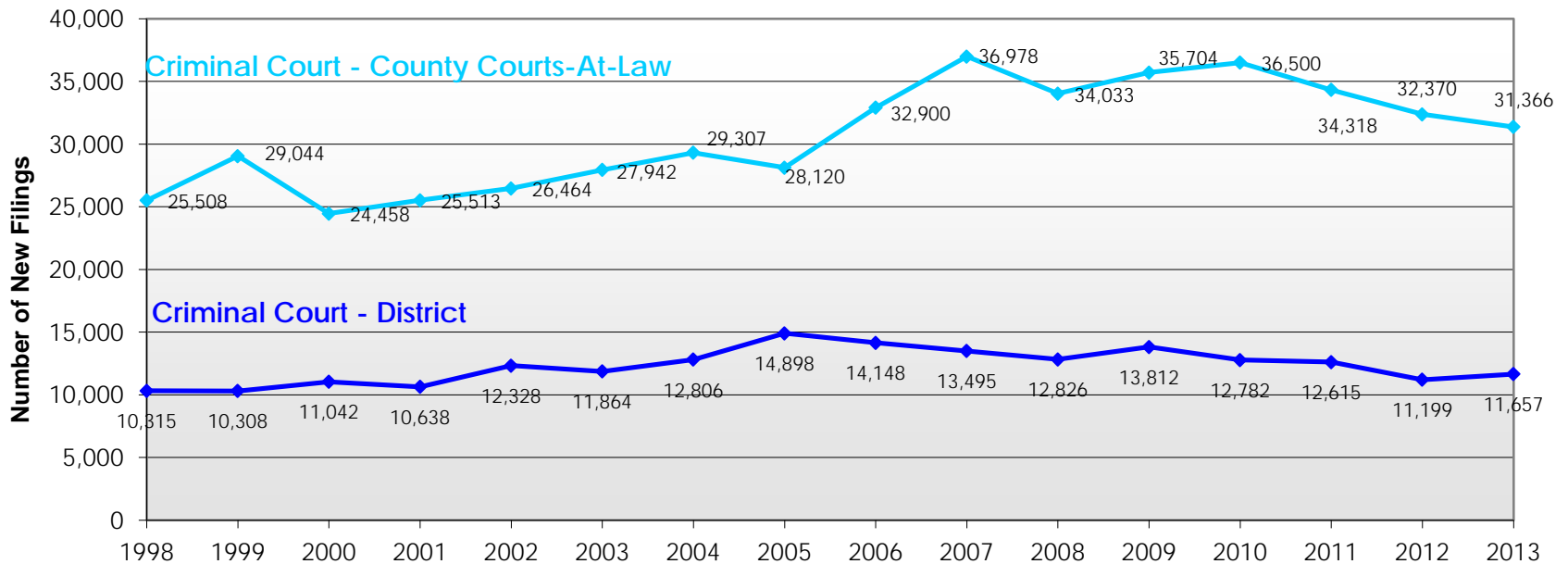
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# Court Analysis

# Observations, Preliminary Findings

Decline in Criminal caseloads for both County and District Courts since 2008 – **caseload volume is not driving bedspace demand.**

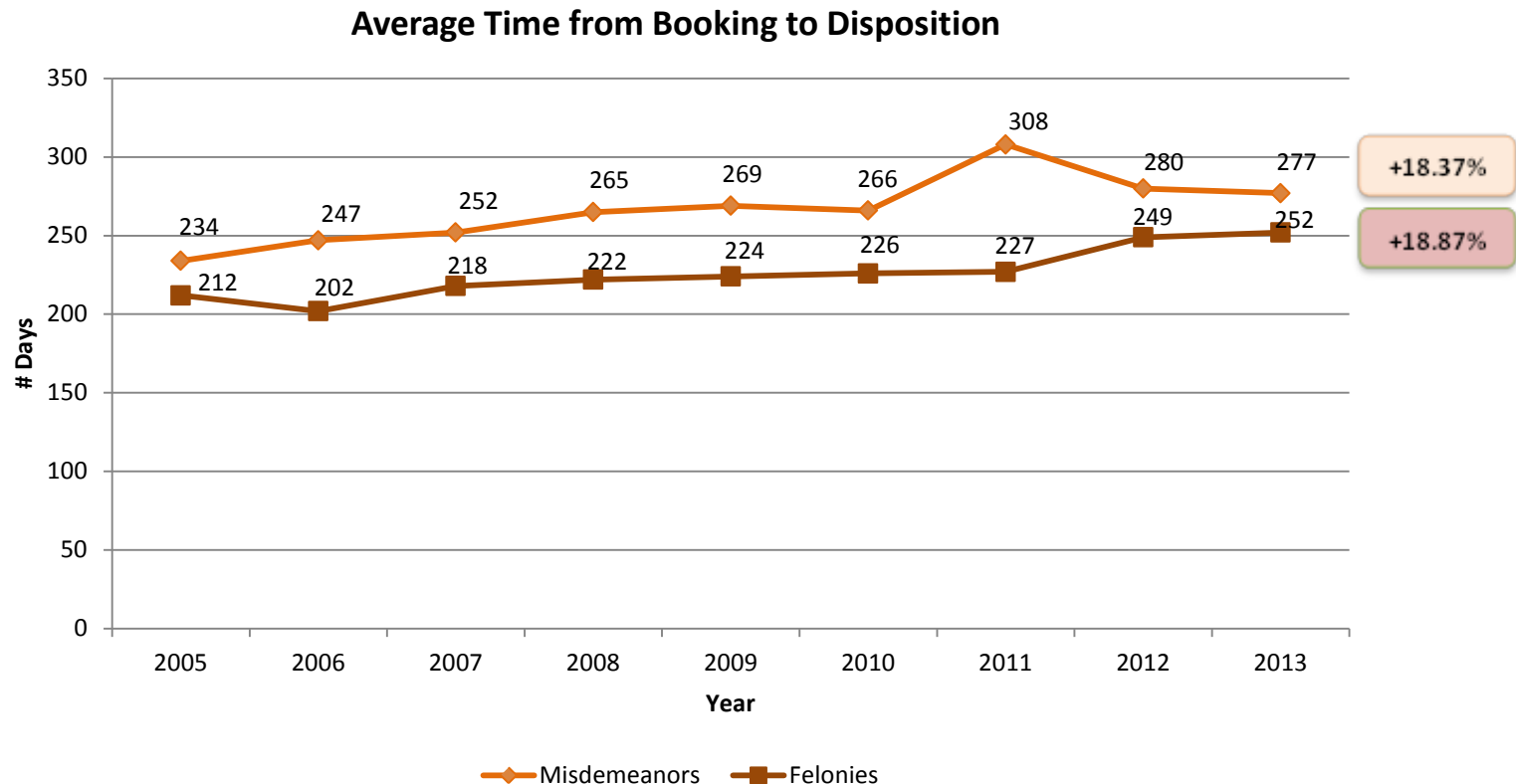
New Case Filings - Criminal Court



Data source: State of Texas Office of Court Administration

# Observations, Preliminary Findings

Average time to disposition up slightly suggesting more complexity in cases and potentially impacting length of stay in jail.



# Court Analysis: Key Findings

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- **Specialty dockets** speed time to disposition for minor offenses, with biggest impact on jail beds from the Magistrate Special Reduction Docket “mag docket” and the jail reduction docket.
- Best practice **Specialty Courts** have been in place for many years. (Drug court; Mental Health court; Veteran’s court).
- **These practices are “ingrained” in the system** with no indication of changes that would impact jail usage.
- Discussion with judiciary suggest that change in charging for **B and C misdemeanors** could impact jail usage.
- Conversations with the judiciary indicate that the **enhancement of mental health initiatives** could impact jail usage.

# Court Analysis: Recommendations

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- Continue use of specialty dockets and specialty courts.
- Explore expanded use of video conferencing and courtrooms for specialized dockets at Correctional Complex.
  - Mental Health docket has been identified as having potential for this
  - Continued discussion with the Judiciary is needed

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# Correctional System Bedspace Projections

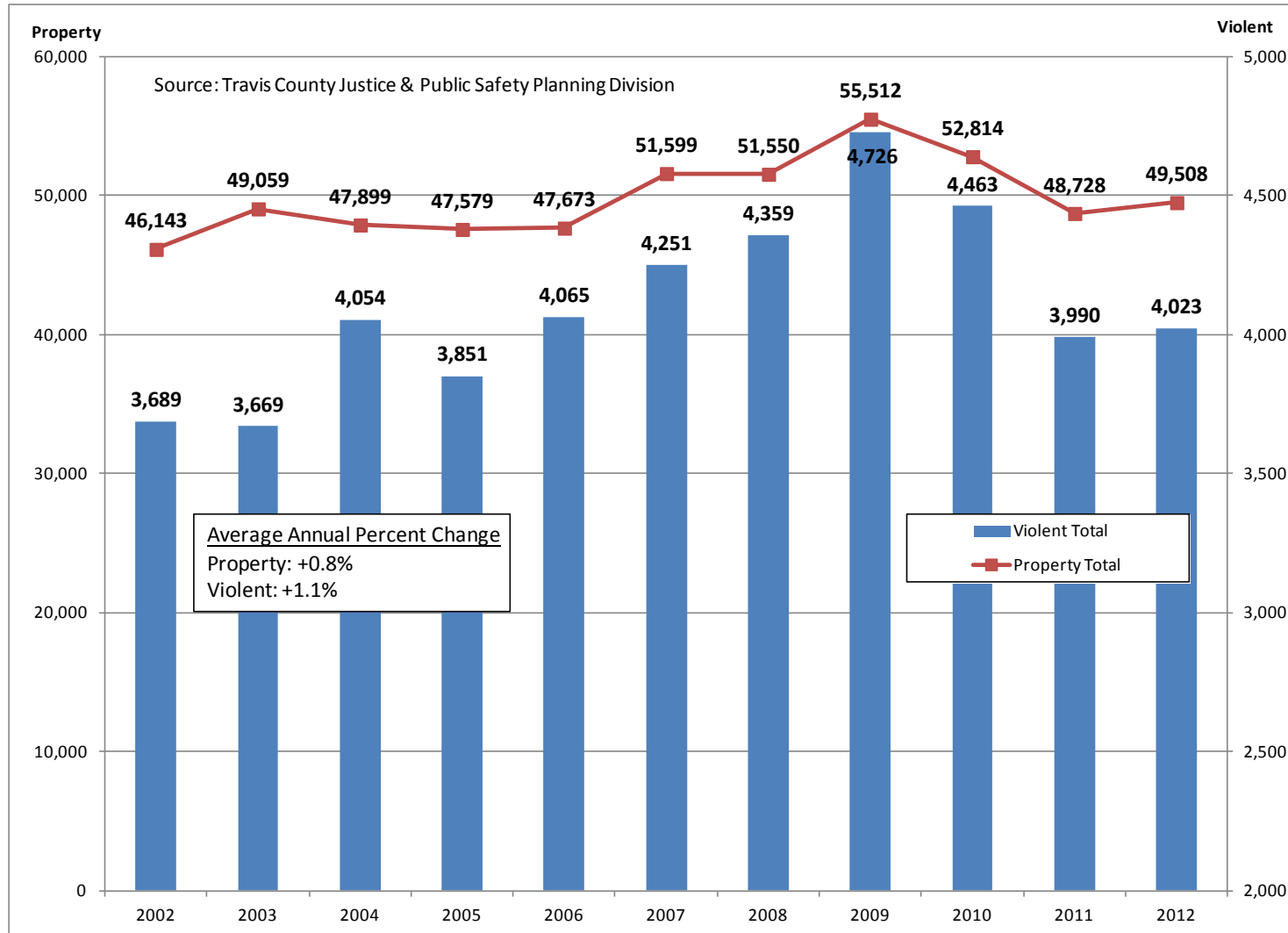
# Key Findings: Jail System Activity

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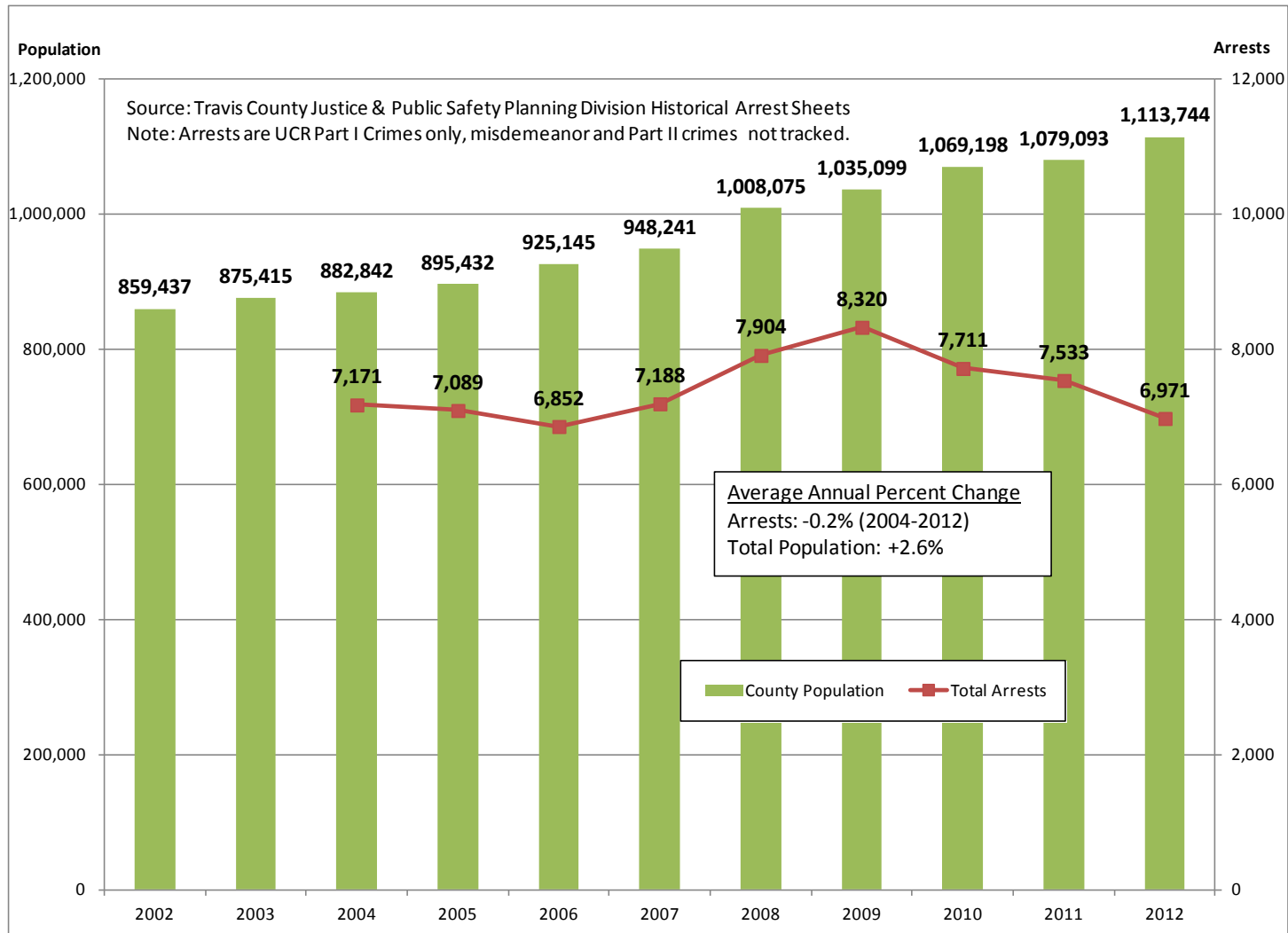
- Overall, **reported crime and arrests have remained stable since 2004** with only a slight increase in 2006 and 2007. The most recent 3 years of data show a decline in both reported crime and arrests.
- Although the county population is expected to continue to increase, there is no **correlation between the county population and jail booking or ADP**.
- **Bookings and ADP have declined** since 2006. Since 2012, both appear to have stabilized. Throughout this decline jail LOS has also remained stable at approximately 15 days.



# County Historical Reported Offenses 2002-2012



# County Historical Arrests Versus Population 2002-2012



# Key Findings: Jail Release and Length of Stay:

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- The overall **LOS is approximately 16 days** –similar to what is observed in other jails across the nation.
- The majority of all bookings into the jail are for **new arrests/warrants**.
- The majority of jail releases are **bond/ROR after 2 days**. Overall LOS for pre-trial releases is 4.4 days.
- Approximately 17% of all pre-trial bookings stay through at least disposition of sentence.
- LOS for **transfer to TDCJ** status is under 4 months – low compared to national averages.
- Just over 50% of all offenders processed are for **misdemeanor offenses** (DUI 16%, traffic 12%, drug possession 8%, public intoxication 8% and assault 7%).
- Approximately 50% of all **APD bookings** are released via bond/ROR in 3.5 days with the majority of offenses admitted being DUI, drug possession and traffic offenses.

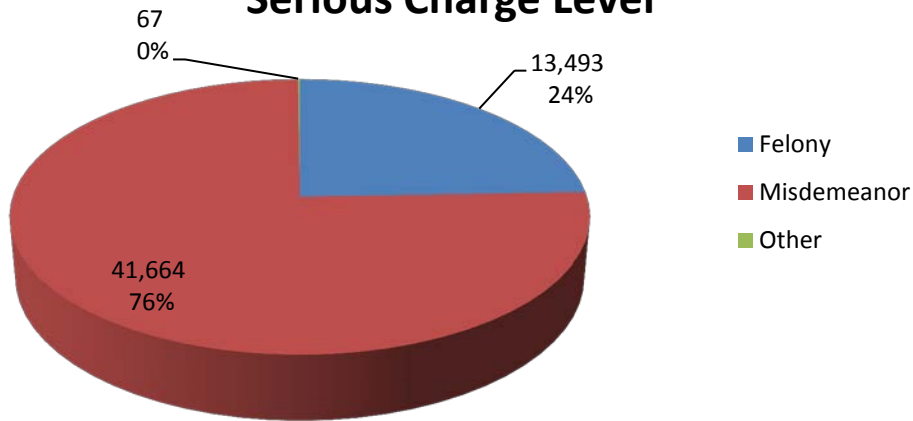
# Key Findings: Inmate Profiles

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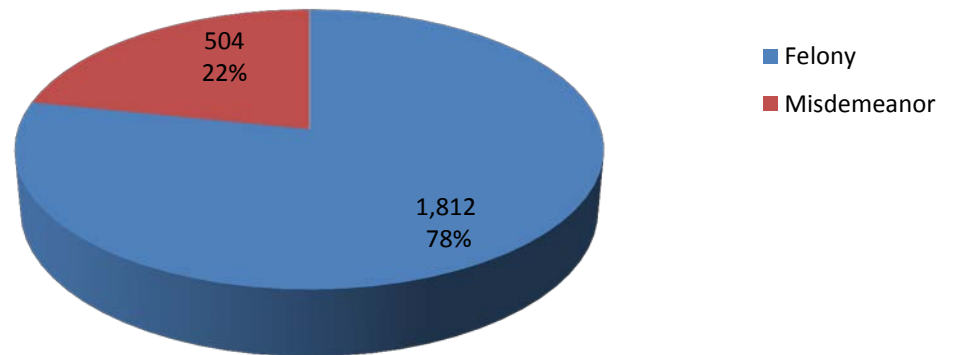
- On any given day in the Travis county jail; 87% are male, 38% Hispanic and 62% is age 35 and under.
- Approximately **75% of the jail ADP is pre-trial and 22% sentenced** –compared with 62% pre-trial and 38% sentenced nationally in 2013.
- Approximately **76% of the jail ADP are for felony offenses**, the largest group being felony assault -15% of ADP.
- Only a relatively small number of jail beds are occupied by **ICE holds (2%)**.

# Inmate Charge Profiles

**FIGURE 9: FY 2013 Releases by Most Serious Charge Level**



**FIGURE 10: Jail Population 5/29/2014 by Most Serious Charge Level**



# Projected Bedspace by Status

Year	48-Hour Housing		Post Classification		Total Beds		GRAND TOTALS
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2015	83	30	2,209	320	2,292	350	2,642
2020	83	36	2,207	315	2,290	351	2,641
2025	86	36	2,183	319	2,269	355	2,624
2030	80	34	2,199	326	2,279	341	2,639
2035	98	32	2,160	331	2,278	363	2,641

Current Capacity: 2820

# Bedspace Requirements: Total System

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
TOTAL	2642	2641	2624	2639	2641
Pre-Class	113	119	122	114	130
Special	379	378	375	376	377
Minimum	814	811	805	805	809
Medium	701	699	693	695	695
Maximum	635	634	628	630	630

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# Capacity Analysis



## Key Findings: Capacity

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Capacity is currently adequate in terms of *number* of beds, but:

- Type of bed doesn't align with the need for:
  - Medical / Mental Health inmates (esp. acute level)
  - Females
  - Youthful offenders
- Typical unit size (48 to 64 beds) not conducive to special risk/ need inmates results in TCJ use for special management, elderly, intermediate female psych
- TCJ capacity is coming off line
- Some buildings at TCCC are aging out

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# **Jail Operations Analysis Health Services**

# Health Services: Key Findings

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- Rise in **medical and mental health acuity levels**, despite decline in jail population
- Critical **housing deficiencies**: mental health, medical, female
- Insufficient **mental health staffing** at TCJ.
- **Off-site health services** are extensive and costly - but necessary.
- **Nursing shortages** result in use of agency personnel.
- **Outmoded equipment** cause operational inefficiencies.
- Aggressive, best practice **cost control initiatives** are in place.

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# **Jail Operations Analysis Inmate Programs**

# Key Findings: Inmate Programs

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- Long **waiting lists** for inmate programs
- **Vocational programs** are highly attended, but make up less than 10% of overall program offerings.
- **Classrooms** appeared to be heavily utilized, but 8am-3pm only.
- Only minimum and medium classifications can access **programs** at the Health Services Building; maximum inmates receive programs at the housing unit – where space is severely limited
- One classroom has been outfitted for **on-line GED system**, but not utilized due to security concerns.

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# **Jail Operations Analysis Staffing**

# Key Findings: Staffing

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- TCSO has **more FTEs than is needed** overall, but not a significant number.
- Some areas are understaffed while others are overstaffed.
- Departments that deal with the **transportation of inmates** have the greatest need for additional staff positions.
- The **relief factor** for determining proper FTEs needs updating.

# Key Findings: Staffing

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- County policy contributes to higher relief factors. (**No limit on accrued vacation leave** for law enforcement.)
- The process of **moving inmates** appears safe and an efficient use of staff.
- The reduced growth in the inmate population provides an opportunity for assessment and improvements.



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# Next Steps

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## Phase One

1. Finalize capacity and bedspace projections
2. Develop bedspace “gap analysis”: have vs need
3. Further refine key Operations recommendations
4. Prepare draft and final report

## Phase Two

1. Establish space requirements for CBF/jail and TCCC facilities
2. Develop campus development scenarios: re-align, renovate, new construction
3. Select preferred scenario and generate construction and staffing cost estimates