Damon Allen Act
Bail Proceedings and Public Safety Report System
FY 2022 Report

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Senate Bill 6 - The Damon Allen Act

In September 2021, during the Second Called Special Session of the 87th Legislature, Senate Bill 6, also known as the Damon Allen Act, was enacted. The Damon Allen Act established procedures for setting bail and the reporting of bail information, set certification and reporting requirements for charitable bail organizations, amended procedures regarding cash bail bonds, and specified additional training requirements for all magistrates.

The bill also required the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to implement a standardized public safety report system for statewide use no later than April 1, 2022, and to provide access to the system, at no cost, to the appropriate officials in each county and each municipality that perform magistrations. Magistrates who set bail are required to consider the public safety report for defendants charged with Class B misdemeanor or higher categories of offenses.

The project consisted of developing the statewide Public Safety Report System (PSRS) which met the requirements of Senate Bill 6, implementing the PSRS in all local magistrate offices throughout the State, and providing training for all statewide users in the use of the PSRS. OCA contracted with a software company based out of Scottsdale, Arizona called AutoMon (now called Catalis) to develop the PSRS. AutoMon's primary software products were focused on community corrections, pretrial and specialty court company, so they came into the project with a fair amount of industry knowledge and experience. After executing a contract on November 11, 2021, two Project Managers and multiple Subject Matter Experts began to collaborate with OCA staff for months in the development of the project. Additional staff were hired to further implement and support the project.

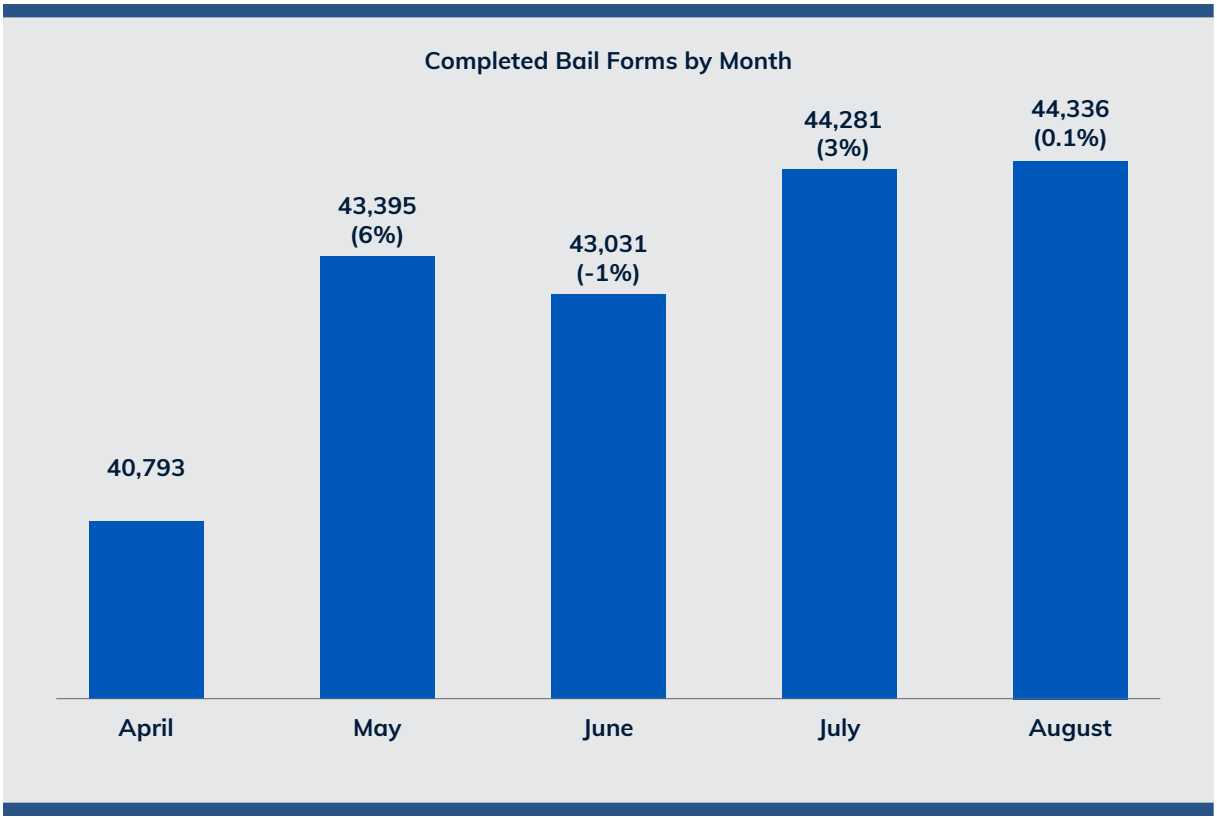
The Public Safety Report System began operation April 1, 2022, as required by law. As of August 31, 2022, there were 5,718 active users and 228 counties have completed magistrations in the system. A total of 215,836 bail forms have been completed from April 1 through August 31, 2022.

PSRS Data from April to August 2022

Government Code Section 71.0351(a)(1)(A-C) requires the clerk of each court setting bail in criminal cases to report in their Judicial Council Monthly Court Activity Reports the number of defendants for each category of offense, the number of personal bonds, and the number of surety or cash bonds. This information was instead captured from the Bail Form information submitted through OCA's Public Safety Report System established by Article 17.021, Code of Criminal Procedure.

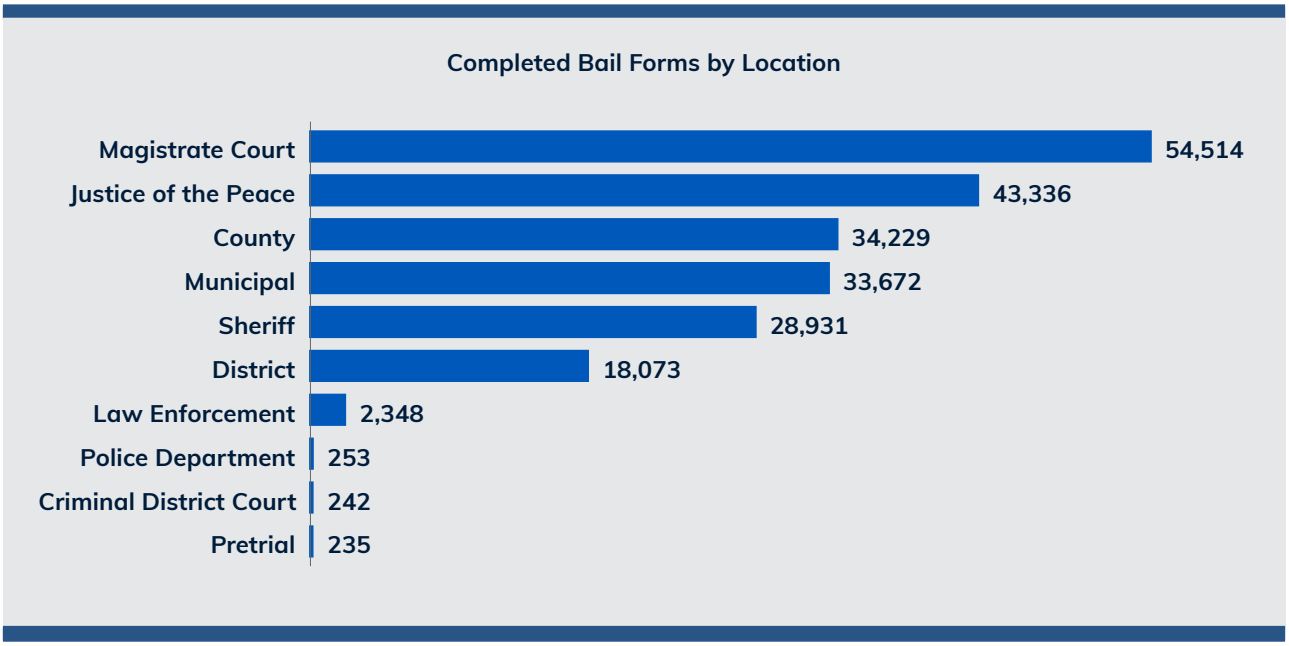
Bail forms are completed by individuals and could have more than one offense per form. One individual could have multiple bail forms for multiple arrests or modifications made from the original bail form that was completed after initial arrest.

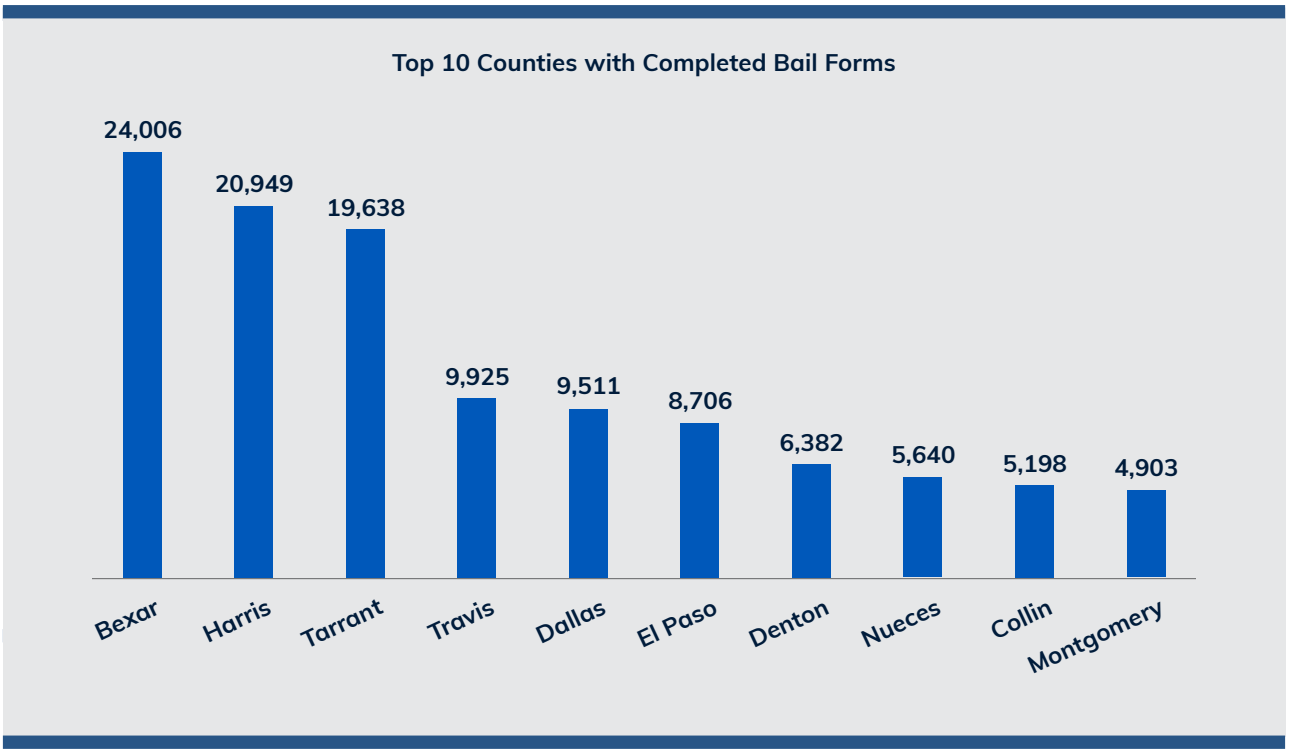
Completed Bail Forms and Percentage Change by Month



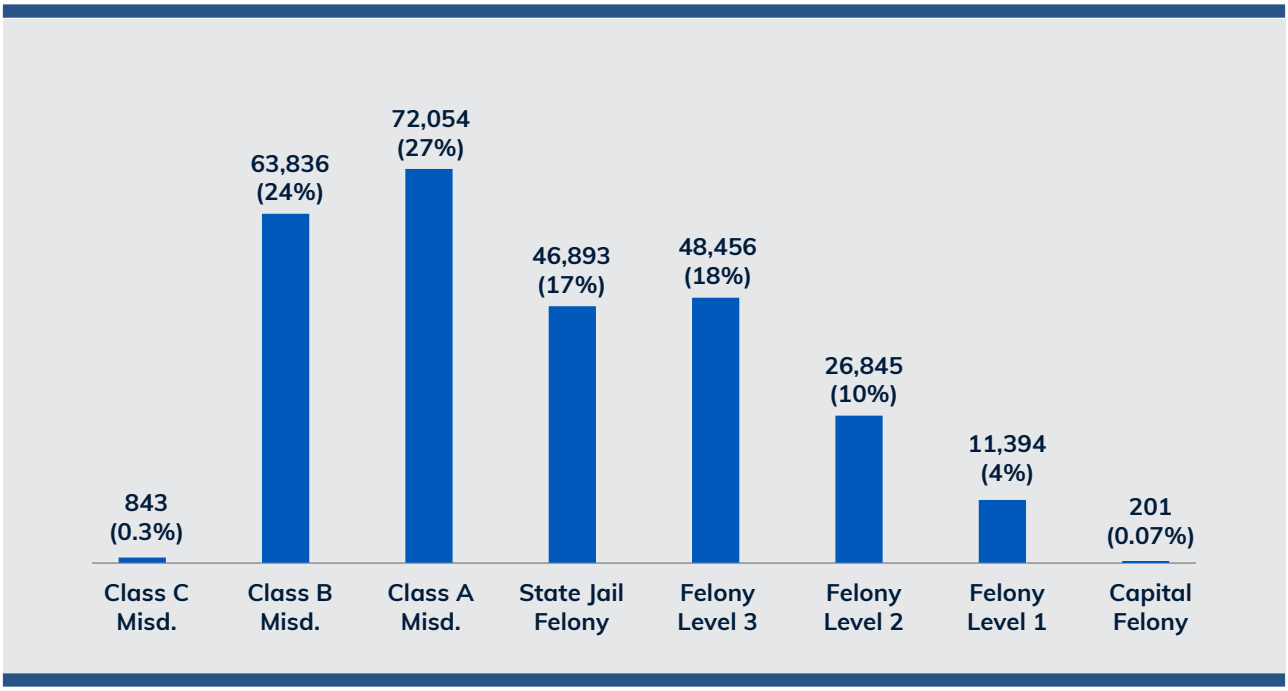
Statistics on Completed Bail Forms

LOCATIONS

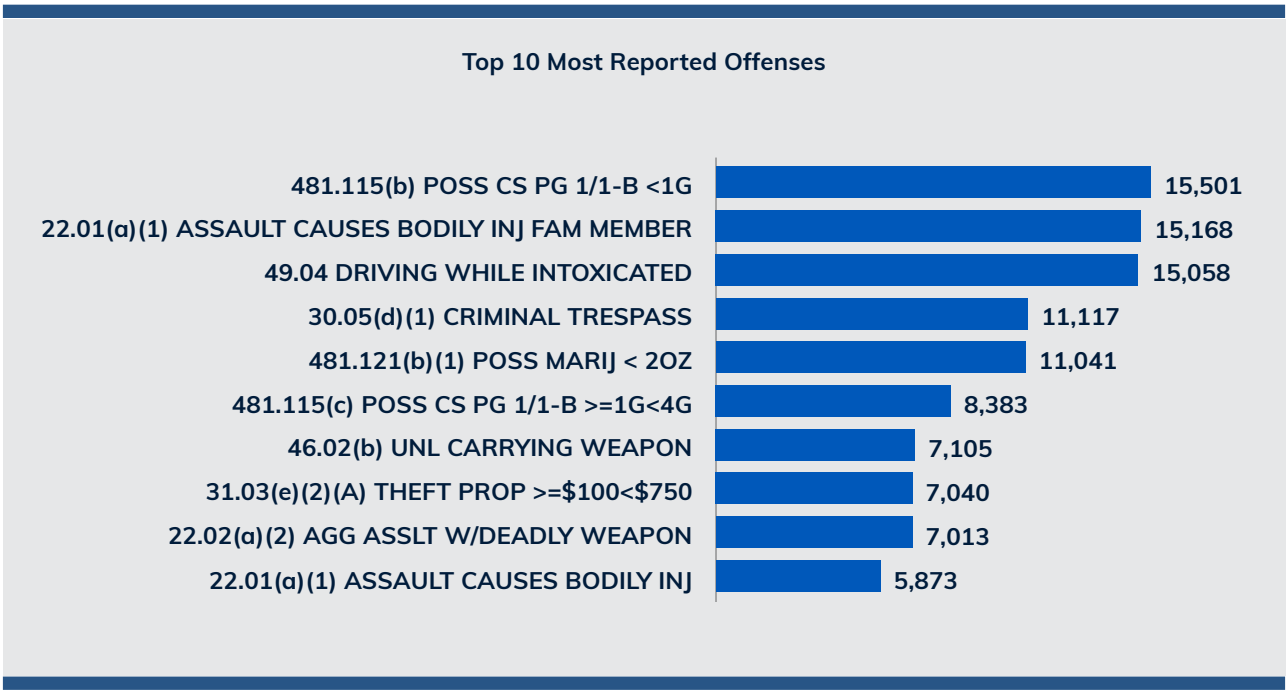




OFFENSES

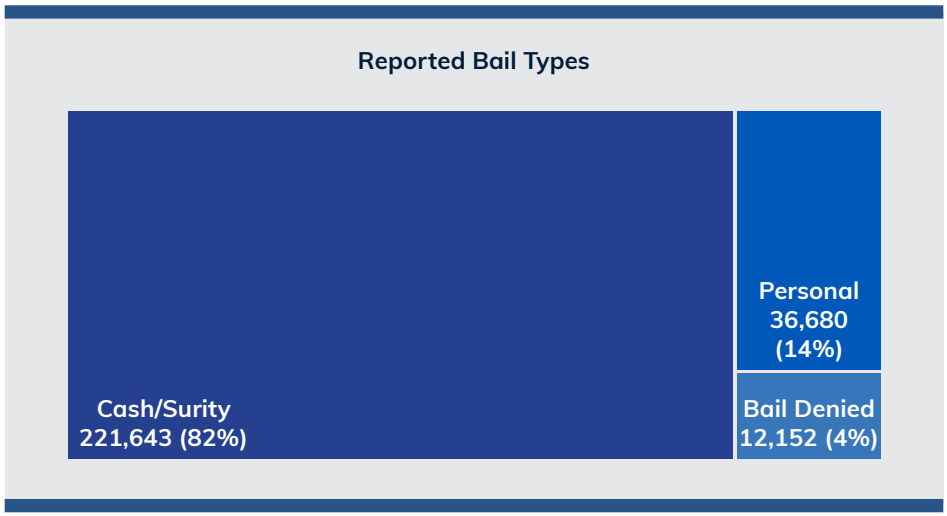


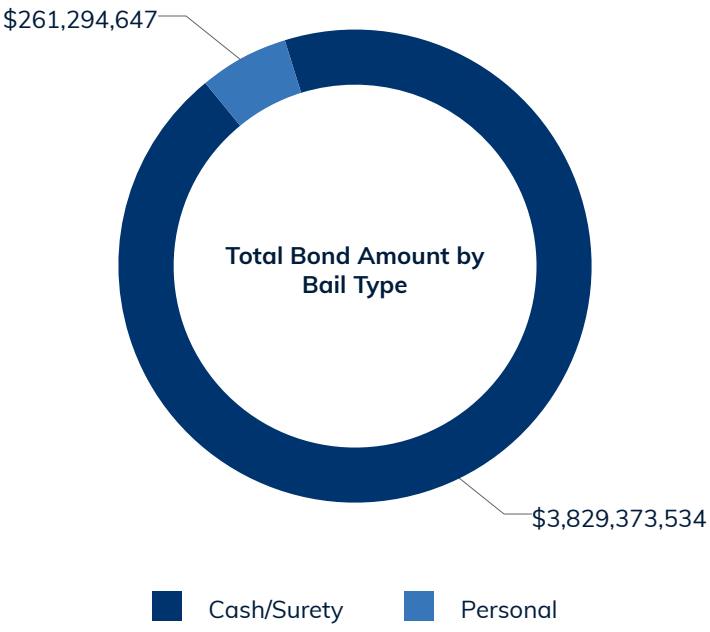
*Note Class C Misdemeanors do not have to be reported.

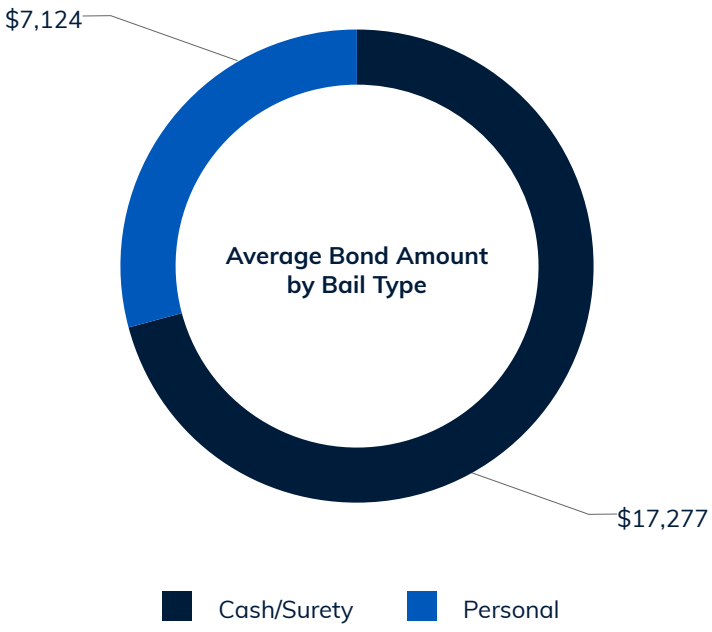


BAIL TYPES

Currently, the bond amounts reported are static and do not reflect changes in the amount (increases or reductions). The system is currently capturing all bonds assigned, therefore, if the bond amount was modified after the initial arrest, a modified bail form would reflect the new amount. For fiscal year 2022 we are not able to differentiate between the original and the modified bond amounts or bail types. OCA is currently working with Automon to differentiate the bond types, bond amounts, and the changes for future analyses.





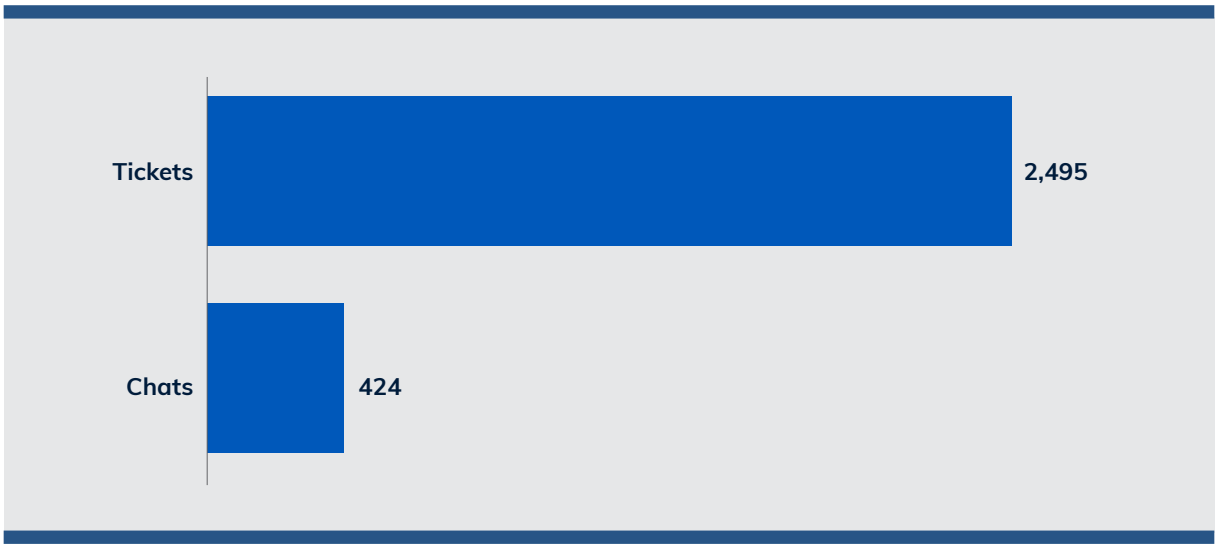


PSRS Training & Support

The Pretrial and Bail Section provides technical assistance to users through our website, www.txcourts.gov/bail, the pretrial inbox, Q&A sessions, attendance at various statewide conferences, and through the PSRS help center.

AutoMon Support

AutoMon has been providing support to PSRS users via email, chat, and through calls. The following data is the total number of tickets opened and chats from February to August 31st.



AutoMon Training

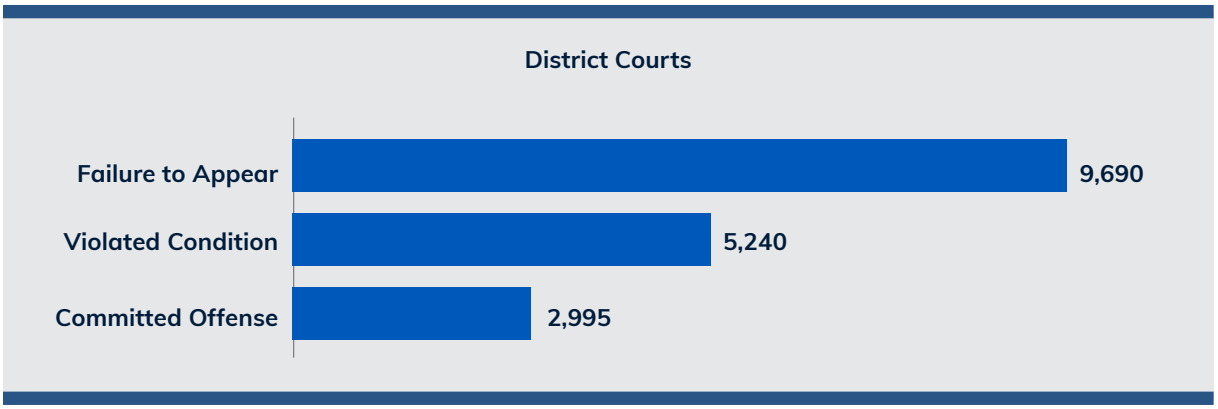
AutoMon hosted 22 virtual training sessions during the months of March and April. These trainings included sessions for all PSRS users and for Local Administrative Users. There was a total of 2,531 attendees. The trainings were recorded and are available on the OCA website.

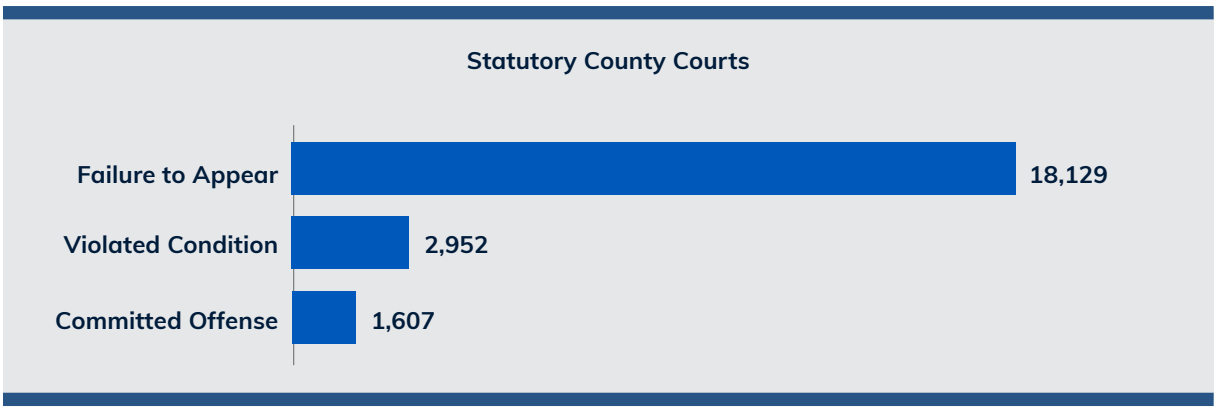
OCA Q&A Sessions

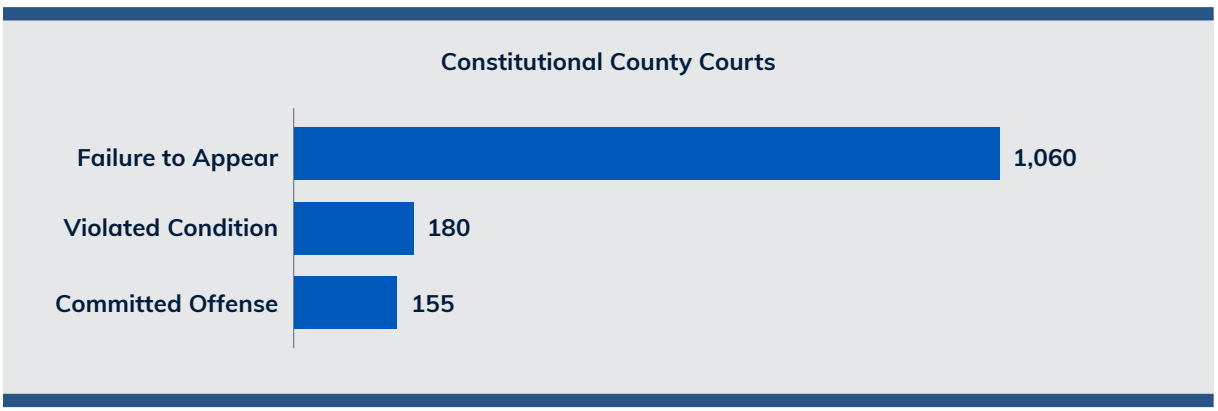
OCA began hosting virtual Q&A Sessions to assist users with any questions they had related to process and logistics in the system. Twenty-one sessions took place from February to July. In those 21 sessions there were approximately 653 participants. Additional Virtual Q&A Sessions have been scheduled beginning in January 2023 in anticipation of the training needs of the newly elected judicial officers and their staff.

Court Activity Reporting and Directory System
Data from April – August 2022

Section 71.0351(a)(2-3) requires the reporting of the number of defendants released on bail who have subsequently failed to appear, violated a condition of release, and who committed an offense while released on bail or community supervision. This information is being captured in the District and County Criminal section of the Judicial Council Monthly Court Activity Reports. Data is captured by case counts, not defendants, given that court case management systems and the Judicial Council Monthly Court Activity Reports are designed to track cases.







Judicial Education

Judicial officers who set bail for defendants charged with Class B misdemeanors or higher offenses are required to complete eight hours of judicial education on the duties of magistrates and setting bail. The judicial education is being provided through the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Texas Municipal Court Education Center, Texas Justice Court Training Center, and Texas Association of Counties.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Required Training

Users of the PSRS who have access to criminal histories are required to complete training based on their type of access. Any PSRS users with access to Criminal Justice Information (CJI) (including Texas Crime Information Center [TCIC] and National Crime Information Center [NCIC]) through Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) must take the CJIS Security Awareness Training. Training shall be taken within six months and biennially thereafter. Individuals who only access hard or electronic copies of TCIC and NCIC responses, and do not query for criminal history information themselves, must obtain and maintain a Criminal Justice Practitioner (CJP) certification. Individuals who can query TCIC and NCIC for criminal history information must complete at least the 8-hour TLETS Mobile Access Certification Course.

DPS Required Certifications and Training			
Potential Users	**Will user need to query TCIC / NCIC for CHRI?**	**Certification Required, per DPS**	**PSRS Permissions**
• Local Law Enforcement • Jails • Magistrates • Court Staff	Yes	TLETS Mobile Access Certification 8-hour live training provided by DPS	Query for CHRI from TCIC/ NCIC through the PSRS. View CHRI already in the PSRS.
• Local Law Enforcement • Jails • Magistrates • Court Staff	No	Criminal Justice Practitioner Certification 2-hour online training provided by DPS	View CHRI in the system retrieved by a user with a TLETS User ID and TCIC/ NCIC access. Note: If the user has the TLETS Mobile Access Certification, the CJP Certification is not needed.
• Local Law Enforcement • Jails • Magistrate • Court Staff	N/A Both user types required	Criminal Justice Information Service (CJIS) Security Awareness Training Online training, self-paced Provided by DPS	Any users with access to Criminal Justice Information through TLETS must take this certification. This includes users who query for CHRI and user who only view CHRI.

Charitable Bail Organizations

Per Senate Bill 6, charitable bail organizations must submit a report to the sheriff of a county in which the organization paid a bail bond for a defendant. This report must be submitted by the 10th of each month. The sheriff then should provide a copy of the report to the OCA.

Bexar, Harris, Hays, and Travis counties have provided charitable bail reports to OCA this year. One non-profit organization, The Bail Project, is responsible for all the bails reported in Harris, Hays, and Travis counties. Texas Organizing Project is responsible for the bails reported in Bexar County. The total defendants reported bailed out for the four counties is represented in the chart below:

Number of Defendants by County for whom Bail was Paid by a Charitable Bail Organization				
Month	Bexar	Harris	Hays	Travis
JAN	19	3	4	
FEB	19	2	7	
MAR	24	11	7	
APR	32	13	11	
MAY	27	14	3	
JUN	49	7	9	3
JUL	22	21	6	
AUG	48	10	3	
TOTAL	**240**	**81**	**50**	**3**

Number of defendants with a reported FTA		
Month	Harris	Hays
APR	1	1
JUN	1	

Required Forms

Senate Bill 6 required OCA to develop statewide procedures and forms to be used by courts to facilitate the refund of funds paid toward monetary bonds and/ or application of the cash funds towards the defendant's outstanding court costs and other fees. These forms are available on the OCA website for courts and clerks to access.

Upcoming Enhancements to the PSRS

OCA and AutoMon continue to plan and implement enhancements to the PSRS. AutoMon is currently in the testing and implementation phase of an Application Programming Interface (API) which allows courts to electronically send information from their case management systems to the PSRS which will dramatically reduce their workload of having to input the same information in both systems, thus freeing-up personnel resources. Other enhancements include a method of bail modification, the ability to enter separate bail amounts for multiple offenses on the same arrest, and various reports as requested by the users. Upcoming plans include an upgrade to the OCA website where publicly accessible information on the PSRS is posted, including a data dashboard of the bail form reporting.