

THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S DATA TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD



The Harris County District Attorney's Office is proud to introduce you to the Harris County District Attorney's Data Transparency Dashboard. This innovative tool is the first step in a multi-phase effort to expand the goals of data freedom and is designed to provide the public, media, and academic researchers with valuable, unbiased, and transparent data about our local justice system. In keeping with the principles of transparent government, we aim to foster a sense of openness, accountability, and informed public participation in the years to come.

A Commitment to Transparency

Now more than ever, the public needs true transparency from their government. For too long, public leaders have been afraid to pull back the curtain, believing that the uncertain narratives that can arise from data transparency outweigh the public good that comes from an informed citizenry. Since the United States Federal Government launched Data.Gov, fifteen years ago, it is estimated that its commitment to open data contributed \$3 trillion to the United States economy¹

While the District Attorney's Data Transparency Dashboard may not create untold wealth, we believe it will save untold lives. Our commitment is reflected in the Data Transparency Dashboard, which consolidates data commonly used within our local justice system, while maintaining privacy for victims and the accused, allowing a clear and comprehensive understanding of the workings of the justice system in Harris County, Texas.

Partnership with The Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute

In addition to launching the Data Transparency Dashboard, we are excited to announce the beginning stages of a partnership with The Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute at the University of Houston. By actively promoting community, industry, and institutional partnerships, the institute positions UH researchers to tackle important global challenges.

Allowing a free and fair analytical examination will undoubtedly lead to true progress beyond partisan politics. This second phase of the data transparency project will see expanded underlying data access given to academic researchers. This data will not only be used to train the next generation of brilliant data scientists from

¹ <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/how-government-can-promote-open-data>

our universities but will also unlock the keys to public safety hidden within the data. **Comprehensive Data Visualizations**

The Data Transparency Dashboard includes several key categories of data visualizations that the public has shown the most interest in:

- **Total Number and Type of Pending Cases:** Provides a detailed overview of all pending District Court and County Court cases, categorized by offense type and status.
- **Case Filings by Year:** Offers a historical view of all criminal cases initiated in Harris County since 2015, highlighting trends and patterns over time.
- **Jury Trial Data:** Visualizes the frequency and outcomes of jury trials.
- **Sentencing Data:** Shows the outcomes of cases where defendants were convicted, including the types and durations of sentences.
- **Violent Felony Bond Offenders:** Highlights the rate and differences among courts on the rates of violent offenders who committed their violent crimes while under repeated bond supervision.
- **Judicial Findings of No Probable Cause:** Provides comprehensive data on cases where judges or magistrates found a lack of probable cause in criminal case filings.

Accessibility to All Levels of User

To ensure you can navigate and utilize this resource effectively, we've implemented several user-friendly features:

- **Drop-down Filters:** Customize your data view with filters such as date filed, court, offense level, disposition type, and offense type. You can select multiple options by holding down the Control key.
- **Clear Filters:** Easily reset your selections by clicking on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.
- **Visualizations and Data Insights:** Engage with various visualizations, including pie charts, bar charts, and tables, providing key insights into the data. These visualizations help you understand trends, distributions, and patterns within the local justice system.
- **Legal Definitions and Explanations:** To aid in understanding the data, the dashboard includes detailed legal definitions and explanations for uncommon terms

A Continuous Commitment

The Data Transparency Dashboard is a dynamic tool that will be continually updated and adapted based on changes in the law, user feedback, and ongoing efforts to improve data visualization. Our goal is to ensure that the data remains relevant, accurate, and useful for all stakeholders.

We invite you to explore the Data Transparency Dashboard and gain meaningful insights into how criminal cases are managed and resolved in Harris County. By providing open access to comprehensive data, we aim to empower citizens, foster transparency, and encourage all to consider the ways we can improve public safety within our community.



Understanding the "Pending Cases" Tab

The "Pending Cases" dashboard offers a detailed and user-friendly overview of the current pending District Court and County Court cases in Harris County, Texas. This tab consolidates data from various sources, including courts, clerks, and the district attorney's office, to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of pending cases. The total number of pending cases is prominently displayed at the top. This visualization is designed to be intuitive, with several drop-down filters on the left-hand side that allow users to refine the data displayed.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Filed	Shows the date when the pending case was filed.	Select specific dates or ranges to filter cases filed within those timeframes.
Court	Displays pending cases for the selected court.	Choose one or more courts to see cases assigned to those courts.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types (detailed breakdown available in the Categories tab).	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.
Case Status	Indicates whether the case is "docketed" (active court dates), "fugitive" (defendant not yet arrested or failed to appear), or "other" (special circumstances such as mental health issues).	Choose the status to see cases based on their current procedural state.

Offense Level Filters cases by their severity level, including felonies, misdemeanors, and capital offenses. Select offense levels to filter cases based on their severity.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, simply click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

Visualization	Details
Pending Cases by Status	Shows the proportion of cases that are docketed, fugitive, or other.
Pending Cases by Offense Type	Breaks down the number of cases and defendants by offense category, such as drug trafficking, violent crime, domestic violence, burglary and theft, and human trafficking.
Pending Cases by Level	Displays the number of cases based on offense level (felony, misdemeanor, capital).
Pending Cases by Court	Shows the distribution of pending cases across various courts.
Pending Cases by Defendant Status	Represents the status of each defendant, including non-arrest, bond, jail, and other categories.

By understanding and utilizing these features, users can gain meaningful insights into the pending cases in Harris County, Texas, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the local justice system's operations and challenges.



Understanding the "Cases Filed" Tab

The "Cases Filed" tab in this data dashboard offers a comprehensive view of all criminal cases initiated in Harris County, Texas since 2015. This visualization aggregates data from various sources, including courts, clerks, and the district attorney's office, providing the public with a clear representation of the volume and types of cases filed. The total number of filed cases, displayed at the top, includes all Misdemeanor A and B cases as well as all Felony cases, which are initiated by the various law enforcement agencies through the District Attorney's office intake system and subsequently processed with the clerk's office and courts.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Filed	Indicates the date when the case was filed.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view cases filed within those periods.
Court	Shows the court where the case was filed. Cases are typically distributed randomly by offense level unless the defendant has prior cases, which are then directed to the same court.	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types, with a more detailed breakdown available in the Categories tab.	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.

Offense Level Filters cases by their severity level, including misdemeanors, felonies, and capital offenses. Select offense levels to view cases based on their severity.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

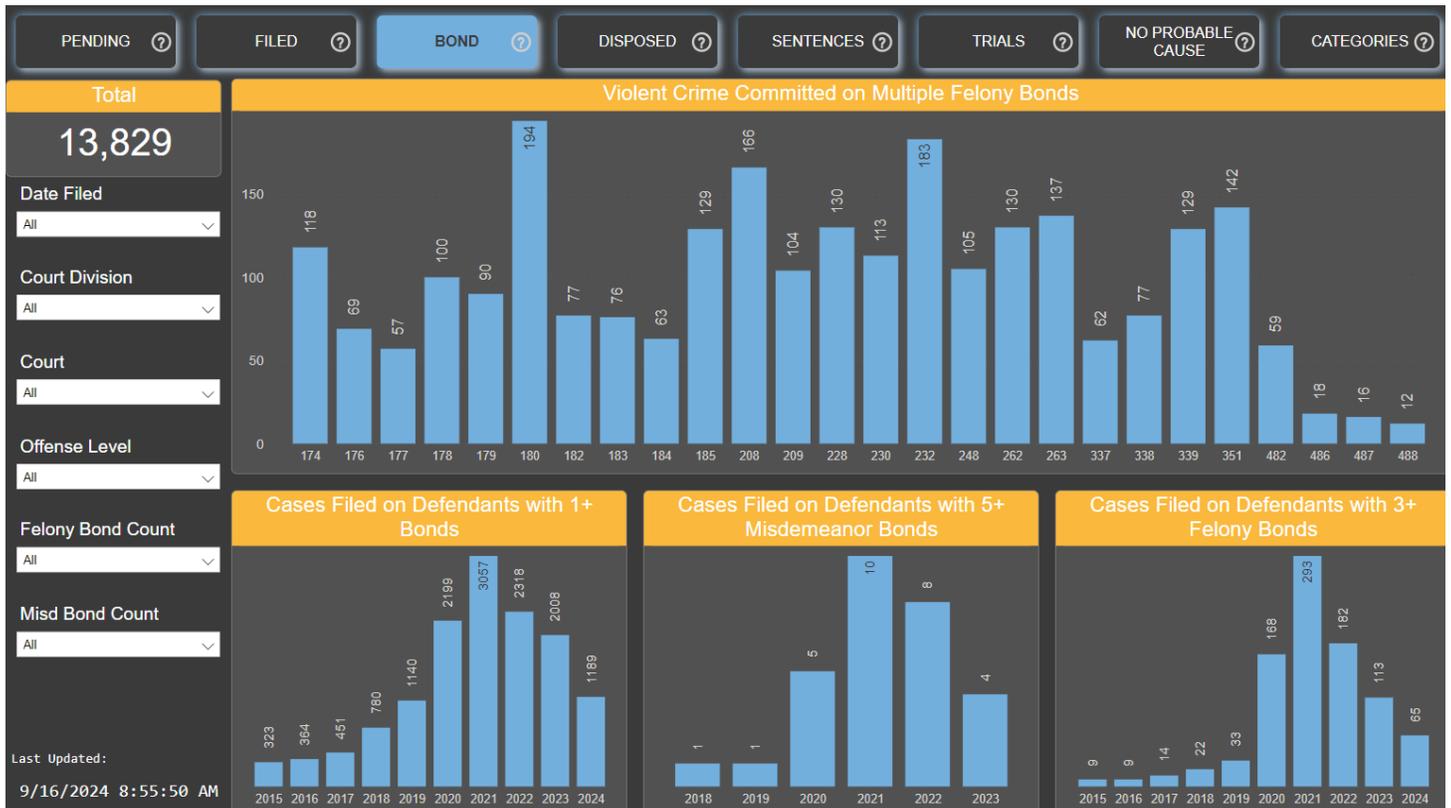
- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, simply click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

Visualization	Description Details	
Cases Filed by Offense Level	Pie chart	Shows the proportion of cases by offense level (misdemeanor, felony, capital).
Cases Filed by Offense Type	Bar chart	Breaks down the number of cases by offense category, such as DWI, public order crimes, drug trafficking, domestic violence, and burglary and theft.
Cases Filed by Year	Bar chart	Displays the number of cases filed each year, showing trends over time.
Cases Filed by Court	Bar chart	Illustrates the distribution of filed cases across various courts.

By understanding and utilizing these features, users can gain meaningful insights into the criminal case filings in Harris County, Texas, providing a deeper appreciation of the local justice system's operations and trends.



Understanding the "Violent Felony Cases Filed on Defendant's on Bond" Tab

The "Violent Felony Cases Filed on Defendant's On Bond" tab in this data dashboard offers a comprehensive visualization of violent felony cases filed against defendants who were already out on bond for other offenses. This tab aims to provide the public with an insightful understanding the effects of the pre-trial detention system in Harris County, Texas, by illustrating the frequency and nature of such cases. The data is sourced from the courts, clerks, and the district attorney's office, ensuring a robust and accurate representation.

General Background on Bonds and Supervision:

It is important to note that the process of bond is where a defendant, after arrest and booking, is released from custody and typically supervised by a court, where the Court balances the defendant's right to freedom during the pre-trial process with the court's need to ensure that the defendant will appear for all scheduled court proceedings and the community remains safe.

Typically, a Court will require the Defendant to adhere to certain conditions to remain out in the public, such as travel restrictions, regular check-ins, paying a surety bond, or other measures to ensure the Defendant will return to court when needed and not commit additional crimes upon the public. The cases reflected here are ones in which the Defendant, while under supervision for various number of same or separate crimes, was arrested once more for specifically a violent felony offense.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Filed	Shows the date the case was filed.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view cases filed within those periods.

Court	Displays the court where the case was filed. Cases are usually distributed randomly among the courts by offense level unless the defendant has prior cases, which directs the new case to the same court.	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Offense Level	Filters cases by their severity level, including misdemeanors, felonies, and capital offenses.	Select offense levels to view cases based on their severity.
Felony Bond Count	Indicates the number of separate felony bonds the defendant was on.	Select the bond count to see cases involving defendants with multiple felony bonds.
Misd Bond Count	Indicates the number of separate misdemeanor bonds the defendant was on.	Select the bond count to see cases involving defendants with multiple misdemeanor bonds.

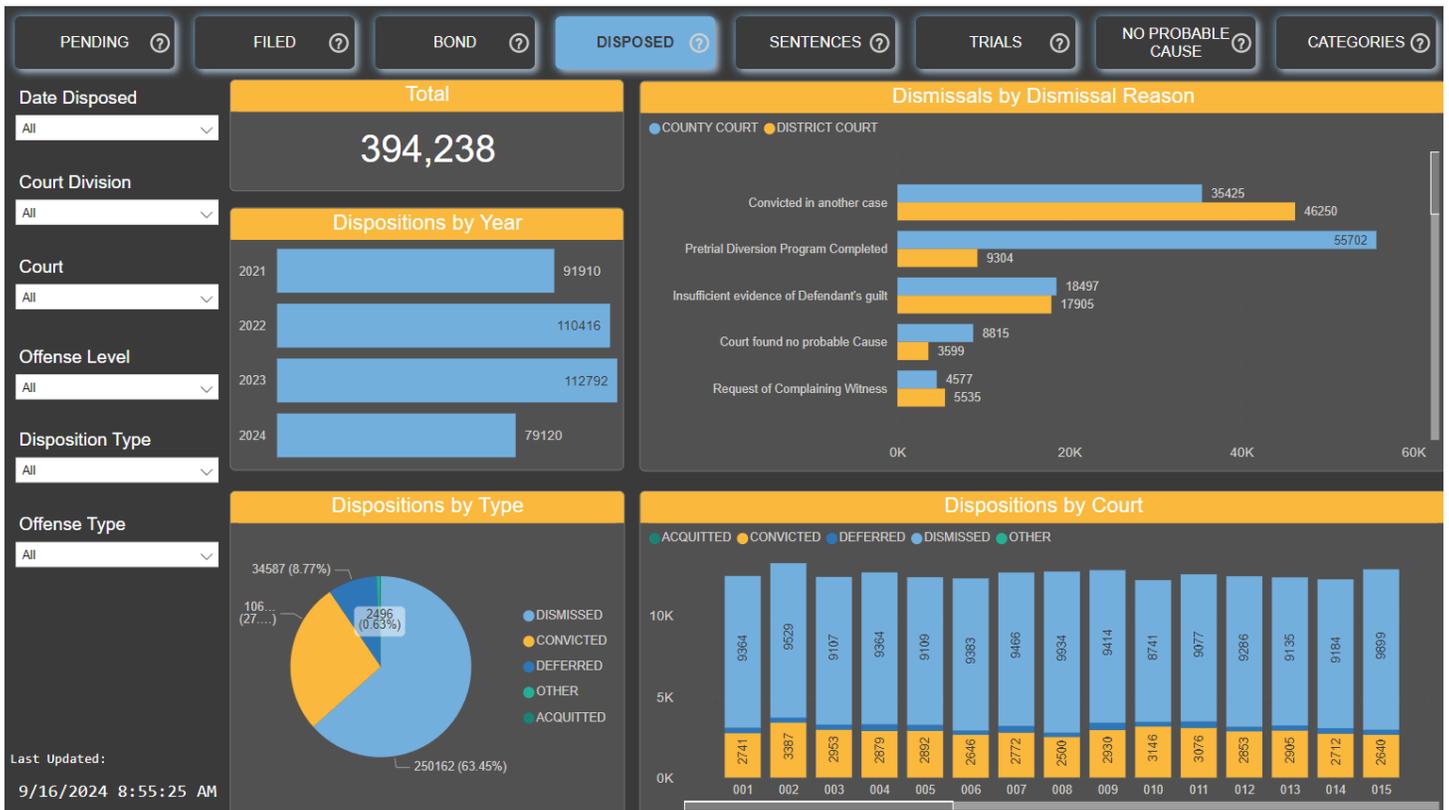
Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

Visualization	Details
Total Violent Felony Cases Filed	Shows the total number of violent felony cases filed, currently 25,348.
Cases Filed by Offense Level	Reflects the proportion of violent felony offenses versus Capital Murder level offenses.
Defendant on Multiple Felony Bonds	Shows how many defendants, already on multiple felony bonds, were charged with a violent felony offense, broken down by the district court that issued the bond.
Cases Filed on Defendants with Multiple Bonds	These charts show the number of cases filed by year for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendants with 1 or more bonds. Defendants with 5 or more misdemeanor bonds Defendants with 3 or more felony bonds.



Understanding the "Cases Disposed" Tab

The "Cases Disposed" tab in this data dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of the various reasons why criminal cases in Harris County, Texas, reach their conclusion. This tab aggregates data from the courts, clerks, and the district attorney's office to offer a clear representation of case outcomes. By visualizing this data, the public can gain insights into the different legal reasons behind case dispositions and how these dispositions are distributed over time and across various categories.

Definitions and Explanations of Legal Terms and Dismissal Reasons

- **Convicted in Another Case:** The defendant was found guilty in a different case, which may impact the current case's disposition.
- **Pretrial Diversion Program Completed:** The defendant successfully completed a program designed to divert them from traditional prosecution, often resulting in case dismissal upon successful completion.
- **Insufficient Evidence of Defendant's Guilt:** The prosecution did not have enough evidence that would be admissible at trial to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury.
- **Court Found No Probable Cause:** The judge determined there was not enough evidence to justify continuing the case.
- **Request of Complaining Witness:** The complainant/victim involved in the case asked for the case to be dismissed.
- **Due to Passage of Time:** The case was dismissed because too much time had passed, making successful prosecution unlikely due to loss of evidence or unavailability of witnesses.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Disposed	Reflects the date when the case was concluded in the court system.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view cases disposed of within those periods.

Court	Displays the court where the case was handled.	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Offense Level	Filters cases by their severity level, including misdemeanors, felonies, and capital offenses.	Select offense levels to view cases based on their severity.
Disposition Type	Filters by the outcome of the case (e.g., convicted, dismissed, deferred, acquitted).	Select disposition types to filter the data based on the case outcomes.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types, with a more detailed breakdown available in the Categories tab.	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

Visualization	Details
Total Cases Disposed	Shows the total number of cases disposed
Dispositions by Year	Displays the number of cases disposed of each year since 2021, showing trends over time.
Dismissals by Dismissal Reason	Illustrates the reasons for case dismissals, defined above
Dispositions by Type	Shows the proportion of each type of case disposition, including dismissed, convicted, deferred (legally not a conviction but functions similarly to probation), acquitted by trial, and other (unknown or not recorded).
Dispositions by Court	Illustrates the distribution of case dispositions across various courts, broken down by type of disposition.



Understanding the "Sentences" Tab

The "Sentences" tab in this data dashboard provides a detailed overview of case outcomes where the defendant was convicted at the end of his or her case. By visualizing this data, the public can gain insights into the different types of sentences, their durations, and the interplay between the types and level of offenses and the typical sentencing handed down by a court in Harris County.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Disposed	Reflects the date when the case was concluded in the court system.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view cases disposed of within those periods.
Court	Displays the court where the case was handled.	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Offense Level	Filters cases by their severity level, including misdemeanors, felonies, and capital offenses.	Select offense levels to view cases based on their severity.
Sentence Type	Filters by the type of sentence given (e.g., jail, prison).	Select sentence types to filter the data based on the sentencing outcomes.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types, with a more detailed breakdown available in the Categories tab.	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

- **Total Number of Sentences:**
 - o *Visual:* total number at the top.
 - o *Details:* Shows the total number of convictions resulting in sentences.
- **Sentence Durations**
 - o *Visual:* bar chart.
 - o *Details:* Illustrates the proportion of different sentence levels and confinement lengths
- **Sentences by Outcome Type:**
 - o *Visual:* Bar chart.
 - o *Details:* Shows the distribution of sentences by type of outcome, including:
- **Plea:** The defendant agrees to a sentence determined by the DA or the Court.
- **Jury Trial Sentencing:** The defendant is found guilty and sentenced after a jury trial.
- **Court Sentencing:** The defendant is found guilty and is sentenced by the Court.
- **Duration of Sentences:**
 - o *Visual:* Bar chart.
 - o *Details:* Displays the length of sentences sorted by most commonly occurring to least commonly occurring.
- **Sentences by Court:**
 - o *Visual:* Bar chart.
 - o *Details:* Shows how many sentences were issued by each court.

Legal Definitions and Explanations

- **Conviction:** When a defendant is found guilty of a crime by a jury, judge, or through a plea agreement.
- **Plea:** An agreement between the defendant and the prosecution where the defendant agrees to plead guilty in exchange for a sentence that is less than he was likely to receive from a jury, or the District Attorney allows the Defendant to be sentenced by the Judge.
- **Jury Trial:** A trial where a group of 12 community members determines the defendant's guilt.
- **Misdemeanor:** A crime that punishable by up to one year, served in the Harris County Jail.
- **Felony:** A crime punishable by imprisonment for between 6 months to 2 years in a State Jail, or more 2 years to Life in TDC Prison.
- **Capital Offense:** The most serious crimes under Texas law, punishable by life in prison without parole or death.

Sentencing Possibilities

The type of case largely determines the possible sentences:

- **Misdemeanor Cases:** Confinement in the Harris County Jail for up to a year.
- **Felony Cases:** Imprisonment for anywhere from 6 months to life.
- **Capital Offenses:** Life in prison or the death penalty.

Sentence Modification

It is important to note that the length of confinement terms can be modified by the State and County, not the District Attorney's office. This can happen through:

- **Early Release Credit:** Typically serving only 50% or 33% of their sentence length in the Harris County Jail.
- **Prison Terms Release Eligibility:** Eligible for release at 25% of the sentence for most felonies, and 50% for violent felonies (except Capital Murder), with the release eligibility determined not by any County officials or agency but by the Board of Pardons and Parole and the Texas Government Code.



Understanding the "Trial Summary" Tab

The "Trial Summary" tab provides a comprehensive overview of jury trial activity for all Harris County Misdemeanor and Felony Courts. This tab offers insights into how often trials are held, the outcomes of these trials, and trends over time. The data visualization is designed to help the public understand the outcome of the jury trial process and the performance of various courts in Harris County.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Disposed	Reflects the date when the case was concluded in the court system.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view trials concluded within those periods.
Court	Displays the court where the case was handled.	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Offense Level	Filters cases by their severity level, including misdemeanors, felonies, and capital offenses.	Select offense levels to view cases based on their severity.
Trial Outcome	Filters by the outcome of the trial (e.g., convicted, acquitted, etc).	Select trial outcomes to filter the data based on the results of the trials.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types, with a more detailed breakdown available in the Categories tab.	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

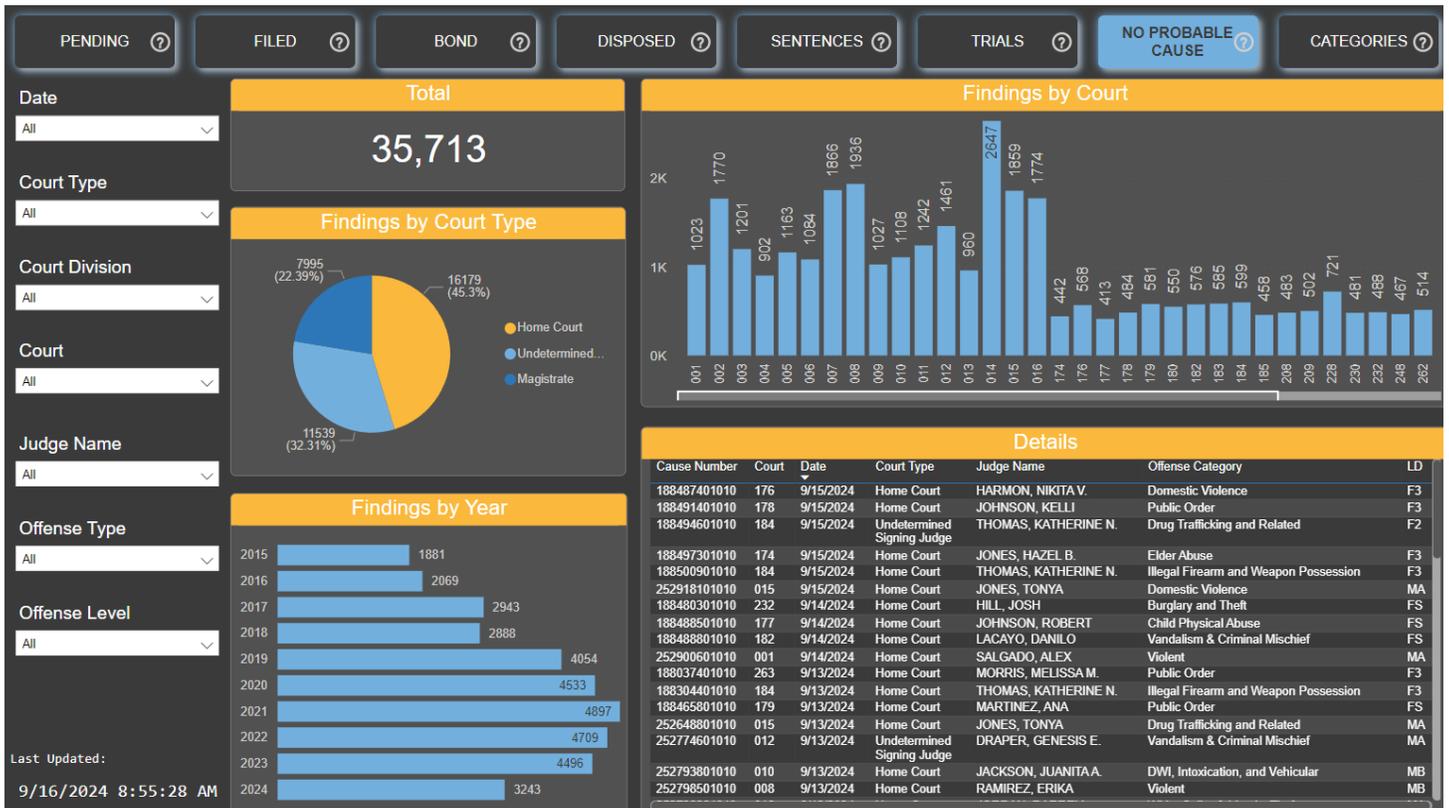
Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

- **Total Number of Jury Trials:** ○
Visual: Large total number at the top.
 - *Details:* Shows the total number of jury trials held.
- **Number of Trials by Offense Type:** ○
Visual: Bar chart.
 - *Details:* Displays the number of trials for different types of offenses.
- **Number of Trials by Year:** ○ *Visual:* Bar chart.
 - *Details:* Shows the number of trials conducted each year since 2015, illustrating trends over time.
- **Trial Outcomes:** ○ *Visual:* Pie chart or bar chart. ○ *Details:* Shows the distribution of trial outcomes, including convictions, acquittals, hung juries, dismissals, mistrials, pending trials, deferred cases, and other outcomes.
- **Number of Trials by Court:** ○ *Visual:* Bar chart. ○ *Details:* Displays the number of trials held by each court.

Legal Definitions and Explanations

- **Convicted:** The defendant is found guilty by the jury.
- **Acquitted:** The defendant is found not guilty by the jury.
- **Hung Jury:** The jury cannot reach a unanimous decision, resulting in no verdict.
- **Dismissed:** The case is terminated by the prosecutor prior to finishing a trial, often due to legal issues or an inability to present all of the evidence due to a court ruling or absence of a critical witness.
- **Mistrial:** A trial that is stopped mid-trial by the Court due to an error made by either a witness, the prosecutor, or the defense.
- **Pending:** The trial has not yet concluded.
- **Deferred:** The Defendant pleads guilty with the agreement of the state to a type of probation before the conclusion of the trial.
- **Other:** Any other outcome not classified under the above categories, or the data is incomplete or unknown.



Understanding the "Judicial Findings of No Probable Cause" Dashboard

The "Judicial Findings of No Probable Cause" tab provides insights into cases where judges or magistrates determined that the facts presented did not meet the legal standard of probable cause.

Probable Cause is an important concept that typically begins the process of a case making its way through our justice system. Police Officers can arrest a person without a warrant if they have probable cause to believe that the person has committed a crime. For example, if an officer witnesses a theft, they can arrest the suspect immediately based on probable cause. Alternatively, the Officer may seek an arrest warrant, where the Officer presents evidence to a judge or magistrate showing probable cause that the person has committed a crime. If the judge agrees, they will issue the arrest warrant.

In Harris County, Texas, with our computerized systems, where an officer will submit a short written version of the facts of a crime, this typically means that the Magistrate or Judge is provided a written or spoken explanation of why the police officer believed a crime was committed -- then those facts are presented to the elected "Home Court" Judge or the unelected Magistrate, and they make a decision of whether to allow the case to continue at that time based on what was provided. If the Judge or Magistrate does not believe that that the crime alleged was committed or that some constitutional right was violated such that necessary evidence would not be allowed to be considered by the Court, they will make a finding of no probable cause.

The Judges and Magistrates are not required to give a rationale or explanation for why they believe the facts presented did not prove it was more probable than not that the crime was committed and so this cannot be included in the data. Also, due to privacy concerns for the suspects and victims involved in the cases, the probable cause statements themselves are not included.

The data that is recorded, however, includes many useful and enlightening data points:

This tab offers a detailed view of these judicial findings, helping the public understand how often and in what contexts such decisions are made.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Date Filed	Reflects the date the case was filed.	Select specific dates or date ranges to view cases filed within those periods.
Court	Displays the court where the case was heard (misdemeanor County Courts or felony District Courts).	Choose one or more courts to filter the data by court assignment.
Court Type	Shows whether the case was heard by an elected judge or an unelected magistrate.	Select court types to filter the data based on who presided over the case.
Judge Name	Reflects the name of the judge or magistrate who heard the case.	Choose specific judges to see their rulings.
Offense Type	Categorizes offenses into general types (e.g., violent crime, domestic violence, murder).	Select offense types to filter visualizations based on specific categories.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The default visualizations provide several key insights:

- **Total Number of No Probable Cause Findings:** o *Visual:* Total number at the top.
o *Details:* Shows the total number of findings of no probable cause.
- **No Probable Cause Findings by Year:** o *Visual:* Bar chart. o *Details:* Displays the number of no probable cause findings each year since 2015, showing trends over time.
- **No Probable Cause Findings by Court:** o *Visual:* Bar chart.
o *Details:* Shows the distribution of findings across various courts.
- **Breakdown by Court Type:** o *Visual:* Pie chart o *Details:* Illustrates the proportion of findings made by elected judges versus magistrates.
- **Detailed List of Findings:** o *Visual:* Table. o *Details:* Provides a detailed list of no probable cause findings, including case numbers, dates, court types, judge names, and offense types.

Legal Definitions and Explanations

- **Probable Cause:** A reasonable ground to suspect that a person has committed a crime, which is necessary to justify a legal action such as an arrest or search.
- **No Probable Cause:** A judicial determination that the facts presented do not sufficiently support the likelihood that the accused committed the alleged crime.
- **Judge:** An elected official who presides over court proceedings.
- **Magistrate:** An unelected judicial officer who handles routine judicial functions, often outside of normal court hours.
- **Cause Number:** A unique identifier assigned to each case within the Harris County filing system. If the case is sealed, it will show as (restricted).
- **Offense Type:** The general category of the alleged crime, such as violent crime, domestic violence, or murder (more information available in the 'Offense Categories' tab)

Using the Dashboard Effectively

1. **Select the Date Filed:** Use this filter to focus on cases filed within a specific timeframe.
2. **Choose the Court:** Narrow down the data by selecting one or more courts.
3. **Filter by Court Type:** Decide whether you want to view findings from elected judges, magistrates, or both.
4. **Specify the Judge Name:** If interested in the rulings of specific judges, use this filter.
5. **Select Offense Type:** Focus on particular types of offenses to see how often no probable cause is found for those categories.

- **Degree of Offense:** The level of severity of the crime. Common degrees include misdemeanors (less severe, often punishable by fines or short jail time) and felonies (more severe, punishable by longer imprisonment).
- **Offense Description:** A detailed explanation of the crime, which helps in understanding the nature of the offense.

Using the Dashboard Effectively

1. **Select the Statute:** Use this filter to focus on offenses categorized under specific laws.
2. **Choose the Degree of Offense:** Narrow down the data by selecting the severity level of the offenses.
3. **Filter by Offense Description:** If you are interested in specific crimes, use this filter to see detailed descriptions and categorize them accordingly.

Adaptation and Updates

- The offense categories are dynamic and may change over time. Updates can be based on changes in the law, user feedback, and efforts to improve data visualization.
- Keeping this category list updated ensures that the data remains relevant and accurate, providing valuable insights into crime trends and enforcement activities.

Key Components and Drop-down Filters

The left-hand side of the dashboard contains several drop-down filters to refine the data displayed:

Filter	Description	Usage
Statute	Reflects the specific law under which the offense is categorized.	Select specific statutes to view offenses under those laws.
Degree of Offense	Indicates the severity of the offense (e.g., misdemeanor, felony).	Choose one or more degrees of offense to filter the data.
Offense Description	Provides a detailed description of the offense.	Select offense descriptions to narrow down the list based on specific crimes.

Helpful Tips for Using Filters

- **Multi-Selection:** Hold down the Control key and click on multiple variables within a filter to select more than one option.
- **Clear Filters:** To reset the filters, click on the "All" option in the drop-down menus.

Visualizations and Data Insights

The visualizations on this tab provide several key insights:

- **Master List of Offense Categories:**
 - o *Visual:* Table.
 - o *Details:* Shows a comprehensive list of offense categories, including the actual code, full description, law statute, and legal citation. This list helps track thousands of different crimes and map them to specific, trackable categories.
- **Offense Details:**
 - o *Visual:* Detailed tables or lists.
 - o *Details:* Provides specifics about each offense, such as the statute under which it falls, the degree of the offense, and a full description.

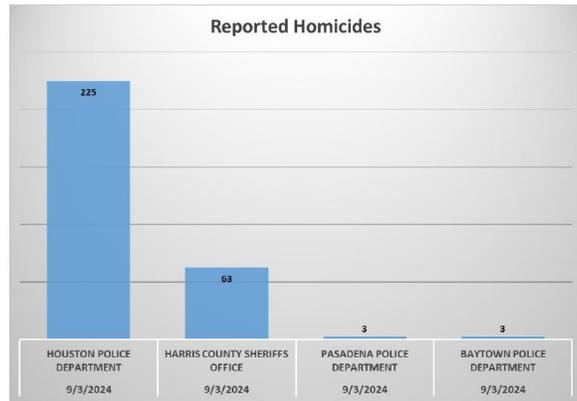
OTHER DATA SOURCE VISUALIZATIONS

Harris County Multi- Agency Homicide Count Weekly Report as of September 3, 2024



Date Reported	Agency	Homicides
9/3/2024	Houston Police Department	225
9/3/2024	Harris County Sheriffs Office	63
9/3/2024	Pasadena Police Department	3
9/3/2024	Baytown Police Department	3
Total		294

Note: Statistics Reported by Agency



Understanding Multi-Agency Homicide Data

While the primary dashboard focuses on case filings, there is often significant interest in the relationship between investigative statistics and case outcomes. These statistics, shared from our law enforcement partners, provide insight into trends in homicide investigations, types of homicides, and the impact these factors have on homicide case filings in Harris County. By examining clearance rates, year-to-year comparisons, and the effectiveness of investigative processes, we gain a clearer understanding of how homicide investigations are progressing and how they influence overall case filings.

This section provides a detailed overview of homicide cases, including the number of murders, clearance rates, and case dispositions under the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines.

Key Terms and Definitions:

- **Homicides:** The total number of murders (“homicides”)
- **Agency:** The police department who investigated the homicide.
- **Change in Murders:** The percentage change in homicides compared to the previous year. A negative value indicates a reduction in homicides.
- **Division Clearance:** This reflects the internal process of resolving or “solving” homicide cases through arrests, warrants issued, or cases referred to a grand jury.
 - **Arrest:** Cases resolved through the arrest of a suspect.
 - **Warrant:** Cases in which a warrant is issued, but the suspect is not yet apprehended.
 - **Grand Jury:** Cases referred to a grand jury for potential indictment
- **Division Clearance Rate:** The percentage of cases cleared by the division using these methods.

- **UCR Clearance Rate:** The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting clearance rate, based on national standards for resolving cases
- **Three-Year Comparison:** This tracks the number of murders and clearance rates over the past three years to assess trends and law enforcement efficiency.

Interpreting the Data:

- **Murders:** The report tracks the total number of homicides each year, providing insight into how murder rates are changing. The consistent decline from 2022 to 2024 indicates progress in reducing violent crime.
- **Clearance Rates:** Division clearance rates reflect how local law enforcement is resolving cases through arrests, warrants, and grand jury proceedings, while UCR clearance rates follow stricter national guidelines. A higher clearance rate is indicative of more cases being closed, leading to increased community safety.

Using the Report:

- **Yearly Comparisons:** This section helps track changes in murder rates and clearance rates over time, providing insight into the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.
- **Impact on Case Filings:** The relationship between investigative efforts and case filings can be assessed by looking at how quickly and effectively homicides are being cleared, leading to more resolved cases and fewer unresolved filings, and quicker turnaround through the criminal justice system.

This homicide case management data, in conjunction with trends in case filings available on the HCDAO data transparency dashboard offers a comprehensive view of law enforcement efforts to tackle violent crime in Harris County.

Understanding Pre-Trial and Post-Charge Diversion Programs



2- HOUR ONLINE PTI COURSES JULY 1, 2024 - JULY 31, 2024

PARTICIPANT RECORDS	
COURSES COMPLETED	171
INCOMPLETE COURSES	11
TOTAL	182

COMPLETIONS SINCE 2021	
2021	1140
2022	6500
2023	7268
2024	1257
TOTAL	16,165

The Diversion Programs section offers statistical insights into how the Harris County District Attorney’s Office utilizes various intervention programs to reduce criminal convictions by enhancing rehabilitation opportunities for low-level and non-violent defendants. These programs are critical in rehabilitating nonviolent offenders, supporting mental health, and conserving resources for serious cases.

The Harris County District Attorney’s Office offers a variety of diversion programs designed to help individuals, particularly those charged with nonviolent or low-level offenses, avoid criminal convictions by addressing their underlying issues through treatment, education, and community service. These programs allow participants to engage in a rehabilitative process, offering them the opportunity to avoid the lifelong consequences of a criminal record. The reports you may encounter will include data on a range of programs, and it’s important to understand key terms and concepts to interpret this information correctly.

Key Terms and Definitions:

- **Pre-Charge Diversion:** Pre-charge diversions offer alternatives to traditional prosecution, providing offenders a chance to rectify their behavior without “entering the system” with an arrest record, by placing the individual in a program before they are charged in the court system to help rehabilitate them. Successful completion of a pre-charge program means the person does not have a record of being a defendant in a criminal case.
- **Post-Charge Pre-Trial Division:** A program that is offered after charges have been filed but allow those individuals a chance to avoid a criminal conviction. Many offenses also allow for eventual non-disclosure of the charge, meaning that is essentially wiped from the individual’s record after a period of time and with the permission of the Court.
- **Participant Records:** The total number of individuals who entered a program during a given reporting period.
- **Completed:** The number of participants who successfully fulfilled the program's requirements.
- **Incomplete/Terminated:** Individuals who were unable to finish the program, either by opting out, becoming ineligible, or being removed due to misconduct.
- **Ineligible:** Participants who were found to not meet the program's criteria after enrollment.
- **Declined Participation:** Individuals who chose not to participate after being offered the opportunity.

- **Course Completions:** The number of individuals who completed specific educational or rehabilitative courses, often a key component of these programs.
- **Demographics:** These statistics break down participants by age, gender, and race, offering insights into the population served by the programs.

Overview of Key Programs:

Mental Health Diversion Program

Launched in 2018, this program aims to divert nonviolent misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues away from jail and into treatment. Participants are assessed at the Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center and connected with appropriate services. This program has reduced recidivism rates and saved taxpayer dollars by preventing mentally ill individuals from cycling through the jail system.

Clean & Green Intervention Program

This program offers offenders the opportunity to avoid a criminal record by contributing to community clean-up efforts. Participants help remove illegally dumped trash and plant trees while completing their program requirements, allowing them to give back to the community and avoid long-term consequences on their records.

Driving While Intoxicated Pre-Trial Intervention Program (DWI/PTI)

The DWI/PTI program focuses on first-time offenders charged with driving while intoxicated. Participants undergo risk assessments and create individualized treatment plans to understand the impact of their offense. By completing the program, participants can avoid a criminal conviction and work towards rehabilitation.

Retail Theft Intervention Program (RTIP)

Offered to first-time offenders charged with retail theft (Class B misdemeanor), RTIP allows participants to complete a 90-day program, avoiding a criminal conviction if successfully completed. The program is voluntary and helps low-level offenders avoid formal criminal justice interventions.

Responsive Interventions for Change (RIC) Docket

This program focuses on individuals charged with simple possession of controlled substances and some prostitution-related offenses. Participants are directed into treatment rather than incarceration, significantly reducing re-arrest rates and helping address the underlying issues of substance abuse.

Felony Mental Health Court

The Felony Mental Health Court offers an alternative to incarceration for individuals with serious mental health needs. It operates through a collaborative model involving judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment providers, focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment.

Veterans' Court

Established in 2009, this program supports veterans charged with misdemeanors or felonies by providing tailored treatment and support. The goal is to divert veterans away from incarceration and help them reintegrate into the community with the necessary services.

STAR Drug Court

The STAR (Success Through Addiction Recovery) Drug Court addresses nonviolent felony offenders with substance abuse issues. The program is a collaborative effort involving prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers, helping individuals overcome addiction while avoiding further legal consequences.

Note on Additional Programs:

While the most common diversion programs are listed above, it's important to note that the Harris County District Attorney's office may offer additional specialized programs that address other areas of criminal justice intervention that may not be captured in the scope of this data report.

How to Read and Interpret the Reports:

The reports provide monthly and cumulative statistics for each program, detailing the number of participants, completions, and demographic breakdowns. Understanding the following key points will help you interpret the data:

- **Program Participation:** The number of people who entered and completed the program, offering insight into how effective and widely used the program is.
- **Demographics:** Breakdowns by age, race, and gender can help evaluate who is benefiting from these programs and how inclusive they are.
- **Course Completions:** Programs often require participants to complete educational or rehabilitative courses; reviewing these statistics can highlight how well individuals are engaging with the program content.
- **Success Metrics:** Completion rates and recidivism data can show how effective these programs are at preventing future offenses and reducing the burden on the traditional criminal justice system.