

## CALCASIEU PARISH CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

# 2015-2017 ARRESTS AND FELONY CASE OUTCOMES OCTOBER 2021

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction	3
Summary of Findings	3
Background	5
Acknowled gements	5
Crime in Calcasieu Parish	6
Exhibit 1: Reported Violent Crimes per 100,000 Residents	6
Exhibit 2: Reported Property Crimes per 100,000 Residents	6
Calcasieu Parish Total Arrests	7
Exhibit 3: Calcasieu Parish Arrests	7
New Felony Arrests	8
Exhibit 4: New Felony Arrests	8
Billing Decisions	9
Exhibit 5: Annual Felony Case Acceptance Rates	9
Exhibit 6: 2015-2017 Case Acceptance Rates by Most Serious Arrest Charge	9
Billing Decision Times	10
Exhibit 7: 2015-2017 Felony Arrest to Billing Decision Times by Custody Status	10
Defendants with Multiple Felony Cases	11
Exhibit 8: 2015-2017 Rate of Felony Rearrest before Resolution of Original Felony Arrest Charge	
Exhibit 9: 2015-2017 Felony Defendant Rearrest Rates by Most Serious First Arrest Charge	11
Felony Case Outcomes	12
Exhibit 10: Dispositions of New Felony Arrests	12
Rates of Felony Cases Closing within One Year	13
Exhibit 11: Percent of Felony Cases that Closed within 1 Year of Billing Decision	13
Diversion Case Rearrest Rates	13
Exhibit 12: Rearrest Rates for Diversion/Non-Diversion Suspects	13
Conclusions and Recommendations	14
Appendix I: 2015-2017 Uniform Crime Reports by Police Agency	18
Appendix II: 2015-2017 Calcasieu Parish Felony Arrests by Police Agency	20
Appendix III: 2015-2017 Acceptance/Refusal Rates by the Most Serious Arrest Charge	22
Appendix IV: 2015-2017 Billing Decision Times by Most Serious Felony Arrest Charge and Custody Status	23
Appendix V: Examples of Defendants with Multiple Cases Resolved Simultaneously	
Appendix VI: Felony Arrest Outcomes by Most Serious Arrest Charge	
Appendix VII: 2015-2017 Arresting Agency Felony Arrest Outcomes by Most Serious Charge	

#### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the public, criminal justice practitioners, and community decision-makers with a baseline understanding of how the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system applies its resources in response to crime. This report shows what the criminal justice system was like in the years leading up to the inception of this accountability project (2015-2016) and the first year after the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) began tracking system performance (2017). The focus of the current report is the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office for Louisiana's 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, and other Calcasieu Parish police agencies with respect to crime rates, arrest trends, and the outcomes of felony cases. A follow-up report will be released in the near future documenting felony case processing by the judiciary of Louisiana's 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, where Calcasieu Parish felony cases are prosecuted.

Future reports will examine changes in Calcasieu Parish's criminal justice system performance over time to track how shifts in policy, society, and criminal justice leadership impact crime, arrests, and the outcomes of felony cases. The MCC continuing this ongoing evaluation of the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system over the coming years will promote accountability in each respective agency, keep the public informed about the performance of its criminal justice system, and improve public safety.

### **Summary of Findings**

The Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) conducted an examination of reported crime, arrests, and felony arrest outcomes in Calcasieu Parish between 2015 and 2017. Data compiled from Calcasieu Parish criminal justice agencies revealed the following notable findings:

- Calcasieu Parish has a 12% higher rate of violent crime and a 23% higher rate of property crime compared to the rest of Louisiana. Compared to nationwide averages, Calcasieu Parish has a 38% higher rate of violent crime and a 44% higher rate of property crime.
- Sheriff and police agencies focus on arresting felony offenders, which is confirmed through the finding that 57%-59% of all arrests including at least one felony charge.
- There was a 22% increase in felony arrests from 2015-2017. Violent felonies showed the largest increase over this time period, rising 68% between 2015 and 2017. This increase was largely driven by a greater number of arrests for assault or battery.
- Most felony arrests were for drug or property offenses, which made up between 62% to 68% majorities of felony arrests each year.
- The DA's Office for Calcasieu Parish secures a felony or misdemeanor conviction for at least a two-thirds (67%) majority of felony arrests. The overall conviction rate is likely somewhat higher but cannot be fully measured because of inefficiencies in processing criminal charges through the court system, resulting in a high rate of cases remaining pending beyond the study period.
- Calcasieu Parish felony arrests resulted in misdemeanor convictions in 21% to 28% of cases from 2015-2017, which is substantially higher than the 12% rate of felony arrests downgraded to misdemeanors nationwide.<sup>1</sup>
- There is a high rate of rearrest for new felony crimes among suspects who have been released from custody while prior charges are pending. Suspects with multiple felony charges from multiple arrests account for a quarter (25%) of all felony arrests in Calcasieu Parish.
- Felony cases take an excessive amount of time to be resolved. The American Bar Association calls for all felony cases to be resolved within one year. Calcasieu Parish falls well short of this

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Felony Defendants In Large Urban Counties, 2009 - Statistical Tables, Table 21, Bureau of Justice Statistics, December 20, 2013, <a href="https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf">https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf</a>

standard, with only 65% to 75% of felony cases concluding within one year after being accepted for prosecution.<sup>2</sup>

- The high rearrest rate of suspects released pretrial from custody suggests a need for
  improved pretrial supervision of felony suspects released pending trial and more efficient
  processing of open felony cases. Aligning pretrial suspects with the services to address problems
  that lead to criminal behavior, as well as improving supervision such as through the use of electronic
  monitoring, which can improve suspects' compliance with the conditions of their releases and reduce
  the risk of recidivism.
- Participants in the DA's Pre-Trial Diversion (PTD) program for first-time, nonviolent offenders
  had a 4% rearrest rate, compared to the 13% rate of rearrest for all other suspects. However,
  there is a low rate of participation in diversion among suspects arrested for nonviolent offenses and
  expansion of the program may reduce rearrest rates and crime.
- The Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system prioritizes felony cases in which the suspect is being held in custody over those who are released prior to prosecutors' decision to accept or reject the charges. Specifically, prosecutorial decisions were made a median of 24 days sooner for suspects in custody than for suspects released on bond.

The data herein confirms that the combined work product of police and prosecutors strategically prioritize felony crime and effectively translates felony arrests into convictions. The primary areas to target for improvement are (1) reducing the time to bring felony cases to conclusion, and (2) increasing opportunities for felony offenders released from pretrial custody on low or free bonds to participate in pretrial services. Participation in pretrial services includes the option of electronic monitoring for repeat and violent felony offenders who are released from custody during the pretrial process.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Speedy Trial and Timely Resolution of Criminal Cases, The American Bar Association, April 2006, http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminal\_justice\_standards/speedy\_trial.pdf

### **Background**

The Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is deterring public corruption and improving the administration of justice in order to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Louisiana. The MCC was contracted by the Marshall Heritage Foundation to examine the performance of the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system.

The Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system has seven different policing agencies, which include the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO), Dequincy Police Department, Iowa Police Department, Lake Charles Police Department, Sulphur Police Department, Vinton Police Department, and Westlake Police Department.

The primary role of the District Attorney's Office for Louisiana's 14th Judicial District (DA's Office) is to prosecute felony cases in Calcasieu Parish. In addition to prosecuting cases, the DA's Office runs a Pre-Trial Diversion program to which an Assistant District Attorney can refer first-time, non-violent offenders. Diversion participants report monthly to case workers. While in the program, participants are subject to random drug screens, community service, substance abuse treatment, life skills courses, anger management classes, and other services to help them overcome underlying personal challenges that contribute to criminal behaviors. Those who successfully complete the diversion program have their charges dismissed or refused, thereby avoiding a felony conviction record that can have long-term and life-limiting impacts.

The judiciary of Louisiana's 14th Judicial District has seven judges that preside over felony cases, as well as two additional judges with family and juvenile court caseloads who do not preside over adult felony cases and are not included in MCC analyses. Future reports by the MCC will examine the felony case management of the seven judges responsible for adult felony caseloads.

The court of Louisiana's 14th Judicial District is supported by an independently elected Clerk of Court. The Clerk of Court that maintains official court records and fulfills several other crucial governmental functions such as maintaining civil records (e.g., mortgages, divorces, successions) and managing elections.

The MCC received data from the CPSO, the Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court, and the DA's Office for arrests from 2015 through 2017 that was then compiled and analyzed to generate the findings presented herein. Felony case outcomes are based on case statuses as of April 15, 2019, when the MCC received data from the Clerk of Court. Publicly available information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and United States Census (U.S. Census) was used to calculate reported rates of crime.

The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff and District Attorney for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District were provided with advance drafts of this report for their commentary and feedback prior to the public release of MCC research findings. Both agencies provided supplemental information that has been applied to this report.

The finalization and release of this report was delayed by Hurricanes Laura and Delta, which struck Lake Charles on August 27, 2020 and October 9, 2020, respectively. These two hurricanes caused extensive and widespread destruction that will require years of recovery.

### **Acknowledgements**

The MCC expresses its utmost gratitude and appreciation to Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso, District Attorney for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District John DeRosier, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court Lynn Jones, and the Judiciary of the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for providing access to the information necessary to complete this research, as well as the consultation and feedback necessary to better understand the operations of the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system. The MCC additionally thanks the Marshall Heritage Foundation for their support of this research, their commitment to improving the performance of the criminal justice system, and their ongoing efforts to promote community safety in Calcasieu Parish.

### **Crime in Calcasieu Parish**

**Exhibits 1 and 2** show the reported Uniform Crime Statistics (UCR)<sup>3</sup> for Calcasieu Parish per 100,000 residents alongside data for Louisiana and the United States. UCR crimes are reported annually by the Sheriff's Office and police arresting agencies to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to document crime trends in the United States.

Calcasieu Parish UCRs were reported by seven of the eight police agencies in the parish (See <u>Appendix I</u>, page 18 to view each agency's annually reported UCRs). The top three reporting police agencies, accounting for a 97% majority of reported crime, were the CPSO (48%), Lake Charles Police Department (39%), and Sulphur Police Department (10%).

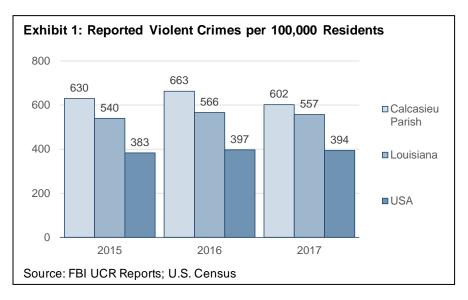
Calcasieu Parish has more reported violent and property crime compared to the rest of Louisiana and the nation as a whole.

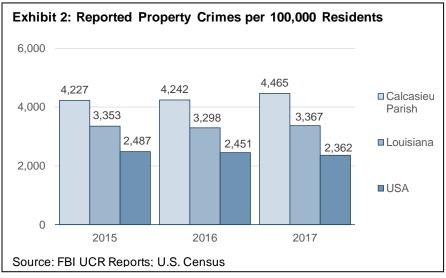
The Calcasieu Parish violent crime rate was 38% higher than the national average over the three-year study period. Calcasieu reported 602-663 violent crimes per 100,000 residents compared to the rates of 383-397 reported nationwide.

Calcasieu Parish had 12% greater reports of violent crime compared to the state of Louisiana, which reported 540-566 violent crimes per 100,000 residents.

Calcasieu Parish's property crime rate was 44% above the national average and 23% higher than the state of Louisiana. Calcasieu reported 4,227-4,465 property crimes per 100,000 residents compared to 3,298-3,367 in the state of Louisiana and 2,362-2,487 nationally.

Reported crime in Calcasieu Parish was generally consistent across the threeyear period, with only minor changes from 2015 to 2017.





Calcasieu Parish had 33 more violent crime reports (663 per 100,000 residents) in 2016 compared to 2015 (630 per 100,000 residents). Violent crime reports dropped to 602 per 100,000 residents in 2017. Reported property crime increased 6% from 4,227 per 100,000 residents in 2015 to 4,465 in 2017.

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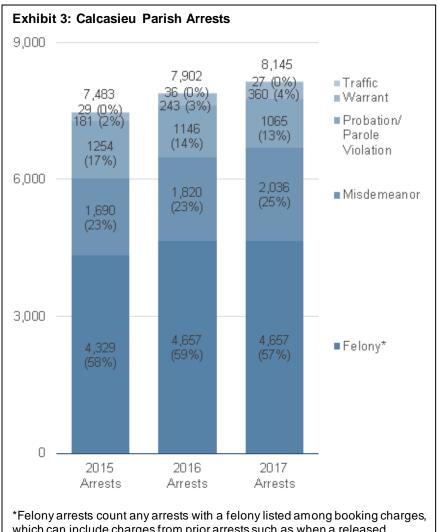
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Uniform Crime Report Program is operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and collects data from law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. to measure year-to-year domestic property and violent crimes

### **Calcasieu Parish Total Arrests**

The MCC examined arrests based upon records provided by the CPSO. **Exhibit 3** shows the annual arrest totals from 2015-2017 broken down by the most serious arrest charge.

Most notably, Calcasieu Parish police agencies appear to prioritize resource allocation on felony arrests, which accounted for 57% to 59% majorities of arrests from 2015 through 2017.

The count of felony arrests includes all suspects with any felony listed among the charges when they are booked into custody. Sometimes, felony charges from prior arrests are listed among booking charges, so not all arrests with felony charges are the result of a new crime being committed. The most common circumstances in which prior felony charges are listed among booking charges are (1) when the arrested subject has an outstanding warrant; (2) when a bondsman surrenders an individual into custody; (3) the court orders a bond revocation or "Pick-Up Order;" and (4) when an individual returns to the Correctional Center after a judge releases them to a treatment facility.



\*Felony arrests count any arrests with a felony listed among booking charges, which can include charges from prior arrests such as when a released suspect has a warrant issued by a judge or has their bond revoked Source: Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office

Misdemeanor charges accounted for the second largest segment of arrests and annually made up 23% to 25% of arrests across the study period. The most common types of misdemeanor arrests were violent misdemeanors (10% of all arrests), property misdemeanors (4% of all arrests), driving while intoxicated (4% of all arrests), and drug misdemeanors (3% of all arrests).

Probation and parole violations made up 13% to 17% of arrests, and warrants accounted for 2% to 4% of all arrests. Very few arrests were for traffic offenses, and most traffic arrests were for driving with a suspended license or hit and run driving.

Arrests increased by 9% from 7,483 in 2015 to 8,145 in 2017. Misdemeanor charges showed the largest increase, rising 20% from 1,690 arrests in 2015 to 2,036 in 2017. This increase was primarily driven by increases in arrests for misdemeanor domestic violence and simple battery charges. Felony arrests also contributed to the increase in total arrests, with an 8% increase from 4,329 in 2015 to 4,657 in 2017.

### **New Felony Arrests**

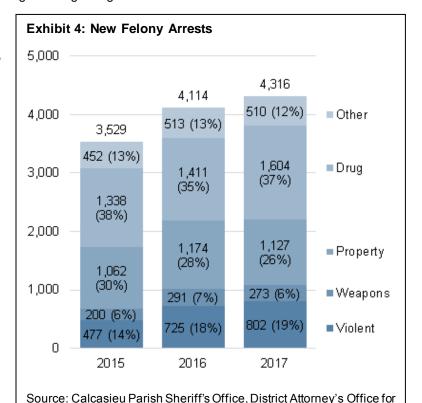
**Exhibit 4** shows the count of new felony arrests from 2015- 2017. The number of new felony arrests reported in Exhibit 4 differs from Exhibit 3 because Exhibit 3 includes <u>both</u> new felony charges and felony charges from earlier arrests listed among booking charges.

The top three agencies that were responsible for an 89% majority of felony arrests were the CPSO (55%), Lake Charles Police Department (25%), and Sulphur Police Department (8%) (See Appendix II, page 20).

New felony arrests increased 22% from 3,529 in 2015 to 4,316 in 2017. Violent felonies had the largest increase, rising 68% from 477 in 2015 to 802 in 2017.

The most common felony arrests were for drug charges, accounting for 35% to 38% of arrests. From 2015-2017, drug possession made up 25% of all felony arrests, and drug distribution made up 11%.

Property felonies were the second most common arrest category and comprised 26% to 30% of felony arrests. Theft (14% of all new felony arrests) and burglary (10% of all new felony arrests) were the most common 2015-2017 property felony charges.



the 14th Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court

Violent felonies were the third most frequent type of arrest and went from making up 14% of arrests in 2015 to making up 19% of arrests in 2017. Felony assaults and batteries were the most common violent felonies, comprising 11% of all 2015-2017 new felony arrests.

"Other" felonies include a variety of crimes such as failure to register as a sex offender, cruelty to a juvenile, obstruction of justice, and third offense or greater driving while intoxicated. These other felony offenses consistently made up 12% to 13% of 2015- 2017 felony arrests.

Weapons felonies, such as a felon in possession of a firearm, were least common and accounted for 6% to 7% of arrests throughout the study period.

Calcasieu Parish felony arrest charges are largely consistent with what was found in a nationwide study of the 75 largest counties in the United States. Nationally, 33% of all felony arrests were for drug offenses, compared to 34%-38% in Calcasieu Parish.<sup>4</sup> Property offenses comprise 29% of nationwide felony arrests, which is consistent with the 26%-30% of Calcasieu Parish felony arrests for property crimes. Violent offenses made up 14%-19% of Calcasieu Parish's felony arrests, which is somewhat lower than the 25% of nationwide felony arrests for violent felony offenses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Felony Defendants In Large Urban Counties, 2009 - Statistical Tables, Table 1, Bureau of Justice Statistics, December 20, 2013, <a href="https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf">https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf</a>

### **Billing Decisions**

The decision whether or not to accept or refuse arrest charges by the DA's Office is called the billing decision. Once a suspect is arrested, police complete their investigation and submit findings and

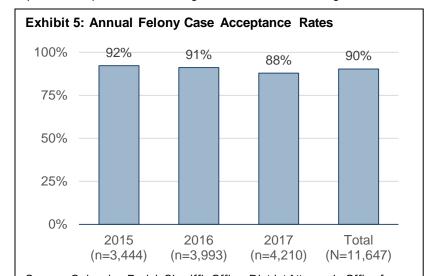
evidence to prosecutors. From there, the DA's Office reviews the evidence and accepts a case when it is determined there is enough evidence to prove a suspect's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. A case is refused when there is inadequate evidence to meet the proof beyond a reasonable doubt standard necessary to convict.

Exhibit 5 shows the percent of cases accepted each year from 2015-2017. A 90% majority of 2015-2017 felony arrests had charges that were accepted for prosecution. The remaining 10% of felony arrests were refused for prosecution.

There was a small decrease in cases accepted for prosecution from **2015 to 2017.** In 2015, 92% of felony arrests resulted in cases accepted for prosecution, compared to 91% of 2016 felony arrests accepted for prosecution. For 2017 felony arrests, there was a decrease to 88% of felony arrests that resulted in cases accepted for prosecution.

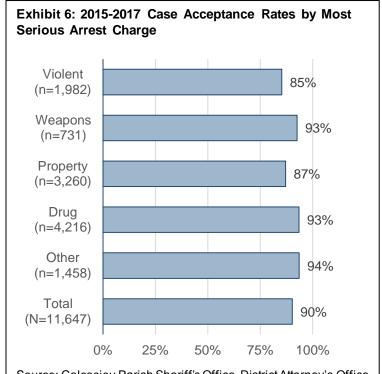
**Exhibit 6** presents the total acceptance rates for all 2015-2017 felony arrests broken down by the most serious arrest charge. Appendix III (page 22) shows the acceptance rates for each year by the most serious arrest charge. The lowest acceptance rate was 85% for violent felony arrests. The second lowest acceptance rate was 87% for property felony arrests. Weapons (92%), drug (93%), and "Other" (93%) offenses had similar acceptance rates across 2015-2017.

Specific charges with the lowest acceptance rates were felony battery or assault (82%), felony criminal damage



Source: Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office for the 14th Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court NOTE: Excludes 312 cases processed through the DA's Pre-Trial

**Diversion Program** 



Source: Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office for the 14th Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court NOTE: Excludes 312 cases processed through the DA's Pre-Trial Diversion Program

(85%), felony theft (87%), and burglary (88%). Conversely, the charges with the highest acceptance rates were robbery (96%), driving while intoxicated (95%), drug distribution (94%), felony drug possession (93%), and murder (93%).

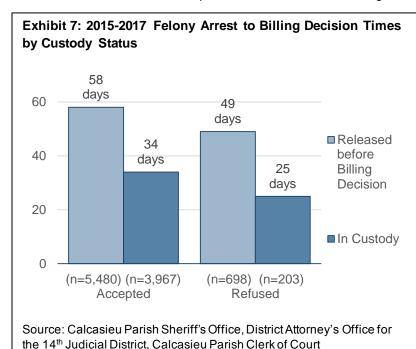
### **Billing Decision Times**

The billing decision time is the number of days between an arrest and when the DA's office decides whether to prosecute charges against an arrested subject. This time includes from when someone is arrested until police submit their investigative report to prosecutors and prosecutors then make the billing decision whether to proceed with prosecuting a suspect.

**Exhibit 7** shows the median billing decision times for all felony arrests from 2015 through 2017, broken down by whether charges were accepted or refused and whether suspects were released or held in custody as their charges were processed. The median is the middle point in time, with half of billing

decisions taking place before the median and half occurring afterwards.

Billing decisions were 24 days shorter for suspects held in custody compared to those who were released prior to billing decisions. Cases accepted for prosecution had median billing decision times of 58 days for suspects released from custody while suspects who remained in custody had a median of 34 days from arrest until their charges were accepted for prosecution. Similarly, cases with refused charges had median billing decision times of 49 days for suspects released from custody, which is 24 days longer than the 25-day median billing decision time for refusals in which suspects were in jail.



NOTE: Excludes 312 cases processed through the DA's Pre-Trial

It took nine days less for cases to be refused than to be accepted for prosecution. For suspects who were not in custody, it took 49 days for cases to be refused, compared to 58 days for cases to be accepted. There is an identical nine-day difference for billing decisions of suspects in custody, with a 25-day billing decision time for refusals compared to 34 days for accepted cases.

**Diversion Program** 

Suspects with refused charges were half as likely to remain in jail. Forty percent (40%) of suspects whose cases were ultimately accepted had remained in custody until a billing decision was reached, compared with 20% of suspects in custody whose cases were ultimately refused.

Appendix IV (page 23) shows the billing decision times for different categories of charges based on whether suspects were in custody, broken down by year. Information contained within Appendix IV shows that the trends indicated by Exhibit 7 occurred with multiple types of charges across the 2015-2017 study period.

### **Defendants with Multiple Felony Cases**

Thirteen percent (13%) of felony defendants were rearrested before charges from their initial arrests were resolved (see Exhibit 8). These 13% of defendants who were rearrested while they still had

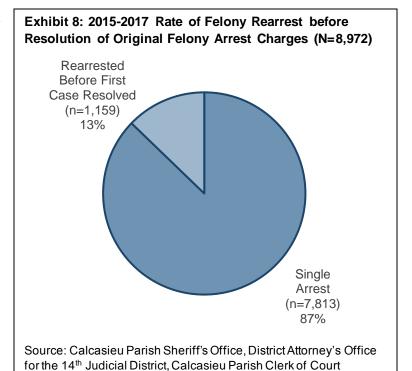
pending felony charges accounted for a quarter (25%) of all new felony arrests from 2015-2017.

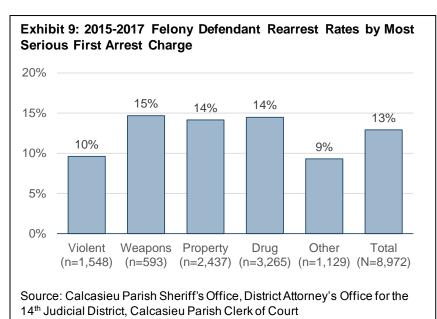
The rate of rearrest ranged from 9% to 15%, depending on the most serious initial arrest charge (see **Exhibit 9**).

The lowest rearrest rate was 9% for defendants initially arrested for an "other" felony offense such as failure to register as a sex offender, obstruction of justice, and third offense driving while intoxicated. The second lowest rate of rearrest was for violent felony charges, for which 10% of defendants were rearrested.

Suspects initially arrested for weapons, property, and drug charges had similar 14%-15% rearrest rates.

Due to the high rate of rearrests, plea bargaining in Calcasieu Parish commonly resolves multiple pending cases against a single defendant at the same time. In multiple case plea bargains, a suspect may have one case dismissed and plead guilty in another case in order to resolve all open criminal cases together. For the purposes of this study, results have been coded to the most serious felony or misdemeanor conviction outcome when more than one case against a defendant were resolved together. For example, if someone with two felony drug possession cases pled guilty in one case and the second case was dismissed, then both arrests are coded as resulting





in a felony conviction. Appendix V (page 25) provides examples of the same defendant having multiple felony cases from different felony arrests resolved on the same date and shows how outcomes were recoded to account for plea bargaining across cases. Adjusting outcomes to show the most serious conviction across defendants' open cases that were resolved together captures the outcomes of plea bargains and provides the most accurate demonstration possible regarding outcomes of Calcasieu Parish felony arrests.

### **Felony Case Outcomes**

**Exhibit 10** shows the outcomes of 2015-2017 felony arrests as of April 15, 2019. As stated previously, the outcomes presented in Exhibit 10 are adjusted to include plea bargaining results when multiple cases

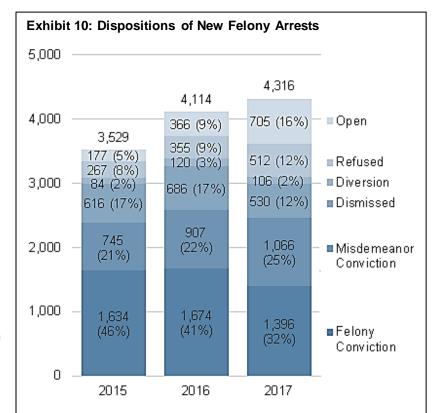
against a defendant were resolved together. Appendix VI (page 26) shows felony case outcomes by the most serious arrest charge and Appendix VII (page 28) shows the outcomes by arresting agency.

Cases from felony arrests in more recent years were more likely to remain open beyond the study period. Open cases grew from accounting for 5% of 2015 felony arrests to 16% of felony arrests in 2017.

Refused cases had a small increase from 8% of 2015 arrests to 12% of 2017 felony arrests.

Cases processed through the DA's Pre-Trial Diversion Program consistently made up 2%-3% of felony arrests.

Changes in dismissal and felony conviction rates cannot be determined due to the higher rates of 2016 and 2017 open cases. Dismissal and felony conviction rates will likely



Source: Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court NOTE: Does not include not guilty judge or jury verdicts, which made up less than 1% of outcomes

increase when the 9% of 2016 and 17% of 2017 felony arrests that remained open are resolved.

**Felony cases resolved as misdemeanors increased in 2017 compared to 2015 and 2016**. A total of 25% of 2017 felony arrests resulted in misdemeanor convictions compared to 21% of 2015 and 22% of 2016 felony arrests. The misdemeanor convictions rate will likely increase as more 2017 cases close. Charges with the highest rates of downgrading to misdemeanors include felony battery or assault (35%), felony driving while intoxicated (32%), felony criminal damage (29%), and felony drug possession (28%).

At least two-thirds (67%) of 2015 Calcasieu Parish felony arrests resulted in a felony (46%) or misdemeanor (21%) conviction. For 2016, 63% had a felony (41%) or misdemeanor (22%) conviction, and 57% of 2017 felony arrests had a felony (32%) or misdemeanor (25%) conviction.

Calcasieu Parish felony arrests were more likely to result in misdemeanor convictions than what is found nationwide. A nationwide study found a 66% overall conviction rate, which is close to the 67% overall conviction rate for 2015 Calcasieu Parish felony arrests. Nationally, 54% of felony arrests resulted in felony convictions compared to 46% of Calcasieu Parish felony arrests that had felony convictions. The same study showed 12% of nationwide felony arrests ended in misdemeanor convictions, while 21% of 2015 Calcasieu Parish felony arrests ended in misdemeanor convictions.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Felony Defendants In Large Urban Counties, 2009 - Statistical Tables, Table 21, Bureau of Justice Statistics, December 20, 2013, <a href="https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf">https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fdluc09.pdf</a>

### Rates of Felony Cases Closing within One Year

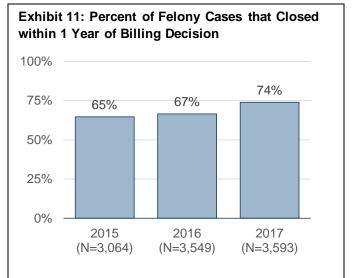
The American Bar Association's Standards Relating to Trial Courts calls for 98% of felony cases to be resolved within 180 days of arrest and for all felony cases to be resolved within one year of arrest.<sup>6</sup> In order to examine the time that cases take to process through the courts, this report measures from the

time when a case is accepted for prosecution (i.e., billing decision), to the final disposition or resolution of the case. **Exhibit 11** presents the percent of felony cases that were closed within one year of billing decision broken down by the year of arrest.

### The rate of felony cases concluding within one year improved for 2017 arrests.

Seventy-four percent (74%) of 2017 felony cases concluded within one year of being accepted for prosecution, which is an improvement from the 65% of 2015 cases and 67% of 2016 cases that closed within a year.

Although the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system improved in 2017, there was an exceptionally high rate of felony cases that remained open beyond a year after they were accepted for prosecution. The 65% to 74% of cases that closed within a year falls well short of the American Bar Association benchmark stating that 100% of felony cases should be resolved within the one year.



Source: Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court

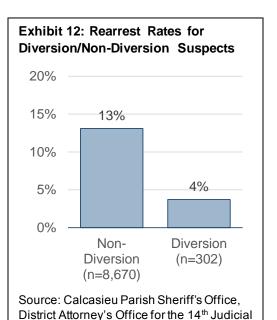
NOTE: Excludes 312 cases processed through the DA's Pre-Trial Diversion Program

#### **Diversion Case Rearrest Rates**

As stated previously, a quarter (25%) of felony arrests in Calcasieu Parish involve suspects who already have pending charges when they are arrested. **Exhibit 12** shows the rate of rearrest for suspects participating in the DA's Pre-Trial Diversion Program compared to those not participating in the program.

There were 8,670 suspects across the three-year study period that did not participate in the diversion program, and 13% were rearrested before their cases were resolved. In comparison, 4% (11 of 302) of diversion program participants were rearrested, which shows non-diversion participants were more than three times more likely to be rearrested before their cases were resolved compared to diversion program participants.

The low rate of rearrest among diversion program participants indicates that being accepted into and enrolling in the program can effectively reduce criminal behaviors.



District, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Speedy Trial and Timely Resolution of Criminal Cases, The American Bar Association, April 2006, http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminal\_justice\_standards/speedy\_trial.pdf

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system faces a high rate of crime to which police have responded by focusing on arresting felony offenders and encouraging prosecutors and police to work collaboratively to translate at least a two-thirds majority of felony arrests into felony convictions. While there are several favorable indicators of system performance, there are a number of key areas in which the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) respectfully makes recommendations for improvements that can increase system efficiency and reduce incidences of crime.

The MCC commends the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system for the following areas of successful performance:

1. The seven police agencies in Calcasieu Parish primarily arrest felony and violent misdemeanor offenders. While facing a violent crime rate that is 12% higher than the state average and 38% above the national average, a 57%-59% majority of arrests from 2015-2017 included a felony charge. Another 10% of arrests were for violent misdemeanor crimes. Arrests for new felony crimes rose 22% from 2015 to 2017, and arrests for violent felony crimes had the highest increase.

The MCC focuses analyses on felonies because these are the most serious crimes degrading public safety. Further, only felony convictions can result in sentences of supervised probation or incarceration by the Department of Corrections. Violent misdemeanor crimes are also of great significance because they often result from domestic violence, which can lead to escalating violence and other criminal behaviors, as well as future felony violations. The MCC greatly commends the CPSO and other police agencies for prioritizing the allocation of resources on these most significant criminal offenses.

2. Data confirms that the DA's Office and police focus and prioritize on screening felony cases for suspects who remain in pretrial custody. Suspects arrested for felony crimes who cannot afford to pay their bail bonds to get out of jail or who are held under a court order are prioritized by police and prosecutors to have their cases screened and either refused or accepted for prosecution. As a result, it took a median of 24 fewer days to screen cases for suspects that were held in custody as the DA's Office was making decisions whether or not to prosecute their cases. The prioritization of prosecutorial decisions for inmates held in custody shows adherence to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701, Right to a Speedy Trial, which requires that screening decisions be made within 60 days of arrest in order for suspects to continue being held in custody. Suspects are automatically released if the DA's Office does not make a billing decision within the 60-day time frame established by Article 701, and the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system has adopted procedures to prevent the release of felony suspects due to failure to adhere to speedy trial standards.

The case screening efficiency achieved with pretrial inmates should be the goal for suspects who are not held in custody as their cases are screened. Improvements can only be achieved through cooperation and collaboration by police, prosecutors, and the judiciary to identify problems and work towards solutions.

3. Felony arrests in Calcasieu Parish are likely to result in a conviction. There is a high (90%) rate of cases being accepted for prosecution in Calcasieu Parish, which demonstrates that police effectively generate the evidence necessary for the DA's Office to proceed with a case that they determine contains the proof beyond a reasonable doubt necessary to obtain a conviction.

A two-thirds (67%) majority of felony arrests in 2015 resulted in felony (46%) or misdemeanor (21%) convictions. Felony arrests for 2016 and 2017 showed a similar likelihood to have a majority of cases end in conviction, but high rates of cases remaining open beyond the study period make it difficult to more accurately determine conviction rates for those years. The high rate of felony arrests resulting in convictions is an indicator of efficient utilization of criminal justice system resources to identify and convict offenders who pose the greatest threat to community safety. High conviction rates are also indicative of effective relationships between police and prosecutors working together to achieve successful arrest outcomes.

The MCC respectfully makes the following recommendations to reduce crime and improve the efficiency of the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system:

1. Decrease the time it takes to bring cases to conclusion. The rate of felony cases being resolved within one year improved from 65% in 2015 to 74% in 2017, but the Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system falls well short of the 100% rate of cases closing within one year established by the American Bar Association.

There is a high rearrest rate in which 13% of suspects are rearrested while they still have open charges. Defendants with multiple active cases from repeated arrests account for a quarter (25%) of all 2015-2017 felony arrests in Calcasieu Parish. The high rearrest rate wastes the resources expended by the criminal justice system when the same suspects are arrested on repeated occasions. High rearrest rates indicate that the time to bring cases to conclusion increases crime because many of these suspects would have been deterred from criminal behavior while serving sentences of incarceration or under probation or parole supervision if their cases had been resolved more efficiently.

The time that it takes to bring felony cases to conclusion in Calcasieu Parish is outside of national standards, creates additional work for the criminal justice system, and contributes to the high rate of crime. Decreases in the time to bring cases to conclusion may be achieved by (1) having more frequent court hearings, (2) having less time in between court events, (3) reducing the time to screen cases for suspects that are not in pretrial custody, and (4) more accurate charging of defendants at the time of arrest and when cases are accepted for prosecution.

Reducing the time to bring felony cases to conclusion will more efficiently apply criminal justice system resources by preventing rearrests and will reduce crime by bringing justice to felony offenders before they can commit new offenses. Improving the efficiency of felony case closure will also reduce the time that defendants spend in the custody of the CPSO and will reduce costs by lowering the jail population.

2. Institute pretrial services that provide support and supervision to reduce the rate at which defendants are rearrested while they have actively pending charges. From 2105-2017, 1,159 suspects were released from custody pretrial and then rearrested before their charges were resolved. These 1,159 suspects made up 13% of all defendants but accounted for 25% of all the arrests in Calcasieu Parish. The MCC proposes enhanced pretrial services to reduce rearrests and incidences of crime.

An effective pretrial services program identifies the needs of suspects, aligns them with support to address those needs, and provides supervision to ensure suspects abide by the conditions of their releases from custody. Enrollment into pretrial services should have a standardized assessment to evaluate suspects' needs and the levels of threat they pose to the community. A large segment of suspects would not utilize pretrial services because they pose low risk to the community and demonstrate little or no need for services. Those with substance abuse, behavioral, and mental health problems are referred to services and their participation is monitored through the program. Drug testing could also be a component of pretrial services for those demonstrating substance abuse problems. For suspects who pose credible risks to community safety, the MCC recommends electronic monitoring as a central component of pretrial services in order to verify suspects adhere to court-imposed conditions of release. Washington D.C. found that electronic monitoring reduced arrests by 24% and, as a result, had a cost savings of \$3,800 per participant.<sup>7</sup> The CPSO has shown an embrace of technology through its real-time crime monitoring system that positions cameras throughout the parish to aid in investigating and solving crime. This same sentiment of leveraging

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Roman, J. L., Ph.D., Liberman, A. M., Ph.D., Taxy, S., & Downey, P. M. (2012, September). *The Costs and Benefits of Electronic Monitoring for Washinton, D.C.* (District of Columbia Crime Policy Institute). <a href="https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/412678-The-Costs-and-Benefits-of-Electronic-Monitoring-for-Washington-D-C-.PDF">https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/412678-The-Costs-and-Benefits-of-Electronic-Monitoring-for-Washington-D-C-.PDF</a>

technology to benefit community safety can be applied to implementing a robust electronic monitoring program that helps ensure known suspects are compliant with conditions of their court releases.

Better supervision of released suspects leads to better outcomes and improved public safety. Investing in a rational, effective, and more comprehensive approach in Calcasieu Parish could reduce crime, lead to better outcomes for suspects, and reduce costs to the criminal justice system.

3. Expand the District Attorney's Pre-Trial Diversion Program. Participants in the DA's diversion program accounted for a 3% minority of felony arrests, although non-violent property and drug offenders annually made up 62%-68% of felony arrests. Felony arrests are comprised of 25% drug possession charges, 14% thefts, 11% drug distribution charges, and 10% burglaries, all of which are non-violent offenses for which a first time offender may be eligible to participate in the diversion program.

Like pretrial services, the diversion program provides supervision of suspects to ensure their compliance with the conditions of the program, including participating in programs and treatments to reduce criminal behavior. Examples of program conditions include drug screens, community service, substance abuse treatment, life skills courses, anger management classes, and other services to help individuals overcome underlying personal challenges that contribute to criminal behaviors. Upon successful completion of the program, diversion program participants' charges are refused or dismissed, thus enabling participants to avoid having felony convictions. The success of the diversion program is shown through the substantially lower (4%) rate of rearrest among participants compared to 13% of all felony suspects. Expanding the diversion program will improve the lives of suspects and reduce the rate of crime in Calcasieu Parish.

4. Examine ways to reduce the refusal rate for felony arrests. Overall, 10% of the felony arrests in Calcasieu Parish from 2015-2017 were refused for prosecution by the DA's Office. Specific charges with the highest refusal rates were felony battery or assault (18%), felony criminal damage (15%), felony theft (13%), and burglary (12%). As stated previously, these refusal rates show the vast majority of arrests are accepted, but the criminal justice system has an opportunity to reduce how often suspects are arrested for charges that are unlikely to be accepted for prosecution by the DA's Office.

With refused cases, a suspect is taken into custody and booked into jail, which takes police officers off of patrol and away from responding to calls. Further, refused cases have a negative impact against suspects, by removing them from their families, homes, and communities and by preventing them from participating in their education or attending work. As with all arrests, in refused cases police collect, examine, and test any evidence and prepare a report that is submitted to the DA's Office, where the information is carefully reviewed before it is determined that there is insufficient proof to obtain a conviction. Reducing the rate of refusals can save the time of police and prosecutors and reduce the traumatizing impacts against suspects arrested for crimes that cannot be prosecuted.

Sending feedback to police explaining why a case is refused can help officers and police agencies better identify when circumstances will not result in a viable case accepted for prosecution. Such feedback can improve working relationships between police and prosecutors. Identifying common problems with cases that result in refusals may assist officers in ensuring that all of the necessary evidence is collected and all of the required elements of a crime can be proven while making an arrest and preparing a report for the DA's Office to screen a case. Working to curtail refusals can reduce the waste created through arrests that cannot be prosecuted while also improving collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the overall quality of criminal cases.

5. Improve the accuracy of arrest charges and charges accepted for prosecution to lower the rate of felony arrests being downgraded to misdemeanors. Calcasieu Parish has a high rate of felony arrests being resolved through misdemeanor convictions. This rate increased from 2015 to 2017. The specific charges with the highest rates of being downgraded from felonies to

misdemeanors include felony battery or assault (35%), felony driving while intoxicated (32%), felony criminal damage (29%), and drug possession (28%).

Suspects charged with felonies have higher bail bond amounts and are more likely to stay in custody, which substantially increases the cost of their pretrial detention. When felony charges are determined to be prosecutable only as misdemeanors, prosecutors should provide feedback to officers that helps them charge suspects with appropriate misdemeanor offenses when warranted by the facts. In some instances, officers may be able to issue summonses rather than arrest suspects for a misdemeanor charge, which reduces police manpower and reduces the criminal justice system resources dedicated to addressing low level offenders.

Unforeseeable circumstances sometimes require prosecutors to reduce felony arrest charges to misdemeanors, but the rate of felony to misdemeanor reductions in Calcasieu Parish is significantly higher than what is found in national statistics. Felony cases accepted for prosecution that are later reduced to misdemeanor charges slow down the criminal justice system for all cases. The MCC encourages the DA's Office to examine screening practices to reduce the frequency and impact of accepted felony cases that must later be plea bargained to misdemeanor offenses.

- 6. Increase the use of summonses for non-violent misdemeanor offenses. Annually, 23%-25% of 2015-2017 arrests were for misdemeanor offenses, and 7% of all 2015-2017 arrests were for property (4%) or drug (3%) misdemeanor offenses. When arrested, misdemeanor suspects have lower bond amounts and spend less time in jail compared to felony suspects because misdemeanor offenders are not typically considered a threat to community safety.
  - The MCC does not advocate ignoring enforcement of misdemeanor laws. Rather, the MCC encourages police to use their discretion to enforce low-level violations through issuing summonses in lieu of arrest. Increased use of summonses is an effective police manpower multiplier, as police would be able to more quickly respond to calls for service and officers will be able to devote more time to felony crime, particularly crimes of violence. Summonses allow for a more efficient use of jail space that is otherwise wasted by arresting non-violent misdemeanor offenders who pose no meaningful threat to public safety. It is not the quantity of arrests, but rather the quality of arrests and accompanying investigations that determine the effectiveness of an arrest strategy.
- 7. Reduce the dismissal rate. Seventeen percent (17%) of 2015 felony arrests resulted in dismissal, and the dismissal rate is likely to be higher for 2016 and 2017 arrests once all pending cases are concluded. Dismissed cases were initially accepted for prosecution by the DA's Office, allotted to a division of court, and vetted through the criminal justice process until the DA's Office determined that there was inadequate proof to achieve a conviction. These cases consume the same police, prosecutor, defense, and court resources as other viable felony cases and can significantly drain criminal justice resources. Time and preparation invested by the criminal justice system is squandered when an accepted case is later dismissed. The MCC respectfully recommends that the DA's Office examine screening procedures to ensure cases that are likely to result in dismissal are not accepted for prosecution.

The Calcasieu Parish criminal justice system applies several principals of efficiency and embraces current law enforcement practices that lead to better results for both the community, suspects, and convicted offenders. The MCC commends the great successes of criminal justice system operations but encourages each agency to carefully review its outcomes and to consider the recommendations provided herein with the goal of increasing system efficiency, improving outcomes for offenders, and reducing crime in the community.

### Appendix I: 2015-2017 Uniform Crime Reports by Police Agency

Back to report

2015 Uniform Crime Reports by Police Agency

		2010 01111					<u> </u>			T. (.)
				керо	rting Ag	jency				Total
		Calcasieu	De		Lake					UCR
		Parish	Quincy	lowa	Charles	Sulphur	Vinton	Westlake		per
Uniform C	alma									
Uniform C		Sheriff's	Police	Police		Police	Police			100,000
Reporting	Offense	Office	Dept.	Dept.	Dept.	Dept.	Dept.	Dept. +	Total	People
	Murder*	3	0	1	3	2	0	-	9	5
	Rape	71	1	1	42	10	0	-	125	63
Violent	Robbery	23	0	0	149	18	1	-	191	96
	Aggravated Assault	429	3	60	365	59	9	-	925	466
	Violent crime total	526	4	62	559	89	10	-	1,250	630
	Burglary	1,241	11	4	1,588	184	12	-	3,040	1,531
	Larceny-Theft	2,777	32	67	1,299	689	28	-	4,892	2,464
Property	Motor Vehicle Theft	239	1	3	170	46	2	-	461	232
	Arson	12	1	0	0	1	0	-	14	7
	Property Crime Total	4,257	44	74	3,057	919	42	-	8,393	4,227
Populatio	n Estimate	93,095	3,160	3,220	75,564	20,150	3,353	-	198,542	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes non-negligent manslaughter

2016 Uniform Crime Reports by Police Agency

				Repo	rting Ag	jency				Total
Uniform C		Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Quincy	lowa Police Dept.		Sulphur Police Dept.	Vinton Police Dept.	Westlake Police Dept.+	Total	UCR per 100,000 People
	Murder*	6	0	0	8	0	0	-	14	7
	Rape	52	1	0	40	3	2	-	98	49
Violent	Robbery	31	0	3	143	14	0	-	191	95
	Aggravated Assault	434	4	19	463	84	22		1,026	512
	Violent Crime Total	523	5	22	654	101	24	-	1,329	663
	Burglary	1,227	7	32	1,626	161	47		3,100	1,546
	Larceny-Theft	2,714	27	64	1,320	678	60	-	4,863	2,425
Property	Motor Vehicle Theft	275	1	4	207	53	5	-	545	272
	Arson	5	1	0	0	1	0	-	7	3
	Property Crime Total	4,216	35	100	3,153	892	112	ı	8,508	4,242
Populatio	n Estimate	93,805	3,147	3,266	76,864	20,142	3,344	-	200,568	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes non-negligent manslaughter

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup>Did not have Uniform Crime Reporting data for 2015

<sup>\*</sup>Did not have Uniform Crime Reporting data for 2016

2017 Uniform Crime Reports by Police Agency

				Repo	rting Ag	jency				Total
Uniform C		Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	De Quincy Police Dept. +			Police	Vinton Police Dept. +		Total	UCR per 100,000 People
	Murder*	8	-	0	9	2	-	0	19	9
	Rape	45	-	1	45	7	-	2	100	49
VIOICIIL	Robbery	43	-	2	146	10	-	2	203	100
	Aggravated Assault	369	-	7	438	76	-	7	897	443
	Violent Crime Total	465	-	10	638	95	-	11	1,219	602
	Burglary	1,254	-	59	1,836	200	-	35	3,384	1,671
	Larceny-Theft	2,892	-	108	1,429	569	-	88	5,086	2,512
Property	Motor Vehicle Theft	241	-	2	259	69	-	0	571	282
	Arson	11	-	0	0	2	-	0	13	6
	Property Crime Total	4,387	-	169	3,524	838	ı	123	9,041	4,465
Populatio	n Estimate	101,229	-	3,343	77,647	20,247	-	4,676	202,466	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes non-negligent manslaughter

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup>Did not have Uniform Crime Reporting data for 2017

### Appendix II: 2015-2017 Calcasieu Parish Felony Arrests by Police Agency

### **Back to Report**

2015 Felony Arrests by Police Agency

			Most S	Serious Felon	y Arrest C	harge	
Police Ag	ency	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Calcasieu	Parish Sheriff's Office	229 (48%)	131 (66%)	537 (51%)	823 (62%)	276 (61%)	1,996 (57%)
Lake Charles Police Dept.		177 (37%)	38 (19%)	294 (28%)	270 (20%)	89 (20%)	868 (25%)
Sulphur P	olice Dept.	31 (6%)	9 (5%)	84 (8%)	99 (7%)	11 (2%)	234 (7%)
	De Quincy Police Dept.	6 (1%)	6 (3%)	12 (1%)	19 (1%)	4 (1%)	47 (1%)
	lowa Police Dept.	4 (1%)	1 (1%)	7 (1%)	13 (1%)	5 (1%)	30 (1%)
Other	Vinton Police Dept.	13 (3%)	2 (1%)	14 (1%)	8 (1%)	5 (1%)	42 (1%)
Police Agencies	Westlake Police Dept.	11 (2%)	8 (4%)	19 (2%)	61 (5%)	18 (4%)	117 (3%)
Agencies	Louisiana State Police	4 (1%)	5 (3%)	80 (8%)	35 (3%)	39 (9%)	163 (5%)
	Other	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (1%)	9 (1%)	7 (2%)	32 (1%)
	Total Other	40 (8%)	22 (11%)	146 (14%)	145 (11%)	78 (17%)	431 (12%)
Total	Total		200 (100%)	1,061 (100%)	1,337 (100%)	454 (100%)	3,529 (100%)

2016 Felony Arrests by Police Agency

			Most S	Serious Felon	y Arrest C	harge	
Police Ag	ency	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Calcasieu	Parish Sheriff's Office	375 (52%)	158 (54%)	628 (54%)	844 (60%)	304 (58%)	2,309 (56%)
Lake Char	Lake Charles Police Dept.		78 (27%)	305 (26%)	290 (21%)	111 (21%)	1,011 (25%)
Sulphur P	Police Dept.	58 (8%)	26 (9%)	97 (8%)	152 (11%)	22 (4%)	355 (9%)
	De Quincy Police Dept.	8 (1%)	6 (2%)	17 (1%)	11 (1%)	8 (2%)	50 (1%)
	lowa Police Dept.	7 (1%)	1 (0%)	10 (1%)	15 (1%)	6 (1%)	39 (1%)
Othor	Vinton Police Dept.	15 (2%)	1 (0%)	4 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (1%)	26 (1%)
Other Police	Westlake Police Dept.	24 (3%)	6 (2%)	31 (3%)	45 (3%)	11 (2%)	117 (3%)
Agencies	Louisiana State Police	(0%)	14 (5%)	60 (5%)	40 (3%)	46 (9%)	162 (4%)
	Other	9 (1%)	0 (0%)	20 (2%)	6 (0%)	10 (2%)	45 (1%)
	Total Other	65 (9%)	28 (10%)	142 (12%)	120 (9%)	84 (16%)	439 (11%)
Total		725 (100%)	290 (100%)	1,172 (100%)	1,406 (100%)	521 (100%)	4,114 (100%)

2017 Felony Arrests by Police Agency

				Serious Felon		horae	
			WOSE	serious reion	y Arrest Ci	narge	
Police Ag	ency	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Calcasieu	Parish Sheriff's Office	392	132	595	865	273	2,257
		(49%)	(48%)	(53%)	(54%)	(53%)	(52%)
Lake Charles Police Dept.		285 (35%)	84 (31%)	306 (27%)	374 (23%)	121 (23%)	1,170 (27%)
Sulphur B	olice Dept.	58	24	90	208	29	409
Sulpilul P	once Dept.	(7%)	(9%)	(8%)	(13%)	(6%)	(9%)
	Do Quincy Police Dept	16	3	7	15	2	43
	De Quincy Police Dept.	(2%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(0%)	(1%)
	lowa Police Dept.	9	4	10	26	9	58
		(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(2%)	(2%)	(1%)
	Vinton Police Dept.	13	0	14	10	3	40
Other		(2%)	(0%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)
Police	Westlake Police Dept.	20	14	39	40	13	126
Agencies	Westiake Folioe Bept.	(2%)	(5%)	(3%)	(2%)	(3%)	(3%)
Agencies	Louisiana State Police	9	12	48	58	58	185
	Edulataria Gtate i Gilee	(1%)	(4%)	(4%)	(4%)	(11%)	(4%)
	Other	1	0	14	6	7	28
	Otrici	(0%)	(0%)	(1%)	(0%)	(1%)	(1%)
	Total Other	68 (8%)	33	132	155	92	480
	Total Other		(12%)	(12%)	(10%)	(18%)	(11%)
Total		803	273	1,123	1,602	515	4,316
· Stai		(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

### 2015-2017 Total Felony Arrests by Police Agency

			Most S	Serious Felon	y Arrest C	harge	
Police Ag	ency	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Calcasieu	Parish Sheriff's Office	996 (50%)	421 (55%)	1,760 (52%)	2,532 (58%)	853 (57%)	6,562 (55%)
Lake Chai	rles Police Dept.	689 (34%)	200 (26%)	905 (27%)	934 (21%)	321 (22%)	3,049 (25%)
Sulphur P	olice Dept.	147 (7%)	59 (8%)	271 (8%)	459 (11%)	62 (4%)	998 (8%)
	De Quincy Police Dept.	30 (1%)	15 (2%)	36 (1%)	45 (1%)	14 (1%)	140 (1%)
	lowa Police Dept.	20 (1%)	6 (1%)	27 (1%)	54 (1%)	20 (1%)	127 (1%)
Other	Vinton Police Dept.	41 (2%)	3 (0%)	32 (1%)	21 (0%)	11 (1%)	108 (1%)
Police	Westlake Police Dept.	55 (3%)	28 (4%)	89 (3%)	146 (3%)	42 (3%)	360 (3%)
Agencies	Louisiana State Police	15 (1%)	31 (4%)	188 (6%)	133 (3%)	143 (10%)	510 (4%)
	Other	12 (1%)	0 (0%)	48 (1%)	21 (0%)	24 (2%)	105 (1%)
	Total Other	173 (9%)	83 (11%)	420 (13%)	420 (10%)	254 (17%)	1,350 (11%)
Total	Total		763 (100%)	3,356 (100%)	4,345 (100%)	1,490 (100%)	11,959 (100%)

### Appendix III: 2015-2017 Acceptance/Refusal Rates by the Most Serious Arrest Charge

### Back to Report

2015-2017 Acceptance/Refusal Rates

			Mos		ony Arrest Ch	narge	
Arrest	Accepted/		IVIUS	t Serious Fer	only Arrest Ci	iai ge	
Year	Refused	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
	Accontad	88%	96%	88%	95%	95%	92%
2015	Accepted	(n=414)	(n=186)	(n=909)	(n=1,247)	(n=421)	(N=3,177)
2013	Refused	12%	4%	12%	5%	5%	8%
	Refuseu	(n=58)	(n=7)	(n=120)	(n=60)	(n=22)	(N=267)
	Assented	87%	92%	88%	95%	94%	91%
2016	Accepted	(n=624)	(n=255)	(n=996)	(n=1,285)	(n=478)	(N=3,638)
2010	Refused	13%	8%	12%	5%	6%	9%
	Refused	(n=94)	(n=22)	(n=134)	(n=74)	(n=31)	(N=355)
	Accontad	82%	90%	85%	91%	92%	88%
2017	Accepted	(n=653)	(n=236)	(n=935)	(n=1,409)	(n=465)	(N=3,698)
2017	Refused	18%	10%	15%	9%	8%	12%
	Refuseu	(n=139)	(n=25)	(n=166)	(n=141)	(n=41)	(N=512)
	Assented	85%	93%	87%	93%	94%	90%
Total	Accepted	(n=1691)	(n=677)	(n=2,840)	(n=3,941)	(n=1,364)	(N=10,513)
I Otal	Refused	15%	7%	13%	7%	6%	10%
	Refused	(n=291)	(n=54)	(n=420)	(n=275)	(n=94)	(N=1,134)

### Appendix IV: 2015-2017 Billing Decision Times by Most Serious Felony Arrest Charge and Custody Status

### **Back to Report**

### **Violent Felony Arrest Billing Decisions**

Billing	Pre-Billing	2015	5	201	6	2017		Total	
Decision	Status	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N
	In Custody	40 days	225	33 days	286	29 days	176	34 days	687
Accepted	Released	50 days	159	54 days	286	64 days	286	56 days	731
-	Total	42 days	384	41 days	572	45 days	462	42 days	1,418
	In Custody	34 days	12	21 days	9	55 days	12	32 days	33
Refused	Released	41 days	44	46 days	75	54 days	100	50 days	219
	Total	37 days	56	44 days	84	54 days	112	46 days	252
	In Custody	39 days	237	32 days	295	29 days	188	34 days	720
	Released	48 days	203	53 days	361	61 days	386	54 days	950
	Total	42 days	440	42 days	656	47 days	574	43 days	1,670

### **Weapons Felony Arrest Billing Decisions**

Billing	Pre-Billing	2015	5	201	6	2017		Total	
Decision	Status	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N
	In Custody	43 days	71	48 days	110	39 days	55	44 days	236
Accepted	Released	65 days	113	81 days	132	69 days	132	69 days	377
	Total	53 days	184	57 days	242	52 days	187	54 days	613
	In Custody	20 days	1	95 days	1	24 days	3	24 days	5
Refused	Released	105 days	5	167 days	18	37 days	16	60 days	39
	Total	69 days	6	165 days	19	32 days	19	53 days	44
	In Custody	42 days	72	48 days	111	39 days	58	44 days	241
	Released	65 days	118	82 days	150	60 days	148	68 days	416
	Total	53 days	190	57 days	261	51 days	206	54 days	657

Property Felony Arrest Billing Decisions

		1.000.0		Allest Di	<u>g = \</u>				
Billing	Pre-Billing	2015	5	201	2016		2017		ıl
Decision	Status	Median	Ν	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N
	In Custody	43 days	71	48 days	110	39 days	55	44 days	236
Accepted	Released	65 days	113	81 days	132	69 days	132	69 days	377
	Total	53 days	184	57 days	242	52 days	187	54 days	613
	In Custody	20 days	1	95 days	1	24 days	3	24 days	5
Refused	Released	105 days	5	167 days	18	37 days	16	60 days	39
	Total	69 days	6	165 days	19	32 days	19	53 days	44
	In Custody	42 days	72	48 days	111	39 days	58	44 days	241
Total	Released	65 days	118	82 days	150	60 days	148	68 days	416
	Total	53 days	190	57 days	261	51 days	206	54 days	657

### **Drug Felony Arrest Billing Decisions**

Billing	Billing Pre-Billing		2015		2016		2017		Total	
Decision	Status	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	
	In Custody	37 days	462	38 days	507	28 days	352	34 days	1,321	
Accepted	Released	64 days	764	63 days	719	65 days	840	64 days	2,323	
	Total	50 days	1,226	49 days	1,226	46 days	1,192	48 days	3,644	
	In Custody	52 days	10	28 days	15	18 days	19	29 days	44	
Refused	Released	43 days	41	56 days	51	42 days	82	45 days	174	
	Total	47 days	51	46 days	66	37 days	101	41 days	218	
	In Custody	38 days	472	37 days	522	28 days	371	34 days	1,365	
Total	Released	63 days	805	63 days	770	63 days	922	63 days	2,497	
	Total	49 days	1,277	48 days	1,292	46 days	1,293	48 days	3,862	

Other Felony Arrest Billing Decisions

Other reiony Arrest Dinning Decisions											
Billing	Pre-Billing	2015	5	2016		2017		Total			
Decision Status		Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N		
	In Custody	31 days	186	33 days	204	31 days	87	32 days	477		
Accepted	Released	58 days	209	56 days	237	71 days	267	62 days	713		
	Total	43 days	395	45 days	441	54 days	354	46 days	1,190		
	In Custody	35 days	6	19 days	5	20 days	7	27 days	18		
Refused	Released	85 days	14	92 days	25	65 days	18	80 days	57		
	Total	69 days	20	78 days	30	53 days	25	63 days	75		
	In Custody	31 days	192	32 days	209	31 days	94	31 days	495		
Total	Released	60 days	223	58 days	262	70 days	285	63 days	770		
	Total	43 days	415	46 days	471	54 days	379	46 days	1,265		

**Total Felony Arrest Billing Decisions** 

	Total Felolity Arrest Dilling Decisions											
Billing	Pre-Billing	2015		2016		2017		Total				
Decision	Status	Median	N	Median	Ν	Median	N	Median	N			
	In Custody	36 days	1,394	36 days	1,600	29 days	973	34 days	3,967			
Accepted	Released	56 days	1,677	57 days	1,824	63 days	1,979	58 days	5,480			
	Total	44 days	3,071	44 days	3,424	45 days	2,952	44 days	9,447			
	In Custody	29 days	69	25 days	59	21 days	75	25 days	203			
Refused	Released	47 days	160	50 days	240	49 days	298	49 days	698			
	Total	37 days	229	44 days	299	44 days	373	43 days	901			
	In Custody	36 days	1,463	35 days	1,659	28 days	1,048	34 days	4,170			
Total	Released	56 days	1,837	56 days	2,064	61 days	2,277	57 days	6,178			
	Total	44 days	3,300	44 days	3,723	45 days	3,325	44 days	10,348			

### Appendix V: Examples of Defendants with Multiple Cases Resolved Simultaneously

### **Back to Report**

### Example 1

Arrest	Most Serious		Disposition		Coded Outcome	
Date	Charge	Case Number	Date	Case Outcome	(Shown in Exhibit 10)	
1/29/15	40:967.A.(1)	85 -15	10/6/16	Felony Conviction	Felony Conviction	
5/13/15	40:967.A.(1)	205	10/6/16	Dismissed	Felony Conviction	

### Example 2

Arrest Date	Most Serious Charge		Disposition Date		Coded Outcome (Shown in Exhibit 10)
02/12/15	40:967.C	78 -15	05/16/16	Felony Conviction	Felony Conviction
05/06/15	14:130.1	198	05/16/16	Dismissed	Felony Conviction

### Example 3

	Example 0										
Arrest Date	Most Serious Charge	Case Number	Disposition Date	Case Outcome	Coded Outcome (Shown in Exhibit 10)						
01/01/15	40:969.C	190 -17	05/30/18	Dismissed	Misdemeanor Conviction						
12/29/16	14:37.7	152 -15	05/30/18	Misdemeanor Conviction	Misdemeanor Conviction						
08/17/17	40:967.C	190 -16	05/30/18	Dismissed	Misdemeanor Conviction						

#### Example 4

			_,p	•	
Arrest Date	Most Serious Charge	Case Number	Disposition Date	Case Outcome	Coded Outcome (Shown in Exhibit 10)
01/04/15	40:967.C	57-15	07/20/17	Dismissed	Misdemeanor Conviction
10/30/16	40:967.C	205	07/20/17	Misdemeanor Conviction	Misdemeanor Conviction
11/06/16	40:967.C	206 -16	07/20/17	Misdemeanor Conviction	Misdemeanor Conviction

### Example 5

Arrest Date	Most Serious Charge	Case Number	Disposition Date	Case Outcome	Coded Outcome (Shown in Exhibit 10)
11/22/16	40:967.C	207 -16	08/15/17	Dismissed	Felony Conviction
03/31/17	40:967.C	102 -17 / 105 -17	08/15/17	Felony Conviction	Felony Conviction
05/09/17	40:967.C	107 -17	08/15/17	Dismissed	Felony Conviction
12/07/17	40:967.A.(1)	110	08/15/17	Felony Conviction	Felony Conviction

NOTE: Case numbers have been partially concealed because the MCC does not typically identify specific defendants

### Appendix VI: Felony Arrest Outcomes by Most Serious Arrest Charge

Back to Report

2015 Felony Arrest Outcomes

		Mos	t Serious Felo	ony Arrest Ch	arge	
Outcome	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total
Felony Conviction	204 (43%)	93 (47%)	516 (49%)	645 (48%)	176 (39%)	1,634 (46%)
Misdemeanor Conviction	111 (23%)	47 (24%)	139 (13%)	310 (23%)	138 (30%)	745 (21%)
Found Not Guilty	3 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (0%)
Dismissed	82 (17%)	34 (17%)	198 (19%)	217 (16%)	85 (19%)	616 (17%)
Diversion	4 (1%)	7 (4%)	32 (3%)	30 (2%)	11 (2%)	84 (2%)
Refused	58 (12%)	7 (4%)	120 (11%)	60 (4%)	22 (5%)	267 (8%)
Open	15 (3%)	12 (6%)	54 (5%)	74 (6%)	22 (5%)	177 (5%)
Total	477 (100%)	200 (100%)	1,061 (100%)	1,337 (100%)	454 (100%)	3,529 (100%)

2016 Felony Arrest Outcomes

		2010 1 01011	y Arrest Oute				
		Mos	t Serious Felc	ony Arrest Ch	arge		
Outcome	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total	
Felony Conviction	245	133	487	617	192	1,674	
i ciony donvioudn	(34%)	(46%)	(42%)	(44%)	(37%)	(41%)	
Misdemeanor	207	43	191	322	144	907	
Conviction	(29%)	(15%)	(16%)	(23%)	(28%)	(22%)	
Found Not Guilty	2	0	1	0	3 (1%)	6 (0%)	
Found Not Guilty	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	3 (170)	0 (070)	
Dismissed	116	44	217	221	88 (17%)	686 (17%)	
Disillisseu	(16%)	(15%)	(19%)	(16%)	00 (17%)	000 (17 /8)	
Diversion	7	13	42	46	12 (2%)	120 (3%)	
Diversion	(1%)	(4%)	(4%)	(3%)	12 (270)	120 (370)	
Refused	94	22	134	74	31 (6%)	355 (9%)	
Neiuseu	(13%)	(8%)	(11%)	(5%)	31 (076)	333 (978)	
Onon	54	35	100	126	E1 (100/)	366 (00/)	
Open	(7%)	(12%)	(9%)	(9%)	51 (10%)	366 (9%)	
Total	725	290	1,172	1,406	521	4,114	
I Olai	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	

### 2017 Felony Arrest Outcomes

			,							
		Most Serious Felony Arrest Charge								
Outcome	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total				
Felony Conviction	210	103	393	542	148	1,396				
	(26%)	(38%)	(35%)	(34%)	(29%)	(32%)				
Misdemeanor Conviction	225	41	230	412	158	1,066				
	(28%)	(15%)	(20%)	(26%)	(31%)	(25%)				
Found Not Guilty	0	0	1	0	0	1				
	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)				
Dismissed	104	30	155	182	59	530				
	(13%)	(11%)	(14%)	(11%)	(11%)	(12%)				
Diversion	11	12	22	52	9	106				
	(1%)	(4%)	(2%)	(3%)	(2%)	(2%)				
Refused	139	25	166	141	41	512				
	(17%)	(9%)	(15%)	(9%)	(8%)	(12%)				
Open	114	62	156	273	100	705				
	(14%)	(23%)	(14%)	(17%)	(19%)	(16%)				
Total	803	273	1,123	1,602	515	4,316				
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)				

### 2015-2017 Total Felony Arrest Outcomes

		Most Serious Felony Arrest Charge								
Outcome	Violent	Weapons	Property	Drug	Other	Total				
Felony Conviction	659	329	1,396	1,804	516	4,704				
	(33%)	(43%)	(42%)	(42%)	(35%)	(39%)				
Misdemeanor Conviction	543	131	560	1,044	440	2,718				
	(27%)	(17%)	(17%)	(24%)	(30%)	(23%)				
Found Not Guilty	5	0	4	1	3	13				
	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)				
Dismissed	302	108	570	620	232	1,832				
	(15%)	(14%)	(17%)	(14%)	(16%)	(15%)				
Diversion	22	32	96	128	32	310				
	(1%)	(4%)	(3%)	(3%)	(2%)	(3%)				
Refused	291	54	420	275	94	1,134				
	(15%)	(7%)	(13%)	(6%)	(6%)	(9%)				
Open	183	109	310	473	173	1,248				
	(9%)	(14%)	(9%)	(11%)	(12%)	(10%)				
Total	2,005	763	3,356	4,345	1,490	11,959				
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)				

### Appendix VII: 2015-2017 Arresting Agency Felony Arrest Outcomes by Most Serious Charge

### Back to Report

**Violent Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency** 

	Arresting Agency				
Outcome	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Lake Charles Police Dept.	Sulphur Police Dept.	Other Police Agencies*	Total
Felony Conviction	30%	37%	33%	32%	33%
	(n=297)	(n=257)	(n=49)	(n=56)	(n=659)
Misdemeanor	27%	25%	37%	29%	27%
Conviction	(n=265)	(n=174)	(n=54)	(n=50)	(n=543)
Found Not Guilty	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=0)	(n=1)	(n=5)
Dismissed	17%	14%	8%	13%	15%
	(n=174)	(n=94)	(n=12)	(n=22)	(n=302)
Diversion	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%
	(n=15)	(n=3)	n=3)	(n=1)	(n=22)
Refused	16%	13%	8%	18%	15%
	(n=157)	(n=90)	(n=12)	(n=32)	(n=291)
Open	9%	10%	12%	6%	9%
	(n=86)	(n=69)	(n=17)	(n=11)	(n=183)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(n=996)	(n=689)	(n=147)	(n=173)	(n=2,005)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police

Weapons Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency

Weapons Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency					
	Arresting Agency				
Outcome	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Lake Charles Police Dept.	Sulphur Police Dept.	Other Police Agencies*	Total
Felony Conviction	38%	55%	51%	34%	43%
	(n=162)	(n=109)	(n=30)	(n=28)	(n=329)
Misdemeanor Conviction	18%	18%	12%	16%	17%
	(n=76)	(n=35)	(n=7)	(n=13)	(n=131)
Found Not Guilty	0	0	0	0	0
	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)	(0%)
Dismissed	17%	8%	7%	20%	14%
	(n=71)	(n=16)	(n=4)	(n=17)	(n=108)
Diversion	5%	1%	8%	4%	4%
	(n=22)	(n=2)	(n=5)	(n=3)	(n=32)
Refused	8%	8%	3%	6%	7%
	(n=32)	(n=15)	(n=2)	(n=5)	(n=54)
Open	14%	12%	19%	20%	14%
	(n=58)	(n=23)	(n=11)	(n=17)	(n=109)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(n=421)	(n=200)	(n=59)	(n=83)	(n=763)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police

**Property Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency** 

		•			
	Arresting Agency				
	Calcasieu Parish	Lake Charles	Sulphur Police	Other Police	
Outcome	Sheriff's Office	Police Dept.	Dept.	Agencies*	Total
Felony Conviction	40%	46%	47%	35%	42%
reiony conviction	(n=705)	(n=419)	(n=127)	(n=145)	(n=1,396)
Misdemeanor	16%	19%	14%	17%	17%
Conviction	(n=274)	(n=175)	(n=38)	(n=73)	(n=560)
Found Not Guilty	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Found Not Guilty	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=4)
Dismissed	18%	14%	17%	21%	17%
Dismissed	(n=314)	(n=124)	(n=45)	(n=87)	(n=570)
Diversion	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Diversion	(n=45)	(n=30)	(n=7)	(n=14)	(n=96)
Refused	15%	8%	12%	11%	13%
Reluseu	(n=264)	(n=76)	(n=32)	(n=48)	(n=420)
Open	9%	9%	8%	13%	9%
Open	(n=156)	(n=79)	(n=22)	(n=53)	(n=310)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	(n=1,760)	(n=905)	(n=271)	(n=420)	(n=3,356)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police

**Drug Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency** 

	Drug Feloliy Affest Outcomes by Affesting Agency					
	Arresting Agency					
Outcome	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Lake Charles Police Dept.	Sulphur Police Dept.	Other Police Agencies*	Total	
Felony Conviction	43%	38%	47%	37%	42%	
	(n=1,078)	(n=354)	(n=217)	(n=155)	(n=1,804)	
Misdemeanor Conviction	23%	28%	22%	23%	24%	
	(n=584)	(n=265)	(n=100)	(n=95)	(n=1,044)	
Found Not Guilty	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	(n=1)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=1)	
Dismissed	15%	12%	13%	18%	14%	
	(n=375)	(n=112)	(n=59)	(n=74)	(n=620)	
Diversion	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	
	(n=82)	(n=26)	(n=7)	(n=13)	(n=128)	
Refused	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%	
	(n=151)	(n=68)	(n=28)	(n=28)	(n=275)	
Open	10%	12%	10%	13%	11%	
	(n=261)	(n=109)	(n=48)	(n=55)	(n=473)	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	(n=2,532)	(n=934)	(n=459)	(n=420)	(n=4,345)	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police

Other Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency

	Arresting Agency				
Outcome	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Lake Charles Police Dept.	Sulphur Police Dept.	Other Police Agencies*	Total
Felony Conviction	34%	36%	45%	34%	35%
	(n=286)	(n=115)	(n=28)	(n=87)	(n=516)
Misdemeanor Conviction	30%	29%	29%	30%	30%
	(n=253)	(n=92)	(n=18)	(n=77)	(n=440)
Found Not Guilty	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	(n=3)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=3)
Dismissed	18%	14%	6%	13%	16%
	(n=152)	(n=44)	(n=4)	(n=32)	(n=232)
Diversion	2%	3%	0%	3%	2%
	(n=16)	(n=9)	(n=0)	(n=7)	(n=32)
Refused	8%	3%	6%	5%	6%
	(n=69)	(n=9)	(n=4)	(n=12)	(n=94)
Open	9%	16%	13%	15%	12%
	(n=74)	(n=52)	(n=8)	(n=39)	(n=173)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(n=853)	(n=321)	(n=62)	(n=254)	(n=1,490)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police

**Total Felony Arrest Outcomes by Arresting Agency** 

	, , ,		s by Aircsting I	-9	
	Arresting Agency				
Outcome	Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Lake Charles Police Dept.	Sulphur Police Dept.	Other Police Agencies*	Total
Felony Conviction	39%	41%	45%	35%	39%
	(n=2,528)	(n=1,254)	(n=451)	(n=471)	(n=4,704)
Misdemeanor Conviction	22%	24%	22%	23%	23%
	(n=1,452)	(n=741)	(n=217)	(n=308)	(n=2,718)
Found Not Guilty	0% (n=8)	0% (n=4)	0% (n=0)	0% (n=1)	0% (n=13)
Dismissed	17%	13%	12%	17%	15%
	(n=1,086)	(n=390)	(n=124)	(n=232)	(n=1,832)
Diversion	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
	(n=180)	(n=70)	(n=22)	(n=38)	(n=310)
Refused	10%	8%	8%	9%	9%
	(n=673)	(n=258)	(n=78)	(n=125)	(n=1,134)
Open	10%	11%	11%	13%	10%
	(n=635)	(n=332)	(n=106)	(n=175)	(n=1,248)
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(n=6,562)	(n=3,049)	(n=998)	(n=1,350)	(n=11,959)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes De Quincy Police Dept., Iowa Police Dept., Vinton Police Dept., Westlake Police Dept., and Louisiana State Police