

COVID-19 El Paso County Criminal Justice Center and Pretrial Services Update

These figures review the number of inmates at the jail and in Pretrial Services, and changes in populations and offending from 12 weeks prior to and post the first documented case of COVID-19 in El Paso County.

Friday, March 6, 2020 was the date of the first positive COVID-19 case in El Paso County.

Time 1 is December 13 - March 5; Time 2 is March 6 - May 29.

“Pretrial Defendant Counts at CJC” reports reflecting and tracking daily populations are being regularly reviewed. Below are averages for various population designations at each time period. The difference shows the decrease in population from Time 1 to Time 2, and a percent change where negative figures illustrate the rate of reduction.

CJC Averages	Pretrial Inmates	Pretrial Bond Eligible	Total CJC Population	Felony	Misdemeanor
Time 1	1014.6	463.1	1332.6	417.7	41.2
Time 2	768.2	339.1	995.5	315.8	22.5
Difference	246.4	124	337.1	101.9	18.7
Percent Change	-24.3%	-26.8%	-25.3%	-24.4%	-45.4%

The total number of charges entered in the Pretrial Database increased by 591 charges from Time 1 to Time 2. When removing multiple charges so each defendant is only counted once (per arrest), we see a difference of only 143 defendants. This means that 143 more people were assessed by Pretrial Services during Time 2 (post first case of COVID-19, than in Time 1).

Pretrial Services Data	Total Charges 13523	Total Defendants 3259	Felony	Drug Felony	Misd.	Domestic Violence	Traffic
Time 1	6466	1558	1391	447	2652	59	1251
Time 2	7057	1701	1712	398	3213	70	973
Difference	-591	-143	-321	49	-561	-11	278
Percent Change	9.1%	9.2%	23.1%	-11%	21.2%	18.6%	-22.2%

There is some fluctuation across offense class types between the jail and Pretrial Services figures. CJC numbers indicate a reduction in all offense classes. The Pretrial Services data offer a snapshot of offenses which are interviewed for pretrial bond and release and indicate a reduction in certain types of offense classes from Time 1 to Time 2 but increases in other offense class types. Increases in non-drug felonies are most notable. The most significant decrease is seen in traffic violations followed by drug felony charges.

Pretrial Services has continued interviewing, recommending, and providing case management for PR Bond eligible defendants during the COVID-19 outbreak. Pretrial Services has maintained an interview average of just above 40% of the total advisement docket. Total number of defendants interviewed has reduced by about 20% in the 12 weeks prior to the first case in El Paso County, as the percent of pretrial bond eligible inmates at the CJC has also reduced by about 27%. Fewer PR Bonds are being recommended as arrests are only being made for charges where there is no alternative. These higher-level felony charges often are not recommended for and do not receive PR Bonds.

It is also expected that failure to appear and failure to comply rates would decrease presently as least restrictive measures are utilized and fewer conditions of PR Bonds are being imposed. Drug monitoring is largely unavailable, and court dates are delayed. Defendants have not yet had the opportunity to fail to meet conditions. It is recommended that Pretrial Services continue to follow-up with defendants on PR Bond and issue court reminders for when dates are scheduled as courts begin to resume full operations.