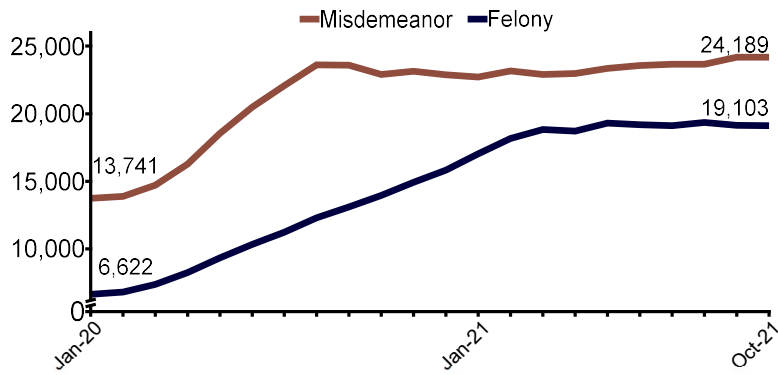

Justice backlog update

11/30/2021

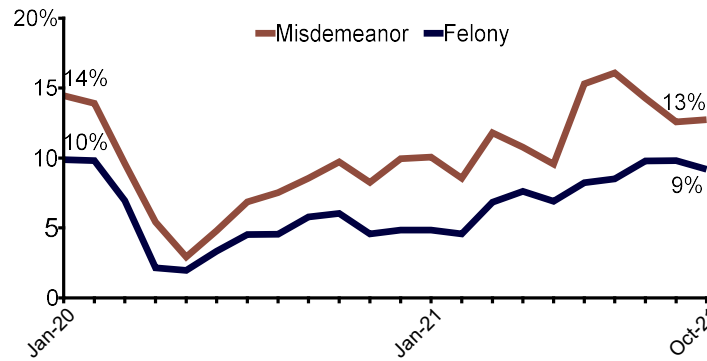


Criminal Courts: Backlog progress using key indicators

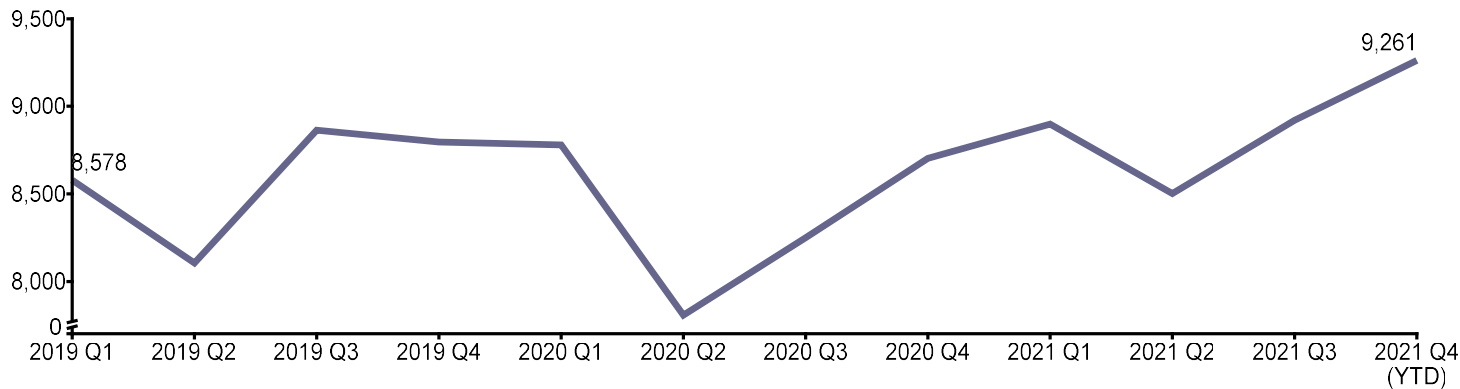
Number of cases in backlog



Monthly % of backlog cases disposed*



Number of jailed defendants



Key Takeaways

1. Jury panels were reduced back down to 4 for a significant portion of the month of October. This seems to have had an impact on case processing
2. Clearance rates are still over 100% for both Felony (104%) and Misdemeanor courts (123%)
3. Jail population continues to be on the rise and there are a multitude of efforts underway to reduce the jail population including finding additional jail space within the County review of Law enforcement intake operations and working with Judicial stakeholders to identify other areas of improvement

*Some changes to methodology impacted numbers from the last report. Please see note for final calculations Note: Number of cases in backlog calculated as cases older than 360 days for felonies and 180 days for Misdemeanor; Number of backlog cases disposed is cases disposed that are over 360 days for felonies and 180 days for misdemeanor; Calculation for backlog = backlog cases/(backlog +disposed cases) Number of jailed defendants for Q4 2021 is an average through 11/09/2021. Cases disposed and in backlog are end of month snapshots Source: OCM, DCA, HCSO

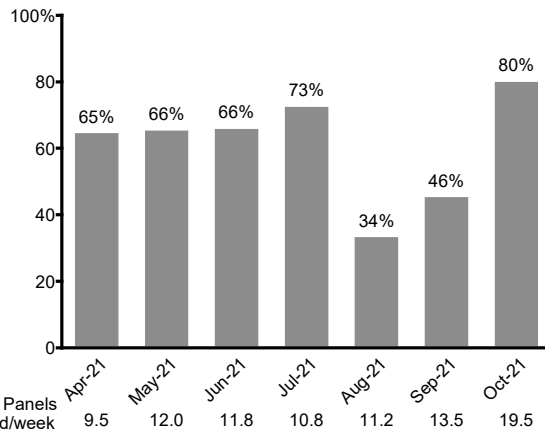
Jury operations underway and new district Court making headway

Jury Operations

Key Takeaways

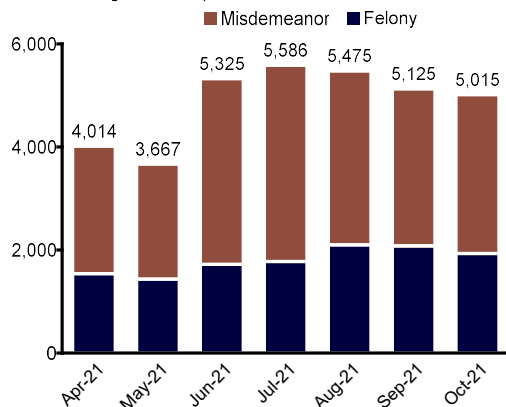
1. Utilization rates are up 34% from last month – some of which is due to the reduction in the jury panels from 7 to 4 for 2.5 weeks of the 4
2. In general the number of panels used every week jumped from 13.5 to 19.5
3. 5 of the available 7 days where we had 7 panels available, we had >4 panels used
4. The conflicts at NRG are to reduce this month, however, juries selection will be shut down for the last week of November and the last two weeks of December

Utilization Rate (%)



Avg Panels Filled/week

Number of Backlog Cases disposed



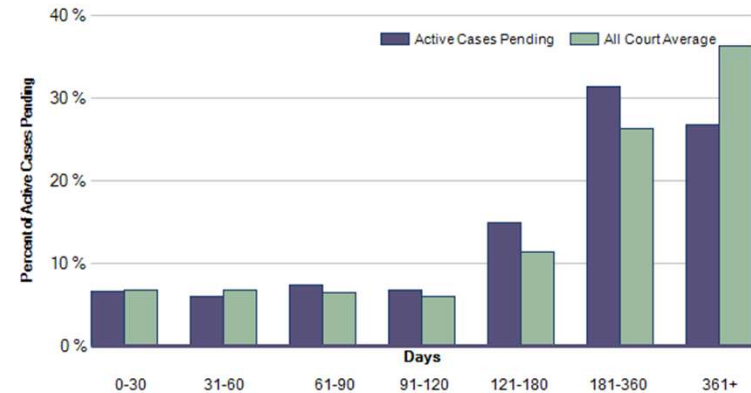
Sept to Oct Change

1%
-7%

482nd District Court

Age Of Caseload For Court 482

Criminal District Courts for the Month of October 2021



1. 482nd court has been working efficiently with clearance rate of 158% for last 2 months
2. The Court is working through the oldest backlogged cases with a significantly lower case backlog for cases older than 361 days (44%) when compared to the all court average (~40%)

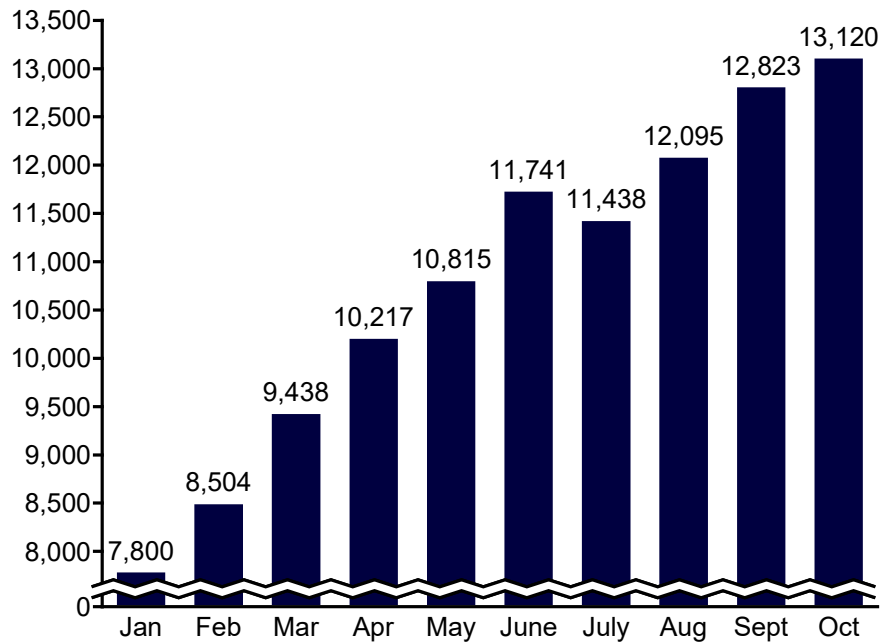
Note: Number of cases in backlog calculated as cases older than 360 days for felonies and 180 days for Misdemeanor; Number of backlog cases disposed is cases disposed that are over 360 days for felonies and 180 days for misdemeanor; Source: District Clerk Office, District Court Administration, Office of Court Management

The temps for Sheriff's office to process camera footage have been added

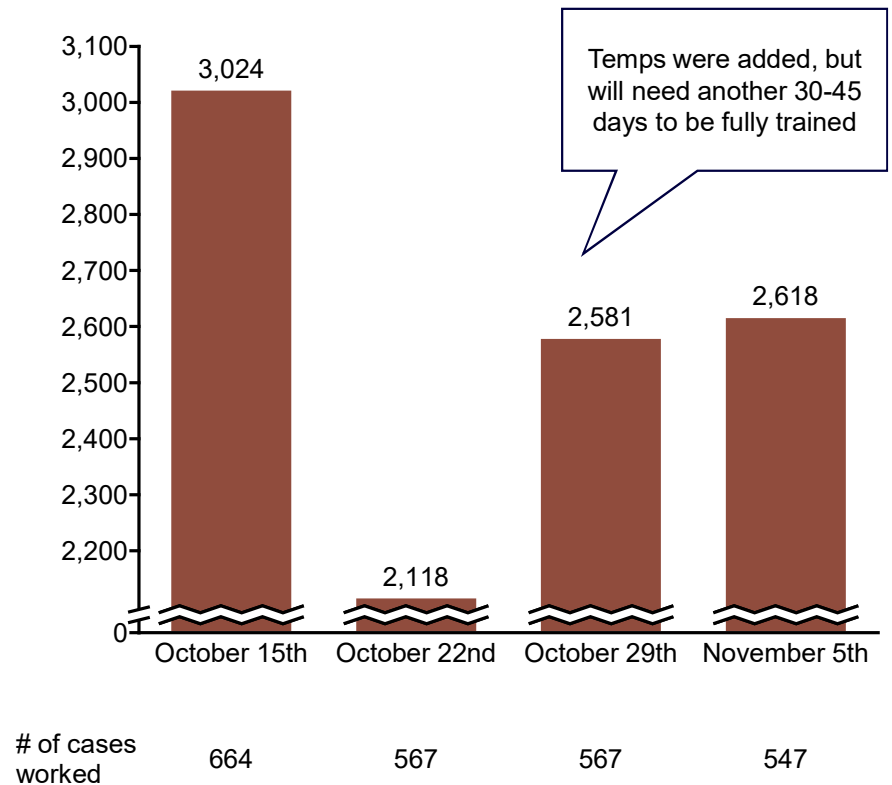
The number of requests for bodyworn camera processing has doubled in the past year

There is a learning curve for identifying and reviewing footage; goal is to have them fully trained in the next 30-45 days

Number of Pending requests



Number of videos produced



of cases worked

664

567

567

547

Other projects

1

Emergency Dockets

Felony dockets kicked off mid-September:

- 45 cases were set for trial on the ERD trial dockets during September and October
- Of those 45 cases, **26 were disposed by either court or jury trial** during this time period. The remaining 19 have been carried on docket to a future date
- An additional **422 cases that were not set for trial were also disposed**, for a total of **448 cases** disposed during the time period

Misdemeanor Courts Emergency response dockets kicked off operations on November 8, 2021

2

Public Defender

Of the seven positions added to the PDO, two have been filled and those attorneys have started taking cases, three have accepted offers of employment and the two remaining positions (one attorney and one investigator), are being recruited and interviewed.

3

DA Evidence staff

- 5 DA evidence temps are starting the week 11/29 and the DAO will be adding 5 temps each week for the next 5 weeks.
- The DA technology team has created SSO access to evidence.com and have 6 agencies signed up with the platform. Another 3 agencies are in the pipeline

5

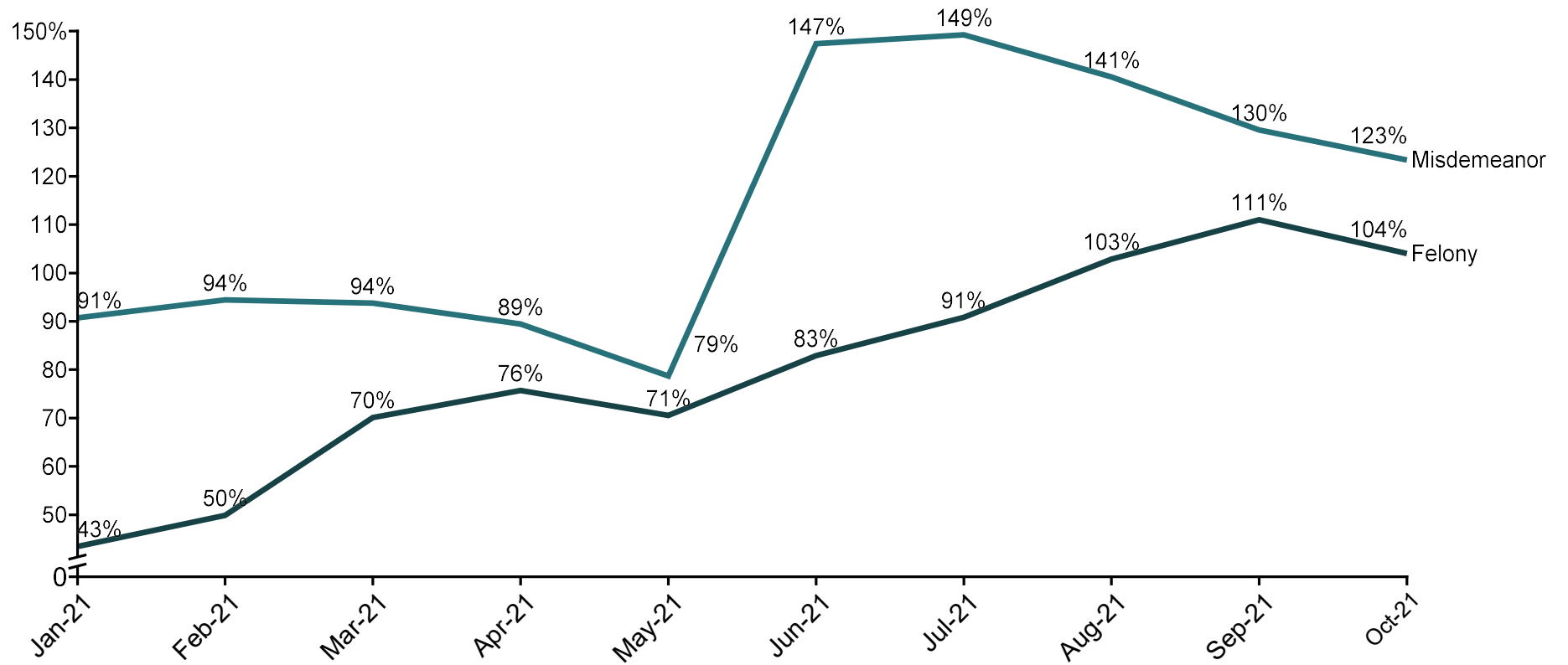
Associate Judges – awaiting kick-off

6 Associate Judges and associated staff have been approved for the District Courts. These are funded effective January 5, 2022 and are slated to start beginning of February to allow Justice entities sufficient time hire and train

Backup



Clearance Rates



Harris County is making investments in every segment of the Justice pipeline

System Intake

Case Preparation

Case Disposition

What is this?

The first step in the process to arrest and process the defendant, including having charges reviewed and accepted by the DA, having the Probable Cause Courts and the “home” misdemeanor / felony Courts set bail and bond conditions

Collection of evidence including 911 calls, law enforcement camera footage, physical and other digital evidence to provide the basis for case defense and prosecution

Final disposition of the case, either through a trial or any other dispositions – acquittal, dismissal, diversion, conviction, pleas or others

What were the issues?

Delays at the Probable Cause Courts in processing individuals through the Joint Processing Center. And low-level offenses taking time to disposition and adding to the pipeline of backlog cases

Delays in getting access to evidence, including 911 calls, law enforcement cameras due to limited technological infrastructure and processes, as well as processing staff

Constrained trial capacity due to limitations in number of juries we can call safely in a pandemic as well as Court capacity. The number of cases pending greatly outpaces the amount that can be processed by Courts in a year

What has been done to address this?

1. Discussions are ongoing to understand how and what types of resources to add to Probable Cause Courts in order to move these cases quicker
2. DA's Triage project is aimed at reviewing the one-time, low-level offenses and bringing them to disposition faster, thereby focusing on the backlog

1. Temporary evidence processing staff provided to the HCSO and constables to reduce backlog of body worn and dash camera footage
2. Additional temp staff and programming staff to the DA to reduce backlog of evidence to be processed and creation of an evidence management tool to streamline processes in the long-run
3. 6 Associate judges for district courts to help ready cases for disposition

1. An additional permanent District Court to meet the growing needs of the County, with discussions ongoing on additional courts needed
2. Continued funding NRG space for Jury operations and expanded the number of juries from 4 to 7
3. 3 Emergency Response dockets for District Courts and 2 Emergency Response Dockets for County Criminal Courts at Law