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## Justice Dashboard Guide

### OVERVIEW

The Justice Dashboard compares outcomes for individuals over the age of 18 convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in calendar years 2013, 2014, and 2015, and sentenced to county jail or local supervision. Subsequent contact is tracked three years after release from jail or the date of conviction, whichever occurs later.

### DATA SOURCES

The San Francisco cohorts are defined using local data from the District Attorney's case management system and the Sheriff's jail management system. Subsequent contact rates are based on arrest, filings, and convictions in San Francisco.

Frequently, an individual is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of multiple offenses. For the sake of simplicity, this Dashboard uses the most serious offense on a given case, as defined by the California Department of Justice Bureau of Criminal Statistics (BCS). As an example, an individual convicted of felony burglary and possession of drugs with intent to sell will be categorized by the felony burglary charge. Categorization is based on the charges alleged on the complaint, rather than the convicted charges. Data regarding the crime type at conviction is not reliably available at this time.

Administrative data will never be perfect. It can, however, provide powerful insights when used thoughtfully. The Recidivism Workgroup of the San Francisco Sentencing Commission, which is comprised of representatives from multiple criminal justice agencies and academic researchers, spent more than three years defining and refining the methodology to yield results in which its members have confidence. Based on this process and the resultant methodology, combined with what we know about the data provided, we believe these results are an acceptable representation of the true subsequent contact rates in San Francisco.

### PROTECTING SENSITIVE INFORMATION

All data in the dashboard is stripped of personally identifying information. The first page of the dashboard, **Cohort Overview**, is populated with aggregate data and toggling is restricted in order to prevent re-identification of specific individuals in the data set. The subsequent pages are populated with de-identified individual-level data. Attributes are generalized to limit re-identification. For example, *Age* is restricted to "18-25" or "26 and older." As an additional measure to ensure anonymity, we restrict the underlying data such that any combination of the attribute variables in the dashboard will always yield a sub-population that is at least eleven

persons, meeting the standards of the San Francisco Office of the Chief Data Officer. It is for this reason that the **Subsequent Contact** pages have a smaller cohort size than the **Cohort Overview**. Additional information is included on the page-specific sections of the **Navigation** section below.

## DEFINITIONS

**Age:** San Francisco defines Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) as ages 18-25. The Dashboard allows users to disaggregate subsequent contact for TAY only; all other ages are grouped together in order to protect sensitive information, as described above.

**Conviction Cohort:** The year that the person entered the cohort: either the date of conviction or the date of release from San Francisco County Jail, whichever occurred later.

**Index Case/ Court Number:** The index case or Court Number is the case associated with the conviction that placed the person in the Conviction Cohort. That is, the cases of those individuals over the age of 18 convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, in calendar years 2013, 2014, and 2015, for which they were sentenced to county jail or local supervision in San Francisco.

**Index Offense:** The index offense is the most serious charge *filed* on the index case. The San Francisco Justice Dashboard categorizes all penal codes utilizing California Department of Justice BCS Summary Codes. The code tables can be found here: <https://oag.ca.gov/law/code-tables>.

**Latinx Ethnicity:** The Sheriff's Department is the only agency among the data providers that tracks ethnicity, including the category for Latinx. The Sheriff's Jail Management System (JMS) was used to obtain ethnicity information on the index Court Number. If the ethnicity field was missing on the index Court Number, the mode ethnicity for each individual's SF Number (a county-issued unique identifier) was used. That is, for a given case record that was missing ethnicity data, if any other case record associated with the individual had JMS ethnicity data, the ethnicity that appeared most often on their other records, would be applied to the incomplete record. If JMS does not have an ethnicity listed for the individual on any record, then Census data was utilized to impute Latinx ethnicity for individuals with surnames where the proportion of the Census respondents that self-identify as Latinx is 85 percent or higher.

**Missing/Other Race/Ethnicity:** This broad category is utilized in order to prevent re-identification of individuals in the Dashboard, to protect sensitive information, as described above. Any individual who did not self-identify as Black, Latinx, or White is included in this category.

**New Arrest:** A new arrest is defined as misdemeanor and felony arrests for new criminal activity in San Francisco. Arrests that are only for an out-of-county warrant or infractions (e.g. jaywalking) are excluded.

**New Arraignment:** A new arraignment is defined as a new misdemeanor or felony charge filed by the SFDA or a motion to revoke supervision (MTR) filed for new criminal activity by the SFDA or the Adult Probation Department.

**New Conviction:** A new conviction is defined as a conviction with a sentence to local supervision, county jail, or state prison for new criminal activity in San Francisco.

**Sex:** For the time period represented in the Dashboard, sex was only tracked as a binary measure. Since 2018, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department has implemented the Voluntary Gender Identity Statement of Preference, allowing individuals to self-identify in order to ensure secure and appropriate housing. Future iterations of the Dashboard may include transgender, gender variant, and non-binary (TGN) identities to the extent adding these variables protects the privacy of the individuals.

**Subsequent Criminal Justice Contact:** The Recidivism Workgroup measures subsequent criminal justice contact at three points: arrest, arraignment, and conviction. For more information about the California criminal process, please visit the Judicial Council's [website](#).

**Subsequent Criminal Justice Contact Window:** The Recidivism Workgroup measures subsequent criminal justice contact for three years. For individuals sentenced to custody, the window begins at the point of release from San Francisco Jail. If convicted out-of-custody (and not sentenced to return to custody), the window opens at the date of conviction. When an individual has a subsequent contact during the pretrial period and are held in custody at the point of conviction, the date of release from county jail from their subsequent booking will be used as the cohort entry date.

## NAVIGATION

### General:

- **Filtering:** Some pages have filters that can be used to restrict the base population. They are additive, e.g. by selecting "Black" on the *Race/Ethnicity* and "Male" on the *Sex* filter, graphics will display information on black males on the **Subsequent Contact – Demographics** page.
- **Cross-filtering:** Selecting a section of one chart will restrict the other charts to the population corresponding to the selected section, e.g. by selecting "DUI" on the *Index Offense* tile map on the **Subsequent Contact – Index Offense** page, the gauges will show the subsequent contact rates for that offense only.

### Page-Specific:

- **Cohort Overview:** This page provides aggregate demographic and offense details for everyone convicted in San Francisco between 2013 and 2015. This page does not have any filtering or cross-filtering.

- **Subsequent Contact Pages:** These pages are populated with individual level data that is restricted so that any combination of the variables will always yield a sub-population that has at least eleven persons. This excludes approximately three percent of the cohort; each page is populated with 9,407 cases. Each page has its own ID field – these numbers are randomly generated and unique per observation. They cannot be used to link individuals within or across the two data sets.
- **Subsequent Contact – Index:** This page aggregates all three cohort years and allows users to see subsequent contact rates for specific index offenses. Users can select the offense in the *Index Offense* tile map to see the subsequent contact rates for that specific index offense. For example, if you click the DUI (M) tile you will see the subsequent contact rates for all three years. Data is aggregated across all years in order to comply with the sensitive data rule.
- **Subsequent Contact – Demographics:** This page allows users to see subsequent contact rates for different demographic groups across cohort years. For example, select “18-25” from *Age* and toggle across the different *Cohort Years* to see how the subsequent contact rates differ across years for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY).