People Arrested More Than Once in the City of Pittsburgh, 2003–2015

March 2019

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DEFINITIONS

Adult probation: The Allegheny County Adult Probation Office supervises those with a probation or parole sentence as well as those serving an intermediate punishment sentence (people released into the community, but subject to conditions such as electronic monitoring or house arrest).

Allegheny County Jail (ACJ): The ACJ is a short-term facility that holds people awaiting trial, sentencing, or both, and people sentenced to a relatively short length of time (fewer than two years). People considered to have involvement with ACJ are those admitted and housed in the jail.

Arrest: An arrest is the apprehension of a person for an unlawful incident. If a person is arrested for more than one offense, it is still counted as one arrest, and the less serious offense records are dropped from the statistics, based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting hierarchy. If a person is arrested more than once over a course of time, then each of those instances of apprehension is counted as a separate arrest.

Assisted housing services: Administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, these services include housing assistance for low-income families, older adults and people with disabilities.

Child welfare involvement: A child welfare allegation occurs when a mandated reporter or member of the public reports suspected abuse, neglect or maltreatment. An investigation occurs either when there is suspected abuse or when child welfare staff determine that a child is at risk due to the severity of the allegation or because further information is required. A case is opened when the results of the investigation suggest that there are ongoing concerns about the safety or well-being of the child or if the family requires additional support. Individuals can be involved with the child welfare system as a child or a parent on a case.

Drug and alcohol services: Publicly funded services for people with substance use disorder. Includes both clinical services, such as individual and group therapy, and non-clinical services, such as case management.

Homeless/housing supports: Services administered by DHS for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Includes emergency shelter and street outreach services as well as supportive housing programs, such as Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing.

Juvenile probation: Allegheny County's justice system for children and youth ages 10 through 18. The system is intended to focus on treatment, rehabilitation and supervision of juveniles. Juveniles involved with juvenile probation are those receiving juvenile justice system services or who are under supervision in their own home or in placement in a detention facility.

Mental health services: Publicly funded services for people in need of mental health treatment. Includes both clinical services, such as individual and group therapy, and non-clinical services, such as case management.

Non-repeat arrest: Arrest of one-time offenders in the period of study.

Non-repeat arrestee: An individual who was arrested only once in 2003 through 2015.

Part I crimes: Part I crimes are serious crimes, which are categorized as either violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) or property crimes (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson). Full definitions for each of these crime types can be found here.

Part II crimes: Part II crimes are less serious crimes, which are categorized as one of the following: simple assaults, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons law violation, prostitution, sex offenses, drug violations, gambling, endangering children, driving under the influence, liquor law violation, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy and other offenses. Full definitions for each of these offense types can be found here.

Public benefits: Publicly funded benefits for individuals and families in need. Benefits include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), medical funds, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Repeat arrest: Arrest of an individual with other arrest records in the period of study.

Repeat arrestee: An individual who was arrested more than once in 2003 through 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the group of individuals who were arrested more than once in the City of Pittsburgh in 2003 through 2015. The analyses compare age, gender and race of people arrested more than once versus people arrested only one time. The report also provides information on repeat arrestees' involvement with human services such as publicly funded mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, child welfare services, and assisted housing. Finally, the report compares outcomes in the criminal justice system for repeat versus non-repeat arrestees. Data about repeat arrestees offer insights into crime prevention, efforts to decrease chronic offending, and more effective human services planning for repeat arrestees.

KEY FINDINGS

Of the more than 80,000 people who were arrested in 2003 through 2015, 34 percent were repeat arrestees (**Figure 1a**). Repeat arrestees accounted for 63 percent of the total number of arrests (154,464) in this period (**Figure 1b**).

FIGURE 1: **Distribution of Repeat vs. Non-Repeat Arrestees and Arrests, 2003 through 2015**

a) Percent Repeat vs. Non-Repeat Arrestees
   N=86,554
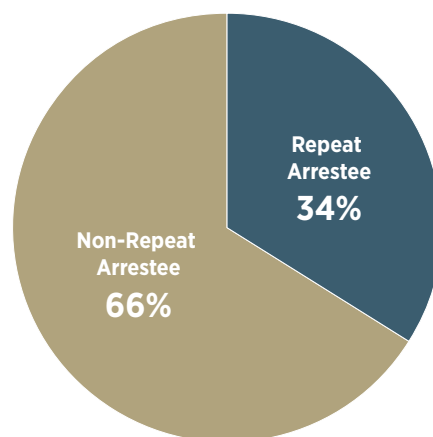
b) Percent Repeat vs. Non-Repeat Arrests
   N=154,464
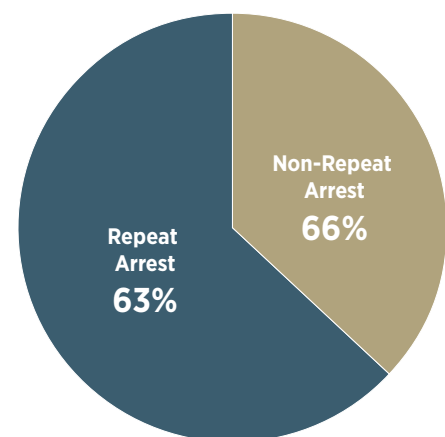
Other main findings include:

- Men were more likely than women to be repeat arrestees.

- Black people were more likely to be arrested more than once than both white people and Hispanic people.

- There were more repeat arrests for more serious (Part I) crimes compared to less serious (Part II) crimes.

- The highest density of arrests of repeat arrestees occurred in Pittsburgh's Central Business District and East End neighborhoods.

- People arrested more than once had greater involvement in publicly funded human services compared to people arrested only once.

- While repeat arrestees had a slightly higher rate of having their case held in court, they were not found guilty more frequently than non-repeat arrestees.

INTRODUCTION

This report examines repeat offending behavior for the cohort of people arrested in 2003 through 2015 in the City of Pittsburgh. Topics for this analysis include:

- The number and demographics of people arrested more than once

- Common crime types of people arrested more than once

- The neighborhoods where repeat arrests occurred

- Repeat arrestees' involvement with human services systems

- Repeat arrestees' contacts with the jail and/or probation system

- Court rulings for repeat arrestees compared to non-repeat arrestees

Reasons that people are arrested more than once are complex; factors like an individual's social environment and a community's policing policies contribute to the chance that a person is rearrested. Analyzing data on who gets arrested more than once can inform crime prevention efforts and human services offerings for people who are especially at risk. Identifying the geographic areas where rearrests are likely to occur helps the County more effectively provide human services where they are most needed.

This report also looks at the human services usage of repeat arrestees to examine whether national research — which has shown a relationship between high human services utilization and repeat offending, especially with offenders' involvement with mental health services — holds true for our community.[1]

METHODOLOGY

Records of arrests, provided by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, were matched with client records in the Allegheny County Data Warehouse[2] to identify individuals' demographics and involvement with the human services and criminal justice systems.

The definition of "repeat arrestee" used for this report was an individual who was arrested more than once from 2003 through 2015 in the City of Pittsburgh. It is also possible to analyze the subset of more frequent arrestees (i.e., three or more arrests), but preliminary analysis revealed similar statistical patterns between more frequent repeat arrestees and people with just two arrests. Future analysis will look more closely at the small group of frequent repeat arrestees.

[1] The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights found that individuals with mental health challenges had higher recidivism rates than people without mental health challenges. See http://www.prisonerhealth.org/educational-resources/factsheets-2/incarceration-and-mental-health/. Also, see the National Association of Counties' "Data-Driven Justice Playbook" (http://www.naco.org/resources/programs-and-services/data-driven-justice) regarding the multi-system involvement of repeat offenders with mental health problems.

[2] The Allegheny County Data Warehouse brings together and integrates client and service data from a wide variety of sources both internal and external to the County. For a full list of data sources as well as additional information about the Data Warehouse, please see Allegheny County Data Warehouse.

Limitations

This analysis considers only those people who were arrested by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police; it does not include arrests made by other police departments in the County's other municipalities.

Errors in name spelling, date of birth and gender information, despite considerable efforts to correct, could nonetheless overestimate the number of unique individuals who experienced arrest, human services, jail and probation. On the other hand, misspelled names could underestimate involvement in human services and criminal justice systems to the extent that they preclude matching of records. There were 4,363 arrest records that did not have first name and last name, and 8,874 records had no date of birth, precluding the inclusion of these records in the analysis.

Involvement in human services such as assisted housing, treatment services and child welfare include all known records between 2003 and 2015. More specifically, this includes all associations with any of the systems prior to, during and after the arrest(s). This means that information is lacking about the sequence of events, such as prior involvement leading to arrest, human services involvement during the arrest period as a consequence of the arrest, or after the arrest as a continued service delivery based on service need evaluations made in conjunction with the arrest.

FINDINGS

People Arrested More Than Once in the City of Pittsburgh, 2003–2015

In 2003 through 2015, 154,464 arrests were made in the City of Pittsburgh. These arrests involved 86,554 uniquely identifiable individuals. Thirty-four percent of the arrested people, or 29,667, were repeat arrestees.[3]

[3] Repeat arrestees were identified using demographics — name, date of birth and gender — from arrest records. Arrest records that had missing or incomplete demographics were excluded from this analysis.

Out of the 29,667 repeat arrestees, 43 percent were arrested twice, 21 percent three times and 12 percent four times (**Figure 2**). The highest number of arrests for one person was 33; four individuals each experienced 33 arrests for a wide variety of offenses such as assault, theft, disorderly conduct, drug and alcohol, and sex offenses. A forthcoming report will analyze the small group of offenders who were arrested many times over the period.

FIGURE 2: **Distribution of Repeat Arrestees by Number of Arrests, 2003 through 2015, N=29,667**

Number of Arrests
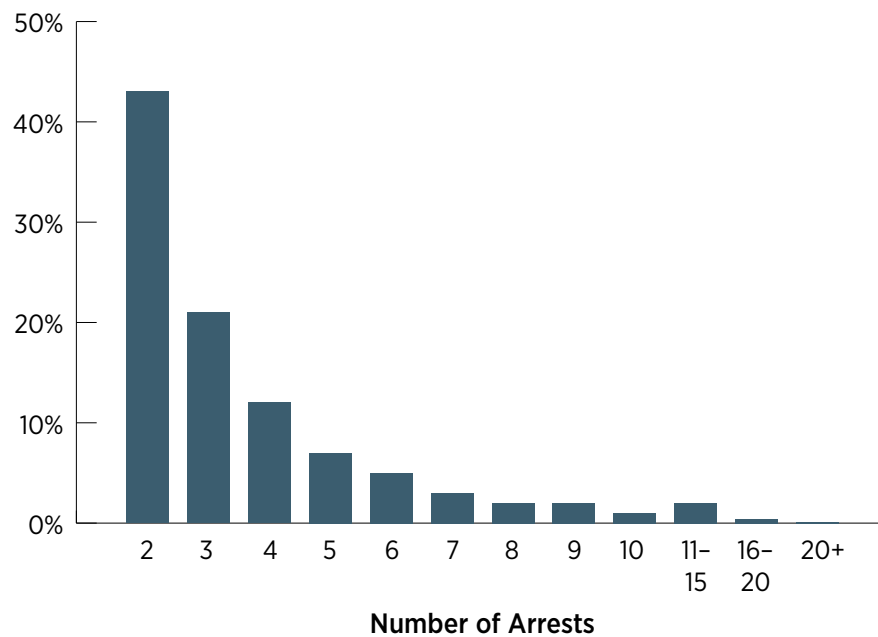
Demographics of Repeat Arrestees

Age

We compared the age curves for repeat and non-repeat arrestees and found that the curves followed the same pattern. The average age at the time of their most recent arrest for repeat arrestees was 33; for non-repeat arrestees, the average age at arrest was 31 (**Figure 3**). In practice, this means that both groups are very similar in their age distribution. According to research, crime peaks around ages 17–20 and then decreases rapidly, meaning that most arrested individuals are arrested in late adolescence and early adulthood.[4]

[4] Loeber, R. and Farrington, D. P. (2014). Age-crime curve. In *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice* (pp. 12-18). Springer, New York.

FIGURE 3: **Distribution of Age at Latest Arrest for Repeat and Non-Repeat Arrestees**

■ Repeat arrestee (N=29,667)   ■ Non-repeat arrestee (N=56,887)

Age
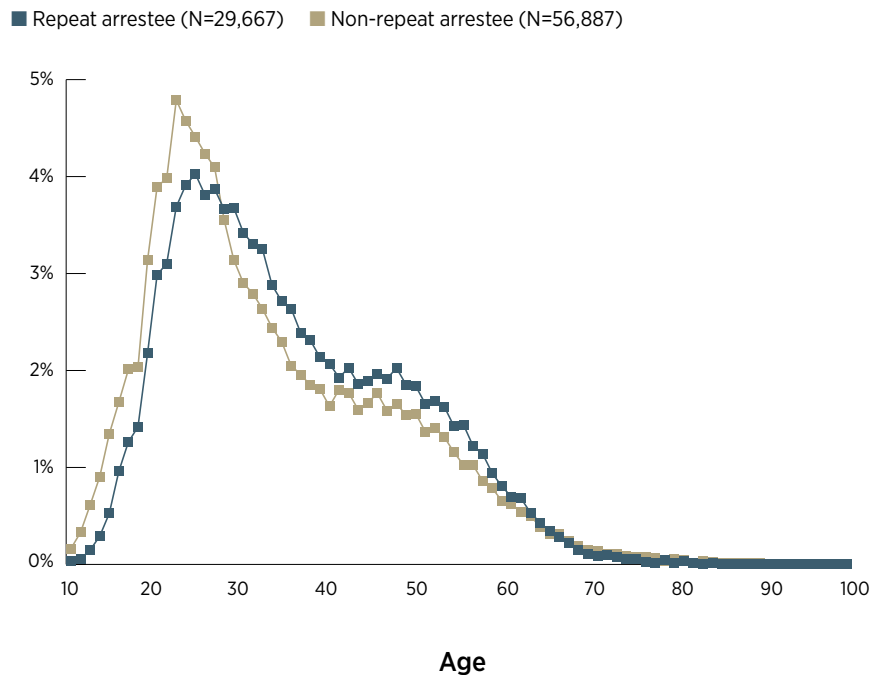
Of the 97,546 arrest records that involved repeat arrestees, 90 percent were adult arrestees and 10 percent were juvenile arrestees. Of all adult arrests, 63 percent were repeat arrests; of all juvenile arrests, 65 percent were repeat arrests.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity

In general, females are represented significantly less frequently in crime statistics than males in overall prevalence, crime types and repeat offending. This is confirmed by this analysis. Of the 86,554 arrestees in this period, one-fourth (26%) were female. Of those female arrestees (n=22,654), 28 percent were repeat arrestees in the period of study (**Figure 4**). In contrast, 37 percent of all men arrested were arrested more than once.[5]

[5] 59 arrestees had missing gender data.

FIGURE 4: **Percentage of Arrestees of Each Gender Who Were Arrested More Than Once, 2003 through 2015, N=29,667**
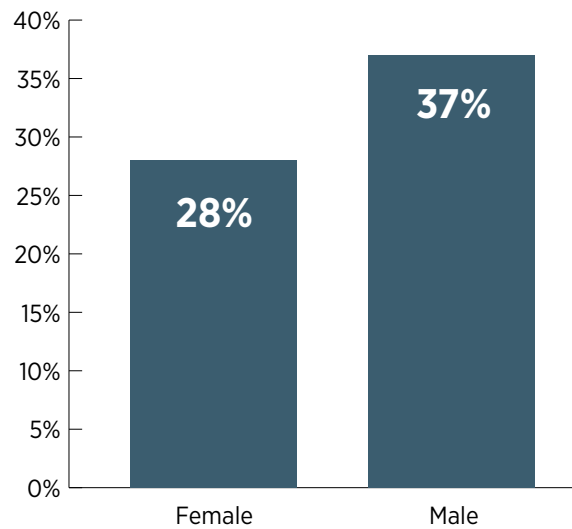
Black individuals made up the largest proportion of those rearrested: 46,086 black people were arrested, 41 percent of whom were arrested more than once. In contrast, 17 percent of all 769 Hispanic arrestees were repeat arrestees, and 27 percent of all 38,988 white arrestees were repeat arrestees (**Figure 5**).[6]

[6] 711 arrestees were identified as a race other than white, black or Hispanic.

FIGURE 5: **Percentage of Arrestees of Each Race Who Were Arrested More Than Once, 2003 through 2015, N=29,667**
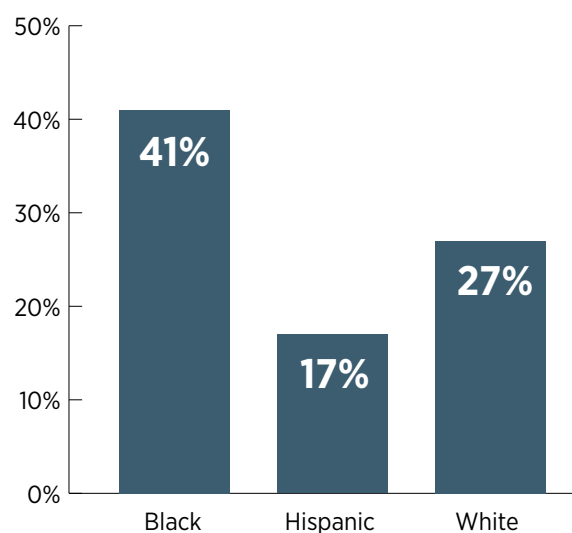
Crime Types and Repeat Arrestees

Part I and Part II Crimes

When looking at the total number of arrests, there were small differences between more serious Part I crimes and less serious Part II crimes. Sixty-eight percent of all Part I arrests were repeat arrests, whereas 61 percent of all Part II arrests were repeat arrests. When breaking down Part I crimes into violent[7] and property[8] crimes, 70 percent of arrests for property crimes were repeat arrests as compared to 66 percent of arrests for violent crimes (**Figure 6**).

FIGURE 6: **Percentage of Arrests That Were Repeat Arrests by Crime Type**

a) Part I vs. Part II Repeat Arrests
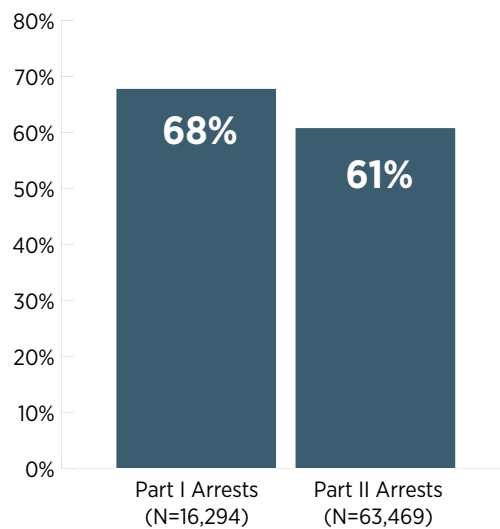
b) Part I Violent vs. Property Repeat Arrests
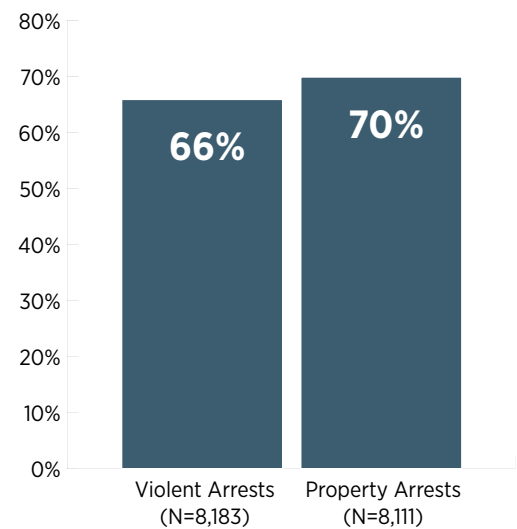
Of the 97,546 arrest records that involved repeat arrestees, 22 percent related to Part I crimes (compared to 17 percent for non-repeat arrestees), showing that repeat arrestees had slightly higher involvement in more serious crimes than non-repeat arrestees. When looking at violent crimes versus property crimes, repeat arrestees had slightly higher involvement in property offenses than non-repeat arrestees (**Table 1**).

[7] Violent crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

[8] Property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

TABLE 1: **Percentage of Arrests and Repeat Arrests by Offense Category, 2003 through 2015, N=154,464**

	OVERALL	REPEAT ARREST	
		NO	YES
Part I	20%	17%	**22%**
Part II	72%	76%	**70%**
Miscellaneous[9]	8%	7%	**8%**
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Violent	47%	51%	**45%**
Property	53%	49%	**55%**
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

[9] Miscellaneous offenses are crimes that are not classified as either Part I or Part II crimes and are not included in Uniform Crime Reports. Examples of miscellaneous arrests are attachment order arrests and bench warrant arrests.

[10] Tumminello, M.; Edling, C.; Liljeros, F.; Mantegna, R. N.; and Sarnecki, J. (2013) "The Phenomenology of Specialization of Criminal Suspects." PLOS ONE 8(5): e64703.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0064703.

[11] Richards, T.N.; Jennings, W. G; Tomsich, E. A.; and Gover, A. R. (2013). "A Longitudinal Examination of Offending and Specialization Among a Sample of Massachusetts Domestic Violence Offenders." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(3) 643–663.

[12] Armstrong, T. A. and Britt, C. L. (2004). "The Effect of Offender Characteristics on Offense Specialization and Escalation." J*ustice Quarterly*, 21(4), 844.

While repeat arrestees by definition have more frequent arrests than non-repeat arrestees for each of these crime categories, some categories had statistically significant differences. More specifically, repeat arrestees were more frequently involved in the Part I crimes of robbery, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft, and Part II drug offenses, forgery, receiving stolen property and weapon laws violations when compared to non-repeat arrestees. The only crimes for which non-repeat arrestees were arrested more frequently than repeat arrestees were DUI and embezzlement. See **Appendix B** for the distribution of arrests for each offense type.

Common Crime Combinations of Repeat Arrestees

When analyzing the types of crime committed by people who were arrested more than once, it is useful to consider versatility versus specialization. Crime versatility is the concept that offending behavior is controlled more by circumstances, such as lack of social control and low self-control,[10] than by an interest in certain types of crimes.[11] Specialization, on the other hand, means that the person focuses, for example, on violent OR property crimes, and learns skills to commit certain types of crimes.[12] The analysis here suggests that there are no indications of specialization for repeat arrestees.

The most common combinations of crimes committed varied widely (**Table 2, a & b**). The most common combinations of offenses included drug violation, simple assault, aggravated assault and other offenses. We also investigated the most common offense combinations for individuals arrested at least three times (**Table 2b**). There were no notable differences in offense combinations.

TABLE 2: **Most Common Offense Combinations for Repeat Arrestees, 2003 through 2015**

a) Top 10 most common offense combinations of people arrested twice, 2003–2015

COMBINATION OF MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES	N	PERCENT
Drug violation, Simple assault	1,046	4.6%
Drug violation, Other offense	641	2.8%
Aggravated assault, Simple assault	619	2.7%
Drug violation, Forgery	377	1.7%
Drug violation, Theft	374	1.7%
Drug violation, Weapons violation	339	1.5%
Other offense, Simple assault	320	1.4%
Driving under influence, Simple assault	302	1.3%
Aggravated assault, Drug violation	286	1.3%
Driving under influence, Drug violation	278	1.2%
Top 10 total	**4,582**	**20.3%**
Grand total	**22,560**	**100.0%**

b) Top 10 most common offense combinations of people arrested at least three times, 2003–2015

COMBINATION OF MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES	N	PERCENT
Drug violation, Other offense, Simple assault	124	0.5%
Aggravated assault, Drug violation, Simple assault	114	0.5%
Drug violation, Simple assault, Weapons violation	93	0.4%
Drug violation, Other offense, Theft	89	0.4%
Drug violation, Robbery, Simple assault	80	0.4%
Drug violation, Forgery, Simple assault	75	0.3%
Drug violation, Simple assault, Theft	74	0.3%
Driving under influence, Drug violation, Simple assault	70	0.3%
Drug violation, Receiving stolen property, Simple assault	70	0.3%
Aggravated assault, Other offense, Simple assault	55	0.2%
Top 10 total	**844**	**3.7%**
Grand total	**22,560**	**100.0%**

Neighborhoods Where Repeat Arrests Occurred

Most repeat arrests for Part I (more serious) crimes took place in the Central Business District, East Liberty and the South Side Flats neighborhoods of Pittsburgh (**Figure 7**).

FIGURE 7: **Density of Repeat Arrests for Part I Crimes, 2003 through 2015**

LEGEND

Density of Repeat Arrests

- Low
- High
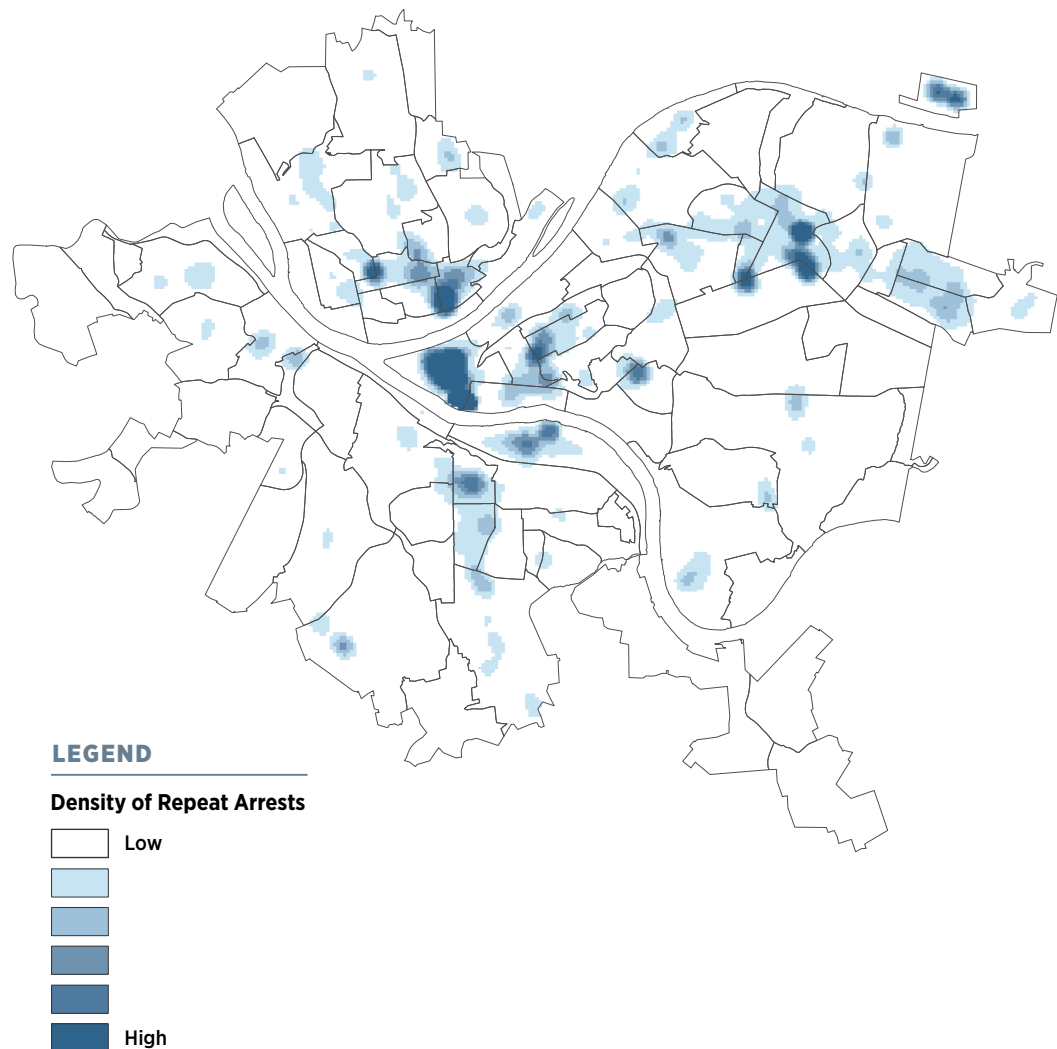
Note: Kernel density function and 1/2 standard deviation intervals were used for the legend.

For Part II crimes, the Central Business District was again one of the busiest for repeat arrests.

Other common areas for Part II repeat arrests were East Allegheny and Homewood South (**Figure 8**).

FIGURE 8: **Density of Repeat Arrests for Part II Crimes, 2003 through 2015**

LEGEND

Density of Repeat Arrests

Low

High

The top 20 neighborhoods where most repeat arrests occurred for Part I and Part II crimes are presented in **Table 3**.[13] In addition to the neighborhoods noted above, other neighborhoods that appear on both Part I and Part II repeat arrest lists include Carrick, Bloomfield, Garfield, Homewood North and Mount Washington.

TABLE 3: Top 20 Neighborhoods by Number of Repeat Arrests, Part I and Part II Arrests

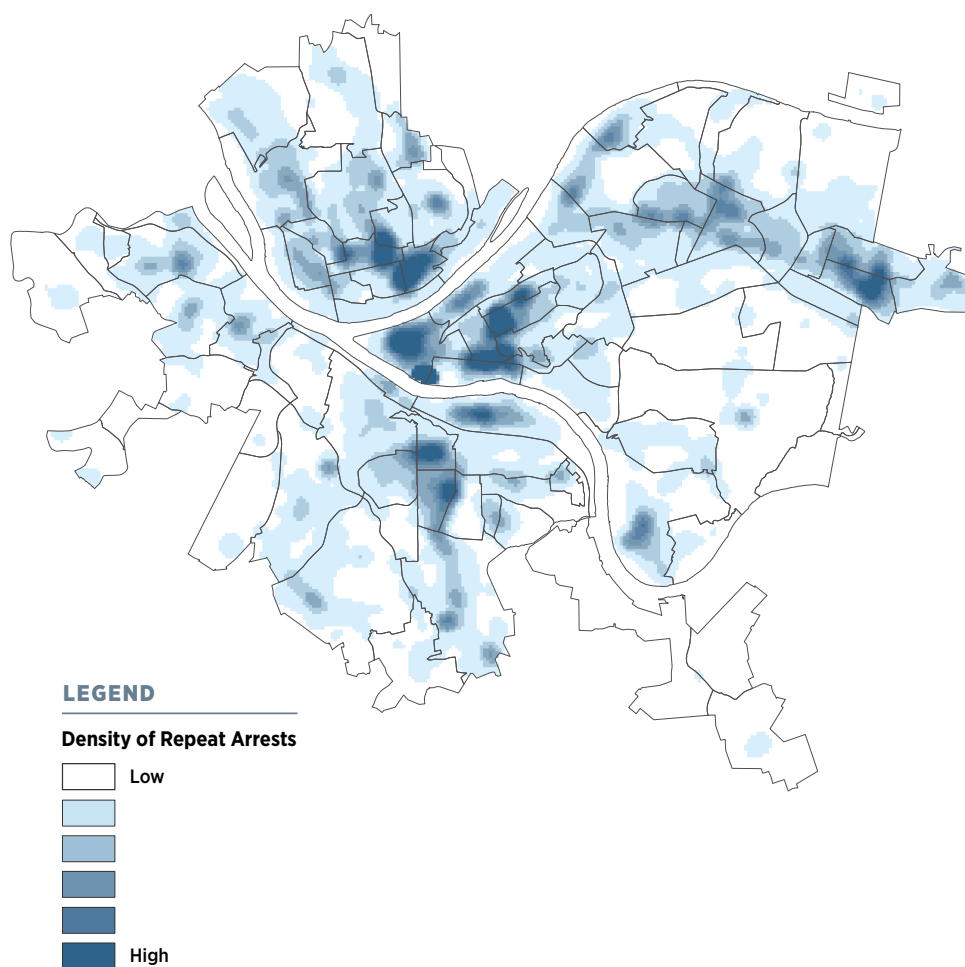|	PART I ARRESTS			PART II ARRESTS	
RANK	NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PART I REPEAT ARRESTS	RANK	NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PART II REPEAT ARRESTS
1	Central Business District	3,812	1	Central Business District	7,172
2	East Liberty	800	2	East Allegheny	2,091
3	South Side Flats	543	3	Homewood South	1,924
4	East Allegheny	528	4	Middle Hill	1,921
5	Carrick	449	5	Carrick	1,911
6	Shadyside	407	6	East Liberty	1,909
7	Bloomfield	373	7	Knoxville	1,792
8	Lincoln Lemington Belmar	343	8	South Side Flats	1,725
9	Homewood South	342	9	Bluff	1,481
10	Garfield	340	10	Homewood North	1,466
11	Homewood North	319	11	Perry South	1,454
12	Mount Washington	306	12	Hazelwood	1,394
13	Knoxville	292	13	Allentown	1,330
14	Allentown	283	14	Garfield	1,313
15	Bluff	276	15	Terrace Village	1,191
16	Perry South	275	16	Sheraden	1,135
17	Brookline	272	17	Bloomfield	1,058
18	Middle Hill	249	18	Mount Washington	1,041
19	Sheraden	243	19	Brookline	1,007
20	Hazelwood	235	20	Strip District	951

Repeat arrestees' home addresses, as listed in each person's most recent record, were also analyzed. Of the 29,667 repeat arrestees arrested in Pittsburgh, 94 percent had home addresses in Pennsylvania, 85 percent of which were successfully geocoded. Of the geocoded home addresses of repeat arrestees, about 91 percent were residents of the City of Pittsburgh. The repeat arrestees who were Pennsylvania residents but did not live in the City of Pittsburgh were most frequently from McKees Rocks, Wilkinsburg, McKeesport, Penn Hills, East Pittsburgh, West Mifflin, North Braddock, Duquesne and other county municipalities.

[14] Public benefits include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), publicly funded medical benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Human Services Involvement of Repeat Arrestees

As expected, repeat arrestees had higher involvement than non-repeat arrestees in all Allegheny County human services program areas that were analyzed. As **Figure 9** illustrates, 75 percent of repeat arrestees and only 44 percent of non-repeat arrestees had one or more involvements with public benefits[14] at any time during the period of study. (See **Appendix A** for detailed information regarding denominators and involvement data availability.) Repeat arrestees were also likely to be involved with publicly funded mental health services (59%) and publicly funded drug and alcohol services (51%).

FIGURE 9: **Percentage of Repeat and Non-Repeat Arrestees Who Were Involved with Human Services at Any Time**

■ Repeat arrestee (N=29,667)   ■ Non-repeat arrestee (N=56,887)

Service	Repeat arrestee	Non-repeat arrestee
Public Benefits	75%	44%
Publicly Funded Mental Health Services	59%	32%
Publicly Funded Drug and Alcohol Services	51%	22%
Child Welfare as a Child	32%	15%
Child Welfare as a Parent	35%	16%
Housing/Homeless Support	35%	30%
Assisted Housing	13%	10%
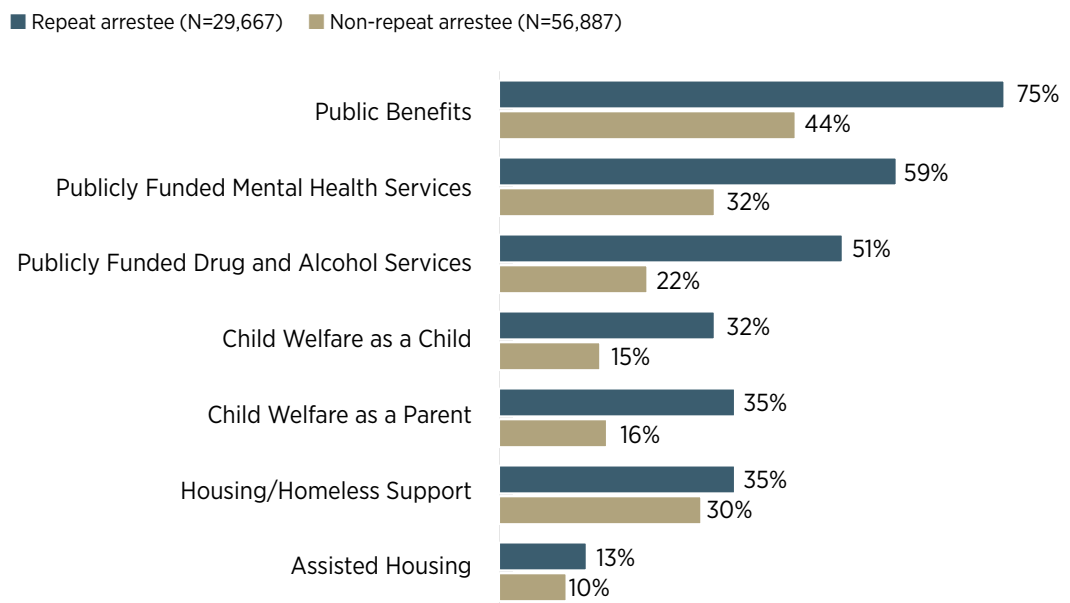
In addition to high involvement rates in human services programs, repeat arrestees were more often involved in multiple human services when compared to non-repeat arrestees (**Figure 10**). Non-repeat arrestees were more often involved in only one or two services, though the difference between the two groups was not drastic. The human services in **Figure 10** include child welfare (as children and adults), publicly funded behavioral health services (mental health, and drug and alcohol), public benefits, and assisted housing and the homelessness system.

FIGURE 10: **Number of Repeat Versus Non-Repeat Arrestees Who Were Involved in One or More Human Services Systems**

■ Non-repeat arrestee (N=56,887)   ■ Repeat arrestee (N=29,667)

Number of Systems
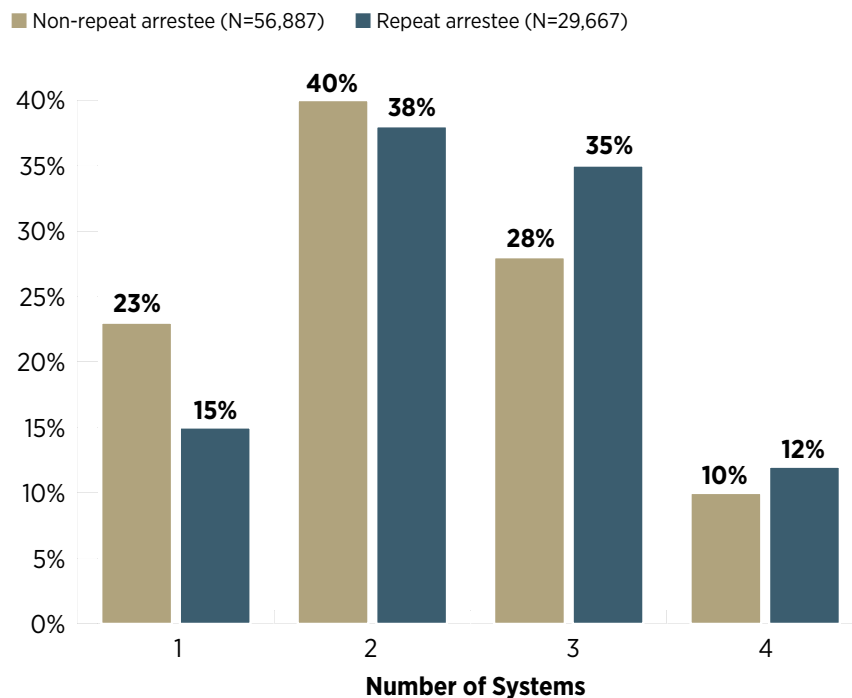
Jail and Probation Involvement of Repeat Arrestees

Previous and current involvement with jail and probation services is a predictor of offending again in the future. As would be expected, repeat arrestees had higher involvement in jail and probation services than non-repeat arrestees during the period studied, likely because more frequent offenses and arrests increase exposure to the justice system.

For the purposes of this part of the analysis, jail and probation involvement included any contacts with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system. Analysis shows that only 34 percent of all non-repeat arrestees in 2003 through 2015 experienced jail time in February 2003 through December 2017 (the time range for which data were available). For repeat arrestees, this figure was much higher; 72 percent of all individuals who experienced arrest more than once in 2003 through 2015 experienced jail time at least once between February 2003 and December 2017. Differences between the two groups were also found in their involvement with adult probation (APO) and juvenile probation (JPO) (**Figure 11**).

FIGURE 11: **Distribution of Repeat and Non-Repeat Arrestees Involved in Jail and Probation Services (N=86,554)**

■ Non-repeat arrestee (N=56,887)   ■ Repeat arrestee (N=29,667)
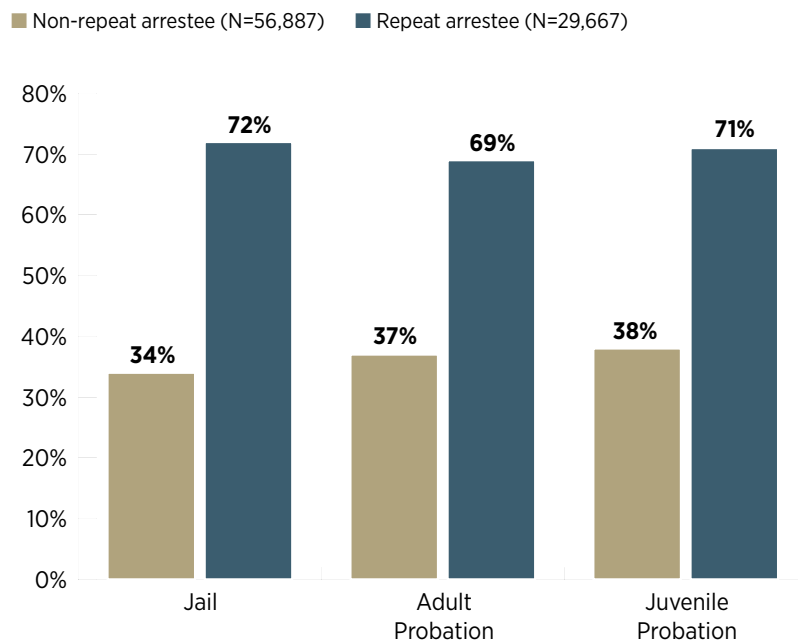
Overlapping involvement with more than one criminal justice system (jail, adult probation and juvenile probation) was evenly distributed (**Figure 12**). The range for non-repeat arrestees involved in a combination of jail, adult probation and juvenile probation was 3 to 4 percent, and, for repeat arrestees, the range was 9 to 11 percent. The most notable result was that almost four times as many repeat arrestees were involved in both jail and juvenile probation when compared to non-repeat arrestees. This was also true for involvement in adult and juvenile probation as well as for involvement in all three systems, where 9 percent of repeat offenders were represented as compared to only 3 percent of non-repeat arrestees.

FIGURE 12: **Overlapping Criminal Justice Involvement for Repeat and Non-Repeat Arrestees**

■ Non-repeat arrestee (N=56,887)   ■ Repeat arrestee (N=29,667)
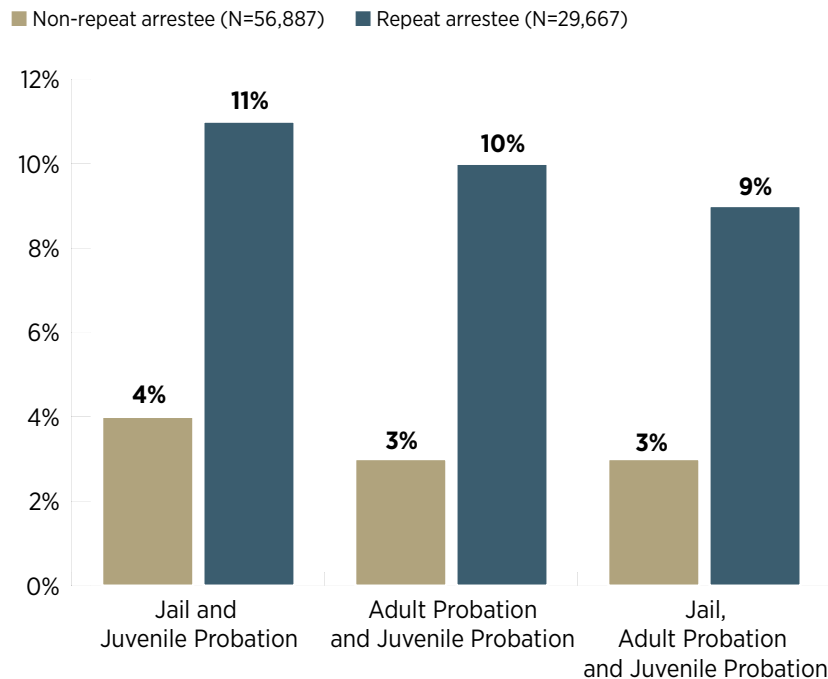
Outcomes of Repeat Arrestees' Cases in Magisterial District Justice Courts (MDJ) and Common Pleas Court

In Pennsylvania, criminal cases are heard first by a magisterial district judge (MDJ). When an arrested person appears before an MDJ in a preliminary hearing, the judge has the option to dismiss the case or hold it for trial by the Common Pleas Court. It is sometimes presumed that repeat arrestees are treated more harshly in parts of the justice system, including more often having their case held for Common Pleas Court and more often receiving guilty verdicts when their case does go to trial.[15]

To explore the question of whether arrestees and non-repeat arrestees face different court case outcomes, the sample under study was matched with the MDJ court system database using demographic identifiers for the period of 2010 through 2015.[16] The match returned 55,423 MDJ criminal cases for 30,056 distinct individuals who were at least 18 years old on Jan. 1, 2010. We then compared the rate of cases being held for Common Pleas Court for repeat arrestee cases versus non-repeat arrestee cases.[17] Of the MDJ criminal cases held for common pleas court, we then looked at their final disposition to see if repeat arrestee cases were more likely to have a guilty disposition.

Just over half of the repeat arrestees (54%) had their cases held for Common Pleas Court, compared to half (50%) of the non-repeat arrestees, a difference of four percentage points between the two groups (**Figure 13a**).

[15] See for example Laudan and Allen (2011) and D'Alessio and Stolzenberg (2017) for evidence regarding harsher treatment of repeat offenders in courts.

[16] Because accuracy of court data prior to 2010 was not guaranteed, the report looks at court dispositions for 2010–2015. A one-week window for each end of the period was added because sometimes arrests may not be immediately filed in MDJ courts.

[17] When MDJ cases are not held for court, they are dismissed. In other words, MDJs decide which cases are legitimate and deserving of attention of Common Pleas Court judges.

Of the 29,237 MDJ cases that were held for court, 11,364 reached a final disposition in the criminal court. These criminal court dispositions had the same rate of guilty dispositions for repeat and non-repeat arrestees, indicating that both types of arrestees were found guilty to the same extent, independent of prior criminal history (**Figure 13b**).

FIGURE 13: **MDJ and Common Pleas Court Case Dispositions of Repeat Arrestees Versus Non-Repeat Arrestees**

a) MDJ case dispositions
- Non-repeat arrestee (N=22,715)
- Repeat arrestee (N=32,708)
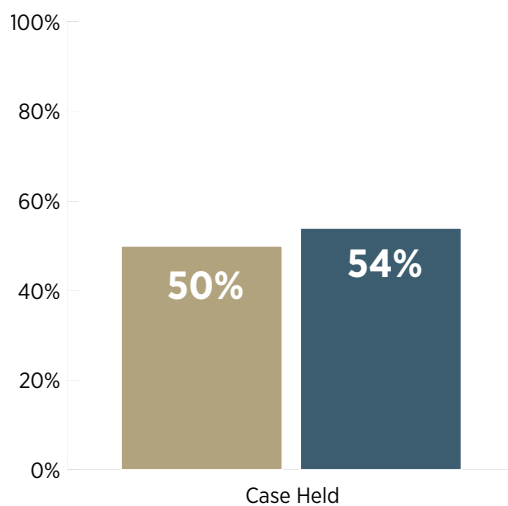
b) Common Pleas Court case dispositions
- Non-repeat arrestee (N=4,395)
- Repeat arrestee (N=6,969)

CONCLUSIONS

This analysis attempted to paint a fuller picture of repeat offending in the City of Pittsburgh from 2003 through 2015. As demonstrated, 34 percent of all arrestees accounted for 63 percent of all arrests in this period.

When considering repeat offending, the results showed a concentration of offenders in certain age, gender and race categories, and neighborhoods. This, to a large extent, 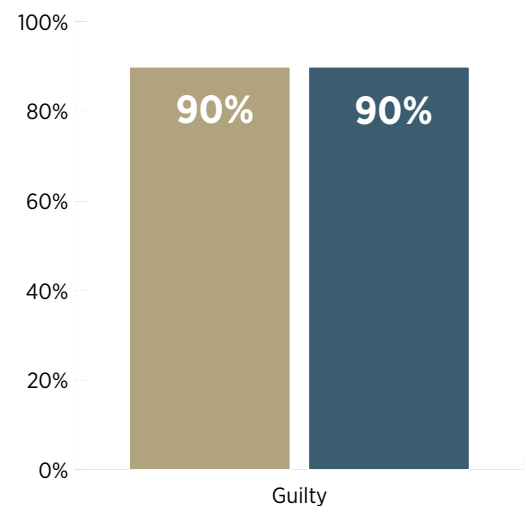confirms findings of existing studies. Repeat and non-repeat arrestees are similar in age, gender and race; however, they differ in terms of human services needs and involvement. Repeat arrestees are more involved in multiple human services such as housing, public benefits, child welfare and, especially, publicly funded mental health services.

Further research is needed to better understand this group of arrestees and their service needs to design strategies for prevention of repeat offending. We hope this report will inform public discussions regarding systemic, cross-agency collaborative programs that aim at reducing crime while improving the well-being of city residents.

CONTENT AND ANALYSIS
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APPENDIX A: PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT, DENOMINATORS AND INVOLVEMENT PERIOD FOR SERVICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT OF REPEAT ARRESTEES

TABLE 4: **Human Services Involvement of Repeat Arrestees, N=29,667**

PROGRAM AREA	N INVOLVED EVER	% INVOLVED EVER	DENOMINATOR	DENOMINATOR CRITERIA	INVOLVEMENT PERIOD
Housing/Homeless Support	3,040	35%	8,730	Repeat arrestees	Oct 13–Dec 17
Assisted Housing	3,474	13%	26,658	Repeat arrestees	Aug 05–Dec 17
Child Welfare as Parent	10,343	35%	29,540	Repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jan 80–Dec 17
Child Welfare as Child	8,234	32%	25,683	Repeat arrestees under age 18 in 1980 or born after 1980	Jan 80–Dec 17
Publicly Funded Drug and Alcohol Services	14,977	51%	29,540	Repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jul 02–Dec 17
Publicly Funded Mental Health Services	17,595	59%	29,667	Repeat arrestees	Jul 02–Dec 17
Public Benefits	22,334	75%	29,667	Repeat arrestees	Jul 02–Dec 17

Appendix A (continued)

TABLE 5: **Human Services Involvement of Non-Repeat Arrestees, N=56,887**

PROGRAM AREA	N INVOLVED EVER	% INVOLVED EVER	DENOMINATOR	DENOMINATOR CRITERIA	INVOLVEMENT PERIOD
Housing/Homeless Support	2,581	30%	8,749	Non-repeat arrestees	Oct 13–Dec 17
Assisted Housing	4,407	10%	44,492	Non-repeat arrestees	Aug 05–Dec 17
Child Welfare as Parent	9,050	16%	56,474	Non-repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jan 80–Dec 17
Child Welfare as Child	7,292	15%	48,463	Non-repeat arrestees who were under age 18 in 1980 or born after 1980	Jan 80–Dec 17
Publicly Funded Drug and Alcohol Services	12,518	22%	56,474	Non-repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jul 02–Dec 17
Publicly Funded Mental Health Services	18,105	32%	56,887	Non-repeat arrestees	Jul 02–Dec 17
Public Benefits	24,793	44%	56,887	Non-repeat arrestees	Jul 02–Dec 17

TABLE 6: **Jail and Probation Involvement of Repeat Arrestees, N=29,667**

PROGRAM AREA	N INVOLVED EVER	% INVOLVED EVER	DENOMINATOR	DENOMINATOR CRITERIA	INVOLVEMENT PERIOD
Juvenile Probation Office	3,821	71%	5,376	Repeat arrestees who were under age 18 in 2007	Jan 07–Dec 17
Adult Probation Office	20,285	69%	29,540	Repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jan 08–Dec 17
Jail	21,213	72%	29,540	Repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Feb 03–Dec 17

TABLE 7: **Jail and Probation Involvement of Non-Repeat Arrestees, N=56,887**

PROGRAM AREA	N INVOLVED EVER	% INVOLVED EVER	DENOMINATOR	DENOMINATOR CRITERIA	INVOLVEMENT PERIOD
Juvenile Probation Office	4,246	38%	11,077	Non-repeat arrestees who were under age 18 in 2007	Jan 07–Dec 17
Adult Probation Office	20,863	37%	56,474	Non-repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Jan 08–Dec 17
Jail	18,937	34%	56,474	Non-repeat arrestees who were adults in 2017	Feb 03–Dec 17

APPENDIX B: PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS BY OFFENSE TYPE

TABLE 8: **Percentage of Arrests by Offense Type, 2003 through 2015, N=154,464**

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR) CATEGORY	UCR OFFENSE TYPE	OVERALL	REPEAT ARREST	
			NO	YES
Part I Arrests	Arson	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Part I Arrests	Assault	5.3%	5.5%	5.1%
Part I Arrests	Burglary	2.9%	2.1%	3.4%
Part I Arrests	Murder	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Part I Arrests	Rape	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Part I Arrests	Robbery	3.7%	2.7%	4.3%
Part I Arrests	Theft	6.6%	5.6%	7.2%
Part I Arrests	Vehicle Theft	1.1%	0.7%	1.2%
Part II Arrests	Disorderly Conduct	1.8%	2.2%	1.6%
Part II Arrests	Drug Offense	23.1%	21.2%	23.1%
Part II Arrests	DUI	4.9%	7.9%	3.1%
Part II Arrests	Embezzlement	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Part II Arrests	Endangering Children	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Part II Arrests	Forgery	2.7%	2.4%	2.9%
Part II Arrests	Fraud	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%
Part II Arrests	Gambling	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Part II Arrests	Liquor Laws	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Part II Arrests	Loitering	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Part II Arrests	Other	7.2%	6.8%	7.4%
Part II Arrests	Prostitution	2.7%	2.9%	2.6%
Part II Arrests	Public Drunkenness	1.5%	2.0%	1.3%
Part II Arrests	Receiving Stolen Prop	2.8%	2.1%	3.2%
Part II Arrests	Sex Offense	1.1%	1.6%	0.8%
Part II Arrests	Simple Assault	18.2%	20.2%	17.1%
Part II Arrests	Vandalism	0.9%	1.2%	0.8%
Part II Arrests	Weapon	3.0%	2.7%	3.2%
Miscellaneous Arrests		7.7%	6.8%	8.3%
Total		**100%**	**100%**	**100%**