



Jail Population Trends

Presented by

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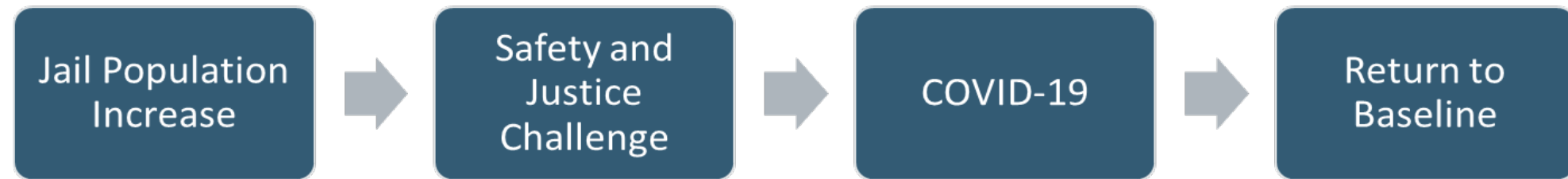


Overview

- Background & Pre – Pandemic State
- System Pandemic Response
- Daily Population Trends & Triggers
- Jail Management Strategies
- Potential Opportunities



Background



Pre-Pandemic State

- Addressing the increasing jail population has been an ongoing area of work for several years.
- Prior to the pandemic, several strategies were deployed to reduce the jail population, but success was limited. Slowing of growth occurred in 2019.

County Investments

- Jail Diversion and Re-entry Planning
- Three criminal treatment courts
- Jail Based Prosecution Team



Systems Changes During Pandemic

Immediate Responses

Law Enforcement

- APD dissolved drug suppression unit (pre-lockdown)
- Issuing citations for non-violent offenses
- No arresting for low level offenses

Court

- Video and Public Defender at 1st appearance
- Releasing Class 2 & 3 misdemeanors before 1st appearance
- Issuing citations for Failure to Appear
- Increasing use of unsecure bonds for low level offenses
- Ending probation early
- Excusing defendants at continuance hearings
- Not using jail as a sanction for non-compliance in treatment courts
- Conducting virtual plea hearings for misdemeanors

Current State

Law Enforcement

- APD dissolved drug suppression unit
- Issuing citations for non-violent offenses
- Arrests for low level offenses has continued to remain lower than prior to pandemic

Court

- Public Defender at 1st Appearance
- 3 special sessions held in district court in early September
 - Addressed only cases that would result in a person's release from custody, including felony and misdemeanor pleas, probation violations, bond reviews, and dismissals



Recidivism for New Charge

March – July 2019

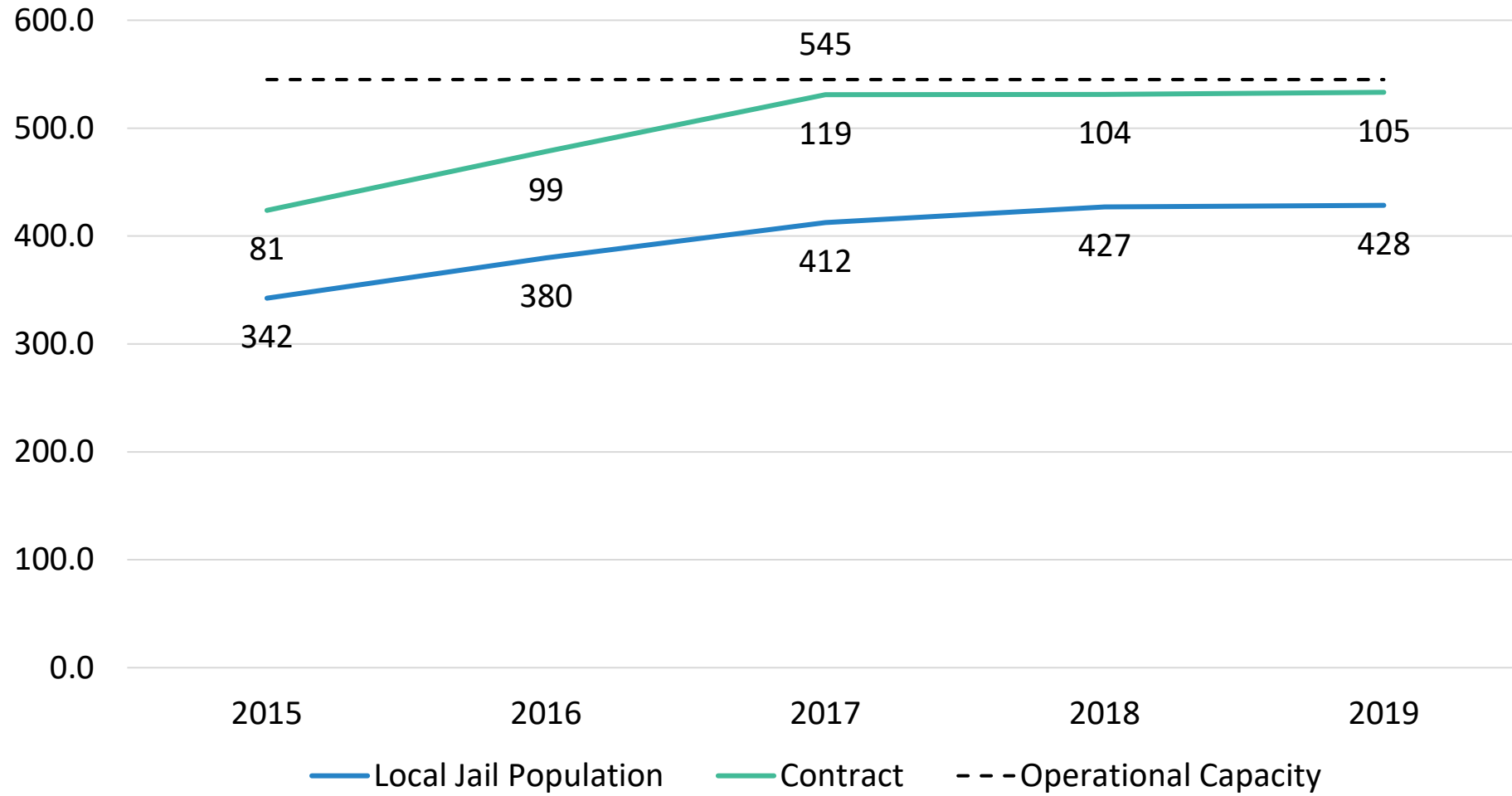
- 2,751 unique people released with pretrial status
- Within 12 months, **29.3%** (807) returned due only to receiving a new charge
 - Of these, **21.9%** (177) returned due only to a new violent charge

March – July 2020

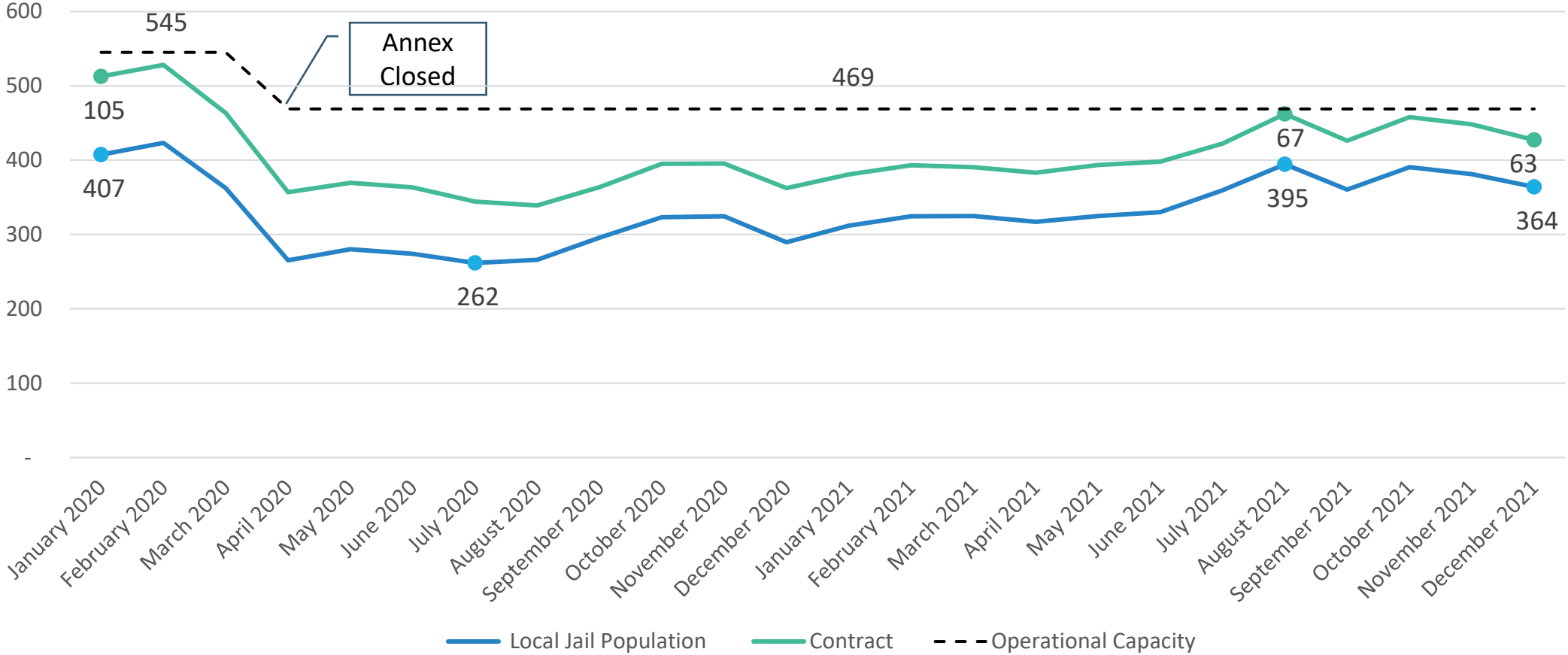
- 2,268 unique people released with pretrial status
- Within 12 months, **28.9%** (656) returned due only to receiving a new charge
 - Of these, **27.1%** (178) returned due only to a new violent charge



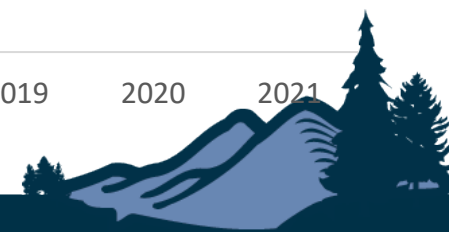
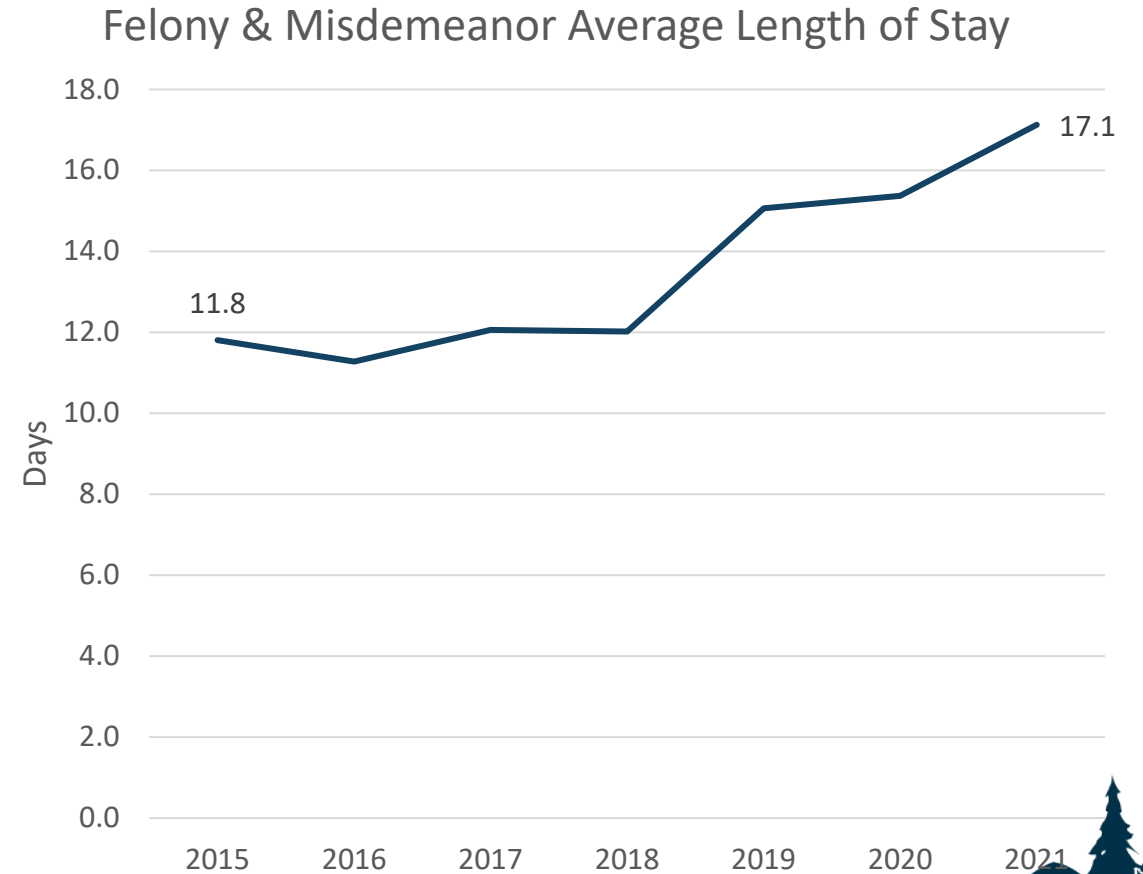
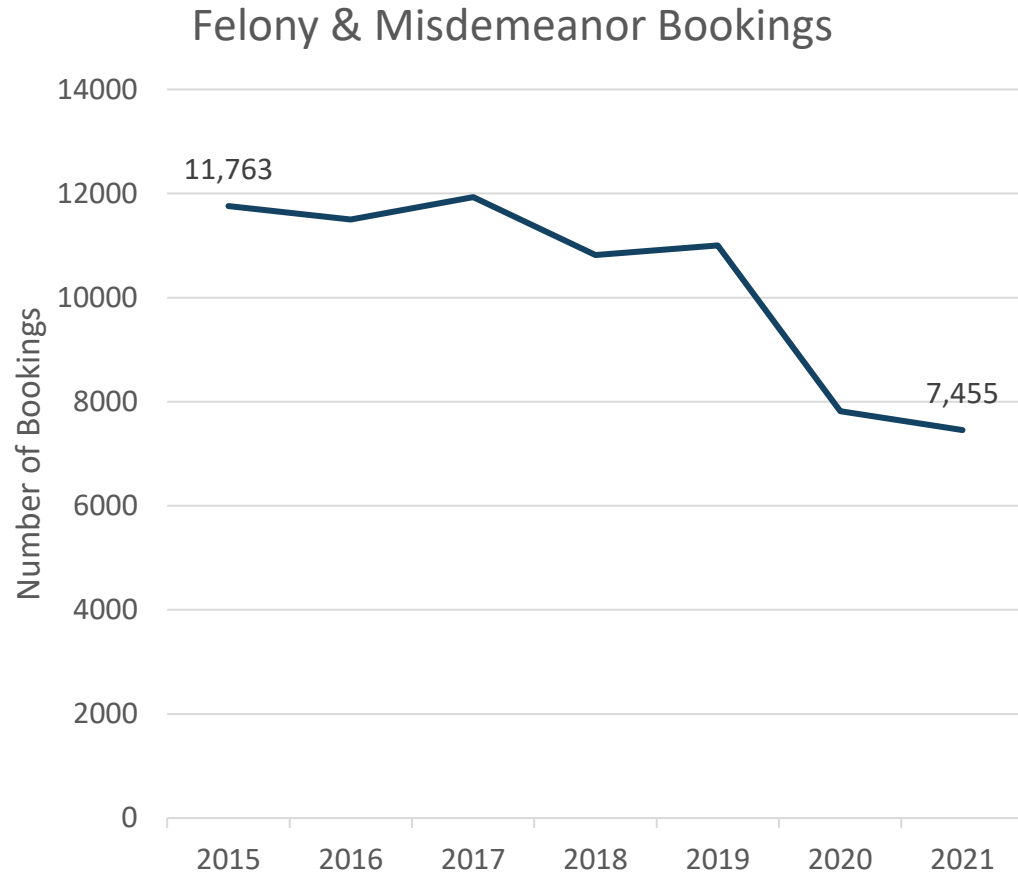
Daily Population Trend



Daily Population Trend



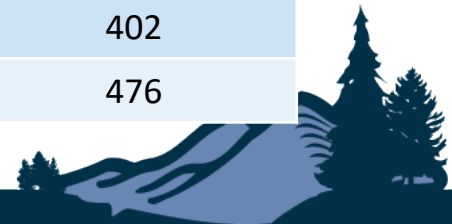
Jail population is a function of the **number of entries** into the facility and **how long they stay**.



Critical Population Triggers

- Female population consistently exceeds 50
 - C Dorm needs to transition back to female unit. Female operational capacity becomes 88.
- Transitioning C Dorm would drop operational capacity for males to 381.

Population	Local	Contract	Total
Female			
Current – December 2021	45	2	47
Highest During Pandemic – August 2021	54	6	60
Highest monthly ADP 12 months before Pandemic – October 2019	72	6	78
Male			
Current – December 2021	320	61	381
Highest During Pandemic – August 2021	340	62	402
Highest monthly ADP 12 months before Pandemic – September 2019	384	92	476



Jail Management Strategies

Response	Capacity Impact	Financial Impact	Considerations
Send out individuals housed for Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program	Frees approximately 10 beds (mostly male)	Loss of Revenue - \$135,000 (FY21)	Expenditure of general fund dollars
Reduce federal contract	Frees approximately 45 male beds	Loss of Revenue - \$2.5M (FY21)	Expenditure of general fund dollars
Re-open Annex	Brings 80 actual beds back online, 76 operational capacity	FY23 building improvements: \$348,341 Staffing (19 positions): \$1,497,713 Ongoing building improvements (FY24-FY33): \$866,728	Hiring staff in current market Dormitory style is not best practice
House in other county (female population in 2017)	As needed	Approximately \$60/day + transport costs	Most WNC jails are at capacity



Potential Opportunities For Court Partners

Action	Impact*
Address failure to appear population	30% reduction in bookings (424 bookings or 1.2 bookings per day) = 10 beds saved per day Reduce average length of stay by 2.5 days = 10 beds saved per day
Expand use of unsecure bonds for low level charges	Reduce average length of stay by 1.4 days (20%) = 7.4 beds saved per day
Releasing class 2 & 3 misdemeanors before 1 st appearance in District Court	Reduce average length of stay by 3.3 days (97%) = 4.7 beds saved per day
Reducing length of stay for class 1 and A1 misdemeanors and low-level felonies	Reduce average length of stay by 3.2 days (20%) = 17 beds saved per day

*Calculations based on 2021 releases and length of stay.



Questions?

