

MMHPI COVID-19 Response Briefings

Texas County Jail Population Statistical Dashboard

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For questions or help implementing measures to reduce jail demand in your county or for data analysis, please contact the MMHPI Justice Policy Team: Dr. Tony Fabelo, Senior Fellow; and Jessy Tyler, Senior Director for Justice Research.

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread, requiring major changes to standard operating protocols by both governmental entities and private agencies. For counties, a “hotspot” is the county jail; the spread of the virus in a county jail has the potential for substantial negative impacts on jail operations, as well as jail staff and the jail population.

In response to numerous requests for guidance on the operation of jails during a pandemic, the Justice Policy Team at Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) published on April 7, 2020 a [**Planning Guide for County Officials Seeking to Reduce Jail Demand During Pandemic – Ten Principles to Guide Planning and Decision Making.**](#)

MMHPI’s Justice Policy Team has been able to offer no-cost technical assistance thanks to our partnership with and support from The Pew Charitable Trusts and our ongoing support from The Meadows Foundation, Lyda Hill Philanthropies, and The Hackett Center for Mental Health. We are now releasing a [**Texas County Jail Population Statistical Dashboard**](#) to allow county officials and others to readily review jail population trends across all 254 Texas counties and statewide. MMHPI extracts the monthly statistical population counts from publicly available reports from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) and updates the dashboard every month with the new population counts reported by TCJS.

TCJS reports provide a snapshot population count as of the first day of every month. The dashboard has four tabs of key indicators from January 2018 to the most recent month reported by TCJS, including:

- Overall jail populations by month, statewide and by county;
- Population classified with “pretrial” status by month, statewide and by county;
- Population of felons awaiting transfer to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and felons in jail for parole violations, statewide and by county; and
- Jail capacity, statewide and by county.

Under each tab, there is a pulldown menu with which the user can generate statistics for the state and / or for specific counties for months of interest that automatically generates a table.

Please bookmark the dashboard web link so you can use it in the future as the dashboard is updated on a monthly basis.