

COOK COUNTY BOND COURT WATCHING PROJECT: FINAL REPORT

February 2016

Abstract

Over the summer of 2015, community leaders and criminal justice advocates observed the proceedings of Cook County Central Bond Court to determine whether substantive reforms were being implement and what impact these reforms might be having on bond determinations. This report presents the findings of the Reclaim Campaign Bond Court Watching Project.

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Community Renewal Society is a progressive, faith-based organization that works to eliminate race and class barriers. Founded in 1882, Community Renewal informs, organizes and trains both communities and individuals to advocate for social and economic justice.

The Reclaim Campaign is a collaborative effort among Community Renewal Society and Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP). The goal of the Reclaim Campaign is to reduce violence by moving limited financial resources away from overly punitive criminal justice systems into community-based restorative justice, mental health, and substance abuse alternatives that rehabilitate lives and make communities safer.

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Executive Summary

The Reclaim Campaign conducted an 8 week observation of Cook County Central Bond Court to determine whether reforms undertaken by Chief Judge Timothy Evans were being implemented and whether these were having an impact in the outcome of bond decisions.

Over 50 volunteers attended bond court and recorded the outcomes of over 3,000 cases during the 8 week timeframe between July 1, 2015 and August 26, 2015. All of the volunteers were trained to use a court watching instrument that was created with the support of Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice.

The key findings of this project affirm that:

- A new validated risk assessment tool is being used to assess the risk of the vast majority of all defendants that go through Cook County Central Bond Court.
- For the 2,865 cases where a bond amount and type were observed, 61% received a non-monetary I-bond. This represents a significant increase from 2011 when only 20% of cases were receiving I-bonds.
- There is some correlation between increased risk as determined by the new risk assessment tool being used and the likeliness that someone will be released on a non-monetary bond, detained on a monetary bond, or not be granted bond at all.
- Despite an overall increase in I bonds, significant discrepancies still exist from judge to judge. Some judges granted I-bonds, especially for drug and property crimes, at very high rates while others did not. This means that an individual's bond determination, while generally more likely to be an I-bond, is still impacted significantly by which Judge was presiding over bond court on the particular day of their hearing.

The conclusions of this project and analysis of the data collected affirm what is now becoming more and more publically clear: individuals in the Cook County criminal justice system are being released on non-monetary bonds at significantly higher rates than they have in recent years and this is having a noticeable impact in reducing the daily population count of the Cook County Jail. There is still much work to be done to ensure that these bond determinations are happening more consistently from judge to judge and to guarantee that the new tools, processes, and procedures being implemented are sustained long term, however, the significance of what has already been accomplished cannot be understated.

New tools are in place to ensure that the needs of individuals entering the criminal justice system as well as the needs for public safety are met using best practices, thousands of individuals who do not need to be detained pending the conclusion of their criminal cases are now more likely to be released, and taxpayer resources are being saved by decreasing the costs of jailing people who do not need to be in jail. Improving the operations of bond court is an important step in comprehensive criminal justice reform that improves public safety and ensures the best use of taxpayer resources. This is the direction Cook County Central Bond Court is clearly heading in.

Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Criminal Justice Reform is building momentum and as it has begun to gain widespread bipartisan support across the country in recent years. Research has clearly demonstrated the adverse effects of decades long criminal justice policies that over criminalize low level nonviolent offenders. These policies have come at a high cost to individuals caught up in the criminal justice system, primarily people of color, who experience many devastating collateral consequences of having a criminal record which include discrimination in housing, employment, student financial aid, public assistance, and loss of voting rights. Furthermore, policies of mass incarceration have come at a significant cost to taxpayers with little evidence that they have had a positive impact on public safety.

One particularly damaging criminal justice policy has been the monetary bond system present in jurisdictions all across the country. Within the first 24-48 hours of an arrest, individuals being charged with a felony crime, in most jurisdictions, must receive a bond hearing. At bond hearings, Judges make a determination on whether someone should be held in detention or be released pending a trial on criminal charges. According to the American Bar Association's Standard's for Criminal Justice it is the role of pretrial services agencies to "present accurate information to the judicial officer (judges) relating to the risk defendants may pose of failing to appear in court or of threatening the safety of the community or any other person and, consistent with court policy, develop release recommendations corresponding to risk."ⁱ Judges are expected to make bond determinations based on the risk an individual poses to public safety or the likelihood that they will not show up for their next court date. If a judge determines that a defendant poses a low risk to recidivate or flee, they should be released without having to pay any money to bail out. This is referred to as being released on your own personal recognizance. If the defendant poses a risk, the Judge sets a monetary bond amount and the defendant must pay a designated percentage of the bond amount in order to bail out/be released. The bond amount is supposed to increase based on the severity of risk the defendant poses. If a judge believes that an individual poses too high of a risk they may set no bond and order that the defendant be detained, without possibility of release, until their trial takes place. For the state of Illinois, as this will be the focus of this report, state law outlines the bond court process as presented above in detail in several statutes.ⁱⁱ

Unfortunately, many bond court systems do not operate in this manner. Information on defendants is often unreliable or unavailable to bond court judges and this leads to uninformed bond decisions which can vary greatly from courtroom to courtroom. Before a bond hearing, pretrial services representatives should conduct an assessment of every individual appearing in bond court. Their role is to conduct risk assessments using validated evaluation tools, present this information to the presiding bond court judge, "make release recommendations required by the judicial officer in making release decisions, including the defendant's eligibility for diversion, treatment, or other alternative adjudication programs, such as drug or other treatment courts."ⁱⁱⁱ This information should be considered, along with arguments from the defense and the state's attorneys, and used to inform a bond determination by the judge.

However, in many bond court systems these risk assessments are not occurring at all. There are various reasons for this including staffing shortfalls, lack of training, or simply because administrators have never implemented the right tools and procedures. In many places where a risk assessment tool is being used, judges ignore the reports because they are not using an instrument that has been validated. This

kind of deficiency in the justice system can lead to thousands of low level offenders receiving unnecessarily high bond amounts and sitting in county jails for weeks, months, and sometimes years, awaiting trial, solely because they are indigent.

Cook County Central Bond Court has been under significant scrutiny in recent years because it is a prime illustration of many of the issues presented above. Every year, thousands of defendants sit in Cook County Jail awaiting their trial primarily because they cannot afford to post bail. Although a pretrial services department is in place and has been using a risk assessment tool for several years as mandated by state law^{iv}, court practitioners affirm that judges largely ignore these reports because they are not using a validated risk assessment instrument which all court stakeholders have been trained on. Bond types and amounts have varied greatly from judge to judge and there has been no discernable process or set criteria used to make bond determinations.

The overcrowding issues at Cook County Jail reached a tipping point in the fall of 2013 when the average daily population increased well over 10,000. Advocates and elected officials took note of this issue and publicly began to call on stakeholders from the Cook County Board President's Office, the State's Attorney, the Public Defender, the Chief Judge, and the County Sheriff to act to significantly reduce the jail population. Cook County Central Bond Court quickly became an area that was unilaterally identified as needing reform.^v

Definition of Terms

A **bond hearing** is the initial hearing an arrestee charged with a felony crime attends in which a judge makes a determination on whether or not an individual must be held on bond pending a trial.

Bond Court refers to the court room where bond hearings are held. For the purposes of this report, bond court will most often refer to Cook County Central Bond Court which is held daily at the George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building (2600 South California) in Chicago, Illinois.

An **I-bond** or non-monetary bond is a determination that a judge can make in which an individual is allowed to be released on their own personal recognizance. This means, no bail amount has to be posted in order for the individual to be released pending the conclusion of their criminal case.

A **D-Bond** or deposit bond is a determination in which an individual is allowed to be released pending the conclusion of their criminal case only if they post a bail amount required by law. In Cook County, this amount is 10% of the bond amount set by the presiding bond court judge.

A **C-bond** or cash bond is a determination in which an individual is allowed to be released pending the conclusion of their criminal case only if they post the full cash value of the bond amount set by the presiding bond court judge.

No Bond is a determination in which the presiding bond court judge decides that the defendant is too high of a risk to be allowed to be released pending the conclusion of their criminal case and therefore no bond amount is set and the individual may not be released unless a different bond determination is granted further along in their case.

The **defendant** or arrestee is the individual who is being charged with a criminal felony case and is appearing before a judge for a bond hearing.

The **Public Defender** is a licensed attorney at law that is appointed by the state to provide counsel to indigent defendants.

The **State's Attorney** serves as the legal representation for the state in criminal cases. They are authorized to press criminal charges against defendants and to prosecute these cases in a court of law.

A **Presiding Judge** is a judicial officer, which is appointed or elected, to oversee civil and criminal court proceedings. For the purposes of this report the term presiding judge refers to the judge overseeing bond court proceedings.

Pretrial Services is a department under the office of the Circuit Court whose role it is to collect and present necessary information, including risk assessments, and make release recommendations required by the presiding judge in making release decisions, including the defendant's eligibility for diversion, treatment, or other alternative adjudication programs, such as drug or other treatment courts.

Pretrial Services Scores are the number or numbers read presented to a presiding bond court judge during a defendant's bond hearing that indicate the results of the risk assessment conducted by the pretrial services staff.

The **Public Safety Assessment** is a pretrial services risk assessment tool created by the Arnold Foundation which was used for the majority of cases documented in this report. The tool considers 9 risk factors that produce 3 different scores for pretrial failure types.

FTA Score or Failure to Appear refers to the first pretrial failure type. A high FTA score indicates that the defendant is at an increased risk of not showing up for their next court appearance. This score is measured on a scale of 1 to 6.

NCA Score or New Criminal Activity refers to the second pretrial failure type. The higher the NCA score the more likely they are to be at risk for committing new criminal activity. The score is measured on a scale of 1 to 6.

NVCA Flag or New Violent Criminal Activity is not a score but rather a flag that is assigned the cases where the risk assessment indicates the individual is at an increased risk of engaging in new violent criminal activity.

The **Reclaim Court Watching (RCW) Worksheet** is the tool used by volunteers to record the proceedings of Cook County Bond Court during the 8 week observation period analyzed in this report. This tool is presented in Appendix A.

Court Watchers or Observers or Court Watching Volunteers are the individuals who were trained to use the RCW Worksheet and volunteered to observe the proceedings of bond court and record the outcomes for the cases they observed.

Criminal History refers to any official contact an individual has had with the criminal justice system including arrests, charges, and convictions.

Violent Criminal History refers to any criminal history that would be considered violent in nature by the criminal courts. A clear breakdown of what was considered violent crime for the purposes of this project appears in Appendix B.

Methodology

Overview

The Reclaim Campaign's Court Watching Project was an eight-week volunteer based research project focused on Cook County Central Bond Court. Every day from July 1, 2015 to August 26, 2015, volunteer court watchers observed the proceedings in Cook County Central Bond Court and documented several, pre-determined, details for every case that came before the court each day. Observers tracked several factors but were primarily concerned with documenting the charges, previous criminal history, bond type, bond amount, and electronic monitoring decisions for each case. The project materialized out of a desire to verify whether or not reforms to bond court, which had been promised to the Reclaim Campaign by Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans, were being implemented.

Data Gathering Instrument: Reclaim Court Watching Worksheet

The Reclaim Court Watching (RCW) Worksheet was created in collaboration with Ali Abid, Staff Attorney, at the Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice. A copy of the worksheet can be found as Appendix A. The form consists of a simple grid system where each column is a different factor being tracked. Each row represents an individual court case. There are letters and yes/no prompts under each column to assist the data recorder in documenting court proceedings.

Data Gathering Process

Court watching volunteers were recruited via a network of community leaders and advocates affiliated with the Community Renewal Society. Volunteers varied in age, gender, race, and levels of education but this information was not formally collected, tracked, or requested for individuals to participate in the project as court watchers.

The only requirement imposed on all court watching volunteers was that they participate in a "Court Watching Training" which was led by CRS Policy Associate, Luis Carrizales, and CAFJ's Ali Abid. The training was conducted in 1 ½ -2 hour sessions and it covered an introduction to bond court, a thorough review all the factors included in the RCW Worksheet, and a role playing activity where volunteers practiced using the worksheet as they observed mock bond court cases. After completing the training, volunteers were assigned 1-2 court watching shifts, given copies of the RCW Worksheet and instructed on how to return the forms to CRS staff.

At least one, and often two, court watching volunteers attended Cook County central bond court and observed proceedings nearly every day between July 1, 2015 and August 26, 2015. When two volunteers were present they were instructed, in the training sessions, to work together and avoid duplicating data. Observers were not trained to capture any identifying information for each defendant and therefore, duplicate data would be impossible to differentiate in the data analysis. When two volunteers were scheduled to be in bond court on the same day they were put in contact with one another 1-2 days in advance so that they may coordinate their data gathering and avoid duplicating information.

Data Input & Analysis

Data was input primarily by two contracted "Data Entry Consultants". All handwritten worksheets which were returned to CRS by August 31, 2014 were transferred into excel spreadsheets. The data analysis was conducted by Michelle Scott, a contracted Data Analyst, with extensive experience preparing data analysis and reports for nonprofit organizations.

Scope & Limitations

Scope

Through this study we were able to collect reliable information for 3,142 cases for 45 out of a possible 57 days. Five different bond court judges presided over bond court during this timeframe but the majority of data collected was on two judges, Judge Panarese (19 days, 1164 cases) and Judge Bourgeois (15 days, 1067 cases). Judge Sullivan (6 days, 531 cases), Judge Chiampas (3 days, 189 cases), and Judge Brown (2 days, 191 cases) account for the remaining data.

This complete data set is the most thorough publically available research sample focused on the case by case outcomes of Cook County Central Bond Court. No other study of bond court in Cook County has attempted to capture case by case bond determinations and how these relate to risk assessment scores, criminal history, and presiding judges.

Limitations

The Reclaim Court Watching Project's scope and potential value to criminal justice advocates in Cook County cannot be understated. However, the project did encounter several challenges. Although we have taken all possible measures in the analysis and presentation of finding to mitigate certain limitations, we also understand this project was not designed as a scientific study. These challenges revolved around one of the fundamental elements of the project; the data gathering was done primarily by volunteers. Community Renewal Society's strong supporter base allowed for this project to rely on volunteers to conduct the daily observing and data collection. This asset in itself is what gave the organization the capacity to take on a project of this magnitude. However, the reliance of over 50 distinct court watchers created some important limitations that are noted below.

The staffing team made an intentional attempt to prevent duplicate data collection from occurring. In the Court Watching Training and via follow up calls and emails, efforts were made to communicate to volunteers the significance of not duplicating data collection and how to ensure this by being in communication with other volunteers who were observing on the same day. However, for a variety of mostly technical reasons, primarily that cell phones are not allowed in the court building, observers were not always able to collaborate with fellow court watchers and completed their own worksheet with duplicate information. The data entry contractors were trained to look for these duplications and remove them from the final data sample.

Another limitation that merits consideration is that very few of the volunteers had any personal or professional experience with the criminal justice system. Most volunteers were learning the nuanced language of bond court and getting a feel of being in the courtroom for the first time in the Court Watching Training and during their first watching shift. It is possible that the reliability of the data improved as volunteers spent more time in the courtroom but for the purposes of this project we did not run any specific analysis to account for this. All volunteers received the same level of training and technical support and the vast majority of data collected affirms that this training was sufficient to record the specific things this project was looking for. Furthermore, the analyses in this report is based on cases where the data entry was complete for the variables being analyzed.

Missing data is an issue that needs further explanation. As stated earlier, in the final analysis, we looked at data from 45 out of a possible 57 days. The remaining 12 days' worth of data was never collected for a variety of reasons including shifts were a volunteer canceled and a replacement was not found, shifts

were volunteers did not show up, and some were simply shifts for which we never received completed RCW worksheets. A couple of days were shifts that remained unfilled when volunteers canceled, a couple more were shifts where the assigned volunteer did not show without canceling, but the majority of these days are simply watching shifts where the volunteer did not return their completed RCW Worksheets.

The first week of the project presented one significant challenge. The main issue related to pretrial services scores or risk assessment scores. CRS and CAFJ had little to no information on the new risk assessment tool that would begin to be used in bond court on July 1. All volunteers were initially trained to look for a pretrial services score of 1-16 followed by low, medium, or high. During the first week of observations it became clear that a new risk assessment scores format was being used. This new format included 2 distinct numbers and a violence flag. An adjustment was made to the RCW Worksheet and emailed to all trained volunteers. The training was adjusted for volunteers trained after the first two weeks of the project. Unfortunately, data from the first week almost entirely missed the second pretrial services score. This data is included in the overall analysis but is not used in the areas where PTS Scores are being related to bond determinations. We will explore more about the new risk assessment tool in later in the report.

The final limitation we want to discuss is the timing of this project. The Reclaim Campaign purposefully selected this timeframe for observing Cook County Central Bond Court because Cook County Chief Judge Evans, in a meeting with the coalition in January 2015, told advocates that the reforms to bond court and pretrial services which he promised would begin to be implemented on July 1, 2015. This means all of this data is coming within the first eight weeks of a new program being in place. Because of this limitation our research does not gauge the possible impact the reforms may be having on bond court long term or even if these reforms are being sustained.

Project Overview

Background

Cook County Central Bond Court

Nearly all felony arrests made in the First Municipal District (Chicago), hearings to set bail are conducted daily in Cook County Central Bond Court at the George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building (2600 S. California) in room 100. The court call begins at 1:30pm and will usually go 2-3 hours.

Criminal justice advocates have long expressed concerns over the daily operations at Cook County Central Bond Court. The court receives most of the felony arrest cases coming through the Chicago Police Department so it usually experiences a high case volume. It is because of this high case volume that advocates have raised concerns over the incorrect handling of so many cases, particularly those who are charged with low level offenses or individuals in need of treatment or some other specialty services and who should not be detained in the jail pending their trial. Unfortunately, in the absence of a strong pretrial services risk assessment, many of these individuals are detained on high monetary bonds which they cannot pay and therefore, they will often sit in the Cook County Jail pending a trial for months.

The Reclaim Campaign

The Reclaim Campaign is a collaborative effort among Community Renewal Society, Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP), and the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO). The goal of the Reclaim Campaign is to reduce violence by moving financial resources away from overly punitive criminal justice systems into community-based restorative justice programs, mental health treatment, and substance abuse alternatives that rehabilitate lives and make communities safer.

Cook County Central Bond Court is one of the key places the Reclaim Campaign has targeted for reform because of the impact bond determinations have on driving up the daily population and operational costs of the Cook County Jail. Length of stay is one of the primary factors that drives up the daily population of the jail. High monetary bonds for defendants accused of low level offenses increase the length of stay for many low risk defendants who may have otherwise qualified for non-monetary bond.

The Reclaim Campaign has advocated for the release of low risk non-violent detainees on non-monetary bonds (also known as I-bonds or personal recognizance bonds). Under this kind of policy, detainees who pose no discernable risk to public safety and who are likely to show up to their next court date as assessed by a validated risk assessment tool, would be released without having to post any bail amount. Implementing such a system would require widespread reform of the pretrial services department. Therefore, the campaign has also supported instituting a new validated risk assessment instrument to review and make recommendations for release or detainment on all cases moving through Cook County Central Bond Court.

Circuit Court of Cook County Pretrial Operational Review

The Reclaim Campaign has been only one of several advocates and stakeholders who have been advocating for changes to bond court in Cook County. The office of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle also requested reforms to the daily operations of the court. Seeing few changes forthcoming, the President requested the intervention of the Illinois Supreme Court in September 2013.

The Illinois Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts released a thorough review of bond court and pretrial services titled "Circuit Court of Cook County Pretrial Operational Review" in March 2014. This review, for the first time, formally referenced at length the issues advocates had anecdotally been citing for years.

The report explains that "the reliance upon the work of pretrial services is generally dismissed or minimized (by bond court judges) because of a lack of confidence in the credibility of the risk assessment and community living information....it was evident that much of the information obtained by pretrial services officers was not verified, so the response from stakeholders and judges was understandable." While Cook County had a pretrial services department that, by state statute, the daily functioning of this act is described as "largely aspirational" by the pretrial operational review team.

The report ultimately makes 40 recommendations to reform management, pretrial services, the bond court process, risk assessments, governance, case flow processing and information sharing. Critical recommendations relevant to our research include establishing clear and appropriate criteria for pretrial release determinations, empowering pretrial services officers to make specific recommendations regarding conditions of pretrial release, and expanded training for all stakeholders but especially bond court judges.

Reclaim Campaign Covenant with Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans

Cook County Central Bond Court is under the administrative authority of Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans. Changes to the daily operations of bond court in Cook County ultimately must be approved and supported by the Circuit Court's Chief Administrator, Judge Evans. The Reclaim Campaign met with the Chief Judge in the Spring of 2014 and asked him to institute the key reforms proposed in the "Pretrial Operational Review" which would lead to an overhaul of pretrial services, using a new validated risk assessment tool, and moving away from a system that relied on monetary bonds to one that used personal recognizance I-bonds more regularly. Judge Evans agreed to the modifications and attended a Reclaim Campaign public meeting on Thursday July 24, 2014 to announce his public commitment to implementing these reforms.

Arnold Foundation Pretrial Services Tool

At a January 2015 meeting with the Reclaim Campaign, Chief Judge Evans told the coalition that the bond court reforms he had promised were in progress and that pretrial services staff, public defenders, state's attorneys, and bond court judges were being trained on a new validated risk assessment tool created by the Arnold Foundation. This new instrument is called the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and has been successfully implemented in 7 state court systems, the federal pretrial system covering all 50 states, and Washington D.C.

This PSA takes into consideration nine risk factors; demographics, current offense, criminal history, substance use, mental health, education, employment, residence, and community ties. Pretrial staff use these factors to determine score for each of three pretrial failure type Failure to Appear (FTA), New Criminal Activity (NCA), and New Violent Criminal Activity (NVCA). Two 6-point scales are used to assign an NCA and FTA risk score. The third component of the instrument assigns a "flag" identifying defendants at an elevated risk of committing violence. The goal of using this instrument is to minimize dual system errors: (1) defendants who pose a significant risk to public safety are released; and (2) low risk/non-violent defendants are detained.

Presentation and Analysis of Findings: Descriptive Data Analysis

Overview of Factors Observed

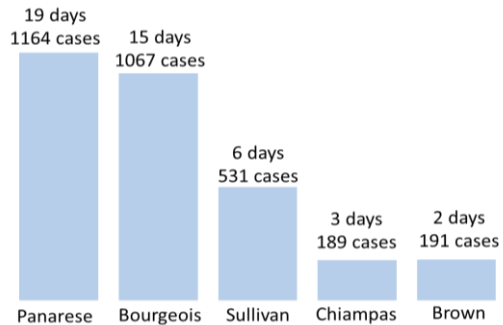
The Reclaim Court Watching (RCW) Worksheet which was used by volunteers allowed them to record observations for 10 different factors. The factors that were observed by court watchers were; name of the judge, the time each individual case began, the type of crime the defendant is being charged with, whether a risk assessment score was presented and if so what it was, whether or not the individual had a criminal history record and if there was any incidents of violence, whether or not the defense attorney presented mitigation, the bond amount, the bond type, whether electronic monitoring was granted, and any instances when the State's Attorney objected to a bond determination by the presiding judge.

Judges

The first factor court watching volunteers were asked to document who the presiding judge was for Central Bond Court on each day that was being observed. At any given time there are three judges that rotate shifts at Cook County Central Bond Court. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there are differences in bond amounts, bond types, and electronic monitoring determinations between these judges. We take a closer look at these numbers a little further in the report.

Graph 1 shows a visual breakdown by Judge for the data that was collected in Cook County Central Bond Court over the eight weeks of the Reclaim Bond Court Watching Project. It is clear that most of the data was collected while two judges were presiding over Bond Court; Judge Panarese and Judge Bourgeois. These two judges were presiding for 34 of the 45 days we gathered data and 2,231 of 3,142 cases (71%). We did not do any daily breakdown or analysis because, on several days, we only received the RCW Worksheet back from one of the two volunteers in the courtroom.

Graph 1 - Judge Panarese and Judge Bourgeois oversaw 71% of the cases observed



Types of Charges

Reclaim Court Watching volunteers were asked to document the kind of crime each defendant was being charged with. We decided to simplify the nuances of the courtroom by creating four categories under which all types of offenses could be categorized. Volunteers were taught how to differentiate between these categories during the Court Watching Training they attended. All volunteers were also given a “Crime Type Categories Guide” which is included as Appendix B. This guide gave examples of the types of crimes under each category and also showed some nuanced language that is used by judges, public defenders, and state’s attorneys to talk about charges that are commonly seen.

The four crime categories that were used for this project were violent, drug, property, and sex. Most of the crime types fit well into at least one of these categories. There were a few property, sex, and drug crimes that were also considered violent crimes and when this occurred volunteers were asked to document both categories. Chart 1 below shows the breakdown of all the cases.

Chart 1: Breakdown of all Data – Type of Charge					
	Violent	Drugs	Property	Sex	Total
Total	759	1806	615	31	3211
Percent	25.3%	60.2%	20.5%	1.0%	*Percent of the 2999 cases. May add up to more than 100%.

In 2999 of 3142 cases observed (95.5%) the court watching volunteer recorded at least one type of charge. Some cases had more than one type of charge (i.e. – robbery was recorded as both property and violent). As Chart 1 shows, the great majority of all cases which were observed during this project were drug charges. Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges were categorized under drug crimes as they were a very small number of cases that were observed. For a full breakdown on what kind of charges were in each category please refer to Appendix B.

One in four cases was dealing with a violent charge while property crimes took up the last significant number of cases. During the eight weeks we observed, only 31 cases (or a little less than 1%) were cases that involved a sex crime. This is likely because most sex crimes in Cook County get sent to a specialty courtroom. The few cases that do not are usually processed on a weekend when the specialty court is not operating. Because the number of sex crime cases is so small we have opted to exclude this category from most analyses in this report as any findings we would gather would not be significant due to the small sample size.

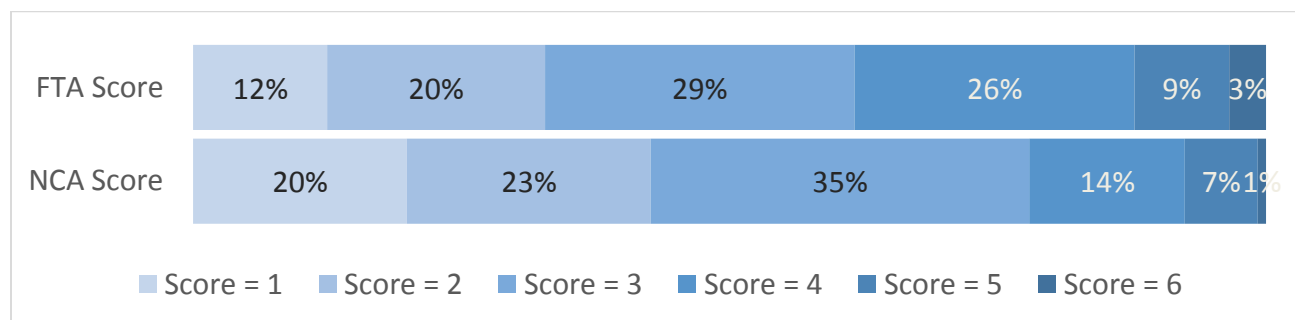
Pre-Trial Services Risk Assessment Scores

The Pretrial Services (PTS) Risk Assessment Scores are one of the most significant pieces of information that was recorded by observers. We were specifically looking to see that the new risk assessment tool, which was supposed to be in use starting July 1, was actually being used and that scores were being presented during bond hearings. The old risk assessment tool used only one number followed by a low, medium, or high risk designation. The Arnold Foundation's new tool, the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), uses two scales and one flag to present risk. The two scales are the Failure to Appear (FTA) scale measured from 1 to 6, and the New Criminal Activity (NCA) scale, also recorded from 1 to 6. The New Violent Criminal Activity (NVCA) Flag is a designation given to individuals who are at a particularly high risk of committing a violent crime if released.

As stated earlier, the first week of recording data was challenging for recording the PTS/PSA scores because observers were trained to look for the PTS risk scores under the older system that was no longer in use. After a few days we found out that the new system was officially in place and received information that we were looking for 2 numbers and a violence flag instead of the one number under the old assessment. The worksheet was adjusted and sent to volunteers with this change. However, most of the PTS/PSA scores for the first week are unreliable because volunteers were not looking for the FTA and NCA risk assessment scores.

Observers were able to collect a PTS/PSA score for 2675 (85.1%) of cases. However, only 2243 (83.9%) had both the Failure to Appear (FTA) risk score and the New Criminal Activity (NCA) risk score. Unfortunately, we were not made aware of the third component, the New Violent Criminal Activity (NVCA) flag, until about half way through the project. We made a decision not to ask volunteers to add this to their data collection as it would require doing individual retraining and it was too far along in the process. Some volunteers made a note when they heard the violence flag mentioned but, in the end, it was only seen in 10 cases of our final data set of over 3000. It likely happened more often than this but we have no way to say how much more often because court observers were not looking for this.

Graph 2: Breakdown all (2243) cases with both FTA and NCA Scores



Criminal History of Defendants

A defendant's criminal history is usually used as a justification for assigning a D-bonds and high bond amounts. One of the key questions we wanted to explore was to what extent bond and electronic monitoring decisions are influenced by an individual's criminal history and whether there are any violent charges or convictions in their history.

Observers were asked to record two things in this section of their worksheet. First they were asked to determine if this was the individual's first arrest. This would usually be stated by either the state's attorney or, more likely, the public defender. In instances when no criminal history record was presented by the state's attorney, observers were trained to document this as a first arrest. Observers recorded the presence or absence of a previous arrest in 2877 cases (91.5%). Separately, court watchers were asked to record whether there was any violence in the defendant's criminal history. The state's attorney usually presents a thorough summary of all past arrests and convictions. Volunteers were trained to listen for specific violent charges using the same list that was used to document the charge type. This list can be found in Appendix B.

Chart 2: Criminal History of Defendants for All Cases			
	First arrest	Defendant had a previous arrest or conviction	Defendant had a previous arrest or conviction for a violent crime
Total	522	2355	929
Percent	18% (of 2877)	82% (of 2877)	29.6% (of 3142 total cases)

A great majority of defendants (82%) had some kind of criminal history. However, less than 30% of defendants had either a previous violent arrest or conviction.

Bond Types & Amounts

The most important factor we were observing in our research was case by case bond type and amount decisions made by judges. Ultimately, most of the information we were collecting about current charges, criminal history, and Pretrial Services/Public Safety Assessments scores only matters because of how it relates to bond type and amount determinations made by the presiding judge.

There are four possible bond type decisions that a presiding judge could make. Observers were trained to look for and document whether the judge set an I-bond, D-bond, C-bond, or No bond. An I-bond, or personal recognizance bond, means that the defendant does not have to pay any amount to bail out. An amount is set but it is only used as the default D-bond or C-bond amount if the defendant fails to show up for their next court date and an arrest warrant has to be issued. A D-bond means that the defendant must post 10% of the bond amount in order to make bail and be released. If the judge assigns a C-bond, or cash bond, it means that the defendant must pay 100% of the bond amount set in order to post bail and be released. Finally, a judge might decide to not grant bond at all or set no bond because an individual is too high of a risk and the judge believes they should not be released.

The Reclaim Campaign has been advocating for an increase in I-bonds and a decrease in monetary bonds (D-bonds and C-bonds). This is because, if a bond decision is truly being made on risk then, for most cases, there should really only be two bond decision options. Either an individual is not a risk of flight or

a risk to public safety and they should be released on their own personal recognizance or they are a risk and they should not be released at all. A system that relies on monetary bonds instead of an evidence based validated risk assessment tool will not be able to ensure public safety because defendants will be held not because of the risk they pose but by whether or not they are able to make bail.

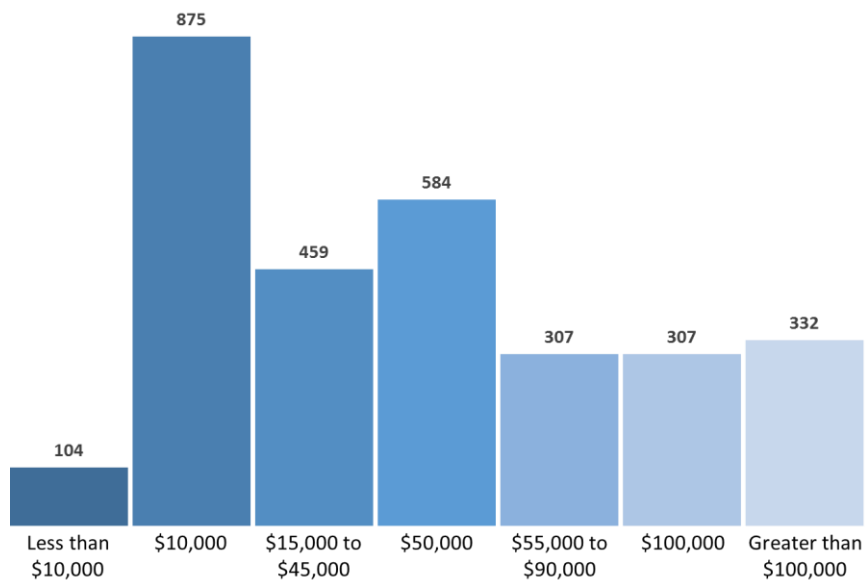
Observers recorded bond amounts in 2968 cases (94.4%) and bond types in 2865 cases (91.2%). The bond type breakdown can be seen in Chart 3 below.

Chart 3: Bond Type Breakdown for All Cases				
	I-Bond	D-Bond	C-Bond	No Bond
Total	1747	1006	71	48
Percent	61%	35%	2.5%	1.7%

The results of our observation are overall very positive. In 2011, it was reported that I-bonds were given in only about 20% of all cases that went through Cook County Central Bond Court. This is well below what comparable jurisdictions were doing. By January 2015, reports from the Cook County Circuit Court stated that I-bonds had increased significantly and were nearing half of all cases. Our data suggests that this trend has kept and reached a high of over 60%. This is a significant improvement for the Cook County Criminal Justice System. This increase means that significantly more low risk defendants are being released pending a trial or disposition of their case.

The average bond amount was \$70,401.14, and the most common bond amount was \$10,000, see the histogram in Graph 3.

Graph 3: Histogram of Bond Amounts



Electronic Monitoring

Electronic Monitoring is used as a condition of release on bond and can be paired with any kind of bond and bond amount. The judge usually reads the bond amount and then says DEM or IEM if electronic monitoring is accompanying the bond that was set. For example, a judge will say 50,000 DEM, which means this is a 50,000 D-bond with the condition of electronic monitoring if the defendant posts bond and is released. Electronic monitoring, along with I-bonds, can be a useful tool to reduce prison overcrowding. If a judge believes an individual should be released but that they might also pose either some risk of flight or risk to public safety, they can release the individual on an I-bond or low D-bond but also assign the condition of electronic monitoring, also known as house arrest. EM was assigned on 36% of all cases we observed.

Chart 4: Electronic Monitoring

	Total number of cases	EM ordered
Total	3142	1132
Percent	100%	36.0%

Other Factors Observed but not Presented in this Analysis

There were three other data points for which we attempted to collect information through this project but unfortunately we did not collect reliable data on these consistently throughout the eight weeks. These three points are mitigation presented by the defense, state's attorney objections to bond set by judges, and time between cases.

We defined mitigation as any time a Public Defender (PD) or private defense attorney argues in defense of their client, typically to obtain either an I-bond, lower D-bond, less restrictive conditions of release, or proper services (depending on drug dependence, mental health issues, etc). We asked volunteers to look beyond PD's simply stating facts about where the person lives or who might be in the courtroom with them, as they do this for most cases. Instead we asked observers to look for PD's intentionally attempting to influence the bond decision. Our observers ultimately recorded seeing mitigation for 1047 cases (or approximately 33%). However, this data varied greatly from observer to observer. We concluded that mitigation, at least in how we presented it, was too subjective of a term for a group of volunteers who had limited experience and knowledge of the criminal justice system. This is an area where we would recommend future research be done.

Another factor we attempted to look at with limited success was the time each case took to be processed. One of the biggest criticisms of Cook County Central Bond Court has been that it moves too quickly. Cases can last from anywhere between 30 seconds to 2 or 3 minutes. We asked volunteers to document only the start time of each case. Unfortunately, this proved a difficult task because there is only one clock in the courtroom and electronic devices are not allowed. This mean that observers without a personal watch would have to be looking at the wall clock every time a new case started.

While a few volunteers did this well most did not and instead only documented the time every 10-15 minutes. After the first couple of weeks of data collection it was clear that observers were struggling with this task so we decided not to make this a priority in trainings that were still to be held. We still asked volunteers to do it if they could but told them it was not essential if they found themselves struggling with it as we wanted them to focus on the other factors. Many chose not to record the time at all. From the limited data on times we did receive however, it is clear that not much has changed in the times for cases. The court is still regularly getting through anywhere between 60-100 cases in 1 ½ - 3

hours. We could not draw definitive conclusions on this and recommend further research but, at least anecdotally, in general bond hearings are still happening very quickly.

The final individual factor we attempted to observe and collect data on was the frequency of objections presented by the Cook County State's Attorney's office to a bond amount or bond type set by a presiding judge. One of the criticisms levied against the state's attorneys has been that they regularly object to individuals being released on I-bonds or D-bonds with low amounts. We asked observers to record anytime that a state's attorney presented an objection to the bond type or amount set by the judge or recommended a higher bond type/amount than what was set. Ultimately we found that this happened in only 30 of 3142 cases (or less than 1%). This suggests that if objections were happening with great frequency they are not any longer. This could be a result of the changes made recently in implementing a new risk assessment tool but we cannot draw any conclusions since we have absolutely no reliable base data for this. It is just as likely that objections have decreased as it is that they may not have ever really been happening at all.

Analysis of Differences between Judges

Advocates have long argued that anecdotal evidence suggests there are wide discrepancies on bond types and amounts depending on who the presiding judge is at bond court. We are told this happens because, since there is no reliable risk assessment tool has been in place, there is no standard process for judges to use the information provided to them by pretrial services and therefore they make bond determinations only on what is said by the state's attorneys and public defenders during the very brief bond hearings. Because this information is all subject to be interpreted in whatever way each judge feels appropriate, the result is that there are wide disparities on bond types and amounts between different presiding bond court judges.

We wanted to gauge whether the use of a new risk assessment tool and the shift away from using monetary bonds to more I-bonds would still result in discrepancies between judges. If everyone is being trained under a new system, we would expect to see a more consistent set of bond decisions made by different judges for similar kinds of cases. This was not the case. Chart 5 clearly shows that, even though positive reforms have been implemented, there is still much work to do to eliminate the disparities between different presiding bond court judges.

Chart 5: Comparison of Bond Court Judges Bond Decisions by Type of Charge								
	I-Bond	Amount	D-Bond	Amount	C-Bond	Amount	No Bond	Grand Total
Violent	31%	71,450	60%	164,016	6%		3%	100%
Bourgeois (N=190)	21%	138,590	55%	191,619	18%	NA	6%	100%
Panarese (N=261)	44%	51,754	54%	163,500	0%	NA	2%	100%
Sullivan (N=53)	13%	41,428	85%	92,669	0%	NA	2%	100%
Chiampas (N=34)	12%	7,500	85%	140,172	0%	NA	3%	100%
Brown (N=12)	42%	90,000	58%	317,857	0%	NA	0%	100%

Chart 5 (cont.): Comparison of Bond Court Judges Bond Decisions by Type of Charge								
	I-Bond	Amount	D-Bond	Amount	C-Bond	Amount	No Bond	Grand Total
Drug	78%	34,458	21%	50,256	1%		0%	100%
Bourgeois (N=471)	65%	57,614	33%	62,058	2%	NA	0%	100%
Panarese (N=525)	97%	25,454	2%	50,769	0%	NA	0%	100%
Sullivan (N=133)	43%	21,210	57%	33,750	0%	NA	0%	100%
Chiampas (N=102)	70%	18,323	28%	28,207	1%	NA	1%	100%
Brown (N=51)	96%	21,878	4%	85,000	0%	NA	0%	100%
Property	67%	51,178	29%	83,953	4%		1%	100%
Bourgeois (N=136)	44%	74,600	43%	99,293	10%	NA	3%	100%
Panarese (N=150)	91%	45,511	9%	103,462	0%	NA	0%	100%
Sullivan (N=37)	35%	20,769	65%	56,458	0%	NA	0%	100%
Chiampas (N=31)	65%	36,000	35%	40,000	0%	NA	0%	100%
Brown (N=17)	100%	55,294	0%		0%	NA	0%	100%
Grand Total	64%		32%		3%		1%	100%

Presentation and Analysis of Findings: Correlational Data Analysis

Charges and Bond Correlation

There were several factors for which we specifically wanted to see if there was any correlation. The first combination was the type of crime an individual is being charged with and to what extent this has an impact on bond decisions made by judges. The results shown in Chart 6 seem to indicate some pretty strong trends.

Individuals being charged with violent offenses were only released on I-bonds at a rate of 28%. The great majority of these cases (63%) received a D-bond worth an average amount of over \$154,000. Drug and property crimes present a much different story. In our study, 75% of all defendants charged with a drug crime and 63% of those charged with a property crime were released on their own personal recognizance. These are very positive results as, research tells us that these individuals do not pose a serious threat to public safety and should not be held in detention pending a trial. Even for the 24% of drug cases where D-bonds were assigned the amount was significantly lower than for other types of crimes, averaging just over \$46,500.00. D-bonds for property crimes were usually accompanied by much higher bond amounts (averaging over \$80,000) than for drug crimes.

Chart 6: Bond Decisions and Amounts by Type of Crime Charged

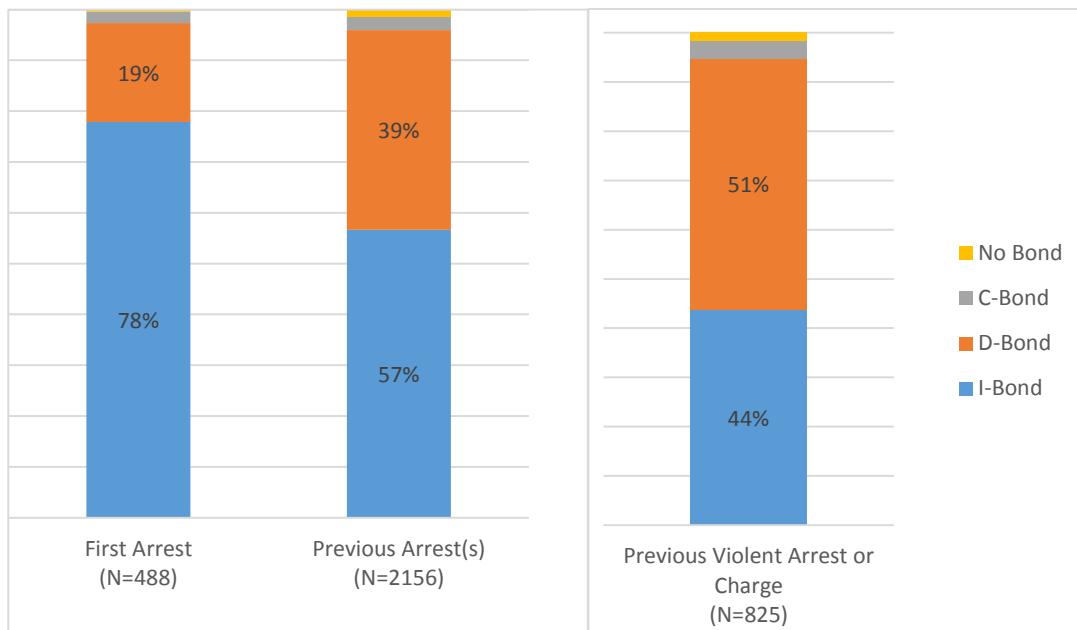
	I-Bond	Ave Amount	D Bond	Ave Amount	C Bond	Ave Amount	No Bond
Violent	28%	68,624.34	63%	154,123.45	5%	252,702.70	3%
Drug	75%	33,263.51	24%	46,514.51	1%	93,833.33	1%
Property	63%	48,933.80	33%	80,673.33	3%	153,437.50	1%

Overall these numbers present positive steps in the right direction. I-bonds are at good rates for drug and property crimes and have remained relatively lower for violent offenses. D-bonds are being used more often for violent crimes. C-bonds are still rare as are determinations of no bond set.

Criminal History and Bond Correlation

As stated earlier, a defendant's criminal history is often used to justify a high bond amount. In Graph 3 we take a look at how a defendant's record impacts the kind of bond they will receive. Individuals who were being charged with a first arrest were much more likely to receive an I-bond (78%) than were individuals with a previous arrest (57%) or any violence in their history (44%). The likelihood of receiving a D-bond increased as well from first arrest (19%), to having any previous arrest or conviction (39%), to those who had any violence in their history (51%).

Graph 4: Criminal History and Bond Types

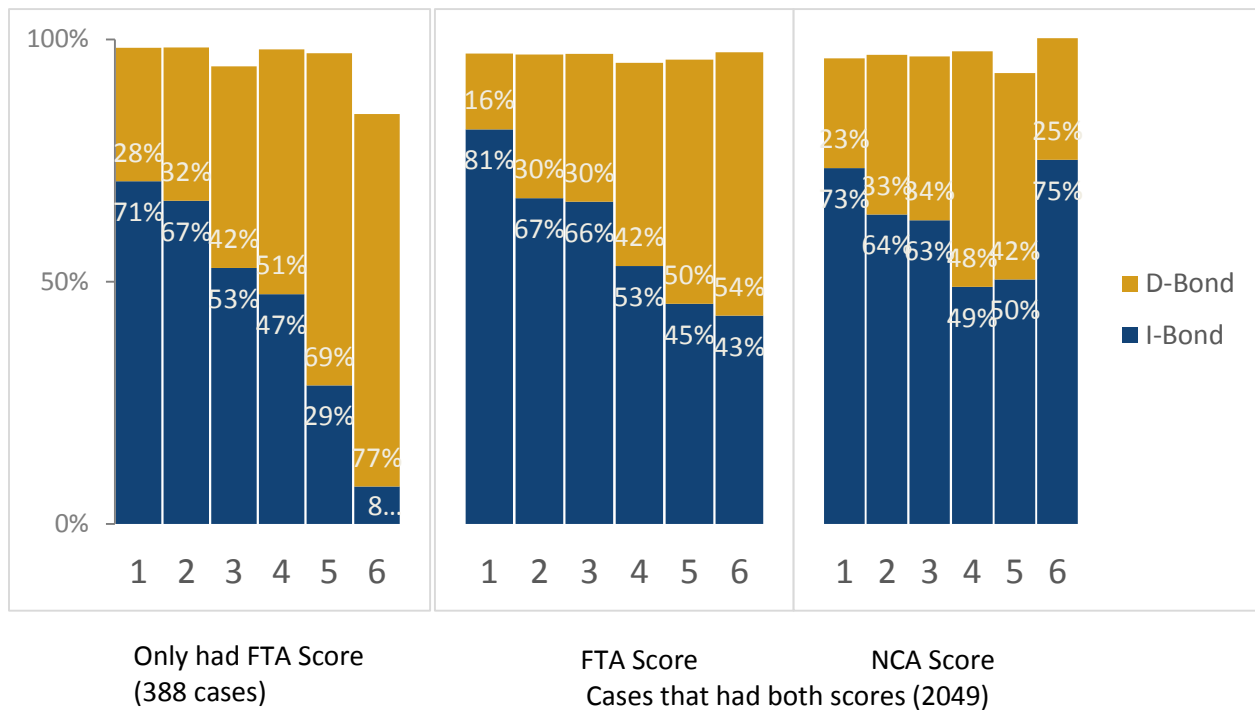


Pretrial Services/Public Safety Assessment Scores and Bond Correlation

The final correlational analysis we did was to look at how the Pretrial Services/Public Safety Assessment scores related to or influenced bond decisions. We were working with a total of 2437 cases that had at least one PTS/PSA score and a bond type recorded. The correlation is pretty strong as seen in Graph 4.

It is clear that as the FTA number increases so does the likelihood that a defendant will receive a D-bond instead of an I-bond. However, there is one anomaly that we have not been able to explain. As the NCA score went up to 5 and 6, there was an increase in I-bonds being assigned. Our best explanation is that there were such small sample sizes for these kind of cases, NCA 5 (7% of all cases) and NCA 6 (1%), that these numbers may not be very reliable. This is especially true for the breakdown for NCA 6.

Graph 5: FTA, NCA, and Bond Types



Conclusion

Concluding Statement

We embarked on this project hoping that significant reforms were being implemented in Cook County Central Bond Court and that the result would be more people released on I-bonds, less low level defendants being held in the Cook County Jail, and a system that is moving towards using best practices for risk assessment of all individuals. We are excited to report that significant progress has been made and that Cook County Bond Court appears, at least by the observations recorded and reported in this study, to be heading in the right direction.

We commend Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans for his leadership and follow through on the commitments he made in July of 2014 to implement a new pretrial services validated risk assessment

tool and to increase the number of individuals being released on I bonds. It is clear that both of these things have happened and are having a positive impact in reducing the jail population.

There are still issues that need to be further studied and continued monitoring by advocates will be important. Our data clearly shows that there are still significant discrepancies on bond decisions being made by different presiding judges. This needs to be carefully monitored as the long-term success of these reforms hinges on broad buy in by all stakeholders.

Recommendations

Moving forward we propose several recommendations for continuing the successful trends now developing in Cook County Central Bond Court.

Data Transparency - There should be increased transparency from the Circuit Court of Cook County and regular reporting on the impact recent changes are having. Much of the data we have collected should be collected by the courts and publically disseminated so that advocates can identify problem areas and propose solutions. While there are many advocacy groups that engage in occasional court monitoring few have the capacity to do it consistently and as systematically as this project attempted to do. The information collected through this project and the analysis of patterns should be happening by the Circuit Court of Cook County and made easily accessible to the public.

Continued Monitoring of Reforms – While the reforms to pretrial services and bond determinations are clearly evident these have developed because of administrative orders that have come about because of external pressures being placed by community and justice system stakeholders. It is imperative that these reforms continue to be monitored by advocates and stakeholders, such as the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, to ensure that changes are sustained long term and not merely implemented to appease the public's concerns in the short term with no plan to sustain them.

Consistency in Bond Determinations – Now that non-monetary bonds have increased significantly the next step is to work towards ensuring that all defendants who go through Cook County Central Bond Court are assured of a consistent bond determination regardless of who the presiding judge may be. The disparities that exist between judges cannot be ignored and need to be neutralized in order for a consistent application of justice in Cook County Central Bond Court. A thorough analysis of patterns in making bond determinations by different bond court judges needs to be undertaken by administrators to ensure the new tools and training are being by all judges. If judges are not willing to adhere to these new standards then the Circuit Court should consider ending the rotation of bond court judges and more consistently assign judges to bond court that are going to adhere to the recommendations presented by the new risk assessment tools and strive to use I bonds as much as possible.

Pace of Bond Court - Advocacy groups monitoring the courts should look at ways to address the time and pace issues still present in bond court. While a new risk assessment tool is being used the fast pace of courtroom remains unchanged. It is great that bond decisions are resulting in better outcomes for defendants but few understand what is happening during the bond hearing proceedings. Mitigation is rarely presented and this is very likely related to the rapid pace of the courtroom. Anecdotal accounts of the bond court process by court watchers affirm that mitigation by the defense remains relatively uncommon. We recommend that the circuit court, public defenders, and other advocates conduct further research on why this is still happening and look for ways to improve this.

Acknowledgements

There are a few individuals and groups who we want to acknowledge for their vital role in the Reclaim Campaign's Court Watching Project.

First and foremost we want to acknowledge the Reclaim Campaign Court Watching Volunteers who each committed about a work day's worth of time to be trained, observe and record the proceedings of bond court, and follow up with the team aggregating data. Volunteers put in well over 100 hours of court watching alone and the data we gathered exceeded our expectations for what was possible with such an ambitious project. This project and the conclusions we've drawn would simply not have been possible without our court watching volunteers.

We also want to acknowledge the Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice. CAFJ has been an important ally to the Reclaim Campaign in its work to analyze the aspects of Cook County's criminal justice system in need of reform. Furthermore, Ali Abid, staff attorney at Appleseed, assisted the Reclaim Campaign in designing a court watching instrument that was used to record bond court observations in this project and also assisted in developing and implementing the training for court watching volunteers.

We were fortunate to have the support of a strong team of data specialists who supported the work of this project and worked tirelessly over several months to make sense of the thousands of data points that were collected. Michelle Scott, who has extensive experience doing data analysis for nonprofit organizations, was our lead Data Specialist and conducted the majority of data analysis for this project. Alexandra Fryer was did the majority of our data entry. Nancy Mullarkey, a volunteer with the Reclaim Campaign and active faith leader of CRS, designed our data entry tool.

Finally, we want to acknowledge all of the leaders of the Reclaim Campaign who have steadfastly advocated for comprehensive reforms in Cook County's criminal justice system. These leaders have faithfully led a campaign that pushed for the reforms that are happening now and are dramatically reshaping the Cook County Jail. The impact of this work is slowly being felt as resources are being freed up and invested back into communities across the county.

ⁱ "American Bar Association Standards for Criminal Justice" Pretrial Release (2007): 54-62.

ⁱⁱ 725 ILCS 5 Article 109-110

ⁱⁱⁱ See American Bar Association

^{iv} 725 ILCS 185 Pretrial Services Act

^v "Circuit Court of Cook County Pretrial Operational Review" (March 2014)

Appendix A: Reclaim Campaign Bond Court Watching Worksheet

Date: _____

Location: _____

Name of Judge: _____

Volunteer Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Courtroom Number: _____

[illegible]

General Impressions

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Proceedings are audible					
Courtroom personnel are respectful of proceedings					
Courtrooms personnel are respectful of defendants and public					
Judge maintained appropriate demeanor or level of professionalism					
Judge ensured defendants understood proceedings					
Defendants understood proceedings					
Defendants were able to speak to lawyer about case					
Defendants asked and had their questions answered					

Comments/Feedback

Appendix B
Reclaim Campaign Court Watching Project
Crime Categories Guide

Examples of Violent Crimes

Most common phrases to hear for: U UW (Unlawful Use of a Weapon), Assault, or anything mentioning a gun.

Homicide 1st & 2nd Degree

Definition: The killing of one human being by another.

Involuntary Manslaughter

Definition: The killing of another person through negligence.

Criminal Sexual Assault

Definition: Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Robbery

Definition: The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Aggravated Assault

Definition: An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender displays a weapon in a threatening manner. Placing someone in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery.

Aggravated Battery

Definition: An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness

Simple Assault

Definition: An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

Simple Battery

Definition: A person commits battery if he intentionally or knowingly without legal justification and by any

means, (1) causes bodily harm to an individual or (2) makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with an individual.

U UW – Unlawful Use of a Weapon Weapons Violation (15)

Definition: The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices, or other deadly weapons.

Offenses Against Family (20)

Definition: Unlawful, nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well-being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as other offenses, such as Assault, Incest, Statutory Rape, etc.

Examples of Sex Crimes

Criminal Sexual Assault (02) (Index)

Definition: Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Prostitution (16)

Definition: To unlawfully engage in or promote sexual activities for profit.

Criminal Sexual Abuse (17)

Definition: The violation of laws prohibiting offenses against chastity, common decency, morals, and the like such as: adultery and fornication; bigamy; indecent exposure; and indecent liberties.

Examples of Property Crimes

Most common items to listen for: Retail Theft, Res Burg (Residential Burglary), Theft, Larceny

Retail Theft (Shoplifting)

Robbery (Index)

Definition: The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or

Appendix B
Reclaim Campaign Court Watching Project
Crime Categories Guide

threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Burglary

Definition: The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.

Larceny

Definition: The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Definition: The theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson

Definition: To unlawfully and intentionally damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

Forgery & Counterfeiting

Definition: The altering, copying, or imitation of something, without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine or the selling, buying, or possession of an altered, copied, or imitated thing with the intent to deceive or defraud.

Fraud

Definition: The intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or other entity in reliance upon it to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.

Embezzlement

Definition: The unlawful misappropriation by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property, or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody, or control.

Stolen Property

Definition: Receiving, buying, selling, possessing, concealing, or transporting any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, as by Burglary, Embezzlement, Fraud, Larceny, Robbery, etc.

Vandalism

Definition: To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface, or otherwise injure real or personal property

without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

Gambling

Definition: To unlawfully bet or wager money or something else of value; assist, promote, or operate a game of chance for money or some other stake; possess or transmit wagering information; manufacture, sell, purchase, possess, or transport gambling equipment, devices, or goods; or tamper with the outcome of a sporting event or contest to gain a gambling advantage.

Liquor License

Definition: The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages.

Examples of Drug Crimes

Listen for: PCS, Cannabis, PCS with I (intent), Manufacture, Delivery.

Drug Abuse (1

Definition: The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.

Possession of Controlled Substance (PCS)

Cannabis Possession

Intent to Manufacture

Intent to Deliver

Delivery

Manufacture

