

Virginia Community  
Criminal Justice Association

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Pretrial Services  
Local Probation



# Comprehensive Community Corrections Act / Pretrial Services Act

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- Included in the 1995 legislation on parole reform, the CCCA/PSA were established to provide local community corrections and pretrial services.
- CCCA focuses on local responsible offenders to provide community based corrections services to General District Courts
- PSA focuses on a range of services to assist judicial officers in making release decisions based on public safety and court appearance
- DCJS is the oversight agency providing funding to local governments to provide the services



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# Probation

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- 37 Local Probation Agencies serving 127 localities
  - Alternative to incarceration for offenders with a 12 months or less sentence.
    - Implementing Evidence Based Practices
    - Assess offenders for risk using validated tools for criminogenic risk and need.
    - Employ supervision strategies to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.
    - Refer to appropriate services and interventions



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# Probation

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- FY14 Highlights
  - Average daily local probation cost was \$1.90 per client.
  - Over \$1.67 million in restitution payments collected for victims.
  - \$1.21 million in fines and costs collected.
  - Over 458,000 hours of community service work performed at a value of \$3.3 million.
  - In total, local probation accounted for over \$6.2 million in payments to communities which translates to a ROI by the Commonwealth



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# Pretrial

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- 31 Pretrial Agencies serving 99 localities
  - Interview and investigate defendants held in jail following arrest
  - Conduct criminal record checks
  - Verify information
  - Validated risk assessment instrument to help judicial officers make a more informed release decision.



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# Pretrial

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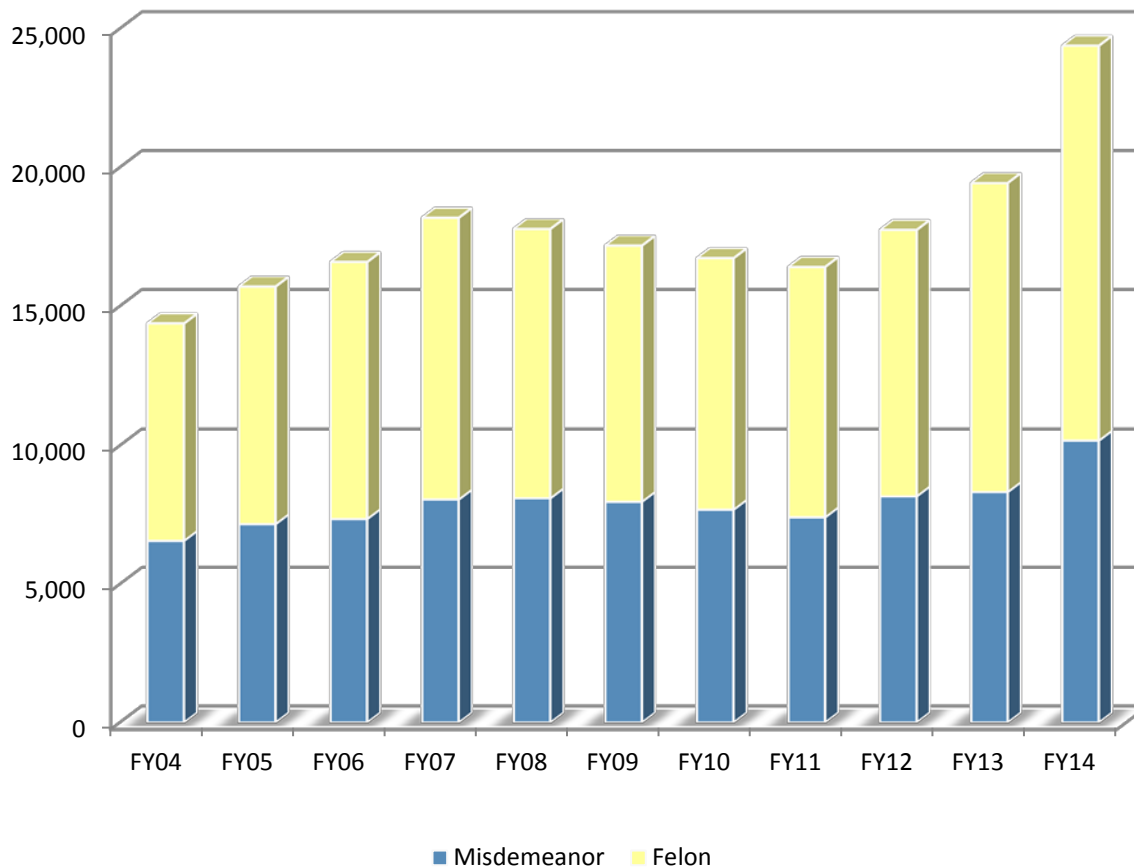
- Investigations
  - Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment (VPRAI)
  - Validated three times and now adopted in other states/local jurisdictions
  - Agencies Completed more than 42,000 investigations in FY14.
- Supervision
  - Supervise defendants released to pretrial supervision to ensure their appearance in court and the safety of the community pending trial.
  - Monitor conditions ordered by the court such as drug testing, no contact, curfew, and GPS monitoring.



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# Pretrial

- Pretrial Supervision Placements



- F14 - 97% successfully reported for court.
- FY14 – 96% remained arrest free pending trial



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# Pretrial – What the Research tells us

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- Detaining low and moderate risk defendants, even just for a few days increases future criminal activity.
- When held 2-3 days, low-risk defendants are almost 40% more likely to commit new crimes before trial than equivalent defendants held no more than 24 hours.

"The Hidden Costs of Pretrial Detention", The  
Arnold Foundation 2013, Lowenkamp,  
VanNostrand, Holsinger





# Pretrial – What the Research tells us

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- Low Risk Defendants held 8-14 days are 51% more likely to commit another crime within two years after completion of their cases than equivalent defendants held no more than 24 hours.
- Longer pretrial detentions are associated with the likelihood of Failure to Appear (FTA) pending trial, particularly for defendants deemed to be low risk

"The Hidden Costs of Pretrial Detention",  
The Arnold Foundation 2013, Lowenkamp,  
VanNostrand, Holsinger



# Pretrial - Benefits

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- Pretrial is an efficient and cost effective use of public safety funds.
  - Pretrial Supervision is significantly less expensive than jail bed costs
    - Average daily pretrial cost \$3.91
    - Average daily jail-bed cost ranges from \$43.27 to \$184.69 with an average cost of \$72.99
- Reduction in future criminal activity demonstrated by the research creates additional financial savings.



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# Pretrial - Benefits

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- Identifies special populations.
  - Pretrial Agencies conduct additional screenings to assist in the early identification of special needs related to mental health, substance abuse, and veteran status, which can be crucial to the Court in making release decisions and future services



# Pretrial - Benefits

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- Pretrial Reduces Local and State Cost for Jail Expansions
  - 2012 JLARC Report, “Encouraging Collaboration through State Incentives”, concluded that Pretrial Services can assist to better manage local and regional jails populations, reduce the cost of jail operations and avoid or delay jail expansions



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# Pretrial – Outlook

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- Investment in the pretrial stage of the criminal justice system improves outcomes.
- Pretrial is considered the beginning stage of re-entry - front end of the system.
- Expansion of Pretrial will continue to lessen the burden on local and regional jails population.
- Localities with Local Probation Agencies in place have the administrative structure to easily absorb additional resources for Pretrial.
- \$2.5 million investment will increase services around the state.



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# Contact Information

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