

Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Quality Assurance Sub-Committee
Point in Time Study of the Dauphin County
Prison Population

February 2024

Questions about the report:

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Overview

The Quality Assurance (QA) sub-committee of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) examined the prison population through a point in time study to evaluate the jurisdictional issues around the individuals in the Dauphin County Prison (DCP). A point in time study is taking a “snapshot” of one specific date and evaluating the data as it was in that moment. The project was conducted to better explore the reasons for an individuals’ who were incarcerated, which jurisdiction has control over any incarceration decisions, and areas that may need to be explored to better understand the dynamics of individuals in DCP.

Understanding the population of DCP is a complicated process. There are often various reasons for why an individual may be incarcerated. This study was designed to begin to have a preliminary examination of the individual’s incarcerated in DCP and WRC. This study examined all individuals, whether sentenced or unsentenced.

To accomplish this, the sub-committee evaluated the entire prison roster for February 9th, 2024. This includes all individuals sentenced or unsentenced and those that could be housed in the Dauphin County Work Release Center (WRC). The committee developed five key definitions of categories to explore the jurisdictional control that currently exists within the DCP and WRC population. These categories are broad in nature and designed to allow for generalized grouping of the situations that individuals in DCP and WRC are currently encountering. The definitions are outlined below:

Definitions

Group A: Individuals in DCP under complete control, authority, and jurisdiction of Dauphin County. This may include individuals with bail or Dauphin County Probation Services detainers.

- Includes offenders in WRC that have pending cases.
- Includes offenders that show on roster but may be in another facility on a warden agreement.

Group B: Individuals in DCP where Dauphin County has no control of the future action. These individuals are being housed in DCP under another authority. This may include individuals that are being held by Federal, state, or other local jurisdictions outside of Dauphin County, or ICE cases.

- Includes offenders sentenced to SCI pending transportation.

Group C: Individuals that fall both into Group A and Group B.

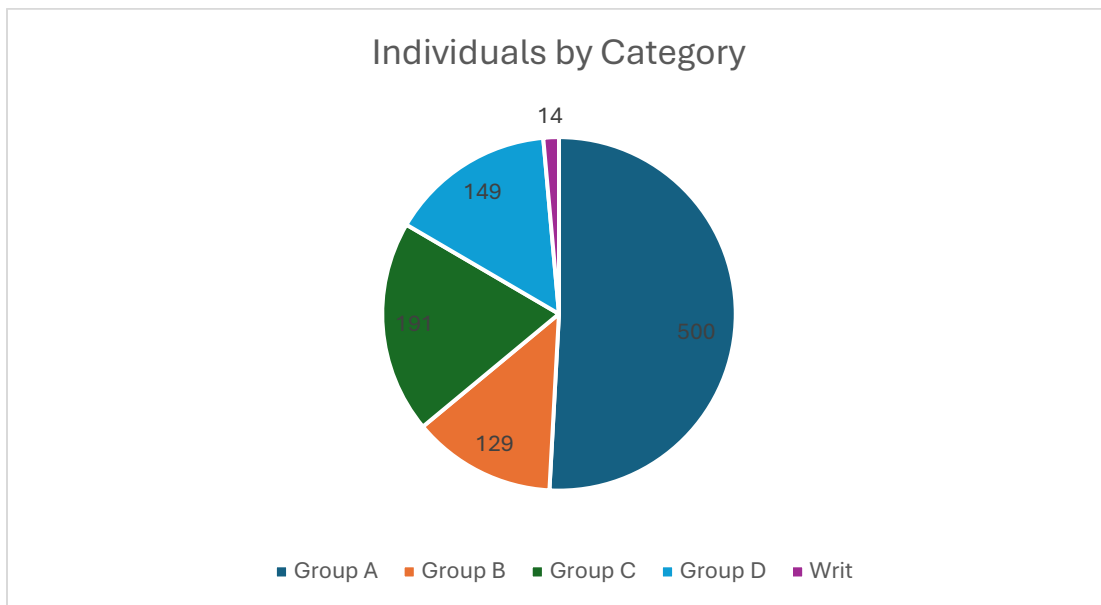
Group D: Individuals serving a **complete** sentence in DCP.

- Includes offenders in WRC for only purposes of serving their sentence.

WRIT: Indicated WRIT for those offenders that are currently being housed in DCP under a writ for purposes of testifying.

Preliminary Findings

On February 9th, 2024, there were a total of **983** individuals, representing over 2,000 dockets, on the prison roster that were examined by the QA sub-committee. When examining the categories the breakdowns are as follows:



	Total	Percentage
Group A	500	51%
Group B	129	13%
Group C	191	20%
Group D	149	15%
Writ	14	1%
Total	983	100%

For **Group A**, we found that 500 or 51% of the individuals in DCP and WRC are under the complete control of Dauphin County. There are no other jurisdictions involved with the

current incarceration status. Dauphin County has the discretion and control over the incarceration.

For **Group B**, we found that 129 or 13% of the individuals in DCP and WRC were under the complete control of another jurisdiction. This means that Dauphin County has no control over the incarceration status. DCP and WRC are just the housing mechanism for the jurisdiction who has control.

For **Group C**, we found that 191 or 20% of the individuals in DCP and WRC were under the jurisdiction of Dauphin County AND another jurisdiction (Group A and Group B). These individuals had an incarceration status that was dictated by at least two different jurisdictions, with at least one of them being Dauphin County.

For **Group D**, we found that 149 or 15% of the individuals in DCP and WRC were serving a sentence. These individuals would be released upon the completion of that sentence.

There was a total of 14 individuals that had a **WRIT** as the reason for their status in DCP. This only equated to 1% of the population at the time of the study.

Group Breakdowns

After categorizing the population into the main groups, the sub-committee further examined the dynamics of Groups A, B, and C. The goal was to determine what circumstances or what jurisdiction had the reason behind the incarceration status. Group D was not examined as those individuals were serving a sentence and the status was not subject to change based on any further evaluation by the group. Additionally, the sub-committee did not examine the 14 individuals in DCP on a WRIT. The breakdowns for Groups A, B, and C are below.

Group A Breakdown

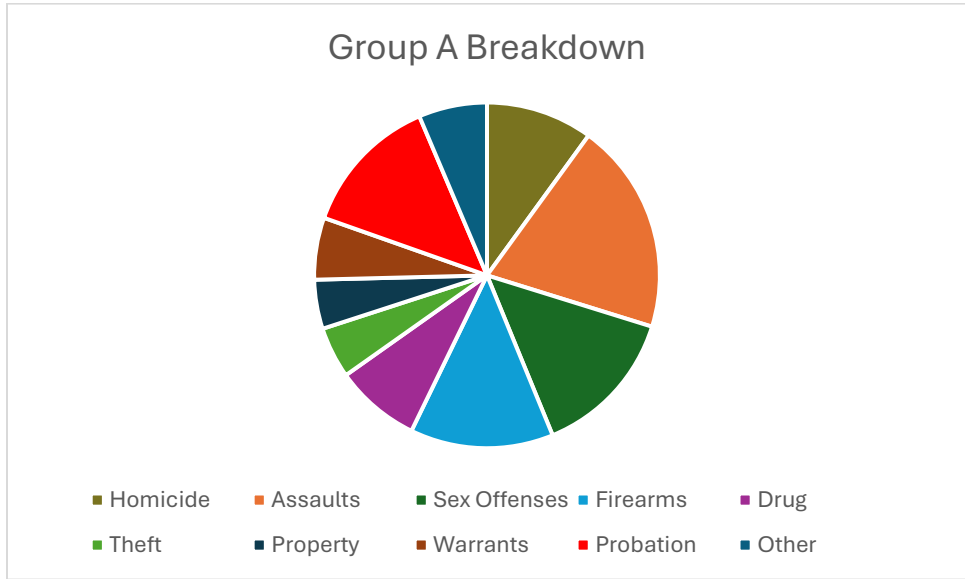
Group A consisted of the individuals in DCP and WRC that were held under the complete control of Dauphin County. These individuals were being held on charges and/or warrants because of actions in Dauphin County. This group represented 500 or 51% of the individuals in DCP and WRC.

The breakdown of this group required additional categorization of the charges. The sub-committee put charges into categories to better highlight the reason for the incarceration status. The categories are developed on the charge name alone and not the facts alleged in the case. That level of evaluation was not the purpose of this point in time study. Listed below are the primary grouping of charges that were used to evaluate incarcerated individuals.

Homicide	Individuals were placed into this category for the charges of homicide or any conspiracy, solicitation, or attempt. Manslaughter charges were also grouped into this category
Assaults	Individuals were placed into this category for assaultive charges including the following: Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Strangulation, Simple Assault, Terroristic Threats, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, etc.
Sex Offenses	Individuals were placed into this category for any sexual offense or charges resulting from failing to comply with the SORNA registration requirements.
Firearms	Individuals were placed into this category for any charge related to the unlawful possession of a firearm.
Drug	Individuals were placed into this category for charges related to the possession, distribution/delivery, or manufacturing of drugs.
Theft	Individuals were placed into this category for charges related to theft, access device fraud, forgery, retail theft, etc.
Property	Individuals were placed into this category for charges related to property including burglary, trespass, and criminal mischief.
Warrants	Individuals were placed into this category when it was a warrant that was the reason for their incarceration status.
Probation	Individuals were placed into this category when a probation detainer was the reason for their incarceration status.
Other	This category captured individuals that did not fit into one of the categories above. This included domestic relations issues, ICC cases, and other charges that did not fit into another category.

** It should be noted that many individuals had several dockets of charges. When an individual had several dockets of charges, the sub-committee selected the most severe charge as the lead charge. For purposes of the findings, we used the following order: Homicide – Assault – Sex Offenses – Firearms – Drugs – Property – Theft - Other. Individuals that were placed into the Warrants or Probation category were those where the warrant or probation detainer was the reason for their incarceration status.

Group A Breakdown



	Individuals	Percentage
Homicide	50	10%
Assaults	99	20%
Sex Offenses	70	14%
Firearms	67	13%
Drug	40	8%
Theft	24	5%
Property	23	5%
Warrants	29	6%
Probation*	66	13%
Other	32	6%
Total	500	100%

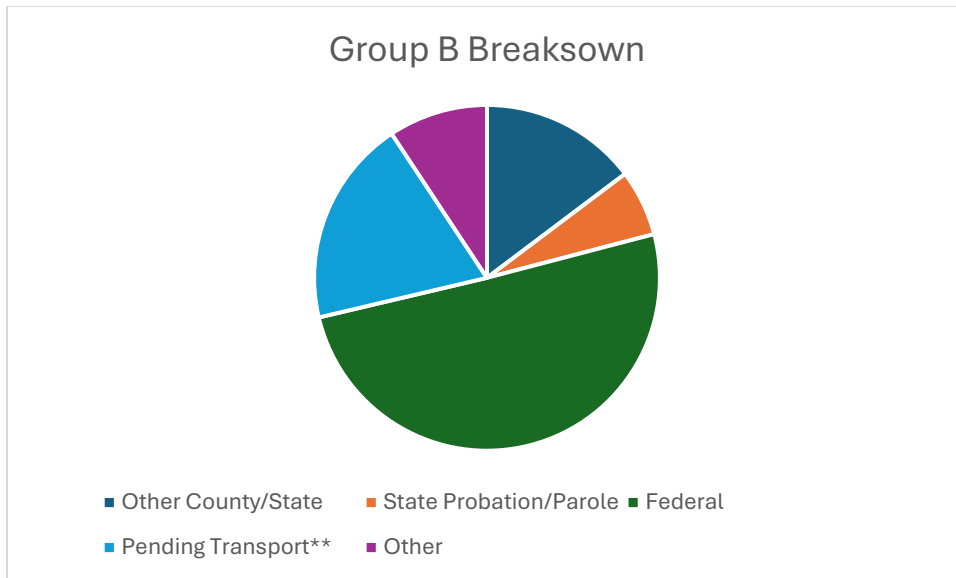
*For the individuals in DCP or WRC for a probation detainer, there was further examination of those individuals. There were 66 individuals identified as being held solely on a probation detainer. Of the 66 individuals, there were only 20, or 30% of the individuals that were being held on technical violations only. The remaining 70% of individuals had committed a new crime that resulted in the probation detainer being filed. Of the 20 individuals held on technical violation detainers, the reasons varied from violations of sex offender conditions to waiting for a treatment bed for drug and alcohol issues.

Group B Breakdown

Group B consists of individuals in DCP or WRC that are under the complete control of another jurisdiction outside of Dauphin County. There were 129 or 13% of individuals that fell into this category.

To examine this category further, the sub-committee developed additional sub-categories to understand the representation of other potential jurisdictions. Below are the identified categories:

Other County/State	Individuals were placed into this category when another county or state was the reason for the incarceration status.
State Probation/Parole	Individuals were placed into this category when a state probation/parole detainer was the reason for the incarceration status.
Federal	Individuals were placed into this category when the individual was listed under federal probation/parole and/or immigration/ICE.
Other	Individuals were placed into this category when they didn't fit a category above.



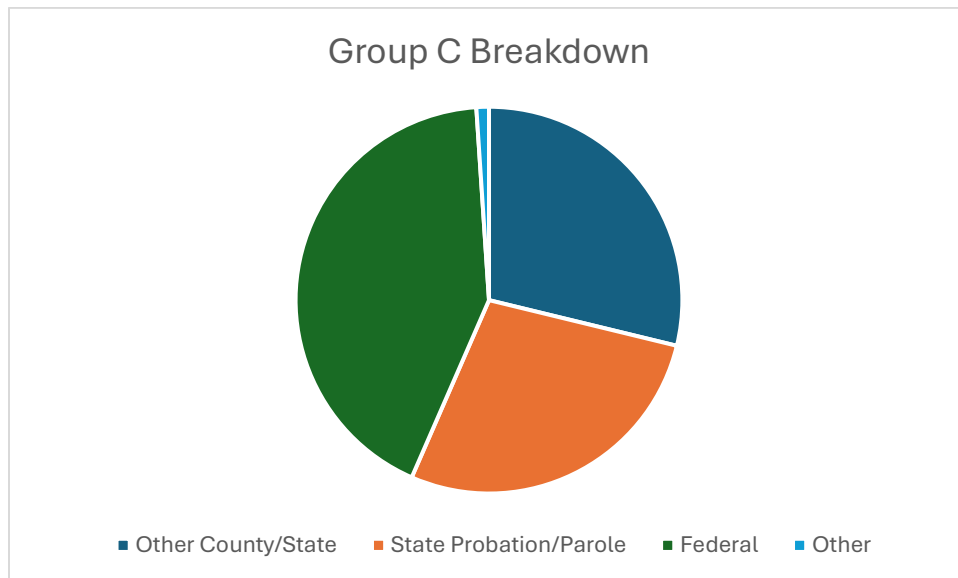
	Total	Percentage
Other County/State	19	15%
State Probation/Parole	8	6%
Federal	65	50%
Pending Transport	25	20%
Other	12	9%
Total	129	100%

Group C Breakdown

For Group C, there were 191, or 20% of individuals that fell into both Group A and Group B with multiple jurisdictions involved in the reason for incarceration.

In examining this group, the sub-committee used the same definitions as Group B. These individuals had a charge in Dauphin County that resulted in their incarceration. However, even if bail were posted, another jurisdiction would be holding their status in DCP or WRC. The other jurisdiction involved is included in the breakdown below.

Other County/State	Individuals were placed into this category when another county or state was the reason for the incarceration status.
State Probation/Parole	Individuals were placed into this category when a state probation/parole detainer was the reason for the incarceration status.
Federal	Individuals were placed into this category when the individual was listed under federal probation/parole and/or immigration/ICE.
Other	Individuals were placed into this category when they didn't fit a category above.



	Total	Percentage
Other County/State	55	29%
State Probation/Parole	53	28%
Federal	81	42%
Other	2	1%
Total	191	100%

Gender and Race Breakdown

Overall Gender

Male	883
Female	100
Total	983

Gender by Group

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Overall	883	100
Group A	441	59
Group B	119	10
Group C	180	11
Group D	129	20
WRIT	14	0

Overall Race and Ethnicity/Gender

<u>Race</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Total</u>
Asian	14	Male	64
Black	556	Female	5
White	413		
Total	983	Total	69

Race by Gender

<u>Race</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Asian	14	0
Black	517	39
White	352	61
Total	883	100

Race by Group

	<u>Group A</u>	<u>Group B</u>	<u>Group C</u>	<u>Group D</u>	<u>WRIT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Asian	8	0	1	5	0	14
Black	302	58	120	67	9	556
White	190	71	70	77	5	413
Total	500	129	191	149	14	983

Recommendations for Data Improvement

The following are recommendations from the sub-committee based on the work conducted between this point in time study as well as the study completed in 2023. These recommendations are made to enhance our prison system's ability to use data to make the most informed decisions around best practice.

1. Allow for a data collection process that organizes charges with the lead charge reflecting the "most serious charge" first. When examining dockets, this will allow for greater understanding of the docket when the most serious charge is the first charge available to see.
2. Incorporate jurisdictional issues into the data collection system for Dauphin County Prison. Accurately capturing jurisdiction will allow Dauphin County decision makers a greater ability to focus on cases under their direct control when looking at the prison population.
3. Race and ethnicity should be a data point collected in a consistent manner and in accordance with any federal or state guidelines. Ability to access this data in real time is critical for future work.
4. Capture data related to warrants/capias history. Judicial decisions may change significantly based on this information and can assist in the understanding of why an individual may still be incarcerated.
5. Enhance the coordination and sharing of probation data and prison data to allow for further examination the cases that involve the adult probation system.
6. Creation of a data analyst position (or something similar) within the prison could allow for more immediate data/information, expand the existing data collection efforts, and allow for future projects to be completed in an acceptable timeframe.