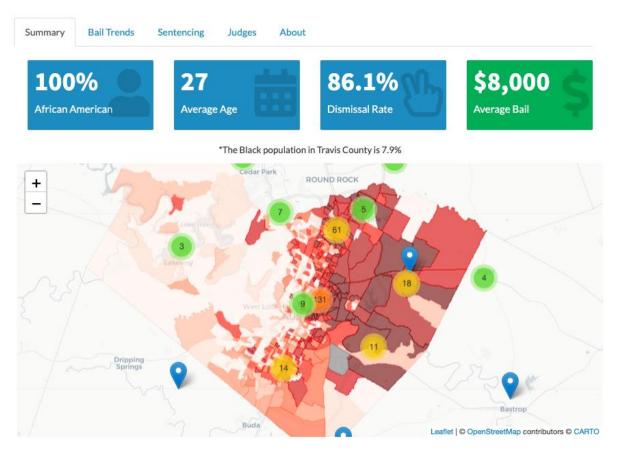


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## **Two New Data Dashboards Increase Justice System Transparency, Accountability** *Texas Criminal Justice Coalition releases two data dashboards, bringing total to five*

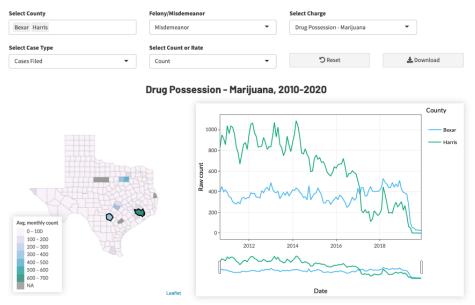
**AUSTIN, TX** -- As the national movement around justice system transformation continues to swell, this month the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) released <u>two new data dashboards</u> that make justice system information accessible to the public.

The new <u>Travis County Data Dashboard</u> visualizes over 400,000 Travis County criminal court dispositions dating back to 2010 using historical data provided by the Travis County District Clerk. Each data point represents a defendant in criminal court, and each entry shows how the case was disposed. The dashboard allows users to map case data against census data to visualize how neighborhoods are policed and how outcomes differ across demographic categories. Data can be compared based on bail trends, sentencing information, and averages from specific judges.



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TCJC's <u>Office of Court Administration (OCA) dashboard</u> is a departure from the other data analysis tools in the dashboard series. Instead of focusing on a single county, it allows the user to graph trends in numbers of cases across multiple counties. This OCA data is based on self-reports of the number of felony and misdemeanor cases by each county which, in some cases, may differ from criminal court disposition data.



**Texas Office of Court Administration Data Dashboard** 

In addition to putting data directly in the hands of the public, TCJC's data dashboards have been used to shape policy, complement research, improve public understanding of the justice system, and hold local leaders accountable. Examples of how previous data dashboards have been utilized include:

- An <u>evaluation</u> of the Harris County marijuana diversion program by January Advisors, which found that the program was successful in reducing the number of charges filed, but unsuccessful in reducing the dramatic racial disparities in marijuana cases
- An analysis of Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg's practices by the Justice Collaborative and economist John Pfaff, which rebutted claims of progress during DA Ogg's request for 102 new prosecutors in 2019
- An analysis of drug policy and enforcement by Grits for Breakfast, used to advocate for <u>marijuana penalty reductions</u> and <u>dissolution</u> of the Houston Police Department's narcotics division
- A <u>review</u> by TCJC to show the potential impact of Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot's new policies aimed at decarceration
- A feature at <u>PI-Con 2019</u> during discussions on pre-arrest diversion models, and at the University of Texas at Dallas' 2019 <u>Criminal Justice Summit</u>

TCJC's data dashboards are created in partnership with January Advisors, with support from Microsoft and the Norflet Project Fund. The dashboard site can be found <u>here</u> and includes new dashboards for <u>Travis County</u> and the <u>Office of Court Administration</u>. Previous county data dashboards include <u>Harris</u> <u>County</u> (Houston), <u>Dallas County</u>, and <u>Bexar County</u> (San Antonio).

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The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and build safer Texas communities. To learn more about TCJC, visit <u>www.TexasCJC.org</u>.