

Analysis of the Outcomes of the San Francisco Community Justice Court

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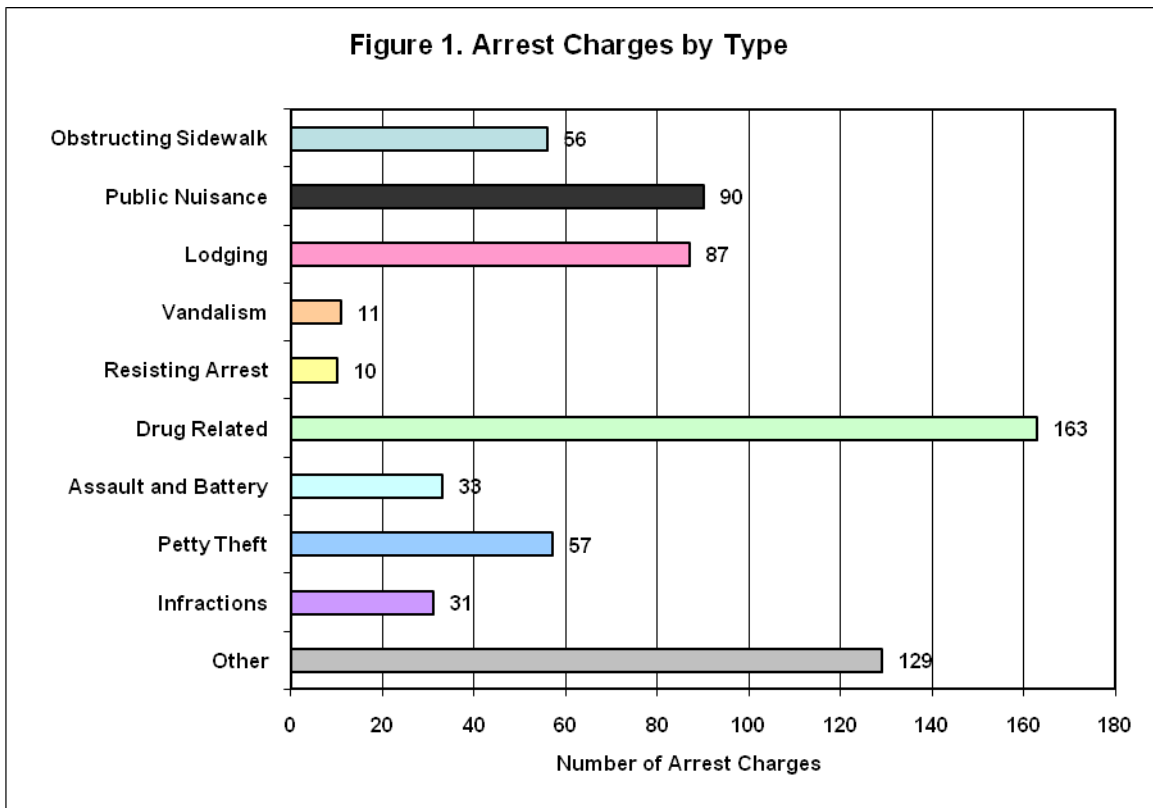
Summary of Outcomes

This report utilizes case-level data collected on 431 cases brought before the San Francisco Community Justice Center (CJC) between early March and early June of 2009. Data was taken directly from Court calendars, and compiled for analysis. Additionally, the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender provided data about its CJC caseload. Both data sets were used to evaluate the outcomes-to-date of the CJC.

- Public Nuisance, Lodging, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia represent the top three arrest charges at the CJC.
- A majority of the cases examined during the period of analysis were discharged. Over 90% of the following arrest types are (immediately) discharged:
 - Public Nuisance (91.1%),
 - Lodging (93.1%), and
 - Obstructing Sidewalk (94.6%).
- Of the Public Defender's CJC caseload, 90% were found to be eligible for SF Pretrial Diversion Project, Drug Court, Prop 36 or Drug Diversion programs.

1. What kinds of cases are heard at the CJC?

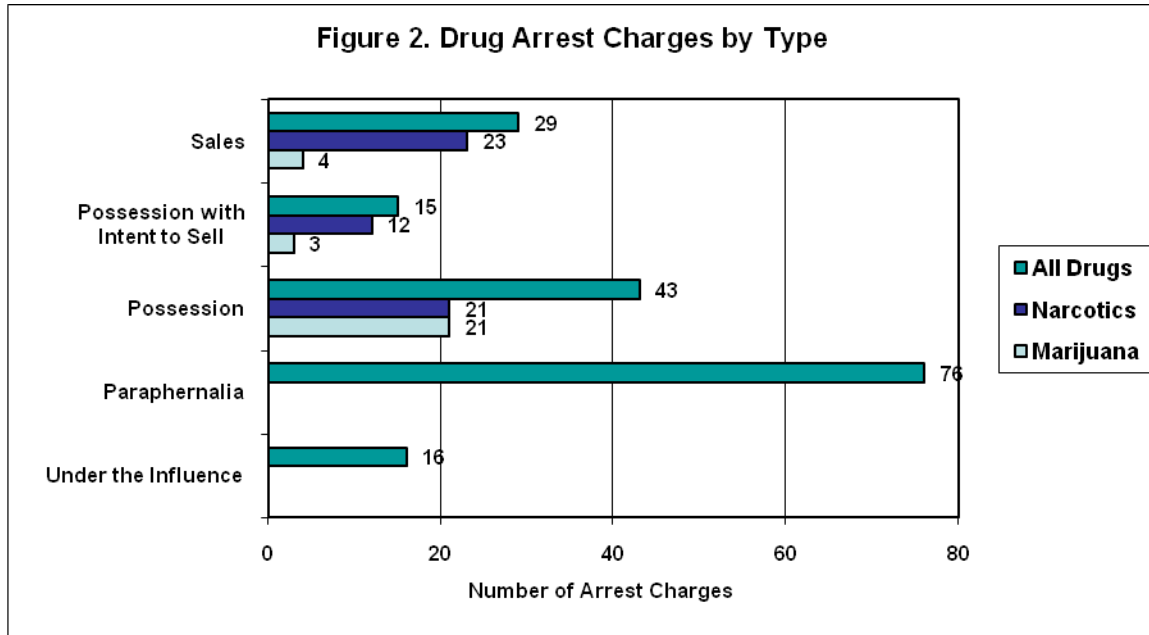
Data collected¹ from Court calendars capture the arrest charges involved in 431 cases brought before the CJC between early March and early June of 2009. *Figure 1* summarizes these charges into general categories according to each charge filed in the CJC. The total number of charges exceeds the total number of cases as a minority of cases had more than one charge at arrest.



The category “Other” includes a wide variety of charges, including trespassing, littering, stay-away violation, possession of burglary tools and impersonating a police officer. The “Other” category was used to capture arrest charges for which there were ten or fewer cases brought before the CJC.

¹ Data was compiled by Bob Offer-Westort.

Drug-related crimes represented the plurality of arrest charges in cases brought before the CJC. Figure 2 provides a detailed breakdown of drug-related arrests by type of charge and type of drug involved. Narcotics- and marijuana-related arrests are subsets of the all drugs category in each case. Arrest charges for possessing paraphernalia and being under the influence are not available by the type of drug involved.



2. What are the disposition outcomes?

Table 1 (beginning on the following page) summarizes CJC case dispositions by charge categories based on data collected from Court calendars. The table shows very high discharge rates for the following types of arrest charges: obstructing sidewalk (95%), public nuisance (91%), lodging (93%), and infractions (83%). In fact, the majority of all cases in the dataset have been discharged (235 out of 431 cases).

Table 1. Case Dispositions by Arrest Charge Category

Arrest Charge Category	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Assault and Battery		
<i>Discharged</i>	18	62.1
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	4	13.7
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	1	3.4
<i>Community Service</i>	2	6.9
<i>Pre-Trial Diversion</i>	1	3.4
<i>Unknown</i>	3	10.3
Drug Sales		
<i>Discharged</i>	1	3.2
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	13	41.9
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	1	3.2
<i>Private Attorney</i>	11	35.4
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	2	6.5
<i>Unknown</i>	3	9.7
Drug Possession w/ Intent to Sell		
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	3	25.0
<i>Private Attorney</i>	6	50.0
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	2	16.7
<i>Unknown</i>	1	8.3
Drug Possession		
<i>Discharged</i>	21	48.8
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	7	16.3
<i>Drug Program</i>	2	4.7
<i>Motion to Revoke</i>	1	2.3
<i>Private Attorney</i>	9	20.9
<i>Unknown</i>	3	7.0
Drug Paraphernalia		
<i>Discharged</i>	52	68.4
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	10	13.2
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	8	10.5
<i>Drug Program</i>	1	1.3
<i>Motion to Revoke</i>	1	1.3
<i>Private Attorney</i>	1	1.3
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	2	2.6
<i>Unknown</i>	1	1.3
Under the Influence of Drugs		
<i>Discharged</i>	3	18.8
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	4	25.0
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	6	37.5
<i>Motion to Revoke</i>	1	6.3
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	2	12.5

Table 1. Continued

Arrest Charge Category	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Obstructing Sidewalk		
<i>Discharged</i>	53	94.6
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	1	1.8
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	1	1.8
<i>Unknown</i>	1	1.8
Public Nuisance		
<i>Discharged</i>	82	91.1
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	4	4.4
<i>Unknown</i>	4	4.4
Petty Theft		
<i>Discharged</i>	12	21.1
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	11	19.3
<i>Bench Warrant</i>	12	21.1
<i>Community Service</i>	8	14.0
<i>Motion to Revoke</i>	1	1.8
<i>Private Attorney</i>	4	7.0
<i>Probation</i>	1	1.8
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	6	10.5
<i>Unknown</i>	2	3.5
Vandalism		
<i>Discharged</i>	6	54.5
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	2	18.2
<i>Pre-Trial Diversion</i>	1	9.1
<i>Private Attorney</i>	2	18.2
Resisting Arrest		
<i>Discharged</i>	7	70.0
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	1	10.0
<i>Motion to Revoke</i>	1	10.0
<i>Private Attorney</i>	1	10.0
Lodging		
<i>Discharged</i>	81	93.1
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	2	2.3
<i>Unknown</i>	4	4.6
Infractions		
<i>Discharged</i>	20	83.3
<i>Pending/Unresolved</i>	1	4.2
<i>Private Attorney</i>	1	4.2
<i>Returned to Hall of Justice</i>	1	4.2
<i>Unknown</i>	1	4.2

3. How many people are receiving services and what types of services are being provided?

The final section of this report is based on data provided by the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender and applies to their CJC caseload.

- The Public Defender currently represents approximately **70** individuals at the CJC, **28** of whom have abandoned the program and are currently in bench warrant status.
- **20** cases have been adjudicated, either by dismissal (16), withdrawal of the complaint (2), or plea bargain (2).
 - Only 2 of the individuals whose cases were adjudicated received services which included a referral to a shelter bed and referral to an outpatient treatment program.
 - The legal and social outcomes of these cases do not reflect a significant departure from the legal and social outcomes reached at the Hall of Justice.
- Of the **42** individuals actively participating in the CJC:
 - **14 (33%)** had housing prior to coming to the CJC.
 - The actual number of individuals who have received temporary shelter through CJC is unknown.
 - No individuals have received permanent housing.
 - **11 (26%)** have a source of income such as SSI already in place.
 - According to a report published by the CJC on June 9, 2009, only 17 of the 165 clients (**10%**) who have engaged in services at the CJC were approved for public assistance (CAAP) through the CJC.
 - **9 (21%)** were engaged in substance abuse and mental health treatment services prior to coming to the CJC, including, but not limited to Walden House, VA, SAGE, Tom Waddell, SOMA, Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, Tenderloin Health. The outcomes of these referrals are unknown.
 - **15 (36%)** were referred by the CJC to outside service providers such as BHAC, TAP, Tom Waddell, Center for Special Problems, BAART, Salvation Army, Homeless Advocacy Project, etc.
 - **38 (90%)** are eligible for the services provided by the SF Pretrial Diversion Project, Drug Court, Prop 36 or Drug Diversion programs offered at the Hall of Justice, all of which nearly duplicate the services provided by the CJC.
 - **13 (31%)** are participating in either Drug Diversion or Pre Trial Diversion.

- **14 (33%)** are on probation and being supervised by the Adult Probation Department.