

INDIANA ANNUAL BAIL, PRETRIAL RELEASE, AND REARREST REPORT

FIFTH EDITION | JULY 2025
(Based on 2024 Data)



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ABOUT THE INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. The institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

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Introduction

Overview of Legislation

In 2020, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (Ind. Code § 35-33-8-12) requiring the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) to collect and publish an annual report on bail, pretrial release, and rearrest rates in Indiana. The statute mandates that the report include the number of defendants released on personal recognizance¹ and the number of defendants released on bail, and of those defendants, the rate at which they are charged with another offense before the disposition of the defendant's prior charges—referred to as rearrest rate—at both the state and county levels. This report is the fifth annual installment and presents data from arrests that occurred between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Data & Methodology

Data in this report were collected from two primary sources:

- Jail Booking Information: Collected from 70 of Indiana's 91 county jails. Booking information is entered into county-level Jail Management Systems (JMS).
- Court Disposition Data: Provided by the Indiana Office of Court Technology (IOCT) for all cases disposed during calendar year 2024.

To address the variability across the approximately 20 different JMS platforms used statewide, data from each county is stored on a secure server through the Data Transformation Solution (DTS). By the end of 2024, 82 counties were fully integrated into the DTS; however, 12 of the 82 counties² lacked a complete year of data and were excluded from this analysis.

The raw data underwent extensive cleaning and preparation to ensure accuracy and consistency across counties. This process included:

- Removing ineligible cases (e.g., those outside the 2024 calendar year, non-release bookings, non-criminal cases, and federal holds).
- Completing missing information (e.g. bond type, release type, and dates).
- Standardizing categories across counties.
- Excluding arrests related to failure to appear and probation violations.

Data analysis was conducted using Tableau Prep, allowing ICJI to match jail booking data with court dispositions, identify rearrests, and calculate rates.

The following key data points were identified in the analysis, which are detailed in the [Findings](#) section:

- Total number of defendants with a single arrest (i.e., not rearrested prior to disposition of prior charges).
- Total number of defendants with multiple arrests.
- Total number of defendants rearrested and charged with another offense before the initial case was disposed.
- The total number of defendants released on bail.

¹ Personal recognizance and own recognizance are used interchangeably by counties and are referred to as own recognizance (O.R.) in this report.

² Brown, Carroll, Crawford, Fountain, Jefferson, Marshall, Martin, Newton, Owen, Switzerland, Warren and Wayne

- The total number of defendants released on their own recognizance (O.R.).
- County-level totals and rates of defendants rearrested and charged with another offense.
- Offense-level totals and rates of defendants rearrested and charged with another offense.

Limitations

ICJI encountered various limitations while compiling and analyzing the data for this report. Due to the large volume of data, variations in data quality and formatting across counties, inconsistent data entry, and lack of data input in some fields, the reliability and comparability of the data across counties is limited. These limitations affect the overall accuracy of the rearrest and pre-disposition charge rates presented in the report.

Furthermore, the dataset is limited to a snapshot in time based on the date each county “went live” with the DTS. The DTS does not contain historical information prior to each county’s activation date; therefore, arrest and incarceration data are only available from that point forward, leaving some counties without complete records for calendar year 2024. Due to these factors, ICJI advises readers to interpret the reported rates with caution.

Missing Data

The most significant challenge of the data-cleaning process involves missing, inconsistent, or incomplete cause numbers³. Many cases did not have a cause number entered, while others included entries that were not properly formatted. Cause numbers are crucial for accurately matching jail records to court disposition data and verifying that the offense occurred within the reporting period.

County Variation

Counties across Indiana utilize a variety of Jail Management Systems (JMS), each with different data entry fields and formatting requirements. In addition to inconsistencies in data entry, counties also differ in how bail is set, labeled, and entered into the system⁴. These inconsistencies in standardization require the review and discretion of researchers to categorize data for analysis⁵.

Data Entry Errors

Data entry errors caused issues in the data-cleaning process and analysis. In several cases, disposition dates were recorded as occurring before arrest dates, implying that the outcome of the case would have occurred before the arrest, which is not possible. This prevents accurate calculation of the rearrest rate, since the disposition and arrest dates are used to determine if a rearrest occurred before the disposition of the prior case. Errors in names and birthdates also affected the ability to match cases across datasets.

Caution with Interpretation

In addition to the limitations outlined above, several factors warrant caution when interpreting and comparing rearrest rates across counties and prior reporting years.

³ A cause number is a combination of letters and numbers used to identify a case filed in court.

⁴ The state of Indiana does not have a uniform system for setting bail. Therefore, each county has the discretion to set their own bail schedule and use their own terms to identify bail.

⁵ The data cleaning process requires some researcher discretion due to a lack of standardization across counties and missing data elements.

- **Expansion of Dataset:** This year’s analysis includes data from 70 counties, nearly double the 36 counties represented in last year’s analysis of 2023 data. While this expansion enhances the report’s statewide representation, it also introduces a significantly larger dataset that required cleaning. Given the volume and constraints on time and personnel, individual case review was not feasible. As the number of counties reporting jail data continues to increase, this will further increase the dataset to be analyzed. Likewise, this will further increase the variety of data entry practices.
- **Reliance on Local Data Entry Practices:** Due to the large volume of data, ICJI relied heavily on information entered by counties into the local JMS. Because data entry practices vary widely across counties, and errors are common, many cases were excluded from this analysis. Missing and improperly formatted cause numbers were the largest contributor to excluded cases, due to the inability to reliably match jail booking data with court dispositions.
- **Changes in Reporting Scope:** This year’s report excludes arrests related to failure to appear and probation violations, which were included in previous years’ reports. This change was made to align with statutory requirements, which specify the report shall include the number of defendants charged with another offense before disposition of their prior charges. Because it is often unclear whether new charges follow failure to appear or probation violation arrests and counties vary in how such cases are recorded, these incidents were removed from this analysis to improve consistency and accuracy.

Findings

Defining Terms

Unique Defendants Arrested: After cleaning the data, a total of 51,406 “unique defendants arrested” were identified in calendar year 2024. This total includes individuals with only one arrest, as well as individuals with multiple arrests.

Released: Of the 51,406 unique defendants arrested, 44,657 defendants were released from custody in 2024⁶. This total was used to calculate rearrest rates, or the percentage of defendants rearrested and charged with another offense before the disposition of prior charges. Arrests were excluded from this count if the bond type⁷ suggested the individual was not released and would therefore not be suitable for calculating a rearrest rate. Excluded bond types included:

- Serving time
- Time served
- Hold without bond
- No bond
- None set

Arrests were classified as “released” if the individual was:

⁶ An additional 22 individuals were released without charges filed and were not included in the analysis.

⁷ Bond type is a field in the DTS server that indicates the type of bond received, no bond, or other reason for release.

- Released on bond (bail)
- Released on personal or own recognizance (O.R.)
- Released under an unknown⁸ status.

Bail: Arrests that had a bond type listed, including any type of monetary bond, are labeled as bail. Such bond types include: cash, surety, combinations of cash and surety, county-specific monetary bond types, and full amount.

O.R.: Arrests that had any type of release without payment as their bond type are labeled as O.R., which includes personal recognizance, O.R.'d, own recognizance, etc.

Unknown: Arrests listed as unclear bond types but suggested that the defendant had been released at some point, are labeled as unknown. Unknown release types include: NS⁹, other, null values, or unknown code.

Overall Rates and Totals

Total Unique Defendants Arrested

In 2024, a total of 51,406 unique defendants arrested were identified. Of these, 44,657 defendants were released from custody:

- 33,164 were released on bail,
- 7,235 were released on O.R., and
- 4,258 were released under an unknown release type.

(See Table 1 for a summary of totals.)

Total Defendants with Multiple Arrests

Multiple arrests refer to defendants who had more than one arrest in 2024, each associated with a different arrest date and cause number. These arrests may have occurred prior to *and/or* after the disposition of the prior charge. Of the 51,406 total defendants, 9,775 had multiple arrests in 2024. Among them, 8,532 defendants were released, broken down as follows:

- 6,101 released on bail,
- 1,221 released on O.R., and
- 1,210 with unknown release types.

(See Table 1 for a summary of totals.)

Total Defendants Rearrested and Charged with Another Offense

Rearrest refers to defendants who were charged with another offense before the disposition of prior charges within the 2024 calendar year. Of the 51,406 total defendants, 2,659 defendants were rearrested before the disposition of prior charges. Among them, 2,329 were released, broken down as follows:

- 1,612 were released on bail,
- 459 were released on O.R., and

⁸ Individuals with a bond type were categorized as released, however it could not be verified if the individual paid the bond amount.

⁹ NS possibly stands for non-specified.

- 258 were released under unknown release types.

Table 1. Total Arrests for 2024

	Total Arrests	Released	Release Type		
			Bail	O.R.	Unknown
Total Unique Defendants Arrested	51,406	44,657	33,164	7,235	4,258
Total Defendants with Multiple Arrests	9,775	8,532	6,101	1,221	1,210
Total Rearrests and Charged w/Another Offense	2,659	2,329	1,612	459	258

Table 2 shows the number of cases in which defendants were arrested, released, and subsequently rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of prior charges, broken down by release type.

There were 44,657 defendants arrested and released in 2024. Of those, 42,328 (94.8%) defendants were not rearrested before the disposition of prior charges within the calendar year. The remaining 2,329 were rearrested and charged with another offense before the disposition of the prior charges within the 2024 calendar year, for an overall rearrest rate of 5.2%. When broken down by release type, the highest rearrest rate was among those released on O.R. at 6.3%, followed by those with an unknown release type at 6.1%, and those released on bail at 4.9%.

Table 2. Rearrest Rates by Release Type

	Release Type Total	Not Rearrested	Rearrested*	Rearrest Rate*
Bail	33,164	31,552	1,612	4.9%
O.R.	7,235	6,776	459	6.3%
Unknown	4,258	4,000	258	6.1%
Total	44,657	42,328	2,329	5.2%

*Rearrest: Rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of a prior offense.

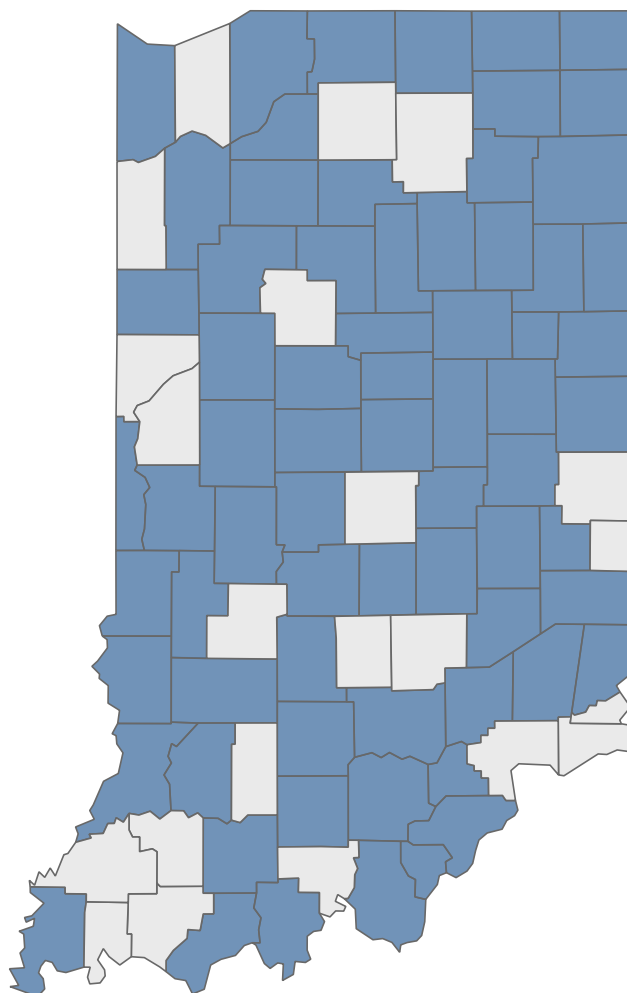
County-Level Rearrest Rates

Table 3 provides a county-by-county breakdown of defendants who were arrested and released in 2024, the number who were subsequently rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of prior charges, and the corresponding rearrest rate, broken down by release type: bail, O.R., or unknown release.

Rearrest rates are calculated for each county and release type by taking the number of defendants rearrested in the county by release type, divided by the total per county by release type. For example, in Allen County, 950 total defendants were released on bail after their initial arrest, and 157 of them were rearrested. This results in a rearrest rate of:

$$(157/950)*100 = 16.5\%$$

This means 16.5% of those released on bail in Allen County were rearrested and charged with another offense before the disposition of a prior offense. The number of defendants released under each category (bail, O.R., or unknown) varies by county, due to differences in local pretrial release practices, and data entry practices.



Note. The county map identifies the 70 counties represented in the data set, shaded in blue. The list of reporting counties is in Table 3.

Table 3. County Rate of Rearrests, by Release Type¹⁰

County	Total			Rearrested*			Rearrest Rate* (%)		
	Bail	O.R.	Unknown	Bail	O.R.	Unknown	Bail	O.R.	Unknown
Adams	163	-	4	4	-	-	2.5%	-	-
Allen	950	2,713	208	157	316	26	16.5%	11.6%	12.5%
Benton	158	-	5	9	-	2	5.7%	-	40.0%
Blackford	52	-	62	-	-	1	-	-	1.6%
Boone	238	-	3	2	-	-	0.8%	-	-
Cass	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clark	2,484	648	3	157	20	1	6.3%	3.1%	33.3%
Clay	-	-	16	-	-	1	-	-	6.3%
Clinton	236	-	2	2	-	-	0.8%	-	-
Daviess	3	1	19	1	-	1	33.3%	-	5.3%
Dearborn	3	-	24	-	-	7	-	-	29.2%
Decatur	436	36	2	22	4	-	5.0%	11.1%	-
DeKalb	543	-	54	12	-	5	2.2%	-	9.3%
Delaware	255	-	1,178	26	-	50	10.2%	-	4.2%
Dubois	112	1	9	4	-	1	3.6%	-	11.1%
Elkhart	294	295	-	-	2	1	-	0.7%	-
Fayette	371	158	5	25	10	2	6.7%	6.3%	40.0%
Floyd	1,132	-	1	55	-	-	4.9%	-	-
Franklin	135	42	8	6	2	1	4.4%	4.8%	12.5%
Fulton	321	168	42	25	8	2	7.8%	4.8%	4.8%
Grant	427	161	2	4	5	-	0.9%	3.1%	-
Greene	424	-	9	35	-	-	8.3%	3.1%	-
Hamilton	1,753	1,778	7	161	29	-	9.2%	1.6%	-
Hancock	103	-	38	-	-	1	-	-	2.6%
Harrison	743	2	-	26	1	-	3.5%	50.0%	-
Hendricks	586	3	17	9	-	1	1.5%	-	5.9%
Henry	1,313	1	28	77	-	5	5.9%	-	17.9%
Howard	361	23	13	10	-	1	2.8%	-	7.7%
Huntington	587	-	-	34	-	-	5.8%	-	-
Jackson	711	-	51	41	-	14	5.8%	-	27.5%
Jasper	587	-	23	30	-	5	5.1%	-	21.7%
Jay	352	1	9	21	-	1	6.0%	-	11.1%
Jennings	646	-	1	54	-	-	8.4%	-	-
Johnson	126	1	880	1	-	6	0.8%	-	0.7%
Knox	313	-	9	2	-	-	0.6%	-	-

¹⁰ Counties not listed include: Bartholomew, Brown, Carroll, Crawford, Fountain, Gibson, Jefferson, Kosciusko, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Pike, Porter, Switzerland, Union, Vanderburgh, Warren, Warrick, and Wayne.

LaGrange	692	-	16	14	-	-	2.0%	-	-
Lake	2,568	-	115	8	-	4	0.3%	-	3.5%
LaPorte	664	-	15	1	-	-	0.2%	-	-
Lawrence	150	1	132	12	-	23	8.0%	-	17.4%
Madison	1,561	523	53	153	18	10	9.8%	3.4%	18.9%
Miami	189	-	-	3	-	-	1.6%	-	-
Monroe	1,249	190	38	81	14	9	6.5%	7.4%	23.7%
Montgomery	175	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morgan	864	-	-	63	-	-	7.3%	-	-
Noble	495	165	11	26	11	2	5.3%	6.7%	18.2%
Orange	274	-	53	15	-	4	5.5%	-	7.5%
Parke	28	-	45	-	-	1	-	-	2.2%
Perry	142	-	-	1	-	-	0.7%	-	-
Posey	536	-	20	29	-	3	5.4%	-	15.0%
Pulaski	115	-	6	1	-	-	0.9%	-	-
Putnam	63	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-
Randolph	327	-	13	5	-	1	1.5%	-	7.7%
Ripley	209	-	-	14	-	-	6.7%	-	-
Rush	351	-	1	28	-	-	8.0%	-	-
Scott	42	19	2	1	1	-	2.4%	5.3%	-
Shelby	297	3	12	5	-	1	1.7%	-	8.3%
Spencer	96	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Joseph	946	60	45	14	1	6	1.5%	1.7%	13.3%
Starke	99	5	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steuben	1,085	-	46	39	-	6	3.6%	-	13.0%
Sullivan	394	-	13	16	-	1	4.1%	-	7.7%
Tippecanoe	1,243	33	65	20	1	7	1.6%	3.0%	10.8%
Tipton	13	1	5	-	-	1	-	-	20.0%
Vermillion	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vigo	617	1	33	3	-	3	0.5%	-	9.1%
Wabash	70	-	181	-	-	2	-	-	1.1%
Washington	35	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wells	421	202	1	46	16	-	10.9%	7.9%	-
White	181	-	18	-	-	1	-	-	5.6%
Whitley	4	-	455	1	-	39	25.0%	-	8.6%
TOTAL	33,164	7,235	4,258	1,612	459	258	4.9%	6.3%	6.1%

*Rearrest: Rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of a prior offense.

Offense Level Totals and Release Type

Table 4 displays the total number and percentage of defendants released on bail, O.R., or unknown release type, categorized by the most serious offense charged. This table reflects only the breakdown of the number of cases by release type and offense level, not the rate at which individuals were rearrested and charged with a new offense.

The offense level with the greatest number of cases and percentage of individuals released was Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C), followed by Level 6 felonies. Of the individuals released on O.R., Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C) were the most common offense level, accounting for 69.9% of those releases.

Table 4. Release Type and Offense Level

Offense Level	Bail		O.R.		Unknown		Total	
	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent
Murder	7	-	1	-	2	0.1%	10	-
Class A–D felonies*	52	0.2%	4	0.1%	7	0.3%	63	0.2%
Level 1 felony	229	0.8%	12	0.2%	5	0.2%	246	0.7%
Level 2 felony	530	1.9%	36	0.6%	26	1.0%	592	1.6%
Level 3 felony	576	2.1%	46	0.7%	19	0.7%	641	1.7%
Level 4 felony	823	2.9%	61	0.9%	72	2.8%	956	2.6%
Level 5 felony	2,800	10.0%	307	4.8%	170	6.6%	3,277	8.8%
Level 6 felony	10,535	37.6%	1,477	22.9%	1,060	41.1%	13,072	35.3%
Criminal Misdemeanor (A–C)	12,454	44.5%	4,519	69.9%	1,215	47.2%	18,188	49.1%
Total	28,006	100%	6,463	100%	2,576	100%	37,045	100%

*Notes: Class A–D is the old felony classification. The criminal code was reformed in 2014 changing felony classification levels to 1–6. The total number of cases in this table is less than in prior tables, such as Table 2, because offense level (charge) information is less consistently available (e.g., offense level data was not entered into the JMS).

Rearrests by Offense Level and Release Type

Table 5 displays the total number and percentage of defendants released on bail, O.R., or unknown release type, categorized by offense level, for only those who were rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of their prior offense (1,869 rearrests).

Percentages in this table are calculated within each release type for comparison across offense levels. For example, among defendants released on bail, 566 defendants were rearrested and charged with Level 6 felonies, compared to 1,298 total rearrests for all offense levels released on bail. This means Level 6 felony offenders make up 43.6% of all rearrests among those released on bail. As a proportion of the 1,869 defendants released on any release type and rearrested, Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C) accounted for the largest share of rearrests at 49.0%, followed by Level 6 felonies at 39.9%.

Table 5. Release Type and Offense Level: Rearrested and Charged with Another Offense Only

Offense Level	Bail		O.R.		Unknown		Total	
	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent
Murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Class A–D felonies	1	0.1%	-	-	1	0.6%	2	0.1%
Level 1 felony	2	0.2%	-	-	1	0.6%	3	0.2%
Level 2 felony	16	1.2%	-	-	2	1.3%	18	1.0%
Level 3 felony	15	1.2%	3	0.7%	1	0.6%	19	1.0%
Level 4 felony	26	2.0%	2	0.5%	1	0.6%	29	1.6%
Level 5 felony	117	9.0%	14	3.4%	6	3.9%	137	7.3%
Level 6 felony	566	43.6%	108	26.0%	71	45.8%	745	39.9%
Criminal Misdemeanor (Classes A–C)	555	42.8%	289	69.5%	72	46.5%	916	49.0%
Total	1,298	100%	416	100%	155	100%	1,869	100%

Note: The total number of cases in this table is less than in prior tables, such as Table 2, because offense level (charge) information is less consistently available (e.g., offense level data was not entered into the JMS).

Rates in Table 6 are calculated for each offense level by dividing the number of cases in which defendants were rearrested and charged with another offense or not rearrested for each charge level by the total number of cases in which defendants were released for each charge level. For example, there were 13,072 Level 6 felony cases, and 745 of those were rearrested, meaning 5.7% of Level 6 felony offenders were rearrested and 94.3% were not rearrested. The offense level with the highest rearrest rate is Level 6 felony offenses at 5.7%, followed by Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C) at 5.0%.

Table 6. Rate of Rearrest and Charged with Another Offense, Most Serious Charged

Offense Level	Not Rearrested*		Rearrested*		Total	
	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent	Number of Cases	Percent
Murder	10	100.0%	-	-	10	100.0%
Class A–D felonies	61	96.8%	2	3.2%	63	100.0%
Level 1 felony	243	98.8%	3	1.2%	246	100.0%
Level 2 felony	574	97.0%	18	3.0%	592	100.0%
Level 3 felony	622	97.0%	19	3.0%	641	100.0%
Level 4 felony	927	97.0%	29	3.0%	956	100.0%
Level 5 felony	3,140	95.8%	137	4.2%	3,277	100.0%
Level 6 felony	12,327	94.3%	745	5.7%	13,072	100.0%
Criminal Misdemeanor (A–C)	17,272	95.0%	916	5.0%	18,188	100.0%
Total	35,176		1,869		37,045	

Note: The total number of cases in this table is less than in prior tables, such as Table 2, because offense level (charge) information is less consistently available (e.g., offense level data was not entered into the JMS).

Conclusion

In 2024, ICJI received jail data from 70 counties, an increase from 36 counties included in the previous report. While this expanded dataset enhances the scope and potential impact of the analysis, it also presented additional challenges and limitations. One of the most significant issues continues to be inconsistent or missing cause numbers, which are critical for accurately matching arrest records with court dispositions. Without consistent cause numbers, alternative methods must be used to link cases, increasing the risk of duplication or omission. As the dataset expands, improved, standardized data entry practices become increasingly important.

Additionally, as more counties are integrated into the Data Transformation Solution (DTS), statewide rates will continue to change until all counties are fully integrated. Due to these differences, direct year-over-year comparison of rearrest rates should be made with caution.

Despite these limitations, the data provides valuable insights into bail and rearrest patterns in Indiana.

- Of the 44,657 defendants released after arrest, 2,329 (5.2%) were rearrested and charged with a new offense before the disposition of the prior offense.
- Overall, defendants released on bail were more common (33,164 arrests) and less likely to be rearrested and charged with another offense (4.9%) than those released on O.R. (7,235 arrests, 6.3% rearrest rate). However, these vary by county due to differences in bail practices and data entry methods.
- The most common offense levels were Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C) and Level 6 felonies. These groups also had the highest rearrest rates among all released defendants at 5.7% for Level 6 felonies and 5.0% for Criminal Misdemeanors (Classes A–C) (5.0%).

Recommendations

Based on our findings and data analysis process, ICJI proposes the following recommendations:

1. Mandate reporting into a Centralized Jail Management System.
The inconsistency in data entry across counties remains a barrier to achieving uniformity and reliability in jail data. Requiring counties to use (or transmit data to) a single statewide jail management system, such as INjail¹¹, will standardize data collection across all fields. This will significantly improve data accuracy and analysis efficiency, leading to more reliable insights into arrest data. To ensure the successful implementation and maintenance of a universal system, sustainable funding and institutional support are essential, guaranteeing that all counties have access.

ICJI could collaborate with the Indiana Supreme Court to develop and implement standardized training programs across all counties. This partnership would be instrumental in ensuring complete and accurate data entry practices for defendant names, cause numbers and bond types, which are fundamental to accurate bail information reporting and system-wide analysis.

¹¹ INjail is a new jail management system currently in development by The Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Court Technology. www.in.gov/justice/files/jrac-2022-0729-INjail.pdf