

# Gauging Dosage

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Assessing Pretrial Outcomes by  
Reporting Frequency

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# GOALS

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- To discuss pretrial supervision and how we supervise defendants in Allegheny County.
- Discuss common levels of pretrial supervision and what is accomplished at each interaction.
- Most importantly, does reporting frequency equate to pretrial success? And how does pretrial supervision compare to other bail types when it comes to pretrial success?
- What can you take back to your jurisdiction?

# Our County and Operations

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# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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- 1.2 million residents
- Locally validated risk assessment
- Latest re-validation 2020 and implemented April 2022
- PSA used for Magisterial District Judges
- 20,328 total bail investigations in 2023

# ALLEGHENY COUNTY LOCAL RISK ASSESSMENT

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- Scores New Criminal Activity
- Scores New Violent Criminal Activity
- Scores Failure to Appear
- Combination of three make supervision recommendation
- New Violent Criminal Activity usually “bumps up” the level of supervision.

# OUR SUPERVISION UNIT

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- 2 Pretrial Electronic Monitoring Coordinator
  - 4 Probation Officers that handle field work
- 7 Pretrial Supervision Officers
- 1 case manager
- 845 – Low Supervision
- 1,438 – Medium Supervision
- 229 – PTEM (High Supervision)
- Everybody gets text reminders for upcoming court dates.

# HOW DO WE DEFINE PRETRIAL SUCCESS?

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- Reporting in person
- Reporting by phone
- Abstinence
- No victim contact
- Appearing for Court appearances
- Remaining arrest free

# LOW SUPERVISION – REPORTING BY PHONE

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- \$48 fee – paid to CDI/BTM Software Solutions
- Not in violation if the fee isn't paid

QUESTION	ANSWER	FLAG
Has your home address changed since your last interview?	No	N
Has your home telephone number and/ or your cell phone number changed since your last interview?	No	N
Has your case been completed since your last interview?	No	N
Do you know your next court date?	Yes	N
Are you complying with all your conditions of Pretrial release?	Yes	N
Have you been re-arrested or had any contact with any law enforcement authorities?	No	N
Is there anything important you need to discuss with your officer?	No	N



# MEDIUM SUPERVISION – REPORTING IN PERSON

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- 10:00 – First business day after release
- Report every two weeks(ish)
  - Monthly
  - Court dates only
- Non-specific reporting date
- Positive reporting = less reporting
- Can administratively reduce reporting per Court Order.
- Need to have hearing if want to increase anything or add anything.

# Cohort and Methodology

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# COHORT DETAILS

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- 23,115 bail investigation episodes between September 2022 to mid-August 2024 with defendant released from jail
- Cases completed at Allegheny/Pennsylvania minor and general trial courts
- Organized by initial bail type if never supervised by Pretrial
- Organized by highest level of Pretrial Supervision

# METHODOLOGY

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- Aggregated and grouped contact dosage for pretrial supervision population based on **completed** contacts
- Identified new arrests and failure to appear warrants for cohort during pretrial period
- Analyzed pretrial failure outcomes by principal bail/pretrial supervision group
- Analyzed pretrial supervision group by supervision level and dosage

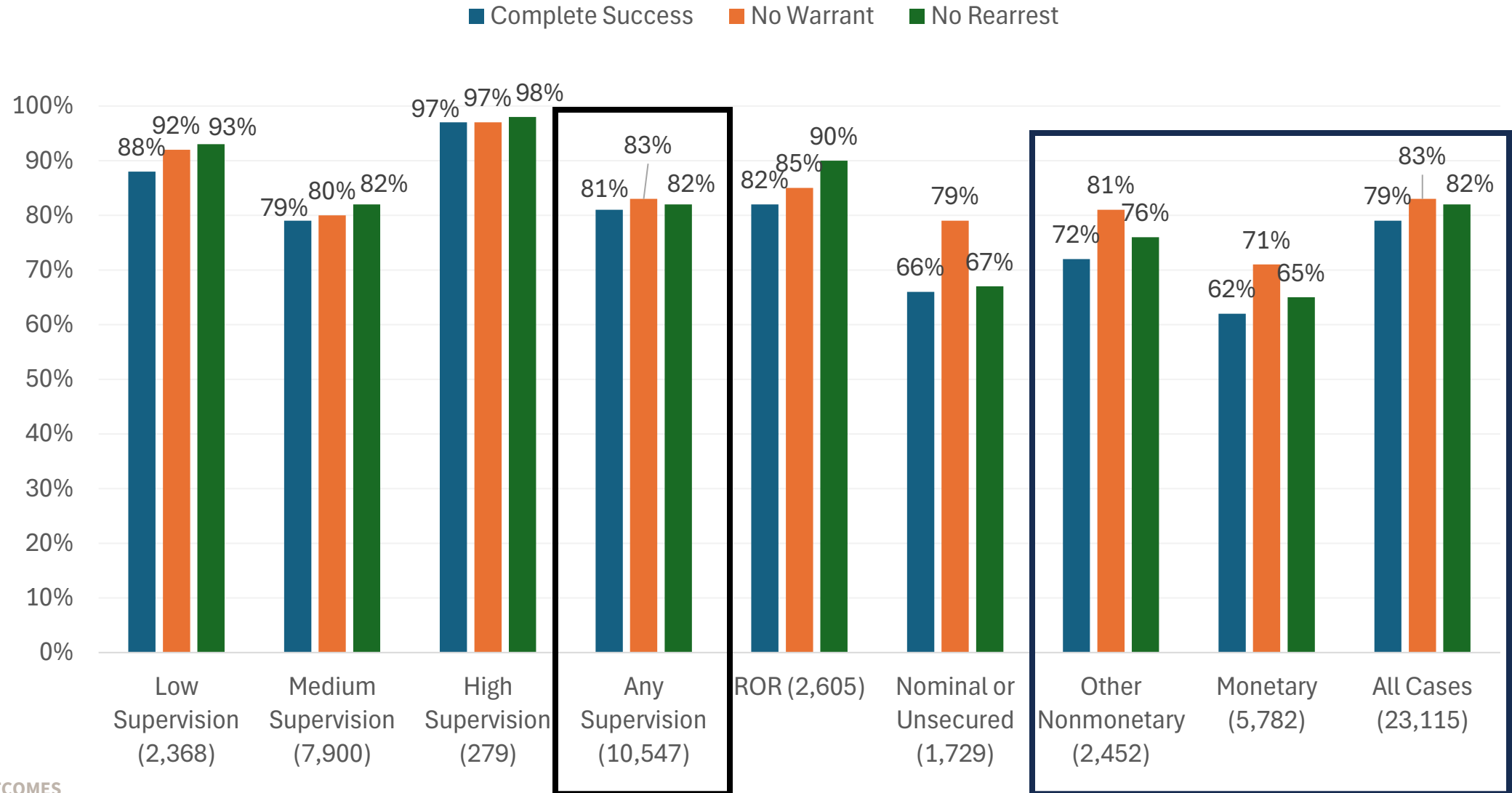
# Outcomes

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# OUTCOMES AT THE GROUP LEVEL

Pretrial Success by Bail Type and Risk Group - 9/1/22 to 8/14/24



# PRETRIAL SUPERVISION DOSAGE GROUPINGS

Distribution of Contact Dosage by Pretrial Supervision Risk Group

Risk Group	Never Successfully Contacted		1 to 2 Contacts		3 to 5 Contacts		Over 5 Contacts		Total
	#	% of Risk Group	#	% of Risk Group	#	% of Risk Group	#	% of Risk Group	
Low	805	34%	639	27%	450	19%	474	20%	2,368
Medium	3,239	41%	2,844	36%	1,422	18%	395	5%	7,900
High	0	0%	101	36%	75	27%	103	37%	279
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10,547</b>

# PRETRIAL SUPERVISION DOSAGE GROUPINGS

Risk Group	Measure	Never Successfully Contacted	1 to 2 Contacts	3 to 5 Contacts	Over 5 Contacts	Overall Success Rate
Low	Complete Success	86%	90%	89%	88%	<b>88%</b>
	No Warrant	91%	93%	92%	93%	<b>92%</b>
	No Rearrest	89%	94%	95%	94%	<b>93%</b>
Medium	Complete Success	75%	81%	83%	75%	<b>79%</b>
	No Warrant	79%	83%	80%	80%	<b>80%</b>
	No Rearrest	79%	82%	85%	87%	<b>82%</b>
High	Complete Success	N/A	99%	100%	97%	<b>97%</b>
	No Warrant	N/A	98%	100%	96%	<b>97%</b>
	No Rearrest	N/A	99%	100%	98%	<b>98%</b>
All Pretrial	Complete Success	79%	83%	85%	83%	<b>81%</b>
	No Warrant	81%	82%	84%	84%	<b>83%</b>
	No Rearrest	80%	83%	85%	83%	<b>82%</b>



# THOUGHTS ON OUTCOMES

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- Pretrial supervision performs better than cash bail for a similarly-risky population (per our instrument).
- Pretrial supervision also outperformed other nonmonetary releases.
- Within supervision groups, dosage did not correlate with improved outcomes. Most important for medium supervision.
  - However, some contact was at least slightly better than none by supervision group.
  - Quality of contact?

# Closing Thoughts

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# CLOSING THOUGHTS

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- Supervision performed well against its typical alternatives.
- Increased dosage did not correlate with improved outcomes.
  - Some reasons for this, but space to re-think interactions.
- Can we improve medium risk outcomes by looking to other service models?
  - Probation-like RNR model?
  - Social services?
- **Let's not forget that most released people succeed.**
- Have you experienced similar things?