

Report to the Jail Oversight Board Pursuant to Allegheny County Code Chapter Section 205-30 for the Month of August 2023

Allegheny County Jail

The Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) is a short-term holding facility for the newly arrested and those held by a judge awaiting trial or sentencing. It also serves individuals sentenced by a judge to a short (less than two years) term. The mission of the Bureau of Corrections is to increase public safety in Allegheny County by providing care, custody and control of persons incarcerated, and to reduce recidivism through programs that help persons reenter and succeed in society.

Built in 1995, the facility is a high-rise direct supervision jail located in downtown Pittsburgh. Incarcerated individuals are housed at the facility, with a capacity of 3,156 individuals, or at one of three alternative housing facilities which, together, can hold an additional 200+ individuals. The population of the main facility averages between 1,500 and 1,600 persons currently.

When law enforcement agencies bring an individual to the Allegheny County Jail, they are first searched for contraband and medically cleared by a qualified healthcare professional to determine provision of care prior to placement in the facility. Next, the individual is booked, identified and interviewed by Pre-Trial services. Pre-Trial services make a recommendation to the judge for bail or detention. Pre-arraignment hearings take place with a judge via video conference where determination is made for bail or confinement. If bail is recommended, they are then taken to the processing center where they are allowed to make phone calls and held until bond is paid. If the individual is to be confined to the jail, they are medically evaluated and provided a shower and clothing. Incarcerated individuals are then sent to a classification pod for further assessment. Based on classification status, they are transferred to a maximum, medium or minimum-security housing unit.

The Allegheny County Jail provides a variety of services for incarcerated individuals including healthcare, mental health, addiction recovery, education, re-entry, Foundation of HOPE, and alternative housing. The facility also has a Discharge and Release Center where individuals are provided with bus passes, phone calls, medication, clothing, referrals and resources upon their release.

The Allegheny County Jail is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). It is one of three ACA-accredited Adult Local Correctional Facilities in Pennsylvania and a prestigious achievement. In the ACA's review of the jail in 2018, the facility met 100 percent of the 62 mandatory standards and 98.6 percent of the 323 non-mandatory standards.

2021 Referendum

In May 2021, voters in Allegheny County approved a referendum to end the use of solitary confinement at the Allegheny County Jail. The referendum also prohibited use of a restraint chair, chemical agents, or leg shackles on any person in the custody of the facility.

The resulting chapter of the Administrative Code also required a monthly report to be provided to the Jail Oversight Board and posted on the jail's website. The chapter requires the reporting of 1) the dates and reasons for any lockdown of the jail, or any section of the jail; 2) the number of times any person has been subjected to temporary solitary confinement with the duration and reason for each confinement, as well as the number of instances of the same person being held in solitary confinement more than once in the calendar month; and 3) the age, sex, gender identity, race and ethnicity of each person held in solitary confinement.

Accordingly, the attached report is separated into three sections: Pod Lockdown, Intake Segregation and Pod Segregation.

Pod Lockdown Section: This portion of the report identifies locations, dates and reasons for any lockdown of the jail, or any section of the jail, during the previous month. During a lockdown, individuals might not be provided with four or more hours of out-of-cell time.

Intake Segregation Section: This portion of the report identifies the number of times any person was held in the intake section of the jail, segregated alone in a cell for 20 hours or more in any 24-hour period during the previous month, including duration, age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Pod Segregation Section: This portion of the report identifies the number of days any person was housed alone in and confined to a cell for more than 20 hours a day during the previous month, including the number of episodes for the individual, duration (days) of each episode, reason, age, gender, race and ethnicity. Each episode is considered a group of consecutive days.

Methodology

The report relies on multiple records and sources to track housing of incarcerated individuals. This process begins during the intake process and follows the individual through all housing locations while committed to the facility.

When necessary and if available, demographic information may be obtained from the Department of Human Services' data warehouse which has demographic data sourced from multiple human services programs, healthcare, Court, and jail data.

Terminology

For reading ease, terminology used in this report is defined below.

Age: If included in the Intake Segregation Section, the age of the individual is their age as recorded at the beginning of the intake process. If included in the Pod Segregation Section, the age of the individual is as recorded at the time of their commitment.

Duration: The number of days an individual is in segregated housing during the month in question.

Episode: An episode is defined as any day or group of consecutive days when an individual is in segregated housing. A person is deemed to be in segregated housing for a day if they are confined to a cell alone in a segregated housing unit for an aggregate of at least 20 hours within the day.

Ethnicity: The ethnicity of the individual.

Gender Identity: The self-reported sex of the individual.

Jail Intake: Jail intake is where individuals are housed in cells until they complete certain processes including identification, pre-trial services assessment, health and mental health screenings, and preliminary arraignment. Individuals who are confined to and alone in a cell in intake for more than 20 hours in a day are reported in the Intake Segregation Section of the report.

Race: The race of the individual.

Reason: Exceptions to the use of solitary confinement are provided for the following reasons:

Assessment: A person may be held in solitary confinement for a period of 24 hours, but no longer than necessary to determine whether that person should be isolated from other detainees and/or inmates for medical reasons or in order to ensure the safety of other detainees or inmates. If so determined, arrangements will be made to house that person in a manner that protects them and other inmates while allowing them to spend four (4) hours or more outside their cell each day.

Medical: A person has received a personal and comprehensive medical and mental health examination conducted by licensed professionals who have certified that the person's confinement is necessary for medical reasons or to ensure the safety of others.

Requested Protective Custody: Any person who requests separation from other detainees or inmates because that person fears for their safety may be placed in short-term solitary confinement for a period not to exceed 72 hours by signing a voluntary consent form.

Segregated Housing: After an individual is committed to the jail by a judge, they are then sent to a classification pod for further assessment before being transferred to a maximum-, medium- or minimum-security pod. Individuals may be housed on a segregated housing pod for a variety of reasons. If an incarcerated individual is housed on a segregated housing pod and confined to a cell alone for a

minimum of 20 hours on a given day at least once during the prior month, those instances are reported in the Pod Segregation Section of the report.

Sex: The biological and physiological characteristics of the individual.

Executive Summary

Pod Lockdown Report: There were full-day, full-facility lockdowns on August 13 and August 27, 2023. The jail was in full-facility lockdown for a portion of the day on the following days: August 3, August 5, August 6, August 12, August 14, August 17, August 20, and August 25, 2023, which impedes the ability to offer out-of-cell time. As soon as a lockdown ends, incarcerated individuals are again offered out-of-cell time.

Additional individual pod lockdowns occurred during the remainder of the month that limited recreation times for safety and security reasons, as itemized on the report.

Intake Segregation Report: There were no instances of persons in Jail Intake being isolated in a cell alone for more than 20 hours during the month of August.

Pod Segregation Report: The following spreadsheet provides a full report on instances of persons in the jail that did not receive at least four hours of out-of-cell time in a day, including number of days, number of episodes, demographics, and reasons. This does not include instances that occurred during lockdowns as noted on the Pod Lockdown Report, as all individuals in the jail or on the noted pods may not have received at least four hours of out-of-cell time on those days.

During the month of August, there was one individual who received three hours and forty-five minutes of out-of-cell time on one day because they missed morning recreation to appear in court. The jail administration continues to review procedures to ensure that this issue does not reoccur. This individual is noted on the report with “*” as the reason.

During the month of August, there were three individuals who were not able to be offered a full four hours of out-of-cell time on one day because the behavior of these individuals made it impossible to permit out-of-cell time while ensuring the security and safety of correctional officers and other incarcerated individuals. These individuals are noted on the report with “***” as the reason.

Pod Lockdown Report

Pod	Date		Reason
2A	8/1/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
4C, 2E	8/2/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/3/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/5/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/6/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
4F	8/7/2023	Full Day	Safety & Security
4C	8/8/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/12/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/13/2023	Full Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/14/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/17/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/20/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
3B	8/23/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
3B	8/24/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/25/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
ALL	8/27/2023	Full Day	Safety & Security
1C, 6F, 5MD	8/28/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security
1C	8/30/2023	Partial Day	Safety & Security

Intake Segregation Report

None.

Pod Segregation Report

Days	Episodes	Gender	Sex	Race	Ethnicity	Age	Reason
8	3	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	51	Medical
8	3	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	37	Medical
6	3	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	39	Medical
5	3	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	55	Medical
5	3	Female	Female	Asian American/Pacific Islander	Non-Hispanic	22	Medical
4	2	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	44	Medical
4	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	42	Medical
3	3	Female	Female	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	33	Medical
3	2	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	30	Medical
3	2	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	22	Medical
3	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	39	Medical
3	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	59	Medical
2	2	Female	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	36	Medical
2	2	Female	Female	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	29	Medical
2	1	Female	Female	White	Unknown	45	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	23	*
1	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	27	**
1	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	19	**
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	17	**
1	1	Female	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	33	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	30	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	25	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	28	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	30	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	53	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	49	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	33	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Hispanic	Hispanic	30	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	52	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	38	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Non-Hispanic	32	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	45	Medical