

# Report to the Jail Oversight Board Pursuant to Allegheny County Code Chapter Section 205-30 for the Month of July 2022

## 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

The Allegheny County Jail is in compliance with the referendum and Chapter 205.

*Pod Lockdown Report:* The jail continued to be in full-facility lockdown through July 17, 2022 as a heightened mitigation measure used to limit the spread of COVID in the facility. During full-facility lockdowns, all incarcerated individuals experienced limited time out-of-cell.

On July 29, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) moved the level of COVID-19 community spread in the county to medium. The increase in number of cases in the county was also seen in the facility. As of that same date, there were 14 positive case of COVID in the facility out of a population of 1,490. There were also 12 positive COVID cases among employees during the month of July.

Between July 17 and the end of the month, the jail continued the relaxed out-of-cell restrictions for incarcerated individuals while still minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. From July 1-17, the general population housing units were able to have one-half of incarcerated individuals on each unit out at any given time. (During times when a unit is on quarantine, out-of-cell time is limited to eight incarcerated individuals and two incarcerated individual workers.) Mask wearing requirements were also eased on June 29, 2022, but remain mandatory in intake, medical areas, the kitchen, pods housing newly incarcerated individuals, and any areas with COVID positive individuals.

Additional lockdowns occurred during the month with the pod, dates and reason for those lockdowns noted in that section of this 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 July.

*Pod Segregation Report:* As noted in the Pod Lockdown Report section, the jail was in a facility-wide, modified lockdown through July 17, 2022. As a result, all incarcerated individuals experienced limited time out of cell during that time. The persons represented in the Pod Segregation Report are those that experienced limited time out of cell during periods of non-lockdown for reasons permitted by the referendum and as noted in the report.

During the month of July, there was one incident of an incarcerated individual who was not offered at least four hours of out of cell time and did not have a medical designation documented. The individual had a Tier 1 mental health status and was placed on medical restriction following an incident on the pod. The status was pending an evaluation by a mental health provider to ensure the person's safety, but the person was not evaluated by a provider until a few days later at the time of a previously scheduled evaluation. During the three days of undocumented time with restricted recreation, this individual did have repeated visits with health care personnel to ensure the person's safety and security, and staff were able to begin discharge planning during that same time.

An internal review is underway to identify the breakdown in processes so that appropriate measures may be taken and that our processes may be strengthened to limit any future incidents like this.



## Pod Lockdown Report

Pod	Date	Reason
All	07/01/2022 – 07/17/2022	Medical, due to COVID-19
5E	07/18/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
All	07/18/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
3D	07/18/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
5E	07/19/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
5E	07/19/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
All	07/20/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
4D	07/21/2022 – 07/22/2/022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
All	07/21/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
2C	07/22/2022 – 07/23/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
3F	07/23/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
All	07/23/2022 – 07/24/2022	Safety & Security, due to Power Outage
All	07/24/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
4C	07/25/2022 – 07/26/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
4D	07/26/2022 – 07/28/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
4D	07/31/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection
All	07/31/2022	Safety & Security, due to Safety Inspection

## Intake Segregation Report

None.



## Pod Segregation Report

Days	Episodes	Gender	Sex	Race	Ethnicity	Age	Reason
14	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	25	Medical
14	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	71	Medical
11	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	37	Medical
11	1	Female	Female	Black	NA	27	Medical
10	1	Female	Female	Black	Non-Hispanic	25	Medical
9	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	44	Medical
9	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	48	Medical
9	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	27	Medical
8	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	42	Medical
8	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	53	Medical
8	1	Female	Female	Black	Non-Hispanic	38	Medical
8	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	37	Medical
8	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	31	Medical
7	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	26	Medical
7	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	29	Medical
7	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	23	Medical
6	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	26	Medical
6	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	46	Medical
6	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	32	Medical
6	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	50	Medical
6	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	28	Medical
6	1	Female	Female	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	41	Medical
6	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	33	Medical
5	3	Male	Male	Asian	Not Hispanic/Latinx	20	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	29	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	34	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	36	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	18	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	37	Transfer
5	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	38	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	35	Medical
5	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	45	Medical
4	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	42	Medical
4	1	Female	Female	Black	Non-Hispanic	26	Medical
4	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Medical
4	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	33	Medical
4	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	44	Medical
3	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Medical
3	1	Male	Male	White	Non-Hispanic	78	Medical

3	1	Female	Female	White	Non-Hispanic	56	Medical
3	1	Female	Female	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	33	Medical*
3	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	26	Medical
3	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	59	Medical
2	2	Female	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	26	Transfer
2	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	30	Medical
2	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	39	Medical
2	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	40	Medical
2	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	35	Medical
2	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	68	Medical
2	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	23	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	24	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	23	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	35	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	31	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	34	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	46	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	42	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	27	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	55	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	33	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Asian	Not Hispanic/Latinx	42	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	42	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	37	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	55	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	43	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	37	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	32	Medical
1	1	Female	Female	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	44	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	43	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	Black/African American	Not Hispanic/Latinx	34	Medical
1	1	Male	Male	White	Not Hispanic/Latinx	57	Medical

*\* See explanation of this incident in Executive Summary.*