



HARRIS COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Introduction to the Harris County District Attorney's Office

KIM OGG
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Our Mission

The Harris County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to making our community safer through evidence-based prosecution and equal justice for all.

This means guaranteeing a fair process to obtain a just result for the victim, the accused, and the community in every case.



The criminal justice system is like an assembly line

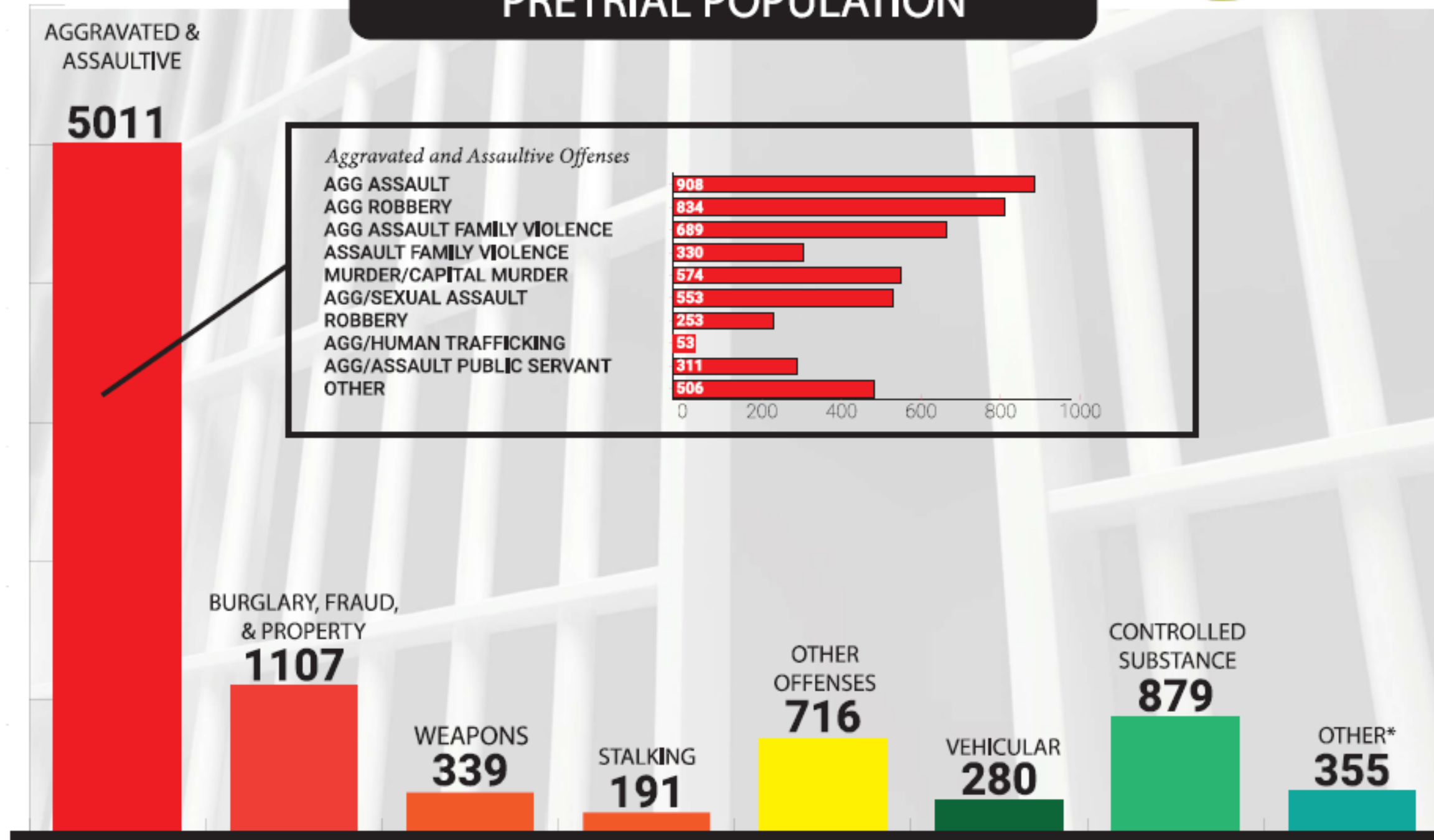
- Police
- Prosecution
- Defense
- Judges
- Prison
- Probation
- Alternative Solutions Program



HARRIS COUNTY JAIL



PRETRIAL POPULATION



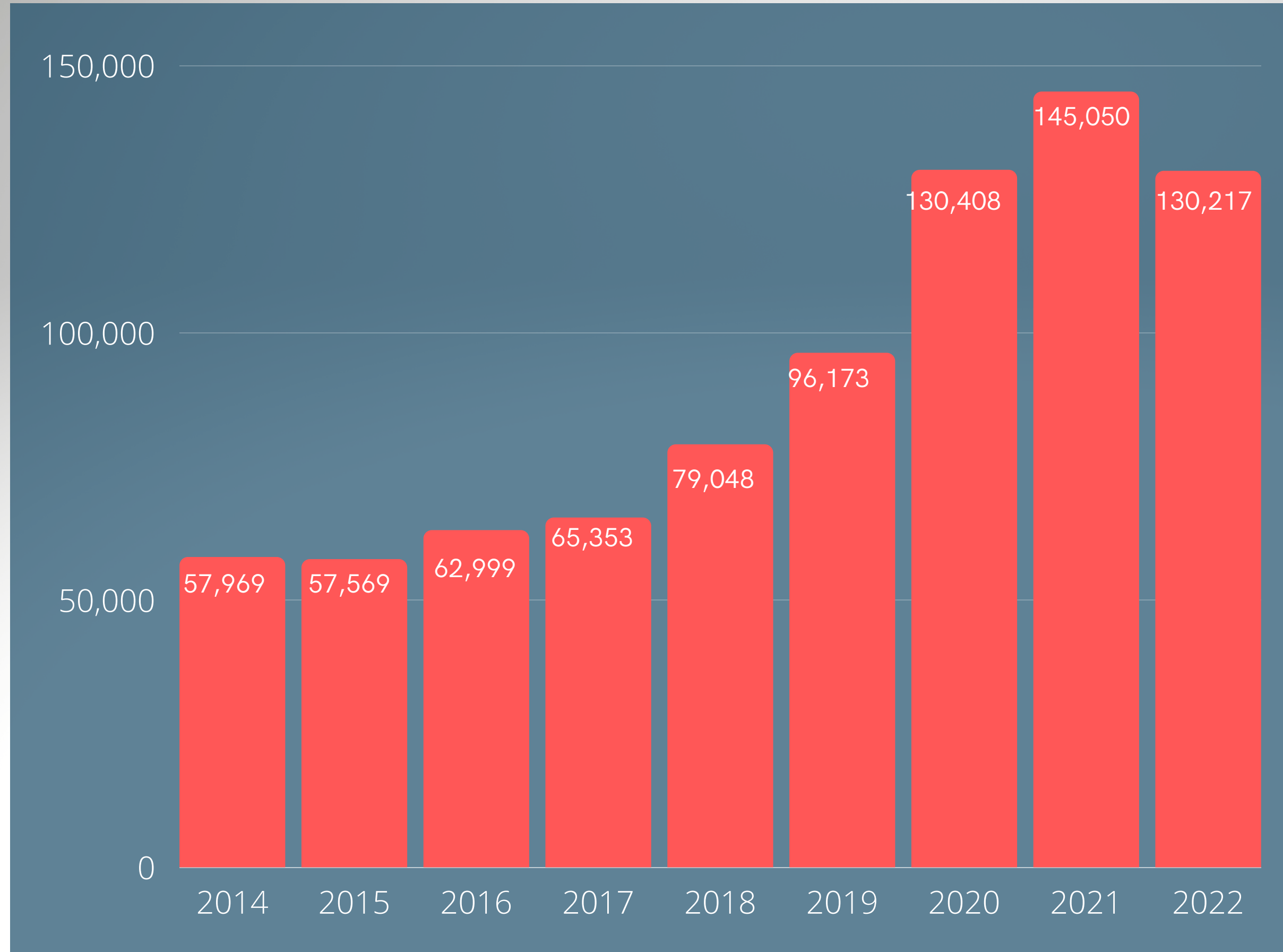
TOTAL PRETRIAL JAIL POPULATION ON JUNE 1, 2022 = 8,878

DETAINEES IDENTIFIED BY OFFENSE GROUPS BASED ON THE HIGHEST CHARGED OFFENSE

* 355 detainees have or had pending Harris County cases in which they may have already posted bond yet some other hold prevents their release. Alternatively, they may be processing in or out of the jail (and are thus counted here) at the time of data capture.

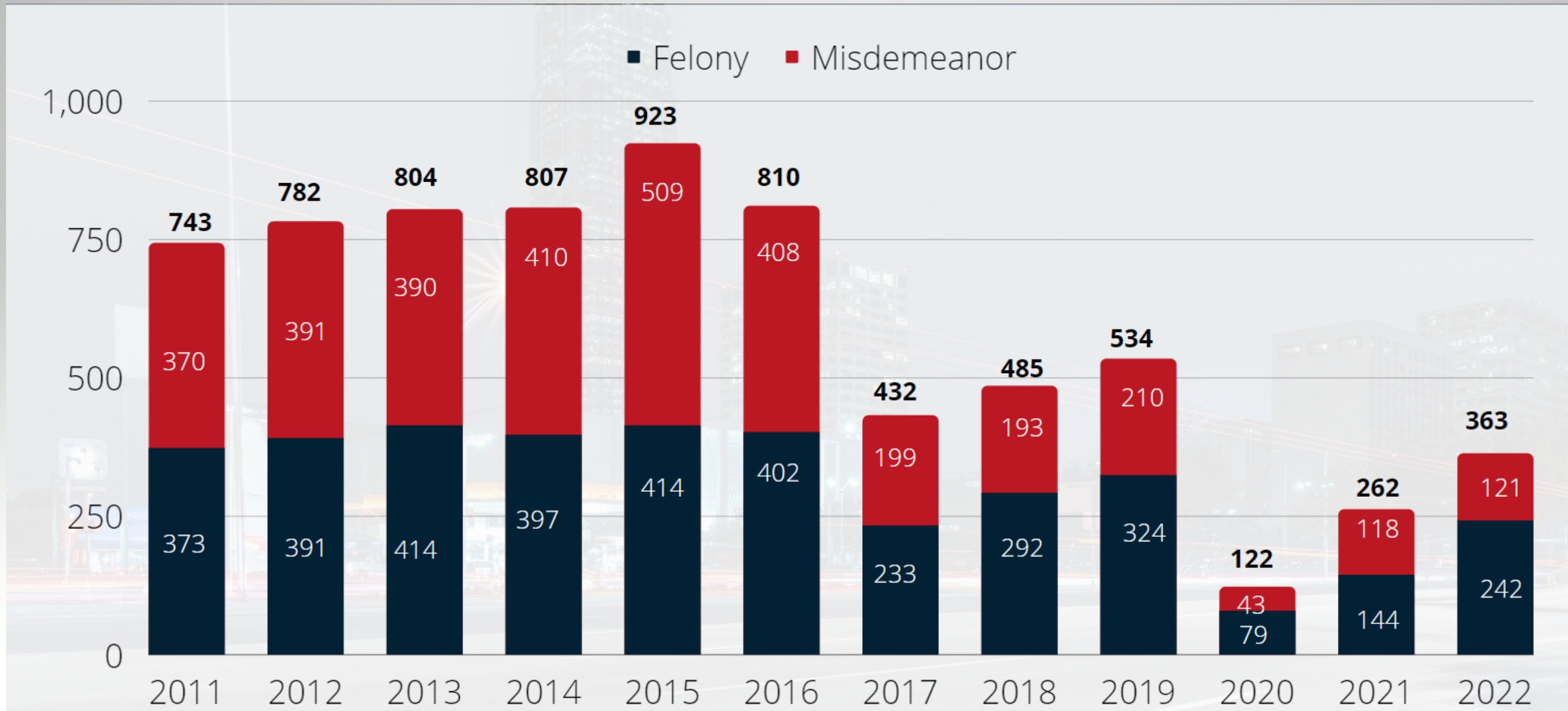
Jail population changes by the minute as inmates are booked in and out of jail for various reasons. This data is a snapshot of the jail population collected on June 1, 2022 at approximately 7:39 pm. Data is collected from Justice Information Systems (JWEB) maintained by Harris County. On June 1, 2022, at capture, the total jail population was 10,014 with 8,878 comprising pretrial detainees.

Harris County Criminal Justice System Backlog



**NUMBER OF
PROSECUTORS**
354
as of May 13, 2022

Jury Trials 2011 - June, 2022



A "Jury Trial" for purposes of this data, is one or more cases presented to a jury in one transaction on one venire panel. This could mean one defendant with two or more cases where each of those cases is presented to the same jury at the same time. Alternatively, it could mean two or more defendants, with one or more cases each, where each of those combined cases were presented to the same jury at the same time. "Jury Trial" data is compiled from entries of voire dire or jury verdict in the JWEB/DEEDS data of the District Clerk. Data compiled by the Harris County District Attorney's Office as of 06/01/2022



OFFENDERS CHARGED WITH NEW CRIMES WHILE ON BOND

Projected
2022 Total

20,488

22,610

18,796

13,163

9,825

7,786

7,452

6,348

June 2022
10,244

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

Data collected from Justice Information Systems (JWEB) maintained by Harris County and reflects data for each year through December 31 of that year, except 2022. Data reflects the number of new crimes filed against offenders on bond of any type and level or degree. Every bond is determined by a judge and this data is from records of their judicial actions.

HCDAO Victim Services



Our commitment to treat all crime victims with dignity and fairness is embodied by our Victim Services Division staff.

Expanded Victim Services

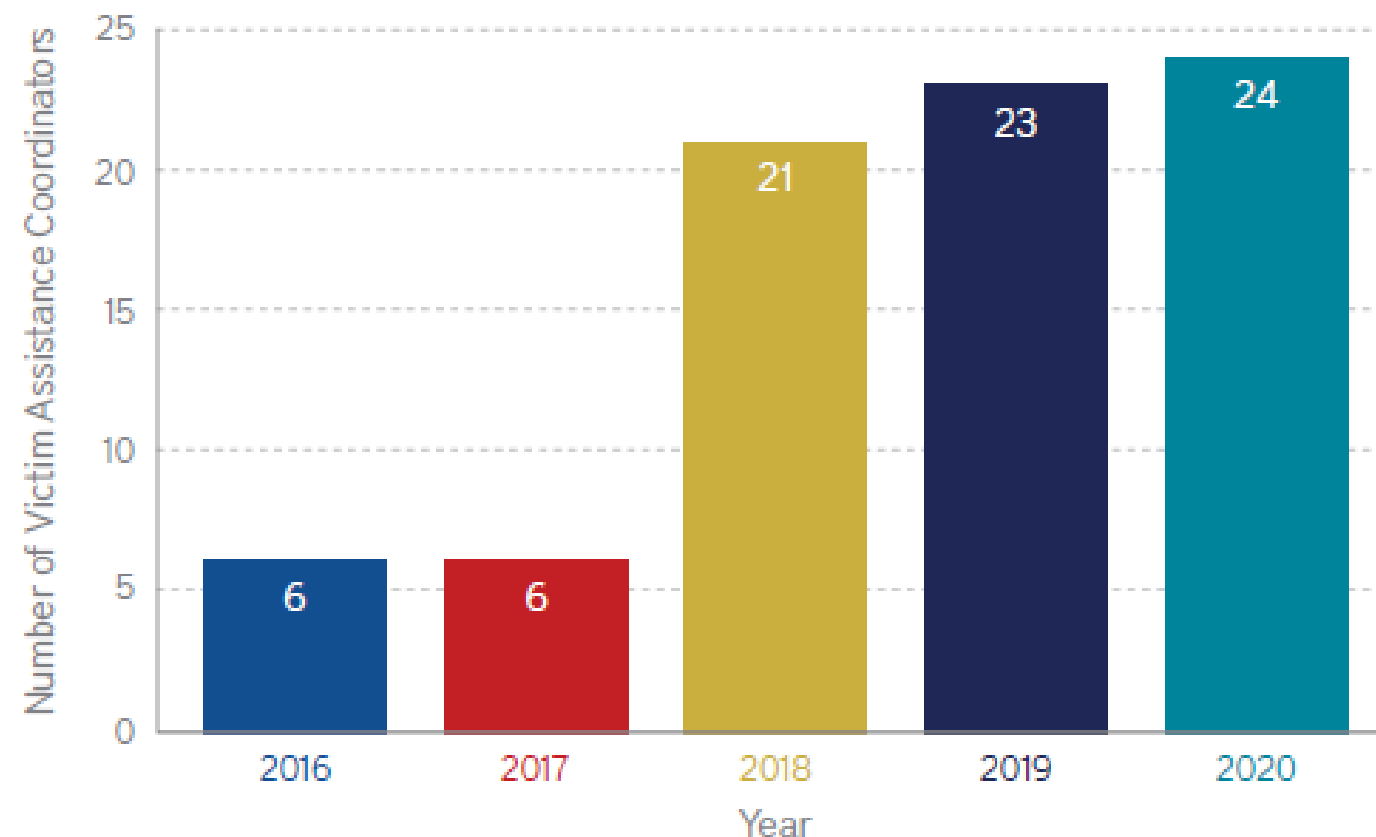
In the first five years, our Victim Services Division increased the number of Victim Assistance Coordinators (VACS), social workers and staff from 6 to 25—a 417% increase. This resulted in a dramatic boost in the number of crime victims contacted, counseled and assisted by our office.

Restitution Center:

This unit of our office was responsible for collecting over **€13 million dollars in restitution for victims of property crimes** (as of December 31, 2021).

The increase in the number of Victim Assistance Coordinators resulted in a proportional increase in the number of victims who received assistance and services from the HCDAO.

Number of Victim Assistance Coordinators by Year



19,147 Individual victims/ survivors received assistance from HCDAO Victim Assistance Coordinators in 2020...an all time high.



Representing Victims



Stay Family

Haskell killed the 6 members of the Stay family in the living room of their suburban Houston home in 2014. A fifth child, 15-year-old Cassidy Stay, was shot in the head but she survived by playing dead.

Cassidy Stay, now 20, read a victim impact statement from the witness stand.



Josue Flores

Flores was stabbed roughly 20 times with a pocketknife in 2016 while walking home from school.

On May 4th of this year, Andre Jackson was sentenced to life in prison for Josue Flores murder.



Steven Hobbs sentenced to life for 2 murders

Sarah Sanford, left, who was murdered in 2010, and Patricia Pyatt, murdered in 2002.

Commitment to Justice

Exonerations

There have been five exonerations since 2017.

- Alfred Brown was sentenced to death after being convicted of capital murder in 2005. His case was overturned by Texas' highest criminal court, and Brown was freed and the case dismissed.
- Steven Mallet and Otis Mallet, two brothers arrested together in 2008 for alleged involvement in the same drug sale, were determined to be actually innocent because they were convicted solely on the word of a discredited former HPD officer.
- Lydell Grant was convicted in 2012 and sentenced to life in prison for the stabbing death of Aaron Scheerhoorn. Newly discovered evidence led to the apprehension and charging of a new suspect in the murder and Grant's release.
- James Harris was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2010 after prosecutors said he was behind an alleged "drug house". After the arresting officer later testified that he could have arrested the wrong man, the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas agreed that Harris was actually innocent, and he was released.



New Special Homicide Division

A specialized team of seasoned prosecutors is being assigned to the new District Attorney's Office Homicide Division. Another 150 capital murder cases are pending with prosecutors in specialized divisions of the office.

The goal of the Homicide Division is to place experienced prosecutors on the front lines in the Harris County District Courts to push some of the most violent offenders' cases to trial or plea.

Some cases are three or more years old, part of a backlog worsened by the courthouse closure following Hurricane Harvey as well as the pandemic.

As a point of reference, the number of pending capital murder cases stood at 451 on April 13, 2022, as compared to 189 on that date five years ago.



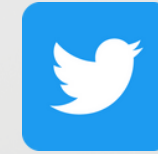
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