

# Washington Rural Jails Network

A Community-Engaged Research Network



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## Asotin County Spotlight 2020-22

Washington Rural Jails Network is a community-engaged project at Washington State University led by the Department of Sociology

### Key Facts

1. Failure to Appear was the dominant driver of incarceration and jail re-entry.
2. One in four jail admissions were for no contact violations (20%) or assault (4%).
3. One in ten bookings were for DUI.

In 2019, the Vera Institute of Justice awarded WSU a grant, funded by Arnold Ventures, to document and understand trends in rural incarceration. Since 2022, National Institute of Justice has funded this work.

The project had several goals:

- Gather and analyze administrative jail data from select rural counties in Washington.
- Build knowledge of specific factors affecting jail population trends.
- Gain perspective of justice-involved people and justice staff via interviews
- Share lessons from research and data analysis with local representatives and stakeholders.

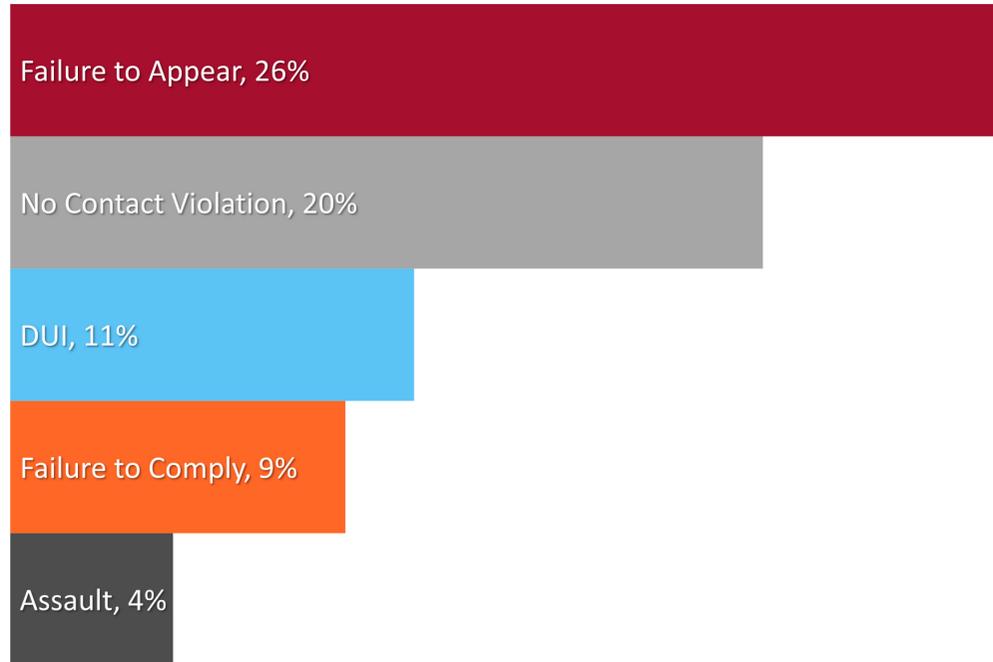
Sheriff's offices in **Asotin, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Whitman** counties shared jail data through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs for 2020-2022.



**"I was released. But then because of a failure to appear back in court, that issues a warrant. And then I got picked up at my house for the warrant. Then I spent another -- and this kind of perpetuated itself, like back and forth, back and forth for about 2 or 3 years just because I didn't have the money to pay it then. I didn't -- you know, I was struggling in between trying to get housing and doing everything else. And oh, that can wait [...] But it always seemed to come back to me."**

- 56 year-old white woman

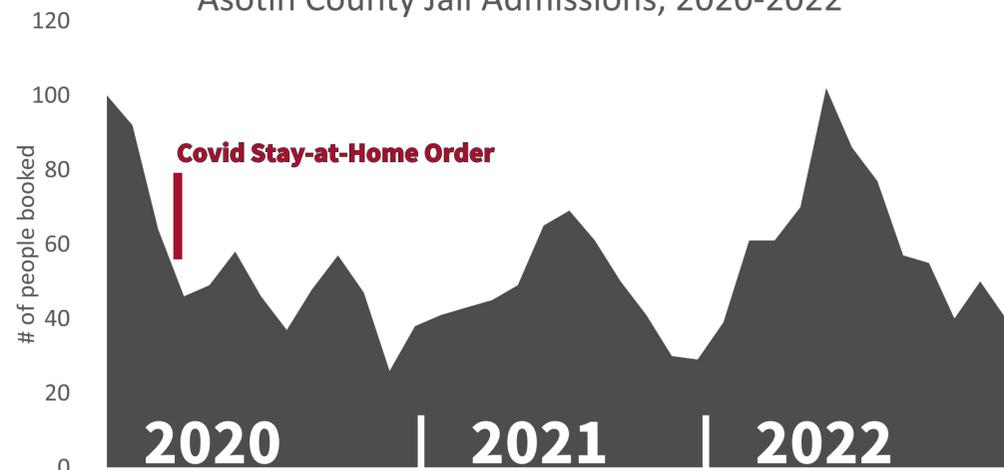
One in four people were booked for failure to appear



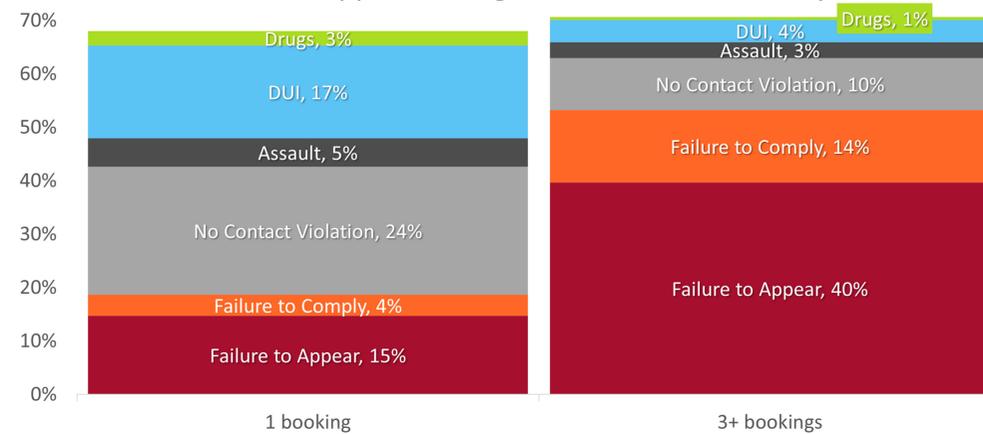
#### Rural Context:

Rural counties like Asotin face resource constraints, staffing shortages; limited health, mental health, and substance treatment services; and scant communication, transportation, and legal infrastructure.

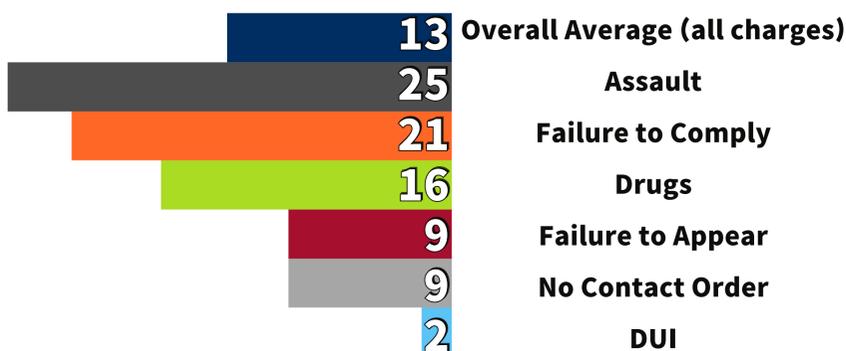
Asotin County Jail Admissions, 2020-2022



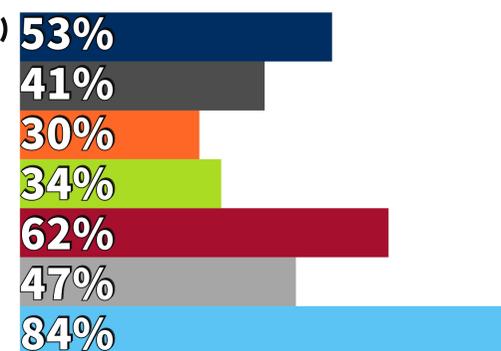
Failure to Appear is a significant driver of reentry



Average # of days spent in jail by charge



% of people who spend 24 hours or less in jail by charge



Of those booked for failure to appear, 62% were released within 24 hours.

Most (84%) jailed at arrest for driving under the influence were released within 24 hours.

