



RESEARCH CENTER

AT CRIME STOPPERS OF HOUSTON

SAFE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE

The Safe Community Institute (SCI) is a one stop shop for all things public safety and crime prevention. The Institute offers community members one centralized location for all crime-related statistical data, resources, prevention education, public safety awareness content, and victim services. Crime Stoppers of Houston's Safe Community Program, Victim Services Program, The Balanced Voice with Rania Mankarious Podcast, and the new Research Center are all housed under the Safe Community Institute.

THE CRITICAL NEED

As crime rises in the Greater Houston Area, a consistent problem we have identified is the lack of transparent and honest reporting of crime related data. In our quest to be a solution focused organization, we launched the Research Center as part of the Safe Community Institute at Crime Stoppers of Houston in January of 2022. To know exactly where the cracks in our system are and what is needed in crime prevention programming, we must have an accurate report of pre-trial trends, court proceedings, bond outcomes, and recidivism rates of violent offenders.

The purpose of the Research Center is to accurately report on the following items so that the public has a transparent view of the criminal justice system in Harris County:

1

CRIME RATES STARTING IN 2015

Track violent crime trends beginning in 2015 to see how crime in Harris County has changed since voted upon bond reform occurring in 2018, as well as informal changes to bond procedures, court proceedings, bond outcomes, and recidivism rates of violent offenders.

2

CRIME RATES BY COUNTY PRECINCTS

- Where are crime hot spots?
- How do crime rates by precinct relate to how commissioners vote on crime related issues?

3

COURT PROCEEDINGS

- Track judges by listing who they are and over which court they preside
- List magistrates for each court when possible
- Show how many cases each court holds, taking into consideration how COVID-19 has altered court hearings for each specific court

4

SPECIALIZED ISSUES AS IDENTIFIED BY CRIME STOPPERS TO INCLUDE:

- How many defendants reoffend after being charged with capital murder or aggravated robbery and released on Personal Recognizance (PR) bond?
- How many defendants have forfeited their bond and are wanted fugitives?
- How many re-offenders have forfeited their bond for previous offenses?
- Which courts correlate with the highest number of capital murder or aggravated robbery defendants released on PR bond or low bond?

PROGRAM IN ACTION

The data collected by the Research Center will be presented via an interactive crime trends dashboard hosted on the Crime Stoppers of Houston website. The dashboard will be easy for community members to manipulate and quickly find data about crime, court proceedings, and public safety measures. At Crime Stoppers we believe that every single community member is entitled to clear, accurate, and non-biased data about the factors affecting their safety. The Research Center will provide exactly that.