

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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New NYS Data Confirm Statewide Effectiveness of Bail Reform, Debunks Critics Claims that Measures Led to any Significant Increase in Crime

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** hailed the release of [data](#) by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) which confirm the widespread effectiveness of bail reform, debunking claims from critics that this measure led to any significant increase in crime.

“These numbers confirm what we’ve known all along: bail reform has decreased jail populations, kept communities intact and furthered public safety,” said **Arielle Reid, Supervising Attorney of the Decarceration Project at The Legal Aid Society**. “Any claim to the contrary doesn’t square with reality, and is merely baseless fear mongering. The Legal Aid Society applauds our champions in Albany who ushered in this key reform, and we look forward to building on this measure once the Legislature returns for session in early January.”

Background

According to DCJS, prior to the implementation of bail reform in 2019, total rearrests in New York City were roughly 19 percent and remained statistically the same at 20 percent in 2021.

In 2019, the failure to appear rate in New York City was 15 percent which decreased to nine percent, revealing that more people were able to meet their court dates following implementation of the reform.

Bail reform has also led to a sharp decrease in cases where a low bail was set. In 2019, six percent of arraignments in New York City resulted in a bail of \$500 or less, which decreased to zero percent in 2021. In 2019, 15 percent of arraignments resulted in a bail set between \$501 and \$1,000, which decreased to two percent in 2021. In 2018, 18 percent of arraignments resulted in a bail between \$1,001 and \$2,500, which decreased to seven percent in 2021. As a result of this critical reform, fewer New Yorkers were detained pretrial on low bail amounts simply because they didn’t have the resources to buy their own freedom.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org