



**VIRGINIA CRIMINAL
SENTENCING COMMISSION**

Research Plans Regarding Virginia Pretrial System

April 6, 2026



Assessing the Role of Interviews in Virginia's Pretrial Risk Assessment Process – Research Plan 1

- ❖ Goal: examines two pretrial processes – risk assessment with an interview and risk assessment without an interview
- ❖ Main Data: Historical Virginia Pretrial Data (CY2018 –CY2024).
- ❖ Two groups: Retroactively identifying the defendants who received the interview and who did not (closely working with DCJS utilizing the data).
- ❖ Differences between two groups in: release decisions, bond types, and pretrial outcomes.
- ❖ Method: Both descriptive and inferential statistical methods.
- ❖ Interviews with pretrial officers, magistrates, or judges to better understand the role and value of the pretrial interview –Supplementing the statistical results.
- ❖ If approved, the results will be presented in Fall at both Commission Meeting and ASC Conference



Assessing the Public Safety Assessment tool: Evidence from Virginia – Research Plan 2

- ❖ Goal: Directly compare the PSA with the currently used VPRAI by utilizing comprehensive Virginia Pretrial Data.
- ❖ Main Data: Historical Virginia Pretrial Data (CY2018 –CY2024).
- ❖ Method: Descriptive statistical methods as a primary tool to analyze.
- ❖ May focus more on FTA rates and New Criminal Arrest during a pretrial period.
- ❖ If approved, the results will be also presented in Fall at both Commission Meeting and ASC Conference





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**Are there any additional topics you
would like staff to study?**

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