

TUCSON CITY COURT ARIZONA'S 2ND LARGEST VOLUME COURT MONTHLY UPDATE FOR MAY 2017

In its capacity as a Limited Jurisdiction Court (LJC), Tucson City Court is responsible for adjudicating misdemeanor crimes, violations of criminal traffic, civil traffic, parking and city ordinances within the city limits. Tucson City Court processes an average of 243,000 charges annually; approximately 30% of the charges filed are criminal. The court building averages 336,931 visitors each year. The court collects an average of \$24.7 million per year in gross collections and disburses about \$13.3 million to the City of Tucson with the remainder disbursed to the state and other local governments. The Court's customer call center receives roughly 129,600 calls per year and approximately 60,000 pieces of mail per year. In Fiscal Years (FY) 15 and 16 the Court was authorized 135.8 employees: 12 judicial officers and 123.8 administrative staff. As of FY17 the Court reduced its employees to 112.8; 9 judicial officers and 101 administrative staff which include 2.8 grant funded employees.

Noteworthy this Month: Deputy Court Administrator, Laura Spain, has completed studies and has become a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management. The Institute for Court Management's Fellows Program is the only program of its kind in the United States. The intensive four phase educational program better prepares court professionals for management and leadership positions. The program was established 45 years ago by Chief Justice of the United States Warren Burger and since its inception 1,270 individuals in 48 states and 12 countries have become Fellows.

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MAY'S FOCUS: 24 HOUR ALTERNATIVE TO JAIL (ATJ) PILOT PROJECT

Tucson City Court will be running 24 Hour Alternative to Jail (ATJ) Pilot Project in June or July 2017. This 24 Hour ATJ project will provide arresting Tucson Police Department (TPD) officers' access to a judge 24 hours a day for 30 days in order to conduct enhanced field releases. Judges will review new charges and all active Tucson City Court warrants during the enhanced field release to determine whether a defendant should be held or released. This review could include defendants being charged with a felony and having active Tucson City Court warrants. The judge may review charges, quash warrants, set conditions of release and give defendants new court dates. TPD officers will provide the defendant a written document with any conditions of release and or new court dates. Funding for this project is provided through the use of Court restricted funds.



The pilot project has several objectives which are to:

1. Determine the efficiency and efficacy of operating a 24 hour ATJ program.
2. Determine the possible effect of a 24 hour ATJ program on jail costs through reduction of booking fees.
3. Determine the effect of a 24 hour ATJ program on the jail census.
4. Determine the effect on officer availability by providing enhanced field release through the 24 hour ATJ program.

This project was developed by Tucson City Court, TPD, Public Defender's Office, City Prosecutor's Office, City Attorney and City Information Technology (IT) as a method to control/reduce jail costs, decrease TPD officer time related to booking defendants into jail and provide a low cost solution for resolving Failure to Appear (FTA) warrants. Information collected as part of this pilot project will be used to determine if the court should implement a 24 hour ATJ Program on a permanent basis and if the program should be made available to other or all jurisdictions in Pima County.

TPD officers have previously been issued cell phones and this pilot project will use those cell phones in conjunction with a tablet device issued to the judge conducting the enhanced field release. The tablet will be used to make and receive phone calls and access court records via the internet simultaneously. TPD officers will place a call to the judge and the judge will accept the call, access the defendant's City Court records and make appropriate decisions related to release, conditions of release or whether to have the defendant held and booked. City IT has formatted the conditions of release form to print with TPD printers in patrol vehicles.



COURT HUMAN RESOURCES

Tucson City Court’s general fund authorization heading into FY18 will be for 113.8 positions: 9 magistrates and 104.8 administrative staff. The Court has 2.8 positions funded by federal grants and 5 positions funded through court restricted funds, bringing our total authorizations to 118.8 positions.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| CITY MAGISTRATE (UC) | 8.0 | 8.0 | 0.0 |
| PRESIDNG MAGISTRATE (UC) | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0.0 |
| MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT | 1 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| COURT ADMINISTRATOR | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| INFO TECH SPECIALIST | 2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| SYSTEMS ANALYST | 2 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAN | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| ACCOUNTANT | 1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| COURT CLERK | 38.0 | 33.0 | 5.0 |
| SENIOR COURT CLERK | 45.00 | 44.0 | 1.0 |
| COURT INTERPRETER - SPANISH | 2.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| COURT SUPERVISOR | 8.00 | 7.0 | 1.0 |
| COURTMANAGER | 3.00 | 3.0 | 0.0 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | 118.8 | 107.8 | 11.0 |
| | | | |

The Court is projected to generate \$301,728 in vacancy savings for FY17 or approximately 4% of our personnel budget.

IMPLEMENTING JUSTICE FOR ALL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVED COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, RECOMMENDATIONS 6,7 & 8.

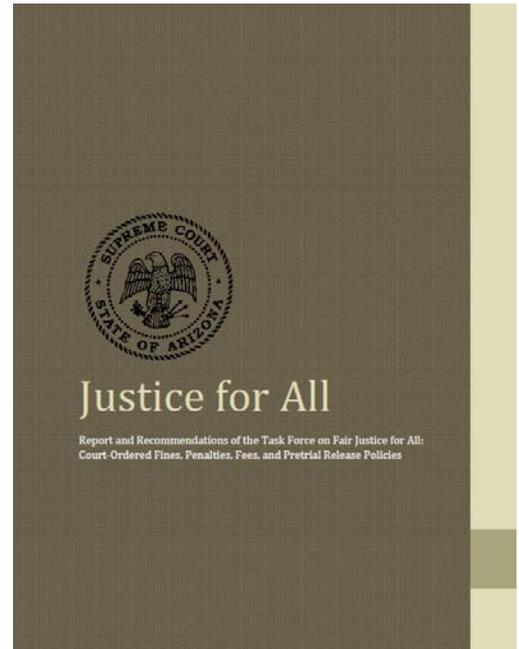
Tucson City Court has implemented recommendations #6, 7 and 8 of the Justice for All Report in our Improved Compliance Assistance Program (ICAP). This program began on January 30, 2017, after a period of testing. Since inception and as of May 30, 2017, the program has:

- Enrolled 1,624 defendants with 4,544 cases.
- Collected \$376,913 in good faith down payments.
- Brought cases assessed at \$2.7 million back on track (for now).

Additionally,

- The average good faith down payment is \$232.
- The average ICAP monthly payment is \$39.3.
- The average number of cases per defendant is 2.7 cases.
- The average debt per defendant is \$1,717.
- The failure rate is 33%, meaning 1/3 of enrollees fail to make their first scheduled payment.
- Approximately \$43,000 per month is being collected that would otherwise not be collected without this program.

On May 19, 2017, Tucson City Court following guidance received from the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has stopped recalling case from the Fines Fees and Restitution Enforcement (FARE) Program. When a defendant enters into the ICAP their cases in the FARE program will have collection action suspended but the \$35 delinquency fee and the 19% of the unpaid balance will remain as part of the total amount due to the court. Should a defendant fail to meet their ICAP obligations, the FARE suspension will be lifted and collection action will begin again. All other aspects of the program remain the same.



EXTENDED HOURS COURT, RECOMMENDATION #22.

On Tuesday, May 30, 2017, Tucson City began extended court hours in an effort to improve access to court services. Every Tuesday, Tucson City Court will remain open until 6:30 PM with the last customer service numbers for the Public Services Division and Walk-in Warrant Court being issued at 6:30 PM; court staff will remain until all customers with a number have been served.

Our first extend hours Tuesday was very light with only 17 customers seen in the public services Division and 1 defendant seen in our Walk-in Warrant Court. Perhaps, as the public becomes more aware of this service the numbers of customers will increase. This is similar to what Pima County Consolidated Justice Court has experienced with their extended hours program.

Our plan remains to conduct one extend hours Tuesday in the Pima County Public Service Center, located at 240 N. Stone Ave, Tucson. We have chosen to have extended hours court once a week while Pima County Consolidated Justice Court has chosen once per month.

DELAY ISSUING WARRANTS FOR 5 DAYS, RECOMMENDATION #19

On May 8, 2017, the Court implemented a short term project: Five Day Warrant Calls. This project is designed to reduce the number of Failure to Appear (FTA) warrants and negate subsequent arrests on those warrants. The program will involve postponing the issuance an FTA warrant for five days and contacting the defendant by phone the day of their FTA and informing them they have five days to appear at the court or the warrant will issue for their arrest. More information will be in May's monthly report.

This program is not proving to be as effective as originally thought. In the first twelve (12) work days of operation there were 192 Failure to Appear defendants. The Court was able to contact 96 of those defendants and inform them they had five days to report or a warrant would be issued for their arrest. Of the 96 defendants contacted, only 15 complied and reported within the five day period; that is a 15.6% compliance rate.





SATURDAY WARRANT COURT, AUGUST 26, 2017

The next Saturday Warrant Court will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2017 and it will be held in the Pima County Public Service Center located at 240 N. Stone Ave, Tucson.

PROJECT UPDATES

Tucson City Court has several projects underway which will enhance service provided to the public. The top three priority projects are:

INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR) SYSTEM

This project is now progressing after the successful upgrade to the City's phone system. The server environment on which the IVR system will reside has been certified and we've now moved into the call flow management. A major expectation is that out-bound reminder calls will reduce Failures to Appear (FTA) at arraignments and scheduled court hearings which will reduce the number of FTA warrants issued. The arraignment FTA rate for FY16 was 29% and the FY17 FTA rate is running much higher at 41%.

BUILDING IMPROVEMETN PROJECT

The building improvement project is all but complete as of May 26, 2017. There are some minor items to finish up but the majority of improvements are complete. This was a three year project designed to extend the life of the current court building by ten years.

BEFORE



AFTER





AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANT COURTROOM

As part of the building improvement project courtroom #9 was renovated into an ADA compliant jury courtroom. Ramps were added to the staff entrance, witness stand and jury box with the appropriate turning radius for wheelchairs in the courtroom. The Court already has portable assisted listening devices.





BEFORE



AFTER

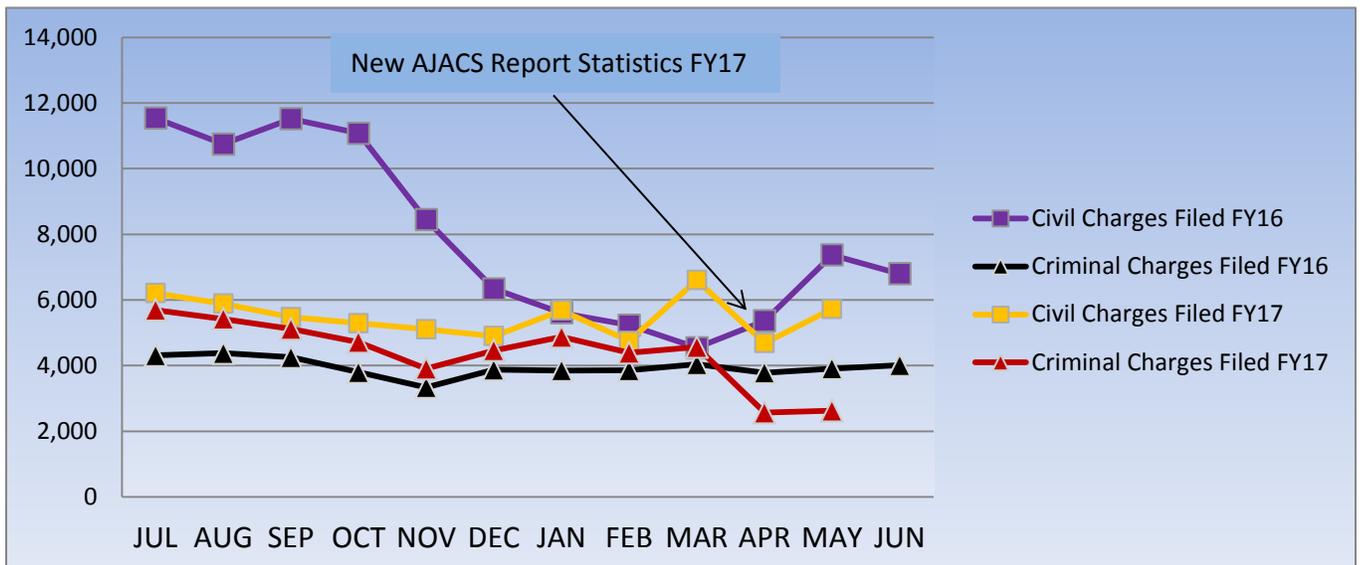


TUCSON CITY COURT STATISTICS

Tucson City Court will now be utilizing statistical reports resident in our automated case management system, Arizona Judicial Automated Case System (AJACS) to track and report workload. These reports were developed by the Arizona Supreme Court’s Administrative Office of the Courts and expand on the statistical reports used in the legacy automated case management system, AZTEC which is still in use by many court in Arizona. Although providing much of the same information as the reports in AZTEC the new reports in AJACS break down former case categories much further providing additional information on charge filings. There appears to be an issue with data related to case dispositions and we are working with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on this issue. I’ve included the report so everyone can at least see the new format.

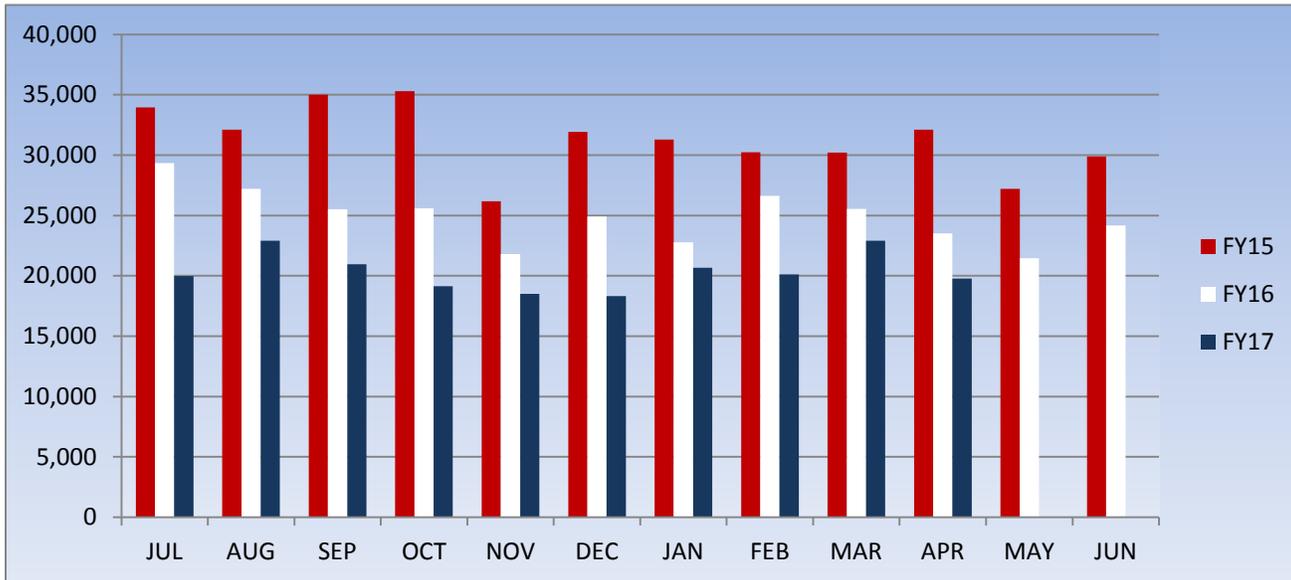
In the old report, misdemeanor charges were reported as a whole where the new AJACS report, various charges within the category of misdemeanor charges are given. The new report also provides the number of misdemeanor charges filed related to Domestic Violence charges; although the number of Domestic Violence charges are included in the other misdemeanor charges, they are also reported separately as Domestic Violence charges.

CHARGES FILED

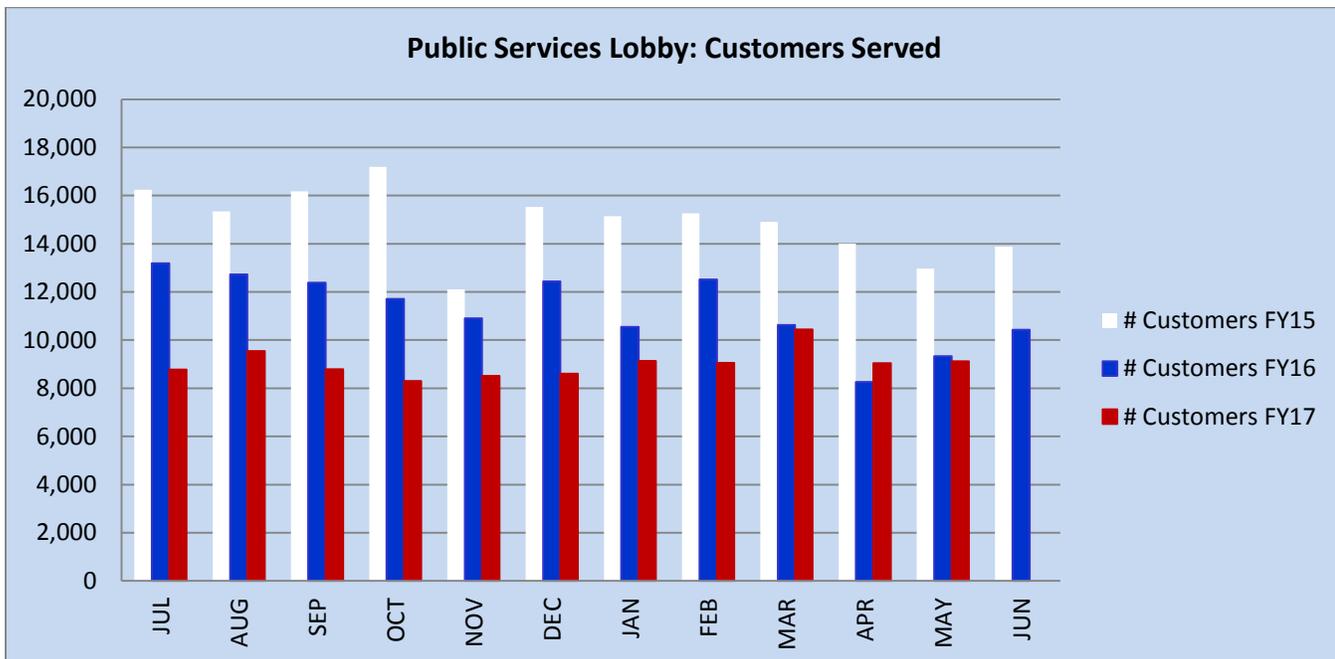




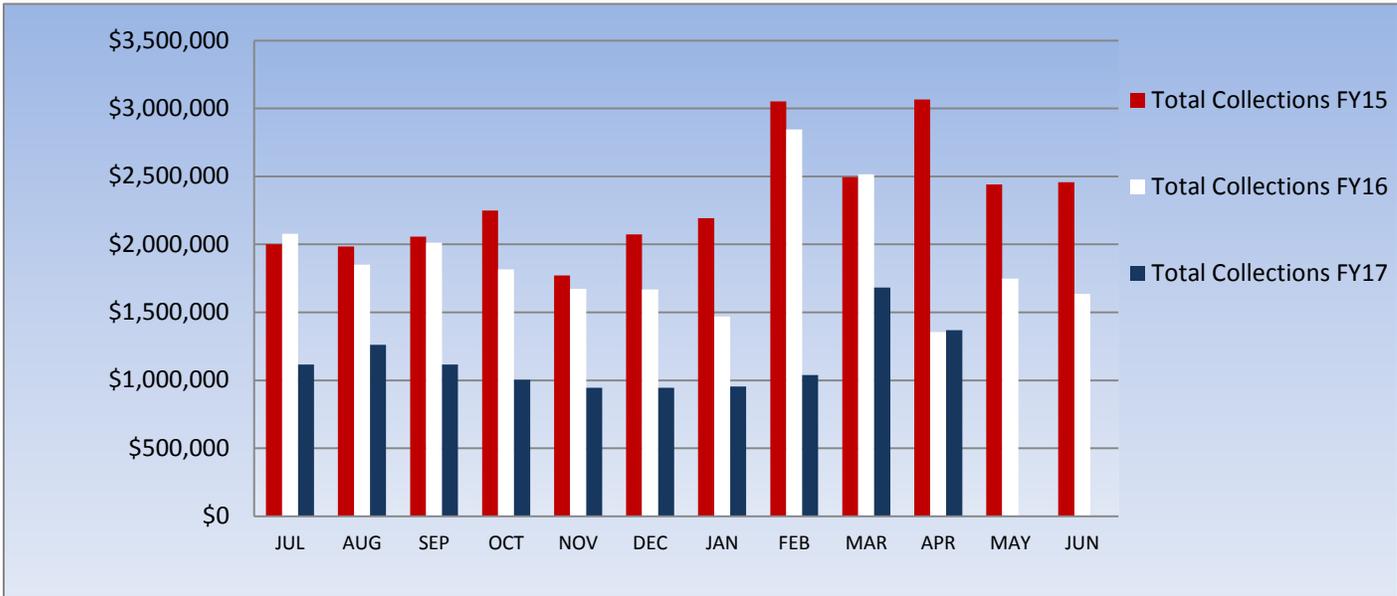
VISITORS TO COURT BUILDING



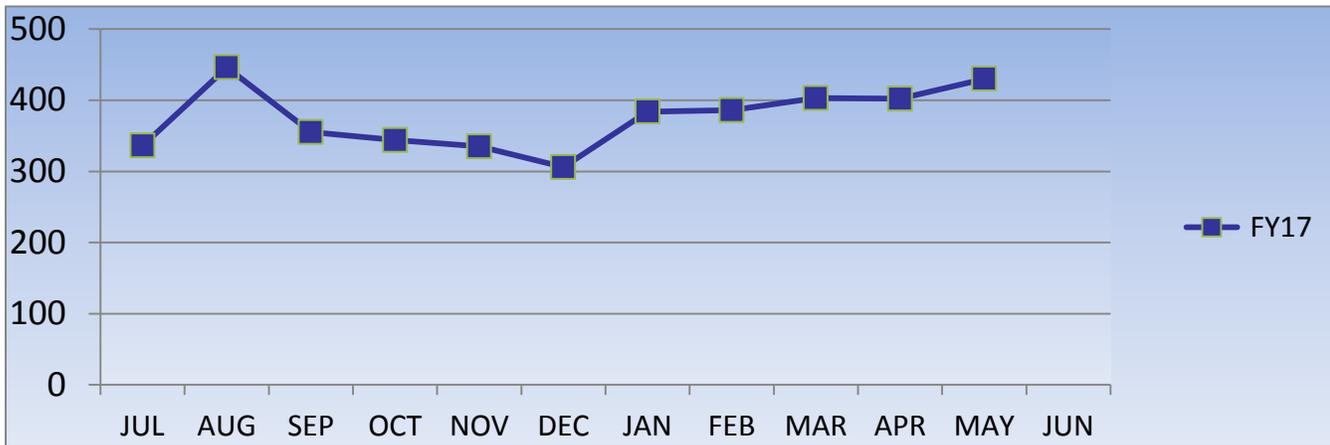
CUSTOMERS SERVED IN PUBLIC SERVICES LOBBY



COLLECTIONS (ENFORCEMENT OF COURT ORDERED SANCTIONS)



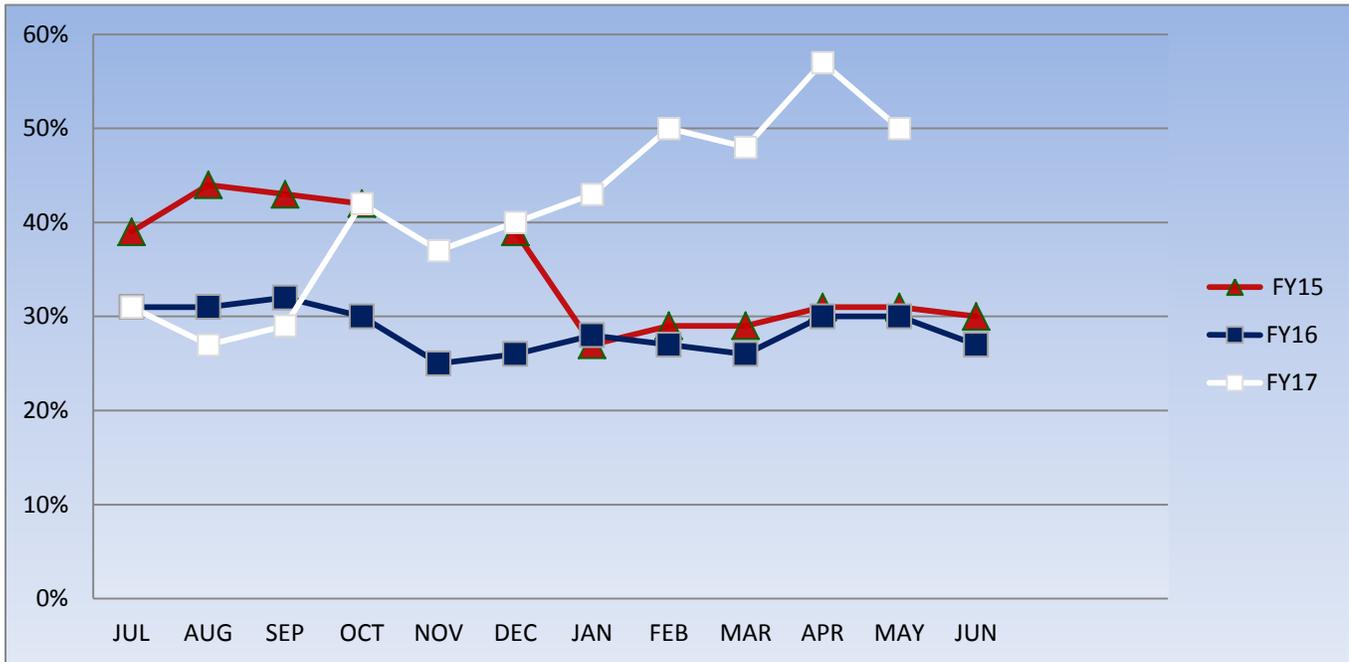
DEFENDANTS SEEN AT WALK-IN WARRANT COURT



In FY16 Walk-in Warrant Court saw 5,100 defendants
In FY17 year to date 3,295



FAILURE TO APPEAR (FTA) RATE AT OUT OF CUSTODY CRIMINAL ARRAIGNMENTS

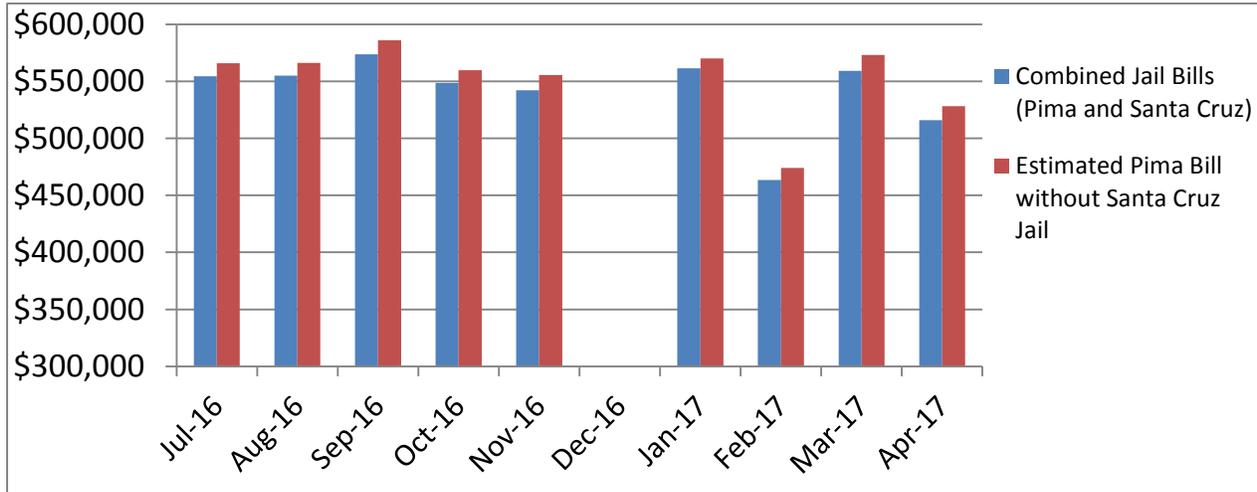


JAIL COST REDUCTION

There are several ongoing collaborative efforts between the City Prosecutor, City Public Defender, Tucson Police Department (TPD) and the Court to control jail costs. These include plea offers made at initial appearances at the jail, video reviews for defendants being held, cite and release on appropriate crimes by TPD, Alternative to Jail Program (ATJ), use of Santa Cruz County Jail for confinement sentences longer than 10 days, walk-in warrant court held every afternoon Monday through Thursday and Saturday Warrant Days conducted twice a year in January/February and again in June/July time frame.



USE OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JAIL (Jail bill for May has not been received by publication)



DAYS USED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JAIL



SHOULD YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT PLEASE CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION AT 520-791-4189 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO courtweb@tucsonaz.gov.