



## The Pretrial Risk Assessment

### Background

Charleston County's Centralized Bond Court (CBC) uses the Pretrial Service Report (PSR) to provide bond-setting judges with consistent and organized information to be used during bond hearings. The PSR is a two-page document that summarizes key information gathered by certified pretrial analysts who investigate and compile data from sources including the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) criminal history, probation and parole records, the Solicitor's office, court indexes, and the detention center. Charleston County implemented PSRs in January 2018.

Included within the PSR, is the Charleston Pretrial Assessment Instrument (CPAI), which offers a reliable and objective assessment of a defendant's likelihood to experience pretrial success. Pretrial success is defined as attending all required court appearances and not being rearrested before trial. The CPAI produces a pretrial outcome score and an assigned Assessment Level. Assessment Levels range from most likely to succeed (Level 1) to least likely to succeed (Level 4).

Consistent with best practices, the CPAI has undergone studies to evaluate the accuracy of the tool in predicting future missed court appearances and/or new arrests. Each study and subsequent adaptations have shown improvement in the PSR's ability to predict success. A unique feature of the CPAI is that scoring and assessment levels are calibrated to the Charleston County local jail population. In 2024, the CPAI validated 10,787 individuals booked into the Detention Center between 2020 and 2023. It was found that 80% of them successfully completed their pretrial period. Of the 20% who didn't, most were rearrested (17%), while a smaller number failed to show up in court (3%)-

### Moving Forward

The Pretrial Service Report and CPAI are not designed to determine bond decisions. Yet, the information provided within the report helps synthesize key factors for court review. **Judges consider factors required by law, information from the prosecution and defense, the individual's NCIC record, and the PSR before making a decision appropriate to each case.**

The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is committed to supporting evidence-based decision making within the local justice system.