



**Senate Committee
on Finance
Article II**

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Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

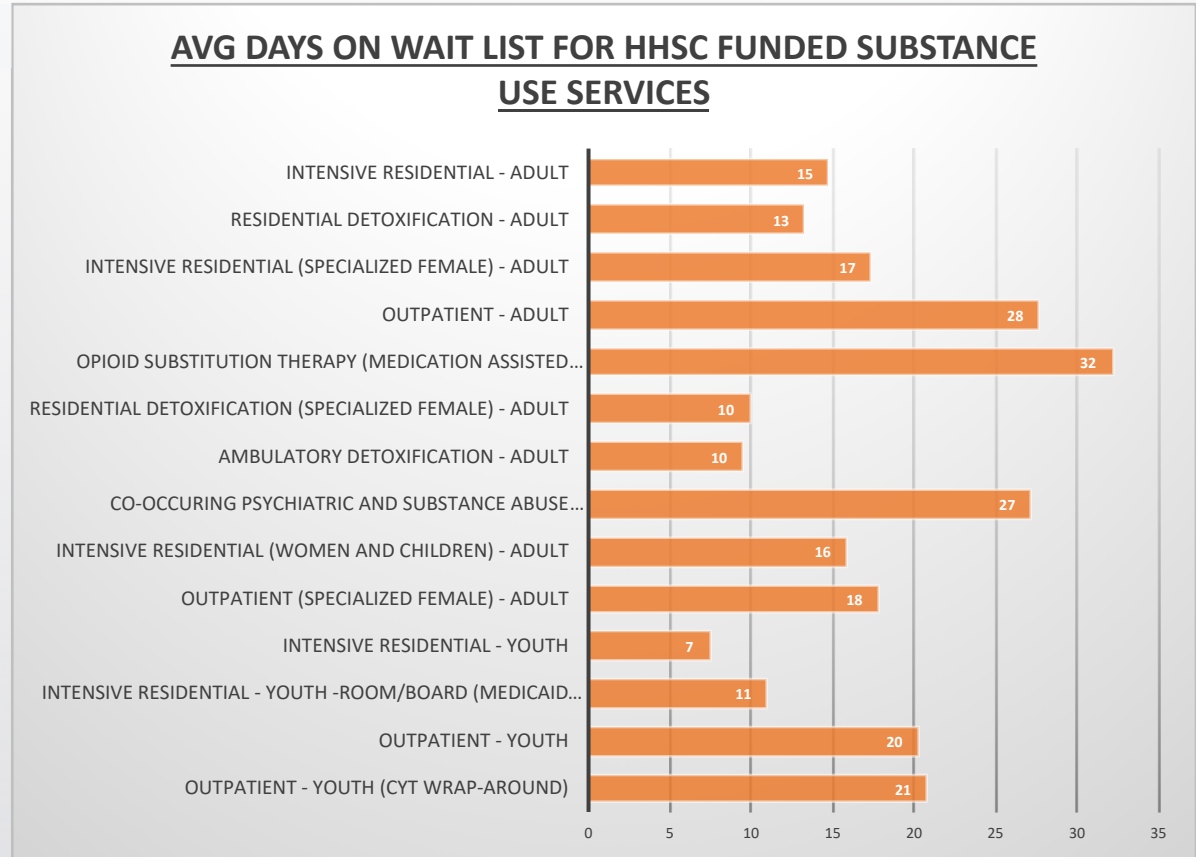


TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION



The lack of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment/recovery capacity results in:

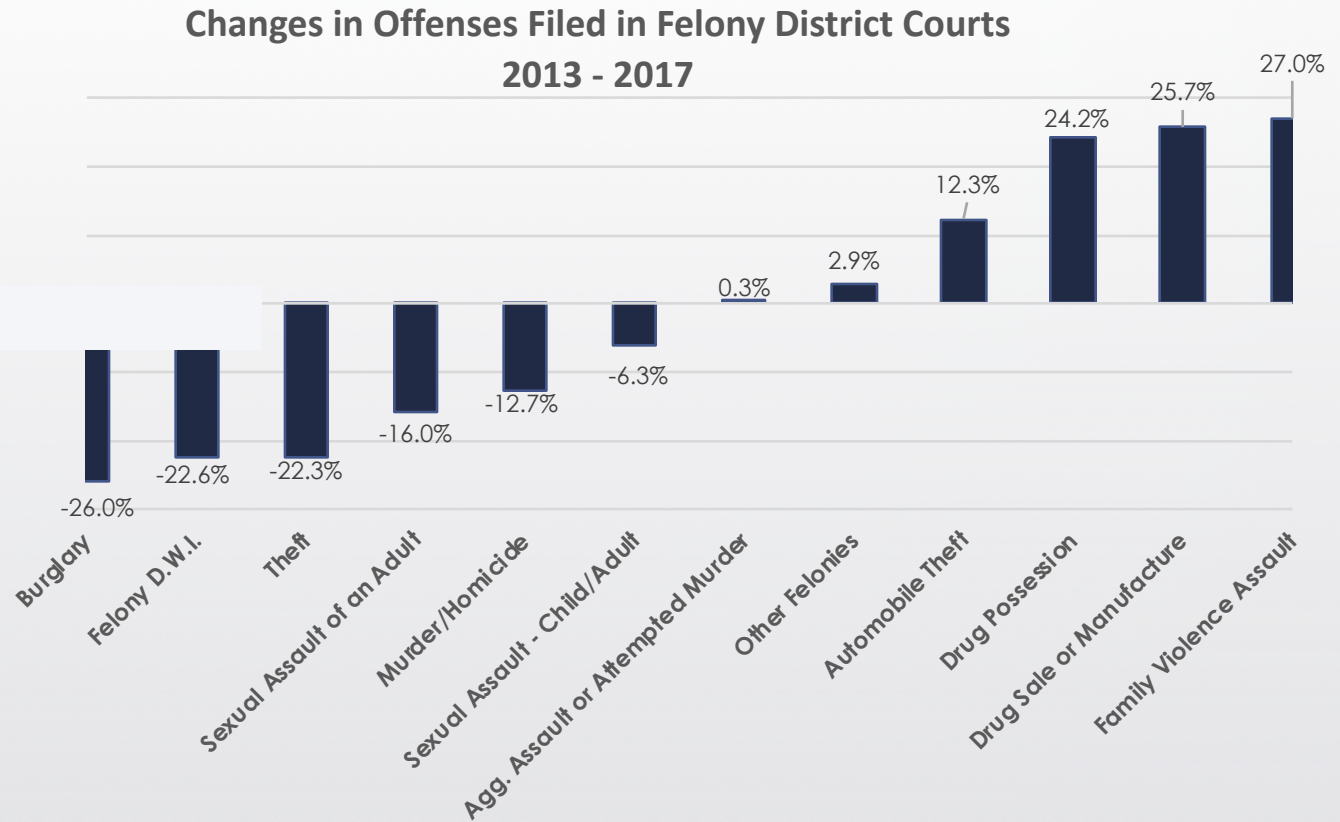
- limited prevention services
- lengthy treatment waiting lists and declining provider base
- lack of co-occurring SUD/MH services
- lengthy wait lists for medication assisted treatment
- limited peer support/harm reduction
- few options for recovery housing or certified peer support





The Result:

Major Crime
Down
But
Drug-Related
Charges Up



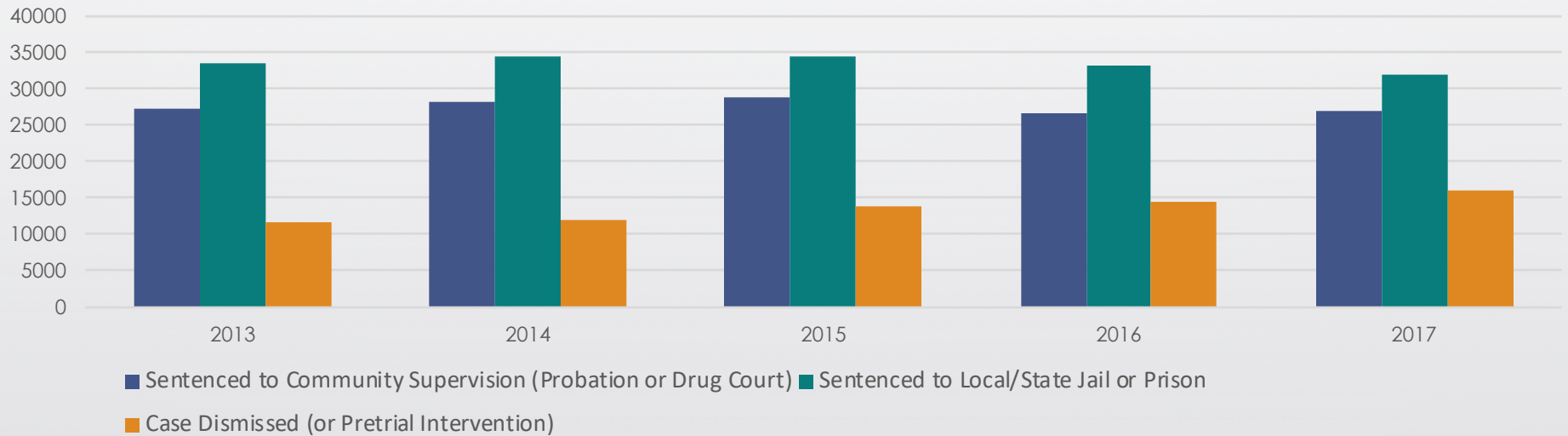
Low-income people with substance use disorder in Texas are more likely to be arrested than to access recovery services.



Lack of Community Capacity Drives Up Arrests, and Strains the Ability of the Criminal Justice System to Divert People into Treatment

[MOST PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG/PROPERTY CRIMES ARE NOT DIVERTED]

Drug Possession/Property Crimes Case Outcomes: 2013 - 2017



Most defendants incarcerated for drug possession will be re-arrested within three years, while diverting people into community services lowers recidivism rates by 30 to 50%.



Beyond the Cost of Human Lives

Detaining someone with substance use disorder for a nonviolent offense like possession of a controlled substance is expensive and massively inefficient.

- A typical police department spends between \$55 and \$97 per person to arrest and book someone into county jail.
- A Sheriff's Office incurs another \$152.99 per booking and up to \$96.71 per jail bed day.



Recommendations

1. Expand Substance Use Treatment Capacity.

This includes increased provider rates for the full range of treatment supports.



2. Expand the Allowable Use of HB 13 Grant Funds to Include Projects to Improve the Continuum of Care for Substance Use Disorder.

- Increase the allocation for HB 13 grants.
- Decrease match requirement for substance use-related grants.
- Ensure that grants are allocated in a manner that requires stakeholder input from people impacted by substance use disorder and mental illness.
- Ensure that grants give preference to projects with maximum public input and are aligned with a community-level strategic plan.