



There were also a number of data points collected in our system mapping update between 2005 and 2006 with regard to the interface between criminal justice and mental health systems in our community. Interpretation of this data is complicated, as there were a number of comprehensive interventions in 2006 and 2007 with regard to this interface. For example, great strides have been made in revising the assessment processes in the Travis County Jail. These changes, while very positive developments, make data analysis between 2005 and 2006 difficult to assess, but important to monitor. Because there were so many changes in such a short period of time, it is difficult to discern what the differences in outcomes and data really mean.

- ✚ 8.5% of jail bookings in 2006 were reported to have been identified as having serious mental illness. 2007 numbers are pending, but cannot be directly compared to 2006 statistics due to the changes in assessment practices.

**BENCHMARK:**

- *7-8% of all jail bookings nationally have been identified as having serious mental illness.*
  - *The Travis County rate of identification suggests that assessment processes currently being used are effective. The higher than average rate of individuals with serious mental health problems, however, also suggests issues related to access to behavioral health services.*
- ✚ A total of 8,275 law enforcement contacts regarding individuals with mental illness were reported by the two Crisis Intervention Teams in Austin in 2006. (2005: 7,576). This increase is difficult to interpret. It may reflect increase public awareness of this specialized law enforcement response, or an increase in crisis related developments in our community. In any event, the results of these calls included a decrease in the number of arrests (2005: 273; 2006: 179), which is clearly a positive development, as reflected in our Community Score Card.

✚ Consistent with national trends, there has been a significant increase in the number of justice involved individuals with mental illness who are found incompetent to stand trial in Texas and in Travis County. Because of inadequate psychiatric hospital bed capacity for a community our size (see Executive Summary and Access Sections of this report), this has resulted in an increase in delays between 2005 and 2006 for transfer to State Hospitals of individuals found incompetent.

❖ Average Wait for Hospital Transfer after found Incompetent to Stand Trial:

- 2006: 60-90 days
- 2005: 50 days

✚ While there was an increase in felony probation revocations for individuals on mental health case loads between 2005 and 2006, it is unclear whether this is a reflection of increased capacity of specialized case loads, increased population, or differences in practice with regard to individuals with behavioral health issues in the probation system. In any event, this increase may not be statistically significant.

✚ Felony Probation Revocations (Table 5)

Felony Probation Revocations

	Year	Individuals	Total Travis County
Mental Health Case Loads	2006	262	1,104
	2005	121	1,052