

Robbery Jail Bookings in Washington

Robbery poses a risk to the safety of Washington residents. This report focuses on robbery-related jail bookings reported by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)'s Jail Booking Reporting System (JBRS) and aims to explore the demographics of those being booked in jail with a robbery-related charge.

Data Parameters

The JBRS is a Washington state component of Justice Intelligence, a nationwide information-sharing solution for criminal justice agencies. WASPC is responsible for the implementation and operation of the Washington State JBRS Program under [RCW 36.28A.040](#). JBRS was intended to be a central repository instant information source for offender information and jail statistical data across Washington counties. However, while two county jails (King County Jail and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in south South King County) provide data to JBRS, this data is not shared with the Office of Financial Management (OFM). In this brief, the following parameters were utilized:

- Robbery is defined by [RCW 9A.56.190](#), and in terms of the present data, involves having “robbery” noted in the booking description, which designates a crime committed involving a robbery. The most common robbery-related charges in the present data include robbery in the first degree ([RCW 9A.56.200](#)) and second degree ([RCW 9A.56.210](#)).
- Only individuals who were 18 years or older at the time of booking were included in analyses.
- Jail bookings between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2023, were utilized in this report.
- The JBRS data is jail booking based, not individual based. An individual could be represented as many times as they were booked in jail from 2018 to 2023.

Limitations

All data comes with its limitations. This report identifies a few major limitations, and there are likely more not listed that could impact work that utilize this data. Limitations include:

- Analyses are descriptive and non-generalizable. Any inferences and implications are limited, and results are modest. Further analyses must be completed for causal relationships to be determined.
- Administrative data and the lack of detail or richness significantly limits any conclusions yielded from this work.
- In terms of demographic assessment, these results must be interpreted with caution. Any analysis of race across criminal justice decision points is negatively impacted by true reliability and validity as race data can be misclassified. Only booking information for individuals with clearly defined, unduplicated race, sex, and date of birth were utilized to ensure data quality, so results may be underreported. Additionally, this brief was limited to values collected by JBRS.
- Due to the impacts of COVID-19, trends might be skewed and misreported.
- There are many factors that contribute to the reluctance of a victim reporting, and the data might not accurately represent the true picture of robbery-related jail bookings.

Demographics

Table 1 depicts the demographics of robbery-related jail bookings in the JBRS sample. Between January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023, there were 6,367 Robbery-related jail bookings. The average age was 32 years old ($M = 31.7$, $SD = 9.5$). robbery-related jail bookings were more likely to be associated with males than females. When evaluating race, robbery-related jail bookings were more likely to be associated with white individuals than the rest of race categories provided by JBRS. In terms of age categories, those around the average age or younger were more likely to be associated with robbery-related jail bookings.

Washington’s population is almost evenly distributed in terms of sex, and the majority of the population were white (81.0%), while the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color community) presented slightly less than one-fifth of the Washington population.

Table 1. Robbery-related arrests demographics

	N	%
Sex		
Female	1,253	19.7
Male	5,114	80.3
Race		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	279	4.4
Asian or Pacific Islander	231	3.6
Black	1,465	23.0
White	4,392	69.0
Age Category		
18 to 25	1,999	31.9
26 to 35	2,425	38.7
36 to 45	1,299	20.7
> = 46	545	8.7

Notes: Percentages are based on column totals. Due to rounding totals may not equal 100%.

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Outcomes

Figure 1 shows the number of robbery-related jail bookings from 2018 to 2023. There was a 28.5% increase in robbery-related jail bookings from 2018 to 2023. Additionally, on average there were about 1,061 robbery-related jail bookings from 2018 to 2023, with 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023 being above average. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and policy changes in robbery-related offenses, these trends may be skewed. 2018 showed the lowest number of robbery-related jail bookings, while 2022 was the highest. 2021, along with 2018, were both below average.

Similarly, Figure 2 breaks down the robbery-related jail bookings by age categories. Those aged 26 to 35 were consistently the most frequent categories among robbery-related jail bookings, with the exception of 2018 where those aged 18 to 25 were slightly more prevalent. Those aged 46 and older were consistently the least likely to be booked in jail for robbery related charges. Since this report is jail booking based, individuals could be booked in jail multiple times for robbery-related jail bookings. While there were 6,367 robbery-related jail bookings between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2023, there were only 5,390 individuals, indicating some were booked in jail multiple times in the evaluated six-year span for robbery-related charges. However, this does not show consistency with individuals continuing to be booked in jail for robbery-related charges while they continue to age.

Figure 1. Frequency of robbery-related jail bookings by year

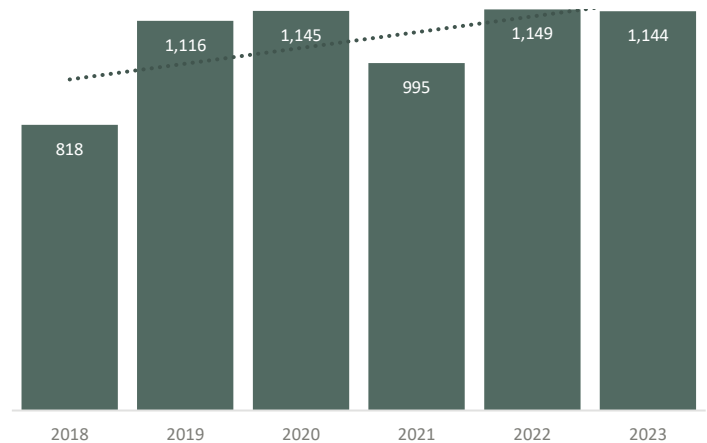
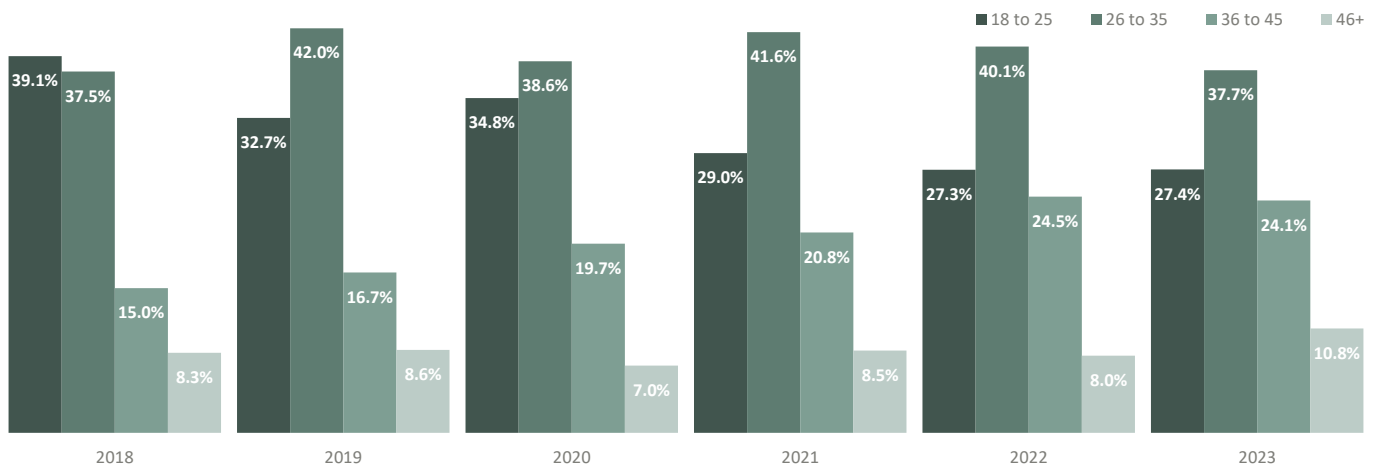
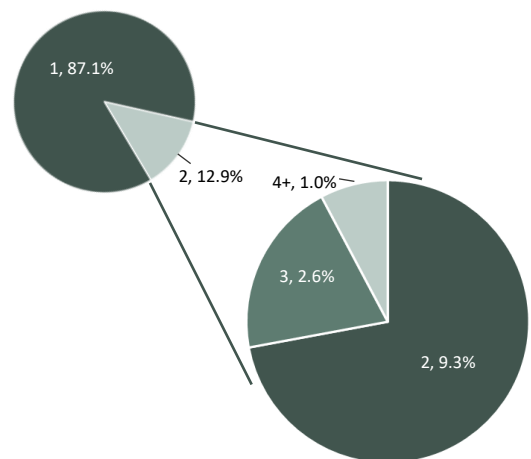


Figure 2. Frequency of robbery-related jail bookings by year and age category



Specifically, individuals booked in jail once on robbery-related charges made up 87.1% of the individuals (n = 4,694), or 73.7% of the robbery-related jail bookings. Figure 3 represents the percentage of individuals with multiple robbery-related jail bookings (12.9%). Of those booked multiple different times, the majority were only booked twice (9.3%), while the remaining 3.6% were made up of individuals who were book three times or more on robbery-related charges. The highest frequency of robbery-related jail bookings by one individual was ten times in the evaluated six-year time span. It is important to note these are individuals being booked in jail on robbery-related charges and does not mean an individual was ever convicted of a crime. Future research should explore the trajectory of jail bookings (i.e., resulting in charges, plea deals, etc.) to better understand our criminal justice system outcomes.

Figure 3. Percentage of individuals with multiple robbery-related jail bookings



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