



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF PROSECUTION SUPPORT OPERATIONS

JACKIE LACEY • District Attorney
JOSEPH P. ESPOSITO • Chief Deputy District Attorney
SERGIO A. GONZALEZ • Assistant District Attorney

JAMES GARRISON • Director

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

yhaile@aclunc.org

June 21, 2019

Yoel Haile
Criminal Justice Associate
San Francisco Office
39 Drumm St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94111
Tel.: 415.621.2493

Dear Yoel Haile:

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) is in receipt of your California Public Records Act (PRA) request received on May 14, 2019, seeking:

"[public records in the possession of the LADA's Office, specifically item #2, all documents and records related to all diversion programs offered or used by the DA's office, how many people utilized those programs, demographics of those people, the charges they were facing, outcomes of those cases, requirements for completing diversion, an any charges or costs associated with those programs for calendar year 2017 and 2018 (portions of your PRA request have been paraphrased and/or omitted but are hereby incorporated by reference)]."

I have been assigned to handle only the above request. I take your request to mean that you would like to have the raw numbers of how many people have participated in the diversion programs with which this office is familiar. Please find the separately attached PDF which lists the diversion programs with which this office is most familiar. We do not keep formal statistics of how many people enter the program and who successfully completes the programs but below is a list of the numbers the assigned DDA to the Alternate Sentencing Courts in downtown Los Angeles has compiled; these numbers are best estimates:

Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 257-3000

Alternative Sentencing Court Programs

LA County Drug Court, Co-Occurring Disorders Court, Sentenced
Offender Drug Court, Women's Re-Entry Court, Veterans Court and
Community Collaborative Court

Accepted into the above Programs:

2017: 499
2018: 472

Graduated (Successful Completions):

2017: 148
2018: 196

Terminated:

2017: 136
2018: 129

The office does not keep statistics for demographics. In addition to the above, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Diversion (ODR) and Reentry in 2016. From 2016 to 2018, this court largely worked out of the downtown Los Angeles courthouse. Eligible candidates have to be in custody, suffer a mental illness, be homeless and plead to the crime charged. ODR's goal is to reduce the number of inmates living with a serious mental illness in the county jails and improving their health outcomes. They connect the justice involved individual to permanent supportive housing and treatment programs which is available to them for the rest of their life. The prosecutor has input, but no veto power, on who should enter these programs. Entrance into the programs is solely at the judge's discretion. In 2019, the ODR court now operates an Airport Hub Court in which all south bay courthouses can send cases to the Airport Hub for an evaluation of whether or not an individual would be eligible and suitable to enter the ODR program.

ODR is a separate entity from the LADA's Office. As of January 2019, the LADA's Office has been keeping informal, manual records of cases going into the ODR court but we kept no records before 2019. However, the ODR can be contacted at 313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912, Los Angeles, Ca. 90012, or www.dhs.lacounty.gov.

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Lastly, with the enactment of AB 1810 (Mental Health Pretrial Diversion), codified in Penal Code sections 1001.35 and 1001.36, in July of 2018 (and later amended in November of 2018) the state now has another diversion program that can be offered to eligible and suitable defendants living with mental illness; this program does not require the defendant to plead to the crime. Again, in pretrial mental health cases, the LADA's Office also provides input, but as the code indicates, entrance into a mental health diversion program is solely within the court's discretion. The LADA's office keeps informal, manual statistics on which defendants request mental health diversion but that started in 2019.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY
District Attorney

By 

GILBERT S. WRIGHT

Head Deputy District Attorney
Mental Health Division