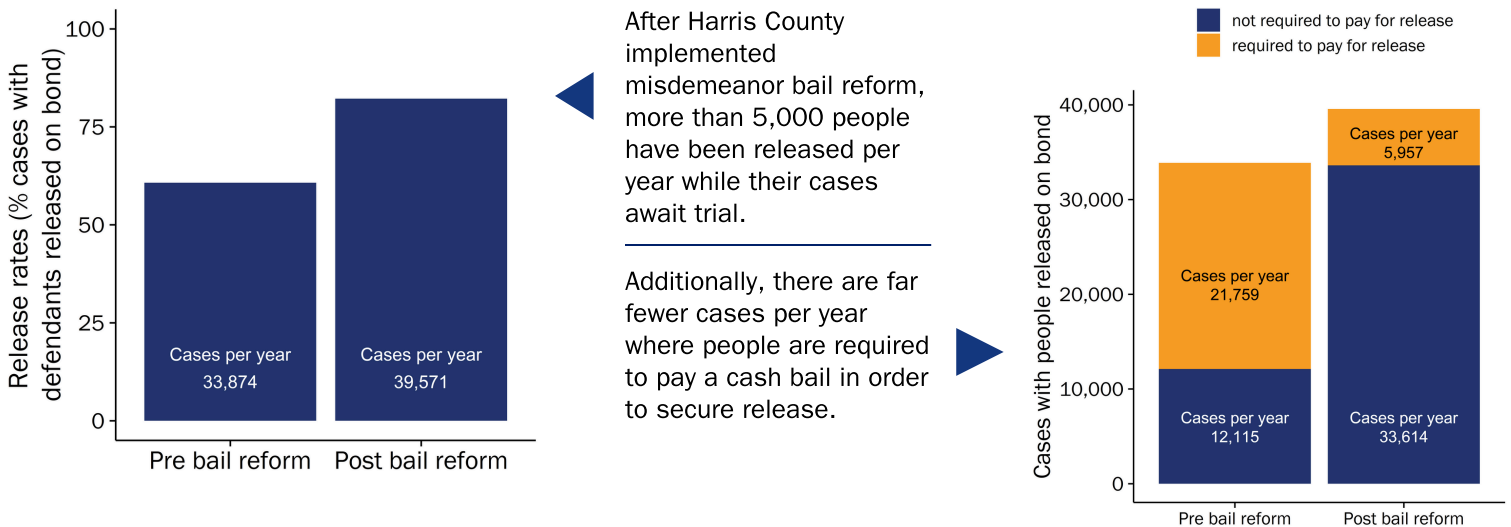


# Bail Reform in Harris County: What Have We Learned?

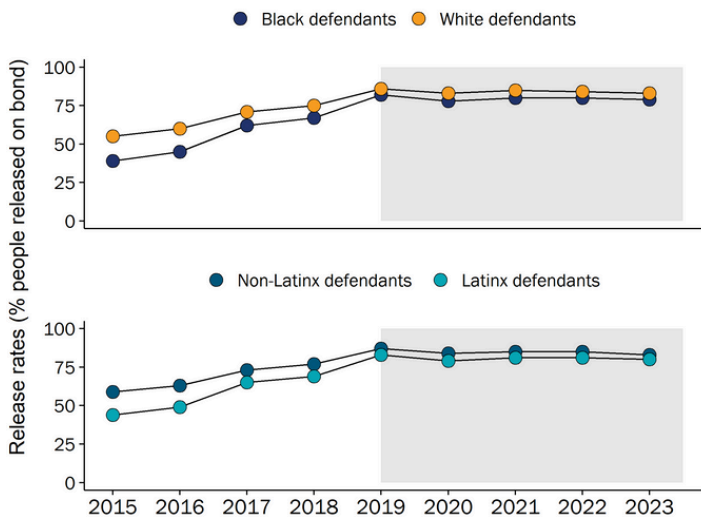
## About Misdemeanor Bail Reform

On November 21, 2019, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Lee Rosenthal approved the Consent Decree in *O'Donnell v. Harris County*. The new rules laid out in this consent decree require prompt release on unsecured bonds for the vast majority of people arrested for misdemeanor offenses. The Monitor and Deputy Monitor, Brandon Garrett and Sandra Guerra Thompson, are responsible for monitoring the progress in Harris County. Here are just a few of their key findings so far:

### Far more people are being released and far fewer need to pay cash bail

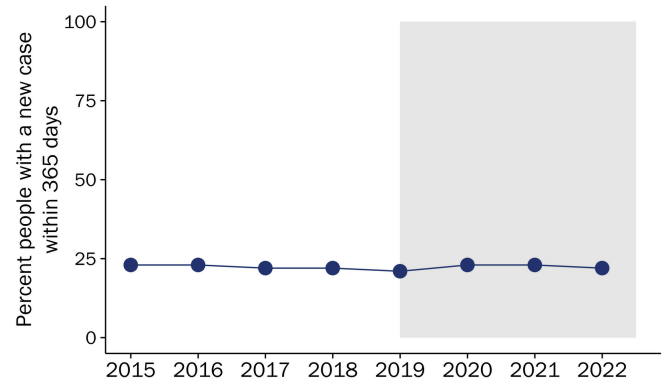


### While significant racial disparities remain in arrest rates, racial disparities in pretrial release rates have decreased



Harris County continues to arrest Black and brown people at far higher rates than white people. However, they are now being released pretrial at similar rates.

### Public safety has not been negatively affected



Rearrest rates have remained steady, so there is no evidence bail reform has contributed to an increase in crime.