

Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance
"United to implement justice system innovation"



New Orleans Safe City Initiative

Public Intoxication Cases
September 30, 2010

This report presents findings on the demographics and additional offense charges for Municipal Court cases charged with a public intoxication violation. Data presented in this report is based on a one-month cohort of public intoxication cases (August 19, 2010 – September 19, 2010). During this time period, 290 cases included a public intoxication charge, out of a total of 1,634 cases that were heard in Municipal Court. Of the 290 public intoxication cases, 72 were “public intoxication only” cases where public intoxication was the stand-alone charge; 218 of the cases included multiple charges.

Demographics of All Public Intoxication Cases

Tables 1 through 4 below provide demographic information on the 290 public intoxication cases. The demographic factors examined are residency (Nola Resident¹ or Non-Resident²), homelessness, gender, race, and age. The findings indicate that more than half of the public intoxication cases involve a New Orleans resident, 20 percent are non-residents³, and 14 percent of all the individuals charged with a public intoxication violation are homeless⁴. Additionally, the majority of cases are white males over the age of 25 (average age is 38).

Table 1: Residency of Cases Charged with Public Intoxication (n=290)

Nola Resident (n=187)	64.5%
Non-Resident (n=59)	20.3%
Nola Resident – homeless (n=37)	12.8%
Non-Resident – homeless (n=4)	1.4%
Unknown (n=3)	1.0%

¹ “Nola Resident” is defined as an individual who lives within a 20-mile radius of New Orleans, or in the North Shore. The term North Shore refers to areas that lie on the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain, located approximately 30-45 miles north of New Orleans, and includes the communities of Mandeville, Covington, Madisonville, Abita Springs, Lacombe, Eden Isle, and Slidell.

² “Non-Resident” is defined as an individual who lives in Louisiana, beyond a 20-mile radius of New Orleans and not in the North Shore, or in another state.

³ Of the 59 non-residents, 22.0% (n=13) live in the state of Louisiana and 78% (n=46) are from other states.

⁴ “Nola Resident – homeless” is defined as individuals who listed a local homeless shelter as a home address, and individuals who self-identified as “homeless” in the City of New Orleans. “Non-Resident – homeless” is defined as individuals who self-identified as “homeless” in a city other than New Orleans.

Table 2: Gender of Cases Charged with Public Intoxication (n=290)

Male (n=256)	88.3%
Female (n=31)	10.7%
Unknown (n=3)	1.0%

Table 3: Race⁵ of Cases Charged with Public Intoxication (n=290)

Caucasian (n=161)	55.5%
African American (n=124)	42.8%
Asian (n=1)	0.3%
Unknown (n=4)	1.4%

Table 4: Age* of Cases Charged with Public Intoxication (n=290)

Less than 21 (n=19)	6.6%
21-25 (n=47)	16.2%
26-35 (n=66)	22.8%
36-45 (n=63)	21.7%
Over 46 (n=92)	31.7%
Unknown (n=3)	1.0%

*Mean age is 38

Demographics of Cases with Public Intoxication Charge ONLY (n=72)

Tables 5 through 8 provide demographic information regarding the 72 cases that were for “public intoxication only” charges. The overwhelming majority of these cases (85%) resulted in custodial arrest; only 15 percent were issued summonses.

The findings indicate that:

- Almost three-quarters (73.6%) of the “public intoxication only” cases involve a New Orleans resident and approximately 14% are homeless.
- A majority are African American (57%) and 42% are Caucasian.
- A majority are over the age of 25 and male.

Table 5: Residency of Cases Charged with ONLY Public Intoxication (n=72)

Nola Resident (n=53)	73.6%
Non-Resident (n=9)	12.5%
Nola Resident – homeless (n=9)	12.5%
Non-Resident – homeless (n=1)	1.4%

Table 6: Gender of Cases Charged with ONLY Public Intoxication (n=72)

⁵ The data received provides no information about ethnicity. Therefore, we do not have specific data for persons of Hispanic descent.

Male (n=63)	87.5%
Female (n=9)	12.5%

Table 7: Race of Cases Charged with ONLY Public Intoxication (n=72)

Caucasian (n=30)	41.7%
African American (n=41)	56.9%
Asian (n=1)	1.4%

Table 8: Age of Cases Charged with ONLY Public Intoxication (n=72)

Less than 21 (n=4)	5.6%
21-25 (n=10)	13.9%
26-35 (n=16)	22.2%
36-45 (n=16)	22.2%
Over 46 (n=26)	36.1%

Frequency of Additional Charges

Seventy-five percent of the public intoxication cases (n=218) were also charged with additional violations. As illustrated in Table 9 below, disturbing the peace was the additional offense most often charged in a public intoxication case. Tables 9 through 13 below provide a breakdown of public intoxication cases with additional charges:

Table 9: Percentage of Cases with at least One Additional Charge (n=218)

§54-403 Disturbing the peace (n=74)	33.9%
§54-441 Resisting an Officer (n=31)	14.2%
§54-153 Criminal trespass (n=28)	12.8%
§54-401 Obstructing public passage (n=24)	11.0%
§54-254 Lewd conduct (n=17)	7.8%
Other charges** (n=44)	20.2%

** "Other charges" consists of all single offense charges that make up less than five percent of the total number of offenses charged.

Of the 218 public intoxication cases charged with additional violations, a majority (136 cases, or 62.3%) had just one additional charge. Table 10 below provides a breakdown of those charges.

Table 10: Percentage of Cases with One Additional Charge (n=136)

§54-403 Disturbing the peace (n=49)	36.0%
§54-153 Criminal trespass (n=25)	18.4%
§54-254 Lewd conduct (n=16)	11.8%
§54-401 Obstructing public passage (n=12)	8.8%
§54-441 Resisting an Officer (8)	5.9%
Other charges** (n=26)	19.1%

** "Other charges" consists of all single offense charges that make up less than five percent of the total number of offenses charged.

The remaining 82 cases are broken down into two categories: public intoxication cases with two additional charges, and public intoxication cases with three or more additional charges. Because

of the overlap in offense type, the data analysis below is presented in terms of percentage of charges produced (e.g., one case may produce three charges).

Table 11 reports on the frequency of charges produced by the 58 public intoxication cases that had two additional charges. These cases produced a total of 116 charges.

Table 11: Percentage of Charges Produced by Cases with Two Additional Charges (n=116)

§54-403 Disturbing the peace (n=38)	33.0%
§54-153 Criminal trespass (n=20)	17.0%
§54-401 Obstructing public passage (n=11)	9.0%
§54-441 Resisting an officer (n=8)	7.0%
§54-411 Begging (n=8)	7.0%
§54-96 Battery (n=6)	5.0%
Other charges** (n=25)	22.0%

** "Other charges" consists of all single offense charges that make up less than five percent of the total number of offenses charged.

Table 12 reports on the frequency of charges produced by the 24 public intoxication cases that had three or more additional charges. These cases produced a total of 77 charges.

Table 12: Percentage of Charges Produced by Cases with Three or More Additional Charges (n=77)

§54-403 Disturbing the peace (n=20)	26.0%
§54-441 Resisting an officer (n=18)	23.0%
§54-96 Battery (n=8)	10.0%
§54-403 Misrepresenting name/address/age (n=6)	8.0%
§54-153 Criminal trespass (n=5)	6.0%
Other charges** (n=20)	26.0%
** "Other charges" consists of all single offense charges that make up less than five percent of the total number of offenses charged.	

To summarize, Table 13 shows that the majority of all 290 public intoxication cases (72%) have either public intoxication as the stand alone charge or only one additional charge.

Table 13: Public Intoxication Cases and Additional Charges (n=290)

	Number of Cases	Percentage
Cases with no additional charges (public intoxication as stand-alone charge)	72	25.0%
Cases with one additional charge	136	47.0%
Cases with two additional charges	58	20.0%
Cases with three or more additional charges	24	8.0%
Total Cases	290	100%