



# Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission (TSCC)

## Multnomah County Hearing Questions for FY26

Topic: Deflection, Jails, Public Safety

June 4, 2025

# Question Topic: Deflection, Jails, Public Safety

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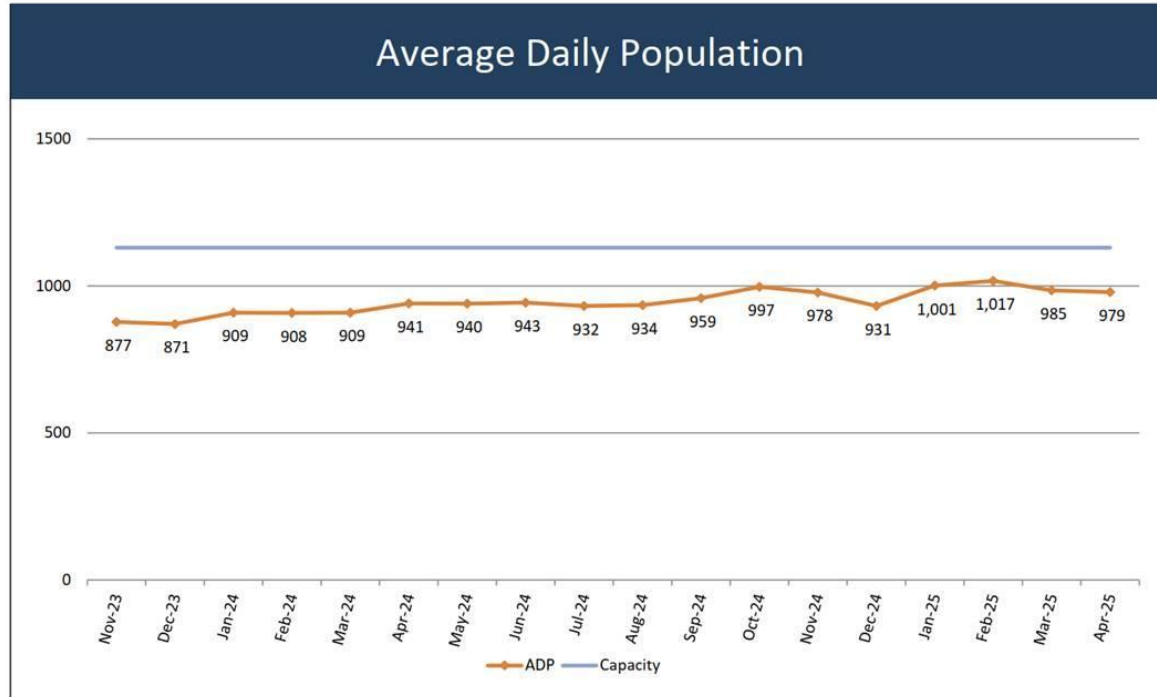
## **TSCC Question:**

Last summer ended the decriminalization of certain illegal substances, and people can again be arrested for possession. The county is doing work to address some of these charges through the deflection program, but as we've discussed, that program is just getting off the ground. How are things going so far, are you seeing changes in the number of people being prosecuted for crimes related to decriminalization?

## **Follow up:**

Are you seeing any changes in the jail population this year? And if so, do you believe it is related to the decriminalization, or other factors?

# Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Response



The overall County jail population has been growing steadily for the past two years at a rate of just under 1% per month.



# Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Response



This has been primarily due to persons staying in custody longer, not additional custodies to the jail; monthly jail bookings have been more or less flat as you can see in the chart.



# Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Response

Drug Enforcement Misdemeanors (DEMs) represent a very minor portion of the overall County jail bookings.

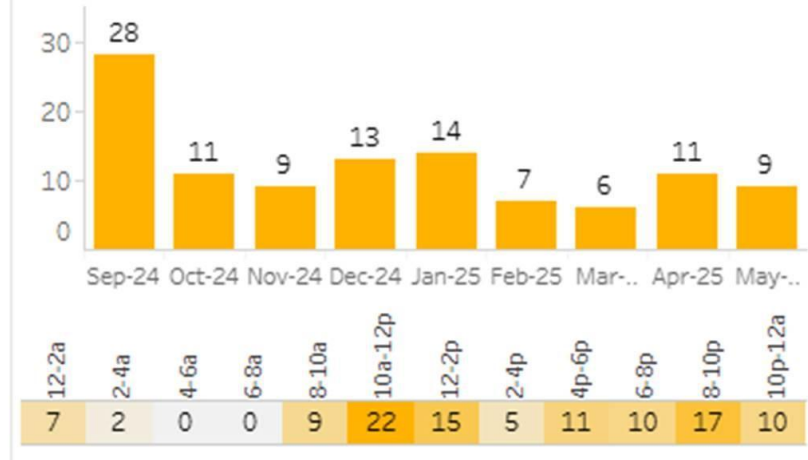
- 108 total bookings on DEM charges since September of 2024 against an average of between 1500 and 1600 bookings *per month* in the same interval.

These 108 bookings have had virtually zero impact on jail capacity. The average length of stay in custody for those bookings is 26 hours, and the median is far lower at just 4 hours.

## DEM Charges Only

### Standard Bookings by Date and Time

108 booking(s) included **DEM charges only.**



# Department of Community Justice Response

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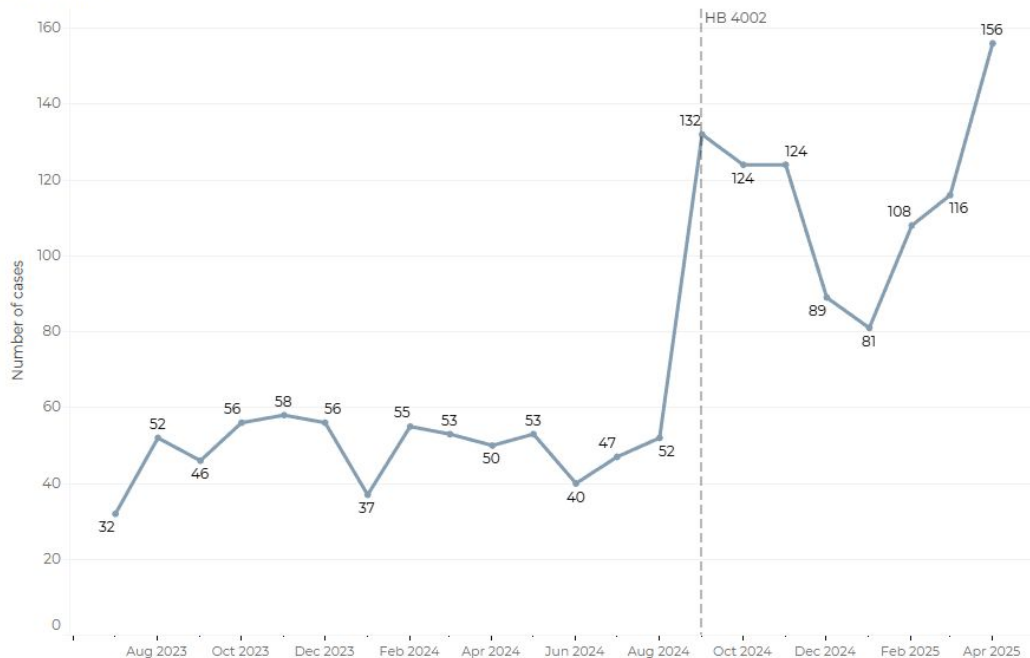
- The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) has seen a limited number of adults come on supervision as a result of the passing of HB 4002.
- As of May 10, 2025, there were 18 adults on supervision with DCJ for drug enforced misdemeanors (DEM). Of these 18, five were convicted in Multnomah County.
- Other counties of disposition include Clackamas (9), Jackson (1), Washington (2) and Yamhill (1). Four of the five adults have initiated and completed the deflection process at the Deflection Center, with one declining to participate.
- DCJ holds monthly internal coordination meetings to review new cases, and the coordination process with system partners, to support early information sharing and establish best practices.



# District Attorney's Office Response

**Drug Case Referrals Trend**

Jul 2023 to Apr 2025

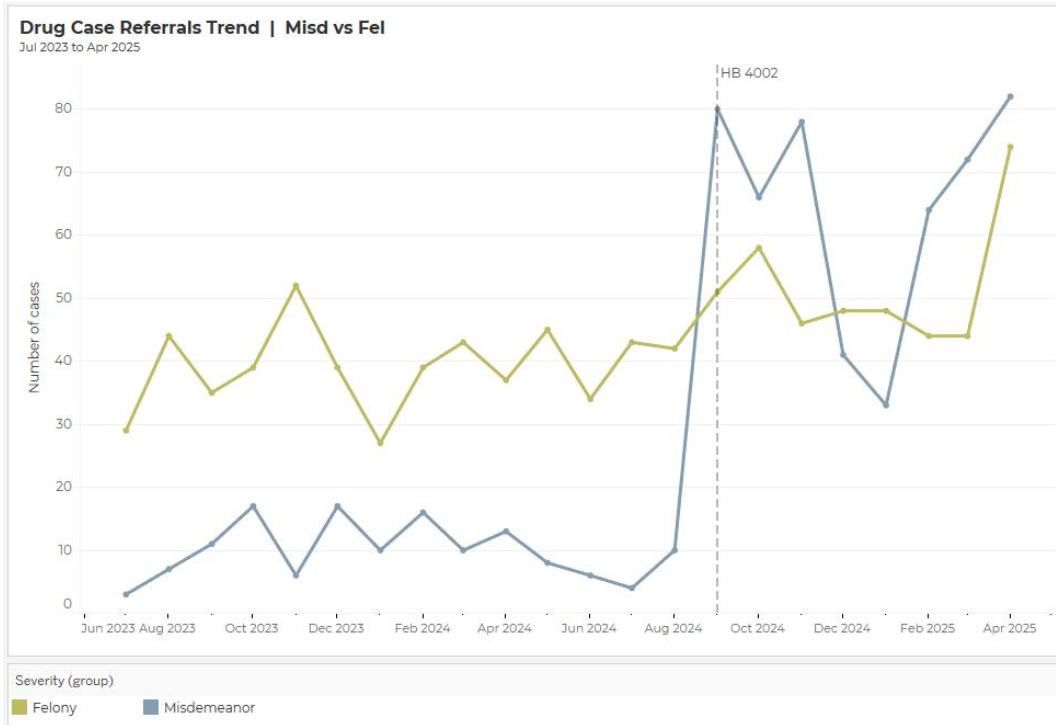


Since HB 4002, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has seen a predictable increase in law enforcement referrals for these charges.

- In the eight months following the law's enactment, our office received 930 referred cases that included at least one charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance, compared to 387 such cases in the eight months prior.



# District Attorney's Office Response



The majority of these cases also include at least one companion felony charge. The most common co-occurring offenses are:

- Unlawful possession of firearms
- Felony elude
- DUII
- Property crimes such as theft and unauthorized use of a vehicle

