

A COMMUNITY COURT GROWS IN BROOKLYN:

A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE RED HOOK COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

Final Report



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Table 7. Court of Arraignment for Misdemeanor Defendants Arrested in RHCJC Catchment Area by Day of Arrest, 2008 Dispositions

Day	Arraignment Court	
	RHCJC	Downtown
Sunday	40%	60%
Monday	72	28
Tuesday	73	27
Wednesday	71	29
Thursday	66	34
Friday	20	80
Saturday	9	91
Total	50	50
Sunday – Thursday	66	34
Monday – Thursday	70	30

n = 3,127

4. Caseload Composition

Table 8 breaks down Red Hook arraignments by case type for the period 2000 – 2009. Together, marijuana and other drug offenses constituted more than 30 percent of cases. Violent offenses, crimes against persons, and weapons offenses represented 17 percent of arraignments. Consistent with RHCJC’s focus on processing misdemeanors, only two percent of arraignments were on felony charges. The mixture of case types arraigned at Red Hook is much more diverse than the cases appearing at the Midtown Community Court in its early years, where three categories of minor property crime (petit larceny, theft of services and unlicensed vending) together accounted for more than three-quarters of cases, and drug offenses made up just three percent of cases (Sviridoff et al. 2000, 112). The broad range of case types appearing at RHCJC accords with the court’s comprehensive approach to the problem of low-level neighborhood crime, and contrasts sharply with the Midtown court’s narrower focus on a few highly visible case types.

- **How easy do they say it is to “get over” on the process?**
- **Very Easy**
- **Somewhat Easy**
- **Not so Easy**
- **Hard**
- **Very Hard**

82. How do they do this?

Experience With the Police

<p>83. How many times were you stopped by the police in the last year that did NOT result in a summons, DAT, or arrest?</p>	
<p>84. How many of those times were you frisked by the police?</p>	
<p>85. How many times that you were frisked, were you given a palm card that explained why you were frisked?</p>	
<p>86. Describe the interactions that you had with the police on these occasions.</p>	

<p>87. Which of the following best describes their behavior:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> friendly and encouraging <input type="radio"/> professional and courteous <input type="radio"/> hurried and distant <input type="radio"/> rude and disrespectful</p>	
<p>88. Would you describe their actions and decisions as fair?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No Unsure</p>	
<p>89. What did you learn from that experience? (social responsibility, CJ process, yourself, the world)</p>	
<p>90. What did you learn about law enforcement from that experience?</p>	
<p>91. How many times have you been arrested:</p>	<p>92. At what age was your first arrest?</p>
<p>93. What were you arrested for:</p>	

94. How many arrests were for drugs?	95. When was the last time that you were arrested on misdemeanor charge in this area:

96. When was the last time you saw a doctor?	
97. What kind of health-related problems, if any, do you have:	
98. What social service agencies, if any, do you know about in this area:	
99. Have you ever gone to a social service agency for help with something? Yes No	100. Were they able to help you? Yes No
101. What service(s) did you go for:	

|

102. When was the last violent dispute that you witnessed?	103. Where did this happen?
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104. Can you tell me what happened?

105. When was the last violent dispute that you were part of?

106. Where did this happen?

107. Can you tell me what happened:

108. In your opinion, is the neighborhood more or less violent today than it was last year?

More violent Less violent About the same

109. Do you feel safe in the neighborhood?

Yes No Unsure

110. If things have changed, why do you think that this has happened?

111. How many people do you know that own a gun?

112. Do you own a gun?			
Yes	No	No response	
113. If you wanted to get a gun, how long would it take for you to get one?			
114. Where do you see yourself in ten years?			

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