



Q1 2024 Local Papering Rates and the Impact of Mandatory Arrest on Local Prosecutions

- For the first quarter of FY24 (October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023), 55% of suspects were charged at time of arrest (up 2% from Q4 FY23). We transferred an additional 4% for prosecution elsewhere, reflecting a 59% effective prosecution rate.
- Nearly 90% of violent gun offenses are charged at the time of arrest; the remainder are subject to additional investigation.
- With respect to comparing charging rates to other jurisdictions, one of the most important factors is whether the jurisdiction—like DC—requires mandatory arrest whenever there is probable cause to believe a domestic violence offense occurred.
- There are 17 states that have similar mandatory arrest laws, but DC's mandatory arrest law is broader than most, if not all, of these states in terms of the circumstances where arrest is mandatory.
- Our Office asked faculty members of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland—the number one ranked criminology department in the country—to find publicly available data about prosecutor charging rates in states that require mandatory arrest for domestic violence.
- They provided data from 9 states. The mean day-of-arrest charging rate across these states is roughly 54% — 5 points below our current effective prosecution rate.
- The other way of looking at charging data is comparing year over year in a single jurisdiction.
- Assuming that roughly 4% of arrests are transferred to the Office of Attorney General for prosecution every year, the day of arrest charging rate varied between 77% and 64% from 2010 through 2018 in DC.
- Our Office has explained that some of the difference between those rates and the current effective prosecution rate has been driven by changes in the law.
- The remainder has been driven by efforts this Office started making in 2019 to reduce the amount of prosecutorial resources we waste on charging, but later dismissing, fundamentally flawed cases that we will not be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

