

In May 2020, the Data Collaborative for Justice (DCJ), issued a report, “*Desk Appearance Tickets in New York State in 2018.*” This report was revised on February 3, 2021, to incorporate changes in DCJ’s coding of charge categories. For many of its reports, for purposes of helping readers better understand trends and differences in how broad categories of cases are processed through the criminal legal system, DCJ aggregates various charges into the following categories: Person (charges involving direct, physical harm to a person), Property (charges involving stealing or damage to property), Marijuana, Other Drugs, Weapons (charges involving possession or use of a weapon), Vehicle and Driving, and Other charges.

DCJ made a **number of changes to the way charges are categorized:**

- Previously, many theft-related charges and trespassing charges were categorized as Other but are now categorized as Property.
- Charges related to vehicle theft were previously categorized as Vehicle and Driving but are now categorized as Property.
- Some sex offense charges were previously categorized as Other but are now categorized as Person.
- Some charges that were previously designated as Person or Property and/or are Violent Felony Offenses (VFO) were moved into the Other category because the charge descriptions were ambiguous or lacked sufficient detail to easily place them in another category (e.g., PL § 240.61 – Placing a false bomb or hazardous substance in the 2nd degree).

Only the figures related to charge category (Figures 3 and 6) changed as a result of this new coding. There are no changes to aggregate findings, analyses by geography, or analyses by charge class.

The revised version of the report incorporates the following changes:

- 54.1% (45,456) of Vehicle and Driving charges were DAT arraignments, compared to 53.4% (45,616) in the original version (p. 7).
- 10.3% (5,903) of Person charges were DAT arraignments, compared to 10.2% (5,523) in the original version (p. 7).
- The most prevalent charges in Other were criminal mischief (PL § 145.00) and criminal possession of a forged instrument in the 3rd degree (PL § 170.20). In the original version, the most prevalent charges were trespassing (PL § 140.10) and criminal mischief (PL § 145.00) [p. 8].
- The appearance rate for DAT arraignments among Person charges was 88.6% compared to 88.4% in the original version (p. 10).