

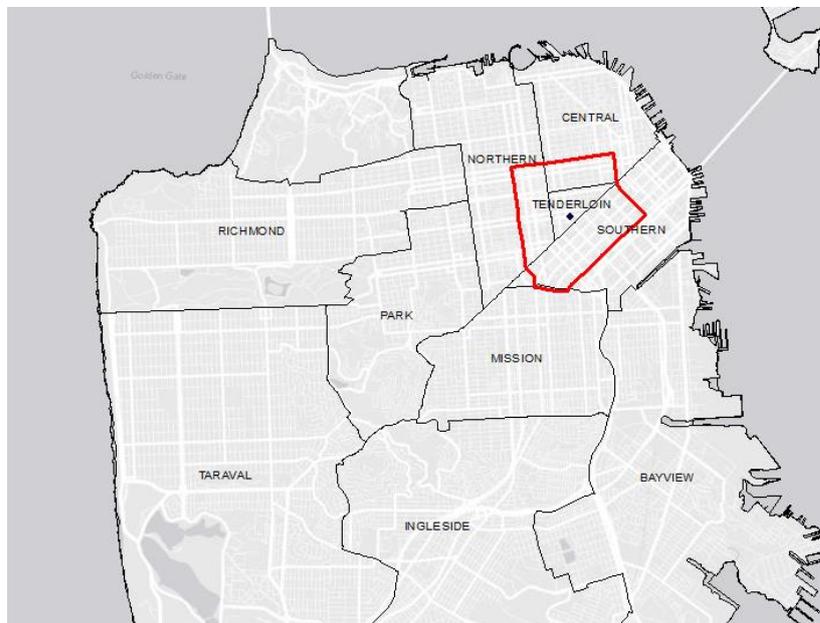
## DOES SAN FRANCISCO'S COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER REDUCE THE PROBABILITY OF REARREST?

Beau Kilmer, PhD & Jesse Sussell, PhD  
RAND Drug Policy Research Center

The San Francisco Community Justice Center (CJC) opened in March 2009 and is located in and designed to serve the Tenderloin and the adjacent neighborhoods of Civic Center, Union Square, and SOMA (South of Market). Collectively this area has high rates of unemployment, homelessness, and crime—between 1/4 and 1/3 of the city's non-vehicular crimes occur in this region. In its five years of operation, the CJC has heard almost 10,000 cases involving approximately 6,000 defendants, and currently hears in excess of 100 cases per day.

Our forthcoming report examines whether CJC participation reduces the risk of offender recidivism. We measure recidivism using arrest data from the City and County of San Francisco as well as criminal history information from the California Department of Justice. Because cases are only eligible for the CJC if they have a geographic "tie" to the CJC region, we are able to use the "differences-in-differences" technique, a common research design that exploits temporal and geographic variation in program eligibility. Within the four police districts that overlay the CJC catchment area (Figure 1), we estimate the effect of the CJC on offender recidivism by examining the 1-year rearrest rates for those arrested inside and outside of the catchment area both before and after the CJC was established. The results are subjected to a series of sensitivity analyses which consider alternative assumptions and different comparison groups.

**Figure 1: CJC Catchment Area and SFPD Police Districts**



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