

# The San Francisco Sentencing Commission

City & County of San Francisco

(Administrative Code 5.250 through 5.250-3)

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## Safety and Justice Challenge Subcommittee

### AGENDA

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 12:00 pm

**REMOTE MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**Watch via Zoom:** <https://sfdistrictattorney.zoom.us/j/99267912429>

**Public Comment Call-In:** 877 853 5247 US Toll-free

**Meeting ID:** 992 6791 2429

**In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom’s statewide order for all residents to “Stay at Home” – and with the numerous local and state proclamations, orders and supplemental directions – aggressive directives have been issued to slow down and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.**

**The Safety and Justice Challenge Subcommittee meetings held through videoconferencing will allow remote public comment via the videoconference or through the number noted above. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely by submitting written comments electronically to [josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org](mailto:josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org). These comments will be made part of the official public record in these matters and shall be brought to the attention of the members of the Subcommittee. Explanatory and/or Supporting Documents, if any, will be posted at: <https://sfdistrictattorney.org/sentencing-commission-relevant-documents>**

1. Call to Order; Roll Call.
2. Public Comment.
  - a. General Public Comment.
  - b. Public Comment on All Agenda Items.
3. Monthly Jail Population Report (discussion and possible action).
4. COVID Response update from DPH (discussion and possible action).
5. Strategy Updates (discussion and possible action).
6. Request for Future Agenda Items (discussion and possible action).
7. Adjournment.

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### SUBMITTING WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SAFETY AND JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

Persons who are unable to attend the public meeting may submit to the San Francisco Safety and Justice Challenge Subcommittee, by the time the proceedings begin, written comments regarding the subject of the meeting. These comments will be made a part of the official public record and brought to the attention of the Subcommittee. Written comments should be submitted to: Josie Halpern-Finnerty, San Francisco District Attorney's Office, via email: [josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org](mailto:josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org)

### MEETING MATERIALS

Copies of agendas, minutes, and explanatory documents are available through the Sentencing Commission website at <http://www.sfdistrictattorney.org> or by emailing [josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org](mailto:josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org). The material can be faxed or mailed to you upon request.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Josie Halpern-Finnerty at [josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org](mailto:josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org) at least two business days before the meeting.

### TRANSLATION

Interpreters for languages other than English are available on request. Sign language interpreters are also available on request. For either accommodation, please contact Josie Halpern-Finnerty at [josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org](mailto:josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org) at least two business days before the meeting.

### CHEMICAL SENSITIVITIES

To assist the City in its efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library, and on the City's web site at: [www.sfgov.org/sunshine](http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE:

Administrator  
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4683.  
Telephone: (415) 554-7724  
E-Mail: [soft@sfgov.org](mailto:soft@sfgov.org)

### CELL PHONES

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Co-Chairs may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

### LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (SF Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code sections 2.100-2.160) to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco CA 94102, telephone (415) 581-2300, FAX (415) 581-2317, and web site <http://www.sfgov.org/ethics/>

# SAFETY AND JUSTICE WORKGROUP MEETING

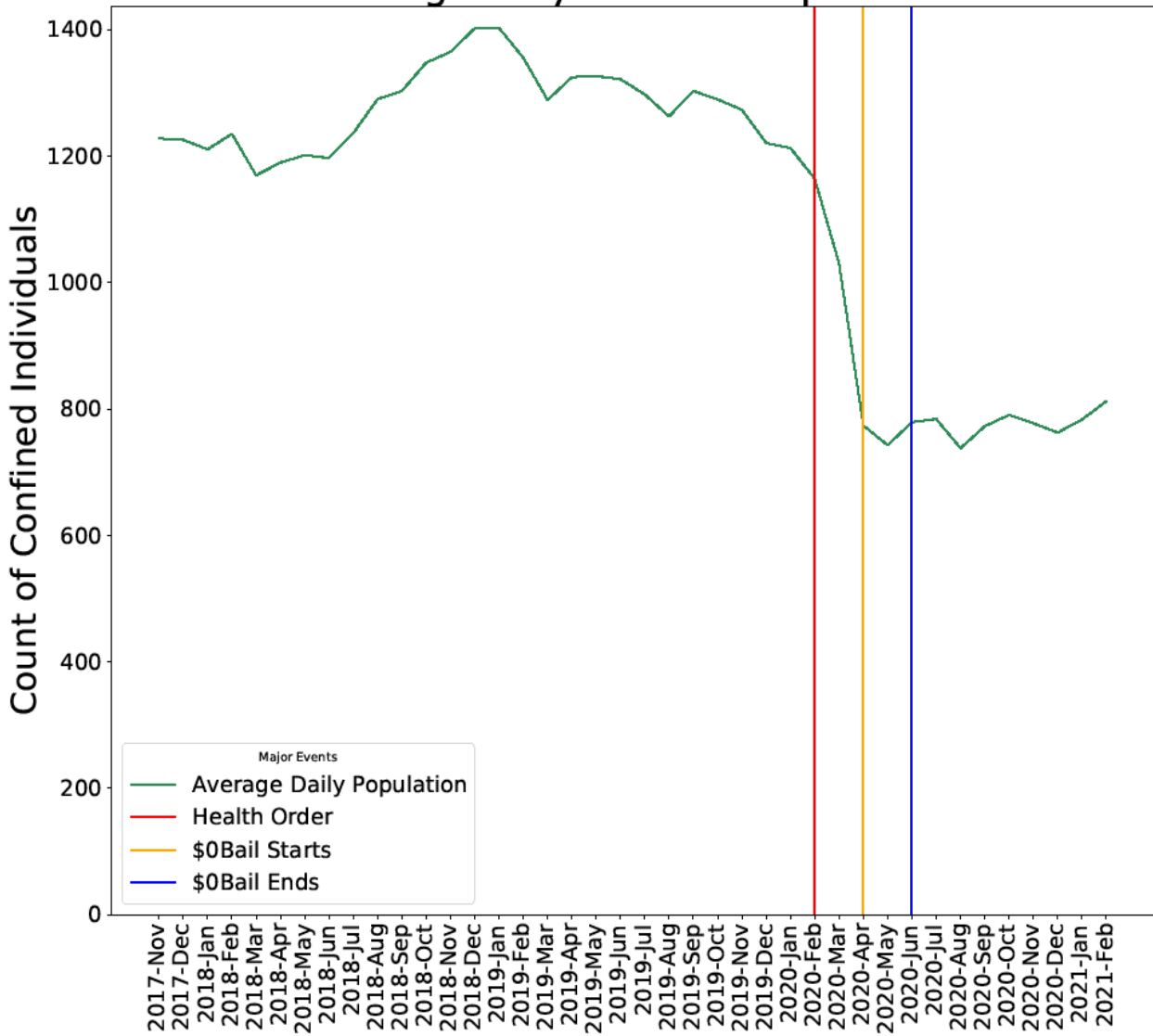
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021



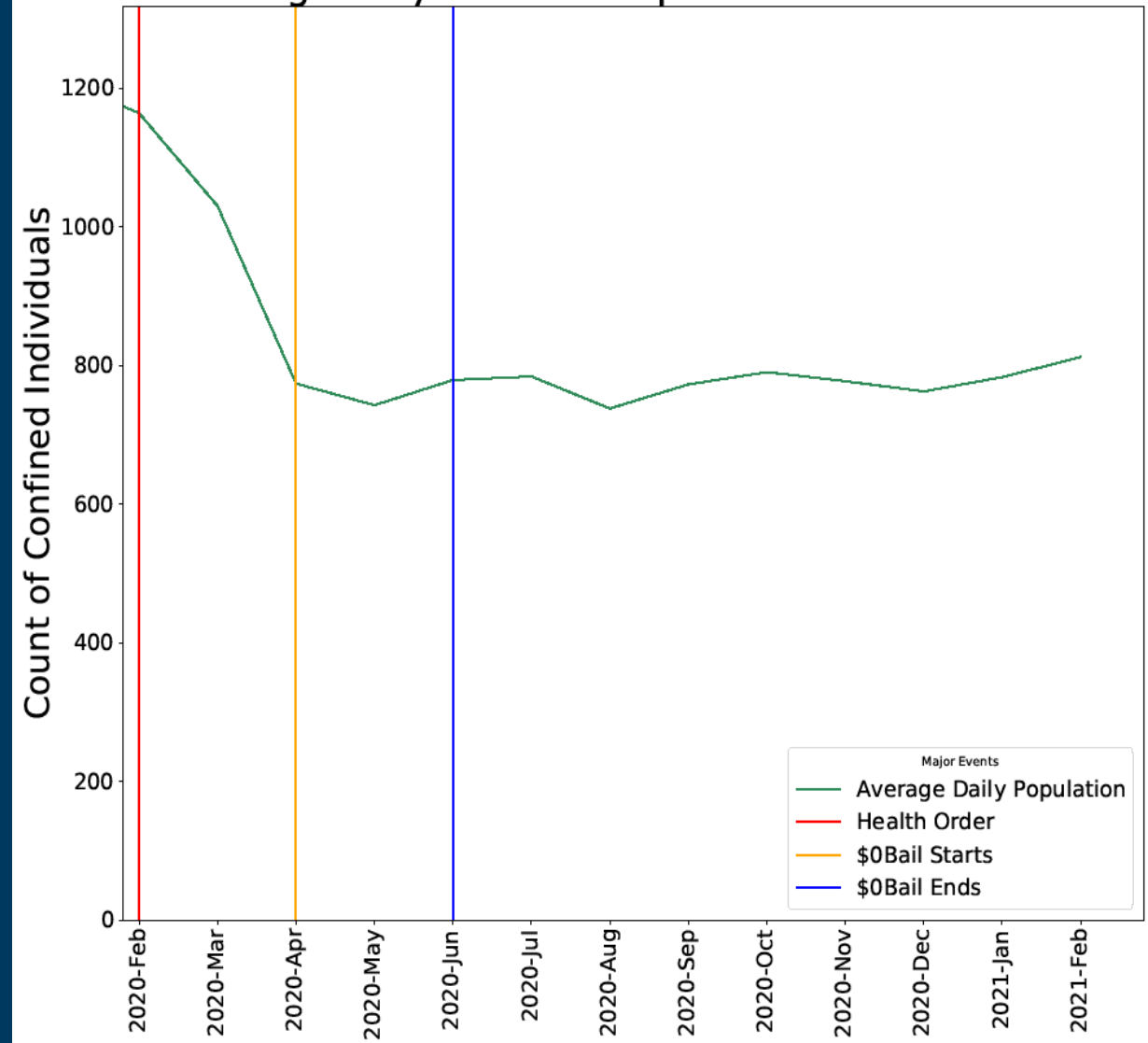
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

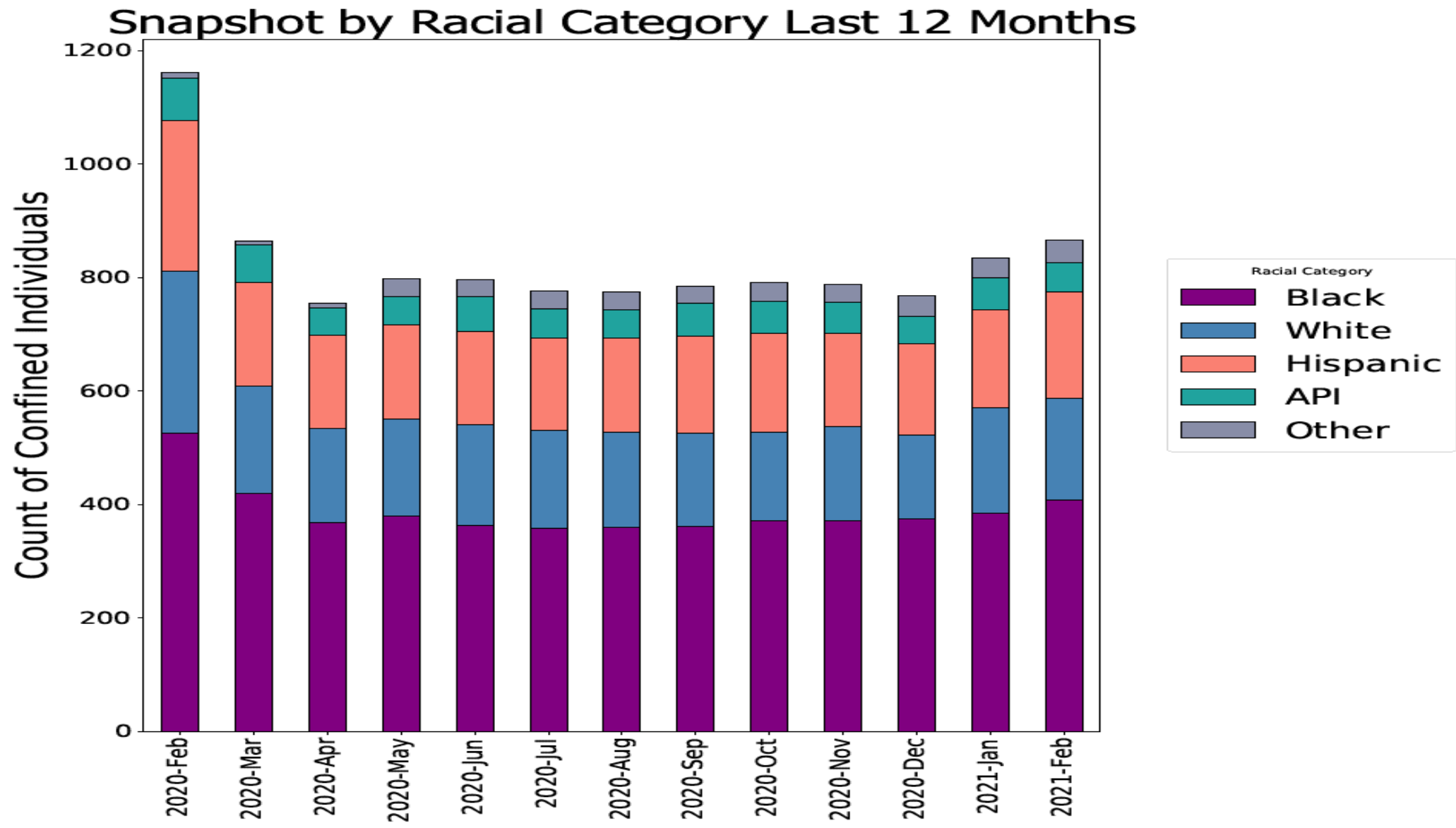
## Average Daily Confined Population



## Average Daily Confined Population Last 12 Months

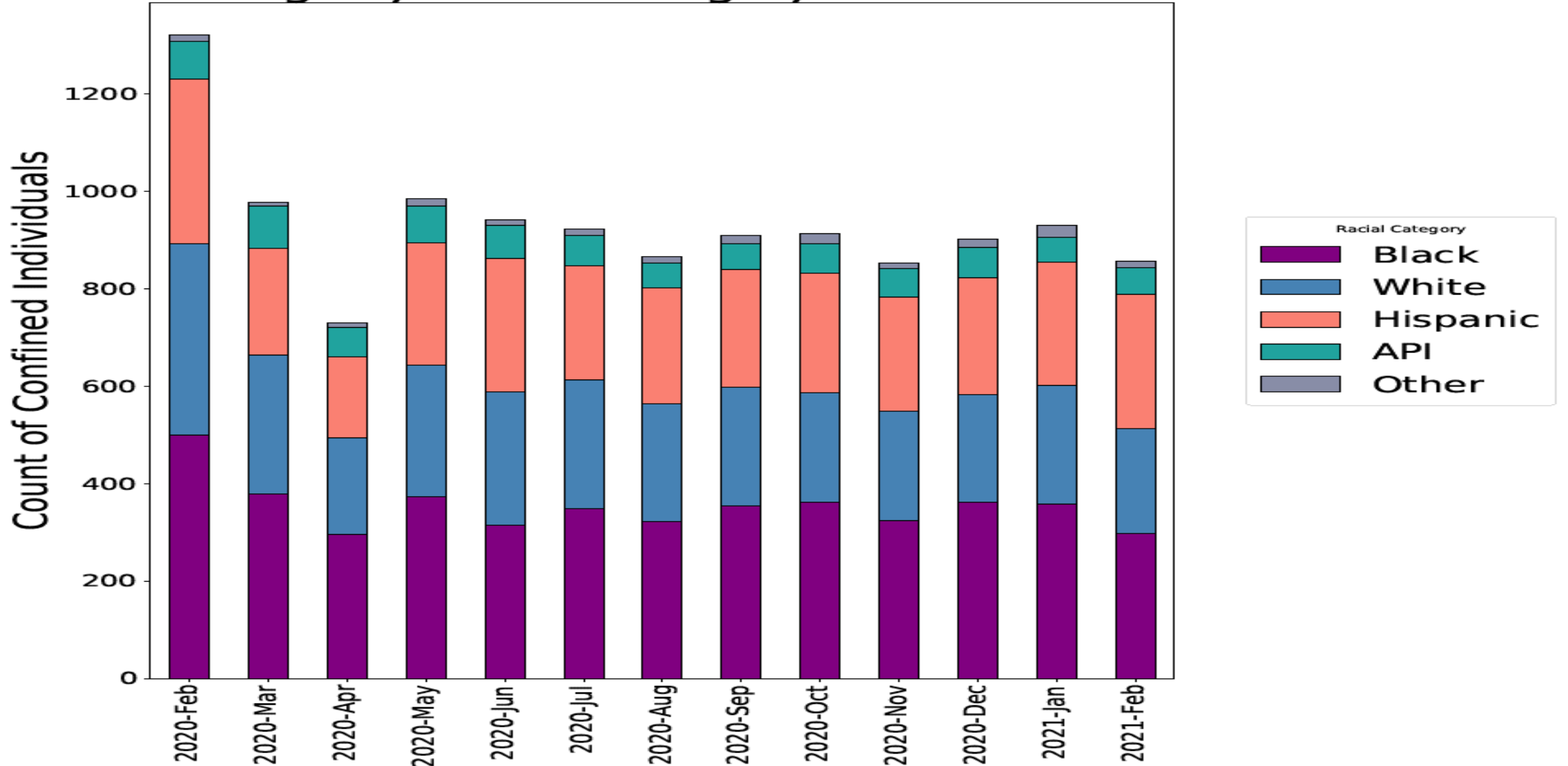


# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

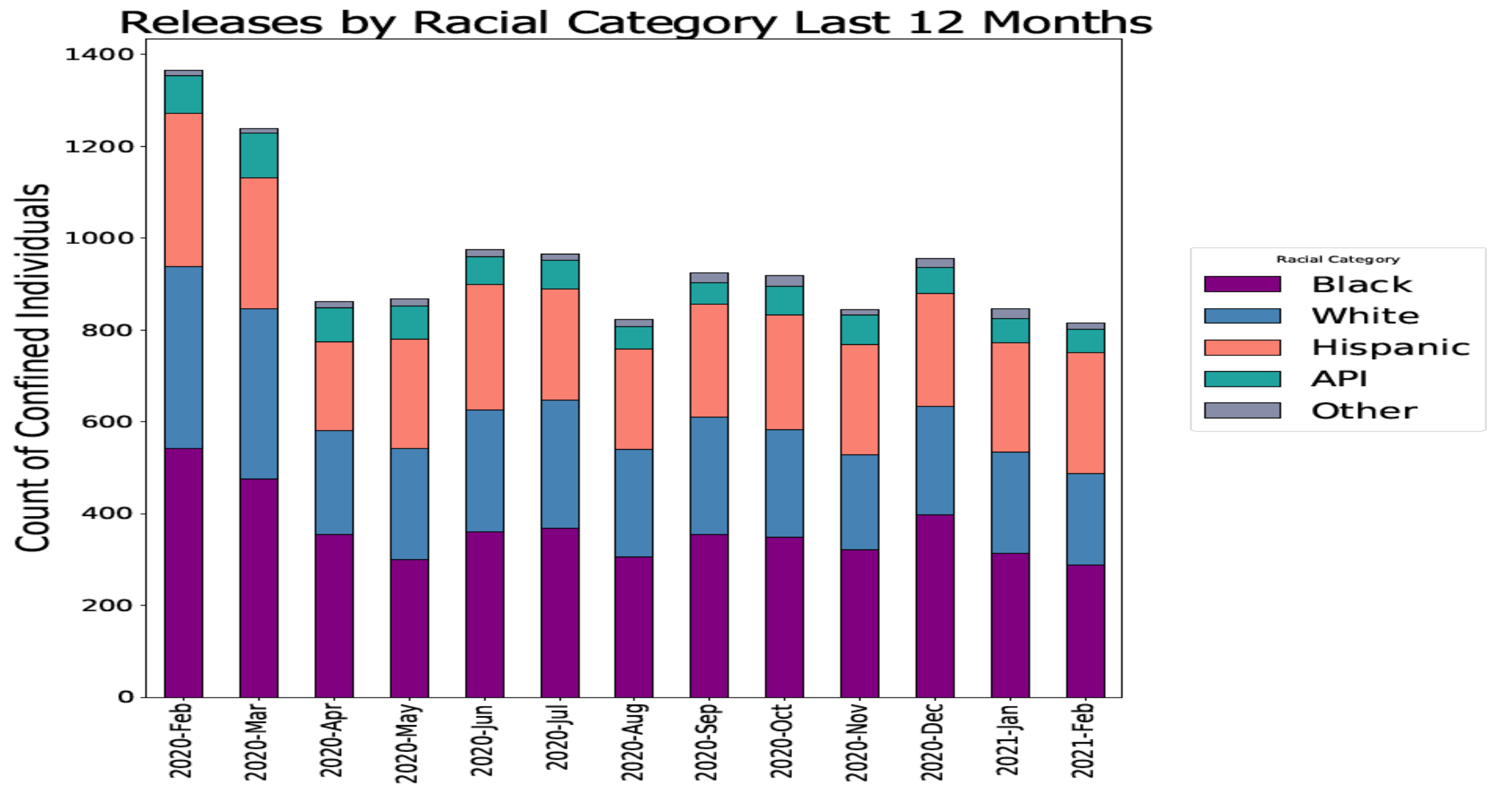


# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

## Bookings by Racial Category Last 12 Months

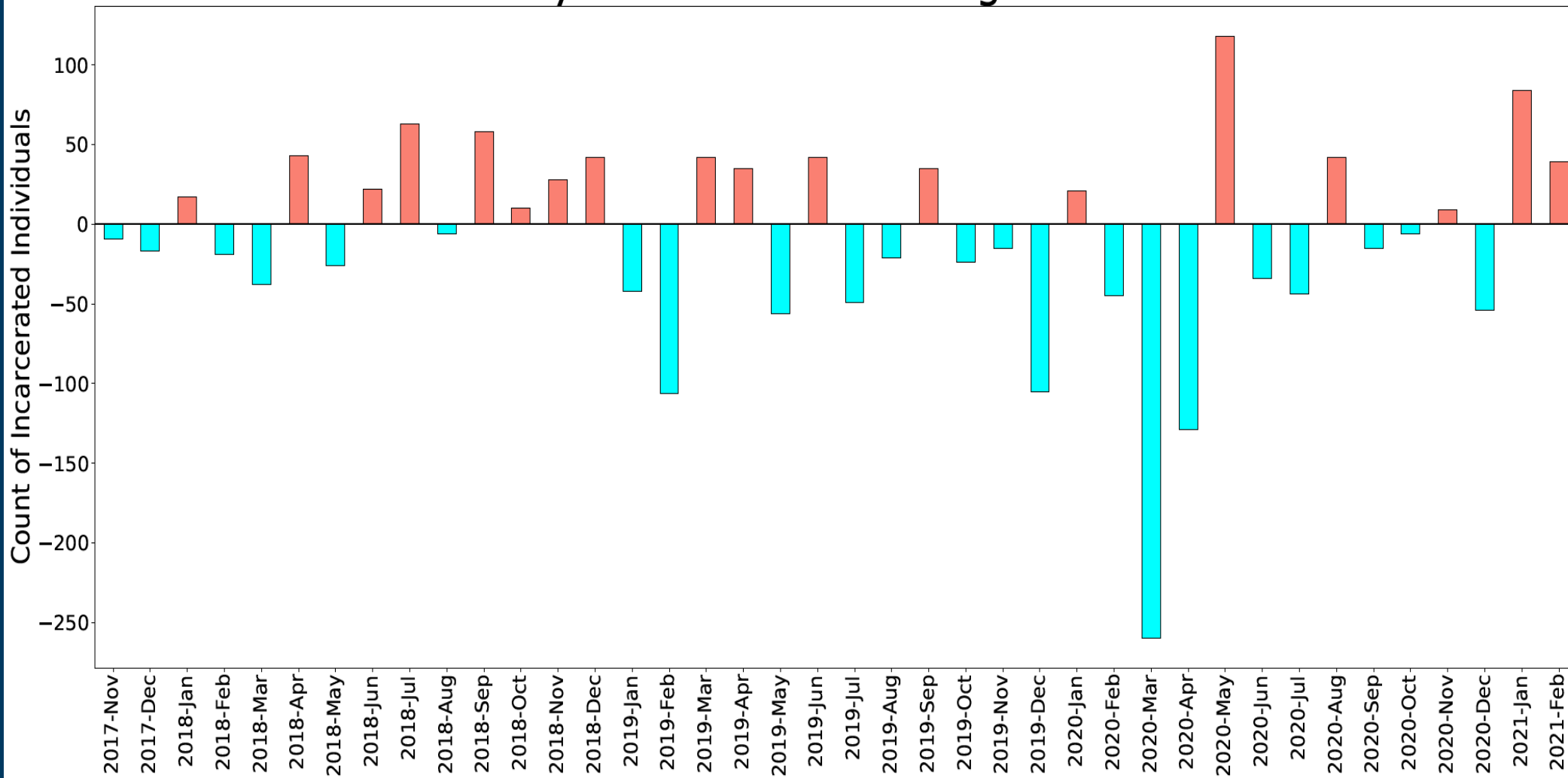


# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report



# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

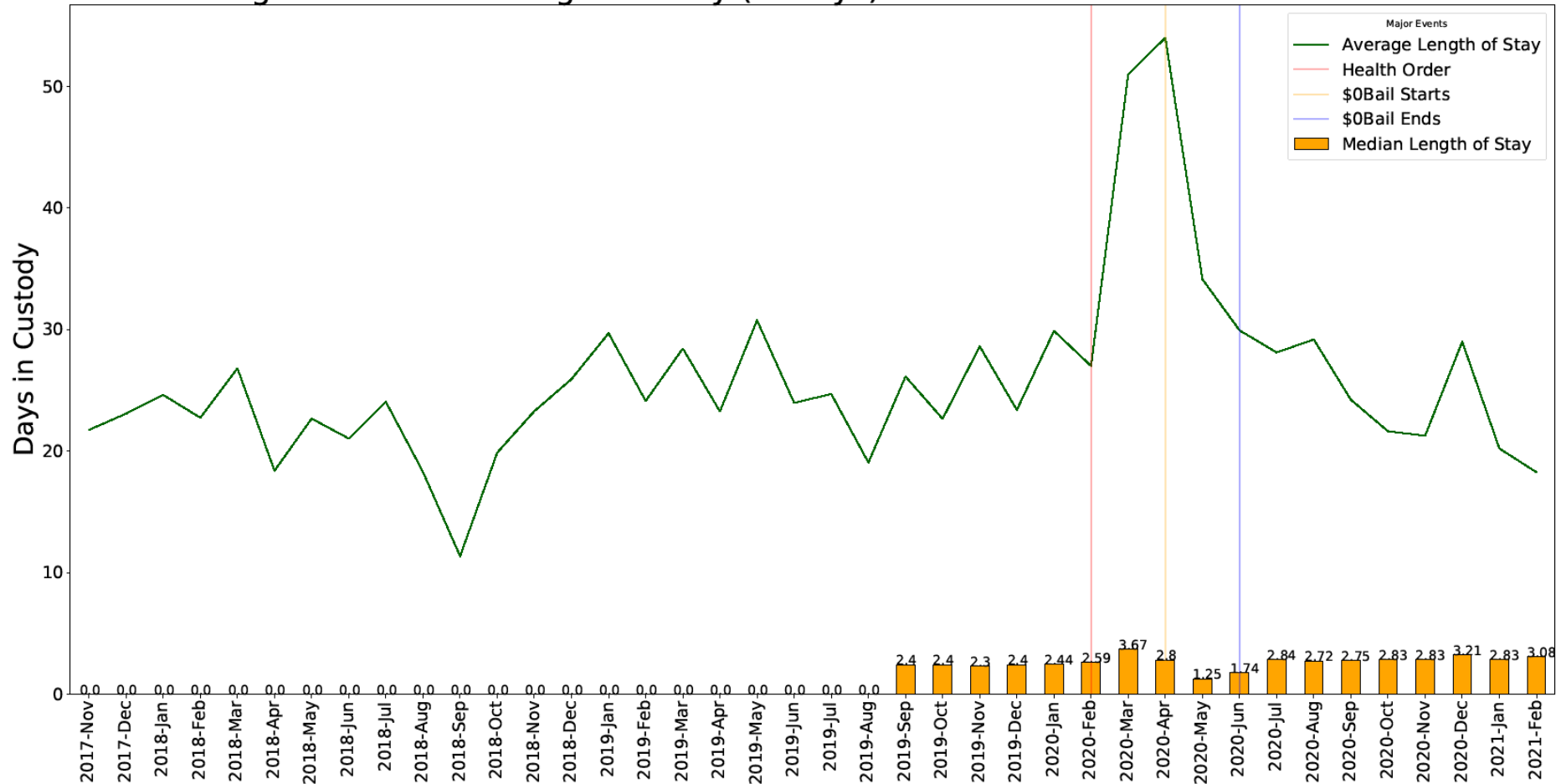
## Monthly Differences in Bookings vs Releases





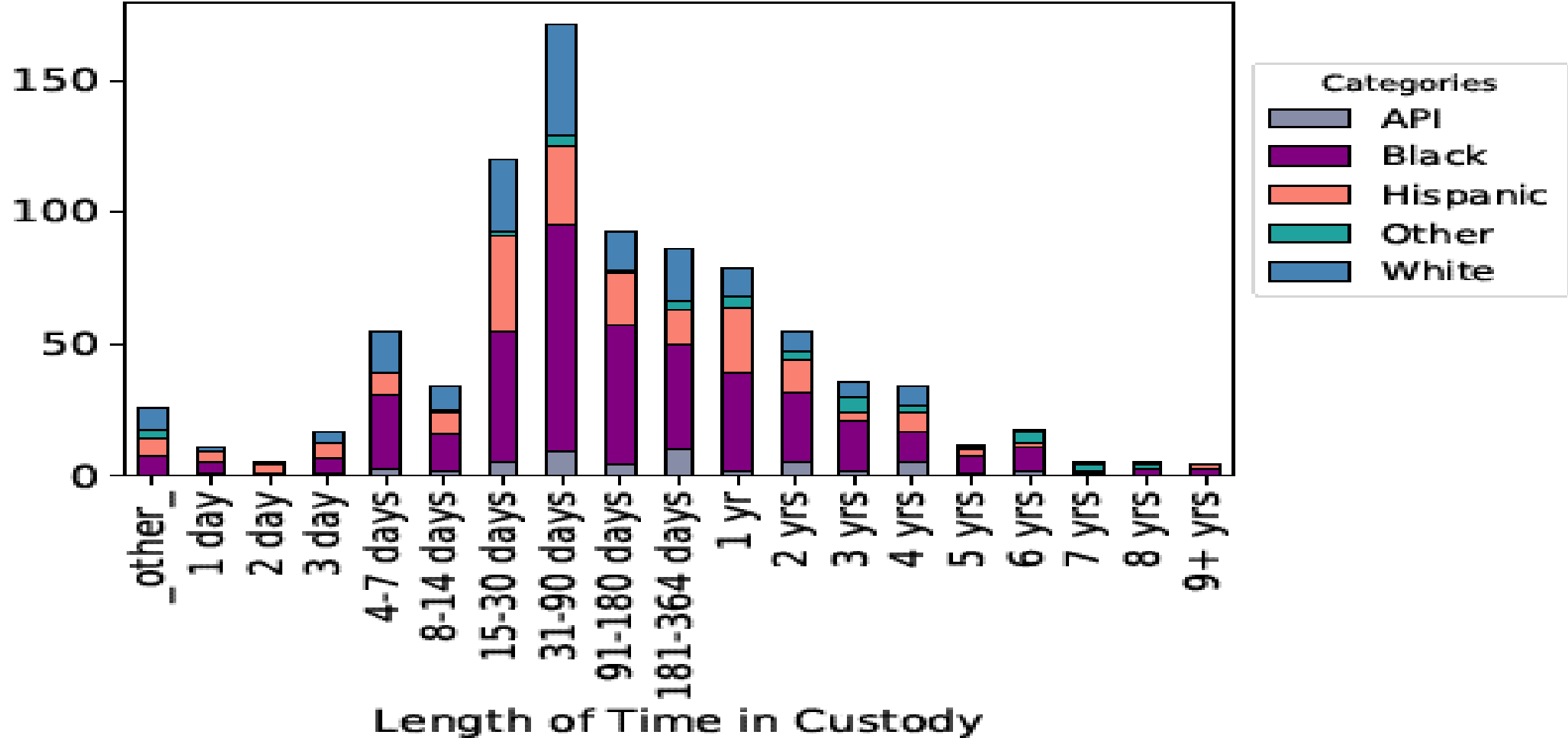
# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

Average and Median Length of Stay (in days) of Individuals Released in the Month



# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

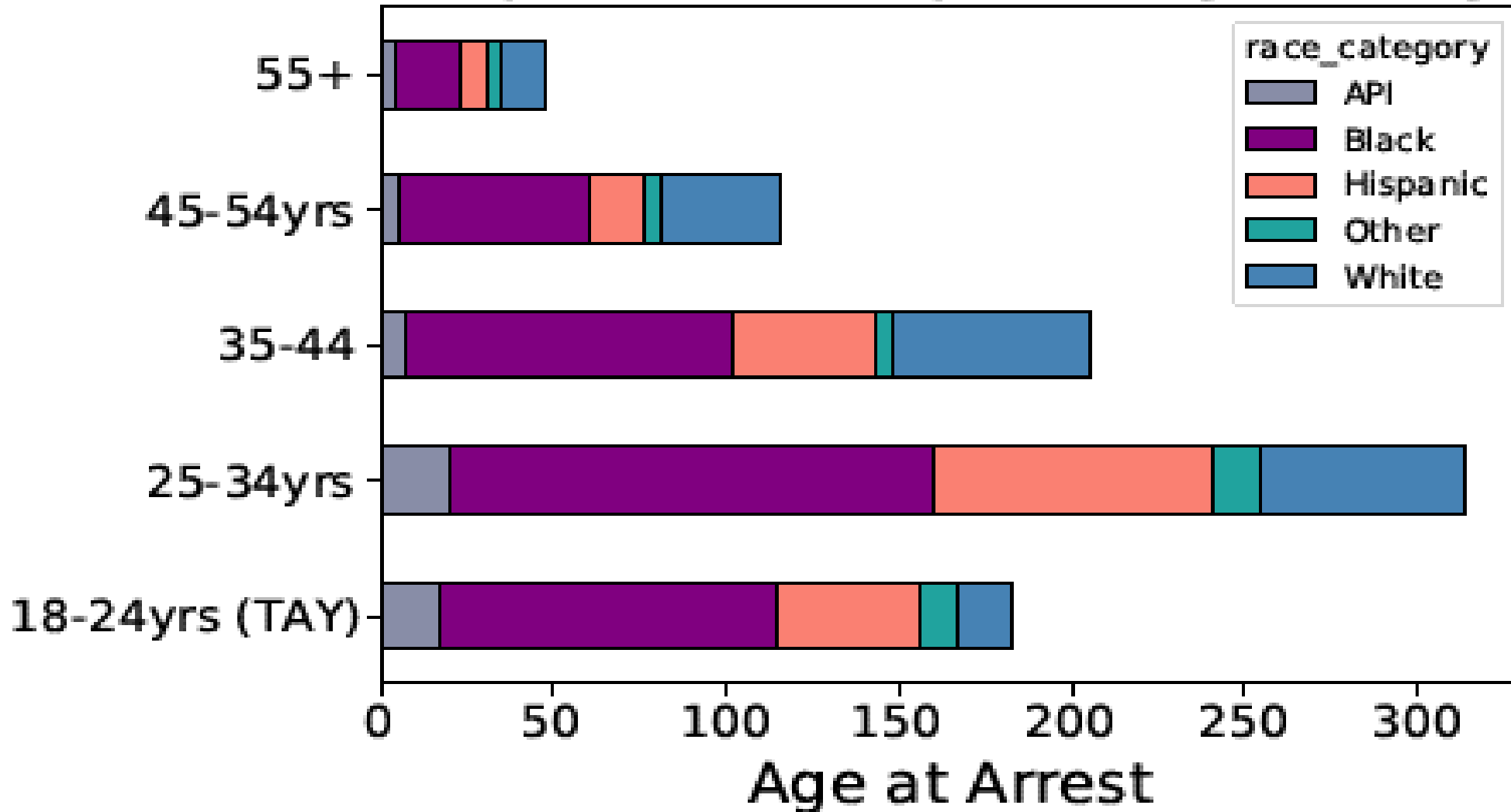
## Jail Population Snapshot Time in Custody



\*\_other\_ category represents jail bookings who were transferred from jail to another facility and returned. Most of these are state hospital returns but instances include persons who were moved to another jail for safekeeping or for their court appearance, then brought back to San Francisco.

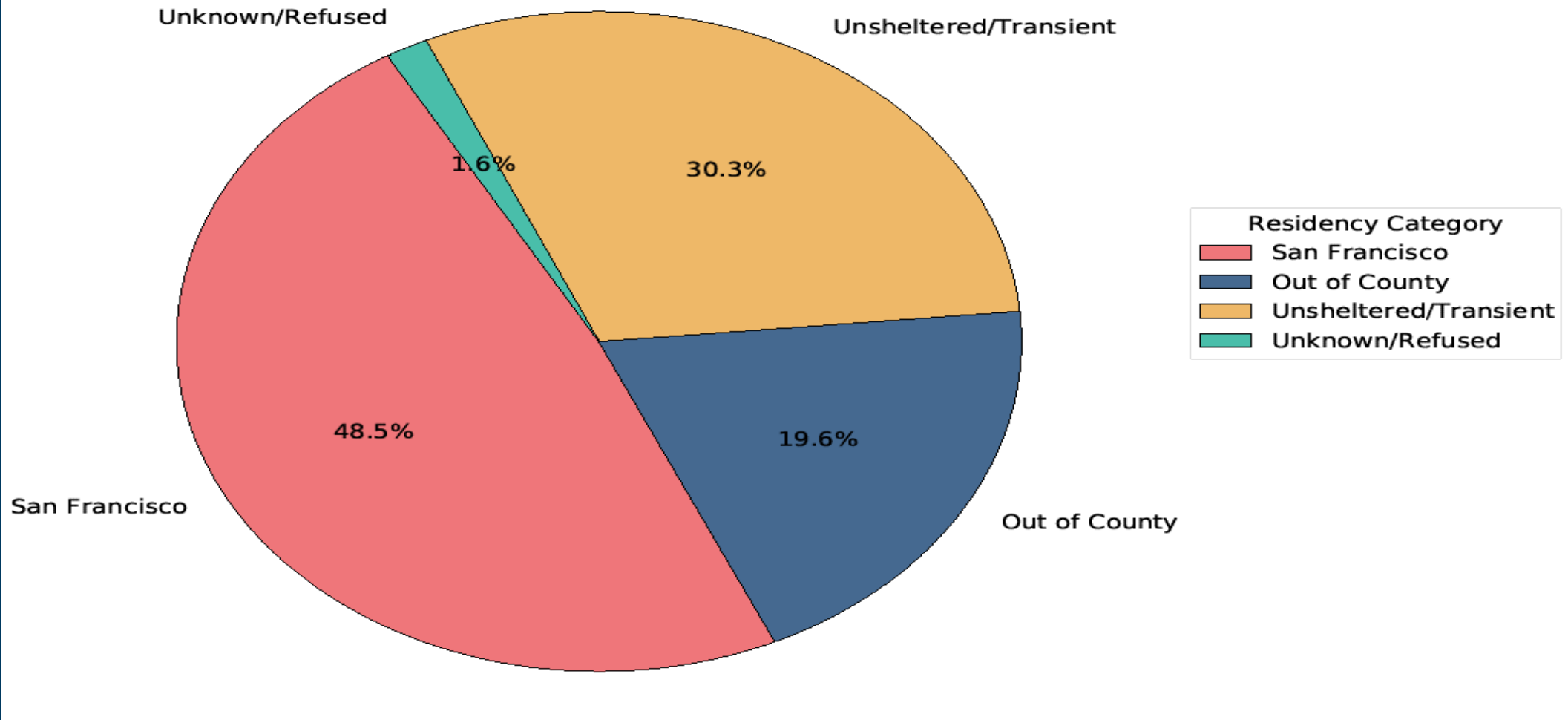
# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

## Jail Population Snapshot Age Category



# February 2021 Safety and Justice MacArthur Report

## Snapshot Population by Residency



\*San Francisco residency category does include individuals that reported an address in a San Francisco shelter

# END OF SLIDESHOW



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## GOALS & ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

- SF SJC 2021 Overarching Goals:**
- 1) Reduce racial disparities in the jail
  - 2) Maintain overall jail population reductions or make further reductions if needed amidst the ongoing pandemic
  - 3) Develop mechanisms to sustain efforts and changes

Area	Goal(s)	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
<b>Lead with Race</b>	Center all strategies around racial disparities reduction. Engage community members with lived experience in to inform strategies and activities. Develop new programs/activities focused on disparities reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch inaugural SJC Fellowship</li> <li>Refine activities and metrics to ensure racial disparities reduction focus across strategies</li> <li>Plan community engagement activities with SJC Fellows focused on expanding diversion options</li> <li>Criminal Justice Racial Equity Work Group (CJREWG) and SJC Fellows develop goals for Racial Justice Act training series</li> <li>Finalize and implement Office of Racial Equity Phase I Action Plans<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SJC Fellows begin participatory action research on expanding diversion options</li> <li>Hold Racial Justice Act training series in partnership with CJREWG, SJC Fellows, Bright Research Group</li> <li>Fellows develop recommendations to expand community engagement and diversion options</li> <li>Participate in Office of Racial Equity Phase II planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch second cohort of Fellows</li> <li>Implement new community engagement strategies</li> <li>Develop new training series with CJREWG and Fellows</li> <li>Present recommendations for increasing diversion options to Sentencing Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Fellow-led participatory action research project</li> <li>Launch new racial disparities reduction training series</li> <li>Implement new diversion options/programming</li> </ul>
<b>Sustain Shared Focus</b>	Sustain and enhance a vigorous jail population review (JPR) process. Use the lessons from case review to drive policy change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold bimonthly JPR meetings with focus on charges where black people are overrepresented</li> <li>Develop plan to track impact and share lessons learned from JPR</li> <li>Host more intensive case review as needed during COVID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue JPR meetings, revisiting case criteria quarterly to ensure focus on racial equity</li> <li>Bring policy recommendations to SJC Workgroup quarterly</li> <li>Host more intensive case review as needed during COVID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue JPR meetings, revisiting case criteria quarterly to ensure focus on racial equity</li> <li>Bring policy recommendations to SJC Workgroup quarterly</li> <li>Host more intensive case review as needed during COVID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue JPR meetings, revisiting case criteria quarterly to ensure focus on racial equity</li> <li>Bring policy recommendations to SJC Workgroup quarterly</li> <li>Host more intensive case review as needed during COVID</li> </ul>
<b>Improve Case Processing</b>	Improve case processing and address lengthy stays in jail. Work with the Superior Court, District Attorney and Defense to adopt systems and structures to reduce delay and coordinate criminal case priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court signs contract with Justice Management Institute (JMI)</li> <li>Kick-off meeting with JMI and justice system partners</li> <li>Court develop dashboards for judges to monitor caseloads, track case management progress, and monitor metrics related to racial disparities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JMI host training on case processing and sentencing best practices</li> <li>JMI conducts site visit and partner interviews, shares interim report, provides TA to Court on dashboards</li> <li>Identify case processing metrics relevant to racial disparities</li> <li>Explore processes/practices related to different types of “holds” in jail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft case management plan reviewed by workgroup and leadership</li> <li>Finalize case plan and associated tools for case coordination</li> <li>Finalize Court dashboards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement case management plan and associated tools</li> <li>Implement and refine Court dashboards post-C-Track launch</li> <li>Track impact of any changes on racial disparities in jail and at key decision points</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> See Office of Racial Equity website for more details: <https://www.racialequitysf.org/mandate>

## GOALS & ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Area	Goal(s)	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
<b>Increase &amp; Maintain Healthy Connections</b>	Increase connections to community-based support for people with behavioral health and/or housing needs in jail. Improve coordination across local criminal justice, public health, and housing systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) launches racial disparities analysis and system mapping project with Reentry Council</li> <li>Homebase provide TA series to help partner agencies navigate the housing system</li> <li>SJC and Reentry Council host joint meeting with Prop C Committee to inform funding allocations</li> <li>DPH clinician works with people in jail who have BH needs, referring to JPR and community-based supports, with focus on individuals from overrepresented groups</li> <li>DA Sentencing Planner develops individualized plans for community-based care to support dispositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work of DPH clinician and DA Sentencing Planner, with focus on overrepresented groups</li> <li>Training for Judges/DAs on serving people with BH needs</li> <li>CA Policy Lab completes system high utilizer descriptive analysis and presents to the SJC Workgroup</li> <li>CSH shares interim findings from analysis with SJC Workgroup</li> <li>Share lessons learned from Tipping Point pilot bridge housing project with SJC Workgroup</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work of DPH clinician and DA Sentencing Planner, with focus on overrepresented groups</li> <li>CSH finalizes analysis, system map, and recommendations</li> <li>Develop recommendations based on CPL and CSH reports and share with Sentencing Commission, Reentry Council, Prop C Committee</li> <li>Monitor progress of new citywide crisis response efforts and participate as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work of DPH clinician and DA Sentencing Planner, with focus on overrepresented groups</li> <li>Determine if and how pilot bridge housing investments need to be sustained or expanded to best serve justice-involved people, and identify ongoing funding streams</li> <li>Develop new workflows and protocols to serve people who touch multiple systems, with focus on reducing racial disparities</li> </ul>
<b>Drive with Data</b>	Build a more transparent, data-driven justice system in San Francisco. Develop tools and data-sharing agreements that enhance partners' ability to sustain jail reductions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue sharing monthly Jail population presentation with SJC Workgroup, refining based on input</li> <li>Data team meets monthly, develops indicators to track decision-points critical to reducing disparities</li> <li>Continue development of internal and external facing data dashboards</li> <li>Finalize a cross-agency agreement to guide data-sharing through the JUSTIS hub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data team meets monthly to at data trends and data sharing needs</li> <li>Present racial disparities indicators at SJC Workgroup; refine disparities reduction activities across strategies as needed</li> <li>Finalize key performance indicators for the criminal justice system developed by the JUSTIS partners; develop a plan to regularly share with City leadership and the public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data team meets monthly to at data trends and data sharing needs, with focus on racial disparities indicators</li> <li>Justice Dashboard transitions from CA Policy Lab to CCSF hosted platform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data team meets monthly to at data trends and data sharing needs, with focus on racial disparities indicators</li> <li>Refine disparities reduction activities across strategies as needed based on indicators</li> </ul>

## HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE JUSTICE-INVOLVED: KEY TAKE-AWAYS

SJC partners have been exploring the housing needs of people who spend time in custody in San Francisco. This brief memo summarizes a few of the lessons learned about needs and opportunities to increase access to housing. It is intended spark discussion as SJC partners continue to contribute to local conversations on housing supports.

- ▶ **The need is great.** Housing is a critical need for many, many people involved in the justice system. Over 30% of people in jail locally identify as unhoused. Victim/survivors also have significant housing needs that can influence their ability to heal from harm.
- ▶ **Housing = public health = public safety.** Addressing the housing needs of people who interact with the justice system is essential in increasing public safety and public health for all San Franciscans.
- ▶ **Housing and care first, jail as a last resort.** Partners understand that it is most effective to meet housing and/or behavioral health needs with housing and/or behavioral health supports.
- ▶ **Housing can interrupt jail...jail interrupts housing.** Housing helps people find stability and exit the justice system. System interaction often causes issues with finding and keeping stable housing.
- ▶ **Housing can be enough.** Housing by itself can be all that is needed, as well as the base from which people can access other needed supports.
- ▶ **Support matters.** San Francisco needs a diverse portfolio of housing options for people leaving custody, and an array of coordinated services such as case management and mental health support.
- ▶ **Build a bridge.** Bridge housing for people leaving custody must be age/culturally responsive, high quality and designed to reduce isolation.
- ▶ **Bridges must lead somewhere.** Bridge housing must lead to subsidized long-term housing and mental health support, for life if needed. Support increases landlords' willingness to make housing available.
- ▶ **Partnerships are everything.** Strong relationships and communication allow partners to honestly address challenges and solve problems collaboratively.
- ▶ **High need...but not counted.** Fully assessing the housing needs of people in custody is challenging. Time in jail or programs affect assessments, making qualifying for housing is a high bar. Many may qualify for and benefit from “problem-solving” funds.
- ▶ **Identify and connect.** People eligible for long-term housing resources aren't always identified when they come into custody. When identified, more coordination is needed to connect them to resources.
- ▶ **Credibility matters.** Criminal Justice partners must have confidence in housing supports. Embedding peer professionals who understand the justice system gives participants confidence in programs.
- ▶ **More than a bed.** Housing units and supportive housing programs must include consideration of the age of the population, be gender responsive and account for single parents.
- ▶ **Try and try again.** Successful housing efforts benefit from a harm reduction approach, with clear guidelines but expected setbacks, where all partners keep working to support participants' success.
- ▶ **Start small and grow fast.** Start with a pilot and grow based on successful outcomes. Use creative solutions to reduce red tape and enable rapid expansion.
- ▶ **Diversify funding.** Foundation funding can play a critical role in pilot efforts. To sustain efforts, San Francisco must leverage multiple funding sources.
- ▶ **Leadership matters.** It's helpful to have a clear lead responsible for system coordination and for developing shared goals, values and practices.
- ▶ **Be bold.** Many of the partners and pieces are already in place to improve connection to housing for people in jail. Amid the ongoing pandemic, now is a critical time for a collective, concerted effort to fill in the gaps and better connect people to housing supports.