The San Francisco Sentencing Commission

City & County of San Francisco

(Administrative Code 5.250 through 5.250-3)

Safety and Justice Challenge Subcommittee AGENDA

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 12:00 pm REMOTE MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Watch via Zoom: https://sfdistrictattorney.zoom.us/j/94836471904
Public Comment Call-In: 877 853 5247 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 948 3647 1904

Consistent with state and local orders addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting of the Safety and Justice Challenge Subcommittee will be held remotely via videoconference. The 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 patricia.e.martinez@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. Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953(e). (Discussion and Action)
 - a. The Safety and Justice Challenge Workgroup will consider adoption of a resolution making findings that Government Code Section 54953(e) requires in order to allow the Workgroup to hold meetings remotely, as currently required under local law, without complying with infeasible Brown Act requirements.
- 4. SJC Fellows Presentation on Participatory Action Research Findings Around Increasing Access to Housing (Discussion and Possible Action).
- 5. Update by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing on the Just Home Initiative (Discussion and Possible Action).
- 6. SJC Sustainability Application overview by Joanne Fuller, Justice System Partners, and Tara Anderson, Director of Policy SFDA. (Discussion only).
- 7. Monthly Jail Population Report. (Discussion and Possible Action).
- 8. SJC Partner Updates. (Discussion and Possible Action).
- 9. Request for Future Agenda Items. (Discussion and Possible Action).
- 10. Adjournment.

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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: patricia.e.martinez@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 patricia.e.martinez@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 patricia.e.martinez@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 patricia.e.martinez@sfgov.org at least two business days before the meeting.

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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

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Safety & Justice Challenge Fellowship

Summary of Key Findings on Needs of People at the Intersection of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Involvement

August 2022





Vision

- San Francisco's Safety & Justice Challenge is interested in building a transformative justice system in which accountability, healing, and support create true public safety for all San Franciscans. As part of this vision, the SJC partners seek to increase access to housing and supports for justice involved people.
- Coordinated and supported by Bright Research Group, the Safety and Justice Challenge Fellows conducted a participatory action research project to learn more about strategies to increase equity and access to housing and supportive services for those who experience both homelessness and incarceration.



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



The Safety & Justice Challenge Fellowship

SJC Fellowship strengthens system partnerships with people with lived experiences participate in transforming justice in San Francisco.



Bright Research Group designed and facilitates the fellowship in collaboration with Safety and Justice Challenge Partners.



Gloria Berry



John Lam



Malachi Scott



Rasheed Stanley
Lockheart



Lisa Wood

Background on the PAR

- The San Francisco Bay Area has one of the highest costs of living in the country and high rates of homelessness and housing insecurity. Furthermore, people who experience criminal justice system involvement and housing insecurity have limited access to housing and resources that could support their health and well-being.
- The Safety and Justice Challenge partners are working to transform the justice system, reduce racial inequity, and increase community safety for all San Franciscans. Lack of accessible housing and supportive wrap around services for justice involved people presents a barrier to achieving this vision.

Inquiry:

What are the priority needs of people living at the intersection of criminal justice involvement and homelessness/housing insecurity and how do the current systems support or impede them?

System Impacted Individuals

Service Providers

System Partners

Community Advocates

Research Questions

What do San Francisco and SJC partners need in order to move forward with a bold vision for improving access to housing among those who have CJ involvement and are unhoused?

- What needs to be in place from a housing perspective in order for SJC partners to safely reduce the jail population and address racial disparities in the use of jail?
- What are the systemic barriers faced by SJC partners and public systems when it comes to aligning around the needs and options for the shared population of people with CJ involvement and housing instability that they all serve?

Methodology

- 3 Fireside Chats
- 8 Key Stakeholder Interviews
- 2 Focus Groups
- Review of articles and reports

Description	Number of respondents
Impacted Individuals	11
Service Provider Staff	12
Community Advocates	5
System Partners	10
Total Stakeholders	37

Findings



Illustration: Lee Martin

Needs of Priority Population

Needs of Impacted Individuals & Communities

Safe Housing

- Safe neighborhood
- "Normal" housing
- Outside Tenderloin or SOMA

Supports & Resources

- Peer support and system navigation
- Jobs & financial literacy
- Autonomy from program restrictions

Priority Populations

"We are the last black community in SF and they're doing everything they can to move us out."

People of color, especially black men, those with substance abuse disorders and/or mental health challenges and those with a history of family or community trauma are disparately represented among those who experience homelessness and criminal justice involvement.

Priority Populations

"I don't see people helped very often."

Parolees are highly motivated to succeed, but do not have clear options for housing programs that match their goals and needs.

Transition Age Youth lack access to developmentally appropriate and safe housing and SUD treatment

Black people have been historically harmed by public agencies; they are assessed at higher rates, but housed at lower rates and overcharged

Other priority populations named include those with SUD, MH challenges, Pre-Trial, Women with Children, Formers, and Undocumented Immigrants

Cross-System Impact

"Justice system involvement contributes to housing instability. The opposite is also true; being homeless increases your chance of being locked up."

Incarceration is considered "being housed" which restricts eligibility for housing programs; however, courts are reluctant to release people until housing is secured

Federal law also restricts access to housing vouchers based on CJ involvement

The **stigma of incarceration** impacts employment, economic stability, and ability to secure and maintain housing

People convicted of a sex offense or arson have particular challenges finding housing

"When considering current conditions and support, services must be culturally competent and relevant."

"We need housing in safe neighborhoods where they feel proud to live... where you wouldn't mind living."

Systemic Barriers

"Over last 30 years, SF has never been less coordinated than it is today." Stakeholders agree that the existing ecosystem of housing supports and services does not meet anyone's needs well, particularly those who experience housing instability and criminal justice involvement.

Impacted communities feel uncared for, pushed out and frustrated. Many described the current state of homelessness as a human rights crisis.

- Failures of Public Agencies and Elected Officials
- Lack of Housing Inventory
- Bureaucratic Program and Eligibility Requirements
- Need for Culturally Relevant, Individualized and Peer-delivered support

Urgency to Respond

"All this talk you are doing. Bring the action."

Stakeholders and impacted individuals are **frustrated by the lack of action** by public agencies and elected officials

Most agree that San Francisco has the resources to address the issue of homelessness and cited a lack of accountability as a barrier

Divisiveness, political infighting, and a lack of urgency get in the way of agencies aligning their resources and getting things done

Prop C dollars are not being pushed out to expand housing stock and access to housing.

"There is a severe lack of supportive housing at every level."

Stakeholders pointed to a lack of supportive housing, permanent housing, and options for people coming out of jail and people returning from prison.

- There is no bridge housing for people coming out of jail, which can result in long stays inside
- Bottlenecks and a lack of supply keep people from moving from transitional to permanent housing
- The inventory of permanent and permanent supportive housing is severely lacking.
- Coordination and alignment across systems is lacking, which produces competing priorities and gaps between different phases of housing.

Barriers to Resources

"Restrictive eligibility requirements, coordinated entry, and provider defined requirements are a barrier to permanent housing."

Qualifying criteria are too restrictive and keep people with CJ involvement and homelessness out of housing

People should not have to leave transitional housing to access permanent housing or move from program to program to stay housed

Long term supportive housing resources should not be held by a law enforcement agency

There is insufficient data on how people with CJ involvement are being placed and the housing status of people coming out of jail

Supportive Services

"It's not just about putting folks into housing, we need to deal with their many issues, and it's more than what one agency can do."

There is a strong need for culturally relevant navigation and peer support. Stakeholders agree that access to jobs, financial literacy, and positive relationships are critical.

Stakeholders shared mixed opinions around effectiveness of harm reduction approaches, but agree that a range of options should be available

Impacted individuals emphasized the desire for more autonomy, while many providers see the need for comprehensive supports.

Case manager turnover and burnout is high and they are underpaid.

Summary of Findings



Justice involvement and housing instability can negatively reinforce each other

Current ecosystem does not meet this population's needs well and lack of housing inventory creates bottlenecks

Program eligibility requirements create a barrier to obtaining and maintaining housing

There is a need for peer supports and culturally relevant services that meet people's individual needs

Recommendations



SJC Fellow Recommendations

Expand housing stock

Reallocate resources

Strengthen collaboration

Expand Housing Stock

- Expand the stock of long-term permanent supportive housing, including community owned and cooperative housing
- This will reduce the bottleneck between transitional housing and permanent supportive housing
- Increase transparency about available and occupied housing inventory in San Francisco, including data on the number of beds/units available in transitional, temporary and permanent supportive housing



Reallocate Resources

- A third party agency that specializes in housing and homelessness should hold resources for housing
- Reallocate funding from public agencies to community based organizations to support people who are doing the work directly with clients
- Fund an increase in the number of case managers; reduce their case load and support culturally relevant peer supports and navigators
- Mandate a livable wage for navigators, case managers, and outreach workers for all government contracts in San Francisco

Strengthen Collaboration

- Support efforts to restore collaborative relationships, accountability and trust between public agencies in SF
- Take action to address racial harm and displacement of black and brown people in SF.
- Continue to collect, analyze and share out information and data about the population of people that experience homelessness and criminal justice involvement
- Create a shared definition of this priority population

Thank you!

Questions or comments?





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Safety and Justice Challenge Sustainability Funding Invitation and Application Summary

August 16, 2022

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office secured a \$50K Innovation Grant to bring partners together and design data driven approaches to inform San Francisco's efforts to reform the criminal justice system. In 2018, due to the demonstrated success from this initial investment, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office secured an additional \$2 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to implement collaborative and strategic reforms to San Francisco's criminal justice system. In 2021, San Francisco was awarded additional funds, bringing the Foundation's total investment to just over \$4 million. With these funds, the City and County of San Francisco is working to safely reduce the local jail population and eliminate racial disparities in the justice system.

OVERVIEW

The MacArthur Foundation has invited the City and County of San Francisco to submit a renewal proposal for sustainability funding to support continued participation in the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC). Over the last two years, San Francisco has confronted an unprecedented public health crisis, its subsequent impact on the justice system and the local economy and budget, renewed national and local calls for racial justice, and an increasingly complex political and media environment. The MacArthur Foundation remains inspired by our team's resiliency and dedication to creating a fairer, more effective justice system. There is still much work to be done.

SUSTAINED FOCUS

As sites move into the sustainability phase of the SJC, the MacArthur Foundation is committed to support San Francisco's SJC partners in sustaining the jail population and disparity reductions achieved to date, and authentically engaging the community in systems reform.

SJC is asking organizations to demonstrate sustainability, which consists of:

- Reflection, decision-making, and strategic planning
- Data capacity
- Fiscal sustainability
- Partnerships and buy-in
- Adaptability

Organizations should describe the strategies that have been implemented over the last five years that sites plan to sustain over the next two years and beyond, including:

- Implementation strategies (e.g., strategies at justice system decision points, efforts to reduce ethnic and racial disparities, community engagement, jail population reduction, etc.)
- reform infrastructure and capacity (e.g., staffing, data capacity, communications capacity, cross-agency coordinating systems, measures to center equity, etc.).
- Include implementation strategies that have been directly funded by the SJC and reforms that have advanced in relation to or independent of SJC funding in their plans.
- Reflect on the work of the last five years and determine successes that should be carried forward.

Applicants should NOT propose new strategies or positions, unless the strategies emerged to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, to course-correct to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, or to more credibly engage the community and directly-impacted individuals.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET GUIDELINES

- 1st year- up to ¾ current funding level
- 2nd year- up to ½ current funding level
- Size of award based upon quality of sustainability plan

TIMELINE

- CCSF must submit a responsive application by September 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CT.
- Sites will be notified about awards in December 2022.
- Decisions are embargoed until formal announcement by the Foundation in early 2023.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

1. Report on Progress (30%):

 Present quantitative and qualitative of their Safety and Justice Challenge work to date and evaluating success. Address the impact of their work on local jail populations, levels of racial and ethnic disparities across the justice system, and engagement of the community and directly impacted individuals.

2. Adaptability and Resilience (30%):

- Demonstrate ability to overcome barriers while safely reducing the jail population and ethnic and racial disparities
- Reflect on past implementation challenges and how we addressed them
- Emphasize the underlying systems infrastructure (e.g., staffing, data capacity, cross agency coordinating systems, etc.) that facilitated progress and how progress continues despite future implementation challenges or shifts in local context

3. Proposal (40%):

- Detail the existing strategies to maintain an ADP close to or equivalent to the lowest level achieved over the last five years.
- Provide context and key considerations in explaining the jail population reduction levels expected to maintain during the grant term and beyond.
- For each strategy, provide evidence of how it will continue to advance local efforts to target the specific drivers of incarceration and inequity for people of color using quantitative and qualitative data from across the jurisdiction's system decision points.

CURRENT SJC STRATEGIES

San Francisco partners joined the Safety and Justice Challenge with a specific goal in mind: safely reduce the jail population by 16% to allow County Jail #4, long known to be seismically unsafe and unsanitary, to close. San Francisco's Safety and Justice Challenge builds on past reform efforts and uses evidence-driven strategies that move beyond the easiest-to-reach populations.

ABOUT THE SF SJC PARTNERSHIP:

San Francisco's Safety and Justice Challenge initiative is a partnership that operates with oversight from the San Francisco Sentencing Commission, and includes the: **SF Superior Court** SF Sheriff's Office SF Public Health Department SF Adult Probation Department SF Public Defender's Office SF District Attorney's Office Community representatives picked by the San Francisco Reentry Council and the Family Violence Council Community stakeholders such as

the San Francisco Pretrial

Diversion Project

- 1. Lead with race. Nearly half of all people in jail in San Francisco are Black, even though less than 6% of the city's population is Black. We're partnering with the Criminal Justice Racial Equity Work Group, a partnership between the Sentencing Commission and Reentry Council, to reduce racial disparities and root out implicit bias in our justice system. We've also launched a Fellowship to partner more closely with community members who have lived experiences of incarceration and victimization.
- **2. Know who you are serving.** San Francisco established a jail population review team composed of system stakeholders and community partners who meet on a regular basis to discuss case types that drive the jail population and racial disparities and identify pathways for community-based support.
- **3. Connect people to supportive services.** San Francisco partners have increased access to community-based supports through new positions and community partnerships and through new housing resources. Partners seek opportunities for diversion and focus on supporting people who cycle frequently in and out of jail.
- 4. Improve case processing. Partners are working to reduce lengthy pretrial jail stays where people wait for the next step in the system and victims await resolution. Efforts include training on case processing best practices, development of dashboards for Superior Court judges, and creation of case management tools and plans.
- **5. Let evidence drive policy**. Understanding jail population trends helps us create more effective policy. San Francisco works to enhance transparency and data sharing across criminal justice agencies, developing public tools such as the Justice Dashboard which is a tool for understanding the extent to which individuals who are convicted of crimes in San Francisco successfully avoid subsequent involvement in the criminal justice system.



Just Home Update

August 16, 2022

Kaitlyn Motley, Strategy and Planning Lead, HSH
Cynthia Nagendra, Deputy Director, Planning, Performance, and Strategy



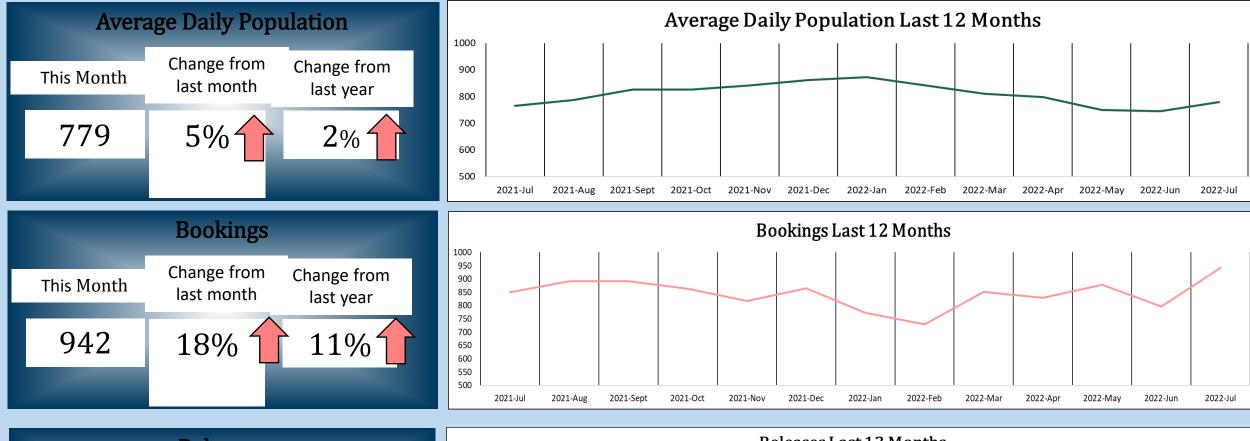
SJC WORKING GROUP

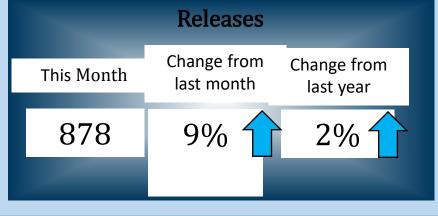
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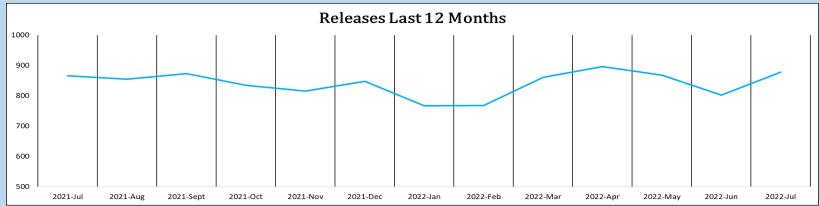


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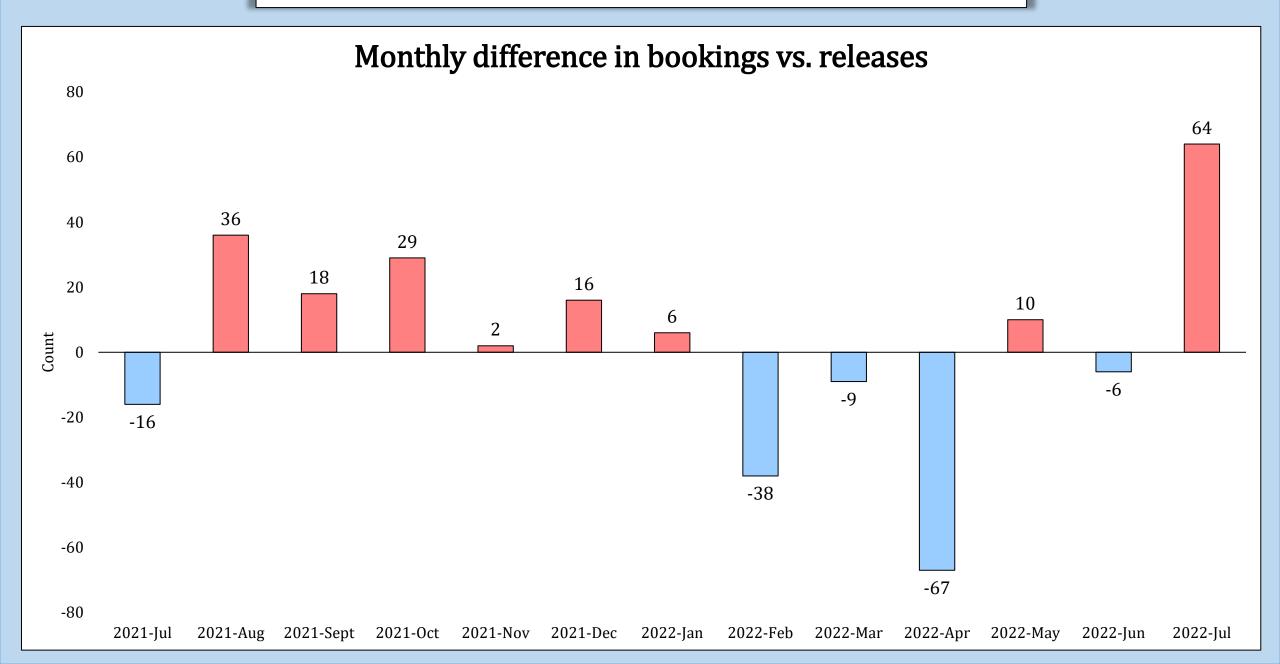
Safety and Justice Challenge July 2022 Report



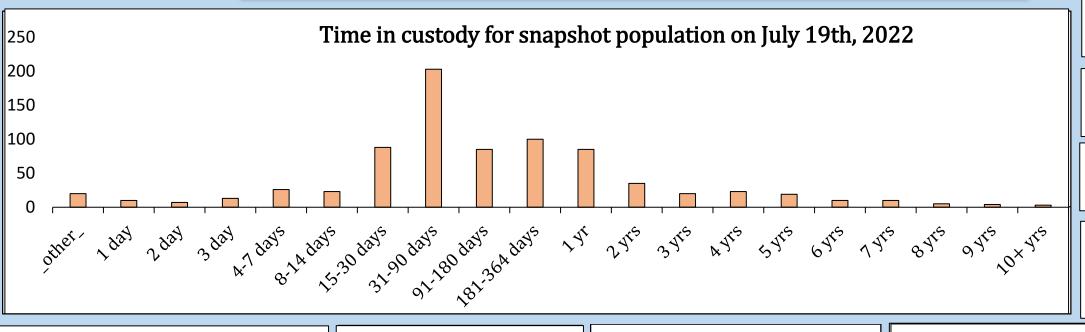




Safety and Justice Challenge July 2022 Report



Snapshot Population July 2022 Report

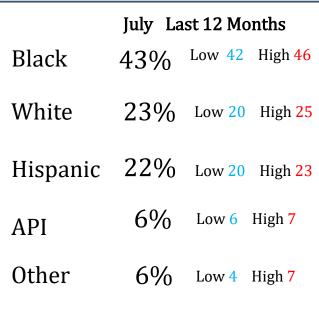


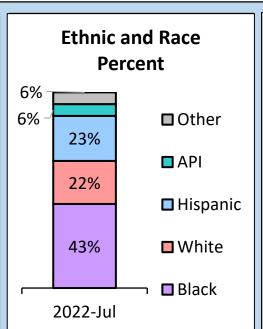
Snapshot Population 789

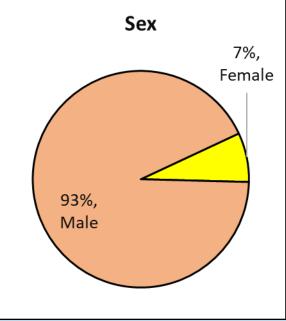
Average time in custody 396

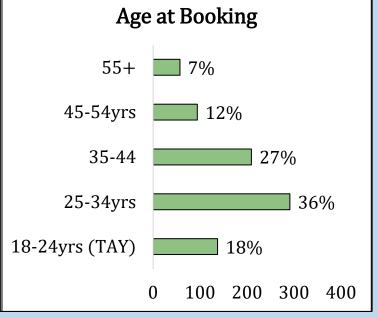
Median time in custody 82

Transgender/
Non-Binary
Population 12

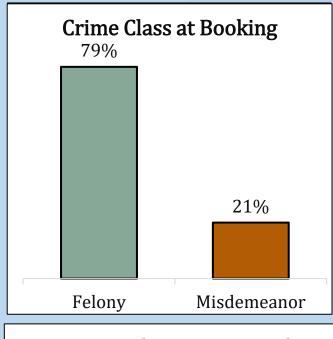


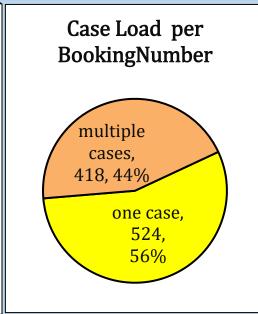


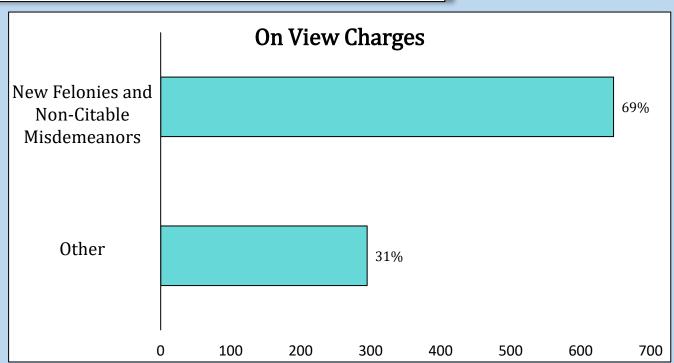


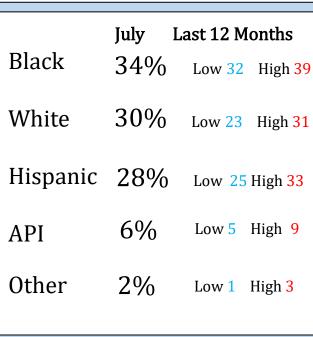


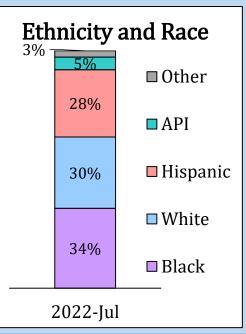
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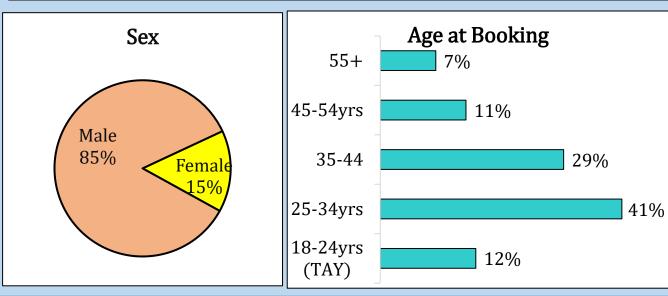




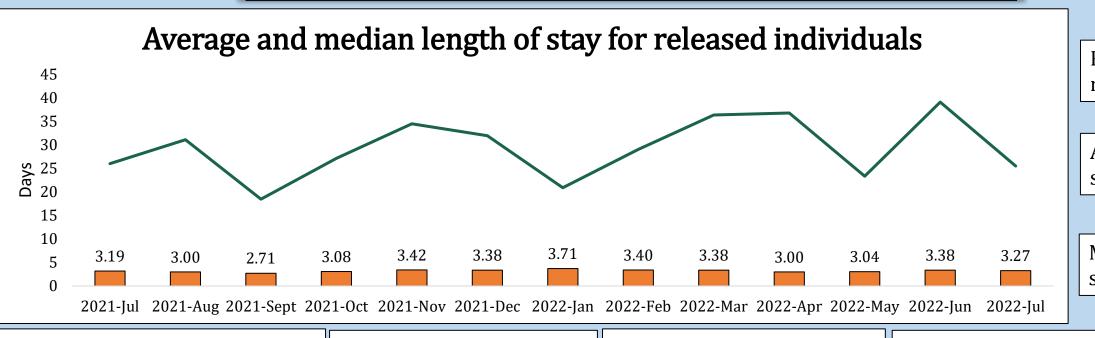








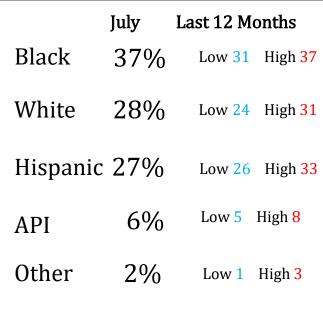
Monthly Releases July 2022

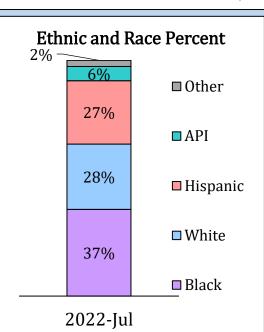


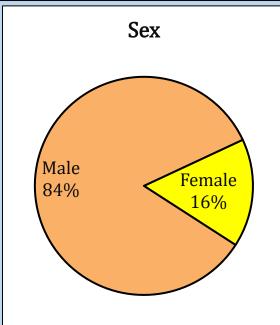
Released for month 878

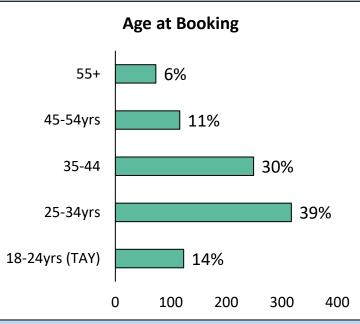
Average length of stay in days 26

Median length of stay 3.27 days

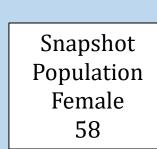


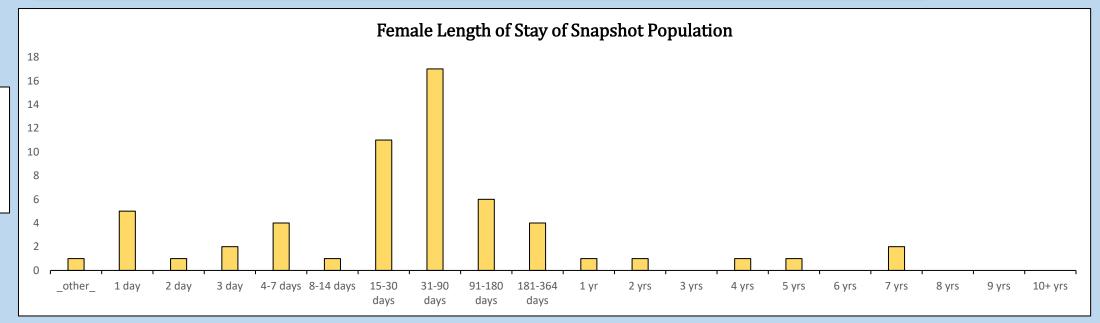


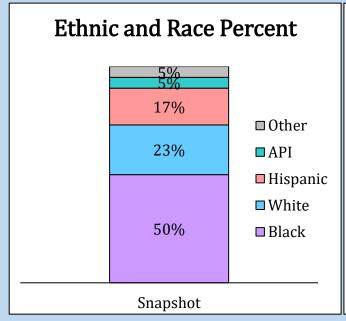


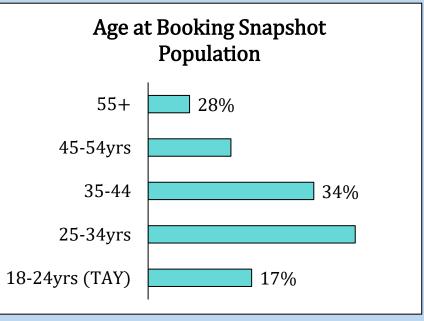


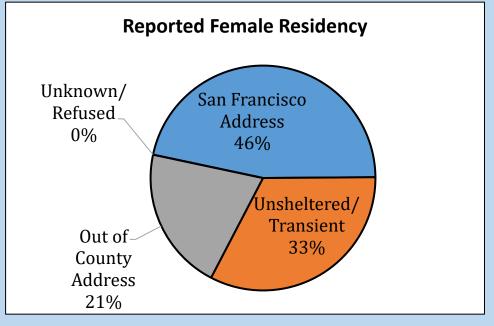
Female Population July 2022



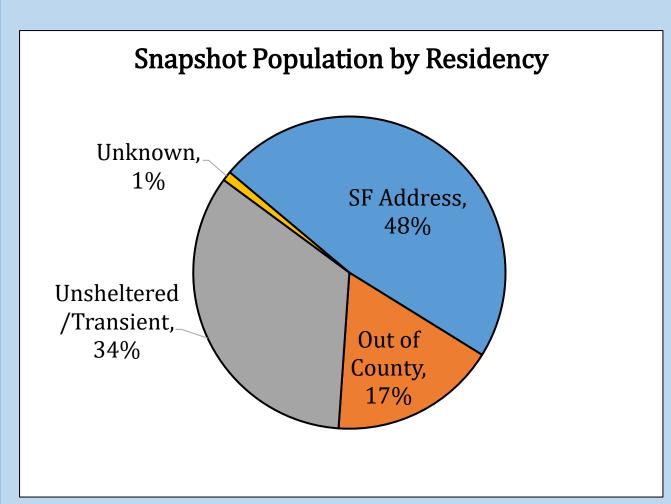


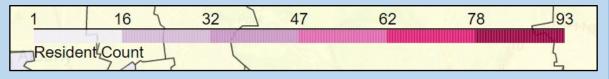


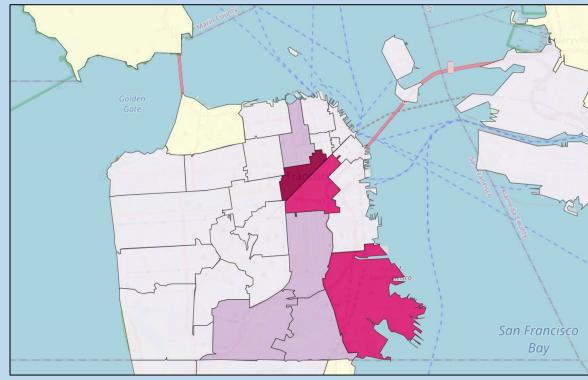




Snapshot Residency July 2022

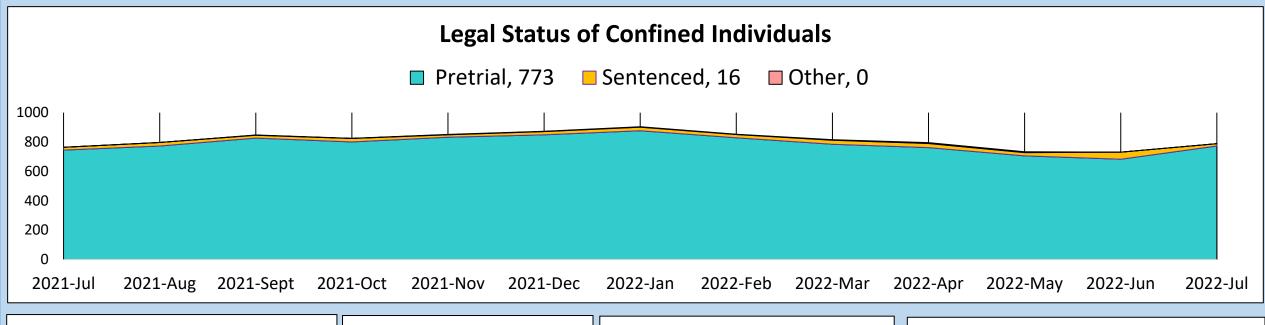


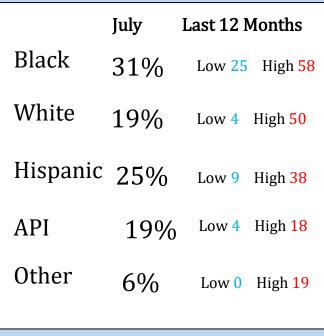


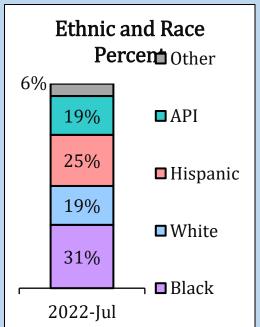


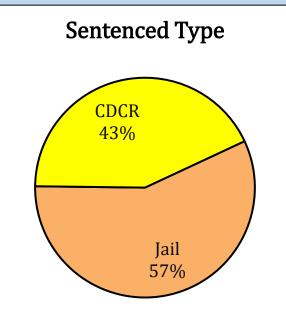
Leaflet | Data by © OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

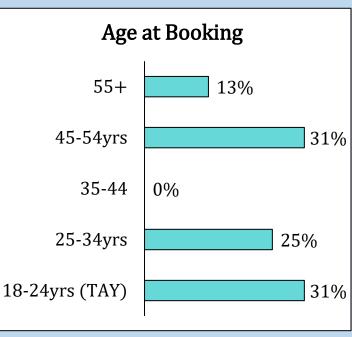
Sentenced of the Snapshot Population July 2022











END OF SLIDESHOW



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



Overview

- 1. Objective of Just Home
- 2. Opportunities
- 3. Timeline
- 4. Next Steps



Objective

San Francisco city and community homelessness, housing, and criminal justice partners intend to use "Just Home" planning and implementation funds to:

- bring homeless system and criminal justice system partners together
- create shared strategic goals and strategies
- build a more comprehensive, equitable, and coordinated systems approach to bridge gaps between systems
- advance equity for people who are disparately impacted by homelessness and criminal justice involvement
- resource the ability to more effectively address the needs of people who are justice involved and at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness, from access to immediate housing supports to long-term housing solutions



Opportunities

- **→**Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination
- ►Informing how we prioritize access to housing and other supports
- Identifying creative opportunities



Planning Phase Timeline





Next Steps:

- Collect and synthesize engagement efforts and feedback to date outlining gaps, barriers, and opportunities
- Convene a small working group reviewing findings and identifying next steps in engagement with individuals with lived experience, stakeholders, and the community
- → Draft a Housing Investment Action Plan that will outline our intentions for the Implementation Phase



Contact

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