

The San Francisco Sentencing Commission

City & County of San Francisco

(Administrative Code 5.250 through 5.250-3)

AGENDA

Thursday, March 28th, 2024
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location:
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr Carlton D Goodlett Pl, Room 201
San Francisco, CA 94102

This meeting will be held in person at the location listed above. Members of the public may attend the meeting to observe and provide public comment at the physical meeting location listed above or by calling in to the number below. Instructions for providing remote public comment by phone are below.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://sfdistrictattorney.zoom.us/j/7507631551?omn=81940820608>

Meeting ID: 750 763 1551

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,7507631551# US (San Jose)
+14086380968,,7507631551# US (San Jose)

Members of the public attending the meeting will have an opportunity to provide public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting, each member of the public will be allotted no more than 3 minutes to speak on any item(s). Explanatory and/or Supporting Documents, if any, will be posted at: <https://sfdistrictattorney.org/sentencing-commission-relevant-documents>

1. Call to Order; Roll call

Pursuant to Sentencing Commission bylaws, the Chair shall present the ancestral homeland acknowledgment of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula

2. Public Comment on Any Item Listed Below (discussion only)

3. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2023 (discussion & possible action)

4. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 5th, 2023 (discussion & possible action)

5. Staff Report on Sentencing Commission Activities, and Reports from the Reentry Council and the Family Violence Council (discussion & possible action)

6. Update on the MacArthur Foundation-funded *Just Home Initiative* by Aaqilah Islam, Manager of Housing Justice System Initiatives & Ashley Qiang Senior Strategy & Planning Analyst (discussion & possible action)

7. Update on MacArthur Foundation-funded *Safety & Justice Challenge Initiative* by Alexandra Lopes, Director of Safety & Justice Challenge (discussion only & possible action)

8. Presentation: Jail Population Trends by Lucas Jennings, Senior Administrative Analyst (discussion & possible action)

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9. Presentation: Toward a New Understanding: California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness by Kelly Knight, PhD, Professor at the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of CA – San Francisco (discussion & possible action)
10. Members' Comments, Questions, Requests for Future Agenda Items (discussion & possible action)
11. Public Comment on Any Item Listed Above, as well as Items not Listed on the Agenda
12. Adjournment

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SUBMITTING WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SENTENCING COMMISSION

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: Alexandra Lopes, San Francisco District Attorney's Office, via email: alexandra.lopes@sfgov.org

MEETING MATERIALS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Explanatory and/or Supporting Documents, if any, will be posted at: <https://sfdistrictattorney.org/sentencing-commission-relevant-documents>. The material can be faxed or mailed to you upon request. In addition to in-person public comment, the Sentencing Commission will hear up to 20 minutes of remote public comment in the order that commenters add themselves to the queue to comment on an item. Because of the 20-minute time limit, it is possible that not every person in the queue will have an opportunity to provide remote public comment. Remote public comments from those who have received accommodation due to disability (as described below) will not count toward the 20-minute limit. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely by submitting written comments electronically to Alexandra Lopes via email at alexandra.lopes@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 committee.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To access the meeting remotely as an accommodation, please visit <https://sfdistrictattorney.zoom.us/j/86037257374> or call (669) 900-6833. For remote public comments, instructions on how to use the Zoom platform can be found [here](#). Captions can be enabled – instructions can be found [here](#). Sign Language Interpretation is available upon request (see “Translation” section below). Allowing a minimum of 48 business hours for all other accommodation requests (for example, for other auxiliary aids and services) helps ensure availability. To request an accommodation, please contact Alexandra Lopes, San Francisco District Attorney's Office, via email or telephone: alexandra.lopes@sfgov.org, (628) 652-4296.

TRANSLATION

Interpreters for languages other than English are available upon request. Sign language interpreters are also available upon request. For either accommodation, please contact Alexandra Lopes at alexandra.lopes@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.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code)

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.

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

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

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 website <http://www.sfgov.org/ethics/>.

SENTENCING COMMISSION: MEETING MINUTES – Item 4 Revision
Tuesday, September 26th, 2023
10:00am - 12:00pm

Location:

St. Anthony’s Foundation, 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

3-28-24 REVISION to Agenda Item 4 Only; all remaining Minutes remain unchanged.

1. Call to Order; Roll Call

Representative Edward McCaffrey, San Francisco District Attorney’s Chief of Communications and Policy, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

Tara Agnese, San Francisco District Attorney’s Office’s Director of Policy, called roll for attendance by member seat.

Members in Attendance:

San Francisco District Attorney’s Office Representative Edward McCaffrey; Adult Probation Representative Alea Brown; Juvenile Probation Representative Derek Hom; Public Defender’s Office Representative Carolyn Goossen; San Francisco Sheriff’s Office Member Paul Miyamoto; San Francisco Police Department Representative Rachel Moran; Department of Public Health Member Naveena Bobba; Reentry Council Member Karen Roye; Superior Court Representative Melanie Kushnir; Member of Non-Profit Organization Serving Victims Chosen by Family Violence Council Member Andrew Tan, Member of Non-Profit Organization Working with Formerly Incarcerated People Chose by the Reentry Council Appointee Member William Palmer; Sentencing Expert chosen by the Board of Supervisors Member Theshia Naidoo.

Members Absent:

Academic Researcher with expertise in data analysis appointed by the Mayor – vacant member seat

4. REVISED: Presentation: The Way Out, a New Recovery-focused Homeless Initiative, by Micah Park, MBA/MPA Candidate at The Wharton School and Harvard Kennedy School of Government (Discussion & Possible Action).

Micah Park presented on The Way Out, a new recovery-focused homeless initiative of the Salvation Army. She presented information and data obtained through public records requests on housing and drug policies in San Francisco. Ms. Park also shared information on the early stages of this new initiative, noting that it offers long-term treatment and has had a 76% rate of success,

with 84% of all exits achieving full-time employment 6 months after program completion. During the Q&A, there was a robust conversation about Ms. Park's analysis, data sources, and conclusions about drug and housing policies in the City. Member Roye asked whether the analysis accounted for the transient nature of unhoused people. Ms. Park responded to say that her analysis of public records data accounted for the inflows of homelessness and noted that these inflows are greater than the outflows of people who are able to get into housing. Member Roye commented on accounting for the success of people who move through city-funded services and asked about the criteria to measure success of the program. Ms. Park responded with information on program eligibility and the initiative's four-step pipeline for placements into residential treatment. Representative Goossen commented on the lack of sufficient resources in the city and the need for treatment on demand. Representative Goossen asked whether Ms. Park's negative view of Proposition 47 was reflective of Salvation Army's views and expressed concern about the opinions expressed in the presentation that seemed to lack research or evidence. Ms. Goossen suggested that a future meeting of this body include a presentation by researchers or experts who can present on the roots of homelessness. Ms. Park invited Destiny Pletsch, from The Way Out initiative, to respond. Ms. Pletsch talked about the exploratory nature of the research project, which included public records requests and existing City reports, and noted the Salvation Army's stance on recovery. Representative Melanie Kushnir asked a question about data sources and commented on Ms. Park's analysis of Prop. 47, and asked a question about Penal Code (PC) 666 – Petty Theft with a Prior and the number of individuals who come into jail with this as a standalone charge. Representative Kushnir invited Member Paul Miyamoto to comment. Member Miyamoto noted that in his experience PC 666 is usually not a standalone charge. Member Theshia Naidoo commented on data missing from the research presented, including the impact of the pandemic and other complex factors fueling the homelessness crisis and overdose rates. Member Naveena Bobba thanked the Salvation Army for their work and partnership; noted that the city's behavioral health system of care closely monitors the care needs of people who use drugs and looks to flex availability based on these needs; and shared that this system of care has a wide array of services that are evidence based across the continuum of care.

SENTENCING COMMISSION: MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

10:00am - 12:00pm

Location:

City Hall, Room 201
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

1. Call to Order; Roll Call

Representative Tara Agnese, Director of Policy for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office's, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Alexandar Lopez, Safety and Justice Challenge Director, called roll for attendance by member seat.

Members in Attendance:

- Adult Probation - Representative **Alea Brown-Hoffmeister**, *Policy Director*
- Juvenile Probation - Representative **Gabriel Calvillo**, *Assistant Chief*
- Public Defender's Office - Representative **Carolyn Goossen**, *Director of Policy*
- District Attorney's Office - Representative **Tara Agnese**, *Director of Policy*
- Sheriff's Office - Representative **Kathy Johnson**, *Undersheriff*
- Police Department - Representative **Robert O'Sullivan**, *Acting Assistant Chief*
- Department of Public Health – Representative **Naveena Bobba**, *Deputy Director of Public Health*
- Reentry Council – Representative **Freda R. Glenn**, *Assistant Director of Child Support Services*
- Superior Court – Representative **Melanie Kushnir**, *Director of Collaborative Courts*
- Member of nonprofit organization serving victims chosen by Family Violence Council - **Andrew Tan**
- Sentencing Expert chosen by the Board of Supervisors - **Theshia Naidoo**, *Legal Director, Criminal Justice Drug Policy Alliance*
- Academic Researcher with expertise in data analysis appointed by the mayor – **Mia Bird**, *Assistant Research Professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkley*

Members Absent:

- Member of nonprofit organization working with formerly incarcerated people appointed by the Reentry Council - **William Palmer**

Pursuant to Sentencing Commission bylaws, Representative Agnese read the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco – Peninsula.

2. Public Comment on Any Item Listed Below (Discussion Only)

No Public Comment received.

3. Welcoming a New Member: Mia Bird, PhD (Discussion Only)

Representative Agnese welcomed Professor Mia Bird to the Sentencing Commission. Professor Bird joins the Sentencing Commission as an academic researcher with an expertise in data analysis who was appointed by the Mayor's Office.

Representative Agnese shared Professor Bird's biography:

Professor Bird is a policy analyst and applied researcher focused on criminal justice system reform. She is an assistant research professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy. Before joining the Berkley faculty, she spent seven years at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) as a research fellow. At PPIC she co-founded and directed the Multi-County Study, an effort to create the first individual-level, linked criminal justice data infrastructure for the state and counties in California. These data allowed for evaluations of the effects of criminal justice reforms. Professor Bird started at Berkley in 2019 to help build on a sustainable criminal justice data system and leverage these data to inform and evaluate policy decisions. She currently leads projects focused on evaluating the effects of California's AB 1950, which is focused on probation term limits; AB 372, a domestic violence programming pilot project; and the statewide Humphrey ruling on criminal justice outcomes. She also works with a team of researchers at the California Policy Lab to provide support to the California Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code. Mia holds a PhD in Public Policy, an MA in Demography, and an MPP from the University of California, Berkley.

Professor Bird thanked Representative Agnese and everyone in attendance. Member Bird commented about living in San Francisco for at least 20 years and working in the Bay Area for at least ten years, some of which have been in San Francisco.

4. Preview and Adoption of Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2023 (Discussion & Possible Action)

Members & Representatives reviewed the meeting minutes from the previous Sentencing Commission held on September 26th, 2023. Representative Agnese acknowledged Ifeanyi Ebochie, Youth and Young Adult Justice Coordinator, for drafting the meeting minutes.

Member Naidoo requested an edit to the minutes for agenda item four. Member Naidoo acknowledged the technical difficulties at the previous Sentencing Commission, including audio issues, and expressed an understanding for the difficulty of trying to capture what was said in the minutes. Member Naidoo commented that the summary for this agenda item did not accurately reflect the discussion of the presentation and some members' critique of the presentation's findings. Representative Goossen agreed with Member Naidoo and also requested edits to the minutes for agenda item four to more accurately reflect comments on the presentations' findings.

Representative Agnese thanked Member Naidoo and Representative Goossen for their feedback and acknowledged the audio and technical difficulties experienced at the September meeting, which presented significant challenges related to the capturing of Minutes. Representative Agnese proposed to pass the September meeting minutes for all items except Agenda item four and agreed to work with Member Naidoo and Representative Goossen on revisions to this agenda item, which would then be presented for a vote at the next meeting of the Sentencing Commission.

Representative Agnese moved to accept the September 26th Sentencing Commission Meeting Minutes, without item four. Representative Calvillo moved to accept the meeting minutes. Member Tan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call vote.

5. Staff Report on Sentencing Commission Activities, and Reports from the Reentry Council and the Family Violence Council

Representative Agnese informed attendees of the recent activities since the last meeting on September 26th. Since the last meeting, the Commission filled the vacant member seat for an academic researcher with expertise with data analysis appointed by the mayor. Staff are working on the next Annual Report for the Sentencing Commission, which will be shared with members and submitted to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors in December. Lastly, the Sentencing Commission meeting will move from the third Tuesday to the fourth Thursday of the month due to scheduling conflicts with the current time. The fourth Thursday came as a recommendation from member agencies. The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be on Thursday, March 28th, 2024 at 10am.

Representative Glenn provided an update on the recent activities of the San Francisco Reentry Council. The last Reentry Council meeting was last held on October 19th, 2023. During the meeting, the council welcomed its newest mayoral appointees Tatiana Lewis, Antonio Napoleon, and Allen Harvin who were reappointed to the Reentry Council by the mayor. In addition, the Reentry Council welcomed new member, David Mauroff, CEO for the San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project, who is now in a Board of Supervisors appointed seat for an organization that provides pretrial services.

Representative Glenn informed everyone of the Reentry Council Retreat, which is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd, and shared that the retreat serves as an opportunity to engage and recruit new members for the subcommittees. If anyone is interested in joining one of the three subcommittees, please contact Victoria Westbrook, the Reentry Policy Planner at the Adult Probation Department.

Representative Glenn also shared that the Public Defender's office presented to the Reentry Council on their freedom project, a program dedicated to decarcerating, successful transitions to the community, and post-conviction systemic change. The project has helped shorten 93 prison sentences, reuniting 80 people with their families and communities, including 42 people with life sentences, all within the last 4 years. The Public Defender's office also shared their College Pathway Project, an initiative used to formalize partnerships with San Francisco State University's Project Rebound program and City College of San Francisco's New Directions program for their former or current clients to apply for, attend, and succeed in college. All

individuals are eligible, including those who have pending misdemeanor or felony charges, are currently in mental health or collaborative courts, or are using a clean-slate post-conviction service.

The next Reentry Council Meeting is on Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at 12pm in Room 305 at City Hall.

Member Tan provided an update on the recent activities of the Family Violence Council (FVC). The last Family Violence Council meeting was held on November 15th, 2023. Data collection activities associated with data needed for the Family Violence Council's Annual report are almost complete. In addition, the FVC received a presentation by Nancy Tung and Rebecca Wagner regarding the prosecution of elderly abuse cases, and a presentation by the Street Outreach Team.

The next Family Violence Council meeting will be held on February 28th, 2024.

6. Update on MacArthur Foundation-funded Safety & Justice Challenge (SJC) Initiative by Alexandra Lopes, Director of Safety & Justice Challenge (discussion only & possible action)

Ms. Lopes provided updates on the Safety & Justice Challenge Initiative. Since the previous Sentencing Commission in September 26th, 2023, the MacArthur Foundation and Justice System Partners (JSP) came to the Bay Area for a two-day convening on CalAIM, which provided an opportunity to talk about the SJC initiative and receive input on work done thus far. Ms. Lopes has been reviewing all three grants and has done extensive outreach to SJC partner agencies to capture their input and needs regarding efforts to safely reduce the jail population and address racial and ethnic disparities.

Ms. Lopes shared that a no-cost extension was submitted and approved in October, that efforts are underway to finalize a budget modification request that includes SJC partner input, and that great progress has been made with the accept and spend (A&E) process for the sustainability grant.

Ms. Lopes shared information about an SJC evaluation that is underway by the Urban Institute, in coordination with the City University of New York (CUNY) and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), University of Chicago. NORC was asked by the MacArthur Foundation to evaluate the SJC initiative in all implementation sites.

Ms. Lopes also shared that the first kick-off meeting of the SJC Work Group is scheduled for December 12th, 2023.

Representative Goossen asked about the Renewal grant and the goals and deliverables of the Sustainability grant, and whether that information will be shared before the kickoff meeting. Ms. Lopes shared that she expects to have the discussion with the partners about the information at the meeting.

7. Presentation: Jail Population Trends by Lucas Jennings, Senior Administrative Analyst

Lucas Jennings, Senior Analyst at the Sheriff's Office, presented jail population data for October, 2023, including data on bookings, releases, and average daily population with breakdowns for age, gender, race/ethnicity, charge level, etc.

8. Members' Comments Questions, Requests for Future Agenda Items (discussion & possible action)

Member Naidoo asked a question about whether the Homelessness presentation that was rescheduled due to presenter illness would occur at the March 2024 meeting of the Sentencing Commission. Representative Agnese confirmed that this presentation would take place at the March 2024 meeting if the presenters are available.

9. Public Comment on Any Item Listed Above, as well as Items not Listed on the Agenda

No Public Comment.

10. Adjournment

Member Naidoo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Representative Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call vote.

Safety and Justice Working Group

Tuesday March 28th, 2024



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

Jail Population February 2024 Report

Average Daily Population

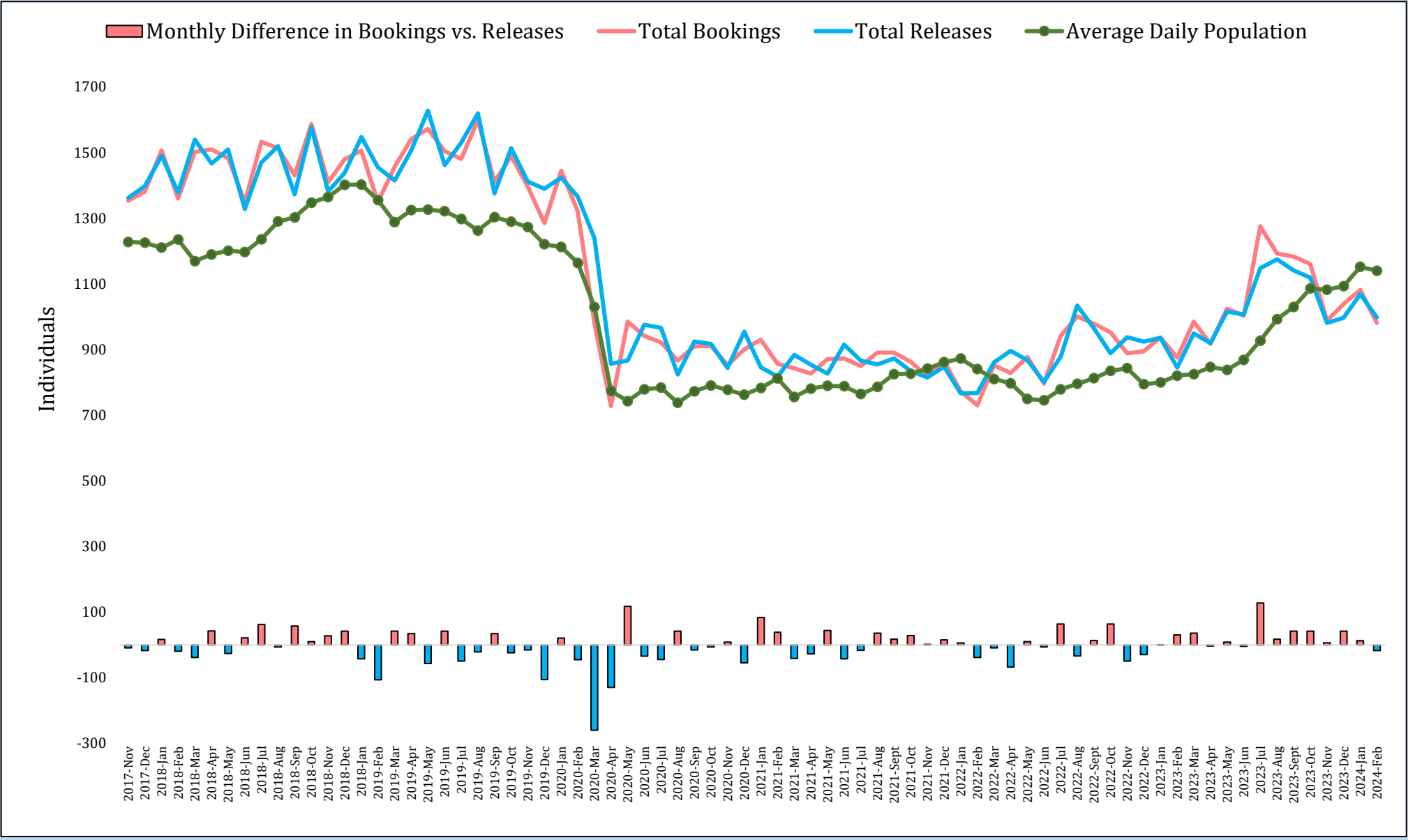
This Month	Change from last month	Change from last year
1140	1%	39%

Bookings

This Month	Change from last month	Change from last year
981	9%	12%

Releases

This Month	Change from last month	Change from last year
998	7%	18%



Jail Population February 2024 Report

Population
1160

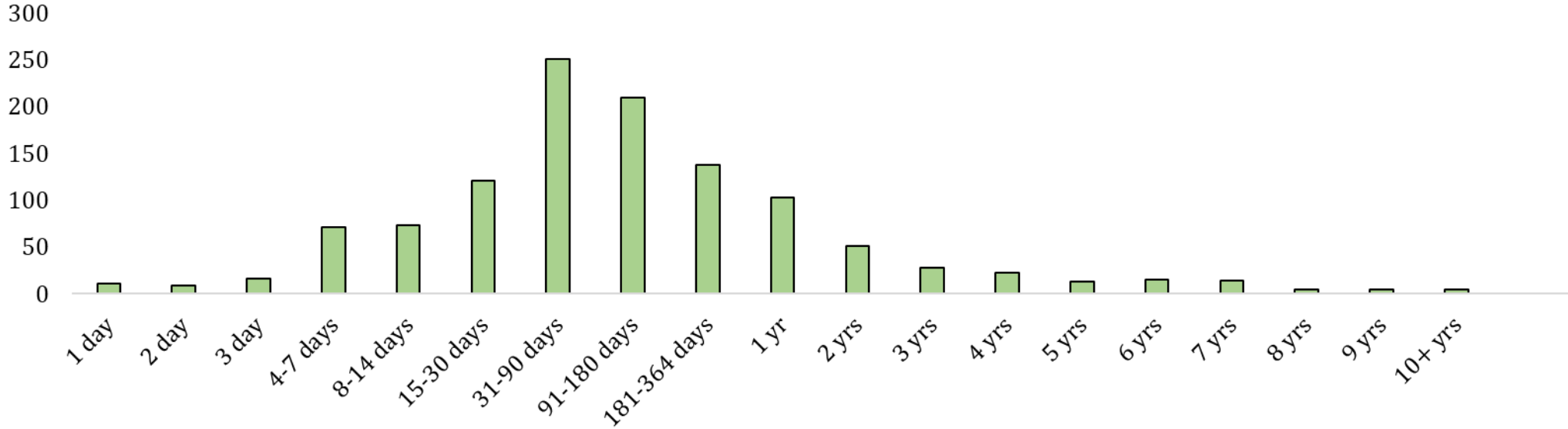
Average time in
custody 315

Median time in
custody 94

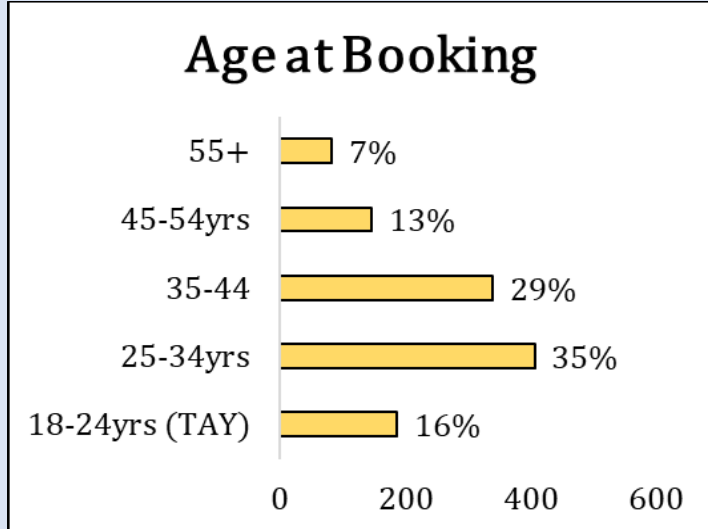
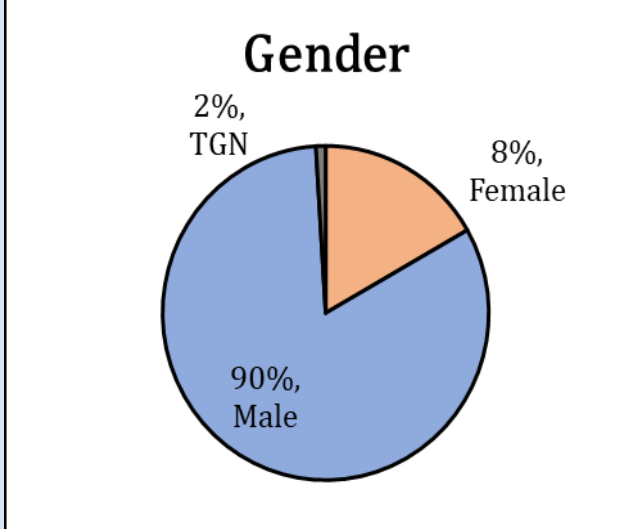
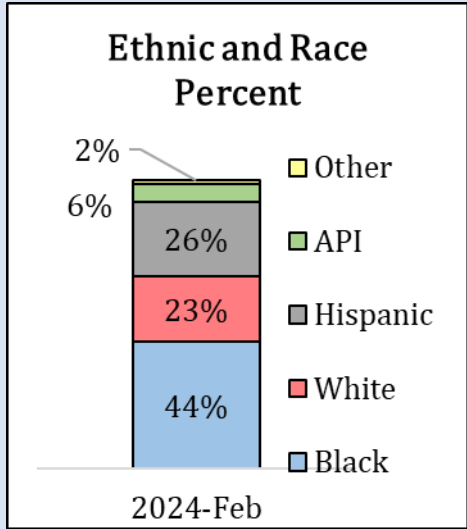
Mode time in
custody 7

Median age at
booking 32

Time in custody snapshot population on February 20th, 2023



Feb	Last 12 Months
Black	44% Low 39 High 44
White	23% Low 19 High 24
Hispanic	26% Low 24 High 28
API	6% Low 5 High 7
Other	2% Low 1 High 7



Jail Population February 2024 Report

Snapshot
Population 106

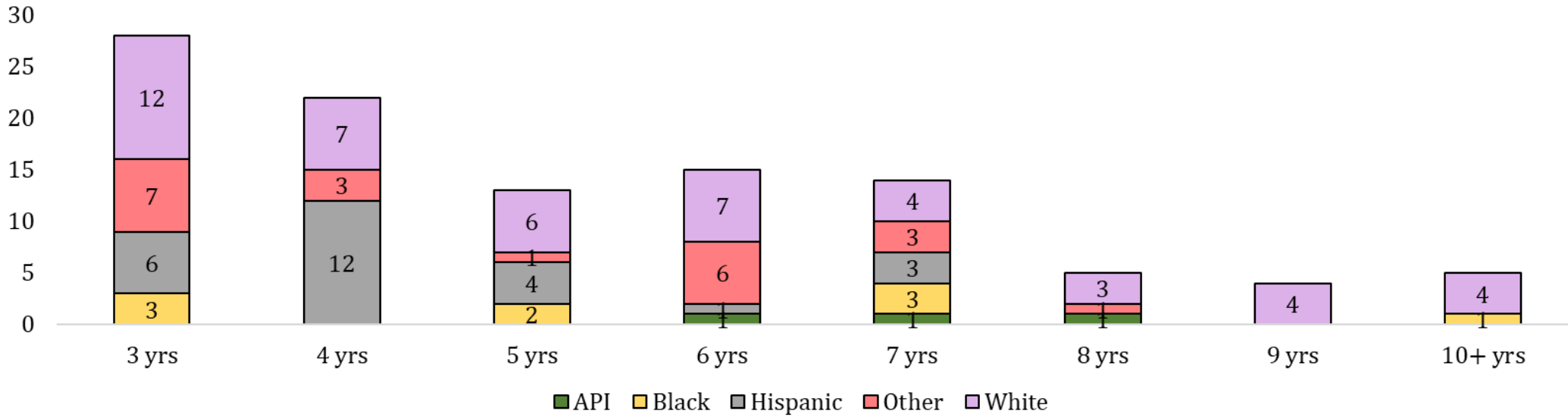
Percent of
Population 9%

Average time in
custody 5.25 yrs.

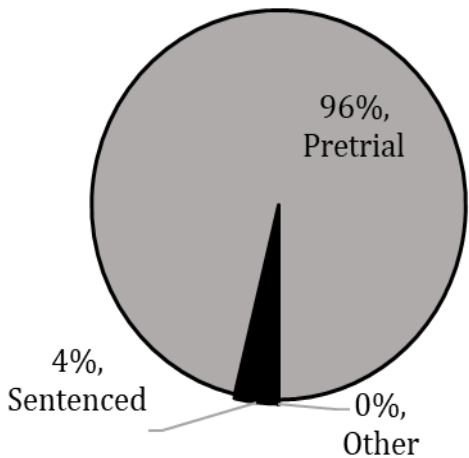
Median time in
custody 5 yrs.

Transgender/
Non-Binary
Population 1

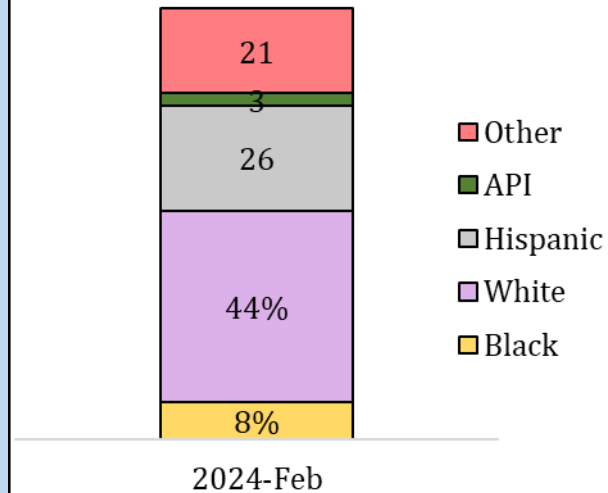
Time in custody over three years on February 20th 2024



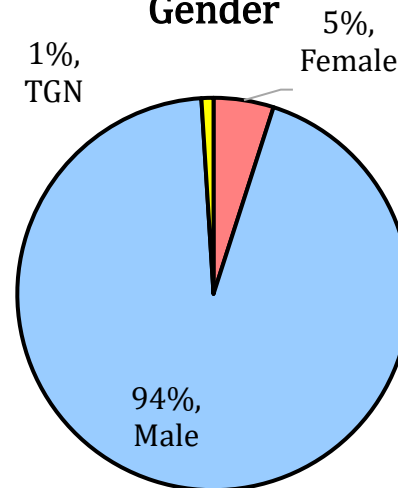
Legal Status



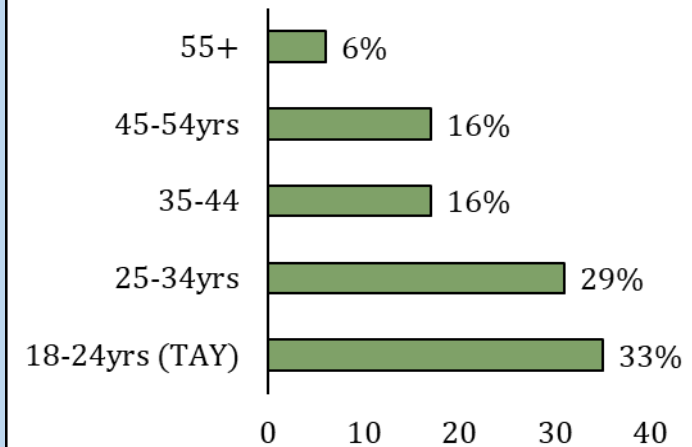
Ethnic and Race Percent



Gender

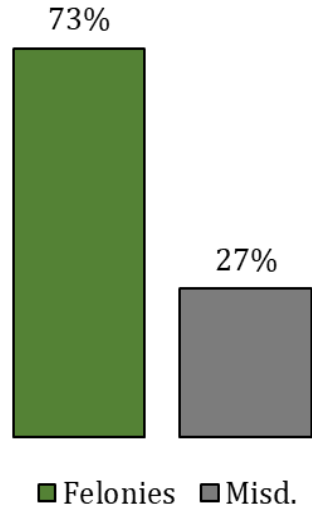


Age at Booking

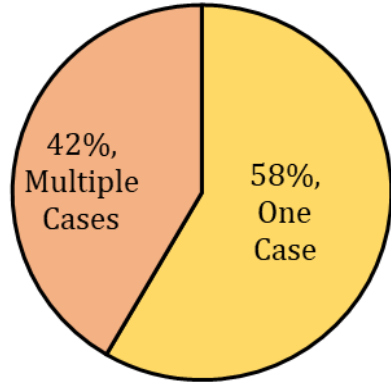


Jail Population February 2024 Report

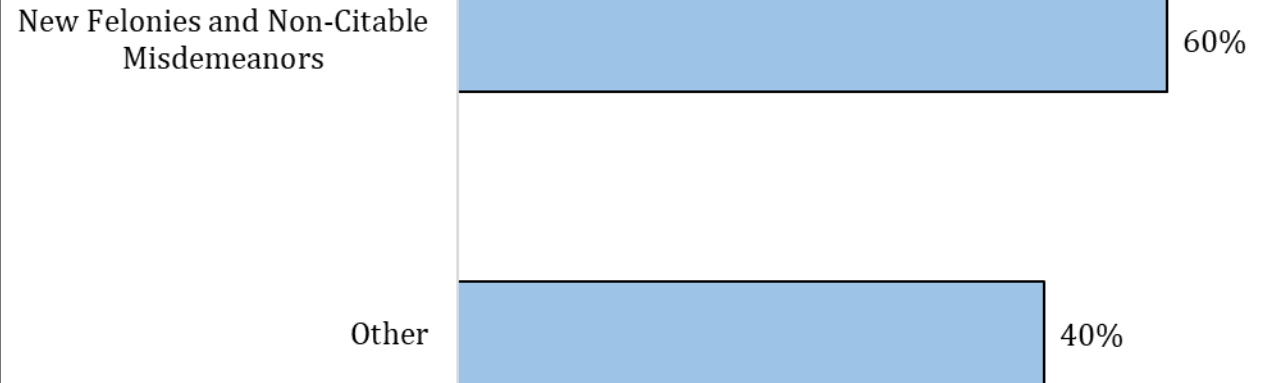
Crime Class at Booking



Caseload Per Booking Number



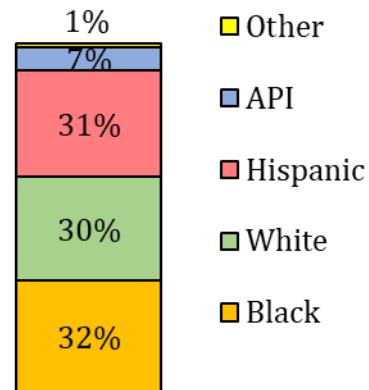
On View Charges



Feb Last 12 Months

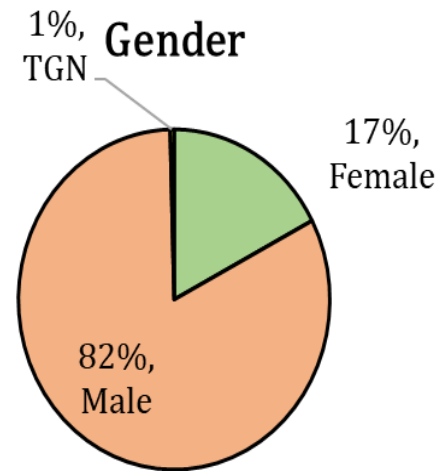
Black	32%	Low 32	High 36
White	30%	Low 23	High 30
Hispanic	31%	Low 28	High 34
API	7%	Low 5	High 7
Other	1%	Low 1	High 5

Enthic and Race Percent

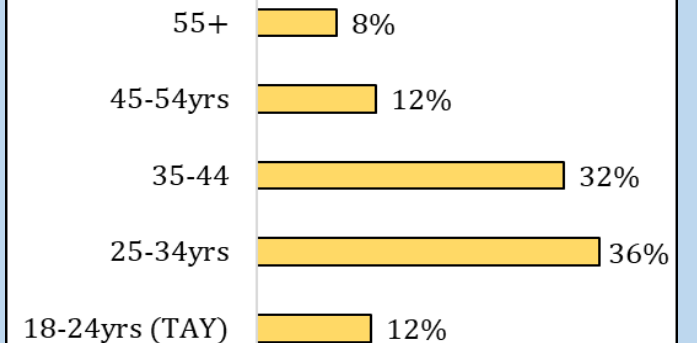


2024-Feb

Gender

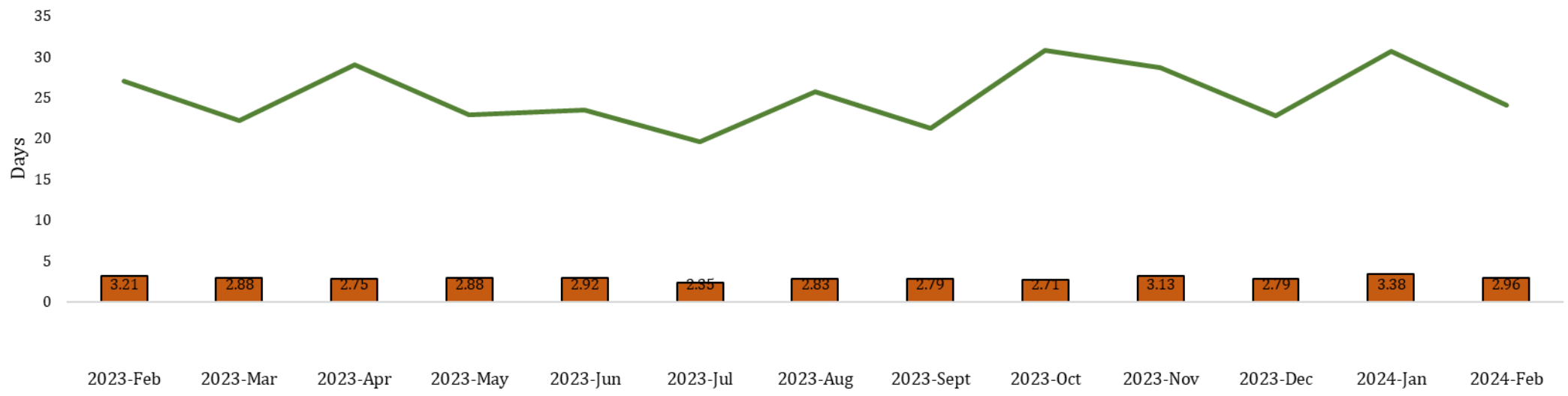


Age at Booking



Jail Population February 2024 Report

Average and median length of stay for released individuals



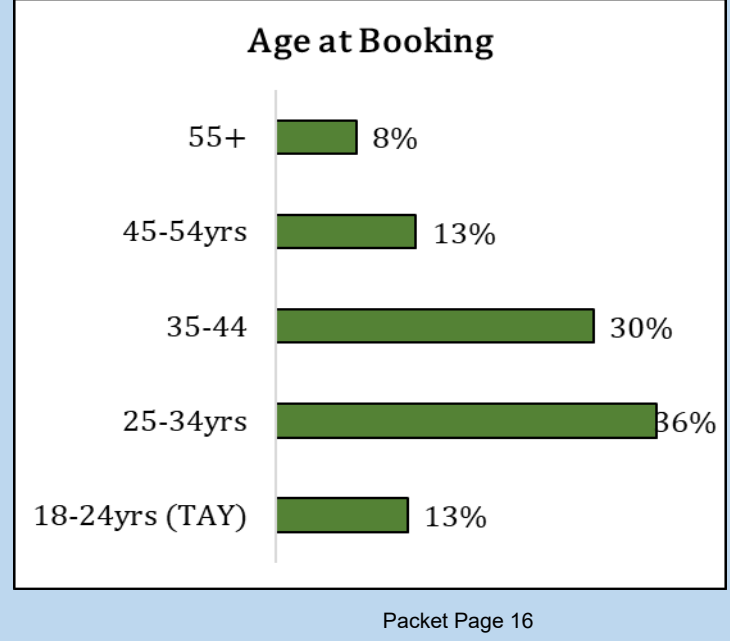
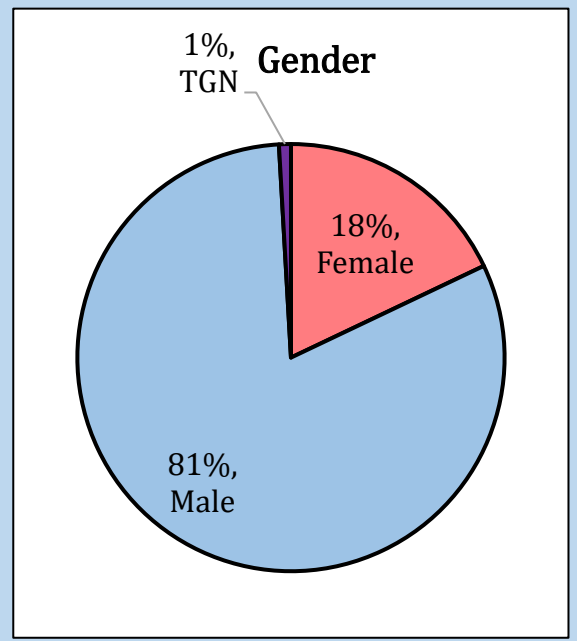
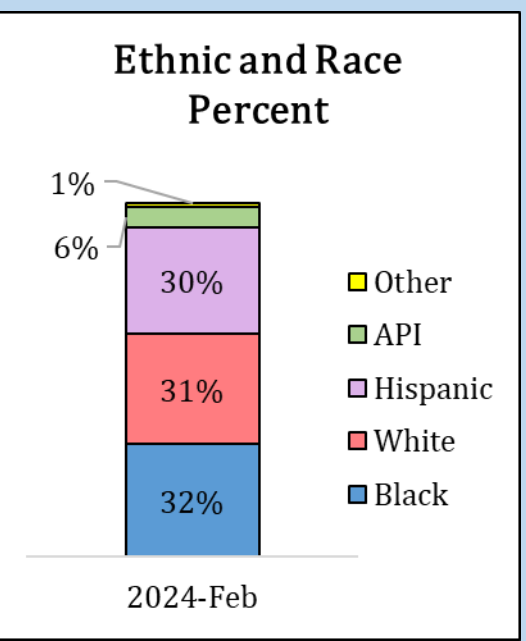
Released for month 998

Average length of stay in days 24

Median length of stay 2.96 days

Mode length of stay 1 day

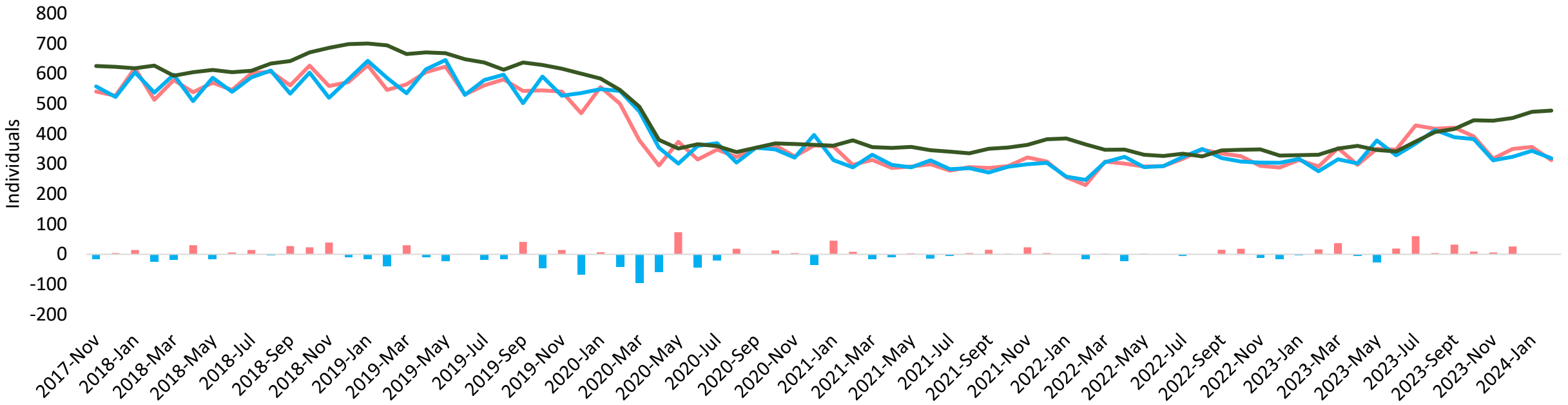
Feb	Last 12 Months
Black	32% Low 32 High 37
White	31% Low 24 High 31
Hispanic	30% Low 28 High 33
API	6% Low 5 High 7
Other	1% Low 1 High 5



Jail Population February 2024 Report

Black/African American Population

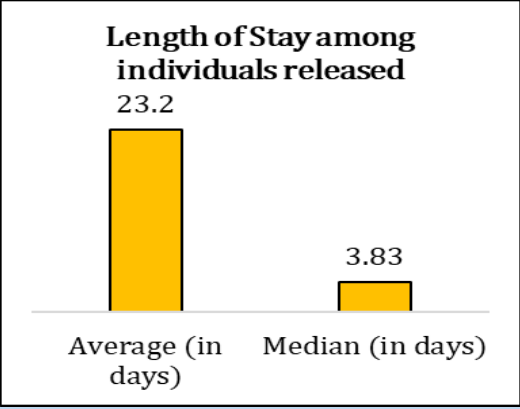
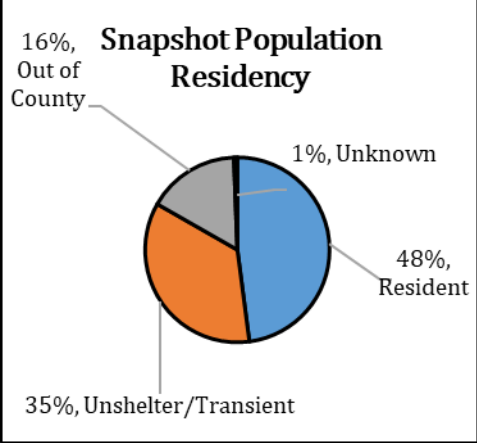
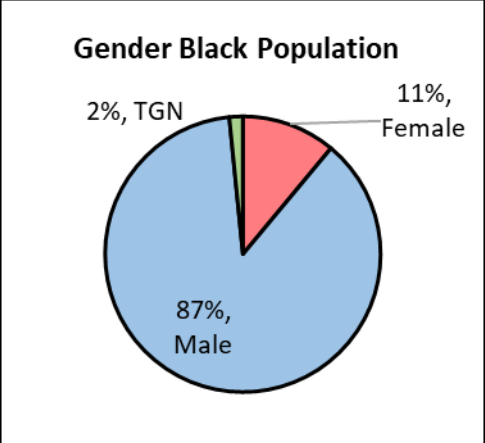
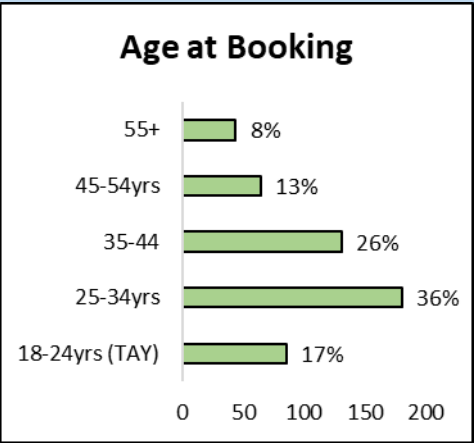
■ Monthly Difference in Bookings vs. Releases
 — Monthly Bookings
 — Monthly Releases
 — Average Daily Confined Population for the Month



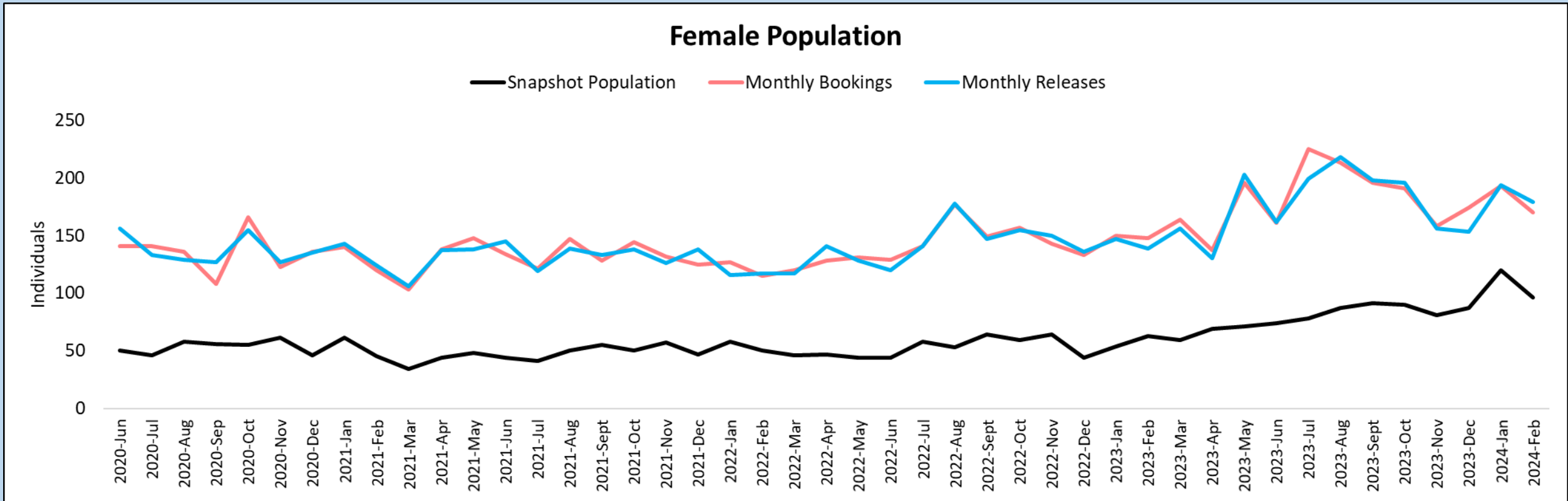
Snapshot
 Population

 Black

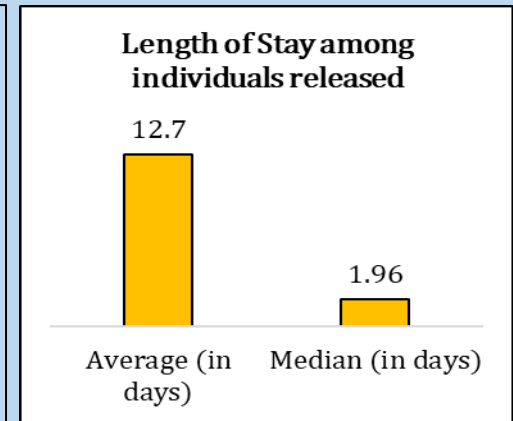
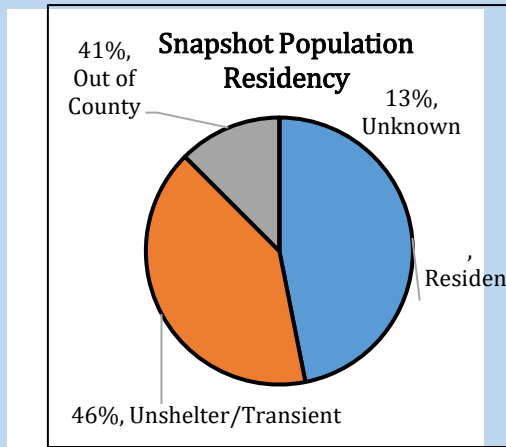
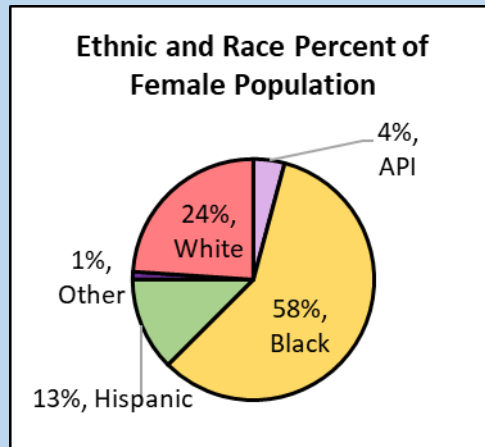
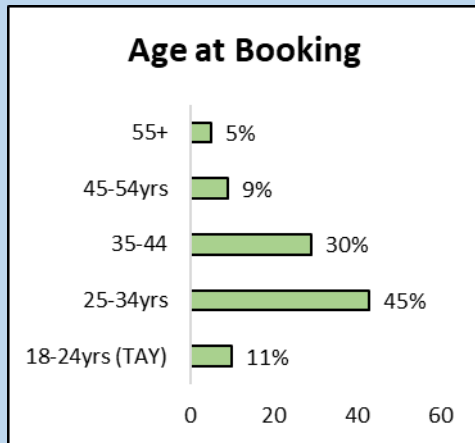
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Jail Population February 2024 Report

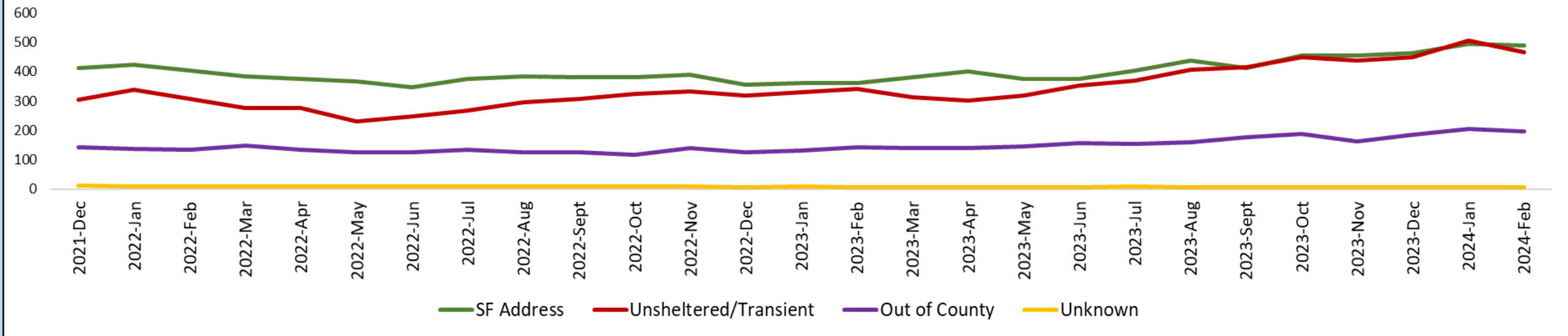


Snapshot Population
Female
96

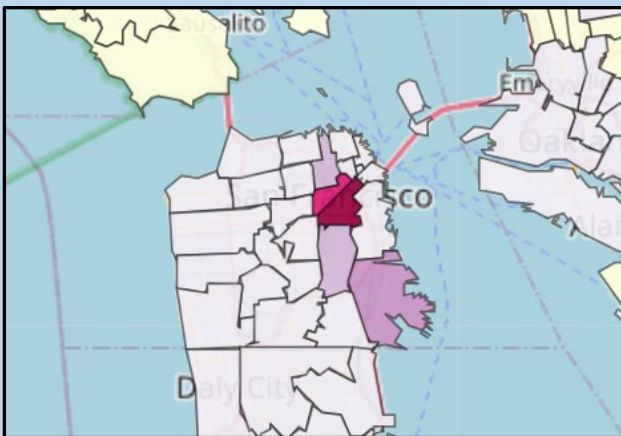
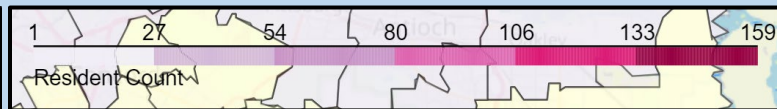
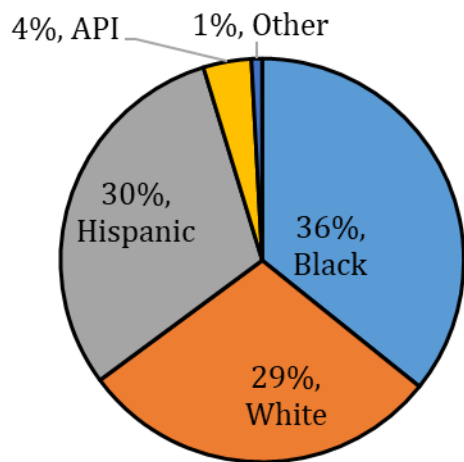


Jail Population February 2024 Report

Historical Trends of Residency

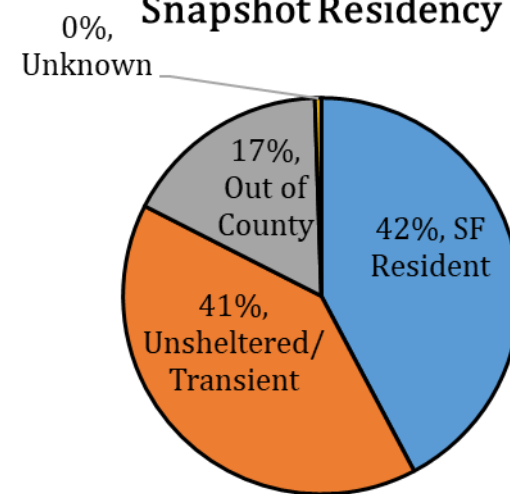


Unsheltered Ethnic and Race Percent



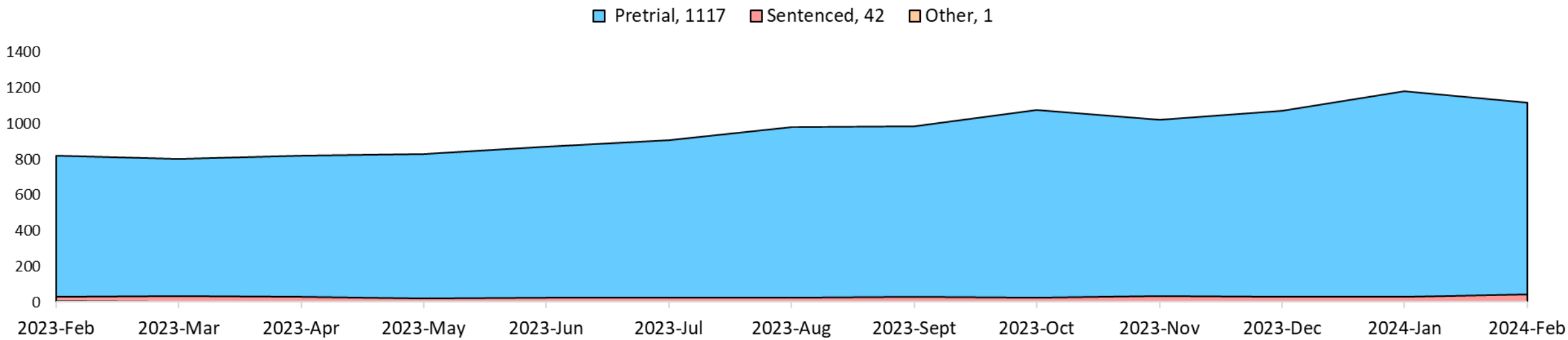
Leaflet | Data by © OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

Snapshot Residency

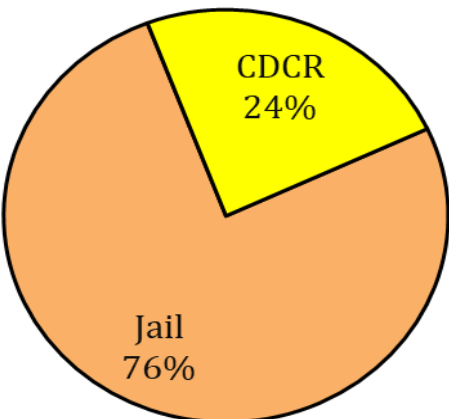


Jail Population February 2024 Report

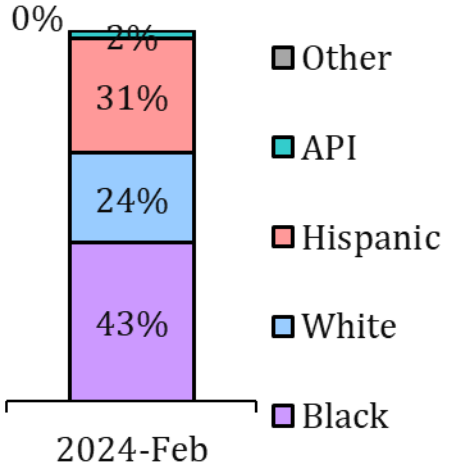
Legal Status of Confined Individuals



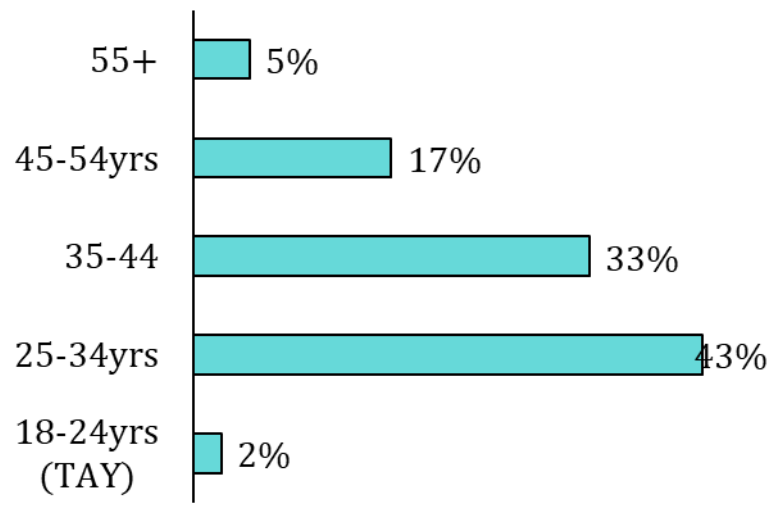
Sentenced Type



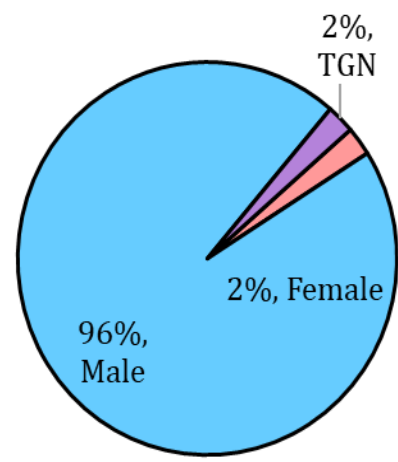
Ethnic and Race Percent



Age at Booking



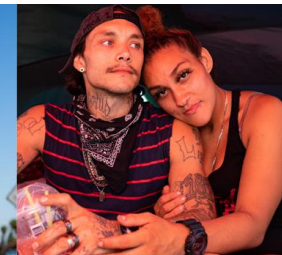
Gender



Homelessness, Behavioral Health, and Justice Involvement: A Review of the Evidence

Kelly Knight, PhD
Professor, UCSF
Associate Director, UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative

Tiana Moore, PhD
Policy Director, UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative

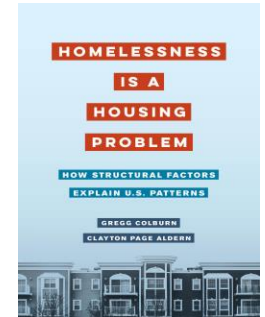


Drivers vs. Precipitants of Homelessness

Drivers: Systemic factors that create overall homelessness rates and explain the difference in homelessness rates between communities

- Lack of affordable housing
- Income inequality
- Structural racism

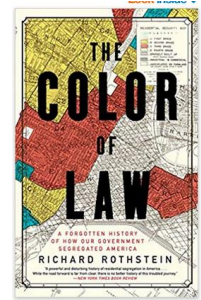
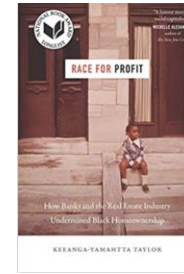
Precipitants: Individual risk factors that increase the chance that any individual within a community becomes homeless



Aldern and Colburn, 2022

Homelessness is a racial (in)justice issue

- Home ownership primary means of wealth-building
- Legal discrimination in home ownership
 - Racial Covenants-Segregated neighborhoods
 - Redlining—restricted access to mortgages in segregated neighborhoods
 - Predatory lending
- Ongoing discrimination in rental market
- Criminal justice, employment and educational discrimination
- **Black Americans at 3 to 4 times increased risk of homelessness**
- **Black San Franciscans at 5 times greater risk of overdose mortality**



California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH)

- Largest representative study of homelessness in US since 1990s
- Conducted at the request of CA Health and Human Services Agency

Study Methods

- **8 counties** representing 8 regions (exact counties confidential)
- Target population: **Adults 18+** experiencing homelessness
 - **3,200 questionnaires**
 - **365 paired in-depth interviews**
- Community engaged practices



Where were people immediately before becoming homeless?



© Sam Comen | unhousedca.org

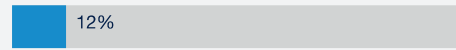
- Institutional settings (primarily prison and jail): **19%**
- Non-leaseholding arrangements: **49%**
- Leaseholding arrangements: **32%**

Income and Housing Costs Prior to Homelessness

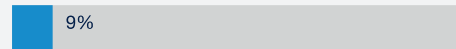
- All:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$960**
- Non-leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$950**
 - 43% of non-leaseholders did not pay rent
 - Median monthly housing costs (among those who paid rent): **\$450**
- Leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$1400**
 - Median monthly housing costs: **\$700**

Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, All Participants

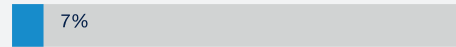
Lost or reduced income



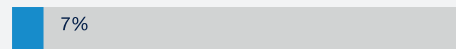
Conflict among residents



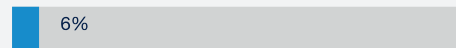
Didn't want to impose/wanted own space



Conflict with property owner

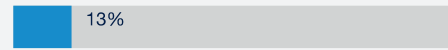


Someone else became sick, disabled, or died

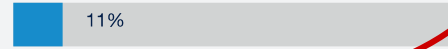


Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, Non-leaseholders

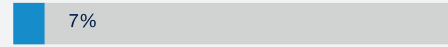
Conflict among residents



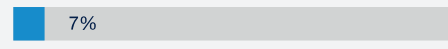
Didn't want to impose/wanted own space



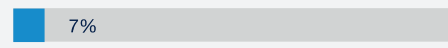
Conflict with property owner



Building sold or foreclosed; owner/primary leaseholder change

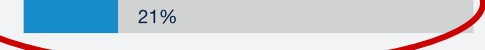


Someone else became sick, disabled, or died

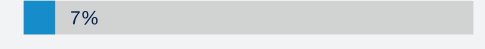


Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, Leaseholders

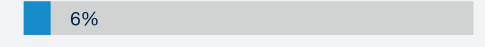
Lost or reduced income



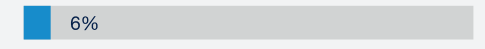
Conflict with property owner



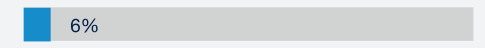
Someone else became sick, disabled, or died



Violence or abuse in the household



Breakup between residents





*“The first thing I did was I cried because **I couldn't believe that I was actually homeless** for the first time ever... I've always had a job. If I was unemployed, I was never unemployed for more than a month before finding another job. As time progressed, those things became harder...”*

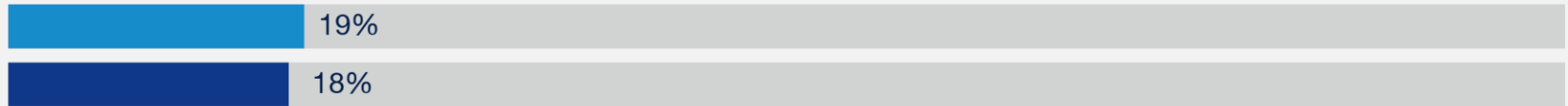
- CASPEH participant

Re-entry support for those exiting prison and extended jail stays

● Jail ● Prison

Jail re-entry support is only reported for individuals who reported jail stays of 30 days or more.

Benefits



Healthcare



Housing





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- **30%** went to jail during their current episode of homelessness
- **2 days** median length of stay in jail



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- **36%** noted a criminal justice record as a barrier to obtaining permanent housing
- **20%** noted a criminal justice record as a barrier to employment

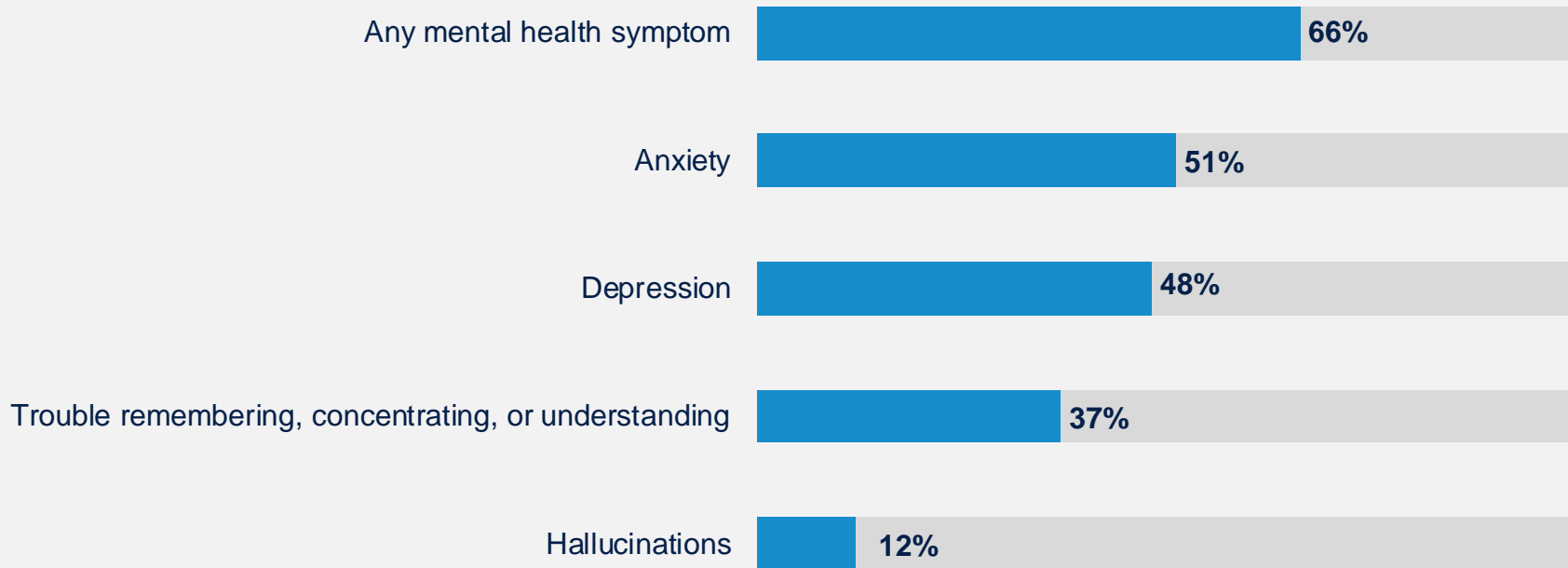
In their lifetime:

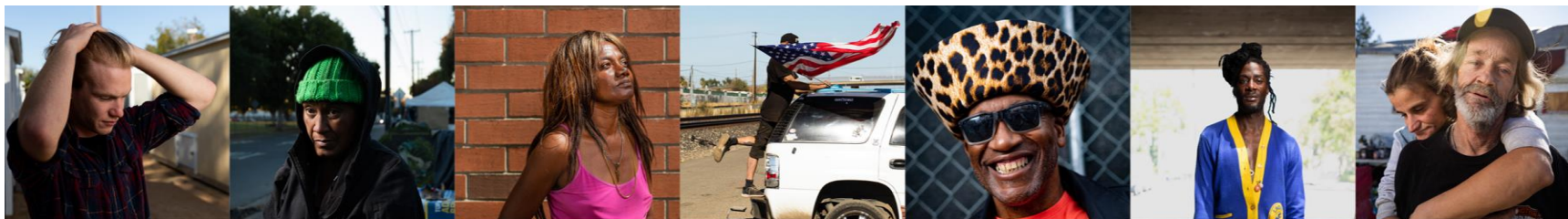
- **25%** reported a PTSD diagnosis
- **31%** have attempted suicide
- **27%** experienced a psychiatric hospitalization

(44% of those who experienced psychiatric hospitalization did so after their first instance of homelessness.)



Current Self-Reported Mental Health Symptoms





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- **35%** used illicit drugs 3x week or more
 - 31% methamphetamines
 - 11% opioids
 - 3% cocaine



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- **9%** heavy episodic alcohol use (weekly)
- **40%** either regular illicit drug or heavy alcohol use
- **11%** reported an overdose during current episode of homelessness



*“I started, I guess you could say using, when I became homeless... meth... I would **use it to stay awake at night**. So, it’s not like I would need a fix in the daytime or nothing else.”*

- CASPEH Participant

Evidence-based Care and Treatment for People Experiencing Homelessness with Co-Occurring MH and SUD



High rates of unmet behavioral health treatment need

- Of participants who reported a current mental health symptom:
 - **24%** received mental health counseling or medication in the prior 30 days
- Of participants who reported current, regular illicit drug use or weekly heavy episodic alcohol use:
 - **26%** wanted treatment at some point during current episode of homelessness, but were unable to access it

Housing First and Behavioral Health

What is Housing First?

- An evidence-based approach to housing people experiencing homelessness
 - Does **NOT** mean Housing Only
 - Range of models to meet individual needs

Why is it Important?

- Alternatives (e.g., treatment first models) struggle with engagement
 - Housing offers stability needed to engage with services
- Robust evidence in support of HF across populations
 - Including individuals with severe behavioral disabilities



Permanent Supportive Housing

Subsidized housing with voluntary supportive services

PSH with voluntary intensive services has been **shown to successfully house those with complex behavioral health needs.**



Denver Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative

Housing First randomized trial for those with criminal justice system involvement

- Those assigned to HF intervention:
 - ✓ Spent more time in housing
 - ✓ Remained stably housed
 - **86%** remained stably housed one year after;
 - **77%** remained stably housed after three years
 - ✓ Decrease in police interactions
 - ✓ Reduction in jail stays

Cunningham, et al. (2021). Breaking the Homelessness-Jail Cycle with Housing First. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104501/breaking-the-homelessness-jail-cycle-with-housing-first_1.pdf

Santa Clara's Project Welcome Home

Randomized controlled trial of chronically homeless individuals with high rates of system utilization

- Enrolled participants when they presented at a system setting (e.g., hospitals, jails, etc.)
 - ✓ 423 participants (199 randomly assigned to intervention)
- At year 4, 86% in intervention group were housed; 91% at year 7
- Participants housed via HF model:
 - ✓ Decreased psychiatric ED use
 - ✓ Decreased shelter use
 - ✓ Spent >90% of nights housed on average



Raven, M. C., Niedzwiecki, M. J., & Kushel, M. (2020). A randomized trial of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with high use of publicly funded services. *Health Services Research, 55*(S2), 797–806.

Policy Recommendations

- Lower housing barriers for those with criminal justice records
- Improve re-entry support for those exiting jail or prison
- Increase homelessness prevention in institutional settings
- Reduce carceral responses to homelessness
- Increase access to mental health and substance use treatments
- Increase outreach with harm reduction services
- Center racial equity in all responses