

Cook County Safety and Justice Community Conversation

Cook County S&J Policy Committee

May 3, 2017



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

[#RethinkJails](#)

Meeting Objectives

- Share information about Cook County's criminal justice reform efforts and its involvement in the SJC
- Provide an opportunity to gather feedback on priority strategies
- Explore other areas for reform related to the SJC goals

System Partners

- Cook County Circuit Court
- Justice Advisory Council
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney
- Cook County Public Defender
- Chicago Police Department
- Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court
- Cook County Health and Hospitals System

System Reform: Seven Core Decision Points

1 Arrest

2 Charge

3 Assignment of counsel

4 Pretrial release

5 Case processing

6 Disposition/sentencing

7 Post-conviction/supervision

Identifying the Problems

Cook County Data

- Average length of Stay: ~68 days
- Jail population: 8,201
- Racial Disparities: 73% Black, 11% White, 16% Hispanic

Safety and Justice Challenge



SAFETY+JUSTICE CHALLENGE

An initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails

Why the Safety and Justice Challenge?

ADMISSIONS

There are **nearly 12 million** jail admissions annually—equivalent to the populations of New York City and Los Angeles combined, and almost 19 times the annual admissions to state and federal prisons.

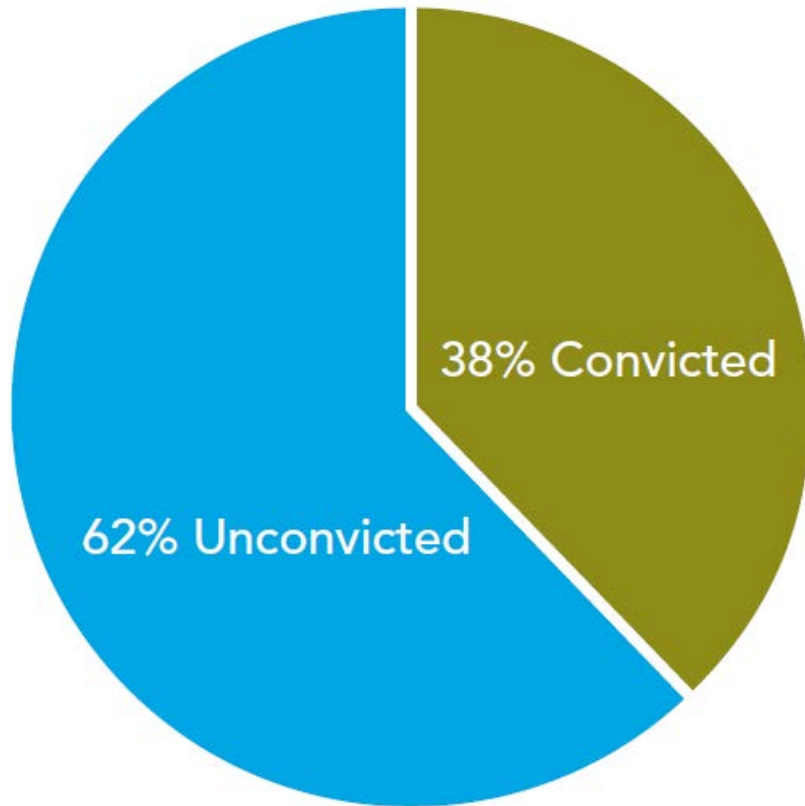


Local jails
11,700,000



State & federal prisons
631,000

Why?

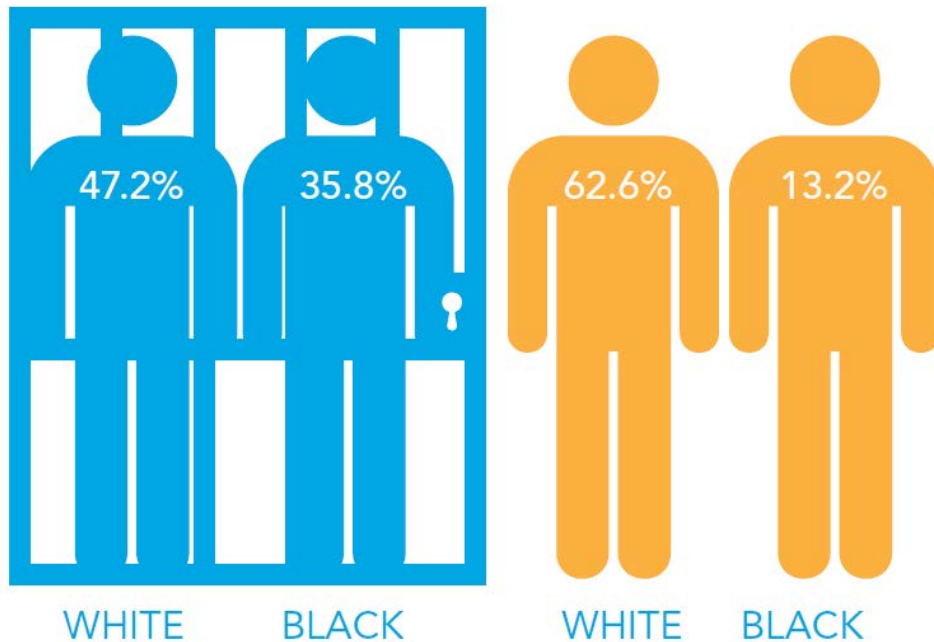


CONVICTIONS

Nationally, three out of five people in jail are

legally presumed innocent, awaiting trial or resolution through plea negotiations. **In Cook County about 90 percent of jail inmates are awaiting trial.**

Why?



RACIAL DISPARITIES

Nationally, African Americans are jailed at almost **4x the rate** of white Americans. **In Cook County, 3 out of 4 jail detainees are African Americans.**

Timeline of Safety and Justice Challenge

Phase 1: May 2015 – January 2016

- Data collection
- Planning
- Proposal Development



Phase 2: May 2016 . . .

- Core and partner site awards
- Implementation begins
- Partner sites refine proposals (June 2017)

Building Solutions & Outcomes

Cook County SJC Strategies

- ***Court Reminder System***
- ***Comprehensive Bond Review***
- Emerging Adult Data Collection/Analysis
- ***Point of Arrest Diversion***
- Enhanced Pretrial/Probation
- **Improving Behavioral Health Services/Linkages for Justice Involved Persons**
- Implicit Bias Training
- Community Engagement

Automated Court Reminder

- **Summary:** Cook County and the Circuit Court will implement an Automated Court Reminder System to notify defendants of date, time, and location of court appearances.
- **Expected outcome:** Projected 40% reduction in failures to appear due to court reminder

Comprehensive Bond Review

- **Summary:** The Comprehensive Bond Review (CBR) Pilot is made up of two separate strategies:
 - 1) a First Look review of misdemeanors cases for which I Bonds may be agreed upon; and
 - 2) a Second Look review which includes scheduled bond review hearings for individuals detained on low D-bonds.
- **Expected outcome:** Estimated jail population reductions of 1.9% for First Look and 2.8% for Second Look

Point of Arrest Diversion

- **Summary:** explore the feasibility of pre-booking diversion for low level offenses and/or persons with behavioral health needs.
- **Expected outcome:** TBD

Improving Behavioral Health Services/Linkages

- **Summary:** The strategy has two primary goals: 1) work with Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) to train frontline criminal justice staff to improve services for justice involved persons; and 2) develop linkages between CCHHS care coordinators and justice involved persons.
- **Expected outcome:** Increased health care coverage of justice involved populations

Breakout Session

Discussion Questions

- What is your main take away from what you've heard today?
- How would you improve these strategies/what's missing?
- What else do you want to know?

Wrap up and Next Steps

- Evaluation
- Summary Report
- Additional community conversations
- For more information:
 - Website:
<http://www.cookcountycourt.org/HOME/SJC.aspx>
 - Email: sj.challenge@cookcountyil.gov

THANK YOU!!!