**A Snapshot of Los Angeles County Jail System on August 19, 2020**

**Fact Sheet for the Los Angeles County**

**MCJ Closure Workgroup**

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For the Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) Closure workgroup, Vera has analyzed Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) data about the people incarcerated in the Los Angeles County jail system on August 19, 2020. This analysis is not a complete picture of the scale of criminalization and incarceration across Los Angeles, as it is only a snapshot of people in the county jail facilities and does not include people incarcerated and released directly from local lockups and substations.

Below are some highlights from the data analysis. For more information and important notes about the data, please see the attached slides in the appendix. Additionally, Vera produced a snapshot of data on each jail facility in a separate document included in the appendix.

Overall Jail Population

* **The L.A. County jail system was over BSCC rated capacity on 8/19/2020** and the population has only risen since that date.
* **2,164 people in jail on that date were sentenced and awaiting transfer to state prison.**
* 36% of people in the jail had spent one to six months in custody prior to 8/19/2020. 23% had spent six months to one year in custody.
* 52% of the jail population were incarcerated on nonserious/nonviolent charges.

Basic Demographics

**Security Level**

* Most people (67%) in the L.A. County jail system are classified as medium-security.

**Age**

* The average age of people incarcerated in the jails is 36. The median is 33.

**Gender / Sexual Orientation**

* At CRDF, what is known as the “[female jail facility](http://shq.lasdnews.net/pages/PageDetail.aspx?id=1255),” 47% of people were pretrial; 26% were partially sentenced; and 32% were sentenced.
* On average, the people in CRDF on 8/19/2020 had spent 202 days in custody. The median days in custody was 98.
* There were 387 people in the K6G/LGBT units across the jail system. 45% were pretrial; 26% were partially sentenced; and 29% were sentenced. The median of days in custody was 100.
* In the K6G/LGBT units, 40% of people were classified as Black; 33% as Hispanic; 24% as white; and 3% as other.

**Race/Ethnicity**

* **Racial disparities persist.** Black people have long been disproportionately incarcerated. Black people were 29% of the jail population pre-COVID and, as of 8/19/2020, were 31%. By contrast, white people were 15% of the pre-COVID jail population and decreased to 12%.
* Black women were 31% of the pre-COVID CRDF population and 34% on 8/19/2020. White women were 21% of the CRDF population pre-COVID and dropped to 16%.

Pretrial Population

* **45% of people incarcerated are pretrial. 72% of the pretrial population does not have holds and thus are likely incarcerated simply because they cannot afford bail.**
* The pretrial population had spent an average of 221 days (7+ months) and a median of 99 days (3+ months) in custody.
* 42% of the pretrial population were incarcerated on nonserious/nonviolent charges.
* All facilities except Pitchess East had people in the pretrial population.

Next Steps

To close Men’s Central Jail, the County will have to reduce the jail population. There are already a variety of programs in place to support releases—from court date notifications through the Public Defender’s office to the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) Housing program for people with serious mental illness experiencing homelessness. In order to develop a plan to close MCJ within a year, the Workgroup will have to estimate how much the jail population can be reduced by matching the type of people incarcerated recently to appropriate “diversion” opportunities.

The workgroup will create a working definition of “diversion,” a term that appears in the Board motion but has varying definitions for different stakeholders. This definition will serve as a basis for the next phase of data analyses, particularly as the workgroup seeks to identify how to reduce the jail population further. The following are the next steps for data analysis, in coordination with the workgroup’s committees:

* Analyze the pretrial population, particularly given the focus in the motion on the divertible population and community-based care.
	+ Identify select populations of interest that can be distinguished in the snapshot data (e.g. “women” at CRDF; people in K6G units; people with relatively low P/H levels who might only need simple supports for release).
	+ Analyze snapshot data (e.g. number of people, race, P/H level, length of stay, common charges, etc.).
	+ Identify existing diversion strategies available to the relevant populations.
	+ If needed, conduct a small case file review to identify any policies that can help reduce the population systematically and in the timeframe (e.g. shortening length of stay, particularly by streamlining diversion evaluation/placement processes).
	+ Estimate impact on jail population of identified diversions, any additional resources needed to accomplish this.
* Analyze the sentenced (and partially sentenced) populations in a similar fashion (i.e. snapshot analysis, identify what sentences were available, case file review for policy change, estimate of impact) but consider the impact to the jail population if diversion were offered for certain groups or sentences in particular types of cases were shortened by certain amounts.