

THE SAFETY + JUSTICE CHALLENGE

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Vera Institute of Justice

July 2015



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

Vera Institute of Justice

- Independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with offices in New York City, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and New Orleans
- Partner with government and civil society to improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety
 - Conduct research and analysis
 - Develop and test solutions
 - Use publications and expertise to engage stakeholders and the public

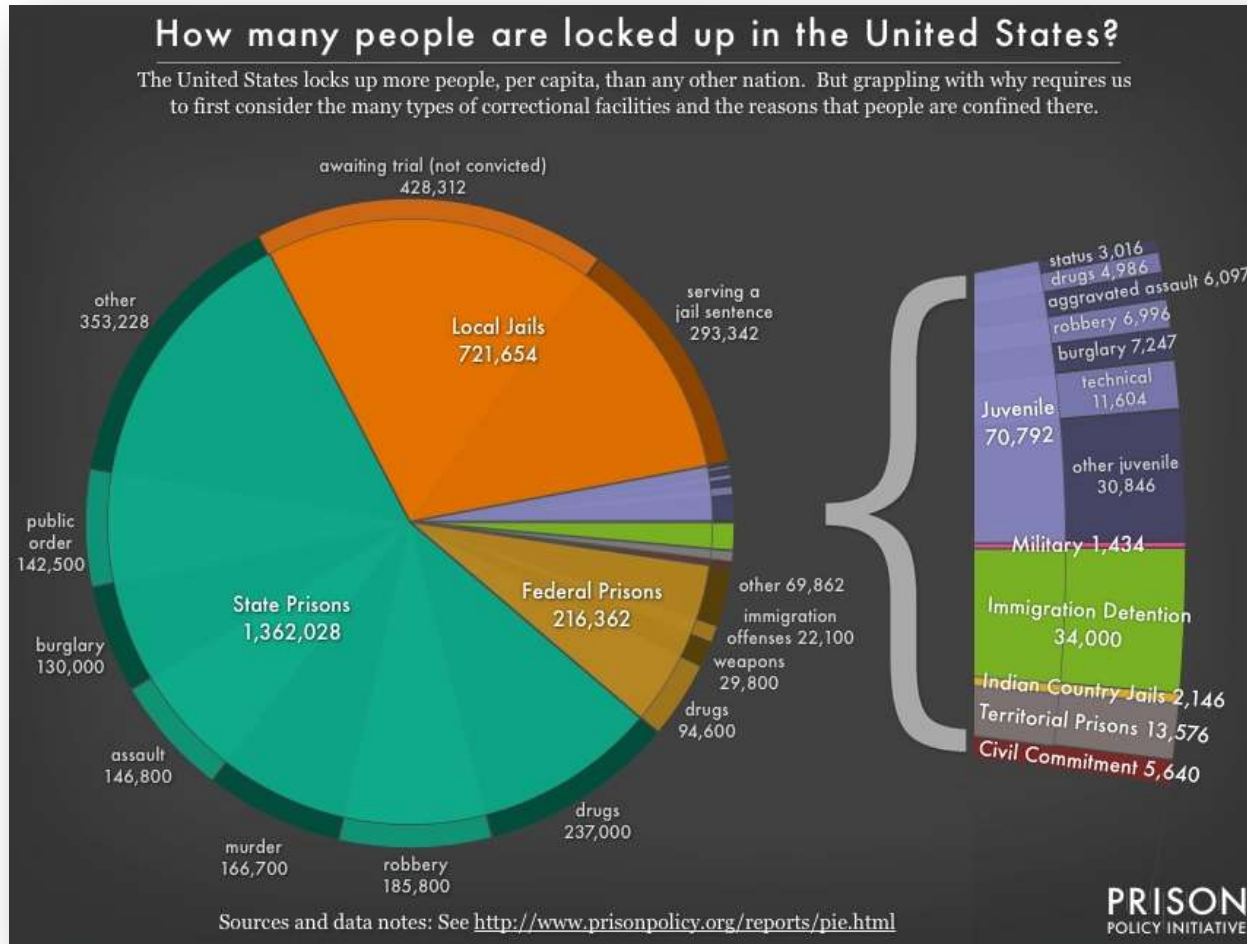
Vera Institute of Justice

- Center on Sentencing and Corrections
- Center on Immigration and Justice
- Center on Youth Justice
- Center on Victimization and Safety
- Family Justice Program
- Substance Use and Mental Health Program
- Cost-Benefit Analysis Unit

The Safety & Justice Challenge

- Funded by the MacArthur Foundation, the Safety & Justice Challenge is a deep investment in local reform, research, experimentation, and communications aimed at changing the way America thinks about and uses *jails*.
- Milwaukee County is part of a nationwide network of selected local jurisdictions that, with technical and financial assistance, will identify ways to safely reduce incarceration, particularly the disproportionate incarceration of racial and ethnic minorities.

The Big Picture of Jails



The Big Picture of Jails

- Annual Admissions = 11,700,000
 - This is 19 times the number of admissions to prison (631,000)
- Jails hold both convicted and unconvicted inmates
 - 62% are unconvicted and presumed innocent
 - 38% are convicted and serving sentences generally less than 1 year
- Average lengths of stay have been increasing over the past 30 years



14 DAYS



23 DAYS

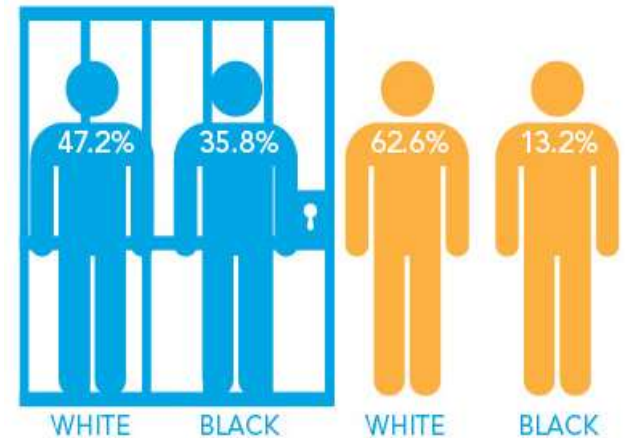
Mental Illness & Substance Use

- Jails have become the last resort for people with mental health issues
 - Serious mental illness affects men and women in jail at rates four to six times higher than in the general population
 - Sixty-eight percent have a history of abusing drugs, alcohol, or both



Racial & Ethnic Disparities

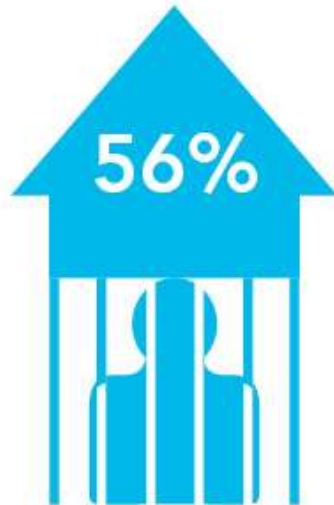
- Jails often hold minorities at much higher rates than whites
 - Nationwide African Americans are jailed at almost four times the rate of white Americans



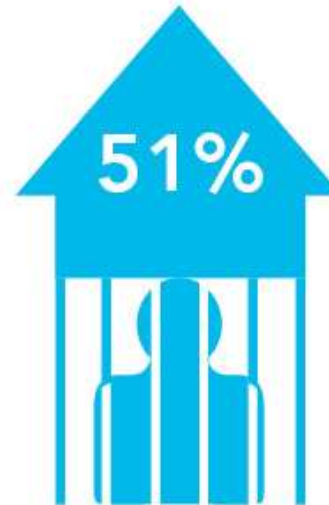
Consequences

- Compared to low-risk defendants held for no more than 24 hours, those held for 8-14 days were...

...more likely
to be rearrested
before trial



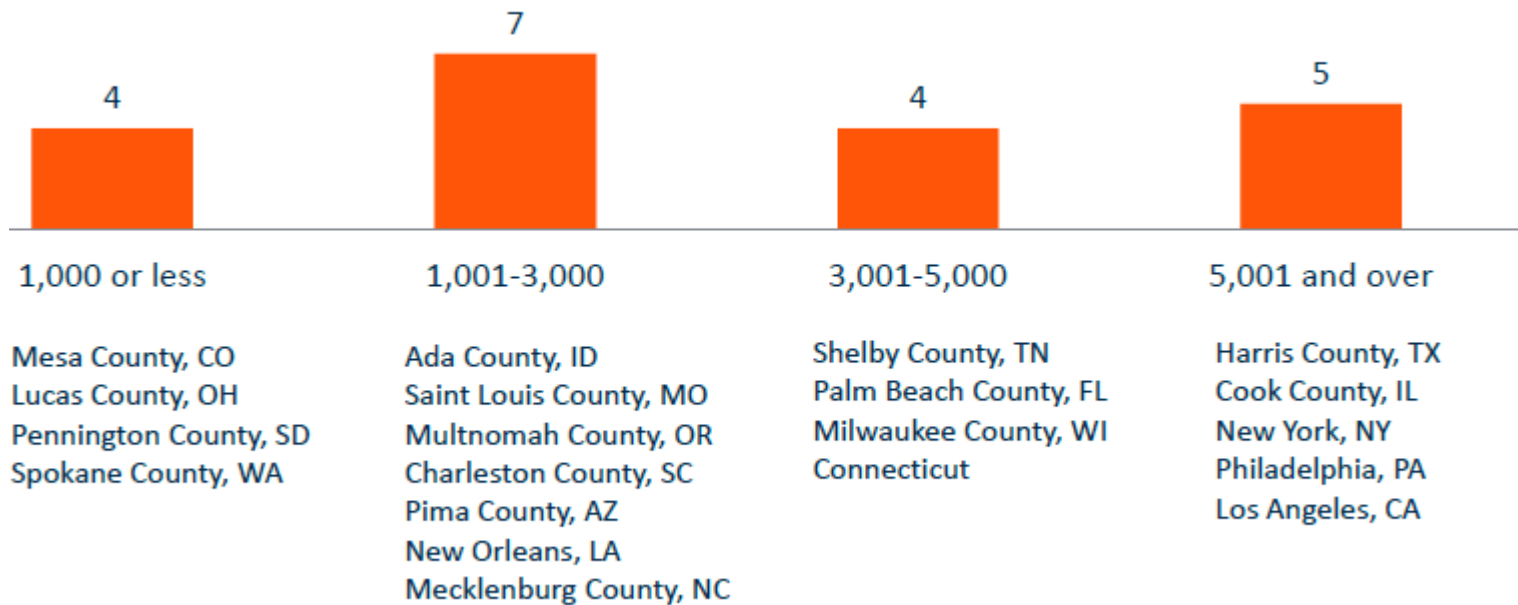
...more likely to
recidivate after
sentence completion



The Competition

- Phase 1: Planning
 - 20 sites, \$150,000 each plus intensive technical assistance, 7 months
 - 4 site coordinator organizations, 5 sites each
- Phase 2: Implementation
 - 10 sites, up to \$2 million annually plus technical assistance, 2 years with option to extend

The 20 Sites



Phase I Timeline



Investigate & Understand

Phase 1: Getting Started	
Duration	May 11 – May 29
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-off phone call with each site • Schedule site visits • All Sites Meeting: kick-off with all 20 participating sites
Grantee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary contact assigned; participants confirmed
Coordinator products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting schedule
Phase 2: Investigate and Understand the Facts	
Duration	May 30 – July 31
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits #1 and #2 (2 visits per site) • Interviews with key stakeholders
Grantee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background materials and data provided to site coordinator • Draft system map and aggregate data • Complete system maps for all criminal justice decision points with data embedded
Coordinator products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of system mapping • Memo for each site presenting the site coordinator's reflections on the strongest areas for reform

System Mapping

- Mapping and analysis of 7 key decision points:
 1. Arrest
 2. Charge
 3. Assignment of defense counsel
 4. Pretrial release
 5. Case processing
 6. Disposition/sentencing
 7. Post-conviction process/supervision
- Data collection

Develop a Response

<i>Phase 3: Develop a Reform Response</i>	
Duration	August 5 – October 8
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site visit #3 (1 visit per site)• All Sites Meeting #2
Grantee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary logic model, including targets
Coordinator products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWOT analysis findings (optional)

Implementation Planning

<i>Phase 4: Implementation Planning</i>	
Duration	October 12 – December 11
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site visit #4 (1 visit per site)
Grantee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiative charters• Detailed implementation plan• Final logic model
Coordinator products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process benchmarks

Application

Phase 5: Application	
Duration	December 15 – January 6
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Optional site visit #5</i>• Iterative feedback on sites' applications
Grantee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application for second round funding; revised and finalized planning deliverables
Coordinator products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memo for Foundation on relative merits of each site

Outcomes

- Local justice system leaders committed to analyzing key decision points and the local jail population, increasing racial and ethnic fairness, and tracking progress toward those goals
- A clearly articulated plan for system change, with measurable goals and responsibility assigned for reaching them
- Application to MacArthur for implementation funding

Thank you!

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SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org

- Where has progress already been made in the local criminal justice system?
- What improvements in the system would most benefit the community?
- How can community voices be brought into this process?