SPECIAL REPORT

Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration

Explore data on the people incarcerated in the Los Angeles County jail system. Track the county's progress in reducing its jail population.

Español

Los Angeles County has the largest jail system in the country and is home to one of the most notoriously inhumane facilities, Men's Central Jail (MCJ). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, around 17,000 people were incarcerated in Los Angeles County on any given day. In addition to the massive number of people in jail, there are significant racial disparities in who is incarcerated —with Latinx/Hispanic and especially Black Angelenos hit hardest. After decades of advocacy, the county Board of Supervisors committed to do things differently and decrease the county's use of incarceration through a 'care first' approach. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the jail

population dropped by 30 percent, inspiring even more interest from the Board of Supervisors in reducing the number of people in jail and closing MCJ. As the county takes steps toward its new 'care first' vision, the Vera Institute of Justice designed this tool to track its progress and show, in real time, how Los Angeles County is using its jail system. The underlying data is from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

Current Snapshot	Closing Men's Central Jail	Population Changes	Racial Disparities	Mental Health Population	AB 109 Population

What do we know about the current jail population?

10/05/2021

Total Population	Females	Black	Hispanic
14,722	**1,426**	**4,204**	**8,101**

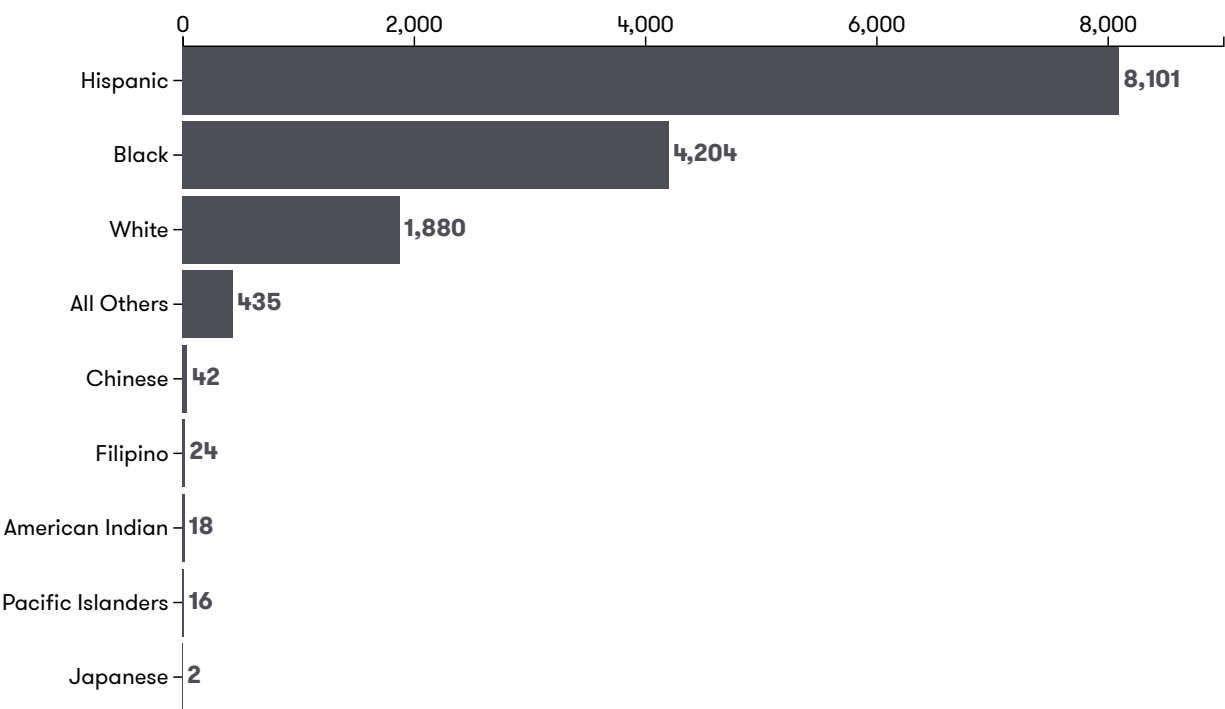Mental Health Population

5,991

See the race/ethnicity breakdown of the current jail population

Historically, Black and Latinx/Hispanic people have been disproportionately arrested and incarcerated in Los Angeles County. These disparities worsened in 2020.

Number of People in Custody by Race/Ethnicity

Download Data

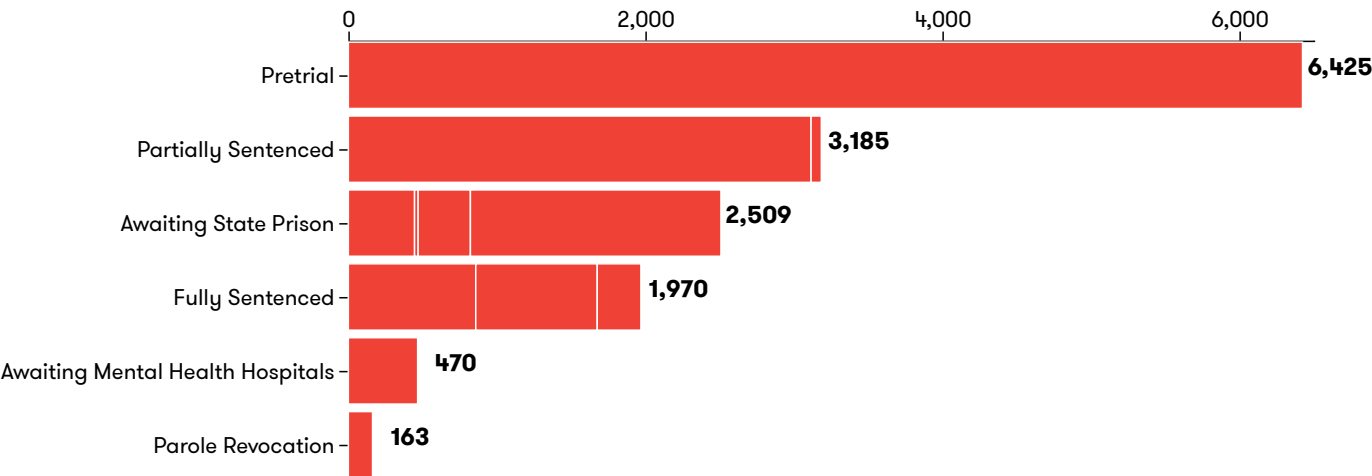|	
Hispanic	**8,101**
Black	**4,204**
White	**1,880**
All Others	**435**
Chinese	**42**
Filipino	**24**
American Indian	**18**
Pacific Islanders	**16**
Japanese	**2**

See a breakdown of the jail population, by case status.

Number of People in Custody by Case Status

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Pretrial	**6,425**
Partially Sentenced	**3,185**
Awaiting State Prison	**2,509**
Fully Sentenced	**1,970**
Awaiting Mental Health Hospitals	**470**
Parole Revocation	**163**

About the Data

The data presented in this dashboard is obtained from three summary-level documents released by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) and made available via the Los Angeles County Open Data Portal. The 'Population Management Bureau Daily Inmate Statistics' document is released daily. The 'Correctional Services Daily Briefing' document is released on workdays. The 'LASD Mental Health Count' document is released weekly. This dashboard is updated daily using the data that was available at 10:30am PT the prior day. Please note:

- **Gender/Sex**: The LASD documents use "females" and "males" as the only two gender/sex categories. Vera recognizes that this data does not capture people of varying gender identities—like transgender, gender-non-conforming, and intersex people. In March 2020, the county's Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group recommended that the county improve data collection on gender identity. The Board has taken exploratory steps to standardize processes, but as of April 2021, changes have yet to be implemented.

- **Race/Ethnicity**: This dashboard presents race/ethnicity categories as they appear in the LASD documents. These categories reflect historical data collection practices, may not align with how

people personally identify, and present some challenges for tracking disparities. For example, some categories allow for identification with country of familial origin and some—like Hispanic —do not.

Download all of the data.