SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Bria L. Gillum, Program Officer, Criminal Justice Program, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Why?

ADMISSIONS

There are nearly 11 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?

MENTAL ILLNESS

Serious mental illness affects men and women in jail at rates four to six times higher than in the general population.
Why?

RACIAL DISPARITIES

Nationally, African Americans are jailed at almost 4x the rate of white Americans.

47.2% WHITE
35.8% BLACK
62.6% WHITE
13.2% BLACK
The Safety and Justice Challenge Network

52 sites
32 states

- Implementation sites
- Innovation sites

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Missoula County

- 2017: Joined network as an Innovation Site
- 2018: Awarded implementation grant to focus on:
  - Case Processing
  - Prosecutor-led Diversion
  - PSA Implementation
  - Outreach to Native Communities
  - Behavioral Health
Our theory of change

Network

Amplification

Knowledge

National Impact
Initiative Partners

MacArthur Foundation

Amplification

SJC Network

Knowledge Development

Challenge Network Sites

Strategic Allies

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Strategic Allies

Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
The Council of State Governments
NACo - National Association of Counties
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Center for State Courts
National League of Cities
National Security Caucus Group
The National Center for Victims of Crime
NLADA - National Legal Aid & Defender Association
International Association of Chiefs of Police
JLUSA - JustLeadershipUSA
SAFETY+JUSTICE CHALLENGE

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Partners are softening the ground for reform.
Drivers of Success

13 jurisdictions are working to increase access to behavioral health services as alternatives to jail

14 jurisdictions are analyzing race and ethnicity data to isolate system points that drive disparities

20 jurisdictions are reforming case processing to limit the amount of time people spend in jail to only what is necessary

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Three-year jail population reduction targets achieved

-37%  
Philadelphia, PA

-30%  
New Orleans, LA

-27%  
St. Louis County, MO

-32%  
Cook County, IL

-30%  
Lucas County, OH
Communications Highlights

**THE BLADE**

Lucas County criminal justice reform aims even higher

**The Portland Observer**

Creating a Justice System that Works for Everyone

**The Times-Picayune**

Smart bail reform is about promoting safety, equity and justice

A coalition of groups representing prosecutors, public defenders, criminal justice advocates and state and local governments is also urging the Trump administration to withdraw the proposal.

They include the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Center for American Progress, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the R Street Institute and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

**Less is more when it comes to putting people in jail**
Trends During COVID-19 (through April 2019)

- 17% Average daily population
- 19% Pretrial population
- 4% Bookings
- 9% Bookings for misdemeanors
- 11% Disparities within misdemeanor bookings
Missoula’s COVID-19 Response

- Since February 2020, Missoula has experienced more than a 40% drop in its jail population.
  - February ADP: ~ 182
  - May ADP: ~ 113

- Why?
  - Arrest
  - Bookings
  - Cross-system collaboration
Voices: To protect all Missoulians from this pandemic, consider our jail

“In order to sustain these benefits, we must remain committed to local reform efforts that make our justice system safer and more equitable, even after this crisis... As we work together to mitigate this pandemic, we must remember our collective goal: to ensure the health and safety of all Missoulians, which includes all constituencies impacted by our local justice system.”
It's time to #RethinkJails.

The misuse and overuse of jails is one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America.