

New York City 2018 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet

We've got a problem to fix:

- New York City has the [lowest incarceration rate](#) of any large city in the country, yet despite the city's success in reducing the overall jail population, certain fundamental inequalities persist. African Americans and Latinos make up more than half of the city's population, and yet they have comprised around 88 percent of the local jail population during the last five years.
- While the number of people in custody with behavioral health needs is falling, it is falling more slowly compared to the overall number of people in custody. Currently, 43 percent of individuals in New York City jails have behavioral health needs.

There are proposed solutions to create a fairer, more effective local justice system:

- As an Implementation Site, New York City is an integral part of the growing network of jurisdictions working to share knowledge and best practices and to create demand for criminal justice reform across the country.
- Supported by the Challenge Network, New York City will implement forward-looking, smart solutions, to further reduce the local jail population.
- To build on past efforts and continue reducing the jail population safely, New York City plans to institutionalize systemic changes that will increase fairness, accelerate case processing times, reduce unnecessary detention, and more precisely calibrate the criminal justice system's response to risk and need.

Who is helping to affect change?

- These efforts are being led by the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice in collaboration with the: New York Police Department, Department of Correction, Office of Court Administration, all five District Attorney Offices and the citywide Special Narcotics Prosecutor, the Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, Bronx Defenders, Queens Legal Associates, New York County Defender Services, Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem, Assigned Counsel Plans of the First and Second Appellate Divisions, Department of Probation, Criminal Justice Agency, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, Administration for Children's Services, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Alternatives to Incarceration/Detention Network, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.