

Philadelphia 2018 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet

We've made progress, but we still have more work to do:

- Philadelphia still has the highest incarceration rate of any large jurisdiction in the country, even though the size of the jail population has declined by 36% (as of September 2018) since 2015.
- Lengthy case processing times have contributed to an average length of stay, now around 88 days, which is 3.5 times the national average. This is down from 95 days in 2015, or 4 times the national average.
- Despite reductions in the jail population over the past three years, the rate of racial and ethnic disparities in the local justice system has not decreased.

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

- Sustained efforts over the past three years have had a concrete impact on the Philadelphia jail population. Since beginning the Challenge in 2015, the average daily jail population has dropped from more than 8,100 inmates in 2015 to just over 5,000 in September of 2018, a decrease in the population of 36%.
 - Incarceration in Philadelphia is still marked by racial disparities. People of color account for 89% of the jail population, but only 55% of the city's population. While the jail population has gone down, disparities have not changed since the City committed to reform.
 - People with serious mental illness account for 16% of the jail population in Philadelphia, a percentage that is disproportionate to the city's total population.
 - Women account for 8.5% of the jail population.
 - 23% of the jail population is awaiting trial and have not yet been convicted of their open case(s). Approximately 7% of the population is awaiting trial in jail, because they cannot post a cash bail payment of \$5,000 (the minimum deposit needed to pay a \$50,000 fee).
 - 56% of the jail population has a detainer, which means they are being held due to a violation of probation or another hold such as an outstanding warrant, whether that is from Philadelphia and/or another jurisdiction.
 - 19% of the jail population has been sentenced and is serving out their time in local jail.
- In addition to the \$7.65 million awarded to the City by the Safety and Justice Challenge since 2015, the City is investing more than \$6 million in reform efforts from 2015-2020.
- Through this investment, Philadelphia will continue to implement programs and policies to safely reduce the local jail population and redouble its efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system through seven overarching strategies:
 1. Reduce the number of people incarcerated pretrial
 2. Create efficiencies in case processing that reduce length of stay
 3. Reduce the number of people held in jail on a probation detainer
 4. Reduce racial and ethnic disparities across the criminal justice system
 5. Reduce the number of people in jail with mental illness
 6. Increase cross-system data capacity
 7. Foster meaningful community engagement

- Philadelphia’s criminal justice partners will bolster existing efforts to tackle the disproportionate impact on communities of color and low-income residents by reducing the reliance on cash bail and releasing individuals who pose a low risk to public safety. Instead, it will connect these individuals with supervised, community-based alternatives.
- Additionally, Philadelphia will set a measurable benchmark for the reduction in disparities and leverage a newly developed data diagnostic to identify initiatives and decision points where disparities can be addressed through policy and practice change. Agencies will also implement customized implicit and explicit bias training program for all employees in the justice system to identify opportunities to reduce the disparities resulting from agency decision-making.
- Over the next two years, Philadelphia’s criminal justice partners have committed to fostering meaningful community engagement in the reform effort through the development of a community advisory committee, as well as outreach and engagement that increase transparency and accountability.
- As a result of these and other strategies in the city’s five-year reform plan, Philadelphia aims to decrease the jail population by 50% since 2015 while preserving public safety.

Who is helping to affect change?

- The reforms outlined in the Safety and Justice Challenge are being led by the Philadelphia County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, a group of top-level county officials.
- Key stakeholders and champions including Mayor Jim Kenney, City of Philadelphia Managing Director’s Office, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania- Municipal Court, Court of Common Pleas, Adult Probation and Parole, Court Administration, and Pretrial Services, Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia Department of Prisons, Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, the Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Council, community members, and many more; working together toward a shared vision that represents a paradigm shift in how Philadelphia uses its jails.