



If you received this email from a friend and would like to join this email list, [subscribe here](#).

A Message from Sheriff John D. Idleburg

Last month, information was shared about Lake County's grant-funded [efforts](#) to safely reduce the jail population and achieve **racial equity** in the criminal justice system as part of the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#). This month, the focus is on *why* criminal justice system stakeholders in Lake County are working together to address the main drivers of the Lake County jail population.



RACIAL EQUITY IN LAKE COUNTY

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS REGARDLESS OF RACE AND ETHNICITY



Why Does the Lake County Criminal Justice System Need to Focus on Racial Equity?

In short, compared to the racial composition of the Lake County population, Black Lake County residents are disproportionately admitted to jail. This is a **racial disparity** or the opposite of racial equity.



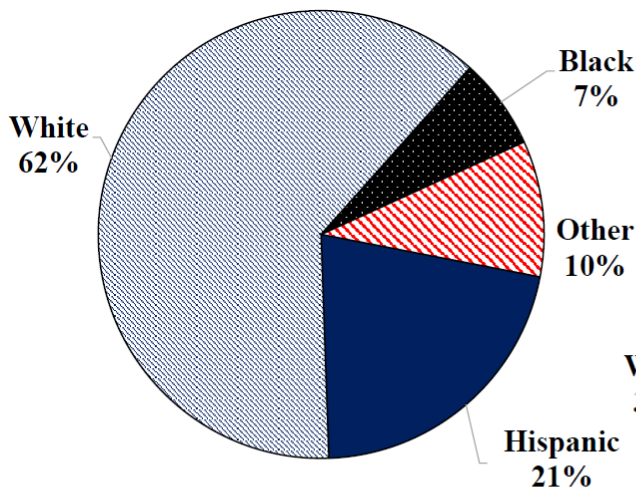
RACIAL DISPARITY

RACIAL DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM EXISTS WHEN THE PROPORTION OF A RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP WITHIN THE CONTROL OF THE SYSTEM IS GREATER THAN THE PROPORTION OF SUCH GROUPS IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

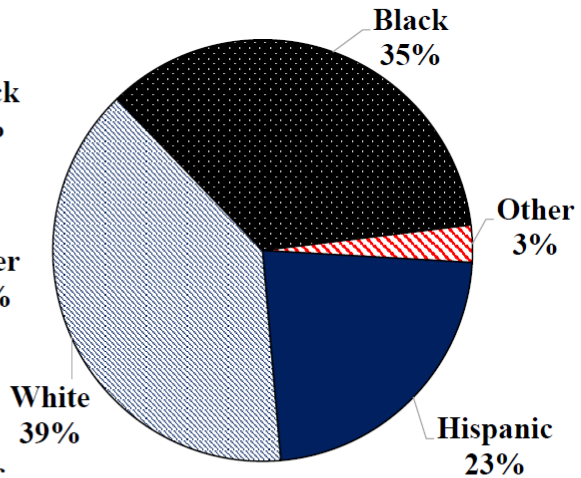


Racial Composition of Lake County Population vs. Jail Admissions

Lake County Population for 2018



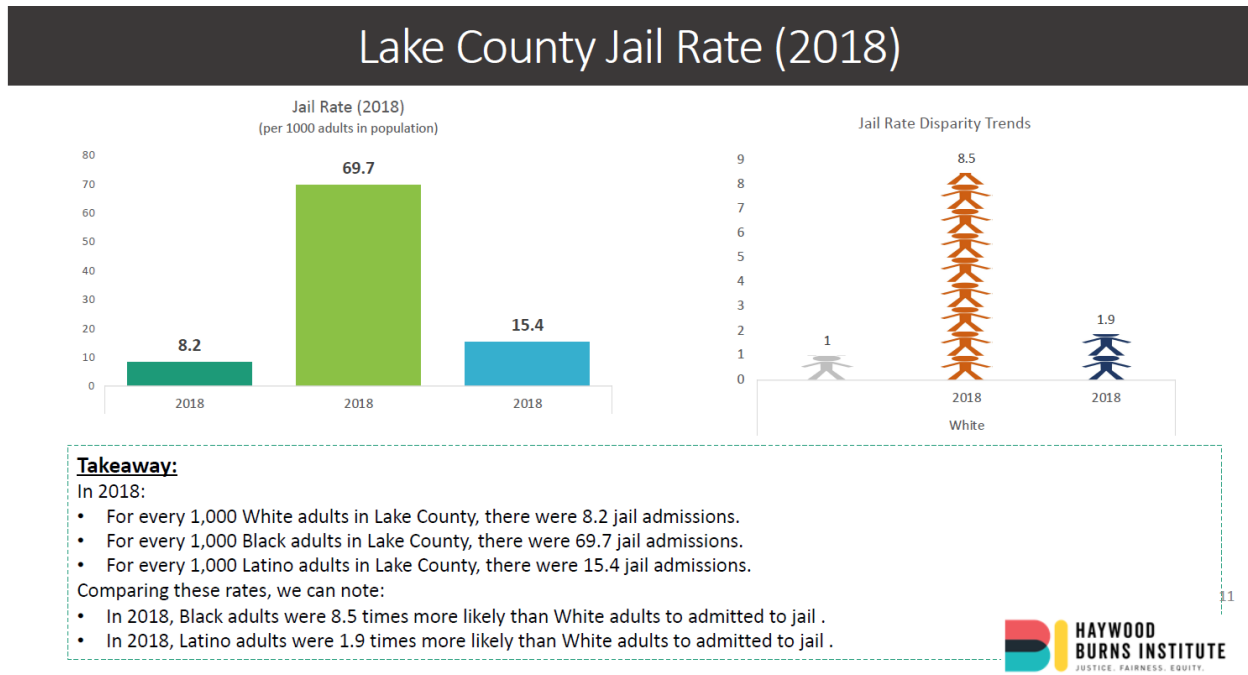
Lake County Jail Admissions for 2019



Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice of data provided by the Lake County Sheriff's Office



Furthermore, for every one White adult in Lake County, Black adults were over 8 times more likely to be admitted to jail.



Source: Analysis by the W. Haywood Burns Institute of data provided by the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

What Can the Lake County Criminal Justice System do to Address Racial Disparities?

Lake County joined the Safety and Justice Challenge in 2017 and was recently awarded an additional \$700,000.00 grant by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to continue to rethink the local criminal justice system, safely reduce Lake County's jail population, and eliminate racial inequities. Find out more about Lake County's SJC strategies by [clicking here](#).

Through this grant, Lake County criminal justice system stakeholders and community members in the Lake County Equity Team meet monthly to discuss jail data and analyze specific drivers of the jail population. Most recently, the Equity Team chose to focus on policies and practices that lead to the issuance of a **failure to appear warrant (FTA)**. FTA is a reference to someone who failed to appear at a court proceeding, which sometimes leads to a warrant for arrest being issued. The Equity Team plans on piloting a policy change that increases on-time court appearances and reduces FTAs, while tracking data to understand its impact on racial disparities in jail admissions. Additionally, the Equity Team will begin the process of preparing to engage

more community members in this work. Community engagement will be the focus of next month's newsletter.



**Proud to be a part of
the Safety and
Justice Challenge.
#RethinkJails**

In the meantime, you can help inform and engage the community about this work by forwarding this newsletter to three friends and encouraging them to [sign up here](#).

The Safety and Justice Challenge strategies at Lake County, IL are proudly led and supported by:

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Lake County State's Attorney Office

19th Judicial Circuit Court

Lake County Public Defender's Office

Nicasa Behavioral Health Services

This project was created with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Safety and Justice

Challenge, which seeks to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way
America thinks about and uses jails.



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