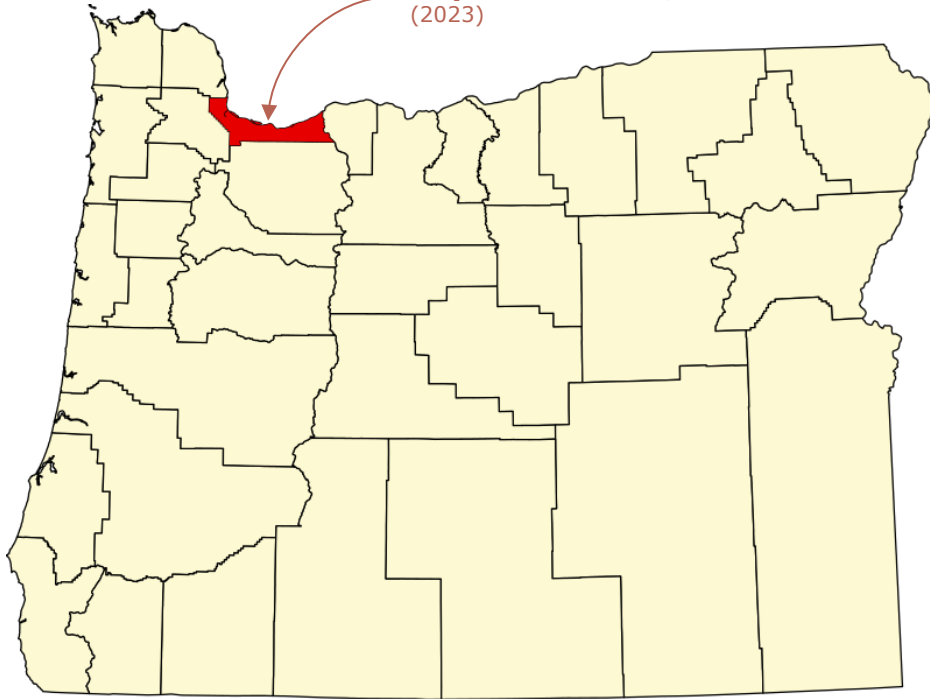**Multnomah County District Attorney's Office**

Multnomah County, Oregon

Population: 789,698
(2023)

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

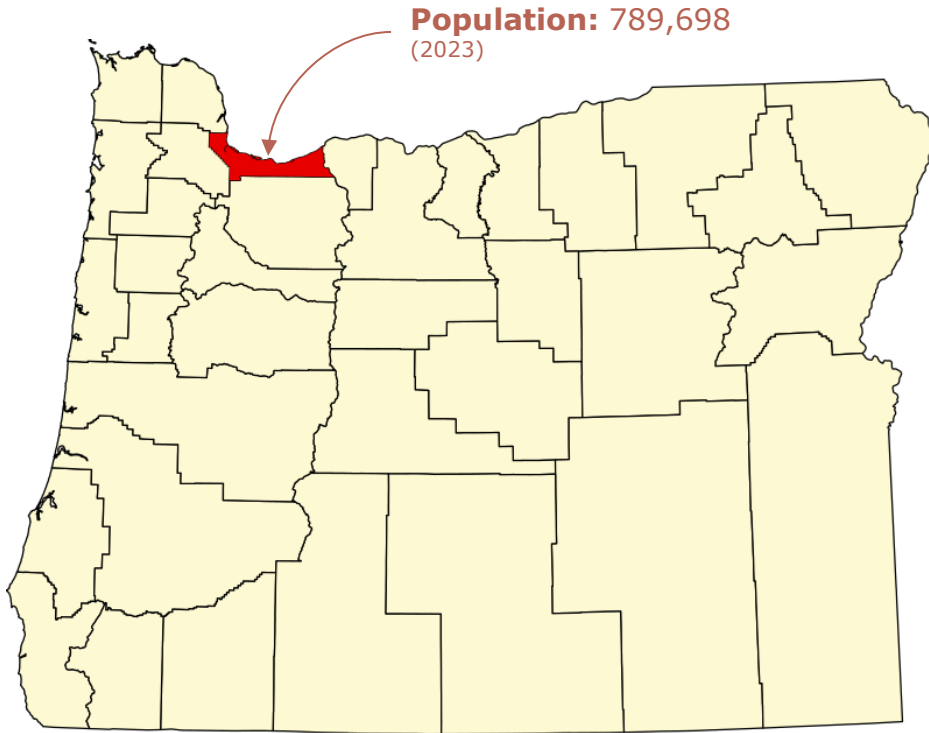City of Portland

City of Gresham

Cities of Corbett, Fairview,
Maywood Park, Wood
Village, Troutdale

Port of Portland

Multnomah County, Oregon

Population: 789,698
(2023)

Population Statistics

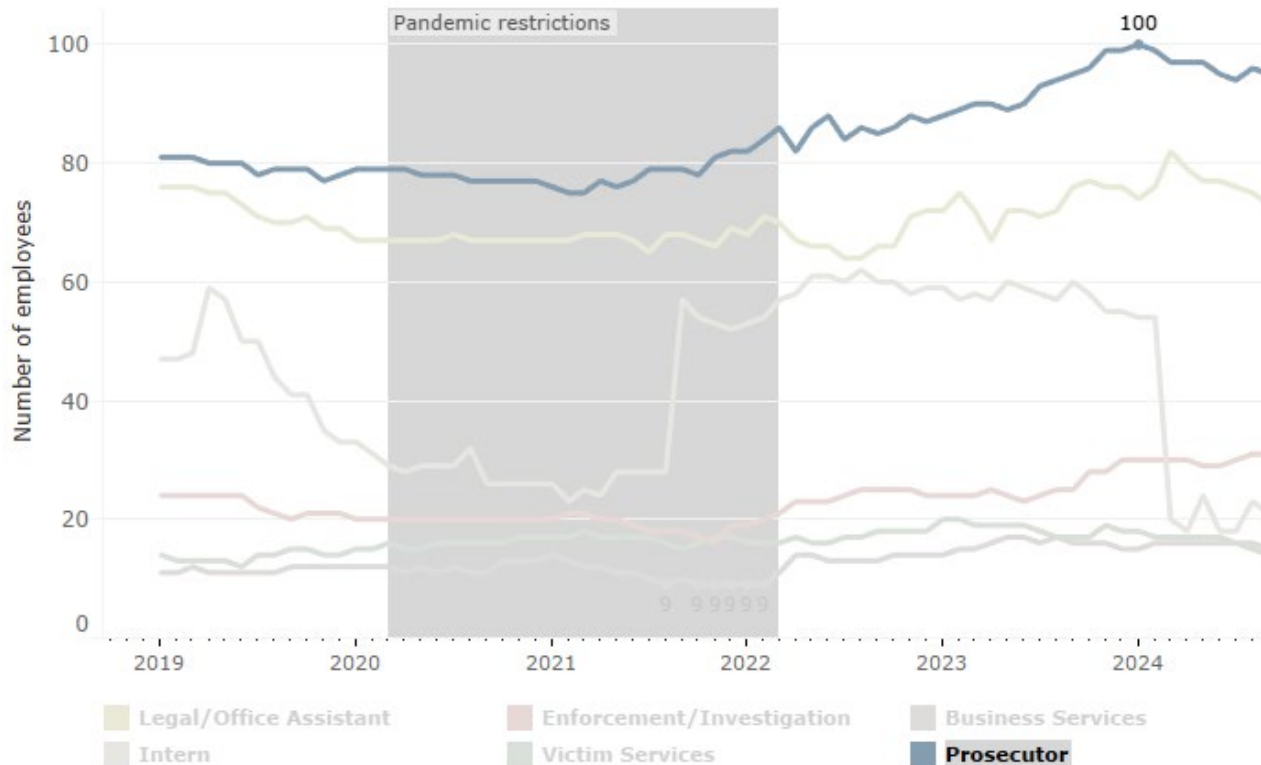# 67.4% Percent of population is white

38.2 Median Age

12.2% Poverty Rate

Data from U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 estimates

Multnomah County DA Staffing

100 attorney positions

255 Staff positions
(including victim
advocates,
investigators, legal
assistants, interns, IT,
HR, etc.)

Our Team
Overview of the MCDA Research & Planning Unit

1 Attorney Lead
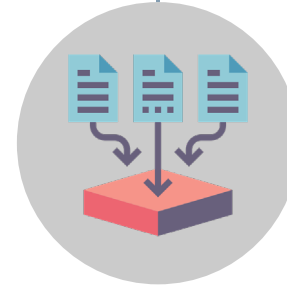3 Research & Evaluation Analysts
2 Data Interns

**Performance
Measurement**

**Dashboard
Creation**

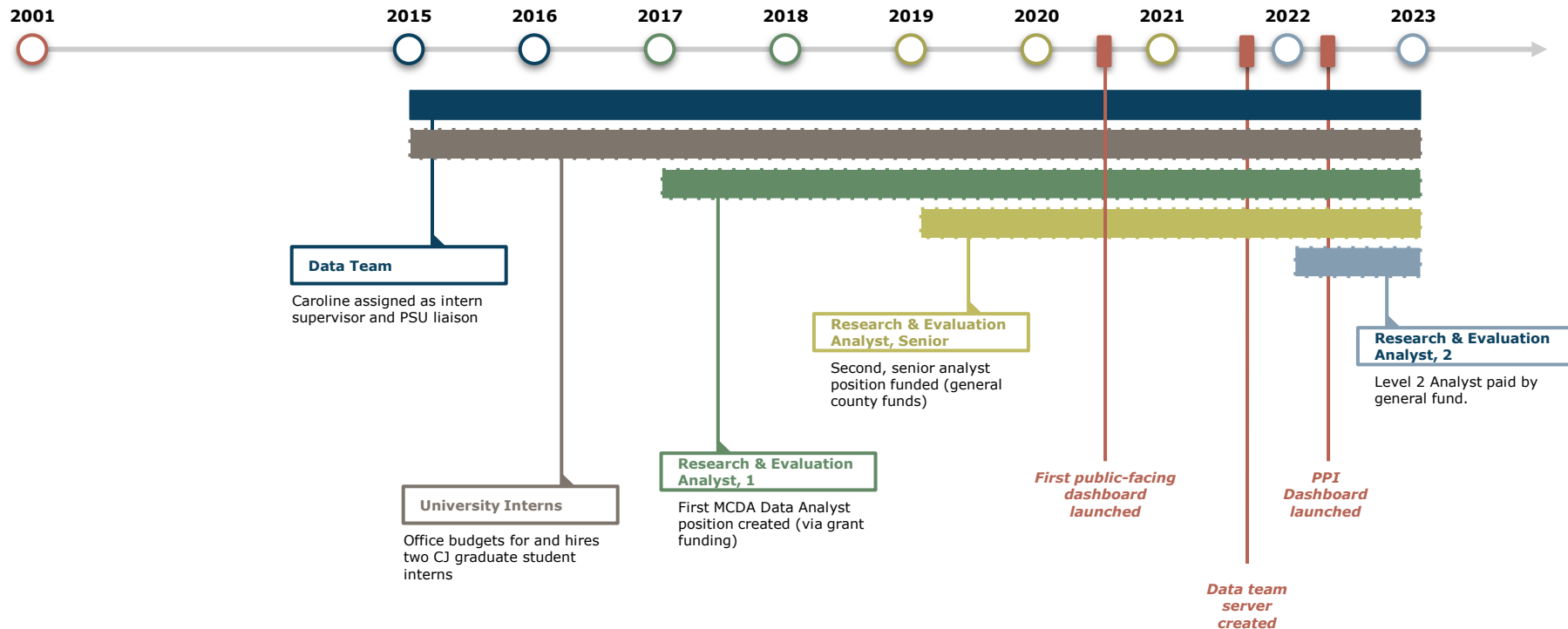**Report Writing**

**Data Collection
Solutions**

Evaluation Design

02 **Our Team**
Overview of the MCDA Research & Planning Unit

2001 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023

Data Team

Caroline assigned as intern supervisor and PSU liaison

Research & Evaluation Analyst, Senior

Second, senior analyst position funded (general county funds)

Research & Evaluation Analyst, 2

Level 2 Analyst paid by general fund.

University Interns

Office budgets for and hires two CJ graduate student interns

Research & Evaluation Analyst, 1

First MCDA Data Analyst position created (via grant funding)

First public-facing dashboard launched

PPI Dashboard launched

Data team server created

MCDA Data Team

Multnomah County
District Attorney's Office

Research & Planning Unit
Data Request Trends

1749	**1052**	**697**
Total Activity	Total Updates	Total Requests

Data team activity since July 2021

FY 2024	All Activity (Updates+Req)	Regular Updates	Data Requests			
			Total	One-time	On-going	Re-occurring
Jul 2023	70	35	35	30	2	3
Aug 2023	51	33	18	13	4	1
Sep 2023	61	40	21	18	2	1
Oct 2023	45	32	13	11	2	0
Nov 2023	64	35	29	22	7	0
Dec 2023	59	31	28	25	3	0
Jan 2024	78	39	39	38	0	1
Feb 2024	60	34	26	25	0	1
Mar 2024	69	31	38	36	1	1
Apr 2024	63	26	37	36	0	1
May 2024	40	8	32	32	0	0
Jun 2024	28	11	17	10	7	0
	688	355	333	296	28	9

Data team activity in fiscal year 2024

MCDA Data Highlights: Transparency & Public-Facing Dashboards

Our dashboards are part of a larger movement within our local criminal justice system and community to use data, technology, and research as tools to reduce incarceration and racial disparities and to improve outcomes for justice involved individuals and crime victims. Tools like our dashboards help us create safer communities and advance the dialogue on best practices for local justice systems.

We are excited to make our data accessible and understandable for the community without needing advanced technical expertise. Although accessible via a mobile device, viewers should use a desktop or laptop computer for the best viewing experience.

Dashboard Resources

We have compiled a series of resources designed to aid users in their dashboard viewing experience and/or to better understand the criminal justice system.

Take a look by clicking here.

Data dictionary

Justice system flowchart

Policy/law timeline

Dashboards

Best viewed with desktop or laptop

Prosecutorial Performance Indicators

Bias Crimes

Gun Violence Cases

Protest Cases

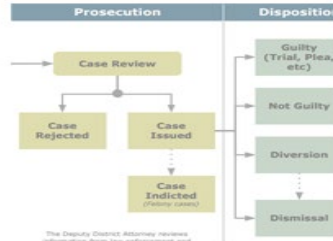**13, monthly updated data dashboards**

Highlights

- **Resource guides**
- Data literacy
- Data culture - concerns about level of transparency
- Consistent design

MCDA published and maintains several resource documents on our public website designed to guide users in their dashboard interactions, and provide appropriate context for considering the dashboard data.

Dashboard User Guide
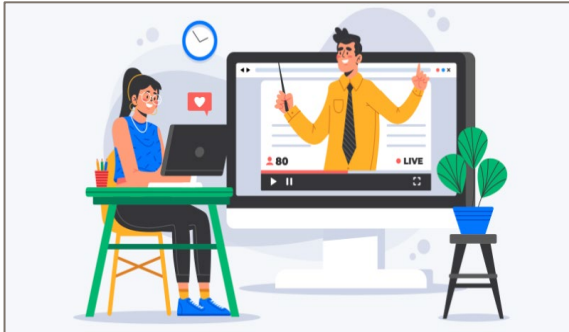

Criminal Justice System Map
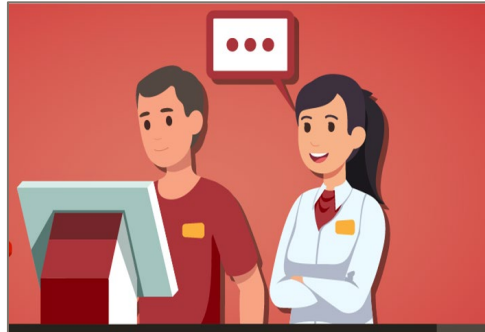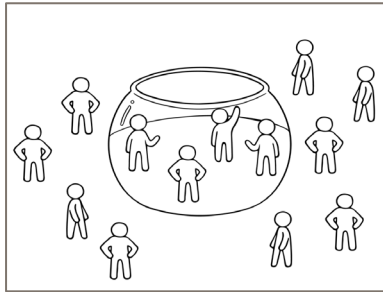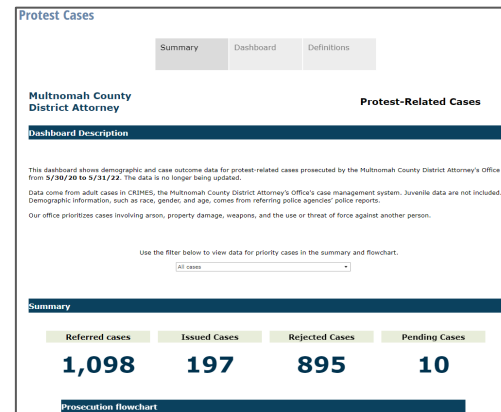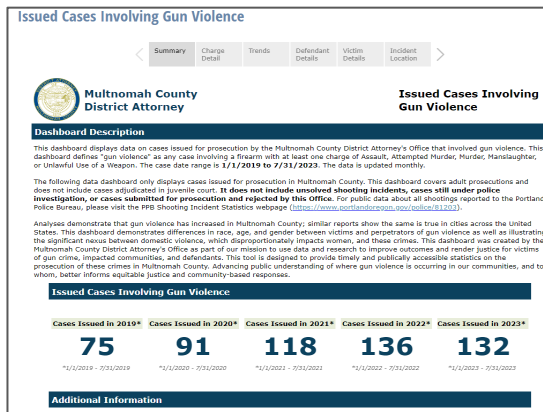

Data Tracking Definitions

Policy / Process Changes
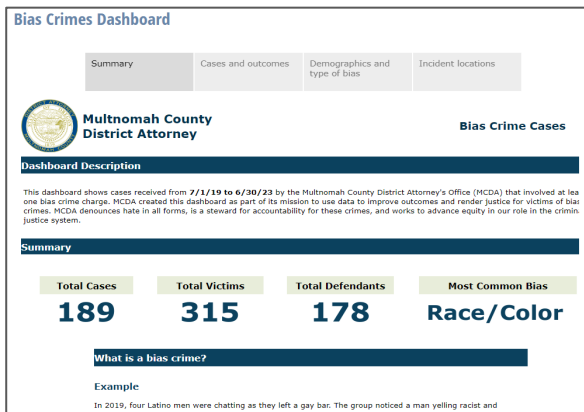
Highlights

- Resource guides
- **Data literacy**
- Data culture - concerns about level of transparency
- Consistent design

Our data team makes consistent effort to encourage data literacy for of all audiences.

Continuing Learning Education (CLE)

On the Job Training

Guided Community Presentations

Highlights

- Resource guides
- Data literacy
- **Data culture - concerns about level of transparency**
- Consistent design

Our data team works to encourage and grow a data culture within our agency, and respond to any concerns about our level of data transparency.

Open creation process
Clear methodology

Inviting and incorporating
feedback

Increasing data/team
accessibility

Highlights

- Resource guides
- Data literacy
- Data culture - concerns about level of transparency
- **Consistent design**

All data team products follow the same design template so regular consumers instinctively know how to interact with our data.

Website: www.mcda.us

Link to Data
Dashboards and
Resource Guides

Use of RED Data to Determine Potential Areas for Policy Change

2015: Received RRI report from Safety and Justice Challenge

- Provided general overview of RED in CJ system
- Group interest in looking at RED within specific offenses

Used jail booking data to analyze specific lower level offenses

- Identified High Volume offenses
- Identified Offenses with High RRI

Policy Change Factors

➔ No private victim associated with charge

➔ High Volume, High RRI = biggest bang for buck

➔ Proportionality issues (low-level crime, big consequence?)

➔ Potential for diversion

➔ Potential for legislative change

➔ Race Neutral Policy—equal protection

= Interfering with Public Transportation (IPT)

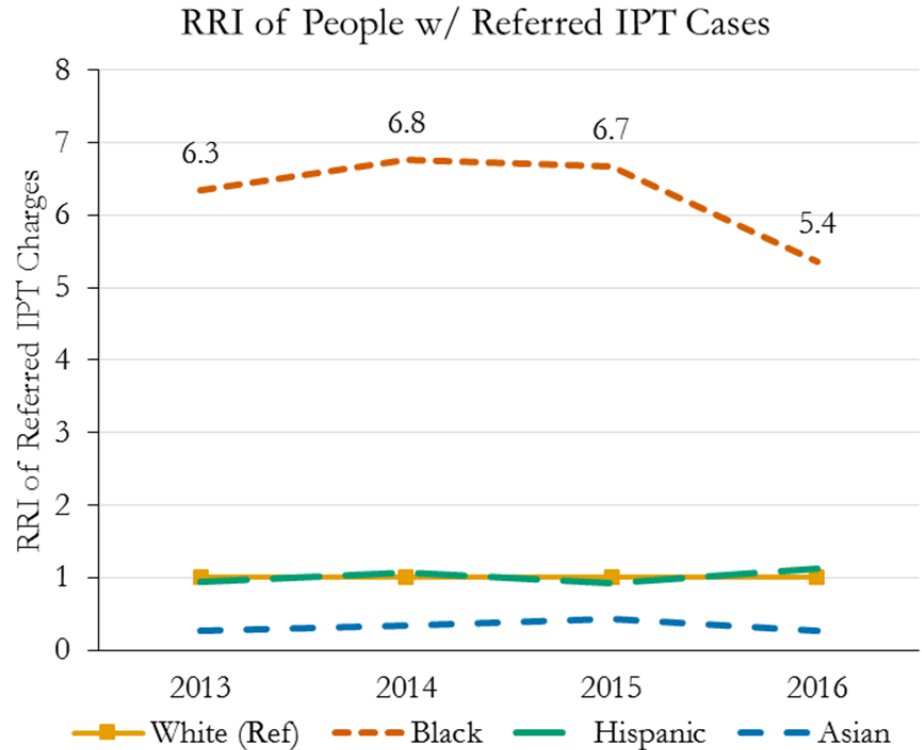**= Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (PCS)**

Sample Data Reviewed- RRI

Relative Rate Index

- White defendants are used as the reference for all groups (and will always be = 1)
- Black individuals are on average 6.3 times more likely to receive IPT charges than White individuals

High RRI/High Volume (500 cases in 2016)

RRI of People w/ Referred IPT Cases

Chart: RRI of Referred IPT Charges by year (2013–2016) for White (Ref), Black, Hispanic, and Asian groups. Black line values: 6.3 (2013), 6.8 (2014), 6.7 (2015), 5.4 (2016).

Gathering Buy-In

❏ Tri-County District Attorney Support

❏ TriMet leadership

❏ Law Enforcement Command Staff

❏ Law Enforcement patrol

❏ Written policy (Transparency)

❏ Internal compliance—MCDA prosecutors

❏ Other stakeholders

Used RED data and other factors to explain why a policy change was needed

Analyzing Multiple Decision Points

Referred Cases

- Did policy affect law enforcement practice?

Issued Cases

- Did policy affect prosecution of IPT(a) charges?
- Did policy affect IPT charges not covered by policy change?

Displaced Charges

- Did prosecutors abide by the "chronic offender" policy?
- Were IPT charges displaced to Criminal Trespass charges?
- Was disparity displaced to Criminal Trespass charges?

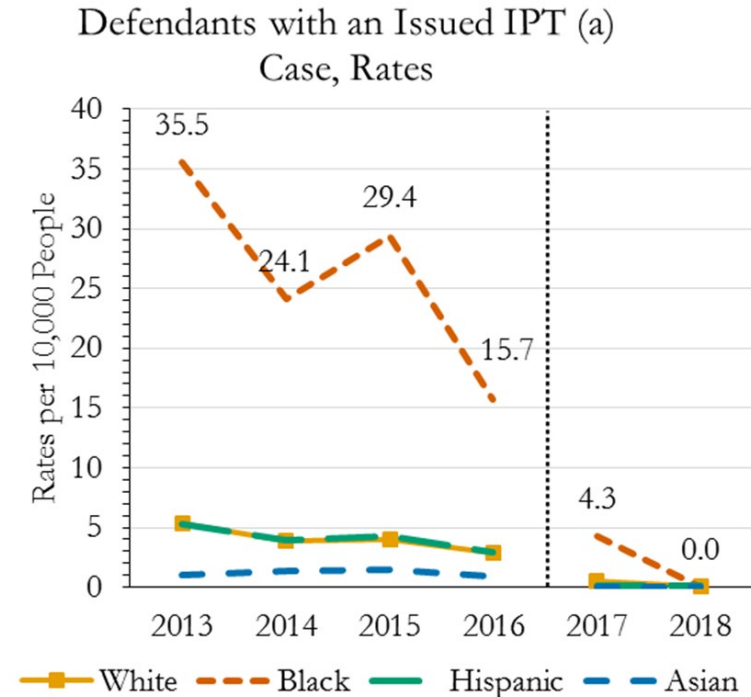Have a data collection/ policy evaluation plan prior to launch

Evaluation

Rates per 10,000 population (2018)

- White: 0.02
- Black: 0.00
- Hispanic: 0.15
- Asian: 0.00

Overall, each racial and ethnic population saw decreases

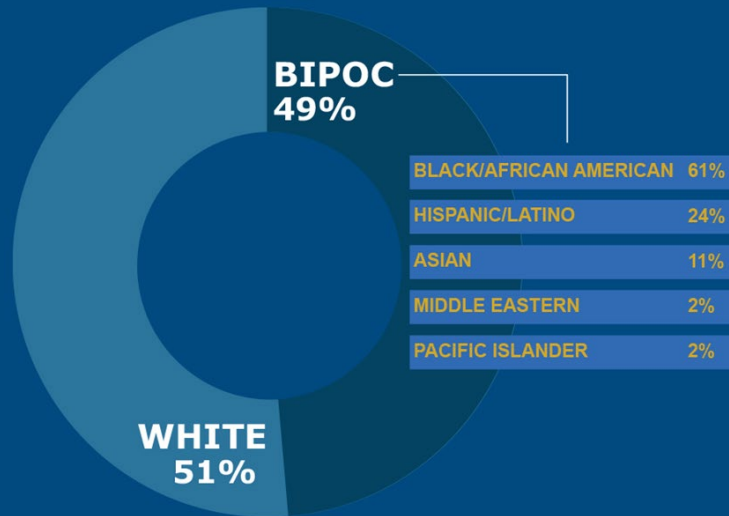### Defendants with an Issued IPT (a) Case, Rates

2022: RED Model Expansion

- New Administration (2020) / New SJC RED Report (2019) (Burns Institute)

- Mandatory Minimum prison sentence cases
  - Person/Violent Crimes
  - Felony assault and robbery crimes (70 & 90 month prison sentences)

- High rates of racial disparity at case referral

- New Specialty Court prison diversion program (STEP Court) created to lower prison rates and subsequently lower disparty rates to prison
  - Workgroup met for over a year prior to launch, reviewed data to inform policy & program structure.
  - Third party researchers to vet program and RED outcomes

Regularly review program data to monitor progress and participation by race