LARRP January 2025 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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*This newsletter is **packed** with information. When you get to the place where it says "Message clipped" make sure to click "View entire message"*

LARRP General Meeting
January 16, 2025
10:00 - 11:30am

General Meeting

Education Committee
January 9, 2025
3:30 - 4:30pm

Education

Housing Committee
January 24, 2024
10:00 - 11:00am

Housing

AV LARRP
January 14, 2025
11:00 - 12:00pm

Join Meeting

Employment Committee Meeting
February 19, 2025
2:00 - 3:30pm

Education

Reflections on 2024 and

Reflections on 2024 and Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

A Message from LARRP CEO, Troy Vaughn



As I reflect on LARRP's journey, I am filled with gratitude for the collective dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our network. Over the years, we have stood together to address the complex challenges faced by justice-impacted individuals in Los Angeles County—amplifying voices too often silenced and building pathways toward equity, opportunity, and healing.

In 2024, our work continued to make a tangible impact. Through innovative partnerships, policy victories, and strengthened service delivery, we supported thousands of individuals in their journey to rebuild their lives. Together, we accomplished so much:

Expanding Housing and Workforce Opportunities: Our committees worked tirelessly to connect justice-impacted individuals with critical housing resources, job training, and employment pathways.

Strengthening Our Network: The LARRP network came together for 120 meetings this year, a testament to our shared commitment to collaboration and action. We also celebrated two graduating cohorts from the LEADERS Training Academy, including the launch of our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) cohort—a program we are excited to expand this year to empower younger individuals as leaders in their communities.

Advocating for Systemic Change: Our collective advocacy led to significant policy victories, including the passage of AB 1810, our sponsored bill that ensures menstrual rights for incarcerated individuals in California—a critical step toward dignity and justice within our systems.

Growing Our Partnerships: LARRP deepened its relationships with community-based organizations, investing in new pathways to strengthen our capacity to serve more individuals effectively.

Yet, as we celebrate these accomplishments, we must

acknowledge the road ahead. The barriers to successful reentry remain daunting—lack of housing, employment inequities, limited access to healthcare, and continued systemic failures demand our collective attention and

The Power of Community in Uncertain Times

This past year has reminded us that we live in a world shaped by change—sometimes gradual, at other times abrupt. The outcomes of the 2024 elections brought with them both questions and fears, particularly here in California, where the decisions of leadership so profoundly affect the most vulnerable among us. It is natural, in times like these, to feel unsettled, to wonder what comes next, and to question whether our work will prevail. But history—our history—has shown that even in the most uncertain times, our strength is rooted in our unity.

The LARRP community has always been more than just a network. It is a movement built on shared resolve, on faith that justice will prevail, and on the belief that lives can be transformed when we meet challenges head-on. This moment calls on us to lean into that unity—to lift up one another, to stand together in the face of systemic inequities, and to ensure that those returning to our communities are not left behind but rather uplifted, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive.

No matter the external forces or the uncertainty we face, LARRP will remain a beacon of hope and action. Our commitment is unwavering, our mission clear: to dismantle barriers, to challenge unjust systems, and to open doors of opportunity for justice-impacted individuals and their families. This work is not easy, and it is not finished. But together, we carry it forward.

A Call to Action

LARRP's strength lies not in any one individual but in all of us—our shared determination, compassion, and willingness to act. Each of us—whether staff, committee members, advocates, partners, or supporters—plays a vital role in this movement. It is through your passion, your commitment, and your belief in second chances that we have been able to create pathways toward healing and opportunity.

As we enter this next chapter, I invite you to join us. If you are a volunteer, lend your time. If you are an advocate, raise your voice. If you are a partner, walk alongside us. If you are a donor, invest in the work that changes lives. The future we envision—a future where justice-impacted individuals are met with dignity, hope, and opportunity—is within reach. But it will take all of us to make it a reality.

With Gratitude and Determination
On behalf of my family and the entire LARRP team, thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us through every challenge and victory. Your unwavering faith in this work and in the people we serve has made all the difference.

Together, we will restore lives, rebuild communities, and reshape the systems that impact justice-impacted individuals. Together, we will demonstrate that unity is our greatest strength. Together, we will make 2025 a year of

action.

growth, resilience, and transformation.

We invite you to join one of our committees this year!

LARRP committees are at the heart of our work. Each Committee is chaired by a Steering Committee member and meets regularly to sharing info and resources, and unpack the many complex service and advocacy issues impacting the reentry sector and initiate policy. They are now more exciting than ever as the recently impacted LARRP LEADERS attend and provide their experience and learn from their elders.



Education Committee: Breaking Barriers to Academic Success

In 2024, the Education Committee focused on creating educational pathways that empower reentry individuals to rebuild their lives. Collaborating with local schools and community organizations, we expanded access to GED preparation courses, vocational training, and reentry-friendly college programs.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to launch a mentorship program that pairs participants with education advocates, aiming to provide personalized support and improve program completion rates. Additionally, we will prioritize digital literacy initiatives and develop reentry-specific curriculums with our educational partners. Together, we are fostering a future where education becomes a cornerstone of successful reentry.

To join contact ***Reise@lareentry.org*** or attend the next meeting!



Employment Committee: Paving the Way to Careers

In 2024, the Employment Committee focused on equipping reentry individuals with tools and knowledge to navigate the job market successfully. By building relationships with employers, addressing stigma, and advocating for inclusive hiring practices, we supported the creation of a more equitable workforce.

For 2025, we aim to expand educational efforts by providing workshops and resources to help participants develop essential job skills, understand their rights, and access career pathways. Through education and advocacy, we are dedicated to empowering individuals to achieve stable and fulfilling careers.

To join contact ***Reise@lareentry.org*** or attend the next meeting!



Housing Committee: Building Foundations for Stability

Stable housing is critical for successful reentry, and in 2024, the Housing Committee focused on fostering partnerships and advocating for expanded support for reentry individuals. We helped educate over 65 agencies on housing opportunities and resources, while keeping our committee informed about updated housing policies going on in Los Angeles.

In 2025, we aim to advocate for policy changes that increase affordable housing availability and explore opportunities to establish a rapid rehousing fund for those in urgent need. By emphasizing collaboration, advocacy, and innovative solutions, we strive to build a foundation of stability for reentry success.

To join contact ***Reise@lareentry.org*** or attend the next meeting!

Troy Vaughn Receives The President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service



Troy Vaughn, CEO and Co-Founder of the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP), has been honored with the

prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award, presented on behalf of U.S. President Joe Biden. This award recognizes his unwavering commitment to service and transformative leadership in addressing homelessness and justice reform.

As a trailblazer in reentry initiatives, Pastor Vaughn has dedicated



over 25 years to empowering individuals impacted by incarceration and poverty, creating pathways to stability and hope. This recognition celebrates his profound impact on communities across Los Angeles and his relentless fight for equity and second chances.

LARRP Antelope Valley



On December 17th, over 30 members of AV LARRP gathered at the PTW Training Center in Lancaster for a delicious and fun Holiday Luncheon. The gathering was the culmination of a year of growing and building out AV LARRP, the largest and oldest of LARRP's regional chapters.

Hosted by LARRP Steering Committee member and ***Paving the Way*** executive director, Janie Hodge, the main purpose of the Luncheon was to deepen connections, both professionally and personally. ***"We know that we can serve our community better when we are talking to each other, supporting each other, making those referrals and connections,"*** said Janie Hodge during the program.

Janie's work hosting the AV chapter is about seeding the same kind of supportive network that LARRP created countywide, but focused here in the AV, where there is one of the highest rates of returning citizens. Today there are 25 AV based organizations participating in AV LARRP and the state of the AV reentry community is strong!

Policy Update

New Leadership for the LA County Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT)

For over a decade, activists and advocates in LA County have been working with County carceral and administrative staff to close Men's Central Jail (MCJ) in downtown Los Angeles.

The JCIT, a work group established within the county a few years ago to oversee the closure work, has recently brought on new leadership to help spearhead this work and breathe new energy into the goal of closing MCJ. Wilford Pinkney, a criminal justice and policy professional with 35 years of experience has been tapped to lead the JCIT, and we are excited to work with the new team to make headway on closing MCJ and developing more humane and rehabilitative approaches to support unhoused people living with mental illness and substance abuse, who make up the majority of those incarcerated in MCJ.

Wilford Pinkney, a criminal justice and policy professional with 35 years of experience has been tapped to lead the JCIT, and we are excited to work with the new team to make headway on closing MCJ and developing more humane and rehabilitative approaches to support unhoused people living with mental illness and substance abuse, who make up the majority of those incarcerated in MCJ.

Controversial Board Vote on Future of Los Padrinos Juvenile Detention Facility



In response to this imminent deadline, Supervisors Solis and Barger put forward a motion to enter a state of emergency which they stated would allow the county to more easily move staff to Los Padrinos, enable pay packages with sign-on bonuses to hire more staff, and allow the facility to remain open with the soon to be hired and moved employees. Opponents of this motion claimed that nearly half of the probation staffers who work at Los Padrinos have not been going to work at this facility and that has lead to the understaffing issues, and that enabling this state of emergency gave more powers to the Probation Department to spend more on staff and ignore a state order for the facility to close.

Public comment for this piece lasted over an hour, and during such time, Supervisor Hahn put forward an



On Tuesday, December 17, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted on a very ***controversial motion*** to enact a state of emergency surrounding the Los Padrinos Juvenile Detention Facility. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), which has oversight of all juvenile facilities in the state, found chronic understaffing at Los Padrinos to be endangering the safety and well being of those incarcerated there and had ordered the facility to close on December 12th.

amendment to ask the county to look at who could safely be de-carcerated during this state of emergency to decrease the staff needed and Supervisor Mitchell put forward a motion. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Supervisor Horvath the sole no vote on the motion. As we enter 2025, we must continue to watch how this situation unfolds and provide community input to this situation as the county continues to run and attempt to fix the staffing issues at Los Padrinos Juvenile Detention Facility.



2025 State Legislative Session

As criminal justice advocates and the broader community continue to look forward to 2025, conversations have already begun to plan our state legislative priorities and how LARRP will work alongside the broader justice community to continue bringing our network's expertise to Sacramento. We expect the state government to be working overtime to expand California's leadership role on the national stage and we hope we can make criminal justice reform a key component of that goal. We have begun to talk with network partners to plan our strategy and determine how best to work within the context of the incoming federal government. Our work, as always, seeks to bring justice and better conditions for current and formerly incarcerated individuals, and provide space at the table for folks who have firsthand experience with the injustice system, uplifting the stories of impacted communities. Your voice is what gives us strength and we hope to see even more individuals and organizations joining our legislative work in the coming months.

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project



Going into 2025, our work with the California MEPS Hub Project continues to be an exciting opportunity to bring LARRP's community leadership and convening expertise to the frontline of research into how our network handles STI prevention, SUD support, and mentoring to help encourage folks to live their healthiest and best lives. Our work to identify a San Bernardino or San Diego research partner is ongoing, so if you or anyone in your network know of organizations in these cities which have the capacity to help roll out a new approach to connect at risk individuals with dedicated recovery and support resources, please reach out to Charles Vignola at ***Charles@lareentry.org.***
Download the Flyer

Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



This program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to address violence and promote safety within their communities. Participants actively shared their lived experiences, contributing to meaningful discussions on the social determinants of health and their connection to community-based violence. Feedback from participants has highlighted key takeaways, including the impact of systemic racism, disparities in school districts, and the importance of self-expression in fostering community safety. Many have noted the program's effectiveness in providing valuable insights on violence prevention, expanding their perspectives on community challenges, and empowering them to take on leadership roles to drive positive change. For questions or more information, contact Megan@lareentry.org.

For all questions and more information, contact ***Megan@lareentry.org***

Where was LARRP at the End of the Year?



2nd Annual D.O.O.R.S. Brunch with Santa!



LARRP LEADERS
Volunteering in the community is a key part of the LTA program, and TAY Leader Raymond is leading by example at multiple holiday drives. We're excited to see how our LEADERS continue to make an impact in the new year! LARRP TAY LEADER Raymond went above and beyond with his volunteer work, last year, exemplifying the values of service and compassion that the LEADERS program fosters.Here he is at the Pueblo Del Rio Thanksgiving Food Giveaway.



A New Way of Life Gala

LARRP Co-founder Mark Faucette joins A New Way of Life Founder Susan Burton at her 26th annual Gala, "Radical Reentry"

Jobs

Center for Living and Learning

- ***System Navigator***

A New Way of Life

- ***Case Manager,***
- ***Operations Manager***

Premiere Fitness
Seeks to create pathways to meaningful employment. Looking for: ***Field Service Technicians***—a hands-on role involving the installation, maintenance, and repair of fitness equipment. This role is ideal for individuals eager to build technical skills in a supportive and growth-focused environment.

Opportunities



The California Child and Adolescent Mental Health Access Portal (Cal-

LARRP is offering an exclusive insurance bundle to help organizations like yours save on costs, simplify coverage, and meet funding requirements.

This program is designed to make insurance more accessible and affordable for nonprofits in the reentry space.

If you're interested, provide your contact information ***here to learn more***.

REBUILD: ***Darkness Rising Project:*** Counseling/mental health wellness resource for the justice involved community Provides mental health counseling for folks who were incarcerated or "justice Involved"—includes family members, folks who have experienced police brutality, ICE detainment, trauma from protests, etc., particularly POC (also incarceration doesn't have to be recent).

Provides 10 free counseling sessions, sometimes up to 15.

MAP) is a CalHOPE pediatric mental health care access program designed to increase timely access to mental health care for youth throughout California's communities, especially in the state's most underserved and rural areas.

Cal-MAP's team of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers provide no-cost consultation, education, and resource navigation to California Primary Care Providers (PCPs) caring for mental and behavioral health concerns in youth 0-25.

More Info

Funding Opportunities!

MERCK Foundation

Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care Call for Proposals

Deadline: January 10, 2025

The Merck Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care, a five-year national initiative to improve access to high-quality, culturally responsive care for people with heart conditions living in underserved communities across the United States. Through this Call for Proposals, the Foundation will select eligible organizations to implement innovative, comprehensive programs for cardiovascular disease management. ***Learn more***.

Need more time to apply??
There are EIGHT open grants on our members only page!!! DONT MISS OUT!!!

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Upcoming Events

Los Angeles HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY
Working Together to End Homelessness in Los Angeles

Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:00 PM
LAHSA, 637 Wilshire Boulevard, 1st Floor Commission Room, Los Angeles, CA 90017
To join the meeting virtually, please register in advance ***here.***
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining.
LA CoC Board Open Nomination Process for At-Large Representatives
Candidate Nominations for At-Large Representation due Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025

- ***LA CoC Board At-Large Representative Full Nomination Packet***
- ***LA CoC Board At-Large Representative Nomination Form***
- ***LA CoC Board At-Large Representative***

Advocacy in Action Conference

February 24-27, 2025

The Advocacy in Action Conference is more than an event—it's a call to action. By bringing together a multidisciplinary group of professionals, this conference creates a collaborative space where expertise, passion, and innovation intersect. Whether you're advocating for policy reform, seeking to enhance your practice, or building connections across industries, this conference offers the tools, inspiration, and network to amplify your impact.

More Info



- ***LA CoC Board At-Large Representative Candidate Form***
- ***LA CoC Board Endorser Form*** (3 endorsers per nomination are required)



Drugs, Gang Violence, and Resistance in East Los Angeles

January 28th, 2025
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
UC Riverside Campus, HUB 367
This seminar will cover the story of the Maravilla gangs in East Los Angeles as well as the consequences and recovery of their members from a life of drugs and violence.

Reserve



DHCS Harm Reduction Summits

- **San Diego County: February 11, 2025**
- **Los Angeles County: February 27, 2025**

DHCS aims to collaborate with communities across the state to promote harm reduction within California's substance use disorder treatment system and create low-barrier, patient-centered care. DHCS encourages substance use disorder treatment providers and staff (including social workers, peers, front desk staff, case managers, nurses, physicians, and all staff in substance use disorder treatment settings) to attend and learn about best practices for incorporating the tenets of harm reduction into substance use disorder treatment. Summits will be held in Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties in winter 2025.

Register

In the News Last Month

Featured News Story

This month we feature a story of love and hope to start the new year off right!

After 29 years in prison, a teenage murderer gets a new start in life from a stranger

LA Times, By Doug Smith, Dec. 19, 2024

After 29 years in prison and a stint in a halfway house, Nicholas Nabors moves into a bedroom of his own with meals and the matronly touch of Nancy Adams, right, a volunteer with Impact Justice, a nonprofit that recruits people to share their homes with men and women leaving prison.

It was something deeper — a mixture of Christian faith, a familial experience with incarceration, a touch of loneliness — that drew her to the post on social media seeking homes for former inmates.

"The thought of what I had read wouldn't leave me alone."

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More News Stories



Peer support specialists at Chowchilla Women's Facility are transforming incarceration by helping address trauma and build trust among inmates

LA Times By Hannah Wiley, January 01, 2025

In July, after 20 years in prison for attempted murder and a gun enhancement, Coleman, 47, became one of three dozen prisoners at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla to graduate from a peer support specialist program.
The program is a part of the California Model, an ambitious effort Gov. Gavin Newsom launched in March 2023 to overhaul a prison system built on fear and retribution and replace it with opportunities for more normalized social interaction.

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California and Los Angeles County are getting tougher on crime. Here are the maps that show it

LA Times, By Koko Nakajima and Phi Do, Dec. 30,

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

State secures federal approval and unprecedented support to help Californians with behavioral health challenges

Dec 16, 2024, The Biden-Harris Administration just approved California's BH-CONNECT Initiative, which allows California to provide eligible people receiving behavioral health treatment up to 6 months of transitional rent to support their recovery and initiates a new $1.9 billion behavioral health workforce initiative.

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Pastor Troy Vaughn Honored with The President's Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Service Award

LA Trbune, By Alisha Magnus-Louis on December 10, 2024
A Commitment to Service in the Fight Against Homelessness
Pastor Troy Vaughn, CEO of the Los Angeles Mission, an unwavering advocate for human rights and equitable access to care, recently received a prestigious accolade: The President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service. Nominated by The Los Angeles Tribune, Vaughn was recognized for his steadfast dedication to addressing homelessness in Southern California.

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2024

The stiffer penalties on some drug and theft crimes that voters recently approved with Proposition 36 took effect this month. Weeks earlier, in L.A. County, former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman was sworn in as the new district attorney and kicked off his administration by reversing several policies that his progressive predecessor George Gascón put in place.

Read More



California voters wanted stricter penalties for crime. Can reformers find a new message?

LA Times, By James Queally and Anabel Sosa, Dec. 6, 2024

Despite election losses, some reiterate that progressive ideas are essential to safety.
After those resounding election defeats, some political strategists wonder whether reform-minded candidates need to readjust their messaging. Many reform movement leaders and progressive prosecutors, however, have shown no signs of backing down.
Read More



Judge holds off on ordering shutdown of L.A. County's juvenile hall

LA Times Connor Sheets, Rebecca Ellis, December 23, 2024

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall will remain open until at least early January after a judge held off on ordering the troubled hall shut down.
Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Miguel Espinoza required the Probation Department to appear in court Monday to argue why the Downey hall should remain open despite a shutdown order from the state.

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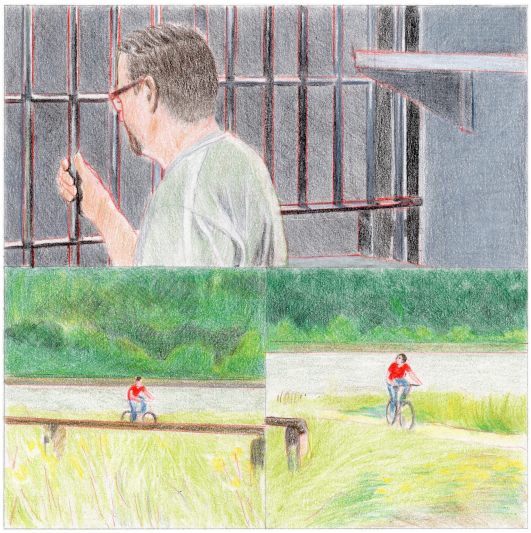
Biden gives life in prison to 37 of 40 federal death row inmates before Trump can resume executions

AP, By Will Weissert and Darlene Superville, December 23, 2024

President Joe Biden on Monday announced that he is



I Should Never Have Picked Up That Gun

commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 people on federal death row, converting their punishments to life imprisonment just weeks before President-elect Donald Trump, an outspoken proponent of expanding capital punishment, takes office.

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NY Times Opinion, Dec. 4, 2024, By Christopher Blackwell

This essay is part of How to Live With Regret, a series exploring the nature of regret and the role it plays in all our lives. Read more about this project here.

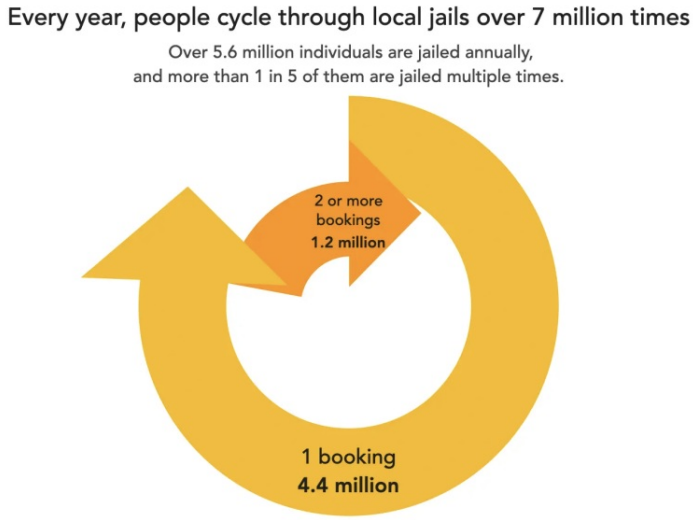
I was 11 years old the first time I picked up a gun. I should have been playing Nintendo or riding my bike with friends, but instead I was in front of a mirror, posing with the nine-millimeter Glock pistol I had just stolen from a neighbor's house.

Read More

Reports

Who is jailed, how often, and why: Our Jail Data Initiative collaboration offers a fresh look at the misuse of local jails

Prison Policy Initiative, by Emily Widra and Wendy Sawyer, November 27, 2024



Using a novel data source, we examine the flow of individuals booked into a nationally-representative sample of jails along lines of race, ethnicity, sex, age, housing status, and type of criminal charge.

Millions of people are arrested and booked into jail every year, but existing national data offer very little information about who these people are, how frequently they are jailed, and why they are jailed. Fortunately, we now have new data through a collaboration with the Jail Data Initiative to help answer these questions: In 2023, there were 7.6 million jail admissions; but 1 in 4 of these admissions was someone returning to jail for at least the second time that year. Based on the Jail Data Initiative data, we estimate that over 5.6 million unique individuals are booked into jail annually and about 1.2 million are jailed multiple times in a given year. Further analysis reveals patterns of bookings — and repeat bookings in particular — across the country: The jail experience disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous people, and law enforcement continues to use jailing as a response to poverty and low-level "public order" offenses.

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