



# JRAC Strategic Plan Progress: A Year In Review

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*Presented by*

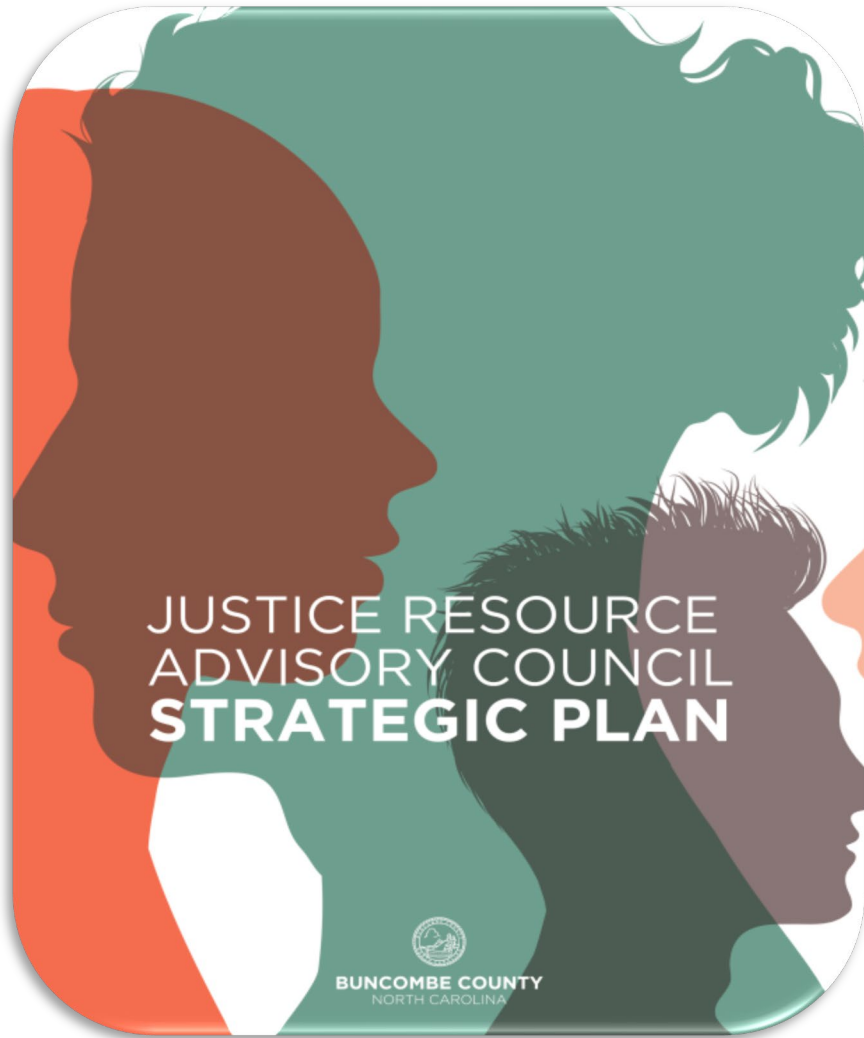
Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director

Justice Resources Advisory Council

December 1, 2023



# Accomplishments



# Enhancing Pre-arrest Diversion & Prevention Strategies



# Implement Pre-arrest Diversion Strategies



Photo: WLOS

- Create community resources for crisis list
- Develop cheat sheet for charging decisions
- Advocate for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in basic law enforcement training





# Promote Positive Youth Development

Initiative 2



- Create custom notification program for gun violence interruption
- Implement trauma informed responses for community
- Create justice and community partnership to develop youth after school programming

**Community-Based Public Health Response to Violence** - Using \$2.5 million from the Office of Justice Programs and American Rescue Plan Act, Buncombe County launched a community safety initiative with public health components to bring healing and support where it is needed.

**My Daddy Taught Me That, SPARC, Racial Justice Coalition, Resources for Resilience, and Youth Transformed for Life**



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



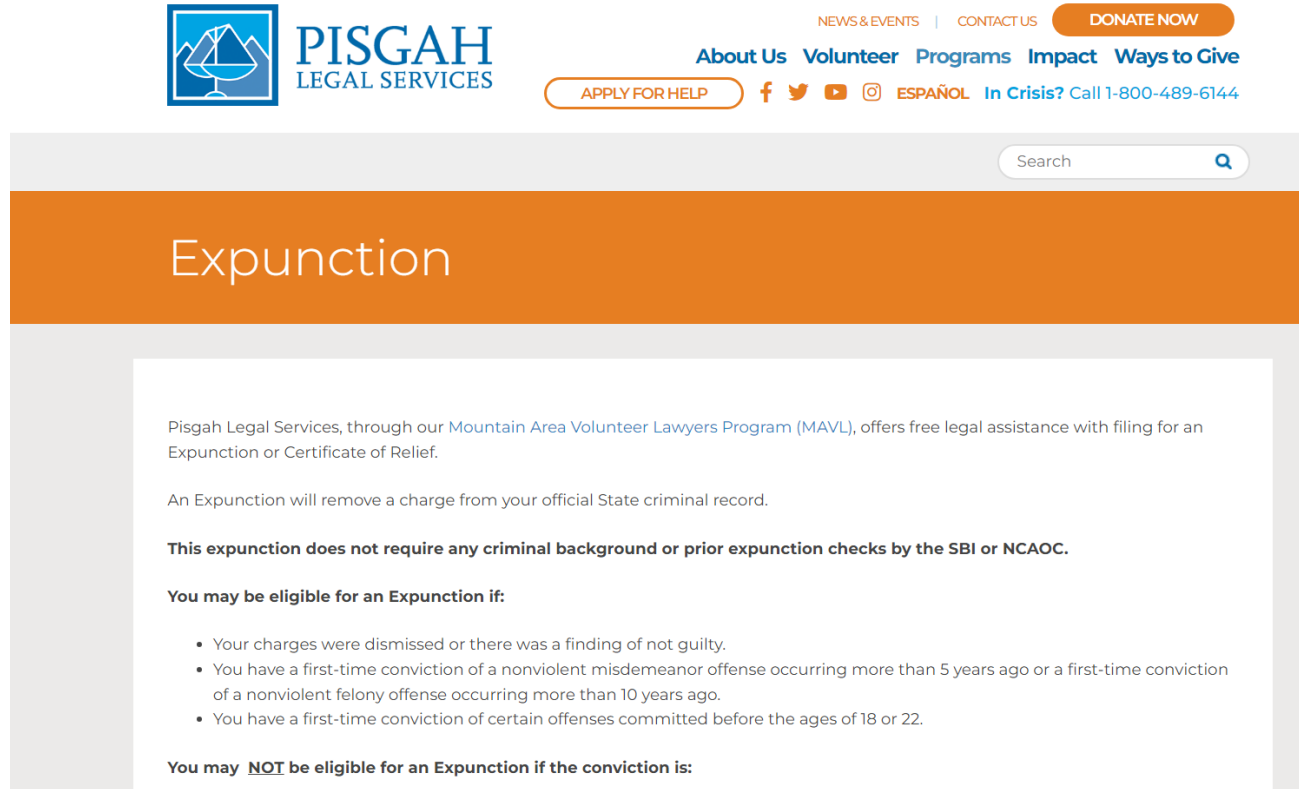
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# Promoting Community Wellness to Avoid Detention



# Promoting Community Wellness to Avoid Detention

## Initiative 3



The screenshot shows the Pisgah Legal Services website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (About Us, Volunteer, Programs, Impact, Ways to Give), and a 'DONATE NOW' button. Below the header is a search bar and a large orange banner with the word 'Expunction'. The main content area explains the expunction process, eligibility requirements, and provides a list of criteria for eligibility.

Pisgah Legal Services, through our [Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers Program \(MAVL\)](#), offers free legal assistance with filing for an Expunction or Certificate of Relief.

An Expunction will remove a charge from your official State criminal record.

**This expunction does not require any criminal background or prior expunction checks by the SBI or NCAOC.**

**You may be eligible for an Expunction if:**

- Your charges were dismissed or there was a finding of not guilty.
- You have a first-time conviction of a nonviolent misdemeanor offense occurring more than 5 years ago or a first-time conviction of a nonviolent felony offense occurring more than 10 years ago.
- You have a first-time conviction of certain offenses committed before the ages of 18 or 22.

**You may NOT be eligible for an Expunction if the conviction is:**

- Expand expunction services
- Partner with NC pro bono on project to restore driver licenses
- Create bail expedite program

"During the initial reporting period of the grant 38 individuals who were assisted with 44.8% obtaining a new driver's license or were eligible to reapply for their driver's license, while 52.6% were awaiting results. The second phase of the grant implementation process includes an additional staff person providing administrative support for the programs being hired by Pisgah Legal Services who is now working in the Justice Resource Center."



# Enhancing Collaboration Across The Justice System

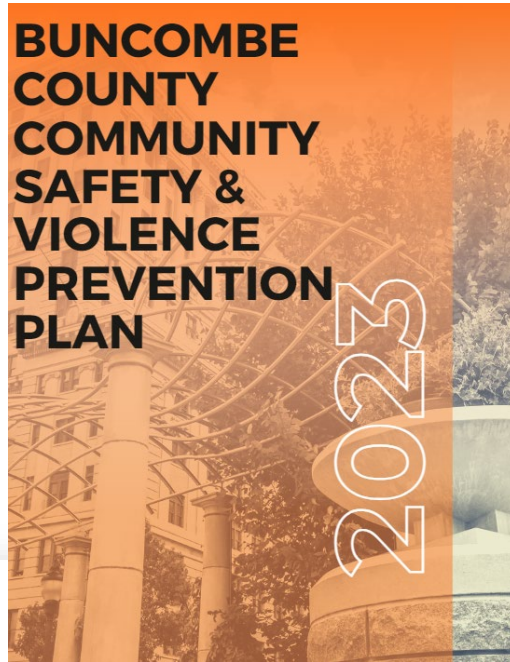




# Ensure Cross System Collaboration



EQUITY AND RESOURCES



Buncombe County  
Family Justice Center  
A Path to Strength, Safety & Hope

- Institutionalize coordinated community response by establishing MOU, website, priority areas
- Identify additional partners from social services agencies, behavior health services, other community stakeholders & develop partnerships, communication strategies, and improve service-delivery coordination
- Develop community safety & violence prevention comprehensive planning process that engages justice partners in identifying roles & commitments while centering community input & leadership



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



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# Facilitate Statewide Coordination

- Identify JRACs or similar organizations across NC with aligned mission/goals/scope
- Collaborate with statewide partners to coordinate legislative agendas and other initiatives



# Broadening Opportunities for Community Engagement





# Conduct Education and Outreach

## FIRST APPEARANCE



- Partner with & build on existing organizations, initiatives, and meetings to provide education and outreach through launch of CJ101 video, listening sessions, focus groups, etc.
- Create infrastructure to ensure continuous feedback loop for community to be heard and responded to/acted upon and informed of updates to policies, procedures, and practices
- Create new methods of communication - e.g. social media



# Implement Participatory Decision-Making Models



- Increase/ensure representation of those most impacted by systems on councils and workgroups
- Explore community interest in participatory defense
- Create opportunities for continuous authentic community conversations and participation in decision-making



# Improving Racial Equity in the Justice System





# Institute Training & Education

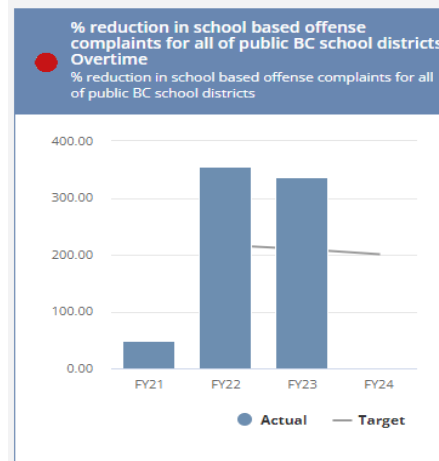
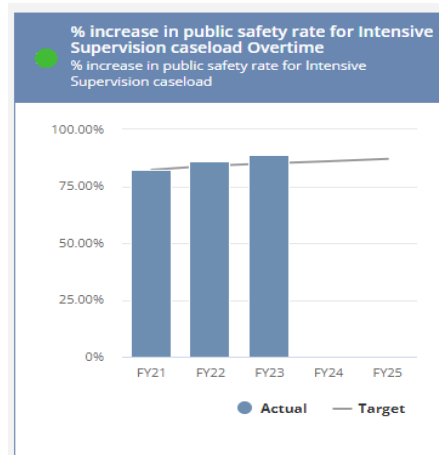


- Implement Racial Equity workgroup trainings
- Partner with community organizations to provide racial equity trainings
- Create Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training and Implicit Bias training for law enforcement
- Support the creation and implementation of County-wide racial equity training



# Implement Racial Equity Tool Across Continuum

Justice Services	<p>● Increase community safety and accountability for those who do harm Justice Services</p>	<p>● % increase in public safety rate for Intensive Supervision caseload Justice Services</p>	<p>● Implement Safety and Justice Challenge Community Safety Initiative Justice Services</p>	Active
			<p>● Create a safer community for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault Justice Services</p>	
	<p>● Reduce youth involvement in justice system Justice Services</p>	<p>● % reduction in school based offense complaints for all of public BC school districts Justice Services</p>	<p>● Develop partnerships between school, justice, youth, and community partners to prevent justice involvement and support alternative pathways for justice involved youth Justice Services</p>	Active
	<p>● Increase alternative pathways for people to move through the justice system Justice Services</p>	<p>● # of diversion opportunities / programs / investments at each point in the criminal justice system Justice Services</p>	<p>● Implement diversionary programs and monitor effectiveness Justice Services</p>	Active
			<p>● Update Buncombe County's Sequential Intercept Map Justice Services</p>	



- Identify key decision points across the justice system
- Launch of racial equity tool
- Create and continuously assess racial equity decision point analysis report



# Optimizing Resources to Maximize Services



# Sustainability Planning For Existing Programs

## Buncombe County Uses \$2.5 Million in Awards to Address Community Violence

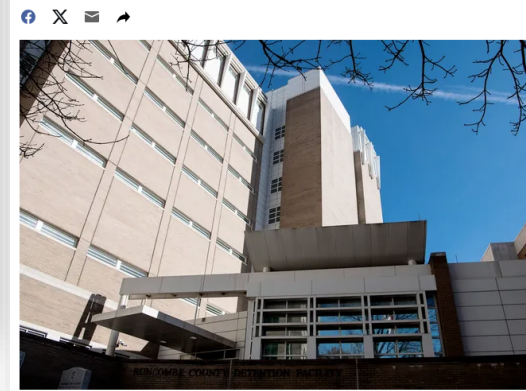


## Buncombe County Sobriety Court Receives Academy Court Designation, Will Serve as National Model



## Buncombe to vote on Dogwood grant, ongoing program that helps people getting out of jail

Andrew Jones  
Asheville Citizen Times  
Published 5:01 a.m. ET April 5, 2022



The Buncombe County Detention Facility December 2, 2021. County Justice Services leaders want to use Dogwood Health Trust money to support those exiting the detention center. Angela Wilhelm/wilhelm@citizentimes.com

ASHEVILLE - Services aimed at reducing recidivism in Buncombe County and helping former inmates successfully reintegrate into society are set for a 2022 grant boost.

Board of Commissioners on April 5 will vote on approval for \$445,000 in Dogwood Health Trust funding for the ongoing Jail and Prison Reentry Grant, money that goes toward contracting third-party services to help people get back on their feet after spending time in local jails.

- Create sustainability plan for Safety and Justice Challenge
- Create sustainability plan for Family Justice Center
- Create sustainability plan for Treatment Court Grants

## Board of Commissioners Approve Additional \$1.1M Safety & Justice Challenge Grant



## Grant Award

Award Amount: \$750,000 (+\$250,000 in-kind) October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2026

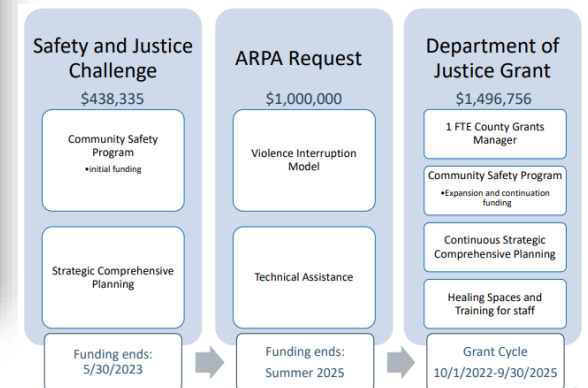
Creates 1FTE Licensed Clinician position to provide in-house assessments and clinical oversight, and Both positions will serve/support all three treatment courts.

1 Peer Support Specialist (contracted position) with community based organization TBD; \$248,528 budgeted over grant life-cycle (4 years)

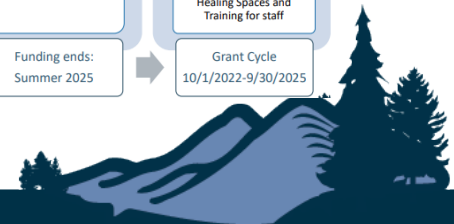
Expands in-kind court evaluation support to all three courts, provided in-kind via Western Carolina University Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Contributes toward the implementation of evidence-based group intervention strategies for underrepresented groups (women and black males) participating in Justice Services programs

County has no obligation to fund at the end of grant award



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



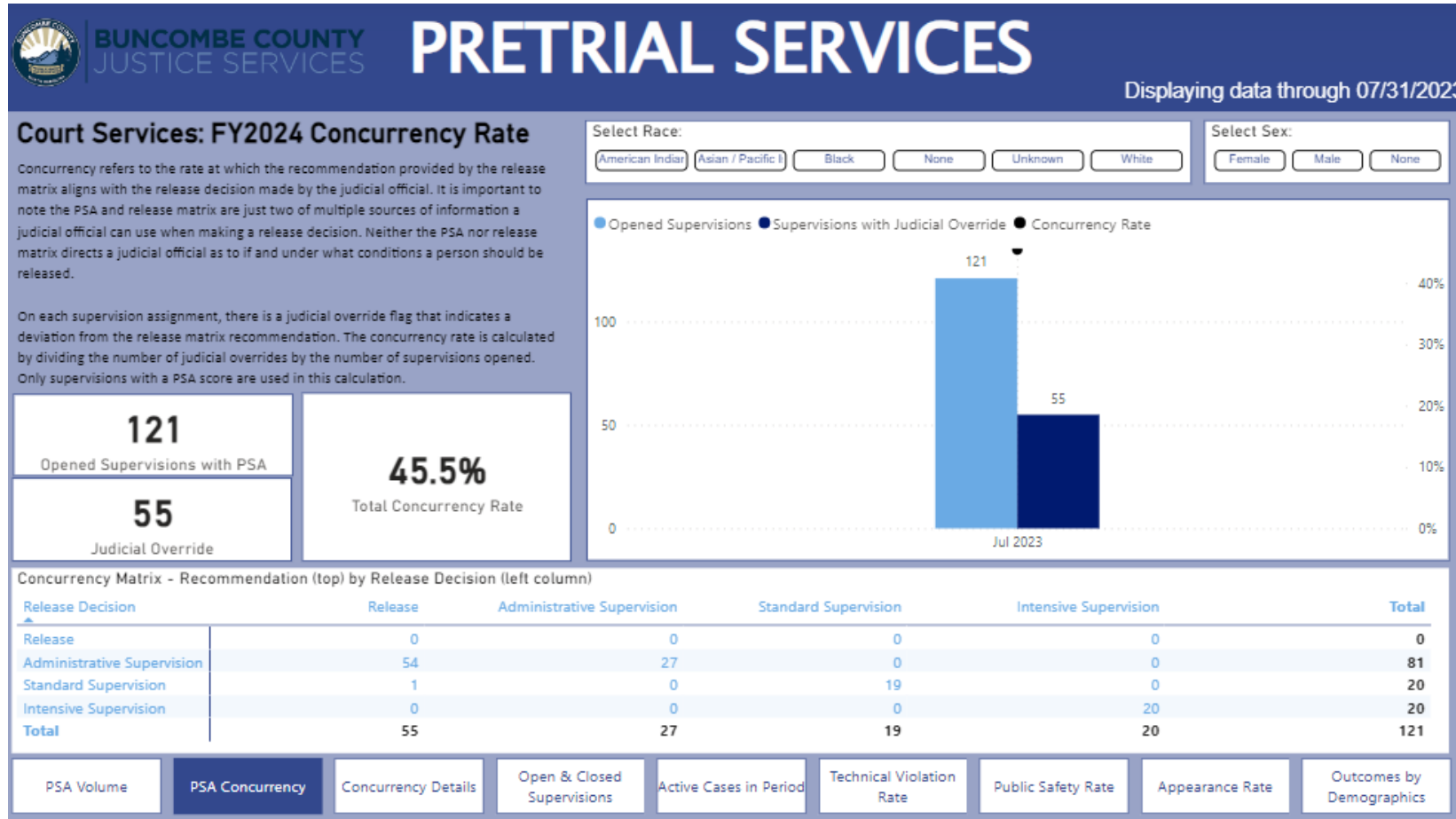
11/30/2023



# Utilizing Data to Enhance Decision-Making



# Implement Public Facing Justice Dashboards



- Develop and maintain Asheville Police dashboards
- Develop and maintain Justice Services program dashboards
- Develop and maintain Buncombe County Sheriffs Office detention dashboards





# Develop Justice Performance Measures and Reporting

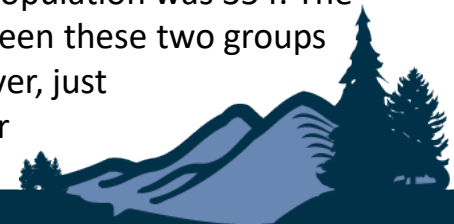
**Table 1: Population and Caseload - January 3, 2023 – September 5, 2023**

	Pretrial Average Daily Population	Bookings in Bond Report	Jail Review Team Caseload
Total	354	1,378	759
% by Race			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Black	31.4%	19.7%	17.9%
White	67.5%	78.7%	80.6%
% by Gender			
Male	84.1%	77.7%	76.1%
Female	15.9%	22.2%	23.9%

○ Identify of key performance metrics to analyze and drive informed change

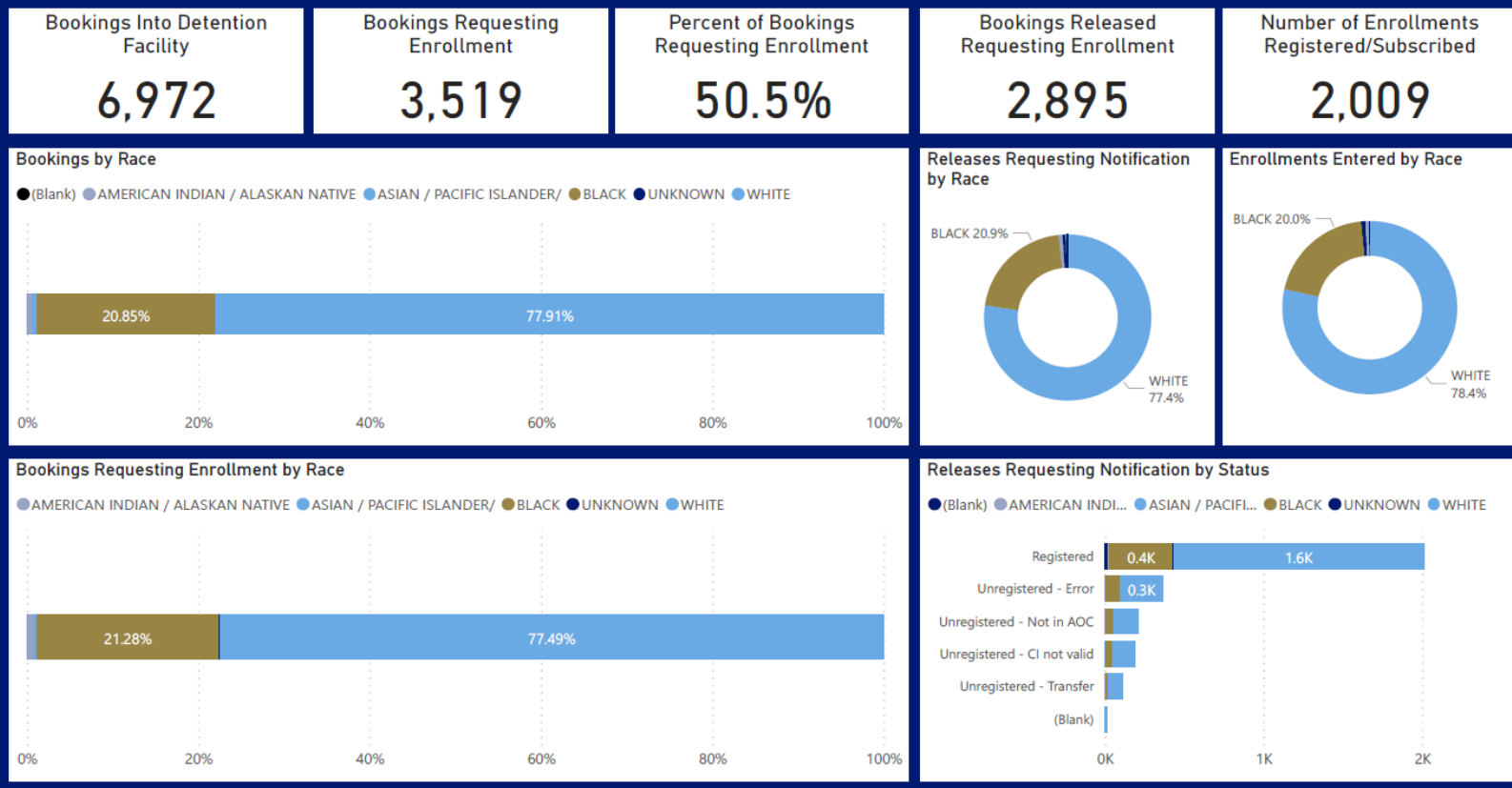
○ Create reporting mechanism

The JRT caseload is built off a snapshot of the jail population. During the time period covered in the analysis, the average daily pretrial population was 354. The majority – nearly 66% – were in custody on a charge that placed them on the weekly jail report. However, the racial demographics between these two groups are quite different when disaggregated by race. As shown in Table 1 below, approximately 30% of the pretrial population is Black; however, just under 20% of the bookings included in the bond report during this time were Black. The cases reviewed by the JRT had a slightly smaller representation of Black people at 17.9%.



# Advocate for Improved Court System Data

Buncombe County Court Notification Enrollments by Race: 12/21/2022 through 10/31/2023



- Outreach and develop relationships to the Administrative Office of the Courts
- Establish memorandum of understanding for data sharing
- Develop IT structure to increase data capacity in data warehouse.
- Develop performance measure and monitor victim and defendant outcomes



# Questions?

