

Race, Ethnicity, and Jail Stays in Douglas County

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting

June 9, 2020

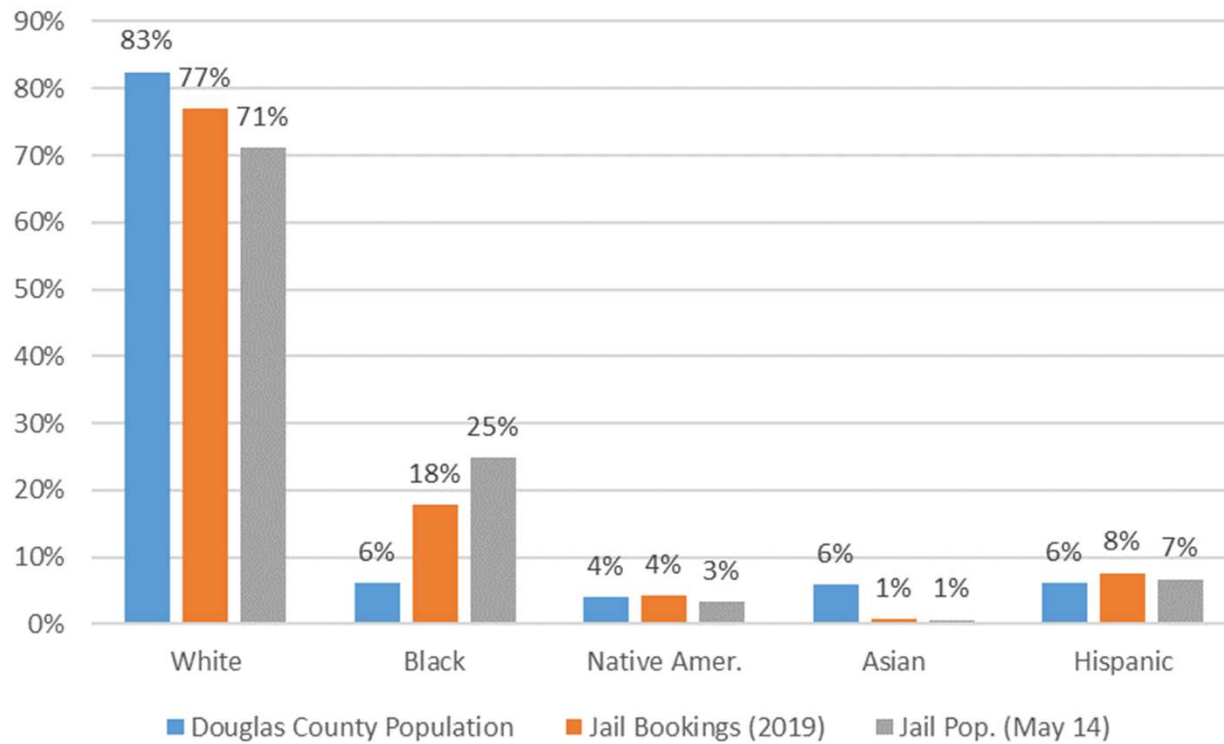
Matt Cravens, Ph.D.

BASIC STEPS IN THE ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS



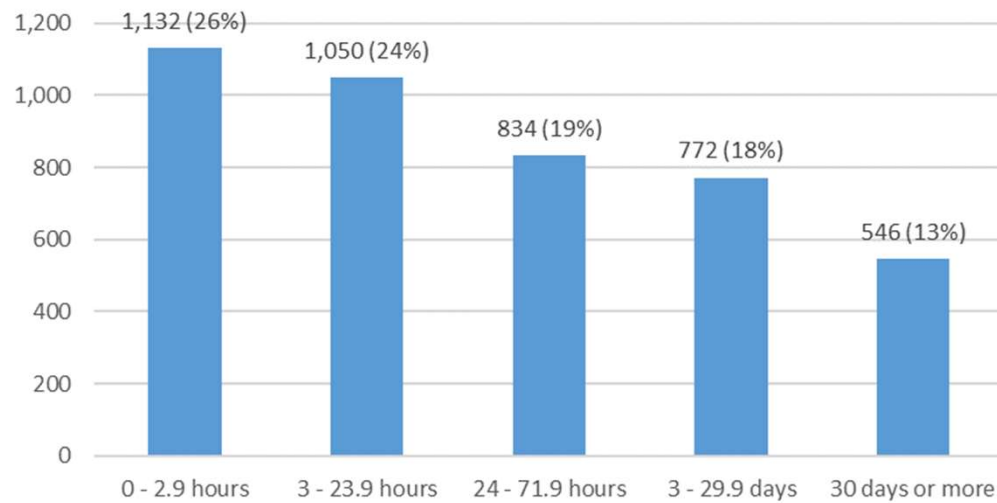
Note: Flowchart is not specific to Douglas County.

Distribution of Douglas County Population, Jail Bookings, and Jail Population by Race and Ethnicity

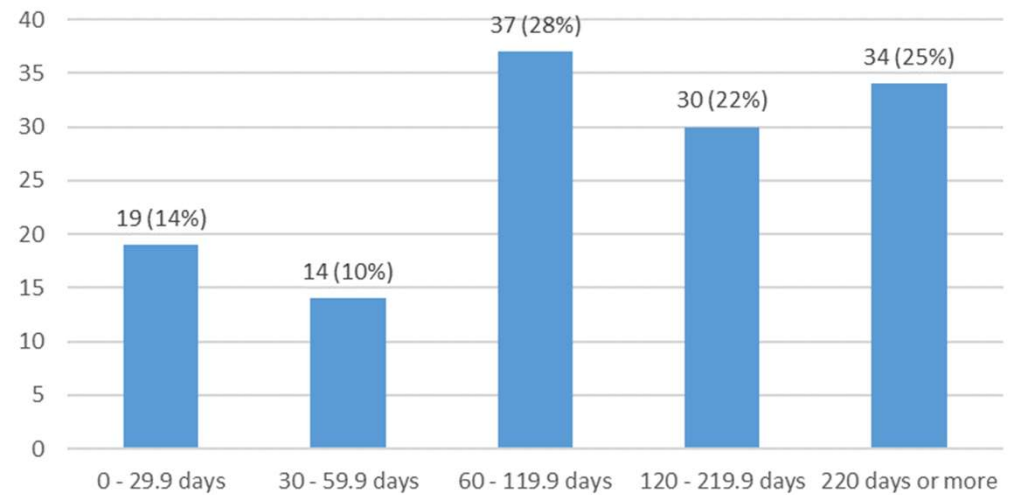


Bookings and releases vs. jail population

Distribution of 2019 Releases by Time in Jail



Distribution of 4/23/20 Jail Pop. by Time in Jail

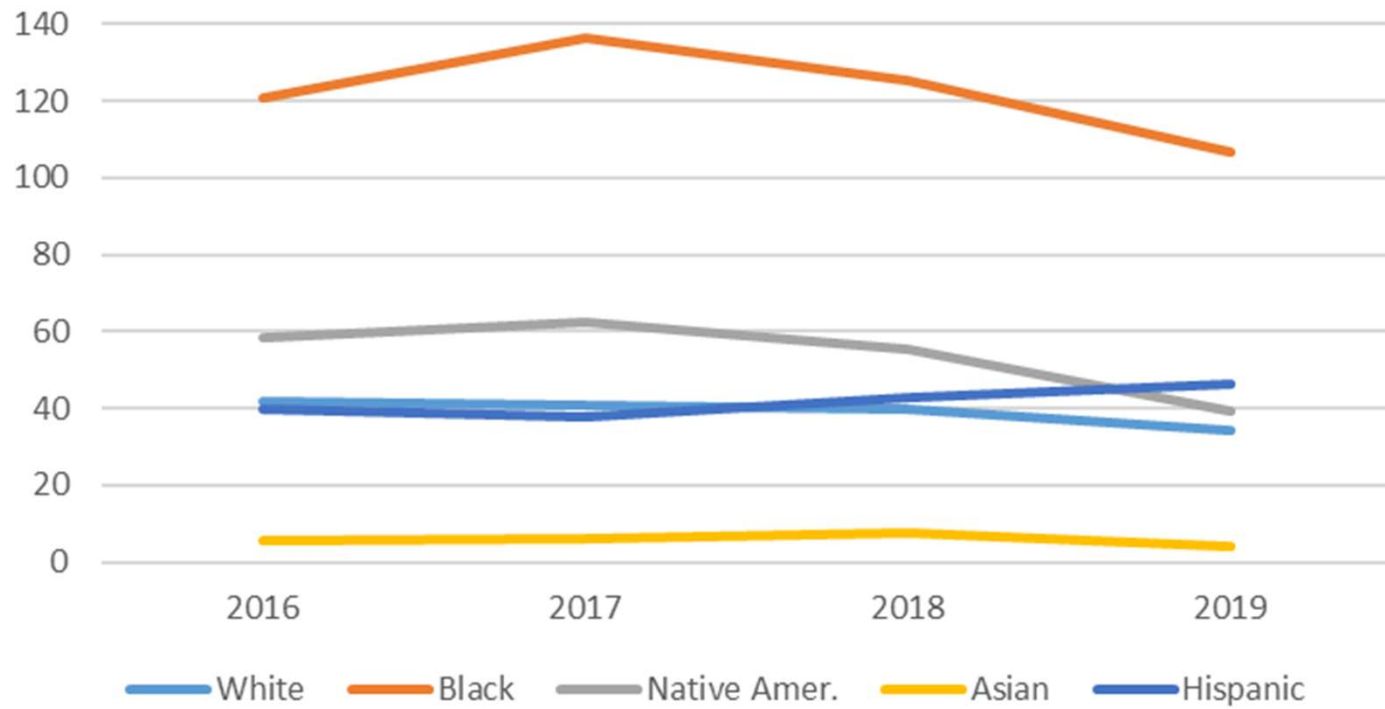


Jail Booking Rate per Population

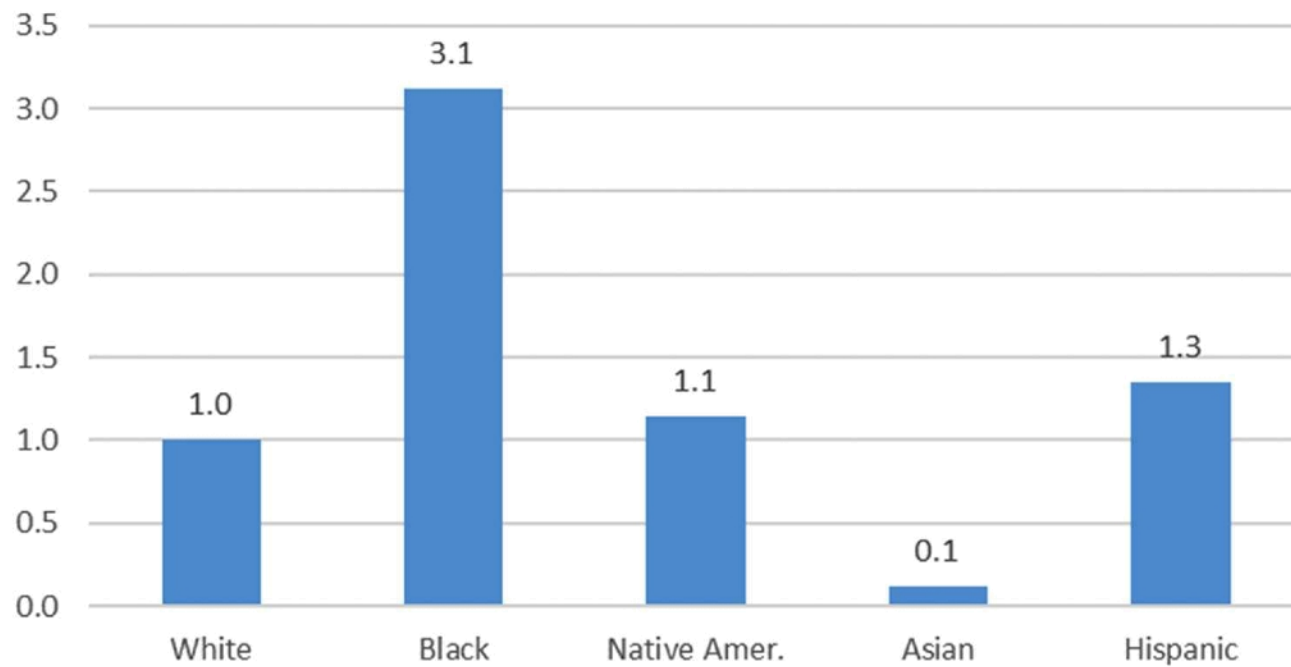
	Bookings in 2019	Douglas County Pop.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
White	3,357	98,438	34
Black	780	7,278	107
Native Amer.	188	4,773	39
Asian	34	7,159	5
Hispanic	335	7,398	45

Source: DCCF jail bookings data are from the Spillman system. Population data are the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 5-year estimates.

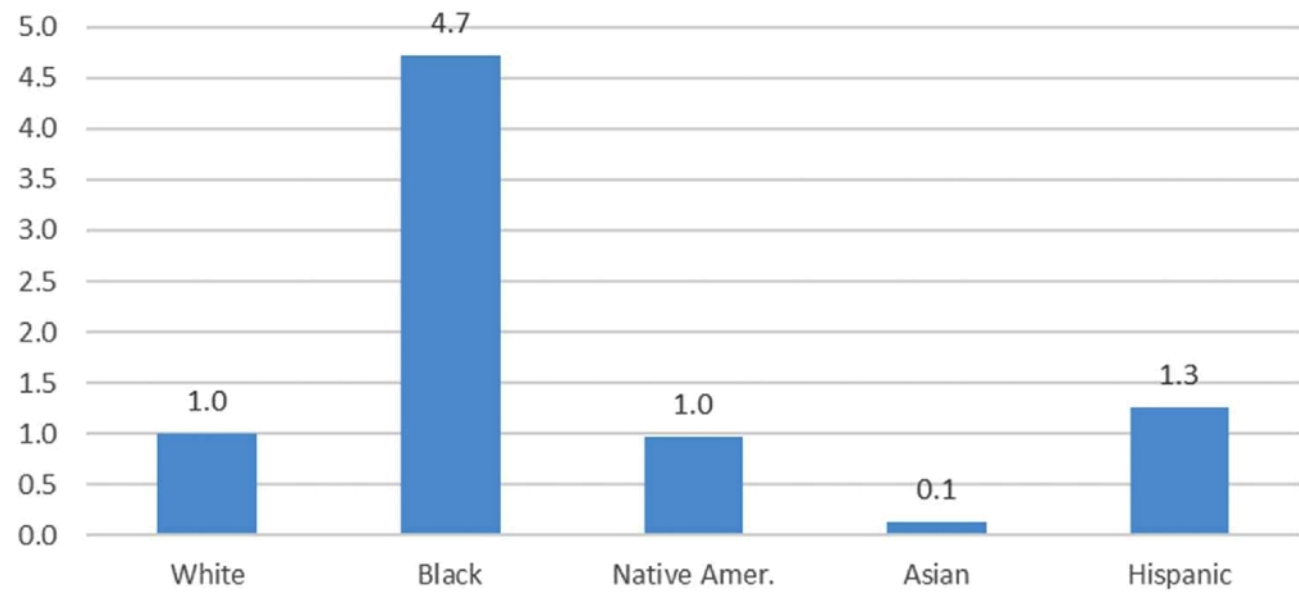
Jail Booking Rate per 1,000 County Residents



Ratio of Jail Booking Rates to White Rate (2019)



Ratio of Jail Incarceration Rates to White Rate
(5/14/20 Jail Pop.)



Nationally, the black jail incarceration rate is about

3.2 times higher than the white rate (2018).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, March 2020, *Jail Inmates in 2018* (based on Annual Survey of Jails).

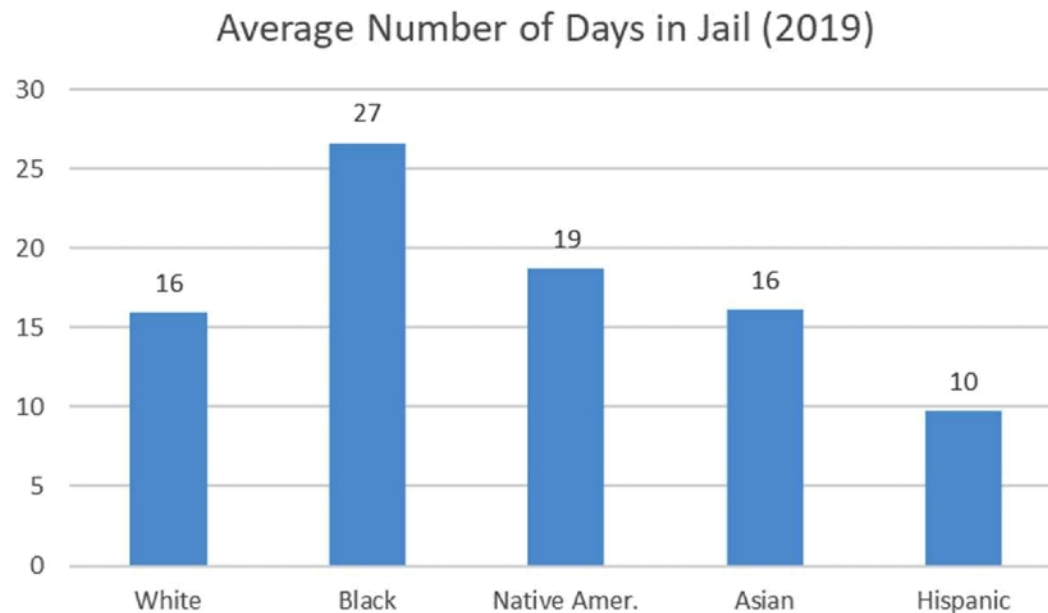
Compared to the national average, Douglas County's jail incarceration rate is lower.

- Douglas County, 2019: 179 per 100,000 people
- Jails nationwide, 2018: 226 per 100,000 people

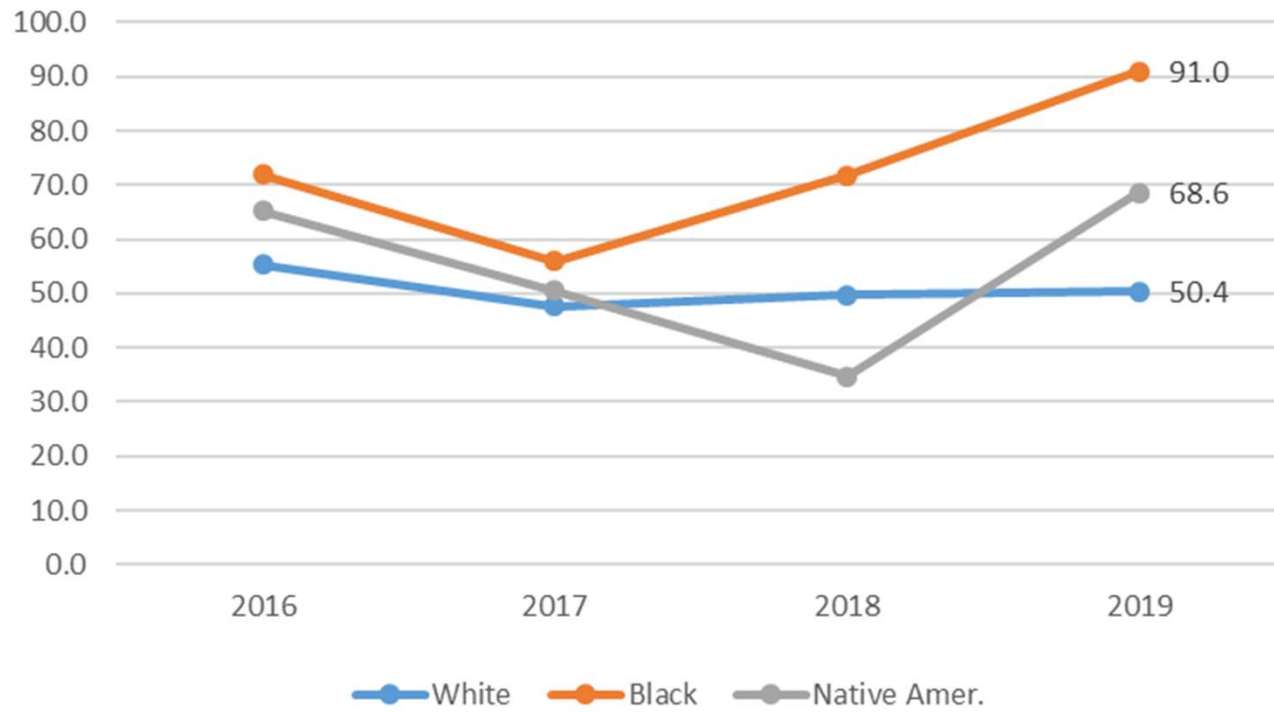
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, March 2020, *Jail Inmates in 2018* (based on Annual Survey of Jails).

Why is the disparity between black and white jail incarceration rates so much greater than for booking rates?

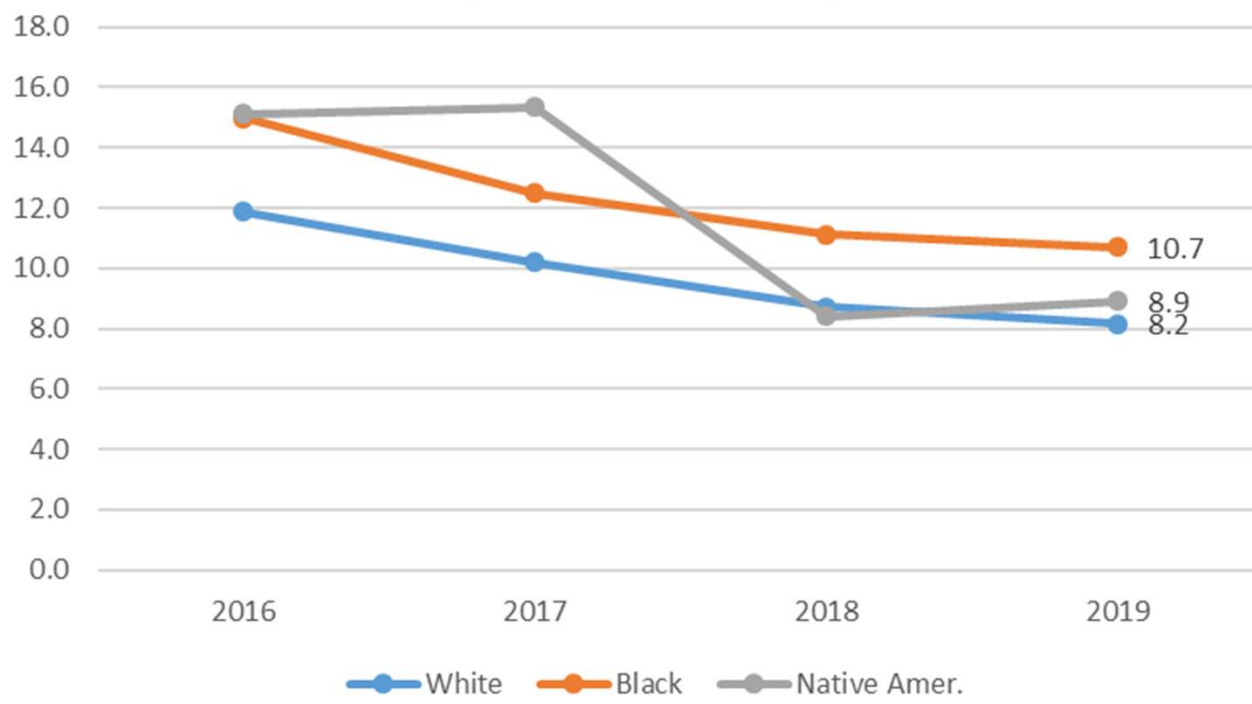
Black inmates stay longer than white inmates in DCCF.



Average Days in Jail Among Sentenced Inmates
(All DCCF Releases)



Average Days in Jail Among Pretrial Inmates
(All DCCF Releases)



Need to control for many factors

- Number and types of charges
- Court jurisdiction
- Case type
- Judicial status
- Age
- Gender

Method

- Multivariate linear regression model
- Used to determine the effect of a variable while holding other variables constant
- Outcome is the log of jail days
- Data on all 2019 releases from DCCF

Variables included in model

- Gender
- Age and age squared
- Number of charges at booking
- Classification of offense—misdemeanor, felony, or other
- Specific offense at booking—from text searches of the offense description in Spillman (FTA, probation violation, battery, assault, burglary, disorderly conduct, remand, theft)
- Court jurisdiction and case type—District Court, Municipal Court traffic, Municipal Court criminal, Municipal Court other case
- Judicial status—sentenced, pretrial, referred to other jurisdiction

Predicted Jail Days, Statistically Controlling for Other Factors (2019)

	All	Hypothetical FTA Booking [#]	Hypothetical Burglary Booking [^]
White	1.0	6.2	90
Black	1.3 *	7.6 *	111 *
Native Amer.	1.4 *	8.3 *	122 *
Asian	0.7	4.4	65
Hispanic	0.9	5.4	78

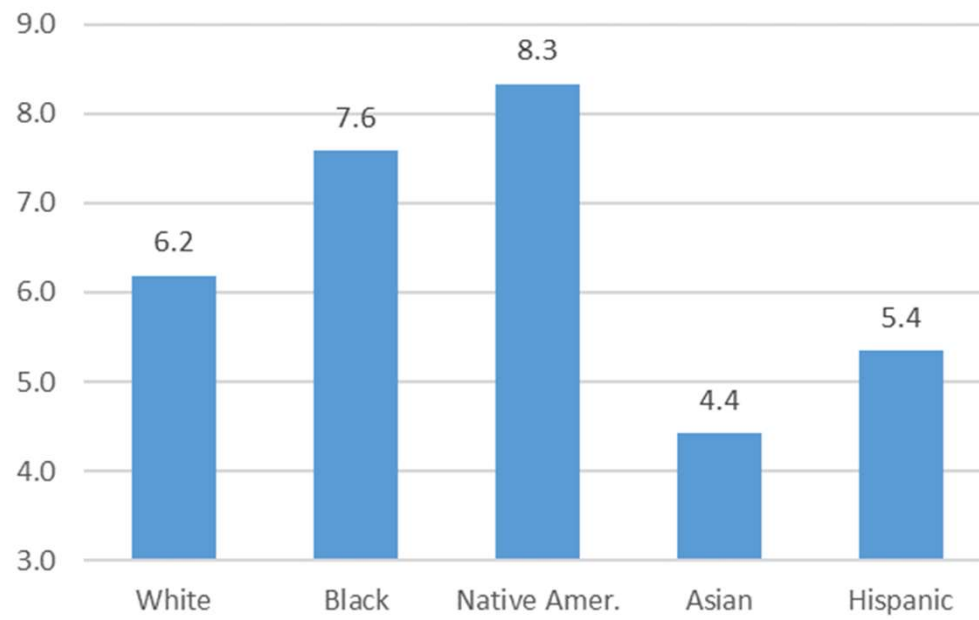
Notes: Predictions are generated from a linear regression model of log of jail days.

* Difference between black (or Native American) and white is statistically significant.

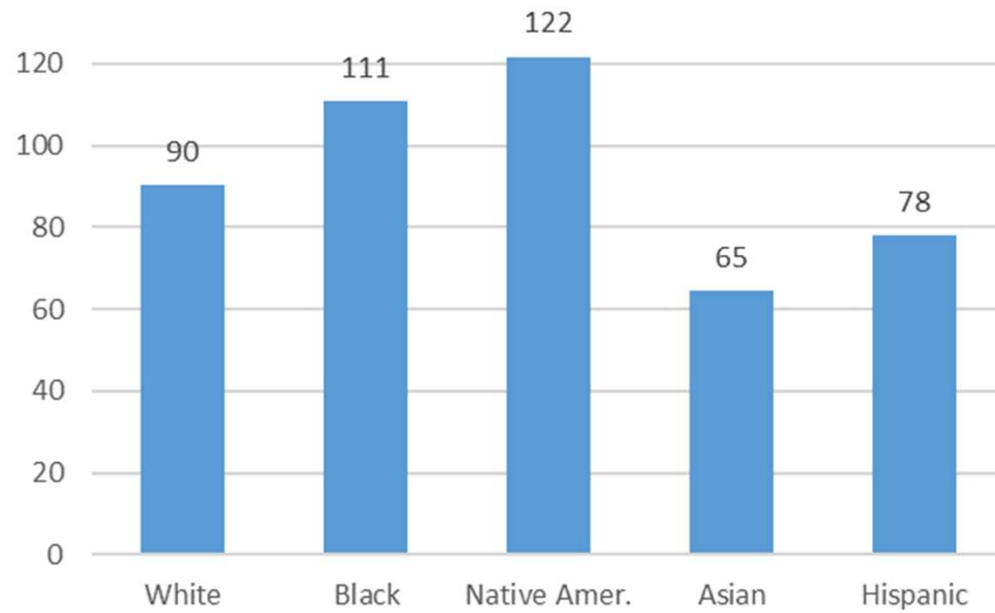
[#] Person booked into jail on failure to appear with at least 1 pretrial charge and 3 total charges--a felony, misdemeanor, and unknown--and at least 1 District Court case.

[^] Person sentenced to jail for burglary with 10 total charges including 1 felony and 1 District Court case.

Hypothetical FTA Booking



Hypothetical Burglary Booking



Limitations and Extensions

- Why do the racial disparities arise? The data do not shed much light on the underlying reasons.
- Evidence shows that racial inequities exist.
- The regression approach is correlational. It does not definitively prove that race causes longer jail stays.
- The model does not control for all variables.
- Other Kansas counties could provide useful comparison points.