

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# JUSTICE CARE AND OPPORTUNITIES

DEPARTMENT

## Jail Closure Update

January 30, 2024

*Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) | Director*



# Jail Closure Requires Involvement From Different Stakeholders

Partnership among numerous County and non-County entities is critical to achieve depopulation and closure



## County Stakeholders

Justice: LASD, DA, PD/APD/IDCO, Probation, JCOD

Health: DMH, DHS-ODR, DHS-CHS, DPH-SAPC

Other Key Stakeholders:

CEO, DOJ Compliance, County Counsel, Public Works, ISD, CCJCC, DME



Law Offices of Los Angeles County  
PUBLIC DEFENDER



IDCO  
INDEPENDENT DEFENSE  
COUNSEL OFFICE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PROBATION

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
JUSTICE  
CARE &  
OPPORTUNITIES  
DEPARTMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH  
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

Health Services  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Chief  
Executive  
Office.

DOJ  
Compliance  
Office

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COUNSEL

Public Works  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ISD  
INTERNAL SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MEDICAL EXAMINER

## Non-County Stakeholders



Superior Court



Local Law Enforcement Agencies



City Attorneys



Community Partners



State Agencies

## Other Entities That Impact jail Closure Efforts



State Legislature

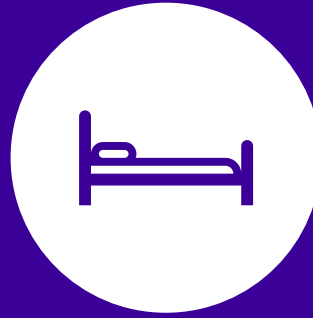


United States Congress

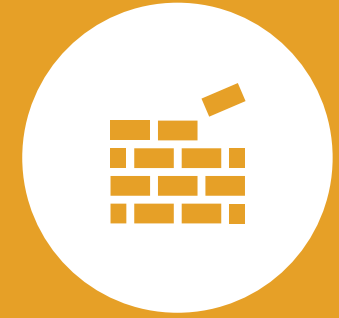
# Key Components to Close Men's Central Jail (MCJ)



**Expedite criminal case processing and implement depopulation strategies to reduce the length of stay**



**Expand community beds, both secured and unsecured, based upon the turnover/utilization**



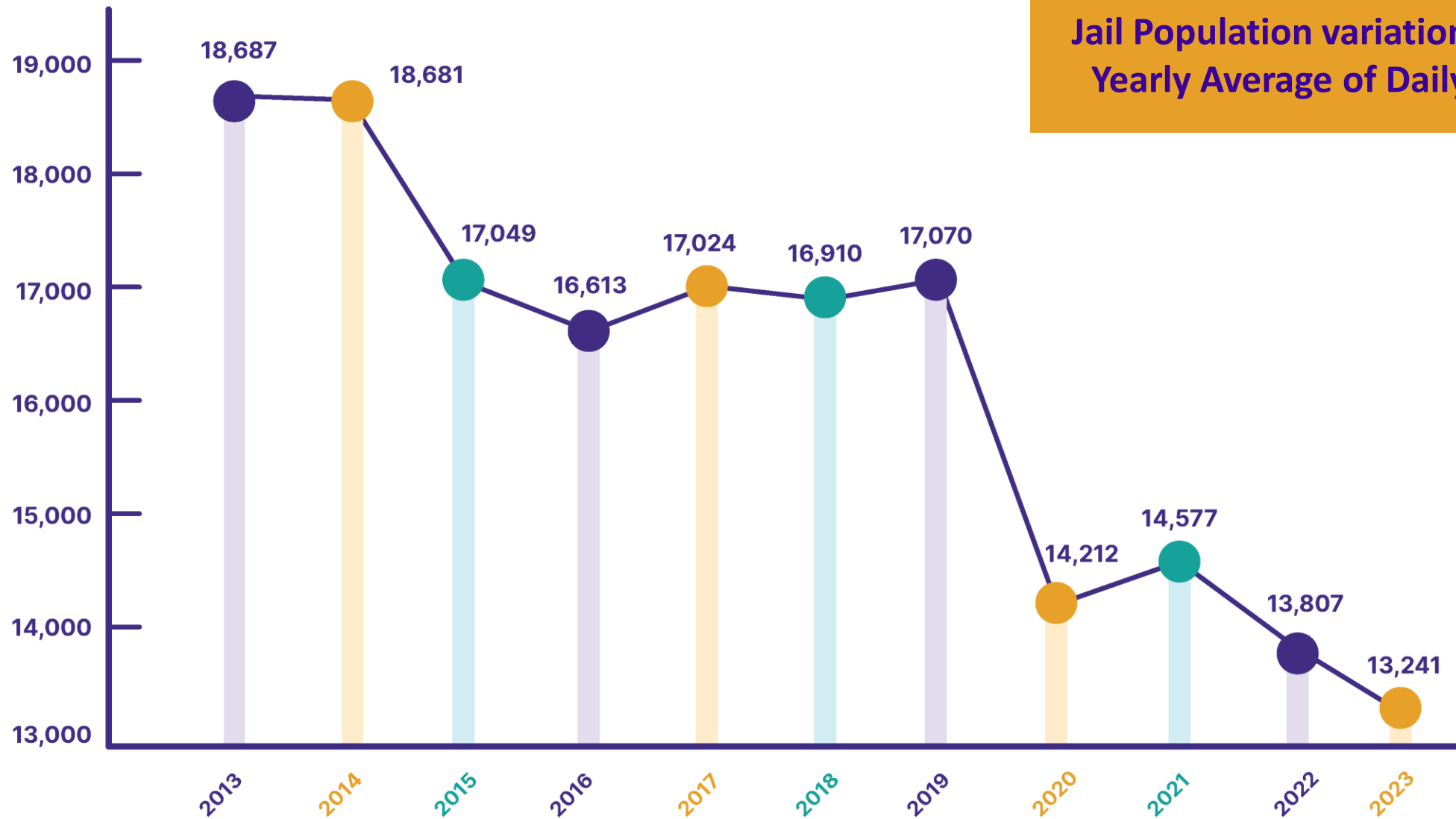
**Remodel and update space for populations currently in MCJ at other existing jail facilities**

**All three components are essential to safely reduce the population to 7,169\* and effectuate closure.  
All stakeholders are needed for depopulation and closure.**

\* Previous consultants have estimated that the jail population must stabilize at 7,169 for MCJ closure.

# Jail Population Has Declined

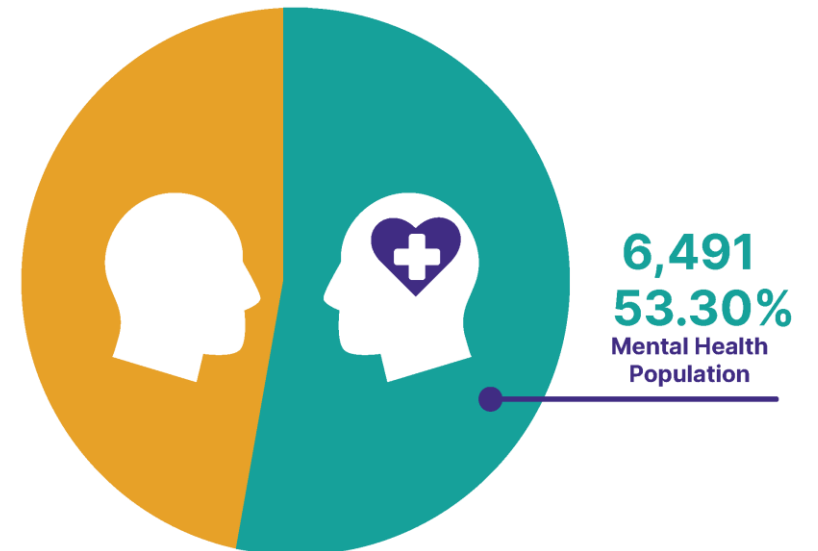
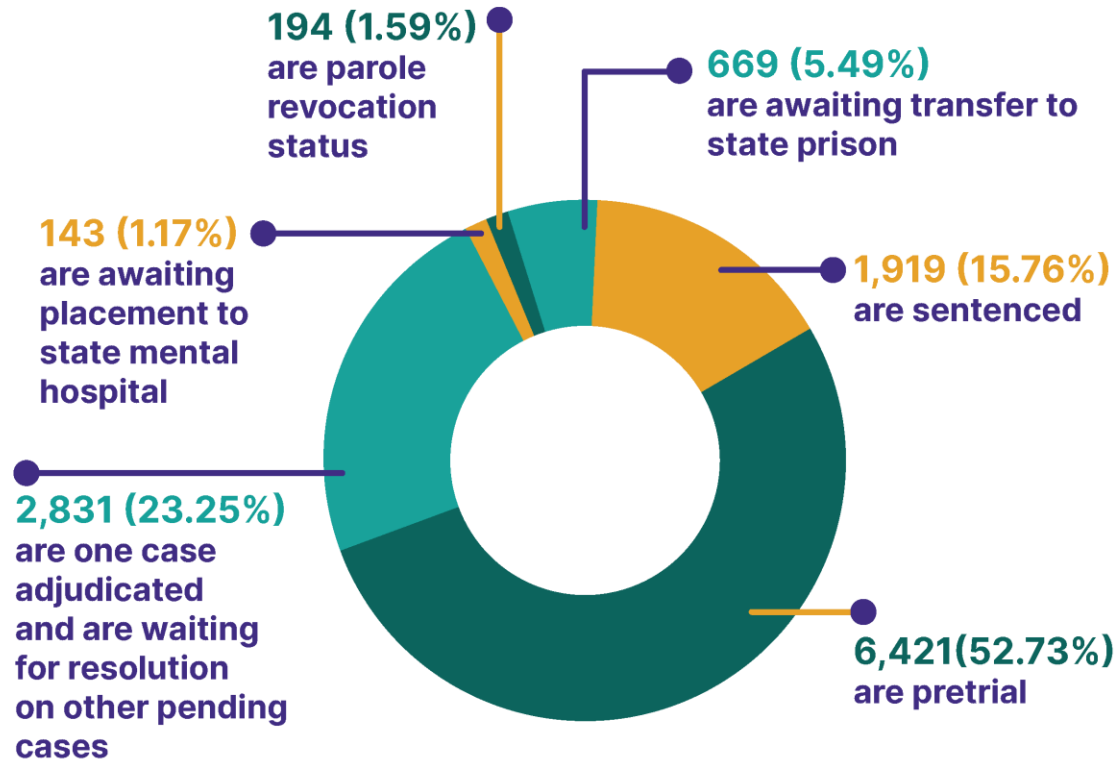
Jail Population variation 2013 – 2023  
Yearly Average of Daily Population



# Jail Population Breakdown

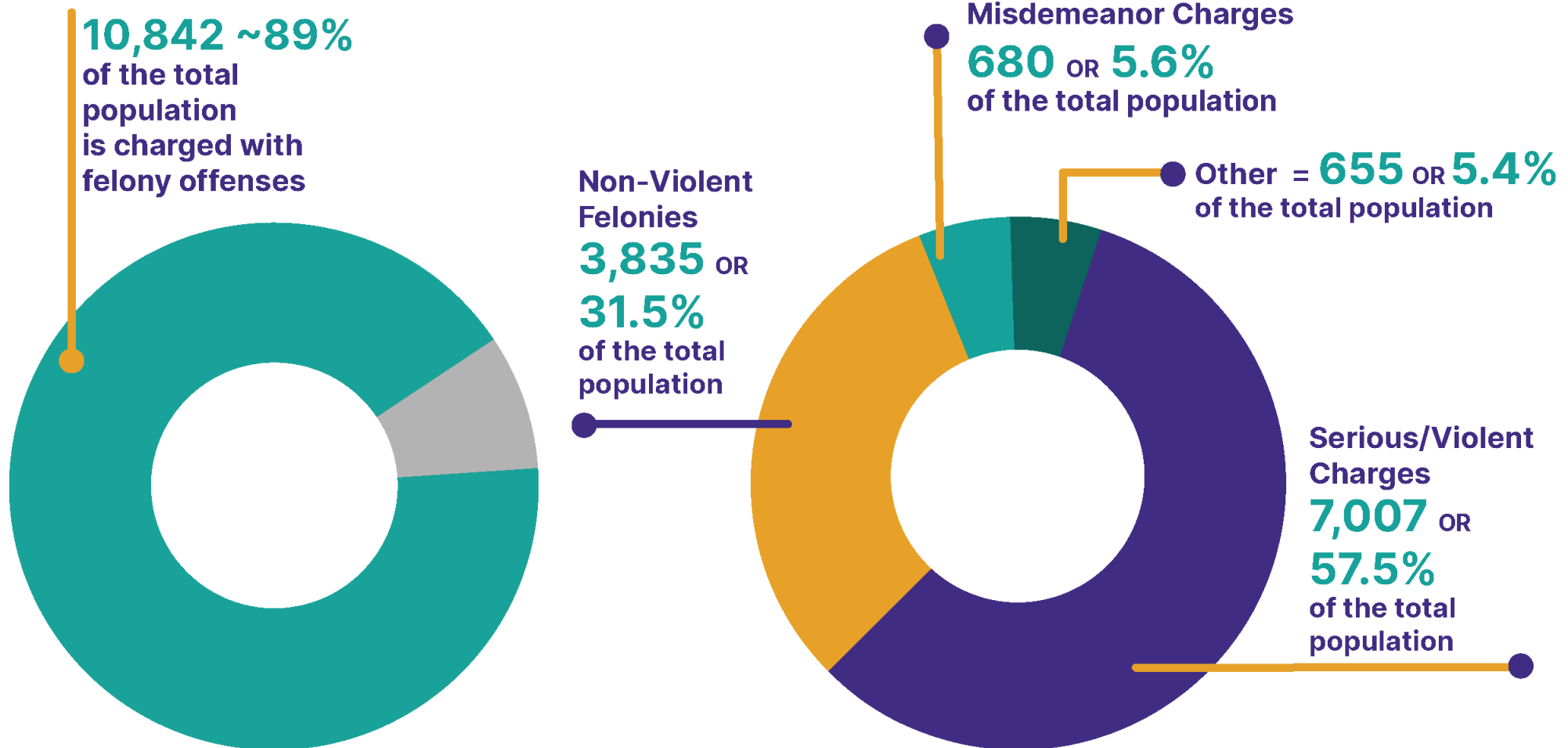
To develop effective strategies to depopulate and close MCJ, it is important to understand the current jail population.

Total Jail Population 1/16/2024 = 12,177



# Offense Breakdown Total Jail Population

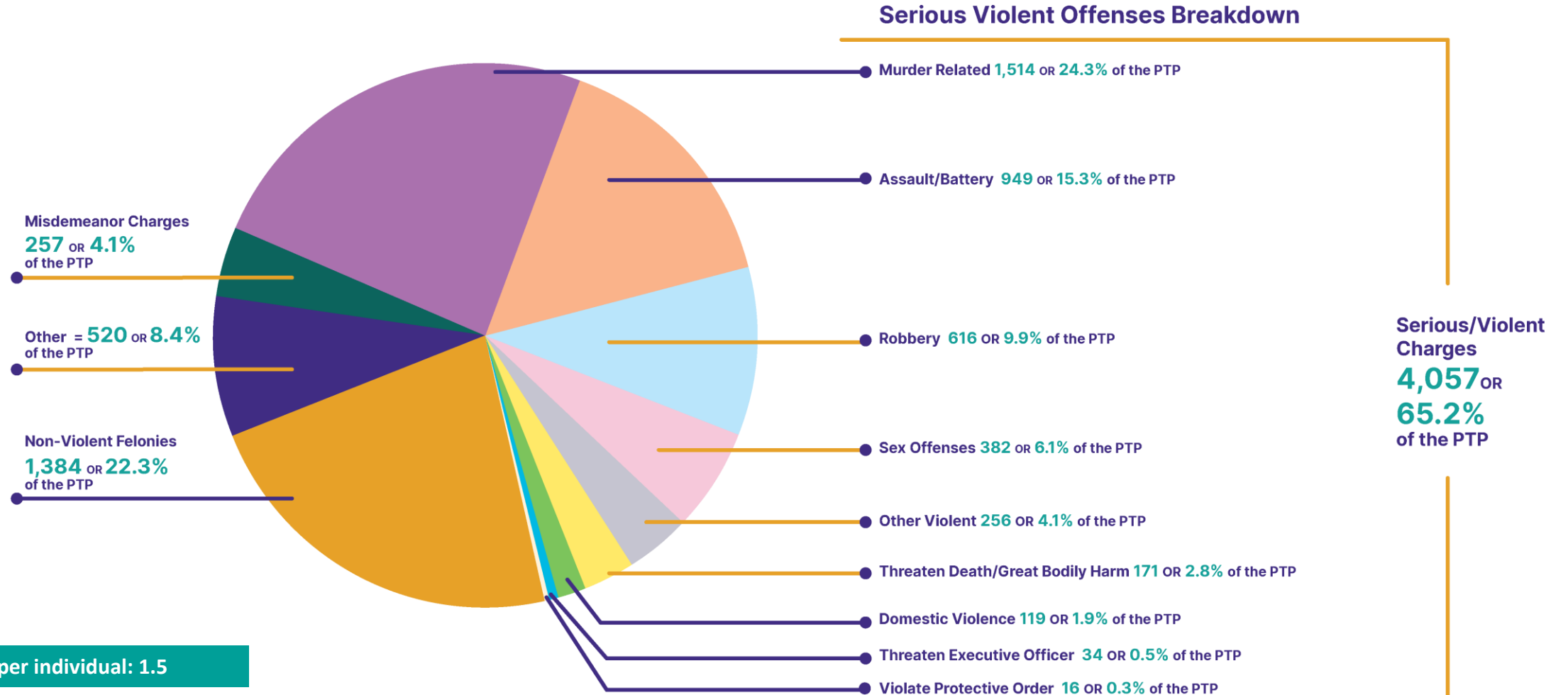
Offense Breakdown For 12/20/2023 Jail Population  
Total Population 12,177



# Pre-Trial Population (PTP) Offense Analysis

## PTP Offense Breakdown

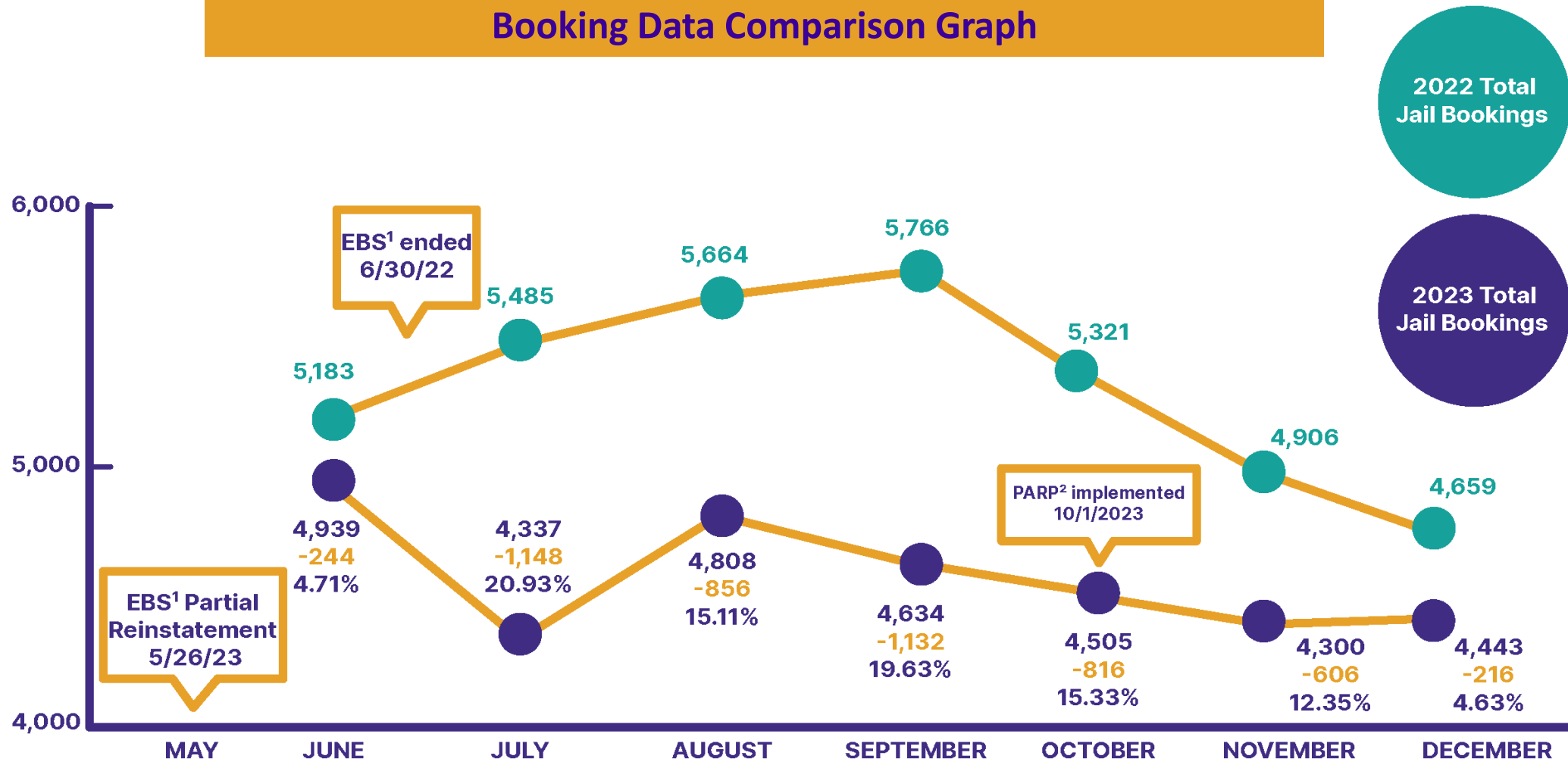
12/20/2023 PTP = 6,218 of 12,177 Total Individuals in the Jail





# The Bail Schedule Impacts Jail Population

Booking Data Comparison Graph



<sup>1</sup>EBS = Emergency Bail Schedule

<sup>2</sup>PARP = Pre-Arrest Release Protocols



# Progress in Reducing the Length of Stay For Certain Cases

The County has been successful in reducing the length of stay for two types of cases by expediting transfers to state prison and state mental hospitals:

## State Prison



On March 6, 2022,



**1,639**  
individuals  
were pending transfer.



As of January 16, 2024,



**669**  
individuals  
were pending transfer.  
**59.18%** reduction

## State Hospitals



On March 6, 2022,



**506**  
individuals  
were pending transfer.



As of January 16, 2024,



**143**  
individuals  
were pending transfer.  
**71.74%** reduction

# Key Takeaways



Over 53% of the jail population have mental health conditions



In 2023, EBS and PARP helped reduce the jail population, however the Court can modify the bail schedule at anytime



Serious and violent offenses constitute approximately 60% of the jail population



Over 52% of the jail is currently in pre-trial status, with over 65% detained for serious or violent charges.



Further depopulation of the jail will require interventions that address the high needs of the population and the larger percentage of individuals with serious and violent charges

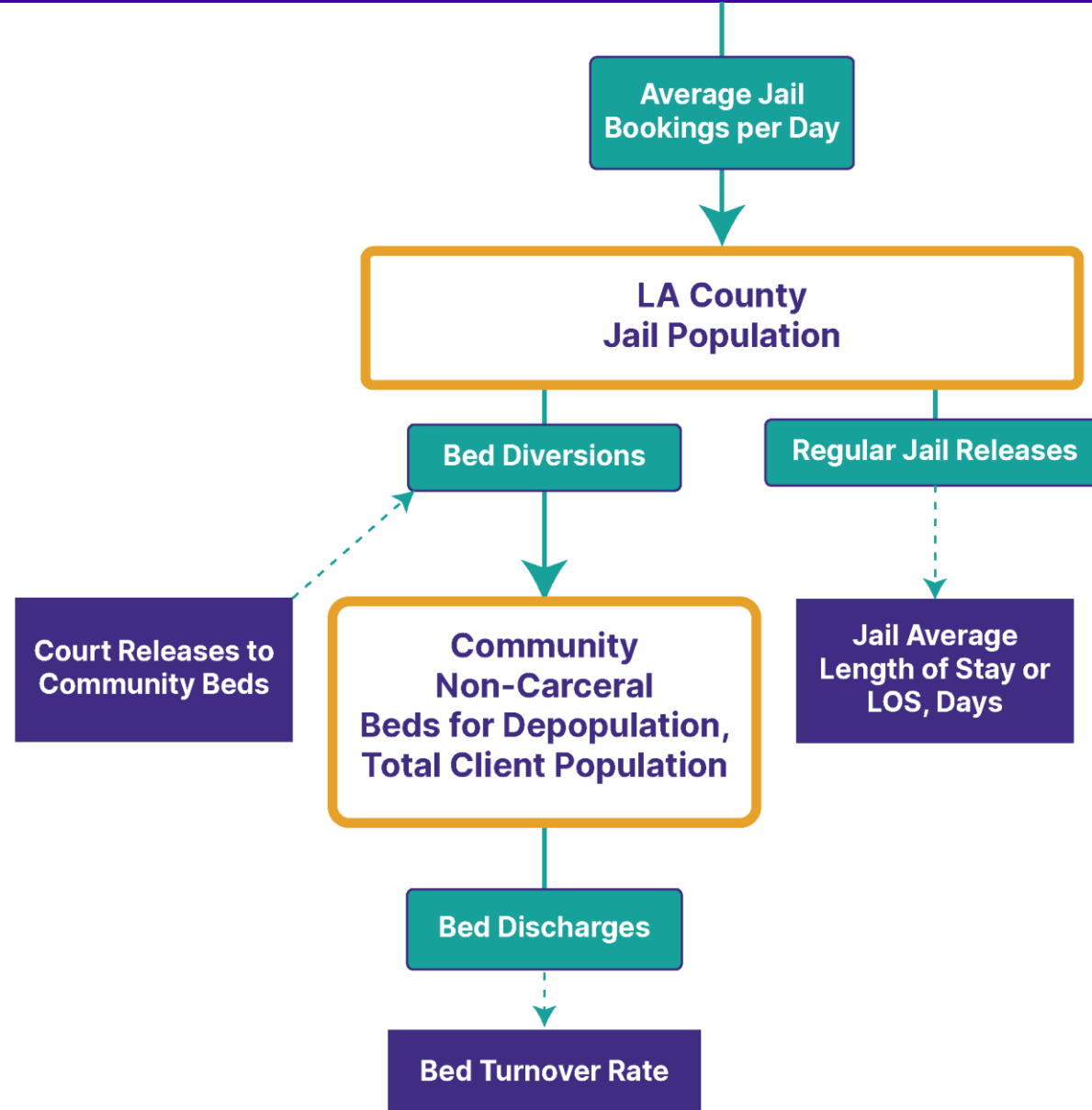


# **Sample Timeline & Next Steps**

# Jail Population Modeling Flow Chart

## Actions To Reduce Inflow:

- Emergency Bail Schedule (EBS) and Pre-Arrest Release Protocols (PARP)
- Alternative Crisis Response
- Countywide coordination of pre-arrest diversion programs
- Justice Connect Support Center
- County programs that reduce recidivism



## Actions To Increase Outflow:

- ODR Beds
- DMH Interim Housing
- DPH-SAPC Programs
- JCOD Rapid Diversion Program
- JCOD STOP Program
- Expedited transfers to State Prison and State Hospitals
- Faster processing of criminal cases

# Five Year Jail Closure Plan

All the Assumptions Below Must Occur to Safely Depopulate to 7,169 and Close MCJ Within Five Years.

The County builds **1,200** community beds per year- every year-for depopulation purposes;



The average utilization/turn-over rate of the community beds used for custody alternatives is **once per year**, after which individuals must progress to beds or programming that is not dedicated for custody alternatives;



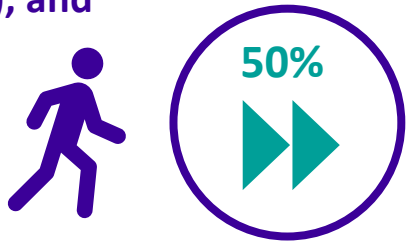
Judges find it is safe to release an additional **7,000** people per year;



Individuals placed in a bed reduce their annual recidivism rate by **30%**. (Reduction from **40%** to approximately **10%**);



Jail releases can be accelerated by **50%** through various other interventions (quicker pretrial release, faster case processing, etc.); and



**No other major increases** in crime, bookings to the jail, or legislative changes that create lengthier punishments for crimes;



Relocating all specialized populations within MCJ to other current jail facilities, including the Medical Observation Specialty Housing, and the single cells used for classification and discipline;



Finding custody space adjacent to the Inmate Reception Center to comply with DOJ Settlement Agreements.



# Tackling Jail Closure



Depopulating and closing MCJ requires ongoing coordination across County departments.



JCOD is initiating a review of individuals recently released who had excessive time in custody. This review will require partnership with our justice stakeholders so we can properly identify criminal case processing issues and develop strategies to expedite case processing and reduce time in custody.



JCOD is collaborating with the Superior Court to evaluate viable solutions to expand arraignment hours.



JCOD is developing a legislative proposal plan that will address expanding funding streams, community treatment for non-serious, non-violent felonies, and potential custody alternatives for other types of offenses.



JCOD will continue to work with stakeholders by providing quarterly data analysis to inform dedicated depopulation bed development, expansion of supportive services, and remodeling of jail facility plans. JCOD will request stakeholders to provide written plans in their areas of expertise to incorporate into a larger comprehensive proposal.



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[jcod.lacounty.gov](http://jcod.lacounty.gov)

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