



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

A Demographic Snapshot of the Youth Detained in LA County Juvenile Hall

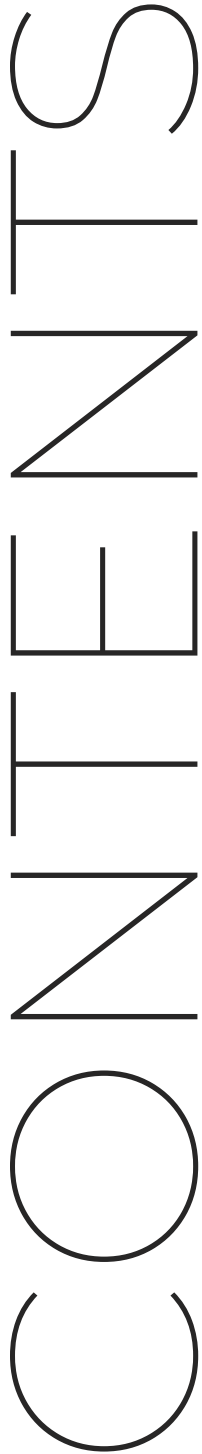
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REPORT CONTRIBUTORS:

- DAWNNEsha SMITH
- WENDELYN JULIEN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) developed the following report about the demographics of the youth housed at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall based on a “daily snapshot” of data provided by the Probation Department. The data provides a previously unseen view into the race/ethnicity, age, gender, zip codes, and length of stay of youth incarcerated at the juvenile hall. The dataset is from July 27, 2023, and also contains the charges youth are facing, which will be the subject of a forthcoming report. These findings and recommendations are described in detail in the report.

Findings

On July 27, 2023, there were 342 youth detained at Probation’s two juvenile halls.^{1,2} For purposes of this report, we removed the youth housed at the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall from the dataset, focusing our assessment on the 280 youth awaiting adjudication or placement who are housed at Los Padrinos, who we refer to as the “juvenile hall population.”

Key Findings:

- African American and Latino youth are overrepresented, making up 94% of the juvenile hall population.³ Latino youth account for 57% of the incarcerated population; Black youth comprise 37%.
- South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles County and the Antelope Valley are the top three communities where incarcerated youth lived prior to incarceration.
- 55% of the youth are age seventeen or older.
- 86% of the youth in the juvenile hall population are “pending disposition”.

Recommendations

1. Require Probation to provide regular, detailed datasets about the youth in its custody to the POC pursuant to the signed MOU.
2. Take concrete action to undo racial disparities and reduce the reliance on incarceration.
3. Provide consistent, quality, age-appropriate programming for the youth in custody, in particular young adults.
4. The Board of Supervisors and the County should continue investing in community-based prevention; a concept the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department refers to as Intercept 00 – Healthy Community Infrastructure.

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) was established in 2021 as a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. The POC advises Probation and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) about progress and challenges to implementing reform and increasing the safety and well-being of those interacting with Probation. Robust data collection and regular data-sharing are critical elements the POC needs from the Probation department to effectively achieve our mission.

The POC entered into a Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Probation Department in October 2022 to establish a process of receiving ongoing data to support our mission of fostering transparency and public accountability of the Department's programs, policies and practices. Specifically, the MOU established that Probation would provide the POC with information referred to as "monthly intake" data including demographic data, charges, arresting agency, LA Detention Screener (LADS) scores, zip codes, and other information that would allow the POC to provide a picture for the Board of Supervisors and the public about who the youth are who are incarcerated in Los Angeles County.

In partial compliance with that agreement, in August 2023, Probation shared a dataset with the POC containing a one-day snapshot from July 27, 2023, of all the youth in the juvenile halls on that day. By that date, all the "juvenile hall population"⁴ had been moved from Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Halls to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, however, the dataset also includes information about youth housed at the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) at Barry J. Nidorf in Sylmar. Where appropriate, the POC separated out the SYTF population to focus this data report on the juvenile hall population. The POC provided this report to the Probation Department two weeks before publication for their comments and corrections but did not receive any feedback.

The dataset provides useful information, but has limitations, including:

- It is a snapshot of one summer day
- It does not contain contextual information about the youth's homelife
- it does not contain LA Detention Screener risk assessment scores of the youth⁵
- It does not include Probation's detention recommendation
- It contains some clear errors and some entries are missing information
- The data was retrieved from Probation's internal database which requires staff to manually enter information and is prone to include input errors

Despite these limitations, the data serves to construct a useful profile of the youth detained and to make recommendations for improvement. We hope this analysis helps the Probation Department and decision-makers in the juvenile justice system scrutinize existing policies and practices that are harmful to youth and do not align with the Board's Youth Justice Reimagined and Care First, Jails Last framework. Most importantly, we hope the data and this analysis will be used to find alternatives to incarceration for many of the young people currently detained in order to partially alleviate the overpopulation problem and staffing crisis at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

Key Findings:

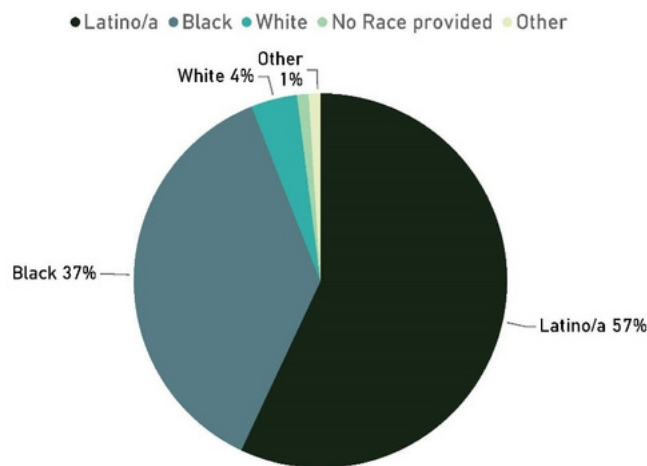
- ***African American and Latino youth are overrepresented, making up 94% of the juvenile hall population. Latino/a youth account for 57% of the population; Black youth comprise 37%.*** As proven through significant research, the justice system in the United States is characterized by the overrepresentation of youth of color. The disparate impact is particularly acute for Black youth who are adjudicated in juvenile court in numbers that far exceed their population totals.⁶ African American and Latino youth makeup sixty-five percent of the county's youth population yet they account for nearly all of the incarcerated youth.
- ***South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles County and the Antelope Valley are the top 3 communities in the County where pre-adjudicated detained youth lived prior to incarceration.*** These communities have significant concentrations of Black and Latino residents, median incomes that fall well below the average income for L.A. County and higher than average unemployment rates. They are economically disinvested communities that lack resources and face significant hurdles to achieving economic mobility. Although the incarceration of youth occurs across all supervisorial districts, the impact is most profound in the Second District. Forty-six percent of the detained girls had residential zip codes in SD2.
- ***55% of the youth are age seventeen or older.*** Older youth have distinct programming needs from younger youth. Many are high school graduates, parents, and in need of housing supports, job training, and other young adult-oriented services and life skills while incarcerated and while preparing for reentry.
- ***86% of the youth in the juvenile hall population are "pending disposition".*** In other words, these youth are waiting for their case to be processed and heard before a judge. Some have already spent years at the juvenile hall with the average for the youth in this snapshot hovering above five months.

OVERALL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity

There were 280 youth in Probation's juvenile hall population on July 27, 2023. Their ethnic breakdown is as follows:

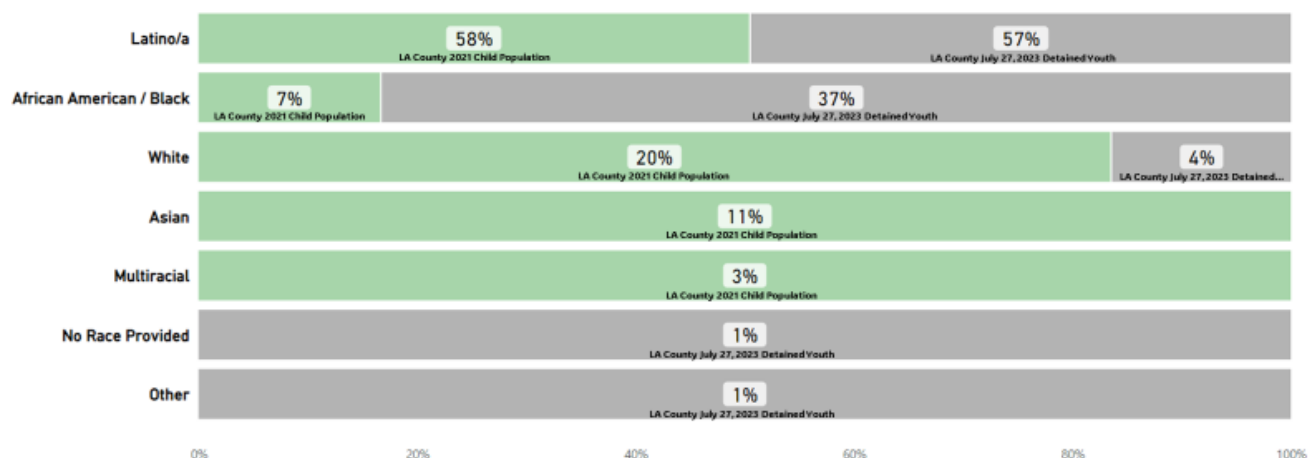
Ethnic Makeup of Youth Detained in Juvenile Hall on July 27, 2023



The high percentage of African American youth detained, and comparatively low percentage of White youth detained given their population size, clearly demonstrates a disparate impact on Black youth and families. To further highlight this point, the graph below compares the juvenile hall ethnic breakdown with data from KIDSDATA.org that shows the population of youth 18 and under in Los Angeles County.

LA County Youth Demographic Comparison [8]

Source(s) • LA County 2021 Child Population • LA County July 27, 2023 Detained Youth



*The following Ethnicity groups are not represented as they have no data (0%) to display:

LA County 2021 Child Population: American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, No Race Provided, Other
LA County July 2023, Detained Youth: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Multiracial, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander

*Detained Youth Age Range 13-22, LA County 2021 Child Population Age Range 0-17

[8] KIDSDATA.ORG Los Angeles County Summary <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/364/los-angeles-county/summary#6/demographics>

According to Los Angeles County Census data, people identified as African American make up 9% of the County's population.⁸ Furthermore, as reported by KIDSDATA.ORG, Black youth only comprise 7% of the County's youth population. Despite their relatively low population size, Black youth account for 37% of incarcerated youth in the county. In contrast, people identified as White account for 25% of the County's population per Census data, but White youth only make up 3% of the incarcerated population.⁹ Although 15% of the residents in L.A. County are Asian there were zero Asian youth detained on the date of this dataset.

Despite their relatively low population size, Black youth account for 37% of incarcerated youth in the county.

The Probation Department shared a second snapshot report with the POC containing information about the youth detained on August 24, 2023. Again, the dataset showed an overwhelmingly disproportionate impact on Black youth. Within that dataset, Black youth represented 43% of the youth detained.

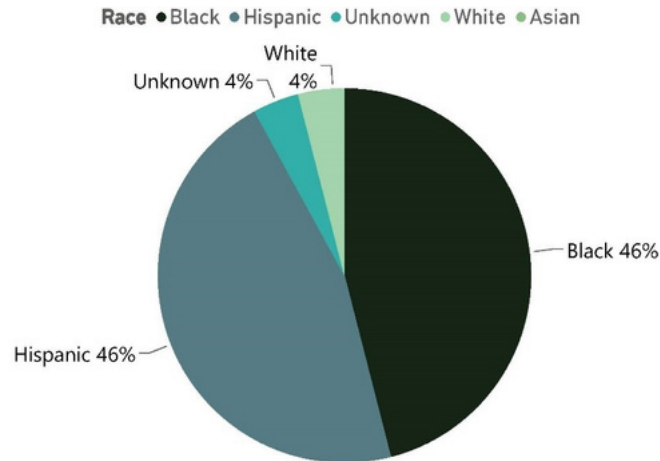
Scholars have longed warned about the criminalization of Black youth and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. As noted in UCLA's "Beyond the Schoolhouse" Policy Report, Black children are disproportionately impacted by several adverse childhood experiences, such as poverty, homelessness, trauma and the failure of public institutions to recognize them as a group in need of targeted support.¹⁰ The many disadvantages they face to reach their full potential are compounded by implicit bias and racialized views of delinquency that has shaped public perceptions about needing to control lower class and minority youth.¹¹ As explained in Justin Pickett and Ted Chiricos' study on the juvenile justice system entitled, *Controlling Other People's Children*, the disparate treatment of Black youth is tied to the ideal that the invented concepts of childhood and adolescence are not extended to Black children who historically, have been viewed as developmentally stagnant, unruly and underserving. Similarly, Latino youth also suffer from a myriad of disadvantages such as discrimination and structural inequality coupled with being stigmatized and labeled as "deviant."

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Gender

Of the 280 detained youth, 24 are identified as female¹². The ethnic breakdown among the girls is as follows:

Incarcerated Girls Percentage by Race Detained in Juvenile Hall on 27 July, 2023



Here again, the disparate impact of the system on Black girls is obvious. The disparities are even more apparent in the second snapshot report the POC received about the youth detained on August 24, 2023. On that day, 17 girls were detained, of which 71% were African American.

Research clearly illustrates the discrimination and objectification faced by Black girls. In a groundbreaking study, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality provided compelling data showing that adults view Black girls as “*less innocent and more adult-like*” than their white peers;” needing less comfort and support.¹³ As noted by the report authors, these profound results have far-reaching implications and may contribute to more punitive outcomes from those in positions of authority.

Similarly, the intersectionality of race, gender, class and culture informs pervasive and racist stereotypes about Latinas. As scholars Vera Lopez and Meda Chesney-Lind documented in their research, the idealized image of innocence associated with white girl and womanhood remains largely unattainable for young women of color, particularly Latinas, who are often characterized as *hypersexual, manipulative* and *bad*.¹⁴ These and other harmful scripts not only impact how young women of color view themselves but also serves to perpetuate their marginalization.¹⁵

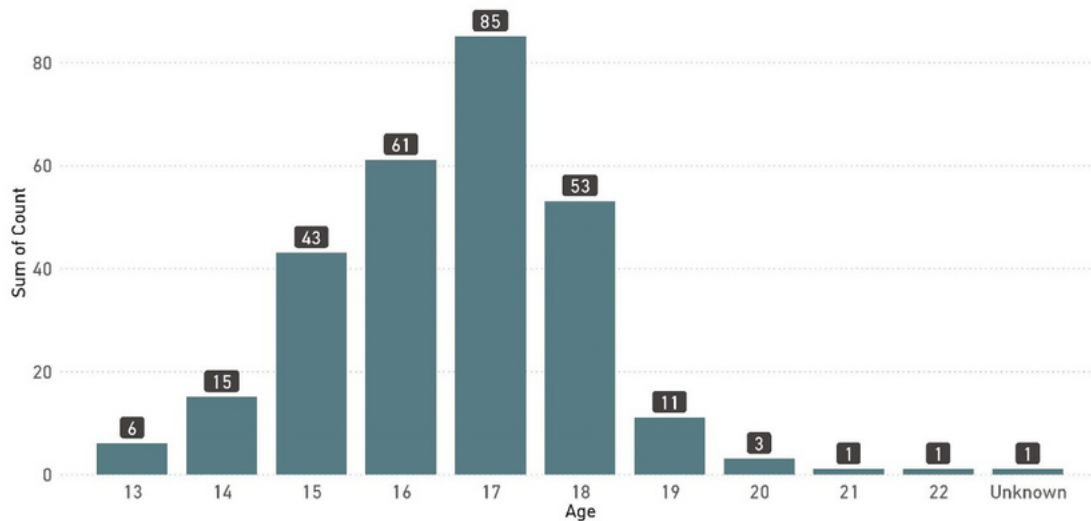
National research also suggests that the increase in incarceration amongst girls of color over the past few decades is not a result of their engaging in criminal activity at higher rates but rather, by decisions to arrest and detain girls in part on the perception of girls’ having violated conventional norms and stereotypes of

feminine behavior-- even when the behavior is caused by their own experiences with abuse and trauma.¹⁶ As a result of this abuse and trauma, many also have less stable homes to return to upon release.

Age

The average age of the detained youth in the dataset is 16 years, with the minimum being 13 and the maximum, or oldest youth being 22 years old.

Count by Age of Youth Detained in Juvenile Hall on 27 July, 2023



Notably, 25% of the youth detained are 18 years of age or older. This has significant implications on the type of programming that should be available to detained youth. Historically, the Probation population has mainly consisted of high-school aged youth. As the population ages and more young adults remain detained in the County, Probation must diversify the educational and prosocial services available to this population to ensure they have access to programs that help them develop life and vocational skills that will set them up for success when they transition back into their communities.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the leading provider of academic services for incarcerated youth. Their jurisdiction spans K-12th grade and they do not provide post-secondary education in the facilities. The POC has raised concerns about the Probation Department's ability to provide meaningful college options, vocational training, parenting, and life skills training to the many youth who now stay in L.A. County beyond high school graduation.

The age breakdown in the August dataset is similar to the July dataset, however it indicates one 12-year-old girl is in custody, making her the youngest person detained. According to a study by University of California, Los Angeles researchers, "when children are placed in juvenile detention centers, jails or prisons before their teenage years, they are much more likely to experience serious physical and

mental health issues as adults,” including high rates of suicidal thoughts.¹⁷ The POC is closely monitoring the number of very young children, in particular 12-, 13-, and 14-year-olds, through daily population statistics provided by the Department.

PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH

Within the July dataset, 240 out of 280 (86%) of the youth in the juvenile hall population are pending adjudication. These youth are waiting for their case to be decided by a judge and for the final outcome of their case including whether they will go home or to community placement, go to camp or other locked placement, or go to SYTF or the adult system. The remaining youth are a combination of adjudicated youth awaiting placement in camps, Short Term Residential Placement (STRTP) facilities, or youth in the juvenile hall for a short time to attend court or a medical appointment.

LENGTH OF STAY

To estimate the length of stay for these youth, we counted the time between their intake date and July 27, 2023. Based on this, we calculated that the median length of stay for pre-adjudicated youth is **87 days**, with the average being **5 months**. It is worth noting that 16% of the youth with cases pending disposition had been detained for 12 months or longer, with the longest being detained for 47 months. The lack of regular data from the Probation department regarding youth’s entry and exit dates makes exact determination of average and median detention lengths difficult to approximate for pre-adjudicated youth are detained in the County.

Based on research conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the national average length of stay for youth in detention centers is 27 days.¹⁸ If our estimate is correct, the average length of stay LA County youth in this dataset experience is five times the national average.

Long lengths of stay are concerning because research shows the following:

- A stay in pretrial juvenile detention increases a young person’s likelihood of felony recidivism by 33% and misdemeanor recidivism by 11% within one year (Walker and Herting 2020).¹⁹
- Juvenile detention leads to a 31% decline in the likelihood of graduating high school. [Detained] students are also 15% more likely to be retained in grade in the year following detention and 32% more likely to receive special education services (Baron, E. Jason et. al.)²⁰

- The difficulties youth face when incarcerated can trigger and exacerbate existing mental health problems.²¹
- Congregating delinquent youth together has unintended consequences that negatively affects their behavior and increases their chance of re-offending (Holman, Ziedenberg 2013)²².
- Incarcerated youth fall victim to labeling theory and are more likely to develop a negative self-image which deteriorates the youth's sense of identity and life motivation. (Barsoum 2023)²³
- Incarcerating youth does not increase public safety, instead, it costs state taxpayers billions of dollars each year while doing little to rehabilitate them. (Sanders 2021)²⁴

The research cautions that youth who are detained for prolonged periods before their case is adjudicated will likely suffer from detrimental impacts on their education, community connections, and self-identity, making rehabilitation much more difficult to achieve.

For many years, the Probation Department has struggled to consistently provide youth with healing environments that prioritize youth development. From 2019 to date, the County's Office of Inspector General has published many reports describing the unsafe environments at the halls and the departments' inability to provide youth with access to programming.²⁵ Furthermore, the POC has attempted for years to receive monthly program calendars for each Probation facility. The calendars received are often vague and in particular at Los Padrinós, often contain programs that may or may not occur depending on the staffing levels, tone of the units, and availability of providers on a given day. Given this, understanding the amount of time in which pre-adjudicated youth are detained in this environment is critical. Providing youth with healing environments that support youth development are guiding principles of Youth Justice Reimagined.

Rehabilitative services and programs are supposed to be the cornerstone of detention. According to the National Institute of Corrections, Probation departments should take a multidisciplinary approach which includes clinicians, caseworkers, direct care supervisors, teachers, medical personnel and probation officers to develop effective, culturally appropriate and trauma-informed treatment plans for each youth.²⁶ They also state that "detention facilities should provide youth with a range of planned, basic residential care services, assessment services, education, counseling, crisis intervention, medical care, and other services as necessary to address the individual needs and promote the overall goals of the justice system."²⁷

During the POC's site visits and facility inspections, youth regularly complain about the lack of programming and lament about having nothing to do. The scarcity of programming and the intense feelings of boredom it breeds are counterproductive

to the rehabilitative goals of the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Board of Supervisors' Youth Justice Reimagined framework. As noted by social science researcher Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson, long periods of unscheduled time in youth detention centers create pervasive feelings of frustration and this feeling is made even more overwhelming because youth have no idea what to expect of their future (i.e. when is their court or release date) and search for ways to cope given their lack of control over their daily routines²⁸. Furthermore, the broad age range of detained youth raises concern about the Probation Department's ability to meet the developmental needs of each age group.

This problem is particularly acute for youth over the age of 18 who are high school graduates whose academic and vocational needs are out of scope for the County's Office of Education. If the POC's estimate holds true, LA County pre-adjudicated youth are detained for significant periods of time with little to do, which is counterproductive to increasing public safety and helping youth heal. We urge Probation's leadership to prioritize programming and ensure that all detained youth have a robust schedule of daily programs and services aimed at supporting their growth and rehabilitation.

IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

As noted by many advocates and scholars, living in disinvested communities significantly increases the likelihood that a young person, particularly a Black or Latino/a youth, will encounter the juvenile justice system. The Prison Policy Initiative states that "poverty is not only a predictor of involvement with the justice system: too often, it is also the outcome."²⁹

The POC's review of the zip code information contained in the July 27, 2023, dataset indicates that most detained youth lived in low-income communities with histories of disinvestment and poverty. The chart below illustrates the top 5 regions of Los Angeles County where incarcerated youth lived before they were incarcerated:

	Los Angeles Times Mapping LA Region ³⁰	Count	Percentage of Arrests	Supervisory District
1	South Los Angeles	56	26%	2nd
2	Southeast	29	14%	1st, 2nd & 4th
3	Antelope Valley	24	11%	5th
4	Harbor	22	10%	2nd & 4th
5	Central Los Angeles	20	9%	1st, 2nd & 5th

Not surprisingly, communities with the highest concentrations of Black and Latino/a residents are most impacted. The data below, obtained from the University of Southern California's Neighborhood Data for Social Change platform, provides insightful information about the demographics of these areas.³¹

USC Neighborhood Data for Social Change							
Los Angeles County Overview							
Total population (2021) 10,019,635 Black population (2019) 7.65% Latinx population (2019) 48.69%					Unemployment rate (2021) 7.03% % very low-income households (2019): 15.35% Less than high school edu. (2019): 20.87%		
Region-Specific							
No.	Region	Unemployment Rate	% V Low Income	Total population	Black population	Latina/o population	Less Than HS edu.
1	South LA	9.51%	20.57%	7,794	24.62%	68.54%	40.53%
2	Southeast LA	6.75%	19.59%	1,205,100	5.95%	75.88%	30.78%
3	Antelope Valley	7.50%	18.21%	397,940	14.54%	52.39%	20.80%
4	Harbor	6.09%	15.81%	894,886	11.86%	46.19%	20.28%
5	Central LA	7.78%	15.85%	563,706	7.29%	39.73%	20.35%

Not only do these regions have significant African American and Latina/o populations, they also have:

- Above average unemployment;
- Concentrations of poverty above the countywide average and;
- Less educational attainment than the county average.

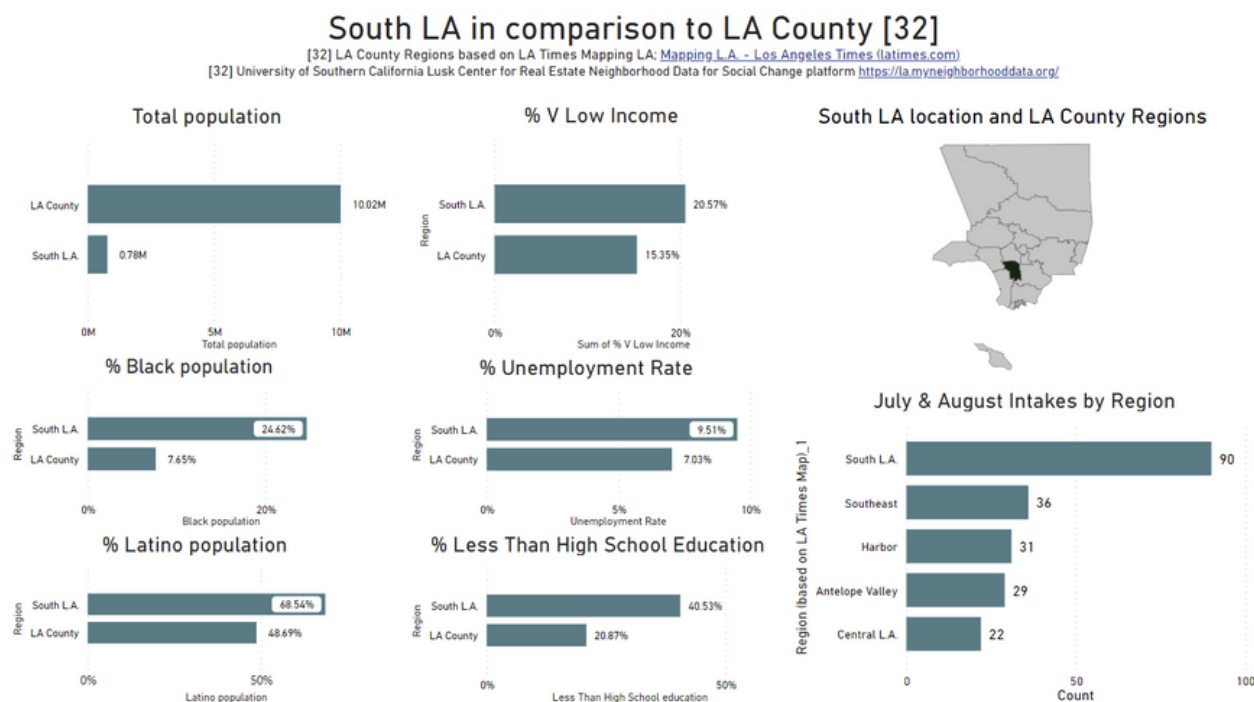
In comparing the July data with the August data, the two most common areas, South Los Angeles, and Southeast Los Angeles County, remained the same, the third community changed from the Antelope Valley to the Harbor.

Eventually, incarcerated youth will be released and most likely, return to these communities. Reentry, the process of transitioning back into one's community, is difficult for anyone but particularly challenging for LA County youth who have a myriad of complex needs. In a 2019 report to the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Johnathan Sherin, then director of the County's Department of Mental Health described the County's detained youth as: likely to suffer from trauma-related disorders, substance use disorders, suicidal thinking and engage in self-injurious behavior.³² Additionally, juvenile detainees are more likely to have experienced commercial sexual exploitation, homelessness and a variety of other severe stressors that can cause new or exacerbate underlying mental health issues.³³ Furthermore, Dr. Sherin notes that "increased use of force and residual elements of a punitive culture may be compounding the mental health conditions of youth."

It is within this context that youth must navigate reentry and in addition to

managing trauma and disorders, come home to communities that are saddled histories of discrimination and poverty. While these issues exist in all of the above referenced communities, they are most compounded in South Los Angeles. As noted by University of Southern California a of Public Policy Professors, longstanding barriers such as discriminatory policing, a worsening housing affordability crisis and economic inequality have plagued the region for decades and suppressed its prosperity.³⁴ These issues were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which had a disproportionate impact on the area; South Los Angeles had an above average death rate and significant impacts to its already precarious economic wellbeing.³⁵ Despite this, South Los Angeles has a long history of activism and is rich in cultural wealth, as are the other above-referenced communities. The Probation Department should increase its engagement and partnership with community-based organizations in these areas to leverage their wisdom and work collaboratively to better support youth.

The following graphs offer comparisons of South LA data to County benchmarks:



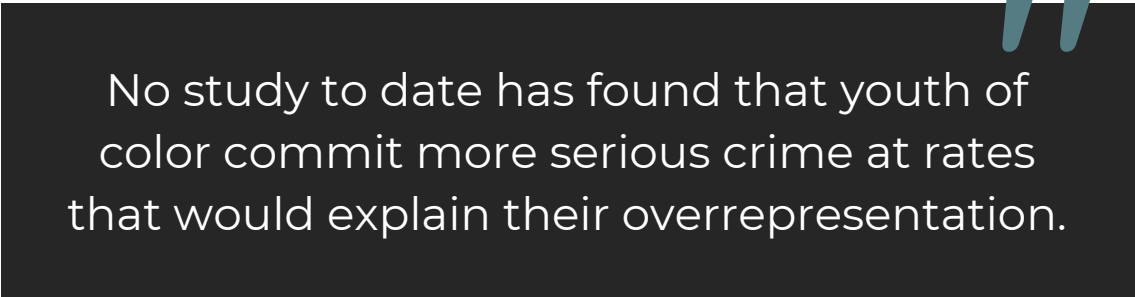
Assessing which communities are not represented in the dataset is also insightful. According to the Los Angeles Time's Mapping LA website, the following 10 communities have the highest population of White residents in L.A. County (over 80%).³⁶ Notably, no youth from any of these zip codes are included in the July 27th dataset.

1. Malibu
2. Hidden Hills
3. Pacific Palisades
4. Topanga
5. Beverly Crest
6. Westlake Village

7. Manhattan Beach
8. Hollywood Hills
9. Hermosa Beach
10. Fairfax

The underrepresentation of White youth in the dataset is just as startling as the overrepresentation of Black youth. This finding supports what researchers have long cautioned: White youth are commonly diverted out of the juvenile justice system and able to avoid it completely, while Black and Latino youth consistently face more severe outcomes, comprising the majority of youth detained.³⁷

Poverty is one factor that contributes to this outcome. As Tamar R. Birckhead writes in *Delinquent by Reason of Poverty*, “the juvenile courts have traditionally been considered the courts of the poor and impoverished.... although few juvenile courts formally keep track of the income-level of a youth’s family, jurisdictions that do so have confirmed that nearly sixty-five percent were either on public assistance or had annual incomes of less than twenty thousand dollars.”³⁸ Furthermore, Birckhead explains that court officials acknowledge that they at times “affirmatively take steps to direct low-income families into the juvenile justice system, because they believe that the court will ‘help the youth facilitate the services, accountability, and discipline’ needed to become a productive adult.” Empirical data repeatedly demonstrates that children of color are twice as likely to be imprisoned than their white counterparts.³⁹



No study to date has found that youth of color commit more serious crime at rates that would explain their overrepresentation.

We must also acknowledge systemic racism as a key, contributing factor to the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. In their research chronicling the racial disparities, Dr. Susan McCarter and Tierra Durrant from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte note the following⁴⁰:

- Despite widely held public perceptions to the contrary, research shows that youth of color do not account for a substantially disproportionate amount of serious crime
- Youth of color have a much greater chance of being arrested than White youth, and once arrested, a greater risk of being charged with more serious offenses than white youth involved in comparable levels of delinquency
- No study to date has found that youth of color commit more serious crime at rates that would explain their overrepresentation

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The racial and economic disparities evident in the demographic review of Probation's July 27, 2023 dataset are deeply concerning, and represent a truth that must be faced and reconciled. The existence of these disparities is certainly not entirely caused by Probation or always a consequence of decisions within Probation's control. Racial bias in school discipline, policing, and the court system all contribute to the disparate outcomes that particularly impact Black youth. **However, Probation can support solving this problem. The first step is transparency and accountability.**

Our recommendations are as follows:

- 1 Require Probation to provide regular, detailed datasets about the youth in its custody to the POC pursuant to the signed MOU.** The County cannot make data-informed decisions without access to robust data. A one-time data share of a one-day snapshot is not sufficient. The Probation Oversight Commission entered into a data sharing Memorandum of Understanding with the Probation Department in 2022 and to date, has not received the data deliverables in the agreement on an ongoing or consistent basis, severely limiting our ability to effectively provide oversight. Data fosters transparency. It helps policymakers, advocates and other stakeholders identify issues, craft solutions and make informed decisions. Without access to regular, high-quality data about youth supervised by Probation, we cannot assess the quality of care they receive, understand what disparities may exist, improve coordination of juvenile justice serving departments, or monitor progress towards reform. Simply put, the lack of data transparency in the Probation Department should no longer be tolerated.
- 2 Take concrete action to undo racial disparities and reduce the reliance on incarceration.** Probation should partner with the District Attorney, law enforcement agencies, defense attorneys, the Department of Youth Development, and other stakeholders to support diversion and alternatives to incarceration, in particular for youth awaiting adjudication of their cases who can safely remain at home or in placement.
- 3 Provide consistent, quality, age-appropriate programming for the youth in custody, in particular young adults.** This report indicates that a major shift in the age of the population of incarcerated youth demands more substantive and appropriate programming for youth over the age of 18 who have graduated from high school. Access to regular and meaningful programming not only supports rehabilitation but also helps to maintain a healthy environment for the youth and staff alike.

- 4** The Board of Supervisors and the County as a whole should continue investing in community-based prevention measures; a concept the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department refers to as **Intercept 00 – Healthy Community Infrastructure**. The findings in this report align with a growing body of research that illustrates the strong correlation between poverty and justice system involvement.⁴¹ We encourage the Board to continue investing in historically underserved neighborhoods by funding initiatives designed to address underlying problems that increase the likelihood of justice system involvement such as: unemployment, lack of affordable housing, homelessness, poor school performance, stagnant educational attainment, lack of structured afterschool programs, substance abuse, mental health challenges and the school to prison pipeline. Robust community-level prevention programs are essential to cultivating safe, healthy communities where the needs of its most vulnerable residents are addressed in a trauma-informed and supportive environment.



CONTACT

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Suite 383
Los Angeles, California 90012

info@poc.LACounty.gov

poc.lacounty.gov/

[@lacountypoc](#)

(213) 633-5777

END NOTES

[1] The dataset did not contain information on the youth detained at camps under the Residential Treatment Services Bureau Division

[2] On May 23, 2023 the Board of State and Community Corrections found Central and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls unsuitable for the confinement of youth and ordered the Probation Department to close the facilities within 60 days. [BSCC Finds LA Juvenile Halls Unsuitable – BSCC \(ca.gov\)](#).

[3] Throughout the report, we use the terms Black and African American interchangeably to be inclusive of all youth of African heritage

[4] For purposes of this report we are describing the juvenile hall population as youth previously housed at Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Halls excluding the SYTF post-adjudicated population.

[5] According to the L.A. County Probation Department's IDC Manual, dated June 30, 2011, the LADS is a 1-page assessment tool intended to screen juvenile offenders for recommendations for immediate detention or detention alternatives. [Los Angeles County Probation Department Intake Detention and Control Manual](#)

[6] Abrams, Laura et. al. *The Criminalization of Young Children and Overrepresentation of Black Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*. [Race and Social Problems: An Official Journal of the Center for Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh](#). February 2021 [The Criminalization of Young Children and Overrepresentation of Black Youth in the Juvenile Justice System | SpringerLink](#)

[7] KIDSDATA.ORG Los Angeles County Summary <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/364/losangelescounty/summary#6/demographics>

[8] United States Census Bureau Quick Facts – Los Angeles, County, California [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Los Angeles County, California](#)

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