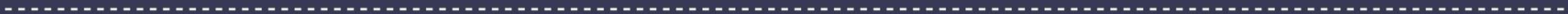


Disproportionality

in the criminal justice system



Presentation created for the
Regional Law, Safety & Justice
Committee
May 28, 2015



Public Defense Viewpoint

The direct and indirect consequences of criminal justice involvement have compounding negative effects on a person's life.

These effects are magnified for people of color as they bear the brunt of the systematic unfair practices that result in their over-representation in the child welfare, juvenile justice and criminal justice systems and the consequent reduction in life opportunities.



Disproportionality is both a cause and effect of involvement in the justice system.



Disproportionality in the justice system continues to increase despite efforts to eliminate it.



Disproportionality can be countered by implementing high-leverage strategies that address the policies, practices, and procedures used by the various criminal justice stakeholders.



What is Disproportionality?

Disproportionality is the over-representation of a particular racial or ethnic group in a sub-population.

It is the aggregate result of the individual behaviors produced when they enact and interact with the policies, practices, and procedures used within and across a system.

System of Fairness

All people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential



Access to Opportunities

is largely determined by



Where we live



Our race and ethnicity



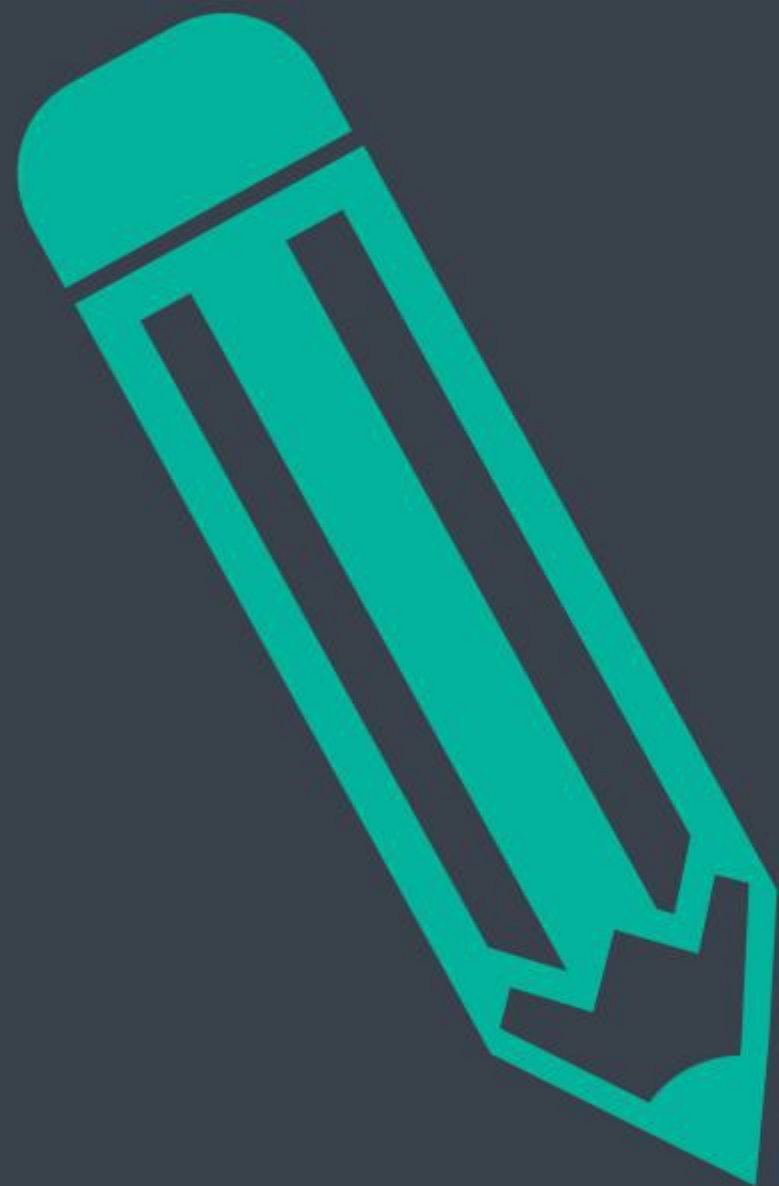
How much money we make



Our individual choices



Low Opportunity Areas



Fewer jobs



Fewer educational opportunities



Fewer transportation options



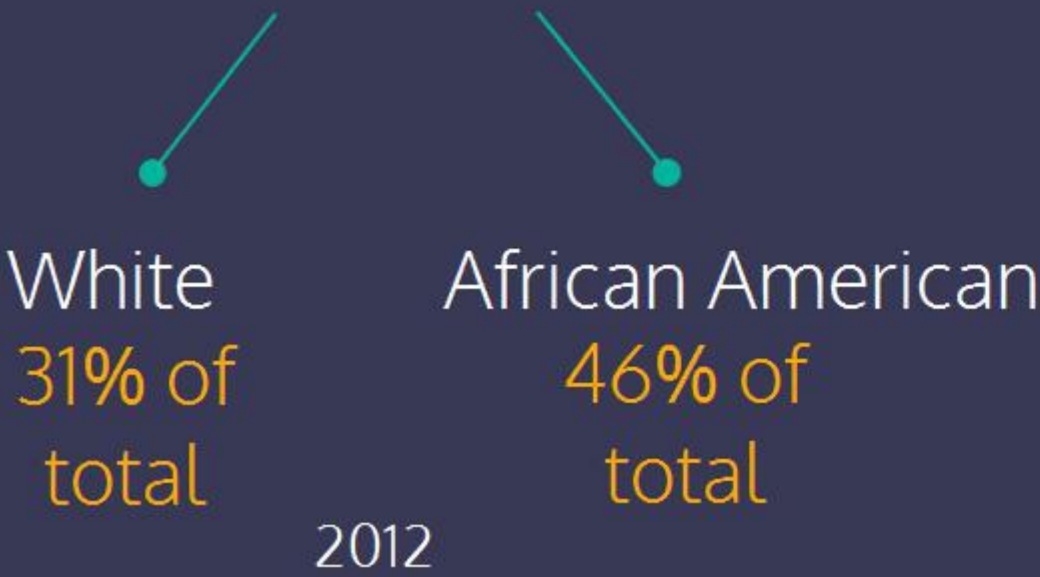
More police stops and arrests

Unequal Access to Opportunities

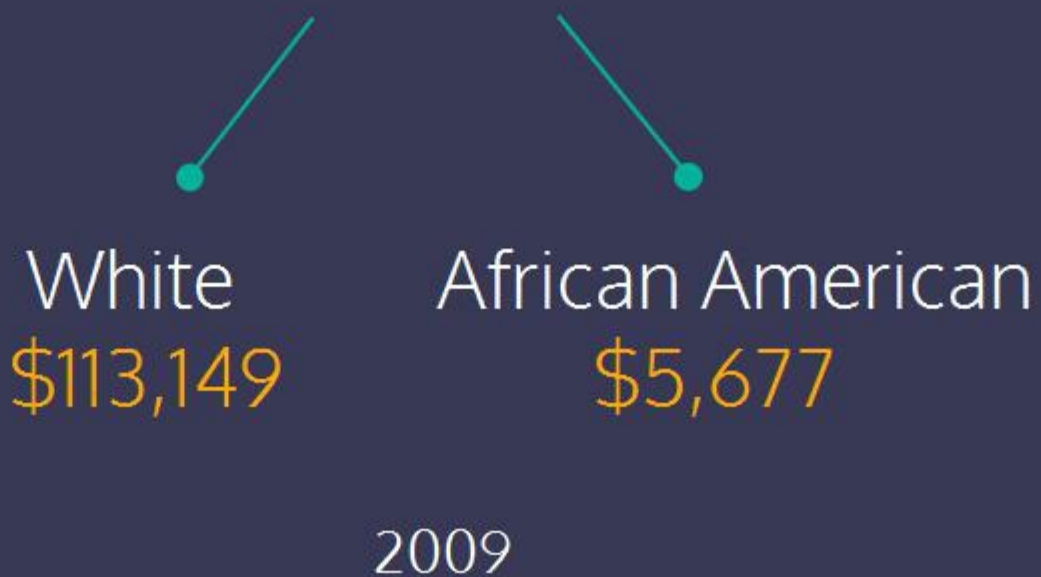
King County



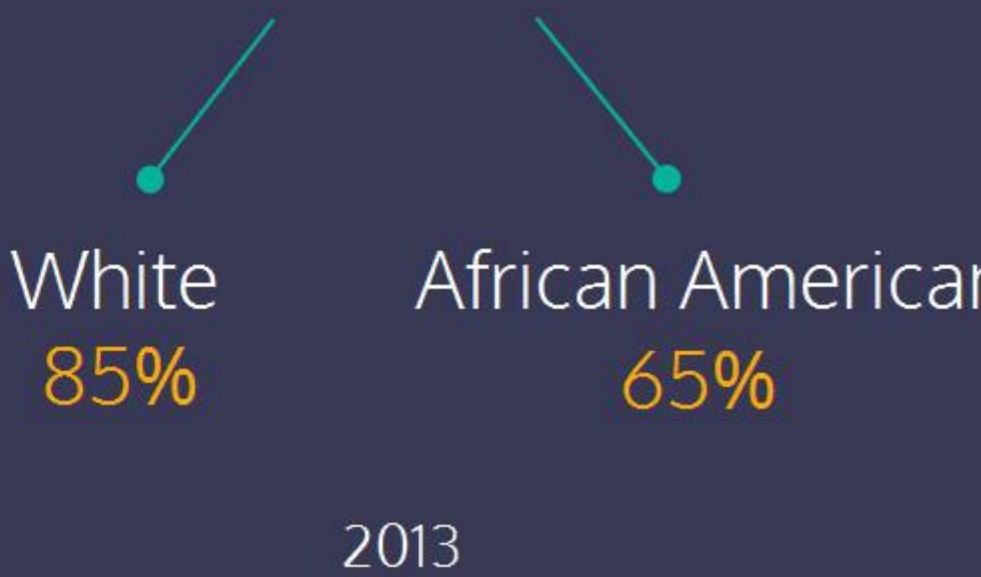
Homelessness



Wealth



Graduation Rate



Leave Lasting Results

For African Americans in King County 2014



Child Dependency Filings

King County Population

7%

Out of Home Care

33.9%



Juvenile Referrals

King County Population

7%

Juvenile Detention

47%



Jail Bookings (adults)

King County Population

7%

King County Jail

30%

Implications

"Youth involved in the juvenile justice system are seven times more likely to show a history of unemployment and welfare dependence as adults than youth with no involvement."

(Sampson/Laub)

Justice system involvement makes problems worse

Many of our clients face economic and social barriers that are made worse with any involvement in the criminal justice system. For instance many clients:

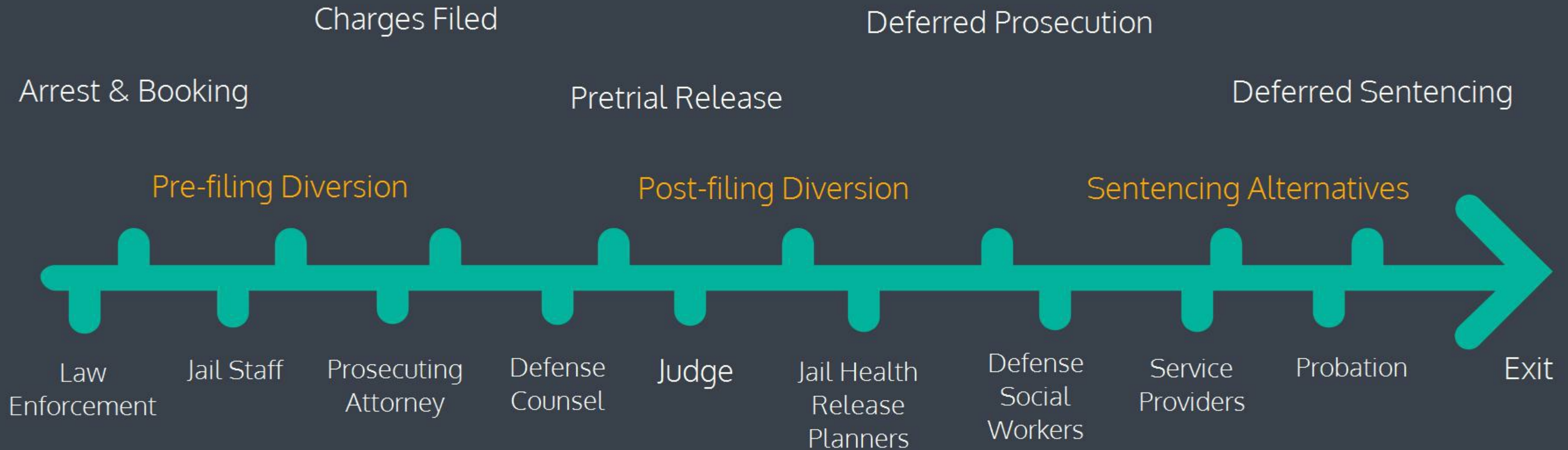
- ◆ Have not completed high school
 - ◆ Have chronic (and often untreated) physical and behavioral health conditions
 - ◆ Have lost their job due to spending two or more nights in jail
 - ◆ Have been sent to collections for unpaid court debts
 - ◆ Have been turned down for housing due to a background check
 - ◆ Have been homeless in the past 12 months
-

"There are high leverage strategies that can help teams and individuals deal with each challenge separately...but the greatest leverage comes from understanding them as an ensemble of forces."



Peter Senge, The Dance of Change

Leverage Points



High-Leverage Strategies

Client-Centered Practice

Core skills development
Community Engagement

Advocacy

System Reform
Budget & Resources

Seamless Service Coordination

Holistic services
Reentry from the start

Training

Continuous learning
and improvement



Client-Centered Practice



Clients who are provided with client-centered representation are better able to:

- ◆ Understand the legal and non-legal consequences of the charges brought against them
- ◆ Make informed decisions about the legal strategy used on their case
- ◆ Access and utilize relevant community services

Client-centered practice can be even more beneficial if it targets a specific leverage point and is done in conjunction with other system stakeholders.



THANK YOU



www.kingcounty.gov/courts/opd



ericka.turley@kingcounty.gov



206-263-2168
