



Assessing Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice

Santa Barbara County Probation Department
June 15, 2021



one
COUNTY
one
FUTURE



Using Data to Inform Practice

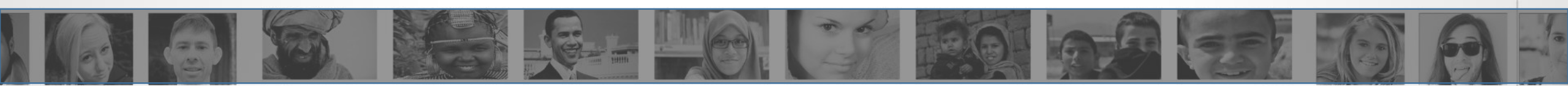


W. Haywood
Burns Institute
*Reducing Racial
and Ethnic
Disparity*
(RED)

Public Safety
Realignment
Plan

Reimagining
Juvenile Justice
(RJJ) Initiative

Relative Rate
Index
(RRI)



What is the RRI?

- Method used by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to measure disproportionality.
- A way to compare the experiences of different groups within the justice system. To calculate the index value, a rate is calculated for each racial/ethnic group at a particular point in the system. The rates for each group are then compared to the rate for individuals who identify as White. The comparison of the two rates provides the RRI value.
- Whenever groups are treated equally-both will have an RRI equal to 1. This is true even when one group is larger than the other. Values greater than 1 indicate greater representation than Whites, and values less than 1 indicate representation less than Whites.
- The population used as the denominator reflects the number of individuals who are actually at risk of experiencing an event.
- Offense severity, socioeconomic status, prior offense history are not considered in the analysis.

Demographic Profile

Youth in Santa Barbara County (age 10-17)

Black=613 (1%)
Hispanic=29,065 (62%)
White=14,111 (30%)
All Other=3,351 (7%)



Youth of Color
63% of the total
youth population

RRI Example: First Decision Point

The RRI compares the rate of a particular race or ethnic group to the rate of Whites at a particular decision point.

1

First, the rate for youth of color is calculated. Divide the number of youth of color at the decision point of interest—in this example, at referral—by the number of youth of color in the County of Santa Barbara. The same is done for White youth.

Rate for Youth of Color	$\frac{\text{Referrals (907)}}{\text{Juvenile Population (29,678)}} = 0.031$
Rate for White Youth	$\frac{\text{Referrals (168)}}{\text{Juvenile Population (14,111)}} = 0.012$

2

Second, the rate for the youth of color is divided by the rate for the White youth. If the value is over 1, then it indicates that the group is overrepresented compared to White youth. If the value is below 1, then it indicates that the group is underrepresented compared to White youth.

$$\frac{\text{Rate for Youth of Color (0.031)}}{\text{Rate for White Youth (0.012)}} = 2.6 \text{ RRI}$$

RRI Youth of Color FY 2019/2020

Decision Point	Decision Maker	White Youth Population (age 10-17) 14,111	Youth of Color Population (age 10-17) 29,678	RRI	What Would Equity Look Like
Referrals	Law Enforcement	168	907	2.6 times MORE likely to be referred	353 youths
Juvenile Hall Bookings	Law Enforcement & Probation	20	254	2.4 times MORE likely to be booked into SMJH	108 youths
In-Custody Holds for Detention Hearings	District Attorney & Court & Probation	7	92	EQUALLY likely to be held at SMJH for a detention hearing	89 youths
Cases Petitioned (Charges Filed)	District Attorney	32	290	1.7 times MORE likely to have a petition filed	173 youths
Petitions Sustained	District Attorney & Court	18	227	1.4 times MORE likely to have a petition sustained	163 youths
Secure Detention	Court	4	77	1.5 times MORE likely to be committed to detention	50 youths

RRI Youth of Color FY 2019/2020

White Youth Population (age 10-17) Youth of Color Population (age 10-17) What Would Equity Look

Rates are calculated using the population at the preceding decision-point. For example, rates for bookings are calculated based on the number of referrals.

$$\frac{\text{Bookings (254)}}{\text{Juvenile Hall Referrals (907)}} = 0.280$$

Rate for Youth of Color

$$\frac{\text{Bookings (20)}}{\text{Juvenile Hall Referrals (168)}} = 0.119$$

Rate for White Youth



$$\frac{0.280}{0.119} = 2.4 \text{ RRI}$$

Rate for Youth of Color
Rate for White Youth

Secure Detention

Court

4

77

1.5 times **MORE** likely to be committed to detention

50 youths

RRI Youth of Color FY 2019/2020

Decision Point	Decision Maker	White Youth	Youth of Color	RRI	What Would Equity Look Like
		Population (age 10-17) 14,111	Population (age 10-17) 29,678		
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Demographic Profile

Adults in Santa Barbara County (age 18+)

Black=6,706 (2%)
Hispanic=149,118 (42%)
White=172,394 (48%)
All other=27,871 (8%)



**Black & Hispanic
Adults**
**44% of the total
adult population**

RRI Black & Hispanic Adults

White Adult Population
172,394

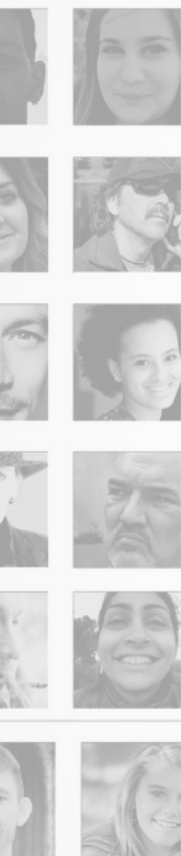
Black Adult Population
6,706

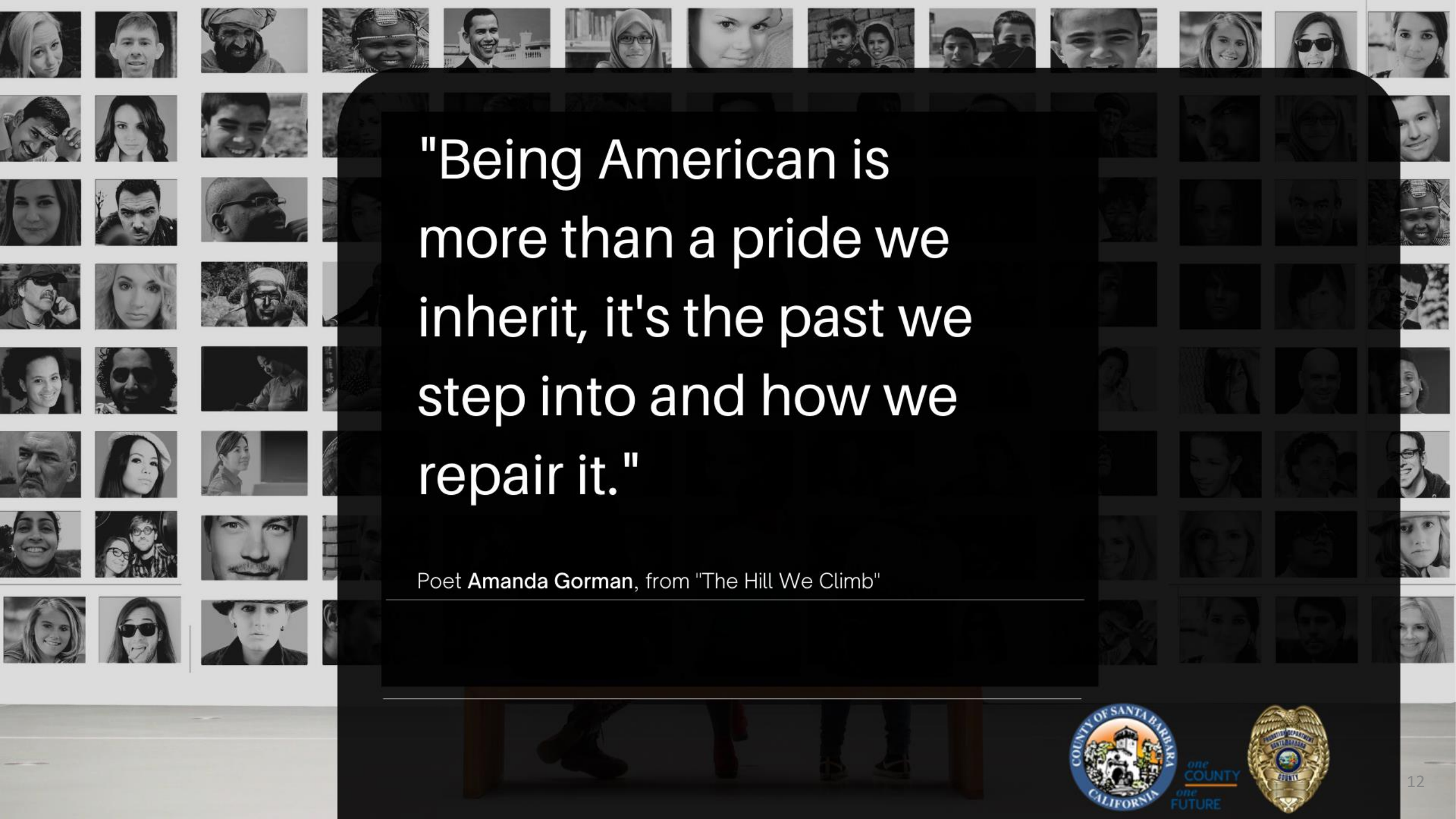
Hispanic Adult Population
149,118

Decision Point	Race/ Ethnicity	Actual Numbers (Jan-Mar 2020)	RRI	What would equity look like?
Bookings White adults = 1,186	Black	161	3.5 times MORE likely to be booked	46
	Hispanic	1,456	1.4 times MORE likely to be booked	1,026
Pretrial Supervision White adults = 153	Black	15	0.7 times LESS likely to be placed on pretrial supervision	21
	Hispanic	116	0.6 times LESS likely to be placed on pretrial supervision	188
County Jail White adults = 520	Black	70	EQUALLY likely to receive county jail disposition	71
	Hispanic	778	1.2 times MORE likely to be receive county jail disposition	638
State Prison White adults = 16	Black	4	1.8 times MORE likely to receive a state prison disposition	2
	Hispanic	40	2 times MORE likely to receive a state prison disposition	20

Next Steps

- Collecting input from victims and justice-involved individuals on the challenges faced and treatment within the criminal justice system
- Embedding language into service contracts prioritizing bilingual and bicultural staff
- Investing in additional interventions that promote positive youth development and respond to delinquency in age-appropriate and evidence-based ways
- Reducing economic impacts within the criminal justice system that can disproportionately impact low income communities
- Expanding the use of pretrial supervision
- Expanding diversion alternatives, and limiting system involvement and incarceration of our lowest risk individuals
- Reducing incarceration for probation violations and providing alternatives to incarceration
- Expanding resources to community-based prevention and treatment for substance abuse
- Launch a Shared Safety initiative to shift the focus from historical punitive responses to crime to restoring the well-being of our community





"Being American is
more than a pride we
inherit, it's the past we
step into and how we
repair it."

Poet Amanda Gorman, from "The Hill We Climb"



one
COUNTY
one
FUTURE

