



**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# **Public Health Meets Public Safety:** Connecting data, policy, and people

Council on Criminal Justice & Behavioral Health  
Project Launch

August 27, 2020

# The Council of State Governments Justice Center

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We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

# The Team

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## CSG Justice Center

- **Hallie Fader-Towe**,  
Program Director (*San Diego*)
- **Sheila Tillman**, *Senior Policy Advisor (CT)*
- CSG JC national research & policy teams

## Consultants

- **Mia Bird**,  
*Research Specialist*
- **Kevin O'Connell**,  
*Research Specialist*
- **Elizabeth Siggins**,  
*Policy Advisor*





# Getting data to the Council's questions

## How many people with mental illnesses are in California's jails?

### Section C: Inmates Requiring Mental Health Attention

In this section:

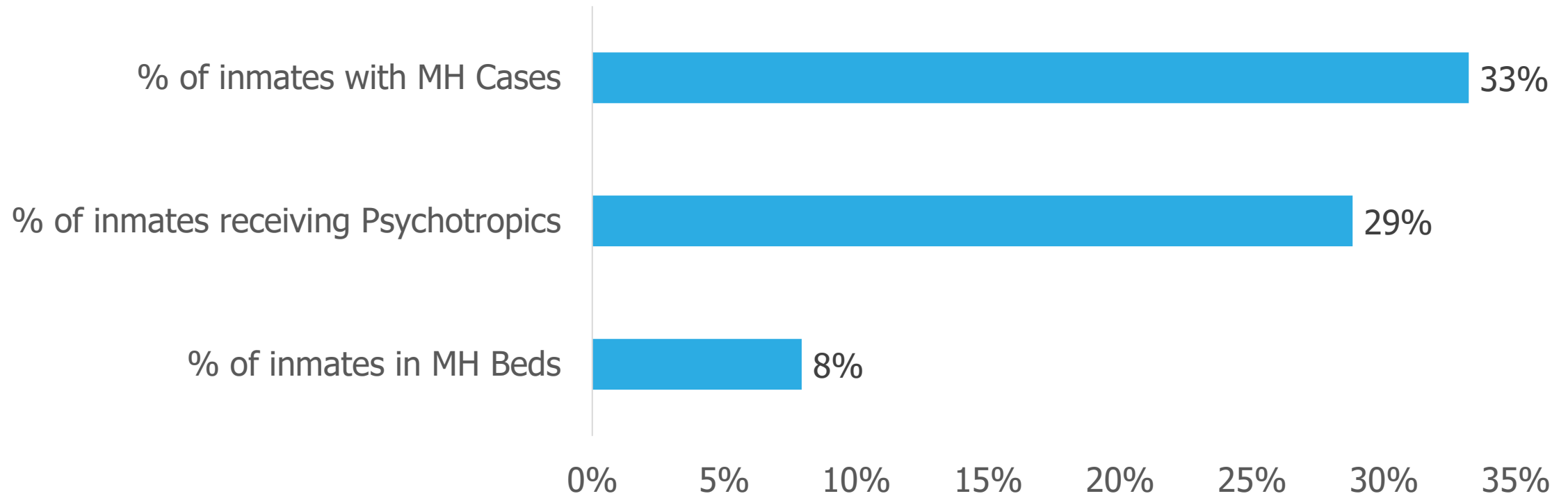
- Indicate the actual number (either cumulative or snapshot) of inmates in the requested categories rather than the average daily population.
- All data reported should be a whole number.

Section C: Inmates Requiring Mental Health Attention		
C1)	Number of mental health cases open on the last day of the month	
C2)	Number of new mental health cases that were opened during this month	
C3)	Number of inmates, on the last day of the month, receiving psychotropic medication for a mental health disorder	
C4)	Average number of inmates needing, and <u>actually assigned</u> to, mental health beds on the last day of the month	

# Understanding what different questions mean

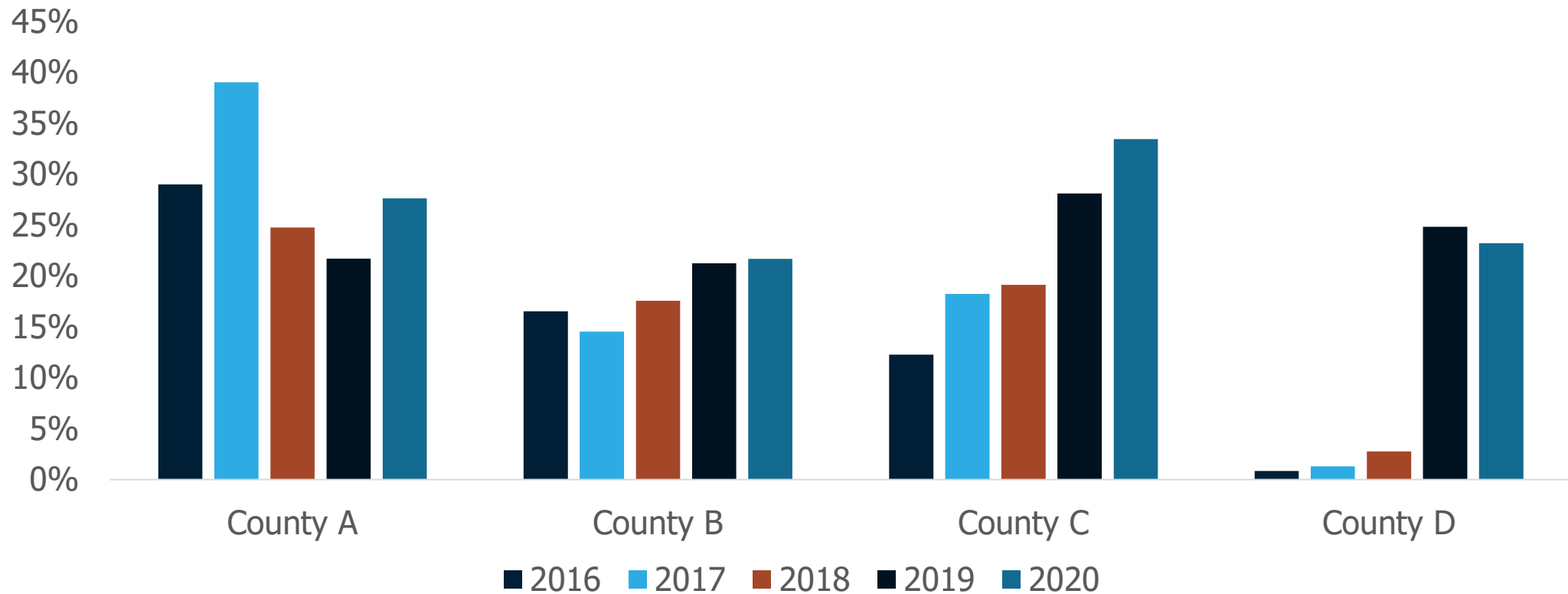
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Mental Health Clients in Jails, January 2020



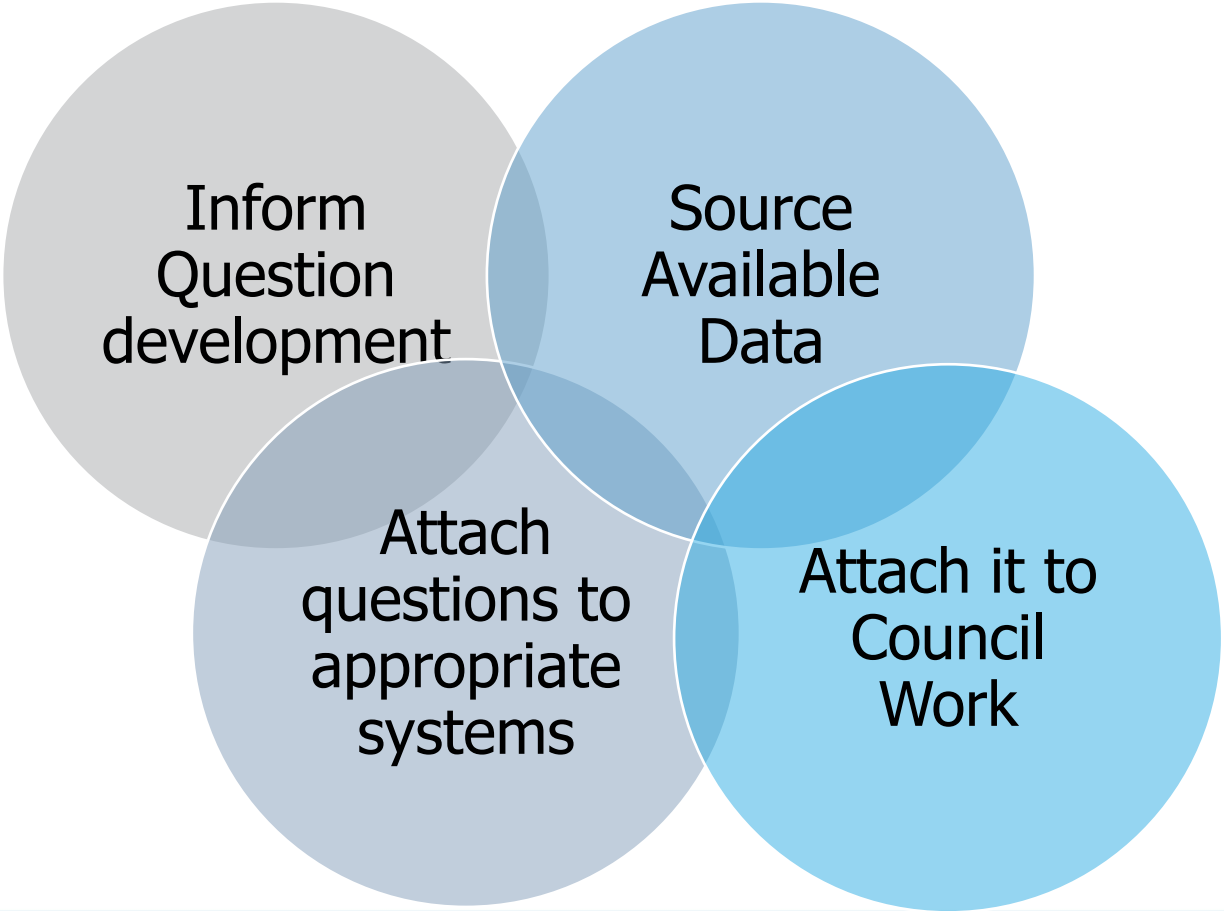
# And how local practice impacts state-wide data

Percent of Jail Inmates Receiving Psychotropic Medication, 2016-2020



# A process to bring data to the Council's work

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# Laying a foundation for cross-system questions

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## Public Data/ Aggregated

- Information freely and immediately available

- BSCC Jail and Juvenile Facilities Data
- California Health Interview Survey
- DHCS Open Data
- US Census
- State Controller/Fiscal
- Department of Justice/Crime and Arrest

## State Data

- available through partnership with other agencies

- Department of Justice/Adult
- Department of Justice/Juvenile
- Department of State Hospitals
- CDCR/ Adults and Juveniles
- Department of Health Care Service/MH and SUD services
- Department of Social Services/Probation Foster Care

## County level data

- Incorporate county data where not available otherwise

- Court Process/Judiciary
- Jails and Juvenile Facilities
- Probation Supervision and Risk Assessment
- Behavioral Health Programs



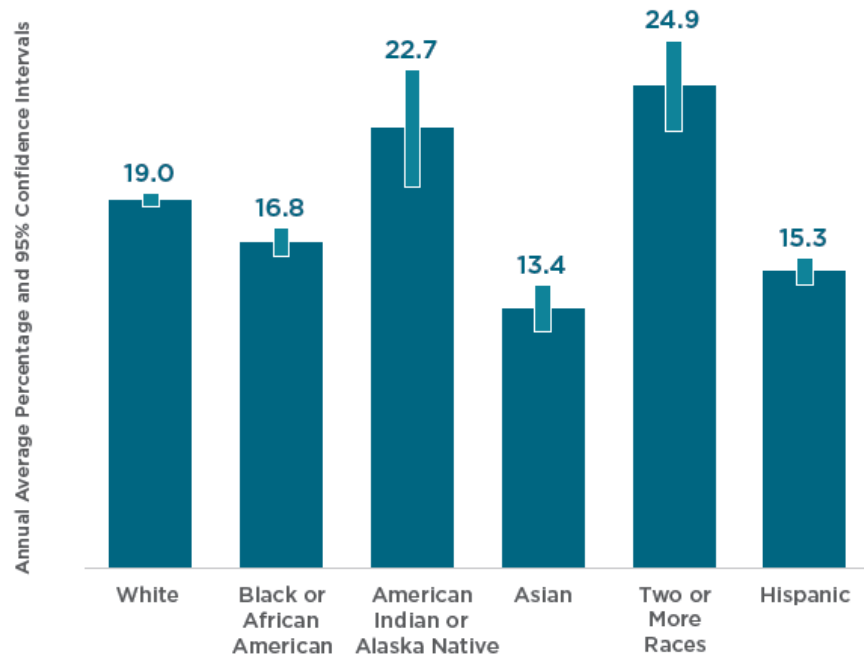
# Informing key policy questions will require a long-term strategy to link data

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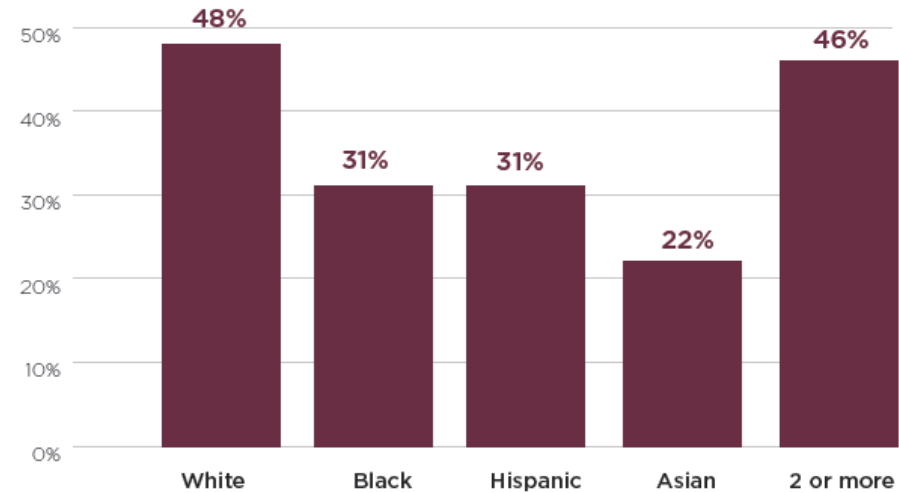
- How many people with behavioral health issues are justice involved?
  - Are there racial disparities in the risk of justice involvement among the behavioral health population?
  - Does the behavioral health population experience longer stays in custody? And do they come back more often?
  - Which programs or services best address treatment needs, as well as reduce criminogenic risk?

# How do we determine appropriate baselines in the community?

Any Mental Illness in the Past Year among Adults, by Race/Ethnicity, 2008-2012



Among People with Any Mental Illness, Percent Receiving Services, 2015



# Project milestones

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- ✓ **August 2020:** Council launch
- **December 2020:** Data inventory
- **Summer 2021:** Policy questions & available data
- **Winter 2021-22:** Data-informed policy analyses
- **Spring 2022:** Recommendations for implementation

***\*Stakeholder engagement & sustainability planning ongoing\****

# Thank You!

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For more information please contact Hallie Fader-Towe at  
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*The presentation was developed by members of The Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors, and should not be considered the official position of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the members of The Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work.*

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