

### BACKGROUND

In 2016–2017, the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative carried out the first year of its three-year 2016–2019 strategic plan<sup>1</sup> to reduce recidivism for individuals involved in the County’s criminal justice system. What follows is a report on the progress that has been made in the past year and a look at the strategies that the Jail Collaborative will be taking on in the next two years.

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Plan available at <http://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Allegheny-County-Jail-Collaborative-2016-2019-Strategic-Plan.pdf>

Over the past year, the Jail Collaborative has built upon the successes of its ongoing programming, including the Allegheny County Jail Reentry Program. The Reentry Program serves men and women who are sentenced or detained in the Allegheny County Jail and have a medium to high risk of recidivism through case management and evidence-based services that are delivered both pre- and post-release. A 2014 evaluation<sup>2</sup> of the Reentry Program by the Urban Institute found that it reduced the probability of re-arrest by 24 percentage points. It is thanks to the continued support of the Department of Human Services, the Jail Oversight Board and local foundations that these services have been sustained. The Jail Collaborative also serves individuals through the Adult Probation Community Resource Centers (CRCs)<sup>3</sup> and has developed new initiatives through grant funding and partnerships that expand access to services that reduce recidivism.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Evaluation-of-the-AC-Jail-Collaborative-Reentry-Programs-2014.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The CRCs are Adult Probation Department offices that provide a range of services for individuals on probation, including cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol assessments, and educational classes. The three CRCs are located in Arlington, East Liberty and McKeesport.

### ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE

The Jail Collaborative is a group of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and community members that first came together in 2000 to improve the transition of people returning to the community after leaving the Allegheny County Jail. Since its inception, the Jail Collaborative has made system improvements and implemented innovative programming to carry out its mission of reducing recidivism for people involved in the criminal justice system in Allegheny County.

The cabinet that leads the Jail Collaborative is made up of the Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive, Allegheny County; the President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; the Administrative Judge for Criminal Division, Court of Common Pleas; the Warden of the Allegheny County Jail; the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department; and the Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.




### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROGRESS TO DATE**






In July 2016, the Jail Collaborative released its third strategic plan to continue reducing recidivism. The three-year 2016–2019 strategic plan was developed by speaking directly with those impacted by the Jail Collaborative's services, analyzing the effectiveness of past services and consulting literature on best practices. The 2016–2019 strategic plan focuses on four strategies to reduce recidivism:

1. Ensuring high-quality, evidence-based programs for people at a higher risk of re-offending.
2. Making the transition to the community effective for each person leaving the jail.
3. Reducing barriers to employment, transportation, healthcare and housing for formerly incarcerated people by developing a policy platform and advocating through its members and supporters.
4. Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for diverting, treating and supporting people with behavioral health issues, including those with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.

The following chart outlines the objectives in the plan that relate to the four strategies above, as well as the progress that was made in 2016–2017.




TABLE 1: STATUS OF JAIL COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES	JAIL COLLABORATIVE STATUS	
<b>1. Ensuring high-quality, evidence-based programs for people at a higher risk of re-offending.</b>		
<p><b>Continue to operate an effective Reentry Program.</b></p>		<p>The Reentry Program served 411 clients in 2016–2017, a decrease from the 463 clients served in 2015–2016. During 2016–2017, there was a decline in the sentenced population of the Allegheny County Jail, and the Reentry Program expanded its eligibility beyond the sentenced population to allow medium-to-high-risk individuals who will be detained in the jail for at least three months to enroll in the program. (See pages 6–9 for the total number of individuals served and outcomes for individual services.)</p> <p>The Jail Collaborative continued to monitor Reentry services, and developed new interactive dashboards to more effectively track the outcomes of Reentry Program participants. The dashboards suggest that the Reentry Program is improving its effectiveness; 12-month rates of new arrests, rebookings and convictions all declined from 2014 to 2016. The results are even stronger for individuals who successfully complete the Reentry Program. Of the individuals who successfully completed the Reentry Program and were released from the jail in 2016, 81 percent did not come back to the jail within one year post-release.</p>
<p><b>Develop and implement a plan of using alternative housing as a step down from jail to the community.</b></p>		<p>During the procurement process for alternative housing providers, Reentry Program participants were added as a population that alternative housing providers could choose to serve. All alternative housing providers that were selected through the procurement process agreed to serve Reentry Program participants. This was the first step in ensuring that alternative housing can be used as a step-down site for the Reentry Program.</p>
<p><b>Reentry Program will expand partnerships with organizations that can provide resources to support people in the jail and post-release.</b></p>		<p>The Jail Collaborative is partnering with the public workforce system on the Training to Work program, a grant project that began in February 2017 that is jointly managed with <a href="#">Partner 4 Work</a>. Training to Work provides medium-to-high-risk individuals in alternative housing or on electronic monitoring with pathways to careers in high-priority occupations. Each program participant works with a mentor, a case manager through the Jail Collaborative and an employment specialist through CareerLink.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES	JAIL COLLABORATIVE STATUS	
<b>2. Making the transition to the community effective for each person leaving the jail.</b>		
<p><b>Properly orient everyone in the jail to a successful community release, beginning early in their detention.</b></p>	 <b>PROGRESS MADE</b>	<p>The Jail Collaborative has formed a “Reentry for All Workgroup” that will begin work on this objective during FY 2017-2018.</p>
<p><b>Organize the resources to support effective discharge and transition to the community through agency partnerships, volunteer assistance and community support.</b></p>	 <b>NOT YET STARTED</b>	
<p><b>Coordinate probation, the discharge center, physical and behavioral health providers, and other services with the discharge and release process.</b></p>	 <b>NOT YET STARTED</b>	
<b>3. Reducing barriers to employment, transportation, healthcare and housing for formerly incarcerated people by developing a policy platform and advocating through its members and supporters.</b>		
<p><b>Research policies that impact people with criminal records and develop a policy platform that can be used to educate legislators, community members and business leaders.</b></p>	 <b>PROGRESS MADE</b>	<p>The Jail Collaborative created an Advocacy Subcommittee, led by the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh<sup>4</sup> and Amachi Pittsburgh<sup>5</sup>. The Jail Collaborative members selected driver’s license suspensions as the most pressing barrier for people coming out of jail, and the Advocacy Subcommittee researched the issue and developed a strategy. The Advocacy Subcommittee is now working to support legislative efforts to eliminate driver’s license suspensions for non-driving-related offenses.</p>
<p><b>Examine the hiring practices of Jail Collaborative members.</b></p>	 <b>NOT YET STARTED</b>	

<sup>4</sup> The Trade Institute of Pittsburgh was established to give young men and women a chance to develop skills in the trades in order to provide them the opportunity to earn a living wage.

<sup>5</sup> Amachi Pittsburgh provides encouragement, guidance and support to children of incarcerated parents and their families, both during the time of incarceration and through the transition period following a parent’s release.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES	JAIL COLLABORATIVE STATUS	
<b>4. Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for diverting, treating and supporting people with behavioral health issues, including those with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.</b>		
<b>External evaluation of mental health issues throughout the entire criminal justice system.</b>		<p>The Jail Collaborative received a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency to support the cross-system evaluation and selected an evaluator through a competitive bidding process. The evaluation began in the fall of 2017, and the evaluator will work with the new DHS Deputy Director for Forensic Services, whose role is devoted to the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice.</p>
<b>Implement medication assisted treatment and overdose prevention in the jail.</b>		<p>The Jail Collaborative received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to pilot a program that will provide a first injection of a non-narcotic medication assisted treatment to individuals with opioid use disorder in the jail to link them to medical assistance and then connect them to treatment in the community. The jail has also incorporated overdose prevention into the substance abuse programs in the jail and provides Naloxone to individuals leaving the jail through the discharge and release center.</p>
<b>Assess the impact of current programs for frequent users of the jail, mental health, homeless systems, and people with co-occurring disorders, and continue programs that are effective in reducing recidivism.</b>		<p>Over the past year, the Jail Collaborative looked at the impact of two grant programs on participant recidivism. A program to serve Reentry participants with behavioral health disorders showed promising results in reducing recidivism, and the Jail Collaborative will be sustaining the program.</p>

**WHO THE JAIL COLLABORATIVE SERVED IN 2016–2017**

Although the Jail Collaborative runs several initiatives, it serves the majority of its clients through the Reentry Program that begins in the Allegheny County Jail and continues in the community, and the Adult Probation Community Resource Centers (CRCs). Demographic information for Reentry Program participants and people who have accessed services in the CRCs are below. Since there is some duplication between these two groups, the CRC demographics below do not include Reentry clients who also utilized CRC services.

**FIGURE 1: Reentry Program Participants**

**TOTAL SERVED: 411**

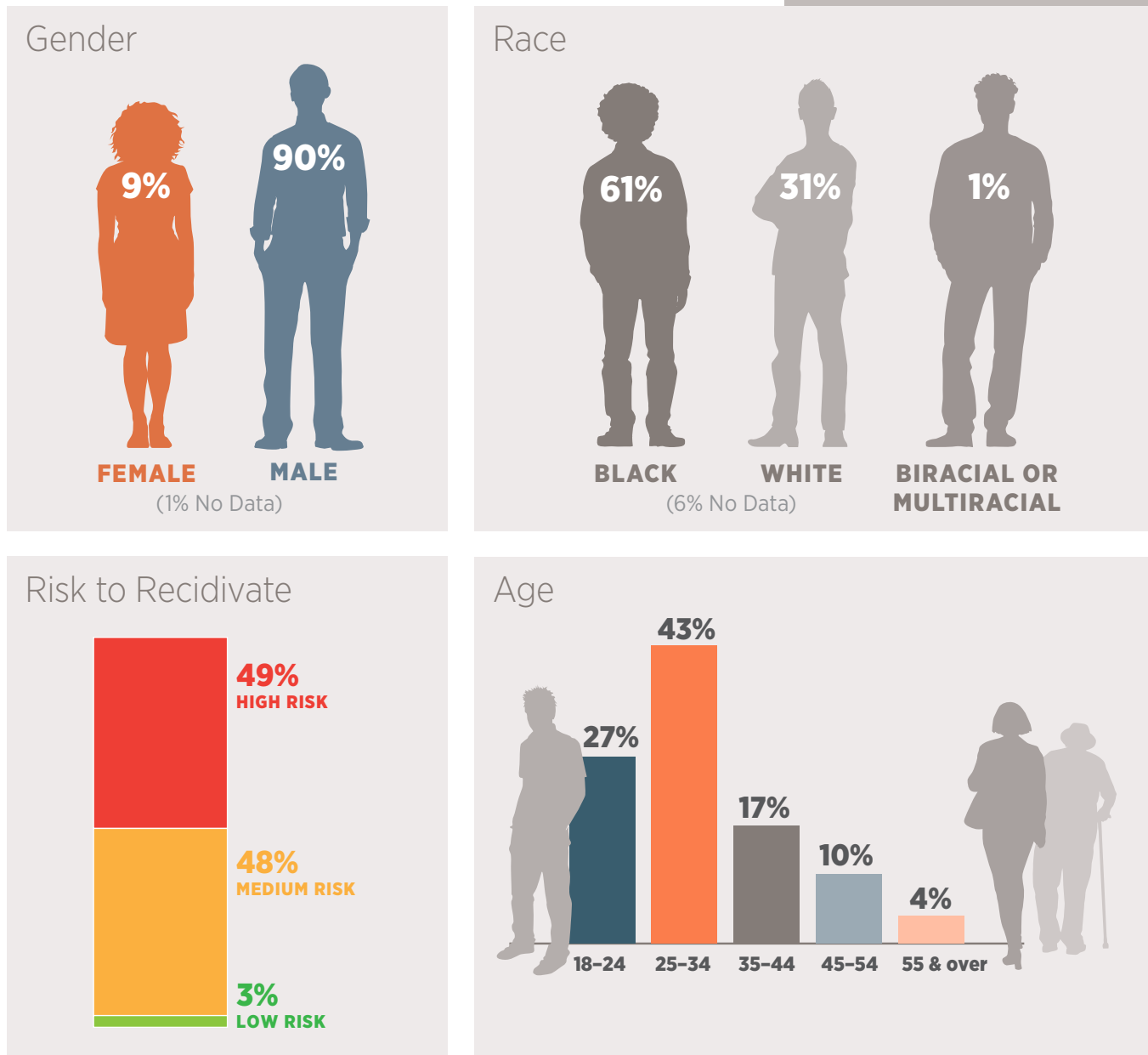
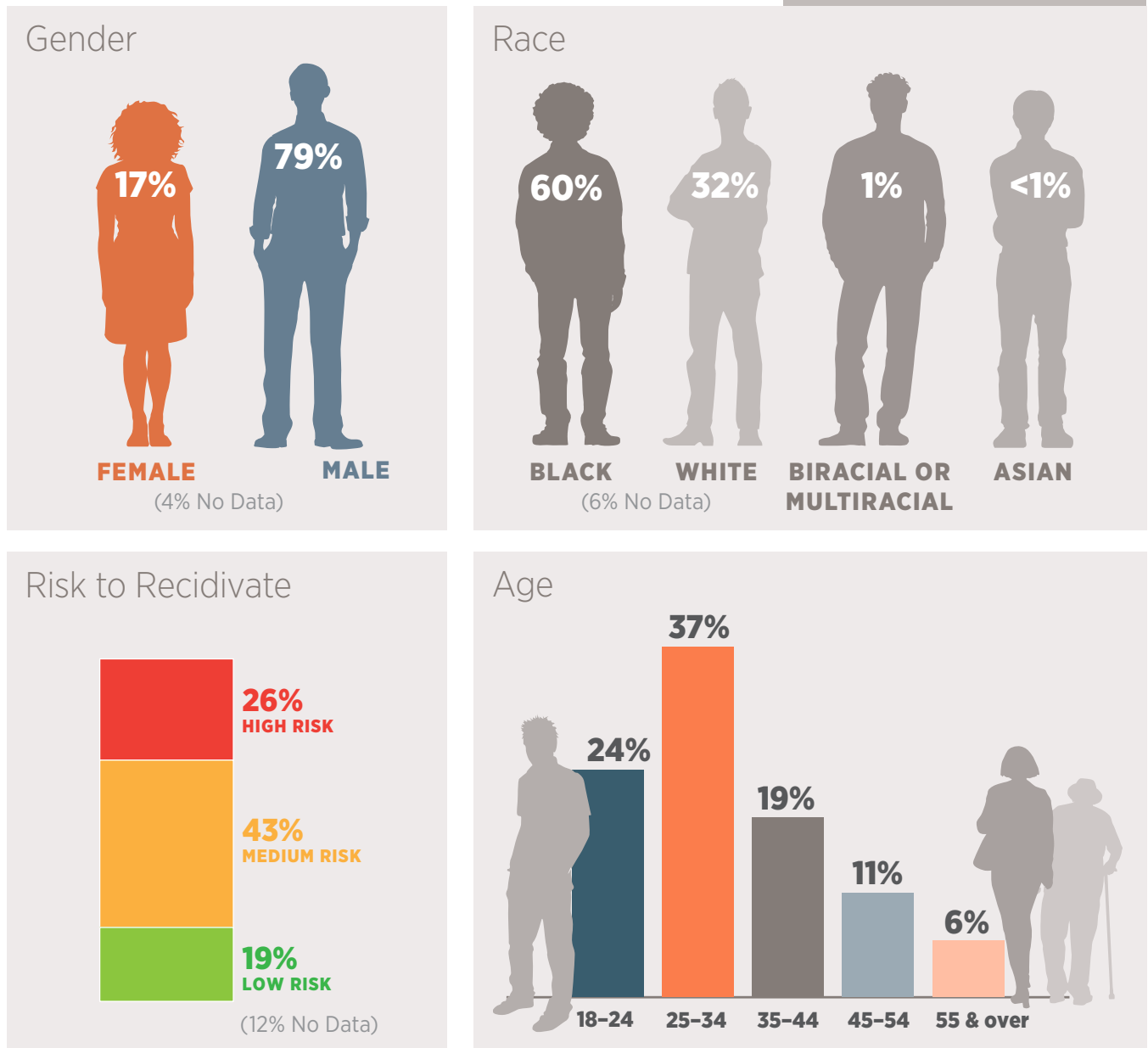


FIGURE 2: Community Resource Center Participants

TOTAL SERVED: 473



**JAIL COLLABORATIVE 2016–2017 SERVICE OUTCOMES**

The tables below show the number of participants served in individual Jail Collaborative services in the Allegheny County Jail and in the community, as well as the outcomes of those services. Where available, both completion rate and adjusted completion rate for services are reported. The adjusted completion rate removes clients from the count who exited the services for reasons beyond the control of the program, such as release from jail.

Table 2: In-Jail Service Participants and Outcomes

SERVICE (IN JAIL)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Thinking for a Change</b> An evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) curriculum delivered to groups in the jail</p>	412	<p>Completion Rate: 68%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 95%</p>
<p><b>Sage Maintenance Group</b> A follow-up to the Thinking for a Change curriculum offered to inmates housed on the Reentry Pod. The group is targeted for clients who have completed Thinking for a Change and allows an extended time to explore and put into practice the CBT concepts in a small-group setting.</p>	146	<p>Completion Rate: 77%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 100%</p>
<p><b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Outpatient</b> Individual and group D&amp;A therapy that is provided to clients on a weekly basis. Each participant receives one hour of one-on-one therapy and one hour in group therapy each week.</p>	115	<p>Completion Rate: 55%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 72%</p>
<p><b>Education</b> A range of educational courses for different academic levels, including adult basic education, pre-GED, GED and computer literacy</p>	775	<p>GEDs Obtained of an Enrolled GED Class: 33%</p> <p>Class Completion Rate: 35%</p>
<p><b>Family Support</b> Services that include parenting and relationships classes, coached family phone calls and structured contact visits with family members</p>	375	<p>Class Completion Rate: 72%</p> <p>Adjusted Class Completion Rate: 91%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 303 family contact visits per year (average 0.8 per person)</li> <li>• 1,353 family phone calls per year (average 3.6 per person)</li> </ul>



SERVICE (IN JAIL)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Machining Training</b> A manufacturing and machining industry training that allows clients to earn National Industry for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentials. Clients who begin in the jail can continue training post-release and seek assistance with job placement services.</p>	<b>40</b>	<p>Obtained Certification (Any Level)</p>

**TABLE 3: In-Community Service Participants and Outcomes**

SERVICE (IN COMMUNITY)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Breaking Free</b> A CBT curriculum that is delivered in alternative housing and the community</p>	<b>742</b>	<p>Class Completion Rate</p>
<p><b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Assessment</b> Assessments completed in the CRCs to determine whether a client should be recommended for a level of drug and alcohol treatment</p>	<b>677</b>	<p>Assessment Completion Rate</p>
<p><b>Housing</b> Single-room occupancies for Reentry or probation clients who are homeless</p>	<b>29</b>	<p>Stably Housed</p>
<p><b>Job Placement</b> Services provided in the CRCs to improve soft job skills and assist clients in obtaining and retaining employment</p>	<b>386</b>	<p>Job Placement Rate</p> <p>Three-Month Job Retention Rate</p> <p>• Average wage of \$9.50/hour</p>
<p><b>Vocational Training</b> Training offered free of charge to clients in various fields, including masonry, culinary arts and roofing</p>	<b>32</b>	<p>Completed Program</p> <p>Obtained Certification (Any Level)</p>