

The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative’s 2016–2019 strategic plan identifies approaches for reducing recidivism for people involved in the County’s criminal justice system. This report summarizes the Jail Collaborative’s activities and progress on the strategic plan during 2017–2018.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE

The Jail Collaborative is an alliance of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members that first came together in 2000 to address the needs of people returning to the community after leaving the Allegheny County Jail. In the years since, the Jail Collaborative has instituted systems changes and implemented evidence-based programming to meet its mission of reducing recidivism for people involved in the criminal justice system in Allegheny County.

The accomplishments of the Jail Collaborative are due to the long-standing commitment of its multi-system leadership. The cabinet that leads the Jail Collaborative is composed 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 (DHS).

The programming of the Jail Collaborative has been made possible by multiple funding sources, including DHS, the Inmate Welfare fund, the local foundation community, and multiple federal and state grants.

JAIL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING

The nationally recognized Reentry Program is the longest running program of the Jail Collaborative. The program offers pre- and post-release case management and evidence-based services to men and women who are sentenced or detained in the Allegheny County Jail and who have a medium to high risk of recidivism. A 2014 evaluation of the Reentry Program by the Urban Institute¹ found that the Reentry Program reduced the probability of re-arrest by 24 percentage points.

¹ <https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Evaluation-of-the-AC-Jail-Collaborative-Reentry-Programs-2014.pdf>

The Jail Collaborative also supports programming in the three Adult Probation Community Resource Centers (CRCs), which are located in Arlington, East Liberty and McKeesport. A fourth CRC is set to open in the Northside in the coming year. The CRCs allow individuals on probation to have access to services such as job placement, cognitive-behavioral therapy groups, drug and alcohol evaluations, and batterer's intervention programs in or near their home communities.

The Jail Collaborative also serves individuals in alternative housing and electronic monitoring through the Training to Work program. This grant-funded program is operated jointly with the local workforce investment board, Partner4Work. Program participants receive case management, job training, mentoring and job placement assistance, with the goals of increasing employment and reducing recidivism.

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, health care 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 table outlines the objectives in the plan that relate to the four strategies above, as well as the progress that was made in 2017–2018.

TABLE 1: STATUS OF JAIL COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES	JAIL COLLABORATIVE STATUS	
1. Ensuring high-quality, evidence-based programs for people at a higher risk of re-offending		
<p>Continue to operate an effective Reentry Program.</p>		<p>The Reentry Program served 346 clients in 2017–2018, a decrease from the 411 clients served in 2016–2017. The decline in the number of clients was due to fewer higher-risk individuals being sentenced to jail.</p> <p>With a longer period of data to look at, the Jail Collaborative has been able to see the long-term outcomes of Reentry participants. Two-year re-arrest rates appear to have declined from 2014 to 2016.</p>
<p>Develop and implement a plan of using alternative housing as a step down from jail to the community.</p>		<p>The Jail Collaborative has increased the number of Reentry Program participants who step-down to alternative housing prior to their release. The Collaborative will work on improving the communication among participants, courts, jail and alternative housing so that this pathway to release is part of the program: more predictable and richer in services necessary to successful re-entry.</p>
<p>Reentry Program will expand partnerships with organizations that can provide resources to support people in the jail and post-release.</p>		<p>The Jail Collaborative continued to work with Partner4Work on the Training to Work grant, which has successfully connected individuals in the criminal justice system with a wide range of training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The Jail Collaborative held regular meetings with its full network of providers and community organizations. Through these meetings, partners share resources and knowledge that improves the capacity of Jail Collaborative members to support people coming out of jail.</p>
2. Making the transition to the community effective for each person leaving the jail		
<p>Properly orient everyone in the jail to a successful community release; organize the resources to support effective discharge; and coordinate probation, the discharge center, physical and behavioral health providers, and other services with the discharge and release process.</p>		<p>The Jail Collaborative recognizes the need to systematically assess the discharge process for each person leaving the jail and take advantage of opportunities to provide resources for discharge to people in the jail as quickly as possible. Despite consensus on the importance of this objective, the Jail Collaborative is removing the objective from its 2016–2019 strategic plan due to lack of capacity necessary to carry it out.</p> <p>While the Jail Collaborative is not able to address the full scope of the strategic objective, there have been smaller improvements in the discharge process related to behavioral health. The jail now distributes naloxone to individuals leaving the jail who would like it. The jail is also participating in weekly behavioral health housing meetings to ensure continuity of care and smooth discharge planning for residents leaving the jail.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES	JAIL COLLABORATIVE STATUS	
3. Reducing barriers to employment, transportation, health care and housing for formerly incarcerated people by developing a policy platform and advocating through its members and supporters		
<p>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.</p>	 PROGRESS MADE	<p>The Advocacy Subcommittee, led by Amachi Pittsburgh and the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, supported legislative efforts to end driver’s license suspensions for non-driving-related offenses. A bill supported by the Subcommittee passed the Pennsylvania House in April 2018.</p> <p>The Jail Collaborative worked with the Housing Choice for Reentrants group to review criminal record policies of local housing providers and research progressive criminal record policies of housing authorities.</p>
<p>Examine the hiring practices of Jail Collaborative members.</p>	 NOT YET STARTED	<p>The Jail Collaborative plans to accomplish this objective in the 2018–2019 fiscal year.</p>
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		
<p>External evaluation of mental health issues throughout the entire criminal justice system.</p>	 COMPLETED	<p>An independent evaluator from the University of Pittsburgh completed a comprehensive evaluation of the intersection of mental health and criminal justice in Allegheny County. The evaluation provided a set of recommendations for systems improvements that the County will work on implementing.</p>
<p>Implement medication-assisted treatment and overdose prevention in the jail.</p>	 COMPLETED	<p>Allegheny County received multiple grant awards to support the implementation of multiple forms of medication-assisted treatment in the jail. As noted above, the Allegheny County Jail also provides the overdose reversal medication naloxone to individuals being discharged from the jail.</p>
<p>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.</p>	 COMPLETED	<p>Completed in 2016.</p>

REENTRY DINNER

As a part of the strategic objective to operate an effective Reentry Program, the Jail Collaborative held a celebration of achievement for current and former Reentry Program participants. A total of 55 people attended, including participants, family members, friends and sponsors. The goal of the event was to publicly recognize the participants and provide reinforcement for the positive steps that they have taken while re-entering. Attendees enjoyed reconnecting with friends and staff members over dinner. Each participant was recognized with a certificate and a small gift card. During an open mic, six participants chose to speak about their experiences in the program and the community. “Staff of the program was always there for me,” said one former participant.

WHO THE JAIL COLLABORATIVE SERVED IN 2017–2018

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: Participants in the Reentry Program, 2017-2018

TOTAL SERVED: 346

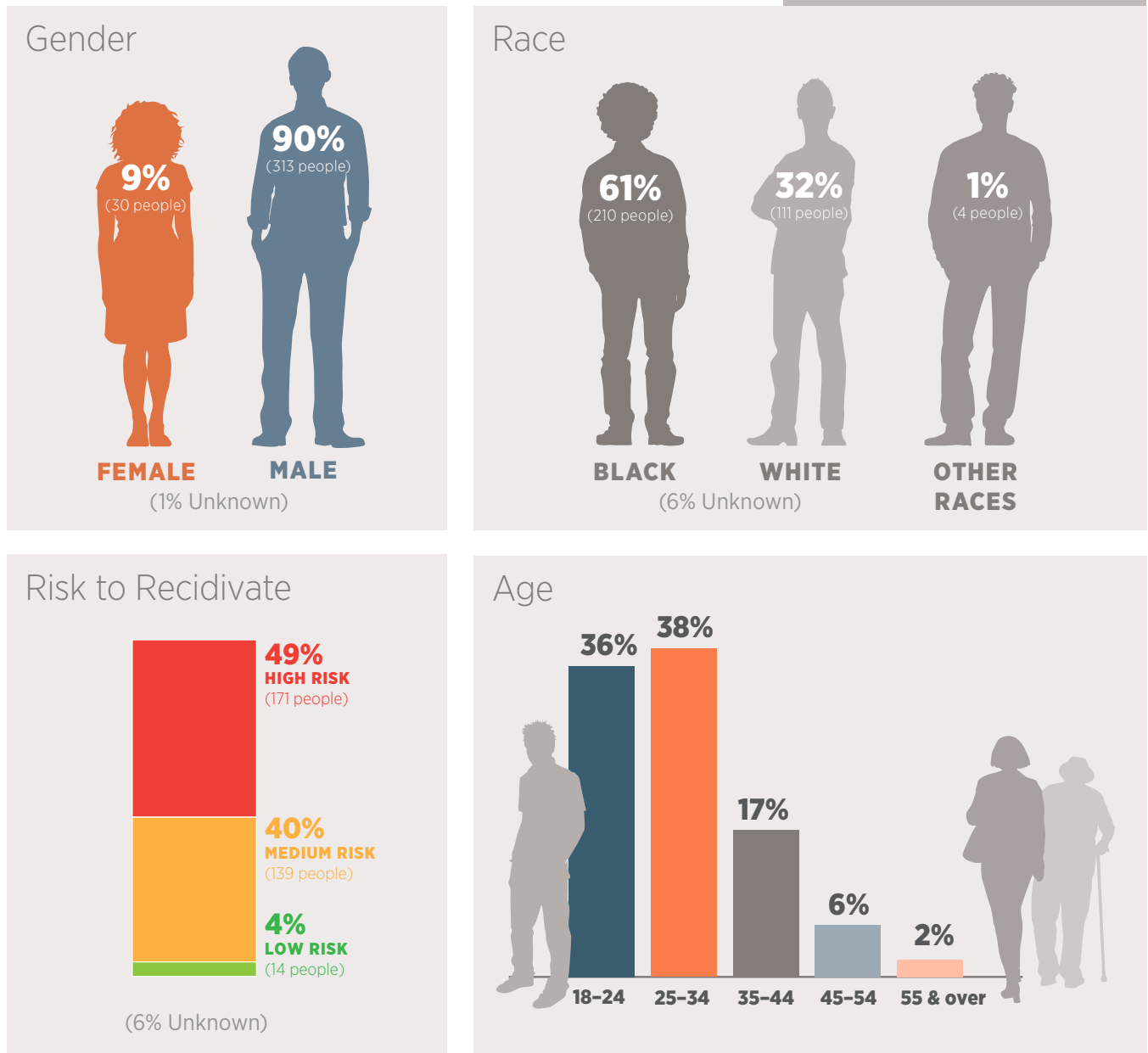
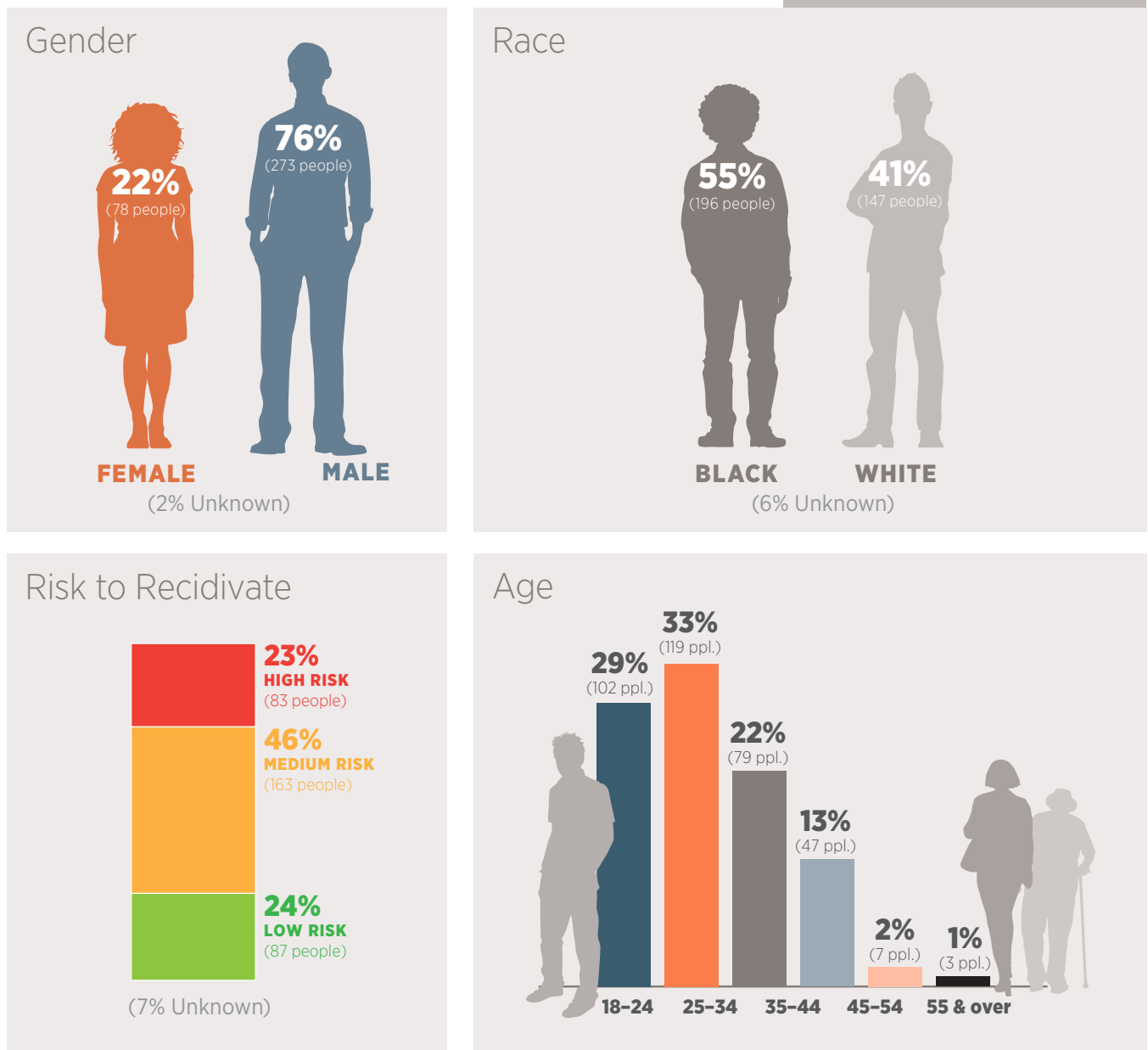


FIGURE 2: Participants in Community Resource Centers, 2017-2018

TOTAL SERVED: 357



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>Thinking for a Change An evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) curriculum delivered to groups in the jail</p>	387	<p>Completion Rate: 64%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 96%</p>
<p>Sage Maintenance Group 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>	121	<p>Completion Rate: 72%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 100%</p>
<p>Drug & Alcohol Outpatient Individual and group D&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>	124	<p>Completion Rate: 58%</p> <p>Adjusted Completion Rate: 79%</p>
<p>Education A range of educational courses for different academic levels, including adult basic education, pre-GED, GED and computer literacy</p>	643	<p>GEDs Obtained of an Enrolled GED Class: 31%</p> <p>Class Completion Rate: 33%</p>
<p>Family Support Services that include parenting and relationships classes, coached family phone calls and structured contact visits with family members</p>	355	<p>Class Completion Rate: 68%</p> <p>Adjusted Class Completion Rate: 87%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 239 family contact visits per year (average 0.7 per person) • 1,077 family phone calls per year (average 3 per person)

SERVICE (IN JAIL)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
<p>Machining Training 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 services²</p>	21	<p>Obtained Certification (Any Level) 89%</p>

² Machining training was discontinued for FY2018–2019.

TABLE 3: In-Community Service Participants and Outcomes

SERVICE (IN COMMUNITY)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES
<p>Breaking Free A CBT curriculum that is delivered in alternative housing and the community</p>	696	<p>Class Completion Rate 49%</p>
<p>Drug & Alcohol Assessment Assessments completed in the CRCs to determine whether a client should be recommended for a level of drug and alcohol treatment</p>	824	<p>Assessment Completion Rate 91%</p>
<p>Housing Single-room occupancies for re-entry or probation clients who are homeless</p>	16	<p>Stably Housed 33%</p>
<p>Job Placement Services provided in the CRCs to improve soft job skills and assist clients in obtaining and retaining employment</p>	381	<p>Job Placement Rate 58% Three-Month Job Retention Rate 46%</p> <p>• Average wage of \$10.20/hour</p>
<p>Vocational Training Training offered free of charge to clients in various fields, including masonry, culinary arts and roofing</p>	25	<p>Completed Program 50% Obtained Certification (Any Level) 27%</p>