

CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM REFORM

WJCC and Beyond



Living Legacy of Slavery =
Criminal Legal System and
Mass Incarceration

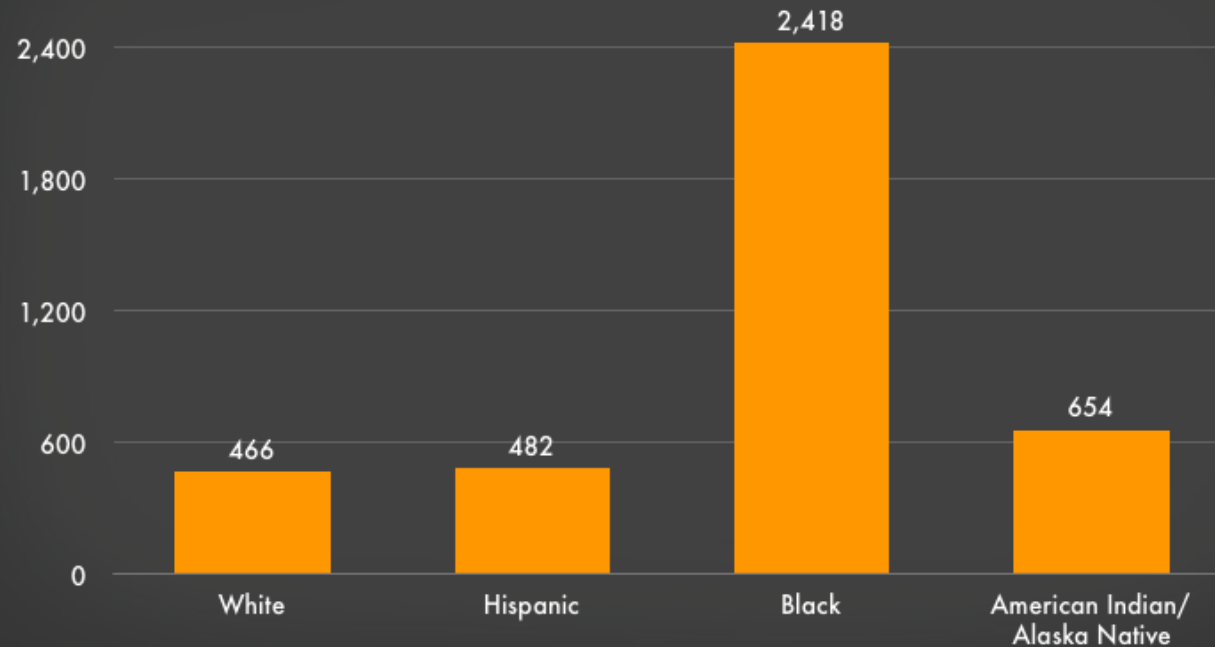
UNJUST POLICING IN WJCC

- Black people = 13% of the population in James City County and Williamsburg City
- Black people = 41% to 44% of all arrests

MASS INCARCERATION IN VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

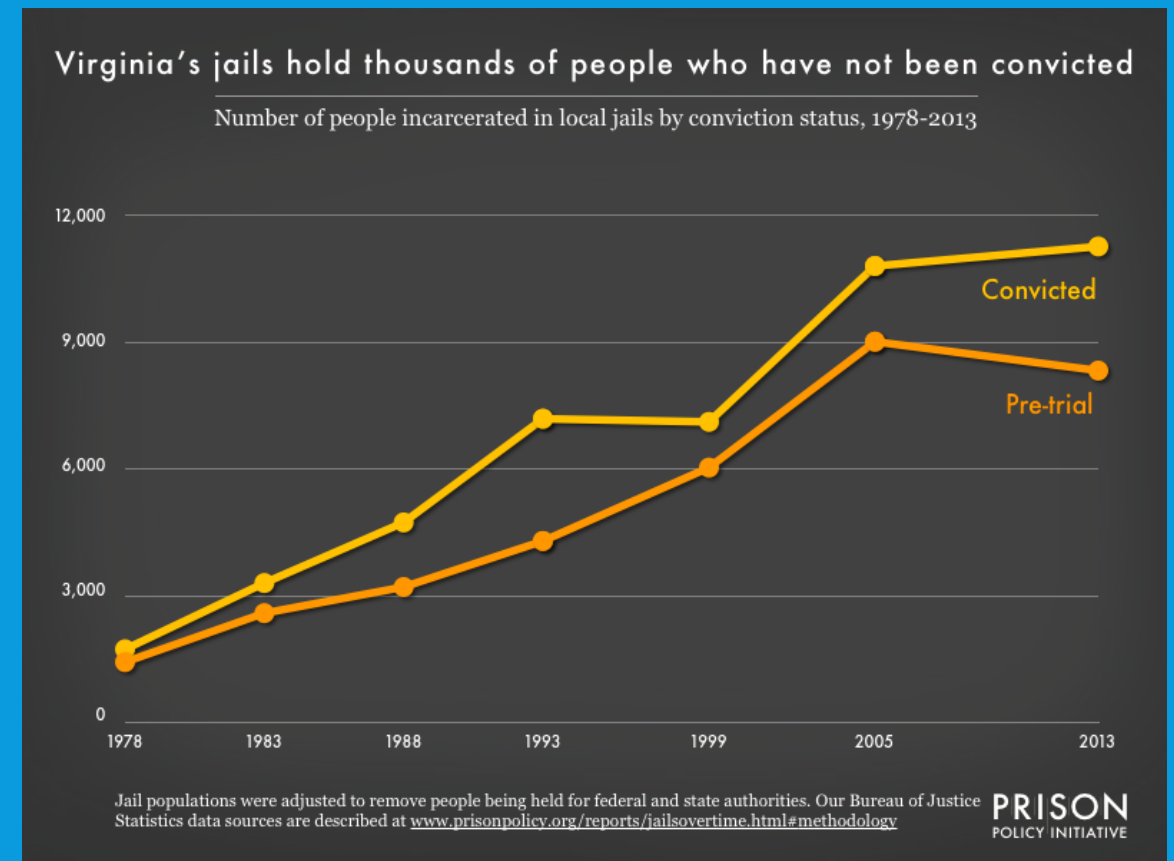
(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)



- Black people make up 18% of Virginia's population but 58% of its jail and prison population.

INNOCENT UNTIL FOUND GUILTY?

- More than 40% of people being held have not yet been found guilty of a crime.
- They are languishing in our state's jails because they can't afford bail - losing their jobs, homes, and even their children.



WJCC COALITION FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

- Priorities:
 - Civilian Oversight Board for the police departments
 - Collecting community stories about experiences with the police

WILLIAMSBURG JAMES CITY COUNTY

COALITION FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE



BENEFITS OF AN OVERSIGHT BOARD



BENEFITS THE
WHOLE
COMMUNITY



GIVES CIVILIANS
A VOICE



IMPROVES
TRANSPARENCY
AND
ACCOUNTABILITY



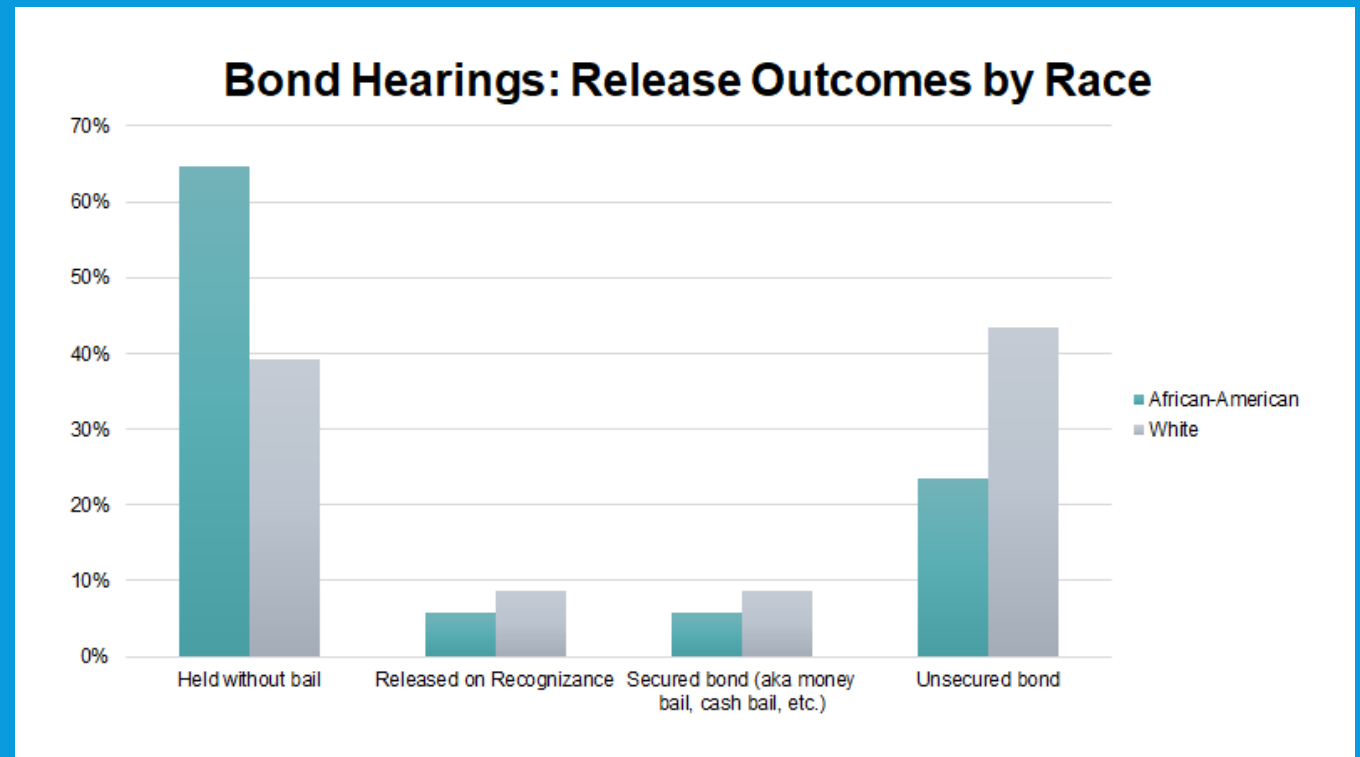
IMPROVES
EQUITY



SAFER POLICING

WJCC COURT WATCH

- Observing first court appearances and bail hearings
- Collecting critical data to better understand and demonstrate disparities in the court system



STATEWIDE COALITIONS

- Virginia Pretrial Justice Coalition
 - Bail reform
 - Data collection
 - Counsel at first appearance
 - Eliminating presumptions against bail
- COVID-19 Justice Coalition
 - Advocating for the release of as many people as safely possible in light of the pandemic

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Drug Courts
- Mental Health Focused Partnerships with the Police
- Advocating for the End of Private Prisons and ICE Detention in Virginia

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join the WJCC Coalition for Community Justice
 - Calls are every other Wednesday at 7pm
- Submit your stories about police interactions at tinyurl.com/wjccstories
- Write emails to City Council and the Board of Supervisors in support of a Civilian Oversight Board
- Volunteer for Court Watch – commitment is just 2-3 hours per month
- Contact your state representatives about important legislation
- Email me at: jsapalio@gmail.com or socialjustice@wuu.org