

“Identifying the Gaps and Connecting to Alternatives to Incarceration”

Diana Zúñiga

Health and Justice Advocate

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

COVID-19 and Alcohol: 5th Annual Summit, The Movement Toward Social Justice in Public Health

November 13, 2020



- The History: Why ATI was Birthed
- At the Intersection: Alcohol Justice and Care First

Objectives

- Gaps Identified: Recommendations for Care First
- Potential Opportunities: County Implementation of ATI



The History: Why ATI was Birthed



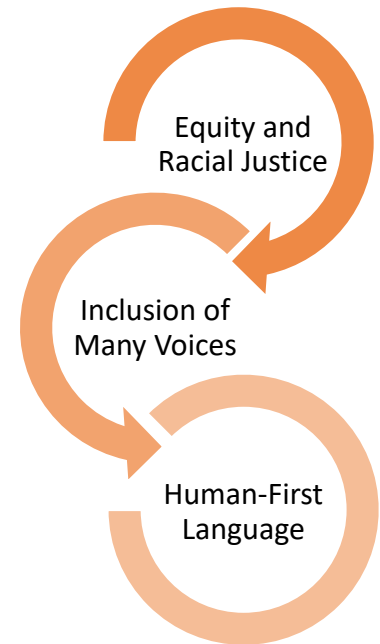
Brief History

- Implementation of Realignment and Intent (2011)
- Statewide and local jail fight and alternatives to incarceration work (2011-present)
- ODR Development (2015)
- LARRP, CURB, and WFC 50% Campaign (2016)
- Justice LA founded (2017)
- Cancellation of the Jail Projects and the Motion to Develop ATI (2019)



ATI MISSION AND VALUES

To provide the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors a *Road Map*, with an action-oriented framework and implementation plan, to scale alternatives to incarceration and diversion so care and services are provided first, and jail is a last resort.



ATI TIMELINE

Phase One: Development of Work Group Structure, Mission, Guiding Values and Interim Report, March – June 2019

- over 270 people engaged in the ATI process
- 5 Work Group convenings
- 18 Ad Hoc Committee meetings, 26 government departments and programs
- 28 advocacy organizations
- 21 community-based service providers
- April 26, 2019** Racial Equity Retreat
- June 11, 2019.** ATI interim report, delivered to the Board

Phase Two: Expanded Scope, Community Engagement, Implementation Planning, and Final Report, July 2019 – March 2020

- 1,300 participants
- 8 Work Group convenings
- 38 Ad Hoc Committee meetings and community engagement workshops
- 47 government departments
- 106 community orgs/institutions
- September 20, 2019,** ATI second retreat to address the voices of survivors and victims of harm

March 2020: final report

ATI PROCESS



Move Away From

punishment
jail/courts as default
central jail as focal point
disconnected/fragmented
partial & sporadic diversion
inadequate service capacity
exacerbating racial inequality

Move Towards

prevention & treatment
community-based system of care
decentralized system
integrated, networked, holistic
diversion at all points
human-centered, at full capacity
racial equity lens

**THE ATI
“CARE FIRST,
JAILS LAST”
VISION**

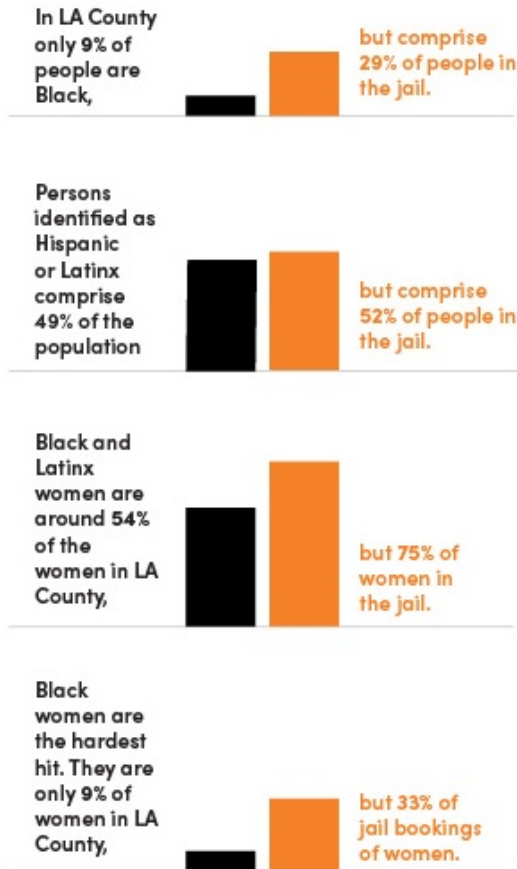


At the Intersection: Alcohol Justice and Care First



Racial Disparities

There are significant racial disparities in who is incarcerated in the LA County jail, with Black people being booked at staggeringly disproportionate rates.



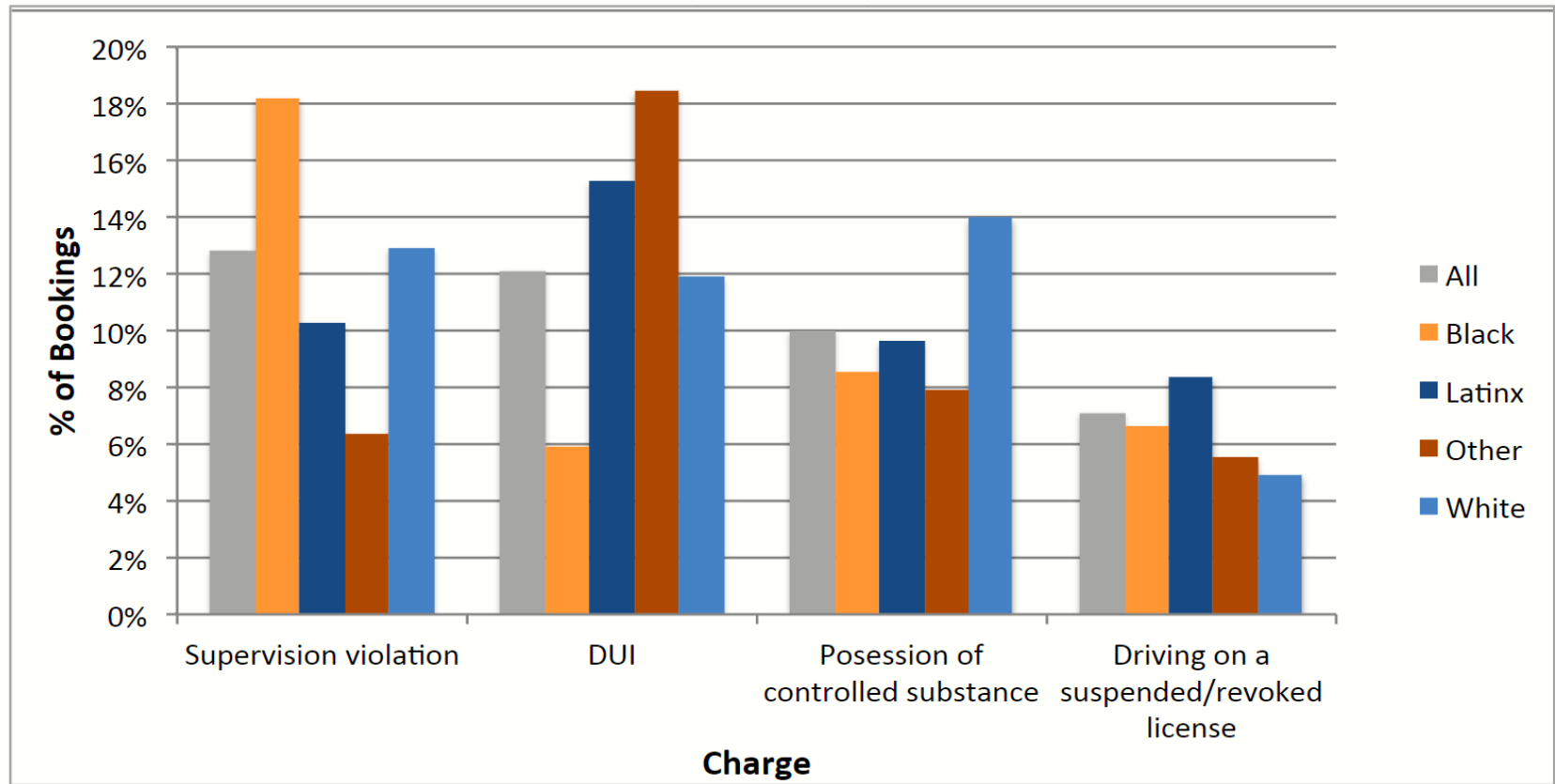
ATI DATA AND RESEARCH

OF THE COUNTY'S 10 MILLION PEOPLE, 74 % OF PEOPLE ARRESTED ARE BLACK AND LATINX



MILLION DOLLAR HOODS, VERA, ATI AND COMMUNITY ORGS

Four Most Common Charges Against People Booked into the L.A. County Jail (2010-2016)



* % of bookings represents the percent of Black adults, Latinx adults, Other race adults, and White adults booked for a single charge.

MILLION DOLLAR HOODS, VERA, ATI AND COMMUNITY ORGS

Top Charges Against Women Booked into the L.A. County Jail by Race (2010-2016)

Black		Latinas		Other		White	
Charge	%	Charge	%	Charge	%	Charge	%
Prostitution /Solicitation	16%	DUI	13%	DUI	16%	Possession of a controlled substance	18%
Possession of a controlled substance	10%	Possession of a controlled substance	12%	Possession of a controlled substance	10%	DUI	13%
Driving on a suspended/ revoked license	7%	Driving on a suspended/ revoked license	9%	Theft/ Shoplifting	7%	Burglary	6%
Supervision violation	7%	Theft/ Shoplifting	7%	Driving on a suspended/revoked license	5%	Theft/ Shoplifting	6%
Burglary	6%	Burglary	6%	Burglary	5%	Supervision violation	6%

*% represents the percent of Black females, Latinas, Other race females and White females booked for a single charge.

MILLION DOLLAR HOODS, VERA, ATI AND COMMUNITY ORGS

**Top Charges Against Men booked into the L.A. County Jail by Race
(2010-2016)**

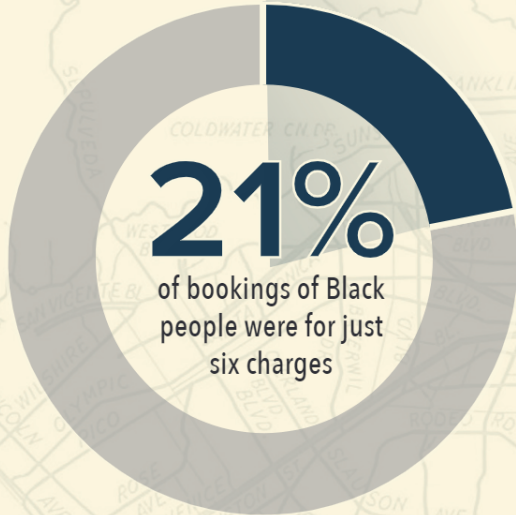
Black		Latinos		Other		White	
Charge	%	Charge	%	Charge	%	Charge	%
Supervision violation	21%	DUI	16%	DUI	19%	Supervision violation	16%
Possession of a controlled substance	8%	Supervision violation	11%	Possession of a controlled substance	8%	Possession of a controlled substance	13%
Driving on a suspended/revoked license	7%	Possession of a controlled substance	9%	Supervision violation	7%	DUI	11%
DUI	6%	Driving on a suspended/revoked license	8%	Spousal abuse	6%	Burglary	5%
Spousal abuse	6%	Spousal abuse	7%	Driving on a suspended/revoked license	6%	Spousal abuse	5%

* % represents the percent of Black males, Latinos, Other race males and White males booked for a single charge.

MILLION DOLLAR HOODS (2019)

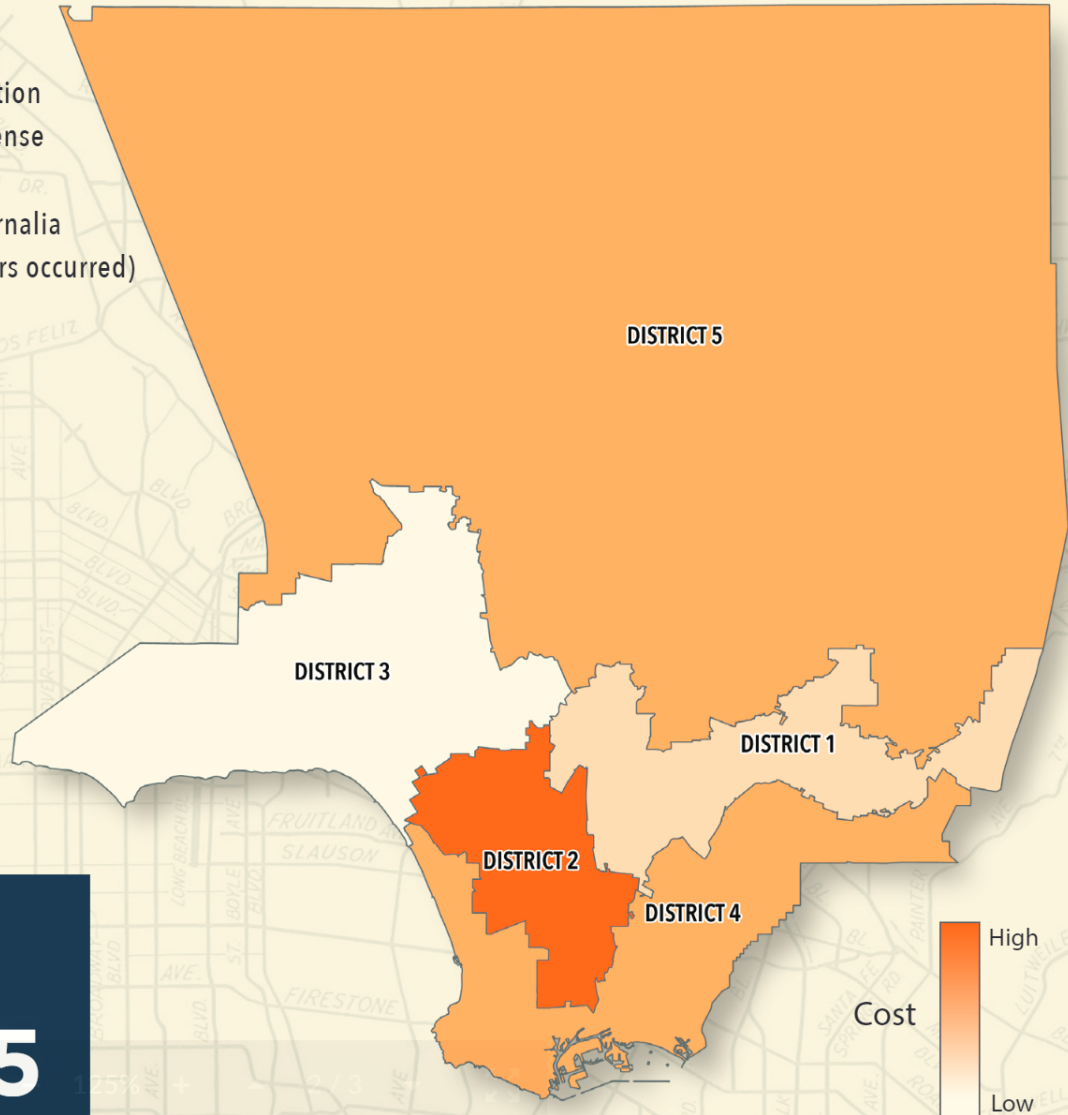
COST OF BOOKING BLACK ANGELENOS BY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT FOR SIX CHARGES

1. Parole Supervision Violation
2. Probation Supervision Violation
3. Driving on a Suspended License
4. Drug Possession
5. Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
6. DUI (where no injury to others occurred)



Booking Black people on one or more of these six charges cost at least

\$26,731,685



Gaps Identified: Recommendations for Care First



ATI Intercept Roadmap

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Holistic, Decentralized Community-Based System of Care: Prevention and Reentry	Community Response & Intervention Services	Law Enforcement	Booking & First Court Appearance	Jail Custody & Court Process	Pre-Release & Release	Supervision in the Community
Infrastructure						
(A) Public Communication & Accountability, (B) Data Collection & Service Coordination, (C) Equitable Resource Distribution, (D) Organizational Capacity Building & Contracting, (E) Workforce Hiring & Training, (F) Public Awareness & Education						

ATI STRATEGIES



Strategy 1 – Expand and scale **community-based, holistic care** and services through sustainable and equitable **community capacity building** and service coordination.



Strategy 2 – **Utilize behavioral health responses** for individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders, homelessness, and other situations caused by unmet needs; **avoid and minimize law enforcement responses**.



Strategy 3 – Support and deliver meaningful **pre-trial release and diversion services**.



Strategy 4 – Provide effective **treatment services** in alternative placements, instead of **jail time**.



Strategy 5 – Effectively **coordinate the implementation** of ATI recommendations, ensuring that strategies work to **eliminate racial disparities** and to authentically **engage and compensate system-impacted individuals**.





Strategy 1 – Expand and scale **community-based, holistic care** and services through sustainable and equitable community **capacity building** and service coordination.

Recommendation #12

Support and broaden implementation of community-based **harm reduction** strategies for individuals with mental health, substance use disorders, and/or individuals who use alcohol/drugs, including but not limited to, sustained prescribing of psychiatric medications and MAT.

Recommendation #16

Reduce the adverse impact that the **severity of substance use charges** (e.g. possession of a controlled substance, DUI) have on people who identify as cisgender women, LGBTQ+, and/or TGI. Assess and develop public health and urban planning interventions (e.g. access to subsidized public transportation, safe consumption sites) to mitigate the risks of these charges.

Recommendation #30: Provide greater access and options for subsidized **public transportation** in order to reduce arrests and recidivism for common charges related to lack of transportation.





Strategy 2 – Utilize behavioral health responses for individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders, homelessness, and other situations caused by unmet needs; **avoid and minimize law enforcement responses.**

Recommendation #43:

Train **911 operators and dispatch on mental health screening, to direct calls** involving behavioral health crises that do not require a law enforcement response **toward DMH's ACCESS line** (e.g., integrate DMH line with 911 or allow direct access from 911 operators to ACCESS). Train 911 operators and dispatch to allow callers to request a responder that connects to the gender identity of the individual in crisis.

Recommendation #52:

Decriminalize drug use, public intoxication, fare evasion, driving without a license, licensing suspensions, licensing revocation and/or other quality-of-life crimes and survival crimes. Until this is fully implemented, individuals should not be arrested, booked or prosecuted for these offenses but instead law enforcement should ensure individuals are connected to **harm reduction** services.



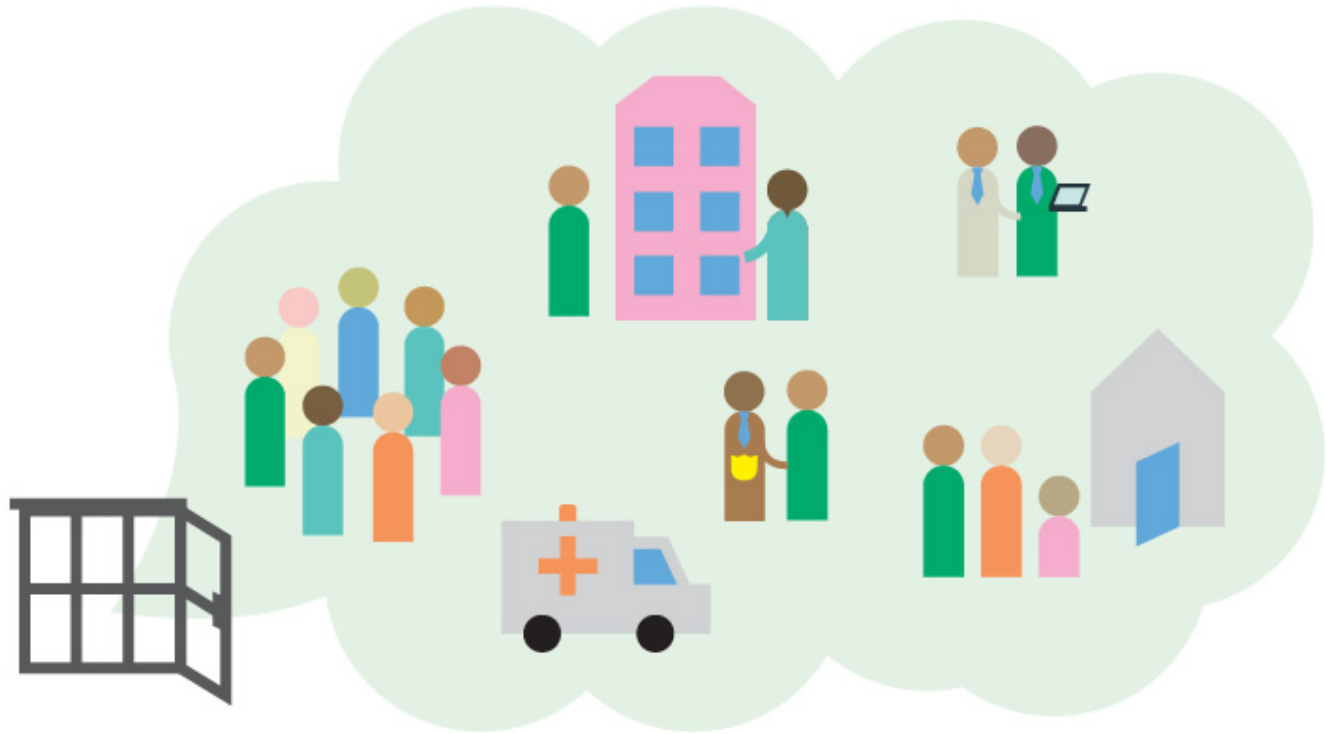
Potential Opportunities: County Implementation of ATI



Implementation Opportunities

- Reducing Jail Populations Activities
- Alternative Crisis Response
- AB109 Funding Reassessment
- Men's Central Jail Closure
- Development of ATI Fund
- Measure J/Reimagine LA





QUESTIONS AND
THANK YOU

