



BLUEPRINT *for* KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

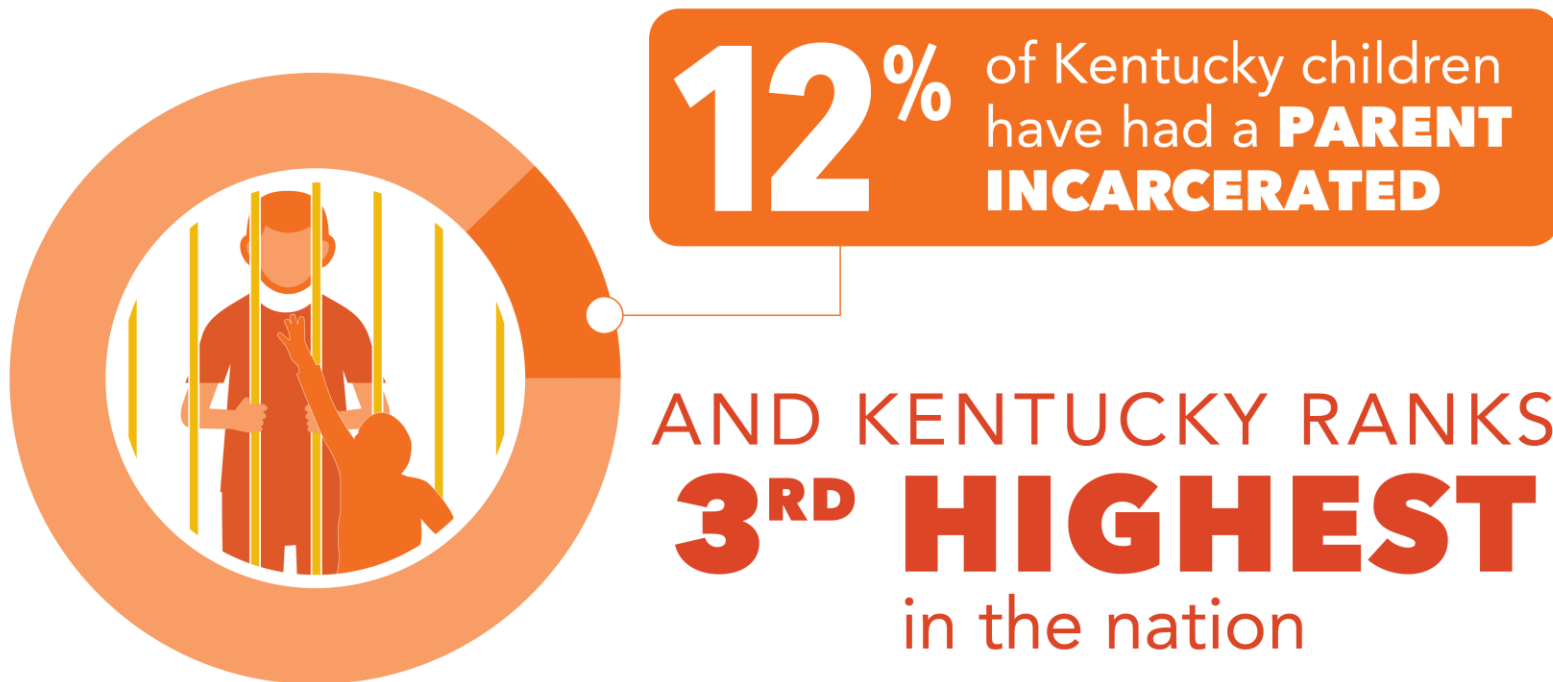
**Data Trends and Policy Recommendations
to Address the Impact of Maternal
Incarceration on Kentucky's Children**



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KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN



Kentucky *youth* Advocates

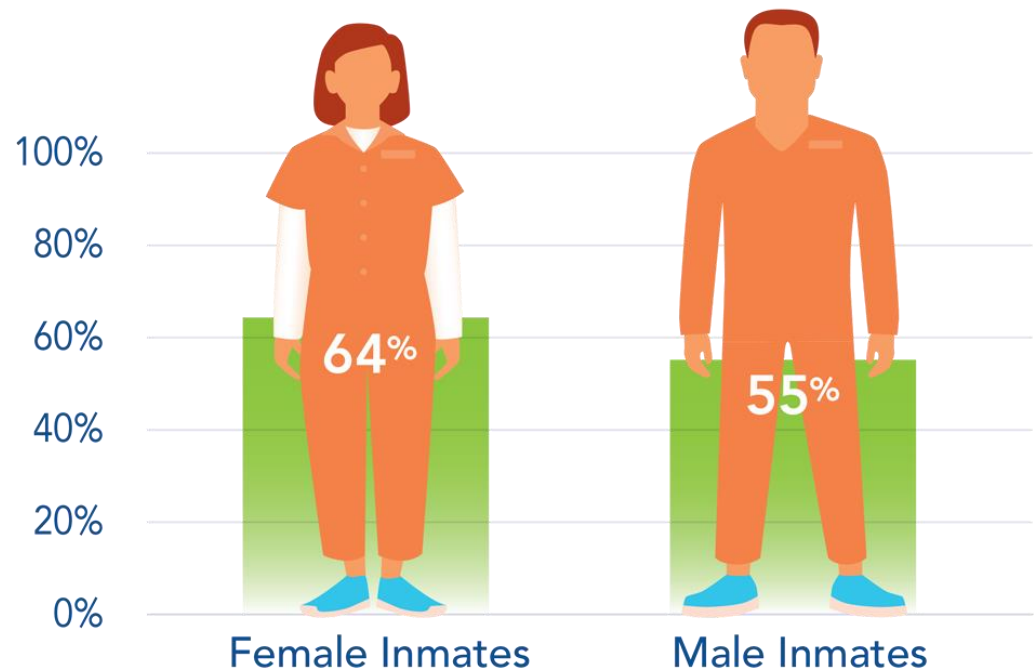


SOURCE: National Survey on Children's Health, 2017-2018.

A higher percentage of incarcerated women are parents than incarcerated men

Kentuckians in State Custody Who are Parents, December 2019

"When mothers are incarcerated, children are more likely to experience instability."



Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections.



Children impacted by parental incarceration would more than fill an arena

"Parental incarceration not only impacts the adults who are incarcerated but can also harm children in the long-term if their needs are not appropriately addressed..."



In every KY county, at least 1 in 3 people in state custody have children

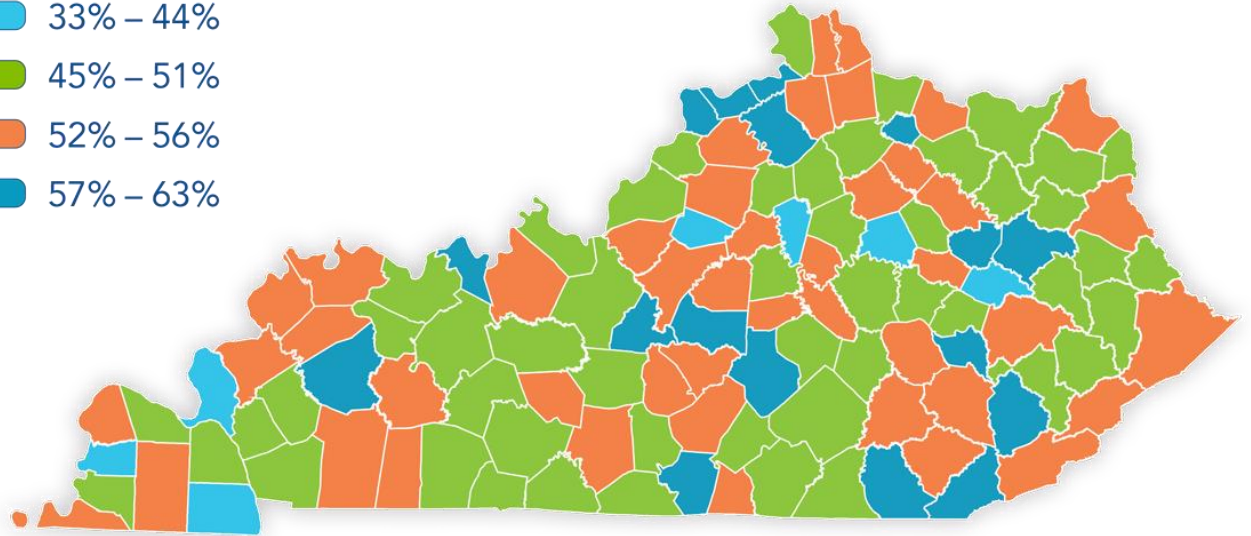
Children continue to feel love and affection for their parents, and the separation due to incarceration presents a strain.



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Percent of those in state custody with children

- 33% – 44%
- 45% – 51%
- 52% – 56%
- 57% – 63%



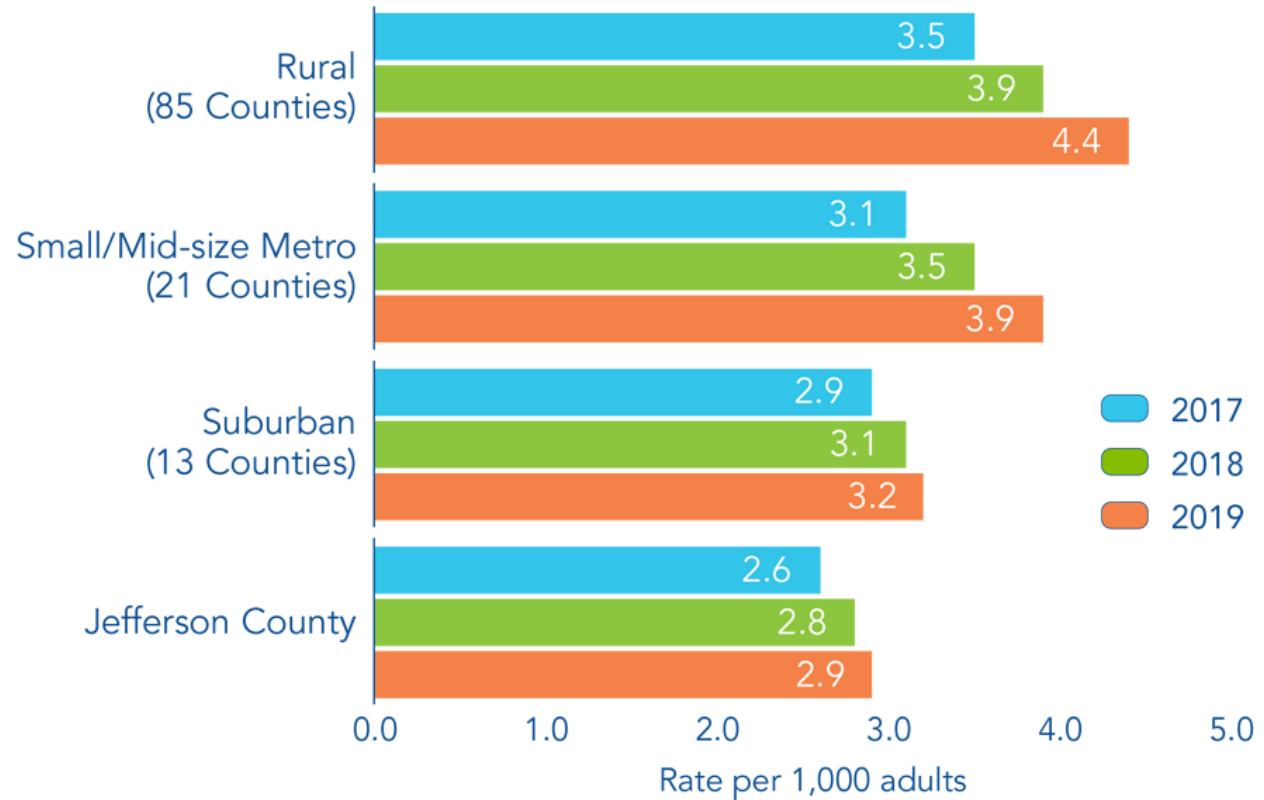
Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections.

Data note: Map reflects county of conviction.

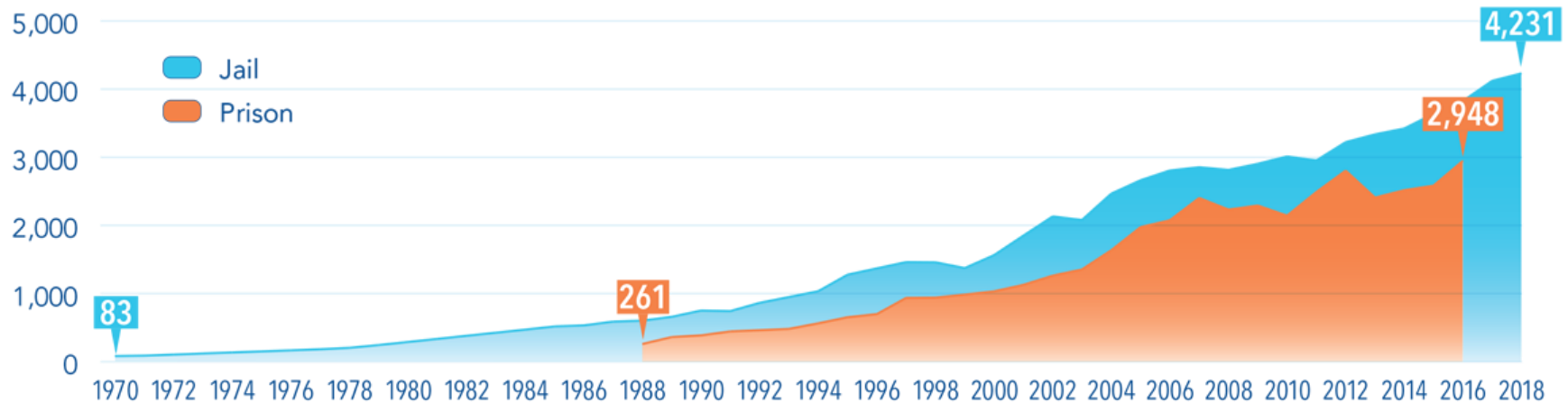


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County trends in rates of parental incarceration



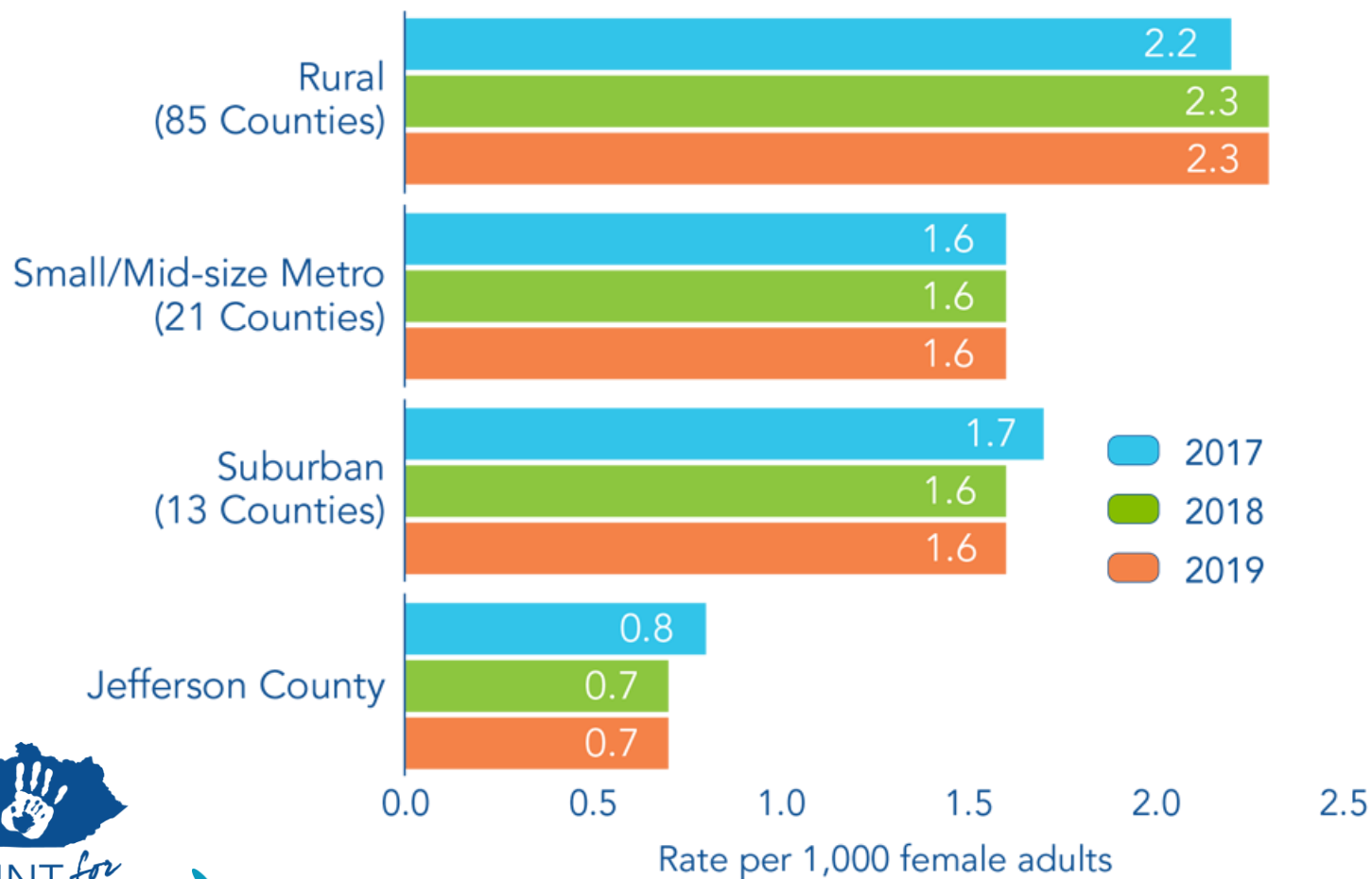
Kentucky has seen significant growth in women's incarceration



Source: Vera Institute of Justice, Incarceration Trends project.



County trends in women's incarceration

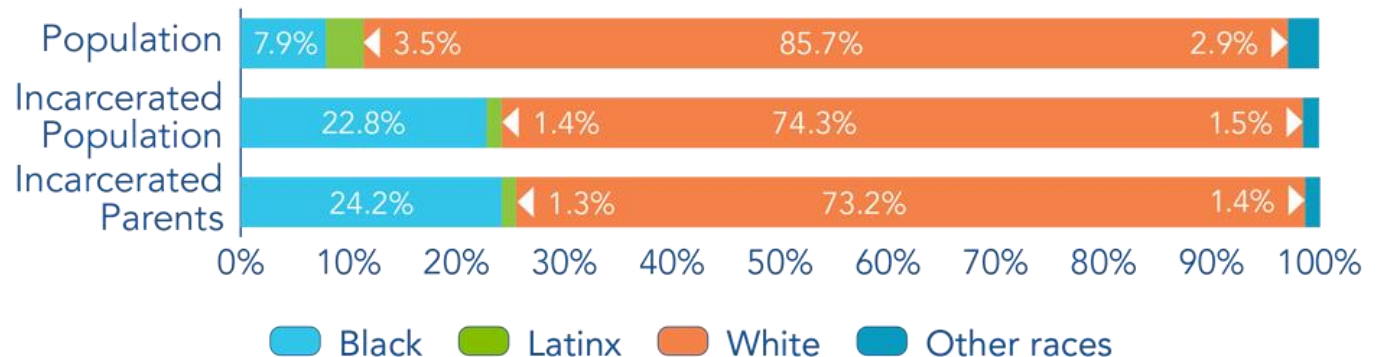


Historic and ongoing practices in criminal justice contribute to disparities for Black men

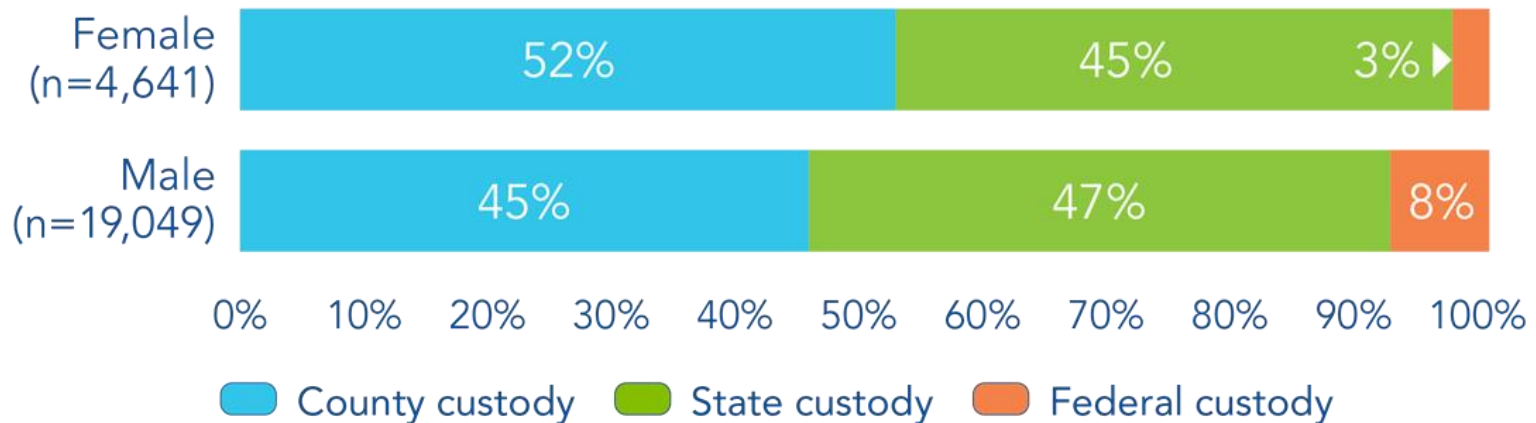
Female Population



Male Population

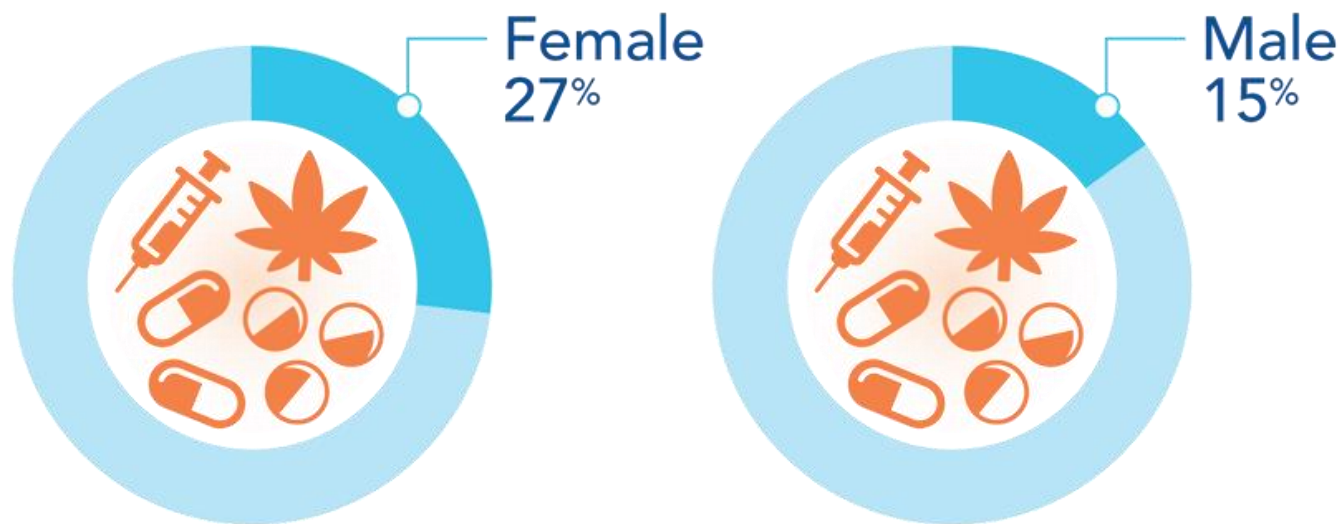


Options for rehabilitation usually more limited in county jails



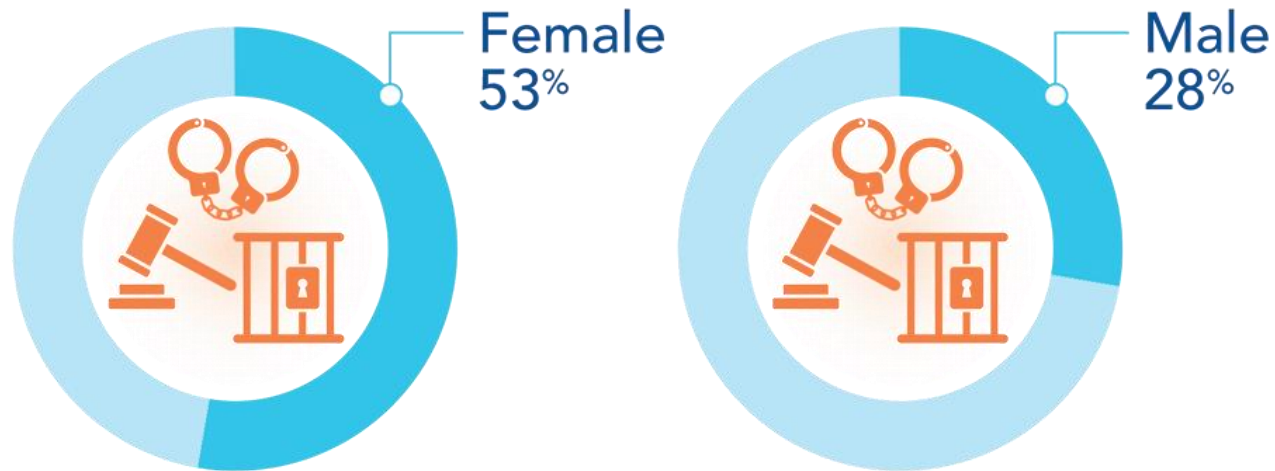
Source: Vera Institute of Justice, Incarceration Trends project.

For many, a drug offense is their most serious offense



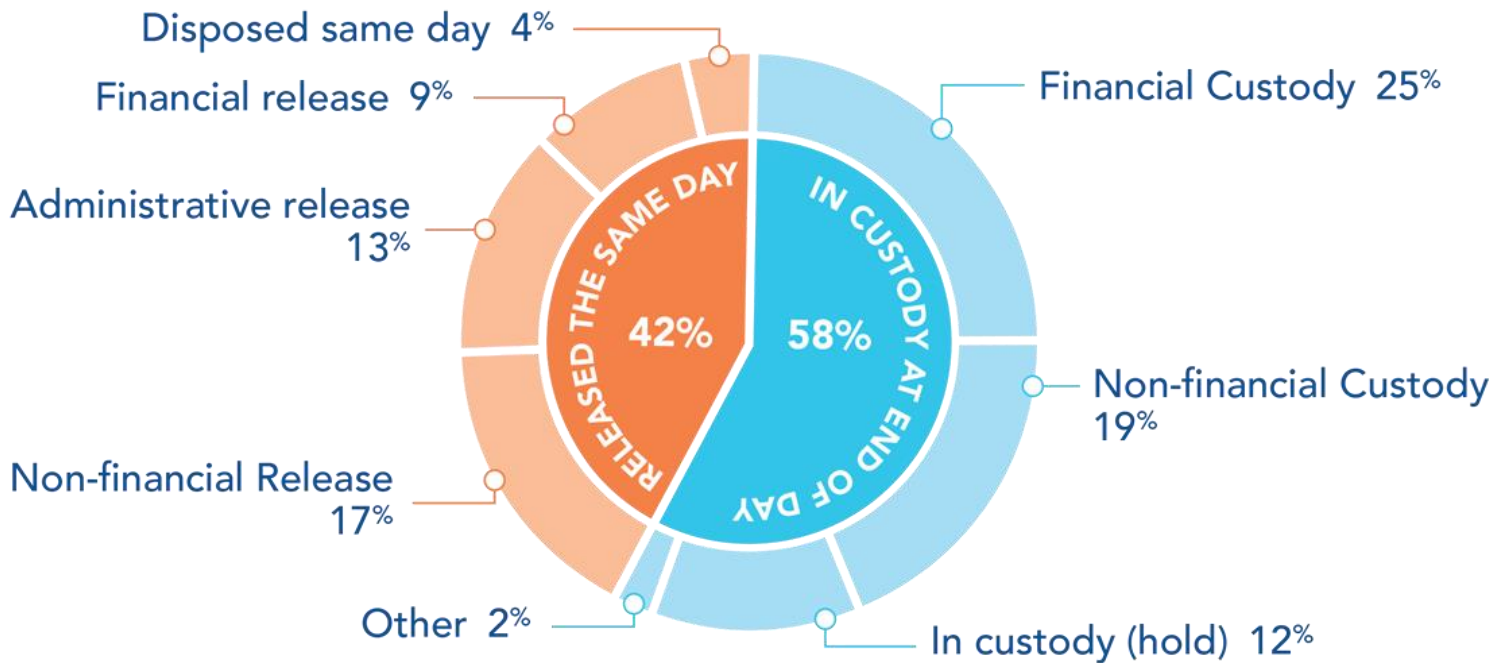
Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections

Most serious offense is a Class D non-violent, non-sexual offense



Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections

Ability to pay impacts release



Policy recommendations to support children and families

- Support **healthy relationships** between children and incarcerated parents
- Utilize **community-based treatment** for substance use issues
- Factor in **custodial parent status** to decisions on release when public safety is not a factor
- **Focus incarceration** on those who pose a risk or a threat to public safety
- **Minimize financial barriers** upon release so parents can support children

