

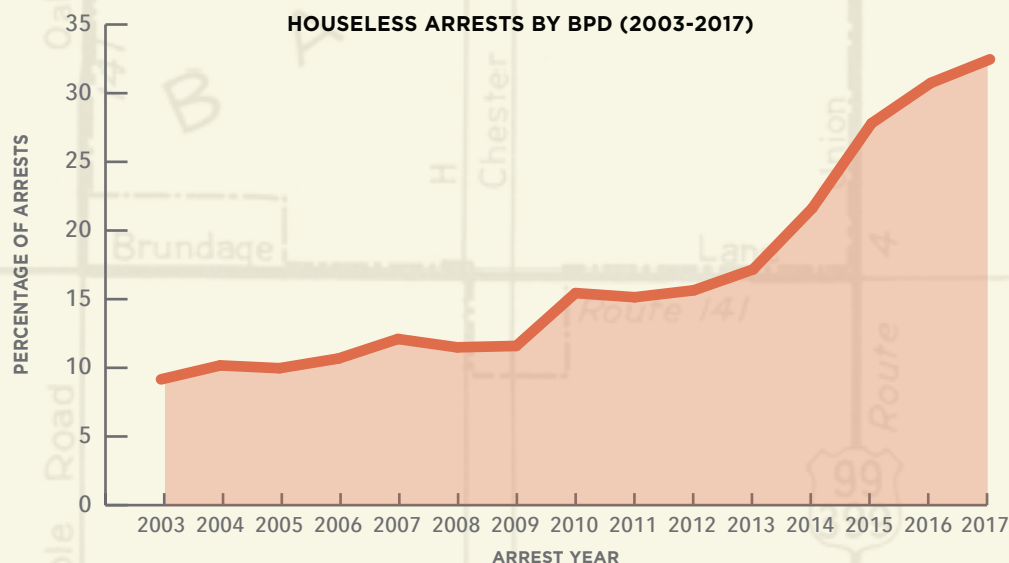
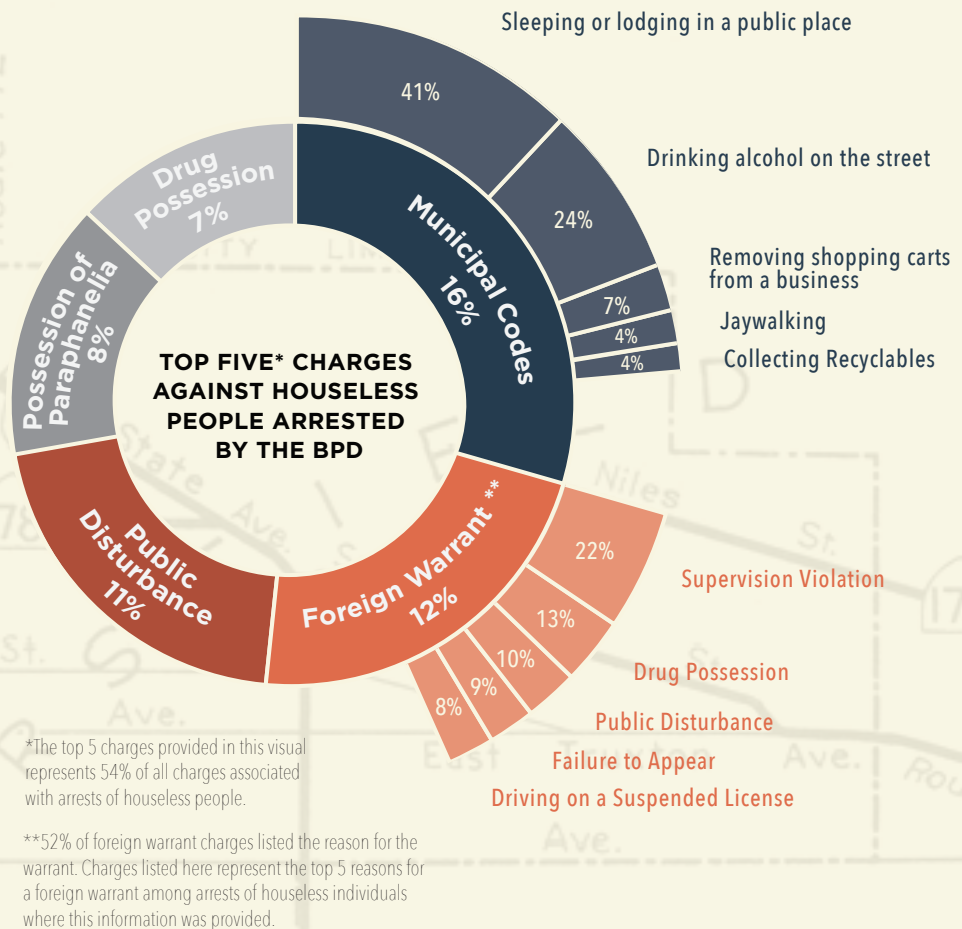
# POLICING THE HOUSELESS

## ARRESTS BY THE BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT 2003-2017 A MILLION DOLLAR HOODS REPORT

Authors: Danielle Dupuy, PhD, Eric Lee, MPH, Mariah Tso MS, and Kelly Lytle Hernández, PhD

Between 2003 and 2017, the total number of arrests in California declined by 16.5%. In these same years, arrests by the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) increased by 32%, making Bakersfield an outlier in California's declining arrest trend.<sup>1</sup> The upward trend in Bakersfield arrests was driven by a significant increase in the arrests of homeless individuals. Whereas the BPD made 1,513 arrests of homeless persons in 2003, there were 6,889 arrests of homeless persons in 2017, driving up homeless arrests from 9% of all arrests to 32% of all arrests. By 2017, BPD was making, on average, 22 arrests per homeless person in Bakersfield.<sup>2</sup>

The charges faced by houseless persons arrested by BPD did not change between 2003 and 2017. Notably, across this period, houseless persons were primarily charged with crimes of poverty. These offenses seemingly stem from a lack of housing and health status, such as sleeping in a public place, drinking alcohol on the street, possession of drugs and collecting recyclables.

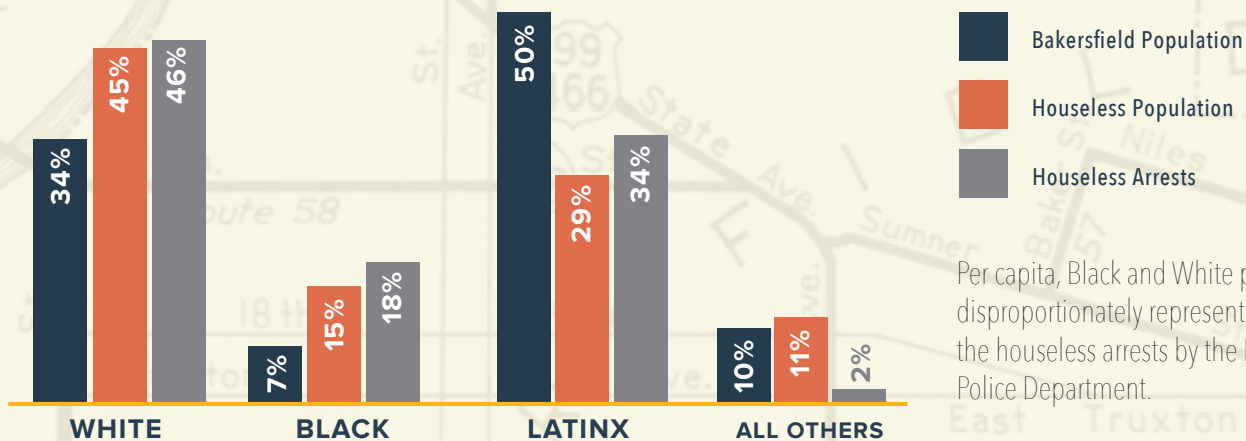
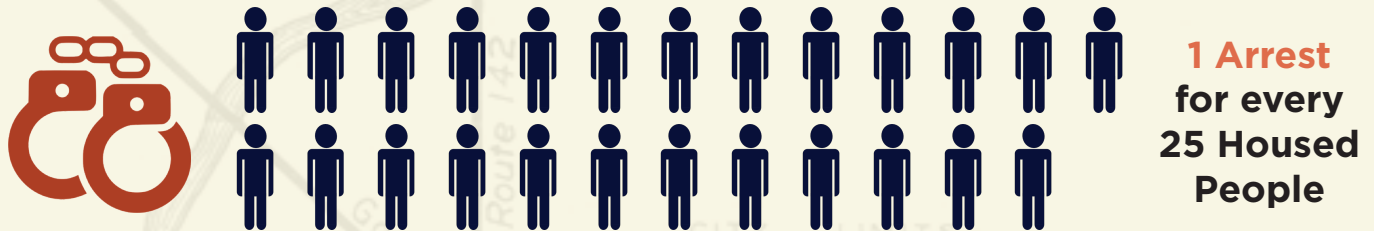


Houseless Arrests by the Bakersfield Police Department increased **by 23%** from 2003 to 2017

## HOUSELESS ARRESTS IN 2017



## HOUSED ARRESTS IN 2017



Per capita, Black and White people are disproportionately represented among the houseless arrests by the Bakersfield Police Department.

**Methodology:** This report uses data provided by the Bakersfield Police Department to Professor Kelly Lytle Hernandez on June 18, 2018 in response to a PRA request dated June 13, 2018. The dataset includes information on arrests by Bakersfield Police between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2017. This report includes arrests of people 18 years of age and older. "Possession of a controlled substance" includes the following charges: Health and Safety Codes (HS) 11350\*, 11375(B)2, 11377\*, 11383\* 11550\*, and Business and Professional Code (BP) 4060. "Public Disturbance" includes the following charges: Penal Codes (PC) 314\*, 372\*, 415\*, 647(F), 647(I). "Possession of Paraphernalia" includes Health and Safety Code (HS) 11364, Business and Professional Code (BP) 4140. "Foreign Warrants" include the following codes: 7000 44 OW BK and 7000 35 OW BK. "Driving on Suspended License" includes Vehicle Codes (VC) 12500\*, 14601\*, 16028\*. "Supervision Violation" includes the following Penal Codes (PC) 1203.2\*, 3056\*, 3455\*. "Failure To Appear" (FTA) includes Penal Codes (PC) 1320\*, 853.7\*, Vehicle Codes (VC) 40508. "Sleeping or lodging in a public place" includes Municipal Codes (MC) 9.70.010\* and 9.20.020(B). "Drinking alcohol on the street" includes Municipal Code (MC) 9.16.010(A). "Removing shopping carts from a business" includes Municipal Code (MC) 9.28.020. "Jaywalking" includes 10.48.020(A)MC. "Collecting Recyclables" includes 8.32.140(B)MC.

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## References

- Open Justice Crime Statistics. (2018) <<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>>
- Daniel Freeman (2018) Kern County homeless population increases in 2017, per report. <<https://www.kget.com/news/kern-county-homeless-population-increases-in-2017-per-report/>>

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