

BLACK PEOPLE IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL

BOOKINGS BY THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (2019)

A MILLION DOLLAR HOODS REPORT

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In March 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to reduce the County's overreliance on incarceration. That plan, developed by the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) work group, focuses on shifting County resources and priorities to increase diversion opportunities, expand community-based systems of care, and advance racial equity. Specifically, recommendations #52 and #78 of the ATI roadmap¹ respectively state: "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." And "explore ways to reduce the number of supervision check-ins, reduce and potentially eliminate technical violations, and reduce and potentially eliminate the issuance of bench warrants for people who incur technical violations on community supervision". Using L.A. County Jail booking data, this report provides a conservative estimate of how much L.A. County spends incarcerating Black people for charges identified in the ATI recommendations where alternatives to incarceration should be made available.

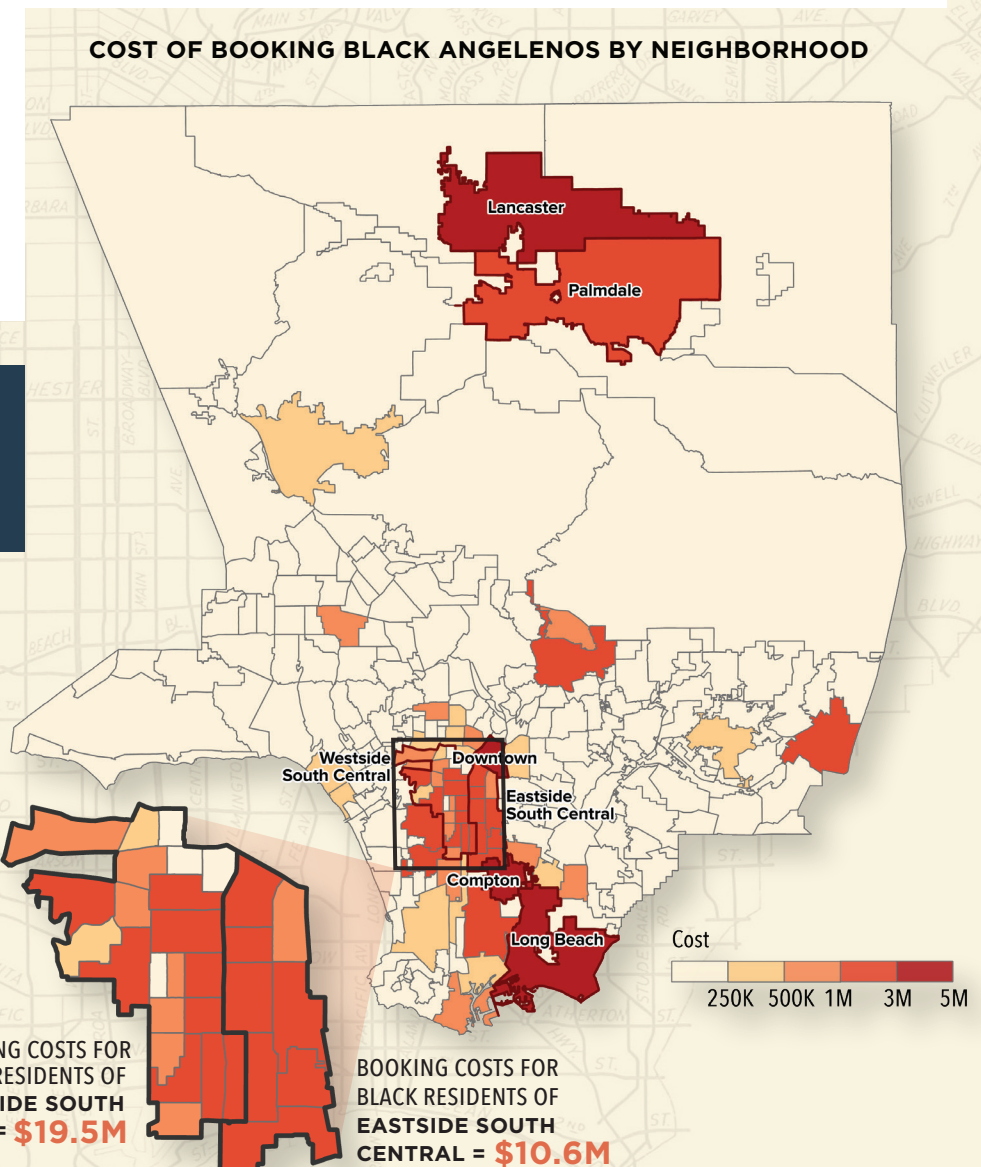
Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, an estimated 22,687 Black people were booked into the Los Angeles County Jail. Reflecting the revolving door of incarceration, a little over 4,100 of them were booked into jail more than once, resulting in approximately 28,427 cumulative bookings. These bookings cost L.A. County at least \$153.6 million.

The cost of booking Black people in 2019*

\$153,655,166

TOP 5 NEIGHBORHOODS

LANCASTER	\$6.6M
LONG BEACH	\$6.5M
DOWNTOWN	\$4.0M
COMPTON	\$3.9M
PALMDALE	\$2.6M

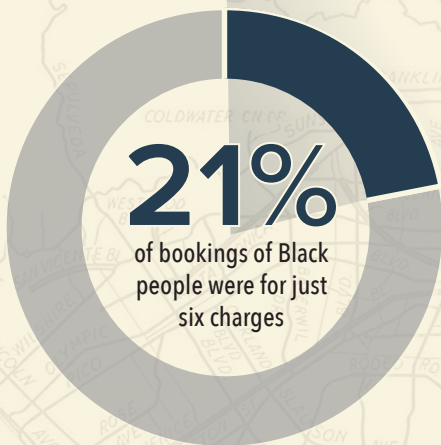


*Total costs of booking Black people includes individuals who reside outside of LA County

A person booked into the county jail can be held on one or more charges. Among all charges registered against Black people during the 2019 booking process, six common charges represent cases identified in the ATI roadmap where diversion practices can be utilized. In order of frequency, those six charges are: parole supervision violation, probation supervision violation, driving on a suspended license, drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, and DUI(where no injury to others occurred). Booking Black people on one or more of these six charges cost taxpayers at least \$26.7 million during 2019.

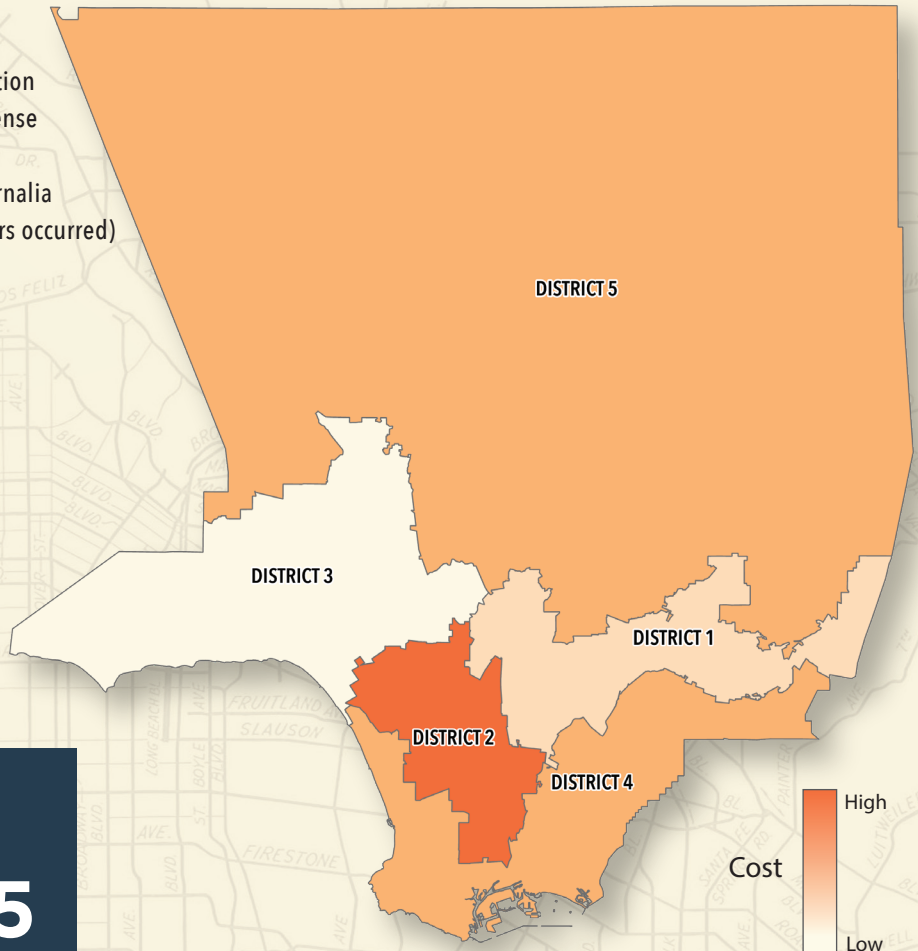
COST OF BOOKING BLACK ANGELENOS BY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT FOR SIX CHARGES

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



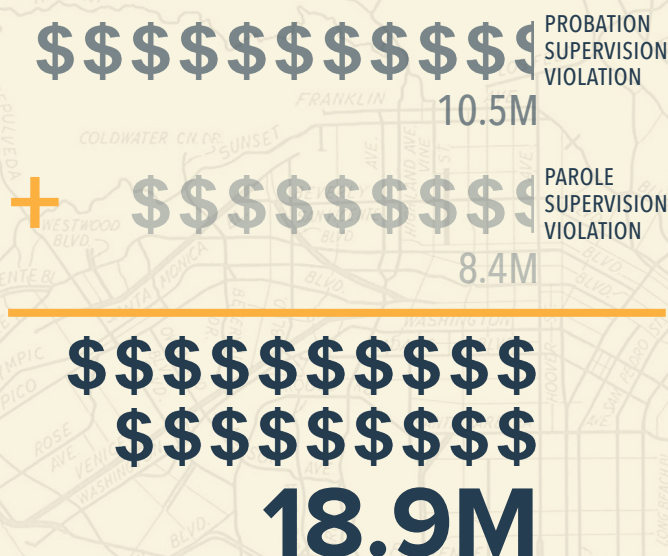
	DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5	HOUSELESS (County-wide)
% of District Population (Black) ²	2%	24%	4%	6%	5%	33% ³
% of District County Jail Bookings (Black)	8%	44%	14%	19%	25%	32%
Relative Difference between Bookings & District Population	4x	1.8x	3.5x	3.2x	5x	1x
Cost of Booking Black Angelenos on any of the six charges	1.0M	7.3M	736K	1.8M	1.8M	10.1M

This table includes costs associated with booking LA County residents only. An additional \$4M was spent booking black people who reside outside of LA County on just 6 charges

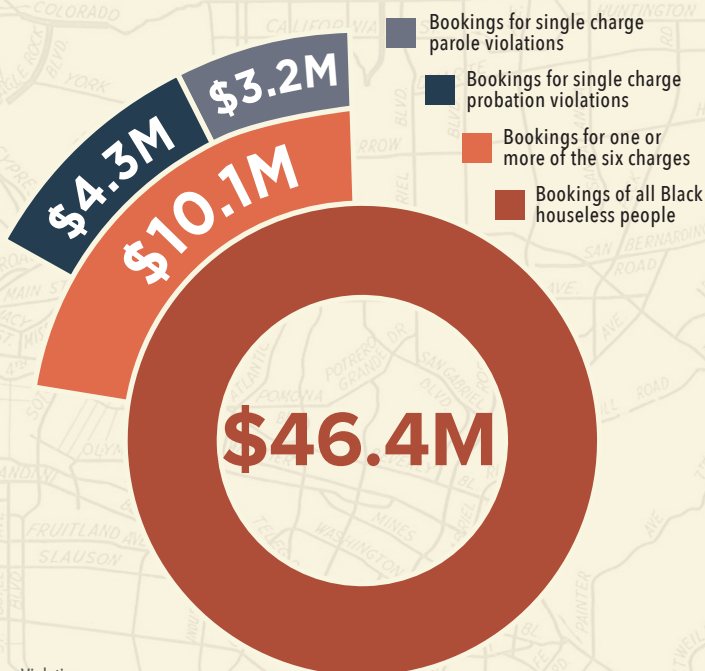
Fifty-seven percent of all bookings of Black people were based on a single charge during 2019. Among these single-charge bookings, parole supervision violation and probation supervision violation were the most-frequent charges. It cost at least \$10.5 million to book and detain Black people on a single charge for a probation violation and at least \$8.4 million on a single charge for a parole violation during 2019.

This snapshot of booking charges and associated costs suggests clear opportunities to significantly reduce the number of Black people booked into the County jail by reallocating public resources to diversion and community-based systems of care and advancing racial equity. For example, of the \$153.6 million spent to book and hold Black people in the L.A. County Jail during 2019, at least \$46.4 million of that was spent on incarcerating houseless persons. Of the \$46.4 million spent to jail Black houseless persons, \$10.1 million was spent on bookings limited to one or more of the following charges: parole supervision violation, probation supervision violation, drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI (where no one was injured) and driving on suspended license. Of the \$10.1 million spent on bookings for one or more of the previously listed six charges, it cost at least \$4.3 million to book and detain Black houseless persons on a single charge for a probation violation.

ESTIMATED COST OF BOOKING BLACK PEOPLE FOR SUPERVISION VIOLATIONS*



THE COST OF BOOKING BLACK HOUSELESS PEOPLE



*Costs are associated with detaining people who were booked on single-charge for a Parole or Probation Violation.

Methodology: The data used to produce this report was obtained in response to a California Public Records Act request submitted by Professor Kelly Lytle Hernández to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD). LASD provided two separate datasets: one on "all persons booked into the jail operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department between January 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019" received on January 15, 2020 and another on "all persons booked into the jail operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department between July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019" received March 3, 2020. Data does not include outstanding warrants from other jurisdictions. Booking costs were calculated using the following formula (booking fee + (daily prisoner maintenance rate * jail days)). Booking fees and daily prisoner maintenance rates were found in annual reports to the Board of Supervisor from the County Auditor-Controller. From January 2019 to June 2019, costs from FY 2018-2019 was used (booking fee: \$290.34, maintenance/day: \$156.93). From July 2019 to December 2019, costs from FY 2019-2020 was used (booking fee: \$358.02, maintenance/day: \$171.91). Houseless individuals were identified based on a home address listed as "1942 Transient" or a known L.A. County shelter address. The charge categories and associated charge codes highlighted in this report include parole supervision violation (PC 3000.08 and PC 3056), probation supervision violation (PC 1203, PC 3454, and PC 3455), driving on invalid/suspended license (VC 12500, VC 14601 and VC 16028), drug possession (HS 11350, HS 11375(B), HS 11377, 11550, PC 381, BP 4060), DUI without injury (VC 23152, VC 23550), and possession of paraphernalia (HS 11364). Unless otherwise indicated, all subsections of each charge were included with these groupings.

References

- ¹ https://lacialternatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ATI_Full_Report_single_pages.pdf
- ² Los Angeles County. (2020). Census Profiles & LRS Maps SD1 - SD5, U.S. Census Bureau 2016 Planning Database, Retrieved from Los Angeles County Census 2020 website <<https://census.lacounty.gov/resources/?tabIndex=3>>.
- ³ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (2019). Demographic summary by race/ethnicity and by gender, Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Retrieved from LASHSA website <<https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=3437-2019-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-presentation.pdf>>.

Suggested Citation: Dupuy, D., Lee, E., Tso, M., and Lytle Hernández, K.. (2020). "Black People in the Los Angeles County Jail: Bookings by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (2019)". Los Angeles, CA. The Million Dollar Hoods Project

