



KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON **MENTAL HEALTH**

Administrative Office of the Courts
TOWN HALL REPORT PRESENTATION

KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH



Town Hall Attendance

Owensboro, August 30, 2023 (130 attendees)

Covington, September 6, 2023 (70 attendees)

Ashland, September 13, 2023, (71 attendees)

London, September 27, 2023 (105 attendees)

Lexington, October 11, 2023 (142 attendees)

Paducah, October 25, 2023 (110 attendees)

Louisville, November 8, 2023 (96 attendees)

Pikeville, November 15, 2023 (190 attendees)

Bowling Green, November 29, 2023 (116 attendees)

In total, over a thousand individuals from across Kentucky participated in the town halls.

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Town Hall and Survey Structure

Audiences shared their stories and experiences in person and in electronic surveys

Town Halls took place at locations already in use by the Kentucky Bar Association. The event opened with an introduction from KJCMH staff and members.

The town hall surveys covered the following topics:

Systems that the individual with lived experience interacted with

How the individual would rate those systems

What changes the individual recommended that would improve their rating

Demographic questions regarding the individual's race, age, and gender

A final free-response question to share their story or anything they wanted to say about the system

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Survey Response Rate and Breakdown

A total of 276 participants responded to the town hall survey, or roughly one out of every four participants.

Participants could respond on their own behalf, on behalf of someone they know with lived experience, or choose “other”

Response Options	Percentage of Participants
I am a person with lived experience	24% (n = 67)
I am family or friend to a person with lived experience	27% (n = 74)
Other:	
System Professional	22% (n = 60)
Has lived experience and is family/friends to someone with lived experience	12% (n = 32)
Has lived experience and is a system professional	2% (n = 5)
Is family or friends to someone with lived experience and is a system professional	6% (n = 16)
Has lived experience, is family/friends to someone with lived experience, and is a system professional	5% (n = 14)
Declined to answer	3% (n = 8)

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Participant Demographics

For this and future slides, the term “subject” is used to reference the individual with lived experience that the participant responded for, which is often not the same as the participant themselves

The majority of the survey subjects (63%) fell into the age range of 25-55

The next most common age ranges were 18-24 (17%) and then under 18 (13%)

The gender split of subjects was largely even, 45% men and 44% women

The remaining percentage of responses to this question came from survey professionals reporting that they worked with clients of all genders

The most common race of survey subjects was white at 71%

Black was the next most common at 8%

11% of respondents either preferred not to say or left this question unanswered

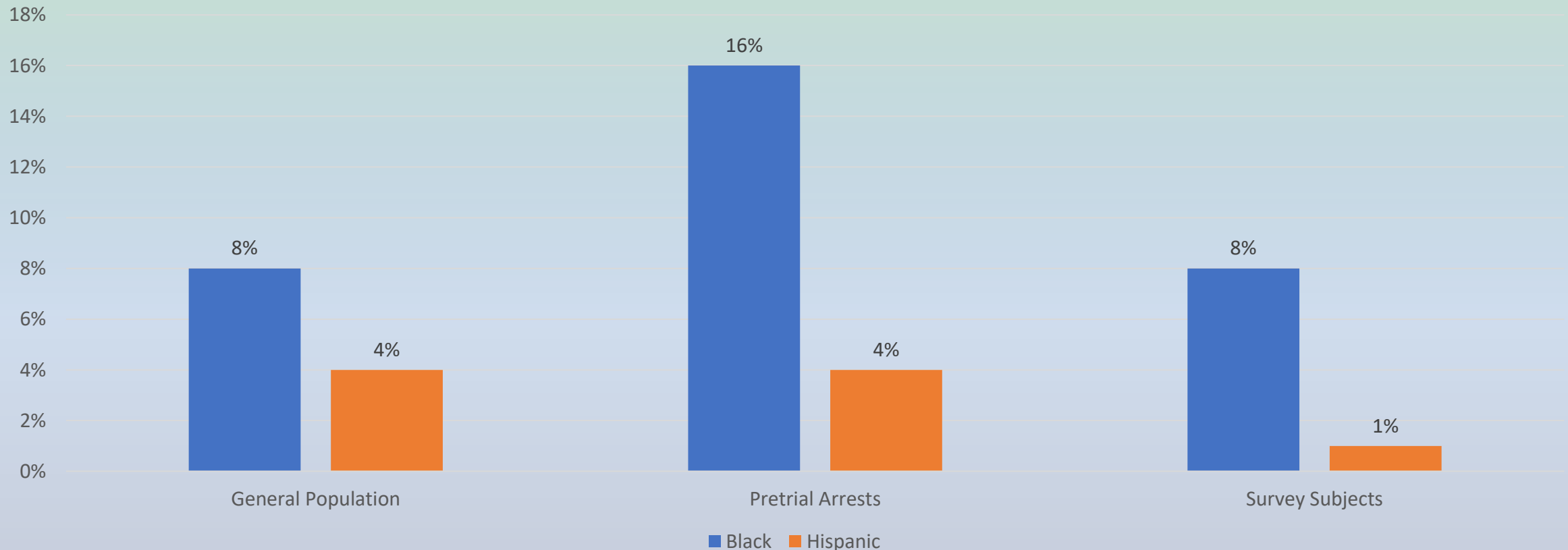
Less than 1% of the survey subjects were Hispanic or Latine

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Black and Hispanic subjects were underrepresented compared to their presence in the justice system

Percent of Select Racial/Ethnic Groups Among the Population, Arrests, and Survey Subjects



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System Interactions

System	Percent of Town Hall Survey Respondents
Outpatient services	83%
Inpatient services	66%
Courtroom, virtual hearing	58%
Jail, detention, prison	55%
Police, EMS, or other first responder	53%
911 call, crisis line	43%
Diversion program, alternative sentencing, probation	42%
Specialty Courts	33%

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Pretrial Services	32%
Reentry, parole	30%
Out-of-home placement, foster care	24%
Court Designated Worker	21%
Guardianship	20%

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System Ratings

Participants were asked to rate the subject's experience with the systems they interacted with on a scale of one (1) to five (5), with 1 being very unacceptable and 5 being very acceptable

- **median (or middle) score = 3** *Suggests that the typical subject had a neutrally acceptable experience*
- **mode (most common) score = 3**

Scores were further broken down by demographic factors or system interactions to look for any patterns. The majority of these breakdowns did not make a notable difference in score, with two exceptions:

Comparing the mean (average) score of white subjects to nonwhite subjects (Black, Hispanic, multiracial, Asian, and other) showed a difference of roughly 0.76, with white subjects reporting a more acceptable experience

Comparing the median score of those who experienced jail, versus those who did not, show that those who did not go to jail, detention, or prison had a higher median score (4), as well as an average score that was 0.69 higher than those who did experience jail



Top Five Themes

Across all themes, subjects recommended incorporating more voices with lived experience into the system

Gaps in adult community-based care

Gaps in youth community-based care

Behavioral health treatment in detention facilities

Sentencing and diversion

Involuntary commitment of adults

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Gaps in Adult Community- Based Care

GAPS

- Crisis care
- Intensive outpatient programming
- Special population focused services
- Lack of daily living needs being met
- Care for co-occurring disorders
- Treatment plan vs court plan timelines/understanding

DEFENDANT SUCCESS

- Increase training and staffing: funding
- Specialization of facilities or programs
- Court requirement amendments
- Recovery focused consequences
- Increased supports for daily living needs (transportation, identification, insurance, housing, etc.)
- Collaboration

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Gaps in Youth Community- Based Care

GAPS

- Juvenile hospitalization barriers
- School behavioral health services and curriculum
- Special population focused services
- Crossover cases involving juvenile justice and child welfare system

DEFENDANT SUCCESS

- Additional facilities for youth, especially with services offered for trauma and grief
- Increased collaboration between courts and child welfare on behalf of dually involved youth
- Increased diversion options
- Improved explanations of programming and sanctions

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Behavioral Health Treatment in Detention Facilities

GAPS

- Limited or inconsistent access to psychiatric medications
- Lack of reentry planning
- Staff shortages and lack of training
- Limited recovery programming

DEFENDANT SUCCESS

- Increased funding and training for staffing
- Improved efforts to reduce stigma
- Improve access to treatment programming without having to utilize jail time
- Restorative rather than punitive system focus

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Sentencing and Diversion

GAPS

- Limited or delayed access to diversion programs
- Unrealistic expectations of bond, probation, and diversion conditions
- Misunderstanding of program expectations and therapeutic service requirements/outcomes

DEFENDANT SUCCESS

- Increase access to diversion, expansion of criteria
- Collaboration between treatment providers and court supervision staff
- Clarification of expectations and consequences, increasing focus on restorative rather than punitive practices

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Involuntary Commitment of Adults

GAPS

- Barriers to admission and demonstration of admission criteria
- Lack of alternative crisis services to address levels of care below hospitalization
- Challenges in after-hours petitions
- Unclear discharge and stability criteria

DEFENDANT SUCCESS

- Improve discharge planning and transition to community
- Increased services along the crisis end of the level of care continuum
- After-hours petition standardization
- Clarify criteria on length of stay and discharge criteria

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Additional Themes

- Stigma and lack of housing are barriers
- Law enforcement and first responders benefit from Crisis Intervention Team Training and are a contact point with potential for victimization/escalation
- Additional peer support specialists and case managers would be beneficial
- There is growing need for inpatient substance use disorder treatment
- Need for more information available to the public regarding court processes
- Need for targeted services for specific populations:
 - Autistic people
 - Individuals under guardianship
 - Aging caregivers
 - Deaf or hard of hearing
 - Individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities

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OBSERVATIONS

Demographics

Town halls attracted a mixed group of men and women, generally ages 25-55, predominantly white, who experienced a number of systems with outpatient being the most common

Expanding Outreach

Focused outreach to groups that were underrepresented as well as offering virtual town hall options would be beneficial if the town halls were to be conducted again in the future

System Needs

Need for affordable housing, specialized placements, accessible transportation, and more experienced and competent staffing all expressed commonly across themes

System Ratings

Subjects largely rated the system as neutrally acceptable, although nonwhite participants and those who experienced jail or prison were more likely to give a lower rating

Re-entry Opportunities

Roughly half of the subjects experienced jail or prison but only a third received re-entry services, showing an opportunity for expanding reentry to benefit more people experiencing the system of care

Additional Recommendations

Additional recommendations included reducing stigma, intentionally including voices with lived experience, and systemic changes like increased funding for treatment and changes to policies

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Questions?

Reach out to today's presenters for additional information

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