



*Examining the Impact of Emergency COVID-19 Decarceration
Strategies on Jail Populations and Community Safety*

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Overview

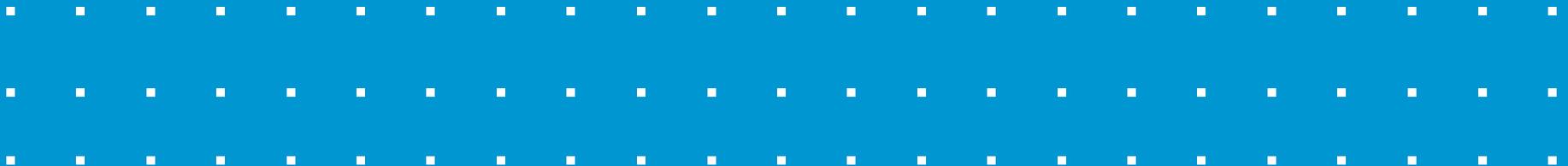
- Introduction
- Dane County Context and Ongoing Work
- Overview of Proposed Study

Introduction

- The Urban Institute (Urban) is a nonprofit research organization that conducts research on various policy areas, including criminal justice issues. Urban's Justice Policy Center (JPC) is part of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Research Consortium.
- The Institute for State and Local Governance at CUNY has invited members of the SJC Research Consortium to submit proposals evaluating different sites' jail decarceration efforts amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our team in JPC is proposing an 18-month, mixed methods study focusing on two SJC sites – Dane County, WI and Durham County, NC – examining (i) how both sites implemented strategies to reduce their jail populations once the COVID-19 pandemic hit and (ii) what the impact of these strategies has been thus far.

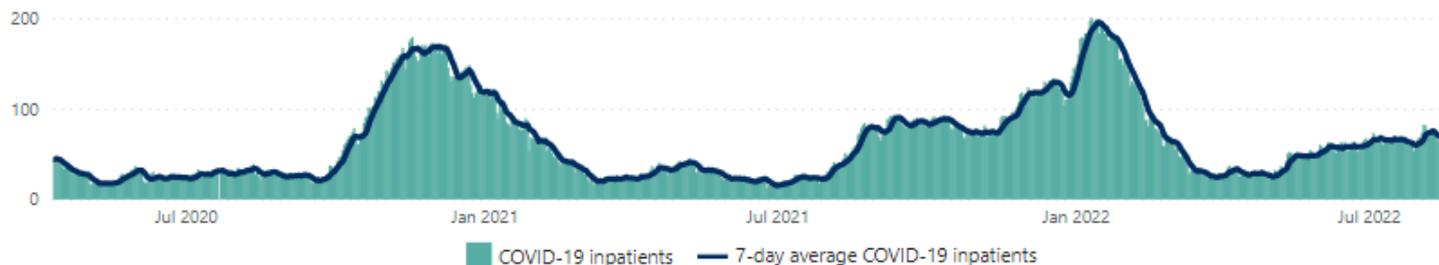


Dane County Context and Ongoing Work



← Hospitalizations & Deaths: Trends

COVID-19 Inpatients

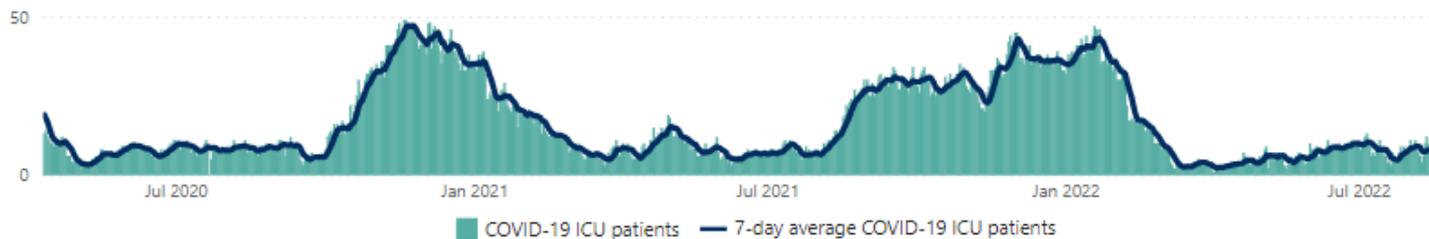


Select a time frame for hospitalization trends

All time

Past 2 weeks

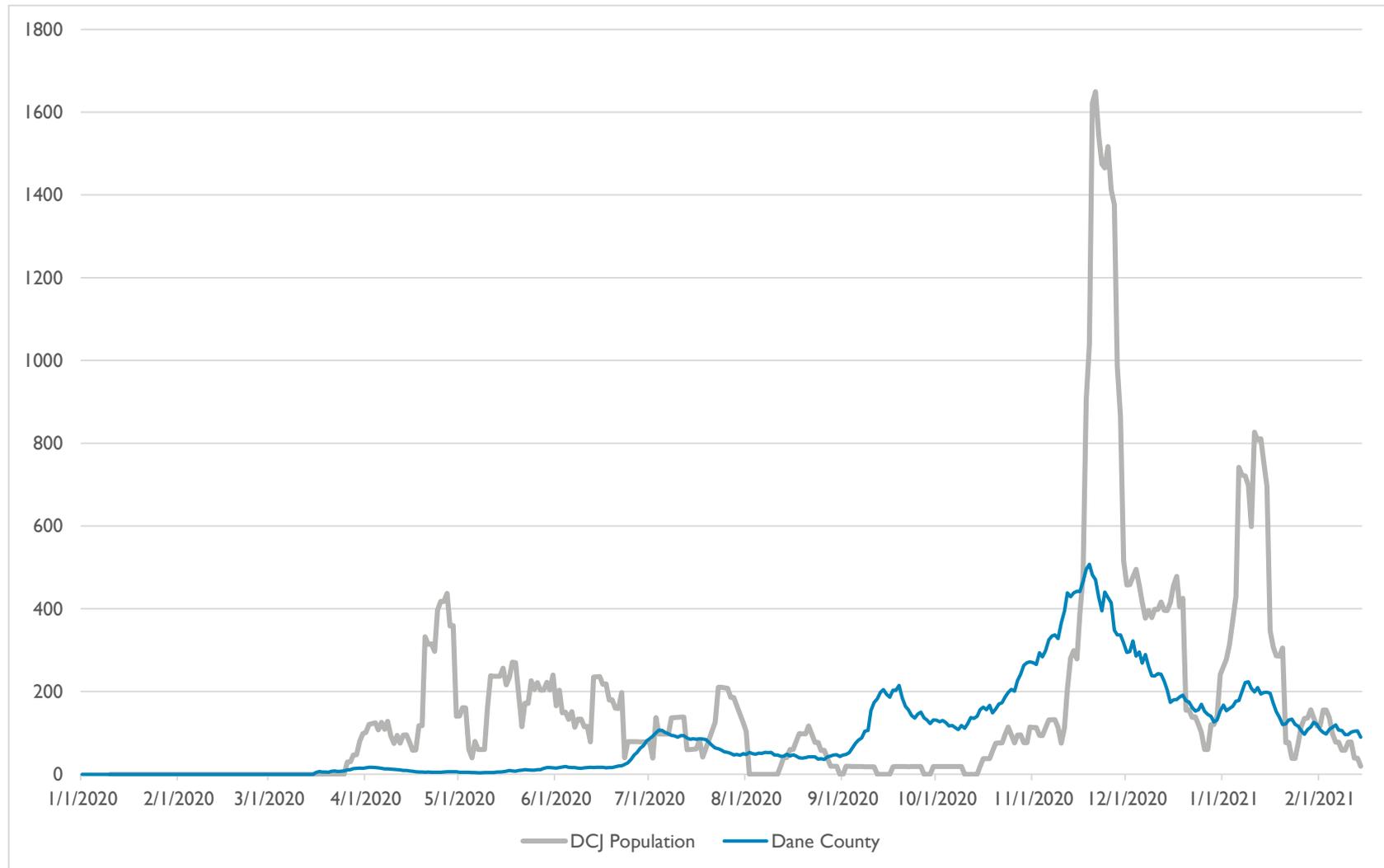
COVID-19 Inpatients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)



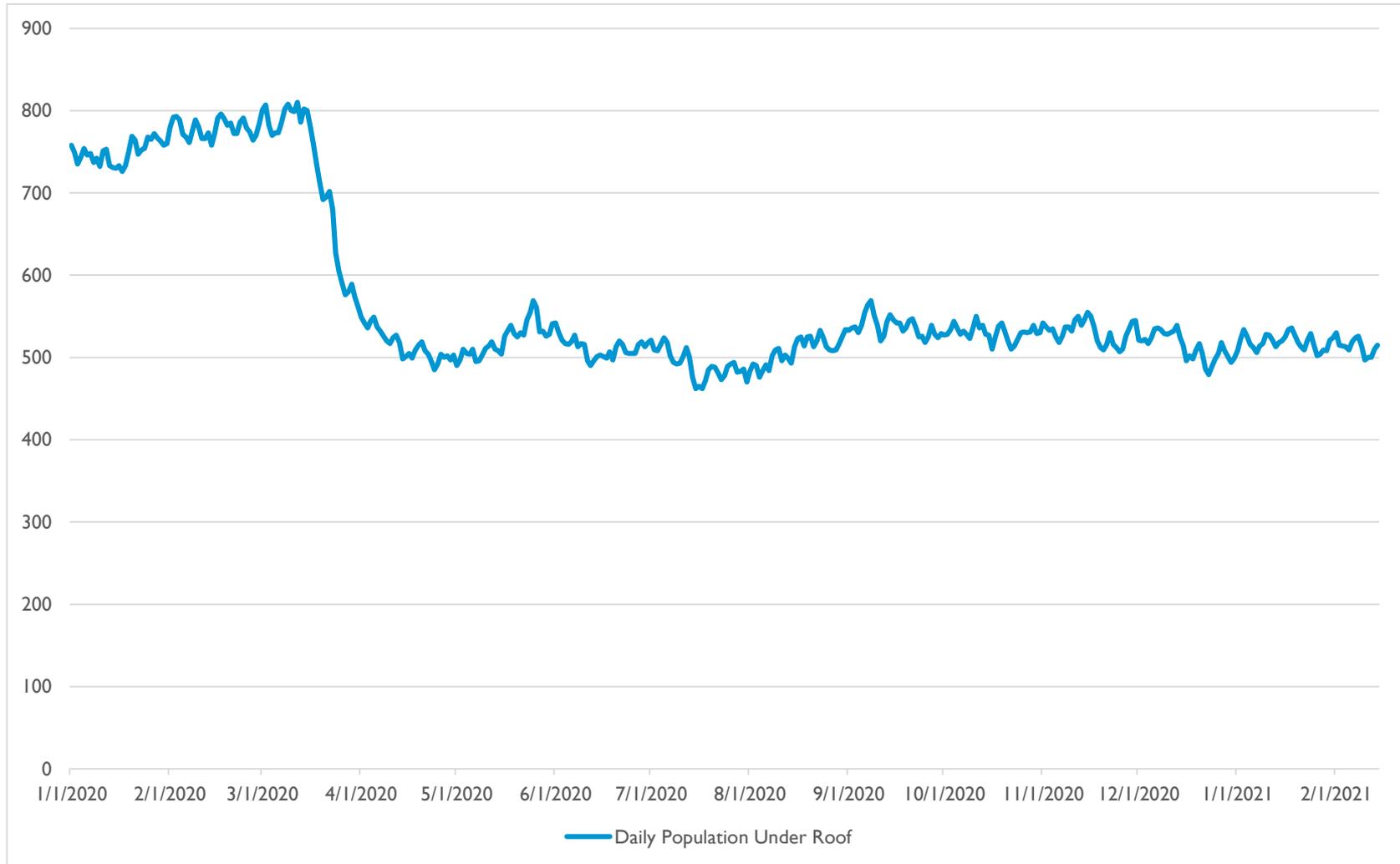
Number of people who died by month and year



COVID Incidence per 100,000 (10-day rolling averages) Dane County v. Dane County Jail



Dane County Jail Under-Roof Population

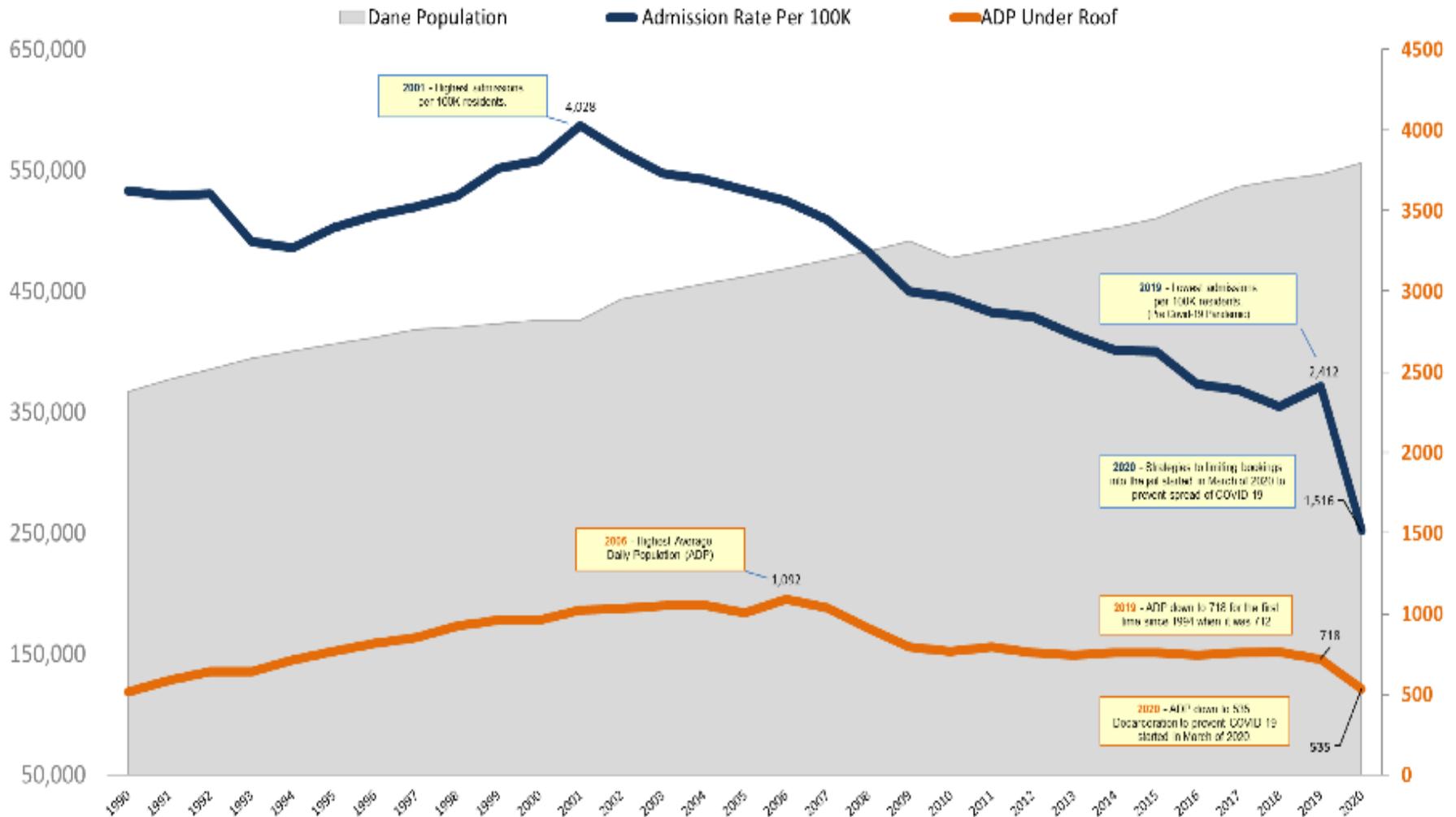


Dane County Jail System

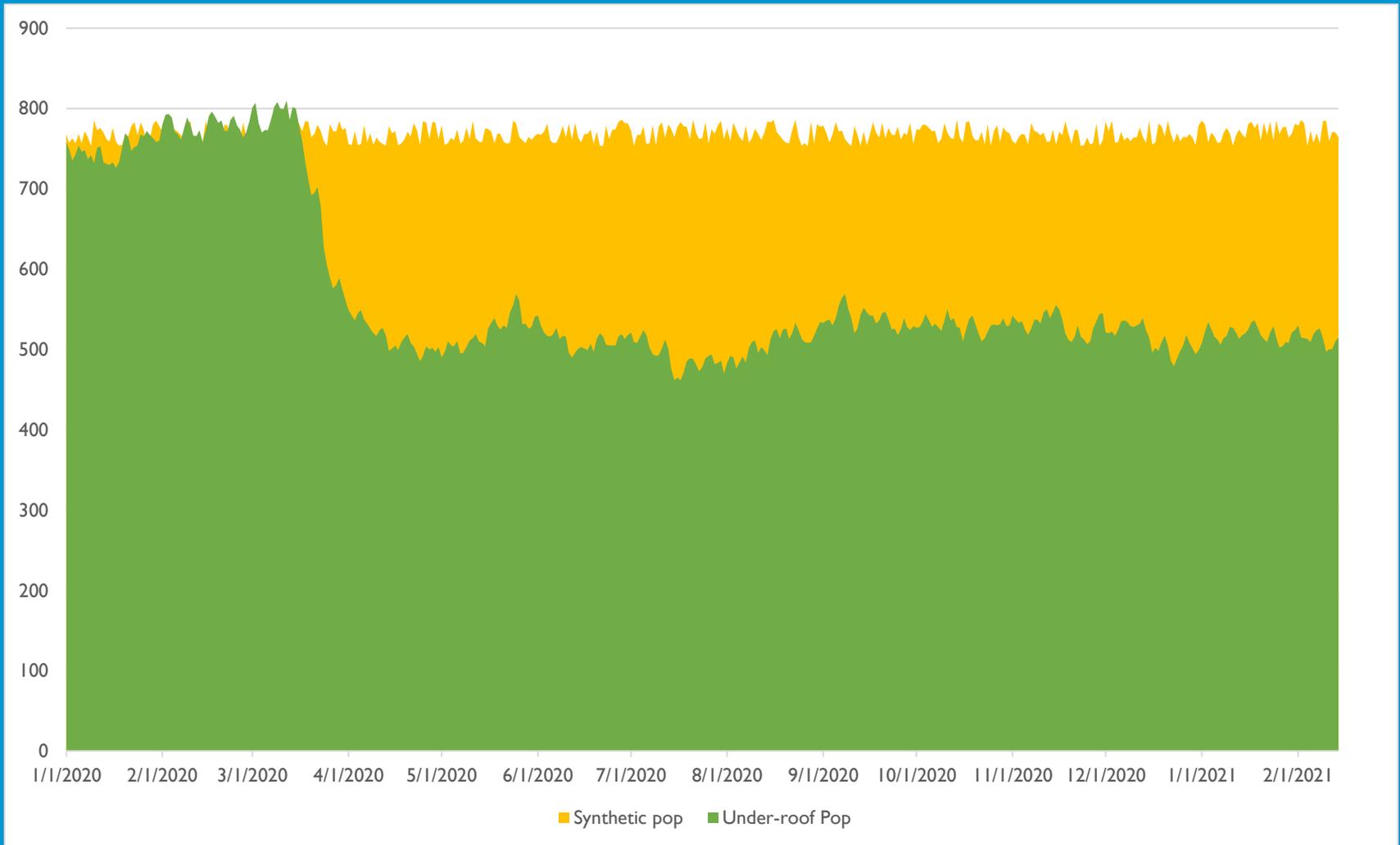
Admission Rate and Average Daily Population Relative to Dane County Population

Time Span: 1990 - 2020

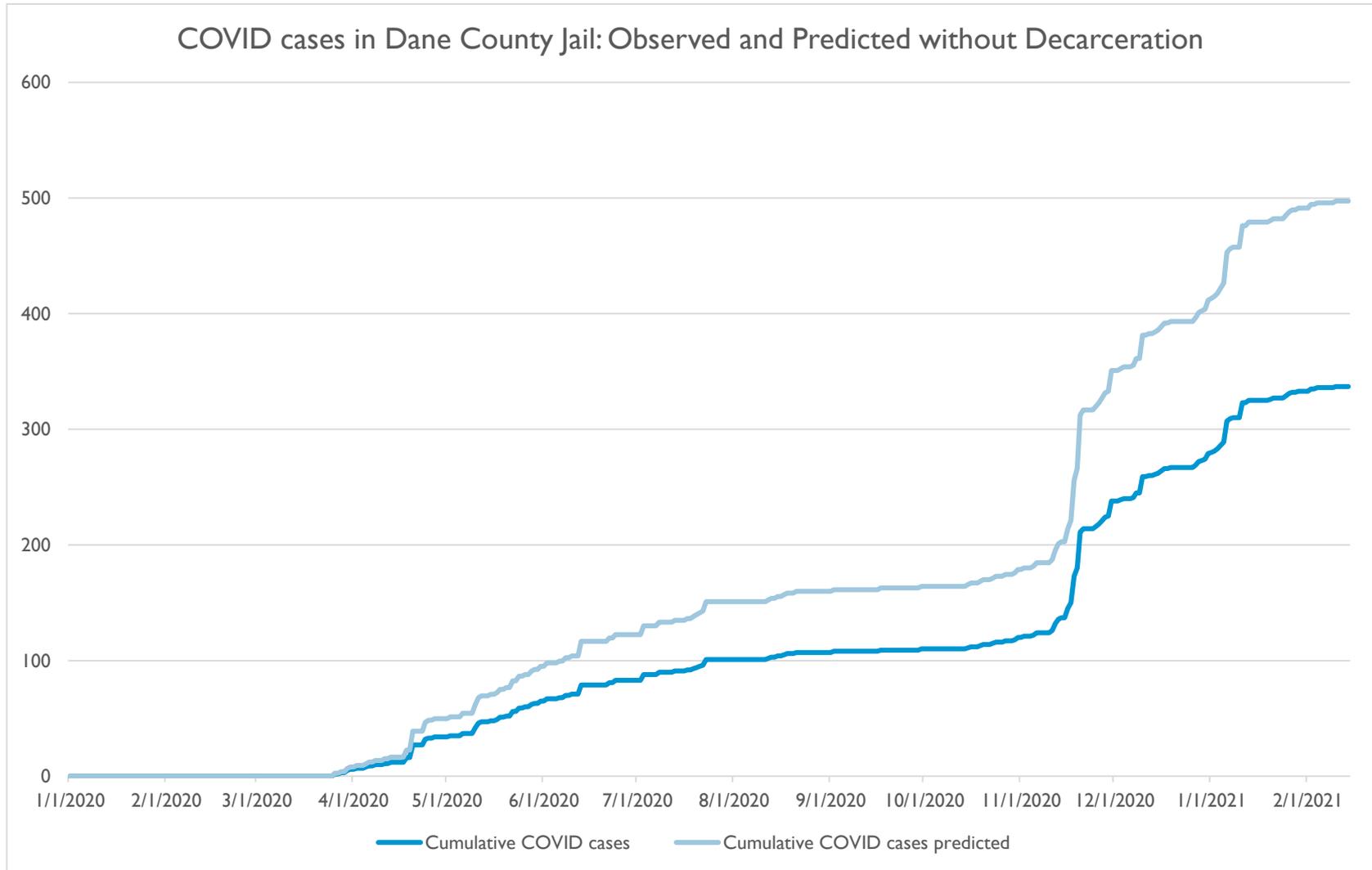
ADP under roof only includes individuals that are physically in custody.



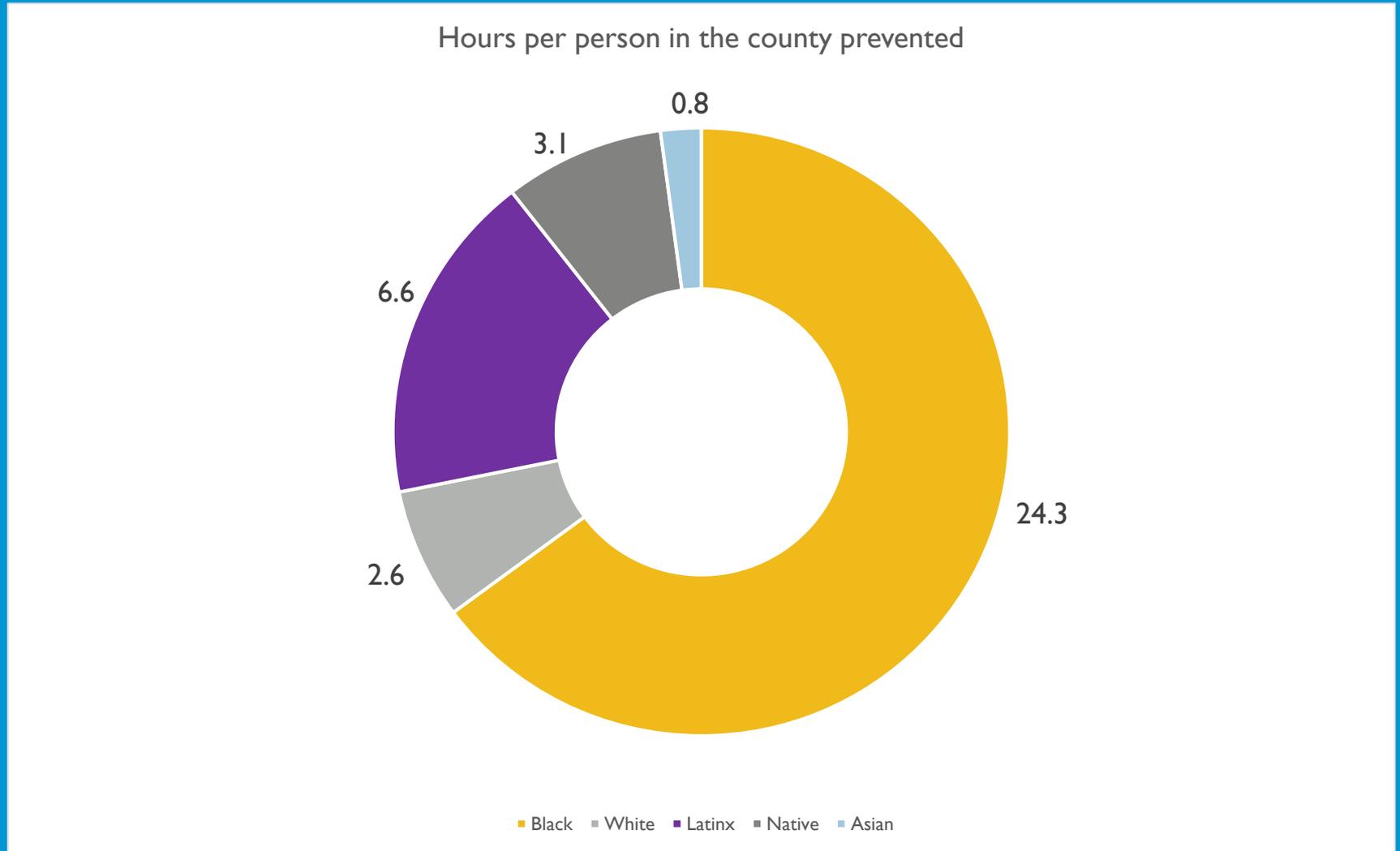
The Effect of Decarceration on COVID



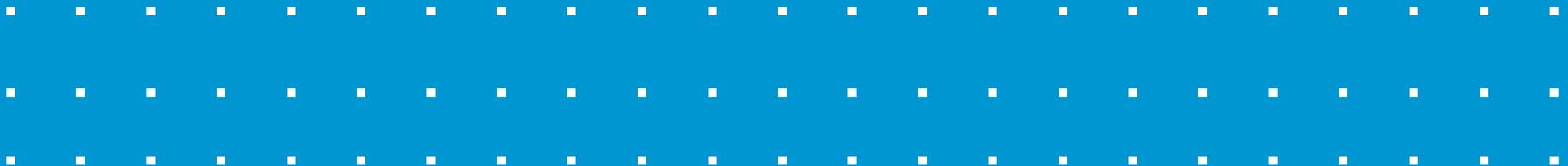
People not exposed to COVID in Dane County Jail from Decarceration



Hours of COVID exposure prevented per Dane County Resident, by race



Overview of Proposed Study



Proposed Study Overview

- **Overview:** An 18-month study closely examining Dane County and Durham County's strategies to limit the jail population and their impact.
- **Goal 1:** An examination of process by which jail decarceration strategies were implemented by stakeholders in either site.
- **Goal 2:** An evaluation of the impact of reducing the jail population, in terms of not just the jail population but also in terms of the spread of COVID within the jail as well as the broader community.
- **Methods:** Analysis of administrative jail data and data on the spread of COVID in jail and in the wider community; close engagement with local stakeholders (such as local officials and members of the community) via interviews and focus groups.

Envisioned Role for Dane CJC staff and Other Key Stakeholders

- **Provision of administrative data** on the jail population as well as the spread of COVID amongst the incarcerated population and correctional staff.
- **Facilitation of outreach to local stakeholders** such as members of the CJC (E.g., law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors and defense attorneys) and other members of the community including those who were incarcerated.
- **Review study findings** towards the end of the project and assist with interpretation.

Potential Benefits of this Partnership

- The study promises to yield more accurate findings and help to answer questions such as the following:
 - What was the overall **impact on the jail population** of the decarceration efforts;
 - What kinds of **reduction in COVID exposure** were achieved through jail decarceration, and what does this mean in terms of **lives saved**;
 - What was the **impact on racial and ethnic disparities**.
- It would help Dane County stakeholders **identify the most effective strategies** to (i) reduce the jail population safely and (ii) address disproportionality within the jail population.
- The findings **could inform future decarceration efforts** in terms in response to, for instance, future pandemic waves or other situations that necessitate immediate decarceration (e.g., natural calamities) **not only for the jail but also for prisons and other confined spaces**.

Thank you!

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Ongoing study in Dane County