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Understanding Repeated Jail Bookings

Community Justice Council
April 24, 2025

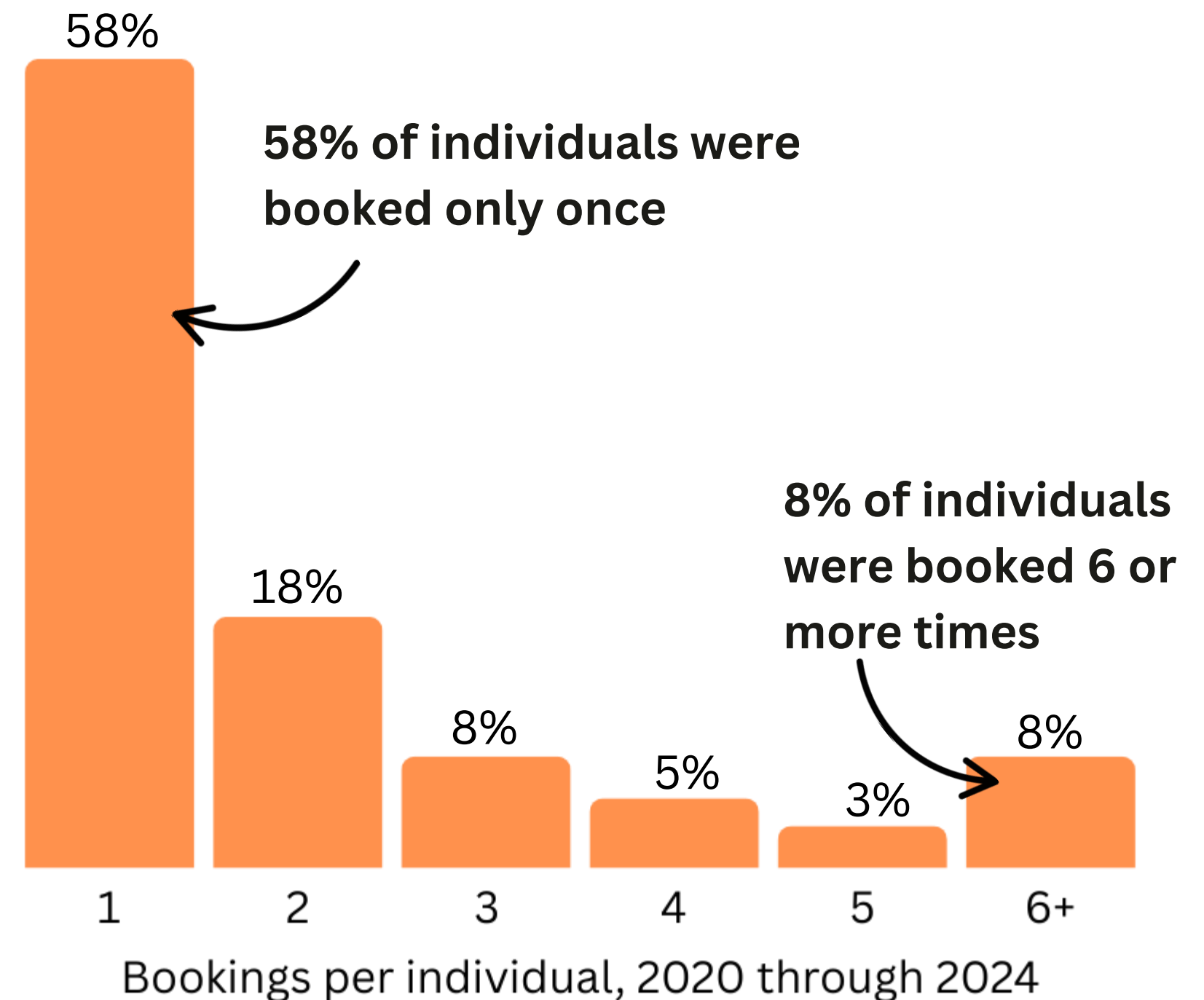# Most <u>individuals</u> who were booked into jail were booked only once

> **Time period**

This analysis looks at bookings in the Dane County jail over five years, 2020 through 2024.

> **Individuals booked**

There were 24,762 individuals booked into the jail during that period.

> **Most people booked only once**

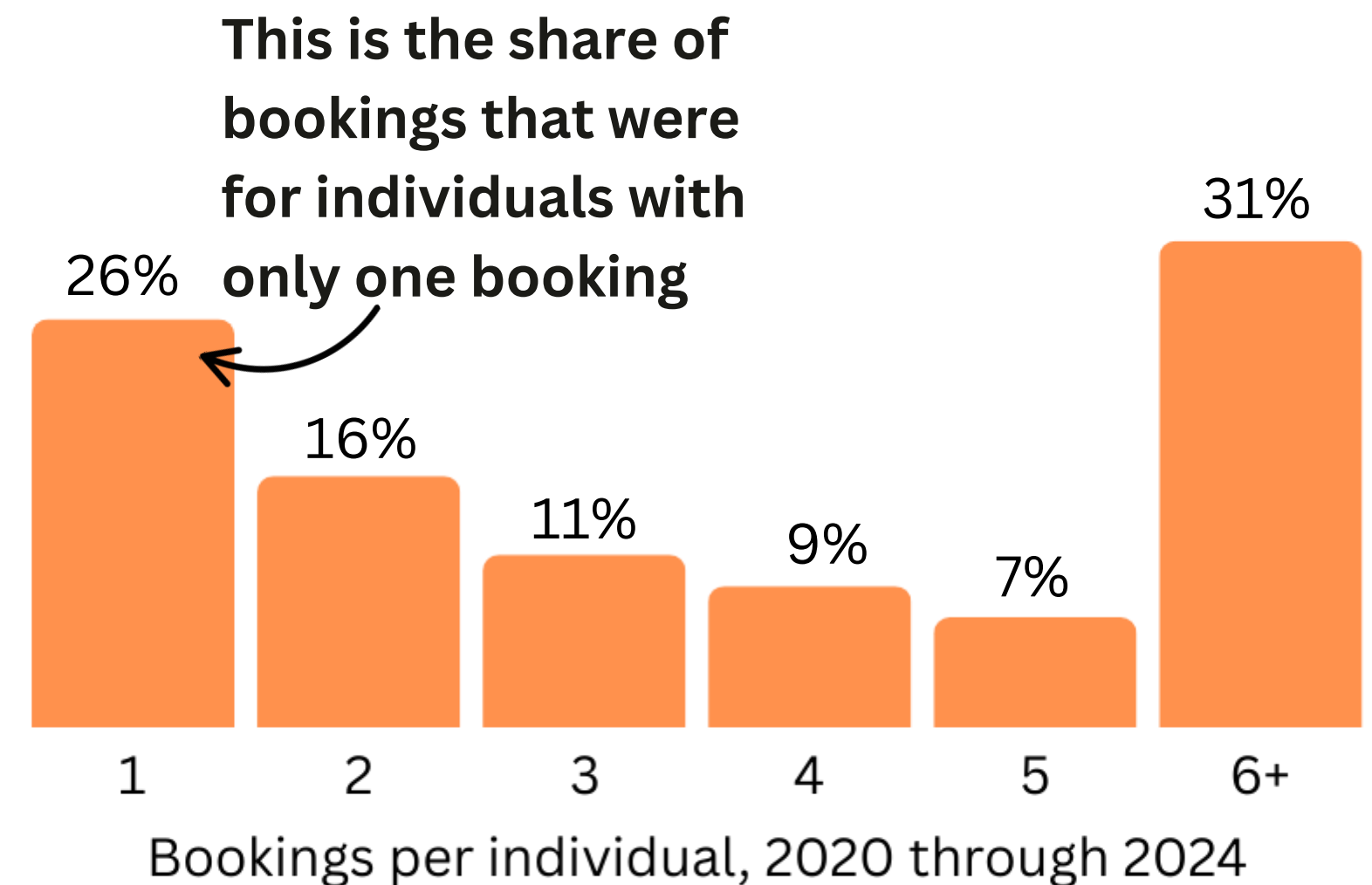58% of the individuals booked, or 14,323 individuals, were booked only once during this period.

58% of individuals were booked only once

8% of individuals were booked 6 or more times

58%

18%

8%

5%

3%

8%

1 2 3 4 5 6+

Bookings per individual, 2020 through 2024

2

Most <u>bookings</u> were of individuals who had been booked multiple times

> **Number of bookings**

There were 55,019 bookings from 2020 through 2024.

> **Multiple bookings were common**

16,789 bookings, or 31%, were of individuals who had been booked 6 more more times during this period.

This is the share of bookings that were for individuals with only one booking

26%

16%

11%

9%

7%

31%

1   2   3   4   5   6+

Bookings per individual, 2020 through 2024
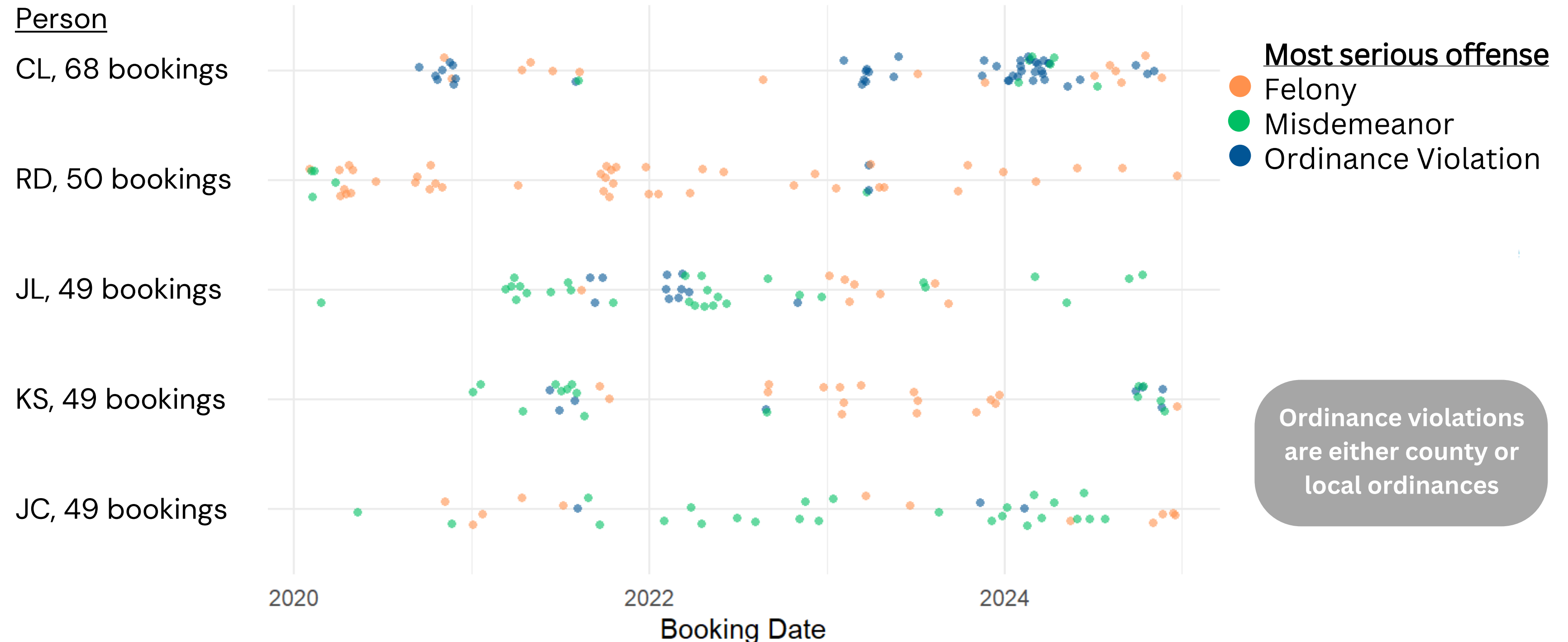
Some reasons for booking

New arrest

Serving a sentence

Probation or parole violation

Bench warrant

Individuals with the highest number of bookings for the years 2020 through 2024. Each dot is a booking, color-coded by the most serious offense on the booking.

Concentrated bookings

- One person was booked into the jail six times in six days, and twice the following week.

- For this cluster of bookings, the ordinance violations were trespassing. The misdemeanors were disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

Most serious offense on booking

🟢 Misdemeanor
🔵 Ordinance violation

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 🟢	20 🔵	21 🔵	22	23 🔵	24 🔵🟢	25
26	27	28	29 🔵🟢	30	31	

Person "SA"

Concentrated bookings

● Felony
● Misdemeanor
● Ordinance violation

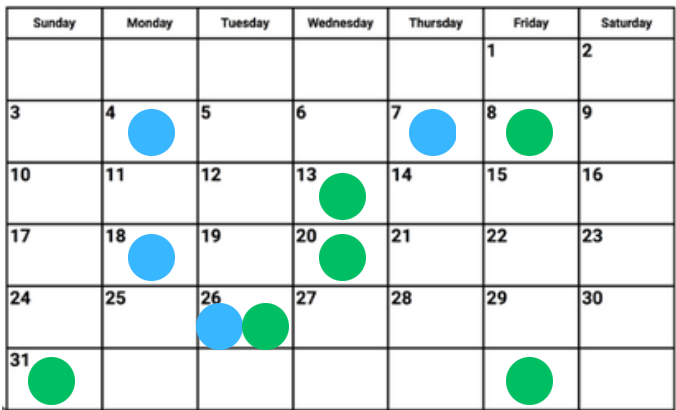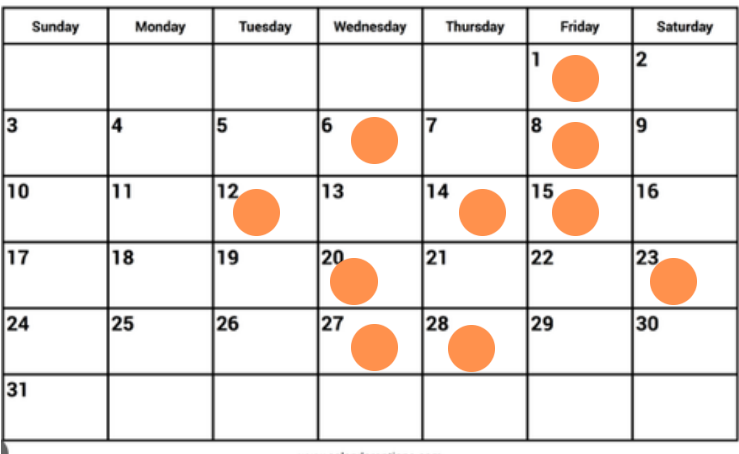› Three people were booked into the jail 10 times in 30 days
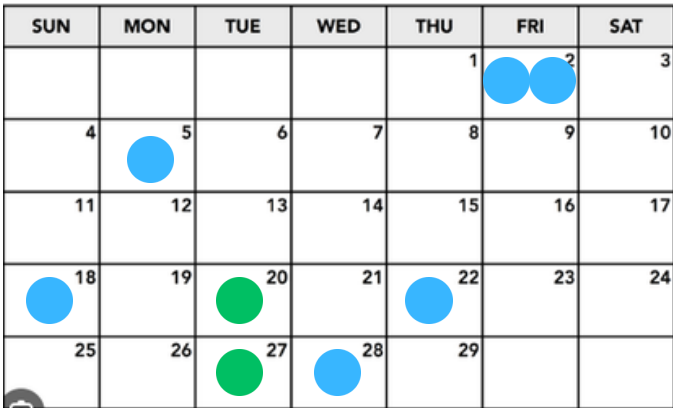
February 2024
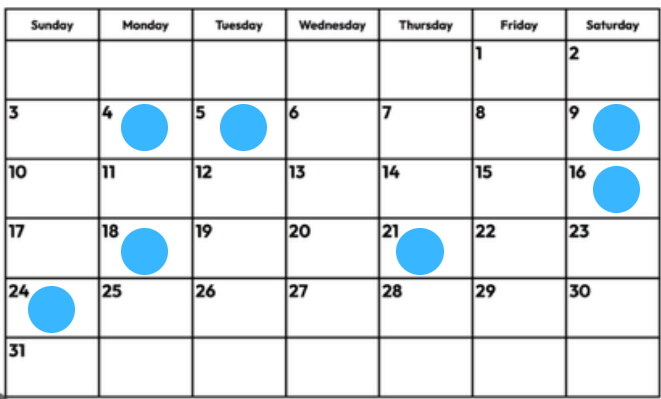
December 2023

May 2020

Person "JB" was booked for trespassing, disorderly conduct, resisting, lewd & lascivious behavior, bail jumping.

Person "TC" had felonies that were mostly felony bail jumping. Almost always got signature bonds.

March 2024

Person "CL," who had the most bookings of any person during this time. Typically trespassing and bail jumping.

There were 74 individuals who were booked into the jail 2x in a day during this period

7

Who are high-intensity utilizers?

- Many different terms for people who are frequently in the jail, including Familiar Faces, Frequent Flyers, high utilizers, etc, with no standard definition

- For this analysis, high-intensity users are considered individuals who were booked into the jail **three times in any six-month period**

- Defining the population this way allows us to include people who are new to Dane County
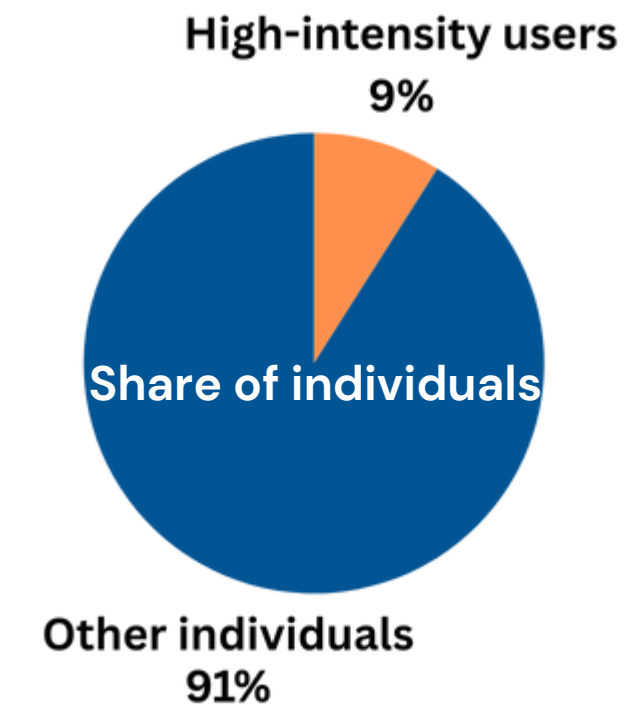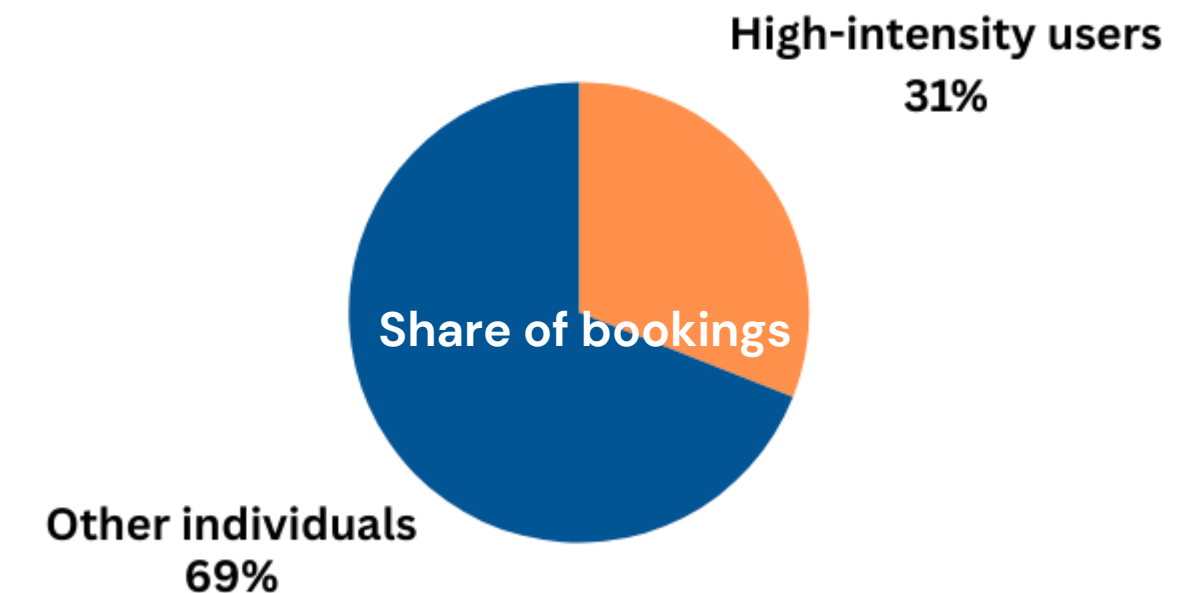
High-intensity users

Individuals with 3 bookings in the Dane County Jail in any six-month window, 2020 through 2024.

High-intensity users
9%

Share of individuals

Other individuals
91%

> There were 2,284 individuals who had three bookings in any six month window during this five-year period, or **9% of all individuals booked.**

> Those individuals made up about **31% of all bookings.**

High-intensity users
31%

Share of bookings
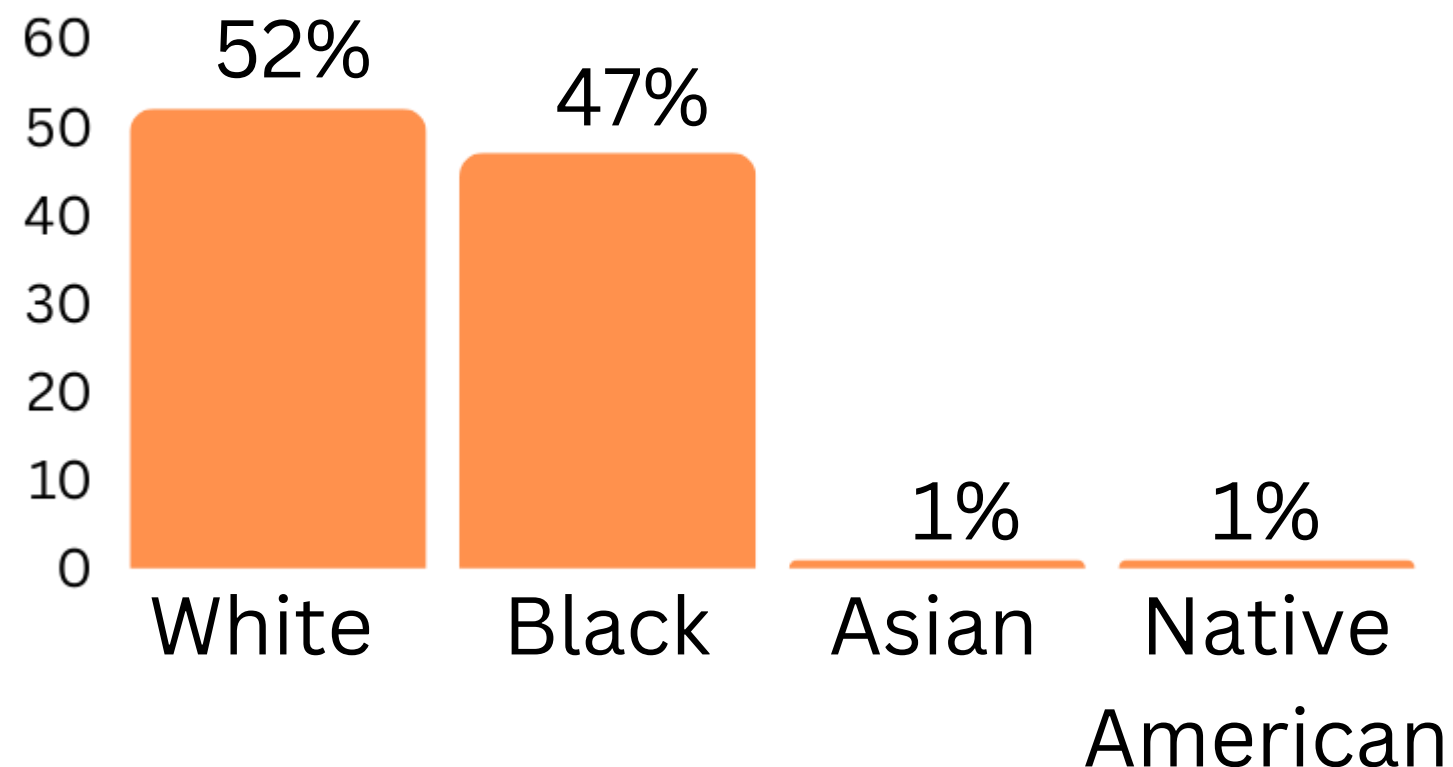
Other individuals
69%

9
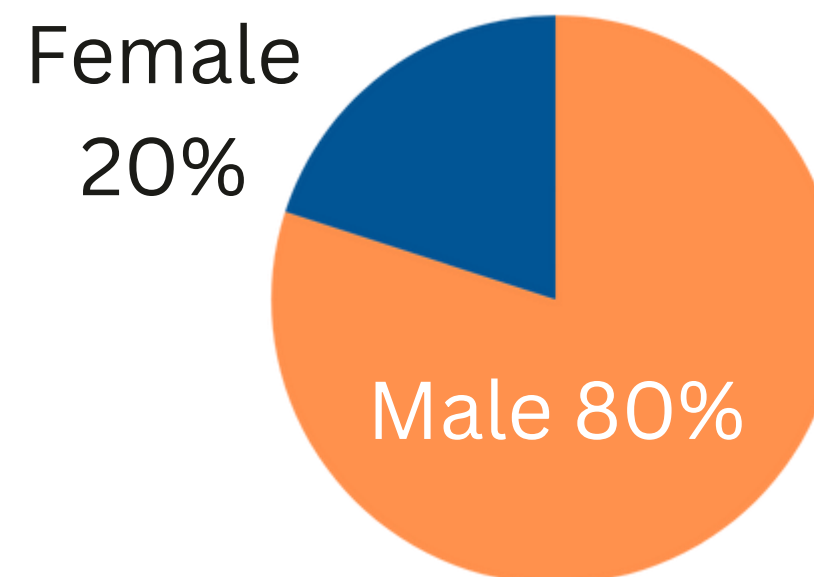
Who are high-intensity users?

Where high-intensity users are individuals booked into the jail 3 or more times in any six month window, 2020 to 2024.

Like other individuals booked into the jail, they are…

Majority white

Majority male

Average age mid-30s

High-intensity users are far more likely to be housing insecure than others booked into the jail

High intensity is defined as someone who was booked into the jail 3 or more times in 6 months.

> For this analysis, an individual is considered housing insecure if jail or court records show a service provider address or "homeless" at any point during this five-year period.

Share of individuals with housing insecurity
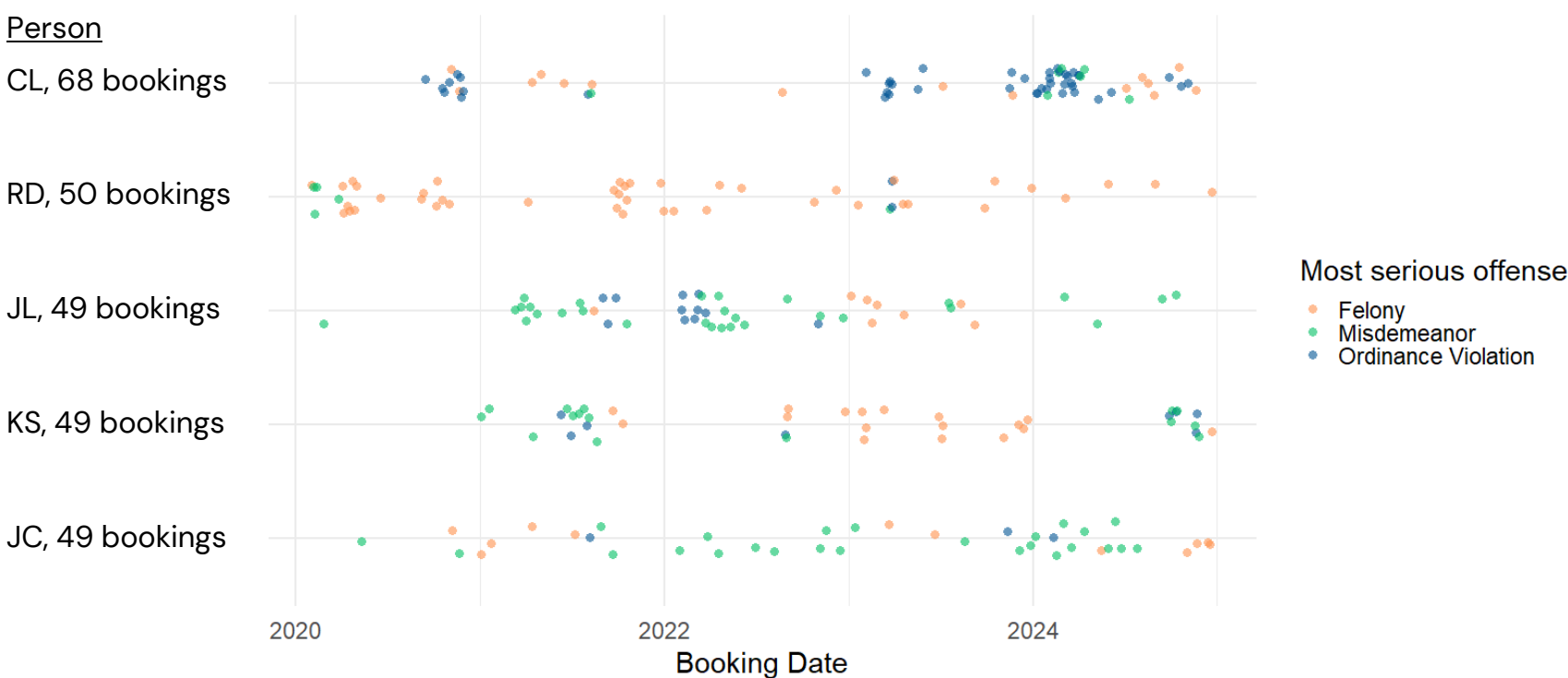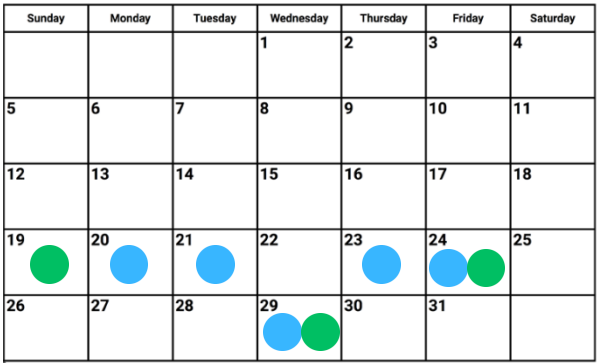
41%

8%

High-intensity users

Other booked individuals
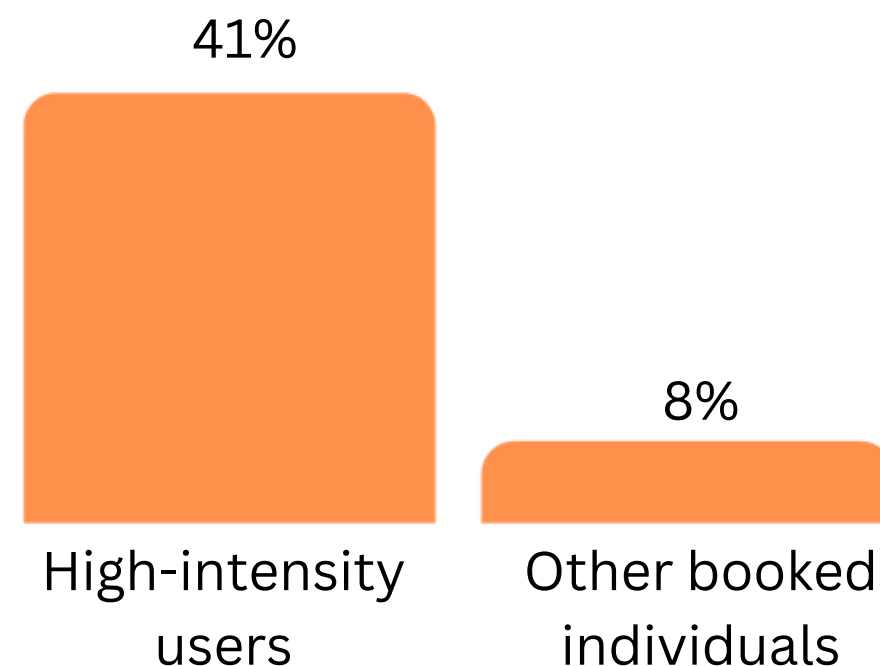
All these individuals shown previously have housing insecurity, by that definition

Five of these eight individuals have a Serious Mental Illness

A SMI is a diagnosable mental or behavioral disorder that substantially interferes with a person's ability to function, like schizophrenia.
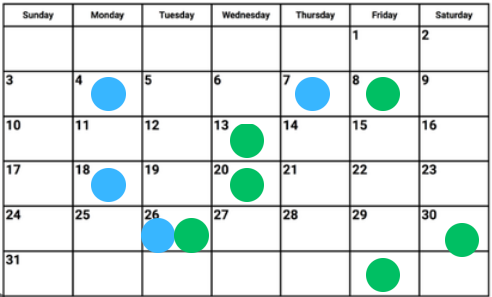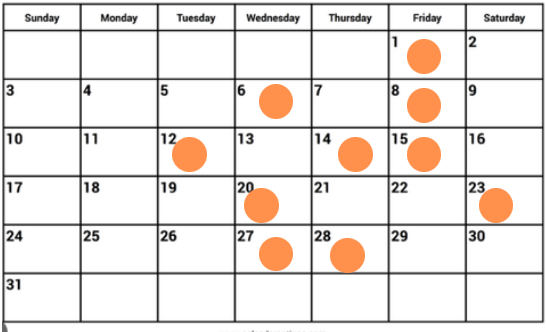

Person "SA"

Person "JB"
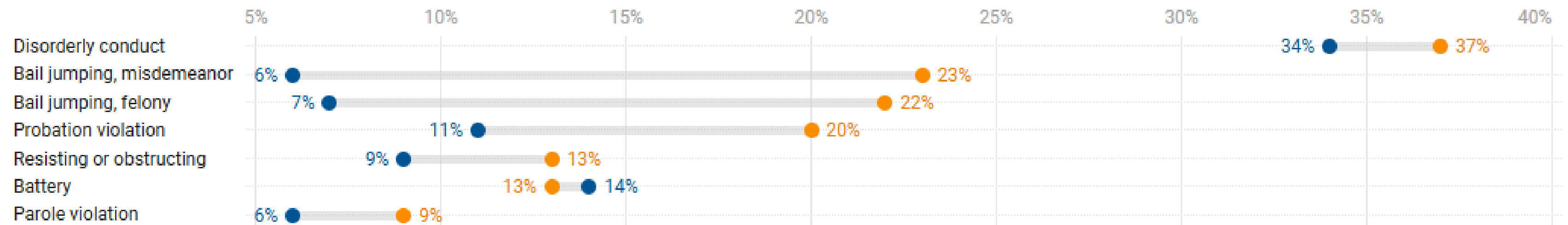
Person "TC"

Most common offenses for high-intensity jail users, compared to others

High-intensity users are defined as having three bookings in any six-month window, 2020-24. Figures show percent of bookings with that charge.


Offense		
Disorderly conduct	34% (Other)	37% (High-intensity)
Bail jumping, misdemeanor	6% (Other)	23% (High-intensity)
Bail jumping, felony	7% (Other)	22% (High-intensity)
Probation violation	11% (Other)	20% (High-intensity)
Resisting or obstructing	9% (Other)	13% (High-intensity)
Battery	14% (Other)	13% (High-intensity)
Parole violation	6% (Other)	9% (High-intensity)

Legend

● High–intensity jail users

● Other individuals booked into the jail

13

High-intensity users are more likely to be booked on a felony, because of felony bail-jumping

> When the felony bail-jumping charge is disregarded, there is no difference between high-intensity users and others in terms of whether the most serious charge in the booking is a felony

Share of bookings that included a felony

53%
High-intensity users

43%
Other individuals booked into jail
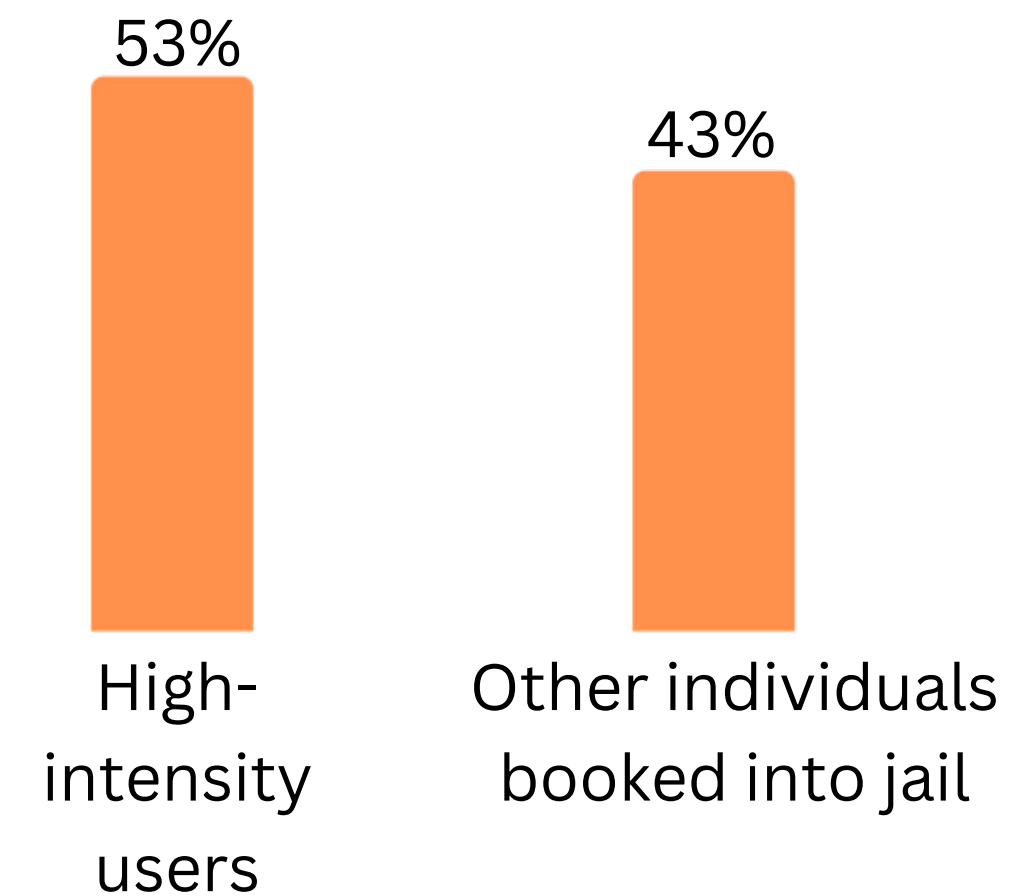
High–intensity users spend a little longer in jail than other users

> For this analysis, if an individual is booked on one day and released the next, that's considered one night in jail.

Group	Avg nights in jail per booking	Median nights in jail	% with zero nights in jail, Getting out the same day
High–intensity users	24	4	12%
Other individuals	21	2	31%

High-intensity users spent a total of 409,596 jail-bed nights from 2020 through 2024
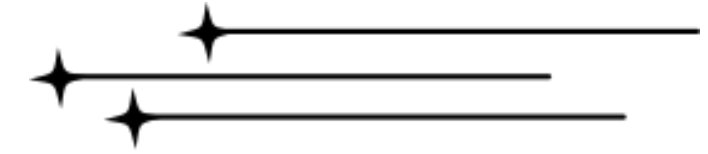
Discussion Items

> Questions about the data?

> How does this fit with what you're seeing at your agency?

> Are there ways to improve outcomes for people who are frequently booked into the jail?

> Is there a better way to use county resources?