

Expanding Health Coverage in California: County Jails as Enrollment Sites

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Shannon McConville and Mia Bird

Supported with funding from The California
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California has made progress, but millions are still uninsured

- Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), more than two million Californians gained coverage in 2014
- But more than four million Californians continued to lack comprehensive health insurance
- And as more people gain coverage, those who remain uninsured are harder to reach with traditional enrollment strategies

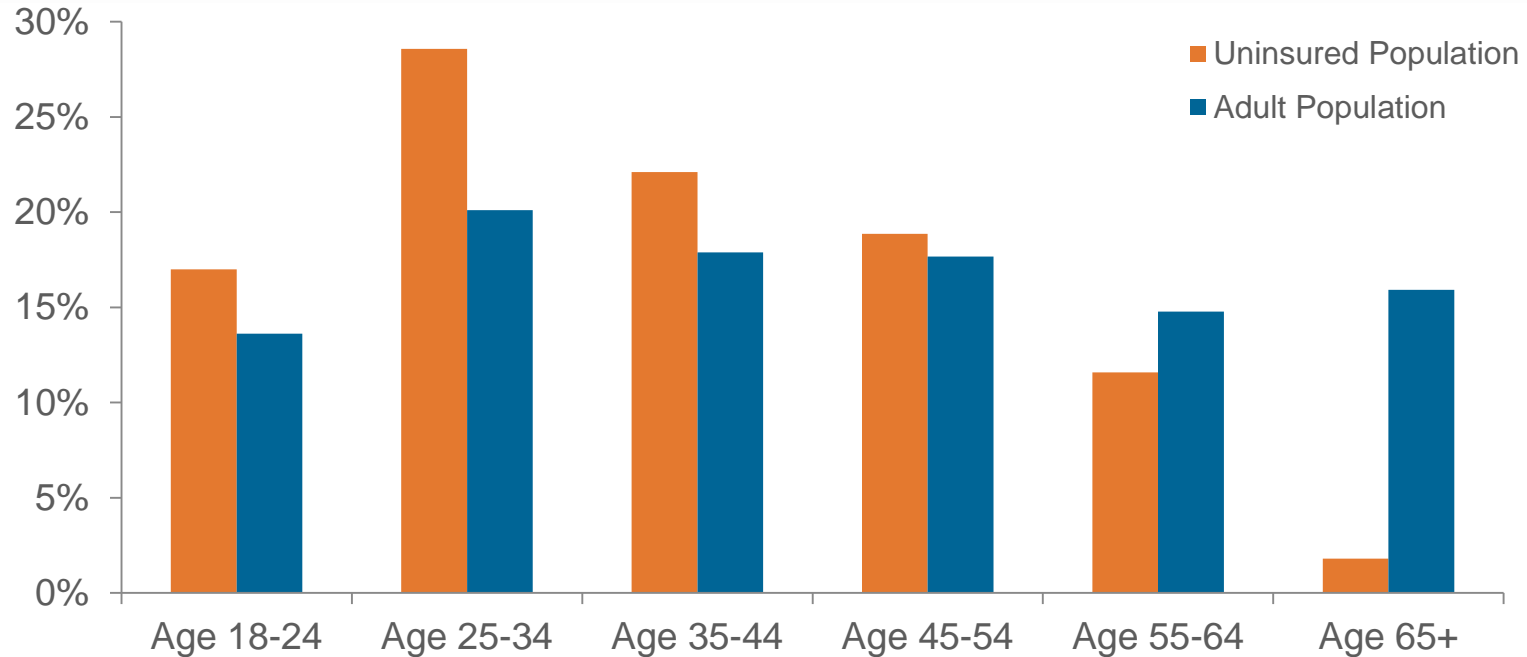
Major changes to health and corrections policy have created opportunities and incentives

- The ACA extends Medi-Cal eligibility to single adults without dependent children
 - 35% of those newly eligible for Medicaid may have correctional contact
- The legislature allocated funds (AB 82) for targeting hard-to-reach groups to increase enrollment
 - Including those under state and county correctional supervision
- Under public safety realignment, county criminal justice systems are focused on successful reentry
 - Health coverage could be important component

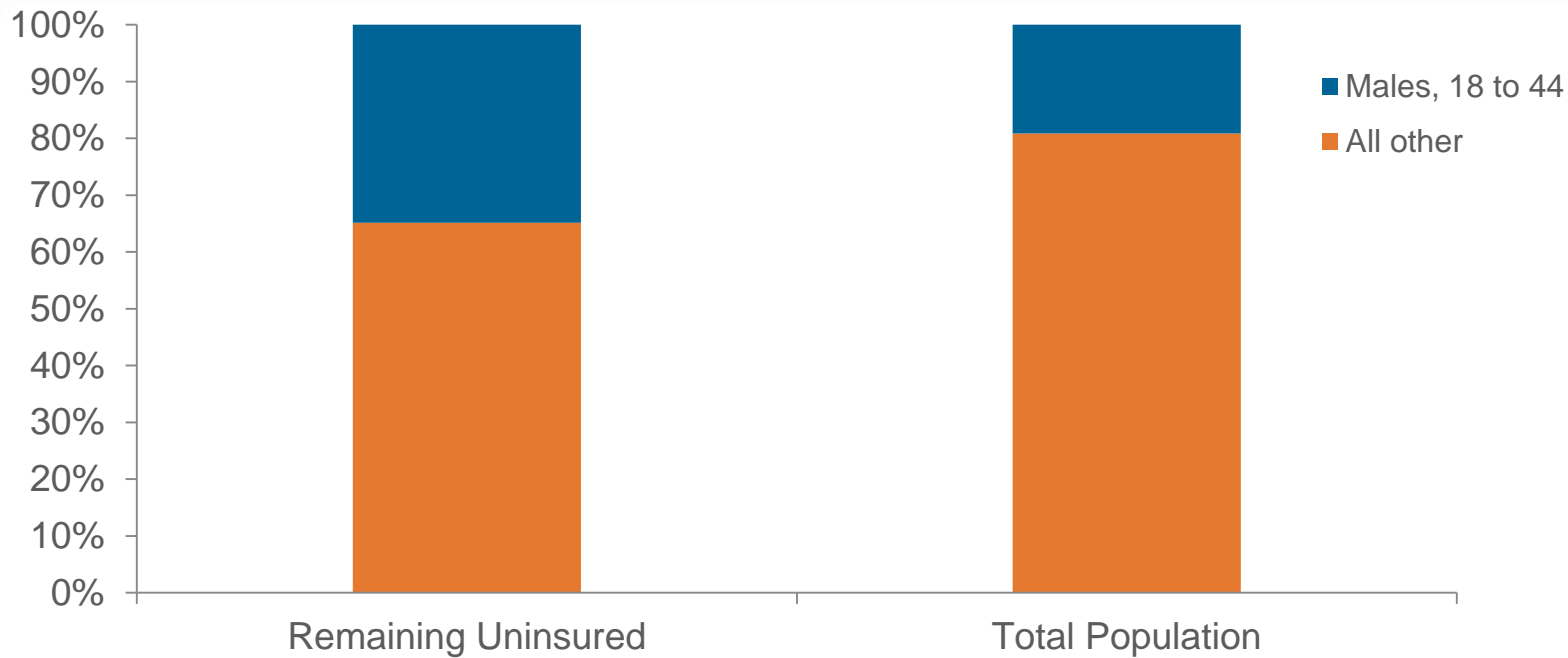
Outline

- Who is still uninsured in California?
- County jails as sites of enrollment
- Designing enrollment assistance programs

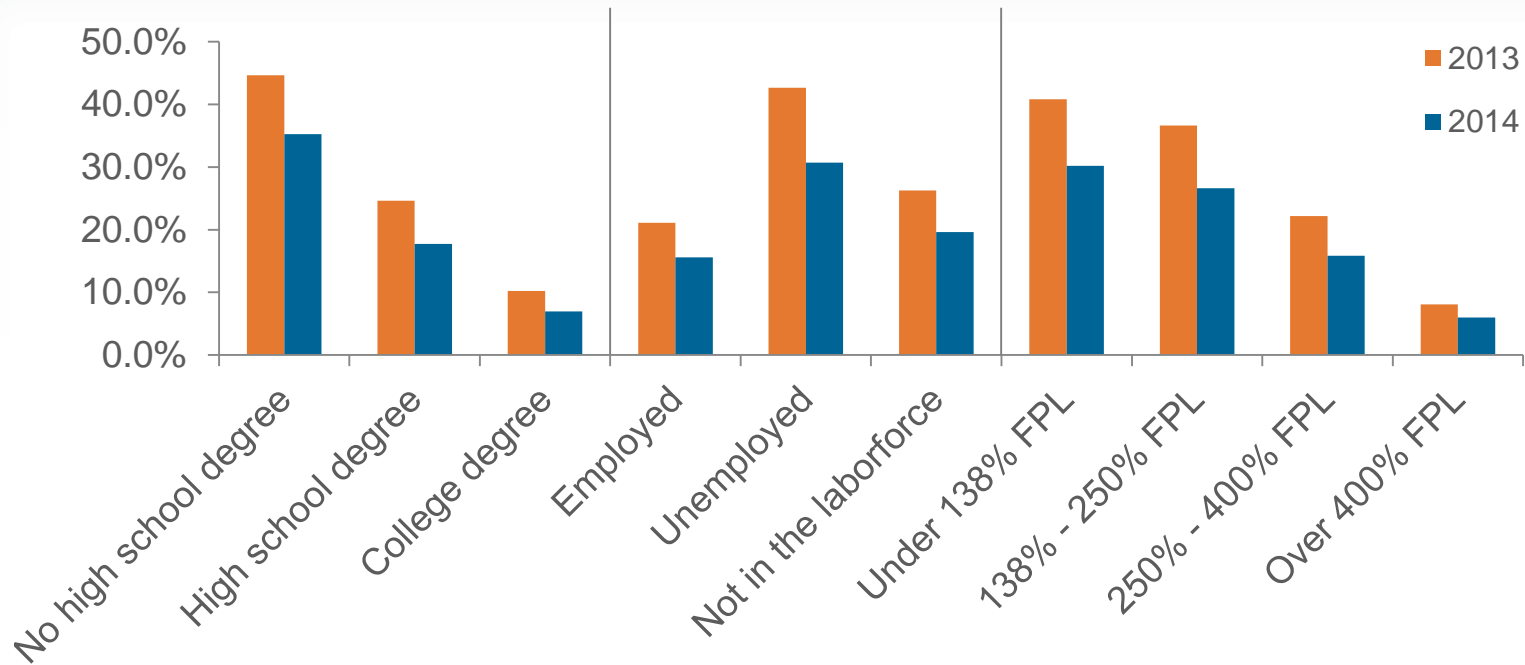
Young adults are disproportionately uninsured



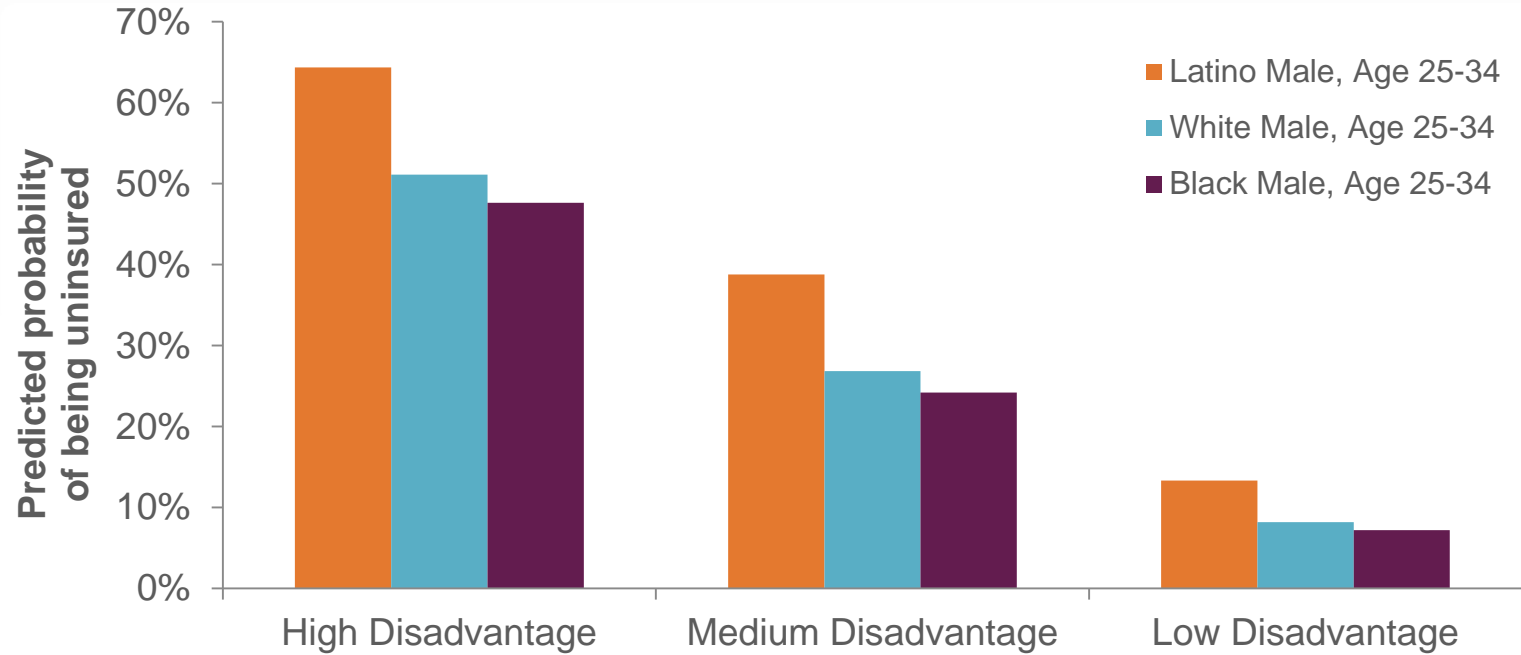
Younger men are particularly likely to lack health coverage



Uninsured rates are also high for adults with low levels of education and income



Highly disadvantaged young men are much more likely to be uninsured



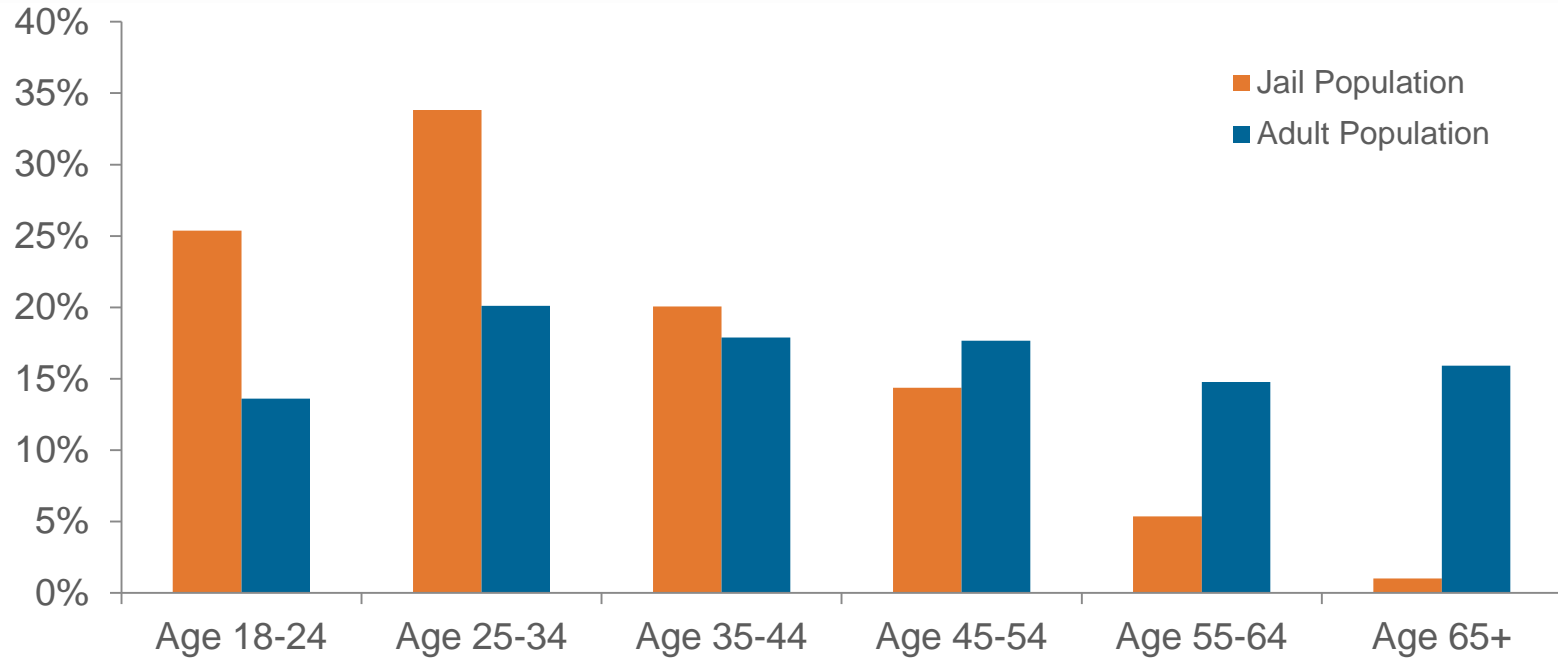
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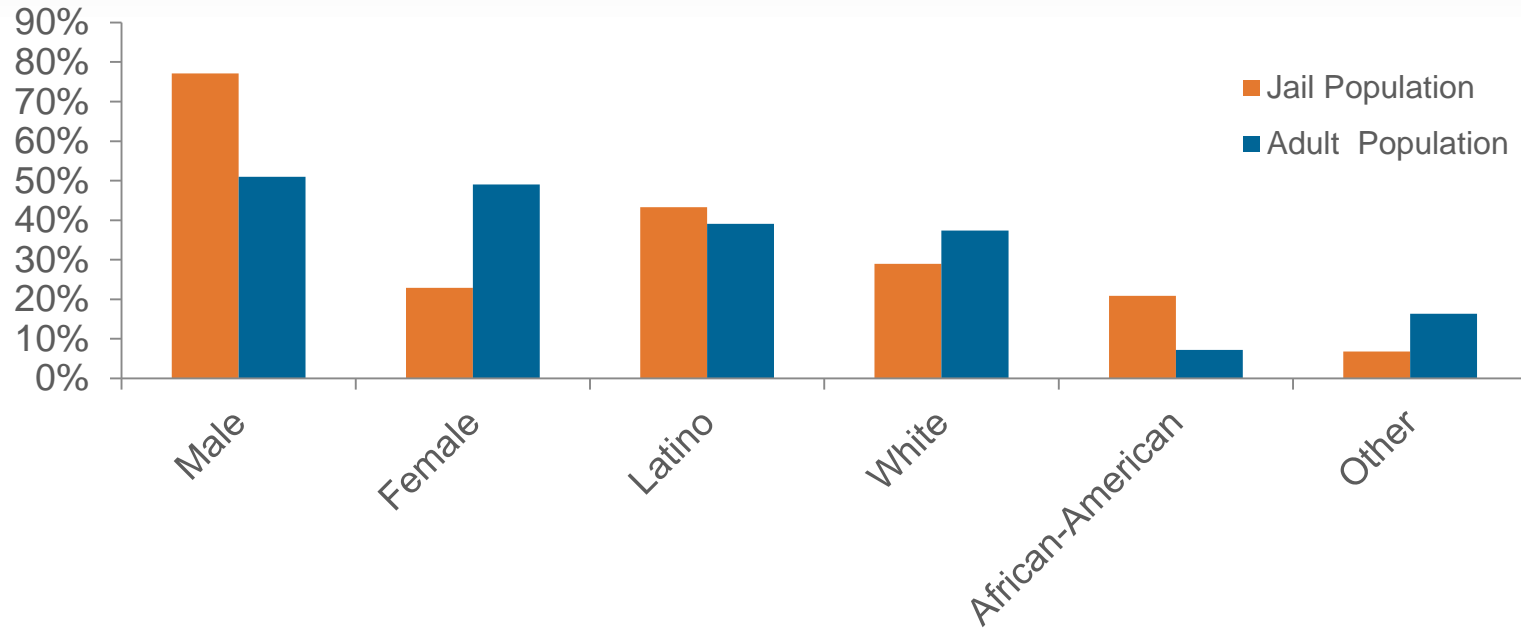
California has a large county jail population

- On any given day in 2014, county jails in California housed about 80,000 inmates
- There is significant turnover in the jail population
 - California's county jail system could have more than a million admissions in a year
- Multi-County Study provides new source of information on jail inmates in California

Jail inmates tend to be younger adults . . .



... and they are predominantly male and non-white



Insurance enrollment assistance could help on many levels

- Jail inmates have more physical and behavioral health needs than the general population
- Health coverage could be part of a comprehensive reentry strategy
- Enrolling inmates could lower correctional costs
 - Could improve healthcare provision within jail systems and reduce recidivism
- Evidence suggests that a majority of the jail population is eligible for Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal could be even more helpful to the correctional population than in the past

- Managed care plans are focused on better integrating physical and behavioral health
- Redesigned Drug Medi-Cal program provides substance use disorder services
- Other programs provide case management, social services to beneficiaries with high needs
 - Whole Person Care pilot programs
 - Health Homes for Patients with Complex Needs
 - PRIME projects targeting high-risk populations

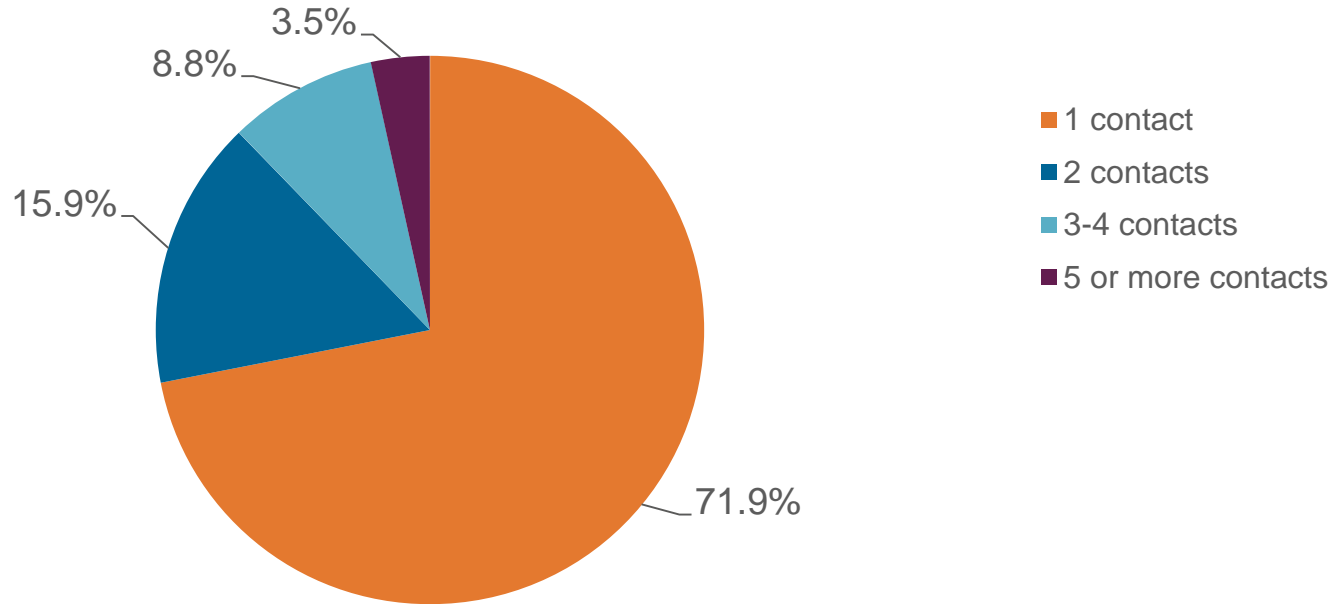
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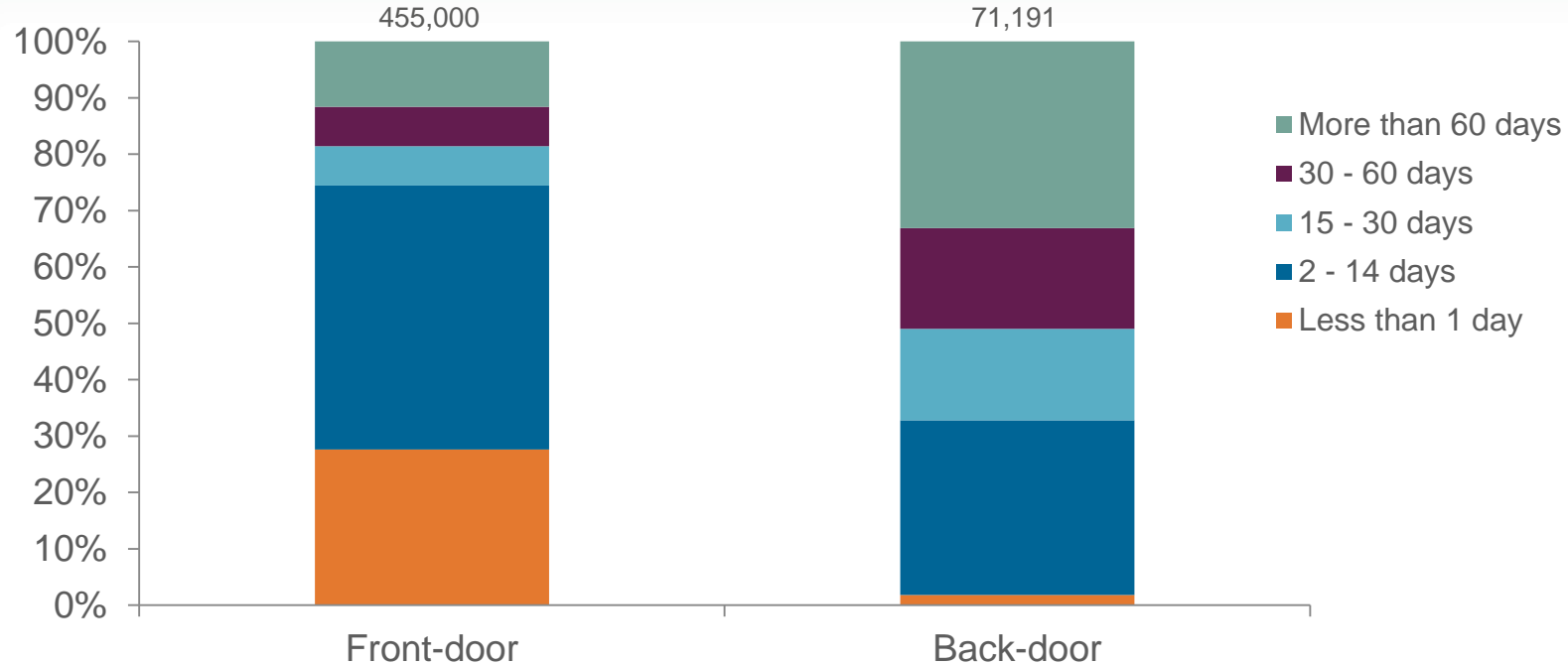
Counties must decide how best to provide enrollment assistance to jail inmates

- Funding sources vary for enrollment programs
- Counties have differing relationships across agencies
- Targeting groups for enrollment assistance involves trade-offs
 - Size of population vs. intensity of assistance
 - Focus on those with physical or behavioral health needs

Most who were in a county jail in 2014 had only one contact



There is more time to enroll sentenced inmates, but they are a much smaller group



Looking forward

- Continued enrollment expansion will require additional outreach strategies
- County correctional systems are still adjusting to new responsibilities under realignment
- Counties face decisions and trade-offs in developing enrollment assistance programs in jail systems
- Identifying effective enrollment strategies can help improve reentry and reduce recidivism

Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

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