

COVID-19: PROBLEM SOLVING IN THE YEAR 2020

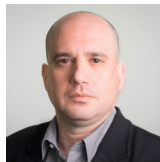
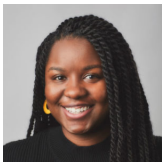
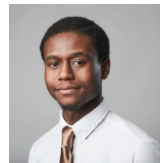
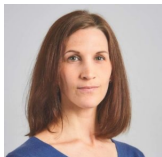
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Welcome & Introductions

- Housekeeping
- Workshop Structure



COVID-19 and Systemic Racism



Scenario 1

In the wake of nationwide protests, criminal justice stakeholders and other local elected representatives hold a virtual town hall with community members. The City Council president shares a new resolution declaring racism a public health emergency. Several system stakeholders share that they are working to add race and ethnicity data into the county's public-facing criminal justice dashboard.

Community members express frustration at the pace of change locally, including the lack of meaningful reduction of race/ethnic disparities in the jail population despite a large number of releases related to COVID decarceration efforts. Several people express that the resolution and increased data are simply not sufficient. A group of advocates ask why racial disparities in education are being ignored in the discussion. Overall, community members are asking for more concrete actions from government.

Breakout Questions

- How could system stakeholders respond to the community's concerns?
- What next steps could stakeholders commit to, beyond a resolution and more data transparency?
- Acknowledging that there are no quick fixes to ending systemic racism, how could stakeholders help convey to community members that they're working in good faith to find solutions?

Media, Rhetoric, and Managing Public Narratives



Scenario 2

Headlines have recently claimed that crime rates are on the rise, and that early release of incarcerated people may have an impact on public safety.

**No system tracking inmates
released because of COVID-19**

BAIL REFORM

**We're Arresting Too Many
Prisoners on Early COVID Release**

*You're More Likely to Catch
Covid at Home Than in Jail*

Early release policies have had no effect on transmission behind bars. But they have contributed to a crime wave.

**Releasing inmates will create 'public
safety crisis' to go with public health
crisis, union president warns**

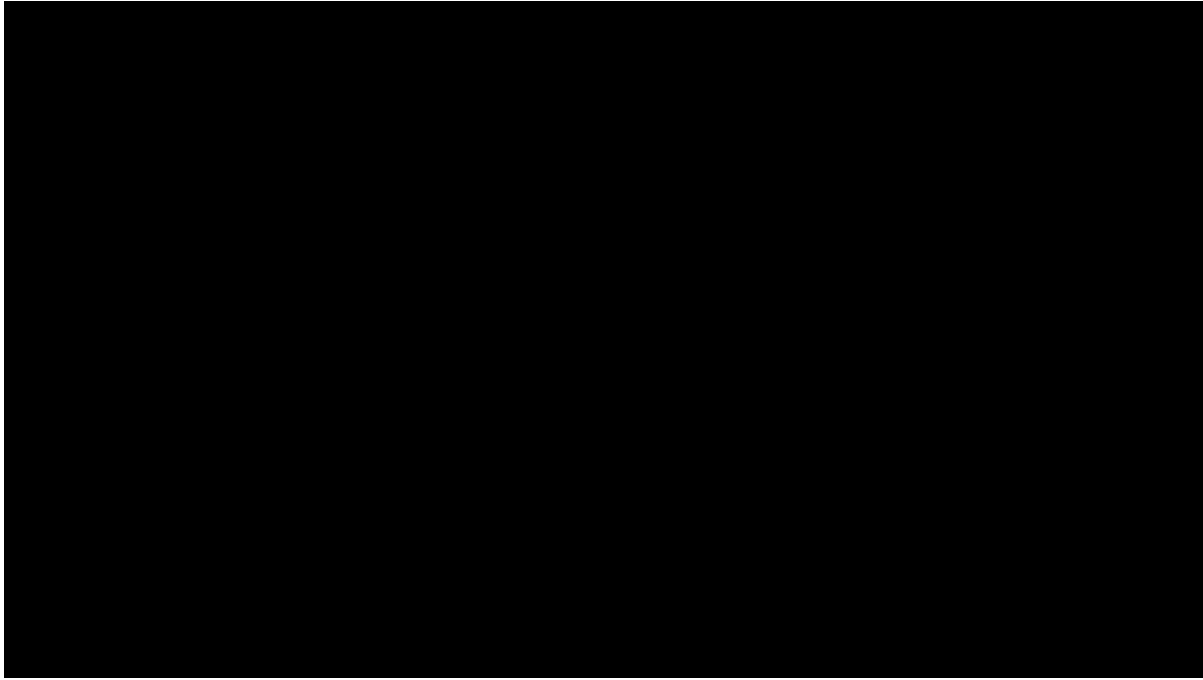
**Inmate release effective,
but possible surge in crime ahead**

Spike in local crime attributed to release of
state's inmates as part of COVID-19 early
releases housing prisoners in local motels

Breakout Questions

- How can system stakeholders better manage the narratives present within news media?
- What are effective counternarratives that can challenge these claims?
- What steps can be taken to address the rhetoric surrounding crime and public safety?

Sustaining COVID-19 Practices



Breakout Questions

- What concerns might law enforcement and others have about increasing cite and release? How can you mitigate their concerns?
- What information and data could be shared with concerned partners to make the case for formalizing a policy, such as citation in lieu of arrest?
- If law enforcement is not at the table, how can you encourage them to take part in the SJC/justice reform efforts?

Thank you!



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