

# PORTLAND FREEDOM



*We are bound for freedom's Light!*

# **PORTLANDFREEDOMFUND**

Gina Spencer & Amanda Trujillo

P.O. Box 4821

Portland, OR 97208

(971) 350-9467

[info@portlandfreedomfund.org](mailto:info@portlandfreedomfund.org)

[www.PortlandFreedomFund.org](http://www.PortlandFreedomFund.org)

# ABOUT US

- Began April 2018 with Black Mama's Day Bailout
- June 2018 Juneteenth/Father's Day Bailout



# ABOUT US

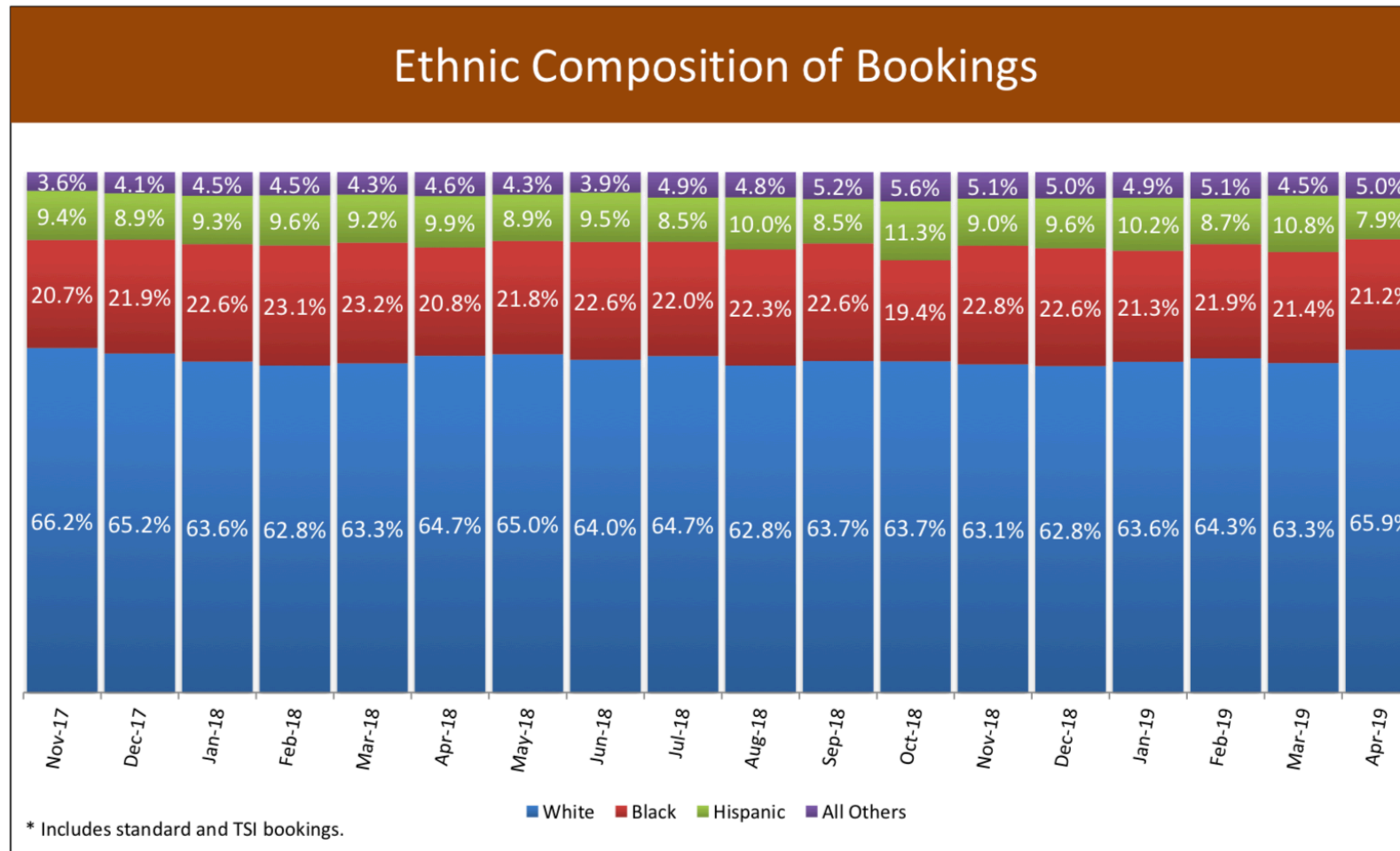
- YWCA fiscal sponsor
- Provide bail assistance for communities of color, with prioritization given to most vulnerable populations: women, LGBTQ, disabled
- Referrals: PD, family/friend, self
- No paid employees

# SO FAR...

- Attempted bail for 23
  - 1 in Washington County not released/bail not returned
  - 21 Multnomah County
  - 1 Clark County-assistance from Northwest Community Bail Fund
- Case outcomes
  - 3 dismissals
  - 4 FTA
    - One later appeared and entered a plea
    - One later arrested and convicted
  - 5 plea
  - 3 convictions
  - 10 ongoing



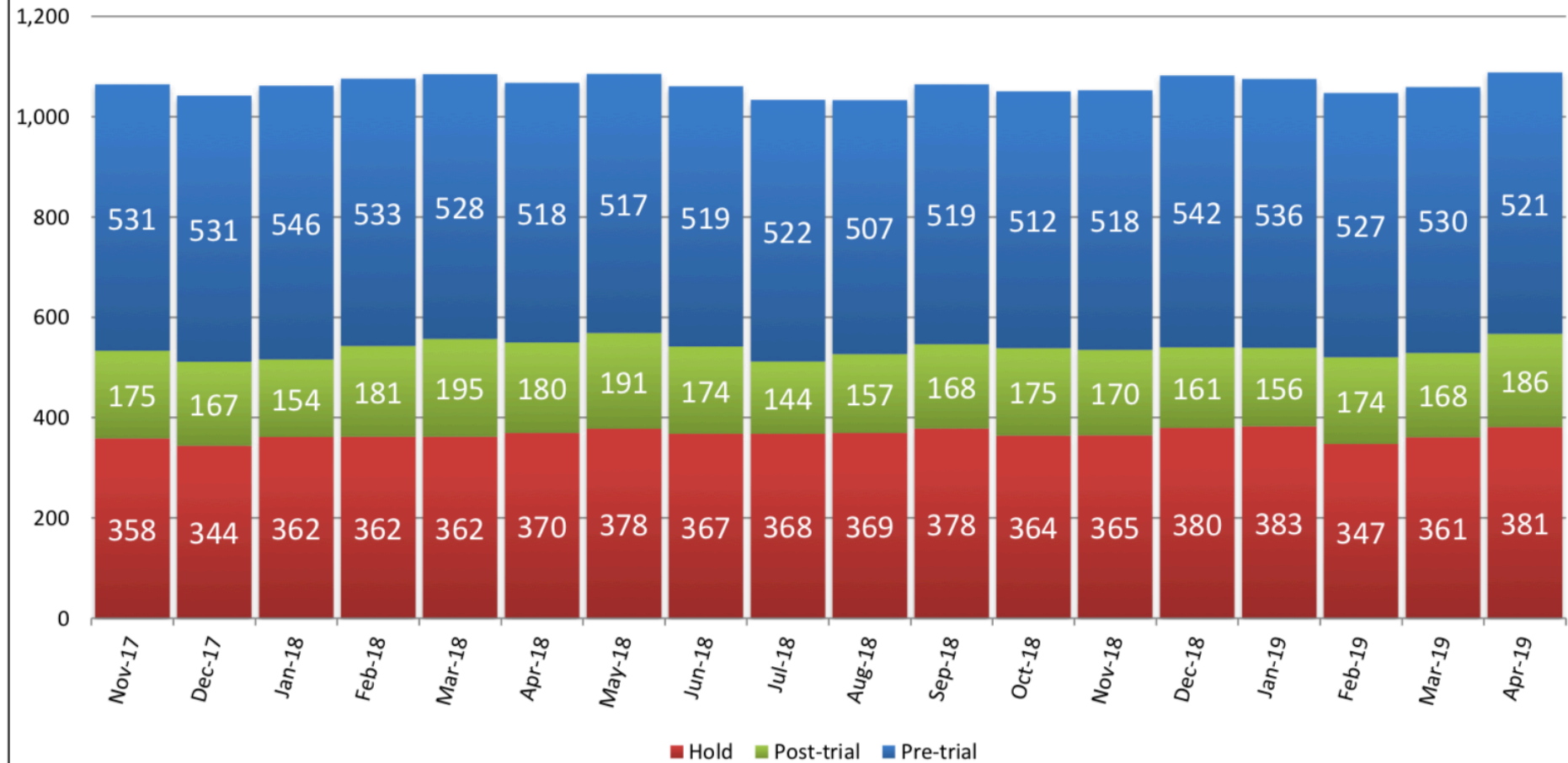
# MULTNOMAH CO. JAIL: APRIL 2019



The ethnic composition of bookings is relatively stable month to month. Approximately two-thirds of those booked are White.

# Pre-Trial vs. Post-Trial vs. Holds in Custody

Average Daily Population



Between March and April, the average daily population of Pre-trial inmates decreased while the average daily population of Post-trial inmates and inmates with a Hold increased.



# CHALLENGES WITH SYSTEM

- High bails
- Unable to act as a revolving fund
  - State 15%/money owed by defendant
  - Self-bail
- Uncertainty about release times
- Communication delays between court and jail



# CHALLENGES FOR DEFENDANTS

- Housing, housing, housing
- Transportation to court
- Access to a phone
- General support

# PURPOSE OF BAIL

- Ensure people return to court
- Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- Until a person has been convicted of a crime, he should be treated just like any other member of society whenever possible.
- Guarantee against excessive bail in the Bill of Rights

# RAIL IN OREGON

- Bail bondsmen were outlawed in the early 1970s
- The courts act as bail bondsmen
- 10% gets you out
- The court takes 15% — general fund
- Fines and fees taken before any money returned

# INJUSTICES OF BAIL

- Ties freedom to the ability to pay, creating a two-class system.
- Bail amounts are arbitrary and are not based on a defendants ability to pay
- Studies found that Blacks are given higher bail amounts
- The bail system drives people to plead guilty — even when they're not.
- Every day one is in jail, they're at risk of losing their jobs, housing, immigration status, and even custody of their children.

# ALTERNATIVES?



# INCARCERATED WOMEN

- Most women in jail are charged with nonviolent crimes
- A study found that women in jail before trial earned scarcely more per year than the average bond amount of \$10,000.
- Women's incarceration has grown at twice the pace of men's, and has disproportionately been located in local jails.
- Women in jails are also more likely to suffer from mental health problems & experience serious psychological distress than either women in prisons or men in either correctional setting.



OUR MAMAS DESERVE:



TO BE CELEBRATED, LOVED AND FREE



TO SIT IN JAIL BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD BAIL



# **BLACK MAMA BAIL OUT**

<https://www.gofundme.com/cekc48-black-mamas-bail-out>