



Peace &
Justice Center

Rooted in Racism

Recognizing and Uprooting
Racist Approaches to Drug
Misuse



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Peace & Justice Center

We use education, advocacy, and community engagement to advance the interconnected issues of human rights and economic, social, and environmental justice.



Communities Most Affected by Substance Misuse

Systemically marginalized communities impacted by

- Income instability
- Houselessness
- Racial and ethnic oppression
- Homophobia & transphobia
- Disabilities
- Incarceration
- Infrastructure and transportation limitations
- Language barriers
- Mental health conditions
- Substance abuse disorders

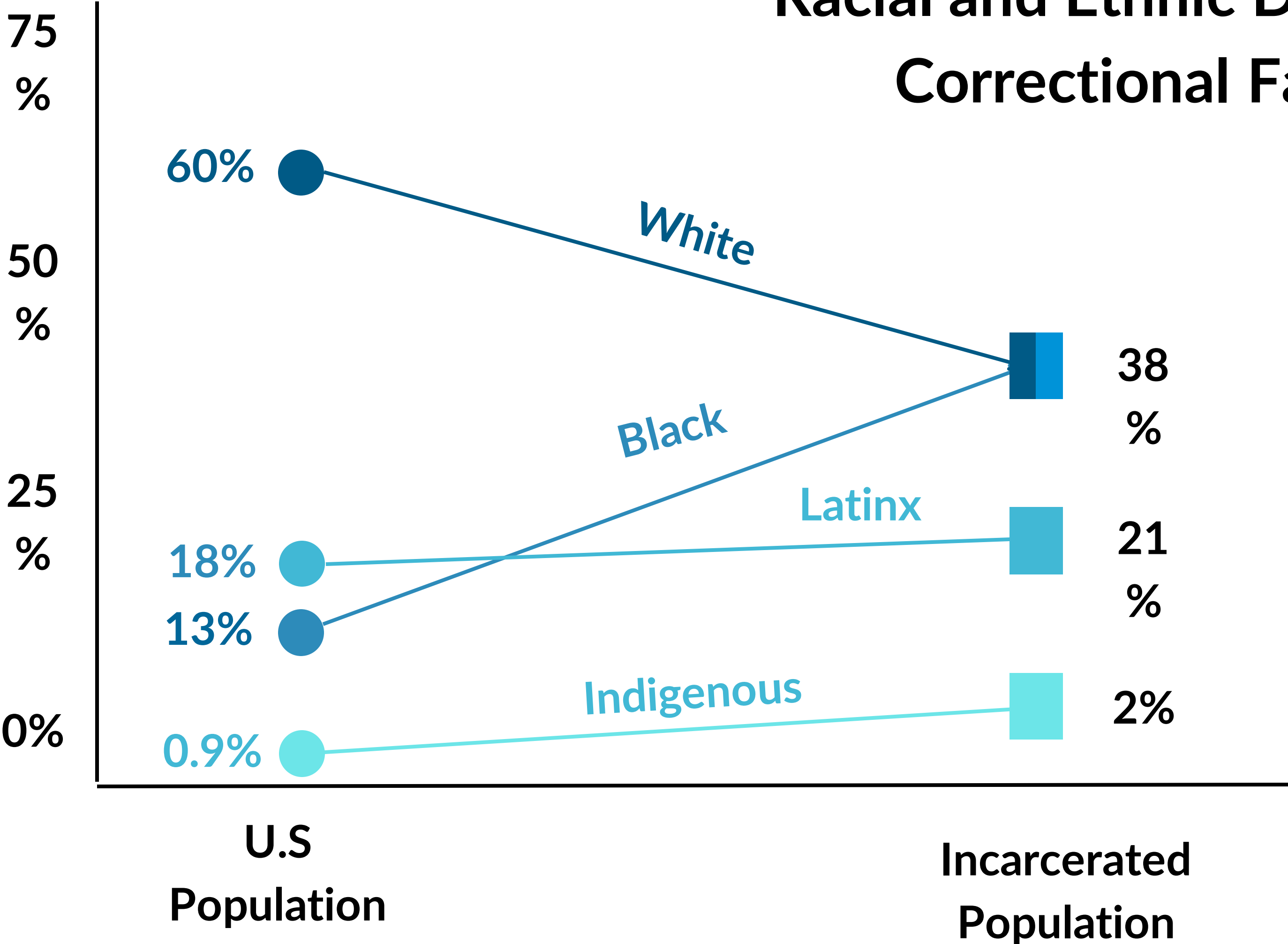
“We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or blacks, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin and then criminalizing them both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night in the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did,”

~ John Ehrlichman



John Ehrlichman, Richard Nixon’s domestic policy advisor, revealed the administration’s true incentives during an interview discussing the War on Drugs.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Correctional Facilities



1 in 5
Incarcerated
People are
Imprisoned for
a Drug Offense



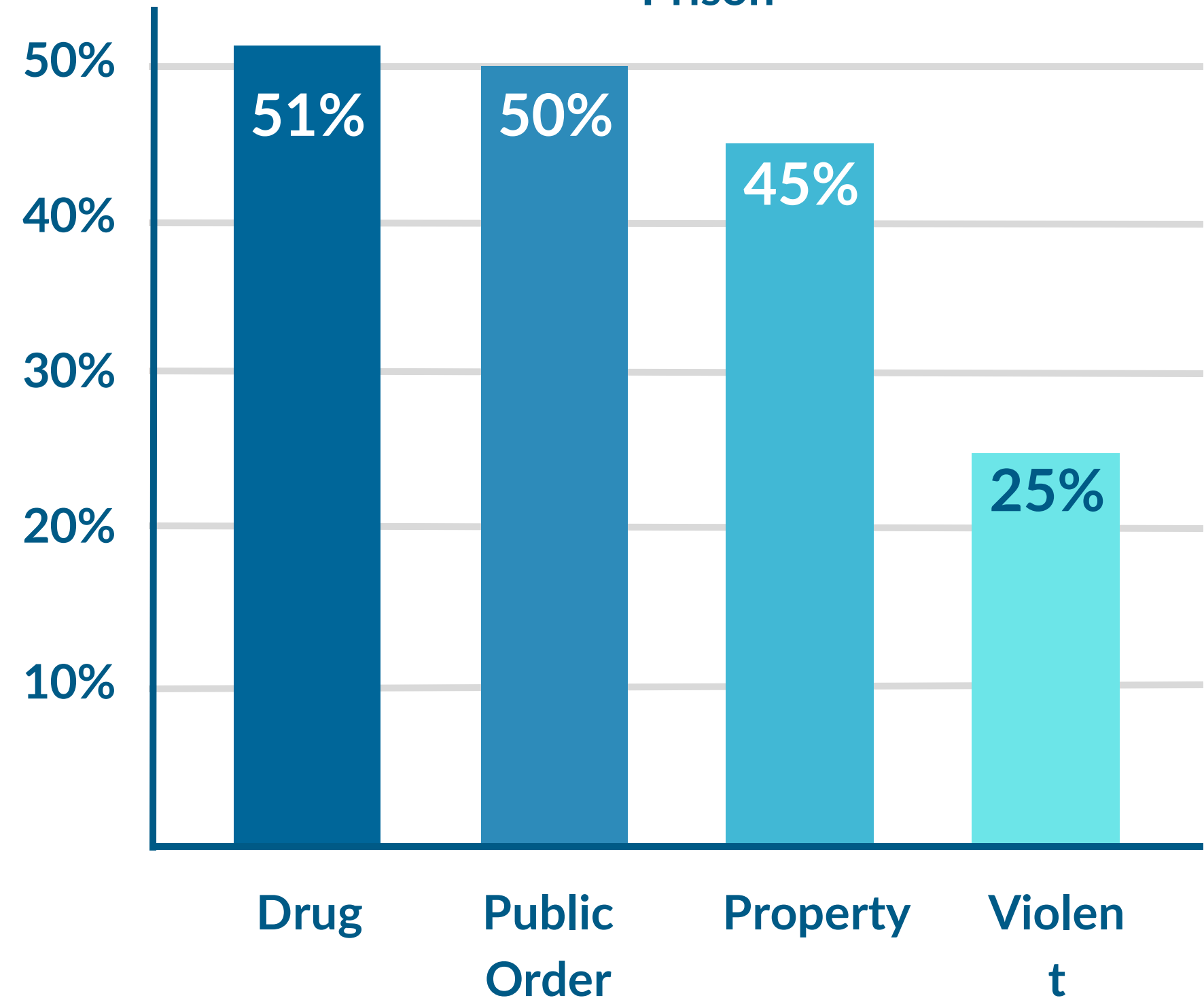
State Prisons
132,000

Local Jails
109,000 Unconvicted
20,000 Convicted

Federal
69,000 Bureau of
Prisons
20,000 U.S Marshals
Services

People
Incarcerated
for a Drug
Offense are the
Most Likely to
be Arrested
Again

Rearrested For Similar Offense Within 3 years of Release from Prison



Most Serious Offense for Most Recent Incarceration

From 1980 to 2016, drug-related arrests increased by 171% and now account for more than 1.6 million arrests annually.

Source

65% percent of the US prison population has an active Substance use disorder (SUD). Another 20% percent did not meet the official criteria for an SUD, but were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their crime.

Source

Of the 277,000 people imprisoned nationwide for drug offenses, over half (56%) are African American or Latinx.

Source

Inmates with opioid use disorder are at a higher risk for overdose following release from incarceration.

Source

The Result of Treatment Bias

For Black and Latinx groups in the US, 90% and 92%, respectively, diagnosed with a substance use disorder did not receive addiction treatment.

Source 9

People of Color experience more barriers to treatment engagement, completion, and satisfaction than their white counterparts.

Source



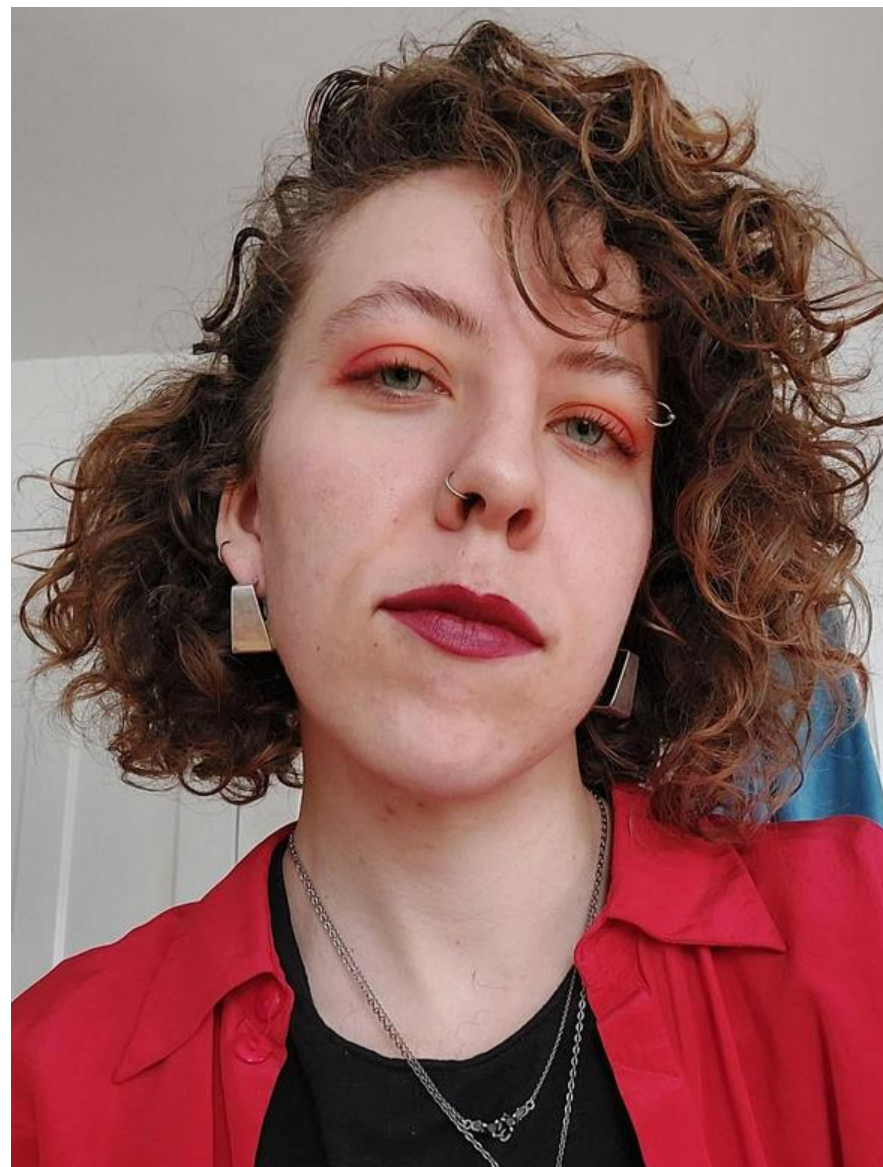
Community-Based Interventions

- Harm Reduction
- Safe Injection Sites
- Mutual Aid
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Drug content testing
- DEI Education and Systemic Implementation for treatment centers

Responses across the justice system continuum

- Decriminalize
- Shift in Policing
- Shift in Drug Courts
- Reentry Services
- DEI Education and Systemic Implementation across the entire justice system

BIPOC Facilitator Contribution



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Workshop Survey



Thank you!



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