

Community Vision For A Better Atlanta

Data provided for Women On The Rise, a Racial Justice Action Center Project



Survey & Data Analysis done by Marla Renee Cineas, MA, of Contract Liberation, A Research Company

Contents

About the Study	4
Before The Study	4
The Survey	4
The Results	5
Demographics	5
Figure 1.1 – Age	6
Figure 1.2 – Race	7
Figure 1.3 – Gender Identity	8
Figure 1.4 – Sexual Orientation.....	9
Figure 1.5 – Relationship Status.....	10
Figure 1.6 – Educational Level	11
Figure 1.7 – Neighborhood Planning Units	12
Figure 1.8 – Represented Neighborhoods	13
Figure 1.9 – Registered Voters.....	14
Feeling Safe In Atlanta	15
Figure 1.10 – Reasons for Feeling Safe or Unsafe.....	15
Figure 1.11 – Ideas to Make The Community Safer (Multiple Choice; up to 5 picks).....	16
The Cost of the Atlanta City Jail	17
Figure 1.12 – Feelings Towards the Amount of Money Spent.....	17
Figure 1.13 – Money Allocation Towards Ideas.....	18
Figure 1.14 – How To Spend Taxpayers Money.....	19
Figure 1.15 – Good Use For Building (Atlanta City Jail).....	20
Experiences in Atlanta City Jail	21
Figure 1.16 – Arrested & Jailed in the Atlanta City Jail	21
Figure 1.17 – Experiences in ACDC	22
Targeted or Treated Unfairly	23
Figure 1.18 – Targeted or Treated Unfairly	23
Figure 1.19 – Services Needed At Time of Arrest	24
Been Affected By Someone Arrested & Jailed in ACDC	25
Figure 1.20 – Affected by Arrest/Jailing.....	25
Other Options Rather Than Jail	26
Figure 1.21 – Other Option Rather Than Jail	26



Additional Information We Should Know	27
Arrested at the Atlanta City Detention Center	28
Demographics.....	28
Figure 2.1 – Age	28
Figure 2.2 – Race	29
Figure 2.3 – Gender.....	30
Figure 2.4 – Sexual Orientation.....	31
Figure 2.5 – Relationship Status.....	32
Figure 2.6 – Education Level	33
Figure 2.7 – Location.....	34
Figure 2.8 – Neighborhoods Represented by Verified Citizens (Top 6).....	35
Figure 2.9 – Registered Voters.....	35
Figure 2.10 – Neighborhood Planning Unit.....	36
Feeling Safe.....	37
Additional Experiences at ACDC	37
Targeted or Treated Unfairly	38
Other Options Instead of Jail	38
Limitations To The Study.....	39
Conclusion	39



About the Study

The Community Vision For A Better Atlanta research study was created to get information from the citizens of the City of Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia regarding their experiences and views on the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC), most commonly known as the Atlanta City Jail. The jail is located at 254 Peachtree St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303, in Downtown Atlanta.

In 2017, the taxpayers spent \$32.5 million on the Atlanta City Jail. This amounted to \$80,660 annually per person in the City of Atlanta.¹

Women on the Rise, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing awareness towards the dangers of incarceration, wanted to gather information from the citizens regarding the Atlanta City Jail for their [Communities Over Cages: Close The Jail ATL Campaign](#) (#CommunitiesOverCages). This analysis is the culmination of the information they wanted to help inform City of Atlanta representatives about what the communities want and other ways they can help to improve the city.

Before The Study

Women On The Rise (WOTR) contacted Marla Cineas to create the survey and do the analysis because of her previous analysis with the Racial Justice Action Center regarding the report, [The Most Dangerous Thing Out Here Is The Police](#). The intention of the survey was to ask City of Atlanta communities what they think about the Atlanta City Jail and detail their experiences around their incarceration and/or other people who have been affected by incarceration in the Atlanta City Jail. Another goal was to find if there were in any biases from the Atlanta Police Department regarding the citizens of Atlanta, according to their perspectives.

The Survey

As indicated by the leaders of the Racial Justice Action Center and Women On The Rise, they wanted to know the demographics of the citizens to see if certain citizens were targeted more than others. They also wanted to know how safe they feel in Atlanta and reasons for their answer around safety. WOTR expressed interest in knowing the participants' Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU), as well. In addition, they wanted to know what the citizens would do with their money that's going to the Atlanta City Jail, as well as their experiences in the Atlanta City Jail or other people around them who have been affected by the Atlanta City Jail. Because of their campaign aim, they also wanted to know what the citizens would want to do with the building, if it happened to be closed down so that they could give this information to the Atlanta City Council as a community reference.

There were three (3) versions of the survey and the survey was distributed via a short URL link and a paper survey was also created; the WOTR team were the distributors of the survey.² The first version of the survey was timed between 15 and 20 minutes. This survey aimed to take a deeper dive into where citizens would allocate the money. The first 30 people were also offered a gas or gift card to fill out the survey. Once that quota was met, a new survey was created without that incentive (Appendix A). During the initial collection period, there were some concerns that were brought to light by Women On The Rise, which include:

¹ Research was not conducted by Contract Liberation LLC.

² The organizational leaders of Women On The Rise and Racial Justice Action Center had access to make minor changes on the survey.

- 1) The survey being too long.
 - a. Money allocation question was too long
 - b. Too many options for the citizens to choose from
 - c. Too many questions about their experiences
- 2) People unwilling to give their sexual orientation
- 3) Survey distributors afraid to ask sexual orientation demographic questions

After taking a look at the initial answers, Marla had a few concerns:

- 1) A lot of the data was missing, especially around demographics that could indicate why people are being targeted
- 2) Survey answers were combined, which could create issues around reliability and validity
- 3) There seemed to be a focus on quantity of surveys conducted, rather than the quality of the answers that were given

The initial collection took place between February 8th, 2018 and April 3rd, 2018. After expressing all the concerns, Marla modified the survey and Marla also conducted an hour long training with the Women On The Rise staff on Friday, April 20th, 2018 to ensure that the Women On The Rise staff knew how to approach people and get the answers they need from participants.³ The focus was on getting a lot of quality answers so that there would be enough information to draw on.

Preliminary data was analyzed on July 20th, 2018 (Appendix B⁴).⁵

Overall, data has been collected from February 8th, 2018 to November 30th, 2018.

The Results

Although there were 509 total responses, Marla could only verify 200 responses that were in the City of Atlanta. The following results are for those participants who indicated that their home address and/or zip code landed in one of the NPU's in the City of Atlanta.

Demographics

The following are demographics of the population for the 200 respondents that could be verified in the City of the Atlanta.

³ Originally, The New Georgia Project was supposed to conduct the survey training, but this never occurred.

⁴ Preliminary data did not verify if their address was in an NPU district in the City of Atlanta.

⁵ Women On The Rise was no longer given access to edit questions or data after July 20th, 2018.

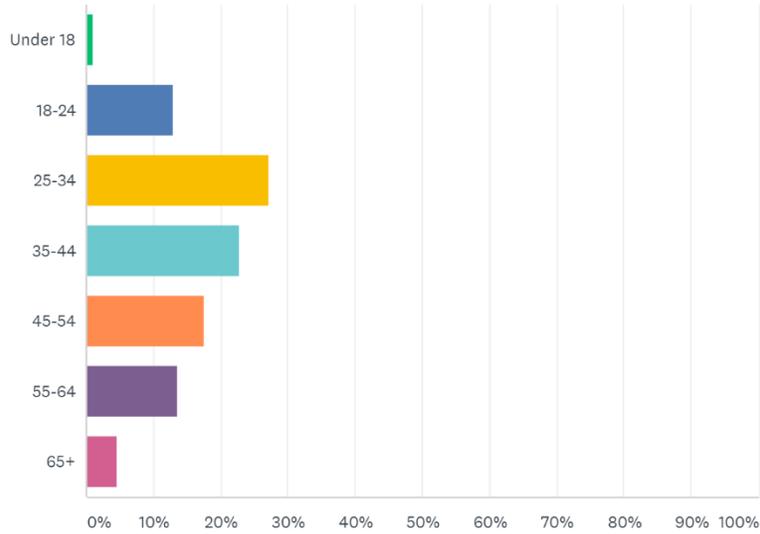


Figure 1.1 – Age

Participants were asked for their age and they were categorized by their age range. The majority of residents were between the ages of 25 and 34.

Age

Answered: 176 Skipped: 24



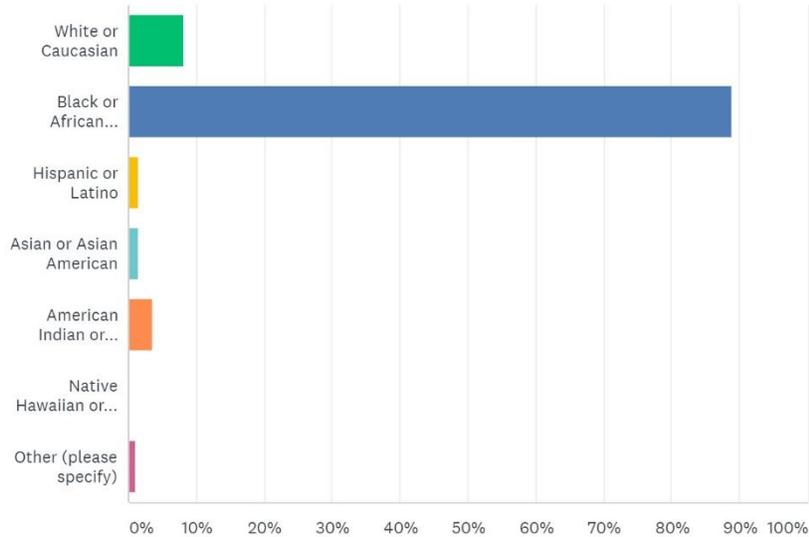
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	1.14% 2
18-24	13.07% 23
25-34	27.27% 48
35-44	22.73% 40
45-54	17.61% 31
55-64	13.64% 24
65+	4.55% 8
TOTAL	176

Figure 1.2 – Race

The majority of the responses were Black or African-American (89%). According to the 2010 US Census, the City of Atlanta consists of mostly black neighborhoods in the Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest, which is 60% of the area. These areas are 92% black, which is very close to the number of participants who took the survey.

Race

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
White or Caucasian	8.08% 16
Black or African American	88.89% 176
Hispanic or Latino	1.52% 3
Asian or Asian American	1.52% 3
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.54% 7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	Responses 1.01% 2
Total Respondents: 198	

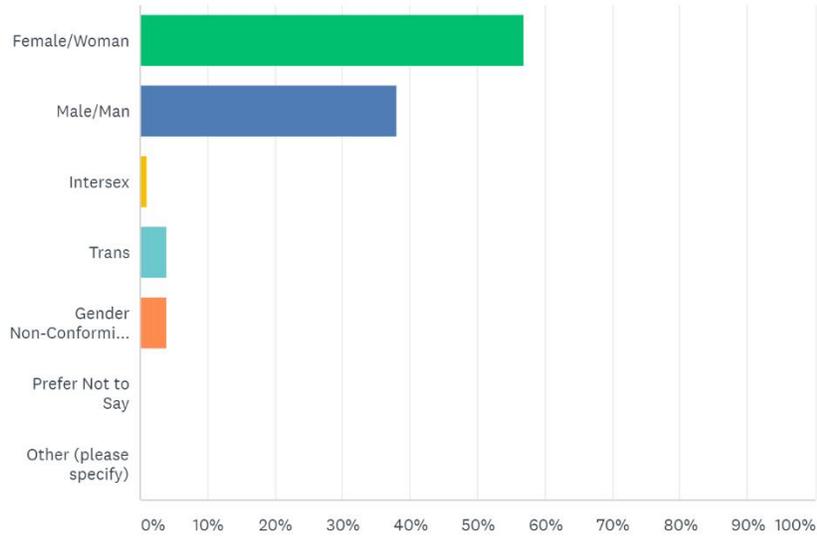


Figure 1.3 – Gender Identity

Women represented 57% of the City of Atlanta population in this study. According to the 2010 census, women represented 51% of the City of Atlanta population.

Gender

Answered: 200 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female/Woman	57.00%	114
Male/Man	38.00%	76
Intersex	1.00%	2
Trans	4.00%	8
Gender Non-Conforming/Non-Binary	4.00%	8
Prefer Not to Say	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 200		

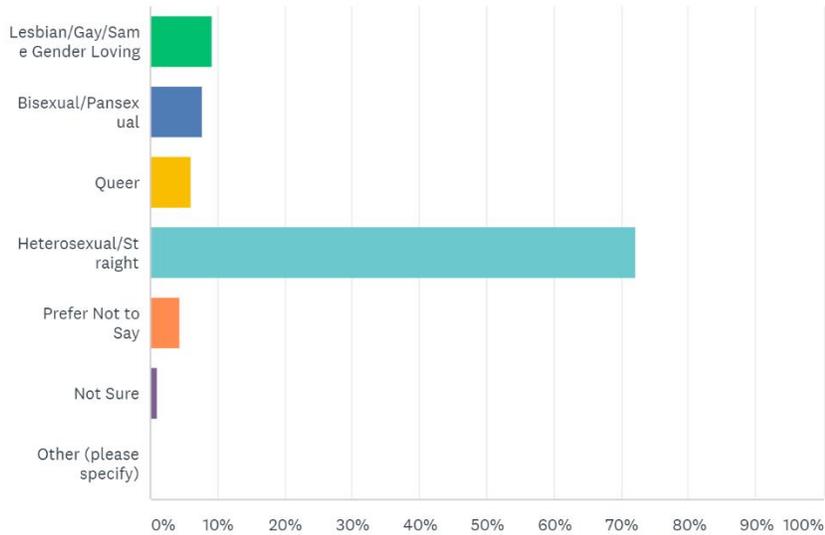


Figure 1.4 – Sexual Orientation

In 2018, there was an estimate of 4.5% of residents who lived in Georgia who identified as LGBTQ.⁶ According to this survey, 25% identified as LGBTQ, which is considerably larger than the estimated population.

Sexual Orientation

Answered: 183 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Lesbian/Gay/Same Gender Loving	9.29% 17
Bisexual/Pansexual	7.65% 14
Queer	6.01% 11
Heterosexual/Straight	72.13% 132
Prefer Not to Say	4.37% 8
Not Sure	1.09% 2
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 183	

⁶ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=13#density>

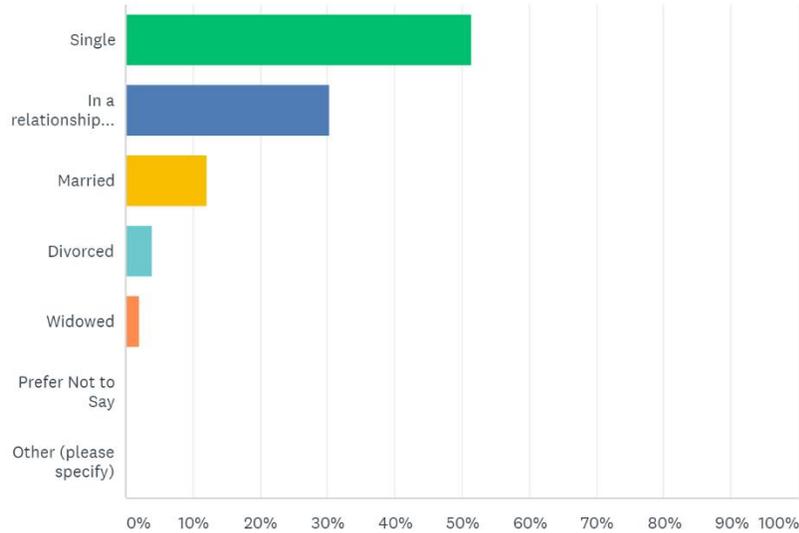


Figure 1.5 – Relationship Status

In 2018, there were a total of 29% of married people in the city of Atlanta, which is considerably more than the 12% of participants who took the survey.⁷

What is your current relationship status?

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Single	51.52% 102
In a relationship/Partnered	30.30% 60
Married	12.12% 24
Divorced	4.04% 8
Widowed	2.02% 4
Prefer Not to Say	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 198	

⁷ <https://www.towncharts.com/Georgia/Demographics/Atlanta-city-GA-Demographics-data.html>

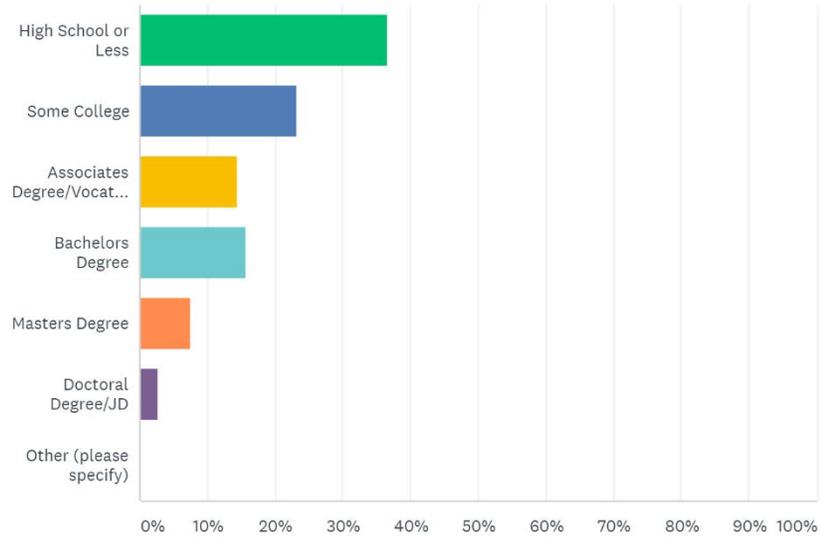


Figure 1.6 – Educational Level

In 2018, 49% of people in the city of Atlanta had Bachelors Degrees or Higher.⁸ In this study, there were 26% of people who had attained Bachelors Degrees or higher.

Educational Level

Answered: 186 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
High School or Less	36.56%	68
Some College	23.12%	43
Associates Degree/Vocational Training	14.52%	27
Bachelors Degree	15.59%	29
Masters Degree	7.53%	14
Doctoral Degree/JD	2.69%	5
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
TOTAL		186

⁸ <https://www.towncharts.com/Georgia/Education/Atlanta-city-GA-Education-data.html>



Figure 1.7 – Neighborhood Planning Units

Top 5 NPU's that were represented

1. 13.04% (21) – V
2. 9.94% (16) – S
3. 8.7% (10) – T
4. 7.45% (12) – X
5. 7.45 % (12) – Z

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ V	13.04%	21
▼ S	9.94%	16
▼ T	8.70%	14
▼ X	7.45%	12
▼ Z	7.45%	12
▼ I	6.83%	11
▼ M	6.83%	11
▼ R	5.59%	9
▼ E	4.35%	7
▼ G	4.35%	7
▼ J	4.35%	7
▼ H	3.73%	6
▼ W	3.73%	6
▼ K	2.48%	4
▼ Y	2.48%	4
▼ O	1.86%	3
▼ B	1.24%	2
▼ F	1.24%	2
▼ L	1.24%	2
▼ N	1.24%	2
▼ P	1.24%	2
▼ C	0.62%	1
▼ A	0.00%	0
▼ D	0.00%	0
▼ Q	0.00%	0
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	0.00%
TOTAL		161



Figure 1.8 – Represented Neighborhoods

Top 5 Neighborhoods Represented

1. Oakland City - 7.14%
2. Downtown – 5.35%
3. West End - 5.35%
4. Pittsburgh – 4.76%
5. Sylvan Hills – 4.16%

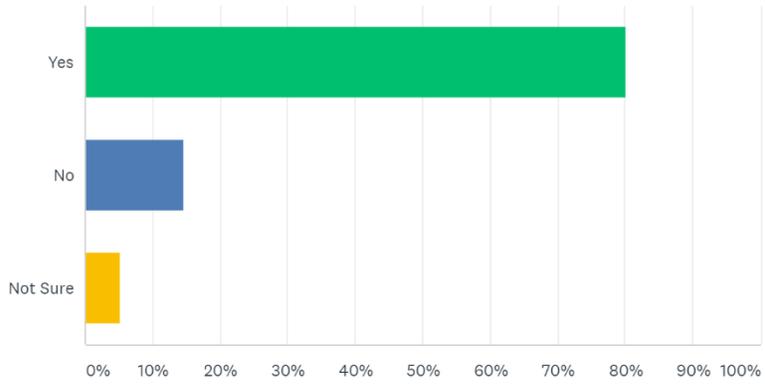
Adair Park	4
Adams Park	2
Adamsville	2
Arlington Estates	1
Atlanta University Center	1
Audobon Forest	1
Bankhead	1
Beecher Hills	1
Briar Glen	1
Buckhead	2
Campbellton Road	3
Candler Park	1
Capitol View	3
Capitol View Manor	2
Carey Park	3
Cascade Avenue	2
Center Hill	1
Collegetown	1
Collier Heights	3
Dixie Hills	2
Downtown	9
East Atlanta	3
Edgewood	3
Fairburn Heights	3
Fairburn Mays	1
Garden Hills	2
Glenrose Heights	1
Grant Park	2
Greenbriar	2
Grove Park	5
Harland Terrace	1
Historic King	1
Home Park	4
Hunter Hills	1
Inman Park	1
Lakewood	1
Lakewood Heights	2

Lincoln Homes	1
Mechanicsville	6
Midtown	2
Monroe Heights	1
Morningside/Lenox Park	1
Norwood Manor	1
Oakland City	12
Old Fourth Ward	4
Orchard Knob	2
Ormewood Park	1
Peoplestown	2
Perkerson	1
Pittsburgh	8
Polar Rocks	3
Rockdale	1
Rosedale Heights	1
Shamrock Gardens	1
South Atlanta	2
South River Gardens	2
Southwest	1
Summerhill	1
Swallow Circle/Baywood	1
Sylvan Hills	7
The Villages at Carver	1
Venetian Hills	3
Villages at Castleberry Hill	1
Vine City	2
Washington Park	2
West End	9
West Highlands	1
West Manor	1
Westover Plantation/Fernleaf/Bolton	1
Westview	2
Westwood Terrace	3
Wilson Mill Meadows	1



Figure 1.9 – Registered Voters
Registered Voter

Answered: 191 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	80.10% 153
▼ No	14.66% 28
▼ Not Sure	5.24% 10
TOTAL	191



Feeling Safe In Atlanta

199 participants participated in this question about feeling safe in the city of Atlanta. On the scale, 1 indicated not feeling safe at all, while a 10 indicated feeling extremely safe. The average number came out to be 6.23, which means that overall, Atlantans feel slightly safe in their city.

There were 161 responses as to the reasons they gave for feeling safe or unsafe. Thirty-four (34) people felt safe in their neighborhood and/or had no safety concerns, while many people indicated that robbery/theft, police harassment, general crime, and shootings were something to be concerned about.

Figure 1.10 – Reasons for Feeling Safe or Unsafe

Feel Safe in Neighborhood/No Safety Concerns	34	Identity-Based Safety	2
Robberies/Theft	16	Street Harassment/Assault	2
Police Harassment/Violence/Lack of De-escalation tactics (Security Guards Included)	16	Lack of education	2
Crime in general/Crime is normal/Violence	16	Lack of social services	2
Shootings/Guns	15	Power of Privilege	2
Police response Time/policing	9	Being Cautious/Taking Precautions	2
Homeless People	7	Rapists	2
Walking Alone (feeling unsafe)	7	Lack of healthcare	2
Gangs	5	Murder/Homicide	2
Lack of employment	5	Car jacking	1
God/Jesus looking over me/Prayer	5	Angry People	1
Lack of Rec programs for youth/lack of guidance or education for youth	5	Sex trafficking	1
Poverty/Lack of Income	4	HIV/AIDS	1
Avoiding Dangerous areas	4	Food Insecurity	1
Substance users	3	Lack of lighting	1
Rising Rent/lack of affordable housing	3	Neighborhood Watch	1
Drug Dealers	3	Lack of violent crime	1
People lacking ambition/Desperate people	3	Lack of respect for police	1
Busy City/A lot going on in the city	3	Loitering	1
Mental Ill People/Lack of mental health help	2	Out of Towners	1
Racist White People	2	Vandalism	1
		Harassment on MARTA (police or riders)	1
		Traffic	1
		Raising Children in high crime areas	1
		Teen Crime	1
		Single Women Living Alone	1
		Late Night Activities	1
		Not Safe for Transwomen	1

Understanding how to make the community safer had to do with the various strategic ideas around criminalization and city improvements. There were 193 people who participated in this question. They were allowed to pick up to 5 ideas that they thought would be best for them and their community.



Top 5 Ideas:

1. Make Housing More Affordable – 73.06%
2. Providing More Job Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals – 51.3%
3. Providing Better Quality Schools – 48.7%
4. Providing More Job Opportunities for Youth – 39.9%
5. Providing Addiction Services – 38.86%

More prisons and more jail beds ranked last on the list.

Figure 1.11 – Ideas to Make The Community Safer (Multiple Choice; up to 5 picks)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Addiction Services	38.86%	75
▼ Affordable Housing	73.06%	141
▼ Better Quality Schools	48.70%	94
▼ Cultural Competency for Police Officers	29.02%	56
▼ Hold homeowners responsible for vacant homes	27.98%	54
▼ Homeless shelters	35.23%	68
▼ More jail beds	1.55%	3
▼ More job opportunities for formerly incarcerated people	51.30%	99
▼ More job opportunities for youth	39.90%	77
▼ More local shops and grocery stores nearby	10.88%	21
▼ More mental health facilities	30.05%	58
▼ More police presence	8.81%	17
▼ More prisons	0.00%	0
▼ More urban farms	3.11%	6
▼ Neighborhood Watch Programs	9.84%	19
▼ Other social services	12.44%	24
▼ Park improvements	2.07%	4
▼ Recreational programs for youth	15.54%	30
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 3.63%	7
Total Respondents: 193		



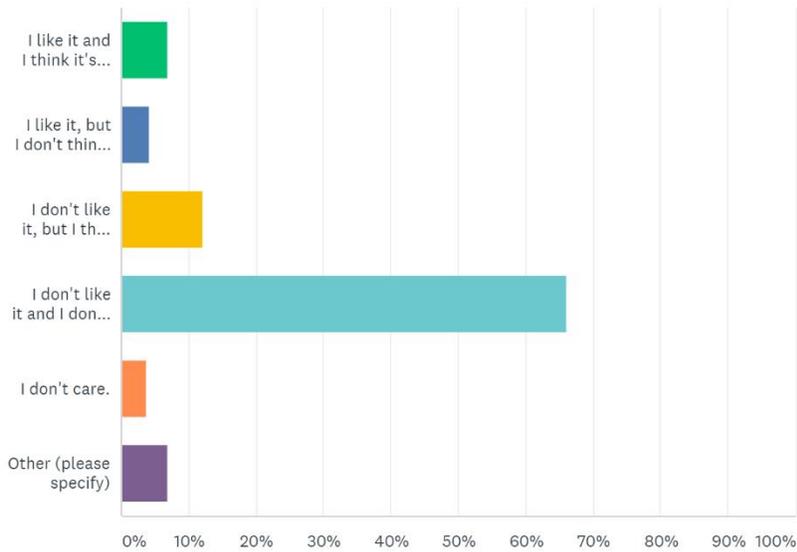
The Cost of the Atlanta City Jail

Figure 1.12 – Feelings Towards the Amount of Money Spent

Most people indicated that they did not like the fact that a lot of the taxpayers money was going towards the Atlanta City Jail and they don't feel that it is necessary (66%). Only 19% of participants felt that it was necessary to spend that money, regardless if they liked it or not.

The Atlanta City Jail costs the taxpayers \$32.5 million last year, which is about \$80,660 annually per person. How do you feel about that?

Answered: 189 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I like it and I think it's necessary.	6.88% 13
▼ I like it, but I don't think it's necessary.	4.23% 8
▼ I don't like it, but I think it's necessary.	12.17% 23
▼ I don't like it and I don't think it's necessary.	66.14% 125
▼ I don't care.	3.70% 7
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 6.88% 13
TOTAL	189



Figure 1.13 – Money Allocation Towards Ideas

When asked about where they would spend that money, 190 participants felt slightly different, taking into the consideration of the amount of homeless people are in the city of Atlanta.

Top 5 Money Allocation Ideas:

1. Making Housing More Affordable – 73.68%
2. Providing More Job Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated People – 53.68%
3. Providing More Homeless Shelters – 46.32%
4. Providing Addiction Services – 45.26%
5. Providing Better Quality Schools – 43.16%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Addiction Services	45.26% 86
▼ Affordable Housing	73.68% 140
▼ Better quality schools	43.16% 82
▼ cultural competency for police officers	18.42% 35
▼ hold homeowners responsible for vacant homes	14.21% 27
▼ homeless shelters	46.32% 88
▼ more jail beds	1.05% 2
▼ more job opportunities for formerly incarcerated people	53.68% 102
▼ more job opportunities for youth	35.26% 67
▼ more local shops and grocery stores nearby	12.63% 24
▼ more mental health facilities	27.37% 52
▼ more police presence	2.63% 5
▼ more prisons	1.58% 3
▼ more urban farms	2.63% 5
▼ Neighborhood Watch programs	10.00% 19
▼ other social services	17.89% 34
▼ park improvements	5.79% 11
▼ recreational programs for youth	14.74% 28
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.21% 8
Total Respondents: 190	

The participants in the survey felt that there were many ways that the city of Atlanta could spend the money, but most people suggested that they would split the money evenly between all the ideas that were given. This data would be helpful for politicians so they could start implementing policies that cater to building better communities. There were 111 participants who answered the question.



Figure 1.14 – How To Spend Taxpayers Money

Jobs/Employment Opportunities/Job Training	18
Give it to homeless/Homeless Shelters	18
Build or Better Schools/Education	12
Affordable Housing	11
Give it to formerly incarcerated/Jobs for FI	10
Mental Health Programs for Residents	7
Neighborhood Development/Community Programs	6
Programs for Youth	5
Addiction Services/Rehabilitation Centers	5
Jobs for Youth	4
Recreational Centers	3
Help People (in general)	2

Physical Health Programs for Residents	2
More Police Presence	2
Urban Farms	2
Neighborhood Watch	2
Park Improvements	2
City Streets/Fix the Roads	2
Cultural Competency for Police	2
Addiction Services	1
Police Education	1
Give it to children	1
Restorative Justice	1
Give it to all people	1
Better Housing for Women & Children	1
Police Officer Raises/More Compensation	1
Private Organizations	1
More local grocery shops	1
Medical Care	1
Give it to those who are poor	1

There were four unique answers:

- “I would help build a non-profit organization for homeless and homeless woman coming out of prison and raise money for cancer patients and HIV patients and peoples who is really mental illness. I would help - old men & women and single women and men, women with children, and men with kids to get housing pay up for 6 to 8 months.” – Janey, 51

- “Help mothers in underserved communities create their own businesses” – Beth, 49
- “...Residential rehabilitation programs to [cater to] low income and code enforcement...” – Bobby, Disabled Veteran
- “Give it to Women On [The] Rise to allocate.” – Timothy, 49



Figure 1.15 – Good Use For Building (Atlanta City Jail)

There were 145 responses⁹ when it came to answering what would the participant do if they were to get rid of the Atlanta City Jail. Only 3 people indicated that the city should keep it as a jail; the majority of people felt that it could be a homeless shelter or renovated to provide affordable housing for Atlanta dwellers.

Homeless Shelters	35
Affordable Housing	28
Community Center/Recreational Center	22
Job Skills Training Center for Youth/Adults	21
Outreach Program/Social Services Center/ One-Stop Shop	16
Mental Health Services	8
Education/Learning Center	7
Rehabilitation Center/Addiction Services	7
Re-entry Center for Formerly Incarcerated	6
School	6
Library	6
Youth Center	5
After School Programs	4
Keep it as a Jail	3
Day Care	3
Entrepreneurial Center/Workspace	2

Single Parent Help Center/Education	2
Hospital/Health Care	2
Have it Torn Down	2
HIV Treatment & Services	2
YMCA	2
Transitional Facility	2
Low-cost Space for Community Organizations	1
Public Defender Training Center	1
Aging Services	1
Market	1
Non-Profit Organization	1
Free workshop & gathering center	1
Emergency Shelter	1
Morgue	1
Private School	1
Family Planning Center	1
Gay & Lesbian Outreach Center	1

The overall gist as a good use for the building are indicated by 3 participants:

- “I like the idea of the building becoming a hub for social services in Atlanta. This should be accessible to formerly incarcerated people and could include re-entry programs for those coming for Fulton County.” -Che, 29

- “It'd be nice to have "one-stop-shop" that could offer community outreach programs and also help people get the care and medical treatment they need for affordable prices. Also adding housing for people trying to get on their feet.” -Joel, Video Editor
- “An additional transitional program for those on drugs, those being released from jail & prison and those who are homeless.” -Chester, 50

There were also several unique answers that could be considered, not only for an option for the Atlanta City Jail, but other empty buildings in the city of Atlanta:

⁹ There were 150 responses, but 5 were thrown out due to survey validity and reliability issues.



- “...museum for art and writings by the formerly incarcerated.” -Anna, 26
- “A non-profit day care center for working parents who are experiencing or who recently experienced homelessness.” -Naomi, 23
- “...hold GED classes, Anger Management class, Mental Health, primary care, Art&craft classes, cooking classes, job classes, stress classes, health class, diabetes class, any kind of trades class, learning disability classes.” -Janey, 51
- “Anything Great! More women improvement groups. Groups to help others with not only physical matters but emotional and mental matters.” -Diamond, 19
- “Youth homeless center” -Capri, 51

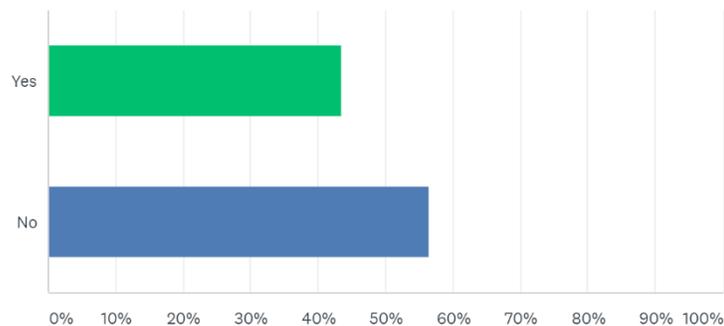
Experiences in Atlanta City Jail

Figure 1.16 – Arrested & Jailed in the Atlanta City Jail

Everyone had to answer the question on whether or not they had experiences in the Atlanta City Jail.¹⁰ Most people indicated that they had not spent time in the Atlanta City Jail, but there wasn’t a huge gap as to how many people had been or had not been arrested.

Have you ever been arrested and jailed in the Atlanta City Jail?

Answered: 200 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	43.50% 87
No	56.50% 113
TOTAL	200

Out of the 87 people who had been arrested and jailed in the Atlanta City Jail, 76 of those people responded about their experiences. Most people indicated that it was terrible, but there were a significant number of people said that it wasn’t bad (or not good). Many people also felt they shouldn’t have been arrested for a minor charge and found it to be a waste of their time; it can be implicated that this could also be a waste of taxpayers’ money.

¹⁰ If they indicated that they were not sure, their answers afterward were taken into consideration to categorize them as a “Yes” or a “No.”



Figure 1.17 – Experiences in ACDC

Terrible/Unpleasant/Bad/Horrible	10
Wasn't Bad/Not Good	9
Shouldn't have been arrested for minor charge or offense/Waste of Time	9
Dirty/Unsanitary	7
Food is Nasty/Disgusting/Rotten	6
Respectful Staff/Nice Officers	5
Lack of Empathy from Police/Staff	4
Intake Too Long	4
Mean/Horrible/Disrespectful/Rude Officer	4
Degrading/Mental Abuse/Police Lie/Dehumanizing	4
Cold	4
Rape/Sexual Assault	3
Scary	3
Was Caused Bodily Harm	2
Held under 12 hours	2

Road Block Trap	2
Overcrowded	2
Good Experience	2
Terrible Processing/Papers Lost/Mixed up papers	2
Helped to Get a Bond	1
Outtake Too Long	1
Unprofessional	1
Lack of Medical Help	1
A lot of homeless people	1
Not enough resources (mats, blankets, etc)	1
Don't know how to treat disabled people	1
No complaints	1
Horrible Living Conditions	1
A lot of people who were mentally challenged	1

The following are vibrant stories about experiences at ACDC:

- “They were on shift change. I was standing there waiting for them to open the door to let me inside the jail for over an hour. There was this white guy who looked agitated, some sort of MH issues maybe? And he was walking around and an officer told him to sit down and he yelled to the officer to get out of his face. The officer punched him and slammed him to the ground, then tased him in the open holding area. Lots of the other detained men were really upset and yelling at the officers to leave him alone. Some of them started standing up. This one guy kept yelling "White Lives Matter Too!" (he was Black) Officers freaked out and screamed at everyone to move to the other side of the room. They took the white guy who was tased inside one of the cells and sedated him. It was a whole lot of messed up stuff that happened in those few hours. I was lucky I bonded out quickly; both because I had access to people and resources to pay my bond without needing a bail bondsperson and also because I had my loved ones calling up to ACDC over and over to ask when I was getting out because my bond had been paid. There were other detained people whose bonds had also been paid and were waiting longer than me, but I sat there and watched as someone from the admin office called down to the workers sitting in the cubicles processing people for booking or bonding out, and while they were on the phone they looked up my paperwork and put me to the front of the stack. It was a Latino officer and white officer. The Latino officer was very hostile and rude. I was with my kids. I had to call someone to come and pick them up and I didn't have anyone who could come that quickly. He didn't want to wait and kept telling me I better hurry up or they would have to take my kids into custody. The white officer tried to play good cop. He acted very calm to not upset my kids and didn't handcuff me at any point. He had a lot of comments about the Atlanta police and how he wanted to leave the force because of the way they do things. Shrug. He's still there though.” - Amanda, 30



- “First it was an intentional road block trap. I was waved onto a street from West Peachtree by an officer with a flashlight. I couldn't find my insurance card and wasn't given much of a chance before I was rudely told to sit on the curb (others were already sitting there). My car was also searched while I was sitting without permission. The jail cell was PACKED when I arrived and I wasn't able to use the phone immediately. I was eventually able to bond out but I lost almost 2 days of my life - just because of the process, being processed in and getting to tell my folks where I was located and to get the money together for the bail. I never did get that money back! Beyond RUDE is the word. It was entrapment at the finest. We were piled into a paddy wagon for the ride where someone peed on the floor - because they requested and said they had to use the restroom several times. It was mostly all Black people (in the middle of Midtown) and it appeared like an intentional sweep and message to not be in that area.” -BT, 55
- “It was unclean. Filthy. The officers are very rude. People make mistakes. They should not be treated like animals. The food that is given is bread and more starch. No proper diet and yet they spend so much money for what. Its hard to get clean underwear. Where is the money?”- Crystal, 37
- “It was a complete waste. I was arrested for being in a know drug area and was held overnight. I was release and never heard anything else about the matter. I wasn’t selling, buying or using drugs but was arrested for being in a "known drug area;” I had friends living in that neighborhood and I shouldn’t have been arrested and jailed for visiting them.” -Grayson, 51
- “I was put in population with Hetero Male male [heterosexual cisgender men]. I was raped/molested in jail. [I was] [d]iscriminated against.” – Oalyase, 42, Transwoman

Targeted or Treated Unfairly

50 people said they were targeted or treated unfairly in some way; however, a lot of people just replied “yes” with not explanation and therefore, we lack some depth about how they were targeted or treated unfairly. In addition, there were also a lot of people that indicated that they were not targeted or treated unfairly which also might implicate that they believed that their arrest was justified.

Figure 1.18 – Targeted or Treated Unfairly

No/ Not targeted or treated unfairly	13
Yes	12
Falsely Accused	5
Being Black/Racial Profiling	4
Being arrested for minor offenses	3
Lack of empathy for women	3
Prostituting presumption	1
Would not give mental health meds	1
Standing Your ground	1
Being Poor	1
Did not read Miranda	1
Handcuffs too tight	1
Officer’s discretion	1
Raped by officers for prostituting (1980s)	1

Observations by those arrested

There were some interesting observations by those folks who were arrested. Besides Black people feeling like they were targeted or racially profiled, there were many women who felt they were treated unfairly, and an observation from a Black woman who felt that white people were treated unfairly.

- Racial Profiling:
 - “I’m not sure, but it was a K9 unit that pulled up behind me at a stoplight and ran my tags. I hadn’t committed any traffic violation or anything; I was just on my way home sitting at a stoplight. The white cop said something about I stood out because of my car.” – Amanda, 30, Mixed Race
- Gender Profiling:
 - “The female arresting officer arrested in the neighborhood I lived in. She ASSUMED I was prostituting.” -Chanel, Transwoman
 - “I was 8 months pregnant and retreated for food, slept on a hard rail.” -Lybresha, 25
 - “Lack of empathy for the average working women.” -Capri, 51

What Services Were Needed At Time of Arrest

There were 73 total responses from people who answered the question on whether or not they needed a certain type of support at the time of their arrest. This question implicates that if they were to have the kind of support they needed, they might not have been arrested.

Most people felt that they needed housing or housing support at the time of their arrest or employment or employment support.

Figure 1.19 – Services Needed At Time of Arrest

Housing/Housing Support	43.84%	32
Employment/Employment Support	38.36%	28
No/None	38.36%	28
Mental Health/Emotional Support	19.18%	14
Childcare/Childcare Support	16.44%	12
Medical Help/Medical Support	15.07%	11
Education/Educational Support	12.33%	9
Substance Use Support	12.33%	9
Other Responses:	4.11%	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate Court Notification • Fulton County Filing Paperwork correctly • Working 		

Been Affected By Someone Arrested & Jailed in ACDC

“The affect of the broken justice system on my community ripples in waves-decreasing grades, changing feelings of security; mental/emotional/financial trauma all affect people like me when a loved one is arrested.” – Kiana, 26

There were 52 responses from people who felt that they have been affected because someone else that they knew was arrested. There were 22 people who responded that they were not affected by someone else who had been arrested and jailed at ACDC.

Figure 1.20 – Affected by Arrest/Jailing

Who Had Been Jailed	# of People Affected	How Affected
General Yes	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailing Someone Out • Treated like an Inmate • Time consuming • Lost wages
Friends	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mistreated • Denied Medication • Getting bail together/Sent money • Calling their jobs • Taking care of kids • Taking care of animals • Finding a lawyer
Brother	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Turmoil
Current Spouse/Partner	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising child in single parent home
Child	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousands of dollars spent • Stressful
Nephew	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney Fees • Family Turmoil • Turned him in and regretted it
Ex-Spouse/Ex-Partner	2	
Community	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to get a job • Hard to get a place to live
Clients	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being able to work with them
Parent	2	

Many people gave another person’s story instead of saying how they were affected. Tim, 40, states, “Every time I go, I’m surrounded by people who seem guilty of simply being poor. No one should face jail time for not being able to pay a traffic related fine.” Not only does this mean that Tim is a repeated offender, it also indicates that Tim is feeling empathy for people who are being jailed for minor offenses.

Other Options Rather Than Jail

“I do not believe we should increase fines, as that is an attack on the poor to keep them down. Community service and volunteer times would be a much better way to handle non-violent crimes. On top of having more state appointed and funded counselors and requiring people to receive help from certified professionals that can help individuals one-on-one instead of treating them like cattle.”

-Joel, Video Editor

There were 114 responses from people who felt that there could be other options that were available to them rather than going to jail; however, 2 people felt that jail was/is necessary.

Figure 1.21 – Other Option Rather Than Jail

Tickets/Citations/Fines	29	Understanding the Consequences of your actions/ Make personal changes	3
Social Services/Referrals	23	Care Navigator/Social Worker	3
Community Service	21	Mediation	2
Jobs, Job Placement & Job Training/Programs	12	Work Release Programs	2
Counseling	10	Jail	2
Rehabilitation	8	Accountability Group	2
Probation	8	Rapid Response Team	2
Taking Classes: Anger Management, DUI, Defensive Driver	8	Mentoring	2
Warnings	7	Repeal certain laws	2
Housing or Housing Programs	6	Showing Love/Loving Yourself	2
Training Programs	5	Medical Evaluation	2
Education	5	Gym for Young People	2
Mental Healthcare Programs	5	Getting child support	2
Leave People Alone/Let Them Go	4	Financial Assistance	2
Addiction/Substance Use Services	4	Restorative Justice Practices	2
Working/Get a Job	4	Community Policing	2
Pre-Arrest Diversion	3	Clean up communities	2
Bail Reform	3	Updated Tech	2
		More gay resources	1

There were some unique answers that people had that communities could use as a resource. For instance, Anna, 26, stated “Rapid response mental health professionals, community members trained in de-escalation and defense, community service options. I saw this recently as an art series depicting alternatives to police and incarceration and loved it:

<https://twitter.com/BigMeanInternet/status/1035349411528929280>”. Bobby, a disabled veteran, on the other hand figured that if APD had “...better systems of tech to utilize to clear nonviolent offenses from violent...,” that would help with distinguishing on whether or not people need to be in jail.

On more than one occasion, people thought that the city should “build a gym for the younger people,” as Ericka, an airport worker, weighed in on this question.



Additional Information We Should Know

There were lots of people offering their help and personal skills to Women On The Rise, with 4 people indicating that the jail should close. Other additional information included:

- Incorporate public defenders
 - “Please consider incorporating public defenders in your initiatives. They can be a voice for the voiceless people caught in the system.” – Kiana, 26
 - Support low budget non-profits
 - APD needs training
 - Teach inmates better coping skills
 - People being jailed on other people’s assumptions
 - There needs to be more gay resources
 - We need safer communities
 - “When communities are safe, people thrive. Unsafe communities tend to prevent people from achieving their full potential.” – Grayson, 51
 - Book to read: *Credit Chronicles*
 - “Its time for the revolution!” – Ditanjah, 49
-
-



Arrested at the Atlanta City Detention Center

Because there was such a large amount of responses, the need to hear from the folks who had been arrested at the Atlanta City Jail was also critical to the analysis. The following responses are additional information gathered that supports the citizens that reside in the City of Atlanta.

There were 168 people that said they had been arrested and jailed at ACDC; 87 of those responses were from verified citizens in the City of Atlanta.

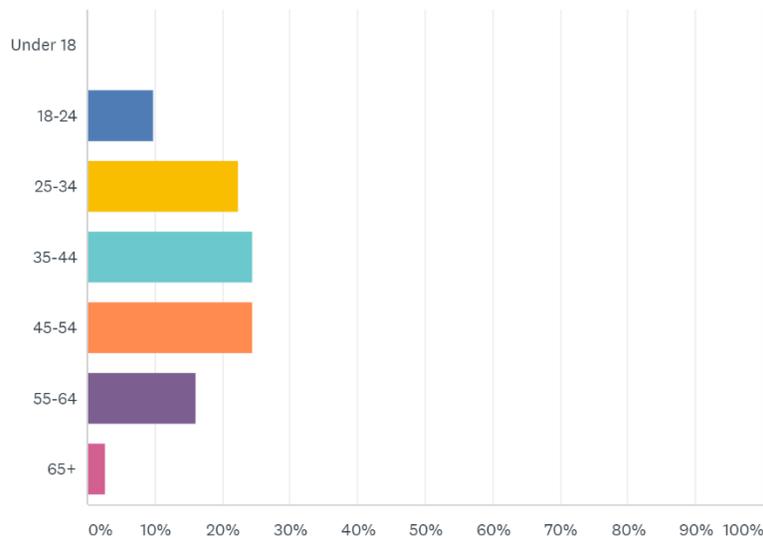
Demographics

Figure 2.1 – Age

The majority of those that were arrested and jailed at the Atlanta City Detention Center were tied between the 35-44 demographic and the 45-54 demographic.

Age

Answered: 143 Skipped: 25



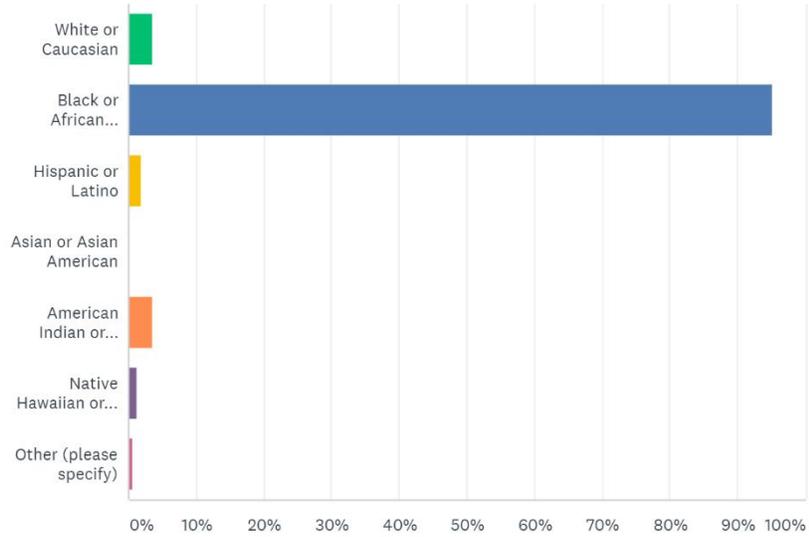
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.00% 0
18-24	9.79% 14
25-34	22.38% 32
35-44	24.48% 35
45-54	24.48% 35
55-64	16.08% 23
65+	2.80% 4
TOTAL	143



Figure 2.2 – Race

Of the people who were arrested, 95% of the people were Black/African-American.
Race

Answered: 165 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
White or Caucasian	3.64% 6
Black or African American	95.15% 157
Hispanic or Latino	1.82% 3
Asian or Asian American	0.00% 0
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.64% 6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1.21% 2
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.61% 1
Total Respondents: 165	

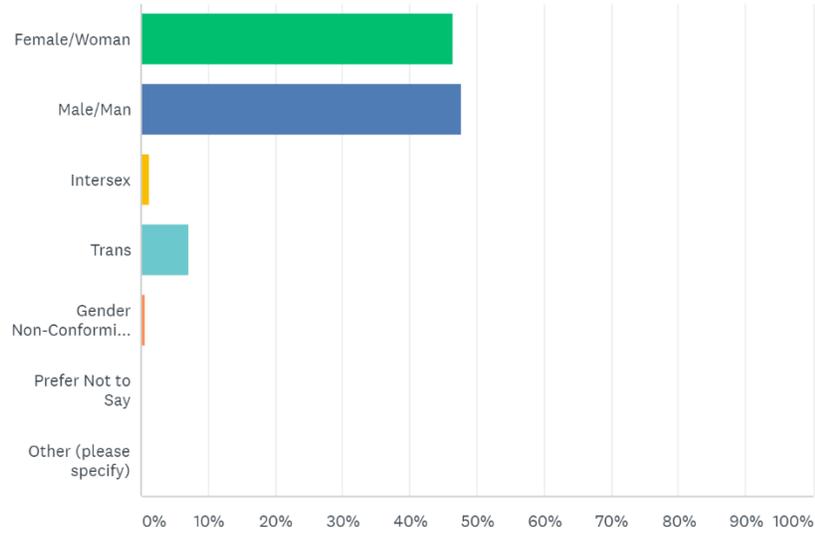


Figure 2.3 – Gender

There were 12 respondents who were trans and one respondent that was gender con-forming/non-binary that were arrested in the Atlanta City Jail.

Gender

Answered: 168 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Female/Woman	46.43% 78
Male/Man	47.62% 80
Intersex	1.19% 2
Trans	7.14% 12
Gender Non-Conforming/Non-Binary	0.60% 1
Prefer Not to Say	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 168	

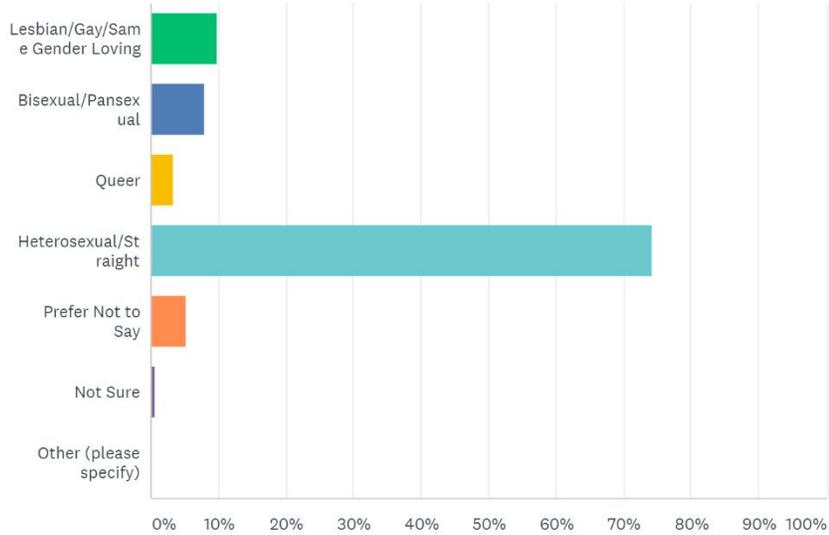


Figure 2.4 – Sexual Orientation

LGBTQ people made up 21% of the arrests at the Atlanta City Jail.

Sexual Orientation

Answered: 152 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Lesbian/Gay/Same Gender Loving	9.87% 15
Bisexual/Pansexual	7.89% 12
Queer	3.29% 5
Heterosexual/Straight	74.34% 113
Prefer Not to Say	5.26% 8
Not Sure	0.66% 1
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 152	

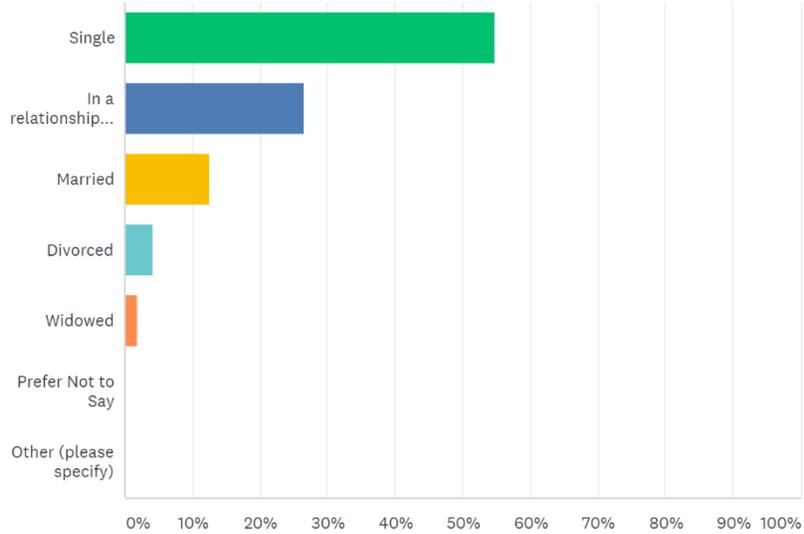


Figure 2.5 – Relationship Status

Again, most people in the study identified as single.

What is your current relationship status?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Single	54.82% 91
In a relationship/Partnered	26.51% 44
Married	12.65% 21
Divorced	4.22% 7
Widowed	1.81% 3
Prefer Not to Say	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 166	

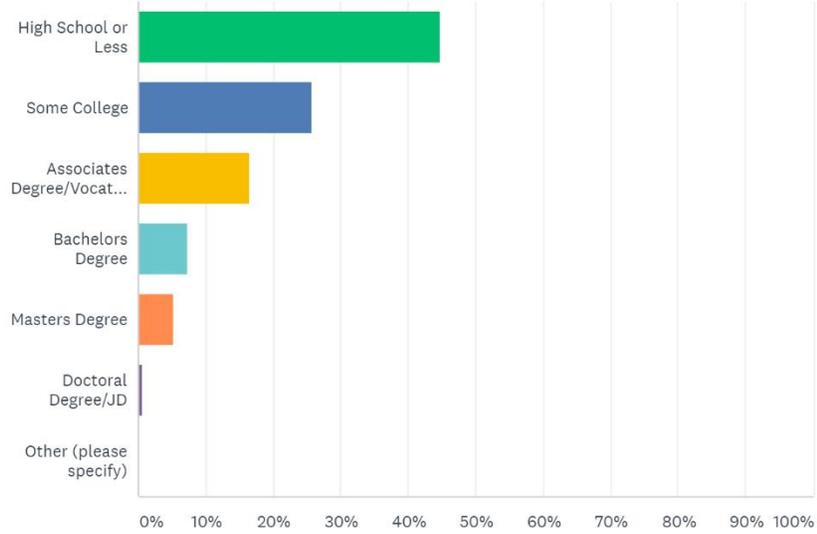


Figure 2.6 – Education Level

A higher percentage (45%) of people who were arrested had an education of high school or less.

Educational Level

Answered: 152 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ High School or Less	44.74%	68
▼ Some College	25.66%	39
▼ Associates Degree/Vocational Training	16.45%	25
▼ Bachelors Degree	7.24%	11
▼ Masters Degree	5.26%	8
▼ Doctoral Degree/JD	0.66%	1
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
TOTAL		152

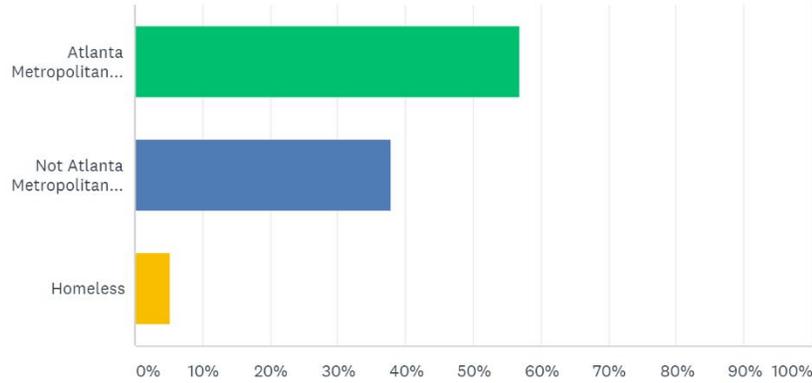


Figure 2.7 – Location

Although the majority of people were verified citizens of the City of Atlanta, there was a very significant portion of people who had been jailed at the ACDC that were not verified citizens or were homeless in the City of Atlanta.

Address

Answered: 153 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Atlanta Metropolitan Area	56.86% 87
Not Atlanta Metropolitan Area	37.91% 58
Homeless	5.23% 8
TOTAL	153

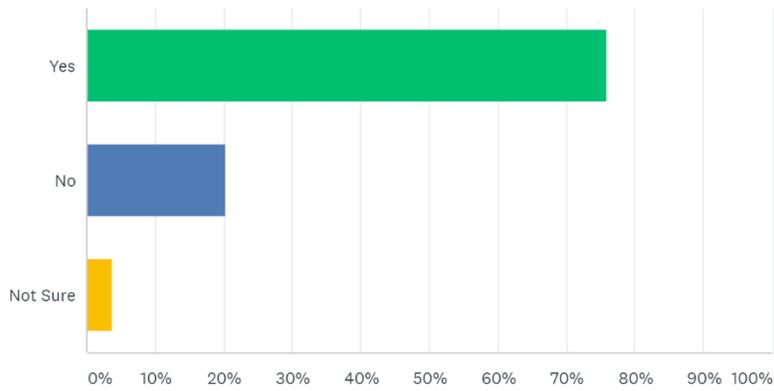


Figure 2.8 – Neighborhoods Represented by Verified Citizens (Top 6)

1. Oakland City – 7.5% (6)
2. Mechanicsville – 6.25% (5)
3. West End - 6.25% (5)
4. Downtown – 5% (4)
5. Fairburn Heights – 3.75% (3)
6. Pittsburgh – 3.75% (3)

Figure 2.9 – Registered Voters
Registered Voter

Answered: 133 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	75.94% 101
No	20.30% 27
Not Sure	3.76% 5
TOTAL	133



Figure 2.10 – Neighborhood Planning Unit

The most popular NPU is NPU-V, which has the following neighborhoods:

- Adair Park
- Capitol Gateway
- Mechanicsville
- Peoplestown
- Pittsburgh
- Summerhill

As you can see, Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh are on that list.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ V	14.08%	10
▼ S	9.86%	7
▼ T	9.86%	7
▼ R	8.45%	6
▼ Z	8.45%	6
▼ X	7.04%	5
▼ G	5.63%	4
▼ I	5.63%	4
▼ J	5.63%	4
▼ W	5.63%	4
▼ H	4.23%	3
▼ K	2.82%	2
▼ L	2.82%	2
▼ M	2.82%	2
▼ B	1.41%	1
▼ C	1.41%	1
▼ E	1.41%	1
▼ F	1.41%	1
▼ Y	1.41%	1
▼ A	0.00%	0
▼ D	0.00%	0
▼ N	0.00%	0
▼ O	0.00%	0
▼ P	0.00%	0
▼ Q	0.00%	0
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	0.00%
TOTAL		71



Feeling Safe

There were 165 responses with regards to feeling safe in Atlanta. The average came out slightly over at 6.05 where the people who were arrested felt slightly safe in Atlanta.

There weren't any additional reasons that were different than from the ones mentioned above.

Additional Experiences at ACDC

There were 148 total responses from folks who were arrested at ACDC. However, there were only 2 additional responses that were different that came from the 81 additional people:

- Not having any outside communication
- Was misgendered by staff

These are additional quotes that encompass some of the past experiences with the residents along with other experiences:

- "I only had an overnight stay. Women's dorm was not unpleasant. Dormitory was very clean. Meals could be very much more sustaining. Release was quick. The other lady inmates were very nice to me and offered items from their tray because I was pregnant!" – Kayla, 21

- "It was a good & bad experience. I wasn't supposed to be there but I talked to other women that I ministered to. So I thank God for the experience, a part of the process of growth."
- Cynthia, 52

- "In high school, at the age of seventeen, I was arrested for disorderly conduct after having a very heated argument in public. I was housed for 5 days before I was given a signature bond. This was my first offense and I was treated like a criminal. He initially just wanted to detain me. Another off-duty officer came and directed him to arrest everyone. He was forced to comply." - Alexis, 25

Targeted or Treated Unfairly

Although 94 people responded to being targeted or treated unfairly, 53 people were verified citizens. Additional responses included the following:

- “I’m black and trans.” – Kamilla, 27
- “I was very much targeted. Officer came into my cell, I'd only been there on the floor for an hour. He put his hands on me..It didn’t work out for him.” – Rob, 45

For those who had been affected by someone else who was arrested in jailed, there were two very unique quotes by people:

- “Assaulted by an ex-offender.” – Aaron, 56
- “Yes the woman I seen die. They have nurses and they offer services but the people do not care and they still get paid. The don’t care to run proper test.” – Mieesha

Other Options Instead of Jail

Even out of 101 additional responses for other options rather than going to jail, people gave the following:

- Church
- Sports
- Working on an urban farm
- Using common sense

Some people gave some great quotes as it pertained to other options rather than going to jail:

- “My life has changed from that whole thing of getting arrested and I'm in training to helping other Transgender woman.” – Kendra, 39
- “Not sure - I only know that I needed time to sober up before I operated my vehicle. Maybe put in a waiting area until I was sober enough to drive my car home.” – Jamie, 46
- “Programs that will really help individuals that has been incarcerated re-enter the community. If a felon can work and actually support their household, they will not risk their freedom. Some of the funded resources cannot help, some shelters have no room, no beds, temp agencies want your felony to be old & bonding isn't always enough.” – Mieesha
- “I’m also interested for my husband. There are jobs for felons, but they want the felony to be at least a year to 3 years old which makes it hard. Also, with housing having a felony hinder you to having a place to live.” – Mieesha

Limitations To The Study

There were a few limitations to the study that need to be considered for future reference. First, even though there was a training done for the WOTR staff, Marla did not actually oversee how the survey was given when the study was being conducted via community outreach (on the ground). Even though it was covered in the training about wanting to get people who want to take the time to complete the survey and live in the City of Atlanta (max 15 minutes), there was no verification in place to ensure that the survey distributors were probing and getting the answers they needed to ensure quality qualitative answers. In addition, the survey was also given electronically.¹¹

Second, because of this and the lack of the quality answers with the number of surveys given, there might have been more of a focus on quantity of surveys rather than the quality of surveys. Although the staff had a goal of 500 surveys over the year, the focus on quantity might have contributed to the lack of qualitative answers and a lot of missing information that was crucial in the study, such as the address of the participants or the sexual orientation or gender identity, which might have contributed to the targeting of APD. Although we were able to capture some of it, if the staff were to focus on City of Atlanta residents (and as intended), we might have been able to capture many more people's experiences. However, even with the lack of that information, knowing that a significant number of non-verified respondents helps to see the APD's outreach for those who are not eligible to vote on matters when it comes to the City of Atlanta.

Conclusion

As you can see from the verified residents and the people who have been arrested and jailed by the ACDC, there are a lot of commonalities that need to be taken into consideration. Needs, such as affordable housing, housing support, and homeless shelters are on the forefront of the minds of the participants of the survey. In addition, employment, employment support, as well as job training are ever-present factors that should be taken into consideration to the Atlanta City Council. There is also a concern about our youth and helping them to get busy so that they can be productive citizens.

The peoples' experiences in the Atlanta City Jail were telling about what's been happening over the years. However, the insight about what to do next is an indicator about the hope that the people of Atlanta have for the future.

Not only were the participants in the survey creative about what to do about the building structure itself, they were motivated to help with the closing of the Atlanta City Jail. The ideas on this survey should be used as a reference in hopes that the City of Atlanta can be creative in the way they are using taxpayer's money.

¹¹ The electronic survey, <http://bit.ly/WotRSurvey> only had 172 total clicks.

