



KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

KyMBER WALTMUNSON, County Auditor

Sheriff's Office Data Shows Racial Disparities, Potential for Alternative Policing

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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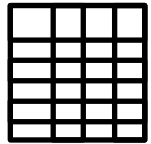
Summary



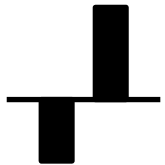
King County - Local context



Alternative models offer lessons

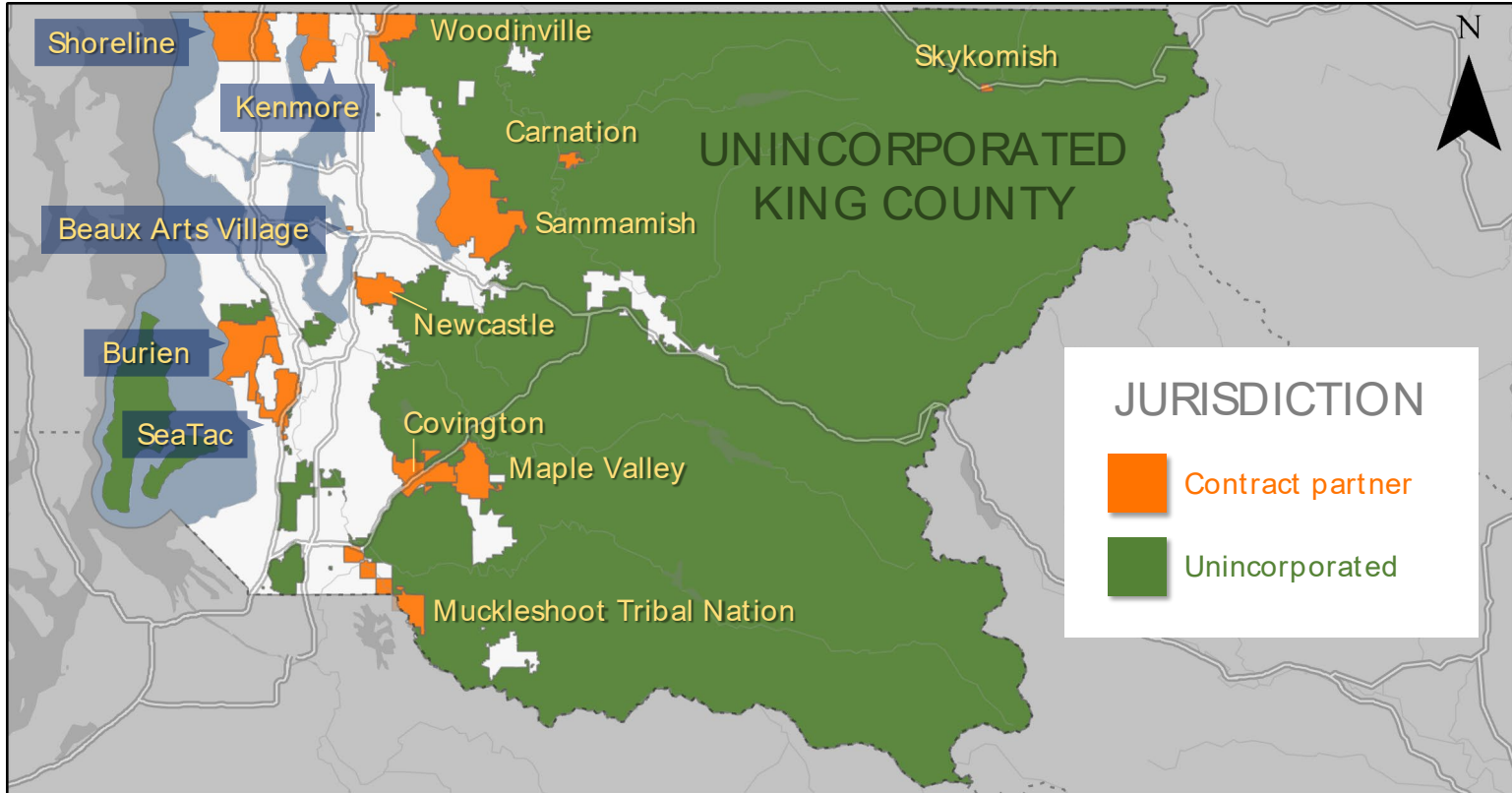


Data and analysis limitations

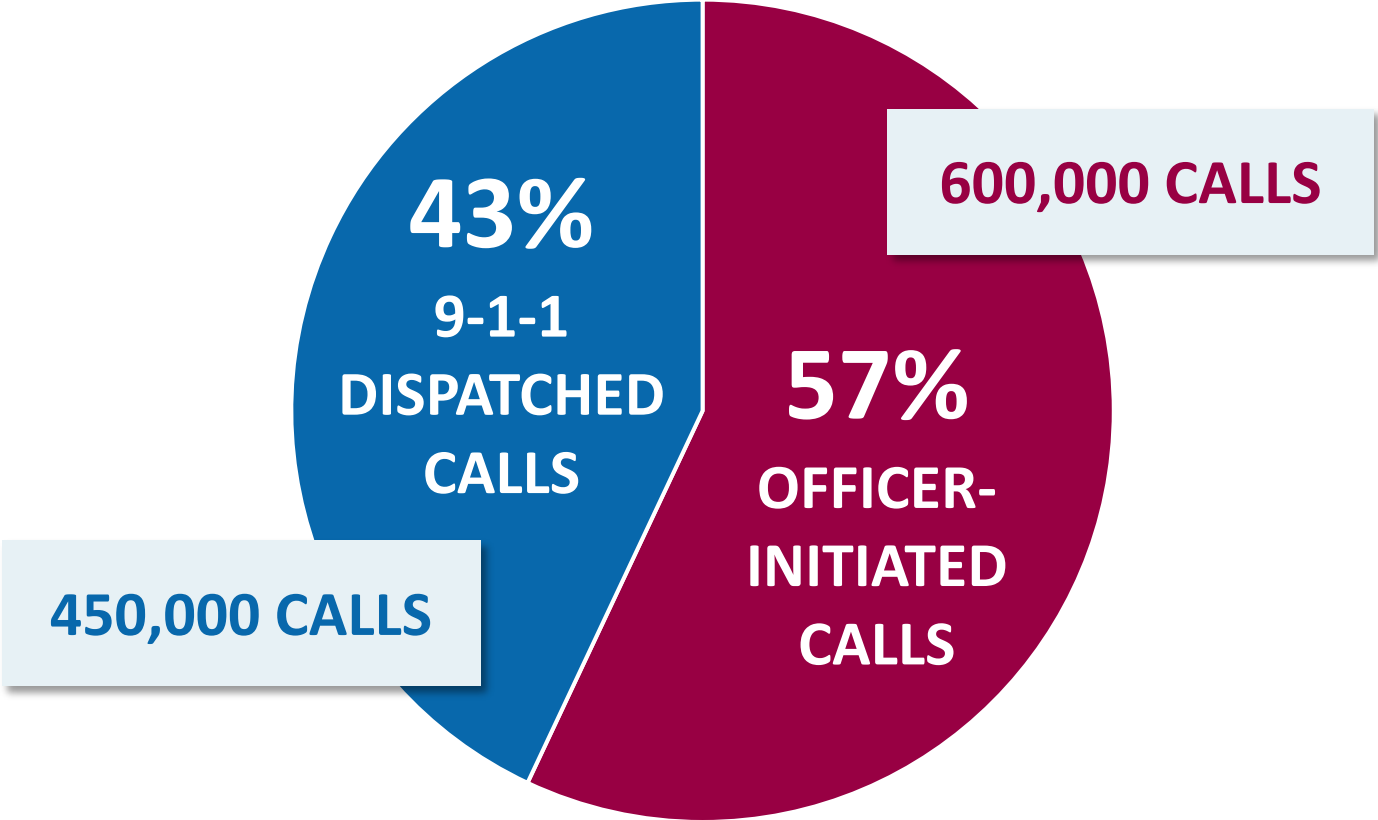


Racial disparities in arrests and uses of force

King County Sheriff's Office

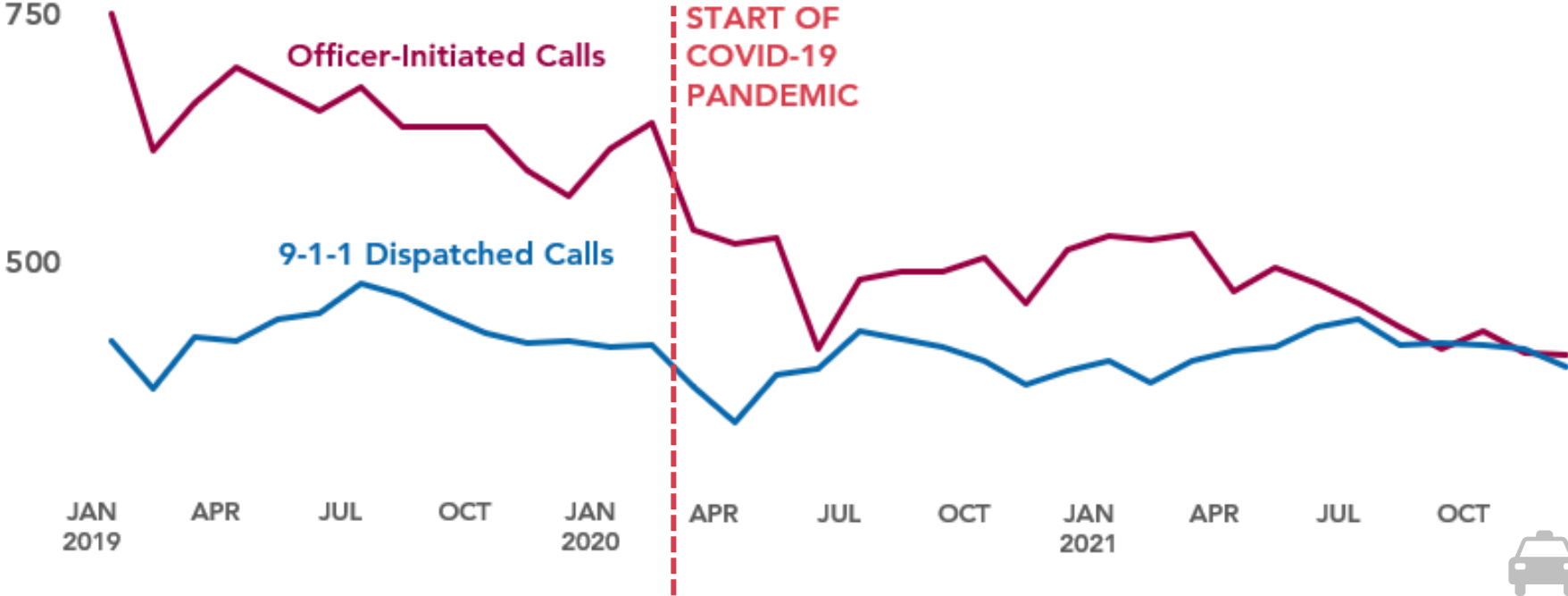


Call initiation

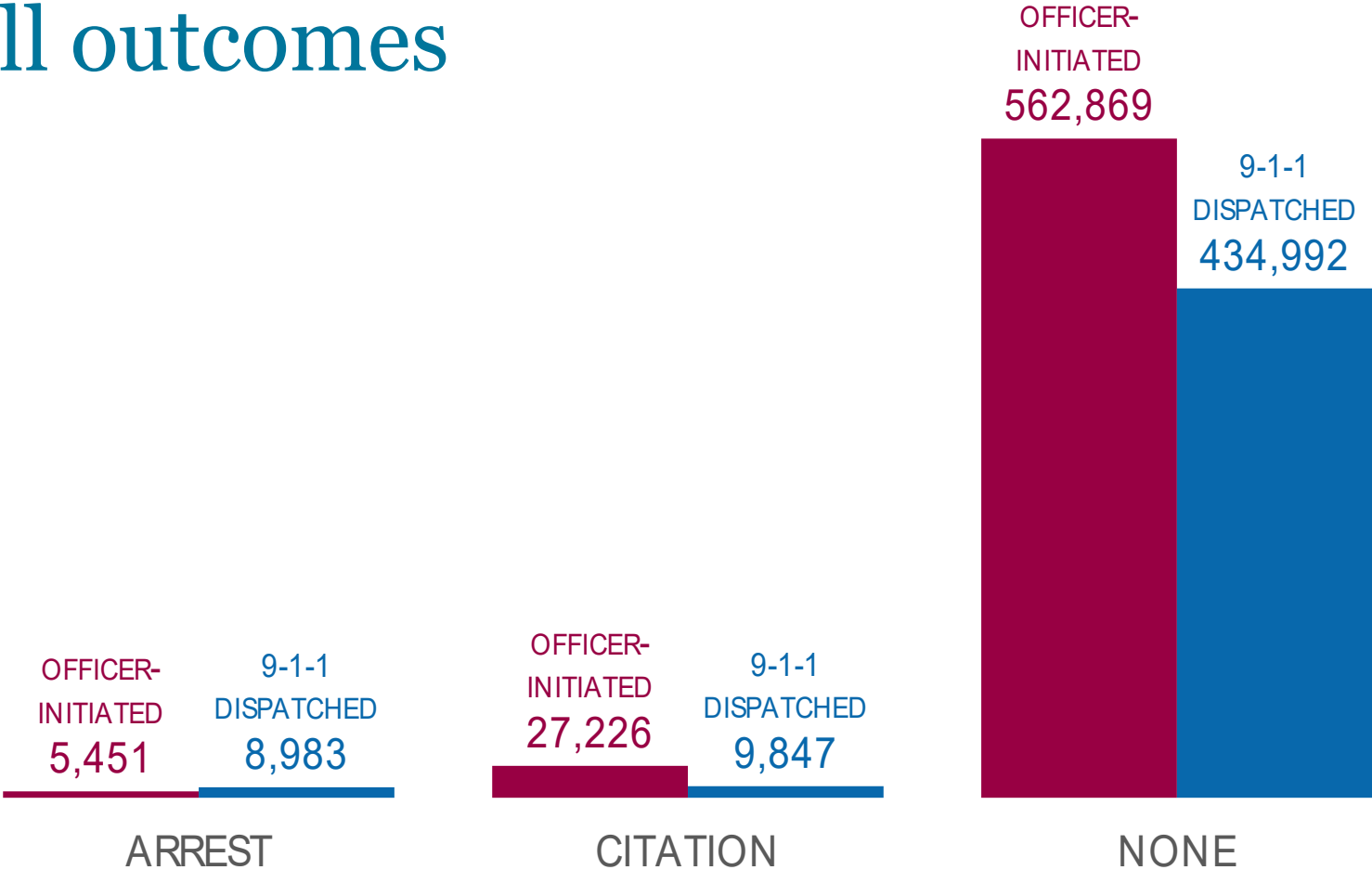


Calls decline over time

DAILY
NUMBER
OF CALLS



Call outcomes



Alternatives for call response



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



City of Phoenix



KCAO 7

9-1-1 Communications Center

1. Divert calls by type, risk
 - 15% of calls in King County
2. Embedded mental health providers



Mobile response models

- Co-responder
- Civilian-only



Source: <https://whitebirdclinic.org/bestofeugene2018>



Lessons learned

Space for conversation

Civilian independence

Start small

Relationships are key



Recommendation

- ▶ Consider lessons learned in pilot program for alternative response



Data and analysis limitations

- County goal: racial equity
- Need data and analysis to measure progress



Data on race not always collected

LIMITATIONS

King County Code

Concerns about errors

No field in CAD for race



Matter for Council consideration

- ▶ Amend code to allow collection of race data to reduce racial disparities



Recommendations

- ▶ Ensure CAD system can record race data
- ▶ Collect data on perceived race of people stopped by officers



Available data shows racial disparities

- Data on race for over 85% of:
 - Reported uses of force
 - Calls that result in arrest at the scene
- More analysis required to identify what factors contribute to disparities
- Analyzed by racial groups, not individuals
 - Did not analyze whether any specific arrest or use of force was appropriate



Uses of force per call response

	Asian officers	All other officers
Responses to calls	88,387	1,143,786
Reported uses of force	38	1,053
Rate	0.043%	0.092%

Uses of force per call response

Race of officer

+100%

The use of force rate for **Asian and Black officers** was around 50% lower than other racial groups.

The use of force rate for **White officers** was over 50% higher than other racial groups.

Expected

-100%

Native Hawaiian
/ Pacific Islander

Asian

Black

American Indian
/ Alaska Native

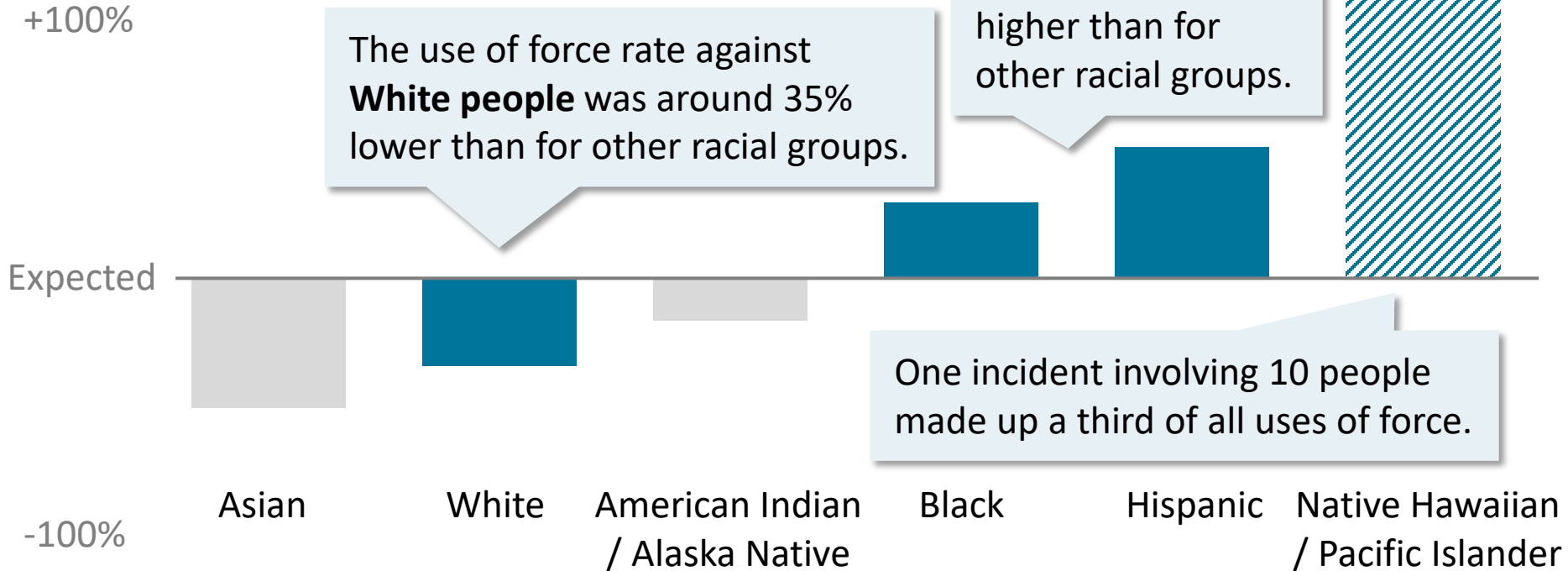
Hispanic

White

Differences shaded in gray are not statistically significant.

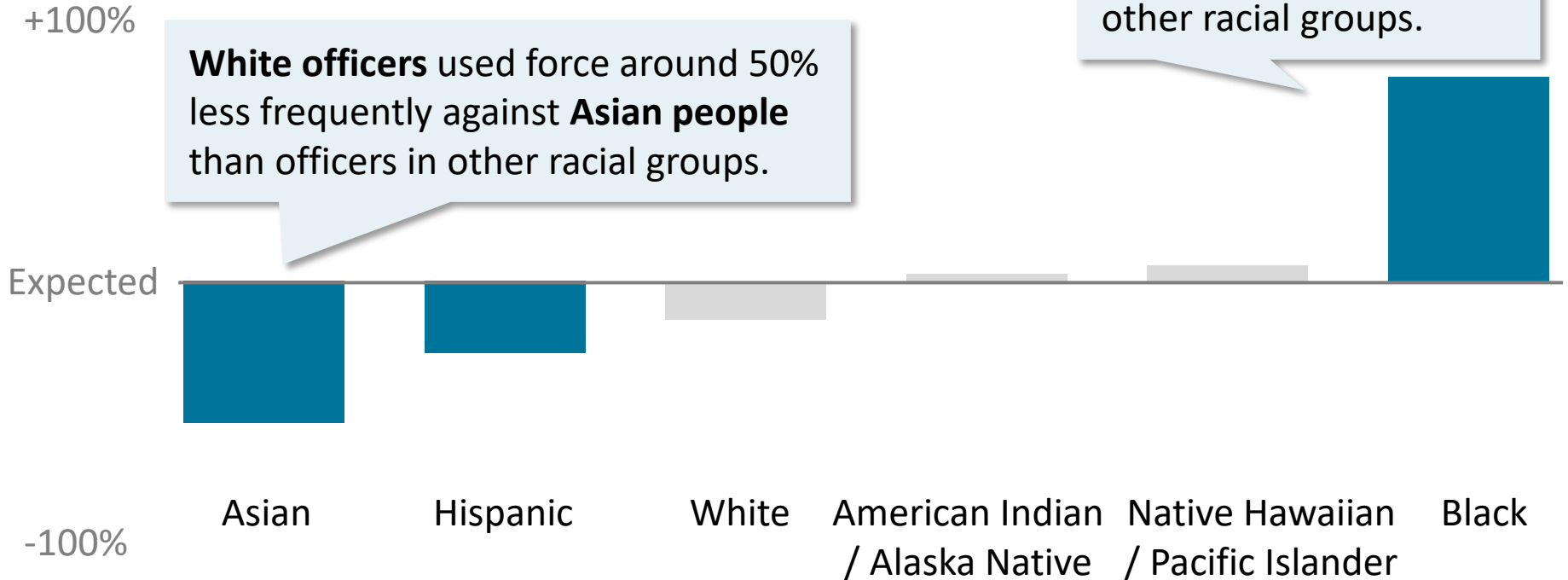
Uses of force per arrest

Race of person experiencing force



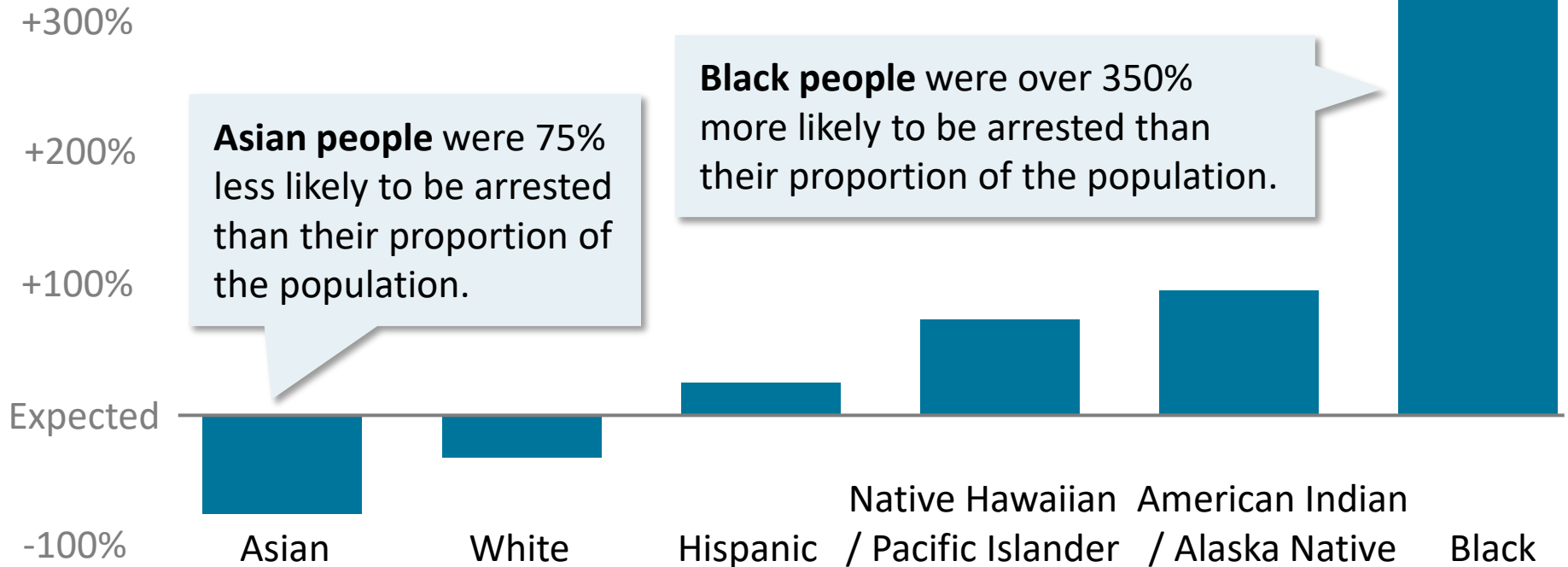
White officers' uses of force

Race of person experiencing force



Arrests by racial groups

Compared to proportion of the population



Arrests by racial groups

Compared to number of reported suspects

+300%

1) Officer decisions about whether to arrest an identified suspect did **not** appear to drive the disparities in arrest rates.

+200%

+100%

2) Risk of analysis hiding disparities by controlling for key factors. Disparities **still exist** in who becomes a suspect.

3) Many factors likely contribute to who becomes a suspect: policing strategies; people reporting; inequities.

Expected

-100%

Asian

White

Hispanic

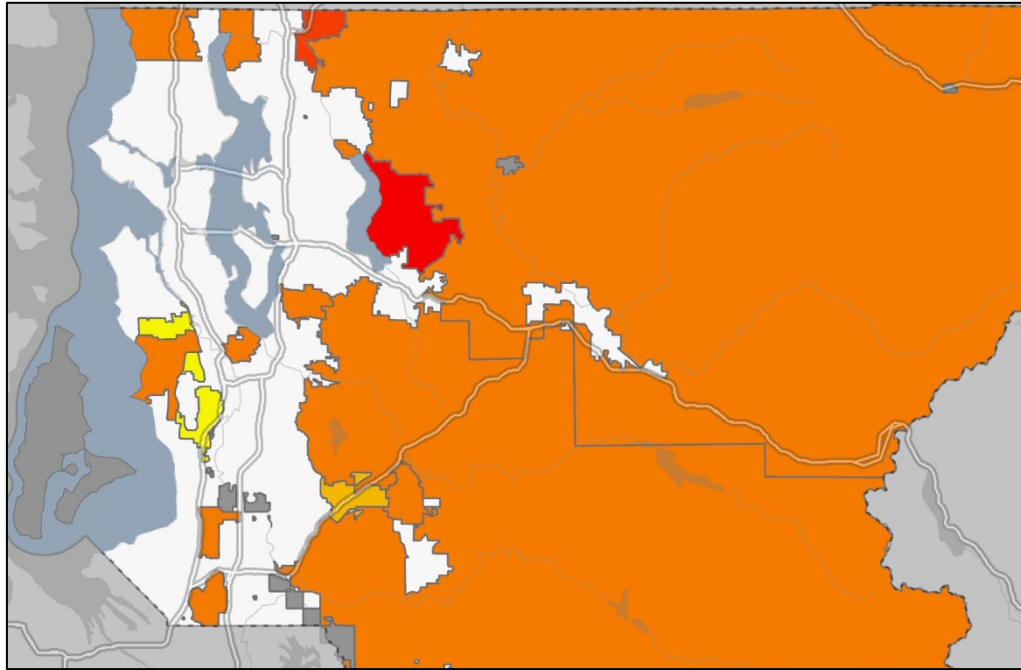
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander

American Indian / Alaska Native

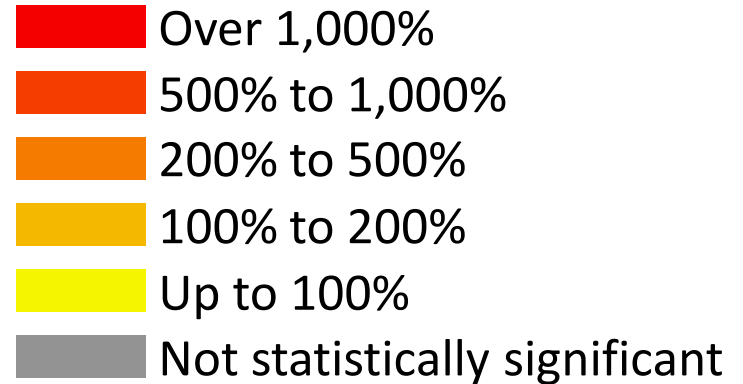
Black

Arrests of Black people across county

Compared to proportion of the population



PERCENT GREATER THAN EXPECTED



Analytical capacity limited

- Crime Analysis Unit already has full workload
- Complex issue that requires:
 - Sophisticated analyses of causes
 - Coordination between Sheriff and others

Recommendation

- ▶ Executive Office should designate an entity to work with Sheriff's Office to analyze data to reduce racial disparities



Thank you

Full report available online at
KingCounty.gov/Auditor

Questions?