



March 25, 2020

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
(929) 441-2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

NYC Jails - Including Rikers Island - lead Nation in Terms of COVID-19 Infection Rate

Positive COVID-19 Cases Climb to 75 Incarcerated New Yorkers and 37 Correction Staff

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released [an analysis](#) today which shows that Rikers Island and other local jails lead the nation in terms of COVID-19 infection rates. The current infection rate at local jails is 14.51 per 1,000 people, more than 7 times higher than New York City and 87 times higher than the United States at large. If the daily COVID-19 infection rate remains this high, the virus will engulf the entire local jail population in a matter of weeks.

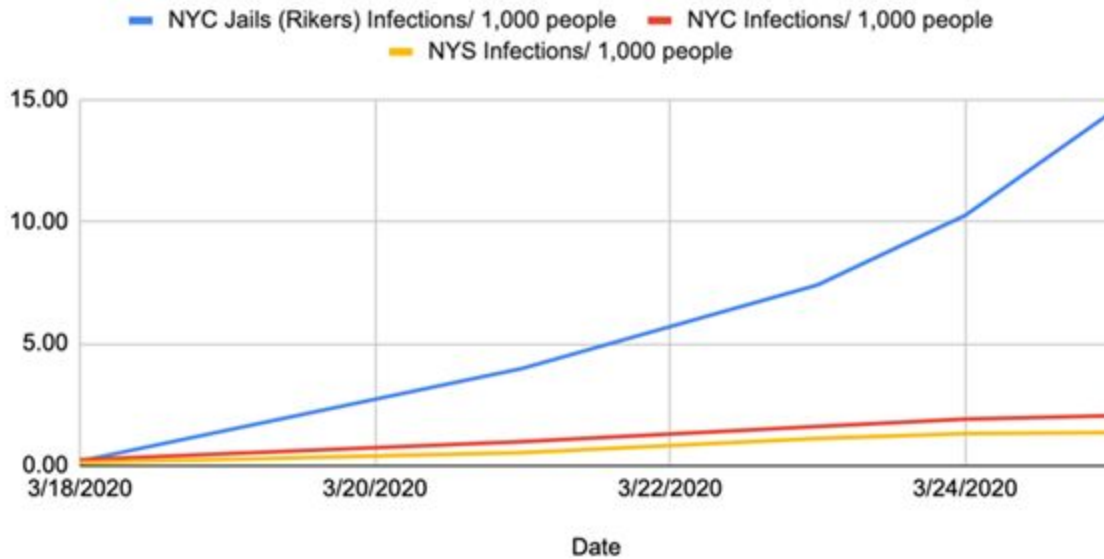
“COVID-19 is spreading rapidly at Rikers Island and other local jails, endangering our clients, correction staff and all of New York City,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “Based on this analysis, New York City jails have become the epicenter of COVID-19. It is imperative that Albany, City Hall, our local District Attorneys and the NYPD take swift and bold action to mitigate the spread of this deadly virus. Stop sending people to Rikers and let these New Yorkers out immediately. Anything else is too little, too late.”

Coronavirus Infection Rates as of March 25, 2020

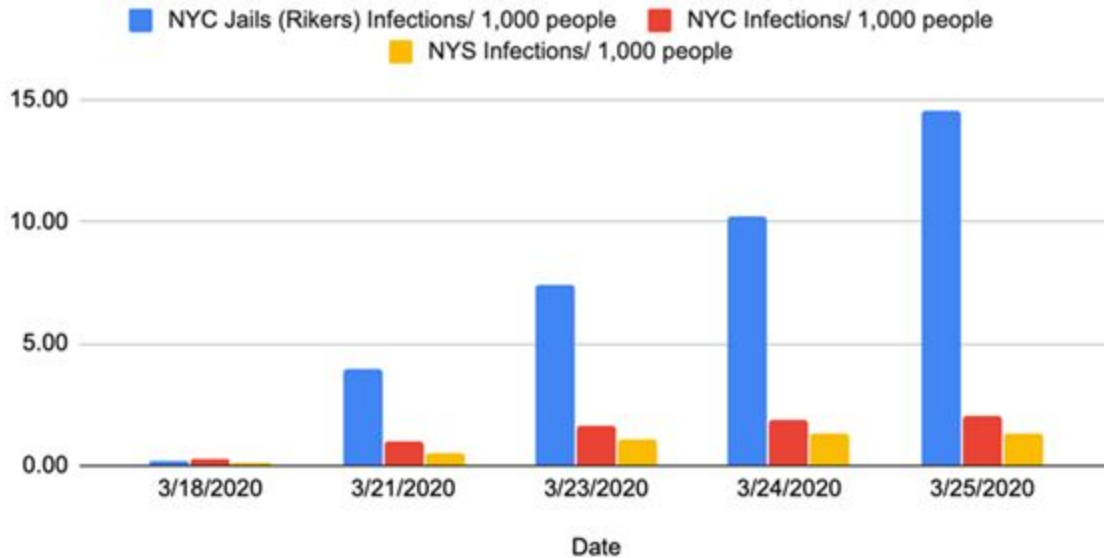
	Cases*	Population	Infection Rate	Infections/ 1,000 people
NYC Jails (Rikers Island)	75	5,169	1.451%	14.51
New York City**	16,788	8,175,133	0.205%	2.05
New York State	26,376	19,440,469	0.136%	1.36
United States	55,006	331,002,651	0.017%	0.17
Hubei Province (Wuhan)	67,801	59,020,000	0.115%	1.15
China	81,218	1,439,323,776	0.006%	0.06
Lombardy, Italy	30,703	10,040,000	0.306%	3.06
Italy	69,176	60,461,826	0.114%	1.14
*last updated March 25, 2020 at 10:52 AM				
**last updated March 25, 2020 at 2:10 PM				

Rikers Island Comparisons	
NYC Jails, primarily Rikers Island, have an infection rate X times higher than:	
	X
NYC	7.07
NYS	10.69
US	87.31
Hubei Province (Wuhan)	12.63
China	257.13
Lombardy, Italy	4.74
Italy	12.68

NYC Jails (Rikers) Infections/ 1,000 people, NYC Infections/ 1,000 people and NYS Infections/ 1,000 people



NYC Jails (Rikers) Infections/ 1,000 people, NYC Infections/ 1,000 people and NYS Infections/ 1,000 people



###

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long.

Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>