

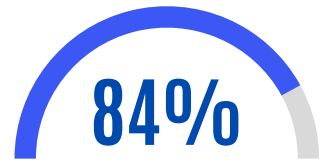
San Francisco Be The Jury Pilot Program Results

One Year Evaluation Finds Increased Participation Among Racially and Economically Diverse Jurors | August 2023

The San Francisco Be The Jury Pilot Program launched on March 7, 2022 to help make juries more representative by addressing financial barriers that often prevent low-income individuals from serving. To help level the playing field and increase racial and economic diversity, the program increased juror compensation in criminal trials from \$15 to \$100 per day of jury service for low-to-moderate-income San Franciscans. Below are key findings from the program's one-year evaluation.

Key Quantitative Findings

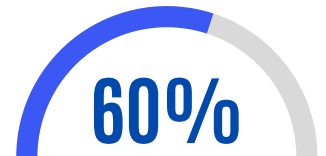
- **495 people participated in Be The Jury during the first year.** 9% of criminal trial days were served by Be The Jury participants.
- **The program removed financial barriers for an overwhelming majority of participants.** 84% of participants said that the \$100 per day compensation allowed them to serve as jurors. People of color reported **higher rates of the program removing barriers to participation**, compared to white participants.
- **The program increased the participation of low-income individuals in jury pools.** Median household income for participants was \$38,000, far below San Francisco's median household income of \$121,826.
- **Program participants reflect the racial diversity of San Francisco.** The racial diversity among Be The Jury participants is nearly identical to the racial diversity of San Francisco's population.
- **Participants were more likely to be people of color when compared to San Francisco's registered voters.**
- **Nearly 90 percent of juror stipends are for people serving more than one day.** On average, each juror served 3-4 days of jury service, receiving on average \$381.55.



84% of participants said they were able to serve as a result of the \$100 compensation



90% of participant juror stipends were for jurors serving more than one day



60% of participants were people of color

Key Qualitative Findings

"Being able to serve made me feel more connected to my community and involved in democracy. I learned so much about the justice system."
- Be The Jury Participant



- The program removed financial barriers and enabled low-income citizens to serve as jurors.
- The program motivated participants to change their attitude towards jury service and the judicial system. This payment enhanced juror's performance and made them more engaged during jury duty.
- Increasing and standardizing program advertisement and outreach could increase participation, especially among people of color.
- Participants face many barriers to participation, including transportation, schoolwork, caregiving responsibilities, and discouragement from employers.

Methodology: This evaluation consisted of a quantitative analysis of data from Be The Jury application forms and exit surveys (94% completion rate) and a qualitative analysis based on surveys and interviews with Be The Jury participants, court staff, and San Francisco justice partners. This evaluation was conducted by Santiago Silva, Master of Public Policy student from the UC Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy, for the San Francisco Financial Justice Project.

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