

NEW WAYNE COUNTY JAIL FACT SHEET

THE PLAN

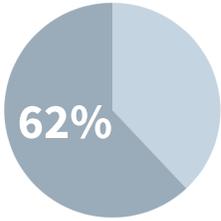
Wayne County has announced plans to build a **\$533-million dollar complex, including a new jail**, on East Warren Ave. near the I-75 service drive. \$380 million of the total will come from the county and Dan Gilbert's Rock Ventures will be responsible for the remaining \$153 million.



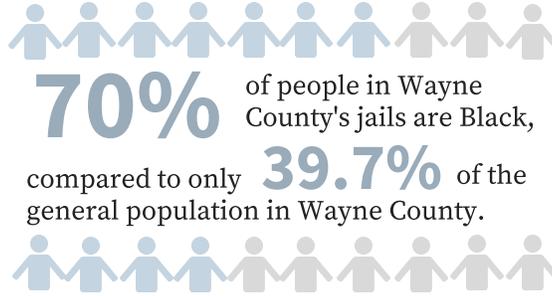
The planned jail includes **2,280 beds for adults and 160 beds for youth**, despite the fact that the average daily population in Wayne County's jails is between only **1,600 and 1,700**, and the population has been decreasing over the past 12 years.



PEOPLE BEING JAILED



of people in jail in Wayne County are being held **pre-trial** (not convicted of a crime), most often because they can't afford to pay their bond.

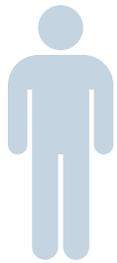


400

people jailed by Wayne County on a given day have a **diagnosed mental illness**, though the number with undiagnosed mental illness could be much higher.

THE HARMS JAILS CAUSE

TO INDIVIDUALS



Those who can't afford their bond often feel pressured to plead guilty (and gain a criminal record) just to be able to go home. Many do, because after only one night in jail a person can **lose their job, their house, or their kids**. A person is most likely to experience **physical assault or sexual violence** within the first three nights in jail. Keeping someone in jail pre-trial for 8-14 days rather than releasing them within 24 hours makes them 51% more likely to **continue to be involved in the justice system** after completing their sentence.

TO FAMILIES



In Michigan, 1 in every 10 kids has had a parent in jail or prison. When fathers are incarcerated a family's income drops by an average of 22%, and 65% of American families with a member in jail or prison **can't meet their basic needs**. Families can be thrown into debt by court fines and fees or the cost of paying bond, sometimes even if the charges end up being dropped. Additionally, having a parent incarcerated is a traumatic experience for children that puts them at greater risk for developing **depression and anxiety, being placed in foster care, or dropping out of school.**

TO THE COMMUNITY

Where incarceration rates are high, **community social and economic well-being decline**. Incarceration is associated with joblessness, housing instability, and homelessness. Jails actually make communities less safe: **public safety decreases** with increased incarceration. As communities are destabilized, crime often increases.

IMAGINING ALTERNATIVES

Wayne County currently has 3 jails:



DIVISION I - 1,157 BEDS

DIVISION II - 898 BEDS

DIVISION III - 896 BEDS

If the county **stopped jailing people awaiting trial** who are only there because they **can't afford to pay bond**, only about **750** people would be estimated to remain. That's few enough to fit in one of the existing jails.

Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars building a new 2,280-bed jail, **what if Wayne County could renovate an existing jail** (such as the Division III facility, which is in better shape than the others), **likely for a small fraction of the price?**



WHAT IF INSTEAD, THE COUNTY INVESTED IN

- treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues?
- money bail reform to stop jailing people for being too poor to pay?
- diversion programs that keep people out of jail?
- building a community-focused restorative justice system?

