Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration

Meeting #1
July 24, 2019
Detroit, MI

General inquiries and information: JailsTaskForce@courts.mi.gov

Agenda

• Charge to the Task Force
• Jail Trends from National Data
• Michigan County Justice Spending
• Next Steps
State and county leaders partnered to form the Jails Task Force.
The Jails Task Force is charged with...

“...developing ambitious, innovative, and thorough recommendations for changes in state law, policy, and appropriations to expand alternatives to jail, safely reduce jail admissions and length of stay, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Michigan’s justice systems.”

— Executive Order No. 2019-10

Jail Trends From National Data
Nationally, the number of people in county jails grew fourfold in 40 years.


Far more people enter county jails than state and federal prisons in the U.S. every year.

County jails in the U.S. hold a varied population.

- Felony: 69%
- Misdemeanor/Other: 31%
- Convicted: 35%
- Unconvicted: 65%
- Local Jurisdiction: 85%
- State and Federal: 15%


Nationally, people in county jails report more serious psychological distress than those in state prisons.

Percent Reporting SPD

- Men
- Women

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prison Population</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jail Population</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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Percent of People Meeting Threshold for Recent Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) Based on Self-Report, 2012. Source: Department of Justice and National Survey on Drug Use and Health.
Jail incarceration hasn’t followed crime rates in the U.S.

United States Total and Violent Crime Rates Compared to Jail Incarceration Rate (Rates per 100,000 people), 1960 to 2017. Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails and Annual Survey of Jails; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

U.S. jail populations remain high, despite recent drop in arrests.

The number of people in Michigan jails nearly tripled since the 1970s.


The last time crime was this low, far fewer Michiganders were in jail.

Michigan Total and Violent Crime Rates Compared to Jail Incarceration Rate (Rates per 100,000 people), 1960 to 2016. Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails and Annual Survey of Jails; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Uniform Crime Reporting Program.
Women make up a growing share of the U.S. jail population.


In Michigan jails, men outnumber women nearly six to one.

The female population in Michigan jails grew at triple the rate of the male population.

![Graph showing percent growth since 1975 of Michigan jail population by gender, 1975 to 2016. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails and Annual Survey of Jails.]

Even with recent declines, Black Americans are jailed at far higher rates than others across the U.S.

![Graph showing United States jail incarceration rates by race and ethnicity (rates per 100,000 people), 2005 to 2017. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails.]


United States Jail Incarceration Rates by Race and Ethnicity (Rates per 100,000 people), 2005 to 2017. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails.
Jail growth in the U.S. was driven, in part, by increased pretrial incarceration.


Four in ten felony defendants are detained for the full pretrial period.

But those detained pretrial stayed longer, driving up jail bed use.


Felony defendants released pretrial spent slightly more time in jail.

Release on money bond was far less common in the U.S. 30 years ago.

Unlike the national trend, Michigan’s jail growth was driven equally by pretrial and sentenced populations.
Pretrial incarceration rates have grown most notably in rural Michigan.

Rural Michigan counties now hold a larger share of people in jail than urban counties.
In 2017, Michigan taxpayers spent $478 million on county jail and corrections costs.

Source: Michigan Department of Treasury, Mi Community Financial Dashboard.
Jails account for a quarter of total justice system spending at the county level.

The justice system is the third largest county expenditure, behind health and public works.

Total County Public Safety and Judicial Spending in Michigan, 2017. Source: Michigan Department of Treasury, MI Community Financial Dashboard.

The justice system is the largest county expenditure, behind health and public works.

Total Michigan County Budget Expenditures by Subcategory, 2017. Notes that public safety categories are the same as previous slide (in order: Corrections/Jail, Law Enforcement, Courts, Other Judicial, Other Public Safety). Source: Michigan Department of Treasury, MI Community Financial Dashboard.
Next Steps

The Task Force Process

- Data Collection
- System Assessment
- Stakeholder Outreach

Subgroup Policy Development

Recommendations
Schedule of Meetings

1. **Introductions and National Trends:** July 24, Detroit
2. **Research and Constitutional Landscape:** August 23, Traverse City
3. **Data and Policy, Part I:** September 20, Grand Rapids
4. **Data and Policy, Part II:** October 18, Detroit
   - 1st Round of Subgroups: November 1, Lansing
   - 2nd Round of Subgroups: November 18, Lansing
5. **Subgroups Report Out to Full Task Force:** November 19, Lansing
   - 3rd Round of Subgroups: December 5, Lansing
   - 4th Round of Subgroups: December 16, Lansing
6. **Presentation of Final Recommendations:** January 9, Lansing
7. **Post-Recommendation Meetings:** TBD

Task Force Website:

https://courts.michigan.gov/News-Events/Pages/DataDrivenJusticeSolutions.aspx

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