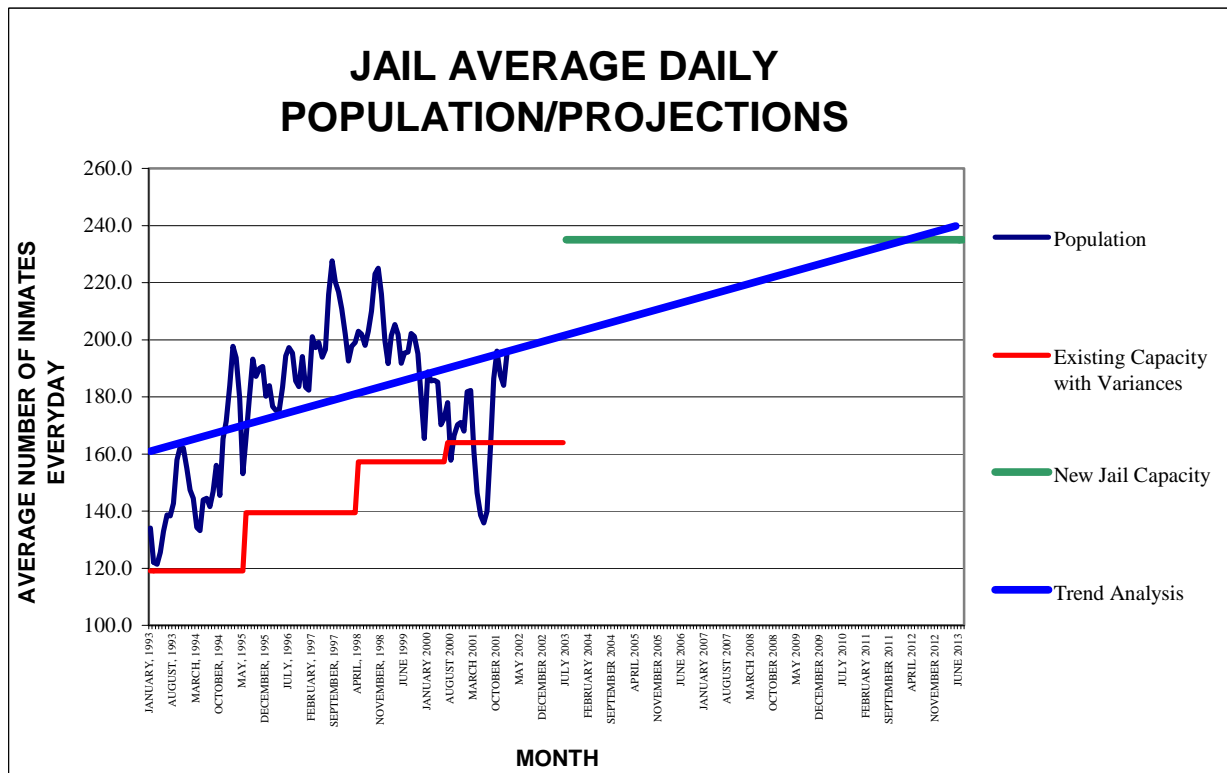


ONTARIO COUNTY NEW JAIL FACTSHEET

Q. *Why do we need a new Jail in Ontario County?*

A. The existing County Jail, built in 1960 and expanded in 1981 was designed with a total bed space for 92 inmates. While the County has taken several steps to temporarily increase inmate bed space at the existing jail, the facility has consistently operated over capacity over for more than 10 years. The dark blue line on the graph below depicts the daily average number of inmates housed in the facility every month from 1992 through 2002. Overcrowding creates unsafe conditions for both staff and inmates, and occupies space that would otherwise be dedicated to education and rehabilitation programs aimed at ensuring that inmates can successfully return to society and not to jail in the future.



Q. *Why can't the existing County Jail be expanded?*

A. The existing jail was expanded up in 1981 to provide 92 bed spaces. The core facilities in the jail, such as laundry, kitchen, library, recreation areas, and classrooms, cannot support additional inmates without being expanded; which would necessitate a complete closure of the facility during construction. In addition, the cellblocks in the existing facility are very small, leading to a high guard to inmate ratio and thus high operating expenses. The majority of the building cannot be structurally altered to make cellblocks larger so that a single corrections officer can supervise more inmates. Expansion out, instead of up, was ruled out due to the small amount of property the County owns surrounding the building and a reluctance by the County to buy or condemn adjacent property. In summary, constructing a new facility ends up being the only practical option for meeting this need.

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Q. Why can't existing jail bed space continued to be used, with a new facility built just large enough to provide space for the remainder of the inmates?

A. The County performed several financial analyses of different options, including renting additional inmate space, continuing to board inmates in other County jails, and continuing to operate the existing jail. These analyses show that the added expenses for additional correction staff within the existing facility, the costs to board prisoners in other counties, and the need to provide cameras and security systems and control rooms at two locations, all cost more than building a new County Jail to house all the County's inmates at a single location. Building a new jail is the most cost effective option available to the County in the long run.

Q. How many inmates will the new County Jail hold?

A. The new jail was designed with 276 beds, divided into seven different housing units or pods with 48 to 60 beds apiece. This was the smallest facility that the New York State Commission of Correction would permit the County to construct, and represents a reduction in the 300+ capacity the Commission was originally requiring. Each housing unit is designed to be supervised by a single correction officer, and provide the County with the capability of separating different classifications of inmates as required by the New York State Commission of Correction. The different housing units include, male admissions, adult males (3), all females (adults, juveniles, special housing unit individuals separated within the housing unit), juvenile males, and a male special housing unit. The working capacity of any jail, however, normally lies at about 80 to 90% of bed space, as the number of inmates within any one category on any given day fluctuates. Thus the new jail will have an operating capacity of between 220 to 248 inmates. If current trends continue, the new jail should not require expansion to accommodate more inmates for about 10 years.

Q. Can the jail be expanded in the future?

A. The new jail was designed with core facilities (laundry, kitchen, classrooms, library, infirmary, and mechanical areas), to support up to 500 inmates. This was done to accommodate future expansion of the facility in a cost effective and safe manner. Specifically, should the County need to add more inmate bed space, a new housing pod could be added without expanding any of the core facilities, such as the kitchen, in the building. For a relatively few dollars spent now, the County will save millions of dollars in the future by avoiding costly expansion of support areas such as the kitchen that lie in the center of the building. The Board of Supervisors reached this decision by reviewing both its current predicament with its existing jail, and after touring jails in other Counties throughout New York State and Pennsylvania.

Q. What type of inmates are incarcerated in a County Jail?

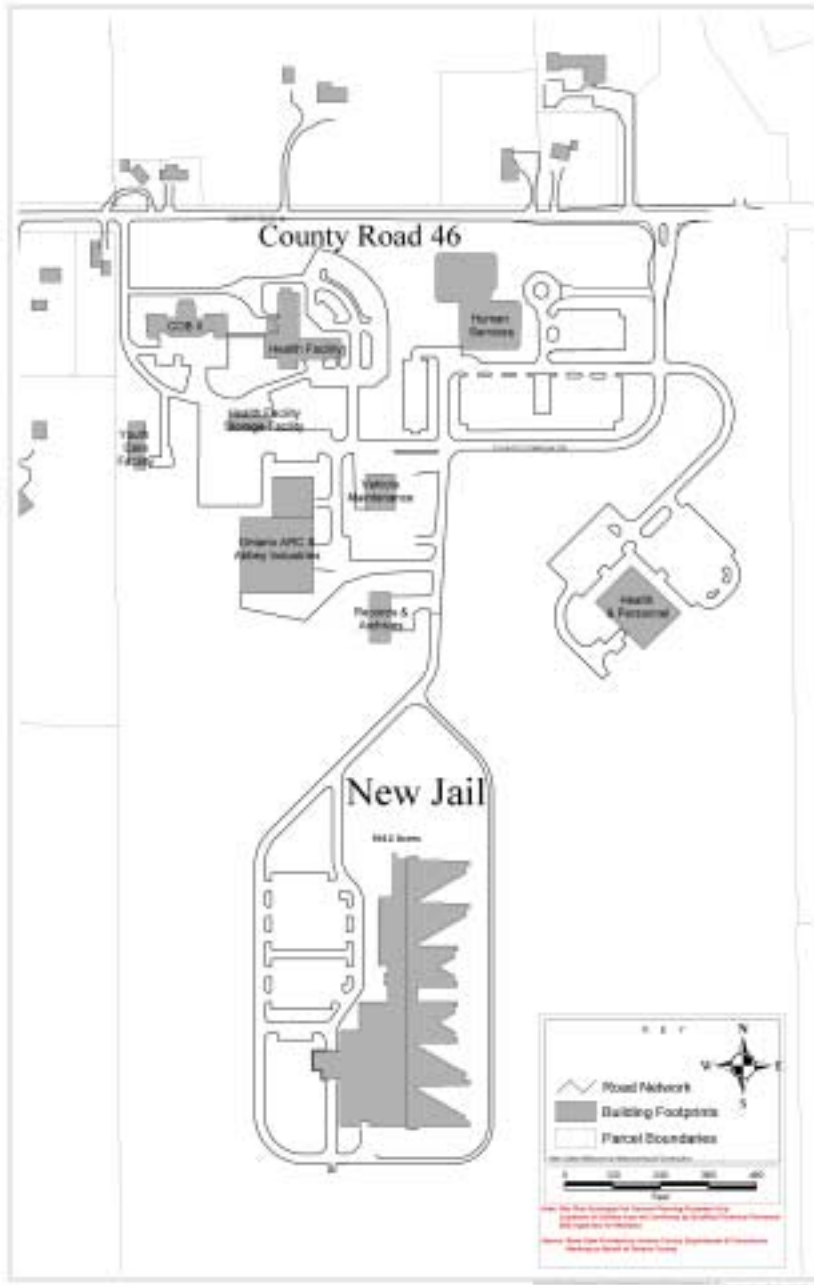
A. Generally two types of inmates can always be found in a Jail; pre-trial and sentenced. Pre-trial inmates are those who have been remanded to custody by City, County, Town, or Village Courts, and have not yet made bail (if bail has been set). Sentenced inmates who stay in a County Jail are those that have been sentenced to less than a year in custody. Those inmates found guilty of more serious crimes, including violent crimes to either persons or property, are

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sentenced to more than a year. Upon conviction, these offenders may spend a few days in the County Jail prior to their transfer to a state or federal prison, where they remain until released.

Q. *Where will the New County Jail be located?*

A. After a lengthy site analysis and then site selection process formalized through a full environmental impact statement process, the County Board of Supervisors chose to locate the new facility on the County's existing property on the South Side of County Road 46 in the Town of Hopewell. The jail is to be located behind the County's Record and Archive Center, on County Complex Drive, as shown



here:

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Q. What will the New County Jail look like?

A. The jail will look like a large professional office building. Here is an artist rendering of the new jail, looking south east toward the new jail:



Q. How much will the new Jail Cost?

A. The new jail, including all consultants (architects, engineers, construction management, legal, etc.), furnishings, equipment, driveways, parking areas, etc., will be \$27,750,000.00. The bulk of this cost, \$17,000,000.00 was funded through revenues realized from the tobacco company settlement. The remainder was funded through county capital reserves (\$1,437,500.00) and through borrowing \$10,130,900.00, which will be paid back over 20 years.

Q. How safe will the new jail be?

A. The new jail incorporates a philosophy called "Direct Supervision," which was developed in the Federal Prison System. This means that Correction Officers are located within the Housing Unit supervising and controlling inmate behavior and activities at all times. This results in a much safer environment for our Correction Officers and inmates, and has a positive impact on inmate behavior patterns both within the facility and when they are returned to society. The present County Jail separates inmates, in cells and day room space, from Correction Staff located in "control rooms." The Correction Staff do not have the opportunity to become involved and monitor conversation, interpersonal relationships, and social behavior, as they will be able to in the new jail using "Direct Supervision."

Q. Why does each housing unit have an inmate exercise area?

A. One way to minimize staff needs is to minimize the amount of times inmates have to be moved within a facility. By providing recreation areas adjacent to each housing pod, the same correction officer supervising the housing pod can supervise the recreation area. This eliminates the need for other correction officers to assist in moving inmates through the building to a common recreation area. It also provides the correction officer supervising the housing pod with

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control over the ability of inmates to have access to recreation space. This gives the officer another tool to use in modifying inmate behavior in a positive manner.

Q. What are the causes of the rapid growth in inmate population at the jail?

A. In 1998 the County Board of Supervisors directed staff to prepare a Criminal Justice Study to try and answer just this question. That study found that the growth in jail population outpaced the County's general rate of population increase, and identified several key factors driving the growth in inmate population. These include:

- a. Over 90% of our inmates are repeat offenders, thus have spent time in jail on more than one occasion.
- b. Approximately 75% of inmates are residents of the County at the time of arrest. This percentage has remained constant over the study period.
- c. Over 60% of inmates attended school districts within Ontario County, indicating that they are long time residents of the County.
- d. A significant number of inmates remain in jail pretrial even though bail has been sent at less than \$500.00.
- e. Substance abuse is a motivator or contributing factor in the majority of offenses.
- f. A growing number of inmates have learning disabilities or some type of mental health problem.

The study concluded:

- a. While the County needed additional bed space, it also needed new programs within the criminal justice system to address these trends. As a result, the design of the new jail incorporates program areas for education and life skills training, as well as counseling to assist inmates in acquiring skills that will enable them to function when they are released into society and not commit new crimes.
- b. That prevention and intervention programs, and school education efforts were important programs to fund, as the vast majority of inmates are long-term residents of the County.
- c. A bail and pretrial release program should be initiated for inmates awaiting trial on minor crimes who do not have the ability to pay even modest bail. This has been implemented since the study was completed and has been very successful.
- d. The City of Canandaigua has successfully implemented a drug court, and Ontario County is working toward the same. Drug courts focus on sentences that often include incarceration, education, substance abuse rehabilitation, and other measures aimed at addressing the factors motivating people to commit crimes.
- e. The new jail needs to have an intake-housing unit where inmates can be evaluated and disabilities and educational needs identified at the initiation of incarceration.