

GREENE COUNTY JAIL
FACTS & FIGURES
2012

- The Greene County Jail, formally known as the Greene County Justice Center, was completed in 2001. **Built for a nominal capacity of 500 inmates**, it was projected to have enough capacity for ten years. According to building code requirements, the actual capacity of the jail is 522 inmates. The jail currently has 510 beds. Higher numbers of inmates are housed by “triple bunking” in cells using plastic beds (known as “boats”), which are placed on the floor.
- Inmate population in the jail has been at or near capacity since 2003. Population exceeded 600 inmates in late 2008. Due in part to intensive management measures and cooperation between the Circuit Courts, Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff, inmate population was reduced to less than 500 in 2009 and 2010. However, **in 2011, the average population rose to 544. Highest-ever monthly population occurred in August, 2011 with an average daily population of 588!**
- The County has not been able to keep the jail adequately staffed for the number of inmates. There are 29 correctional officer “posts” which must be manned 24/7. According to National Institute of Corrections standards, there should be 145 to 151 officers to man these posts. However, there are only 112 correctional officers currently on staff. **It will cost an additional \$1.4 to \$1.5 million per year to man the jail, even if inmate population is limited to the capacity of 522.** With the current number of officers, we would have to reduce inmate population to only 372 to meet the 1:48 officer-to-inmate ratio recommended by NIC.
- **County jails house defendants awaiting trial on charges.** If convicted, these defendants generally serve their sentence in Missouri State prisons. Because of agreements made when the 1997 Law Enforcement Sales Tax was passed, Greene County also houses inmates charged or sentenced with violations of municipal ordinances in the City of Springfield and other cities in the County. Greene County also has agreements with the U.S. Marshall Service and Bureau of Prisons to house Federal inmates. According to State law, the County Sheriff must “receive all prisoners for inmates against this state.”
- On any given day about **80% of the inmates** in the jail are defendants awaiting trial for violations of State laws. These inmates **are referred to as “State” inmates**. Most of what we consider “crimes” is violations of State law, not local law. When State inmates are convicted, they are then sent to Missouri state prison to serve their sentences. The Greene County jail sends convicted State inmates to State prisons on a weekly basis.
- About **15% of the inmates in the jail are “Federal” inmates** charged with violating Federal laws. Greene County has agreements with the U.S. Marshall Service and Federal Bureau of Prisons to house Federal inmates. These agreements were reached in return for Federal funding assistance in building the jail and in exchange for monetary reimbursements for housing Federal inmates. According to State law, the Sheriff must “receive into custody United States prisoners” when so directed.
- The remaining **5% of inmates are “municipal” inmates**, either charged with or serving sentences for violating City ordinances.
- By far, **most defendants awaiting trial are “out on bond:”** that is, they provide a monetary sum to guarantee they will appear for trial. By doing this, they can resume their normal lives while waiting for their trial date.

- ***Some defendants cannot be released from jail because of the danger they would pose to others or to themselves***, or in some cases because they do not have the financial resources to post a bond. The only way to get these inmates out of the jail is for their case to move through the court system, resulting in their acquittal or conviction. ***There were 19,278 inmates booked into the jail in 2011.*** It would not be possible to hold all these people in jail.
- ***All lower level offenders must be released in order to maintain enough jail space for serious offenders.*** Offenders who are must be “booked and released” include:
 - Misdemeanors
 - DWI: 1st through 4th offenses
 - Vehicle break-ins
 - Burglaries and thefts
 - Assaults
 - Drug possessions
 - Lower level sex offenders
 - Forgeries
- Most inmates are housed in 4 large “direct” supervision pods. General population pods hold between 100 and 120 inmates on any given day, with only one guard on duty. ***Starting pay for a Correctional Officer is less than \$26,000 per year.***
- ***It will cost \$9.35 million to staff and operate the jail in 2012,*** with the 82 employees currently on staff.
- Inmate labor is used to operate food and laundry services and to clean the jail. Food cost averages about \$1 per meal, with nearly 550,000 meals served per year. About 1,500 meals are served each day with less than 5 gallons of food waste. ***It costs approximately \$45 per day to house each inmate.***
- The State of Missouri reimburses the County \$19.58 for each day a “State” inmate is held in the County jail awaiting trial IF the inmate is convicted. The County is not reimbursed if the inmate is not convicted. ***The County incurs a “loss” of \$25.42 per day (\$3.5 to \$4 million per year) for each State inmate housed in the jail.***
- The State of Missouri has never reimbursed the total cost of housing State inmates, nor is this expected to occur. However, in recent years, the State has reduced the “per diem” rate in order to balance the State budget. ***In 2010, the State reduced the “per diem” rate from \$22.00 to \$19.58 per day. This costs Greene County \$330,000 per year.***
- The Federal government currently pays a “per diem” rate of \$61.00 per day for each Federal inmate. The County therefore “makes” \$16.00 per day for each Federal inmate held, which helps offset the deficit incurred from housing state and municipal inmates. ***The County receives about \$1.4 million annually for housing Federal inmates. This revenue is essential to maintaining operations.***
- ***The County jail operates one of the largest medical and mental health facilities in the region.*** Medical costs run about \$2.50 per day per inmate. Medical expenses are estimated to cost \$350,000 in 2012.

- In order to help inmates become productive citizens and integrate back into the community, *the jail provides programs in reading and literacy, GED, Alcoholics Anonymous, mental health counseling, anger management as well as religious counseling and services*. 180 community volunteers help with these programs in the jail.
- The County is liable for the expenses of all inmates in its custody and is required to maintain a safe environment for both inmates and officers.