

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/the-cost-of-incarceration-in-new-york-state>**

## Policy Issue Resources

December 15, 2020

New York invests billions of dollars to hold people behind bars in local jails. In 2019, a typical New York county spent more than \$225 to incarcerate a single person for a single night, or more than \$82,000 per year. In fact, jail budgets have grown even as the number of people in jail has gone down. Every dollar spent on the jail comes at the expense of funding other services that could help to build healthy and safe communities. This series of fact sheets breaks down how many dollars each New York State county spends on its local jail and shows how that money could be better spent.

*For cumulative total spending by the 57 New York counties outside of New York City download the New York State Counties summary fact sheet.*

### How Counties Outside New York City Can Reduce Jail Spending and Invest in Communities

Jail populations have fallen significantly across New York State, and crime has dropped as well. But spending on jails continues to climb. In 2019, the 57 counties outside New York City collectively spent more than \$1.3 billion to staff and run their jails. Counties must cut jail spending and reinvest those savings in communities most impacted by m ...

### Highlights of the 2019 Bail Reform Law

In April 2019, New York passed legislation on bail reform to update a set of state pretrial laws that had remained largely untouched since 1971. The relative lack of fanfare over the passage of New York's new bail law belies its historic and transformative potential to end mass incarceration at the local level. What exactly comprises New York's new ...

### Experimenting with Alternative Forms of Bail in New York City's Criminal Courts

Statistics show that money bail is unaffordable and out of reach for many New Yorkers. On any given day, 7,000 people are detained pretrial at Rikers Island and other New York City jails because they cannot make bail. While judges in New York can choose up to nine different forms of bail at arraignment including alternative forms that require lit ...

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