



# Jennings County Sheriff's Office

P.O.Box 367, Vernon, Indiana 47282 812-346-8642



Wm. Kenny Freeman, Sheriff

## **2018 Jennings County Sheriff Office Annual Jail Report**

Jennings County Jail located at 925 south State Street, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. Mailing address is: P. O. Box 367 Vernon, Indiana 47282.

The current jail was constructed and opened 1 April, 2001.

Jail total beds – 124 (104 in the back/ 20 in the holding area)

1- Padded cell

Average daily population for 2018 – 159

Booking for 2018 - 2658

Releases for 2018 – 2680

Juveniles – 1

Escapes – 0

Deaths in custody- 0

Top 10 Offenses:

- 1) Possession of Methamphetamine
- 2) Operating while Intoxicated
- 3) Wanted on Warrant
- 4) Court Orders
- 5) Theft
- 6) Possession of Narcotic or Legend Drug Violation
- 7) Criminal Confinemet
- 8) Maintaining a common nuisance
- 9) Possession of Marijuana
- 10) Domestic Battery

Transports for the year: Approx. 390 transports spanning around 60,000 miles

The total DOC money that has been paid for 2018 is \$266,000

### **Jennings County Jail Services**

For the 2019 year, the Jennings County jail will put a priority on programs that will assist in helping the inmate's transition into the community and be productive members of society. These programs will include: religious programs, addiction programs, GED classes and a

manufacturing technician program that will assist in finding gainful employment once released from our facility. This is all done at no added cost to the tax payer.

**According to the Jail Staffing Analysis (completed in 2016) the jail is short 9 jail officers and put the other officers in eminent danger. Nothing has been done to enhance the staff in 2018. County Council and Commissioners are now aware of the staff shortage. Additionally, the Sheriff Office has made a formal request to the Council members and the Commissioners for 9 additional jail officers.**

The Jennings County Jail is in need of fresh paint, which will be done in the spring of 2019. The HVAC system is still in need of an upgrade or an entire replacement. There has been a mold problem in the past inside the kitchen near the dishwasher. Steps have been taken to remedy the mold and estimates need to be gathered to line the wall behind it with food grade stainless steel.

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Jennings County Sheriff

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Jennings County Jail Commander

20 March 2019

Chart for Month Inmate Population



Chart of Level 6 Indiana Department of Corrections Holds

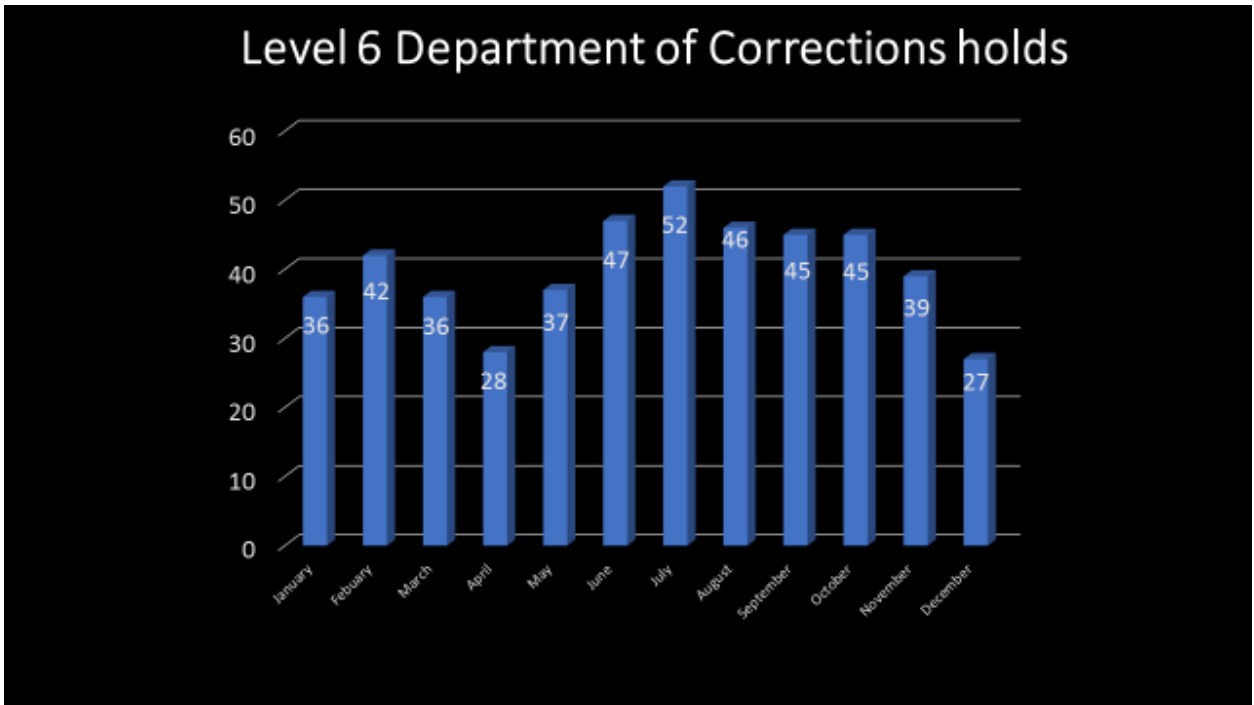
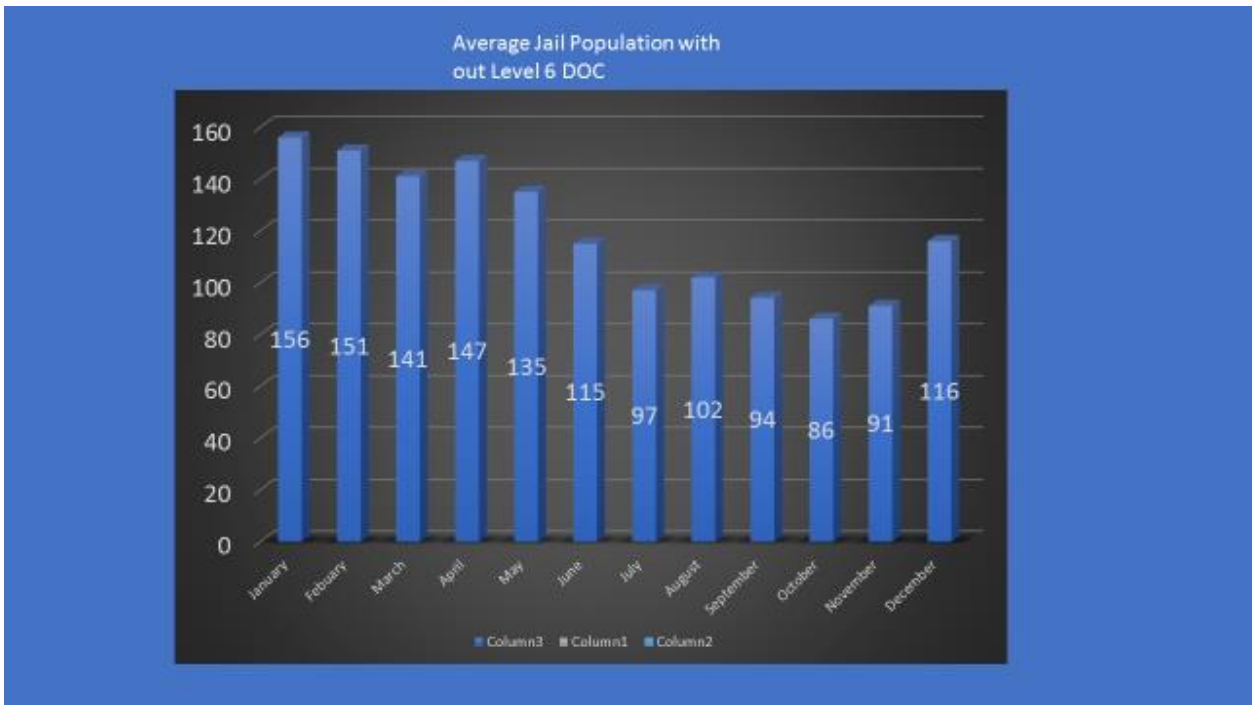


Chart of Population without Level 6 Indiana DOC Holds



## **Additional Staffing Submittal 2019**

**Proposal:** The Jennings County Sheriff's Office must hire a minimum of 9 additional Corrections Officers in order to maintain the safety and security on the Jennings County Jail and operate in a cost-efficient manner.

**Rationale:** The safety of the staff and security of the jail is currently compromised by the fact that there are not enough Corrections Officers to maintain the mandatory posts, as directed by the physical layout of the jail.

The jail, which is designed to hold 122 prisoners, has 4 primary housing sections, 2 for men, each capable of housing 44 prisoners, and 2 for women, each capable of housing 12 prisoners. The housing sections surround a Control Center where prisoners' activities are monitored and doors, throughout the facility, are opened and closed. In the Book-In area there are also 4 two-person holding cells for prisoners on medical and suicide watch, 1 detoxification cell capable of housing up to 12 prisoners, and 1 padded cell for prisoners who are an immediate danger to themselves or others.

The population of the jail has risen to as much as 233 prisoners in the past and consistently averages as much as 160 on weekends.

There are currently a total of 24 Corrections Officers, including the Administrative Staff. The Jail Commander (Major), Assistant Jail Commander (Captain), Lieutenant, Classification Officer (Staff Sergeant), Transport Officer, and Work Crew Officer that work an 8 hour shift (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). The remaining Jail Staff work twelve hour shift rotations (5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.) and attempt to man the six essential posts: 2 in Book-In, 2 Roving, 2 in Control Center.

2 Officers are posted in the Book-In area because the bulk of the Jails administrative and record keeping duties are performed in Book-In, admission and release processing of prisoners, finger printing, obtaining background and medical information screenings, photographing, searching individuals, accounting for individuals money and personal property, issuing Jail clothing, placing detainees in appropriate cell areas, handling and processing of bonds, and occasionally needing to deal with combative prisoners. This is also the area where the holding cells, detox cell and padded cell must be supervised.

2 additional posts, referred to as "rovers," are required to Conduct security checks of the Jail facility and supervise and/or prepare detainees for a variety of activities, including recreation time, meal times, preparation for court appearances, medication distribution, commissary distribution, counseling with attorneys, church services, showers, visiting time with friends and family, and a variety of available Jail programs.

2 Officers must be posted in the Control Center to control the opening and closing of the doors throughout the facility and closely observe the security camera monitors and inmate

population for unsafe or unruly behavior to maintain the safety and security of the facility. In the past, this post has been filled by 1 Officer but the amount of activity within the facility has increased to the point that to continue to staff this position with only 1 Officer could be considered a direct threat to the safety and security of the facility and its staff.

1 more female Officer is required to staff a female work crew. Our current work crew is all male and supervised by a male Corrections Officer. In the past a female work crew has been sent out of our facility with a male Corrections Officer. This has caused a direct threat to the safety and security of our facility and its staff. There appears to be a need for a female work crew, but until a female Officer can be hired to fill this position, a female work crew will no longer be available. When work crew Officers return with work crew prisoners, the prisoners are strip searched prior to being returned to their housing units.

Each Officer is scheduled to work 40 hours per week, or three and a half twelve hour shifts. When Officers are sick, injured or on vacation other Officers must stay over and work to cover their shifts or come in early. It is not uncommon to call off-duty Officers to work on their days off, which results in overtime or an excessive amount of Comp time. This is not cost effective because these Officers must be paid at the rate of time and a half or given comp time, also at the rate of time and a half.

It is not uncommon for our jail to be staffed with only 3 Officers per shift. From this point forward, our Office will consider this a crisis situation. This is a practice that can no longer be tolerated. The safety and security of the facility and its staff must be of the utmost importance.

In October of 2009 there was an incident in the Jennings County Jail. This incident took place on an evening when there were only 4 Corrections Officers on duty. 3 inmates took 3 of the Officers hostage and attempted escape. 2 of the Officers were stabbed (1 required STAT flight to Indianapolis) and 1 of the Officers was severely sprayed with O.C. spray (oleoresin capsicum). This escape attempt was stopped by Inmate Workers who called 911 services from a phone located in Book-In, who in turn notified the State Police.

**Conclusion:** As previously stated, the safety of the staff and security of the jail is currently compromised by the fact that there are not enough Corrections Officers to adequately staff the current jail and protect the county from heightened financial liability.

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Major Jason A. Bliton / 425

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Date