



OFFICE OF
Sheriff of Vanderburgh County

Headquarters

3500 North Harlan Avenue • Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 421-6203

Noah Robinson
Sheriff

Nathan Sugarman
Chief Deputy

VANDERBURGH COUNTY JAIL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The contents of this report are in compliance with IC 36-2-13-12 and 210 IAC 3-1-2, which require the Sheriff to file an annual report on the condition of the County Jail, with recommended improvements in its maintenance and operation as well as statistical data, availability of services and programs to inmates, major events, and unfunded operational needs.

General Facility Information

The Vanderburgh County Jail is located at 3500 N. Harlan Avenue in Evansville, IN. The facility serves as the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, housing the Administrative Division and the Jail Division offices. The Sheriff's Operations Center is also housed on the same campus but in a different building. The Jail Division is comprised of Inmate Detention (the jail) and Court Services Section. The Detention area houses pretrial inmates and inmates serving sentences. The Court Services Section is responsible for all inmate movement outside of the jail.

Statistical Information

Total Beds-Average Daily Population: The Vanderburgh County Jail has the bed capacity to house 512 inmates in the detention housing area. Additional bed space in the holding area and medical section makes the number of operational beds 546. In 2023, the Vanderburgh County Jail detained an average of 685 inmates per day (See Table). The average daily population was 760 in 2022.

Month	Male	Female
January	586	114
February	576	111
March	586	114
April	583	112
May	586	130
June	582	122
July	580	127
August	554	112
September	579	113
October	539	119
November	541	123
December	507	127

Inmates Housed Out of County

Due to the lack of available bed space in the jail, Vanderburgh County utilized four other jails to hold inmates in 2023. Posey County, Indiana, Pike County, Indiana, Perry County, Indiana, and Jefferson County, Illinois, jails held an average of 122 inmates per day. In 2022 the average number of inmates held outside of Vanderburgh County was 127. On average, 18% of all Vanderburgh inmates were held in other jails in 2023 versus 17% in 2022.



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Total Bookings

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office booked a total of 9,050 prisoners (6,327 – male; 2,723 - female) into the Jail in 2023 as compared to 8,839 in 2022. The top ten bookings (most serious charge at time of arrest) in 2023, by charge:

Charges	Total
PTR, Parole, & Probation (Including Work Release/Treatment Court)	1865
Warrants – FTA (all types)	1518
Narcotics Related (all types)	1148
Battery (all types)	720
Hold On Judges Order	582
Other Agency Charges	417
Theft (all types including Auto Theft)	395
Disorderly Conduct & Related Offenses	289
OMVWI Related	182
Writ of Attachment	146

Juvenile Bookings: In 2023, there were three (3) juveniles booked into the Vanderburgh County Jail. All three were male offenders. Below is a brief summary of the most common confinement reason:

Most Common Juvenile Charges in 2023	Total
Possession Firearm	2
Criminal Gang Activity	1

Average Length of Incarceration: In 2023, the average length of incarceration was 20 days.

Summary of Major Disturbances in the Facility

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office documents all incidents that occur in the Jail. In 2023, confinement personnel documented 6,575 incidents which occurred in the facility compared to 5,442 in 2022. Disturbances of interest handled in the facility are illustrated in the accompanying table.

Jail Incident	Jail
Non Compliance/ Disturbance/Riot	1944
Suicide Precautions	1035
Rule Violation	344
Injury/ Medical Problem	557
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Response	278
Assault/Attempt/Threat on Inmate	241
Separations	202
Destruction Property / Sprinkler Damage / Flood	156
Contraband / Other / Weapon / Drug	114
Unclothed Body Search (Strip Search)	66
Assault/Attempt/Threat on Officer	45



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In-Custody Deaths and Suicide Attempts

The facility experienced two (2) in-custody deaths in 2023.

On October 30, 2023, at approximately 0910, officers found a 61 year old male unresponsive in his cell. Jail staff immediately began life saving measures until members of the fire department and AMR arrived and took over the scene. They continued rescue measures until ultimately pronouncing the individual deceased at 0945. An autopsy found the cause of death to be hypertensive and atherosclerotic disease, with a blockage of 90% in the right main coronary artery. The Coroner's Office determined the cause of death was found to be of natural causes.

On December 15, 2023, at approximately 2000, officers were alerted to a 38 year old male in medical distress. As they arrived to the cell, the individual was having difficulty breathing and chest pains. As officers attempted to calm the individual, he became unresponsive. Jail staff immediately began life saving measures and summoned emergency response personnel with AMR and the fire department. Jail staff continued life saving measures until they arrived and transported the individual to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 2115. An autopsy found the cause of death to be hypertensive and atherosclerotic disease. The Coroner's Office determined cause of death was found to be of natural causes.

A 2023 policy change implemented by the Sheriff requires an outside law enforcement agency to investigate all deaths of persons in the custody of the Sheriff's Office. Both of the above deaths were investigated by the Indiana State Police (ISP) in addition to an internal investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Office Professional Standards Section.

The facility documented eight (8) suicide attempts and an additional twenty-three (23) incidents where the inmate intentionally injured or attempted self-injurious behavior. There were 1035 reports of inmates being placed on Suicide Precautions.

Escapes or Escape Attempts: In 2023, zero (0) successful escapes were made from the Vanderburgh County Jail.

Confinement Center Staffing Levels

During 2023 the jail was operated while experiencing a shortage of manpower. These shortages were a result of employee turnover and difficulty in recruiting qualified applicants. However, due to an aggressive advertising campaign, increased presence at job fairs and community engagement events, combined with monetary incentives and salary increases provided by the Vanderburgh County Council, hiring and retention began to trend favorably.

The Jail Division increased its fully trained officer staff by 13 from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. We had an additional 10 officers in training at the beginning of the year. At the end of 2023, manpower levels were:

1 st Shift		2 nd Shift		Relief Crew		3 rd Shift	
Lieutenant	1	Lieutenant	1	Sergeants	2	Lieutenant	1
Sergeants	2	Sergeants	2	Officers	16	Sergeants	3
Officers	16	Officers	16	Booking Clerk	2	Officers	16
Booking Clerk	2	Booking Clerk	2	Reception Clerk	2	Booking Clerk	2
Reception Clerk	2	Part-time Clerical	1				
New officers in training (not counted as regular manpower) 10							



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First shift, second shift, and relief crew require 20 officers and 2 sergeants to cover the shift and regular days off. Third shift requires 21 officers and 3 sergeants to cover the shift and regular days off.

The jail has positions for three (3) Staff Sergeants assigned to specialty positions. They are divided into 3 main areas. The facilities manager staff sergeant is responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant, inmate commissary, supplies for the jail staff, and needs of the inmates other than food and medical. The compliance staff sergeant oversees inmate and officer rule compliance in the housing units, criminal intelligence and security threat group monitoring, ongoing criminal investigations, and process improvement. One staff sergeant is in charge of training. All three staff sergeants are cross-trained and interchangeable.

Three COs are assigned to video court full time. They compile daily court lists and run two video court sessions simultaneously. They also serve as an important liaison between the courts and the jail.

Staffing levels are continually challenged due to position vacancies. To fill CO vacancies, the Sheriff's Office hired forty three (43) confinement officers in 2023 compared to thirty four (34) confinement officers in 2022. Vacancies have been due to resignations, terminations, career advancements, and failing to meet new officer training requirements and standards. Of the forty three CO's hired in 2023, thirty one (31) were still employed at the end of the year.

Staffing shortages have left the Jail in a perpetual training mode to acclimate the new confinement officers. 2023 marked the highest number of new officers hired in a calendar year. The shortages have regularly left shifts open, causing overtime to maintain minimum staffing levels.

The jail runs a field training program which provides orientation to the facility and helps prepare probationary officers to work within the confinement setting. The training staff consists of one staff sergeant who manages the program, develops training policy, and monitors overall quality control. The staff sergeant also oversees the field training officers, reviews their evaluation reports, monitors the progress of the new employees, and the consistency in which our trainers teach. The jail also has twelve senior confinement officers, or Field Training Officers, (3 per shift) who train the probationary confinement officers and evaluate their progress.

On January 1, 2023, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office completed the process of converting the Jail Division Executive Commander from a merit deputy to a confinement officer. In 2022, the process of converting the three Assistant Jail Commanders (Lieutenants) from merit deputies to confinement officers was completed. This conversion helps expand career opportunities for confinement officers and ensures that the Jail Command Staff is knowledgeable about jail operations from their promotional date.

Inmate Services

The Jail provides the following services for inmates:

Inmate Health Care Services

Quality Correctional Care was our 2023 contracted medical provider. They provide the jail with inmate medical care 24/7. The medical section has a physician on-site a minimum of once per week and a dentist who is on-site once per week to provide a variety of basic dental procedures. We added a nurse practitioner who is on-site at least once per week to assist the physician in advance medical care. QCC's staff is comprised of:



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- One (1) Medical Director/ Site Manager (RN),
- Five (5) full-time nurses (1 RN and 4 LPN)
- Three (2) full-time Medical Assistants (MA)
- Two (3) full-time Medically Trained Personnel (MTP)
- One (1) full-time MSW for inmate mental health needs.
- One part-time (16 additional hours) LSW who provides substance abuse classes/programming.

The medical unit conducts health assessments within 14 days after initial arrest. Although the medical staff has 14 days to complete this process, most health assessments are completed within the first 24 to 72 hours post arrest. They provide inmates with STD, HIV and TB tests. They initiate care plans, coordinate outside medical services such as emergency room visits, doctor visits, dental visits, and specialized treatments. The medical unit processes all inmate sick call requests to determine if an inmate receives in-house treatment or is seen by a doctor.

Sick Call / Non-Emergent Care: The facility sick call procedure is how inmates request medical treatment for non-emergent health issues. Sick call is conducted 7 days per week by the staff nurses on duty. The physician is present once a week and sees inmates if the nursing staff determine it is necessary. Each year the number of sick call requests received has steadily increased. In 2023, 41,030 inmates were seen by the medical unit for sick call compared to 34,011 inmates in 2022.

Emergency Medical Treatment: The medical staff makes every effort to care for inmates in-house. They are aware of the security risks and expense of sending an inmate off campus. The majority of inmates are seen and treated during sick call. In 2023, 179 inmates were treated outside of the jail. Besides the emergency room visits, most of these appointments were for specialists, obstetrics, orthopedics, general follow-ups, or dialysis.

Mental Health Services: QCC's full-time therapist reviews inmate mental health medications and reviews the status of suicidal inmates. She also does weekly and monthly follow-ups with inmates who have been removed from suicide watch. The Vanderburgh County Jail's mental health professionals made 5227 contacts with inmates in 2023. This was an increase from 4015 in 2022.

Medical Provider Contract Change for 2024: On March 1, 2024, the contract medical provider for the jail changed to Comprehensive Correctional Care (CCC). Several changes in staffing levels, including the addition of a 40 hour/week nurse practitioner, will be reflected in the 2024 report. Although the vendor changed, none of the services provided referenced in this report will cease to occur.

Kitchen Services

ARAMARK is the vendor contracted to provide inmate meal service. They served 767,628 meals to those incarcerated in the Vanderburgh County Jail.

Inmate Worker Program

Jail staff operates a voluntary program for inmates who qualify. The inmate worker program allows participants to work in the facility and earn extra privileges. Tasks include working in the laundry room, kitchen services, janitorial services, warehouse services. This program is monitored by six (6) confinement officers and one (1) confinement sergeant.

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC)

The EVSC provides a contact person to provide individualized educational services for inmates between the ages of 18 and 21. These services target inmates who had special needs in school prior to being



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incarcerated and are specifically directed towards Math and Language Arts. Each requesting student is interviewed by a Special Education teacher for background information to see if they are eligible. Once it is determined the inmate is eligible and at what grade level they are at, an Individualized Service Plan conference takes place to set up the inmate's schedule. The teacher uses homework, formal and informal assessments, and reading assignments as tools to gauge the inmate's progress. The educational program is not a GED program.

Library

Jail staff maintains library service, distributing books to inmates once a week. Paperback books are donated by a variety of sources including The Evansville Public Library and other community partners.

Religious Services

Our chaplaincy program is provided by Good News Jail & Prison Ministry (GNJPM) at no cost to Vanderburgh County. GNJPM provides a full time, all-inclusive chaplain with a full chaplaincy program. This program is led by Chaplain Scott Bailes who heads a team of 4-6 volunteer chaplains and 30 volunteer instructors. GNJPM is committed to meeting the needs of inmates of all religious faiths within the guidelines established by law. The chaplaincy services are available to all inmates regardless of their personal beliefs or lack thereof.

- Church services
- Christian based recovery classes
- Cognitive Renewal classes
- Classes for Catholic inmates
- One on one counseling with the chaplains or one of their volunteers
- Access to their personal clergy regardless of faith
- Death notification and grief ministry
- Donated religious literature from any faith
- Use of KIOSK system for religious requests and chaplain services.
- Islamic one on one services

AA Classes

Alcoholics Anonymous programming is offered to the inmates thanks to generous help by volunteers. Due to the pandemic and volunteer shortages, this program was not offered from 2020 to 2022. This program was reestablished in 2023 and has been received with great success.

Veterans Justice Outreach Program

The Vanderburgh County Jail partners with the Veterans Administration to offer services for incarcerated veterans. This program diverts veterans to Vanderburgh County's treatment courts including the veteran's problem solving court. It also assists veterans with medical care, mental health care, and housing post-release.

Pre to 3

Starting in September 2018, The Vanderburgh County Jail partnered with the Vanderburgh County Health Department to counsel pregnant inmates. The Pre to 3 program is designed to support families during pregnancy and up until the baby is three years old. The emphasis of bringing this program to the jail is for the Health Department to maintain contact with the mothers after they are released from custody and to teach them important skills that build a healthy home. Due to Covid-19 and lack of volunteer staff, this program was halted. This program is scheduled to resume in April of 2024



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Quality 360 Healthcare Alliance (Q360)

Inmate specific substance abuse/mental health counseling services are offered through our medical provider. The program (Q360) offers small group and individual therapy focused on several like skills areas including but not limited to: anger management, parenting, workforce readiness, and work/life balance. Additional focus areas include post-release considerations such as connecting to community resources, access to medication, and scheduling of appointments. With the medical provider change in March 2024, this program will operate under a new name. However, the services provided will not change. This program is offered through grant funding and the Indiana Sheriff's Association.

Competency Restoration "The Vanderburgh Model"

When an inmate is found incompetent to stand trial they are ordered to go to the state hospital for treatment. The wait for a bed at the state hospital can be six months or longer. The entire process can delay an inmate's case for over a year. The FSSA (Indiana Family and Social Services Administration) worked with the Vanderburgh County Jail, our medical provider QCC, and Southwest Behavioral Health to develop a program to restore competency during the wait time for the state hospital. The goal is to speed up disposition of the inmates court case, free up jail space, and reduce the number of inmates sent to Indiana's psychiatric hospitals. The program is the first of its kind in Indiana. It is now being implemented in other counties and is referred to as the "Vanderburgh Model".

Court Security Section

The Court Security Section is responsible for inmate court calendar scheduling, inmate security at the courthouse, all inmate transports to/from the courthouse, to prison, transports to other jails, and court ordered transports. The section works hard to manage large number of inmates seen in court on a daily basis. The following statistics illustrate the sheer number of inmates transported:

TRANSPORTED TO COURT	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Inmates Transported between Court and Jail	482	481
TRANSPORTED TO IDOC		
Males transported	301	402
Females transported	66	77
Inmates transported for Parole	0	8
Total inmates transported to IDOC	367	487
WARRANTS TRANSPORTED		
In-State	400	403
Out of State	134	161
Total warrants transported	534	564
TRANSPORTED – COURT ORDER		
Inmates returned to Vanderburgh County	77	149
Inmates returned to other facilities	19	30
Inmates to State Hospital	33	47
Inmates transported to treatment facilities	136	157
Total inmates transported for Court Orders	265	383
LEVEL 6/ DOC INELLIGIBLE TRANSPORTS	580	458



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TRANSPORT MILES LOGGED

87,484

98,274

Video Court

The Vanderburgh County Jail runs two video court rooms within the jail. Video court conducts a variety of hearings, with the largest number being initial hearings for newly arrested individuals. Those hearings are in Misdemeanor, Superior Division II, Circuit, Juvenile, and Domestic courts. The use of video court reduces the number of inmates physically transferred to the downtown court complex. It decreases security issues and costs associated with physical transports. A total of 20,432 hearings were conducted in the jail video court rooms during 2023. The number of hearings was up from 19,277 conducted in 2022.

Completed and Projected Maintenance Improvements

The Vanderburgh County Jail works closely with the Evansville Vanderburgh Building Authority (EVCBA) to maintain the facility. The EVCBA owns the building and provides on-site facility maintenance. The building is starting to show signs of its age and it is to be expected that maintenance costs will rise as the building gets older.

The following improvements were either completed or are in the process of being completed:

- Kitchen Upgrades and Repairs
 - Installed new 80 gallon kettle
 - Replacing/Maintaining other aging equipment
- IT Upgrades
 - Continued replacing aging cameras throughout areas of the facility
 - Replaced fingerprint machine
 - Continued development of security system upgrade
- The Vanderburgh County Jail has future plans for the following facility improvements:
 - Finalizing New Jail Construction/Architectural Plans. The new jail addition will break ground in April 2024.
 - SWC Commander/Intercom/Camera Upgrade
- Future plans include:
 - Cisco phone upgrade
 - WIFI upgrade
 - IT Infrastructure upgrades

Need for More Jail Beds and Staff

The average daily population of the jail in 2023 was 685. This number does not include the additional 122 inmates housed in our overflow facilities (Pike, Perry, Posey, and Jefferson). The Vanderburgh County Jail has consistently operated over its rated capacity of 546 inmates for the past 10 years. There is no expectation the trend will change.

The Vanderburgh County Jail partners with other jails to hold excess inmates, as mentioned earlier in this report. We have been fortunate to sustain our working relationships and numbers with our current partner jails. The strategy of holding inmates in other jails was never meant to be a long term solution. Over the past several years, we have lost bed space in other facilities due to those facilities seeking more lucrative federal inmate contracts. We have also lost space due to increasing daily populations of our partner facilities. As conditions in other counties change, there is a distinct possibility that the Vanderburgh County Jail will lose their bed space and have to return inmates to our Evansville campus.



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In addition to an immediate need for an increased number of jail beds, the jail is understaffed. Proper staffing is even more critical while the jail is overcrowded with inmates. Full staffing is required to ensure the safety and security of the facility and to comply with state jail standards. However, the national trend of job seekers not pursuing a career related to law enforcement is a hindrance to our efforts.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, along with the County Council, have worked to find creative solutions to attract new, and retain existing, confinement officers. We have increased our staff numbers substantially throughout 2023, however, we still operate below the number of officers our facility and inmate population requires.

As the new jail addition construction moves toward completion in 2025, this staffing shortage will be acutely felt as plans are made to operate the new facility. Jail staffing levels and inmate population levels remain our two most pressing concerns for 2024.

Noah Robinson

Noah Robinson, Sheriff

Nathan Sugarman

Nathan Sugarman, Chief Deputy

David Guetling

David Guetling, Jail Commander