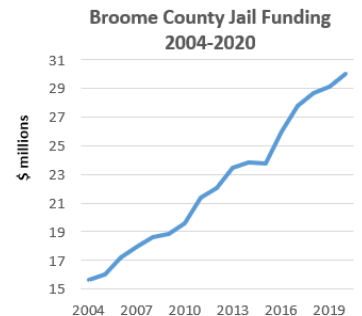


DIVESTMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, REINVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

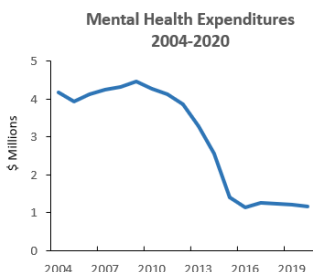
Divest from the Jail: Re-invest in Community Health

Broome County has the highest incarceration rate in the state. Why?

It's investment in incarceration. Despite a steadily falling county population and crime rate, Broome County has more than doubled its incarceration rate and doubled its jail budget. Meanwhile the county has cut health programs by over 50% and sends poor people with mental health or substance use problems to the jail instead of treatment. *Yet the jail is still staffed to incarcerate 600 persons at an annual cost of \$30+ million, but stands half empty. Last month it had only 43 persons convicted and sentenced for any crime.*



Health and Safety: Who is in the jail and why?



Local officials report that 80 % of the persons in the jail have mental health or substance use problems. Racial and gender disparities in the jail are extreme. The vast majority of police calls and arrests are for health problems and minor misdemeanors, not violent criminal matters: fewer than 7 percent of all arrests are for alleged violent felonies. We have far, far more jail cells than we need. It is time to recalculate, to divest from mass incarceration and invest in health.

Divest: in the next three years we should cut the jail budget by 40%: \$12 million in savings

- Reduce the jail staff, for the half-empty jail, by 40%. Offer early retirement (\$9.2million)
- Reduce jail population another 10% by ending the housing of federal prisoners
- Close unnecessary sections of the jail (e.g. unused youth sections)
- End overtime, running at \$2 million a year (for a half-empty jail?)
- End free meals, free dry cleaning, free services for the Sheriff and his staff
- Cancel the current food contract, construct a budget to actual size and needs of the jail

Reinvest: the community needs to develop community-based services for mental health and substance use disorders, and reentry for incarcerated persons. We have the providers. We can construct medical response teams free from reliance upon the Sheriff and local police. The jail is not a treatment center.



**DIVESTMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY,
REINVESTMENT IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

Divest from County Policing Re-invest in Community Safety

The Broome County Sheriff's Law Enforcement budget also needs fiscal attention: it has grown fat on complacent county funding. Local cities have expanded their forces and police their streets, and the Binghamton University State Police force has doubled in size in recent years. The areas left to be policed by the Sheriff have dropped in population by 10%. What do all these deputies do? Why has the force grown so large, so expensive?

Trim the Sheriff's Administration and Patrol Budget by 25% (\$2.4 million+ savings/year)

- Relieve sheriffs from responding to non-violent substance use and mental health crises, trim personnel by 15% (\$1.3 million)
- Stop excessive overtime (\$365,000)
- Stop the regular \$250,000 for new vehicles, every year
- Stop \$700,000 funding for a new garage
- Stop funding police in schools (over \$1.3 million county-wide per year)
- Cut hotel expenses for staff (\$45,000) and so on and so on
- Sell surplus vehicles, scrap military weapons and armored personnel carriers
- Cut SWAT and War on Drug Teams, stop no-knock raids, civil forfeitures
- Close the training division: its too expensive, there is falling demand, and there are better alternatives statewide

Invest the \$2.4 million+/year savings in community health and peace programs

- Counselors and health specialists in schools and youth programs
- Assistance for those coming home from jails and prisons
- Community health and de-escalation intervention Teams
- Community-based health treatment

