UNDERSTANDING THE BAIL SYSTEM

When arrested, those who can afford to pay bail have a choice: sit in jail until backlogged courts can hear their case — which can take months, or even years — or plead guilty to go free. Cash bail criminalizes poverty, devastating low-income communities and disproportionately affecting women and people of color. Pretrial detention accounts for all jail growth in the U.S. in the past 20 years. the Bail Project aims to combat mass incarceration by paying the bail of those in need, keeping them out of pre-trial detainment.

DENIED BAIL



A judge may decide to deny bail if they find the defendent to be a flight-risk, or a danger to others if released. In these cases, the defendent is detained until their trial. In the U.S., approximately 24% of people in local jails are being held on violent charges but have not yet been convicted.

DETAINED

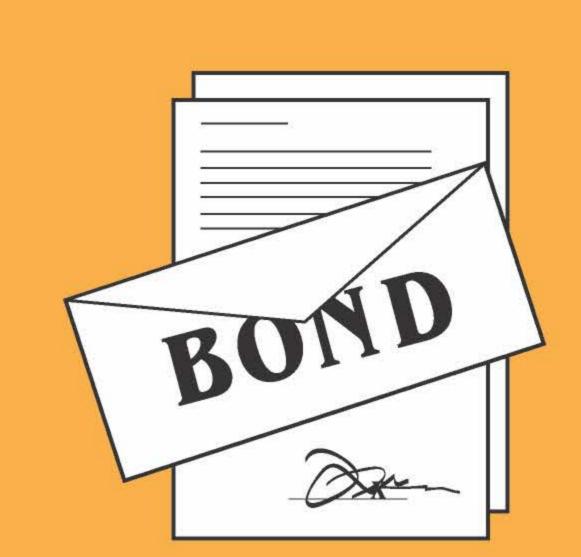
PRETRIAL

R.O.R.



Released on your Own Recognizance: a written promise signed by the defendant promising that they will show up for future court appearances and not engage in illegal activity while out on an R.O.R.

BAIL BONDS



If the defendent cannot afford bail, they may post their bail and hire a bondsman. The bondsman charges a percentage, and guarantees a full payment to the court if they defendent does not return for their trial. If this occurs, the defendent's guarantor must pay the bondsman the full bail amount in addition to the initial service fee.

CASH BAIL



Bail amounts are set by a judge, the data given to us doesn't seem to indicate a consistent method for setting these amounts across different states and charges. Sources say that bail can be as little as \$500, or as much as 8 month's of the defendent's income. If the defendent can afford to, they can pay the bail amount to the court, and go home to await their trial. If the defendent shows up to their hearing, the court returns the bail amount.

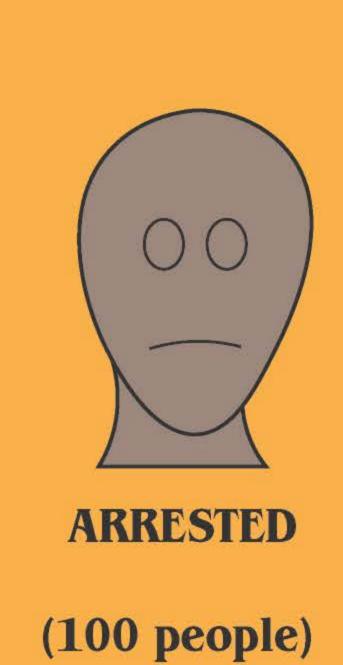
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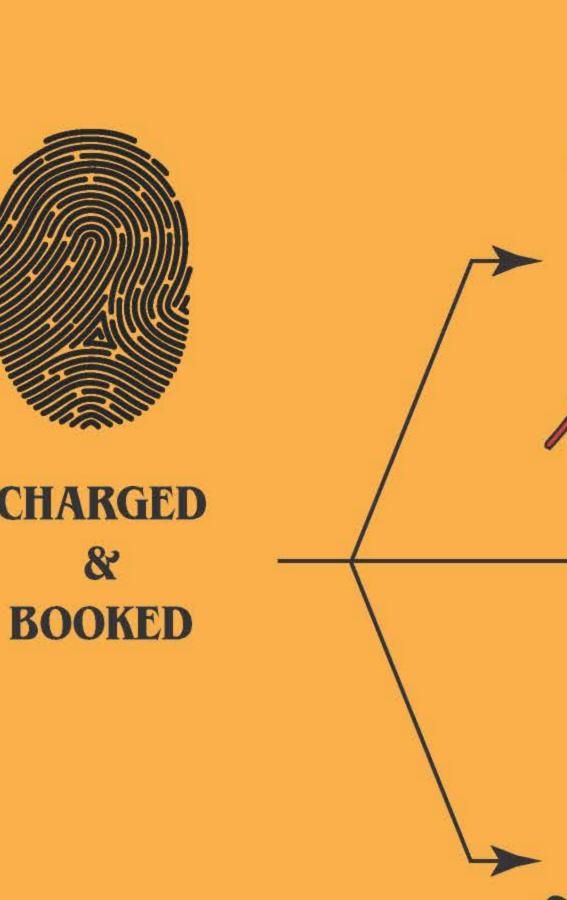
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Path from Arrest to Detainment







PAID RELEASE 00 00 00 00 00 00 BAIL AMOUNT IS and and and and 00000000000 SET BY JUDGE 00 00 00 00 00 00 **CAN'T** BOND **AFFORD** BAIL Don PRETRIAL NON-

THE BAIL PROJECT (The Path to Release)



BAIL RETURNS TO THE FUND WHEN CLIENT'S CASE CLOSES

BAIL MONEY IS USED TO FREE SOMEONE ELSE

So far, the fund has paid 9,029 people's bail.

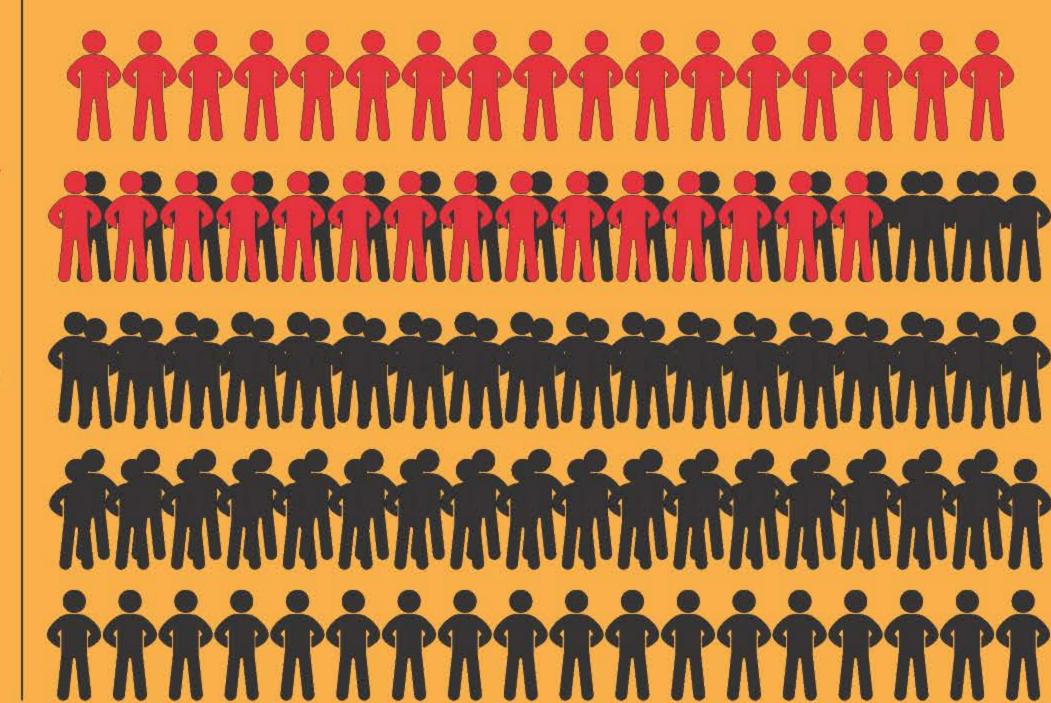


OF CLIENTS APPEAR ON THEIR COURT DATE

Pretrial detention accounts for all jail | Approximately 75 out of every 100 growth in the U.S. in the past 20 years.



individuals being held in local jails are still awaiting trial.



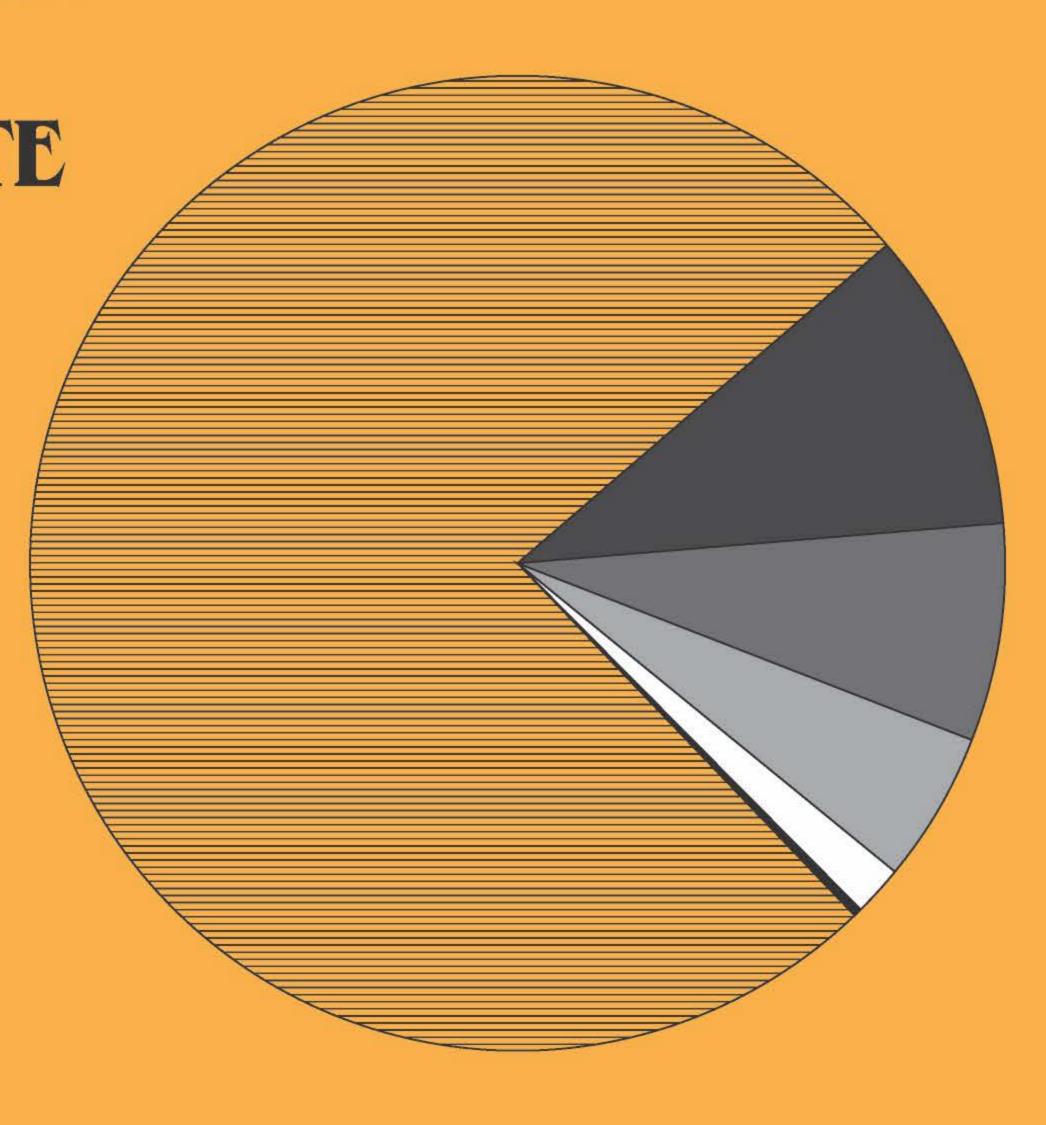
Taxpayers spend an estimated \$14 billion incarcerating unconvicted people each year.

SO FAR, the Bail Project has supplied us with scraped data on 3 states in the U.S. There's no information about the specific people BP funded, or bail amounts listed. More demographic information could be useful as well as consistency across all 50 states.

INCOMPLETE DATA *More information on

race, gender, and bail amounts would be helpful in getting an idea of who needs the most help.

*More detailed categories for charges, and more records of bail amounts could be used to determine some kind of price scale



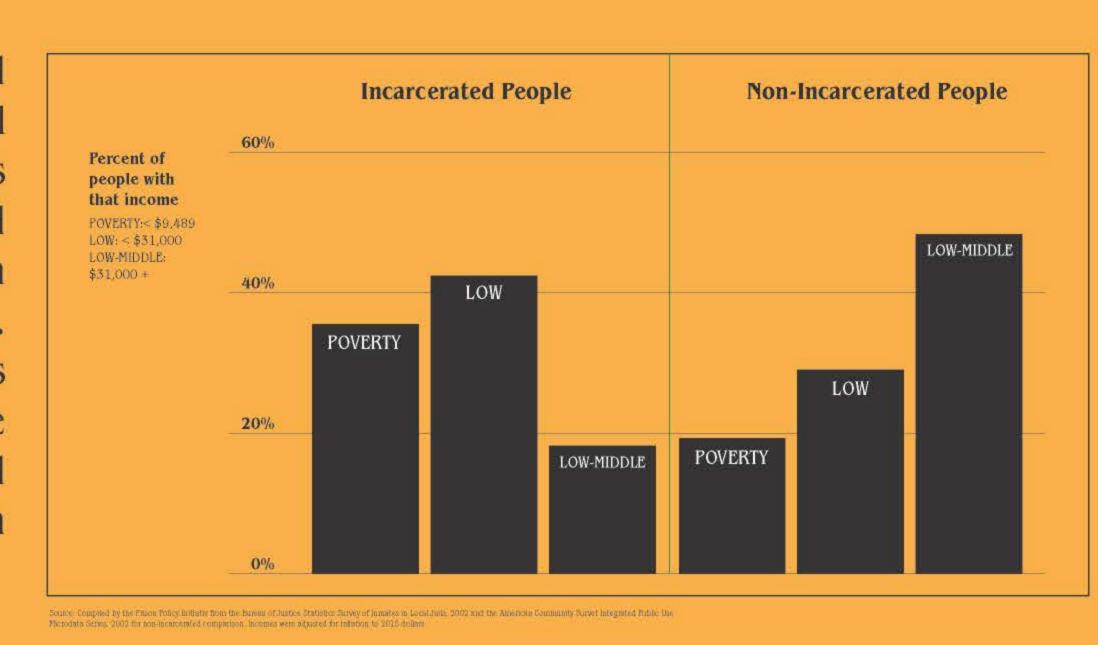
Of all the entries given to us so far, only 24% had useable information. We grouped entries into 5 broad categories based on the nature of the charge:

VIOLENT PROPERTY DRUGS

OTHER

The detained are more likely to already live below the poverty line

Illustration of the racial and economic disparity in the bail system. Money bail perpetuates an endless cycle of poverty and jail time, which hits certain people harder than others. Because our current system fails those already struggling, more information should be gathered to better illustrate which communities are most affected.



Here's an idea for the kinds of data that could help establish some kind of filing system for the Bail Project, or a map illustrating the current landscape of local jails.

Information on an individual's income status, race, gender, criminal record, and more details about the arrest could help reveal patterns: do certain charges receive the highest bails, do certain ethnicites get denied bail more often, do lower-income individuals commit similar crimes, do individuals of a higher income charged with the same crime get lower bail amounts?

