

RESOURCE GUIDE

We Went Back to See How These Reforms Worked



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70 Million is made possible by a grant from the Safety and Justice Challenge at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



million

ONE JAIL AT A TIME.

story

Part I: Alternatives to Incarceration FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS



JUDGE STEVE LEIFMAN STANDS INSIDE THE FUTURE SITE OF THE MIAMI CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY. IT IS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN MARCH 2022. PHOTO BY DANNY RIVERO.

According to [Prison Policy](#), 1 in 4 people are experiencing "serious psychological distress" in jails, which also causes lasting effects such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and impaired decision-making. Serious mental illness, the [Treatment Advocacy Center](#) explains, "has become so prevalent in the US corrections system that jails and prisons are now commonly called 'the new asylums.' [...] In 44 states, a jail or prison holds more mentally ill individuals than the largest remaining state psychiatric hospital; in every county in the United States with both a county jail and a county psychiatric facility, more seriously mentally ill individuals are incarcerated than hospitalized." Relatedly, [Mental Health America](#) reports that 6 of 10 of the U.S. states with the least access to mental health care have more adults who are in the criminal justice system. When the strategy for the U.S. has been to remove those in severe mental distress from society and put them into conditions which can worsen mental health, it is no surprise that people are looking for new solutions.

Alternatives to incarceration for those with mental health issues are [more cost-effective](#), [and moreover both reduce recidivism and better help humans heal](#). For example, when California mandated in 2000 that people convicted of non-violent crimes be sent to treatment rather than jail, California [saved \\$18 million per year and reduced recidivism by 85%](#). Alternatives for helping peoples' mental health could go beyond treatment and include fights for housing justice, food security, and keeping each others' needs met. To learn more, check out the original [70 Million](#) story about the Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery: Season 1 Episode 8, "In Miami, Jailing Fewer, Treating More", as well as its episode toolkit and the resources on the next page.

"This may be the right time for us because all these federal dollars are now available for the next three years [...] it gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tackle our homeless problem here and to spend our dollars more efficiently—and more importantly, give people an opportunity to recover that they never had before."

- JUDGE STEVE LEIFMAN

Check out PEOPLE DOING THE WORK

Mental Health First Aid

"Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues."

White Bird Clinic


"White Bird Clinic provides compassionate, humanistic healthcare, and supportive services to individuals in our community, so everyone receives the care they need." Their CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) branch "mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker who has substantial training and experience in the mental health field. The CAHOOTS teams deal with a wide range of mental health-related crises" through non-violent means and also "handle non-emergent medical issues, avoiding costly ambulance transport and emergency room treatment."

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program

"LEAD uses police diversion and community-based, trauma-informed care systems, with the goals of improving public safety and public order."

"We go visit them wherever they are at. [...] We go to court with them, and we just make sure they take their medication, they're going to their doctor's appointments, they have employment—we just make sure they are okay."

- LATOSHA KING



**DETECTIVE LATOSHA KING
WORKS WITH THE THREAT
MANAGEMENT SECTION
OF THE MIAMI-DADE
POLICE DEPARTMENT.
PHOTO BY DANNY RIVERO.**

KEEP READING...

[Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project](#) from the Equitas Project

[Mental Health Courts Work in Miami](#) from Treatment Advocacy Center

[Mental Health Research Library](#) by the Prison Policy Initiative

"Survival and self-medication as crime" in the [Women and Mass Incarceration Zine](#) by Melissa Q. Teng

[The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease](#) by Jonathan M. Metz

[Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration for People with Mental Health Needs in the Criminal Justice System: The Cost-Savings Implications](#) by Vera Institute

REFLECTION QUESTION:

What other criminal legal system responses could be reformed or replaced with more emphasis on care and support?

Part II: Organizing Around CASH BAIL REFORM

MONTRELL CARMOUCHE STANDS OUTSIDE OF THE NEW ORLEANS JAIL, KNOWN AS THE ORLEANS JUSTICE CENTER, WHICH WAS BUILT TO REPLACE THE NOTORIOUS ORLEANS PARISH PRISON, KNOWN AS OPP. PHOTO BY CHERYL GERBER.



"The mission is to get money bail to end. Getting people out of jail: it's just a means to an end. It's great and it's amazing and it's awesome, but my full focus these days is policy and advocacy and educating community leaders and neighbors on the harms of money bail and how and why we need to stop it."

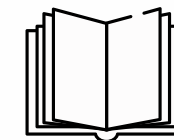
- MONTRELL CARMOUCHE of New Orleans Safety and Freedom Fund

The [Marshall Project](#) summarizes cash bail as "a refundable, court-determined fee that a defendant pays—regardless of guilt or innocence—to await trial at home instead of in jail. While 'innocent until proven guilty' is ingrained in the American psyche, the use of bail means that if you can't pay you serve jail time." They explain, "At any given time an estimated half a million Americans, or about two-thirds of the overall jail population, are incarcerated because they can't afford their bail or a bond. The median bail amount for felonies is about \$10,000. This financial burden falls heavily on low-income women—mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and partners—and people of color, who make up 69 percent of the pretrial population. (Forty-three percent are Black and 19.6 percent are Latino.)"

Meanwhile, as of Spring 2021, insurance companies had "spent \$17 million to defeat proposals to weaken or abolish the for-profit bail industry in the United States, a system that brings insurers \$15 billion in business a year." Still, there are people fighting all over the country--from New Orleans and beyond--to eliminate cash bail and donate to bail funds in the meantime.

To learn more, check *70 Million* Season 1 Episode 9, "How New Orleans Could Set a New Course for Bail Reform," [its accompanying toolkit](#), and the following resources:

Reading



[Paid in Full: A Plan to End Money Injustice in New Orleans](#)
from the Vera Institute of Justice

[The Dangerous Domino Effect of Not Making Bail](#)
from the Atlantic

Videos



[Is the U.S. Bail System Fair?](#)

[The Need for Prosecutorial Accountability -- Animated Video](#)

[Why fixing the US bail system is tricky](#)

[The Role of the Prosecutor](#)

MEG GARVEY WORKS IN HER OFFICE AT THE ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS, A FEW BLOCKS FROM NEW ORLEANS CRIMINAL COURT AND THE CITY JAIL. PHOTO BY CHERYL GERBER.



PEOPLE DOING THE WORK

National Bail Fund Network

"The National Bail Fund Network is made up of over ninety community bail and bond funds across the country. We regularly update this listing of community bail funds that are freeing people by paying bail/bond and are also fighting to abolish the money bail system and pretrial detention."

New Orleans Safety and Freedom Fund

"In addition to helping a fellow New Orleanian maintain their dignity and liberty as they fight their case, research shows that posting bail on someone's behalf recovers an average of \$2,000 in economic opportunity otherwise lost while sitting in jail unable to work."

Orleans Public Defenders

"OPD is committed to providing zealous client-centered, community-oriented defense for each person we represent. Each individual client's needs are supported by a dedicated legal team. Attorneys, investigators, client advocates, social workers, and court support administrators work to build the best possible defense for each individual client's needs."

The Bail Project

"The Bail Project combats mass incarceration by disrupting the money bail system—one person at a time. We restore the presumption of innocence, reunite families, and challenge a system that criminalizes race and poverty. We're on a mission to end cash bail and create a more just, equitable, and humane pretrial system."


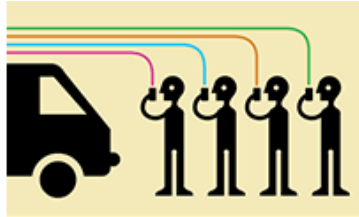








REFLECTION QUESTION: What might a pretrial system look like if there was a presumption of release rather than a presumption of detention?

"I think that there's been a groundswell of many different organizations in the city speaking out against wealth-based pretrial incarceration. And so I think there's just a louder community voice saying like: We don't want this. It doesn't make any sense. All this money is going to bondsmen. Most of it is coming out of the Black community. And it's not making us safer." - MEG GARVEY

Part III: Digital POLICING & SURVEILLANCE

Advancements and expansions of police surveillance and other methods of "digital policing" continue, including the recent [monitoring and identifying of protestors](#) against police brutality. Black people, Indigenous people, Muslim people, and queer and trans people are in particular danger of being watched, tracked, and harmed--and then incarcerated--under these practices. Even children are being monitored in and around their schools through [gang databases](#).

The Electronic Frontier Foundation published the following graphics, which visualize the various surveillance technologies being used by the carceral system, in their [Street-Level Surveillance Guide to Law Enforcement Spying Technology](#):

 <p>AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRS)</p>	 <p>CELL-SITE SIMULATORS/IMSI CATCHERS</p>		
 <p>TATTOO RECOGNITION</p>	 <p>IRIS RECOGNITION</p>	 <p>DRONES/UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES</p>	 <p>FACE RECOGNITION</p>
 <p>ELECTRONIC MONITORING</p>	 <p>BODY-WORN CAMERAS</p>	 <p>SECURITY CAMERAS</p>	 <p>GUNSHOT DETECTION</p>

To learn more, check out the original *70 Million* story from Season 3 Episode 3, "Why Detroit Might Be the True Test of Whether More Cameras Make Cities Safer", as well as its episode toolkit and the resources on the next page.

SURVEILLANCE LIGHTS FLASH BLUE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. PHOTO BY TRISTAN DUPLICHAİN.

"It's just so many unknowns that is all behind the scenes. It's almost like the Wizard of Oz. You get somebody in a chair doing all these things, but you don't really know what they're doing, or what they're looking at, or what they're using the technology for."

- DE'KEITHER STAMPS,
Mississippi State
Representative

REFLECTION QUESTION:

What methods of surveillance do you recognize in your own local police force and/or what technologies and methods of surveillance have you noticed in your community?

People Doing the Work

Electronic Frontier Foundation

"The Electronic Frontier Foundation is the leading nonprofit organization defending civil liberties in the digital world. Founded in 1990, EFF champions user privacy, free expression, and innovation through impact litigation, policy analysis, grassroots activism, and technology development. EFF's mission is to ensure that technology supports freedom, justice, and innovation for all people of the world."

Atlas of Surveillance

"Through a combination of crowdsourcing and data journalism, we are creating the largest-ever repository of information on which law enforcement agencies are using what surveillance technologies. The aim is to generate a resource for journalists, academics, and, most importantly, members of the public to check what's been purchased locally and how technologies are spreading across the country."

Muslim Justice League

"Muslim Justice League (MJL)'s mission is to organize and advocate for communities whose rights are threatened under the national security state in the United States. Led by Muslims, our organizing brings justice for ALL communities deemed 'suspect.'"

Surveillance Technology Oversight Project

"S.T.O.P. litigates and advocates for privacy, working to abolish local governments' systems of mass surveillance. Our work highlights the discriminatory impact of surveillance on Muslim Americans, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous peoples, and communities of color, particularly the unique trauma of anti-Black policing."

Movement 4 Black Lives' "End the Surveillance on Black Communities"

This page provides a summary of modern police surveillance of Black people and a directory of organizations on local and national levels.

Reading



Mapping Muslims: NYPD Spying and its Impact on American Muslims by The Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition, The Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

"Technologies of Control" in the Women and Mass Incarceration Zine by Melissa Q. Teng

The Catalog of Carceral Surveillance: Exploring the Future of Incarceration Technology from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

The Dangers of America's Expanding 'Digital Prison' by The Crime Report

Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex ed. Eric A. Stanley & Nat Smith

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