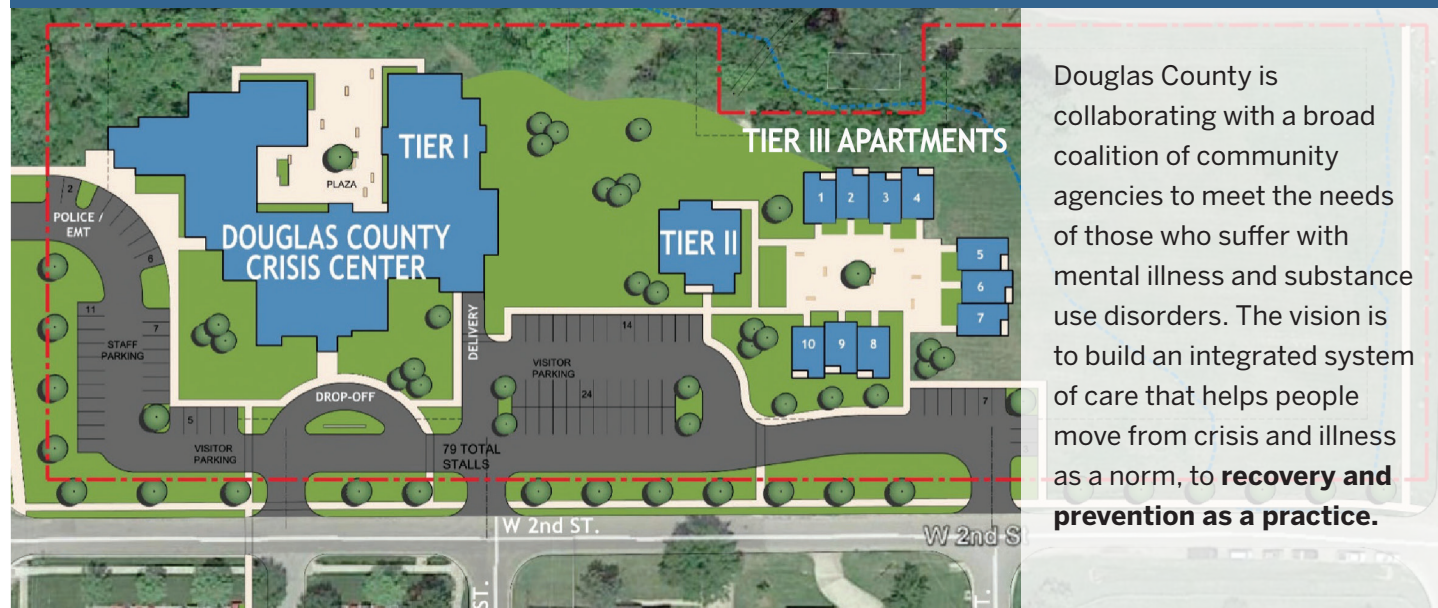


BUILDING A RECOVERY CAMPUS

SERVING PEOPLE WHERE WE FIND THEM



Douglas County is collaborating with a broad coalition of community agencies to meet the needs of those who suffer with mental illness and substance use disorders. The vision is to build an integrated system of care that helps people move from crisis and illness as a norm, to **recovery and prevention as a practice.**

Health Leadership Coalition



PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO BE FUNDED

HOW THE MONEY WILL BE USED

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS OF A RECOVERY CAMPUS

- 23-bed crisis stabilization center
- medication-assisted detox and sobering services
- short-term respite care staffed by behavioral health specialists
- three tiers of supportive housing—adjacent to the crisis center and at DCCCA First Step
- 24/7 integrated crisis line and expanded mobile response
- two community-based youth crisis beds

EXPANDED RECOVERY SERVICES AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- improve access to psychiatry/outpatient services
- implement nationally-recognized Zero Suicide initiative
- provide free access to MyStrength app for all Douglas County residents
- convene an opioid crisis summit in Douglas County
- expand WRAP beyond Lawrence to provide mental health professionals in schools in Baldwin, Eudora, and Lecompton

CAPITAL COSTS OF THE JAIL EXPANSION

- expand capacity and reconfigure housing to separate violent and non-violent offenders
- provide more appropriate housing for women
- provide a more therapeutic environment for inmates with special needs
- Increase space for behavioral health services, reentry, and work release programs

A PORTION OF THE INCREASED JAIL OPERATING COSTS

- expand reentry programs
- increase programs that offer alternatives to incarceration

Improving Behavioral Health Services and the Douglas County Jail

Here's What You Need to Know About Proposition 1.

Douglas County proposes a half-cent sales tax to finance both a jail expansion and a behavioral health recovery campus, including a crisis center, supportive housing and prevention programs.

The two projects are in the same ballot question because they are financed from the same revenue source. It is not an either/or choice; the sales tax would finance improvements and serve the needs of the individuals both in the community and in the jail.

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY JAIL BY THE NUMBERS

1994

the year that the current jail was paid for by a similar ballot initiative that also funded the Community Health Center and Parks and Recreation

2010

the year that the current jail was projected to be over capacity when it was designed in the 1990s

101%

the increase in violent crimes against persons experienced by Douglas County in the past four years

186

the number of beds in our current jail

50-70

the number of inmates by which the Douglas County jail regularly exceeds capacity

OVER \$1 MILLION

the cost to Douglas County taxpayers annually to outsource 50-70 inmates to other jails

30%

the percentage of the inmates in custody in our jail not from Douglas County, but whose crimes were committed here

MORE THAN 200

the number of offenders in 2017 that were safely diverted from incarceration into alternatives that better served them

NEARLY 400

the number of inmates that would be in jail if Douglas County did not have incarceration alternative programs in place

1.8 OUT OF 1,000

Douglas County's average incarceration rate in 2018, below the Kansas average of 3.2 people per 1,000, and the national average of 3.3 per 1,000.

\$9.8 MILLION

the estimated funds generated each year from the proposed half-cent sales tax

\$5.8 MILLION

the sales tax revenue that would be dedicated each year to behavioral health projects, including the crisis center, recovery campus, supported housing, prevention programs, and operating expenses

\$4.0 MILLION

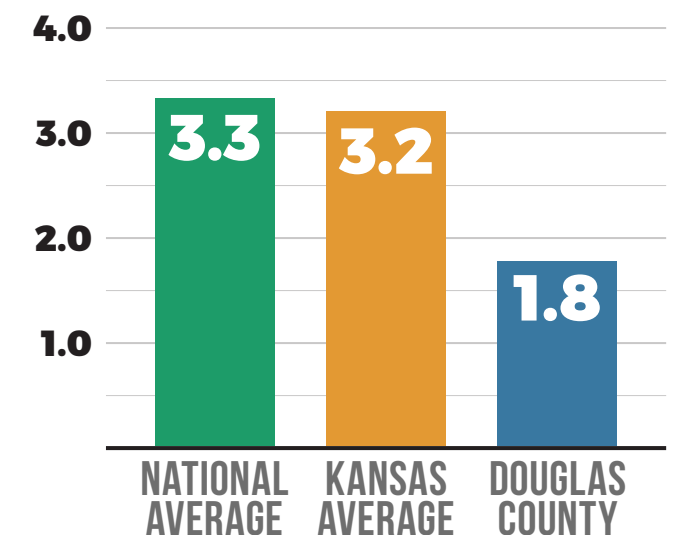
the sales tax revenue that would be dedicated each year to the construction cost of the jail and a portion of the operating expenses

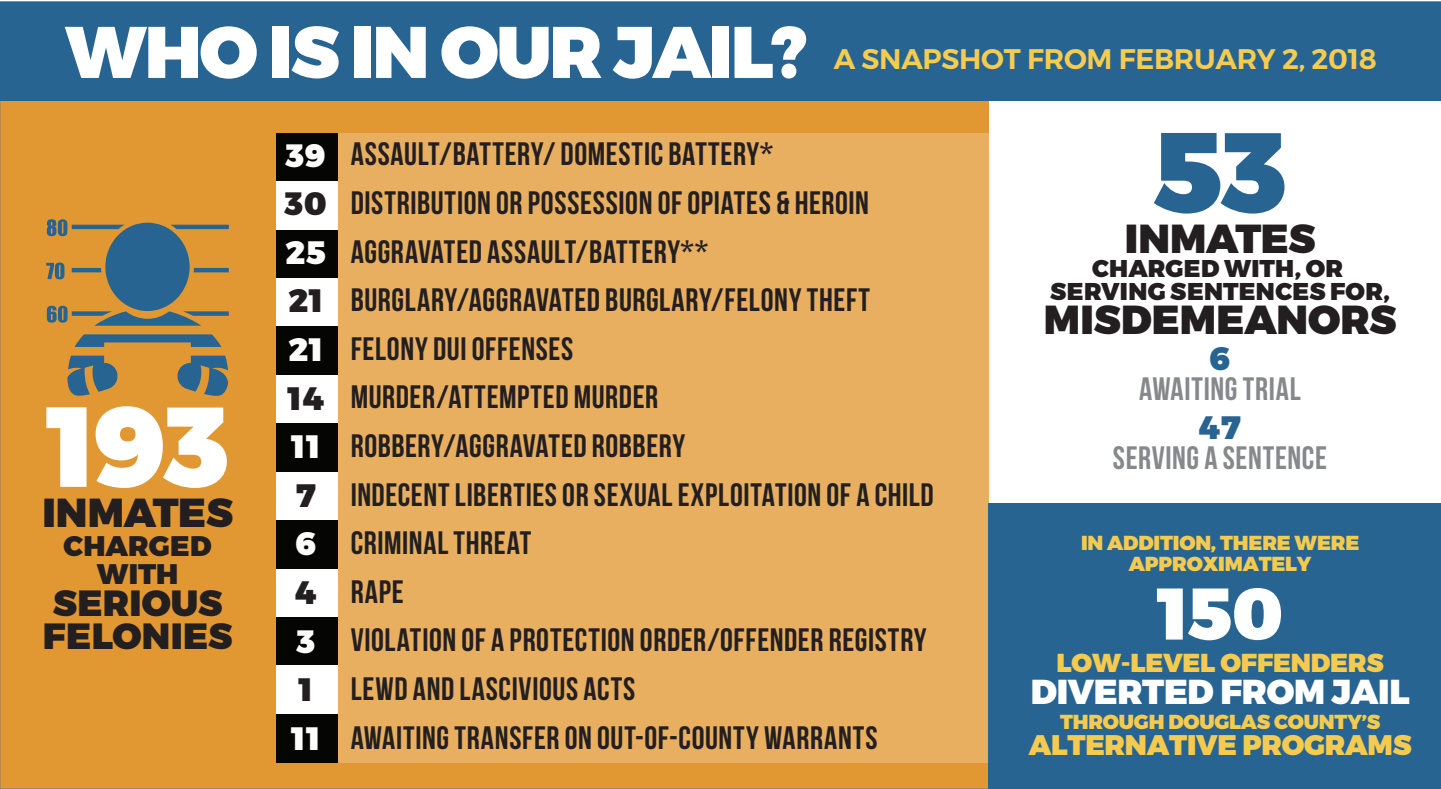
Why we need a bigger jail

When the current Douglas County Jail was designed in the mid-1990s, it was **projected to be over capacity by the year 2010**. Now, in 2018, the jail isn't overcrowded—it's **overflowing**, and regularly exceeds capacity by 50-70 inmates that get "outsourced" to other jails at a **cost to taxpayers of over \$1 million annually**. The current jail also lacks adequate space for programs which assist reentry and lower recidivism—or regression—by offenders. The consequences, beyond the obvious cost expenditure, are to the inmates themselves; they are moved away from their support systems and lose access to our jail's **nationally-recognized reentry programs**.

DOUGLAS COUNTY'S INCARCERATION RATES ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE U.S.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, incarceration rates in the U.S. range from a low of 1.2 people per 1,000 to a high of 8.0 per 1,000. Here's how Douglas County compares:





*includes assault/battery on a law enforcement officer **includes aggravated assault/battery on a law enforcement officer

Even with alternatives to incarceration, our jail is overcrowded.

Over the past four years, Douglas County has experienced a **101% increase in violent crimes against persons** charged by the District Attorney’s office. That’s huge. And while our county’s incarceration *rate* has not increased significantly in recent years, *more* individuals are in jail now—due in part to the **growth of our community’s population**. Our geographical location plays a significant role too; situated between Kansas City and Topeka, we experience crime by individuals from these two larger metro areas. Roughly **30% of the inmates in custody in our jail are not even from Douglas County**—but their crimes were committed here.

To help alleviate overcrowding—and because Douglas County recognizes that **incarceration is neither necessary nor the best course of action for every offender**—the county has successfully implemented a number of **alternatives to jail** such as pretrial release, behavioral health court, DA diversions, and house arrest.

These not only help mitigate jail overcrowding, they better serve the individuals.

“There’s a common misconception out there that the jail is filled with people arrested for smoking marijuana. That’s just not the case.”

Undersheriff Gary Bunting (via LJWorld.com)

There’s no question, however, that alternatives to incarceration **are not viable options for every offender**. A shapshot of our jail taken on February 2, 2018 shows a total of **246 inmates in custody** for offenses ranging from criminal damage and multiple felony DUIs to sexual exploitation of a child and murder. It’s clear that the inmates in jail are there for good reason.

That said, and given our population, Douglas County has **one of the lowest incarceration rates in the nation**, according to the Vera Institute of Justice, an independent, nonprofit national research and policy organization.

