

Pennington County

2017 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet

We've got a problem to fix:

- Native Americans are overrepresented in Pennington County jails. Though Native Americans make up roughly 10 percent of the County's population, approximately 51 percent of the daily jail population in Pennington County are Native American.
- Non-felony arrests represent 70 percent of arrests in Pennington County, and there is an over-reliance on incarceration for low-risk, non-violent offenders.
- According to data collected by the JFA Institute, there were 7,035 bookings where the individual was considered a "high utilizer" of the jail and these individuals stayed an average of two days.
- Pretrial release is a significant driver of the jail population. The jail pretrial population alone made up 56 percent of the total jail population in May 2016.

Proposed solutions to create a safe, more fair and effective local justice system:

- Supported with \$1.75 million from the Safety and Justice Challenge, Pennington County will implement forward-looking, smart solutions to address the overuse of jails in the county and further reduce the local jail population by 20-24 percent over the next two years.
- To continue reducing the jail population safely, the county plans to implement four new strategies aimed at addressing racial and ethnic disparities, reducing system inefficiencies, and expanding non-jail options for lower-risk offenders.
- The county will conduct tribal outreach on reservations to implement several initiatives with the goal of reducing the overrepresentation of Native Americans in the Pennington County jail system and improving relations between county government and the reservations.
- Strategies range from pre-booking diversion to early release for non-violent offenders, and are enthusiastically embraced across public safety partners. These policy-driven innovations will reduce jail bed usage while ensuring the county advances its commitment to having the 'right' inmates in custody while ensuring access to critically needed services for all.
- Over the next two years the county will employ:
 - 1) increased focus on risk assessment and treatment
 - 2) new pretrial alternatives
 - 3) measures to reduce racial and ethnic disparities
 - 4) greater efficiencies in the way the courts process cases

Who is helping to affect change?

- Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Rapid City Police Department, Public Defender's Office, State's Attorney's Office, City Attorney's Office, Pennington County Health and Human Services, Pennington County Commission, and key community providers.