



## 2023 JAIL INFORMATION

Housing Information \* Booking & Charge Statistics \* Jail Incidents  
Inmate Services \* Courts & Transportation Unit  
Community Work Program \* Medical Unit  
Financial Reporting \* Jail Staffing \* Jail Needs/Maintenance  
Operational Improvements

IC 36-2-13-12. Sec. 12.

**(b) The Sheriff shall file with the county executive an annual report of the condition of the county jail and any recommended improvements in its maintenance and operation. The report shall also be filed with the county auditor and maintained as public record.**

As added by Acts 1980. P.L. 212. SEC. 1.

## HOUSING INFORMATION

1. The rated capacity of the LaPorte County Jail is 368 beds.
  - a. The jail inmate population was over 368 for 30 days in 2023.
  - b. The average daily inmate population count was 347 in 2023.
  - c. The highest one-day population of inmates was 383 / lowest was 308 in 2023.

## BOOKING STATISTICS

	Number	Percentage
Total Detainees	4428	100.00%
Adult Males	3207	74.42%
Adult Females	1219	27.53%
Adult Other	2	0.05%

### **Population Origin (Based on Billing)**

Parole Hold – DOC	7	0.16%
IN Dept of Correction	80	1.81%
HEA 1006 – DOC F6 Felons	1	0.02%
United States Marshal	4	0.09%
Other Agencies	268	6.05%

### **Percentage of Population by Race or Ethnic Origin**

White Male	1897	42.84%
White Female	850	19.20%
White Other	2	0.05%
African American Male	1014	22.90%
African American Female	296	6.68%
Hispanic Male	243	5.49%
Hispanic Female	61	1.38%
Native American Male	7	0.16%
Native American Female	7	0.16%
Indian Male	5	0.11%
Asian Male	13	0.29%
Asian Female	1	0.02%
Unknown Male	28	0.63%
Unknown Female	4	0.09%

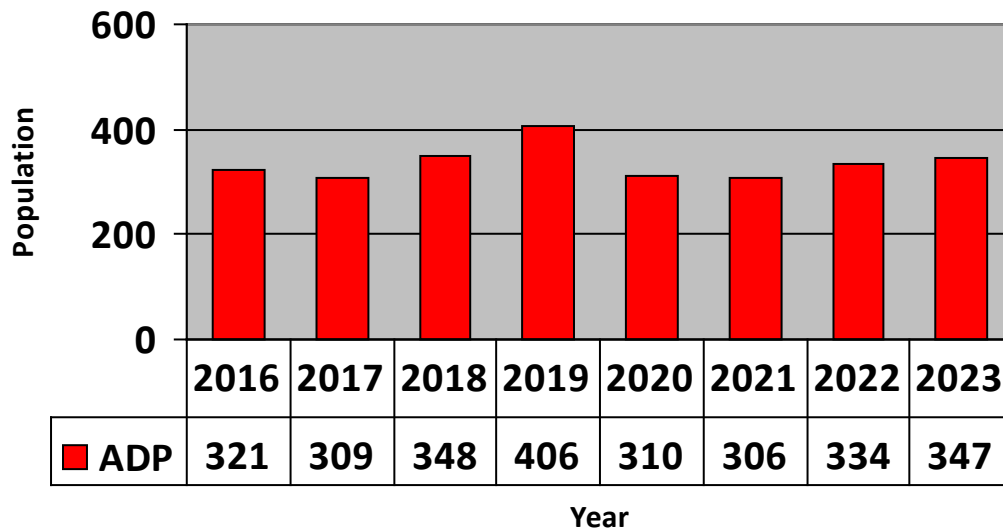
### Total Number of New Admissions/Releases

Admissions	4428
Releases	4416

### Top Ten Offenses

OFFENSE DESCRIPTION	COUNT
OPER WHILE INTOX – MISD.	894
FAILURE TO APPEAR	687
REVOC/SUSP/SENT	594
WANTED OTHER DEPT.	447
OWI ENDANGERING A PERSON (M)	318
RESISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT (M)	297
DOMESTIC BATTERY (M)	256
THEFT (F)	202
POSS. OF MARIJUANA	191
POSS. OF METH (F)	184

### Average Daily Population 2016-2023



## **JAIL IN-CUSTODY DEATHS**

In 2023, the La Porte County Jail had one (1) in-custody related death. On July 23, 2023, an inmate started acting erratic shortly after his incarceration began. Other incarcerated individuals housed with him said he admitted to swallowing something just before he was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 6 Felony). The inmate was then taken to the hospital where he went into full arrest. Dr. John D. Feczko determined the cause of the inmate's death was a drug overdose – methamphetamine related. The in-custody death was investigated by the La Porte County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau.

## **MAJOR DISTURBANCES**

There were no major disturbances in 2023.

## **NUMBER OF ESCAPES**

There were no escapes in 2023.

## **JUVENILES BOOKED INTO JAIL**

Males	0
Females	0

# INMATE SERVICES

## La Porte County Jail Programs and Services

The following are Programs and Services offered at the La Porte County Jail to assist with enhancing one's character and lifestyle. These programs are monitored and coordinated by the Director of Treatment Services. These programs are facilitated by community volunteers that have been cleared through the County's screening system and have a desire to support those struggling with various interpersonal issues.

- **Substance Abuse Class:** This program is for court-ordered females and males. This class is a collaborative effort sponsored by the La Porte County Judicial System and La Porte County Sheriff's Department. It is a 28-day, 56-session in-house closed treatment program facilitated by an addiction counselor of Swanson Center Community Mental Health Center. This class is the first of the three-phase intensive substance abuse classes offered by Swanson Center. Successful completion of this on-site class constitutes a court order to complete the outpatient phases two and three of the class. The class requires a \$100.00 evaluation fee using the Indiana Assessment and Needs Survey. Once evaluated, and if they meet the criteria for the class they are ordered to pay a \$450.00 fee for the class and material. The court determines if any referrals are indigent, and fees may need to be waived.
- **AA/NA Groups:** This is an open-ended group offered to both men and women who have not been court-ordered to the Substance Abuse class that are struggling with addiction. This is a voluntary class facilitated by volunteers from the YANA Club.
- **Counseling:** This is a service that is offered upon request to detainees needing brief solution-focused interventions to manage their moods and thoughts. This service is conducted by the on-site Treatment Services Director and any Master-level interns.
- **Spiritual Consultation:** This service provides non-denominational and denominational individual sessions focusing on supporting the inner spirituality. This service is offered upon request of the detainee.
- **Inside Out Dads Program:** This is an evidence-based fatherhood program offered by La Porte Family Advocates designed specifically for incarcerated fathers that provides guidance to fathers on how to succeed in society so they can be present in their child's life.

## **COURTS AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION**

The Courts and Transportation Division is tasked with transporting inmates to and from court, sometimes transporting inmates to and from the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) and other facilities, administering video arraignments, performing applicant investigations for potential employees, administering the Disciplinary Hearing Board per Indiana Adult Disciplinary statutes, and serving arrest warrants. The unit services all five (5) courts in LaPorte County; three (3) of which are located in Michigan City.

During the pandemic, all the court operations were conducted by video, Zoom meetings or telephonically within the facility. We are still utilizing virtual hearings as it has proven to be a helpful solution to minimizing inmate movement.

The unit stats for 2023:

### **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Transported a total of 539 inmates to court.
2. Administered video arraignment for 5,905 inmates.
3. Traveled 9,412.43 total miles for other related transports (DOC, other county jails, etc.)

### **DISCIPLINARY HEARING BOARD**

1. The Disciplinary Hearing Board heard approximately 521 hearings in 2023.

## **COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM (CWP)**

The Community Work Program was supervised in 2023 by Administrative Deputy Jim Jackson. The program is normally manned by 1 – 2 inmates daily. Due to the pandemic, providing inmate workers to the CWP program was suspended to keep the inmates safe. We started using inmate workers again on May 22, 2023. Various tasks are performed in the community for the following not-for-profit organizations (this is not an all-conclusive list):

- La Porte County Fair
- La Porte County Parks Department
- La Porte City Parks Department
- La Porte County Highway Department
- La Porte County Offices
- Low “Waterford” Cemetery
- La Porte County Sheriff’s Office Firearms Training Range
- American Red Cross
- La Porte County Sheriff’s Garage
- La Porte County Solid Waste Program
- Kingsford Heights & Kingsbury VFD
- Steady Stitches/Dunebrook
- Snow Removal
  - Around County Complex
  - For senior citizens when requested
- La Porte County 4-H
- La Porte County Building Maintenance
- La Porte County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Training Area
- La Porte County Fair Board
- Michigan City Park Department
- Michigan City Salvation Army
- Bethany Lutheran Church Red, Wine & Brew Fest

A total of 3,292 hours were worked by Administrative Jail Deputy Jackson and the inmate workers in 2023. Deputy Jackson and his crew have taken on many projects for the community, including: clean up and maintenance for the La Porte County Fair, prepping the La Porte County Sheriff’s Office Shooting Range for the 2023 season, and daily trash removal from the Jail Division to help lighten the load for the officers. Deputy Jackson’s willingness to help his fellow County employees does not go unnoticed.

## **MEDICAL UNIT**

All jails and correctional facilities are required by law to provide medical care to inmates, even for pre-existing conditions. In May 2019, La Porte County entered into a contract with Quality Correctional Care (QCC). As part of this new contract, QCC provides 24/7 nursing coverage to the La Porte County Jail. The upfront expense alleviates litigation expenses in the end. Coming in to our third year in contract, we have seen the benefits. Additionally, all legal avenues are being used by the medical unit to defray the cost to the taxpayers of this medical care. These avenues include:

- claims filed with the inmate’s health insurance company (when available),
- claims filed with Medicaid/HIP (when applicable),
- reimbursement from the Department of Correction (when applicable),
- \$15.00 per visit fee for being examined by the doctor,
- \$15.00 fee for prescription medications,

- \$5.00 for over-the-counter medications,
- \$15.00 fee for unnecessary requests to see a nurse,
- \$15.00 fee to see the dentist.

Following are the approximate medical costs for the years 2020 - 2023 for providing medical care to the inmates:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Medical Costs	\$954,133	\$950,586	\$1,014,142	\$1,100,370

### **DEPOSITS TO GENERAL FUND**

A total of \$135,568.98 was deposited to the general fund in 2023. The breakdown is as follows:

	Billed	Collected
Housing DOC Inmates	\$119,587.50	\$112,912.50
Inmate Medical Co-Pays	\$33,772.46	\$15,216.85
Restitution by Inmates for Damaging Jail Property	\$20,959.73	\$7,439.63
Total	\$174,319.69	<b>\$135,568.98</b>

### **JAIL STAFFING**

Seventy-two (72) employees comprise the staff of the LaPorte County Jail. Staffing assignments are as follows:

- |                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Administrative                 | 4  |
| 2. Operations                     | 54 |
| 3. Inmate Classification          | 1  |
| 4. Medical Deputy                 | 1  |
| 5. Utility Deputies               | 2  |
| 6. Community Work Program         | 1  |
| 7. Director of Treatment Services | 1  |
| 8. Courts and Transportation      | 7  |
| 9. Information Technology         | 1  |



## **Shift Operations**

In 2023, the Jail Staff operated quite well given the circumstances. The pandemic continued to cause staffing issues while we had employees testing positive. The result was that \$212,380.18 were spent in overtime monies. This amount was a decrease of \$18,978.53 from the previous year. A total of twelve (12) new employees were hired. In addition, some of the overtime costs were created by medical emergencies, illnesses, FMLA and inmate transports. Some of the vacancies were caused by Jail Deputies being hired by the La Porte County Sheriff's Office as a Merit Deputy or by other agencies as a law enforcement officer. This demonstrates that the La Porte County Jail continues to provide training and quality performance that prepares our deputies for career advancement. Other vacancies were created by Jail Deputies who resigned for various reasons.

## **Medical Unit**

A Jail Deputy is assigned to the Medical Unit to provide additional security and conduct medical relate transports.

In June 2022, we contracted with a new dental provider, Mid America Health, Inc. This was a result of Dr. Carter's retirement. We were in contract with him for over 30 years.

## **Inmate Classification**

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the housing and supervision of inmates in the Jail.

The Jail currently has one (1) Jail Deputy that performs classification duties full-time. As of October 2019, a Classification Team was organized and trained. Booking Jail Deputies are also trained in classification for initial inmate placement upon book in. This helps keep the holding cells in Processing clear for new intakes. Currently our team consists of eight (8) deputies amongst the ranks.

Inmate classification is a huge issue in corrections. The purpose of classification is to recognize inmates that can be housed together versus those who cannot. The principal is to keep the predators separated from the prey. The system works quite well in preventing inmate problems such as fights, extortion, rapes, etc.

## **TRAINING**

In 2023, the employees of the Jail Division received 4,386.25 hours of training. This number equates to an average of 60.92 hours of training received per employee. The state-minimum requirement for annual training hours is 16. A total of twelve (12) new jail employees were hired in 2023, five of which were re-hires. The new employees received a total of 2,138 hours of training prior to working on duty assignment by themselves. This number equates to an average of 178.17 hours of training received per new employee. The state-minimum requirement for new officer on-the-job training hours prior to working a post on their own is 80.

## **JAIL KITCHEN**

The overall cost in 2023 was \$617,525.52, continuing our cost savings of over \$200,000 per year. In addition to the meals that are prepared and provided to the inmates in the Jail, the Kitchen staff is also responsible for providing meals for La Porte County Community Corrections.

In 2023, a total of 31,550 meals were prepared for La Porte County Community Corrections. In 2023, a total of 382,136 meals were prepared for inmates being held in the La Porte County Jail. Thus, a total of 413,686 inmate meals were prepared in 2023 by the Kitchen staff.

## **JAIL NEEDS/MAINTENANCE**

The Maintenance Department took on many projects throughout the Jail during 2023. A team of maintenance employees are assigned to address matters that arise in the jail. This greatly assists with the maintenance demands of the jail and addressing them in a timely fashion.

1. In 2023, there were 2,042 work orders submitted for repairs within the jail.
2. HVAC, Plumbing and electrical issues as well as elevators and electronic communication devices will always be an ongoing problem as long as we are in this building. A linear facility design would alleviate a lot of the mechanical issues.

## **OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS**

On January 1, 2022, an updated Jail Division Standard Operating Guidelines manual was issued to all employees. This process took many years to complete; the last manual was issued in 2010. Regular reviews and updates will help keep the manual up to date with current standards. In 2023, five policy revisions were published to the staff.

Although we enacted a Use of Force review committee in 2019, we increased the frequency with which the reviews were done. The committee is continuously reviewing every use of force incident. The results are compounding as we provide constructive feedback to our staff as well as minimizing the risk of litigation.

Diversity training has been a mandated training since 2019. We feel we are creating a more well-trained staff by doing so as well as creating a positive work environment. Other training accomplishments to note are we continue to be 100% compliant with the Indiana Jail Standards' requirement to have all new jail officers attend a certified jail school within their first year of employment. Lt. Oliver has also joined in, instructing at the quarterly jail schools. Additionally, we have certified Defensive Tactics, OC, and TASER instructors on staff as well as a Certified Voice Stress Analysis Examiner to easily complete training and applicant background investigations.

One of our overall goals is to continue to support our staff. In 2023, we maintained a full staff by budget. Twelve (12) new deputies were hired to replace those who left the Jail Division. The law enforcement climate may not have popularity in places of our country, and we have seen some of that locally. However, we still maintain a full staff at the end of 2023.

In 2023 we automated our Use of Force review process, medical intake screenings, inmate property tracking, and numerous statistic-tracking documents in our Courts & Transportation Division.

Our goals for 2024 are to continue to automate several paper processes to bring the Jail into the technology age, form a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), work with the La Porte Community School System to provide a grant-funded GED program, and continue working with community groups throughout La Porte County to offer additional programs for our inmate population.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ronald C. Heeg  
LaPorte County Sheriff



Captain Andrew Hahn  
Jail Commander

Cc:  
Circuit Court Judge  
State Jail Inspector  
La Porte County Commissioner President  
La Porte County Council President  
La Porte County Prosecutor  
La Porte County Auditor  
File