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New Wayne County Public Dashboard Provides Accessible Inmate Data

Wayne County Sheriff and Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network launch database on all Wayne County inmates

DETROIT – The Wayne County Sheriff’s Office and the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network have launched an online, [public dashboard](#) that is updated daily and provides general information about the current inmate population in Wayne County Jails. The creation of the data systems and cross-organizational integration required to bring the dashboard to the public has been made possible by a collaboration between Wayne County Sheriff’s Office, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN), and software firm WIT Inc., and was funded by a grant from Hudson-Webber Foundation.

In early 2021, the Hudson-Webber Foundation awarded a two-year grant for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office and DWIHN to engage IT firm WIT to advance their existing analytics work within the jail population by developing a publicly accessible online portal.

“This dashboard reduces barriers to information at every level, providing all stakeholders, ranging from judges and sheriffs to community advocates and families, with a shared framework for understanding the current state of the jail population,” said Hudson-Webber Foundation President and CEO Melanca Clark.

The Jail Dashboard is an interactive tool that shows current information and statistics, updated every day, early in the morning, from the Wayne County Jail’s database. It provides general information about the current population of jail-supervised people, including both those housed at a facility and those on tethers. The information includes demographic makeup, mental health designations, length of stay in supervised care, level of charges, types of bookings, which originating agency is connected with inmate charges, inmate housing statistics, and the number of releases.

“When we started to chart the path from research to meaningful reform, we took a close look at other large cities facing similar issues, particularly those in Miami, Florida, and Memphis, Tennessee, to create

our own baseline for a system that brings together the information we collect across the jail system, and then feeds it all into a platform where the data can be accessed by all stakeholders, where we can put that data to good use,” said Wayne County Chief of Jails Robert Dunlap.

As part of an ongoing effort to increase transparency and interagency cooperation across the Wayne County Jail system, the dashboard project was initiated in 2018 after the partnership between the Sheriff’s office and DWIHN mounted a successful effort to track the mental health status of the inmate population. With their primary goals to implement mitigation and diversion procedures that can reduce the incarcerated population, and to deliver improved mental healthcare services to justice-involved individuals, Wayne County Chief of Jails Robert Dunlap and DWIHN Director of Innovation & Community engagement Andrea L. Smith began to look toward successful models in other urban communities for guidance.

“Across Wayne County, over 40 percent of local jail inmates have been diagnosed with mental health disorders, and many more in the system are likely undiagnosed and require some form of treatment,” said DWIHN Director of Innovation & Community Engagement Andrea L. Smith. “With the dashboard in place, we’re much better equipped to respond to the obvious urgency to improve and target our delivery of services, which not only raises the quality of life for people currently under jail-system supervision, but can also contribute dramatically to the prevention of recidivism, and to improve outcomes for the families and communities of released individuals in the long run.”

In addition to enhancing mental health services, the dashboard is intended to have a significant impact at the justice system level by providing the Wayne County Judicial System with up-to-date information on the numbers and case status of inmates awaiting trial. Combined with other indicators captured in the daily dashboard data, the Sheriff’s office and DWIHN intend to expand their collaboration with the court system to influence policy and procedures that can expedite court proceedings, lead to the reduction of cases through diversion and mitigation measures, and inform policymakers on the reforms and resources required to more effectively process cases.

“A primary goal of this tool is to be transparent about our incarcerated population,” said Dunlap. “In the long term, we are hopeful this dashboard will help us better understand the population and its characteristics, and that it will spark dialogue throughout our community about how we can work together to improve what we see. In particular, we hope the jail dashboard generates conversations about potential initiatives to reduce the length of stay for specific groups of people, alternatives to incarceration, and the need for additional programs and system-wide changes.”

The dashboard can be accessed at <https://www.sheriffconnect.com/dashboard/>

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ABOUT Hudson Webber Foundation

The Hudson-Webber Foundation's origins date back to 1939 with major contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Webber, other members of the Webber family, and The J.L. Hudson Company. The foundation is governed by a 15-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$200 million, and has contributed over \$200 million to improve the quality of life in Detroit. The mission areas of the foundation include support of community and economic development, built environment, safe and just communities, and arts and culture.

Visit Hudson-Webber Foundation online at: www.hudson-webber.org.

ABOUT The Wayne County Sheriff's Office

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office exists to protect the constitutional rights of each member of the community we serve by affirmatively promoting a climate of safety and security among all persons within our jurisdiction. The success of our mission will be realized by constantly working to achieve excellence in providing efficient and effective services to our community in a professional manner and by encouraging the active participation of our community in those efforts.

Visit the Wayne County Sheriff's Office online at: <https://www.sheriffconnect.com/>

ABOUT Detroit Wayne County Integrated Health Network

The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network serves as a public safety net and is the largest community mental health agency in Michigan serving 75,000 people in Wayne County. The DWIHN Provider Network supports and serves individuals with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, people with autism, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with substance use disorder.

For more information, www.dwihn.org or contact our 24/7 Access Helpline, 800-241-4949.

ABOUT WIT Solutions

WIT is an analytics and automation consulting firm with over 25 years of experience. We help our clients build solutions to maximize the value of their data and analytics assets, and automate key business processes. In partnership with elite software companies, WIT's capabilities span a broad spectrum of business functions and industry verticals.

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