



Government & Education | Economics & Public Finance | Health & Human Services | Nonprofits & Communities

Criminal Justice/Jail Population Needs Assessment

Prepared for Tompkins County, NY

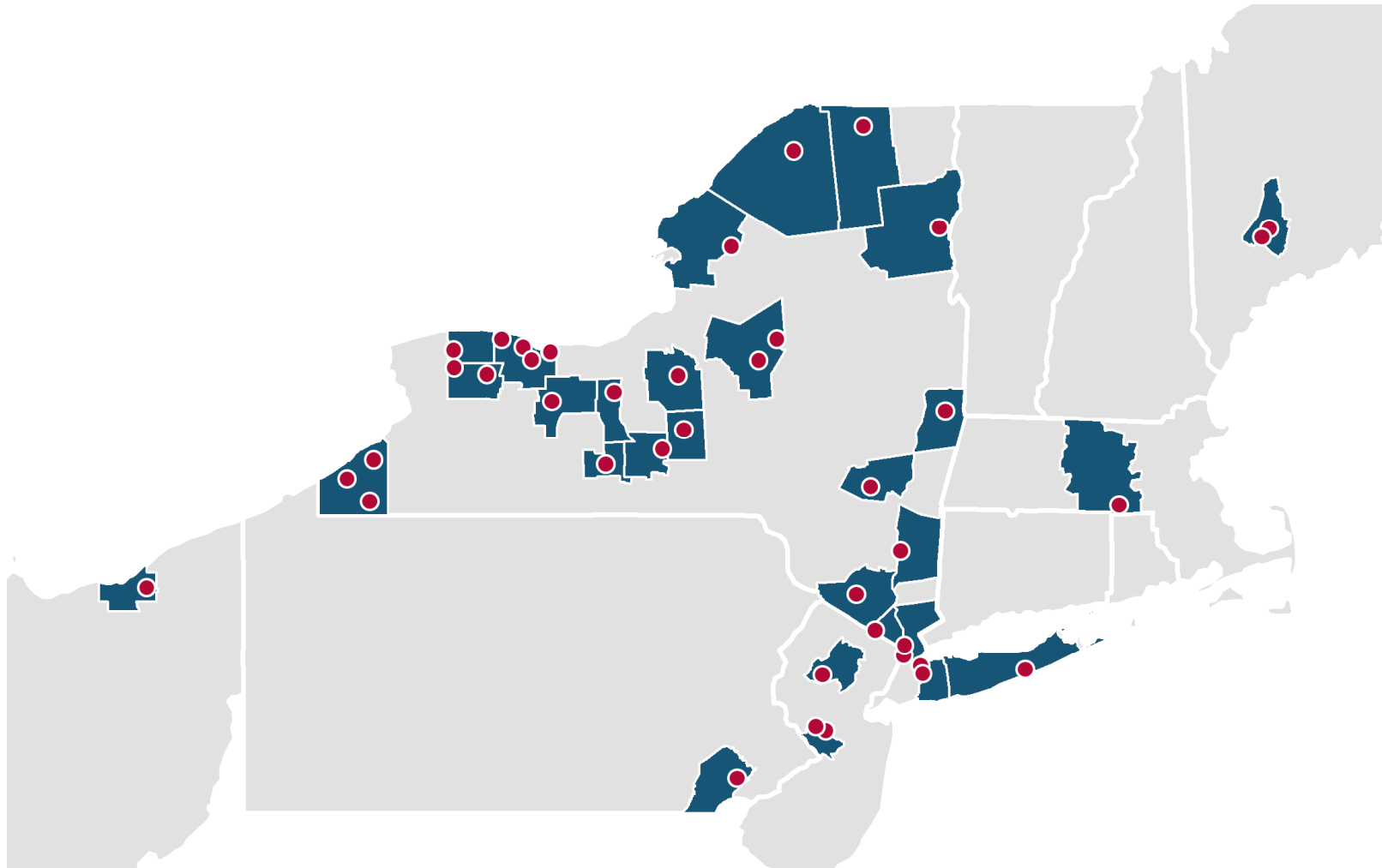
November 1, 2016



About CGR

- Independent nonprofit based in Rochester, NY
- Experienced and knowledgeable about Tompkins County, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions
- Easily accessible to Tompkins for on-site, hands-on interviews and consultation throughout project
- Deep understanding of relevant NYS legislation, regulations, practices and systems, and how systems can work together more effectively within counties

CGR's Public Safety Work since 2010

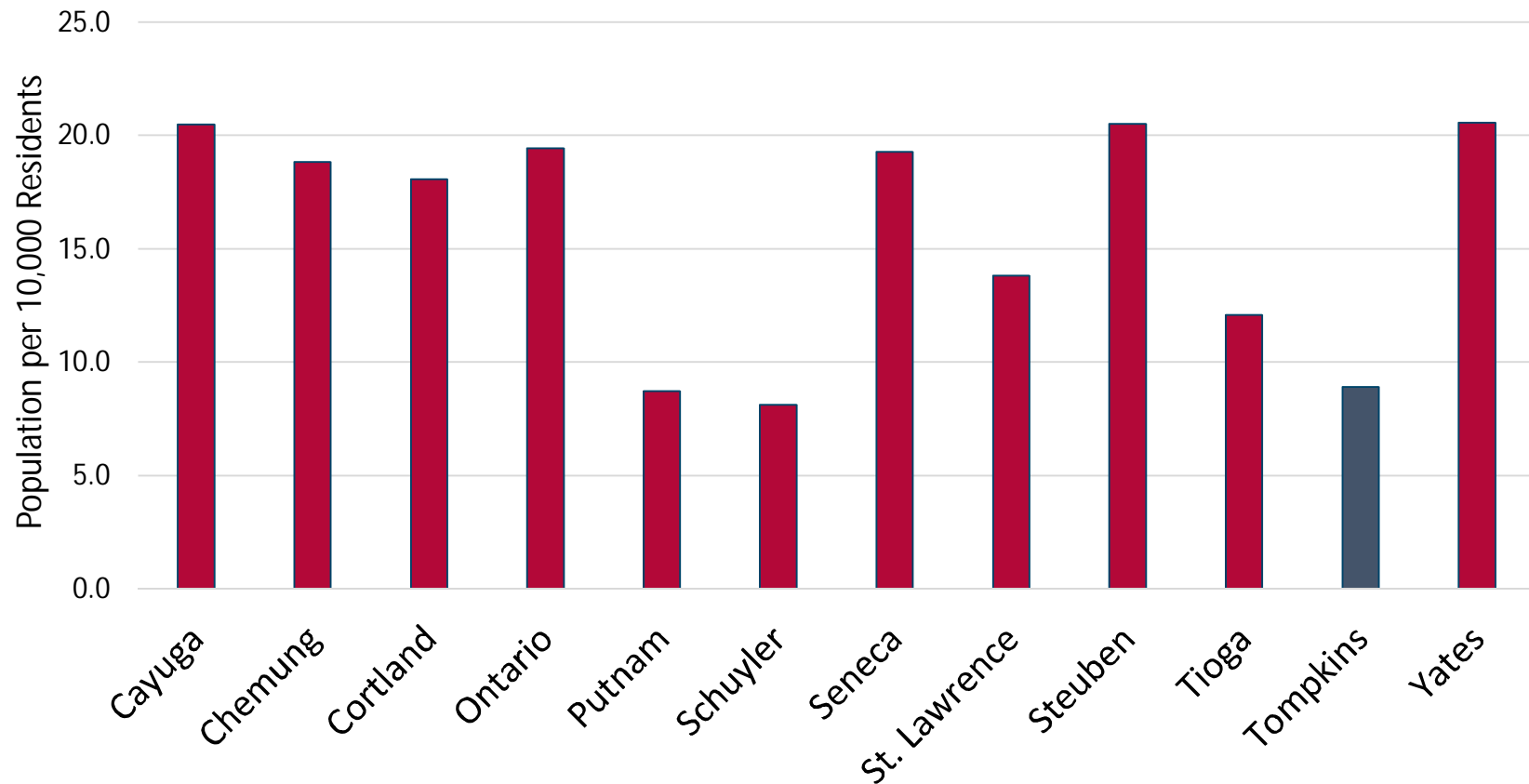


Our Project Team

- **Dr. Donald Pryor**, Principal in charge of human services and criminal justice analyses.
- **Paul Bishop**, MPA and Associate Principal, Government Management and Public Safety
- **Pete Nabozny**, MPA and Associate Principal, Management and Evaluation Assessments

Tompkins a Leader Among Comparable Counties in Limiting Jail Population

2015 County Jail Census
Tompkins, Neighboring and Similarly Sized Counties



Given Low Jail Census, What's the Project Goal?

- Primary goal is to reduce average daily census in Tompkins County jail
- Eliminate boarded-out placements to other jails. Thereby, avoiding need for expanding jail or building new jail
- If expanded or new jail is needed, develop cost-effective recommendations that limit the size and costs of any new or expanded jail facility.

Overall Approach - Interactive and Accessible

- Anticipate being on-site frequently
- Extensive interviews with key stakeholders at state and local levels
- Detailed review of previous studies
- Integrate CGR experience with local knowledge and perspectives

Start with Criminal Justice System Review

- Thorough overview of broad criminal justice system policies, practices and programs currently in place
- Review of relevant state legislation, regulations, policies.
- Assess the interactions and decisions between the different criminal justice programs and components.

Analyze Jail Population

- Historical analysis of trends in jail census, focusing on any changes in characteristics of inmates over time -
 - Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity
 - Types of charges
 - Sentenced vs. unsentenced
 - Length of stay
 - Bail amounts
 - Release status
 - ATI involvement
 - Mental health and substance abuse issues
- Particular focus on boarded-out inmates -
 - Characteristics
 - Cost
 - Social impact
 - Implications of related jail classification requirements
 - Goal of reducing boarding out in future

Assess Demographic and Crime Pattern Trends and Impact on Future Jail Census

- Examine trends in arrest charges and conviction data, including -
 - Changing patterns of criminal and anti-social behavior
 - Compare with jail inmate numbers and characteristics
- Incorporate analysis of Tompkins County population trends and future projections
 - Focus on trends within particular historically crime-prone ages
 - Add further perspective of future jail inmate population under current patterns of practice
- Project what jail population of future likely to look like

Analyze ATI Programs

- For all ATI programs, analysis of days spent in jail even for those in the programs prior to being released.
- Analyze extent of use of existing ATI programs
- Explore potential for expanding their use
- Identify possible changes in program criteria and ATI admission practices
- Assess probability of such changes being implemented including potential barriers

Analyze ATI Programs (cont'd)

- Analyze realistic impact on jail population of new ATI programs and alternative practices such as re-entry program, substance abuse and mental health initiatives
- Explore staffing, space and cost implications of maximizing program impact and reducing jail census

Analyze Prosecutor and Court Data

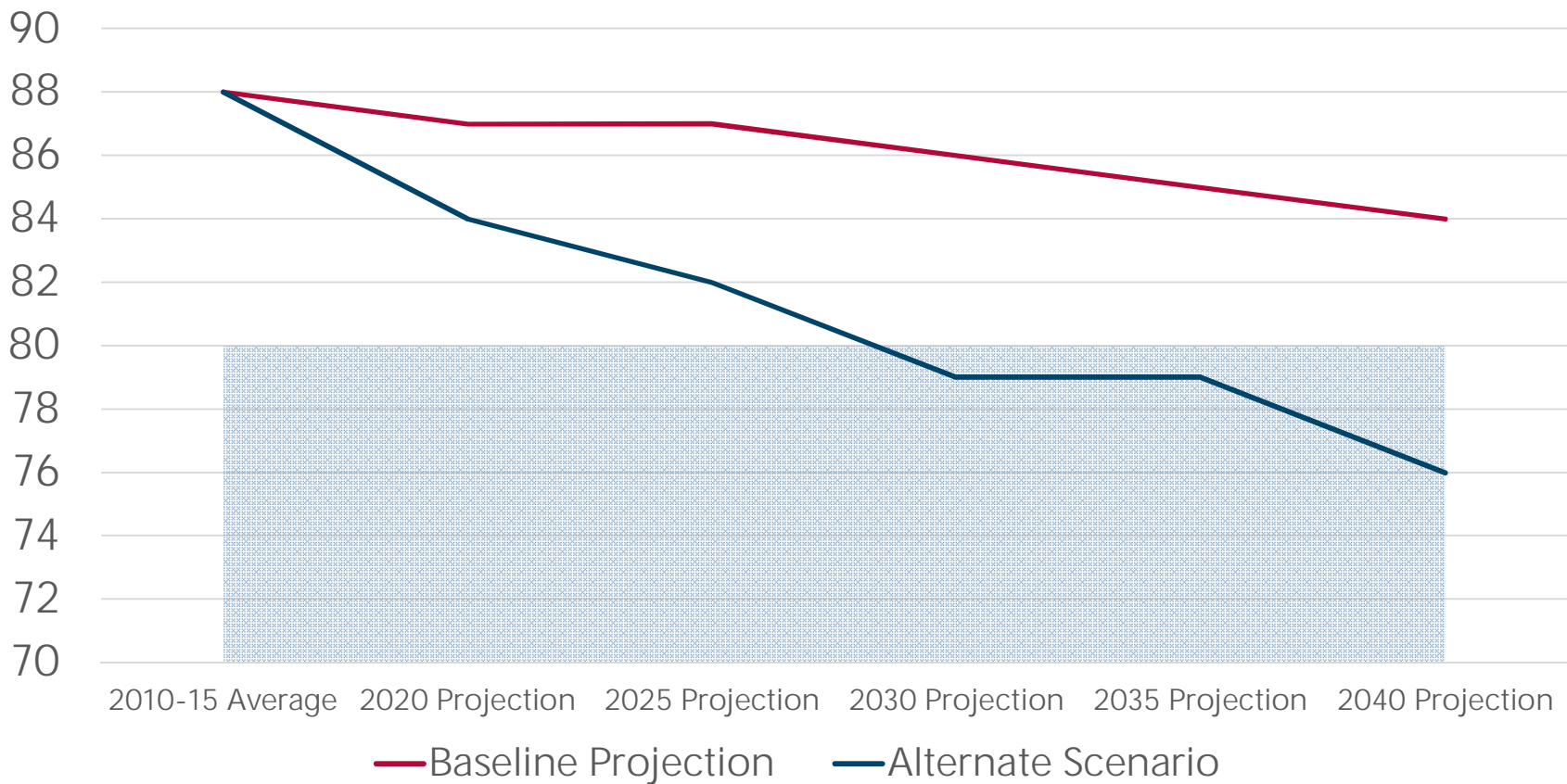
- Analyze trends in numbers and types of cases prosecuted by DA
 - Charge and court
 - Jail booking and release status,
 - Case dispositions and sentences
 - Time spent in jail, presentenced and sentenced
- Examine opportunities for processing efficiencies, to reduce time at various stages of cases
- Examine system efficiencies, changes in practices, and possible new or expanded use of sentencing alternatives.

Recommendations and Implications

- Focus on how to limit future number of jail cells needed to meet realistic future needs of County, considering average and peak demands, factoring in classification requirements and relevant regulations.
- Project trends of jail census and needed jail beds in five-year intervals under current programs and practices vs. projected bed needs if recommended changes are in effect.

Example of Jail Census Trend Analysis

Tompkins County Projected Jail Census Example
Baseline & Alternate Scenarios



Recommendations and Implications

- For all options considered, CGR will examine -
 - Potential value
 - Public safety implications
 - Staffing and space considerations
 - Costs
 - Implementation timeline
 - Practical and political implications of implementing, or not implementing, specific recommendations
- Assess impact of potential initiatives such as substance abuse rehab beds, detox facility, re-entry program, limited use of bail, and other community-based options.

Report and Presentations

- Report will focus on findings and specific recommendations and their implications for the County, the current jail, and only if necessary any new or expanded jail facility
- Draft report and implications to be reviewed with project's Jail Study Committee and Sheriff
- Final report and in-person presentations to full Legislature and public, if desired
- Publicly oriented Executive Summary of key findings and recommendations
- A project specific website to enhance access, if desired

Projected Project Timeline

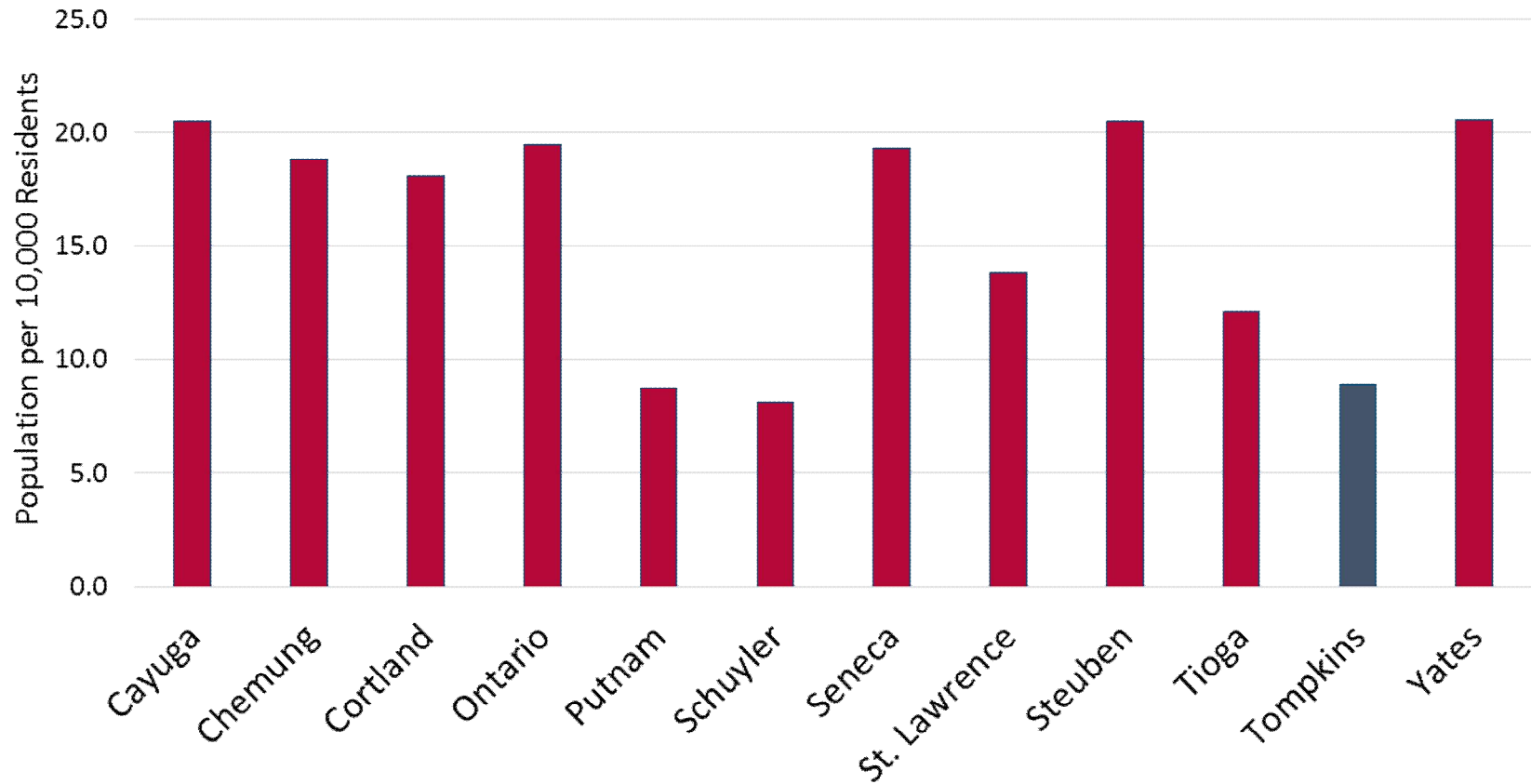
- Estimated project start date of December 1.
- Anticipate completion within maximum of six months
- Develop more detailed work plan and discuss with Jail Study Committee within first two weeks of project.

CGR's Relevant Experience

- CGR has deep understanding of NYS county and state practices, policies, internal operations, and relevant legislation, regulations, practices and systems, and how systems can work together more effectively within counties.
- Project director has county, state and national experience designing and evaluating ATIs and conducting jail and comprehensive criminal justice assessments.
- Consultation with some 15 counties in 1990s re ATI assessments and implications for future jail cell needs.
- Three more recent studies in Ontario, Steuben and Chemung counties.

Jail Census per Residents in Study Counties

2015 County Jail Census
Tompkins, Neighboring and Similarly Sized Counties



Impact of CGR's Recent Studies

- **Chemung:** Projected annual savings of \$1.1 million, plus avoidance of new jail. Average daily census 20% lower than 2006, just preceding start of study, among highest reductions in state. Additional reductions not pursued with retirement of criminal justice coordinator study began.
- **Ontario:** County cautious in expanding ATIs, but recommended systems improvements led to 10% reduced daily census through 2012, and avoided estimated \$2.5 million in jail expansion costs.
- **Steuben:** Projected reduction of 30 inmates per day. Total census today similar to start of study, but due to increase from 7 to 46 average federal inmates, adding substantial income to County, compared to previous outflow due to large boarding-out pre CGR study.

Questions and Answers