



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

Criminal Justice/Jail Population Needs Assessment Project Overview

Prepared for Tompkins County, NY

January 19, 2017

About CGR

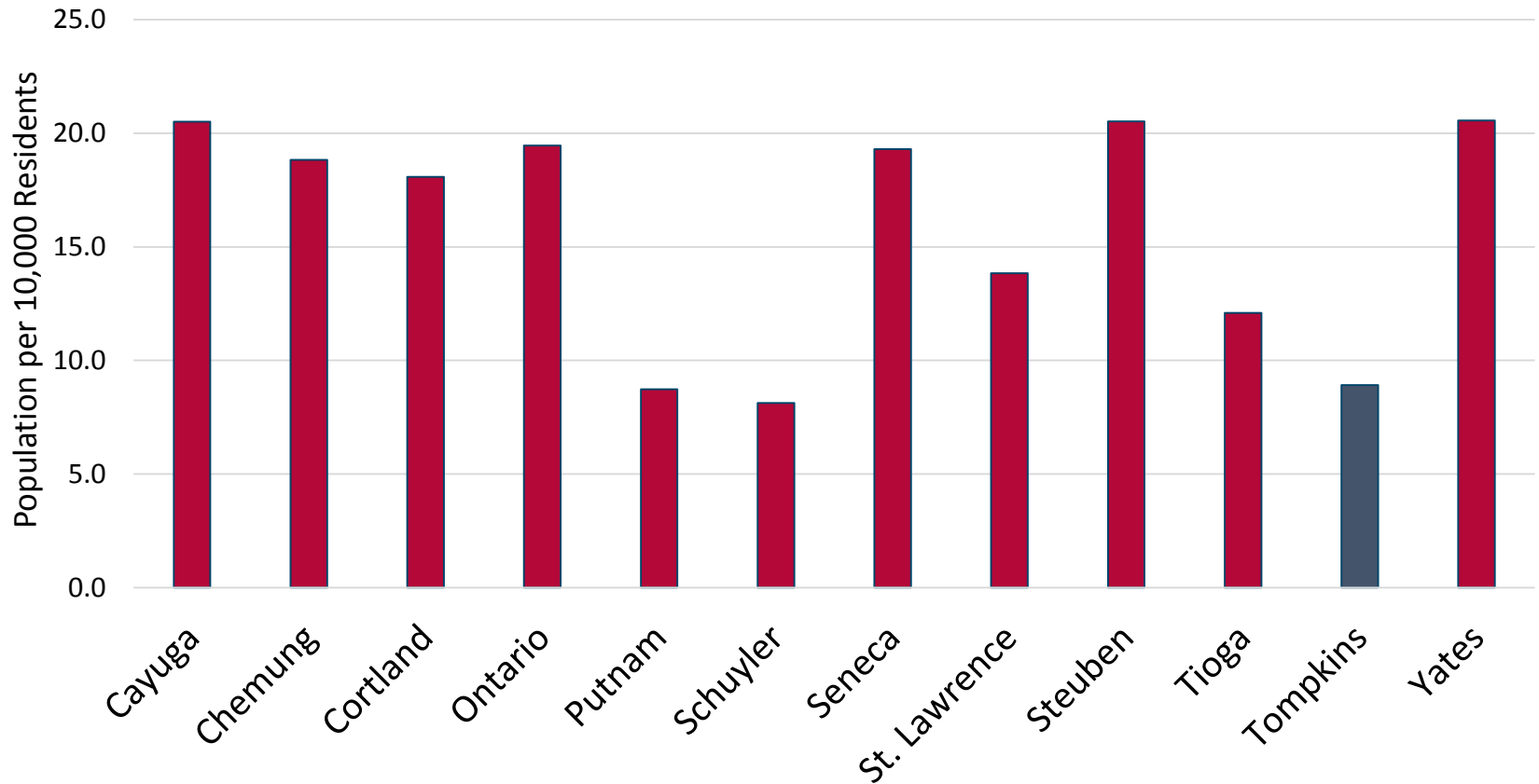
- Independent nonprofit based in Rochester, NY
- Experienced and knowledgeable about Tompkins County, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions
- Easily accessible to Tompkins for on-site, hands-on interviews and consultation throughout project
- Deep understanding of relevant NYS legislation, regulations,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

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

- Anticipate being on-site frequently
 - Four visits since 12/1/16, with more to come
- 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.

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 planned for June 2017
- Publicly oriented Executive Summary of key findings and recommendations
- Project Website: www.cgr.org/TompkinsCrimJust

Questions and Answers