



OFFICE OF
Sheriff of Vanderburgh County

Headquarters

3500 North Harlan Avenue • Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 421-6203

Noah Robinson
Sheriff

Nathan Sugarman
Chief Deputy

VANDERBURGH COUNTY JAIL

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The contents of this report are in compliance with IC 36-2-13-12 and 210 IAC 3-1-2, which require the Sheriff to file an annual report on the condition of the County Jail, with recommended improvements in its maintenance and operation as well as statistical data, availability of services and programs to inmates, major events, and unfunded operational needs.

General Facility Information

The Vanderburgh County Jail is located at 3500 N. Harlan Avenue in Evansville, IN. The facility serves as the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, housing the Administrative Division and the Jail Division. The Sheriff's Operations Center is also located on the same campus, but in a different building. The Jail houses pretrial inmates and inmates serving sentences.

Statistical Information

Total Beds-Average Daily Population: The Vanderburgh County Jail has the bed capacity to house 512 inmates in the detention housing area. Additional bed space in the holding area and medical section makes the number of operational beds 546. In 2024, the Vanderburgh County Jail detained an average of 653 inmates per day (See Table). The average daily population was 685 in 2023.

Month	Male	Female
January	507	106
February	500	111
March	481	109
April	466	105
May	479	101
June	468	97
July	456	92
August	475	103
September	455	84
October	432	77
November	413	82
December	414	88

Inmates Housed Out of County

Due to the lack of available bed space in the jail, Vanderburgh County utilized four other jails to hold inmates in 2024. Posey County, Indiana, Pike County, Indiana, Perry County, Indiana, and Jefferson County, Illinois, jails held an average of 130 inmates per day. In 2023 the average number of inmates held outside of Vanderburgh County was 122. On average, 20% of all Vanderburgh inmates were held in other jails in 2024.



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Total Bookings

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office booked a total of 8,977 prisoners (6,268 – male; 2,709 - female) into the Jail in 2024 as compared to 9,050 in 2023. The top ten bookings (most serious charge at time of arrest) in 2024, by charge:

Charges	Total
PTR, Parole, & Probation (Including Work Release/Treatment Court)	1856
Warrants – FTA (all types)	1337
Narcotics Related (all types)	1039
Battery (all types)	870
Hold On Judges Order	575
Theft (all types including Auto Theft)	467
Other Agency Charges	327
Disorderly Conduct & Related Offenses	304
OMVWI Related	160
Writ of Attachment	125

Juvenile Bookings: In 2024, there were twelve (12) juveniles booked into the Vanderburgh County Jail. All were male offenders. Below is a brief summary of the most common confinement reason:

Juvenile Charges in 2024	Total
Possession Firearm	7
Murder	3
Rape	1
Dealing Narcotics	1

Average Length of Incarceration: In 2024, the average length of incarceration was 18 days.

Summary of Major Disturbances in the Facility

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office documents all incidents that occur in the Jail. In 2024, jail personnel documented 7,551 incidents which occurred in the facility compared to 6,575 in 2023. Disturbances of interest handled in the facility are illustrated in the accompanying table.

Jail Incident	Jail
Non Compliance/ Disturbance/Riot	2088
Suicide Precautions	902
Injury/ Medical Problem	870
Rule Violation	412
Cell Search	363
Separations	257
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Response	222
Destruction Property / Sprinkler Damage / Flood	152
Assault/Attempt/Threat on Inmate	140



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Contraband / Other / Weapon / Drug	135
Unclothed Body Search (Strip Search)	83
Assault/Attempt/Threat on Officer	47

In-Custody Deaths and Suicide Attempts

The facility experienced two (2) in-custody deaths in 2024.

On July 20, 2024, at approximately 0630, jail and medical staff responded to a 60 year old male complaining of multiple medical issues including shortness of breath, nausea, and lightheadedness. Staff continued to monitor the individual as the medical staff member was obtaining vitals and assessing the described issues. AMR was requested and arrived shortly thereafter to transport the individual to the hospital for advanced care. While placing the individual on the gurney, he became unresponsive. Life saving measures were immediately taken by jail staff and AMR staff. These continued until the individual was transported to the hospital, where he ultimately dies. The cause of death was determined to be natural causes due to several pre existing health conditions including pulmonary thromboembolism and cardiovascular disease.

On December 6, 2024, at approximately 1615, jail staff were alerted to an inmate attempting suicide in the medical padded cell. When officers and medical staff arrived, they found a 45 year old male who was unresponsive. The individual had fastened a noose out of his jail issued sheet and hung himself. Immediate life saving measure were performed by jail staff and emergency services were requested. Prior to transport to the hospital at approximately 1700, first responders were able to regain a pulse. Due to his condition, the courts were petitioned for a release from custody. This release was granted approximately 1920 later that evening. The individual remained in a local hospital on life sustaining devices until December 13, when he ultimately died at 1851. This cause of death was determined to be by suicide.

The facility documented eight (8) suicide attempts and an additional twelve (12) incidents where the inmate intentionally injured or attempted self-injurious behavior. There were 902 reports of inmates being placed on Suicide Precautions.

Escapes or Escape Attempts: In 2024, zero (0) successful escapes were made from the Vanderburgh County Jail.

Confinement Center Staffing Levels

During 2024 the jail was operated while experiencing a shortage of manpower. These shortages were a result of employee turnover and difficulty in recruiting qualified applicants. However, due to an aggressive advertising campaign, increased presence at job fairs and community engagement events, combined with monetary incentives and salary increases provided by the Vanderburgh County Council, hiring and retention continued to trend favorably.

The Jail Division increased its fully trained officer staff by 10 from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. We had an additional 2 officers in training at the beginning of the year. At the end of 2024, manpower levels were:

1 st Shift		2 nd Shift		Relief Crew		3 rd Shift	
Lieutenant	1	Lieutenant	1	Sergeants	2	Lieutenant	1
Sergeants	2	Sergeants	2	Officers	18	Sergeants	3
Officers	18	Officers	19	Booking Clerk	2	Officers	19
Booking Clerk	2	Booking Clerk	1	Reception Clerk	2	Booking Clerk	2



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Reception Clerk	2	Part-time Clerical	1		
New officers in training (not counted as regular manpower) 2					

First shift, second shift, and relief crew require 20 officers and 2 sergeants to cover the shift and regular days off. Third shift requires 21 officers and 3 sergeants to cover the shift and regular days off.

The jail has positions for three (3) Staff Sergeants assigned to specialty positions. They are divided into 3 main areas. The facilities manager staff sergeant is responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant, inmate commissary, supplies for the jail staff, and needs of the inmates other than food and medical. The compliance staff sergeant oversees inmate and officer rule compliance in the housing units, criminal intelligence and security threat group monitoring, ongoing criminal investigations, and process improvement. One staff sergeant is in charge of training. All three staff sergeants are cross-trained and interchangeable.

Three (3) COs are assigned to video court full time. They compile daily court lists and run two video court sessions simultaneously. They also serve as an important liaison between the courts and the jail.

One (1) jail officer serves as the Jail K9 Handler. In March of 2024, the Sheriff established this new role in the Jail Division. This officer utilizes his K9 partner to search for narcotics throughout the facility during routine jail procedures and unannounced facility searches. They also serve an important role in ensuring the facility's perimeter security. When not utilizing the K9, this officer works with the Staff Sergeant in charge of facility compliance in a variety of roles.

Two (2) jail officers serve as Jail Transport Officers. In March of 2024, the Sheriff established this new role in the Jail Division. These jail officers transport inmates to and from off site medical appointments, both scheduled through our medical provider and emergent transports. In 2024, there were a total of 396 off site medical transports. These officers provide a vital resource as they allow the motor patrol deputies to remain in the community ensuring the safety of the county as opposed to transporting inmates to and from appointments.

The establishment of the Jail K9 and Jail Transport officers have continued the expansion of career opportunities within the Jail Division. These new roles and future growth opportunities are vital to the retention of qualified, career minded jail officers.

Staffing levels are continually challenged due to position vacancies. To fill CO vacancies, the Sheriff's Office hired twenty four (24) jail officers in 2024 compared to forty three (43) jail officers in 2023. Vacancies have been due to resignations, terminations, career advancements, and failing to meet new officer training requirements and standards. Of the twenty four CO's hired in 2024, seventeen (17) were still employed at the end of the year.

Staffing shortages have left the Jail in a perpetual training mode to acclimate the new confinement officers. The shortages have regularly left shifts open, causing overtime to maintain minimum staffing levels.

The jail runs a field training program which provides orientation to the facility and helps prepare probationary officers to work within the confinement setting. The training staff consists of one staff sergeant who manages the program, develops training policy, and monitors overall quality control. The staff sergeant also oversees the field training officers, reviews their evaluation reports, monitors the progress of the new employees, and the consistency in which our trainers teach. The jail also has twelve



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senior jail officers, or Field Training Officers, (3 per shift) who train the probationary jail officers and evaluate their progress.

Inmate Services

The Jail provides the following services for inmates:

Inmate Health Care Services

Quality Correctional Care was the contract medical provider for the jail from January 1 to February 29, 2024. On March 1, the medical provider changed to Comprehensive Correctional Care. Although the vendor changed, none of the services provided to the inmate population changed. They provide the jail with inmate medical care 24/7. The medical section has a physician providing facility oversight and a dentist who is on-site once per week to provide a variety of basic dental procedures and routine cleaning. With the vendor change, we added a 40 hour/week nurse practitioner. She completes daily sick call with the other staff nurses, while focusing on inmates requiring an advanced level of care and the chronically ill population. CCC's staff is comprised of:

- One (1) Medical Director/ Site Manager (RN)
- One (1) full time Nurse Practitioner,
- Six (6) full-time nurses (2 RN and 4 LPN)
- Four (4) full-time Medically Trained Personnel (MTP)
- One (1) full-time MSW for inmate mental health needs.
- One (1) full time LSW who provides substance abuse classes/programming (MRT) .

The medical unit conducts health assessments within 14 days after initial arrest. Although the medical staff has 14 days to complete this process, most health assessments are completed within the first 24 to 72 hours post arrest. The nurse practitioner developed a triage system for health assessments. This system ensures the inmate requiring the highest level of medical care gets their health assessment in an expedited time frame. They provide inmates with STD, HIV and TB tests. They initiate care plans, coordinate outside medical services such as emergency room visits, doctor visits, dental visits, and specialized treatments. The medical unit processes all inmate sick call requests to determine if an inmate receives in-house treatment or is seen by a doctor.

Sick Call / Non-Emergent Care: The facility sick call procedure is how inmates request medical treatment for non-emergent health issues. Sick call is conducted 7 days per week by the staff nurses on duty. The nurse practitioner evaluates any inmate requiring advanced care during the sick call process and provides nursing staff with any assistance needed. In 2024, jail medical staff made 33,961 inmate contacts. These contacts include but are not limited to: daily blood pressure checks, lab work, daily treatments/dressing changes, detox checks, and health assessments. Sick call requests accounted for 6,661 of these contacts.

Emergency Medical Treatment: The medical staff makes every effort to care for inmates in-house. They are aware of the security risks and expense of sending an inmate off campus. In 2024, 396 inmates were treated outside of the jail. Besides the emergency room visits, most of these appointments were for specialists, obstetrics, orthopedics, general follow-ups, or dialysis.

Mental Health Services: CCC's full-time therapist reviews inmate mental health medications and reviews the status of suicidal inmates. She also does weekly and monthly follow-ups with inmates who have been removed from suicide watch. The Vanderburgh County Jail's mental health professionals made 3,596 contacts with inmates in 2024. Our mental health team was retained during the contract change in March.



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Kitchen Services

ARAMARK is the vendor contracted to provide inmate meal service. They served 647,811 meals to those incarcerated in the Vanderburgh County Jail.

Aramark In2Work Program

Aramark offers the In2Work program for interested incarcerated individuals working in the kitchen. This program teaches participants valuable skills in the food service industry that can immediately be utilized following incarceration. Graduates receive "ServSafe" certification from the National Restaurant Association. Graduates are eligible for hire following release at Aramark operated locations.

Inmate Worker Program

Jail staff operates a voluntary program for inmates who qualify. The inmate worker program allows participants to work in the facility and earn extra privileges. Tasks include working in the laundry room, kitchen services, janitorial services, warehouse services. This program is monitored by six (6) confinement officers and one (1) confinement sergeant.

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC)

The EVSC provides a contact person to provide individualized educational services for inmates between the ages of 18 and 21. These services target inmates who had special needs in school prior to being incarcerated and are specifically directed towards Math and Language Arts. Each requesting student is interviewed by a Special Education teacher for background information to see if they are eligible. Once it is determined the inmate is eligible and at what grade level they are at, an Individualized Service Plan conference takes place to set up the inmate's schedule. The teacher uses homework, formal and informal assessments, and reading assignments as tools to gauge the inmate's progress. The educational program is not a GED program.

Library

Jail staff maintains library service, distributing books to inmates once a week. Paperback books are donated by a variety of sources including The Evansville Public Library and other community partners.

Religious Services

Our chaplaincy program is provided by Good News Jail & Prison Ministry (GNJPM) at no cost to Vanderburgh County. GNJPM provides a full time, all-inclusive chaplain with a full chaplaincy program. This program is led by Chaplain Scott Bailes who heads a team of 4-6 volunteer chaplains and 30 volunteer instructors. GNJPM is committed to meeting the needs of inmates of all religious faiths within the guidelines established by law. The chaplaincy services are available to all inmates regardless of their personal beliefs or lack thereof.

- Church services
- Christian based recovery classes
- Cognitive Renewal classes
- Classes for Catholic inmates
- One on one counseling with the chaplains or one of their volunteers
- Access to their personal clergy regardless of faith
- Death notification and grief ministry
- Donated religious literature from any faith
- Use of KIOSK system for religious requests and chaplain services.
- Islamic one on one services



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AA Classes

Alcoholics Anonymous programming is offered to the inmates thanks to generous help by volunteers. the program is offered every Friday night to both male and female inmates.

Veterans Justice Outreach Program

The Vanderburgh County Jail partners with the Veterans Administration to offer services for incarcerated veterans. This program diverts veterans to Vanderburgh County's treatment courts including the veteran's problem solving court. It also assists veterans with medical care, mental health care, and housing post-release.

Pre to 3

The Vanderburgh County Jail partnered with the Vanderburgh County Health Department to counsel pregnant inmates. The Pre to 3 program is designed to support families during pregnancy and up until the baby is three years old. The emphasis of bringing this program to the jail is for the Health Department to maintain contact with the mothers after they are released from custody and to teach them important skills that build a healthy home.

Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)

Inmate specific substance abuse/mental health counseling services are offered through our medical provider. The program offers small group and individual therapy focused on several like skills areas including but not limited to: anger management, parenting, workforce readiness, and work/life balance. Additional focus areas include post-release considerations such as connecting to community resources for housing assistance, medications, and overall health care. A total of 1,343 incarcerated individuals participated in this program in 2024. The program is offered through grant funding and the Indiana Sheriff's Association.

Competency Restoration "The Vanderburgh Model"

When an inmate is found incompetent to stand trial they are ordered to go to the state hospital for treatment. The wait for a bed at the state hospital can be six months or longer. The entire process can delay an inmate's case for over a year. The FSSA (Indiana Family and Social Services Administration) worked with the Vanderburgh County Jail, our medical provider QCC, and Southwest Behavioral Health to develop a program to restore competency during the wait time for the state hospital. This program continued without interruption when our medical provider changed to Comprehensive Correctional Care in March of 2024. The goal is to speed up disposition of the inmate's court case, free up jail space, and reduce the number of inmates sent to Indiana's psychiatric hospitals. The program is the first of its kind in Indiana. It is now being implemented in other counties and is referred to as the "Vanderburgh Model".

Future 2025 Programming

Southwest Indiana Recovery and Empowerment

In 2025, the Southwest Indiana Recovery and Empowerment Incorporated (SWIRE) will begin providing services to the inmates of the jail. This Recovery Community Organization will work at the jail providing inmates with "peer led" counseling and mentorship. They will also provide re-entry services to include: providing access to community treatment organizations, housing, employment, and other community resources.

IRACS

Continued working with the state to bring the IRACS program to the jail. This program will work with interested and appropriate inmates providing "peer led" counseling inside of the facility. They will work with the team at SWIRE to reduce the recidivism rate of the jail and, ultimately, better the lives of the individuals incarcerated at the jail.



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Southwest Behavioral Health

The jail will partner with Southwest Behavioral Health (SWBH) to provide mental health services for incarcerated individuals. This will be done in addition to the services already provided by our medical vendor. The design of the new jail will include a 10-person mental health unit. When completed, this unit will be staffed by the team at SWBH.

Court Security Section

The Court Security Section is responsible for inmate court calendar scheduling, inmate security at the courthouse, all inmate transports to/from the courthouse, to prison, transports to other jails, and court ordered transports. The section works hard to manage large number of inmates seen in court on a daily basis. The following statistics illustrate the sheer number of inmates transported:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
TRANSPORTED TO COURT		
Inmates Transported between Court and Jail	481	573
TRANSPORTED TO IDOC		
Males transported	402	466
Females transported	77	102
Inmates transported for Parole	8	2
Total inmates transported to IDOC	487	570
WARRANTS TRANSPORTED		
In-State	403	198
Out of State	164	146
Total warrants transported	564	344
TRANSPORTED – COURT ORDER		
Inmates returned to Vanderburgh County	149	223
Inmates returned to other facilities	30	57
Inmates to State Hospital	47	47
Inmates transported to treatment facilities	157	73
Total inmates transported for Court Orders	383	400
LEVEL 6/ DOC INELLIGIBLE TRANSPORTS	458	549
TRANSPORT MILES LOGGED	98,274	117,440

Video Court

The Vanderburgh County Jail runs two video court rooms within the jail. Video court conducts a variety of hearings, with the largest number being initial hearings for newly arrested individuals. Those hearings are in Misdemeanor, Superior Division II, Circuit, Juvenile, and Domestic courts. The use of video court reduces the number of inmates physically transferred to the downtown court complex. It decreases security issues and costs associated with physical transports. A total of 17,118 hearings were conducted in the jail video court rooms during 2024.



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Projected Maintenance Improvements

The Vanderburgh County Jail collaborates closely with the Evansville Vanderburgh Building Authority (EVCBA) to maintain the facility. As the owner of the building, the EVCBA oversees on-site maintenance and upkeep. However, as the facility continues to age, increasing maintenance costs are to be expected.

In August 2024, a structural integrity assessment was conducted, identifying issues stemming from the building's original construction. The report noted instances of poor coordination between the foundation contractor and the precast concrete supplier, stating: *"...locations around the building where it is apparent that coordination between the concrete contractor installing the foundations and the precast concrete supplier was poor. Field-fabricated anchorage/connections for the precast concrete panels to the foundation were installed to accommodate misalignment conditions, and the connections are exposed to view..."*

The assessment documented multiple areas of deterioration and aging. Cracks and holes in the concrete were prevalent in inmate living areas, while the exterior precast concrete panels exhibited similar structural deficiencies. Notable issues included vertical cracks near building corners, cracking at panel joints, and cracks near the foundation.

Although the assessment did not recommend immediate remediation, it highlighted deficiencies that could impact the facility's long-term usability, durability, and maintenance requirements.

The September 2024 Visual Jail Structural Assessment from Hodge Structural Engineers is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Completed or Scheduled Maintenance Improvements

The following improvements were either completed or are in the process of being completed:

- Kitchen Upgrades and Repairs
 - Installed new 60 gallon kettle
 - Installed new 40 gallon tilt skillet
 - Installed new warming cabinet
 - Installed new garbage disposal
 - Replacing/Maintaining other aging equipment
- IT Upgrades
 - Additional cameras added to general population areas throughout the facility
 - Continued replacing aging cameras throughout areas of the facility
 - Continued development of SWC security system upgrade
- The Vanderburgh County Jail has future plans for the following facility improvements:
 - Finalizing New Jail Construction/Architectural Plans.
 - SWC Commander/Intercom/Camera Upgrade. This project will begin January 2025.
- Future plans include:
 - Cisco phone upgrade
 - WIFI upgrade
 - IT Infrastructure upgrades



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Need for More Jail Beds and Staff

The average daily population of the jail in 2024 was 653. This number does not include the additional 130 inmates housed in our overflow facilities (Pike, Perry, Posey, and Jefferson). The Vanderburgh County Jail has consistently operated over its rated capacity of 546 inmates for the past 10 years. There is no expectation the trend will change.

The Vanderburgh County Jail partners with other jails to hold excess inmates, as mentioned earlier in this report. We have been fortunate to sustain our working relationships and numbers with our current partner jails. The strategy of holding inmates in other jails was never meant to be a long term solution. Over the past several years, we have lost bed space in other facilities due to those facilities seeking more lucrative federal inmate contracts. We have also lost space due to increasing daily populations of our partner facilities. As conditions in other counties change, there is a distinct possibility that the Vanderburgh County Jail will lose their bed space and have to return inmates to our Evansville campus.

In addition to an immediate need for an increased number of jail beds, the jail is understaffed. Proper staffing is even more critical while the jail is at or exceeding capacity. Full staffing is required to ensure the safety and security of the facility and to comply with state jail standards. However, the national trend of job seekers not pursuing a career related to law enforcement is a hindrance to our efforts.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, along with the County Council, have worked to find creative solutions to attract new, and retain existing, jail officers. We have increased our staff numbers throughout 2024, however, we still operate below the number of officers our facility and inmate population require.

As the new jail addition construction moves toward completion in 2025 and 2026, this staffing shortage will be acutely felt as plans are made to operate the new facility. Jail staffing levels and inmate population levels remain our two most pressing concerns for 2025.

Noah Robinson 04/15/25

Noah Robinson, Sheriff

Nathan Sugarman

Nathan Sugarman, Chief Deputy

David Guetling

David Guetling, Jail Commander



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APPENDIX A – Visual Jail Structural Report



22 Chestnut Street, Evansville, Indiana 47713
Phone 812.422.2558 Fax 812.422.3337

www.hodgestructural.com

9/30/2024

Mr. David Rector
General Manager
Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Authority
Room 317, Administration Building
Civic Center Complex
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47708
drector@evcba.org

Re: Visual Structural Assessment
Vanderburgh County Jail
3500 N. Harlan Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
HSE Project No. 24026

Dear Mr. Rector,

Per our letter of agreement (dated 5/29/2024), Hodge Structural Engineers performed a Visual Structural Assessment of the Vanderburgh County Jail Facility. The assessment included the Sheriff's Office, the Emergency Operations Center, and the Community Corrections facility.

During the structural assessment, the writer entered all readily accessible building areas, the buildings' roofs, and the perimeter of the facility. I was accompanied by Mr. David Holly at all times. The field portion of the work was performed on July 31 and August 1, and began with the exterior, perimeter of the facility. After assessing the perimeter of the building, the assessment covered, in sequence, the roof, Detention Pod A, Detention Pod B, the warehouse, the kitchen, the medical facilities, the sallyport, booking, the Sheriffs' Office, Emergency Operations Area, and the Community Corrections building.

The Vanderburgh County Jail facility consists of four buildings: Sheriff's Office, (2) Detention Buildings, and the Community Corrections Building. All four buildings are similarly plant-precast concrete structures with precast concrete, loadbearing wall panels (exterior wall panels are insulated), precast concrete beams and columns and precast concrete floor panels. The detention pods have several two-cell precast concrete units, and there is limited structural steel and open-web bar joist framing. We were provided structural and architectural plans for the Sheriff's Office and Detention Buildings, and those drawings appear to fairly accurately depict the "as-built" condition.

Based on my site observations and a limited review of the construction drawings, my assessment is as follows:

A. Precast Concrete Construction:

9/30/2024

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Evansville, Indiana
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1. Most of the indications of deterioration and aging were noted in the exterior precast concrete wall panels.
 - i) In the detention pods, the exterior insulated precast concrete panels are both load-bearing (the walls parallel to the longitudinal axis of each pod leg) and non-loadbearing at the ends of the pod (at the Outdoor Recreation areas). For most wall panels, only the interior and exterior faces are exposed to view. The sides of the non-loadbearing walls were visible, however, and typically exhibited a crack in the concrete side. The crack extended the full-height of the precast concrete panel, and aligned, nearly, with the layer of insulating material cast into the precast concrete panel. See Photographs 1-4, Appendix A.
 - ii) From the interior side of the detention pods, the faces of the precast concrete panels were exposed to view. Typically, on those walls, it is very common to observe separation wherever an interior surface abuts the exterior precast concrete panel. The separation is more noticeable where the mezzanine-level floor abuts the end (non-loadbearing) precast concrete wall panels.
 - iii) For a very large percentage of the exterior wall panels, it is common to find hairline cracks at the base of the precast concrete panel. The cracks are typically vertical and propagate from the base of the panel upward. The cracks appear to originate in the general vicinity of the locations where the precast concrete wall panels are supported at the foundation. See Photographs 5-7, Appendix A.
 - iv) There are several locations around the building where it is apparent that coordination between the concrete contractor installing the foundations and the precast concrete supplier was poor. Field fabricated anchorage/connections for the precast concrete panels to the foundation were installed to accommodate mis-alignment conditions and the connections are exposed-to-view around the Sheriff's Office building. See Photographs 8 and 9, Appendix A.
- B. Structural Steel Framing
 1. As noted, there is limited structural steel framing in the building, and that steel is predominantly, interior framing that is protected from the elements. There is an exterior, covered parking area on the west side of the building, just to the north of the sallyport. The framing for the roof over the parking area includes three structural steel columns, two of which extend to the ground level. Those two columns are deteriorating due to the water exposure and will eventually require repair. See Photograph 10, Appendix A
- C. Assessment/Conclusions
 1. Most of the conditions that I observed at the Vanderburgh County Jail facility were related to the precast concrete construction. In my professional opinion, none of the observed conditions represents a structural deficiency that is an immediate threat to the safety of the building occupants. The deficiencies are more representative of serviceability issues.

9/30/2024

Re: Visual Structural Assessment
Vanderburgh County Jail
3500 N. Harlan Avenue
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That is, the observed conditions represent deficiencies that will affect the usability of the facility, and the durability and maintenance of the facility.

2. With respect to the conditions described in paragraphs A.1.i and A.1.ii above, the most likely cause for the observed conditions is the thermal response behavior of the precast concrete panels. The exterior side of the exterior wall panels is exposed to seasonal fluctuations in temperature while the interior side maintains a relatively constant temperature. As the exterior face changes temperature over a wider range than the interior face, the panel will bow and it will cause differential movement between the panel and any abutting interior elements. Where the joints between precast concrete panels and interior elements is crossed with an elastic sealant, the movement is not as easily detected. However, wherever the interface between a precast concrete panel is filled with a rigid, brittle material, the differential movement is manifested as a crack. The condition is less severe where the precast concrete wall panel is loadbearing and is restrained by floor and roof framing. Where the panels are not restrained by floor framing along their height, they are able to move more and the movement is more easily observable. The vertical cracks at the ends of the all panels at the detention pods (see A.1.i above) are also a result of the same movement. The insulation cast with and inside the precast concrete panel creates a plane of weakness in the wall. The vertical cracks at the ends of those panels is a result of the differential thermal movement between the interior and the exterior face of each panel.
3. The cracks noted in paragraph A.1.iii), above result from shrinkage in the concrete on the exterior face of the precast concrete panels. Shrinkage is a common and well-recognized behavior of concrete and occurs over time as wet concrete cures and water either bleeds out of the concrete or is chemically into the cement paste. For the exterior wall panels, the shrinkage is restrained where the panels are attached to the foundation, and cracking is induced. The tendency for cracking is exacerbated because the exterior face layers of concrete is relatively thin and the insulation material is not adhered to the concrete.
4. The post installed anchors are unsightly but pose no structural concerns. At this time, the connections appear to be sound, but it is possible that corrosion may occur below grade and may become a maintenance item.
5. The deteriorated steel columns noted in paragraph B.1, above, should be addressed. At this time, the corrosion may be limited enough that cleaning the steel and applying corrosion protection will be all that is required. Further investigation is warranted.
6. At this time, there is no urgent need for structural remediation. I recommend the following and on-going maintenance:
 - i) Caulk the vertical cracks in the ends of the non-loadbearing precast concrete columns at the detention pods. The caulk should be inspected annually and replaced as required and as recommended by the caulk manufacturer.

9/30/2024

Re: Visual Structural Assessment
Vanderburgh County Jail
3500 N. Harlan Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
HSE Project No. 24026

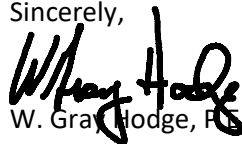
Page 4

- ii) The original elastic caulk joints in the building may be nearing the end of the useful life of the caulk material. The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Authority should consult with a caulking authority who can advise an appropriate inspection/maintenance/replacement plan.
- iii) Where elastic caulk joints and the existing joint conditions are not acceptable, some other joint filler or closure may be viable. The write is not aware of and has not investigated alternative methods for addressing those joints.

Hodge Structural Engineers appreciates the opportunity to have provided professional engineering services and this visual structural assessment report for the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Authority. We will gladly meet with you to review the contents of this report and to discuss the structural condition of the facility.

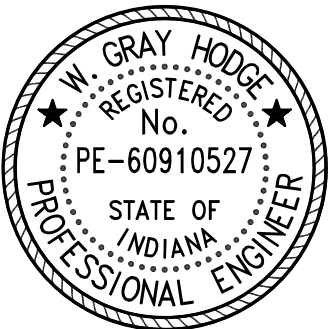

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



W. Gray Hodge, P.E., S.E.

HODGE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

	<p>This item has been digitally signed and sealed by W. Gray Hodge on 9/30/2024 Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies</p>
	<p>The engineer certifies that this item was prepared by them or under their direct supervision and that they are licensed under the regulations of the issuing State. License expires: 7/31/2026</p>
	<p>Digitally signed by William G Hodge DN: CN=William G Hodge, dnQualifier=A01410D0000017F6514A48D001E7388, O=HODGE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, C=US Date: 2024.09.30 14:16:06-05'00'</p>

Appendix A

Photographs



Photo 1 – Exposed-to-view end of pre-insulated precast concrete wall panel.
Vertical crack typical.



Photo 2 – See Photograph 1 (similar)



Photo 3 – See Photograph 1 (similar)



Photo 4 – See Photograph 1 (similar)



Photo 5 – Shrinkage cracking in face of pre-insulated precast concrete panel.

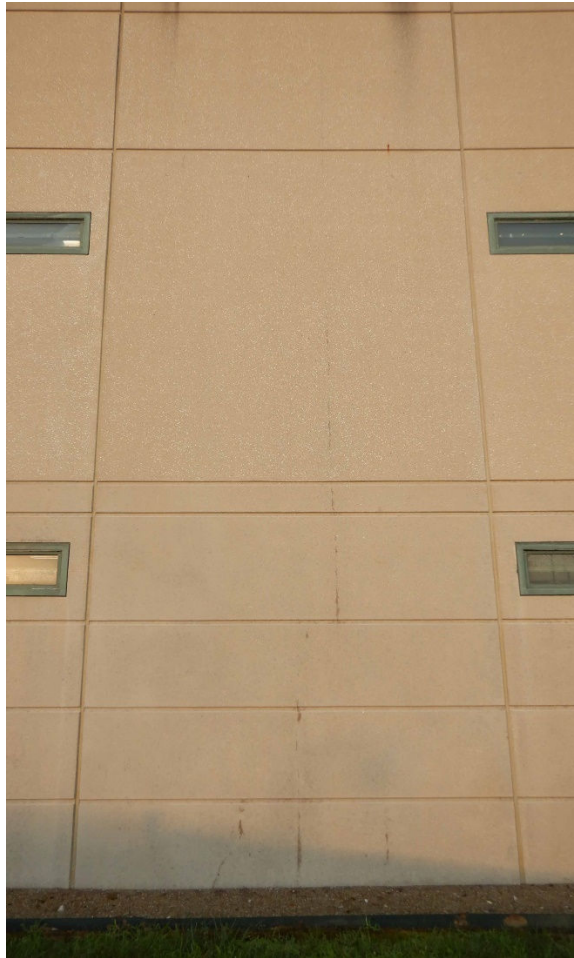


Photo 6 – See Photograph 5 (similar)



Photo 7 – See Photograph 5 (similar)



Photo 8 – See Photograph 5 (similar)



Photo 9 – Field modified base connection



Photo 10 – Deteriorating structural steel column at covered parking – west side of building.



Photo 11 – Vertical crack that is commonly found in the vicinity of the phones in the detention cells



Photo 12 – Duct and embedded Unistrut that is common just below phones in cells

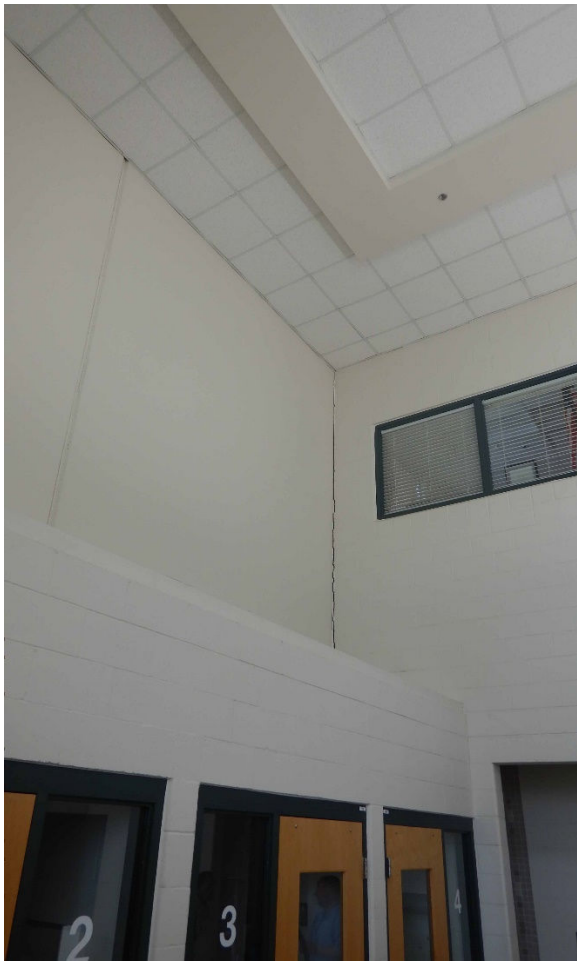


Photo 13 – Vertical separation between exterior precast concrete wall panel (on left) and interior concrete masonry wall (with window).



Photo 14 – Vertical separation between exterior precast concrete panel and interior precast concrete column



Photo 15 – Separation between exterior precast concrete wall panel and mezzanine level floor.



Photo 16 – See Photograph 14 (similar)



Photo 17 – Separation between precast concrete wall panels at building corner.