

TRAPPED IN JAIL FOR BEING POOR

MONEY BAIL IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN

In 2016 in Davidson County, Tennessee

over 12,000 people

arrested for misdemeanors were forced to stay in jail pretrial simply because they could not afford to post bond.



Nearly 60% of misdemeanor defendants remained in jail for the duration of their trial.



\$5,244

The average bond amount set for misdemeanors in Davidson County in 2016

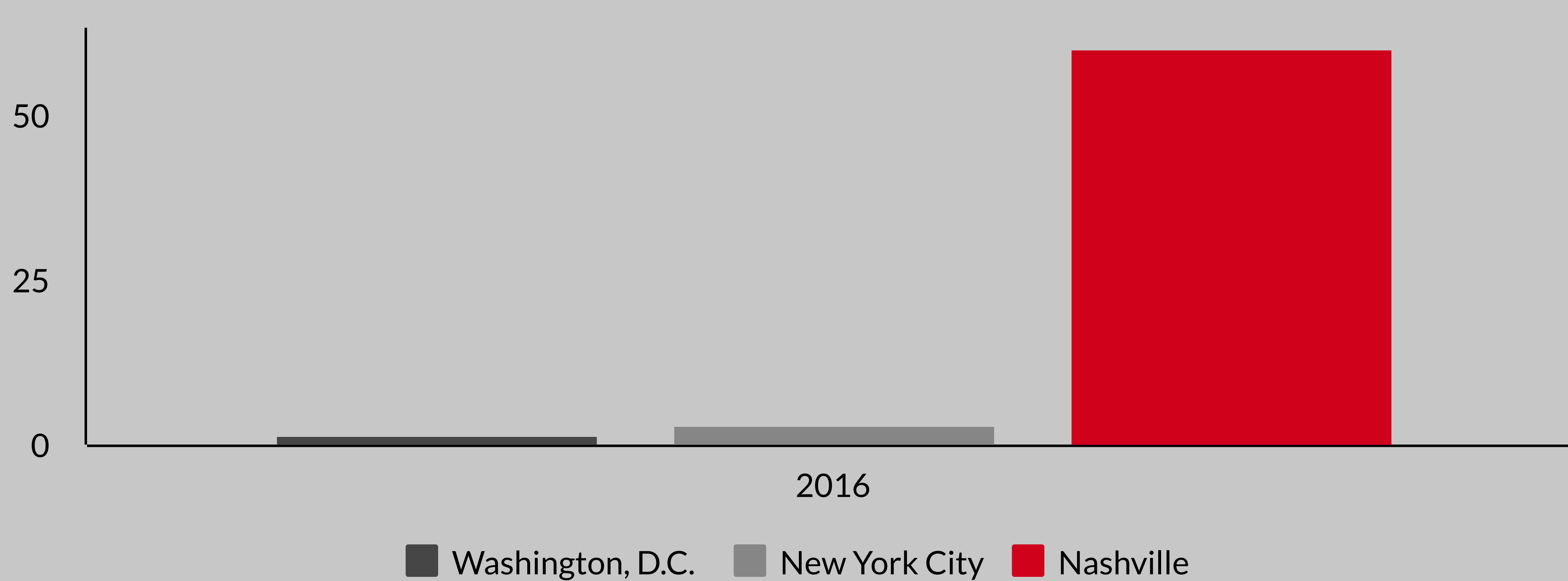


For the **Nearly 20%**

of Nashvillians living in poverty, this amount is out of reach.

How Nashville Stacks Up

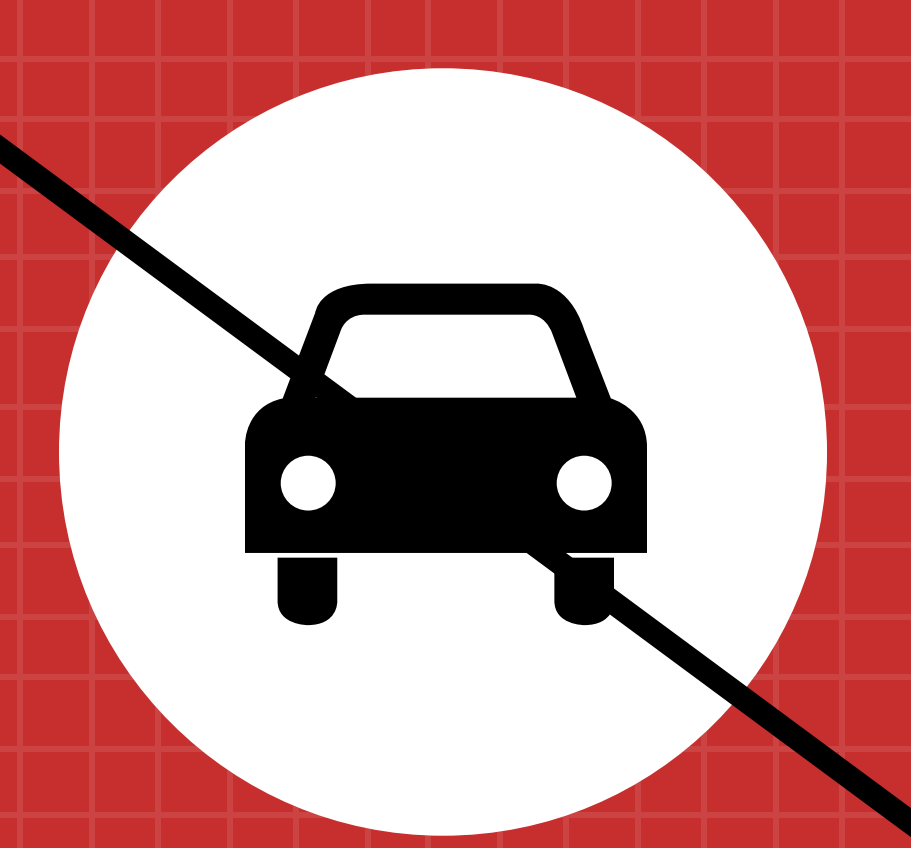
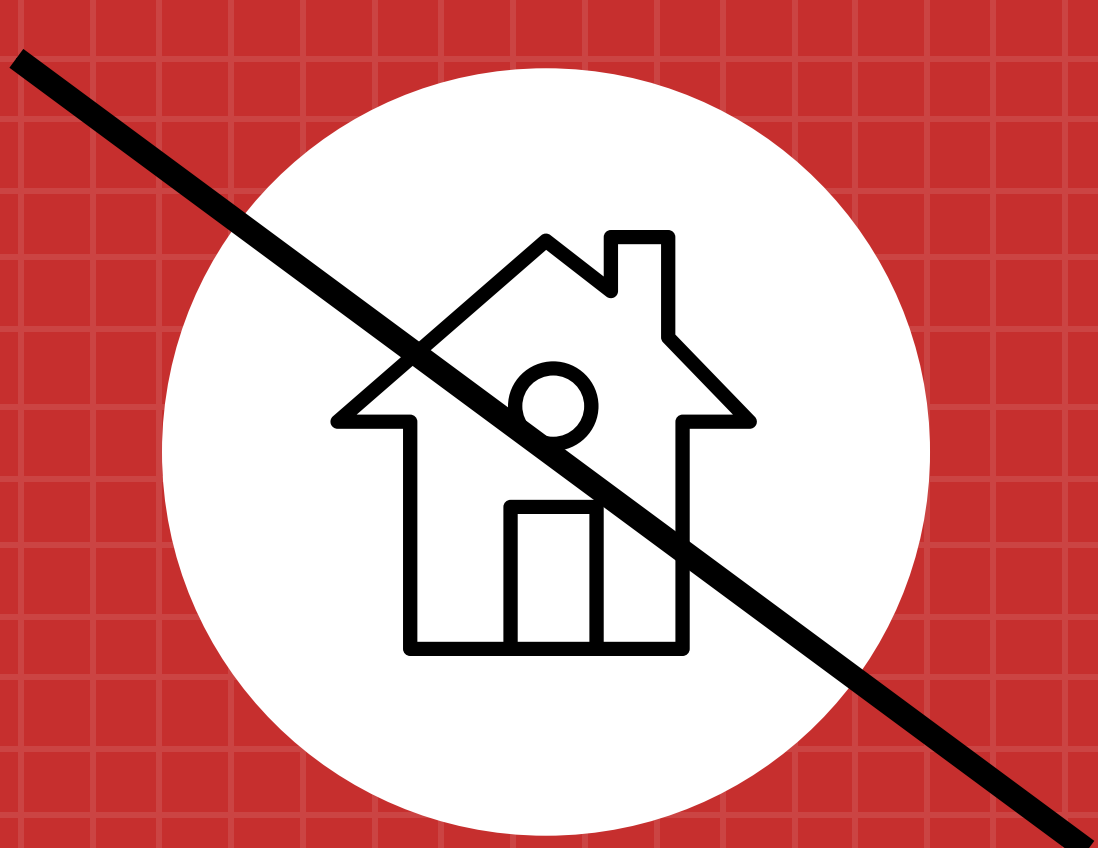
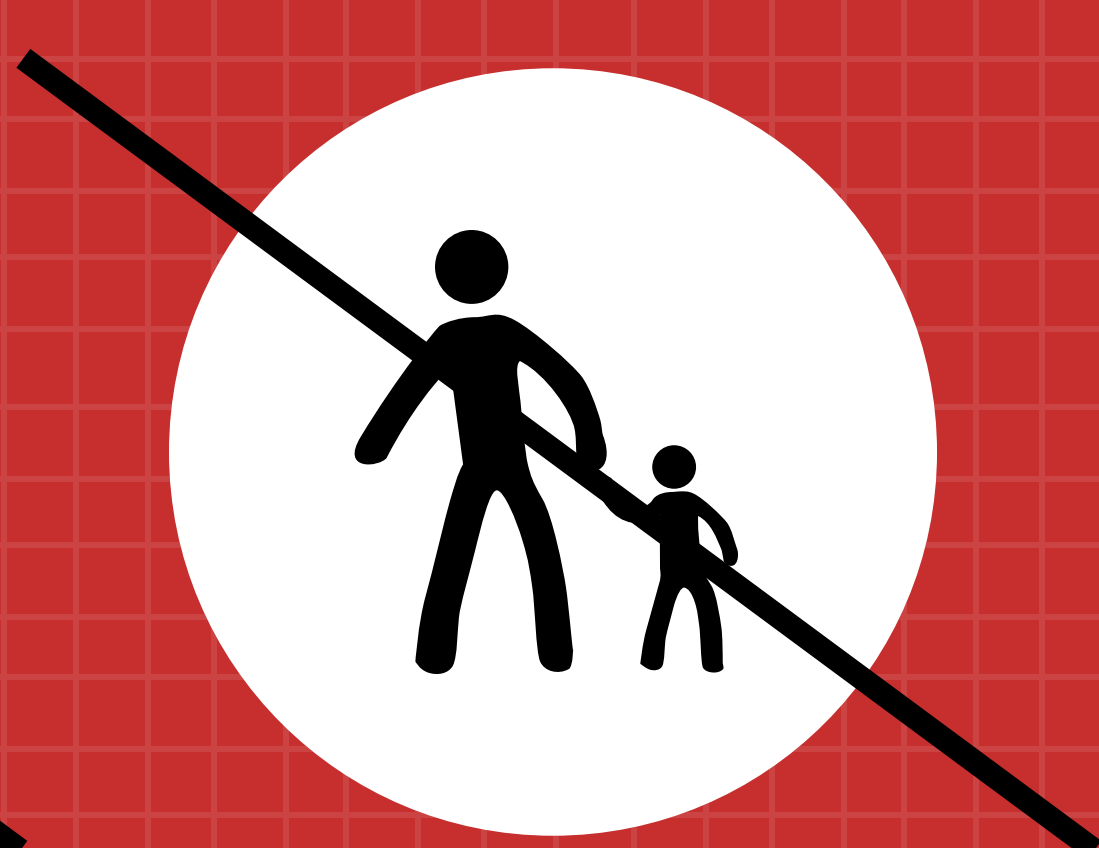
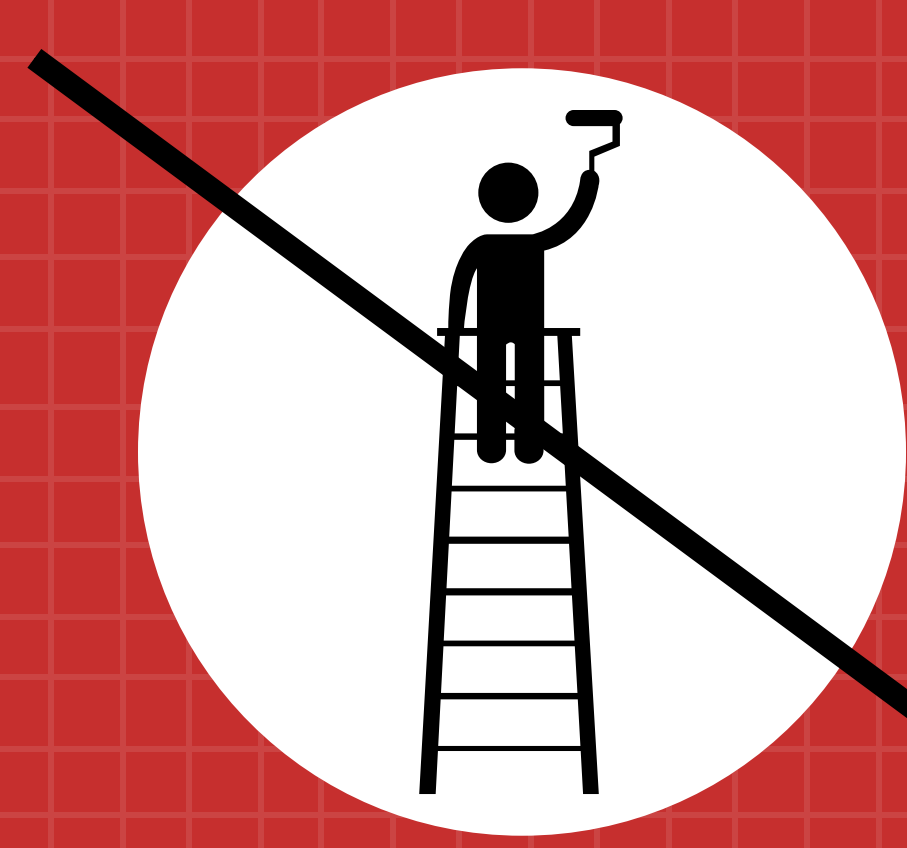
Percentage of Misdemeanor Detainees Jailed Prior to Trial



Collateral Consequences

Pretrial detention increases the likelihood of conviction, the likelihood of a jail sentence, and the length of the sentence imposed

Lives can unravel when arrestees lose jobs, child custody, housing and cars due to even a few days in jail.



A Waste of Money

A federal court recently halted Harris County, Texas, from money bail practices that are virtually the same as Davidson County's.

University of Pennsylvania researchers estimated that, had Harris County released only those individuals assigned the lowest amount of money bail, the county could have saved upwards of \$20 million.



If ensuring people appear in court is the goal...

Non-Financial Alternatives to Money Bail Exist

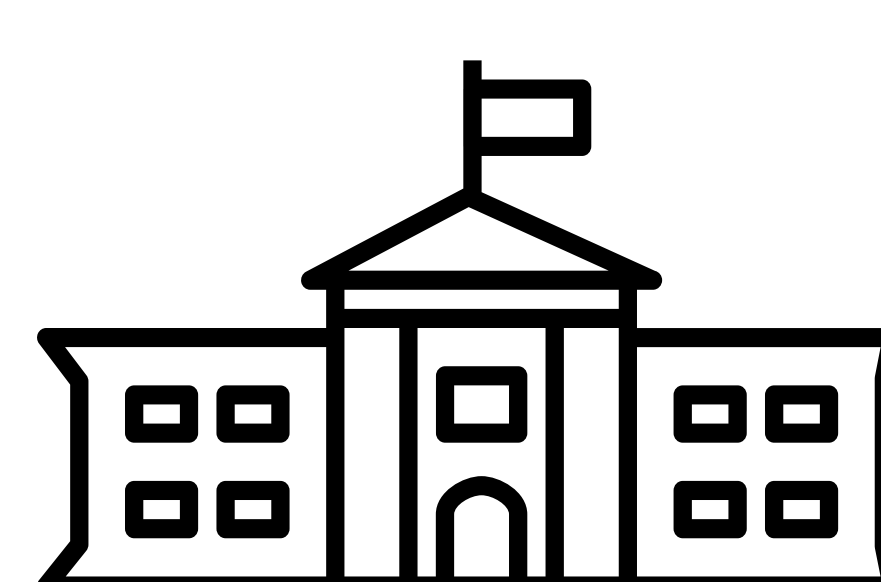
...and are actually more effective.



Reporting to a pretrial services office



Reminder calls or texts



Maintaining education or employment routines, with supervision as appropriate