

UNDERSTANDING THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM

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JUSTICE POLICY CENTER

BAIL (n.):

Money given to the court by someone arrested for a crime. If paid, it allows the person to leave the custody of police until their court date.

BUT IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD BAIL, YOU STAY IN JAIL.

Which means that **poor people** are forced to serve jail time for charges they haven't even been found guilty for. This problem impacts Black populations especially given racial disparities in arrest rates.

The percentage of people

73% being held in NC jails in 2013 who were pre-trial.*



Furthermore, studies have found that being held in jail while trying to meet bail leads to **higher rates of new criminal charges** and **higher rates of failures to appear in court.*****

In **2015** Black people were **80%** of the

total Durham County jail population despite only accounting for around

38% of the total county population.**

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*Prison Policy Initiative

**Vera Institute

***Christopher Lowenkamp, Marie VanNostrand, and Alex Holsinger, "The Hidden Costs of Pretrial Detention", Laura and John Arnold Foundation (2015)