



**INDUSTRY:**

Government

**APPLICATION:**

Jail Overcrowding  
Management

**CASE STUDY**

## Dataspace helps Oakland County stay within the law

**OVERVIEW:**

Oakland County is the most populous county in the state of Michigan, and the fourth wealthiest county in the United States. Its Sheriff's Department runs the Oakland County Jail, which has an average daily population of 2000 inmates. The Corrective Services Divisions admits approximately 25,000 new arrests into the facility per year and statistics reflect that the inmate population has increased by 12% in the last five years. As a result, overcrowding is a major issue in the operation of the Corrective Services Divisions.

**PROBLEM SUMMARY:**

Generally, the Oakland County jail runs dangerously close to its statutory capacity. According to state and federal guidelines, if the jail population exceeds the statutory capacity for 10 consecutive days, the County Sheriff must declare a state of emergency. The jail is then required to immediately reduce its population to 90 percent of capacity. This could result in the early release of 200, or more inmates.

If county officials are unable to precisely manage sentencing and release guidelines, they face a difficult choice: Either risk early release of dangerous criminals and the related public safety implications OR overbuild inmate housing facilities, spending precious budget dollars on unused capacity. The ability for the Sheriff's Department to analyze facility usage data is essential in order to establish if the County has too much or too little housing for inmates. Through this analysis, the County can plan for and isolate overcrowding in higher volume facilities.

To manage this situation, County officials need access to timely, accurate, actionable information.

**BUSINESS SOLUTION:**

Oakland County looked to Dataspace to design, develop, and deploy a Jail Reporting System for county officials. The goal of this project was to enhance the Criminal Courts Reporting System - enabling authorized personnel from Oakland County Courts system and Oakland County Sheriff's Department to extract information to determine if corrective actions must be taken and preempt problems – before they occur. Needed data was integrated from the Court Management System, the Jail Administration Management Systems (JAMS), as well as mainframes at both the Circuit Court and District Court levels. The resulting data warehouse is accessible by end user query tools and has been a resounding success.

**BENEFITS:**

***Return on Investment (ROI):***

- Jail Management may be quantified by the daily cost of managing an inmate population. For each inmate within the County Correctional System, an expense of \$80 per day is realized by the county. At present, the current inmate population averages at approximately 2000. If the overall average length of stay in the jail can be reduced by 5%, the County will realize a cost savings of \$8,000 per day or \$2.9 Million per year.  
Intangible:
- By diverting the flow of inmates to alternative programs, the county was able to eliminate some of the costs associated with processing an inmate.
- By accurately reporting on the current inmate population, future occurrences of overpopulation can be minimized by administrators who are aware of the inmate population and its growth pattern.

- Both Jail and Court Administrators were able to realize a productivity increase due to automated, personalized report generation.

#### **HOW DATASPACE MADE OAKLAND COUNTY SUCCESSFUL:**

The data mart delivered by Dataspace was a key element in preventing Oakland County's first-ever emergency jail population reduction in 2003. Additionally, overall average length of stay for all inmates was reduced by 2 days, from 72 to 70, when comparing the first quarter of 2003 (before the data mart existed) with the third quarter of 2003. With a capacity of over 1800 inmates and a cost of \$80/day per inmate housed, this translates into a significant savings just in the third quarter alone. Prior to the existence of the data mart, jail administrators and staff had to undergo a laborious and time-consuming process to determine average length of stay. Once the data mart was implemented, this was reduced to minutes. The data mart has proven to be a valuable source of previously unavailable or difficult-to-retrieve information in support of key strategic decisions.

Upon the project's completion, Oakland County was very pleased with how Dataspace executed this project on-time and on budget given the constraints set forth.

#### **TECHNOLOGIES:**

- Business Intelligence: Business Objects tool suite
- Extract, Transform and Load (ETL): Informatica
- Database: Oracle

122 S. Main St., Suite 320  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734.761.5962 phone  
888.761.6371 toll-free  
734.761.5967 fax

[WWW.DATASPACE.COM](http://WWW.DATASPACE.COM)

