



People who remain in jail before trial are more likely to get a stiffer sentence than their counterparts who remain free.

THE HIGH PRICE of BAIL

\$3.1 M in Lobbying

From 2002 to 2011, the bail industry influenced pre-trial policy through at least 3.1 million dollars of donations to state-level lawmakers.

\$14 B in Bonds

With a typical fee of 10%, over \$1.4 billion is paid annually to bondsmen by arrested people primarily from low-income communities. This is money they will never get back, even if they're found innocent.

1992 to 2006

the average bail amounts doubled.

Between 1992 and 2006, the amount of people charged with felonies and released on their own recognizance (i.e., with no financial conditions) decreased from 41% to 28%.

Likewise, average bail amounts have increased from \$25,400 to \$55,500, a 118% change increase for the same population.

8 in 10

people would have to pay over a full year's wages to make the average bail amount.

In 2006, the average bail amount of \$55,500 was greater than the annual compensation for about 82% of U.S. wage earners.

7 in 10

people had to pay money bail.

In 2006, 70% of people accused of felonies were required to post financial bail in order to be released before trial.



—justicepolicy.org—

SOURCES

Average net compensation in 2006: \$37,078 (<http://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/central.html>)

Average bail amount in 2006: \$55,500 (2006 SCPS data report)

125,429,536 wage earners out of the total (153,852,734) earned up to \$54,999.99 - (<http://www.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/netcomp.cgi?year=2006>).

Thomas H. Cohen and Tracey Kyckelhahn, "Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2006," State Court Processing Statistics, 2006, Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010.

Shima Baradaran and Frank McIntyre, "Predicting Violence," Texas Law Review, 90(2012): 497-570.