

DETENTION IN YOUR DISTRICT

STATE: Wisconsin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5

FACILITY: Dodge County Jail

COMBINED CAPACITY: 1,400 (approx.)

Overview & Planned Expansion

There is no current planned expansion planned in this district. In April 2019, officials in [St. Croix County](#) (WI 7) rejected proposals from Immigration Centers of America (ICA) to construct a new immigration detention centers in the town of New Richmond and Baldwin due to zoning restrictions and community push back.

Dodge County Jail

This facility is owned by Dodge County and operated by the county sheriff's department. In April 2010, the county entered into a [contract](#) with the U.S. Marshalls Service for the purpose of detaining immigrants. There is no explicit termination date for the contract, and the per diem rate was set at \$75 per detained person per day. According to the Dodge County Sheriff, the total capacity of the facility is 466, including individuals serving criminal sentences and individuals detained on pending immigration matters. The facility has an [estimated capacity of 265](#) for ICE, with a current population of 177. [People can be detained in this facility](#) following interactions with immigration officials in any state covered by ICE's Chicago field office, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wis-consin. Both men and women are detained at the facility.

Dodge County's budget [anticipated taking in \\$7,062,750](#) from federal detention in 2018. "We are absolutely running a business, and I'm proud to say we're running a business," previous Dodge County Sheriff, Todd Nehls, [told a reporter](#). In a [Wisconsin Public Television interview](#), Nehls said of families visiting loved ones in detention, it "puts a little pulse in the local economy because these people, even though they're incarcerated there, they have friends and family from all over the Midwest coming to visit." They "stay in local hotels, buy gas, buy food at the local restaurants."

A [2017 inspection](#) by Office of Detention Oversight cited concerns with lack of access to dental and optometry care at the facility. In [April 2019](#), the Nakamoto Group, a private company which ICE contracts to conduct third-party inspections of its facilities, rated the facility as "acceptable." The same inspection report noted 12 "deficient components" across several areas, including detainee grievance procedures, access to medical care, and disciplinary and administrative segregation.



Credit: US Immigration & Customs Enforcement

Areas of Concern

- Medical Neglect
- Barriers to Legal Access
- Illegal Detention

Resources

- [Interfaith Committee for Detained Migrants](#)
- [Catholic Charities of Milwaukee](#)
- [Centro Hispano Milwaukee](#)
- [Community Immigration Law Center](#)
- [National Immigrant Justice Center](#)
- [University of Wisconsin Madison Law School Immigrant Justice Clinic](#)

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Advocates and the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General have [criticized](#) the company for cutting corners during its inspections and producing inaccurate reports.

In statements to advocates and the press, individuals detained in the Dodge county facility report delayed and substandard medical care. One detained person [told Freedom for Immigrants](#) in July of 2018, "No one here is getting the right medical treatment like we should be. We put a request to see a doctor and we don't get called in until weeks later." According to the same report, individuals detained at Dodge also allege weeks long delays in accessing dental care for emergency situations, including severe pain and infection. The individual also expressed safety concerns stemming from mixing populations of individuals serving lengthy criminal sentences with individuals detained on pending immigration matters.

Many of the people detained at Dodge [rely on one legal aid center in Chicago](#), operated by the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC). Lawyers from NIJC must drive 149 miles to visit clients at Dodge County Jail. In a May 2019 press statement, Alissa Olivarez, a lawyer from the Community Immigration Law Center in Madison, [said that most of the clients she serves](#) at the facility were not apprehended by Customs and Border Patrol, and instead arrived at Dodge after an interaction with immigration or law enforcement in the interior of the country.

In March 2019, Selepri Amachree, an African immigrant who has had legal permanent resident status for 50 years, [filed suit against the county and the federal government](#), saying he was detained illegally at Dodge County Jail for more than six months by ICE. In his suit, he cites email between the sheriff's office and ICE conveying plans to arrest him when he came to visit clients of his drug treatment program at the facility.

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