

Impact Report

The Marshall Project tracks the impact of our journalism on policymakers, advocates and other media. This report highlights some key examples.

The Risks of Private Health Care in Jail



SEPTEMBER DAWN BOTTOMS FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT AND CASSANDRA GIRALDO FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

One Oklahoma county announced it was seeking a new health care provider for its local jail, following our reporting on poor care for patients. Another county is investigating. In July, The Marshall Project and The Frontier [published an investigation](#) focused on Turn Key Health Clinics, a private company that has contracts to provide medical care for more than 75 jails in at least 10 states. At least 50 people in Turn Key's care died during the past decade. We took a close look at several of these cases. According to government records, in some cases, the company's employees didn't send critically ill people to hospitals. In others, records showed that local sheriffs complained about prisoners not getting proper medication.

In the wake of our investigation, officials in Oklahoma County [announced their intention](#) to seek a new medical provider for the jail, which serves Oklahoma City. Turn Key, which had offered a discount to the county to renew the contract for the jail, then [announced it would exit](#) the new contract after 30 days due to "understaffing" of security at the jail. Records show that Oklahoma County's was one of the larger jails in which Turn Key operated as a health care provider. Also in Oklahoma, Cleveland County [hired a firm to look into deaths](#) at its jail, where two people featured in our story died.

MISCONDUCT COUNTS



Leslie Ann Celebrezze, administrative judge of the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. GUS CHAN FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

In September, the Ohio Disciplinary Counsel [filed multiple misconduct counts](#) against prominent local judge Leslie Ann Celebrezze with the Ohio Supreme Court. In the complaint, Celebrezze is accused of making a false statement during the Counsel's investigation and violating multiple rules of judicial conduct. A year ago, The Marshall Project - Cleveland [published a series of stories](#) about how Celebrezze steered several lucrative divorce cases to a longtime friend who worked as a receiver in the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. The judge never disclosed the relationship to the parties in court.

SHERIFF OUT

In early August, voters in St. Francois County, Missouri, ousted Sheriff Daniel Bullock after 32 years. This came four years after The Marshall Project [reported on abusive conditions](#) in the jail Bullock runs. Civil rights lawyers told The Marshall Project that our reporting spurred a major class action lawsuit over conditions in the jail, which in turn became a campaign issue for Bullock's challengers in a Republican primary. In October, Chammah [penned an op-ed](#) in The New York Times about the importance of sheriffs elections, with a reference to his trip to St. Francois County.

LACKING OVERSIGHT

The operator of a local youth care center had its contract terminated after we surfaced social media posts advocating for abuse. In August 2024, the Marshall Project - Cleveland [found that the private youth care centers](#) receiving kids from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court lack oversight. They had not helped improve outcomes for kids, or reduced the number of kids in detention centers. We found social media posts from

one youth care center's operator, boasting that "one lick from that cord" could set kids straight. Court officials terminated that operator's contract a day later.



ILLUSTRATION BY RICARDO SANTOS FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT. PHOTOS BY NATE SMALLWOOD AND GUS CHAN FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



Incarcerated jury members interview Contessa Gayles, director of “Songs From the Hole,” and Mindy Goldberg, producer of “Daughters,” at the Sing Sing film festival. KHOLOOD EID FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

In October, we organized a [film festival at the Sing Sing state prison](#) in New York. More than 100 outside guests attended the event at the prison on the Hudson River, where “[Songs From the Hole](#),” directed by Contessa Gayles, won top honors. Leading up to the event, a jury of incarcerated men [who share a deep love for movies](#) received training from documentary filmmaker El Sawyer on how to judge films. The five jurors (and four alternates) considered five

recent feature-length documentary films before deciding on the winner.

The Marshall Project has long served as a conduit to broadcast the voices of incarcerated people, and with this event we set out to underscore that incarcerated people are an audience with valuable opinions and expertise. The event received significant attention, including a [segment on NPR’s Morning Edition](#) before the event and another on [All Things Considered](#) after.



KHOLOOD EID FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

“I’m learning to watch movies for more than just entertainment. I’ve started to understand the importance of looking for messages and critiquing quality. Since participating in this festival, I view each film differently than I ever have before.”

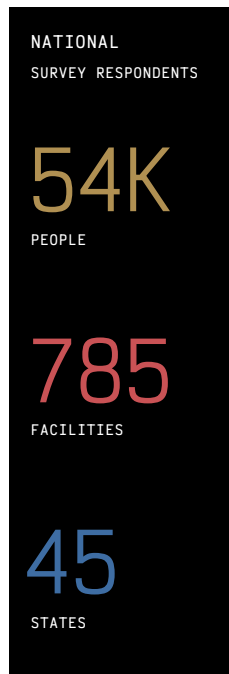
MICHAEL HOFFLER, MEMBER, SING SING FILM FESTIVAL JURY

INSIDE POLITICS

The political views of incarcerated people reached a broader public for the first time after The Marshall Project helped 20 different news outlets localize our opinion survey for their state. Leading up to the election, we published a one-of-a-kind [survey to get insight on the political opinions of incarcerated people](#). More than 54,000 people in nearly 800 facilities across 45 states responded to our survey. The poll showed that Donald Trump remained popular behind bars, and opinions were split on Kamala Harris.

While results couldn’t be generalized to the entire prison population like a traditional poll, our survey provided insight into trends across race, gender and party affiliation. And we worked to [surface as many individual voices](#) as possible. Our local Cleveland newsroom also [looked at results in Ohio](#), where nearly 3,000 people in 31 prisons and 20 jails across the state responded.

We also developed an [Investigate This! toolkit](#) featuring state-by-state results, which helped inform stories published by at least 20 different outlets across 11 states.



DIANA EJAITA FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

