

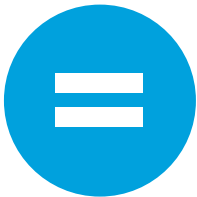
FACT SHEET



Does Requiring Money Upfront Make a Difference? Yes. It needlessly detains.

For the first time ever, a study compares pretrial release outcomes by money bond type, **controlling for the statistical risk level of defendants released pretrial.**

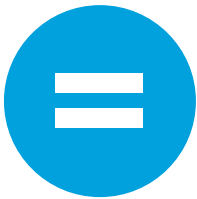
PJI compared **unsecured** bonds (no money upfront, but a promise to pay the full amount if one fails to appear) with **secured** bonds (whether cash or surety, one must pay upfront in order to be released) in 1,919 cases in Colorado.



Unsecured bonds are **as effective at achieving public safety** as secured bonds.



Unsecured bonds **use far fewer jail beds** than do secured bonds because more releasable defendants leave jail (94% unsecured versus 61% secured), and leave sooner.



Unsecured bonds are **as effective at achieving court appearance** as secured bonds.



Unsecured bonds are **as effective at preventing** defendants who failed to appear from remaining **at-large on a warrant** as secured bonds.



Higher dollar amounts of secured bonds are associated with **more pretrial jail bed use** but not increased court appearance rates.

For the full research report, see Jones, M. R. (2013). *Unsecured Bonds: The As Effective and Most Efficient Pretrial Release Option*. Washington, DC: Pretrial Justice Institute. This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-DB-BX-K001 awarded by BJA. BJA is a component of the OJP, which also includes BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice."