"Our policy and funding decisions need to be based on good data and the latest research. Unless we have that foundation, I’m not confident we’re doing everything we can to fight crime effectively and to be efficient with taxpayer dollars."

—State Senator John Huppenthal (R), Majority Whip

Prison Population & Cost Indicators

- Between 1995 and 2005, Arizona’s prison population grew by 52 percent to 33,471. Over the 10 years ending FY2017, it is projected to grow another 52 percent to 56,224.

- In the past 10 years, Arizona doubled its corrections spending from $409 million to $817 million. Prison expenses now consume approximately 9 percent of state general fund expenditures, one of the highest proportions in the nation.

- Unless reforms are made, currently projected correctional growth will require over 20,000 new prison beds by FY2017, at an additional operating and construction cost of over $3 billion.

- Forty-two percent of prisoners released in Arizona from 1990-1999 were reincarcerated within three years.

Drivers of Incarceration & Spending

- Large numbers of probation revocations and the longer terms that offenders serve in prison because of the state’s unusually strict “truth-in-sentencing” laws are the primary drivers of prison growth and spending.

- Probation revocations for violations of the conditions of supervision account for 31 percent of all prison admissions. Parole conditions revocations account for an additional 15 percent of prison admissions.

- Most states with “truth-in-sentencing” laws apply them solely to violent offenders. Arizona, however, requires that violent and nonviolent offenders serve 85 percent of their sentence before becoming eligible for release.
A disproportionate number of Arizona prisoners come from a small number of communities; 60 percent of the state’s prisoners come from and return to the Phoenix metropolitan area.

“Any comprehensive plan to increase public safety in Arizona must include strategies to ensure that the tens of thousands of people released from prison and jail in this state do not commit new crimes. Such strategies are also central to averting extraordinary growth projected for our state’s prison population and for prison spending.”

—Governor Janet Napolitano (D)

Opportunities & Action

- Public citizens and government leaders have attempted to curb the state’s prison population growth and increase public safety. In 1996, Arizona voters approved Proposition 200 to divert some substance-abusing offenders from prison. And in 2004, the legislature created the Community Accountability Pilot Program as a graduated sanction alternative for parole violators.

- State policy makers are preparing to consider a range of options for reducing recidivism that will help to manage prison growth and corrections spending.

The Public Safety Performance Project and the Council of State Governments Justice Center are providing Arizona with nonpartisan research, analysis and expertise. The project is helping state officials develop a more accurate model to forecast both prison population growth and the fiscal impact of various policy options, and conduct a special study of offenders who violate the conditions of probation.

By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value (Rank)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value (Rank)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Index crime rate per 100,000 (rank):</td>
<td>5,351 (4th)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Corrections spending:</td>
<td>$923 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Violent crime rate per 100,000 (rank):</td>
<td>513 (16th)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Corrections share of budget:</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Incarceration rate per 100,000 (rank):</td>
<td>521 (10th)</td>
<td>1990-1999 Releases reincarcerated:</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Prison population:</td>
<td>35,965</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Projected prison population:</td>
<td>48,381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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