



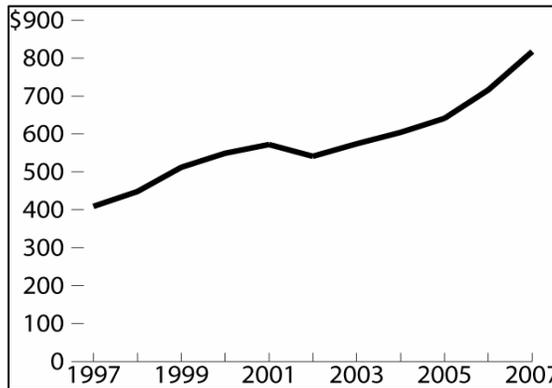
Arizona

“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.



AZ Dept. of Corrections Expenditures, millions

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.

Public Safety Performance Project

An operating project of The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Public Safety Performance Project seeks to help states advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs. The project helps states diagnose the factors driving prison growth and provides policy audits to identify options for reform, drawing on solid research, promising approaches and best practices in other states. The initiative also helps state officials, practitioners and others share state-of-the-art knowledge and ideas through policy forums, public opinion surveys, national, regional and state-level convenings, and online information about what works.

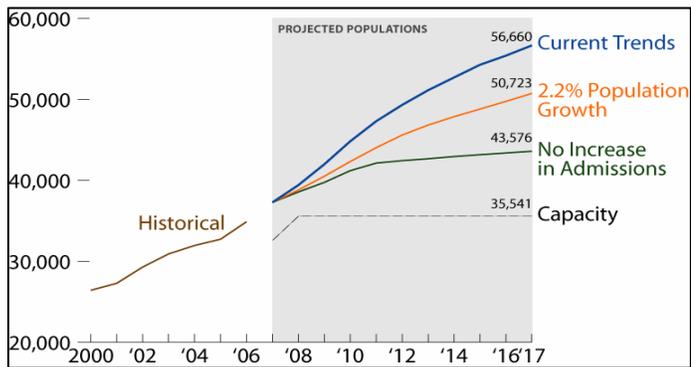
PARTNERS

The project works with the Pew Center on the States and a number of highly respected external partners, including the Council of State Governments and the Vera Institute of Justice, to provide expert, nonpartisan information and assistance to states.

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- 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.



- **Current Trends:** Forecast assumes the increase in new sentences will continue and match the overall five-year trend.
- **2.2 Percent Population Growth:** Forecast assumes the number of new sentences will stabilize at FY2006 levels and grow steadily from that point by the 2.2 percent growth expected in the at-risk demographic population.
- **No Increase in Admissions:** Forecast assumes the number of admissions per year will remain at FY2006 levels.

“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

2005 Index crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	5,351 (1 st)	2005 Corrections spending:	\$923 million
2005 Violent crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	513 (16 th)	2005 Corrections share of budget:	9.6%
2005 Incarceration rate per 100,000 (rank):	521 (10 th)	1990-1999 Releases reincarcerated:	42%
2006 Prison population:	35,965	2011 Projected prison population:	48,381

Sources: FBI Uniform Crime Reports; Bureau of Justice Statistics, various publications; National Association of State Budget Officers State Expenditure Reports, annual series (corrections share of state general funds, FY2005); “Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America’s Prison Population 2007-2011,” Pew Public Safety Performance Project; Arizona Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Report. Updated February 2007

