

# Reducing Crime & Generating Savings: Options for Arizona Policymakers

## Arizona's prison population is projected to grow significantly over the next ten years.

- According to a projection by the JFA Institute, the prison population will increase 50 percent by 2017, adding an estimated 17,000 persons to the state corrections system.
- The growth rate of 50 percent projected for the state's prison population is twice the rate of increase projected for the state's resident population (26 percent from 2005-2015).
- Unless policymakers act, the projected increase will require an additional \$2–3 billion in state expenditures over the next 10 years to build and operate additional prison capacity.



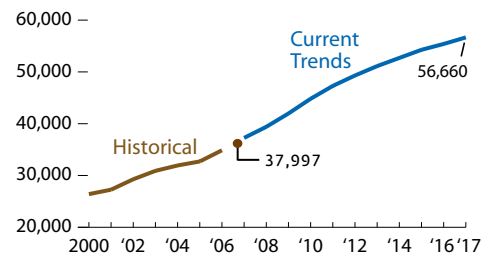
## High rates of failure among people on probation supervision are contributing to the projected increase in the prison population.

- Each year, Arizona spends an estimated \$100 million to send more than 4,000 people to prison for violating the conditions of their probation.
- Of those admitted to prison for failing on probation, 79 percent have been identified as property or drug offenders and drug or alcohol use is a factor in 45 percent of their revocations.
- Approximately 50 percent of people revoked to prison from Maricopa County chose to be revoked rather than placed back on probation to avoid paying restitution, attending treatment, and being supervised in the community. Once revoked to state prison, most individuals are not placed back on probation supervision in the community following their release.

## Geographical analyses reveal that a handful of neighborhoods account for the majority of criminal activity and costs to the criminal justice system.

- A single neighborhood in Phoenix is home to 1 percent of the state's total population but 6.5 percent of the state's prison population.
- In 2007, the state spent more than \$70 million to incarcerate residents from a single zip code.
- State policymakers across the country are recognizing that in order to effectively fight crime, state, county, and city government, along with community and faith-based organizations, must work together. Currently, these organizations do not have enough incentives to enable them to work together to deploy a well-coordinated set of effective crime prevention and intervention strategies.
- In Arizona, the Governor's Office, Department of Corrections, Maricopa County, Arizona State University and Council of State Governments Justice Center are collaborating to design a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy in neighborhoods with high crime and high incarceration rates.

Projected Growth of Arizona Prison Population

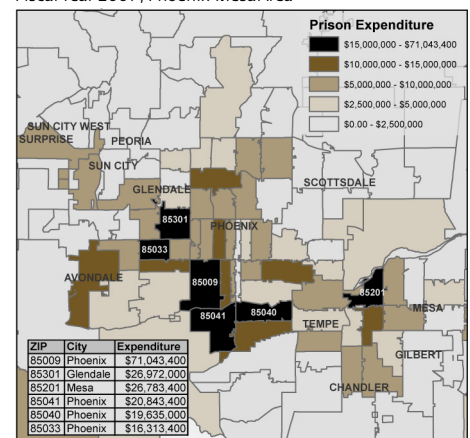


Change in Incarceration & Crime Rates from 1995-2005

	Incarceration Rate Change	Crime Rate Change
Arizona	+10%	-35%
Texas	+6%	-15%
Nevada	-2%	-26%
New York	-14%	-44%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics; FBI Uniform Crime Reports

State Expenditures on Corrections by Zip Code  
 Fiscal Year 2007, Phoenix-Mesa Area



# Options for Policymakers to Reduce Crime & Generate Savings

POLICY OPTION	KEY ELEMENTS	ASSUMPTIONS	BED SAVINGS	COST SAVINGS*
<b>1. Focus probation supervision resources on difficult, high risk offenders.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an incentive for offenders to succeed. For every month without a violation of the conditions of supervision, a probationer can earn 20 days off of their probation term.</li> <li>By reducing the amount of time probation officers supervise people who are successful on probation, officers can concentrate their resources on individuals who pose the greatest threat to public safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 percent reduction in the number of probation revocations due to technical violations from FY07 (or 400 fewer individuals).</li> </ul>	440	\$9.1m
<b>2. Create a performance incentive for probation departments to reduce crime and violations committed by people on probation.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a performance incentive for counties that are able to reduce or avert spending by the state by reducing failures for people on probation supervision.</li> <li>Counties that reduce the rate of probationers admitted to prison each year can receive up to 50 percent of the costs averted at the state level. Individual counties will receive 20 percent if probation revocations decline, 20 percent if new crimes committed by probationers declines, and 10 percent if victim restitution payments increase.</li> <li>Counties can use the incentive funding to improve probation supervision, design strategies to reduce recidivism, and provide grants to victims services organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 percent reduction in the number of probation revocations.</li> <li>Of the \$2.7 million in cost savings, the state would reinvest \$1.35 million to counties that reduced revocations.</li> <li>For every 44 revocations averted, the state saves an average of \$1 million.</li> </ul>	133	\$2.7m
<b>3. Create probation violation centers to respond effectively to people who don't comply with the conditions of supervision.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide judges with the option of responding to serious violations of probation by placing high risk individuals in a probation violation center (PVC) with probation supervision in the community to follow instead of revoking their probation.</li> <li>The PVC would require individuals to complete a 3 month period of incarceration tied with intensive drug treatment and job training to reduce recidivism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32 percent or 1,118 people will be diverted to PVC instead of revoked.</li> <li>20 percent of those sent to PVC will later be revoked.</li> <li>20 percent of those admitted to PVC would not have been revoked to prison.</li> </ul>	921	\$19.1m
<b>Estimated Combined Impact</b>			<b>1,494</b>	<b>\$30.9m</b>
<b>Policy Costs</b>	<p><u>Policy Option 1</u>: No cost. <u>Policy Option 2</u>: No upfront cost, but assuming the state avoids \$2.7 million, the cost of reinvesting 50% to the counties would be \$1.3 million. <u>Policy Option 3</u>: \$8.1 million estimated annual cost of operating a 350-bed probation violation center (not including construction costs).</p>		<b>(350)</b>	<b>(\$9.4m)</b>
<b>Estimated Net Savings for First Year of Implementation</b>			<b>1,144</b>	<b>\$21.5m</b>

\*Cost savings estimates assume no changes to current trends in prison admissions or to the criminal code.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

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Points of view, recommendations, or findings stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Council of State Governments Justice Center, or the Council of State Governments' members.



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