



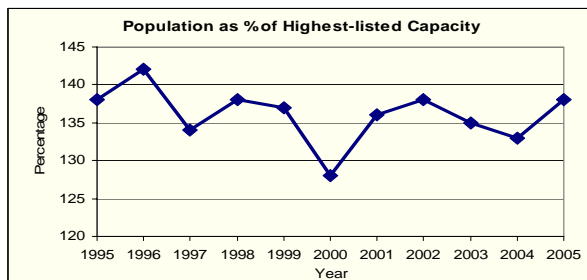
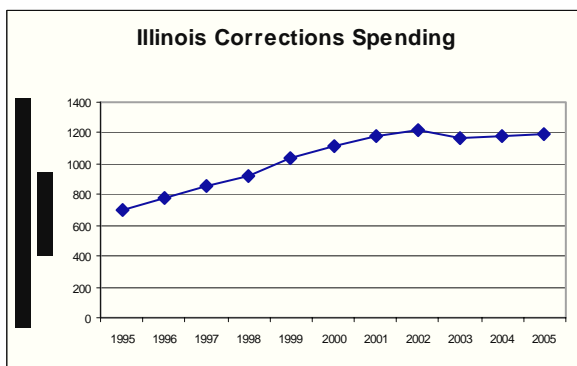
Illinois

"Thanks to a two decade-long decline in violent crime rates, this is a good time for a dispassionate, thoughtful discussion of how we deal with crime in this region and this state."

—George A. Ranney, Jr., President and CEO, Chicago Metropolis 2020

Prison Population & Cost Indicators

- Between 1995 and 2005, corrections spending from Illinois' general fund rose by 70 percent, from \$705 million to \$1.2 billion.
- During that time, the state's prison population increased by 18 percent to 44,919. The population is projected to grow to 49,497 by 2011.
- At 133 percent of its highest listed capacity, Illinois' prison system is one of the most overcrowded in the nation.
- More than half (51.8 percent) of all inmates released in Illinois are back behind bars within three years.
- The incarceration rate among African Americans is nine times higher than the rate for whites, a fact that has created significant public attention and concern about Illinois' criminal justice system.



Drivers of Incarceration & Spending

- As the largest source of prison admissions, Class 4 (the lowest-level felony) drug possession convictions have been a principal factor behind the population and cost increases. Three-and-a-half times more Class 4 possession offenders are admitted to prison than are admitted for the next most common offense.
- The annual cost of incarcerating Illinois' drug offenders reached an estimated \$240 million in 2005.
- Prison admissions for drug offenses from outside Chicago/Cook County have more than doubled in the past 10 years.

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, multi-state meetings, 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 Justice Center and the Vera Institute of Justice, to provide expert, nonpartisan information and assistance to states.

CONTACT

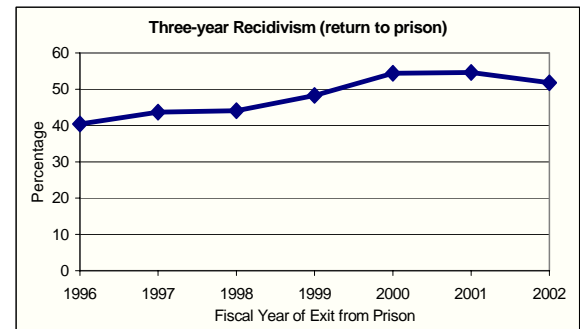
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"The revolving door is expensive to taxpayers. It diverts money that could go to education and other services needed by those who don't break the law."—Paula Wolff, Senior Executive, Metropolis 2020

Opportunities & Action

- Illinois has embraced new approaches to public safety through more effective criminal justice interventions. For instance, in 2004, the state reopened the Sheridan Correctional Center as the largest fully dedicated state drug treatment prison in the nation. Initial data suggest markedly better recidivism and employment outcomes for Sheridan prisoners than for those returning home from non-treatment-focused prisons.

- In 2005, Illinois began implementing a four-year parole reform plan aimed at reducing recidivism. The plan calls for doubling the number of parole officers to reduce caseload size, increase supervision and monitoring, and better allow officers to target high-risk parolees with services and surveillance. Currently, 27 percent of those admitted to prison are parolees who violated the conditions of their release.



- The CLEAR Initiative, a privately funded effort involving state policy makers, community leaders and criminal justice stakeholders, has completed a rewrite of the Illinois Criminal Code and has begun studying the Code of Corrections to develop a more consistent, practical and just system of punishments. State criminal justice agencies are supplying data to the initiative to help ensure a rigorous analysis of the impacts of current sentencing laws.

The Public Safety Performance Project and the Vera Institute of Justice are providing nonpartisan research, analysis and expertise to the CLEAR Initiative to help collect and analyze data and identify possible code revisions. The JEHT Foundation and other funders also are supporting the commission's work.

By the Numbers			
2005 Index crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	3,632 (29 th)	2005 Corrections spending:	\$1.15 billion
2005 Violent crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	552 (11 th)	2004 Corrections share of budget:	6.7%
2005 Incarceration rate per 100,000 (rank):	351 (32 nd)	2002 Releases reincarcerated:	51.8%
2006 Prison population:	45,687	2011 Projected prison population:	49,497

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; Illinois Department of Corrections. Updated February 2007

