

## Nevada

The project selected Nevada to receive intensive, nonpartisan research, analysis, and expertise. Among other factors, its leaders have demonstrated both a bipartisan commitment to explore meaningful policy change and a dedication to collecting and using criminal justice data as a basis for sound reforms.

### **Progress Update »**

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Nevada's prison population has been among the fastest growing in the nation and was projected to grow significantly over the next five years. The prison population was estimated to increase by 60 percent by 2012, which would have cost taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion in prison construction. The projected increase in corrections spending was on track to outpace state spending on education and human services.

In response, Nevada policymakers requested data analyses from the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a Public Safety Performance Project partner, to help them identify the causes of the growth. Research revealed a combination of responsible factors: the rapid increase of the state's resident population, high rates of failure among probationers, and the lack of community-based treatment for substance abuse, mental illness, or co-occurring disorders.

During the 2007 session, the legislature used the analyses developed by the Justice Center to design strategies which will provide greater incentives for people to successfully complete the terms of their probation and parole supervision and for prison inmates to complete risk reduction programs. The legislation increased from 10 days to 20 days the credits earned by a parolee who is current with supervision fees and restitution payments, and it allows probationers to earn 20 days credit for good behavior for each month served on probation. As a result of these measures, the state is expected to save \$28 million by 2009.

### **State Profile »**

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A profile of Nevada that provides statistical and analytical data about its sentencing and corrections systems, describes factors shaping those systems, and highlights opportunities for reform.

[Download Nevada state profile \(PDF\) Adobe Reader® required.](#)