

Arizona

The project selected Arizona 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 »

Arizona's crime rate is the highest in the country, despite a 52 percent increase in the prison population between 1995 and 2005. The state's prison population is projected to grow another 52 percent by FY 2017, fueled in large part by probation and parole violators. Policymakers are wary of spending as much as \$3 billion to build and operate 20,000 additional prison beds without knowing what investments are most likely to cut crime.

To provide Arizona policymakers with that information -- data, policy options, and research on "what works" -- the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a Public Safety Performance Project partner, is working with legislative leaders, the governor's staff, corrections officials, and leaders in cities and counties where crime is concentrated and to which the majority of people released from prison return. Policymakers are keenly interested in comprehensive neighborhood-based strategies that will fight crime and slow the flow of offenders into state prisons.

State Profile »

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

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

State Research & Analysis »

Recent and Projected Growth of the Arizona Prison Population

An analysis of recent and projected growth in Arizona's prison population and spending, prepared by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a Public Safety Performance Project partner.

[Download Recent and Projected Growth of the Arizona Prison Population](#) (PDF) [Adobe Reader®](#) required.

Reducing Crime and Generating Savings: Options for Arizona Policymakers

The Council of State Governments Justice Center, a Public Safety Performance Project partner, prepared this two-page analysis of Arizona's prison population along with the prison bed and spending implications of several policy options.

[Download Arizona policy options](#) (PDF) [Adobe Reader®](#) required.

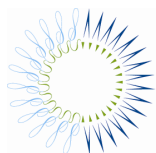
News

Select news clips »

- Arizona part of crime report, study
- *The Arizona Republic*
- February 7, 2007

Facing burgeoning prison growth that will cost taxpayers billions over the next decade, Arizona has been selected to take part in a multimillion-dollar research project examining crime and prison trends and developing possible policy solutions...

To read the full article, visit the [Arizona Republic's Web site](#).



- **Bulging prison bill going up**

- *The East Valley Tribune*
- February 7, 2007

The cost of running Arizona's overcrowded prison system will soar in the next decade, according to projections that show an additional \$3 billion will be needed if the state continues to lock away criminals at today's rate. The prison population is expected to grow by 52 percent during the next 10 years, according to a report released Tuesday by the Council of State Governments Justice System, a nonpartisan organization. To read the full article, visit the [East Valley Tribune Web site](#).

- **Arizona's prison population projected to grow twice as fast as general resident population, independent study finds**

- February 6, 2007

A press release announcing Arizona's selection to receive Public Safety Performance Project support through the Council of State Governments Justice Center. As one of only five Justice Reinvestment learning sites, Arizona policymakers will use independent, non-partisan analysis to explore fiscally sound data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs. [Download press release](#)

- **Our Opinion: Your bill for state prisons - \$100,000/hour**

- *The Tucson Citizen*
- February 6, 2007

The shopworn philosophy of fighting crime by locking 'em up and throwing away the key is swamping Arizona taxpayers in red ink. This fiscal year, the Department of Corrections will spend more than \$817 million running state prisons. In her budget request for fiscal 2007, which begins July 1, Gov. Janet Napolitano is seeking 12 percent more for prisons - \$913.6 million. That's more than \$100,000 for every hour of the year... To read the full article, visit the [Tucson Citizen's Web site](#).

- **Your bill for state prisons: \$100,000/hour**

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**This is a pay service.*

- **2nd-Time Offenders Won't Get Plea Deals**



Public Safety Performance Project
Work in the States: Arizona

- By Judi Villa, *The Arizona Republic*
- November 29, 2006

Most second-time offenders in Maricopa County soon will be facing prison instead of probation. Starting in 60 days, those facing their second conviction no longer will be allowed to enter a plea deal unless they agree to go to prison, County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced Tuesday. The move is part of a crackdown on repeat offenders who are widely thought to drive high rates of identity theft, burglary and other property crimes. To read the full article, visit the [Arizona Republic Web site](#).