



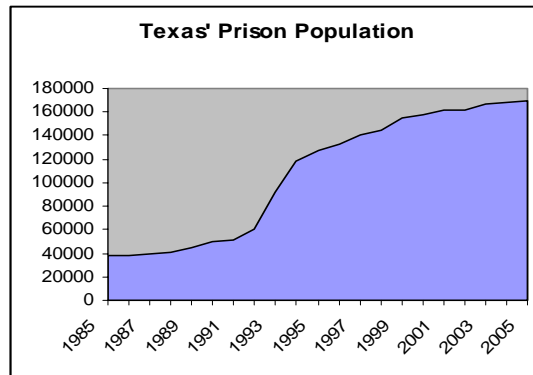
Texas

"It's always been safer politically to build the next prison, rather than stop and see whether that's really the smartest thing to do. But we're at a point where I don't think we can afford to do that anymore."

—State Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston), Chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee

Prison Population & Cost Indicators

- Between 1985 and 2005 the number of prisoners in Texas increased 310 percent, from 37,281 to 152,894. With 691 prisoners per 100,000 residents, Texas has the second-highest incarceration rate in the nation.
- Between 2007 and 2012, the Texas prison population is projected to grow another 9 percent, an increase of 14,317 inmates that would put the total above 168,166.
- Despite adding over 100,000 prison beds since the early 1980s, Texas prisons are projected to be almost 17,000 beds short of capacity by 2012. Recent and projected growth in the state's prison population significantly outpaces increases in the state's resident population.
- The Texas Department of Criminal Justice, with an annual budget of over \$2.5 billion, has requested an additional \$899 million in 2008-2009, in part to build and operate additional prisons.



Drivers of Incarceration & Spending

- Growing numbers of probation revocations, low parole grant rates, improvements in conviction rates and the state's growing resident population are fueling the growth of the prison population.
- Two-thirds of prison admissions are people whose parole or probation was revoked. 12,440 of the 23,202 probationers (54 percent) returned to prison in 2006 were people who had violated conditions of their release ("technical violations").
- Probation sentences average 6.5 years (quite long by national standards), stretching probation resources very thin and increasing the likelihood that people will commit a technical violation at some time or another.

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.

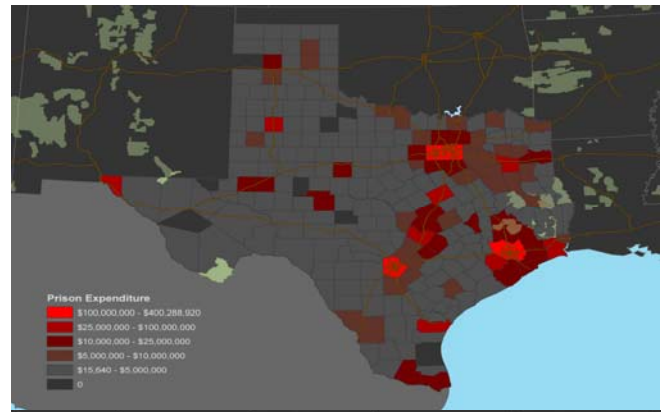
PARTNERS

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.

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- The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has not adhered in recent years to its parole guidelines, which are based on risk factors and crime severity. Had the Parole Board followed its own guidelines, in 2005 alone an additional 2,252 nonviolent offenders would have been released from prison.
- Insufficient availability of community-based substance abuse treatment contributes to a significant backlog of people whom the Parole Board has approved for release but remain incarcerated.



County	Population	% of Total Population	Expenditure	% of Total Expenditure
Harris	3,400,578	16.31%	\$400,288,920	18.37%
Dallas	2,218,899	10.64%	\$248,505,360	11.40%
Tarrant	1,446,219	6.94%	\$163,415,200	7.50%
Bexar	1,392,931	6.68%	\$127,122,800	5.83%
Travis	812,280	3.90%	\$73,449,400	3.37%
Jefferson	252,051	1.21%	\$51,344,560	2.36%
El Paso	679,622	3.26%	\$43,195,480	1.98%
Fort Bend	354,452	1.70%	\$32,429,840	1.49%
Smith	174,706	0.84%	\$26,895,000	1.23%
Lubbock	242,628	1.16%	\$26,143,800	1.20%

"We have to be smart on crime. I think a lot of members agree with that, both Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals."

*—State Representative Jerry Madden (R-Plano),
Chairman of the House Corrections Committee*

Opportunities & Action

- A bipartisan coalition of policy makers and prominent public policy organizations is working to identify strategies to better manage the growth of the prison population and increase public safety through more effective community supervision policies.
- The chairmen of the state Senate Criminal Justice Committee and the House Corrections Committee requested an analysis of Texas' prison population from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. Dr. Tony Fabelo presented the results of this analysis on behalf of CSG on January 30, 2007, at a joint hearing convened by both committees, which newspapers described as "historic."
- Policy options presented included increasing tools available to the Parole Board to enhance the use of parole guidelines, and increasing the capacity of treatment-oriented facilities and the availability of substance abuse and mental health services. The options could enable policy makers to avert over \$400 million in new prison construction, eliminate the projected 17,000 bed shortfall, and improve public safety.

The Public Safety Performance Project and CSG Justice Center are providing nonpartisan research, analysis and expertise to help state policy makers and corrections officials assess these and other options.

By the Numbers

2005 Index crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	4,862 (6 th)	2005 Corrections spending:	\$2.5 billion
2005 Violent crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	530 (12 th)	2005 Corrections share of budget:	11.1%
2005 Incarceration rate per 100,000 (rank):	691 (2 nd)	2002 Releases reincarcerated:	28%
2006 Prison population:	152,671	2012 Projected prison population:	168,166

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; Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Texas Legislative Budget Board.

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