

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI)

Kentucky

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Between 2000 and 2009, Kentucky had one of the fastest-growing prison populations in the country, and prison costs were projected to increase \$161 million between 2011 and 2020. With technical assistance through JRI, the state enacted HB 463 in 2011 to address prison growth, improve public safety, and reduce corrections costs. Still facing an increasing prison population and facility overcrowding six years later, Kentucky reengaged in JRI in 2017 but has not passed new legislation.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through HB 463, Kentucky:

Revised Sentencing for Drug Offenses and Invested in Local Treatment and Corrections

Restructured penalties for drug offenses, reserving longer prison terms for individuals with more serious offenses.

Allocated \$26 million to the Local Corrections Assistance Fund to support local correctional facilities and programs which house almost half of all people committed to state custody.

Between 2011 and 2017, the state more than doubled corrections-based substance use treatment slots, and established 1,400 Community Substance Abuse Program beds to improve access to treatment in the community.

Strengthened Probation and Parole Supervision to Reduce Recidivism

Strengthened community supervision practices by requiring the use of risk and needs assessment and evidence-based programs, and by authorizing the use of interim sanctions to address violations.

Focused limited resources on people most likely to reoffend by requiring administrative caseloads for people at low risk of reoffending.

Required a period of supervision for everyone released from prison, carving supervision time from prison terms and saving the state \$173 million between 2011 and 2019.

LASTING IMPACT OF JRI

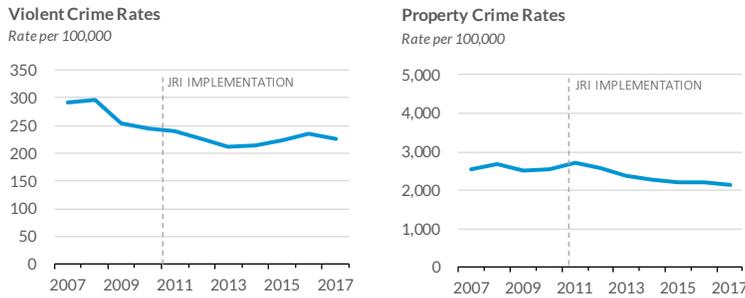
Despite challenges, Kentucky remains committed to smart criminal justice reforms.

HB 463 expanded treatment options for individuals in prison and those supervised in the community, reduced the number of people maxing out of prison with no supervision upon reentry, and resulted in significant investments in local corrections in Kentucky. However, implementation of these policies was uneven, and Kentucky has not seen the results it expected. Though HB 463 authorized the use of interim responses for people on community supervision, courts have not used such responses consistently across the state. Kentucky continued to see growth in revocations, often for technical violations of supervision such as absconding. In 2016, three out of five individuals admitted to prison were sent there for violating the terms of their supervision. A second JRI workgroup made recommendations to address ongoing challenges that were introduced as legislation in the 2018 session but HB 396 did not pass. Despite these setbacks, state leaders continue to collaborate to develop and implement policies to safely reduce the prison and jail populations and improve public safety.

SAVINGS/REINVESTMENT

Savings/averted costs	State JRI investment
\$179,265,957	\$92,498,389

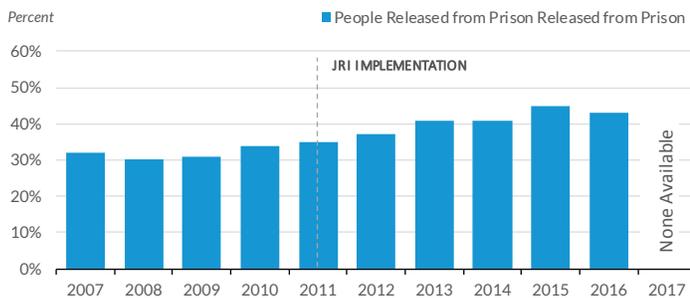
Violent and Property Crime Rates, 2007-17



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (2007-2017).

- Violent crime rates were declining before JRI and remained relatively stable after reform.
- Property crime rates were relatively stable before JRI and began to decline after reform.

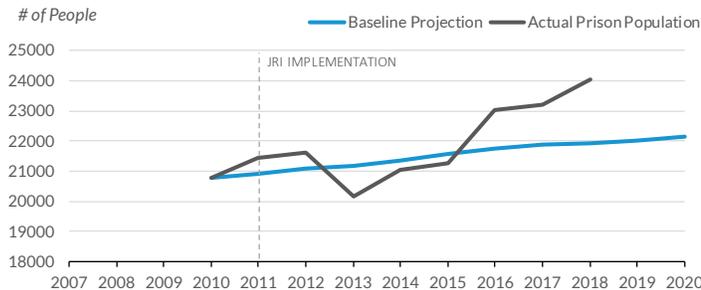
Recidivism Rate: Reincarceration within Two Years



Sources: Kentucky Department of Corrections, HB463 Annual Report on Evidence Base Practices and Programs, FY2016.

- Between 2007 and 2016, recidivism rates increased for people released from prison.

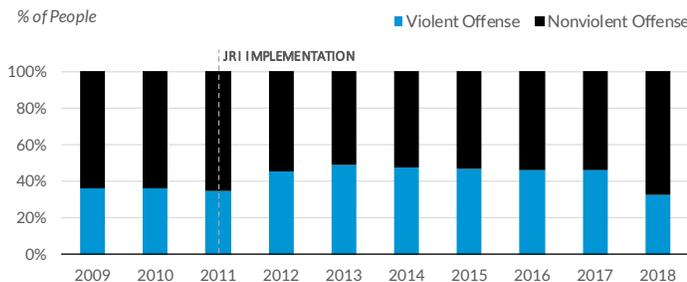
Prison Population



Sources: Kentucky Department of Corrections, June Monthly Inmate Profiles; Baseline projection calculated by the JFA Institute.

- In 2018, there were approximately 2,000 more people in Kentucky prisons than projected before reform.

Prison Composition



Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections, June Monthly Reports.

Notes: Population includes people in jail and "violent" includes both violent and sex offenses except for 2018 which also includes "other violent offenses".

*The data in this summary describe trends and provide additional context on system changes pre- and post-reform. Indicators shown here track high-level changes in state justice systems and do not necessarily demonstrate the impact of any specific reform, including JRI policy and practice changes. Visit urban.is/jri to see detailed sources for information in this fact sheet.

- In 2018, 33 percent of people in prison were there for a violent offense, down from 35 percent in 2011.