

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI)

North Carolina

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Between 2000 and 2010, North Carolina’s prison population grew 29 percent and was projected to grow 10 percent more by 2020 at a cost of \$378 million. With technical assistance through JRI, the state enacted HB 642 in 2011 to increase public safety and control corrections spending by strengthening probation and post-release supervision, holding people accountable in more meaningful ways, and reducing risk of reoffending.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through HB 642, North Carolina:

Improved Access to and Quality of Treatment Programs

- Transformed substance use treatment system for people on supervision, prioritizing delivery of treatment for people with greatest need and highest risk of reoffending

- Improved type and quality of treatment services and allocated 80 percent of treatment funding for community supervision to programs proven to reduce recidivism

- Required strict quality assurance measures for community providers to ensure higher quality treatment

Right-Sized Penalties, Targeted Prison Toward More Serious Offenses

- Adjusted sentencing enhancements for people with prior offenses to align with the seriousness of the crime

- Diverted people convicted of misdemeanors from prison to local jails and established a fund to compensate counties for housing them that paid almost \$20 million in 2018

Transformed Probation and Post-Release Supervision

- Targeted probation supervision resources on people most likely to reoffend and expanded the continuum of sanctions probation officers can use in response to violations

- Expanded post-release supervision to all people convicted of a felony, increasing the share leaving with supervision from 16 percent of releases in FY2011 to 81 percent of releases by FY2016

- Reinvested over \$30 million to enhance supervision practices and resources, including hiring 175 more probation and parole officers

- Saw a decline in probation revocations from 38 percent in 2011 to 23 percent in 2017.

LASTING IMPACT OF JRI

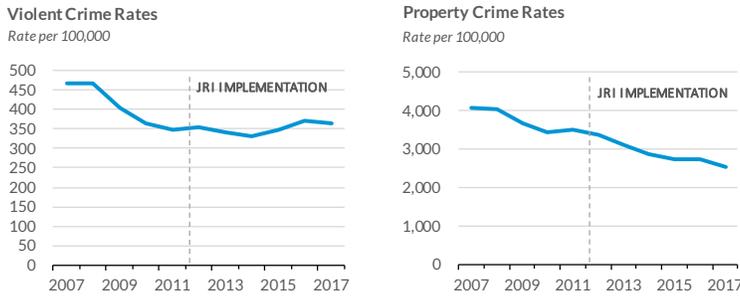
North Carolina transformed probation supervision and saw a decline in revocations.

Through JRI, North Carolina implemented several changes to strengthen its approach to probation supervision. The state required the use of a risk and needs assessment to inform supervision decisions, tailored caseloads to focus on people with the highest risk of reoffending, and invested millions of dollars to hire and train more probation officers. The Department of Public Safety also expanded the options officers have to respond to violations, improved treatment options for people on supervision, and deployed a smartphone app to allow officers to better manage caseloads in real time while in the field. North Carolina subsequently saw a 39 percent decline in probation revocations between 2011 and 2017. During that period, the prison population fell more than 9 percent, allowing the state to close 11 small facilities, and averting and saving hundreds of millions of dollars while crime rates remained steady.

SAVINGS/ REINVESTMENT

Savings/averted costs	State JRI investment
\$543,798,472	\$47,811,900

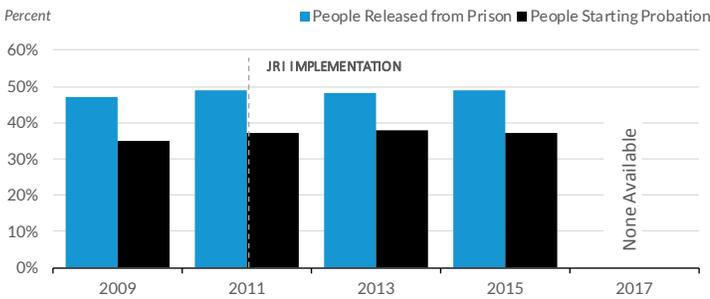
Violent and Property Crime Rates, 2007-17



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 declining before JRI and continued to decline after reform.

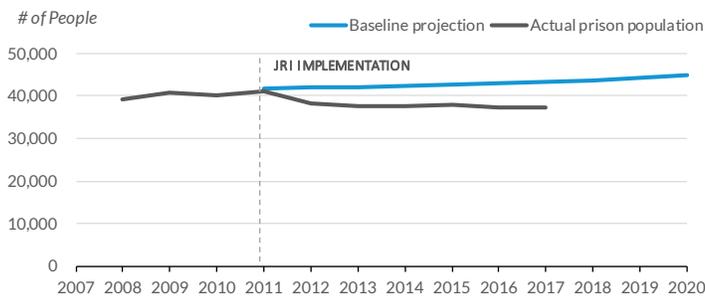
Recidivism: Rearrest within Two Years



Source: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission Adult Recidivism/Correctional Program Evaluation Reports, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15.
Note: Prison samples limited to individuals with a felony conviction.

- Recidivism rates have remained steady for people released from prison and on probation.

Prison Population

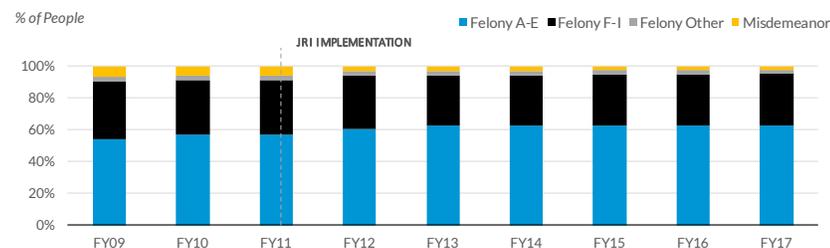


Sources: North Carolina Department of Public Safety Annual Statistical Report; North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's Current Population Projections Fiscal Year 2010/11 to Fiscal Year 2019/20

Note: The baseline prison projection was calculated in 2010 and reflects the expected size of the prison population assuming no changes to policy or practice.

- In 2017, there were approximately 5,700 fewer people in North Carolina prisons than was projected before reform.

Prison Composition



Source: North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Professional Standards, Policy & Planning, Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Statistical Report, 2018.

Notes: Felony class A-E crimes are the most serious and include but are not limited to: murder, rape and other sexual offenses, first-degree burglary and arson, armed robbery, and assault with a deadly weapon or intent to kill. Counts do not include people classified as "safekeepers" (people committed to prison but held in a county jail). Beginning in FY2012, NC created a "Confinement in Response to Violation" (CRV) punishment option. People identified as a CRV case with a felony offense are included in the Felony F-I count starting in FY2012.

- In 2017, 62 percent of people in prison were there for one of the most serious felonies, up from 54 percent in 2009.

*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.