

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI)

Maryland

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Though incarceration rates in Maryland decreased between 2006 and 2016, its corrections costs increased 10 percent. With technical assistance through JRI, it enacted S.B. 1005 in 2016 to prioritize prison for people convicted of serious and violent offenses and improve return on corrections investments.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through S.B. 1005, Maryland:

Focused Prison Resources on Serious and Violent Offenses by Reducing Sentences for Less Serious Crimes

- Lowered maximum incarceration penalties for multiple nonviolent offenses and increased penalties for some serious and violent crimes.
- Raised felony thresholds for theft from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and lowered graduated penalties for felony theft.
- Increased opportunities for people to shorten their prison sentences by participating in and completing programming.

Strengthened Community Supervision

- Required the Division of Parole and Probation to use a risk and needs assessment to inform case plans.
- Implemented graduated sanctions and incentives to better respond to and prevent technical violations of supervision and issued sanctions to roughly 1,120 people in FY 2019.
- Expanded access to compliance credits for people convicted of low-level commercial drug offenses.

Improved Release Policies and Reentry Practices

- Eliminated delays in administrative parole for people convicted of nonviolent offenses.
- Expanded geriatric and medical parole for people who pose limited risk to public safety.
- Allowed people convicted of first-time nonviolent offenses to obtain a certificate of rehabilitation that restores their ability to gain a professional license.

INNOVATION THROUGH JRI

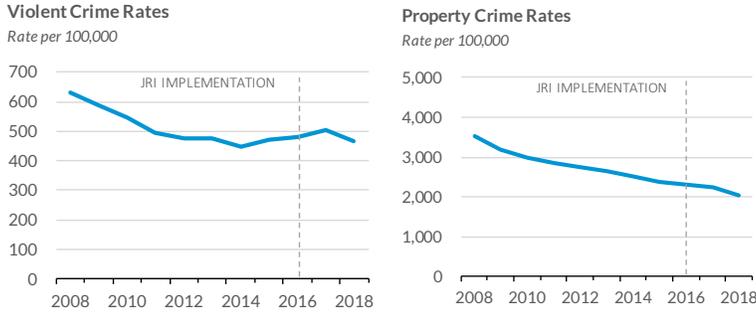
Through JRI, Maryland is investing \$1.8 million in innovative local strategies to reduce recidivism.

System improvements made through JRI in Maryland generated more than \$3.8 million in savings the first year, all of which is being reinvested in state and local strategies to reduce recidivism and improve victims' services. Nearly half of those savings were competitively awarded through the Local County Innovation Grant Program to county-level organizations or nonprofits addressing one of five priorities: reentry programs, evidence-based practices and policies, pretrial risk assessments, specialty courts, and victims' services and rights. The state awarded eight grants, including \$244,000 to Vehicles for Change to replicate an innovative auto mechanic internship program in Baltimore County that shows good results, and \$227,000 to the state's attorney for Worcester County to purchase a comprehensive case management program that will facilitate data collection, crime mapping, and analysis to inform strategic planning. Year-two savings will support a new set of priorities: services to reduce pretrial detention, recidivism reduction programming, substance use disorder and community mental health services, diversion programs, and victims' services and rights.

SAVINGS/REINVESTMENT

Savings/averted costs	State JRI investment
\$3,787,337	\$3,787,337

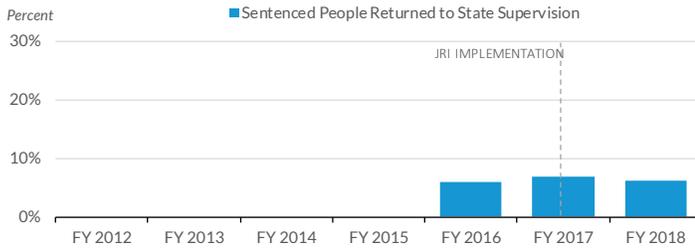
Violent and Property Crime Rates, 2008–18



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (2008–2018).

- Violent crime rates were increasing before JRI and continued to increase for a year before dropping in 2018.
- ↓ Property crime rates were falling before JRI and continued falling after reform.

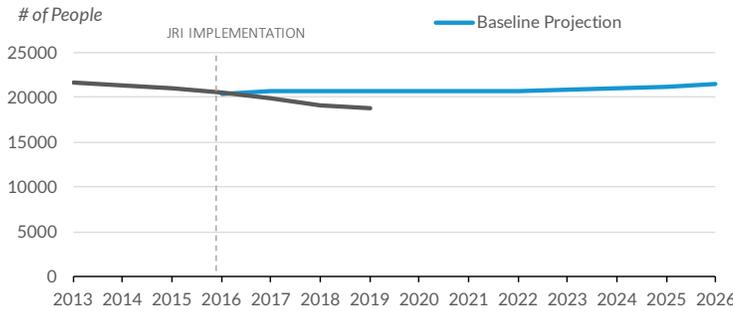
Recidivism: Returned to State Supervision Within One Year



Source: Data provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (not available online).
Notes: Includes a very limited sample of sentenced people returned to correctional or community supervision for a new offense within one year, excluding commitment to local facilities; data system changes preclude comparable analysis in FY 2012–15.

- Recidivism rates were stable among people released from prison between FY 2016 and FY 2018.

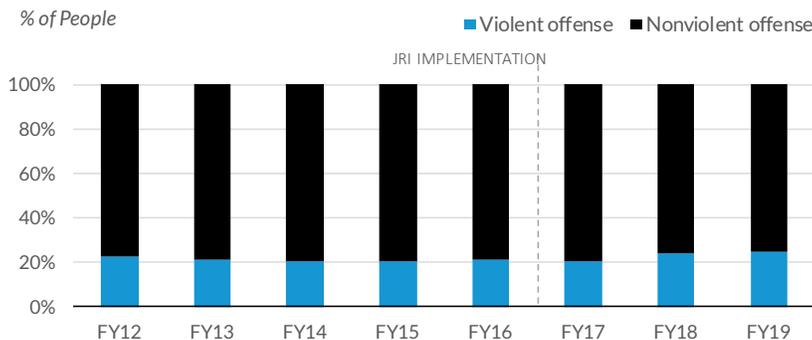
Prison Population



Sources: Baseline projection data provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts (not available online). Actuals provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and include annual average daily population of sentenced prisoners.

- ↓ In 2018, there were approximately 1,900 fewer people in Maryland prisons than was projected before reform.

Prison Admission Composition



Source: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (not available online)
Note: Includes the proportion of intakes to state prison on a crime of violence as defined by 14-101 in Maryland statute.

- In FY 2019, 25 percent of intakes to state prison were for violent crimes, compared with 23 percent in 2012.

*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.