

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI)

Oklahoma

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Between 2000 and 2010, Oklahoma’s prison population grew 15 percent and its corrections costs increased 41 percent. In 2009, its violent crime and incarceration rates were among the highest in the US. With technical assistance through JRI, Oklahoma enacted House Bill 3052 in 2012 to improve public safety, expand and strengthen community supervision, and reduce recidivism, though its policy changes were not fully implemented. Four years later, the state still faced a growing prison population—owing in part to a significant share of people serving time for lower-level offenses—and the possibility of having to build or contract additional prison space, and stakeholders expressed a strong interest in improving return on corrections investments. In 2018, Oklahoma reengaged in JRI and passed targeted reforms through seven separate bills.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through House Bill 3052 (2012) and seven state senate and house bills passed in 2018, Oklahoma:

Reduced Financial Barriers and Improved Access to Treatment

Provided risk assessment and behavioral health screening to guide decisions about sentencing, treatment, and supervision for nearly 30,000 people by 2019, saving the state \$15.5 million as people spent 57 fewer days on average awaiting sentencing.

Established specialized supervision caseloads for people convicted of sex and domestic violence offenses to ensure adequate services.

Focused Prison Use on Serious Offenses

Adjusted penalties for burglary, theft, and some drug offenses based on the seriousness of the offense, decreasing sentences for many less serious offenses.

Created an administrative parole process for people convicted of nonviolent offenses who comply with their case plans, allowing supervision officers to focus limited resources on people convicted of more serious offenses.

Invested in Local Law Enforcement and Improved Supports for Victims of Crime

Awarded more than \$10 million to 46 local law enforcement agencies between 2012 and 2018 through the Safe Oklahoma Grant Program to support implementation of evidence-based policing strategies, increase technological capacity to prevent crime, and enhance victim services.

Required training for law enforcement on domestic violence, trauma, and personal safety planning.

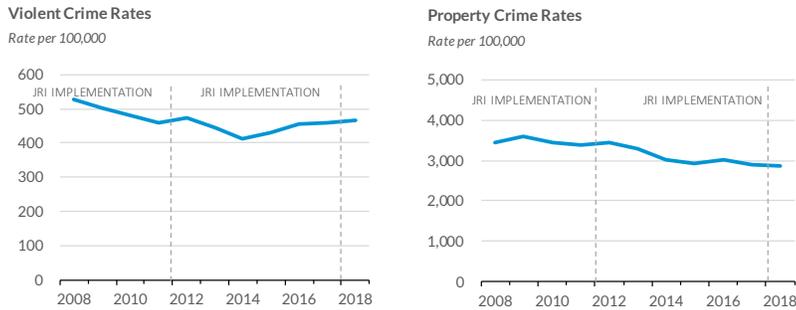
LASTING IMPACT OF JRI

With JRI funding, Oklahoma implemented comprehensive screening practices in county jails, improving their ability to link people to community-based behavioral health supports and shorten pretrial jail stays.

After Oklahoma’s 2012 JRI engagement, the state Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services created a screening program for people in jails and subsequently expanded the program with resources from the Bureau of Justice Assistance JRI Maximizing State Reforms Grant in 2015. The program operates in county jails, where certified treatment providers use validated risk and need, substance use, and mental health screening tools to assess every person charged with a felony. Staff use that information to identify people appropriate for diversion and match them to community-based services that address their specific needs. By January 2019, the program had expanded to nearly all counties and almost 30,000 people had been screened, though many rural communities still lacked alternatives. Fewer than one in five people assessed ultimately went to prison and pretrial jail stays also decreased, saving the state \$15.5 million. Screening results also helped the department identify gaps in services and prioritize strategies to expand behavioral health services across the state.

SAVINGS/ REINVESTMENT	
2012 Savings/averted costs	2012 State JRI investment
Unknown	\$8,405,500
2018 Savings/averted costs	2018 State JRI investment
Unknown	\$12,000,000

Violent and Property Crime Rates, 2008–18

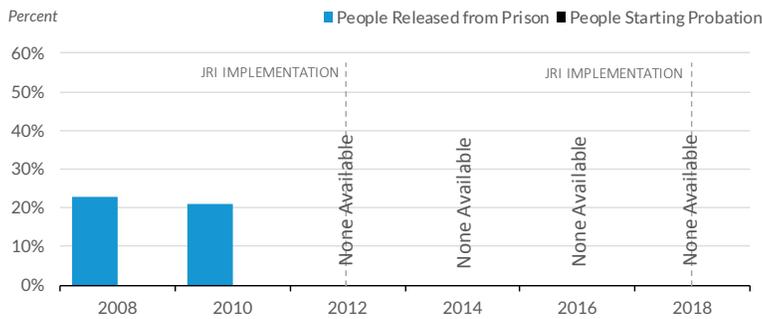


Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (2008–2018).

Violent crime rates decreased from 2012 through 2014 and then increased between 2015 and 2018.

Property crime rates decreased between 2012 and 2018.

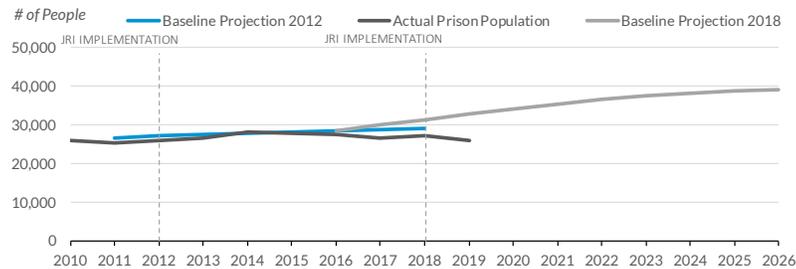
Recidivism Rate: Reincarceration within Three Years



Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections, 2014.

Data on recidivism in Oklahoma are limited.

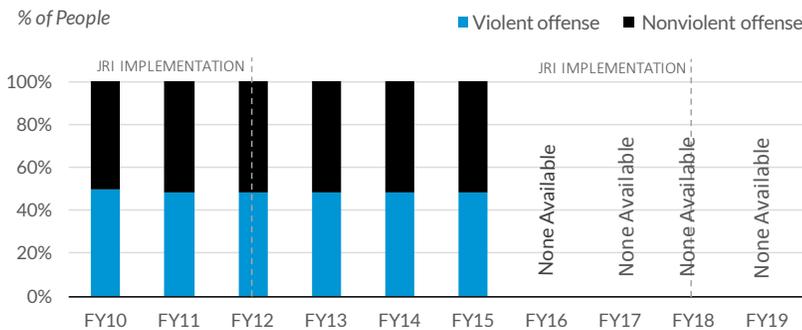
Prison Population



Source: Actual prison population counts 2010 through 2014 are from Department of Corrections Agency-Wide Annual Reports; Prison population counts from 2015 through 2019 are from DOC weekly counts at the end of June each year. Note: Baseline 2012 projection was calculated by the Council of State Governments and baseline 2018 projection was calculated by the Crime and Justice Institute; not available online.

In 2019, there were approximately 6,664 fewer people in Oklahoma prisons than was projected prereform.

Prison Composition



Source: Oklahoma Corrections Agency-Wide Annual Reports, FY 2010–2015. Note: Represents controlling offense.

Between FY 2010 and FY 2015, 48 to 50 percent of people in Oklahoma prisons were there for a violent offense.

*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.