

DECARCERATION STRATEGIES

How 5 States Achieved Substantial Prison Population Reductions

Prison Population Trends	Connecticut 2007-2016	Michigan 2006-2016	Mississippi 2008-2016	Rhode Island 2008-2016	South Carolina 2008-2016
Prison Population Reduction	-25% , from 19,438 to 14,532	-20% , from 51,454 to 41,122	-18% , from 22,831 to 18,833	-23% , from 4,045 in to 3,103	-14% , from 24,326 to 20,858
New Prison Commitments	-27%	-23%	-31% through 2015	-28%	-17%
Returns to Prison	-55% through 2016 across all community release return types.	-41% through 2016 across all parole violator return types.		-37% through 2016 across all community release return types.	-57% through 2016 across all community release return types.
Discretionary Moves to Parole		+17% higher average annual number through 2016.	+153% in 1999 and +104% in 2014 (the 2 years of greatest population decline).	["Prison Releases"] +27% on average during 2008-2010 after legislation reducing length of incarceration	
Facilities Downsizing	Closure of 3 correctional facilities , a juvenile detention center, and housing units in 3 other facilities.	Closure and consolidation of more than 26 prison facilities and corrections camps.	Vacated 3 private prisons, closed 5 community work centers , scaled back regional jails & county work programs.	Occasional partial closure of some facilities to generate savings on operational expenses.	Closure of 7 correctional facilities , incl. prisons & other smaller facilities such as pre-release centers.
Cost Savings	\$39.8 million per year estimated savings generated by closed facilities and units.	\$392 million in savings via closures and operating costs, along with cost avoidance because 2006 projections had forecasted additional prison population growth absent reforms.	\$6 million saved from pop. drop caused by 2008 reforms, \$266 million est. savings from 2014 reforms, \$40 million in reduced corrections expenditures since FY 2014.	Primarily through cost avoidance.	Real savings of \$33 million in operating costs for the closed and downsized facilities. An additional \$458 million estimated to be "saved" by avoiding more prisons.
Arrests	-32%	-23%		-22%	-12%

Index Crime Rate	-27% through 2016, including both violent and property crime rates.	-37% through 2016, including both violent (-19%) and property (41%) crime rates.	-5% , 2008-2016, including both violent (-8%) and property (5%) crime rates.	-31% through 2016, including both violent (-6%) and property (33%) crime rates.	-25% through 2016, including both violent (-31%) and property (23%) crime rates.
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Source: The Sentencing Project's, *Decarceration Strategies: How 5 States Achieved Substantial Prison Population Reductions*, September 5, 2018.