

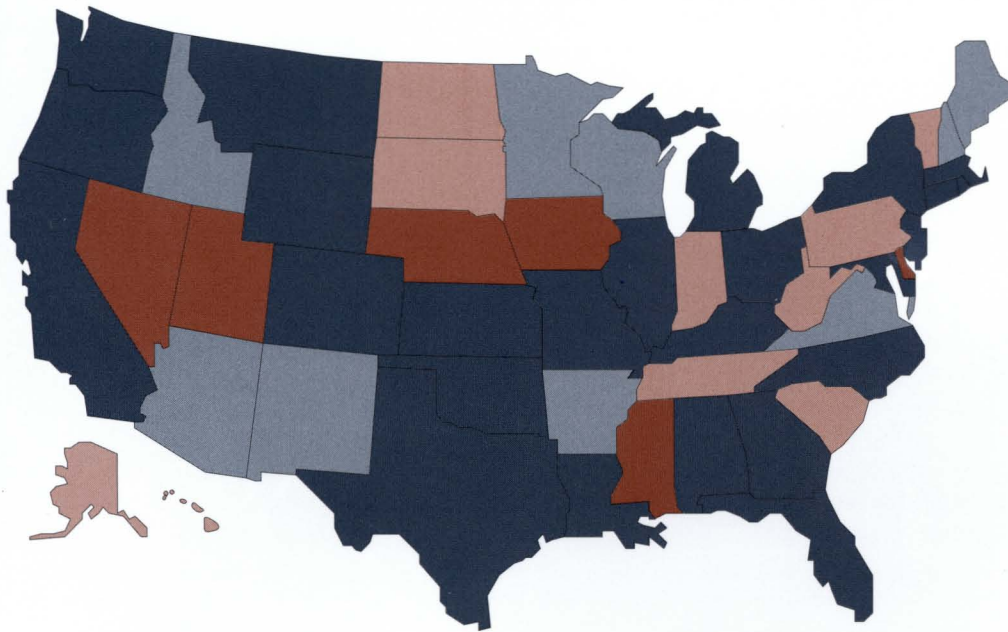


Crime and Justice Atlas

1999 Update

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice
Corrections Program Office
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

Changes in Violent Crime Rates, 1992-1997



- ◆ Between 1992 and 1997, 35 states, along with the District of Columbia, experienced decreased rates of serious violent crime.
- ◆ The average decrease for states whose violent crime rate dropped between 1992 and 1997 was 17.7%. The average change for the 16 states whose violent crime rate increased was 8.8%.
- ◆ Some of the largest decreases in violent crime between 1992 and 1997 occurred in the states with the largest populations, including California, Michigan, New York, and Texas.

■ decreased more than 10% ■ decreased 0-10% ■ increased 0-10%

STATE CRIME LEGISLATION: 1998

In 1998, 40 states enacted crime legislation pertaining to adults and 31 passed laws which affect juveniles.

Crime Legislation Related to Adults

Sex offenders. Twenty-nine states passed legislation enhancing penalties, requiring treatment, providing for civil commitment, requiring more categories of offenders to register, and adding or expanding sex offender notification laws. [AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IA, ID, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NE, NH, NJ, OK, RI, SC, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV]

Sentencing, probation, and parole. Twenty states passed statutes abolishing parole, eliminating good time credits, establishing the use of community punishments, and changing parole requirements and the composition of parole boards. [AZ, CT, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, UT, WA, WI]

Drug-related. Fifteen states passed drug-related legislation, including laws enhancing penalties for specific drugs, such as methamphetamine and marijuana, and laws setting up substance abuse screening and supervision requirements. [CA, CT, DE, IL, KY, MI, MO, NJ, PA, SD, TN, VA, WA, WI, WY]

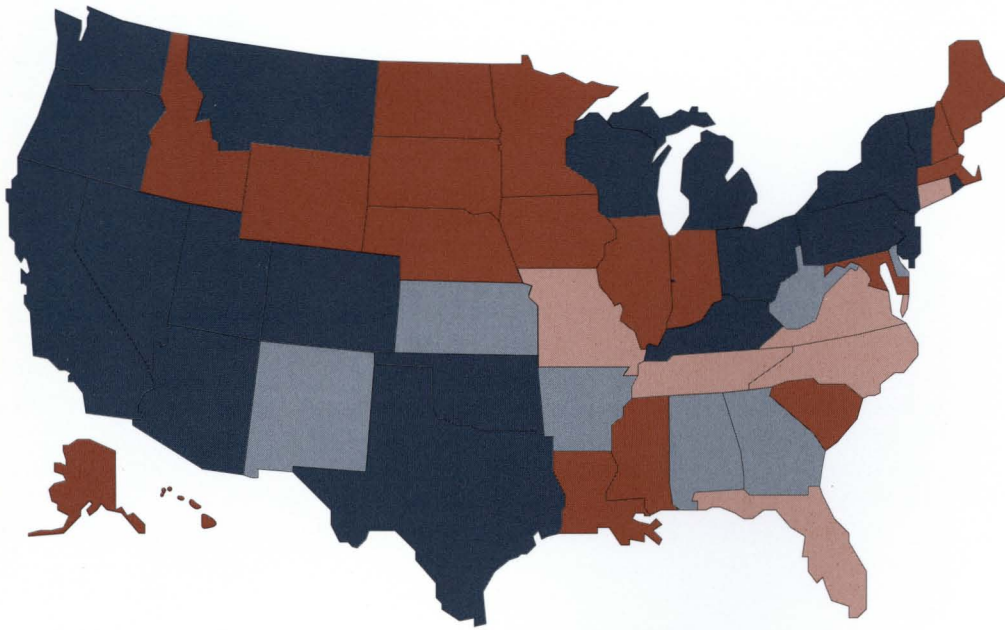
Capital crimes. Nine states passed laws expanding crimes subject to capital punishment, and changing the method of execution to lethal injection. [CA, CT, FL, IL, KY, MD, MI, TN, VA]

Lawsuits filed by prisoners. Ten states passed laws designed to curb frivolous lawsuits filed by prisoners. [AL, CO, IA, LA, MI, MS, PA, UT, VA, WI]

Corrections-related. Twenty states passed laws related to privatization of correctional facilities, services and work assignments for inmates, and collection of fees from inmates to offset the costs of incarceration. [AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, HI, ID, IL, KY, MI, MO, MS, NJ, OK, PA, SC, TN, UT, WA, WV]

Victim-related. Twenty-one states passed laws establishing victims' rights amendments, addressing victim notification, participation, and compensation, and establishing victim restitution measures. [CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, KY, MD, MI, NJ, NY, OH, OK, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, WI, WY]

Changes in Arrest Rates for Violent Crimes Committed by Juveniles, 1992-1997



- ◆ Between 1992 and 1997, about half the states experienced increases in the juvenile arrest rate for serious violent crimes, while the other half showed decreases.
- ◆ The average decrease for states whose juvenile violent crime rate dropped between 1992 and 1997 was 25.5%. The average change for the 25 states whose juvenile violent crime arrest rate increased was 24.7%.
- ◆ Four states (Colorado, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York) experienced decreases of greater than 50% in arrests for violent crimes committed by juveniles between 1992 and 1997. Juvenile violent crime arrest rates more than doubled in three states (Idaho, Iowa, and South Carolina) between 1992 and 1997.

Crime Legislation Related to Juveniles

Crimes committed in schools. Nine states passed legislation related to establishing or enhancing penalties for certain offenses committed at schools and to providing notice to schools regarding crimes committed by students. [AZ, GA, ME, MI, NY, SC, VA, VT, WI]

Treating juveniles as adults. Eight states passed statutes changing the jurisdiction of juvenile courts over certain offenders, including establishing blended juvenile and adult sentences, and changing the number and types of offenses for which juveniles can be treated as adults. [AL, AZ, MA, ME, TN, UT, VT, WI]

Opening juvenile proceedings and records. Eleven states passed legislation permitting fingerprinting and photographing juvenile offenders, and lifting confidentiality requirements on juvenile records and hearings. [CA, CT, FL, GA, KY, MD, OH, OK, PA, UT, WI]

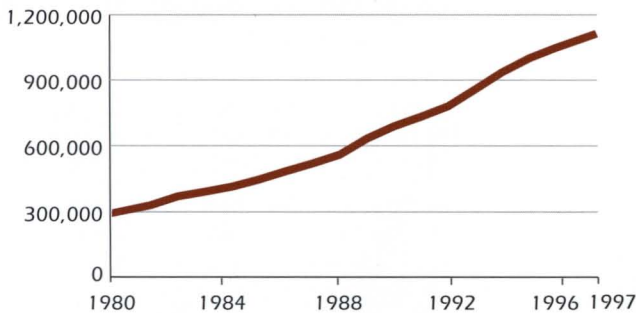
Victims' rights in cases in which the offender was a juvenile. Seven states passed notification laws requiring juvenile agencies to notify victims when juveniles are released from facilities, and requiring restitution to victims. [AK, ME, MN, OH, SC, VT, WI]

Juvenile sex offenders. Five states passed legislation establishing sex offender registries for juveniles and requiring law enforcement agencies to notify schools of students who are alleged sex offenders. [FL, ID, MN, SC, VA]

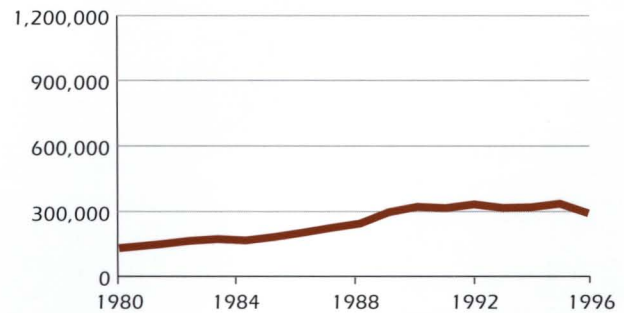
Expanding dispositions, sanctions, and treatment for juvenile offenders. Ten states passed statutes requiring drug screening and assessment of juvenile offenders, establishing drug courts for juvenile offenders, establishing a continuum of graduated sanctions, and holding parents responsible for a child's wrongful acts. [CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, MI, MN, OK, VA, WI]

Trends in State Correctional Populations

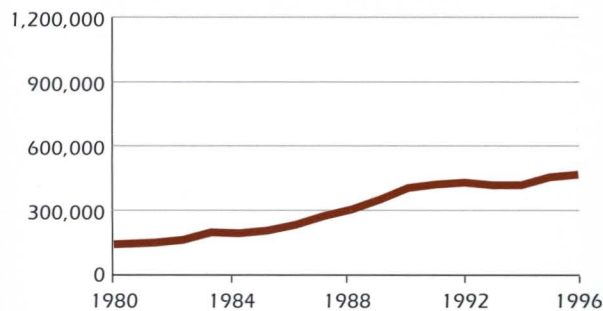
Prisoners Confined in State Prisons, 1980–1997



New Court Commitments to State Prisons, 1980–1996



Releases from State Prisons, 1980–1996



- ◆ Since 1980, the numbers of prisoners, new court commitments, and releases from state prisons have risen by a yearly average of 8.1%, 5.5%, and 7.9%, respectively.
- ◆ In recent years, the trends in commitments and releases have slowed or reversed. Between 1992 and 1996, commitments decreased by a yearly average of 1.3%, while releases increased by a yearly average of 2.1%.

Detention and incarceration of juvenile offenders.

Seventeen states enacted laws establishing minimum retention periods and release procedures, providing educational programs for juveniles in custody, and developing rules for the placement of juveniles in secure detention. [CA, CO, FL, HI, KS, KY, ME, MI, MN, MO, OH, SC, SD, TN, VA, WI, WV]

Juvenile status offenders and delinquency prevention.

Eleven states passed legislation addressing truancy and establishing curfews, creating new programs for at-risk youths, and creating organizational structures to increase interagency planning and service delivery. [AL, CA, CT, ID, KY, ME, MS, UT, VA, WI, WV]

Note: Violent crime rates are based on the number of violent crimes per 100,000 adult residents. Juvenile arrest rates are based on the number of arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 5 to 17.

Data Sources

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Changes in Correctional Populations by State

	Prisoner Population 1992-1997	New Court Commitments 1992-1996	Releases From Prison 1992-1996
Alabama	22.5%	21.3%	10.1%
Alaska	27.3	22.7	45.7
Arizona	19.8	5.2	2.4
Arkansas	15.0	-6.5	9.9
California	40.3	12.0	25.1
Colorado	33.0	20.6	14.2
Connecticut	48.1	-92.0	-85.9
Delaware	14.0	21.7	5.4
Dist. of Col.	29.2	295.3	5.6
Florida	23.0	-37.5	-30.7
Georgia	31.0	-4.9	-2.2
Hawaii	48.8	42.9	39.9
Idaho	54.2	64.6	35.3
Illinois	25.0	13.8	30.7
Indiana	23.8	30.4	24.5
Iowa	51.0	18.2	23.5
Kansas	27.0	28.0	-3.6
Kentucky	35.4	25.8	24.7
Louisiana	40.1	-22.2	28.9
Maine	2.7	-12.8	-5.2
Maryland	7.9	3.2	9.4
Massachusetts	10.0	-15.9	-36.0
Michigan	10.8	-11.1	8.5
Minnesota	32.4	11.0	12.1
Mississippi	59.4	13.4	-3.9
Missouri	42.3	15.0	14.3
Montana	35.6	20.6	12.8
Nebraska	32.2	23.6	8.8
Nevada	16.6	-1.0	-1.7
New Hampshire	11.9	-15.4	35.6
New Jersey	21.6	1.5	7.2
New Mexico	29.4	5.6	-1.3
New York	13.0	-16.2	9.2
North Carolina	27.7	-55.8	-41.5
North Dakota	82.6	98.5	43.5
Ohio	23.0	-8.6	-4.4
Oklahoma	33.7	2.0	1.2
Oregon	32.9	-3.0	-44.3
Pennsylvania	39.7	-10.9	-8.7
Rhode Island	24.4	25.6	-2.3
South Carolina	9.3	-10.3	-5.8
South Dakota	45.9	27.4	25.3
Tennessee	31.2	0.0	16.5
Texas	112.0	-5.5	12.2
Utah	39.7	65.1	19.5
Vermont	-9.3	-14.5	191.6
Virginia	24.3	-29.0	-19.5
Washington	21.4	7.5	10.5
West Virginia	87.8	77.2	92.3
Wisconsin	76.8	18.1	40.4
Wyoming	42.1	33.2	11.1

- ◆ **Between 1992 and 1997, the number of prisoners increased in every state but one. The average increase was 32.9%.**
- ◆ **In 19 states, the number of new court commitments decreased between 1992 and 1996. The average decrease was 19%, while the average increase was 35%.**
- ◆ **Between 1992 and 1996, the number of releases from prison decreased in 16 states. The average decrease was 19%, while the average increase was 26%.**

The Crime and Justice Atlas 1999 Update was prepared for the National Workshop II on Sentencing and Corrections Challenges by the Justice Research and Statistics Association.