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# Environmental Scan 2014

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# Environmental Scan 2014

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## **Introduction**

Beginning in the late 1990's, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Information Center began scanning social, economic and corrections issues to inform the development of programs and services offered by NIC. This report, now in its 9th edition, has continued to evolve into a popular tool that corrections practitioners also use to inform their work in jails, prisons and community corrections. Because there are many issues beyond what is addressed in this environmental scan that potentially will influence corrections, this report is intended to give a broad overview of selected current and anticipated trends and not intended to be comprehensive.

The method for selecting articles, reports and other materials was based on a scan of popular magazines, newspapers and websites as well as corrections-specific publications. As part of the ongoing work of the Information Center in supporting the work of corrections practitioners, staff regularly monitor reports and publications from state, national and independent sources. The report is arranged starting with global and broader influences on corrections and moves to specific corrections issues. Each section of the report gives an overview of the topic followed by corrections-specific trends and developments in this area.

Added to the report this year is the final section on Cost of Incarceration and Changing Corrections Policy.

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## International Developments

Our International Developments section begins with a look at Gallup's top world news discoveries for 2014, then moves to global economic issues, world population statistics, the Global Peace Index, and finally prison populations and trends across the globe.

- On December 29, 2014, Gallup editors selected their Top 10 World Findings of 2014. Included in this list were:
  - #1 – Worldwide, only one in four adults or 1.3 billion people are employed full time.
  - #2 – The outlook on global jobs has experienced little improvement, with more than half of adults saying it was a bad time to find a job in their communities.
  - #4 – The global image of U.S. leadership has rebounded with median approval at 46%, up from 41% in the previous year.

Source: Gallup World, *Gallup's Top 10 World News Findings of 2014*, December 29, 2014 (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/180374/gallup-top-world-findings-2014.aspx>)

- The World Economic Forum publishes “a comprehensive series of reports which examine in detail the broad range of global issues it seeks to address with stakeholders as part of its mission of improving the state of the world.” Key reports include:
  - *Global Risks 2015* – Based on a survey of the World Economic Forum's multistakeholder communities, the report maps 28 global risks according to likelihood and potential effect. The top five are listed below:

Likelihood of Risk – Top 5	Impact of Risk – Top 5
Interstate conflict	Water crises
Extreme weather events	Spread of infectious diseases
Failure of national governance	Weapons of mass destruction
State collapse or crisis	Interstate conflict
Unemployment of underemployment	Failure of climate-change adaptation

- *Outlook on the Global Agenda 2015* - Features an analysis of the Top 10 trends that preoccupy our experts for the next 12-18 months as well as the key challenges facing the world's regions, an overview of global leadership and governance, and the emerging issues that will define our future.

- *The Global Gender Gap Report 2014* – Emphasizes persisting gender gap divides across and within regions. According to the Global Gender Gap Report, the gender gap for economic participation and opportunity now stands at 60% worldwide, having closed by 4% from 56% in 2006.
- *The Global Competitiveness Report 2014-15* – Assesses the competitiveness landscape of 144 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity.

Source: World Economic Forum, *Reports*, Accessed January 19, 2015  
<http://www.weforum.org/reports>

- Also, focused on the world economy, the International Monetary Fund’s World Economic Outlook (WEO) update projects drivers and rates of global growth.
  - Global growth will receive a boost from lower oil prices, which reflect to an important extent higher supply. But this boost is projected to be more than offset by negative factors, including investment weakness as adjustment to diminished expectations about medium-term growth continues in many advanced and emerging market economies.
  - Global growth in 2015–16 is projected at 3.5 and 3.7 percent, downward revisions of 0.3 percent relative to the October 2014 World Economic Outlook (WEO). The revisions reflect a reassessment of prospects in China, Russia, the euro area, and Japan as well as weaker activity in some major oil exporters because of the sharp drop in oil prices. The United States is the only major economy for which growth projections have been raised.

Source: International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update: Cross Currents*, January 19, 2015  
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2015/update/01/pdf/0115.pdf>

- The 2014 World Population Data Sheet (WPDS) offers detailed information on 16 population, health and environment indicators for more than 200 countries. This year's data sheet has a special focus on “Progress and Challenges.”

More than simply a data sheet, the WPDS is a document, an interactive map of both the current 2014 and the estimated 2050 world populations (as shown below), and a data finder.

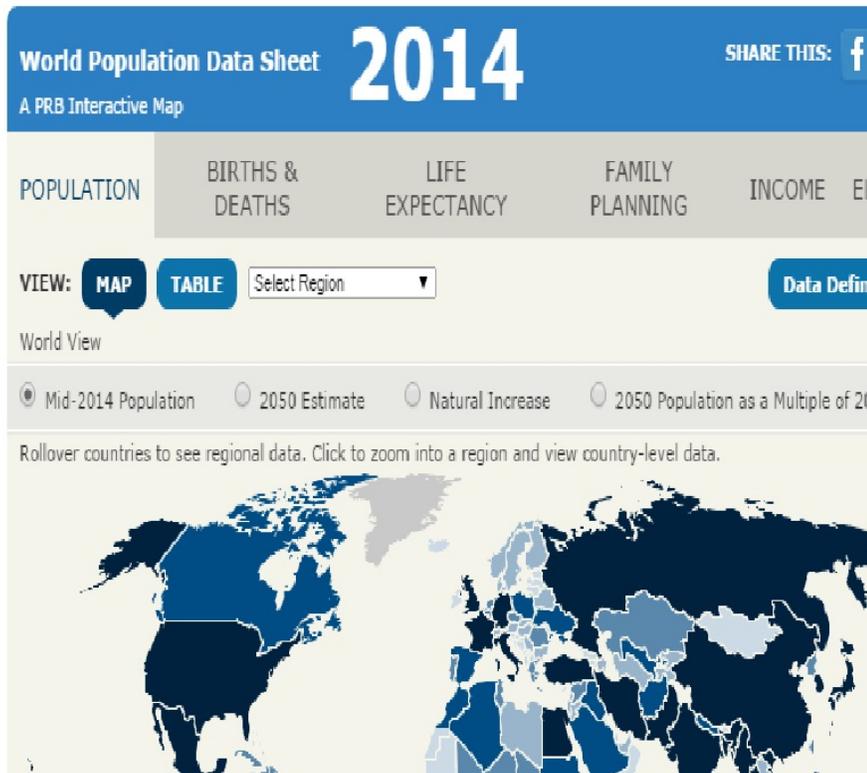


Figure 1: Interactive Map and Table for 2014 World Populations

Source: Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet 2014*, December 2014 (<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2014/2014-world-population-data-sheet.aspx>)

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) ranks the nations of the world by their peacefulness and identifies drivers of peace. Specifically, “the GPI measures peace in 162 countries according to 22 indicators that gauge the absence of violence or the fear of violence.” Key findings from the 2014 report include the following:
  - Since 2008, 111 countries have deteriorated in levels of peace, while only 51 have increased.
  - Europe retains its position as the most peaceful region with 14 of the top 20 most peaceful countries.
  - The world has become less peaceful over the last year, mainly due to a rise in terrorist activity, the number of conflicts fought and the number of refugees and displaced people.
  - Five hundred million people live in countries at risk of instability and conflict, 200 million of whom live below the poverty line.
  - The Global Economic Impact of violence reached US\$9.8 trillion last year, which is equal to 2 times the total GDP of Africa.

Source: Institute for Economics and Peace, *Global Peace Index 2014*, June 2014 (<http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Global%20Peace%20Index%20REPORT.pdf>) and interactive map (<http://www.visionofhumanity.org/#/page/indexes/global-peace-index>)

- The World Prison Brief (WPB) provides information on “prison populations and prison population rates per 100,000 of the national population, on the use of imprisonment for women and juveniles, on the extent of pre-trial imprisonment and on prison overcrowding, as well as a record of the national ministries responsible for prisons and contact details for prison administrations.” The United States is second only to Seychelles with the rate of 707 imprisoned per 100,000 of national population.

Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, *World Prison Brief*, September 2000 (updated monthly) (<http://www.prisonstudies.org/info/worldbrief/>)

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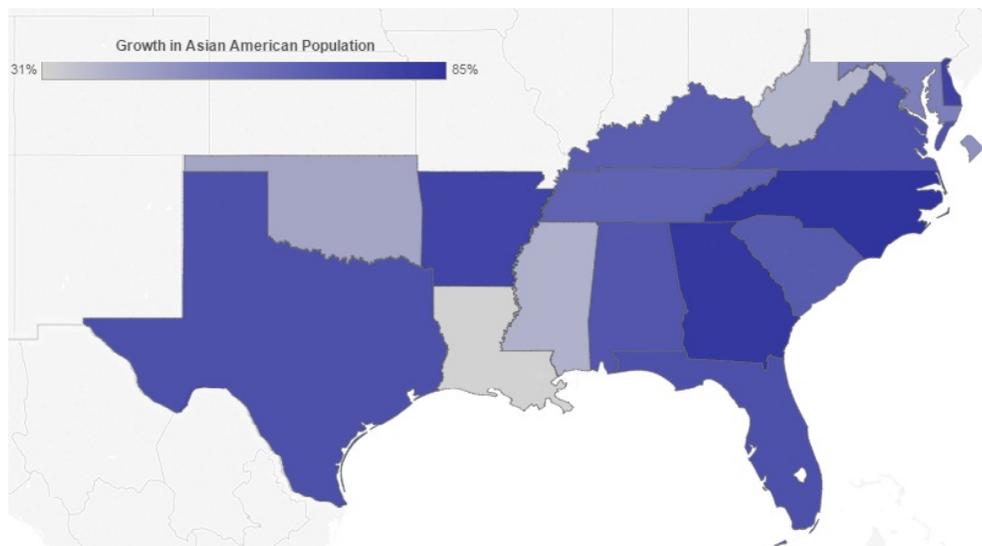
## Demographic and Social Trends

Projections from U.S. Census Bureau data range from shifts in immigrant and ethnic populations to gentrification of urban neighborhoods. The statistics below highlight changes in the demographic makeup of the United States in terms of population, immigration, poverty and incomes.

- As of late January 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the U.S. population to be 321 million, 4.4% of the world's 7 billion people. This Census Bureau population webpage also provides population estimates by region, age and sex, and most populous and highest density by state, county, and city.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. & World Population Clocks*, January 28, 2015  
(<http://www.census.gov/popclock/>)

- This PEW report highlights Asian Americans as the fastest-growing ethnic group in the South. From 2000 to 2010, the Asian-American population in the South increased by 69 percent, with Georgia and North Carolina seeing increases topping 80 percent.



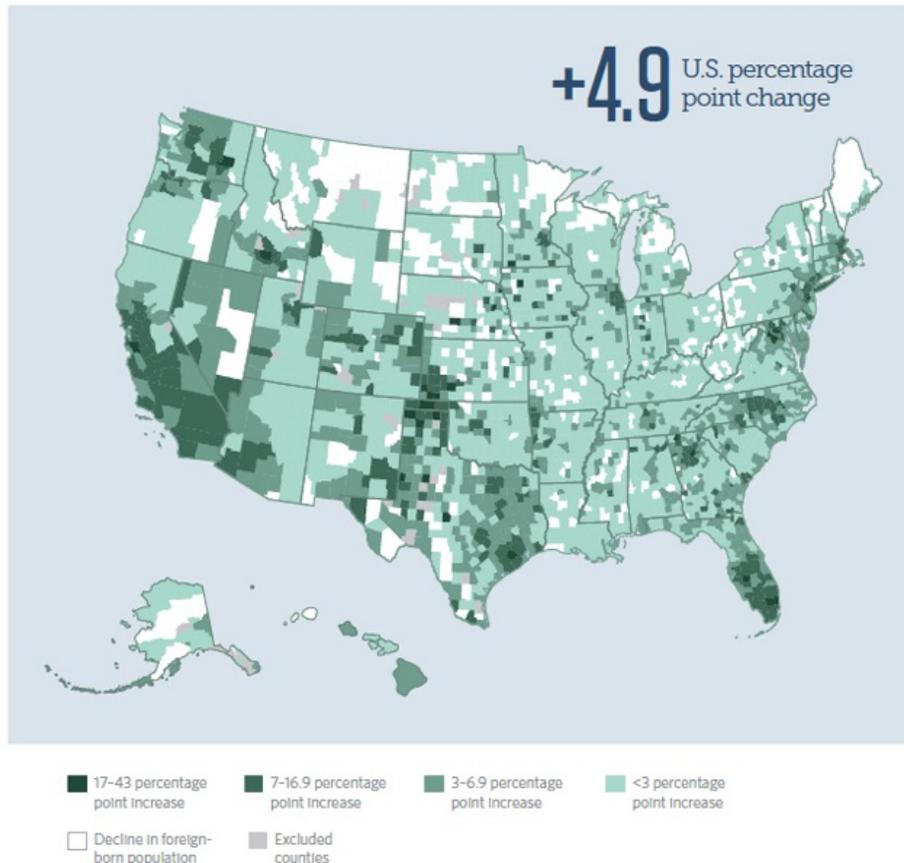
**Figure 2: Growth in Asian American Population (Asian Americans Advancing Justice analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data)**

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, *How Asian-Americans are Changing the South*, October 3, 2014  
(<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/10/03/how-asian-americans-are-changing-the-south>)

- On the topic of immigration, PEW released a December 2014 report estimating that the "...net international migration to the United States will become the primary driver of the nation's population growth between 2027 and 2038." Graphic below:

## Immigrants Move Beyond Traditional Gateways

Change in foreign-born adults as a share of total adult county population from 1990 to 2012



**Figure 3: Immigrants Move Beyond Traditional Gateways: Change in foreign-born adults as a share of total adult county population from 1990 to 2012**

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Changing Patterns in U.S. Immigration and Population: Immigrants slow population decline in many counties*, December 2014

(<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2014/12/changing-patterns-in-us-immigration-and-population>)

- Is gentrification or revitalization fact or fiction? A preliminary look at the data for 10 cities is examined in this blog post from the Urban Institute. Respectively called revitalization or gentrification, the general narrative has been that an increasing number of young, educated, and (largely) white people are moving back into urban neighborhoods, bringing their tastes, lifestyles, and salaries along with them.

Urban Institute, *The revitalization of American central cities: fact or fiction?* April 2014

(<http://blog.metrorends.org/2014/04/revitalization-american-central-cities-fact-fiction/>)

- The Census Bureau report, *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2012 and 2013*, mainly uses 2012 and 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data to “compare poverty rates and the number of people in poverty for the nation.” From the report:
  - In 2013, about 48.8 million people or 15.8 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty level. Neither the number nor the rate for 2013 was statistically different from 2012.
  - New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington experienced increases in both the number and percentage of people in poverty between 2012 and 2013. New Hampshire and Wyoming experienced declines in both the number and percentage of people in poverty.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Poverty: 2012 and 2013*, September 2014

(<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/acs/acsbr13-01.pdf>)

- Another Census Bureau report on income and poverty presents data based on information collected in the 2014 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). From the report:
  - Median household income was \$51,939 in 2013, not statistically different in real terms from the 2012 median. This is the second consecutive year that the annual change was not statistically significant, following two consecutive years of annual declines in median household income.
  - Between 2010 (the year following the most recent recession) and 2013, the number of workers with earnings, regardless of work experience, increased by 4.5 million to 158.1 million. For those working full time, year round, the increase was 6.4 million to 105.8 million. While the number of all workers in 2013 was not statistically different from the peak that occurred in 2007, the number of full-time year-round workers in 2013 was less than the 2007 peak of 108.6 million.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013*, September 2014

(<http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.html>)

- This article from *The Wall Street Journal* outlines the growing reality around the rich/poor gap. Citing data from the Federal Reserve, “Average, or mean, pretax income for the wealthiest 10% of U.S. families rose 10% in 2013 from 2010, but families in the bottom 40% saw their average inflation-adjusted income decline over that period.”

Source: The Wall Street Journal, *Fed: Gap Between Rich, Poor Americans Widened During Recovery*, September 2014 (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fed-gap-between-rich-poor-americans-widened-during-recovery-1409853628>) and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 2013 Survey of Consumer Finances (<http://www.federalreserve.gov/econresdata/scf/scfindex.htm>)

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## The Workforce

The Workforce section provides a summary of the current employment situation, with specific reports on the slow growth of average hourly earnings, current and increasing minimum wage levels by state, current employment and salaries for correctional workers, and the “Ban the Box” initiative to reduce barriers for employing people who were formerly incarcerated.

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides a monthly report on the national employment situation. As of January 9, 2015, the unemployment rate declined to 5.6% and the nonfarm payroll employment rose by 252,000 in December 2014. “Job growth averaged 246,000 per month in 2014, compared with 194,000 per month in 2013. In December, professional and business services, construction, food services, health care, and manufacturing added jobs.” A chart of the total nonfarm employment from January 2011 to December 2014 is shown below:

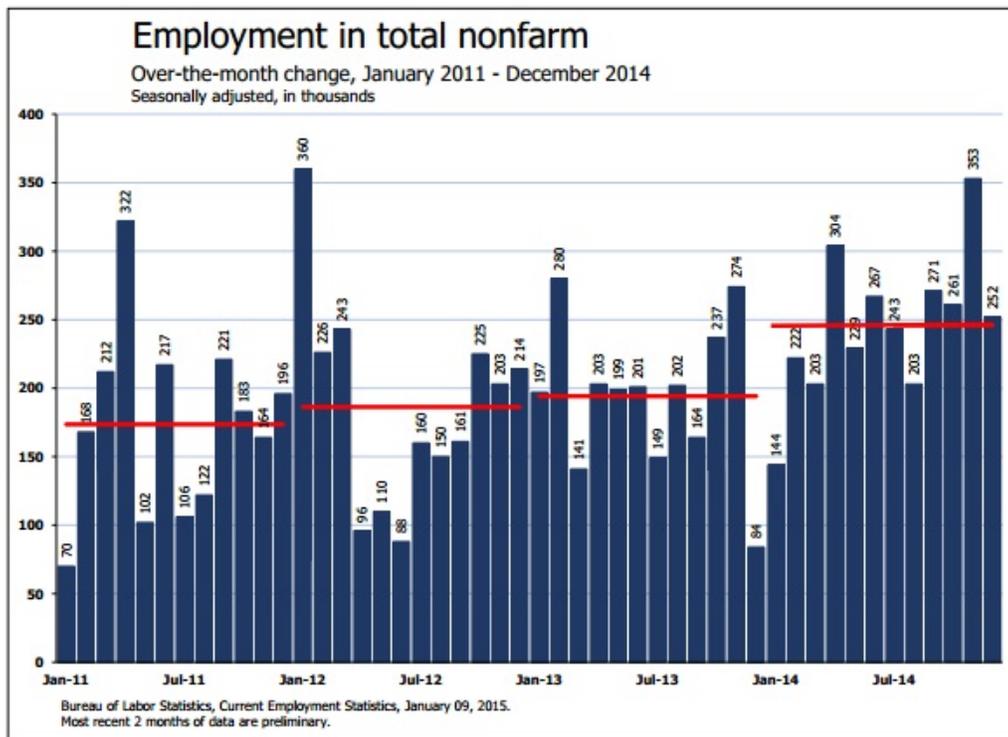


Figure 4: Employment in total nonfarm

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Employment Statistics – CES (National)*, January 9, 2014 (<http://www.bls.gov/ces/>)

- Despite the job growth in 2014, average hourly earnings actually fell 5 cents in December 2014 and continue to lag the positive employment numbers. The following two articles from the *New York Times* and the Pew Research Center provide insight to the issue of lagging wages.
  - “The nation’s wage situation, Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez said, is a crucial part of the “unfinished business” of the nation’s economic recovery, which began around the middle of 2009.” Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial states, “This is still a buyer’s market in terms of labor. For all the good news on unemployment and the number of jobs we’ve created, if these wage numbers are to be believed, employers still have their pick.”

Source: The New York Times, *Job Growth Fails to Help Paychecks of Workers*. January 9, 2015 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/10/business/economy/jobs-unemployment-figures-december.html>)

- “...after adjusting for inflation, today’s average hourly wage has just about the same purchasing power as it did in 1979, following a long slide in the 1980s and early 1990s and bumpy, inconsistent growth since then. In fact, in real terms the average wage peaked more than 40 years ago: The \$4.03-an-hour rate recorded in January 1973 has the same purchasing power as \$22.41 would today.”

Source: Pew Research Center, *For most workers, real wages have barely budged for decades*. October 9, 2014 (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/09/for-most-workers-real-wages-have-barely-budged-for-decades/>)

- Looking at the low end of wages, the state minimum wage is increasing for nearly 50% of states during 2015. The National Conference of State Legislatures provides a chart of current minimum wages and future wage increases by state. Key changes for 2015 include:
  - As of Jan. 1, 2015, 29 states and D.C. will have minimum wages above the federal minimum wage.
  - Four states - Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota - approved minimum wage increases through ballot measures in the 2014 general election; Illinois voters approved an advisory measure.
  - The legislatures in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and D.C. enacted increases during the 2014 session.
  - On Jan. 1, 2015, indexed increases in state laws will cause minimum wages to go up in nine states: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, and

Washington.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, *State Minimum Wages/2014-2015 Minimum Wage by State*, December 18, 2014 (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx>)

- As of May 2013, the average hourly and annual wage for correctional officers and jailers was \$21.32 and \$44,350 respectively, for correctional first-line supervisors wages were \$29.59 and \$61,540 respectively, and for probation officers it was \$25.44 and \$52,910 respectively. Employment of correctional officers is projected to grow 5 percent from 2012 to 2022, slower than the average for all occupations.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Employment and Wages*, May 2013 for correctional officers and jailers (<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes333012.htm>), for first-line supervisors of correctional officers (<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes331011.htm>), for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists (<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes211092.htm>), and expected growth for correctional officers (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/print/correctional-officers.htm>).

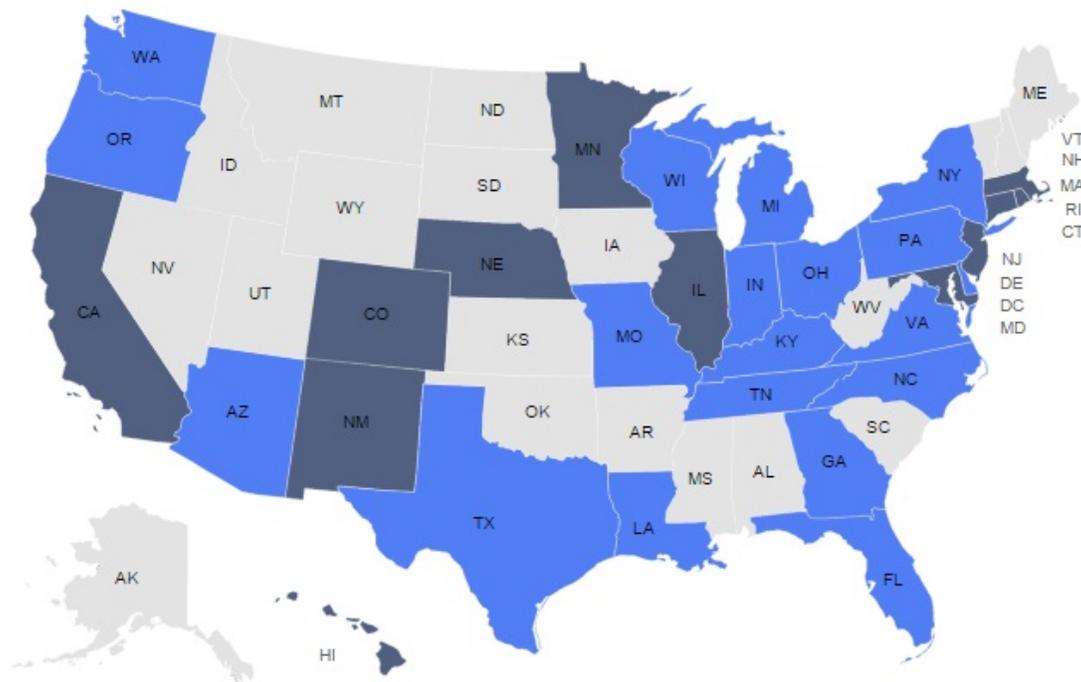
- Estimates from 2013 show that a total of 740,513 government employees worked in corrections with average monthly payroll expenses of \$4,324 for full-time employees and \$1,986 for part-time employees.

	Federal	State	Local	Total
<b>Corrections employees</b>	38,507	439,124	262,882	740,513

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll Summary Report: 2013*, December 19, 2014 ([http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/2013\\_summary\\_report.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/2013_summary_report.pdf))

- Employment for people formerly incarcerated continues to be a challenge despite the improved labor market. A recent movement to “Ban the Box” encourages removing barriers to employment, such as removing the question about an individual’s conviction history from the job application. The National Employment Law Project provides tracking and resources on several “Ban the Box” initiatives. The following map shows states with either state or local fair chance policies.

## Ban the Box: A Fair Chance for a Stronger Economy



Dark Blue State = Has a state law (may also have city and county fair chance policies). [More information](#)  
 Light Blue State = Has at least one city or county fair chance policy. [More information](#)

**Figure 5: Ban the Box: A Fair Chance for a Stronger Economy**

Source: National Employment Law Project, *Ban the Box: A Fair Chance for a Stronger Economy*, accessed January 13, 2015 (<http://www.nelp.org/page/content/banthebox/>) and PBS Newshour broadcast, *Banning ‘the box’ to give ex-convicts a better chance at finding a job*, December 25, 2014 (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/banning-box-give-ex-convicts-better-chance-find-job/>)

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## Technology

Below are some examples of how technology is changing our social landscape, enhancing our ability to be connected and affecting our privacy. The increasing use of body -worn camera systems is also highlighted.

- Each year editors of *MIT Technology Review* select the 10 most important technological milestones over the last 12 months. The 2014 list includes innovations such as:
  - Ultraprivate Smartphones – New models built with security and privacy in mind reflect the Zeitgeist of the Snowden era.
  - Oculus Rift – Thirty years after virtual-reality goggles and immersive virtual worlds made their debut, the technology finally seems poised for widespread use.
  - Mobile Collaboration – The smartphone era is finally getting the productivity software it needs.

Source: MIT Technology Review, *10 Breakthrough Technologies*, 2014  
(<http://www.technologyreview.com/lists/technologies/2014/>)

- In a recent edition of *Wired* magazine, Kim Zetter looks at “The Biggest Security Threats We’ll Face in 2015.” Examples of the type of threats predicted for 2015 include those at the national or state level, extortion, data destruction, ongoing bank card breaches, third-party breaches and attacks on critical infrastructure.

Source: WIRED, *The Biggest Security Threats We’ll Face in 2015*, January 4, 2015  
(<http://www.wired.com/2015/01/security-predictions-2015/>)

- The Pew Internet & American Life Project released numerous reports in 2014 and early 2015 in the technology arena. Examples include:
  - Social Media Update 2014 – While Facebook remains the most popular social media site (71% usage), its overall growth has slowed and other sites continue to see increases in usership. (Jan. 9, 2015)
  - Technology’s Impact on Workers – Just 7% of adults working online feel their productivity has dropped because of the Internet, email and cell phones, while 46% feel more productive. (Dec. 30, 2014)
  - The Future of Privacy – 55% of respondents (experts and Internet builders) do not believe that an accepted privacy-rights regime and infrastructure will be created by 2025. (Nov. 12, 2014)

Source: Pew Research InternetProject, *Latest Research*, 2014-2015  
(<http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/01/09/social-media-update-2014/>) and

(<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/12/30/technologys-impact-on-workers/>) and (<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/12/18/future-of-privacy/>)

- At the Consumer Electronics Show 2015 in Las Vegas, a range of new wearable tech were featured, including a device to help patients manage chronic pain, GPS trackers for kids and a disposable adhesive heart rate monitor.

Source: TechRepublic, CES 2015: Six cool new wearable tech devices, January 4, 2015 (<http://www.techrepublic.com/article/ces-2015-six-cool-new-wearable-tech-devices/>)

- For a more complete view of wearable tech, Mashable has links to over 140 stories since January of 2014. Stories include:
  - *A preview of the Apple Watch reported out in March 2015*
  - *5 digital health trends you'll see in 2015*
  - *Wristband that notices when you fall asleep and can record your TV show*

Source: Mashable, *Wearable Tech*, accessed January 14, 2015 (<http://mashable.com/category/wearable-tech/>)

- A recent COPS publication highlights body -worn camera systems as a technology that “has already had an impact on policing” and notes that the “decision to implement body-worn cameras should not be entered into lightly.” Below are several articles and publications around the perceptions, use, efficacy and implications of using body-worn cameras.
  - *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program* – A police department that deploys body-worn cameras is making a statement that it believes the actions of its officers are a matter of public record. By facing the challenges and expense of purchasing and implementing a body-worn camera system, developing policies, and training its officers in how to use the cameras, a department creates a reasonable expectation that members of the public and the news media will want to review the actions of officers. This publication is intended to serve as a guide to the thoughtful, careful considerations that police departments should undertake if they wish to adopt body-worn cameras.

Source: COPS, *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned*, 2014 (<http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/472014912134715246869.pdf>)

- *Study Finds Body Cameras Decrease Police’s Use of Force* – In this article, Newsweek reports on a recently published study, which detailed the first controlled and much-discussed experiment to ask whether body-worn cameras could reduce the prevalence of police use-of-force or the number of complaints filed against police. Conducted by the University of Cambridge’s Institute of Criminology, the study, based on a 12-month trial in

Rialto, California, found that body-worn cameras reduced the use of force by roughly 50 percent, says Dr. Barak Ariel, the lead author. Complaints against police also fell 90 percent during the study period compared with the previous year.

Source: Newsweek, *Study Finds Body Cameras Decrease Police's Use of Force*, December 28, 2014 (<http://www.newsweek.com/amidst-debate-study-finds-body-cameras-decrease-polices-use-force-295315>)

- *The Technology Advantage: Using Shoulder-Mounted Cameras within a Detention Facility* - This article describes how the detention center in Charleston County, South Carolina, came to equip its special operations tactical teams with shoulder-mounted video cameras that record situations as they unfold. Because partner team members each wear a camera, two views are captured of every incident. The recordings have proven to be very helpful in after-action reviews by leadership and for evidentiary purposes.



Source: NIC National Jail Exchange, *The Technology Advantage: Using Shoulder-Mounted Cameras Within a Detention Facility*, August 20, 2013 ([http://community.nic.gov/blogs/national\\_jail\\_exchange/archive/2013/08/20/the-technology-advantage-using-shoulder-mounted-cameras-within-a-detention-facility.aspx](http://community.nic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2013/08/20/the-technology-advantage-using-shoulder-mounted-cameras-within-a-detention-facility.aspx))

- *Police Officer Body-Worn Cameras* – This publication provides a review of the available evidence on officer body-worn cameras. The goal is to provide a comprehensive resource that will help law enforcement agencies understand the factors they should consider to make informed decisions regarding the adoption of body-worn camera technology. (2014)

Source: OJP Diagnostic Center, *Police Officer Body-Worn Cameras: Assessing the Evidence*, 2014 (<https://ojpdiagnosticcenter.org/sites/default/files/spotlight/download/Police%20Officer%20Body-Worn%20Cameras.pdf>)

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## Public Opinion

According to a recent Gallup poll, crime continues to be an issue of lower importance to the public. Public opinion polls from Gallup Politics are also provided on the topics of marijuana legalization, diverging views on race, and privacy and security.

- A Gallup poll in October 2014 asking, “What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?” found crime/violence at 3%, judicial system/courts/laws at 2% and guns/gun control receiving only 1% of the vote. Crime/violence was up 2% from January 2013, while the judicial system/courts/laws and guns/gun control were unchanged. The number one vote continues to go to the economic problems and the top non-economic problem is “dissatisfaction with government.”

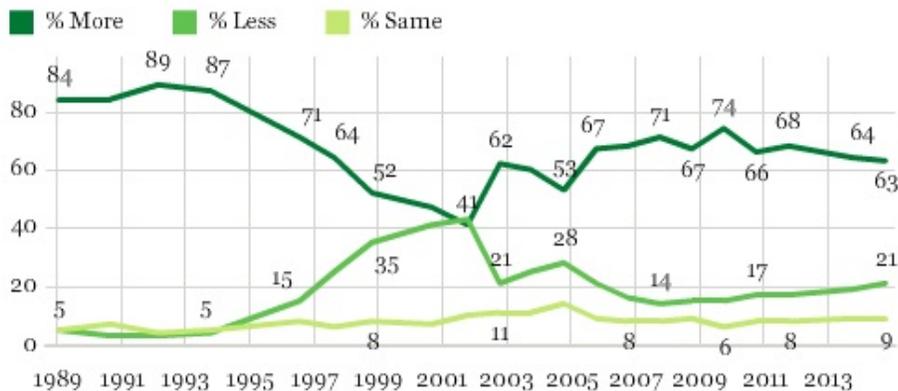
Source: GALLUP, *Most Important Problem*, October 2014

(<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1675/most-important-problem.aspx>)

- Although Americans saw crime as an increasing problem over the last year, the percentage of Americans who say crime is up hits one of its lowest points in the last 10 years. Nearly 63% of Americans say there is more crime in the U.S. than a year ago, but only 44% believe the crime is up in their own area.

### *Perceptions of Crime in the U.S., 1989-2014*

Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?



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Figure 6: Americans' Perception of Crime in the U.S., 1989-2014

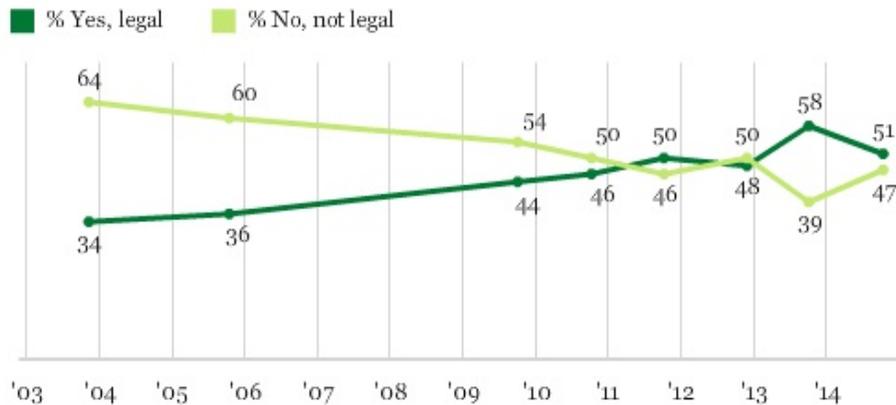
Source: GALLUP Politics, *Most Americans Still See Crime Up Over Last Year*, November 21, 2014

(<http://www.gallup.com/poll/179546/americans-crime-last-year.aspx>)

- Another Gallup poll, this one on the overall support for legalizing marijuana, shows a slim majority of Americans adults (51%) support legalizing marijuana, down 7% in the past year.

*Americans' Support for Legalizing the Use of Marijuana -- Recent Trend*

Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?



GALLUP

**Figure 7: Americans' Support for Legalizing the Use of Marijuana - Recent Trend**

Source: GALLUP Politics, *Majority Continues to Support Pot Legalization in U.S.*, November 6, 2014 (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/179195/majority-continues-support-pot-legalization.aspx>)

- Finally from Gallup, a recent survey weighs in on the divergence in views black and white Americans have on race. One set of questions speaks specifically on how blacks and whites differ in their opinions about the police and justice system. While 68% of blacks believe the American justice system is biased against black people only 25% of whites agree with that view. Graphic below:

*Recent Attitudes About the Police*

	<b>Blacks (non-Hispanic)</b>	<b>Whites (non-Hispanic)</b>	<b>Racial gap</b>
	%	%	Pct. pts.
Is American justice system biased against black people?*			
No	26	69	-43
Yes	68	25	
How would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of police officers?***			
Very high/High	45	59	-14
Average	38	31	
Very low/Low	17	10	
How much confidence do you have in the police?***			
A great deal/Quite a lot	37	59	-22
Some	37	29	
Very little/None	25	12	

\* July 16-21, 2013; \*\* Combined data from 2010-2013; \*\*\* Combined data from 2011-2014

GALLUP

**Figure 4: Recent Attitudes About the Police**

Source: Gallup Politics, *Gallup Review: Black and White Differences in Views on Race*, December 12, 2014 (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/180107/gallup-review-black-white-differences-views-race.aspx>)

- On the issues of privacy and security, the majority of adults feel their privacy is being challenged. In this Pew Research survey, 91% of adults believe that consumers have lost control over how personal information is collected and used by companies and 80% of adults believe Americans should be concerned about the government’s monitoring of phone calls and internet connections.

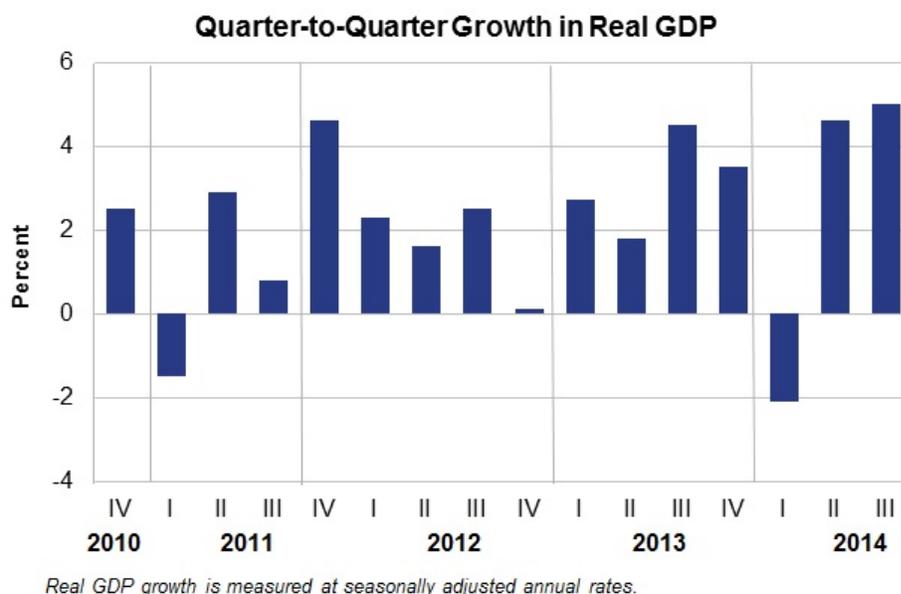
Source: Pew Research Internet Project, *Public Perceptions of Privacy and Security in the Post-Snowden Era*, November 12, 2014 (<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/11/12/public-privacy-perceptions/>)

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## The Economy and Government Spending

A “modest, slow recovery” are the words used to describe economic growth into 2015 at the state level. This section takes a look at trends in the federal and state economies, as well as income trends at a county level.

- The Bureau of Economic Analysis provides a variety of data sources on the economy. Examples are listed below:
  - The U.S. Economy at a Glance report provides key economic statistics on gross domestic product (GDP) and personal income from a national, state and local perspective. Real GDP increased 4.6 percent in the second quarter of 2014 and increased 5.0 percent in the third quarter.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure 5: Quarter-to-Quarter Growth in Real GDP**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, *U.S. Economy at a Glance: Perspective from the BEA Accounts*, December 2014 (<http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/glance.htm>)

- Monthly releases of Personal Income and Outlays summarize income from wages and salaries, as well as other supplemental sources. “Personal income increased \$54.4 billion, or 0.4 percent, and disposable personal income (DPI) increased \$42.4 billion, or 0.3 percent, in November according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.”

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Personal Income and Outlays, November 2014*, December 23, 2014 (<http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/pi/pinewsrelease.htm>)

- Looking out 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office provides an update on the nation's budget and economy. The following graph projects the federal debt to be 79 percent of GDP in the year 2025.

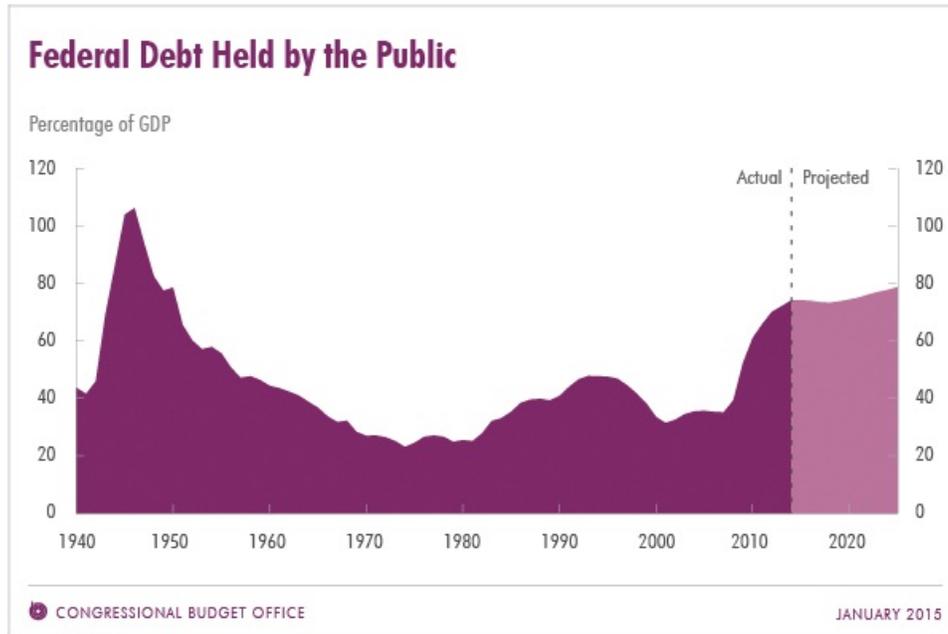


Figure 6: Federal Debt Held by the Public

Source: Congressional Budget Office, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025*, January 26, 2015 (<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/49892>)

- From the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Fall 2014 update, “States continue their modest, slow recovery from the Great Recession. State tax collections are largely on target, and most states describe their budget situation for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2015 as stable. In brief, states are expecting to meet revenue forecasts for the current budget year.”

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, *State Budget Update: Fall 2014*, January 2015 (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/state-budget-update-fall-2014.aspx>)

- A quarterly report, *State Economic Monitor*, published by the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution, summarizes the third quarter of 2014. “Most states ended the summer of 2014 on a positive economic note. Up from 14 states a year earlier, 25 states reported August unemployment rates below 6 percent. Every state but Alaska added jobs within the last year. A future-looking index compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia projects improving economic conditions for 42 states over the next six months.”

Source: Urban Institute and Brookings Institution, *State Economic Monitor: October 2014*, November 2014 (<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413268-state-economic-monitor-october-2014.pdf>)

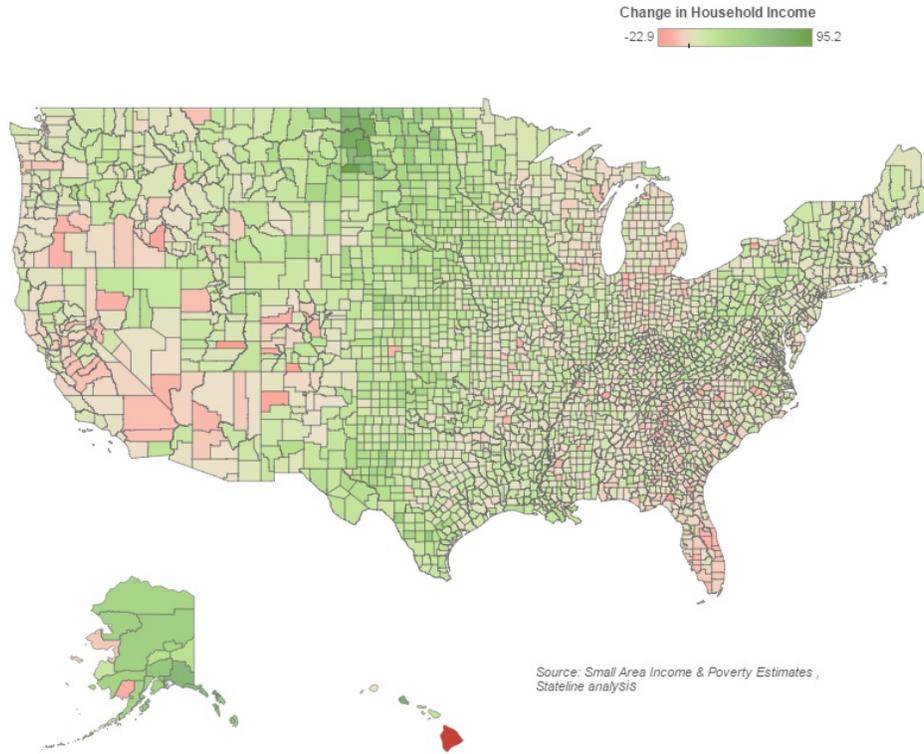
- This Council of State Governments annual report provides a list of the top five issues that state legislatures will face in areas such as education, energy and environmental policy, fiscal and economic policy, health, and workforce development. From the 2015 report, “The most pressing questions facing policymakers likely will center on finding revenue to fund basic government programs, such as Medicaid and education, and looking to create jobs for state residents.” The five top fiscal and economic policy issues include:
  1. Addressing the quality not quantity of job creation,
  2. Preparing for the next fiscal crisis,
  3. Preparing for shifting costs from the federal level to states and localities,
  4. Increased health care spending,
  5. Public pensions and retiree health care.

Source: The Council of State Governments, *CSG Policy Staff Outlines Top Issues for 2015*, January 12, 2015 (<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/csg-policy-staff-outlines-top-issues-2015>)

- This PEW report on the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) data, released by the U.S. Census Bureau in December 2014, reveals a sluggish recovery from the Great Recession in the “growth—and lack of growth—in the median income of U.S. counties between 2007 and 2013.” Although the survey does not reflect the positive economic news of 2014, it shows many areas still struggling four years after the recession officially ended. Access the report to view an interactive map showing the 2013 household income and change since 2007 and the 2013 poverty rate and change since 2007 by county. Graphic below:

## Stateline Interactive: County Income Trends 2007-2013

The largest increases in median income between 2007 and 2013, as reported Dec. 17 by the U.S. Census Bureau, were concentrated in the oil and gas producing areas of the country. Median income is not adjusted for inflation, which was 12.4 percent for the period 2007-2013



**Figure 11: Stateline Interactive: County Income Trends 2007-2013**

Source: PEW, *Sluggish Recovery is Evident in New Census Numbers*, December 19, 2014 (<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/12/19/sluggish-recovery-is-evident-in-new-census-numbers>)

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## Criminal Justice Trends

In 2013 both the number of violent and property crimes decreased slightly. In addition to statistics on crime rates, this section includes reports on federal and state arrests and imprisonment, sexual victimization and the top crime news stories from 2014.

- This annual report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation provides a summary of reported crimes in the United States for 2013. From the report, “the estimated number of violent crimes in 2013 decreased 4.4 percent when compared with 2012 figures, and the estimated number of property crimes decreased 4.1 percent. There were an estimated 1,163,146 violent crimes reported to law enforcement last year, along with an estimated 8,632,512 property crimes.”

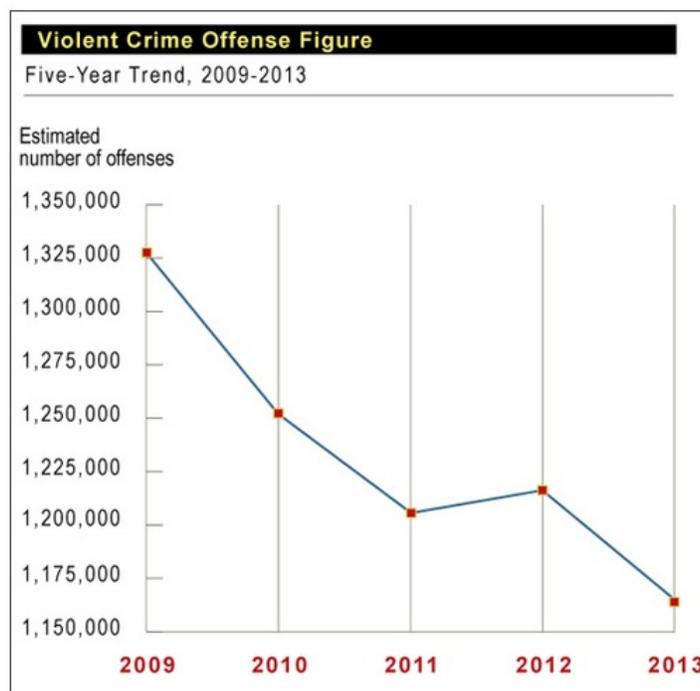


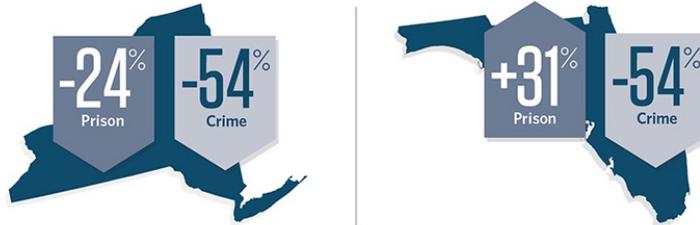
Figure 7: Violent Crime Five-Year Trend, 2009-2013

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2013*, November 10, 2014 (<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/november/crime-statistics-for-2013-released/crime-statistics-for-2013-released>)

- A PEW comparison of crime and imprisonment statistics highlights the complex link between rates of crime and imprisonment.

### Different Paths, Same Result

New York and Florida had divergent imprisonment rates, but both cut crime rates by the same amount



### Prison Increases Don't Predict Crime Decreases

Connecticut's imprisonment rate rose modestly, and Idaho's rose sharply, but both cut crime rates by a similar amount

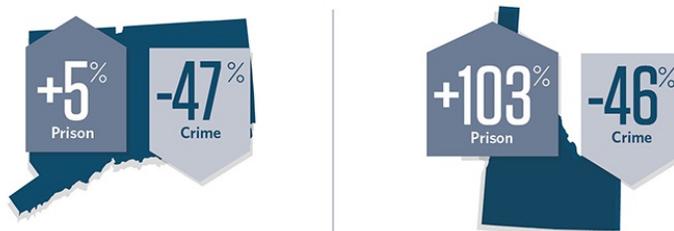


Figure 8: Crime and Imprisonment Rate Comparisons by State

Source: PEW, *Prison and Crime: A Complex Link*, September 11, 2014

(<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/data-visualizations/2014/prison-and-crime>)

- Highlights of multiple reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are shown below:
  - This report “describes the annual activity, workloads, and outcomes associated with the federal criminal justice system from arrest to imprisonment.” Highlights include:
    - At yearend 2012, 414,065 persons were under some form of federal correctional control, 62% were in confinement and 38% were under supervision in the community.
    - Fifteen percent of federal prisoners released in 2010 were returned to federal prison within 3 years. Over half (54%) were returned for supervision violations.
    - In 2012, five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border accounted for 60% of federal arrests, 53% of suspects investigated, and 41% of offenders sentenced to prison.
    - In 2012, 3,171 suspects were arrested for a sex offense. Defendants convicted of a felony sex offense were the most likely (97%) to receive a prison sentence following conviction.
    - During 2012, 172,248 suspects were booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, a 2% decline from 179,034 booked in 2010.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Federal Justice Statistics, 2011–12*, January 22, 2015  
2013 (<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5218>)

- The *SAC Publication Digest* is “comprehensive collection of abstracts of state Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) reports” covering current justice issues in the states. *The Digest* for January-June 2014 includes reports on topics such as:
  - Crime Statistics/Crime Studies
  - Domestic Violence
  - Recidivism/Reentry
  - Sentencing and Corrections

Source: Justice Research and Statistics Association, *SAC Publication Digest*, January – June 2014  
([http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/sac-digest/sac\\_digest\\_20.pdf](http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/sac-digest/sac_digest_20.pdf))

- This report “compares the characteristics of rape and sexual assault victimization against females ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled and not enrolled in college.”
  - The rate of rape and sexual assault was 1.2 times higher for nonstudents (7.6 per 1,000) than for students (6.1 per 1,000).
  - For both college students and nonstudents, the offender was known to the victim in about 80% of rape and sexual assault victimizations.
  - Most (51%) student rape and sexual assault victimizations occurred while the victim was pursuing leisure activities away from home, compared to nonstudents who were engaged in other activities at home (50%) when the victimization occurred.
  - The offender had a weapon in about 1 in 10 rape and sexual assault victimizations against both students and nonstudents.
  - Rape and sexual assault victimizations of students (80%) were more likely than nonstudent victimizations (67%) to go unreported to police.
  - Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rape And Sexual Assault Among College-Age Females, 1995-2013*, December 11, 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>)
- Readers, contributors, and columnists for *The Crime Report* selected their top ten list of stories and issues they believe have had the most significant bearing during 2014. The shooting of Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Mo. led the list.

Source: The Crime Report, *Ferguson Leads TCR's Top News Stories of 2014*, December 11, 2014  
(<http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/articles/2014-12-ferguson-leads-tcrs-top-news-stories-of-2014>)

## Corrections Populations and Trends

The corrections population decreased for 2013, resulting in the lowest U.S. population since 2003. Overall, about 1 in 35 adults in the U.S. were under some form of correctional supervision in 2013, the lowest rate since 1997 and unchanged from 2012.

- At yearend 2013, the adult correctional population in the United States was estimated at 6.9 million. This number represents a decline of 0.6% from 2012, down by about 41,500 offenders. The decline was less than 1% for the second consecutive year.

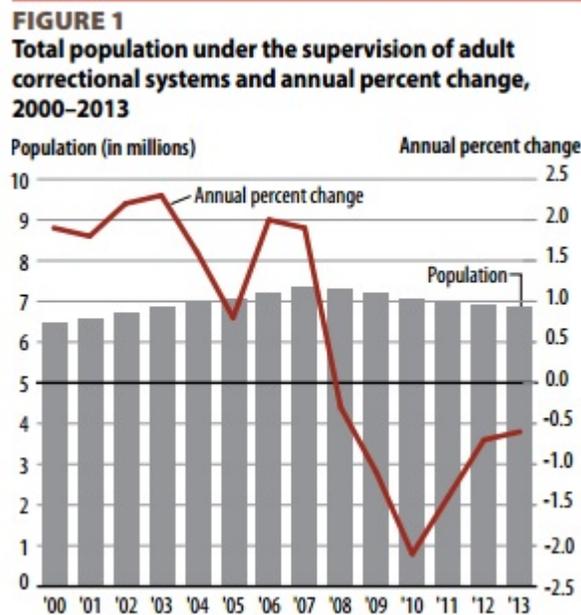


Figure 9: Total Population under the supervision of adult correctional systems and annual percent change, 2000-2013

- All of the decline in the correctional population during 2013 resulted from decreases in the probation (down 32,100) and local jail (down 13,300) populations. A breakdown of the population by correctional status is provided below.

	Jail	Prison	Probation	Parole
Population	731,200	1,574,700	3,910,600	853,200

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2013*, December 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus13.pdf>)

- In June 2014, the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) released their Critical Issues Report. This report lists the top five critical issues identified by agency heads.
  - Staff Issues – Recruitment (shortages), Selection, Retention (turnover), Succession, Safety, Wellness, Compensation, Training, Discipline, Union, Managers, Experience, Culture
  - Administrative Segregation – Policies and Procedures, Practices
  - Mental Health/Medical Services
  - Reentry Services Development
  - Budget Matters

Source: Association of State Correctional Administrators, *Agencies' Top Five Critical Issues, 2014*, June 20144 (<http://www.asca.net/system/assets/attachments/7363/ASCA-Critical%20issues-6-14-2014%20V4.pdf?1407869833>)

## Jail Overview

- The jail incarceration rate declined slightly between midyear 2012 (237 per 100,000 and 2013 (231 per 100,000). This decline continues a downward trend from a high of 259 jail inmates per 100,000 residents in 2007.

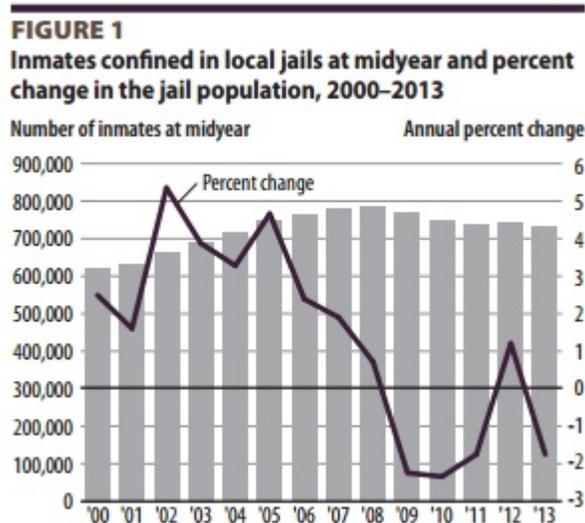


Figure 10: Inmates confined in local jails at midyear and percent change in the jail population, 2000-2013

- The majority of the jail inmates were held in less than 10% of jails.
- Bed space between 2012 and 2013 declined for the first time since 1982.
- Local jails admitted 11.7 million persons during the 12-month period ending midyear 2013.

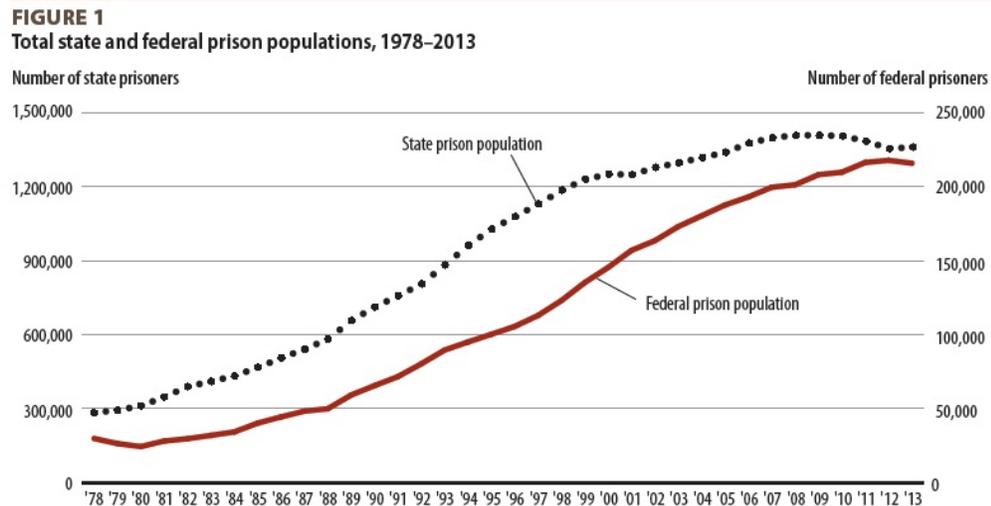
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Jail Inmates At Midyear 2013 - Statistical Tables*, May 8, 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/jim13st.pdf>)

- At midyear 2013, Indian country jails housed a total of 2,287 inmates - a 3.3% decrease from the 2,364 inmates confined at midyear 2012. Since 2010, about 31% of inmates in Indian country jails have been confined for a violent offense, a decline from about 39% in each year between midyear 2004 and 2009.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Jails in Indian Country, 2013*, July 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/jic13.pdf>)

### Prison Overview

- During 2013, the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities increased for the first time since 2009. This increase was driven by an estimated 6,300 prisoner increase in state prisons and offset slightly by a decrease in the federal prison population of 1,900 or 0.9% from 2012.



Note: Counts based on all prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 1978–2013.

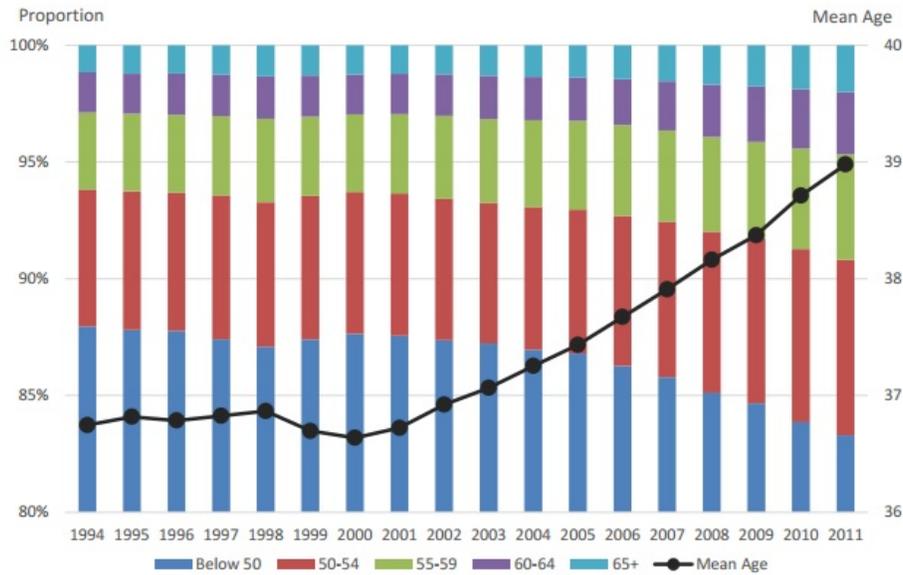
**Figure 11: Total State and Federal Prison Populations, 1978-2013**

- The number of prisoners sentenced to more than one year in state or federal prison increased by 5,400 persons.
- Private prisons held 8% of the total U.S. prison population at yearend 2013, and local jails housed an additional 5% of prisoners.
- Almost 3% of black male U.S. residents of all ages were imprisoned on December 31, 2013, compared to 0.5% of white males.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2013*, September 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p13.pdf>)

- This report from the Urban Institute examines the demographic shift to an older population in the US Bureau of Prisons. “The number of prisoners age 50 or older experienced a 330 percent increase from 1994 to 2011. The authors find that the proportion of these older prisoners is expected to have an even steeper growth curve in the near future and they may consume a disproportionately large amount of the federal prison budget. Recommendations for policy and research include expanding data-driven knowledge on older prisoners and developing cost-effective management plans for them.”

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Federal Prisoners over Time (Year-end)



Source: US Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) data, as analyzed by the Urban Institute.

Figure 12: Age Distribution of Federal Prisoners over Time (Year-end)

Source: Urban Institute, *Aging Behind Bars Trends and Implications of Graying Prisoners in the Federal Prison System*, August, 2014 (<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413222-Aging-Behind-Bars.pdf>)

### Probation and Parole Overview

- At the end of 2013, a total of 4,751,400 adult offenders were being supervised in the community, a decline of 29,900 offenders from the previous year. The probation population declined from an estimated 3,942,800 offenders at yearend 2012 to 3,910,600 at yearend 2013, while the parole population grew from about 851,200 offenders to 853,200.

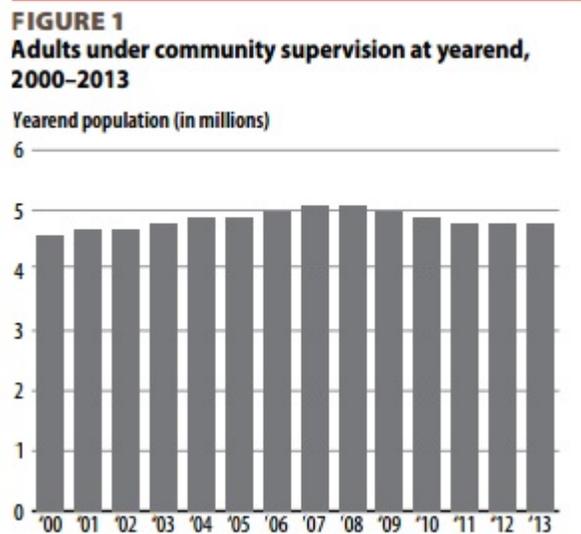


Figure 13: Adults under community supervision at yearend, 2000-2013

#### Probation Highlights

- Movement both onto and off probation increased during 2013, with about 2,094,100 entries and 2,131,300 exits.
- The incarceration rate among probationers at risk of violating their conditions of supervision remained stable at 5.4% in 2013, following a 4-year period of gradual decline.

#### Parole Highlights

- The adult parole population increased by about 2,100 offenders between yearend 2012 and 2013, to about 853,200 offenders at yearend 2013.
- Both parole entries (down 6.2%) and exits (down 7.8%) declined between 2012 and 2013, with approximately 922,900 movements onto and off parole during 2013.
- The reincarceration rate among parolees at risk of violating their conditions of supervision remained stable at about 9% in 2013.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2013*, October 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus13.pdf>)

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## Cost of Incarceration and Changing Corrections Policy

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 required correctional agencies to address declining budgets and the cost of incarceration. While budgets have improved, the awareness raised around the cost of incarceration and the effect of mass incarceration remain. The following resources focus on these issues and the initiatives and policies both enacted and proposed to address them.

### Costs of Incarceration:

- According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, “States will spend \$40 billion to incarcerate and supervise offenders in fiscal year (FY) 2014. This is a modest 2.5 percent increase over FY 2013 costs, with corrections a shrinking portion of overall state spending. In a growing number of states, legislatures have enacted policy shifts that make more effective use of corrections dollars but that also remain attentive to public safety.”

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, *Managing Corrections Costs Report*, February 28, 2014 (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/managing-corrections-costs-report.aspx>)

- The National Association of State Budget Officers projects an overall \$1 billion increase in general fund spending in FY2015, with 35 states projecting increased spending on corrections and 12 states enacting budget cuts for corrections.

Source: National Association of State Budget Officers, *The Fiscal Survey of States: Fall 2014*, 2014 (<http://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/NASBO%20Fall%202014%20Fiscal%20Survey%20of%20States.pdf>)

- According to the Office of the Inspector General, “The costs to operate and maintain the federal prison system continue to grow, resulting in less funding being available for the Department’s other critical law enforcement missions. For example, in FY 2000, the budget for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) totaled \$3.8 billion and accounted for about 18 percent of the Department’s discretionary budget. In comparison, in FY 2014, the BOP’s enacted budget totaled \$6.9 billion and accounted for about 25 percent of the Department’s discretionary budget.”

Source: Office of the Inspector General, *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Justice – 2014*, November 10, 2014 (<http://www.justice.gov/oig/challenges/2014.htm>) and PEW, *Growth in Federal Prison System Exceeds States*, January 22, 2015 (<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/01/growth-in-federal-prison-system-exceeds-states>)

- In May 2014, The Hamilton Project released a series of panel discussions and papers on *The Economic and Social Effects of Crime and Mass Incarceration in the United States*. The first panel discusses a proposal for reducing incarceration rates through sentencing reform and changes to the financial incentives facing state and local governments.

Source: The Hamilton Project, *The Economic and Social Effects of Crime and Mass Incarceration in the United States*, May 2014  
([http://www.hamiltonproject.org/events/the\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_effects\\_of\\_crime\\_and\\_mass\\_incarceration\\_in\\_us/](http://www.hamiltonproject.org/events/the_economic_and_social_effects_of_crime_and_mass_incarceration_in_us/))

Initiatives:

- On December 9, 2014, former US Representatives J.C. Watts, Jr. and Alan Mollohan announced the establishment of the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections: a nine-person, bipartisan panel mandated by Congress to examine federal prison overcrowding and inefficiencies and to develop data-driven responses to reduce both social and financial costs.

Source: Urban Institute, *Former US Reps. Announce Federal Corrections Task Force*, December 9, 2014  
(<http://www.urban.org/publications/904641.html>)

- As the Council of State Governments describes it: Justice Reinvestment is a “data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease crime and reduce recidivism.” The following map shows state involvement in Justice Reinvestment projects. Results are also provided in numerous reports located on the Justice Reinvestment site.

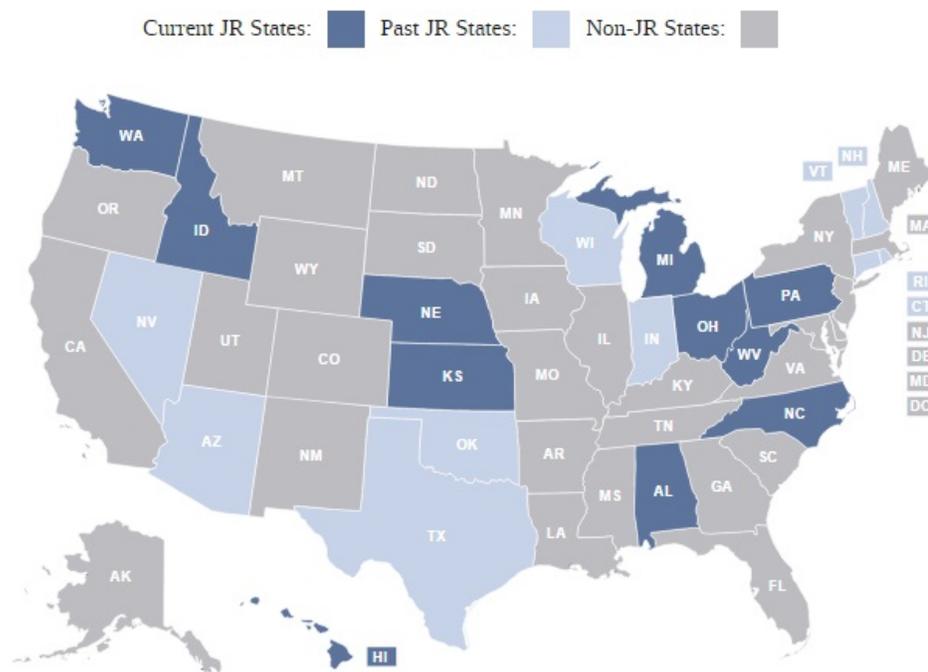


Figure 14: Justice Reinvestment: Current, Past and Non-JR States

Source: The Council of State Governments, *Justice Reinvestment*, Accessed January 29, 2015  
(<http://www.urban.org/publications/904641.html>)

- Over the last five years, the National Institute of Corrections has partnered with the Center for Effective Public Policy to develop the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to equip criminal justice policymakers in local communities with

the information, processes, and tools that will result in measurable reductions of pretrial misconduct and post-conviction reoffending. The initiative is grounded in two decades of research on the factors that contribute to criminal reoffending and the methods the justice system can employ to interrupt the cycle of re-offense.

Source: National Institute of Corrections, *Evidence-Based Decision Making*, Accessed February 28, 2015 (<http://nicic.gov/ebdm>)

- The PEW-MacArthur Results First Initiative “works with states to implement an innovative cost-benefit analysis approach that helps them invest in policies and programs that are proven to work.” Results First initiatives focused on corrections are underway in several states including Colorado, Massachusetts and Mississippi.

Source: The PEW Charitable Trusts, *The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative in Colorado*, December 17, 2014 (<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/state-fact-sheets/the-pew-macarthur-results-first-initiative-in-colorado>) and *Massachusetts’ Evidence-Based Approach to Reducing Recidivism*, December 16, 2014 (<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2014/12/massachusetts-evidence-based-approach-to-reducing-recidivism>) and *Results First in Mississippi: Building a Performance-Based Budgeting System*, December 11, 2014 (<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/video/2014/results-first-in-mississippi-building-a-performance-based-budgeting-system>)

#### Recent Legislation:

- On November 4, 2014, California-passed Proposition 47 aimed at reducing penalties for common drug and theft crimes from potential felonies to misdemeanors, shortening the time some offenders spend behind bars.

Source: LA Times, *Prop. 47 passes, reducing some crime penalties*, Accessed January 29, 2015 (<http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-ff-prop-47-drug-possession-20141103-story.html>) and Legislative Analyst’s Office, *Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.*, July 17, 2014 (<http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2014/prop-47-110414.pdf>)

- On April 10, 2014, the U.S. Sentencing Commission voted to reduce the sentencing guideline levels applicable to most offenders. “The drug guidelines under the amendment would remain linked to statutory mandatory minimum penalties. The Commission estimates that approximately 70 percent of federal drug trafficking defendants would qualify for the change, with their sentences decreasing an average of 11 months, or 17 percent, from 62 to 51 months on average.”

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, *U.S. Sentencing Commission Votes to Reduce Drug Trafficking Sentences*, April 10, 2014 ([http://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/news/press-releases-and-news-advisories/press-releases/20140410\\_Press\\_Release.pdf](http://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/news/press-releases-and-news-advisories/press-releases/20140410_Press_Release.pdf))

- This review by the Vera Institute of Justice provides summaries of representative legislation in five areas: mandatory penalties, drug sentencing schemes, early release mechanisms, community-based sanctions, and collateral consequences.

Source: Vera Institute of Justice, *Drug War Détente? A Review of State-level Drug Law Reform, 2009-2013*, April 2014 (<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/state-drug-law-reform-review-2009-2013-v6.pdf>)

- The Council of State Governments provides access to sentencing and corrections state legislation through their website database, e-bulletins and reports. The April 2014 e-bulletin highlights how “new laws focus on community supervision, release and reentry, and justice reinvestment.”

Source: The Council of State Governments, *Corrections and Sentencing*, Accessed January 29, 2015 (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/corrections-and-sentencing.aspx>) and *E-Bulletin: Sentencing and Corrections Policy Updates*, April 2014 (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/e-bulletin-issue-11.aspx>)