



Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force

Key Findings:

Exceptionally high levels of incarceration. Louisiana locks up a larger share of its citizens than any other state, and the number two state isn't even close.

Out of step with neighboring states. Louisiana has similar crime rates to other states in the South, but sends people to prison for nonviolent offenses at a far higher rate.

Massive budget drain. Louisiana's highest-in-the-nation imprisonment rate costs taxpayers nearly \$700 million per year. Reducing the state's imprisonment rate – even just to match the #2 state – would save the state nearly \$50 million a year.

Poor outcomes. One in three people who leave Louisiana's prisons returns within three years. The state is not getting a good public safety return-on-investment from its corrections spending.

Smart On Crime is a coalition of Louisiana business leaders and conservative organizations, including Right On Crime Louisiana, advocating for data-driven and fiscally sound criminal justice policies in Louisiana.

What is Justice Reinvestment?

Louisiana should pass measures to focus prison beds on the most serious offenders, and reinvest a portion of the incarceration savings into evidence-backed alternatives for nonviolent offenders that increase public safety. Other states like Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina that passed Justice Reinvestment reform packages have reduced imprisonment and saved billions, while crime continues to decline.

Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force Recommendations Will:

Reflect the research on what works to protect the public and reduce re-offending

Cut out wasteful spending and make smarter investments with taxpayer money to achieve the most public safety for the dollars we spend

Reserve long prison sentences for the most serious offenders who pose the greatest risk to the public

Strengthen probation and other prison alternatives to better protect the public

Hold offenders accountable with victim restitution, fines, and fees, without creating barriers to successful reentry

Recommendations to be released March 16, 2017

Drivers of Louisiana Prison Population

Smart On Crime Solutions

Growing portion of felony cases result in costly prison sentences

Options to strengthen prison alternatives and expand eligibility for those alternatives

Prison admission rates for nonviolent offenses 1.5 – 3 times higher than other Southern states with similar crime rates

59% of prison admissions are failures of people supervised in the community on probation or parole

Options to reduce caseloads, better utilize sanctions and incentives, and drive down the number of revocations to prison

Sentence lengths for common nonviolent crimes have increased

Options to bring sentences in line with other states, and expand or improve good time and earned time programs

Increase in laws restricting parole eligibility
Growing number of people serving prison terms longer than 10 years

Options to streamline parole and expand eligibility

Release options for geriatric inmates and others serving long prison terms

High fines and fees that average offenders are unable to pay

Options for incentivizing payments and tailoring fines and fees to ability to pay

Inadequate funding for victims' services, prison alternatives, addiction treatment, re-entry, and other programs that reduce re-offending

Options to reinvest a portion of the savings into evidence-backed prison alternatives and services for victims of crime



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