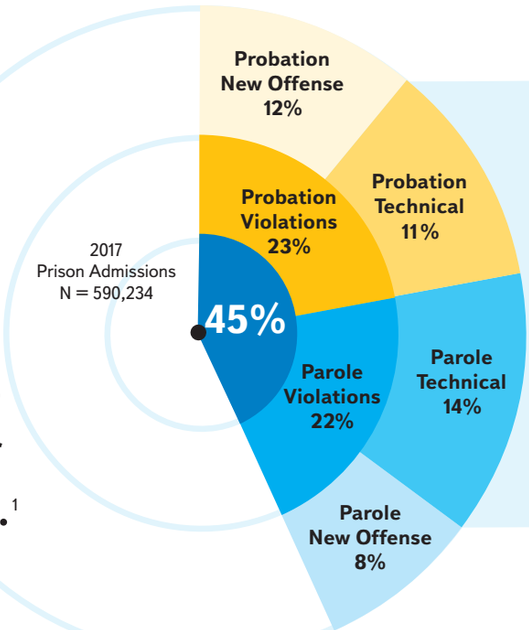
June 2019

CONFINED AND COSTLY

How Supervision Violations Are Filling Prisons and Burdening Budgets

Probation and parole are designed to lower prison populations and help people succeed in the community. New data show they are having the opposite effect. Until now, national data regarding the impact of probation violations on prison populations have been unavailable, resulting in a lopsided focus on parole. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center recently engaged corrections and community supervision leaders in 50 states to develop the first complete picture of how probation and parole violations make up states' prison populations. The analysis revealed a startling reality.

45% OF STATE PRISON ADMISSIONS nationwide are due to violations of probation or parole for new offenses or technical violations.[1]



Technical violations, such as missing appointments with supervision officers or failing drug tests, account for nearly 1/4 OF ALL STATE PRISON ADMISSIONS.

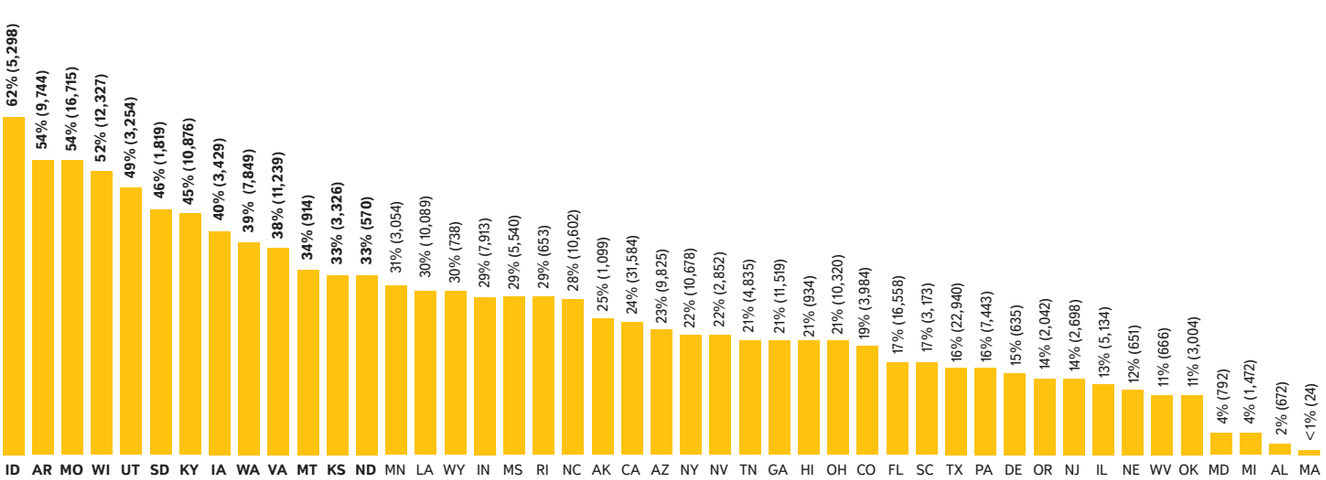
On any given day, 280,000 PEOPLE in prison—nearly 1 IN 4—are incarcerated as a result of a supervision violation, costing states more than $9.3 BILLION ANNUALLY.

Technical supervision violations account for $2.8 BILLION of this total amount, and new offense supervision violations make up $6.5 BILLION. These figures do not account for the substantial local costs of keeping people in jail for supervision violations.

IN 13 STATES, MORE THAN 1 IN 3 PEOPLE

in prison on any given day are there for a supervision violation.

Proportion of State Prison Populations That Are Due to Supervision Violations[2]



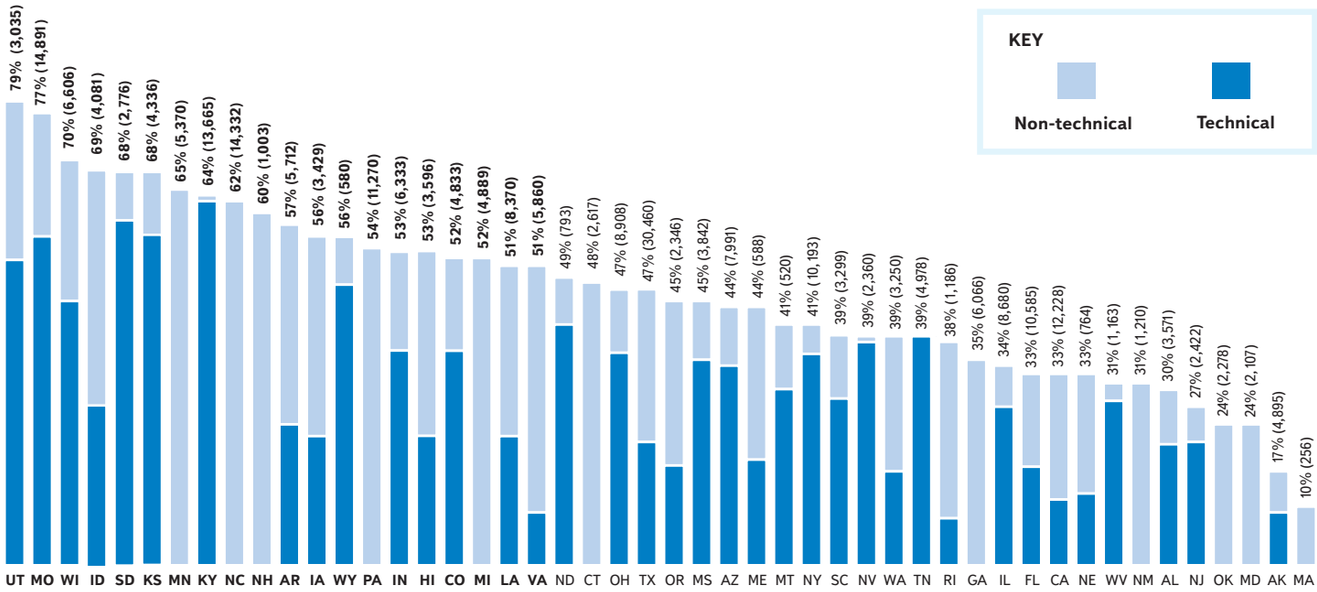
Data on violations as a proportion of prison population not available for CT, ME, NH, NM, VT.

1. Whether an incarceration is the result of a new offense or technical violation is often difficult and problematic to delineate, even in states with available data. Most states do not consider a supervision violation to be the result of a new offense unless a new felony conviction is present, meaning technical violations may include misdemeanor convictions or new arrests. "Prison" includes county jail if the county was reimbursed by the state for a person's incarceration, which occurs in some, but not all, states. Supervision violations may include revocations (i.e., unsuccessful terminations of supervision and completion of a sentence in prison or jail) or short-term sanctions (i.e., probation or parole jurisdiction is maintained and the person is incarcerated for a short period of time in prison or jail). Not all states impose or include short-term sanctions in their count of supervision violations. See state-specific snapshots for more information on state-specific definitions. In states where technical violations were not provided, all violations and associated costs were counted as new offense violations.
2. Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania include only parole/post-release supervision violations, and Delaware, Oklahoma, and West Virginia include only probation violations.

IN 20 STATES, MORE THAN HALF OF PRISON ADMISSIONS
are due to supervision violations.

Variation in these proportions across states is shaped by the overall size of each state's supervision population, how violations are sanctioned, whether those sanctions are the result of incarceration paid for by the state or county, and how well state policy and funding enable probation and parole agencies to employ evidence-based practices to improve success on supervision.

Proportion of State Prison Admissions That Are Due to Supervision Violations[3]



Technical breakdown not available for CT, GA, MA, MD, MI, MN, NC, NH, NM, OK, and PA. Data on violations as a proportion of prison admissions not available for DE and VT.

KEY QUESTIONS STATES SHOULD ASK

As state leaders begin to address supervision violations in their state, these questions should guide decision-making:

- **How many people in your state are on probation or parole?**
- **How are technical violations handled in your state?**
- **What impact do supervision violations have on local jails in your state?**
- **How do your state's policies impact the length of time that people are on probation and parole?**
- **For what types of new offenses are people on supervision being sent to prison?**
- **What has your state done to scale up implementation of supervision practices and programs designed to reduce new criminal behavior?**
- **How much does your state invest in supervision annually? How much do supervision violations cost your state annually?**

Learn more about how probation and parole violations impact prison admissions and population in your state at https://csgjusticecenter.org/confinedandcostly/.

3. Data reflects annual admissions for 2017 except in Virginia, where 2016 was the latest year available. Tennessee did not provide the number of new offense supervision violations, as these are counted as non-violation admissions. Ohio counts new offense probation violations as non-violation admissions. Technical breakdown was only included if both the total number and technical number of violations were provided for probation and/or parole/post-release supervision.

Methodology
In 2018, the CSG Justice Center developed a survey to collect data on the impact of supervision violations on prison admissions and population and distributed the survey to corrections departments in all 50 states. Forty-six states submitted survey data, and data was acquired through other means (i.e., publicly available reports) in an additional three states. In total, data was acquired on at least one of the requested metrics for 49 states. For complete methodology, see https://csgjusticecenter.org/confinedandcostly/methodology/.

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