



June 2010

# Justice Reinvestment in Indiana

## Reducing Spending on Corrections and Reinvesting in Strategies to Increase Public Safety



### Background

In early 2010, Governor Mitch Daniels, Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard, Attorney General Gregory Zoeller, House Speaker Patrick Bauer, and Senate President Pro Tempore David Long requested technical assistance from the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project (Pew) to use a justice reinvestment approach to reduce spending on corrections and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety in Indiana.

The Pew Center on the States is a division of the nonprofit Pew Charitable Trusts that identifies and advances effective solutions to critical issues facing states. Pew works in partnership with the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG Justice Center), a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, to help state policymakers analyze data and develop fiscally sound strategies to increase public safety. For the past three years, in addition to its relationship with Pew, the CSG Justice Center has also received significant funding from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), to advance the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). The selection of Indiana to participate in the JRI represents

a coordinated effort between Pew and BJA and will position Indiana to be eligible for future funding support from BJA, along with other states currently participating in JRI. Assistance for the initial phase of this project is made possible through funding support provided by the Pew Center on the States and the State of Indiana.

To guide the analysis of the state's criminal justice system and the development of policy options, Indiana has established a Justice Reinvestment Steering Committee with members representing both parties and all three branches of state government, including the two chambers of the General Assembly. The Committee will review data analyses from the CSG Justice Center and Pew and identify policy options to address the projected growth in Indiana's prison population, generate savings and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety. The Committee's efforts will be coordinated with the work of the Criminal Code Evaluation Commission, a bipartisan, multi-branch group created by the Indiana General Assembly to evaluate the State's criminal laws.

# Snapshot of Corrections Trends in Indiana

**Indiana's prison population grew significantly between 2000 and 2010. Over the same time period, state spending on corrections also increased.**

- From 2000 to 2010, the state's prison population climbed from 19,309 to 28,389, a 47% increase.<sup>1</sup>
- During the same time period, appropriations from the state's general fund for the Indiana Department of Correction increased by 37%, from \$495 million to \$679 million.<sup>2</sup>

**Most people sentenced to prison in Indiana spend less than one year there and rates of recidivism appear to be on the decline.**

- Of those admitted to prison in 2009, 66% spent less than one year behind bars.<sup>3</sup>
- The percent of those who were released from prison and were reincarcerated within three years has declined slightly from 39.2% in 2005 to 37.4% in 2008.<sup>4</sup>

**If existing policies remain unchanged, the prison population is projected to continue to grow, and the state will need to expand prison capacity at a significant cost to taxpayers.**

- Between 2010 and 2017, the Indiana Department of Correction projects that the prison population will increase 21%, from 28,474 to 34,794.<sup>5</sup>
- Increasing the capacity of the prison system to absorb the additional people incarcerated is estimated to cost the state approximately \$1.2 billion between 2010 and 2017, which includes construction costs and annual operating costs.<sup>6</sup>

---

1. Indiana Department of Correction Fact Card, January 1, 2000 and January 1 2010. [http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/FACT\\_CARD\\_JANUARY\\_2010.pdf](http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/FACT_CARD_JANUARY_2010.pdf)

2. FY1999–2001 Indiana Public Safety Budget. <http://www.in.gov/sba/2408.htm>; FY2009–2011 Indiana Public Safety Budget. [http://www.in.gov/sba/files/ap\\_2009\\_c\\_2\\_5\\_pub\\_saf\\_data.pdf](http://www.in.gov/sba/files/ap_2009_c_2_5_pub_saf_data.pdf)

3. Indiana Department of Correction CY 2009 Releases

4. Indiana Department of Correction 2008 Recidivism Summary. <http://www.in.gov/idoc/files/IDOCRecidivism.pdf>

5. Internal Department of Corrections Memo: Actual Vs. Projected Populations (Indiana Department of Correction), March 2010.

6. CSG Justice Center Estimates based on cost figures from an internal Department of Corrections memo: Adult Male Maximum Security Facility Construction, Financing, and Operating Costs, May 2010.

# Three Phases of Justice Reinvestment

Experts from the CSG Justice Center will provide technical assistance to Indiana policymakers in three phases.

## PHASE 1

### Analyze data and develop policy options

The CSG Justice Center will comprehensively analyze Indiana’s crime, arrest, conviction, jail, prison, and probation and parole supervision data. This analysis will include a system-wide examination of the prison population, drivers of prison growth, and strategies used currently by policymakers to increase public safety.

To incorporate perspectives and recommendations from across the criminal justice system, the CSG Justice Center will engage stakeholders using formats such as focus groups, site visits, and personal interviews. Examples of stakeholders include: prosecutors; public defenders; judges; corrections and law enforcement officials; service providers and community leaders; victims and their advocates; people who have been incarcerated; and health, housing, human service, education, and workforce professionals.

In collaboration with the Justice Reinvestment Steering Committee, which will review analysis and share recommendations, the CSG Justice Center will develop consensus-based policy options that increase public safety and address the key factors behind Indiana’s escalating prison population and corrections expenditures.

## PHASE 2

### Adopt new policies and put reinvestment strategies into place

Once the policy options have been enacted, Indiana policymakers will need to verify that the policies are adopted effectively. The CSG Justice Center will assist Indiana with translating the new policies into practice and ensuring related programs and system investments achieve projected outcomes. This assistance includes developing implementation plans with state and local officials and keeping policymakers apprised through frequent progress reports and testimony to relevant legislative committees.

## PHASE 3

### Measure performance

Finally, the CSG Justice Center will ensure that Indiana officials receive brief, user-friendly, and up-to-date information that explains the impact of enacted policies on jail and prison populations, and on rates of reincarceration and criminal activity. Typically, this includes a “dashboard” of multiple indicators that make it easy for policymakers to track—in real time—the changes in various components of the criminal justice system.

To learn more about the justice reinvestment strategy  
in Indiana and other states, please visit:  
[www.justicereinvestment.org](http://www.justicereinvestment.org)



The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

Research and analysis described in this report has been funded in part by the Public Safety Performance Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Center on the States. Launched in 2006 as a project of the Pew Center on the States, the Public Safety Performance Project seeks to help states advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs.

To learn more about the Public Safety Performance Project, please visit: <http://www.pewpublicsafety.org/>.

Points of view, recommendations, or findings stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Council of State Governments Justice Center, or the Council of State Governments' members.

Suggested citation: Council of State Governments Justice Center, *Justice Reinvestment in Indiana: Reducing Spending on Corrections and Reinvesting in Strategies to Increase Public Safety* (New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2010).

### Council of State Governments Justice Center

100 Wall Street  
20th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

4630 Montgomery Avenue  
Suite 650  
Bethesda, MD 20814

504 W. 12th Street  
Austin, TX 78701

600 1st Ave, Suite 609  
Seattle, WA 98104

**PROJECT CONTACT:**  
**Anne Bettesworth**  
Policy Analyst  
206-420-2714  
[abettesworth@csg.org](mailto:abettesworth@csg.org)

[www.justicecenter.csg.org](http://www.justicecenter.csg.org)