

Tough and Smart: Opportunities for Kansas Policymakers to Reduce Crime and Spending

Prison population is growing.

- The prison population is projected to increase 26 percent over the next ten years.¹
- Unless policymakers act, the projected prison population will cost the state over \$500 million in additional spending over the next ten years.²

People on supervision are failing at high rates.

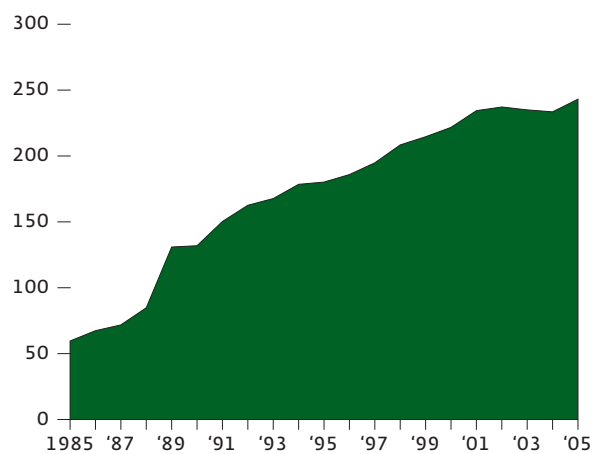
- 65 percent of admissions to prison are people who violated the conditions of their probation or parole.³
- Over the past two years, probation revocations increased 17 percent while parole revocations decreased 26 percent.⁴

Prisoners are being released without completing programs to reduce their risk.

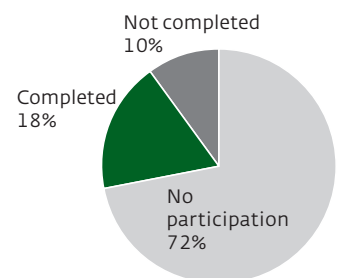
- 72 percent of prisoners needing vocational education do not participate in programs prior to release.⁵
- Half of prisoners in need of substance abuse treatment do not participate in treatment prior to release.⁶

Over the past 20 years, state spending on corrections increased from \$60 million to \$243 million.

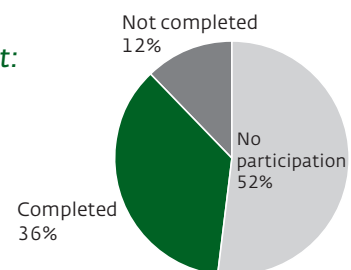
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS EXPENDITURES (FISCAL YEARS 1985 – 2005, IN MILLIONS)



Offenders in need of vocational education: Program participation & completion prior to release



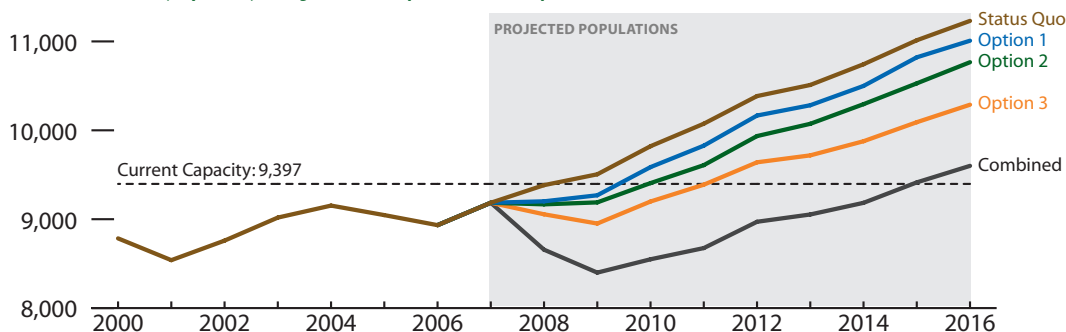
Offenders in need of substance abuse treatment: Program participation & completion prior to release



1. Kansas Sentencing Commission, *Fiscal Year 2007 Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections*, August 2006.
 2. Cost based on Kansas Department of Corrections expansion options and inflation-adjusted estimate of operating costs.
 3. Kansas Sentencing Commission, *Fiscal Year 2007 Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections*, August 2006, pg. 35.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Department of Corrections Analysis, October 2006.
 6. Ibid.

Options for policymakers

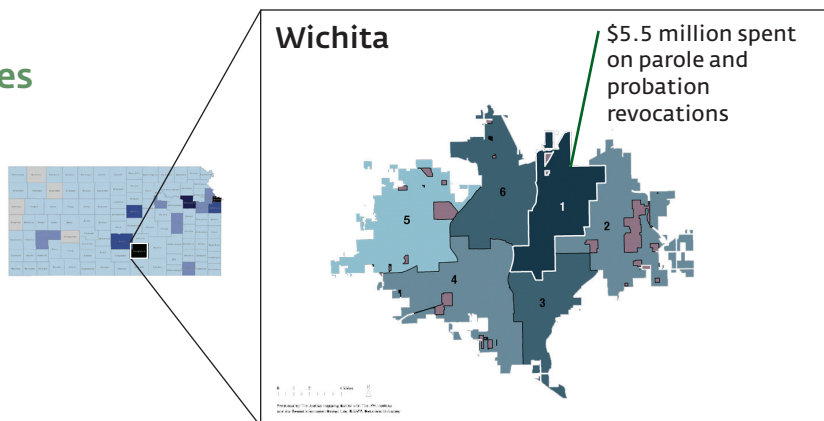
FY2008-2016 (9 years) Projected Population Impact⁷



POLICY OPTION	BED SAVINGS	9 YEAR AVERTED OPERATING COSTS
1. Maintain recent reductions in the number of parole revocations at 90 per month KEY ELEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the capacity of community-based treatment and sanctions Focus increased resources toward counties with high revocation rates 	223	\$52 million
2. Reduce the number of probation/community corrections violators by 20 percent KEY ELEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentive grant funding to community corrections to expand treatment and sanctioning capacity Require community corrections programs and judges to develop consistent supervision and sanctioning strategies 	465	\$97 million
3. Create a 10 percent "Risk Reduction Program Credit" for guideline offenders who successfully complete treatment, educational, and vocational programs before release KEY ELEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use risk/needs assessments to determine which offenders should be required to complete programs prior to release Expand substance abuse, vocational, and educational programming in prison using savings generated from the program credit 	943	\$171 million
Combined Impact	1,631	\$320 million + \$177 million <small>[AVERTED CONSTRUCTION COSTS]</small> \$497 million

Opportunities for neighborhood-based strategies

- Sedgwick and Wyandotte counties account for 40 percent of the state's prison admissions.
- In just one year, Kansas taxpayers spent \$5.5 million to incarcerate parole and probation violators from the 1st Council District in Wichita.⁸



⁷ Tony Fabelo & Marshall Clement, "Tough and Smart: Opportunities for Kansas Policymakers to Reduce Crime and Spending," Presentation to the Kansas Sentencing Commission, October 5, 2006.

⁸ Eric Cadora & Tony Fabelo, "Building Community Capacity to Reduce Crime and Save Prison Space," Presentation to 3-R's Committee, April 18, 2005.

The Pew Charitable Trusts is providing assistance to state leaders in Kansas through its Public Safety Performance Project, which assists select states that want better results from their sentencing and corrections systems. Working with the Council of State Governments and other partners, Pew's project provides nonpartisan research, analysis and expertise to help states identify data-driven, fiscally responsible options for protecting public safety, holding offenders accountable, and controlling corrections costs.