

Background

The bipartisan Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) was created by Congress in 2010 to enhance public safety through targeted work with states and criminal justice agencies. Justice Reinvestment Initiatives include agency-spanning data analysis; development and implementation of data-driven, tailored solutions to address complicated criminal justice challenges; and coordination with states to maximize resources to achieve stronger and safer communities.

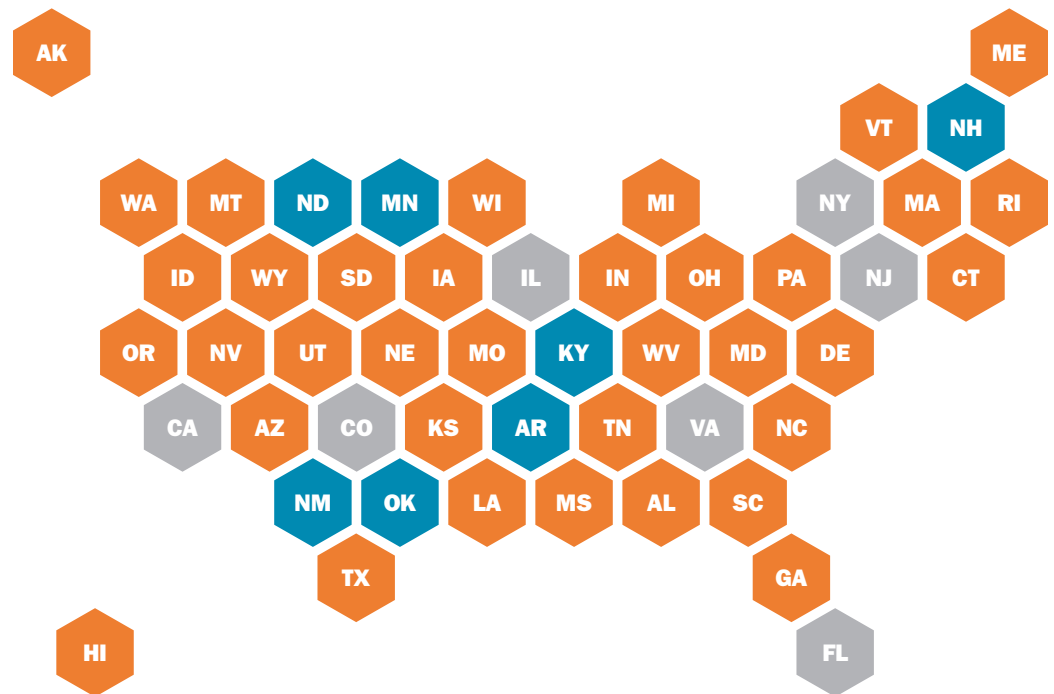
Congressional champions include U.S. Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Adam Schiff (D-CA) along with Representatives Carol Miller (R-WV) and Lucy McBath (D-GA).

JRI provides small grants to help states harness the power of data to confront urgent challenges head-on, from grappling with rising crime and recidivism rates, to an unprecedented surge in overdose deaths and addiction, growing demands on overstretched law enforcement agencies, and critical staffing shortages in jails and prisons. The initiative empowers states to implement evidence-based policies, invest in what works, and allocate resources effectively—ultimately reducing crime, addressing behavioral health needs, and enhancing public safety for all.

States that have used JRI saw, on average, a **38 percent drop in crime rates** between 2008 and 2023 and a **10 percent decrease in recidivism** between 2008 and 2019.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative States

- Past States
- Current States



Strengthening Public Safety

- In 2023, **Arkansas** lawmakers created the Recidivism Reduction Task Force to reduce recidivism and crime by improving community supervision and behavioral health resources. Through JRI, state leaders developed data-driven policy options focused on fostering safer communities by investing in treatment, strengthening community supervision, and improving data collection to track outcomes.
- **Georgia** focused on addressing recidivism among its large probation population in 2017 by improving responses to violations and focusing more on higher-risk individuals to promote success and prevent recidivism.
- In **Kentucky**, 43 percent of crimes against people involve domestic violence (DV). Using JRI, state leaders analyzed data to identify gaps and challenges in how DV is reported and addressed. With this information, lawmakers can focus on enhancing victim services, improving responses to people who commit DV, and reducing violent crime and recidivism.
- **Maryland** passed JRI legislation in 2017 to address recidivism and reduce crime by prioritizing prison beds for people convicted of violent offenses and expanding treatment for those struggling with substance use disorders. Through JRI, Maryland invested in state and local services to support victims as well as behavioral health treatment and reentry services.
- With data and findings from **Missouri's** 2019 JRI, state leaders have prioritized resources to strengthen how law enforcement can investigate and prevent violent crime. JRI also led to the creation of the Improving Community Treatment Success program that serves people on community supervision with a high risk of revocation who need addiction treatment.
- After using JRI, **North Carolina** decreased its revocation rate by 56 percent while increasing support and funding for interventions and program resources that gave corrections officers increased authority in responding to community supervision violations.
- **Oklahoma** used JRI to create a new state-funded grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in reducing violent crime in 2012. In 2017 and 2018, the state used JRI to prioritize prison space for people convicted of the most serious and violent offenses and strengthen community supervision. Building on these efforts, Oklahoma used JRI again in 2023 to examine data from jails across the state and identify the behavioral health needs and drivers among incarcerated people.

Improving Behavioral Health

- **Kansas** first used JRI to focus supervision and treatment resources on people at a high risk of reoffending. This work provided critical services that improved public safety and reduced recidivism. Kansas enacted additional JRI policies in 2021 to divert people who commit drug offenses, streamline the delivery of supervision, and establish specialty courts.
- In **New Hampshire**, JRI analysis showed that people who frequently cycle through jails, characterized by their significant behavioral health needs and their high rates of homelessness, lower-level offenses, and supervision violations, contributed to a 3-year incarceration cost of \$123 million. Policymakers can now target behavioral health and reentry responses and improve data collection to strengthen public safety statewide.
- In 2011, **New York** used JRI to improve the early identification of individuals with behavioral health needs and created the Court-based Intervention Resource Teams (CIRT) to streamline treatment referrals.
- **Oregon's** Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment Initiative addressed the high prevalence of individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders cycling through jails and emergency departments. The state established a grant program to support community-based care, improving health and criminal justice outcomes while curbing state corrections expenses.
- **West Virginia** leaders used JRI to address challenges related to people failing on community supervision due to substance use. Legislation in 2013 improved treatment access and accountability, reducing revocations and easing the financial burden on the state's prison system. Potential work through JRI in 2025 would address rising jail populations, treatment access, and recidivism.

Optimizing Government Resources

- **Minnesota's** high probation rate and supervision-related corrections costs prompted a 2021 JRI focused on reducing recidivism among people on community supervision. In 2023, bipartisan legislation created a new supervision funding formula to ensure all communities receive stable funding that allows them to target underlying drivers of crime.
- With its 2019 JRI effort, **Pennsylvania** expanded performance-based contracts for nonresidential community corrections programs, enhancing oversight while achieving lower recidivism and improved services.