

The Cost of RECIDIVISM

The high price states pay to incarcerate people for supervision violations



THE BOTTOM LINE

In 2021 alone, 41 states collectively spent well over

\$8 Billion

to incarcerate more than

193,000

people for supervision violations and revocations*

Improving reentry outcomes for people on supervision can lower costs, reduce prison populations, and increase community safety.

STATES FACING THE HIGHEST COST

Adjusting for the size of each state's population, the cost of recidivism exceeded **\$40 per resident in 10 states.**

Rank and State	Cost of Recidivism ÷ State Population
1. Wisconsin	\$72
2. Vermont	\$61
3. Arkansas	\$58
4. Virginia	\$57
5. Wyoming	\$53
6. Idaho	\$51
7. Louisiana	\$50
8. California	\$49
9. South Dakota	\$44
10. Utah	\$41

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ESTIMATES FOR 41 STATES THAT REPORTED DATA

State	Cost of Recidivism (Dollars in 2021)		
Arizona	226,345,172	New Hampshire ^{b,ii}	2,066,630
Arkansas	175,858,040	New York ^a	435,556,369
California	1,924,810,316	North Carolina	323,353,719
Colorado ⁱⁱ	150,436,575	North Dakota ^{b,ii}	26,133,599
Delaware ⁱⁱⁱ	17,580,794	Ohio ^{b,ii}	98,258,442
Florida	313,267,794	Oklahoma ⁱ	73,414,812
Georgia	201,117,694	Oregon ^{b,ii}	70,497,677
Hawaii	56,106,340	Pennsylvania ^a	359,890,000
Idaho	94,109,337	Rhode Island	29,827,920
Illinois ^a	159,012,177	South Carolina	70,483,143
Indiana	122,065,870	South Dakota	39,338,861
Iowa	103,857,914	Tennessee	39,842,360
Kansas	89,737,440	Texas	585,526,120
Louisiana	231,943,283	Utah	134,181,891
Massachusetts	14,900,490	Vermont	39,170,417
Michigan ^{a,ii}	53,462,609	Virginia	496,861,933
Minnesota ⁱⁱ	91,039,760	Washington	241,855,789
Mississippi	89,046,524	West Virginia ⁱ	25,651,470
Missouri	229,107,463	Wisconsin	426,157,181
Montana ^{b,ii}	33,558,892	Wyoming	31,091,375
Nevada ^{b,ii}	60,732,073		

NOTES & METHODOLOGY

Some states were not able to report on all of the different populations of people (parole & probation) who were incarcerated for supervision violations (technical violations and new offenses) in their data system. In these instances, states are flagged to indicate which data are missing.

a = Missing all data from probation
b = Missing some data from probation

i = Missing all data from parole
ii = Missing some data from parole
iii = State does not have parole

* The Council of State Governments Justice Center analyzed data provided by Departments of Corrections from 41 states to estimate the cost of incarcerating people for supervision violations, both at the state and national levels. Annual cost estimates were calculated by multiplying the daily population by the average daily cost by 365 days. These data included fixed and variable expenses such as maintenance, staffing, food, supplies, and health care services. It's important to note that reductions in prison populations and recidivism may not necessarily translate into immediate savings or reinvestment opportunities due to fixed expenditures such as capital assets and staffing costs, which take time to adjust. However, over time, long-term expenditures related to staffing and decisions to close unnecessary units can increase the amount of savings for each state.