



Criminal Justice Reform Lessons: “Systems Thinking” to Downsize Jail and Prison Populations in Hawai`i

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Lessons Learned from Criminal Justice Reform Leaders

- Criminal justice policies, NOT crime rates, are the prime drivers of changes in jail and prison population.
- It's possible to substantially reduce the incarcerated populations without harming public safety.





New Jersey Outcomes

- **Between 1999-2012, NJ state prison population reduced by 26%, while the nationwide state prison population increased by 10%**
- **31,493 to 23,225 (decrease of 8,268)**
- **NJ's violent crime rate fell by 30%, while the national rate decreased by 26%**
- **NJ's property crime rates also decreased by 31% compared to the national decline of 24%**

New York Outcomes

- Between 1999-2012, New York reduced its prison population by 26%, while the nationwide state population increased by 10%.
- 72,896 to 54,268 (decrease of 18,268)
- NY's violent crime rate fell by 31%, compared to the national rate which decreased by 26%.
- NY's property crime rate fell by 29% compared to the national decline of 24%.
- TODAY: Governor Cuomo's announced new criminal justice reform proposals to reform bail, and ensure a speedy trial and due process to limit pretrial detention. (On any given day, over 25,000 New Yorkers are held in pretrial detention).

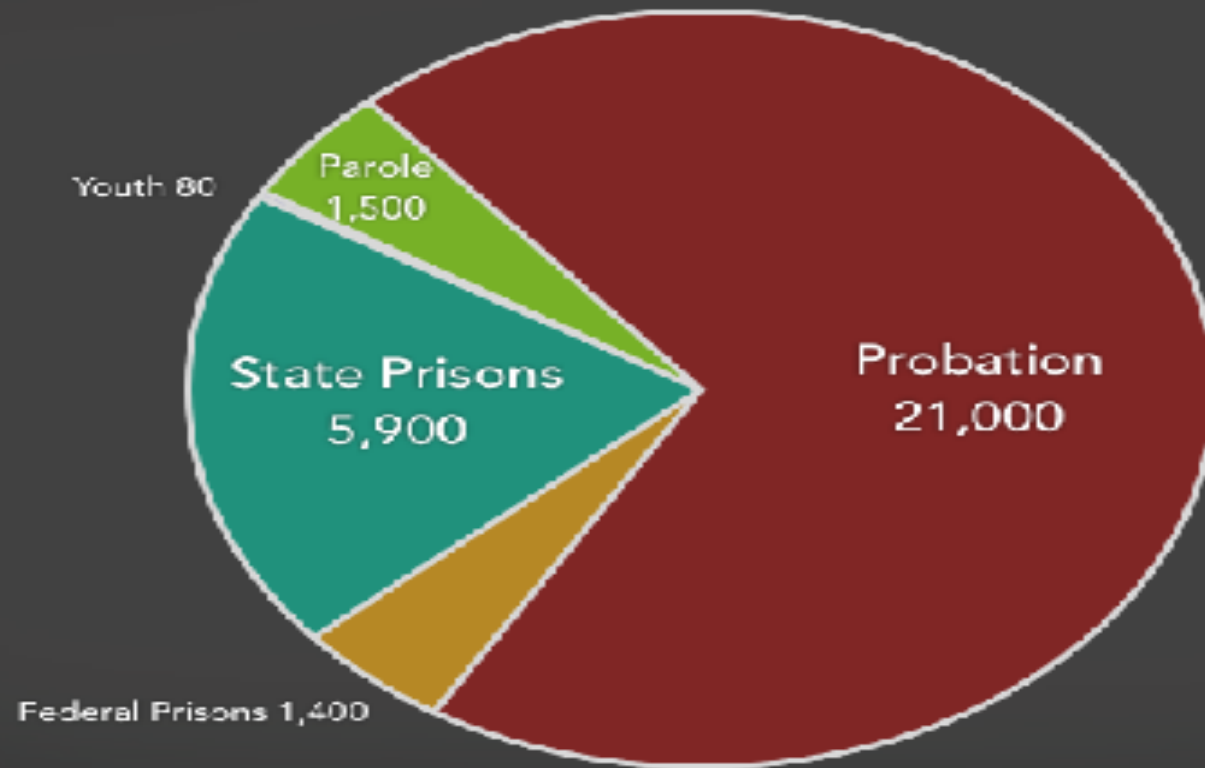
California

- ▶ Between 2006 and 2012, California downsized its prison population by 23%, compared to the nationwide state prison population decrease of 1%.
- ▶ 173,942 to 134,211 (decrease of 39,731)
- ▶ CA's violent crime rate drop of 21% exceeded the national decline of 19%.
- ▶ California's property crime rate dropped by 13%, but that rate was slightly lower than the national reduction of 15%.
- ▶ In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v. Plata held that the health care in CA's prison system was constitutionally inadequate due to severe overcrowding. The Court noted that the CA prisons had been operating at around 200% of their design capacity for at least 11 years, and ordered the state to reduce this figure to 137.5% of design capacity within 2 years. The State made reductions through its REALIGNMENT Policy.

Hawai'i's Incarcerated Population (2016)

How many people are in Hawai'i's criminal justice system?

30,000 are behind bars or under criminal justice supervision.





Smart Justice Solutions

- **Address Poverty & Racism in our Communities**
 - **Decriminalization**
 - **Diversion**
 - **Bail Reform**
 - **Sentencing reform**
 - **Rehabilitation**
 - **Mental Health & Behavioral Health Services**
 - **Substance Use Treatment (Harm Reduction)**
 - **Early Release & Sentence Reductions**
 - **Compassionate Release**
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More Smart Justice Solutions ...

- Education, Higher Education & Vocational Training
- Probation (technical violations)
- Parole Reform (technical violations)
- Restorative Justice
- Pu`uhonua
- Re-entry Planning
- Housing
- Remove Barriers to successful re-entry (i.e. employment, housing, etc.)

What can WE do now?
Educate. Empower. Resist.

