

Public Safety

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2010

CSI Event: New Mexico Workforce and Education Strategy Academy

The Center for State Innovation convened a one-day [academy](#) for Lt. Governor Diane Denish, senior staff, state policy makers and relevant stakeholders to discuss major workforce and education policy priorities and initiatives facing New Mexico and findings in the [New Mexico's Forgotten Middle-Skills](#) report during an opening panel that was open to the press and public. The event also featured a stakeholder discussion and panels focused on strategies to 1) increase college enrollment through dual-credit programs and other initiatives; 2) increase college completion rates, particularly in community colleges; and 3) prepare New Mexico's middle skills workforce.



Recent Publications

[Positive Trends and Best Practices in Criminal Justice Reform: A National Overview](#)

The [Justice Strategies](#) project reviews more than a decade of drug sentencing reform efforts in the states of Washington, Kansas, Michigan and New York. The positive impact of reducing reliance on incarceration in these states shows the way towards increasing opportunities for effective drug treatment, and safer, healthier communities.

[Reentry Housing Options: The Policymakers' Guide](#)

The [U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) and the [Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) provides practical steps that lawmakers can take to increase public safety by improving access to affordable housing for ex-offenders recently released to the community. It offers an overview of six commonly used housing options and examines three distinct approaches to increasing the availability of these options: improving access, increasing housing stock and revitalizing neighborhoods.

[A Change of Course: Developments in State Sentencing Policy and Their Implications for the Federal System](#)

Over the last 40 years, incarceration has moved from the option of last resort to the predominant policy model for addressing crime, resulting in rapid growth in the U.S. prison population. The current economic downturn, coupled with the high and increasing monetary and societal costs of incarceration, has forced policymakers to re-examine the effectiveness of incarceration as a strategy to address crime. [The Sentencing Project](#) provides a compilation of state sentencing and parole reform legislation and policy efforts since 2001 and assesses the implications for federal sentencing and corrections changes.

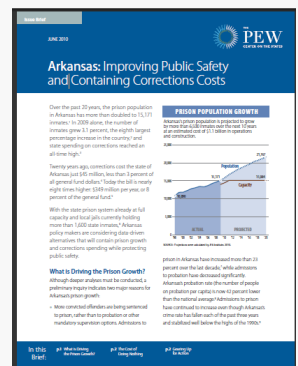


Spotlight on State Innovation

Comprehensive Corrections Study

June 4, 2010

In partnership with the [Pew Center on the States](#) (PCS), Arkansas will conduct a study to identify ways of reducing growth in the state's prison population and lowering corrections costs. Arkansas [Governor Mike Beebe](#) announced that the PCS's Public Safety Performance Project is already compiling data on corrections trends, and should produce a report by late fall. The state's prison population has more than doubled over the past two decades. A bi-partisan working group of state officials will coordinate with PCS to conduct the review and develop solutions.



Smarter Sentences

June 2, 2010

[South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford](#) signed Senate Bill 1154, the [Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act of 2010](#).



Based on the Sentencing Reform Commission's [recommendations](#), the law revises sentencing guidelines to reduce jail time for non-violent offenders, and authorizes additional supervision for paroled ex-offenders to increase the success of re-entry and reduce recidivism rates. The reforms are estimated to save \$400 million dollars in corrections costs over the next five years. In February 2010, the [Sentencing Reform Commission](#) released a [report](#) to the General Assembly that recommended changes to sentencing guidelines for violent and non-violent offenses and reforms to the parole system in response to increasing corrections costs and public safety concerns.

Cost-Saving Public Safety Reform

April 21, 2010

North Carolina recently adopted the data-driven [Justice Reinvestment approach](#) to public safety to address rising corrections costs and prison populations. [Governor Bev Perdue](#) announced that the state will partner with the [Council of State Governments Justice Center](#), the [Pew Center on the States](#), and the [U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) to perform an initial analysis of the state's criminal justice system and implement this proven strategy. The goal of the Justice Reinvestment strategy is three-fold: 1) identify options to reduce corrections spending; 2) reinvest the savings into programs to reduce recidivism; and 3) track and measure the outcomes to improve decision-making. Perdue convened a Justice Reinvestment Work Group composed of state agency heads, bi-partisan legislative leaders and top court officials to direct the project.



If you have a program or report you'd like other states to know about, something you think we should include in the newsletter, or other questions or comments, please contact us:

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