



States Project 3% Increase in Prisoners by 2018

Despite higher inmate count, imprisonment rate could remain steady or decline

The number of state prison inmates is expected to rise 3 percent by 2018, according to projections collected from 34 states by The Pew Charitable Trusts. Twenty-eight states anticipate increases in their prison populations, led by Iowa, with projected growth of 16 percent. The other six states anticipate decreases, led by Pennsylvania, with an expected decline of 6 percent. The states that provided data account for nearly 70 percent of the nation's total state prison population.

This snapshot suggests that, without policy reforms, the recent uptick in the number of state inmates reported by the Justice Department in 2014—the first increase in four years—could continue over the next four years. When measured against projected growth in the U.S. population, however, the overall state imprisonment rate could remain steady or even decline by 2018.

Most States Anticipate Modest Growth in Prison Populations in Next 4 Years

Projected prison population change, by state, 2014-18

State	2014	Projected 2018	Projected inmate change	Projected percent change
Alaska	5,111	5,686	575	11%
Arizona	41,773	45,613	3,840	9%
Arkansas	17,327	18,620	1,293	7%
California	135,430	144,633	9,203	7%
Colorado	20,522	21,837	1,315	6%
Florida	100,942	102,660	1,718	2%
Hawaii	5,298	5,277	-21	0%
Idaho	8,267	8,270	3	0%
Iowa	8,119	9,408	1,289	16%
Kansas	9,612	9,735	123	1%
Kentucky	20,989	21,720	731	3%
Louisiana	39,100	38,077	-1,023	-3%
Maine	2,116	2,127	11	1%
Massachusetts	10,898	10,672	-226	-2%
Michigan	43,823	45,243	1,420	3%
Minnesota	9,929	10,328	399	4%
Montana	2,581	2,682	101	4%
Nebraska	5,064	5,424	360	7%
Nevada	12,984	13,276	292	2%
New Mexico	7,021	7,377	356	5%
North Carolina	37,679	37,419	-260	-1%
Ohio	50,214	50,696	482	1%
Oregon	14,721	14,577	-144	-1%
Pennsylvania	51,118	47,848	-3,270	-6%
Rhode Island	3,213	3,338	125	4%
South Dakota	3,636	3,704	68	2%
Tennessee	25,524	27,909	2,385	9%
Texas	151,045	152,292	1,247	1%
Utah	7,214	7,782	568	8%
Vermont	2,119	2,247	128	6%
Virginia	37,843	39,440	1,597	4%
Washington	17,601	18,248	647	4%
West Virginia	7,637	7,943	306	4%
Wyoming	2,068	2,348	280	14%
State total	918,538	944,456	25,918	3%

Methodology notes: Pew collected prison projections from 41 states; nine states and the federal Bureau of Prisons did not supply data. Of the 41 forecasts, 34 extended to 2018. Projections are for June 30 of each year, or the nearest available date, and reflect each state's most recent available forecast, as of October 2014. Projections in some states do not incorporate recent policy changes that may significantly affect future prison populations; California's projection, for example, does not include the impact of Proposition 47, approved by voters in November 2014. In some states, forecasts were conducted by outside organizations using state data. The 2014 data for some states are projections, rather than actual populations, to allow for more consistent four-year comparisons. Forecasting methodology varies by state.

Sources: State agencies, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Council of State Governments Justice Center, JFA Institute

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