



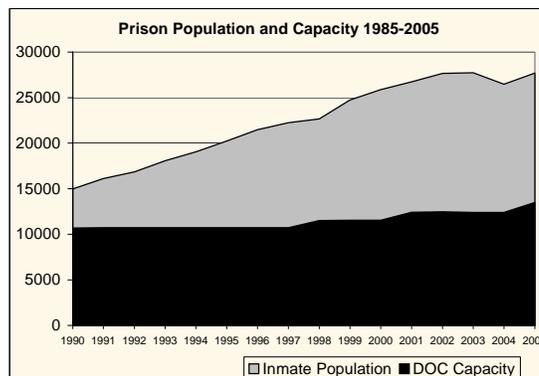
Alabama

"With ... these reforms, we'll alleviate our prison and jail crowding problems, we'll keep violent criminals locked up, and we'll make Alabama a safer place to live."

– Gov. Bob Riley (R), State of State Address, January 10, 2006

Prison Population & Cost Indicators

- Between 1995 and 2006, Alabama's prison population grew by 38 percent, to more than 28,000. Projections indicate additional growth of 2,000 inmates over the next five years.
- The state's incarceration rate, which increased by 29 percent during the same period, has more than doubled over the past 20 years and almost quadrupled over the past three decades.
- Alabama currently spends more than \$450 million per year on corrections despite spending the least per inmate in the country. Since 1990, the state's prison budget increased 44 percent.
- Alabama's Department of Corrections (ADOC) has more than 27,000 inmates, with facilities designed to house approximately 13,000. Approximately 1,200 Alabama prisoners are housed out-of-state because of lack of space.
- Nearly 29 percent of inmates released in 2002 were reincarcerated within three years. Overall, 61 percent of inmates in ADOC had been previously incarcerated.



Drivers of Incarceration & Spending

- Drug and DUI offenses now account for 38 percent of all prison admissions, and 20 percent of the current prison population.
- The number of offenders incarcerated for drug possession has increased by 28 percent since 1999, while the number imprisoned for violent crimes has decreased by 14 percent.
- In addition to more drug offenders entering the prison system, increased sentence lengths for drug and repeat offenses have contributed to the population growth. The average sentence for drug offenses is currently 59 percent longer than it was in 1986.

Public Safety Performance Project

An operating project of The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Public Safety Performance Project seeks to help states advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs. The project helps states diagnose the factors driving prison growth and provides policy audits to identify options for reform, drawing on solid research, promising approaches and best practices in other states. The initiative also helps state officials, practitioners and others share state-of-the-art knowledge and ideas through policy forums, public opinion surveys, multi-state meetings, national, regional and state-level convenings, and online information about what works.

PARTNERS

The project works with the Pew Center on the States and a number of highly respected external partners, including the Council of State Governments and the Vera Institute of Justice, to provide expert, nonpartisan information and assistance to states.

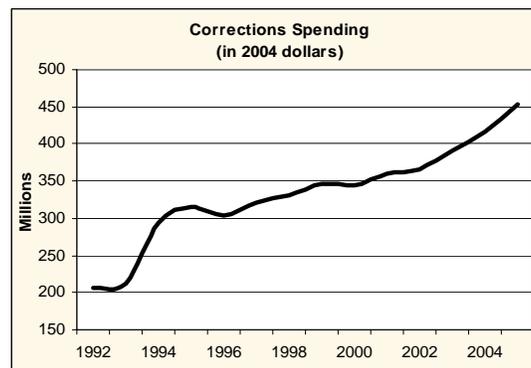
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“The Alabama Department of Corrections cannot overcome years of neglect in a few months, but we are encouraged by the progress so far.”—Corrections Commissioner Richard Allen

Opportunities & Action

- Alabama enacted voluntary sentencing standards that went into effect in October 2006. The standards seek to maintain a prison population below 27,000 during the next three to four years. In the absence of the standards, the prison population was expected to surpass 30,000 by 2011.
- As part of Alabama’s Sentencing Standards, by 2009 the Sentencing Commission plans to introduce to the legislature “truth-in-sentencing,” a policy that firmly establishes the minimum length of stay to improve the capacity to plan for and control prison populations.
- A number of stakeholders and agencies (including members of the judiciary, corrections and the Sentencing Commission) recognize the need for a broader-based and more concrete system of community corrections. They are collaborating to redefine the state’s Community Corrections Act to ensure prison beds are used for violent offenders and community punishment programs are available for appropriate, nonviolent offenders. There are 29 community corrections programs operating in 38 counties throughout the state, serving almost 2,000 offenders per year. During the next three years, Alabama plans to open community corrections programs to serve all 67 counties and 5,000 inmates per year.



The Public Safety Performance Project and the Vera Institute of Justice are providing nonpartisan research, analysis and expertise to Alabama policy makers and corrections leaders eager to explore these and other options for improving public safety and averting additional prison growth and state spending. The project and Vera are helping state officials consider ways to strengthen their capacity to evaluate the impact of recent changes in sentencing and correctional policies. The assistance also includes helping the sentencing commission and local organizations boost data capacity, analyze prisoner recidivism, and assess alternative monitoring techniques in community corrections programs.

By the Numbers

2005 Index crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	4324 (17 th)	2005 Corrections spending:	\$453 million
2005 Violent crime rate per 100,000 (rank):	432 (22 nd)	2005 Corrections share of budget:	6.3%
2005 Incarceration rate per 100,000 (rank):	591 (5 th)	2002 Releases reincarcerated:	29%
2006 Prison population:	28,430	2011 Projected prison population:	30,461

Sources: FBI Uniform Crime Reports; Bureau of Justice Statistics, various publications; National Association of State Budget Officers State Expenditure Reports, annual series (corrections share of state general funds, FY2005); “Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America’s Prison Population 2007-2011,” Pew Public Safety Performance Project; Alabama Department of Corrections. Updated February 2007

