Scripts for National and State Data Pages

* National Page

**The National Overview**Probation and parole are designed to lower prison populations and help people succeed in the community through effective supervision practices.​ Unfortunately, community supervision programs across the U.S. have not always met this goal. In 2019, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center reported that probation and parole violations accounted for 45 percent of prison admissions nationally. ​Technical violations, such as missed appointments with supervision officers or failed drug tests, accounted for nearly ¼ of all state prison admissions.

In 2020, COVID-19 created a new sense of urgency for community supervision programs to meet their intended goals. While many parts of the criminal justice system halted operations to reduce human contact and prevent the spread of the virus, probation and parole refocused their efforts on keeping people out of prison and safe in the community.

First major data point: **From 2019 through the end of 2020, the number of people admitted to prison due to supervision violations[[1]](#footnote-1) dropped by 30 percent nationwide.**​

Second major data point: **This meant that 75,006 fewer people were admitted to prison for violations committed while under community supervision than in the previous year.**

Some of these reductions can likely be explained by the overall disruption to the justice system, but changes in community supervision practices also played a critical role in reducing incarceration numbers across the board. These reductions were also not limited to certain types of states. They occurred across the nation, in rural and coastal states, as well as states with high- and low-density populations.

Third major data point: **Thirty-seven states saw more than a 10% decline in prison admissions due to supervision violations.**

Fourth major data point: **If states can sustain these reductions, they are poised to save more than $2.1 billion annually. This money can be used to reinvest funding into evidence-based services that are proven to reduce recidivism such as mental health and substance use treatment, community-based supports, and economic development.**

While urgent changes made to keep people safe during a national public health threat may not all be sustainable, some states were already seeing notable reductions in prison admissions due to supervision violations before the pandemic. Visit an individual state data page to learn more about its changes in prison admissions and population since 2018.

Fifth major data point: **Nine states saw at least a 10% decline in prison admissions due to supervision violations before 2020.**

Definitions

*Total admissions/Total population:* The number of people admitted to or in a state-funded incarceration facility.

*Violation admissions/Violation population:* The number of people admitted to or in a state-funded incarceration facility as a result of a violation of supervision conditions. Can include both technical violations and new offenses committed while on community supervision.

*Technical violation admissions/Technical violation population:* The number of people admitted to or in a state-funded incarceration facility for a violation of supervision conditions that may be considered a crime if they were not on community supervision.

*New offense admissions/New offense population*: The number of people admitted to or in a state-funded incarceration facility for committing a new criminal offense while on community supervision.

Methodology

In 2018, in partnership with the Correctional Leaders Association and Arnold Venture, the CSG Justice Center developed a survey to collect data on the impact of supervision violations on prison admissions and population and distributed the survey to corrections departments in all 50 states. In 2021, the CSG Justice Center reengaged these states to provide 2020 numbers and to update the figures previously provided on people in prison on supervision violations. Forty-five states submitted survey data in 2021, and data was acquired through other means (i.e., publicly available reports) for one state (North Carolina). The data presented in this web-based tool represents data reported by each responding state between 2018 and 2020. For complete methodology, see our methodology.

* State Pages

**[STATE NAME]**

**Supervision Violation Data Snapshot**

States across the country saw changes in their prison admissions and populations due to supervision violations[[2]](#footnote-2) in 2020. But some states were already experiencing reductions in admissions and population prior to the pandemic. This snapshot shows available supervision violation data for [STATE NAME] from 2018 through 2020.

[STATE NAME]’s Change in Admissions

[insert graphic about changes in admissions 2018 to 2019, and then 2019 to 2020]

First major data point: **In [STATE NAME], [X PERCENT] of prison admissions in/from [X to Y YEARS] were due to supervision violations.**

[Insert graph and tables]

Second major data point: **In [STATE NAME], [X PERCENT] of people were incarcerated for supervision violations in/from [FROM X to Y YEARS].**

[Insert graph and tables]

State Notes

[Will be provided in an excel spread sheet.]

1. Whether an incarceration is the result of a new offense or technical violation is often difficult and problematic to delineate, even in states with available data. Most states do not consider a supervision violation to be the result of a new offense unless a new felony conviction is present, meaning technical violations may include misdemeanor convictions or new arrests. "Prison" includes county jail if the county was reimbursed by the state for a person’s incarceration, which occurs in some, but not all, states. Supervision violations may include revocations (i.e., unsuccessful terminations of a supervision and completion of a sentence in prison or jail) or short-term sanctions (i.e., probation or parole jurisdiction is maintained and the person is incarcerated for a short period of time in prison or jail). Not all states impose or include short-term sanctions in their count of supervision violations. See state-specific snapshots for more information on state-specific definitions. In states where technical violations were not provided, all violations and associated costs were counted as new offense violations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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