



# **Less Incarceration. Smart Criminal Justice Reform.**

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by State Representative Evan Goyke

# Introduction

**In the Fall of 2006** I was the victim of an attempted robbery at knife-point. This was not as bad as it sounds and I never believed my life in actual danger. The would-be robber was clearly suffering from a major mental health crisis and had likely spent a life in and out of the justice system. I look back on that brief encounter and feel remorse at how avoidable it all could be. Better, more effective interventions may have sent that man on a healthier, crime-free path and meant at least one less victim of crime.

Each year we spend hundreds of millions of dollars fighting and reacting to crime—and too often we never get to the root causes. For the man on the street trying to take my money, it appeared that nothing had worked.

There is no single policy solution to prevent crime. What is proven, however, is a system wide change in interventions and investments. A small number of people are responsible for a disproportionately large percentage of crime. Targeting effective interventions to these highest-risk individuals will reduce crime. Less crime means less victims—and less money spent on the costly incarceration system.

We can pay for these smart policies through smart reform—by realigning criminal justice dollars in a more effective, efficient, and fair way. This work makes the case for such realignment. Thank you for reading.



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*Representative Evan Goyke is currently serving in his fourth term in the State Assembly. Representing the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District on Milwaukee’s north and west sides, Representative Goyke has served each session on committees focused on the criminal justice system.*

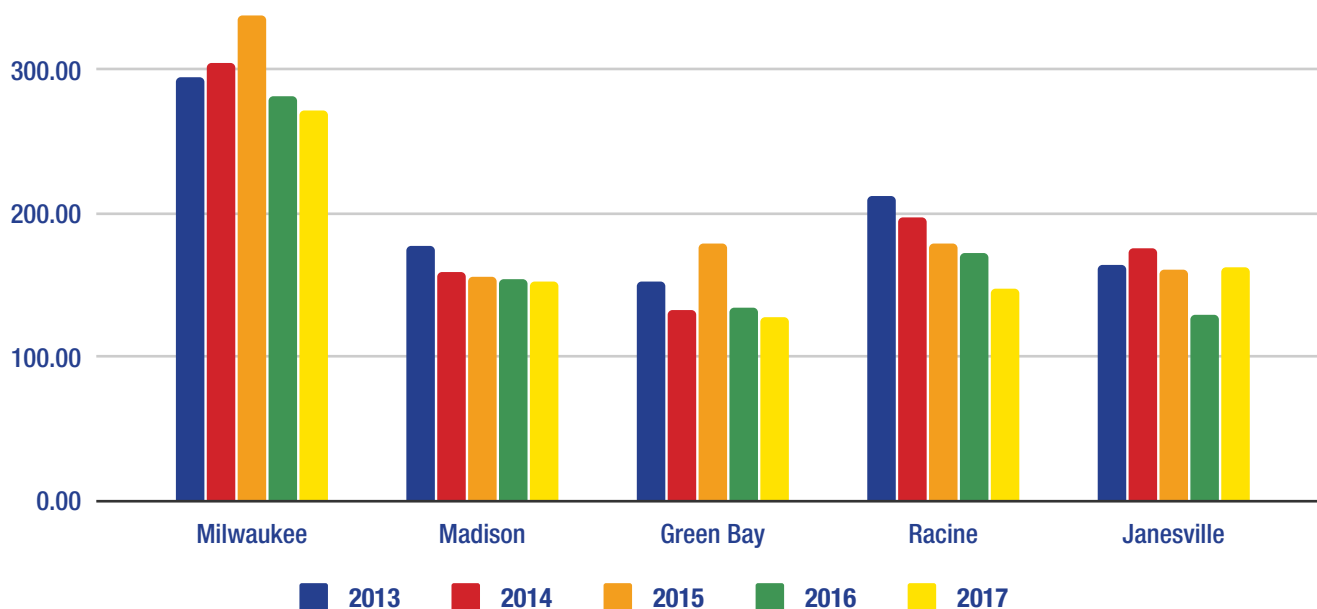
*Prior to his election to the Assembly, Representative Goyke served as a trial attorney in the Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender in Milwaukee, where he provided legal representation to indigent defendants in a large range of criminal cases. He is a 2009 graduate of Marquette University Law School.*

# How to Reduce Crime

Since a height in the early 1990s, crime in general has fallen in Wisconsin and across the country. The “Great American Crime Decline”<sup>1</sup> has not reached every community equally; nor has each type of crime fallen evenly. Using Uniform Crime Reporting data, provided to the public by the Wisconsin Department

of Justice, we can track crime over time, location, and type. What emerges is a reality that certain places have long endured unacceptably high crime rates and that some individuals have remained undeterred and uncorrected in their criminal behavior.

These are the crime rates per 10,000 residents for the five cities in Wisconsin with the most concentrated crime:



For Wisconsin to experience a larger and more equitable reduction in crime, the higher crime areas must be targeted with effective investment. At the same time, individuals that present the highest risks and needs of re-offending must also be met with effective interventions.

The following policies target high need areas, high risk individuals and high risk moments in time. Each of these policies have been tested and have successfully reduced crime in Wisconsin.

## The plan is straightforward:

- 1) Target investments at the neighborhood level
- 2) Target high-risk individuals with root cause interventions
- 3) Target homelessness to reduce risk of re-offending and victimization

“All the best sources of data on American violence—the national survey of victimization, the figures from vital statistics, and reports from police departments—tell the same story. The level of violence in the United States has fallen dramatically from its latest peak in the early 1990s.” —Patrick Sharkey, *Uneasy Peace*, p. 12.

<sup>1</sup>Franklin Zimring, *The Great American Crime Decline*, it's a book I need to properly cite...also referenced in *Uneasy Peace*

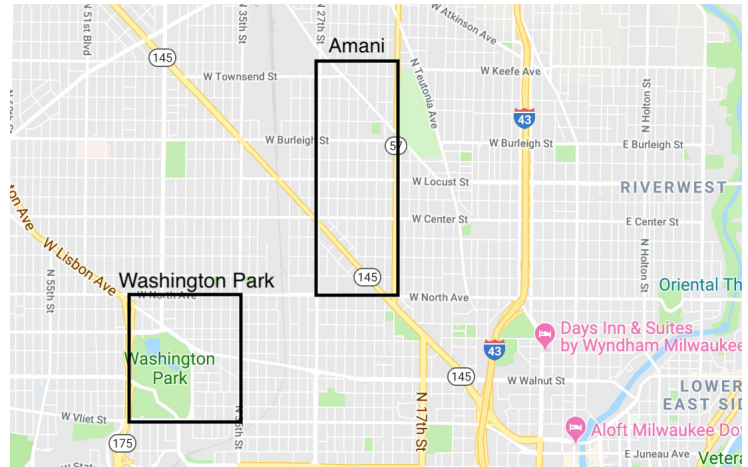


# Invest in Neighborhoods

## Neighborhoods are a key to crime reduction.

There is hope for every neighborhood—for any neighborhood—even those with the highest crime rates. Washington Park and Amani, the two Milwaukee neighborhoods highlighted in the maps at right, have long been plagued by high crime rates.

With targeted investment to reduce crime, these neighborhoods and the committed organizations and residents have together significantly reduced crime. As crime falls, local businesses return, housing stabilizes, and the quality of life for all improves.



## Case Study — Amani

MILWAUKEE NEWS

# Determined residents put Amani neighborhood on new path

Community partners:



Crime in the Amani neighborhood decreased another

**17.3%**

in the first 11 months of 2017.

This is on top of the **26.36%** decrease in crime in Amani over the past four years (2012–2016).

**45%** fewer homicides (2016–2017)  
**20%** fewer robberies  
**19%** fewer motor vehicle thefts

<https://www.coa-yfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/amani-newsletter-december-2017.pdf>

## Policy #1:

### Create a Crime Reduction Grant Program that Invests in Neighborhoods

Successful models for investing in crime reduction at the neighborhood level exist. Federally, the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program, is a working program that funds communities throughout the country. Washington Park was a recipient of a Byrne Grant, receiving \$600,000 over three years.

The Byrne Grant initiative in Washington Park was highly successful; however, the federal funding expired and no state or local resources were available to sustain the success.

Using the Byrne Grant Program as a model, the State should develop the criteria and accountability for the use of these funds. These investments must reach the streets of the neighborhoods. Residents are the key to sustained crime reduction and must be the drivers of change in each targeted neighborhood.



## Invest in Neighborhoods (Continued)

The key to the success of these investments is commitment. Neighborhood investments take time. The success comes from fostering the collective efficacy of neighbors, where residents and law enforcement work together to promote social order. Crime falls because “opportunities for criminal activity [begin] to shrink, and violence [begins] to fall.” (*Uneasy Peace*, p. 60)

These grants must be multi-year and, if possible, leveraged with local institutions. Local stakeholders, law enforcement, and most importantly **local residents**, work together to reduce crime. Each neighborhood is different and residents must play the largest role in the reduction of crime.



### Investment in Neighborhoods pays off

**\$718.86**

price per case for a public defender or DA

**\$1,097**

price for an emergency room visit

**\$950.15**

price per police dispatch for a call in Milwaukee



“Grants like these are effective because they bring together different organizations that normally work together in very little to no capacity. It allows the group to **break silos, learn from one another, and forces you to hold one another accountable**. Another reason that grants like these are effective is that the grant allows teams to be creative with initiatives (within government stipulations).”

—Sister Patricia Rogers, executive director of The Dominican Center

# Root Cause Interventions

In 2005, a bipartisan program called Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) was created within the Department of Justice. TAD grants are given to counties to support programs servicing

nonviolent adult offenders with alcohol or other drug addictions. TAD programs vary across the state, but must be evidence-based and must treat addiction.

## TAD has been studied. TAD works.<sup>2</sup>

**97%** of TAD graduates stayed out of prison after completing their TAD program

**81%** of TAD graduates did not have any new convictions after three years

TAD graduates are **9x less likely** than non-graduates to be admitted to state prison

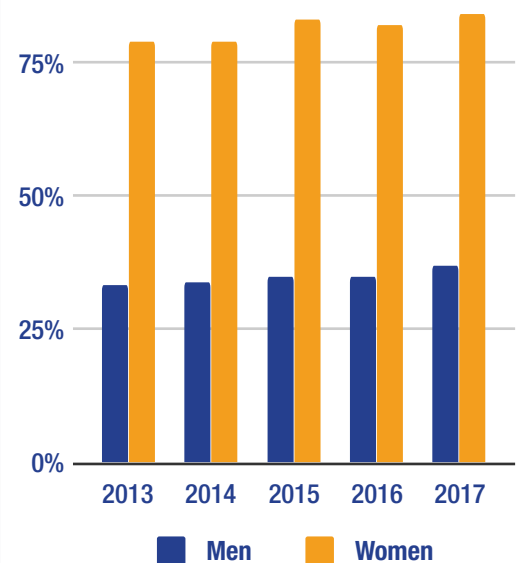
TAD's success has fueled its expansion. TAD programs are now operating in over half of Wisconsin's counties. An original annual appropriation of \$1 million has grown to over \$4 million.

Even with the increased funding, TAD programs have not reached their potential. The additional money has largely gone to program expansion to new counties. Existing programs have not received the needed funding to expand capacity to meet the growing need.

An additional limitation of TAD programs is the narrow focus on addiction only. In particular, specialized court programs addressing mental illness are not eligible for TAD funding. Effective programs like Restorative Justice are similarly not eligible for TAD funding.

Public Health Researchers argue that neurological trauma on a widespread scale is the root cause for much of the city's unemployment, mental illness, addiction, alcoholism, and even suicide and homelessness. —*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/9/18

Percentage of Wisconsin Inmates with a Diagnosed Mental Health Condition



## Policy #2:

### Increase Capacity in TAD Programs and Expand TAD to Include Mental Health and Trauma

TAD programs now need the resources to grow capacity. The programs are in place, they work, they reduce crime, save lives, and save money.

New programs beyond AODA can provide similar rehabilitation and recidivism reduction. Growing research on the role of trauma and the effectiveness of Restorative Justice programming should be included to reach currently ineligible populations.

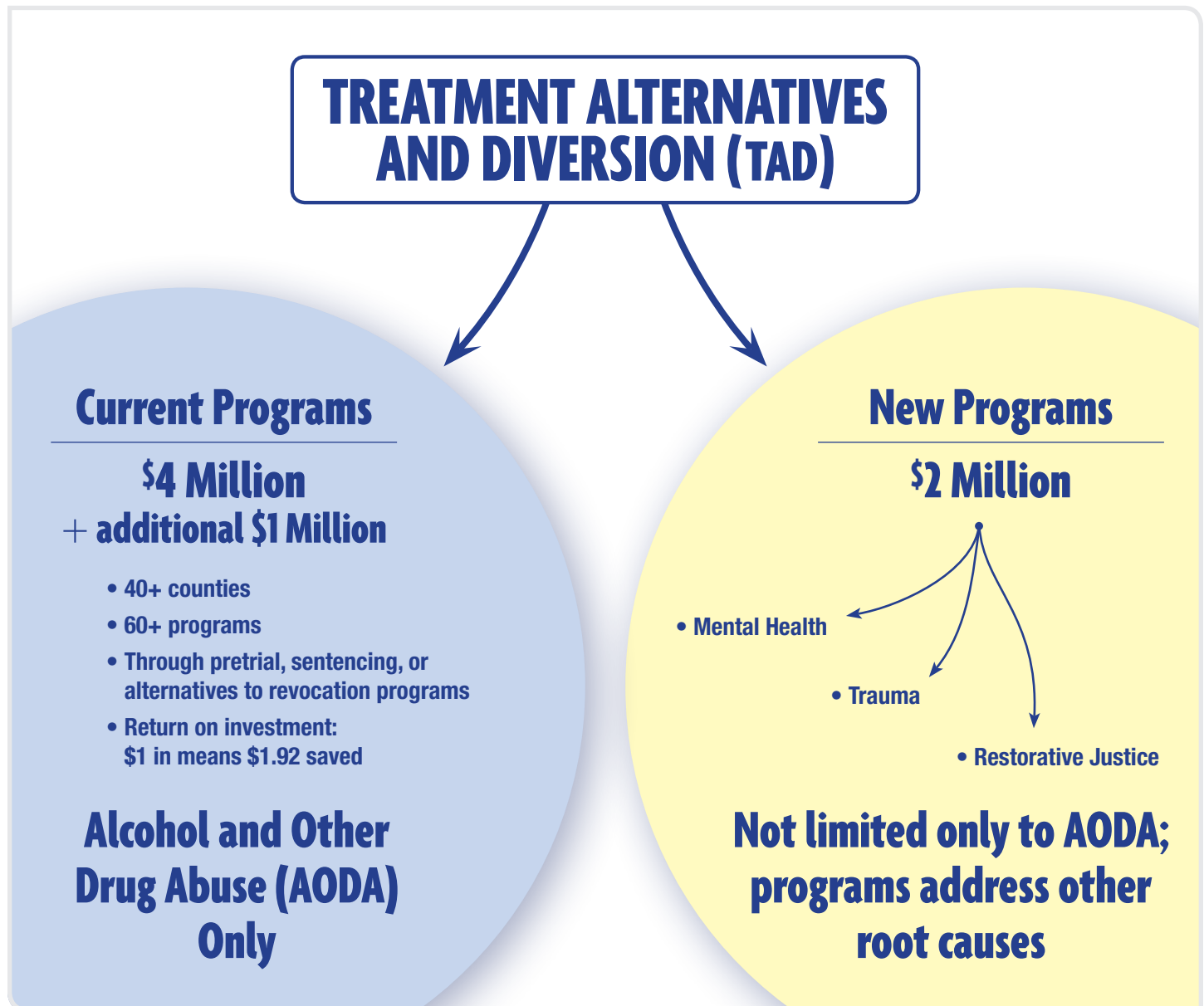
**\$3 Million**

**\$1 Million**  
to increase the capacity of TAD

**\$2 Million**  
to create new TAD for  
• mental health  
• trauma  
• restorative justice

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/tad-information>

## About Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD)



“A legal prescription for opiates turned into a heroin addiction. I lost my job, my family and friends and landed in legal trouble, which resulted in jail time while waiting for admittance into Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court (MCDTC) Program. This is a very strict and regimented program that allows people like myself an opportunity for treatment instead of prison time.”

—Laura Haas, TAD Program Graduate and Certified Peer Specialist

Ms. Haas credits Drug Treatment court for her four years of sobriety, and emphasized the personal elements of the program that give true support to those suffering from addiction. However, she had to spend time in jail while waiting for a program. If TAD could be expanded, it could not only save money on jail capacity but help to eliminate the criminalization of addiction.



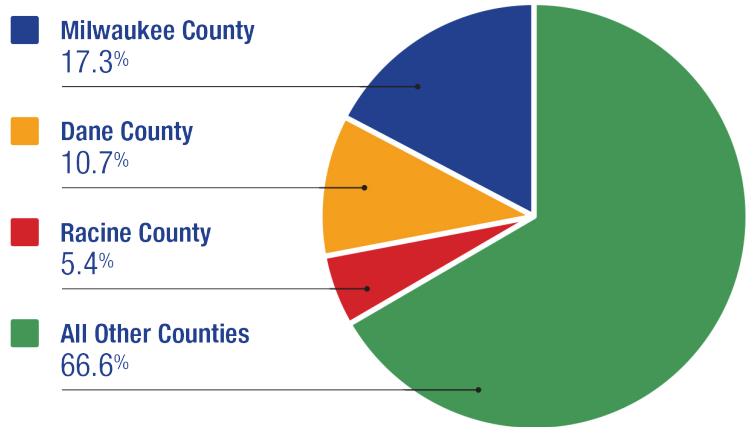
# Prevent Homelessness

In 2015, Milwaukee County, along with a coalition of community groups, launched a Housing First program to end chronic homelessness. The idea is simple—provide a safe and stable place for someone to live, without questions or qualifications. Once housed, the program works with the individuals to restore sobriety, mental and physical health, and employment.

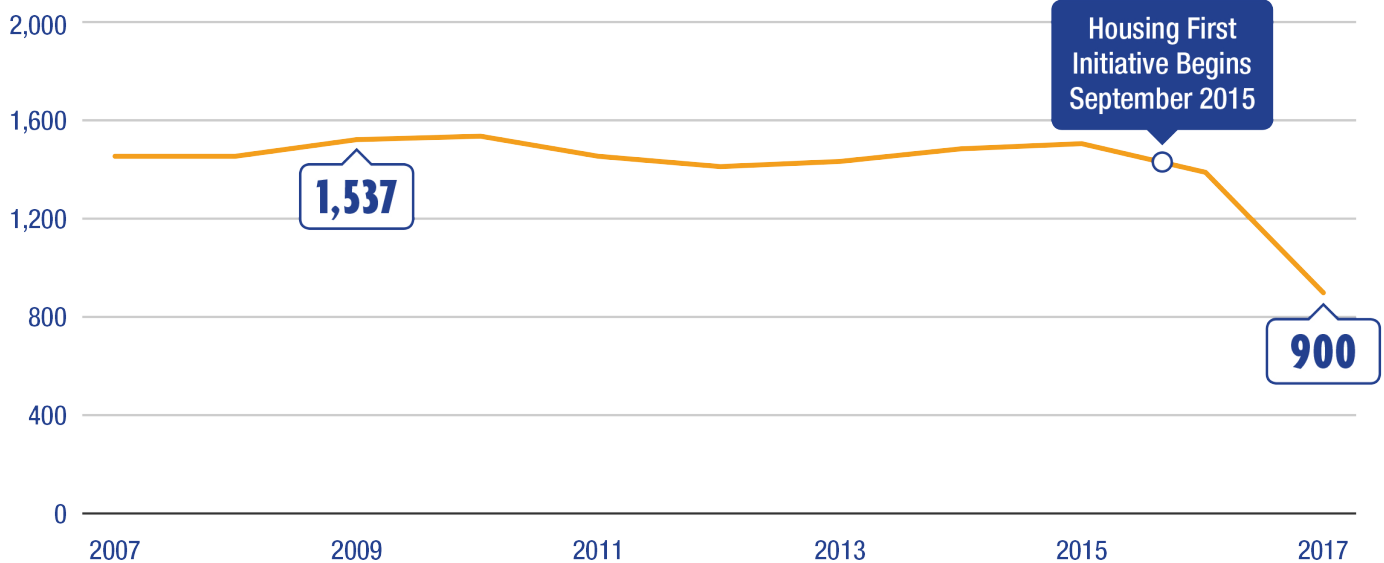
In three years, the program has been a success. Milwaukee has cut the chronically homeless population in half. Providing housing at the critical moment of being homeless reduces crime. Homeless individuals are at a higher risk to be both a victim and an offender.

Source: [https://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/vv-29-1\\_ptr\\_a8\\_122-136.pdf](https://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/vv-29-1_ptr_a8_122-136.pdf)

Wisconsin Homeless Population by County in 2018



Total Homeless Individuals in Milwaukee County



Source: Housing First Milwaukee

## Policy #3:

### Create a Statewide Housing First Grant Program

Local governments and local stakeholders must lead the development of a successful Housing First model. Each community has different challenges and assets. By providing a state level grant program, local communities can direct their Housing First program as needed and the state should provide matching funds.

In Milwaukee, the Housing First program requires \$1.8 million a year. If the State grant program paid up to

one third of the cost of a local Housing First program, Milwaukee's state share would be \$600,000.

With \$3 million to share statewide, and funding Milwaukee's one third, the grant program could spend an additional \$2.4 million throughout the state.

Importantly, these dollars must address not only the "chronically homeless," but those that may be without a home for short periods of time, especially the transition out of jail or prison. Wisconsin should not release an incarcerated person into homelessness, rather ensure resources are available and a plan in place to ensure the transition includes housing.

## Prevent Homelessness (continued)

### About Housing First

Housing First attempts to break the cycle of chronic homelessness by:

- Immediate, indefinite access to housing with no barriers and few requirements
- Recovery oriented case management
- Autonomy, personal choice and self determination
- Pay-as-you-can model
- Treatment options, not mandates

“This was after a few years of a living hell. Within two months of starting the (application) process, I had my own place on the East Side. Housing is a human right and when you solve the housing problem first, other things can then follow.” —Robert Itzen, Housing First Resident

By providing housing first, Milwaukee reduced jail and court costs, reduced the number of emergency room visits, and made public spaces safer.

**\$2.1M**

Reduced  
Medicaid costs  
to the State of  
Wisconsin per year

**\$715k**

Reduced  
mental health  
costs to  
Milwaukee County per year

**\$600k**

Reduced legal system costs per year

By providing housing and programming, Housing First reduces the likelihood that these individuals will engage in criminal behavior.

In the year prior  
to enrolling in  
Housing First,

**98%**

of the individuals  
received a  
municipal citation

In the year after  
enrolling in  
Housing First,

**9%**

of the individuals  
received a  
municipal citation

MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SERVICE, JULY 12, 2016

## Housing First gives new lease on life to 145 once-chronically homeless people

“The flexibility of this program will allow for (individuals) to be successful in ways that, in the past, they were not able to. Once people are in a safe environment, they are comfortable, allowing service providers to build programs around the person.”

URBAN MILWAUKEE, AUGUST 21, 2017

## County's Homeless Program A Success

“To date, more than 200 chronically homeless persons have been placed in residences through Housing First. Retention rates during the past two years of the rollout have stood at 99 percent, according to county figures.”

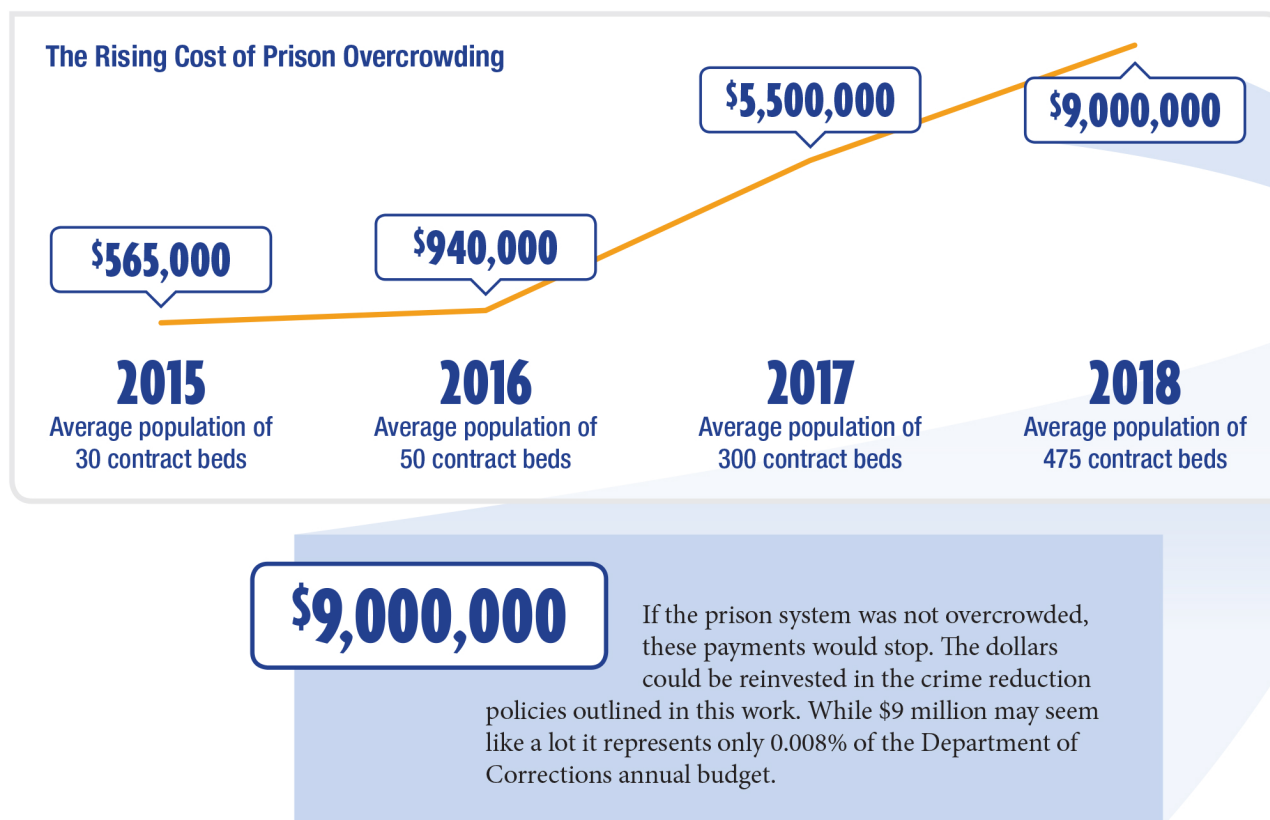
# How to Pay for Crime Reduction Without Raising Taxes

Incarceration is our most expensive crime intervention. By reducing our reliance on incarceration in smart and safe ways, we can free the resources necessary to reduce crime—without raising taxes or spending money needed on other important areas. The following sections outline policies that, together, will save the state millions of dollars. Those millions should be reinvested to reduce crime.

Wisconsin spends roughly \$1.25 billion each year to fund the Department of Corrections. As 2019 began, Wisconsin's prisons

were at roughly 140% capacity—and so overcrowded that hundreds of inmates are forced into county jails to serve their sentences.

Since 2016, Wisconsin's use of county jails for prison overcrowding has increased. As shown below, in 2016 only 55 inmates were housed in county jails. By the end of 2018, there were over 500. At a cost of \$51.50 per day per inmate, the cost of overcrowding has grown, as has the opportunity to realize major savings.



## How to Reduce the Prison Population

Criminal Justice Reform has been tried and tested in states around the country. Conservative and Liberal states have successfully and safely reduced prison populations. Wisconsin should join this national bipartisan movement.

There are hundreds of different reform policies that could be debated. Wisconsin should engage in thorough review, study, and broad consensus building reform effort aided by national leaders in justice reform policy.

Unfortunately we face a crisis and must start the reforms now. The following policies will bring immediate help to our overcrowded prisons. The equation is not complicated: prison releases need to outnumber prison admissions for the population to decline. The reforms presented here address the greatest needed reforms in the admission, release, and community supervision areas.

**The path to reducing the prison population is not complicated. The equation is simple:**

- 1) Reduce prison admissions**
- 2) Increase prison releases**
- 3) Increase success on supervision**

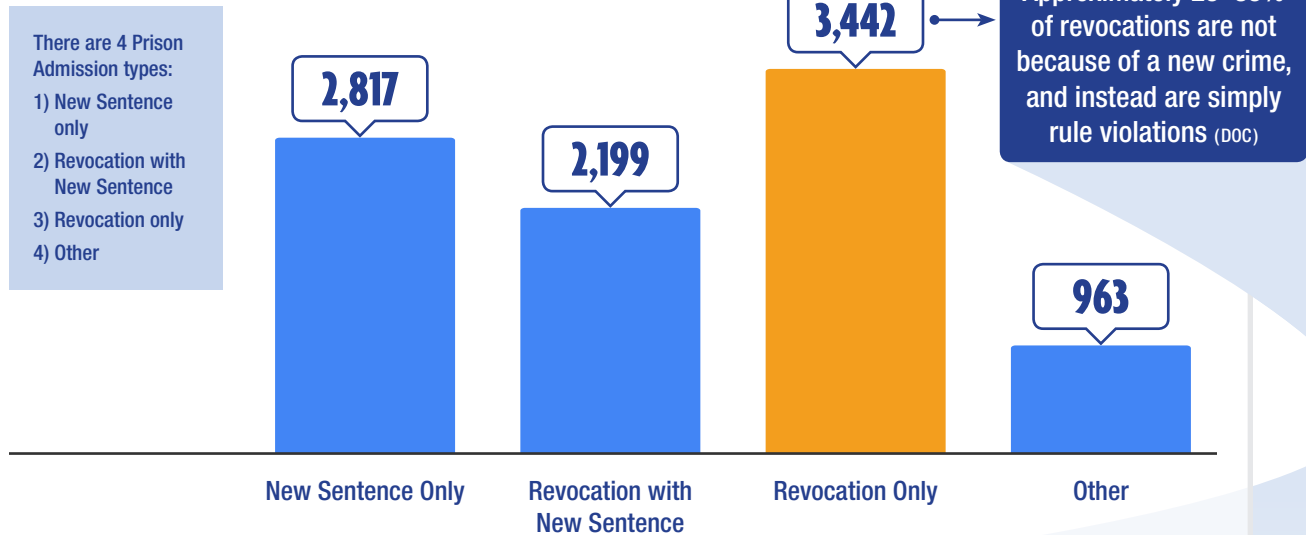


# Reduce Prison Admissions

Wisconsin prison inmates serve bifurcated sentences, which means a part of their sentence includes incarceration and part includes “extended supervision.” Some individuals are sentenced directly to community supervision (without the incarceration), which in Wisconsin is called “Probation.” Most people refer to both of these as being “on paper.”

Wisconsin has roughly 66,000 individuals on supervision. A violation of supervision may result in a wide range of responses, with the DOC given discretion to decide. One response may be the “revocation” of supervision, resulting in incarceration. If the DOC initiates a revocation, the individual has the right to an attorney and an administrative hearing is held, though the hearing is very limited.

## Wisconsin Prison Admissions in 2017



**1,100–1,500**

These individuals were returned to prison based on violating the rules of supervision. Many of these individuals committed new crimes, but those crimes did not rise to the level of a prison sentence. The best available data suggests that roughly 25–30% of individuals that were sent to prison without committing a crime should be the target of immediate reform. This represents about 1,100 to 1,535 prison admissions.

## Policy #4:

### Reform the Revocation System, Expand Alternatives, End Crimeless Revocation

The DOC should maintain the power to hold individuals accountable for violating the rules of supervision, but the responses must be proportional and treatment focused. To do this, the DOC needs more alternatives, but also a limit on revoking individuals alleged to have violated certain rules of supervision.

The following two policies provide a major impact at reducing the number of revocations each year, continue to hold individuals accountable, and can increase public safety.

- 1) End “crimeless” revocations
- 2) Create a stronger post-sentence Treatment, Alternatives, and Diversion framework.

# Reduce Prison Admissions (continued)

## 1 End Crimeless Revocations

When an individual violates a rule of supervision, but not new criminal conduct, with a few exceptions, the DOC should not send that person back to prison. Short periods of incarceration

or alternative interventions can be more effective at a fraction of the cost. Under the proposal, the DOC would retain discretion to revoke for repeated rule violations, for certain behaviors of the highest-risk individuals, running away from supervision, or harassing the victim of the crime.

If only **25%** of rules-only revocations are prevented, that's **275** fewer prison inmates each year

225 fewer inmates x 365 days = 100,375 inmate days  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$5,169,310** saved

If only **50%** of rules-only revocations are prevented, that's **550** fewer prison inmates each year

550 fewer inmates x 365 days = 200,750 inmate days  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$10,338,600** saved

## 2 Strengthen a Post-Sentence Treatment, Alternatives, and Diversions (TAD) Network

Not every rule violation leads to revocation. The DOC offers some individuals an "Alternative to Revocation" (ATR) and/or a "Sanction" in place of revocation. These may include heightened supervision, treatment, and may also include incarceration. In 2017, 898 people were admitted to ATR programs through courts, prison programs or residential facilities. These programs and treatment options have a waiting list. By diverting

individuals into community-based programming rather than prison, each ATR plays an important role in reducing the prison population. If we include portions of the successful TAD law, which requires best practices, data collection and reporting, we can track the success and savings.

To make this network of alternatives successful, the DOC needs additional options and resources to provide quality community-based treatment, mental health services, and housing.

The DOC cannot supply data on how many individuals would be diverted from prison with expanded ATR options, however ...

If the capacity of ATRs was expanded 25%, that's **225** fewer prison inmates each year

225 fewer inmates x 365 days = 82,125 inmate-days.  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$4,230,000** saved.

If the capacity of ATRs was expanded 50%, that's **450** fewer prison inmates each year

450 fewer inmates x 365 days = 164,250 inmate-days.  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$8,458,000** saved.



# Increase Prison Releases

Wisconsin is a “Truth in Sentencing” state—meaning inmates serve every day of their sentence. This policy has an exception called the “Earned Release Program” (ERP). An ERP-eligible inmate must be both a nonviolent offender and have an Alcohol or Other Drug Addiction (AODA) need. ERP inmates receive treatment, and if successful, get out of prison early. On average, a successful ERP graduate has their prison term reduced by 380 days.

ERP has been successful and bipartisan. In 2017, the program was expanded in the State Budget by 250 beds. This expansion cost \$3.7 million, but will reduce Corrections expenses by \$6.4 million for a net saving of \$2.7 million.

The same rationale should be applied to additional inmate programs that, like AODA programming, treat a root cause of the individual’s criminal behavior.

As of October 2018, there were **575** inmates enrolled in ERP programs, compared with **3,500** inmates wait-listed for ERP programs

“To reduce the chances of returning to criminal behavior after release, inmates must complete identified reentry, treatment, education and other programming needs and/or build job skills during their incarceration. It is important that friends and family support and encourage inmates to use their time wisely in order to gain the skills they need to be successful when they return to the community.” —Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Individuals have different access to treatment and education based on their risk level, the length of time remaining on their sentence, and the individual facility they are placed in.

Wisconsin operates 20 institutions and 20 correctional centers. Some programming is available at each, but of unequal capacity and quality. Within the institutions, only about 15% of Wisconsin’s prison beds are “minimum security,” which provide the greatest opportunities for work, education and treatment.

In order to realize the value of treatment and education, Wisconsin needs to convert facility space or facilities to prioritize treatment and education.

Both Prairie du Chien and Lincoln Hills were designed to educate and train young offenders. Both are designated as medium security, but the smaller, more campus-like design of these facilities make them ideal candidates to be transformed into treatment- and education-focused facilities. Together, the two facilities have the capacity for just under 1,000 inmates.

## Policy #5:

### Modernize Wisconsin’s Earned Release Program

Educational and vocational programs should be treated the same as the AODA programs within the ERP program. Inmates that successfully complete these programs should have a reduction in their incarceration. The time that is

reduced should be added to community supervision, meaning the individual will serve every day of the sentence.

Converting Prairie du Chien and Lincoln Hills to new treatment- and education-intensive facilities will expand capacity and reduce wait lists. Streamline educational programs to ensure individuals’ progress is transferable from facility to facility.



# Increase Prison Releases (continued)

Education is a key need. According to the DOC, roughly half of the prison population has no college or technical education experience.

	Men	Women
Less Than Grade 9	4%	3%
No HSED	26%	22%
HSED/No College	47%	44%

Programs that encourage education also work to fight recidivism. By incentivizing positive life changes, incarcerated individuals can have more options upon release rather than returning to crime.

## 1 Expand Earned Release to Educational and Vocational Programs

Earned Release programs would have a substantial impact on the prison population. At right are the number of successful graduates from 2017 and a few calculations based on the number of prison “bed days” that would be avoided based on the number of days reduced.

Program	Number of Graduates	If 6 months reduced incarceration	If 9 months reduced incarceration
GED/HSED	620	111,600	167,400
Vocational	777	140,000	210,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>251,600</b>	<b>377,400</b>
Potential savings at \$51.50/day		<b>\$12,957,400</b>	<b>\$19,436,100</b>

## 2 Convert Prairie du Chien and Lincoln Hills into Treatment and Education Facilities

Transforming Prairie du Chien and Lincoln Hills into treatment and education facilities will increase capacity in the programs and increase their impact. These facilities can be the first of their kind in Wisconsin.

**1,000** diverted inmates between two new 500-bed facilities

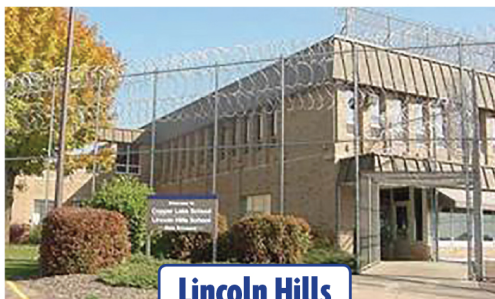
1,000 fewer inmates × 6 months = 183,000 inmate-days.  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$9,424,500** saved.



**Prairie du Chien**

**275,000** inmate days eliminated for a 9-month reduction

1,000 fewer inmates × 9 months = 275,000 inmate-days.  
At \$51.50 per inmate per day, that's **\$14,162,500** saved.



**Lincoln Hills**

**Converted to minimum security facilities, with 500 new beds each for treatment and education**

# Increase Success on Supervision

Community Supervision can serve as an effective and safe alternative to incarceration. There are roughly 66,000 individuals serving some form of community supervision in Wisconsin. Every individual on supervision must follow no fewer than 18 rules and the sentencing judge as well as the DOC have the authority to add rules. Many of these rules are common sense and work to promote public safety and should remain unchanged—while other rules need to be reviewed and possibly removed.

In addition to the number of rules that must be followed, the caseload required of DOC supervision agents is too large. The treatment, services, and rehabilitation offered to individuals on supervision too often falls short of the individual's needs.

For example, every individual on supervision must follow Rules 10 and 11:

## Rule 10

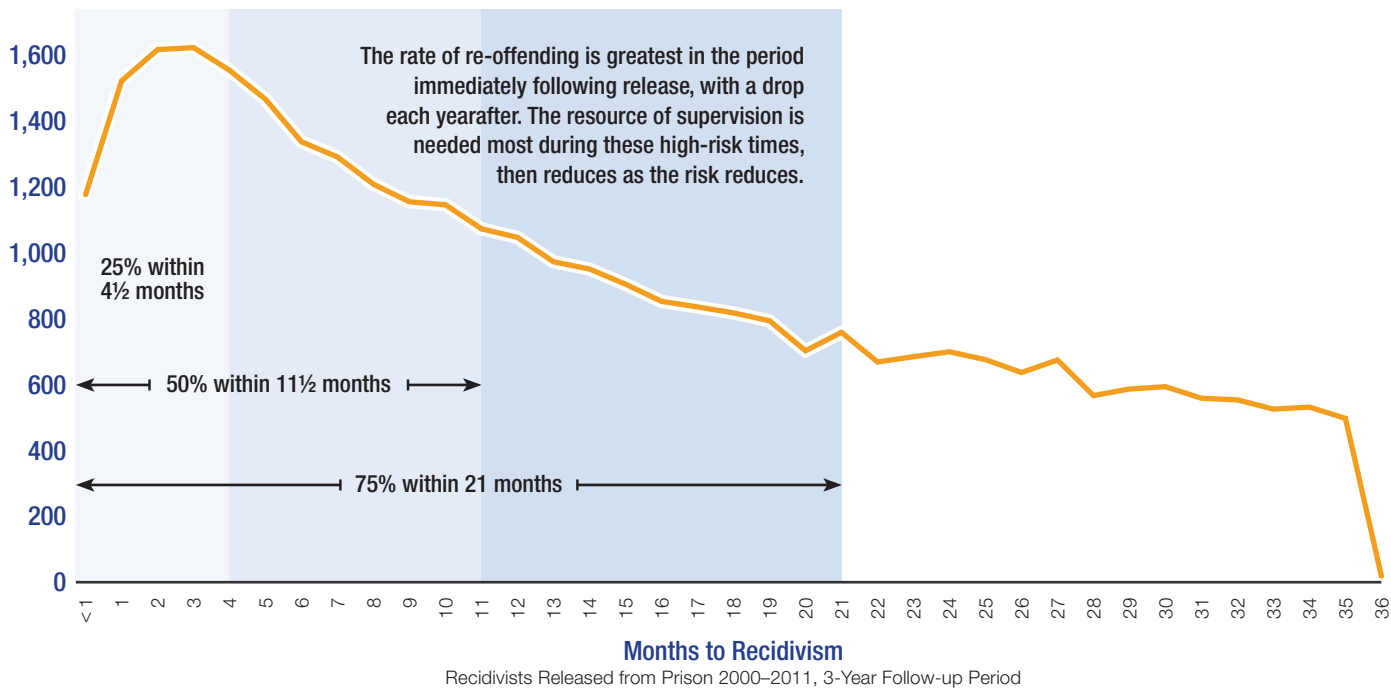
**Obtain written approval from your agent prior to purchasing, trading, selling, or operating a motor vehicle.**

## Rule 11

**Obtain approval from your agent prior to borrowing money or purchasing on credit.**

These rules may make perfect sense for someone with a crime involving a motor vehicle or credit card fraud, but to most individuals, these are additional rules that make life harder, not easier. While revocation for violating these rules is rare, the extra burden on the individual and the lack of connection to the crime may make these rules unnecessary for the public's safety.

## Rates of Recidivism for Individuals Released from Wisconsin Prisons



## Policy #6:

### Making Supervision More Targeted and Creating a Better System for Early Release

Wisconsin should seek to reduce the number of individuals on supervision. The combination of policies at right budget our supervision resources in a smaller, higher-risk population while discharging early those lower-risk individuals.

- 1) Create a system of earning compliance credit
- 2) Reform the rules of supervision
- 3) Reduce DOC agent caseloads
- 4) Expand early discharge

# Increase Success on Supervision (continued)

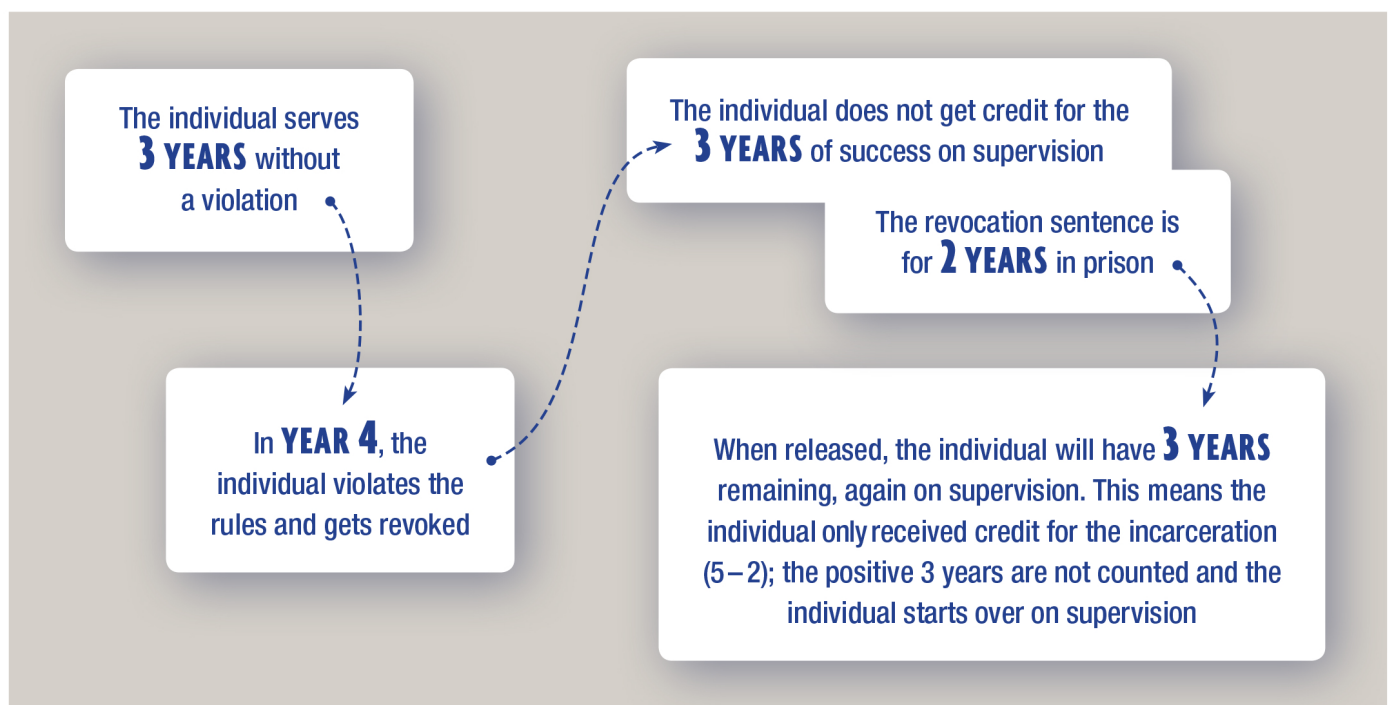
The goal of these policies is to use the existing resources as smart as possible by ensuring we supervise those in need and not those who are rehabilitated.

## 1 Create a System to Recognize Compliance Credit

The policy of compliance credit, sometimes called “street time,” rewards an individual’s positive progress on supervision. Currently, individuals serving community supervision do not get credit for time that they comply with the rules of supervision. Without compliance credit, individuals with long supervision

terms often cycle in and out of the prison-supervision systems repeatedly. Compliance credit could include the same principles of earned release, where individuals earn shorter time on supervision through completing an educational program like a GED or an Associate degree.

### Why Compliance Credit is Needed— A Hypothetical Example of an Individual with 5 Years of Extended Supervision



## 2 Reduce DOC caseload, Reform Rules, and Target Highest Risk/Expand Early Discharge

The goal of these policies is to reduce the number of individuals on supervision. As shown on Page 13, the risk of recidivism falls over time. As the risk falls, the DOC should prioritize discharging these individuals. By cycling lower risk individuals

off supervision, especially when the individual has completed critical programming like treatment or making restitution, the DOC can place greater focus on individuals during the highest risk time. Also, reforming the rules of supervision could result in less frustration for both DOC staff and individuals and a clear connection to public safety for each individual and his or her set of rules.

**66,000** individuals on paper, a 20% reduction could result in **13,000** fewer individuals

**700** early discharged in 2017; **1,400** under new policies



# Where Reform Can Take Us

## 2020–21

- Reduce prison population by 500
- Eliminate contract beds
- Re-invest \$9 million to reduce crime
- Avoid spending \$300 million on a new prison

## 2025

- Reduce prison population by 2,000
- Close Green Bay Correctional Institution
- Save \$38 million in annual operations
- Avoid \$200 million in deferred maintenance at Green Bay

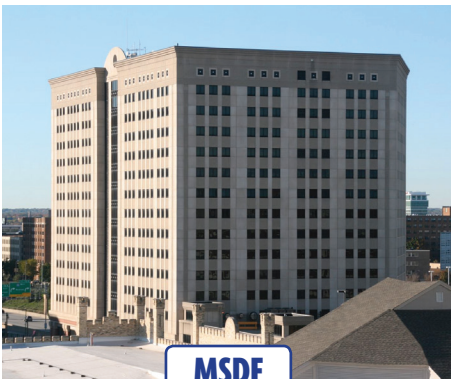
## 2030

- Reduce prison population by 5,000
- Close Waupun and MSDF
- Save \$66 million in annual operations—\$33.3 million at Waupun and \$29 million at MSDF

With smart reform, Wisconsin's prison population will fall over time. Massive savings are realized as facilities are no longer needed. Capital investment will be necessary in other institutions for the closure of the three listed facilities, specifically ...

To close **MSDF**, community-based treatment beds and short term custodial facilities are needed.

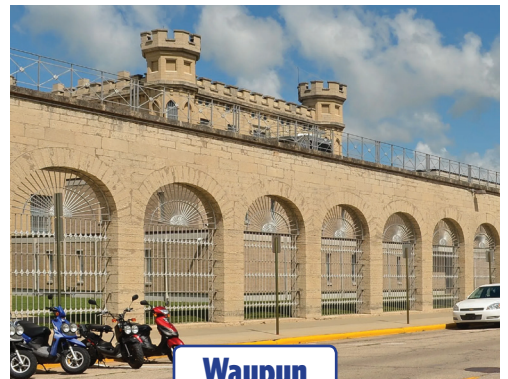
To close **GBCI** (1,098 inmates) and **Waupun** (1,261 inmates), some (but not as many) additional maximum-security beds may be needed in other facilities, as both prisons are maximum (2 of 5 max prisons, representing 44% of the State's maximum-security beds).



**MSDF**



**GBCI**



**Waupun**

In addition to the future goal of closing prisons, reducing the overcrowding within the institutions can help safety and morale for both guards and inmates. Reducing the population may also help reduce the need for overtime, a cost that has increased and totaled over \$50 million in 2018 alone.

Wisconsin prisons are at **140%** capacity

Designed to hold **17,856** inmates

Currently hold **23,654** inmates

(plus the **500+** inmates in county jails)

## Learn from Other States

Ten years ago, criminal justice reform was an emerging but not yet mainstream political issue. Today, both parties have engaged in meaningful criminal justice reform in Congress and in states throughout the country. Wisconsin can look through the country to see successful examples of smart justice reform.

### LOUISIANA

WAFB TV-9, OCTOBER 17, 2018

#### Millions of dollars poised to be reinvested into La. amid prison reform success

- 10 bill bipartisan package
- 20% decrease in those imprisoned for nonviolent crimes, 42% decrease in those imprisoned for drug possession, 9% drop in those on community supervision
- In the first year, Louisiana saved \$12 million by reducing the prison population through common sense reforms
- 70% of the savings are re-invested in local and state crime-reduction programs

### MICHIGAN

MICHIGANRADIO.ORG, JUNE 5, 2018

#### As Michigan's prisoner population falls, another state prison could close its doors

- 20% reduction in prison population, 23% reduction in prison commitments, 41% reduction in returns to prison
- 37% reduction in crime
- Closure and consolidation of more than 26 prison facilities and corrections camps
- \$392 million in savings via closures and operating costs

## Conclusion

Now is the time to work together to make our system work better. Now is the time to reform, save, and re-invest.

A number of individuals deserve an incredible amount of credit for this publication. First, my wife Gabriela, for continuing to serve those in need in the courtroom and giving me the daily reminder that these reforms are badly needed. Second, to my staff Ryan Knocke, Louise Lyall and Clare O'Donnell, for all of your hard work tracking down data, compiling stories, and in general for having the patience to deal with me. Third, to

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Finally, thank you to all who have written, emailed, called, and advocated for justice reform. From incarcerated individuals and their families to community organizations leading the charge for reform—thank you! Each letter, meeting, event, etc. is a call to action for me—and for my colleagues in the legislature—to act on these critical issues. Thank you for all you do!

— Evan



