

OTHER STATES' SUCCESS

States such as New York and Texas have significantly reduced both their crime and imprisonment rates over the past decade, demonstrating that prison populations can be significantly reduced without compromising public safety.

TEXAS



Prevented more than \$2 billion in new prison bed costs and reduced violent crime rates 18 percent since enacting reform in 2003.

NEW YORK



Reduced its prison population by 18 percent while violent crime rates fell 35 percent from 1999 to 2009.



FOLLOWING LEADER

WRITING A 21ST CENTURY VISION
FOR PENNSYLVANIA CORRECTIONS

In 1955, George M. Leader, a former Democratic state senator from York County, was inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 38th Governor. This infographic tells the story of Pennsylvania's corrections experience from 1955 to the present day. Commonwealth Foundation is pleased to partner with Governor Leader and his family to offer a new 21st Century vision for criminal justice.

SOLUTIONS



KEEP LOW-RISK CASES
OUT OF PRISONS.

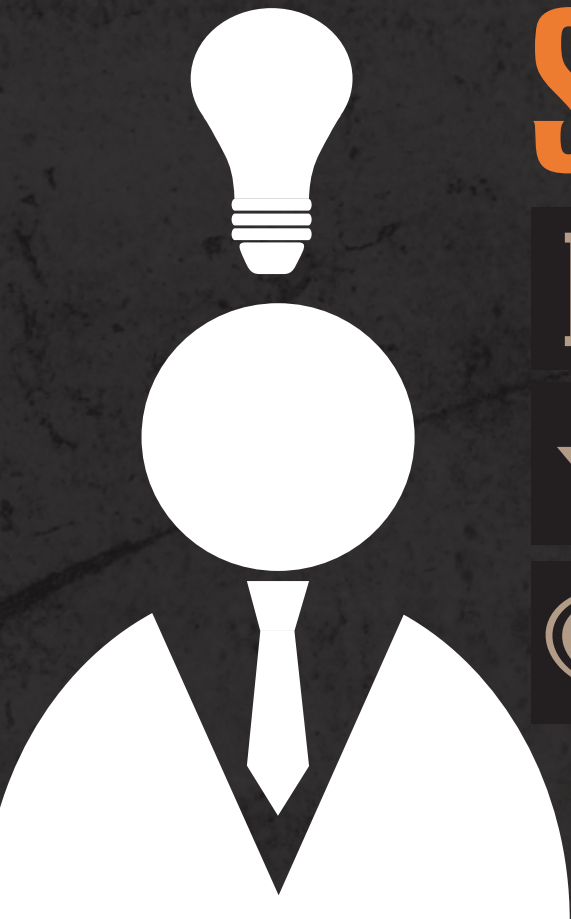
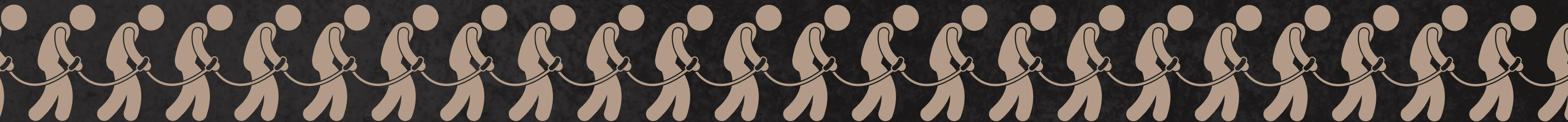


REDUCE
RECIDIVISM.



FUND RESULTS—NOT JUST
PUNISHMENTS.

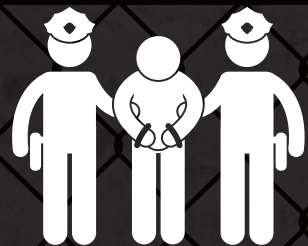
FOR DETAILS ON HOW, VISIT
CommonwealthFoundation.org/justice



BACKGROUND



Between 1955 and 1980, Pennsylvania's prison population remained relatively stable, averaging 7,000 inmates. **Today, there are more than 50,000 offenders in PA state prisons.**



PA state prisons.

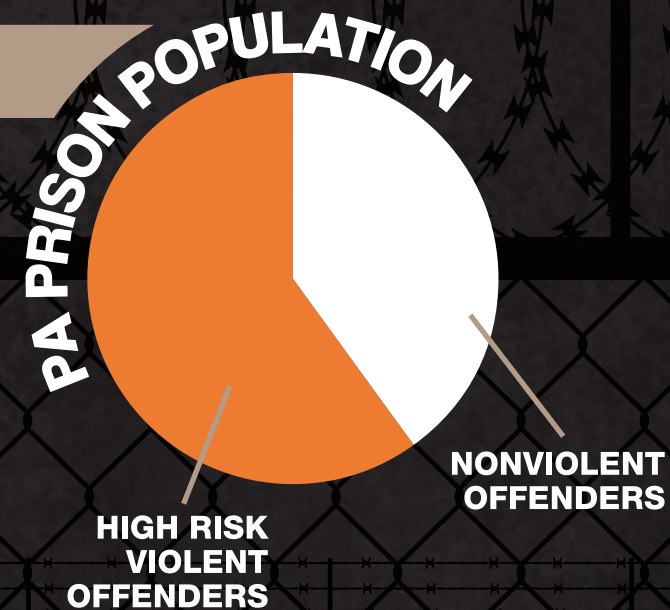
WHAT HAPPENED?

PENNSYLVANIA'S PRISON POPULATION

1955-1980 7,000

2012 50,000

In the 1960s, the commonwealth experienced a significant increase in crime, and the public rightly demanded better safety. Police responded, and by the 1980s violent crime rates began to stabilize and eventually decrease. **Yet the prison population continued to skyrocket.**



AS THE PRISON POPULATION EXPLODED, THE STATE NEEDED MORE PRISONS, STAFF, AND TAX DOLLARS.

SINCE 1980...

PA'S INCARCERATION RATE HAS INCREASED BY

500%

THE ANNUAL COST PER INMATE HAS

TRIPLED

PENNSYLVANIA HAS ADDED 18 NEW

PRISONS

STATE CORRECTIONS SPENDING HAS INCREASED

1,700%

The unprecedented prison population growth at unsustainable costs was caused by a **breakdown in our criminal justice system**, not an increase in crime or statewide population growth.



THE BROKEN SYSTEM



1,900 INMATES

The broken system has resulted in about 1,900 inmates locked up in prison when they otherwise would qualify for parole. **Costs taxpayers more than \$66 million per year.**



3 MONTHS

It can take more than 100 days after an inmate is granted parole until he's released. **Costs taxpayers an extra \$9,000 per inmate.**



45 PERCENT

Nearly 45% of PA offenders are returned to prison after 3 years. A significant factor is technical parole or probation violations such as breaking curfew—not new crimes.