

National Trends: Policy Initiatives

March 13, 2014

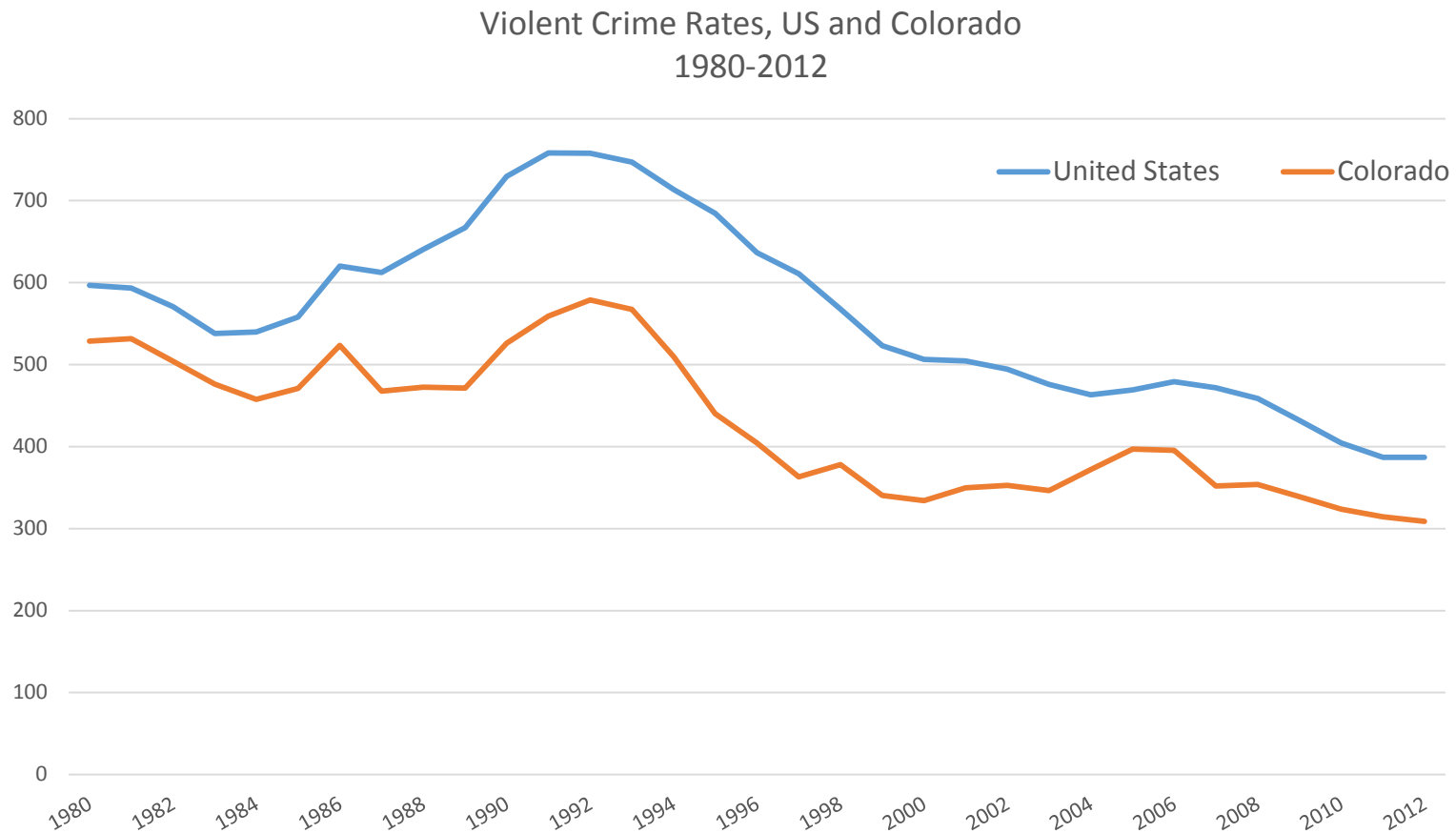
National Governors Association
Center for Best Practices

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Presentation to the Colorado Commission
on Criminal and Juvenile Justice



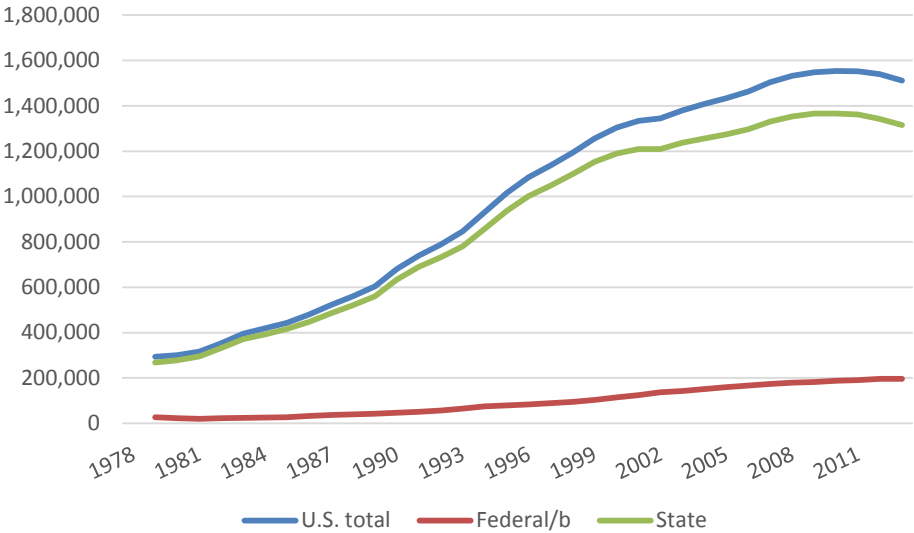
Violent Crime Rates Have Declined Since Peaking in the 1990s



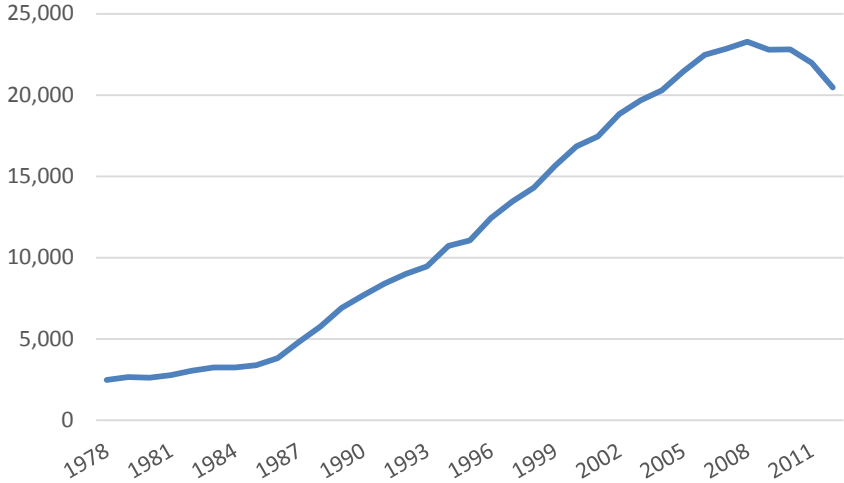
Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics - UCR Data Online

After Years of Growth, Corrections Populations Are Declining

Sentenced Prisoners in the United States, 1978-2012

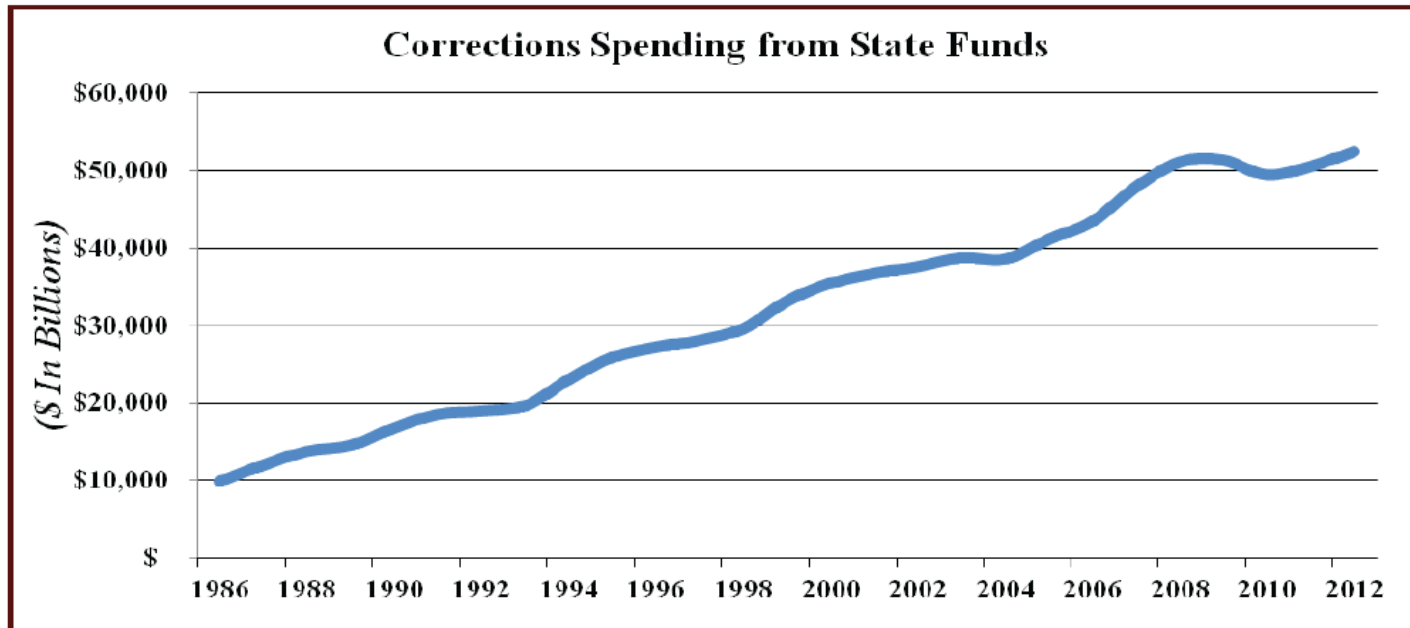


Sentenced Prisoners in Colorado, 1978-2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) - Prisoners

State Corrections Spending Continues to Increase



Source: NASBO State Expenditure Report 1988-2011

Note: Spending for corrections, like many areas of state government, declined in fiscal 2010 due to the Great Recession.

What is driving corrections expenditures?

- Increased health care costs and aging inmates
- Offenders with mental illness in criminal justice system
- High recidivism rates

Governors' Priorities for Reform

- In State of the State Addresses, several governors referenced criminal justice and public safety initiatives:
 - Bipartisan task force charged with recommending new policy initiatives for corrections and criminal justice
 - Funding drug courts and veterans courts
 - Violent crime strike force to target specific, high-crime areas
 - Develop a long-term prison capacity strategy, which may have opportunities for innovative solutions that ensure public safety while lowering costs
 - Limited supervised release program to improve reentry outcomes
- Survey to Criminal Justice Policy Advisors identified reforms such as increased use of risk assessment tools, evidence-based practices, enhanced probation and parole, graduated sanctions, and alternatives to incarceration.

Sentencing and Corrections Reform

- States are taking action to reduce their corrections populations and increase public safety.
 - Use of risk assessments to tailor sentencing, treatment and release decisions
 - Use of real-time data and information sharing for decision-making
 - Adoption of evidence-based practices

Justice Information Sharing

- States are recognizing the need for integrated information sharing throughout the criminal justice system to improve outcomes.
- Information sharing should make systems more efficient and effective.
 - Challenges include agreements on what information is shared and when, privacy protection, and working with antiquated systems.
- The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) provides reusable policies and national standards that states can adopt with limited resources and staff time.

Pre-Trial Reform

- At midyear 2012 there were nearly 750,000 individuals in jail, of which approximately 61% were pretrial.
- 53% of felony defendants cannot pay their financial bond and stay in jail.
- Pretrial incarceration costs \$9 billion per year.
- Many jurisdictions have adopted validated risk assessments that assess an individual's risk to appear at court and commit a new offense while on pretrial release.
 - 11 states instruct courts to consider the results of a risk assessment.
- States are examining alternative supervision strategies, diversion programs and role of private bail bond businesses as part of pretrial reform.

Opioid Abuse

- Drug overdoses are the leading cause of unintentional death, ahead of traffic accidents.
- Approximately 6.1 million Americans abuse or misuse prescription drugs.
- NGA launched the Prescription Drug Abuse Reduction Policy Academy in 2012 to help states address this growing epidemic, with Governor Hickenlooper as co-lead of the project, along with Governor Bentley of Alabama.
- Round 2 of the policy academy starting in 2014, led by Governor Shumlin of Vermont and Governor Sandoval of Nevada.

Alternative Forms of Financing: Social Impact Bonds

- A new alternative to funding treatment and recidivism reduction efforts is use of Social Impact Bonds.
 - States only pay for services if certain performance measurements are met.
 - Funds are raised to provide the services and investors assume the risk instead of the state. Investors only have a return on their investment if the state makes a payment.
 - New York and Massachusetts have both implemented state social impact bond programs aimed at reducing recidivism.
- Colorado and Denver are receiving assistance from the Harvard Kennedy School to examine potential social impact bond projects.

Public Safety Broadband: FirstNet

- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety.
- NGA coordinated six regional meetings, attended by teams from every state, to update high level advisors on FirstNet and facilitate feedback between the states and FirstNet board members.

What Are the Trends Though?

- Evidence-Based
- Data-Driven
- High-Risk
- Performance Metrics
- Information Sharing
- Recidivism Reduction
- Cross Governmental
- Partnerships

Context

- Low Crime
- Big Data
- Changing Drug Laws
- Opioid Abuse
- Mental Health
- Public Safety Broadband

The Charge

- Reenergize
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Impact