# Probation Changes in Iowa

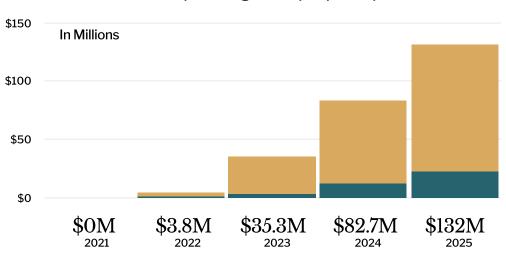
## 5-year impact in Iowa

By reducing minimum probation terms from 1 year to 6 months for misdemeanors and 2 years to 1 year for felonies and creating an evidence-based credit system to incentivize behavior shown to reduce recidivism (such as the pursuit of education and vocational achievements) lowa could decrease the probation population by 41%, avoid spending a cumulative \$132M and avoid 49,946 life years on probation.

Cost avoidance is calculated using marginal incarceration and probation costs of \$1,712.57/year and \$656.32/year respectively.

#### **Cumulative cost avoidance**

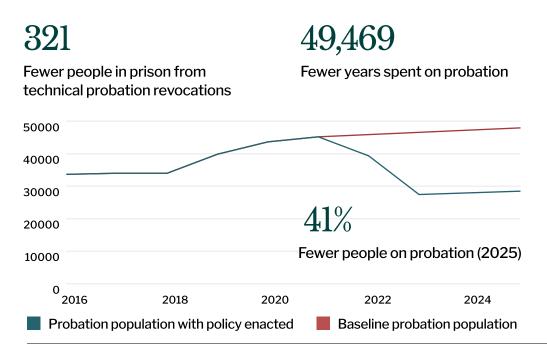
\$23M incarceration costs from technical probation violations\$109M cost from supervising fewer people on probation





The projected impact is calculated from a reduction in time served, assuming 25% of individuals are currently sentenced to existing probation minimums. Impact varies based on this assumption.

#### **Projected population impact**



#### The opportunity

In 2018, 1 in every 83 adults in Iowa was on probation. Since 2000, the average probation sentence length in Iowa increased by 62%. As of 2021, there are over 25,000 adults on probation in Iowa.

People who remain on probation for extended periods of time are less likely to be successful, because even minor or technical violations may result in fines, longer probation terms, and even incarceration. On any given day, over 3,400 people are behind bars in lowa as a result of a supervision violation, accounting for 28% of prison admissions in the state. In total, lowa spends \$133 million each year to incarcerate people for supervision violations, with \$51 million of that being spent to incarcerate people for technical violations (where no crime was committed) while on supervision.

28%

of prison admissions are due to probation violations (2018)

25,000+

Adults are on probation in (2021)

Research shows that rewards-based incentives, like earned time credits, increase compliance with supervision conditions and encourage people to participate in activities proven to reduce recidivism (such as education), thereby decreasing the rate of reincarceration and increasing success and safety in the community.

### 45 states have some form of probation caps

#### Utah

Probation is capped at 3 years for felonies and Class A misdemeanors and 1 year for Class B or C misdemeanors, with no mandatory minimum period of supervision. In 2018, Utah improved on its previous supervision reforms with graduated sanctions for supervision violations, credit incentive systems for good behavior, and increased access to early termination. Utah's supervision reforms were approved unanimously and the state's reports show that they are on track to meet their goal to keep thousands of people out of prison and save hundreds of millions of dollars, all without sacrificing public safety.

#### South Dakota

South Dakota, has been updating its probation system since 2014, enacting a law in 2017 that allows people convicted of lesser crimes to be discharged from probation after a year for good behavior.