

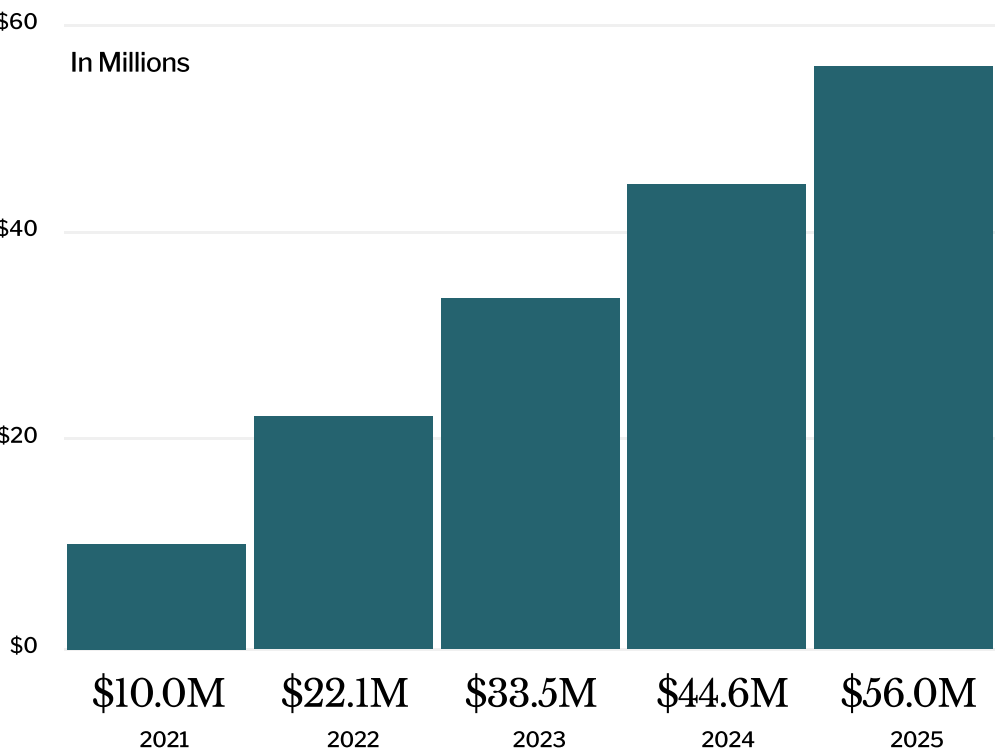
Reclassifying Non-Violent Class 6 Felonies as Class 1 Misdemeanors

5-year impact in Arizona

By reclassifying non-violent Class 6 felonies as Class 1 misdemeanors and allowing those people to serve their term on probation instead of being incarcerated in the state's prisons, Arizona could avoid spending a cumulative \$56M in incarceration costs, give 2,156 life years back, and decrease the prison population by over 433 people in the next five years.

Projected impacts are calculated with the marginal cost to incarcerate one individual of \$4,940.67 per year.

Cumulative cost avoidance of incarceration



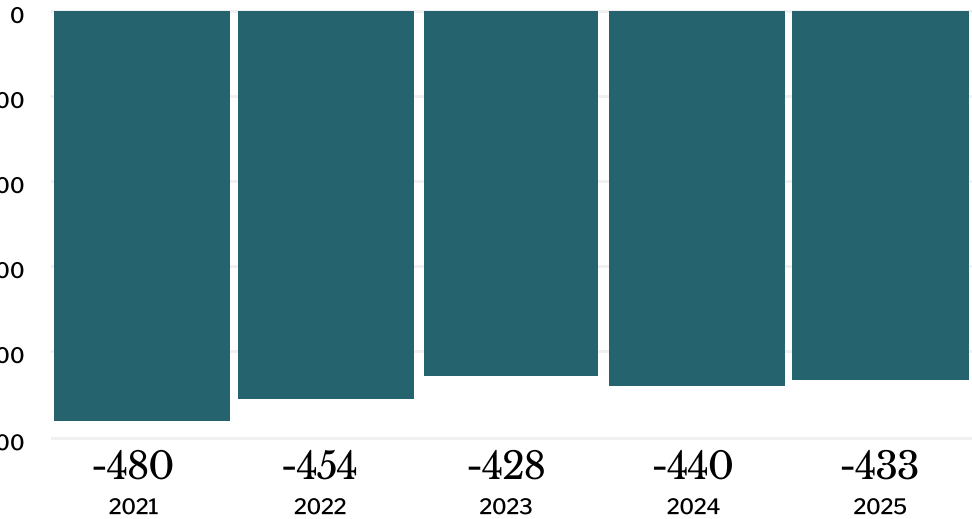
Prison population change

433

Fewer people in prison

2,156

Fewer life years incarcerated



The opportunity

As of 2019, 22.3% of prison admissions in Arizona were for Class 6 felony offenses.

As of January 2021, over 37,000 people were in prison in Arizona. Between 2000 and 2016, Arizona's rate of imprisonment per capita increased by 20%, and as of 2017 Arizona had the fourth highest imprisonment rate in the country, higher than all of its neighboring states. Similarly, between 2000 and 2018, the prison population grew by over 60%, prison spending increased by more than \$250M, and as of 2019, Arizona spent more than \$1.1B on the prison system. Lastly, the average prison stay increased from 26 months (2000) to 33 months (2017).

60%

Increase in the Arizona prison population (2000-2018)

\$1.1 billion

Corrections expenditures in 2019

Of the 2017 prison population, 40% is Latino compared to the 27% that make up the state population, and 14% is Black, compared to 4% of the state population. In addition, Black people received the largest average prison sentence with 61.5 months compared to 54.3 for white people and 51.3 for Hispanic people.

Impact of similar policies other states

Utah

Utah passed H.B. 348 in 2015 with bipartisan support which, among other initiatives, reclassified certain drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. Between 2014 and 2018, new felony convictions for drug offenses dropped 71%. In the two years after H.B. 348, people spent 105,011 fewer days in prison for drug possession than in the two years before. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, H.B. 348 will reduce the prison population by 90% and allow for \$500M of prison spending to be reinvested in other services.

Oklahoma

In 2016, almost 60% of Oklahoma voters approved a ballot initiative that reclassified simple drug possession as a misdemeanor and increased the threshold for certain theft crimes to be classified as a felony. These reforms have already saved the state more than \$10.6 million and averted almost 2,200 years of incarceration.