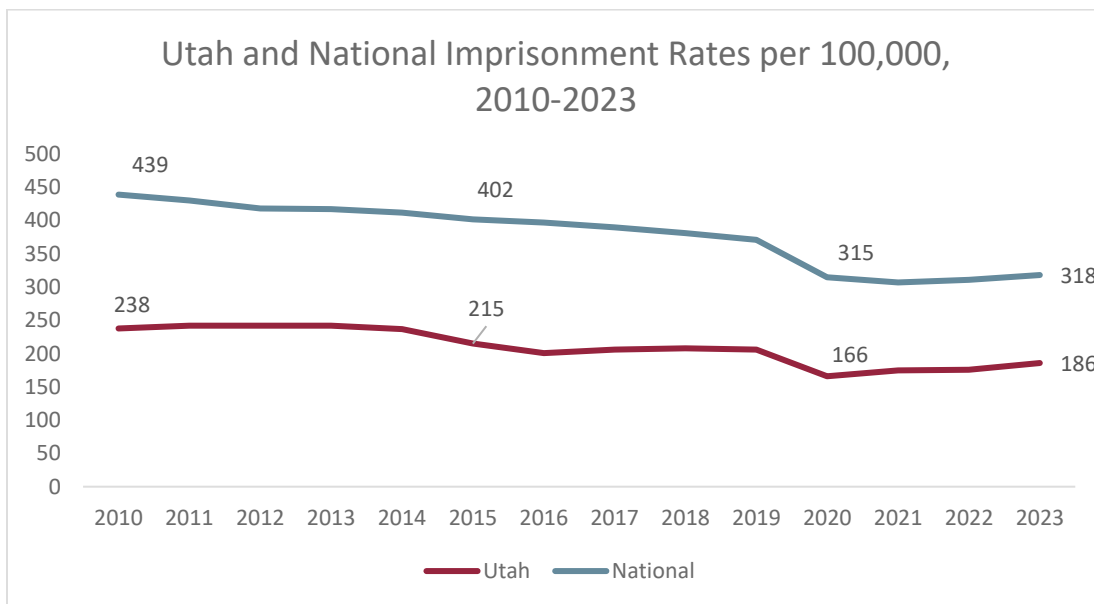


Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Utah's Prison Population

Is Utah's prison population growing?

- **No.** Utah's prison population is decreasing. The average daily prison population **dropped by 10%** from FY2014 to FY2025.
- **No.** Utah's imprisonment rate **decreased by 22%** from 2010 to 2023 and remains consistently lower than the national imprisonment rate.



Has Utah's prison population declined since the adoption of Smart on Crime policies?

- **Yes.** Following the passage of Smart on Crime policies, Utah's prison population decreased from 7,214 in 2014 to 6,463 in 2025. The prison population was **27% lower than the original projections**, which, in 2014, estimated that, without reforms, it would be 8,776 by 2025.
- By passing bipartisan Smart on Crime policies, Utah has prioritized public safety resources to address violent offenders. Since 2015, the number of individuals sentenced to prison for a violent offense has **increased by 36%**.

Did Utah's Smart on Crime policies release more violent offenders?

- **No.** Utah's prison system has shown an **11% decrease** in releases from FY2015 to FY2025.
- **No.** Smart on Crime policies did not alter the sentencing or release laws for violent offenses.
- The use of prison beds for nonviolent offenses decreased from 41% in FY2015 to 28% in FY2025, putting an **increased focus on violent offenders**.

Are more people cycling through Utah's prison system?

- **No.** New court admissions **declined** from 30% of admissions in FY2013 to 23% in FY2024.
- In FY2025, **77% of prison admissions** were for supervision revocations, with admissions from parole accounting for **59% of all admissions**.
- Prison admissions from parole **increased by 31%** from FY2015 to FY2025, indicating that **more people are returning to prison for parole technical violations**.

Are individuals on probation or parole returning to prison for new offenses?

- **No.** Of those released to parole in FY2022, 18% returned to prison with a new conviction within 3 years of release – the lowest rate since FY2013.
 - This rate has **decreased** since peaking at 27% in FY2017.
- **No.** Probationer rates of return to prison within 3 years of probation start was 10% in FY2022 – similar to those who started probation in FY2015 – indicating **there has not been an increase in new offenses committed by those on probation**.
 - This rate has **decreased** since its peak in FY2016, when it was 14%.
- Successful discharges from **probation increased from 55% to 68%**, and successful discharges from **parole increased slightly from 28% to 33%** between FY2014 and FY2025.

Sources:

Utah Commission on Criminal Justice & Juvenile Justice, Justice Reinvestment Initiative Update, Annual Report, 2025.
BJS Prisoners Series, 2010-2023.