CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

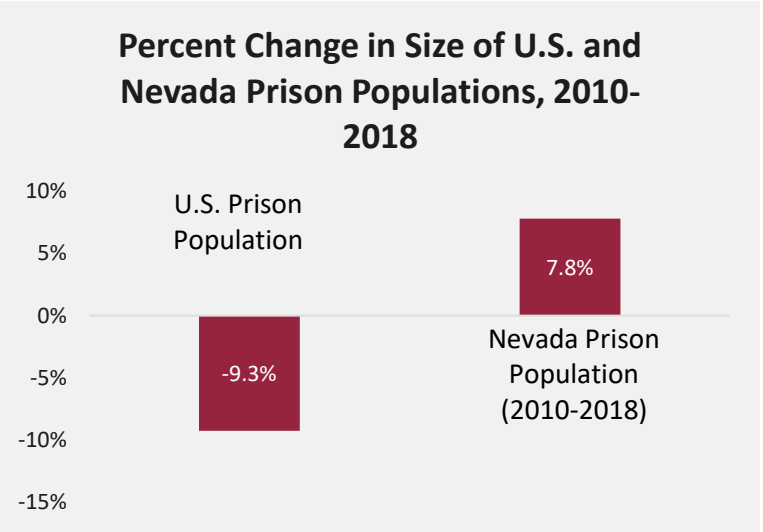
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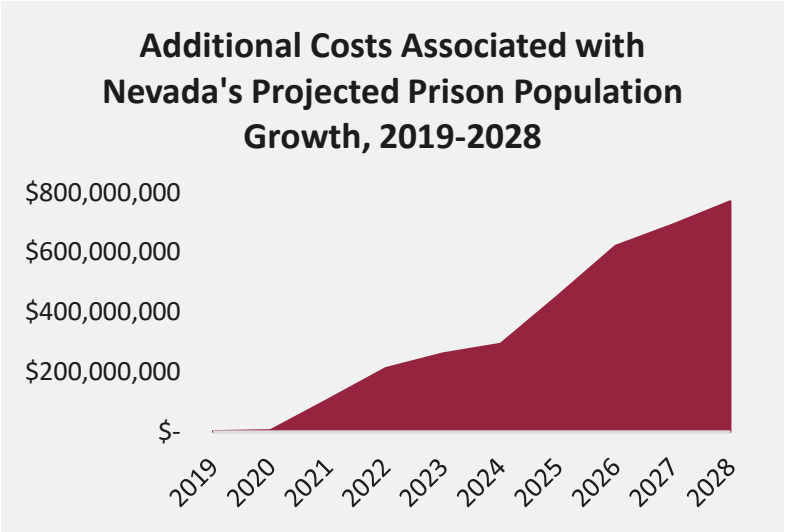
Nevada's Path to 2019 Smart on Crime Legislation

Prison population and costs

Nevada's prison population and its associated costs were growing

- In 2018, Nevada's imprisonment rate was **15.5% higher** than the national average.[1]
- Nevada's prison population was expected to grow to a level that would cost the state an additional **$770 million** in capital expenditures to build or lease new prison beds and additional operating costs over 10 years.[2]





[1] Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018 Prisoner Series.
[2] Nevada Department of Corrections.

High crime rates and incarceration of nonviolent offenders

Nevada's violent crime rate was high, yet nearly half of the people incarcerated were nonviolent offenders

- By 2018, Nevada had the **sixth highest** violent crime rate and the **fourth highest** robbery rate in the nation, despite declines in national crime rates during the same time.[3] Nevada's violent crime rate was **39% higher** and its property crime rate was **8.5% higher** than national averages.[4]
- Despite a high violent crime rate and growing prison population, **41%** of the prison population by the end of 2018 were in for nonviolent and non-sex crimes.[5]

Nevada's steps to address public safety and reduce prison costs

Nevada created a plan to reduce crime and recidivism and fund more cost-effective public safety strategies

- In May 2018, state leaders from all three branches of government joined to request Justice Reinvestment technical assistance. The Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice (ACAJ) reviewed data and engaged stakeholders to inform Smart on Crime legislation.
- Nevada's Smart on Crime legislation, AB 236, enacted a wide array of policies to address challenges in the criminal justice system in Nevada.[6] These policies touched on behavioral health, probation and parole, and sentencing.
  - **Behavioral Health:** Crisis Intervention Training; a Behavioral Health Field Response Grant Program; training for judges on behavioral health needs; deferred sentencing upon completion of treatment
  - **Probation and Parole:** Geriatric and medical parole guidelines; improved reentry policies; changes to parole and probation to reduce incarceration for supervision violations
  - **Sentencing:** Amendments to Nevada's burglary, property and drug offense statutes to focus **resources** on violent offenders and reduce the nonviolent prison population; judicial discretion to sentence to specialty courts
- AB 236 **did not** make changes to violent crime offenses or the penalties for those convicted.

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[3] FBI, Crime in the United States 2019.
[4] FBI, Crime Data Explorer.
[5] Nevada Department of Corrections online dashboard accessed January 29, 2025.
[6] "AB236 Text." 2019. State.nv.us. 2019. https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6419/Text.