

# Justice Reinvestment: Past, Present, Future

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# Context for Justice Reinvestment

Growth in US prison population:

- 1972: 200,000 in prison: 100 per 100,000
- 2010: 1.6 million in prison: 500 per 100,000
- Concentrated by race, gender, age
- Concentrated by locality

# Impetus for Justice Reinvestment

Collateral consequences:

- Cost
- Inequality
- Injustice
- Falling crime without falling prison populations

# Invention of Justice Reinvestment

## Open Society Institute

- Paper by Tucker and Cadora (2003)
  - Basic model: reduce prison population, save \$\$, spend in community
  - Basic agenda: improve safety and quality of life
- Series of academic articles
- Advocacy at state level

# Spread of Justice Reinvestment

- Obama administration bi-partisan legislation
- Hi-profile providers
- 35 states since 2007
- Most recent appropriation: \$25 million grant funds

# Results of Justice Reinvestment

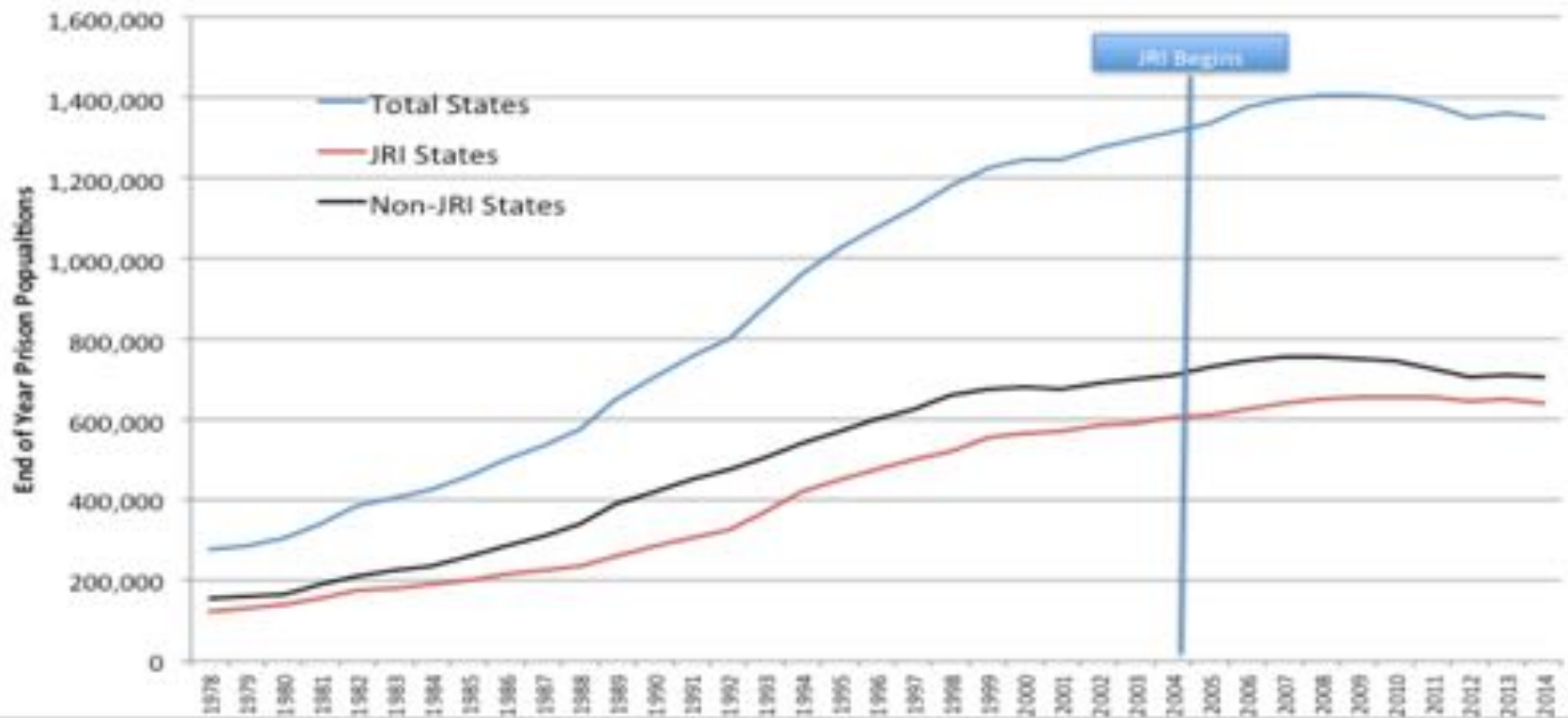
- 35 states bi-partisan participation
- 17 states project \$4.6 billion in total savings
- Many examples of legislation and policy
- Widespread public support

# Critique of Justice Reinvestment

- Focus on bi-partisanship eliminates challenging but key reforms
  - Length of stay
  - Convictions for violent crime
  - Programs rather than legal change
- Cost “savings” are really cost “avoidance”
  - Projections of change
  - Correctional budgets grow anyway—no money to save
- New “investments” go mostly to government especially CJS

# JR States vs Non-JR States

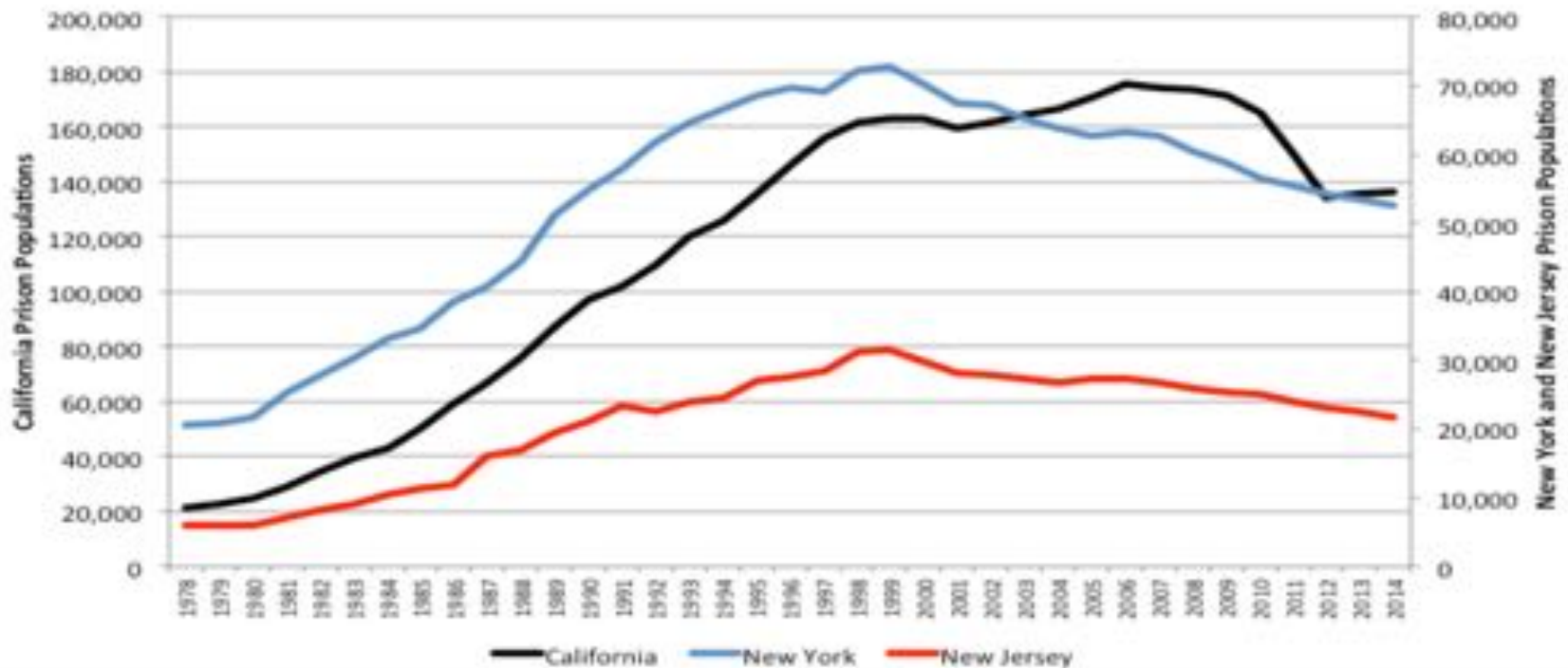
**Figure 3. JRI vs. Non-JRI State Prison Populations  
1978-2014**





# Non-JR States Have

**Figure 4. Prison Populations NY, CA and NJ  
1978-2014**



# Future of Justice Reinvestment

- Movement growing to prioritize sentencing
- Push-back about JR for police/corrections funding
- Better measures of impact
- Engage community advocacy groups more