

Over-Reliance on Incarceration

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PROBLEM: The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) is a "system in crisis". After 3 years of record salary increases and significant marketing effort, FDC continues to struggle with high job vacancy and high turnover rate.¹

1/3 of veterans have been incarcerated
1 out of 7.5 Floridians has been incarcerated
FL incarcerates 3x more people/capita than China

SOLUTION: Right-size FDC incarcerated population with recognition of sustainable staff levels AND allow fiscally responsible action to decrease FDC budget.

Texas Right on Crime: 2007 Republican-led action to not build more prisons and to de-incarcerate resulted in decreased prison population, closure of 8 prisons by 2019 and decreased recidivism rate from 23.9% (2007) to 20.3% (2017).⁵

PROBLEM: Florida needs more workers. More than 600,000 Florida jobs are unfilled with 10.5 million people working. Unemployment is 2.7%.²

People in prison cannot contribute to our employment shortage because they are imprisoned. 85,000 people are in Florida prisons.³

To compound the problem, FDC is the state's largest employer.³

SOLUTION: Support Second Chances for our incarcerated to rejoin and support their families & communities earlier without jeopardizing public safety, to work, to pay taxes - that is their responsibility, not sitting in prison being fed and sheltered using 51% of FL's public safety budget.

South Carolina Right on Crime: 2010 Republican-led action to not build prisons and to de-incarcerate resulted in closure of 6 prisons saving \$33 million in operating costs; and 53% earn time with the **nation's lowest recidivism rate - 19%** (2021).⁶

PROBLEM: 41% of Floridians negatively impacted by incarceration. At least 3 million FL residents were previously incarcerated and with at least 6 million FL family members. Hence, with a Florida population of 22 million, 9 million (41%) experience the effects of incarceration.

Our children suffer:
32% of White children, 45% of Hispanic children, 62% of Black children with justice-impacted caregiver⁴

Our families suffer:

Family extreme poverty	Loss of housing
Emotional pain	Lifetime of stigma ⁴

SOLUTION: Support Second Chances to drive our incarceration-impacted families more efficiently to becoming **whole families** with parents working, children in school, and with roofs over their heads.

Louisiana Reinvestment into Recidivism Reduction and Victim Services: 2017 Republican-led action to address prison capacity issues while protecting public safety and making better use of correctional dollars. Over 5 years, prison population has fallen 24%, \$153 million saved with \$107 million reinvested into justice programs, and recidivism dropped from 33.7% (2017) to 25.1% (2020).⁷

1. Florida Senate Government Oversight and Accountability Report, Jan 19, 2022; FDC communications to public Nov 2022.

2. Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Nov 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2023).

3. www.dc.state.fl.us, 2023.

4. Finlay, Keith, Mueller-Smith, Michael, Street, Brittany, "Measuring Intergenerational Exposure to the U.S. Justice System: Evidence from Longitudinal Links between Survey and Administrative Data", <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu>, June 9, 2022.

5. D Magazine, May 18, 2020 "Fortunate Son-Doug Deason"; Biennial Reentry and Reintegration Service Report 2022. TDCJ. "Ten Years of Criminal Justice Reform in Texas, Michael Haugen, Veritas, Texas Public Policy Foundation.

6. Rightoncrime.com/ten-years-of-criminal-justice-reform-in-Texas. "Earned and good time policies: comparing maximum reductions available", Prison Fellowship 2021. Doc.sc.gov/research/accountabilityReport2021.

7. "5 Years In, 5 Things to Know about Louisiana's Justice System", Pew report, Nov 2022, Briefing book, Louisiana Corrections July 2022.