



Justice Reinvestment Initiative I Reinvestments

Anticipated Savings

- The Council of State Governments (CSG) estimated JRI I would **save \$260 million**, with \$86 million reinvested over five years, based on the overall JRI policy framework.
- However, the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Office of the Budget estimated savings of *\$141.8 million over five years*, according [the fiscal note attached to the actual JRI legislation](#) (Act 122 and Act 196 of 2012).

Reinvestment

- The formula for reinvestment of savings, generated through a prison population reduction, diversion of mid-minimum and short-minimum offenders, and a more efficient parole system:
 - In 2013-14: 75 percent of prior year savings.
 - In 2014-15: 100 percent of prior year savings.
 - In 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18: 25 percent of prior year savings.
- Transfers to the Justice Reinvestment Fund totaled \$13.5 million:
 - In 2013-14: \$0
 - In 2014-15: \$991,000
 - In 2015-16: \$2.95 million
 - In 2016-17: \$9.61 million
 - *In 2017-18: \$0*
- An ambitious timeline in which to realize savings, and slow implementation of the changes, led to lack of funds to reinvest in 2013-14.
- The [2017 Fiscal Code](#) cut all JRI funding in 2017-18 to balance the budget, meaning poor policy decisions—not JRI shortcomings—altered direct reinvestments.

Actual Savings and Outcomes

- Since JRI I passage, Pennsylvania has experienced cost aversions, a nearly **4,000 inmate decline**, and a prison closure. How much is attributable to JRI I, or to other changes, is debatable.
 - The savings attributable to JRI as estimated by [CSG in 2018](#) was \$96 million.
 - According to [DOC 2019-20 testimony](#): “the prison population is 25.8% lower than it would have been without JRI. **Our budget is 23.3% lower (\$543 M) than it would have been without JRI.**” This is based upon 2010 *anticipated* population growth.
- These trends indicate JRI savings are growing, but not *as quickly* as predicted.
- This analysis accounts for official savings of certain countable measures. JRI has a broader impact on behavior and policies, such as improved technologies, training, and drug treatment, which are difficult to measure short-term.