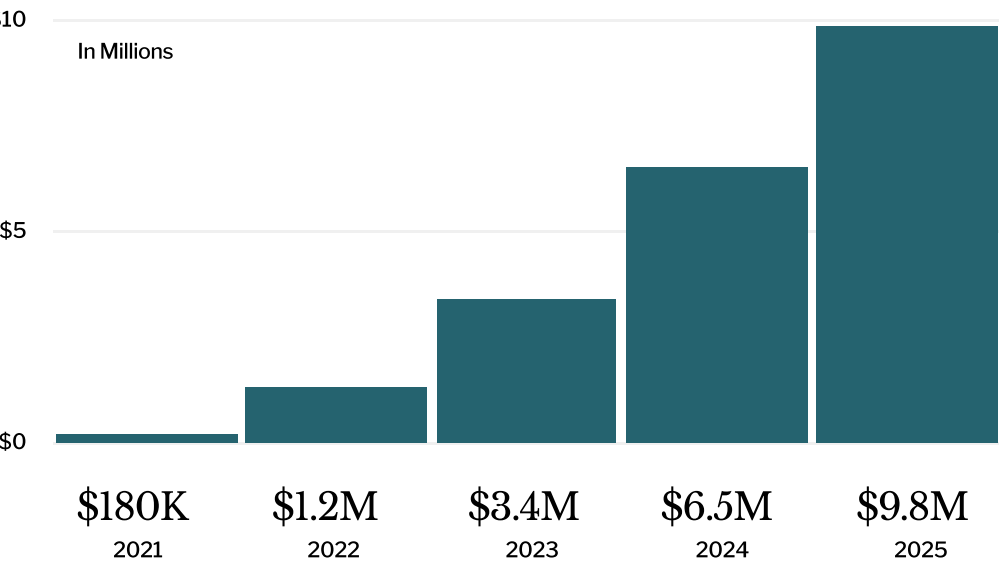


Performance Incentives for Reducing Revocations

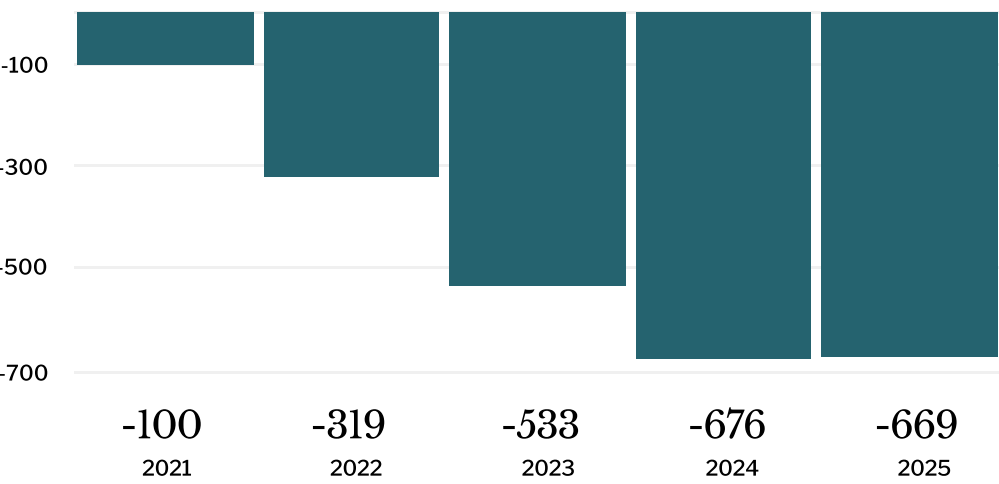
5-year impact in Arizona

If Arizona decreased its technical and new crime revocation rate from probation by 20%, the state could avoid \$9.8M in cumulative marginal cost, reduce the prison population by 669, and give 1,992 life years back over the next five years.

Marginal incarceration cost avoidance (cumulative)



Fewer people in prison for revocations (annual)



669
Fewer people in prison due to probation revocations

1,992
Life years back from avoided probation revocations

The opportunity

Approximately 2,800 people are revoked to Arizona state prisons for violations of probation each year, accounting for 15% of prison admissions. Taxpayers in Arizona spend approximately \$249 million per year on incarcerating people who are revoked to prison for supervision violations.

A performance incentive model in Arizona would reward probation field offices for improving client outcomes making communities safer. Here's how it would work: if a probation district reduces the number of people returned to prison for technical violations and new crimes compared to a historical baseline, then that district is entitled to half of what it would have cost the state to incarcerate those individuals. The state of Arizona would get the remainder of the savings. Funds awarded to probation districts can be used for rehabilitation programs, contracting part-time social workers or job coaches, and for performance bonuses divided equally among the officers in that district (to boost retention of the best officers).

Research shows that performance incentive funding encourages probation officers to improve outcomes and lower revocation rates. With the right incentives, officers use better discretion when determining which people actually pose a threat to public safety and should be revoked for technical violations. At the same time, performance-based incentives reward field offices for effectively rehabilitating people on supervision and reducing the number of actual crimes committed while on supervision.

Impact of similar policies

► Texas

In 2005, Texas pledged \$55 million in incentive-based funding to probation departments that used graduated sanctions to try to reduce technical revocations by 10%. Departments that participated reduced technical violations revocations by 13.4%, while those who did not opt-in increased such revocations by 5.9%.

► Arizona

The Safe Communities Act of 2008 included a similar incentive model to empower county probation department to reduce revocations. Between 2008 and 2017, Arizona probation departments safely reduced revocations by 31% at the same time that the state's crime rate fell by more than a quarter. Despite the impressive reductions, the counties never received the funding that they were promised by the legislature, and the provision was later repealed.