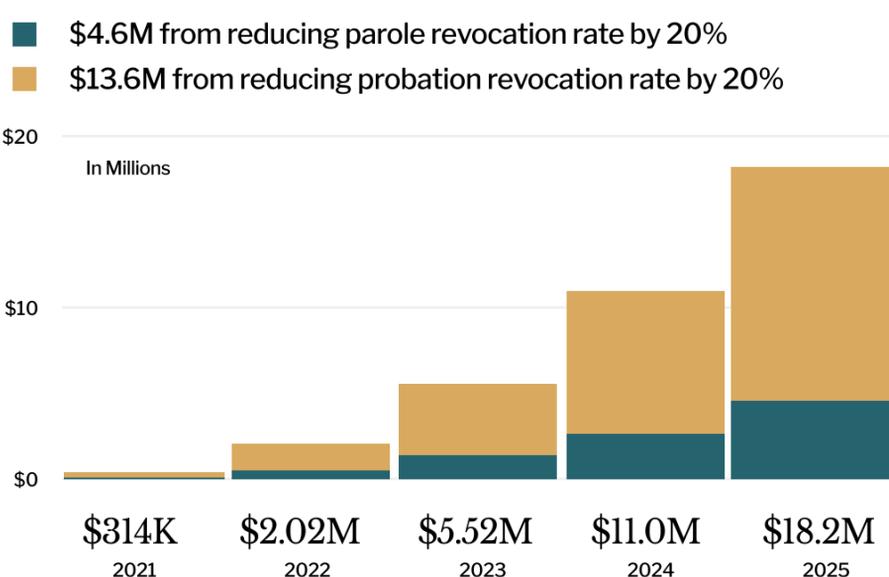


Performance Incentives for Reducing Revocations

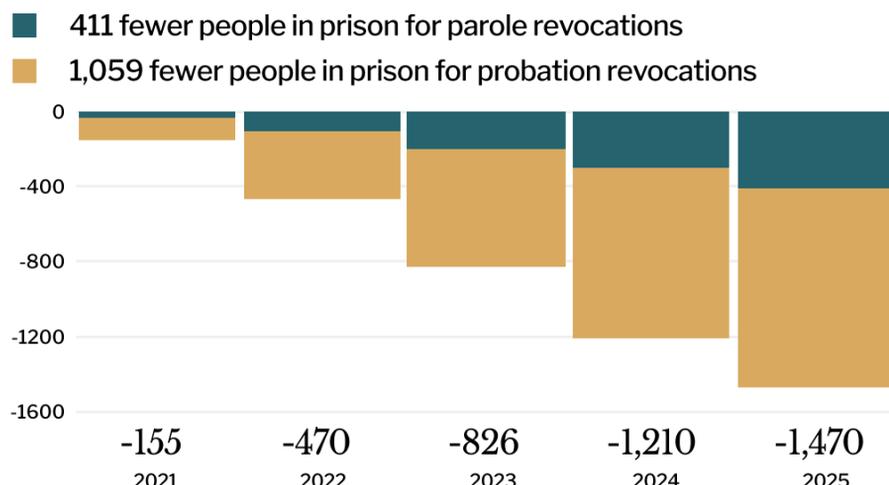
5-year impact in Wisconsin

If Wisconsin decreased its technical and new crime revocation rate from probation and parole by 20%, the state could avoid \$18.2M in cumulative marginal cost, reduce the prison population by 1,470, and give 3,411 life years back over the next five years.

Marginal cost avoidance (cumulative)



Fewer people in prison for revocations (annual)



860

Life years back from avoided parole revocations

2,581

Life years back from avoided probation revocations

The opportunity

Approximately 5,500 people are returned to Wisconsin state prisons for violations of parole and probation each year, accounting for over 60% of prison admissions. Taxpayers in Wisconsin spend approximately \$451 million per year on incarcerating people who are revoked to prison for parole and probation violations. Roughly 64% of these revocations are for technical violations such as a missed meeting with an officer.

A performance incentive model in Wisconsin would reward parole and probation field offices for improving client outcomes and making communities safer. Here's how it would work: if a probation and parole 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. Wisconsin gets the remainder of the savings. Funds awarded to parole/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 parole and 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 other states using performance incentive funding

► 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%.

► California

California offers a shared-savings incentive reward of up to 45% to county probation departments that reduce re-incarceration rates for felony probationers. As a result, in 2010, 23% fewer probationers had their supervision revoked, 53 out of 58 counties reduced their revocation rates, and statewide violent crime dropped more quickly than in any year in the previous decade.