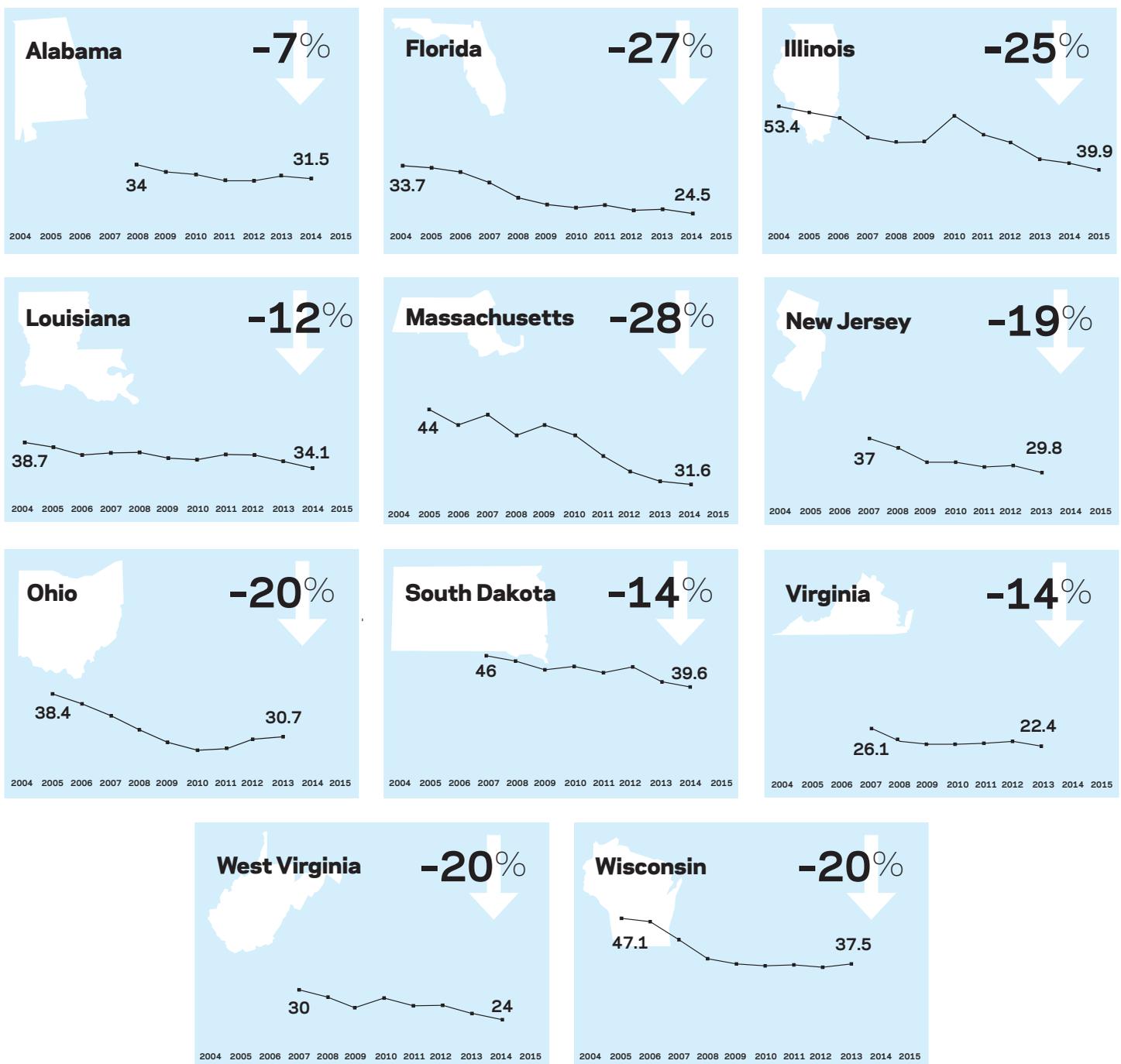


# Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results

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State and local leaders have made recidivism reduction a public safety priority in recent years, pursuing a variety of strategies that are starting to see real results. A broad cross-section of states, 11 of which are profiled here, have experienced impressive declines in their return-to-prison rates since recidivism was at its most recent peak in each state. States measure recidivism in different ways, so the data presented here highlight individual examples of state success and are not for the sake of comparison.\* To sustain and expand the results that states are seeing, they must use recidivism-reduction methods that work, take them to scale statewide, and rigorously track outcomes.

## Percentage Change in Three-Year Reincarceration Rate Since Most Recent Peak, by Prison Release Year



## Methodology

The recidivism trends above reflect publicly available data from state corrections agencies. The reincarceration rates presented here represent the proportion of people who returned to prison within a three-year follow-up period among the total number of people released from prison in a given year. In Alabama, for example, the three-year reincarceration rate dropped from 34 returns to prison (within three years) per 100 people released in 2008 to 31.5 returns per 100 releases in 2014, a 7-percent change.

\*Key measures of recidivism include rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, and revocation.

# The Second Chance Act

The declines in the highlighted states are the result of many efforts made to align policies and practices with effective, research-based strategies to reduce recidivism. The Second Chance Act (SCA), a bipartisan bill Congress passed 10 years ago, has supported some of these efforts to improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities. Below are examples of ways that SCA—through grant programs such as Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction (SRR), Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness (CSAMI), and others—has helped the 11 featured states to test recidivism-reduction strategies, invest in evidence-based practices, and increase the capacity and scale of programs.

## The Second Chance Act: By the Numbers

Since 2009, SCA has funded more than

**900** GRANTS

to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations across

**49** STATES,

serving more than

**160,000** PEOPLE.

**Alabama** Board of Pardons and Paroles' SRR planning initiative helped the board improve use of risk and needs assessments to better inform resource allocation.

With a CSAMI grant, the **Florida** Department of Corrections collaborated with a community-based treatment provider to deliver pre- and post-release services for people with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance addictions.

**Illinois** Department of Corrections' SRR grant funded a now-mandatory officer training academy curriculum that incorporates evidence-based core correctional practices—relationship-building skills, communication strategies, and more—to help officers interact effectively with the people they supervise.

**Louisiana** Department of Public Safety & Corrections collaborated with the New Orleans Mayor's Office on an SRR planning initiative to reduce violent crime and recidivism through enhanced supervision and treatment for people at the highest risk of committing new crimes.

**Massachusetts** Department of Mental Health's CSAMI grant expanded their Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach, and Networking (MISSION) model—an evidence-based case coordination model for people with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance addictions—to include reentry programming, such as peer support and transitional housing.

An Innovations in Supervision grant supported the **New Jersey** Administrative Office of the Courts' pilot program using assessment data to reallocate probation resources to focus on people with the highest risk and needs.

**Ohio** Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's SRR initiative focused on better connecting people in rural areas to stable housing and other reentry supports, in collaboration with local courts, community corrections agencies, reentry coalitions, and service providers.

With an Adult Reentry Demonstration grant, the **South Dakota** Department of Corrections organized the South Dakota Reentry Council to improve interagency case management, identify statutory and practice-based barriers to reintegration, and address gaps in community-based reentry services.

**Virginia** Department of Corrections' SRR planning project addressed the rising number of women in prison by developing a strategic plan to implement evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed practices for women in prisons across the state.

**West Virginia** Division of Justice and Community Services' SRR grant helped the state increase the capacity of its day reporting centers to provide treatment and additional supervision services to people under parole supervision.

**Wisconsin** Department of Corrections used an Adult Reentry Demonstration grant to expand its employment-focused Windows to Work model and integrated other critical reentry supports, including validated risk assessment tools, pre- and post-release case planning, and post-release housing, health, mental health, and family services.



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