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State Approaches in Reducing Violent Crime

New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee
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Who is NCSL

- Non-profit, bi-partisan organization.
- Members are all 7,383 legislators and 30,000 legislative staff in 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories.
- Offices in Denver and D.C.
- Among our goals - To provide legislatures with information and research about policy issues, both state and federal.
- NCSL tracks state policy developments in all public policy areas.



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Overview

- I. Statewide Violence Prevention Funding
- II. Alternative Responses to Mental and Behavioral Health Crises
- III. Police Training and Community Response
- IV. Young Adults in the Justice System
- V. Reducing Recidivism
 - a) Employment
 - b) Secure Housing

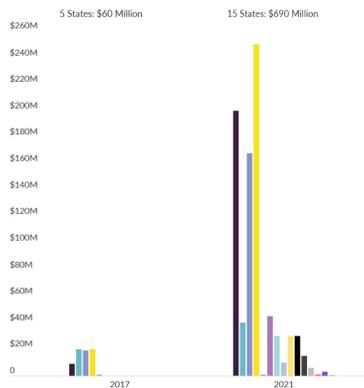


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State Roles in Supporting CVI



State Investment in CVI Initiatives



Source: Presentation - State Support for CVI: Trends and Best Practices, Mike McLively, Giffords Law Center

- Grantmaking for Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs:
 - Increasing.
- Regulation:
 - Training & Technical Assistance.
 - Evaluation Support.
- Messaging:
 - Convening to share best practices.
- Agency Action:
 - Centralized Coordination – Statewide OVP.

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Statewide Violence Prevention Legislation



Washington – Senate Bill 6288 (2020)

- Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention.
- Grant funding for evidence-based violence reduction strategies.
- Data collection and reporting.
- Coordinating services for victims.
- Work with a variety of stakeholders.

California – Senate Bill 1418 (2021)

- Creates the Public Safety Collaborative Fund.
- Funds are used for violence prevention, intervention, and suppression activities.
 - Programs to address youth violence prevention and intervention in K–12 schools.
 - Programs to promote and enhance successful reentry into the community.
 - Programs to address homeless outreach and intervention efforts.

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Statewide Violence Prevention Legislation



Colorado – Senate Bill 145 (2022)

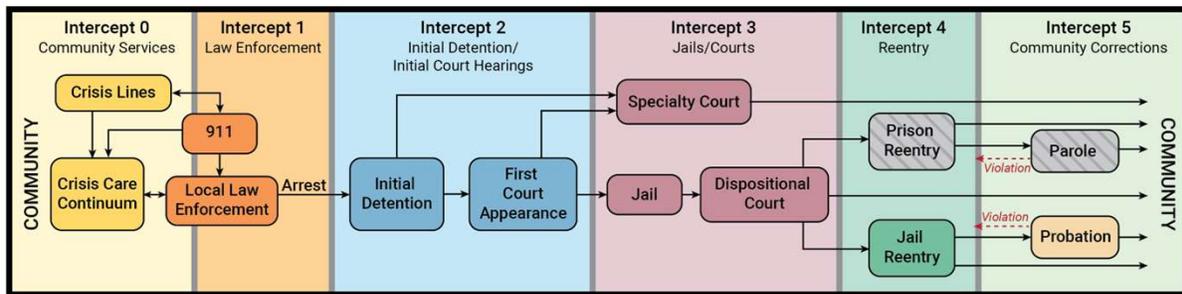
- Creates 3 grant programs:
 - Multidisciplinary crime prevention and crisis intervention.
 - Law enforcement workforce recruitment, retention, and tuition.
 - Assistance in recruitment and training to increase the number of P.O.S.T-certified law enforcement officers.
- Statewide forum facilitated by a national criminal justice organization to solicit suggestions on crime prevention measures related to the grant programs.

Indiana – Senate Bill 7 (2022)

- Marion County Violent Crime Reduction Pilot Project.
- Provide funding to law enforcement to provide additional services (including help from state police).
- Funding for violence prevention programs.
- Establishes a crime reduction board.

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Alternative Responses: The Sequential Intercept Model

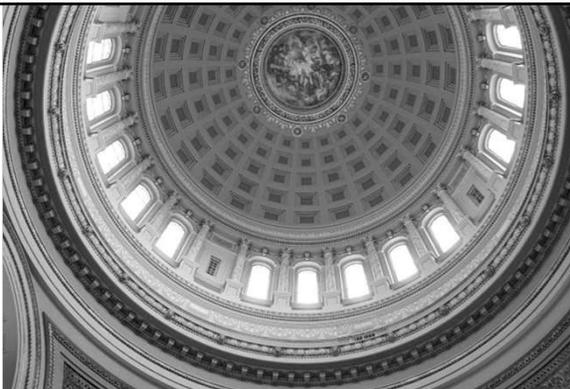


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[More info here.](#)

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Alternative Responses or "Deflection"



- Half of the states have laws addressing deflection programs.
- In addition to authorizing programs, states appropriated funds to support grant programs and/or pilot projects.

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Alternative Responses

Police-Mental Health Collaboration Programs

 <p>■ Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Crisis intervention teams are composed of experienced law enforcement officers who volunteer to receive specialized training to respond to mental health calls. These officers are then dispatched to mental health calls or assist other officers who are not CIT trained.</p>	 <p>■ Co-Responder Teams Trained law enforcement officers and mental health professionals who respond to mental health calls as a team and generally work together for an entire shift, riding in the same car.</p>	 <p>■ Mobile Crisis Teams Mental health professionals working as a team with specialized training to help stabilize individuals during law enforcement encounters and during crisis situations. Teams can respond to law enforcement or mental health calls.</p>	 <p>■ Case Management Teams Behavioral health professionals, law enforcement officers, peers and others that form a team to coordinate care and develop collaborative solutions to reduce repeat interactions with individuals.</p>	 <p>■ Crisis Stabilization Centers Facilities where law enforcement officers can take individuals experiencing mental health crisis that serve as alternatives to jail and emergency departments.</p>
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- Designed to reroute individuals away from justice system involvement prior to arrest or contact with law enforcement.
- Most developed at the local level, but state law occasionally plays a role.
- Exact elements of each model are generally unique to each community and impacted by available resources and community-based alternatives.

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Alternative Responses

- Colorado SB 207 (2017): Appropriates money from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to support a “crisis response system” that includes creating opportunities for mental health professionals to be embedded with first responders.
- Virginia SB 5038 (2020): Codified “community care teams.”
- Utah HB 32 (2020): Establishes Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOTs).
- New Jersey SB 722 (2022): Creates the Alternative Response to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together Pilot Program.

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Why Alternative Responses?



Decrease in Crime

- **Hamilton County, Ohio:** decreased jail space by 36%; observed decrease in crimes and arrests ([Engel et al., 2017](#)).
- **Tucson Police Department:** Mental Health Support Team has decreased the need for SWAT deployments for “suicidal barricaded subjects” which costs around \$15,000 per incident; SWAT calls decreased from an average of 14 per year in 2012-2013 to an average of 2.8 per year in 2014-2018 ([Council of State Governments, 2019](#)).

Decrease in Recidivism

- **Leon County, Florida:** diversion citations; 91% of participants successfully completed diversion program and 87% avoided additional arrest ([Kopak, A. & Frost, G., 2017](#)).
- **Charleston County, South Carolina:** individuals cycling repeatedly through jail three or more times in a two-year period decreased by 71% ([Annual Report, 2021](#)).

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- Codifying de-escalation and bias training requirements.
- At least 27 states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring officers to be trained to respond to mental health, substance use and behavioral disorder issues.
- Minnesota House File 2 (2020): minimum number of hours for crisis intervention and mental illness crisis training.
- Iowa House File 2647 (2020): mandates annual training which includes de-escalation techniques and methods of fostering relationships with the community.



Police Training and Community Response

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Police Training and Community Response



- Community policing:
 - Community partnerships.
 - Problem-solving techniques to proactively address public safety concerns.
- Community policing is a philosophy rather than a specific set of policies.
- Different in every locality based on the needs of the police and the people in each jurisdiction.



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Police Training and Community Response



COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice



State

Handful of states have codified community policing in statute.

Federal

Interest at federal level.

Local

Pilot programs.

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Young Adults in the Justice System

9.5% of the U.S. population, yet account for 23% of all arrests.

Reoffend at a greater rate than the general population, 2x more likely to be a victim of serious violent offense.

Shift to strategies “outside the box” of traditional justice responses.

Pre-arrest diversion, population specific court proceedings, sentencing and corrections options.

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Crossroads Reentry

Inmate Programs & Services

- Nearly 60 percent of formerly incarcerated people are unemployed one year after release.
- 25-50% of homeless people have been incarcerated.

Reducing Recidivism

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Employment



- Criminal Records
 - Automatic Expungement
 - ~ 7 states have “Clean Slate” Laws.

- Ban The Box
 - 27 states have Ban the Box legislation.



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Housing



- **HUD mandated guidance.** Implemented a two-step process:
 - Assess any criminal convictions using “the Grid”: categories of crimes and look-back periods for which further review is required
 - Conduct individualized assessment for applicants whose convictions require further review
- The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) in 2016 **removed their policy to screen out potential tenants with criminal records** from housing assistance.
- Panel in review **process accounts for criminal history, rehabilitation, community support and employment.**
- More information: [Housing Justice Network](#)

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- Recently enacted programs for existing or pilot programs to provide reentry and housing transition services for adult and/or juvenile offenders:
- **California** ([A 1318, 2021](#))
- **District of Columbia** ([Act 24-159](#))
- **Nebraska** ([HB 1011, 2021](#))
- **Washington** ([HB 1186, 2021](#))
- **West Virginia** ([H 3304, 2021](#))



Housing

State Legislative Action

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Resources



Resources are linked throughout the slides, but other notable resources include:

- [Co-Responder Programs](#) (Colorado Behavioral Health Administration)
- [Law Enforcement Statutory Database](#) (NCSL)
- [Mental Health Emergencies, Law Enforcement and Deflection Pathways](#) (NCSL)
- [The Legislative Primer Series on Front-End Justice: Young Adults in the Justice System](#) (NCSL)
- [NCSL's Criminal Records and Reentry page](#)

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Questions?



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