


# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**THE  
SENTENCING  
PROJECT**

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR REFORM



The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Marc Mauer  
Executive Director

The past year presented us with challenges to criminal justice reform that we had not experienced for quite some time. It was a year to reassess our assumptions about the political environment and review our approach to justice reform. I think we handled this transition well and were able to recalibrate our strategy for change in this new environment.

At the federal level we have not yielded in our advocacy for broad-based sentencing reform that is long overdue, though we are mindful of the new political realities. We were pleased to be able to support the leadership of Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) in advancing reforms to scale back the impact of mandatory sentencing and to restore a more appropriate exercise of discretion to federal judges.

But we have also challenged the efforts of Attorney General Jeff Sessions to turn back the clock on justice reform and to bring us back to the “tough on crime” days of the 1980s. Elements of this campaign included debunking the notion that immigrants commit crime at high rates, publishing op-ed commentary in the Washington Post and other media outlets documenting the public safety costs of Sessions’ punitive strategy, and helping to convene a street protest outside of the Justice Department headquarters in response to his harsh charging policies.

We also recognize that criminal justice on a day-to-day basis largely plays out at the state and local level. In this regard the national political eruption does not yet appear to be delivering significant setbacks to the momentum for reform of recent years.

Our strategy involves broad public education designed to change the national conversation around criminal justice policy, supported by a targeted focus on viable reforms. We maintain the twin goals of reducing mass incarceration and challenging the racial disparities that pervade the justice system.

Policy reports we produced this year provided activists and policymakers with data analysis on rates of disparity by state in both the adult and juvenile justice systems. Among other efforts our allies in New Jersey used those findings to make the case to state lawmakers that racial impact statement legislation would be an effective means of proactively addressing these troubling outcomes. Their hard work secured overwhelming support for this reform in the state legislature.

We also seek to influence the national conversation about mass incarceration by going beyond what's politically acceptable at any given moment. While we're encouraged about the momentum for justice reform of recent years, we also recognize that in most states the pace of change is still relatively modest. That's one reason why we've spent more than a decade highlighting the record number of people serving life sentences in the United States. These people have committed serious crimes, but many of them are long past the point at which they present any significant threat to public safety. Their continued incarceration poses human rights concerns and a challenge to ending mass incarceration.

We enter 2018 celebrating our accomplishments over more than three decades, but mindful of the obstacles we face in continuing to advance reform. We thank all our friends and allies for their ongoing support, and we are hopeful that together we can continue the progress we've made toward a more just society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Maurer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

# RESEARCH

that makes a difference

sentenced to three life terms in prison. He has been incarcerated for more than 20 years and is now in his mid-40s. Despite a recommendation for commutation and a recommendation from the prosecutor and sentencing judge in this case, Mr. Aaron's petition for clemency has failed to receive support from the Office of the Pardon Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, but drawing media attention around the case has led the White House to note that there is an ongoing review of his application.

In 2017, The Sentencing Project's publications focused on calling attention to the growing lifer population, addressing racial disparities throughout the criminal justice system, and using data to push back against the Trump Administration's "tough on crime" rhetoric.

## Second chance at life

One of every seven people in prison in the U.S.—206,000 in all—was serving a sentence of life with parole, life without parole, or a "virtual life" sentence of 50 years or more, found a report by The Sentencing Project. *Still Life: America's Increasing Use of Life and Long-term Sentences*, by Senior Research Analyst Ashley Nellis, revealed that two-thirds of these prisoners are people of color. And while the majority of people serving life were convicted of murder, 17,000 were convicted of non-violent offenses, and 12,000 people were under 18 years of age at the time of their crime. The report concluded that the increasing use of life imprisonment means that

substantial reductions in incarceration will be limited unless policymakers address excessive punishments for serious crimes as well as property and drug offenses. Our research also indicated that unnecessarily long prison terms are costly and impede public investments in effective crime prevention, drug treatment, and other rehabilitative programs that produce healthier and safer communities. *Still Life* received extensive media attention, including coverage by *ABC News*, *The Atlantic*, *Denver Post*, *Jackson (MS) Free Press*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Washington Examiner*, and *Wisconsin Public Radio*.





## Number of people serving life in US prisons is surging, new report says

July 3, 2017

**Ashley Nellis, a senior researcher for the Sentencing Project** and the author of the report, told ABC News in a phone interview that the data were compiled from Department of Corrections for every state and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

She said that underneath the numbers is a large bill for U.S. taxpayers, according to her research.

**“A prisoner who starts his or her sentence in their 30s will, on average, cost the state \$1 million,” Nellis told ABC News.**

She said that part of the expense of housing prisoners for life is that they become more expensive with age.

**“Many people enter prison in poor health to begin with,” Nellis said. “Then prison itself is hard on a person’s health, and they’re being cared for into their geriatric years.”**

*Delaying a Second Chance: The Declining Prospects for Parole on Life Sentences*, by Research Analyst Nazgol Ghadnoosh, documented just how elusive parole has become for eligible lifers. This national survey analyzed policies and practices that have caused paroled lifers to serve much longer prison sentences than their counterparts in the past. The leading reasons for these increases are: lawmakers delaying how long prisoners must serve before they are eligible for parole; increased wait times for subsequent hearings if parole is denied; the appointment of parole board members committed to reducing the number of paroles granted; limiting parole boards’ decision-making authority; and affording limited rights to due process or legal representation of prisoners during parole hearings.



## Treating the opioid crisis

In response to the opioid crisis we issued an extensive report on the need for an evidence-based approach to address this emergency.

*Opioids: Treating an Illness, Ending a War*, by Nazgol Ghandnoosh and Casey Anderson, examined the sources of the opioid crisis, surveyed health and justice policy responses at the federal and state levels, and drew on lessons from past drug crises to provide guidance on how to proceed.

The report recommended reversing the unprecedented rate at which U.S. physicians are prescribing opioids; increasing access to medication-assisted treatment and syringe service programs; revising health insurance policies to increase access to medications that carry a lower risk of addiction or dependence; closing the treatment gap for incarcerated populations; and opposing efforts to resurrect highly punitive and ineffective measures (like the “War on Drugs”) that had little effect on drug use and fueled mass incarceration.

## Documenting state reform

In *State Advances in Criminal Justice Reform*, Director of Advocacy Nicole Porter documented policy reforms in 17 states designed to reduce prison populations; address racial disparities; reform collateral consequences in the areas of employment, voting rights and public benefit programs; and reduce interactions between youth and the criminal justice system.

## Newsweek

### Trump's opioid crisis failures mean states must lead the way

**By: Nazgol Ghandnoosh**

December 13, 2017

During his presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised that if elected, he'd make the opioid crisis a top priority. Since taking office, though, he's hardly made it a concern, let alone an agenda item...

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 140 Americans die every day from drug overdoses—including, on average, 91 specifically from opioids. Preliminary data for 2016 indicate at least 64,000 deaths attributable to drug overdose.

Fortunately, this is a crisis that is mostly local in nature, and actions on the ground by state policymakers; medical professionals; insurance companies; state and local health officials; and law enforcement and criminal justice leaders can make a big difference without waiting on Washington.



## Crimmigration

*Immigration and Public Safety* and the accompanying [factsheet](#) underscored the fact that U.S. immigrants—regardless of legal status—commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens, and that policies further restricting immigration are ineffective crime-control strategies. Authors Nazgol Ghandnoosh and Juvenile Justice Advocacy Associate Josh Rovner found that immigrants actually improve public safety in the neighborhoods in which they live and may have contributed to the historic crime drop across the country over the past two decades. Areas with large immigrant communities have shared or outperformed national trends in improved public safety since the 1990s, by increasing levels of social cohesion, organization, and oversight.

## Future of federal prisons

*Federal Prisons at a Crossroads*, by Nazgol Ghandnoosh, analyzed how new directives at the Department of Justice (DOJ) to pursue the most serious charges and the harshest penalties in federal cases and certain Congressional proposals appear poised to reverse recent declines in the federal prison population. Since reaching a peak in 2013, the federal prison population declined 13% by the close of 2016 due to passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, U.S. Sentencing Commission actions to amend the drug sentencing guidelines, and the Obama DOJ Smart on Crime Initiative.



*The Sentencing Project produced and circulated this meme on social media using information from our 2017 Immigration and Public Safety report as the U.S. House of Representatives debated Kate's law, a bill to increase prison sentences for people convicted of immigration offenses—including illegal reentry into the U.S.*

## Smart decarceration

“Minimizing the Maximum: The Case for Shortening All Prison Sentences,” by Nazgol Ghandnoosh, is a chapter in *Smart Decarceration: Achieving Criminal Justice Transformation in the 21st Century*, (Oxford University Press). The chapter underscores the importance of reducing time served in prison for serious and violent crimes to achieve meaningful decarceration. It draws on research to show how prolonged sentences produce diminishing returns for public safety while tying up resources that could be used for crime prevention.

## Policing the black man

Marc Mauer contributed a chapter in *Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment*, edited by Professor Angela J. Davis. “The Endurance of Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System” provides an overview of the stark racial disparities that exist at every step of the criminal justice system. An array of circumstances resulted in these disparities, including harsh sentencing laws, discretionary decision making by criminal justice officials, and the impact of “race-neutral” decisions. The chapter also presents practical suggestions for reform that would shift resources and attention to non-criminal justice interventions.

## International perspective

Published in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Incarceration Rates in an International Perspective* by Marc Mauer examined incarceration rates across nations, and the policies and political environments that shape the scale of punishment. The analysis reviewed policies and practices that produced mass incarceration in the U.S., case histories of reducing incarceration in other nations, and outlined the “right” level of incarceration in a society.

## Private prisons

*Private Prisons in the United States* presents current figures on people serving their sentences in private facilities and on states' variations in their utilization of private prisons. Twenty-eight states and the federal government used private prisons to incarcerate 126,272 people as of 2015 — an increase of 45% from a population of 87,369 in 2000. This figure represents 8% of the total U.S. prison population.

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Since 2000, the number of  
people housed in private  
prisons has increased

**45%**

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## Racial disparities in the juvenile justice system

Three factsheets by Josh Rovner highlight racial disparities throughout the juvenile justice system. [Black youth](#) are 500% more likely, [Native youth](#) are 300% more likely, and [Latino youth](#) are 65% more likely than white youth to be detained or committed to youth facilities. In six states, African American youth are at least ten times as likely to be held in placement as are white youth: New Jersey, Wisconsin, Montana, Delaware, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

## Eliminating juvenile life without parole

*Juvenile Life Without Parole: An Overview* by Josh Rovner reviews the Supreme Court precedents that limited the use of juvenile life without parole and the challenges that remain in their implementation. The United States is the only nation that sentences people to life without parole for crimes committed before turning 18 years of age.



### Fewer Youths Incarcerated, But Gap Between Blacks And Whites Worsens

September 27, 2017

**“It’s important to realize the placement rate has reduced for all youth,” says Josh Rovner, the juvenile justice advocacy associate at The Sentencing Project. “In a way, this is a good news story and I don’t want people to lose sight of that.”**

However, Rovner and other advocates for criminal justice reform are slow to praise the drop in numbers. A closer look reveals a

disquieting element of the criminal justice system: a rise in the disparity between black youth incarceration and white youth incarceration...

A look at the numbers shows that in 2015, 86 of 100,000 white children were incarcerated in the United States. The number for black children was five times higher, with 433 of 100,000 behind bars.

But according to Rovner, individual actions are not to blame for a higher incarceration rate of black youths.

**“It’s not about the differences in behaviors by youth. It’s about the differences in how adults respond to those behaviors,” he said.**

# ADVOCACY



for state & federal  
policy change

Throughout the year The Sentencing Project worked closely with policymakers and activists on reform strategies, coalition formation, planning, media outreach, communications and advocacy campaigns.

## STATE REFORM

### Providing support to advocates at the state level

During 2017, The Sentencing Project continued to work with local organizations, advocates, and lawmakers to limit racial disparity in the justice system, expand voting rights for people with felony convictions, reduce excessive sentences and improve justice for youth. Technical assistance was provided to support advocates in more than 10 states to develop and refine their communications plans, political strategies and public education campaigns. This work included:

- The Florida Supreme Court approved language for a constitutional amendment, proposed by the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, to restore voting rights to the state's 1.4 million disenfranchised citizens who have fully completed the terms of their prison, probation or parole supervision. The Sentencing Project has provided support to the Coalition over a number of years, including conducting data analysis, producing op-ed commentary, and engaging in public education. The Coalition has gathered enough signatures to be placed as an initiative on the 2018 statewide ballot.

## Committee advances bill to allow immediate voting rights to felons

March 1, 2017

A compromise bill (LB53) in the Nebraska Legislature passed in 2005 allowed ex-felons to vote two years after their sentences were served, returning the vote to 50,000 Nebraskans.

**That was a huge step in the right direction, said Nicole Porter, of the Washington-based The Sentencing Project.** But the two-year ban, she said in an interview, left the state on the list of the most restrictive states nationally.

People who have completed their sentences are expected to rejoin society by being good citizens and paying taxes.

**“You lose people’s participation if they don’t have the right to vote, and their energy and enthusiasm may be impacted,” Porter said.**

**Other conservative states have repealed their post-sentence voting bans, including Texas and Nevada, she said.**

- Assisting a Nebraska coalition that secured the legislature’s approval of a bill to repeal the two-year ban on voting following completion of a felony sentence. Though the legislation was vetoed by the Governor, the coalition expects it to be reintroduced in 2018. Nicole Porter testified in support of the bill at a legislative hearing, and provided on-site technical assistance and research in support of state advocates.
- Supporting the growth and impact of a coalition of advocates in New Jersey, whose activities led to passage of Racial Impact Statement legislation by both houses of the legislature, and favorable input into the legislation from Gov. Christie.
- The minority of states that continued to subject youth aged 16 or 17 to the adult criminal justice system will decline further because of important advocacy this year, including in South Carolina where The Sentencing Project has been active. The Sentencing Project compiled and analyzed statewide and county level data to support the implementation process of the state’s legislation incorporating 17-year-olds into the juvenile justice system. State advocates used the information in community meetings in targeted regions as the basis of their public education efforts. Our collaboration in South Carolina will continue into 2018 to ensure the legislation passed takes effect.



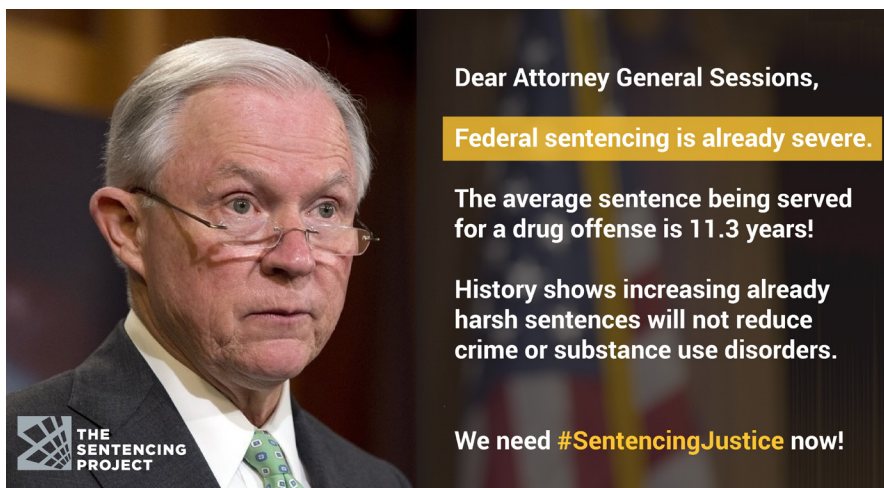
# FEDERAL REFORM

## Building bipartisan support for reform

In 2017, The Sentencing Project worked closely with allies to advocate for meaningful sentencing reform in Congress and push back against harmful calls to build up the federal prison system. This work included:

- Submitting public comment and recommendations to the U.S. Sentencing Commission on its proposed expansion of the sentencing guidelines to incorporate more alternative sentences to incarceration, and to urge the Commission to reevaluate whether or not sentence lengths are “sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to achieve the goals of sentencing.”
- Testifying before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the implications of 6 million people denied the right to vote due to a current or previous felony conviction. Testimony included an overview of estimates of disenfranchisement, racial effects, and the policy impact on democracy and reentry.

- Producing op-eds critiquing Attorney General Sessions’ charging policies in the *Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and the *San Francisco Daily Journal*, while our staff also appeared on the *CBS Evening News* and *NPR* to discuss the Administration’s misguided criminal justice policies.
- Continuing to provide research and advocate to Congressional staff in support of the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, the Second Chance Act and oppose measures to increase sentences for drug and immigration offenses.
- Co-sponsoring a protest rally at DOJ to call attention to policies announced by Attorney General Sessions that would reverse prosecutorial charging policy reforms and increase the number of federal prisoners.



*The Sentencing Project developed this meme for social media to challenge Sessions’ harsh sentencing policies. The image reached nearly 7,000 people on social media.*



## Former US attorneys hate Jeff Sessions' memo on tougher sentences

May 14, 2017

Since 2010, the federal prison population has dropped both overall and for people serving time for drug offenses. In 2010, roughly 98,000 people were in federal prison for drug offenses; that number fell to 92,000 in 2015.

The Sentencing Project's executive director is concerned that Sessions' memo will raise the prison population again.

**"Reversing this directive will exacerbate prison overcrowding, increase spending and jeopardize the safety of staff and prisoners," Marc Mauer said. "Research over many decades has demonstrated the deterrent effect of the criminal justice system is a function of the certainty of punishment, not its severity. The new policy shift will have little impact on public safety, while adding exorbitant fiscal and human costs to an already bloated and destructive criminal justice system."**



Marc Mauer speaks to advocates outside the Department of Justice at the "Emergency Rally: Stop Sessions and the New Drug War"

# BUILDING

## public support for reform

The Sentencing Project's research and analysis captured broad media attention, with citations from 700 media outlets throughout the U.S. and internationally during 2017.

### Media presence

The list of newspapers, radio stations, and prominent websites includes:

ABC News

AL.com

Aljazeera

Arizona Daily Sun

Arkansas Times

Associated Press

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Atlanta Journal Constitution

AZ Central

Baltimore Sun

BBC News

BET

Black Agenda Report

Bloomberg

Boston Globe

Boston Herald

Boulder Daily Camera

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Complex

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Daily Kos

Daytona Times

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Education Week

Equal Justice Initiative

Essence

Factcheck.org

Florida Politics

Forbes

Fox News

Frontline

Good Morning America

Governing	Nola.com	The Columbus Dispatch
Harvard Law Review	North Dallas Gazette	The Crime Report
Homeland Security News Wire	North Texas Daily	The Daily Beast
Houston Chronicle	NPR	The Daily Iowan
Huffington Post	Omaha World-Herald	The Detroit News
In Justice Today	Orlando Advocate	The Economist
Indy Star	Oxygen	The Florida Times-Union
International Business Times	Pacific Standard	The Gainesville Sun
Jackson Free Press	PBS Newshour	The Guardian
Jefferson Public Radio	Pensacola News Journal	The Hill
Juvenile Justice Information Exchange	Philadelphia Inquirer	The Marshall Project
Kankakee Daily Journal	Politico	The Nation
Knoxville News Sentinel	Reno Gazette-Journal	The New Orleans Advocate
Las Vegas Sun	Richmond Times-Dispatch	The New York Times
Law and Disorder Radio	Salon	The News & Observer
Lincoln Journal Star	San Francisco Daily Journal	The Oregonian
Market Watch	San Francisco Examiner	The Philadelphia Tribune
Mass Live	Santa Fe Reporter	The Post and Courier
Miami Herald	Sarasota Herald Tribune	The St. Louis American
Mic	Seattle Weekly	The Washington Post
Michigan Radio	Slate	The Washington Times
Milwaukee Public Radio	Southwest Florida Public Radio	The Wilmington Journal
Minnesota Public Radio	Sun Sentinel	ThinkProgress
Mississippi Public Broadcasting	Tampa Bay Times	TIME
Montgomery Advertiser	Teen Vogue	Truthout
Mother Jones	telesur	Tucson Sentinel
MSN	Tennessean	U.S. News & World Report
MTV	The Advocate	Univision
Nashville Public Radio	The Atlantic	USA Today
NBC News	The Austin Chronicle	VICE
New Jersey Jewish News	The Birmingham Times	Vogue
New Orleans Times-Picayune	The Chattanooga	Wall Street Journal
Newsday	The Chicago Reporter	Washington Examiner
Newsmax	The Christian Science Monitor	Wisconsin Law Journal
NJ.com	The Clarion-Ledger	Wisconsin Public Radio

## Public presentations

In 2017 the staff of The Sentencing Project delivered more than 40 presentations on a range of criminal justice reform issues at professional conferences, academic institutions, and policymaker gatherings on all facets of criminal justice reform. Venues and audiences included:

### Academic Institutions

American University  
College of New Jersey  
Columbia University  
DePaul University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard Law School  
Lincoln Memorial University  
Penn State University Law School  
Princeton University  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
Washington College of Law, American University  
Wayne State University Law School  
Yale Law School

### Research Organizations

American Society of Criminology  
Law and Society Association  
Society for Research on Child Development

### Criminal Justice Practitioners

American Probation and Parole Association  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Legal Aid and Defender Association

### Reform Advocates

Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
Democracy Convention  
Equitas Foundation  
Hogg Foundation  
Iowa Justice Action Network  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition  
National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women  
National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness  
Smart Decarceration Initiative, University of Chicago

### Religious Organizations

Corrections Ministries and Chaplains Association  
Greater Boston Jewish Community Center  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
Shiloh Baptist Church (VA)

### Government Agencies

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts  
Franklin Williams Judicial Commission  
Ontario (Canada) Anti-Racism Directorate

### Public Testimony

Congressional Black Caucus  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Vermont House Judiciary Committee

### Prisons

Jessup Men's and Women's Prisons (MD)



## Continuing the conversation

The Sentencing Project hosted a series of public forums to bring attention to important criminal justice reform books released in 2017. The Sentencing Project's Nicole Porter moderated a discussion with Yale law professor, James Forman Jr., on his book, *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. Nicole also moderated a book discussion with Susan Burton, an author and formerly incarcerated California woman who started an organization to help recently released women rebuild their lives. The Sentencing Project also organized an online call with nearly 200 participants to highlight The Sentencing Project's board member and American University law professor Angela J. Davis's book, *Policing the Black Man*.



Above: Nicole Porter moderates a discussion with James Forman Jr. at the D.C. Office of Deputy Mayor for Public Safety. Below: Theology students and The Sentencing Project staff visit D.C. court.

The Sentencing Project convened a three-day intensive criminal justice seminar for students of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. The students visited a D.C. courtroom, discussed the role of the church on criminal justice issues in the black community, and studied policies, practices, and consequences of the criminal justice system.



## Next step for Louisiana prison reform is to review life sentences: Opinion

Ashley Nellis  
*Nola.com*, July 6, 2017

Louisiana's heavy use of extreme sentences represents one of the state's most pressing and costly issues. At an approximate annual cost of \$23,000 per inmate, **taxpayers are paying a minimum of \$253 million per year to maintain the life and virtual life-sentenced population alone.** This is a conservative estimate: added health care expenses associated with housing aging prisoners raises the burden on taxpayers still higher.

## Still increase in racial disparities in juvenile justice

Josh Rovner  
*New York Amsterdam News*, October 19, 2017

Incarceration disparities have grown across a range of offenses. One exception? Drugs. Back in 2001, Black youth were 600 percent more likely to be incarcerated on drug charges than were white youth. That disparity fell to 250 percent—still appalling, given what we know about drug use among teenagers of all races, but still evidence that progress is possible.

We should celebrate the declines in incarceration among youth of all races and ethnicities. The virtuous circle of fewer children in confinement has been good for children and good for public safety. **But let's not overlook the way these changes aren't benefiting all our children in the same way.**

## Jeff Sessions wants a new war on drugs. It won't work.

Marc Mauer & David Cole, ACLU  
*Washington Post*, June 22, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Sessions is right to be concerned about recent increases in violent crime in some of our nation's largest cities, as well as a tragic rise in drug overdoses nationwide. But there is little reason to believe that his response — reviving the failed “war on drugs” and imposing more mandatory minimums on nonviolent drug offenders — will do anything to solve the problem. **His prescription contravenes a growing bipartisan consensus that the war on drugs has not worked. And it would exacerbate mass incarceration, the most pressing civil rights problem of the day.**



## What We Can Learn from the Amazing Drop in Juvenile Incarceration

Ashley Nellis and Marc Mauer  
*The Marshall Project*, January 24, 2017

Changing public sentiment regarding the wisdom of sending young people to adult prisons has led policymakers in many states to revise misguided policies that applied excessive punishment with little evidence to support them. **As a result, many juveniles who would otherwise be languishing in adult prisons are now either in juvenile confinement facilities that are better designed for their needs, or have been diverted from confinement altogether.**

## Law and order agenda should take note of bipartisanship's results

Nazgol Ghandnoosh & Alex Nowrasteh, Cato Institute  
*The Hill*, April 7, 2017

Two recent opinion pieces published by *The Hill* have criticized recent research showing that immigrants—regardless of legal status—commit property and violent crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens.

This research, conducted independently by The Sentencing Project and the Cato Institute, used different methods but arrived at the same conclusion: **Immigrants are less crime-prone than native-born citizens.**

## S.C. Legislature must reform life-without-parole sentences

Ashley Nellis  
*The Post and Courier*, September 20, 2017

South Carolina has moved many individuals with a drug conviction to treatment rather than prison, shortened mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent crimes, and given judges greater discretion at sentencing. These reforms have occurred without harm to public safety and amid continued crime declines. The violent crime rate has declined by 37 percent in the state since 2003.

**Still, efforts to achieve significant reductions in the prison population will be thwarted if reform strategies focus too narrowly on sentences for those convicted of low-level offenses.** Nearly 30 percent of the prisoners in the state have a sentence of 20 years or more; it is unlikely that they will benefit from reforms currently underway.

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Lisa Daniels and Peter Peyser  
Danielle Dignan  
Marilyn Downey  
Sara Epstein  
Nancy Fugina  
Steven Metalitz and Kit Gage  
Peter Gerbic  
Hon. Nancy Gertner  
David Goldman  
Howard Gottlieb  
Marie Gottschalk  
Vanessa Grimes  
Eileen Heaser  
Julie Hungar  
Annette and Cal Johnson  
Jessica Kaplan

Rebecca Lambert  
Jaime and Sylvia Liwerant  
Mark MacDougall  
Maine Community Foundation  
Albert Mishaan  
Hon. Thomas Noel  
Piper Jaffray Charitable Giving  
Michael Puisis  
Returning Home Foundation  
Philip and Mercy Rome  
David and Deborah Rothschild  
Elizabeth Stillinger  
Shannon Sullivan and Stephen Weinberg  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Henrie Treadwell  
Melinda Tuhus and Robert Dubrow  
Ari Weisbard and Rebecca Ennen  
Robert Weiss  
Lois Whitman  
Kristina Wolverson  
Cate Woolner

## \$500 to \$999

1002 Foundation  
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.  
Phyllis Annett  
Russell and Elisabeth Beckstead  
Benevity One World  
Watson Branch  
Sally and Hugh Burkhart Rubin  
Aaron Campbell  
Robert Cohen and Maddy deLone  
Lillian Cox-Richard  
Robert Creamer  
Angela J. Davis  
Frank Einstein  
Patricia Fellner  
Fidelity Charitable  
Matthew Fiedler  
Frank Firke

Eric Fisher  
HHD Foundation  
Rita and David Gottlieb  
Peter Harnik and Carol Parker  
Richard Allen Hays  
Embry Howell  
Hon. Renee Hughes  
Tom Jawetz  
Cynthia Ellen Jones  
Elizabeth Kantor  
James Leonard  
Judith Lichtenberg  
Laurel and James McCarthy  
Dennis McCoy  
Ruth Melville  
Michigan Association of Treatment  
Court Professionals  
Joanna Monti-Masel  
Kevin Morris  
Meg Mott  
Nathan Quiring  
Gordon Schiff  
Meryl Schwartz  
Peter Sills  
Marcus and Celena Smith  
Craig Smith  
Reuben Smith  
Irwin Solomon  
Paul Southworth  
Andrew Spofford  
Ruth Taller  
The Chicago Community Foundation  
Susan Tucker  
Karin and Nate Van Duzer  
Bobby Vassar  
Hon. Greg Weeks  
Kurt and Elizabeth Young

## \$250 to \$499

Stephen and Virginia Abrams  
Sara Adland

Ben and Rachael Amber  
Sybil Anderson  
Anonymous (4)  
Carol Aronoff  
Shirley Baccus-Lobel  
Marvin Bellin  
Robert Bohall  
James and Rachel Bordelon  
Nancy Brittain  
Carol Brook  
Michael Castleman  
Jane Meleney Coe  
David Cole  
Kevin Crane  
Travis Craw  
Robert Crutchfield  
Lawrence de Graaf  
Keith Donoghue  
John Evans  
Catherine Feinen  
Lisa Franchett  
Theresa Fulton  
Kathlyn Taylor and Kurt Taylor Gaubatz  
Jonathan Gibson  
Daniel and Shari Gottlieb  
Diane Gunn  
Donald and Ann Hague  
Bill Hamilton  
Lee Hibbets  
Miranda Holeton  
Aaron Horowitz  
Rita Jalali  
Deana Katz  
Barbara Kessler  
Stacey King  
Daniel Klein  
Ellen Kramer  
Janet Kramer  
Fred Krasner  
Luis Lainer  
Kristine LaLonde  
John Lasser  
Nancy Lee



John Leubsdorf  
David Lewis  
Lincoln Property Company  
Ian Lind  
Helen Longino  
Anna Martin  
Joyce Mast  
Stephen Mathai  
Emily McAfee  
Carolyn McClanahan  
William McDaniels  
Stacy McDonald  
Barbara Meeker  
Robert and Ellen Meeropol  
Steven Meinrath  
Michael Mickelsen  
Shingirai Middelmann  
Thomas Mitchell  
Christina Morehead  
Michael Morganstern  
Edward Munyak  
Katherine Nelson  
Ilya Nepomnyashchiy  
Allan Noonan  
Mark and Joan Olson  
Phillip Palade  
Sanford Parnes  
Layla Passman  
Doris Provine  
Yosef Quint  
RMF Foundation  
Gale Rogers  
Eve Rosahn  
Kenneth Rosenthal  
Caleb Sanchez  
John Savarese  
Miriam Schoenfield  
Andrew Seligsohn  
Elisabeth Semel  
Gerald and Ann Serafino  
Susan Sheinfeld  
Stephen Strahs  
Judith Tharp

Tuffet  
Ted and Terry Van Duyn  
Charles Vetzner  
Derek Walker  
Joseph and Mary Watson  
John Wayman  
Your Cause, LLC

## \$100 to \$249

Albert Alschuler  
Clifford Anderson  
Glen Anderson  
Natalie Angier  
Barbara Appel  
Sherman Aronson  
Elliot and Claire Asarnow  
Nancy Atlas  
Other Avenues  
James and Nancy Baker  
Chris Bakker  
Balliet Insurance Agency Inc  
Steven Barkan  
Elizabeth Barlow  
Geoffrey Barron  
Jesse Barton  
Jean Basinger  
Anthony Bates  
Marcia Bates  
Donald and Carol Battenberg  
Teresa Batto  
Douglas Baxter  
Duncan and Sara Beale  
Robert Bearse  
Douglas Beattie and Linda Eichengreen  
Tai Bendit  
David Bennett  
Sumit Bhattacharjee  
Lucy Biederman and Brian Gaudino  
Susan Blackman  
Marc Bloom  
Barbara Bloom

Eric Blumenson  
Kerry Bodine  
Angela Boone  
Frances Bradley  
Ann Brandon  
Lynn Branham  
Robert and Paula Brent  
Sally Brown  
Jeffrey Brown  
Linda Brunner  
Michael Bryant  
William Buhl  
Kate Bullard-Sisken  
Martha Bushnell  
Ina Butler  
Jessica Butterick  
Michael Butterworth  
Hope Byer  
Daniel Callaway  
Scott Camil  
Beverley Campbell  
Lucy Candib  
Frieda Caplan  
Anastasia and Robert Carlone Scott  
Barbara Carson  
Ursula Cassanova  
Isaiah Castilla  
Andrew Certo  
AJ Chalom  
Jean Berglof and J. Harley Chapman  
Paul Chernick  
Bell Chevigny  
Lucy Anne Christopher  
Jean Chung  
Alison Cien Fuegos  
Sydney Clemens  
Thomas Haines and Polly Cleveland  
Rhoda and Larry Coben  
Susan Cobin  
Ann Cockrell  
Rosemary Coffey  
Rachel Cohen  
Avern Cohn



Steve Cohn  
Veronica Coleman-Davis  
Ellen Connell  
Thomas Connolly  
Kay Cooper  
Gilberto Cooper  
Alan and Hazel Cope  
Ron Corbett  
Theodore Coxe  
Catherine Coyle  
Sarah Crissy  
David and Patricia Crosby  
Tom Croxton  
Joanne Cunningham  
Gerald Curran  
Peter Dahlstrand  
Jesse Davis  
Margaret Davis  
Michele Deitch  
Karl Diller  
Mary Donelan  
Thomas Donohue  
Rory Dowd  
Ryan Downing  
Dranes  
Carol Drisko  
Nan Drummond  
Steve Dunham  
Craig Dunkerley  
Hon. William Dyson  
Risa Ehrlich  
Richard Eisen  
Linda Eissenberg  
Epiphany UCC  
Esther Ewing  
Jeffrey Fagan  
Patricia Weiss Fagen  
Joan Farber  
Bill Farra  
Suzanne and Jacob Feinspan  
Nolan Fellows  
Harvey Fernbach  
Dennis Fiems

Thomas Fina  
Lois Fischbeck  
Marianne Fisher-Giorlando  
Leah Gaskin Fitchue  
Wilmer Fong  
Anne Frank  
Richard Frase  
Joshua Freeman  
Amos Freeman  
Hon. Stuart Friedman  
Michael Friedman  
Mary Fusoni  
Gerald Gammell  
Charles Gardiner  
Whitney and Nancy Garlinghouse  
Barbara Gedanke  
Adam Gelb  
Linda Genereux  
Gail Gibbons  
Martha and George Giffen  
Ken Giles  
Charles Glashausser  
Ira Glasser  
Frank Goetz  
Joe Goldenson  
Pam Goldman  
Nathan Goldschlag  
Edith Good  
Robert Goodrich  
Mark Gould  
Bill Grabin  
William Grant  
Thomas Greek  
Alice Green  
Nancy Greenhouse  
Ellen Greenlee  
George Griffin  
Lloyd Guptill  
Richard and Louise Guthrie  
Suzanne Gylfe  
Susanne Haffner  
James Hannon  
David Hannon

Rachel Harley  
Barbara Harris  
William Harrison  
Heidi Hartmann  
James Hauser  
Trudy Hayden  
Michael Healey  
Daniel Hecker  
Walter and Roberta Hellman  
Nancy Henningsen  
Elizabeth Hess  
John Heuman  
Eliza Hewat  
Philip and Ann Heymann  
Eileen Hiney  
Harry Hochheiser and Judith Yanowitz  
Robin Hoffmann  
Christopher Holabird  
David Holman  
Maria Holt  
Joseph Holtz  
John Horejsi  
Alison Horn  
Samuel Horowitz  
Richard Horvitz  
Mark Hovis  
Loren Howley  
Betinna Huber  
Ethel and Tom Huff  
David Hunter  
Stephen Huson  
Anita Isen  
George Jacklin  
Jay Jackman  
Diane Jacobs  
Steven Jacobson  
Benjamin Jahre  
Mark Jenne  
Linda Jensen  
Fumiko Jensen  
Andrea Johnson  
Neller Johnson  
Robert Johnson

Robert Johnson  
Jack Jones  
Paul Jorjorian  
Just Give  
Rachel Kahn-Hut  
Charles Kallenbach  
Louis Kampf  
Laveen Kanal  
George and Pat Kandle  
Temma Kaplan  
Daniel Karpowitz  
Bianca Karteron  
Mary Katzenstein  
Elaine Kaufmann  
Carol Keeran  
Joseph Kelaghan  
Emily Kellindorfer  
Frances Kellogg  
Ronald Kelly  
Marie Kennedy  
Patricia Kenschaft  
Catherine Kerr  
Javad Keyhani  
Philip Kimball  
Alice and Rodney Kingsnorth  
Karen Klein  
Andrew Klyman  
Sharon Kotok  
Chris Kottke  
Robert Kunreuther  
Nancy Kurshan  
Jack Ladinsky  
Nancy Lang  
Susan Leimsider  
Edwin Deane Leonard  
Steve Lerner  
Eva Leuthold  
Malia Lewis  
David Lewis  
Susan Licht  
Arend Lijphart  
Peter Lindenfeld  
Irene Litherland and Dhruv Joshi

Lucy Logan  
Dan and Lori Loggans  
Leslie Lomas  
Lorence Long and David Riley  
Gilbert Lopez  
Albert Lott  
Andrea Lyon  
Sandra Lyons  
Alice Lytle  
Stewart Macaulay  
George MacKay  
Barry Mahoney  
Avi Malkin  
Jeff Manza  
Stephen March  
Philip Marcus  
Richard Marks  
Terry Marshall  
Susan Martin  
Richard Mason  
Wesley Mason  
Christine Matthews  
Mary McCarthy  
Patricia McDougale  
Bess McKinney  
Belle McMaster  
Stacy McQuaide  
Ashley McSwain  
Diane Meier  
Isa-Kae Meksin  
Benjamin Mercer-Golden  
Linda Mercurio  
Jane Meyerding  
Joann Miller  
Stephanie Miller  
Laura Miller  
Gregory Mize  
Morgan Stanley Cybergrants, Inc.  
Jose Morin  
Christiaan Morssink  
William Muenster  
Maureen Mulligan  
Betty Munson

Elliott Murray  
Margaret Keats Myer  
Andrea Nash  
Joan Nelson  
Robert Newman  
Northshore Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
Vincent Noth  
Carole Oblenes  
April O'Hare  
Terri Oldham  
Sabrina Pacifici  
Donald Parker  
Patricia Parthe  
Lynn Patton  
Curt Pawlisch  
Leslie Pearlman  
Christine Pedreschi  
Robert Perron  
Kay Perry  
Carla Peterson  
Michael Piccarreta  
Penny Pierce  
Eli Plenk  
Carol Poole  
Anne Powell  
Julie Prandi  
Robert Priest  
Estill Putney  
Chirag Rabari  
Michael Radelet  
Helen Raizen  
Paul Redstone  
Wallis Reid  
James Reilly  
Craig Reinerman  
Martin Reisig  
Neil Rice  
Jeanne Richman  
Allen Rickert  
Robyn Robblee  
Clinton Roberts  
Avrom Robin

Julia Robinson  
Constancia Romilly  
Barbara and Oren Root  
Michael Rose  
Allan Rosen  
William Rosen  
Melvin and Martha Rosenblatt  
John Rowe  
Mark Rowland  
Michael Ruby  
Barbara Rudolph  
Katherine Rupp  
Mary Russell  
Alan Scheinine  
Kimberly Schive  
Christiane Schlumberger  
Robert Schmidt  
Christine Schmidt  
Charles and Ruth Schultz  
Alan Schuman  
Claire Schwadron  
James Scofield  
Kate Scow  
Elizabeth Seagull  
Fezah Seitz  
Julian Sena  
Mark Shaffer  
Cindy Shamban  
Joan Shapiro  
Larry Shapiro  
Steven Shatz  
Peter Shaw  
Beth Shelburne and Kevin Storr  
Rozalyn Sherman  
Kitty Sherwin  
Jeanne Shirk  
Timothy Shortell  
Ruth Sievers  
Bernice Silverman  
Gary and Vicki Simon  
Edward Simonoff  
Joseph Simpson  
Elizabeth Sims

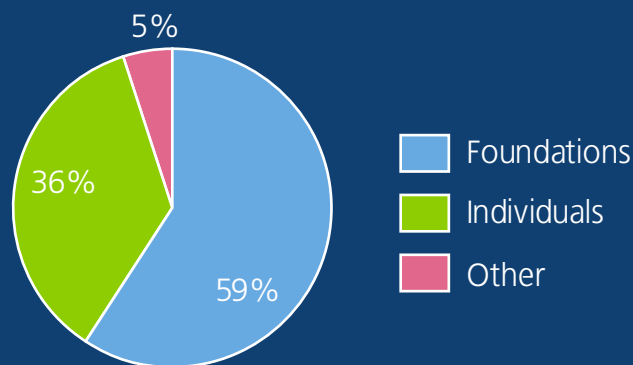
Sioux Falls Area Community Found  
Lucinda Sisson  
Sisters of Charity B.V.M  
Sisters of the Divine Savior  
Arthur Slater  
Terry Smerling  
Zane Smith  
Abbe Smith  
M.K. Smith  
Geneva Smitherman  
Leanne Snoeck  
Elsie Speck  
Richard Speigman  
Michael Spielman  
Solveig Spjeldnes  
Robert Stack  
William and Helen Stackhouse  
Barbara Steck  
Adria Steinberg  
Brent Stephens  
Katy Steward  
Diana Stewart  
Alice Stillinger  
Dorothy Stoneman  
Michael Stout  
Susan Strasser  
Harold Strom  
Daniel Struble  
Phyllis Subin  
Bob Summers  
Holly Syrrakos  
Theodore Tapper  
Yuval Taylor  
Helen and Ron Telanoff  
The Leadership Conference on Civil &  
Human Rights  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
C. Thomas  
Betsy Thurston  
Arnold Tobin  
Teri Tomatch  
Lane Tracy  
Meredeth Turshen

Ernest Urvater  
Mara Vandegrift  
Kirkland Vaughans  
David Veale  
Valerie Voorheis  
Michael Waldman  
Douglas Walters  
Rebecca Warner  
Jim Watson  
Jeremy Weinberg  
Frances Weiner  
Sally Weinraub  
Dorothy Weitzman  
Lisa Werchow  
Lawrence and Joanna Weschler  
Raymond West  
Michelle Weston  
Nadine Wettstein  
Richard Wheatley, Sr.  
Ariel White  
Sarah Wiener  
Janet Wiig  
Sharon Wilkins  
Alfred Williams  
Judi Williams  
Jay Williamson  
Stanley Wine  
Martha Winnacker  
Susan Winning  
Richard Wittman  
Radoslaw Wojciechowski  
Peter Wolf  
Kathrine Worel  
Jennifer Yolles  
Myrth York  
Marvin and Greta Zalman  
Richard and Lauri Zarin  
H Berrien Zettler  
John Zoraster  
Marjorie Zuckerman  
David Zurcher

# 2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

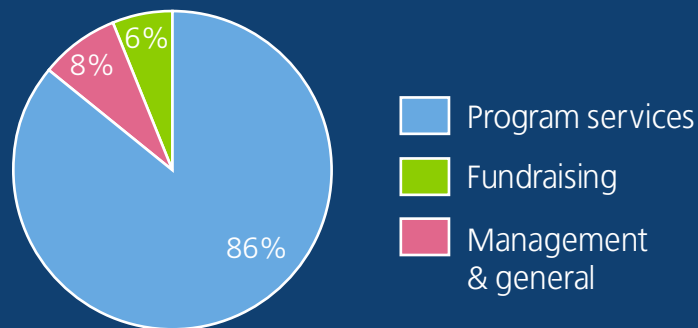
## REVENUE

Foundations	555,000
Individuals	334,493
Other	44,460
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$933,953</b>



## EXPENSES

Program services	1,278,072
Fundraising	117,029
Management and general	90,506
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,485,607</b>







**THE  
SENTENCING  
PROJECT**

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR REFORM

1705 DeSales Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
[sentencingproject.org](http://sentencingproject.org)

The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.