

#LessIsMoreNY

Less Mass Supervision = More Safety and Justice



In the face of COVID-19, New York Must Decarcerate NOW. It is Time to Pass #LessIsMoreNY

New York has been hit hard by COVID-19. But few places have been hit as hard as jails and prisons in the state. Testing in correctional facilities is limited, but as of June 18th, 2020, there were 517 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in NY state prisons and 330 confirmed cases in NYC jails. And people in prisons and jails are already dying of the virus.

The first two COVID-19 related deaths at Rikers Island were of individuals incarcerated solely for technical violations of parole. New York imprisons more people for non-criminal “technical” violations of parole like missing an appointment with a parole officer, being late for curfew, or testing positive for alcohol and other drugs than nearly every other state in the country. Today, there are over 5,000 people incarcerated in local jails and state prisons for technical violations of parole.

The racial disparities are stark: Black and Latinx people are incarcerated for technical violations of parole at higher rates than white people. For instance, at Rikers, Black people are incarcerated for technical violations of parole at 12 times the rate of whites. In State prisons, Black people are incarcerated for technical violations at 5 times the rate of whites.

This costs taxpayers more than half a billion a year. Reincarcerating thousands of people every year – mostly Black and Latinx people – for technical violations of parole costs New York State more than \$350 million a year, and counties \$300 million per year.

New York can save lives and decarcerate right now by passing the #LessIsMoreNY Act ([S.1343C](#) – Benjamin / [A.5493B](#) – Mosley). The #LessIsMoreNY Act would end this cycle of incarceration for simple technical violations of parole – and decarcerate thousands in the state. The #LessIsMoreNY Act has [broad support](#) from community groups, law enforcement, city and county officials, and more, who agree that these reforms will enhance public safety and increase the likelihood of successful re-entry. Passing #LessIsMoreNY will save the state and counties roughly \$650 million a year by limiting the use of incarceration for technical violations. These savings should be reinvested into the communities most harmed by mass incarceration and who are currently facing disproportionate harm and death due to COVID-19.

Take Action to Pass #LessIsMoreNY

Contact your legislators today: <http://bit.ly/limnyaction>

For more information, and to get involved with the **Less Is More** campaign, visit our website at www.LessIsMoreNY.org or follow the #LessIsMoreNY hashtag on twitter; or contact:

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[Citations available upon request.]