

# #LessIsMoreNY

Less Mass Supervision = More Safety and Justice

LESS MASS  
SUPERVISION  
EQUALS  
MORE SAFETY  
AND JUSTICE  
#LessIsMoreNY

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## Over \$600 Million Annual Cost Savings from #LessIsMoreNY

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 any state in the country. Of people on parole whom New York sent back to prison in 2018, over 5,700 or 65% were reincarcerated for technical parole violations.<sup>1</sup> The racial disparity is stark: Black people are detained in New York City jails for technical parole violations at more than 12 times the rate of whites, and Black people are incarcerated for technical violations in New York State prisons at 5 times the rate of whites.

**Fiscal Impact:** Incarcerating individuals for technical violations of parole imposes massive financial costs on New York State and local governments. Analyses from the Council on State Governments, the New York State Association of Counties and the New York City Comptroller indicate that *incarcerating people for technical violations of parole costs New York taxpayers well over \$600 million each year.*<sup>2</sup>

On the State level, over 4000 individuals are incarcerated in state prisons for technical violations of parole on any given day, and nearly 40 percent of new admissions to state prisons are for technical violations. The Council on State governments estimates that incarceration in state prisons as a result of technical violations of parole costs \$369 million annually.<sup>3</sup> At the local level, counties are responsible for the full cost of incarcerating people who are automatically sent to jail when accused of non-criminal technical parole violations by state authorities.<sup>4</sup> The New York City Comptroller calculated that the City spends \$302,000 per year to incarcerate an individual, indicating that in recent years the City has spent more than \$300 million annually jailing people accused only of technical violations.<sup>5</sup> This staggering figure does not include the cost on the 47 counties outside of New York City, which incarcerate more than 1,000 people accused only of parole violations on an average day.<sup>6</sup> Monroe County (Rochester), which has the highest number of people incarcerated for technical violations outside of New York City, spent more than \$5.5 million jailing people the state accused of non-criminal allegations. In Onondaga County (Syracuse), the cost was nearly \$3 million.

**New York can save lives, cut costs, and decarcerate right now** by passing the #LessIsMoreNY Act ([S.1144](#) – Benjamin / [A.5576](#) – Forrest). 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.

**For more information**, please contact Yonah Zeitz at [yzeitz@katalcenter.org](mailto:yzeitz@katalcenter.org) | 347.201.2768

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Probation and Parole in the United States, 2017-2018 (Aug. 2020), Appendix Table 7, available at [https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppusi1718.pdf?utm\\_content=ppusi1718&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppusi1718.pdf?utm_content=ppusi1718&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

<sup>2</sup> The Lippman Commission, Stop Parole’s Revolving Door (June 2019), available at <https://www.morejustnyc.org/reports>

<sup>3</sup> The Council of State Governments. Confined and Costly: How Probation & Parole Violations Fill Prisons and Drive Costs. New York: The Council of State Governments Justice Center (2019), Available: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/confinedandcostly/>

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Vincent Schiraldi and Kendra Bradner, Racial Inequities in New York Parole Supervision (March 2020), available at <https://justicelab.columbia.edu/news/racial-inequities-new-york-parole-supervision>