## **Criminal justice reform**

## Recent key developments on criminal justice reform

1986 1988	Anti-Drug Abuse Act: Provides more funding for prisons and drug education, and imposes mandatory minimum sentences for drugs, including crack cocaineWillie Horton ad: Bush runs an ad against Dukakis in the 1988 presidential election that inspires decades of "tough on 	<ul> <li>Actions today</li> <li>White House convenes a bipartisan group, including Prison Fellowship, to discuss prisoner reentry while Attorney General Sessions downplays importance of criminal justice reform and promotes "tough-on-crime" principles</li> <li>Sen. Grassley and Sen. Durbin reintroduce SRCA, but Sen. Cornyn garners key law enforcement support for Corrections Act as a standalone bill. Rep. Doug Collins introduced a similar bill in the</li> </ul>
1994	<i>Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act:</i> Increases funding for police officers, prisons and prevention programs. The bill also includes stricter gun control and a three-strikes provision	<ul> <li>House entitled Prison Reform and Redemption Act that has the support of House Judiciary Chairman Goodlatte</li> <li>2010 August Fair Sentencing Act: Reduces the disparity in punishment for crack vs. powder cocaine</li> </ul>
1996 (	<i>Prison Litigation Reform Act:</i> Reduces the amount of prisoner litigation within the court system	<b>December</b> <i>Right on Crime:</i> Established by the Prison Fellowship and Texas Public Policy Foundation
2003 (	<i>Prison Rape Elimination Act:</i> Increases resources to research and maintain data on sexual assault in prison, and aims to reduce rape in prison	<b>2011</b> Brown v. Plata Decision: The Supreme Court ruled to uphold the release of thousands of prisoners in California due to the state's inability to provide mandated levels of health care
2006	<i>Justice Reinvestment Initiative:</i> The Bureau of Justice Assistance launches the initiative in partnership with organizations like Pew Charitable Trusts, CSG Justice Center and the Vera Institute of Justice. The initiative has helped 27 states reform their state criminal justice system, reducing prison populations while also increasing public safety	<ul> <li>January Chuck Colson Task Force of Federal Corrections: Releases final report with recommendations for federal reform</li> <li>May Prison Fellowship establishes the Faith &amp; Justice Fellowship: Includes federal and state policymakers who support a restorative approach to justice</li> </ul>
2008	Second Chance Act: Allocates \$362 million to help prisoners re-integrate into society	2017 • <i>2017 Second Chance Month Resolution:</i> Adopted unanimously by the US Senate. Several states follow suit by passing their own resolutions or proclamations

Sources: Arit John, "A Timeline of the Rise and Fall of 'Tough on Crime' Drug Sentencing," The Atlantic, April 22, 2014; National Journal Research, 2017.