

Has the Decline in the Number of Inmates From the City Led to the Drop in the State Prison Population?

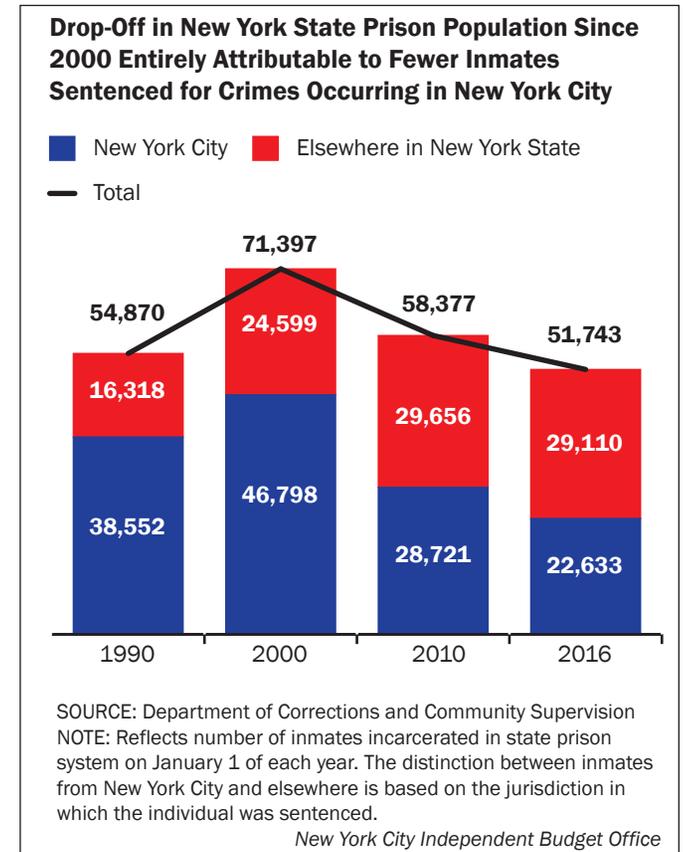
The number of inmates in New York State prisons reached a peak of over 71,000 as the 1990s turned to the 2000s, and then fell to 51,743 in January 2016. The more than 19,000 inmate decline in the total prison population since 2000 was due entirely to a drop in the number of inmates who were convicted of crimes committed in New York City. (Inmates serving multiyear terms for crimes committed in the city are sent to state prisons.) This decline in the number of inmates from the city enabled the state to shut more than a dozen prisons since 2011. In fact, the number of inmates sentenced to state prison for criminal activity elsewhere in the state increased by about 4,500 from 2000 to 2016.

- In 1990, over two-thirds (70 percent) of inmates incarcerated in the state prison system were serving sentences stemming from criminal activity within the five boroughs of New York City. That share was little changed by 2000 (66 percent), but then fell to 49 percent in 2010 and to 44 percent as of 2016.
- The decline in the share of state prisoners incarcerated for crimes committed in New York City is consistent with the fact that since 1990 reported crime has dropped more sharply in the city than elsewhere in the state. In 1990, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all serious crime in the state was reported to have occurred within the five boroughs, a figure that fell to 46 percent in 2016, the most recent year for which Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics are available.

Reported Crime in New York City Versus Rest of New York State: 1990 & 2016				
	1990		2016	
	Reported Crimes	Share	Reported Crimes	Share
New York City	771, 556	63%	174,402	46%
Elsewhere in New York State	426,133	37%	210,560	54%
TOTAL	1,137,689	100%	375,962	100%

SOURCE: Federal Bureau of Investigation
 NOTE: Refers to the seven Federal Bureau of Investigation "index crimes": murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

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