

Michigan's prison growth: A quarter-century of comments

"Keeping people in prison long periods of time after they may be ready for release is not only inhumane and very costly to the public, it is counterproductive in that they may become less fit for return to the community or may have too little time left in the sentence for community supervision and testing."

Michigan Department of Corrections, 1974 Annual Report, page 100

Prison Population = 8,630

"Prison budget devours state's limited funds"

"Every dollar Michigan commits to building and operating new prisons is a dollar diverted from some other area. Most of the dollars to pay for the current prison expansion project are coming from education and social services programs."

Detroit News, June 27, 1989

Prison Population = 29,375

"Beyond the concept of "truth in sentencing" lies a more important issue. Since only about 5.5 percent of all parolees commit violent crime while on parole and are returned to prison, locking everyone up for longer periods is not a cost-effective way of dealing with repeat crime."

"We do not need to figure out more ways to keep more people in prison longer, we need to find ways to more appropriately deal with the offenders we have. We need to be more selective about those we put into prison."

Letter from DOC Director Kenneth L. McGinnis, Grand Rapids Press, September 28, 1992

Prison Population = 38,628

"Crime down; prisons full: State taxpayers pay \$1.4 billion to keep inmates behind bars longer, and end's not in sight."

Detroit News, March 23, 1999

Prison Population = 46,145

"If our parole approval rates were at the same level now they were in the 1980's, I think we would be at near zero growth . . . We have more people in prison because many fewer are leaving."

MDOC Spokesperson Matt Davis, Detroit Free Press, August 1, 2001

Prison Population = 48,419