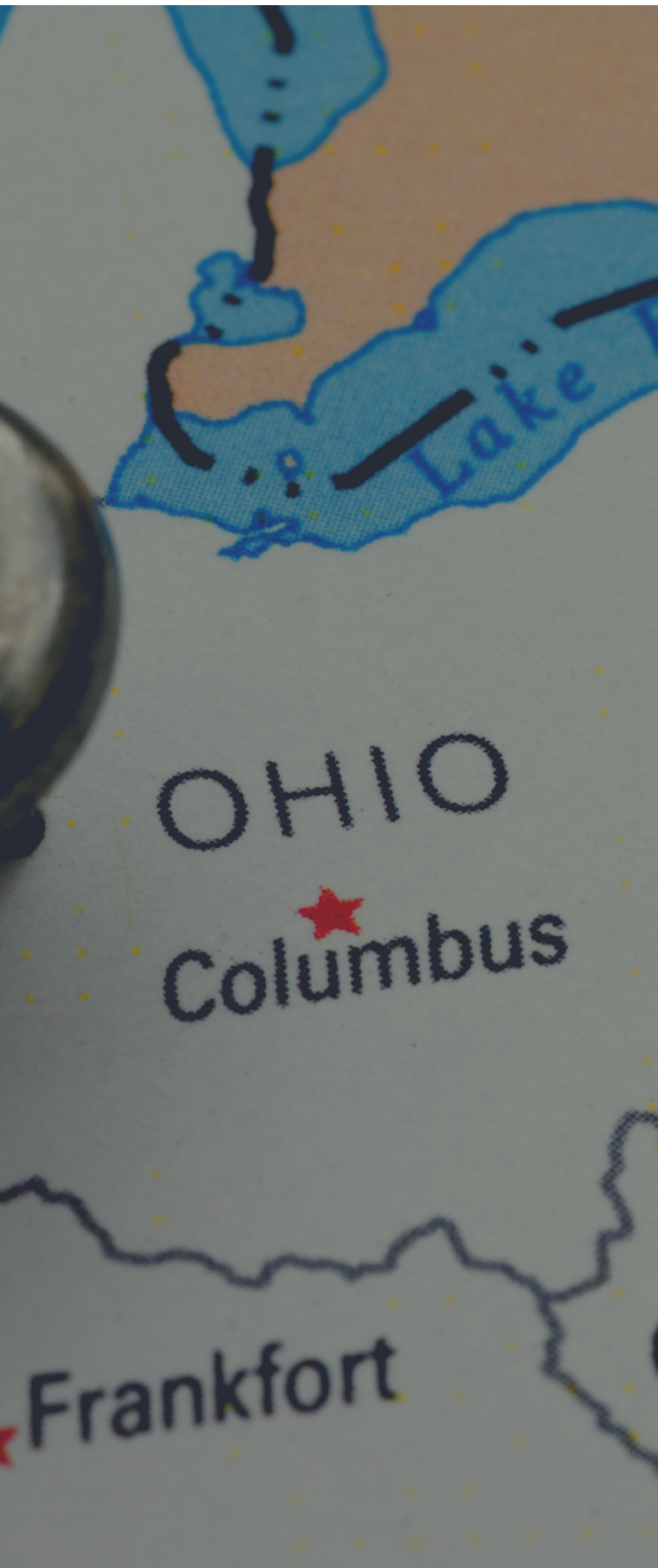


RESEARCH SHOWS INCARCERATION FAILS TO REDUCE DRUG PROBLEMS - AN IMPORTANT LESSON FOR OHIO

Ohio is among the states most negatively impacted by the addiction crisis, with the second-highest number of drug overdose deaths of any in the nation. It is critical to understand from the evidence and research that incarceration as a response to drug possession fails to address the problem of drug use.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' 2018 issue brief underlines that the data show no relationship between prison terms and drug misuse, suggesting that expanding imprisonment is not likely to be an effective drug control and prevention strategy. Specifically, the report highlighted:

- An examination of drug imprisonment rates with 2014 government data found no statistically significant relationship between state drug imprisonment rates and three indicators of state drug problems (self-reported drug use, drug overdose deaths, and drug arrests).
- In fact, though Tennessee imprisons drug offenders at more than three times the rate of New Jersey, the states have nearly the same levels of self-reported drug use. (See Figure below)



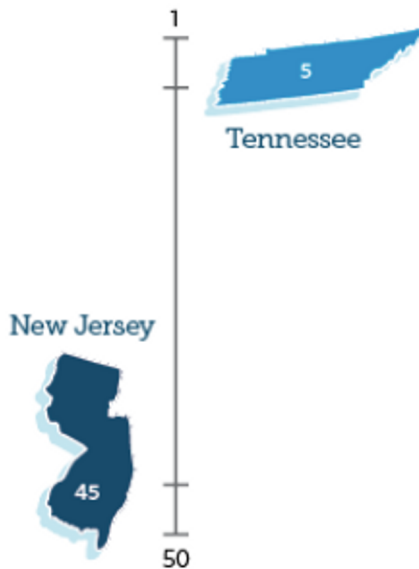
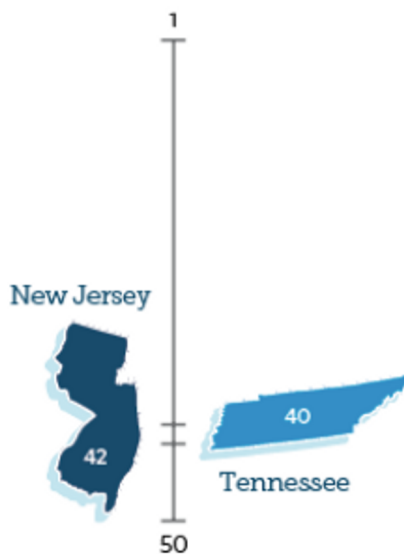
Drug Imprisonment Rank**Drug Use Rank**

Fig 3 Aggressive Approach to Drug Crimes Yields No Drug Misuse Benefit

New Jersey imprisons drug offenders at a much lower rate than Tennessee, but the states' drug use rates are roughly the same.

Source: Pew's analysis of 2014 data from the states of New Jersey and Tennessee, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics National Corrections Reporting Program, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health

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Historical Federal Response Also Failed to Reduce Drug Use

As policy shifted in the 1980's to respond to a rise in crack cocaine by sending people to prison for drug offenses, the number of federal prisoners serving time for drug offenses soared between 1980 and 2015.¹

Yet, despite a resulting spending increase of 595 percent on prisons from 1980 to 2013, there was no significant public safety return² and self reported drug use increased between 1980 and 2015.³

The surge in federal incarceration and prison spending also failed to reduce recidivism, with rates remaining the same for more than three decades.⁴