

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SMART ON CRIME INITIATIVE

At the direction of the Attorney General in early 2013, the Justice Department launched a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced more fairly and—in an era of reduced budgets—more efficiently. Five goals were identified as a part of this review:

1. To ensure finite resources are devoted to the most important law enforcement priorities;
2. To promote fairer enforcement of the laws and alleviate disparate impacts of the criminal justice system
3. To ensure just punishments for low-level, nonviolent convictions
4. To bolster prevention and reentry efforts to deter crime and reduce recidivism
5. To strengthen protections for vulnerable populations

Read the full version of the Justice Department's report entitled, "[Smart on Crime: Reforming the Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century.](#)"

What is Smart on Crime?

The Smart on Crime Initiative promotes fundamental reforms to the criminal justice system that will improve public safety, save money, and ensure the fair enforcement of Federal laws. This initiative recognizes the impact of scarce resources and directs federal law enforcement efforts to focus on the most serious cases that implicate clear, substantial federal interests.

The Five Principles of Smart on Crime:

1. Prioritize Prosecutions to Focus on the Most Serious of Cases
 2. Reform Sentencing to Eliminate Unfair Disparities and Reduce Overburdened Prisons
 3. Pursue Alternatives to Incarceration for Low-Level, Non-Violent Crimes
 4. Improve Reentry to Curb Repeat Offenses and Re-Victimization
 5. Surge Resource to Violence Prevention and Protecting Most Vulnerable Populations
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Prevention and Community Outreach

(i) Prescription Drug and abuse prevention

In line with the *National Drug Control Strategy*, the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys have focused on the prescription drug epidemic as an enforcement priority through education efforts within their communities and supporting the proper disposal of prescription drugs through **DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**. The Offices of the U.S. Attorneys (USAOs) is partnered with the Partnership For Drug-Free Kids to promote its national campaign, “**Medicine Abuse Project** [[external link](#)].” The Medicine Abuse Project is a five-year action campaign that aims to reduce the amount of teens from abusing medicine by half a million by the year 2017. The USAOs promote this important effort through a multi-faceted outreach approach that includes, chairing panels, giving television interviews, hosting webinars, writing op-eds, and utilizing social media to educate kids on the dangers of abusing prescription and over-the-counter medicines. The USAOs also partnered with each other and with stakeholders within their communities to tackle prescription drug trafficking and abuse. Examples of these efforts are below.

(ii) Violent crime and domestic violence prevention

(iii) Community and school outreach

Offender Reentry

Offender Reentry programs and reentry courts are designed to enable offenders to successfully "reenter" society following their incarceration, thereby reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and saving money. On this page you will find critical resources for your reentry program. Please visit the Reentry Toolkit for U.S. Attorneys' Offices, on the right side of this page. On the left side you will find links to a list of Reentry Coordinators at USAOs across the country, a Sharepoint Discussion Board for Reentry Coordinators and others to use to share information and discuss issues related to reentry, a link to variety of documents and memoranda on reentry, and a link to a matrix of reentry contacts at multiple state and federal agencies.