

RECIDIVIZ 2022
YEAR IN REVIEW

Recidiviz is a non-profit
shaping a data-informed
criminal justice system
to create safer, stronger
communities.

Message from the CEO

Friends,

In 2022, every dynamic seemed to shift. During the early years of COVID, advocates pushed to safely release people behind bars who were vulnerable to the virus' spread. To assist, Recidiviz worked alongside agencies to identify people who could be released early and reported back on how they did at home. And we also created a feedback loop that helped agencies take bolder steps, safely.

But this last year, the rhetoric around criminal justice reform became more polarized in the leadup to the November elections. Many of our states feared a return to the tough-on-crime policies of the 80s and 90s that filled prisons, destabilized communities, and didn't make us safer. Meanwhile, staffing shortages hit hard, with some corrections agencies facing 40% staff vacancies. With fewer staff, prisons run fewer programs, incarcerated people earn less time off their sentences, and staffing shortages get worse.

Everything felt different in 2022. And yet the work was largely the same.

We focused on implementing existing laws — laws that everyone already agreed on, laws already on the books. For years, Republicans, Democrats, advocates, impacted communities, and policymakers have been passing laws to create a better system. A system that's smaller and fairer provides more healing, creates more safety, and brings more prosperity.

But the impact of those policies haven't been fully achieved. Implementing them requires equipping decision-makers with tools to see who is eligible for opportunities like early release, job training, or home confinement...right now. It requires real-time data in the hands of hundreds of thousands of staff.

During the height of the pandemic, Recidiviz focused on implementing early-release policies. 36,000 people went home early – and they did better in the community than their peers who were not released early.

In 2022, we focused on implementing an expanded set of policies designed to shrink the system's footprint. And we increased public safety by reconnecting people to the support systems they need to thrive.

Data alone won't fix the U.S. justice system. But it's helping agencies across the country find and fix broken processes. It's helping policymakers forecast a policy's future impact and track it. It's helping staff see every person eligible for freedom as soon as they're eligible. So as we head into 2023, I'm hopeful about a future where data enables decision-makers to pursue bold transformations and drive dramatic improvements.

In 2022:

- Recidiviz doubled its reach from 13% to 26% of the U.S. prison and supervision population.
- Agencies deepened their investment in our approach – with government revenue now covering 25% of our costs.

To date, we've helped 70,000 people safely return home.

All of this was possible because of your support. Learn more about our 2022 highlights in the report ahead.

Thank you, and happy new year!

Clementine Jacoby
Chief Executive Officer

By the numbers

Number of people accelerated out of the criminal justice system to date:

69,620

Number of states on the platform:

11

Percentage of the U.S. prison and supervision population covered by Recidiviz's tools:

26%

Number of bills analyzed across 31 jurisdictions to forecast impact:

70

Number of bills forecasted across 23 jurisdictions in 2022:

38

Amount in savings for states to date, achieved by reducing the number of people in prison and on supervision:

\$1.1B

Percent of expenses covered by government revenue:

25%



January: We filmed a video with Stand Together to highlight our work to improve the system with data

February: Clementine was announced as a TED Fellow and invited to speak on the main stage at the TED Conference in Vancouver

March: We signed California as our ninth partner state

April: The Workflows launch led to “Compliant Reporting Month” – a less demanding form of supervision – in Tennessee. State engagement manager Evan Green-Lowe also testified to the Tennessee legislature on a proposed truth-in-sentencing law

May: We gathered as a team for the first time in two years, in the mountains of Utah

June: State engagement manager Lily Fielding spoke at the CLA conference in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho about the historic shortage in corrections staffing

July: We launched Outliers at a quarterly district manager meeting in Idaho. This was our first foray into an intervention aimed at creating culture change at an agency-wide level

August: We launched a beta version of our Justice Counts Publisher platform to Alpha tester agencies

September: Clementine met President Biden to talk about the impact of improving criminal justice technology

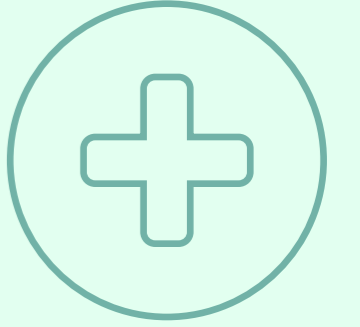
October: We gathered for our first-ever partners summit in Arizona to share best practices and align on the work ahead

November: We presented a keynote at the CLA conference, where three state corrections directors spoke about their work with Recidiviz

December: We wrapped up the year by gathering online across the country to build gingerbread houses and celebrate our wins

New State Partners

California



Colorado



Arkansas



Oregon



Every new partnership reunites families and leads to safer communities.

This year, we welcomed four new states to the Recidiviz platform: Arkansas, California, Colorado, and Oregon. With 11 state partners total, we're showing that our approach is catching on in states big and small, blue and red.

California has moved to shrink the number of people in prison, with 50,000 (33%) fewer people incarcerated today than 10 years ago.

Colorado is a leader in making incarceration more similar to everyday life outside and giving incarcerated people opportunities for work and education programs.

Arkansas aims to thoughtfully address rising prison populations by reviewing and revising its state sentencing grid.

Oregon has, for years, been working to make its prison system more restorative. Their former corrections director was just appointed to lead the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Partnership Highlights

Maine has launched a new Recidiviz tool enabling eligible people in prison to move home during the last 30 months of long sentences via an existing, underutilized program called the Supervised Community Confinement Program.

Missouri is leveraging Recidiviz analysis to improve the implementation of restrictive housing reforms and to reconstitute their Sentencing Advisory Commission.

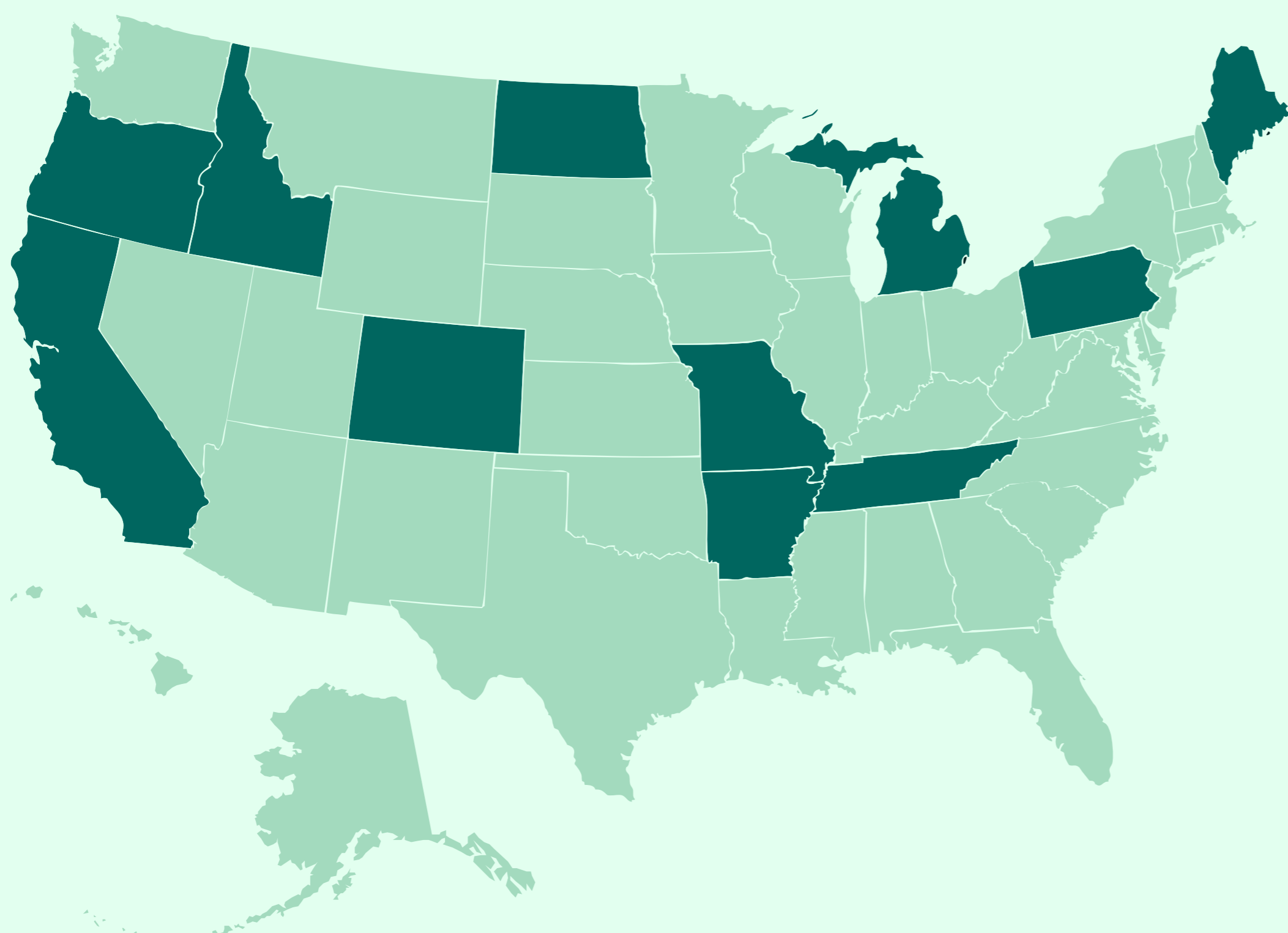
Michigan is using Recidiviz’s Director’s Dashboard to expand its years-long trend of reducing the rate at which people return to prison.

Idaho has run a statewide exercise to identify outlier officers with higher re-incarceration rates and to provide coaching and feedback. Idaho has also launched a Recidiviz tool that guides eligible people more freedom via lower levels of supervision and early release.

North Dakota has consulted Recidiviz for insights on their departmental budget, in pursuit of enabling more resources to be transferred to supportive programming. They’ve also launched a Recidiviz tool to identify and release people eligible for ending supervision early.

Pennsylvania has used Recidiviz data and tools to establish internal statewide goals for parole agents to lower technical reincarceration rates.

Tennessee has transferred over 1,000 people to less demanding remote supervision by launching a new Recidiviz tool for line staff.



■ Recidiviz states are shaded a darker green

In The Press

Here are some of Recidiviz's best moments in the news:

Upgrade Justice System Technology

NEW YORK TIMES (LETTER TO THE EDITOR) / CLEMENTINE JACOBY

Strength in Numbers: Meet two alumnae who are using data for social change

STANFORD MAGAZINE / DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD

Tech is trying to tackle one of the country's biggest problems: mass incarceration

FORTUNE / ALI FAZAL

Meet the 2022 class of TED Fellows

TED BLOG

The Future of Corrections is Data-Informed

CORRECTIONAL NEWS / CLEMENTINE JACOBY

Ex-Google employees are working on America's prison system

FREETHINK* / STAND TOGETHER

Our Approach

To date, Recidiviz and its partners have removed 70,000 people from the criminal justice system. That impact comes from three core interventions.

- 1 Workflows
- 2 Outliers
- 3 Spark

1 Workflows

Identify everyone eligible for freedom and get them out

Across the country, we estimate that there are 250,000 people eligible to be moved out of prison, off of supervision, or to online-only supervision.

Our Workflows tool lets staff — case managers, parole and probation officers — see everyone eligible for one of these opportunities. Then it automates the paperwork to get them released. This [video](#) shows how Idaho has used the tool to move 5% of its supervision population to phone-only check-ins or off of supervision entirely. And it's also making waves in other partner states.

“Because of this tool, in just four months, I’ve transferred more people to lower supervision levels than I had in the past three years in this job,” says Tennessee parole officer William Buckley.



2 Outliers

Let decision-makers see how they compare to their peers

It turns out that knowing how you're doing relative to your peers really changes your behavior. And corrections decision-makers haven't had that feedback loop up until now. Our Outliers work provides apples-to-apples comparisons at three levels:

1. Officers
2. District leaders
3. Agency leaders



2. Outliers

Officers can now answer: How punitive am I compared to colleagues in my district?

Across Recidiviz states, when officers learn that they're among the most punitive, they change their approach. This reduces the rate of people returning to prison for minor infractions. In one state, the most punitive district generated 67% more supervision violations than the average district. Three officers in that district were 10x as punitive as the average officer. After learning of this, the officers changed. These individual-level changes have a big aggregate effect: if 25% of the most-punitive parole officers performed like the median nationwide, 35,000 fewer people would be admitted to prison per year.

District leaders now know the answer to questions like: How punitive is my district compared to the state overall? What are we doing differently? What community resources should we tap into so our results are better?

“Are we helping residents and clients live more purpose-driven lives? Are we helping residents re-enter communities with the knowledge, skills, health, and stability necessary to stay out of the justice system?”

“We are now able to answer these questions more quickly and more definitively,” says Maine Department of Corrections Commissioner Randall Liberty.

Agency leaders, for the first time, can make direct comparisons across states.

Historically, apples-to-apples comparisons between state agencies have been hard to make. But because Recidiviz builds a standard data foundation, lessons from one state can be applied to another. They can understand how they stack up in terms of length-of-stay, use of prison vs supervision, use of solitary, disparities, and more. Colorado can learn from staffing analysis in Missouri, and North Dakota can borrow a new earned time policy from Tennessee.

3 Spark

Provide free policy impact modeling and tracking

Across the country, advocates and policymakers are working to pass reforms. Recidiviz arms them with accurate forecasting, so they know how proposed laws will impact prison populations, public safety, racial disparities, and costs.

In 2022, Recidiviz modeled everything from sentencing to earned time to ending pretrial detention for non-violent crimes. In Tennessee, Recidiviz examined the true cost of a “Truth in Sentencing” bill that would drastically increase sentence length. And in Oklahoma, we evaluated a bill that would make felony sentences less punitive, saving the state \$16.8 million and boosting the labor sector by \$32.1 million over 10 years.



Image: Recidiviz’s Evan Green-Lowe testifying on proposed legislation in Tennessee.

3. Spark

This year, we measured the impact of 38 policies across 23 jurisdictions – and shared those results with lawmakers, advocates, and communities. These policies would reduce prison and supervision populations by 37,000 people over five years, saving taxpayers \$2 billion.

“The innovative partnership opportunities presented by Recidiviz have caused our team to rethink the way we do advocacy,” says Jeremiah Mosteller, a senior policy analyst with Americans for Prosperity. “Their work on Oklahoma’s sentencing reclassification bill helped accelerate its progress. Their policy modeling is considered by many to be the inflection point that moved these reforms closer to reality.”

Underneath these three tools is our data platform. We take fragmented criminal justice data and standardize it so that it can power real-time decision-making. We work with agencies to decide what they’re able to make public, and we make it publicly available and accessible for communities.

Lessons Learned

January 2022 seems like a distant memory.

We've learned a lot since then:

Existing policies present an uncontroversial and near-limitless opportunity. There are hundreds of thousands of people in the justice system that can go home (or be moved to a lower level of custody, where they can stabilize, start thriving, and then go home) today – via policies that already exist. This is a problem that agencies, advocates, and (most of all) people in prison and on supervision really want to solve. And it's solvable. All it takes is some corrections-specific, enterprise-grade data infrastructure. Boring? Yes. Capable of bringing thousands of people home safely, today and every day thereafter? Also yes.

Bring the directors together. 2022 was the first year that we gathered all 11 Recidiviz states together – and it was powerful beyond our wildest imagination. We emerged from three days with launches planned that will, over two years, safely remove 55,000 people from the system. Having leaders in one room, with their own data, able to compare apples-to-apples was a dynamic that will shape the future of our work.

Our team is everything. This year, as in all years, we learned that the team is what matters most. As we've grown, we've seen that every investment in the team pays off 100-fold. We're lucky to have a mission that's brought this group together and are headed into 2023 feeling grateful to have a kind, effective, extremely sharp team driving the work.

Team



We've assembled an astonishing group of 60 full-timers, organized around state pods. Each pod shepherds the impact roadmaps in 2-4 states, including:

- State engagement managers who work closely with agency leaders and staff
- Ingest engineers who bring states' specific data onto our standardized platform, and
- Data analysts who use our data to provide state-specific insights

Pods are backed by the rest of the team, who provide cross-state infrastructure: engineering, product, design, research, comms, and operations. The pods have seen most of the growth in 2022 and that's a good sign – our infrastructure is scaling well, and most of our team growth is focused on bringing our tools to new states.

+23
new teammates in 2022

Thank You

2023 is starting off with a bang. Legislative sessions are kicking off, new states are coming on board, and we're already thinking about our next opportunity to bring the Recidiviz state leaders together. Thank you for making this work possible and for believing in and supercharging our ability to create a smaller, fairer, safer criminal justice system.

