



Recommended Priority Prisons for Closure

Last year, CURB released The People’s Plan for Prison Closure¹, a report providing prison closure criteria and extensive recommendations for community investment—and names 10 state-owned prisons as a priority to close by 2025. CURB’s assessments and recommendations for closure are rooted in feedback from the people who experience the injustices and harm of California prisons on a daily basis—people directly impacted by incarceration and their families. Based on surveys from 2,000 systems-impacted people, with representation from every state prison, these are the top five criteria for prison closure:

- (1) *Unsafe health conditions (i.e. water contamination and poison, asbestos, mold, etc.)*
- (2) *Most overcrowded*
- (3) *The cost of incarceration*²
- (4) *Location of the prison and distance from loved ones (include inaccessible travel)*
- (5) *Highest number of homicides and suicides*

Based on the five criteria, CURB recommends these ten state-owned prisons to be closed by 2025:

FIGURE 1 ³	Prison Name	Design Capacity	Current Level of Overcrowding ⁴	Active Projects ⁵ (\$ millions)	Proposed & Future Projects (\$ millions)
1	California Rehabilitation Center	2,380	96.6%	\$13.7	\$10
2	Kern Valley State Prison	2,448	126.1%	\$11.9	None
3	Pleasant Valley State Prison	2,308	112.0%	\$63	\$30
4	California Correctional Institution	2,172	140.1%	\$66.2	\$191
5	North Kern State Prison	2,694	157.3%	\$71.8	\$65.2
6	California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility	3,424	129.8%	\$79.5	\$38.4
7	California State Prison - Los Angeles County	2,300	114.1%	\$46.5	\$22.7
8	California Medical Facility	2,318	83.2%	\$5.5	\$187.6
9	Avenal State Prison	2,909	139.1%	\$17.2	\$35.4
10	California Men’s Colony	3,816	90.3%	\$122	\$180
TOTAL		26,769		\$497.3	\$760.3

Closing the 10 prisons in Figure 1 would yield an estimated cost savings of approximately **\$1.3 billion** in infrastructure and capital outlay spending. We anticipate ten closures would save the state an additional **\$1.5 billion** in prison operating expenses annually.

¹ For more details on our methodology, please see Appendix A, and Conclusion for reflections on closing women’s prisons

² Cost of incarceration by prison 2018 Annual Performance Measures Report

³ Fig. 1 shows prison infrastructure and capital outlay cost savings estimates for the ten state-owned prisons named in CURB’s report.

⁴ <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2022/05/Tpop1d220525.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/fpcm/wp-content/uploads/sites/184/2022/02/MasterPlanAnnualReportforCalendarYear2021.pdf>