

In the Public Interest

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Responsible Contracting

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Criminal: How Lockup Quotas and "Low-Crime Taxes" Guarantee Profits for Private Prison Corporations

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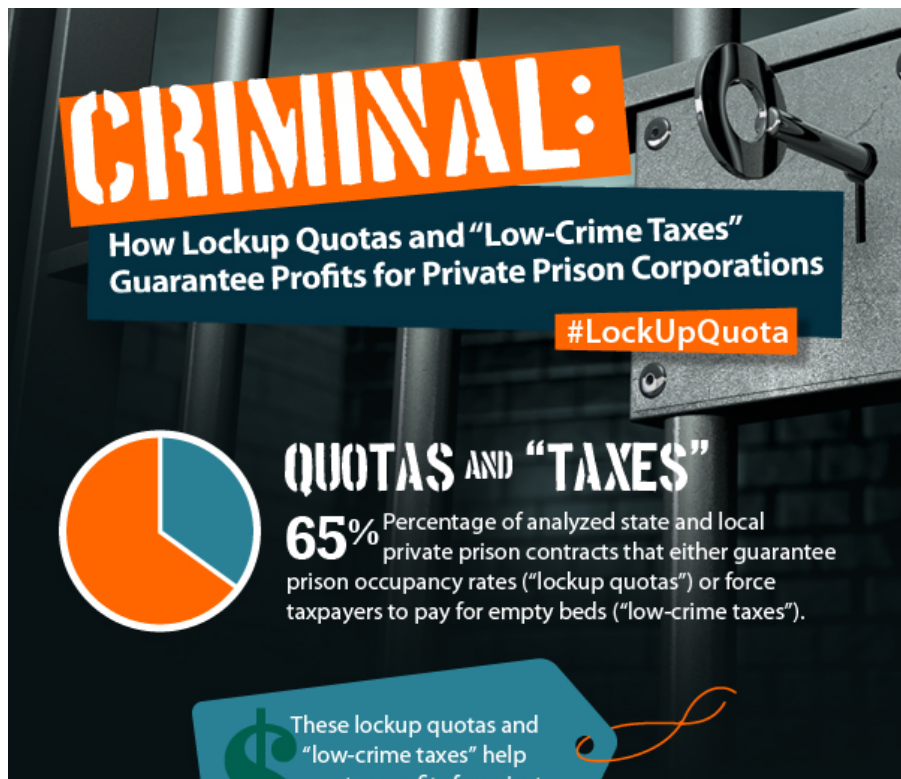
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This report discusses the use of prison bed occupancy guarantee clauses in prison privatization contracts and explores how bed occupancy guarantees undermine criminal justice policy and democratic, accountable government. The report sheds light on the for-profit private prison industry's reliance on high prison populations, and how these occupancy guarantee provisions directly benefit its bottom line. Also discussed are the prevalence of bed guarantee clauses, drawing on set of contracts that ITPI obtained through state open records requests. We also address how occupancy guarantees have harmed states, focusing on the experiences of Arizona, Colorado, and Ohio — three states that have agreed to these provisions to detrimental consequences. Lastly, the report discusses our recommendation that governments can and should reject prison occupancy guarantees.

Download the full report:

[Criminal: How Lockup Quotas and "Low-Crime Taxes" Guarantee Profits for Private Prison Corporations](#)

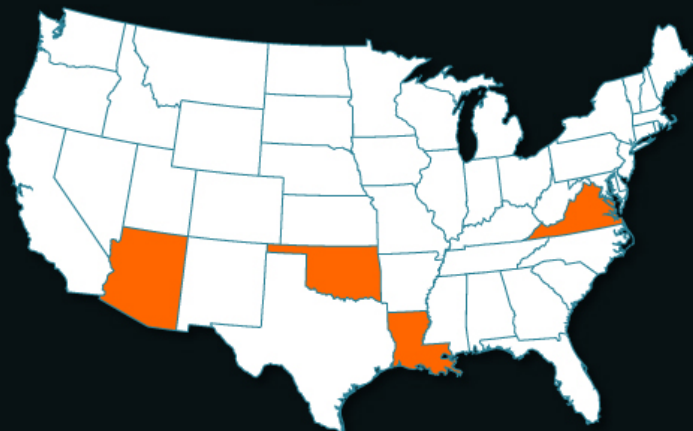
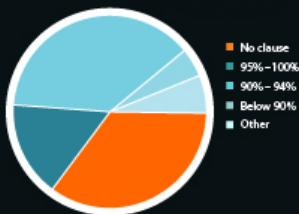
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guarantee profits for private prison corporations.

80% – 100%

Lockup quotas in private prison contracts range between 80% and 100%. 90% is the most frequent occupancy guarantee requirement.



Arizona, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Virginia have the highest lockup quotas in the nation, with quotas requiring between 95% and 100% occupancy.

COLORADO

Though Colorado's crime rate dropped by a third in the past decade, lockup quotas in 3 for-profit prison contracts cost taxpayers

\$2 MILLION.

3 for-profit prison contracts have a staggering 100% occupancy guarantee clause, and a 2012 analysis by the *Tucson Citizen* shows the company's per-day charge for each prisoner has increased an average of 13.9% over the life of the contracts.

ARIZONA

OHIO

A 20-year deal to privately operate the Lake Erie Correctional Institution includes a 90% quota, and contributed to cutting corners on safety, including overcrowding, areas without secure doors and an increase in crime both inside the prison and the surrounding community.

SIGN THE PETITION

STOP LOCKUP QUOTAS

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Data Sources:
In the Public Interest, "Criminal: How Lockup Quotas and 'Low-Crime Taxes' Guarantee Profits for Private Prison Corporations," September 2013. • Ann Imze, "State Pays Millions as Prison Populations Sink," Colorado Springs Gazette, March 9, 2013. • American Friends Service Committee of Arizona, Cell-Out Arizona Exclusive, "Part II: Arizona For-Profit Prison Costs Rose 14%; Now Guarantee 100% Occupancy," Aug. 3, 2012. • Chris Kirkham, "Lake Erie Prison Plagued by Violence and Drugs After Corporate Takeover," Huffington Post, March 22, 2013. • Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2012 Full Internal Management Audit Report, Sept. 25, 2012.



Infographic available for download as a JPG file [HERE](#).

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