

Wisconsin's prison population has dropped for the second year in a row. The state Corrections Department said the average daily prisoner count was just over 20-thousand last year – down 14-percent from 2009.

Former Governor Jim Doyle's early release program did not play a big role. Only 391 prisoners have been released before their terms expired. Republican Governor Scott Walker plans to end that program. Walker supports efforts to divert offenders before they go prison, in part by giving judges and prosecutors more leeway in sentences. Something Lacrosse County Judge Scott Horne agrees with.

Wisconsin's prison population rose by almost four times from 1990-to-2008, due in part to the truth-in-sentencing law in which most prisoners must serve their full terms