JUSTICE CENTER
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Justice Reinvestment in Alabama

1st Presentation to Prison Reform Task Force
June 10, 2014

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Council of State Governments Justice Center

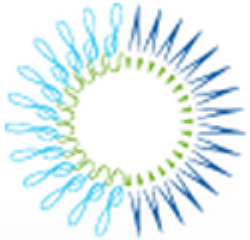
- National non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials
- Engages members of all three branches of state government
- Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence

Goal of Justice Reinvestment and Our Funding Partners

Justice Reinvestment

a data-driven approach to reduce corrections spending and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease recidivism and increase public safety

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

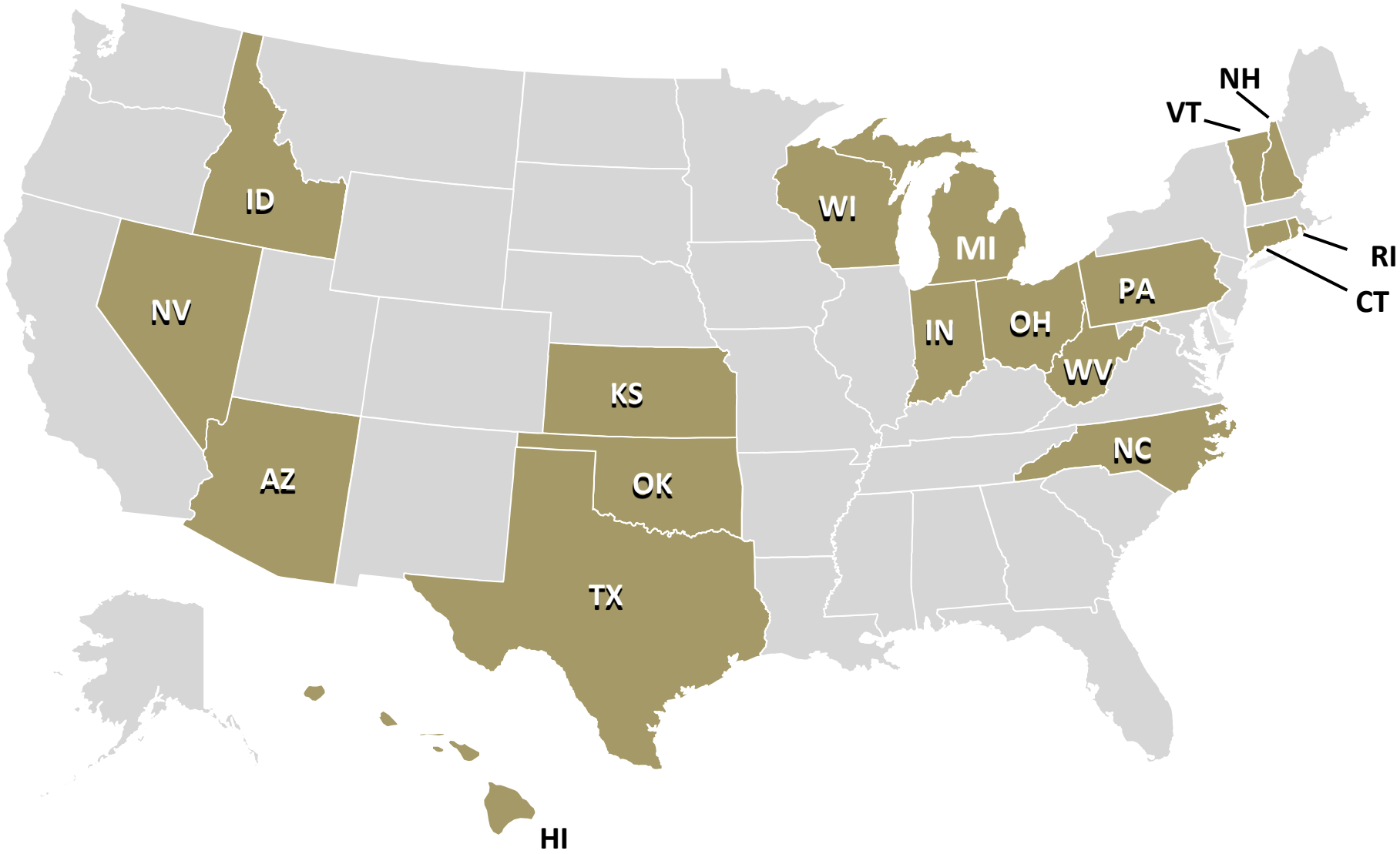


THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Key Characteristics about Justice Reinvestment Process

Intensity of the approach	**Comprehensive data analyses**	**Extensive stakeholder engagement**
Broad scope of policy options	**Consensus reflected in policy packages**	**Reinvestment and improving current spending**
Focus on improving public safety	**Hold offenders accountable**	**Direct resources towards greatest recidivism reduction**

18 States Have Used a Justice Reinvestment Approach with Assistance from the CSG Justice Center



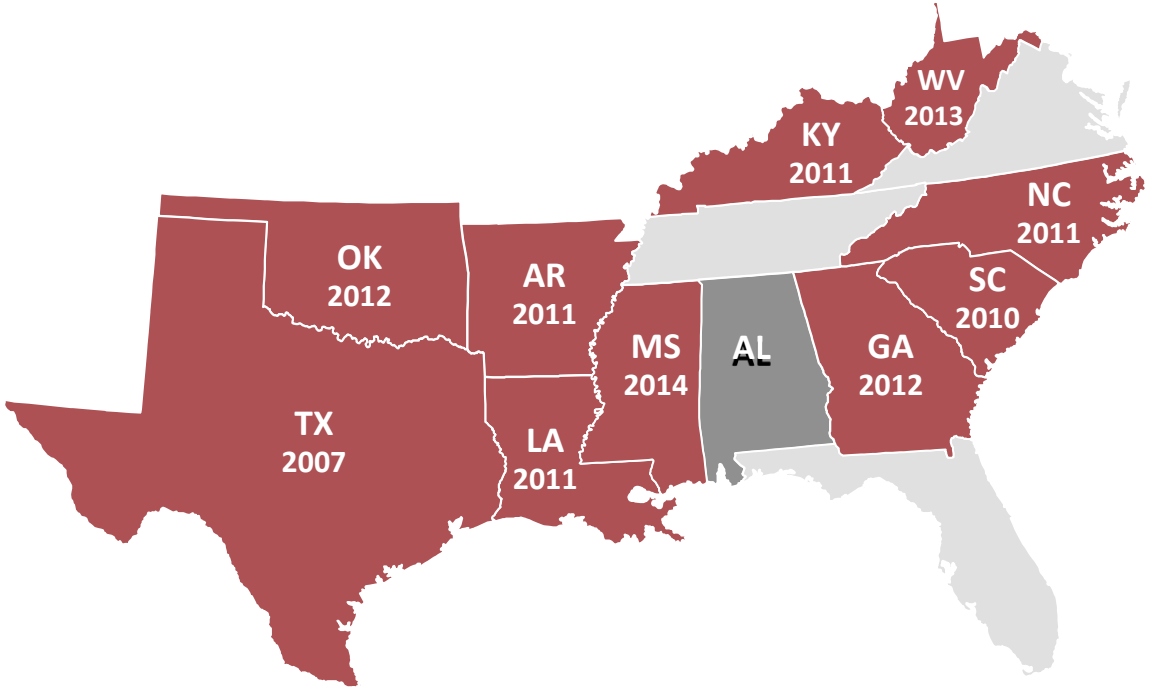
National Conservative Leaders Making the Case for More Effective Criminal Justice Policy

The Washington Post

"But on issues of sentencing reform and prison recidivism, Republicans — especially several governors in Southern states — have been the leaders, earning praise from prison reform groups on both sides of the aisle for efforts to save money by implementing rehabilitation programs and curbing skyrocketing prison costs."

Source: Lowery, Wesley, "Conservatives try to make criminal justice reform a signature issue," *Washington Post*, March 7, 2014.
Logo source: www.rightoncrime.com and www.cpac.org

Ten Southern States Have Enacted Criminal Justice Reforms Since 2007



North Carolina

Commissioner Guice

North Carolina Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice

"We want to improve our criminal justice system and protect the public, and we recognize that our system can accomplish this goal in a less costly fashion."

Texas

Senator Whitmire

"You can always lock somebody up … And it's not always the toughest thing. The toughest thing you can do, and probably the most conservative thing you can do, is prevent the next crime."

Mississippi

Governor Bryant

"We pledged to Mississippians that we would make this the 'public safety session,' and we have worked hard to develop a research-based plan that is tough on crime while using tax dollars wisely."

State Leadership Requested Assistance to Address Alabama's Criminal Justice Challenges

STATE OF ALABAMA LEGISLATURE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

February 26, 2014

Juliene James
Senior Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20531

Adam Gelb
Director, Public Safety Performance Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
901 E St. NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004

Lindsey Cramer
Justice Reinvestment Initiative
Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Ms. James, Mr. Gelb and Ms. Cramer:

Alabama would like to participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative
request for Justice Reinvestment technical assistance to help our state
effective corrections policies and reinvest in strategies to increase public
comes with a full understanding of the Justice Reinvestment process, ho
in Alabama, and a full commitment f
succeed. We are dedicated to working
Justice Assistance, and the Council
implement cost-effective, evidence-b
justice system.

Alabama is committed to increasing public safety and improving our approach to criminal justice by engaging in this data driven process. We believe that justice reinvestment technical assistance will help us achieve our goals, and we would welcome and greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Governor Robert Bentley
State of Alabama

Chief Justice Roy Moore
Alabama Supreme Court

Speaker Mike Hubbard
Alabama House of Representatives

President Pro Tempore Del Marsh
Alabama Senate

Senator Cam Ward
Chairman, Joint Prison Committee

Commissioner Kim Thomas
Department of Corrections

…Alabama is interested in analyzing…and developing policy options around…

- Court procedures and sentencing
- Data on reported crime and arrests
- Problem-solving court policies
- Felony probation and parole supervision
- Behavioral health
- Jails and misdemeanor probation
- Prison admissions and length of stay
- Corrections and parole processes
- Community corrections
- Recidivism rates

Two Phases of Justice Reinvestment

Phase I

Analyze Data and Develop Policy Options

- Analyze data
  - crime/arrests, courts, corrections, and supervision trends
- Solicit input from stakeholders
- Assess quality of investments in efforts to reduce recidivism
- Develop policy options and estimate impacts

Phase 2

Implement New Policies

- Identify assistance needed to implement policies effectively
- Deploy targeted reinvestment strategies to increase public safety
- Track the impact of enacted policies/ programs
- Monitor recidivism rates and other key measures

Typical Timeline for Justice Reinvestment *Phase I* Process

Phase I - Analyze Data & Develop Policy Options

Collect and Examine Quantitative Data

- Reported crime and arrests
- Jail data
- Court dispositions and sentencing
- Risk/Needs
- Probation supervision
- Community corrections
- Prison admissions, population and releases
- Parole decisions and supervision

Engage Stakeholders

- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Defense Bar
- Parole Board
- County Officials
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Victims/Advocates
- Faith-Based Leaders
- Probation Officers
- Parole Officers
- Law Enforcement

Develop and present a comprehensive analysis of the state's criminal justice system

Develop a framework of policy options that together would increase public safety and reduce/avert taxpayer spending

6 to 9 months

2 to 3 months

Structures Providing Support and Direction to Justice Reinvestment Project

Bipartisan, Inter-branch Coordination

Executive | **Judicial** | **Legislative**

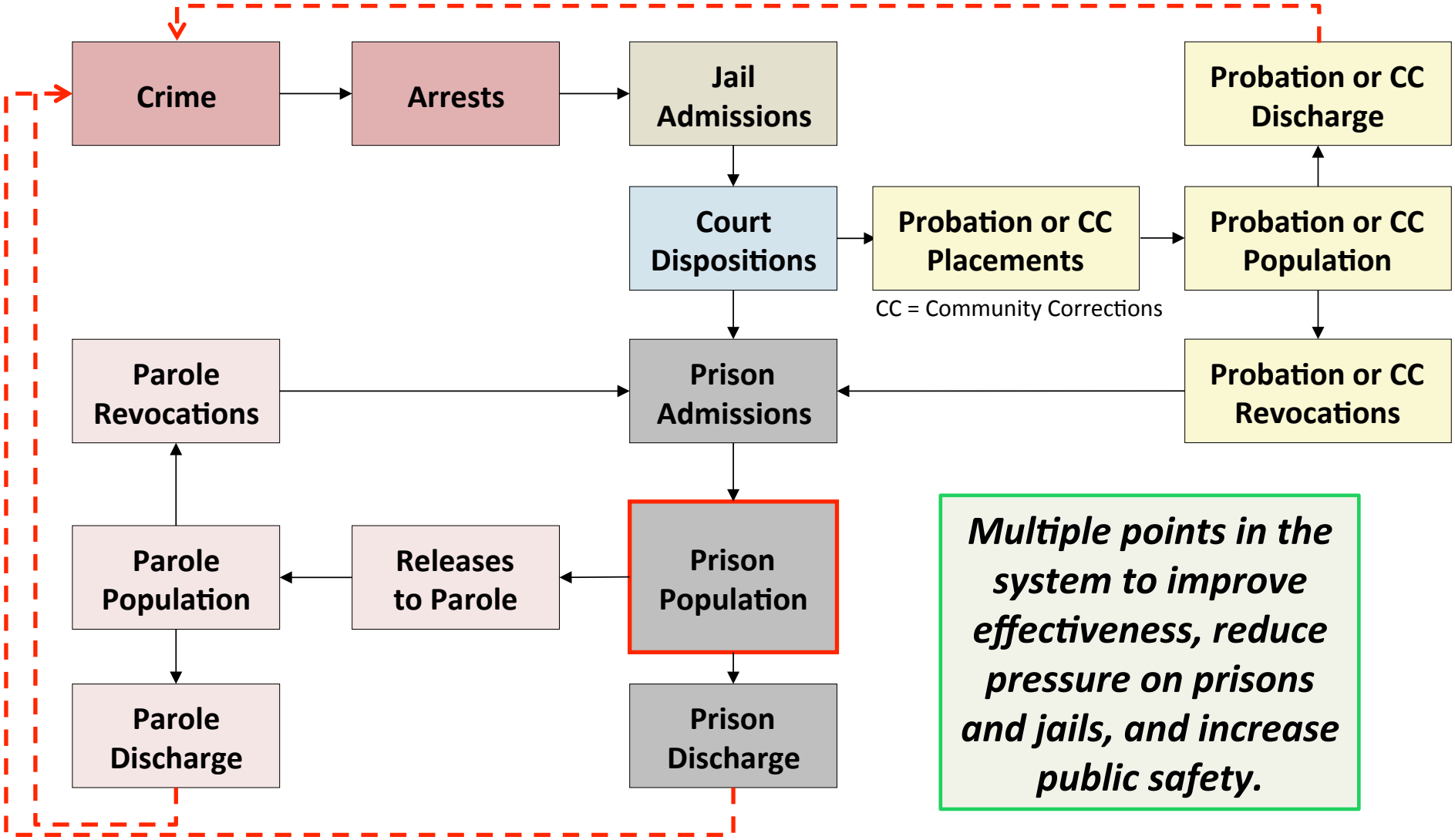
High Level Working Group

Agency Directors | **Policymakers** | **Stakeholders**

Other support needed for effective technical assistance:

CJ System Stakeholder Leadership
Assist in accessing data, review of preliminary data findings, advice for engaging association membership, guidance on statewide issues, and distribution of surveys and assistance with scheduling focus groups

Understand Broader System Trends — Prison Data Alone Won't Answer Essential Questions



Multiple points in the system to improve effectiveness, reduce pressure on prisons and jails, and increase public safety.

Example of Justice Reinvestment Data Analysis and Stakeholder Engagement in Oklahoma

700,000+
data records analyzed

100+
in-person meetings with stakeholders

Five
Working Group meetings for 2-3 hours each

100
Police Chiefs, Staff and Officers

12
Sheriffs

24
Victims, Advocates, and Survivors

40
Probation and Parole Officers

5
Community and Private Supervision Officers

15
Behavioral Health and Treatment Providers

17
Members of the Defense Bar

12+
Hours with District Attorneys

20
Judges

Detailed, Case-Level Data Sought from Many Sources

Data Type	Source	Status
– Sentencing	Sentencing Commission	In Process
– Prison	Department of Corrections	In Process
– Probation Supervision – Parole Decision-Making – Parole Supervision – Risk Assessment	Board of Pardons and Paroles	In Process
– Jail – Community Corrections – Problem Solving Courts	Counties	Still scoping
– Behavioral Health Data	Department of Mental Health	Still scoping
– Crime and Arrests	Criminal Justice Information Center	Awaiting Response

Roadblocks that sometimes arise

Shortage of data staff

Delays in delivery due to "data cleaning"

Unavailable data instead collected through samples and surveys

Agencies unaccustomed to sharing data with outside groups

Criminal Justice Trends in Alabama

Guiding Principles

Justice Reinvestment Case Studies

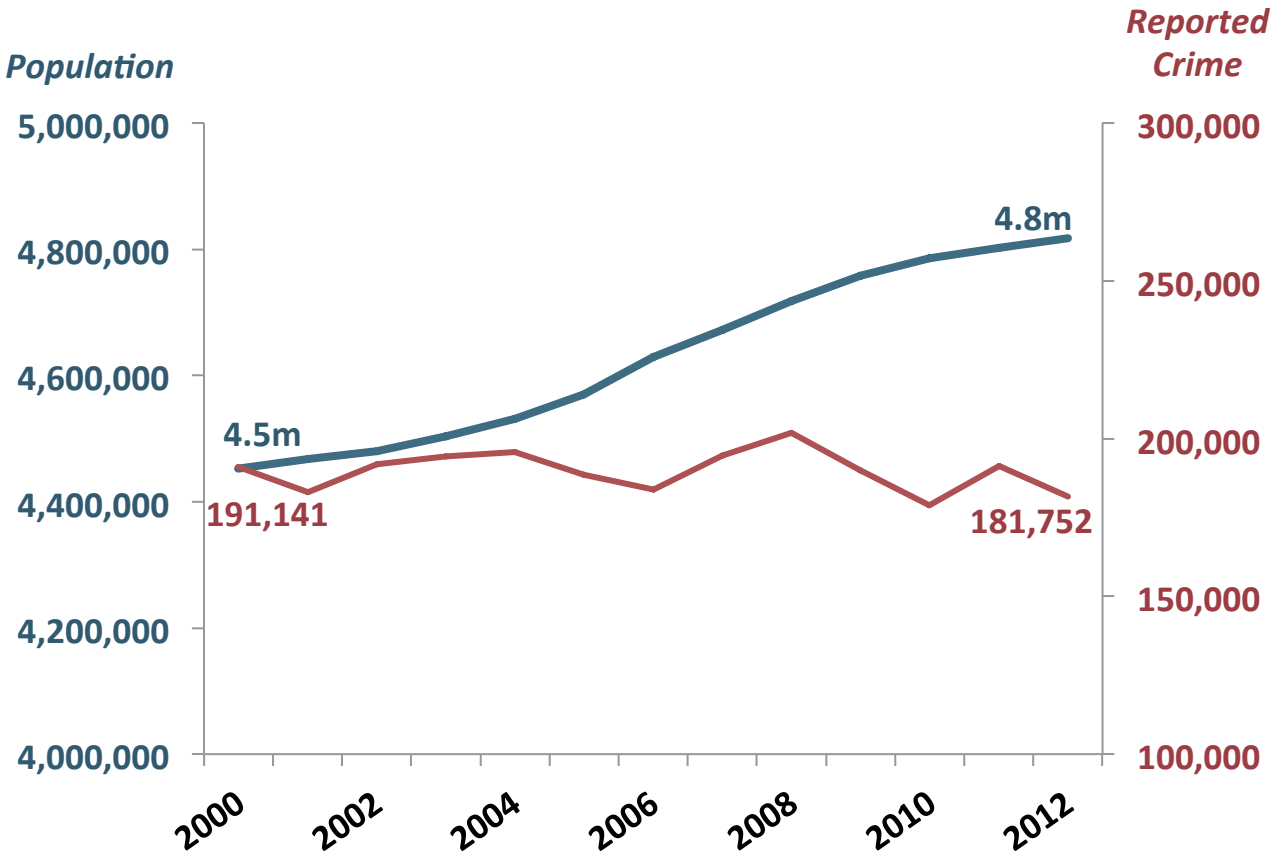
Criminal Justice Trends in Alabama

Guiding Principles

Justice Reinvestment Case Studies

Crime Has Decreased Despite Growing State Population

State Population and Reported Index Crimes, 2000 – 2012



Alabama's resident population increased 8.2% from 2000 to 2012.

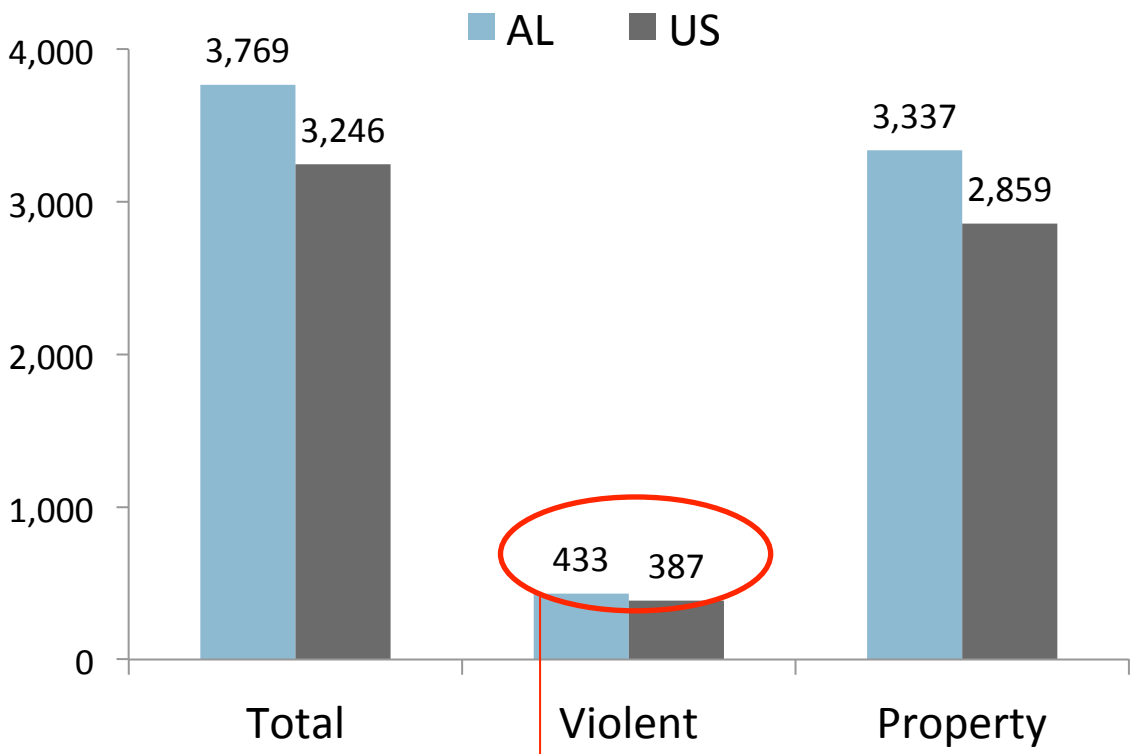
- 2000 pop = 4,452,173
- 2012 pop = 4,817,528

During the same period, reported crime fell by 5% .

Source: U.S Census Bureau, Population Division; *Crime in Alabama* Annual Reports, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.

Despite Falling Crime, Alabama Continues to Have Some of the Higher Crime Rates in the Nation

Alabama and US Crime Rates, 2012



Alabama's Ranking Among States for 2012 Crime Rates:

- ❑ Total Crime: 8th Highest
- ❑ Violent Crime: 14th
- ❑ Property Crime: 7th

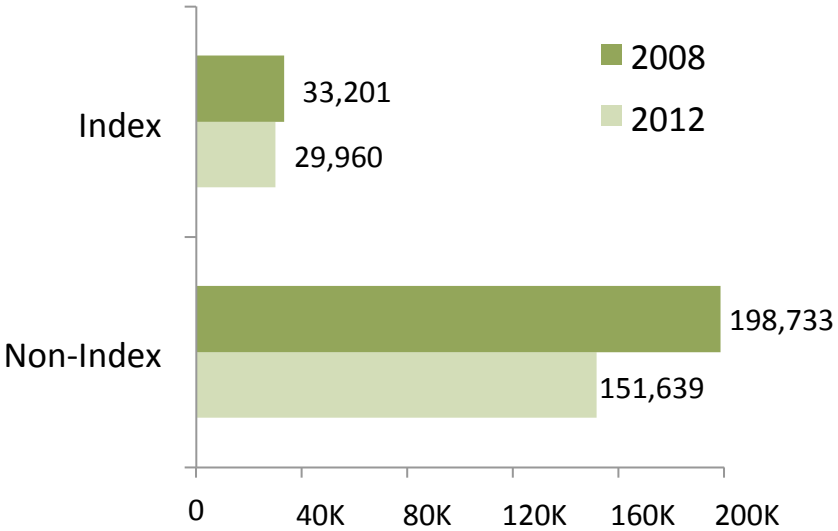
Violent crime rate nationally fell more than 15% from 2008 to 2012.

- ➢ Alabama's fell less than 2%.

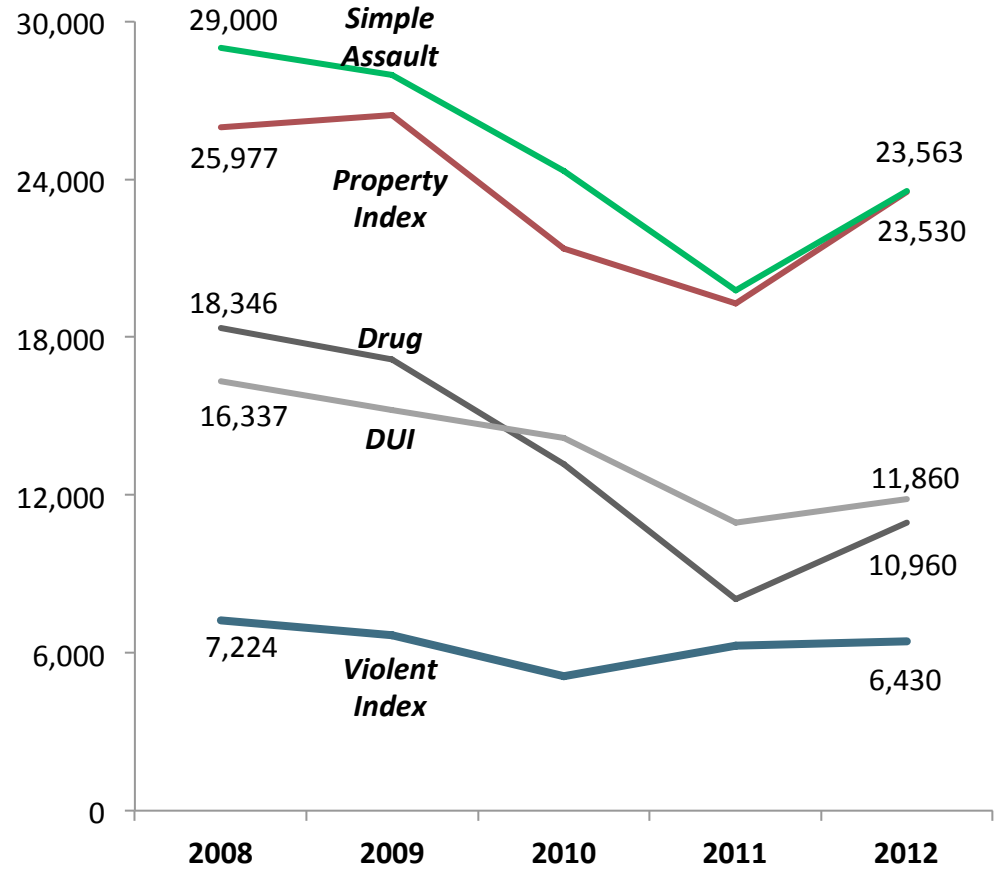
Source: *Crime in Alabama* Annual Reports, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center; *Crime in the US,* Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting, US Dept. of Justice.

Statewide Volume of Arrests Has Declined by More than 50,000 Since 2008

Statewide Arrests, 2008-2012



Arrests for Select Offense Types, 2008-2012



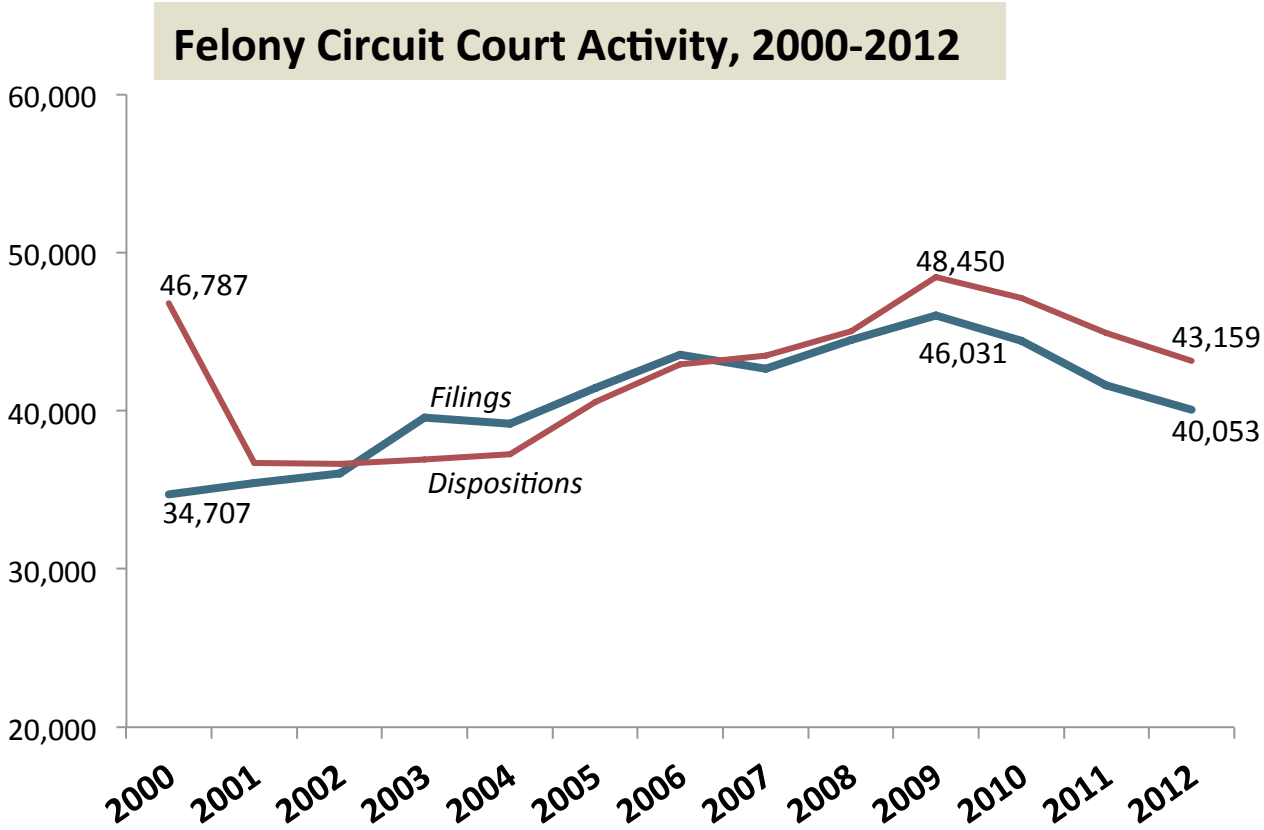
% Change in Arrests Since 2008:

- ❑ Violent Index: down 11%
- ❑ Property Index: down 9%
- ❑ Simple Assault: down 19%
- ❑ Drug: down 40%
- ❑ DUI: down 27%

Note: Number of sworn officers up by 3% since 2008.

Source: *Crime in Alabama* Annual Reports, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.

Felony Court Activity Has Declined in Recent Years

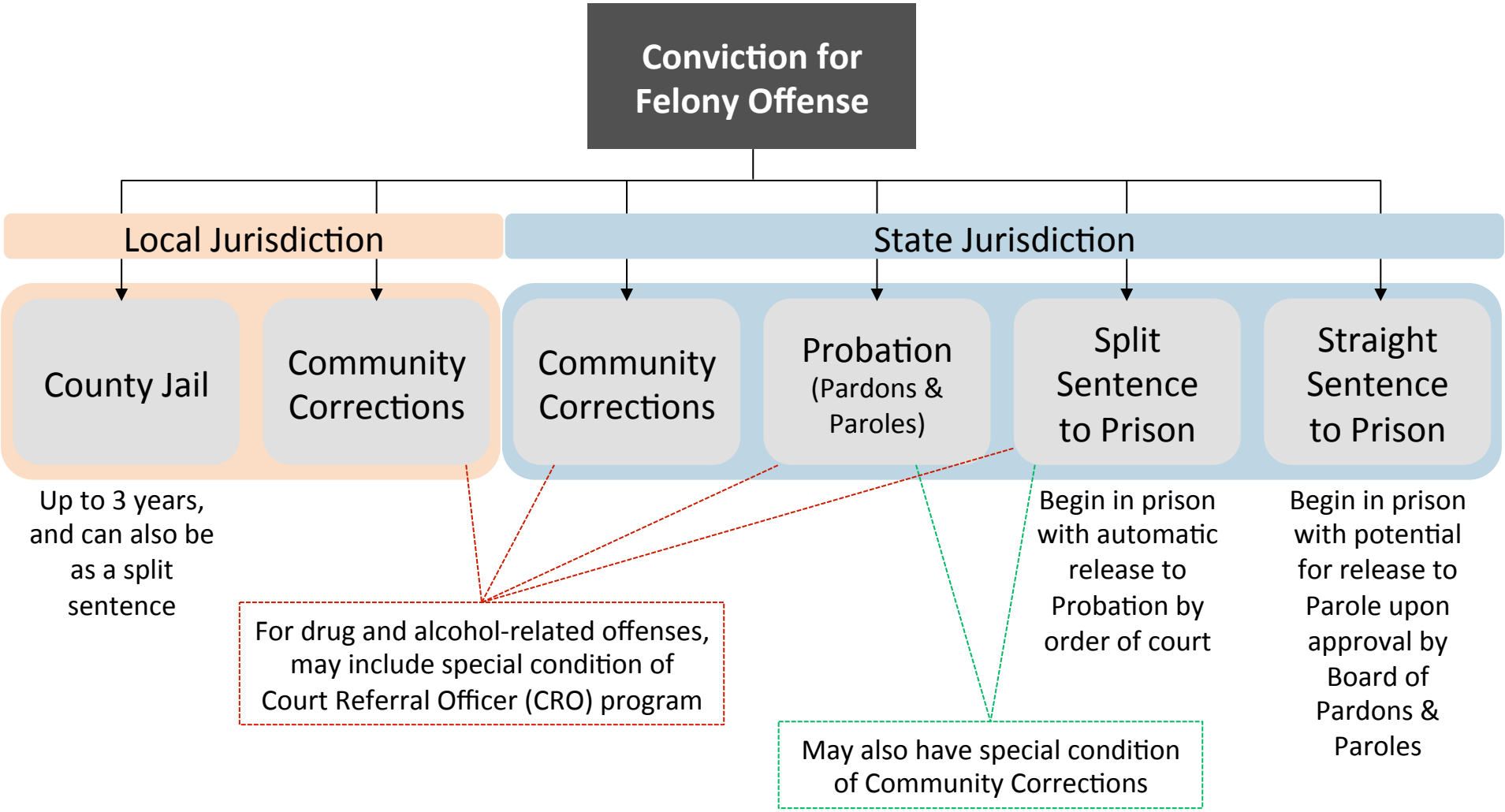


Since Peaking in 2009:

- ❑ Filings down 13%
- ❑ Dispositions down 11%

Source: *Annual Report and Statistics*, Alabama Unified Judicial System.

Possible Sentencing Dispositions for Felony Convictions Are Quite Complex and Nuanced



Number of People Supervised on Felony Probation Has Declined Almost 10% Since 2008

Felony Probation Population,
Supervised by Board of Pardons and Parole at End of Fiscal Year

Why is the felony probation population declining?

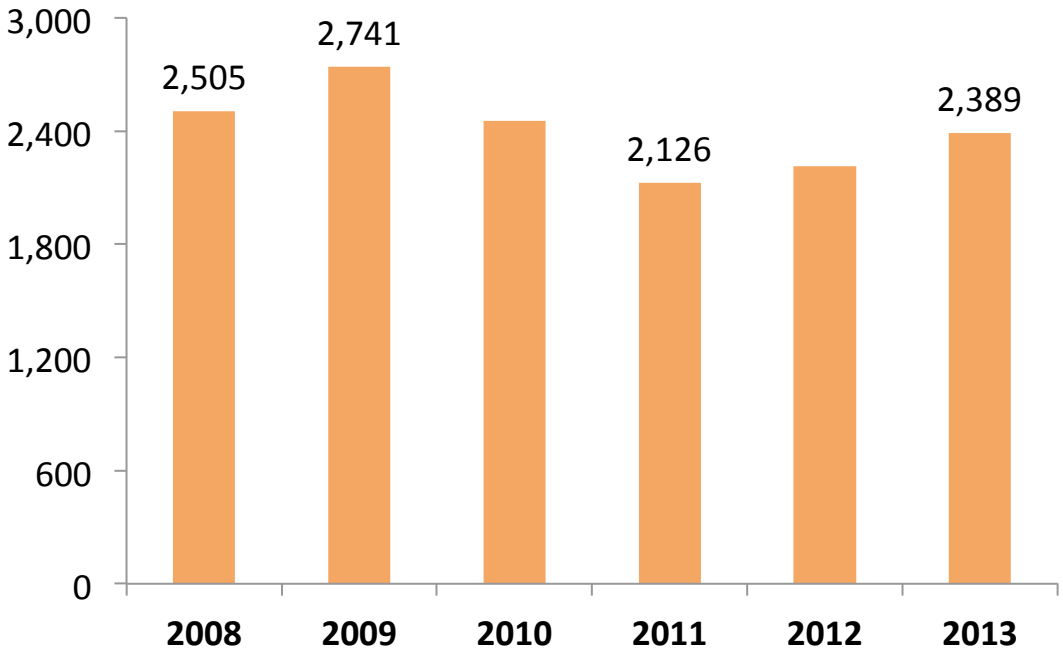
- *Fewer being sentenced to probation?*
- *More being revoked from probation?*
- *Both?*

Between 2008 and 2013, the average probation and parole officer caseload increased from 178 to 192.

Source: Annual Reports and Quarterly Population Statistics, Management Reports, Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

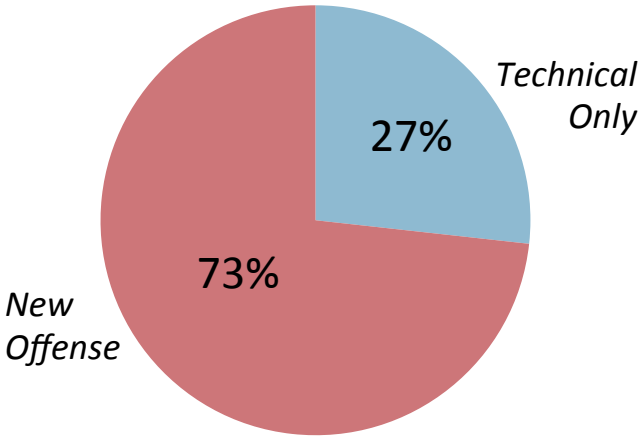
Felony Probation Revocations Declined from 2009 to 2011 but Have Since Increased

Felony Probation Revocations, 2008-2013



- *22% decline in revocations from 2009 to 2011*
- *12% increase from 2011 to 2013*

Reason for Revocation, 2013

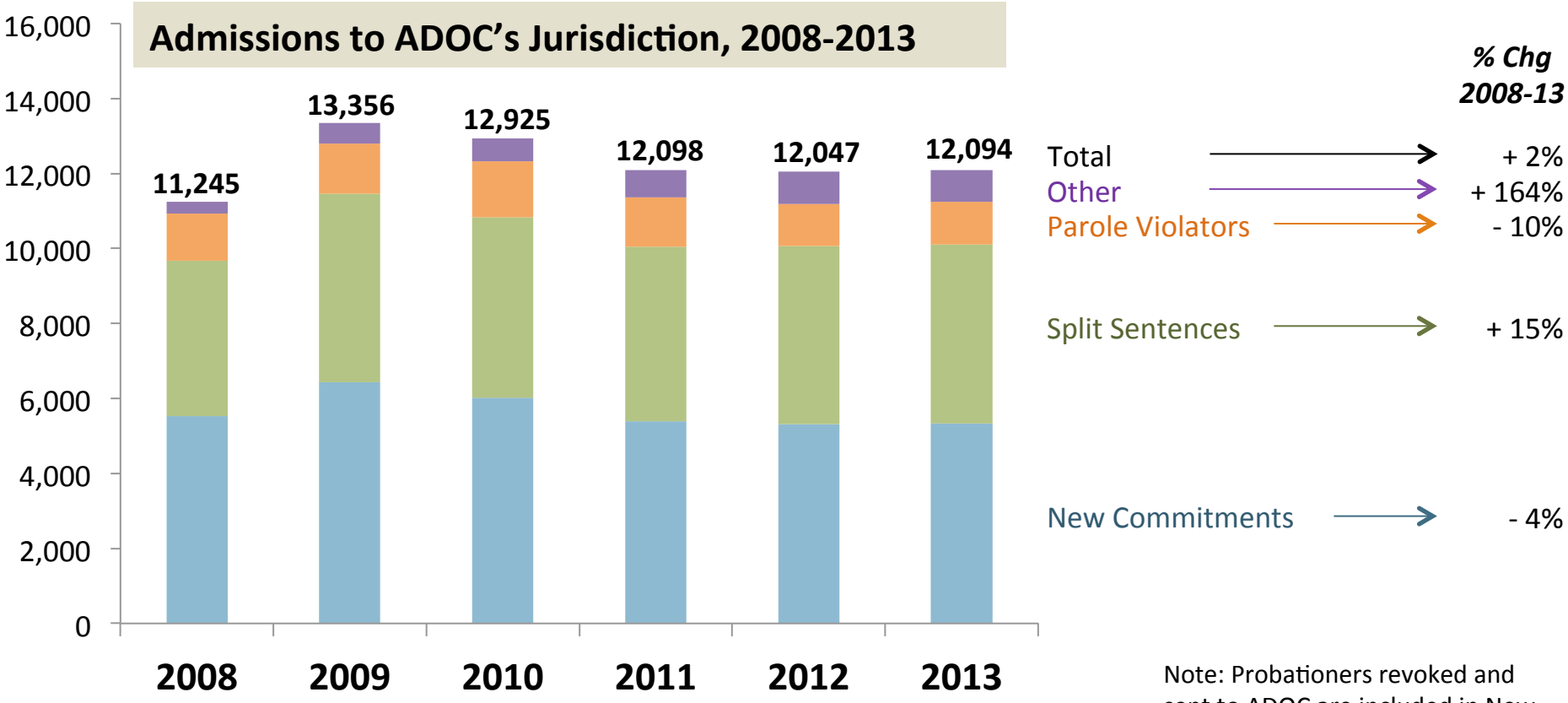


Further analysis will look into where these probationers are being revoked: prison versus jail.

Large share of revocations involving new criminal behavior represents opportunity for improving public safety.

Source: *Annual Reports*, Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

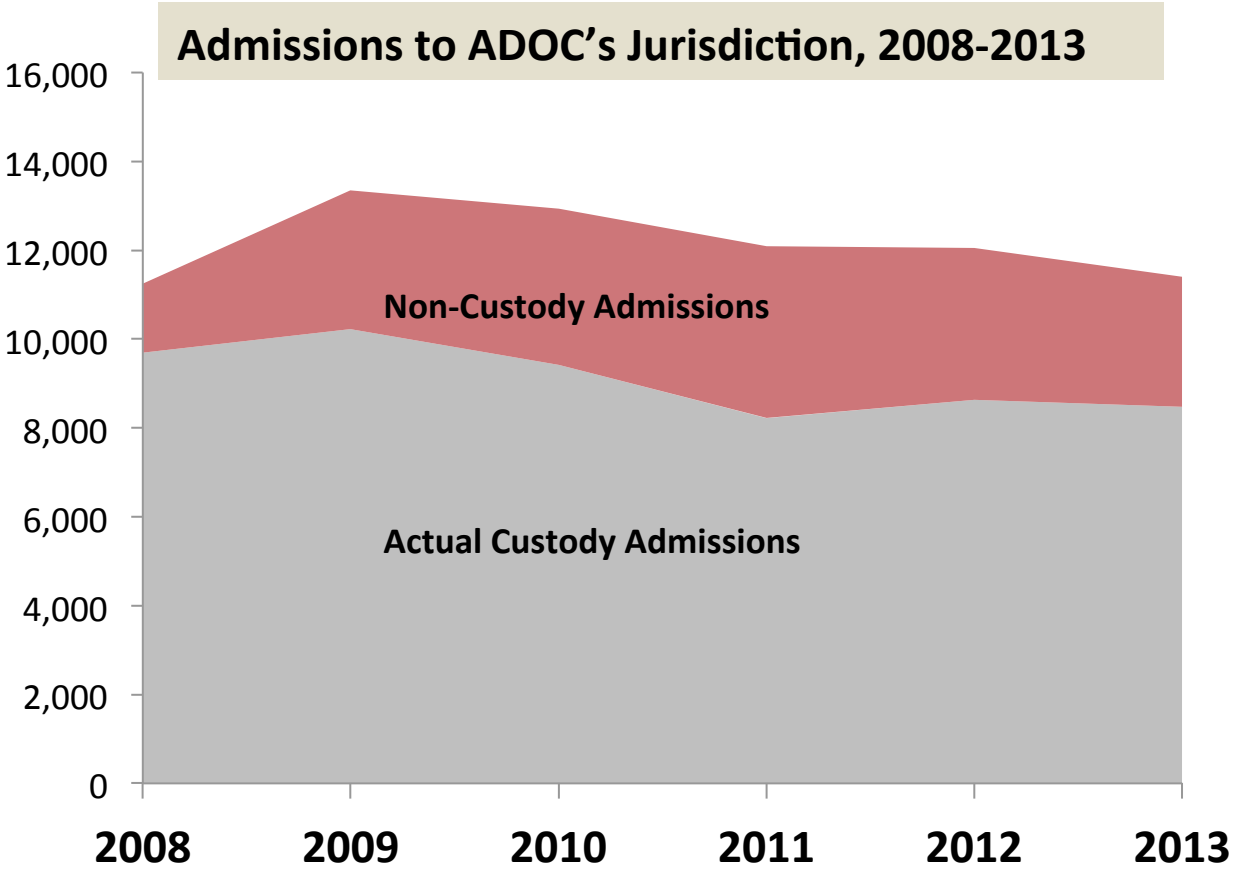
Admissions to ADOC Have Increased Almost 2% Since 2008



Note: Probationers revoked and sent to ADOC are included in New Commitments and Split Sentences.

Source: *Annual Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections.

Due to Level of Prison Overcrowding, Many Individuals Admitted to ADOC Do Not Go to Prison



In 2013, only 74% of those admitted to ADOC's jurisdiction were admitted to prison.

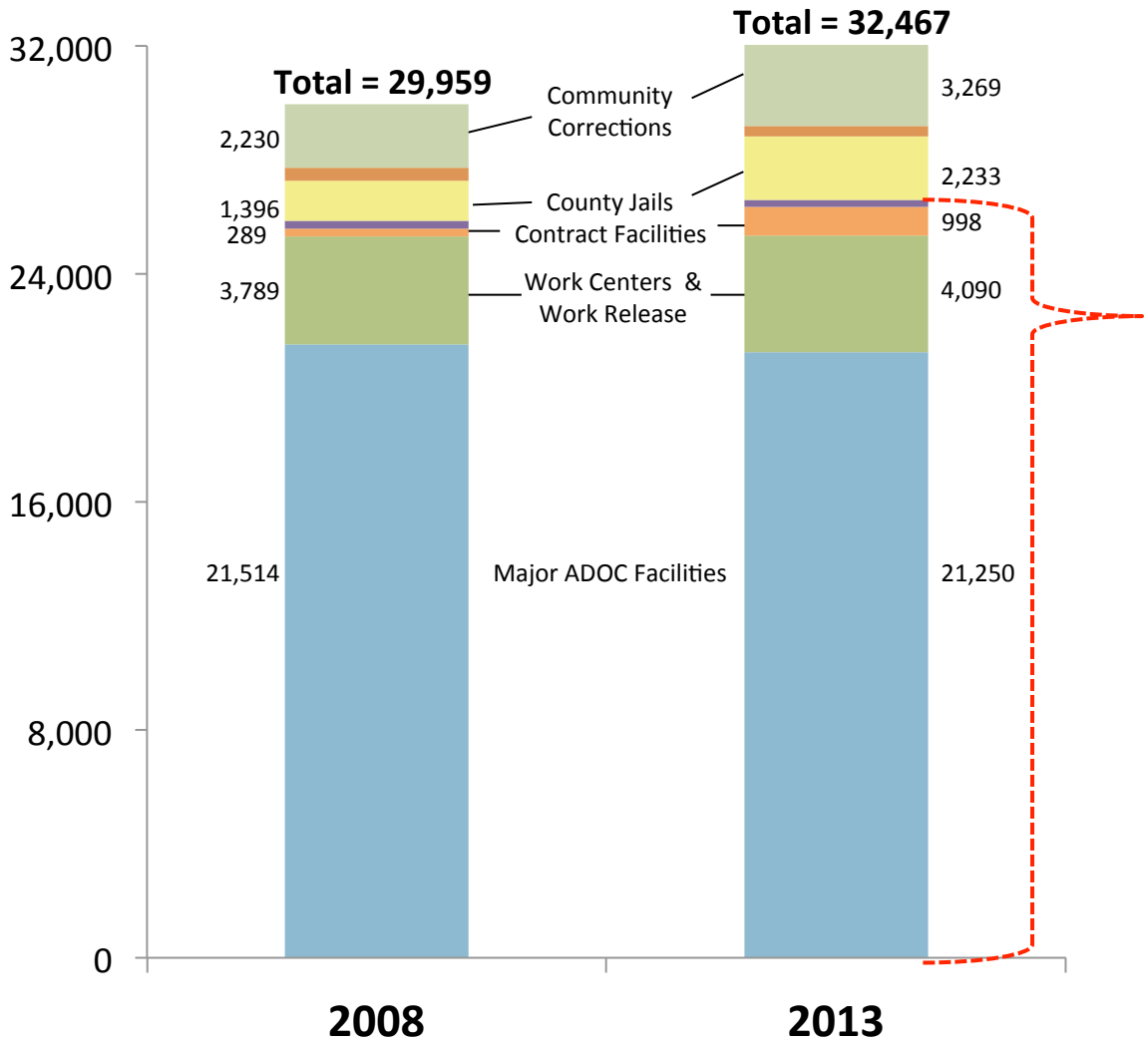
Those not admitted to ADOC custody upon sentencing could be admitted to the following:

- ✓ Community Corrections upon order of the court
- ✓ County Jail while waiting for space to open up in ADOC facilities (contract for those more than 30 days from sentencing)

Source: *Annual Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections.

ADOC's Population Resides in Many Different Places

End of Fiscal Year ADOC Jurisdictional Population

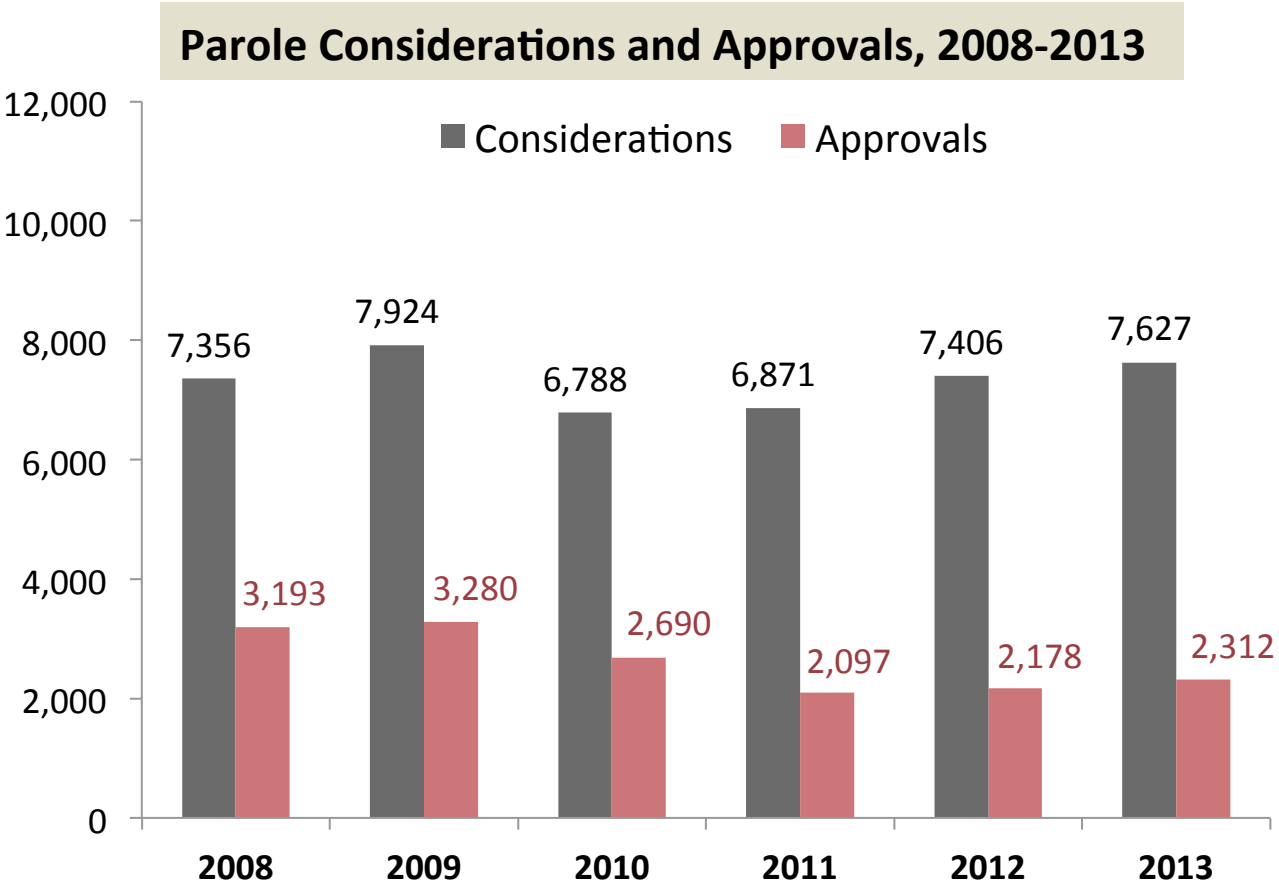


Source: *Annual Reports* and *Monthly Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections.

ADOC's "custody" population includes those in major ADOC facilities, work centers and work release, supervised re-entry, and contract facilities.

- Growth in "custody" population from 2008 to 2013 was driven primarily by increase in contract facilities (+709).

Parole Approval Rates Have Fallen by Almost a Third in the Past Six Years

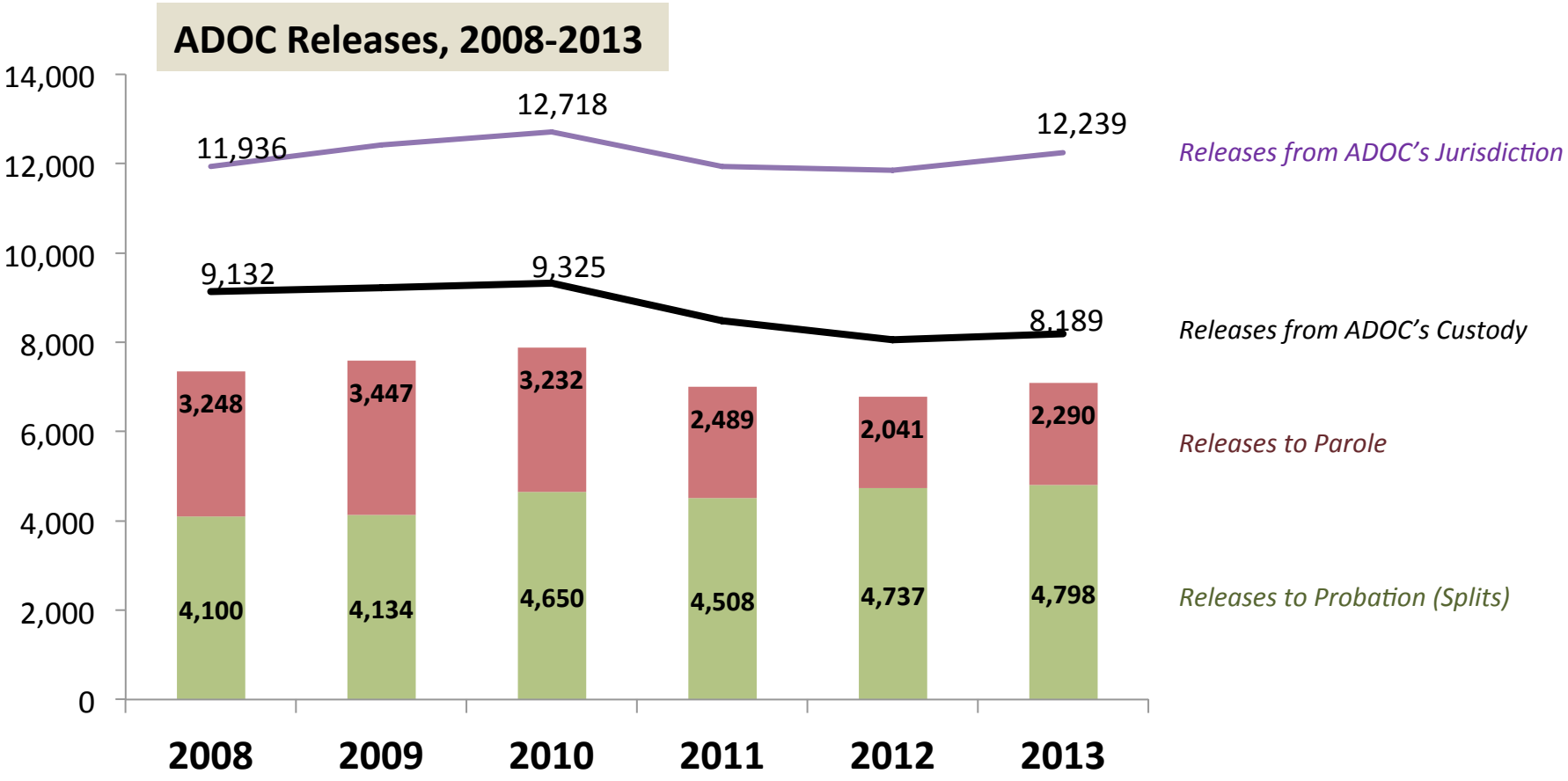


Parole Approval Rates

2008 = 43%
2009 = 41%
2010 = 40%
2011 = 31%
2012 = 29%
2013 = 30%

Source: *Annual Reports*, Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Number of Prisoners Released to Probation Is Increasing While Number Released to Parole Is Decreasing

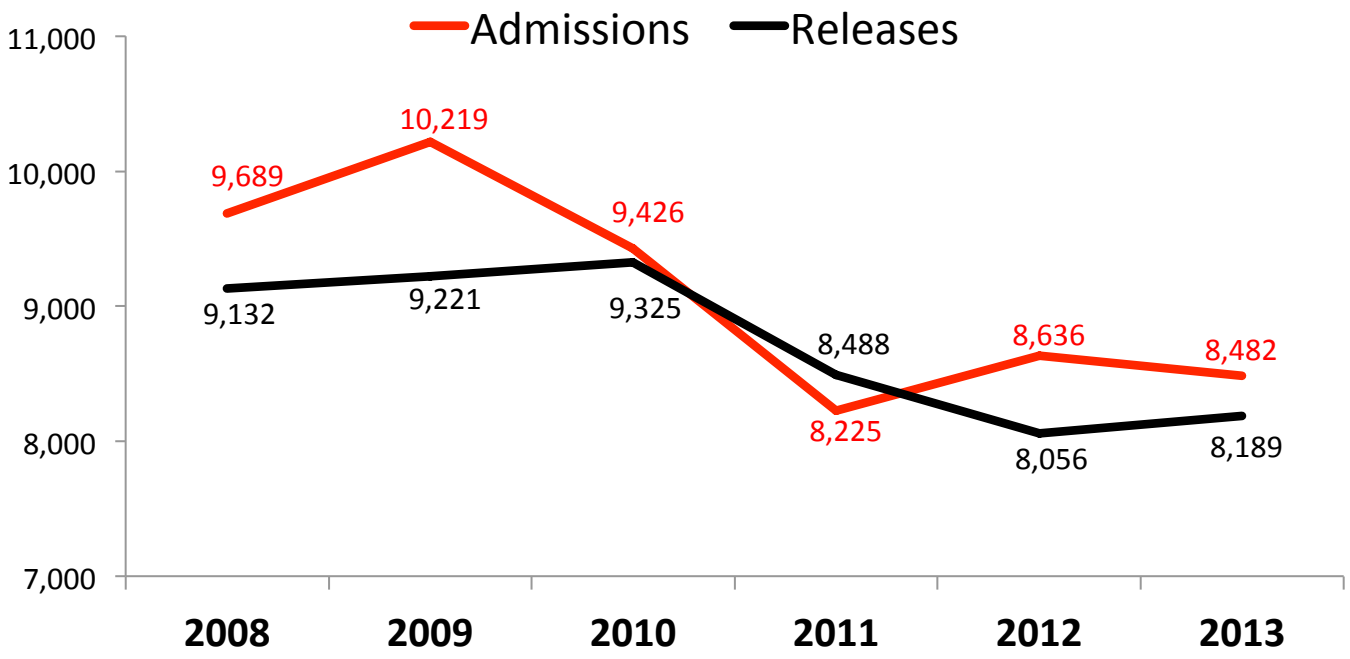


The declining number of parole releases since 2010 (-942) is driving the decline in overall ADOC Custody releases (-1,136).

Source: *Annual Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections.

For Five of Past Six Years, Admissions to ADOC Custody Have Outpaced Releases

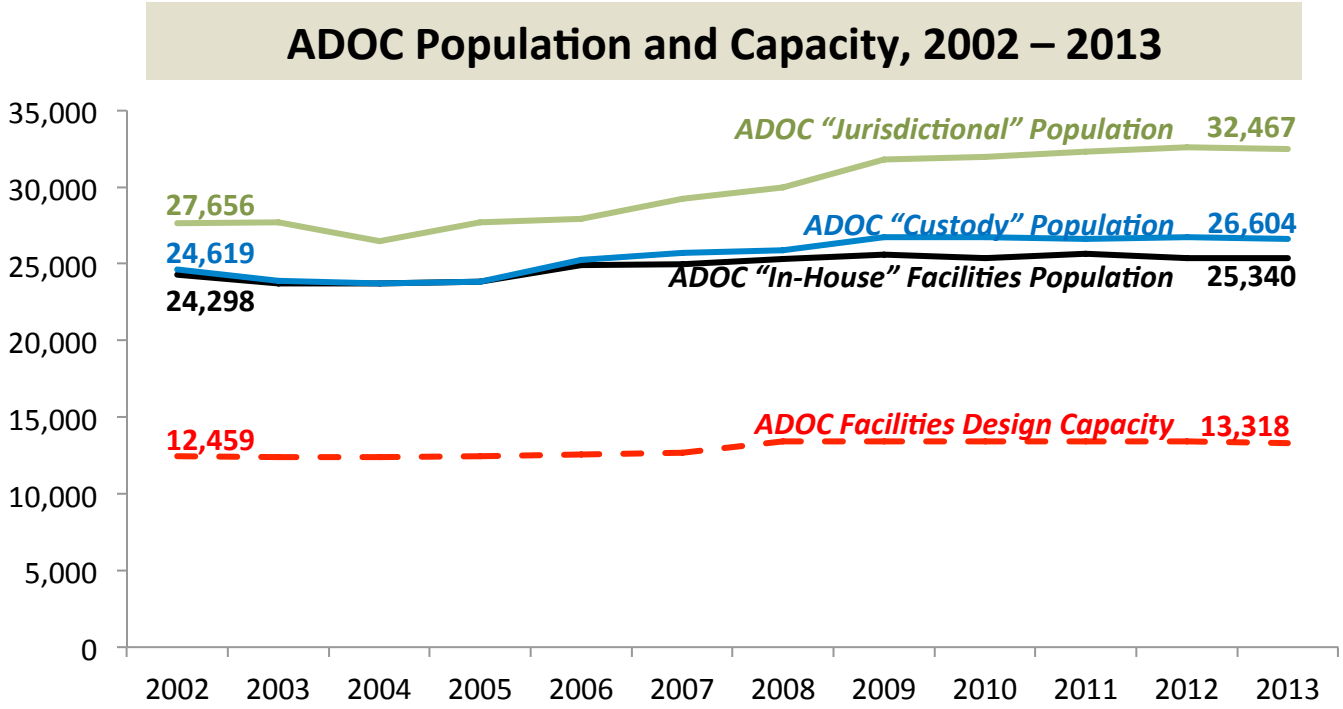
ADOC "Custody" Admissions and Releases, 2008-2013



There have been 2,266 more admissions than releases since 2008.

Source: *Annual Reports* and *Monthly Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections.

Alabama's Prisons Are Operating at 190% of Designed Capacity



What would it cost Alabama to build its way out of the current situation?

Achieving **130%** operational capacity requires adding 6,000 prison beds:

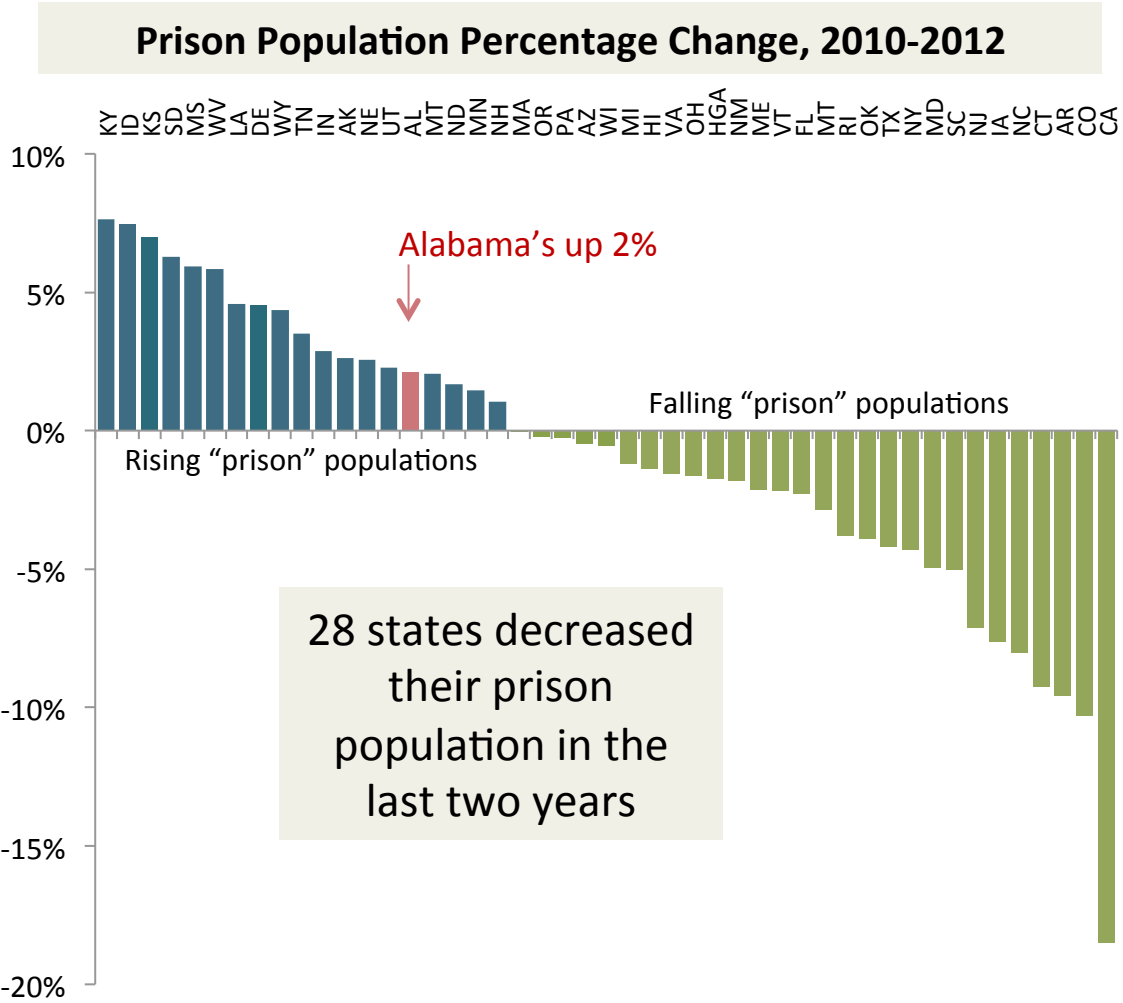
- Construction costs = $420m
- Annual operating costs = $93m

Achieving **100%** operational capacity requires adding 12,000 prison beds:

- Construction costs = $840m
- Annual operating costs = $186m

Source: *Annual Reports* and *Monthly Reports*, Alabama Department of Corrections; Alabama Legislative Fiscal Office estimates $102 million construction cost for 1,500 bed facility; ADOC inmate operating cost = $42.54 per day, 2012 Annual Report.

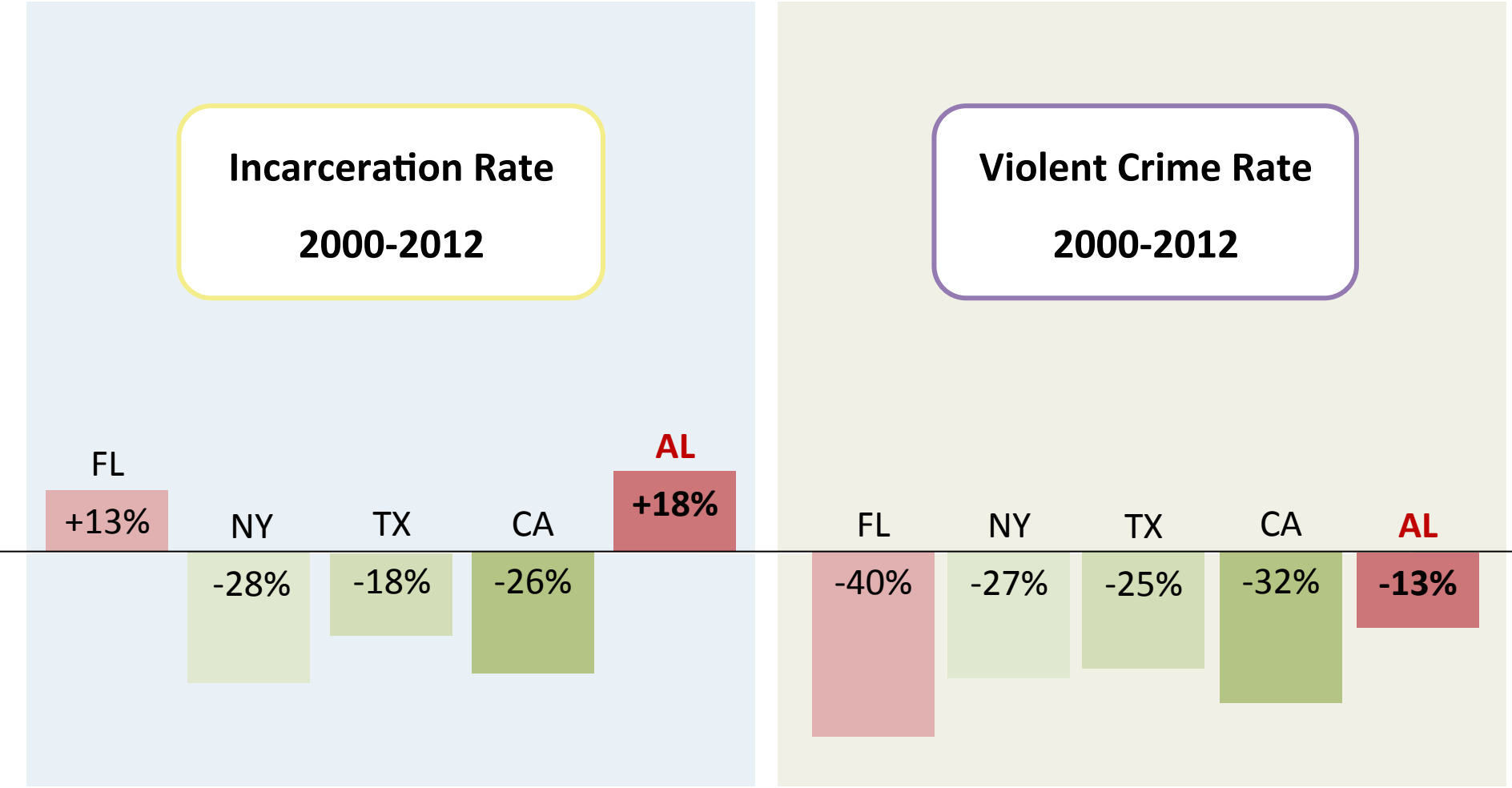
Recent BJS Report Shows Alabama Among the Highest in Adult Incarceration Rankings



Rank	Adult Prison Incarceration Rate 2011		2012	
1	Louisiana	1,144	Louisiana	1,179
2	Mississippi	921	Mississippi	954
3	Texas	866	Oklahoma	858
4	Alabama	848	Alabama	847
5	Oklahoma	838	Texas	820
6	Arizona	784	Arizona	773
7	Georgia	731	Georgia	723
8	Arkansas	718	Idaho	680
9	Florida	678	Missouri	674
10	Missouri	669	Florida	661
11	Idaho	666	Arkansas	651

Source: *Prisoners in 2011 and Prisoners in 2012- Advance Counts*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice.

Changing Incarceration Rates Don't Necessarily Correspond with Changing Crime Rates



Source: *Prisoners in 2000* and *Prisoners in 2012- Advance Counts*, and *Crime in the U.S. 2012* , FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Online Data Tool, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Dept. of Justice.

Summary of High-Level Criminal Justice Trends

Overall crime and arrests down since 2008

– But crime in Alabama remains high compared to rest of nation

Declining felony probation supervision population

– Yet more revocations since 2011, primarily for new offenses

Admissions to ADOC custody outpacing releases

– Causing overall growth and greater reliance on leased beds

Parole approval rate dropped by almost one-third

– Resulting in falling numbers released from prison

State-run facilities operating at 190% of capacity

– Would cost hundreds of millions to build out of problem

Criminal Justice Trends in Alabama

Guiding Principles

Justice Reinvestment Case Studies

Policy Development Tied to Principles of Focusing Resources and Avoiding Shifting of Burdens

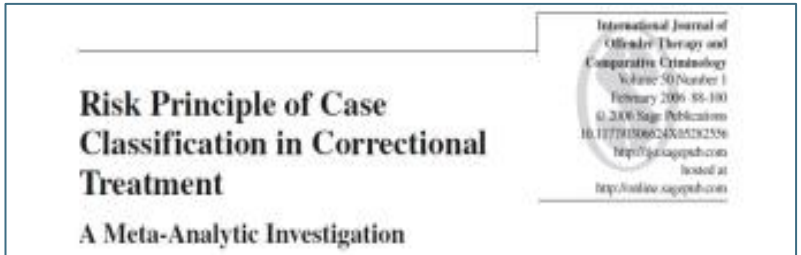
The Goal: Contain corrections costs and increase public safety

Combine policy options with reinvestment based on "what works" to reduce recidivism

Avoid shifting burdens elsewhere in the system and help relieve pressures at the local level

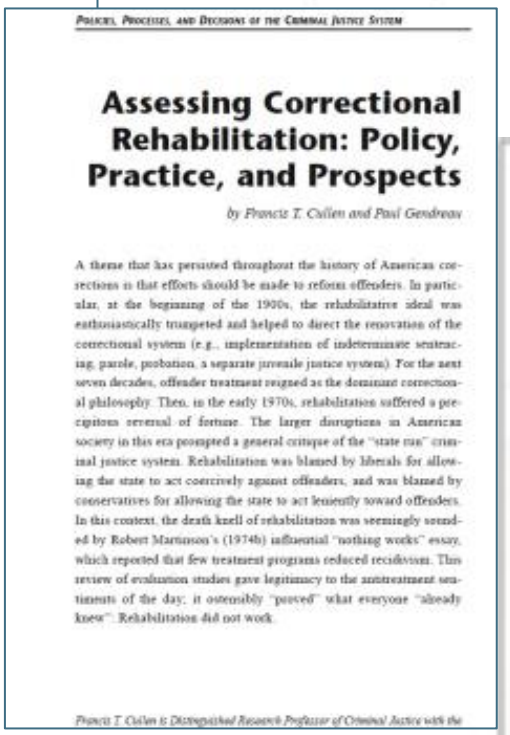
Knowledge on Improving Criminal Justice Outcomes Has Increased Dramatically Over the Last 20 Years

Academics and practitioners have contributed to this growing body of research


International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology
Volume 50 Number 1
February 2006 88-100

Risk Principle of Case Classification in Correctional Treatment

A Meta-Analytic Investigation

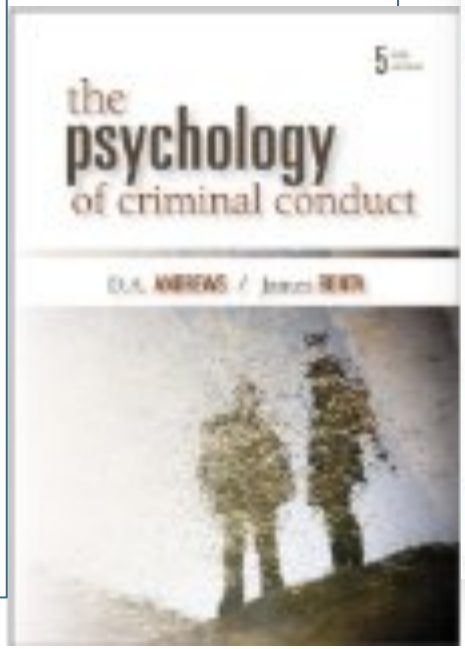


Assessing Correctional Rehabilitation: Policy, Practice, and Prospects

by Francis T. Cullen and Paul Gendreau

A theme that has persisted throughout the history of American corrections is that efforts should be made to reform offenders. In particular, at the beginning of the 1900s, the rehabilitative ideal was enthusiastically trumpeted and helped to direct the renovation of the correctional system (e.g., implementation of indeterminate sentencing, parole, probation, a separate juvenile justice system). For the next seven decades, offender treatment reigned as the dominant correctional philosophy. Then, in the early 1970s, rehabilitation suffered a precipitous reversal of fortune. The larger disruptions in American society in this era prompted a general critique of the "state run" criminal justice system. Rehabilitation was blamed by liberals for allowing the state to act coercively against offenders, and was blamed by conservatives for allowing the state to act leniently toward offenders. In this context, the death knell of rehabilitation was seemingly sounded by Robert Martinson's (1974b) influential "nothing works" essay, which reported that few treatment programs reduced recidivism. This review of evaluation studies gave legitimacy to the antitreatment sentiments of the day; it ostensibly "proved" what everyone "already knew": Rehabilitation did not work.

Francis T. Cullen is Distinguished Research Professor of Criminal Justice with the



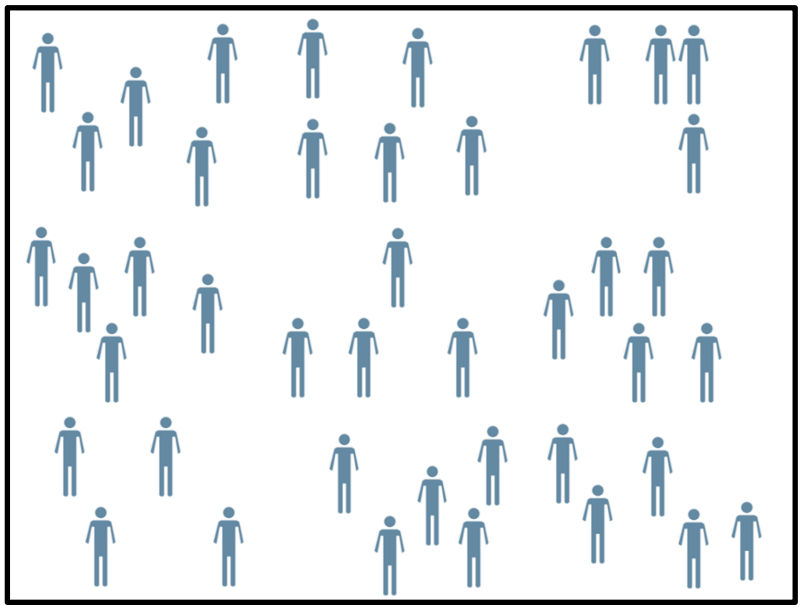
Reducing Criminal Behavior Requires Focusing on Risk, Need, and Responsivity

Traditional Approach		Evidence-Based Practices
Supervise everyone the same way	**Risk** →	**Assess risk of recidivism and focus supervision on the highest-risk offenders**
Assign programs that feel or seem effective	**Need** →	**Prioritize programs addressing the needs most associated with recidivism**
Deliver programs the same way to every offender	**Responsivity** →	**Deliver programs based on offender learning style, motivation, and/or circumstances**

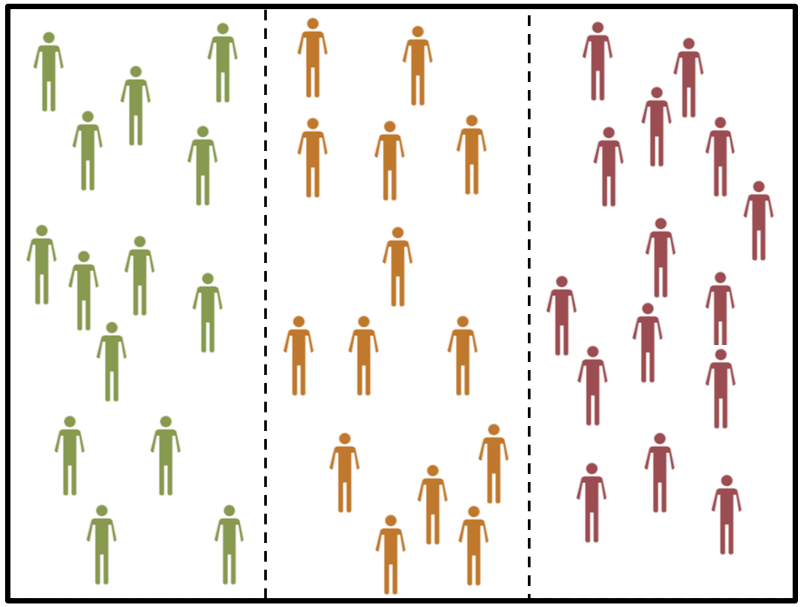
Identify and Focus on Higher-Risk Offenders

Who?

Without Risk Assessment…



With Risk Assessment…

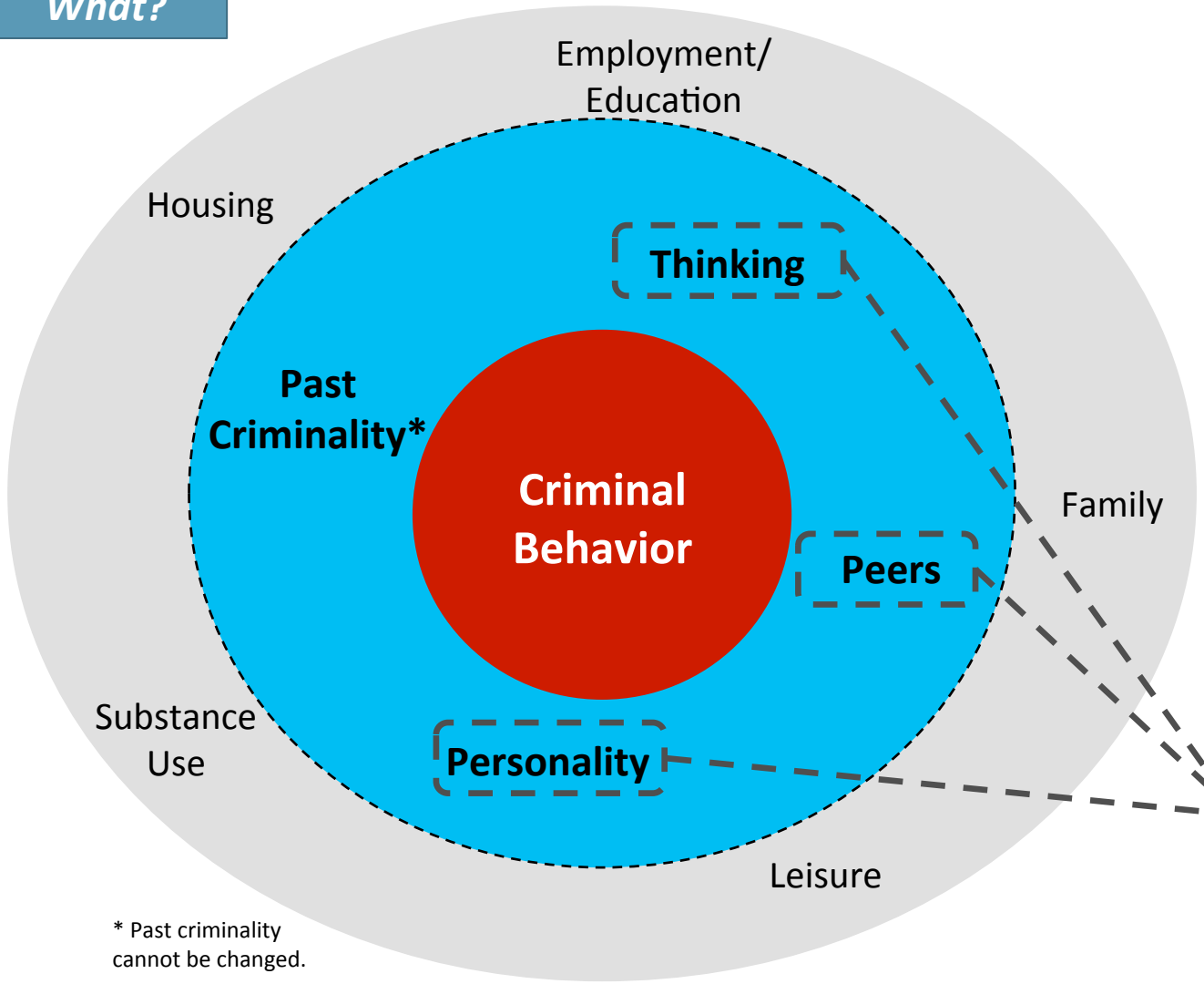


Risk of Re-offending

LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
10% re-arrested	35% re-arrested	70% re-arrested

Target the Factors that Evidence Shows Are Most Central to Criminal Behavior

What?



* Past criminality cannot be changed.

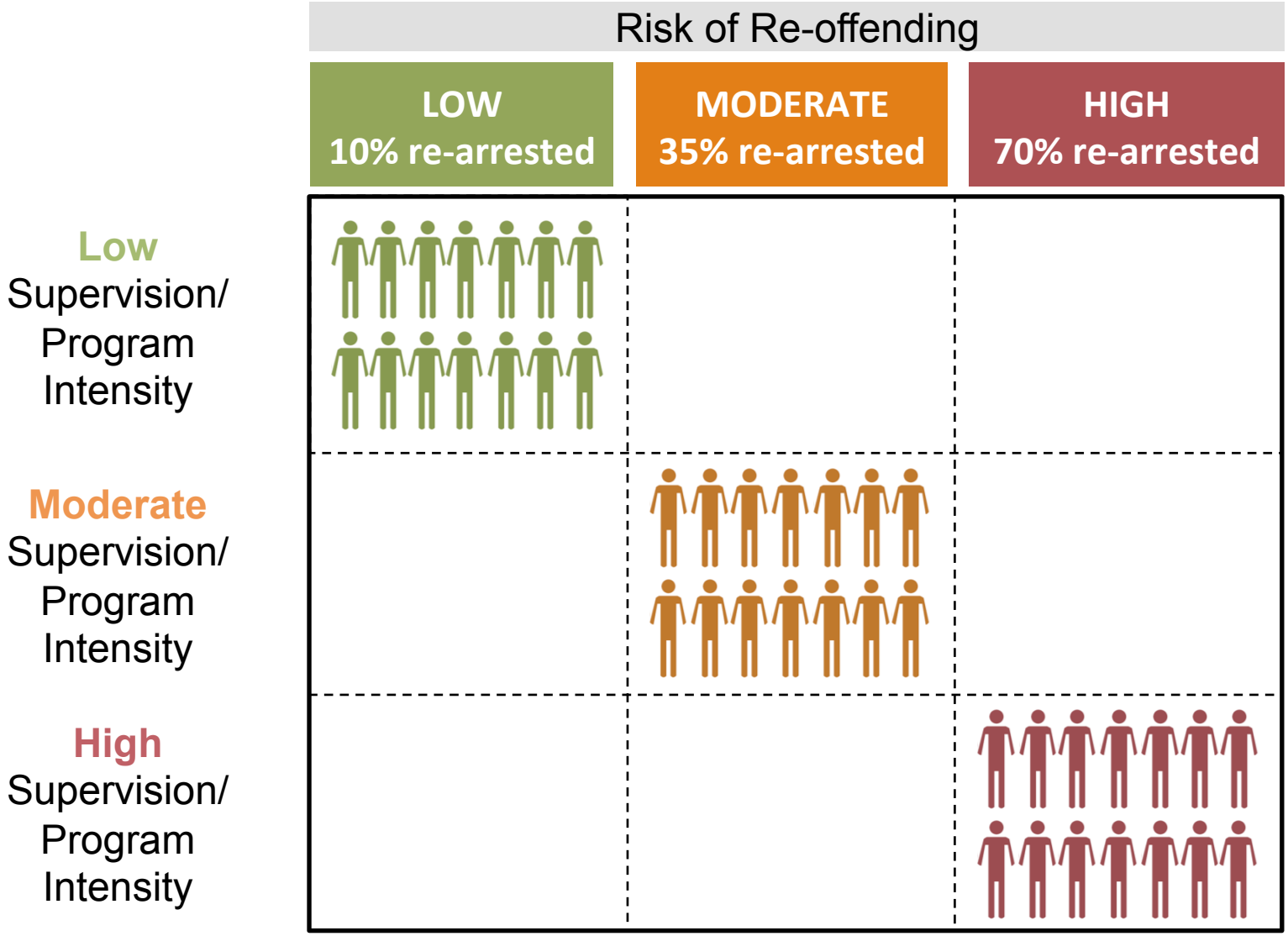
Antisocial

The Big Four
(impacting these are the major drivers to reducing criminal behavior)

Higher-risk offenders are likely to have more of the **Big Four**.

Programs targeting these factors can significantly lower recidivism rates

After Getting the Who and the What, Supervision and Programming Should Be Well Targeted



Elements of Effective Supervision

Dosage/Intensity

Focus supervision officer time and program resources on the highest-risk offenders.

Consistency

Use a graduated range of sanctions and incentives to guide specific type of response to violations and compliance.

Swiftness

Enable officers to respond meaningfully to violations without delay or time-consuming processes.

Cost-effectiveness

Prioritize the most expensive, restrictive sanctions for offenders committing the most serious violations.

Risk Principle in Action: Keeping High and Low Risk Separate

HIGH RISK OFFENDERS

Intensive Services for a longer period of time

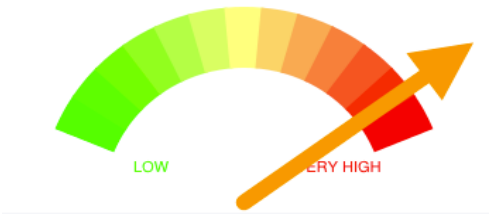
- Face to face contacts; home visits, school/ work visits
- More drug testing
- Different programs/ treatment groups/ services for high risk offenders

LOW RISK OFFENDERS

- Have fewer problems
- Do not require intensive interventions/supervision
- If they don't need it; don't give it to them

DO NOT MIX

Violating the Risk Principle Leads to Recidivism



HIGH RISK OFFENDERS

Under supervised & **under** treated

Example: High risk substance abuser given AA/NA treatment → increased risk of recidivating.

WHY?

- Does not provide enough **supervision/control** to reduce recidivism
- Does not provide enough **intensity of programming** to disrupt risk factors

LOW RISK OFFENDERS

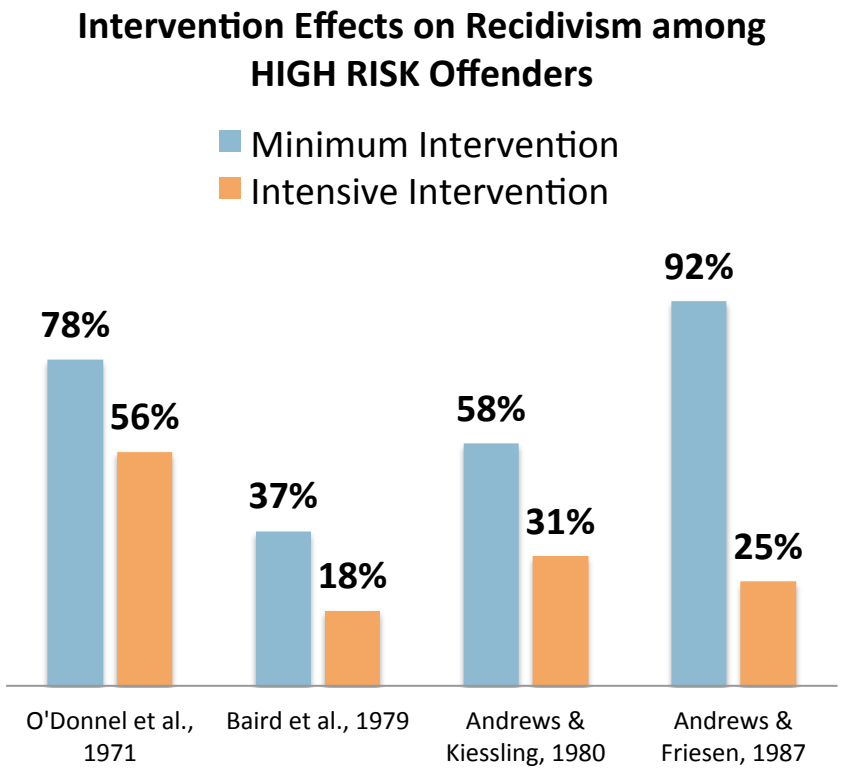
Over supervised & **over** treated

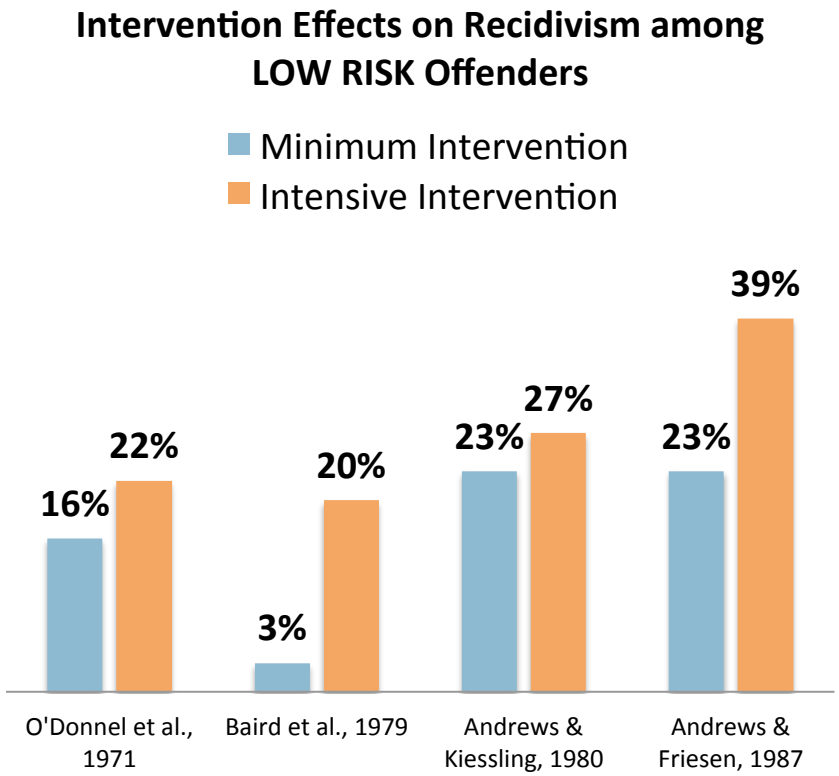
At best, leads to no reductions in recidivism. At worst, causes harm and increases recidivism

WHY?

- Disrupts the very things that make the offender low risk
- Low risk offenders learn from high risk offenders

Intensity of Services Can Have Positive or Negative Impacts on Recidivism, Depending on Risk





Intensive interventions led to <u>BETTER</u> recidivism outcomes for HIGH risk offenders, but….

…. intensive interventions led to <u>WORSE</u> recidivism outcomes for LOW risk offenders.

Ensure Programs Are High Quality and Properly Implemented

How Well?

Program Effectiveness

- **Based on proven, effective principles**
- **Matched with correct client population**
- **Implemented as designed**
- **Staff trained in assessments and service delivery**
- **Performance tracked and measured against expectations**

What works with offender programming?

Who:
Programs that target high-risk individuals are more likely to have a significant impact on recidivism.

What:
Certain programs are more effective than others - effectiveness can relate to the **type** of program and **where** it is delivered (in a prison vs. in the community).

How Well:
Assessing how well a program is executed can reveal whether or not a program has the capability to deliver evidence-based interventions.

Responsivity Dictates Skillful Program Delivery

RESPONSIVITY → Deliver in a way that maximizes **meaningful understanding & retention**

Responsivity Factors

INTERNAL RESPONSIVITY FACTORS

- Motivation
- Mental health: anxiety, psychopathy
- Maturity
- Transportation
- Cognitive deficiencies
- Language barriers
- Demographics

EXTERNAL REPONSIVITY FACTORS

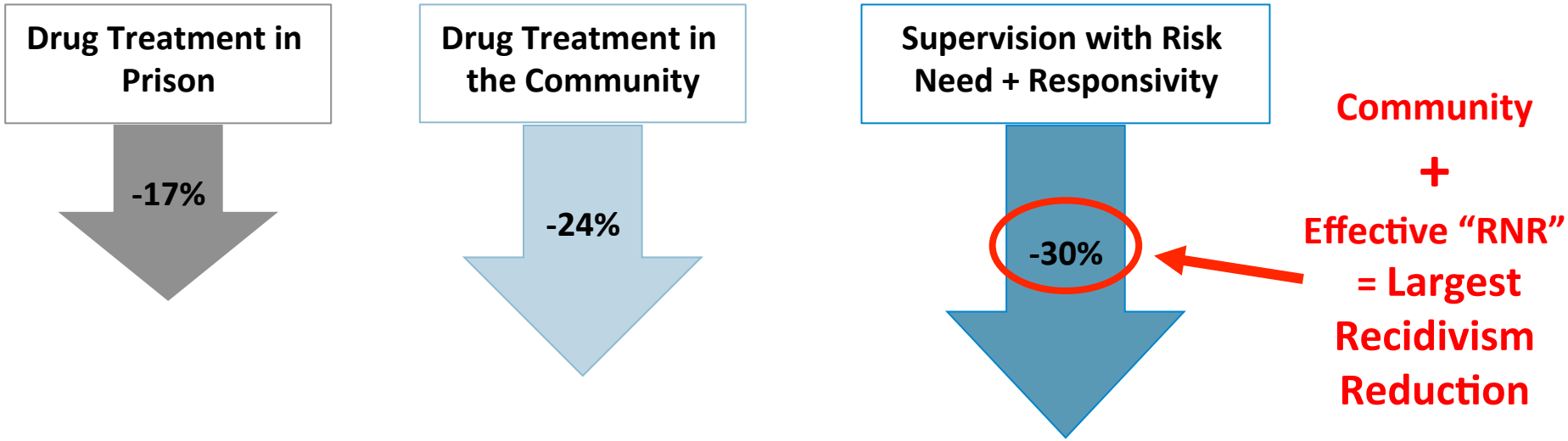
- Program characteristics
- Facilitator characteristics
- Program setting

Examples of Responsivity Barriers:

- Visual learning style in an "audio" program
- Illiterate offender in group with reading/ writing requirements
- Single mother with no child care during program time

Where and How Treatment Is Delivered Impacts the Degree of Recidivism Reduction

Research shows that programs delivered in the community have greater impacts on recidivism

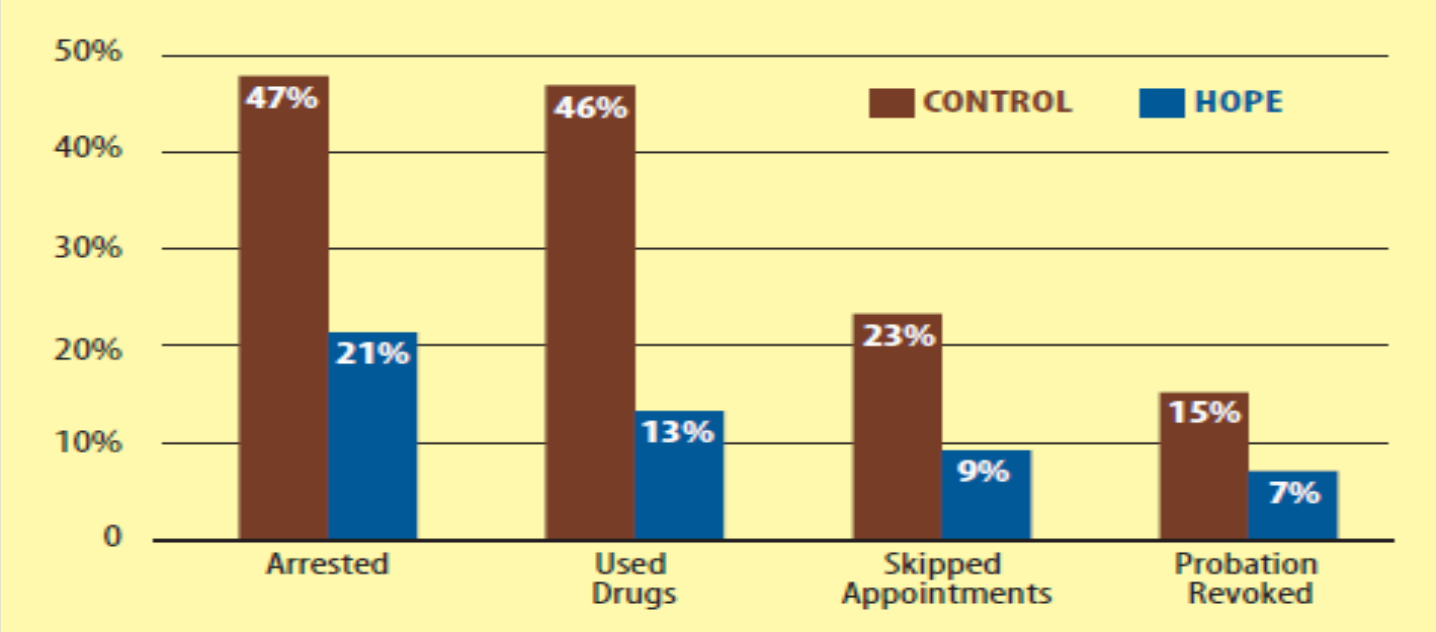


Source: Lee, S., Aos, S., Drake, E., Pennucci, A., Miller, M., & Anderson, L. (2012). *Return on investment: Evidence-based options to improve statewide outcomes*, April 2012 (Document No. 12-04-1201). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Hawaii HOPE Reduces Re-Arrest, Drug Use, Jail Use

Hawaii HOPE

Intensive, random drug testing with swift, certain, and brief jail sanctions.



- Key principles of HOPE - **swift and certain probation violation response practices** - are being replicated with success in other jurisdictions.

Source: *Managing Drug Involved Probationers with Swift and Certain Sanctions: Evaluating Hawaii's HOPE*, Hawken, Angela and Mark Kleiman, December 2009.

Key Factors Associated with Successful Models of Swift and Certain Sanctioning

- Clear rules and violation responses so probationer is aware of expectations and consequences
- Strict monitoring
- Prompt sanction within days of detection
- Proportionate sanctions, tied to severity and risk
- Ability to bring violators into custody
- Compulsory treatment when appropriate

Challenges to Implementation of Supervision Practices Utilizing Swift & Sure Principles

Lack of Training

- Critical for judges, prosecutors, and supervision managers and agents to be well-informed about the principles and research behind swift/certain sanctioning

Judicial and Court Staff

- For models relying on court hearings for violation responses

Legal Structure for Administrative Responses

- Necessary for clarifying limited nature of sanctioning authorities available to agents, spelling out judicial oversight, and preservation of due process rights

Collaboration with Key Stakeholders

- Law enforcement resources to assist with arrest and detention

Drug testing

Different Approaches to Swift and Sure Policies Have Yielded Positive Results in Other States

Georgia POM
Enabling probation officers to employ administrative sanctions & probationers to waive violation hearings **reduced jail time three-fold**, reduced time spent in court, and increased swiftness of responses to violations.

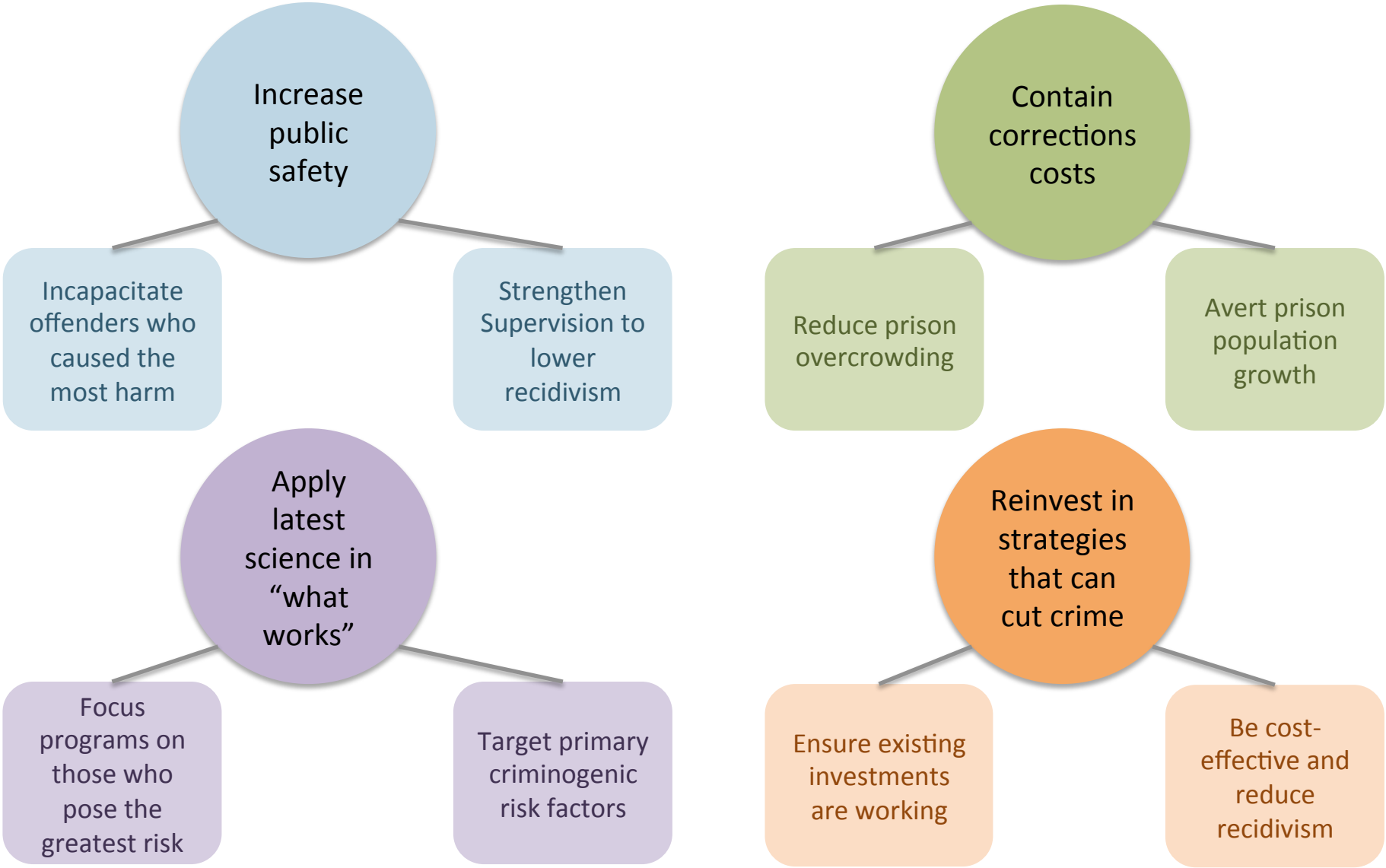
North Carolina: Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011

- Sweeping changes to sentencing, supervision and sanctioning practices– including risk/need assessments in targeting treatment & supervision
- Probation agents able to order "quick dip" stays in jail up to 3 days upon detecting a violation

➢ ***Since 2011:*** probation revocations to prison are down by 40%, and the prison population has decreased by 9% (4,000 people).

Source: *An Evaluation of Georgia's Probation Options Management Act*, Applied Research Services, October 2007; Automated System Query (http://webapps6.doc.state.nc.us/apps/asqExt/ASQ), North Carolina Dept. of Public Safety.

Justice Reinvestment Pursues Four Objectives

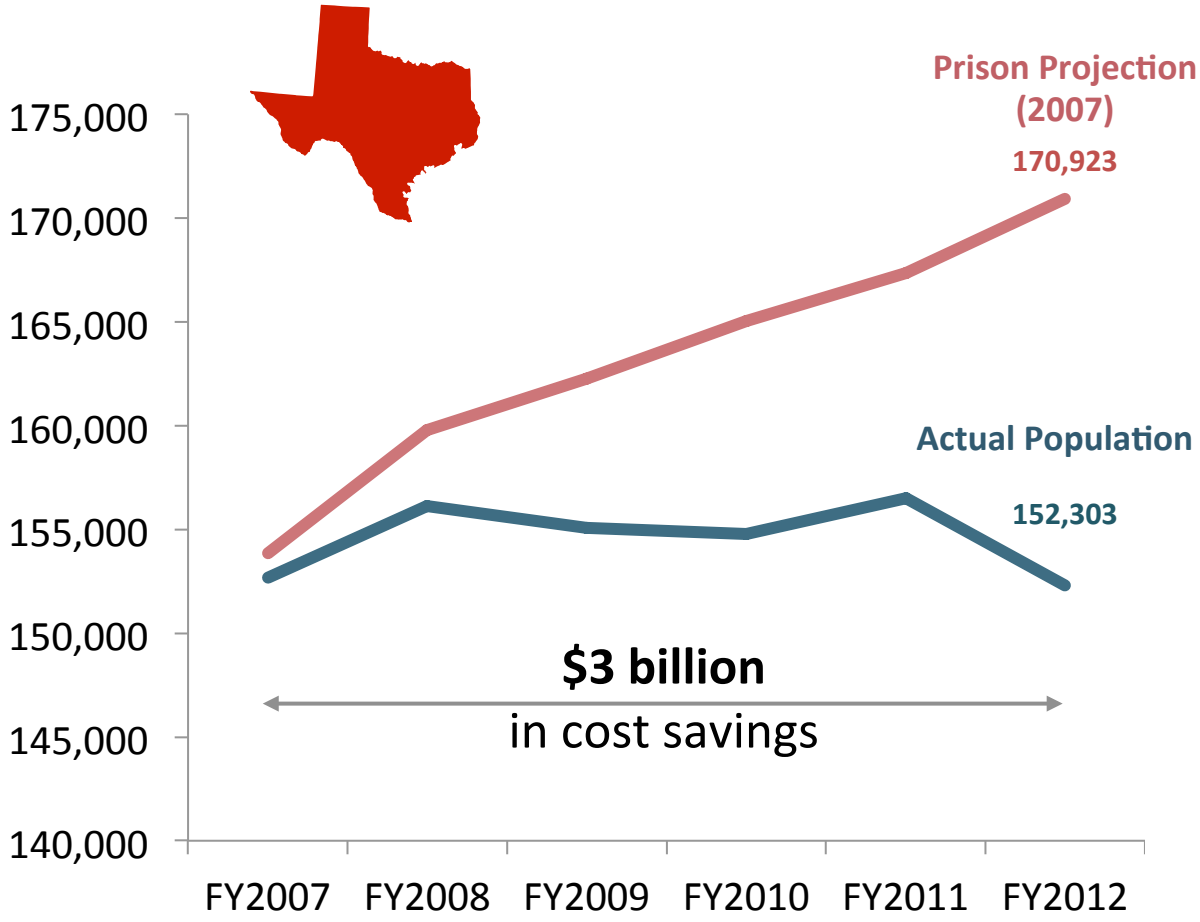


Criminal Justice Trends in Alabama

Guiding Principles

Justice Reinvestment Case Studies

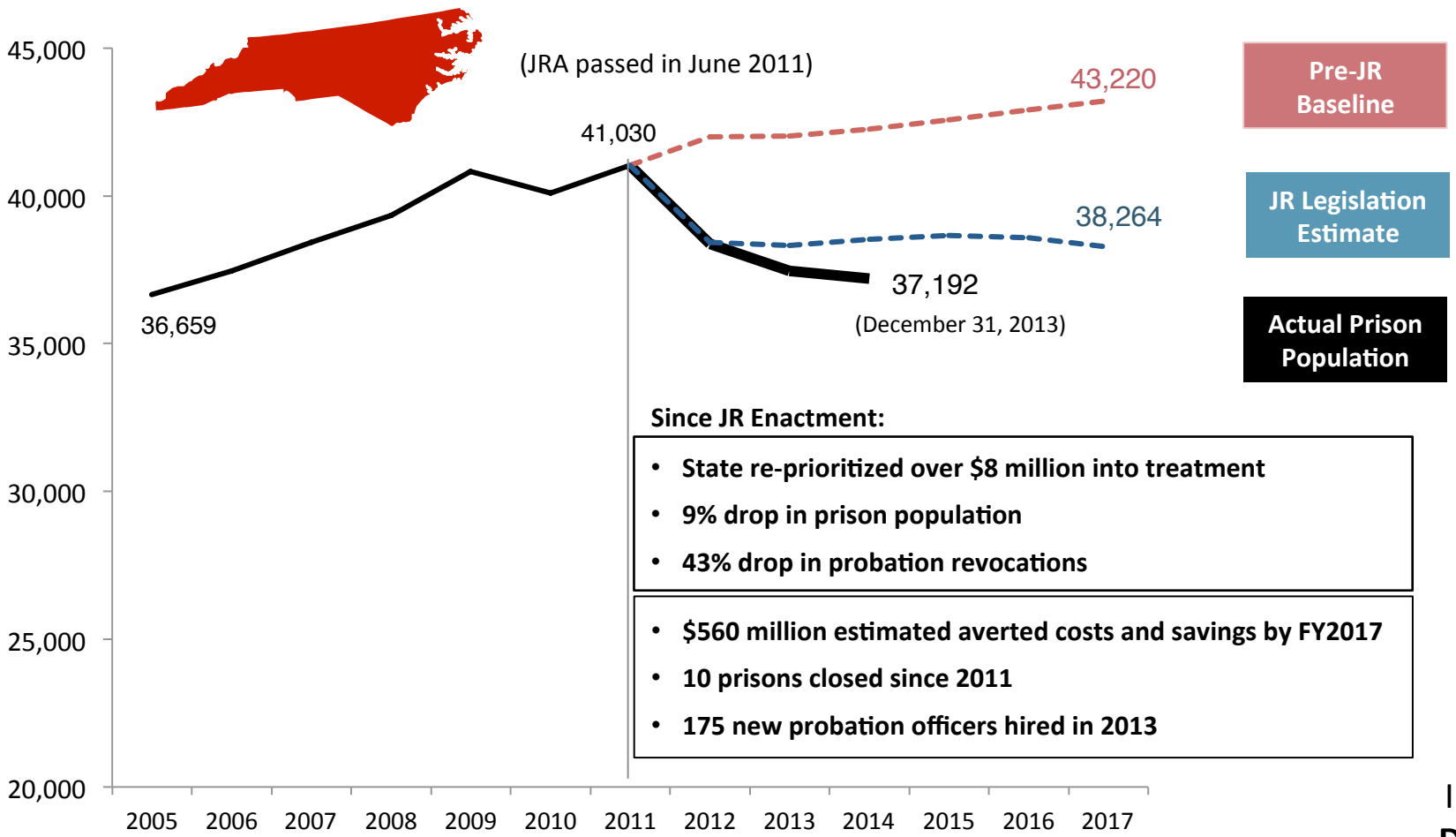
Justice Reinvestment in Texas
Reduced Prison Population, Crime, and Recidivism



Reinvested $241 million to expand treatment and diversion programs

- ✓ 36 percent reduction in parole revocations
- ✓ Crime rate is at a 40 year low

Justice Reinvestment in North Carolina Improves Probation and Drops Prison Population



36% of 2006 release cohort

29% of 2010 release cohort

3 Year Return to Prison Rate

Index Crime
Down 18.1%
(2007 to 2012)

Reduce Volume and Length of Stay of Revocations from Supervision to Jail and Prison

DATA → **POLICY CHANGE**

Supervision violation hearings are time-consuming, frequently delayed, and often result in reinstatement on supervision

53%
of prison admissions are **probation revocations**

There are few meaningful graduated sanctions for minor condition violations

75%
of revocations are for **condition violations**
(drug use, absconding)

Administrative Jail Sanctions & Tailored Prison Sanctions

2-3 day sanction

Capped at **6 days**

90 day sanction

Capped at **3 revocations**

Designed to:

- Reduce violation hearings
- Reduce time in court
- Reduce jail time spent awaiting hearings

State and Counties Partnership Manages Misdemeanants Who Previously Underwent Costly Prison Stays

DATA → **POLICY CHANGE**

Misdemeanor offenders were difficult to deal with efficiently in prisons designed for more serious felons with longer sentences

1/4
of prison admissions were **misdemeanor offenders**

Original Proposal:
Shift them to county jails

3 months
average length of stay

Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program

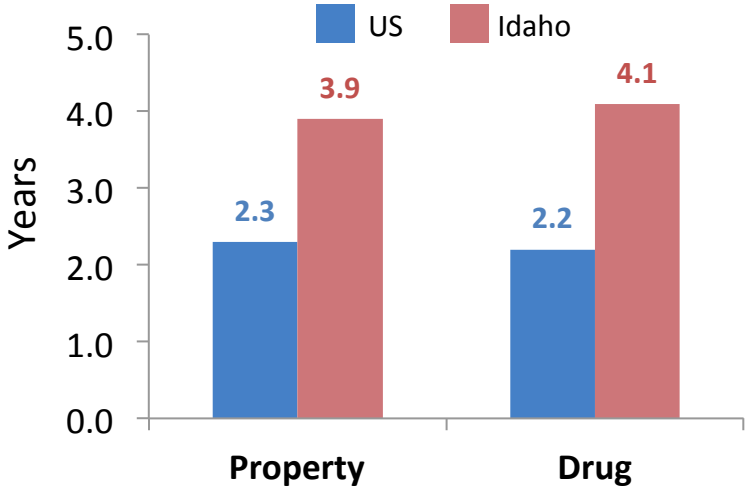
Policy allows misdemeanor offenders in county jails with:

- Sheriff approval
- Bed space capacity
- Reimbursement from new state fund, supported by fees

Improve Correction and Parole Processes by Reserving Prison Space for Those Who Have Caused the Greatest Harm

DATA → **POLICY CHANGE**

Idaho average **time served was nearly double** the national average for property and drug offenses



Idaho's average time served in prison was **207%** of the fixed term

Guidelines

Corrections

Create guidelines for preparing inmates for parole before they reach completion of the fixed term

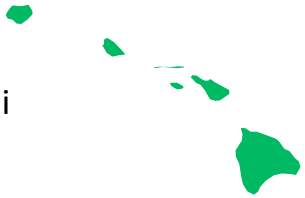
Parole

Create guidelines for prioritizing prison space for the most violent and greatest-risk offenders

Include risk assessment as part of parole decision-making criteria

Retain discretion in individual cases

States Are Reinvesting a Portion of Savings into Public Safety Strategies

STATE	FINDING	REINVESTMENT
West Virginia	Substance use needs contributing to probation and parole violations	Reinvest $2.5 million in substance use treatment focused on higher-risk probationers and parolees with higher needs
Hawaii 	Victims lack confidence that restitution orders will be managed effectively	Increase, by statute, prison-based restitution collections, reinvest in 15 victim service positions, and track collections using a database
Ohio	Despite substantial community correction program investment, probation failures account for close to one third of prison admissions	Reinvest $10 million in funding for improving probation, including performance-incentive grants

Next Steps

Emerging Questions and Possible Areas of Analysis

How does sentencing affect distribution of offenders across the system?

- How are pretrial, probation violator, and sentenced offender populations affecting county jail populations?
- What factors impact placement of offenders on various sentencing options?
- Do certain sentencing patterns drive prison pressures?

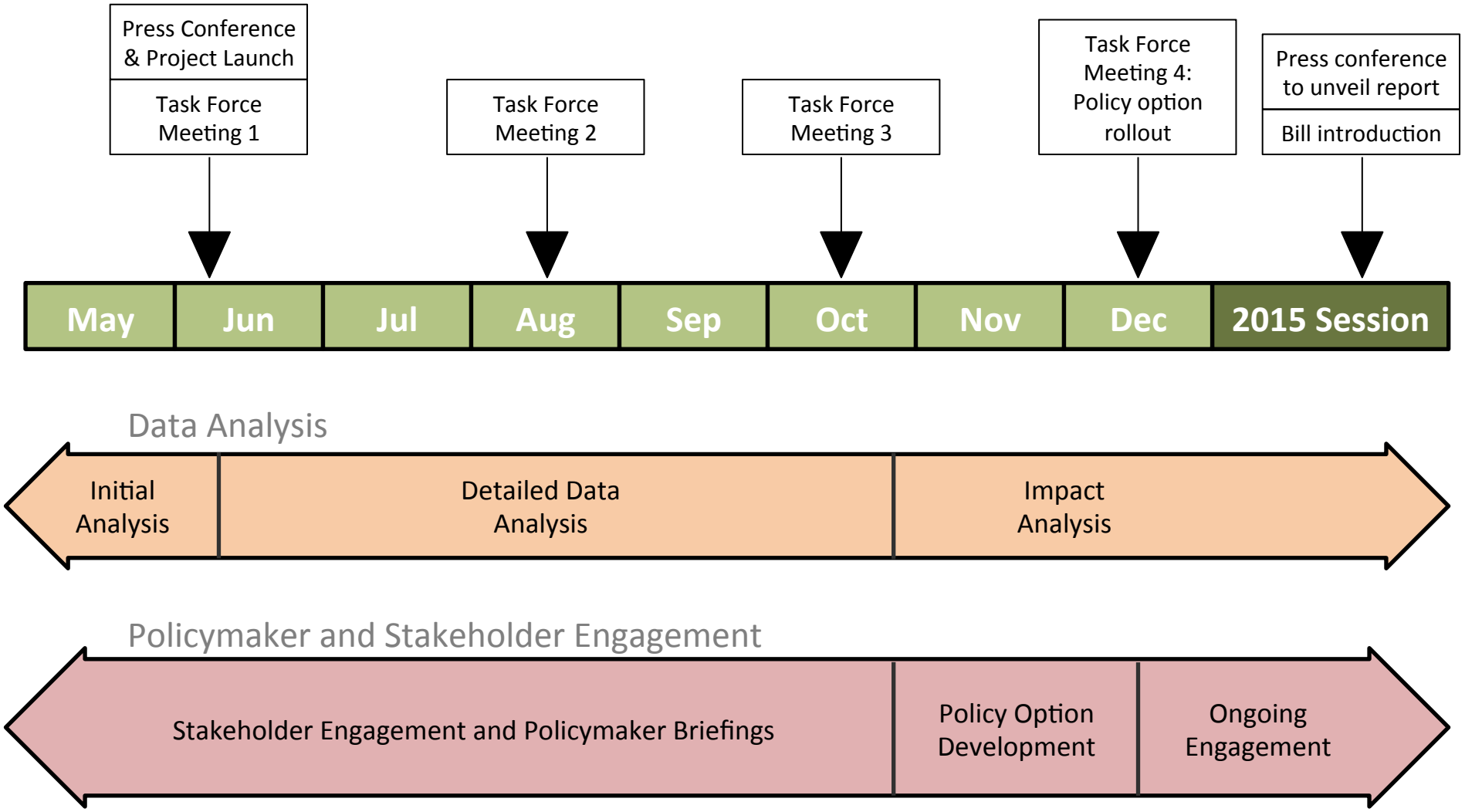
Is prison prioritized for those who pose the greatest danger to the community?

- What is affecting inmate length of stay?
- Are prison and parole processes operationalized to prevent system delays?
- Are programs unnecessarily oriented behind prison wall instead of being delivered in the community where they can have greater impact?

Does community supervision focus on people who pose the greatest risk of re-offense?

- Are admission criteria in place to ensure that programs focus on higher-risk offenders?
- How are probation lengths determined and how do they affect probation officer resources?
- What quality-assurance assessments and outcome evaluations are used to determine recidivism impact?

Proposed Project Timeline



Thank You

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