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# Less Crime, Lower Cost

Data-Driven Decisions in Sentencing and Corrections

NCSL Fall Forum 2009  
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December 9, 2009

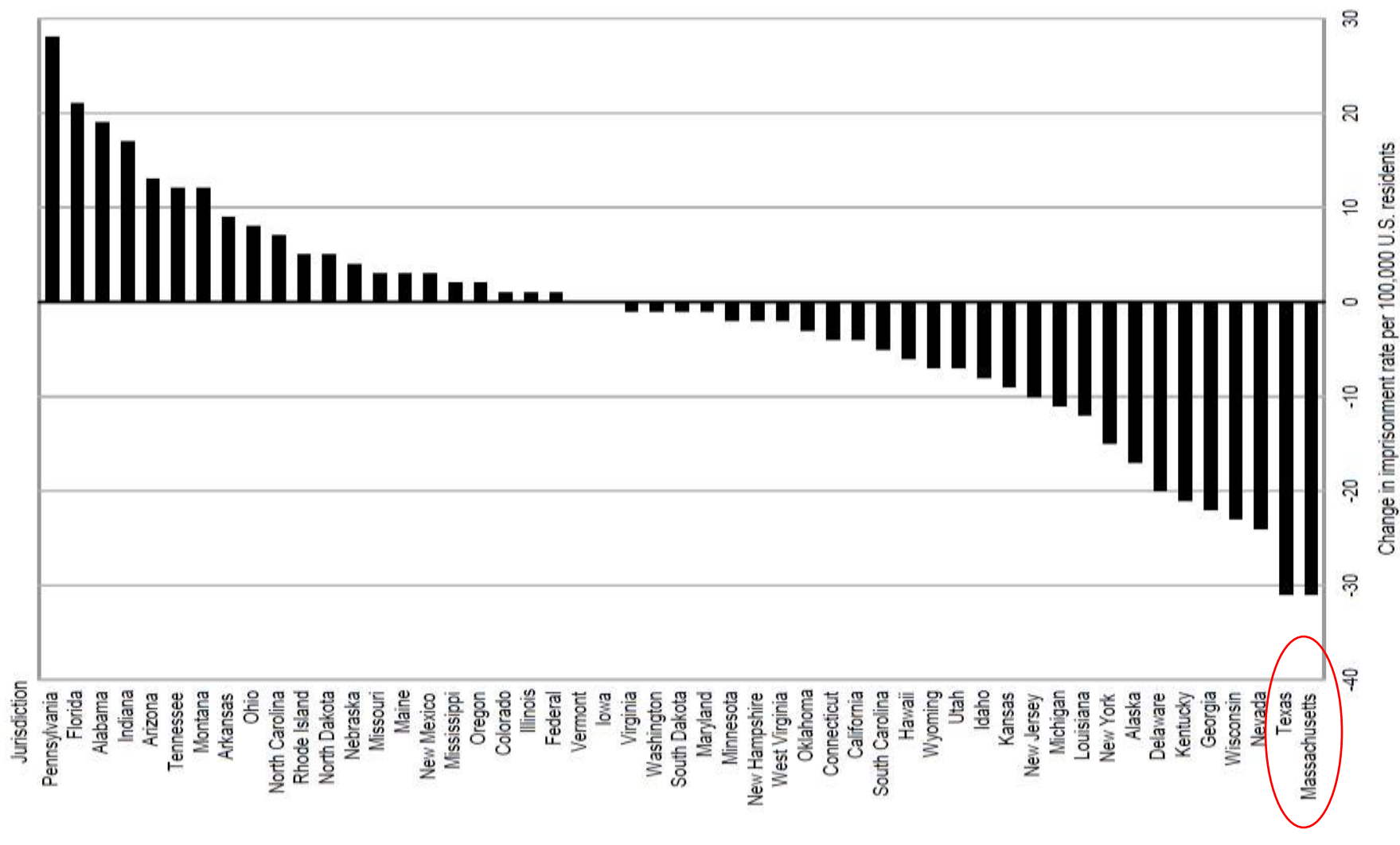
Adam Gelb, Director  
Public Safety Performance Project  
Pew Center on the States

- **What data can motivate policy change?**
  - Population trends / projections
  - Cost trends / projections
  - Crime trends
  - Recidivism rates
  - Geographic concentration of crime / offenders
  - Overall crime/incarceration trends
  - Comparison to other states



# Incarceration Rate: Latest Numbers

**Figure 5.**  
Change in imprisonment rate, 2007-2008



## Data-Driven Decision Making

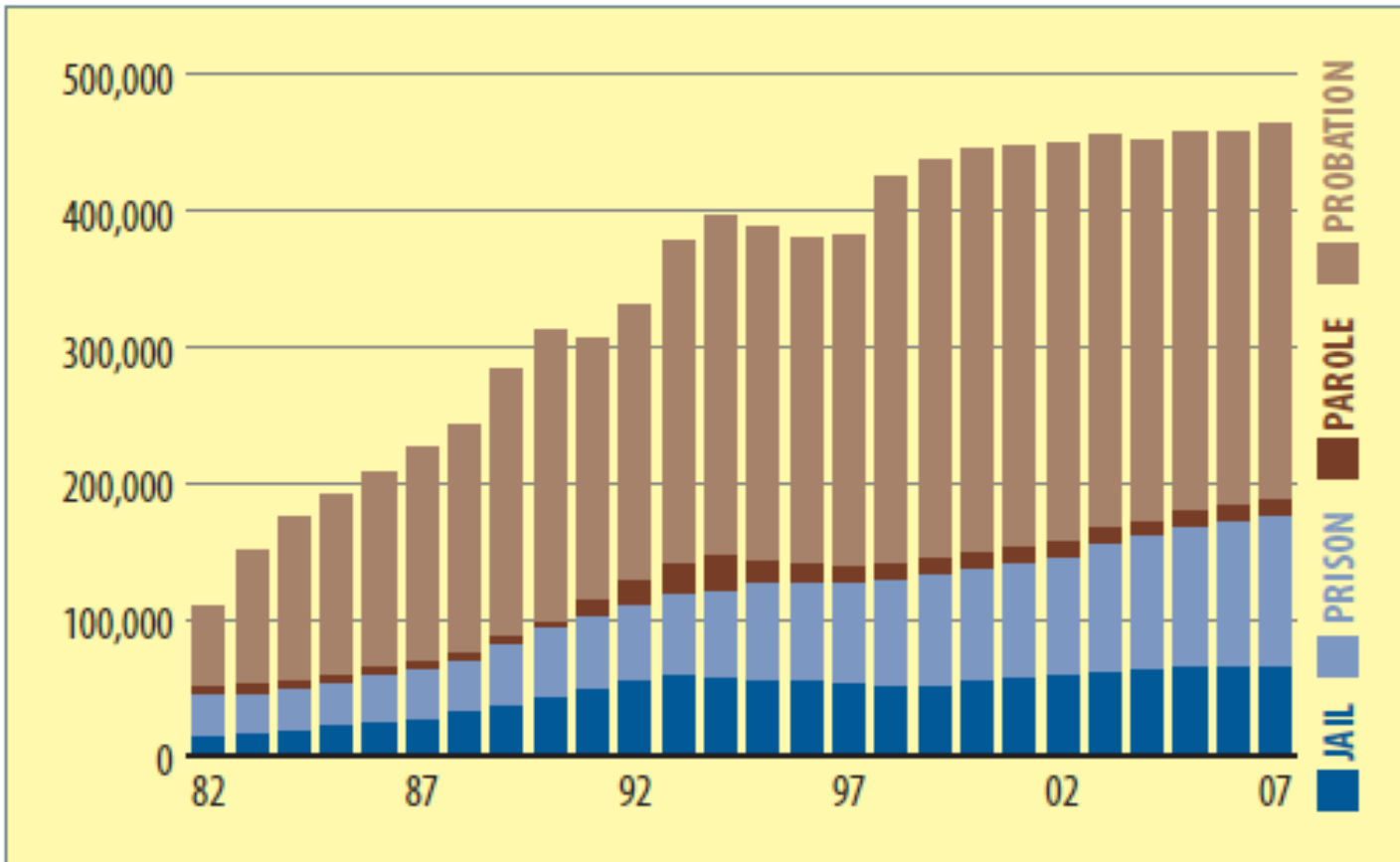
# Policy Choices

vs.

# Broad Social, Economic Forces



## Total Correctional Population (Florida)



# KANSAS PRISON POPULATION TREND

Senate Bill 14 passed in 2007 and was projected to avert the need for more prisons for 10 years.



SOURCE: Kansas Sentencing Commission

NOTE: For more information about the Kansas reforms, visit the Kansas page at [www.pewpublicsafety.org](http://www.pewpublicsafety.org)

Suggested citation: Pew Center on the States, *One in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections* (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, March 2009).



## How Kentucky Stacks Up

	<b>% Change Total ('97-'07)</b>	<b>% New Crime</b>	<b>% Violation</b>	<b>% 50 years+</b>
U.S.	31.5% (34.6%)	78.0% (90.1%)	22% (9.9%)	6.4% (12.7%)
KY	<b>81.7% (53.5%)</b>	76.5% (79.7%)	23.5% ( <b>20.3%</b> )	7.5% (11.3%)

	<b>% Violent</b>	<b>% Property</b>	<b>% Drug</b>	<b>% Public Order</b>
U.S.	25.5% (47.4%)	25.9% (23.0%)	30.9% (21.6%)	13.6% (5.1%)
KY	20.6% (50.7%)	<b>32.3%</b> (26.9%)	<b>34.4%</b> (16.2%)	11.7% (6.0%)

## Data-Driven Decision Making

# New Crimes

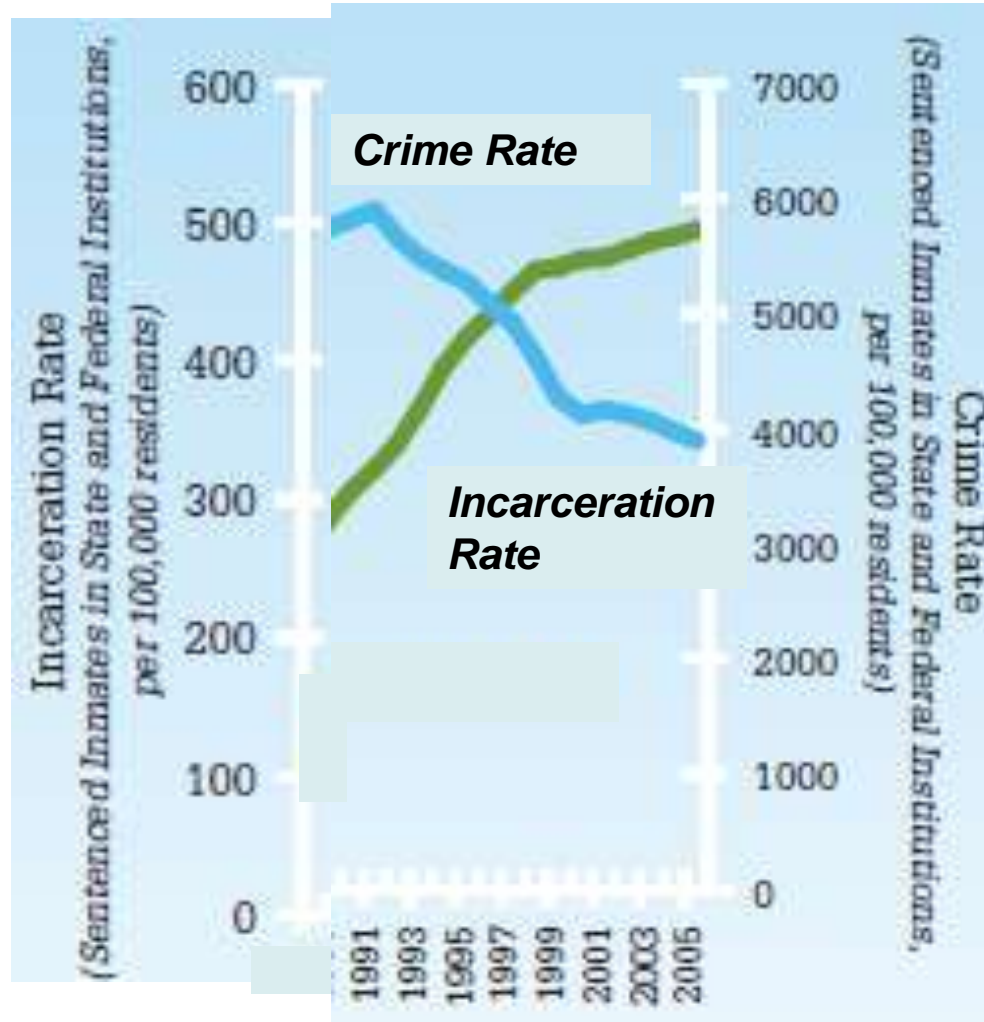
vs.

# Technical

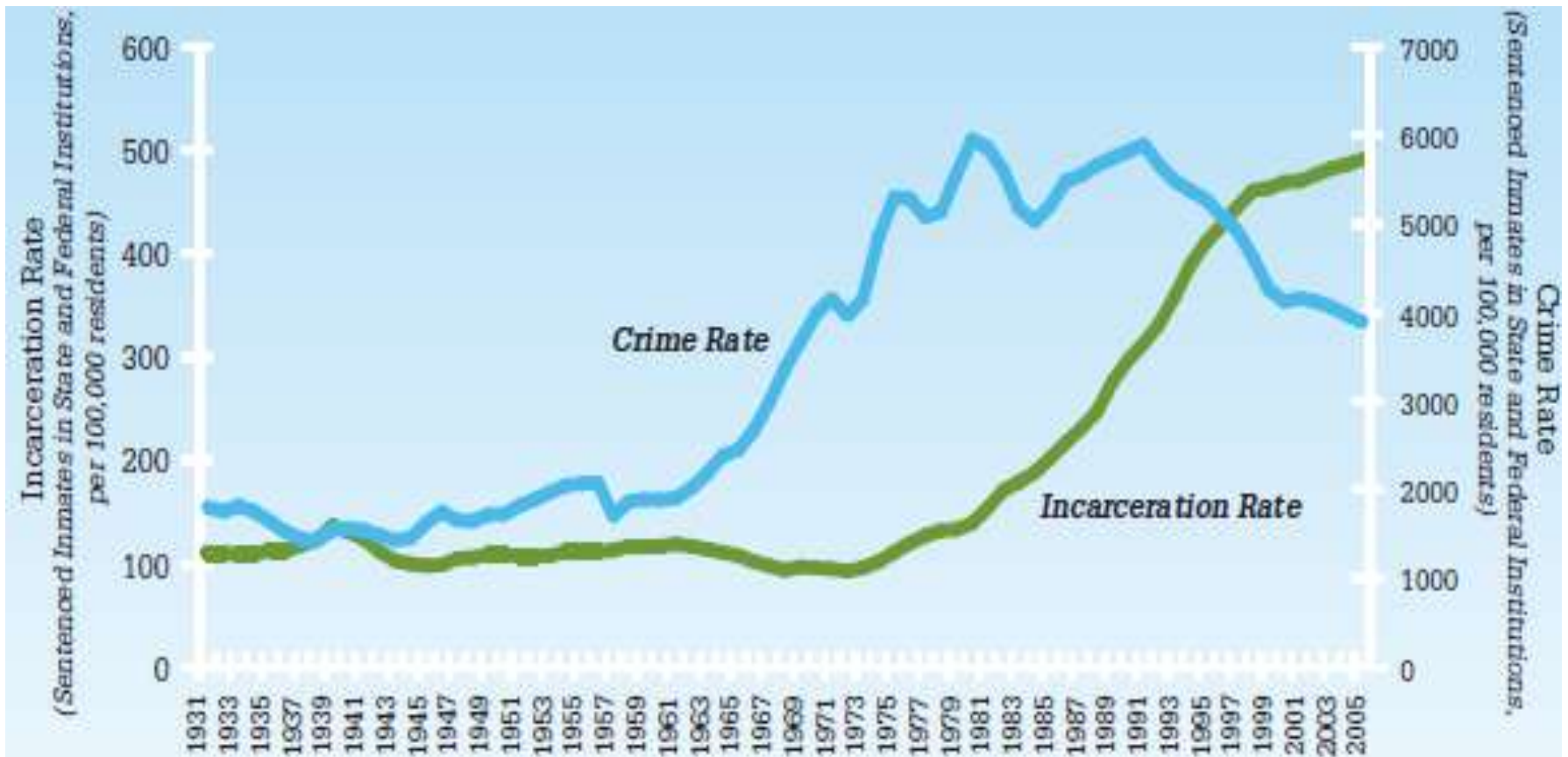
# Violators



# The Infamous X Chart



# X Chart: Take a Longer View

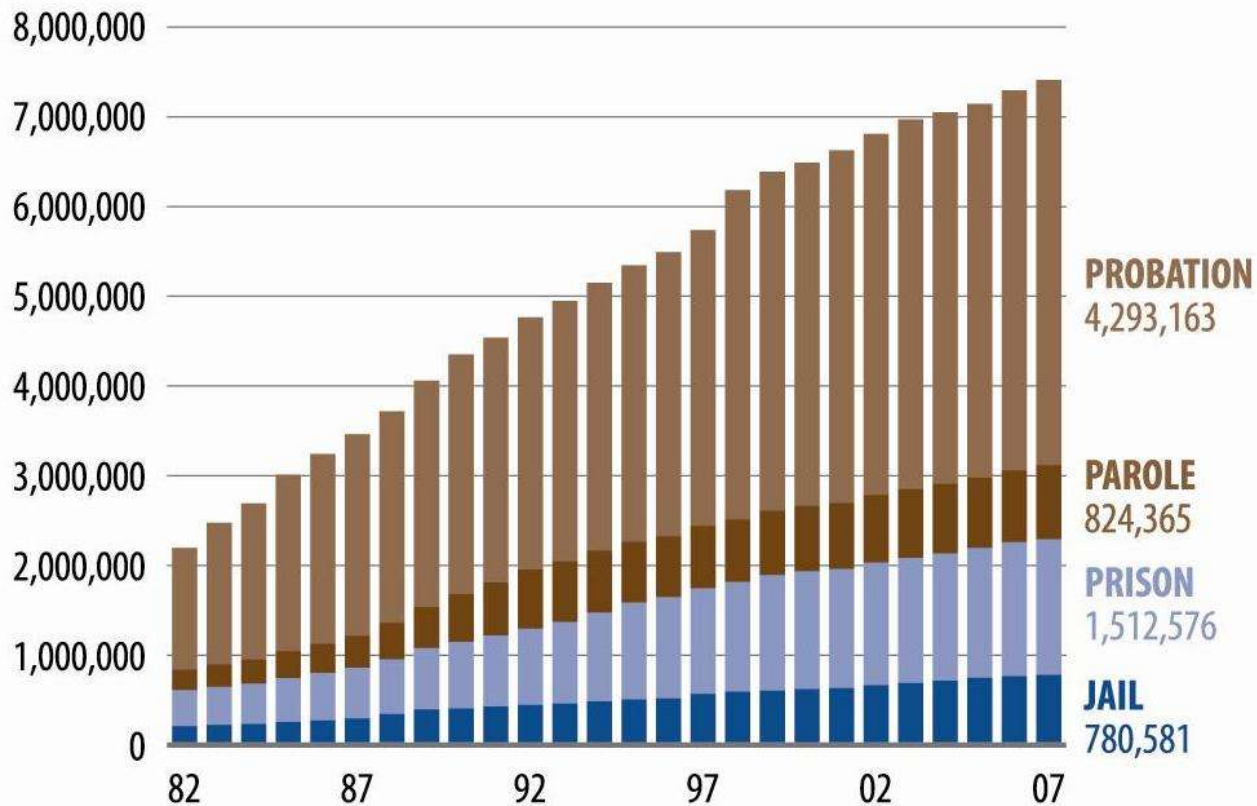


## Data-Driven Decision Making



# Short vs. Long-Term Trends

## 7 MILLION AND COUNTING

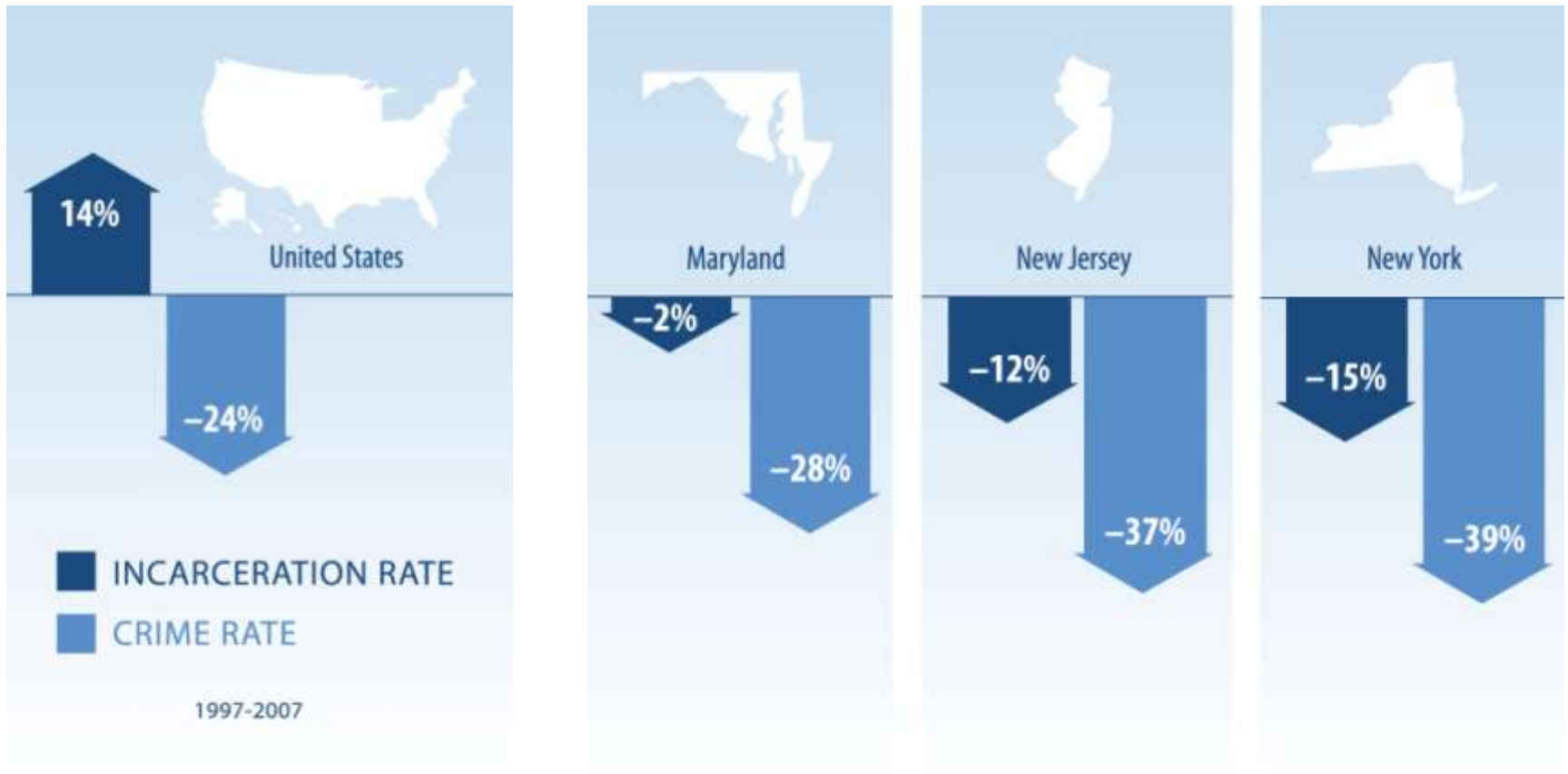


SOURCE: Pew Center on the States, "1 in 31" report; Bureau of Justice Statistics correctional surveys.

NOTE: Due to offenders with dual status, the sum of these four correctional categories slightly overstates the total correctional population.



# States Can Have Less Crime at Lower Cost



## Data-Driven Decision Making

**High Risk**

**vs.**

**Average**

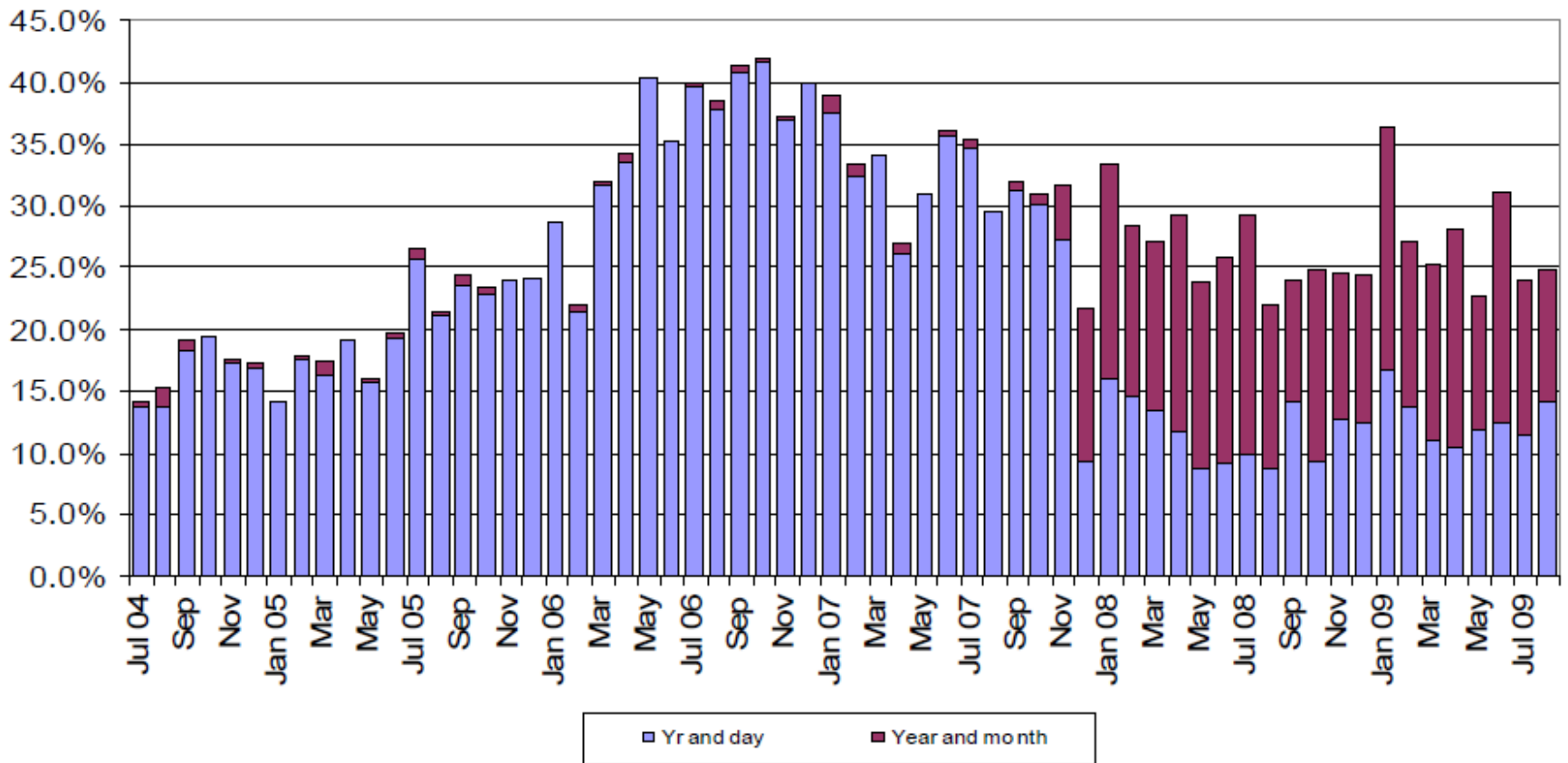
**vs.**

**Low-Risk  
Offenders**



# Take a Closer Look

**Year-and-a-day and year-and-a-month sentences as percent of total:  
Hillsborough County**



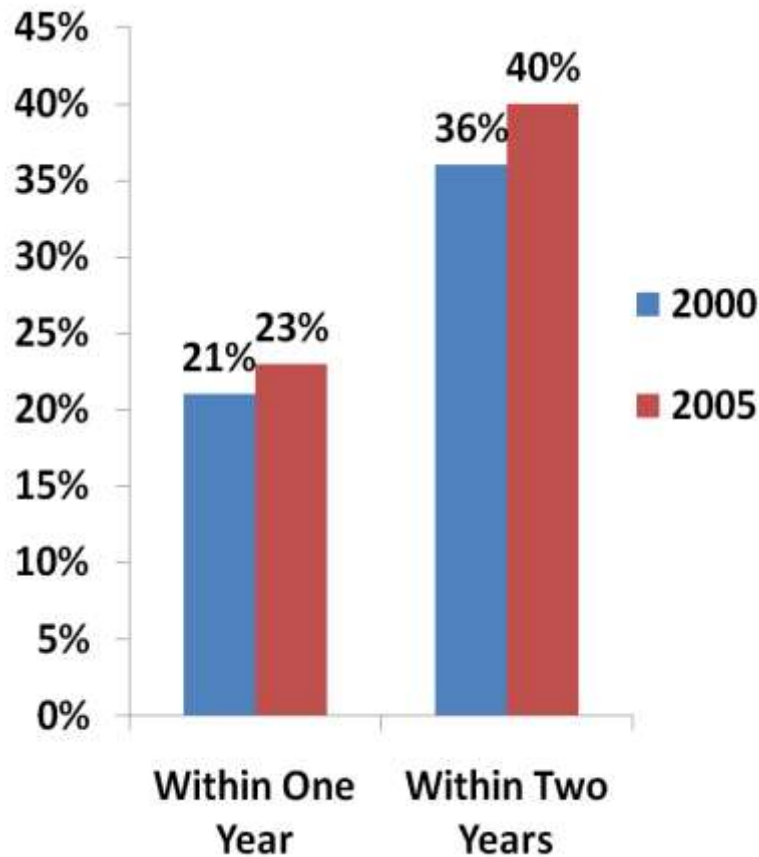
## Data-Driven Decision Making



# State Prison vs. Local Jail Populations

# Wisconsin: Recidivism Rates

## Percent Returned to Prison



## Percent Returned to Prison Within Two Years

	2000	2005
Male	37%	41%
Female	23%	29%
<b>Age at release</b>		
<b>17-21 (443)</b>	38%	55%
<b>21-25 (1574)</b>	34%	45%
<b>25-30 (1750)</b>	35%	41%
<b>30-35 (1356)</b>	39%	40%
<b>35-40 (1203)</b>	37%	42%
<b>40-50 (1995)</b>	33%	36%
<b>50-60 (517)</b>	22%	29%
<b>60+ (109)</b>	8%	17%

# Kentucky: Spending Trends

## CORRECTIONS COSTS

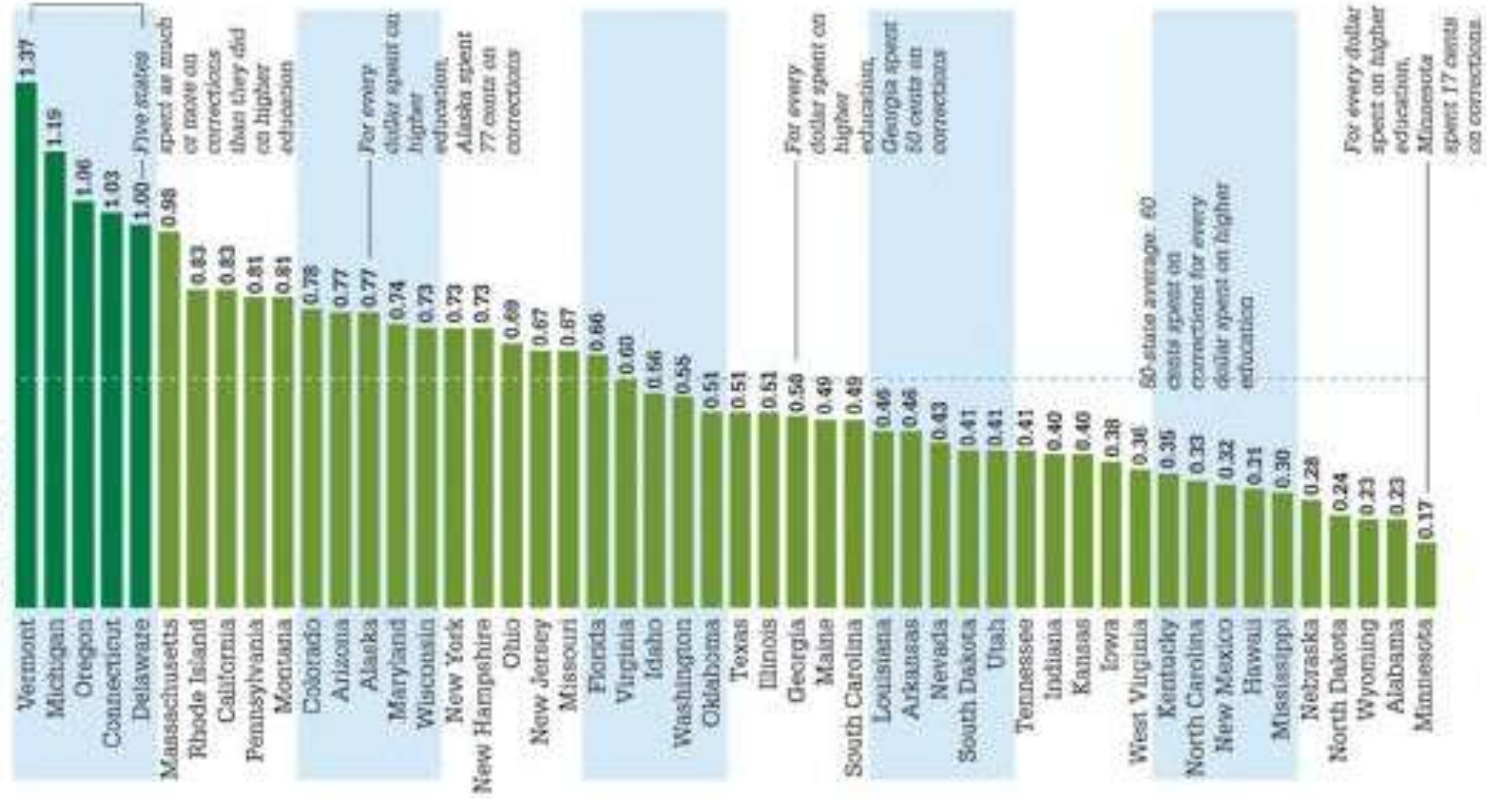


# Corrections vs. Higher Education Spending

## MAKING DECISIONS WHERE TO SPEND

While states don't necessarily choose between higher education and corrections, a dollar spent in one area is unavailable for another.

Ratio of corrections to higher education spending, 2007



SOURCE: Reanalysis of data presented in the National Association of State Budget Officers, "State Expenditure Report" series

## Data-Driven Decision Making

- **What data can motivate policy change?**
  - Population trends / projections
  - Cost trends / projections
  - Recidivism rates
  - Geographic concentration of crime / offenders
  - Overall crime/incarceration trends
- **What data can fuel policy deliberations?**
  - Program impact estimates
  - Policy impact estimates



# Cost-Benefit Analysis: Program Impact

Programs for People in the Washington State Adult Offender System	Effect on Crime Outcomes		Benefits and Costs (Per Participant, Net Present Value, 2006 Dollars)			
	Percent change in crime outcomes	Number of Evidence-based studies	Benefits to Crime Victims (of reduction in crime)	Benefits to Taxpayers (of reduction in crime)	Costs (marginal program cost, compared to cost of alternative)	Benefits minus Costs (per participant)
<i>Vocational education in prison</i>	-9.0%	4	\$8,114	\$6,806	\$1,182	<b>\$13,738</b>
<i>Intensive supervision: treatment-oriented programs</i>	-16.7%	11	\$9,318	\$9,369	\$7,124	<b>\$11,563</b>
<i>General education in prison</i>	-7.0%	17	\$6,325	\$5,306	\$962	<b>\$10,669</b>
<i>Cognitive-behavioral therapy in prison /community</i>	-6.3%	25	\$5,658	\$4,746	\$105	<b>\$10,299</b>
<i>Drug treatment in community</i>	-9.3%	6	\$5,133	\$5,495	\$574	<b>\$10,054</b>
<i>Correctional industries in prison</i>	-5.9%	4	\$5,360	\$4,496	\$417	<b>\$9,439</b>
<i>Drug treatment in prison</i>	-5.7%	20	\$5,133	\$4,306	\$1,604	<b>\$7,835</b>
<i>Adult drug courts</i>	-8.0%	57	\$4,395	\$4,705	\$4,333	<b>\$4,767</b>
<i>Employment and job training in the community</i>	-4.3%	16	\$2,373	\$2,386	\$400	<b>\$4,359</b>
<i>Electronic monitoring to offset jail time</i>	0%	9	\$0	\$0	-\$870	<b>\$870</b>
<i>Sex offender treatment in prison with aftercare</i>	-7.0%	6	\$6,442	\$2,885	\$12,585	<b>-\$3,258</b>
<i>Intensive supervision: surveillance programs</i>	0%	23	\$0	\$0	\$3,747	<b>-\$3,747</b>
<i>Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender program</i>	-20.0%	1	\$18,020	\$15,116	n/e	n/e
<i>Drug treatment in jail</i>	-4.5%	9	\$2,481	\$2,656	n/e	n/e
<i>Adult boot camps</i>	0%	22	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
<i>Domestic violence education/behavioral treatment</i>	0%	9	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
<i>Jail diversion for mentally ill offenders</i>	0%	11	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
<i>Life Skills education programs for adults</i>	0%	4	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e

SOURCE: Washington State Institute of Public Policy, estimates as of October 2006

NOTE: "n/e" means not estimated at this time

## Data-Driven Decision Making



**Programs  
Don't Work  
vs.  
Principles and  
Practices Do**

## Pew Policy Framework to Strengthen Community Corrections

- Menu of five policy options to speed implementation of evidence-based practices
  - Based on innovations now working in the states and a year-long review by a group of experts assembled by Pew.
1. **Evidence-Based Practices:** Require a timetable for adoption of EBP (75% of offenders within four years)
  2. **Earned Compliance Credits:** Move concept of earned time from behind the walls to community (15 days per month off term of supervision)
  3. **Administrative Sanctions:** Boost the swiftness and certainty of sanctions for violations by providing supervision agencies with greater administrative authority
  4. **Performance Incentive Funding:** Create fiscal incentives for agencies to reduce recidivism/revocation of supervision violators (keep 45% of prison savings)
  5. **Performance Measurement:** Require tracking/public reporting of recidivism, employment, drug test positive and victim restitution collection rates

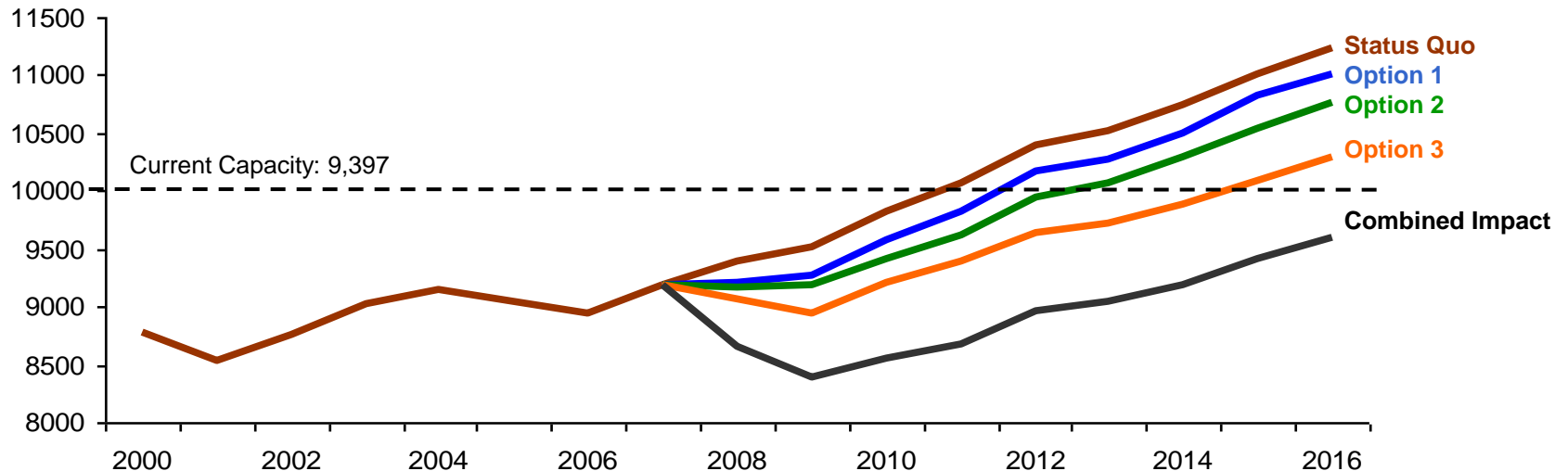


# Simulate Policy Options

	<b>DOC</b>	<b>LOS</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Offense Description</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Total Days</b>	<b>Beds Needed</b>
<b>BURGLARY-2ND DEG/NON-VIOL</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>1,930,659</b>	<b>1,058</b>
<b>ASSL&amp;BATTERY-HIGH&amp;AGG NAT</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1,059,430</b>	<b>581</b>
<b>ARMED ROBBERY</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>781,584</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>MANU/DIST CRACK-2ND OFF</b>	<b>3584</b>	<b>764,734</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>BURGLARY-2ND DEGREE</b>	<b>2221</b>	<b>626,430</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>STRONG ARM ROBBERY</b>	<b>1206</b>	<b>613,277</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>CRACK DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>3558</b>	<b>504,327</b>	<b>276</b>
<b>KIDNAPPING</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>478,340</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>ASSET &amp; BAT W/INTNT KILL</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>474,234</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>FORGERY</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>452,468</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>440,730</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>MURDER</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>437,485</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>SHOPLIFTING</b>	<b>2303</b>	<b>419,232</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>GRAND LARCENY</b>	<b>2318</b>	<b>413,061</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>BURGLARY-3RD DEGREE</b>	<b>2222</b>	<b>401,858</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>BURGLARY-1ST DEGREE</b>	<b>2220</b>	<b>359,451</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>FRAUD INSUFF FUNDS CHECK</b>	<b>2606</b>	<b>311,785</b>	<b>171</b>

# Kansas: Forecast of Options

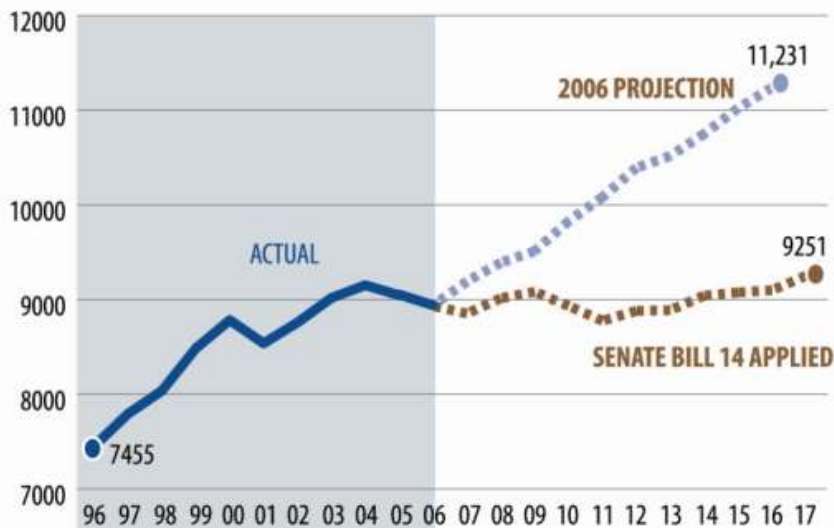
POLICY OPTION	BED SAVINGS	9 YEAR AVERTED OPERATING COSTS
1. Maintain recent reductions in the number of parole revocations at 90 per month	223	\$52 million
2. Reduce the number of probation/community corrections violators by 20 percent	465	\$97 million
3. Create a 10 percent "Risk Reduction Program Credit" for guideline offenders who successfully complete treatment, educational, and vocational programs before release	943	\$171 million
<b>Combined Impact</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>\$320 million + \$177 million [AVERTED CONSTRUCTION COSTS] \$497 million</b>



# Kansas Takes a New Approach (CSG, 2007)

## KANSAS PRISON POPULATION TREND

Senate Bill 14 passed in 2007 and was projected to avert the need for more prisons for 10 years.



SOURCE: Kansas Sentencing Commission

NOTE: For more information about the Kansas reforms, visit the Kansas page at [www.pewpublicsafety.org](http://www.pewpublicsafety.org)

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### Problem

- 22% prison growth by 2016
- \$500 million in additional costs

### Analysis

- FY06: 65% of admissions were P&P violators, costing \$53 million/year

### Solution

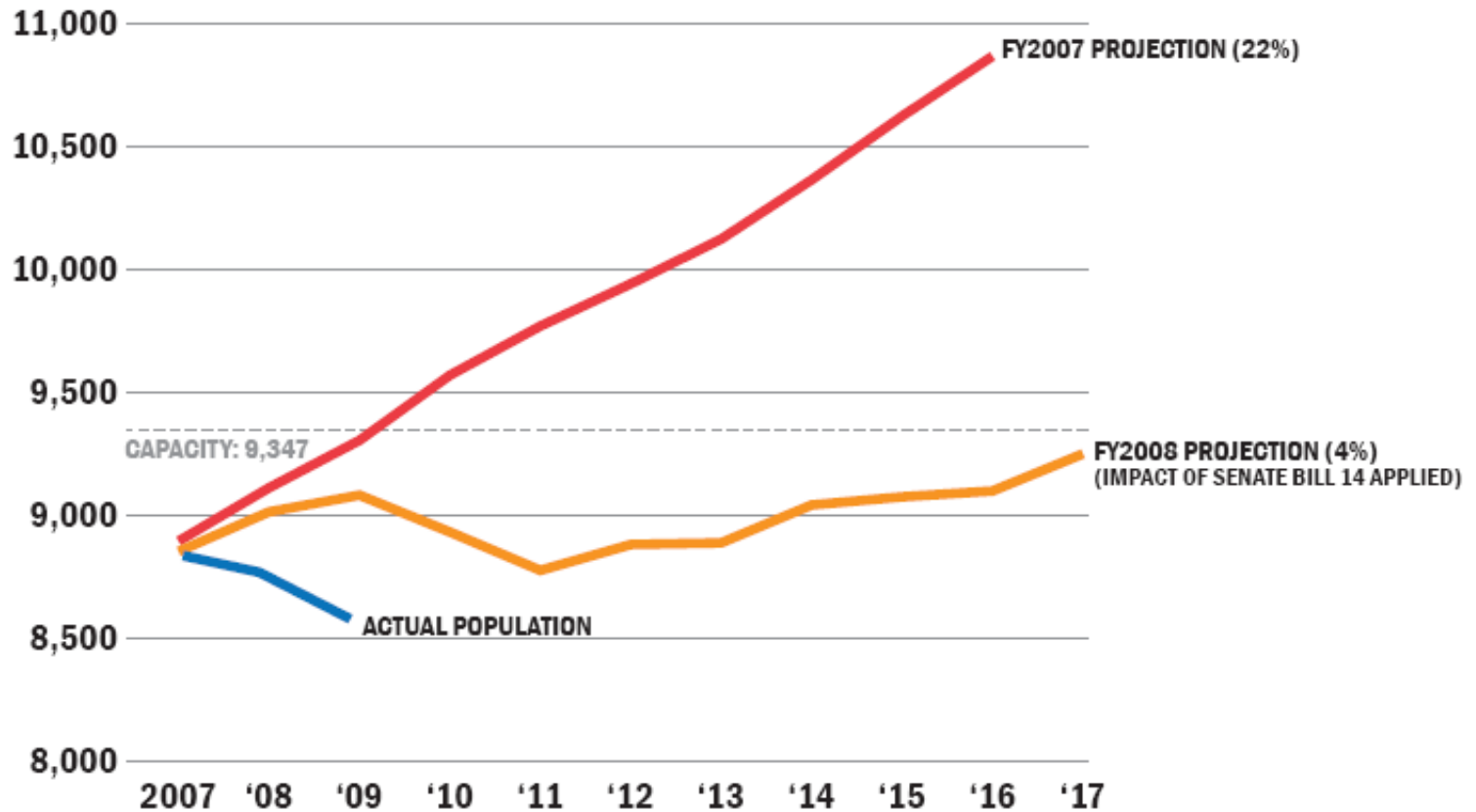
- Grant program to local community corrections to reduce revocations by 20%
- 60 day credit for risk-reduction programs
- Restore earned time for non-violent inmates

### Outcome

- Parole revocations down 46%; parole reconvictions down 26%
- Probation revocations down 28%
- Avert \$80 million in costs over 5 years

# Kansas: Better than Expected Outcomes

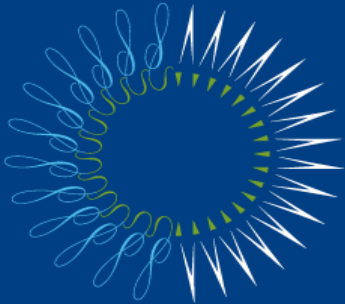
## KANSAS PROJECTED PRISON POPULATION (FY2007 & FY2008)



## Data-Driven Decision Making



**Marginal**  
**vs.**  
**Fully-loaded**  
**costs**



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