

Criminal Justice Reform: A National Perspective

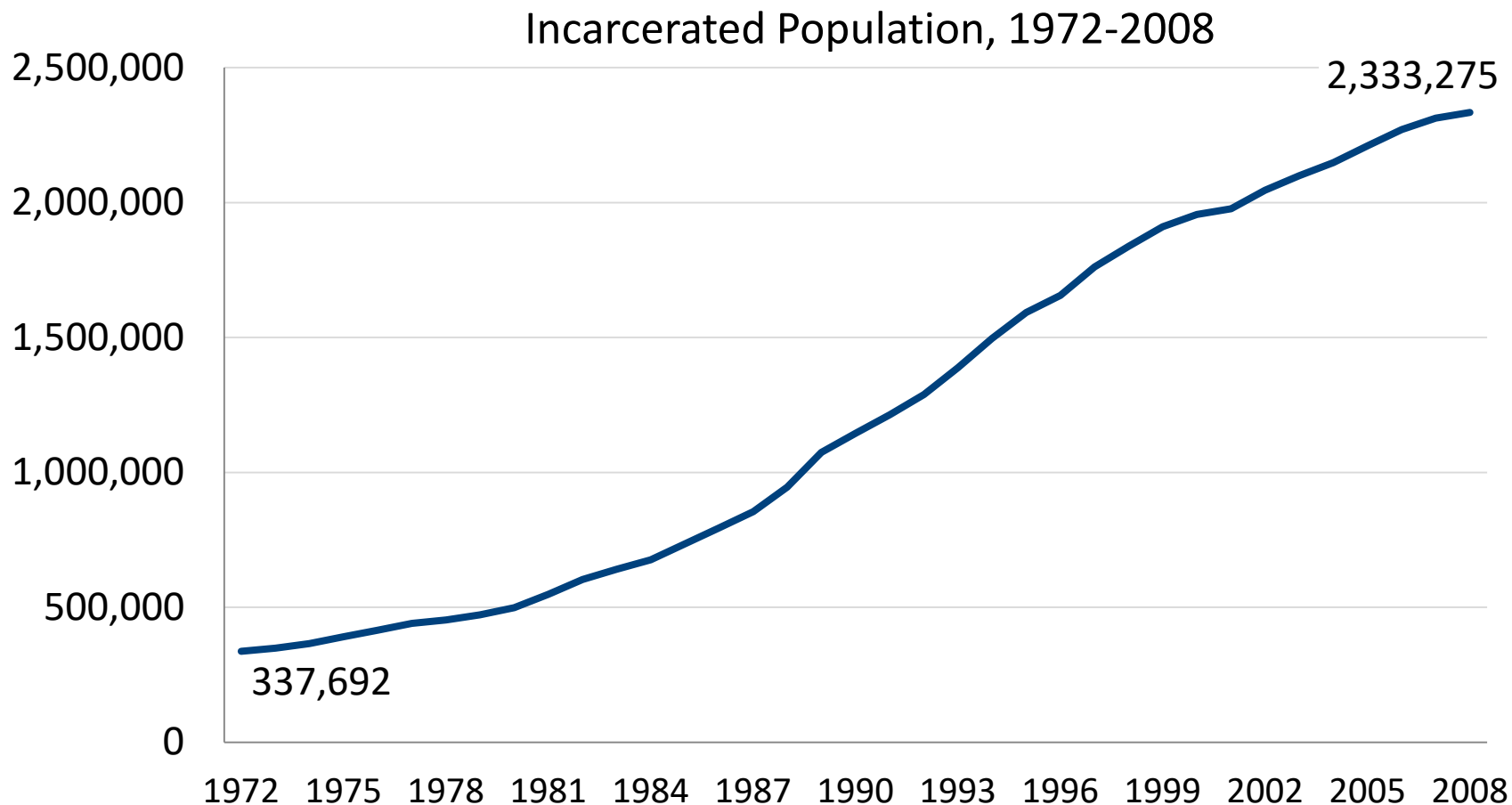
September 11, 2018
Anchorage, Alaska

Agenda

- View of the national landscape and trends
- State examples

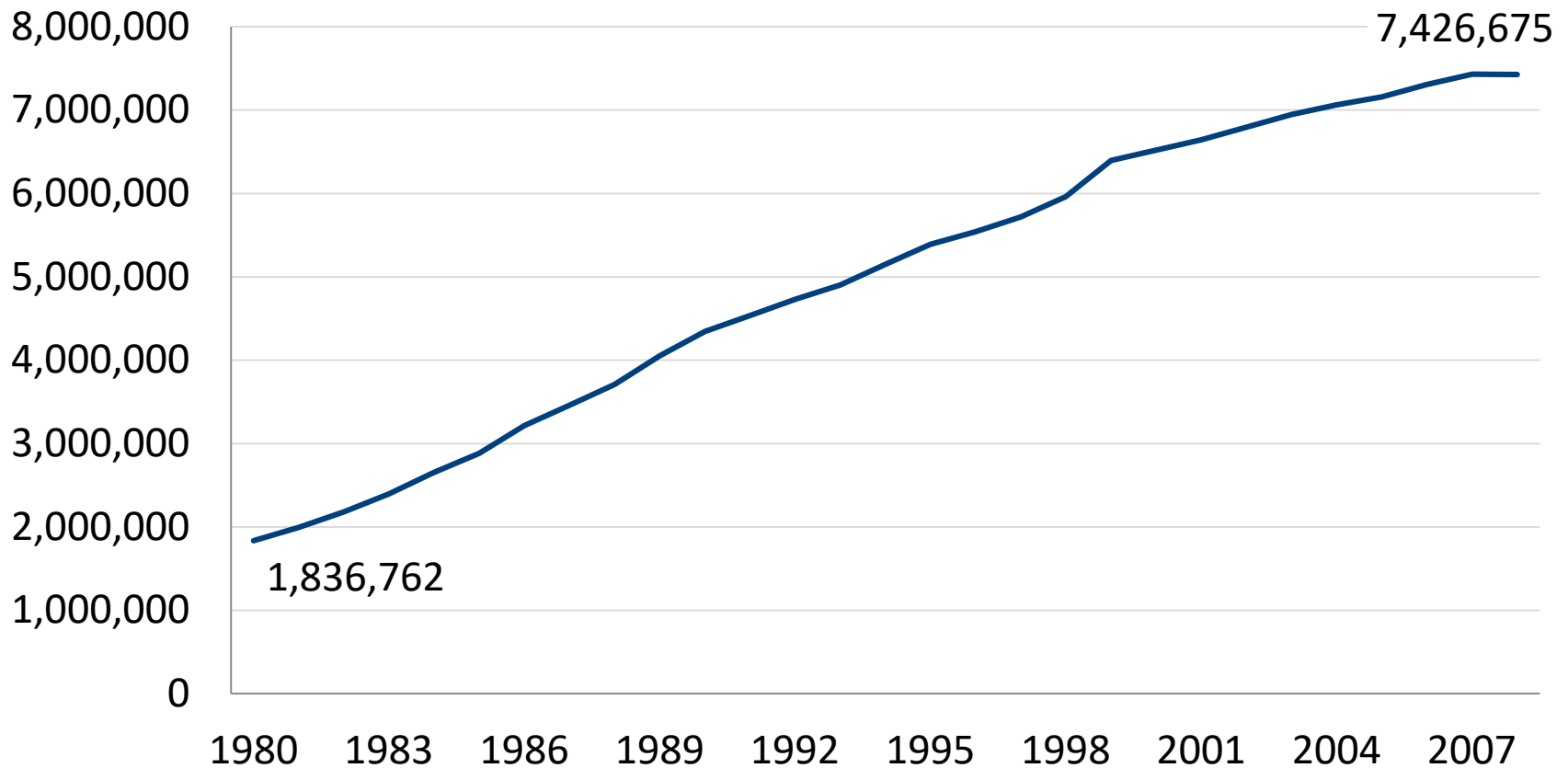
National Landscape

By 2008: 1 in 100 Adults Behind Bars



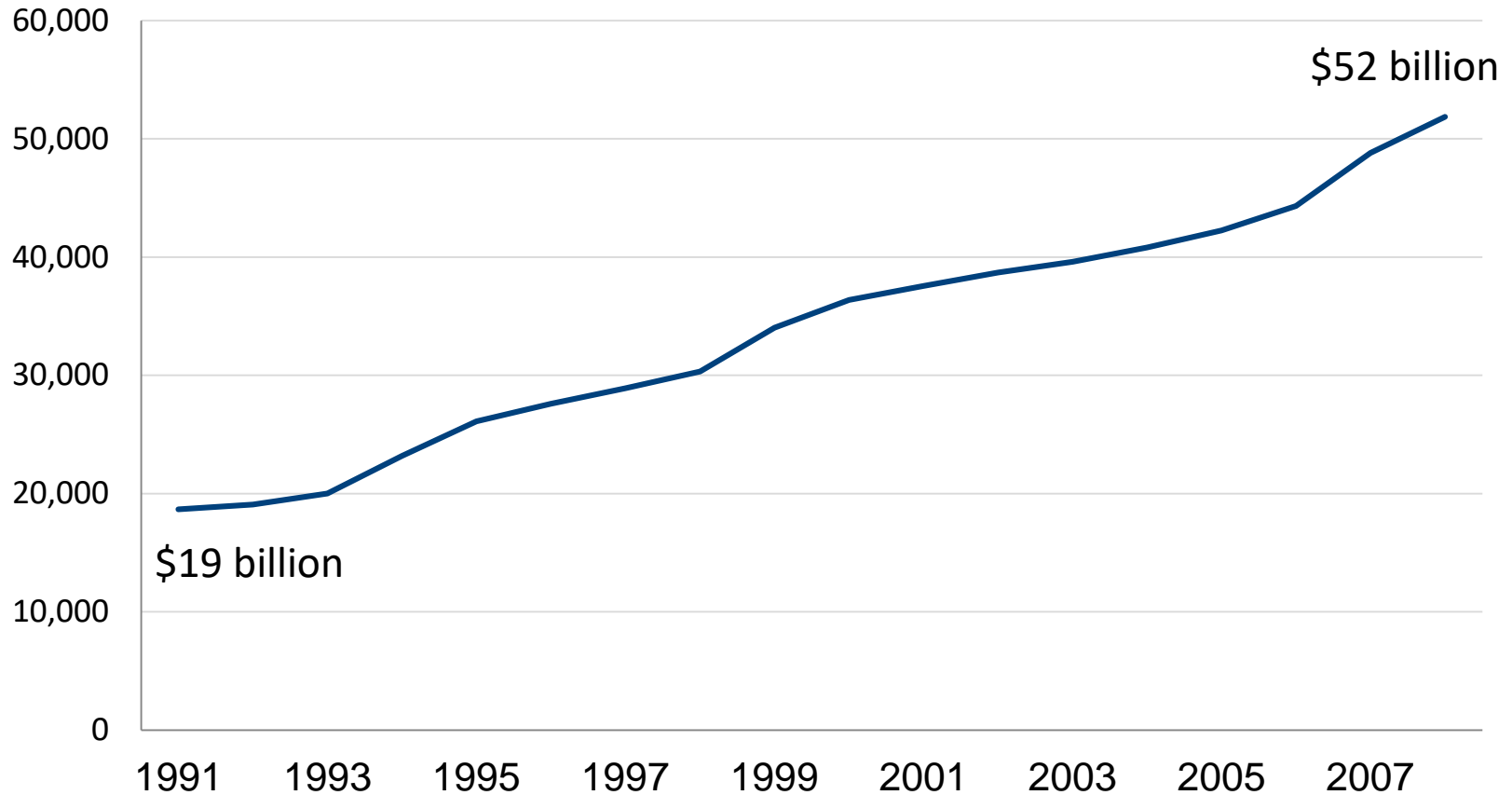
By 2008: 1 in 31 Adults Under Correctional Control

Correctional Population (prison, jail, probation, and parole), 1980-2008

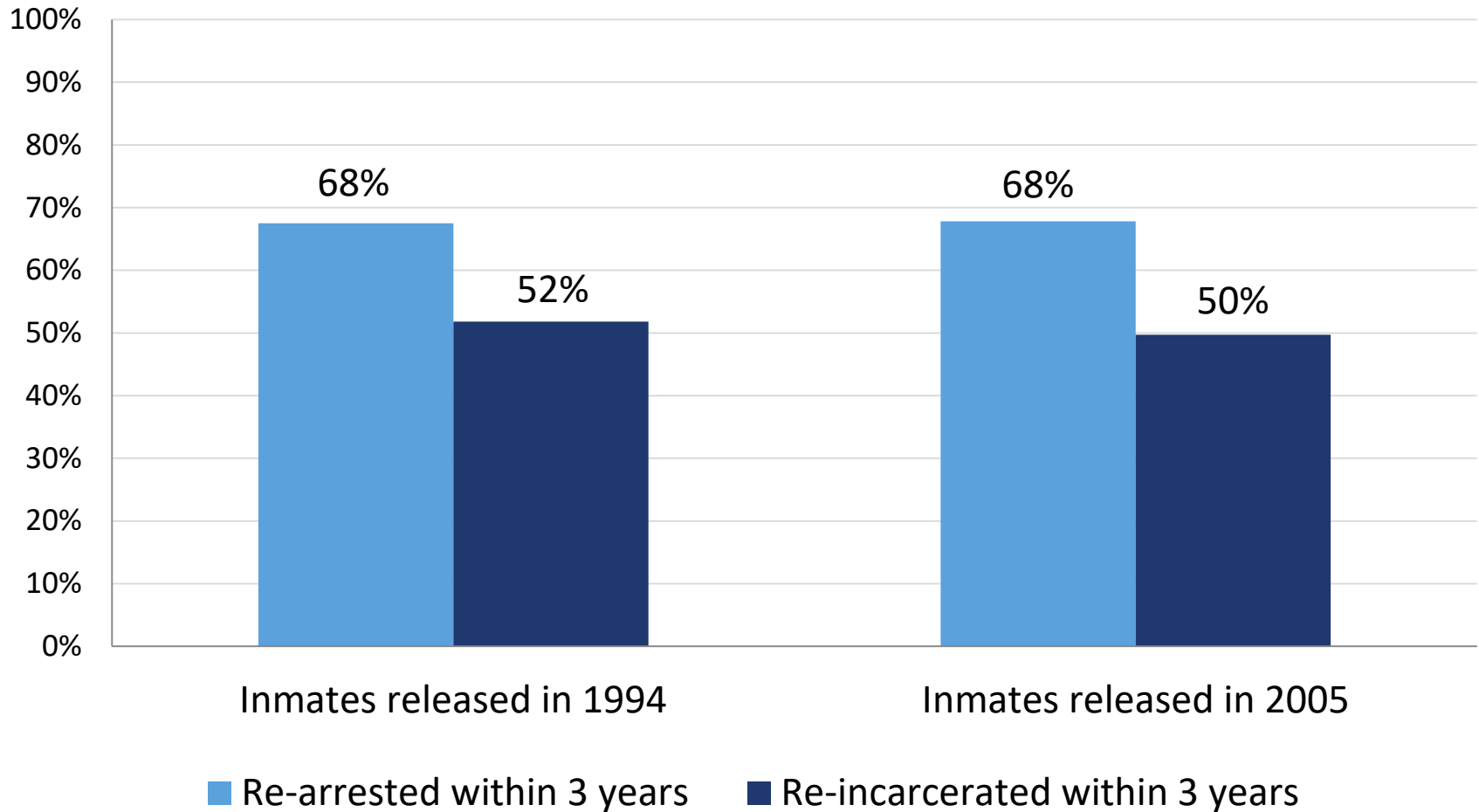


By 2008: 1 in 13 State Dollars Spent on Corrections

State Correctional Spending, 1991-2008



Despite Increased Spending, Recidivism Remained High



Research Examined the Role of Incarceration in Reducing Recidivism

- Incarceration was responsible for 10-30% of the crime decline that began in the 1990s*
- In general, incarceration is not more effective than non-custodial sanctions at reducing recidivism^
- For many lower-level offenders, incarceration can actually increase recidivism^
- Longer prison stays do not reduce recidivism more than shorter stays^x

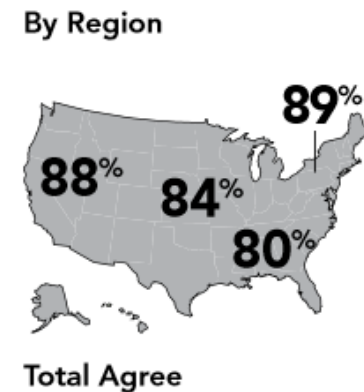
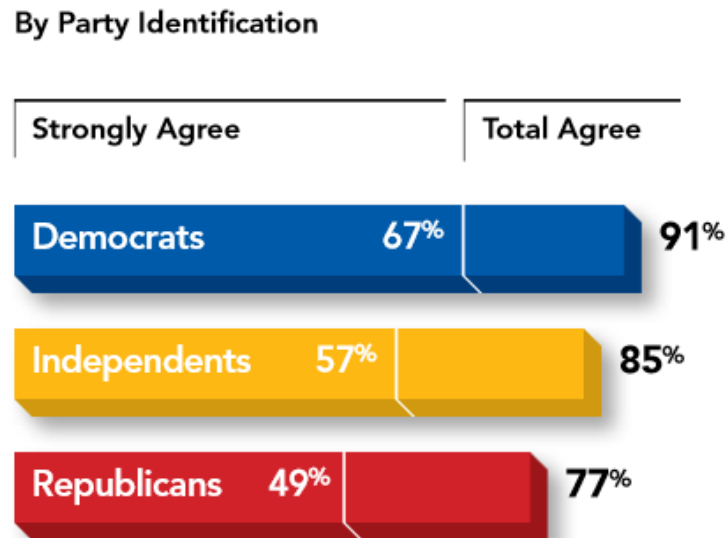
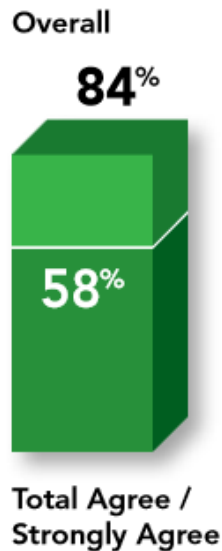
Reducing Recidivism Higher Priority than Long Prison Stays

- “It does not matter whether a nonviolent offender is in prison for 21 or 24 or 27 months. What really matters is the system does a better job of making sure that when an offender does get out, he is less likely to commit another crime.”



Support for Reform Strong Across Political Parties

- “Some of the money that we are spending on locking up low-risk, nonviolent inmates should be shifted to strengthening community corrections programs like probation and parole.”



Reframing the Debate

Old Question:

“How Do We Demonstrate that We’re Tough on Crime?”

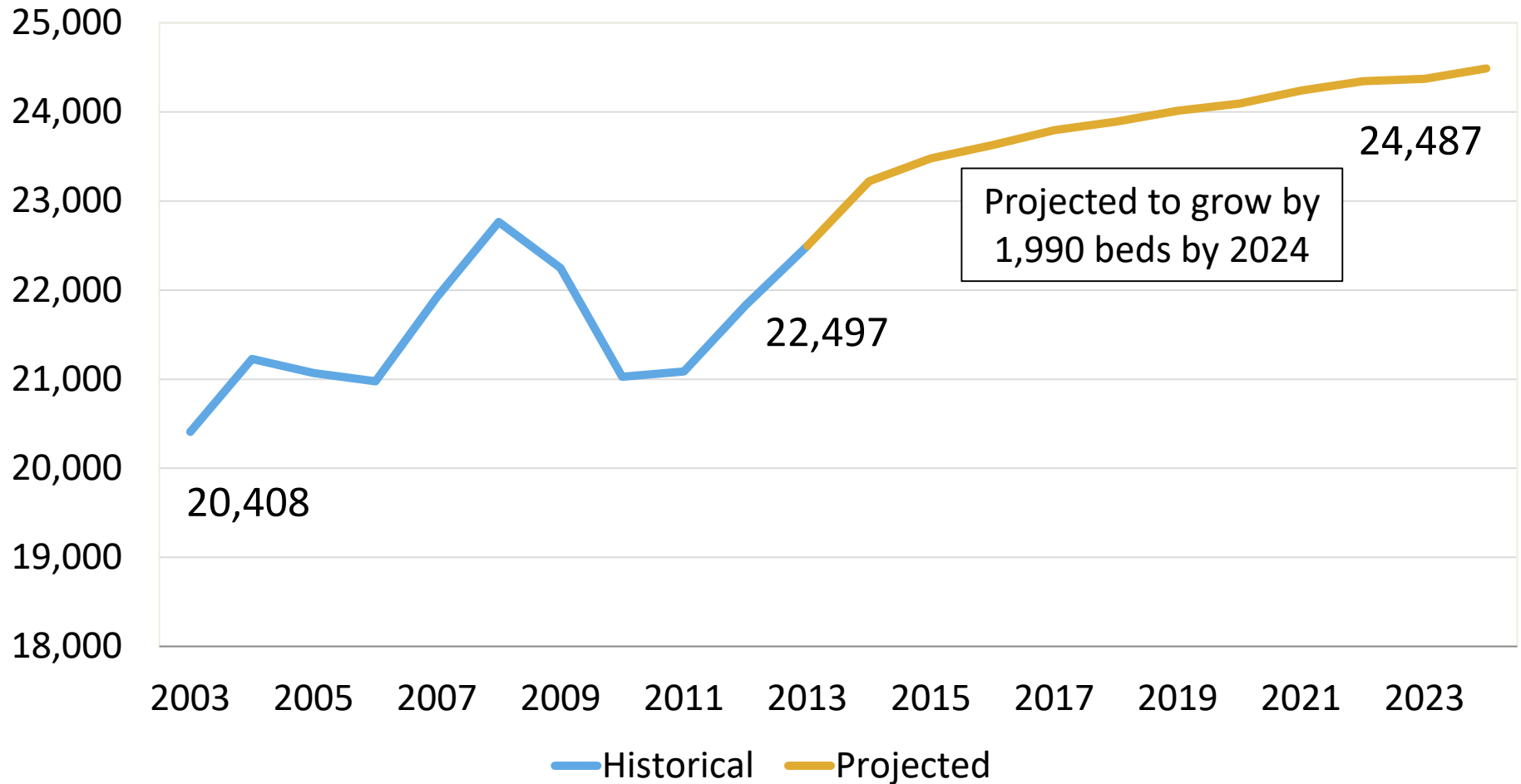
New Question:

“How Do We Get Taxpayers a Better Public Safety Return on Their Corrections Dollars?”

How have states reversed these trends?

Mississippi

Mississippi's Cost of Doing Nothing: \$266 Million Over 10 Years



Key Findings and Legislation (2014)

More people were admitted to prison due to a supervision violation than a new sentence in 2012

- Policy response
 - Strengthen supervision practices by using graduated sanctions and incentives to comply with conditions and complete programs
 - Create technical violator centers for probation and parole revocations
 - Limit incarceration periods for technical violations of supervision

Almost 3 out of 4 people admitted to prison for nonviolent crimes

- Policy response
 - Raise felony theft threshold for property crimes from \$500 to \$1000
 - Establish presumption of probation for lower-level property and drug crimes

Key Findings and Legislation (2014)

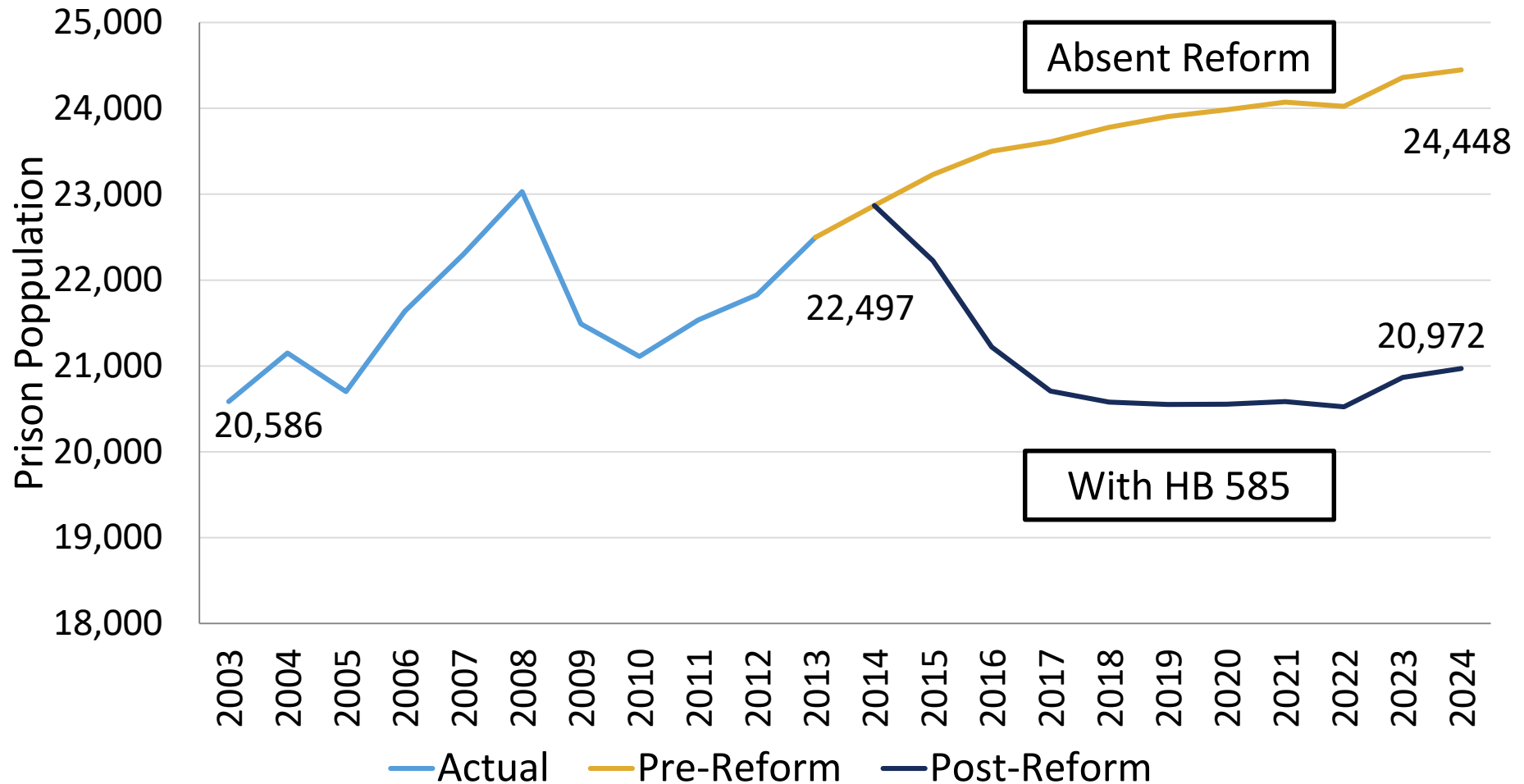
Half of all people convicted of a felony were sentenced to prison

- Policy response:
 - Increase the use of alternatives to prison, such as probation, electronic monitoring, and drug courts
 - Invest in specialty courts statewide

Prisoners released in 2012 served 17% longer than those released in 2002

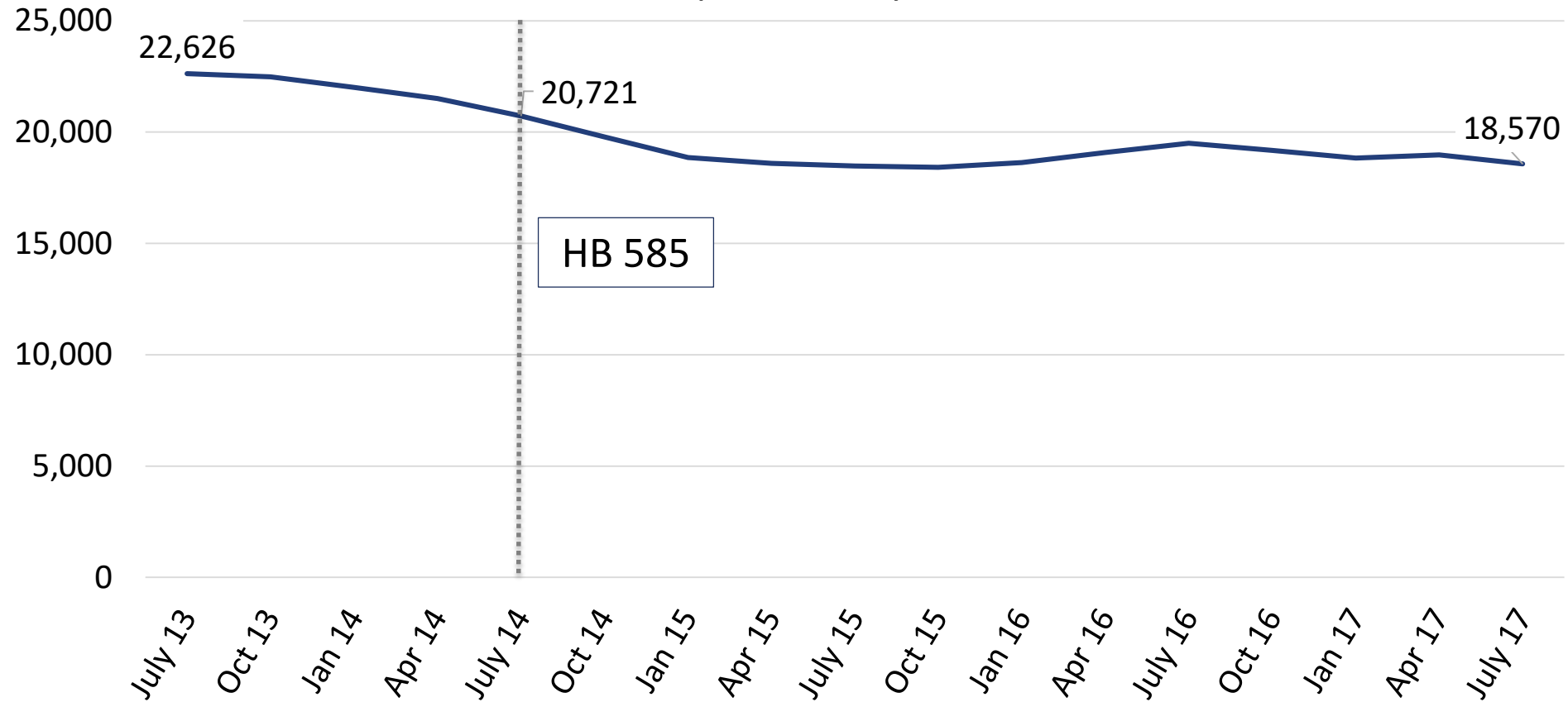
- Policy response:
 - Create structured sentences for drug and property offenders and expand eligibility for earned time credits
 - Ensure that nonviolent offenders are eligible for parole
 - Create a presumptive parole process for eligible offenders

Projected Impact: \$266 Million in Prison Costs Averted Over 10 Years



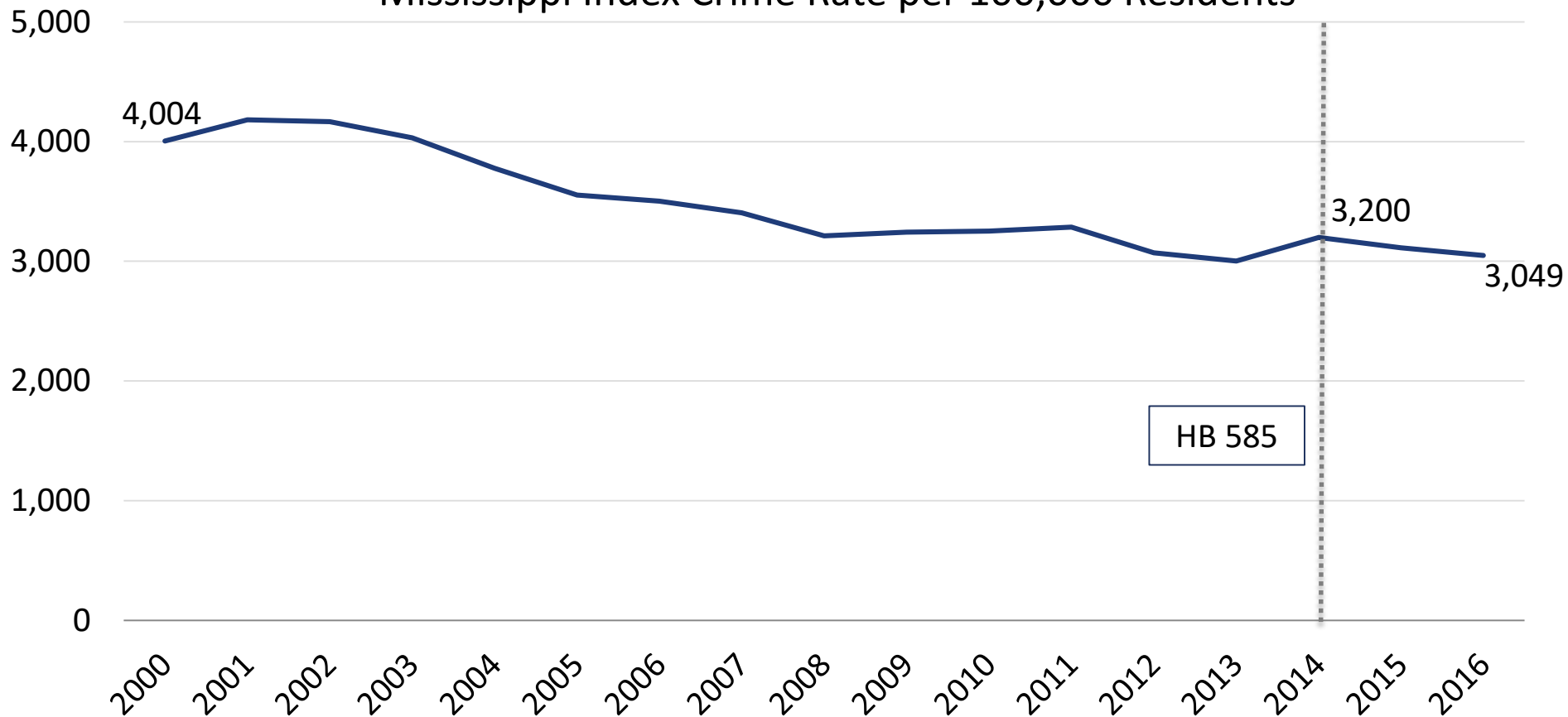
Prison Population Declined 10% After Reform

Prison Population, by Quarter



Crime Rate Continued to Decline Post-Reform

Mississippi Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Residents

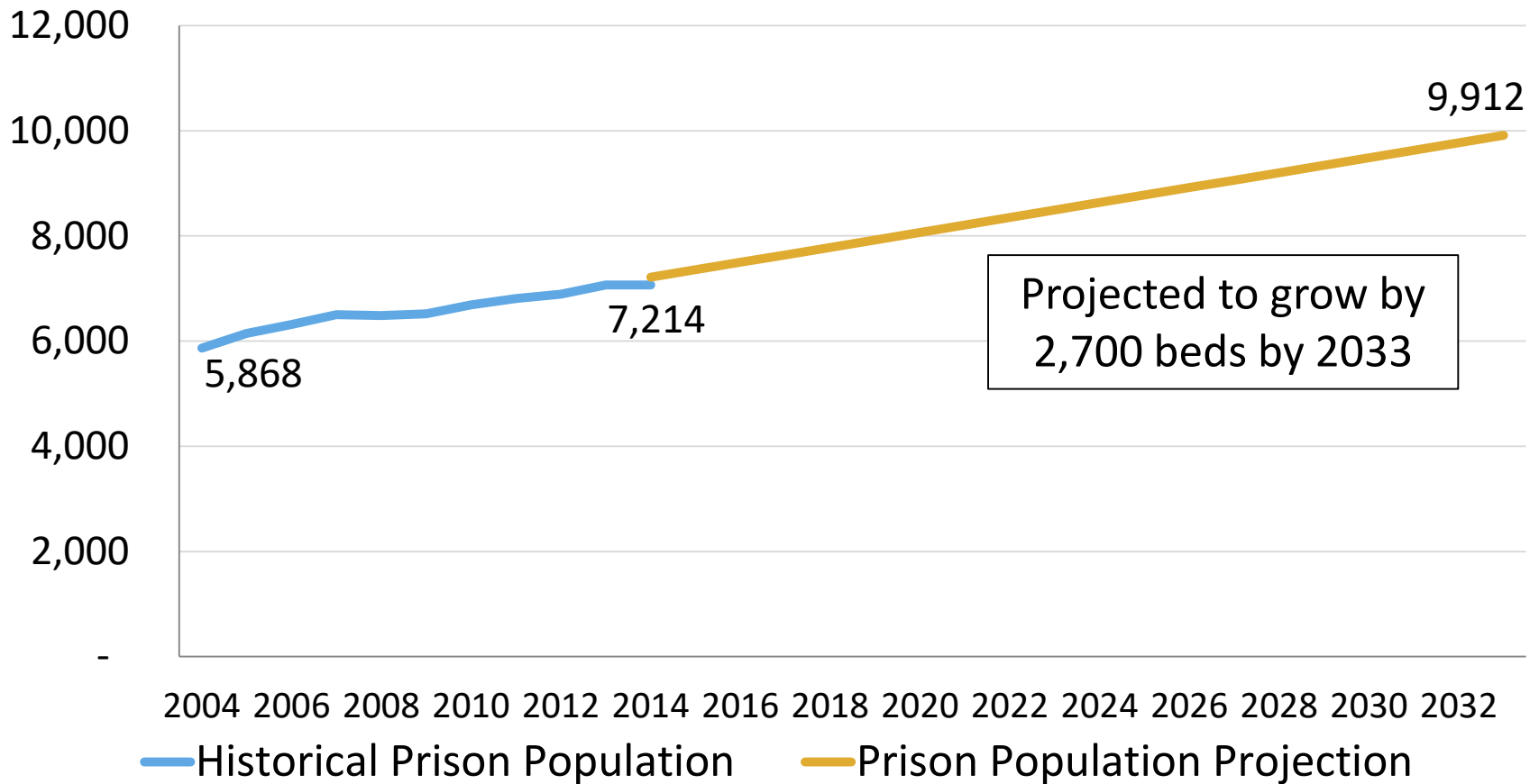


Mississippi Continued Policy Analysis and Legislative Changes

- **Ongoing analysis of data and policies led to further legislative changes:**
 - Allowed judicial discretion in applying mandatory minimum sentences
 - Prohibited incarceration due to the inability to pay a fine or fee
 - Expanded retroactive parole eligibility for nonviolent crimes

Utah

Utah's Cost of Doing Nothing: Additional \$542 Million Over 20 Years



Key Findings and Legislation (2015)

Nonviolent offenses made up 63% of those admitted to prison for new crimes

- Policy Response:
 - Revise criminal history factors in the sentencing guidelines
 - Make 1st and 2nd time drug possession offenses misdemeanors

Supervision revocations made up 2/3 of admissions to prison

- Policy Response:
 - Establish a graduated sanctions and incentives program to respond to conduct while on supervision
 - Cap period of incarceration for technical violations

Key Findings and Legislation (2015)

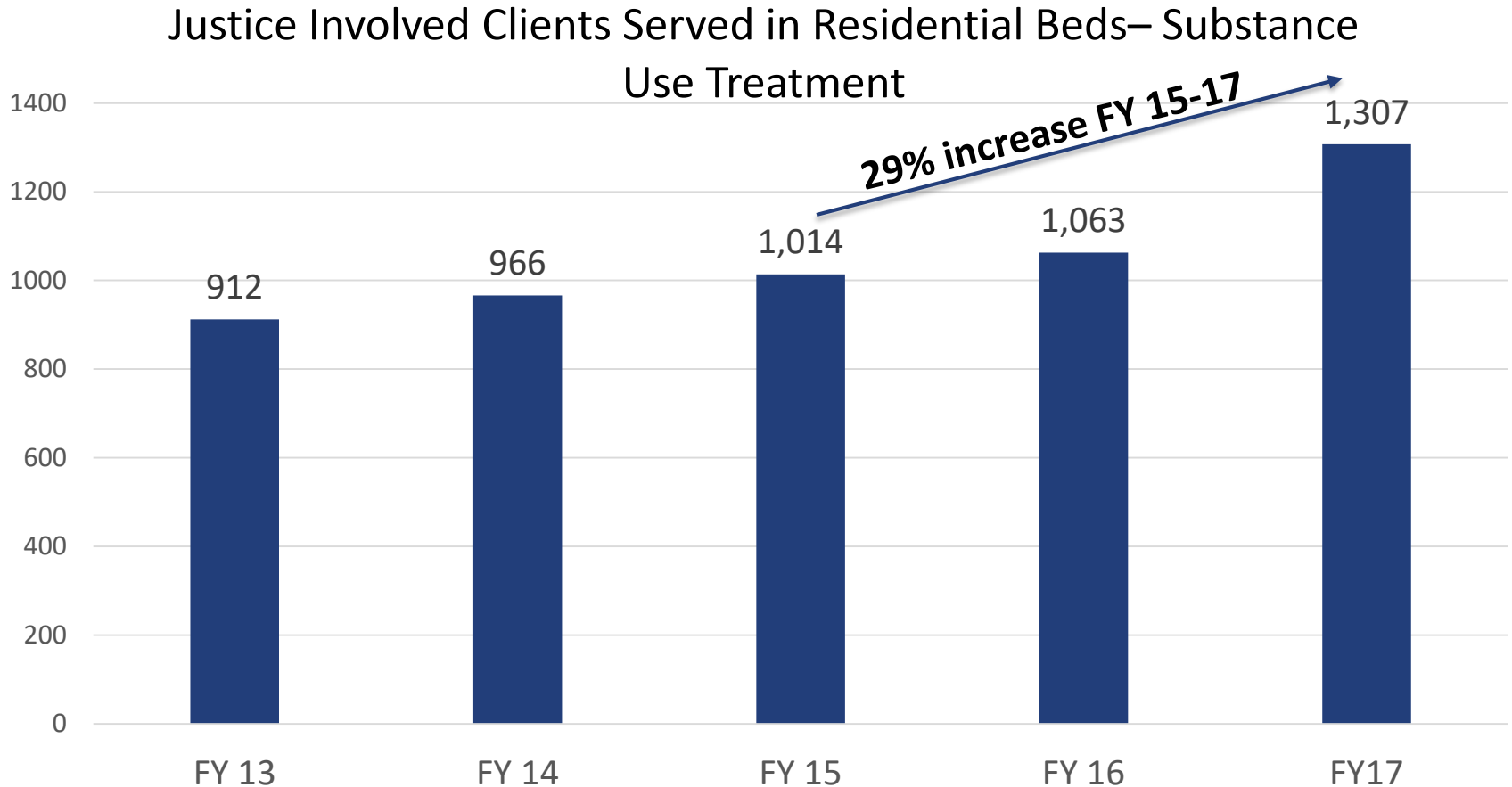
Increased lengths of stay for all offenses

- Policy Response:
 - Reduce sentence ranges in guidelines
 - Standardize criteria for earned time credits

Increasing failures on probation and parole indicated limited treatment options

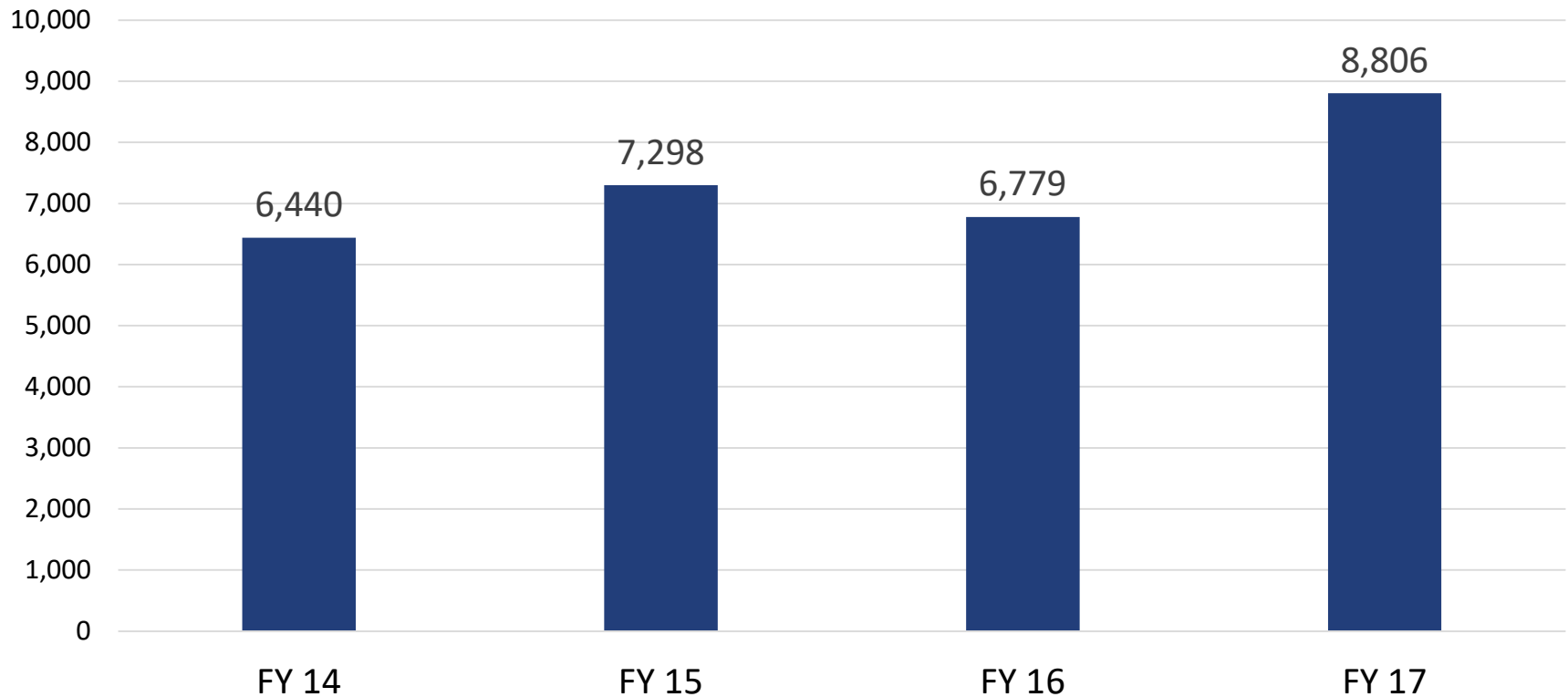
- Policy response:
 - Increase treatment resources and established standards for providers
 - Establish a county-based grant program allowing localities to develop evidence-based, recidivism reduction initiatives
 - Implement DOC transition planning and reentry services

Increase in Admissions to Residential Substance Use Treatment

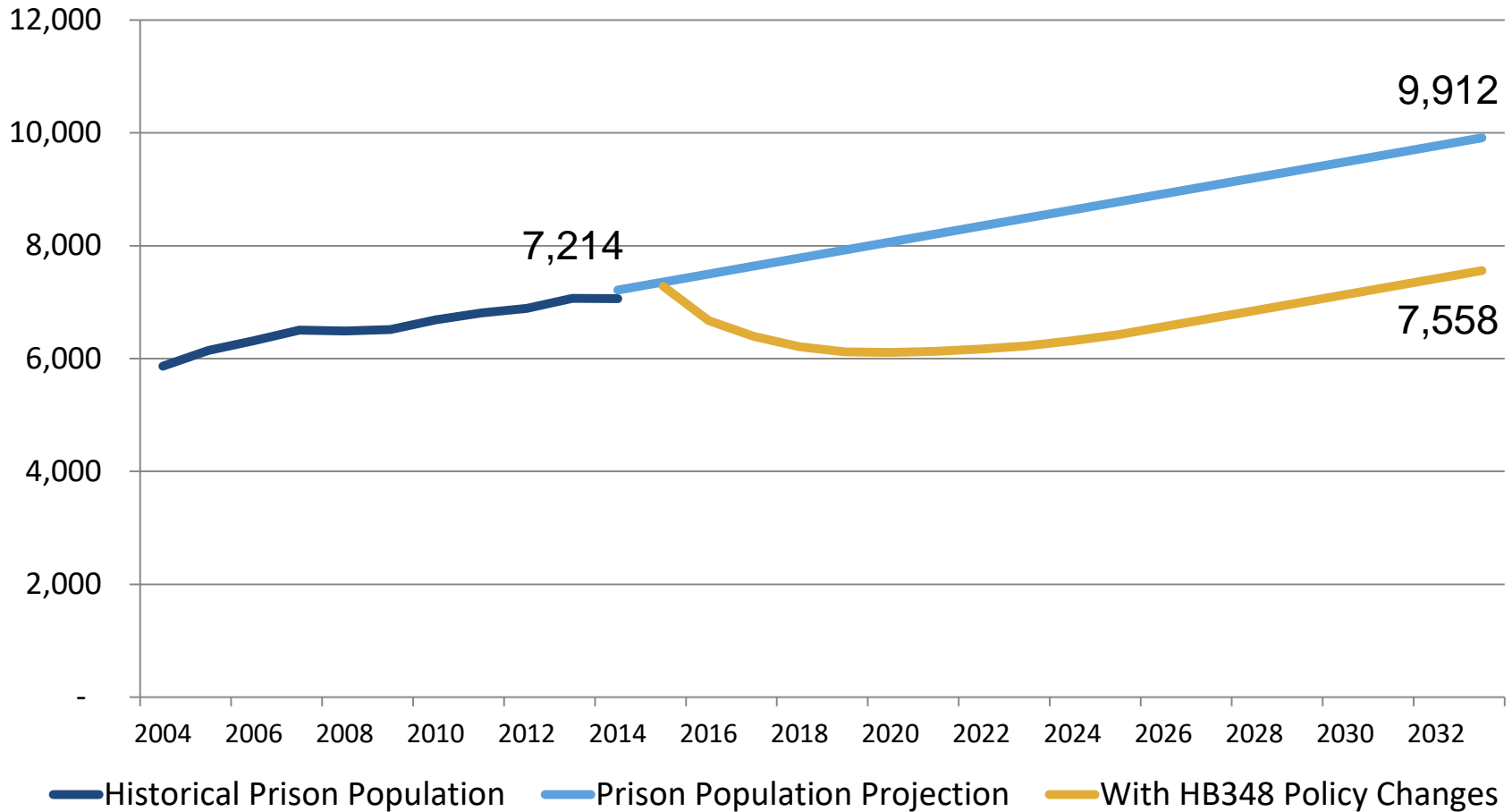


More Justice-Involved Clients in Mental Health Treatment

Justice Involved Clients Served in Mental Health Treatment

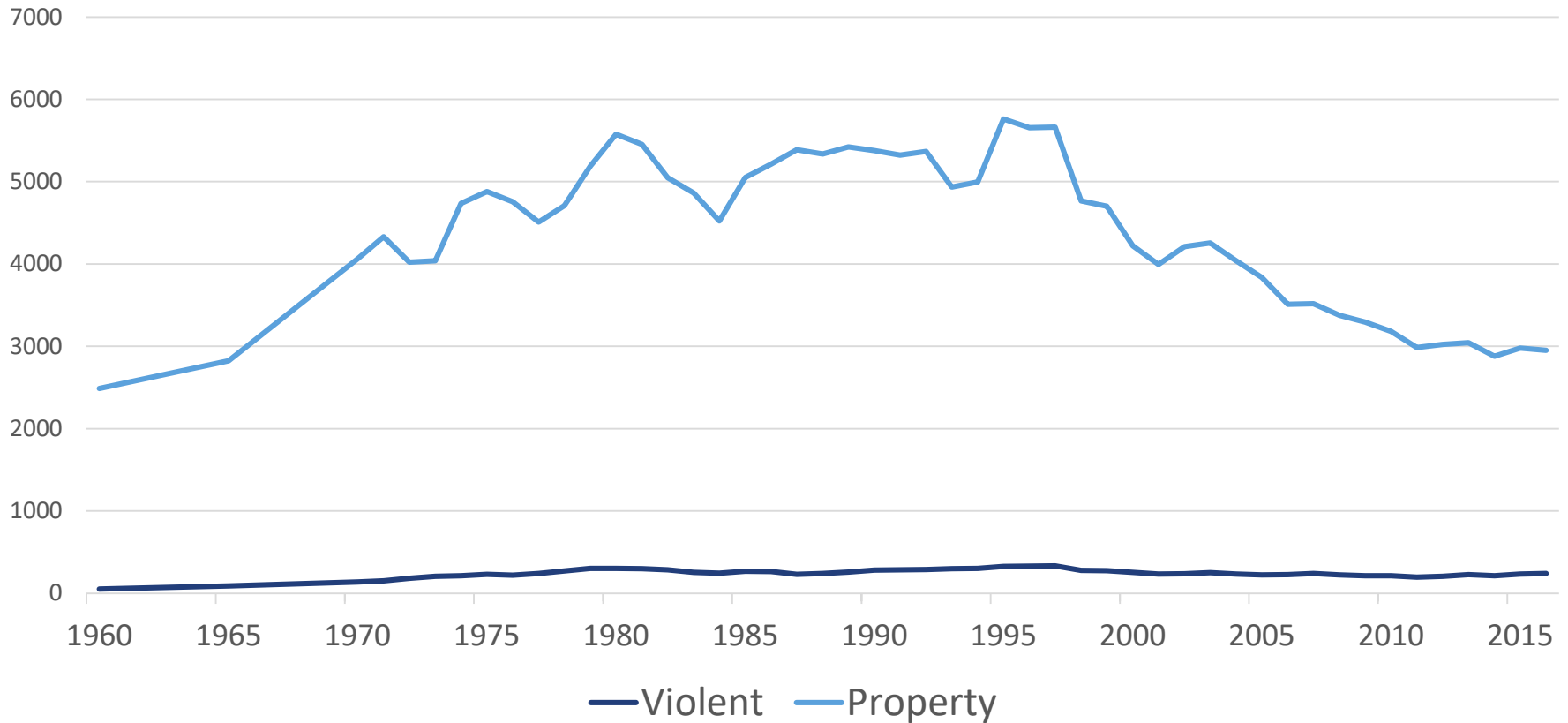


Reforms Projected to Avert Over \$500 Million in New Prison Beds



Crime Rates Have Not Increased

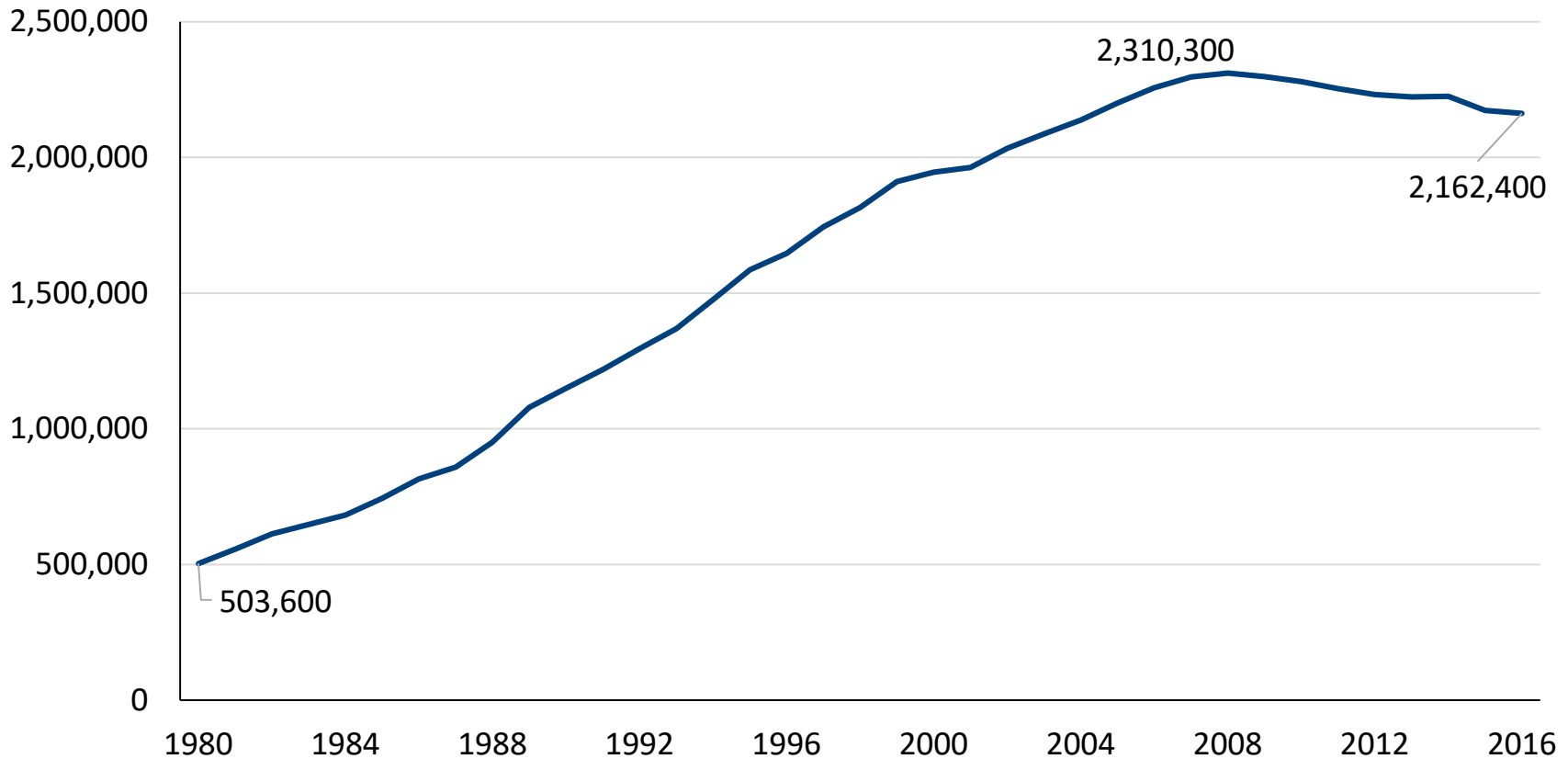
Crime Rates per 100,000 in Utah, 1960-2016



Trends Since State-Led Policy Efforts Began

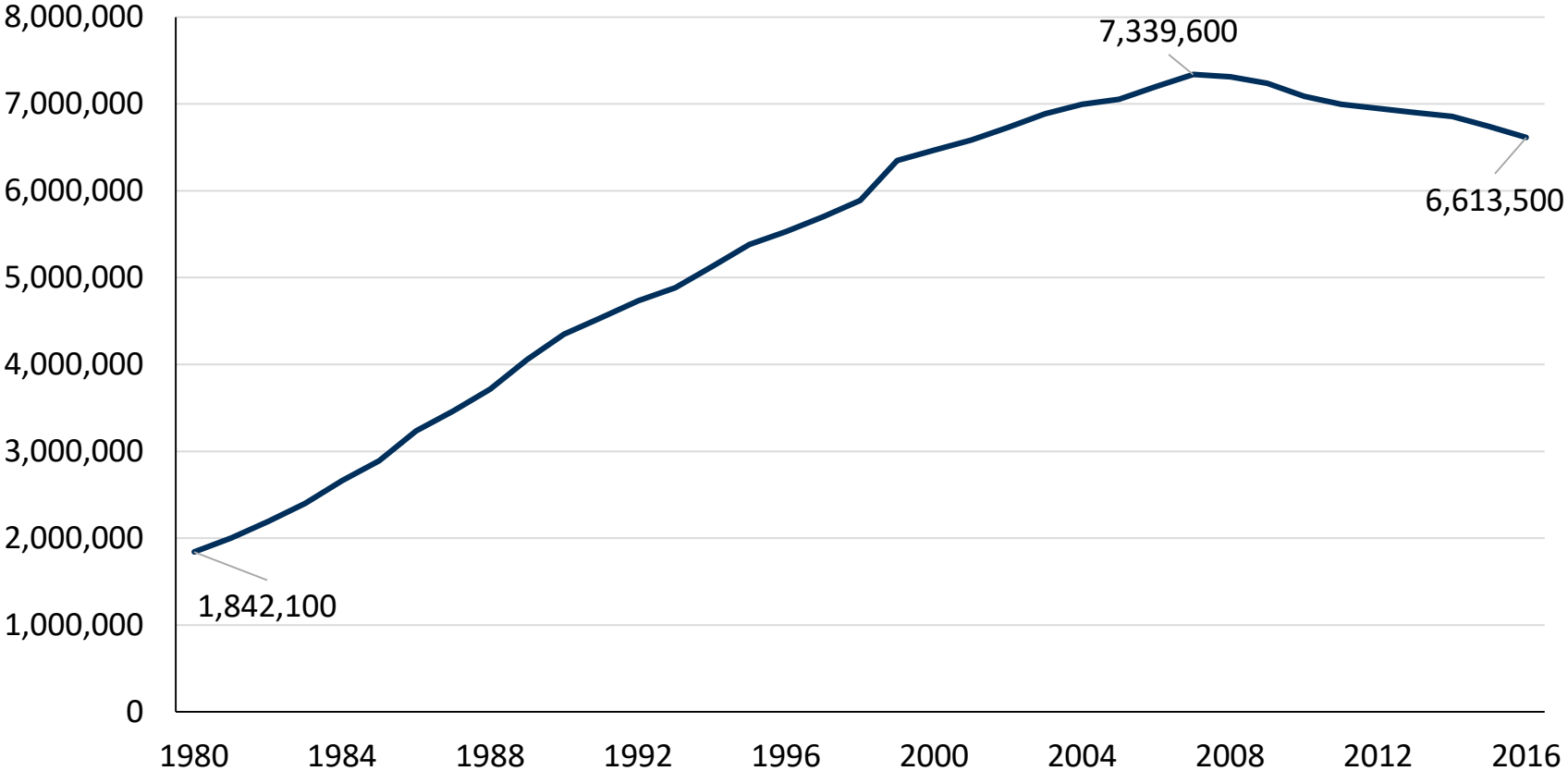
U.S. Incarcerated Population Drops

Incarcerated Population, 1980-2016



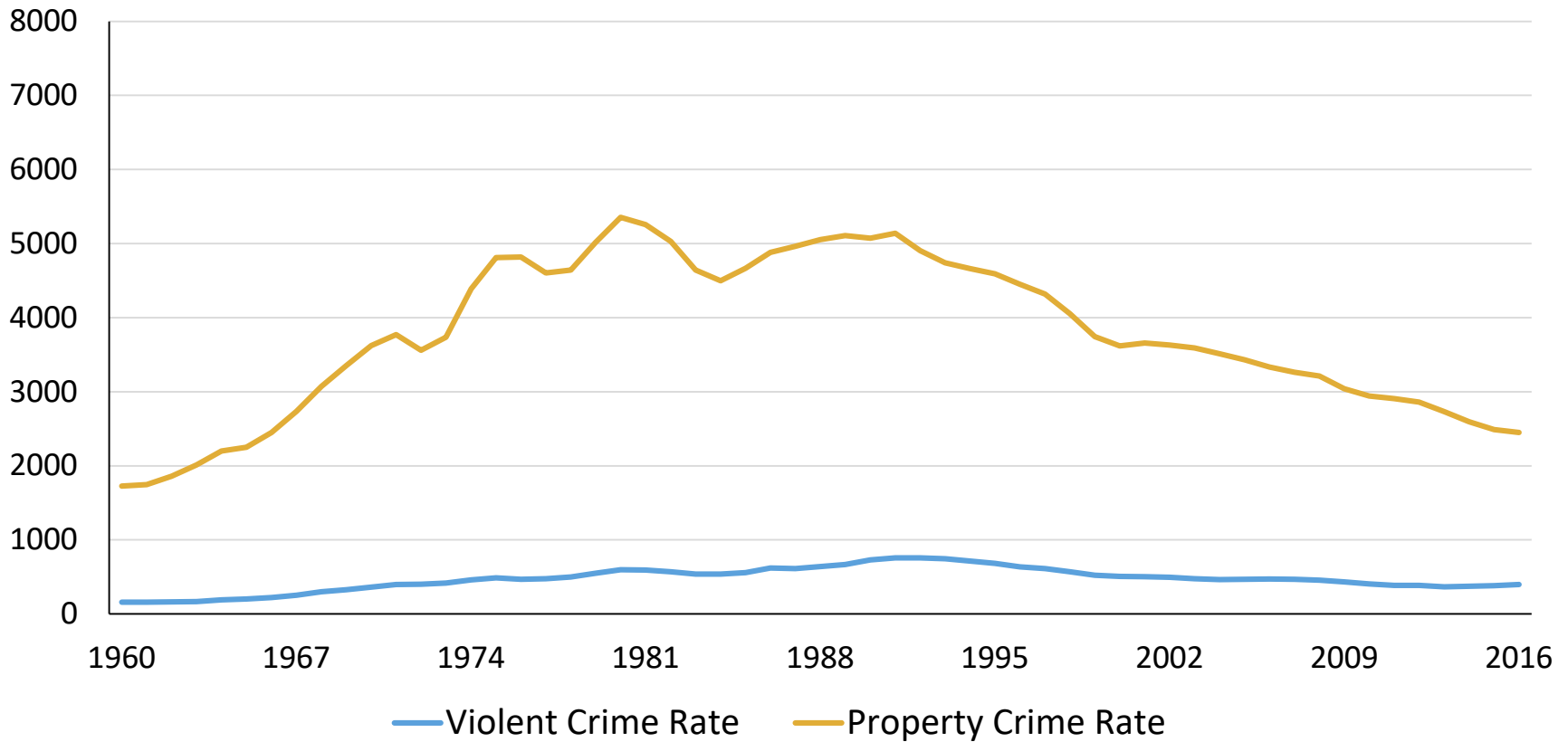
U.S. Correctional Population Declines

Correctional Population (prison, jail, probation, and parole), 1980-2016



Crime Rates Have Not Increased

National Crime Rate by Type, 1960-2016



Thank You

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