

THE
PEW

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Protecting Public Safety
and Containing Corrections
Costs in Alaska

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
Anchorage, AK
September 22, 2014

Agenda

- **Pew Background**
- **National Landscape**
- **State Success Stories**
 - **Mississippi**
 - **Oregon**
- **Alaska**
- **Next Steps**

PEW BACKGROUND

Public Safety Performance Project - Background

Mission

- The Public Safety Performance Project (PSP) helps states advance fiscally sound, data-driven sentencing and corrections policies that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs

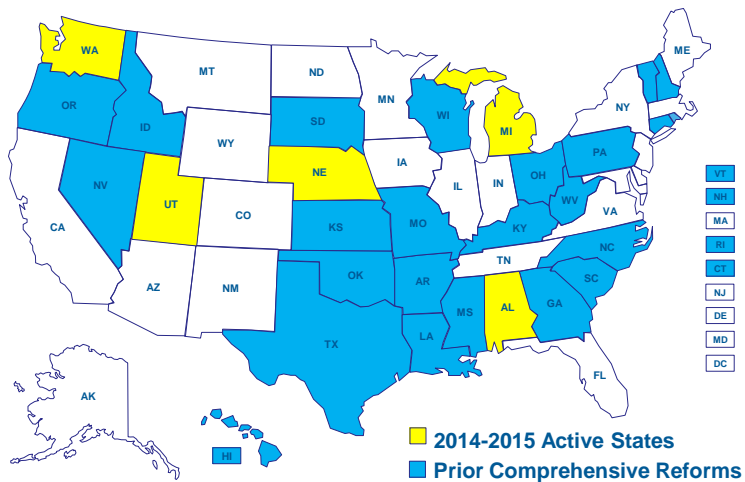
Goal

- Help states get a better return on their public safety dollars

Strategies

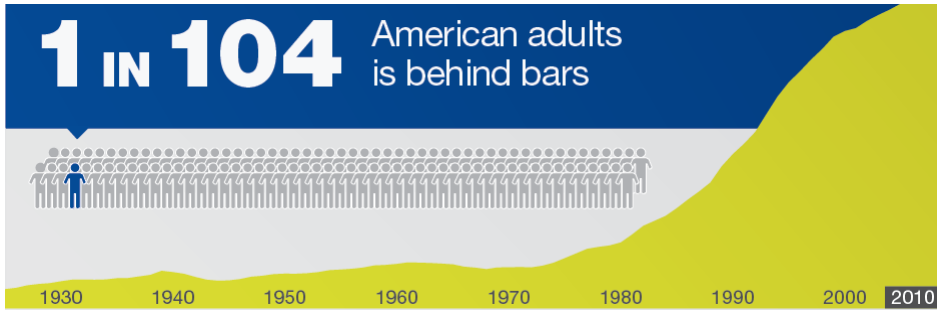
- Research on national trends and what works
 - Intensive technical assistance to states
-

Justice Reinvestment States



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

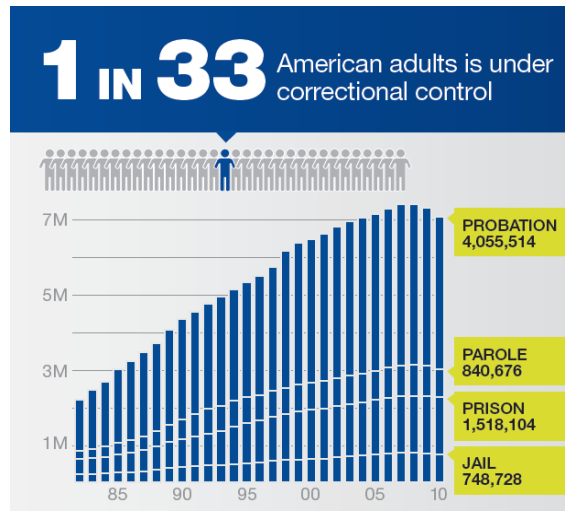
Prison & Jail Population Growth



Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

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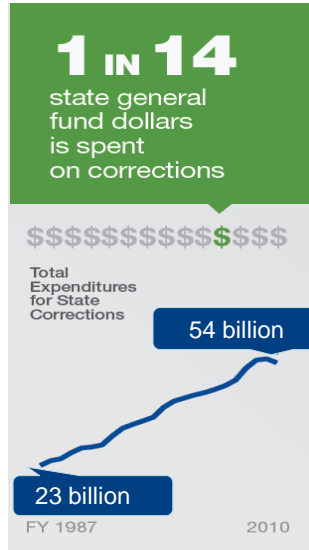
Overall Correctional System Growth



Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

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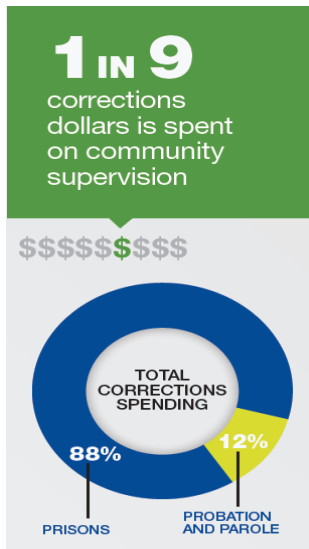
Corrections Spending Growth



Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

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Spending on Prisons vs. Community Supervision



Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

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National Recidivism Rate Remains Stubbornly High

More than 4 out of 10 adult offenders return to prison within three years of their release.

1999 - 2002



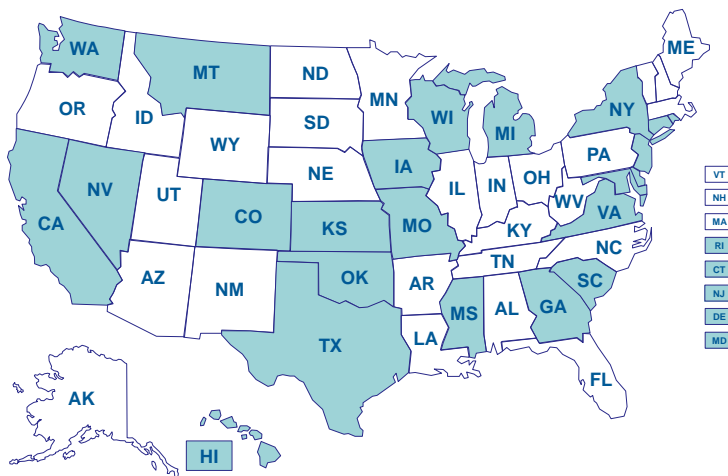
2004 - 2007



Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

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From 2002 - 2012, 23 States Achieved Reductions in Both Crime and Imprisonment Rates



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Return on Investment: A Tale of Two States

Over the past 20 years, both New York and Florida experienced massive crime reductions. **New York achieved that reduction alongside a decrease in its imprisonment rate, while Florida dramatically expanded its use of prison – costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year.**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics,
Federal Bureau of Investigation ¹³

Bottom Line... Let's Reduce Crime

“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.”



STRONGLY AGREE

73%

TOTAL AGREE

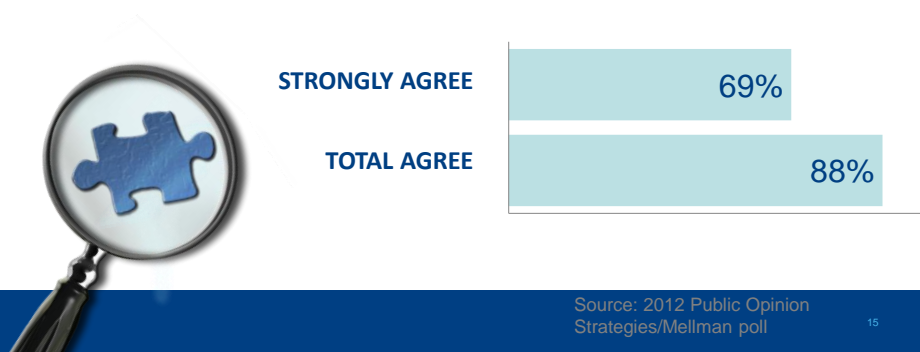
90%

Source: 2012 Public Opinion
Strategies/Mellman poll

¹⁴

Public Believes Prisons should be for Violent Offenders

“We have too many low-risk, non-violent offenders in prison. We need alternatives to incarceration that cost less and save our expensive prison space for violent and career criminals.”



Right on Crime



“Conservatives are known for being tough on crime, but we must also be tough on criminal justice spending...”

- Jeb Bush, Former Governor of Florida
- Newt Gingrich, American Solutions for Winning the Future
- David Keene, former president National Rifle Association
- Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform
- Edwin Meese III, former U.S. Attorney General
- William J. Bennett, former Education Secretary, “Drug Czar”
- Ralph Reed, Founder of the Faith and Freedom Coalition
- Tony Perkins, Family Research Council
- Ward Connerly, American Civil Rights Institute
- Richard Doran, Former Florida Attorney General

Business Leaders Speak Out

<p>Kentucky</p>  <p>Dave Adkisson President & CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board, American Chamber of Commerce Executives</p>	<p>Florida</p>  <p>Barney T. Bishop III President and Chief Executive Officer, Associated Industries of Florida</p>	<p>Illinois</p>  <p>Frank H. Beal Executive Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020 Board Member, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest</p>	<p>Michigan</p>  <p>James R. Holcomb Vice President for Business Advocacy and Associate General Counsel, Michigan Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Oregon</p>  <p>Erin Hubert Vice President and General Manager, Entercom Radio Board Chair, Citizens Crime Commission</p>
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Reframing the Debate

Old Question

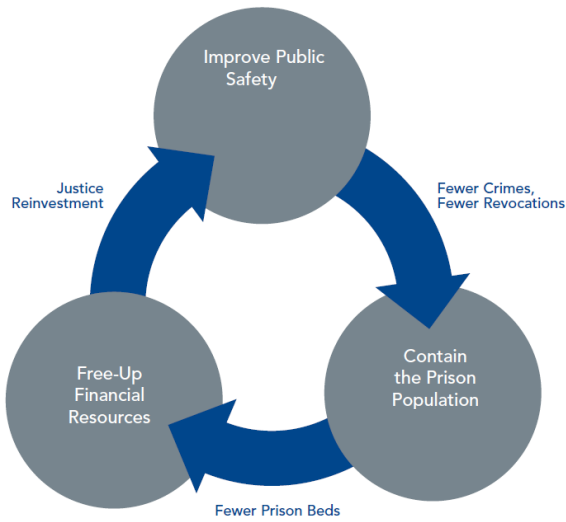
“How Do We Demonstrate that We’re Tough on Crime?”

New Question

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

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Justice Reinvestment



Case Studies: Corrections and Sentencing Reform

Mississippi

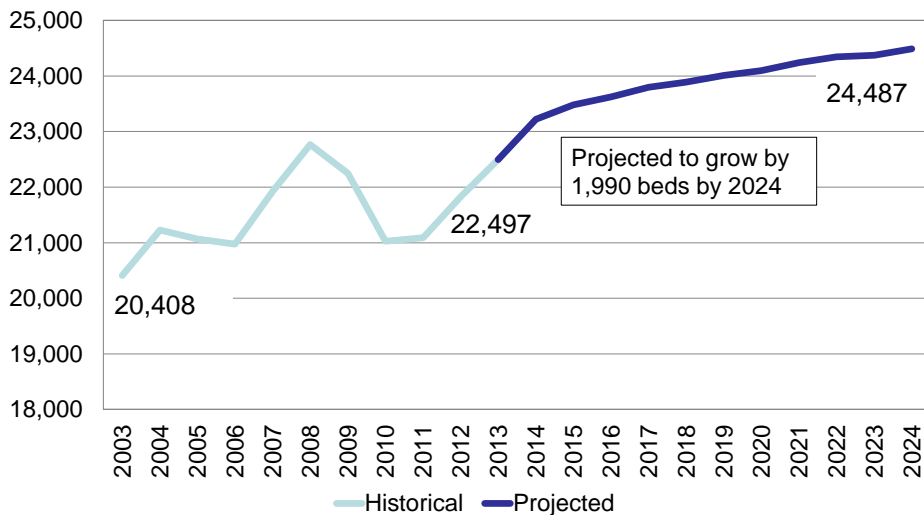


Oregon



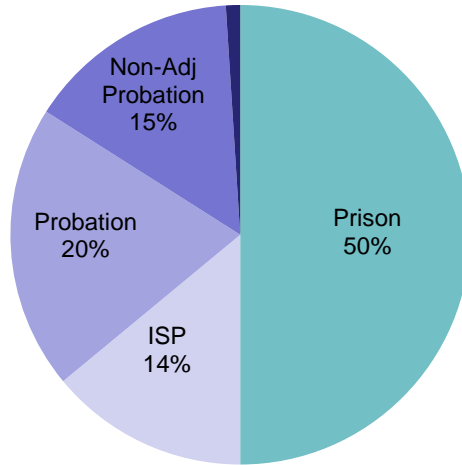
MISSISSIPPI 2013-2014

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



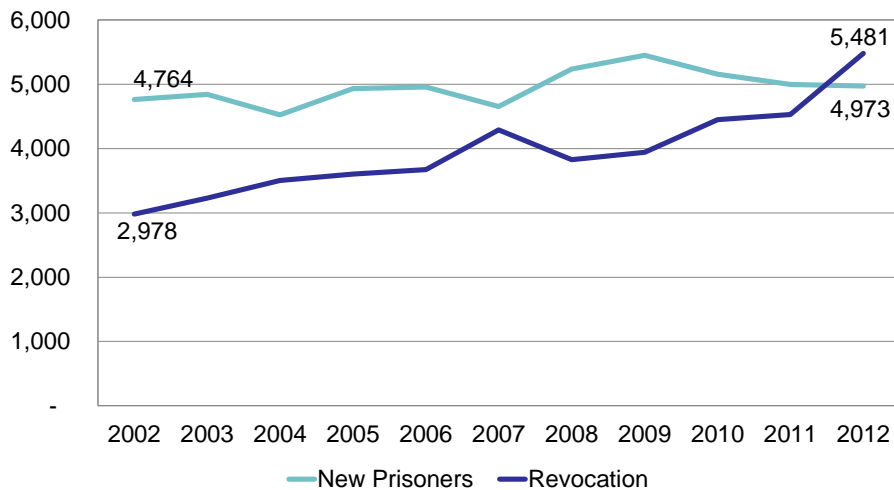
Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections

Finding: Half of Felony Offenders Sentenced to Prison



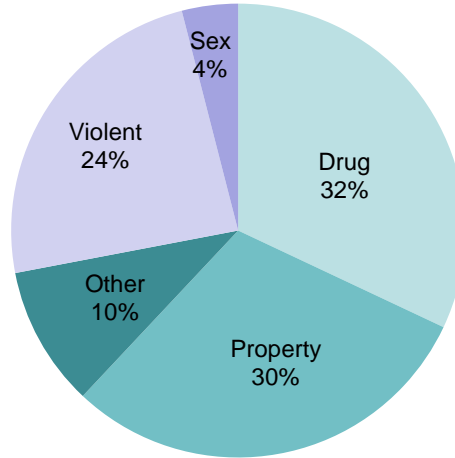
Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections 23

Finding: More Offenders Entered Prison For a Revocation of Supervision Than as New Prisoners in 2012



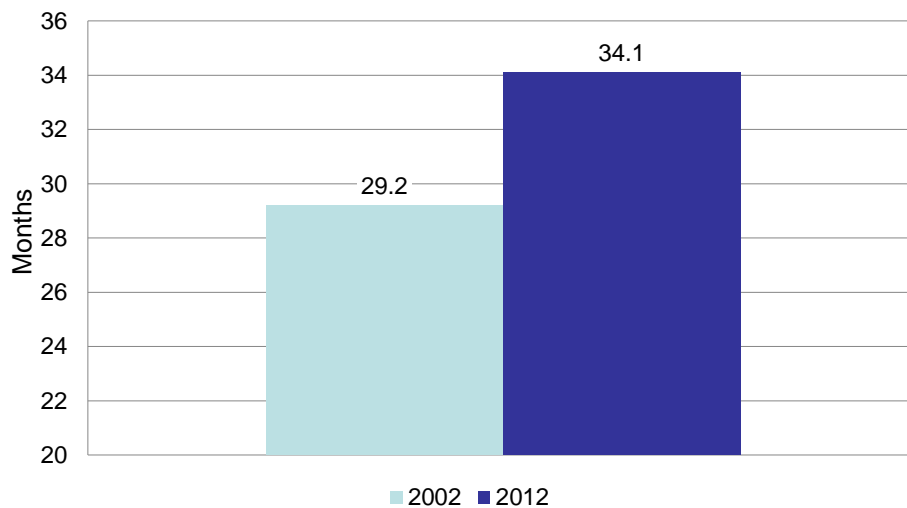
Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections 24

Finding: Almost Three-Quarters of Admissions Sentenced for Nonviolent Crimes



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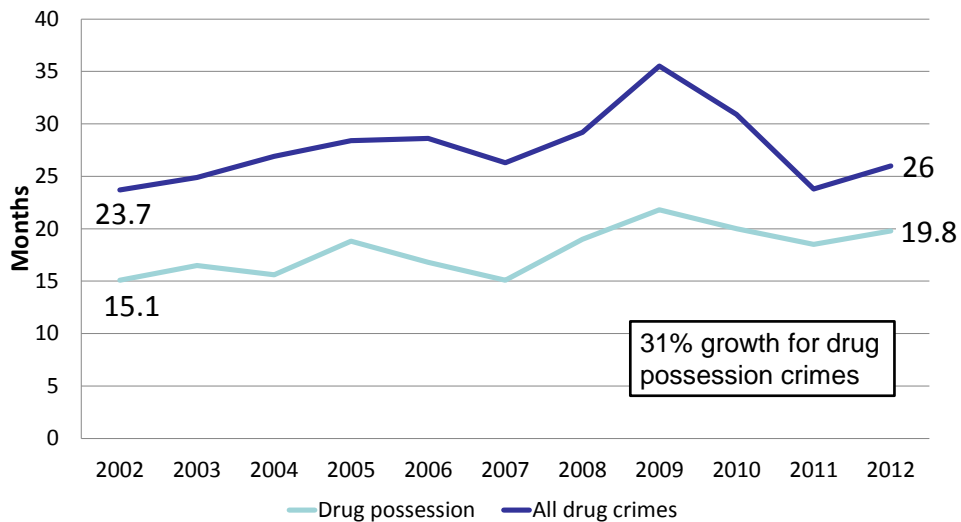
Finding: New Prisoners Released in 2012 Served 17% Longer Than Those Released in 2002



Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections

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Finding: Mean Time Served for Drug Possession Rose 31%, Compared to 10% for All Drug Crimes



Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections

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Task Force Key Findings and HB 585 Reforms

- **Finding: Half of felony offenders sentenced to prison**
 - Reforms: Expands eligibility for prison alternatives, such as probation, electronic monitoring, and drug courts; reinvests \$10.85 million in specialty courts; and authorizes the creation of veterans' courts.
- **Finding: More offenders entered prison from supervision than as new prisoners in 2012**
 - Reforms: Strengthens community corrections through the use of graduated sanctions and earned discharge; creates specialized detention centers; and limits incarceration periods for technical violations of supervision.
- **Finding: Almost three-quarters of admissions sentenced for nonviolent crimes**
 - Reforms: Raises felony theft threshold for property crimes from \$500 to \$1000; and institutes presumptive probation for certain lower-level property and drug crimes.

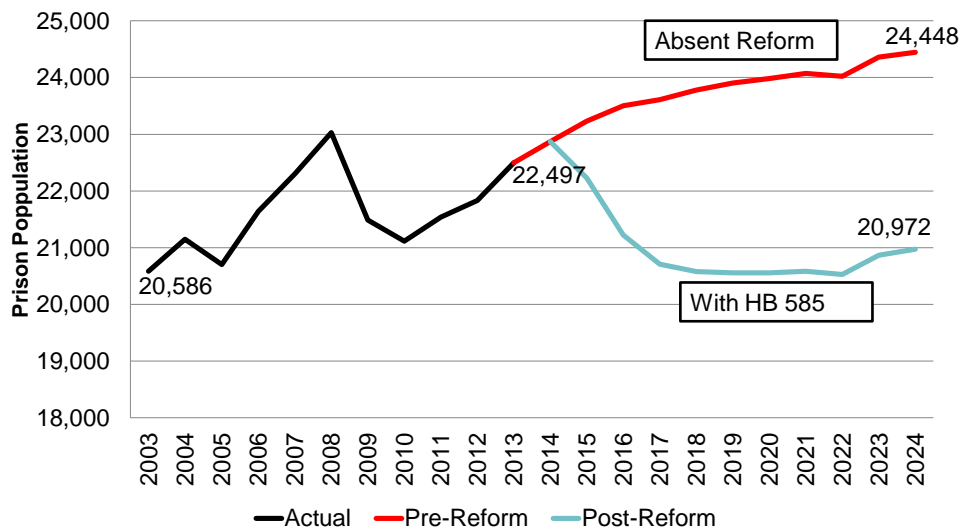
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Task Force Key Findings and HB 585 Reforms

- **Finding: New prisoners released in 2012 served 17% longer than those released in 2002**
 - Reforms: Creates structured sentences for drug and property offenders based on amount and criminal history; expands eligibility for earned time to certain drug offenders; and ensures that nonviolent offenders are parole eligible.



Mississippi Reforms: Minimum of \$266 Million Averted Over 10 Years



Mississippi Reforms: Widespread Political Support



POLICY BRIEF

Justice Reinvestment in Mississippi
NONPARTISAN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

“ALEC’s legislative members believe that criminal justice spending should be held accountable and support policies that give taxpayers a better public safety return on every dollar spent. By slowing the growth of Mississippi’s prisons, the state can avoid of \$266 million in corrections spending over the next ten years while maintaining public safety.”

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Mississippi Reforms: Widespread Political Support



“Our Christian faith tells us the criminal justice system must be anchored in principles supported by the bible and rooted in history. **[H.B. 585] would restore victims, justly punish criminals and provide opportunities for redemption.** It also acknowledges that almost every prisoner will one day rejoin our communities, and ensures each of them receives mandatory reentry support. That’s good for returning offenders, and it’s good for public safety too.”

Sincerely,

Dr. Jimmy Porter, Executive Director
Christian Action Commission

Craig DeRoche, President
Justice Fellowship

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Mississippi Reforms: Widespread Political Support

Advocacy Research Resources Leadership

Blake A. Wilson
President & CEO
bwilson@mec.ms



“[...] MEC recognizes that the corrections reform measures included in HB 585 **are in alignment with our long-held policies in support of government efficiency**, which is why I am writing today on behalf of our organization in support of the legislation.”

Sincerely,

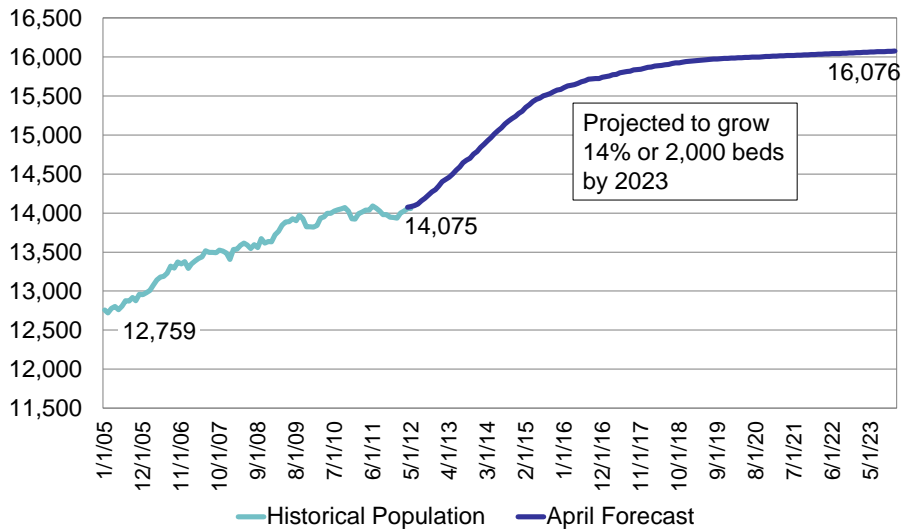
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake A. Wilson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Blake A. Wilson

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**OREGON
2012-2013**

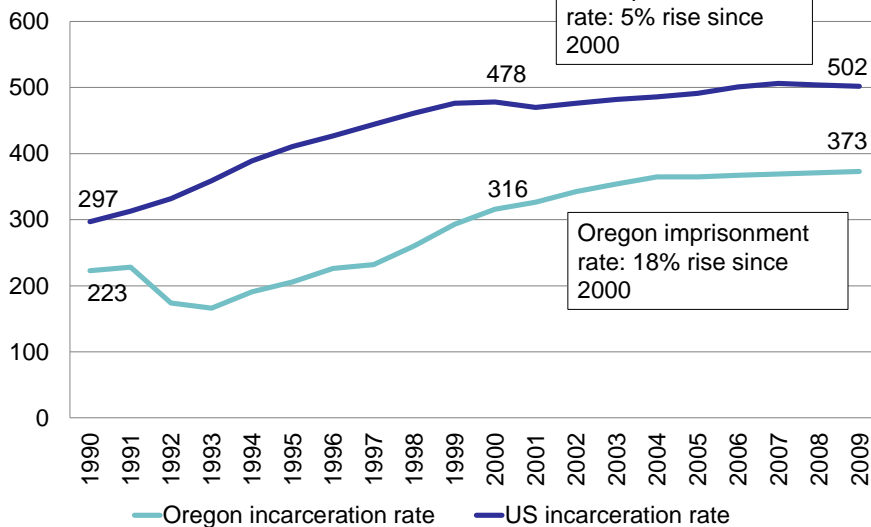
Oregon's Cost of Doing Nothing: \$600 Million over 10 Years



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

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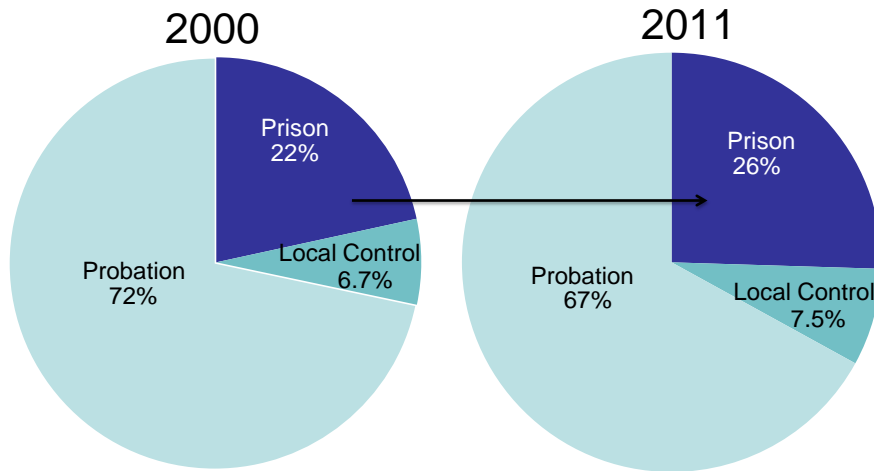
Finding: Oregon's Imprisonment Rate Growing Faster than US Rate



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

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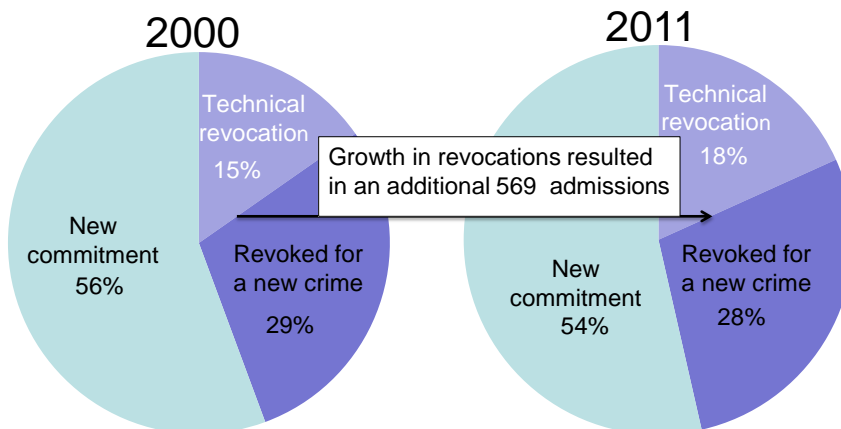
Finding: Increase in Percentage of Convicted Felons Sent to Prison



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

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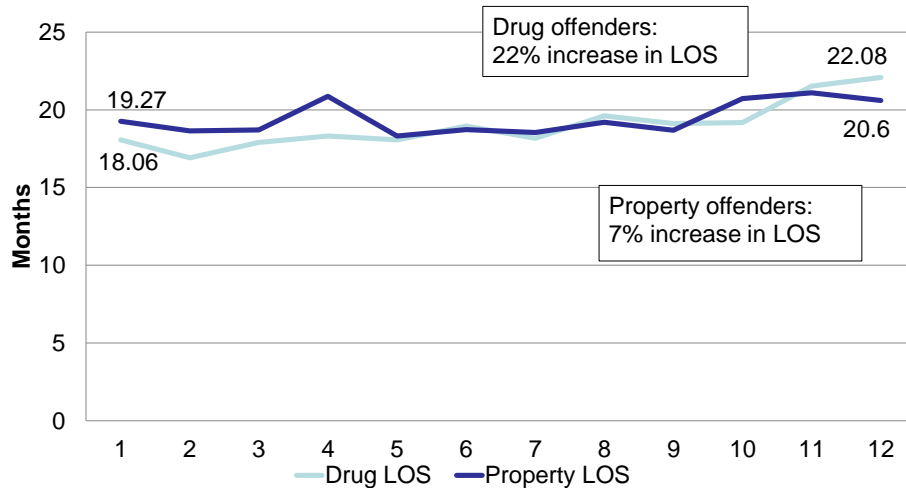
Finding: Nearly Half of Prison Admissions Entered for a Revocation of Supervision



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

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Finding: Increase in Length of Stay for Drug, Property Offenders



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

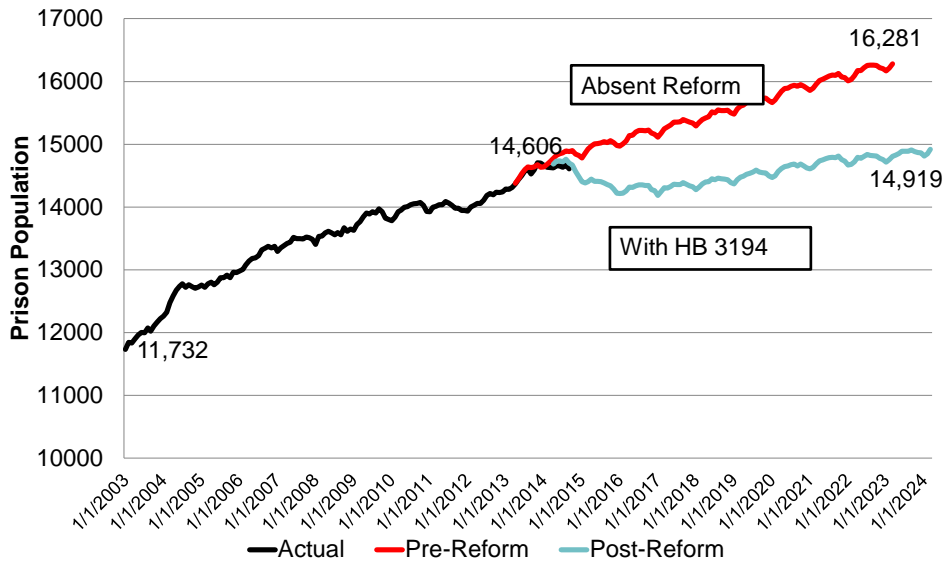
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Commission Key Findings and HB 3194 Reforms

- **Finding: Increase in percentage of felons sent to prison**
 - Reforms: Expanded presumptive probation for marijuana offenders; and allowed departures to probation for repeat drug offenders.
- **Finding: Nearly half the prison admissions failed on community supervision**
 - Reforms: Increased the period from 30 days to 90 prior to discharge for inmates to participate in reentry supervision programs; created a justice reinvestment grant program to support county efforts to reduce recidivism and expand prison alternatives; allowed probationers to earn time off their sentences by complying with the terms of their supervision; and invested \$58 million in community corrections, victim services, and specialty courts.
- **Finding: Increase in length of stay for property and drug offenders**
 - Reforms: Repealed mandatory minimums for drug offenses; and placed select property offenses in new sentencing ranges.

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Oregon Reforms: \$326 Million Averted Over 10 Years



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

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Oregon Reforms: Widespread Political Support

SOUTHERN OREGON'S NEWS SOURCE

Mail Tribune

GUEST OPINIONS

“Victims in our community know their options are limited. Many women simply stay with their abusers rather than take a chance on hitchhiking into town and finding no help at the end of the trail.

There is a better way.

The Legislature can pass a package of reforms known as House Bill 3194. **It would curb the rapid growth of state prisons and reinvest savings into local programs proven to reduce crime and protect victims.**”

Christine Mallette is executive director of the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance. **Wand Powless** is executive director of the Klamath Crisis Center. **Krisanna Albrecht** is executive director of the Women's Crisis Support Team in Josephine County.

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Oregon Reforms: Widespread Political Support



“The time is ripe for comprehensive criminal justice reform — **not only supported by Oregon conservatives, but led by Oregon conservatives.**”

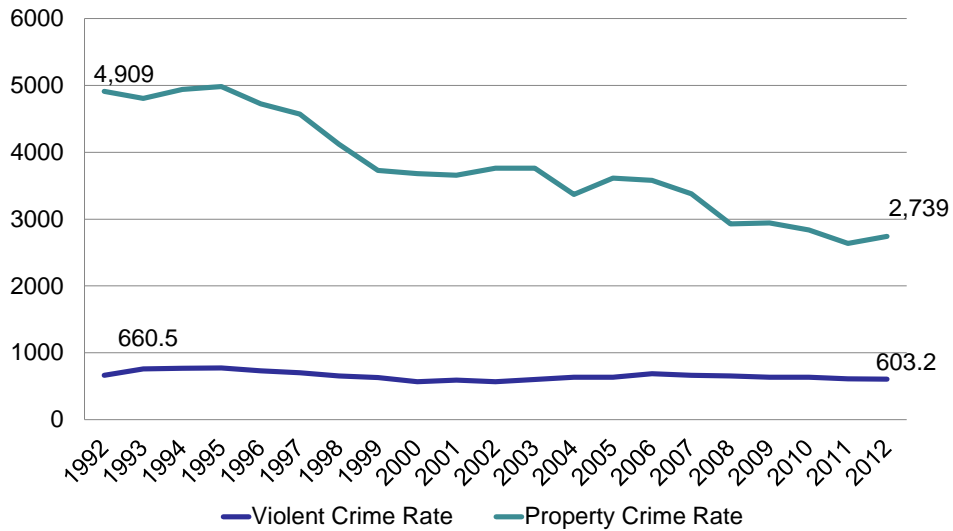
We believe all government spending programs need to be put to the cost-benefit test, and criminal justice is no exception. Oregon has done a good job with this in the past but is slipping, by locking up more offenders who could be held accountable with shorter sentences followed by more effective, less expensive local supervision programs. ”

David Keene of Washington, D.C., is a former chairman of the American Conservative Union and Right on Crime signatory who is serving as president of the National Rifle Association. He can be reached at ROC@texaspolicy.com

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ALASKA

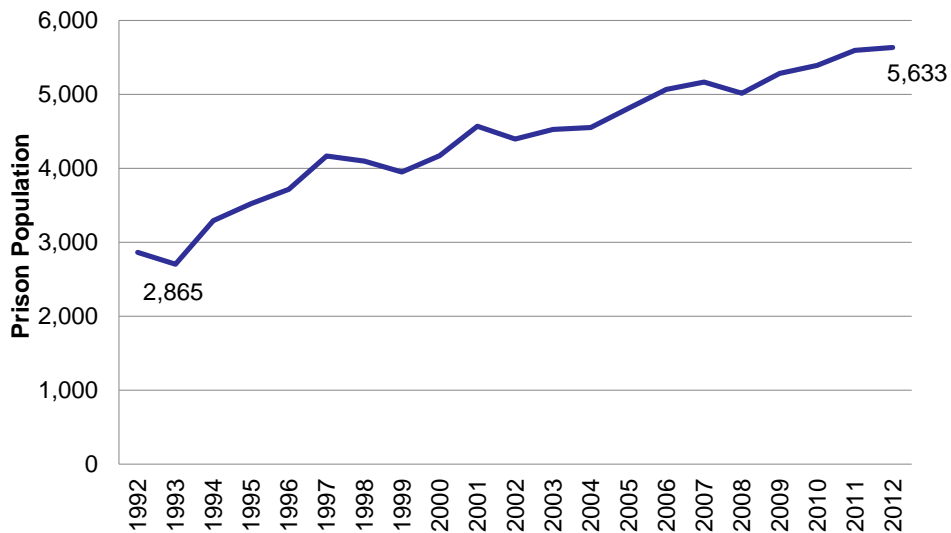
Property Crime Down 44%, Violent Crime Down 9% Between 1992 and 2012



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

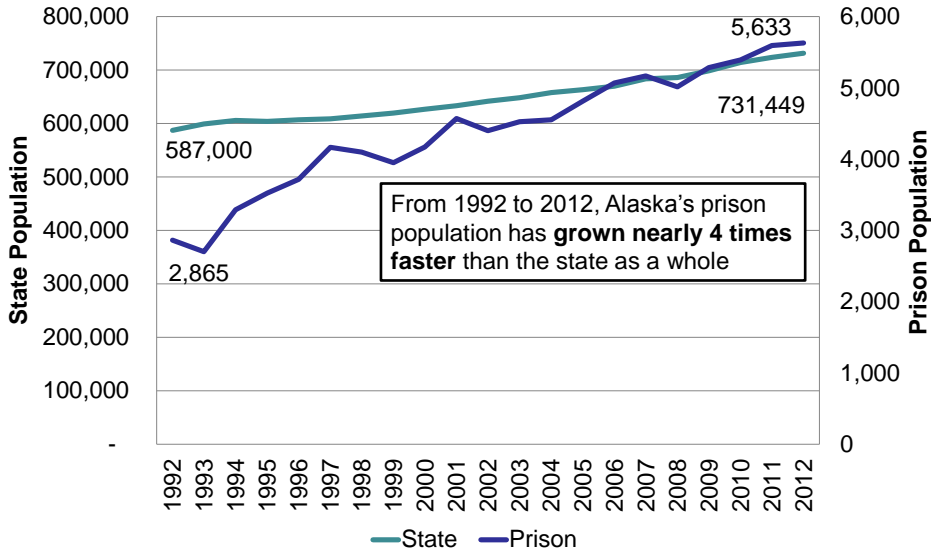
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Prison Population Up 97% in Two Decades



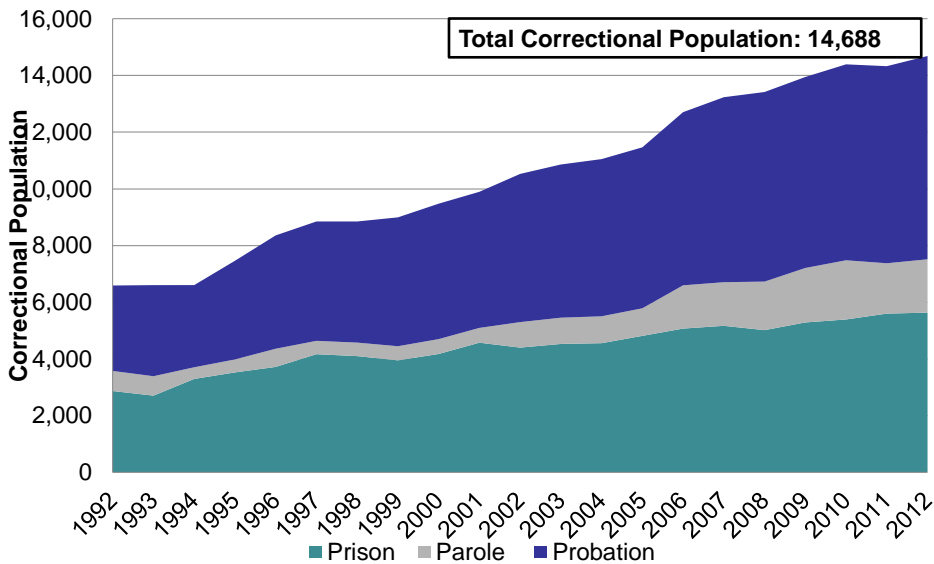
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics; based on yearend jurisdictional population

Prison Growth Outpaced State Growth



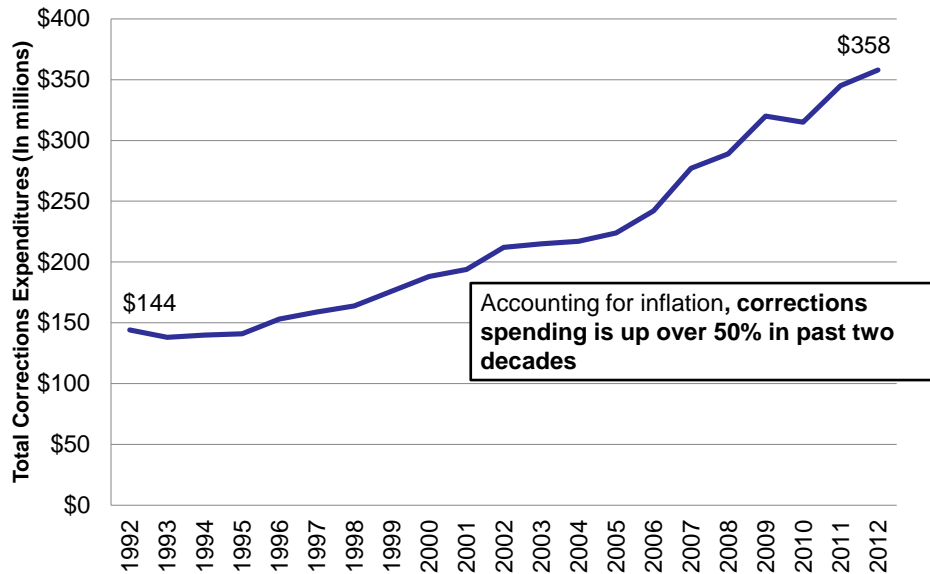
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census Bureau ⁴⁷

Prison Growth Matched by Probation, Parole Growth



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics ⁴⁸

Corrections Spending on the Rise



Source: National Association of State Budget Officers

Questions Moving Forward

- Is Alaska focusing its prison beds on the right offenders?
- Is Alaska making the most cost-effective investments in public safety?
- Are there opportunities to implement more evidence-based policies and practices?

Next Steps

Justice Reinvestment Work Plan

1. *System Overview*
 - **Examine how the current system is operating;** how the state uses best practices in sentencing and corrections.
2. *Prison Drivers*
 - **Examine what's driving growth in the state's prison population;** how the prison and supervision populations have changed over last decade.
3. *Lessons from Other States*
 - **Study successful policies that have been implemented in other states;** what the research shows works to reduce crime and incarceration.
4. *Policy Development*
 - **Evaluate potential policies;** reach out to interested stakeholders.
5. *Final Findings and Recommendations*
 - **Finalize recommendations and task legislature with codifying them into law.**

Contact Info

- Zoe Towns
 - Office: 202.540.6702
 - Email: ZTowns@pewtrusts.org
- Terry Schuster
 - Office: 202.540.6437
 - Email: TSchuster@pewtrusts.org
- Public Safety Performance Project
 - www.pewtrusts.org/publicsafety