

A Look-back On Criminal Justice Reform

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Goals of Reform

“Local legislative interest in these efforts were heightened by reports that the Alaska prison population was up 27% over the last decade, growing at a rate of 3% a year, and that recidivism remained high with nearly two out of three offenders returning to prison or jail within three years. Absent further reforms, it was projected that the number of persons incarcerated would soon exceed current hard-bed capacity.”

Source: Alaska Criminal Justice Commission 2015 Annual Report, p 1
Dated: Feb 1, 2016

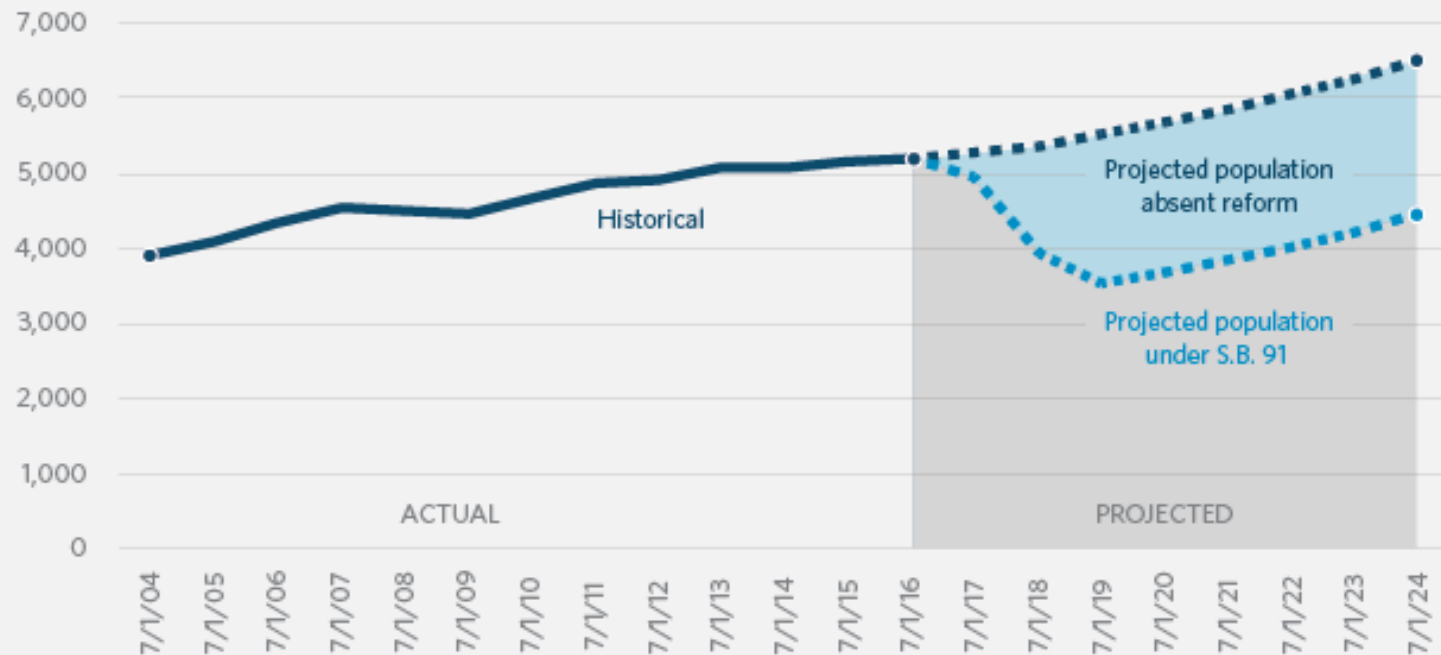
1. Reduce the prison population
2. Reduce Recidivism

Projected Prison Population

Figure 1

Alaska's Criminal Justice Reform Expected to Cut Prison Population 13%

Number of inmates had been projected to rise by 27%

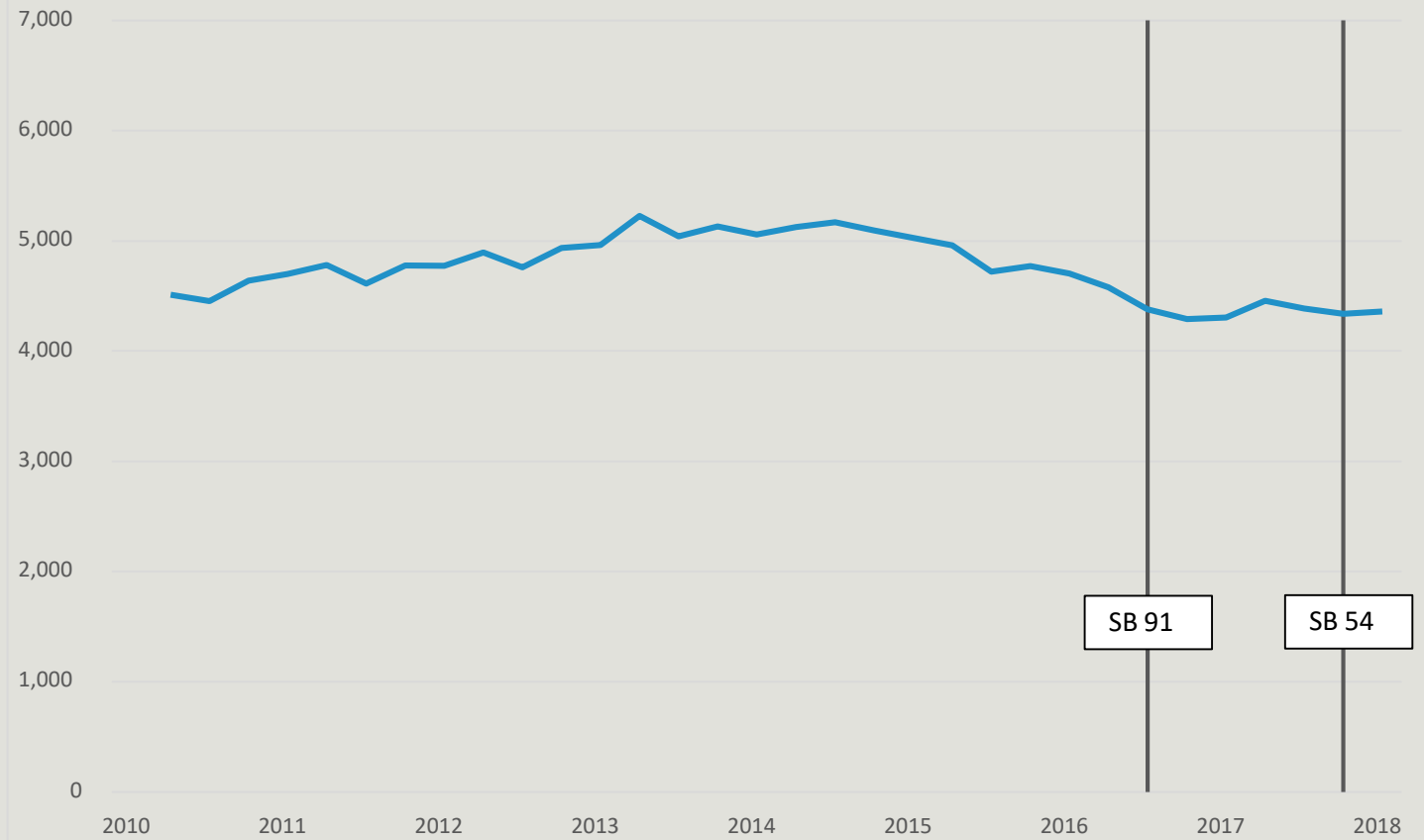


Source: Alaska Department of Corrections

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Actual Prison Population

Figure 5: Prison Population, 2010-2018



Source: Alaska Criminal Justice Commission 2018 Annual Report

Goal: Reduce Recidivism

“The state’s growing prison population and increased corrections spending, however, had not produced commensurate improvements in public safety outcomes: nearly two out of every three people released from Alaska prisons returned within three years.”

Source: Alaska Criminal Justice Commission 2016 Annual Report, p 3

Dated: Sept 30, 2016

Recidivism: National Perspective

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

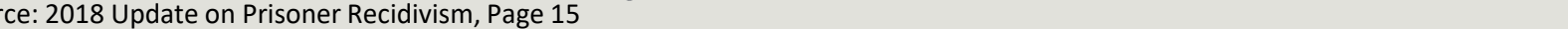
Special Report

MAY 2018

NCJ 250975

2018 Update on Prisoner Recidivism: A 9-Year Follow-up Period (2005-2014)

- 30 States
- Prisoners released in 2005
- Followed for nine years



What is “Recidivism”

Measuring recidivism

Recidivism measures require three characteristics:

- a starting event, such as a release from prison;
- a measure of failure following the starting event, such as a subsequent arrest, conviction, or return to prison;
- an observation or follow-up period that generally extends from the date of the starting event to a predefined end date (e.g., 6 months, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, or 9 years).”

National Recidivism

- The 401,288 state prisoners released in 2005 had an estimated 1,994,000 arrests during the 9-year period - an average of 5 arrests per released prisoner.
- An estimated **68% of released prisoners were arrested within 3 years,** 79% within 6 years, and 83% within 9 years.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of released drug offenders were arrested for a non-drug crime within 9 years.



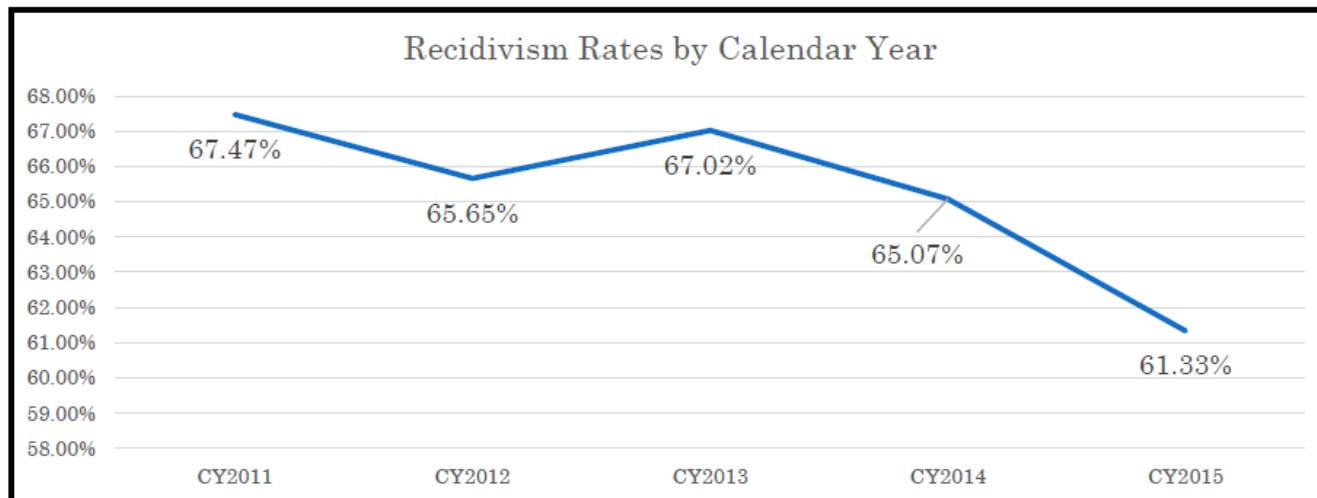
ALASKA RECIDIVISM & REENTRY

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

RECIDIVISM

- An offender who is re-incarcerated within three years of release as a result of:
 - Parole or probation violations.
 - New felony crime.
 - New misdemeanor crime.

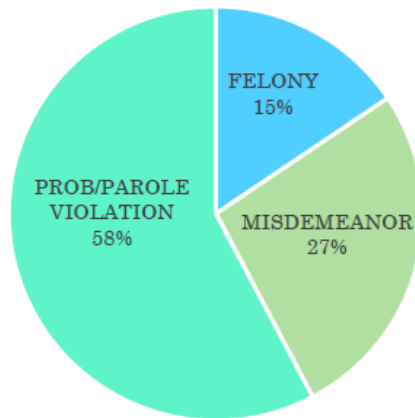
ALASKA RECIDIVISM RATES



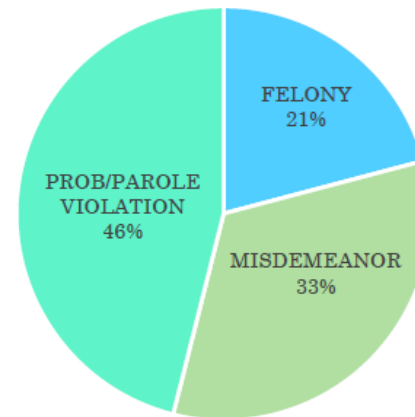
- After consistently being in the mid to upper 60th percentile, Alaska has begun to see a steady decline in recidivism.

RECIDIVISM – BY OFFENSE

Return to Incarceration – 6 months

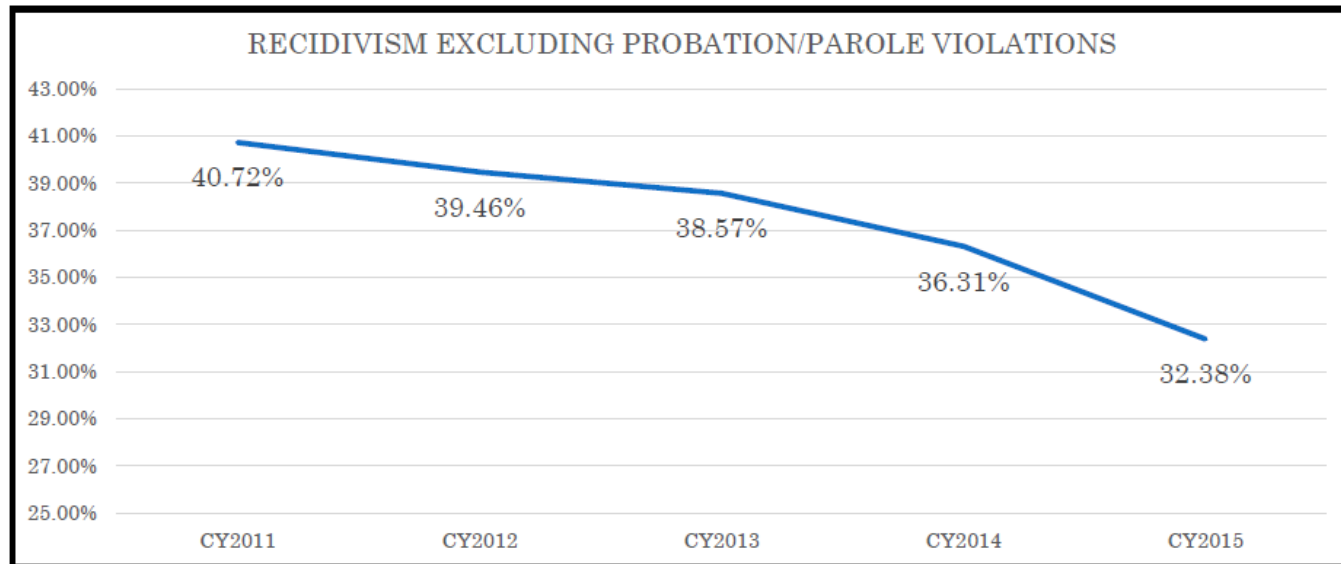


Return to Incarceration – 3 years



- 58% of those who return to custody within six months, return because of technical violations.
- 46% of those who return to custody within three years, return because of technical probation violations.

RECIDIVISM – NEW CRIMES



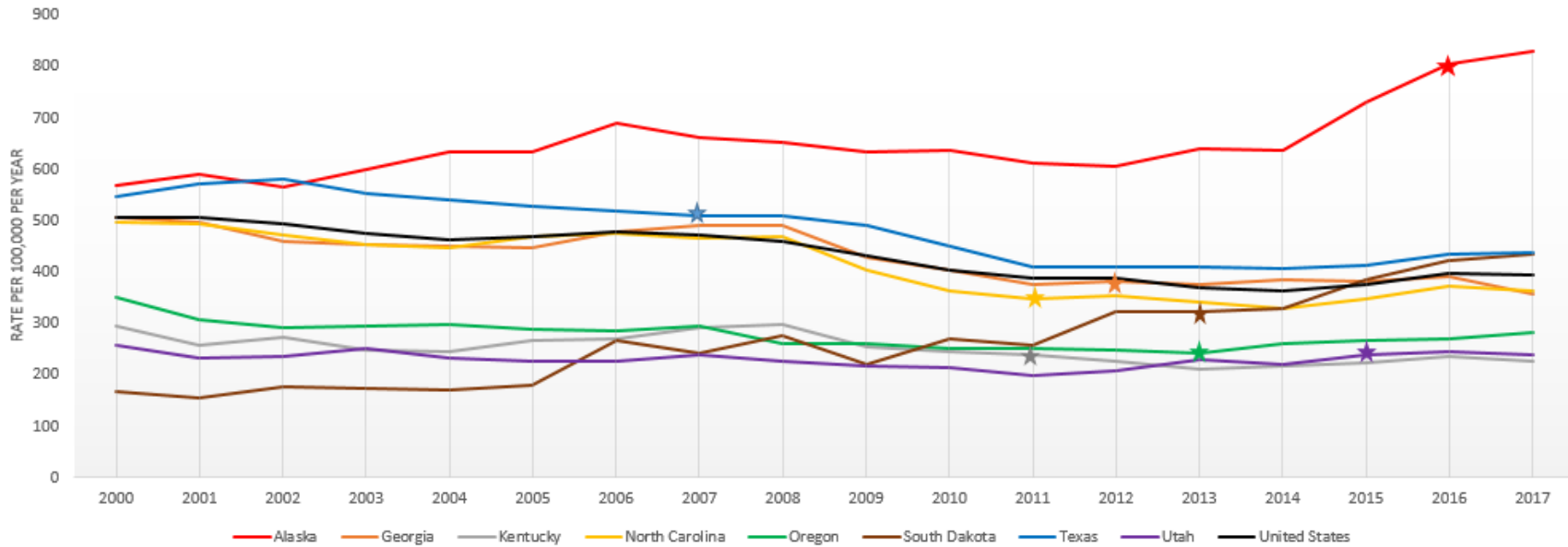
- The recidivism rate for new crimes is 32%.

Alaska's Recidivism Before SB 91

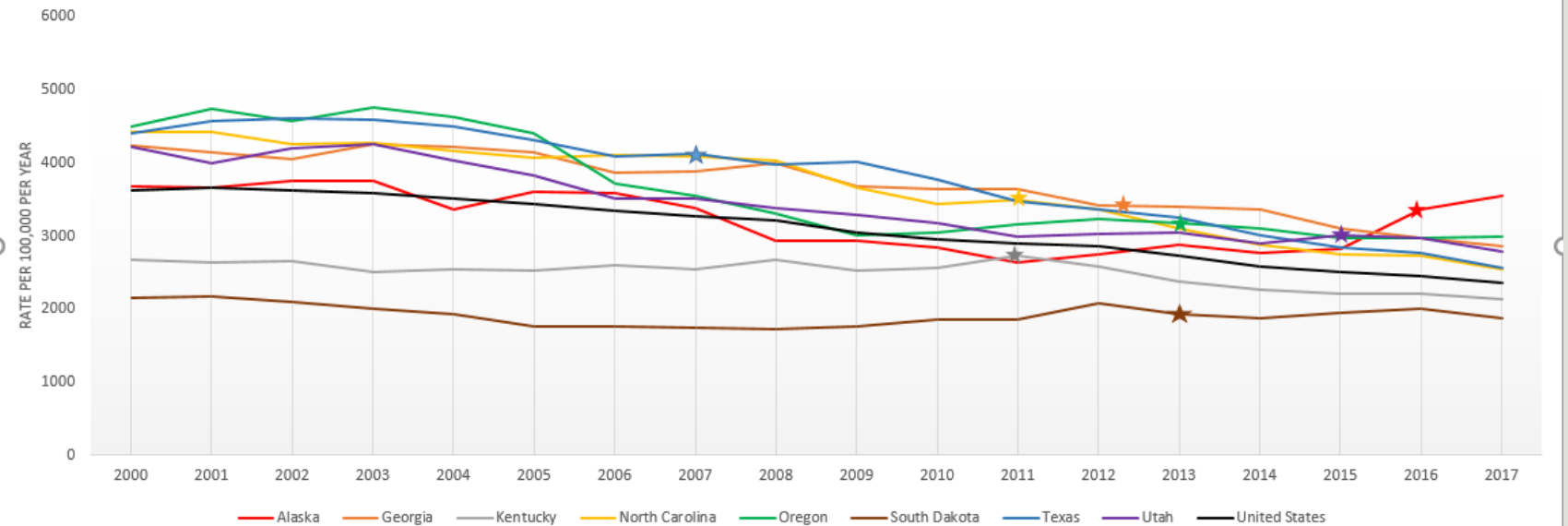
6% decline in Alaska 2011-2015

7% Below the National Average
from 2005

All Violent Crime



All Property Crime



Comparison of PEW Reform States

[illegible]

SOURCE: PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS (HIGHLIGHTS BY ALASKA DEPT. OF LAW)

Violent v. Non-violent Offenses

Violent = AS 11.41.

- Homicide
- Assault
- Stalking
- Kidnapping
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Abuse of a Minor

Non-Violent = everything else

- Theft
- Criminal Mischief
(property Damage)
- Forgery
- Bribery
- Gambling
- Hindering prosecution
- Impersonate a Public
Servant

But Also “non-violent” . . .

Misconduct Involving Weapons

Cruelty To Animals

Drug Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

Arson

Burglary

Promoting Contraband

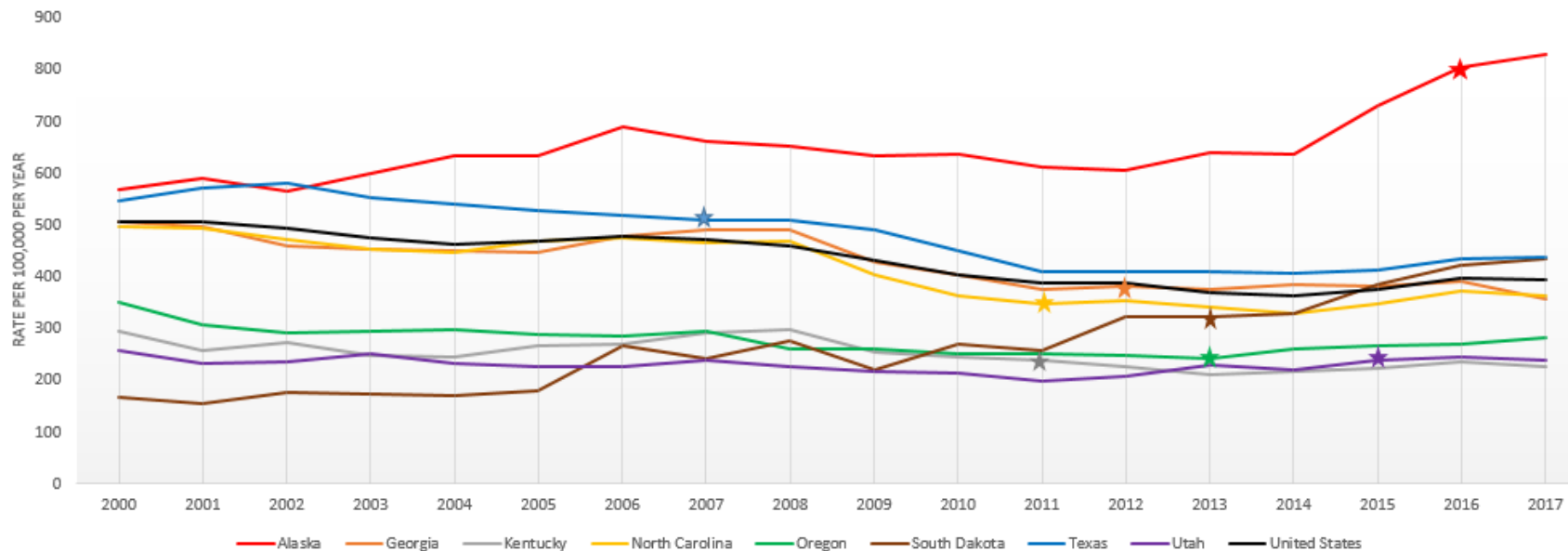
Terroristic Threatening

Riot

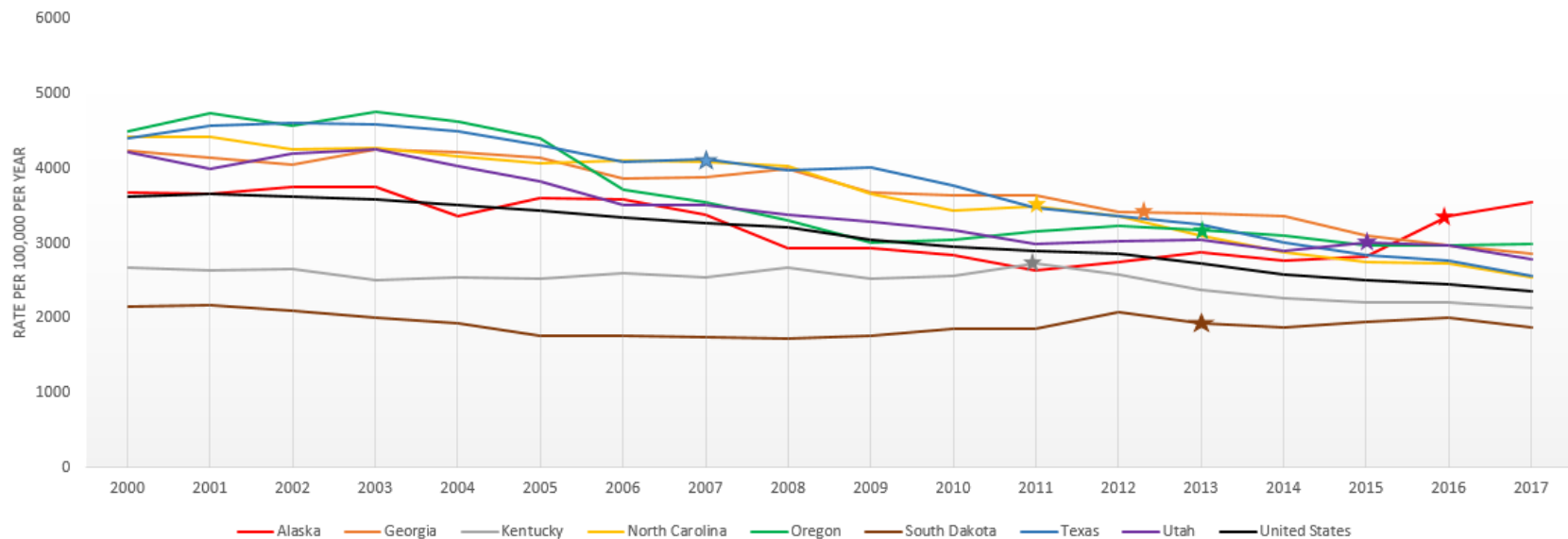
Sending Explicit Image Of A Minor

Misconduct Involving A Corpse

All Violent Crime



All Property Crime



Why did Crime Rise Before SB 91?

In part . . .

Figure 35: Number of Opioid Overdose Deaths, Alaska
2013-2017

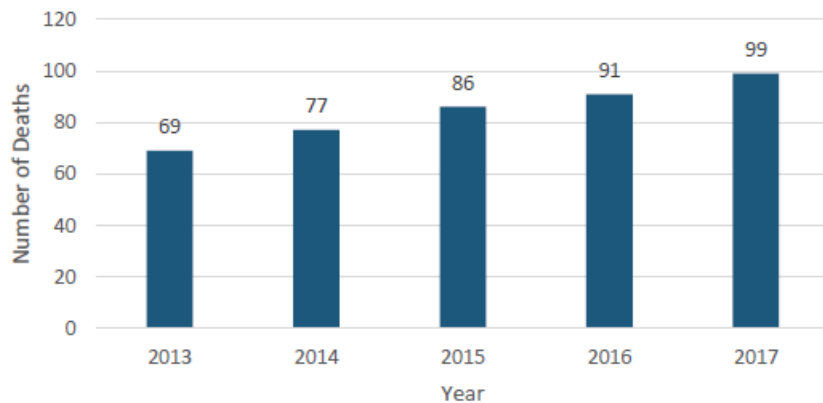


Figure 35 Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Vital Statistics, Mortality

Figure 36: Rates of Hospital Care Associated with All Opioids, Alaska

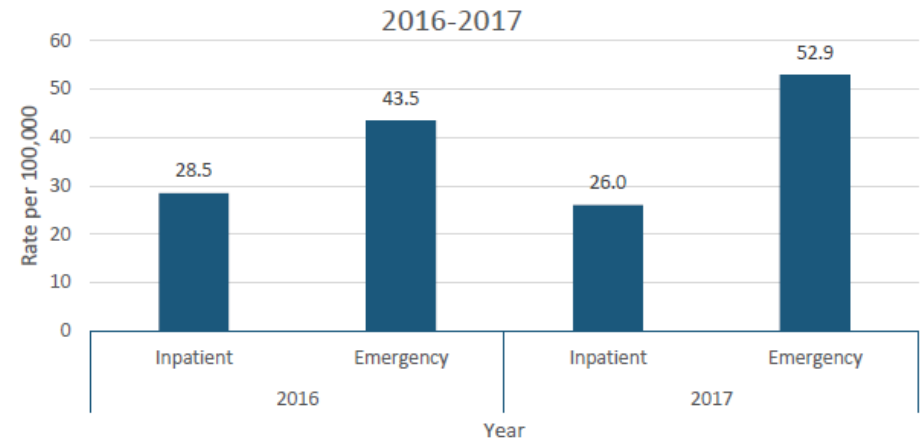


Figure 36 Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Epidemiology

While at the same time Alaska law decreased penalties for trafficking and possession . . .