

# **Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report**

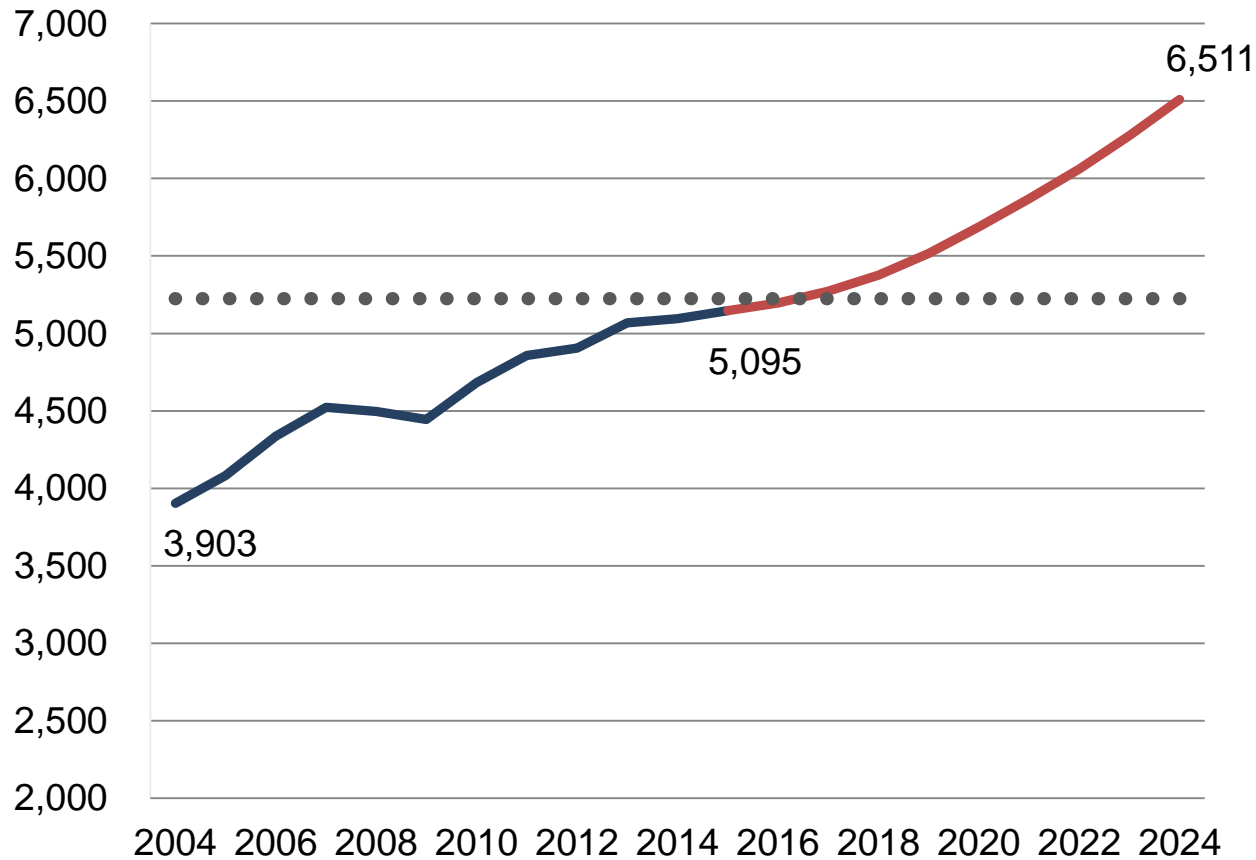
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Final Recommendations of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

# The Problem Facing Alaska

- The Cost of Doing Nothing
  - Trends in Alaska's Prison Population
  - Recommendations for Alaska's Lawmakers
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Historical and Projected Prison Growth, 2004-2024



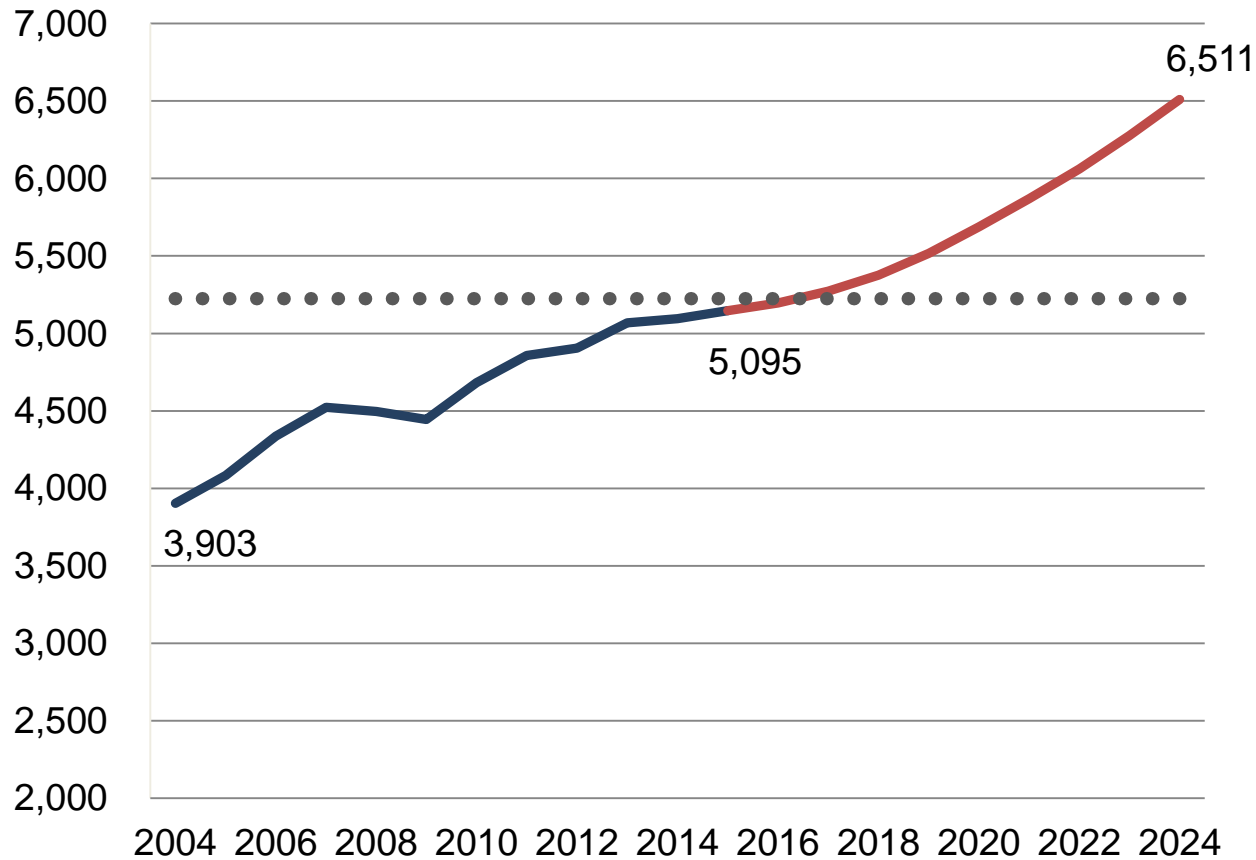
- Historical Average Daily Population
- Projected Average Daily Population
- • • Current Hard Bed Capacity

## Prison Growth in Alaska

**27% Growth**  
since 2004

**\$324 Million**  
Annual Cost

Historical and Projected Prison Growth, 2004-2024



- Historical Average Daily Population
- Projected Average Daily Population
- • • Current Hard Bed Capacity

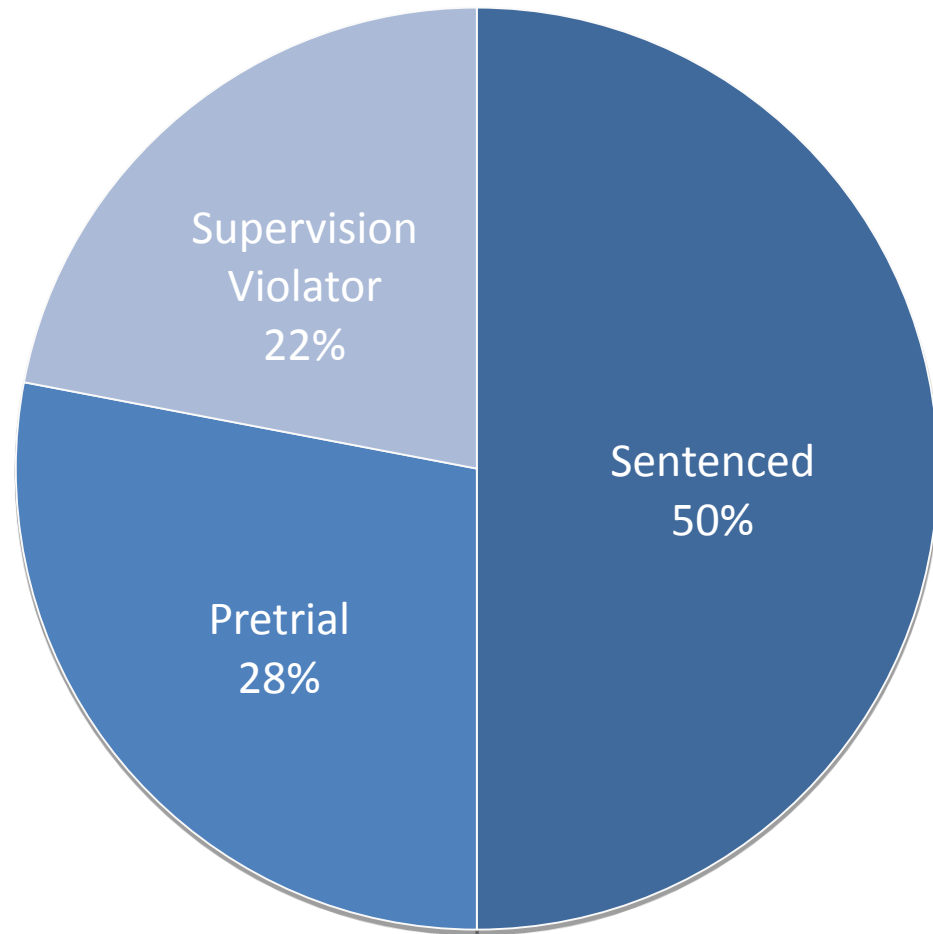
## Prison Growth in Alaska

**27% Growth**  
Projected by 2024

**\$169 Million**  
Additional Cost

**2017**  
Prison Capacity Exceeded

Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status



## Prison Growth in Alaska

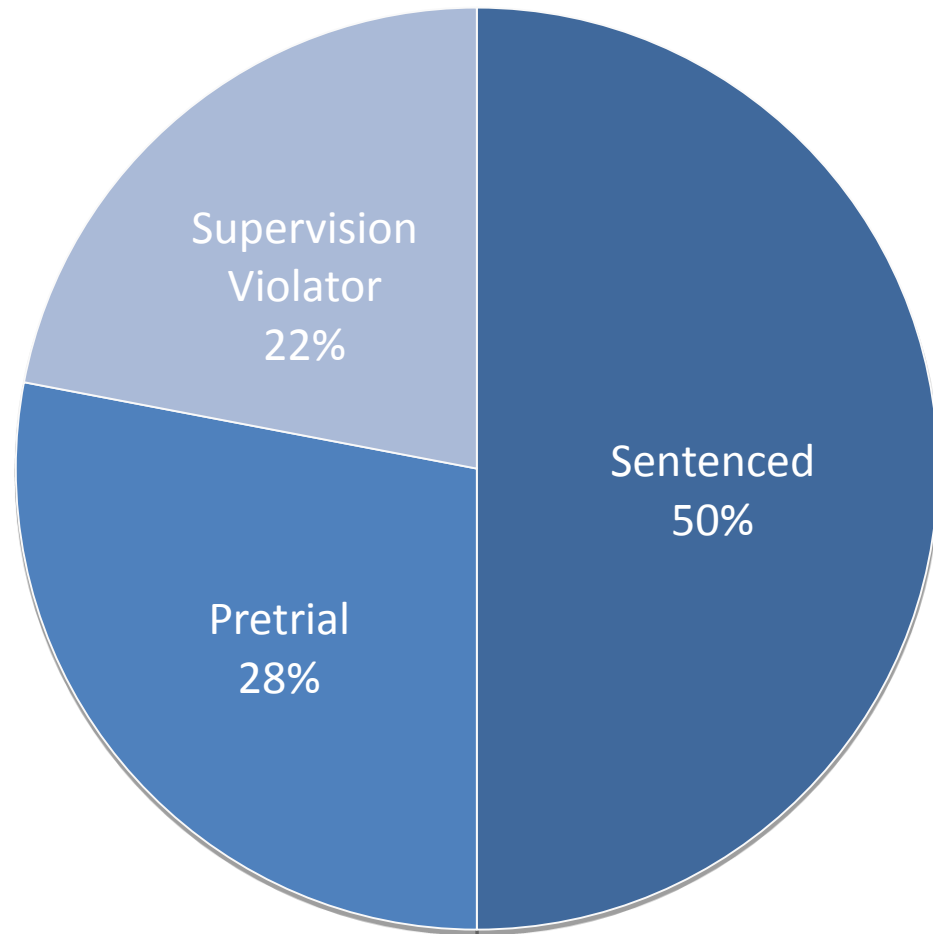
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What is driving this growth?

Defendants in prison **pretrial** are staying for longer periods of time

Three-quarters of the sentenced population is convicted of **non-violent offenses**

## Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status



## Prison Growth in Alaska

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Felony offenders are staying **31% longer** than in 2004

22% of prison inmates are there for **technical violations** of parole or probation

# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

“The Commission shall evaluate and make recommendations to improve criminal laws and practices, keeping in mind the goals of enhancing public safety, offender rehabilitation, victim restitution and reducing costs.”

*Alaska’s Senate Bill 64 (2014)*

September 2014  
*First Meeting of ACJC*

July 2017  
*ACJC Sunsets*

Alaska Judicial Council  
*Staff*

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# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

- Legislative Branch
    - Sen. John Coghill (Non-Voting)
    - Rep. Wes Keller (Non-Voting)
  - Judicial Branch
    - Alex Bryner  
*Chief Justice, Alaska Supreme Court (Retired)*
    - Stephanie Rhoades  
*District Court Judge*
    - Trevor Stephens  
*Superior Court Judge*
  - Department of Corrections
    - Walt Monegan  
*Acting Commissioner*
  - Law Enforcement
    - Craig Richards  
*Attorney General*
    - Gary Folger  
*Commissioner, Department of Public Safety*
    - Lt. Kris Sell  
*Juneau Police Department*
  - Public Defender
    - Quinlan Steiner
  - Alaska Natives
    - Gregory Razo (Chair)  
*Cook Inlet Region, Inc.*
  - Crime Victims
    - Brenda Stanfill  
*Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living*
  - Alaska Mental Health Trust
    - Jeff Jessee  
*CEO*
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# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

“We have asked for recommendations that enhance public safety, strengthen alternatives to prison, and determine which criminal defendants and offenders can be safely managed with those alternatives....

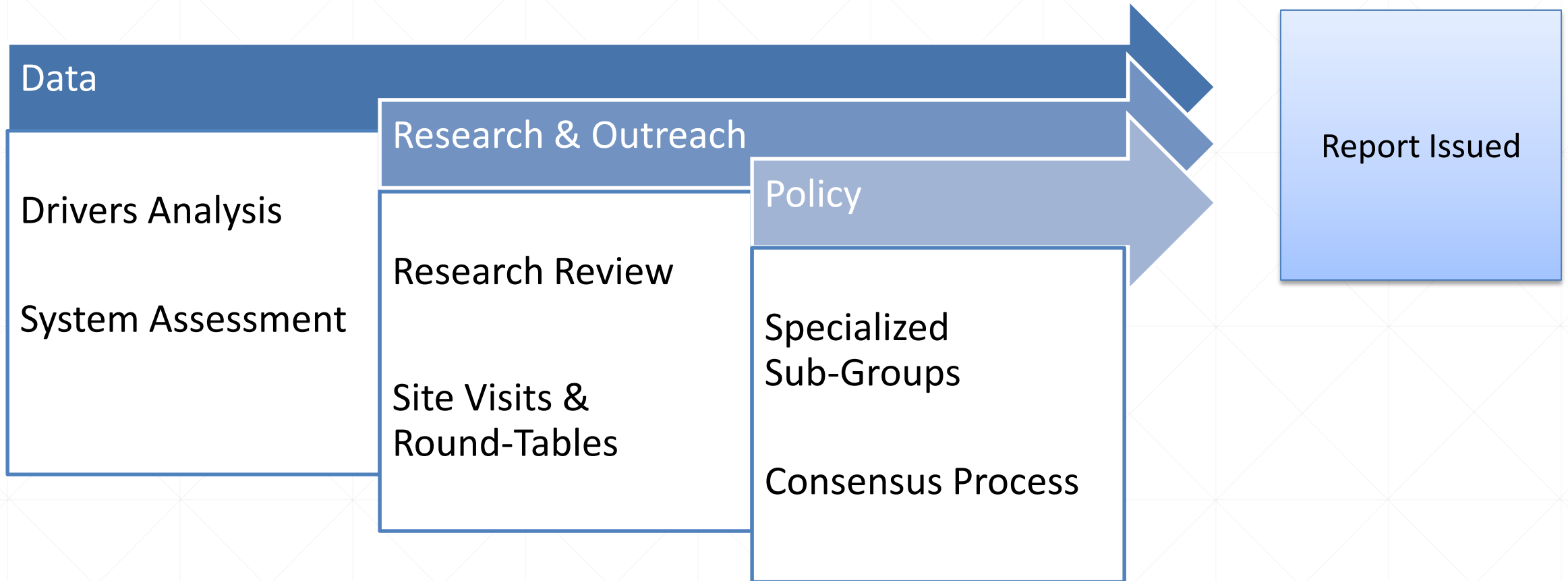
[W]e call on the Commission to develop policy options for the Legislature to consider aimed at meeting the following goal posts: 1) averting all future prison growth; 2) averting all future prison growth and reducing the current prison population by 15 percent; and 3) averting all future prison growth and reducing the current prison population by 25 percent.”

*Senate President Kevin Meyer*  
*Senate Finance Chair Anna MacKinnon*

*Speaker Mike Chenault*  
*House Finance Co-Chair Mark Neuman*  
*House Finance Co-Chair Steve Thompson*

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# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission





**Alaska Criminal Justice Commission  
Justice Reinvestment Report**

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*December 2015*

**Alaska's Justice  
Reinvestment Report**

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**December 10**  
Report Issued

**21**  
Policy  
Recommendations



**Alaska Criminal Justice Commission  
Justice Reinvestment Report**

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*December 2015*

## **Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report**

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**Pre-Trial Detention**

**Sentencing**

**Community  
Supervision**

**Reinvestment**



**Alaska Criminal Justice Commission  
Justice Reinvestment Report**

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*December 2015*

## **Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report**

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Focus prison beds on the most  
serious offenders

Safely release and supervise  
defendants awaiting trial

Make communities safer by  
strengthening supervision



**Alaska Criminal Justice Commission  
Justice Reinvestment Report**

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*December 2015*

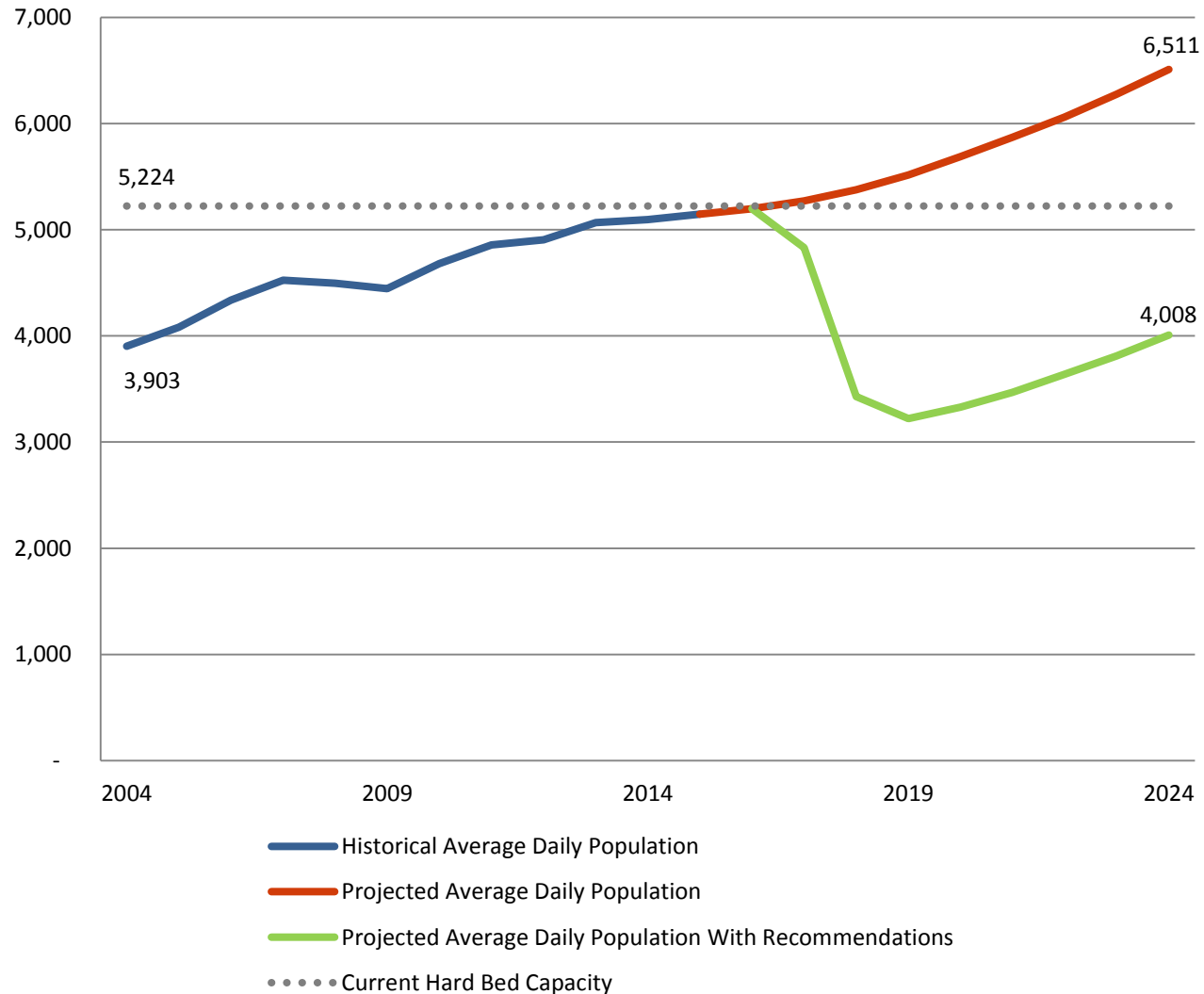
## **Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report**

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Expand proven programs to  
reduce recidivism and  
substance abuse

Reinvest in services to prevent  
violence and support victims

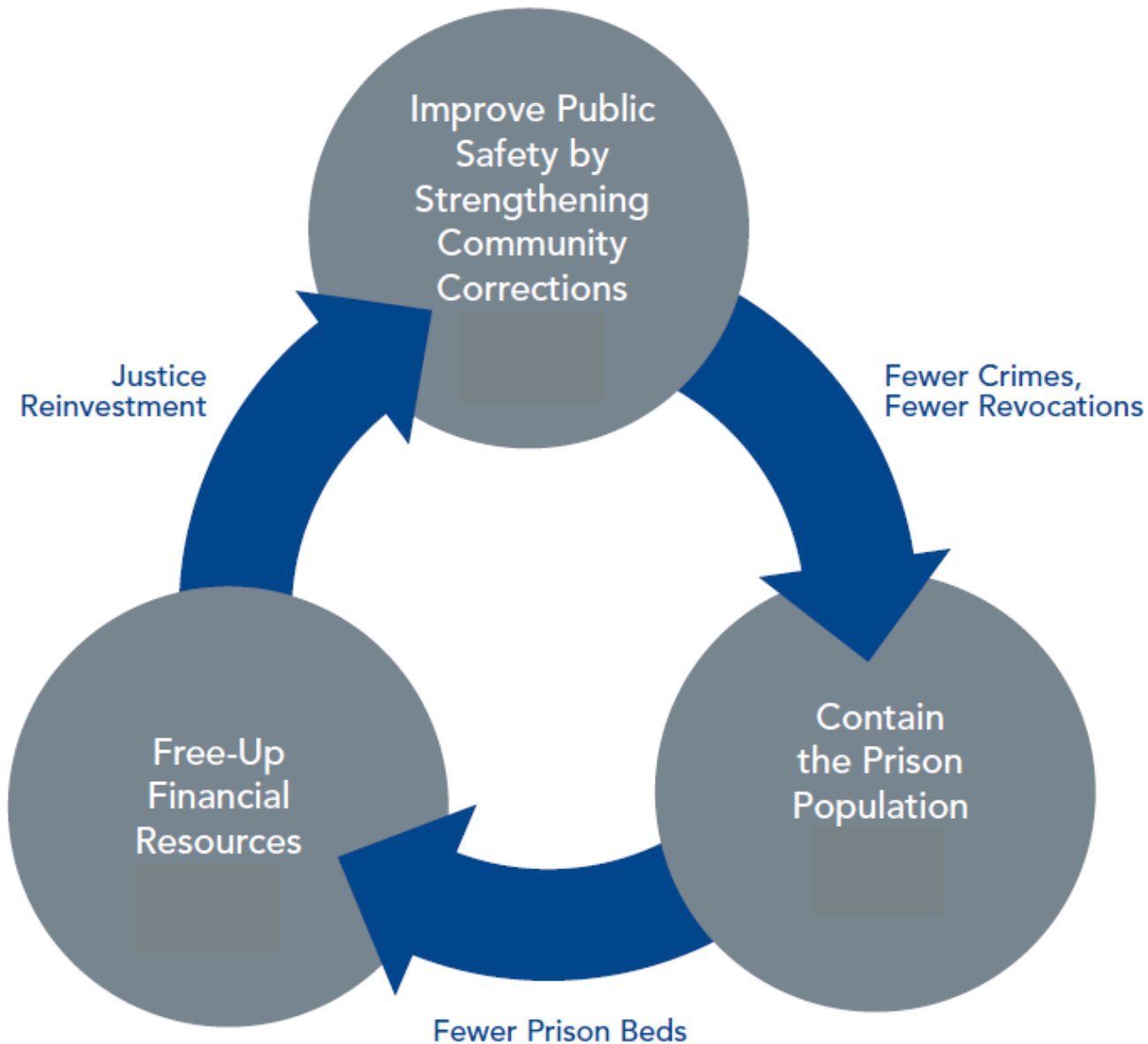
Historical and Projected Average Daily DOC Population  
with Recommendations, 2004-2024



## Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report

**21% Reduction**  
in Prison Population  
Projected by 2024

**\$424 Million**  
in Savings to State



## Reinvestment Priorities

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**Pre-Trial Supervision**

**Victim Services**

**Violence Prevention**

**Treatment Services**

**Reentry & Support Services**

# Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 5:  
Limit the use of prison for low-level misdemeanor offenders

*Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report*

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# Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 2:  
Utilize risk-based release decision-making for pre-trial defendants

*Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report*

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# Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 14:  
Establish a system of earned compliance credits for offenders on  
community supervision

*Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Report*

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# Questions?

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Report and research available at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)