

09/15/15

PRESENTATION

ALASKA

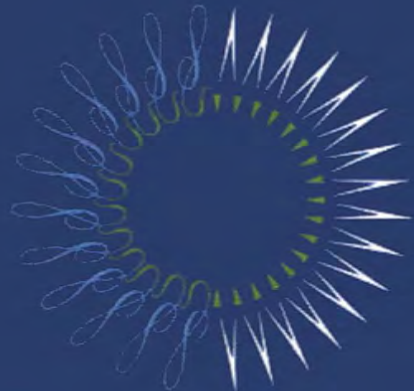
PRISON

GROWTH

DRIVERS AND

COSTS

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>09-15-15 PRESENTATION
ALASKA PRISON GROWTH DRIVERS AND
COSTS</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN29</COMM></TARGET>



THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Alaska Prison Growth Drivers and Costs

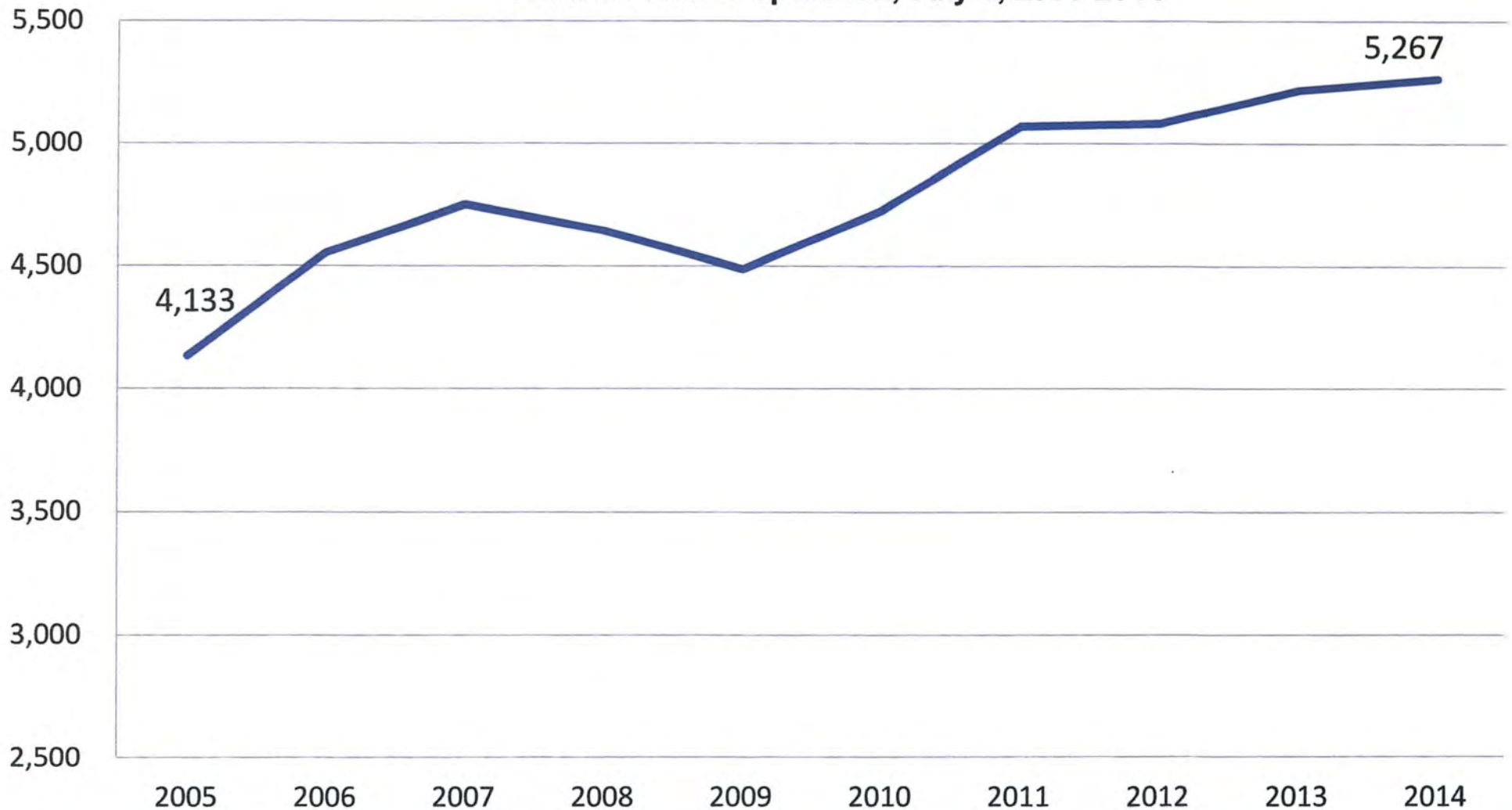
Senate Finance Committee

Anchorage, Alaska

Sept. 15, 2015

Prison Population Up 27% in Last Decade

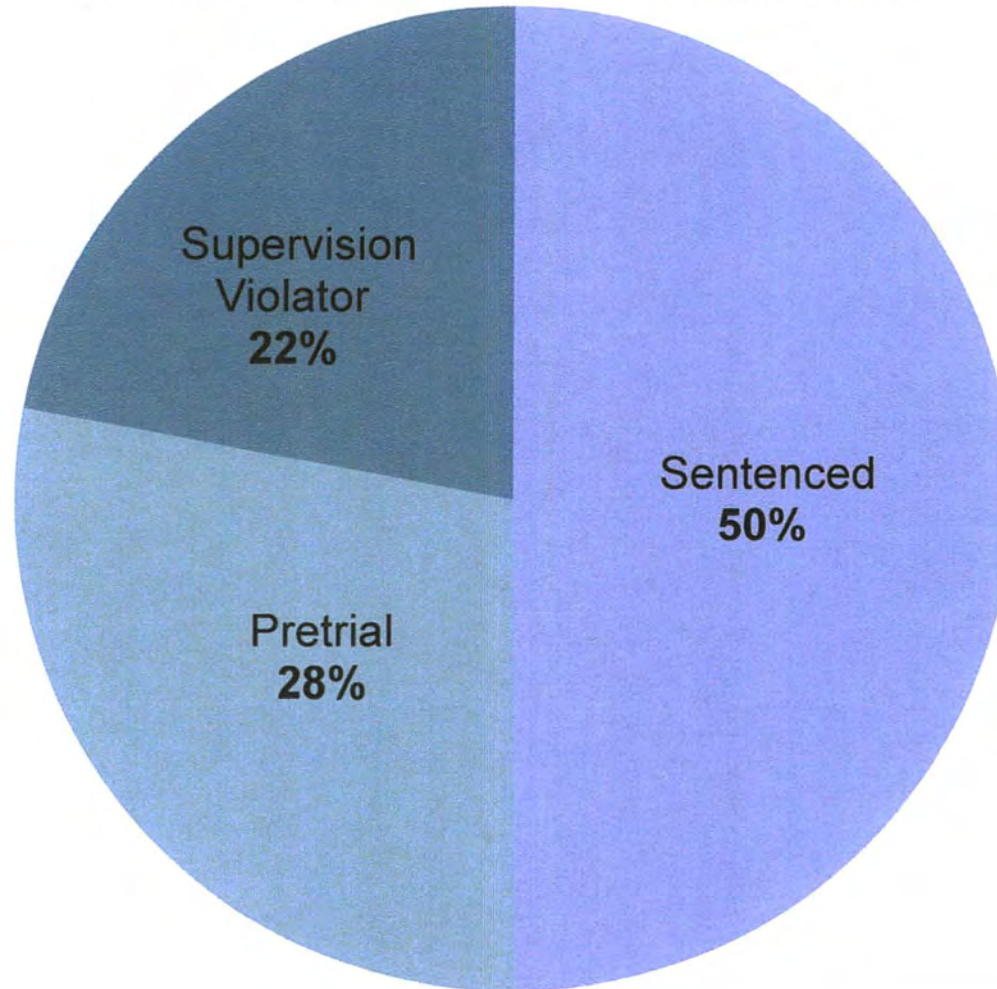
Alaska Prison Population, July 1, 2005-2014



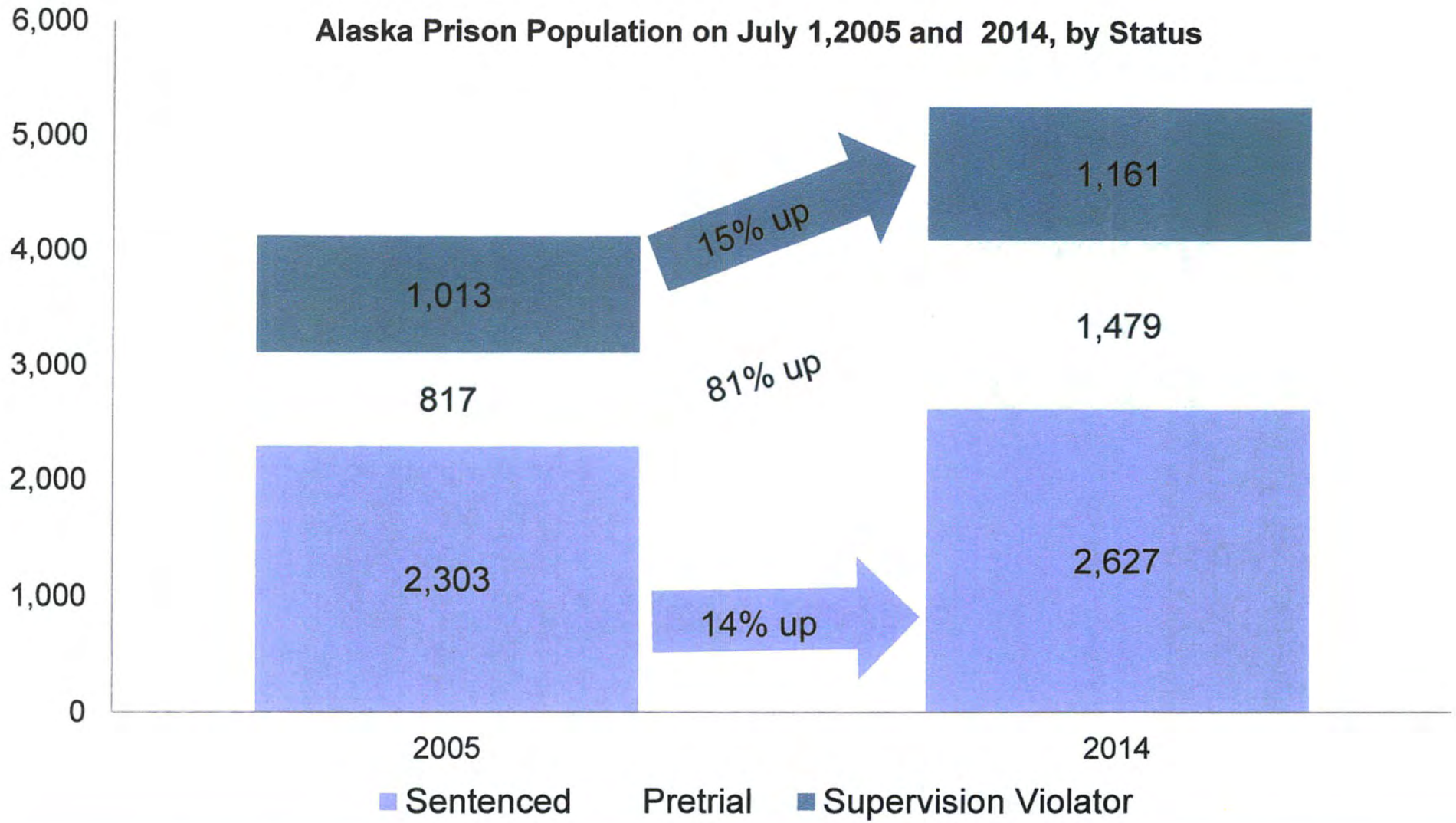
Source: Alaska Department of Corrections

Prison Population is Half Sentenced Offenders, Half Supervision Violators and Pretrial Defendants

Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status

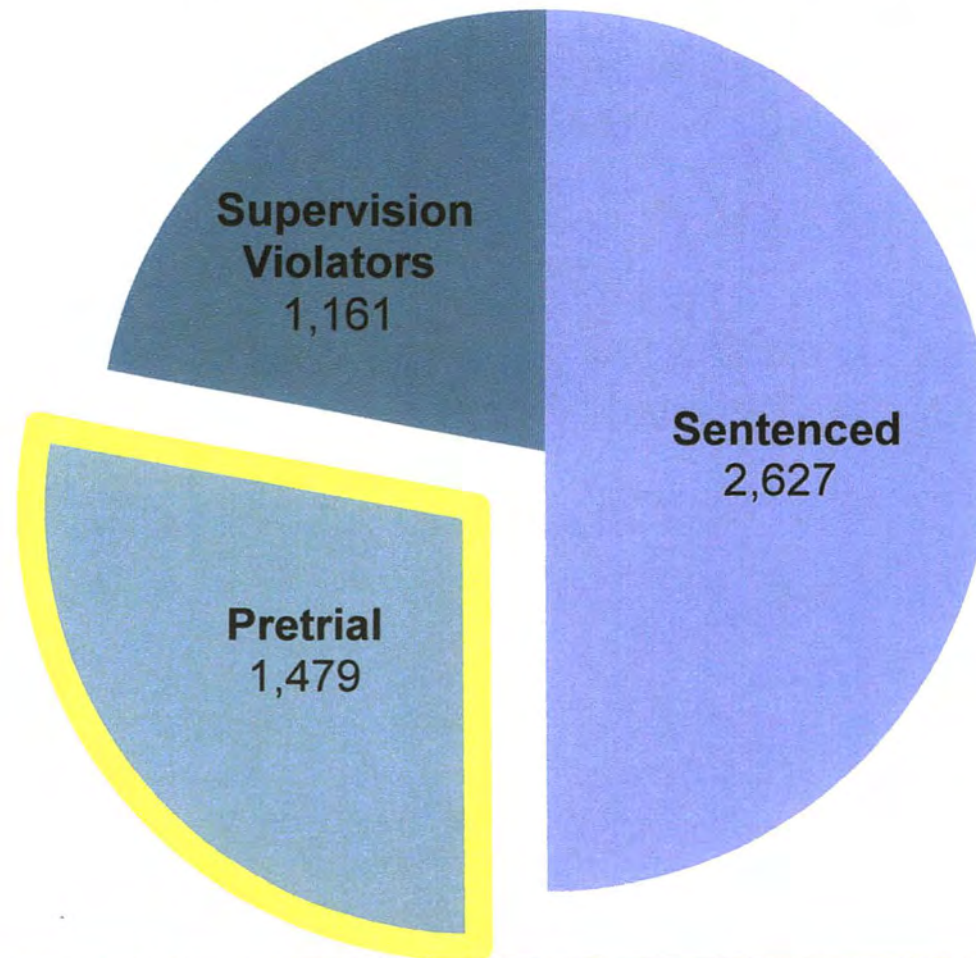


Largest Growth Among Pretrial Inmates



Pretrial Defendants Make Up 28% of Alaska's Prison Population

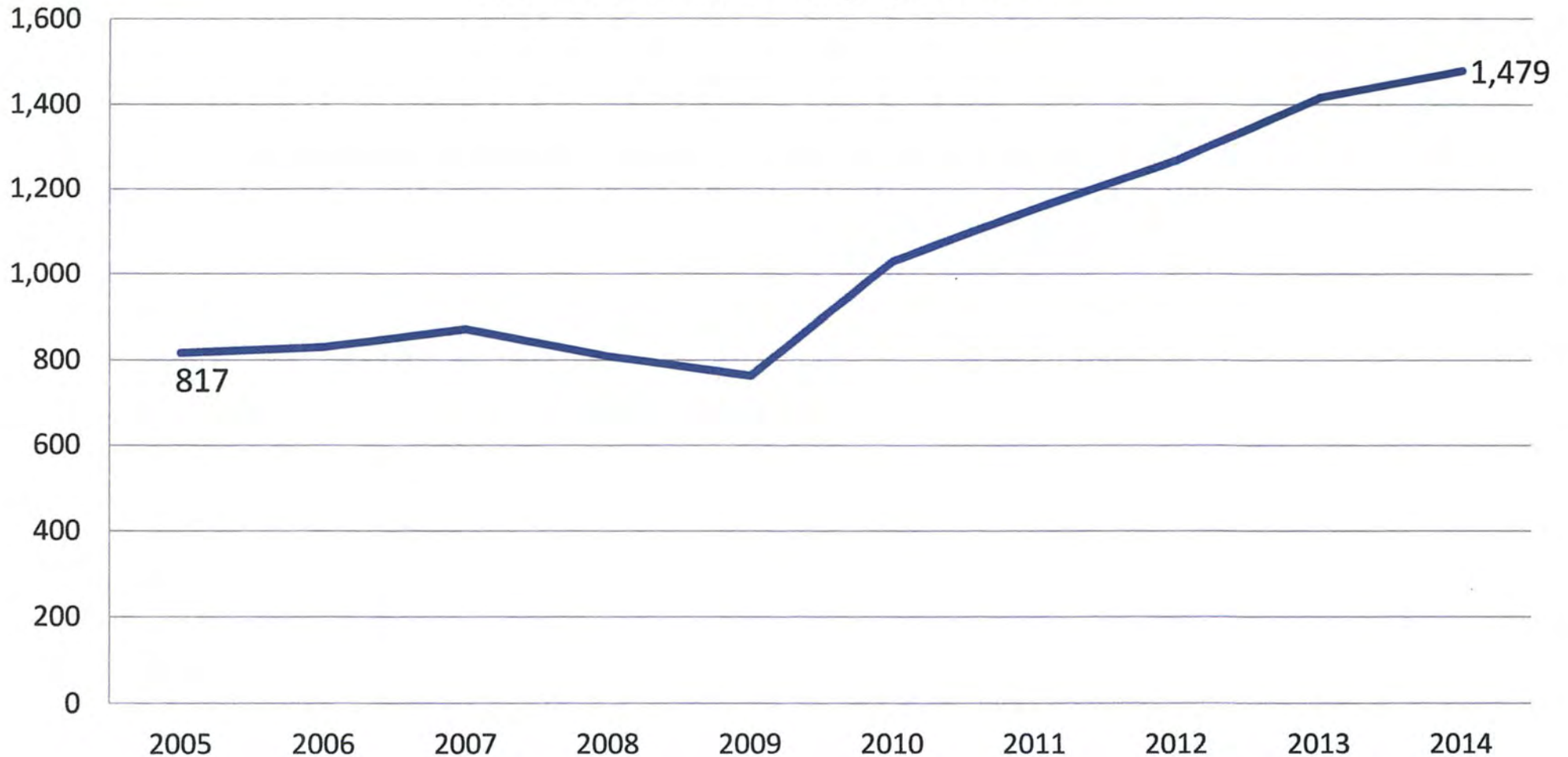
Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status



Pretrial

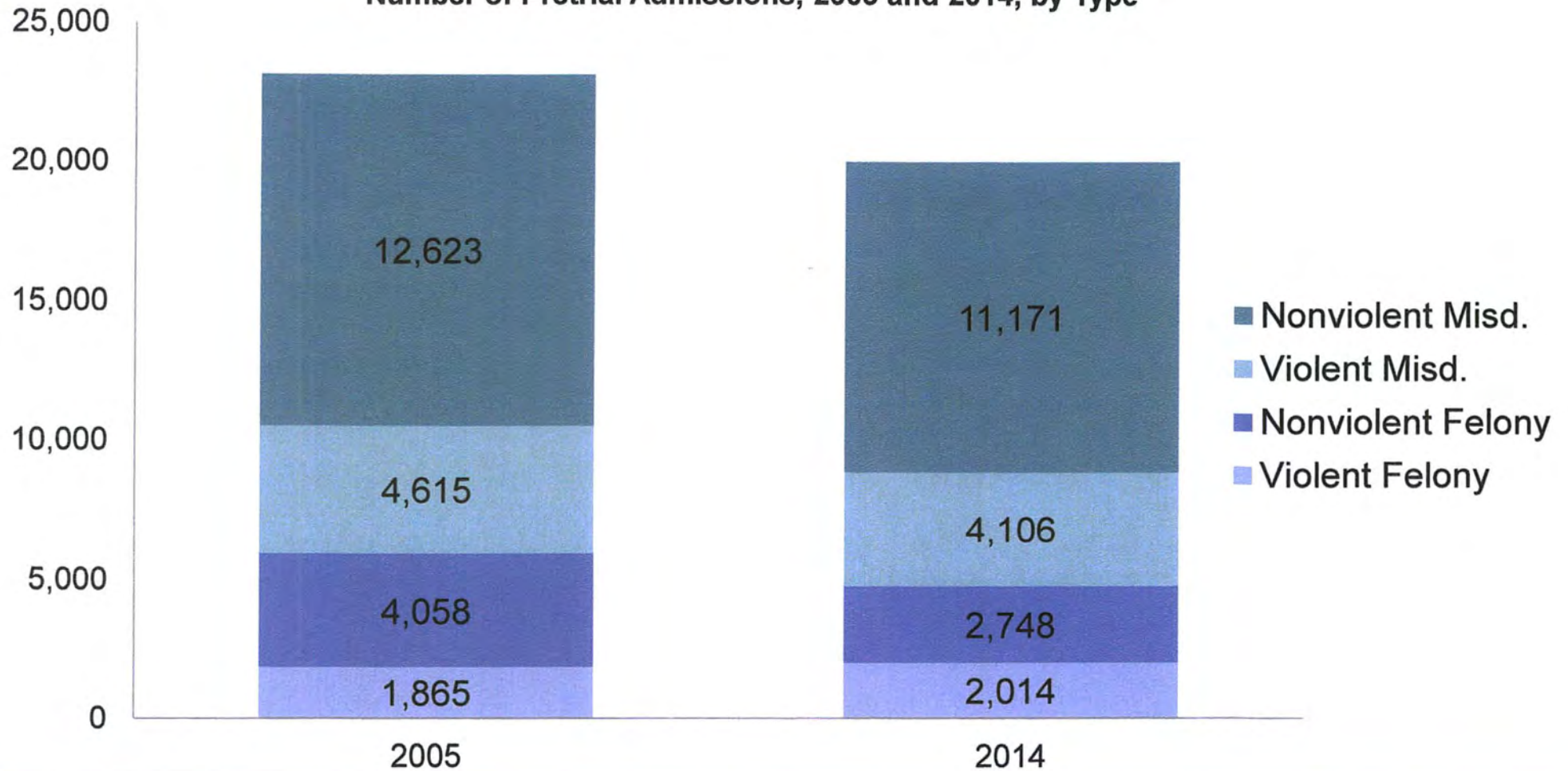
Number of Pretrial Defendants Up 81% in Last Decade

Pretrial Detainees on July 1, 2005-2014



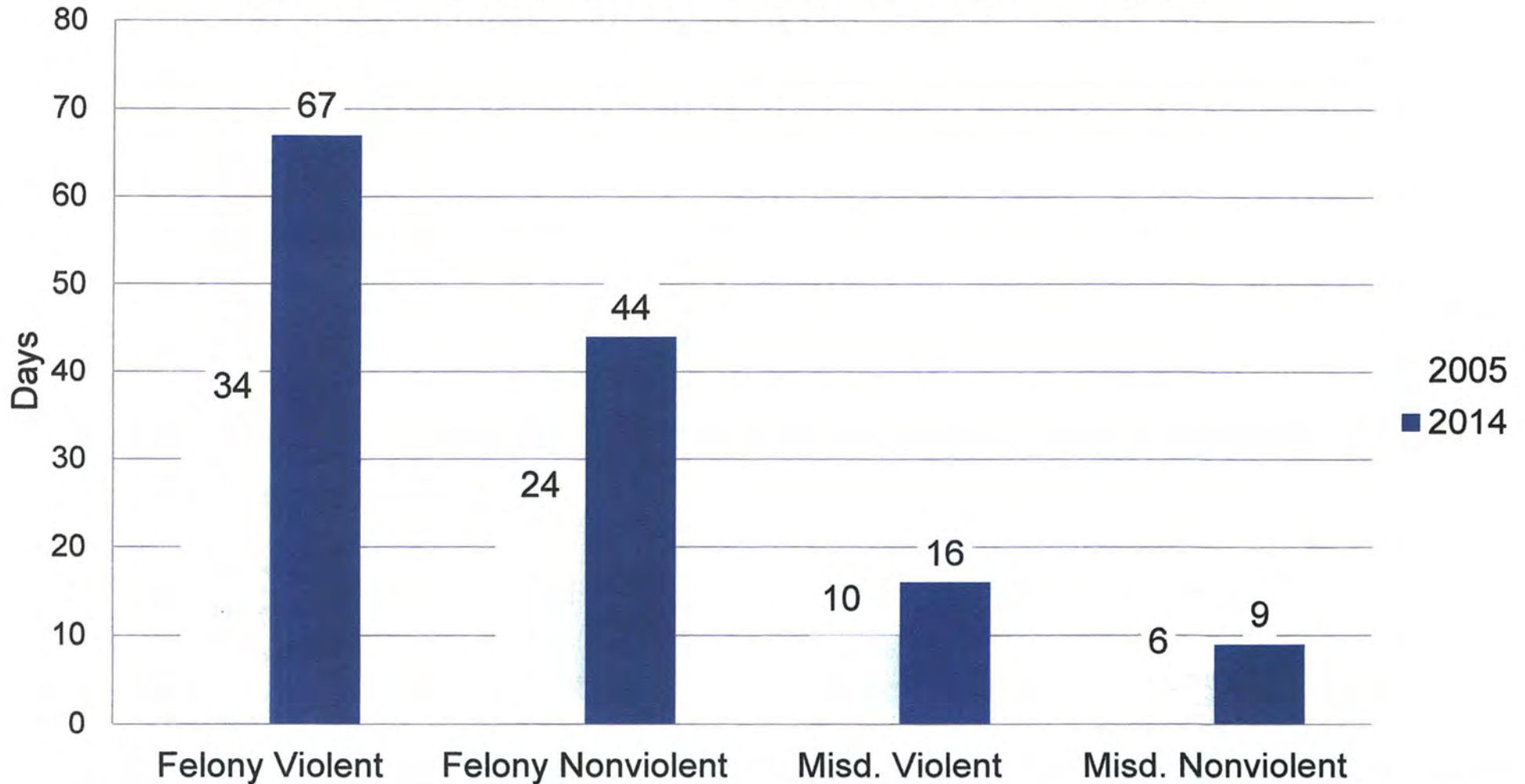
Pretrial Admissions Down 13%, But Still High Numbers of Nonviolent Misdemeanor Admissions

Number of Pretrial Admissions, 2005 and 2014, by Type



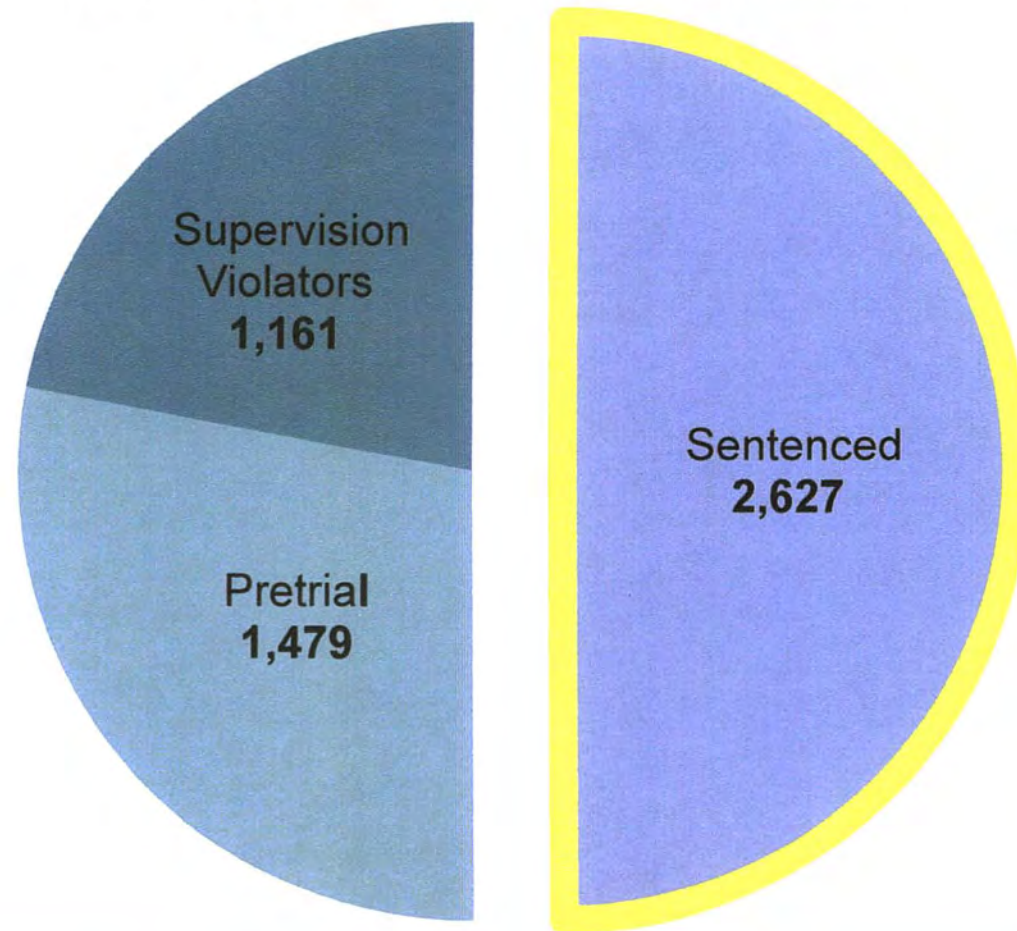
Average Pretrial Length of Stay Up

Mean Length of Stay for Pretrial Detainees, 2005 and 2014 (Days)



Sentenced Offenders Make Up 50% of Alaska's Prison Population

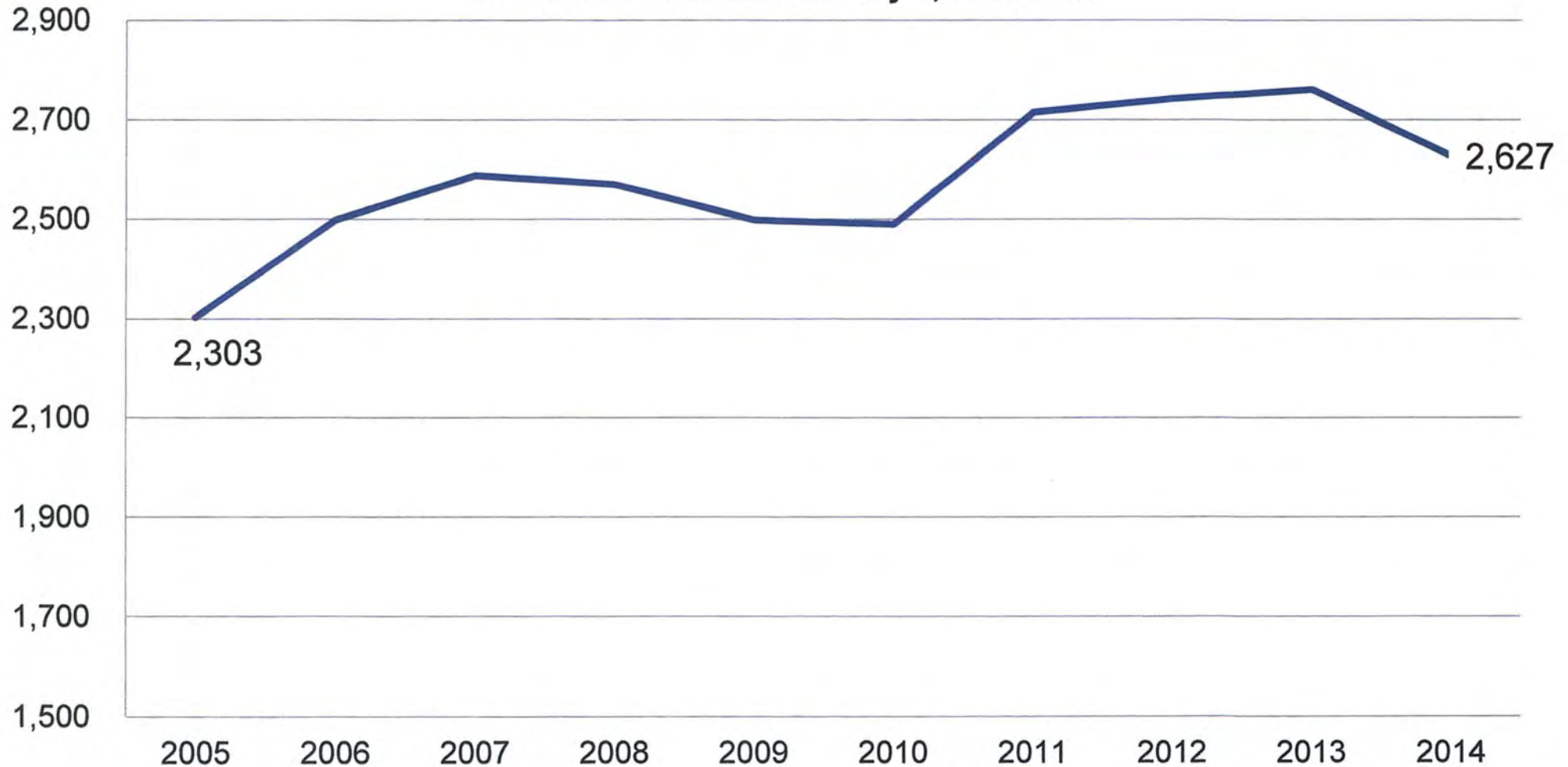
Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status



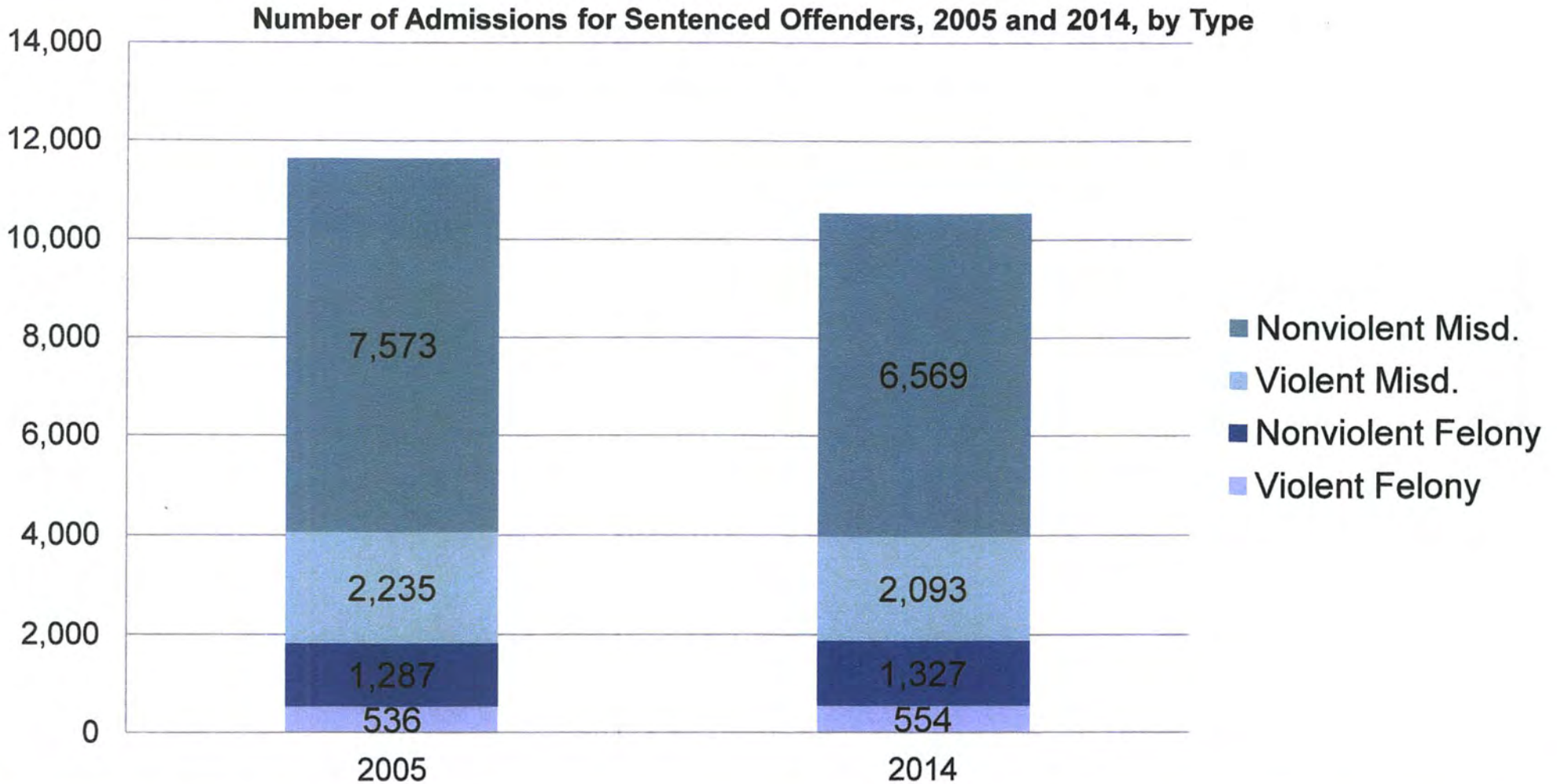
Sentencing

Number of Sentenced Inmates Up 14% in Last Decade

Sentenced Offenders on July 1, 2005-2014



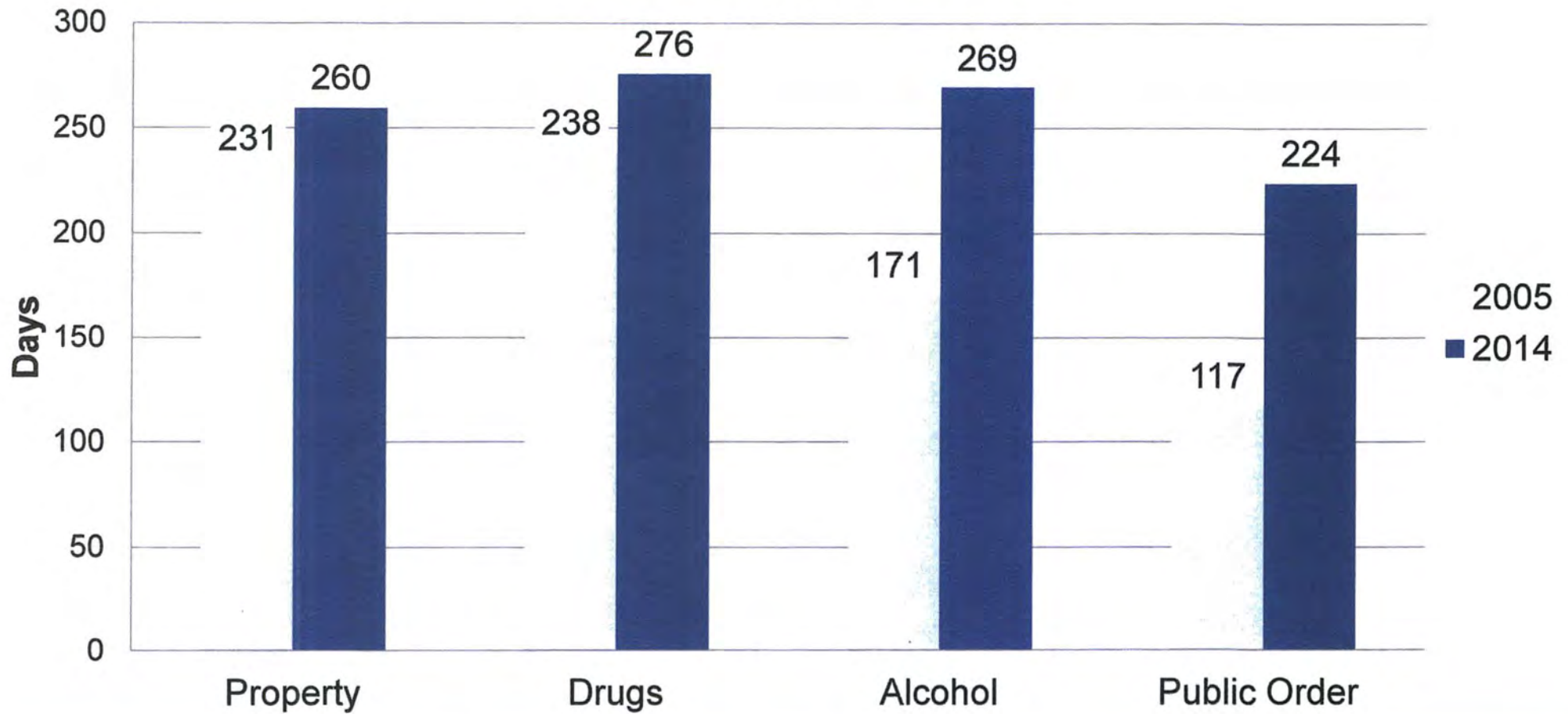
Despite Declines, 82% of Prison Admissions Are Misdemeanants



Sentencing

Felony Length of Stay Up Across Nonviolent Offense Categories

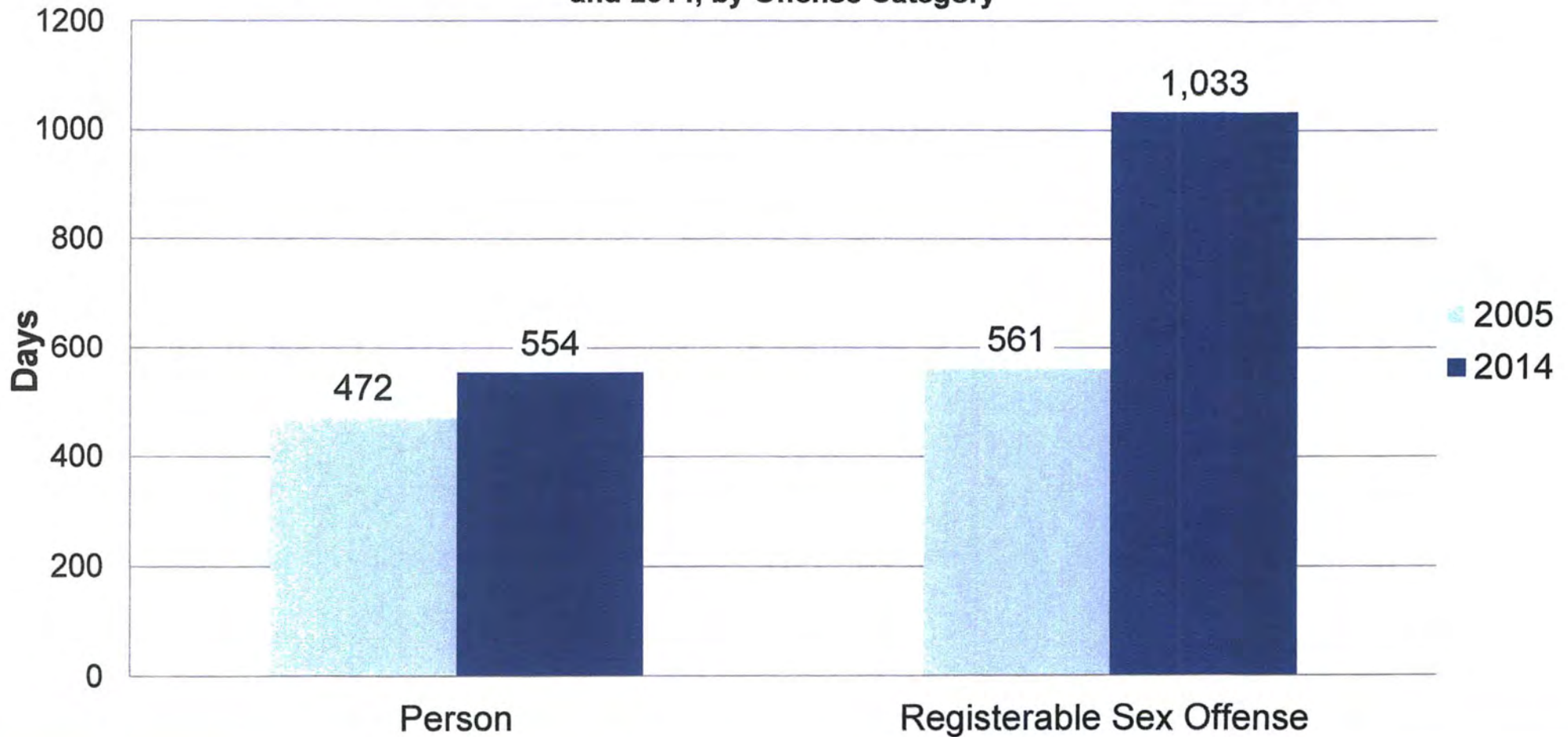
Mean Length of Stay for Sentenced Offenders Convicted of Nonviolent Felony Charges, 2005 and 2014, by Offense Category



Sentencing

Felony Length of Stay up 17% for Person Offenders; 86% for Sex Offenders

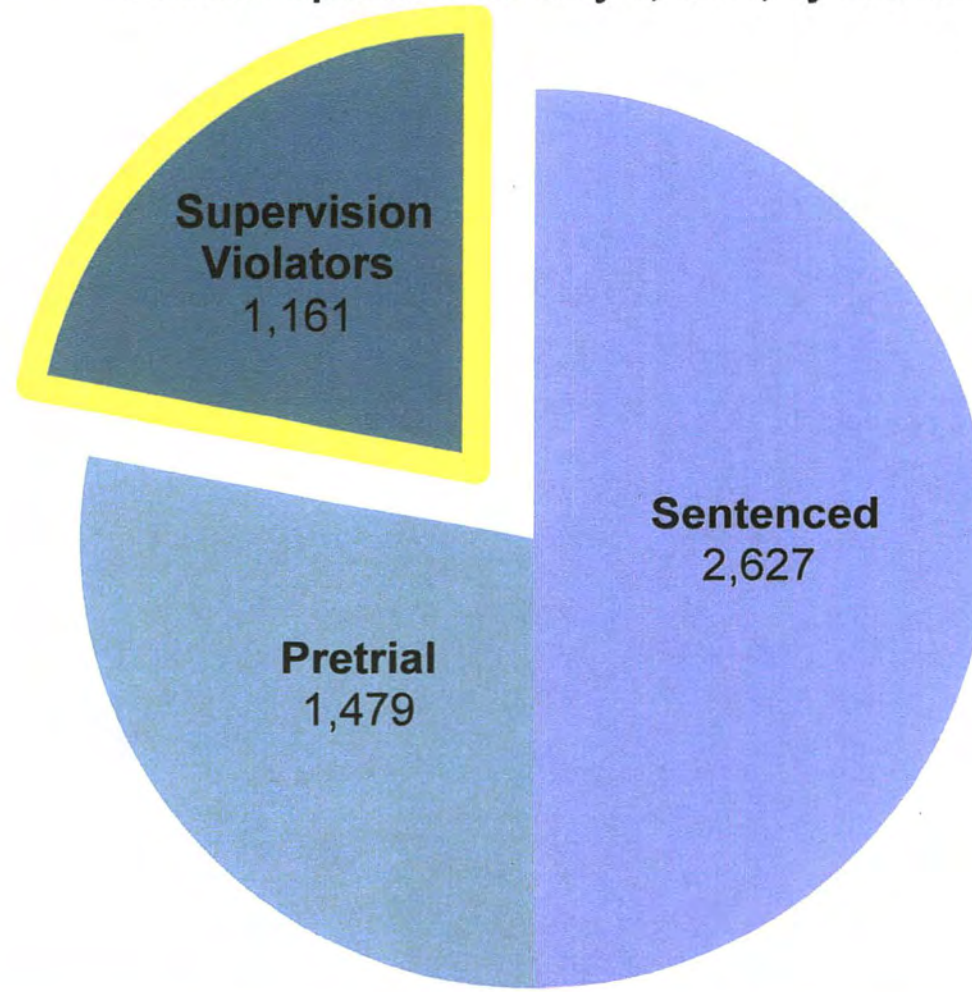
Mean Length of Stay for Sentenced Offenders Convicted of Violent Felony Charges, 2005 and 2014, by Offense Category



Supervision Violators

Supervision Violators Make Up 22% of Alaska's Prison Population

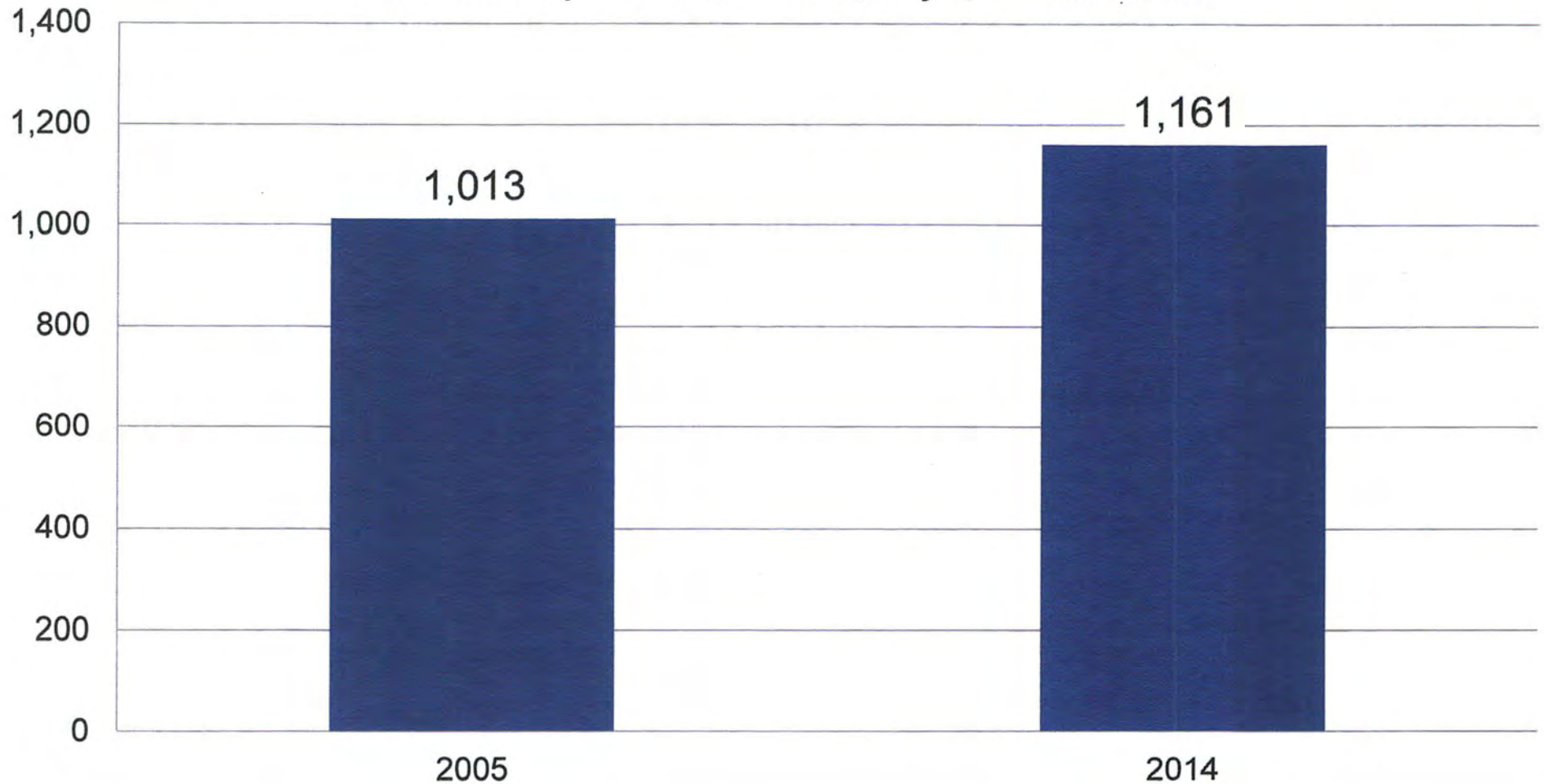
Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status



Supervision Violators

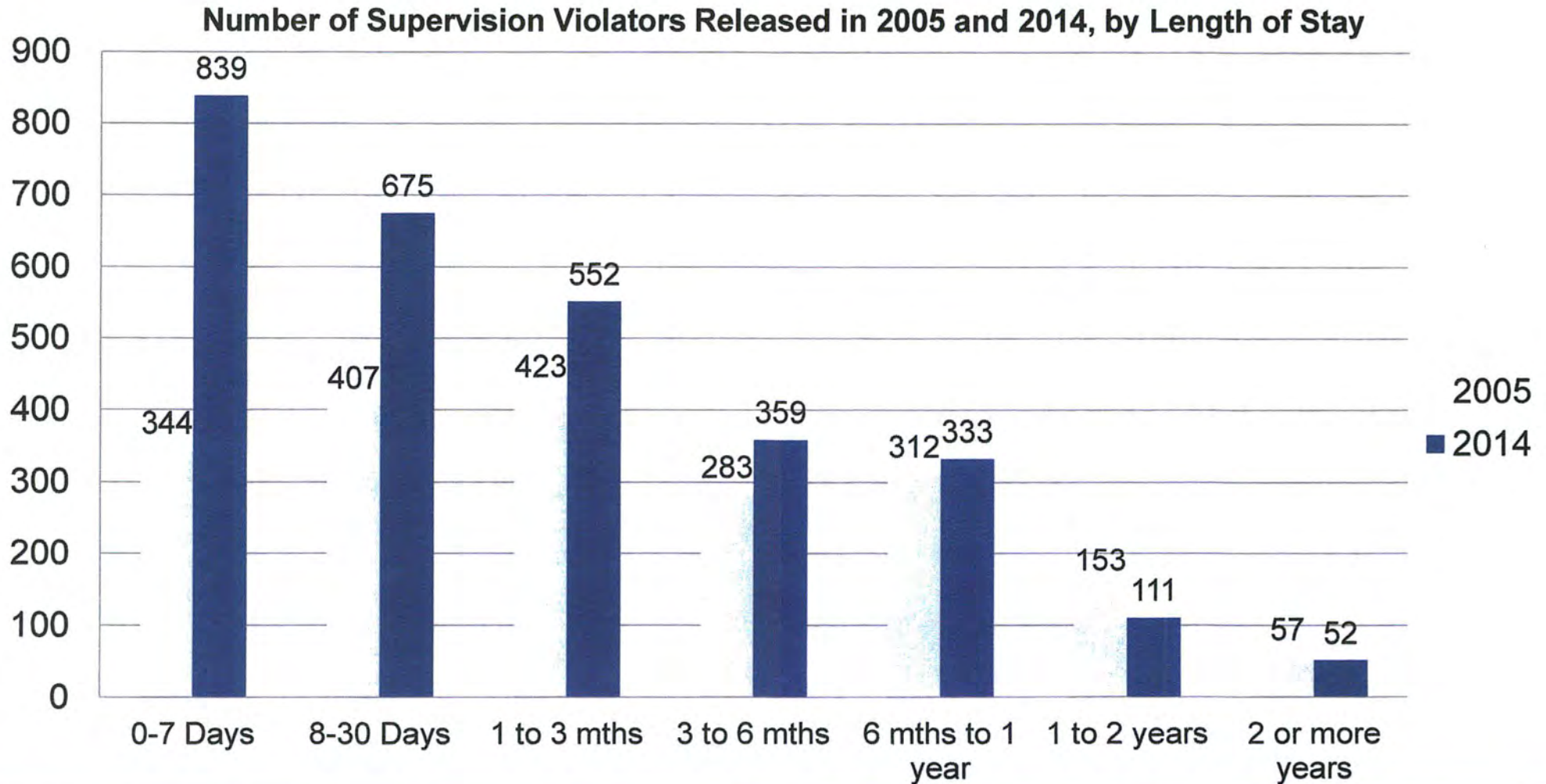
Number of Supervision Violators Up 15% in Last Decade

Number of Supervision Violators, July 1, 2005 and 2014



Supervision Violators

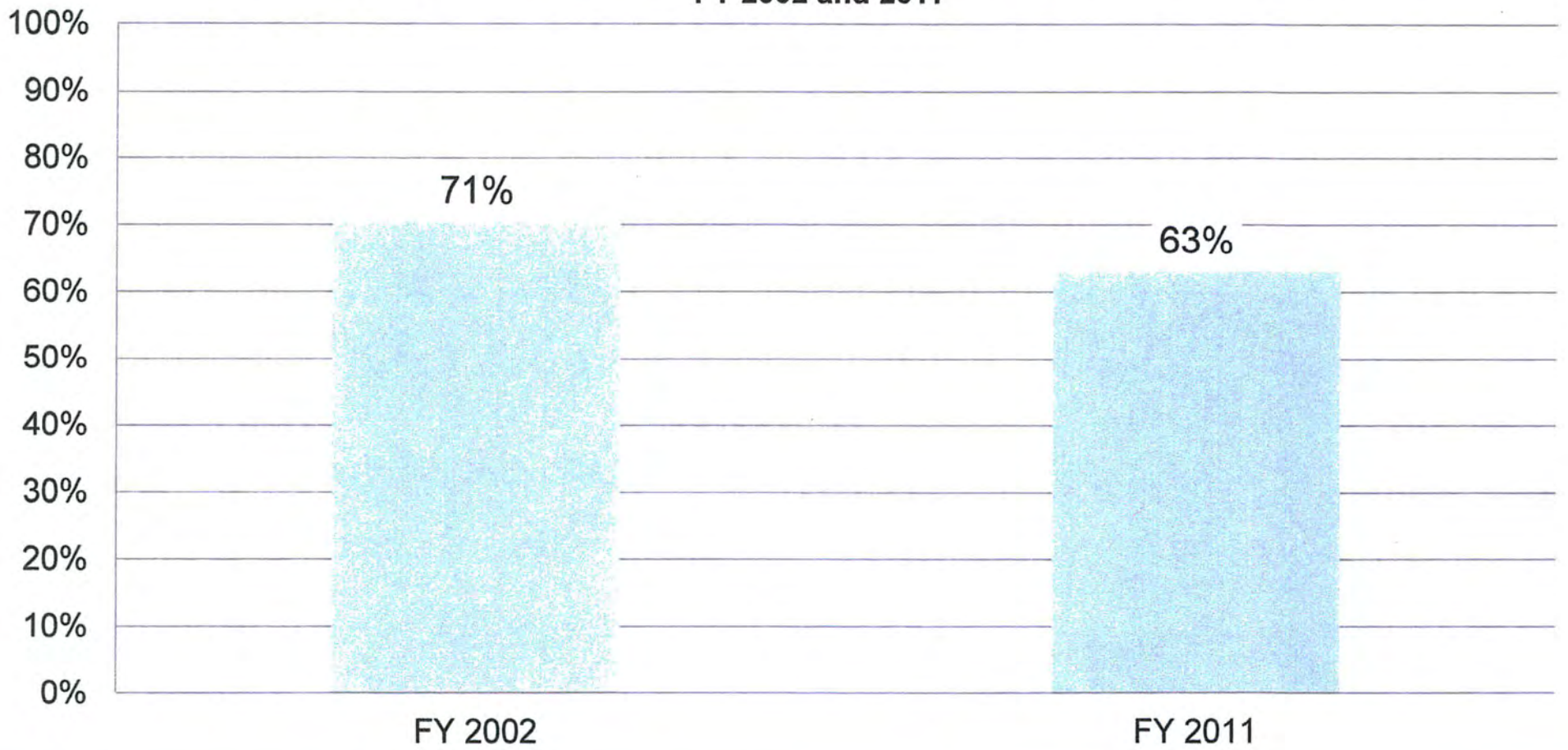
Nearly Half Of Revocations Staying More Than One Month; 29% More Than Three Months



Recidivism

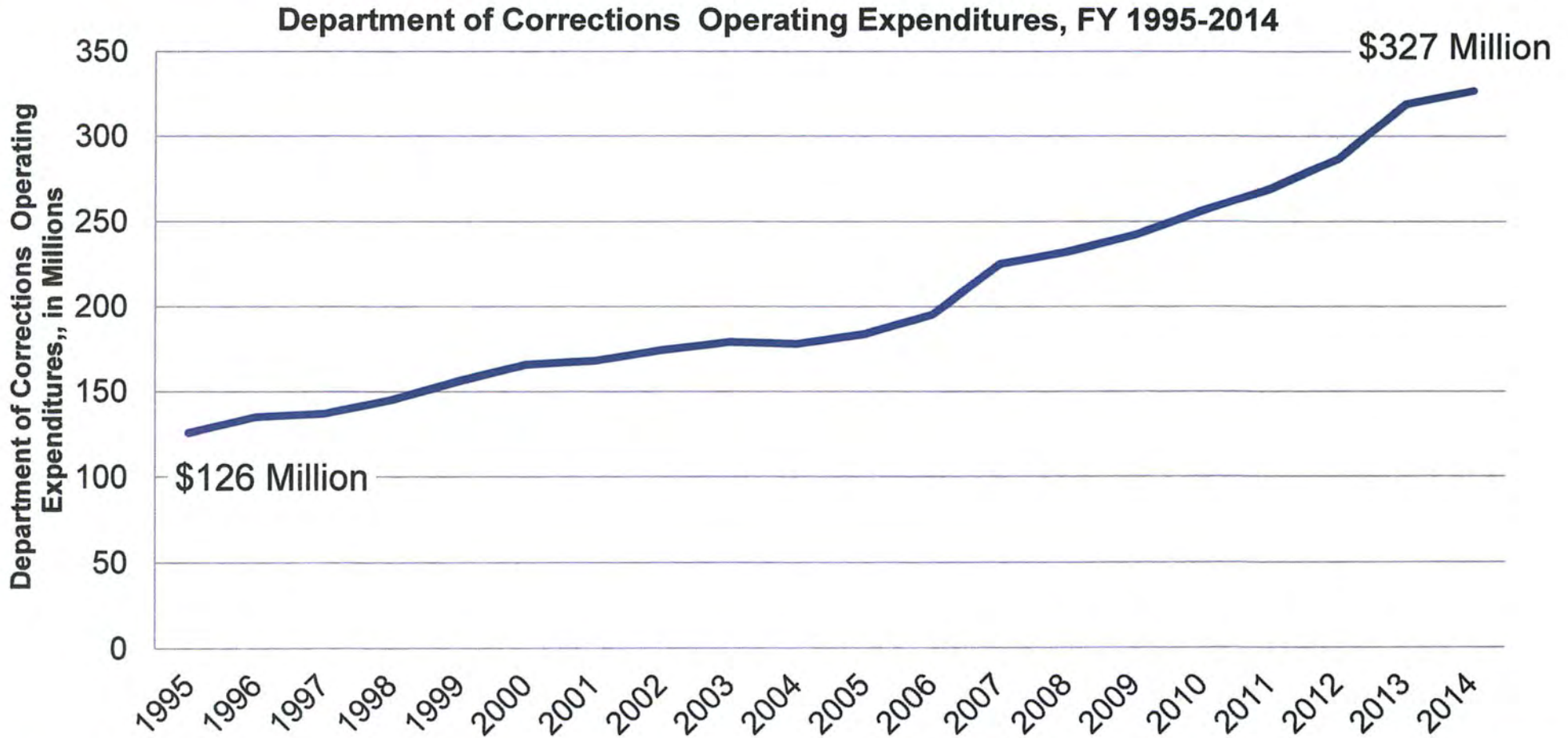
Almost Two-Thirds of Offenders Released Return to Prison Within Three Years

Percentage of Offenders Released Who Return to Prison Within 3 Years, FY 2002 and 2011



Projected Growth and Costs

Spending on Corrections Up 60% Over Past 2 Decades

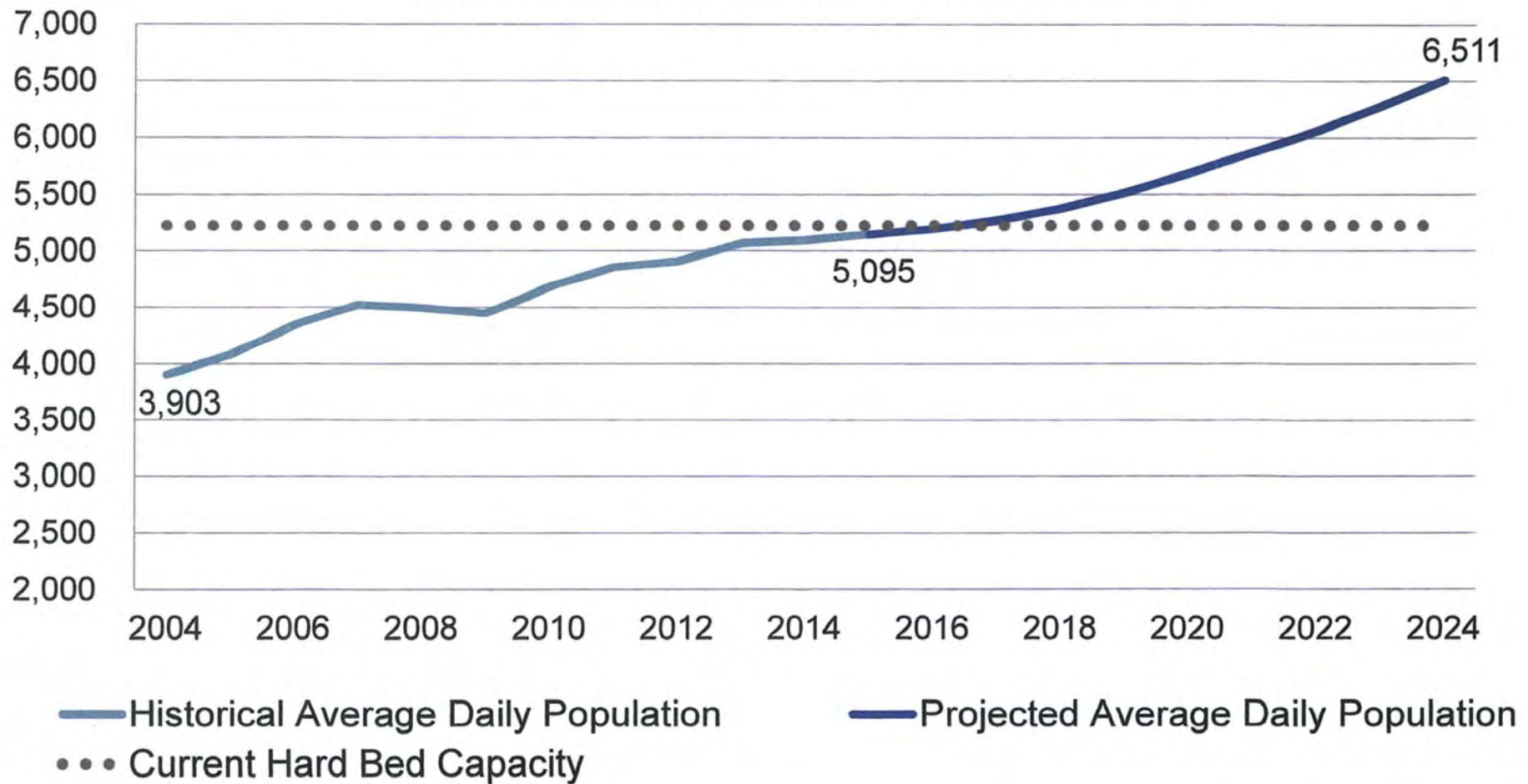


*Figures do not include capital expenditures; 60% based on inflation-adjusted numbers

Projected Growth and Costs

Absent Further Reform, Prison Population Projected to Grow 27%, Costing At Least \$169 Million

Historical and Projected Prison Growth, 2004-2024



Next Steps

- Alaska Criminal Justice Commission policy development meetings
 - Sept. 9-10
 - Oct. 14-15
 - Nov. 18-19
- Report and recommendations from the Commission
 - Dec. 10

Questions?

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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

September 8, 2015

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
c/o Mary Geddes
Project Attorney
510 L Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, AK 99501-1295

Dear Members of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission:

Today you have heard from legislative leaders about the need for criminal justice reforms that result in substantial savings to the State. I applaud their renewed public commitment to this process, and agree that lawmakers should have policy options this session that meet the prison population goal posts they set forth. I will use these goal posts when developing my budget, and as a reference point for a conversation about the reinvestment component of Justice Reinvestment.

Additionally, I have called on executive agency leaders to join us in prioritizing criminal justice reforms, to lend their expertise and time to the Justice Reinvestment process, and to think beyond each agency's self-interest in order to help the Commission arrive at a comprehensive package of reforms that achieves more public safety at less cost to the State.

My cabinet and I are proud to stand with legislative leaders in support of your work. We thank you for your ongoing efforts, and look forward to your report in December.

Sincerely,


Bill Walker
Governor

Senator
Kevin Meyer
Senate President

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Alaska State Legislature



Representative
Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House

145 Main St. Loop
Kenai, Alaska 99611
Phone: 907-283-7223
Fax: 907-283-7184

September 8, 2015

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
510 L Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Bryner:

Thank you for lending your time and expertise to criminal justice reform efforts in Alaska. The Legislature created and charged the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission to make recommendations to improve the State's criminal justice system. It is important for this work to continue.

You are well aware of the State's fiscal situation and the revenue shortfall we face. There is pressure to examine all areas and programs of the state. The work that you are doing will be important as the Legislature proceeds with budgetary changes in the areas of criminal justice and the Department of Corrections. As we begin this endeavor, we ask you to deliver policy options to the Legislature that not only avoid future spending, but also achieve savings.

Prison beds are expensive and should be reserved for those who have committed the most serious crimes and who pose the greatest risk to our communities. 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. In this budget climate, the ability to invest in treatment and services only becomes possible with a reform package that results in substantial, real net savings to the State.

With that in mind, we 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. We think that it will be important to have the recommendations prior to the start of the second session of the 29th Alaska State Legislature so that they may be considered in the upcoming session and in conjunction with the operating budget deliberations. We request that the recommendations are provided to the Legislature in December 2015.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing this issue. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Commission.

Handwritten signature of Kevin Meyer in black ink.

Kevin Meyer
Senate President

Handwritten signature of Mike Chenault in blue ink.

Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House

Handwritten signature of Mark Neuman in black ink.

Mark Neuman
House Finance Committee, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Steve M. Thompson in blue ink.

Steve Thompson
House Finance Committee, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Anna MacKinnon in blue ink.

Anna MacKinnon
Senate Finance Committee, Co-Chair

cc: Alaska Criminal Justice Commission members:
John Coghill, Alaska State Senator
Wes Keller, Alaska State Representative
Jeff Jessee, CEO, Mental Health Trust Authority
Greg Razo, Vice President, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Stephanie Rhoades, District Court Judge
Craig Richards, Alaska Attorney General
Kris Sell, Lieutenant, Juneau Police Department
Brenda Stanfill, Director, Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living
Quinlan Steiner, Public Defender Agency
Trevor Stephens, Superior Court Judge
Ronald Taylor, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Terry Vrabec, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety