

# Tough and Smart: Opportunities for Kansas Policymakers to Reduce Crime and Spending



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# Overview

- **Tough and Smart Criminal Justice Framework Under Pressure**
- **Policy Options to Strengthen Framework**
- **Neighborhood Based Strategies for Long-Term Success**

# Technical Assistance to 3Rs Committee: Kansas Framework is Tough & Smart

- Tough:  
Increased punishments  
for violent offenders
- Smart:  
Increased alternatives for  
low-level nonviolent  
offenders

**Tough**



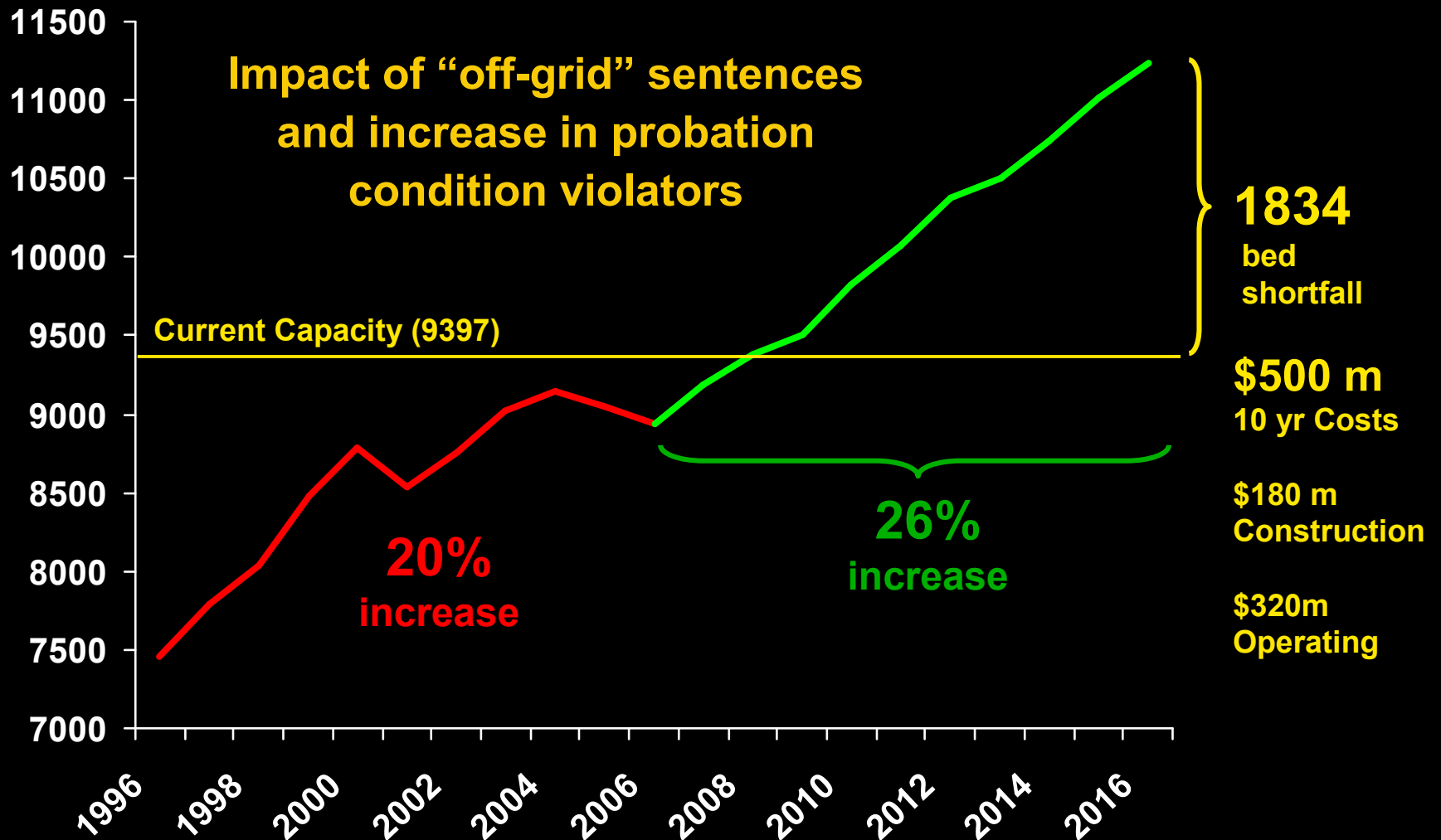
**Smart**



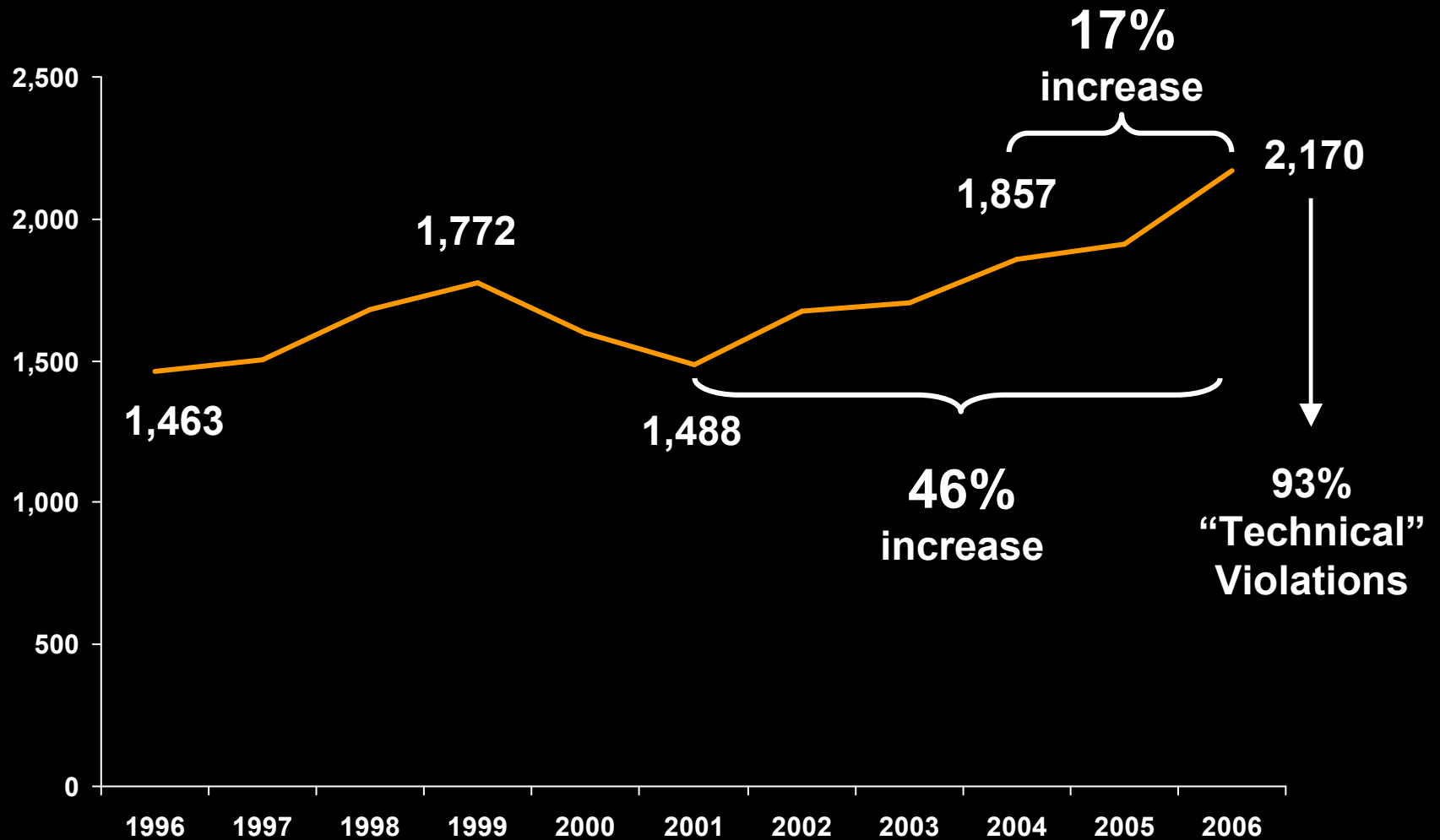
Pressure on framework:

High number of revocations  
consuming a large percentage of  
prison capacity

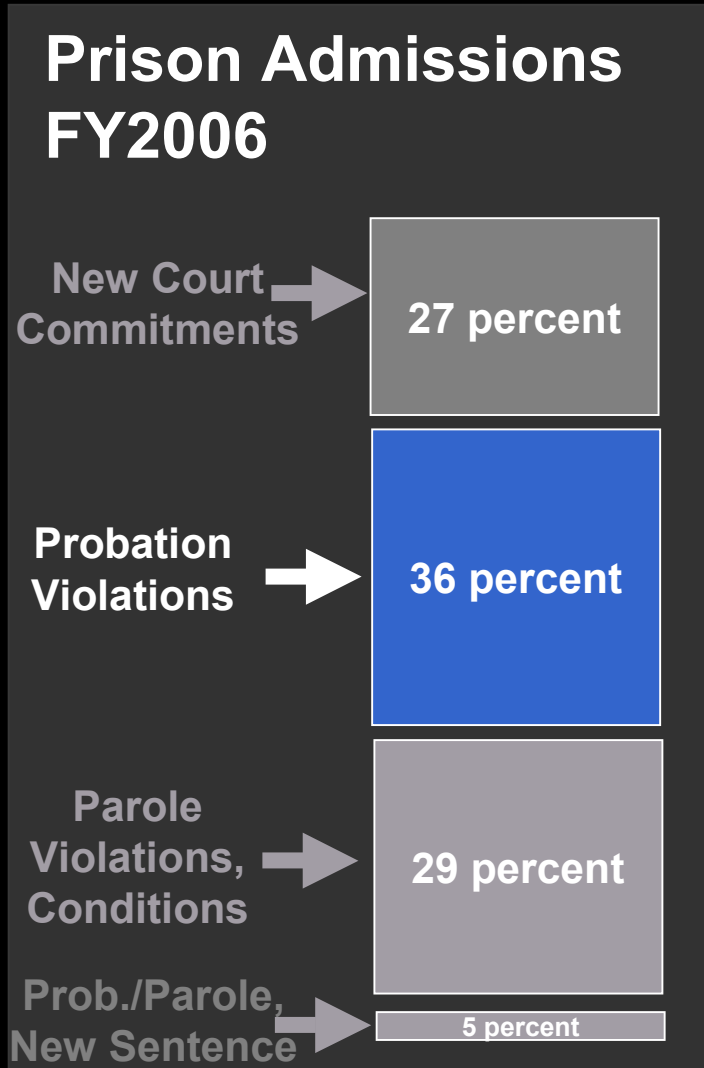
# Framework Under Pressure



# Probation Revocations Rising

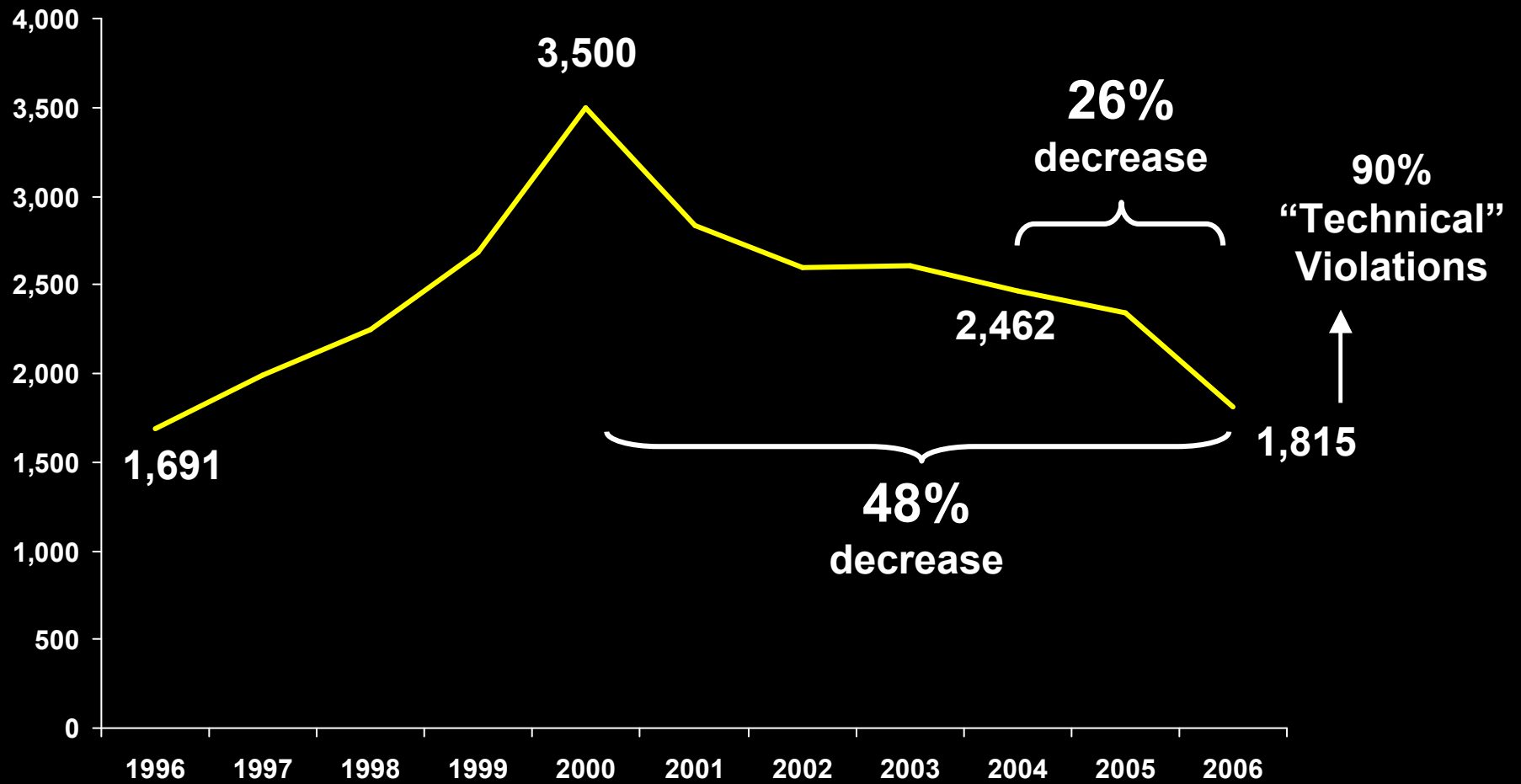


# Probation Revocations



- **Revocation rate unchanged since FY04**
- **Lack of Consistent Supervision Strategies**
- **19% of prison population**
- **Annual cost of \$37.4 million**

# Parole Revocations Decreasing



# Parole Revocation Decrease Has Already Averted Prison Costs

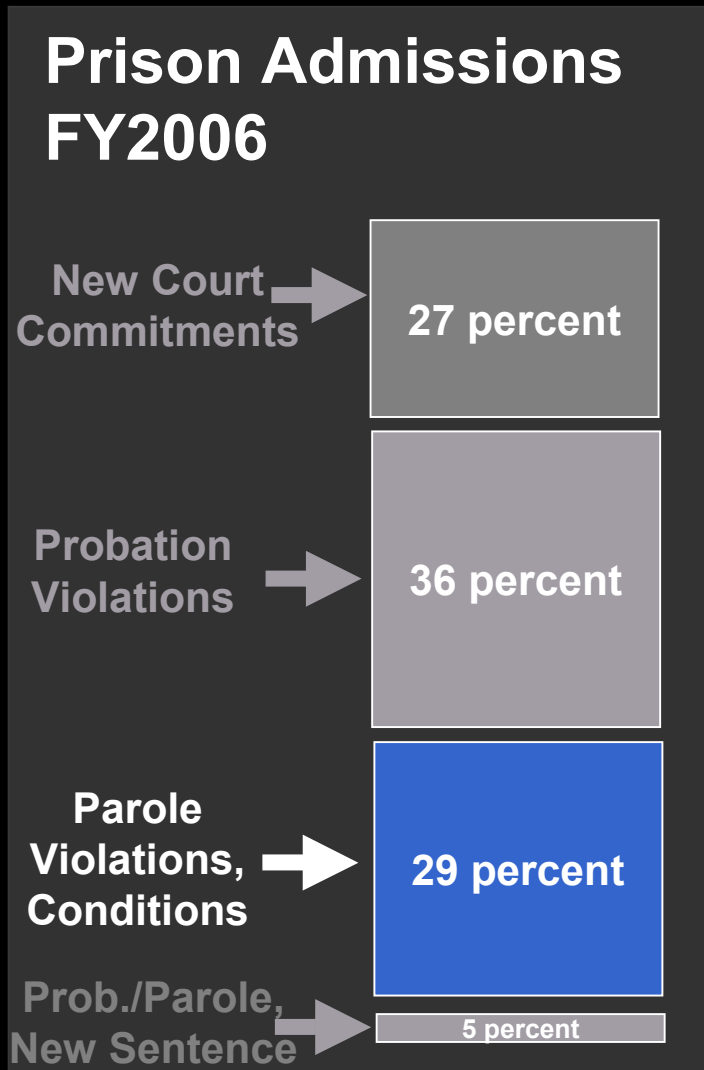
**Parole Revocations as  
Share of Prison Population**  
(FY05 Projection vs. Actual Population & Est. Averted Costs)

	2005	2006
<b>FY05 Projections</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1138</b>
<b>Actual Population</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>737</b>
<b>Bed "Savings"</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Averted Costs</b>	<b>\$ 4,037,696</b>	<b>\$ 8,799,544</b>
<b>Two Year Averted Costs*</b>	<b>\$ 13,837,240</b>	

\*Based on average total cost per day (not marginal cost savings)



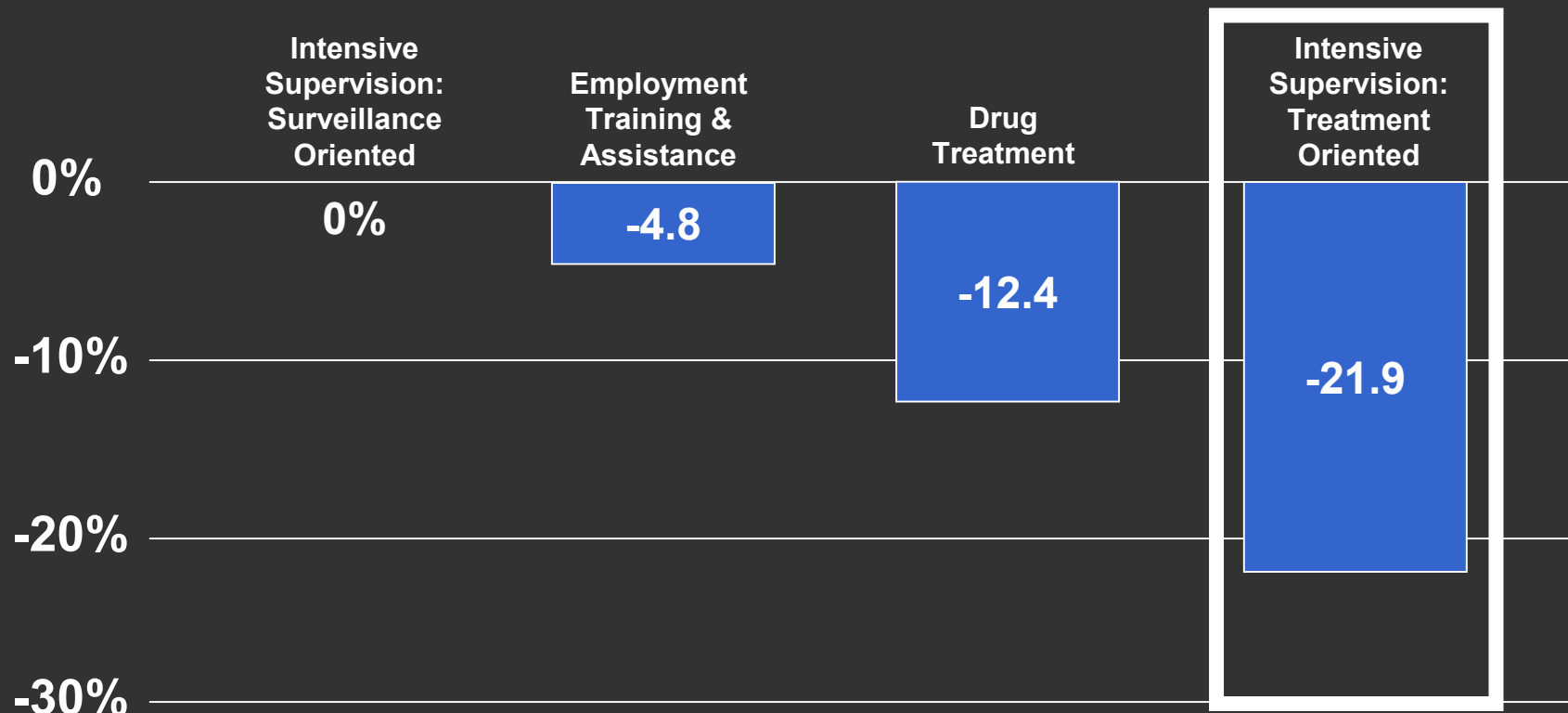
# Challenge is to Sustain Lower Parole Revocation Rate



- Reducing risk in the community requires adequate supervision and treatment capacity
- 8% of prison population
- Annual cost of \$15.7 million

# Without Treatment Capacity, Supervision is Unable to Reduce Risk of Offenders

## Change in Recidivism Rates for Adult Offenders



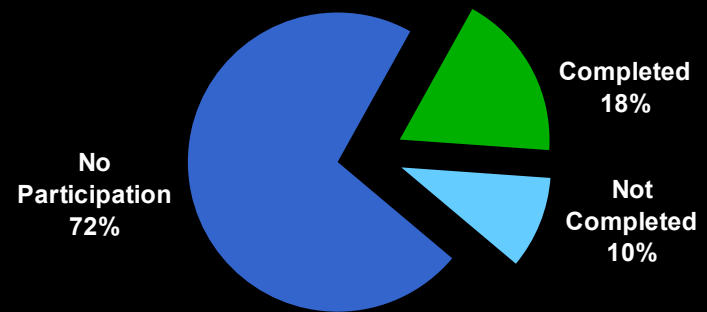
Steve Aos, Marna Miller, and Elizabeth Drake. (2006). *Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs: What Works and What Does Not*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

# Prison-Based Program Completion

**Prisoners are being released without completing programs to reduce their risk**

- **72% of prisoners needing vocational education do not participate in programs prior to release**
- **Half of prisoners in need of substance abuse treatment do not participate in treatment prior to release**

**Offenders in Need of Vocational Education: Program Participation & Completion Prior to Release**



**Offenders in Need of Substance Abuse Treatment: Program Participation & Completion Prior to Release**



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# Policy Options

- 1. Maintain Lower Parole Failure Rate**
- 2. Strengthen Community Corrections to Reduce Probation Failures**
- 3. Reduce Risk Before Release**

## **Policy Option 1**

### **Maintain Lower Parole Failure Rate**

#### **Proposal**

**Maintain the average number of parole violators at 90 each month  
(from 135 per month currently projected)**

#### **Reentry/Program Funds**

**JEHT Foundation: \$4.6 m**

**Governor's Budget: \$2.4 m**

**Focus increased resources toward counties with high revocation rates**

## **Policy Option 2**

# **Strengthen Community Corrections**

## **Proposal**

**Reduce the number of  
probation/community corrections  
violators by 20 percent**

**(from 170 to 142 per month)**

**Provide incentive grant funding  
to community corrections to  
reduce caseloads, expand  
treatment & sanctioning capacity**

**Require community corrections  
programs and judges to  
develop consistent supervision  
and sanctioning strategies**

**HB2141: Community Corrections Revocation Reduction Grant Program (\$4m)**

## **Policy Option 3**

### **Reduce Risk Before Release**

#### **Proposal**

**Create a “Risk Reduction Program Credit” for guideline offenders who successfully complete treatment, educational, and vocational programs before release**

**Use risk/need assessments to determine which offenders should be required to complete programs prior to release**

**Expand substance abuse, vocational, and educational programming in prison using savings generated from program credit**

**HB2142: An Act Concerning Program Credits**



## Policy Option 3

# Reduce Risk Before Release

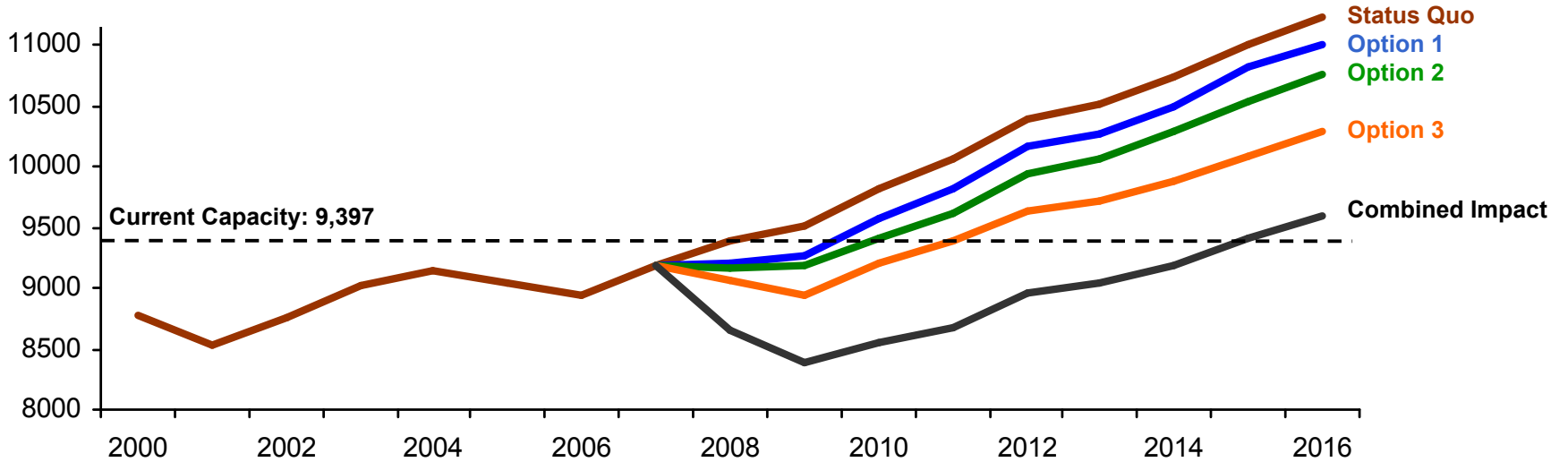
### Change in Recidivism Rates for Adult Offenders



Steve Aos, Marna Miller, and Elizabeth Drake. (2006). *Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs: What Works and What Does Not*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

# Options for policymakers

FY2008-2016 (9 years) Projected Prison Population



2. Reduce the number of probation/community corrections violators by 20 percent

Combined Impact	1,631	\$320 million + \$177 million [AVERTED CONSTRUCTION COSTS] \$497 million
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# Assumptions & Challenges

- **Financing Policy Options**

- Assumption of adequate investment in FY2008

- **Implementation Effectiveness**

- Assumption that all guideline offenders are eligible for the “risk reduction program credit,” but on average lose 16 percent of eligible time off their sentence

- **Accountability Monitoring**

- Assumption that policy and practices will be implemented to monitor the effectiveness of policy options and their impact on the prison population

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# Justice Reinvestment Framework

**Step 1** Analyze prison population and “high stakes” communities to which offenders return

Revocations consume a large chunk of prison space and a disproportionate share of prison admissions come from a handful of neighborhoods

**Step 2** Control prison population growth to generate savings

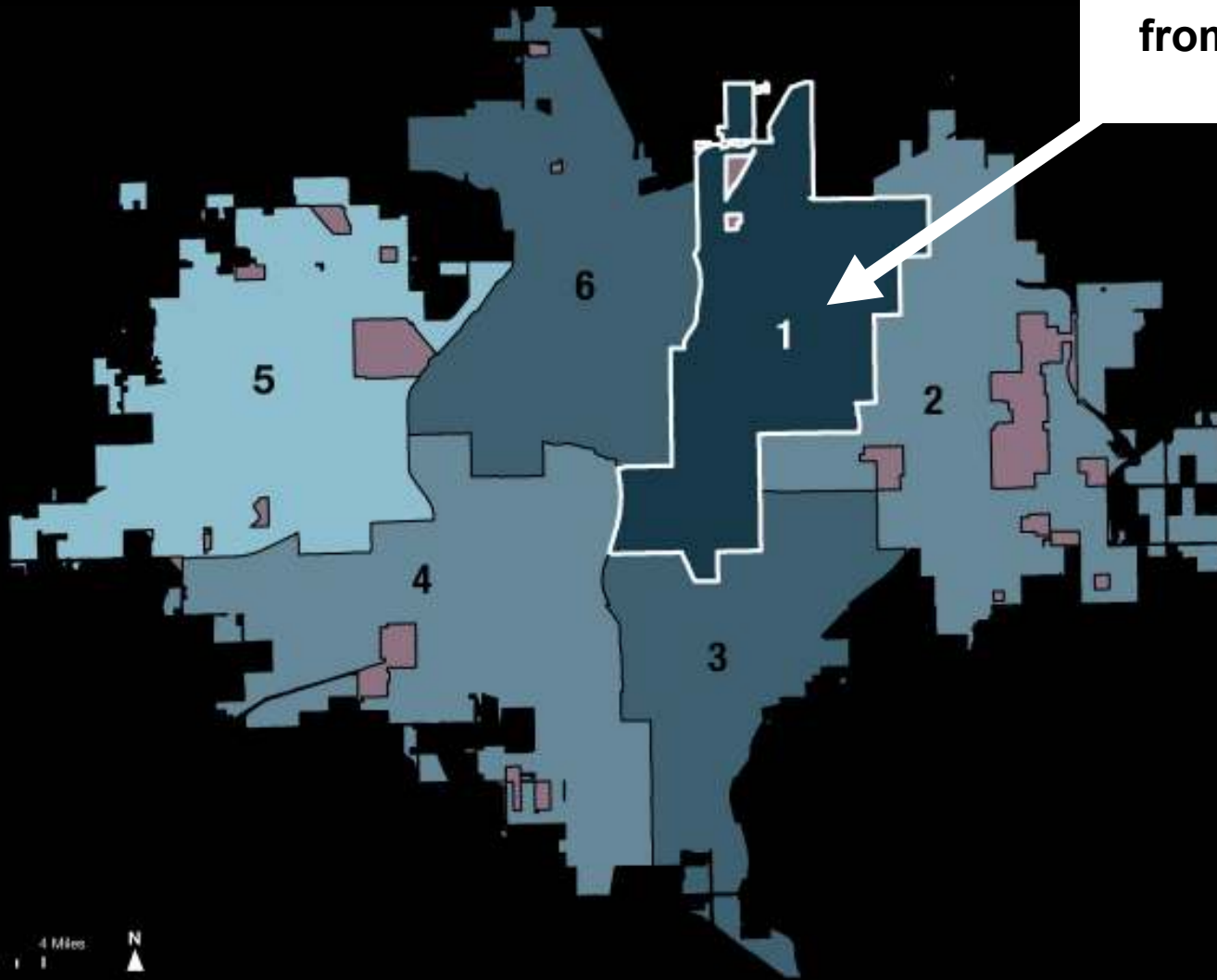
Reduce failure to meet conditions of parole and probation, and increase completion of programs in prison to reduce the risk of offenders prior to release

**Step 3** Capture some “savings” from reduced prison costs to “reinvest” in neighborhood-based strategies

Reinvest in strengthening parole and community corrections, expanding evidence-based programming in prison, and better coordination of resources in “high-stakes” neighborhoods to improve community outcomes for all residents

# Focus on Neighborhoods Wichita, Kansas

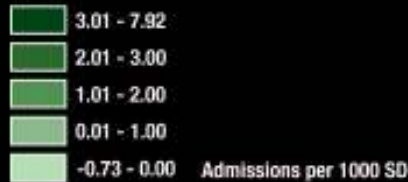
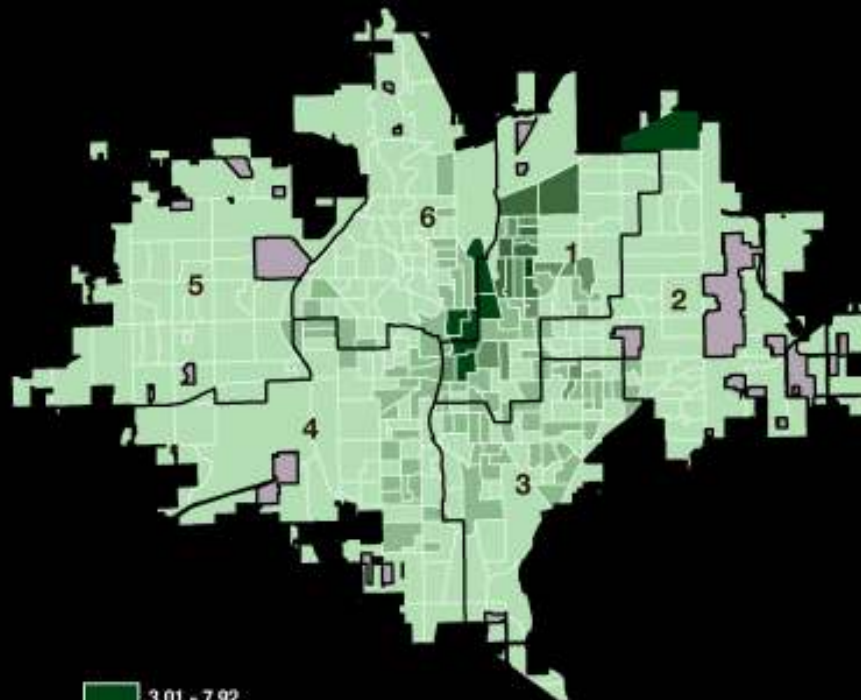
**\$11.4 million  
spent on prison  
commitments  
from a single  
year**



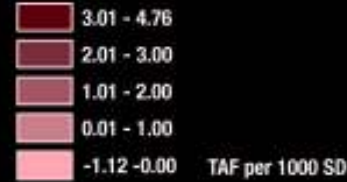
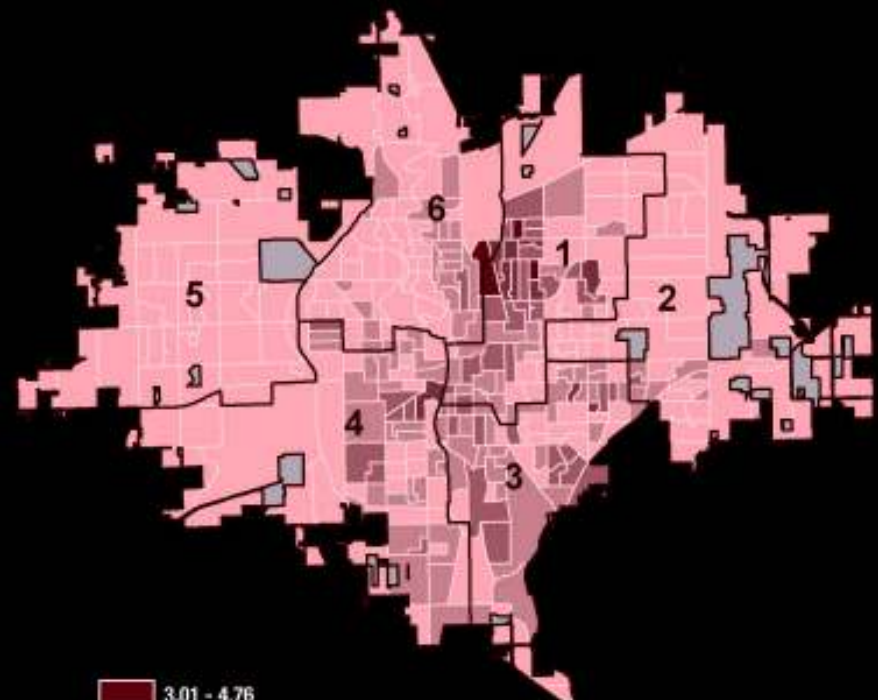
# Prison Admissions & TAF Recipients

Expressed as Standard Deviations from the Mean Value

## Prison Admissions per 1000 SD



## TAF Recipients per 1000 SD



0 1 2 4 Miles



Produced by The Justice Mapping Center with The JFA Institute and the Spatial Information Design Lab, GSAPP, Columbia University

# Thank You

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## Contact

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