

THE  
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CHARITABLE TRUSTS

## Evidence-based Practices

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission  
Anchorage, Alaska  
July 8, 2015

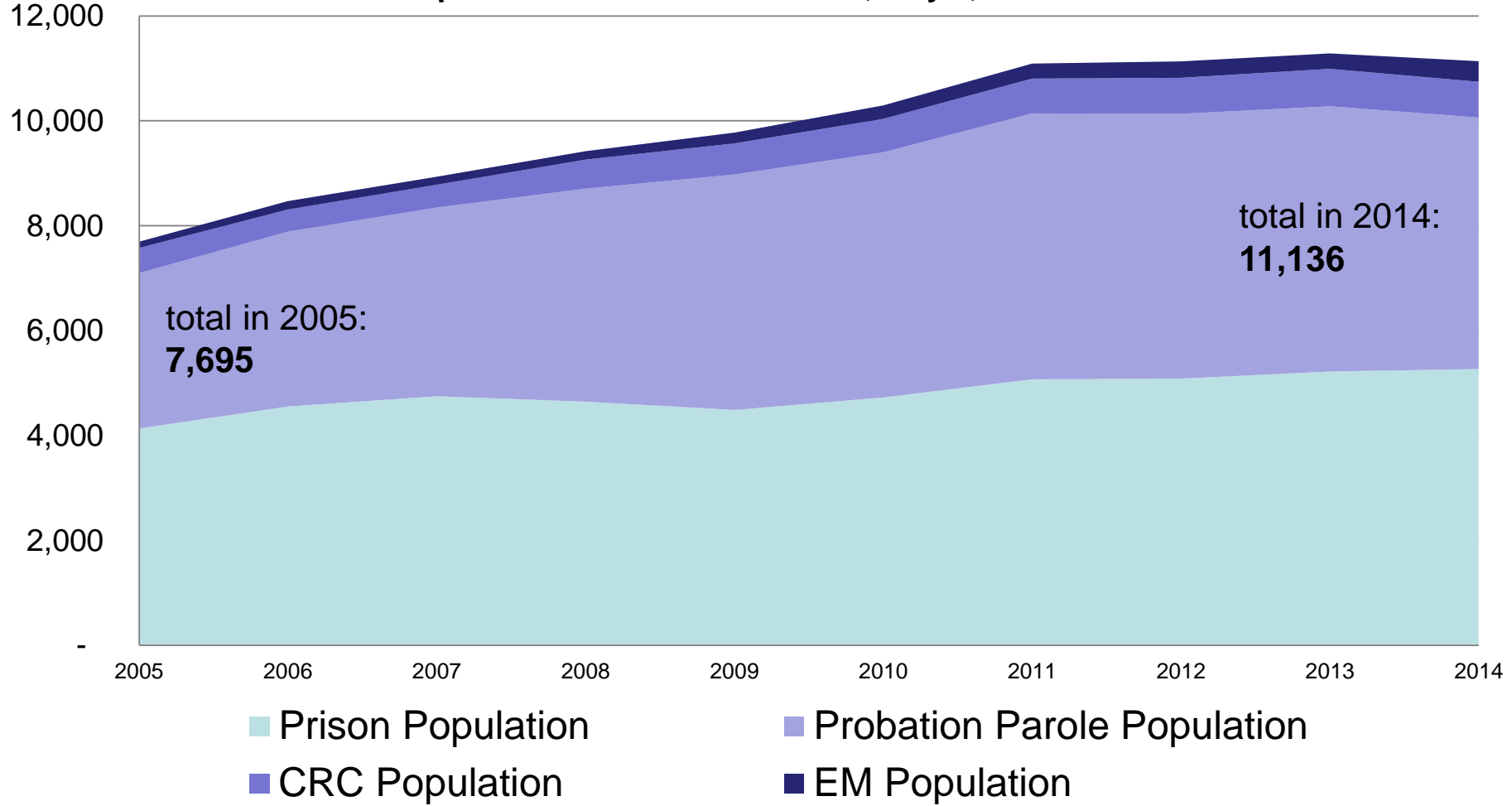
# Presentation Outline

- Data review
  - Correctional control in Alaska
  - Key takeaways from June
  - Up next: August
  
- Research: Evidence-based practices
  - Research on incarceration
  - Research on reducing recidivism

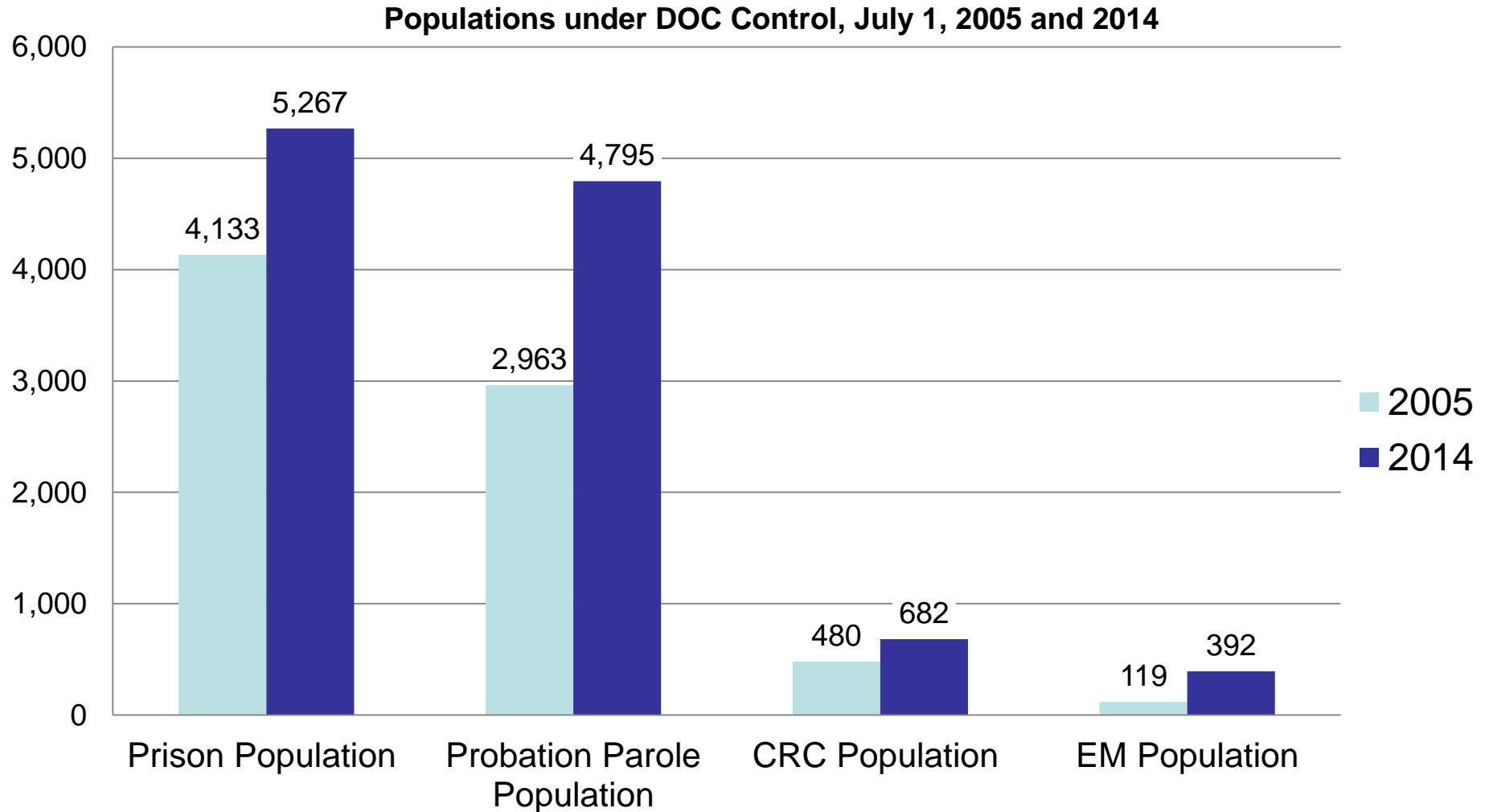
# CORRECTIONAL CONTROL IN ALASKA

# Population Under Alaska DOC Control has Grown 45% in Past Decade

Populations under DOC Control, July 1, 2005-2014

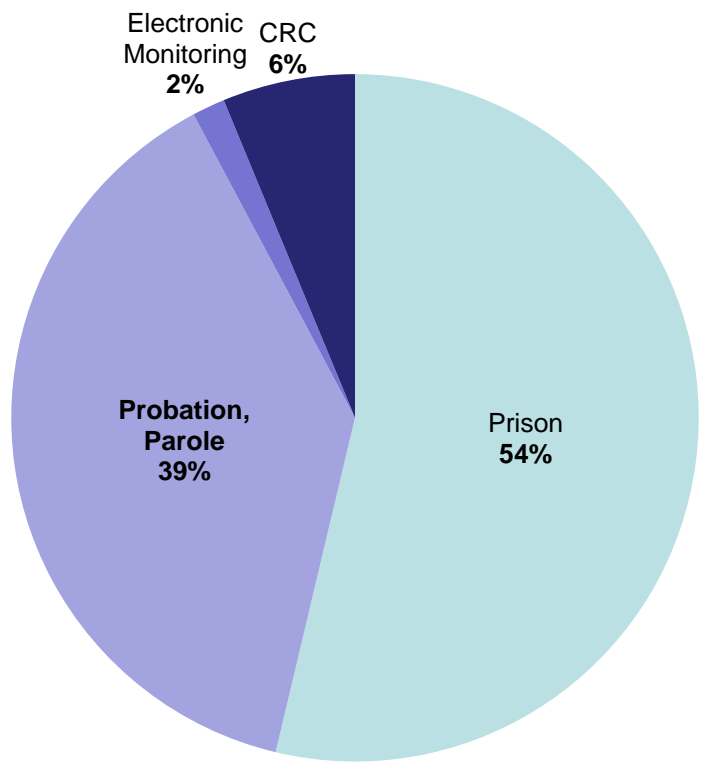


# Largest Growth Among Probation and Parole, Electronic Monitoring Populations

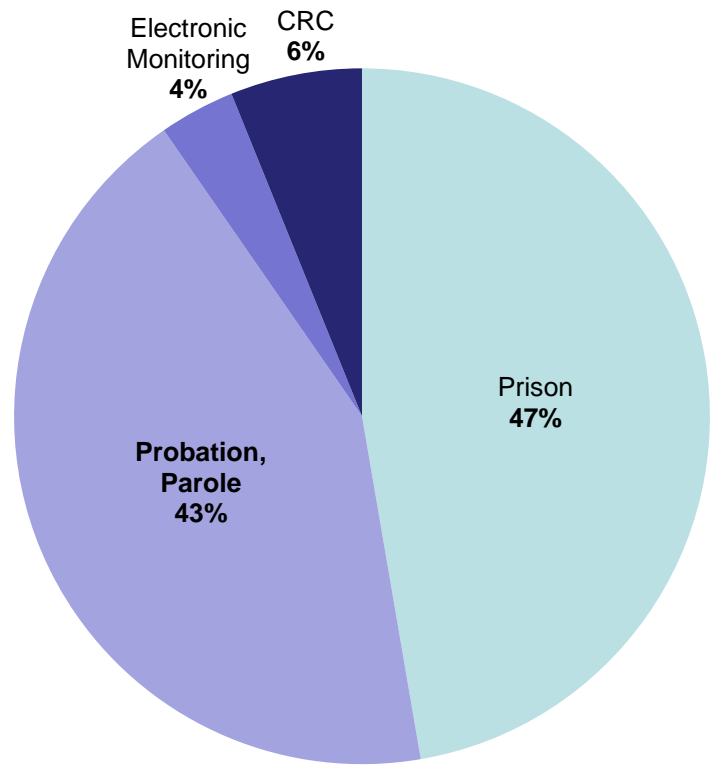


# Growing Proportion are Supervised in the Community

Populations by Placement, July 1, 2005



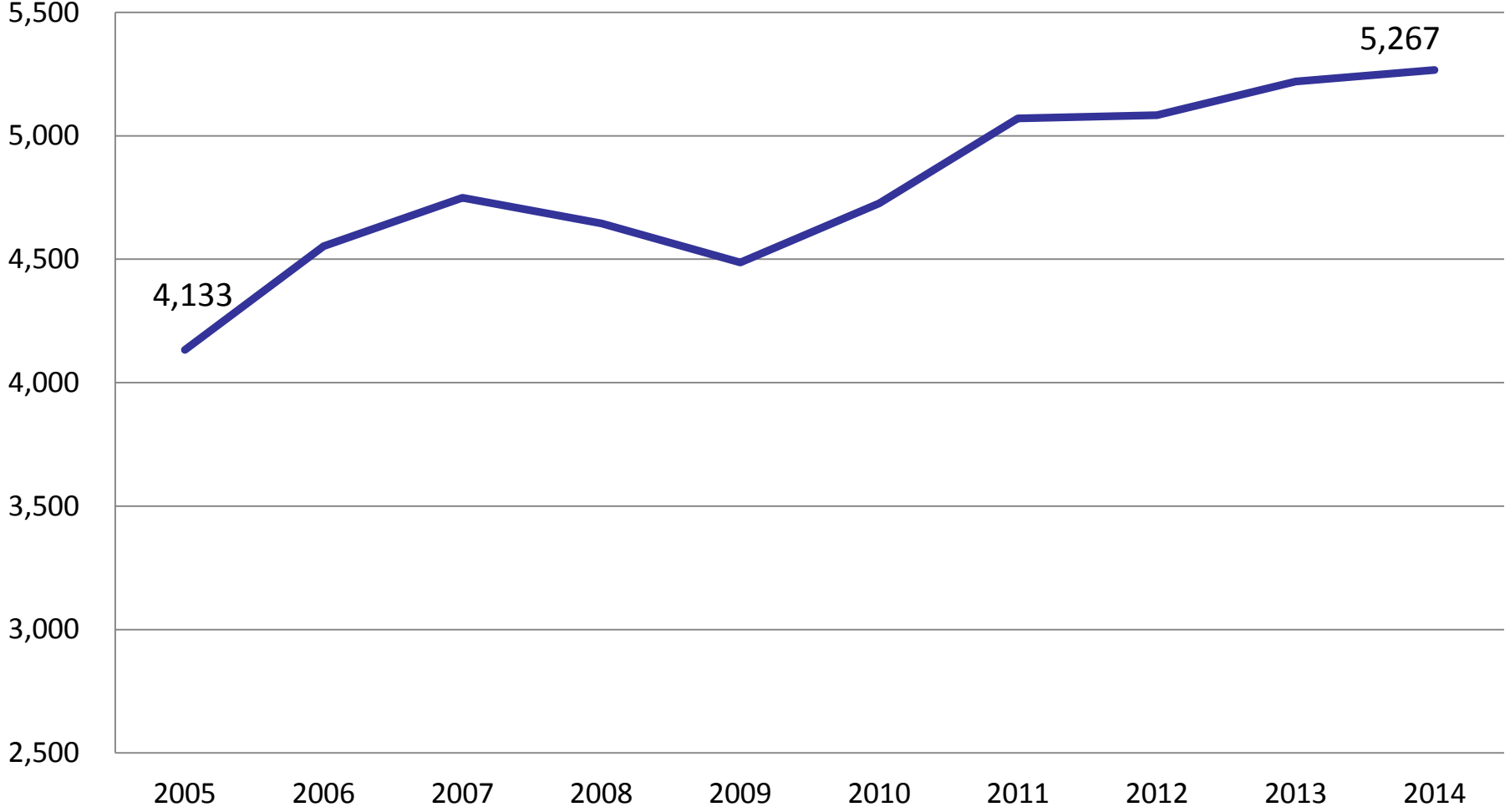
Populations by Placement, July 1, 2014



# KEY DATA TAKEAWAYS FROM JUNE

# Prison Population Up 27% in Last Decade

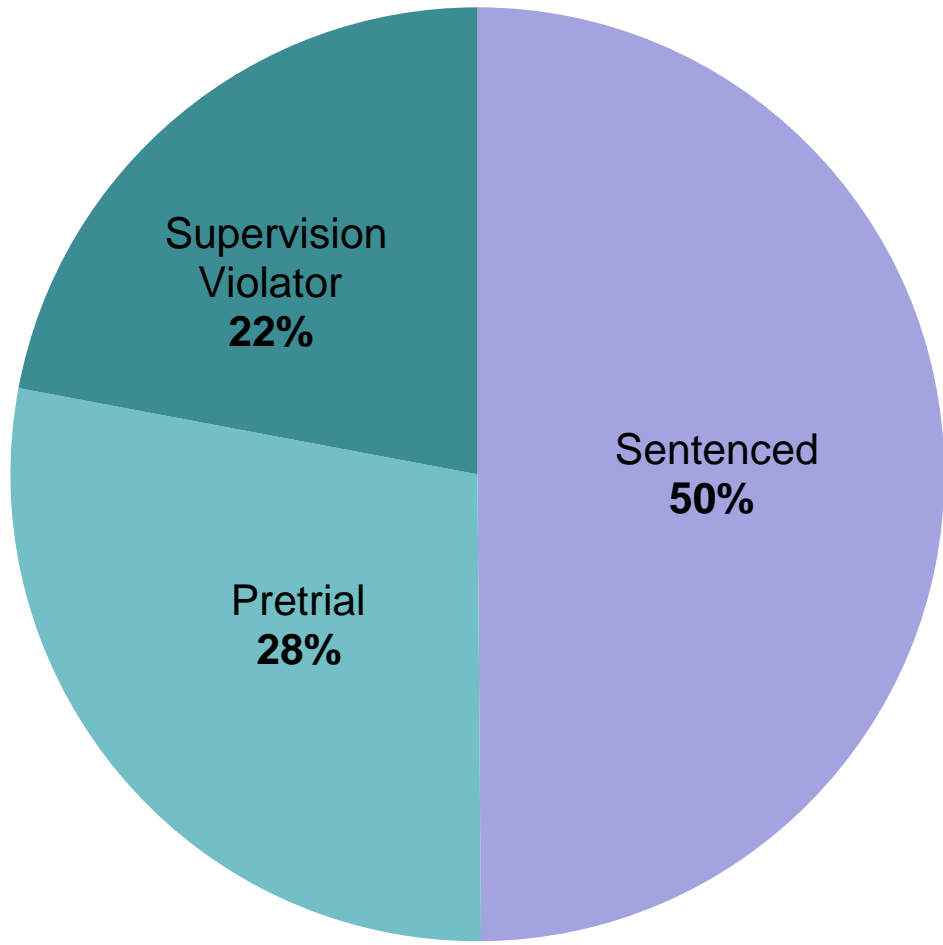
Alaska Prison Population, July 1, 2005-2014





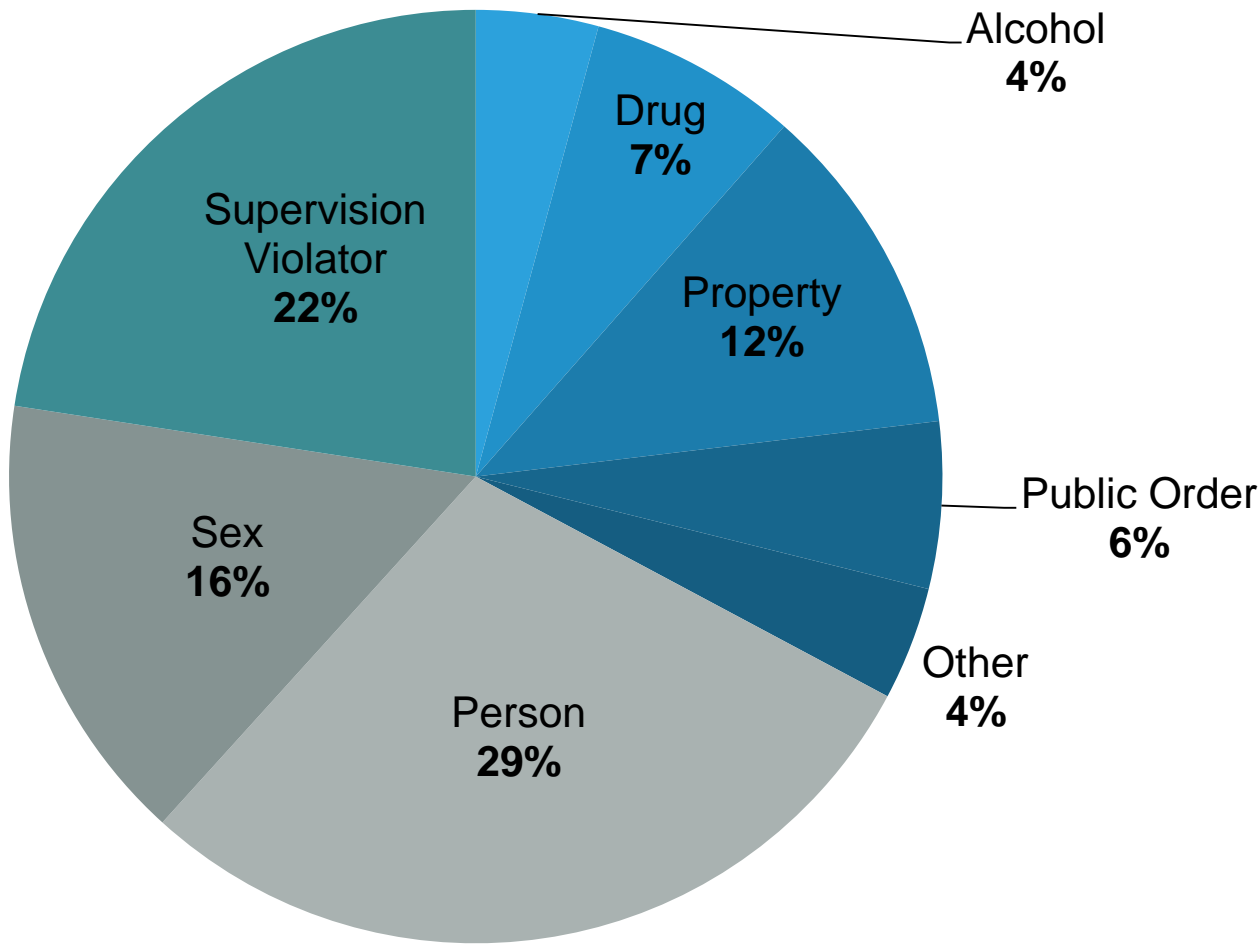
# Prison Population is Half Sentenced Offenders, Half Supervision Violators and Pretrial Defendants

Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Status

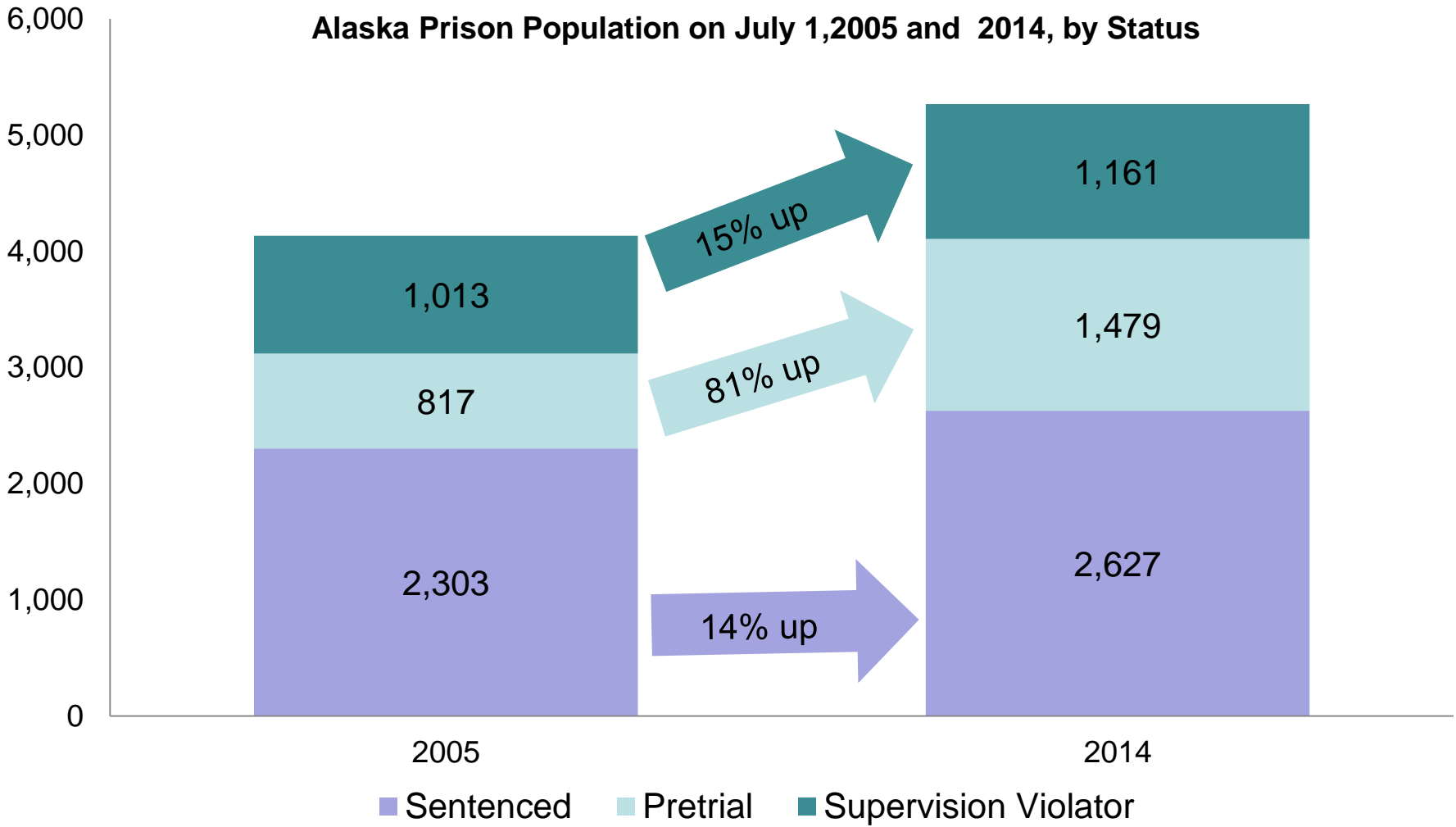


# More than Half of Prison Population is Nonviolent Inmates and Supervision Violators

Prison Population on July 1, 2014, by Offense Type



# Largest Growth Among Pretrial Inmates



## Pretrial Detention Population

- Number of pretrial defendants has increased 81% in last decade
- Half of pretrial defendants are detained on nonviolent charges, including misdemeanors
- Fewer defendants are being admitted pretrial but those admitted are staying longer

## Sentenced Inmate Population

- Number of sentenced offenders increased 14% in last decade
- Growth in number of violent and nonviolent felony offenders
- Felony offenders are staying for longer periods of time, especially alcohol, public order, and sex offenders

## Supervision Violator Population

- Number of supervision violators in prison grew 15% in last decade
- More offenders entering prison both pre- and post-revocation than 10 years ago, but staying for shorter periods of time
- On average, supervision violators are staying in prison 33 days unsentenced and 106 days post-revocation

**UP NEXT: DATA IN AUGUST**

# August Meeting Topics

- Community corrections population
  - Probation/parole
    - Stock population
    - Admissions trends
    - Length of stay trends
    - Completion rates
  - 2014 CRC population snapshot
  - 2014 EM population snapshot
  
- Recidivism
  
- Projected prison growth



# Presentation Outline

- Data review
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# RESEARCH ON INCARCERATION

# Does more incarceration result in less crime?

- Researchers have examined the question of whether increased incarceration caused the crime decline in the 1990's, and have found that it was responsible for 10-30% of the crime decline
- Difficult to isolate the impact, because of other simultaneous variables
  - Improved police strategies, technology, and personal security habits
  - Demographic shifts
  - Changes in drug markets

# Does more incarceration result in less crime?

- Diminishing returns: The marginal impact of incarceration (the value to society of sending one more person to prison) has declined since the 1990's
- Agreement among researchers: Increasing incarceration today will have little if any effect on crime

# Does more incarceration result in less crime?

Steve Levitt (2004)

*“Expenditures on prisons appear to have benefits that outweigh the direct costs of housing prisoners.”*

Steve Levitt (2012)

*“Today, my guess is that the costs [of incarceration] outweigh the benefits at the margins. I think we should be shrinking the prison population by at least one-third.”*

## Does incarceration reduce recidivism?

Researchers have examined whether incarceration reduces recidivism more than non-custodial sanctions

### ➤ Research models:

- Matched samples: incarceration vs. non-custodial sanctions
- Comparing recidivism outcomes

### ➤ Findings:

- No significant difference in recidivism rates

# Does incarceration reduce recidivism?

- Campbell Collaboration (2015) (meta-analysis):
  - Found no significant difference in re-arrest and re-conviction rates
  
- Nagin & Snodgrass (2013):
  - Found no significant difference in 1, 2, 5, and 10-year re-arrest rates
  
- Nagin, Cullen & Lero Jonson (2009):
  - Found incarceration has a null or mildly criminogenic effect compared to non-custodial sanctions

# Does incarceration reduce recidivism?

Researchers have also examined whether longer periods of incarceration reduce recidivism more than shorter periods

### ➤ Research models:

- Matched samples: shorter periods vs. longer periods
- Compared: recidivism outcomes

### ➤ Findings:

- No increased benefit of longer periods of incarceration



## Does incarceration reduce recidivism?

- Nagin (2009) (meta-analysis):
  - Found no relationship between time served and recidivism
  
- Anwar & Stephens (2011):
  - Found no recidivism benefit to increased time served
  
- Meade, et al. (2012):
  - For prison terms of 5 years or less: no effect on recidivism
  - For prison terms of 10 years or longer: some reduction in re-arrest due to aging out

# Does incarceration reduce recidivism?

*“[L]engthy prison sentences are ineffective as a crime control measure... [and] an inefficient approach to preventing crime by incapacitation unless they are specifically targeted at very high-rate or extremely dangerous offenders.”*

National Research Council

The Growth of Incarceration in the United States (2014)

## Summary

- Prison expansion historically:
  - Played a small but significant part in the U.S. crime decline
  
- Prison expansion today:
  - Has little, if any, additional crime reduction effect (diminishing returns)
  
- Reducing recidivism:
  - Incarceration is not more effective than non-custodial sanctions
  - Longer prison terms do not guarantee better outcomes

# REDUCING RECIDIVISM

## The Risk Principle

Risk = the likelihood of a negative future outcome

Outcomes of interest:

- Pretrial outcomes (likelihood of failure to appear for court or pretrial misconduct)
- Institutional behavior (likelihood of violence or misbehavior in prison)
- Future offending (likelihood of recidivism generally, violent recidivism, or sex offense recidivism)

## The Risk Principle

Risk of future offending  $\neq$  seriousness of the current offense

- Someone who committed a serious crime could be likely to reoffend (high-risk) or unlikely to reoffend (low-risk)
- Same for someone who committed a low-level crime

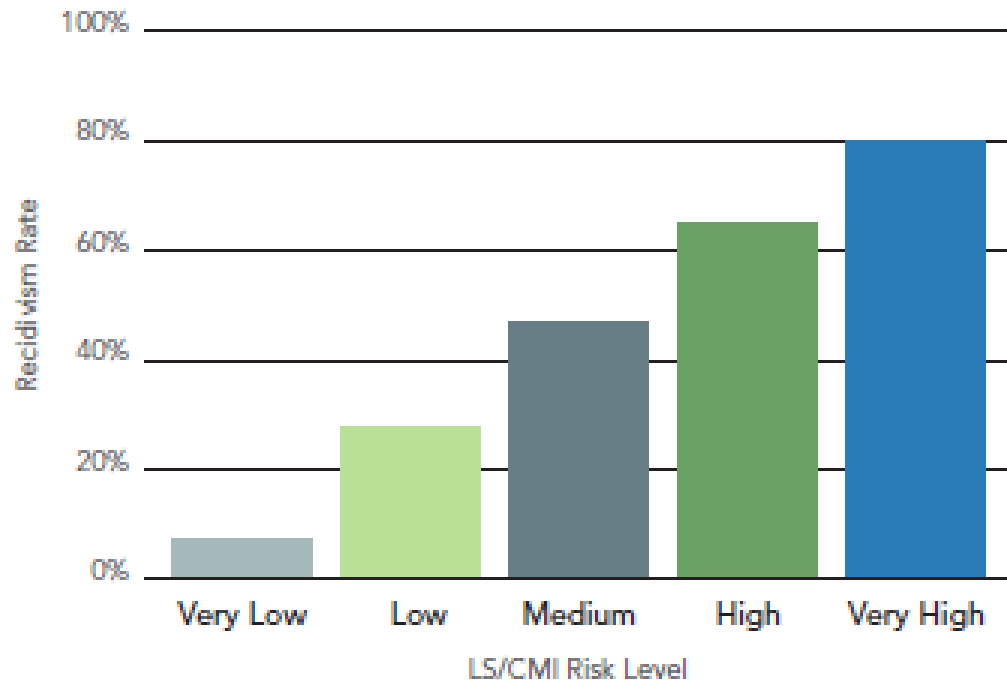
## The Risk Principle

Figure 1

### Data Driven: Assessment Tools Can Accurately Identify Offender Risk

A validation study of one of the most commonly used tools, the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), demonstrated its ability to accurately identify offenders' risk of reoffending.<sup>1</sup>

SOURCE: Andrews et al, 2004

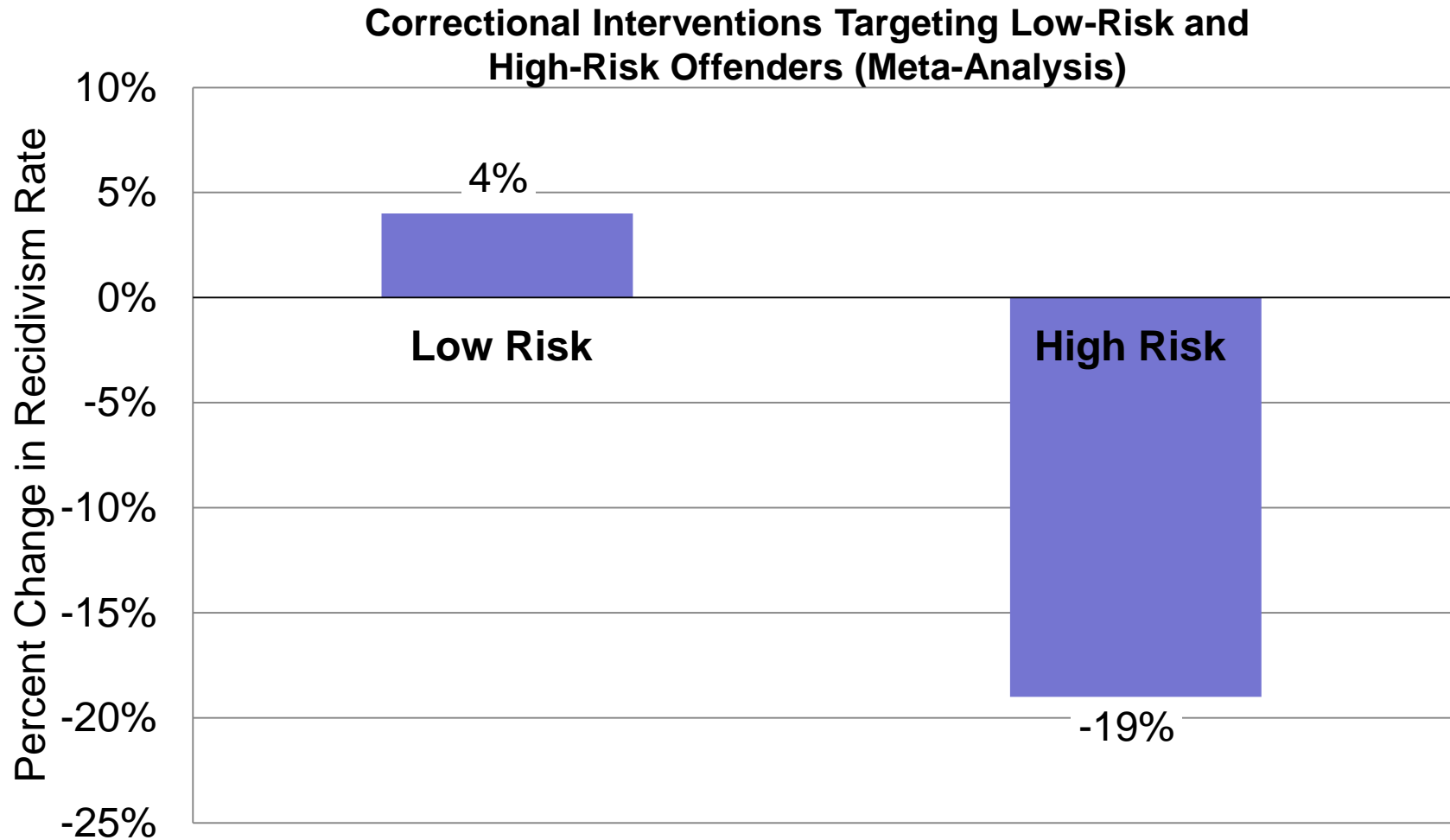


## The Risk Principle

- Target the group of offenders with the highest risk of recidivism
  - Focus resources where they can have the biggest impact
  - Give offenders with the most risk factors the most supervision and access to the best programming and treatment
- Violating this principle (targeting low-risk offenders) can actually *increase* recidivism

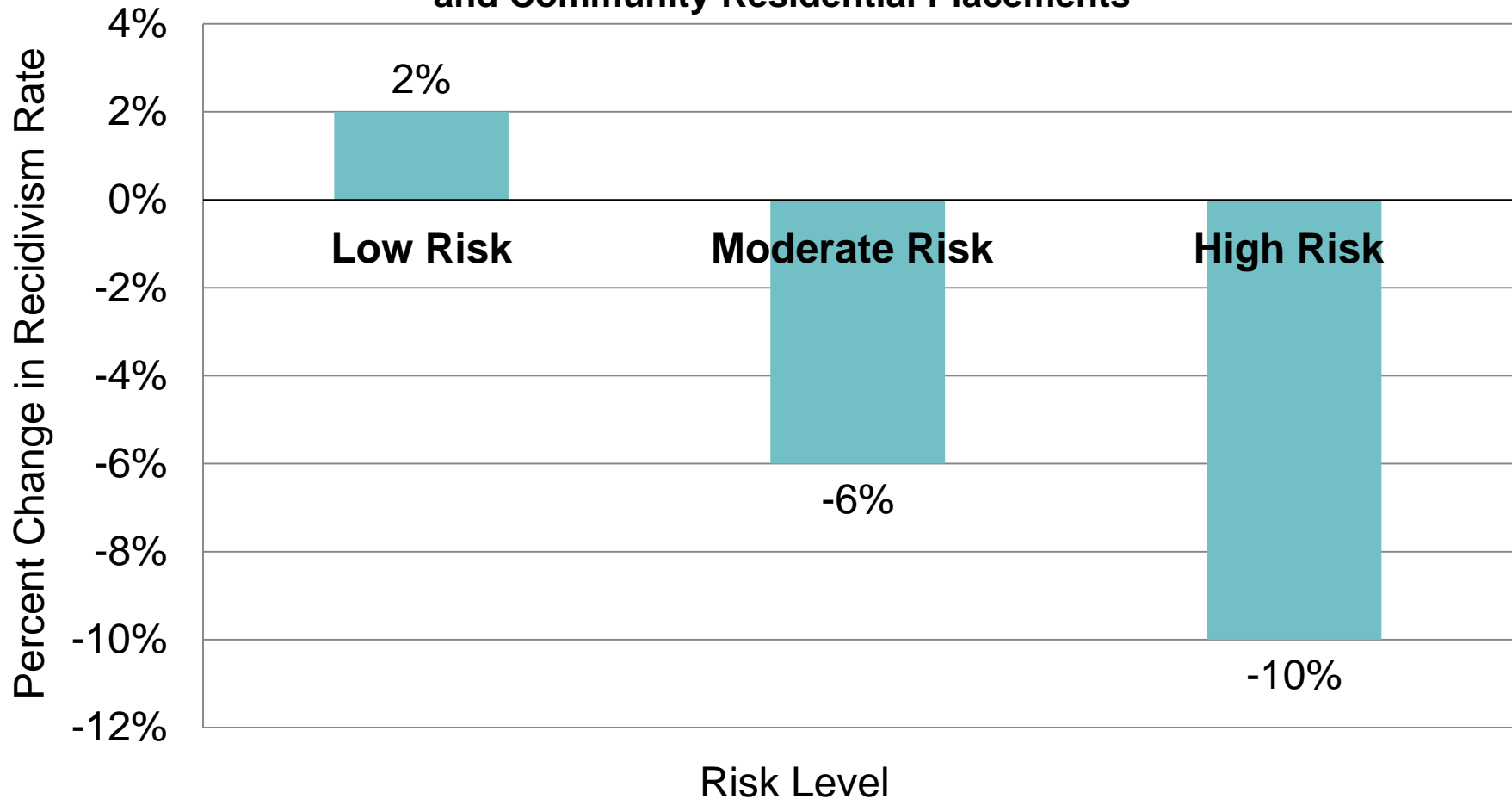


## The Risk Principle

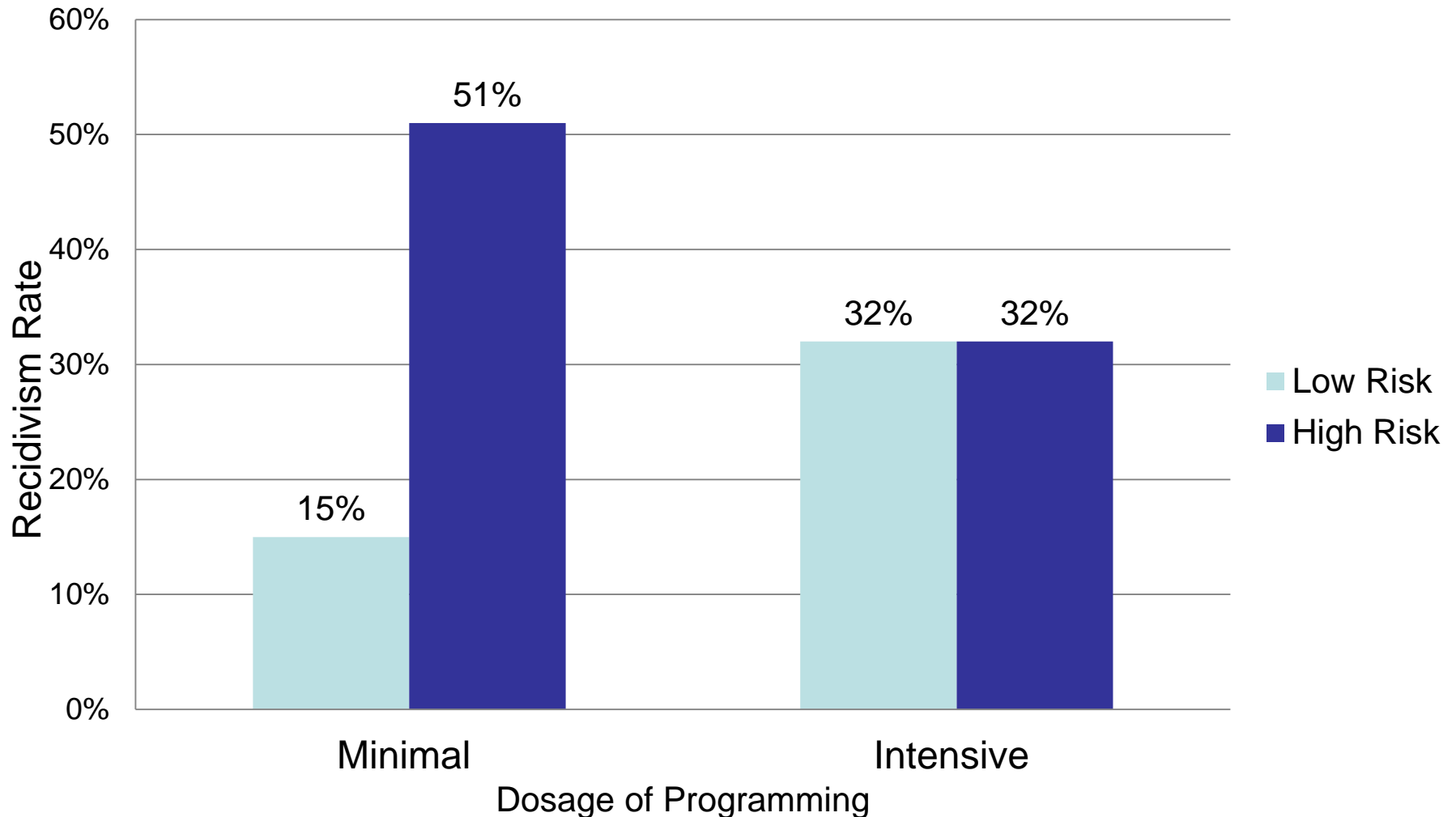


## The Risk Principle

**Recidivism Outcomes for Ohio Halfway House and Community Residential Placements**



## The Risk Principle



## The Needs Principle

### Static risk factors

- Criminal history
- Age at first arrest
- Current age

### Dynamic risk factors

- Anti-social personality  
(impulsive, low self-control, disregard for others)
- Anti-social thinking  
(attitudes, values, beliefs and rationalizations supportive of crime)
- Anti-social peers
- Substance abuse
- Poor family relationships / low expectations from family
- School / work performance and satisfaction
- Lack of prosocial leisure activities

## The Needs Principle

Use supervision and programming to address the risk factors that can be changed

- Reduces risk of reoffending
- Reframes dynamic risk factors as “criminogenic needs”

## The Needs Principle

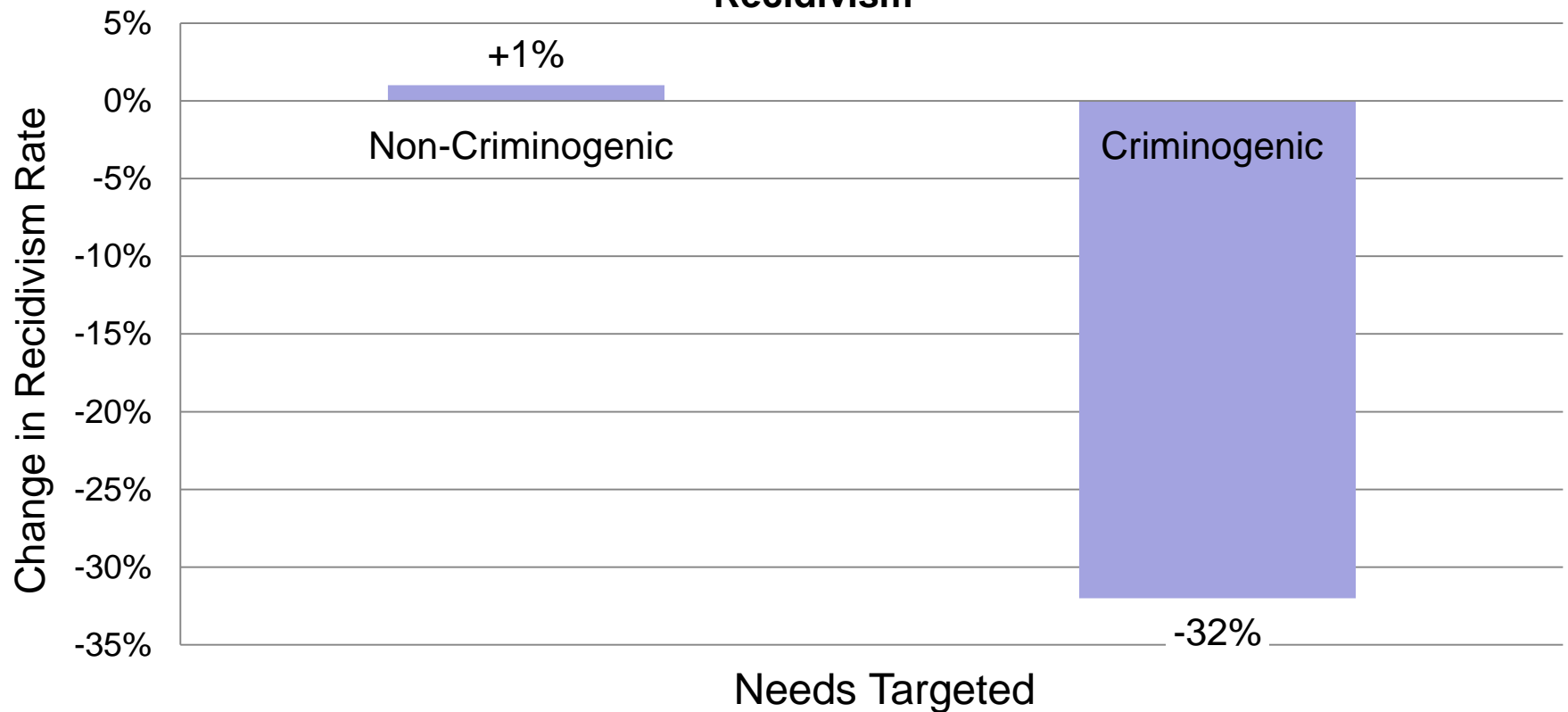
Example:

- Criminogenic need: Anti-social thinking
- Supervision and programming to target that need:
  - Identify attitudes and rationalizations that are anti-social
  - Teach, model, and reinforce new skills that offenders can use in stressful situations (coping skills, pros-social responses, anger mgmt., etc.)
  - Provide opportunities for offenders to practice those new skills

## The Needs Principle

Programming that effectively targets criminogenic needs reduces recidivism

Effect of Criminogenic vs. Non-Criminogenic Programming on Recidivism



# The Responsivity Principle

Some needs should be addressed, not because they're criminogenic, but because they're hurdles to effective programming

Example:

- Needing transportation is not itself a criminogenic need, but it can be a barrier to getting programming



## The Responsivity Principle

Addressing these barriers increases an offender's likelihood for success

### Specific responsivity

- Literacy, language barriers, motivation, transportation, child care, mental illness, developmental disabilities, different learning styles

### General responsivity

- Cultural differences (i.e. not all interventions work in all places)

## Summary

- Risk principle
  - **WHO** to target with supervision and programming
- Needs principle
  - **WHAT** to target with supervision and programming
- Responsivity principle
  - **HOW** to break through barriers to effective supervision and programming

# Swift, Certain, and Proportional Sanctions

- Respond to problem behavior in a manner that will change that behavior
- Deterrence:
  - Swift, certain, and proportional sanctions have a stronger deterrent effect than delayed, random, and severe sanctions

## Swift, Certain, and Proportional Sanctions

### Probation supervision practices

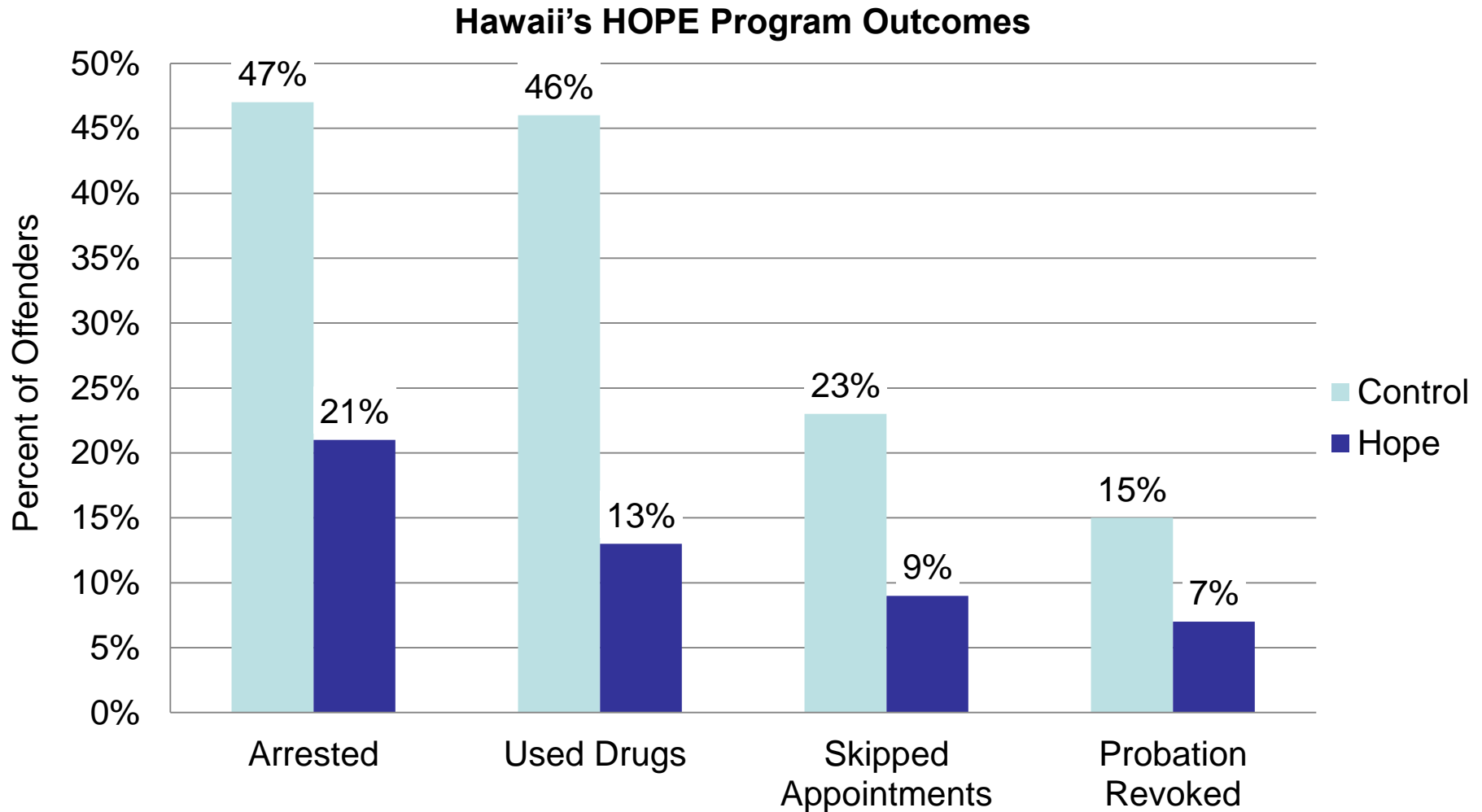
#### ➤ Less effective deterrent

- Letting multiple violations build up before a response
- Imposing sanctions after a delay
- Imposing sanctions that are out of proportion to the problem behavior

#### ➤ Strong deterrent

- Making consequences clear upfront
- Responding swiftly to problem behavior
- Responding with sanctions that are proportionate to the problem behavior

## Swift, Certain, and Proportional Sanctions



# Swift, Certain, and Proportional Sanctions

- Harrell & Roman (2001) examined whether using swift, certain, and proportional sanctions as part of a drug court program reduced recidivism
  - Research model
    - Matched samples: Participants in drug court program with swift, certain, and proportional sanctions vs. participants in drug court programs without
    - Compared: Re-arrest rates after 2 years
  - Finding
    - Substantially lower re-arrest rates (19% vs. 27% for the control group)

# Incorporate Rewards and Incentives

- Provide rewards and incentives for meeting case-specific goals of supervision to enhance individual motivation
- Develop a continuum of rewards to round out the continuum of sanctions
- Higher program completion when rewards outnumber sanctions

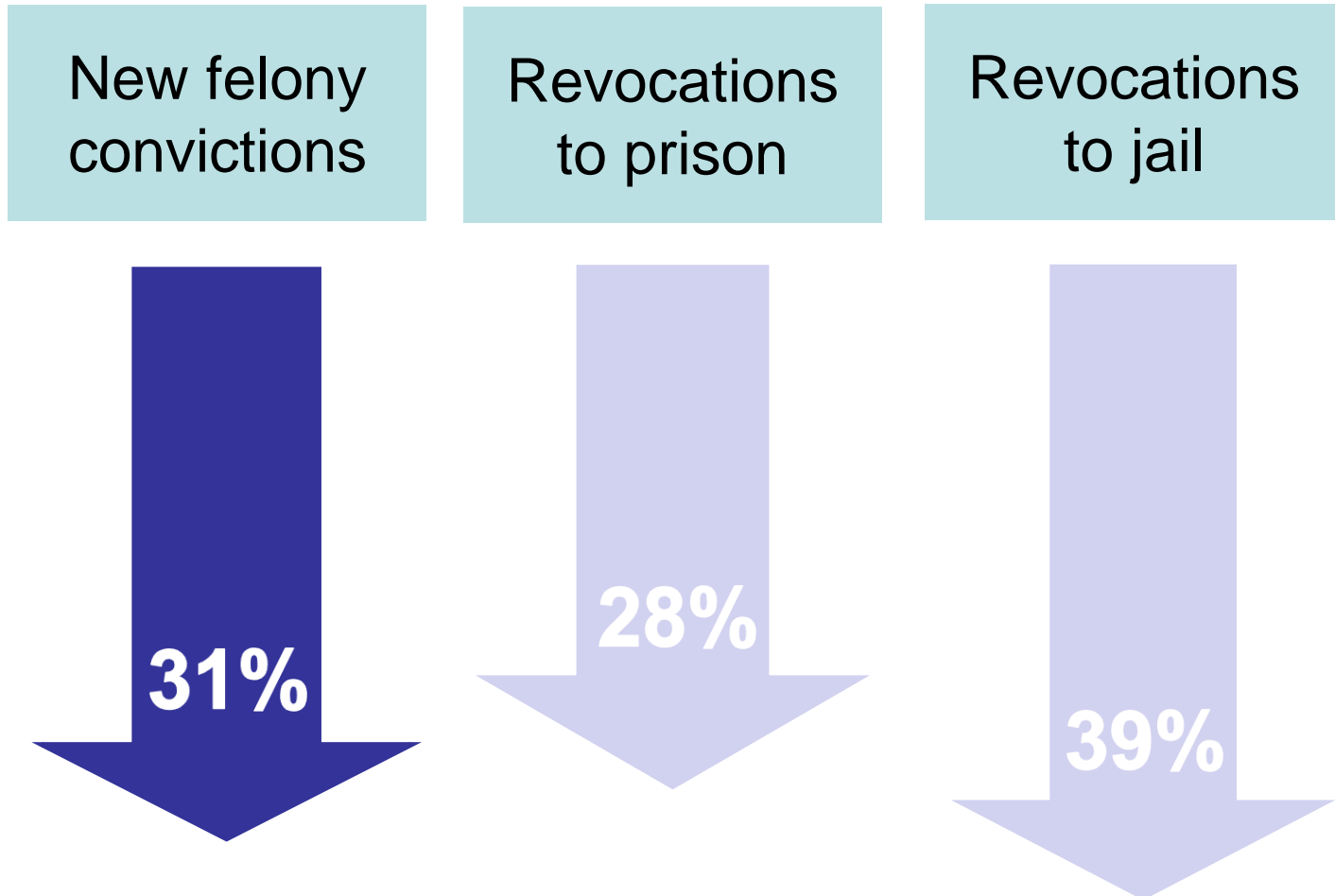
# Incorporate Rewards and Incentives

- Allowing probationers and parolees to step-down their supervision (reduced reporting, less frequent drug testing, etc.) or earn their way off supervision for compliance with conditions
  - Encourages offenders to play by the rules, thereby reducing violations
  - Allocates resources based on which offenders are exhibiting problem behaviors



## Incorporate Rewards and Incentives

### Arizona Probation Outcomes 2008-2010



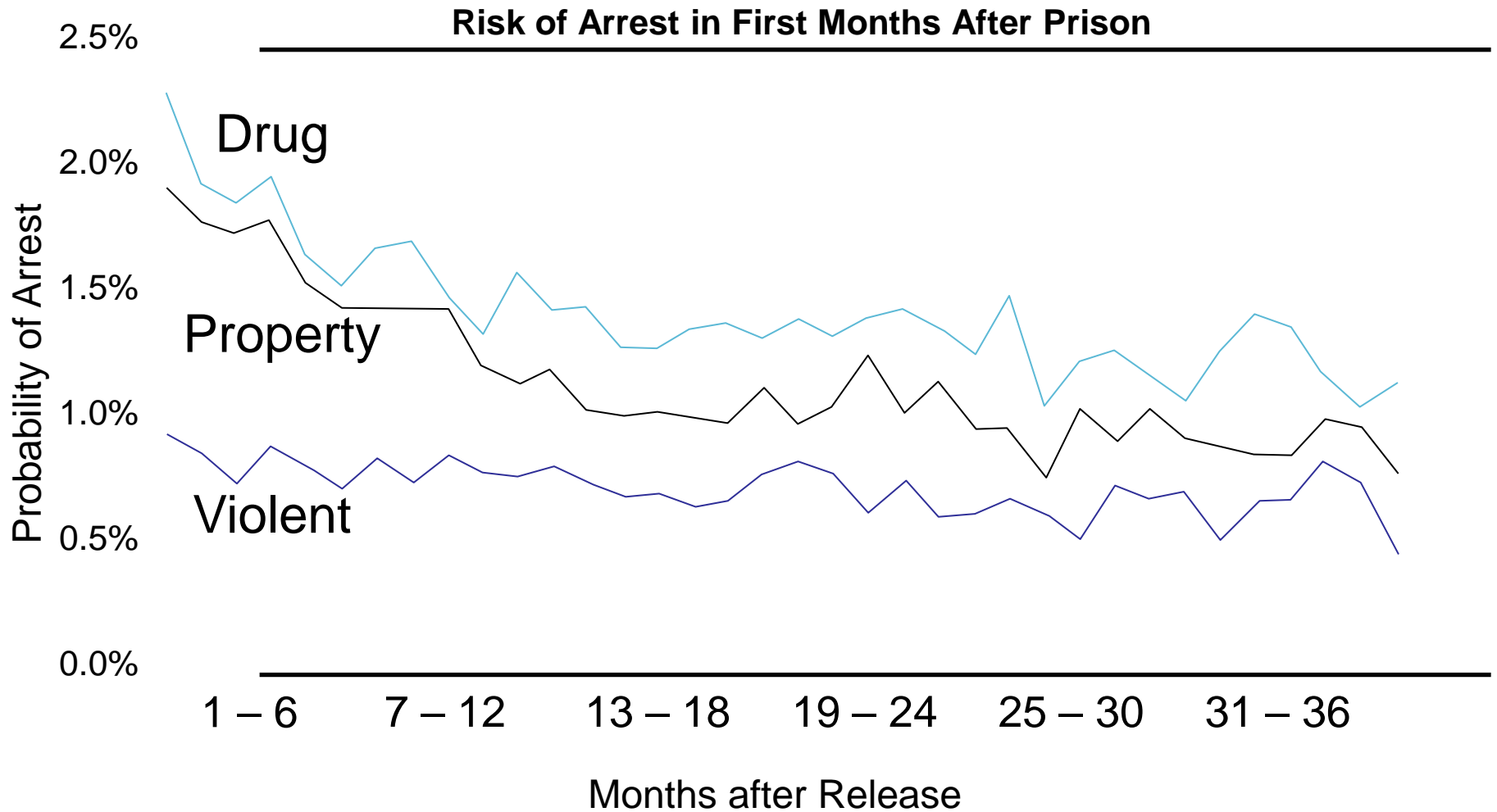
## Incorporate Treatment into Supervision

Incorporate treatment into supervision case plans rather than using surveillance alone

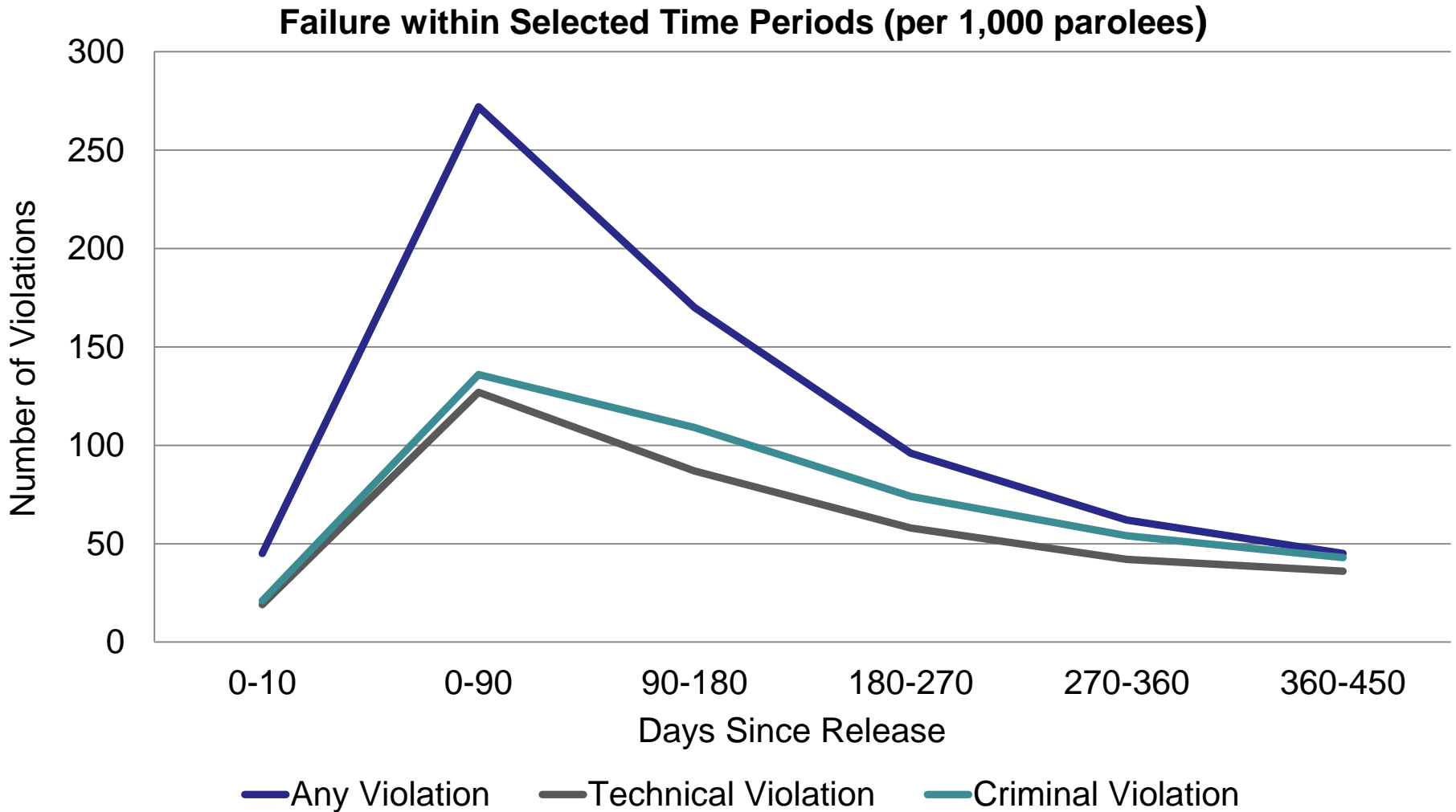
### Cost-Benefit Outcomes for Adult Criminal Justice Programs

Program	Cost-benefit ratio
Intensive supervision – surveillance only	-\$0.81
Intensive supervision – surveillance and treatment	\$1.59

## Frontload Resources



## Frontload Resources



# Frontload Resources

- Focus community supervision resources in the first days, weeks, and months when offenders are most likely to violate conditions or commit a new crime
- Identify offenders who need enhanced supervision and those who do not
  - Reduce reporting requirements / conditions for successful offenders to offset costs of frontloading
- Deter future crime and technical violations by changing offender behavior early in the supervision process

# Monitor Quality, Fidelity, and Outcomes

- Higher quality evidence-based practices have bigger impacts on recidivism
  - Validate risk / needs assessment tools
  - Train, supervise, and coach staff
  - Manage caseloads
  - Monitor programs for compliance and fidelity
  - Collect data, set performance benchmarks, and monitor outcomes

# Monitor Quality, Fidelity, and Outcomes

Programs designed to meet offenders' criminogenic needs must be delivered with fidelity to the program model

### ➤ Functional Family Therapy

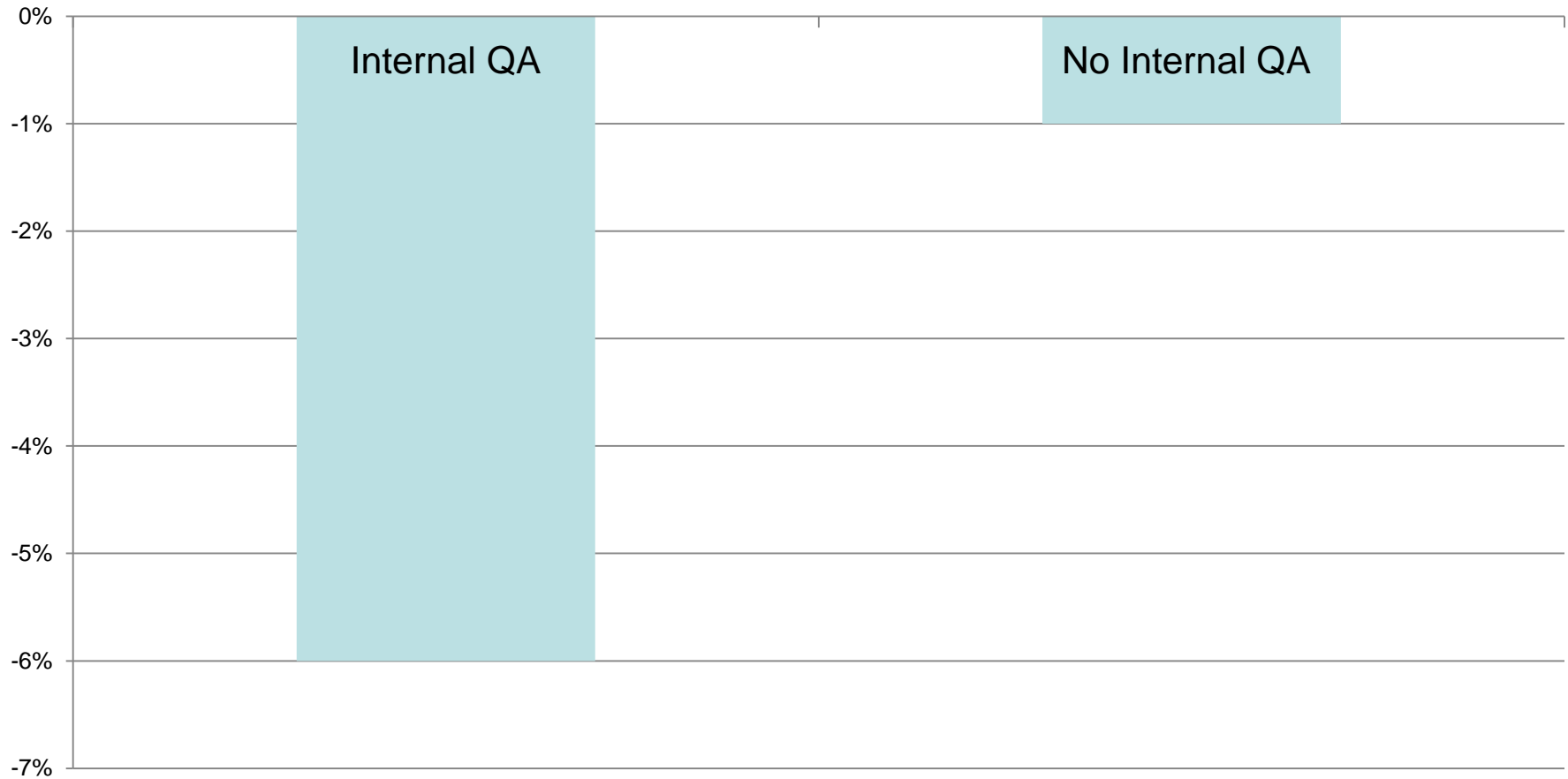
- Followed model: 38% decrease in recidivism
- Didn't follow model: 17% increase in recidivism

### ➤ Aggression Replacement Therapy

- Followed mode: 24% decrease in recidivism
- Didn't follow model: 7% increase in recidivism

## Monitor Quality, Fidelity, and Outcomes

### Effect of Internal Quality Assurance on Recidivism Outcomes





## Reducing Recidivism

- Criminal justice interventions should:
  - Assess risks, target needs, and address barriers
  - Use swift, certain, and proportional sanctions
  - Use incentives and rewards
  - Incorporate treatment into supervision
  - Frontload resources for offenders coming out prison
  - Monitor quality, fidelity, and outcomes

# Questions?

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