

Reducing Crime & Prison Budgets:

**The Costs & Benefits of Incarceration and
Other Evidence-Based Options,
Draft Findings from Washington State**

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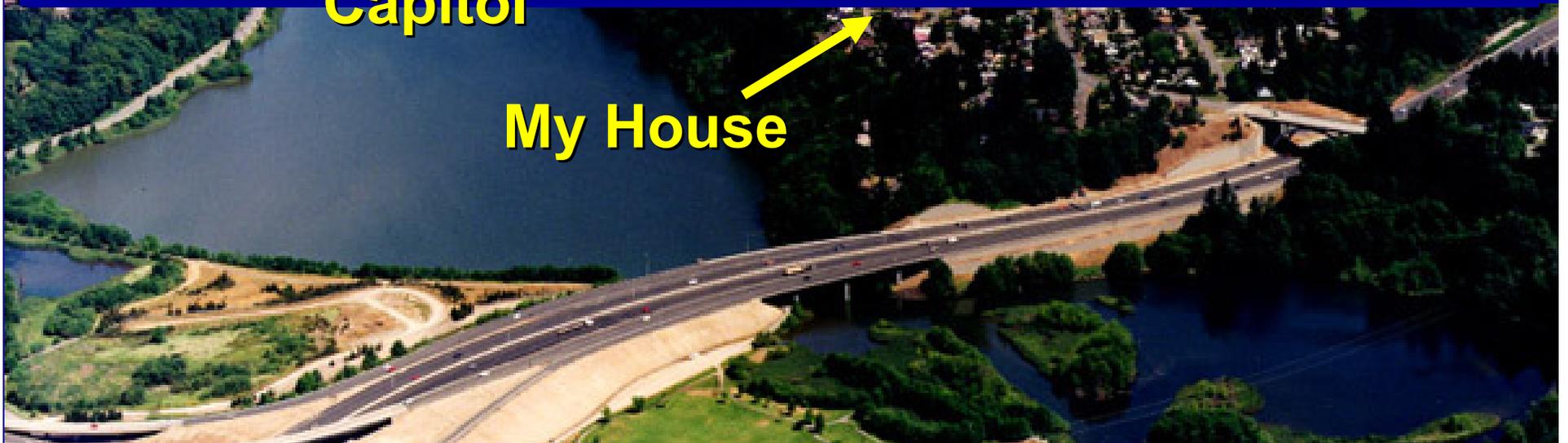
WSIPP

Mission: carry out non-partisan research on projects assigned by the legislature or the Institute's Board of Directors

State

Capitol

My House



Three Public Policy Levers to Affect Crime

✓ Prisons

✓ Police

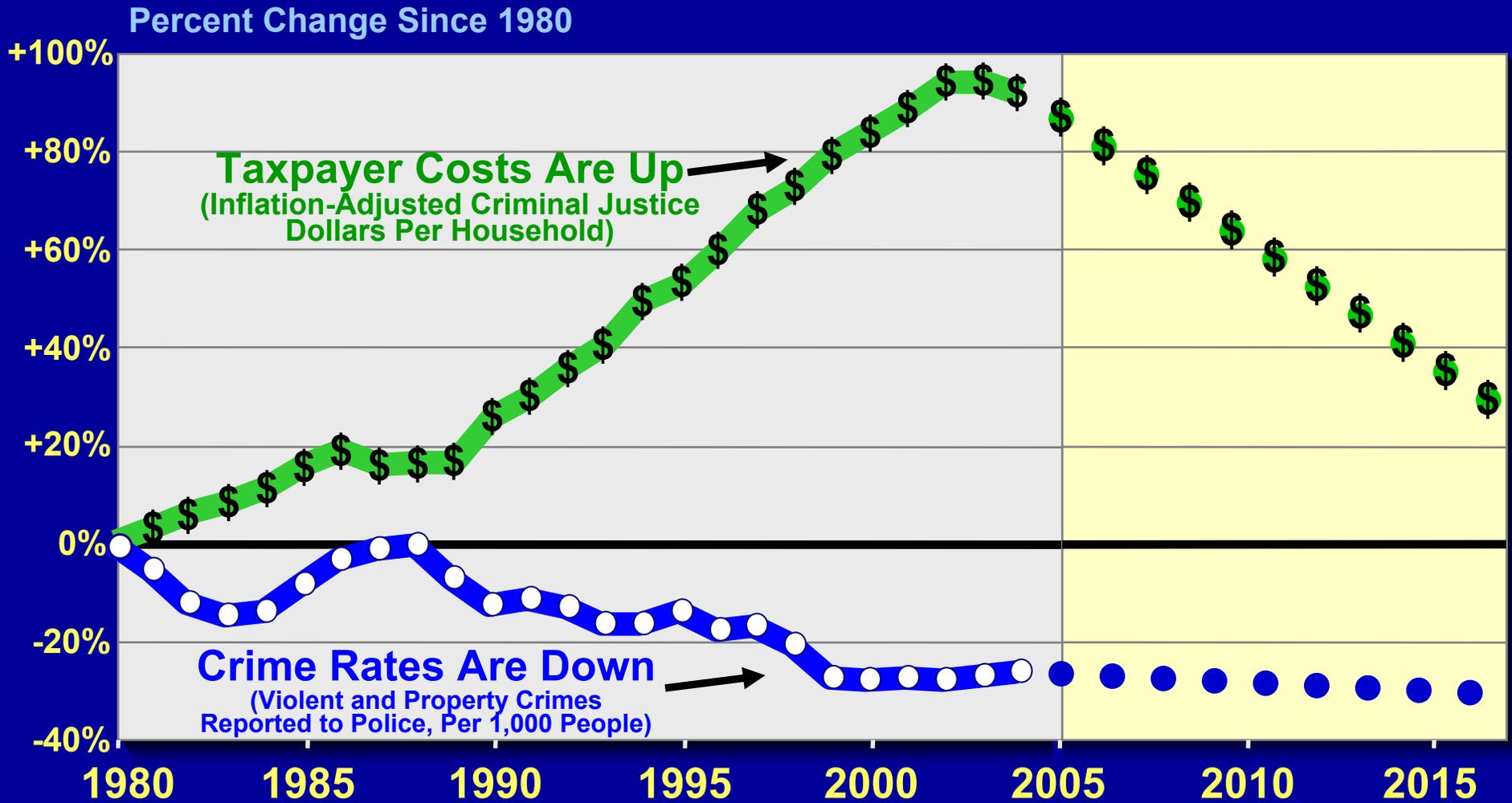
✓ Programs

All three cost money (no free lunch)

All three can be effective (or ineffective)

Therefore, a fourth “P” → Portfolio

The Big Picture: Crime & Criminal Justice System Spending



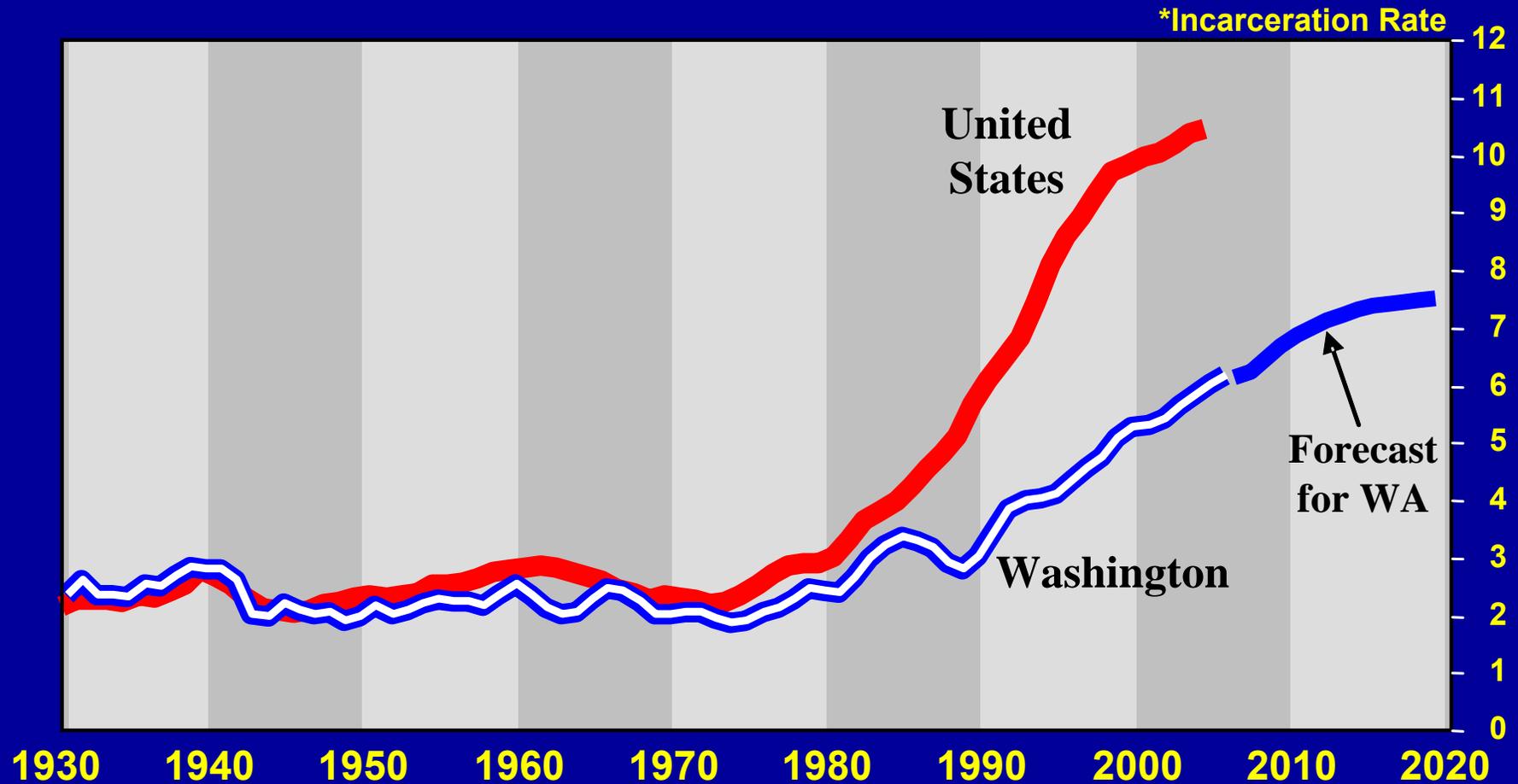
All Data are for Washington State: 1980 to 2004

Putting a Portfolio Together

Four Things We've Learned (so far)

- ✓ **Incarceration Rates Affect Crime Rates**
- ✓ **Prison's Crime Control Effects Vary By Type of Offender**
- ✓ **Diminishing Returns: They Happen!**
- ✓ **Good News: There Are Some Cheaper Ways to Reduce Crime**

Adult Prison Incarceration Rates: 1930 to 2005



*The incarceration rate is defined as the number of inmates in state prisons per 1,000 18- to 49-year-olds in Washington or the United States. The forecast for WA is from the Washington Caseload Forecast Council (CFC).

Methods: Does Prison Reduce Crime in WA?

- ✓ **County Level Data: 1982 to 2004**
- ✓ **We tested whether violent and property crime rates in Washington are affected by:**
 - Violent offender WA state incarceration rates
 - Property offender WA state incarceration rates
 - Drug offender WA state incarceration rates
- ✓ **We controlled for:**
 - Age structure
 - Ethnic structure
 - Economy and Welfare spending
 - Police employment
 - Local jail use
 - Population density
 - Crime reporting rates
 - County “fixed effects”

Prison Economics 101:

Does Prison Affect the Crime Rate?

Washington's Crime Rate
(non-drug crimes per 1,000 pop)



Washington's Incarceration Rate (ADP per 1,000 pop) 8 of 16

Putting a Portfolio Together

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13-Year Felony Reconviction Rates for Offenders Leaving Prison in Washington

Type of Offender Leaving Prison

	Violent (not sex)	Sex	Property	Drug
Any Felony Reconviction	52%	29%	70%	51%

By Most Serious Reconviction

Violent (not sex)	24%	8%	23%	14%
Sex Reconviction	3%	11%	3%	1%
Property Reconviction	16%	7%	37%	12%
Drug Reconviction	9%	3%	7%	24%

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Key Findings From Our Study of The Effect of Prison on Crime Rates in Washington

Does Prison Affect...	<u>Type of Offender Incarcerated</u>		
	Violent	Property	Drug
...Violent Crime Rates?	yes+	no	no
...Property Crime Rates?	no	yes+	yes

Given these results, **at current incarceration rates in Washington**, what is the benefit-cost ratio of building the next prison cell?

Benefit-Cost Ratio	≈\$4	≈\$1	≈\$0.50
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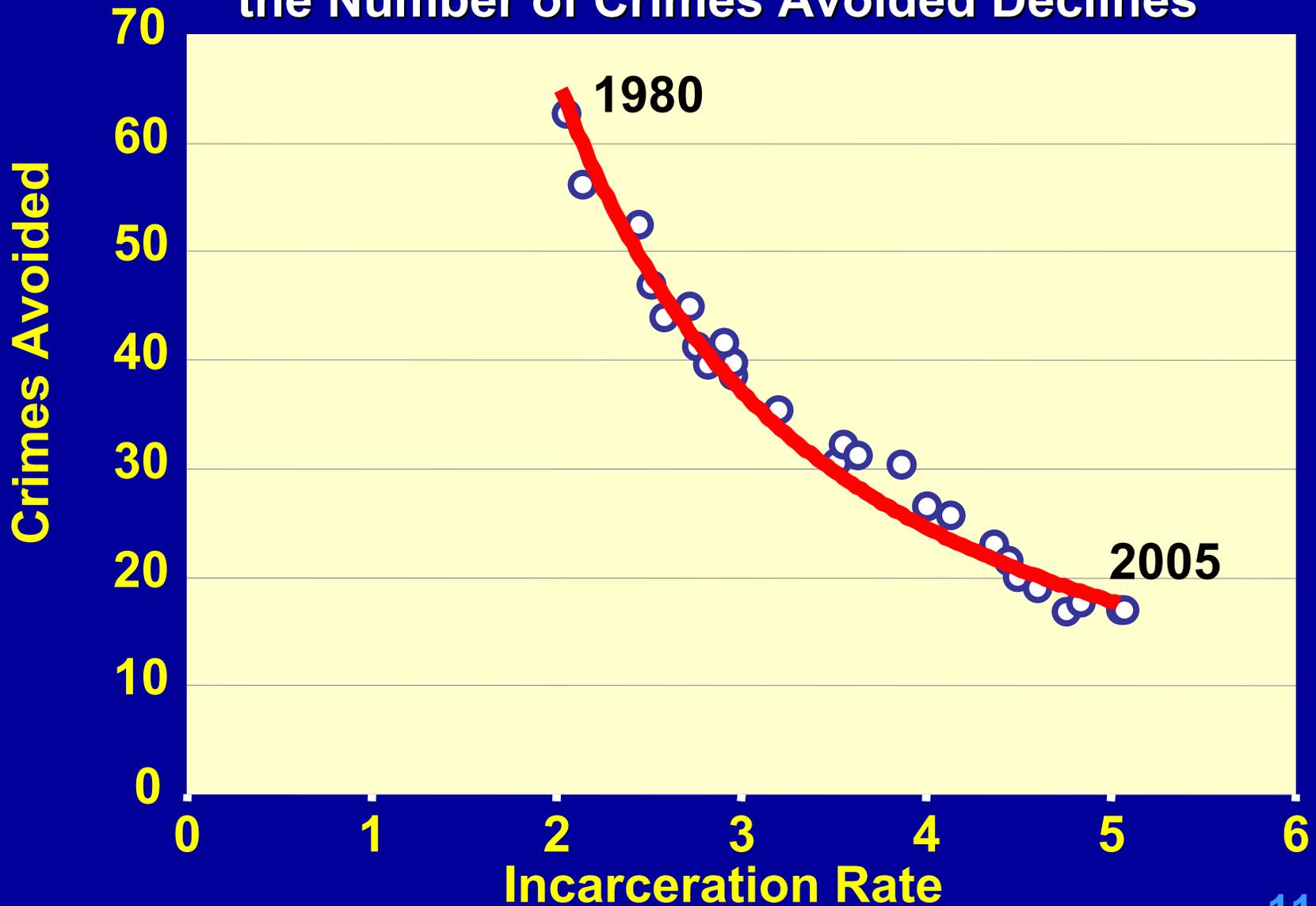
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Diminishing Returns:

As Incarceration Rates are Raised, the Number of Crimes Avoided Declines



Putting a Portfolio Together

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What Else Works to Reduce Crime?

3 Analytical Steps

1. What Works & What Doesn't

- ✓ We are examining all rigorous (comparison group), real world evaluations—Meta Analysis

2. What are the Economics of each Option?

- ✓ We are estimating the taxpayer and crime victim benefits to people in Washington

3. What is the “Market” Potential?

Due Date for the Study: October 1, 2006 12 of 16

Evidence-Based Programs: Roughly, What are the Odds of Success?

100
Adults
Convicted for
a Felony in
Washington

**How Many
Will
Reconvict?**

≈54
Will Be Re-
Convicted for a
new felony
after 13 years

**With the Typical
Evidence-Based
Program,
How Many Will
Reconvict?**

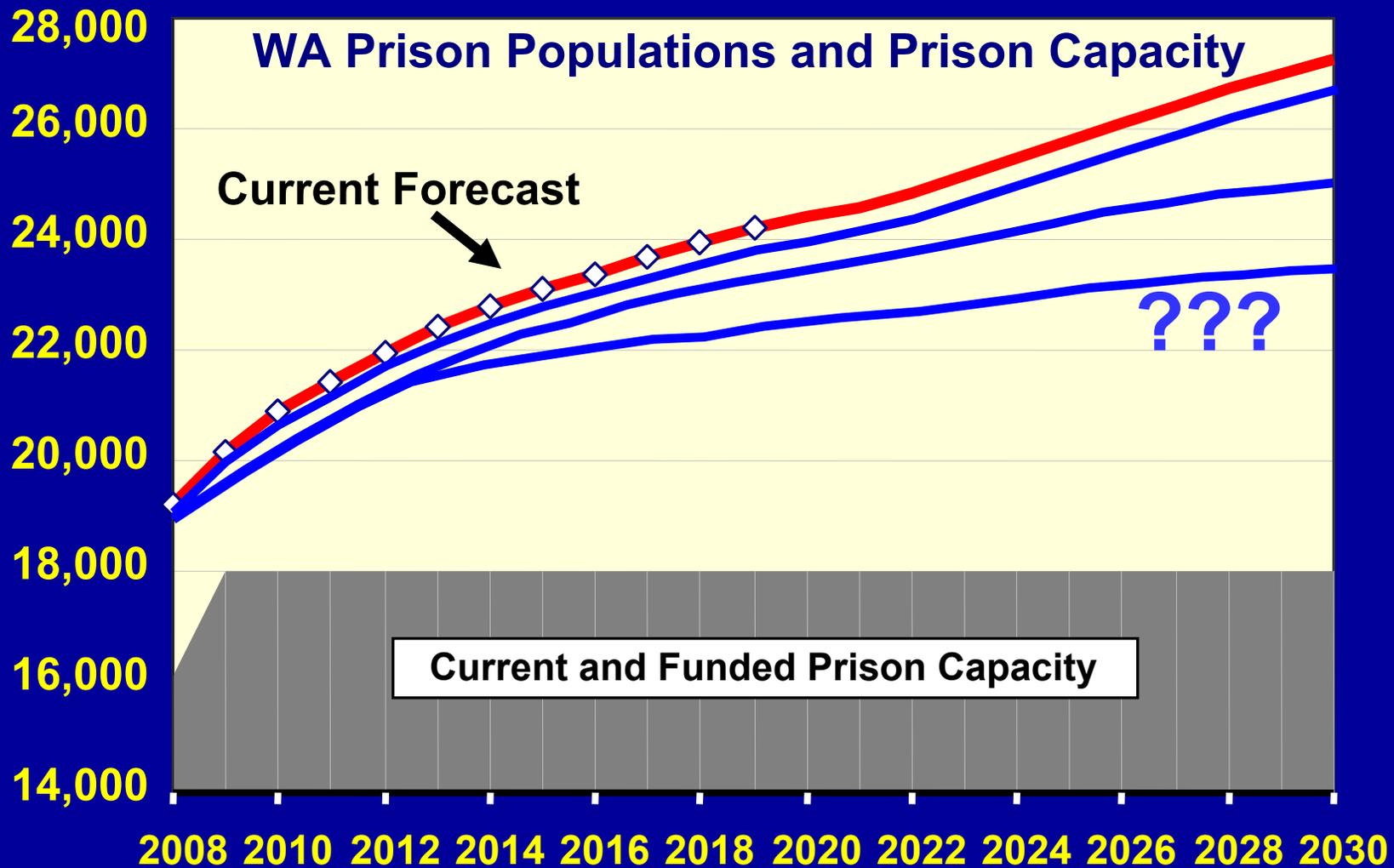
≈46
Will Be Re-
Convicted
after 13 years

Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Evidence-Based Treatment Programs	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
<u>Adults</u>			
Adult Drug Courts	-10.6% (57)	\$1.33	?%
Basic Education, Prison	-5.1% (7)	\$?	?%
Cog-Behavioral Tx.	-9.0% (25)	\$5.20	?%
ISP: surveillance	-0.0% (24)	\$0.00	?%
ISP: treatment	-21.9% (10)	\$1.73	?%
Electronic Monitoring	-0.0% (9)	\$?	?%
<u>Juveniles</u>			
Functional Family Thpy.	-14.3% (7)	\$9.07	?%
Aggression Repl. Trng.	-9.8% (4)	\$17.40	?%
Restorative Justice	-13.2% (21)	\$8.06	?%

Can Washington Identify and Implement an “Evidence-Based” Portfolio to Change this Picture?

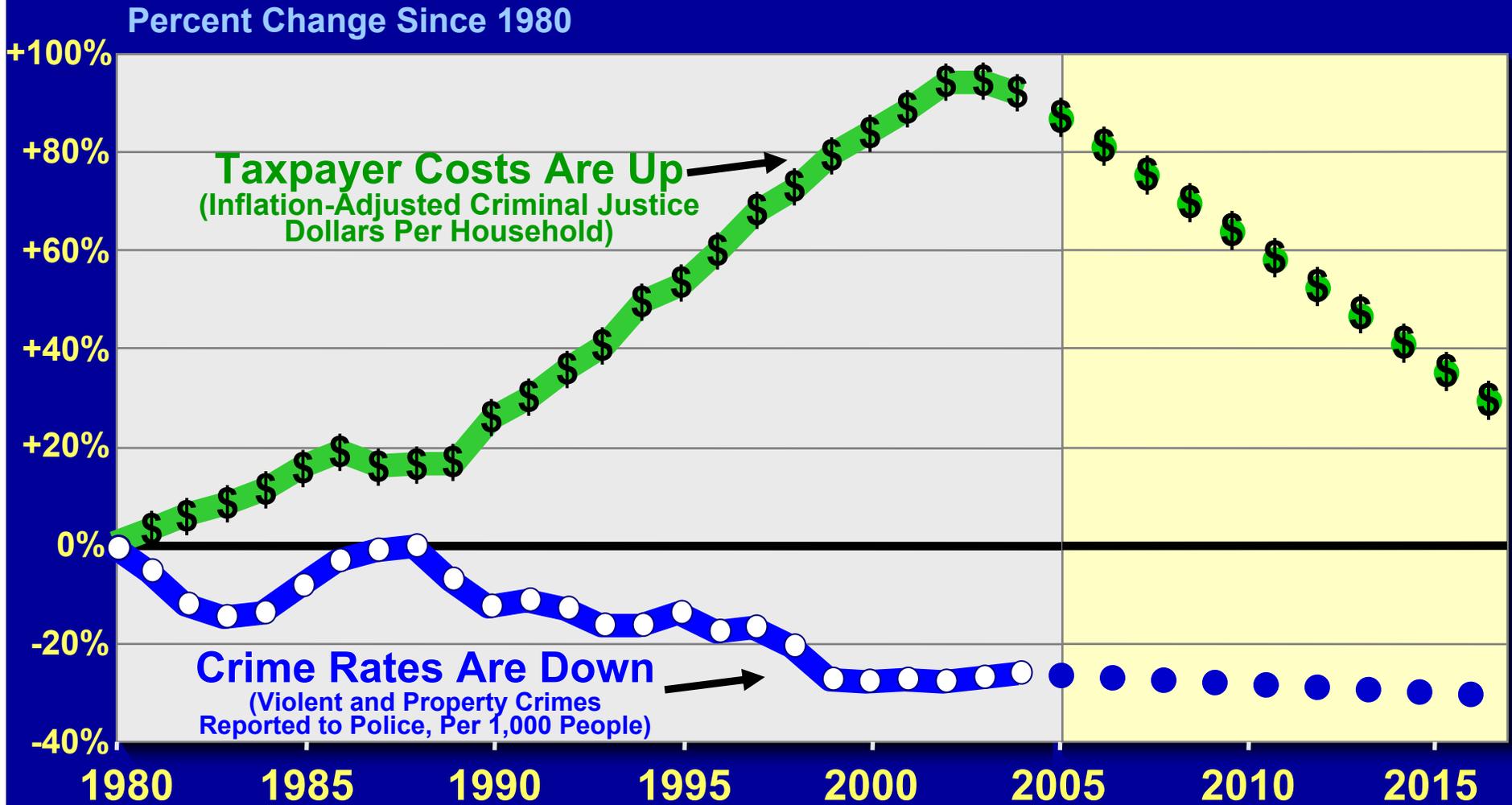


Due Date for the Study: October 1, 2006

Summary of our Findings (to date)

- ✓ **Good News:** Credible scientific evidence indicates that **some** well-implemented policies and programs achieve significantly more benefits than costs.
- ✓ **Useful News:** Credible evidence indicates that **some** policies and programs do not pay off.
- ✓ **Bad News:** Many (most) existing policies and programs lack a rigorous outcome evaluation.
- ✓ **More Good News:** Markets for evidence-based programs are developing.

Let's Revisit the Big Picture



Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Work, Education, & Job Training for Adult Offenders	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
Correctional Industries	-7.8% (4)	\$5.84	?%
Basic Education, Prison	-5.1% (7)	\$3.94	?%
Employ. Trng, Community	-4.8% (16)	\$?	?%
Vocational Ed, Prison	-12.6% (3)	\$11.83	?%

General Conclusion

**Employment and Education for Adult Offenders Works,
Economics and Market Potential to be Determined**

Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Cognitive-Behavioral Tx for Adult Offenders	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
Cog-Behavioral. Tx.	-9.0% (25)	\$5.20	?%

General Conclusion

Cognitive-behavioral treatment for general offenders works. There are several off-the-shelf versions of this type of treatment; they produce very similar results. Market potential to be determined.

Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Intermediate Adult Sanctions	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
ISP: surveillance	-0.0% (24)	\$0.00	?%
ISP: treatment	-21.9% (10)	\$1.73	?%
Adult Boot Camps	-0.0% (22)	\$?	?%
Electronic Monitoring	-0.0% (9)	\$?	?%
Restorative Justice	-0.0% (6)	\$?	?%
Jail diversion (co-occur)	-0.0% (11)	\$?	?%

General Conclusion

Most intermediate sanctions have no effect on recidivism, economics to be determined

Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Sex Offender Treatment	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
Psychotherapy	-0.0% (3)	\$?	?%
Cog-Behav, Prison	-14.9% (5)	\$?	?%
Cog-Behav, Community	-31.4% (6)	\$?	?%
Behavioral Therapy	-0.0% (2)	\$?	?%

General Conclusion

Cognitive-behavioral treatment of sex offenders shows promise, economics to be determined

Evidence-Based Programs to Reduce Crime

—Benefits, Costs, and Program Potential—

Juvenile Offender Programs	Expected Change In Recidivism (# of EB Studies)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (per-person, life cycle)	Percent of Potential Already Used in WA
Functional Family Thpy.	-14.3% (7)	\$9.07	?%
Multi-Systemic Thpy.	-14.8% (11)	\$3.53	?%
Aggression Repl. Trng.	-9.8% (4)	\$17.40	?%
Adolescent Diversion Prg.	-43.7% (6)	\$12.28	?%
M-D Tx Foster Care	-31.9% (3)	\$17.78	?%
Restorative Justice	-13.2% (21)	\$8.06	?%
ISP, probation & parole	-0.0% (10)	\$0.00	?%

Many EB juvenile offender programs work, & have good economics. Market potential to be determined.

2005 Legislative Direction (ESSB 6094):

“study options to stabilize future prison populations”

- ✓ **“Evidence-based” Treatment Programs** including prevention
- ✓ **Sentencing Options** including *“the use of risk factors in sentencing”*

“In conjunction with sentencing options developed by the sentencing guidelines commission”

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