

Does anything work to reduce crime?

*The Current State of the Research Evidence
Since Martinson's "Nothing Works" (1979)*

A Presentation to
The Sentencing Guidelines Commission

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Created by 1983 Legislature

Who we are:

Non-partisan staff with bi-partisan governance.

Projects assigned via legislative bills or Board of Directors.

What we do:

What works?

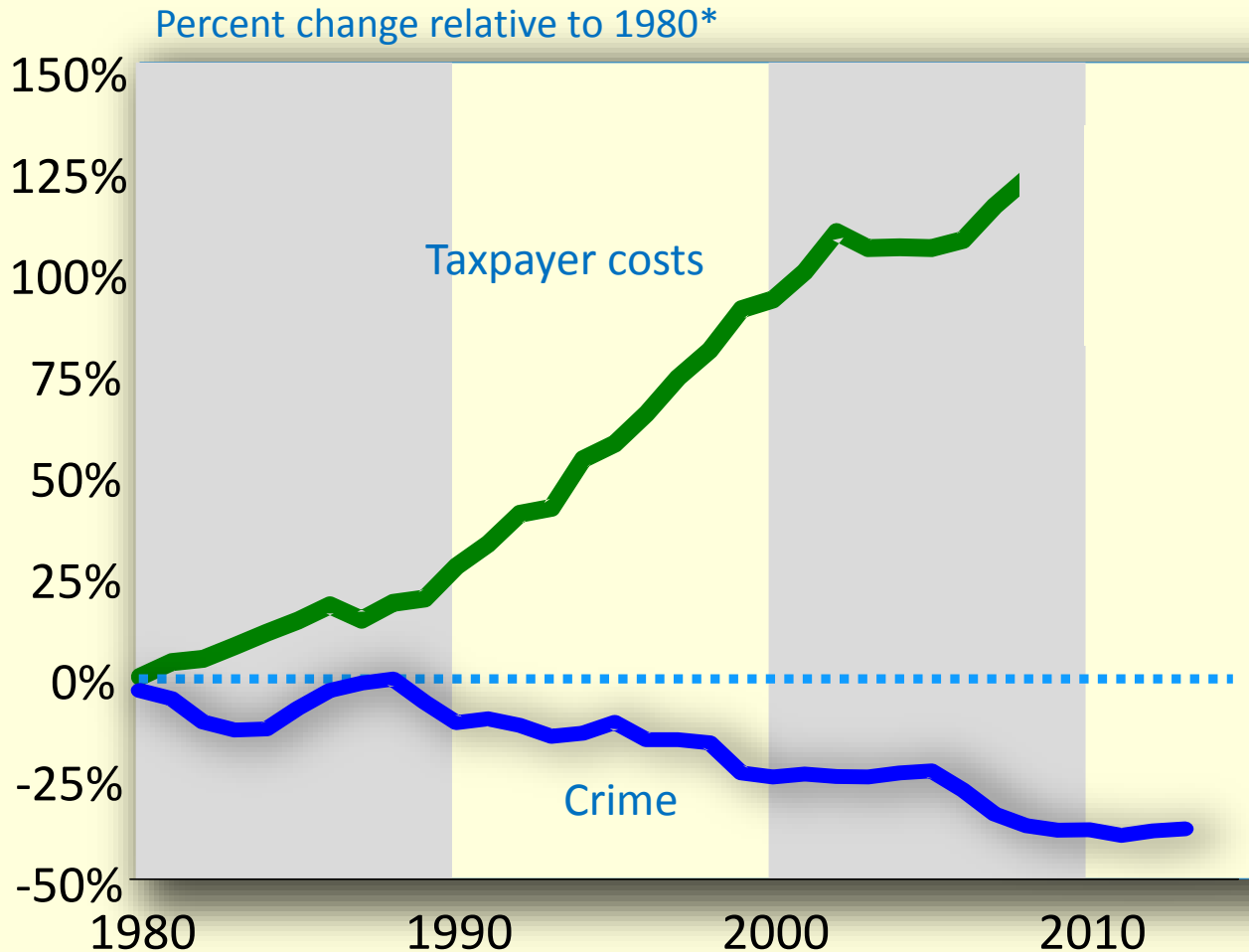
What are the costs & benefits of policies to improve outcomes?

Legislative Directives to Study:

- ✓ Child Welfare
- ✓ Crime
- ✓ Developmental Disabilities
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Employment/Workforce
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Public Assistance
- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Substance Abuse
- ✓ Teen Births

Crime: Big Picture

Crime Rates & Taxpayer Costs in Washington: 1980 to 2013



In 2007, taxpayers spent 116% more on the criminal justice system than in 1980.

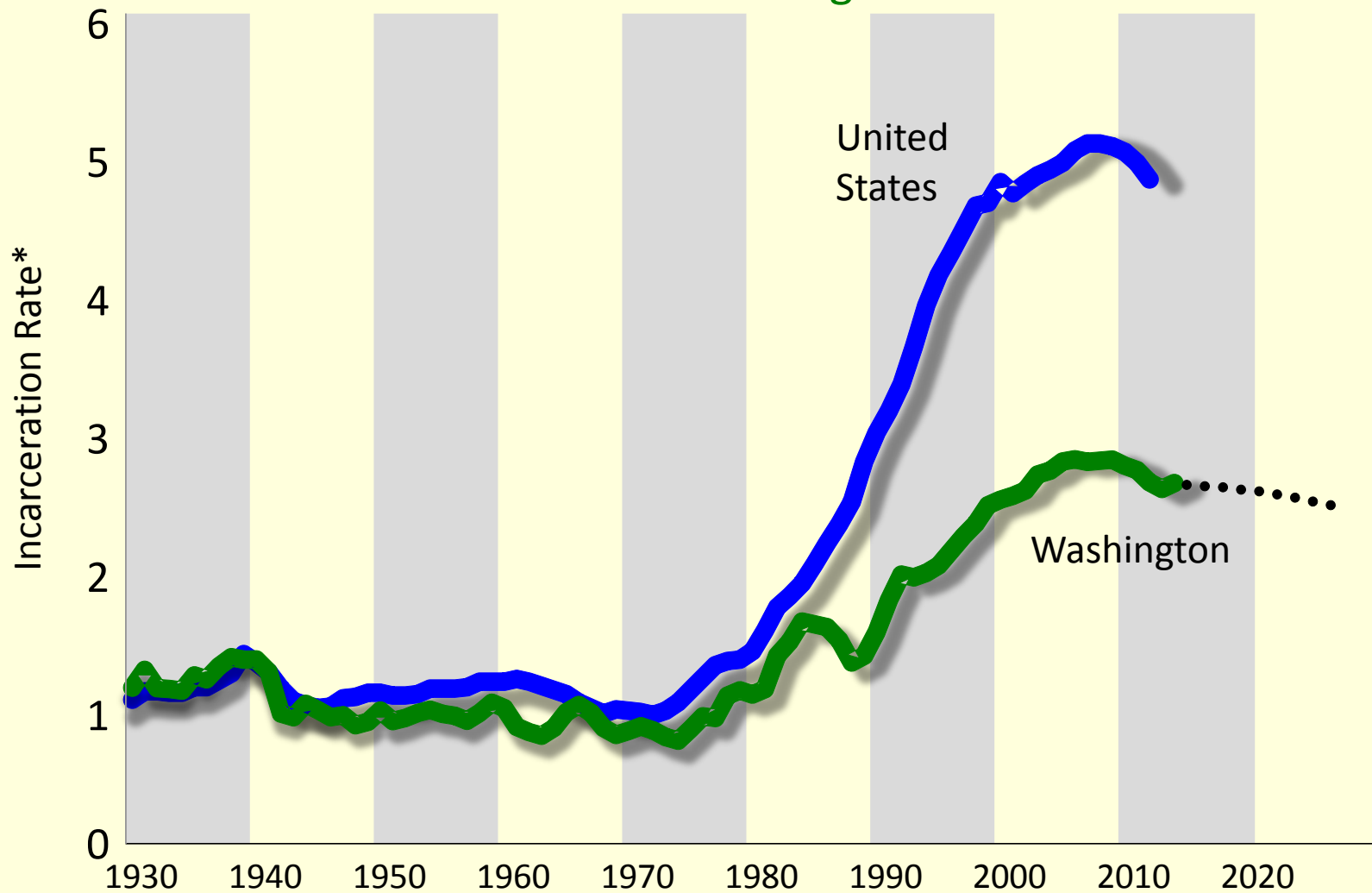
In recent years, costs have begun to decline.

In 2015, crime rates were 44% lower than they were in 1980.

* Per capita, dollar estimates are inflation adjusted.

Crime: Big Picture

Incarceration Rates in Washington and the US



* Per 1,000 people.

WSIPP's Three-Step Research Approach

1. What works to improve outcomes?

Outcomes → crime, education, substance abuse, etc.

We identify programs that have already been rigorously tested (WA or elsewhere) to determine the program achieves expected outcomes.

2. What pays off for taxpayers?

We compute benefits, costs, and risk (return on investment) to the people of Washington for each policy option.

3. How can a “portfolio” of options affect statewide outcomes?

How much risk of failure?

The Washington State Legislature has asked,
 “What programs or policies improve outcomes at less cost?”

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BENEFIT-COST RESULTS

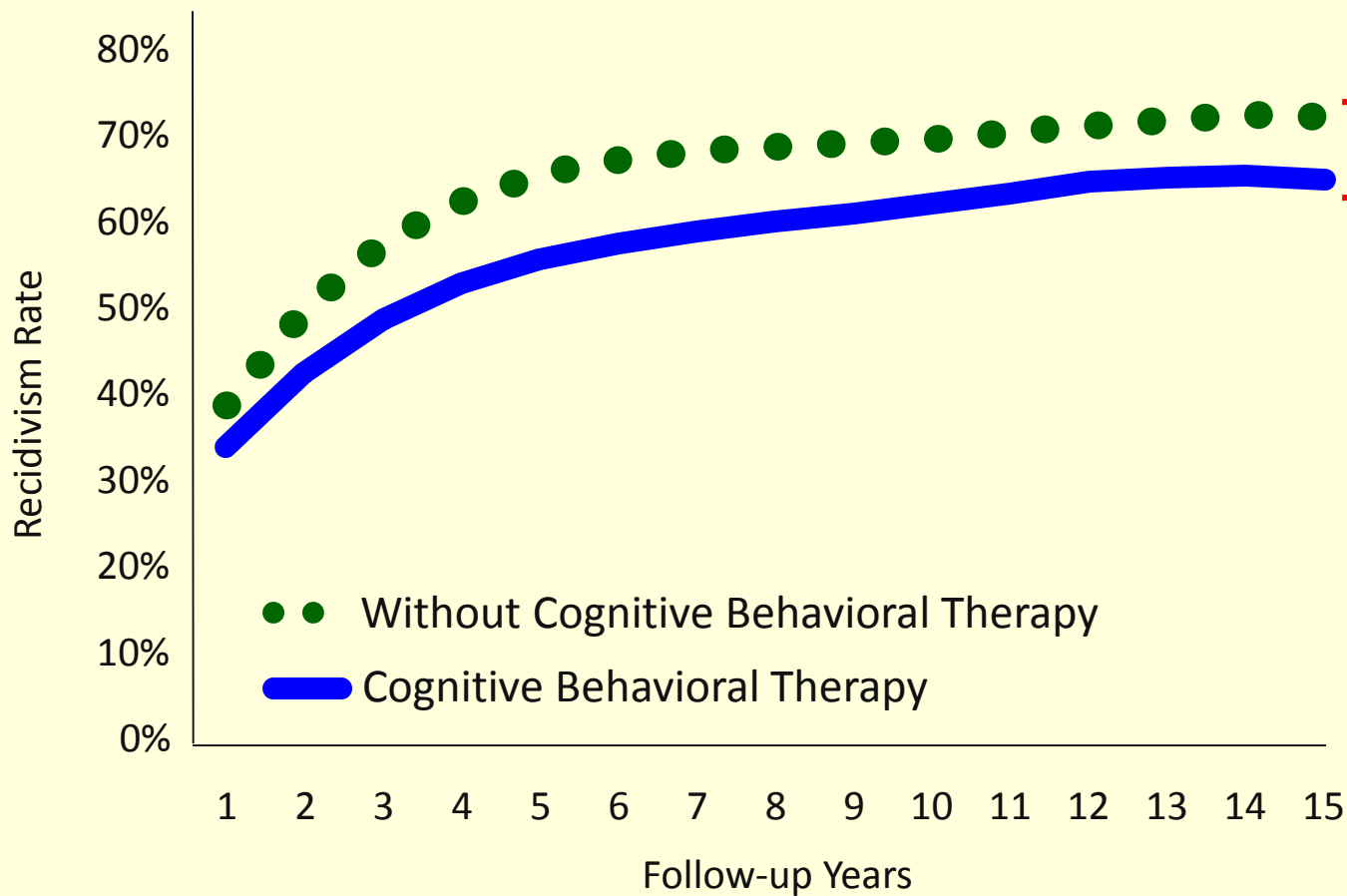
ABOUT WSIPP

Job Opening

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Program name (click on the program name for more detail)	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non- taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chances benefits will exceed costs
Electronic monitoring (probation) NEW	Dec. 2014	\$27,363	\$6,691	\$20,673	\$1,102	\$28,465	n/a	94 %
Offender Re-entry Community Safety Program (dangerously mentally ill offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$58,499	\$19,337	\$39,162	(\$33,254)	\$25,245	\$1.76	95 %
Therapeutic communities for offenders with co-occurring disorders NEW	Nov. 2014	\$27,658	\$7,511	\$20,148	(\$3,665)	\$23,994	\$7.56	100 %
Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison NEW	Dec. 2014	\$23,346	\$6,088	\$17,258	(\$1,161)	\$22,185	\$20.13	100 %
Vocational education in prison NEW	Dec. 2014	\$21,377	\$5,649	\$15,727	(\$1,619)	\$19,757	\$13.22	100 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for drug offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$21,204	\$5,494	\$15,710	(\$1,576)	\$19,629	\$13.48	99 %
Mental health courts	May. 2014	\$20,253	\$5,541	\$14,711	(\$3,007)	\$17,245	\$6.75	100 %
Electronic monitoring (parole) NEW	Dec. 2014	\$15,979	\$3,950	\$12,030	\$1,102	\$17,081	n/a	100 %
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (incarceration) NEW	Nov. 2014	\$15,982	\$4,195	\$11,788	(\$923)	\$15,060	\$17.35	100 %
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (incarceration) NEW	Nov. 2014	\$16,436	\$4,390	\$12,046	(\$1,575)	\$14,861	\$10.45	100 %
Risk Need & Responsivity supervision (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Dec. 2013	\$18,571	\$5,311	\$13,260	(\$4,906)	\$13,665	\$3.79	100 %
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (community) NEW	Nov. 2014	\$12,489	\$3,310	\$9,179	(\$1,541)	\$10,948	\$8.12	100 %

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Reduces Recidivism by 4 Percentage Points



Benefit-Cost analysis asks, “What’s the monetary savings to taxpayers & crime victims from a reduction in recidivism?”

Benefit-Cost Results (www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost)

What works to reduce crime? (2016 US dollars)

<u><i>Adult Programs</i></u>	% Point Change in Crime (# of Studies)	Per Participant Net Benefits (Chance WA won't break even)
Cognitive behavioral therapy	-4% (42)	\$7,422 (<1%)
Correctional Education (basic skills)	-5% (7)	\$10,827 (2%)
Drug courts	-10% (72)	\$9,218 (<1%)
Work release	-1% (9)	\$4,806 (<1%)
Domestic violence tx (Duluth)	+1% (7)	-\$3,623 (77%)
<u><i>Juvenile Programs*</i></u>		
Functional Family Therapy	-10% (8)	\$27,322 (<1%)
Multisystemic Therapy	-4% (11)	\$11,102 (16%)
Scared Straight	+5% (10)	-\$9,477 (96%)
<u><i>Prevention Programs*</i></u>		
Pre-School* (low income)	-9% (17*)	\$34,424 (11%)
Mentoring* (school-based)	-1% (5*)	\$26,747 (27%)

* Programs have a number of other non-crime benefits; all benefits reported here.

What works in the criminal justice system?

WSIPP's Findings Based on Rigorous Research

Corrections/Courts Of the adult programs WSIPP has reviewed ...

- ✓ 53 percent show statistically significant reductions in recidivism, and
- ✓ 64 percent had benefits likely to outweigh their costs.

Prison Policy/Sentencing

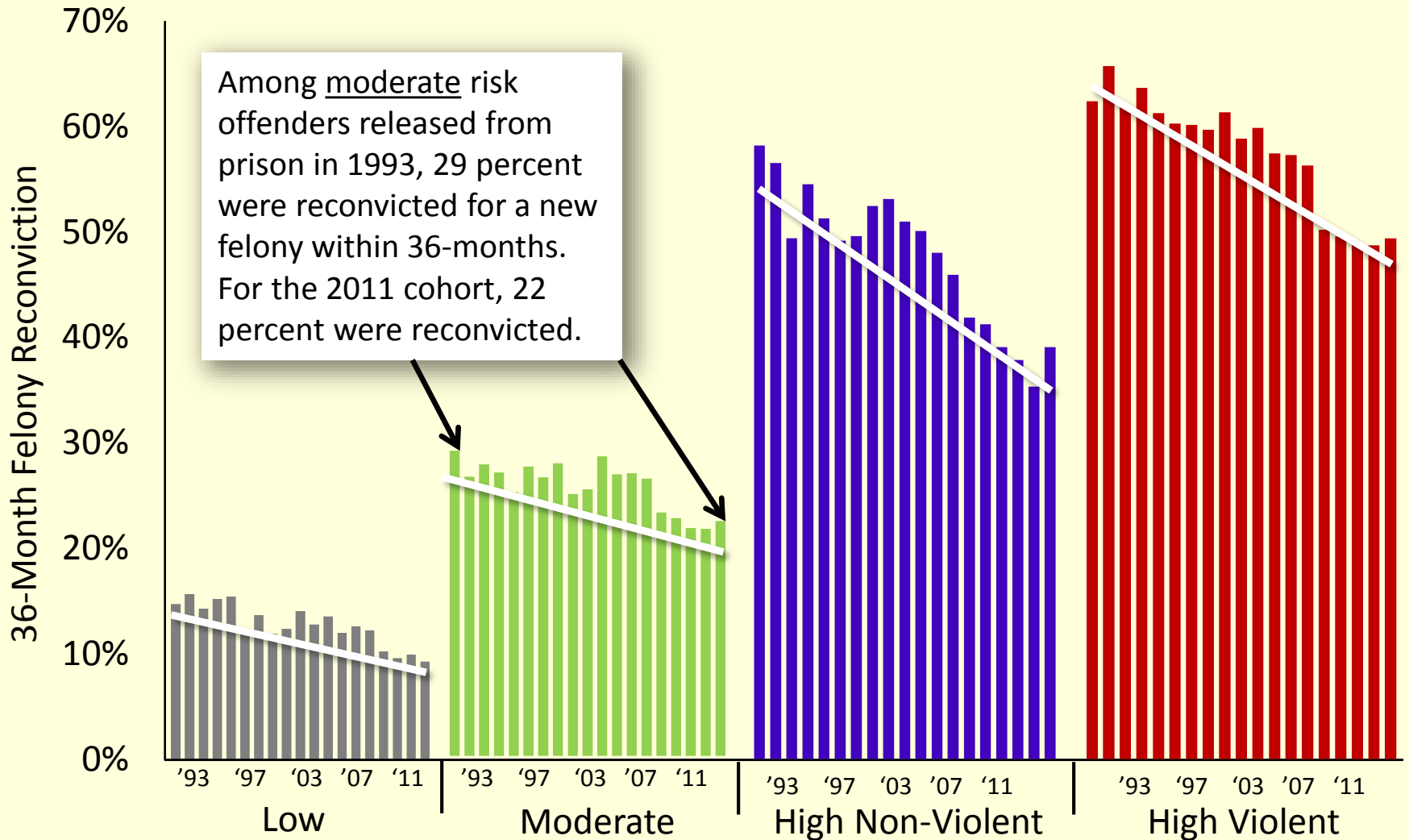
- Prison is an effective strategy to reduce crime. The impact, however, depends on who is incarcerated (i.e., risk level).
- Earned early release time is an evidence-based strategy resulting in about \$2 in net benefits per dollar of cost.

Police

- Policing is an effective strategy to reduce crime, generating about \$5 in benefits per dollar of cost.

Core Correctional Practices: Risk Assessment

Recidivism Rates for Offenders Released From Prison (1993-2011)



Is WSIPP Evidence Used by Policymakers?

A Timeline of Recent, Major Legislative Actions

2007...

Funded a portfolio of evidence-based programs (EBP) in adult and juvenile corrections, and prevention. *2000 bed, \$250 Million, prison avoided.*

WSIPP provides an annual “step adjustment” to the Caseload Forecast Council to account for this investment in EBPs at DOC.

2009

DOC must use a *risk assessment* with the highest accuracy (see WSIPP report).

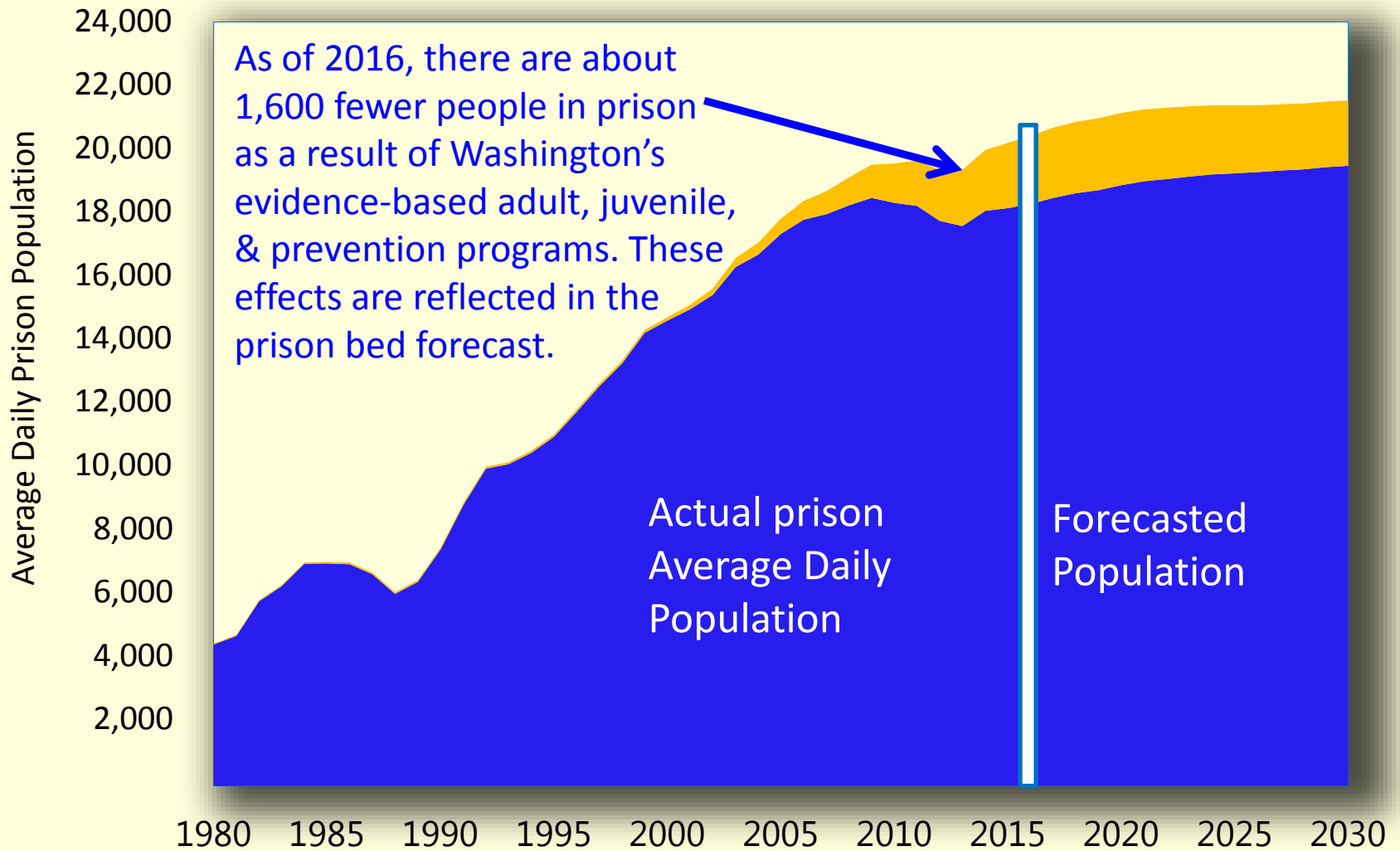
2013

Adult corrections *“inventory”* – required WSIPP to define EBP and required DOC to (1) facilitate the use of EBPs and (2) phase-out ineffective programs.

2015

Further directed DOC to use EBPs and follow the *Risk Needs Responsivity* model.

WA's Investment in Evidence-Based Programs The Cumulative Effect on The Need for Prison Beds



Thank you!
Questions?