# Utah's Recidivism Rate In Light of National Trends

**It's all apples and oranges.**

**January 31, 2012**
**Nathan Brady**
**OLRGC**

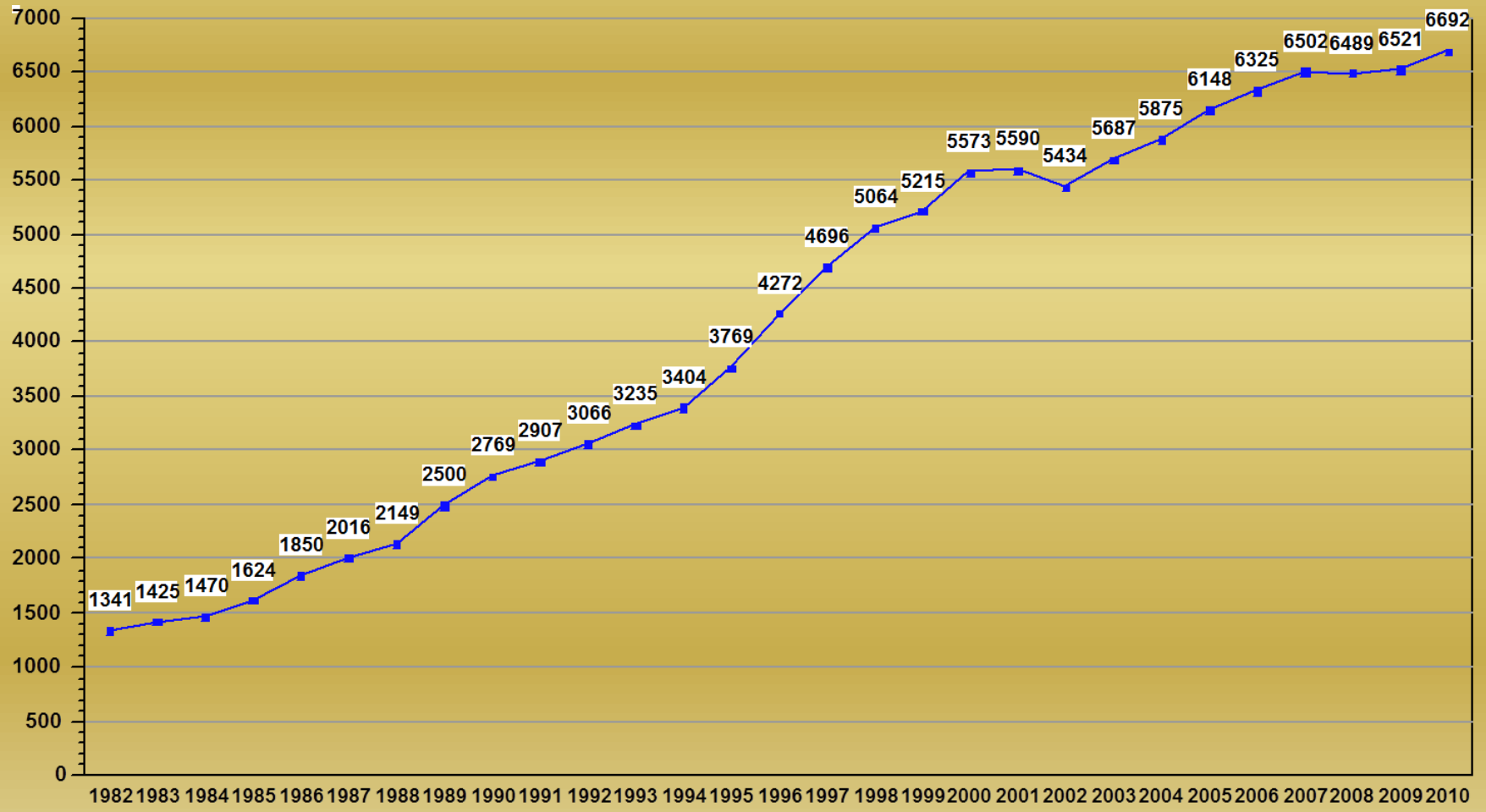
# What we'll cover today

- What is recidivism and what is the impact on the state?
- How does Utah compare nationally?
- What is Utah doing to address inmate recidivism and where is there room for improvement?
- What are other states doing?

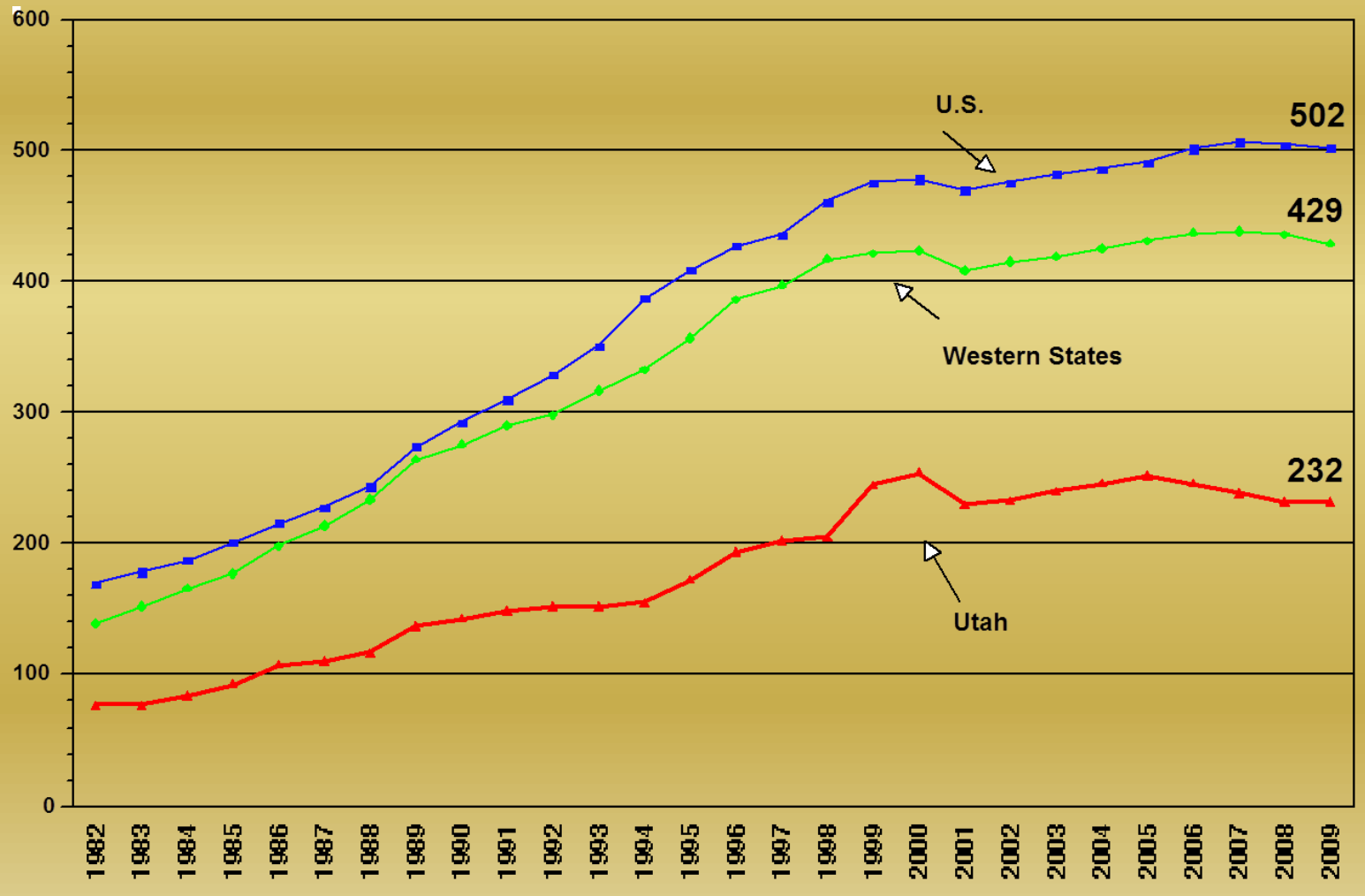
# National Trends (2011 PEW Study)

- One in 31 adults in the U.S. was incarcerated or being supervised
- Total state expenditures on Corrections grew to approximately $52 billion
- Corrections spending is the second fastest growing budget expenditure over the past two decades
- National recidivism rates have hovered at roughly 40 percent

# Average Yearly Incarcerated Population in Utah



# Incarceration Rates (per 100,000)
## US Total, Western States, Utah



Recidivism is the rate at which offenders return to prison.

Typically, this is measured over a three-year period,
post-incarceration.

Preventing
"The Revolving Door"

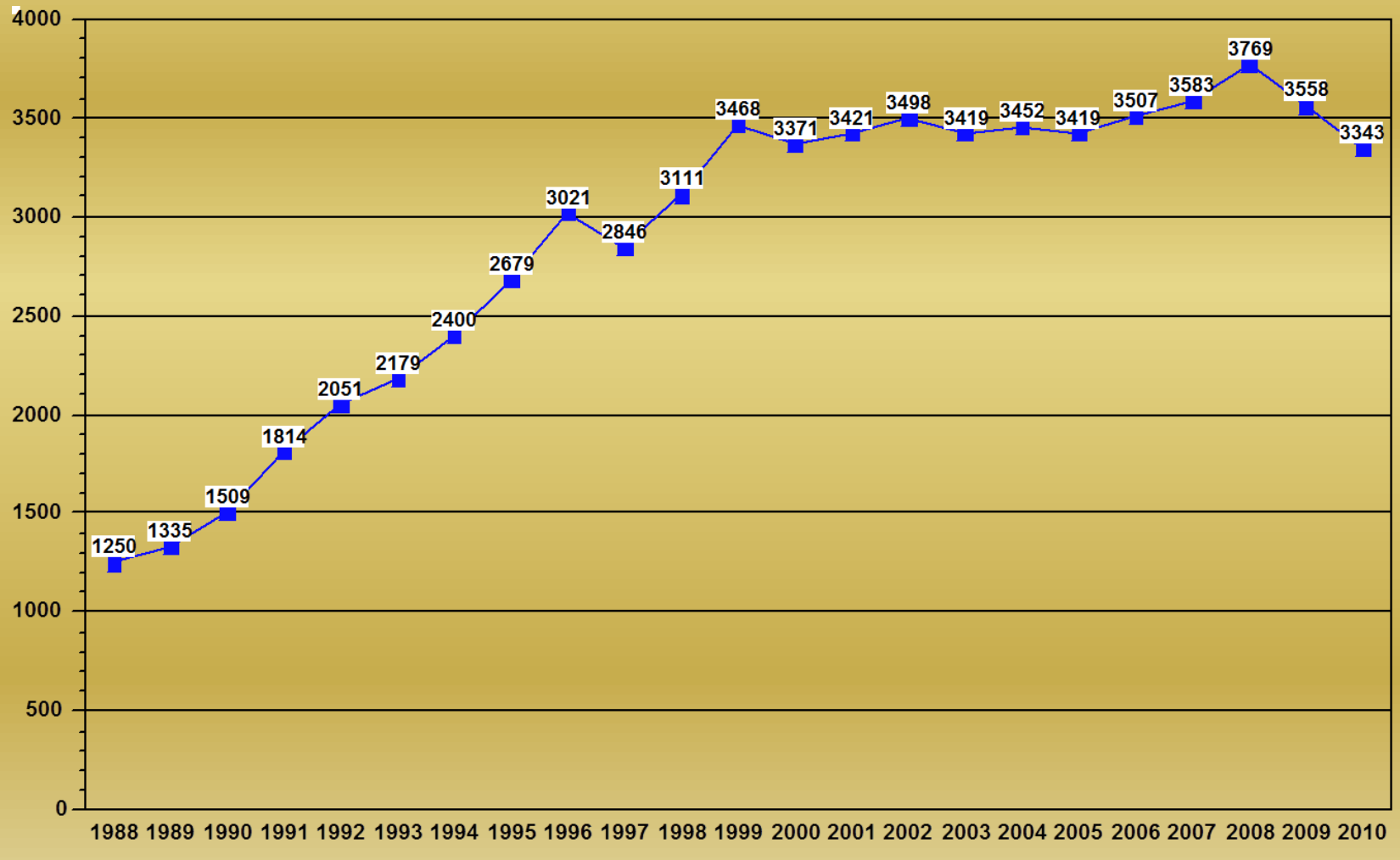
**Reducing recidivism means:**

- Lower crime rates,
- Less victimization,
- Decreased incarceration costs due to fewer incarcerated individuals
- Improved communities and families

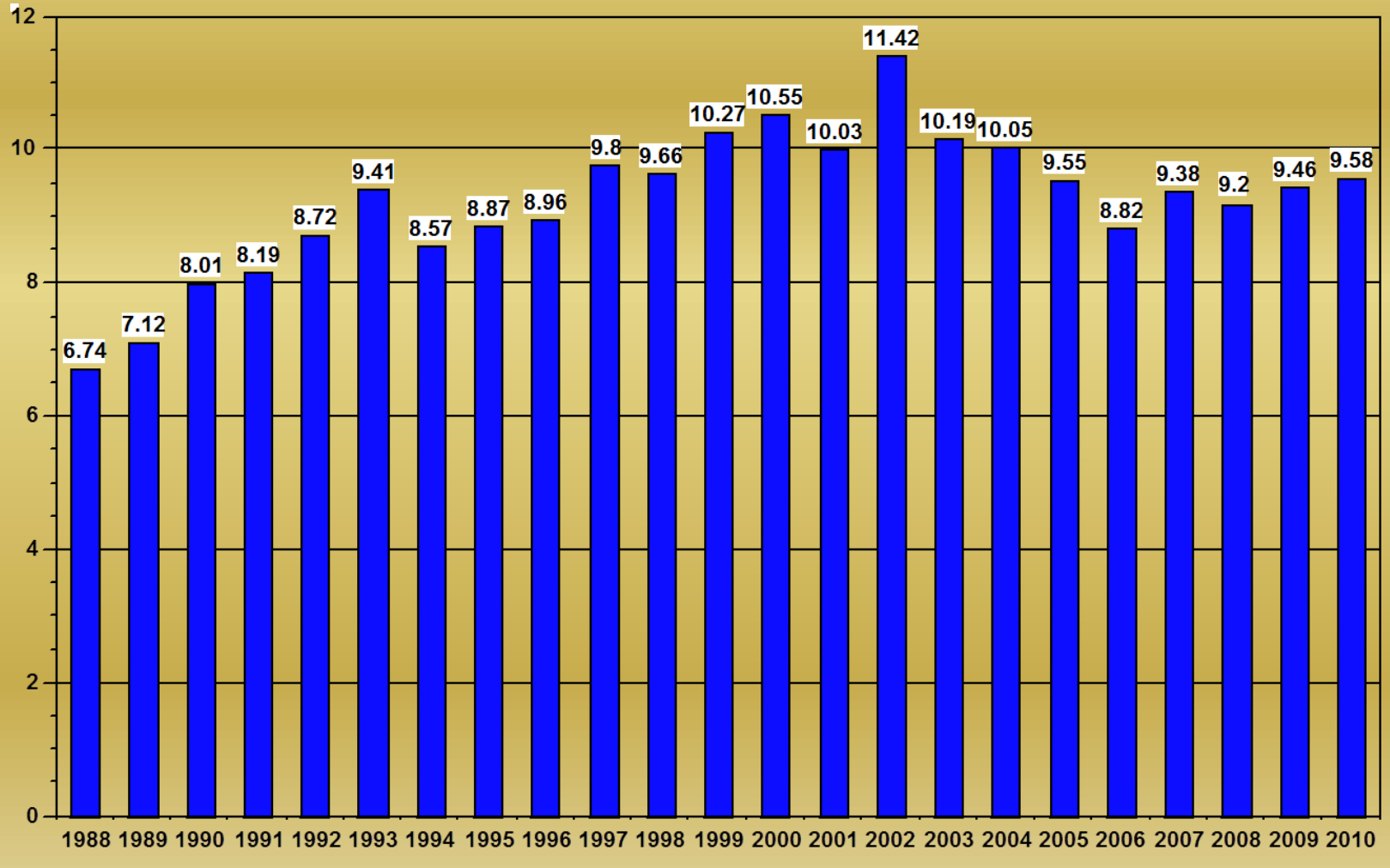
# How does reducing recidivism impact the state budget?

- $28,000 – the annual cost of incarcerating an offender
- $1,700 – the cost of booking an inmate into a prison facility (there are almost 700 Utahns with 11 to 15 prior bookings)
- $3,500 – the annual cost per offender to provide substance abuse treatment
- $3,900 – the annual cost per offender to provide sex offense therapy

# Parolee Population



# Parole Violators Average Time Returned to Prison



# How effective is rehabilitative programming?

- Participants in an education program while incarcerated are 20% less likely to reoffend.
- An investment of $1 million in correctional education prevents about 600 crimes, while the same money invested on incarceration without programming prevents 350 crimes.

-- UCLA study, Correctional Education as a Crime Control Program, 2004

- The chances of a parolee reoffending decrease by 72% if the offender completes a substance abuse treatment program while incarcerated.

-- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2010

# How effective is rehabilitative programming? (Continued)

- Offenders are 32% less likely to reoffend when they receive regular mental health or substance abuse treatment. This increases to 45% for individuals who participate in intensive residential treatment programs.
  - Utah Department of Human Services

- A 2004 study of the Con-Quest Residential Substance Abuse Program found that 95% of offenders who completed the program had not returned to prison after 18 months, compared to 46% of those who had not received substance abuse treatment.

# How effective is rehabilitative programming? (Continued)

Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2006)

- 16.7% reduction in crime for offenders who participate in intensive supervision: treatment oriented programs
- 20% reduction for participation in the Washington Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender Program
- 9% reduction for offenders who participate in a vocational training program (highest return per dollar spent)

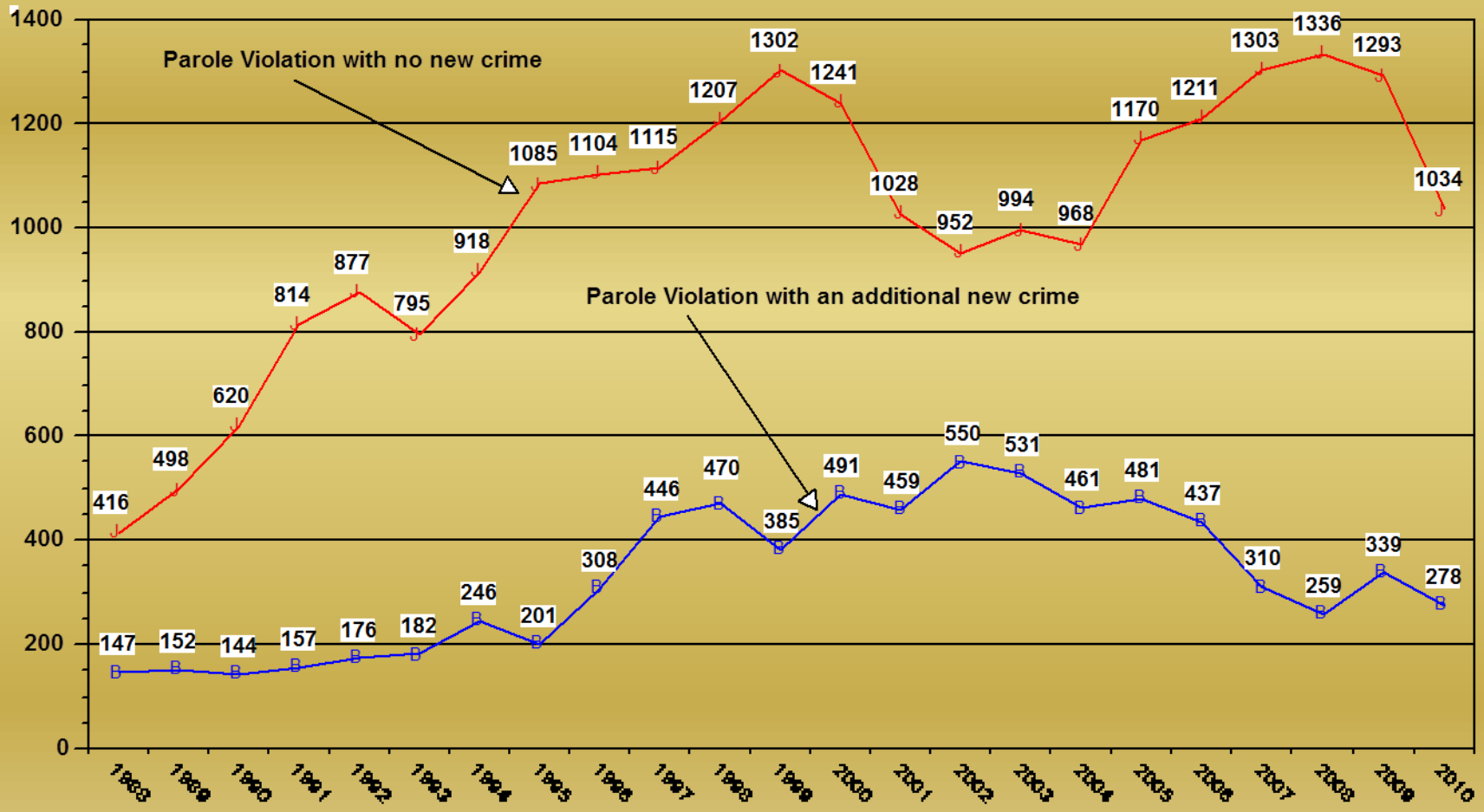
A copy of this report is included in your handout.

# Technical vs. New Commits

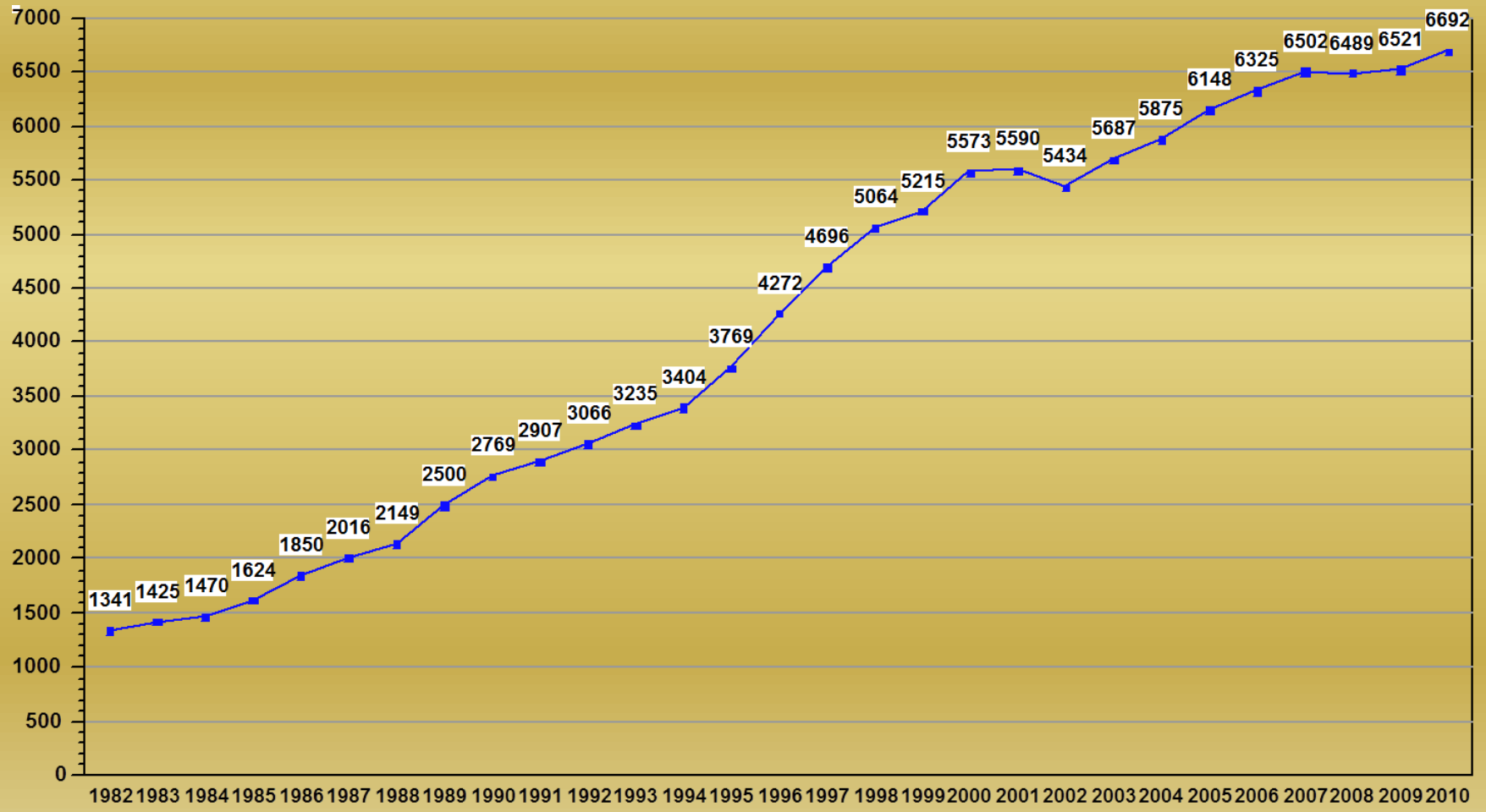
- Recidivism rates are measured by two categories: technical vs. new commitments
- Types of technical revocations (examples)
- The individual parole agents make a recommendation to the Board of Pardons and Parole to return an offender to prison. The decision rests with the Board.
- New commits represent offenders who are convicted of committing a crime while on parole.

# Utah Parole Violations

## Technical and New Commits 1988 through 2009

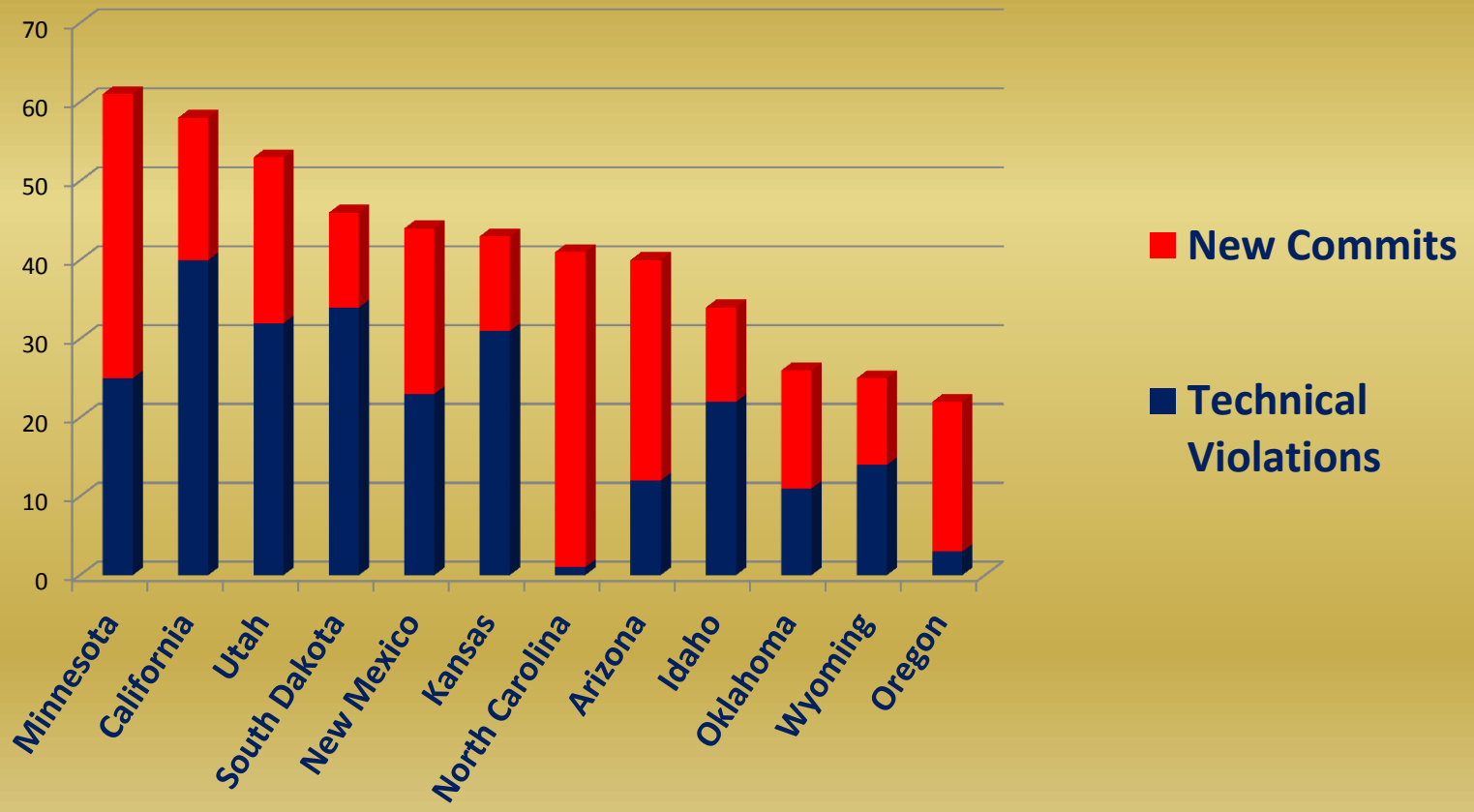


# Average Yearly Incarcerated Population in Utah



# How does Utah compare nationally?

# 2008 Recidivism Rates
## National Snapshot



# It's all apples and oranges

**Factors that complicate a state-by-state comparison:**

- Self-reporting
- Types of offenders who are incarcerated
- Duration of post-incarceration supervision
- Caseload, terms of supervision, policies on how to treat technical violators

# Types of Offenders that a State Incarcerates

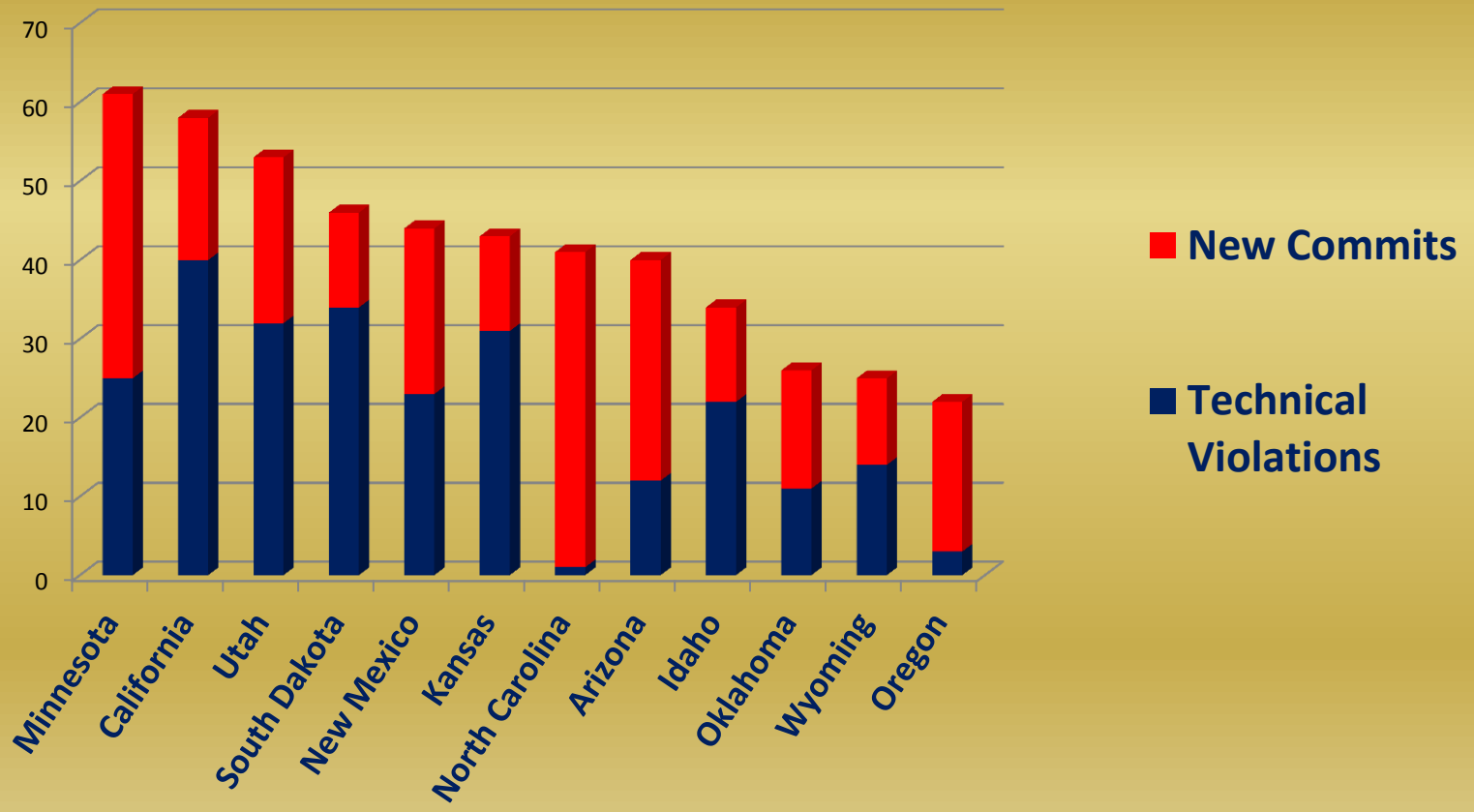
"A lot of people who might be put on probation or diverted into an alternative program in another state wind up going to prison in Oklahoma. These lower level folks aren't as likely to recidivate, so it benefits our overall numbers and makes us look like we're doing an even better job than we're doing."

-- Michael Connelly

Administrator of Evaluation and Analysis

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

# 2008 Recidivism Rates
## National Snapshot



# Impact of Alternative Sanctions on Recidivism

- Parole Violator Center,
- Drug Courts,
- Veterans Courts,
- probation,
- mental health programs, etc

# Duration of Post-incarceration Supervision

- The time spent on parole/probation supervision will impact a state's recidivism rates for technical violations.

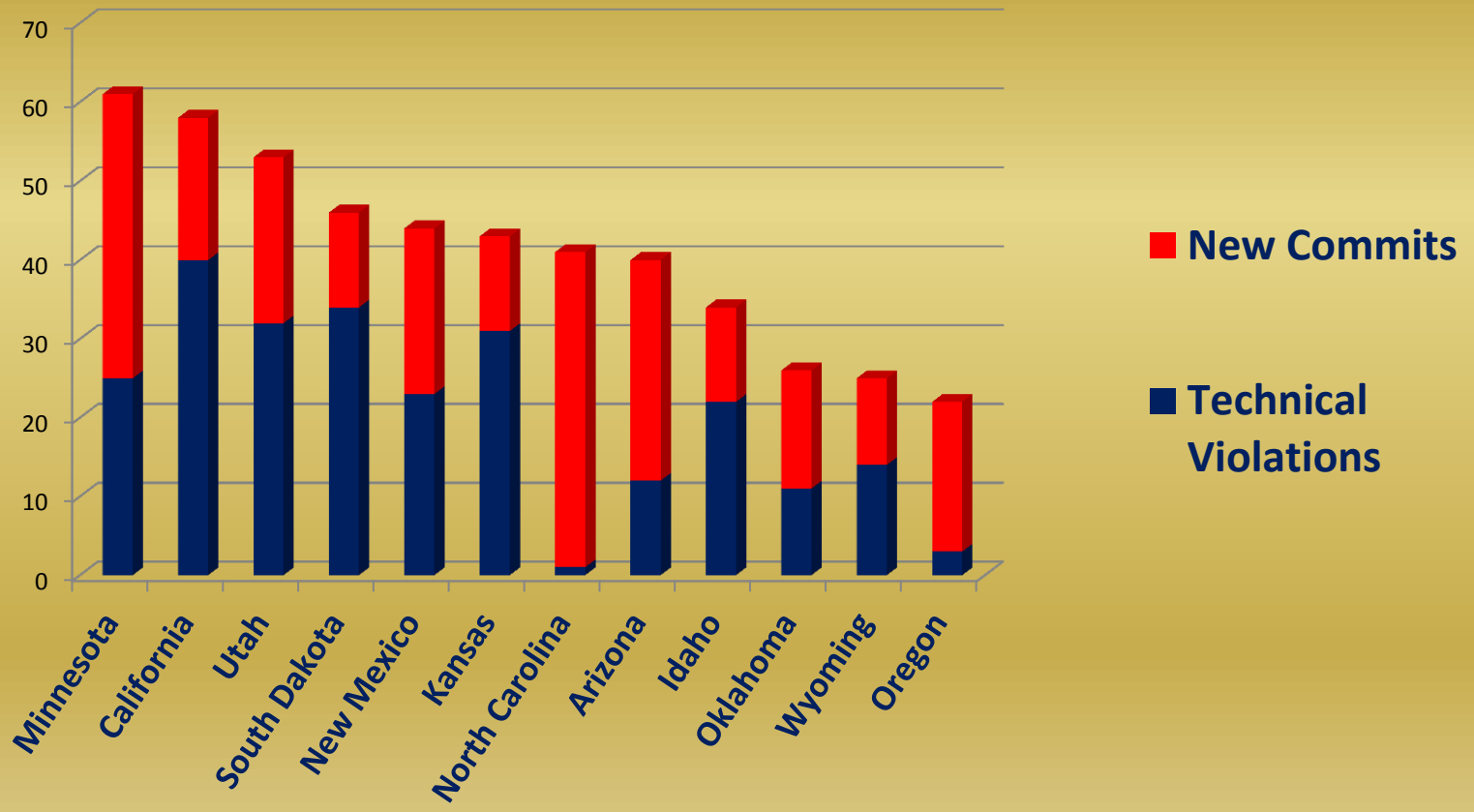
- The longer the average parolee/probationer spends under post-incarceration supervision, the probability decreases that such offender will return to custody.

# Duration of Post-incarceration Supervision (continued)

- Parole supervision in North Carolina (second lowest recidivism rate for technical violations) lasts between six and nine months.

- Arizona enforces a strict truth in sentencing policy, which results in more time served in custody and shorter parole supervision. Arizona reported a low 11.5 percent recidivism rate for technical violations.

# 2008 Recidivism Rates
## National Snapshot

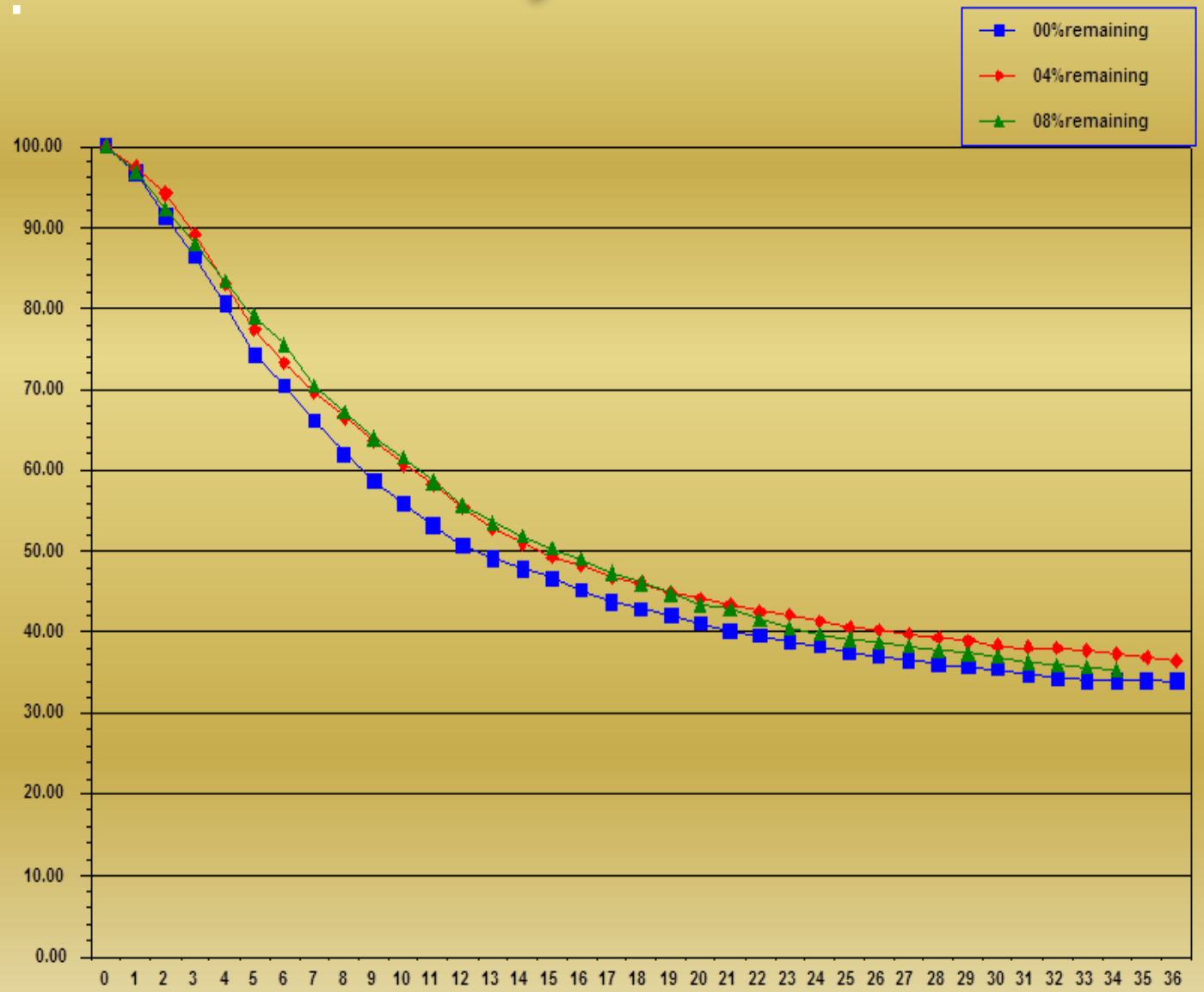


# Duration of Post-incarceration Supervision (continued)

- **Utah typically imposes a parole period of three years.**

- **Terms and conditions of parole/probation are determined by the Board of Pardons and Parole after careful consideration of the offender's risk, participation or completion of any treatment programs, behavior while incarcerated, and other considerations.**

# Recidivism by Time on Parole



# Complexity of Post-incarceration Supervision

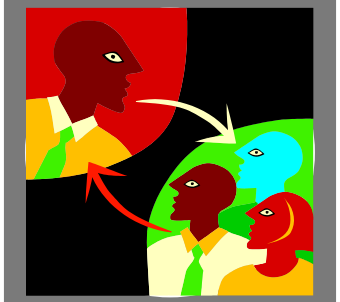
- **The complexity of the terms and conditions of parole or probation can impact the recidivism rate.**

- **Caseloads for parole agents, availability and frequency of drug testing, employment, GPS monitoring, etc.**

# What programs does Utah have that reduce recidivism?

Education/ Vocational Training


Behavior Modification/Life Skills



Substance Abuse Treatment

Mental Health Treatment

Sex Offender Therapy

# Education/Vocational Programs
## (Educational Partners and Programs)

### Davis Applied Technology Center

- Automotive (20 slots for male offenders, 600 class hours)
- Culinary arts (20 slots each for male and female offenders, 1240 class hours)
- Industrial maintenance (20 slots for male offenders, 960 class hours)
- Machine tool technology (20 slots for male offenders, 420 class hours)
- Office tech systems (20 slots for male offenders and 20 slots for female offenders, 630 class hours)

### Dixie Applied Technology College

- Residential construction (15 slots for male offenders, 510 hours)

# Education/Vocational Programs
## (Educational Partners and Programs)

### Snow College

- Building construction (20 slots for male offenders, 908 class hours)
- Culinary arts (20 slots for male offenders, 630 class hours)

### Uinta Basin Applied Technology College

- Residential construction (20 male offenders, 590 class hours)

# Education/Vocational Programs
## (Educational Partners and Programs)

**Deferred tuition payment program**

- **Student loan promissory notes are subject to the fixed SalliMae published interest rate**

- **Qualifying offenders must be citizens or legal residents, must be minimum or medium security inmates, and must be within 5 years of release.**

# Education/Vocational Programs
## (Educational Partners and Programs)

**Utah also provides both high school and post-secondary education to eligible offenders.**

- **The South Park Academy in Draper and the Central Utah Academy in Gunnison provide high school education services.**
- **During 2011, approximately 480 inmates graduated from these two high school education programs.**

# Substance Abuse Treatment

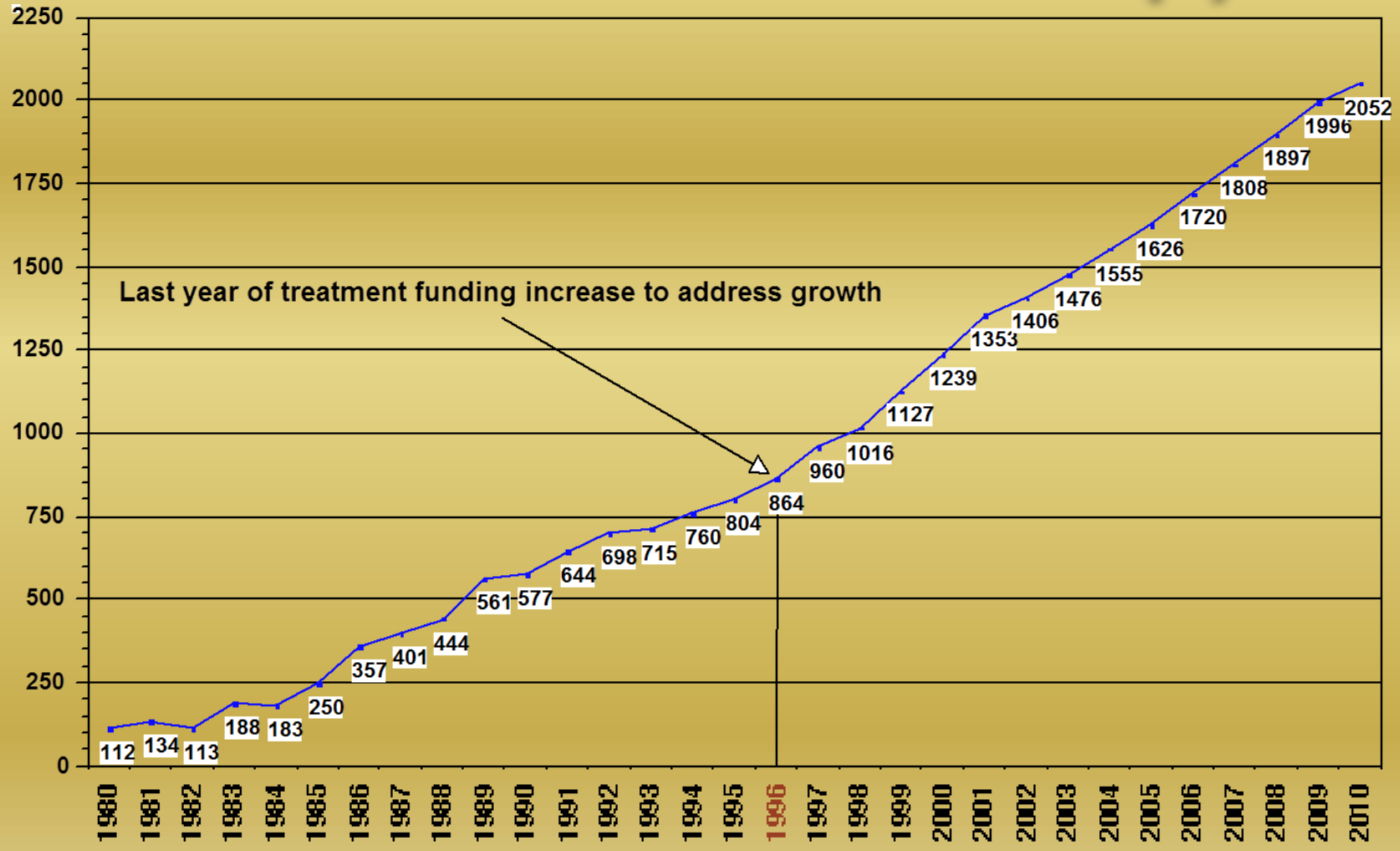
**In-custody substance abuse counseling and therapy (832 total slots funded)**

- Con-Quest (400 male offenders)
- Hope (288 male offenders)
- Ex-Cell (144 female offenders)

Average yearly cost per in-custody substance abuse treatment slot - $3,162

There are currently 3,500 offenders waiting to receive substance abuse treatment and therapy.

# Sex Offender Therapy



# Need for Additional Treatment Funding

- As of November, 2011, there were 1,923 incarcerated offenders who had one or more active cases that would require sex offender treatment.
- Typical treatment lasts about 18 months, but this varies by offender and needs.
- The Department of Corrections is currently funded for approximately 250 sex offender treatment slots.

# What are Other States Doing?

- Hawaii – HOPE
- Washington
- California – 10 recommendations from summary review of 17 studies

# References


- State of Recidivism – The revolving door of America's prisons, The PEW Center on the States, April 2011
  - http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/State_Recidivism_Revolving_Door_America_Prisons%20.pdf

- Probation and Parole Violations - State responses, NCSL, November 2008

Review of what other states are doing and what has been demonstrated to be effective at reducing recidivism.

  - http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/civil-and-criminal-justice/probation-and-parole-violations.aspx

# References (continued)


- **Exit Strategy for Parolees, NCSL, June 2010**

Overview of how some states are addressing offender needs and reducing the rate of inmates who reoffend.

  - http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/civil-and-criminal-justice/exit-strategy-for-parolees.aspx

- **Recidivism in Utah, American Society for Public Administration, February 2011**

A panel discussion focusing on Salt Lake County and how agencies are interacting and cooperating to reduce recidivism.

  - http://www.cppa.utah.edu/publications/criminal_justice/PP_Recidivism_in_Utah.pdf

- **Innovations in Community Corrections – Controlling Crime, Prison Populations and Costs, NCSL, 2010**

Overview of incentive funding, investing in evidence-based programs, and addressing offender needs.

  - http://www.ncsl.org/documents/cj/pew/innovations.pdf