



Challenges and Strategies to Develop a Policy Framework for Wisconsin

January 12, 2009

JUSTICE ★ **CENTER**
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
Collaborative Approaches to Public Safety

Dr. Tony Fabelo
Director of Research

Marshall Clement
Justice Reinvestment Project Director

Mike Eisenberg
Research Manager

Marc Pelka
Policy Analyst

Overview

Challenges

Key Drivers of the Prison Population

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

Challenges

- **Violent Crime Appears to be Increasing**
- **Prison Population Increasing and System Overcrowded**
- **Rising Correctional Costs and Overall State Fiscal Crisis**

Crime Trends

Change from 2000-2007

Violent Crime*

+30%

Violent Arrests

-4%

Property Crime

1%

Property Arrests

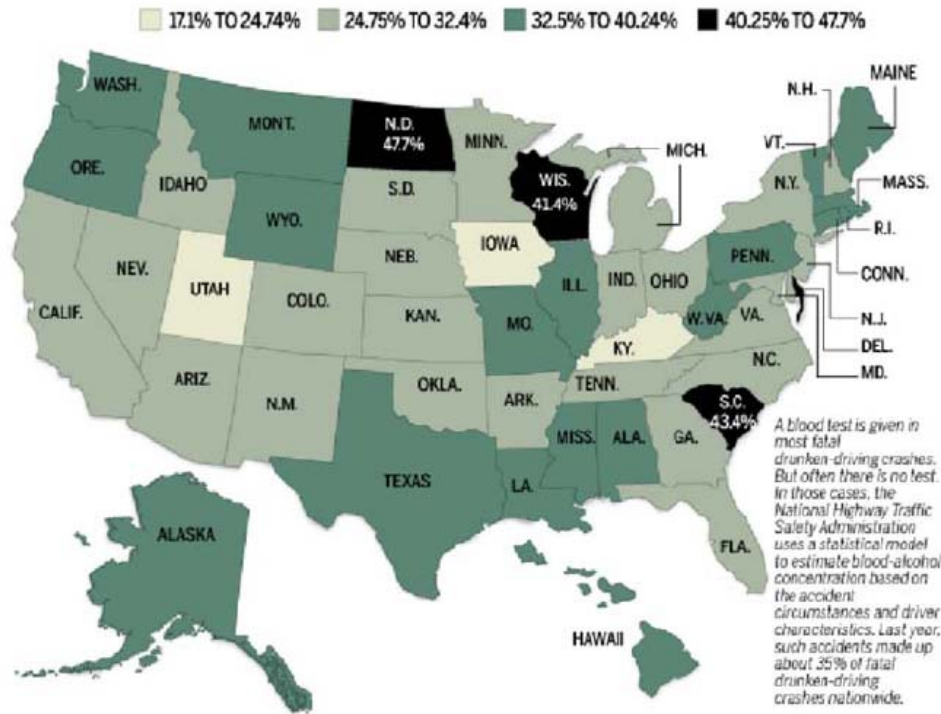
+9%

*OJA Statistics. Crime data is questionable due to changes in reporting and unexplained variations during 2000-2007.

OWI Issue

Percentage of Fatal Accidents Where Driver has a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 or higher, 2007

Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Source: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

Graphic/ENRIQUE RODRIGUEZ
Interactive/ALISON SHERWOOD

Wisconsin had the third highest percentage of alcohol-related auto fatalities

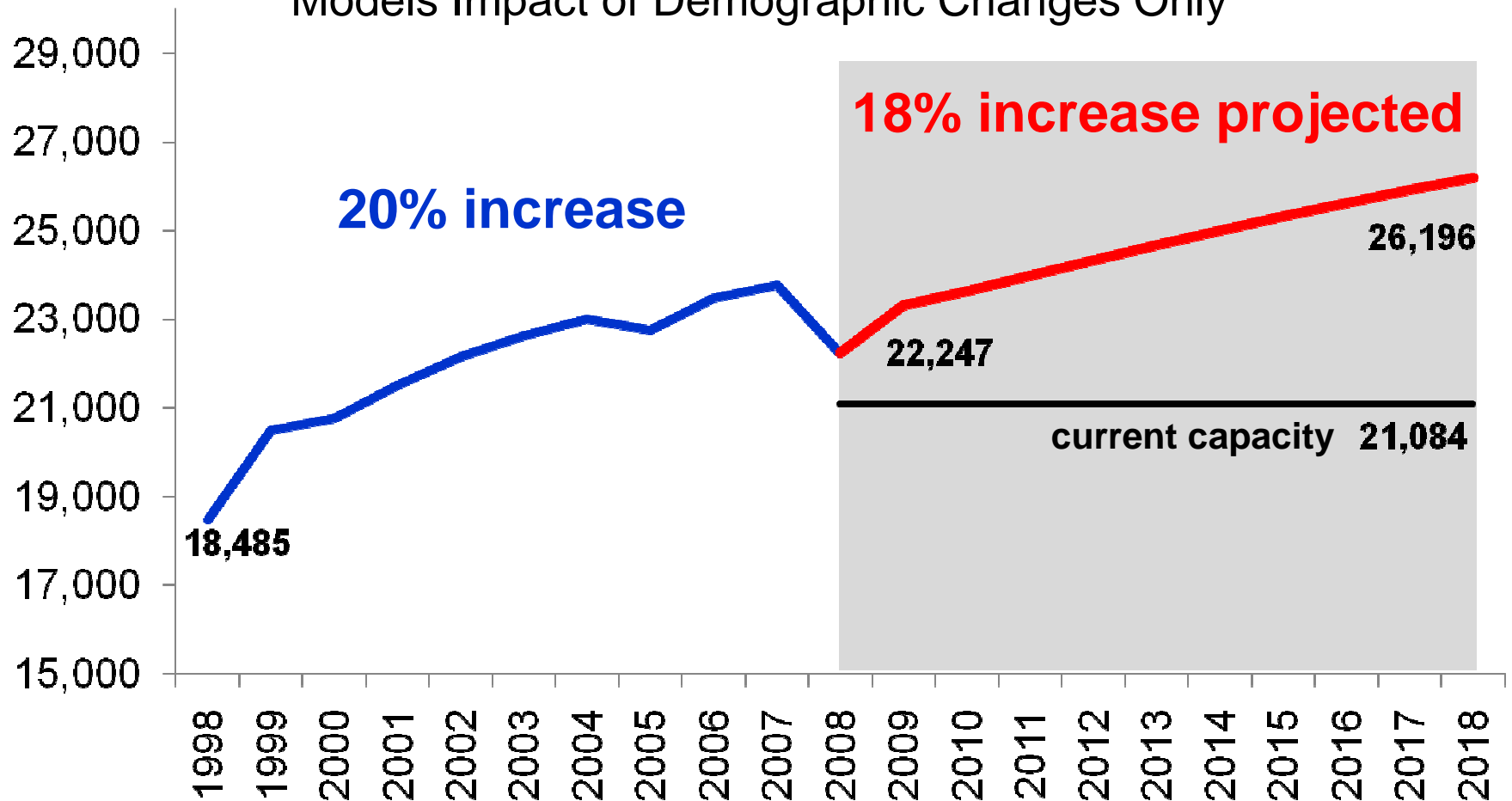
Year	# of Fatal Accidents Involving Alcohol
2000	345
2001	364
2002	364
2003	387
2004	358
2005	369
2006	307
2007	313

Source: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, "Traffic Safety Facts." Annual Reports

Prison Population Projection

Applied Population Laboratory Projection for WI

Models Impact of Demographic Changes Only



Prison Population Trends

Prison Population
22,247

Over capacity

Cost per Offender:
\$44,118*

Construction Costs
Associated
with the
Hunt & Mead
10 Year Plan:
\$1.2 billion

DOC Capital Budget
Request: \$126m for
2,000+ beds

* Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, Wisconsin Blue Book

Prison Population Trends

**898 Contract
Beds with
County Jails**

**Large Jail
Population:
14,778**

**Jail Capacity:
17,417**
(September 2008)

**African-
Americans are
5% of WI's
population**

&

**44% of WI's
prison
population**

**No Research
Capacity at
DOC to Analyze
Data**

**Need to
Improve
Assessment of
Risk & Need**

Fiscal Situation

Change in Spending on Corrections

1998: \$680m
2008: \$1.2b

80% percent increase

For every dollar spent on higher education...

Wisconsin spends \$0.73 on corrections (15th highest)

Minnesota: \$0.17
Texas: \$0.51

Budget Deficit for FY2009-2011

\$5.2 billion
(Gov)

Overview

Overview of Challenges

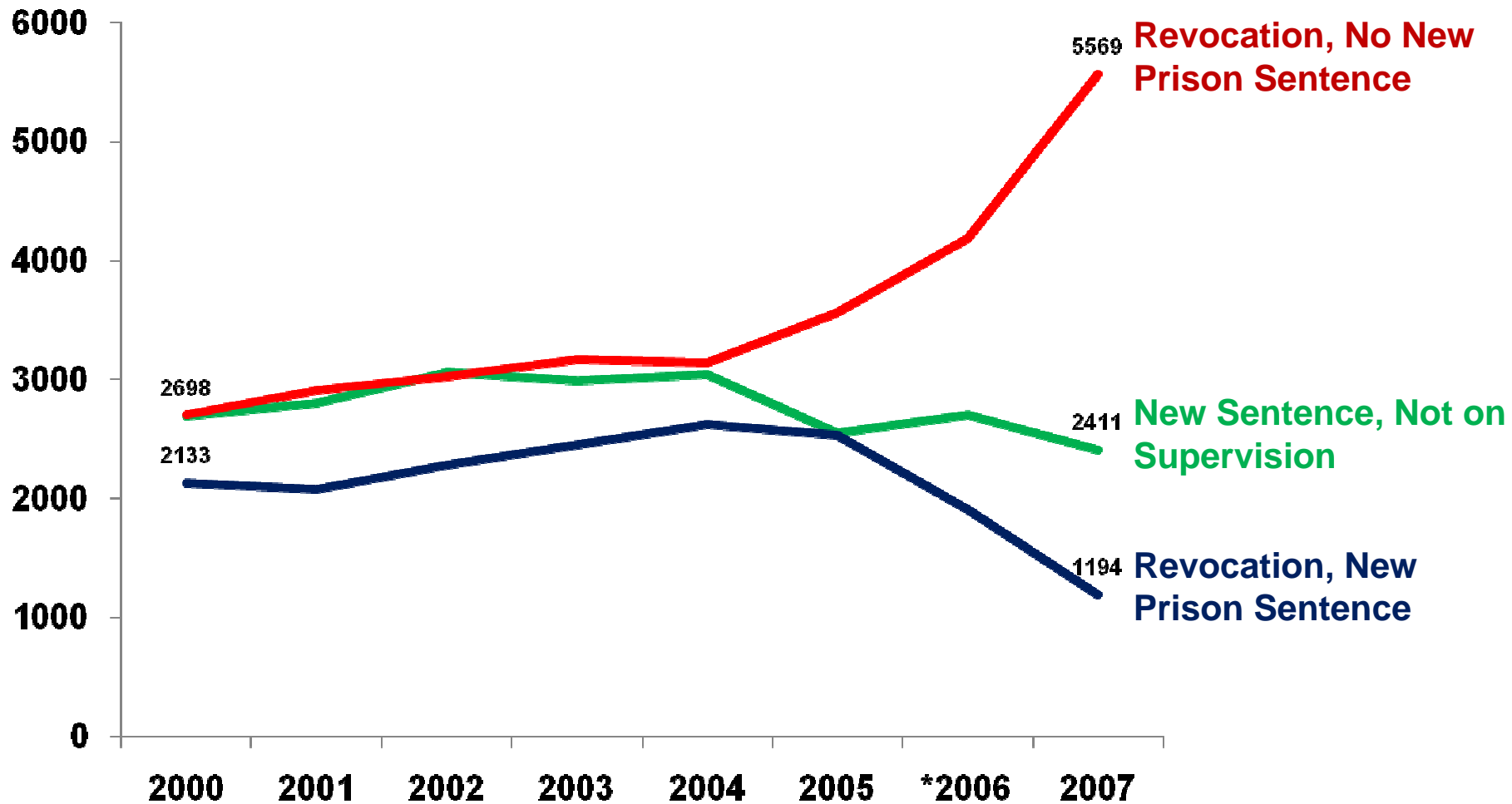
Key Drivers of the Prison Population

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

Key Drivers of the Prison Population

- **Increase in Revocations to Prison**
- **Prevalence of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Disorders**
- **Unemployment Rates & Other Risk/Needs**

Change in Admission Types, 2000-2007



Sentence Length & Admissions to Prison

	2000	2007	% Change
Average Prison Confinement Time (new sentences)	Data confounded by changes to TIS		Slight Increase
Admissions	7,534	9,120	+ 21%
→ New Sentences	2,698	2,411	- 11%
→ Revocations, w/ New Sentence	2,133	1,194	- 44%
→ Revocations, w/ No New Sentence	2,703	5,569	+ 106%

Revocations from Felony Supervised Pop.

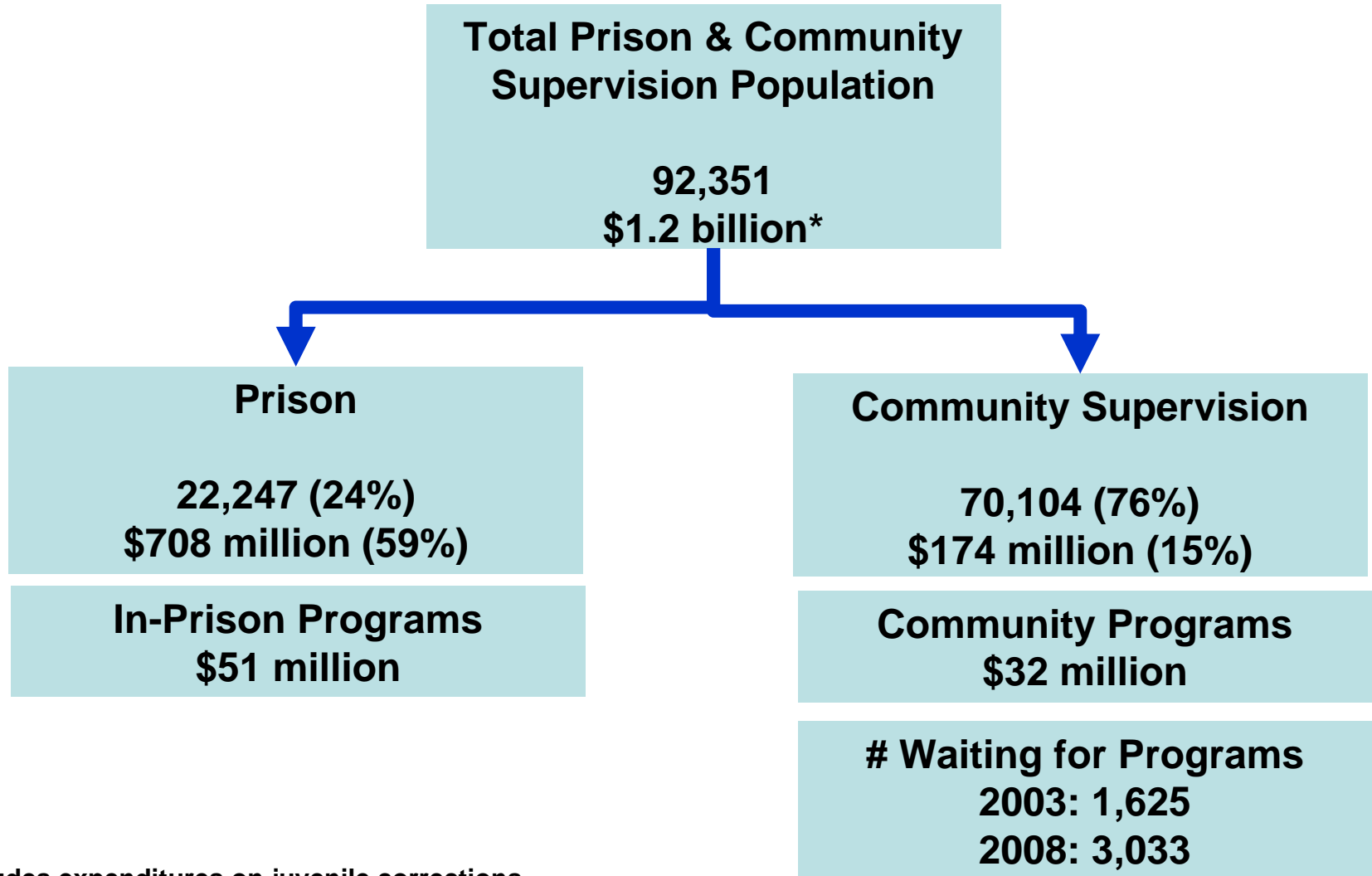
	2000	2007	% Change
Population Under Supervision (felony probation, ES, parole, and MR)	64,835	71,171	+ 10%
Revocations to Prison (w/ or w/o new sentence)	4,836	6,763	+ 40%

Revocations w/o new sentence grew from 36% in 2000 to 61% of admissions in 2007

2007 Prison Population

**45% New Sent.
15% Rev. w/ NS
40% Rev. w/o NS**

Resources for Prison vs. Community Supervision



* Includes expenditures on juvenile corrections.

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Disorders

Indicated Needs in DOC Assessments

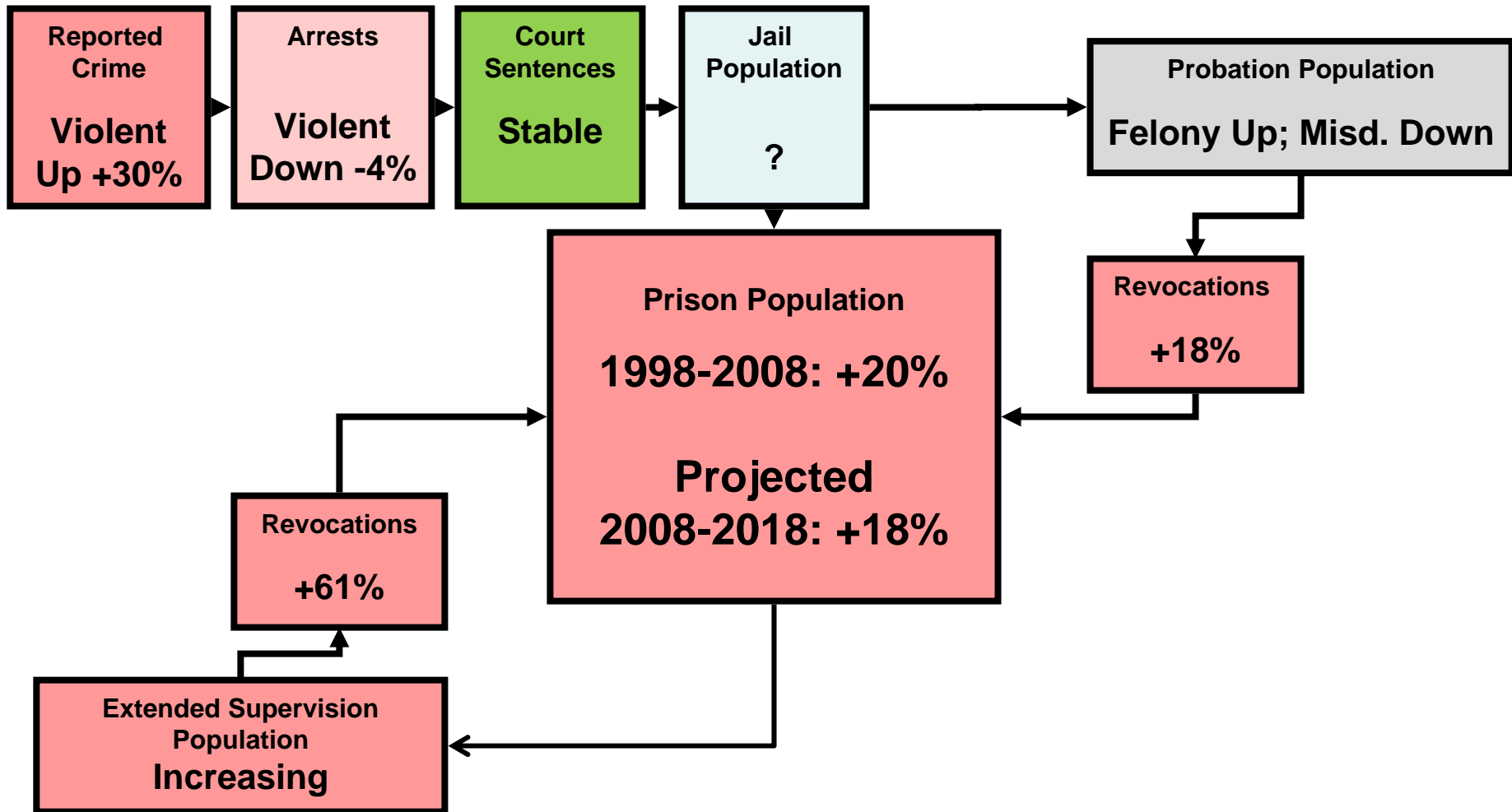
Admission Type	Mental Health Disorder	Substance Abuse Disorder	Alcohol Disorder
New Sentence	10%	11%	12%
Revocations w/ New Sentence	5%	33%	31%
Revocations w/ No New Sentence	20%	34%	29%

Unemployment Among Supervised Pop.

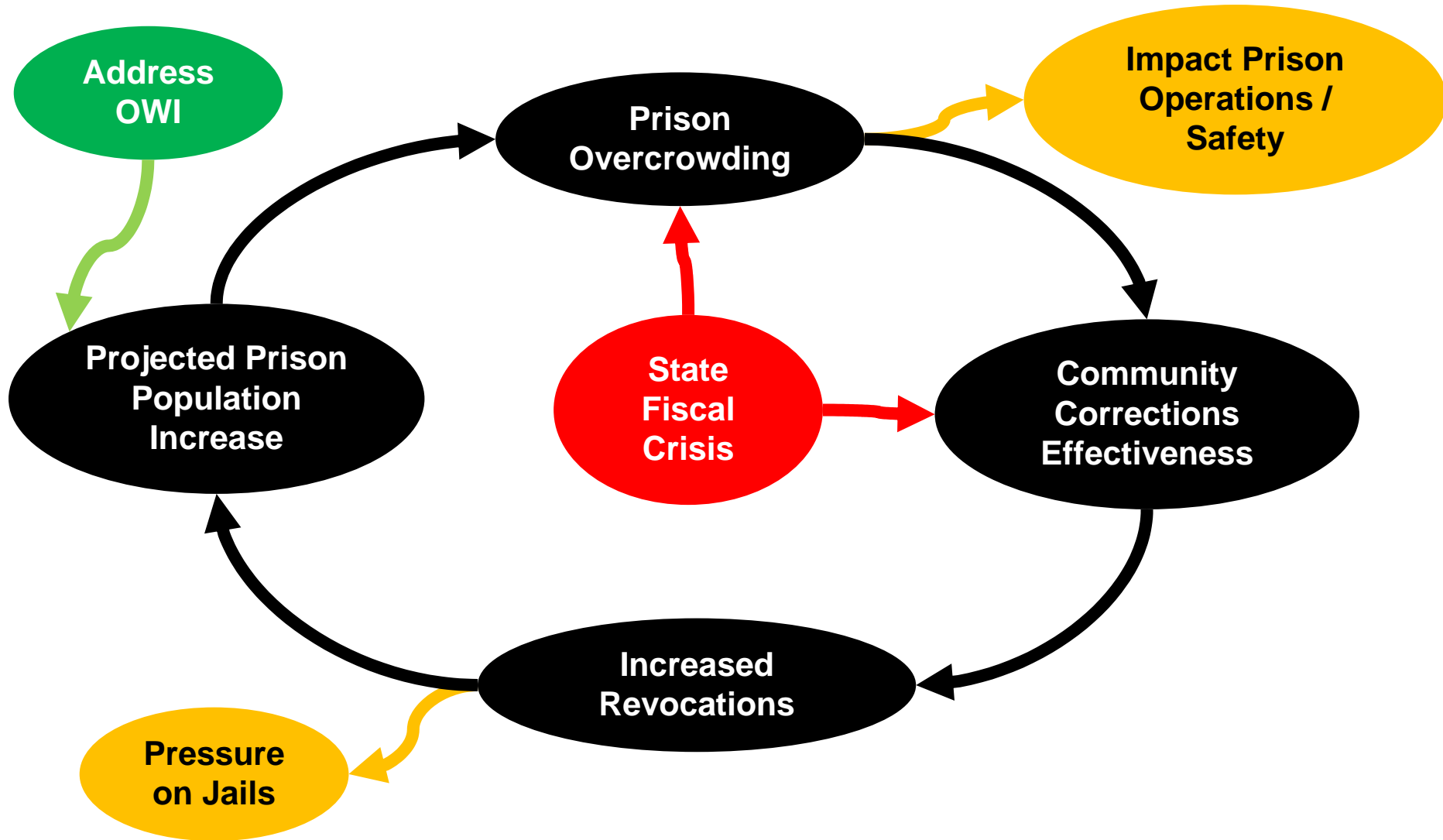
Indicated Needs in DOC Assessments

Supervision Type	Unemployed	Employed
Probation	54%	46%
Parole / ES	82%	18%

System Overview, 2000-2007



Big Picture



Overview

Overview of Challenges

Key Drivers of the Prison Population

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

1. New Prison Population Projection Using a Model of WI's CJ System

- JFA Institute to develop new projection
- Projection will use a model that simulates Wisconsin's CJ system
- Similar to projection technology used by 30 other states
- More accurate & will allow committee to model the impact of policy options

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

2. Analyze Why Violent Crime Might be Rising & Arrests Declining

- Focus group with law enforcement officials
- Dig deeper into crime and arrest data

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

3. Review the probation & extended supervision system to determine why revocations to prison increased 40% since 2000

- Map change in revocations by geography
- Focus group with supervision staff
- Review revocation policy & processes
- Evaluate alternative to revocation programs and strategies
- Develop recidivism figures if possible

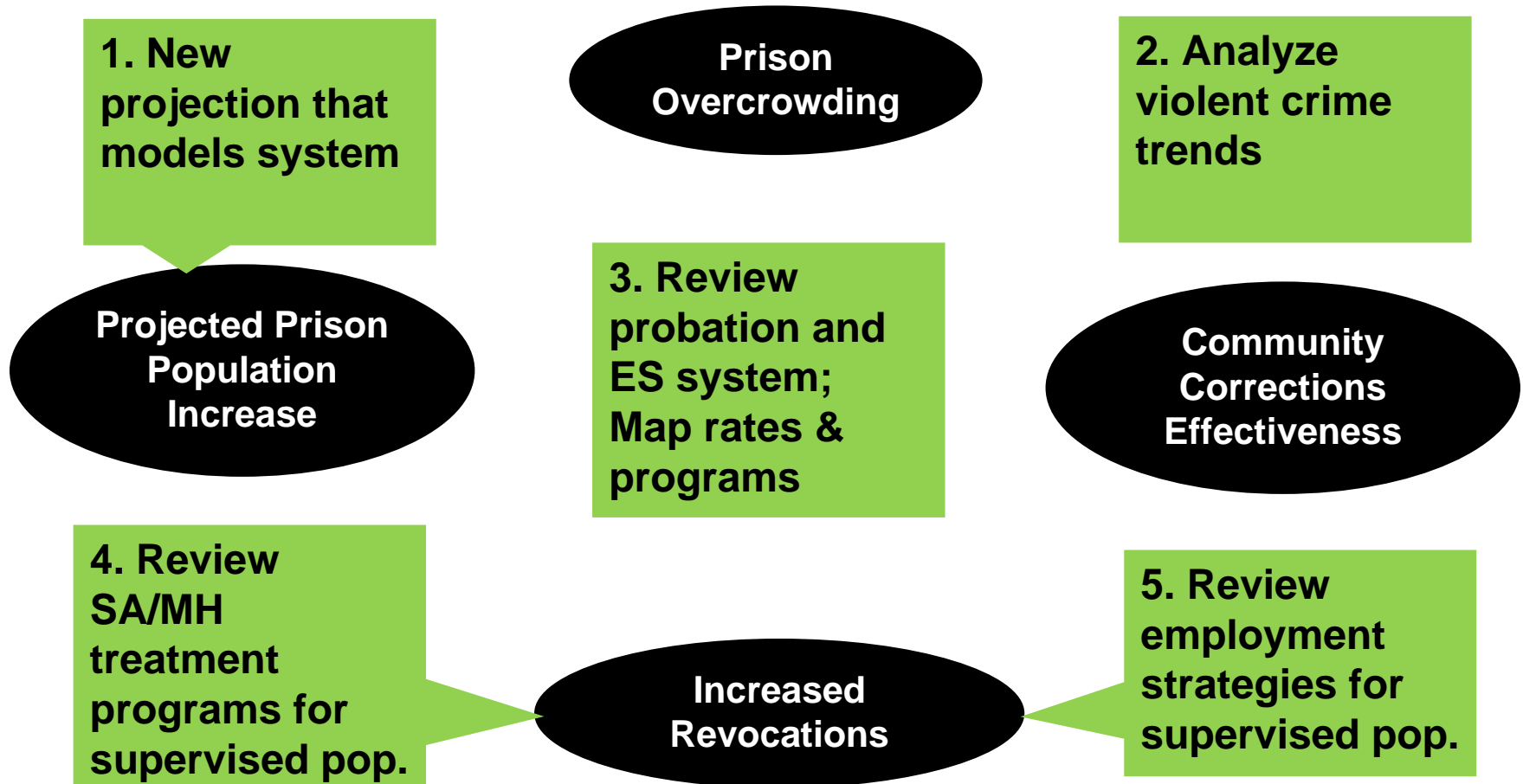
Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

- 4. Bring in experts in substance abuse and mental health services to review the capacity and quality of programs for people on supervision**
 - Processes for assessment & coordination of treatment programs
 - Funding structures & program quality review
 - Determine what, if any, gap for services exists, and for which populations
 - Connect to Chief Justice's CJ/MH Task Force

Areas for Analysis & Next Steps

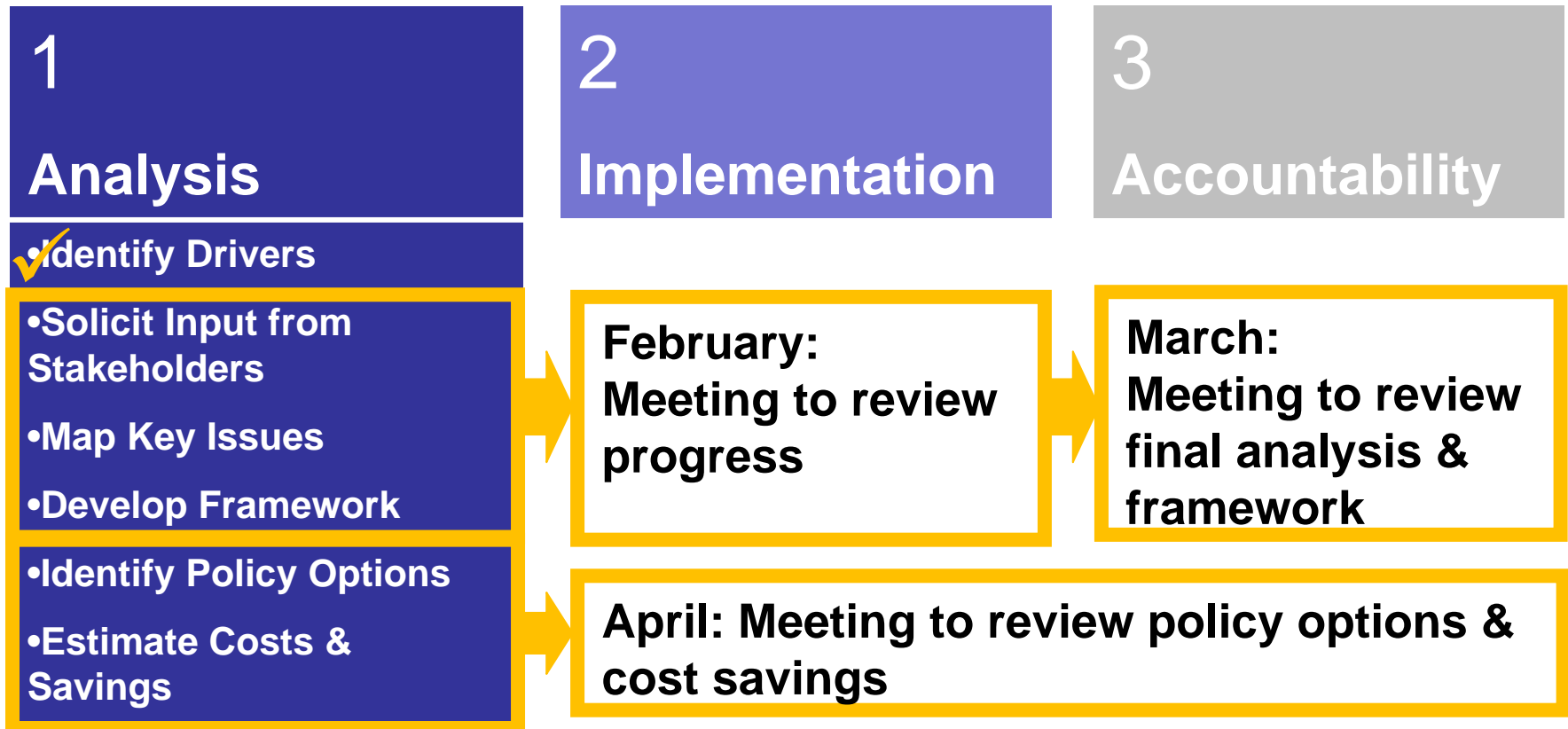
- 5. Review the capacity and quality of current reentry and employment strategies for people on supervision**
 - Target population for employment programs
 - Leveraging private sector resources for training & transitional employment

Big Picture & Areas for Analysis



Proposed Process

Bipartisan, inter-branch, bicameral structure



Thank You



CONTACT

Marc Pelka

Policy Analyst

(646) 383-5720

mpelka@csg.org