

# ***Evidence-Based Policy Options To Reduce Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime***

**Sentencing Guidelines Commission  
SeaTac, Washington  
June 13, 2008**

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# Washington State Institute for Public Policy

**Created by the 1983 Washington Legislature**

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

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# Themes

## **1. Individually:**

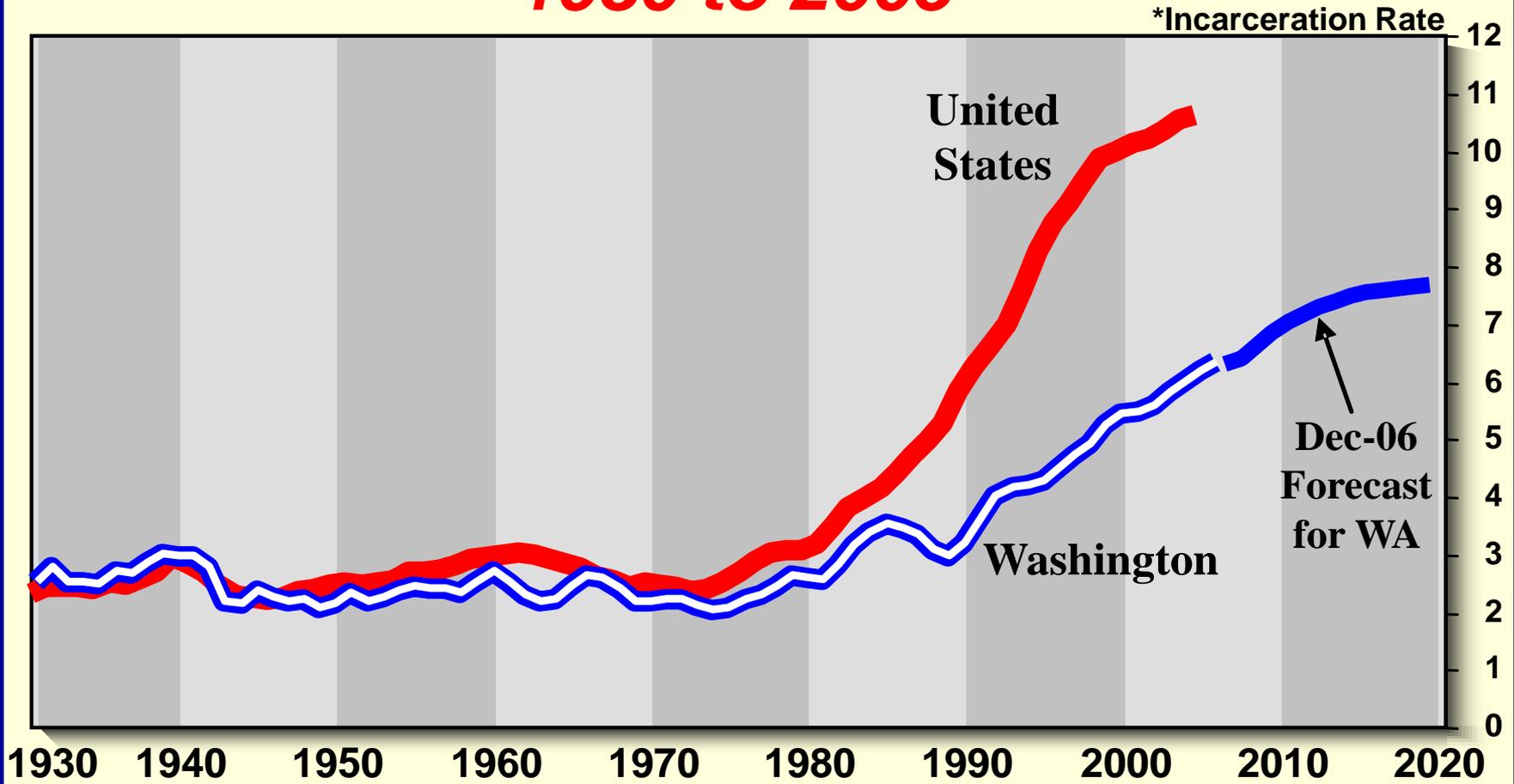
**What works and what is economic?**

## **2. Collectively:**

**Can a portfolio of evidence-based programs affect statewide outcomes?**

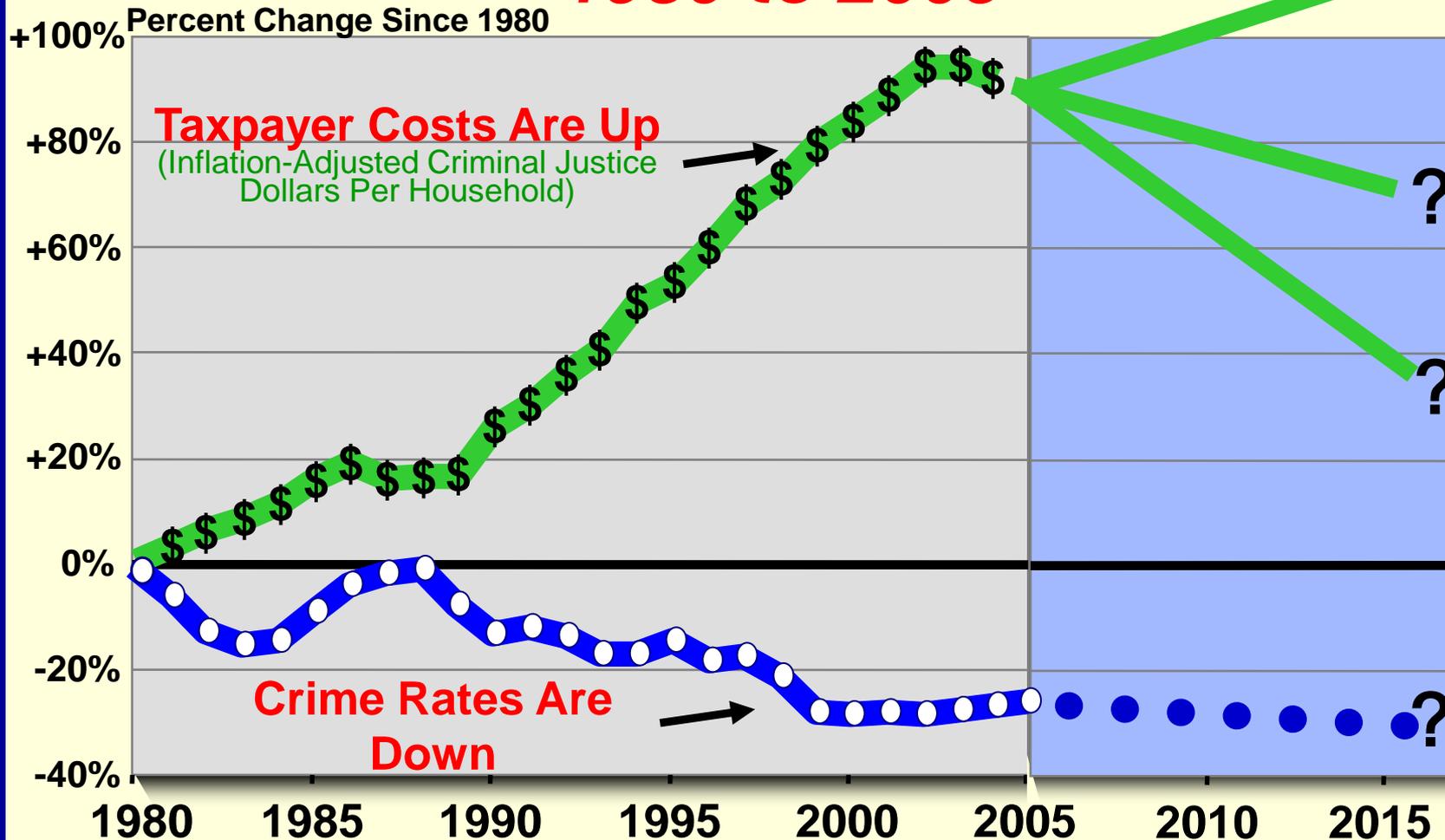
## **3. Recent Legislative Policy Decisions**

# 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.

# Crime Rates and Taxpayer Costs: 1980 to 2005



All Data are for Washington State: 1980 to 2005

***“Evidence-Based”***  
***Public Policy Levers to Affect Crime***

✓ **Prisons/Jails**

✓ **Police**

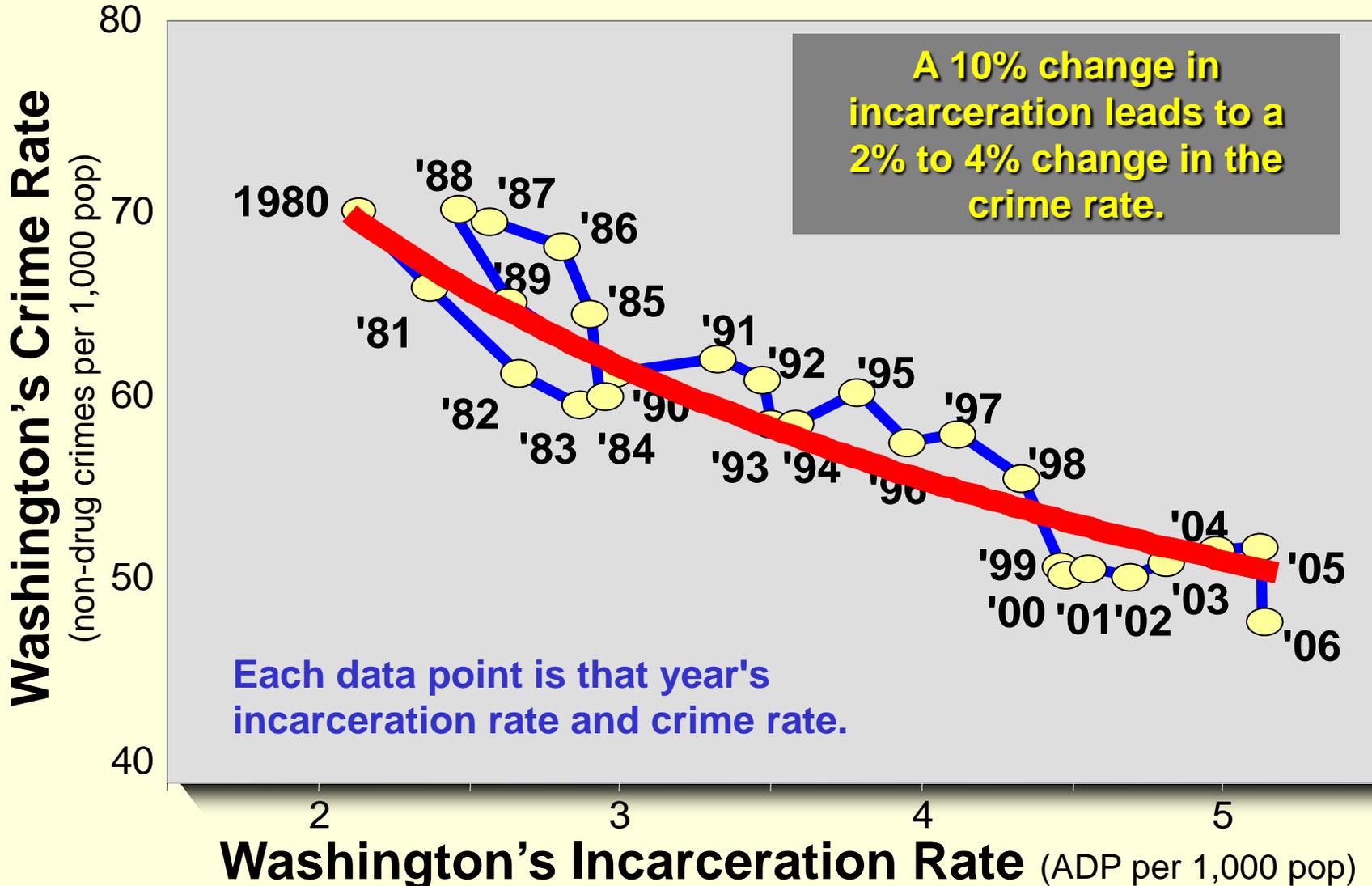
✓ **Programs**

**All three cost money (no free lunch)**

**All three can be effective (or ineffective)**

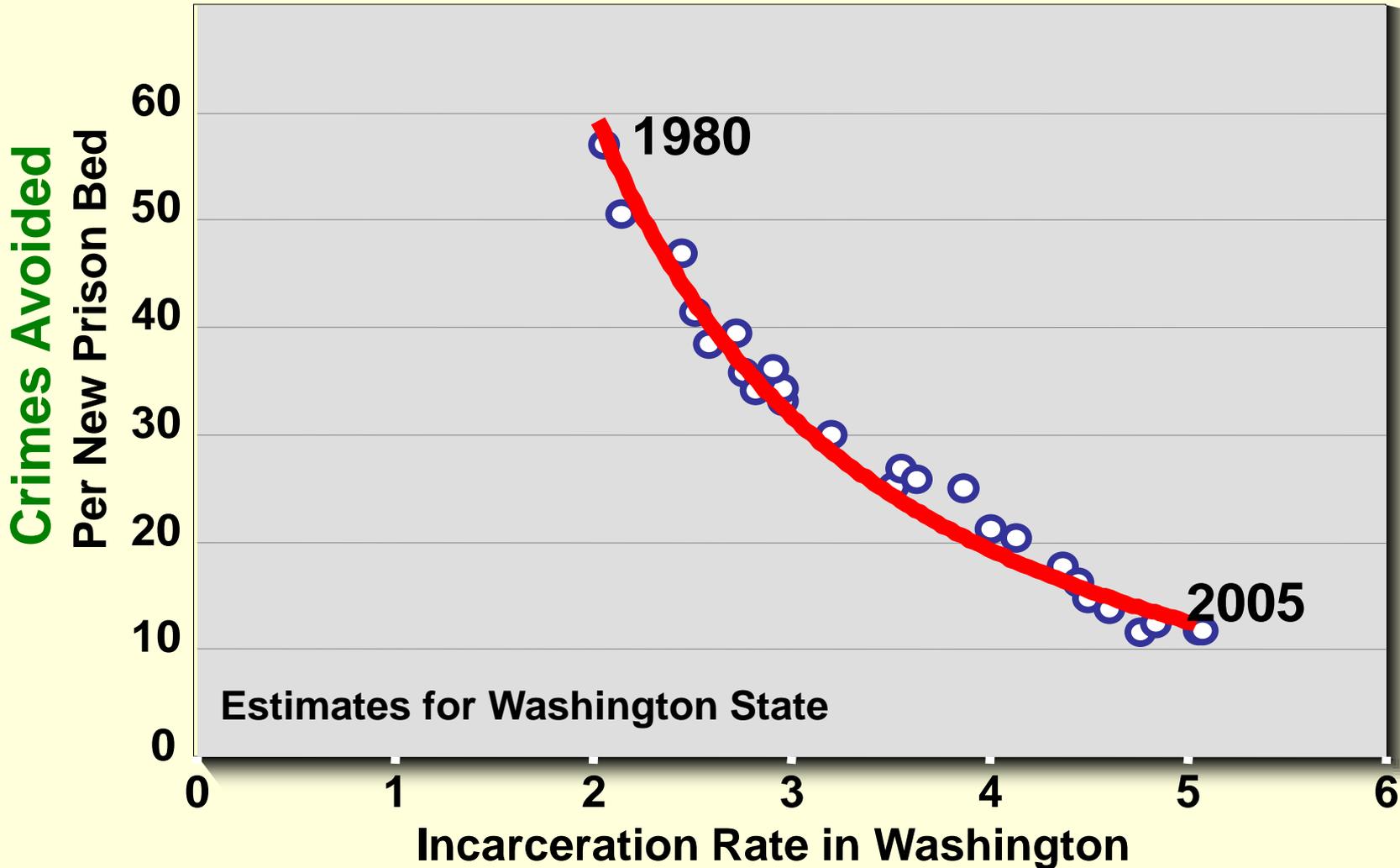
**Therefore, → **Portfolio****

# Does Prison Affect the Crime Rate?

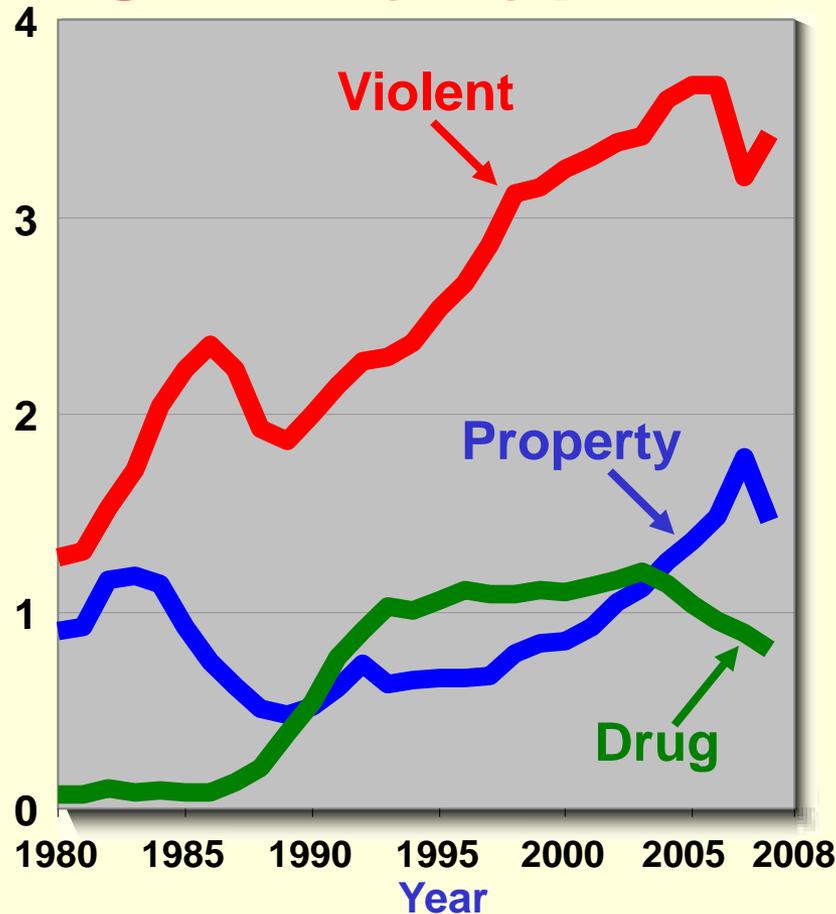


# Prison & Diminishing Returns

As incarceration rates are raised, prison's marginal effectiveness declines



# Prison Incarceration Rates In Washington, by Type of Offender



Source: Washington Department of Corrections. The incarceration rate is defined as the number of prisoners per 1,000 adults (ages 18 to 49) in Washington. Classification based on the immediate offense.

# ***Our Research Approach: 3 Steps***

## **1. What works & what doesn't?**

- ✓ We located 571 **rigorous** (comparison group), **real world** evaluations of **adult** and **juvenile** corrections programs, & **prevention**

## **2. What are the economics of each option?**

- ✓ We estimated the **taxpayer** and **crime victim** benefits and costs to people in Washington

## **3. Statewide, how would alternative “portfolios” affect prison demand, spending, & crime?**

- ✓ We assessed market potential & developed **Level**, **“Moderate”** & **“Aggressive”** portfolios

**Current**

# Our "Consumer Reports" List

1. What Works?
2. What Doesn't?
3. What Are the Benefits & Costs?

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**Exhibit 4**  
**Reducing Crime With Evidence-Based Options: What Works, and Benefits & Costs**

Washington State Institute for Public Policy Estimates as of October, 2006	Effect on Crime Outcomes  Percent change in crime outcomes, & the number of evidence-based studies on which the estimate is based (in parentheses)  (1)	Benefits and Costs (Per Participant, Net Present Value, 2006 Dollars)			
		Benefits to Crime Victims (of the reduction in crime)  (2)	Benefits to Taxpayers (of the reduction in crime)  (3)	Costs (marginal program cost, compared to the cost of alternative)  (4)	Benefits (total) Minus Costs (per participant)  (5)
<b>Programs for People in the Adult Offender System</b>					
Vocational education in prison	-9.0% (4)	\$8,114	\$6,806	\$1,182	\$13,738
Intensive supervision: treatment-oriented programs	-16.7% (11)	\$9,318	\$9,369	\$7,124	\$11,563
General education in prison (basic education or post-secondary)	-7.0% (17)	\$6,325	\$5,306	\$962	\$10,669
Cognitive-behavioral therapy in prison or community	-6.3% (25)	\$5,658	\$4,746	\$105	\$10,299
Drug treatment in community	-9.3% (6)	\$5,133	\$5,495	\$574	\$10,054
Correctional industries in prison	-5.9% (4)	\$5,360	\$4,496	\$417	\$9,491
Drug treatment in prison (therapeutic communities or outpatient)	-5.7% (20)	\$5,133	\$4,306	\$1,604	\$7,835
Adult drug courts	-8.0% (57)	\$4,395	\$4,705	\$4,333	\$4,767
Employment and job training in the community	-4.3% (16)	\$2,373	\$2,386	\$400	\$4,359
Electronic monitoring to offset jail time	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	\$870	\$870
Sex offender treatment in prison with aftercare	-7.0% (6)	\$6,442	\$2,885	\$12,585	-\$3,258
Intensive supervision: surveillance-oriented programs	0% (23)	\$0	\$0	\$3,747	-\$3,747
Washington's Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender program	-20.0% (1)	\$18,020	\$15,116	n/e	n/e
Drug treatment in jail	-4.5% (1)	\$2,481	\$0	\$2,656	n/e
Adult boot camps	0% (22)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Domestic violence education/cognitive-behavioral treatment	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Jail diversion for mentally ill offenders	0% (11)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Life Skills education programs for adults	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
<b>Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Offender System</b>					
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (v. regular group care)	-22.0% (3)	\$51,828	\$32,915	\$6,945	\$77,798
Adolescent Diversion Project (for lower risk offenders)	-19.9% (6)	\$24,328	\$18,208	\$1,913	\$40,623
Family Integrated Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$30,708	\$19,502	\$9,665	\$40,545
Functional Family Therapy on probation	-15.9% (7)	\$19,529	\$14,817	\$2,325	\$31,821
Multisystemic Therapy	-10.5% (10)	\$12,855	\$9,622	\$4,264	\$18,213
Aggression Replacement Training	-7.3% (4)	\$8,897	\$6,659	\$897	\$14,660
Teen courts	-11.1% (5)	\$5,907	\$4,238	\$936	\$9,208
Juvenile boot camp to offset institution time	0% (8)	\$0	\$0	-\$8,077	\$8,077
Sex offender cognitive-behavioral treatment	-10.2% (5)	\$32,515	\$8,377	\$33,064	\$7,829
Restorative justice for low-risk offenders	-8.7% (21)	\$4,628	\$3,320	\$880	\$7,067
Interagency coordination programs	-2.5% (15)	\$3,084	\$2,308	\$205	\$5,186
Juvenile drug courts	-3.2% (2)	\$4,232	\$3,167	\$2,777	\$4,622
Regular surveillance-oriented parole (v. no parole supervision)	0% (2)	\$0	\$0	\$1,201	-\$1,201
Juvenile intensive probation supervision programs	0% (3)	\$0	\$0	\$1,598	-\$1,598
Juvenile wilderness challenge	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	\$3,085	-\$3,085
Juvenile intensive parole supervision	0% (1)	\$0	\$0	\$5,460	-\$5,460
Scared Straight	+6.8% (10)	-\$8,355	-\$6,253	\$58	-\$14,667
Counseling/psychotherapy for juvenile offenders	-18.9% (6)	\$23,126	\$17,309	n/e	n/e
Juvenile education programs	-17.5% (3)	\$41,181	\$26,153	n/e	n/e
Other family-based therapy programs	-12.2% (12)	\$15,006	\$11,231	n/e	n/e
Team Child	-10.9% (2)	\$5,759	\$4,131	n/e	n/e
Juvenile behavior modification	-8.2% (4)	\$19,271	\$12,238	n/e	n/e
Life skills education programs for juvenile offenders	-2.7% (3)	\$6,441	\$4,091	n/e	n/e
Diversion progs. with services (v. regular juvenile court)	-2.7% (20)	\$1,441	\$1,034	n/e	n/e
Juvenile cognitive-behavioral treatment	-2.5% (8)	\$3,123	\$2,337	n/e	n/e
Court supervision vs. simple release without services	0% (8)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Diversion programs with services (v. simple release)	0% (7)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Juvenile intensive probation (as alternative to incarceration)	0% (5)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
Guided Group Interaction	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/e	n/e
<b>Prevention Programs (crime reduction effects only)</b>					
Nurse Family Partnership-Mothers	-56.2% (1)	\$11,531	\$8,161	\$5,409	\$14,283
Nurse Family Partnership-Children	-16.4% (1)	\$8,632	\$4,922	\$733	\$12,822
Pre-K education for low-income 3 & 4 year olds	-14.2% (1)	\$8,145	\$4,644	\$593	\$12,198
Seattle Social Development Project	-18.6% (1)	\$1,605	\$4,341	n/e	n/e
High school graduation	-10.4% (1)	\$1,738	\$2,851	n/e	n/e
Guiding Good Choices	-9.1% (1)	\$570	\$2,092	n/e	n/e
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	-3.7% (1)	\$268	\$784	n/e	n/e
<b>Program types in need of additional research &amp; development before we can conclude they do or do not reduce crime outcomes:</b>					
<b>Programs needing more research for people in the adult offender system</b>					
Case management in the community for drug offenders	0% (13)				Comments: Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
COSA (Faith-based supervision of sex offenders)	-22.3% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Day fines (compared to standard probation)	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Domestic violence courts	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Faith-based programs	0% (5)				Too few evaluations to date.
Intensive supervision of sex offenders in the community	0% (4)				Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Medical treatment of sex offenders	-21.4% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Mixed treatment of sex offenders in the community	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Regular parole supervision vs. no parole supervision	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Restorative justice programs for lower risk adult offenders	0% (6)				Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Therapeutic community programs for mentally ill offenders	-20.8% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Work release programs (from prison)	-4.3% (4)				Too few recent evaluations.
<b>Programs needing more research for youth in the juvenile offender system</b>					
Dialectical Behavior Therapy	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Increased drug testing (on parole) vs. minimal drug testing	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile curfews	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile day reporting	0% (2)				Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile jobs programs	0% (3)				Too few recent evaluations.
Juvenile therapeutic communities	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.
Mentoring in juvenile justice	0% (1)				Too few evaluations to date.

**Selected Results****Adult Offenders**

**Change In Crime**      **Benefits - Costs**  
 (# of EB Studies)      (per-person, life cycle)

Adult Drug Courts	-8.0% (57)	\$4,767
Education Prgs., Prison	-7.0% (17)	\$10,669
Drug Tx in Prison (TC or out-patient)	-5.7% (20)	\$7,835
Cog-Behavioral Treatment	-6.3% (25)	\$10,299
ISP: surveillance	-0.0% (23)	-\$3,747
ISP: treatment	-17.1% (11)	\$11,563

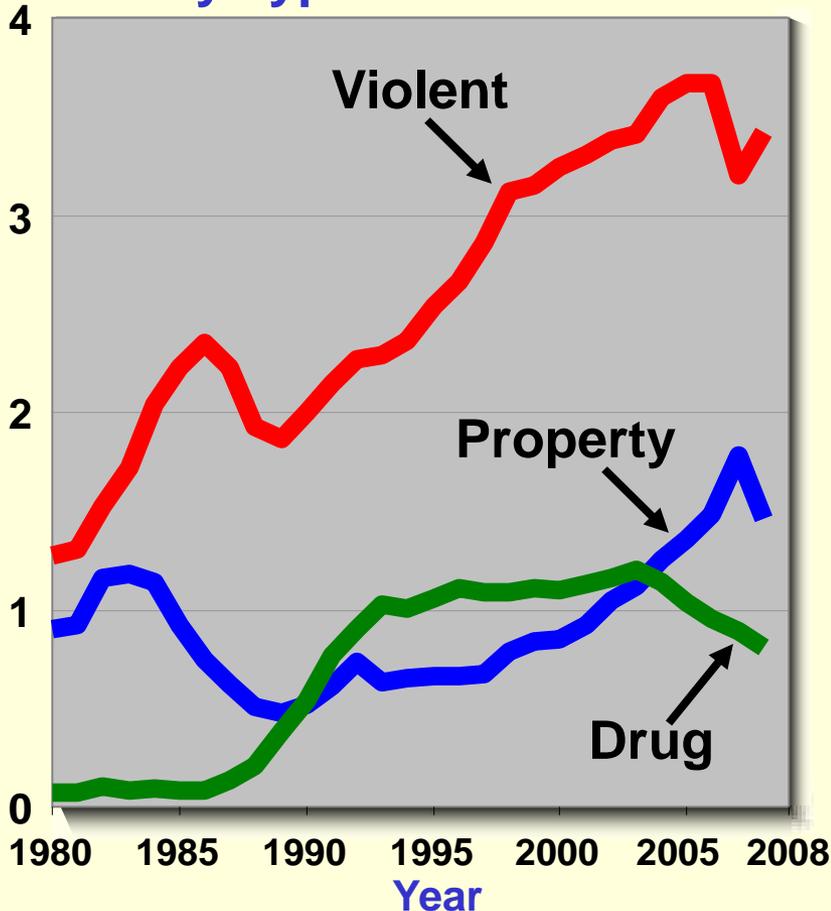
**Juvenile Offenders**

Functional Family Thpy.	-15.9% (7)	\$31,821
Multisystemic Therapy	-10.5% (10)	\$18,213
Aggression Repl. Trng.	-7.3% (4)	\$14,660
Family Int. Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$40,545
Restorative Justice (low risk)	-8.7% (21)	\$7,067

**Prevention**

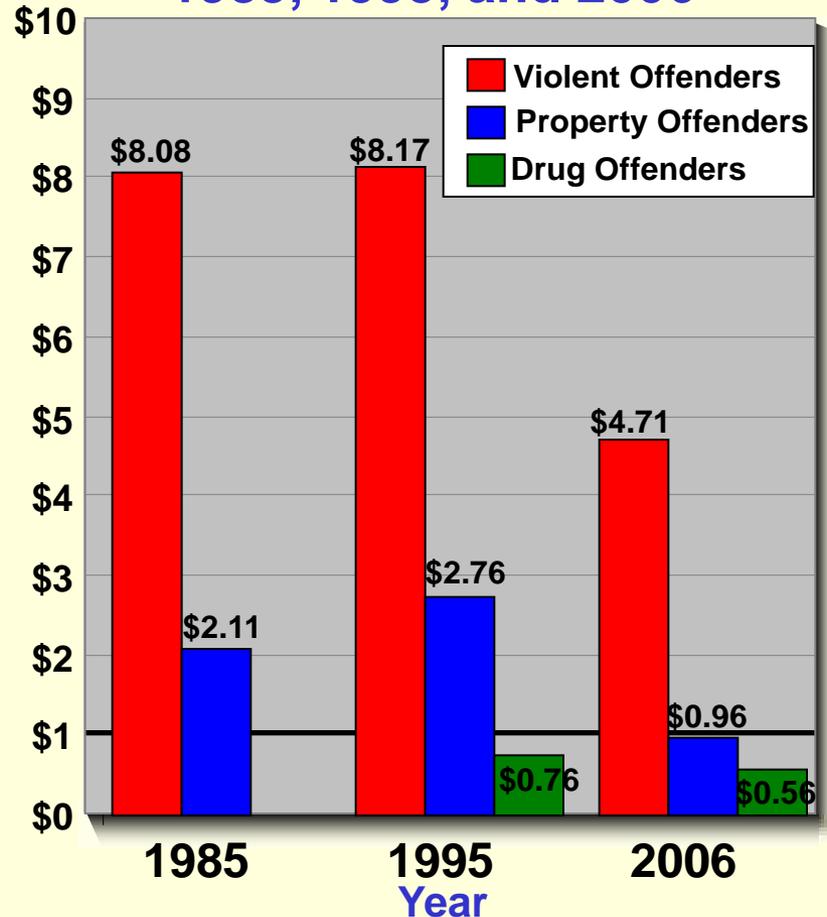
Pre-School* (low income)	-14.2% (8)	\$12,196
Nurse Family Partnership*	-36.3% (2)	\$27,105

### Prison Incarceration Rates in Washington: 1983 to 2007 —By Type of Offender—



Source: Washington Department of Corrections. The incarceration rate is defined as the number of prisoners per 1,000 adults (ages 18 to 49) in Washington. Classification based on the immediate offense.

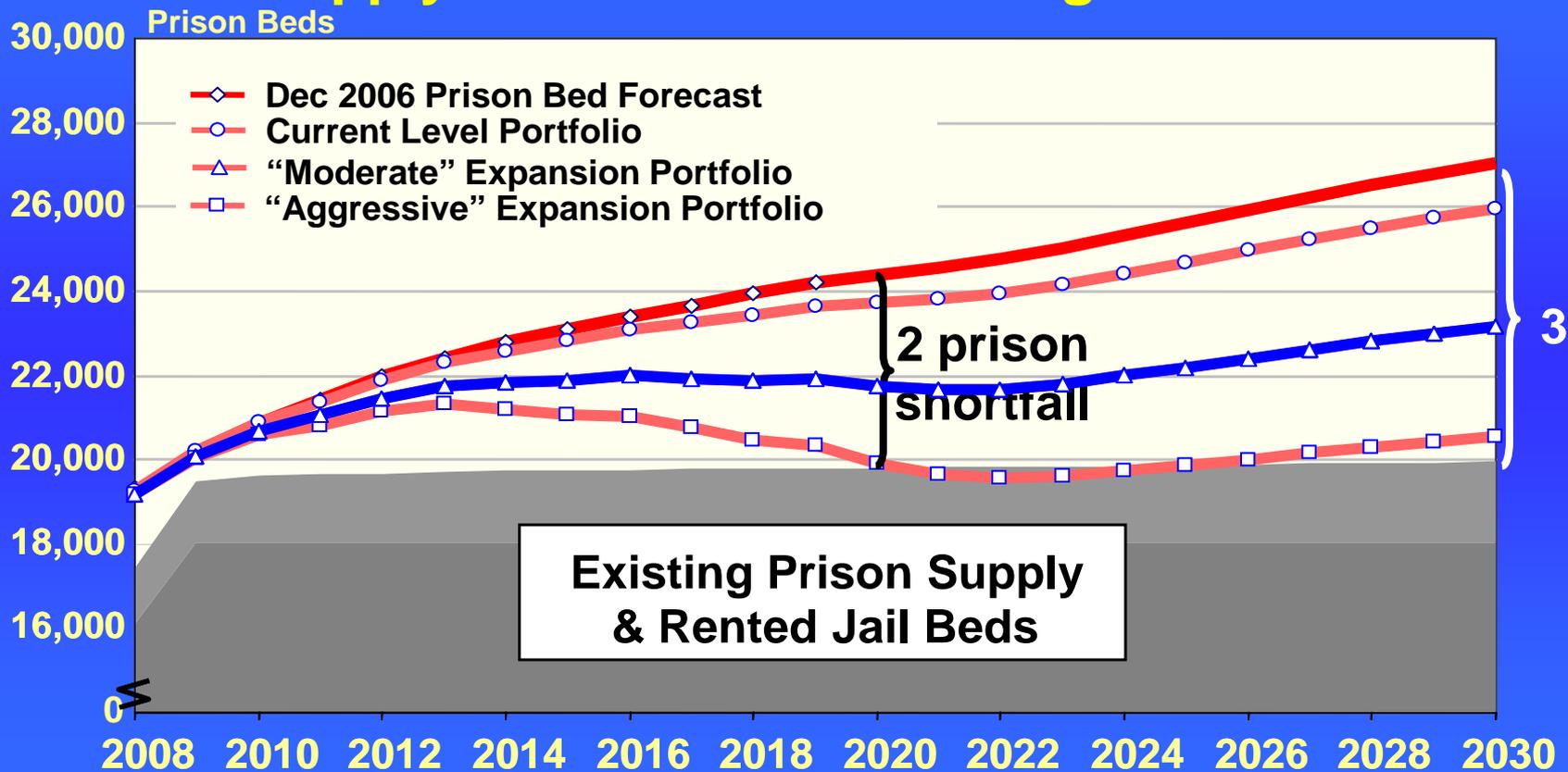
### Estimated Benefit-Cost Ratios of Prison Expansion in Three Years: 1985, 1995, and 2006



Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. For each year, the ratios estimate the benefits (from crimes avoided) of adding a prison bed relative to the costs of the bed, by type of offender.

# Results for Three Example Portfolios of Evidence-Based Options

## Prison Supply & Demand in Washington: 2008 to 2030



### Taxpayer Summary Statistics

Annual cost of portfolio

Current Level

Moderate

Aggressive

Long-run net taxpayer benefits

Benefit-to-cost ratio

Return on investment

Crime Rate in 2020 (2005 rate = 52)

\$41 million

\$1.1 billion

\$2.45

24%

48

\$63 million

\$1.7 billion

\$2.55

27%

48

\$85 million

\$2.4 billion

\$2.60

28%

49

# Summary

## 1. Individually:

Some things work (some don't)  
and some have attractive economics

## 2. Collectively:

A portfolio investment strategy can affect  
statewide outcomes significantly

## 3. 2008 Sentencing Studies from WSIPP—5990 and the Drug Grid

**Thank You!**

# **People Make Decisions, Studies Don't**



## *The “Take Home” Message?*

**The “Magic” of  
Compound Interest!**  
(Small gains, over time, matter a lot)

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