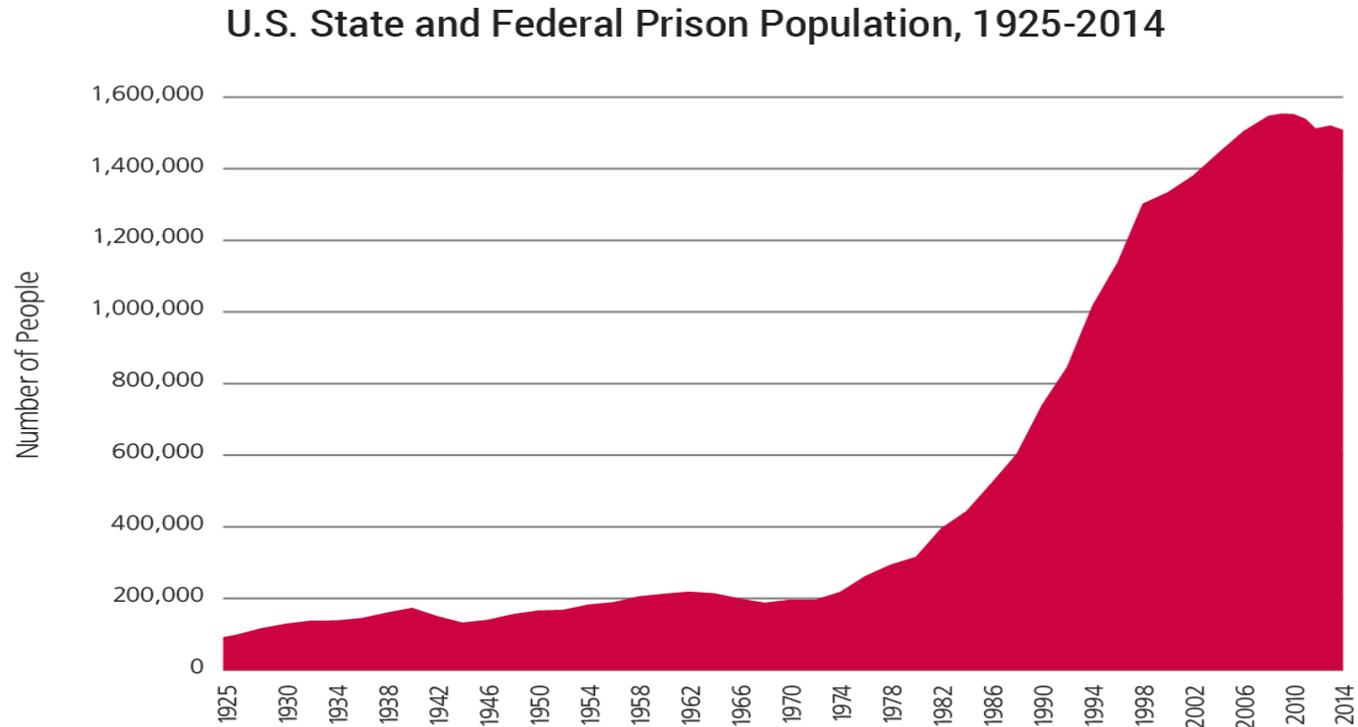


Criminal Justice and the Church

OCTOBER 3, 2016

A solid blue horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

The Era of Mass Incarceration

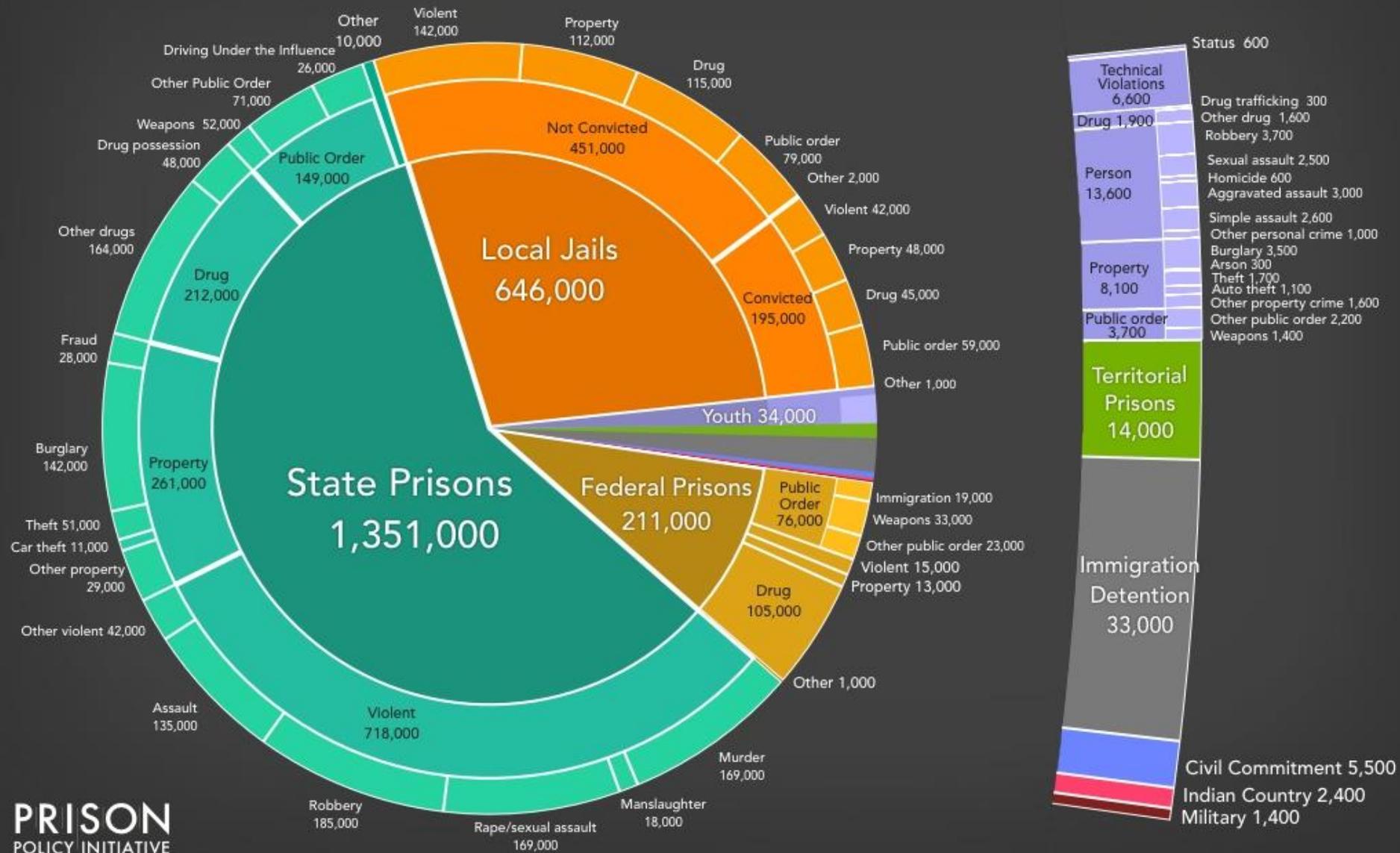


Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.



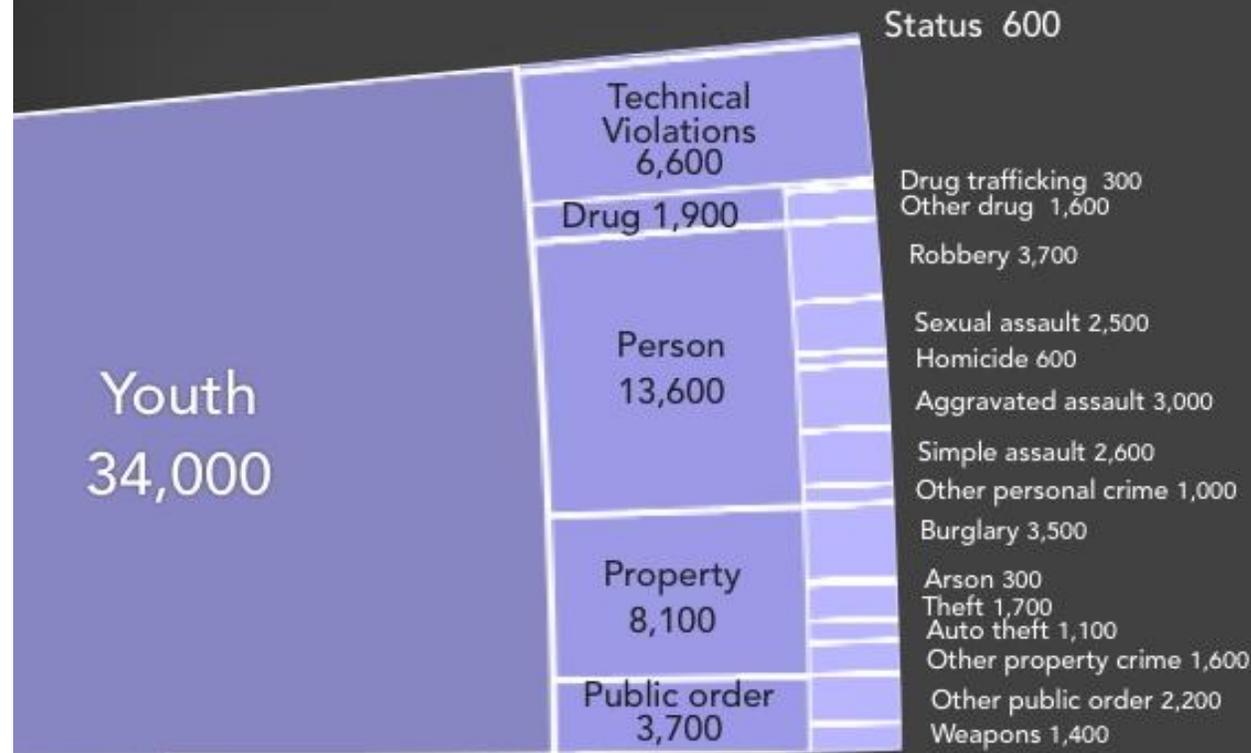
How many people are locked up in the United States?

The United States locks up more people, per capita, than any other nation. But grappling with why requires us to first consider the many types of correctional facilities and the reasons that 2.3 million people are confined there.



Most incarcerated youth are locked up for nonviolent offenses

And for 7,200 youth, they are locked up for “offenses” that aren’t even crimes.



The 5,200 youth locked up in adult prisons or jails are not reflected here and are instead represented in the adult parts of the graph. Because we did not consider the almost 20,000 youth held by the juvenile justice system in residential facilities away from home to be “incarcerated,” they are not currently reflected in any slice of the pie.

Jails and Prisons

JAILS

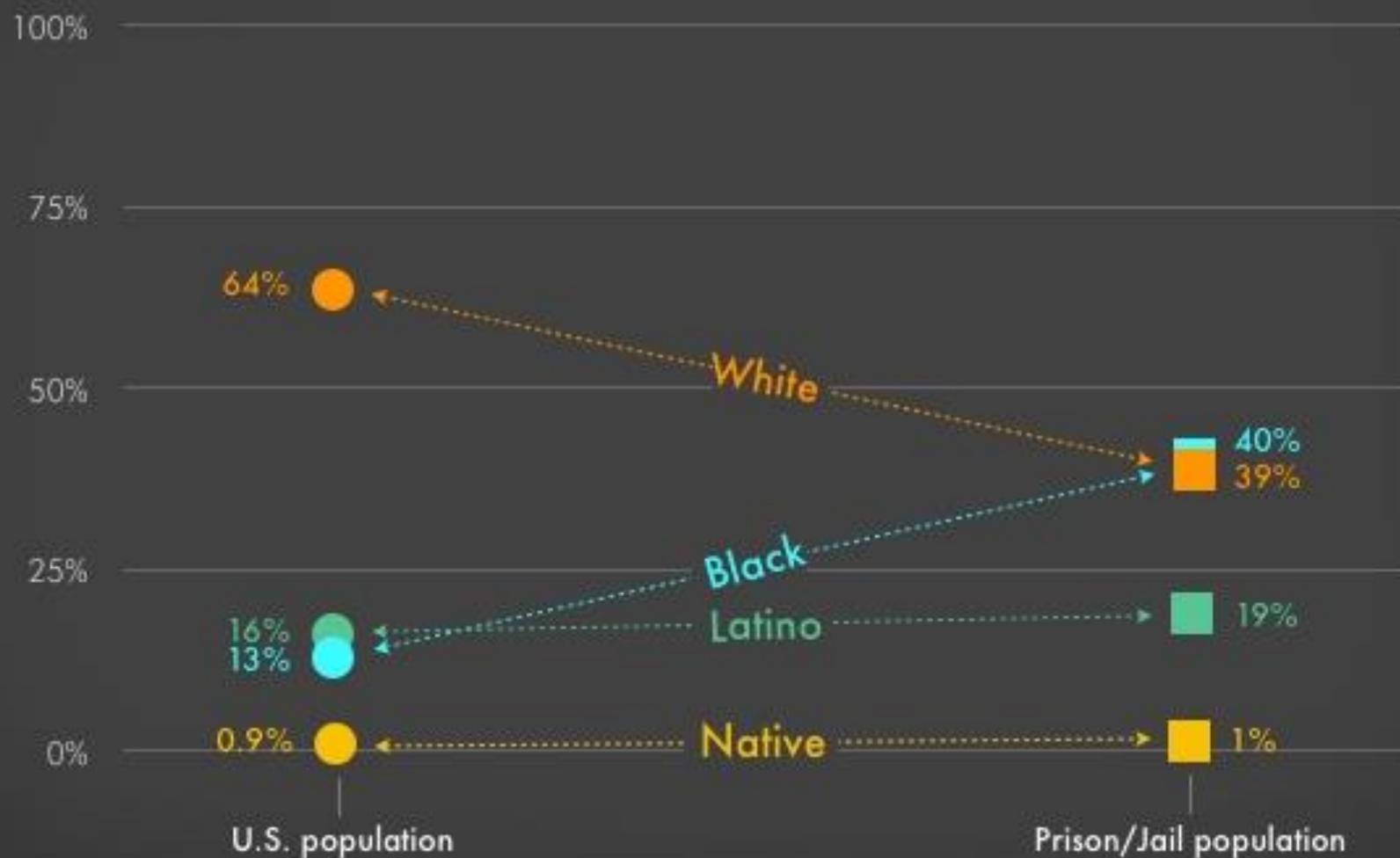
- Local – vary in size
- Waiting trial, 62% unconvicted
- 38% convicted/serve < 1 year
- May stay less than one month – only a few hours
- Females 13%

PRISONS

- State, Federal, Private
- Different security levels
- In rural areas
- Sentenced
- Ave length of stay 2.5 years
- Females 7%

Racial and ethnic disparities in prisons and jails

Whites are underrepresented in the incarcerated population while Blacks are overrepresented.

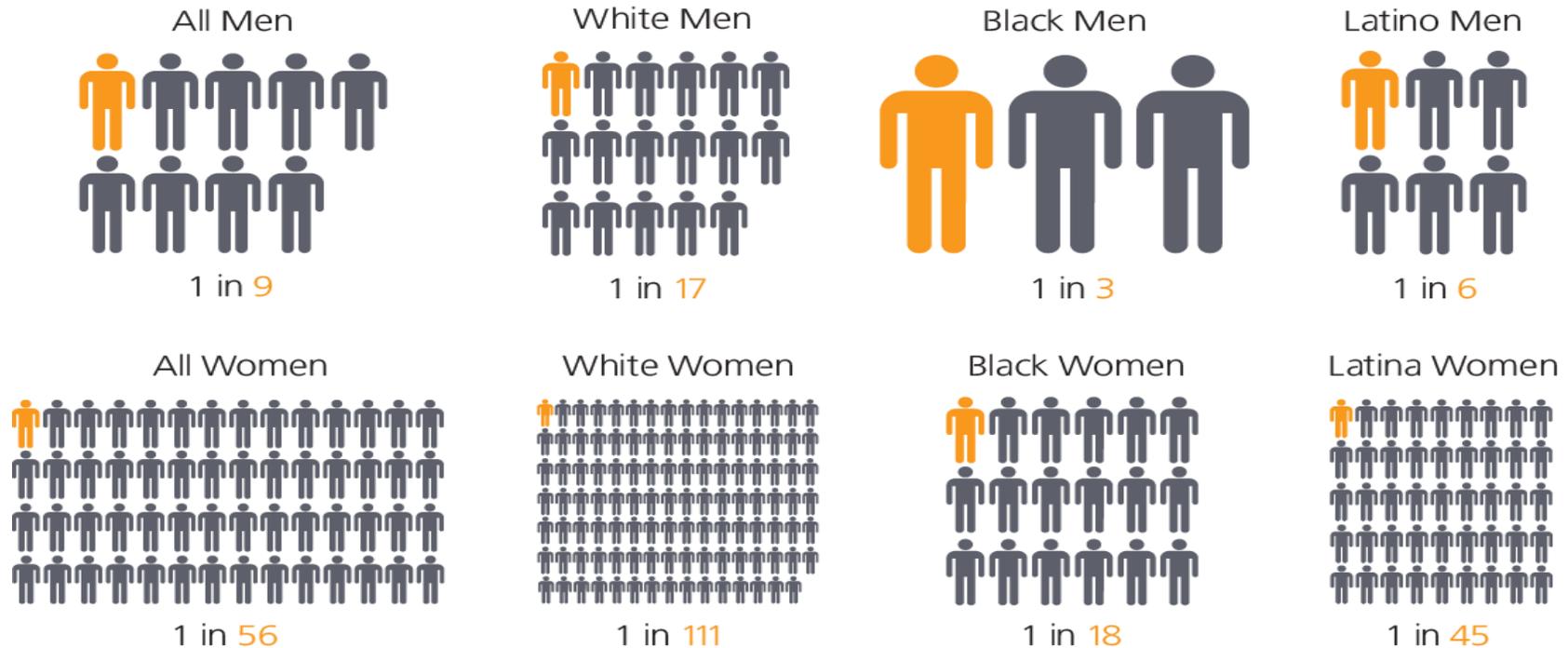


People Incarcerated by Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	% of US population	% of U.S. incarcerated population	National incarceration rate (per 100,000)
White (non-Hispanic)	64%	39%	450 per 100,000
Hispanic	16%	19%	831 per 100,000
Black	13%	40%	2,306 per 100,000

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment of U.S. Residents Born in 2001



Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Highest and Lowest State Incarceration Rates per 100,000 (2014)

National rate = 471

Highest Rate

- Louisiana 816
- Oklahoma 700
- Alabama 633
- Arkansas 599
- Mississippi 597

Lowest Rate

- Maine 153
- Rhoda Island 178
- Massachusetts 188
- Minnesota 194
- North Dakota 214

Source: US Bureau of Justice 2014

Females

- 7% of prison population
- Fastest growing prison population (760% since 1980)
- More likely to be incarcerated for non-violent offenses - property and drug crimes

Example of Pathway Women Might Travel into the Criminal Justice System



Children and Families

- 1 in every 50 children have a parent incarcerated in the U.S. (2012)
- 58% of children of prisoners are under the age of 10

At-Risk Youth

The “criminalized environment” facing Latino and African American children where “like the victims of a crippling or wasting disease, once drawn into the prison pipeline, massive numbers of young people lose their opportunity to live happy, productive lives, not because of festering microbes but because of years spend behind bars.”

Marian Wright Edlemen, President of the Children’s Defense Fund

What Fuels the Pipeline?

- Pervasive Poverty
- A culture of punishment rather than prevention
- Inadequate access to health care
- Gaps in early childhood development
- Disparate educational opportunities
- Intolerable abuse and neglect
- Unmet mental and emotional problems
- Rampant Substance abuse
- Overburdened and Ineffective juvenile justice and child welfare systems

School to Prison Pipeline

“In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunities of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right that must be made available on equal terms.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

What Fuels the School to Prison Pipeline?

- Zero tolerance policies
- Standardized testing
- Overzealous policing efforts
- Inadequate resources
- Lack of qualified teachers
- Insufficient funding for counselors, special education services, and textbooks
- Overcrowding classrooms

Why Prisons Fail by Judge Challeen

WE WANT THEM TO HAVE SELF-WORTH

So we destroy their self-worth

WE WANT THEM TO BE RESPONSIBLE

So we take away all responsibilities

WE WANT THEM TO BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

So we isolate them from our community

WE WANT THEM TO BE KIND AND LOVING PEOPLE

So we subject them to hate and cruelty

Why Prisons Fail

WE WANT THEM TO QUIT BEING THE TOUGH GUY

So we put them where the tough guy is respected

WE WANT THEM TO QUIT HANGING AROUND LOSERS

So we put all the losers in the state under one roof

WE WANT THEM TO BE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE

So we degrade them and make them useless

WE WANT THEM TO BE TRUSTWORTHY

So we put them where there is no trust

Why Prisons Fail

WE WANT THEM TO BE NON-VIOLENT

So we put them where they exploit each other.

WE WANT THEM TO THINK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE

So we put them where their fellow inmates think as they do...reinforcing each other's

losing beliefs and life style.

WE WANT THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES,
OWN THEIR PROBLEMS AND QUIT BEING PARASITES...

So we make them totally dependent on us.

Reentry and Recidivism

- Over 95% of all inmates will return to society
- More than 700,000 released each year from prison and 9 million from jails.
- The national recidivism rate is 67.5% within 3 years of release
- A state prison study found 43.3% recidivism rate

Collateral Consequences – “locked out”

- Housing
- Employment
- Government Assistance
- Voting Rights
- Firearm restrictions
- Education
- Family/domestic rights
- Motor vehicle license
- Political and civic participation

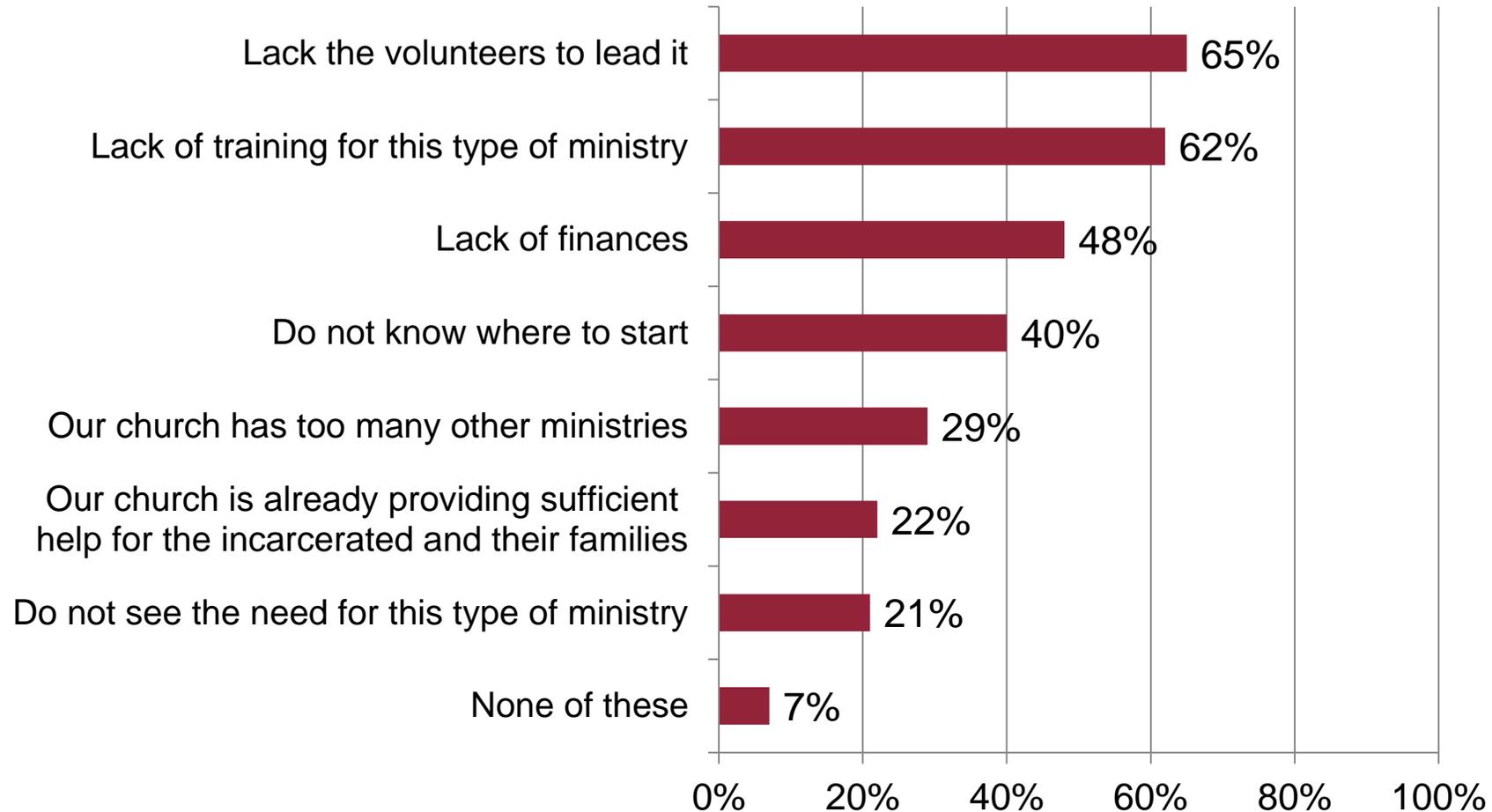
Movement from Mass Incarceration to Justice Reform

- From Mass Incarceration to Justice Reform
- From “tough on crime” to “smart on crime”
- Bipartisan support – social concern and financial concern
- Deincarceration
 - #HALFBY2030
 - Alternative responses to crime
 - Juveniles – alternative housing

Reluctance of the Church

- Stigma and Shame
- Silent
- Unmotivated - Not a priority
- Messy
- NORP Thinking, NIMBY Thinking
- Myths
- Lack of Awareness
- Victims in the Church

“Which of the following are barriers to your church helping the incarcerated and their families more?”



The Church

But today, our self-righteousness, our fear, and our anger have caused even the Christians to hurl stones at the people who fall down, even when we know we should forgive or show compassion...we can't simply watch that happen...we have to be stonecatchers.

Bryan Stevenson

Religion and Crime Relationship

*There is an overwhelming amount
of empirical evidence
of an inverse relationship
between religion and crime.*

Byron Johnson, *More God, Less Crime*

*Each of us is more than
the worst thing we've ever done.*

Bryan Stevenson

Church Engagement

- Make correctional ministry a priority – Jesus did
“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Biblical Basis

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. . . Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Matthew 25:35,36,40

Restorative Justice

Criminal Justice

- What laws have been broken?
- Who did it?
- What do they deserve?

Restorative Justice

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligations are these?

Restorative Justice

- Emphasizes repairing the harm caused by the crime.
 - Meeting the needs of the victim(s)
 - Holding the offender accountable
 - Involving those impacted in the process of restoration

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



Questions?
