

Association of County Commissioners Annual Convention Reform & Prison Pressure

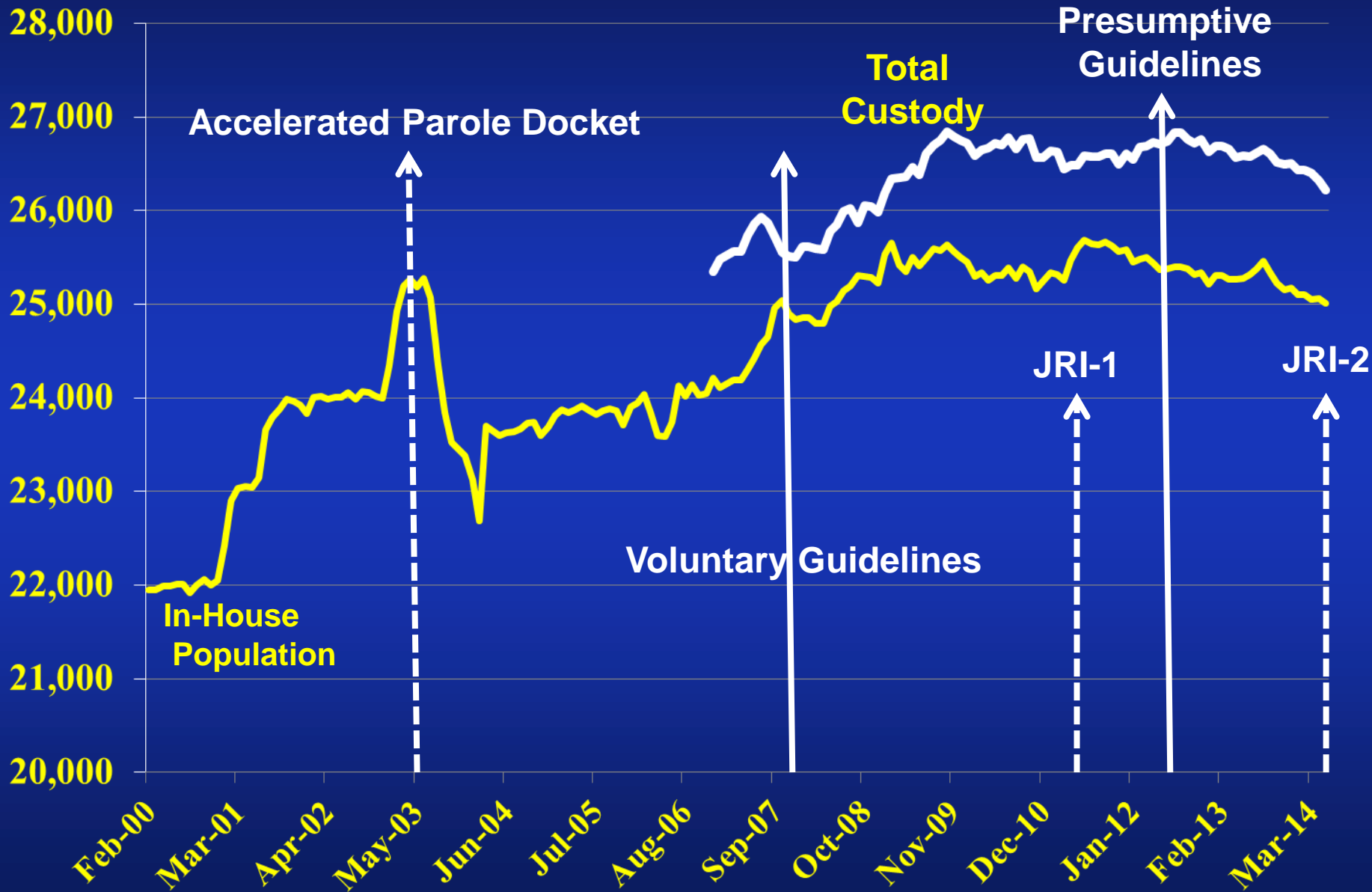
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Alabama Reform Over the Past 14 Years

ADOC Population Trends & Reform Efforts 2000-2014



What Drives the Population?

Prison Admissions X Length-of-Stay

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Custody Population

Changing Course Looks Easy In Theory

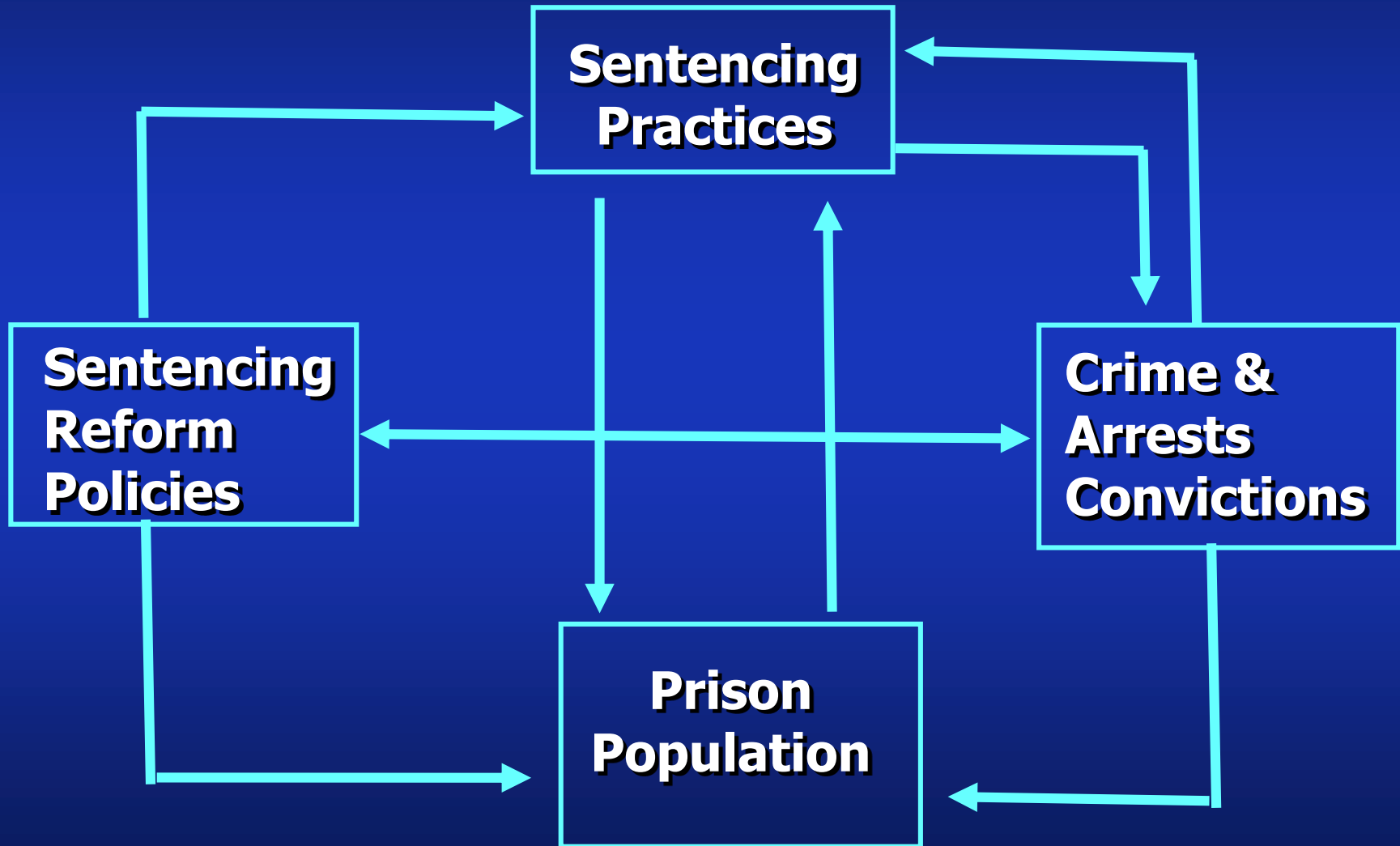
Population Drivers

- **Demographics/Structural Factors**
- **Crime & Arrest Trends**
- **Filings/Convictions**
- **Admissions – New Court/Revocations**
- **Length-of-Stay**



**Prison
Population**

Not Easy In Reality



Adapted from Wicharaya (1995)

Sample of Select Drivers?

- **Demographic/Structural Factors**
- **Reported Crime & Arrest Trends**
- **Indictments & Convictions**
- **Correctional Admissions**
- **Length-of-Stay (Policy & Legislative)**
- **Post-Release Supervision/Outcomes**
- **Statutes and Policies**

Reform & Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

There are no silver Bullets

Identify the reform objectives. Not as easy as you think

What worked in one state may fail in another – recognizing inter-state differences.

Lessons Learned

Reform requires constant monitoring & maintenance with explicit metrics

Cover the entire system and take nothing off the table

It may take years before you feel the impact

Lessons Learned

Some of the nation's best practices and solutions started at the county

Demonstrate how state reform will benefit (impact) the county

How will law enforcement/courts work around the reforms?

Lessons Learned

**Post-reform restraint (if successful):
Constant pressure to return to the old
days**

**Many county jail problems are not
attributable to the State**

Balancing community norms & values

Lessons Learned

Prison expansion should always be an option available to DOC Commissioners under the right master plan.

Alternatives are often supplements

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