

ACCA Legislative Conference

Bennet Wright

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Wise Words

“It is vital that we do not succumb to oversimplifying a complicated process and accepting easy answers. In this complicated area of law, solutions that sound simple are invariably based upon limited information or faulty assumptions.”

Joseph A. Colquitt

Retired Circuit Judge and Professor of Law

Alabama's Complex System

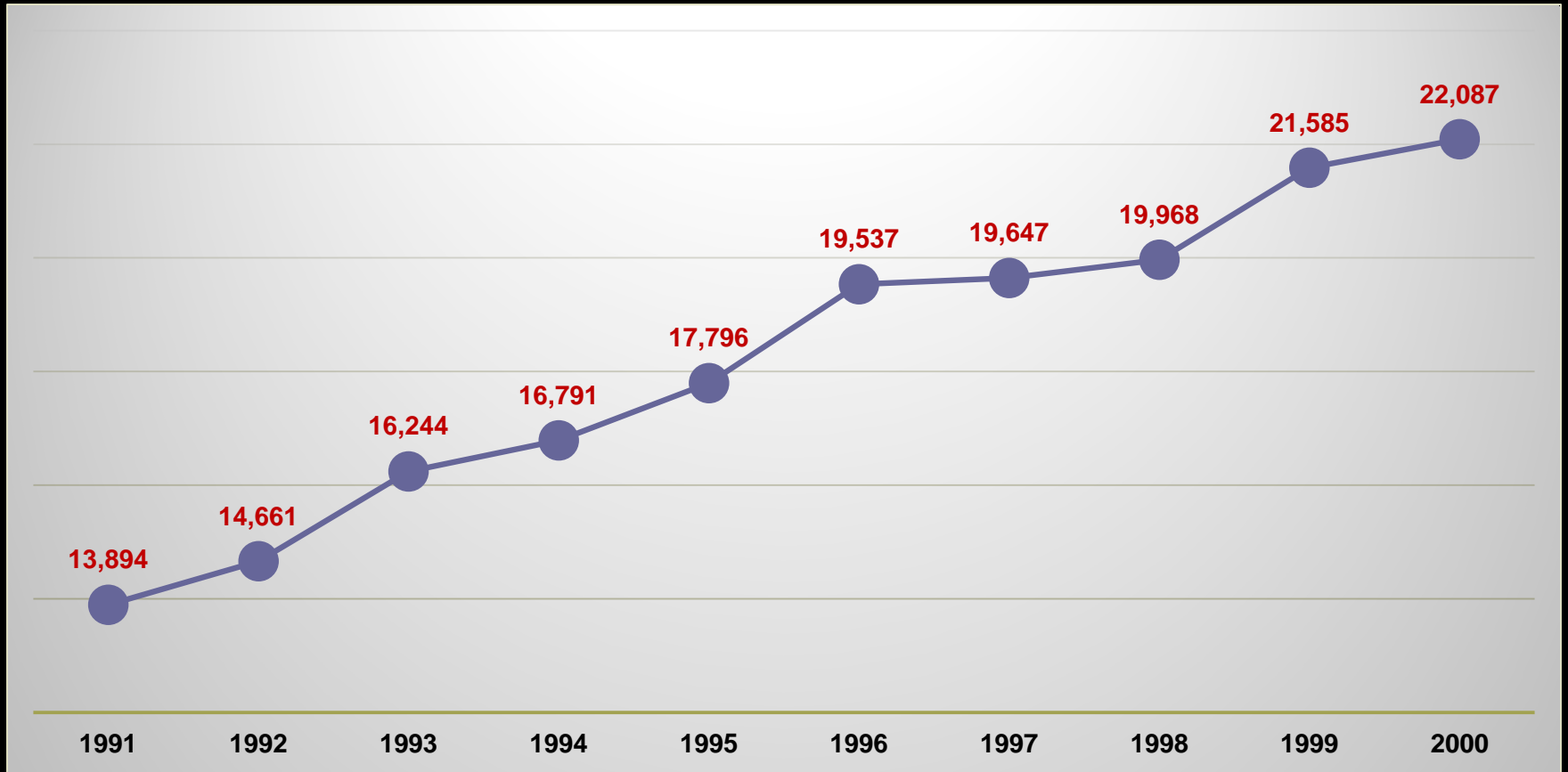
mandatory community parole
voluntary good-time split
pre-trial release
prison jail guidelines straight
probation corrections
presumptive habitual
diversion specialty

ADOC Population – 1980s

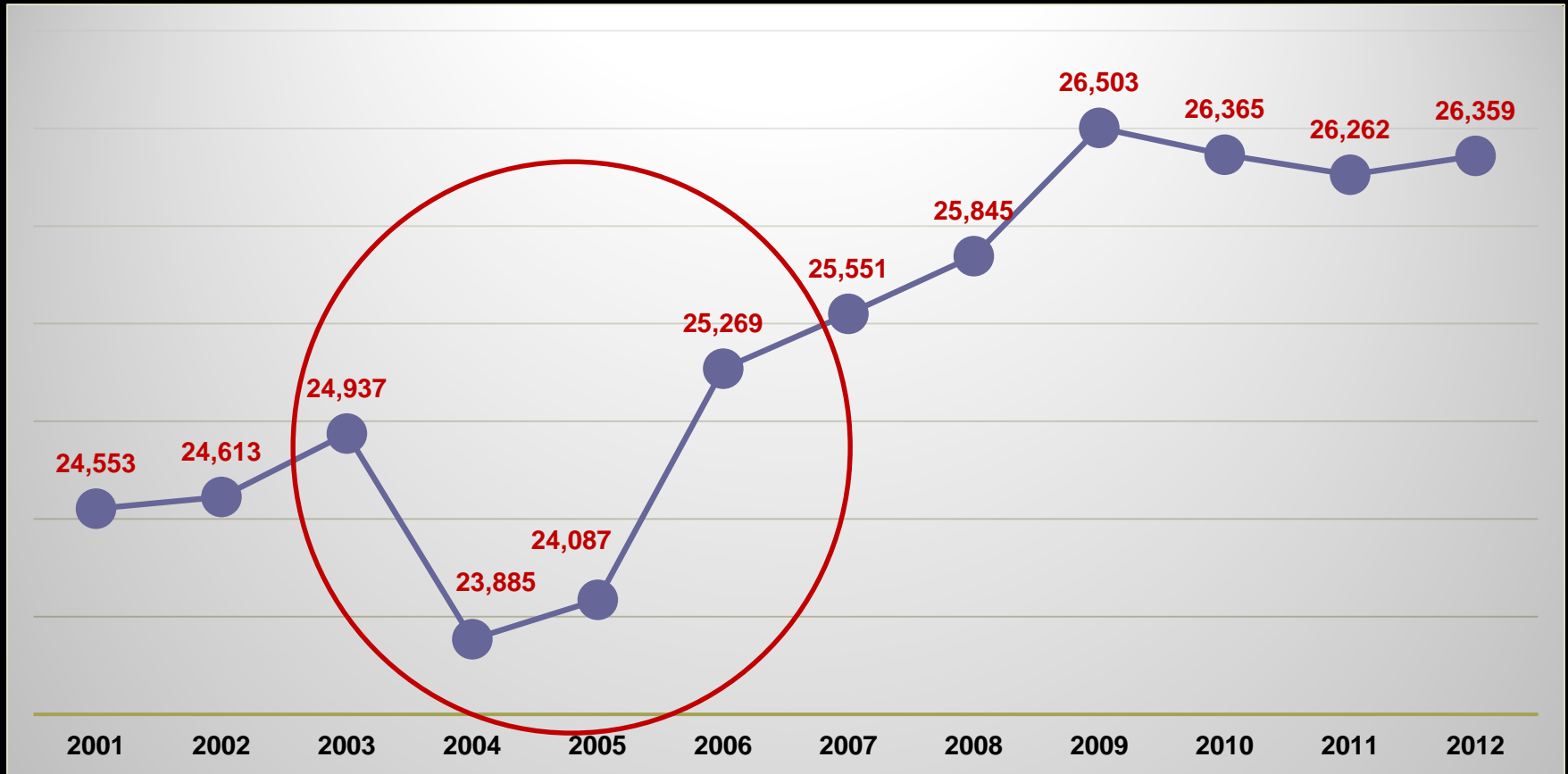
■ 1981 6,300

■ 1989 12,400

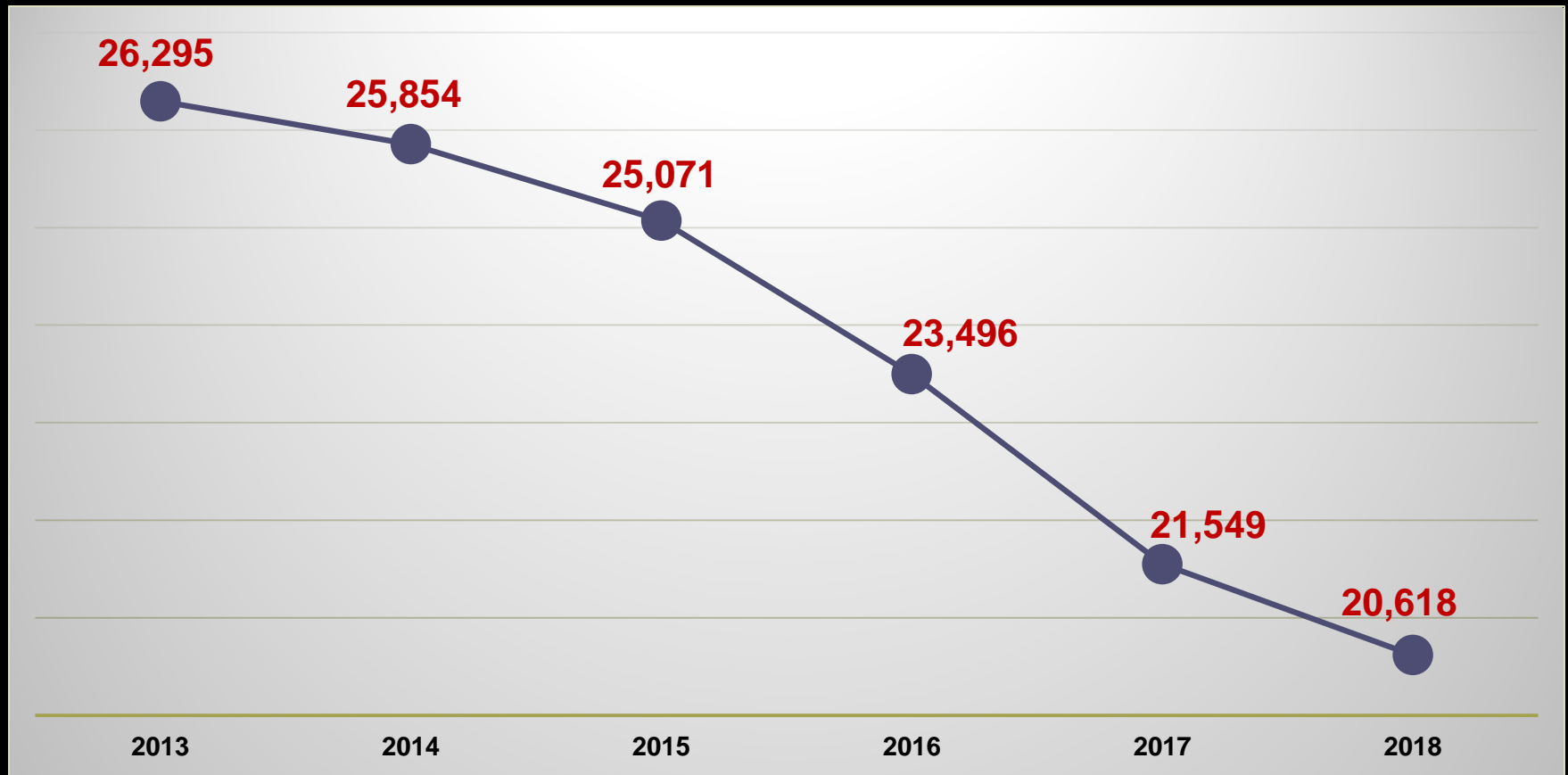
Alabama Prison Population 1991 - 2000



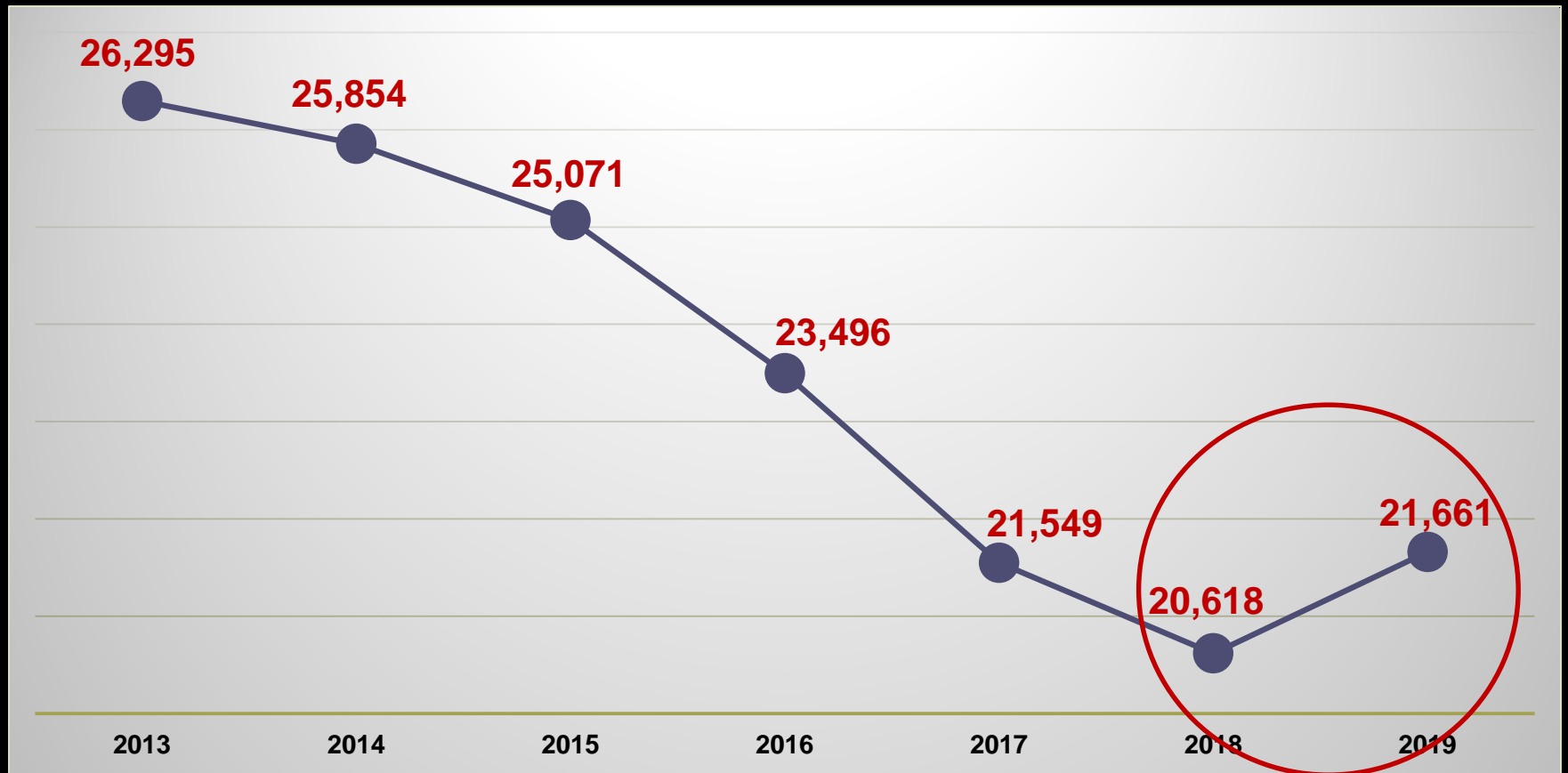
Alabama Prison Population 2001 - 2012



Alabama Prison Population 2013 - 2018



Alabama Prison Population 2013 - 2019

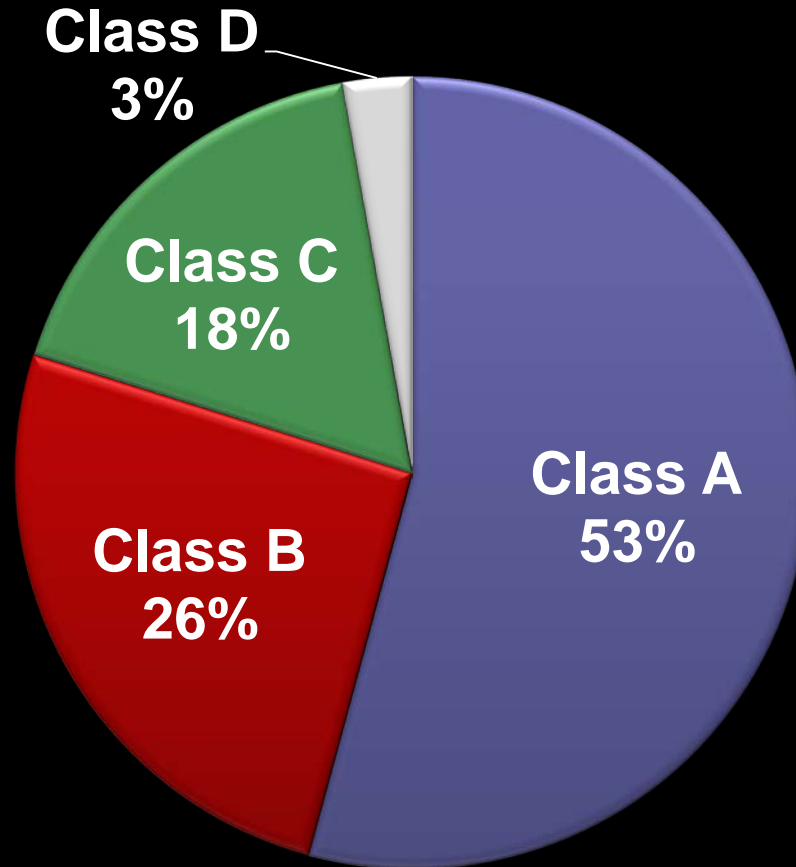


ADOC
Prison Population
Composition

ADOC Population - Top 20

Murder	3,284	Unlawful Possession CS (F-D)	536
Robbery 1st	2,591	Trafficking Drugs	501
Rape 1st	1,042	Sodomy 1st	498
Capital Murder	1,005	Assault 1st	454
Distribution of CS	914	Robbery 3rd	391
Burglary 1st	844	Sexual Abuse Child<12	390
Attempted Murder	672	Manufacturing CS 1st	366
Burglary 3rd	672	Receiving Stolen Prop 1st	360
Manslaughter	630	Assault 2nd	340
Theft of Prop 1st	627	Burglary 2nd	298

ADOC Population Felony Class



ADOC Life Without Parole

Non-Capital Offenses

Murder	240
Robbery 1st	239
Rape 1st	84
Burglary 1st	75
Kidnapping 1st	38
Attempted Murder	34
Sodomy 1st	24
Trafficking Drugs	19
Other Offenses	14



Total
LWOP
~1,500

ADOC Life (with Parole)

Murder	1,484
Robbery 1st	297
Rape 1st	278
Burglary 1st	186
Attempted Murder	151
Trafficking Drugs	99
Sodomy 1st	90
Manslaughter	78
Kidnapping 1st	62
Other Offenses	~380

Total
Life
~3,100

Sentencing & Prison Population

- There are **only** two factors that determine the size of the prison population, but both are nuanced and often controversial
 - The number of people sentenced to prison
 - The length of time served in prison

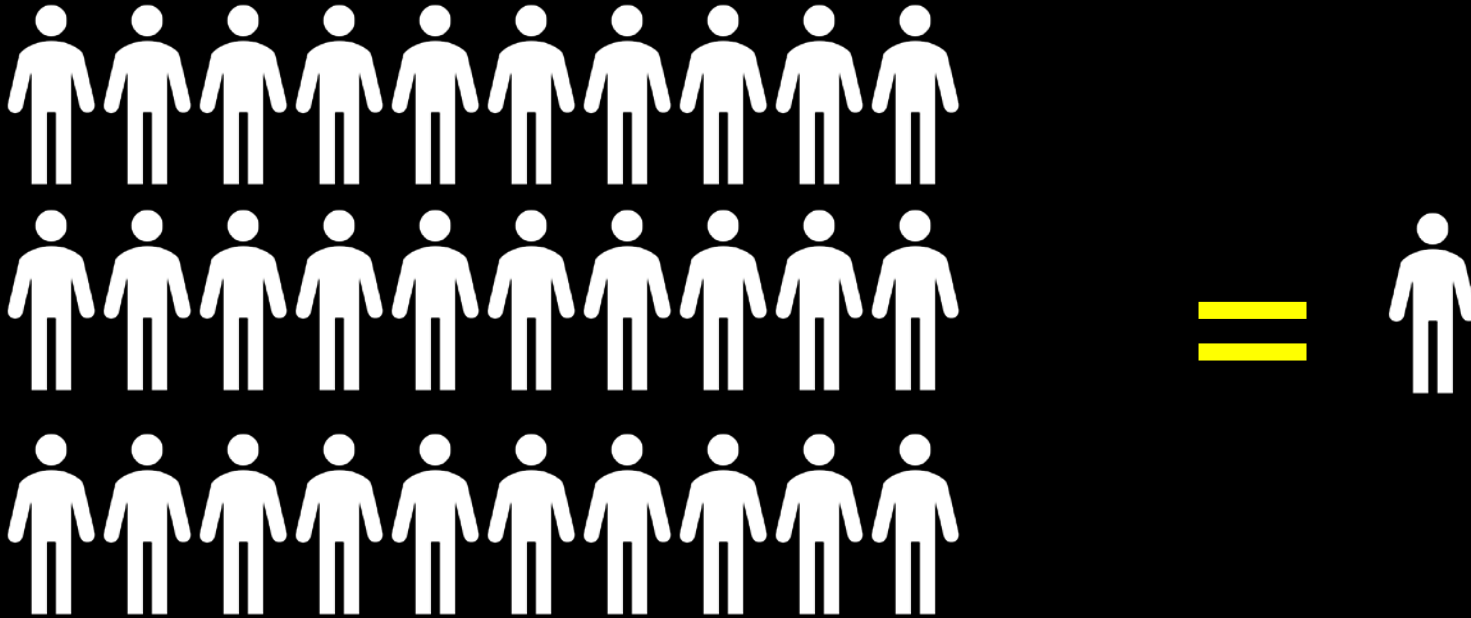
Policy Decisions - “DUNKS”

- ADOC Custodial Admits 9.4K
- ADOC DUNK Admits 2.8K



30%

30 DUNKS = One 3-year Split



Policy Decisions

- Restrictions on Class D sentencing
- Felonies vs. Misdemeanors
- Community Corrections/Specialty Courts

Policy Decisions – Continued...

- Presumptive Sentencing Standards
- Recent LWOP Decisions
- Correctional Budgets

The Emerging Importance of Coordination & Cooperation

