

# Criminal Justice Overview

**Understanding Oklahoma's incarceration crisis**  
**Summer Policy Institute | August 5, 2019**

Damion Shade  
[dshade@okpolicy.org](mailto:dshade@okpolicy.org)



**OKPOLICY.ORG**  
Oklahoma Policy Institute



## Overview

- I. What is the justice system?
- II. How did Oklahoma's justice system become a crisis?
- III. What is criminal justice reform?
- IV. Where do we go from here?



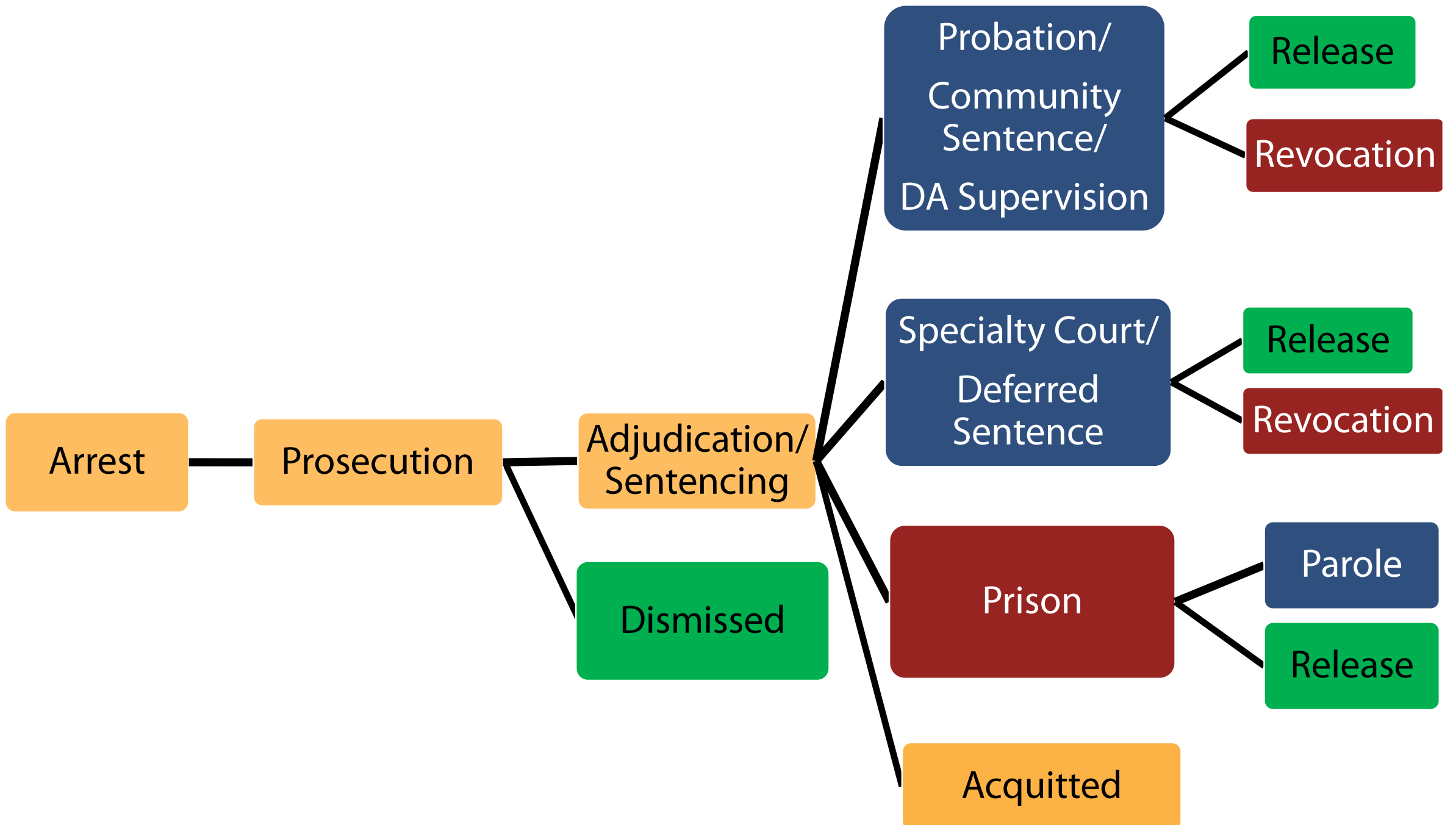
# What is the Justice System?













# INCARCERATION RATES

COMPARING OKLAHOMA  
AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES



Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

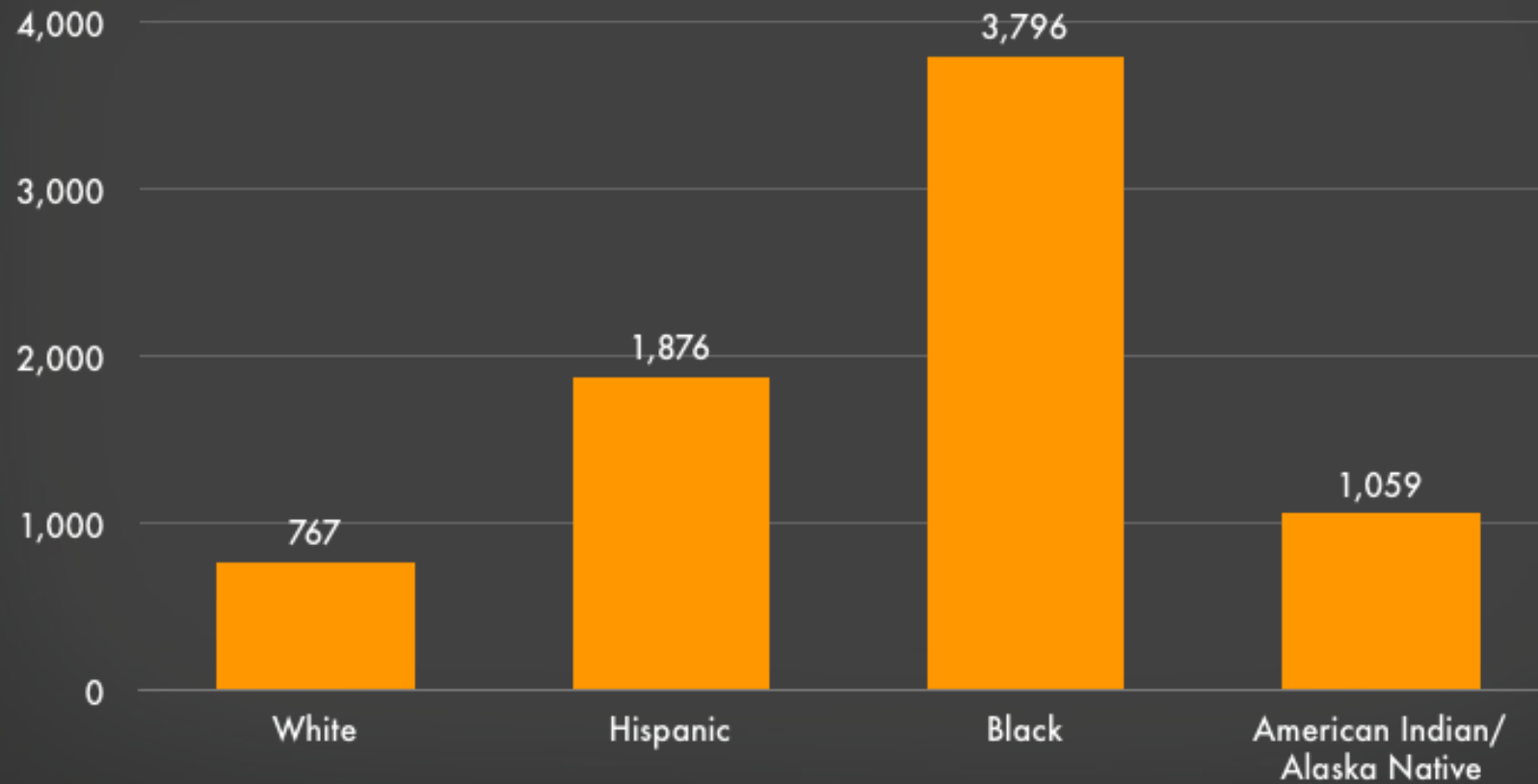
Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>





# OKLAHOMA INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)



**PRISON**  
POLICY INITIATIVE

Source: Calculated from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarceration populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc. Statistics for Whites are for Non-Hispanic Whites.

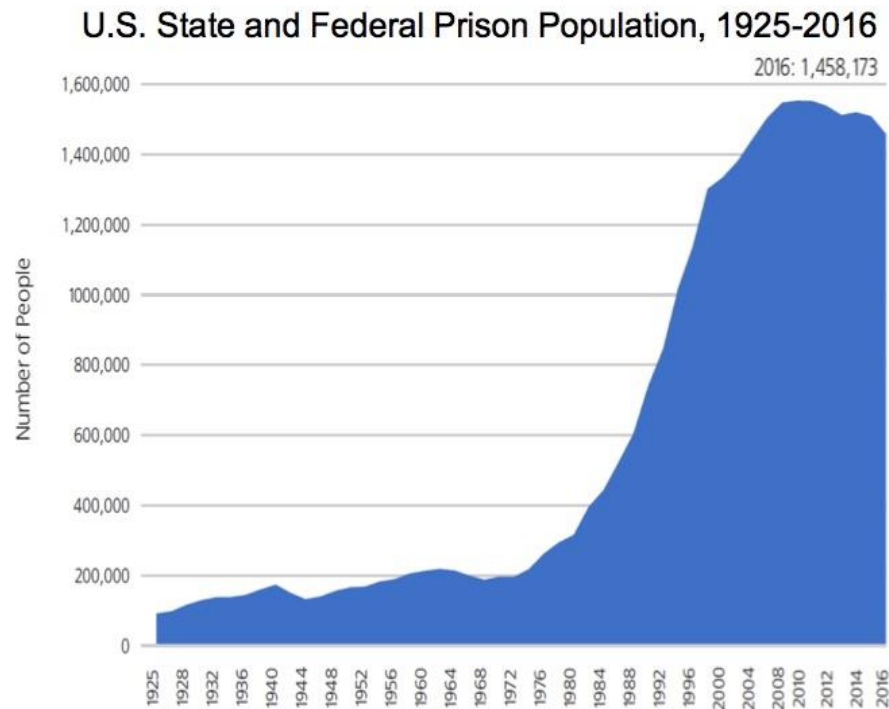


# How did Oklahoma's Justice System become a crisis?



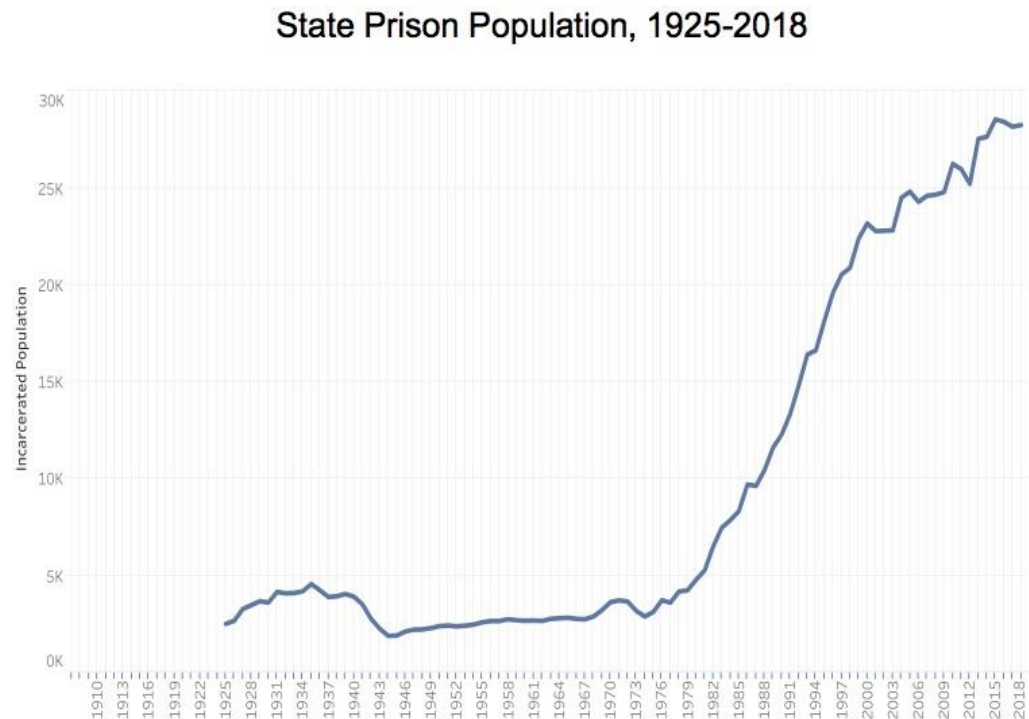
# National and State Trends

## National



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners Series.

## Oklahoma



# The Upside Down of public policy





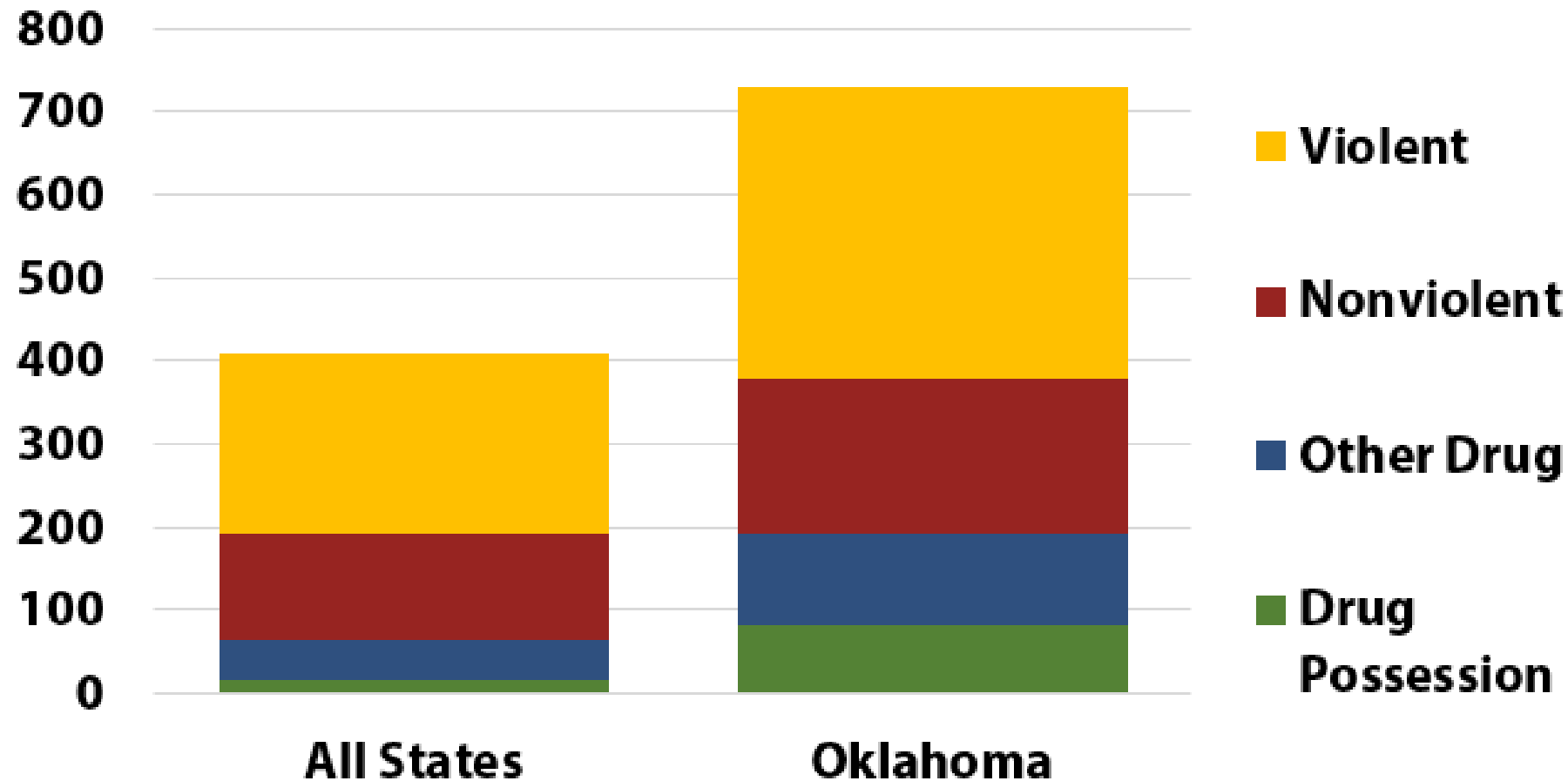


- **This inhumane system housed more than half a million Americans in 1950**
- **By 1980 there were fewer than 130,000 people housed in mental health hospitals**





# Oklahoma incarcerates more people than average for every type of crime

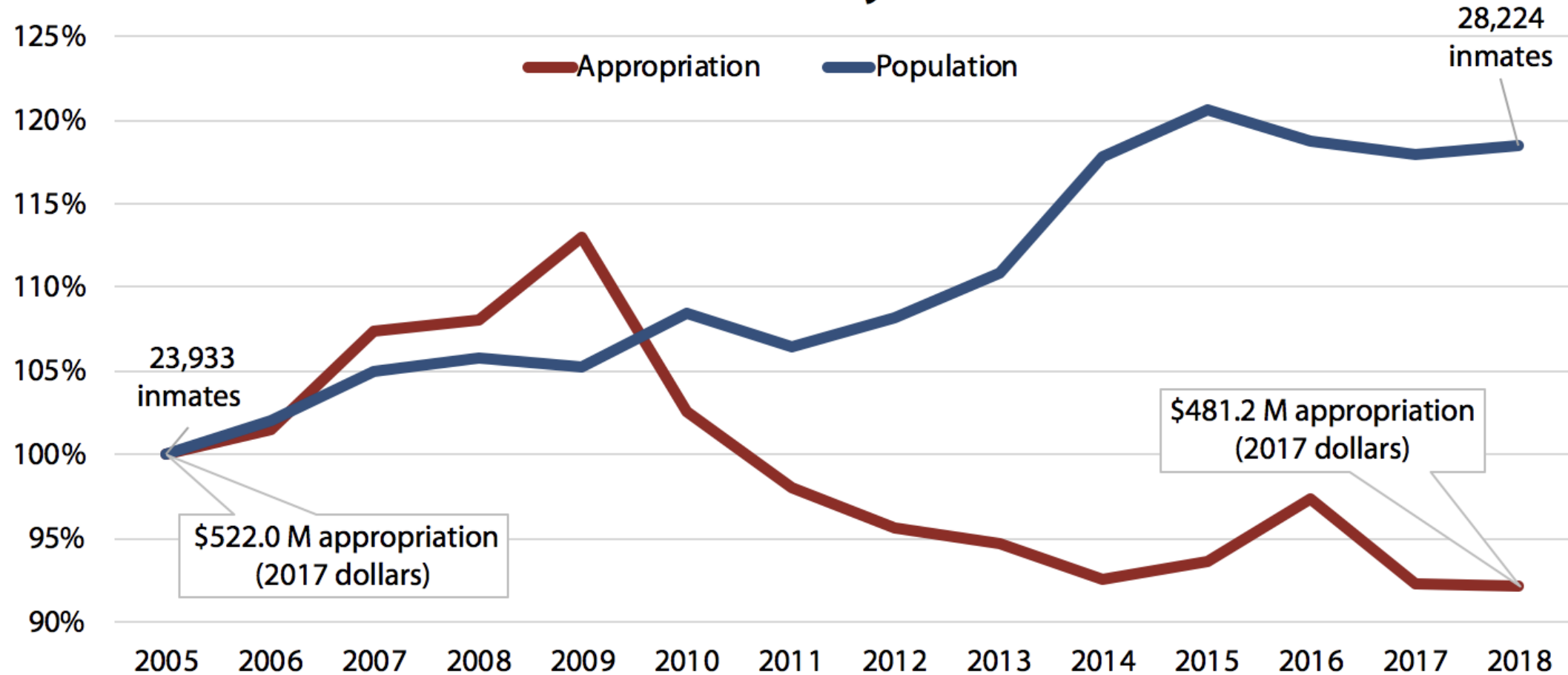


2016

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Oklahoma DOC Data



## DOC population is up over 20 percent, appropriations to DOC are down nearly 10% since 2005



Source: DOC Annual Reports and Weekly Counts





Table A: Costs for Speeding 20mph Over		
	1992	2016
Fine	\$30.00	\$35.00
Court Costs	\$49.00	\$88.00
CLEET Penalty Assessment	\$4.00	\$9.00
Law Library	\$3.00	\$6.00
Automated Fingerprint Identification System	\$3.00	\$5.00
Sheriff's Fees	\$5.00	\$5.00
Clerk's Fees	\$13.00	--
Oklahoma Court Information System	--	\$25.00
DPS Patrol Vehicle Fund	--	\$20.00
DA Council Prosecution Assessment	--	\$20.00
Trauma Care Assistance Fund	--	\$10.00
Sheriff's Fee for Courthouse Security	--	\$10.00
Forensic Science Improvement Assessment	--	\$5.00
Court Clerk Administrative Fee on Collections	--	\$8.50
Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account	--	\$3.00
Attorney General Victims Services Unit	--	\$3.00
District Court Administrative Fee	--	\$12.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>	<b>\$265.25</b>

+ \$39

+ \$5

+ \$3

+ \$25

+ \$20

+ \$20

+ \$10

+ \$10

+ \$5

+ \$3

+ \$8

+ \$12.75



\* 1 0 3 3 4 4 7 3 2 9 \*

ERK: CM

DISTRICT COURT  
**FILED**  
JUL 08 2016

SALLY HOWE SMITH, COURT CLERK  
STATE OF OREGON, TULSA COUNTY

IS TO BE PAID ON OR BEFORE

## Mapping Court Debt in T... ▼

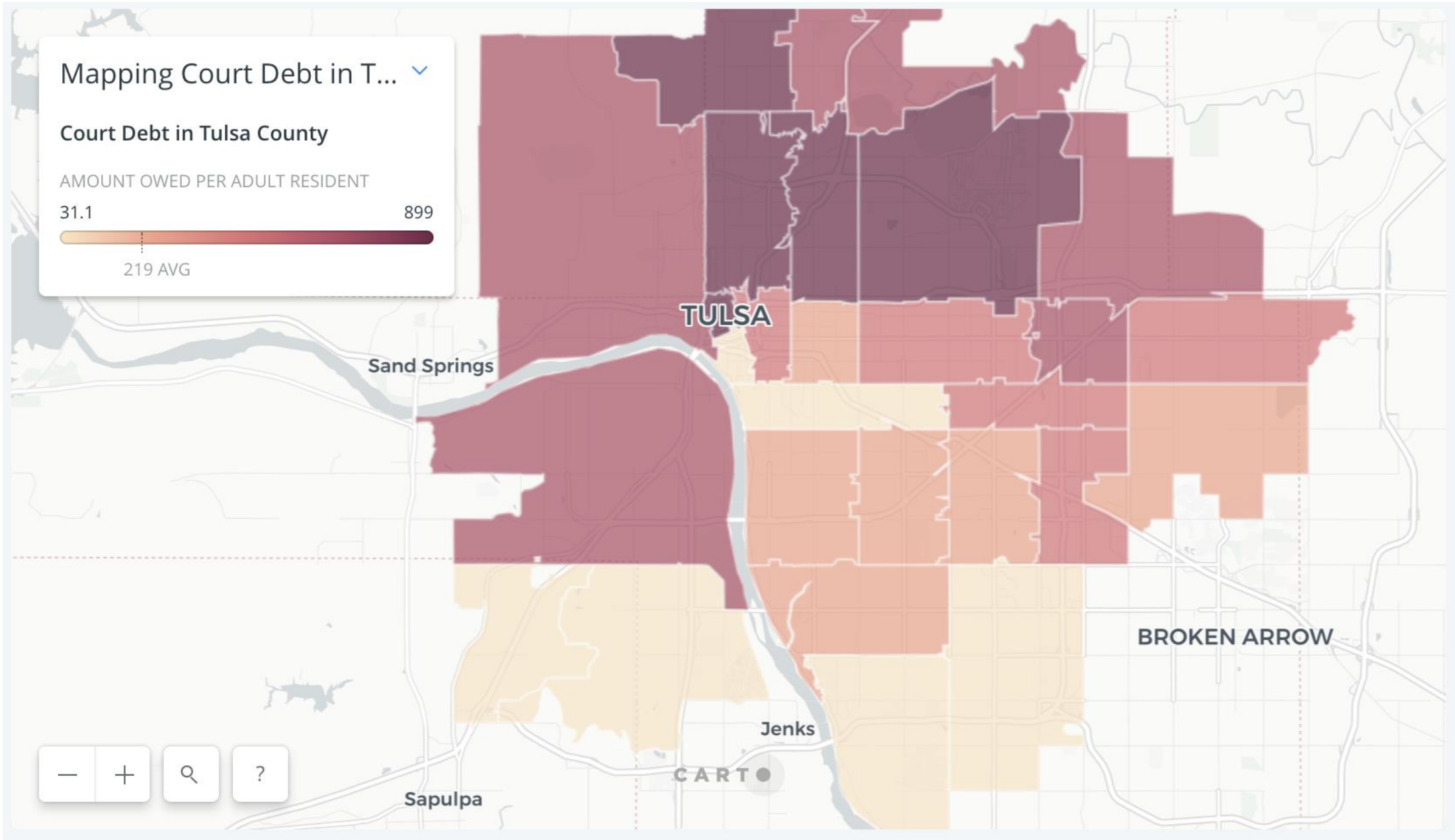
### Court Debt in Tulsa County

AMOUNT OWED PER ADULT RESIDENT

31.1

899

219 AVG



# **What is Criminal Justice Reform?**





# The Great Recession



- **Between 2011 and 2017 Texas lowered it's incarceration by about 10,000 people**
- **During that same period the state closed 8 prisons.**
- **Saving the Texas taxpayers an estimated \$3 Billion.**





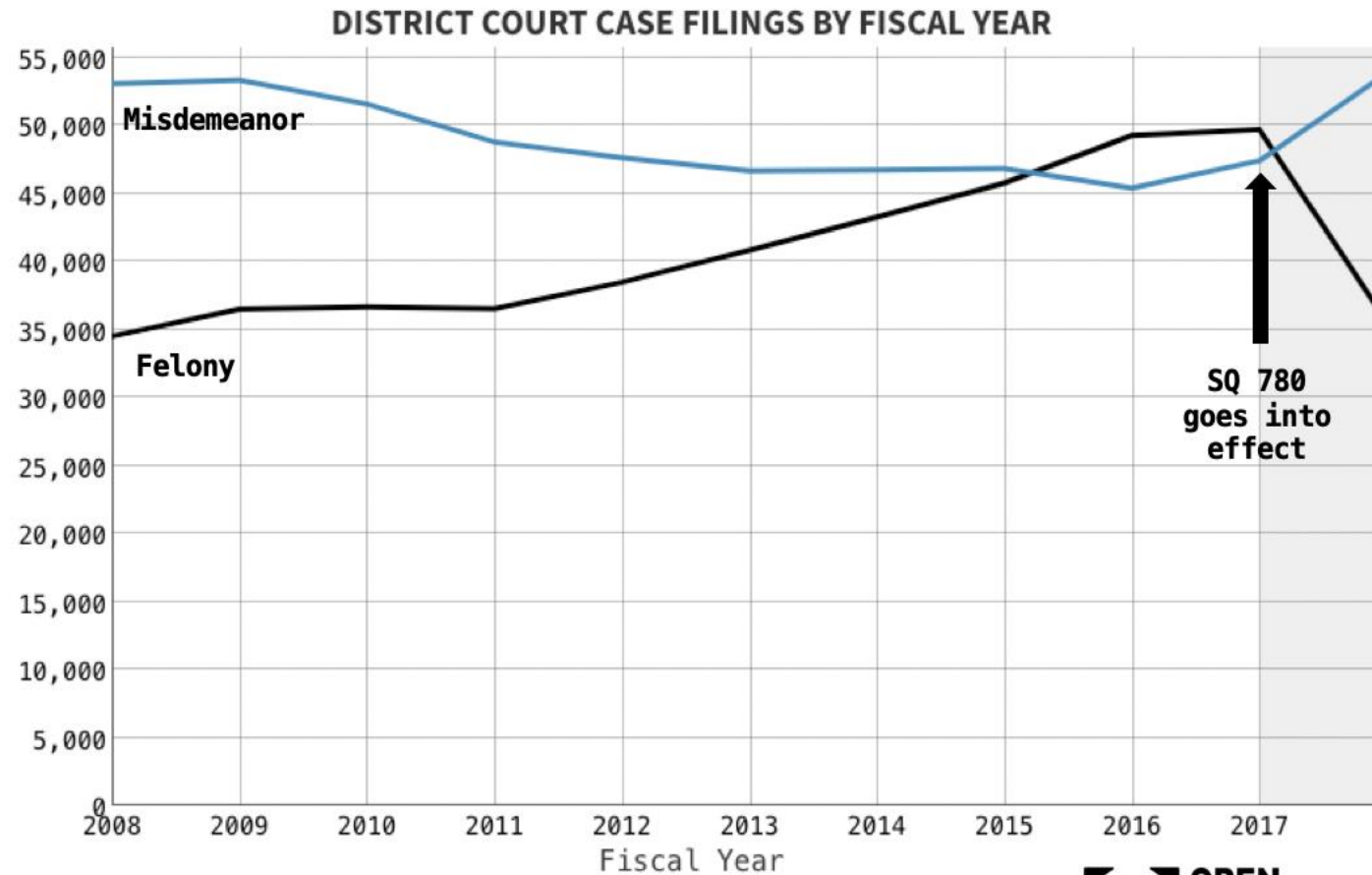
# Recent Reforms



- May 2016: Legislature passed four justice reform bills
- November 2016: Voters approved SQ 780 and SQ 781
- April 2018: Fmr. Gov. Fallin signed 7 Criminal Justice Reforms
  - Lowered the felony theft threshold
  - Administrative and aging parole reform
  - More risk assessment tools and sentencing reforms.







Source: Open Justice Oklahoma analysis of Oklahoma court records



**What works to prevent and control crime?**

**What does justice look like?**



# Where do we go from here

**Ending debtors prison and pre-trial incarceration for those who can't afford bail.**

**Improved access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. (Coverage expansion)**

**Oklahoma needs a re-entry system. Probation, parole and re-entry services must be reformed.**



# Where do we go from here

**Ending debtors prison and pre-trial incarceration for those who can't afford bail.**

**Improved access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. (Coverage expansion)**

**Oklahoma needs a re-entry system. Probation, parole and re-entry services must be reformed.**







**If they don't give  
you a seat  
at the table,  
bring in a  
folding chair.**

**Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm  
First African American Woman  
Elected to Congress**



# Thank you.

Damion Shade  
[dshade@okpolicy.org](mailto:dshade@okpolicy.org)



**OKPOLICY.ORG**  
Oklahoma Policy Institute