

The Origins and Impact of Mass Incarceration

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Confronting the Moral Crisis of Mass Incarceration:
Understanding the Criminal Justice System and Making Change
Happen

St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church

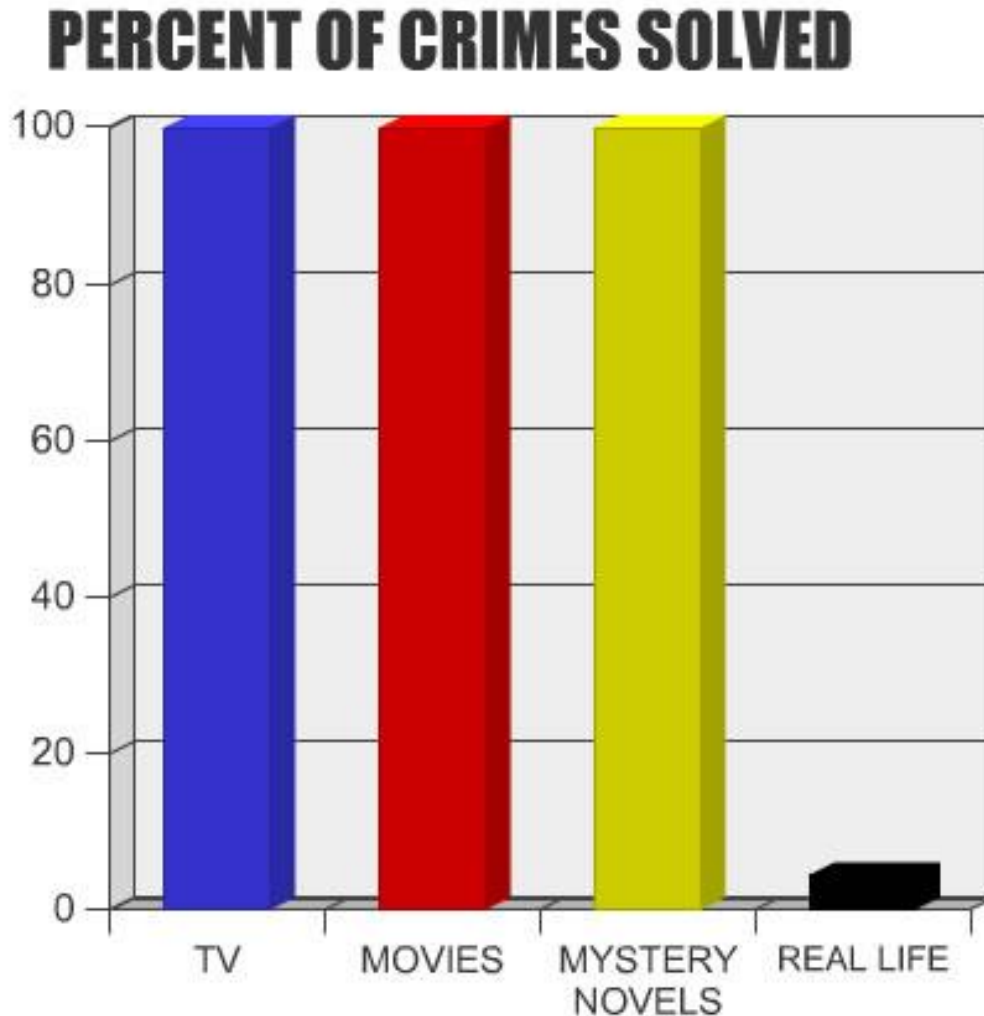
January 25, 2018



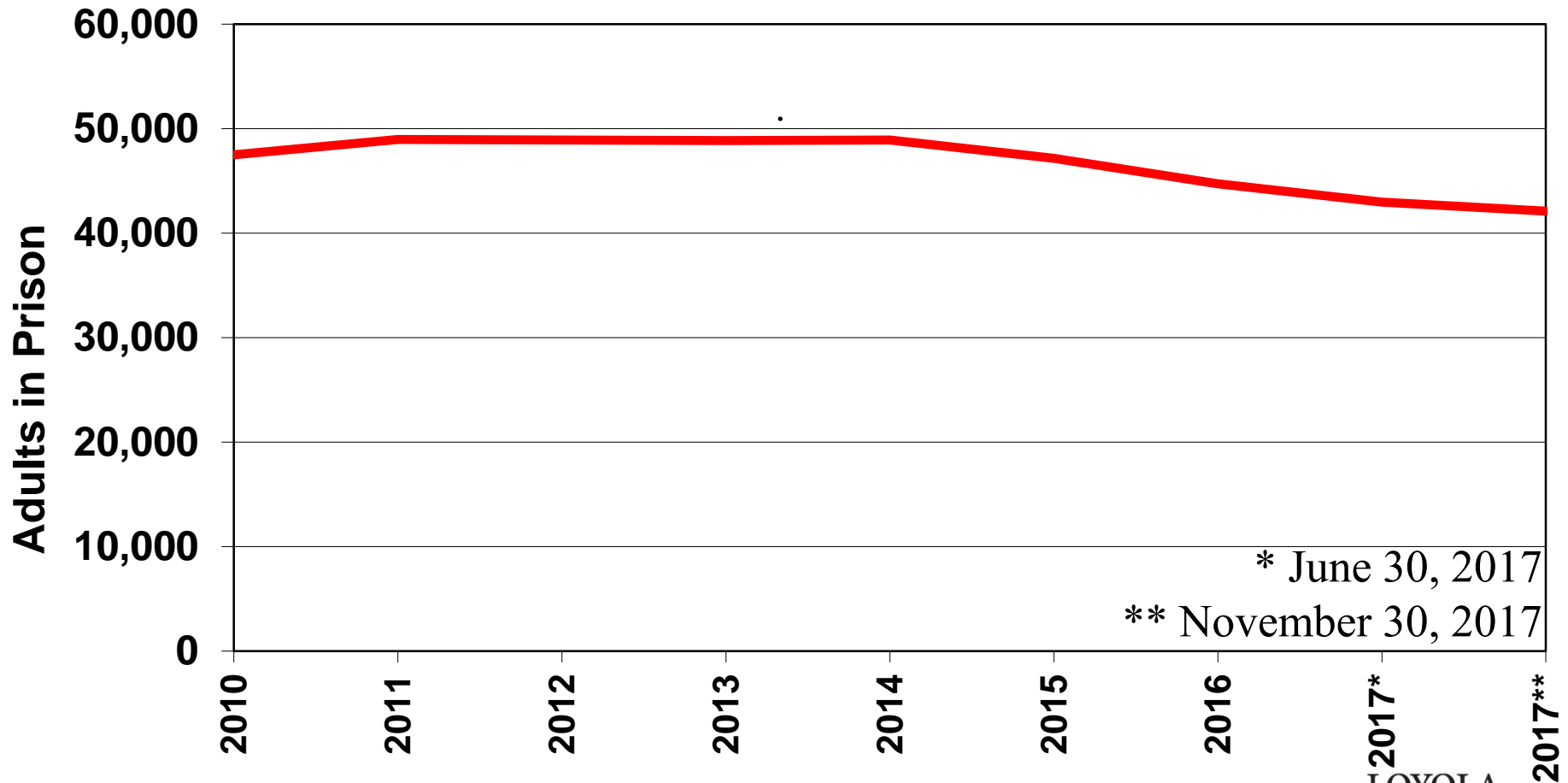
Things to consider

- Where are we, how did we get here, and where are we going from here?
 - Not necessarily a simple answer, and few simple solutions
 - Changing the public and policy dialog—few simple problems, and few simple solutions
 - Rhetoric from those who command the “bully pulpit” trickles down to other elected officials, the public and justice agency leaders (for better and worse)
 - “a prominent public position (such as a political office) that provides an opportunity for expounding one's views” (Merriam-Webster)
 - Change from state leaders (legislature) needed, but ultimately justice is carried out locally

Beware of TV, Political Rhetoric, and the Presumption that Crime=Murder



Illinois Adult Prison Population at end of State Fiscal Year **



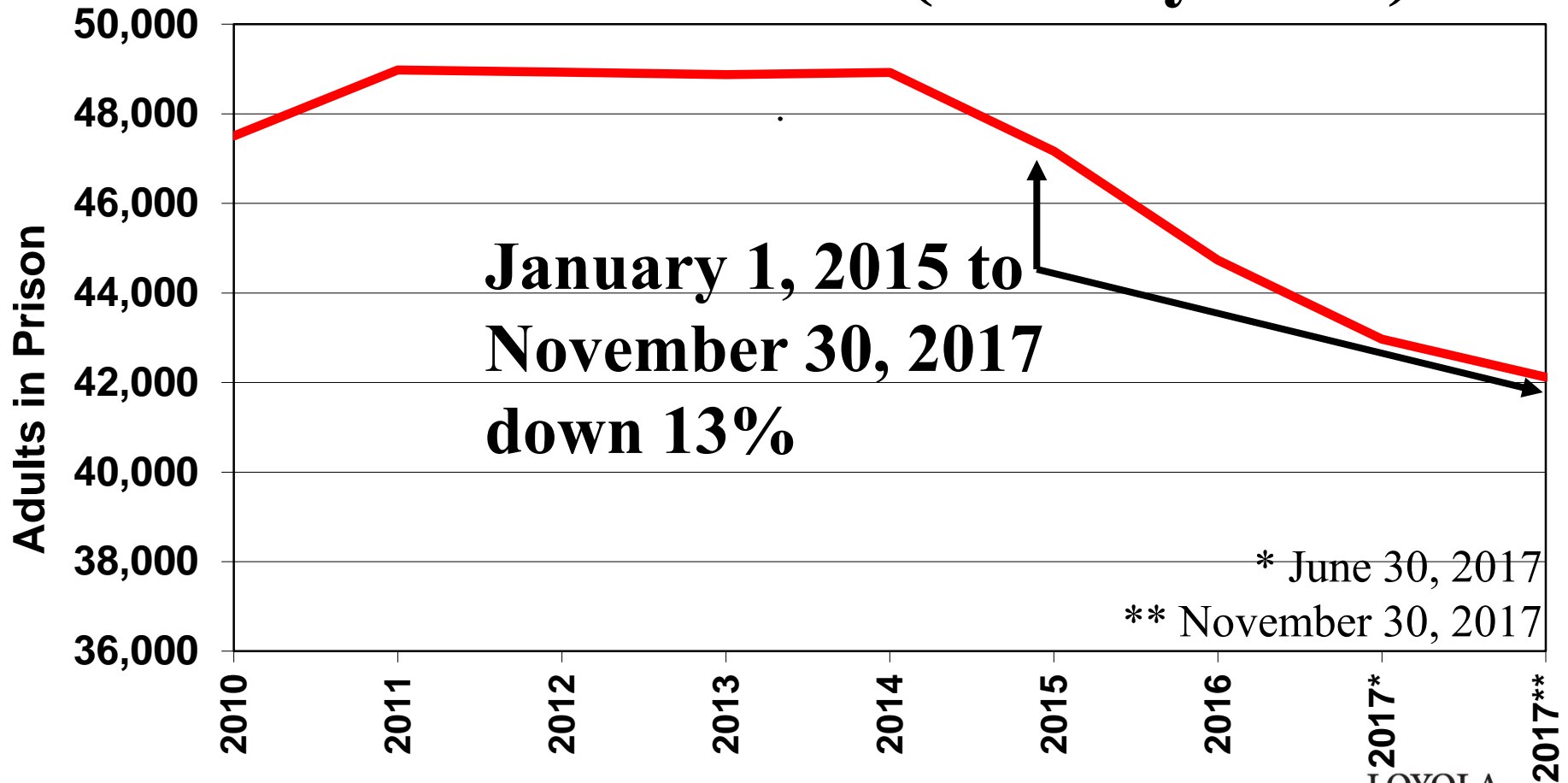
* June 30, 2017

** November 30, 2017



Source: U.S. Department of Justice Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, 1925-1986 and published IDOC data

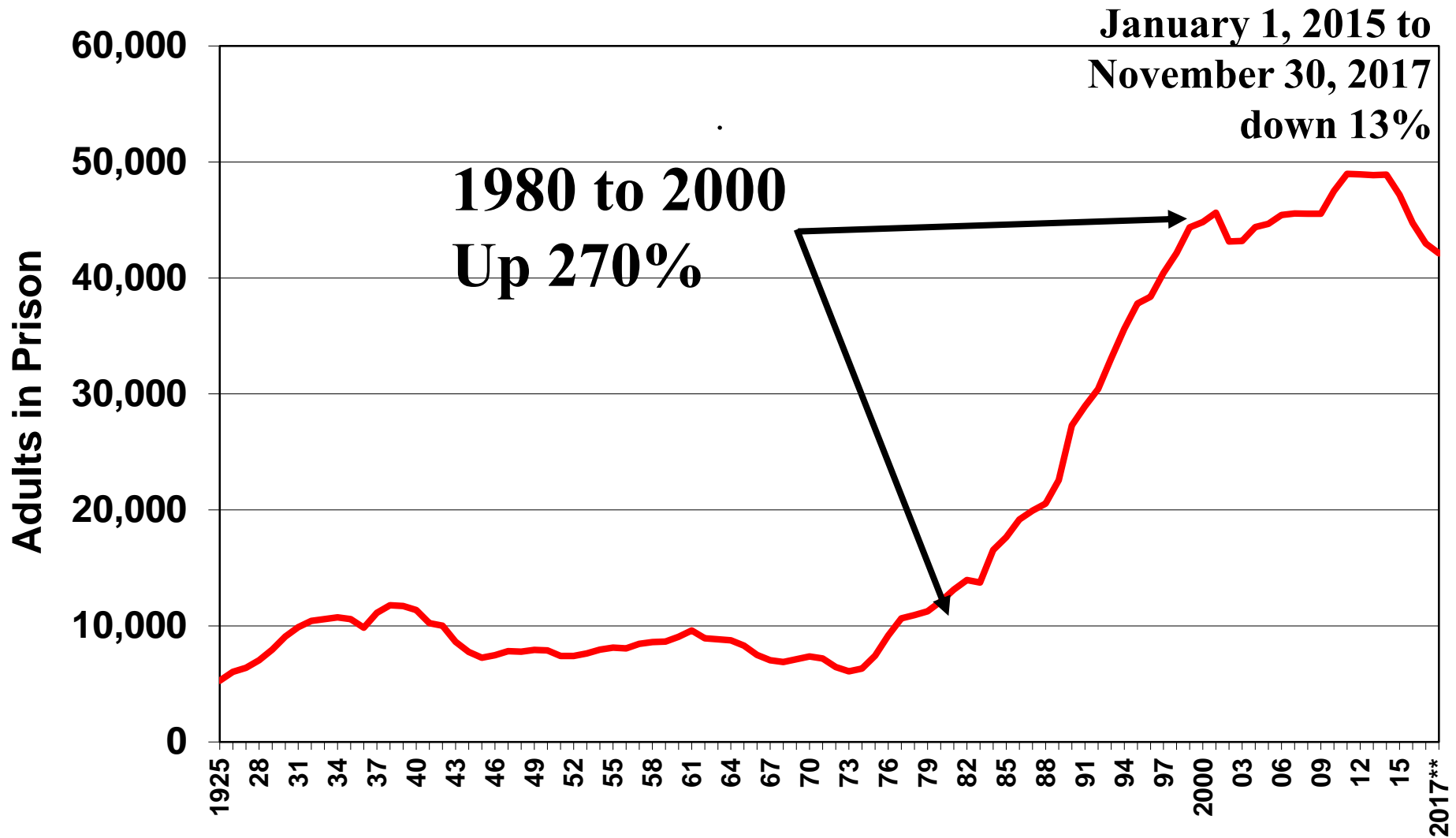
Illinois Adult Prison Population at end of State Fiscal Year ** (25% by 2025)



Source: U.S. Department of Justice Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, 1925-1986 and published IDOC data



Illinois Adult Prison Population

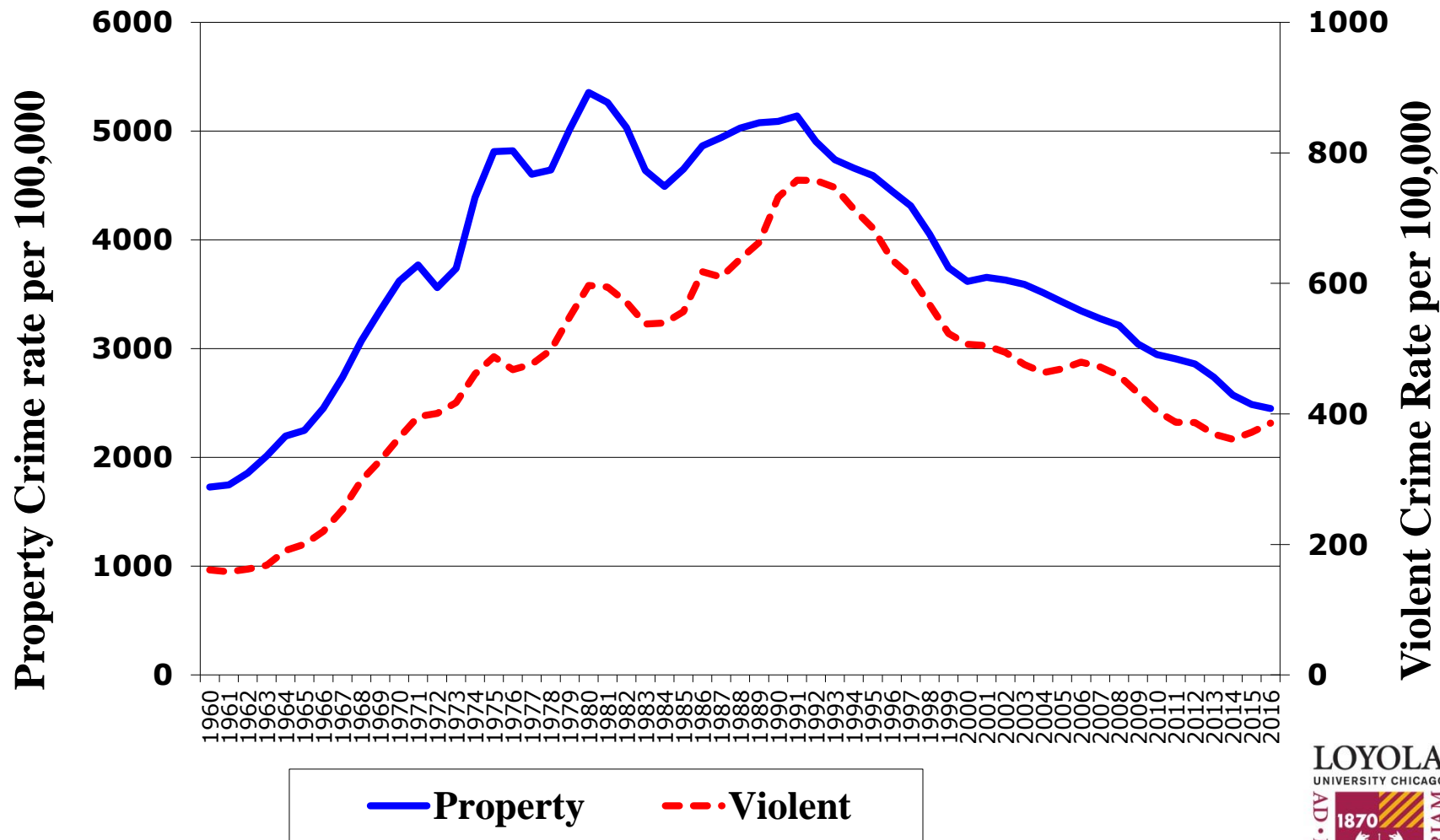


Source: U.S. Department of Justice Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, 1925-1986 and published IDOC data

The “Iron Law” of Incarceration

- Two factors drive prison populations—increased admissions and/or increased lengths of stay in prison
- From 1980s through 1990s, ***both*** of these occurred
 - Increase in ***crime*** (and ***arrests***) during the 1970s, 1980s and into the early 1990s
 - Increased ***felony drug arrests*** due to a “real” War on Drugs
 - Trickle-down rhetoric resulted in selling drugs equaling rape & attempted murder, and ***longer stays in prison*** as the primary (and incentivized) response to violent crime
 - Odds of prison sentences increased
- Since 2000, admissions are down, but length of stay has continued to increase

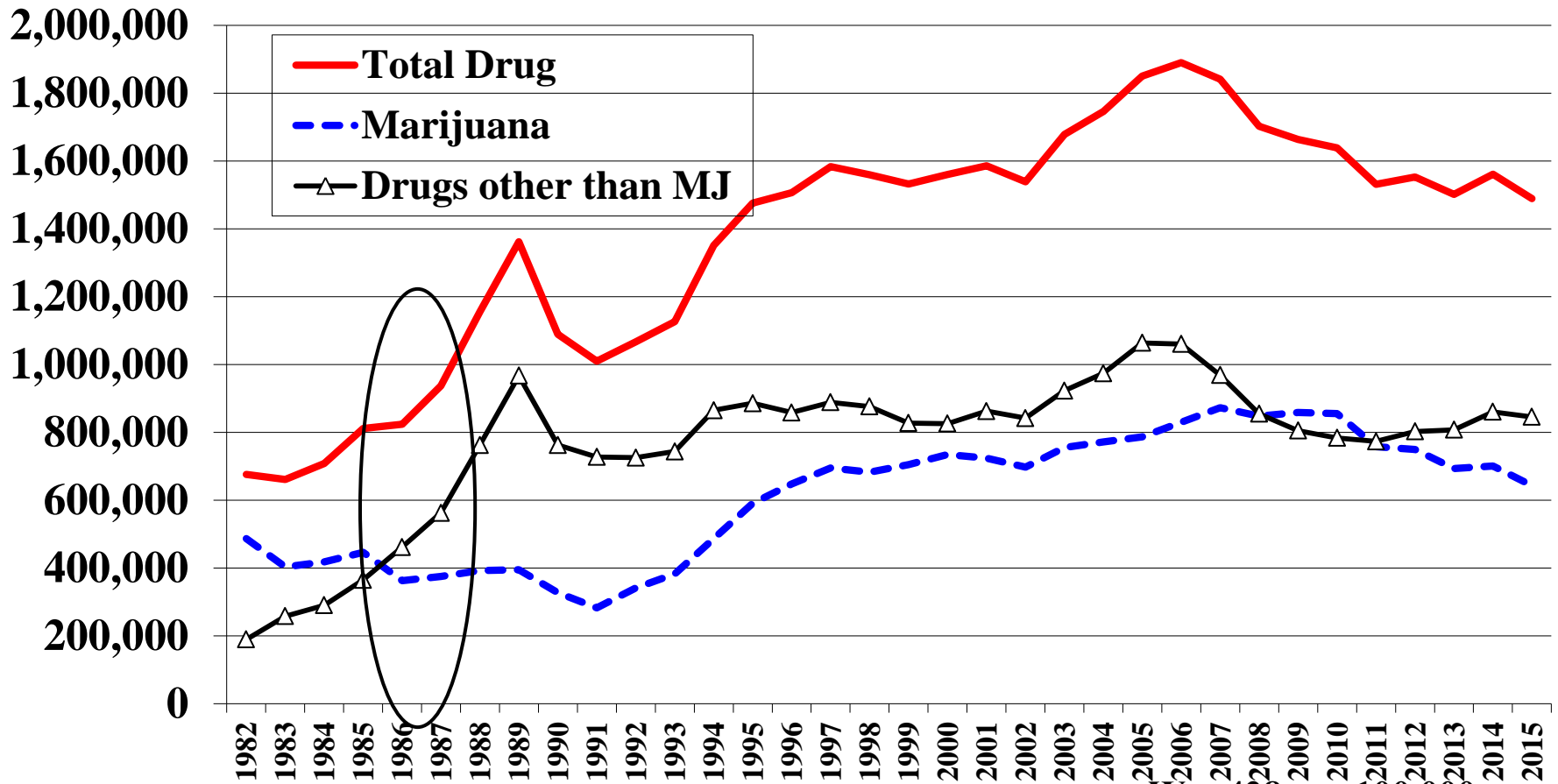
Reported Crime in the U.S. by Crime Type



Source: <http://www.bjs.gov/ucrdata/Search/Crime/State/RunCrimeStatebyState.cfm>

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Drug Arrests in U.S.: Police Respond



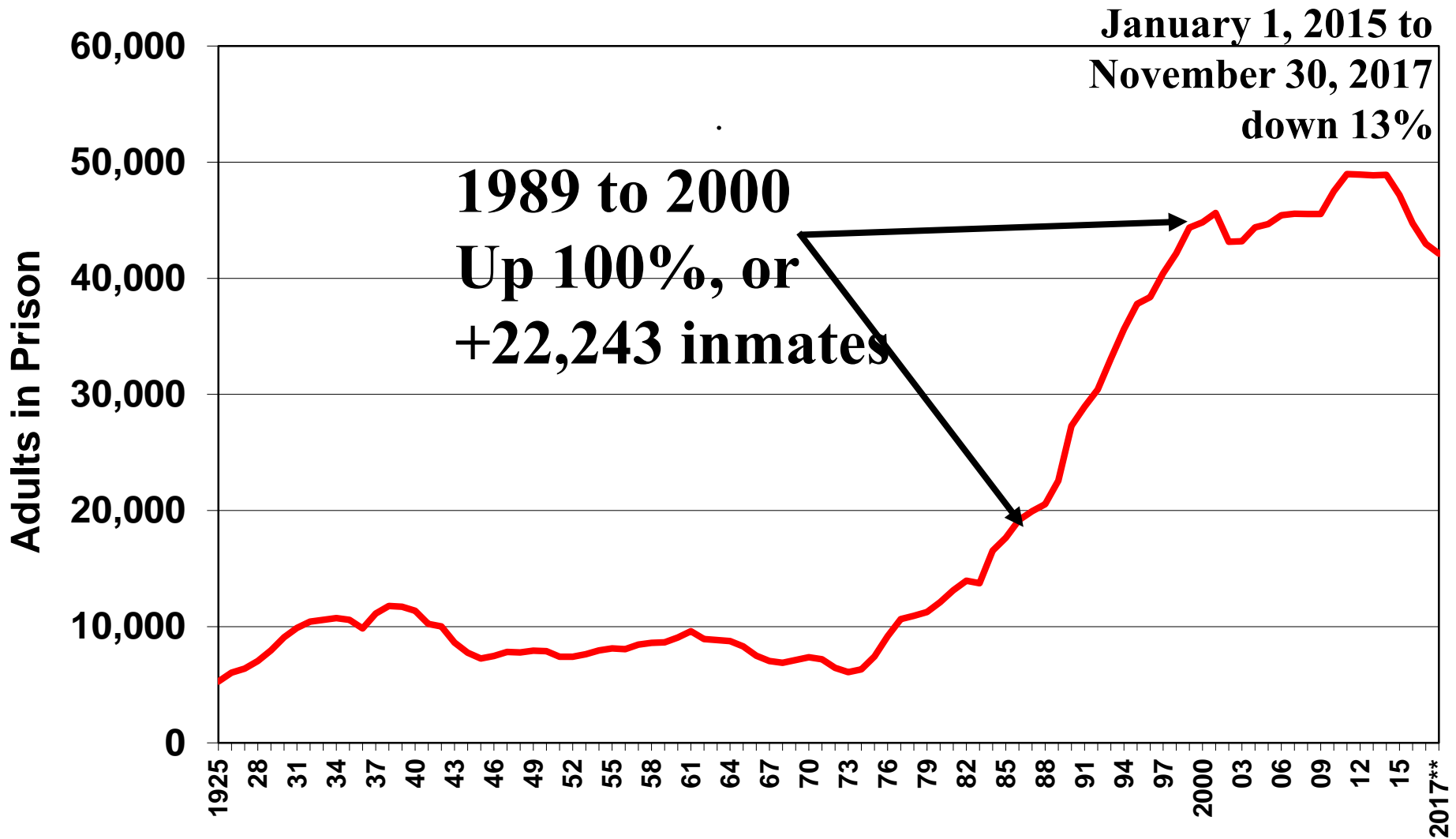
W=249 per 100,000
 B= 643 per 100,000
 158% diff.

W= 338 per 100,000
 B= 1,509 per 100,000
 346% diff.

W= 428 per 100,000
 B= 1,026 per 100,000
 139% diff.

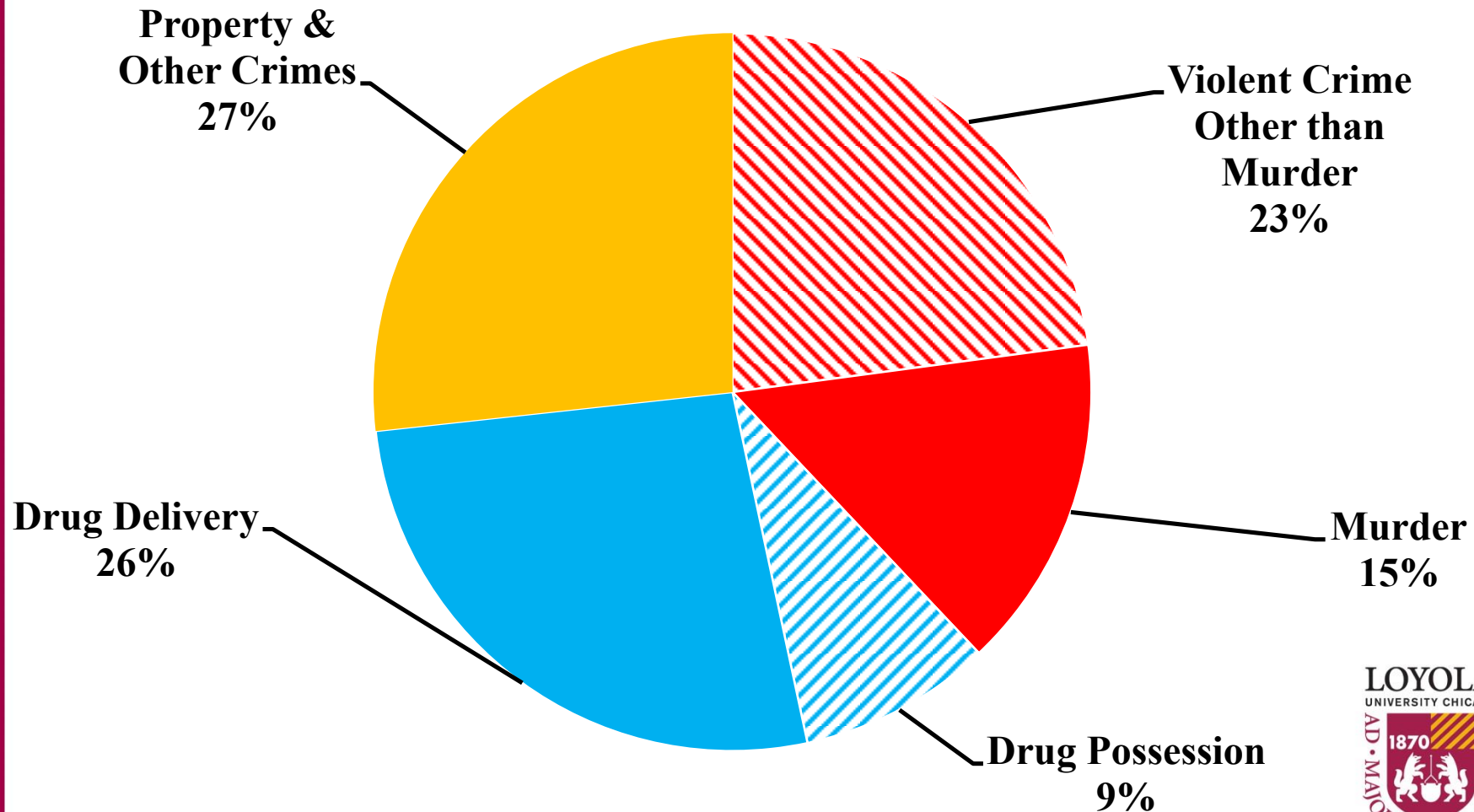


Illinois Adult Prison Population

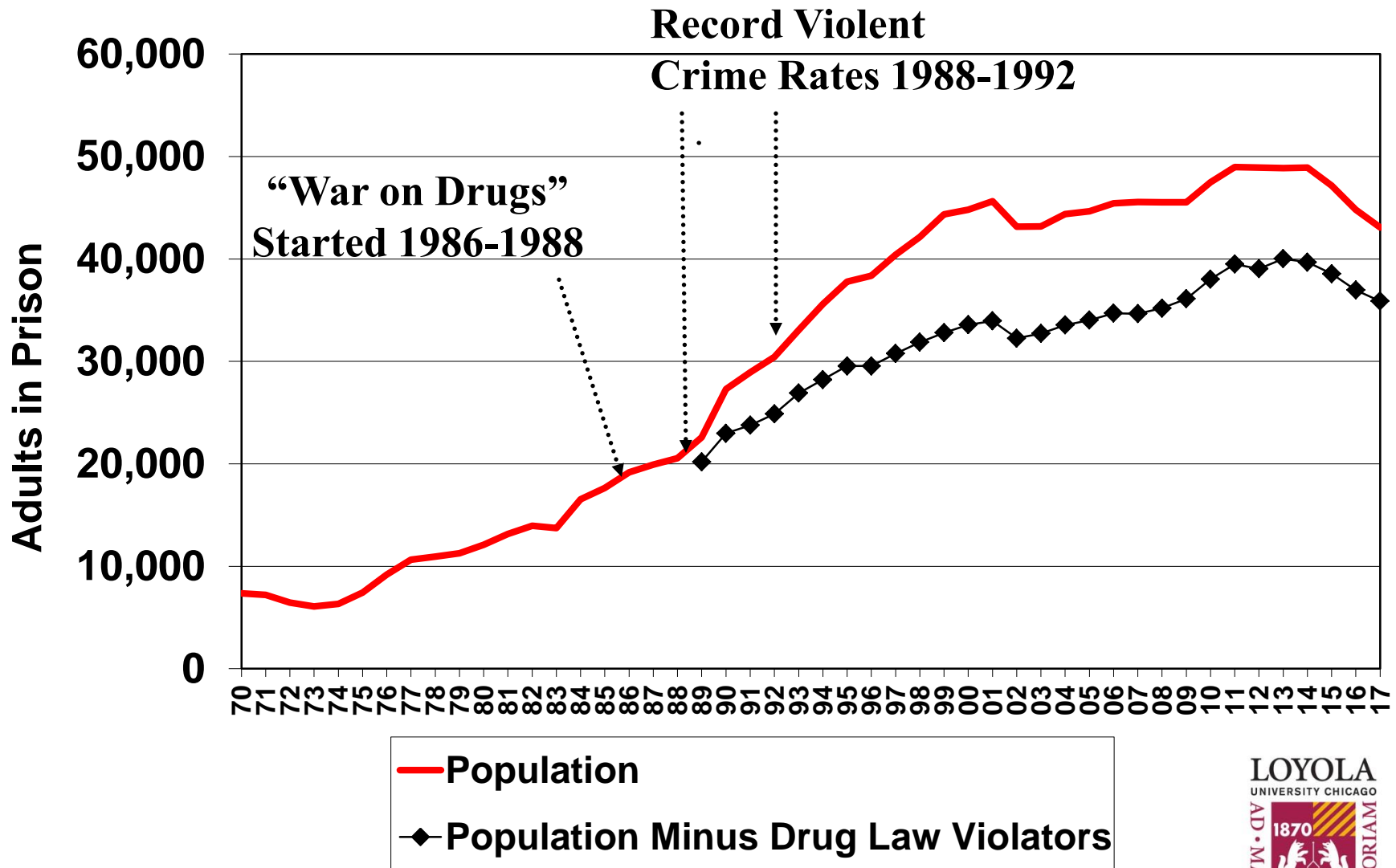


Source: U.S. Department of Justice Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, 1925-1986 and published IDOC data

What caused the increase in Illinois' prison population between 1989 and 2000?



Illinois Adult Prison Population-Real and “Pretend”

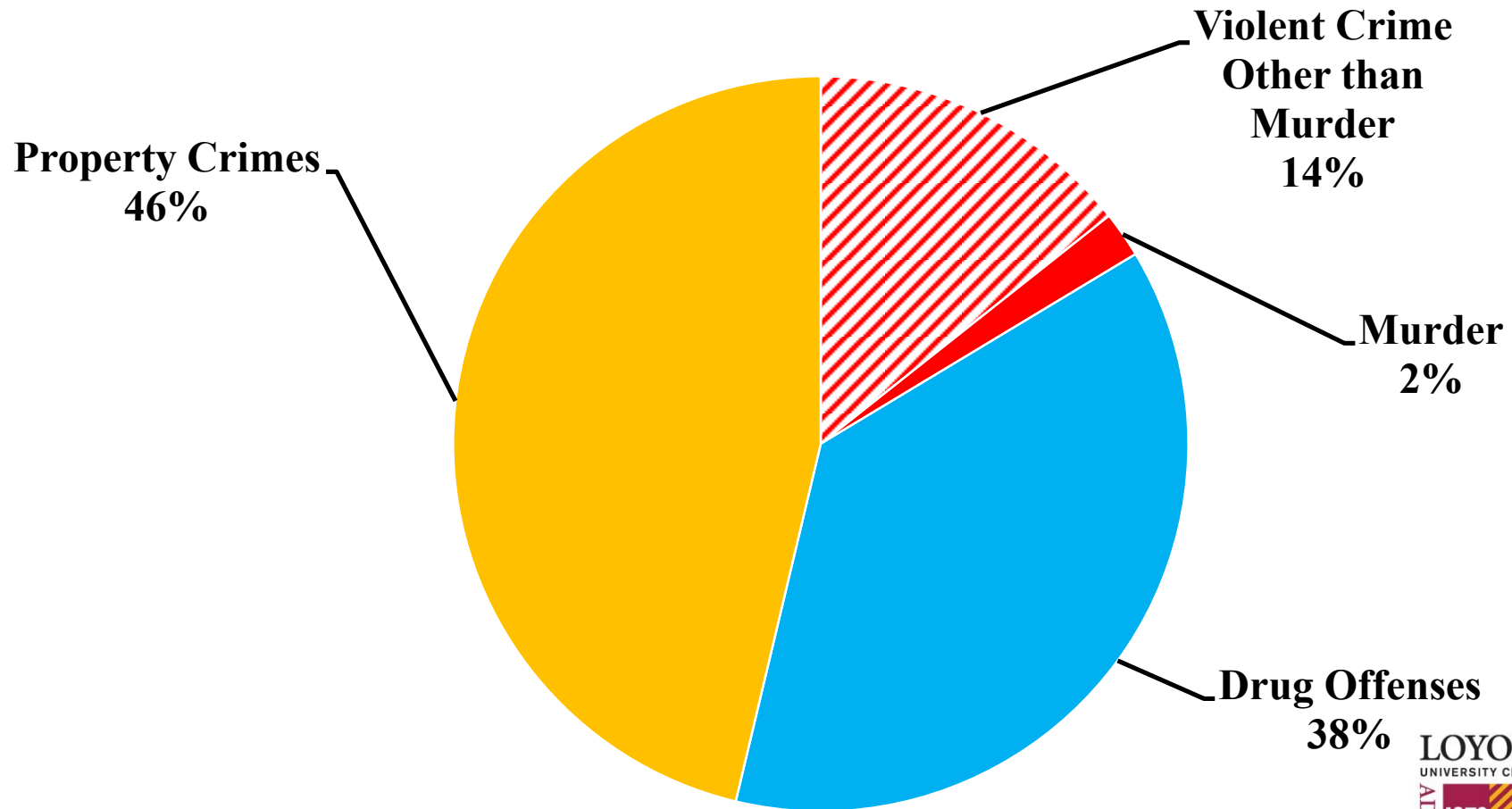


Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of data provided by the Illinois Department of Corrections’ Planning and Research Unit

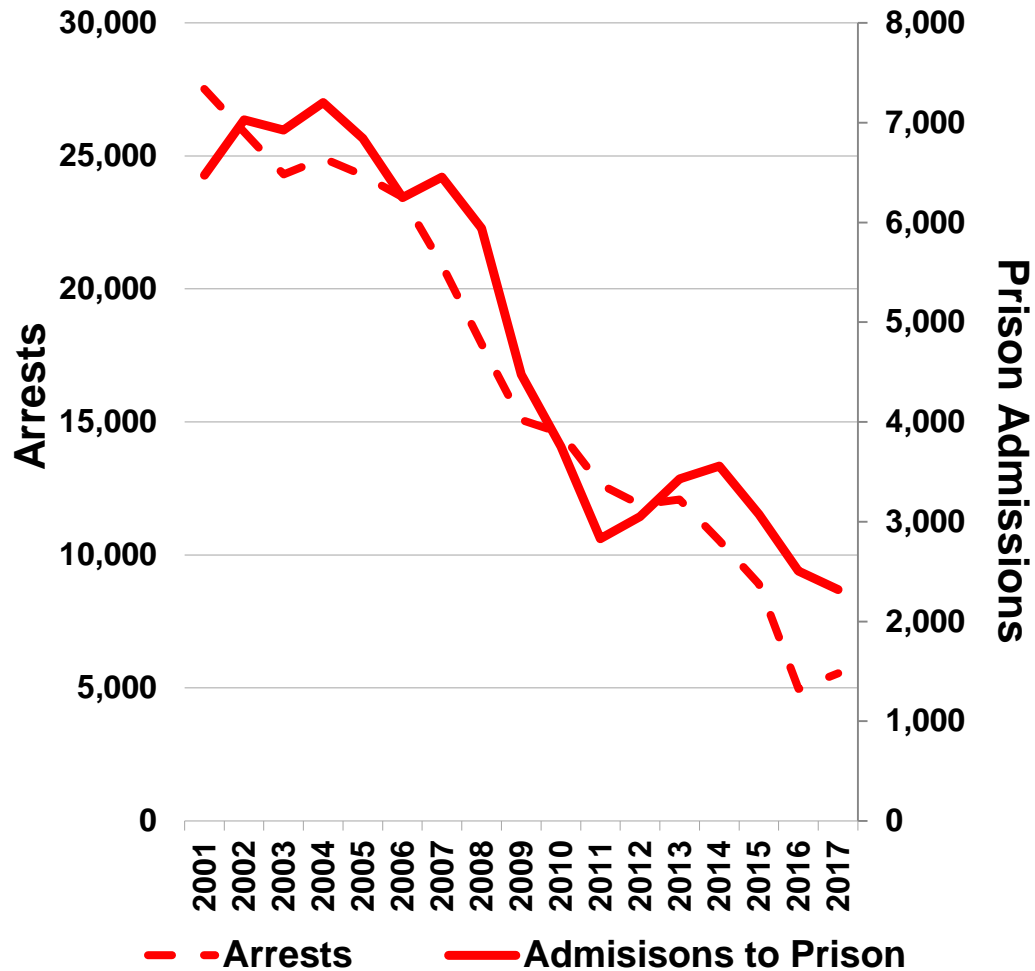


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What caused the decrease in Illinois' prison population between 2015 and 2017?



Non-Cannabis Arrests in Chicago and the Impact on Illinois' Prison Admissions



- Admissions to IDOC from Cook County for drug offenses down 64% from 2001 to 2017
- Arrests down 80% in Chicago
- One-half of the decrease in Chicago arrests came from 3 police districts

The Impact of Mass Incarceration

- Fiscal—redistributive politics, dependence on an economic model based on incarceration, inefficient for crime reduction, opportunity costs
 - \$38,268 per inmate in 2010 (1/3 outside of IDOC's budget) (Vera Institute of Justice)
 - Every 27 people in prison costs \$1,000,000 for a year
- Adversely impacts communities
 - Admissions concentrated from specific communities (1/6 admissions to IDOC from 6 Chicago zip codes)
 - Coercive Mobility Hypothesis (Todd Clear)
 - Normalization & Lack of Trust in Government Institutions

Will we have the will to close prisons?

“Keeping Pontiac Correctional Center open will ensure nearly 600 people in the region keep their jobs, prevent hundreds of families from being uprooted, and allow Pontiac to maintain one of its largest sources of revenue.”

“The decision is another step in Governor Quinn’s efforts to ensure greater fiscal responsibility in state government – the prison provides nearly 600 jobs and generates an approximate \$54.4 million in revenue for the region.”

Press release from Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, March 12, 2009.



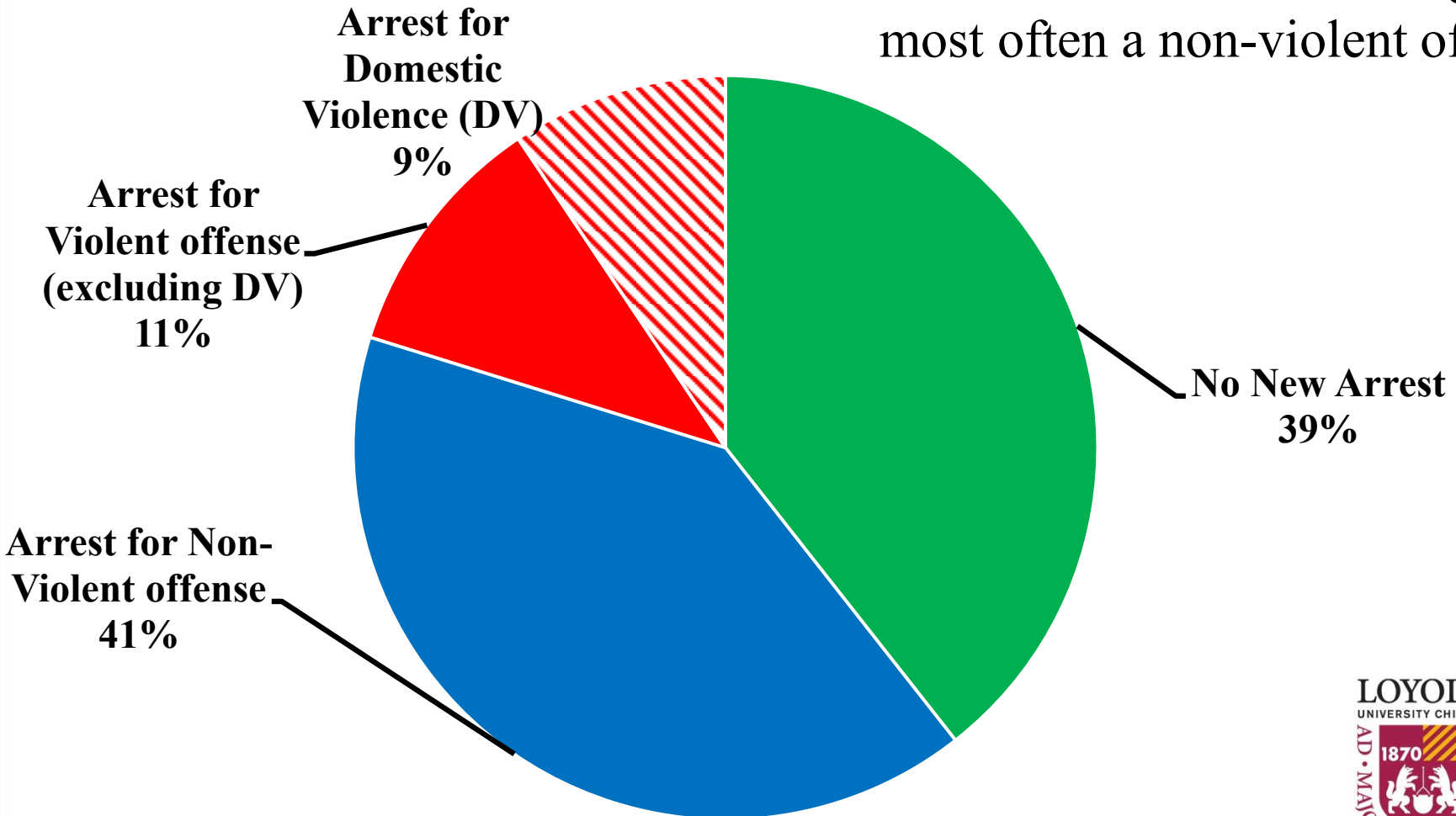
**Illinois’ Pontiac Correctional Center:
Opened in 1871, houses nearly 2,000
inmates.**

Impact of Mass Incarceration on Individuals

- Incarceration disrupts and strain the relationships between family members, children and those incarcerated
- Most of Illinois' inmates have children
 - 63% of male inmates and 83% of women have kids
 - Urban Institute Returning Home research found decrease in male inmates living with or financially supporting their children pre versus post-prison; decreased employment, decrease in independent living
- Average from prison to home=190 miles

3-Year Post-Release Rearrest Rates Among IDOC Exits

61% arrested for something, most often a non-violent offense



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Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of data provided by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Planning and Research Unit and CHRI data generated and provided by the Research and Analysis Unit, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Where are we going from here?

- Almost none of the recent drop in Illinois' prison population was due to any change in the law
 - Collectively the recommendations by the State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform can reduce the prison population by 25%
- The conversation around drug-laws has changed
- At what point has punishment been achieved?
- It's "hip" to be effective: "smart on crime," "right on crime," "intelligence-led prosecution," "focused deterrence," "evidence-based practices"
- All politics (and most justice) is local, and needs to be supported