

# Getting Tough on Spending

An Examination of Correctional  
Expenditure in Massachusetts

**MassINC**  
RESEARCH. JOURNALISM. CIVIC LIFE.

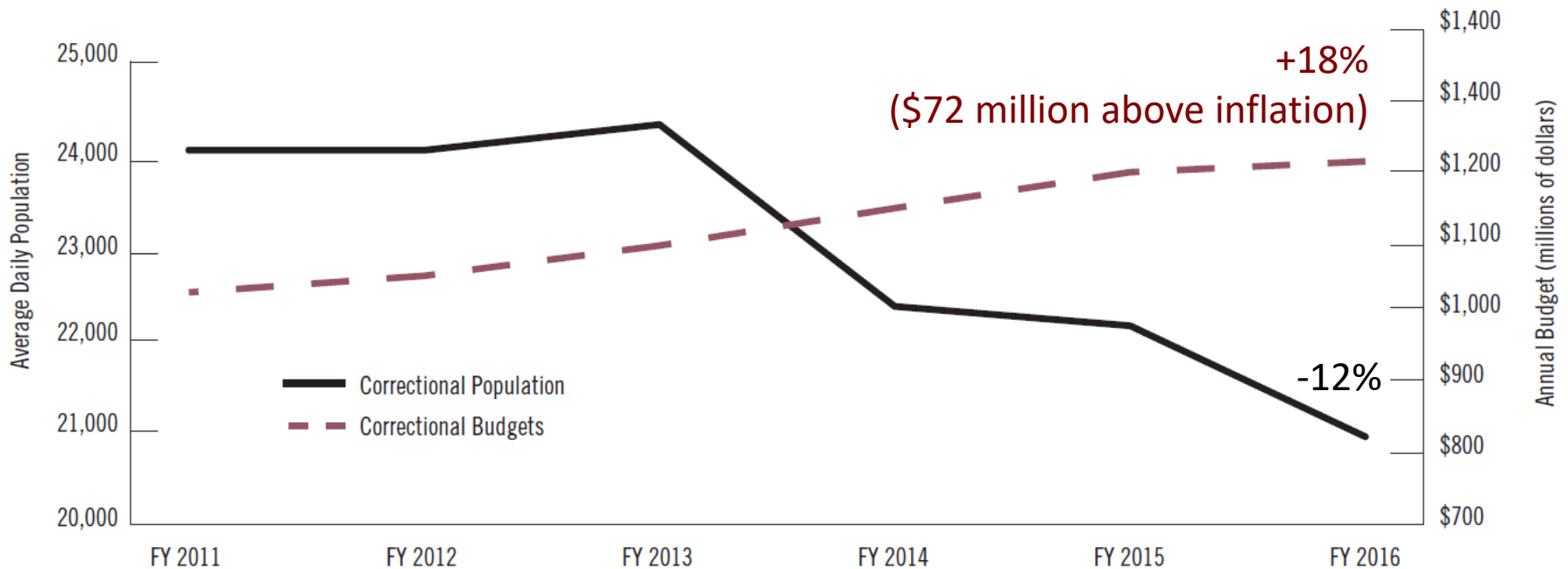
Massachusetts Criminal  
Justice Reform Coalition

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM

The Boston  
Foundation 

# Key Findings:

- **Despite a significant decline in the total number of individuals held in correctional facilities in recent years, spending on prisons and jails continues to rise.**

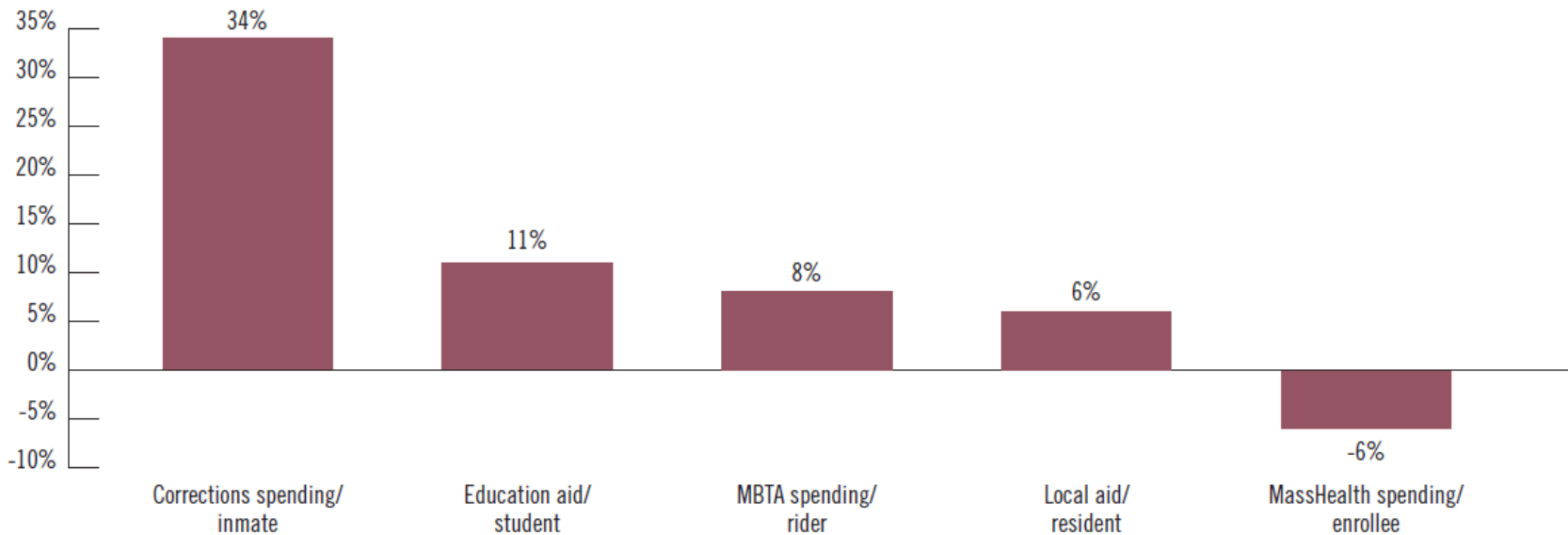


Sources: MassINC's analysis of data from Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center and Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheets

# Key Findings:

- **Between FY 2011 and FY 2016, correctional spending grew faster than many other components of the Massachusetts state budget.**

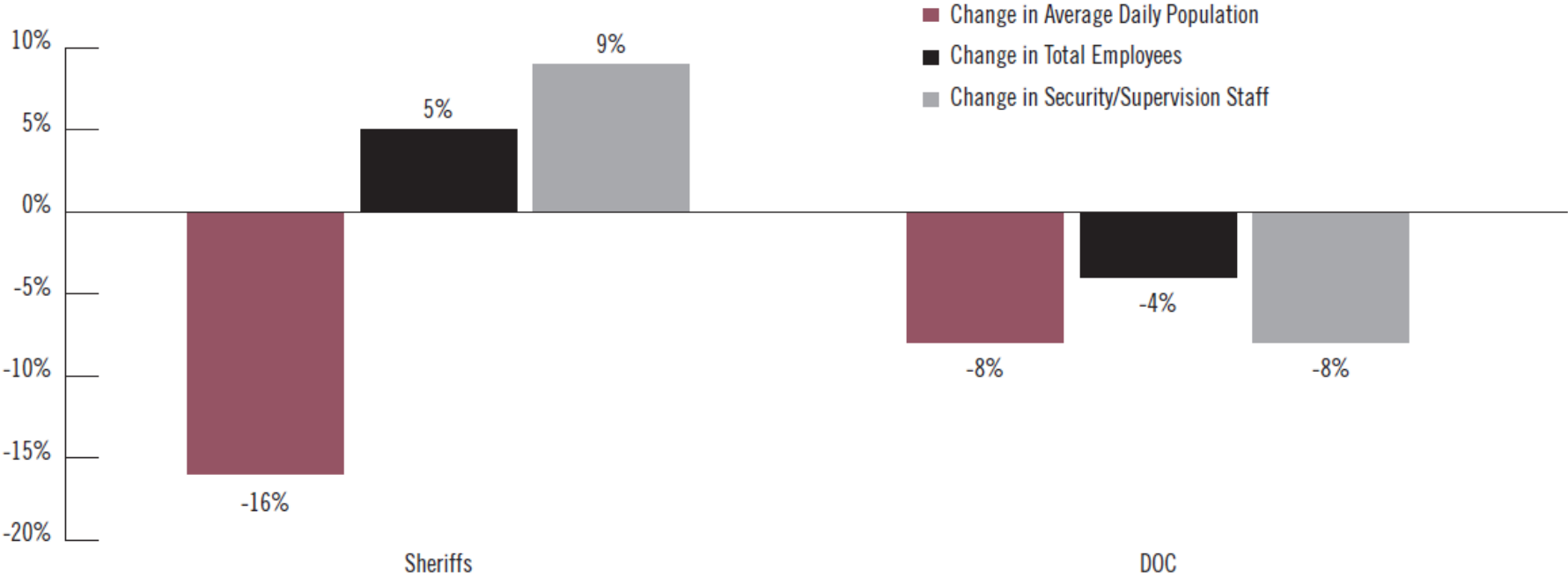
Change relative to other areas of the budget, FY 2011 to FY 2016



Sources: MassINC's analysis of data from Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center, MBTA, MassHealth, Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, and U.S. Census

# Key Findings:

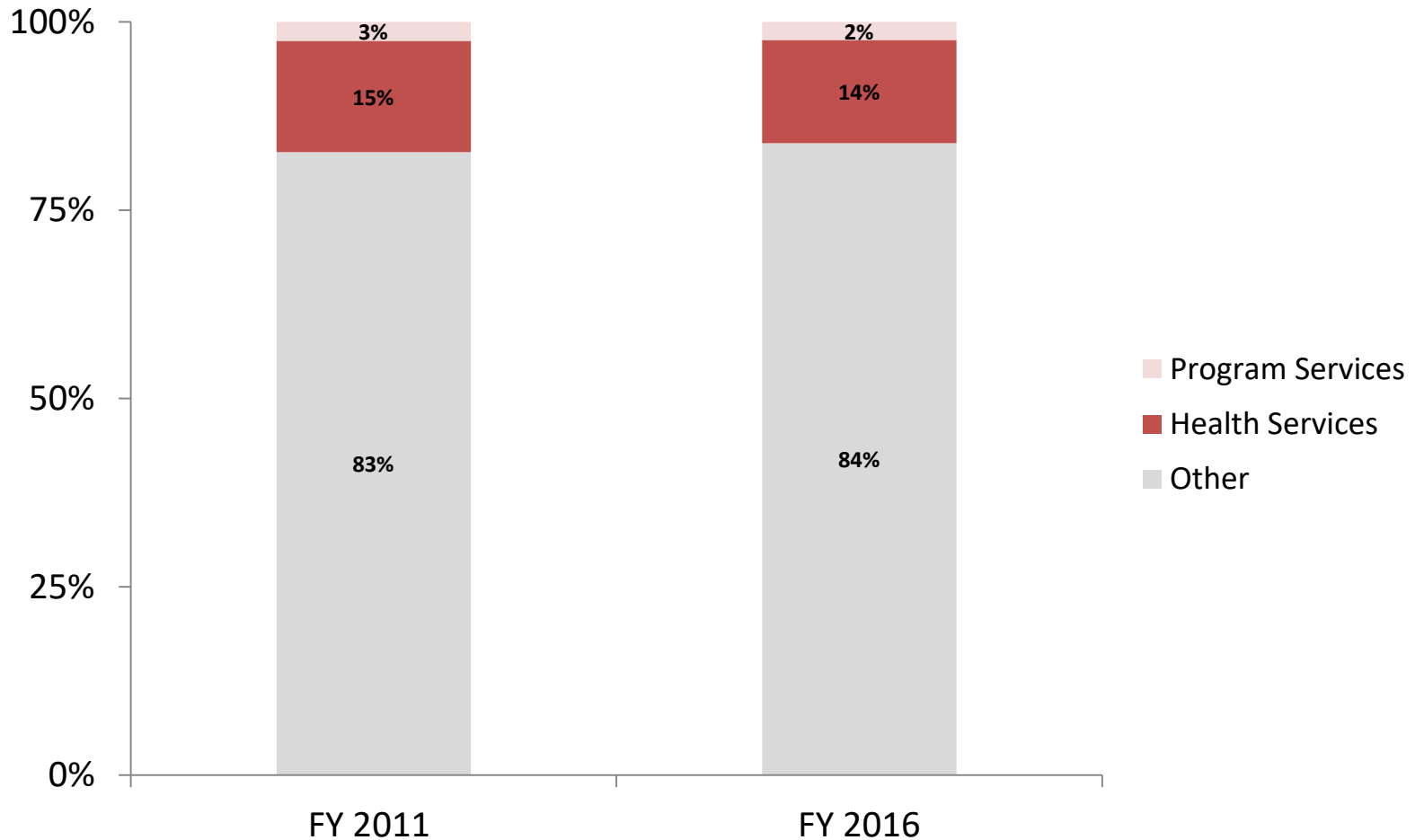
- **Between FY 2011 and FY 2016, growth in correctional spending was largely driven by rising employee wages and new hiring.**



Sources: MassINC analysis of Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller data by request and Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheets

# Key Findings:

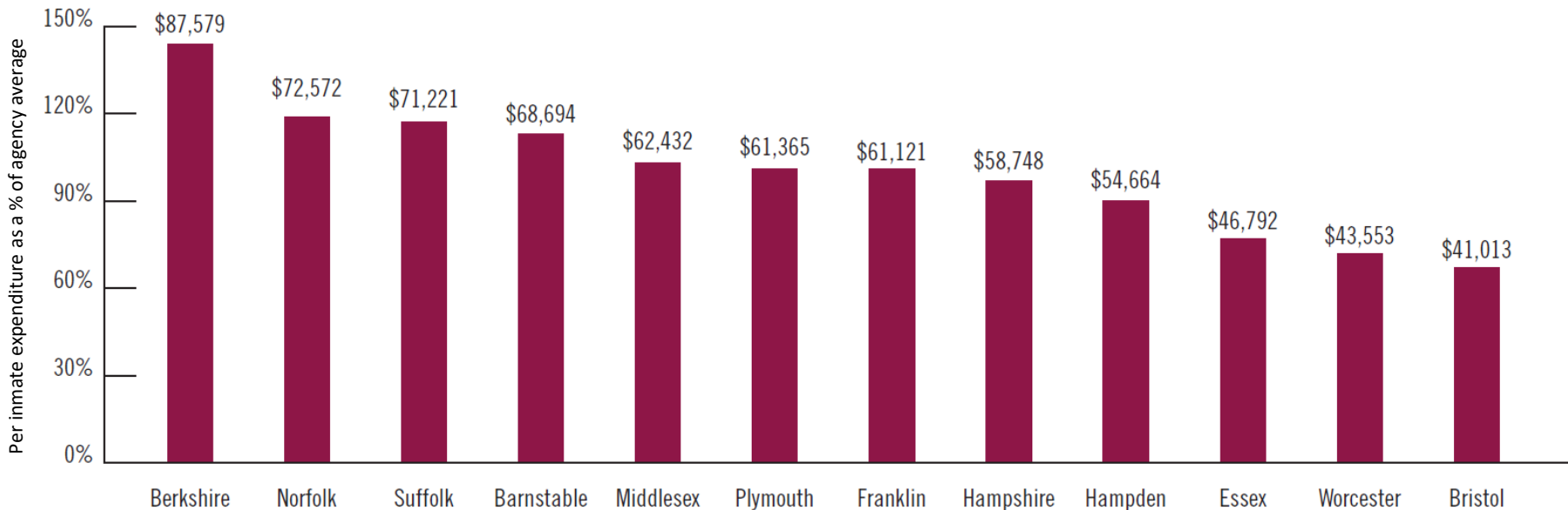
- **Spending categories associated with recidivism reduction did not increase significantly, and these services continue to represent a small fraction of total correctional expenditures.**



# Key Findings:

- **There are large and growing disparities in correctional spending across agencies**

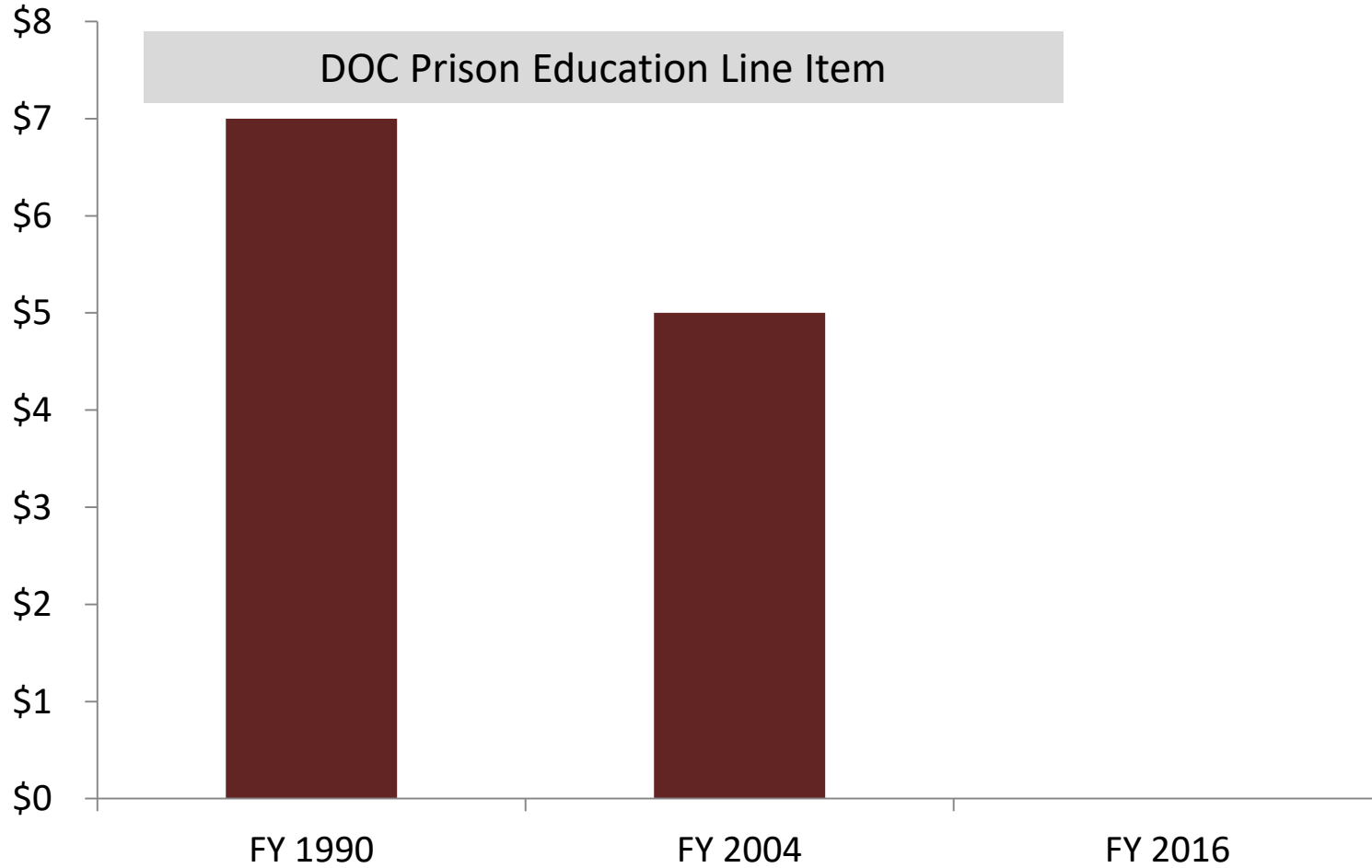
## Total expenditure per inmate, FY 2016



Sources: MassINC's analysis of Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller data request and Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheets

# Recommendations

# 1. Create a line item in correctional budgets for evidence-based services.





**2. Create a strong mechanism to divert resources and defendants from the justice system to behavioral health services.**

**2,900 fewer prison beds**

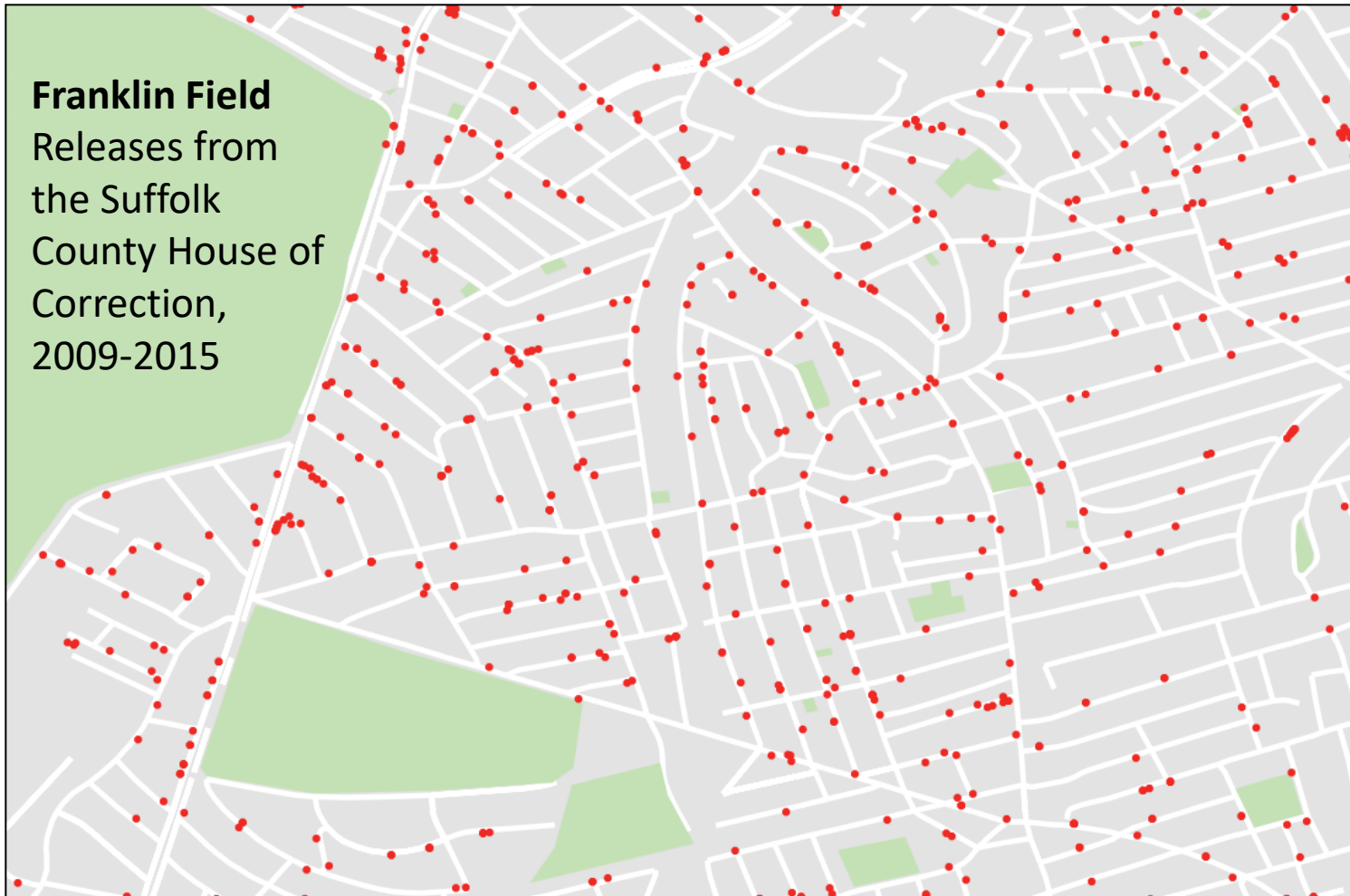


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**600 treatment beds**



### 3. Create a strong mechanism for reinvestment in high-incarceration-rate communities.



## 4. Improve data reporting on correctional expenditures and outcomes.

### 1,491 different titles in county correctional facilities

	A	B
1	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
2	RecruitCorrection Officer	Security/Supervision
3	1st Asst Dpty Super - SDB	Command Staff
4	1st Asst Dpty Superintendent	Command Staff
5	1st Community Control Officer	Law Enforcement
6	1st Residential Supervisor	Security/Supervision
7	2nd Asst Dpty Superintendent	Command Staff
8	911 Operator	Administration
9	ABE Instructor - Grant	Education
10	ABE Instructor - Per Diem	Education
11	ABE Instructor VIII	Education
12	ABE Program Coordinator	Education
13	Accounting Administrative Asst	Administration
14	Accounting Assistant	Administration
15	Accounting Asst.	Administration
16	ACCOUNTS CLERK II	Administration
17	Accounts Payable Administrator	Administration
18	Accounts Payable Clerk	Administration
19	ACCREDITATION MGR.	Administration
20	Accreditation Specialist	Administration
21	Adm Asst Employee Health Services Svcs	Administration
22	Admin / Telecommunications	Administration
23	Admin Aide Legislative	Administration
24	Admin Assist - Contract	Administration
25	Admin Assist/Civil Process	Civil Process
26	Admin Assist/Policy & Proc	Administration
27	Admin Assistant Superintendent	Administration
28	Admin Assistant/Civil Process	Civil Process
29	Admin Asst	Administration
30	Admin Asst (Cnty)	Administration
31	ADMIN ASST / BAC	Administration

# Summary

- Declining inmate populations present a significant opportunity to increase public safety by reallocating resources to more cost-effective activities.
- Correctional administrators have worked creatively to develop these programs; budget-makers must take a more active role helping correctional administrators overcome the inertia that makes it difficult to reallocate dollars within agencies.
- How this happens should be part of the broader debate around comprehensive criminal justice reform and Justice Reinvestment.