



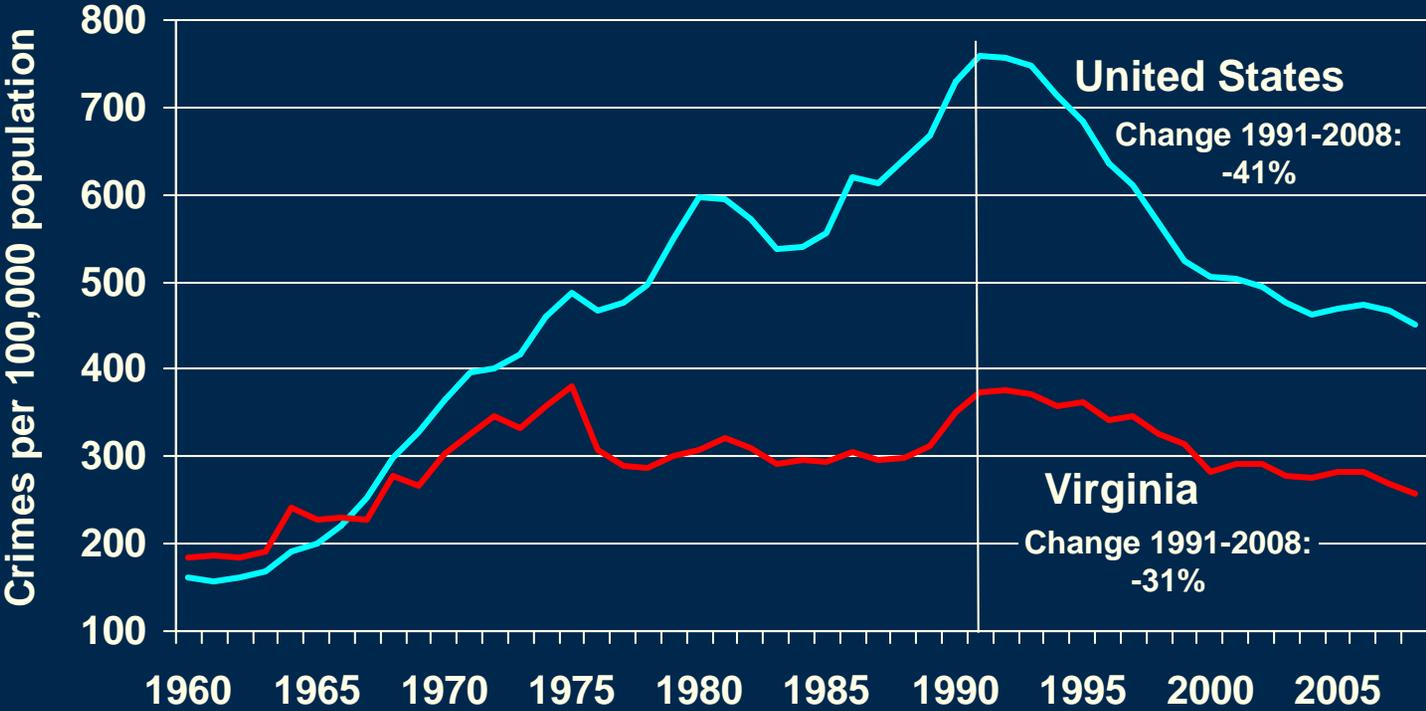
Virginia's Offender Population Forecasts

Presentation to the
House Appropriations Committee

January 27, 2010

In 2008, Virginia recorded its lowest violent crime rate in nearly 40 years.

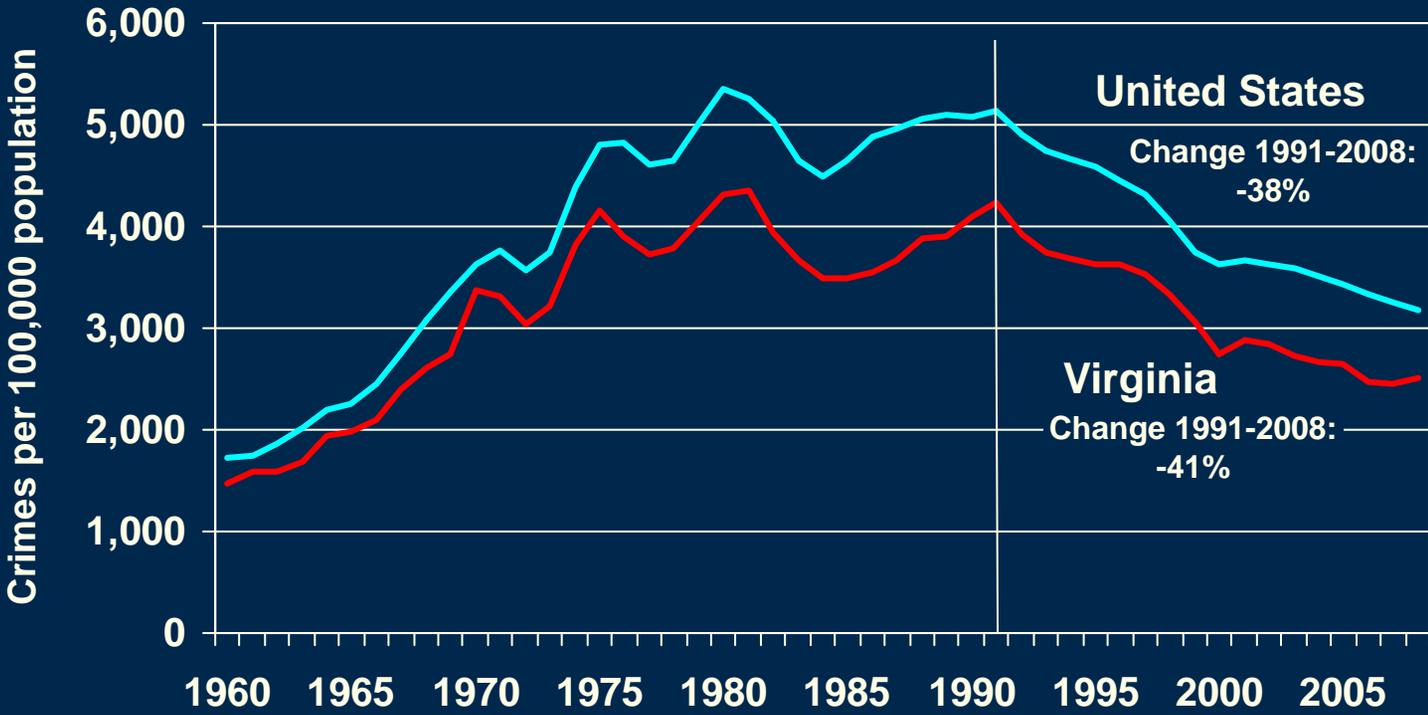
Violent Crime Rates in Virginia and the US, 1960 – 2008



Violent index crimes are murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault

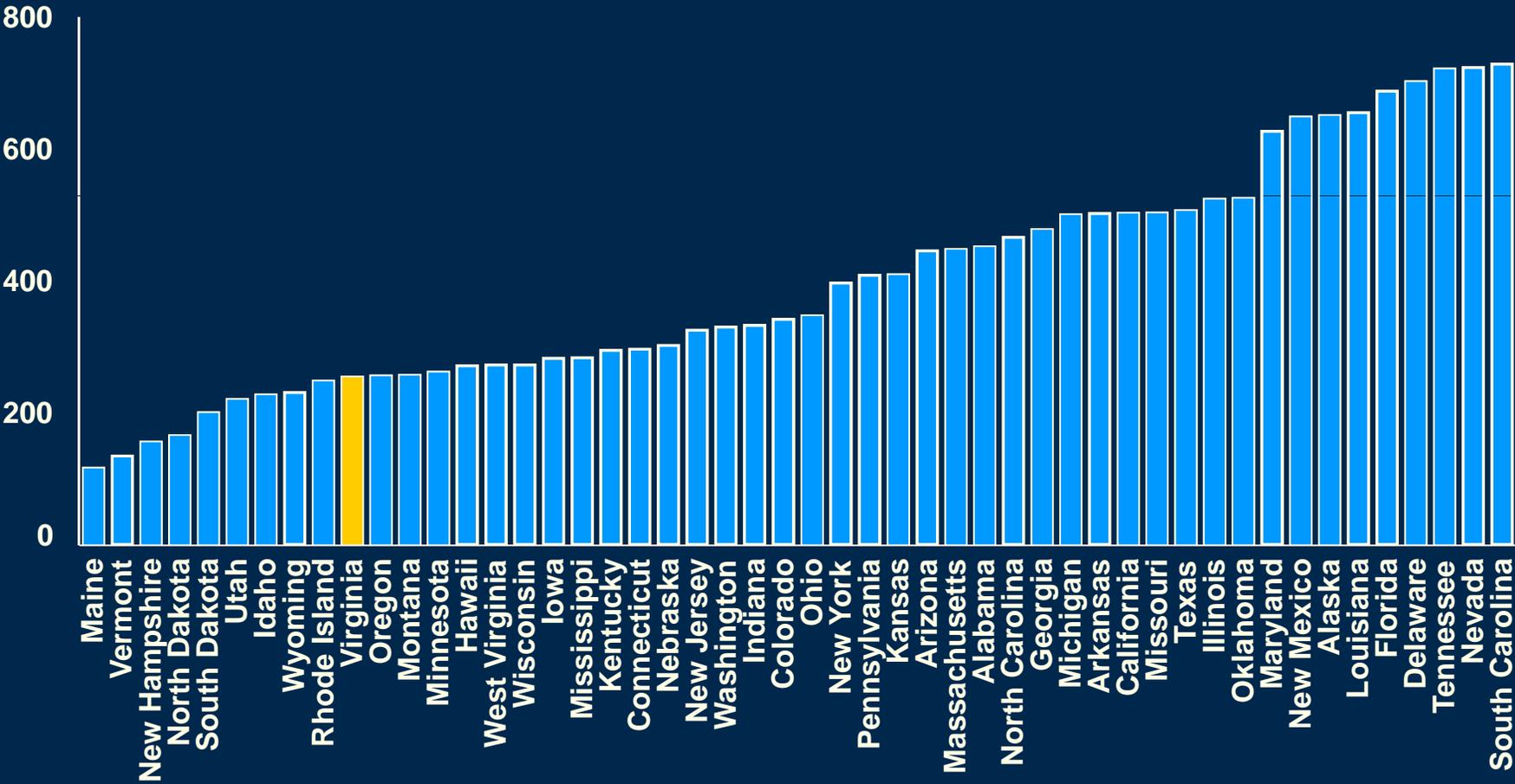
In 2008, Virginia also recorded its lowest property crime rate in nearly 40 years.

Property Crime Rates in Virginia and the US, 1960 – 2008



Property index crimes are burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft

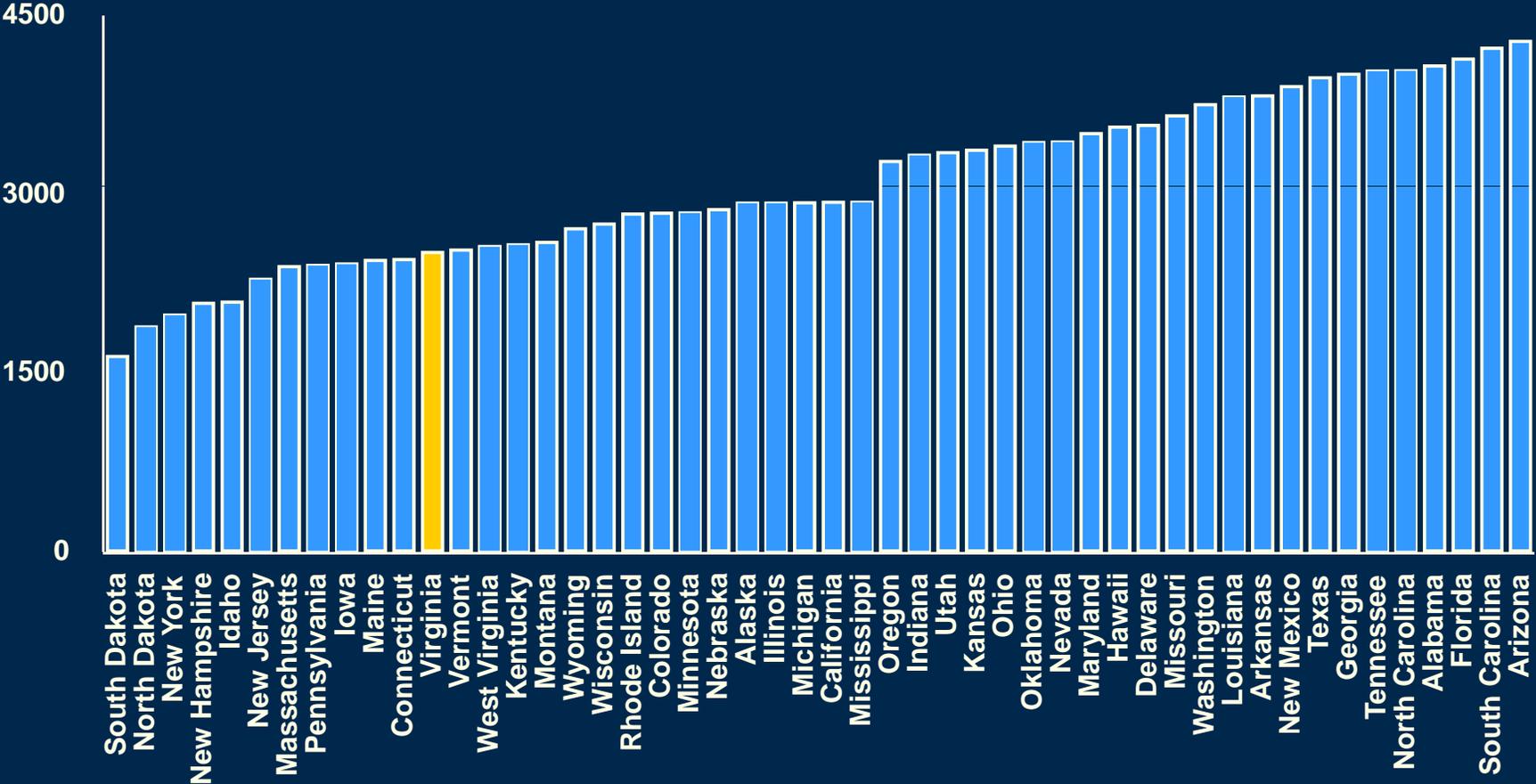
Virginia's violent crime rate is the 10th lowest in the nation and the lowest among southern states



Crime rates are the number of crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Violent crimes are murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Virginia's property crime rate is the 12th lowest in the nation and the lowest among southern states



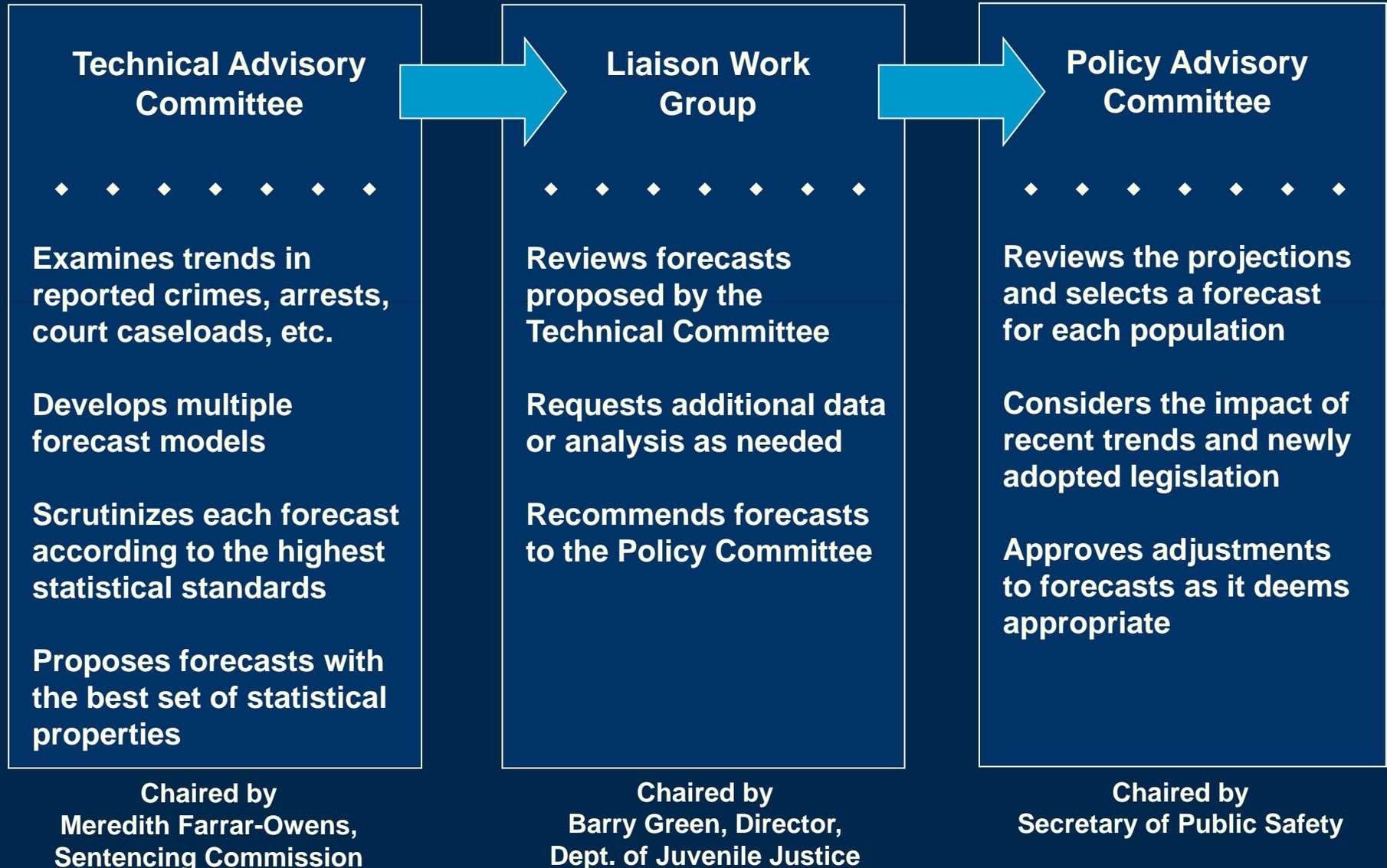
Crime rates are the number of crimes reported per 100,000 population.
Property crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Virginia utilizes consensus forecasting

An open, participative process that brings together policy makers, administrators and technical experts from all branches of state government

**Secretary of Public Safety
Department of Corrections
Department of Juvenile Justice
Department of Criminal Justice Services
Department of Planning & Budget
Compensation Board
Supreme Court of Virginia
Criminal Sentencing Commission
Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission
Virginia Commonwealth University
Parole Board
State Police
Members of Senate Finance and House Appropriations
Staff of Senate Finance and House Appropriations
Commonwealth's Attorney representative
Police Chief representative
Sheriff representative
Regional jail representative**

Virginia utilizes consensus forecasting



Virginia utilizes consensus forecasting

Technical Advisory Committee



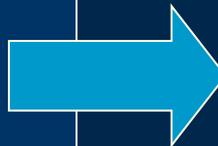
Examines trends in reported crimes, arrests, court caseloads, etc.

Develops multiple forecast models

Scrutinizes each forecast according to the highest statistical standards

Proposes forecasts with the best set of statistical properties

**Chaired by
Meredith Farrar-Owens,
Sentencing Commission**



Two analysts from two different agencies work independently to develop competing forecast models.

Confidence in the official forecast is bolstered if the different methods used by the two agencies converge on the same future population levels.

State-responsible (SR)
inmate population



Inmates housed in DOC
prison facilities and
state-responsible inmates
housed in jails

Local-responsible (LR)
prisoner population



Prisoners confined in
local and regional jails
(excluding state and
federal prisoners)

*Four
Offender Forecasts
Are Produced*

Juvenile correctional center
(JCC) population



Juveniles committed
to the state

Juvenile detention home
(JDH) population



Juveniles placed in
local facilities

Adult Offender Populations



The local-responsible jail population has declined over the last two fiscal years.

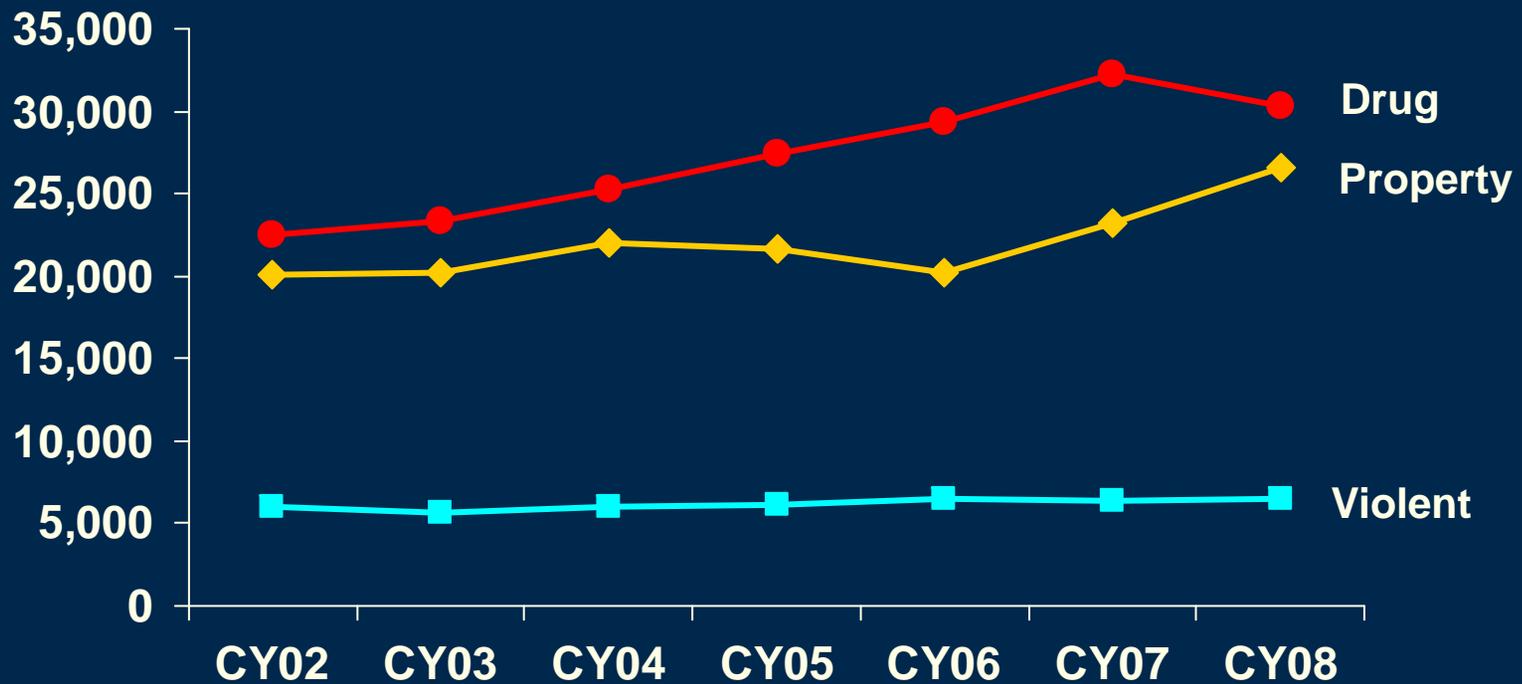
Local-Responsible Jail Population



	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Change:	+8.3%	+5.1%	+4.4%	+5.1%	+5.1%	+2.7%	+7.5%	+7.2%	-1.7%	-3.0%

Arrests for property crimes (particularly misdemeanors) increased in 2008, but arrests for drug crimes fell

Number of Adult Arrests in Virginia



	Violent (Index Crimes)	Property (Index Crimes)	Drug
Change 2007 - 2008:	+2.2%	+14.5%	-6.0%

Declining drug arrests (particularly cocaine) have contributed to the drop in Virginia's jail and prison populations

- **Overall, drug arrests declined 6% in 2008.**
 - **Cocaine arrests dropped by 26%**
 - **Marijuana arrests increased by 1.4%**
 - **The average number of drug cases received by the Department of Forensic Science each month declined by 26% from 2006 to 2009.**
 - **Total cocaine specimens dropped by 34% from 2006 to 2008.**
 - **The number of offenders in jail awaiting trial for felony drug charges declined by 28% between June 2007 and June 2009.**
-

Reduced availability of cocaine may have contributed to fewer drug arrests

- Federal data suggest reduced availability of cocaine in the mid-Atlantic states.
 - Law enforcement efforts (e.g., seizures, crop eradication, and border security) and the drug war in Mexico appear to be impacting the ability of traffickers to deliver drugs to the U.S.

The Department of Forensic Science reduced its backlog of cases, alleviating pressure on the population in jail awaiting trial

Average Monthly Backlog of Forensic Analysis Cases



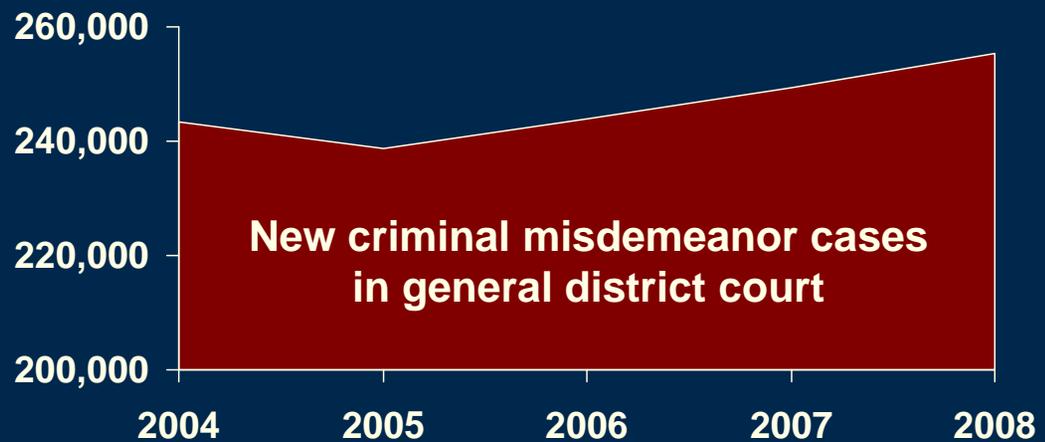
* FY2009 average is based on data from July 2008 through January 2009.

Virginia's court system processed fewer felony defendants in 2008, but misdemeanor cases continued to rise

The number of felony defendants in circuit court declined by 6.2% in 2008.



New misdemeanor cases in general district court (excluding criminal traffic misdemeanors) increased by 2.5% in 2008.



For the FY2011-2012 biennium, the local-responsible jail population is projected to remain below the FY2009 figure

**Local-Responsible Jail Population and Forecast
FY2004 – FY2012**



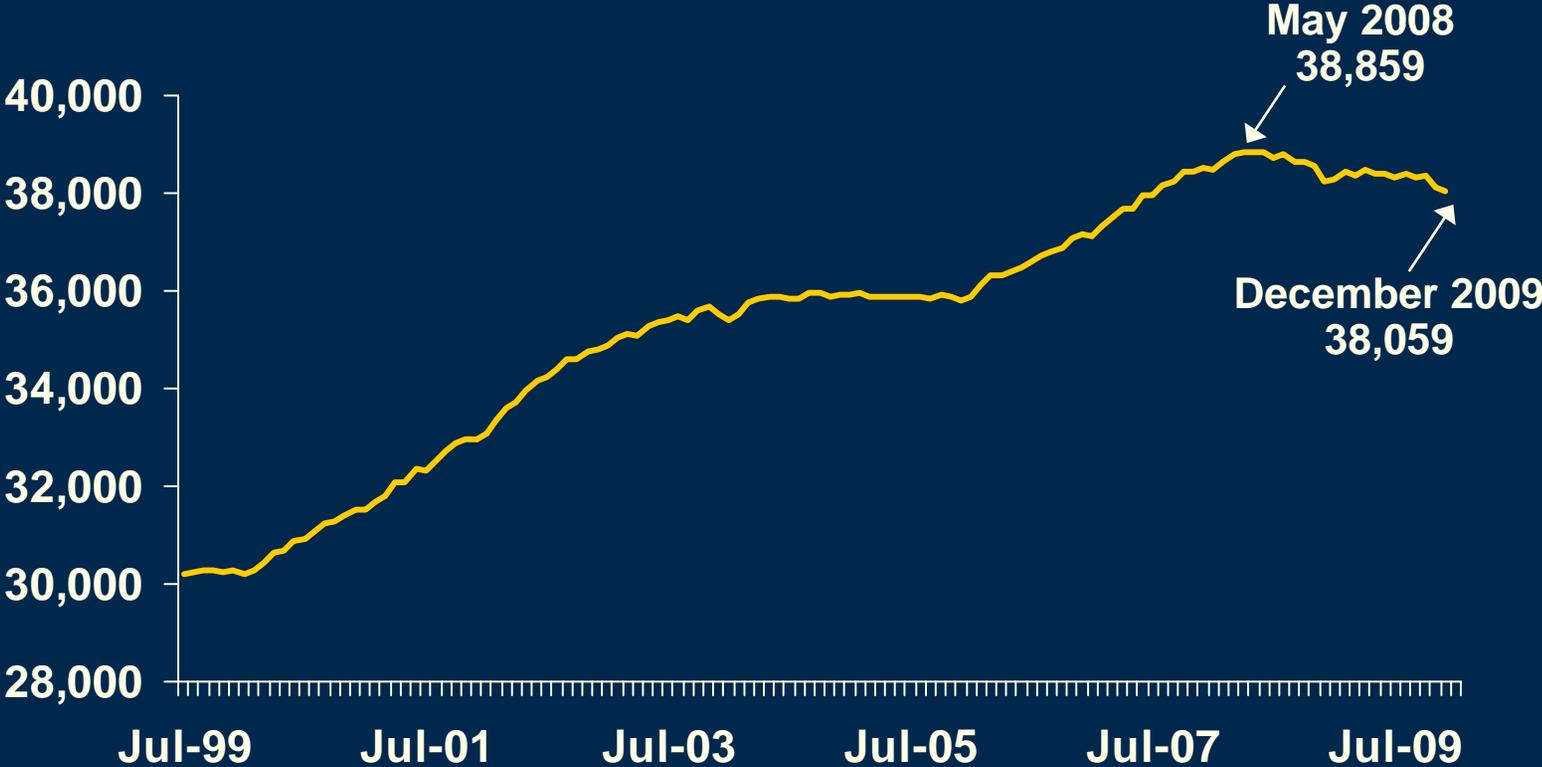
After remaining level in CY2007, new commitments to prison dropped in CY2008 for the first time in more than a decade

New Commitments to Prison



The state-responsible prison population peaked in May 2008, but has since declined

State-Responsible Prison Population



	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Change:	+2.6%	+4.7%	+5.6%	+3.5%	+1.5%	+0.1%	+1.6%	+4.0%	+2.3%	-1.1%

The state-responsible prison population is projected to increase by less than 500 inmates by the end of the biennium

State-Responsible Prison Population and Forecast
FY2004 – FY2012



State-Responsible Prison Forecast FY2010 – FY2015

Year	OLD 2008 Forecast	NEW 2009 Forecast	Difference
FY2009	39,431	38,387 Actual	-1,044
FY2010	40,481	38,429	-2,052
FY2011	41,453	38,597	-2,856
FY2012	42,447	38,857	-3,590
FY2013	43,424	39,176	-4,248
FY2014	44,422	39,531	-4,891
FY2015		39,910	

Other states are also experiencing declines or slower growth in their prison and jail populations

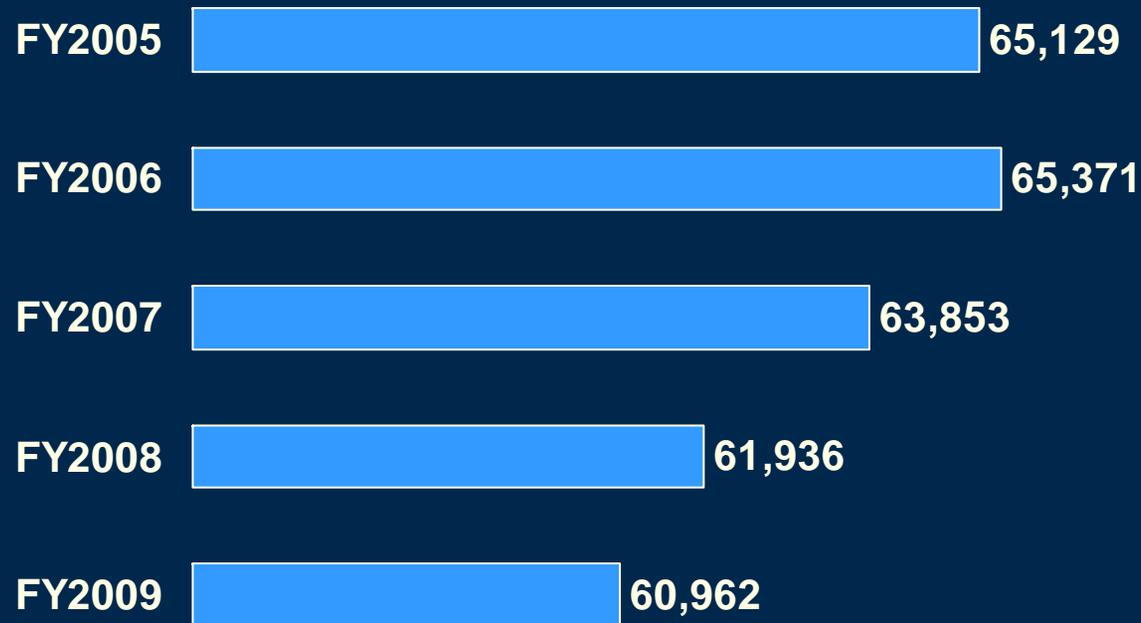
- **From June 2007 to June 2008, the nation's total jail population increased 0.7%, the smallest annual rate of growth in 27 years.**
 - **Some of the largest jails in the South and Northeast saw declines from June 2007 to June 2008, including Charlotte, Atlanta and New York City.**
 - **From January through June 2008, the nation's prison population increased by 0.8%, compared to 1.6% during the same period in 2007.**
 - **Sixteen states reported decreases in their prison populations from January to June 2008 and the rate of growth slowed in 18 other states.**
-

Juvenile Offender Populations



Juvenile intakes at Court Services Units declined for the third straight year, decreasing by 2% in FY2009

Juvenile Intake Cases at Court Services Units



All categories of intakes declined in FY2009 except Class 1 misdemeanors.

The juvenile correctional center population has been gradually decreasing since 1999

Juvenile Correctional Center Population, FY1999 – FY2009

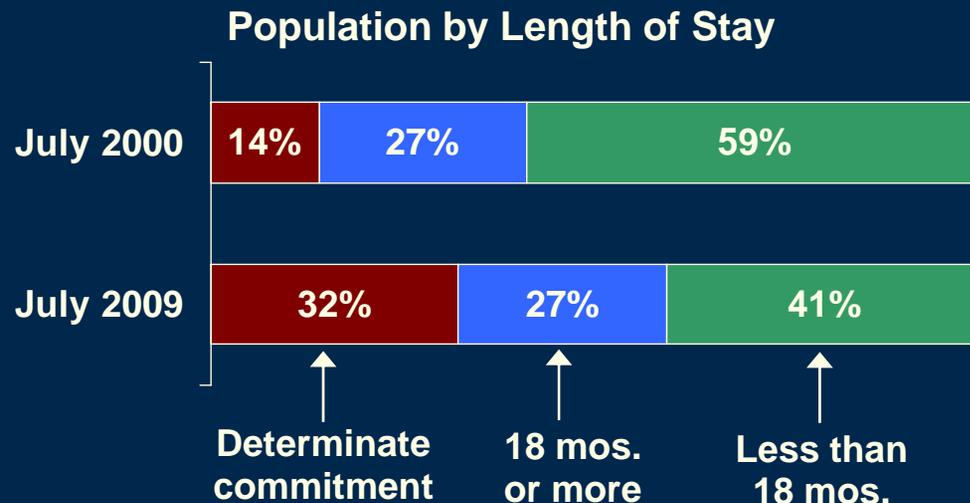


Admissions to juvenile correctional centers have fallen, but juveniles who are admitted are staying longer

The number of admissions in FY2009 was roughly half of FY2000 admissions.



Juveniles with longer lengths of stay now comprise a larger share of the correctional center population.



For the FY2011-2012 biennium, the juvenile correctional center population is projected to remain between 850 and 900

**Juvenile Correctional Center Population and Forecast
FY2004 – FY2012**

