Conclusions

- Growth in IDOC admissions & population a complex mix of changes in
  - Crime and arrest patterns;
  - Odds of convicted felons being sentenced to prison versus probation;
  - Sentence lengths and lengths of stay in prison;
  - The likelihood of receiving credits to prison sentences;
  - The number and rate of admissions for technical parole violators;
  - Recidivism rates
Technical MSR Violation Admissions to IDOC, by Month: Policy Shifts

Source: Analyses by Olson & Stemen of IDOC data provided by IDOC's Planning & Research Unit

Distribution of Reasons for Technical Violation Returns to IDOC, August 2011

New Arrest (32%)  New Arrest + Other Technical Violation(s) (16%)  Only Technical Violation(s) (52%)

Arrest for weapon offenses  Arrest for other offenses  EM Violation  AWOL  Other TVs

Arrest for violent crime  Arrest for other offenses  Arrest for violent crime  EM Violation  AWOL  Other TVs
Impact of Earned Good Conduct Credit, MGT/SMGT, & Sentence Credits

- Earned Good Conduct Credit
  - Limited eligibility, motivation for treatment participation and completion, reduced length of stay, reduced recidivism due to treatment

- MGT/SMGT
  - When in place, marginally reduced length of stay, but elimination has added roughly 6,500 to IDOC's population

- Sentence Credit
  - Replaced MGT/SMGT, however, due to criteria only a small proportion of inmates eligible

Mandatory Supervised Release, Recidivism & Return to Prison

- Length of MSR set by statute, not by offender risk;
- Numerous definitions of recidivism
  - Return to prison
    - "Technical" violation of MSR
    - New conviction and sentenced to IDOC while on MSR
  - Rearrest (whether or not returned to prison)
    - Timing of rearrest impacts technical violation versus requirement for new conviction and sentence
    - Distinction between arrests for violent offenses versus other offenses
Percent of those *in Prison*, by Felony Type

Source: David Olson analyses of offender-level IDOC data provided by the IDOC Planning and Research Unit.

Trends in the Number of *Court Admissions* to Prison, by Crime Type

Source: David Olson analyses of offender-level IDOC data provided by the IDOC Planning and Research Unit.
Percent of Convicted Felons Receiving Probation versus Prison Sentences in Illinois' Circuit Courts

Admissions to IDOC, by Admissions Type and State Fiscal Year

Source: Analyses of aggregate, published AOIC data, and adjustments by David E. Olson & Donald Stemen.

Source: Analyses by Olson & Stemen of data provided by IDOC’s Planning and Research Unit
The Math of Prison Populations

- Prison populations are driven by two factors, admissions and length of stay
  - Admissions
    - Court admissions
      - Non-probationable offenses
      - Probation violators
      - Recidivists
    - MSR (Parole) violator admissions
      - Parole policy and practice
      - Legislative requirements for revocation
  - Length of stay
    - Prison sentences, various sentence credits, Truth-in-Sentencing

The Math of Prison Populations

- Small policy changes can lead to substantial prison population changes
- To reduce Illinois’ prison population by 25% over 10 years, Illinois’ prison population will need to drop by 12,000 (current level of 48,000 to 36,000)
- From 2008 to 2013 (Past 5-years, 10 largest states)
  - Nationally, state prison populations down 3%
  - Unchanged in Ohio and Florida
  - Decreased in California (-22%), New York (-11%), Michigan (-10%), Texas (-2%)
  - Increased in Arizona (+10%), Illinois (+7%), Georgia and Pennsylvania (both +2%)