1. Population and costs are at all-time highs
2. Policy choices are responsible
3. Public safety payoff is low
4. Policy debate is being reframed
Incarceration Rate Jumps

NOTE: Incarceration rate includes sentenced inmates in state and federal institutions, per 100,000 residents.
1 in 31 Adults Under Corrections Control

SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics surveys, U.S. Department of Justice.
NOTE: Due to offenders with dual status, the sum of these four correctional categories slightly overstates the total population.
U.S. is World Incarceration Leader

Total resident population: 304 million

Total resident population: 813 million

Europe (35 countries)
1,869,949 inmates

United States
2,310,984 inmates

Data downloaded in November 2009.
Admissions and Revocations

New court commitments

Parole violators now 36% of admissions

SOURCE: Analysis of “Prisoners in 2008,” published December 2009 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. NOTE: Admissions refers to sentenced prisoners admitted into state prisons; all dates are calendar year end.
The Rising Cost of State Corrections

SOURCE: National Association of State Budget Officers, “State Expenditure Report” series; inflation adjusted figures are based on a reanalysis of data in this series. NOTE: These figures represent state general funds. They do not include federal or local government corrections expenditures and typically do not include state funding from other sources.
Prisons Dominate Spending

Correctional Population

Prisons
Probation and Parole

Correctional Spending

Prisons

SOURCE: Correctional population calculation based on data from Bureau of Justice Statistics 2007 Correctional Surveys, U.S. Department of Justice; correctional spending figures were collected from AR, AL, AK, CO, DE, GA, ID, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, VA and WY.
Of Books and Bars

Change in state spending, 1987-2008

SOURCE: National Association of State Budget Officers, “State Expenditure Report” series; inflation adjusted figures are based on a reanalysis of data in this series.
Making Decisions Where To Spend

Ratio of Corrections to Higher Education Spending (FY2008)

Public Safety Payoff Varies Widely

% Change in Incarceration Rates (1997-2007)

% Change in Crime Rates (1997-2007)

SOURCE: Analysis of Uniform Crime Reports (FBI) and “Prisoners in the United States” series (Bureau of Justice Statistics).
More Prison Spending ≠ Greater Public Safety

Right-Sizing Prisons: Business Leaders Make the Case for Corrections Reform

SOURCE: Pew Center on the States, “Right-Sizing Prisons” report
Reframing the Debate

Old Question
“How Do We Demonstrate that We’re Tough on Crime?”

New Question
“How Do We Get Taxpayers a Better Return on Their Investment in Public Safety?”
Public Safety, Public Spending
Past Trends and New Directions

American Chamber of Commerce Executives
February 17, 2010

Adam Gelb
Public Safety Performance Project
Pew Center on the States