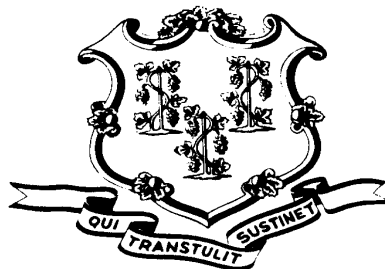


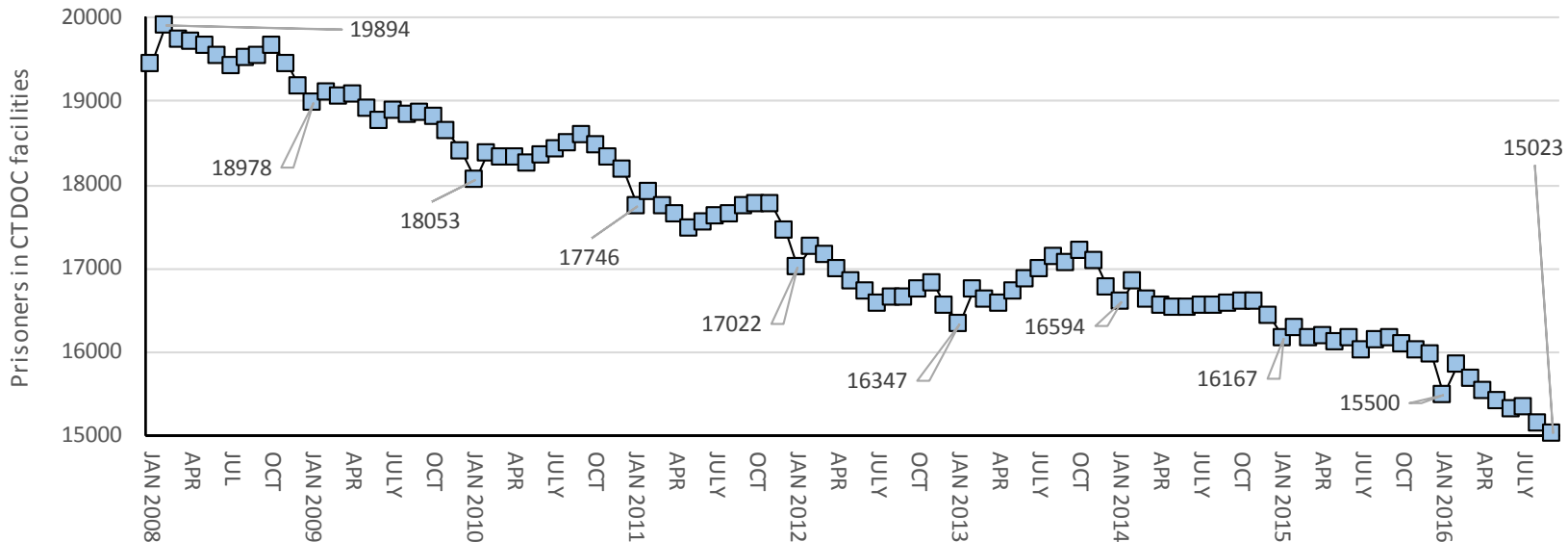


Connecticut's Declining Prison Population: Some contributing factors



Presented to:
CJPAC
September 29, 2016

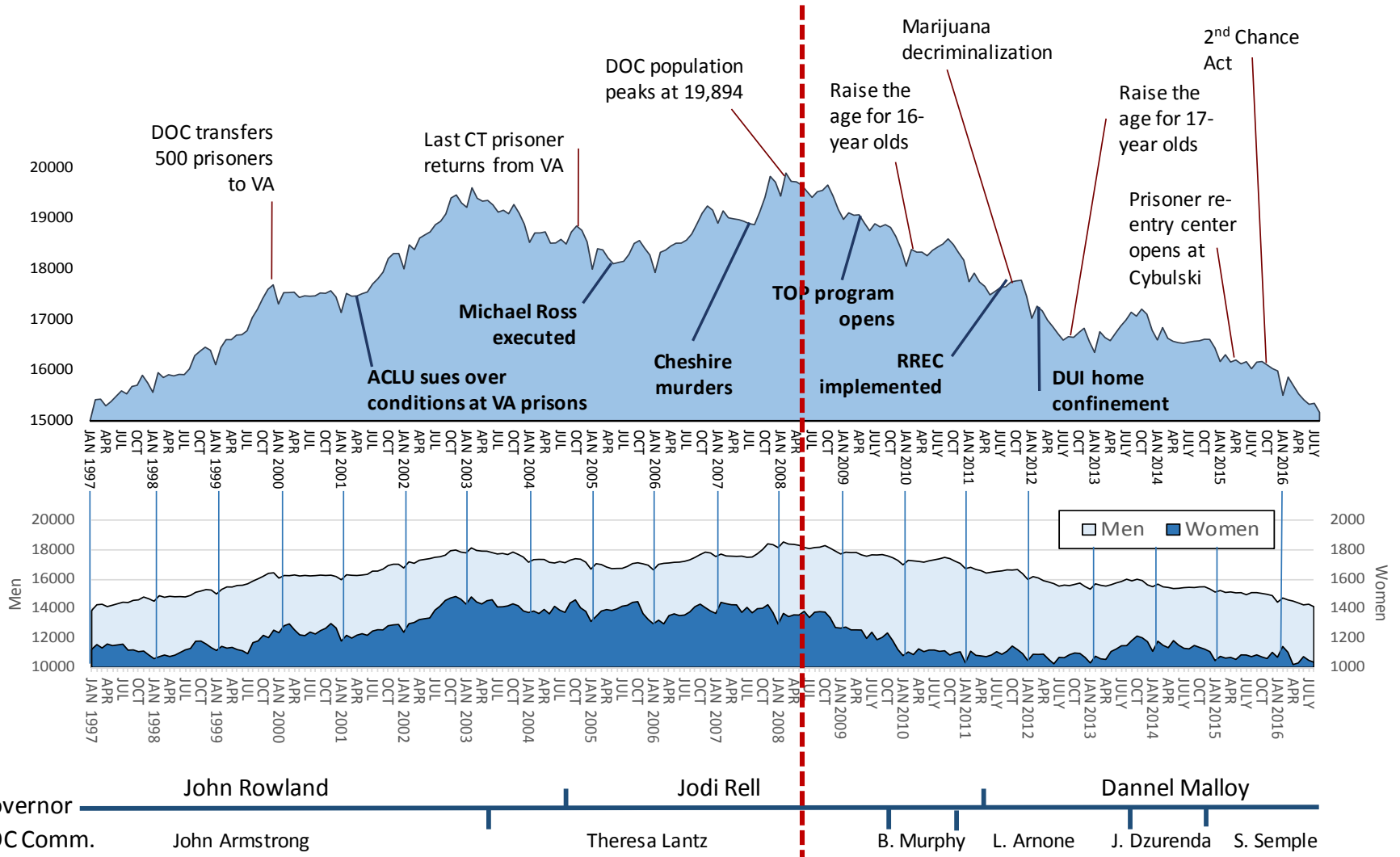
CT's prison population since 2008



- ❑ **Since February 1, 2008*, the total prison has contracted by 4,871 prisoners (19,894 to 15,023), a 24% decline.**
- ❑ **During the same period, the state's sentenced-prison population declined by 3,816 prisoners (14,998 to 11,182), a 27% drop.**

*** The state's prison population hit its historic peak in February 2008.**

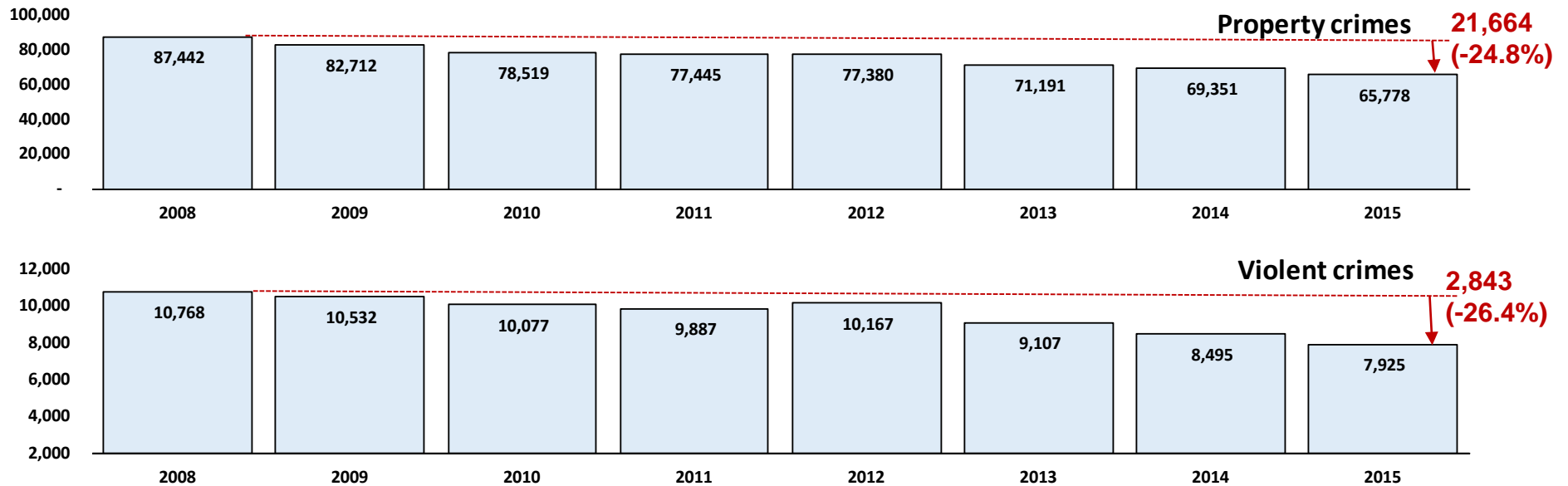
CT's prison population since 1997



The DOC population since 2008

- ❑ **2 Governors and 5 DOC Commissioners**
- ❑ **We can point to no single factor that can explain CT's declining prison population**
- ❑ **There were many contributing factors to the reduced prison count, several will be highlighted here:**
 - ❑ **Declining crime rates**
 - ❑ **Fewer arrests**
 - ❑ **Fewer admits**
 - ❑ **New people**
 - ❑ **2014 Recidivism**
 - ❑ **Raise the age legislation**
 - ❑ **Reduced penalties for narcotics possession**
 - ❑ **DUI home confinement**
 - ❑ **Parole Board reforms, increasing community caseloads**
 - ❑ **Re-integration Center and CRU**

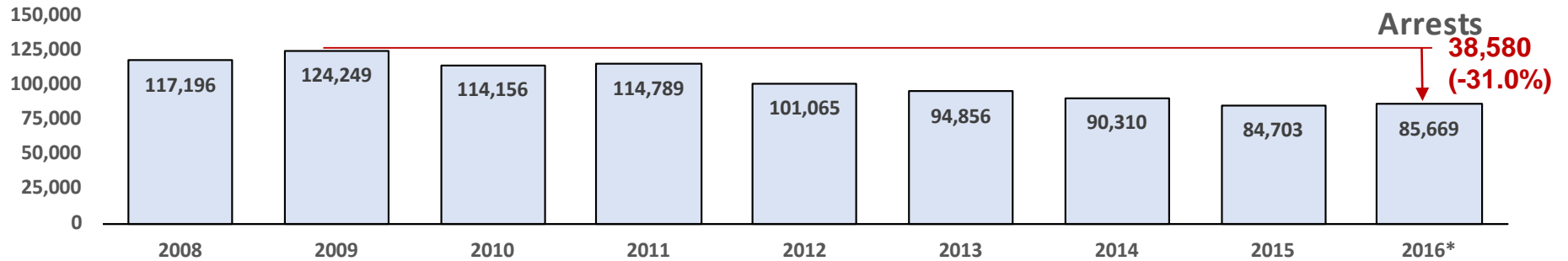
Reported Crime in CT



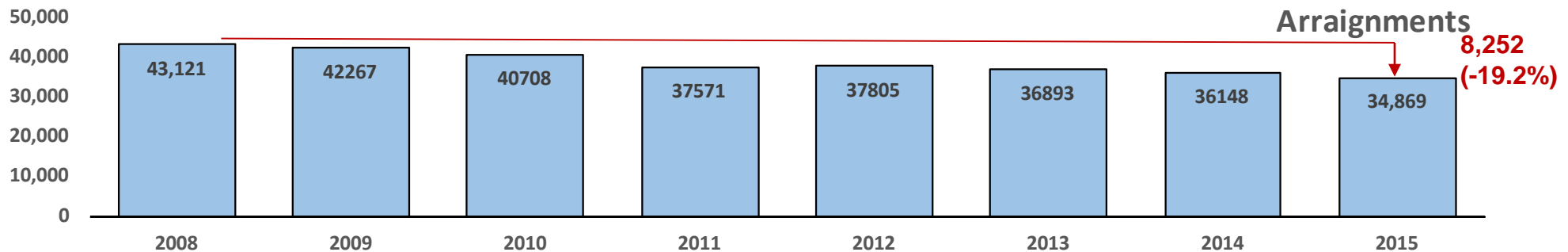
Source: DESPP, CT UCR data

- ❑ **Between 2008 and 2015:**
 - ❑ **Property crime in CT dropped by 24.8%**
 - ❑ **Violent crime declined by 26.4%**

Arrests and arraignments in CT



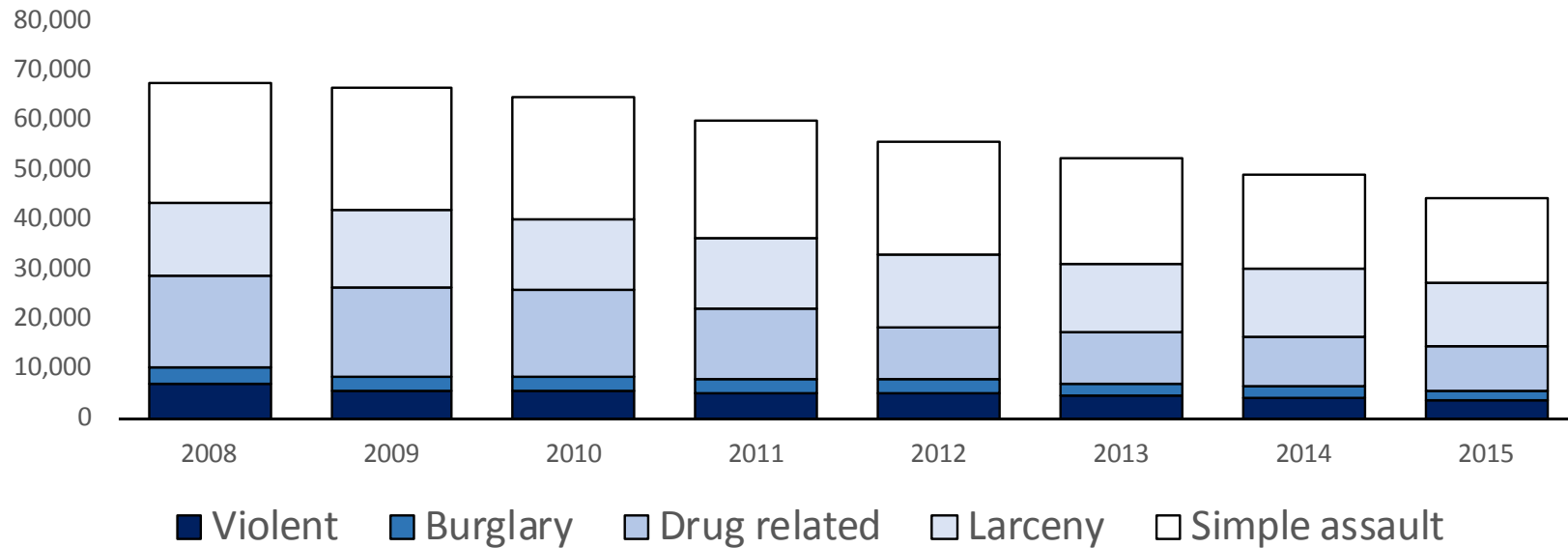
Between 2009 and 2016*, statewide criminal arrests* have declined by 31%. Arraignments were down by 19%.



* Arrest data from OBTS – arrests with new dockets

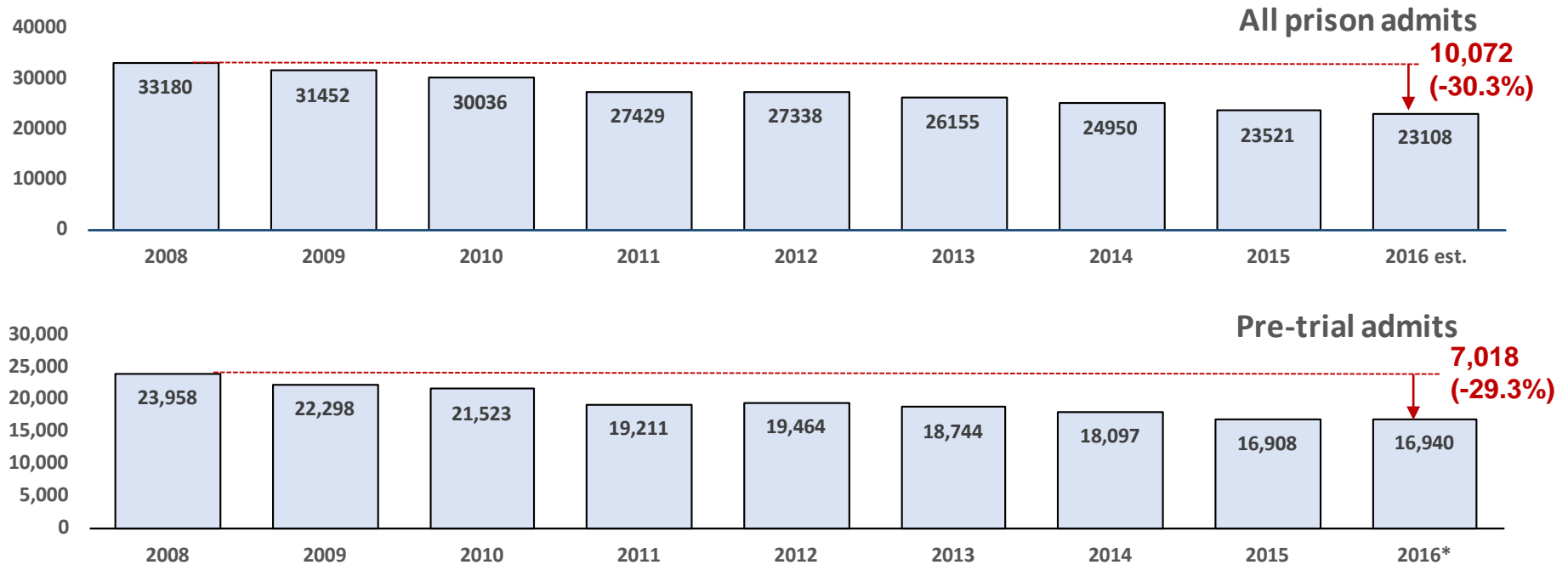
Arrests in CT

Arrests by some major crime types



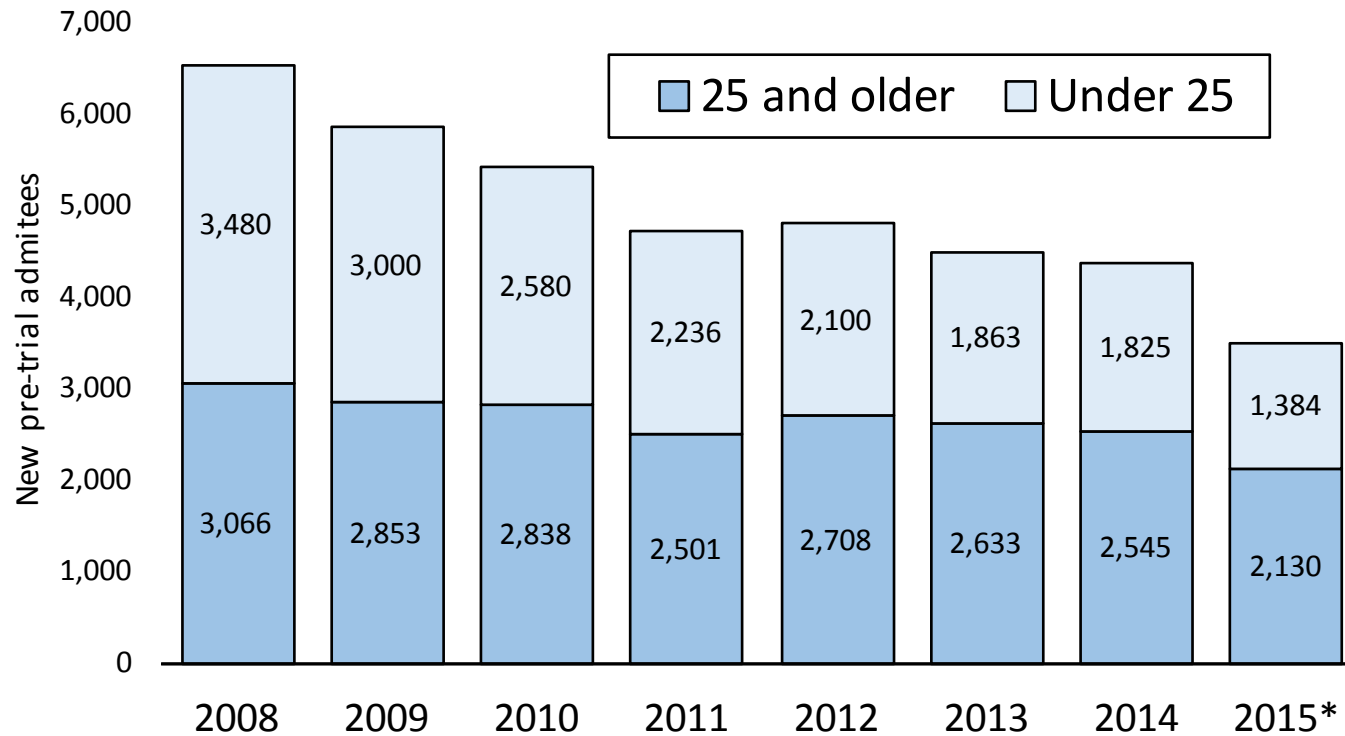
Crime type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% change
Violent	6,902	5,515	5,486	4,950	4,770	4,463	4,019	3,557	-48%
Burglary	3,230	2,974	2,947	2,873	2,947	2,366	2,421	1,956	-39%
Drug related	18,304	17,791	17,581	13,980	10,331	10,554	9,943	8,981	-51%
Larceny	14,957	15,405	14,194	14,388	14,655	13,830	13,904	12,669	-15%
Simple assault	24,236	24,804	24,312	23,600	22,957	20,910	18,757	17,309	-29%

Fewer arrests, fewer prison admissions



- ❑ Admissions to DOC facilities have been dropping steadily since 2008
 - ❑ Total admits are down 30.3%
 - ❑ Pre-trial admits are down 29.3%

Fewer new people entering prison each year



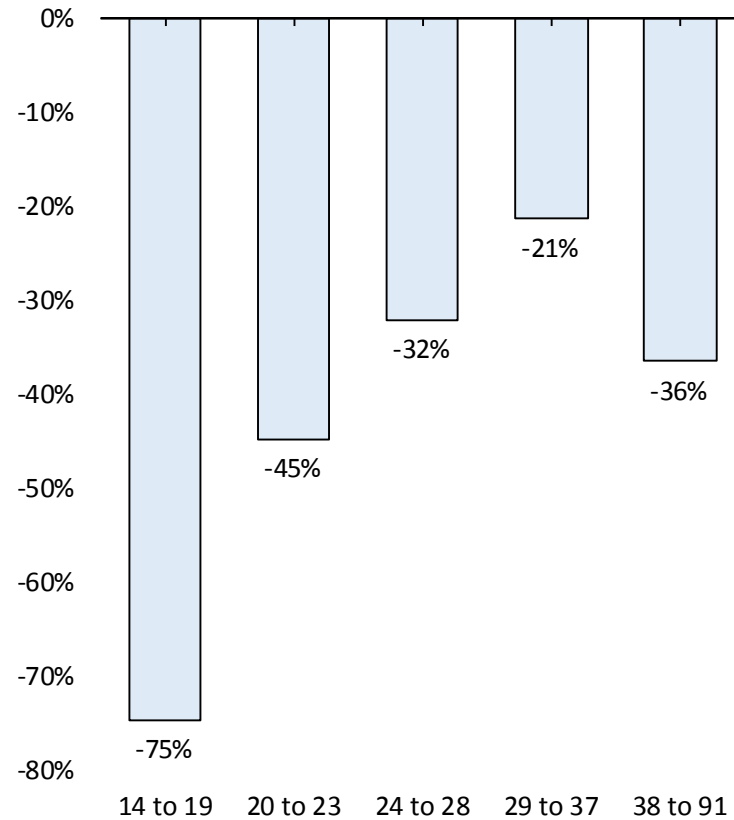
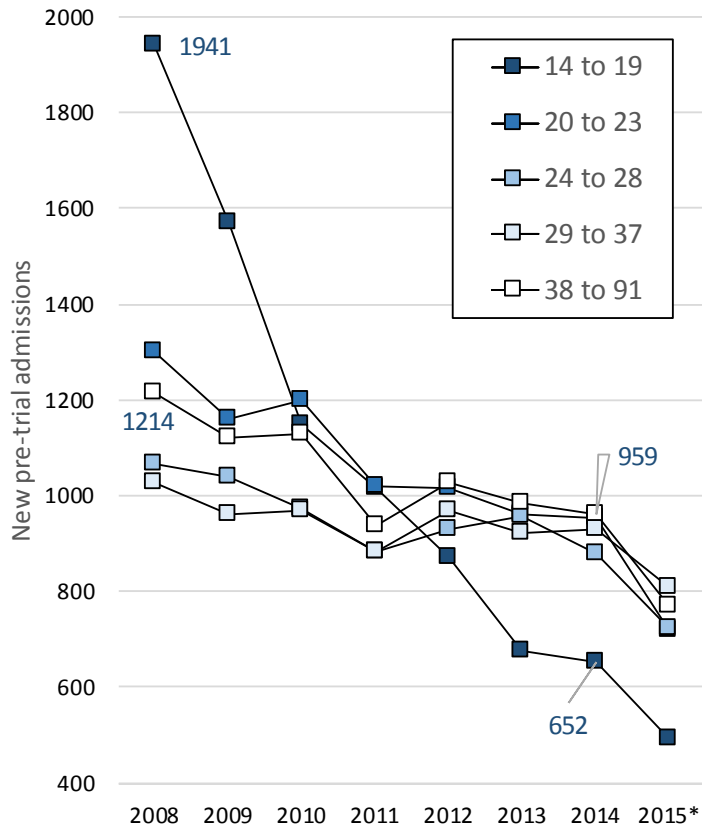
Percent change in the number of new persons admitted to DOC on pre-trial status, 2008 to 2014:

All persons: - 33% (6,546 to 4,370)

Persons under 25: - 48% (3,480 to 1,825)

Persons 25 and older: -17% (3,066 to 2,545)

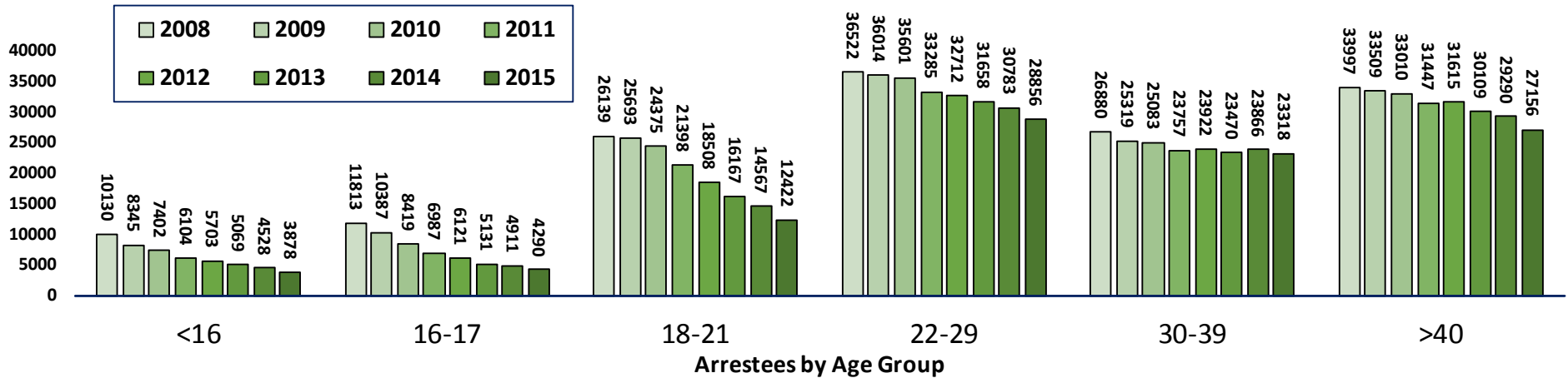
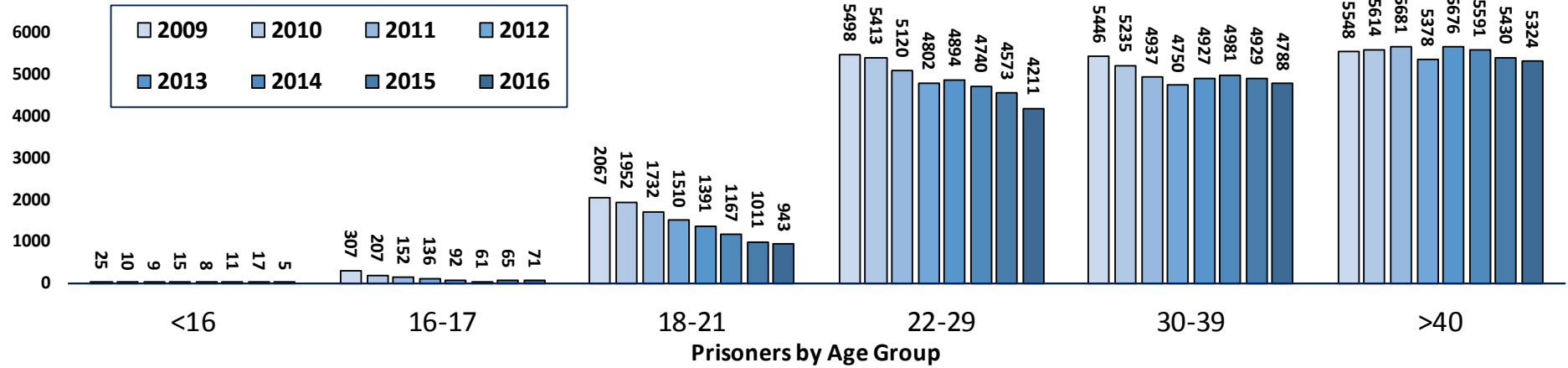
New persons admitted to the CT DOC on pre-trial status, age quintiles



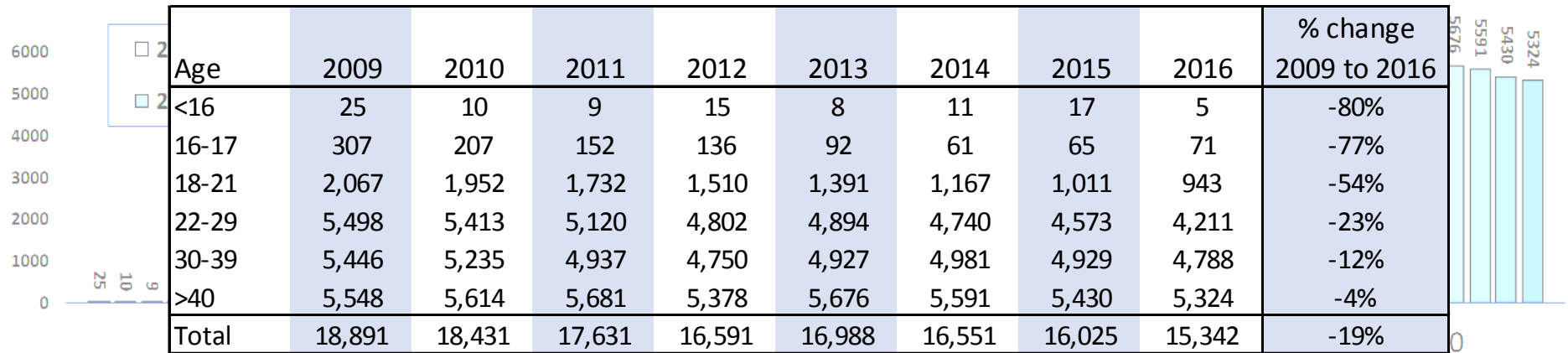
Fewer new people are entering the prison system each year...

**** 38 to 91 quintile: 51% were 45 or younger; 98% were 65 or younger**

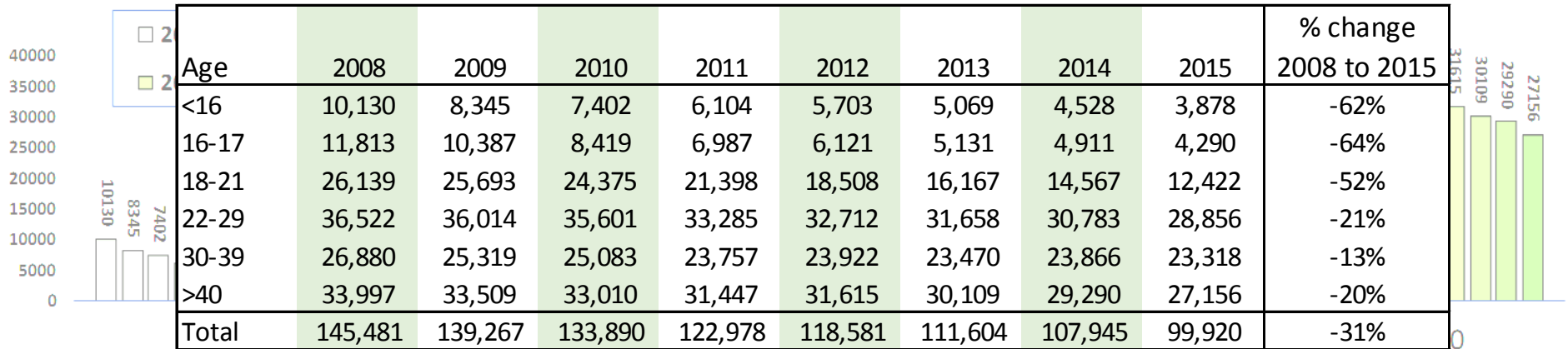
Raise the age: Incarceration and arrests



Raise the age: Incarceration and arrests



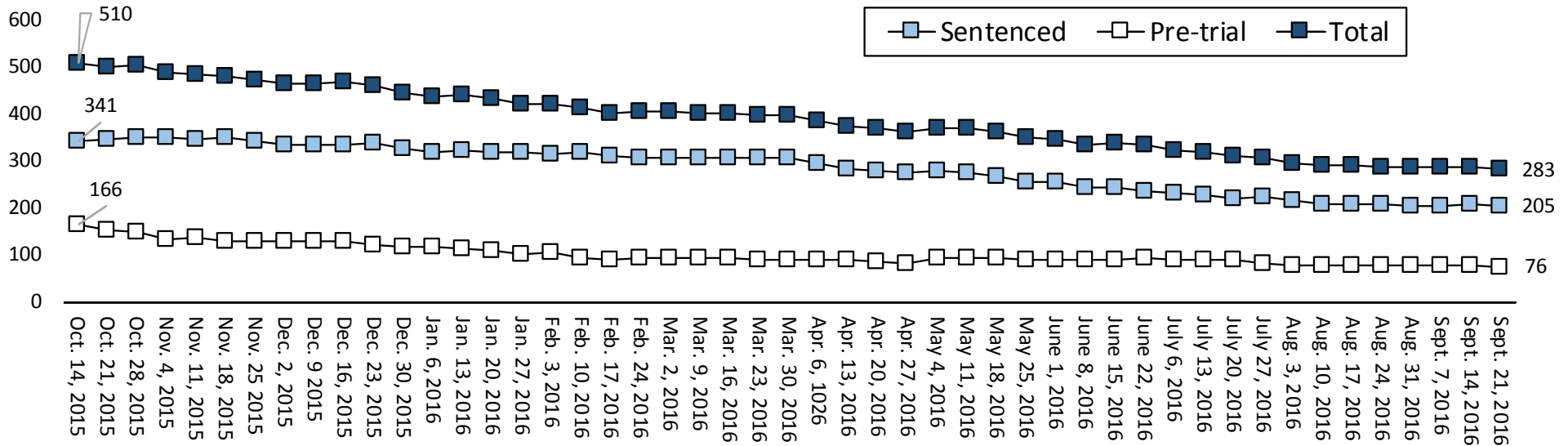
Prisoners by Age Group



Arrestees by Age Group

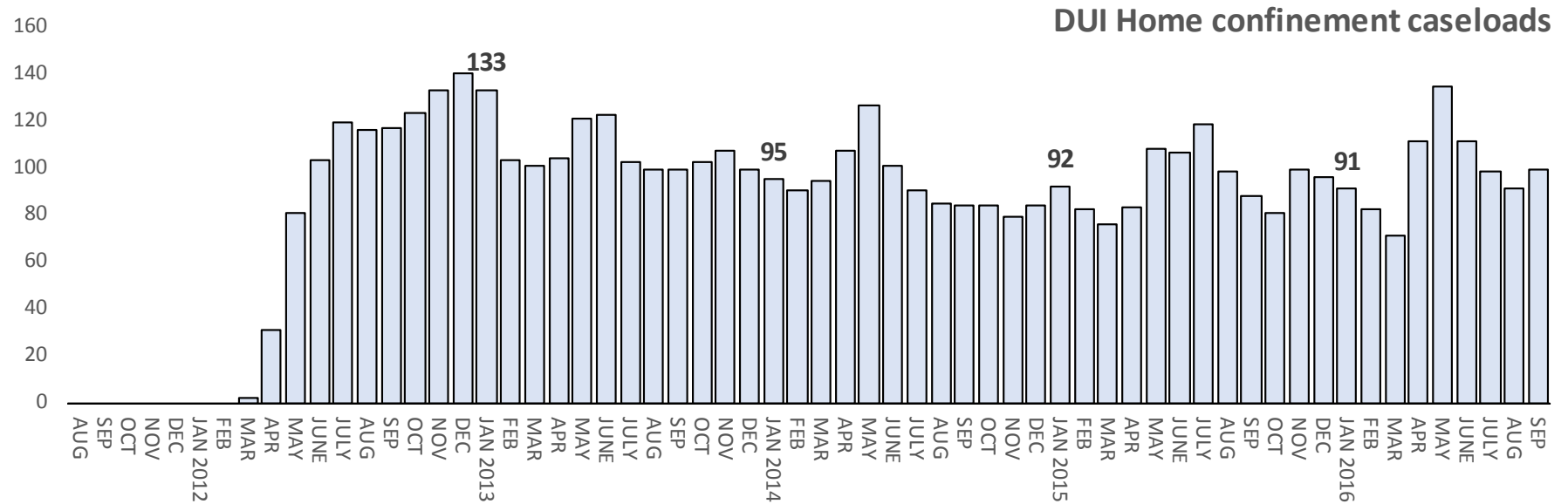
Reduced penalties for narcotics possession

In prison on 21a-279 class offenses, controlling



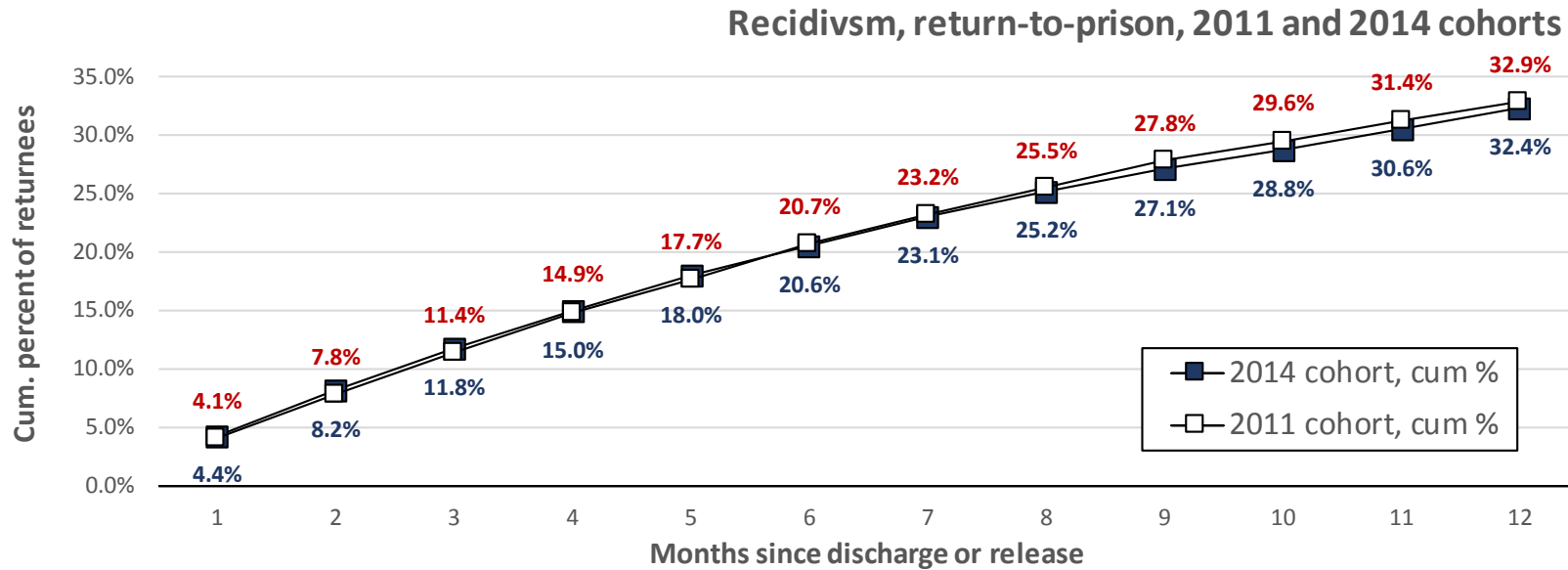
- ❑ **229 fewer people, with a narcotics-possession-related controlling offense, were in prison in September 2016 than in October 2015.**
 - ❑ **Total drop: 44.9%**
 - ❑ **Sentenced drop: 39.9%**
 - ❑ **Pre-trial drop: 54.2%**

DUI Home Confinement



- ❑ Since its inception in March 2011, 1,441 offenders have been released through the DUI home confinement program.
- ❑ On any given day, approximately 100 people are supervised in the community instead of in prison.

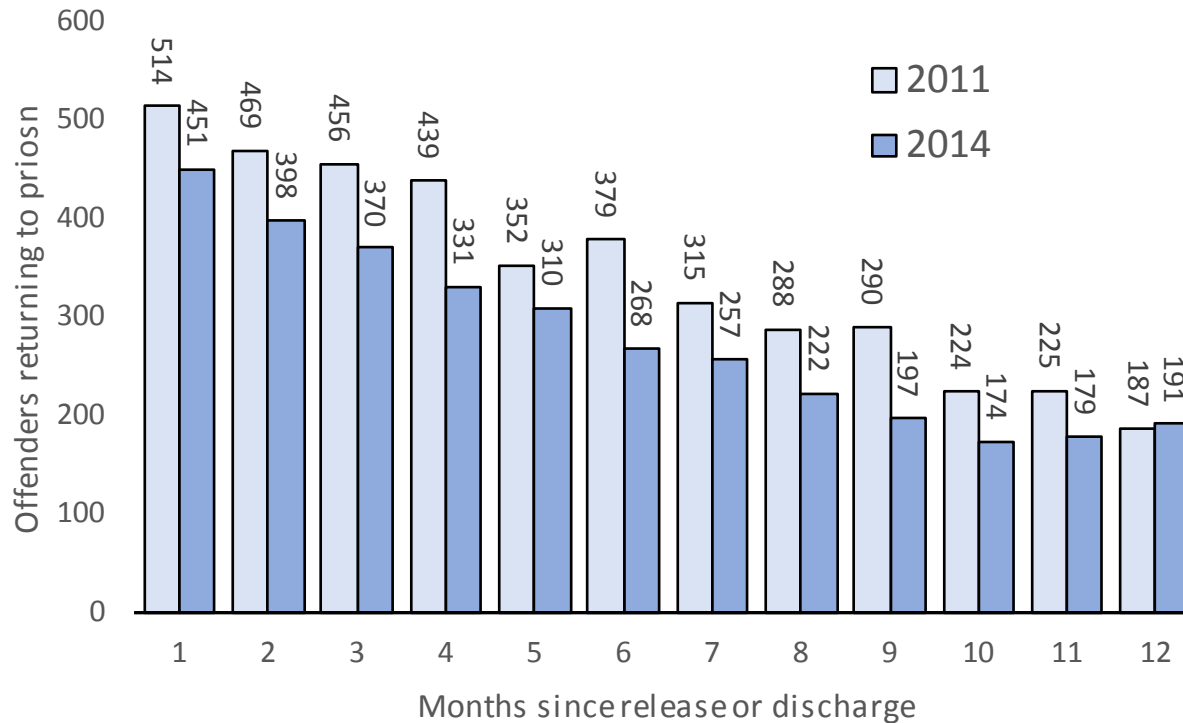
Recidivism rates v. recidivism events, 2011 & 2014



Recidivism - 1-year return to prison, 2011 v. 2014

	2011	2014	Change,%
Offenders in cohort	12,579	10,328	-17.9%
Recidivators w/in 1-year	4,138	3,348	-19.1%
1-year recidivism rate	32.9%	32.4%	-1.5%

Recidivism rates v. recidivism events, 2011 & 2014



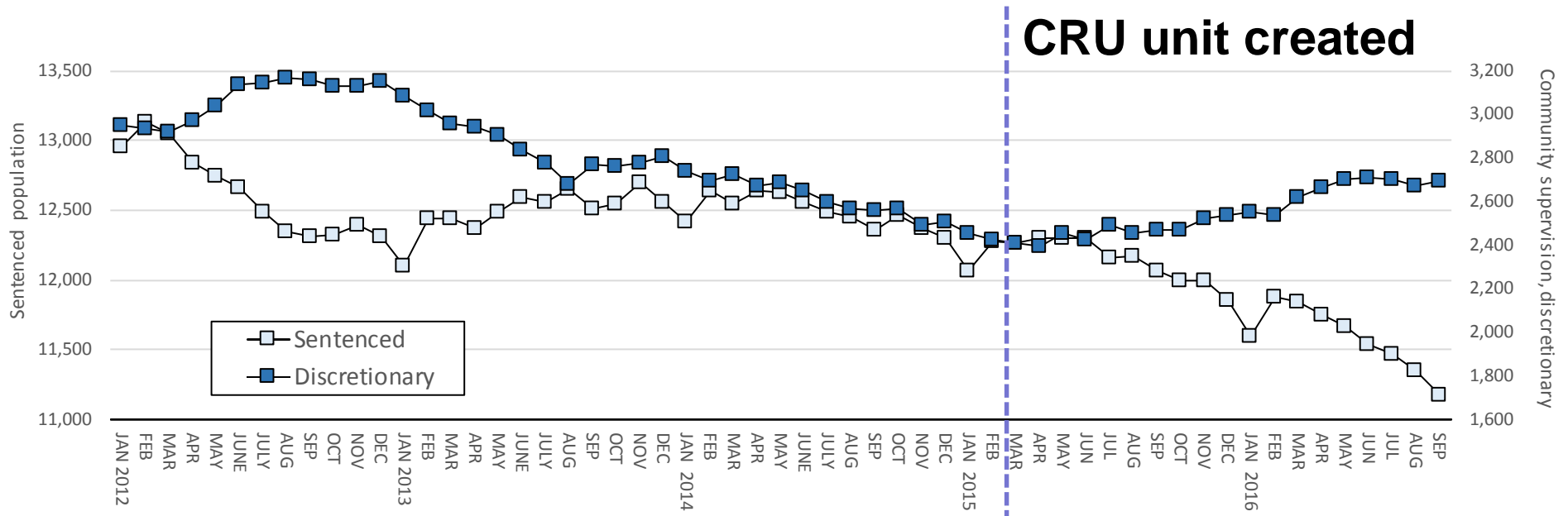
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The DOC Community Release Unit (CRU)

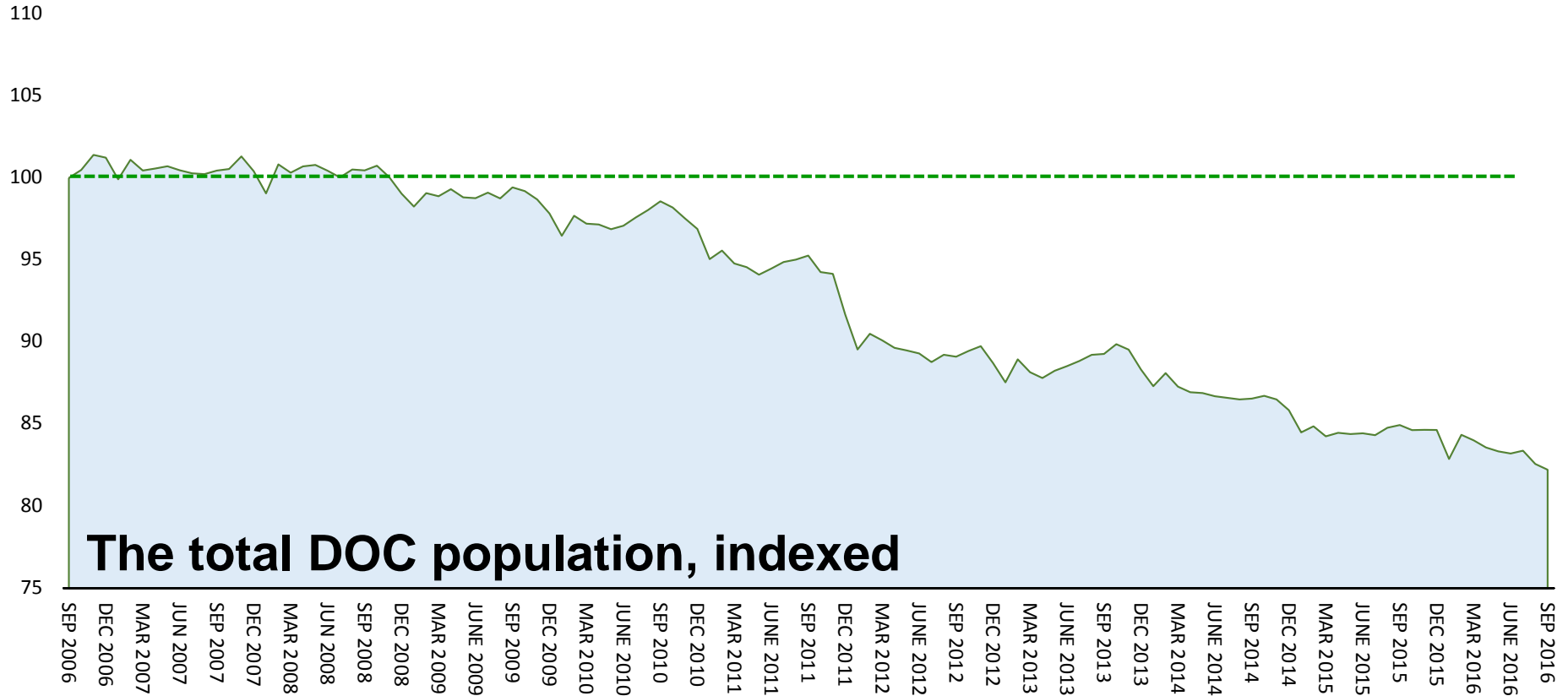
- **In operation since March 2015**
- **Unified decision-making across facilities**
 - **All potential, non-parole, discretionary offender releases are scrutinized using the same standards**
- **Data-driven accountability**
 - **Improved efficiencies up the supply-chain**
 - **Better ability to assess gaps in programming and performance**
 - **Solid bench-marking**
- **Shortened wait times to release for release-eligible offenders**
- **800 to 900 cases reviewed per month**
- **Release grant rates of approximately 50%**

The DOC Community Release Unit (CRU)



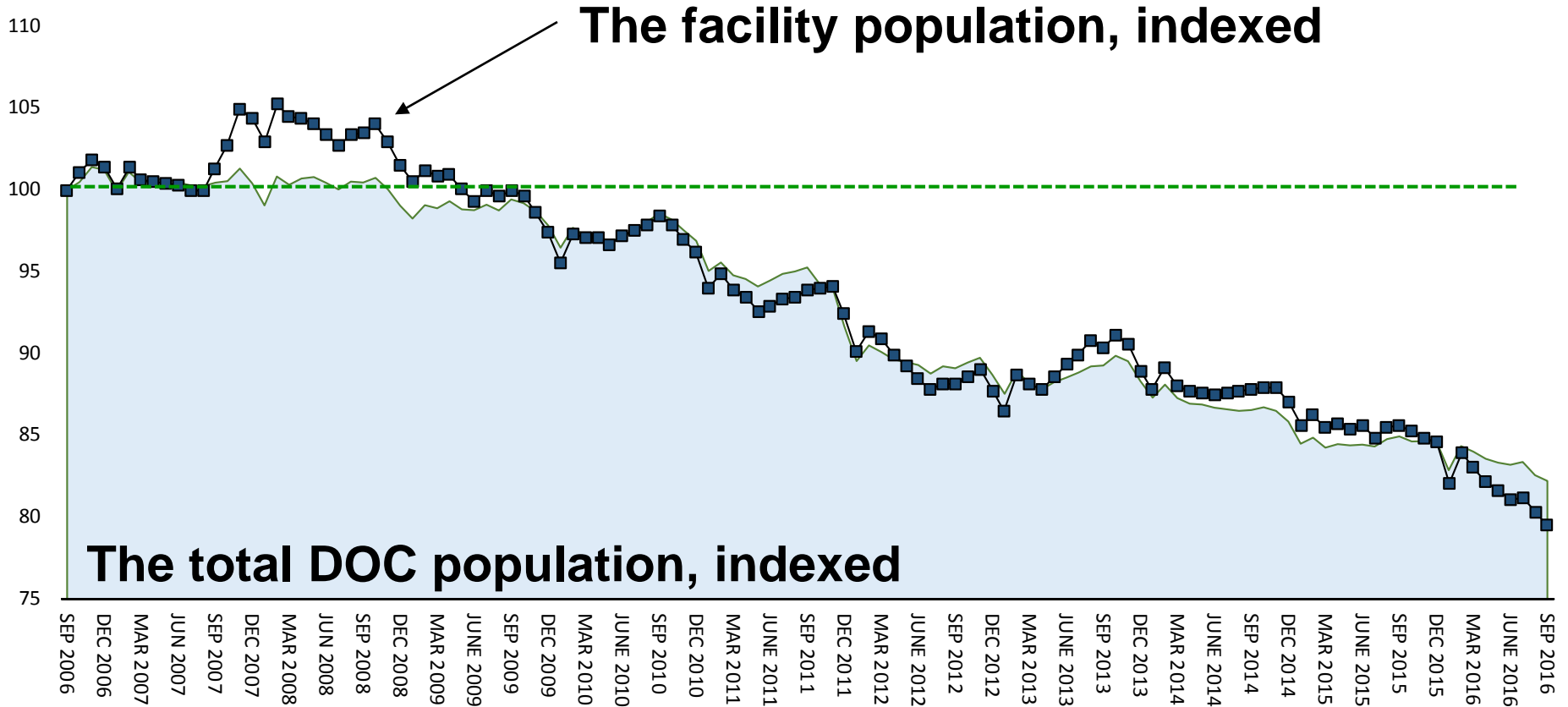
Although the BOPP has made strong progress in increasing the number of parole hearings, in its reconsideration of transfer parole and its review of technical violation procedures, OPM believes that the creation of CRU was the primary factor that has helped to bend the trend line for community supervision caseloads.

Community Release Unit (CRU)



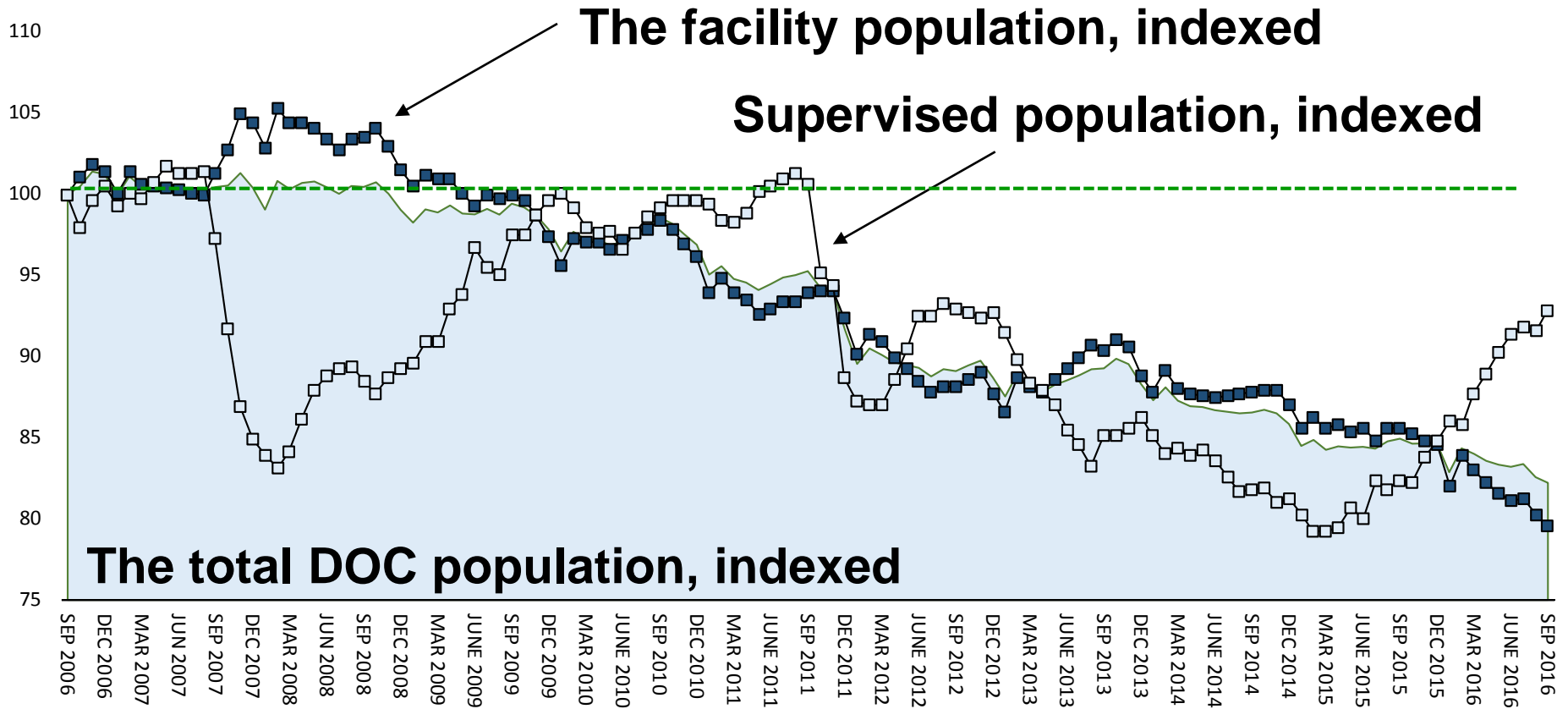
Indexing data allows us to track the performance of different variables relative to themselves. Indexing also allows us to evaluate the comparative performance of different variables from the same starting point.

Community Release Unit (CRU)



Here we compare the performance of the total DOC population against the facility population. Note the increase in sentenced offenders post-Cheshire.

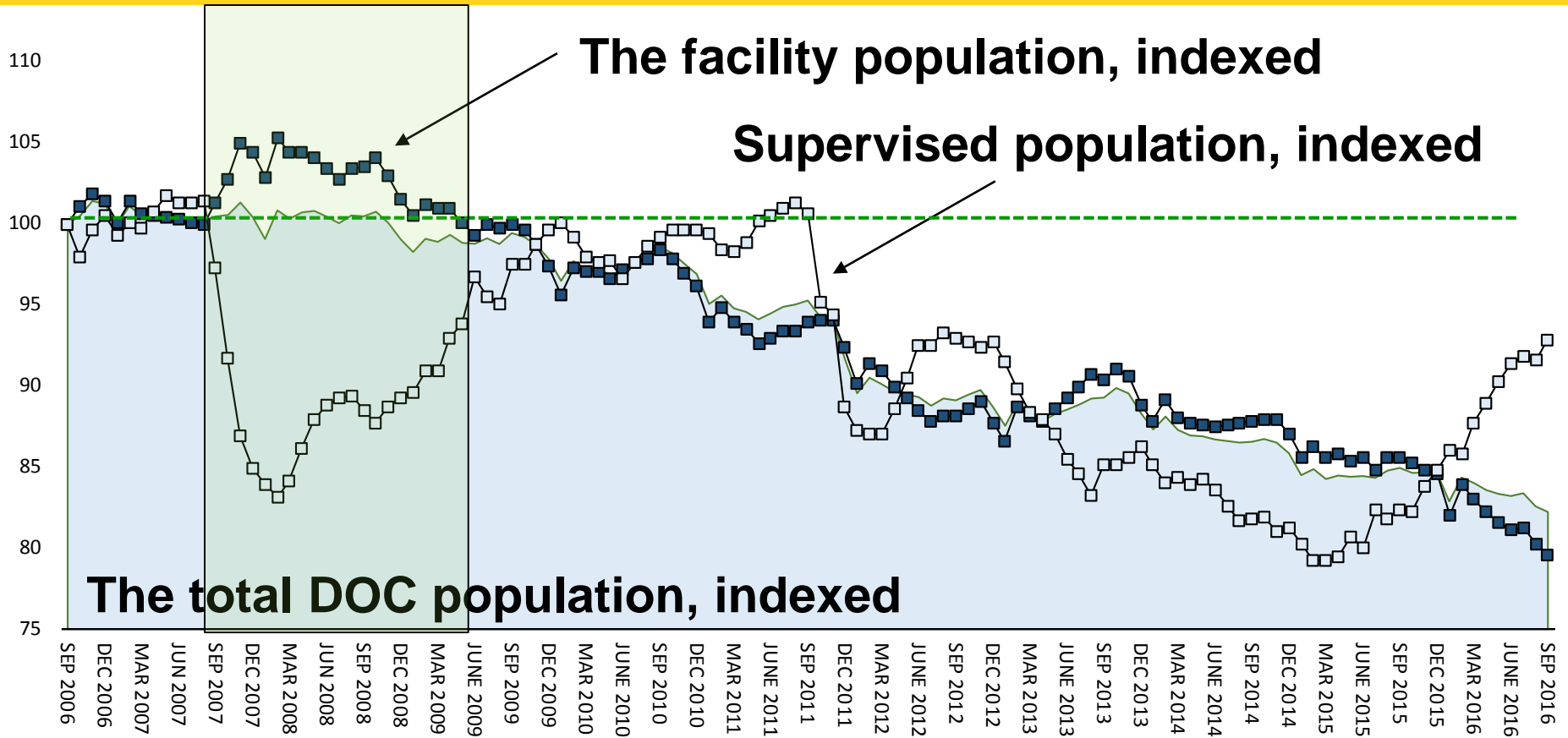
Community Release Unit (CRU)



Finally we attach the indexed trend line for offenders under community supervision.

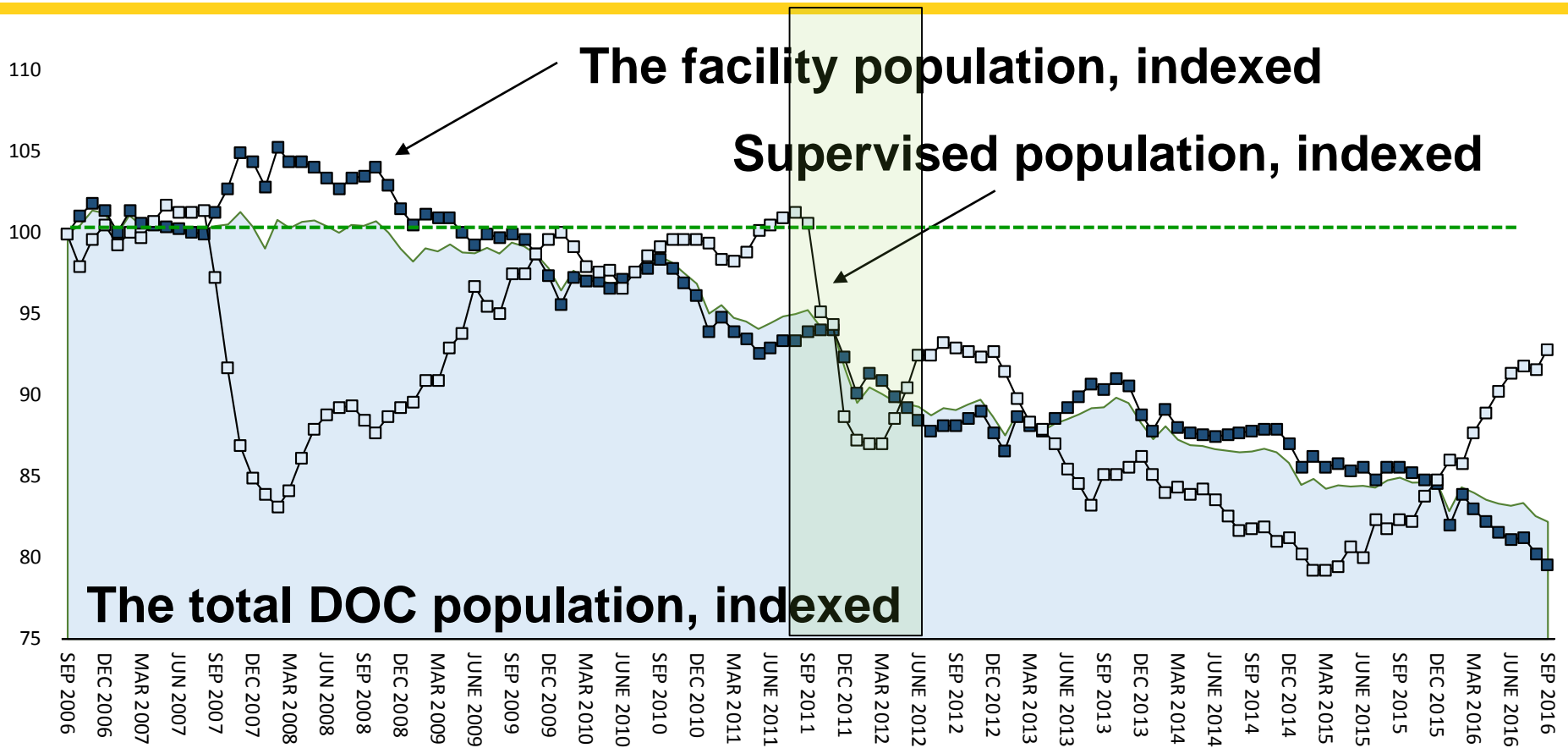
Note how volatile community supervision performance has been since 2007 and the reforms of 2008.

Community Release Unit (CRU)



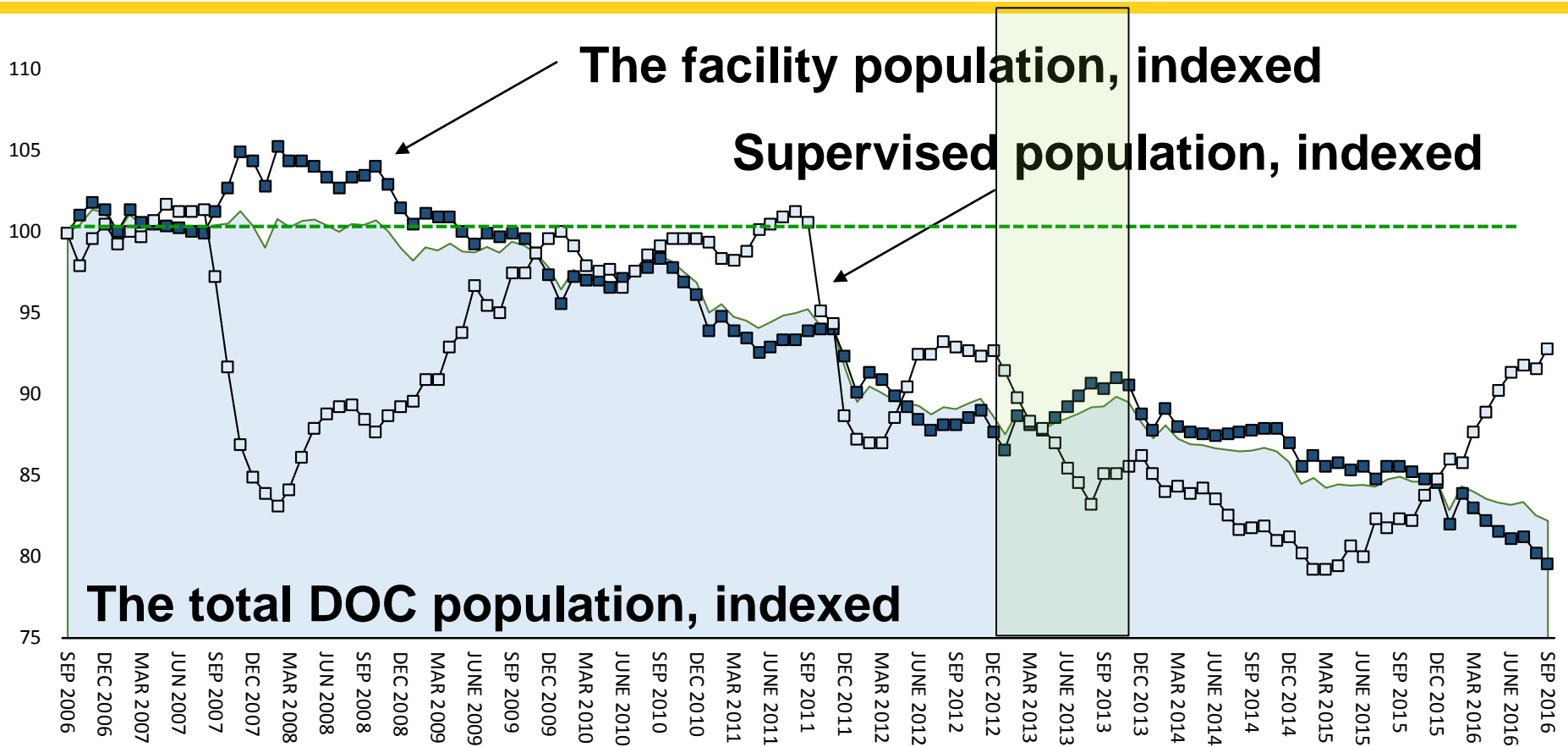
Post Cheshire collapse of community supervision

Community Release Unit (CRU)



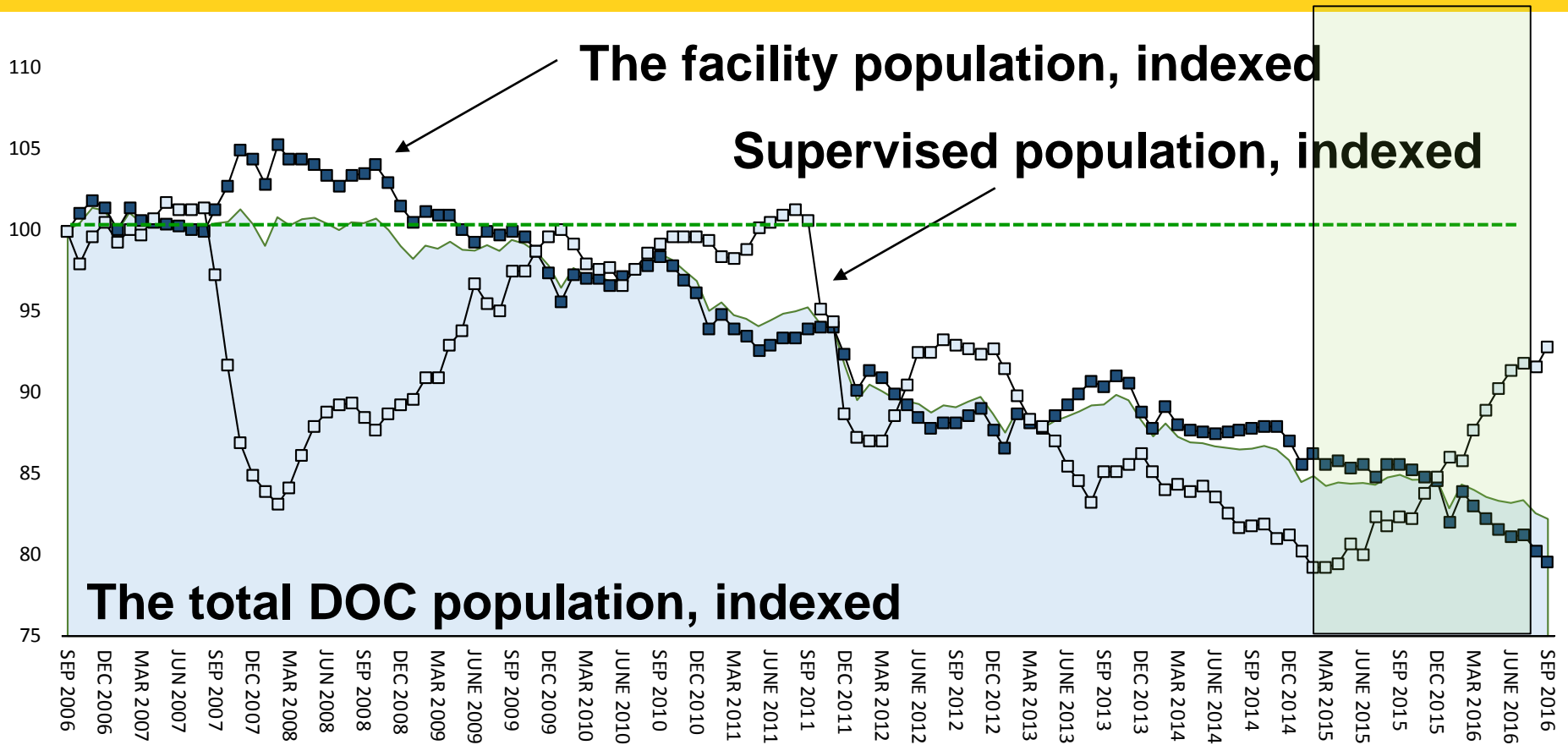
The implementation of RREC drives down both the facility and community populations.

Community Release Unit (CRU)



A shift to structured decision-making leads to a sustained decrease in the community population.

Community Release Unit (CRU)



The system reverses a years long trend driving more offenders to the community by increasing efficiencies in the release process

OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Criminal Justice

Policy & Planning Division



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