

Drug War Waste: Your Tax Dollars Down the Drain

“Show Me The Money: Changing the
Inequities of California’s Tax Policy”

San Diego, CA

November 24, 2009

California Prison Spending

- Since 1989, prison spending has increased by 450% to **\$10 BILLION**
- Prisons account for 11% of general fund spending – highest in the nation
- Prisons only budget area not cut in 2009
 - In 2009, \$8.9BN was budgeted, but the CDCR will **overspend** to nearly \$10BN

California Prison Spending

California is now spending more on prisons than on higher education.



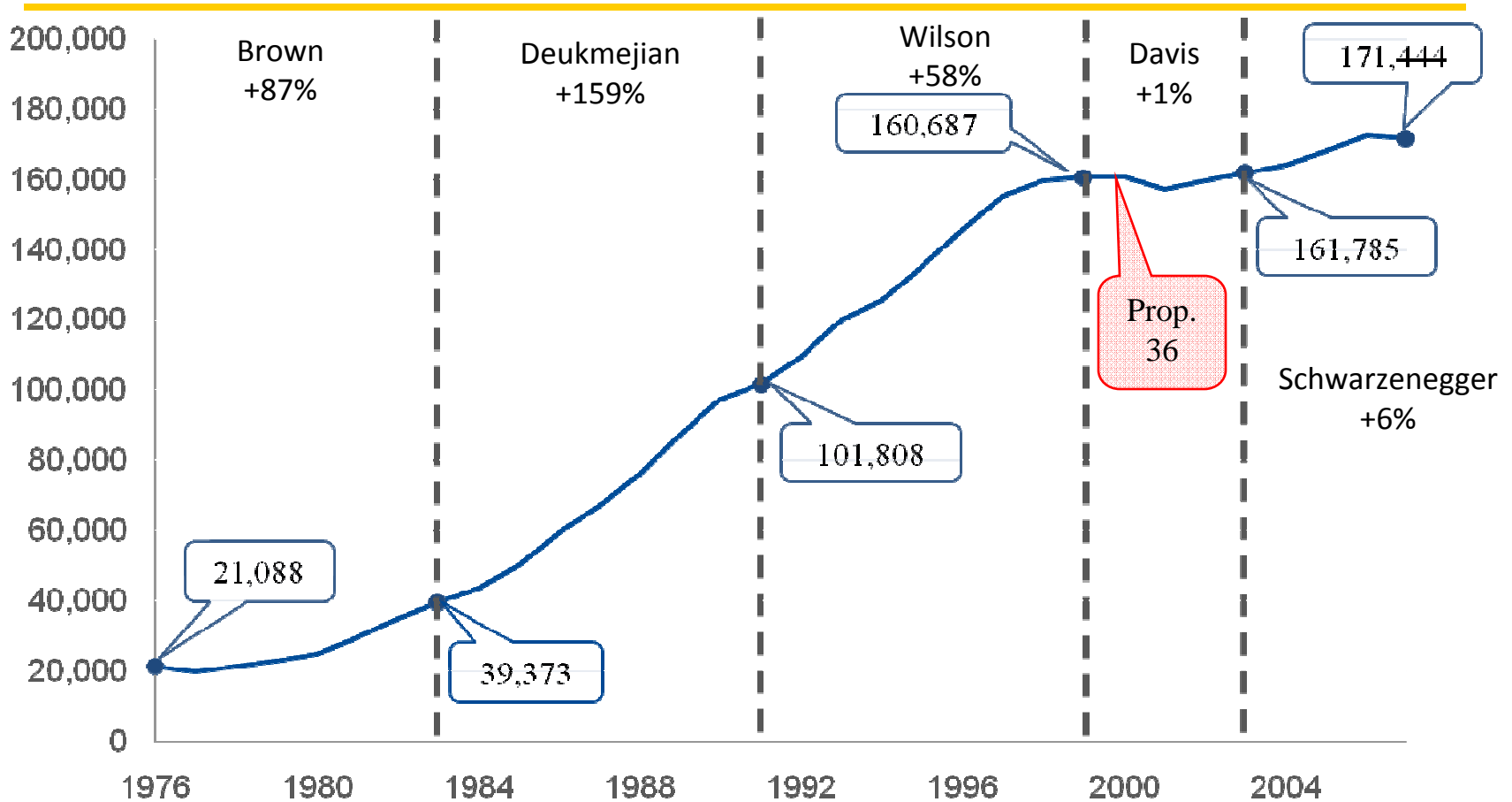
California vs. New York

- In 1995-2007, California's prison population **rose by 31%** and
 - Violent crime rate fell by 46%
 - Property crime rate fell by 38%
- In 1995-2007, New York's prison population **declined by 9%** and
 - Violent crime rate fell by 47%
 - Property crime rate fell by 51%

Treatment-not-Incarceration in California: Proposition 36

- In eight years, Prop. 36 has:
 - Provided treatment to over 280,000 Californians, half of whom had never received treatment before.
 - Reduced the number of people in prison for drug possession by about 8,000 (40%) since 2000.
 - Cut incarceration costs by over \$2 billion, or \$2.5-4 for every \$1 spent.

California Prisoners, by Gov.



DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Reason. Compassion. Justice.

www.drugpolicy.org

Treatment-not-Incarceration in California: Proposition 36



DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Reason. Compassion. Justice.

www.drugpolicy.org

Treatment-not-Incarceration in California: Proposition 36

- In 2000-05, \$120 million went to treatment each year.
- In 2009, just \$18 million went to treatment
 - Federal stimulus supplement: \$45 million

Proposed Additional Alcohol & Marijuana Revenue

- Alcohol Fee
- Marijuana License Fee & Sales Tax

Alcohol Mitigation Fee

- **AB 1019**, authored by Assembly Member Jim Beall (D-San Jose), would establish the Alcohol-Related Services Program.
- A \$1.4 BILLION annual alcohol mitigation fee would go toward alcohol-related trauma care, hospitalization, treatment, prevention, and criminal justice costs.
- As AB 1019 is a fee program, it only requires a majority vote in Sacramento.

Marijuana Taxation

- **AB 390**, authored by Assembly Member Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco)
 - Would impose a fee on the retail sale of marijuana, generating \$1.4 BILLION a year.
 - Funds go to drug education, awareness, and rehabilitation programs.
- Marijuana Taxation Ballot Measure (2010)
 - Would allow cities/counties to develop their own rules on retail sales of marijuana, generating an unknown amount of revenue for local use.

Drug Policy Reform Adds Up

- Sending people to treatment not prison for drug possession
= \$1.5BN annual savings
- Increase alcohol excise fee
= \$1.4BN annual revenue
- Tax marijuana like alcohol
= \$1.4BN in annual revenue & \$600M in law enforcement savings

= \$5 BILLION ANNUALLY

Thank you!

Margaret Dooley-Sammuli
Deputy State Director, Southern California
Drug Policy Alliance
(213) 291 4190
mdooley@drugpolicy.org

www.drugpolicy.org