

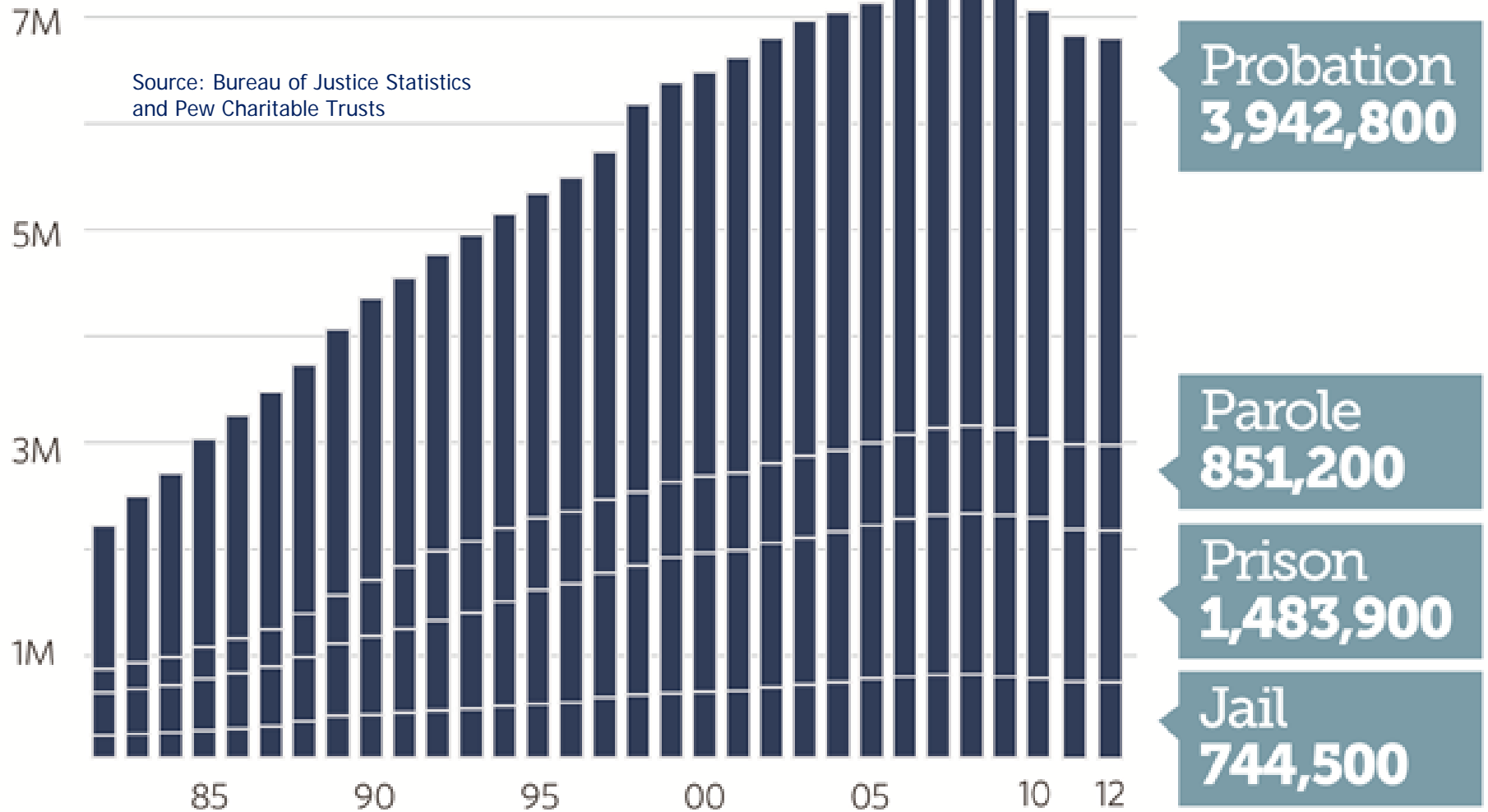
Recidivism and The Role of Probation and Parole



Discussant Comments by Shawn
Bushway (University of Albany,
SUNY)



Dramatic growth in size of supervised population



■ Why?

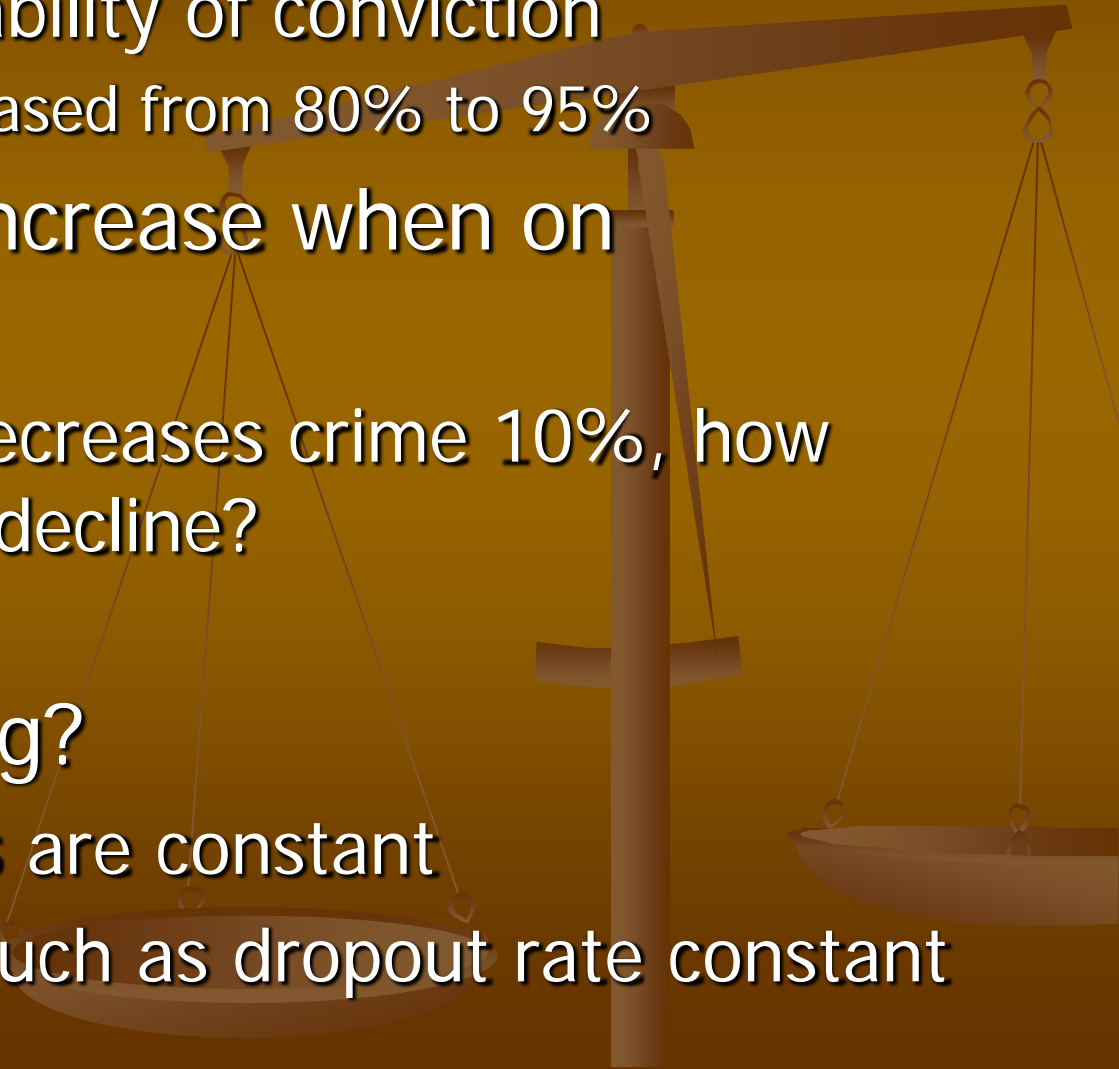
- Not crime
- Increased probability of conviction
 - Plea rates increased from 80% to 95%

■ Does certainty increase when on probation?

- If supervision decreases crime 10%, how much does this decline?

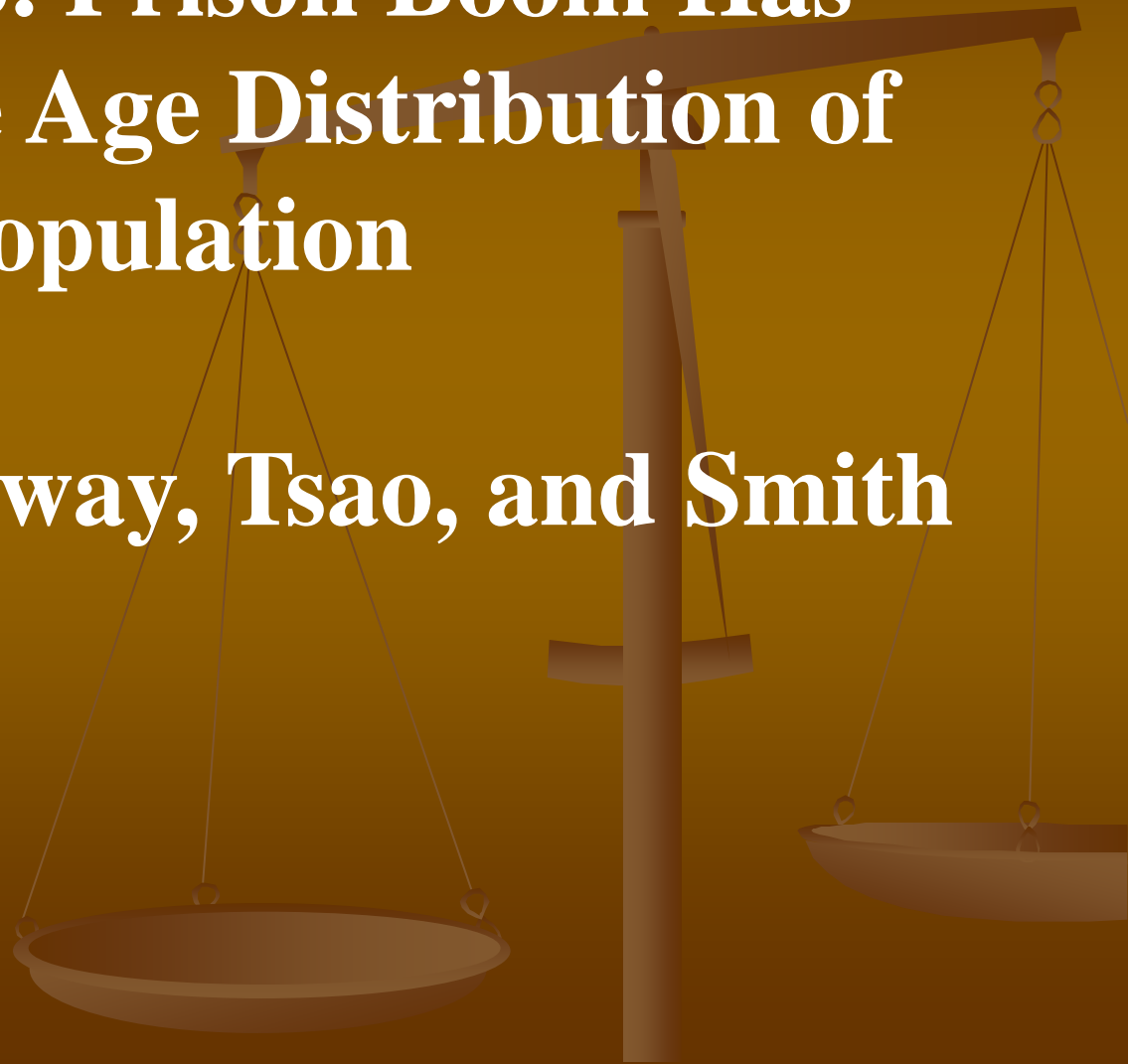
■ Is it net widening?

- Recidivism rates are constant
- Demographics such as dropout rate constant



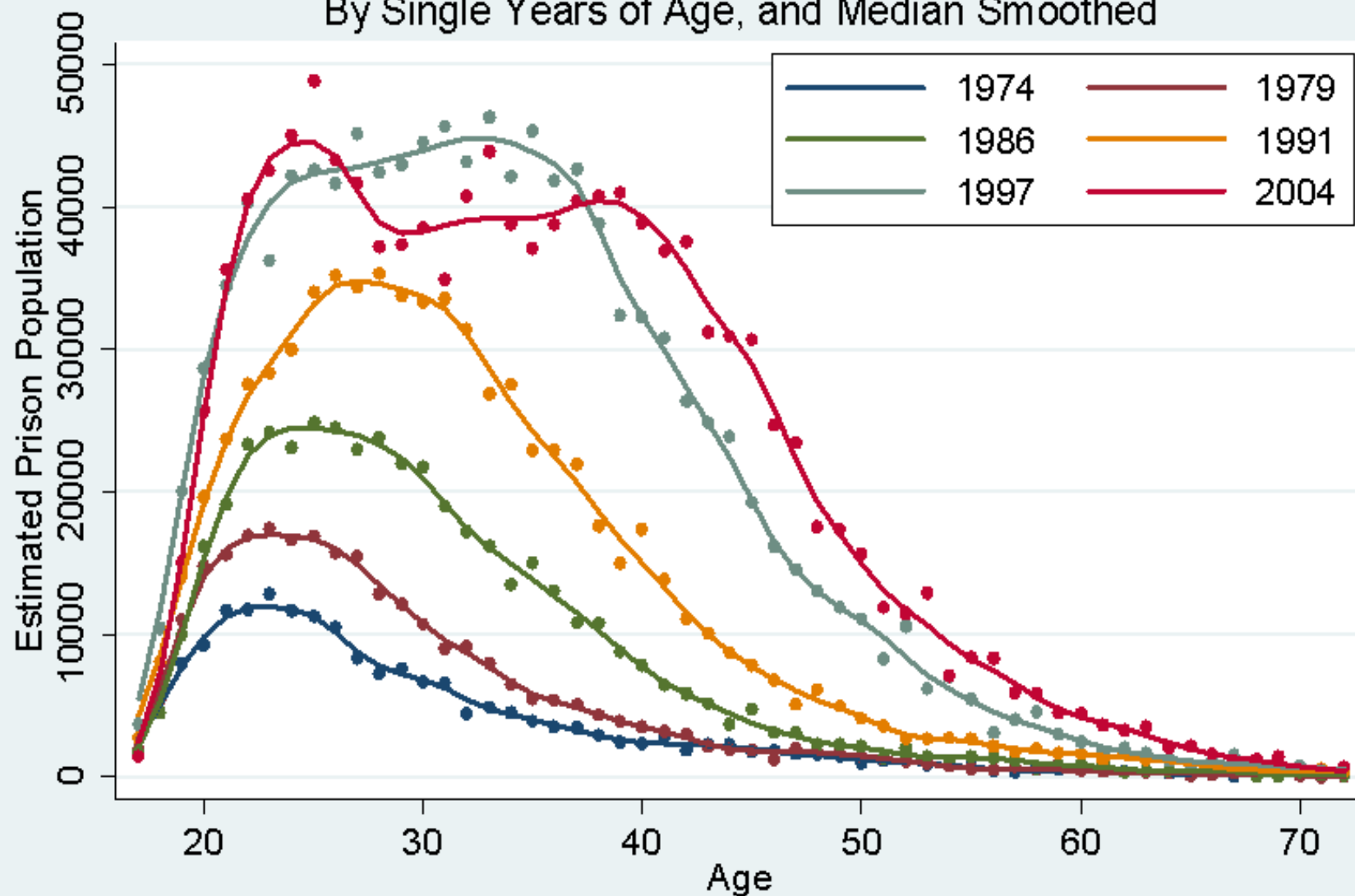
How the U.S. Prison Boom Has Changed the Age Distribution of the Prison Population

Porter, Bushway, Tsao, and Smith



Estimated Prison Population from Six Surveys, 1974 to 2004:

By Single Years of Age, and Median Smoothed



Explaining

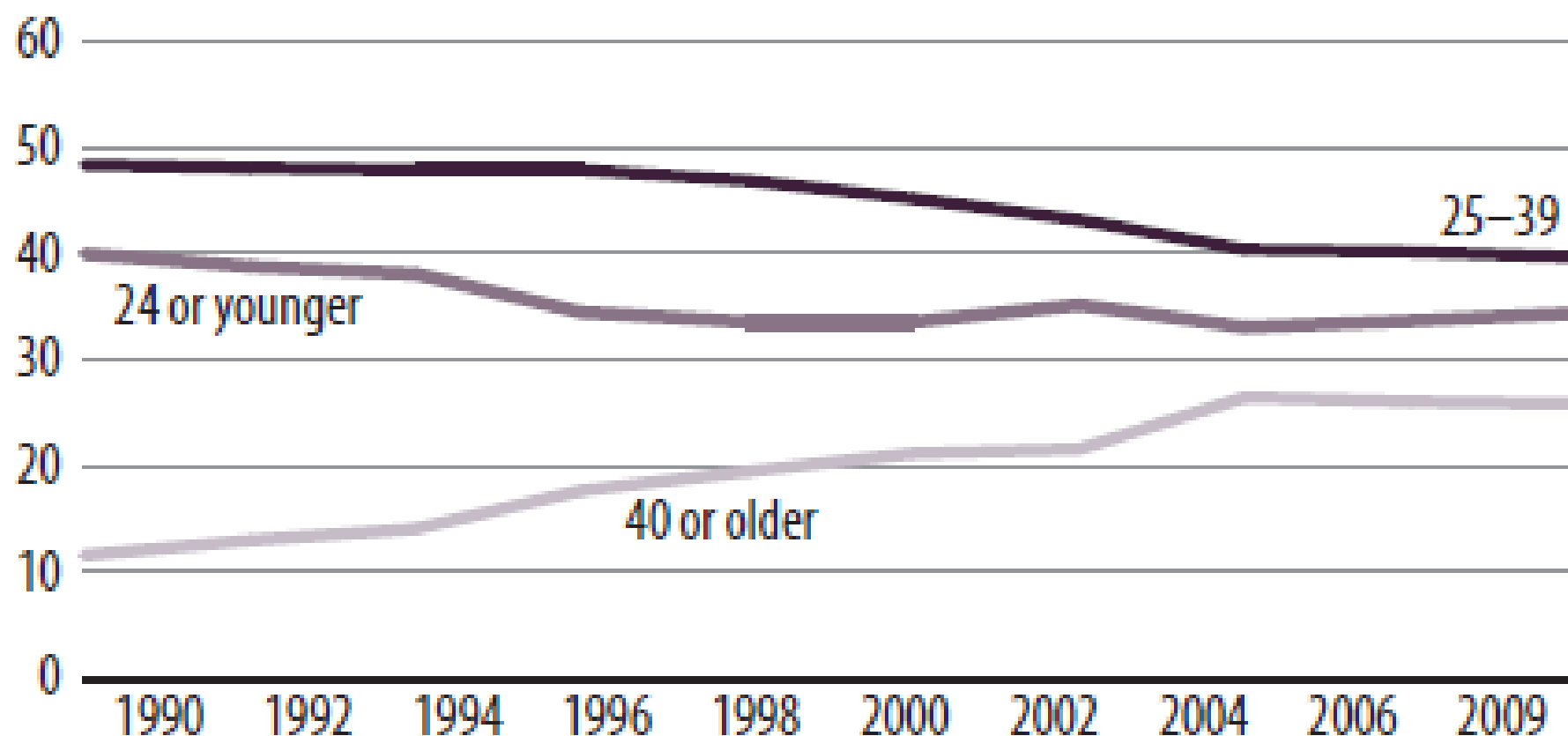
- Cohort Effect
- Not
 - Aging of population
 - Sentence length
 - Not drug sentences
- Drug use



FIGURE 6

Age at arrest of felony defendants in the 75 largest counties, 1990–2009

Percent of defendants



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, State Court Processing Statistics, 1990–2009.