



Snohomish County Blue Ribbon Commission on Criminal Justice Priorities

Public Input on County Priorities



Snohomish County

What is the Blue Ribbon Commission?

- Independent Commission established by the Snohomish County Council and County Executive in summer 2007 to investigate and recommend priorities for addressing diverse criminal justice issues
- Made up of professionals from the courts, mental health, social services, enforcement, etc.
- Represents all districts of Snohomish County
- Recommendations to be complete by December 31, 2007



Mission

Through outreach to service providers, recognized experts, and the public, the Commission will systematically review and evaluate existing and new proposals/recommendations for meeting the diverse criminal justice needs in our community.

The Commission's recommendations will establish priorities and funding options that balance prevention, intervention, and response to provide safer communities and responsible use of public funds.



Commission Process: Outreach

- Outreach to County and Community Groups involved in Criminal Justice Issues/Activities
 - Law Enforcement – Police Chiefs, Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff's Association
 - Human Services
 - Judiciary
 - Prosecuting Attorney
 - Department of Corrections
 - School Districts
 - Other Counties (Whatcom County)



Commission Process: Proposals

- Proposals and/or input were received from a range of agencies and organizations
 - Judiciary
 - Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 - Snohomish County Regional Drug Task Force
 - Department of Corrections
 - Snohomish County Jail
 - Snohomish County Human Services
 - Snohomish County Center for Battered Women
 - Deputy Sheriff's Association
 - Snohomish County Sheriff

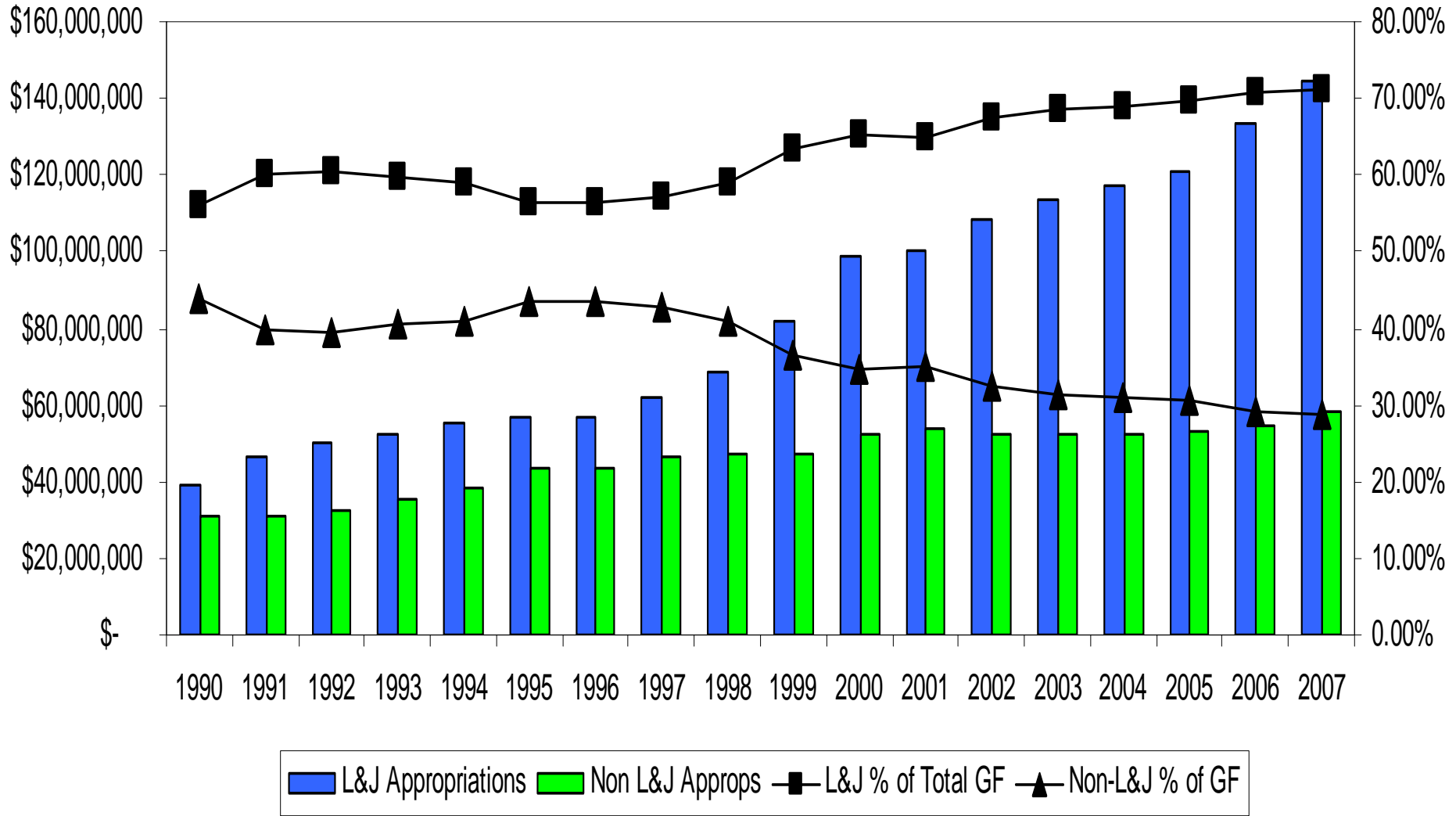


Commission Process: Education

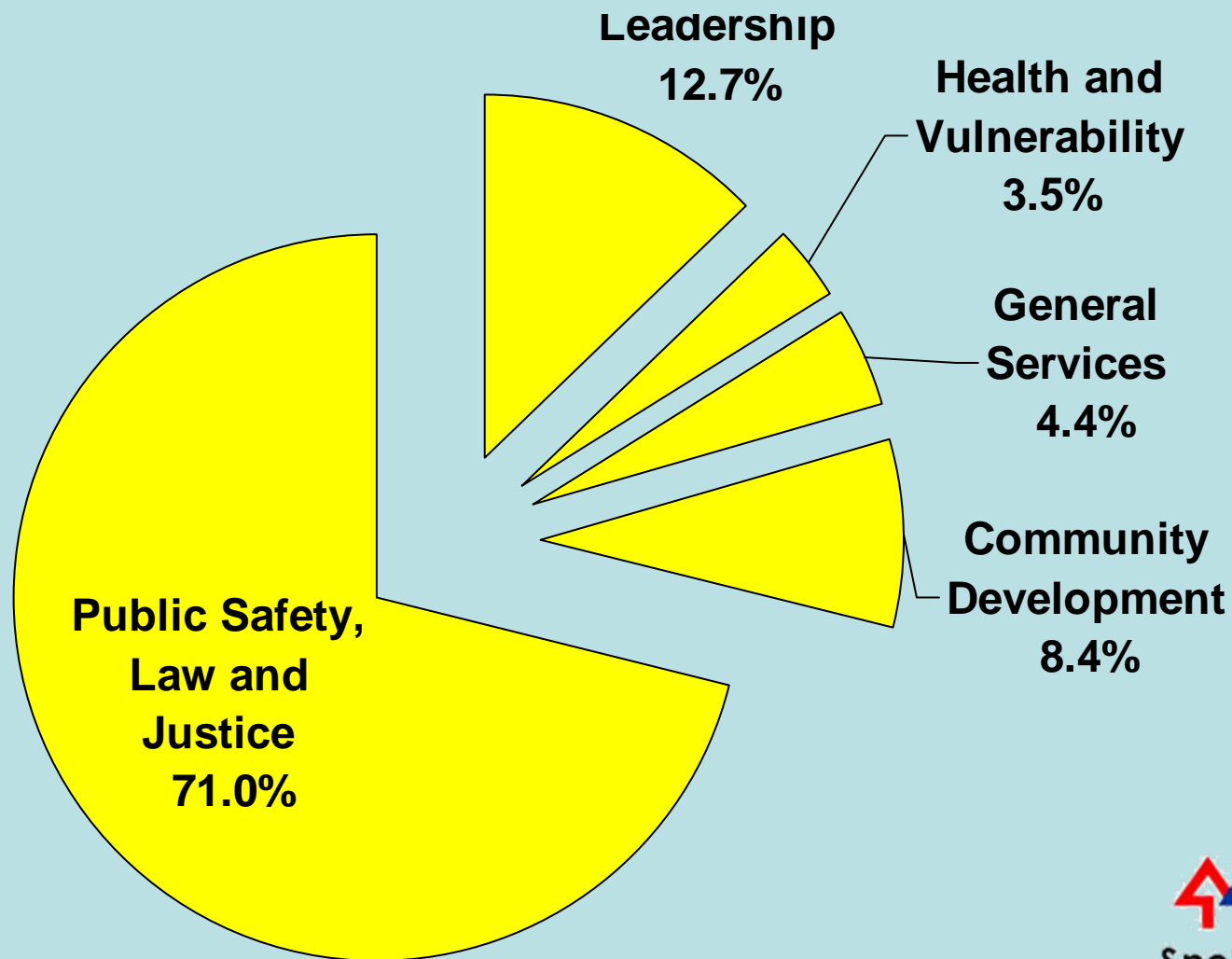
- Review statistics on costs of criminal justice related activities, offenders and offenses in Snohomish County, and incarceration (both Snohomish County Jail and Monroe Correctional)



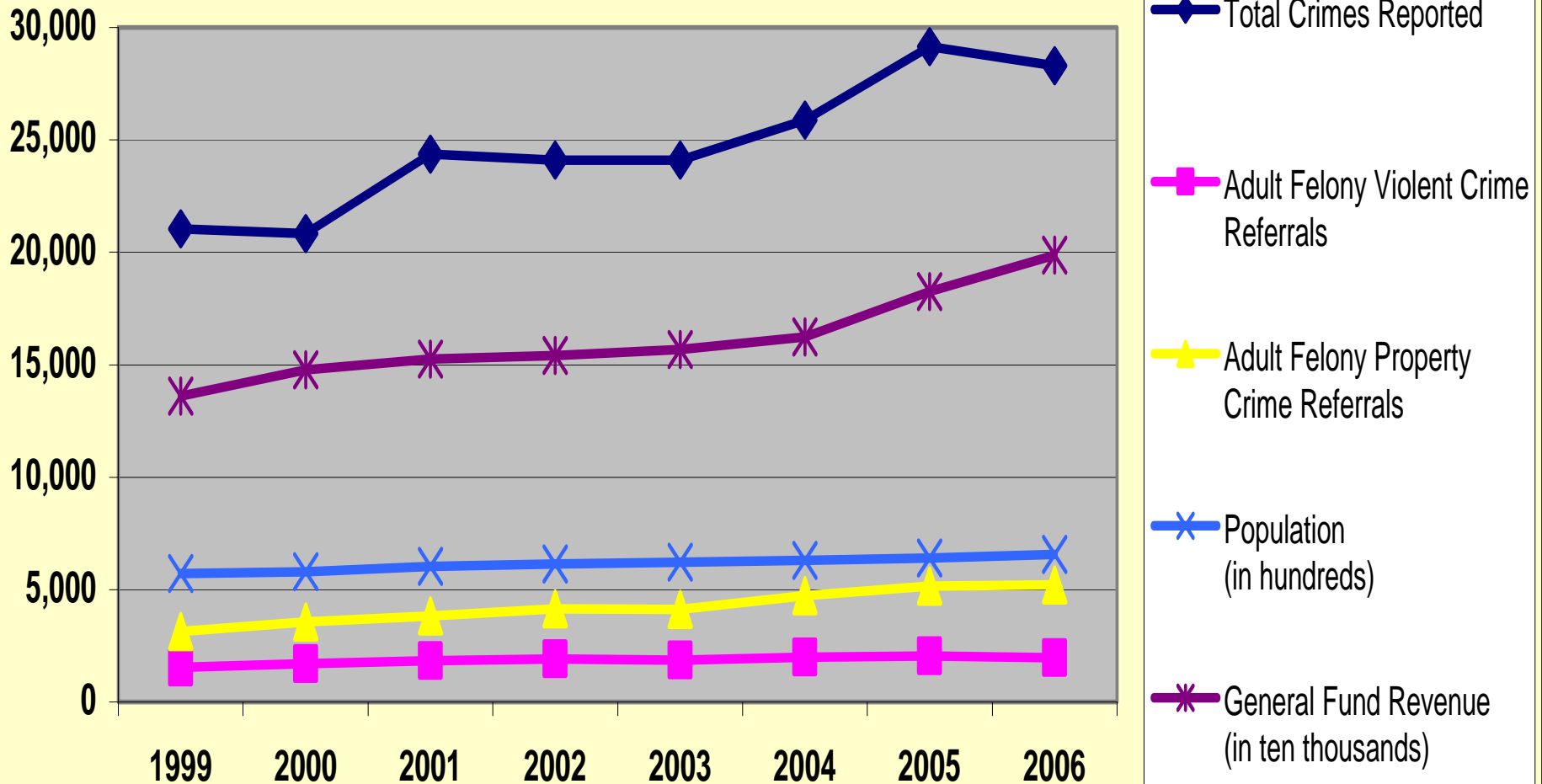
Law and Justice General Fund Appropriations 1990-2007



2008 General Fund Expenditure Budget - \$211.9 Million



Snohomish County Crime Statistics



County Criminal Justice Statistics



- More than 70% of the County's General Fund is allocated to criminal justice issues.
- The Snohomish County jail is full on a daily basis.
- More than 20% of all bookings have a history with the local public mental health system
- Incarceration for drug related crimes continues to rise.



Department of Corrections Statistics

- Statewide there were 8,496 admissions (excluding violators) to DOC prisons.
 - 3,790 were new admissions
 - 4,706 were readmissions
- 540 admissions, or 6%, were from Snohomish County



DOC Prison Demographics

- 83% of females and 71% of males enter DOC with less than a 9th grade education
- 75% have previously been in a county juvenile system
- 73% of females and 55% of males have mental health problems
- 62% of females and 56% of males reported using illegal drugs in the month before their offense



Monroe Correctional Statistics

- Total DOC prison population on 6/30/07 was 17,435.
- Offenders spend on average 21 months in prison
- 2,459, or 14%, of the total prison population, were held at MCC.
- 240 of the MCC population were committed from Snohomish County.
- Average age of MCC population was 39.1 as compared to the state average of 36.6.



Re-entry Statistics

- 97% of prison inmates re-enter communities.
- Recidivism has climbed from 32% to 37% over the past 10 years.
- Unless recidivism is curbed, or changes in law occur, DOC prison population will exceed beds by 4,000 offenders in 2017.
- Unless intervention succeeds, it is estimated that 3,500 offenders released in 2006 will commit new crimes by 2011.
- **50% of male children whose parents have been incarcerated will be incarcerated in the future.**



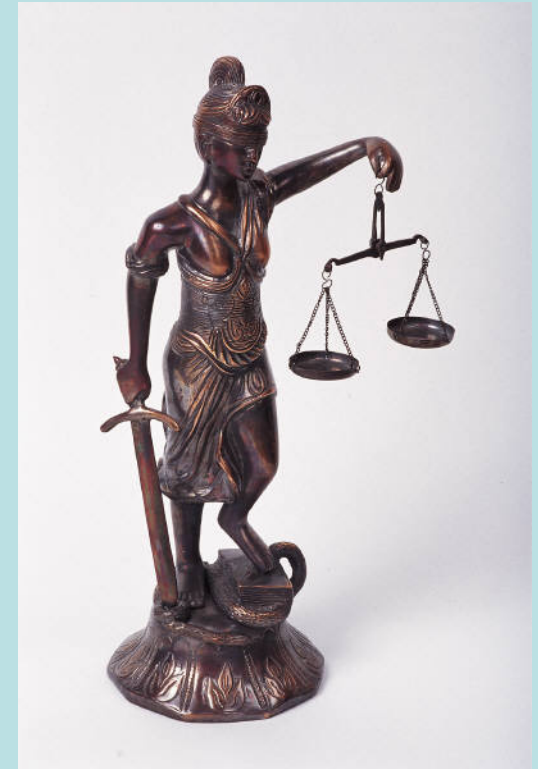
Proposals

- Comprehensive Criminal Justice Program focused on prevention, treatment, enforcement, incarceration (People's Concept)
- Comprehensive Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Programs
- Dedicated Domestic Violence Court
- New County Criminal Justice Center
- Prosecuting Attorney Caseload Standards
- Collaboration with existing DOC programs
- Law Enforcement Training Facilities



Proposal Evaluation Process

- Support a balance across prevention, intervention, and response
- Evaluate based on positive impact vs. cost (Cost Benefit Analysis)
- Look for collaborative approaches to add value
- Focus on evidence based programs and services (focus on what works)



Public Input

- We want to understand the public's view of each of the proposals.
- We'll go through each proposal and gather your thoughts on each. Please limit your comments to the proposal currently being discussed.
- Please provide detailed comments on the card provided on your chair. If you did not receive a card, the facilitator will give you one.



People's Concept

- Comprehensive Criminal Justice Program focused on prevention, treatment, enforcement, and incarceration – all working towards a common goal
- Highlights include:
 - Nurses to work with single, unwed mothers with children
 - Street Drug Crimes Unit working 365 days/year
 - Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug professionals working in school districts
 - Staff for local neighborhood action teams
 - Increased Drug/Alternative Courts
 - New mental health facility and additional funding for community services for mental health



People's Concept

- Funded through six year temporary property tax levy (\$65 - \$82 annually for a \$250K home)
- These dollars can be used as matching dollars for federal grants to enhance upon the concept
- Temporary lid to enable voters to measure and evaluate effectiveness prior to requesting continuation



Comprehensive Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Programs

- Range of programs focused on mental health issues, chemical dependency issues, and crime prevention.
- Highlights include:
 - Therapeutic court
 - Adult Triage Center
 - Short-term mental health treatment for the uninsured
 - Chemical dependency treatment for the uninsured
 - Enhanced drug court
 - Community Team
 - Youth Outreach
 - Parenting programs
 - Housing programs



Comprehensive Mental Health Programs

- Would not rely on County generated funds.
- Funding would come from 1/10th of 1% (.0001%) sales tax for mental health programs/activities authorized by the Washington State Legislature in 2005.
- Funding requires a therapeutic court and new and/or expanded chemical dependency and mental health treatment service programs.



Dedicated Domestic Violence Court

- Focus on providing continuity of service to victims and offenders
- Highlights include:
 - Improved monitoring
 - Dedicated judiciary and prosecution teams
 - Compliance tracking
 - Consistency across intervention and response
- Possible funding sources are RCW 10.99.080, Penalty assessment , Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Stop Grant



New Justice Center

- Proposal to replace existing justice facilities to resolve deficiencies and improve the ability to respond to growing community needs.
- Current facilities are deficient and non-functioning in many areas, including:
 - There are no separate circulation corridors for public, inmates, staff, and Judges.
 - The single elevator dedicated to inmate movement is shared with the public and staff
 - Only 3 courtrooms have secure holding facilities
 - The entrance screening environment and entrance/lobby areas are inadequate and unsafe
 - There is no emergency communication or public address system within the building



New Justice Center

- Highlights include:
 - Additional courtrooms to address County growth needs
 - Space for additional court clerk, prosecutor, sheriff, or other staff to support both current and future needs
 - Expansion of too small jury assembly area
 - Larger, more adequate public waiting areas
 - Confidential meeting and interview rooms for citizens and their attorneys, social workers, and other service providers
 - Ability to accommodate programs and services that support the activities of the courts, including those associated with drug courts and similar programs
 - ability to expand jail capacity on the county campus
- There is currently no cost data available, but the project would likely be funded through voter approved bonds



Caseload Standards

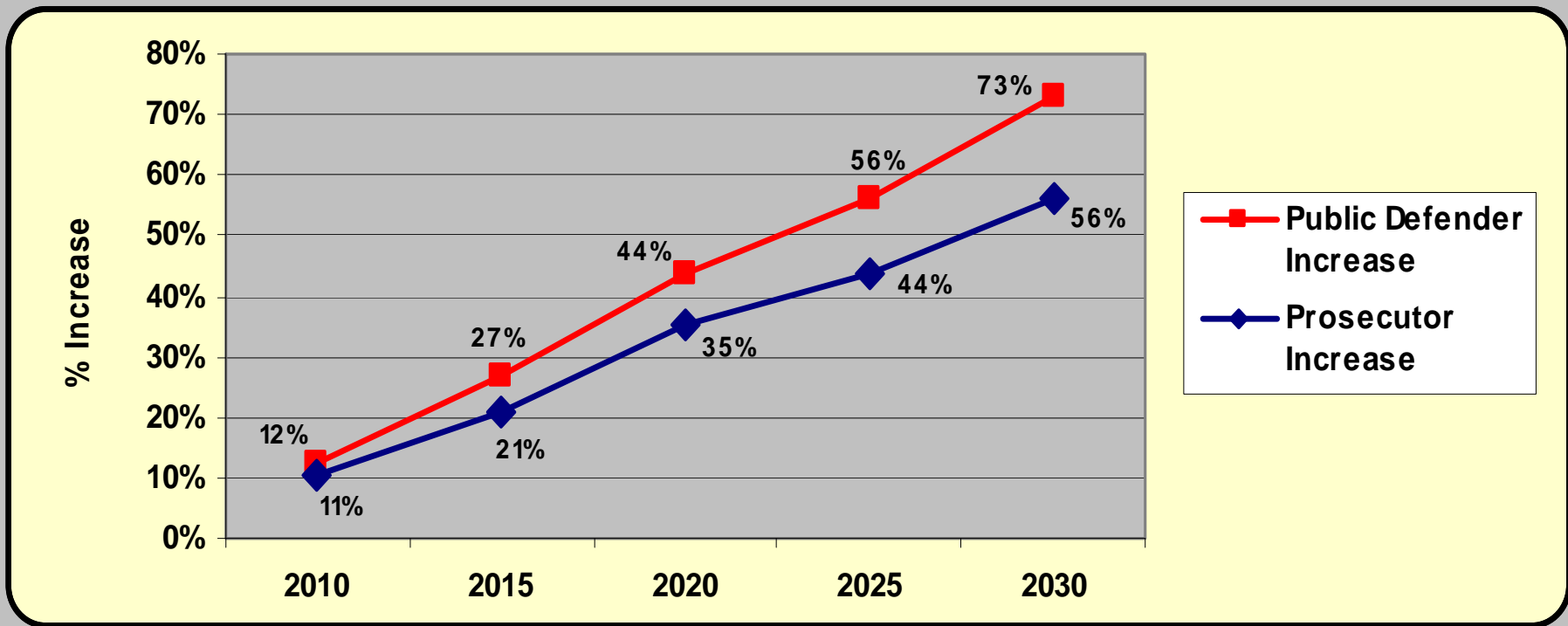
- Proposal to establish caseload standards for Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys (DPAs)
- Highlights include:
 - Traditionally, there was a 1:1 ratio of Public Defenders & DPAs in District Court
 - Now, we have (PD:DPA ratio):
 - South District Court: 6:3
 - Everett District Court: 3:2
 - Cascade District Court: 4:2
 - Evergreen District Court: 3:2
 - Limit DPA caseloads to 150/year, in line with current contractual loads for defense attorneys



Growth Without Staffing

Prosecutor & Public Defender Future Attorney Staffing Increase over 2006 Levels

	2006	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Public Defender Attorney Staffing	41	46	52	59	64	71
	----	12%	27%	44%	56%	73%
Prosecutor Attorney Staffing	57	63	69	77	82	89
	----	11%	21%	35%	44%	56%



Collaboration with Existing Department of Corrections (DOC) Programs

- Proposal to increase collaborative prevention and treatment programs with the DOC in Snohomish County
- Highlights include:
 - Expanded Mental Health and Chemical Dependency treatment continuum
 - Programs originating in Snohomish County Jail and continuing upon release
 - Enhanced Early Childhood Intervention for children of offenders
 - Improved Information sharing with DOC
 - Increased Low Income Housing

