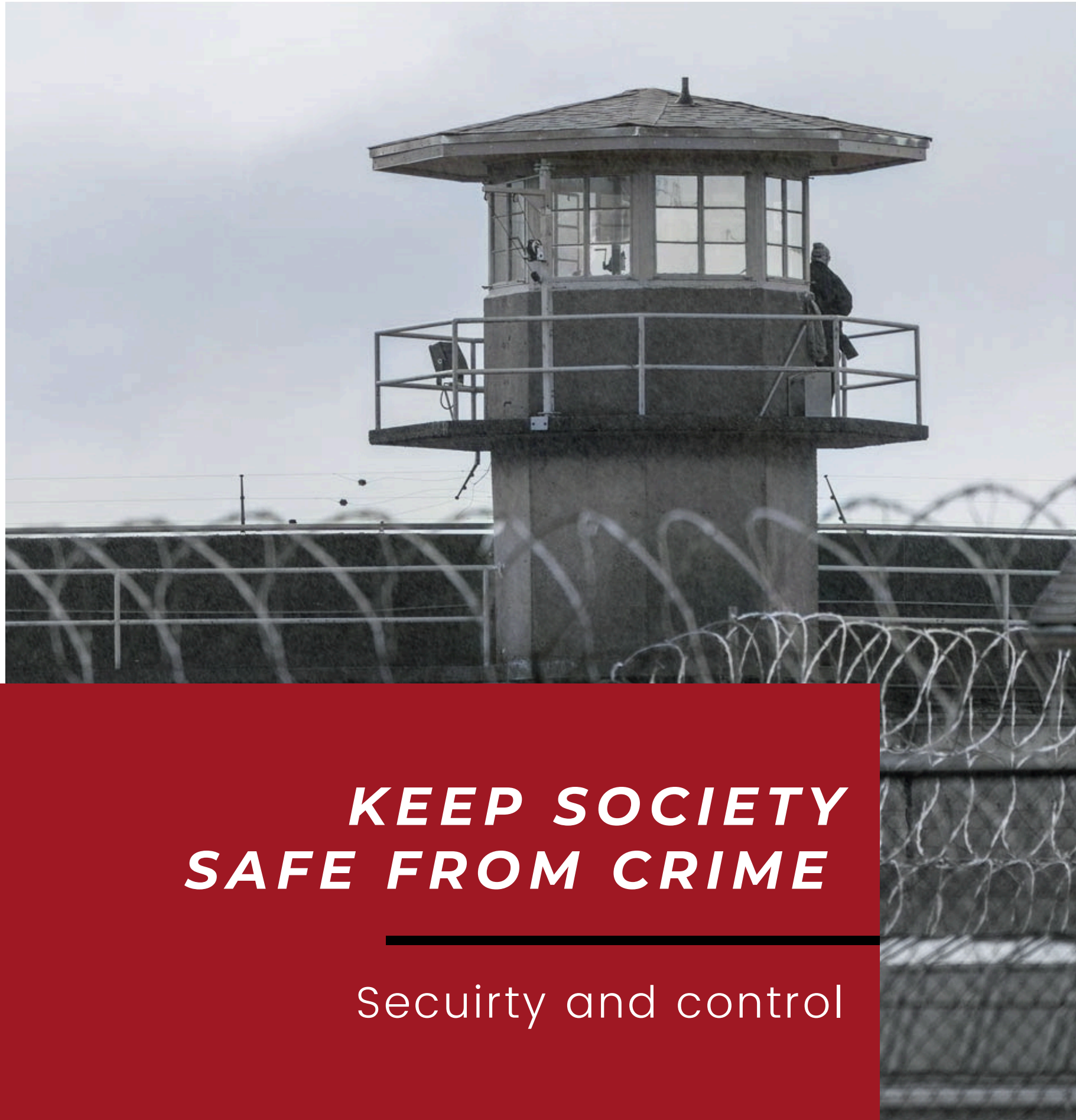


Overview of Prison & Social Reintegration

Chontit Chuenurah
Director, Office for the Bangkok Rules
and Treatment of Offenders, TIJ





***KEEP SOCIETY
SAFE FROM CRIME***

Security and control

Rehabilitation and social
reintegration

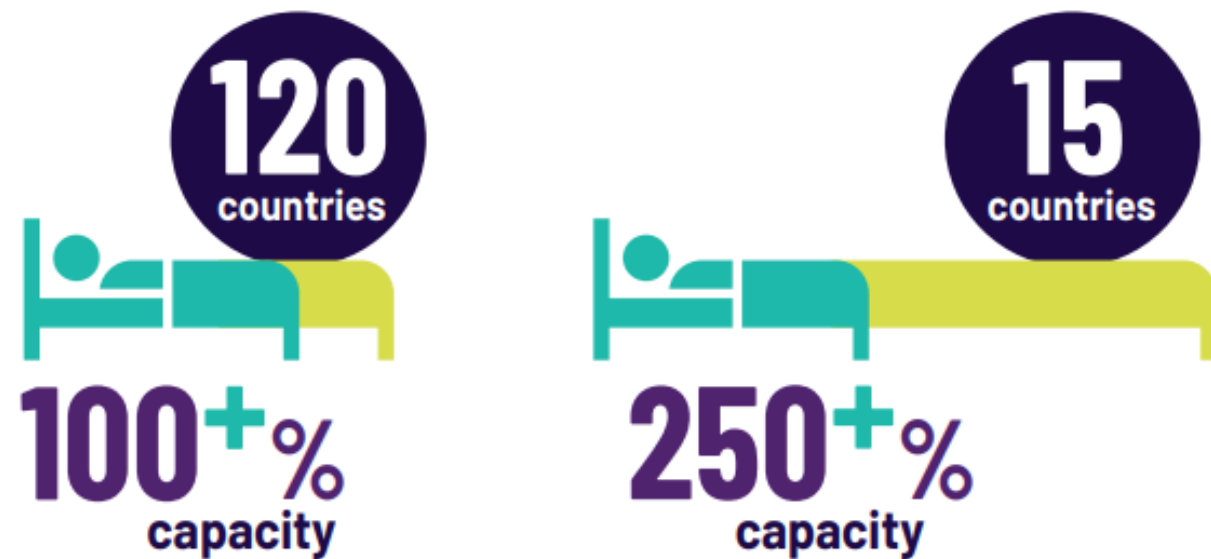
***REDUCE
RECIDIVISM***



“It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” –
Nelson Mandela



1) Prison Overcrowding is one of the biggest challenges.



↗+2 countries since 2021

↗+4 countries since 2021

KEY DRIVERS OF OVERCROWDING:

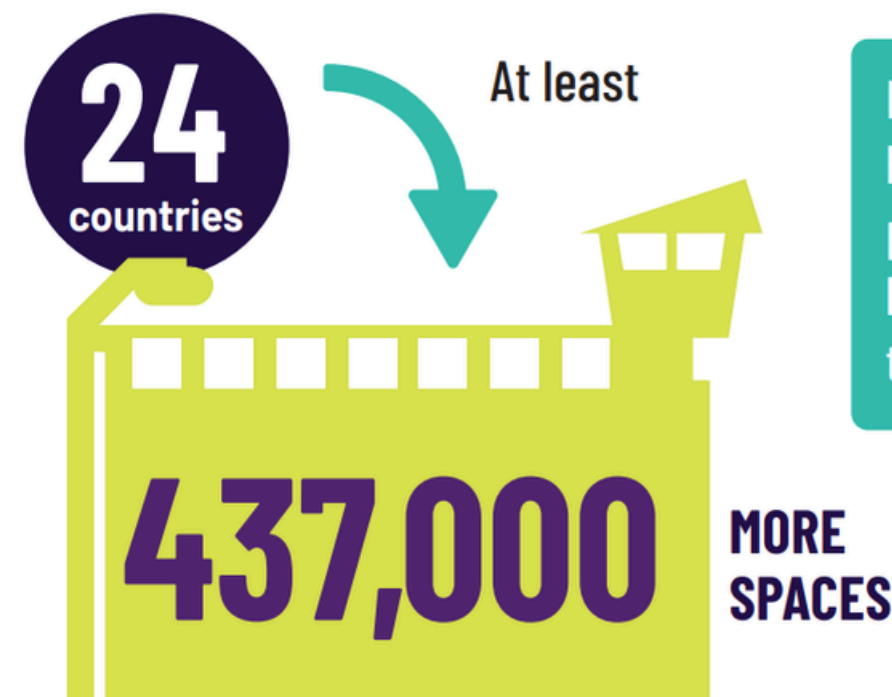
- 01 Few alternatives**
Investment needed to roll out, expand and successfully implement.
- 02 Increased sentences**
This includes life imprisonment and longer minimum terms.
- 03 Punitive drug policies**
An estimated 2.2m people are in prison for drug offences.
- 04 Discriminative laws**
Imprisonment often linked to socio-economic factors.

Overcrowding impacts:



Expanding global prison footprint

In 2021, many countries announced or started building new prisons, often bigger and more remote

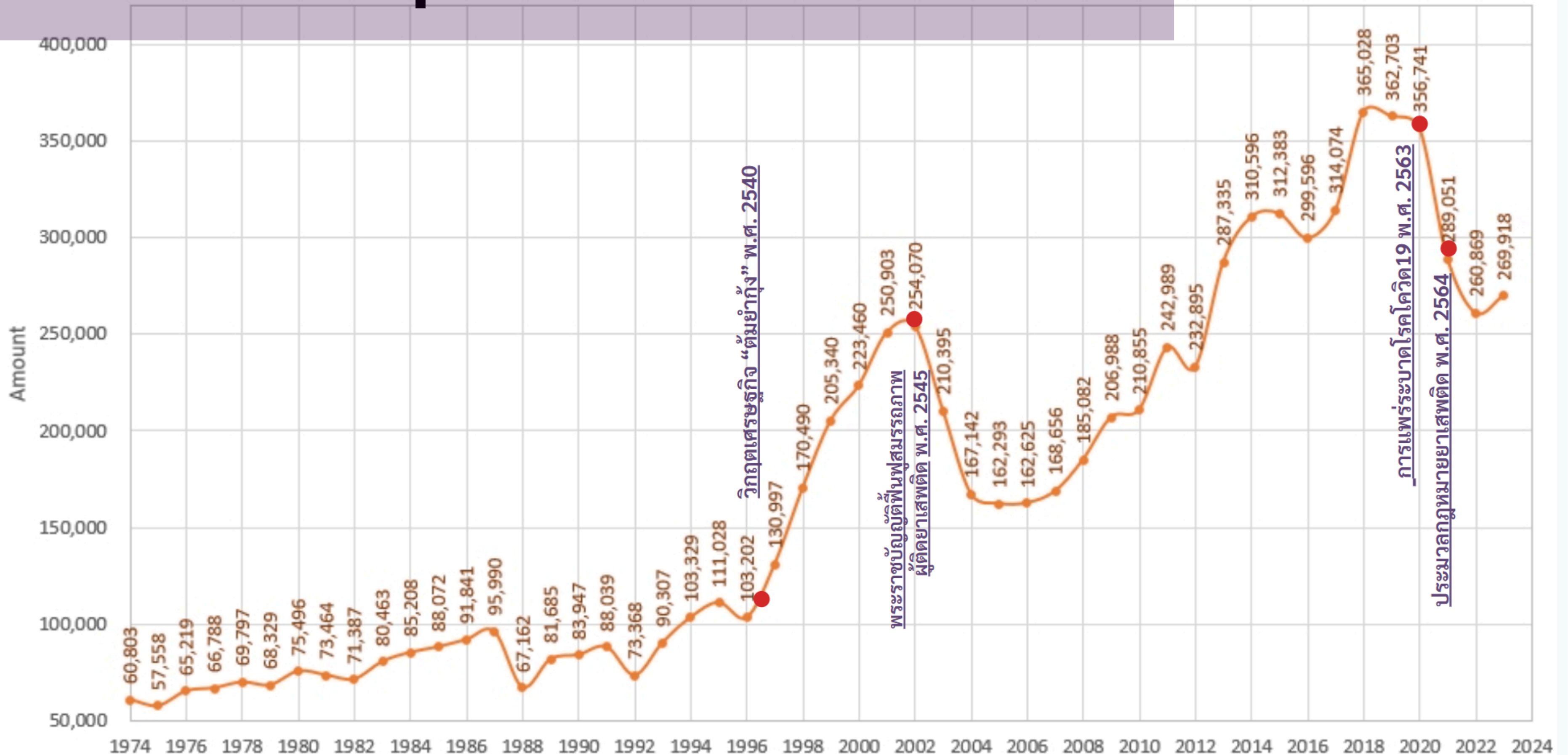


Experience shows building new prisons is not a long-term solution to overcrowding

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL

TIJ
Thailand Institute of Justice
affiliated with the United Nations

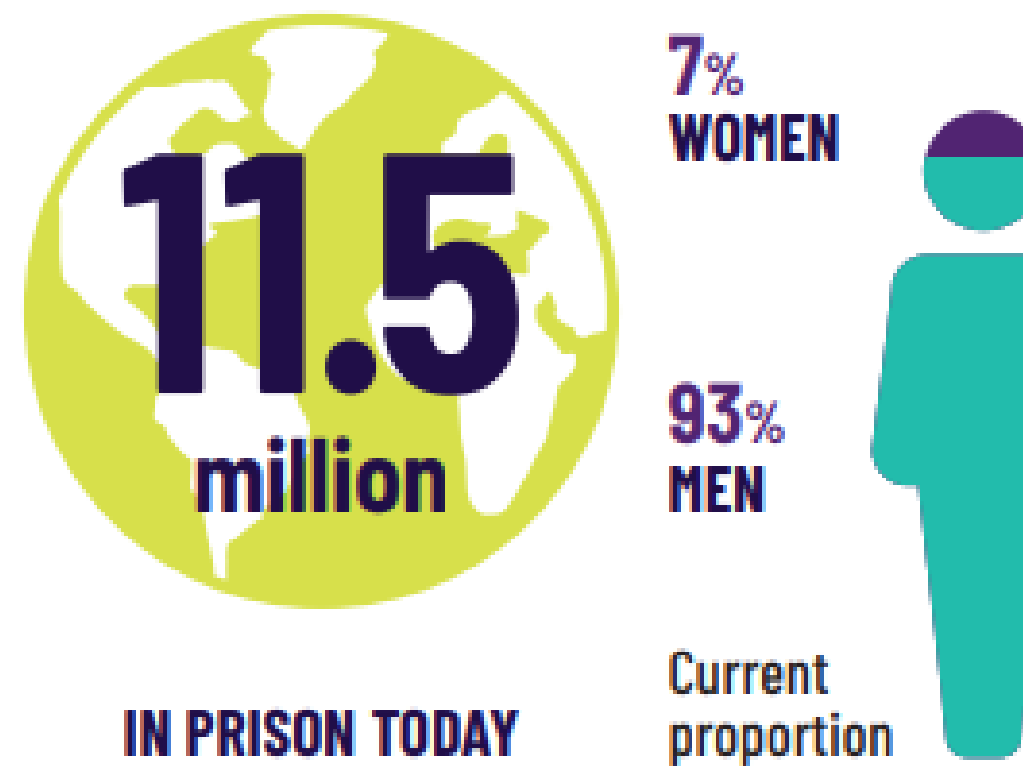
Prison Population in Thailand



2) Women Prisoners : Minority with a rapid increase

Prison population

There are more people in prison than ever before



IN PRISON TODAY

INCREASE IN PRISON POPULATION
FROM 2000 TO 2022

Men

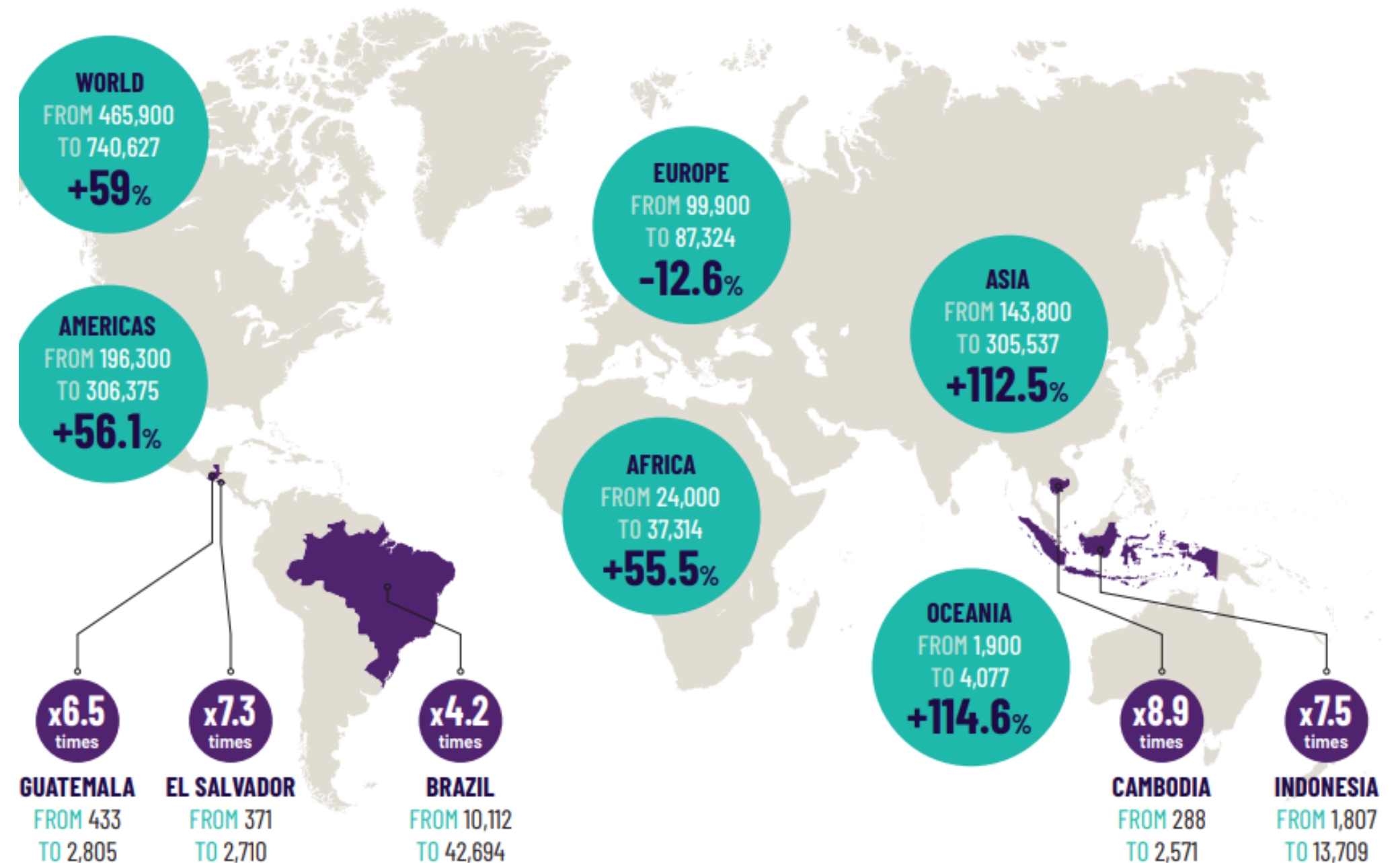
22%

Women
and girls

60%

WOMEN IN PRISON: CHANGES IN NUMBERS PER REGION + SHARPEST INCREASES PER COUNTRY

FROM 2000 TO 2020

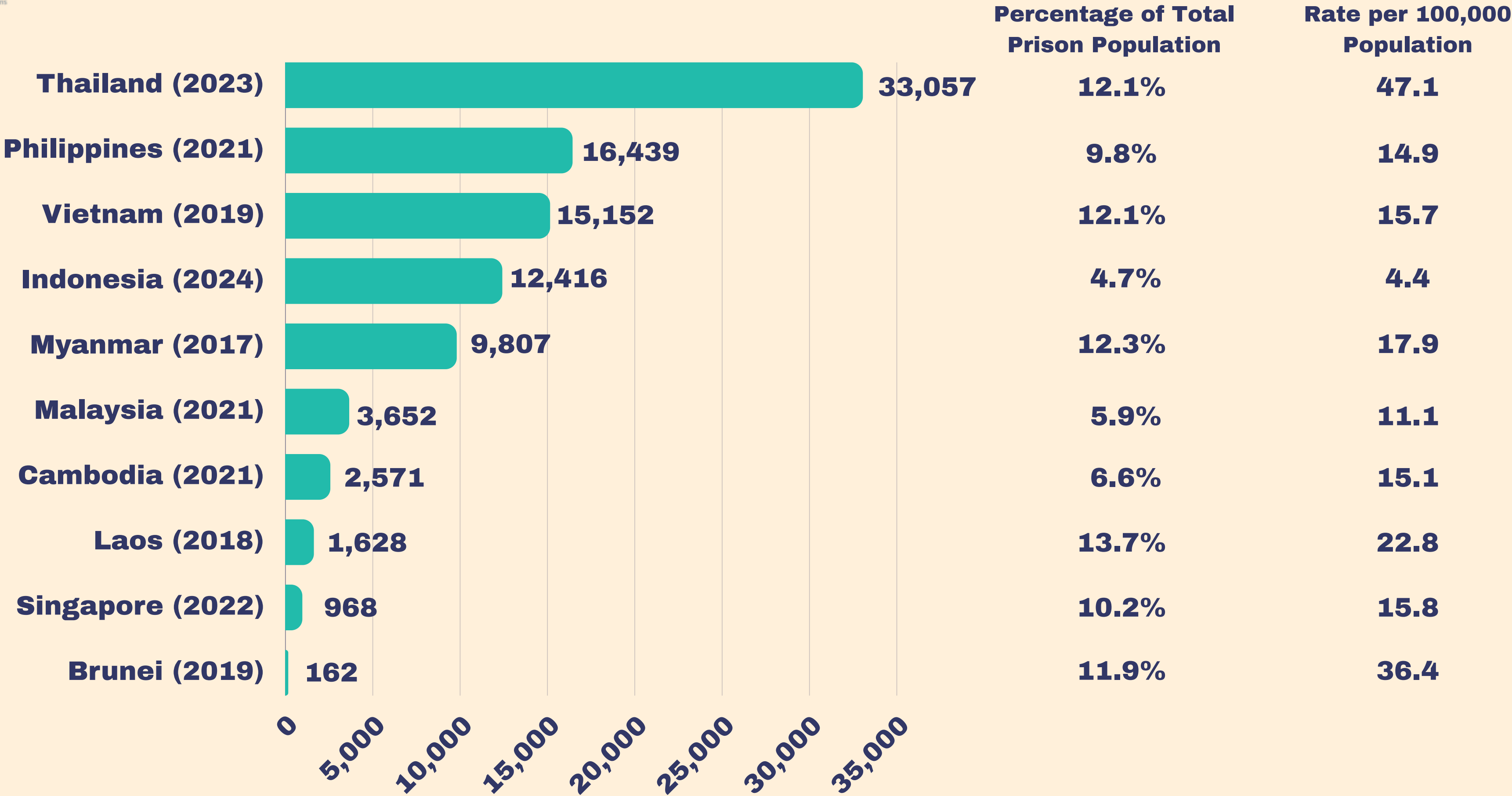


**PENAL
REFORM
INTERNATIONAL**

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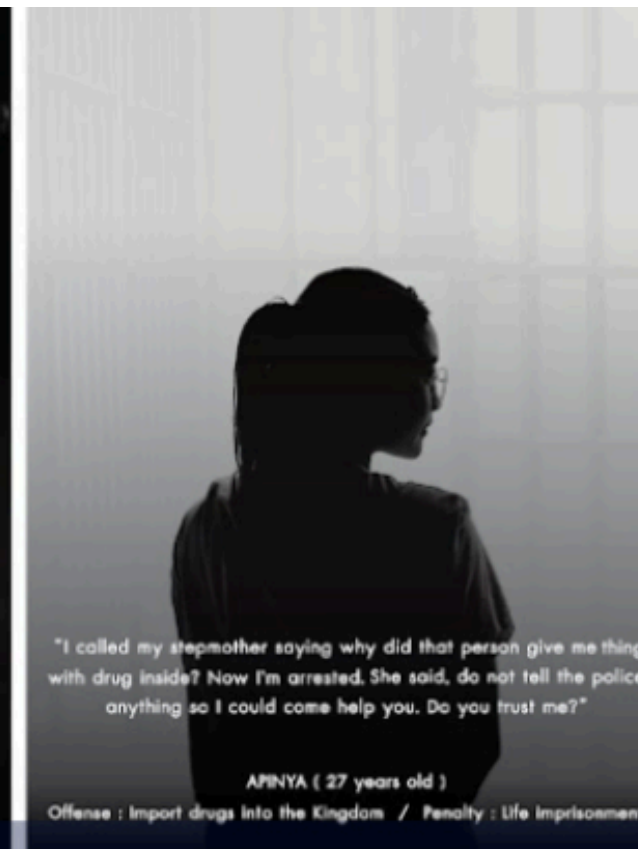
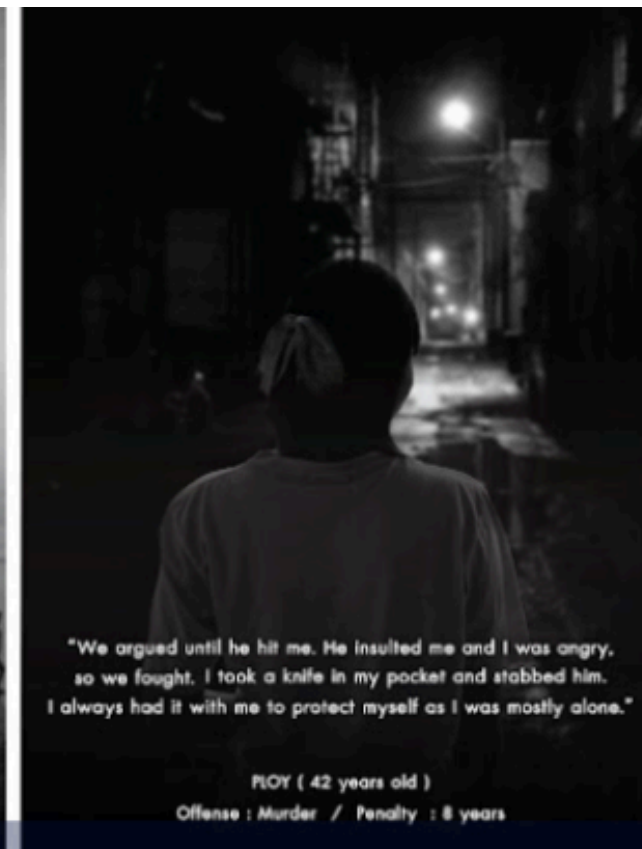
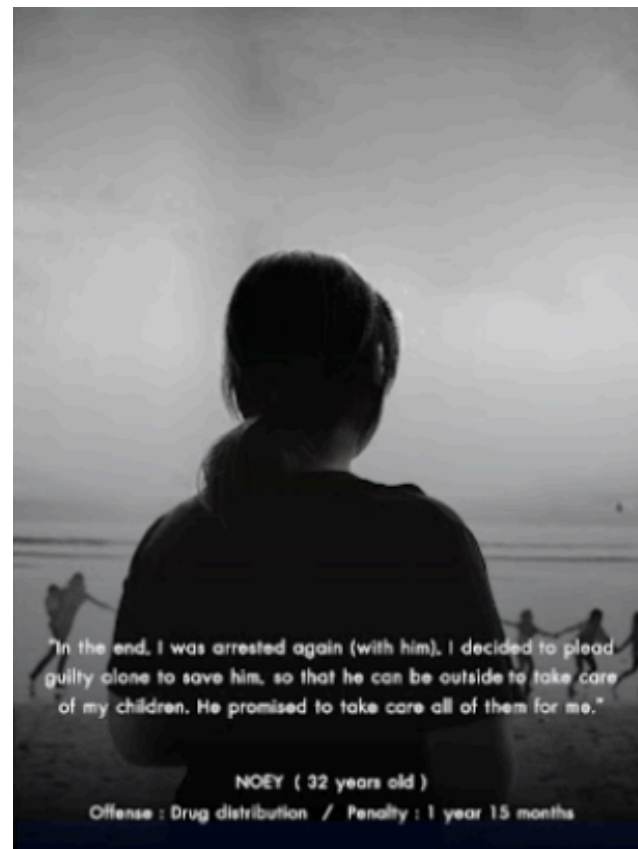
Source: Global Prison Trends Report 2023

Female prison population in southeast Asia

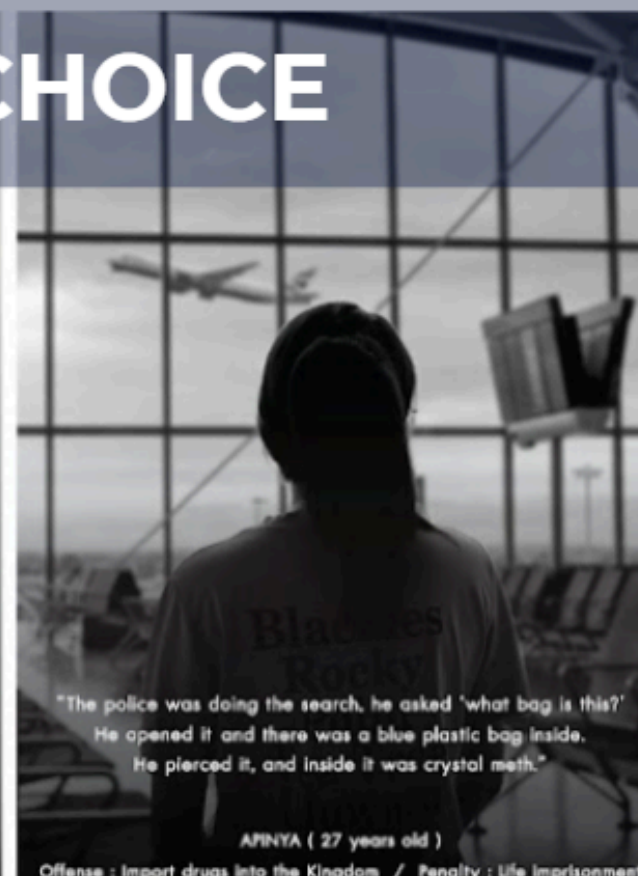
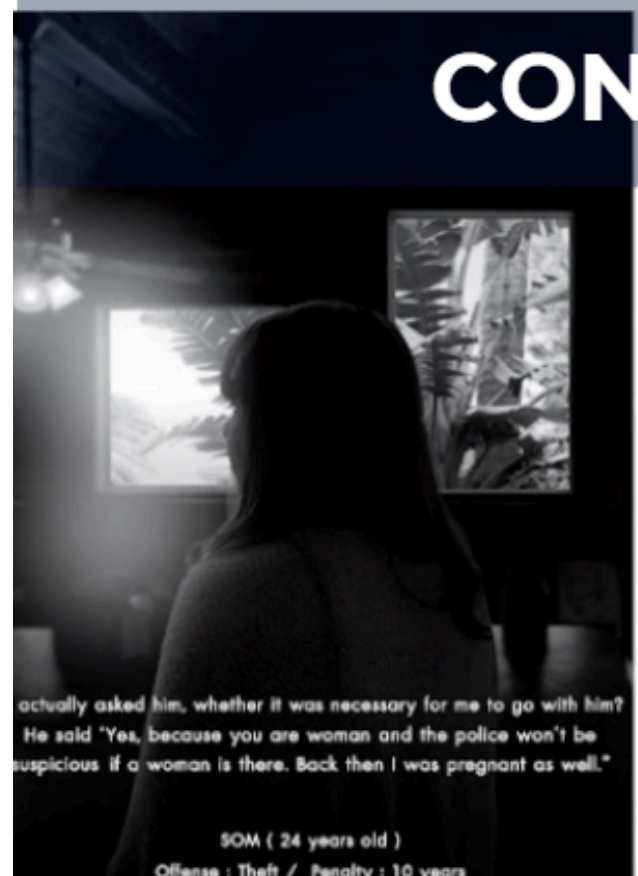


Sources: World Prison Brief, 2024

3) Prison is closely linked with inequality



CONSTRAINED CHOICE

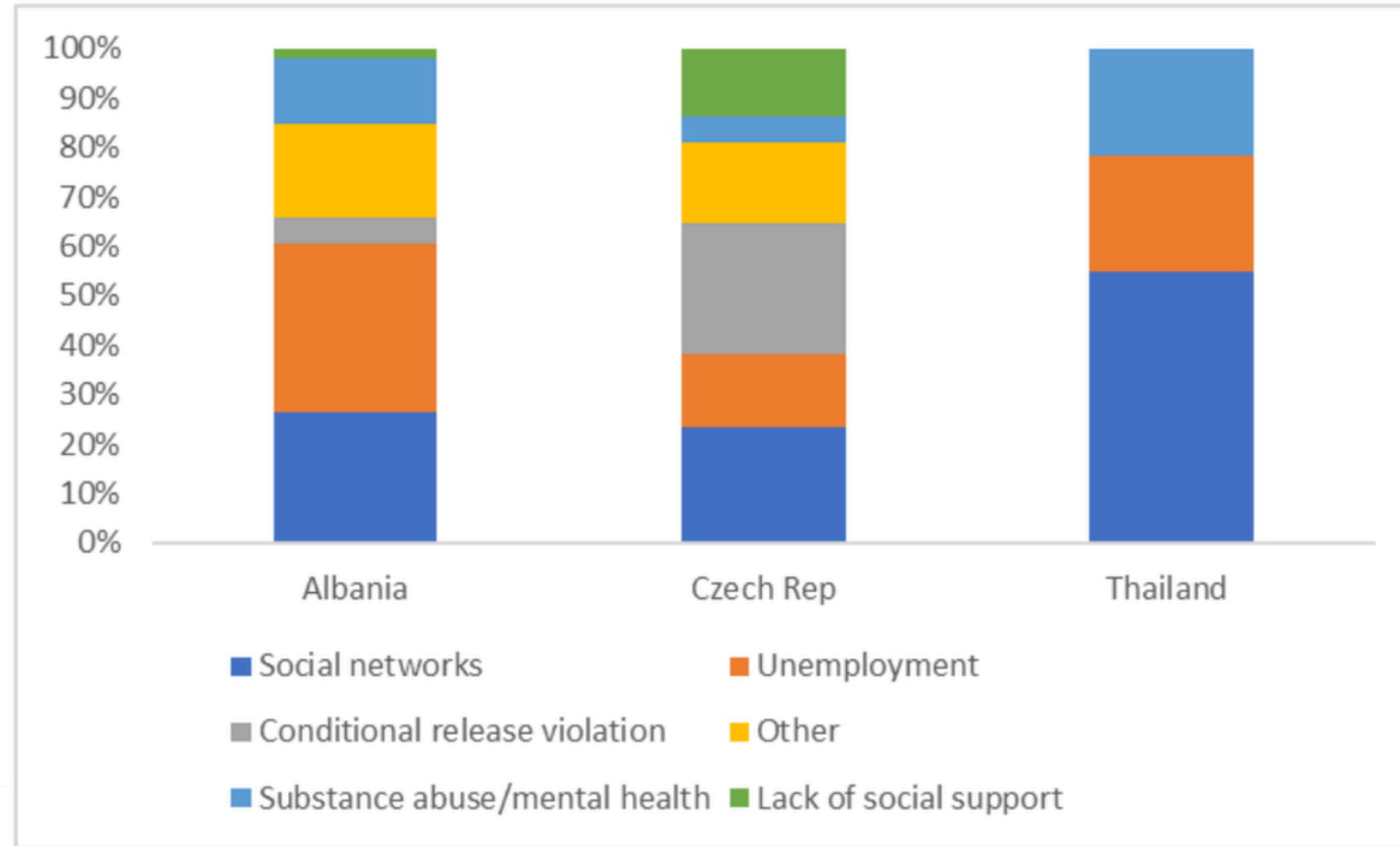


WHAT BRING INDIVIDUALS TO PRISON?

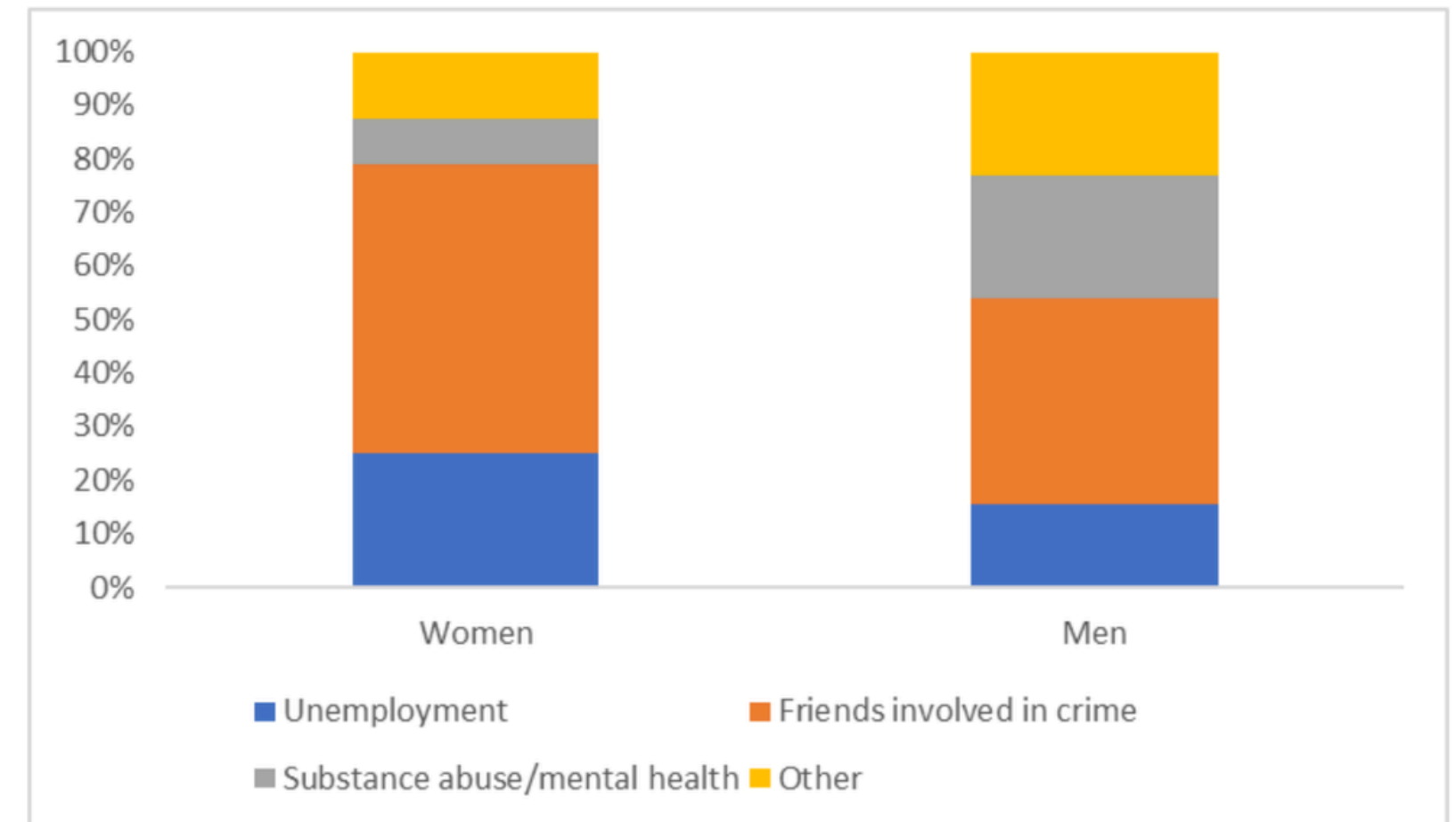
- economic hardship
- adverse childhood experiences
- domestic violence
- peer-group association
- deception and exploitation
- masculinity prowess
- bad luck

4) Reoffending is beyond the work of prison

Reasons for return



Reasons for return by gender



“The environment” – drug networks and culture

“I have no place to go. I couldn’t go back to my family, so I went to my friends – drug sellers.”

Not addiction with yaba

“We can take it or leave it.”

Alienation from family support networks

“My family insulted me, they don’t trust me. They think I will steal from them.”

Difficulty in securing formal employment

“The factory will not accept me, so I can work at a small store or street vendor.”

Drugs pay better for people with limited skills

“I have a security guard job next month when I am released, but I am still undecided whether it is enough.

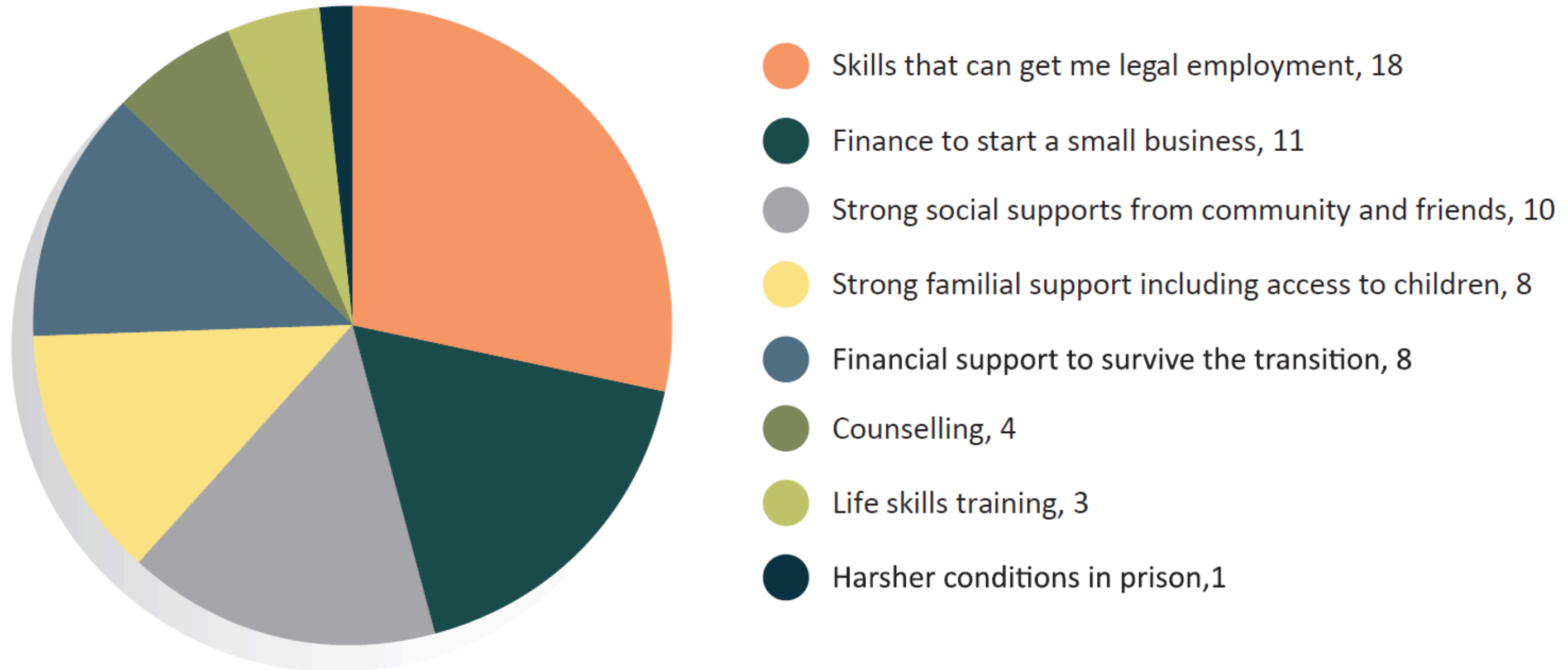
If not, I will sell drugs again.”

Users mistaken for dealers

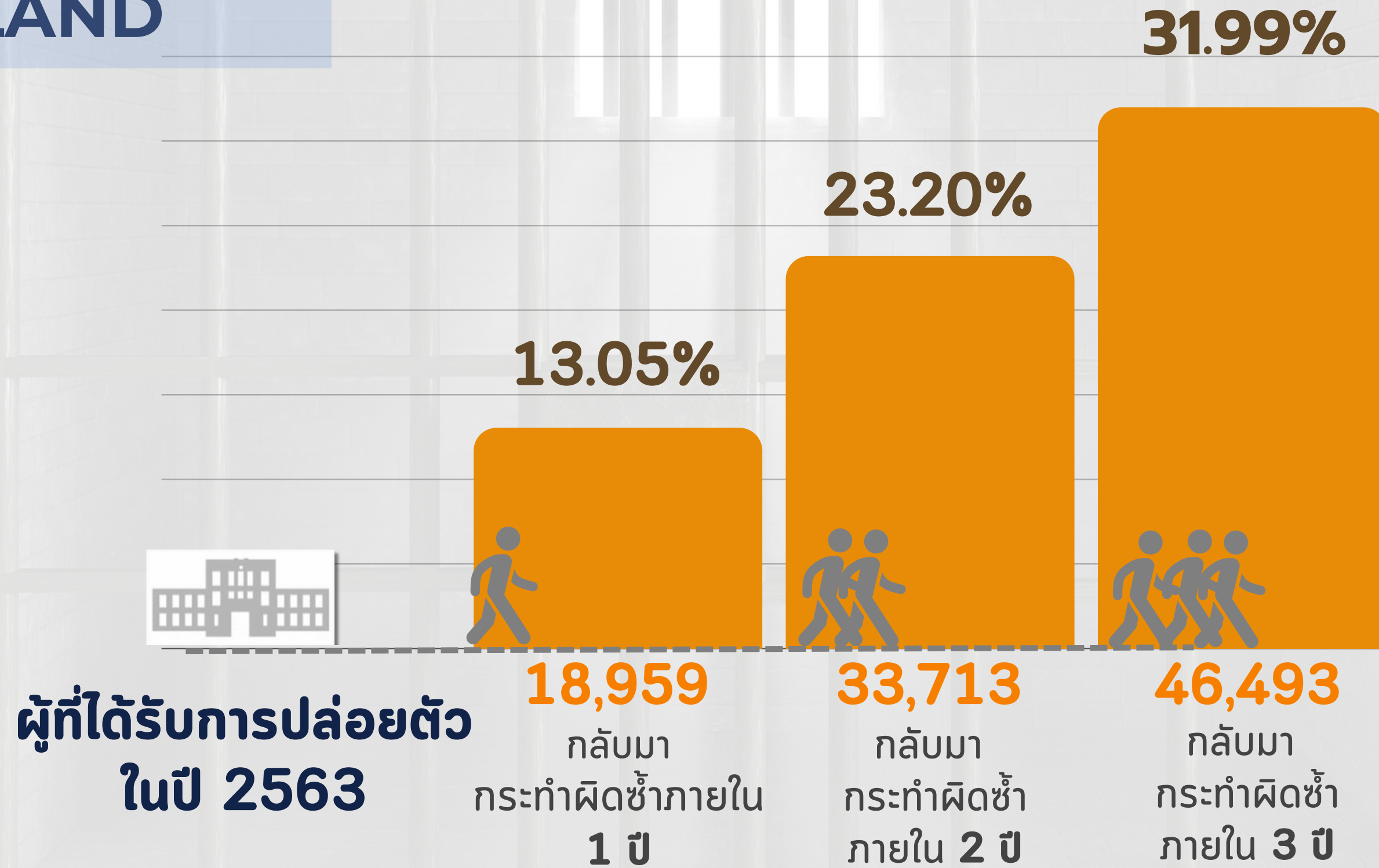
“I buy more at a time so I avoid arrest. The seller also does not want to see us that often.”



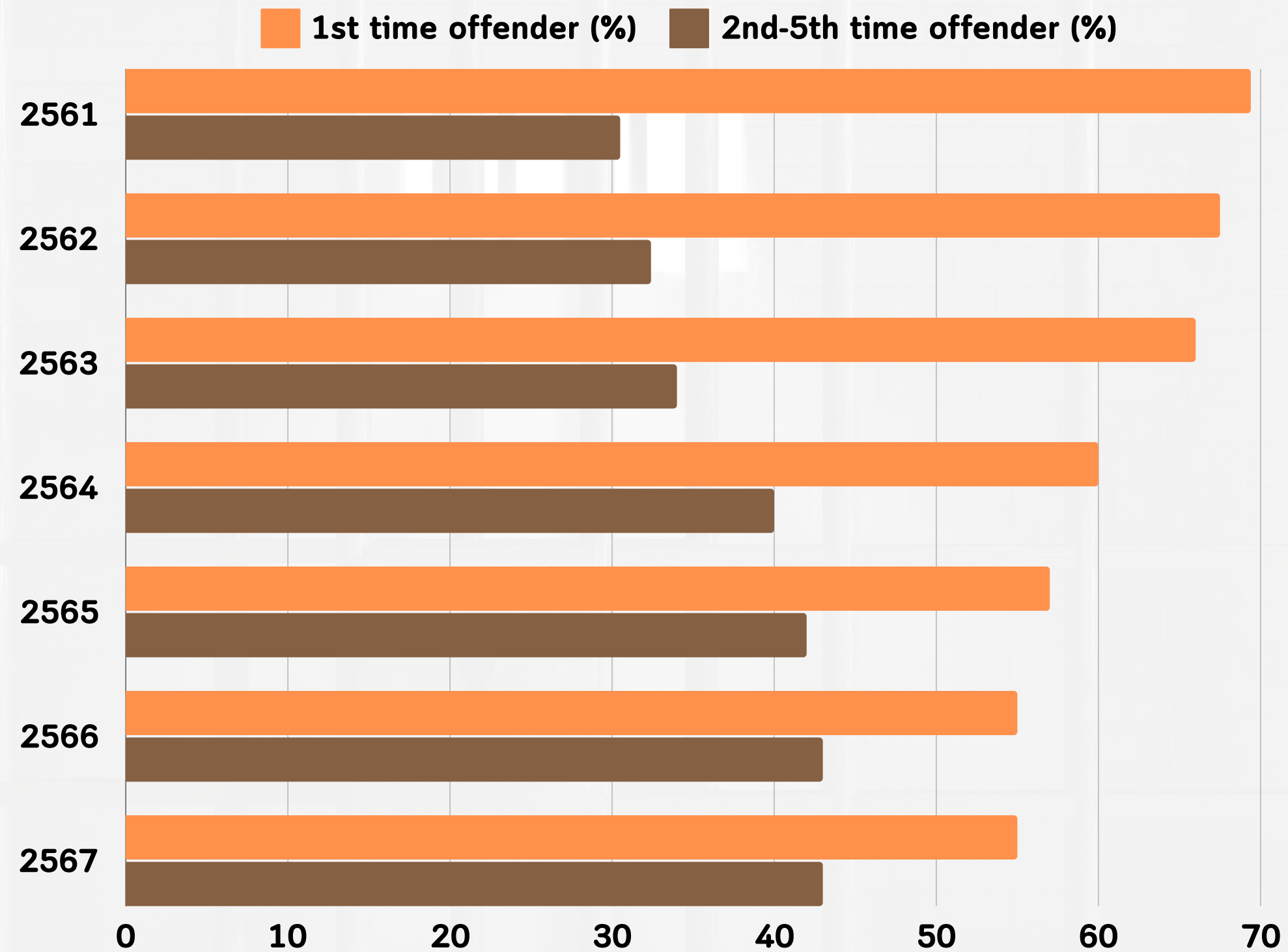
“Which of the following do you think is **MOST** important to ensure that you will not return to prison again?”



RECIDIVISM IN THAILAND

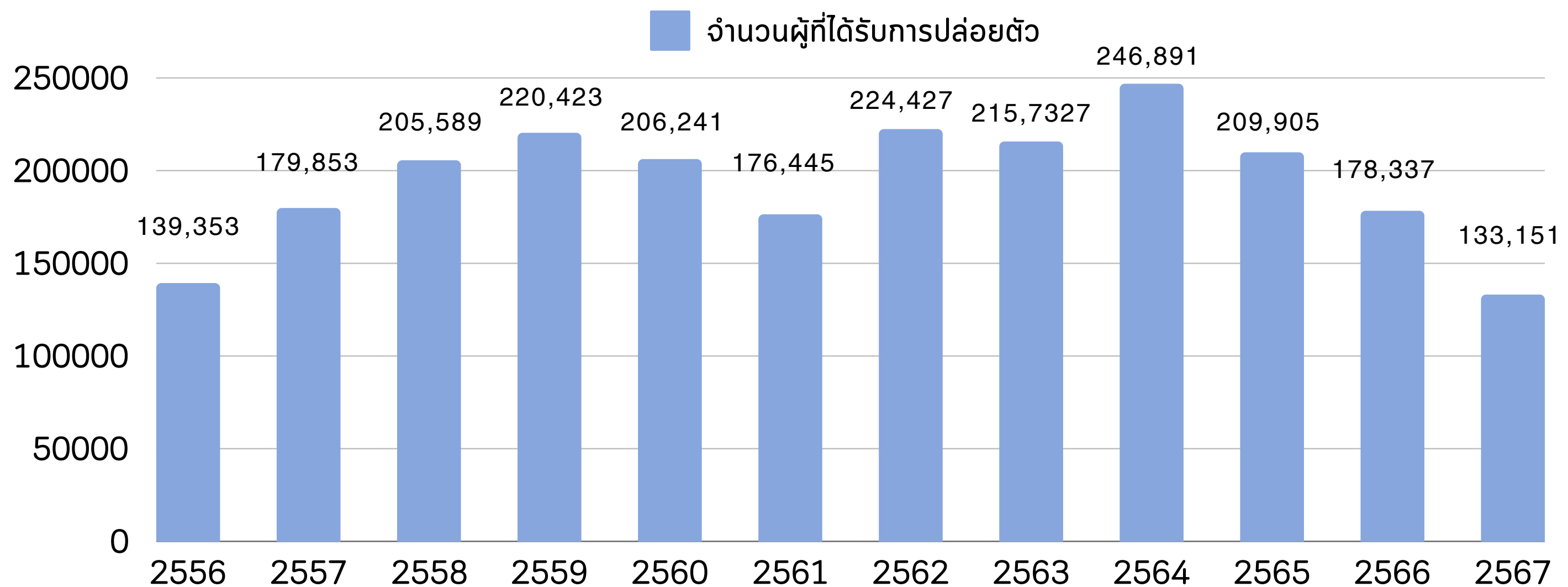


RECIDIVISM IN THAILAND



ในช่วง 11 ปี ที่ผ่านมา..

มีผู้ที่ได้รับการปล่อยตัวจากเรือนจำ **2,334,347** ราย



ข้อมูลจากกรมราชทัณฑ์

The Future of Social Reintegration

1) Enhancing Inclusion and “Partnership Model”

(government, private sector, civil society, individuals, people with prison lived experience)

2) Redefining “success”

3) Rethinking “punishment”



THANK YOU
