



CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Crime and Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice



Using Data with System Stakeholders

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The Questions

- Ideally, data are collected to answer specific questions, from simple to highly complex
- When selecting data to share, consider:
 - What do your stakeholders need to know about probation operations?
 - What do stakeholders want to know?
 - What do stakeholders not know they need to know?

The Numbers

- Definitions are critical
- Transparent data is more likely to be trusted
- Start out with good data, and work toward perfect data
- When possible and appropriate, integrate data across stakeholders
- Do you have quality data available, and a way to extract and analyze it?

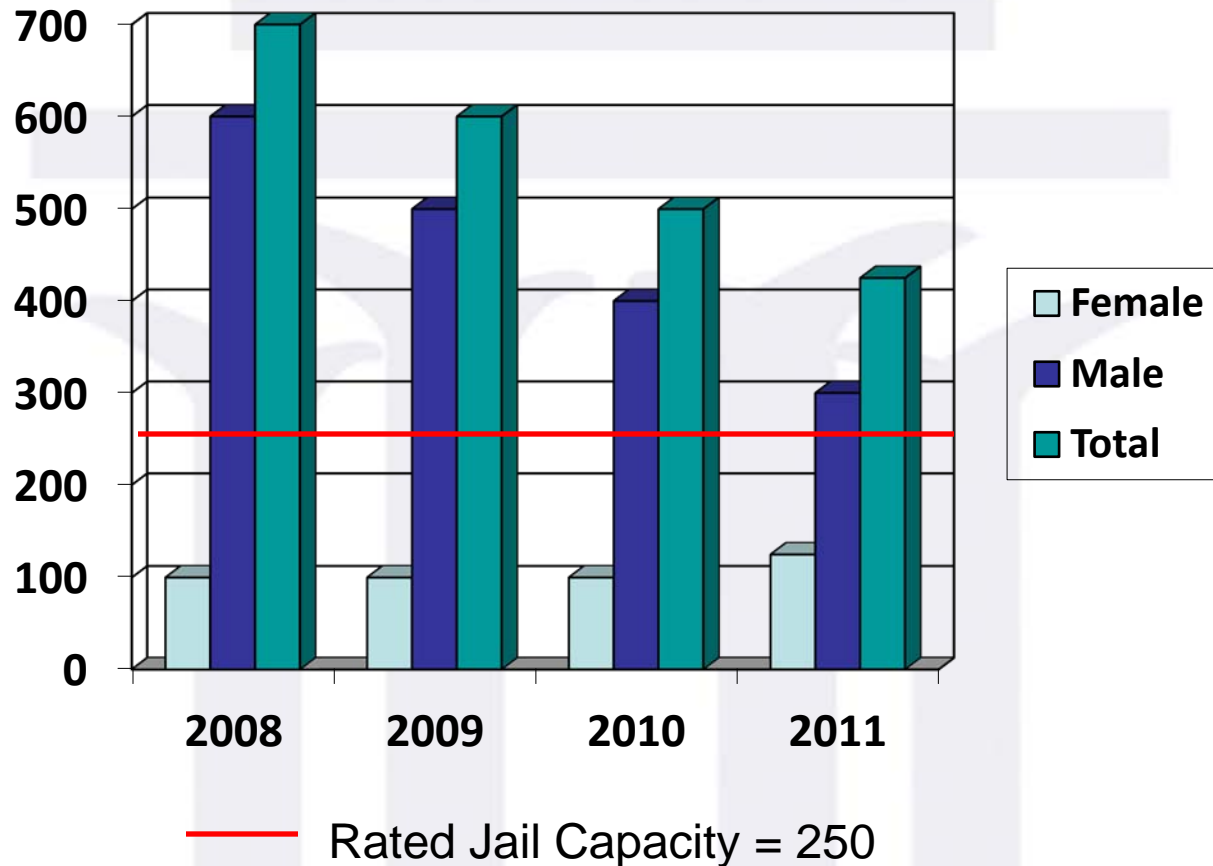
The Presentation

- Consider format, length, mode and frequency of distribution
- When in doubt, simple and straightforward
- Be prepared to “peel the onion”
- Do you have the technology and the skill set in your department to present data?

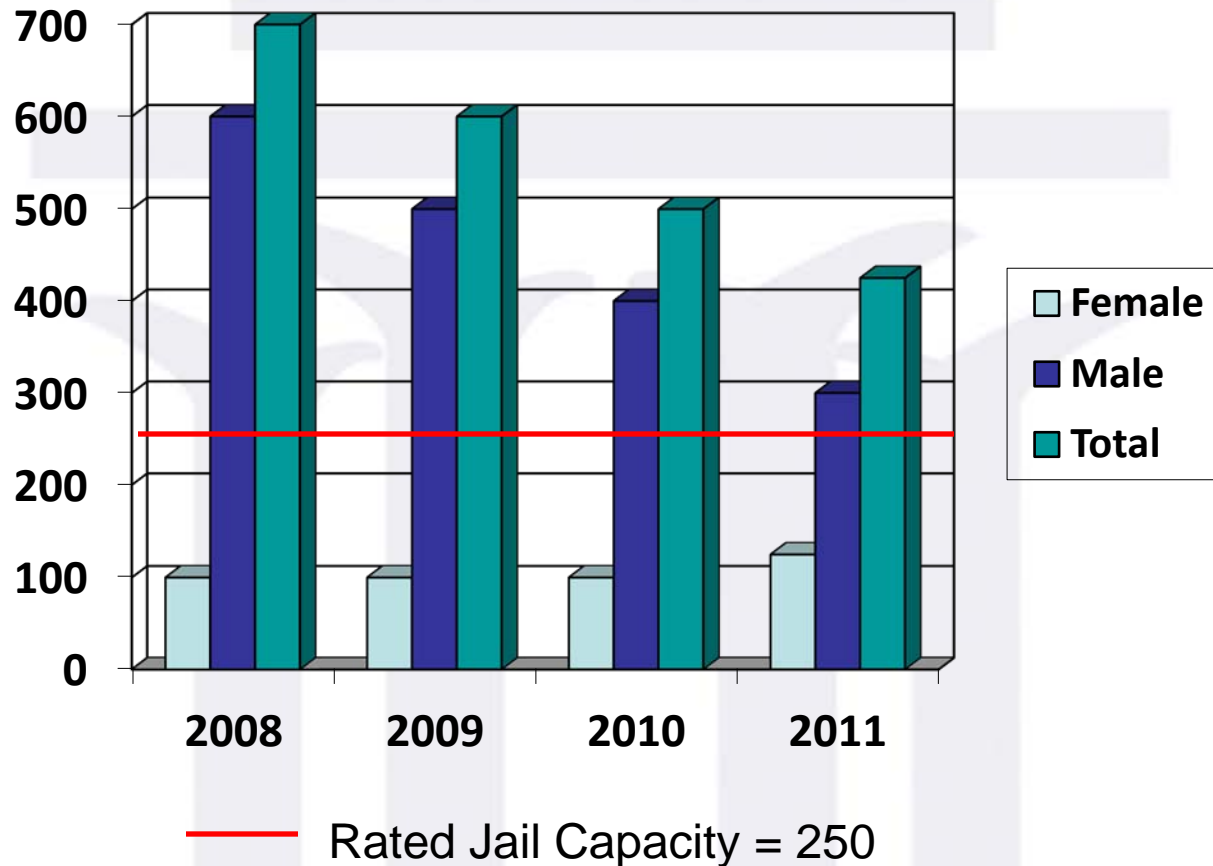
The Message

- Data tells a story: do you want it to speak for itself, or do you want to shape the message?
- Identify the key information conveyed in the data; add context as needed
- Consider the audience and tailor the tagline

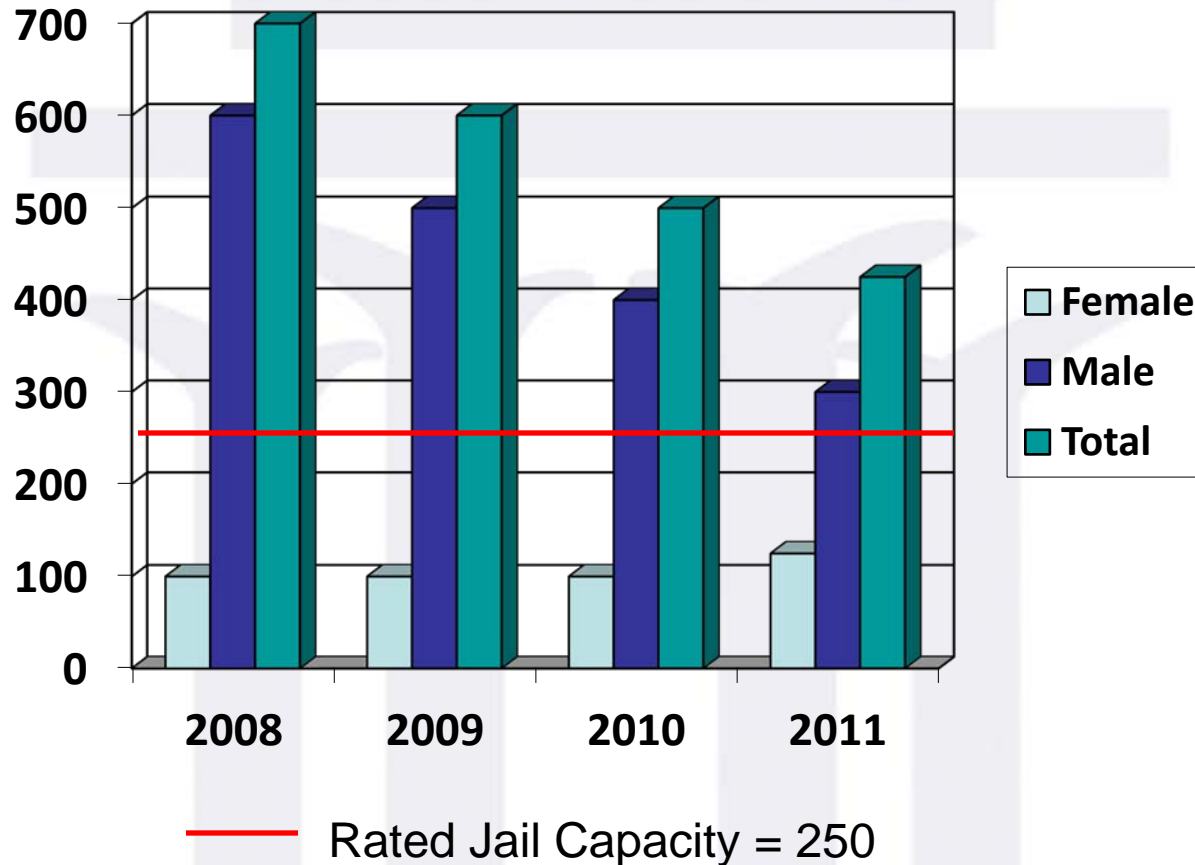
Total Jail Population Down by 39%!



Overcrowded Jail at 170% Capacity



Female Population in Jail Increases 25% in Only Four Years



The Conversation

- Reactions to data will vary widely: curiosity, suspicion, praise, defensiveness
- What skills do you need to correctly interpret and explain data to others?
- What skills do you need to facilitate a constructive conversation about data?

The Decisions

- Data is a decision-making tool, but often is left to gather dust
- The impact on decisions could be direct (resource allocation) or indirect (public relations)
- What types of decision would you like your data to inform?

Next Steps

- What data is currently being shared across your system?
- What additional data sharing is needed to better meet your realignment goals?
- What message do you want to convey about the way your organization does business?