

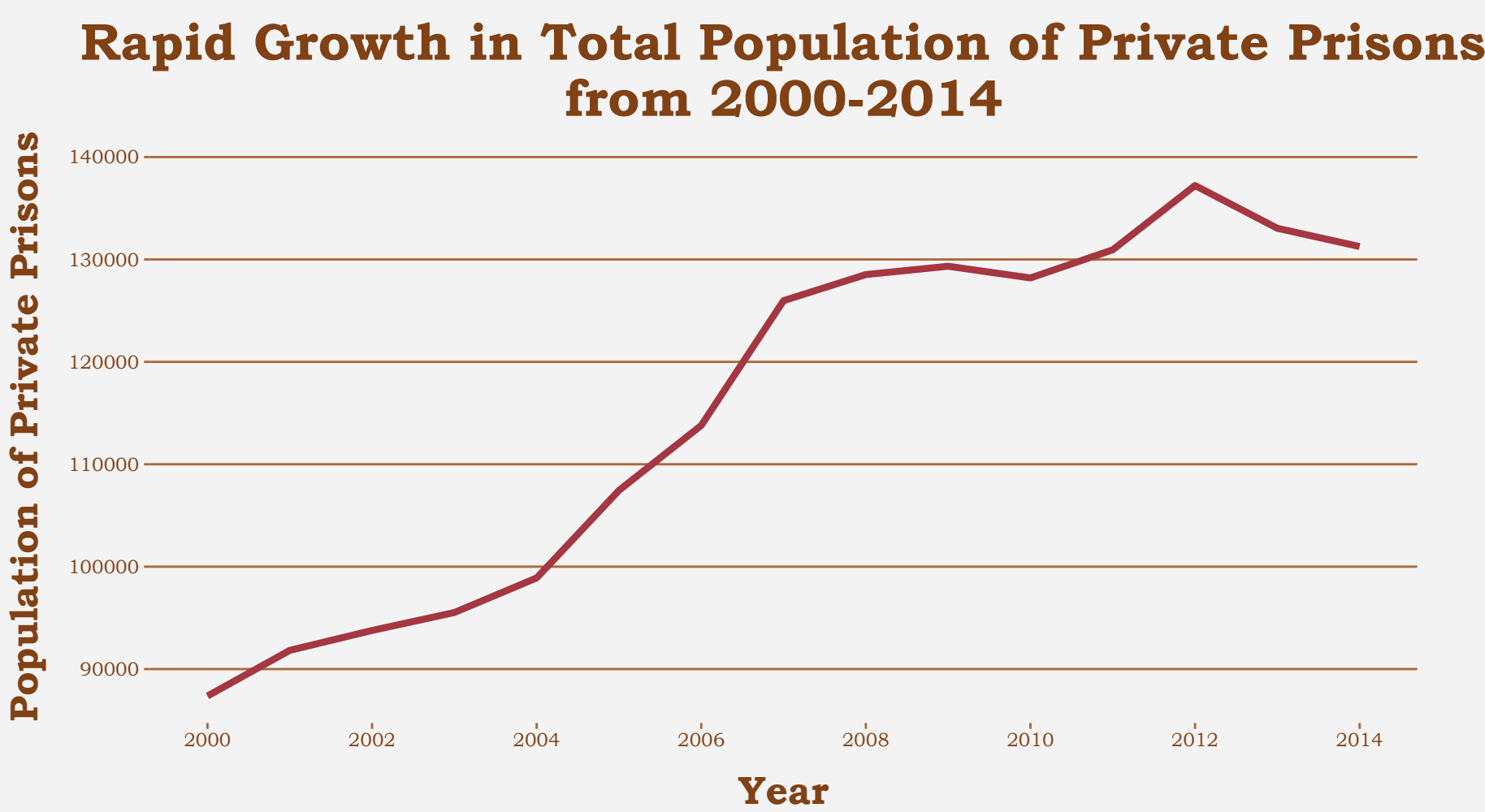
# Monetizing Prisons

## HOW MONETIZING THE U.S. PRISON SYSTEM HAS AFFECTED SOCIETY

Andrew Batbouta and Matt Poegel

### Prisons for Profit

- There are 2.2 Million people in prisons in the US.
- We have the most in the world, 600K more than China, a country that has 1 billion more citizens than the US.
- Why do we have so many? We don't take care of our prisoners, 77% recidivism in State prisons, 44% in federal. Norway has 20% recidivism.
- We punish rather than rehabilitate.
- Private Prisons bring out the worst in prisons by having no motivations to help prisoners. Profits can be made by not rewarding good behavior and having high recidivism.



### Cruel and Inhumane

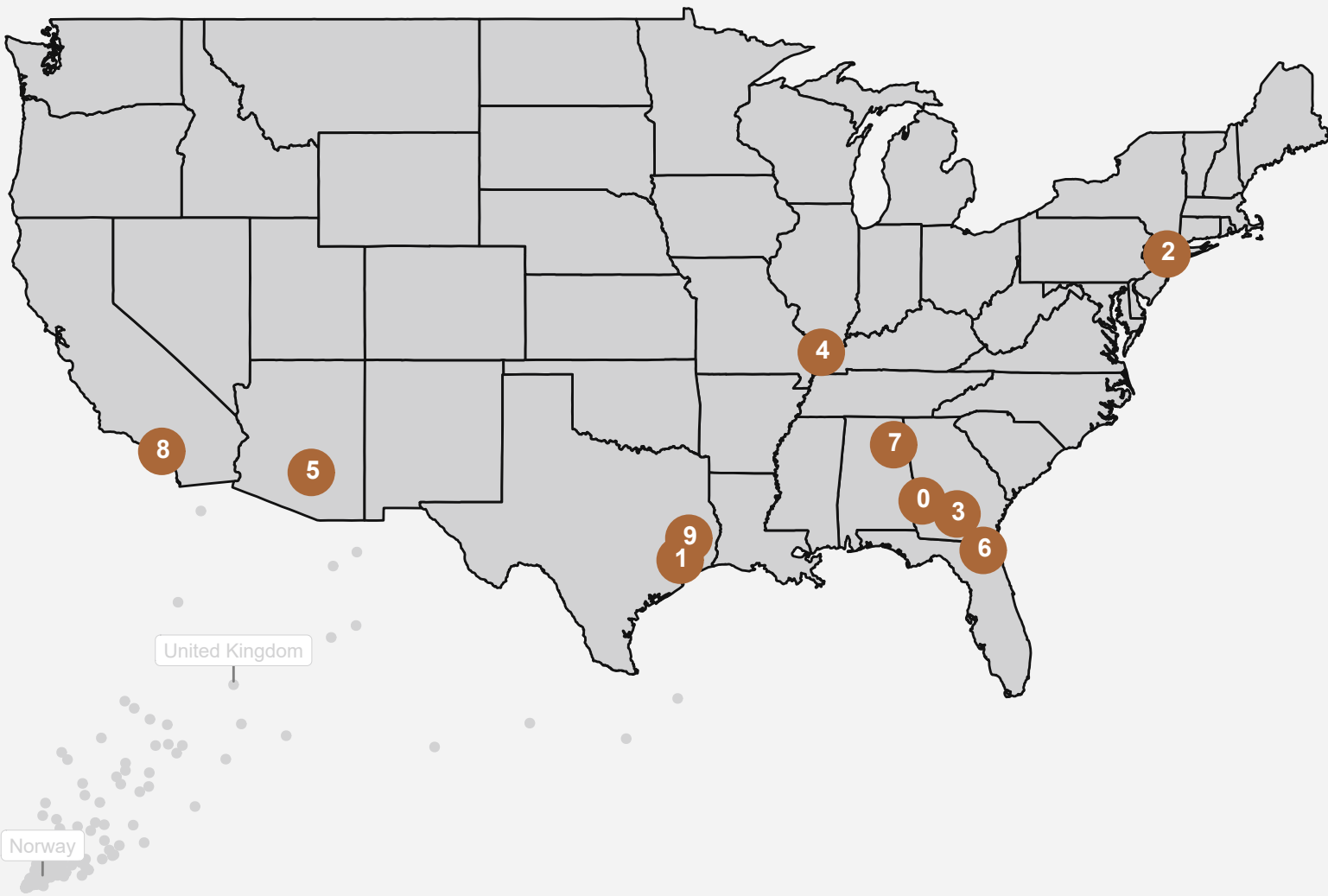
- 9 A man was placed in solitary confinement for "misbehaving" after guards forced him to agree to the treatment by signing paperwork he could not understand
- 1 A man with serious mental health problems was put in solitary confinement for months at a time.
- 2 An HIV positive woman was not receiving her proper medication until a local NGO got involved.
- 4 Inmates must pay \$2 a minute to speak with families and lawyers.
- 8 6 1 Inmates were repeatedly insulted, mocked, and had their possessions thrown onto the floor by guards.

Roberto Medina-Martinez, a 39-year-old immigrant, died from a treatable heart infection after negligence from the nurses and facility physician.

Sanitation problems at the facility include food trays not being cleaned, worms in food, being given dirty laundry, bugs in water faucets, and cell overcrowding.

The detention center is over three hours from Atlanta, which makes family and legal visits nearly prohibitive.

Visitors can only see their loved ones through video screens instead of face to face.



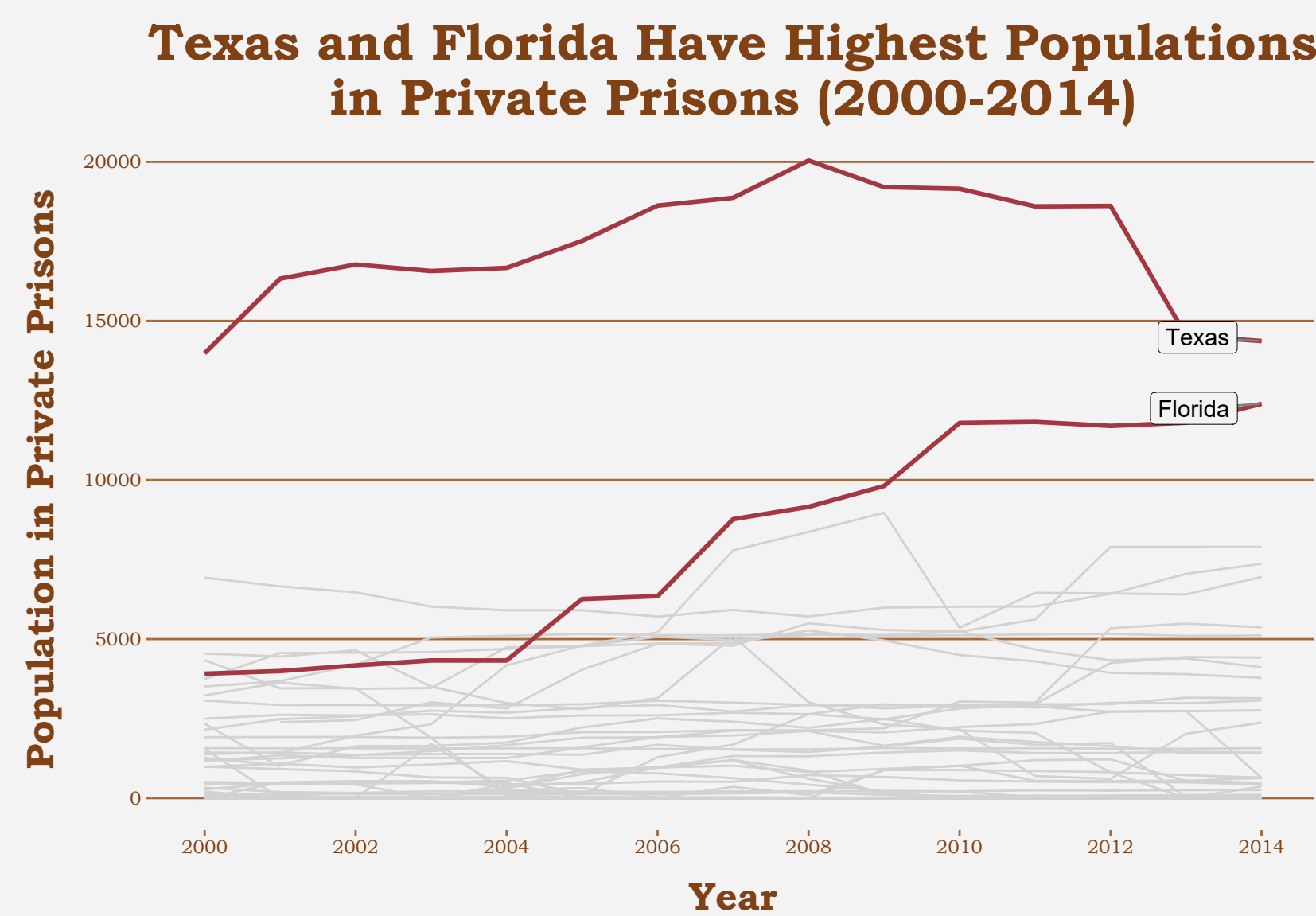
### High Recidivism

- There is a lack of reason to rehabilitate prisoners, because companies can make profits instead.
- Labor includes making licence plates to office furniture to staffing call centers, run by UNICOR, a government run corporation.
- Inmates get paid in a range from \$0.23 to \$1.15 an hour working in prisons. Prisoners do not get health insurance or benefits.

## \$2.4 Billion

the amount of money prison labor generates each year

- Private prisons do not reward good behaviour often because they would lose inmates, which are the source of revenue.
- Prisoners often lack resources found at state or Federal prisons.
- To increase profits, private prisons cut back on spending related to improving prisoner conditions.
- Private prisons often employ less guards to save money, which leads to more violence.



### Prison is Punishment

We are warehousing people, punishing them and returning them to our society worse off than when we got them... We are putting people in prison, many times, for non-violent crimes and turning them out more violent and dangerous than when they went in.

- Vincent Schiraldi,  
founder and president of the Justice Policy Institute

## 84

percentage of Americans who believe that more money should be spent on community correction programs and less on locking up non-violent inmates

- Prison phone companies and video call companies charge high rates, \$0.25 per minute for phone and \$20.00 for video, to talk to prisoners. Charging can limit availability to poor families.
- Contact with families and communities has been shown to decrease recidivism.
- Yet, the US would rather charge and allow companies to make money than to just let prisoners contact families and reduce their chances of going back to prison.

## 90

percentage of Americans who prioritize preventing recidivism over time served

The American people want a justice system that takes criminals in and returns citizens to the world. The current system does not put in the effort and resources needed to provide a safe and humane environment for people to be rehabilitated and learn how to re-enter into society.

### The Solutions

*Treat Prisoners Like People*

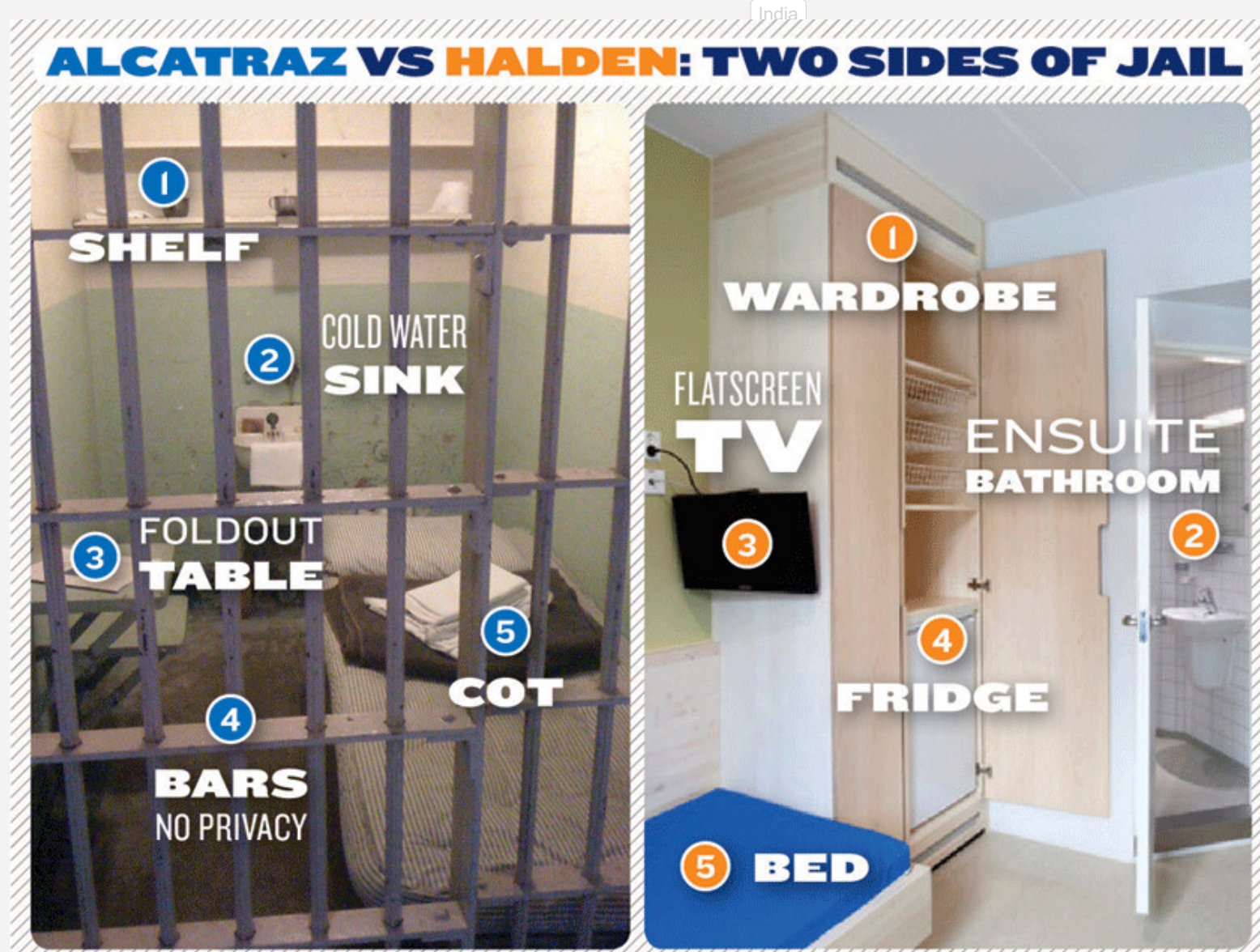
- Improve living conditions to make inmates feel more like people.
- Restore voting rights, should be able to act as citizens if they will be citizens after finishing a sentence.

*Keep Less People in Prison*

- Non violent crimes and drug offenses should not result in serious jail time.
- Those accused of non-violent crimes and awaiting trial should not be in jail. In many cases, pretrial detainees have spent years detained in county jails awaiting trial.
- Improve free legal aid so that people aren't forced to make a deal instead of a fair trial.

*Spend More on Health and Welfare Programs*

- Spend less money on prisons and re-invest in health care programs for those with mental health or drug addiction programs.
- Have more programs to provide job training, english lessons, parenting, and drug abuse before prisoners will receive these programs in jail.



♪ "It's a fact that needs to be spoken: America's prisons are broken!" ♪

- John Oliver

<https://www.acluga.org/en/news/Worsened-Conditions-at-Stewart-Led-to-Hunger-Strike-Last-Week>  
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