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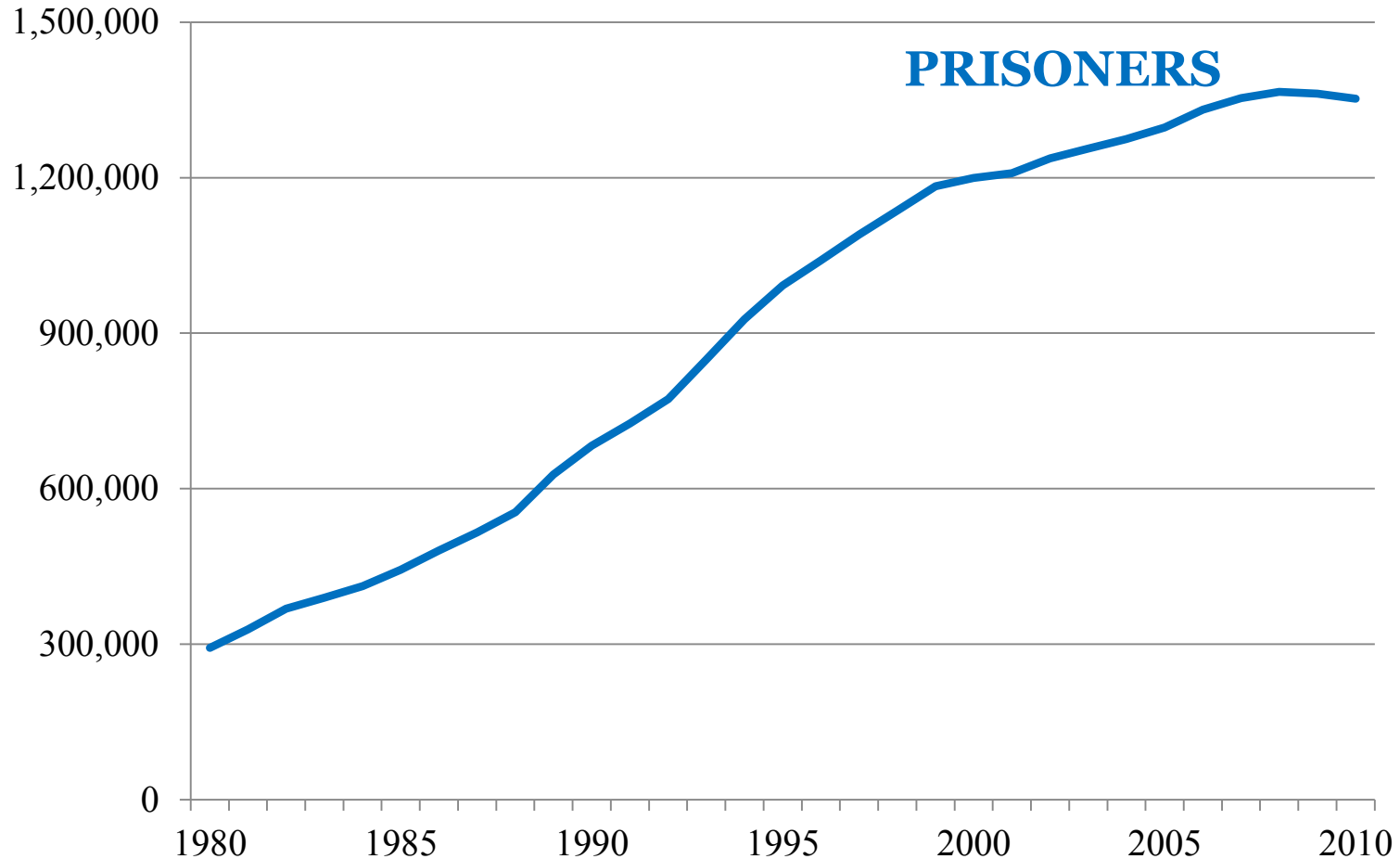
The Paradox of Probation Understanding the Expansion of an Alternative to Incarceration During the U.S. Prison Boom

Michelle S. Phelps

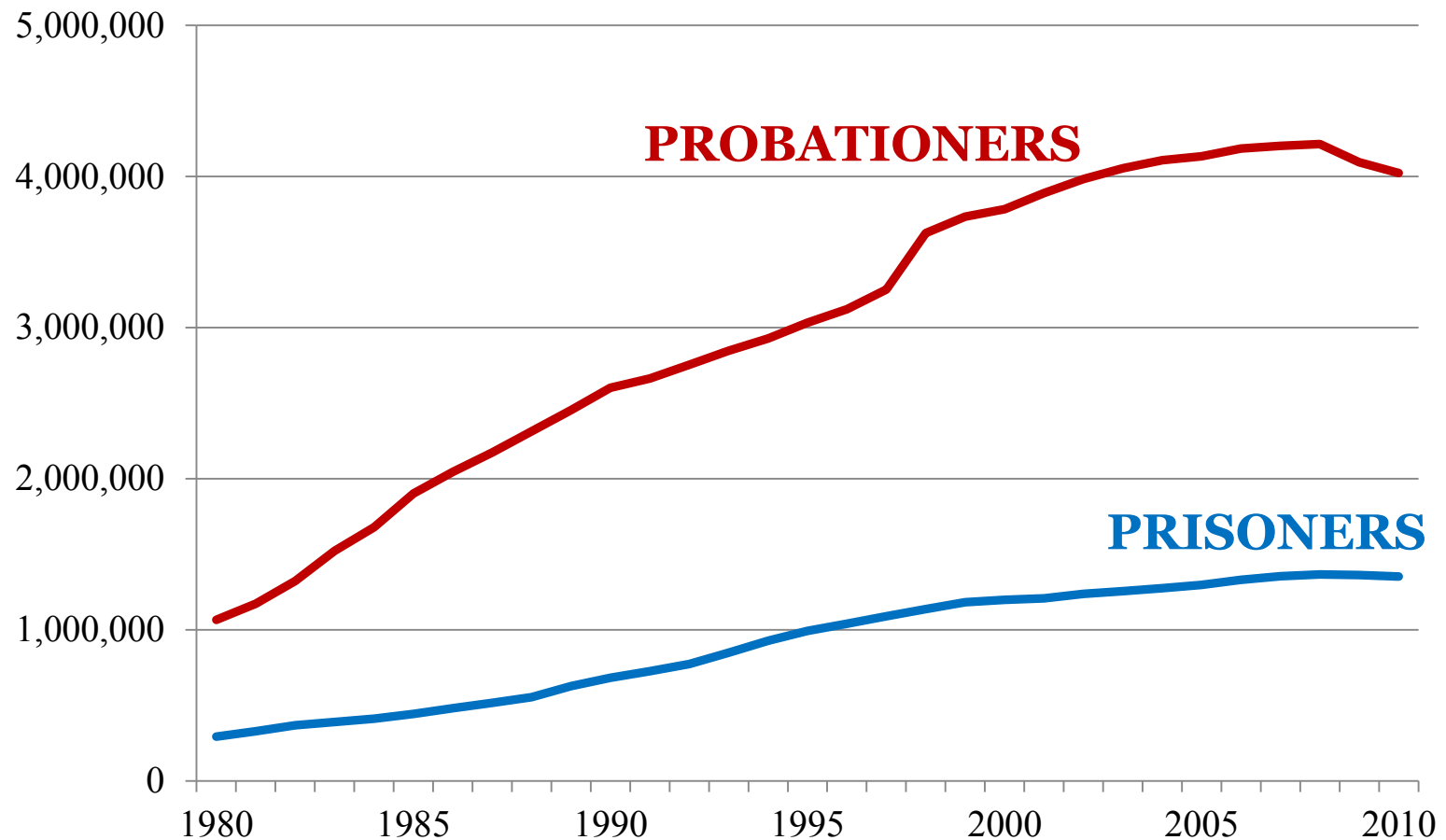
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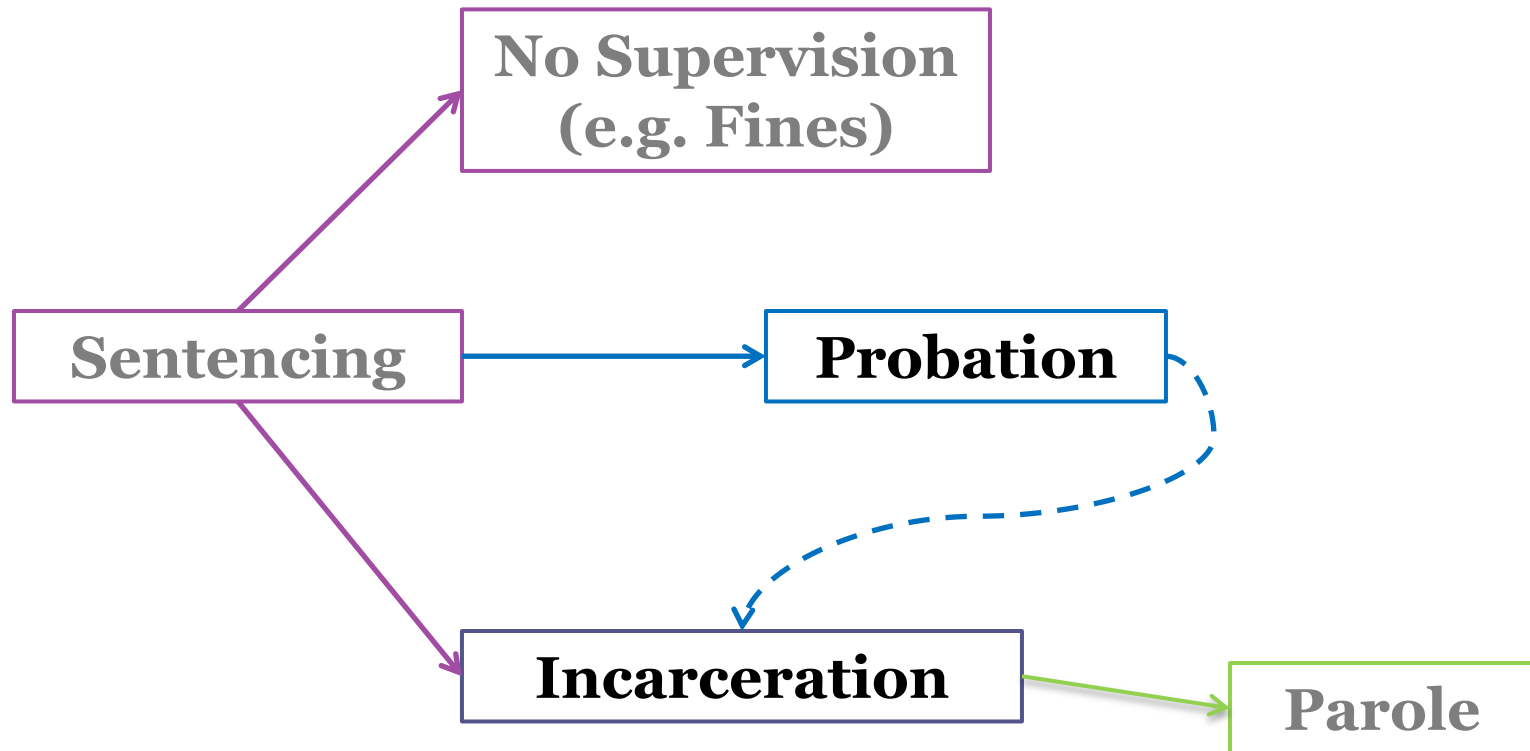
Expansion of U.S. Mass Incarceration



Expansion of U.S. Mass Probation



Defining Probation



Theorizing Mass Probation Probation

- Decline of the rehabilitative ideal?
 - The “Improbable Persistence” of probation (Robinson, McNeill, and Maruna, 2012)
 - The “hybridization” of punishment (O’Malley; Hutchinson; Hannah-Moffat; Robinson)
 - The “New Penology” (Feeley & Simon, 1992)

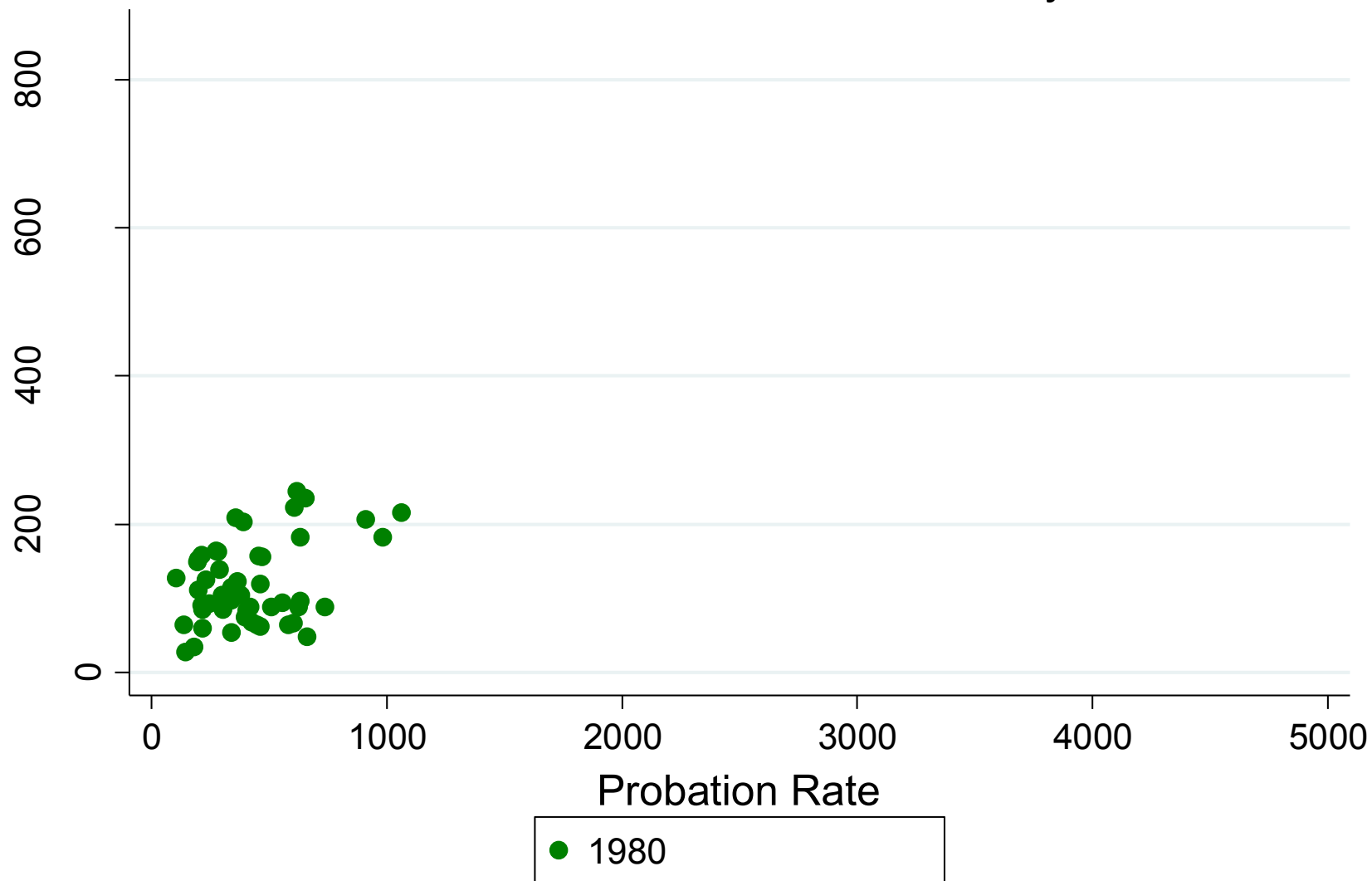
Talk Outline

1. Expansion of mass probation and mass incarceration across U.S. states
2. On-the-ground changes in probation rhetoric and practices

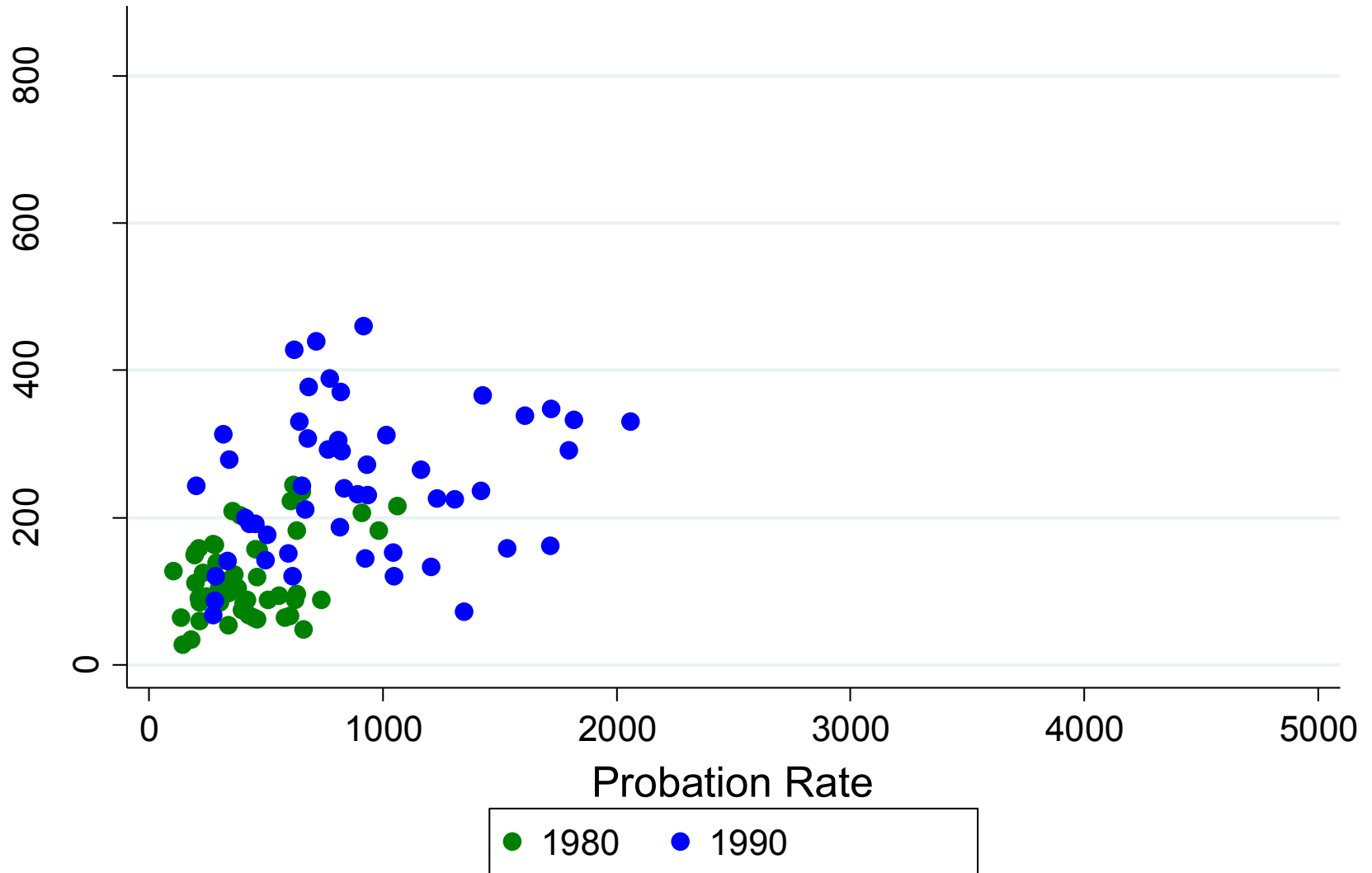
Rise of “Mass Supervision”

- State-level data, 1980-2010
- Prisoner and probationer totals
- Bureau of Justice Statistics

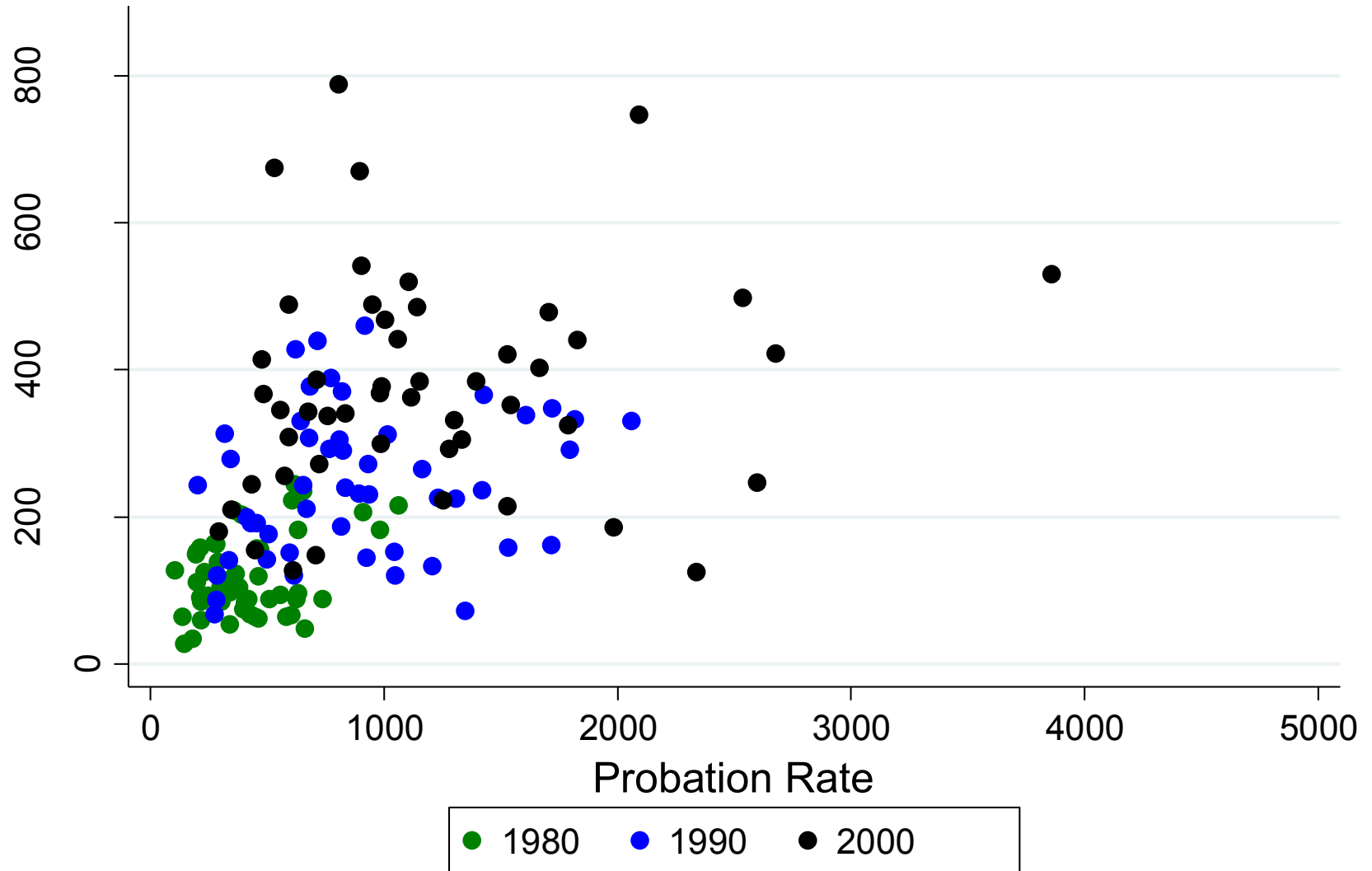
State Probation and Incarceration Rates by Decade



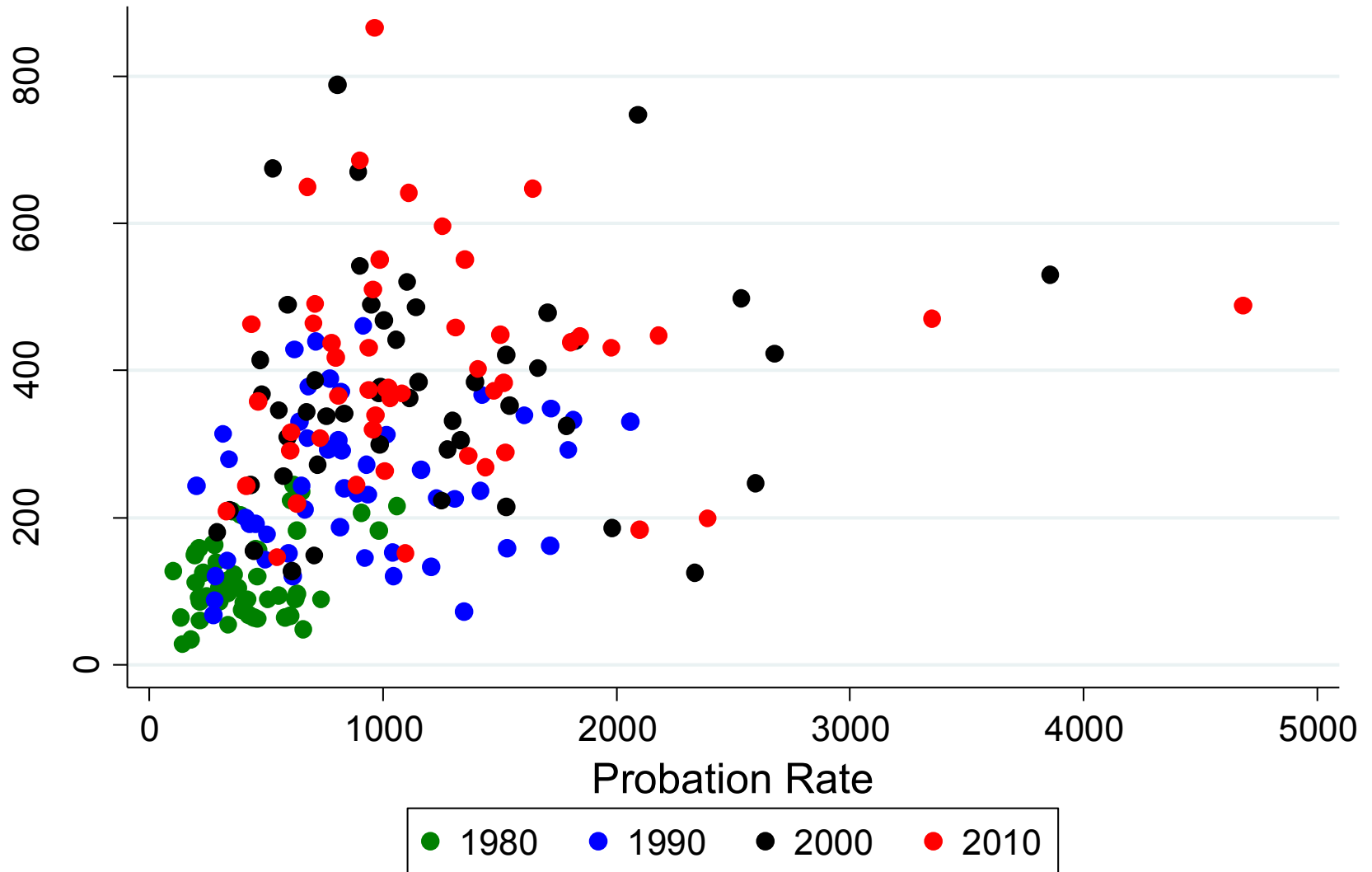
State Probation and Incarceration Rates by Decade



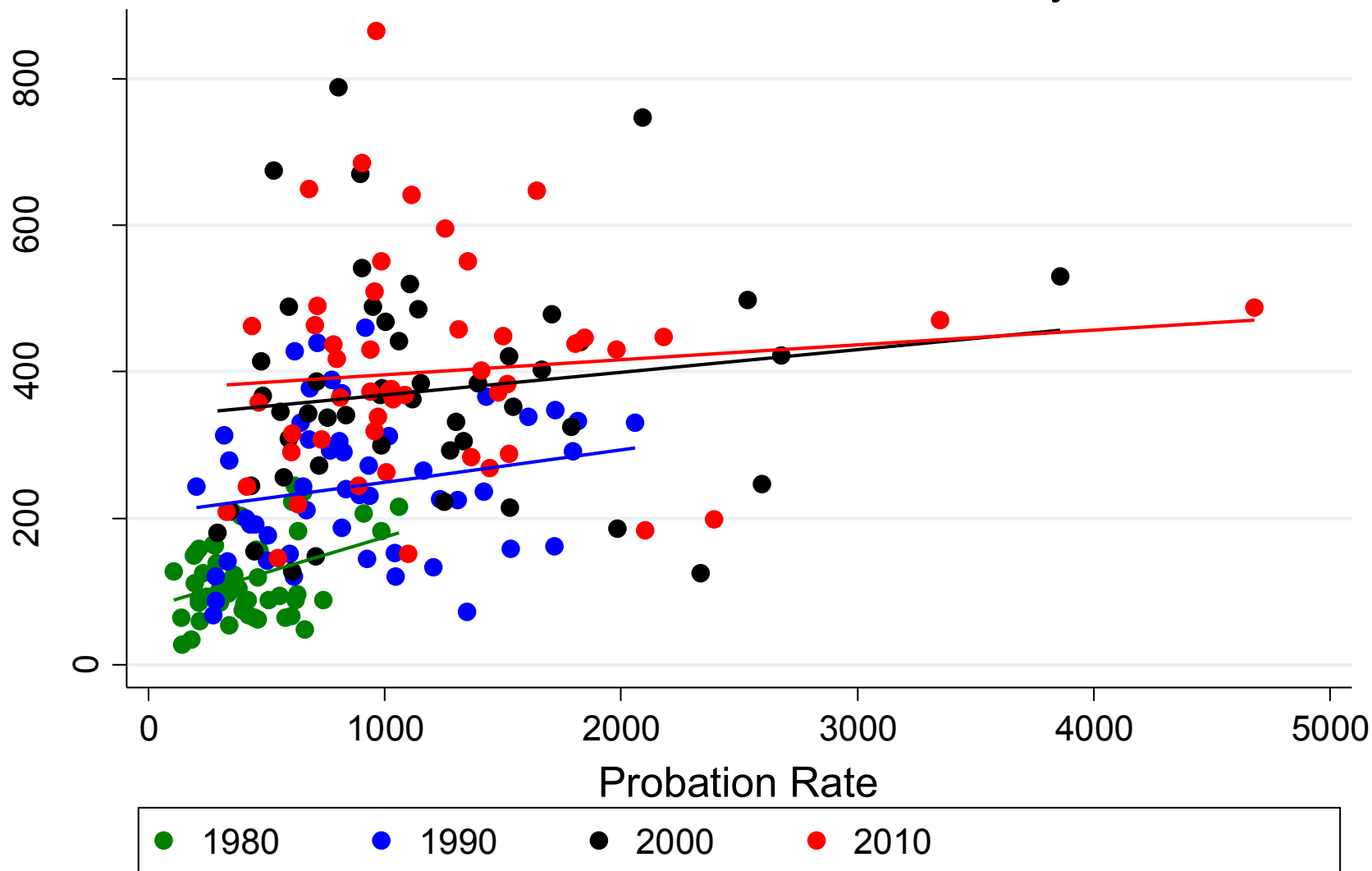
State Probation and Incarceration Rates by Decade



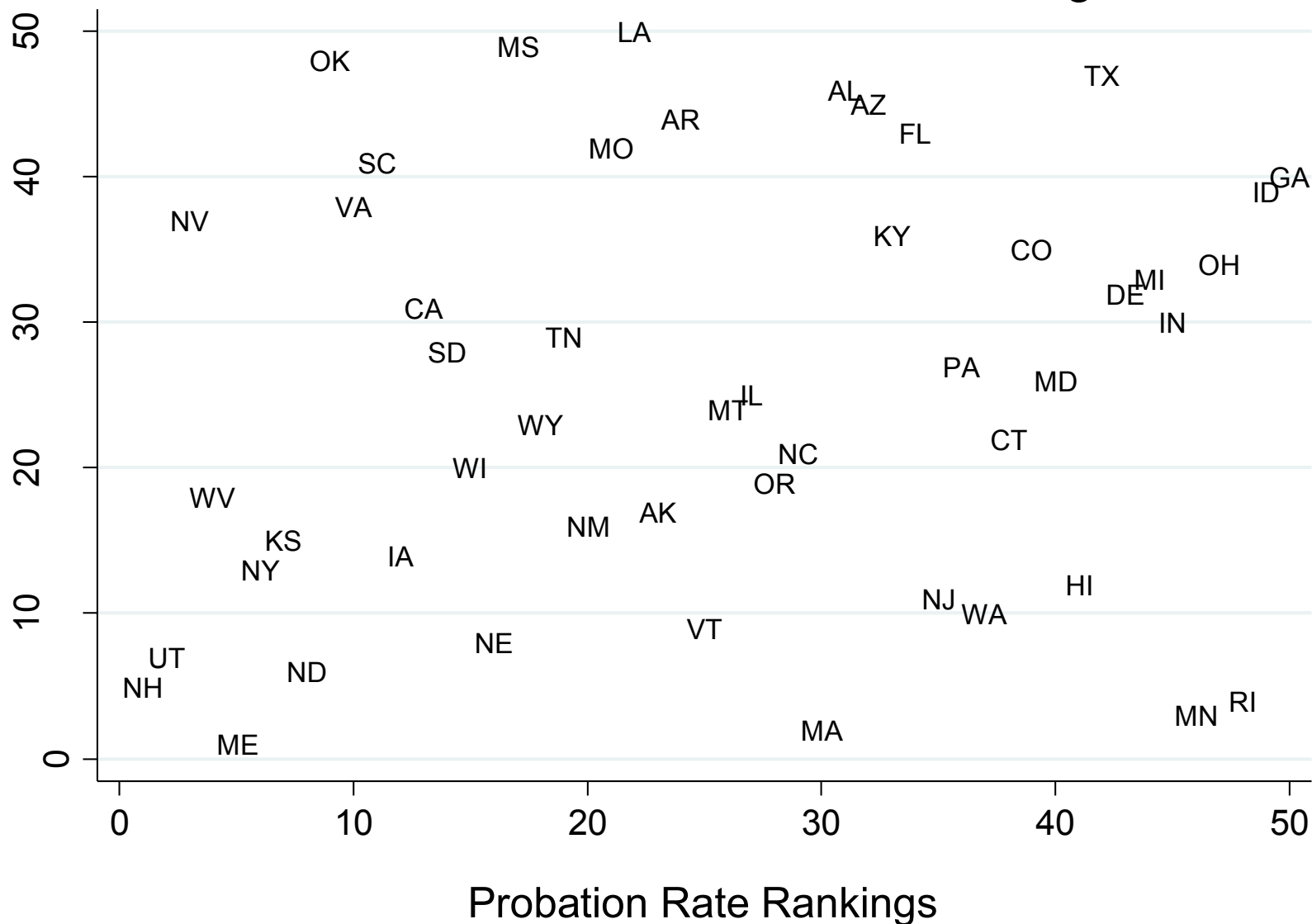
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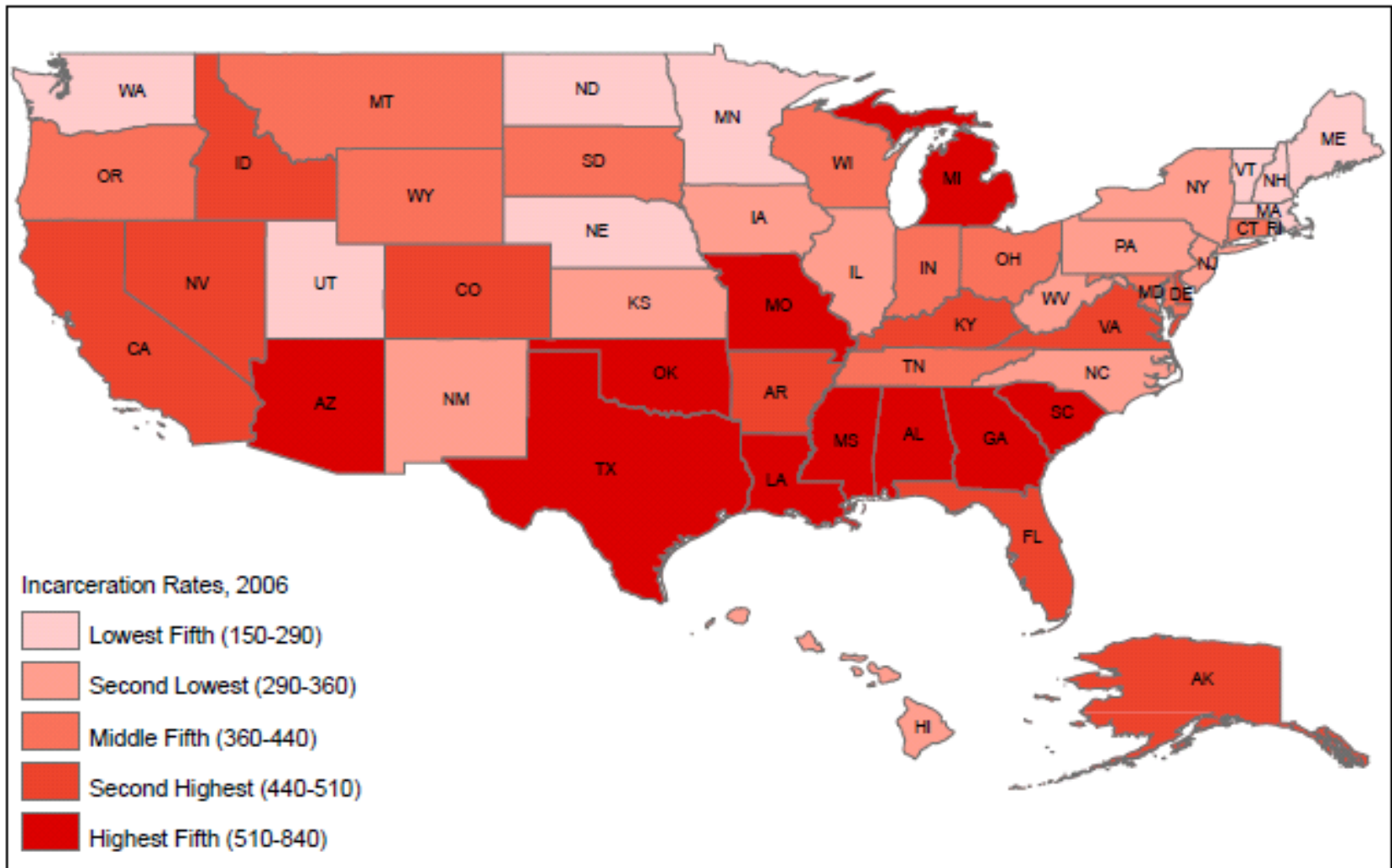
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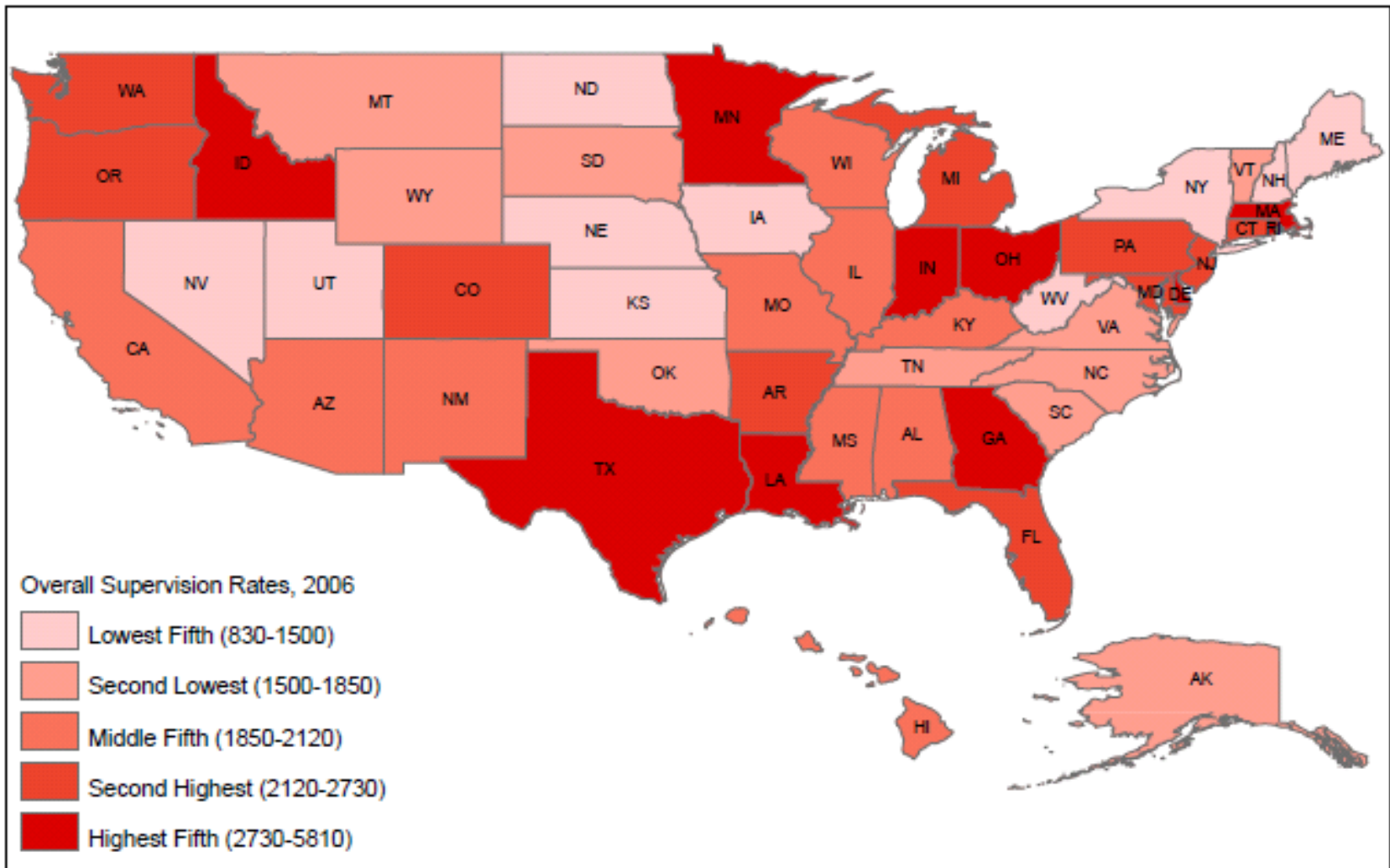
State Probation and Incarceration Rate Rankings, 2010



Spatial Concentration of Mass Imprisonment



Spatial Concentration of Mass Penal Control



From Managing Risk to Reforming Punishment

- Case study from “inside the state” (Calavita, 1992) perspective of Michigan, 1970s-2010s

Defending Probation

- Probation (in practice and rhetoric) strategically linked to prevailing penal norms
- Three “Eras”
 - Transition (1970s-1980s)
 - New Penology (1990s)
 - Reform (2000s)

Case Conclusions

- New Penology v. “Hybridization”
 - Probation as “shell” for dominant ideology
 - Dialectic of rhetoric and practices
 - Probation remains an alternative, but framing of what it is a “solution” to shifts
- Looking through probation: penal field refraction

Conclusions & Extensions

- Why and how did mass probation develop in the U.S.?
- What are the consequences of conceptualizing the build-up in control as “mass penal control”?
- What do probation practices look like across officers, probation offices, and states?



Thank you!

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For more information

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*Starting in the Fall of 2013, look for my web page on the Minnesota Dept. of Sociology page at:

<http://www.soc.umn.edu/people/faculty.php>