Utah Prison Projection Project (UPPP)

April, 2025 - Update

A CCJJ & UDOC Collaboration
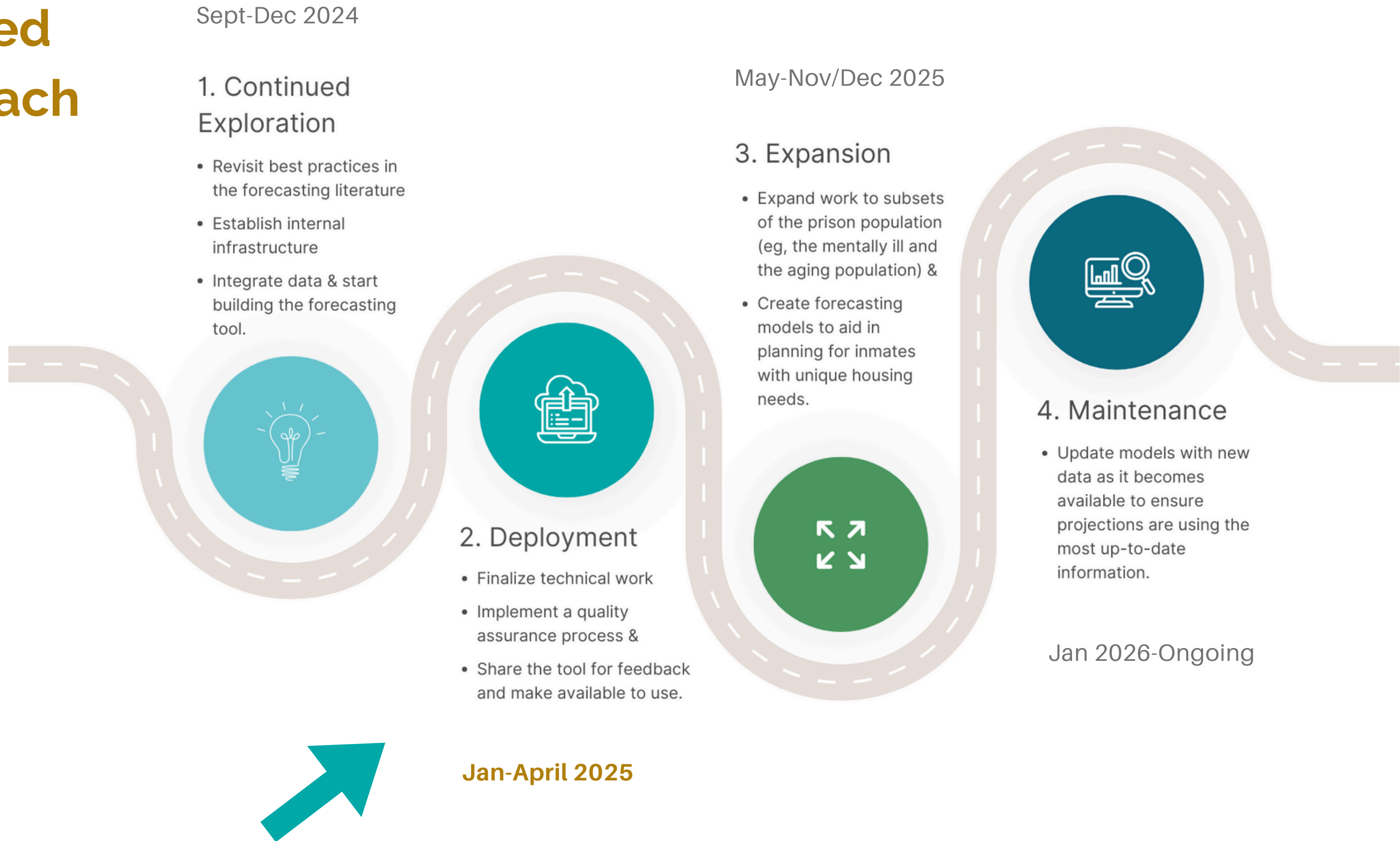
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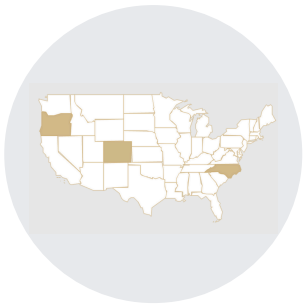
UPPP Project Plan

Review of project plan

A Four-Phased Approach

Sept-Dec 2024

1. Continued Exploration

- Revisit best practices in the forecasting literature
- Establish internal infrastructure
- Integrate data & start building the forecasting tool.

2. Deployment

- Finalize technical work
- Implement a quality assurance process &
- Share the tool for feedback and make available to use.

Jan-April 2025

May-Nov/Dec 2025

3. Expansion

- Expand work to subsets of the prison population (eg, the mentally ill and the aging population) &
- Create forecasting models to aid in planning for inmates with unique housing needs.

4. Maintenance

- Update models with new data as it becomes available to ensure projections are using the most up-to-date information.

Jan 2026-Ongoing

TEAM PROGRESS

Work done to date and next steps

1 - Review & Meeting w. States

Reviewed best practices and met with 3 states and local data teams.

Sept - Dec 2024

2 - Forecasting & Tool Development

Development of a forecasting technical workbook and data tool.

Jan - March 2025

3 - Beginnings of Scenario Building

Began work on building in sub-populations and scenarios for phase 3.
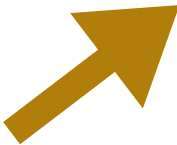
Jan - March 2025

4 - Next Steps: Review & Feedback

Review with UDOC & GOPB and assess impact of new bills.
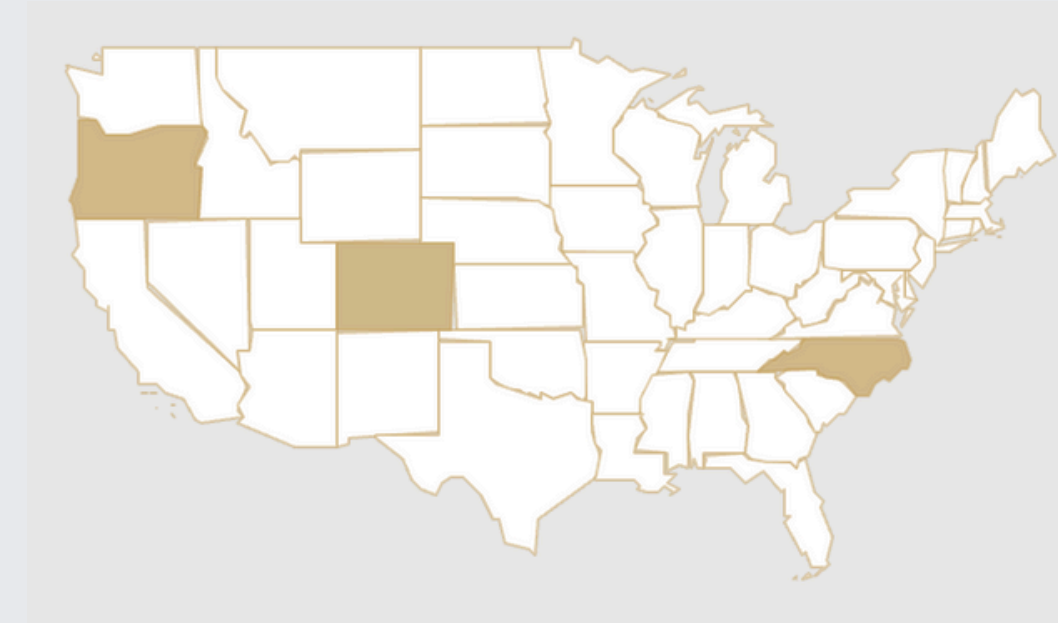
March - April 2025

5 - Next steps: Phase 3

Implement scenario based projections and a more sophisticated tool.
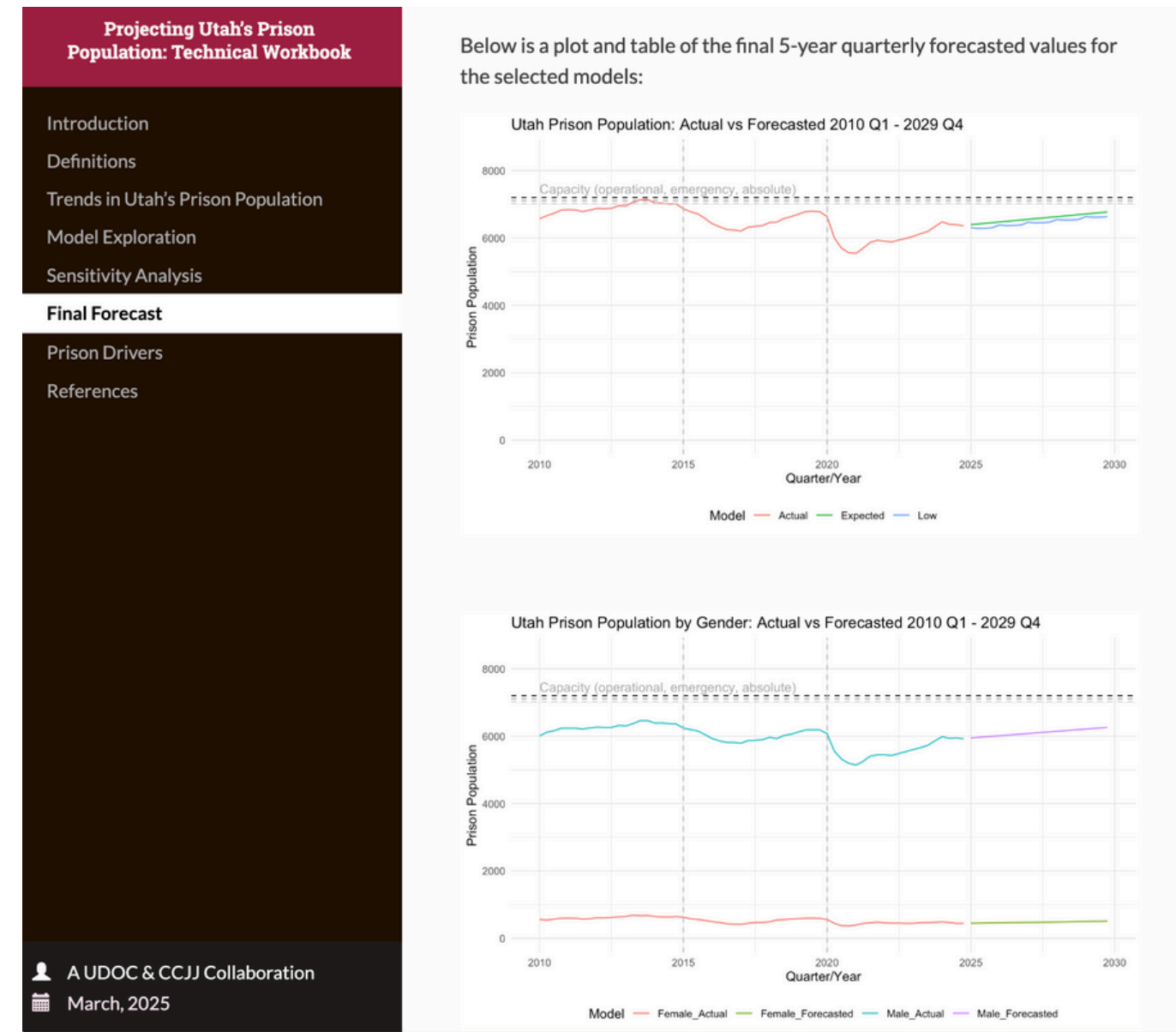
May - Nov/Dec 2025

1. Lessons from States

- **"The Gold Standard:"** Individual based *simulation* models
  - Used by e.g., Oregon, Colorado & North Carolina
  - Also used in 2016 jri projections and by other prominent CJ organizations
  - Takes time to build and need local adaptations. For a review, please visit this <u>link</u>.

- **Time Series Methods:** Other commonly used methods include time series forecasting methods applied to aggregate prison population data
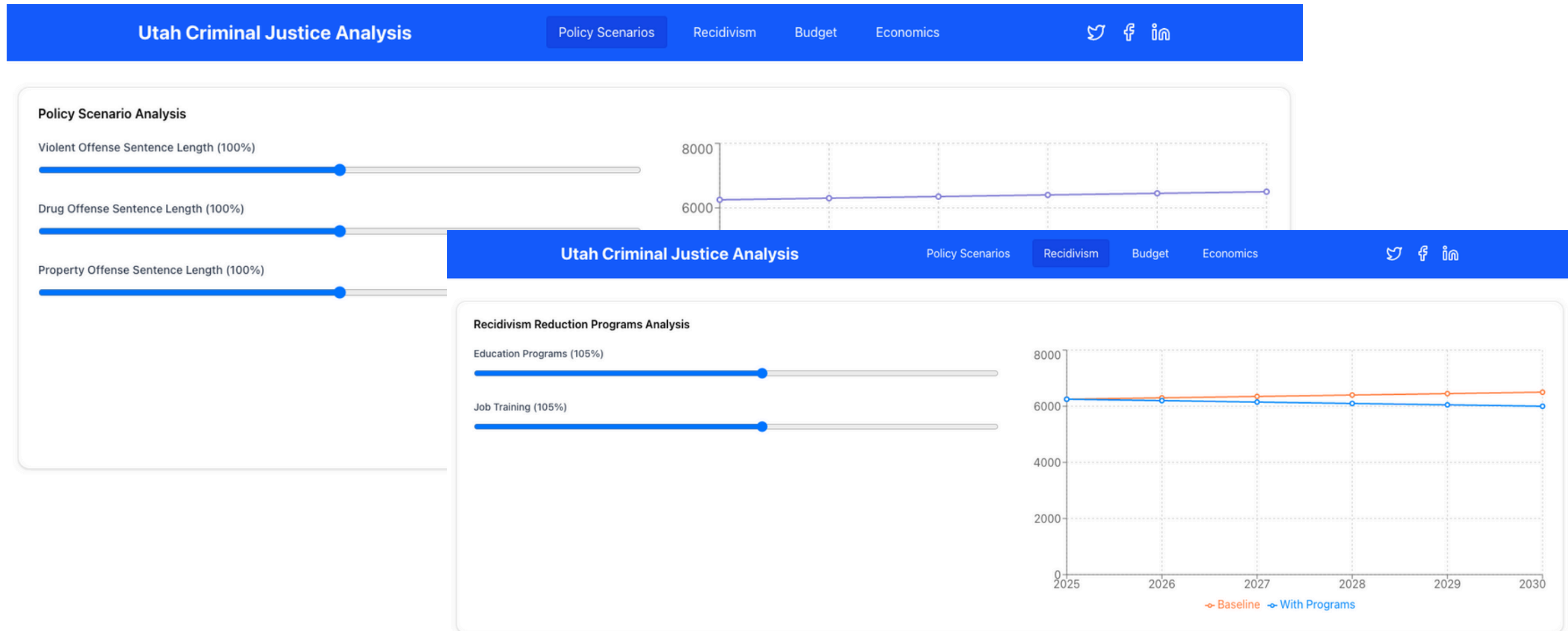
2. Forecasting & Tool Development

- **Technical Workbook:** Created a technical workbook comparing different projection models.
  - Adjustments for jri & covid-19
  - Assessed impact of general population growth and violent crime
  - Selected work will populate the data tool!

- **Prison Drivers:** Visualizations of factors affecting prison populations (e.g., admissions by entry type/offense and gender).

- **Challenges:** Similar to other states, uncertainty after Covid-19 and new bills remains.

May not represent a final forecast(s)

3. Beginnings of Scenario Building

4. Next Steps: Review & Feedback

- UDOC feedback
- New bills (most prominently HB207) initial impact review
- GOPB feedback
  - E.g., use of calendar vs fiscal year data
  - Frequency of updates (e.g., quarterly, vs annually)
  - Overall feedback

5. Next Steps: Phase 3

- Develop simulation models (e.g., stock-flow models) working with UDOC and BOPP data teams

- Implement scenario based projections based on sub-populations &

- Development of a more sophisticated data tool (due November/December 2025) - examples seen on previous slides

Thank You

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