

Racism and Legal Protections in New Jersey

Brandon McKoy (NJ Policy Perspective)
Johanna Calle (NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice)
Dianna Houenou (American Civil Liberties Union–NJ)



Legal Services & Representation

Issues

- ▶ Large funding gap
 - Limited representation
- ▶ Low-Quality Representation
 - Over-extended public defenders
- ▶ Use of Money Bail
- ▶ Confusing court rules

Solutions

- ▶ Increase funding for legal assistance
- ▶ Sufficient funding for public defenders
- ▶ Eliminate use of money bail, cease arrests for failure to pay fines & fees, implement diversion programs
- ▶ Simplify court rules and procedures

Immigrant Protections & Identification

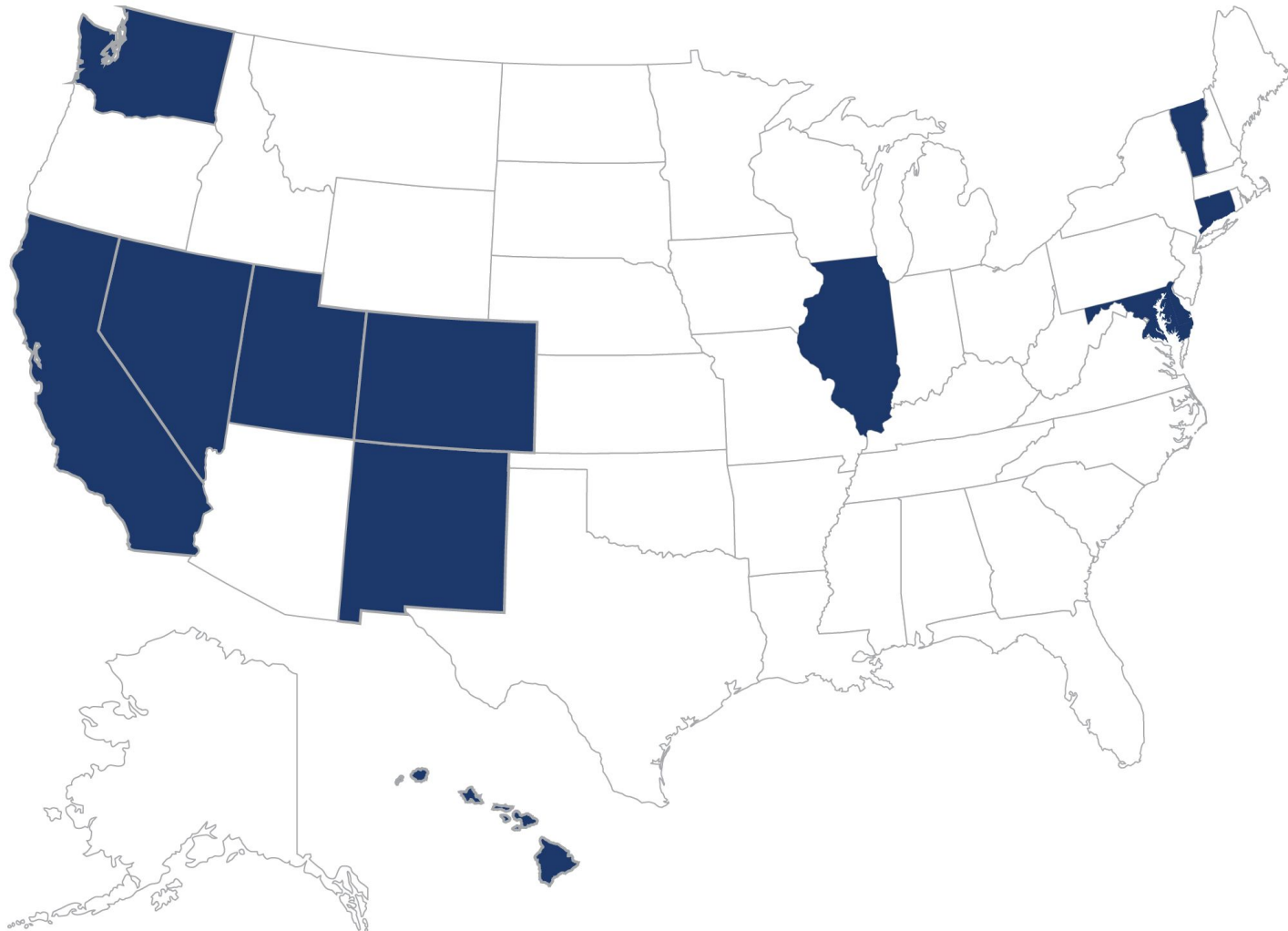
Issues

- ▶ Hurdles to licensing
 - Creates safety issues when driving
 - Unable to move about daily
- ▶ Lack of Government IDs
 - Stigma, Vulnerability
 - Access, Inclusion
- ▶ Wage Theft
 - Exploitation
 - Uneven playing field
- ▶ Enforcement
 - Fear of Deportation
 - Incarceration

Solutions

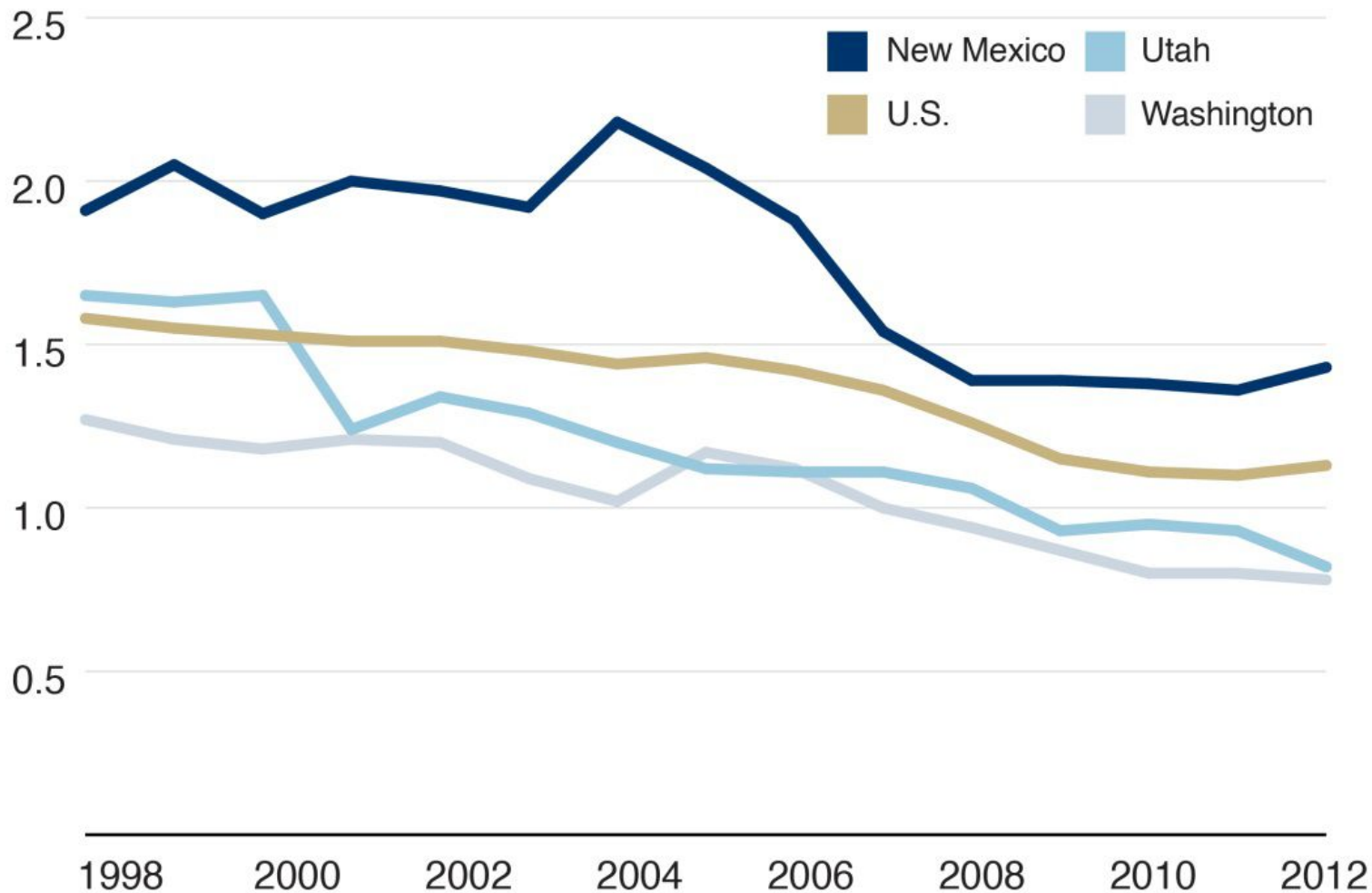
- ▶ Provide access to driver's licenses for all
- ▶ Issue government IDs
- ▶ Establish anti-wage theft policies
- ▶ Raise penalties for scrupulous employers
- ▶ End statute of limitations
- ▶ Community Policing
- ▶ End Collaboration
- ▶ End for-profit prisons
- ▶ Legal Representation

Twelve States and D.C. Allow Undocumented Immigrants to Drive Legally



Early Adopters of License or Privilege Card Benefits Have Seen Decrease in Fatal Accidents

Fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, 1998-2012



New Jersey Stands to Bring in Millions in Revenue from New License Fees

While revenue from newly lawful drivers will depend on how many eligible people sign up and how much the state charges, the state is certain to bring in millions of dollars in license fees alone.



Police & Community Relations

Issues

- ▶ Discriminatory and unequal policing practices
- ▶ Lack of sufficient accountability by and oversight of law enforcement

Solutions

- ▶ Independent prosecutors
- ▶ Body camera policies, *only* with proper assurances
- ▶ End broken windows policing
- ▶ End civil asset forfeiture
- ▶ Data transparency
- ▶ Local civilian complaint review boards

Voting Rights

Issues

- ▶ Antiquated voting systems
- ▶ No early in-person voting
- ▶ Disenfranchised citizens

Solutions

- ▶ Automatic voter registration
- ▶ Modernize voting laws, systems and machines
- ▶ Institute early in-person voting to increase participation
- ▶ Extend right to vote to currently incarcerated individuals

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION!**

