Morrison Institute’s 2015 State of Our State Conference will pose three key questions about criminal justice and incarceration in Arizona:

- Are we incarcerating the right people in Arizona?
- What, if anything, can Arizona learn from criminal justice policies being enacted elsewhere?
- What, if any, are the next steps for Arizona?

During the conference session entitled “Who is Incarcerated and Why?” Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery and Caroline Isaacs, head of the American Friends Service Committee in Arizona, will discuss this issue in detail. In order to facilitate meaningful audience participation, Morrison Institute encourages conference attendees to read the two important reports that highlight the main conflicting views on this issue.

While consensus has not been reached regarding the most accurate and useful way to classify and count the prisoners in Arizona’s corrections system, these two documents provide critical background information and illustrate the basic issues underlying the debate.

It is hoped that familiarity with both interpretations of the data will promote a robust discussion about who is currently incarcerated in Arizona and whether there are inmates for whom less costly corrections measures would be equally or more effective.

The first is from the 2010 report, *Prisoners in Arizona: A Profile of the Inmate Population*. The report was produced for the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council by Daryl R. Fischer, Ph.D. The full report is accessible at: [http://www.azsentencing.org](http://www.azsentencing.org)

The second study is from the 2013 report, *Throwing Away the Key: Critical Flaws in APAAC’s 2010 Report on Arizona’s Prison Population and Their Implications for Public Policy*. The report was published by Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. The full report is accessible at:

[http://davidshopeaz.org/resources/Throwing_Away_the_Key.pdf](http://davidshopeaz.org/resources/Throwing_Away_the_Key.pdf)

If you have questions about either of these documents, or the issues they raise, we encourage you to ask the experts at the State of Our State Conference on November 20th.