Public Hearing

Examining Criminal Justice Statistics and Trends in Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 21, 2023
8E-B East Wing, PA State Capitol Complex
501 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
2:00 pm

AGENDA

2:00 Opening Remarks
Senator Dan Laughlin, Majority Policy Chair

2:05 Crime Data, Recidivism Statistics and Trends
Mark Bergstrom, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing

2:30 Perspectives from Prosecutors
Greg Rowe, Executive Director, Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association
Dave Sunday, District Attorney, York County
John Adams, District Attorney, Berks County
Jodie Lobel, Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General

3:15 Perspectives from Law Enforcement
Scott Bohen, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association
David Splain, Chief of Police, Nether Providence Township Police Department
Michael Vogel, Chief of Police, Allegheny County Housing Authority
Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police, Abington Township Police Department

3:45 Closing Remarks
Senator Dan Laughlin
Committee Members

TESTIMONY

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Chair

Representative Rick Krajewski
Vice Chair

Mark H. Bergstrom
Executive Director

Senate Majority Policy Committee

Examining Criminal Justice Statistics and Trends in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex
8E-B West Wing Hearing Room
Harrisburg, PA

June 21, 2023

Mark H. Bergstrom
Executive Director

Good afternoon, Chairman Laughlin and members of the Senate Majority Policy Committee. I am Mark Bergstrom, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. The Commission is an agency of the General Assembly, created to promote an effective, humane, and rational sentencing policy. The Commission achieves this through the adoption and implementation of guidelines for sentencing, resentencing, and parole, as well as a sentence risk assessment instrument and parole recommitment ranges. But the Commission has other duties directly related to the subject of this hearing, including the establishment of a research and development program which serves as a clearinghouse and information center to support data collection and analysis, and mandates to conduct studies and evaluations, and to provide education and technical assistance.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to offer testimony related to criminal justice statistics and trends in Pennsylvania. I hope to provide brief highlights of the following issues: (1) the sources of data and key decision points in the flow of criminal justice cases; (2) an example of the attrition of cases as they move through the criminal justice system; (3) a review of trends that illustrate areas of stability and areas of change; and (4) a discussion of outcome measures, particularly recidivism. And if time permits, I will identify gaps in data sources that limit the accuracy and completeness of the criminal justice information provided to policy makers in Pennsylvania.

I have provided a document that describes the case flow of the criminal justice system prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (Attachment 1). This graphic identifies key phases and decision points as a case moves from initial contact with police through release from the system. The first phase (Entry into the system) focuses on the role of law enforcement and decisions related to arrest; the second phase (Prosecution and pretrial) involves decisions related to the filing of charges and dispositions before the minor courts (i.e., Philadelphia Municipal Court, Magisterial District Judge Courts); the third phase (Adjudication) applies to cases bound over to the Court of Common Pleas for trial or formal disposition; and the final phases (Sentencing and sanctions, Corrections) address post-conviction options and procedures.

The ability to determine trends and analyze outcomes is linked to the quality, completeness, and granularity of data available at these key decision points. Pennsylvania is fortunate to have several good information systems, including: the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) maintained by the Pennsylvania State Police; the Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) and Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) developed and operated by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts; the Sentencing Guidelines Software (SGS Web) deployed by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing; and records kept by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Parole Board, related to commitment to state confinement, classification and diagnostic details, and release on state parole. But of equal importance to having these sources of data is having the ability to obtain and connect data as cases move through the system. This is made possible in Pennsylvania using common identifiers, such as the offense tracking number (OTN) and the state identification number (SID), and the applications and web services available through the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET), which supports secure access and virtual integration of criminal justice data.

As an example of leveraging various data sources to examine criminal justice processes, HR 111 of 2021 required the Commission to study the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of violations of Pennsylvania's Uniform Firearms Act (VUFA). This study addressed the attrition of firearms cases, by tracking the processing of firearms charges from initial filing through final disposition. Attrition may occur at various stages of the criminal justice system, and may involve a reduction or elimination of charges, and/or a conviction or plea to lesser offenses, and/or acquittal of charges, and/or mitigation of sentences. Attrition may result from an exercise of discretion by various decision-makers, or it may reflect initial charges that could not be proven at trial. Using AOPC data, the Commission was able to determine a bind-over rate for VUFA charges of 81% from the minor courts to Courts of Common Pleas; and a finding of guilt in 83% of those cases bound over. This could then be linked to Commission data to determine the type and duration of sentence imposed, and with criminal history records from the Pennsylvania State Police to determine the overall recidivism rate, as well as recidivism rates based on other factors such as the type of sentence imposed and the processing of the case.

Another benefit of collecting and analyzing justice data is the ability to create benchmarks, and to track crime and related metrics. Trend reports help to illustrate the consistency of data over time, and to draw attention to the impact of policies and practices and other disruptions of the status quo. Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice Population Projections Committee (CJPPC), supported by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), develops consensus forecasts of capacity required in state correctional facilities and for community supervision, based on historic trends, contemporary data analysis, and assumptions regarding potential impacts. This information is also used to prepare impact analyses of legislation being considered by the General Assembly.

While those on the law enforcement and prosecution panels may have greater insights regarding crime trends in Pennsylvania, I have provided attachments that address two common measures of crime: Attachment 2 includes National Crime Victimization Survey results, in which Pennsylvania's rate of violent victimization, estimated at 21.8 per 1,000 persons, is in line with the national average; and the rate of property victimization, estimated at 80.5 per 1,000 persons, is substantially below the national average. Attachment 3 is Pennsylvania's Annual Uniform Crime Report (2018), with a rate of 5,877 crimes per 100,000, and a Crime Index rate of 1,803 per 100,000. As a point of comparison, in 2018 the FBI reported a violent crime rate in the United States of 368.9 per 100,000, with the violent crime rate in Pennsylvania of 306 per 100,000.

Sentencing trends can be used to illustrate the stability of data over time as well as modest and abrupt changes to the status quo. From 2015 through 2019, the number of sentences reported to the Commission was declining, reflecting a general decline in arrests and convictions in Pennsylvania. This was seen through four units of analysis: the number of convictions, the number of criminal incidents, the number of judicial proceedings, and the number of individuals sentenced. During this five-year period, the demographic characteristics of those sentenced, including gender, race, and age, remained stable. The slight decline in reported sentences was reflected in a slight decline in the use of state prison (13% to 11%) and county jail (31% to 27%), offset by an increase in probation (53% to 57%), but the duration of sentences remained stable. These stable trends of court filings, dispositions, and

sentences were substantially disrupted in 2020 and 2021 by COVID. Preliminary 2022 data appear to track 2018-2019 sentencing trends more closely.

Turning to recidivism and other outcome measures, Attachment 4 includes highlights from the 2022 Recidivism Report by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. As you will note, the measure of recidivism (e.g., overall, re-arrest, re-conviction, re-incarceration), and the duration of the follow-up period (e.g., one year through 20 years), impact the recidivism rate. But as a general baseline, the overall 3-year recidivism rate following release from DOC is around 64%. But three studies by the Commission found greater reductions in recidivism through the use of carefully targeted correctional programs (i.e., RRRI, SIP/SDTP, SSP). This is in addition to other positive outcomes, such as reduced length of confinement and reduced cost.

While Pennsylvania is a model for many other states in the collection, analysis, and integration of criminal justice data, there are several gaps that limit the accuracy and completeness of the information. Areas that require improvement include: the fingerprinting of all those convicted of misdemeanors and felonies; the reporting of all convictions to the Pennsylvania's CHRIA repository; improving the collection and accuracy of demographic information, such as race and ethnicity; and improving the information available concerning bail and pretrial release decisions, county parole, and relevant juvenile records for those subsequently convicted in criminal court. Several of these shortcomings could be addressed during the pretrial phase by introducing more standardized practices, especially at first contact with law enforcement and with the courts. Filling these gaps would improve the quality of the data used to monitor and examine aspects of the criminal justice system, and provide opportunities for intervention at an earlier phase of the case flow.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity to testify.

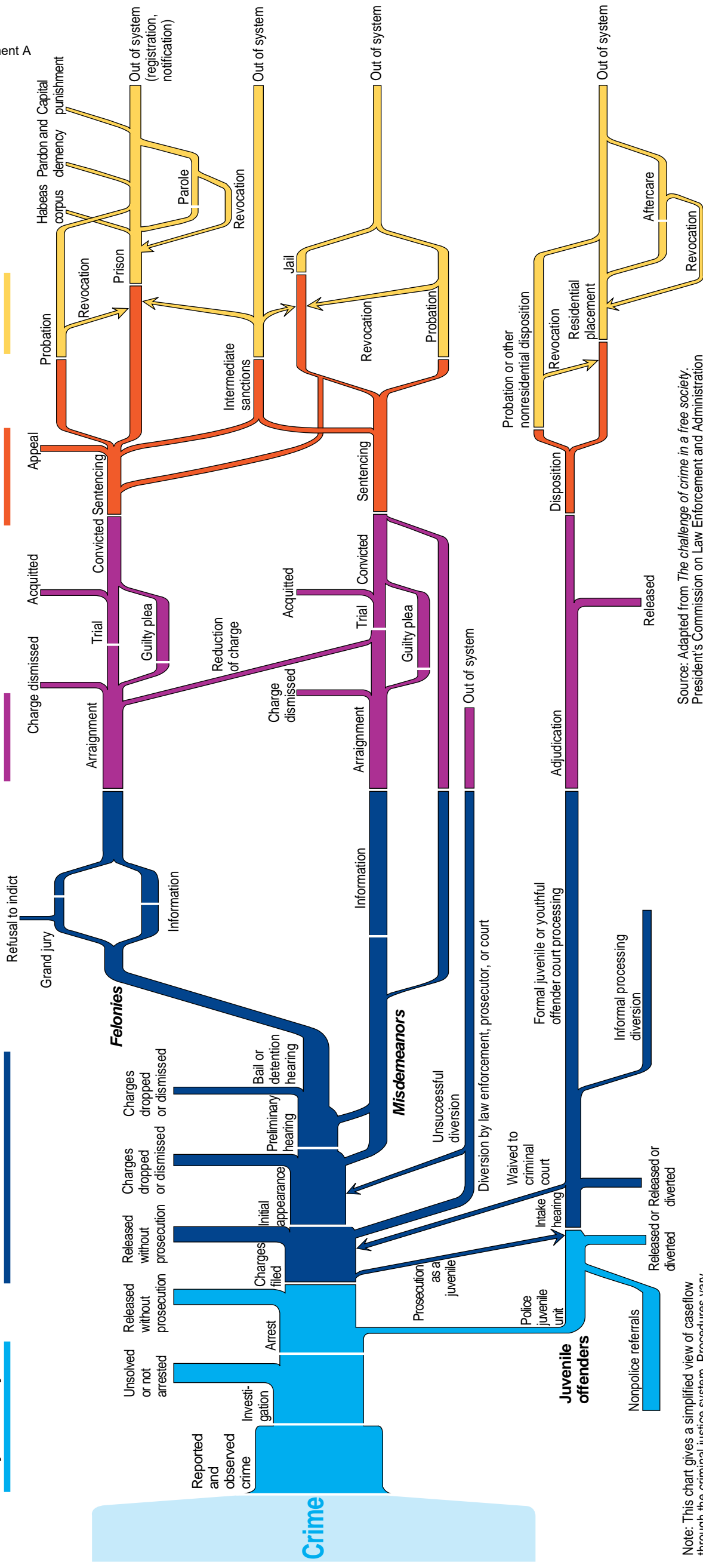# What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?

Attachment A

Entry into the system **Prosecution and pretrial services** **Adjudication** **Sentencing and sanctions** **Corrections**

Crime

Reported and observed crime

Investigation

Unsolved or not arrested

Arrest

Released without prosecution

Released without prosecution

Charges filed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Initial appearance

Preliminary hearing

Bail or detention hearing

Felonies

Grand jury

Refusal to indict

Information

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Reduction of charge

Convicted

Sentencing

Appeal

Probation

Revocation

Prison

Parole

Revocation

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Out of system (registration, notification)

Intermediate sanctions

Out of system

Revocation

Misdemeanors

Out of system

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Unsuccessful diversion

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Convicted

Sentencing

Probation

Jail

Revocation

Out of system

Juvenile offenders

Nonpolice referrals

Police juvenile unit

Prosecution as a juvenile

Intake hearing

Released or diverted

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Waived to criminal court

Informal processing diversion

Released or diverted

Adjudication

Released

Disposition

Probation or other nonresidential disposition

Revocation

Residential placement

Aftercare

Revocation

Out of system

Source: Adapted from *The challenge of crime in a free society.* President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967. This revision, a result of the Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of the President's Commission, was prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997.

Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseflow through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions. The weights of the lines are not intended to show actual size of caseloads.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in the 22 largest states, 2017–19

State	Rate per 1,000		95% confidence interval		Number	
	Estimate	Standard error[a]	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate	Standard error[a]
United States*	21.6	0.60	20.42	22.78	5,937,000	165,100
Arizona	36.8 †	4.99	27.03	46.59	220,300	29,870
California	22.4	1.93	18.64	26.18	745,600	63,880
Colorado	45.0 †	4.49	36.21	53.83	215,700	21,250
Florida	13.2 †	1.62	10.01	16.35	240,000	29,460
Georgia	11.5 †	1.80	7.93	14.97	99,880	15,710
Illinois	19.8	3.18	13.53	26.01	211,900	34,060
Indiana	27.5	3.74	20.16	34.82	153,200	20,850
Maryland	21.1	3.49	14.20	27.90	107,400	17,810
Massachusetts	20.5	5.37	9.94	30.98	121,500	31,870
Michigan	21.1	2.81	15.56	26.56	178,700	23,790
Minnesota	20.8	1.75	17.38	24.22	97,660	8,200
Missouri	21.5	2.37	16.87	26.17	110,400	12,170
New Jersey	7.7 †	1.34	5.11	10.35	58,850	10,160
New York	15.7 †	2.24	11.25	20.05	262,500	37,610
North Carolina	13.3 †	2.06	9.28	17.34	116,000	17,980
Ohio	23.6	2.38	18.97	28.31	232,300	23,410
Pennsylvania	21.8	2.57	16.81	26.87	238,000	27,970
Tennessee	25.4	3.79	18.01	32.85	144,500	21,500
Texas	18.3 ‡	1.83	14.69	21.85	426,300	42,650
Virginia	15.4 †	1.83	11.78	18.96	110,200	13,160
Washington	36.8 †	4.30	28.35	45.19	233,500	27,150
Wisconsin	22.1	4.27	13.76	30.48	108,700	20,970

Note: Violent victimization includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (CBDRB-FY20-307).
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
[a]Standard errors rounded due to disclosure protocols.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Restricted-use data, 2017–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 2
Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Rate of property victimization per 1,000 households in the 22 largest states, 2017–19

State	Rate per 1,000		95% confidence interval		Number	
	Estimate	Standard error[a]	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate	Standard error[a]
United States*	105.9	1.33	103.30	108.50	13,220,000	175,200
Arizona	151.5 †	8.50	134.84	168.16	399,700	22,130
California	145.9 †	6.88	132.41	159.39	1,962,000	100,600
Colorado	161.3 †	8.31	145.01	177.59	370,100	17,850
Florida	71.7 †	4.30	63.32	80.16	581,500	40,120
Georgia	72.4 †	5.65	61.29	83.43	287,900	21,800
Illinois	79.4 †	5.62	68.41	90.43	394,900	27,340
Indiana	121.1 †	6.43	108.49	133.71	325,700	17,600
Maryland	109.8	6.62	96.82	122.78	235,900	26,300
Massachusetts	78.1 †	4.89	68.50	87.66	212,600	13,670
Michigan	74.3 †	5.13	64.28	84.38	300,900	19,350
Minnesota	114.0	8.02	98.29	129.71	259,300	20,540
Missouri	117.6	11.74	94.59	140.61	295,000	29,780
New Jersey	51.5 †	4.14	43.37	59.59	166,400	13,280
New York	64.8 †	4.44	56.13	73.53	496,400	34,550
North Carolina	63.5 †	4.46	54.74	72.24	257,900	19,900
Ohio	91.8 †	5.61	80.84	102.84	438,100	24,780
Pennsylvania	80.5 †	4.46	71.72	89.22	397,400	27,300
Tennessee	104.5	6.68	91.41	117.59	283,200	20,000
Texas	117.3 †	5.12	107.26	127.34	1,189,000	56,590
Virginia	87.0 †	5.65	75.96	98.10	286,000	17,230
Washington	202.5 †	9.65	183.59	221.41	598,900	29,160
Wisconsin	73.9 †	4.44	65.21	82.59	179,600	13,020

Note: Property crime includes burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other household theft. The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (CBDRB-FY20-307).
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
[a]Standard errors rounded due to disclosure protocols.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Restricted-use data, 2017–19.

CRIME IN PENNSYLVANIA

ANNUAL UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

During 2018, the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program received data for 1,913 jurisdictions. Contributions to the program may range from the submission of data for one month, to the submission of data for the entire year. Individual agencies may have submitted data for multiple jurisdictions. Contributing jurisdictions and the corresponding number of submissions are identified in the contributing Jurisdictions table.

Prior to June 1, 2005, reporting of UCR data by Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies was not mandatory. However, on that date, Act 180 of 2004 became law, mandating UCR for all state, county, and local law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth.

Information contained in this complete report is based on actual data submitted as of the date of compilation. Analysis is based on data that may have been updated after release of preceding years' reports.

Summary of Crime in Pennsylvania

There were 752,697 actual crimes of all types reported to the UCR Program by Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies in 2018. This represents a rate of 5,877.2 crimes per 100,000 population, a decrease of 5.8 percent from the previous year's total of 799,417 actual crimes. Crime Index offenses are considered to be both the most serious and most likely to be reported, and are used nationally as the standard base for comparisons. They include: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Manslaughter by negligence is a Part I offense, but is not considered part of the Crime Index.

In 2018, 231,001 Crime Index offenses were reported and confirmed by Pennsylvania police after investigation. Overall, 236,552 Crime Index offenses were reported, but 2.3 percent or 5,551 were unfounded following investigation, ranging from 10.1 percent unfounded for rape to 1.1 percent unfounded for assault other dangerous weapon. Crime Index offenses decreased by 8.3 percent from last year's total of 251,809. The Crime Index rate in 2018 was 1,803.7 per 100,000 population.

In addition, 521,652 Part II offenses were reported in 2018, with a rate of 4,073.2 per 100,000 population. This is a decrease of 4.7 percent from the 547,573 Part II offenses reported the previous year. Part II offenses include: other assaults, forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons, prostitution, other sex offenses, drug abuse violations, illegal gambling, offenses against the family, driving under the influence, liquor law violations, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and all other offenses.

In 2018, 47.8 percent of all offenses were cleared (30.9 percent of the Crime Index offenses, and 55.3 percent of all Part II offenses). An offense is considered cleared when at least one person involved in the commission of the offense has been arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution. An offense can be cleared by exceptional means when an element beyond law enforcement control prevents filing of formal charges against the offender.

Crime Reported to Police

Offense Category	Offenses	Percent Distribution	Rate per 100,000 Population	Percent Change From 2017	Clearances	Percent Cleared
Part I Offenses	231,045	30.7	1,804.0	-8.3	71,401	30.9
Part II Offenses	521,652	69.3	4,073.2	-4.7	288,396	55.3
Statewide Total	752,697	100.0	5,877.2	-5.8	359,797	47.8
Crime Index Offenses	231,001	30.7	1,803.7	-8.3	71,358	30.9

1

2

20-YEAR RECIDIVISM FOLLOW-UP FOR RELEASES IN 1999 – RECIDIVISM REMAINS MOSTLY FLAT AFTER 10 YEARS POST-RELEASE

3

OF REENTRANTS WHO RECIDIVATE IN 3 YEARS, 75% RECIDIVATE WITHIN THE FIRST 16 MONTHS

4

Senate Majority Policy Committee

Public Hearing

Examining Criminal Justice Statistics
and Trends in Pennsylvania

June 21, 2023

Mark H. Bergstrom

Executive Director

Criminal Justice Caseflow

Entry into the system

Prosecution and pretrial services

Adjudication

Sentencing and sanctions

Corrections

Crime

Reported and observed crime
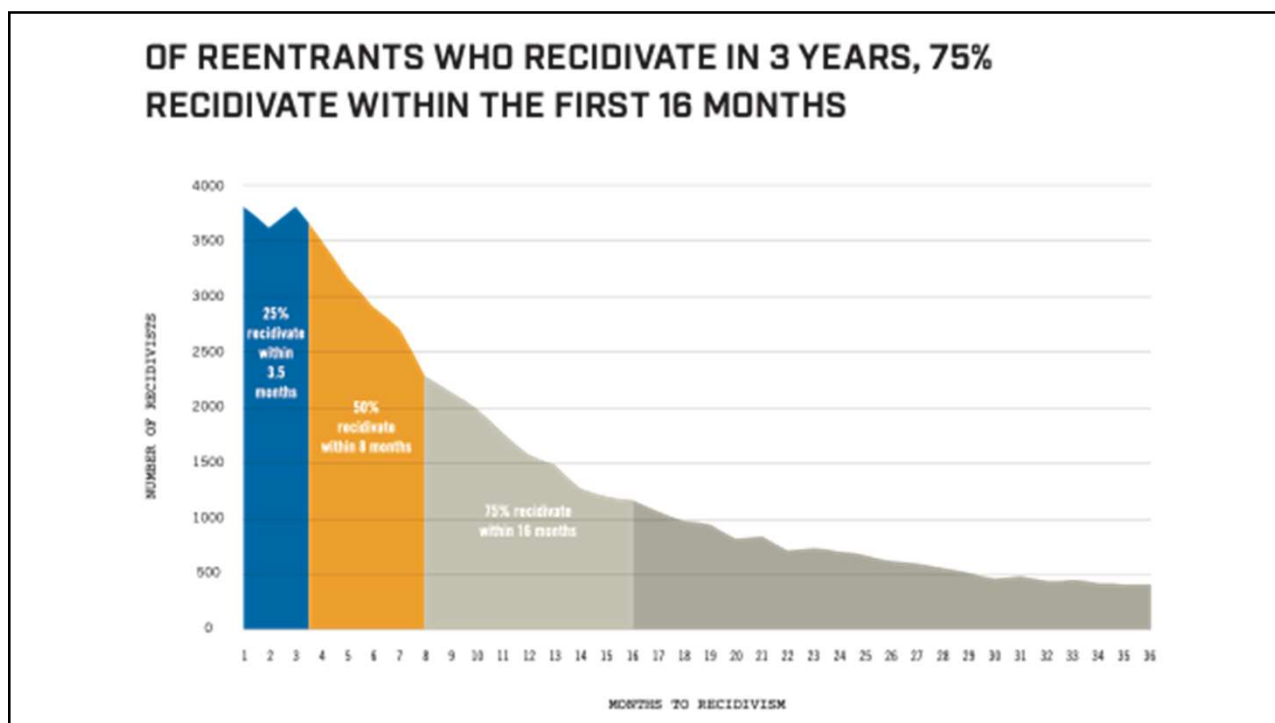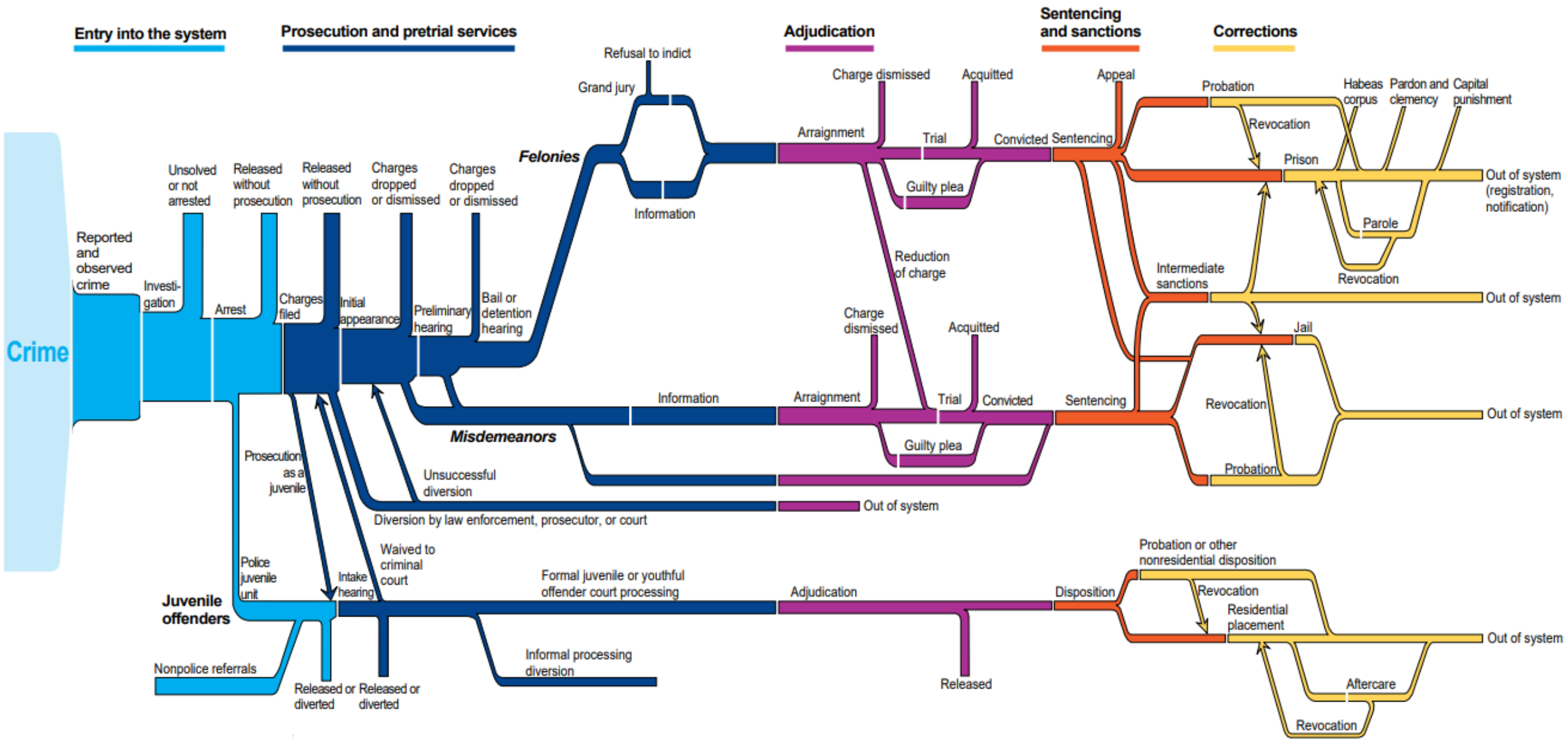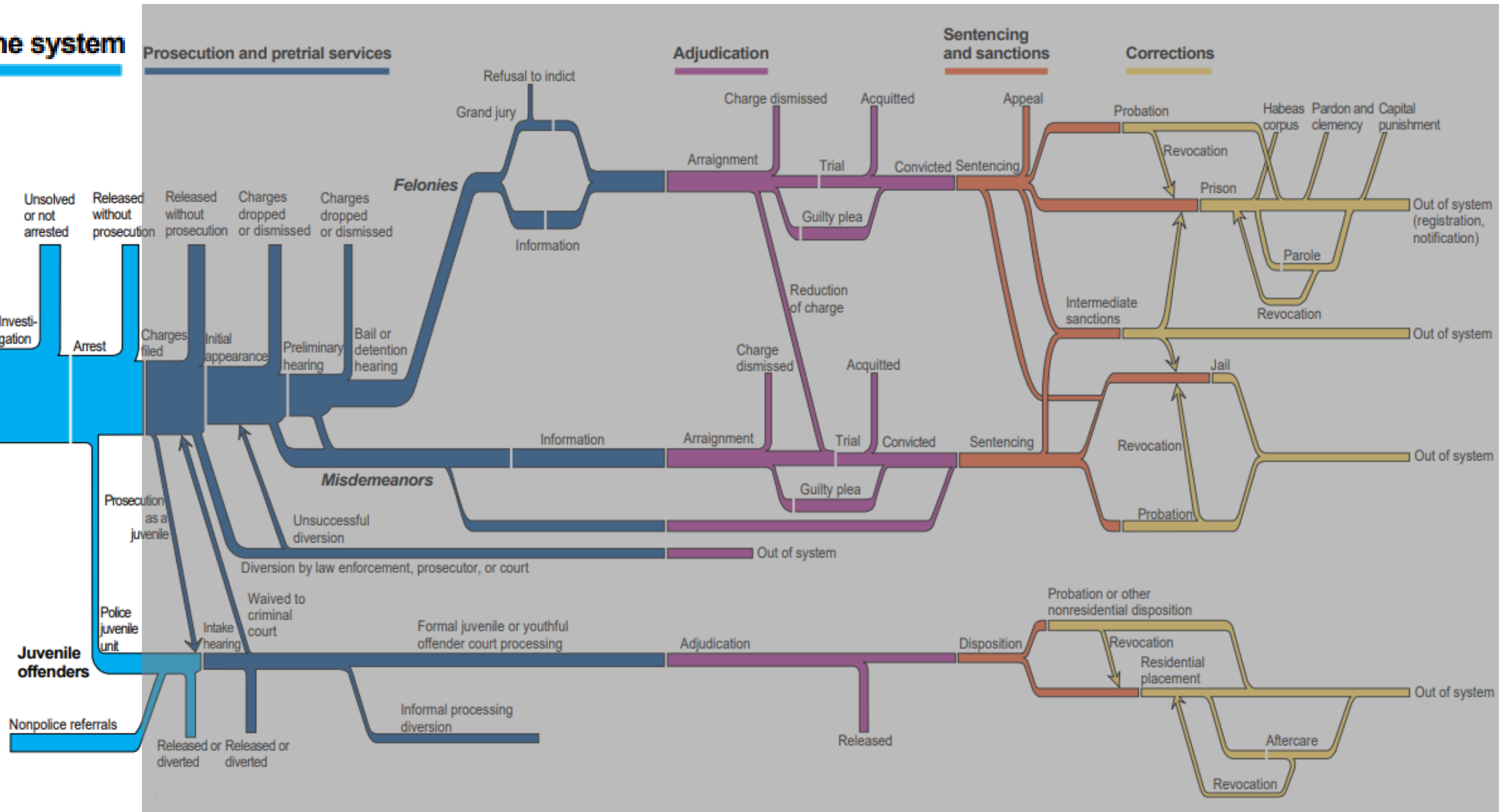
Investigation

Unsolved or not arrested

Released without prosecution

Arrest

Charges filed

Released without prosecution

Initial appearance

Charges dropped or dismissed

Preliminary hearing

Charges dropped or dismissed

Bail or detention hearing

Felonies

Refusal to indict

Grand jury

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Trial

Guilty plea

Acquitted

Reduction of charge

Convicted

Sentencing

Appeal

Probation

Revocation

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Prison

Parole

Revocation

Out of system (registration, notification)

Intermediate sanctions

Out of system

Misdemeanors

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Trial

Guilty plea

Acquitted

Convicted

Sentencing

Revocation

Jail

Probation

Out of system

Unsuccessful diversion

Out of system

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Prosecution as a juvenile

Waived to criminal court

Intake hearing

Juvenile offenders

Police juvenile unit

Nonpolice referrals

Released or diverted

Released or diverted

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Adjudication

Released

Informal processing diversion

Disposition

Probation or other nonresidential disposition

Revocation

Residential placement

Out of system

Aftercare

Revocation

Entry into the system

Prosecution and pretrial services

Adjudication

Sentencing and sanctions

Corrections

Crime

Reported and observed crime

Investigation

Unsolved or not arrested

Released without prosecution

Arrest

Released without prosecution

Charges filed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Initial appearance

Preliminary hearing

Bail or detention hearing

Refusal to indict

Grand jury

Felonies

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Reduction of charge

Convicted

Sentencing

Appeal

Probation

Revocation

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Prison

Out of system (registration, notification)

Parole

Revocation

Intermediate sanctions

Out of system

Prosecution as a juvenile

Unsuccessful diversion

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Information

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Convicted

Sentencing

Revocation

Jail

Probation

Out of system

Out of system

Juvenile offenders

Police juvenile unit

Intake hearing

Waived to criminal court

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Adjudication

Disposition

Probation or other nonresidential disposition

Revocation

Residential placement

Out of system

Nonpolice referrals

Released or diverted

Released or diverted

Informal processing diversion

Released

Aftercare

Revocation

Entry into the system

Crime

Reported and observed crime

Unsolved or not arrested

Released without prosecution

Investigation

Arrest

Prosecution and pretrial services

Released without prosecution

Charges dropped or dismissed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Felonies

Grand jury

Information

Charges filed

Initial appearance

Preliminary hearing

Bail or detention hearing

Prosecution as a juvenile

Unsuccessful diversion

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Misdemeanors

Information

Police juvenile unit

Intake hearing

Waived to criminal court

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Juvenile offenders

Nonpolice referrals

Released or diverted

Released or diverted

Informal processing diversion

Adjudication

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Arraignment

Trial

Convicted

Guilty plea

Reduction of charge

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Arraignment

Trial

Convicted

Guilty plea

Out of system

Adjudication

Released

Sentencing and sanctions

Appeal

Sentencing

Intermediate sanctions

Sentencing

Disposition

Corrections

Probation

Revocation

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Prison

Parole

Revocation

Out of system (registration, notification)

Revocation

Probation

Jail

Out of system

Probation or other nonresidential disposition

Revocation

Residential placement

Aftercare

Revocation

Out of system

Entry into the system

Crime

Reported and observed crime → Investigation → Unsolved or not arrested

Investigation → Arrest

Released without prosecution

Prosecution and pretrial services

Charges filed → Initial appearance

Released without prosecution

Charges dropped or dismissed

Preliminary hearing → Bail or detention hearing

Charges dropped or dismissed

Felonies

Grand jury → Refusal to indict

Information

Misdemeanors

Information

Unsuccessful diversion

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Juvenile offenders

Police juvenile unit

Nonpolice referrals

Released or diverted

Released or diverted

Intake hearing

Prosecution as a juvenile

Waived to criminal court

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Informal processing diversion

Adjudication

Arraignment → Charge dismissed / Acquitted / Trial / Convicted

Guilty plea

Reduction of charge

Arraignment → Charge dismissed / Acquitted / Trial / Convicted

Guilty plea

Out of system

Adjudication → Released

Sentencing and sanctions

Sentencing → Appeal

Sentencing → Intermediate sanctions

Sentencing

Disposition

Corrections

Probation → Revocation

Prison → Parole / Revocation

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Out of system (registration, notification)

Jail

Revocation

Probation

Out of system

Probation or other nonresidential disposition → Revocation

Residential placement → Aftercare → Revocation

Out of system

Entry into the system

Prosecution and pretrial services

Adjudication

Sentencing and sanctions

Corrections

Crime

Reported and observed crime

Investigation

Unsolved or not arrested

Released without prosecution

Released without prosecution

Charges dropped or dismissed

Charges dropped or dismissed

Arrest

Charges filed

Initial appearance

Preliminary hearing

Bail or detention hearing

Refusal to indict

Grand jury

Information

Felonies

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Convicted

Reduction of charge

Sentencing

Appeal

Probation

Revocation

Prison

Habeas corpus

Pardon and clemency

Capital punishment

Out of system (registration, notification)

Parole

Revocation

Intermediate sanctions

Out of system

Information

Misdemeanors

Arraignment

Charge dismissed

Acquitted

Trial

Guilty plea

Convicted

Sentencing

Jail

Revocation

Probation

Out of system

Unsuccessful diversion

Diversion by law enforcement, prosecutor, or court

Out of system

Prosecution as a juvenile

Intake hearing

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Juvenile offenders

Nonpolice referrals

Released or diverted

Released or diverted

Formal juvenile or youthful offender court processing

Adjudication

Disposition

Probation or other nonresidential disposition

Revocation

Residential placement

Out of system

Aftercare

Revocation

Informal processing diversion

Released

Caseflow Attrition
(VUFA example)

Municipal Court

[n= 18,026]

Total VUFA dockets

[n= 51,618]

Magisterial District Court

[n= 33,592]

All cases that include a VUFA offense under
Title 18 Pa.C.S. Chapter 61; 2015-2020

Data Source: Common Pleas Case Management System of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

Municipal Court

[n= 18,026]
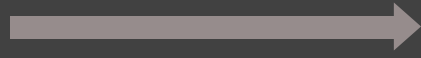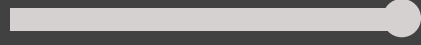
% out of non-pending [n=14,953]

Pending = 17% [3,073]

Dismissed = 7% [1,024]

Withdrawn = 10% [1,544]

Other = 1% [176]

Resolved = 2% [288]
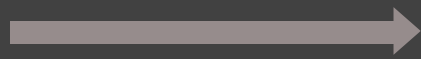
Bound over = 80% [11,921]

Total VUFA dockets

[n= 51,618]

Total Bound over 81% [37,675]

Court of Common Pleas

[n= 34,799*]

* 2,876 dockets bound over without VUFA charges

Pending = 24% [8,242]

% out of non-pending [n=26,557]

Dismissed = 1% [294]

Withdrawn = 1% [170]

Nolle Pros = 10% [2,580]

Other = 2% [630]

Not Guilty = 3% [855]

Guilty = 83% [22,028]

Magisterial District Court
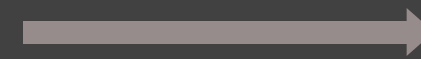
[n= 33,592]

Bound over = 82% [25,754]

Pending = 6% [2,110]
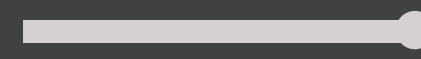
% out of non-pending [n=31,482]

Dismissed = 4% [1,369]

Withdrawn = 7% [2,143]

Other = 2% [697]

Resolved = 5% [1,519]
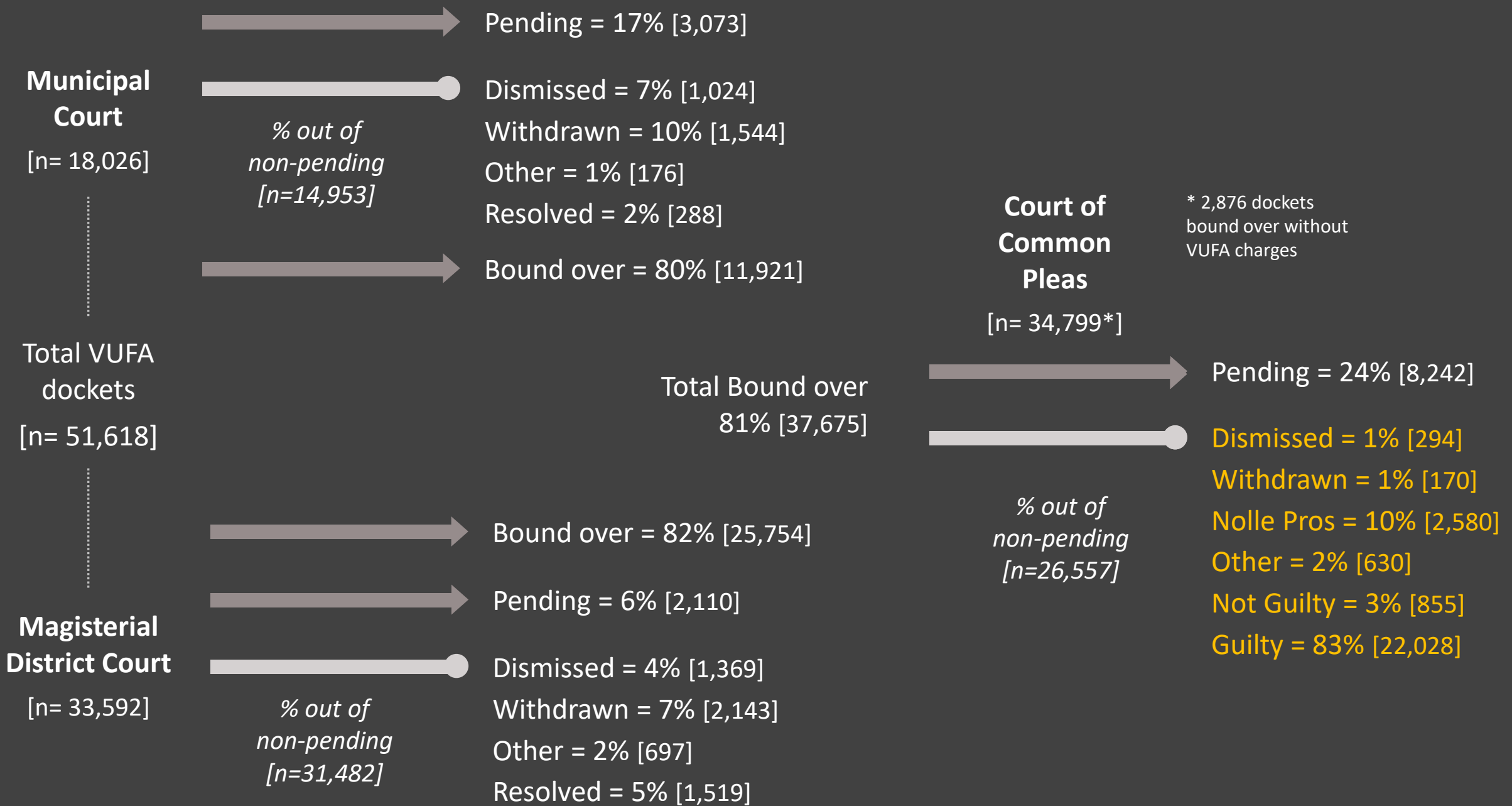
Trends
(Sentencing 2015-2021)

Reporting Trends -- Sentencing (2015-2021)
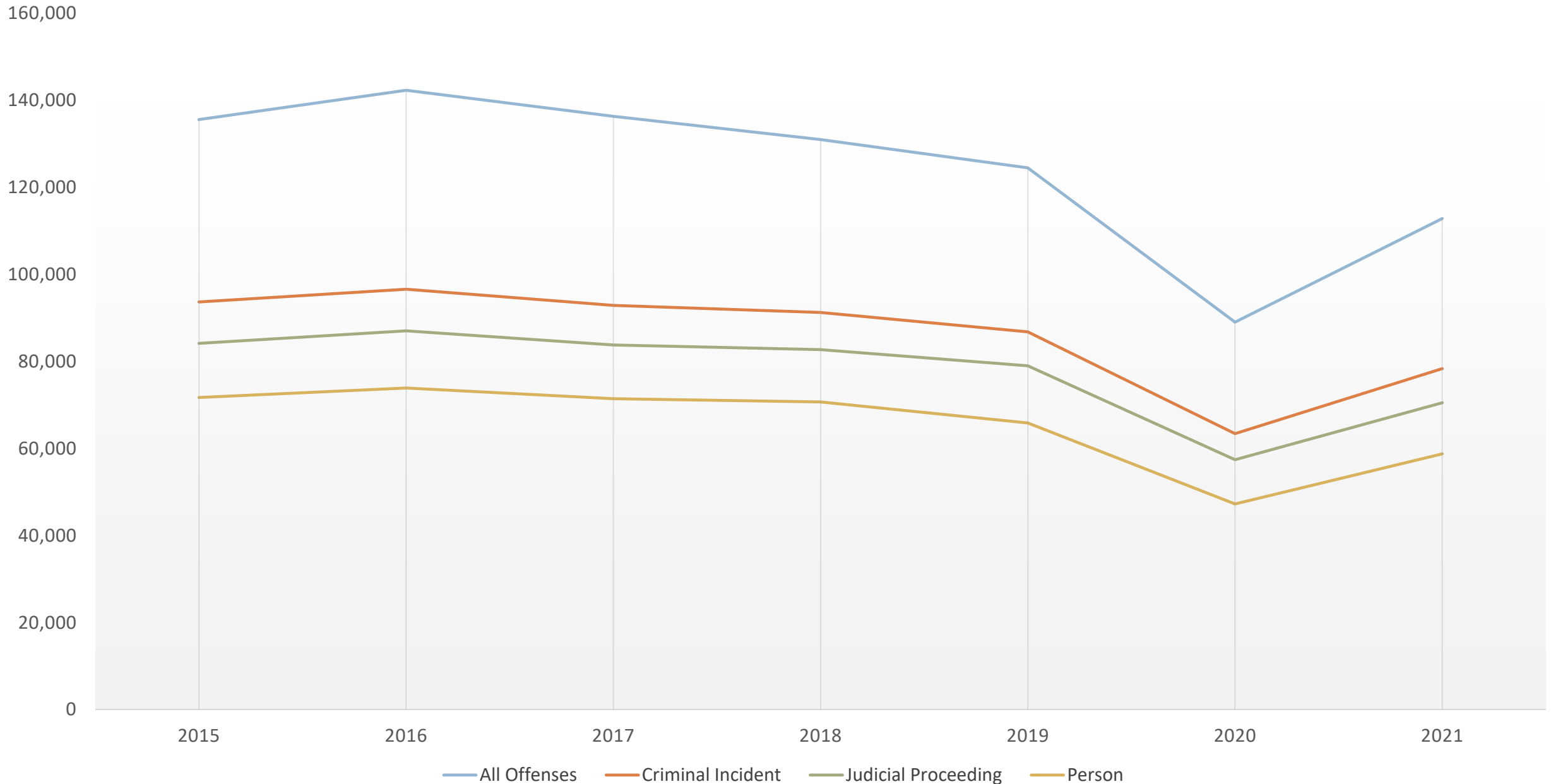
Demographic Trends -- Sentencing (2015-2021)
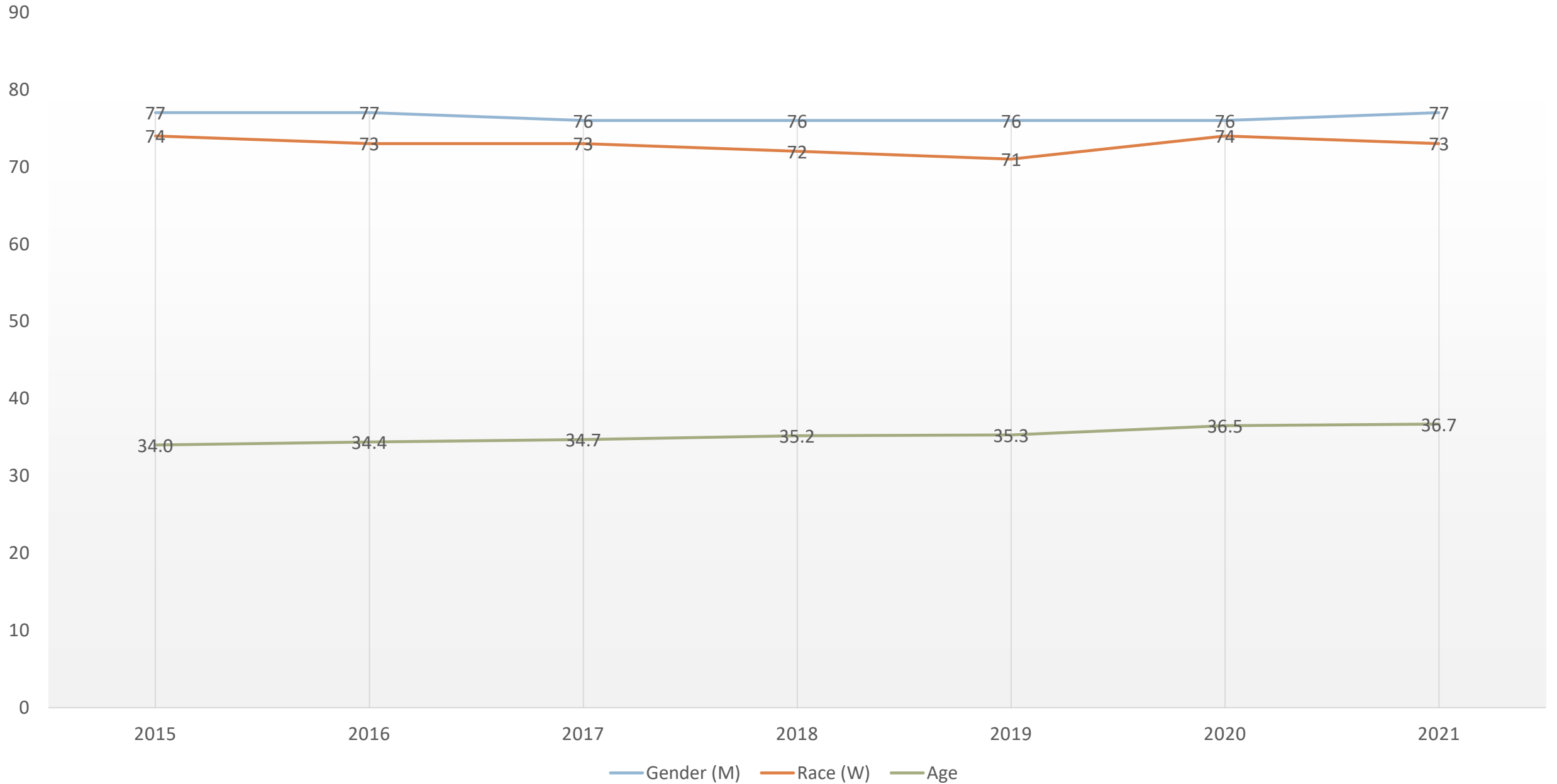
Disposition Trends -- Sentencing (2015-2021)
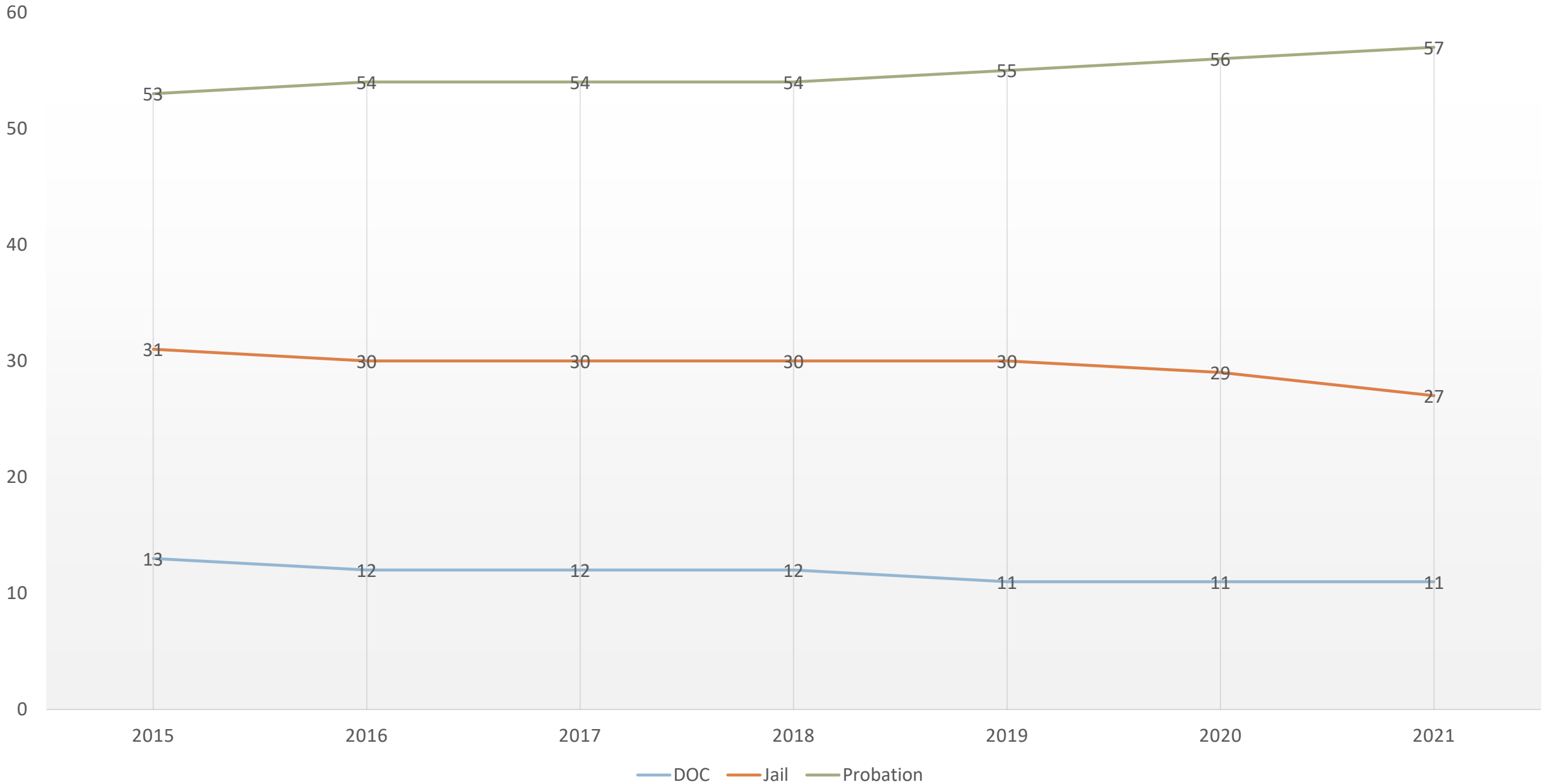
Duration Trends -- Sentencing (2015-2021)
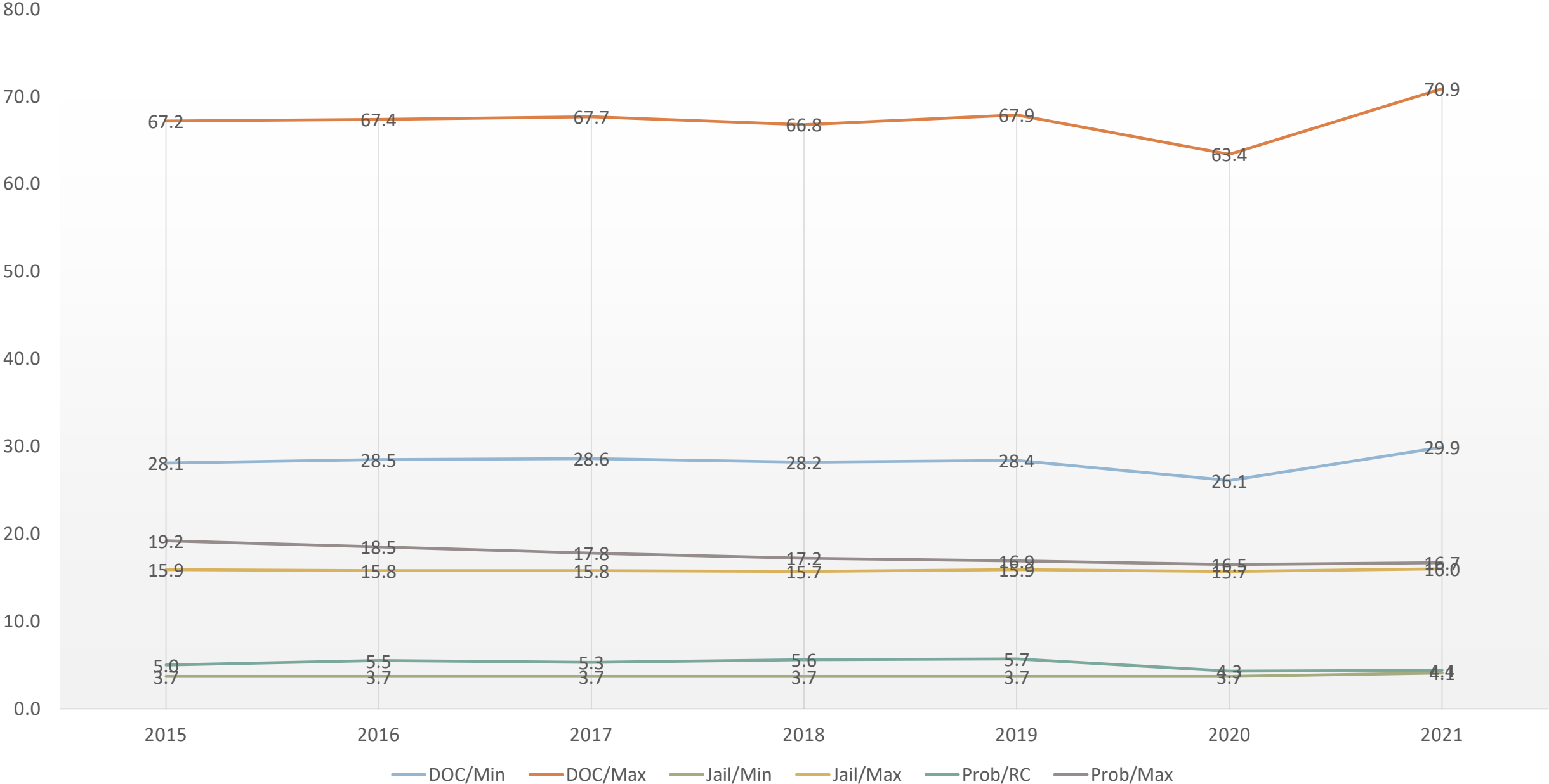
COVID Impact
(2020-2021)

Monthly Filings, Dispositions, and Sentences Imposed (2019-2021), and COVID-19 Cases in 2020-2021
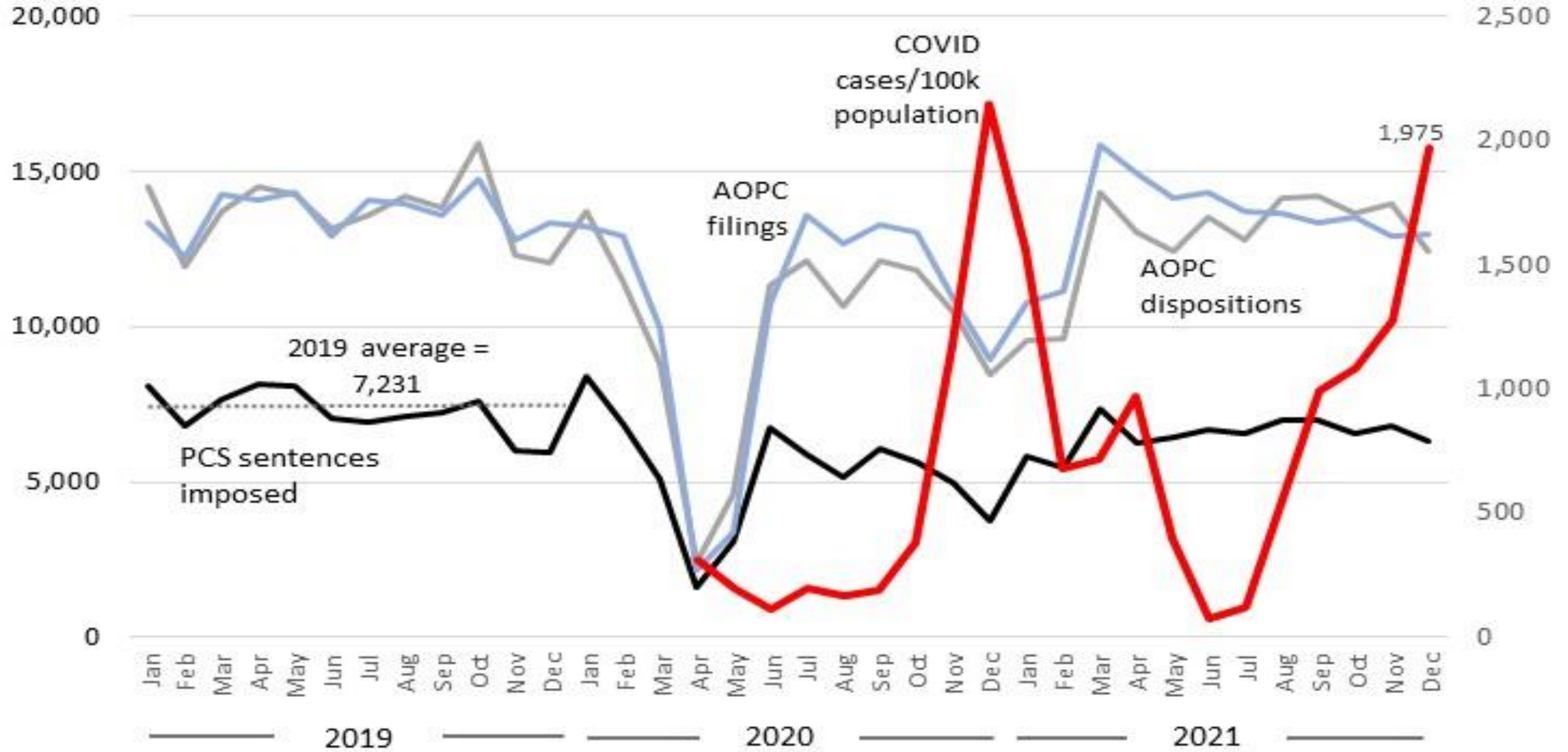
Summary of Sentences imposed by Sentencing Alternative, 2019-2021
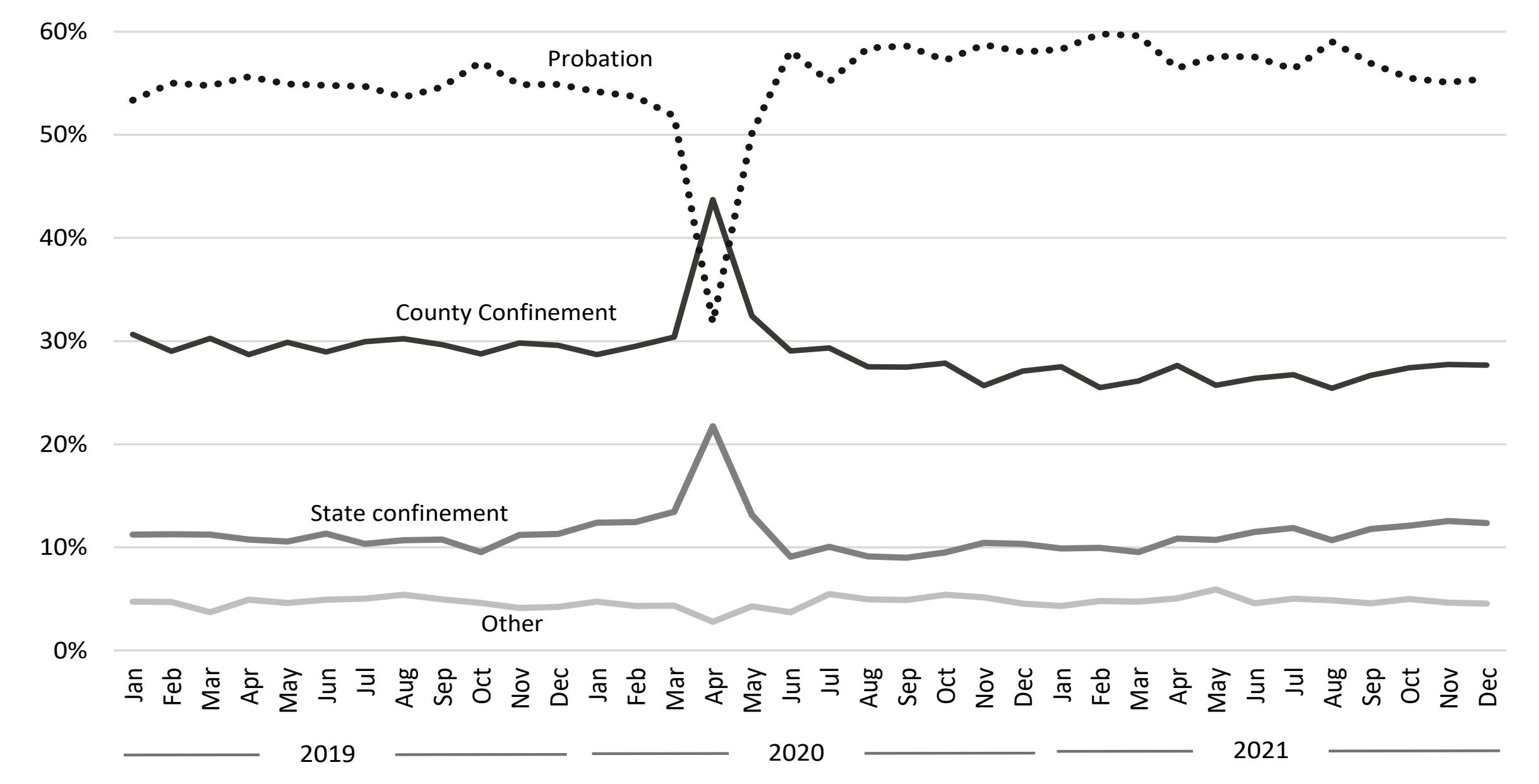
Recidivism

Evaluation of Recidivism Risk Reduction Program (RRRI) -- 2019
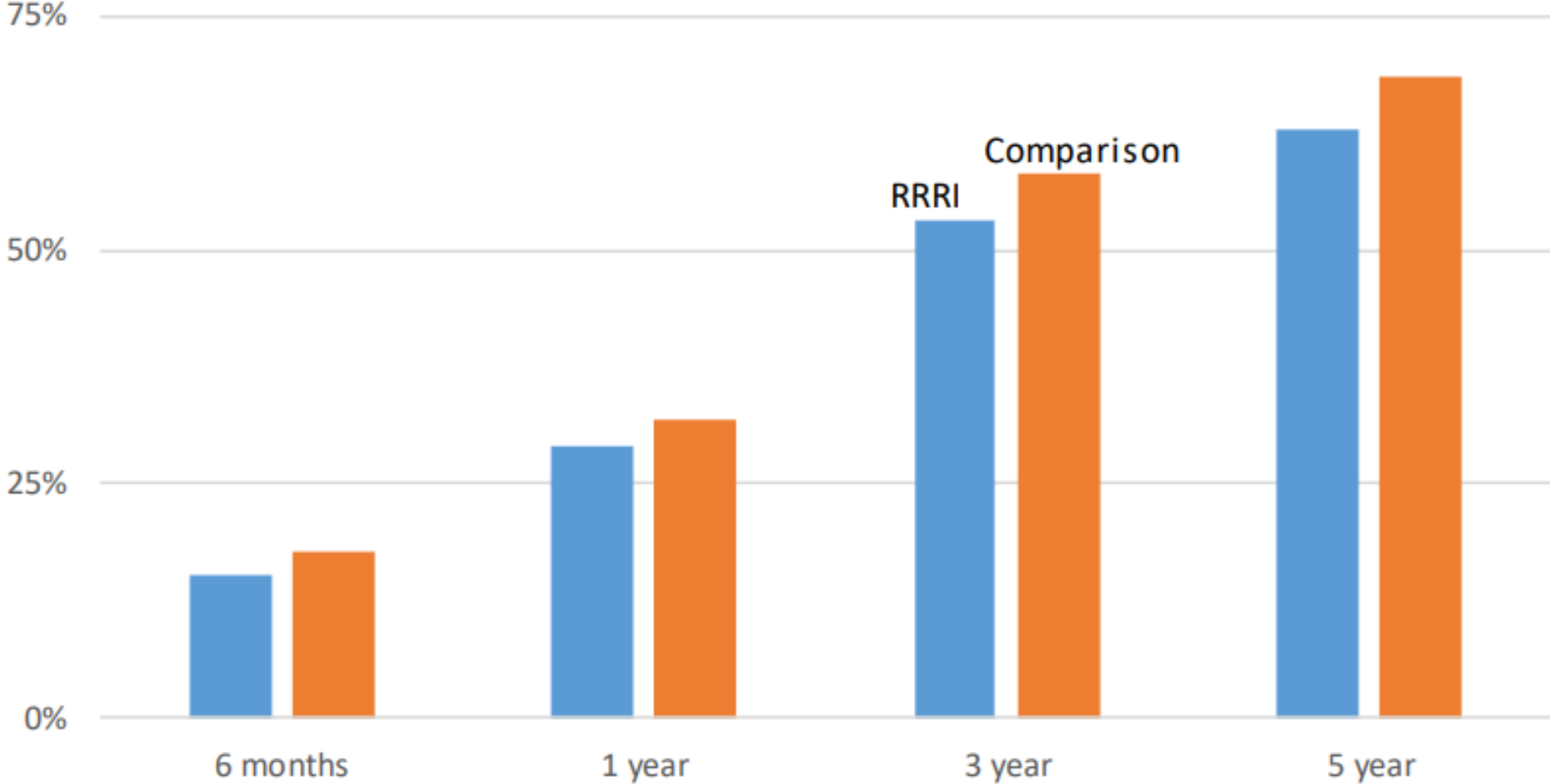
Evaluation of State Intermediate Punishment (SIP)/State Drug Treatment Program -- 2020
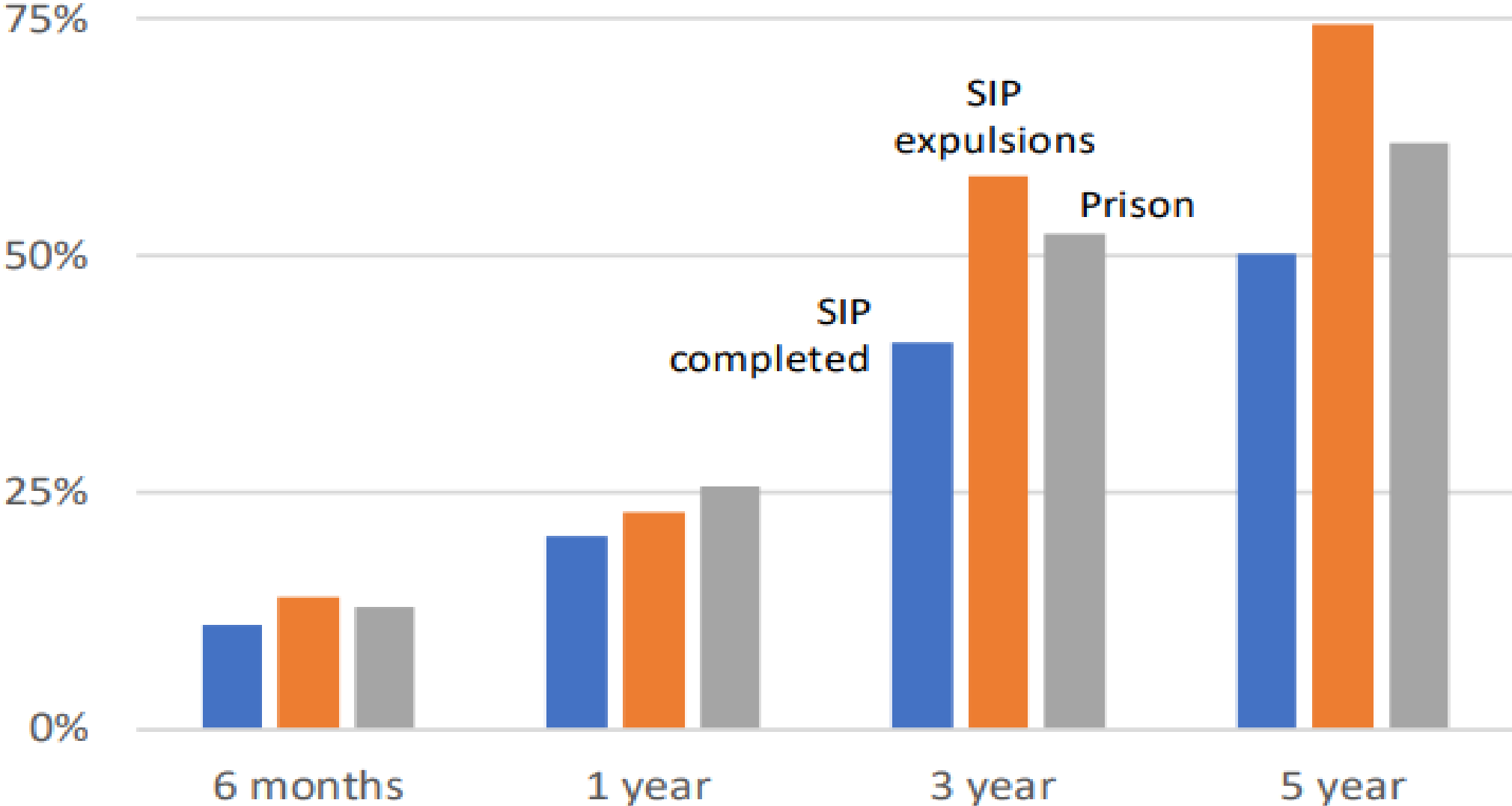
Evaluation of Short Sentence Parole (SSP) -- 2023

Kaplan–Meier survival estimates

Legend:
- SSP (blue dashed)
- Comp (red dashed)
- DOC (green dashed)
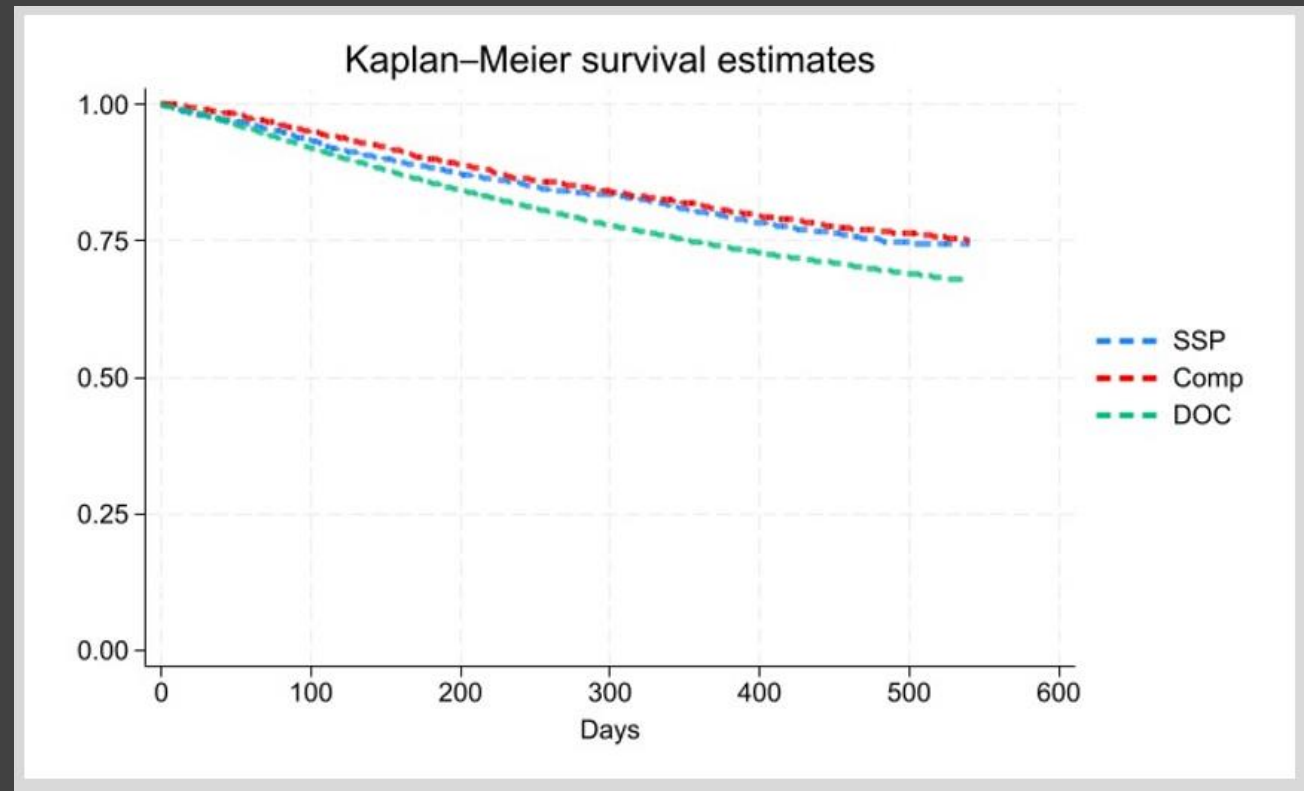
Recidivism Rate (New Arrest Leading to Conviction)

Time	SSP Participants		DOC Comparison Group		All DOC Releases ('19-'20)	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
6 Months	1,508	12%	2,541	10%	23,694	14%
12 Months	1,116	22%	2,433	19%	23,694	26%
18 Months	711	29%	2,289	25%	23,694	32%

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TESTIMONY OF

DAVE SUNDAY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, YORK COUNTY

JOHN ADAMS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BERKS COUNTY

GREG ROWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PDAA

JUNE 20, 2023

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

EXAMINING CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS AND TRENDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Thank you Chairman Laughlin and members of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon about crime and public safety, and to be joined by so many impressive partners and colleagues within the criminal justice system throughout Pennsylvania.

The testimony we are submitting identifies some of the major issues we see throughout the Commonwealth. During the hearing, we hope to expand on some of these issues, discuss them in greater detail, and to answer any of your questions.

At the outset, it is clear that so many individuals are increasingly concerned about crime and public safety. Indeed, government's core function is to keep people safe, and without public safety, there is little else. That does not mean that everyone necessarily sees eye to eye on every facet of the system, that solutions are easy to identify and implement, or there are singular solutions to our myriad of challenges with regard to public safety.

But what we would like to do during this hearing is to identify what we and our colleagues are seeing throughout Pennsylvania and to be able to provide some context and detail about these challenges. When we meet with and speak to our prosecutor colleagues across Pennsylvania about what we all face, many common themes arise. In no particular order, we would like to identify them for you:

- Recruitment and Retention: Put simply, attracting and perhaps more important retaining good prosecutors is harder and harder. This is a nationwide problem. Attend a National District Attorney's Association Conference, and one of the most common discussions you will hear is about this problem in rural, urban and suburban counties throughout the country. The same problem exists here. To be sure, the workforce challenges are not unique to prosecutors. Our police and public defenders are experiencing it; our juvenile justice, substance use disorder, and behavioral health systems are struggling with the same issues. Being a prosecutor is not easy, takes an emotional toll, is not particularly well-paying (which is especially challenging with the student loans that so many young law student graduates have) and requires one to be in the office most days. But the Commonwealth benefits when practitioners in the

courtroom are experienced. Unfortunately, we are seeing less and less of this.

- Online Crimes: Just about everyone is online, which means that the opportunity for online crimes has and continues to increase. And the sophistication of those who commit these crimes continues to increase. Online crimes include child exploitation, cyberbullying, and financial fraud. Vulnerable individuals, such as kids and the elderly, as often targets of these crimes. Addressing these crimes typically requires more and more sophistication and resources by law enforcement, in large part because the criminal activities of the perpetrators has become more widespread and more sophisticated.

- Investigatory Resources: One of the most common frustrations we hear from our colleagues is about the lack of resources related to investigations involving narcotics, as well as the challenges related electronic device extractions. With regard to the latter, remember that investigative information — from drug trafficking to child exploitation — is so often contained in cell phones. Being able to access information contained in cell phones is absolutely critical. The same analysis applies to information stored on computers as well. With regard to investigations, when our labs take longer to turn around their results for investigations (including drug trafficking and firearms cases), justice can be delayed or even denied.

- Behavioral Health: A significant number of inmates in county and state prisons suffer from behavioral health and substance abuse issues, and often from both. The behavioral health needs of those involved in the criminal justice system need to be better addressed. And, indeed, the behavioral health needs of those with challenges need to be addressed before they become involved in the criminal justice system. This is one of the most critical challenges we face, and it is one of the most difficult as well. Our correctional facilities should not be the largest behavioral health treatment facilities, and significant and hard work must be done to change where we are headed.

- <u>Narcotics</u>:   Trafficking of serious and deadly drugs continues. No one needs to remind any of you about the fentanyl crisis we face. No one needs to remind any of you about how crafty dangerous dealers and manufacturers are. We appreciate that the Department of Health recently temporarily scheduled xylazine as a Schedule III drug. This is not the last time that the Department will need to identify and schedule new and equally dangerous substances. We must continue to treat those with substance use disorder. We must continue to invest in treatment courts and alternatives to incarceration for those who cannot break the addiction cycle. And simultaneously we must stop those traffickers who pollute our communities with deadly drugs.

- <u>Firearms Crimes</u>: You are all likely aware of the proliferation of firearms crimes across Pennsylvania. These crimes are no longer relegated to our larger or even mid-size counties. Even smaller more rural counties are experiencing gun violence and gun traffickers. The increase of these cases puts even more pressure on our crime labs, whose results in these cases are central in achieving justice. It is also worth noting that many of us have seen an increase in juveniles possessing and even using illegal guns.

- <u>Juvenile detention beds:</u> There are simply not enough available beds in our juvenile justice facilities. There are many reasons for this crisis, which makes achieving solutions more difficult. It is certainly a workforce issue. In so many areas, while there is enough physical space, there are not enough individuals working in the facilities, meaning fewer individuals can be placed here. These individuals are so often high-risk individuals and/or have been adjudicated of significant crimes that placement in these out-of-home facilities is necessary. We also know that in the Western part of the Commonwealth, as well in Northeastern Pennsylvania, there is a shortage of facilities. Solutions here will require significant work and collaboration among all stakeholders, both state and local.

- <u>Thefts</u>: Catalytic converter thefts are up. They are often sold to scrap metal dealers. This crime can absolutely disrupt an individual and families. Due to the rapid increase in thefts, there is a shortage of parts available for

necessary repairs, with some people losing use of their vehicles for a significant amount of time. This affects the ability to drive to work, medical appointments, or to drive one's kids to school.

Thank you for your invitation to appear before you, and we hope that our identification of these issues is helpful. During the hearing, we look forward to discussing many of these issues in more detail.

Written Testimony of

Jodi Lobel, *Chief of Staff*

Office of the Attorney General

June 21, 2023

Members of the Senate:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for the work you have undertaken to address crime and violence in Pennsylvania. The Attorney General appreciates your consideration of our past comments. Today, I would like to highlight some of the trends that we are seeing around the state that both deserve and require critical attention and workable solutions to help us achieve public safety.

Juvenile Crime and Social Media

Recognizing that juvenile crime has been on the rise, we need to do all we can to hold individuals accountable for increasingly violent acts. As you are aware, our Gun Violence Task Force does tremendous work. Sadly, we have seen startling examples of juveniles who have access to firearms, access to advanced weaponry, and access to social media on which they brag about their guns and the crimes they have committed, knowing full well that the consequences for those illegal acts may be minimal.

I'd like to share a few examples of cases our GVTF has handled in the past 12 months to illustrate my point: A juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm by a minor on July 1, 2022. Juvenile Probation conducted a probation enforcement action at this juvenile's residence after they saw him on Instagram in possession of a gun with an extended magazine. GVTF agents executed a search warrant at his residence and recovered 3D printers, other tools necessary to produce Poly 80 ghost guns, a complete Poly 80 pistol with an obliterated serial number, multiple Poly 80 lower receivers and slides, and Glock switches.

An 18 year old was on Philadelphia Juvenile Probation supervision at the time of his arrest for an adjudication of "minor in possession of a firearm." E.S. is a known member of a gang and was a suspect in at least two separate Philadelphia homicides. Analysts observed E.S. on Instagram in possession of a semi-automatic firearm with a full auto switch inside his probation-

approved address. Agents executed a search warrant and recovered a revolver, fired cartridge casings, drug paraphernalia, and 50 oz. of cocaine. E.S.'s father was also present at the time of the search warrant execution, and he was also found to be a person not permitted to possess firearms. E.S. stated that he bought the recovered firearm from someone on the street in Kensington.

Three juveniles were arrested on November 1, 2022 in a stolen car. One was heard on a recorded prison call threatening to bring a gun to his high school. Agents observed a video of him on Instagram Live where he was in possession of a semiautomatic handgun and a large amount of cash. While the video was being filmed, agents located the three juveniles in a stolen car in NE Philadelphia. One had an active arrest warrant for robbery at the time. The car was searched, and marijuana, cash, packaging material, and paraphernalia were recovered from the stolen car. Agents found a key fob on one of the juvenile's person during a search incident to arrest which corresponded to a Kia Fore that was also stolen.

Nineteen year old S.R. was arrested by GVTF agents on July 13, 2021 when GVTF executed a search warrant at his residence and found a handgun and marijuana. He is prohibited from possessing firearms due to an adjudication of delinquency for Felony Aggravated Assault. Agents located the individual who likely straw purchased the recovered gun, and seized two other firearms from the straw purchaser on August 9, 2022.

Eighteen year old J.T. was arrested on July 7, 2022 for shooting a firearm indiscriminately in the air on July 4, 2022. After observing a video of the incident on Instagram, agents responded to the area and recovered FCCs (fired cartridge casings) on the block. On July 7, 2022, members of the GVTF, US Marshals, and Philadelphia Police Department executed a search warrant at J.T.'s residence and recovered a Taurus 9mm handgun, a .44 special revolver w/ an obliterated serial number, and various magazines and ammunition.

These examples are just a small representation of the types of cases we're seeing, and unfortunately, they are pervasive. After reviewing them, it is easy to see why a lot of arguments begin on social media and then escalate in real life to serious violent incidents because of the staggering number of easily-available firearms.

Social Media

In terms of social media in general, we are seeing harm to kids manifest in many ways, and in scope. The dangers of social media include not only the brazen showing of guns, drugs, and money, but also encourage bullying, dangerous "challenges," and unsafe, illegal or anti-social behaviors. Social media causes mental health issues for our children, including depression, anxiety, self-worth issues, and in some cases, suicide.

Student safety

Safe2Say launched in January, 2019. This statewide program enables students, teachers, school administrators and others to detect and report potential threats of violence and additional student safety issues before they happen. The Safe2Say reporting system has received more than 109,459 tips and calls from across PA (figure as of March, 2023). Last school year there was a 250% increase in calls from the previous year. The OAG crisis center processes the tips and thousands have been referred to local law enforcement and school officials for follow up.

While Safe2Say is one of OAG's many solutions-oriented efforts to address violence, particularly in schools, as you can see from the increase in calls, the trend across PA is that more students and adults are utilizing the system, which we hope ultimately will help to prevent elevated incidents of violence. This burst in calls for help or to report potentially perilous situations spotlights the extraordinary need for Trauma-Informed training for law enforcement and Trauma-Informed care for students.

Other issues that contribute to crime and violence in PA

Drugs / Opioids

Addressing the heroin, fentanyl, and opioid crisis from every angle has been an ongoing priority for the past several years. In addition to investigations and arrests through our Bureau of Narcotics Investigation, we are involved in three types of task forces – OAG controlled, DA controlled, and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force for multi-county cases. These task forces combat violence driven by narcotics trafficking. Trends we are seeing include increased seizures of fentanyl and more unregulated or unscheduled drugs used in mixtures.

To address substance abuse disorders: LETI (Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative) launched in 2018 partnering with county DAOs and local police to help establish pathways to

treatment without risk of arrest. More than 25 counties have begun LETI programs. By investing in treatment alternatives for substance abusers, the criminal justice system can better focus on arresting the traffickers and violent offenders.

Retail Theft

Statewide, we are grappling with organized retail theft chains, where perpetrators steal items or pre-activated gift cards from stores and re-sell the stolen merchandise for profit. Retail theft in general impacts businesses, closes businesses, and dilutes the quality of life in our cities, counties, and neighborhoods. The trend we see is the effects of the closures in all types of retail stores, especially low-dollar stores and convenience stores that keep early and late hours, which cascade into abandoned store fronts, loss of jobs, increased crime and general despair among inner city residents.

Guns – Adults

Our Gun Violence Section (GVS) has been operational in Allegheny County since 2019. In 2022, PA had the 27th highest rate of gun violence in the nation with 2851 shootings, 924 killed, and 2589 injured. Also last year, there were 71 homicides in Pittsburgh, a 39% increase over the 51 homicides in 2021. In 2022, in all of Allegheny County, there were 122 homicides. 80% of the additional 51 countywide victims were black. The gun violence epidemic continues to ravage our state, no matter how many resources we dedicate to stopping it. The number of illegal guns, innocent victims, and unrelenting fear and trauma to our communities continues to rise each year.

In conclusion, as a statewide agency, we are seeing trends in crime and violence shifting in the wrong direction, and we appreciate the opportunity to discuss these observations more fully with a mutual goal of strategizing to increase public awareness and public safety.

David Splain
President
Chief of Police
Nether Providence

Michael Vogel
2nd Vice President
Chief of Police
Allegheny County Housing Authority

Patrick Molloy
4th Vice President
Chief of Police
Abington Township

Examining Criminal Justice Statistics and Trends in Pennsylvania

Law enforcement faces numerous challenges in their efforts to maintain public safety and uphold the law. There is a public expectation that officers extend themselves in an effort to reduce crime. When we Politicize and demonize their efforts sends the wrong message: that message is that they're the problem. As a consequence, many are quitting or leaving their jobs. Recruitment is down considerably. Some have suggested that unqualified or underqualified officers are taking their place. Violent crime is increasing. Juvenile crime is an issue. Guns and drugs are an issue. Children are being traumatized. Jobs are being lost. People and businesses are leaving our urban centers. There should be a furore over this injustice. The concept of justice is not isolated to policing. This is an issue that is also rooted in: employment, opportunity, education, mental health services, social services, substance abuse – recovery services, state and local budgets and civility.

 Today we would like to focus on a few of those Issues:

- Violent Crime
- Juvenile Crime
- Officer Recruitment and Retention
- Bail Reform
- "Meet-Ups"
- Officer Wellness

Violence

In the last two years, our country has become less safe, both for the average American and for our law enforcement officers. This year's FBI data regarding line of duty deaths paints the picture. The number of attacks on law enforcement officers in 2022 reflects a 50 percent increase from the previous year. In 2021, we had over 340 police officers shot. In 2022, over 330, and this year we've already had 100. This year the State

has lost 4 police officers in the Commonwealth to gun violence. With the proliferation of firearms in the hands of offenders and with most being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and/or having mental health or emotional issues, police contacts and arrests can become dangerous without warning. There's no criminal accountability without arrests. We may disagree on how we got here. But we should all agree that we need to do more to support law enforcement and ensure that they can safely carry out their mission.

Juvenile Crime

The estimated number of youth arrests for violent crime, which includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault, has declined since the mid-2000s. By 2020, the number of violent crime arrests involving youth reached a new low, 78% below the 1994 peak, and half the number 10 years earlier. Males accounted for 80% of all youth arrests for violent crimes in 2020, but their share of murder (92%) and robbery (88%) arrests was much greater. Youth ages 16–17 accounted for more than half (55%) of all youth arrests for violent crime but accounted for 76% of all youth arrests for murder. Juvenile crime has continued to rise since our 2020 low.

As crime continues to plague citizens in our cities large and small, violent crimes involving juveniles continues to make headlines and frustrate elected leaders and law enforcement. Teens simply are not deterred from crime because of the light consequences that have become the new norm in many areas.

In response to teen violence, some have blamed police staffing shortages that critics say were made worse by the Defund the Police movement, progressive bail, and criminal justice reforms, as well as teens scoffing at authorities for young people's brazen acts of violence, often in broad daylight. In Philadelphia one constant for juvenile offenders arrested for violent crimes was that many had prior arrests for carjacking or gun crimes. Some attributed that to policies that release suspects back onto the streets after they are arrested, allowing them to re-offend with little-to-no consequences. Juvenile offenders need to be held accountable, but in age-appropriate ways that address the cause of their behavior. A bigger police presence would curb some of the juvenile violence, a difficult task given police staffing shortages coupled with recruiting and retention problems.

Recruitment and Retention

Law enforcement executives research studies indicate that 78% of responding agencies had difficulty recruiting qualified candidates, and 75% felt that recruiting challenges were worse than they had been five years earlier. The same survey found that generational differences in preferences

for work-life balance, challenges in the hiring process, and the public's image of law enforcement were all perceived as affecting the profession's challenges in recruiting. Echoing similar findings, a report by the Police Executive Research Foundation (PERF) found that 63% of agencies reported a decrease in the number of applicants for open police-officer positions relative to five years earlier.

With a diminished pool of job applicants comes the attendant difficulty in hiring. A recent workforce survey by PERF found that hiring within medium- and large-sized police departments had decreased by 29% and 36%, respectively, over prior years. We have observed the impact this is having on suburban and rural agencies in the Commonwealth. Equally troubling has been the difficulty in keeping officers within the workforce after recruiting, training, and deploying them into the field of service. PERF found that the two most common reasons given for an officer's decision to separate from a police agency were to seek a job at another department, followed closely by the desire to pursue other work entirely outside of the law enforcement profession.

The continuing crisis in police officer recruitment and retention will further exacerbate rising crime rates and the attendant social dysfunction that accompanies it unless police departments and local communities commit to reversing course and adopting policies that incentivize qualified individuals to seek and sustain employment within the law enforcement profession.

Bail Reform

The reality of crime has long been that it's a phenomenon driven mostly by a relative handful of individuals in a given jurisdiction. That's just as, if not more, true for serious violent crime, Almost invariably, when you read or hear a story about a serious violent crime — especially a shooting or homicide — the suspect will be reported as having a lengthy criminal history or an active criminal justice status (like parole, probation, or pretrial release). This is hardly a new development; and it's certainly not unique to Pennsylvania.

By using data to inform everything from police resource deployment to pretrial release and sentencing decisions, we have it in our power to be more precise in how we do criminal justice, reserving the sharpest edges of the system for those who pose the greatest risks to their communities. This would allow us to reap the benefits associated with the incapacitation of the most chronic offenders without having to impose so many burdens on those who aren't threats. But our ability to do this has been hampered by reform efforts aimed at de-policing and de-incarceration.

Repeatedly, we see [crime drivers] get second and third chances while repeatedly demonstrating an unwillingness to correct their criminal behavior. We are calling on lawmakers to make the necessary changes to give police, judges, and prosecutors the tools they need to keep our communities safe. This request is echoed by police executives, public safety advocates and concerned citizens across our State. The question is: Will our elected officials listen?

Public Safety – "Meet-Ups"

The popularity and visibility of illegal street racing known as "meetups," "takeovers" or "slide shows" — where participants shut down public streets to spin doughnuts or perform other stunts with souped-up vehicles and ATV's is on the rise. We have all seen the reports of large blocking the roadway for illegal street racing and stunts. In our urban areas and in some of the surrounding collar communities we are seeing incidents where a sizable number of vehicles illegally block the roadways, while others are doing burnouts and drifting, as a large crowd of spectators watched.

Recently a series of takeover events across the city of Philadelphia and was promoted online under the slogan "Philly vs Everyone," featuring tricked-out cars, fireworks, and even one man with a flame thrower device. There have been reports of violence and death. Locations are shared on the day of to minimize the time understaffed police have to organize a response.

Communities are being impacted by illegal street racing and its dangerous and deadly nature.

Illegal street racing includes the following behaviors:

• Large groups or gathering of vehicles meeting up in public areas, parking lots, or warehouses who, as a group, plan, and race to the next meetup location

• Modifications of vehicles designed to increase the vehicle's speed, sound, and appearance and/or traveling in large groups on the roadways, creating traffic issues, and driving at high rates of speed

• Squealing of tires, revving of engines, and loud exhaust that can be heard from miles away community is impacted by illegal street racing and its dangerous and deadly nature.

We acknowledge that police presence and strict enforcement efforts alone cannot, and have not, solved this issue. We are seeking modifications to The Commonwealths Vehicle Code to strengthen illegal street racing vehicle seizure laws, not only in Philadelphia but all communities as and are explore other enforcement

strategies and techniques which curtail street racing. We believe these changes are part of the larger scope of work to address street racing.

Officer Safety and Wellness

Law enforcement officers face physical risks and psychological stress in their daily duties. The need to address officer safety through training, equipment, and appropriate staffing levels is crucial. Additionally, ensuring officers' mental health and well-being is essential to maintain their effectiveness and prevent issues like burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Scott L. Bohn

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

For/

Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee
Public Hearing Examining Criminal Justice Statistics and Trends in Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Written Testimony Submitted by Mike Pennington, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)

Created by Act 274 of 1978, PCCD is an administrative commission of the Governor's Executive Offices. Our mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems; to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime; and to increase the safety of our communities.

PCCD is responsible for the administration of millions in federal and state dollars in grants to state and local justice agencies, victim service providers and children's advocacy centers, non-profit organizations, and school entities. The agency is also responsible for administering the state's victim's compensation program, as well as for the training and certification of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables. The Commission also has duties relative to the analysis of criminal justice statistics, which is performed by PCCD's Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPD) in partnership with an in-house research team contracted through the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

For the most part, PCCD is not the primary repository of the data elements that we analyze. ORESPD/IUP will pull down publicly available criminal justice or juvenile justice data from other state agencies or municipalities. We also submit data requests to the PA State Police (PSP), Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), PA Department of Corrections (DOC), PA Sentencing Commission (PSC), Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4), Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), and other relevant criminal justice entities to conduct trend analyses and recidivism research. Typically, we present these findings via reports, infographs, or interactive dashboards. A full listing of our research efforts to date can be found on our website at www.pccd.pa.gov.

In 2019, ORESPD/IUP staff utilized federal grant funding to develop and publish a comprehensive Crime Trends Report, which analyzed Uniform Crime Report (UCR) offense, arrest, and victimization data from PSP; courts and sentencing data from AOPC and PCS; and information on state prisoners, parolees, and probationers from DOC and the PA Board of Parole (Parole). Ideally, PCCD would like to recreate this report in the future, and we are looking forward to the more robust analysis of crime data that will be available as more law enforcement agencies shift to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

In the meantime, IUP staff has recently prepared a 10-year (2013-2022) statewide-level criminal data offense trend report utilizing publicly available criminal offense data sourced from PSP's UCR system (see attachment).[1] Based on that data set, the total number of criminal offenses reported by law enforcement has declined 24.3% over the past decade, but we would note that Part 1 Offenses (e.g., violent offenses) have risen by 18% from 2020 to 2022. Most notably, the offenses of murder/manslaughter have seen a 76.9% increase from 2013 to 2022; motor vehicle thefts have increased 54.9%; and possession/carrying a weapon have increased 83%. Burglary, robberies, arson, drug sale and manufacturing, DUIs, vandalism, and drug possession have all decreased during this same time period.

If there are any questions regarding the report, or PCCD's research in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 717-265-8461 or mpenningto@pa.gov.

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[1] Please note that this data is self-reported by law enforcement agencies and as such we would defer to PSP as to the accuracy of the information reported.

CRIME IN PENNSYLVANIA

OFFENSE STATISTICS & TRENDS OVER 10 YEARS, 2013-2022

Prepared for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)
By Robert Orth, Ph.D., Charles Gartside, & Lindsay Vaughan, J.D., of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)
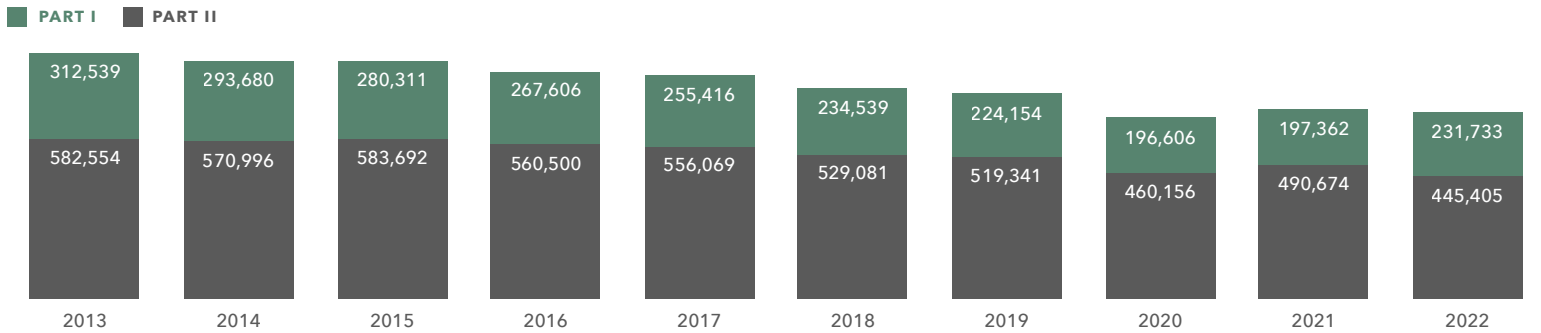
ABOUT THE REPORT

In June 2023, publicly-available criminal offense data was sourced from the Pennsylvania State Police's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The report details offense statistics, rates, and trends generated from the UCR data to provide a summary of crime occurring in Pennsylvania over a 10-year timeframe (2013-2022).

KEY TAKEAWAYS from the report

- In 2022, 677,138 offenses occurred in Pennsylvania, a 24.3% decrease over 10 years from 895,093 in 2013.
- Part I Offenses account for approximately one-third of all offenses, but have decreased at a slightly greater rate (-26%) than Part II Offenses (-24%) over the past 10 years. However, Part I Offenses have risen by 18% from 2020 to 2022.
- In 2022, there were 5,220 crimes per 100,000 persons, down from 7,004 in 2013.

Criminal Offenses By Year & Type, 2013 to 2022

PART I PART II

Year	Part I	Part II
2013	312,539	582,554
2014	293,680	570,996
2015	280,311	583,692
2016	267,606	560,500
2017	255,416	556,069
2018	234,539	529,081
2019	224,154	519,341
2020	196,606	460,156
2021	197,362	490,674
2022	231,733	445,405

Total Offenses & Percentage of Offense Type

Offenses	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All Offenses	895,093	864,676	864,003	828,106	811,485	763,620	743,495	656,762	688,036	677,138
Part I %	34.9%	34.0%	32.4%	32.3%	31.5%	30.7%	30.1%	29.9%	28.7%	34.2%
Part II %	65.1%	66.0%	67.6%	67.7%	68.5%	69.3%	69.9%	70.1%	71.3%	65.8%

Change in Crime Over 3, 5, & 10 Year Timeframes

ALL PART I PART II

+3% (ALL, 3-Year)
+18% (PART I, 3-Year)
-3% (PART II, 3-Year)
-11% (ALL, 5-Year)
-1% (PART I, 5-Year)
-16% (PART II, 5-Year)
-24% (ALL, 10-Year)
-26% (PART I, 10-Year)
-24% (PART II, 10-Year)

3-Year ('20-'22)   5-Year ('18-'22)   10-Year ('13-'22)
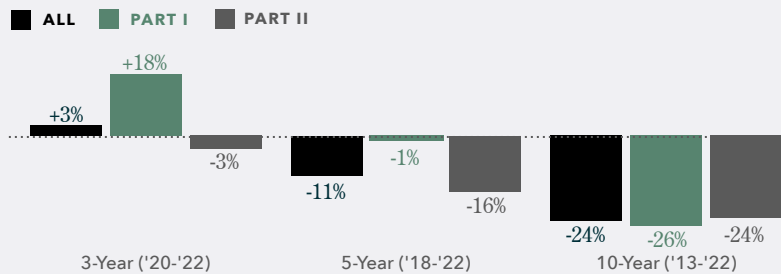
	3-Year			5-Year		10-Year
Offenses	'14 - '16	'17 - '19	'20 - '22	'13 - '17	'18 - '22	'13 - '22
All Offenses	-4.2%	-8.4%	3.1%	-9.3%	-11.3%	-24.3%
Part I	-8.9%	-12.2%	17.9%	-18.3%	-1.2%	-25.9%
Part II	-1.8%	-6.6%	-3.2%	-4.5%	-15.8%	-23.5%

Offense Rate (Per 100,000 Persons)

ALL PART I PART II

Year	ALL	PART II	PART I
2013	7,004	4,558	2,446
2014	6,759	4,464	2,296
2015	6,755	4,564	2,192
2016	6,475	4,383	2,093
2017	6,344	4,348	1,997
2018	5,970	4,136	1,834
2019	5,812	4,060	1,752
2020	5,051	3,539	1,512
2021	5,305	3,783	1,522
2022	5,220	3,434	1,786
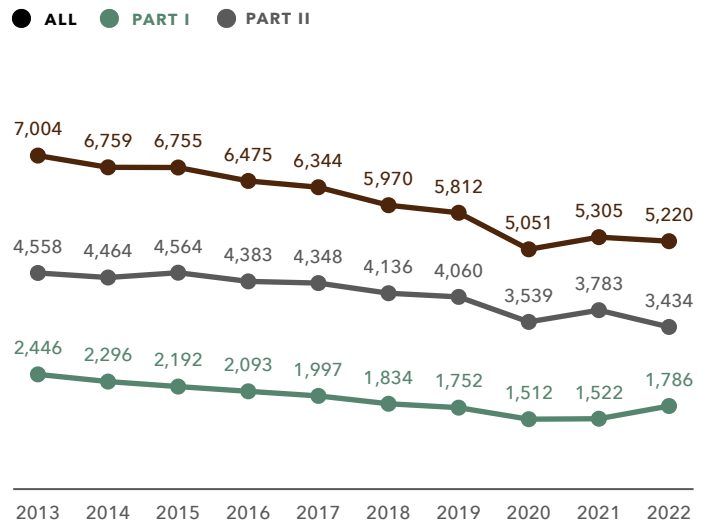
Categorically-Grouped Offense Statistics

Offense Categories	No. of Offenses 2013	No. of Offenses 2022	% of Offenses 2013	% of Offenses 2022	Change 10-Year	Rate (Per 100k) 2013	Rate (Per 100k) 2022
Drugs	57,622	40,281	6.4%	5.9%	-30.1%	451	311
DUI	49,880	37,222	5.6%	5.5%	-25.4%	390	287
Property	408,224	313,304	45.6%	46.3%	-23.3%	3,194	2,415
Public Order	250,479	160,166	28.0%	23.7%	-36.1%	1,960	1,235
Violent	123,160	115,680	13.8%	17.1%	-6.1%	964	892
Weapons	5,728	10,485	0.6%	1.5%	83.0%	45	81

2022 OFFENSES

13% Other
17% Violent
46% Property
24% Public Order
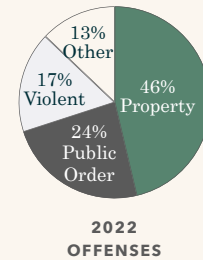
In 2022, Property, Public Order, and Violent offenses comprised 87% of all offenses.

Notable Part I Violent Offense Statistics & Trends Over 10 Years

Murder/Manslaughter
631 → 1,116
76.9% increase from 2013 to 2022

Rape
3,935 → 3,794
3.6% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Robbery
14,855 → 8,941
39.8% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Assault (Aggravated)
23,769 → 22,467
5.5% decrease from 2013 to 2022
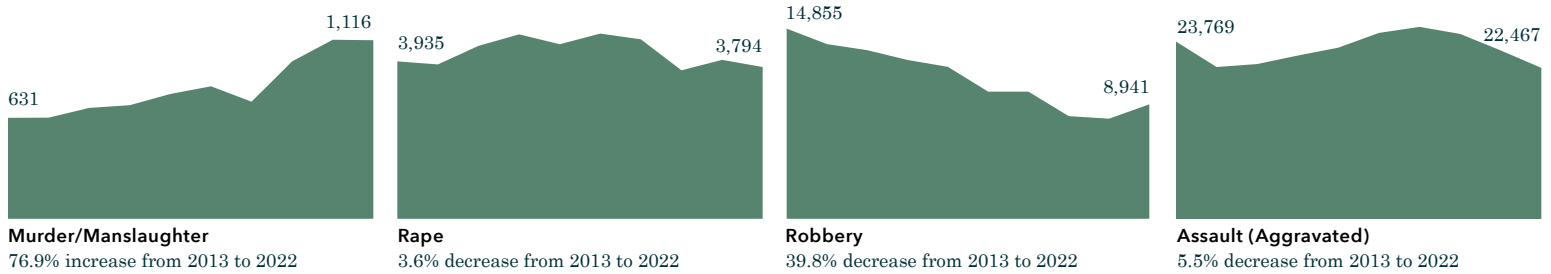
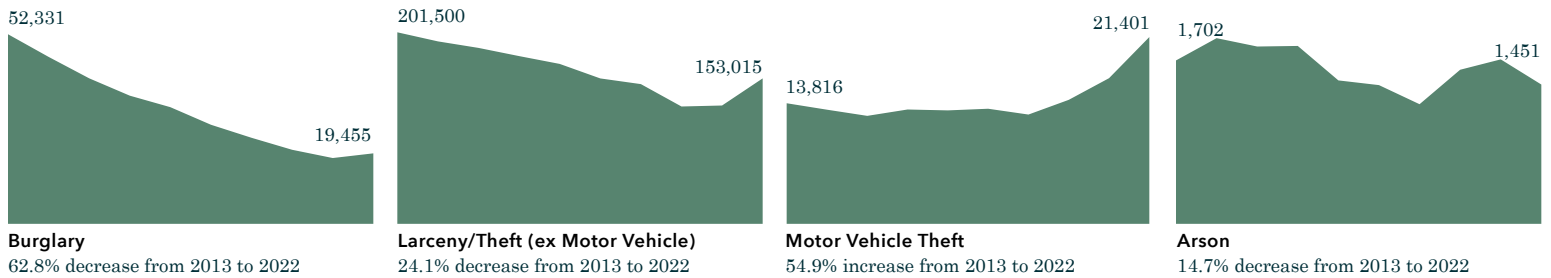## Notable Part I Property Offense Statistics & Trends Over 10 Years

Burglary
52,331 → 19,455
62.8% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Larceny/Theft (ex Motor Vehicle)
201,500 → 153,015
24.1% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Motor Vehicle Theft
13,816 → 21,401
54.9% increase from 2013 to 2022

Arson
1,702 → 1,451
14.7% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Offenses	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	3-Year Change '14-'16	3-Year Change '17-'19	3-Year Change '20-'22	5-Year Change '13-'17	5-Year Change '18-'22	10-Year Change '13-'22
Part I Offenses																
Murder	613	614	666	675	744	783	703	924	1,035	1,012	9.9%	-6%	9.5%	21.4%	29.2%	65.1%
Manslaughter	18	18	27	35	36	45	29	60	84	104	94.4%	-19%	73.3%	100.0%	131.1%	477.8%
Rape	3,935	3,859	4,323	4,611	4,364	4,630	4,486	3,712	3,973	3,794	19.5%	3%	2.2%	10.9%	-18.1%	-3.6%
Robbery	14,855	13,647	13,172	12,407	11,872	9,934	9,932	8,021	7,821	8,941	-9.1%	-16%	11.5%	-20.1%	-10.0%	-39.8%
Assault, Aggravated	23,769	22,509	22,656	23,077	23,468	24,197	24,495	24,145	23,330	22,467	2.5%	4%	-6.9%	-1.3%	-7.1%	-5.5%
Burglary	52,331	46,082	40,164	35,379	32,200	27,348	23,749	20,439	18,163	19,455	-23.2%	-26%	-4.8%	-38.5%	-28.9%	-62.8%
Larceny/Theft	201,500	191,939	185,081	176,469	168,240	152,970	146,993	123,449	124,487	153,015	-8.1%	-13%	23.9%	-16.5%	0.0%	-24.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	13,816	13,078	12,371	13,100	12,998	13,187	12,521	14,206	16,689	21,401	0.2%	-4%	50.6%	-5.9%	62.3%	54.9%
Human Trafficking	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	45	67	92	–	–	104.4%	–	–	–
Arson	1,702	1,934	1,847	1,853	1,494	1,445	1,246	1,605	1,713	1,451	-4.2%	-17%	-9.6%	-12.2%	0.4%	-14.7%

Part I Offense Rates (100,000 Persons)

Part I Offenses	Offense Rate 2013	Offense Rate 2022
Murder/Manslaughter	5	9
Rape	31	29
Robbery	116	69
Assault, Aggravated	186	173
Burglary	409	150
Larceny/Theft	1,577	1,180
Motor Vehicle Theft	108	165
Human Trafficking	–	<1
Arson	13	11

KEY TAKEAWAYS from the report

- Violent offenses have decreased by 6% since 2013. However, in 2022 they comprised a greater proportion of all offenses (17%) compared to ten years earlier (14%).
- Broadly, most offenses have decreased in volume since 2013, with sharp downticks in notable offenses such as Burglary (-63%), Robbery (-40%), Drug Violations (-30%), and DUI (-25%).
- Offenses that have increased in volume include Murder/Manslaughter (+77%), Motor Vehicle Theft (+55%), Fraud (+43%), Sex Offenses (+5%), and Possessing/Carrying a Weapon (+83%).
- Since 2020, sharp rises in Thefts and Robbery have driven an 18% increase in Part I Offenses.

Part II Offense Rates (100,000 Persons)

Part II Offenses	Offense Rate 2013	2022	Part II Offenses	Offense Rate 2013	2022	Part II Offenses	Offense Rate 2013	2022
Assault, Not Aggravated	626	611	Prostitution/Comm. Vice	16	4	Liquor Law	127	32
Forgery/Counterfeiting	52	37	Sex Offenses	65	67	Drunkennes	200	92
Fraud	328	462	Drug Sale/Manufacture	148	70	Disorderly Conduct	637	368
Embezzlement	7	10	Drug Possession	303	240	Vagrancy	14	36
Buy/Rec. Stolen Property	25	20	Gambling	2	2	Other (Non Traffic)	854	585
Vandalism	674	382	Off. Against Fam/Child	45	50			
Possess/Carry Weapon	45	81	Driving Under Influence	390	287			

Notable Part II Offense Statistics & Trends Over 10 Years

Assault (Not Aggravated)
79,970 ... 79,270
<1% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Fraud
41,934 ... 59,885
42.8% increase from 2013 to 2022

Vandalism
86,133 ... 49,511
42.5% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Possess/Carry Weapon
5,728 ... 10,485
83.0% increase from 2013 to 2022

Drug Sale/Manufacture
18,887 ... 9,137
51.6% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Drug Possession
38,735 ... 31,144
19.6% decrease from 2013 to 2022

DUI
49,880 ... 37,222
25.4% decrease from 2013 to 2022

Sex Offenses
8,283 ... 8,671
4.7% increase from 2013 to 2022

Offenses	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	3-Year Change '14-'16	'17-'19	'20-'22	5-Year Change '13-'17	'18-'22	10-Year Change '13-'22
Part II Offenses																
Assault, Not Agg.	79,970	79,070	80,855	79,320	79,010	79,109	78,789	72,210	76,858	79,270	0.3%	-0%	9.8%	-1.2%	0.2%	-0.9%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	6,689	6,512	7,115	6,499	654	5,662	5,835	3,913	3,829	4,790	-0.2%	792%	22.4%	-90.2%	-15.4%	-28.4%
Fraud	41,934	50,530	56,313	56,720	54,601	52,793	49,106	47,335	88,495	59,885	12.3%	-10%	26.5%	30.2%	13.4%	42.8%
Embezzlement	941	972	1,039	1,036	1,138	1,051	1,012	689	1,010	1,265	6.6%	-11%	83.6%	20.9%	20.4%	34.4%
Buy/Rec. Stolen Property	3,178	2,955	3,049	3,161	2,948	2,774	2,571	2,652	2,524	2,530	7.0%	-13%	-4.6%	-7.2%	-8.8%	-20.4%
Vandalism	86,133	76,782	74,695	72,778	68,378	58,713	56,013	54,011	51,629	49,511	-5.2%	-18%	-8.3%	-20.6%	-15.7%	-42.5%
Possess/Carry Weapon	5,728	6,673	6,870	8,034	7,761	7,891	8,451	10,078	11,864	10,485	20.4%	9%	4.0%	35.5%	32.9%	83.0%
Prostitution/Comm. Vice	2,032	2,179	1,840	1,830	1,736	1,218	1,274	538	354	462	-16.0%	-27%	-14.1%	-14.6%	-62.1%	-77.3%
Sex Offenses	8,283	8,130	9,077	8,529	8,937	9,441	9,829	8,528	8,444	8,671	4.9%	10%	1.7%	7.9%	-8.2%	4.7%
Drug Sale/Manufacture	18,887	18,622	18,248	17,146	17,280	16,324	15,846	12,325	10,836	9,137	-7.9%	-8%	-25.9%	-8.5%	-44.0%	-51.6%
Drug Possession	38,735	39,085	39,171	43,037	47,698	47,965	46,355	42,446	36,415	31,144	10.1%	-3%	-26.6%	23.1%	-35.1%	-19.6%
Gambling	214	148	179	124	134	137	151	290	443	231	-16.2%	13%	-20.3%	-37.4%	68.6%	7.9%
Off. Against Fam/Child	5,777	5,659	7,366	7,972	8,382	9,159	8,833	7,763	7,308	6,468	40.9%	5%	-16.7%	45.1%	-29.4%	12.0%
Driving Under Influence	49,880	49,398	49,135	48,919	47,865	45,537	44,677	35,359	38,388	37,222	-1.0%	-7%	5.3%	-4.0%	-18.3%	-25.4%
Liquor Law	16,266	14,735	12,552	11,451	10,659	8,382	7,649	4,606	4,390	4,189	-22.3%	-28%	-9.1%	-34.5%	-50.0%	-74.2%
Drunkennes	25,613	25,159	24,062	22,376	22,076	20,432	19,018	12,429	13,251	11,872	-11.1%	-14%	-4.5%	-13.8%	-41.9%	-53.6%
Disorderly Conduct	81,410	75,047	73,712	69,359	68,514	61,949	58,568	52,062	51,570	47,768	-7.6%	-15%	-8.2%	-15.8%	-22.9%	-41.3%
Vagrancy	1,730	2,034	2,551	1,643	1,677	1,694	1,627	1,427	2,450	4,634	-19.2%	-3%	224.7%	-3.1%	173.6%	167.9%
Other (Non Traffic)	109,154	107,306	115,863	100,566	100,721	98,850	103,738	91,495	80,616	75,871	-6.3%	3%	-17.1%	-7.7%	-23.2%	-30.5%