

Arkansas Justice Reinvestment Initiative

September 16, 2024

Legislative Recidivism Reduction Task Force Meeting



**Justice
Reinvestment
Initiative**
Arkansas

Overview

- 1** **Summary of Task Force Meetings**
- 2** **Crime**
- 3** **Arrests**
- 4** **Project Updates**

Summary of Task Force Meetings

1

Since August 2023, the Task Force has heard from a diverse range of experts.

DOC Leadership

- **Lindsay Wallace**, DOC Secretary
- **Dexter Payne**, Director of Division of Correction, DOC
- **Jim Cheek**, Director of Division of Community Correction, DOC
- **Tabrina Bratton**, Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation Administrator, DOC
- **Chad Brown**, Chief Financial Officer, DOC
- **Nicholas Stewart**, HR and Training Administrator, DOC

Data Systems Experts

- **Robin White**, eOMIS Project Manager, DOC
- **Robert McGough**, Chief Data Officer, AR Department of Transformation and Shared Services

Behavioral Health Programming

- **Aundrea Culclager**, Deputy Director for Health Services and Programs, DOC
- **Emma Hamer**, Rehabilitation Director, DOC
- **Jim Bell**, Prison Reentry Volunteer and Facility Owner, Re-Nu Life Center

Technical Assistance Providers

- **Nicole Jarrett**, Senior Policy Advisor, CSG Justice Center
- **Carl Reynolds**, Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, CSG Justice Center
- **Estrella Lopez**, Project Manager, CSG Justice Center
- **Michelle Rodriguez**, Deputy Program Director, CSG Justice Center
- **Michael Rushford**, President and CEO, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation
- **Elizabeth Berger**, Research Associate, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation

Several themes have emerged across presentations.



There is insufficient evidence-based programming available to meet the needs of individuals in the criminal justice system.



Without a mental health screening during intake, the current assessment is not sufficient or meaningful.



Staffing challenges, fueled by low pay, limit what DOC can do.



Data sharing can mitigate the silo effect between state agencies that serve overlapping populations.

Task force members have raised the following concerns.



The feasibility of funding better programming



Skepticism about risk assessments that rely on self-reporting



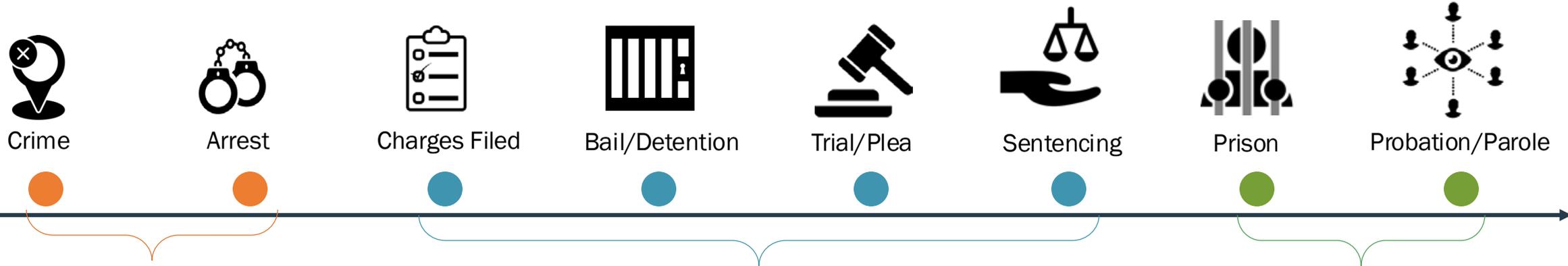
The need for more individualized and evidence-based approaches to sentencing, reentry, and supervision

How is this informing our work to find solutions?

CSG Justice Center staff are focused on the following:

- Evaluating program availability both in prisons and in the community to identify needs and gaps and help the task force develop effective solutions
- Analyzing the reentry process starting from intake to enhance support for people returning to the community, ultimately aiming to reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration
- Conducting focus groups with correctional leadership, correctional officers, and probation and parole staff to gain insights into their needs and challenges
- Identifying opportunities to break down silos and foster better collaboration

We are conducting a review of the criminal justice system, examining it from end to end.



- What types of crimes are most common in Arkansas?
- What crimes are being cleared through arrests in Arkansas?
- Are people on supervision driving violent crime trends in the state?

- What has changed in the disposition trends for felony charges over the last 10 years?
- How have sentencing patterns changed, if at all?
- What proportion of felony cases sentenced involve people with prior felony convictions?

- What types of behaviors or criminal activities are driving recidivism in Arkansas?
- How much of Arkansas's recidivism is driven by new criminal activity, including violent crime?

Today, we will be looking at the front end of the system.



Crime



Arrest



Charges Filed



Bail/Detention



Trial/Plea



Sentencing



Prison



Probation/Parole

- What types of crimes are most common in Arkansas?
- What crimes are being cleared through arrests in Arkansas?
- Are people on supervision driving violent crime trends in the state?

- What has changed in the disposition trends for felony charges over the last 10 years?
- How have sentencing patterns changed, if at all?
- What proportion of felony cases sentenced involve people with prior felony convictions?

- What types of behaviors and/or criminal activities are driving recidivism in Arkansas?
- How much of Arkansas's recidivism is driven by new criminal activity, including violent crime?

Here's a preview of how the data answers these questions.



Crime



Arrest



Charges Filed



Bail/Detention



Trial/Plea



Sentencing



Prison



Probation/Parole

- What types of crimes are most common in Arkansas?
- What crimes are being cleared through arrests in Arkansas?
- Are people on supervision driving violent crime trends in the state?



- Theft, assaults, and drug offenses
- Drug offenses result in arrests at much higher rates than crimes against people or property.
- People on supervision are responsible for a very small portion of violent crime.

Crime

2

The data in this presentation came primarily from two sources.

**National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) –
10 years of data**

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies for collecting and reporting data on crimes.

**Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) –
one year of data (2022)**

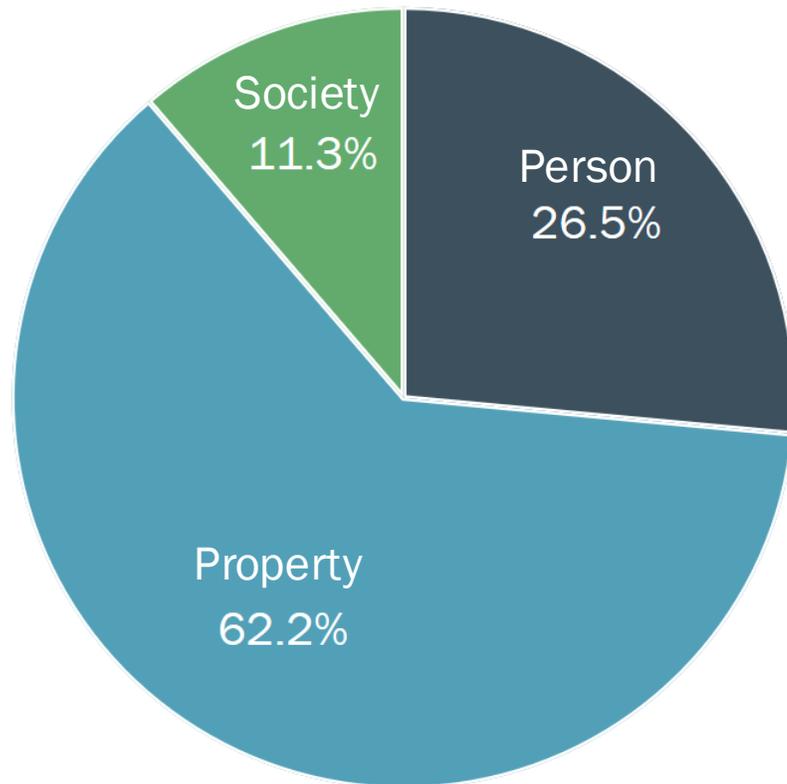
ACIC is the state agency responsible for providing information technology services to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies in Arkansas.

NIBRS reporting divides offenses into Groups A and B.

	Group A Offenses	Group B Offenses
	23 categories (52 specific crimes)	10 specific crimes + catchall
Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arson • Assault Offenses • Animal Cruelty • Bribery • Burglary/B&E • Counterfeiting/Forgery • Damage of Property • Drug/Narcotic Offenses • Embezzlement • Extortion/Blackmail • Fraud Offenses • Gambling Offenses • Homicide Offenses • Human Trafficking • Kidnapping/Abduction • Larceny/Theft Offenses • Motor Vehicle Theft • Pornography • Prostitution Offenses • Robbery • Sex Offenses • Stolen Property Offenses • Weapon Law Violations <p style="color: #c00000; text-align: center;"><i>Includes all incidents committed within a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad Checks • Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy • Disorderly Conduct • Driving under the Influence • Public Drunkenness • Nonviolent Family Offenses • Liquor Law Violations • Peeping Tom • Runaway * • Trespass of Real Property <p style="color: #c0c0c0; font-size: small;">* Runaway offenses are not technically crimes, and the FBI discontinued collecting data for runaways in 2011. However, some agencies still collect this information.</p> <p style="color: #c0c0c0; text-align: center;">For arrests that don't fall under one of these listed offenses, there is a "Group B - All Other Offenses" option that captures the remaining law enforcement activity.</p> <p style="color: #c00000; text-align: center;"><i>Only includes incidents with arrests</i></p>

Property crimes are almost twice as common as person and society crimes combined.

Reported Incidents by Type
2013-2022



Crimes against persons, e.g., murder, rape, and assault, are those whose **victims are always people**.

The object of **crimes against property**, e.g., robbery, bribery, and burglary, is to **obtain money, property, or some other benefit**.

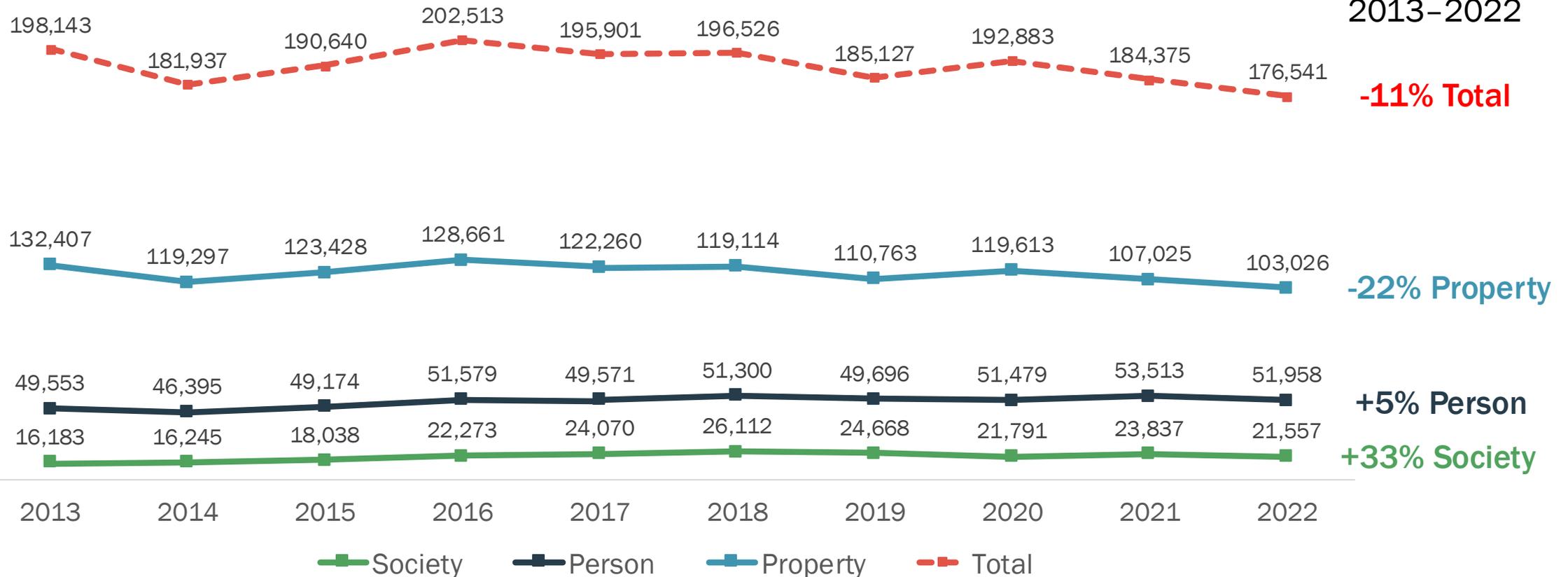
Crimes against society, e.g., gambling, prostitution, and drug violations, **represent society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity**; they are typically victimless crimes in which property is not the object.

CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>; U.S. National Incident-Based Reporting System, "Crimes Against Persons, Property, and Society", Accessed from https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2018/resource-pages/crimes_against_persons_property_and_society-2018.pdf

Crime has been declining over the past 10 years, driven by a drop in property crimes.

Reported Crime Incidents in Arkansas: 2013–2022

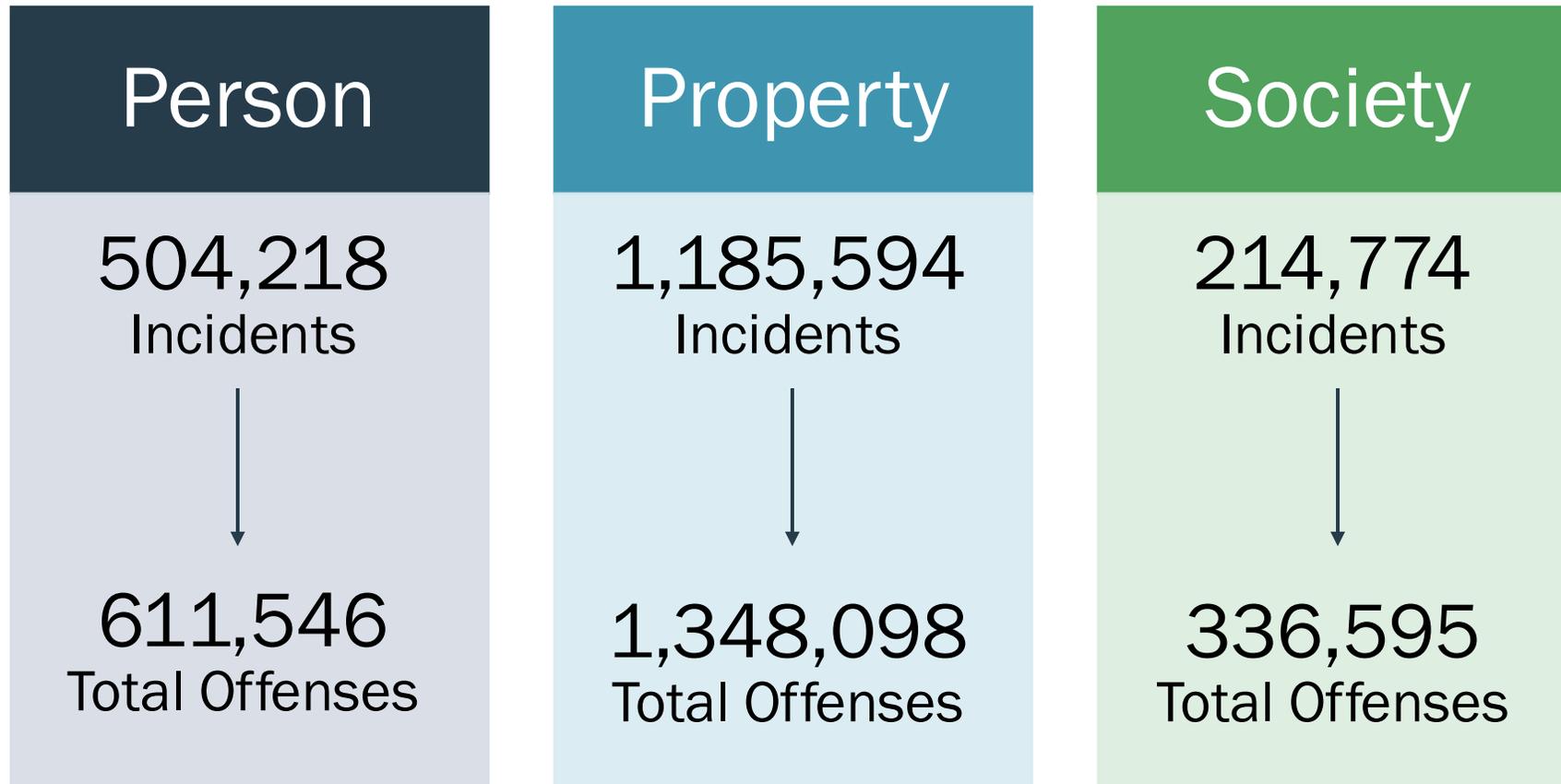
Percentage change from 2013–2022



CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

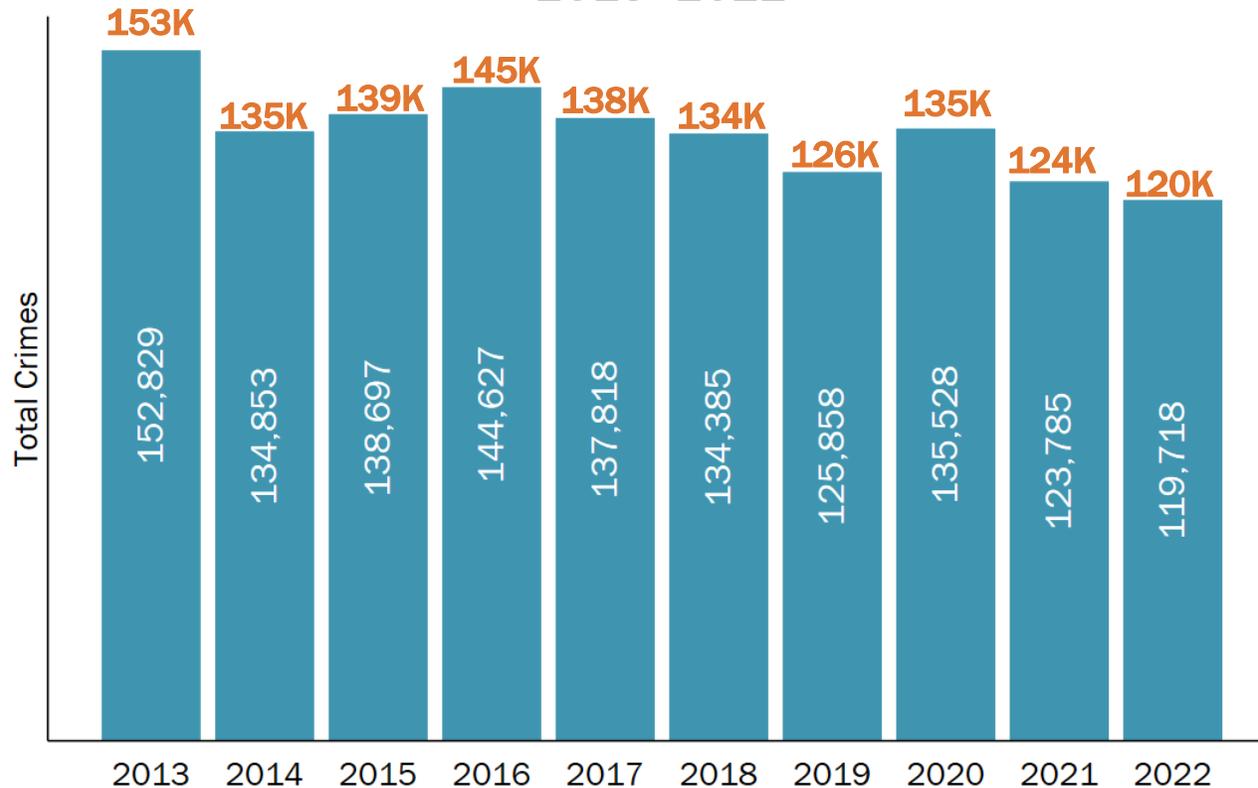
NIBRS allows one or more offenses to be reported for each incident of crime, leading to higher offense counts.

Reported Crime Incidents and Offenses in Arkansas: 2013–2022



The frequency of property crimes, including burglary and robbery, has consistently fallen over the past 10 years.

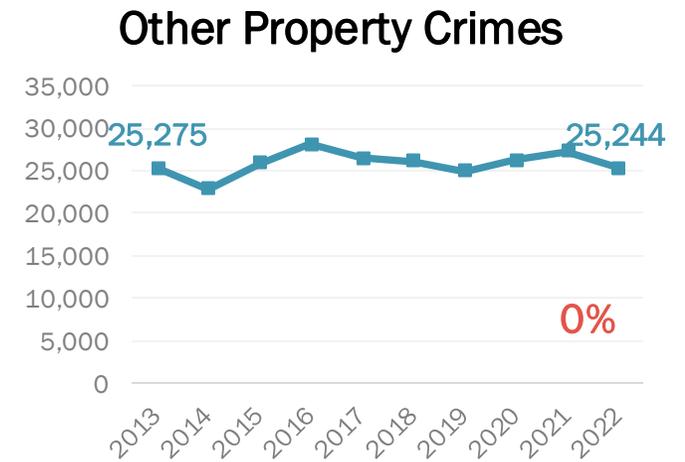
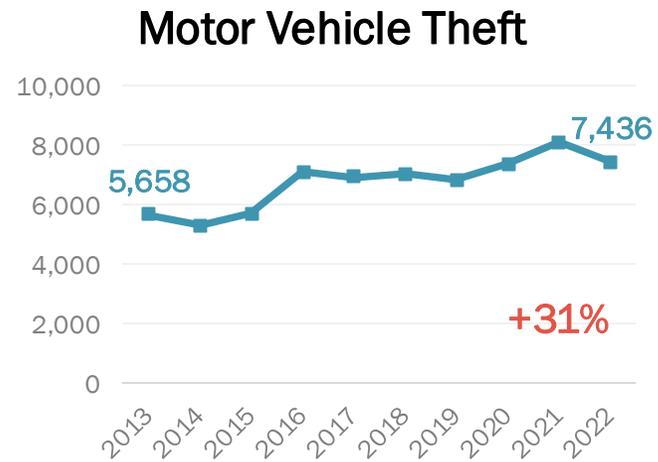
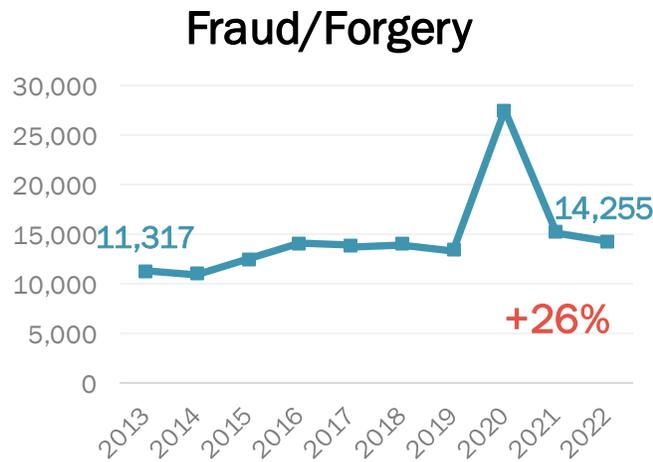
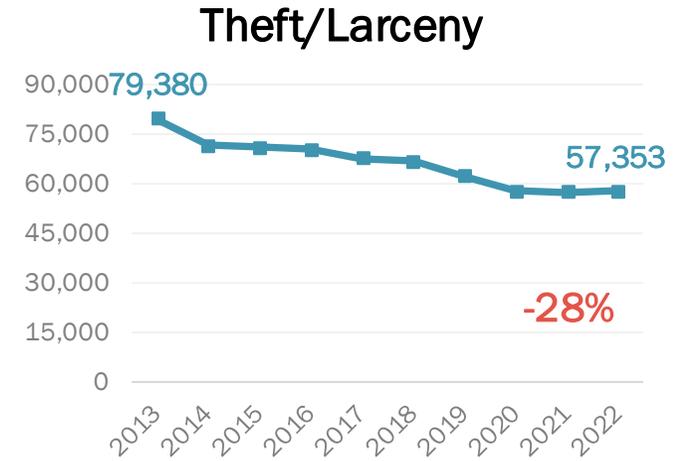
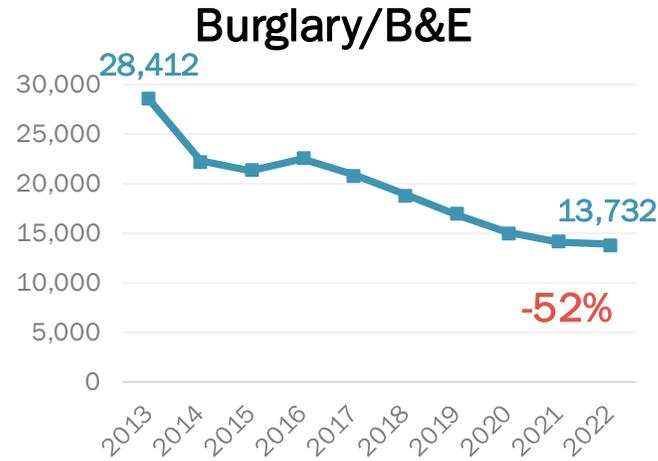
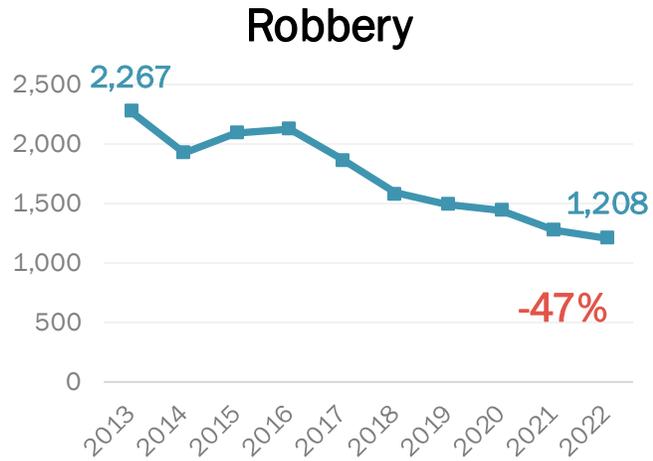
Total Crimes against Property
2013-2022



Type of Offense	10-Year Total	Percent
Robbery	17,258	1.3%
Burglary	193,504	14.4%
Theft/Larceny	659,487	48.9%
Forgery/Fraud	147,097	10.9%
Motor Vehicle Thefts	67,358	5.0%
Other Property Crimes	258,285	19.2%
Arson	5,109	0.4%
Total	1,348,098	

CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

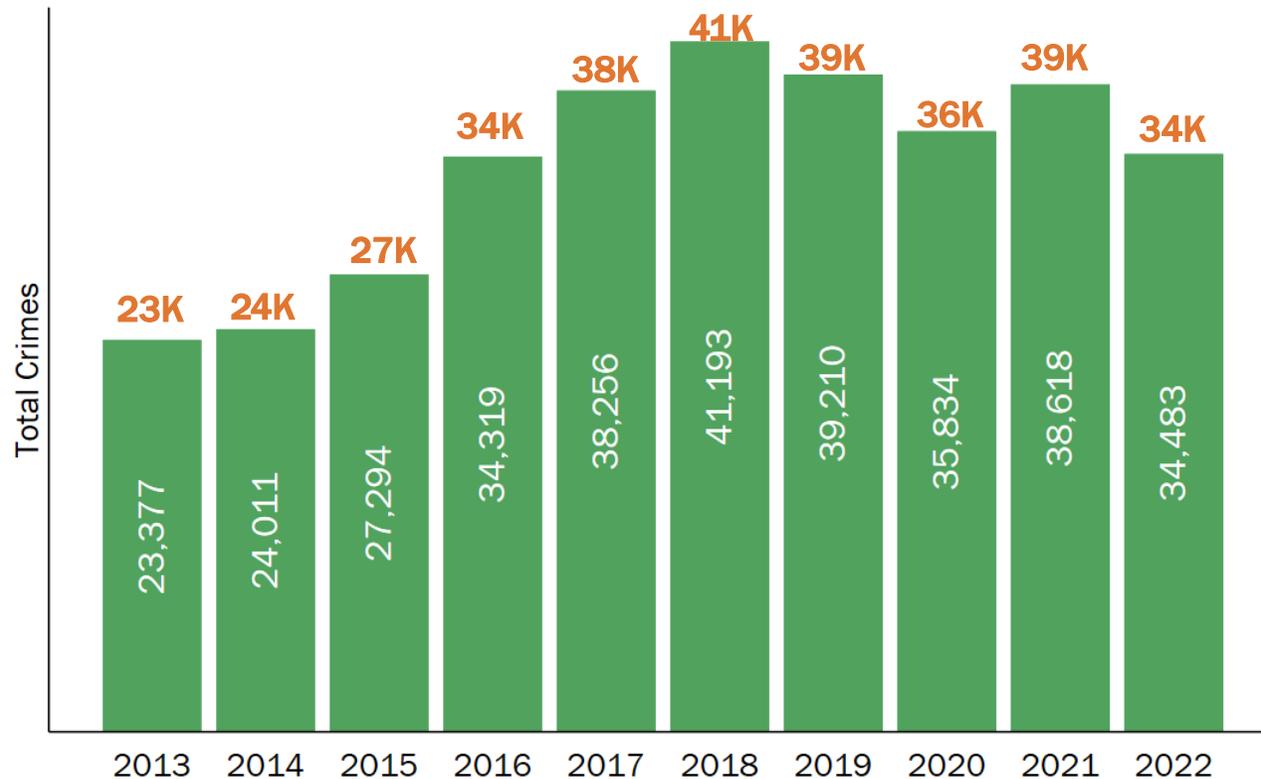
While individual trends have been mixed, overall property crimes are down, especially for robbery and burglary.



CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

Drug offenses comprise 90 percent of all crimes against society.

Total Crimes against Society
2013-2022

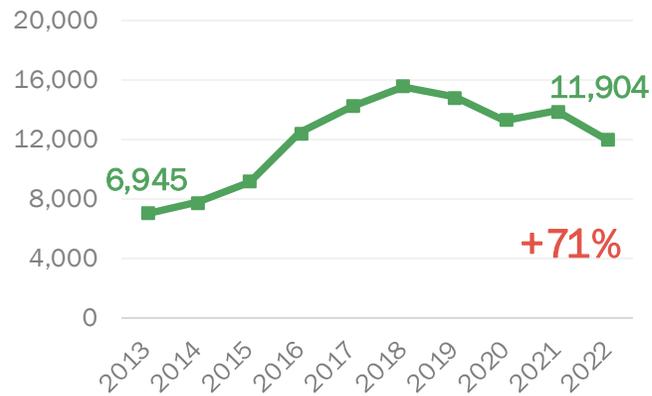


Type of Offense	10-Year Total	Percent
Drug Violation Offenses	181,883	54.0%
Drug Equipment Offense	119,449	35.5%
Weapons Offenses	29,504	8.8%
Other Society Offenses	5,759	1.7%
Total	336,595	

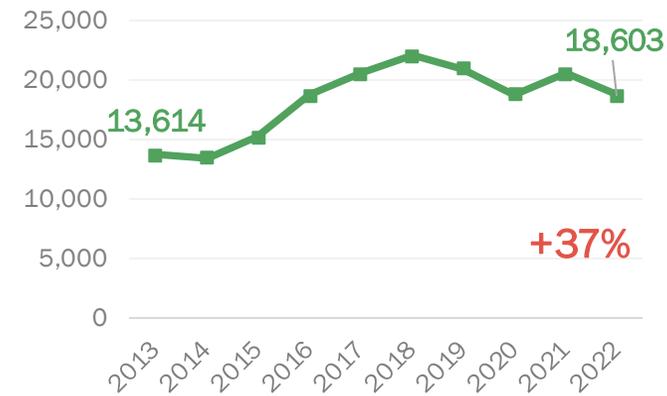
CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

All reported offenses involving crimes against society have increased over the past 10 years.

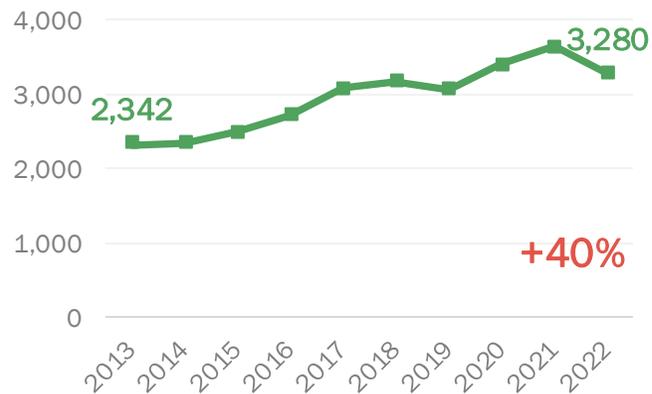
Drug Equipment



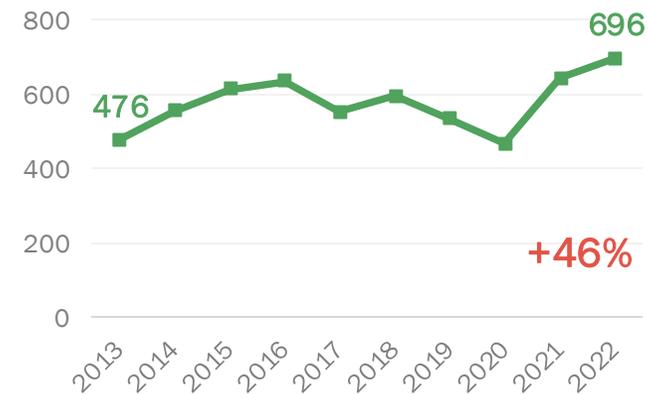
Drug Violations



Weapons Offenses



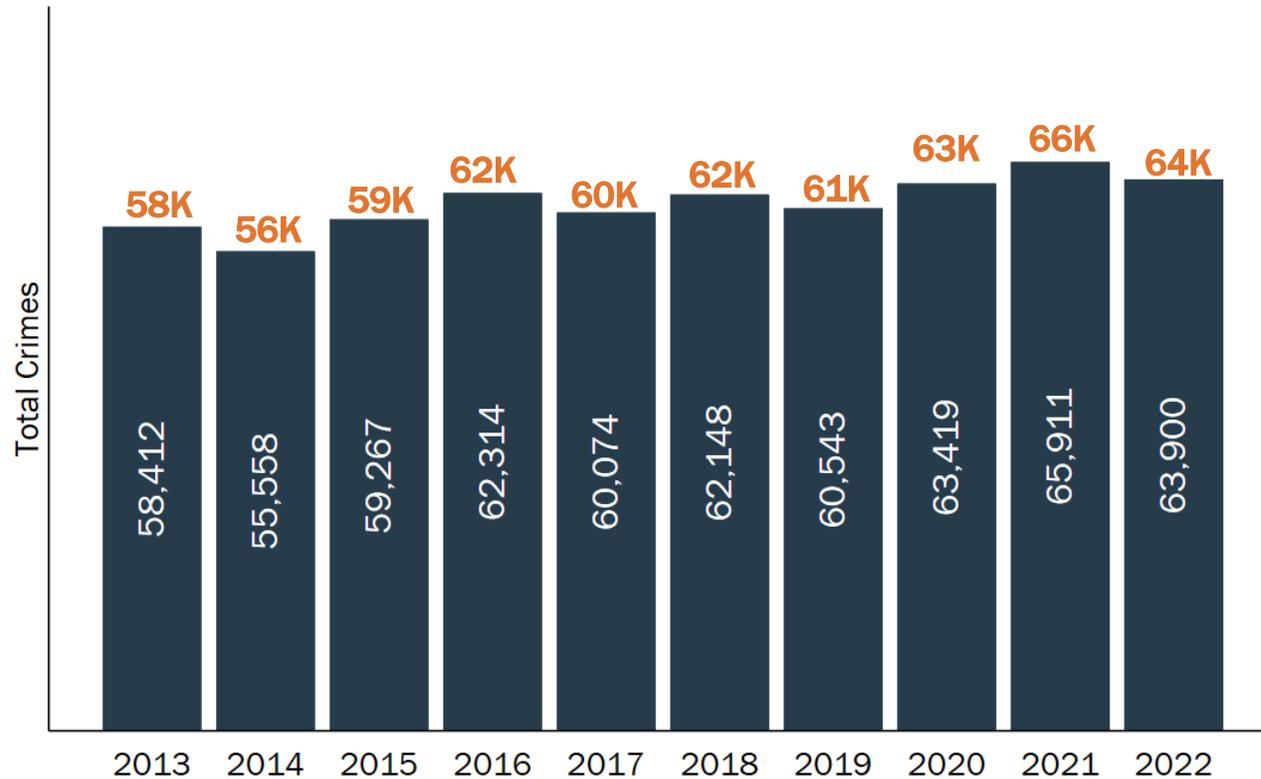
Other Society Crimes



CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

From 2013 to 2022, crimes against persons increased by approximately 9 percent, with the peak in 2021.

Total Crimes against Persons
2013-2022

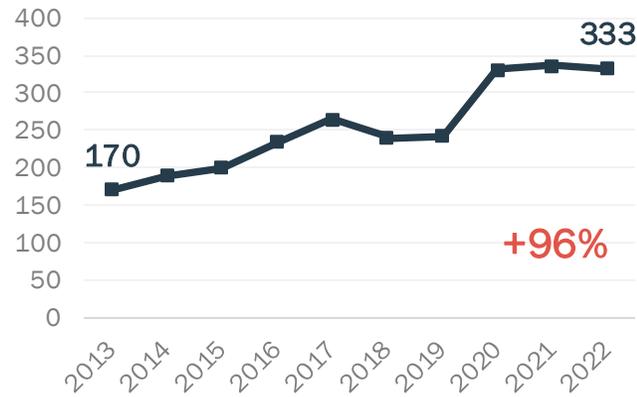


Type of Offense	10-Year Total	Percent
Homicides	2,541	0.4%
Sex Offenses	26,969	4.4%
Assaults – Aggravated	126,230	20.6%
Assaults – Simple	268,375	43.9%
Assaults – Intimidation	181,886	29.7%
Kidnapping	5,523	1.0%
Human Trafficking	22	0.0%
Total	611,546	

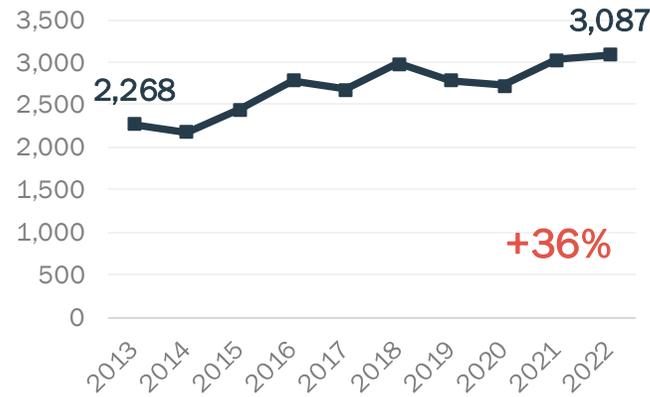
CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

Simple assaults are the only type of person crime that decreased over the past decade, but they make up 44 percent of that category.

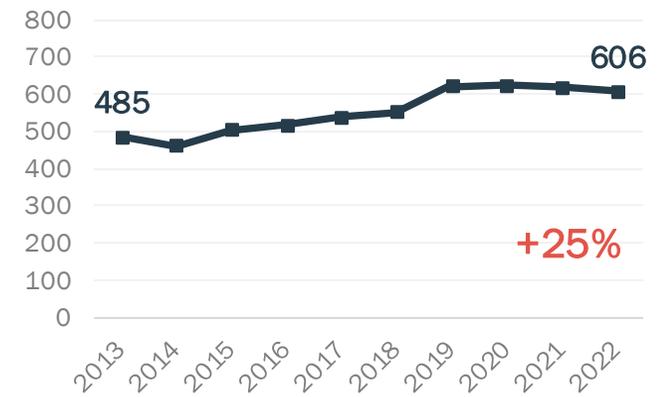
Homicides/Manslaughter



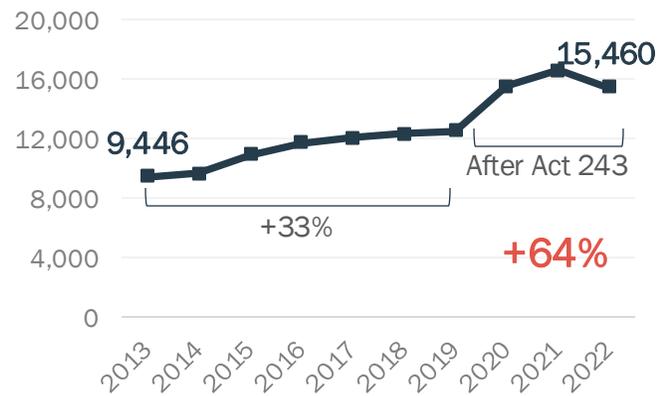
Sex Offenses



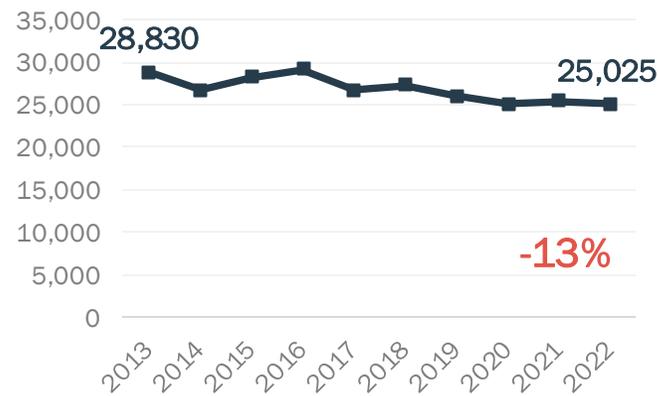
Kidnapping



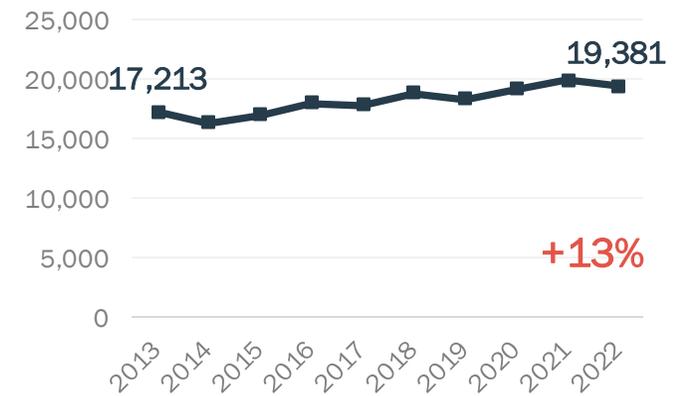
Aggravated Assaults



Simple Assaults



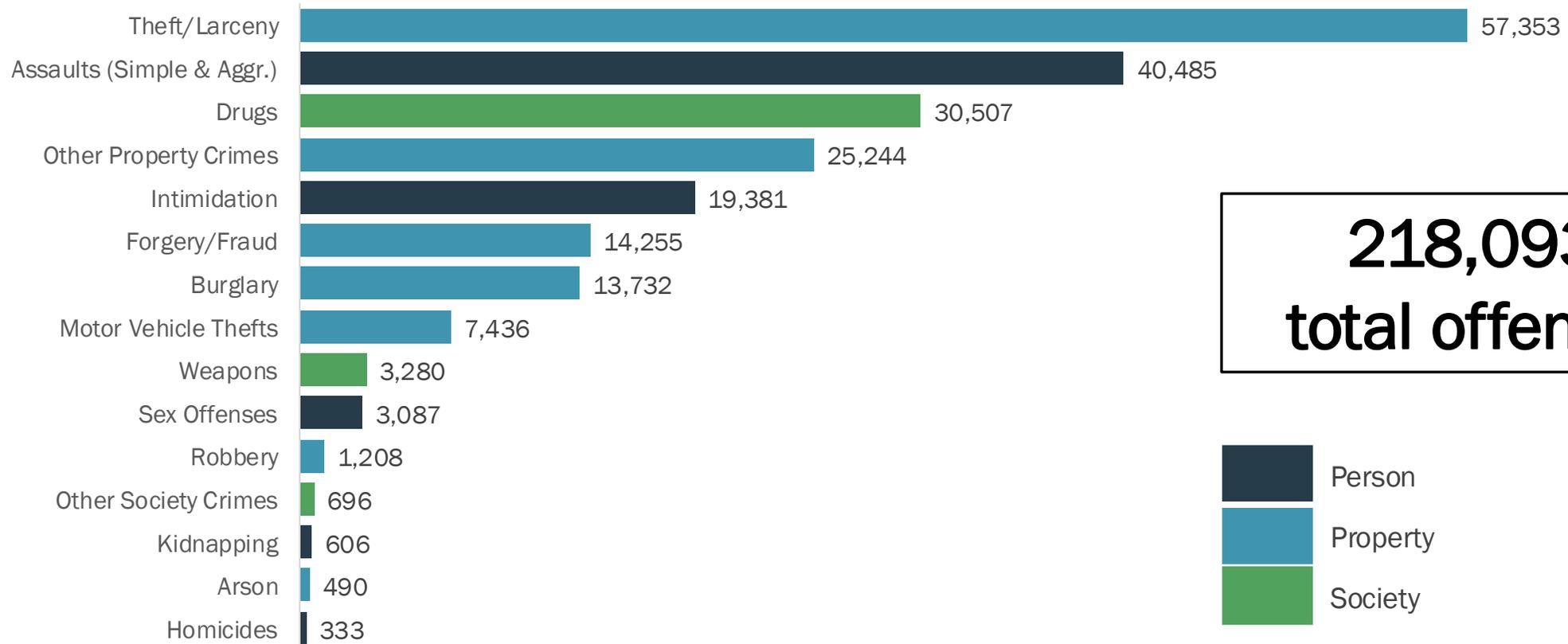
Intimidation



CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

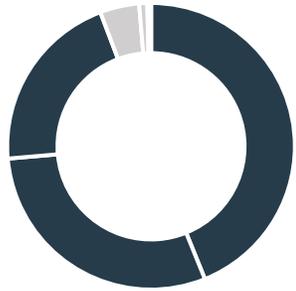
Theft is the most common type of crime reported in the state, followed by assault and drug offenses.

Offenses Reported in 2022

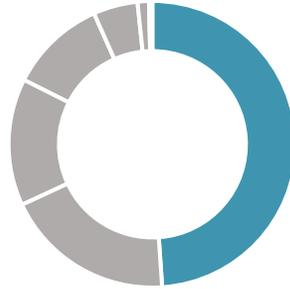


CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

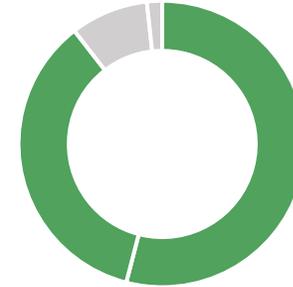
Summary from Crime Data Analysis



Assaults
make up
94%
of person crimes



Theft/Larceny
make up
49%
of property crimes



Drug Offenses
make up
90%
of society crimes



Overall *incidents* of crime have **decreased 11 percent** in the past 10 years driven by a 22 percent decline in property crimes.



Crimes against persons **increased 9 percent**, driven by an increase in all offense types in this category except simple assaults.



Crimes against society **increased 47 percent** although they make up the smallest volume of total incidents at 11 percent.

Arrests

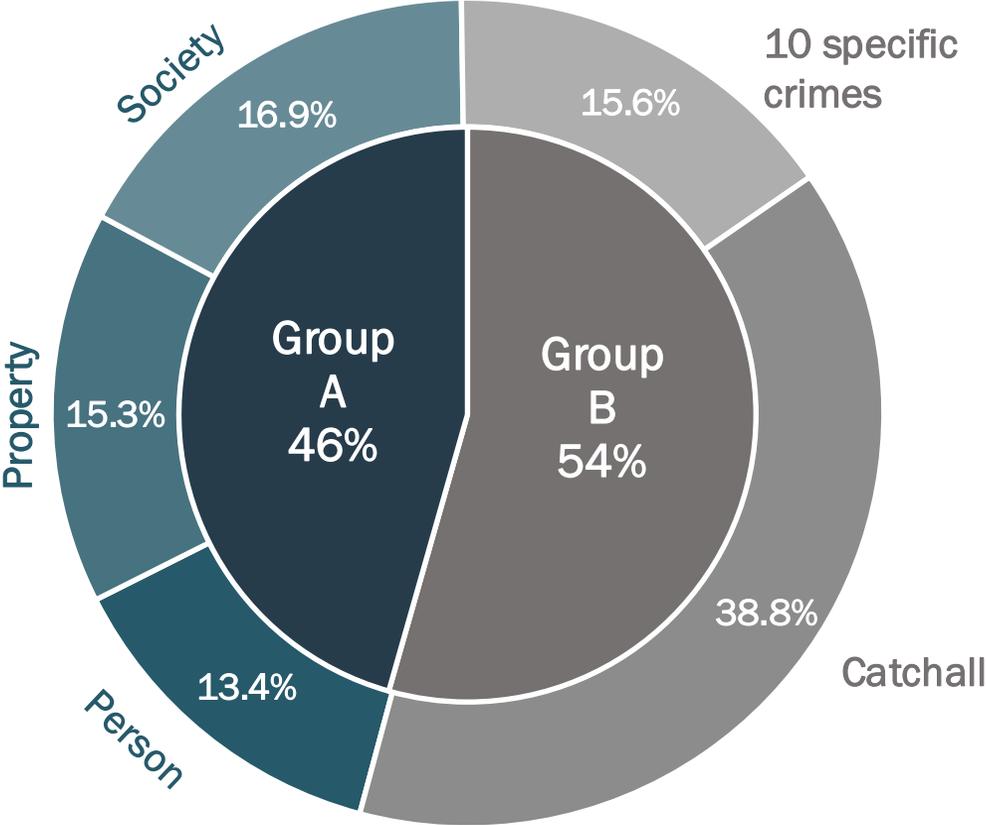
3

NIBRS reporting divides offenses into Groups A and B.

	Group A Offenses	Group B Offenses
	23 categories (52 specific crimes)	10 specific crimes + catchall
Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arson • Assault Offenses • Animal Cruelty • Bribery • Burglary/B&E • Counterfeiting/Forgery • Damage of Property • Drug/Narcotic Offenses • Embezzlement • Extortion/Blackmail • Fraud Offenses • Gambling Offenses • Homicide Offenses • Human Trafficking • Kidnapping/Abduction • Larceny/Theft Offenses • Motor Vehicle Theft • Pornography • Prostitution Offenses • Robbery • Sex Offenses • Stolen Property Offenses • Weapon Law Violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad Checks • Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy • Disorderly Conduct • Driving under the Influence • Public Drunkenness • Nonviolent Family Offenses • Liquor Law Violations • Peeping Tom • Runaway * • Trespass of Real Property <p>* Runaway offenses are not technically crimes, and the FBI discontinued collecting data for runaways in 2011. However, some agencies still collect this information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For arrests that don't fall under one of these listed offenses, there is a "Group B - All Other Offenses" option that captures the remaining law enforcement activity.</p>
	<i>Includes all incidents committed within a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction</i>	<i>Only includes incidents with arrests</i>

Over the past 10 years,
just under half of arrests
occurred for Group A
person, property, or
society incidents.

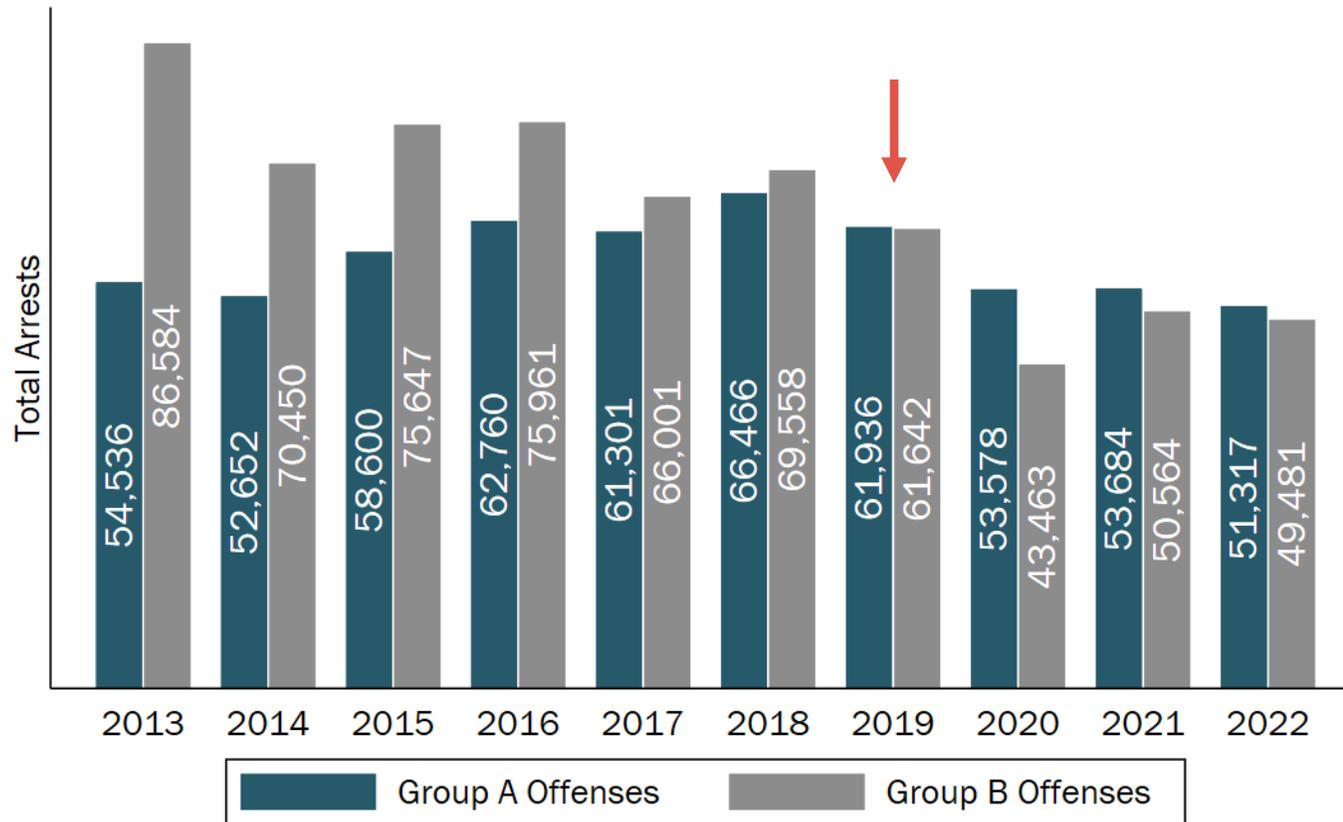
Individuals Arrested 2013–2022
By Group and Category of Offense



CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

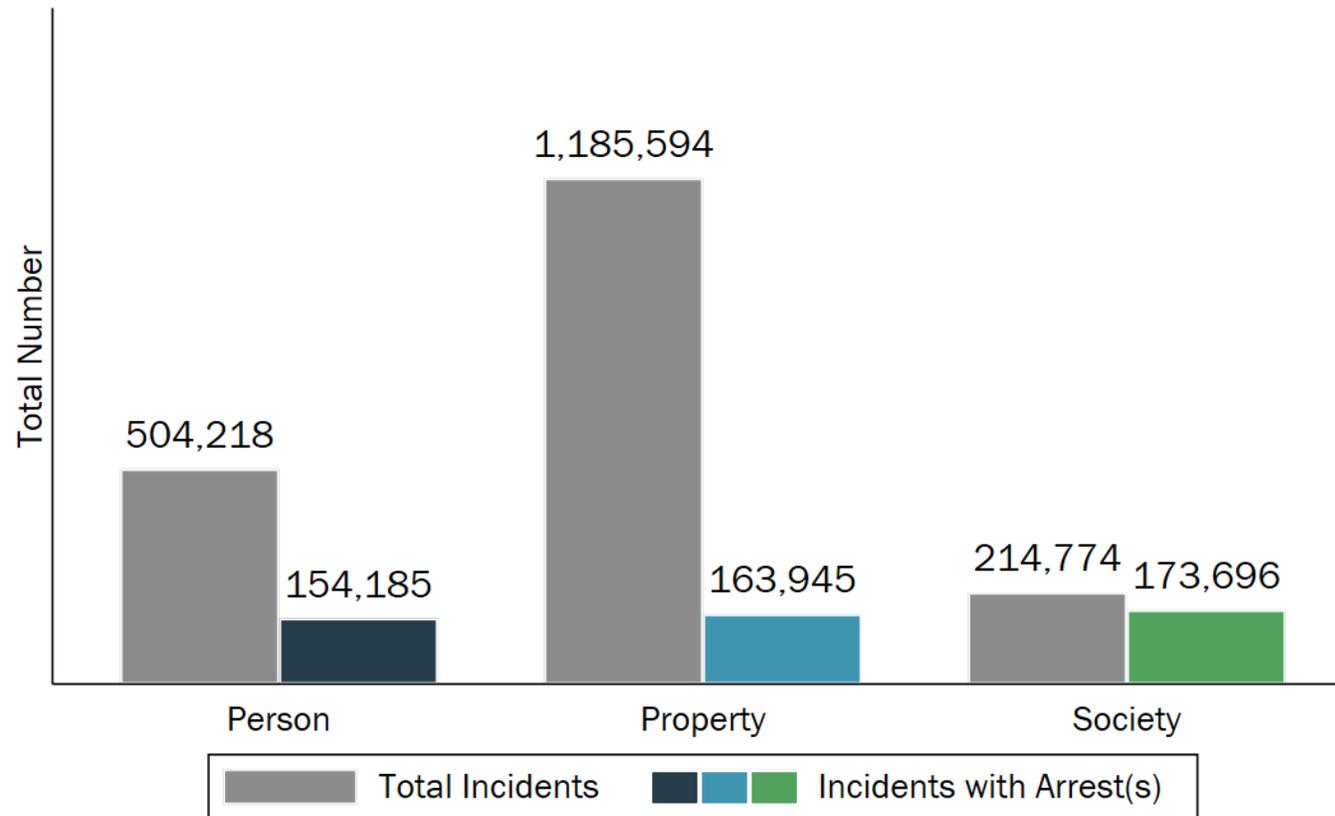
Arrests for incidents of Group A offenses began to exceed arrests for incidents of Group B offenses beginning in 2019.

Individuals Arrested from 2013–2022
Group A and Group B Offenses



Overall, no arrest occurs in 74 percent of all reported Group A incidents of crime.

Incidents and Arrests for Group A Offenses 2013-2022



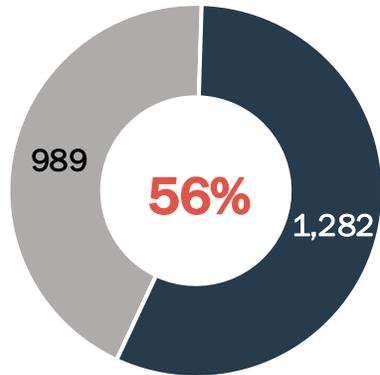
Total Incidents with at least one person arrested, by NIBRS Category

- 30.6% Person
- 13.8% Property
- 80.9% Society

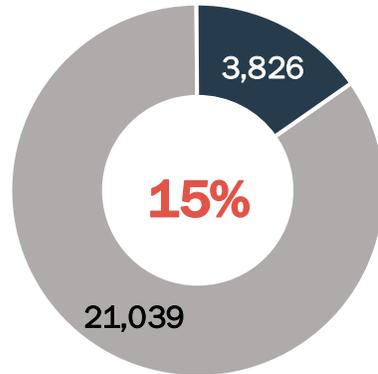
Arrests occur most frequently for crimes against society offenses, in terms of totals and proportionally.

From 2013 to 2022, an arrest occurred in only 31 percent of crimes against persons.

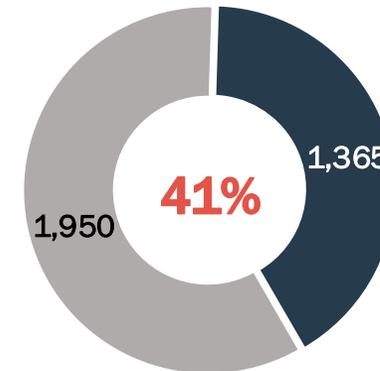
Homicides/Manslaughter



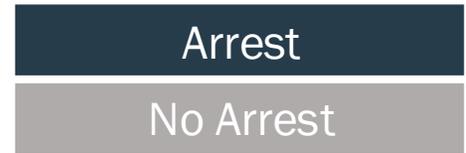
Sex Offenses



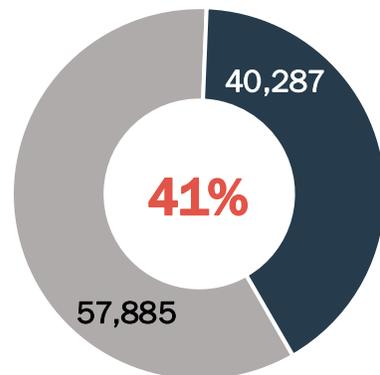
Kidnapping



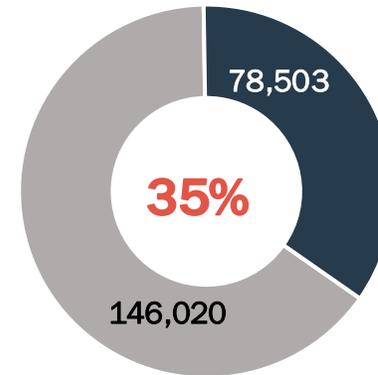
Percentage Cleared by Arrest



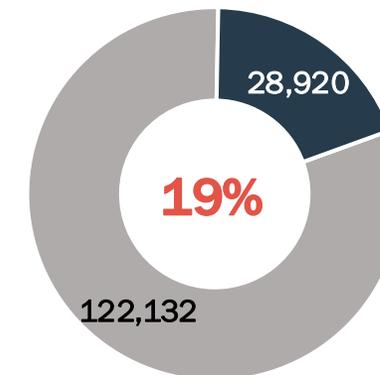
Aggravated Assaults



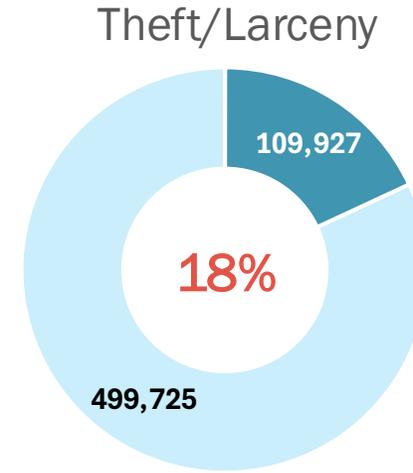
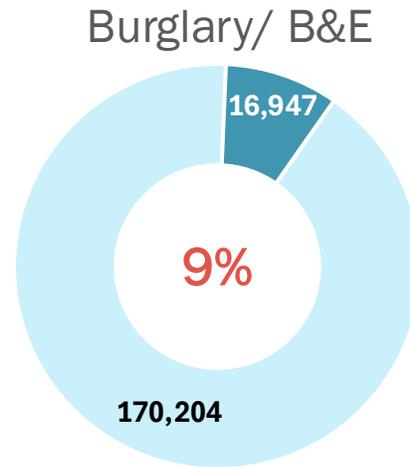
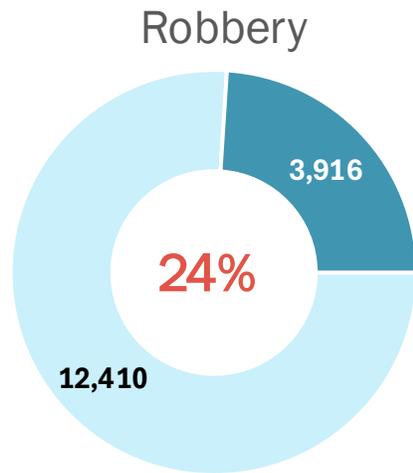
Simple Assaults



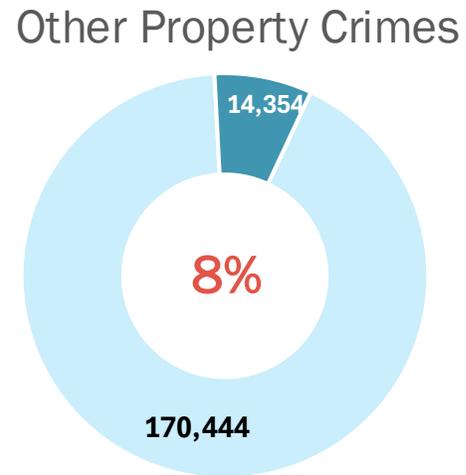
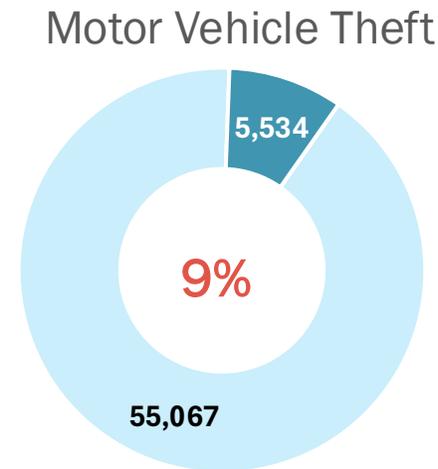
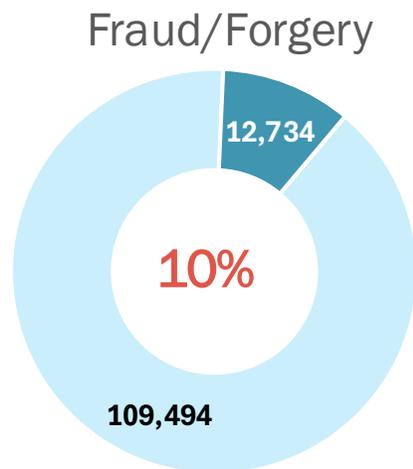
Intimidation



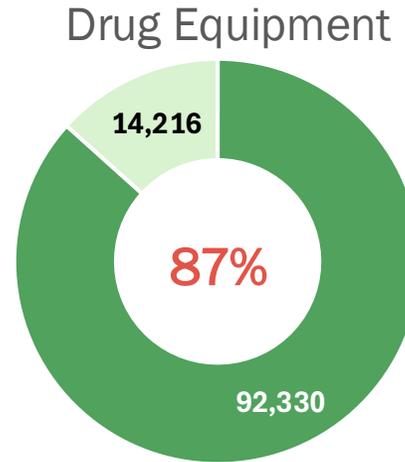
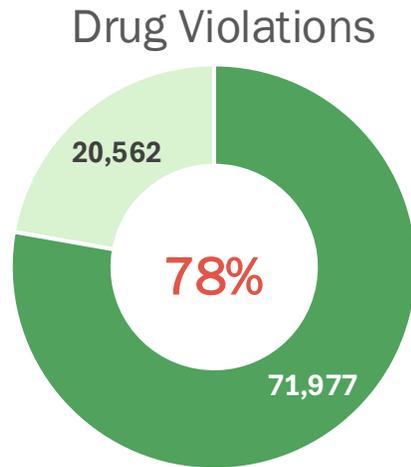
From 2013 to 2022, an arrest occurred in only 14 percent of property crimes.



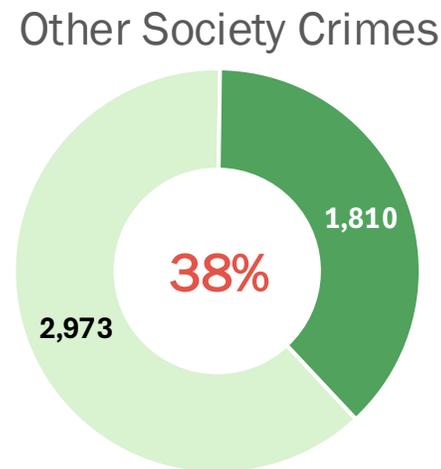
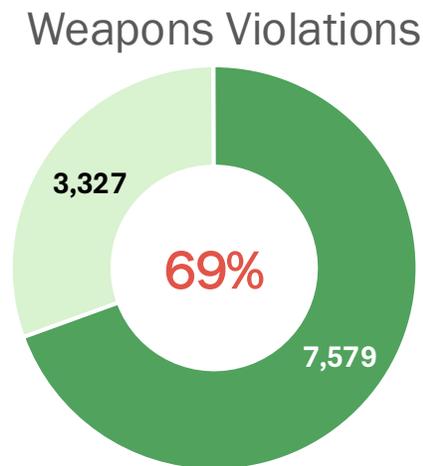
Percentage Cleared by Arrest



Crimes against society have the highest arrest rates, with 81 percent of incidents from 2013 to 2022 resulting in arrest.

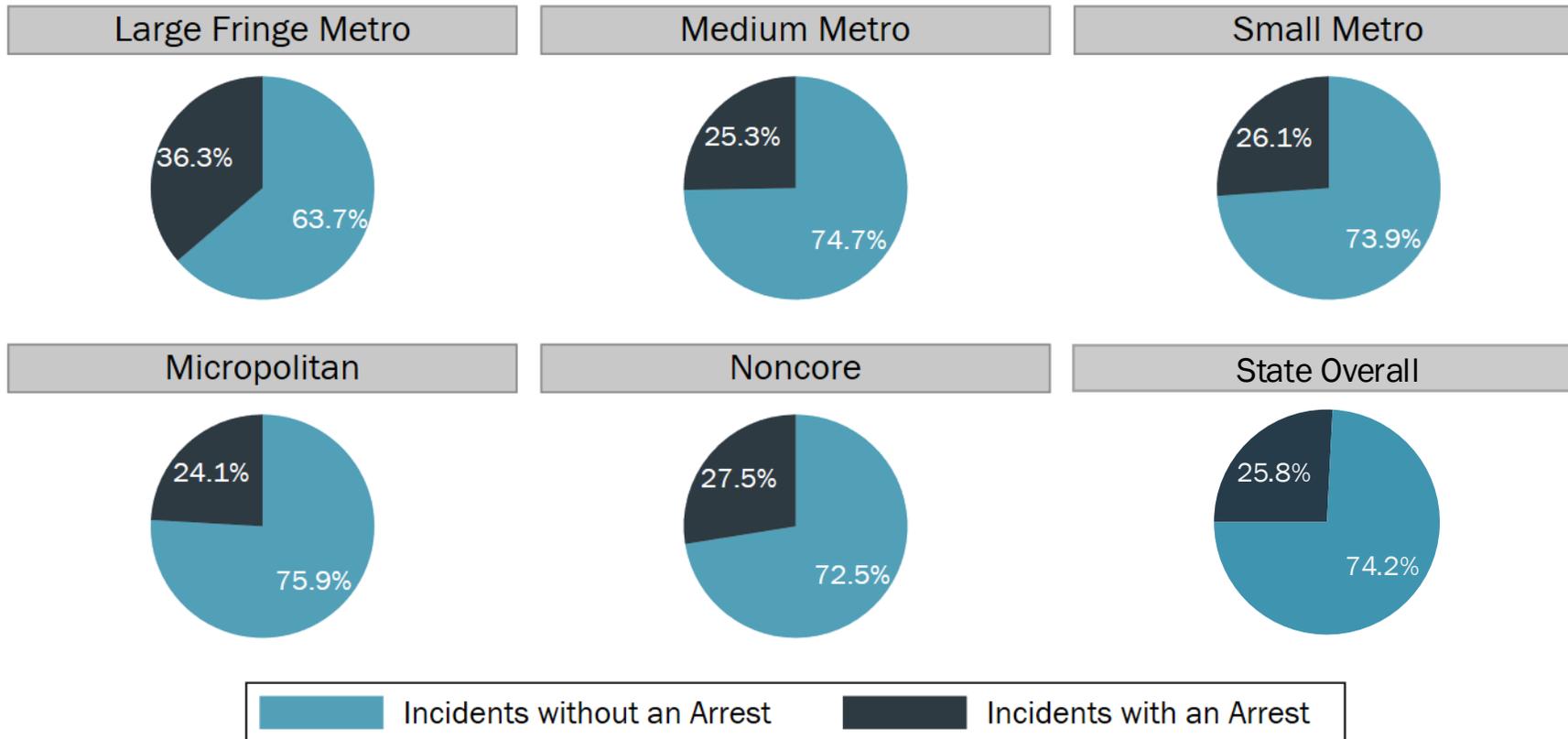


Percentage Cleared by Arrest



Large metro areas have a somewhat higher proportion of arrests compared to smaller communities.

Incidents and Arrests by Pop. Size 2013-2022



- **Large Fringe Metro:** Counties in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of 1 million or more people that do not qualify as large central metro counties. (e.g., Crittenden Co.)
- **Medium Metro:** Counties in MSAs of 250,000 to 999,999
- **Small Metro:** Counties in MSAs of populations less than 250,000
- **Micropolitan:** Counties with urban clusters of 2,500 to 49,999 people
- **Noncore:** Non-metropolitan counties that also do not qualify as micropolitan, which are largely rural due to population density

CSG Justice Center analysis of National Incident Based Reporting system data, using Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2022. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2023-10-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V9>

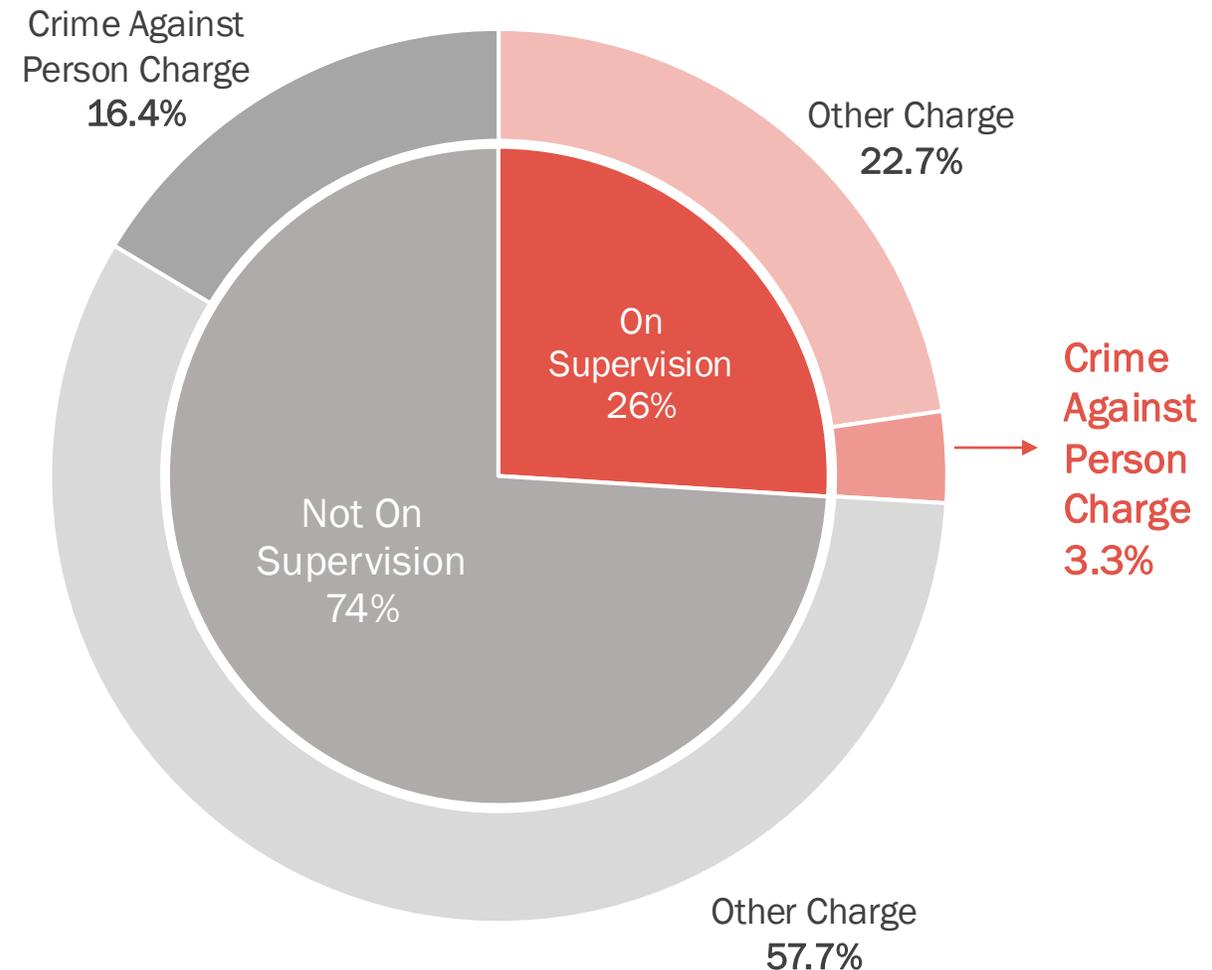
Nearly three-quarters of all people arrested in 2022 were not on felony supervision at the time of their arrest.

Most common offenses in ACIC arrest data:

- 16.4% Failure to appear
- 10.5% Possession of controlled substance
- 9.1% Aggravated assault, assault, battery
- 7.9% Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 6.6% Theft (various types)
- 4.5% Driving while intoxicated

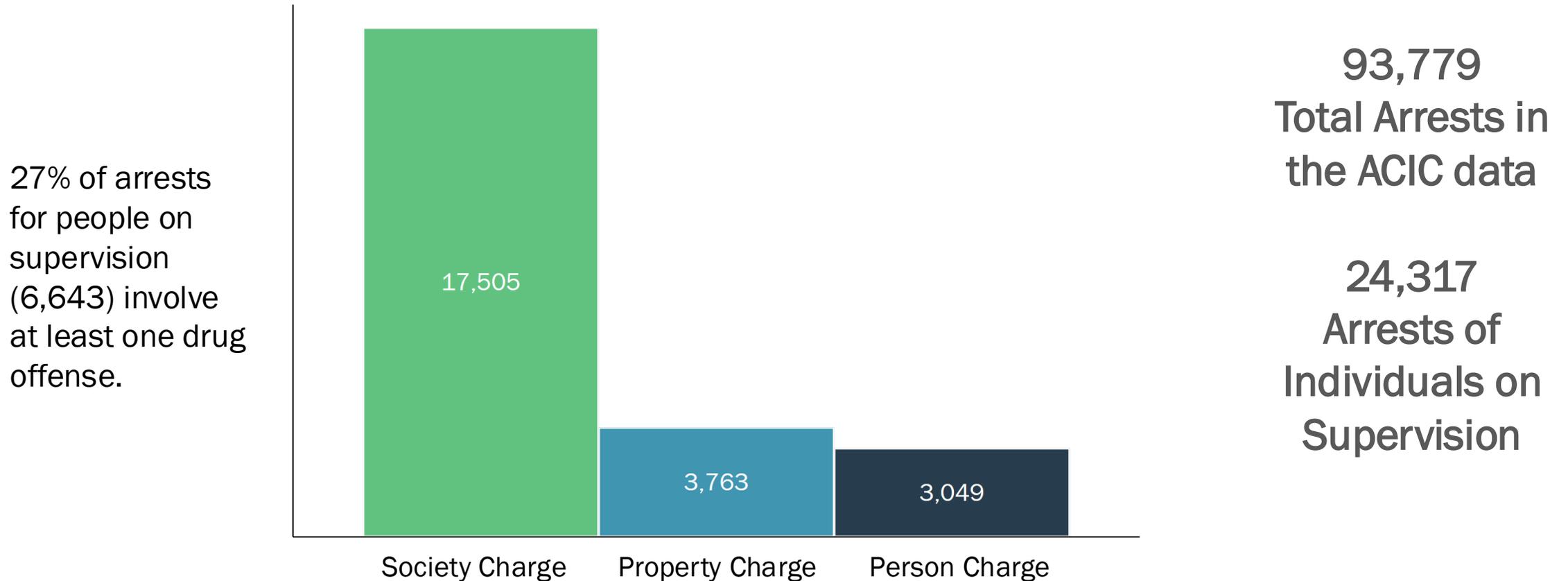
CSG Justice Center analysis of 2022 case level arrest data provided by the Arkansas Crime Information Center and of 2013-2022 case level supervision data provided by the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Statewide Arrests:
Breakdown by Supervision Status and Type of Crime
(Person vs. Non-Person)



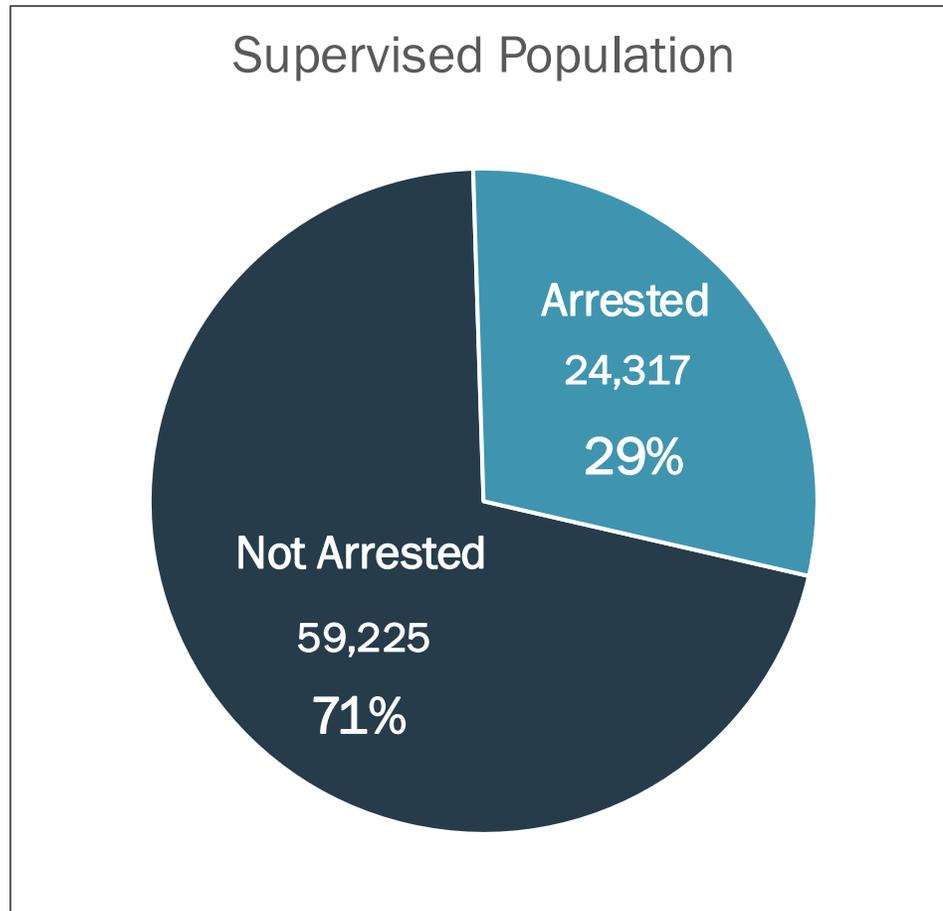
People on supervision who were arrested in 2022 were most commonly arrested for crimes against society.

Arrests by Most Serious Charge for Individuals on Supervision
2022



CSG Justice Center analysis of 2022 case level arrest data provided by the Arkansas Crime Information Center and of 2013-2022 case level supervision data provided by the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

In 2022, 71 percent of people on felony supervision remained arrest-free during the supervision period.

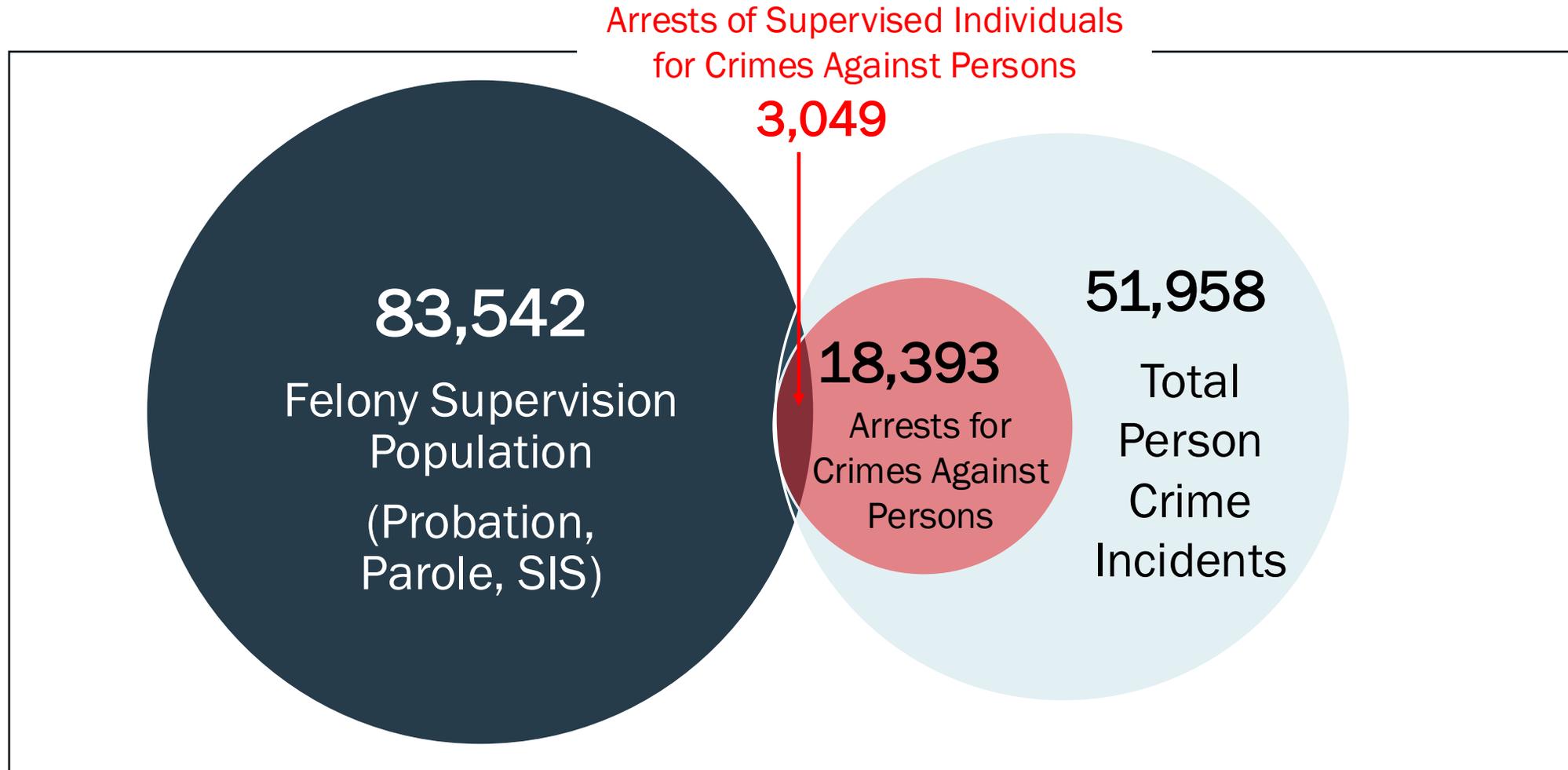


People under felony supervision in 2022:*

- 35,749 people on parole
 - 41,190 people on probation
 - 6,603 people on supervised imposition of sentence
-
- 83,542 total unique individuals under supervision at some point in 2022

* Excludes people on pretrial supervision

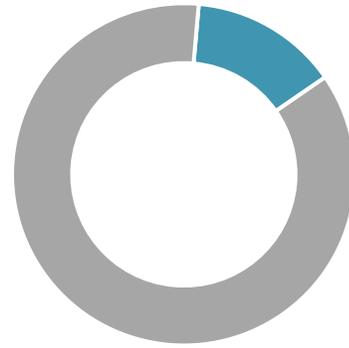
People arrested for person crimes while on supervision comprise 6 percent of arrests for reported person incidents in 2022.



Summary of Arrest Data Analysis



Arrests happen in **31%** of person crimes



Arrests happen in **14%** of property crimes



Arrests happen in **81%** of society crimes

-
- People arrested for person crimes while on supervision comprised **6 percent** of reported person incidents in 2022.
 - No arrest occurs in **74 percent** of all reported Group A incidents of crime.
 - Only **46 percent** of arrests are for the most serious, Group A offense types, with arrest rates for sex offenses at 15 percent and 24 percent for robbery.

Key Data Takeaways from Today's Presentation

Increase in Crimes Against Persons: Crimes against persons rose by about 9 percent from 2013 to 2022, with simple assaults being the only category to decrease.

Arrest Patterns: The highest rate of arrest (81 percent) is for crimes against society (crimes without specific victims). Arrests for crimes against persons and property are less common.

Supervision Status: In 2022, 75 percent of people who were arrested were not on supervision, and those on supervision represented a fraction of arrests for person crime incidents.

Project Updates

4

Our research team continues to analyze state data to provide insights into what is happening across the state.

Justice Reinvestment Data Requests		
Data	Source	Status
Arrest and Disposition Information for Felonies and Misdemeanors	Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC)	Analysis complete
Court Case Dispositions	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	Analysis underway
DOC/CCC Admissions and Releases; Probation, SIS, and Parole Supervision	Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC)	Analysis underway

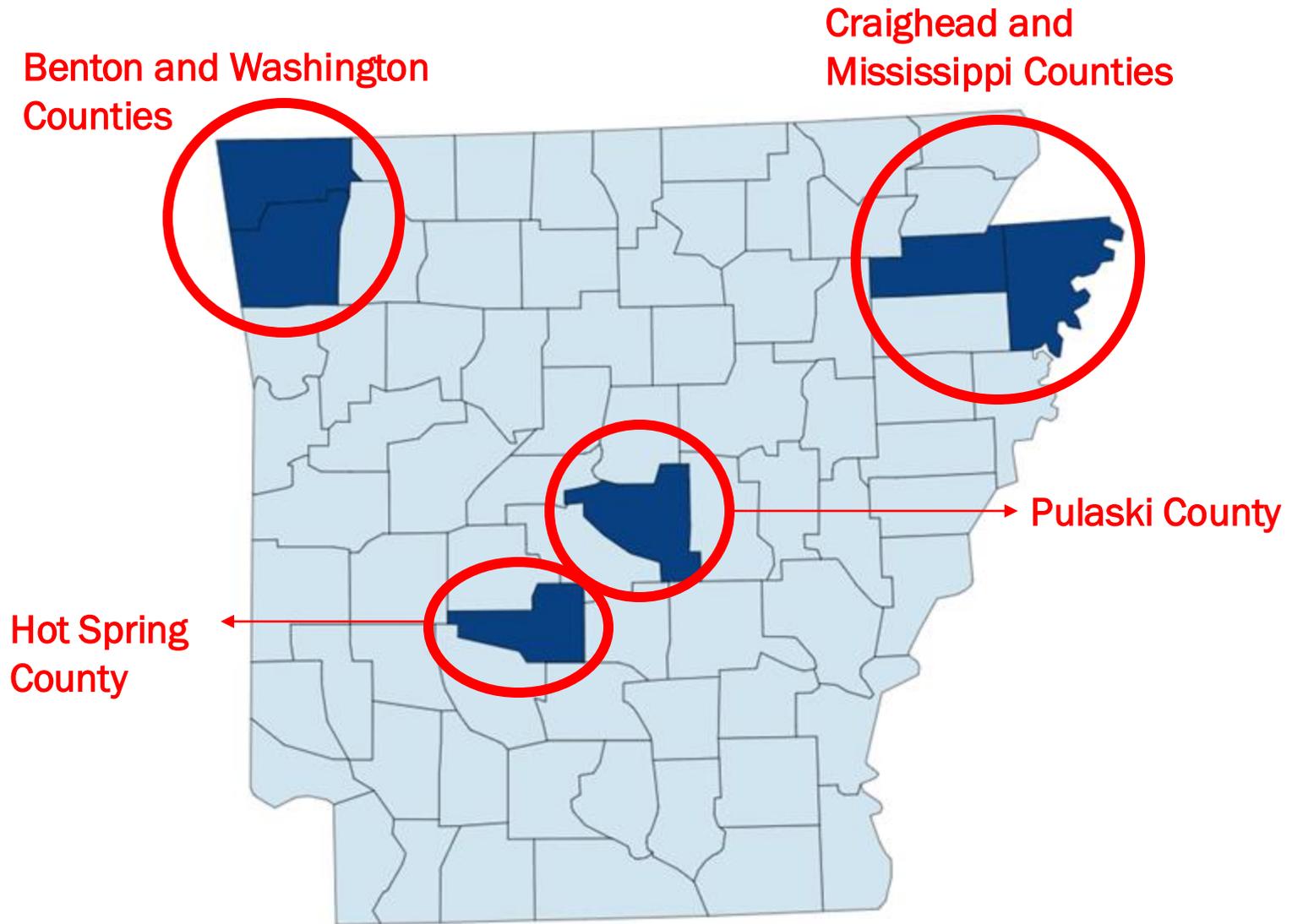
Summary of Meetings

Our team has had 121 meetings with 169 people from the below stakeholder communities including individual meetings with almost all task force members.

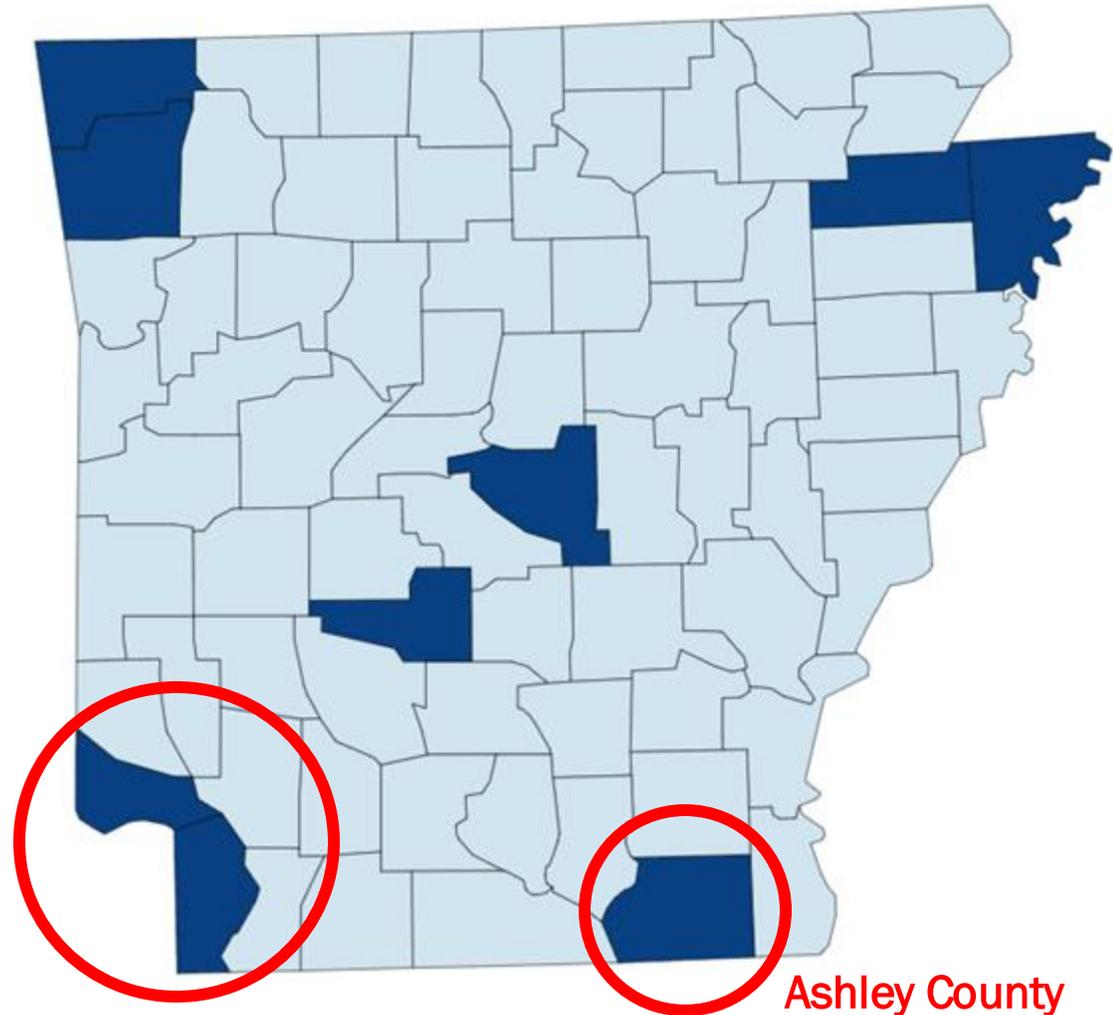
- Governor's Office
- DOC
- AOC
- ACIC
- BOC
- Counties
- Prosecuting attorneys
- Public defenders
- Attorney General's Office
- Prosecuting attorneys
- Public defenders
- Attorney General's Office
- Nonprofit groups
- Sheriffs
- Judiciary
- Department of Public Safety
- State legislators
- Probation and parole officers
- Corrections staff
- Individuals on supervision
- Incarcerated individuals

Frequent trips here have informed our work.

Since launching the project in August 2023, 9 members of the CSG Justice Center have visited Arkansas on 13 separate occasions.



We plan on visiting the following additional areas of the state to continue this work.



Little River and
Miller Counties

Ashley County

The CSG Justice Center team still plans to do the following.



Complete analysis of AOC and DOC data.



Speak with a cross-section of prosecuting attorneys.



Present AOC data in October.



Help the task force draft final recommendations.



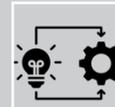
Present DOC data in November.



Make legislative recommendations.

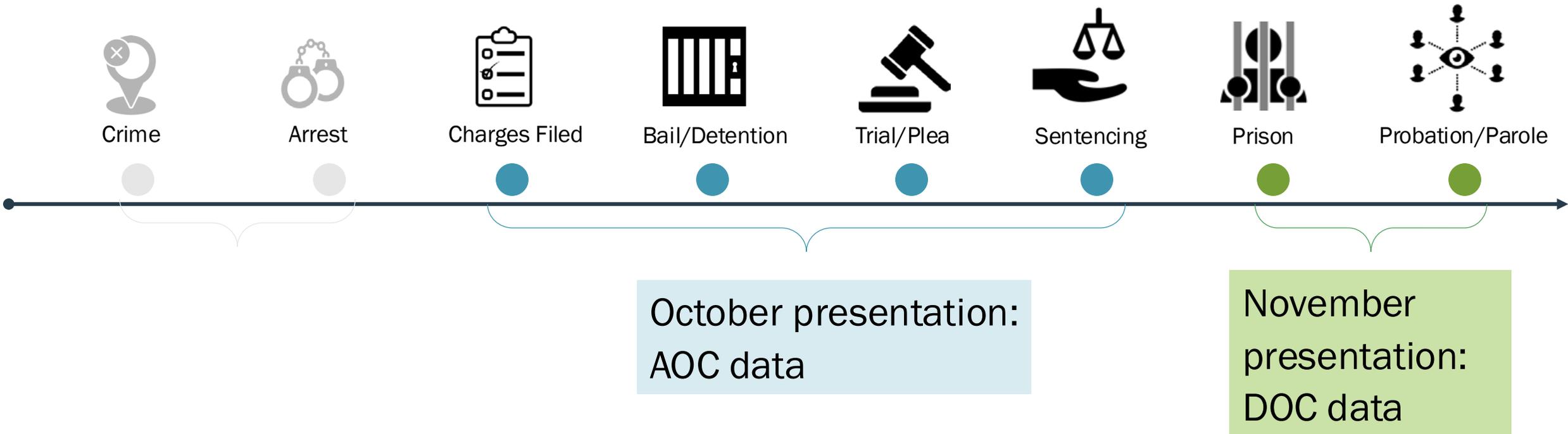


Speak with a cross-section of public defenders.



Offer technical assistance and data monitoring to ensure the policy recommendations are successfully implemented.

Today we've only talked about crimes and arrest. In future presentations, we will cover the rest of the system.



Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Estrella López at elopez@csg.org.



This project was supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-21-GK-04348-JRIX awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. To learn more about the Bureau of Justice Assistance, please visit bja.gov.

© 2024 The Council of State Governments Justice Center

Cover photo credit: W.scott McGill

