

Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688
courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-057

For business meeting on February 20, 2026

Title

Report to the Legislature: Disposition of Criminal Cases According to Race and Ethnicity of Defendant

Report Type

Information

Date of Report

January 22, 2026

Submitted by

Michelle Curran, Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Contact

Francine Byrne, 415-865-8069
Francine.Byrne@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

Penal Code section 1170.45 directs the Judicial Council to report annually on the statewide disposition of criminal cases according to defendants' race and ethnicity. The attached report fulfills that mandate. The data used in this report come from the Automated Criminal History System, a data repository maintained by the California Department of Justice. This report describes and analyzes patterns seen in criminal case dispositions of adult felony arrests by race/ethnicity and tests whether any available legal or demographic information can account for the observed patterns.

Relevant Previous Reporting or Action

The Judicial Council has received and submitted these annual reports to the Legislature in accordance with Penal Code section 1170.45 since 2001.

Analysis/Rationale

The findings in this report are generally consistent with reports from prior years in that some race differences persisted after controlling for legal and demographic factors, although the specific findings have varied over time.

Findings are presented based on four case disposition outcome measures for cases with disposition dates from 2014 through 2024:

- Conviction—whether a case results in a conviction or alternatively in a dismissal or acquittal;
- Conviction offense level—whether the case resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction;
- Type of sentence—whether the defendant was sentenced to prison or received a lesser sentence; and
- Sentence length—the length of the sentenced prison term for defendants who were sentenced to prison.

For each outcome, descriptive information is presented on patterns seen in the data. In addition to looking at the race/ethnicity breakdown of the data, several other legal and demographic factors that may relate to outcomes are described and analyzed, including gender, age, county, prior criminal history, and features of the current offense or offenses such as offense level and type. Next, statistical testing is used to determine whether race/ethnicity plays a role in predicting disposition outcomes when accounting for these and other legal and county demographic features.

This report indicates that the strongest influences on the outcomes were the defendant's prior criminal record, characteristics of the current offense (e.g., offense level, type of crime, and number of charges), and jurisdiction in which the crime was committed. More serious prior records were associated with higher conviction rates, more felony versus misdemeanor convictions, and more prison sentences.

The analyses included in this report account for differences in outcomes that can be explained by legal factors, such as charge type and criminal history, as well as county characteristics that vary, such as conviction rates and demographics. Findings showed that defendant characteristics such as race/ethnicity, gender, and age are significantly associated with all outcomes studied.

The disparity in prison sentencing rates for Black defendants declined over time and was not statistically significant in 2024. These findings are generally consistent with reports from prior years in that some race differences persisted after controlling for legal and demographic factors, although the specific findings have varied over time. Black defendants relative to similarly situated White defendants were less likely to be convicted and have a felony conviction, but more likely to receive a prison sentence and to receive a longer prison sentence. Accounting for differences mentioned above, relative to similarly situated White defendants, Hispanic defendants were more likely to be convicted rather than be acquitted or have their cases dismissed, to be convicted of a felony rather than a misdemeanor, to receive a sentence to prison rather than a lesser sentence, and to receive a longer prison sentence.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

No fiscal impacts or policy implications are associated with this report.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Disposition of Criminal Cases According to the Race and Ethnicity of the Defendant: 2025 Report to the Legislature as Required by Penal Code Section 1170.45*



JUDICIAL COUNCIL of CALIFORNIA

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December 31, 2025

HON. PATRICIA GUERRERO
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

Ms. Cara L. Jenkins
Legislative Counsel
1021 O Street, Suite 3210
Sacramento, California 95814

HON. BRAD R. HILL
Chair, Executive and Planning Committee

Ms. Erika Contreras
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, California 95814

HON. STACY BOULWARE
EURIE
Chair, Legislation Committee

HON. JOAN K. IRION
Chair, Rules Committee

Ms. Sue Parker
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California 95814

HON. MARIA D. HERNANDEZ
Chair, Technology Committee

HON. ANN C. MOORMAN
Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Chair, Litigation Management Committee

Re: Disposition of Criminal Cases According to the Race and Ethnicity of the Defendant, as required under Penal Code section 1170.45

Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz
Hon. Bunmi O. Awoniyi
Hon. Carol A. Corrigan
Hon. Charles S. Crompton
Hon. Judith K. Dulcich
Hon. Maureen F. Hallahan
Ms. Rachel W. Hill
Hon. Ash Kalra
Ms. Gretchen Nelson
Hon. Ricardo R. Ocampo
Mr. Craig M. Peters
Hon. Michael Rhoads
Ms. Dena Stone
Hon. Thomas J. Umberg
Hon. Tamara L. Wood

Dear Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Contreras, and Ms. Parker:

Under Penal Code section 1170.45, the Judicial Council is submitting a report on the statewide disposition of criminal cases according to defendants' race and ethnicity.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Francine Byrne, Director, Criminal Justice Services, at 415-865-8069 or Francine.Byrne@jud.ca.gov.

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Ms. Kate Bieker
Hon. Ryan Davis
Mr. Charles Johnson
Hon. Jeffrey C. Kauffman
Hon. Patricia L. Kelly
Mr. Darrel E. Parker
Mr. David W. Slayton

Sincerely,

Michelle Curran
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

MS. MICHELLE CURRAN
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Ms. Cara L. Jenkins
Ms. Erika Contreras
Ms. Sue Parker
December 31, 2025
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MC/SP

Enclosures

cc: Eric Dang, Counsel, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire
Emelyn Rodriguez, General Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Shaun Naidu, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
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Mark Jimenez, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
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Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Stephanie Jordan, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office
Morgan Branch, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
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Nora Brackbill, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
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Mr. David W. Slayton

MS. MICHELLE CURRAN
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Report title: *Disposition of Criminal Cases According to the Race and Ethnicity of the Defendant*

Code section: Penal Code section 1170.45

Date of report: December 31, 2025

The Judicial Council has submitted a report to the Legislature in accordance with Penal Code section 1170.45.

The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section 9795.

The Judicial Council's Criminal Justice Services office analyzed felony arrest disposition data from 2014 through 2024 for this report.

The report presents findings based on four case disposition outcome measures: conviction rates, conviction offense level, prison sentencing rates, and prison sentence length. This report describes patterns seen in these disposition outcomes by race/ethnicity, both overall and when comparing defendants who are similarly situated in terms of available legal and demographic factors. It also describes trends in the impact of race/ethnicity on the outcomes identified for each year between 2014 and 2024.

Analyses spanning the period from 2014 through 2024 suggest that some disparities are decreasing. Whereas Black defendants were 5 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to White defendants in 2015, this difference became smaller over time and was not statistically significant in 2024. The prison sentencing rate disparity for Hispanic defendants likewise decreased over this period, although it remained statistically significant. Although legal factors such as prior criminal record and features of the current offense were found to primarily drive disposition outcomes, race/ethnicity also had a statistically significant impact on conviction, felony conviction, and prison sentencing rates, as well as prison sentence length, though specific findings varied by year.

The full report can be accessed at courts.ca.gov/news-reference/reports-publications/reports-legislature.

December 31, 2025

Disposition of Criminal Cases According to the Race and Ethnicity of the Defendant

2025 Report to the Legislature as Required by
Penal Code Section 1170.45



Judicial Council of California
Criminal Justice Services
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3688

This report has been prepared and submitted to the California Legislature as required by Penal Code section 1170.45.

This report is also available on the California Courts website at courts.ca.gov.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Hon. Patricia Guerrero
*Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council*

Michelle Curran
Administrative Director Judicial Council

Salena Chow
Chief Operating Officer

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

Francine Byrne
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*Senior Analyst and
Primary Author of Report*

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Disposition of Criminal Cases According to the Race and Ethnicity of the Defendant

Background

This report examines the disposition¹ of criminal cases across racial/ethnic groups as required by Penal Code section 1170.45.² To identify patterns by race/ethnicity, it also analyzes the impact of age, gender, and legal factors—including criminal history and current charges—on disposition outcomes. This report identifies criminal case disposition outcomes broken out by race/ethnicity based on four distinct outcome measures: conviction rates, level of conviction offense (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor), prison sentencing rates, and length of prison sentences. This report provides background information on the data used and analyses conducted, describes the case disposition flow, and presents summaries of demographics, criminal records, and crimes. It also describes trends in the impact of race/ethnicity on the outcomes identified for each year between 2014 and 2024.

Source of Data

The data used in this report comes from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) Automated Criminal History System (ACHS).³ The extract used for this report includes all available data on individuals with an adult felony arrest who had a final disposition in 2014 through 2024. Arrests that occurred before 2014 are included if their final disposition date was in 2014 through 2024. Data related to prior dispositions was also used to summarize prior criminal history.

Figure 1 shows the number of dispositions at distinct case processing stages for all ACHS felony arrest dispositions from 2014 through 2024. ACHS recorded 2,734,068 final dispositions of adult felony arrests from 2014 through 2024. Of these cases, 22.4 percent were dropped by law enforcement or prosecution before being filed with the court. An arresting agency or the prosecutor may dispose of the case before filing it in court for multiple reasons including insufficient or inadmissible evidence, lack of probable cause, or absence of a witness. The remaining 77.6 percent of cases (2,122,456) proceeded to a court disposition. The race/ethnicity breakdown for filed cases closely resembles that of all felony arrest cases. This report focuses on

¹ The “disposition” of a case is the resolution of the case, such as a dismissal, acquittal, or conviction.

² “The Judicial Council shall collect data on criminal cases statewide relating to the disposition of those cases according to the race and ethnicity of the defendant, and report annually thereon to the Legislature beginning no later than January 1, 1999. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds to the Judicial Council for this purpose.” Pen. Code, § 1170.45.

³ The Automated Criminal History System is composed of information reported to the DOJ by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and courts through fingerprint card (FD-249) and *Adult Disposition of Arrest and Court Action* (JUS 8715) forms, on paper or electronically.

felony defendants with final court dispositions; thus, all data and analyses presented in the remainder of the report include only filed cases.⁴

Analysis

This report presents findings based on four case disposition outcome measures:

- Conviction—whether a case results in a conviction or alternatively in a dismissal or acquittal;
- Conviction offense level—whether the case resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction;
- Type of sentence—whether the defendant was sentenced to prison or received a lesser sentence; and
- Sentence length—the length of the sentenced prison term for defendants who were sentenced to prison.

For each outcome, descriptive information is presented on patterns seen in the data over time. In addition to looking at the breakdown of the data by race/ethnicity, several other legal and demographic factors that may relate to outcomes are also described and analyzed over time. These factors include gender, age, prior criminal history, estimated potential sentence based on the charges, and features of the current offense or offenses.⁵ Next, statistical testing is used to determine what role defendant race/ethnicity plays in predicting disposition outcomes over time, above and beyond differences across groups in these other relevant legal and demographic factors (see Appendix A for details of statistical tests and results).

Limitations

Some limitations related to these analyses are noted:

- This report does not address differences in the disposition of misdemeanor arrests by race/ethnicity.
- The ACHS extract is not a complete account of all felony arrests disposed in the state, but rather the subset of those with records indicating final dispositions in 2014 through 2024 that were *reported* to the DOJ. This is estimated by the DOJ Criminal Justice Statistics Center to be about 65 to 75 percent of all felony arrests disposed in an average calendar year.⁶

⁴ For summary statistics of felony defendants, see Appendix A, table A1.

⁵ For a list of all control variables and a definition of sentence exposure, see Appendix A.

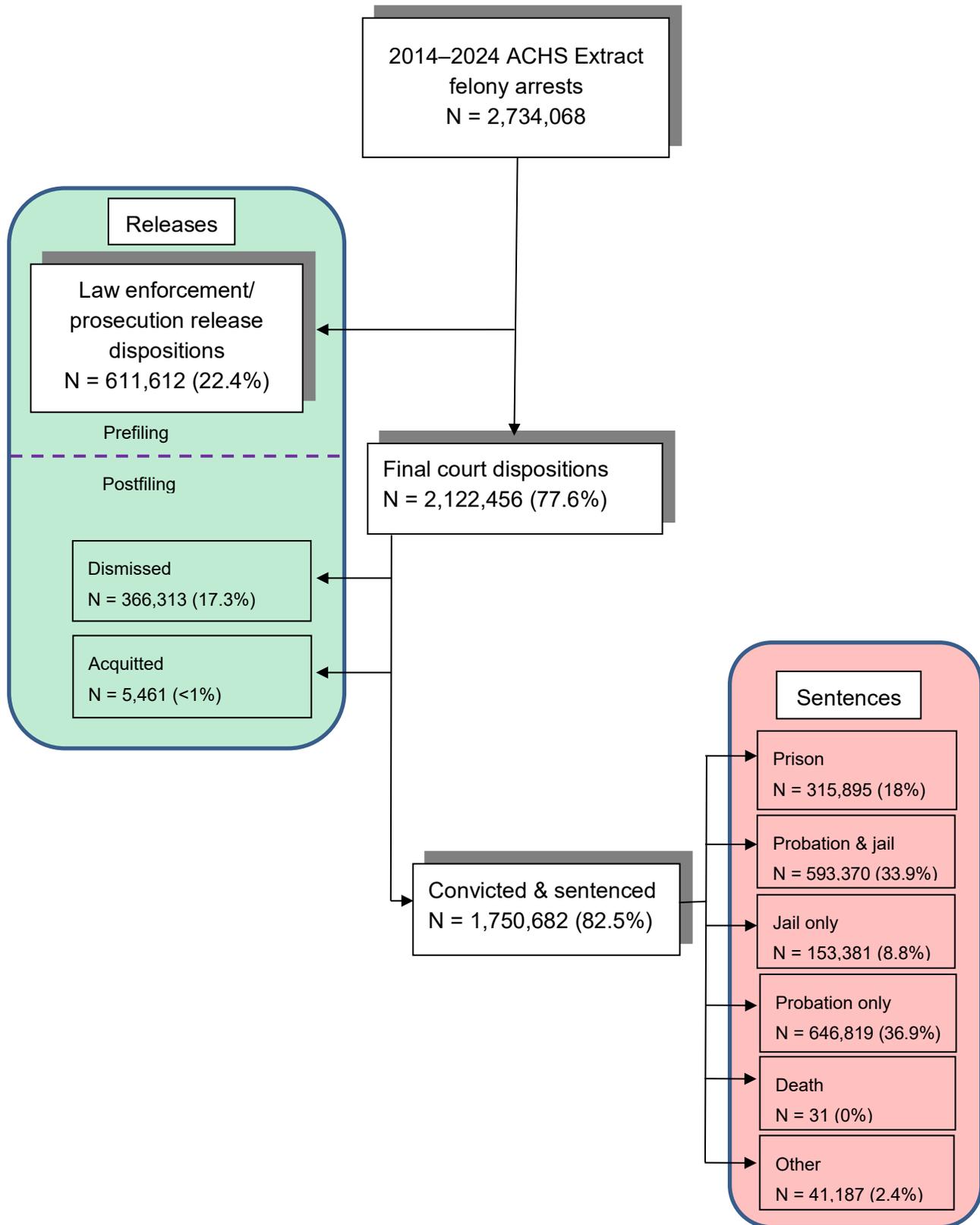
⁶ The Judicial Council is working on a project to identify sources of gaps in disposition reporting and improve any that may be related to court processes. Disposition reporting is mandatory for law enforcement agencies and courts, and not mandatory for prosecutors' offices.

- The patterns observed in this report may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- None of the results found in this report can be taken as causal evidence of discrimination or bias at any point in the system. The analyses presented here are correlational, and any correlations between race and outcomes could be the result of more detailed case information not contained in ACHS.
- There are many steps in the process from arrest to disposition and sentencing, including decisions made by law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judicial officers. The analyses in this report look at discrete outcomes for defendants who are similarly situated in the context of that decision point, but do not cover all possible ways defendants may receive differential treatment in the criminal justice system.
- ACHS is a dynamic dataset that is updated as agencies report. Findings for each disposition year may not match results seen in prior reports as the data may have been updated.

Case Processing

Figure 1 shows counts of dispositions in the dataset at each step of case processing. Starting with 2,734,068 felony arrests with a disposition in 2014 through 2024, approximately 22.4 percent were released with no court filing, by either law enforcement or prosecution choosing not to pursue a case. The remaining 2,122,456 felony arrests were filed and received a court disposition, with 17.5 percent of these ending with their case being dismissed or acquitted, while 82.5 percent were convicted and sentenced. It is important to note that approximately 94.8 percent of convictions are a result of plea bargain agreements in which both the prosecutor and defense agree to the terms prior to judicial action.

Figure 1: Numbers of Dispositions at Distinct Case Processing Stages in ACHS Felony Dispositions Extract (2014–2024)

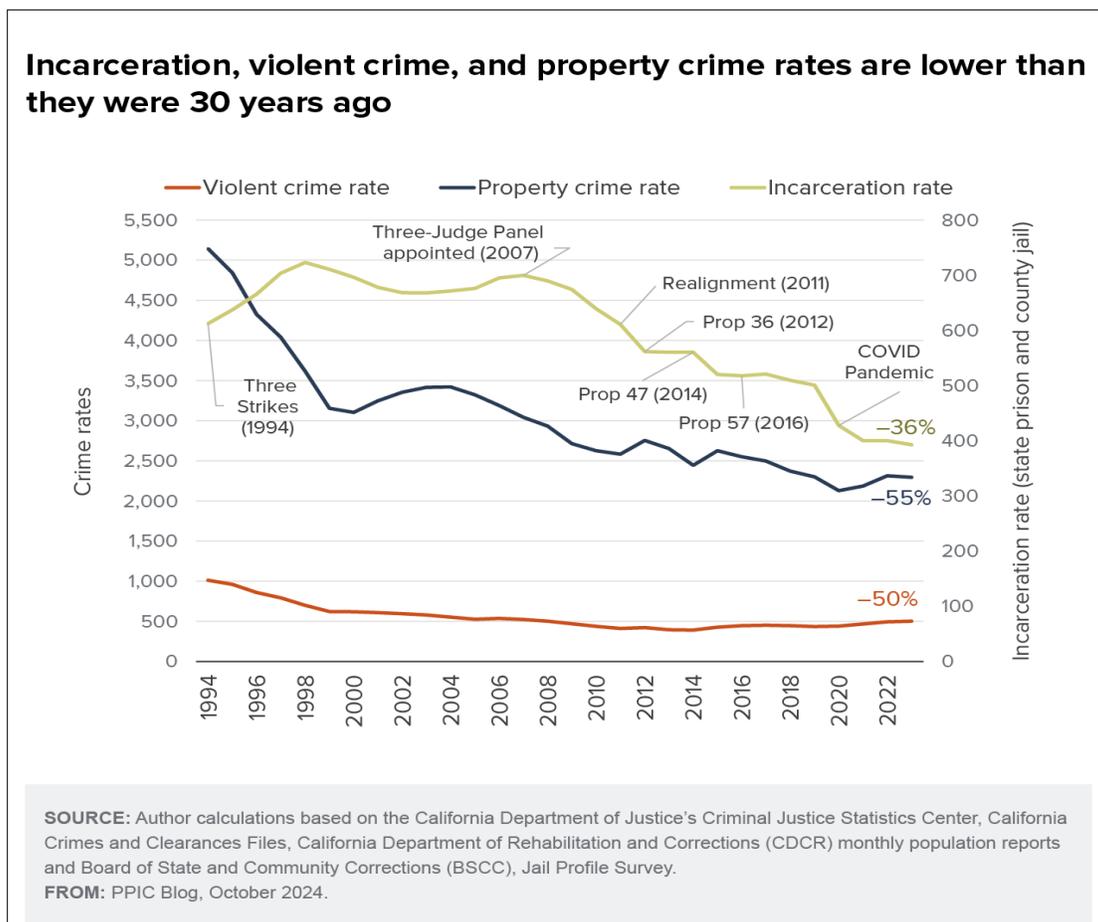


Policy Landscape

The California criminal justice policy landscape underwent significant change during the period from 2014 through 2024. Proposition 47, passed by voters in 2014, reclassified some drug and property offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. The incarceration rate declined from 2014 through 2015 in California. A few different sentencing reforms were passed between 2017 and 2019, including Senate Bill 180 (2017), Senate Bill 620 (2017), Senate Bill 1393 (2018), and Senate Bill 136 (2019), which repealed or made discretionary certain sentence enhancements. Other reforms provided for earlier release of incarcerated individuals, including Proposition 57 (2016) and Senate Bill 483 (2021).

Figure 2, produced by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), shows trends in property crime, violent crime, and incarceration rates from 1994 through 2023, with indicators for various criminal justice reforms that happened over this period.⁷

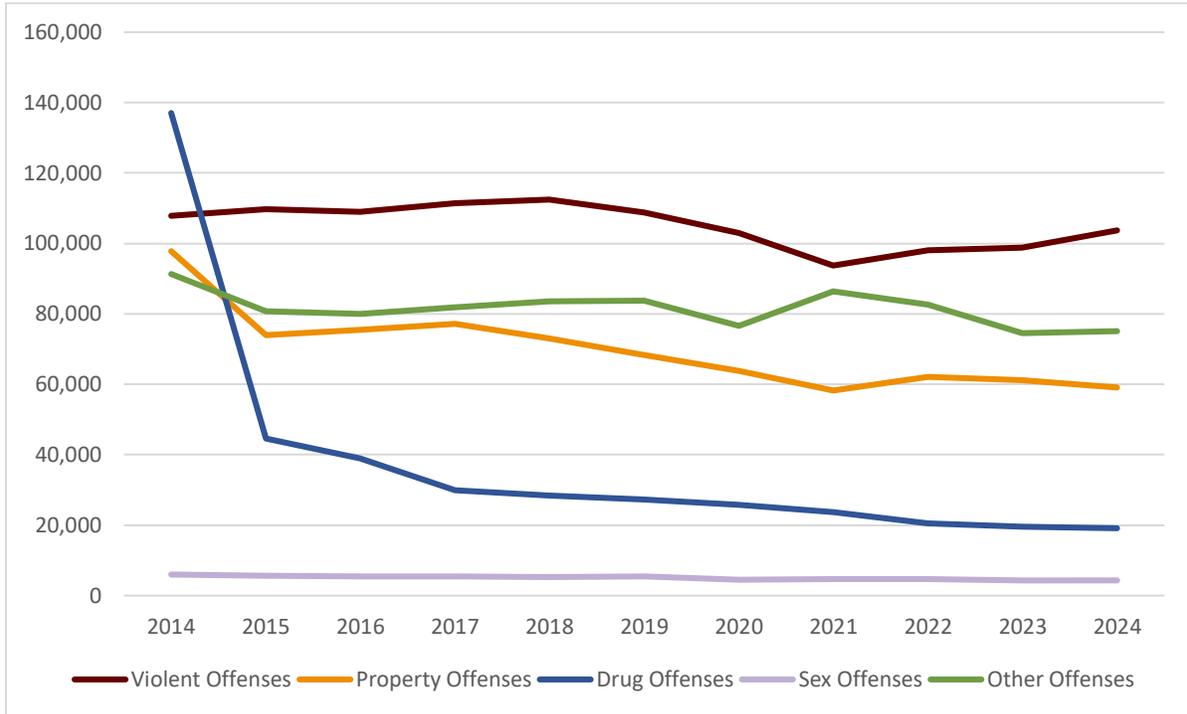
Figure 2: Trends in incarceration, violent crime, and property crime over time



⁷ Magnus Lofstrom and Brandon Martin, “Three Decades of Major Criminal Justice Shifts in California,” *PPIC Blog*, October 30, 2024, ppic.org/blog/three-decades-of-major-criminal-justice-shifts-in-california/.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had a large impact on the criminal justice system in California. While misdemeanor arrests dropped at the onset of the pandemic and were slow to recover, figure 3 shows that felony arrests dipped to a lesser extent in response to the pandemic and recovered more rapidly.⁸

Figure 3: Trends in felony arrests over time by offense category

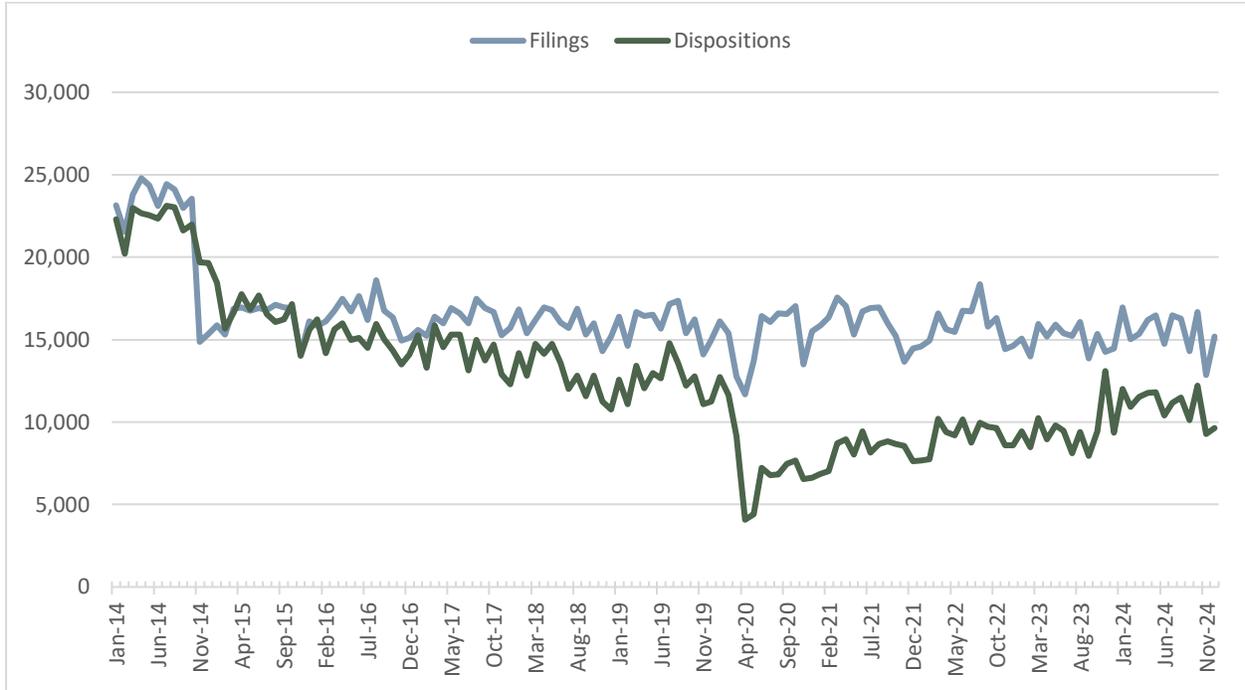


Data source: California Department of Justice, "Open Justice," openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests (accessed 7/29/25).

⁸ Deepak Premkumar et al., Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Arrests in California (Nov. 2023), Public Policy Institute of California, ppic.org/publication/assessing-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-arrests-in-california/.

The pandemic also affected court operations, and public safety measures imposed in 2020 temporarily reduced filings and dispositions of cases, as can be seen in figure 4.⁹

Figure 4: Felony filings and dispositions from JBSIS part 7C



Data source: Judicial Council of California, Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS).

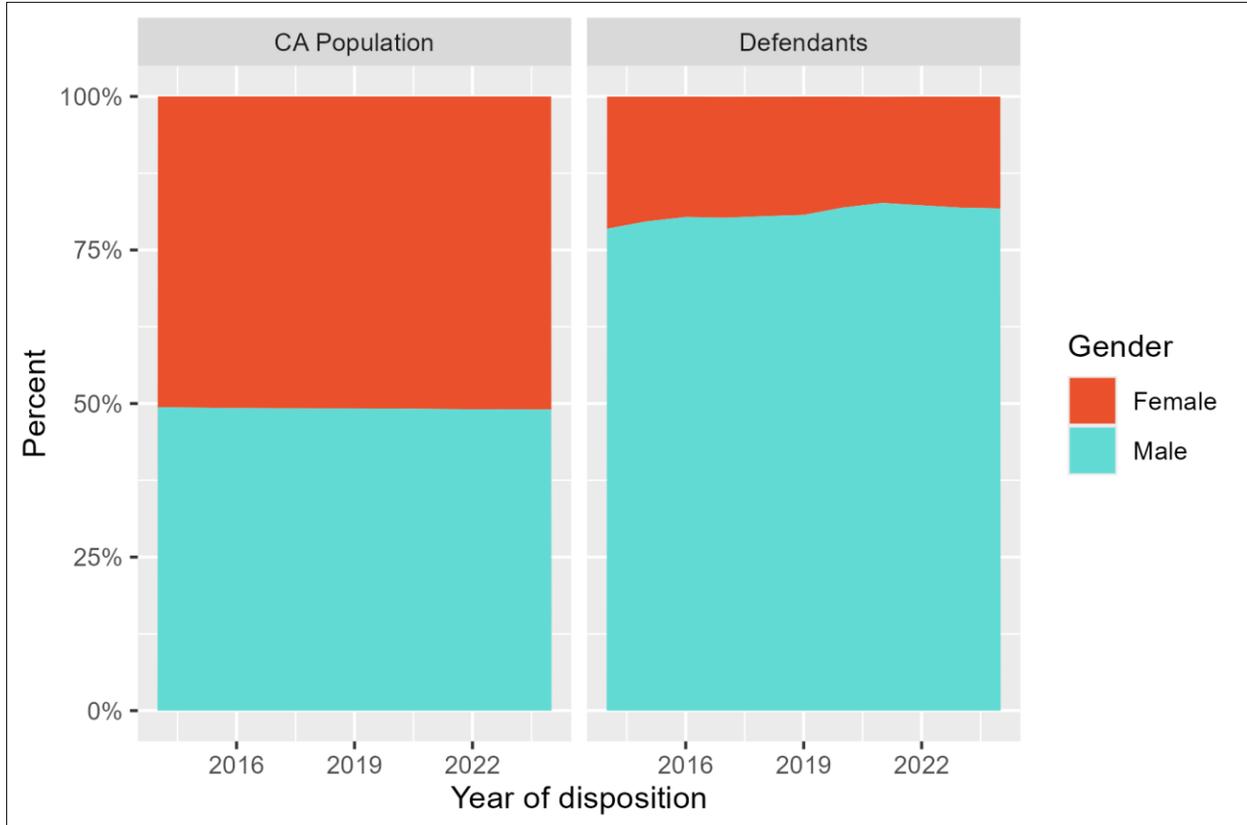
⁹ Judicial Council of Cal., Trends in Caseloads During COVID-19 (undated), courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-12/pandemic-case-trends.pdf.

Demographics of Felony Defendants

Gender

The share of defendants who were male increased slightly from 2014 through 2024, from 78.5 percent to 81.8 percent; the share of female defendants declined from 21.5 percent to 18.2 percent (figure 5). Compared to the state as a whole, in which males were consistently slightly less than half of the population,¹⁰ the share of felony defendants is disproportionately male.

Figure 5: Gender distribution of California population compared to felony defendants

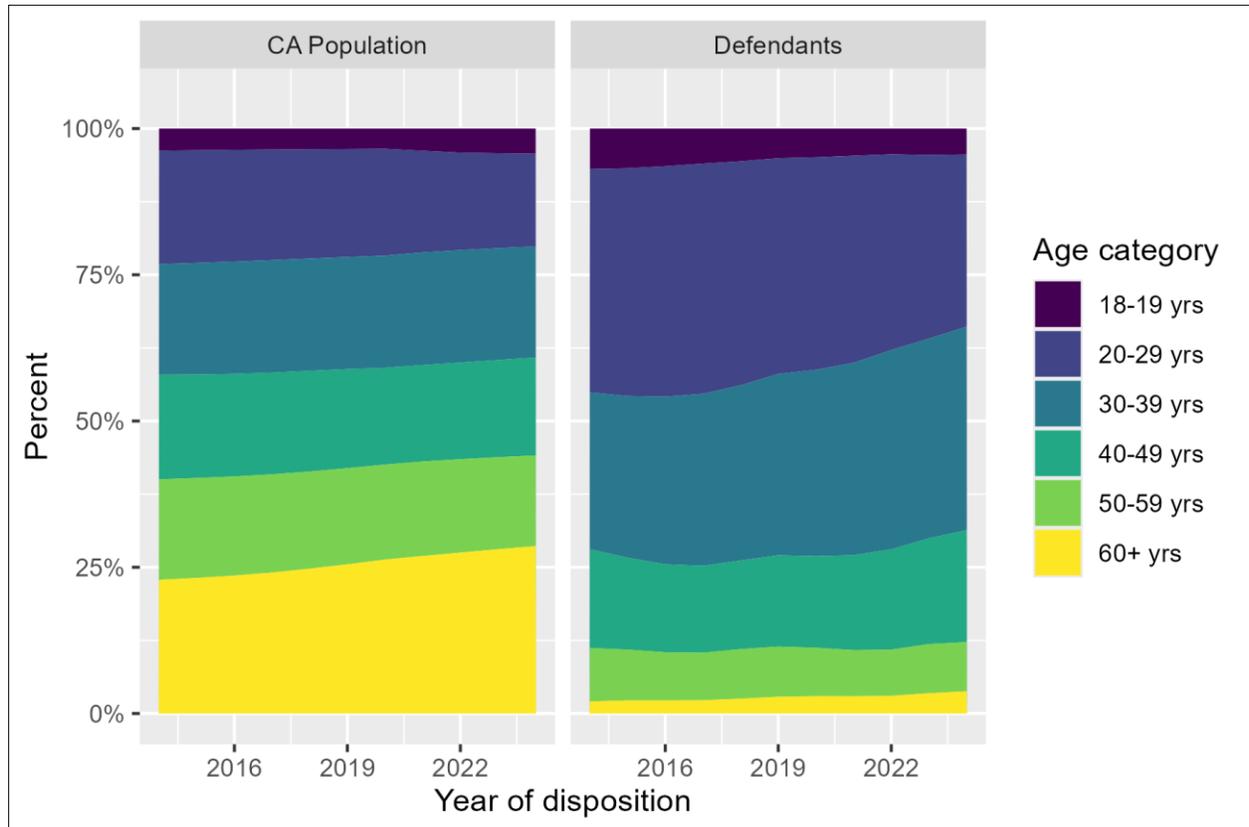


¹⁰ Data on gender/sex is based on the California Department of Finance’s total state population estimates for 2014 through 2024, dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/.

Age

Relative to the state's population,¹¹ felony defendants are more concentrated between the ages of 20–39 years of age (figure 6).¹² The share of felony defendants in the youngest age groups (18–19 and 20–29) declined from 2014 through 2024, while the share in the older age categories increased during this period, especially for defendants from 30–49 years old. This is consistent with other research that has likewise shown generational shifts in crime patterns such that younger generations are committing less crime.¹³

Figure 6: Age distribution of California population compared to felony defendants



¹¹ Age data was drawn from the California Department of Finance's total state population estimate for 2014 through 2024, dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/.

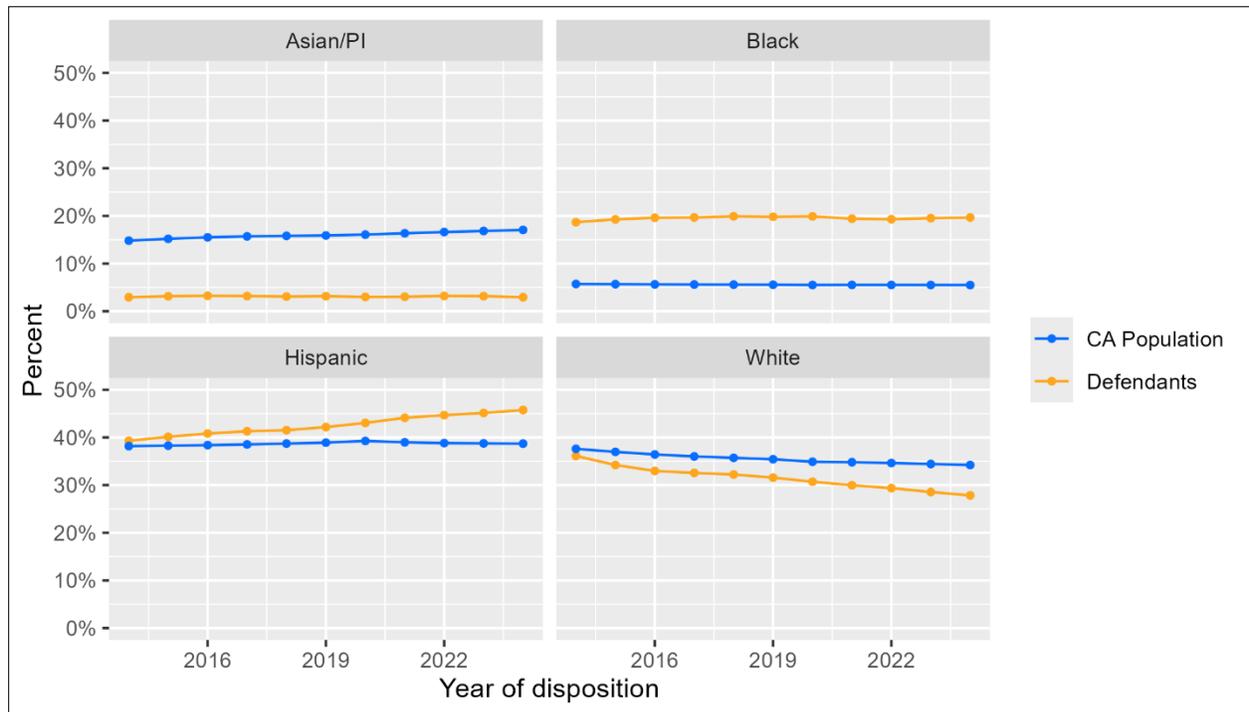
¹² The ACHS file contains the age at time of arrest for each felony defendant. This information was classified into the following age categories: ages 18–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, and 60 or older.

¹³ Magnus Lofstrom et al., Are Younger Generations Committing Less Crime? (Sept. 2023), Public Policy Institute of California, ppic.org/publication/are-younger-generations-committing-less-crime/.

Race/ethnicity

As with age and gender, the racial and ethnic makeup of felony defendants differs from the general adult population (figure 7).¹⁴ Black individuals are overrepresented among felony defendants compared to the California adult population, while Asian/Pacific Islander (Asian/PI) and White individuals are underrepresented among felony defendants compared to the general adult population. While the share of Hispanic individuals among felony defendants closely aligns with their share of the general population in 2014, over time the representation of Hispanic individuals increases faster among defendants than among the California adult population, especially since 2019.

Figure 7: Race distribution of California population compared to felony defendants

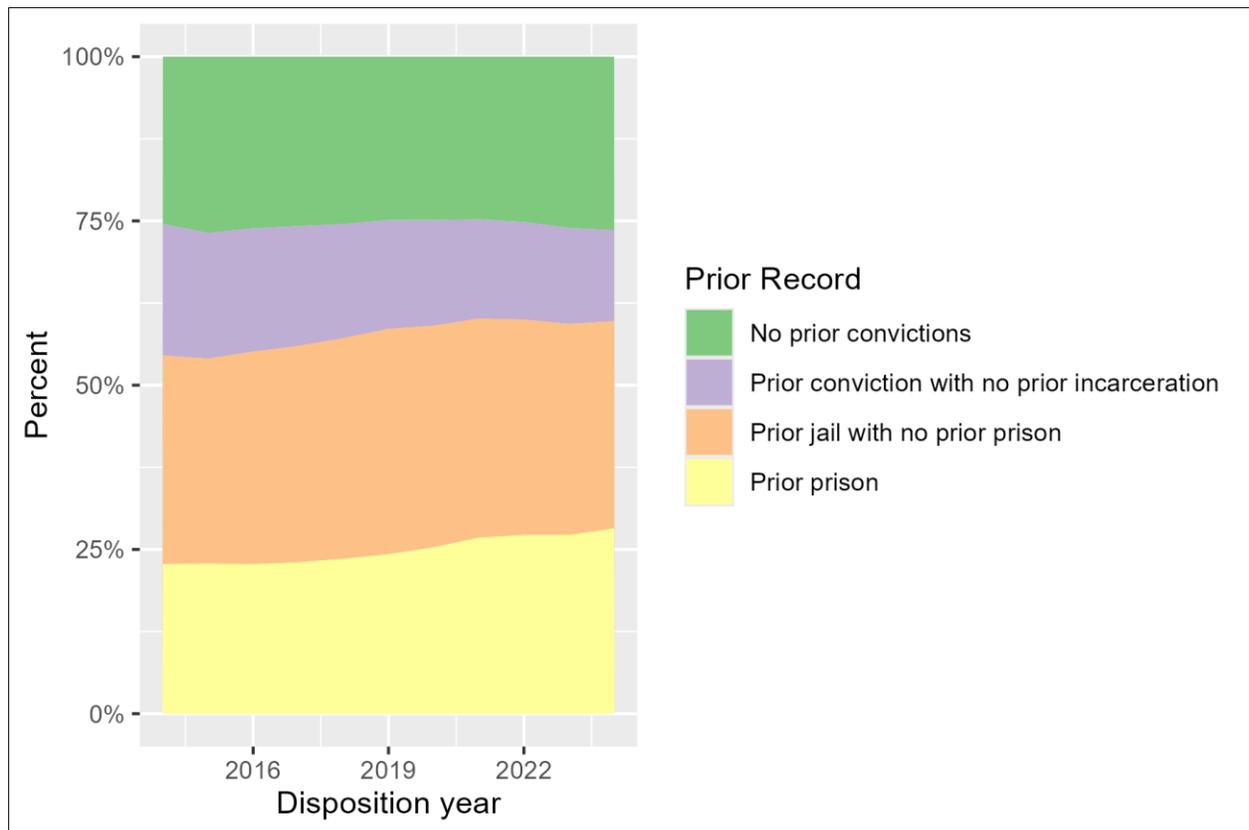


¹⁴ Race/ethnicity data was drawn from the California Department of Finance’s total state population estimate for 2023, dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/. Due to low numbers in American Indian and Other/Unknown categories, these groups were not included in the analyses.

Prior criminal record

Most felony cases in the dataset involved defendants who already had a criminal record (figure 8).¹⁵ The share of defendants with prior convictions with no prior incarcerations decreased during the period from 2014 through 2024, while the share with prior prison increased from 22.8 percent to 28.2 percent.

Figure 8: Prior Record of Felony Defendants

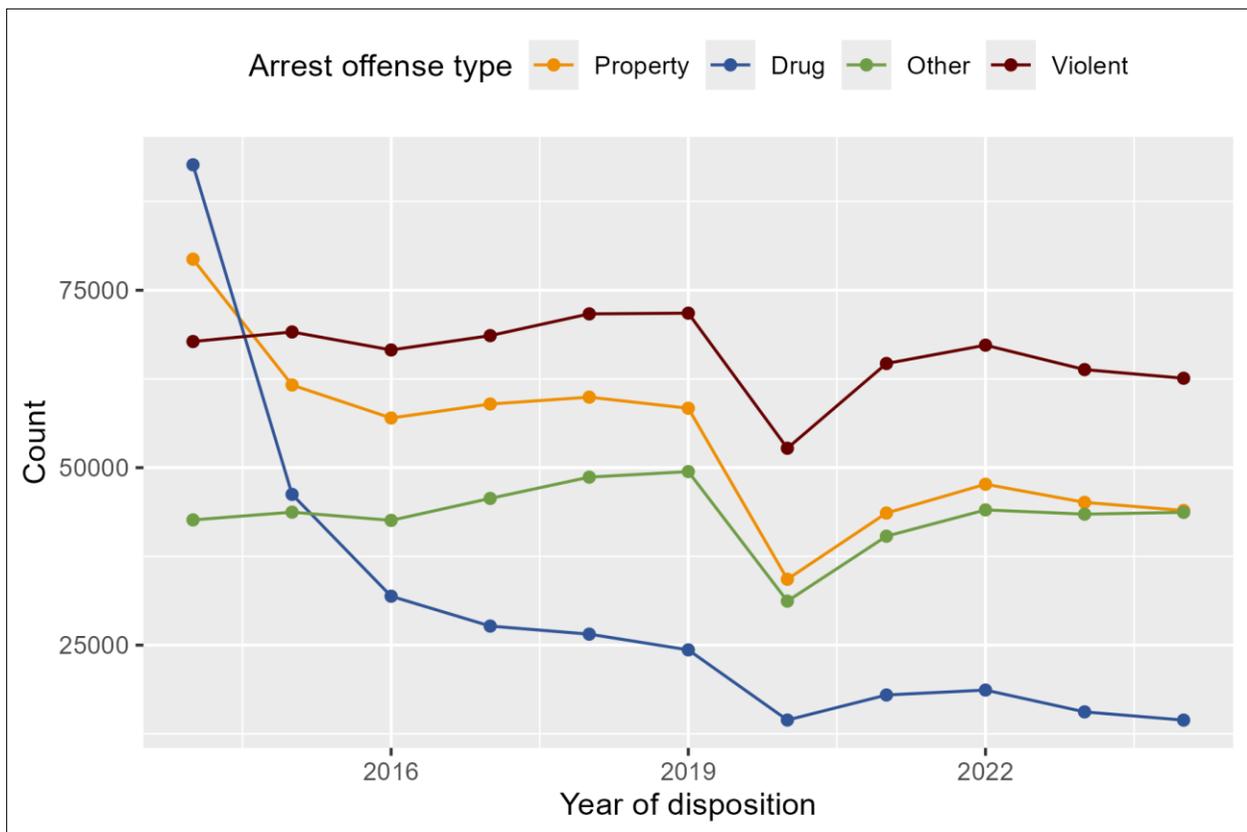


¹⁵ Data are from the California Department of Justice and only include California-based criminal history. Defendants may have other prior criminal records not captured in this dataset from other locales, including other states or the federal system.

Arrest offense type

Violent crimes were the most common felony arrest offense for all years except 2014. Drug crimes declined dramatically from 2014 through 2024, becoming the smallest category of felony offenses from 2016 onward. The largest drop in felony drug crimes occurred between 2014 and 2015, corresponding with the passage of Proposition 47, which reclassified specified drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Property crimes also declined sharply between 2014 and 2015. Dispositions declined across all offense types in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in most instances did not fully recover to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 9: Arrest Offense Type for Felony Defendants



Outcomes

This report presents findings based on four case outcomes:

- Conviction rates—whether a case results in a conviction or alternatively in a dismissal or acquittal;
- Conviction offense level—whether the case resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction;
- Type of sentence—whether the defendant was sentenced to prison or received a lesser sentence; and
- Length of sentence—the sentence length for defendants who were sentenced to prison.

The construction of each outcome from the ACHS dataset is described briefly below.

Conviction Versus Acquittal/Dismissal

Once the prosecutor files a case with the court, the case may result in either a conviction or, alternatively, in a dismissal or acquittal.¹⁶ Dismissal and acquittal are combined into a single category in the following analyses.¹⁷ The vast majority of convictions (94.8 percent for felony cases) are achieved by plea bargaining deals that are negotiated between the prosecution and defense prior to judicial decision-making.¹⁸

Felony Versus Misdemeanor Conviction

Although all arrest charges in the ACHS dataset are felony-level arrests, district attorneys may choose to file at a felony or misdemeanor level, and a reduction in charges may also occur by plea deal or dismissal of the primary felony charge, resulting in conviction on a secondary misdemeanor charge or an infraction.¹⁹ Overall, felony convictions made up 58.1 percent and misdemeanors 41.9 percent of convictions with a known conviction level.²⁰ In this report, the

¹⁶ Cases filed with no known filing offense levels (n = 74,037) were removed for analysis of all outcomes.

¹⁷ The small number of cases in this dataset resulting in an acquittal (n = 5,461) were combined with the dismissed category because there were too few to analyze acquittals as its own category.

¹⁸ The ACHS extract used for this report does not have a data field for whether a case was resolved by plea or by trial, so it is impossible to analyze these outcomes separately. The percentage of convictions achieved by plea deal were calculated from the Judicial Council of California's *2024 Court Statistics Report: Statewide Caseload Trends 2012–13 Through 2022–23*, courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-12/2024-court-statistics-report.pdf. This is comparable to the proportion of convictions achieved by plea found in other states (95 percent of felony convictions; data on all convictions for felony cases not available). Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2004*, bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/fssc04.pdf.

¹⁹ The small number of cases in this dataset resulting solely in an infraction conviction (n = 4,509) were included in the misdemeanor category because there were too few to analyze infractions as its own category.

²⁰ Convictions with no known conviction offense levels (n = 119,236) were removed for analysis of conviction offense level and sentencing outcomes.

term “felony conviction rate” is used to refer to the percentage of defendants whose conviction was for a felony-level offense as opposed to a lesser offense.

Prison Versus Intermediate Sentence

Sentencing is the final disposition stage analyzed in this report.²¹ This report looks at sentencing through two separate analyses: prison versus intermediate sentencing and length of sentence for those sentenced to prison. Prison sentences are on average longer than intermediate sentences and are considered the more severe sentencing category in this report. All non-prison sentencing options are categorized in this report as “intermediate sentences.”²² Prison sentences for which imposition was suspended are not counted as prison sentences for the purpose of this analysis.

Convictions below the felony level are categorically ineligible for prison sentences, so analyses of prison versus intermediate sentences are restricted to defendants convicted of a felony. The California Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011²³ shifted some criminal justice resources and responsibilities from the state to the counties, including the incarceration of people convicted of certain lower-level felonies. In some cases, sentences that previously would have been served in state prison are now served in county jail; however, there are many case-by-case exceptions to this based on criminal history and other factors, making it difficult to distinguish felonies that are eligible for prison from felonies that are not eligible for prison. Therefore, while it would be ideal to further restrict the sample to prison-eligible felonies, all felony-level convictions are included in the analyses. The “prison sentence rate” discussed in the following analyses represents the proportion of all felony-level convictions receiving a prison sentence.

Prison Sentence Length

Sentence length is analyzed only for those sentenced to prison on a felony conviction. Prison sentences for which imposition was suspended are not counted as prison sentences for the purpose of this analysis.²⁴ While the other outcomes analyzed in this report are all expressed as rates, sentence length is analyzed and expressed in terms of days sentenced to prison on a continuous scale.

²¹ Plea deals represent approximately 94.8 percent of convictions in felony cases in California and may impact sentencing outcomes; see note 18.

²² Other sentencing options in ACHS include jail, probation, combined probation and jail, and fines.

²³ Assem. Bill 109 (Comm. on Budget); Stats. 2011, ch. 15, leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB109.

²⁴ Life sentences with no associated sentence length are also excluded (1,498 out of 8,135 identified life sentences had no associated sentence length).

Observed Disposition Outcomes

Prior Criminal Record

Prior criminal record has a significant impact on whether a defendant is convicted, receives a felony or misdemeanor conviction, and, if convicted of a felony, receives a prison sentence. Figure 10 arrays each outcome (displayed in rows) by prior criminal record, arrest offense, and race/ethnicity (displayed in columns). The first column shows that the effect of prior criminal history is consistent for the first three outcomes. For example, while the conviction rate decreases over time, those with no prior convictions consistently have the lowest conviction rate. Similarly, those with prior prison have higher felony conviction rates and prison sentencing rates during the entire period from 2014 through 2024.

Prior criminal record also impacts sentence length for those sentenced to prison. Those sentenced to prison with no prior convictions on average received a longer sentence length, which increased over time from around 10 years in 2014 to around 12 years in 2024, while the sentence length for those with prior prison or jail remained relatively flat at around 6 years. While it may seem counterintuitive that individuals with no prior convictions receive longer sentences, these numbers do not account for other factors that impact sentence length that could differ between those with and without prior convictions. For example, individuals sentenced to prison with no prior convictions were more likely to have been convicted of a violent offense.

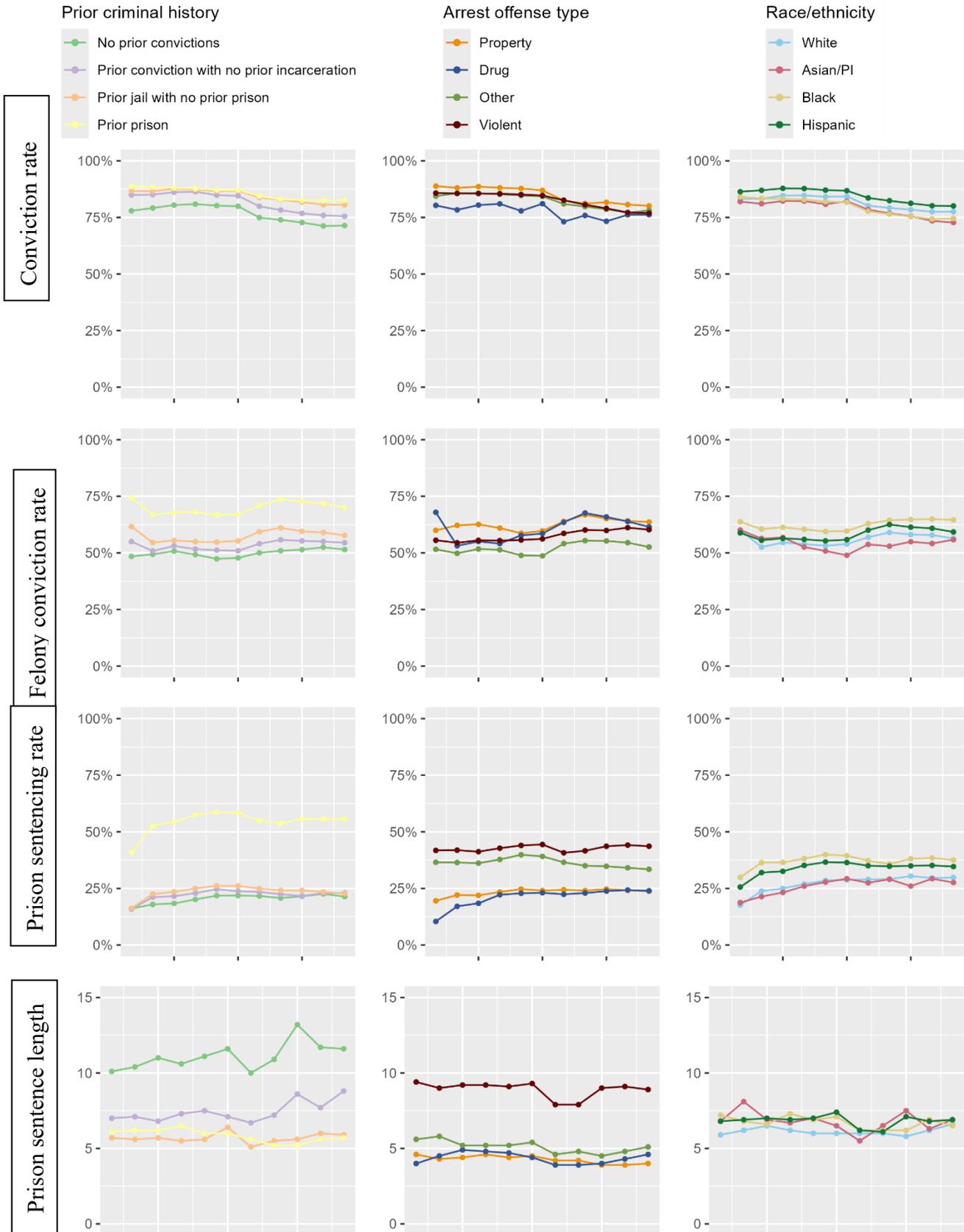
Arrest Offense Type

Arrest offense type also has a significant impact on defendant outcomes. For example, conviction rates are highest in almost all years for those arrested for property crimes. However, violent crimes are most likely to be sentenced to prison, with rates around 45 percent in 2024, compared to around 25 percent for property crimes. Violent crimes also receive the longest prison terms, around 9 years on average, while drug and property crimes receive shorter average prison terms, around 5 years on average.

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 10 also presents the percentage of individuals convicted versus acquitted/dismissed by race/ethnicity without taking any other factors into account (third column). For all racial/ethnic groups, conviction rates are high, and decline slightly after 2019, but Hispanic individuals have a consistently higher rate of conviction. Felony conviction rates, on the other hand, increase for all groups slightly after 2019, and Black defendants have the highest rates. The prison sentencing rate increases over time and is highest for Black and Hispanic defendants. The average sentence length for individuals sentenced to prison hovers around 7 years for all racial/ethnic groups, with White defendants receiving on average the shortest sentences in most years.

Figure 10: Observed Outcomes by Prior Criminal History, Arrest Offense Type, and Race/Ethnicity



Note: The graphs above show the overall percentages, not controlling for other factors.

Outcomes for Similarly Situated Defendants

Figure 10 shows that defendant outcomes are most strongly influenced by the defendant's prior criminal history and arrest offense type. The last column in figure 10 illustrates that some differences in outcomes for individuals across different racial/ethnic groups can be observed.

However, the differences between racial/ethnic groups in these outcomes are also influenced by the differences between groups in criminal history, features of the current offense or offenses, county-specific practices, gender, and age. For racial/ethnic differences in these characteristics, see Appendix A, table A1. The following section describes findings after controlling for these differences to compare outcomes for defendants who are similarly situated in terms of age, gender, county, and legal factors available through ACHS.²⁵

Conviction Rates for Similarly Situated Defendants by Race/Ethnicity

It is possible to focus on the effect of race/ethnicity in convictions of felony arrests by using statistical methods that control for the influence of other observable differences between groups: age, gender, county, and legal factors. This type of analysis estimates the effect of race/ethnicity for a given group compared to White defendants who are similarly situated in terms of age, gender, and legal factors.

The figure below shows trends in the effect of race/ethnicity for each group over time.²⁶ If the available factors other than race/ethnicity (age, gender, county, year, and legal factors) accounted for all differences in conviction rates, the estimates would be at zero (the horizontal black line). Estimates above zero indicate that the conviction rate for that group was higher compared to similarly situated White individuals and estimates below zero indicate that the conviction rate for that group was lower compared to similarly situated White individuals. Values are displayed as relative risk.

The blue line shows that the conviction rate for Hispanic defendants was higher than that for similarly situated White defendants during the entire time period. The largest difference occurred in 2015, when Hispanic defendants were 2.6 percent more likely to be convicted compared to similarly situated White defendants.

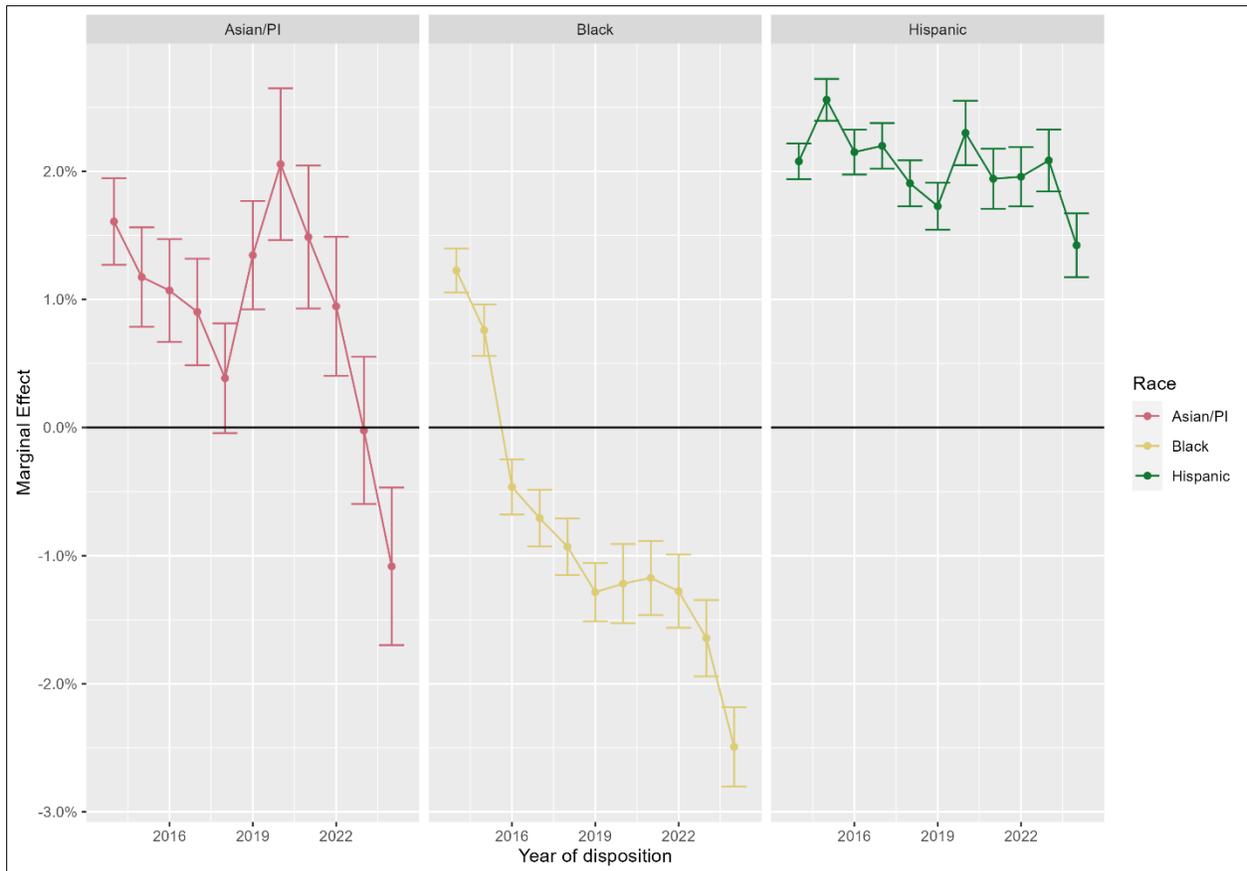
The green line shows that the conviction rate for Black defendants was higher than that for similarly situated White defendants in 2014, but the estimate declined over time such that the conviction rate for Black defendants was lower than that of Whites from 2016 through 2024.

²⁵ Defendants may not be similarly situated based on other unobserved variables, including socioeconomic status, experience level of legal representation, or specific aggravating or mitigating circumstances of their offense; "similarly situated" is an approximation based on available data.

²⁶ Values are displayed as marginal effects derived from a binomial logistic regression model at each disposition year; the bars represent standard errors.

All differences are statistically significant. In 2024, Black defendants were 2.5 percent less likely to be convicted compared to similarly situated White defendants.

The red line, representing estimates for Asian/PI defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants, reflects wider margin-of-error bars due to the small size of the population, but all estimates are statistically significant except for 2018 and 2022 through 2024.



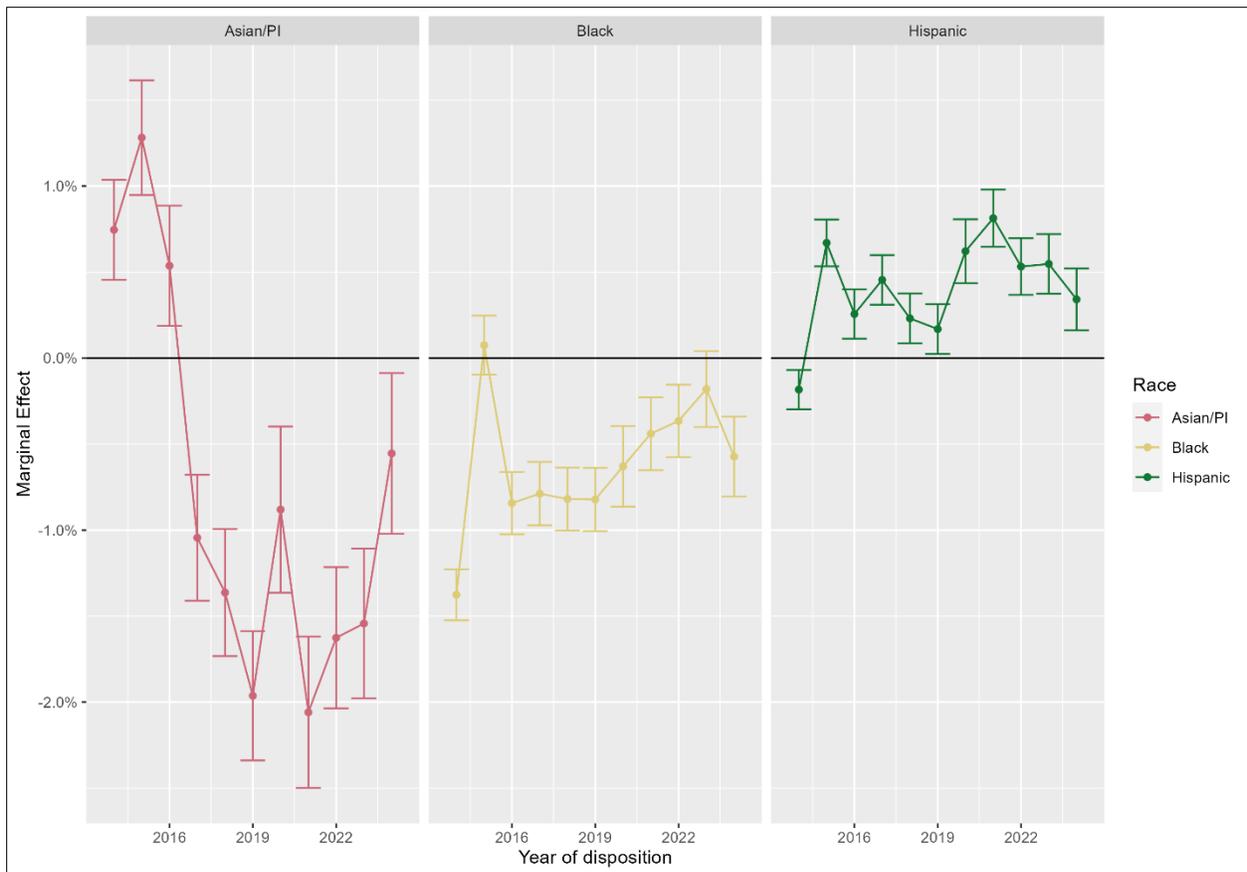
Felony Versus Misdemeanor Conviction Rate for Similarly Situated Defendants by Race/Ethnicity

The effect of race/ethnicity on felony conviction rate was estimated using the same technique described above. Again, the results for Asian/PI defendants are difficult to interpret due to wider margins of error caused by the small number of observations. Asian/PI defendants were more likely to receive a felony versus a misdemeanor conviction compared to similarly situated White defendants for the years 2014 through 2016, and less likely in 2017 through 2024. The differences were not statistically significant for 2016, 2020, and 2024.

The felony conviction rate for Black defendants, represented by the green line, was lower than that for similarly situated White defendants for all years except 2015. The differences were statistically significant in years 2014, 2016 through 2021, and 2024. The largest difference was

in 2014, when Black defendants were 1.4 percent less likely to be convicted of a felony compared to similarly situated White defendants. In 2024, Black individuals were 0.6 percent less likely to be convicted of a felony.

The felony conviction rate for Hispanic defendants, represented by the blue line, was higher than that for similarly situated White defendants, except in 2014. The differences were statistically significant in 2015, 2017, and 2020 through 2023. The largest difference was in 2021, when Hispanic defendants were 0.8 percent more likely to be convicted of a felony compared to similarly situated White defendants.



Sentencing for Similarly Situated Individuals by Race/Ethnicity

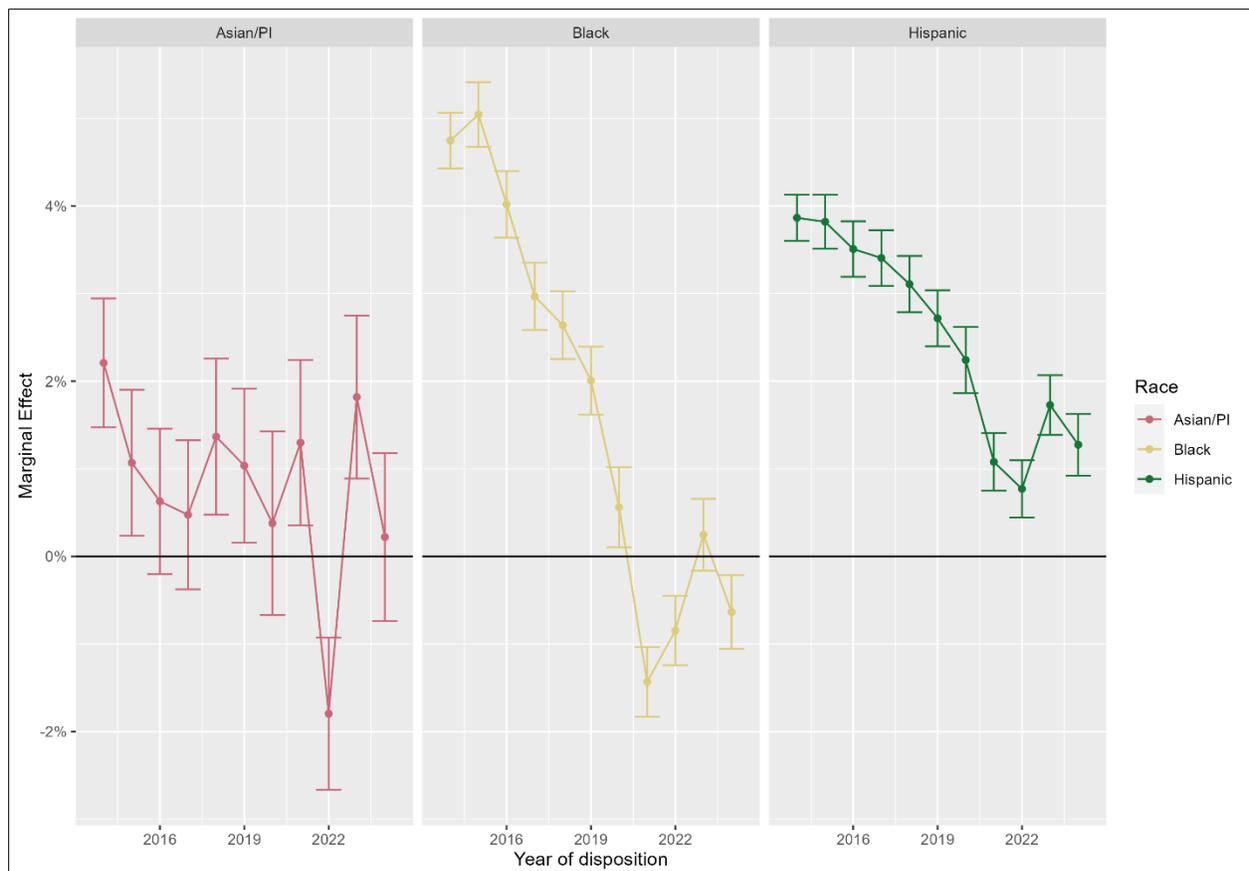
Again, using the same technique described above, the statistical method estimated prison sentencing rates for similarly situated defendants.

Black defendants were 5.0 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants in 2015, but the gap declined steadily over the next four years down to 2.0 percent in 2019. In 2020, the estimate becomes not statistically significant, and then becomes negative in 2021 and 2022, indicating that Black defendants were 1.4 percent and 0.8 percent less likely, respectively, to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White

defendants in these years. The estimates for years 2023 and 2024 are again not statistically significant.

Hispanic defendants, the blue line, had a statistically significant positive estimate throughout the entire time period, indicating that Hispanic defendants were more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to White defendants. The estimates for Hispanic defendants, however, also showed a mostly downward trend—the largest difference was in 2014, when Hispanic defendants were 3.9 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants. In 2024, Hispanic defendants were 1.3 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to White defendants.

The estimate for Asian/PI defendants again was less precise due to the small sample size and less clear trends. Estimates for most years except 2014 and 2022 were not statistically significant. In 2014, Asian/PI defendants were 2.2 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison, and in 2022, 1.8 percent less likely to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants. While these results are statistically significant, indicating that the true differences are unlikely to be zero, the margins of error are larger than those for the estimates for other races due to the smaller number of observations.



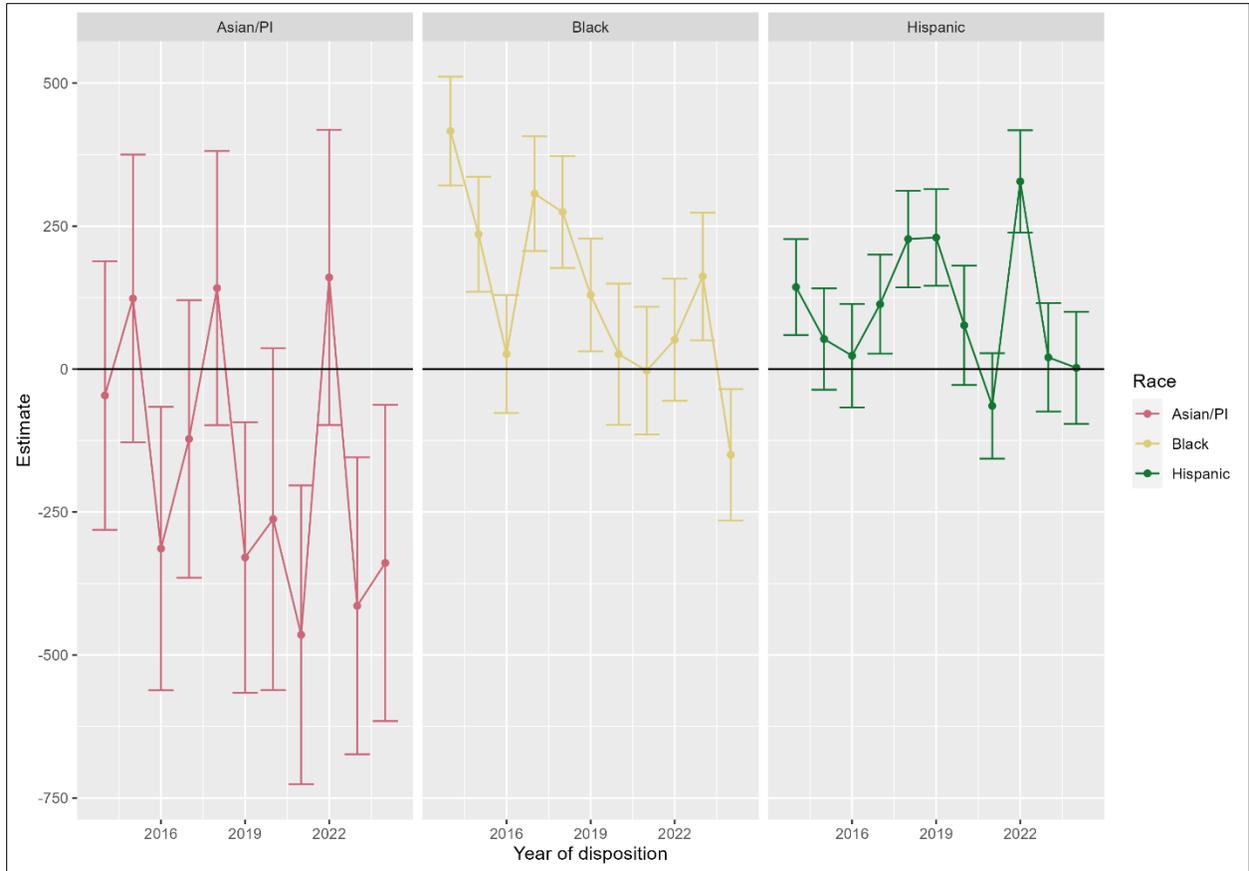
Prison Sentence Length for Similarly Situated Defendants by Race/Ethnicity

The effect of race/ethnicity on prison sentence length was estimated using a slightly different statistical technique appropriate for the estimation of number of days, rather than a rate. In the graph below, estimates above zero represent the average number of additional days defendants from that racial/ethnic group were sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants, while estimates below zero represent the average number of days fewer defendants from that racial/ethnic group were sentenced to prison compared to a similarly situated White defendants.

Black defendants were sentenced to more days in prison compared to similarly situated White defendants for all years except 2021 and 2024, although the differences were only statistically significant in 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018. The highest estimate was in 2014 with 416 more days of prison for Black defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants. In 2024, Black defendants on average were sentenced to 150 fewer days in prison, though this difference was not statistically significant.

Hispanic defendants were sentenced to more days in prison compared to similarly situated White defendants for all years except 2021, although the differences were only statistically significant in 2018, 2019, and 2022. The highest estimate was in 2022, with 328 more days of prison for Hispanic defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants. In 2024, Hispanic defendants on average were sentenced to 2 more days in prison, though this difference was not statistically significant.

The estimates for Asian/PI defendants again were less precise due to the small sample size. None of the estimates for Asian/PI defendants were statistically significant.



Summary of Findings

Legal factors, such as features of the current offense, exerted the strongest influence on all studied outcomes.²⁷ The defendant's prior criminal record also had a strong influence on conviction rate and sentencing to prison. Conviction rate was also notably impacted by the jurisdiction as well as the year of disposition.

After accounting for differences in outcomes that can be explained by legal factors such as charge type and criminal history as well as county variation such as conviction rates and demographics, the analyses found that defendant characteristics such as race/ethnicity, gender, and age are still significantly associated with rates of conviction, rates of felony versus misdemeanor convictions, rates of imposition of a prison sentence versus a lesser sentence, and length of prison sentence imposed.

Accounting for differences mentioned above in the available legal and demographic factors:

- Relative to White defendants, Hispanic defendants were more likely to be convicted rather than be acquitted or have their cases dismissed;
- Hispanic defendants who were convicted were also in most years more likely to receive a felony rather than a misdemeanor conviction relative to similarly situated White defendants, peaking in 2021 at 0.8 percent more likely;
- Hispanic defendants who were convicted of a felony were more likely to be sentenced to prison. Although the size of this difference generally declined over time, in 2024 Hispanic defendants were 1.3 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants;
- Hispanic defendants who were sentenced to prison received longer prison sentences in most years, though the differences were not always statistically significant;
- Relative to White defendants, from 2016 through 2024 Black defendants were less likely to be convicted rather than be acquitted or have their cases dismissed;
- Relative to White defendants, in 2024 Black defendants were 2.5 percent less likely to be convicted rather than be acquitted or have their cases dismissed;

²⁷ As determined by a comparison of McFadden pseudo R-squared values, for conviction rate, felony conviction rate, and prison sentencing rate, which estimate the relative contribution of each predictor to the overall predictive power of the statistical model. For sentence length this is determined by a comparison of R-squared values. For more detail, see Appendix A.

- Black defendants who were convicted were also less likely, in most years, to receive a felony rather than a misdemeanor conviction, and were 0.6 percent less likely compared to similarly situated White defendants in 2024;
- Black defendants who were convicted of a felony were 5.0 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to similarly situated White defendants in 2015, but the estimate generally declined over time and was not statistically significant in 2024;
- Black defendants who were sentenced to prison received longer prison sentences in most years, though the differences were not always statistically significant;
- Findings for Asian/PI defendants were difficult to interpret as the smaller number of observations caused larger margins of error.

These findings are generally consistent with past reports in that race differences persisted after controlling for all available legal and demographic factors.²⁸

Key Longitudinal Trends

This year's report is the first to use longitudinal analyses to look at changes in outcomes over time. Two notable trends stand out in the data:

- There was a decrease over time in the relative rate of conviction for Black defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants. Whereas Black defendants were more likely to be convicted compared to White defendants in 2014, the relative risk generally trended downward over time such that Black defendants were 2.5 percent less likely to be convicted compared to White defendants in 2024.
- There was a decline over time in differences in the prison sentencing rate for Black defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants. Whereas Black defendants were 5.0 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison compared to White defendants in 2015, this difference generally became smaller over time and was not statistically significant in 2024. The prison sentencing rate disparity for Hispanic defendants compared to similarly situated White defendants likewise decreased over this period, although it remained statistically significant.

Observing the data over time also reveals changes in the impact of race on outcomes during the period from 2020 through 2022, especially for Black defendants for the outcomes of conviction and prison sentencing, indicating potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and related social and policy changes.

²⁸ Exact findings may differ compared to prior reports due to the dynamic nature of the ACHS dataset. For a description of available controls, see Appendix A.

Conclusion

The Judicial Council has submitted this report to the Legislature annually since 2001. While prior reports have indicated that racial/ethnic disparities exist in criminal case dispositions, this report analyzes data from 2014 through 2024 that suggest that some disparities are decreasing. Significant criminal justice policy changes have been made since 2014. Some of these changes may be related to the trends presented in this report. The Judicial Council will continue to track and present longitudinal trends in its annual report.

Appendix A: Methodology

This appendix contains a table (table A1) of the characteristics of felony defendants in the Automated Criminal History System database and the regression results referred to in this report. Regression is a statistical process of determining the relationship between an outcome of interest and a set of predictors. The mathematical equation that is used to determine this relationship contains the predictors being examined and is referred to as a “model.”

The unit of analysis for this report is a unique person and disposition date combination.

For all outcomes, the prior criminal history items included in the model were:

- Years prior prison;
- Years prior jail;
- Number of prior sentences to probation;
- Number of prior convictions including a violent felony (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a violent misdemeanor (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a property felony (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a property misdemeanor (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a drug felony (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a drug misdemeanor (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including another sex felony (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including another sex misdemeanor (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including another felony (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including another misdemeanor (summary code);
- Number of prior convictions including a violent felony (statutory);
- Number of prior convictions including a serious felony (statutory);
- Number of prior convictions including a sexual offense;
- Number of prior convictions including a domestic violence offense;
- Number of prior convictions including a DUI offense;
- Whether the defendant was on probation at the time of the current arrest;
- The highest hierarchy value for any prior conviction offense; and
- Years since the most recent conviction (ceiling, and inverted).

For all outcomes, the demographic, location, and time items included in the model were:

- Age;
- Gender;
- County;
- Race;
- Year of disposition (as a factor); and
- The interaction of Race x Year of disposition (as a factor).

By using models that interact Race and Year of disposition as a factor, it allows the effect of race on the outcome in question to vary year to year without imposing assumptions about the way in which it may vary.

For conviction rate and level of conviction offense, the current offense items included in the model were:

- Whether the filed charges included a violent felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a violent misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a property felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a property misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a drug felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a drug misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included another sex felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included another sex misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included another felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included another misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the filed charges included a violent felony (statutory);
- Whether the filed charges included a serious felony (statutory);
- Whether the filed charges included a sex offense;
- Whether the filed charges included a domestic violence offense;
- Whether the filed charges included a DUI offense;
- The highest DOJ offense hierarchy value for filed charges (scaled);
- The number of filed felony charges;
- The number of filed misdemeanor charges;
- The number of arrests involved in the current disposition; and
- The maximum sentence exposure of filed charges, expressed as days of incarceration.²⁹

For prison sentencing and prison sentence length, the current offense items included in the model were:

- Whether the convicted charges included a violent felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included a violent misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included a property felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included a property misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included a drug felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included a drug misdemeanor charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included another sex felony charge (summary code);
- Whether the convicted charges included another sex misdemeanor charge (summary code);

²⁹ The maximum sentence exposure is of filed charges calculated using sentencing triads from the DOJ and sums the highest incarcerative sentence length from the filed charge with the longest exposure with the middle triad value for all other filed charges. In calculating this variable, exposure to a life sentence was counted as equivalent to 50 years' exposure and exposure to a death sentence was counted as equivalent to 75 years' exposure.

- Whether the convicted charges included another felony charge (summary code),
- Whether the convicted charges included another misdemeanor charge (summary code),
- Whether the convicted charges included a violent felony (statutory),
- Whether the convicted charges included a serious felony (statutory),
- Whether the convicted charges included a sex offense,
- Whether the convicted charges included a domestic violence offense,
- Whether the convicted charges included a DUI offense;
- The highest DOJ offense hierarchy value for convicted charges (scaled);
- The number of convicted felony charges;
- The number of convicted misdemeanor charges;
- The number of arrests involved in the current disposition; and
- The maximum sentence exposure of convicted charges, expressed as days of incarceration.³⁰

For the three rate outcomes, a binomial logit model was used. Binomial regression is a specific type of regression ideal for estimating binary outcome variables, such as felony versus misdemeanor conviction. For prison sentence length, linear regression was used, with robust standard errors.

Marginal effects for each race/ethnicity were used to express the magnitude of the effect of race/ethnicity for the three rate outcomes. The marginal effects shown are derived from the binomial logistic models and represent the relative risk for each racial group compared to similarly situated White defendants at each disposition year.

An additive model was also run for each outcome that included race and disposition year without an interaction term in order to analyze the overall impact of race across the entire time period. A likelihood ratio test was used to compare the model strength for each additive model with and without race/ethnicity. These tests demonstrate that a model that includes race as a predictor is significantly more predictive than a model without race for all four of the outcomes of interest.³¹

³⁰ The maximum sentence exposure of convicted charges is calculated using sentencing triads from the DOJ and sums the highest incarcerative sentence length from the convicted charge with the longest exposure with the middle triad value for all other convicted charges. In calculating this variable, exposure to a life sentence was counted as equivalent to 50 years' exposure and exposure to a death sentence was counted as equivalent to 75 years' exposure.

³¹ For all outcomes $p < 0.0001$, indicating it is unlikely to observe this difference by chance if the two models were equally predictive.

Table A1: Characteristics of felony defendants

	Total %	Asian/PI %	Black %	Hispanic %	White %
All defendants	--	3.2	19.9	43.9	33.0
Outcome Variables					
<i>Case Outcome</i>					
Acquittal or Dismissal	17.2	20.7	19.9	15.2	18.0
Conviction	82.8	79.3	80.1	84.8	82.0
<i>Conviction type (among convictions)</i>					
Misdemeanor	41.9	45.5	37.8	41.8	44.0
Felony	58.1	54.5	62.2	58.2	56.0
<i>Sentence Outcome (among felonies)</i>					
Non-prison Sentence	68.4	74.7	63.3	66.5	73.9
Prison	31.6	25.3	36.7	33.5	26.1
<i>Sentence Length (prison sentences)</i>					
Average years	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.1
Situational Variables					
<i>Arrest Offense Type</i>					
Violent	34.8	32.9	40.5	35.9	30.2
Property	27.7	30.1	26.3	26.0	30.5
Drug	15.8	17.8	11.5	15.0	19.1
Other	21.7	19.2	21.7	23.1	20.2
<i>Arrest Offense DOJ Hierarchy^a</i>					
Average hierarchy value	0.0774	0.0819	0.1055	0.0789	0.058
<i>Arrest Offense Exposure^b</i>					
Max sentence exposure (days)	2035.8	1988.1	2226.1	2093.7	1848.4
<i>Prior Record</i>					
No prior convictions	25.3	40.0	22.0	27.5	22.9
Prior conviction (no prior jail)	17.2	15.5	14.1	19.5	16.2
Prior jail (no prior prison)	33.0	28.4	30.8	30.7	38.0
Prior prison	24.4	16.0	33.1	22.3	22.9
Defendant Characteristics					
<i>Gender</i>					
Male	80.8	80.0	80.7	84.1	76.6
Female	19.2	20.0	19.3	15.9	23.4
<i>Average Age (years)</i>					
	33.8	35.2	33.8	31.7	36.5
<i>Number of Cases</i>					
	1,980,968	63,468	394,926	869,137	653,437

-
- ^a The DOJ produces a hierarchy of criminal codes with values representing the severity of crimes. The variable has been scaled for ease of interpretability so that the overall mean hierarchy value is 0, and the standard deviation is 1. Positive values represent average hierarchy values more severe than the mean. Total average hierarchy is not equal to 0 because the variable was scaled for all dispositions, and this table only includes those with court dispositions.
- ^b The maximum sentence exposure is calculated using sentencing triads from the DOJ, and sums the highest incarcerative sentence length from the charge with the longest exposure with the middle triad value for all other charges. In calculating this variable, exposure to a life sentence was counted as equivalent to 50 years' exposure and exposure to a death sentence was counted as equivalent to 75 years' exposure.
- ^c Excluding those with race other than White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian/PI; genders other than male or female; age less than 18; and cases with no known offense level.

Table A2: Binomial logit model predicting conviction versus dismissal/acquittal

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
(Intercept)	-5.737e-01	2.009e-02	-2.856e+01	1.885e-179	***
years_prior_prison	2.486e-03	4.907e-04	5.066e+00	4.070e-07	***
years_prior_jail	-4.143e-04	1.821e-04	-2.275e+00	2.292e-02	*
prior_sent_probation_flag_count	4.858e-03	1.624e-03	2.992e+00	2.774e-03	**
prior_conviction_summ_f_violent_flag_count	-4.131e-02	5.372e-03	-7.689e+00	1.478e-14	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_violent_flag_count	3.145e-03	2.831e-03	1.111e+00	2.666e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_f_property_flag_count	1.019e-02	2.027e-03	5.027e+00	4.983e-07	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_property_flag_count	3.086e-02	3.246e-03	9.508e+00	1.951e-21	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_drug_flag_count	2.577e-02	2.447e-03	1.053e+01	6.129e-26	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_drug_flag_count	4.962e-02	1.978e-03	2.509e+01	6.379e-139	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag_count	4.084e-02	1.118e-02	3.651e+00	2.607e-04	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag_count	7.564e-03	5.239e-03	1.444e+00	1.488e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_flag_count	-2.472e-02	3.559e-03	-6.945e+00	3.781e-12	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_flag_count	-2.833e-03	1.944e-03	-1.458e+00	1.449e-01	
prior_conviction_violent_felony_flag_count	6.383e-02	9.528e-03	6.699e+00	2.094e-11	***
prior_conviction_serious_felony_flag_count	3.409e-02	7.763e-03	4.391e+00	1.130e-05	***
prior_conviction_sex_flag_count	4.867e-02	1.316e-02	3.697e+00	2.181e-04	***
prior_conviction_dv_flag_count	5.173e-02	4.088e-03	1.265e+01	1.065e-36	***
prior_conviction_dui_flag_count	-2.694e-03	4.092e-03	-6.584e-01	5.103e-01	
on_prob	1.573e-01	5.388e-03	2.920e+01	2.229e-187	***
prior_max_conv_hier_scaled	2.834e-01	9.598e-03	2.952e+01	1.396e-191	***
inv_yrs_since_prior_conv	4.870e-01	7.418e-03	6.565e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_violent_flag	5.913e-02	9.602e-03	6.158e+00	7.347e-10	***
court_summ_m_violent_flag	7.161e-01	6.640e-03	1.078e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_property_flag	2.764e-01	7.799e-03	3.544e+01	4.437e-275	***
court_summ_m_property_flag	7.926e-01	8.173e-03	9.698e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_drug_flag	-9.546e-02	8.357e-03	-1.142e+01	3.220e-30	***
court_summ_m_drug_flag	1.468e-01	6.412e-03	2.290e+01	4.514e-116	***
court_summ_f_other_sex_flag	5.708e-01	2.082e-02	2.741e+01	1.881e-165	***
court_summ_m_other_sex_flag	6.339e-01	2.426e-02	2.613e+01	1.891e-150	***
court_summ_f_other_flag	2.499e-01	6.430e-03	3.886e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_other_flag	7.477e-01	5.629e-03	1.328e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_violent_felony_flag	-6.992e-01	1.223e-02	-5.715e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_serious_felony_flag	1.695e-01	9.651e-03	1.756e+01	4.983e-69	***
court_sex_flag	-1.299e-02	2.022e-02	-6.424e-01	5.206e-01	
court_dv_flag	-2.519e-01	7.121e-03	-3.537e+01	4.672e-274	***
court_dui_flag	1.510e+00	1.428e-02	1.058e+02	0.000e+00	***
max_court_hier_scaled	3.805e-01	2.561e-02	1.485e+01	6.616e-50	***
filed_fcharge_count	-4.139e-02	2.212e-03	-1.871e+01	4.020e-78	***
filed_mcharge_count	-5.047e-02	1.845e-03	-2.736e+01	7.832e-165	***
combined_cycles_count	1.964e-01	4.514e-03	4.351e+01	0.000e+00	***
exp_filed_sent_days	4.639e-04	3.462e-06	1.340e+02	0.000e+00	***
age	-5.578e-03	1.996e-04	-2.794e+01	8.934e-172	***
genderF	-1.962e-01	5.110e-03	-3.839e+01	0.000e+00	***

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
disp_year2014	7.007e-01	1.544e-02	4.538e+01	0.000e+00	***
disp_year2015	6.590e-01	1.630e-02	4.042e+01	0.000e+00	***
disp_year2016	7.167e-01	1.707e-02	4.200e+01	0.000e+00	***
disp_year2017	6.752e-01	1.706e-02	3.957e+01	0.000e+00	***
disp_year2018	6.292e-01	1.693e-02	3.717e+01	2.248e-302	***
disp_year2019	6.019e-01	1.703e-02	3.535e+01	9.382e-274	***
disp_year2020	2.673e-01	1.837e-02	1.455e+01	6.002e-48	***
disp_year2021	1.364e-01	1.728e-02	7.891e+00	2.989e-15	***
disp_year2022	7.139e-02	1.697e-02	4.208e+00	2.581e-05	***
disp_year2023	5.601e-03	1.717e-02	3.263e-01	7.442e-01	
raceAsian/PI	-6.757e-02	3.797e-02	-1.779e+00	7.518e-02	.
raceBlack	-1.530e-01	1.893e-02	-8.083e+00	6.314e-16	***
raceHispanic	9.154e-02	1.595e-02	5.738e+00	9.593e-09	***
disp_year2014:raceAsian/PI	2.166e-01	4.992e-02	4.339e+00	1.428e-05	***
disp_year2015:raceAsian/PI	1.725e-01	5.189e-02	3.323e+00	8.897e-04	***
disp_year2016:raceAsian/PI	1.662e-01	5.357e-02	3.102e+00	1.920e-03	**
disp_year2017:raceAsian/PI	1.483e-01	5.355e-02	2.770e+00	5.602e-03	**
disp_year2018:raceAsian/PI	1.007e-01	5.303e-02	1.899e+00	5.754e-02	.
disp_year2019:raceAsian/PI	1.842e-01	5.339e-02	3.450e+00	5.596e-04	***
disp_year2020:raceAsian/PI	2.184e-01	5.866e-02	3.724e+00	1.964e-04	***
disp_year2021:raceAsian/PI	1.691e-01	5.420e-02	3.120e+00	1.806e-03	**
disp_year2022:raceAsian/PI	1.299e-01	5.230e-02	2.484e+00	1.301e-02	*
disp_year2023:raceAsian/PI	6.613e-02	5.249e-02	1.260e+00	2.077e-01	
disp_year2014:raceBlack	2.654e-01	2.449e-02	1.084e+01	2.259e-27	***
disp_year2015:raceBlack	2.201e-01	2.577e-02	8.541e+00	1.326e-17	***
disp_year2016:raceBlack	1.120e-01	2.660e-02	4.211e+00	2.545e-05	***
disp_year2017:raceBlack	9.219e-02	2.649e-02	3.480e+00	5.020e-04	***
disp_year2018:raceBlack	7.542e-02	2.615e-02	2.884e+00	3.924e-03	**
disp_year2019:raceBlack	4.821e-02	2.623e-02	1.838e+00	6.606e-02	.
disp_year2020:raceBlack	6.838e-02	2.835e-02	2.412e+00	1.587e-02	*
disp_year2021:raceBlack	7.586e-02	2.656e-02	2.856e+00	4.287e-03	**
disp_year2022:raceBlack	7.135e-02	2.604e-02	2.741e+00	6.134e-03	**
disp_year2023:raceBlack	5.091e-02	2.620e-02	1.944e+00	5.195e-02	.
disp_year2014:raceHispanic	1.037e-01	2.043e-02	5.077e+00	3.843e-07	***
disp_year2015:raceHispanic	1.459e-01	2.179e-02	6.694e+00	2.173e-11	***
disp_year2016:raceHispanic	1.130e-01	2.278e-02	4.959e+00	7.079e-07	***
disp_year2017:raceHispanic	1.125e-01	2.270e-02	4.954e+00	7.282e-07	***
disp_year2018:raceHispanic	7.896e-02	2.240e-02	3.525e+00	4.237e-04	***
disp_year2019:raceHispanic	5.976e-02	2.243e-02	2.664e+00	7.721e-03	**
disp_year2020:raceHispanic	7.800e-02	2.416e-02	3.229e+00	1.243e-03	**
disp_year2021:raceHispanic	4.202e-02	2.249e-02	1.868e+00	6.170e-02	.
disp_year2022:raceHispanic	3.925e-02	2.196e-02	1.787e+00	7.392e-02	.
disp_year2023:raceHispanic	4.410e-02	2.213e-02	1.993e+00	4.626e-02	*
County fixed effects	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Notes:

n = 1,980,968

Excluding those with race other than White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian/PI; genders other than male or female; age less than 18; and cases with no recorded filed charge level.

Output shown for base year 2024.

. p < 0.1; * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001

† P-values represent the probability that these results could be obtained by chance if that predictor did not have any predictive value. P-values below 0.05 are typically viewed as representing a “significant” result—that the estimate is unlikely to have occurred by chance if there were no true effect.

‡ County included as a categorical variable; individual county fixed effects not shown. Many counties significantly differed.

Table A3: Log likelihood output comparing additive conviction model with and without race term

term	X.Df	LogLik	df	statistic	p.value
Model without race term	112	-790453.8072			
Model with race term	115	-789510.3893	3	1886.835983	0

Table A4: Marginal effects for conviction model by year of disposition

disp_year	race	estimate	std.error	p.value	significance
2014	Asian/PI	0.016082	0.00338	1.96E-06	***
2015	Asian/PI	0.011745	0.003876	0.002444	**
2016	Asian/PI	0.010697	0.004015	0.007715	**
2017	Asian/PI	0.009023	0.004151	0.029726	*
2018	Asian/PI	0.003852	0.004283	0.368415	
2019	Asian/PI	0.013451	0.004226	0.00146	**
2020	Asian/PI	0.020554	0.005925	0.000523	***
2021	Asian/PI	0.01487	0.005577	0.007669	**
2022	Asian/PI	0.009464	0.005423	0.080962	.
2023	Asian/PI	-0.00023	0.005745	0.968428	
2024	Asian/PI	-0.01083	0.006149	0.078124	.
2014	Black	0.012259	0.001716	9.20E-13	***
2015	Black	0.007601	0.002008	0.000153	***
2016	Black	-0.00463	0.002154	0.031401	*
2017	Black	-0.00707	0.002202	0.001313	**
2018	Black	-0.0093	0.00221	2.56E-05	***
2019	Black	-0.01285	0.002277	1.69E-08	***
2020	Black	-0.01218	0.003092	8.14E-05	***
2021	Black	-0.01174	0.002892	4.94E-05	***
2022	Black	-0.01277	0.002856	7.79E-06	***

2023	Black	-0.01644	0.002982	3.53E-08	***
2024	Black	-0.02492	0.003095	8.15E-16	***
2014	Hispanic	0.020778	0.001392	2.09E-50	***
2015	Hispanic	0.025581	0.001634	3.02E-55	***
2016	Hispanic	0.021498	0.001744	6.72E-35	***
2017	Hispanic	0.021986	0.001777	3.75E-35	***
2018	Hispanic	0.019062	0.001795	2.40E-26	***
2019	Hispanic	0.017277	0.001839	5.82E-21	***
2020	Hispanic	0.022995	0.002507	4.69E-20	***
2021	Hispanic	0.019417	0.002355	1.66E-16	***
2022	Hispanic	0.019574	0.002312	2.55E-17	***
2023	Hispanic	0.020846	0.002415	6.07E-18	***
2024	Hispanic	0.014227	0.00249	1.10E-08	***

Table A5: Pseudo R-squared results for model predicting conviction versus dismissal/acquittal

Contribution for each variable category was calculated by taking the McFadden pseudo R-squared value for the full model and subtracting the McFadden pseudo R-squared value for a model without that variable category. McFadden pseudo R-squared values are difficult to interpret individually, but the relative values give information about the relative contribution of each predictor cluster to the overall predictive power of the model.

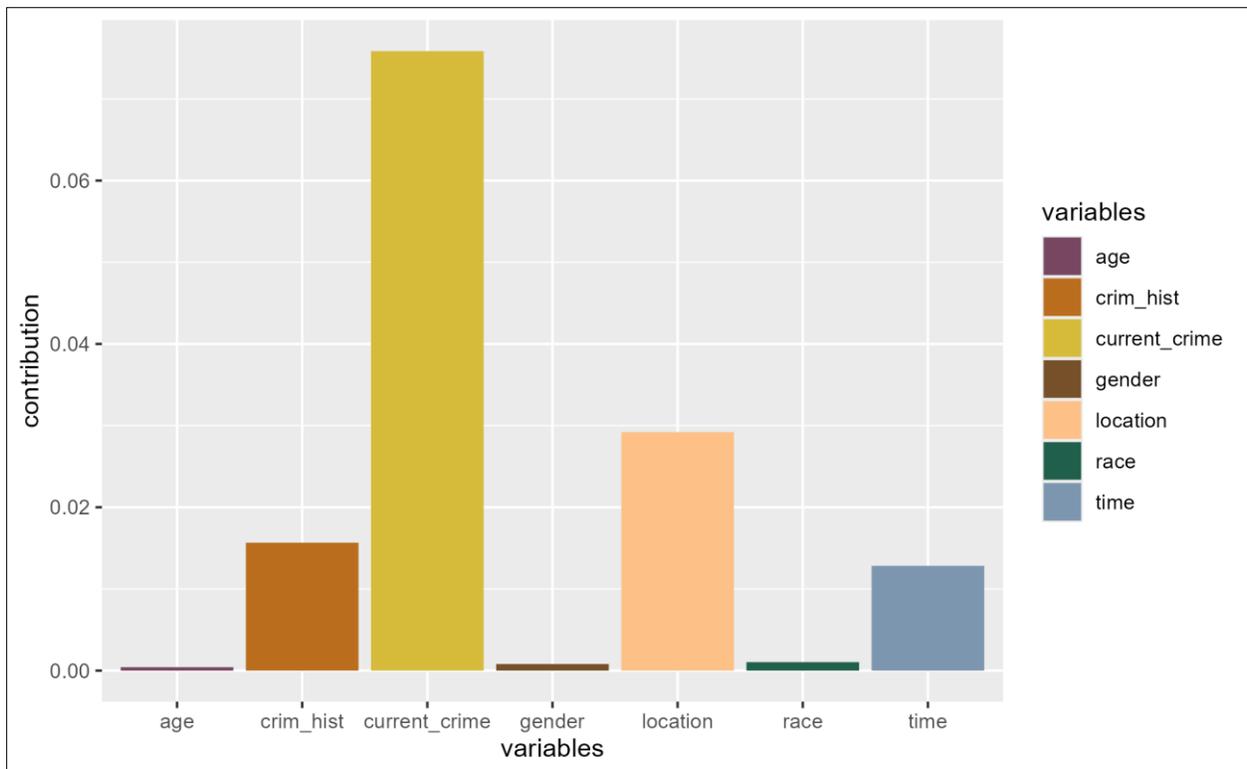


Table A6: Binomial logit model predicting felony versus misdemeanor conviction

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
(Intercept)	-1.226e+00	3.254e-02	-3.767e+01	0.000e+00	***
years_prior_prison	7.245e-03	8.644e-04	8.382e+00	5.217e-17	***
years_prior_jail	2.014e-03	6.422e-04	3.136e+00	1.711e-03	**
prior_sent_probation_flag_count	1.978e-02	2.321e-03	8.522e+00	1.571e-17	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_violent_flag_count	7.515e-02	8.381e-03	8.968e+00	3.026e-19	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_violent_flag_count	2.147e-02	3.915e-03	5.485e+00	4.130e-08	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_property_flag_count	8.927e-02	3.171e-03	2.815e+01	2.347e-174	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_property_flag_count	2.016e-02	4.582e-03	4.401e+00	1.077e-05	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_drug_flag_count	4.588e-02	3.625e-03	1.266e+01	1.020e-36	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_drug_flag_count	-3.079e-02	2.416e-03	-1.274e+01	3.378e-37	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag_count	1.440e-01	1.765e-02	8.161e+00	3.312e-16	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag_count	1.848e-02	7.770e-03	2.379e+00	1.737e-02	*
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_flag_count	1.369e-01	5.718e-03	2.394e+01	1.131e-126	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_flag_count	-2.316e-02	2.750e-03	-8.423e+00	3.679e-17	***
prior_conviction_violent_felony_flag_count	1.160e-01	1.560e-02	7.436e+00	1.040e-13	***
prior_conviction_serious_felony_flag_count	2.065e-02	1.218e-02	1.696e+00	8.982e-02	.
prior_conviction_sex_flag_count	5.370e-02	2.053e-02	2.616e+00	8.907e-03	**
prior_conviction_dv_flag_count	1.645e-02	5.600e-03	2.938e+00	3.305e-03	**
prior_conviction_dui_flag_count	2.642e-02	5.858e-03	4.510e+00	6.475e-06	***
on_prob	1.808e-01	8.003e-03	2.260e+01	4.810e-113	***
prior_max_conv_hier_scaled	1.066e+00	1.598e-02	6.673e+01	0.000e+00	***
inv_yrs_since_prior_conv	3.463e-01	1.106e-02	3.131e+01	3.510e-215	***
court_summ_f_violent_flag	2.951e+00	1.666e-02	1.771e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_violent_flag	-1.367e+00	9.284e-03	-1.472e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_property_flag	3.236e+00	1.449e-02	2.234e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_property_flag	-1.953e+00	1.122e-02	-1.741e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_drug_flag	2.936e+00	1.541e-02	1.905e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_drug_flag	-9.954e-01	9.416e-03	-1.057e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_other_sex_flag	3.193e+00	3.342e-02	9.553e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_other_sex_flag	-1.532e+00	3.262e-02	-4.697e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_f_other_flag	3.082e+00	1.278e-02	2.411e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_summ_m_other_flag	-1.420e+00	8.063e-03	-1.761e+02	0.000e+00	***
court_violent_felony_flag	-1.144e+00	2.043e-02	-5.603e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_serious_felony_flag	-1.687e-01	1.333e-02	-1.266e+01	1.042e-36	***
court_sex_flag	-4.041e-02	3.266e-02	-1.237e+00	2.160e-01	
court_dv_flag	-6.132e-01	1.200e-02	-5.110e+01	0.000e+00	***
court_dui_flag	3.986e-01	1.342e-02	2.970e+01	6.657e-194	***
max_court_hier_scaled	-3.991e+00	4.025e-02	-9.915e+01	0.000e+00	***
filed_fcharge_count	2.913e-01	4.558e-03	6.390e+01	0.000e+00	***
filed_mcharge_count	-1.854e-01	2.711e-03	-6.840e+01	0.000e+00	***
combined_cycles_count	6.206e-01	5.179e-03	1.198e+02	0.000e+00	***
exp_filed_sent_days	1.242e-03	5.676e-06	2.188e+02	0.000e+00	***
age	-1.923e-02	3.353e-04	-5.735e+01	0.000e+00	***
genderF	-4.652e-01	8.460e-03	-5.499e+01	0.000e+00	***

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
disp_year2014	6.263e-01	2.610e-02	2.399e+01	3.332e-127	***
disp_year2015	3.297e-01	2.724e-02	1.210e+01	1.017e-33	***
disp_year2016	4.869e-01	2.802e-02	1.738e+01	1.186e-67	***
disp_year2017	4.088e-01	2.802e-02	1.459e+01	3.269e-48	***
disp_year2018	3.556e-01	2.802e-02	1.269e+01	6.668e-37	***
disp_year2019	3.560e-01	2.805e-02	1.269e+01	6.498e-37	***
disp_year2020	2.535e-01	3.146e-02	8.057e+00	7.825e-16	***
disp_year2021	1.822e-01	2.975e-02	6.125e+00	9.066e-10	***
disp_year2022	1.743e-01	2.970e-02	5.867e+00	4.426e-09	***
disp_year2023	7.670e-02	3.032e-02	2.530e+00	1.142e-02	*
raceAsian/PI	-8.537e-02	7.151e-02	-1.194e+00	2.326e-01	
raceBlack	-8.824e-02	3.572e-02	-2.470e+00	1.352e-02	*
raceHispanic	5.323e-02	2.798e-02	1.903e+00	5.709e-02	.
disp_year2014:raceAsian/PI	2.131e-01	8.716e-02	2.445e+00	1.448e-02	*
disp_year2015:raceAsian/PI	2.978e-01	9.068e-02	3.284e+00	1.023e-03	**
disp_year2016:raceAsian/PI	1.756e-01	9.260e-02	1.896e+00	5.796e-02	.
disp_year2017:raceAsian/PI	-8.493e-02	9.264e-02	-9.167e-01	3.593e-01	
disp_year2018:raceAsian/PI	-1.343e-01	9.243e-02	-1.453e+00	1.461e-01	
disp_year2019:raceAsian/PI	-2.287e-01	9.259e-02	-2.470e+00	1.350e-02	*
disp_year2020:raceAsian/PI	-5.522e-02	1.046e-01	-5.280e-01	5.975e-01	
disp_year2021:raceAsian/PI	-2.352e-01	9.788e-02	-2.402e+00	1.629e-02	*
disp_year2022:raceAsian/PI	-1.688e-01	9.525e-02	-1.772e+00	7.646e-02	.
disp_year2023:raceAsian/PI	-1.524e-01	9.727e-02	-1.566e+00	1.173e-01	
disp_year2014:raceBlack	-1.421e-01	4.310e-02	-3.298e+00	9.754e-04	***
disp_year2015:raceBlack	1.006e-01	4.508e-02	2.231e+00	2.570e-02	*
disp_year2016:raceBlack	-5.109e-02	4.623e-02	-1.105e+00	2.692e-01	
disp_year2017:raceBlack	-4.069e-02	4.638e-02	-8.774e-01	3.803e-01	
disp_year2018:raceBlack	-4.464e-02	4.608e-02	-9.689e-01	3.326e-01	
disp_year2019:raceBlack	-4.509e-02	4.616e-02	-9.767e-01	3.287e-01	
disp_year2020:raceBlack	-1.256e-02	5.141e-02	-2.443e-01	8.070e-01	
disp_year2021:raceBlack	1.846e-02	4.872e-02	3.789e-01	7.048e-01	
disp_year2022:raceBlack	3.033e-02	4.858e-02	6.244e-01	5.323e-01	
disp_year2023:raceBlack	6.003e-02	4.941e-02	1.215e+00	2.244e-01	
disp_year2014:raceHispanic	-8.426e-02	3.377e-02	-2.495e+00	1.258e-02	*
disp_year2015:raceHispanic	5.702e-02	3.553e-02	1.605e+00	1.085e-01	
disp_year2016:raceHispanic	-1.033e-02	3.657e-02	-2.824e-01	7.777e-01	
disp_year2017:raceHispanic	2.225e-02	3.655e-02	6.089e-01	5.426e-01	
disp_year2018:raceHispanic	-1.527e-02	3.648e-02	-4.186e-01	6.755e-01	
disp_year2019:raceHispanic	-2.549e-02	3.645e-02	-6.994e-01	4.843e-01	
disp_year2020:raceHispanic	4.785e-02	4.083e-02	1.172e+00	2.412e-01	
disp_year2021:raceHispanic	7.796e-02	3.846e-02	2.027e+00	4.265e-02	*
disp_year2022:raceHispanic	3.222e-02	3.820e-02	8.435e-01	3.990e-01	
disp_year2023:raceHispanic	3.338e-02	3.881e-02	8.601e-01	3.897e-01	
County fixed effects	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Notes:

n = 1,581,522

Excluding those with race other than White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian/PI; genders other than male or female; age less than 18; and cases with no convicted charges.

Output shown for base year 2024.

. p < 0.1; * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001

† P-values represent the probability that these results could be obtained by chance if that predictor did not have any predictive value. P-values below 0.05 are typically viewed as representing a “significant” result—that the estimate is unlikely to have occurred by chance if there were no true effect.

‡ County included as a categorical variable; individual county fixed effects not shown. Many counties significantly differed.

Table A7: Log likelihood output comparing additive felony conviction model with and without race term

term	X.Df	LogLik	df	statistic	p.value
Model without race term	112	-329146.1808			
Model with race term	115	-328983.9068	3	324.5478807	4.8332E-70

Table A8: Marginal effects for felony conviction model by disposition year

disp_year	race	estimate	std.error	p.value	significance
2014	Asian/PI	0.007461	0.002903	0.010163	*
2015	Asian/PI	0.012821	0.003335	0.000121	***
2016	Asian/PI	0.005372	0.003497	0.124431	
2017	Asian/PI	-0.01044	0.00366	0.004321	**
2018	Asian/PI	-0.01363	0.003693	0.000223	***
2019	Asian/PI	-0.01963	0.00376	1.78E-07	***
2020	Asian/PI	-0.00881	0.004832	0.068368	.
2021	Asian/PI	-0.02059	0.004395	2.79E-06	***
2022	Asian/PI	-0.01626	0.004102	7.36E-05	***
2023	Asian/PI	-0.01543	0.004356	0.000396	***
2024	Asian/PI	-0.00554	0.004668	0.235199	
2014	Black	-0.01376	0.001484	1.77E-20	***
2015	Black	0.000754	0.001715	0.660186	
2016	Black	-0.00843	0.001812	3.30E-06	***
2017	Black	-0.00788	0.001844	1.92E-05	***
2018	Black	-0.00819	0.001829	7.51E-06	***
2019	Black	-0.00822	0.001837	7.70E-06	***
2020	Black	-0.00629	0.00234	0.007147	**
2021	Black	-0.00439	0.002118	0.038031	*

2022	Black	-0.00365	0.002105	0.083151	.
2023	Black	-0.0018	0.002211	0.41545	
2024	Black	-0.00573	0.002323	0.013679	*
2014	Hispanic	-0.00183	0.001144	0.109681	
2015	Hispanic	0.006701	0.00136	8.40E-07	***
2016	Hispanic	0.002563	0.001434	0.073899	.
2017	Hispanic	0.004548	0.001444	0.001633	**
2018	Hispanic	0.002311	0.001451	0.111361	
2019	Hispanic	0.001689	0.001449	0.243715	
2020	Hispanic	0.006216	0.001855	0.000804	***
2021	Hispanic	0.008137	0.001666	1.03E-06	***
2022	Hispanic	0.005324	0.001648	0.001235	**
2023	Hispanic	0.005478	0.001732	0.001557	**
2024	Hispanic	0.003417	0.001798	0.057335	.

Table A9: Pseudo R-squared results for additive model predicting felony versus misdemeanor conviction

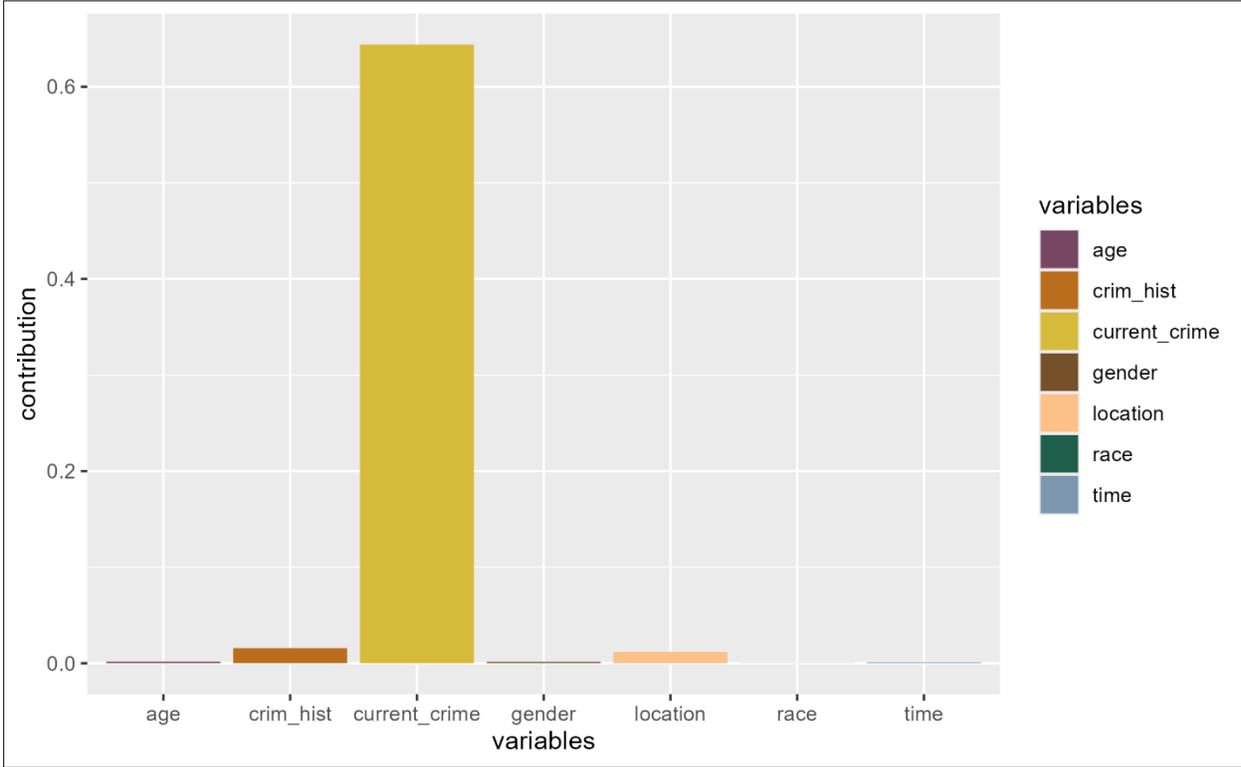


Table A10: Binomial logit model predicting prison versus non-prison sentence

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
(Intercept)	-3.011e+00	3.517e-02	-8.560e+01	0.000e+00	***
years_prior_prison	5.556e-02	7.086e-04	7.840e+01	0.000e+00	***
years_prior_jail	-3.252e-04	2.698e-04	-1.205e+00	2.281e-01	
prior_sent_probation_flag_count	-5.173e-02	1.868e-03	-2.769e+01	9.037e-169	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_violent_flag_count	1.978e-01	5.992e-03	3.300e+01	7.075e-239	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_violent_flag_count	3.215e-02	3.143e-03	1.023e+01	1.466e-24	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_property_flag_count	8.888e-02	2.281e-03	3.896e+01	0.000e+00	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_property_flag_count	-2.551e-02	3.819e-03	-6.681e+00	2.381e-11	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_drug_flag_count	-6.073e-04	2.742e-03	-2.215e-01	8.247e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_m_drug_flag_count	3.495e-02	2.129e-03	1.642e+01	1.415e-60	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag_count	1.421e-01	1.170e-02	1.214e+01	6.179e-34	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag_count	4.201e-02	6.773e-03	6.202e+00	5.569e-10	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_flag_count	2.353e-01	3.821e-03	6.158e+01	0.000e+00	***
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_flag_count	8.898e-03	2.195e-03	4.053e+00	5.054e-05	***
prior_conviction_violent_felony_flag_count	2.625e-01	1.073e-02	2.447e+01	3.165e-132	***
prior_conviction_serious_felony_flag_count	4.445e-01	8.543e-03	5.203e+01	0.000e+00	***
prior_conviction_sex_flag_count	1.547e-01	1.471e-02	1.052e+01	6.904e-26	***
prior_conviction_dv_flag_count	4.370e-02	4.367e-03	1.001e+01	1.423e-23	***
prior_conviction_dui_flag_count	-1.535e-02	4.751e-03	-3.231e+00	1.232e-03	**
on_prob	2.993e-02	6.153e-03	4.864e+00	1.149e-06	***
prior_max_conv_hier_scaled	1.776e+00	1.458e-02	1.218e+02	0.000e+00	***
inv_yrs_since_prior_conv	-2.058e-01	8.769e-03	-2.347e+01	7.624e-122	***
conviction_summ_f_violent_flag	8.263e-01	1.161e-02	7.119e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_summ_m_violent_flag	-1.431e-01	1.362e-02	-1.050e+01	8.404e-26	***
conviction_summ_f_property_flag	1.746e-01	1.057e-02	1.652e+01	2.641e-61	***
conviction_summ_m_property_flag	-1.978e-01	1.990e-02	-9.942e+00	2.731e-23	***
conviction_summ_f_drug_flag	-1.120e-01	1.179e-02	-9.495e+00	2.209e-21	***
conviction_summ_m_drug_flag	-2.799e-01	1.673e-02	-1.673e+01	8.341e-63	***
conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag	8.735e-01	2.100e-02	4.160e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag	-3.163e-01	4.877e-02	-6.486e+00	8.840e-11	***
conviction_summ_f_other_flag	8.304e-01	9.556e-03	8.690e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_summ_m_other_flag	-2.165e-01	1.246e-02	-1.737e+01	1.383e-67	***
conviction_violent_felony_flag	1.204e+00	1.351e-02	8.915e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_serious_felony_flag	7.093e-01	9.545e-03	7.431e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_sex_flag	1.460e+00	2.198e-02	6.645e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_dv_flag	-2.928e-01	1.187e-02	-2.466e+01	2.794e-134	***
conviction_dui_flag	1.482e-01	1.399e-02	1.059e+01	3.271e-26	***
max_conv_hier_scaled	7.327e-01	3.056e-02	2.398e+01	4.912e-127	***
convicted_fcharge_count	2.375e-01	3.276e-03	7.249e+01	0.000e+00	***
convicted_mcharge_count	-3.905e-02	5.064e-03	-7.711e+00	1.245e-14	***
combined_cycles_count	7.736e-02	3.601e-03	2.148e+01	2.391e-102	***
exp_conv_sent_days	1.075e-05	1.336e-06	8.050e+00	8.308e-16	***
age	-2.692e-02	3.134e-04	-8.589e+01	0.000e+00	***
genderF	-7.259e-01	9.160e-03	-7.925e+01	0.000e+00	***

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
disp_year2014	-1.605e-01	2.369e-02	-6.777e+00	1.229e-11	***
disp_year2015	1.317e-02	2.466e-02	5.342e-01	5.932e-01	
disp_year2016	3.207e-02	2.494e-02	1.286e+00	1.984e-01	
disp_year2017	1.280e-01	2.472e-02	5.176e+00	2.261e-07	***
disp_year2018	2.192e-01	2.463e-02	8.900e+00	5.573e-19	***
disp_year2019	2.186e-01	2.466e-02	8.867e+00	7.482e-19	***
disp_year2020	5.557e-02	2.732e-02	2.034e+00	4.191e-02	*
disp_year2021	1.604e-02	2.587e-02	6.201e-01	5.352e-01	
disp_year2022	6.057e-02	2.564e-02	2.362e+00	1.817e-02	*
disp_year2023	-1.030e-02	2.639e-02	-3.903e-01	6.964e-01	
raceAsian/PI	1.489e-02	6.456e-02	2.306e-01	8.176e-01	
raceBlack	-4.323e-02	2.872e-02	-1.505e+00	1.323e-01	
raceHispanic	8.517e-02	2.370e-02	3.594e+00	3.255e-04	***
disp_year2014:raceAsian/PI	1.385e-01	8.155e-02	1.698e+00	8.957e-02	.
disp_year2015:raceAsian/PI	5.642e-02	8.472e-02	6.660e-01	5.054e-01	
disp_year2016:raceAsian/PI	2.699e-02	8.473e-02	3.185e-01	7.501e-01	
disp_year2017:raceAsian/PI	1.597e-02	8.473e-02	1.885e-01	8.505e-01	
disp_year2018:raceAsian/PI	7.117e-02	8.508e-02	8.365e-01	4.029e-01	
disp_year2019:raceAsian/PI	5.048e-02	8.484e-02	5.950e-01	5.519e-01	
disp_year2020:raceAsian/PI	1.022e-02	9.460e-02	1.080e-01	9.140e-01	
disp_year2021:raceAsian/PI	7.145e-02	8.945e-02	7.988e-01	4.244e-01	
disp_year2022:raceAsian/PI	-1.363e-01	8.785e-02	-1.552e+00	1.207e-01	
disp_year2023:raceAsian/PI	1.064e-01	8.883e-02	1.197e+00	2.312e-01	
disp_year2014:raceBlack	3.644e-01	3.547e-02	1.028e+01	9.055e-25	***
disp_year2015:raceBlack	3.680e-01	3.692e-02	9.968e+00	2.115e-23	***
disp_year2016:raceBlack	3.029e-01	3.746e-02	8.086e+00	6.149e-16	***
disp_year2017:raceBlack	2.320e-01	3.731e-02	6.217e+00	5.052e-10	***
disp_year2018:raceBlack	2.078e-01	3.713e-02	5.596e+00	2.196e-08	***
disp_year2019:raceBlack	1.689e-01	3.731e-02	4.528e+00	5.962e-06	***
disp_year2020:raceBlack	8.032e-02	4.140e-02	1.940e+00	5.235e-02	.
disp_year2021:raceBlack	-5.469e-02	3.933e-02	-1.390e+00	1.644e-01	
disp_year2022:raceBlack	-1.344e-02	3.881e-02	-3.463e-01	7.291e-01	
disp_year2023:raceBlack	5.994e-02	3.967e-02	1.511e+00	1.308e-01	
disp_year2014:raceHispanic	1.786e-01	2.955e-02	6.045e+00	1.499e-09	***
disp_year2015:raceHispanic	1.633e-01	3.084e-02	5.294e+00	1.198e-07	***
disp_year2016:raceHispanic	1.425e-01	3.120e-02	4.567e+00	4.944e-06	***
disp_year2017:raceHispanic	1.307e-01	3.091e-02	4.227e+00	2.367e-05	***
disp_year2018:raceHispanic	1.079e-01	3.078e-02	3.505e+00	4.560e-04	***
disp_year2019:raceHispanic	8.417e-02	3.079e-02	2.734e+00	6.260e-03	**
disp_year2020:raceHispanic	6.101e-02	3.403e-02	1.793e+00	7.295e-02	.
disp_year2021:raceHispanic	-1.327e-02	3.208e-02	-4.136e-01	6.791e-01	
disp_year2022:raceHispanic	-3.429e-02	3.179e-02	-1.079e+00	2.807e-01	
disp_year2023:raceHispanic	3.011e-02	3.263e-02	9.230e-01	3.560e-01	
County fixed effects	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Notes:

n = 919,176

Excluding those with race other than White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian/PI; genders other than male or female; age less than 18; and cases with no felony level conviction offenses.

Output shown for base year 2024.

. p < 0.1; * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001

† P-values represent the probability that these results could be obtained by chance if that predictor did not have any predictive value. P-values below 0.05 are typically viewed as representing a “significant” result—that the estimate is unlikely to have occurred by chance if there were no true effect.

‡ County included as a categorical variable; individual county fixed effects not shown. Many counties significantly differed.

Table A11: Log likelihood output comparing additive prison sentencing model with and without race term

term	X.Df	LogLik	df	statistic	p.value
Model without race term	112	-435004.5358			
Model with race term	115	-434667.858	3	673.3554641	1.2573E-145

Table A12: Marginal effects for prison sentencing model by year of disposition

disp_year	race	estimate	std.error	p.value	significance
2014	Asian/PI	0.022085583	0.007344927	0.002639121	**
2015	Asian/PI	0.010693582	0.008319187	0.198648369	
2016	Asian/PI	0.006287185	0.008300597	0.448787676	
2017	Asian/PI	0.004752467	0.0085029	0.576214263	
2018	Asian/PI	0.013674685	0.008906308	0.124687259	
2019	Asian/PI	0.010358297	0.00880249	0.239296793	
2020	Asian/PI	0.003785798	0.010476853	0.717838772	
2021	Asian/PI	0.012986394	0.009428103	0.168384529	
2022	Asian/PI	- 0.017947569	0.008688152	0.038851874	*
2023	Asian/PI	0.018189498	0.009304098	0.050583241	.
2024	Asian/PI	0.002205386	0.009581653	0.817961554	
2014	Black	0.04746021	0.003173571	1.45E-50	***
2015	Black	0.050434269	0.003693671	1.90E-42	***
2016	Black	0.040182569	0.003809426	5.18E-26	***
2017	Black	0.029680401	0.003830862	9.36E-15	***
2018	Black	0.026396364	0.003857017	7.72E-12	***
2019	Black	0.020068178	0.003881032	2.33E-07	***
2020	Black	0.005602932	0.00456307	0.219489516	
2021	Black	-0.01432917	0.003983613	0.000321873	***
2022	Black	- 0.008457209	0.003953071	0.032403092	*
2023	Black	0.002468164	0.004109266	0.548083852	
2024	Black	- 0.006348523	0.004214465	0.131973488	
2014	Hispanic	0.038645422	0.002632997	9.00E-49	***
2015	Hispanic	0.038194036	0.003076197	2.14E-35	***
2016	Hispanic	0.035081172	0.003169394	1.78E-28	***
2017	Hispanic	0.034060377	0.003179768	8.98E-27	***
2018	Hispanic	0.031078809	0.003210211	3.62E-22	***
2019	Hispanic	0.027180009	0.00320452	2.22E-17	***

2020	Hispanic	0.022422648	0.003778056	2.94E-09	***
2021	Hispanic	0.01079175	0.003295107	0.001056308	**
2022	Hispanic	0.007711389	0.003264115	0.01815338	*
2023	Hispanic	0.017279868	0.003403222	3.82E-07	***
2024	Hispanic	0.012748495	0.003533334	0.000308491	***

Table A13: Pseudo R-squared results for additive model predicting prison vs. non-prison sentence

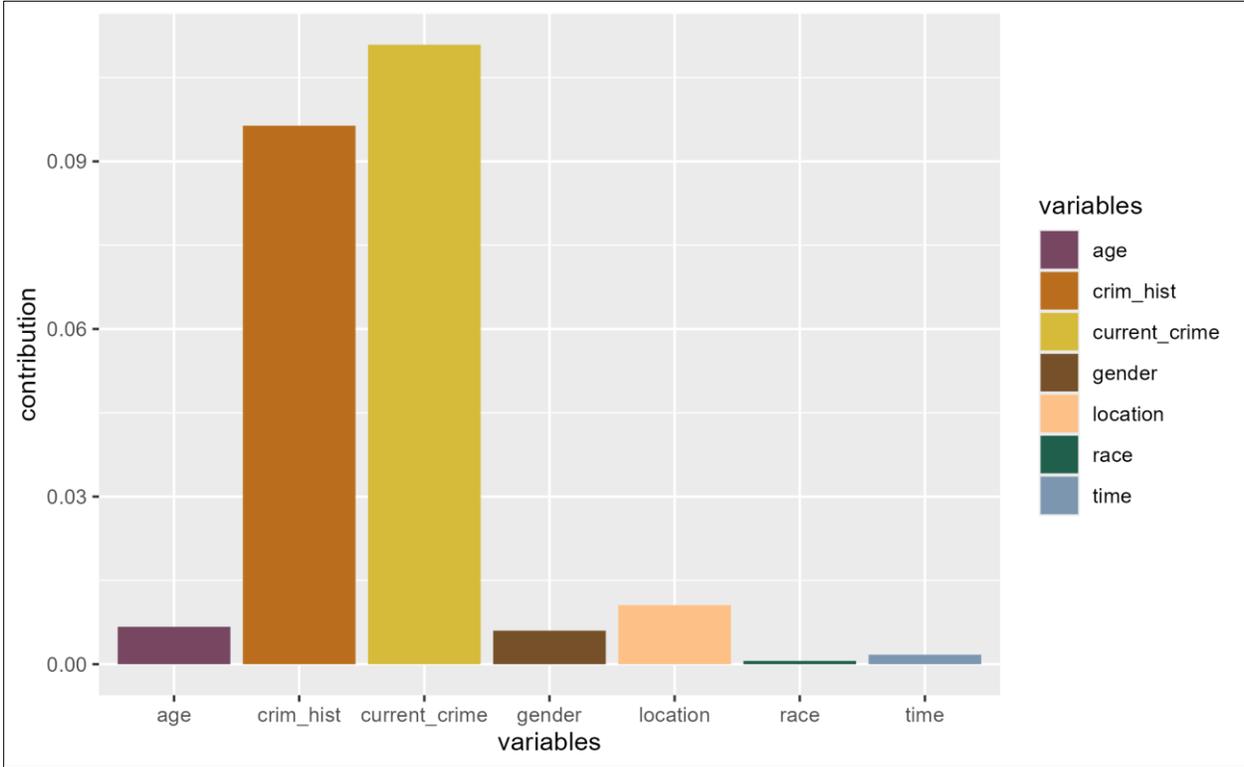


Table A14: Linear regression model predicting prison sentence length

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
(Intercept)	-6.462e+02	1.351e+02	-4.782e+00	1.737e-06	***
years_prior_prison	1.399e+01	1.200e+00	1.166e+01	2.033e-31	***
years_prior_jail	-6.209e-01	7.769e-01	-7.993e-01	4.241e-01	
prior_sent_probation_flag_count	-3.330e+01	7.311e+00	-4.555e+00	5.242e-06	***
prior_conviction_summ_f_violent_flag_count	-6.016e+01	2.163e+01	-2.781e+00	5.413e-03	**
prior_conviction_summ_m_violent_flag_count	-1.564e+01	1.251e+01	-1.250e+00	2.114e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_f_property_flag_count	4.267e+00	8.637e+00	4.941e-01	6.213e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_m_property_flag_count	-3.330e+01	1.612e+01	-2.066e+00	3.883e-02	*
prior_conviction_summ_f_drug_flag_count	-3.146e+01	1.104e+01	-2.851e+00	4.357e-03	**
prior_conviction_summ_m_drug_flag_count	1.675e+01	8.971e+00	1.867e+00	6.184e-02	.
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag_count	1.392e+01	4.282e+01	3.252e-01	7.451e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag_count	-1.366e+01	2.765e+01	-4.940e-01	6.213e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_f_other_flag_count	7.451e-01	1.360e+01	5.478e-02	9.563e-01	
prior_conviction_summ_m_other_flag_count	1.162e+01	8.971e+00	1.295e+00	1.952e-01	
prior_conviction_violent_felony_flag_count	1.814e+02	3.298e+01	5.500e+00	3.795e-08	***
prior_conviction_serious_felony_flag_count	2.580e+02	2.861e+01	9.017e+00	1.937e-19	***
prior_conviction_sex_flag_count	3.580e+01	4.986e+01	7.181e-01	4.727e-01	
prior_conviction_dv_flag_count	1.055e+01	1.737e+01	6.070e-01	5.439e-01	
prior_conviction_dui_flag_count	-3.762e+01	1.979e+01	-1.901e+00	5.732e-02	.
on_prob	-1.901e+01	2.570e+01	-7.400e-01	4.593e-01	
prior_max_conv_hier_scaled	8.905e+02	6.055e+01	1.471e+01	6.214e-49	***
inv_yrs_since_prior_conv	-8.183e+02	3.712e+01	-2.204e+01	1.374e-107	***
conviction_summ_f_violent_flag	8.392e+02	4.135e+01	2.029e+01	1.675e-91	***
conviction_summ_m_violent_flag	1.807e+02	5.829e+01	3.100e+00	1.937e-03	**
conviction_summ_f_property_flag	-5.684e+02	3.819e+01	-1.488e+01	4.502e-50	***
conviction_summ_m_property_flag	-9.990e+01	9.003e+01	-1.110e+00	2.672e-01	
conviction_summ_f_drug_flag	-8.042e+02	4.612e+01	-1.744e+01	4.511e-68	***
conviction_summ_m_drug_flag	-1.327e+02	7.584e+01	-1.750e+00	8.014e-02	.
conviction_summ_f_other_sex_flag	-1.678e+02	7.134e+01	-2.352e+00	1.868e-02	*
conviction_summ_m_other_sex_flag	-1.126e+03	1.866e+02	-6.035e+00	1.593e-09	***
conviction_summ_f_other_flag	-3.815e+02	3.376e+01	-1.130e+01	1.356e-29	***
conviction_summ_m_other_flag	-4.624e+01	5.444e+01	-8.493e-01	3.957e-01	
conviction_violent_felony_flag	2.893e+03	3.950e+01	7.325e+01	0.000e+00	***
conviction_serious_felony_flag	-7.657e+02	3.427e+01	-2.234e+01	1.897e-110	***
conviction_sex_flag	1.437e+03	7.037e+01	2.042e+01	1.311e-92	***
conviction_dv_flag	-7.702e+02	5.002e+01	-1.540e+01	1.720e-53	***
conviction_dui_flag	1.912e+01	6.293e+01	3.039e-01	7.612e-01	
max_conv_hier_scaled	4.872e+02	1.040e+02	4.684e+00	2.818e-06	***
convicted_fcharge_count	1.567e+03	8.882e+00	1.764e+02	0.000e+00	***
convicted_mcharge_count	-9.659e+01	2.094e+01	-4.612e+00	3.988e-06	***
combined_cycles_count	-3.510e+02	1.495e+01	-2.347e+01	9.706e-122	***
age	4.041e+00	1.290e+00	3.132e+00	1.735e-03	**
genderF	-3.879e+02	4.507e+01	-8.606e+00	7.585e-18	***

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	significance
disp_year2014	-7.378e+00	1.034e+02	-7.133e-02	9.431e-01	
disp_year2015	6.970e+01	1.063e+02	6.557e-01	5.120e-01	
disp_year2016	1.053e+02	1.072e+02	9.830e-01	3.256e-01	
disp_year2017	5.353e+01	1.054e+02	5.077e-01	6.116e-01	
disp_year2018	-2.493e+01	1.043e+02	-2.390e-01	8.111e-01	
disp_year2019	4.318e+01	1.044e+02	4.137e-01	6.791e-01	
disp_year2020	-1.667e+02	1.157e+02	-1.441e+00	1.495e-01	
disp_year2021	-1.288e+02	1.090e+02	-1.182e+00	2.373e-01	
disp_year2022	-1.830e+02	1.074e+02	-1.704e+00	8.833e-02	
disp_year2023	-1.476e+02	1.107e+02	-1.334e+00	1.824e-01	
raceAsian/PI	-3.390e+02	2.765e+02	-1.226e+00	2.201e-01	
raceBlack	-1.499e+02	1.151e+02	-1.303e+00	1.926e-01	
raceHispanic	2.150e+00	9.783e+01	2.197e-02	9.825e-01	
disp_year2014:raceAsian/PI	2.929e+02	3.624e+02	8.081e-01	4.190e-01	
disp_year2015:raceAsian/PI	4.624e+02	3.734e+02	1.239e+00	2.155e-01	
disp_year2016:raceAsian/PI	2.513e+01	3.709e+02	6.777e-02	9.460e-01	
disp_year2017:raceAsian/PI	2.168e+02	3.675e+02	5.900e-01	5.552e-01	
disp_year2018:raceAsian/PI	4.806e+02	3.656e+02	1.314e+00	1.887e-01	
disp_year2019:raceAsian/PI	9.564e+00	3.635e+02	2.631e-02	9.790e-01	
disp_year2020:raceAsian/PI	7.666e+01	4.068e+02	1.884e-01	8.505e-01	
disp_year2021:raceAsian/PI	-1.256e+02	3.801e+02	-3.304e-01	7.411e-01	
disp_year2022:raceAsian/PI	4.992e+02	3.780e+02	1.321e+00	1.866e-01	
disp_year2023:raceAsian/PI	-7.494e+01	3.788e+02	-1.978e-01	8.432e-01	
disp_year2014:raceBlack	5.663e+02	1.479e+02	3.828e+00	1.295e-04	***
disp_year2015:raceBlack	3.857e+02	1.514e+02	2.547e+00	1.086e-02	*
disp_year2016:raceBlack	1.763e+02	1.533e+02	1.150e+00	2.502e-01	
disp_year2017:raceBlack	4.566e+02	1.513e+02	3.017e+00	2.550e-03	**
disp_year2018:raceBlack	4.246e+02	1.496e+02	2.838e+00	4.547e-03	**
disp_year2019:raceBlack	2.795e+02	1.502e+02	1.861e+00	6.275e-02	
disp_year2020:raceBlack	1.760e+02	1.675e+02	1.051e+00	2.934e-01	
disp_year2021:raceBlack	1.472e+02	1.590e+02	9.263e-01	3.543e-01	
disp_year2022:raceBlack	2.013e+02	1.556e+02	1.293e+00	1.959e-01	
disp_year2023:raceBlack	3.119e+02	1.588e+02	1.964e+00	4.955e-02	*
disp_year2014:raceHispanic	1.413e+02	1.276e+02	1.107e+00	2.683e-01	
disp_year2015:raceHispanic	5.038e+01	1.307e+02	3.854e-01	7.000e-01	
disp_year2016:raceHispanic	2.120e+01	1.320e+02	1.606e-01	8.724e-01	
disp_year2017:raceHispanic	1.113e+02	1.295e+02	8.600e-01	3.898e-01	
disp_year2018:raceHispanic	2.252e+02	1.280e+02	1.759e+00	7.858e-02	
disp_year2019:raceHispanic	2.279e+02	1.280e+02	1.780e+00	7.512e-02	
disp_year2020:raceHispanic	7.439e+01	1.419e+02	5.242e-01	6.002e-01	
disp_year2021:raceHispanic	-6.647e+01	1.331e+02	-4.993e-01	6.176e-01	
disp_year2022:raceHispanic	3.260e+02	1.314e+02	2.482e+00	1.308e-02	*
disp_year2023:raceHispanic	1.837e+01	1.349e+02	1.362e-01	8.917e-01	
County fixed effects	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Notes:

n = 290,480

Prison sentence length represented in days.

Excluding those with race other than White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian/PI; genders other than male or female; age less than 18; cases with no felony level conviction offenses; and cases not sentenced to prison.

. p < 0.1; * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001

† P-values represent the probability that these results could be obtained by chance if that predictor did not have any predictive value. P-values below 0.05 are typically viewed as representing a “significant” result—that the estimate is unlikely to have occurred by chance if there were no true effect.

‡ County included as a categorical variable; individual county fixed effects not shown. Many counties significantly differed; relative risk varied.

Table A15: Log likelihood output comparing additive prison sentence length model with and without race term

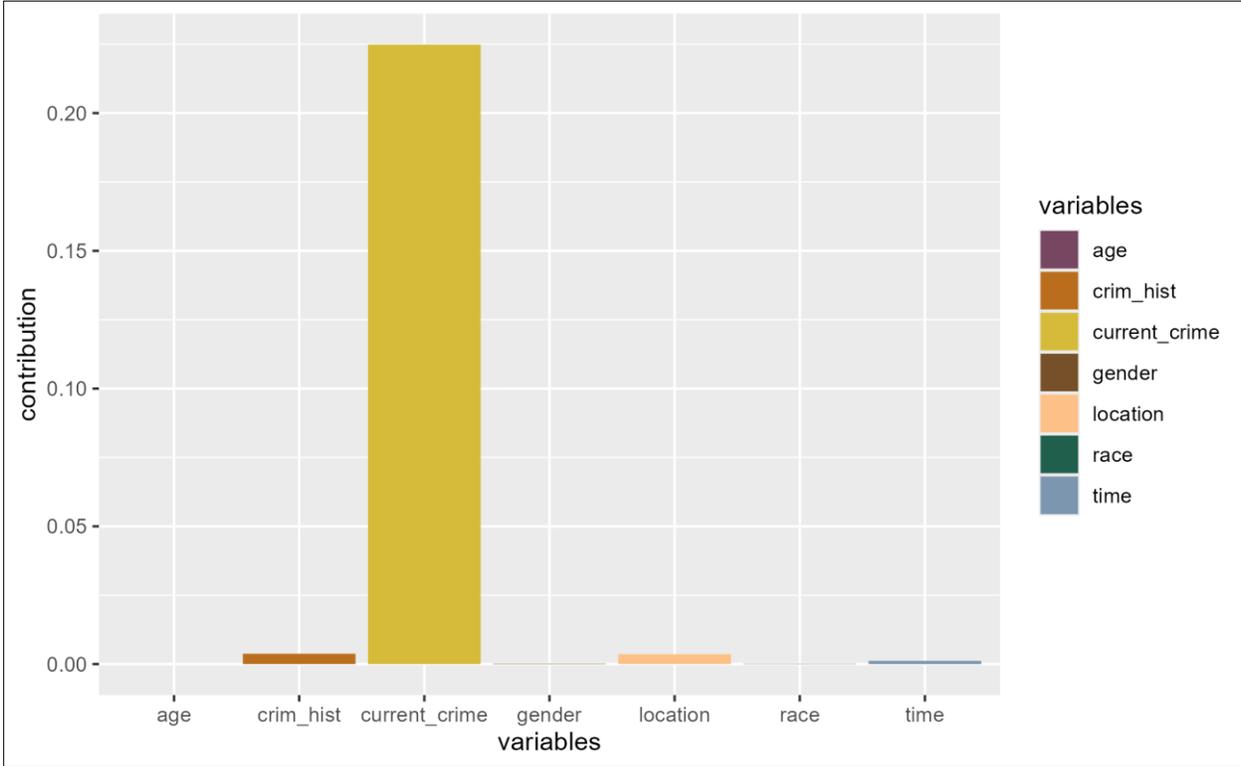
term	X.Df	LogLik	df	statistic	p.value
Model without race term	112	-2863699.267			
Model with race term	115	-2863679.254	3	40.02651705	1.05181E-08

Table A16: Estimates for prison sentence length model by year of disposition

disp_year	race	estimate	std.error	p.value	significance
2014	Asian/PI	-46.1	234.9	0.844371	
2015	Asian/PI	123.4	251.5	0.623606	
2016	Asian/PI	-313.9	247.7	0.205144	
2017	Asian/PI	-122.2	242.7	0.614703	
2018	Asian/PI	141.6	239.8	0.554820	
2019	Asian/PI	-329.4	236.5	0.163678	
2020	Asian/PI	-262.3	299.0	0.380221	
2021	Asian/PI	-464.6	261.3	0.075375	.
2022	Asian/PI	160.3	258.3	0.534977	
2023	Asian/PI	-413.9	259.6	0.110828	
2024	Asian/PI	-339.0	276.5	0.220143	
2014	Black	416.4	95.2	0.000012	***
2015	Black	235.8	100.5	0.018904	*
2016	Black	26.4	103.3	0.798607	
2017	Black	306.6	100.3	0.002241	**
2018	Black	274.6	97.7	0.004941	**
2019	Black	129.6	98.6	0.188607	
2020	Black	26.1	123.5	0.832517	
2021	Black	-2.7	111.6	0.980782	

2022	Black	51.4	106.9	0.630592	
2023	Black	162.0	111.6	0.146648	
2024	Black	-149.9	115.1	0.192561	
2014	Hispanic	143.4	83.9	0.087365	.
2015	Hispanic	52.5	88.6	0.553179	
2016	Hispanic	23.3	90.4	0.796170	
2017	Hispanic	113.5	86.7	0.190465	
2018	Hispanic	227.4	84.5	0.007135	**
2019	Hispanic	230.0	84.5	0.006466	**
2020	Hispanic	76.5	104.4	0.463654	
2021	Hispanic	-64.3	92.1	0.485131	
2022	Hispanic	328.1	89.5	0.000247	***
2023	Hispanic	20.5	94.8	0.828586	
2024	Hispanic	2.1	97.8	0.982469	

Table A17: R-squared results for additive model predicting prison sentence length

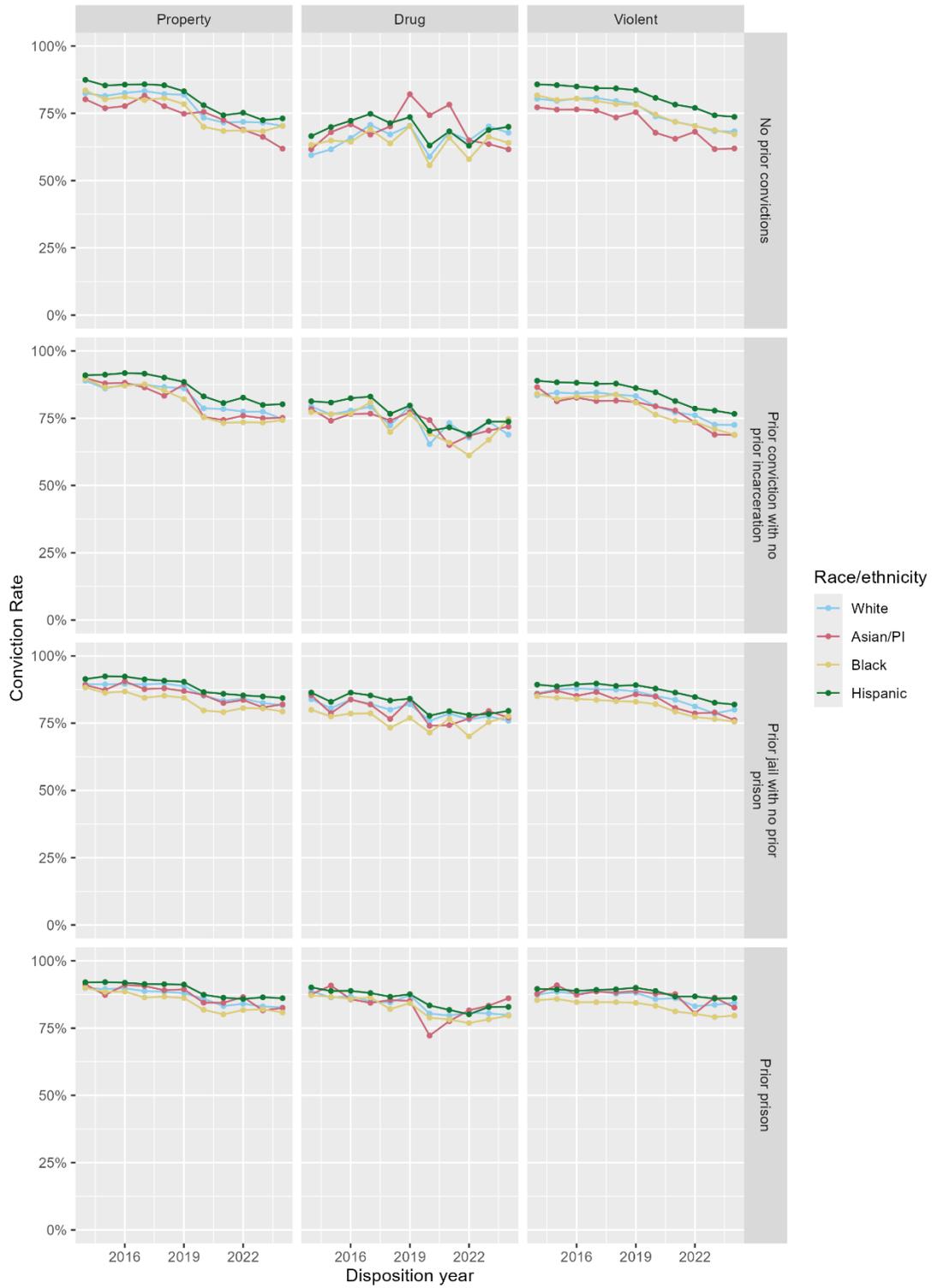


Appendix B: Outcomes Broken Out by Race, Criminal Record, and Offense Type

The analyses presented in this report represent average differences across each racial/ethnic group. The following charts show the more nuanced patterns of outcomes broken down by race/ethnicity, prior criminal record, and arrest offense type. Since the numbers for Asian/PI defendants are comparatively small, caution should be used in interpreting the subsetted percentages visualized below. Categories with fewer than 30 observations are not displayed.

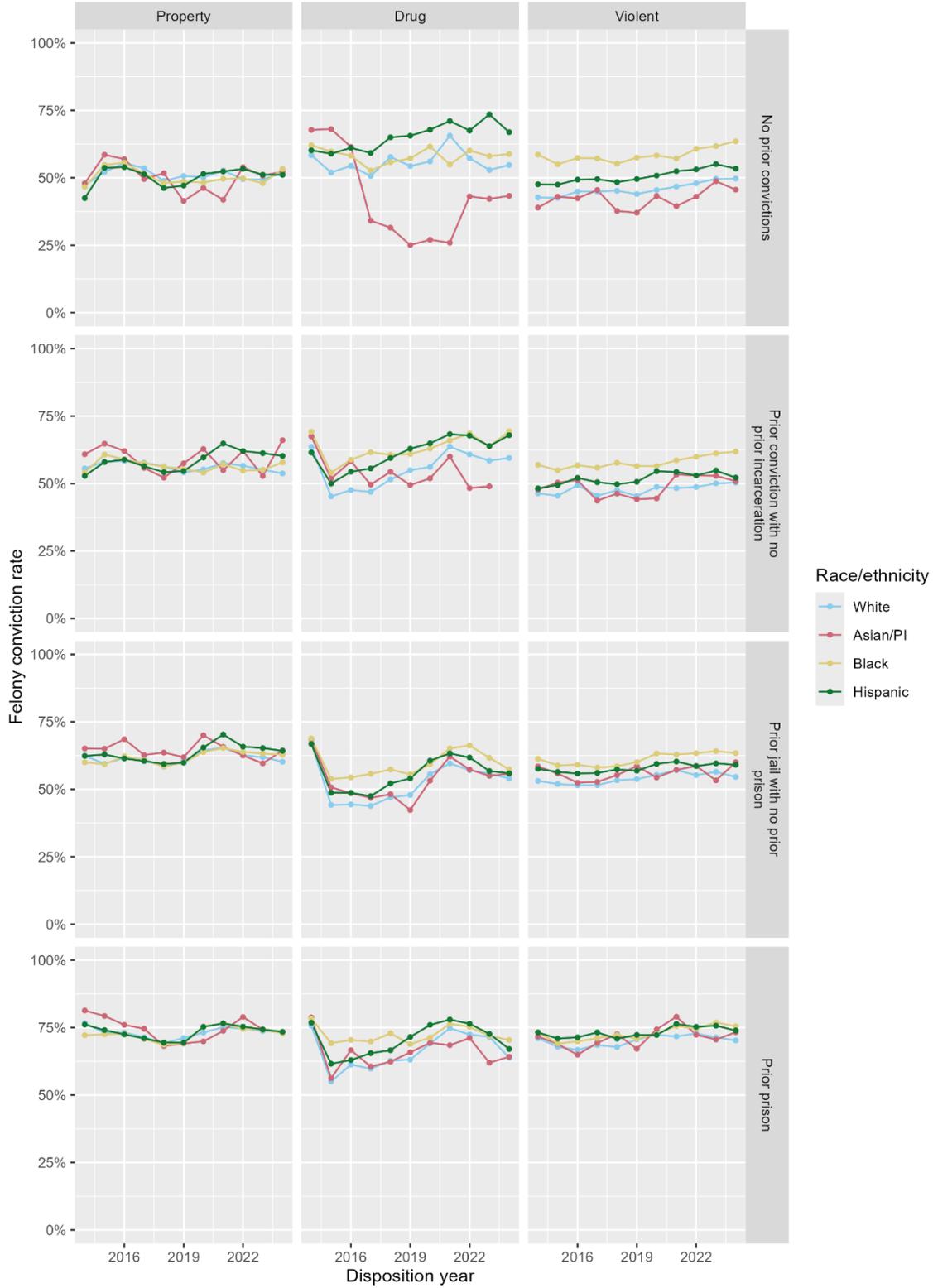
These graphs show the observed percentages, not controlling for prior record, arrest offense, number of arrest charges, age, or gender. “Other felony” type is not shown due to the lack of interpretability of such a broad category of offenses.

Figure B1: Percent convicted by race, prior criminal record, and felony arrest offense type



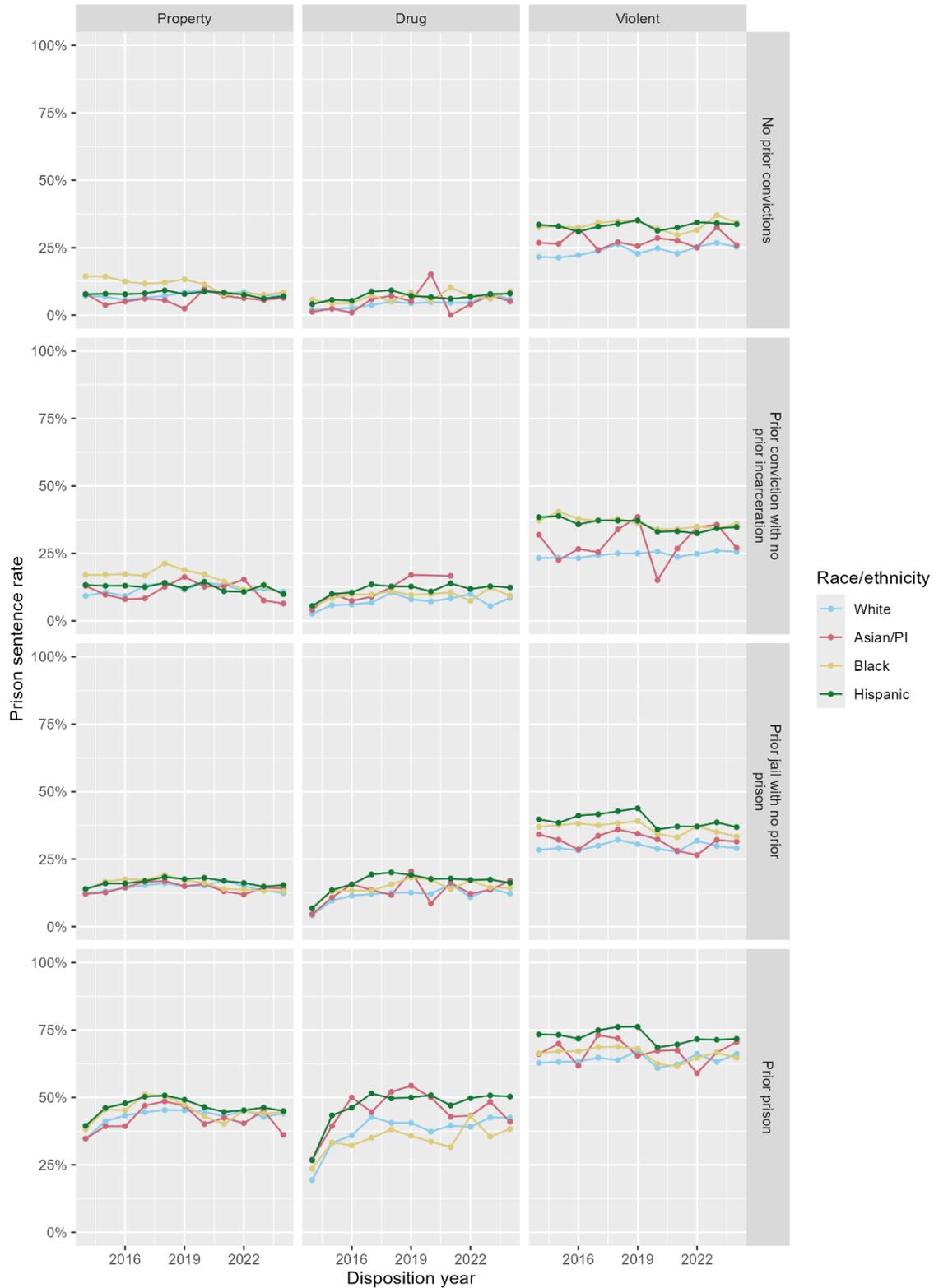
Note: Values with fewer than 30 observations are excluded from the graphs

Figure B2: Percent of convicted defendants with felony conviction by race, prior criminal record, and felony arrest type



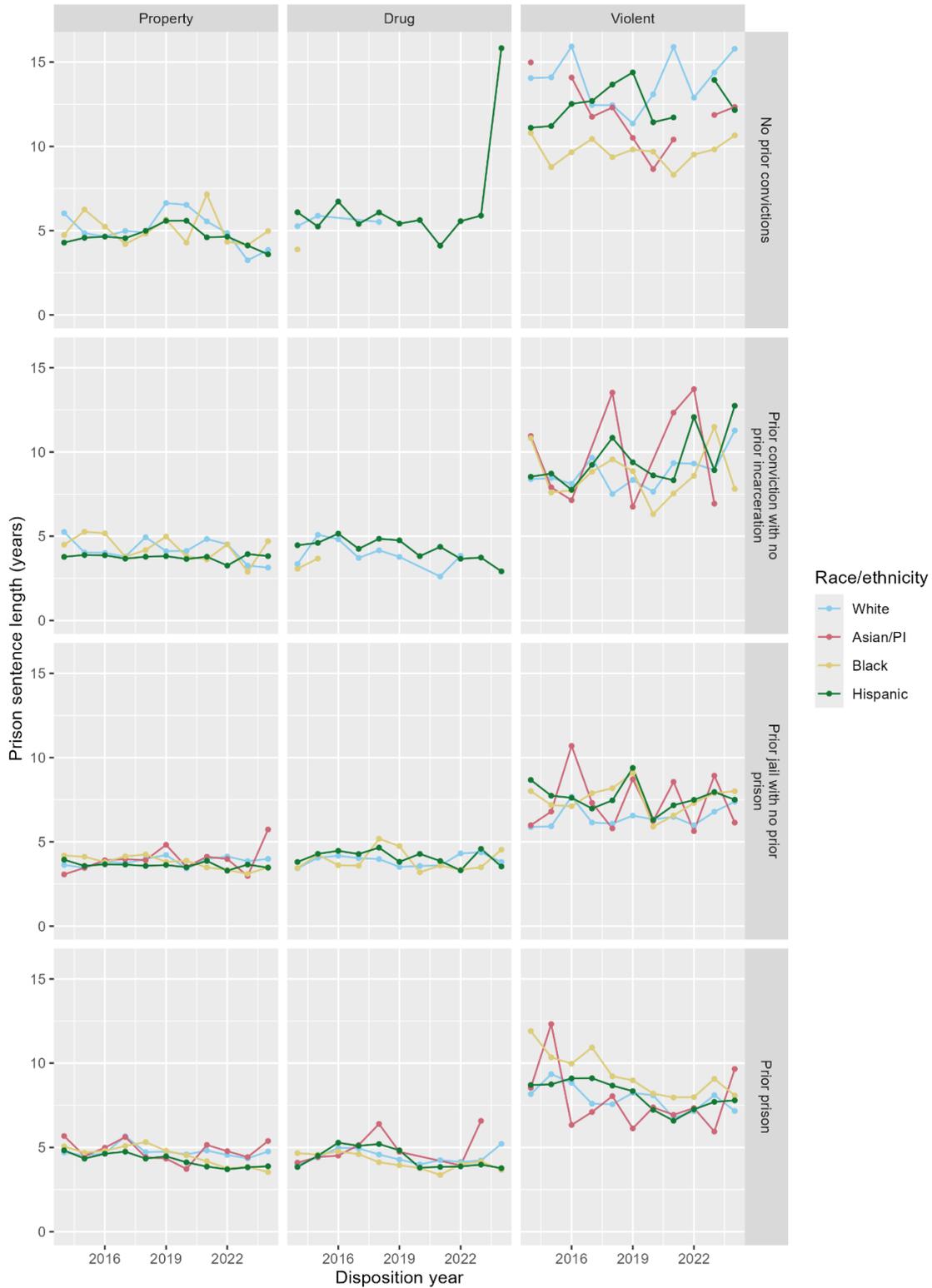
Note: Values with fewer than 30 observations are excluded from the graphs.

Figure B3: Percent of felony-convicted defendants given a prison sentence by race, prior criminal record, and felony arrest type



Note: Values with fewer than 30 observations are excluded from the graphs

Figure B4: Prison sentence length for those sentenced to prison by race, prior criminal record, and felony arrest type



Note: Values with fewer than 30 observations are excluded from the graphs.

Appendix C: Dataset Description

Automated Criminal History System data was received in raw, long format with one row per event. Data contained all criminal offender record information (CORI) on all persons with a disposition in 2014 through 2024 of a felony arrest, as identified by the California Department of Justice.

Data was collapsed to the level of each distinct person and disposition date combination, using flags and sums to keep relevant information. This level was selected because sometimes multiple cycles (collections of events initiated by an arrest event) were rolled into a single disposition date. Sentences with suspended imposition were accounted for at the level of each count.

For each person-disposition, all prior criminal history data was cumulatively summarized and appended. The final dataset was filtered to only include dispositions of felony arrests from 2014 through 2024.

The code is available upon request.