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Louisiana Data Analysis Part 1: Prison Trends

Justice Reinvestment Task Force
August 11, 2016

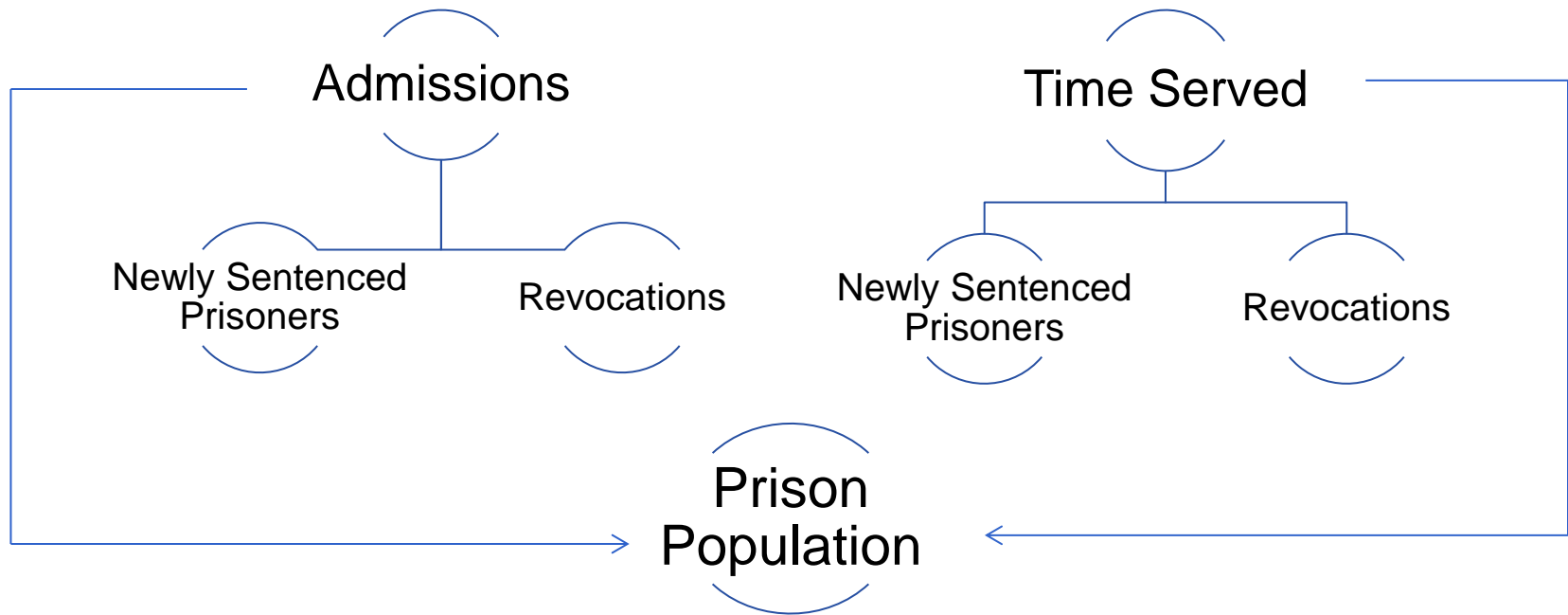
Charge of the Justice Reinvestment Task Force

- The Justice Reinvestment Task Force is a high-level, inter-branch, and bipartisan group charged with **analyzing the drivers of the Louisiana prison population**; assessing state sentencing and corrections policy; consulting criminal justice stakeholders; and forging consensus on a comprehensive package of reforms that will accomplish the following three goals as set out in HCR 82:
 - Reduce correctional populations and associated criminal justice spending by focusing prison space on serious and violent criminals.
 - Hold offenders accountable more efficiently by implementing or expanding research-based supervision and sentencing practices.
 - Reinvest savings into strategies shown to decrease recidivism, including improved reentry outcomes.

Justice Reinvestment Task Force Schedule

- June 17, 2016: Introduction and National Trends
- **August 11, 2016: Data Analysis I: Prison Trends**
- September 23, 2016: Data Analysis II
- October 21, 2016: Data Analysis III
- November 17, 2016: System Assessment and Introduction to Policy Development

How We Examine Prison Populations



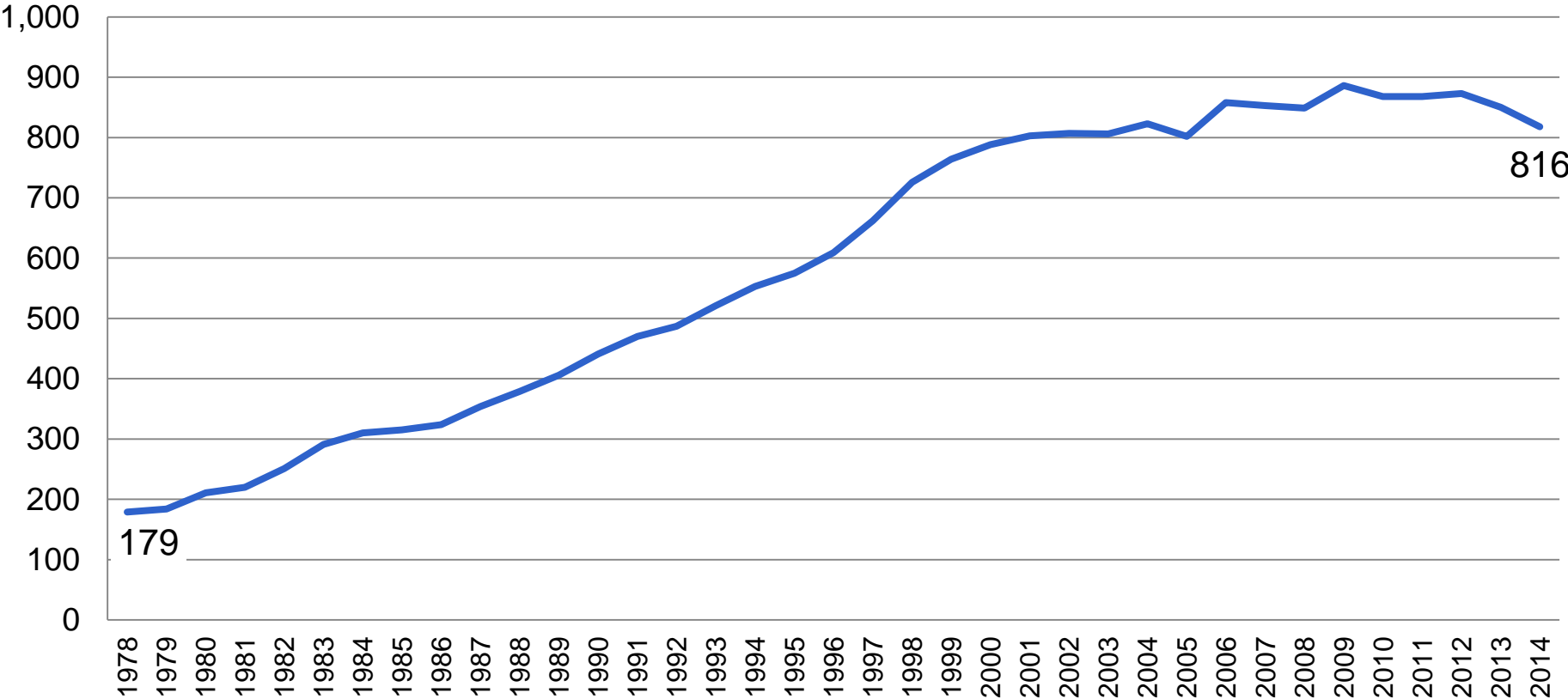
Outline

- Regional Context
- Trends in the Louisiana Prison Population
 - Admissions: how many people come into prison
 - Time served: how long they stay in prison
 - Prison population: impact of admissions and time served trends
 - Behind the decline: trends driving the recent decrease in the prison population

LOUISIANA IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

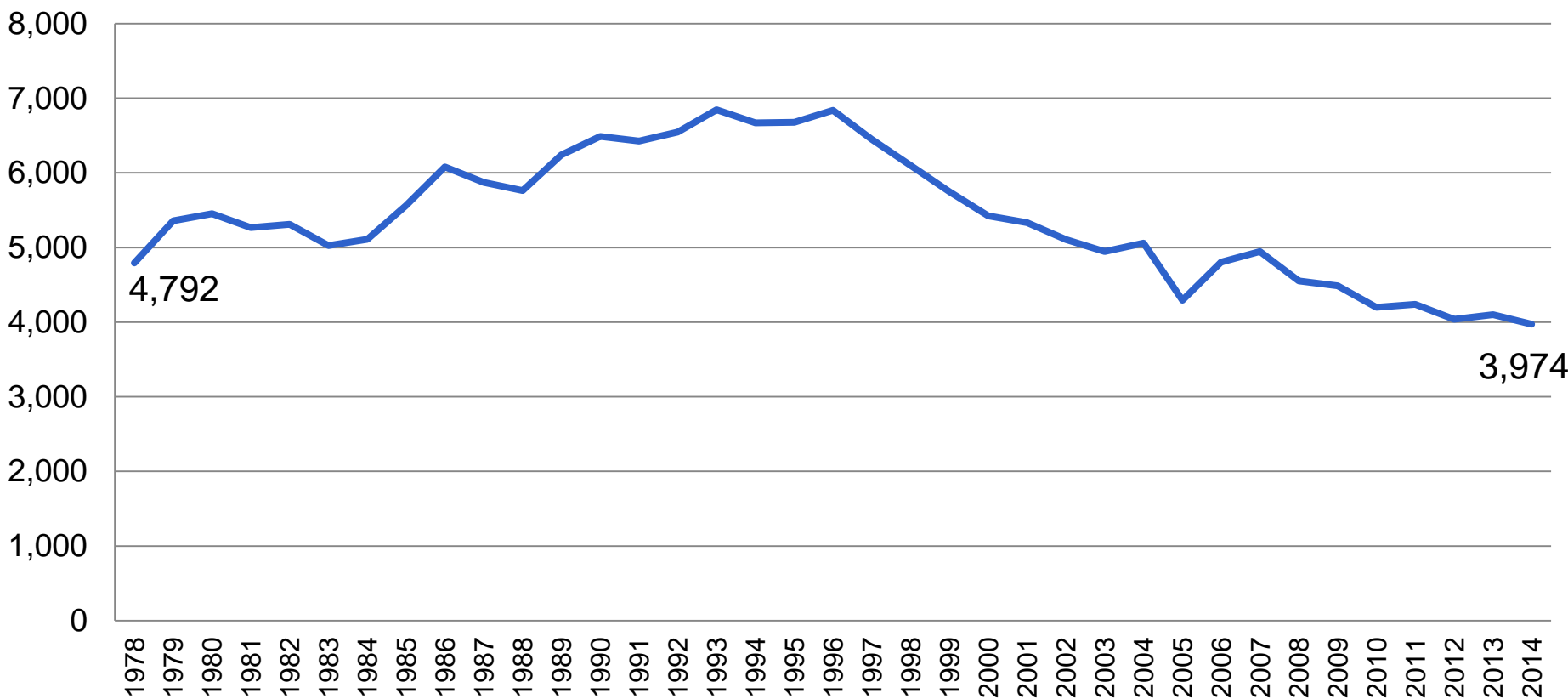
Dramatic Growth in the Imprisonment Rate in Last Three and a Half Decades

Louisiana Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 Residents, 1978-2014



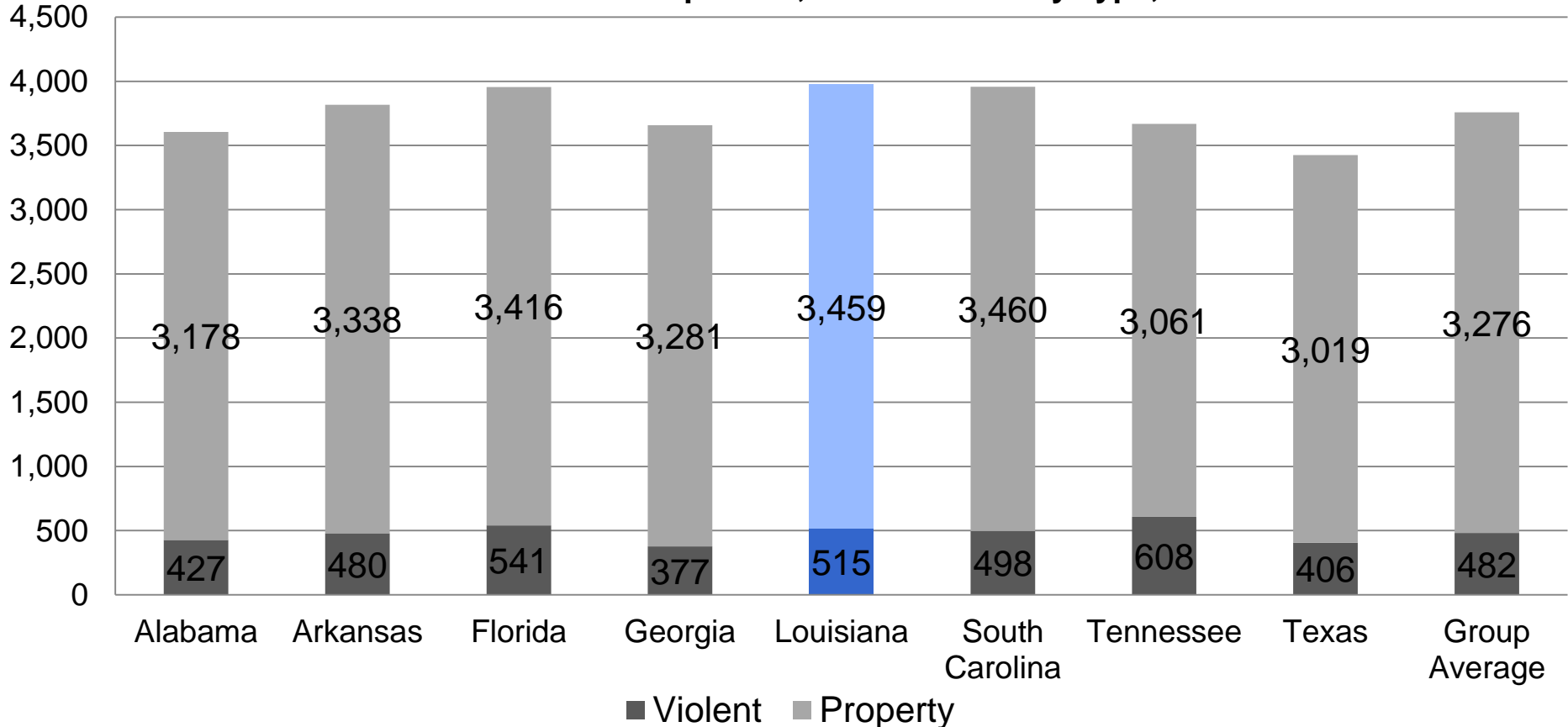
Crime Rate Began Declining in Mid-1990s

Louisiana Total Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Residents, 1978-2014



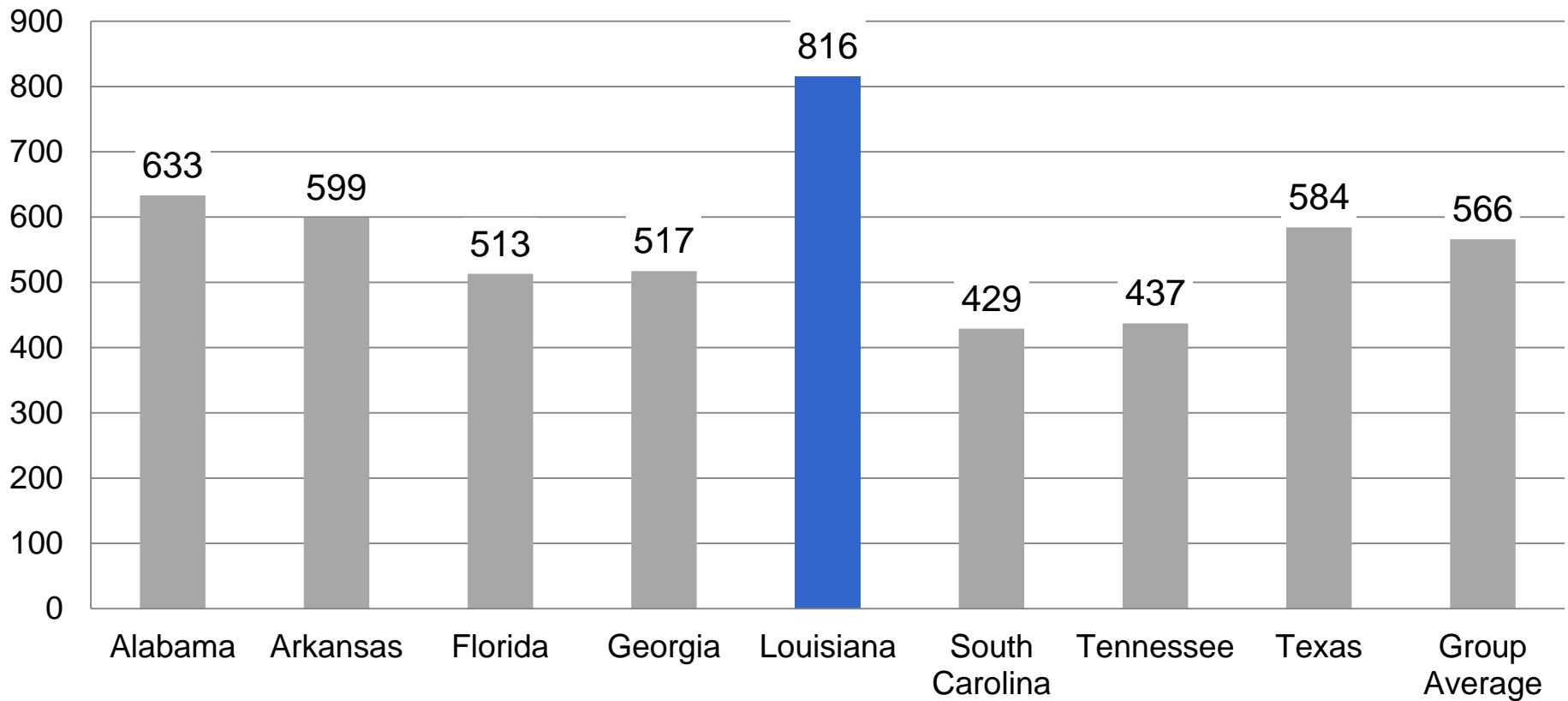
Louisiana Has Similar, Though Slightly Higher, Crime Rate to Many States in the Region

Total Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Residents by Type, 2014



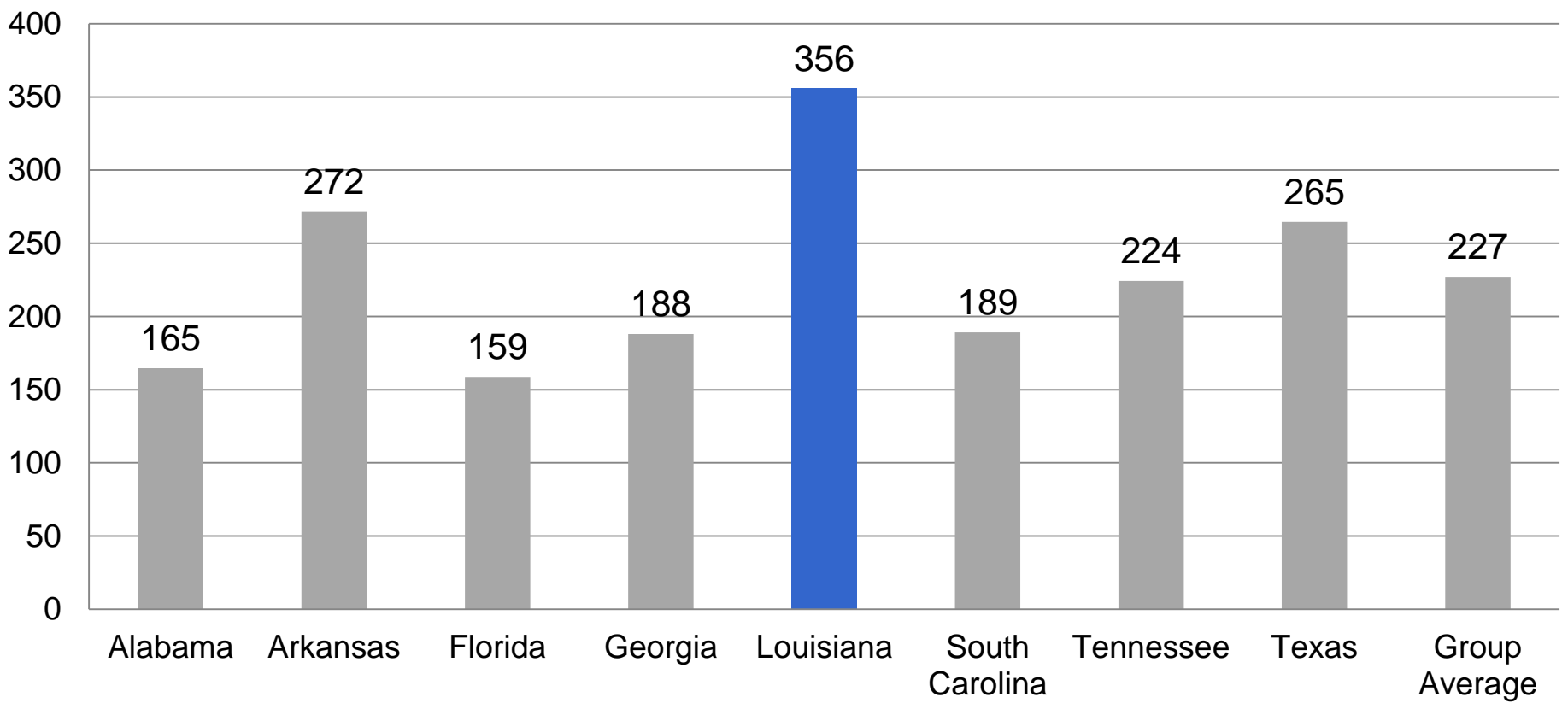
Imprisonment Rate Higher Than States in Region With Similar Crime Rates

Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 Residents, 2014



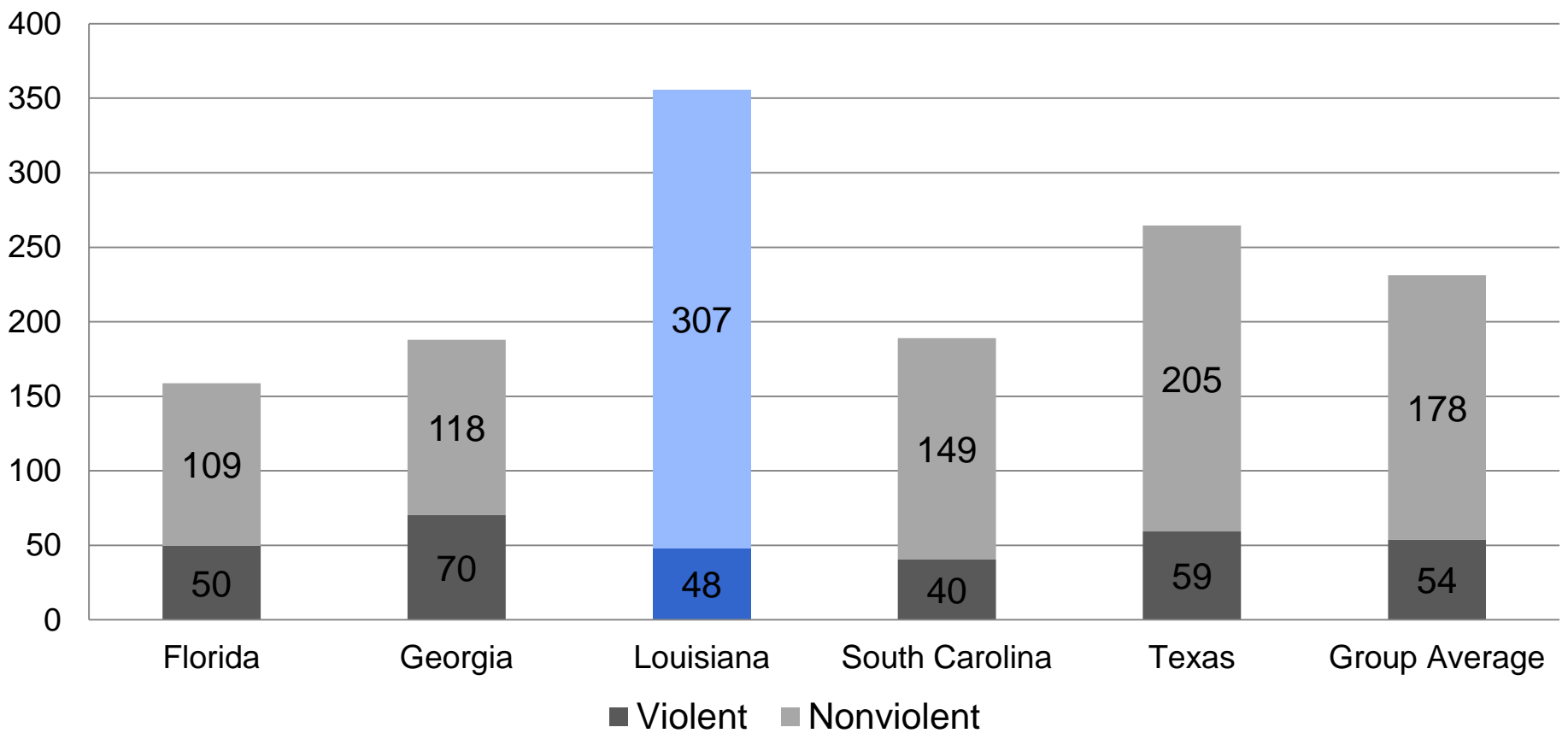
Louisiana Has Highest Prison Admission Rate of States in Region with Similar Crime Rates

Prison Admission Rate per 100,000 Residents, 2014



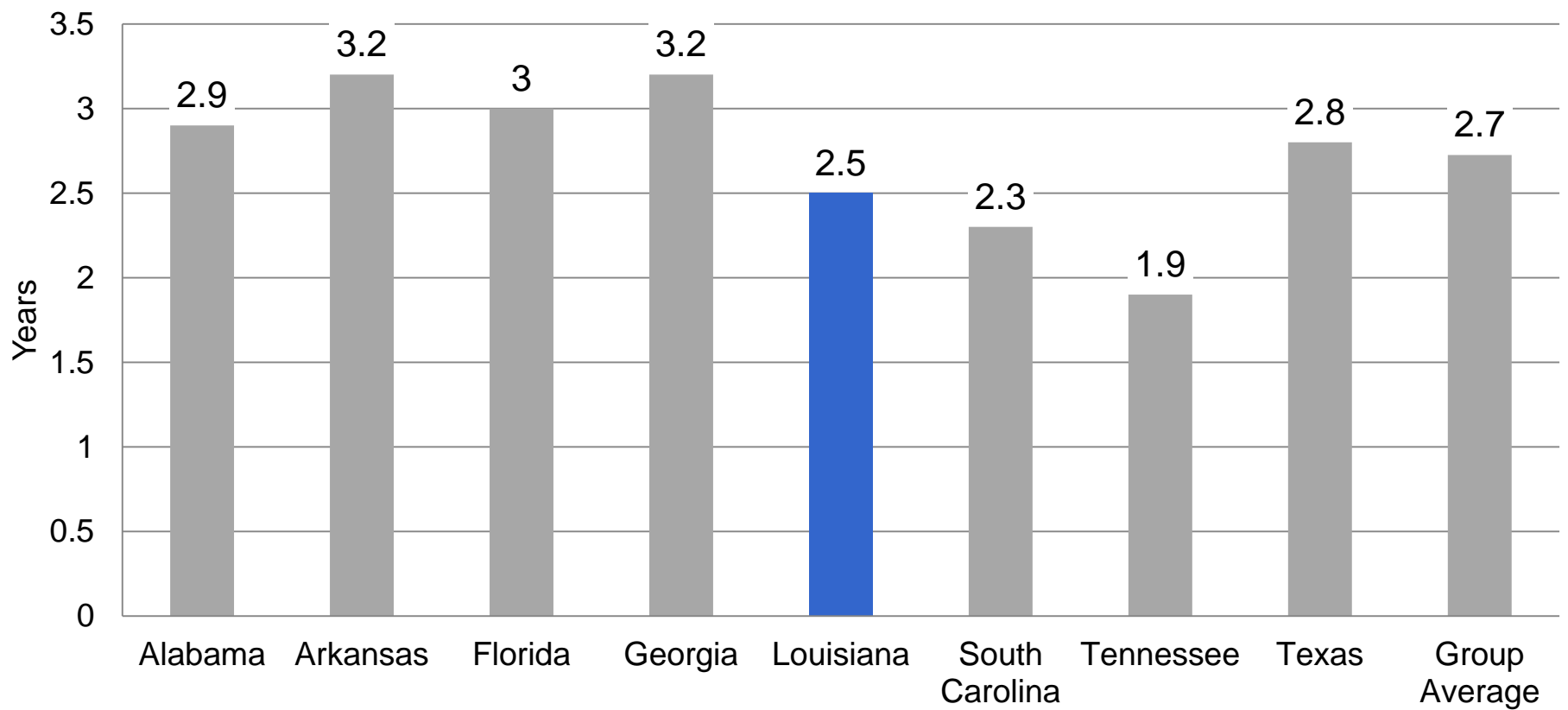
Admission Rate of Nonviolent Prisoners Much Higher Than States in Region With Similar Crime Rates

Prison Admission Rate per 100,000 Residents by Offense Type, 2014



Average Time Served in Prison Is Similar or Slightly Lower Than States in Region with Similar Crime Rates

Average Time Served for All Prison Releases, 2009



Key Takeaways: Regional Context

- Louisiana's imprisonment rate more than quadrupled in the past 35 years.
- Louisiana has a higher imprisonment and prison admission rate than other states in the region with similar crime rates.
- Average time served for people released from prison in Louisiana is on par with or lower than many states in the region with similar crime rates.

TRENDS IN THE LOUISIANA PRISON POPULATION

Data Sources

- Louisiana Department of Corrections
 - Prison admissions, 2006-2015
 - Prison releases, 2006-2015
 - Annual snapshots of prison population, December 31, 2006-2015

Definition of Terms

Supervision

- Community supervision
 - Probation, parole, or good time parole

Offense Type

- Violent crime
 - Any crime defined as violent in LA R.S. 14:2(B), as well as vehicular homicide (designated by the Supreme Court as a violent crime), and domestic abuse by burning (designated by statute as a violent crime)
- Primary offense
 - The offense with the longest sentence length associated with an inmate's current prison stay

Definition of Terms: Prior Contact

- Prior DOC contacts include:
 - Prison sentence in DOC custody
 - Probation sentence supervised by DOC
 - Felony specialty court sentence
 - Parole or good time parole supervision sentence
 - Revocation to prison
- Prior DOC contacts do not include:
 - Arrests
 - Participation in DA diversion programs
 - Misdemeanor convictions

Definition of Terms: Admission Types

- Newly sentenced prisoner
 - Admitted to prison for a court-ordered felony sentence at the time of conviction
- Revocation
 - Admitted to prison for violating the terms of community supervision
- Habitual offender
 - Person sentenced under Louisiana's habitual offender statute, which increases the minimum and maximum penalties for second or subsequent felonies

Definition of Terms: Release Types

- Parole
 - Released by the Parole Board after serving the statutorily required portion of the sentence
- Expiration of Sentence
 - Released to the community after serving full sentence in prison
- Diminution of Sentence
 - Released to good time parole supervision after earning good time credits or attending certified treatment and rehabilitation programs
- Other
 - Released through another mechanism such as commutation of sentence, court-ordered release, or death

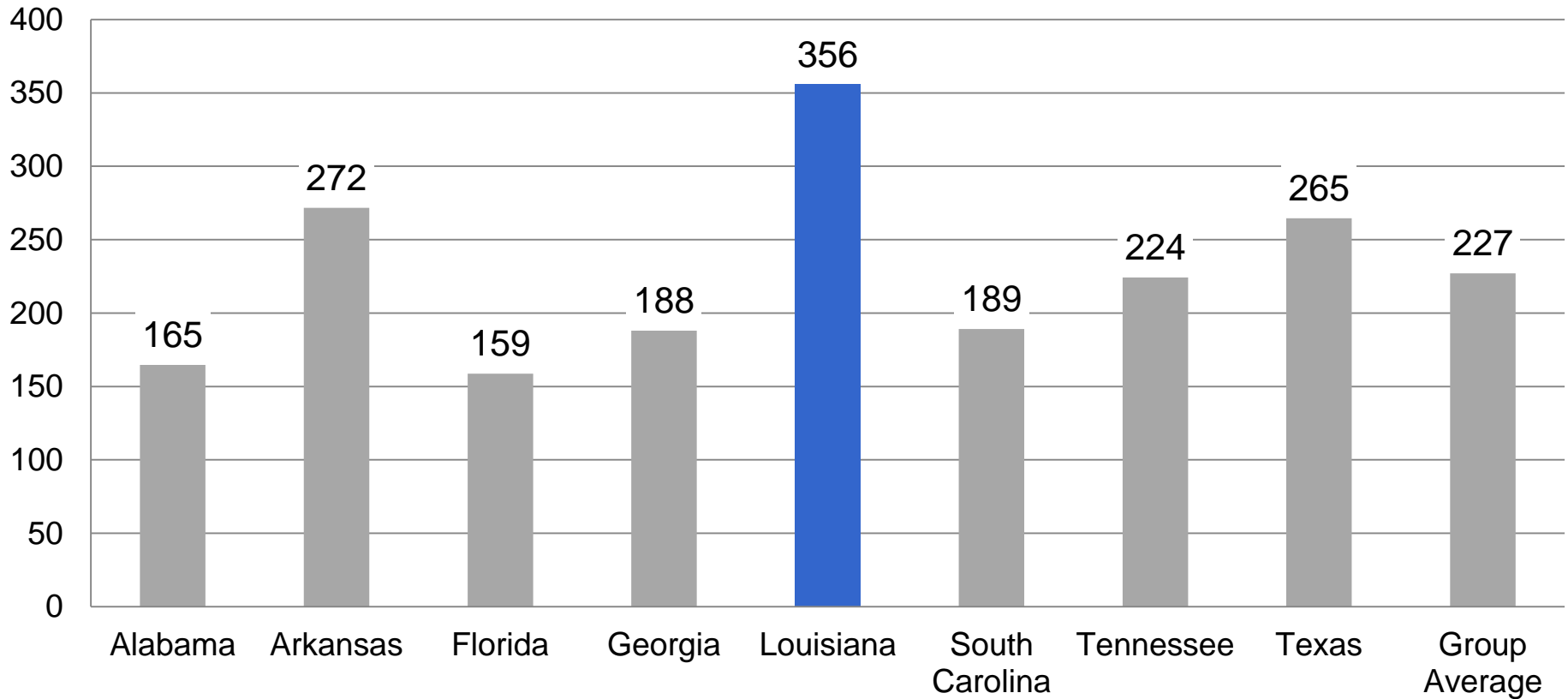
Additional Data Notes

- Data include only individuals convicted of a felony at hard labor and sentenced to serve a period of confinement in DOC custody
- Technical violators who serve a revocation sentence that is capped at 90, 120, or 180 days under Act 402 (2007) or Act 299 (2015) are not included in these data
- Time served calculation does not include pretrial or presentence jail time credited to a prison sentence

PRISON ADMISSIONS

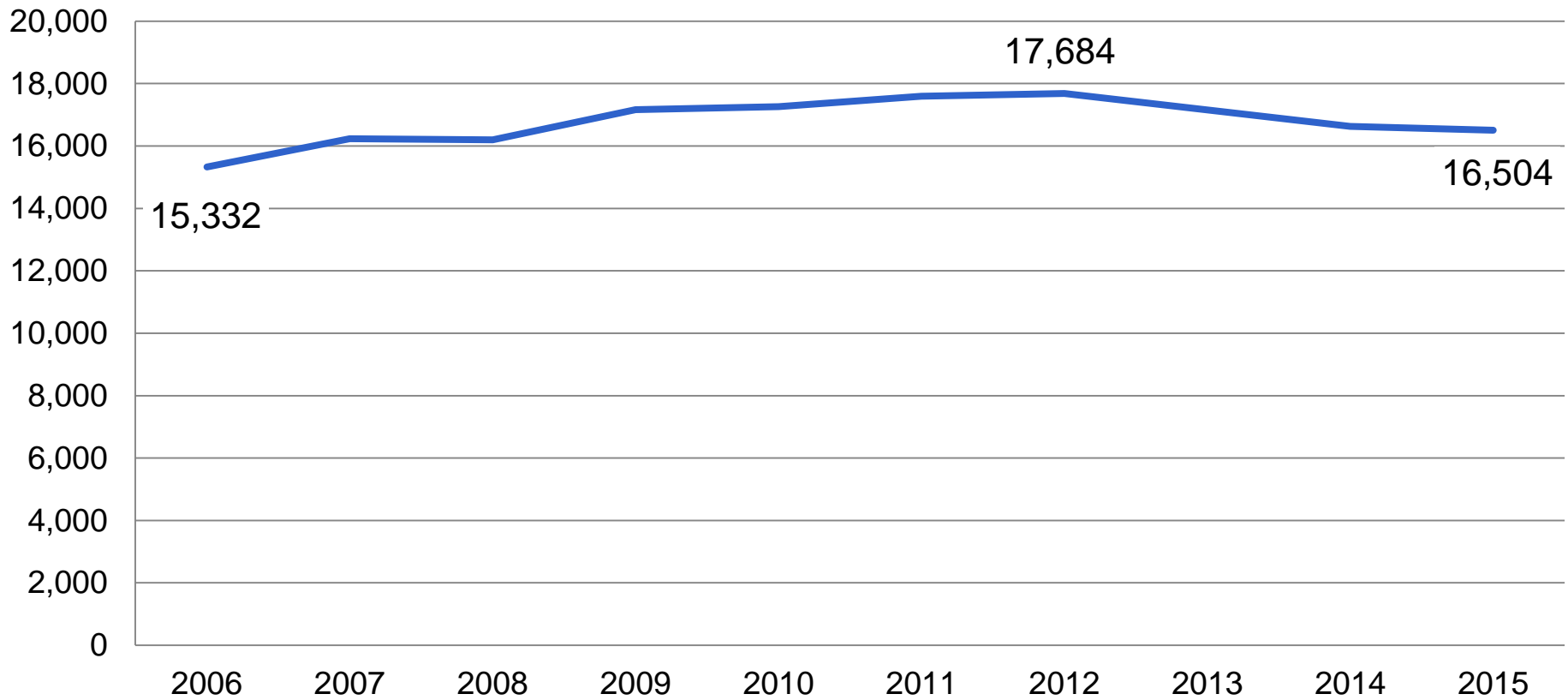
Louisiana Has Highest Prison Admission Rate of States in Region with Similar Crime Rates

Prison Admission Rate per 100,000 Residents, 2014



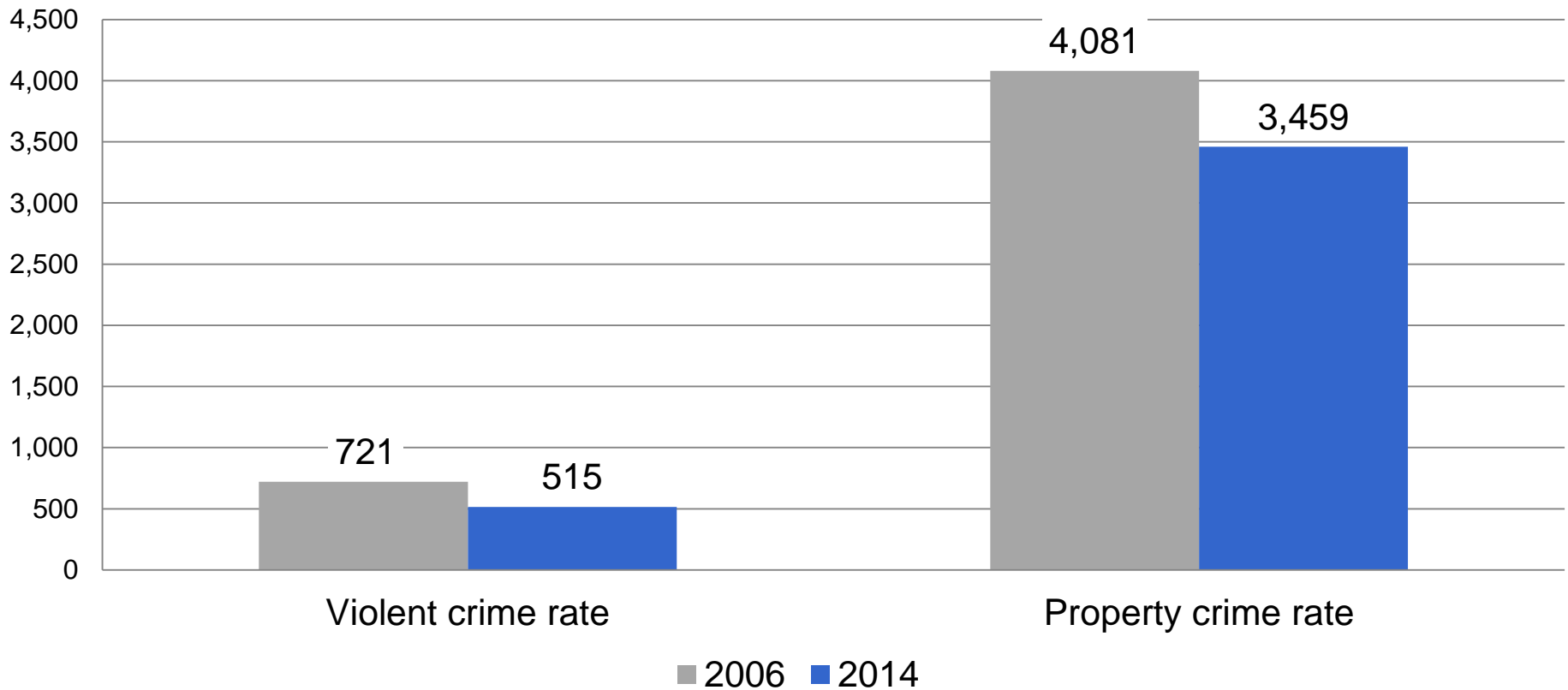
Prison Admissions Up 8% Overall in Last Decade, Declining Since 2012

Admissions by Year



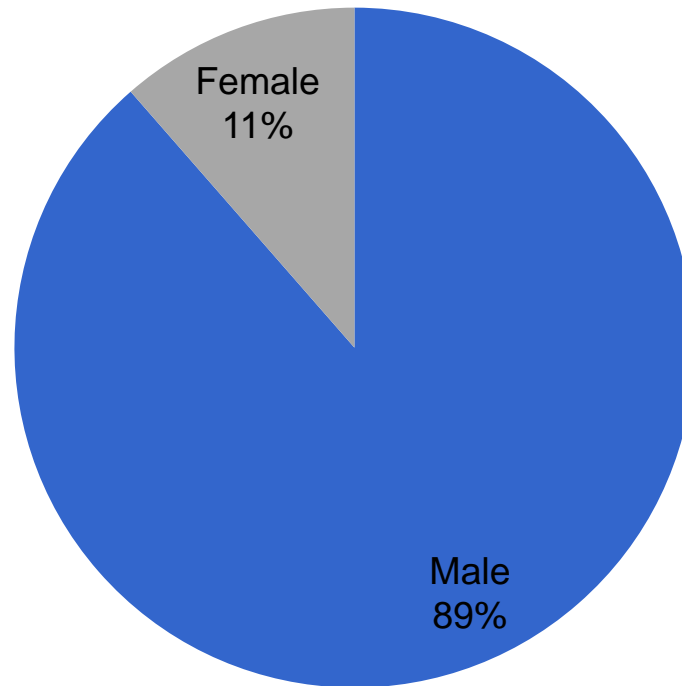
Violent Crime Down 29%, Property Crime Down 15% Since 2006

Total Index Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents, 2006 and 2014



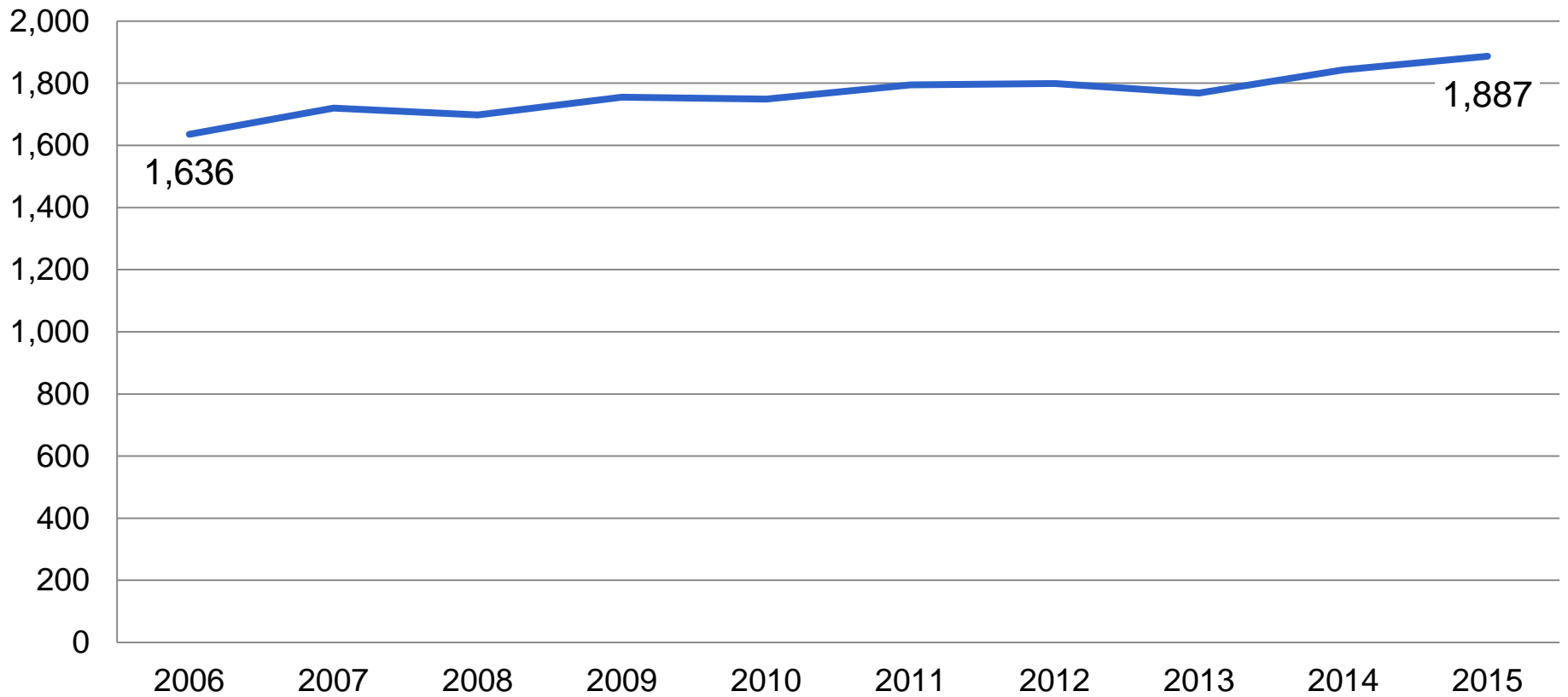
Nearly 9 in 10 Prison Admissions Are Male

Admissions by Sex, 2015



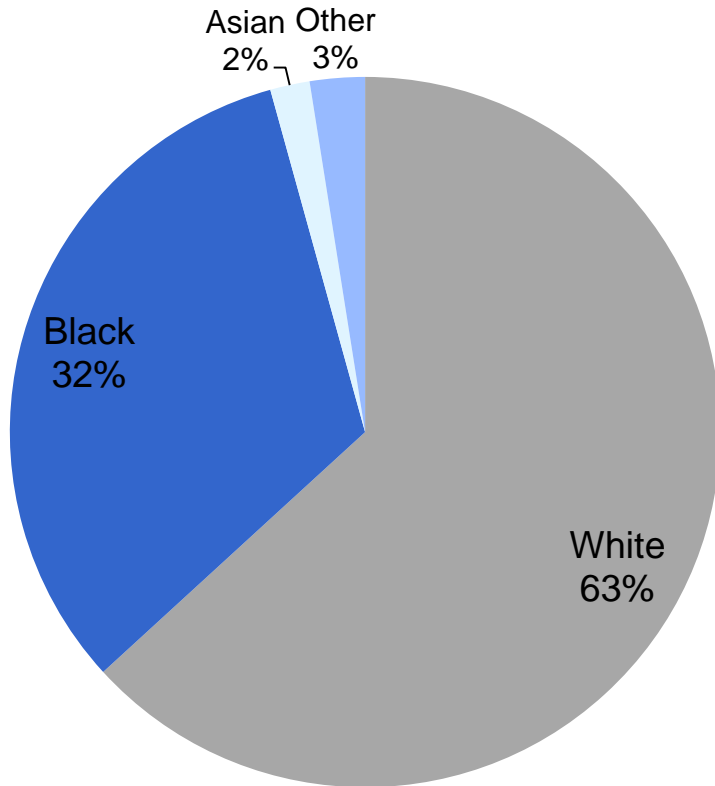
Female Prison Admissions Up 15% in Last Decade, Outpacing Growth of Male Admissions

Female Admissions by Year

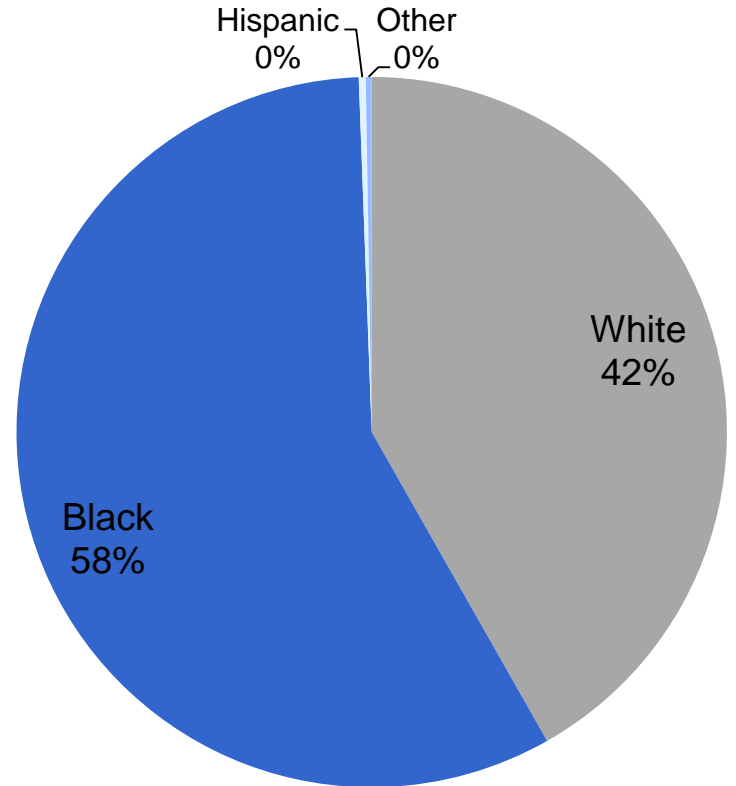


Black Share of Prison Admissions Larger Than Share of State Population

State Population by Race, 2015

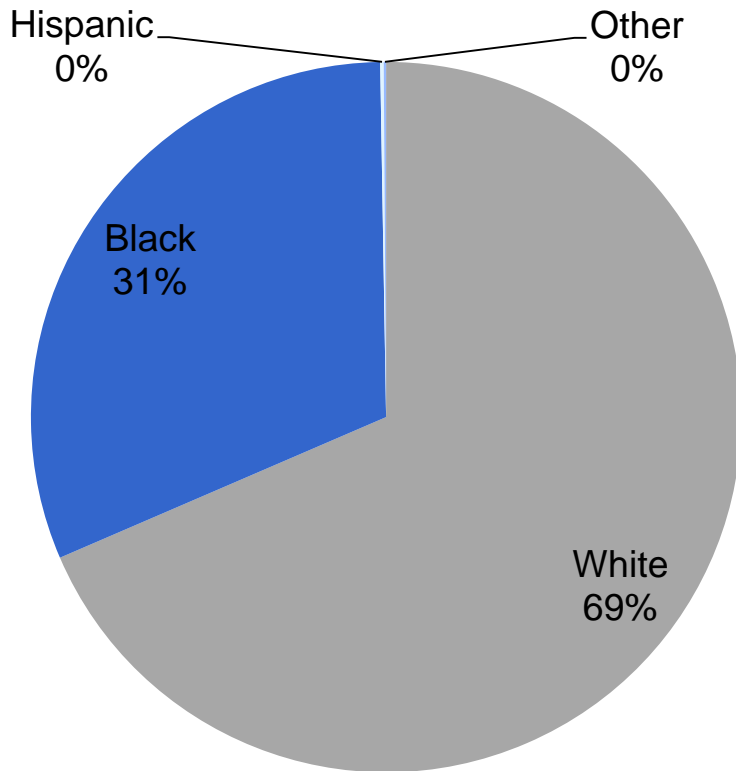


Prison Admissions by Race, 2015

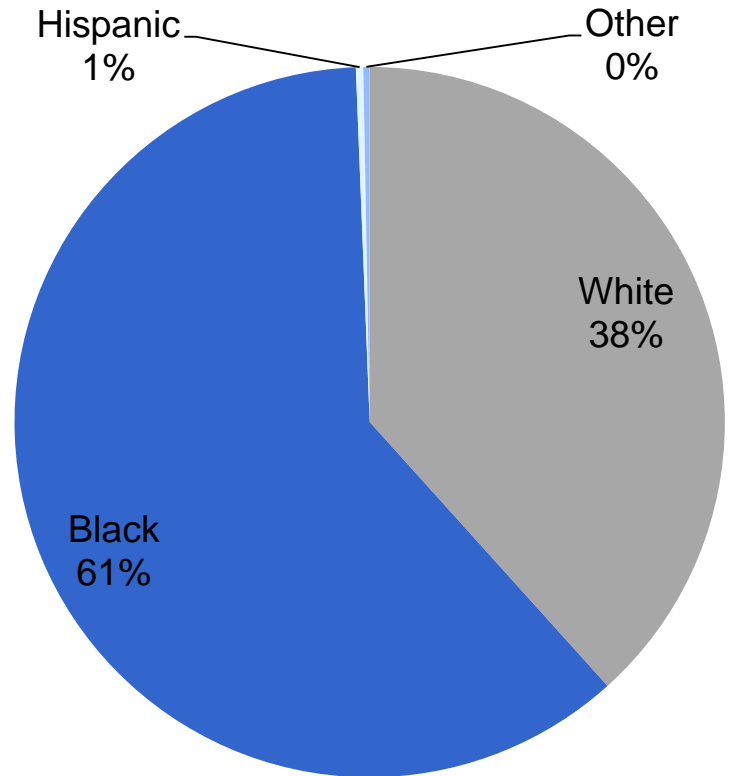


Majority of Female Prison Admissions Are White, Majority of Males Are Black

Female Admissions by Race, 2015

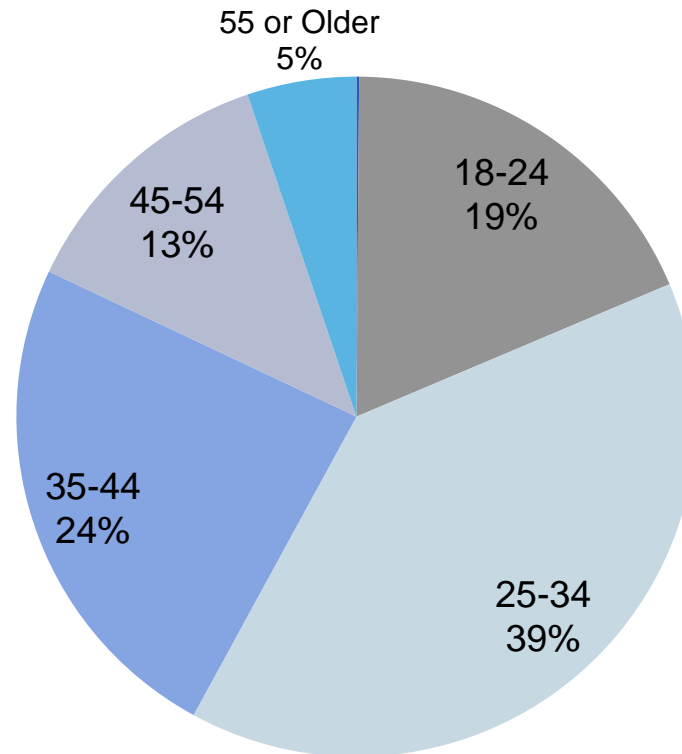


Male Admissions by Race, 2015



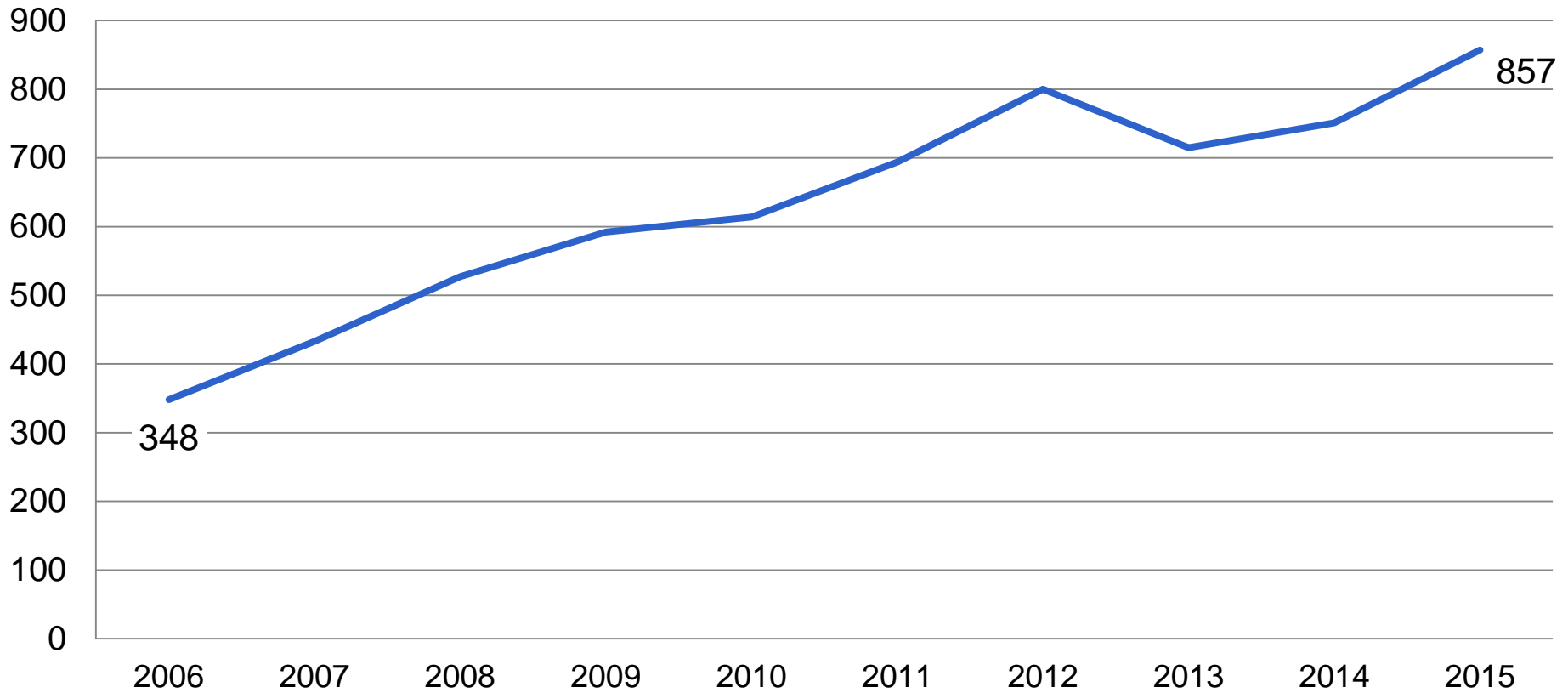
25-34 Year Olds Make Up Largest Share of Prison Admissions

Admissions by Age Category, 2015



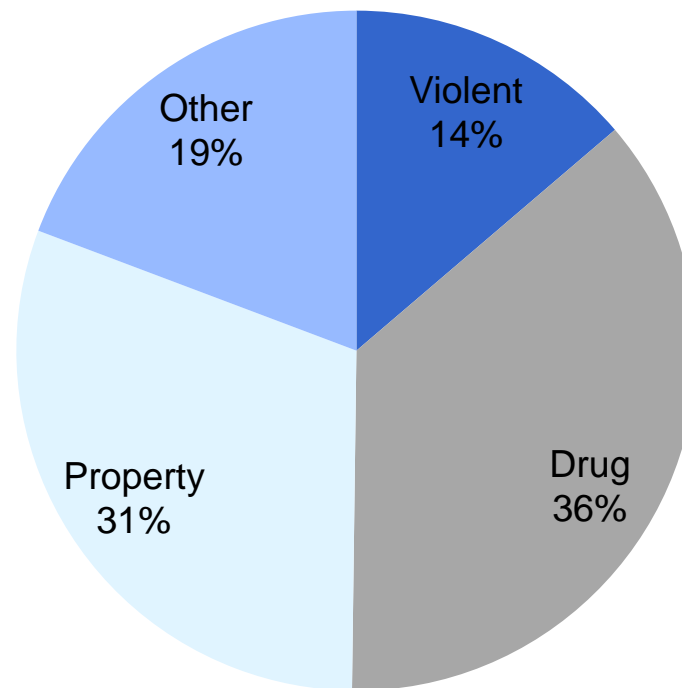
Number of Admissions 55 or Older Has More Than Doubled in Last Decade

Admissions 55 or Older by Year



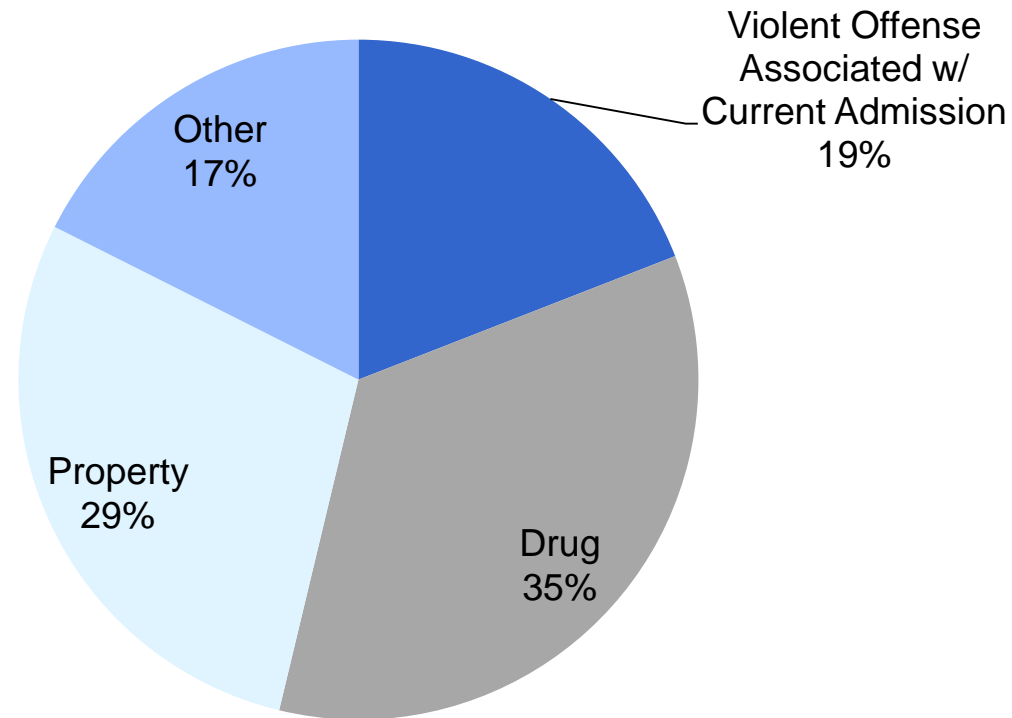
86% of Prison Admissions Have A Nonviolent Primary Offense

Admissions by Primary Offense Type, 2015



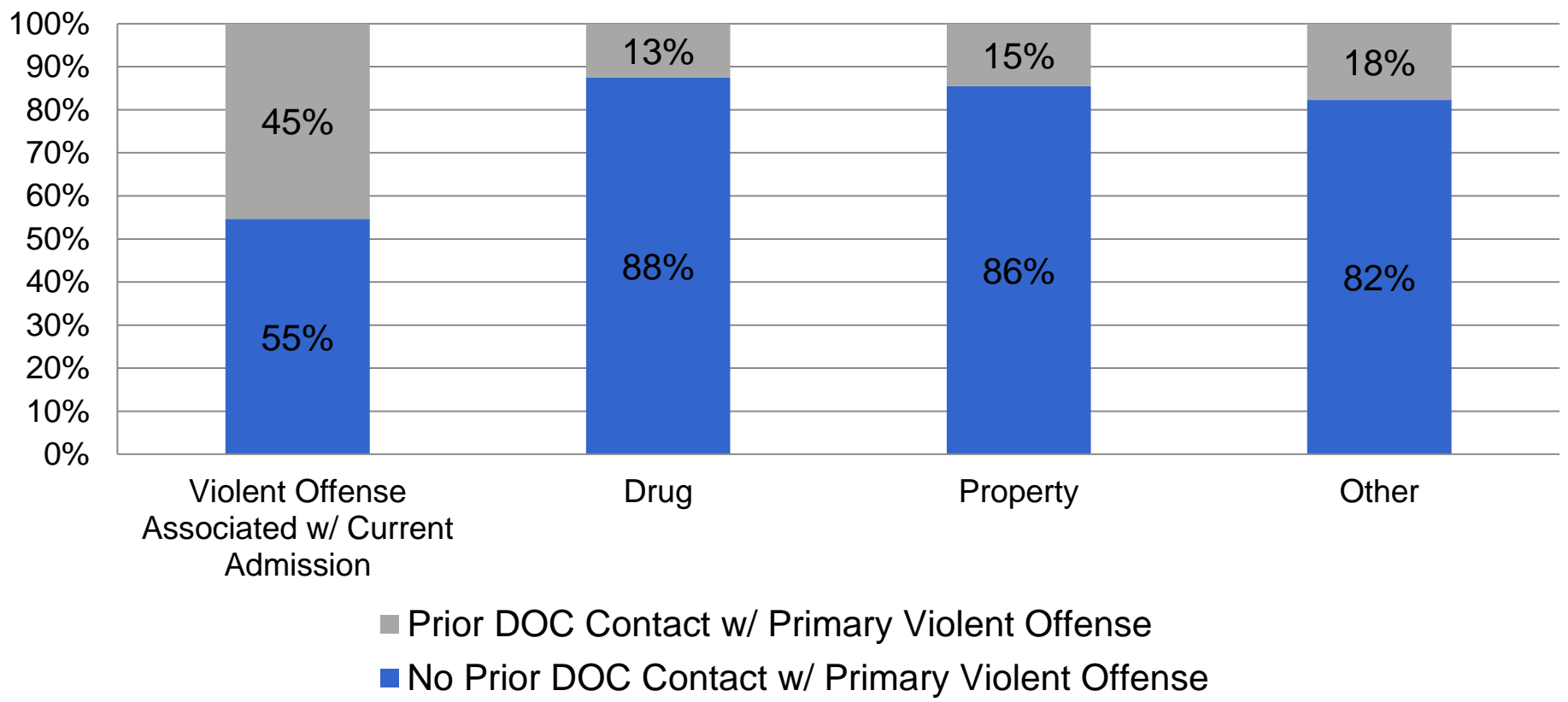
81% of Prison Admissions Have No Violent Offenses Associated with Current Admission

Admissions by Offense Type, 2015



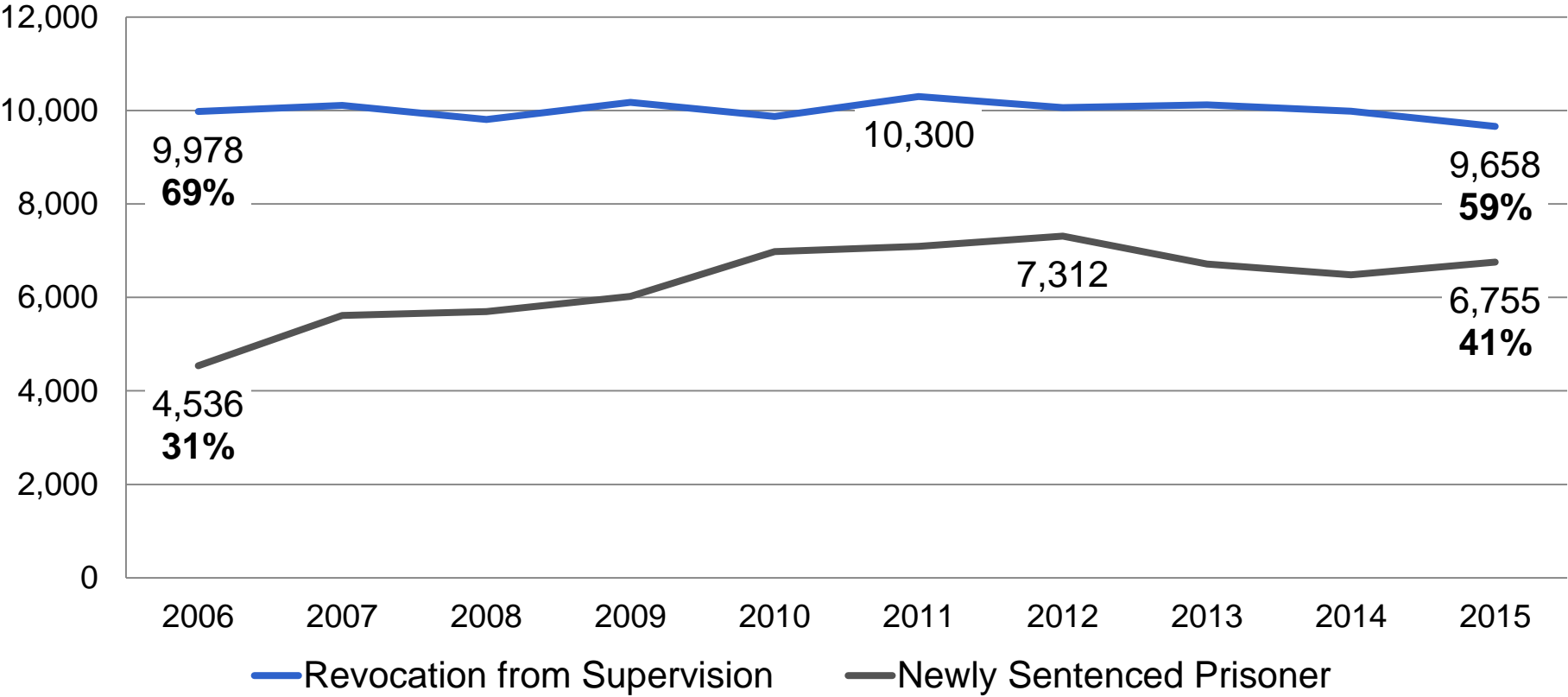
Over 80% of Drug, Property, Other Admissions Have No Prior DOC Contacts with a Primary Violent Offense

Admissions by Offense Type by Prior DOC Contact Type, 2015



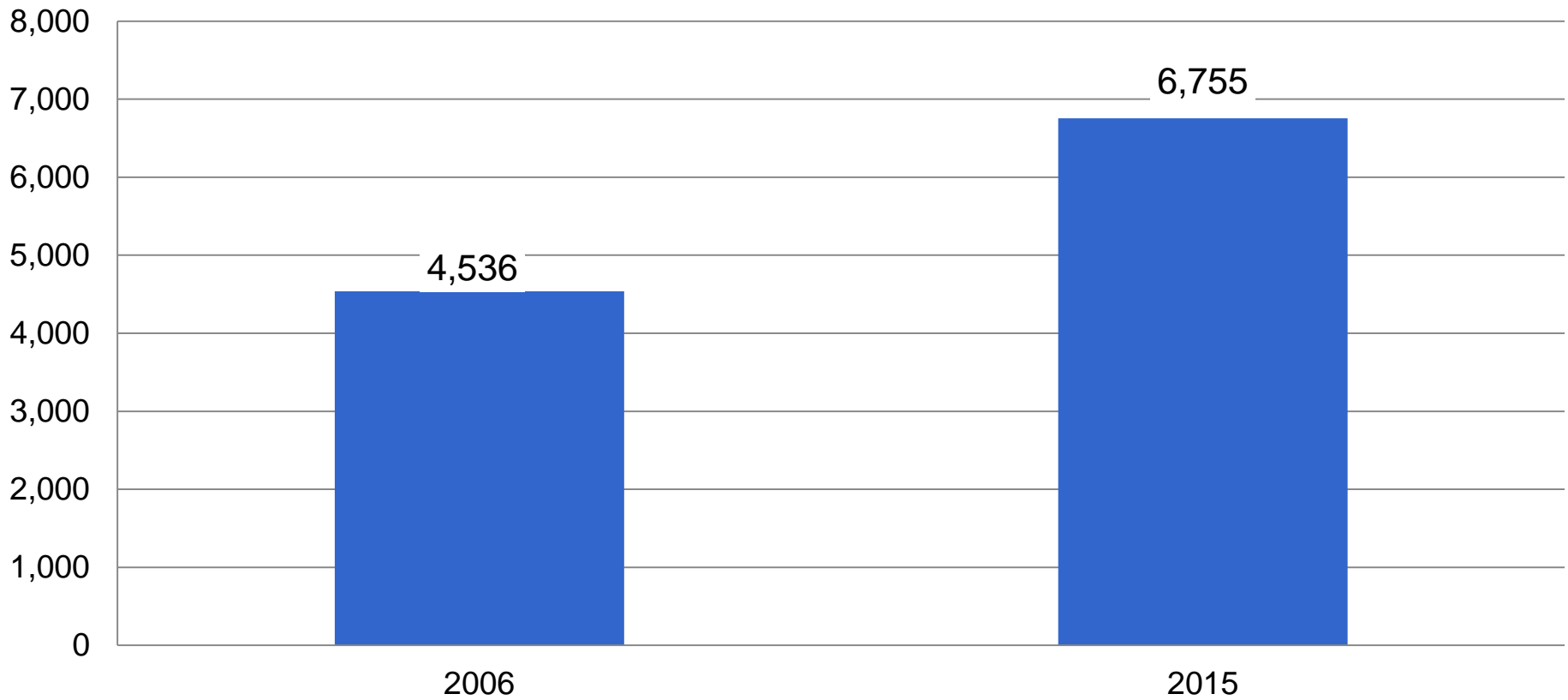
Revocations Make Up Majority of Admissions, But Share Has Declined in Last Decade

Admissions by Admission Type by Year



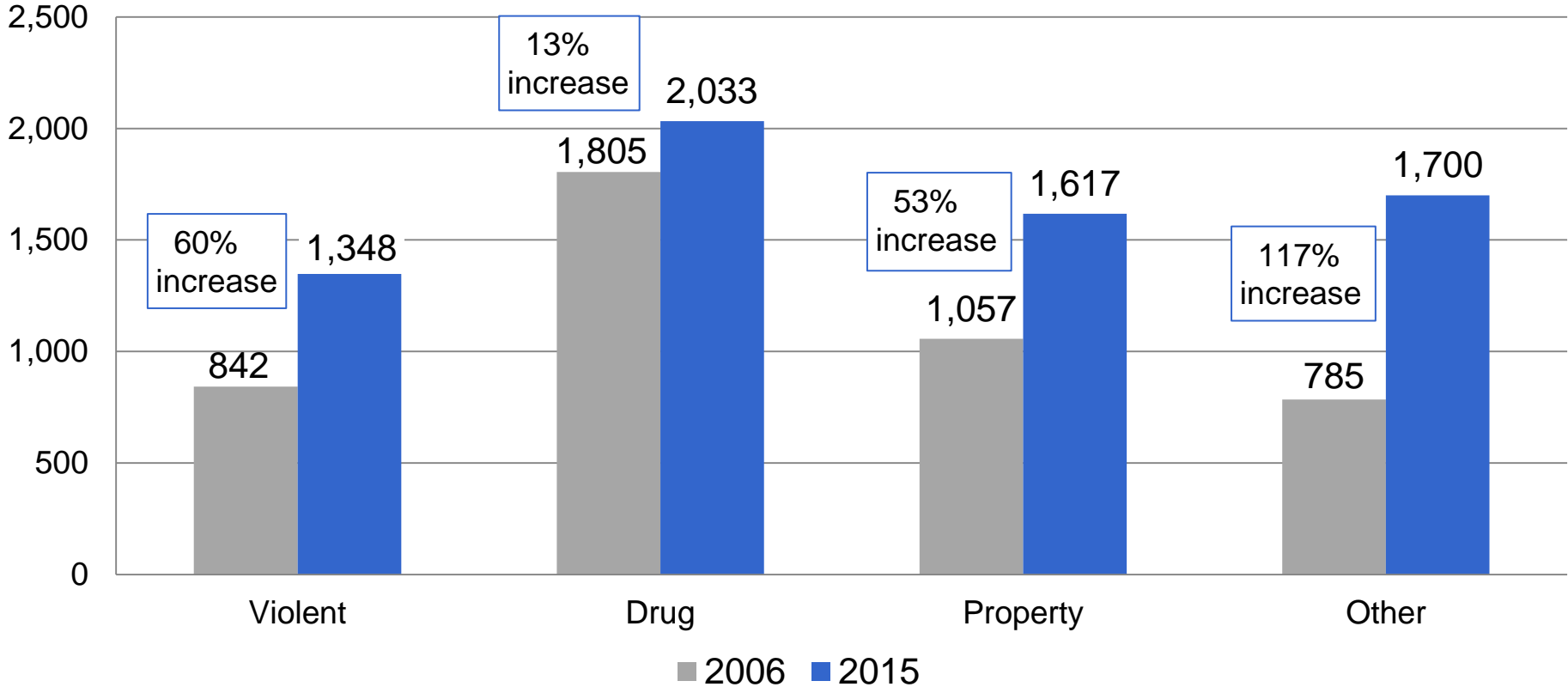
Newly Sentenced Prison Admissions Up 49% in Last Decade

Newly Sentenced Prison Admissions, 2006 and 2015



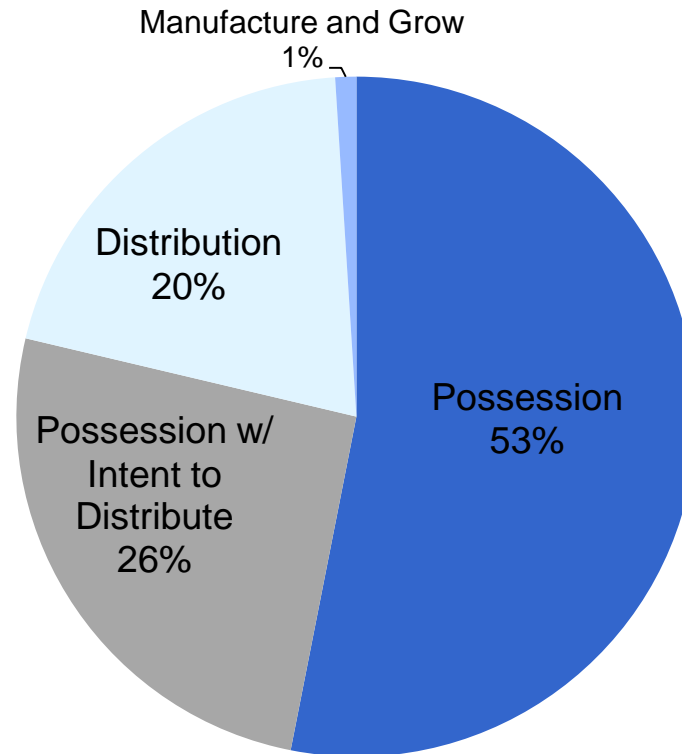
Newly Sentenced Prison Admissions Up Across All Offense Types

Admissions by Offense Type, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2006 and 2015



More Than Half of New Drug Sentences to Prison Are for Possession

Drug Admissions by Offense Type, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2015

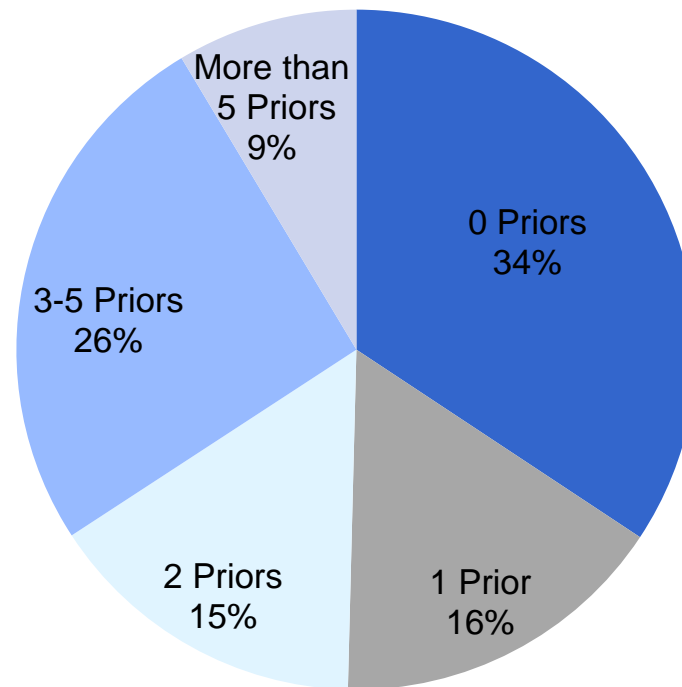


Top 10 Most Common Crimes at Admission for Newly Sentenced Prisoners Are All Nonviolent

Top 10 Offenses at Admission in 2015, Newly Sentenced Prisoners			
Offense	2006	2015	% Change, 2006-2015
POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE II DRUG	779	641	-18%
SIMPLE BURGLARY	278	466	68%
OPERATE VEHICLE WHILE INTOXICATED	218	380	74%
POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON	102	308	202%
DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE II DRUG	278	262	-6%
POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE II DRUG	296	252	-15%
POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE I DRUG	100	245	145%
SIMPLE BURGLARY INHABITED DWELLING	83	216	160%
POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE I DRUG	146	209	43%
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION VIOLATION	57	201	253%

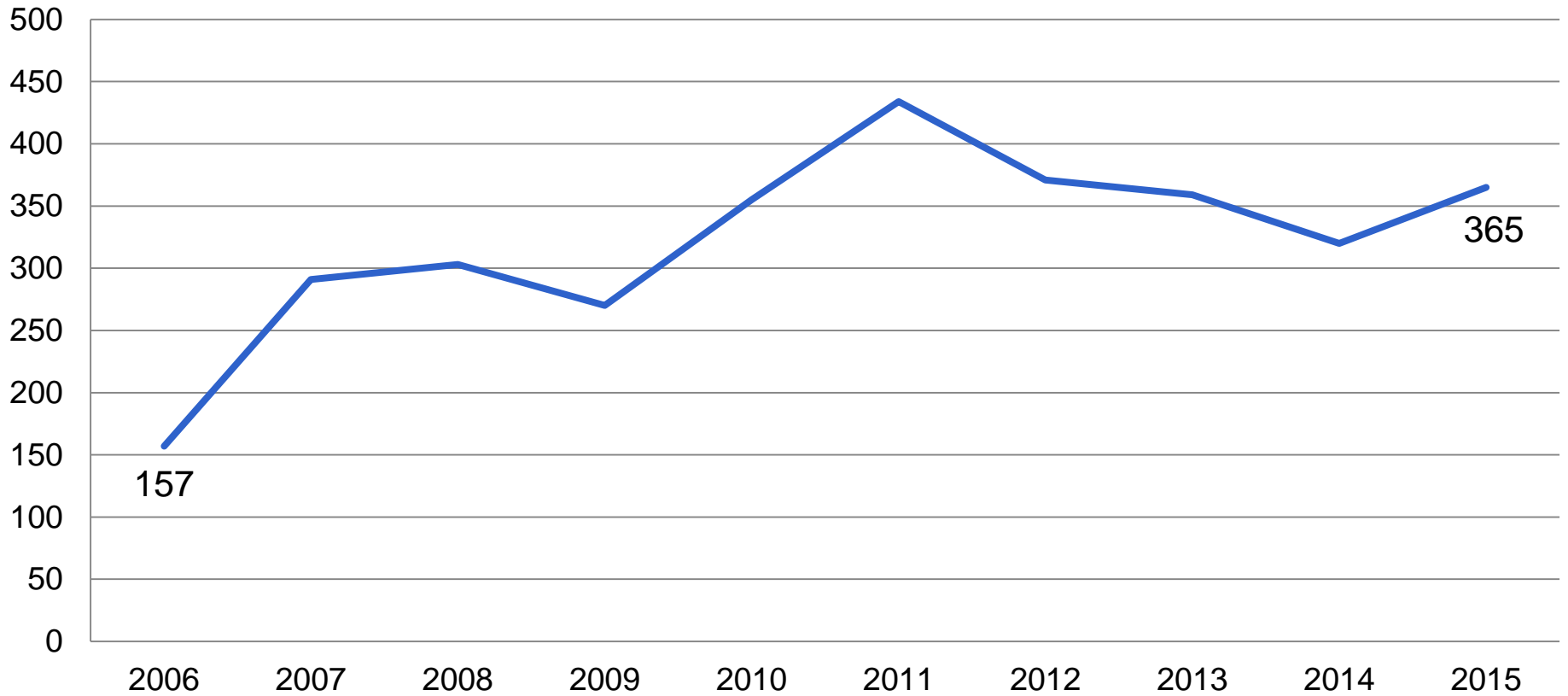
34% of Newly Sentenced Prisoners Have No Prior DOC Contacts

Admissions by Prior DOC Contacts, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2015



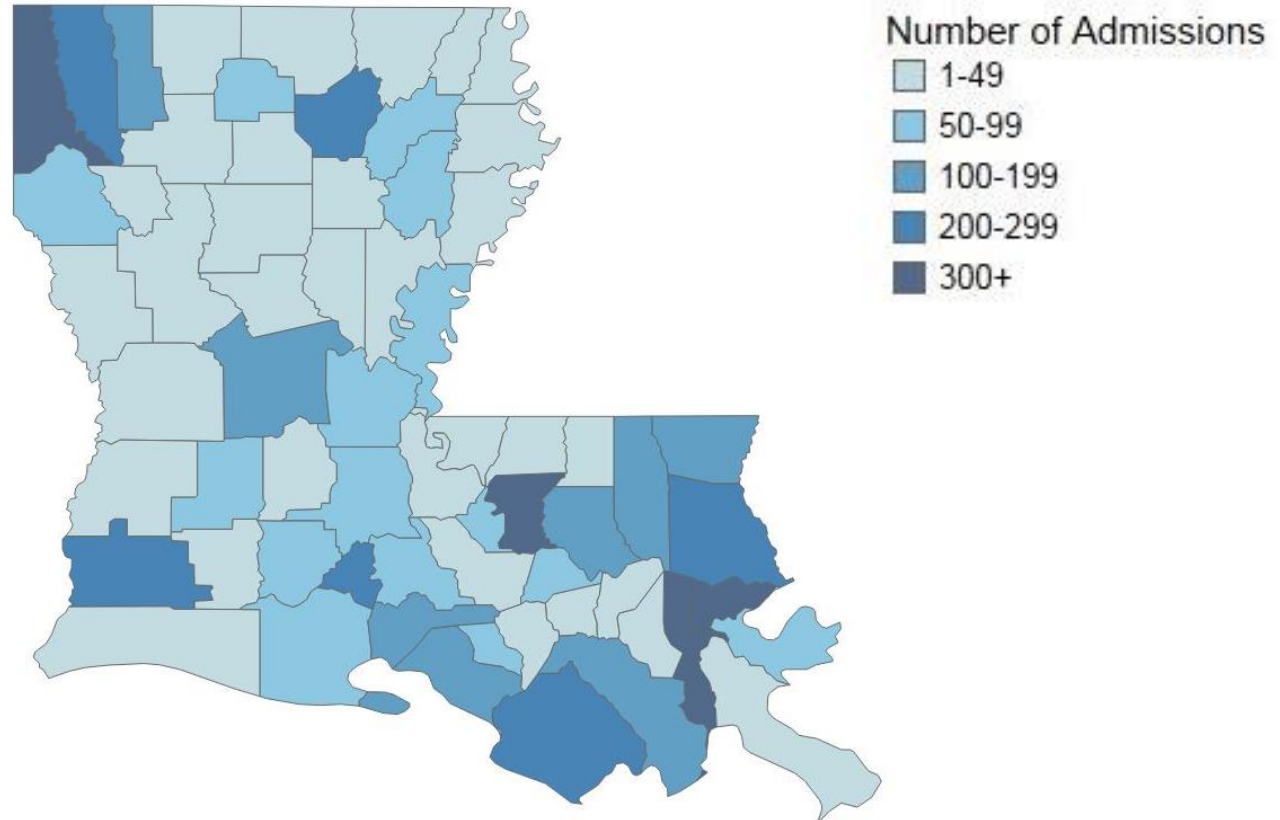
People Sentenced Under Habitual Offender Statute Are a Small But Growing Share of Prison Admissions

Newly Sentenced Prisoners Convicted Under Habitual Offender Statute by Year



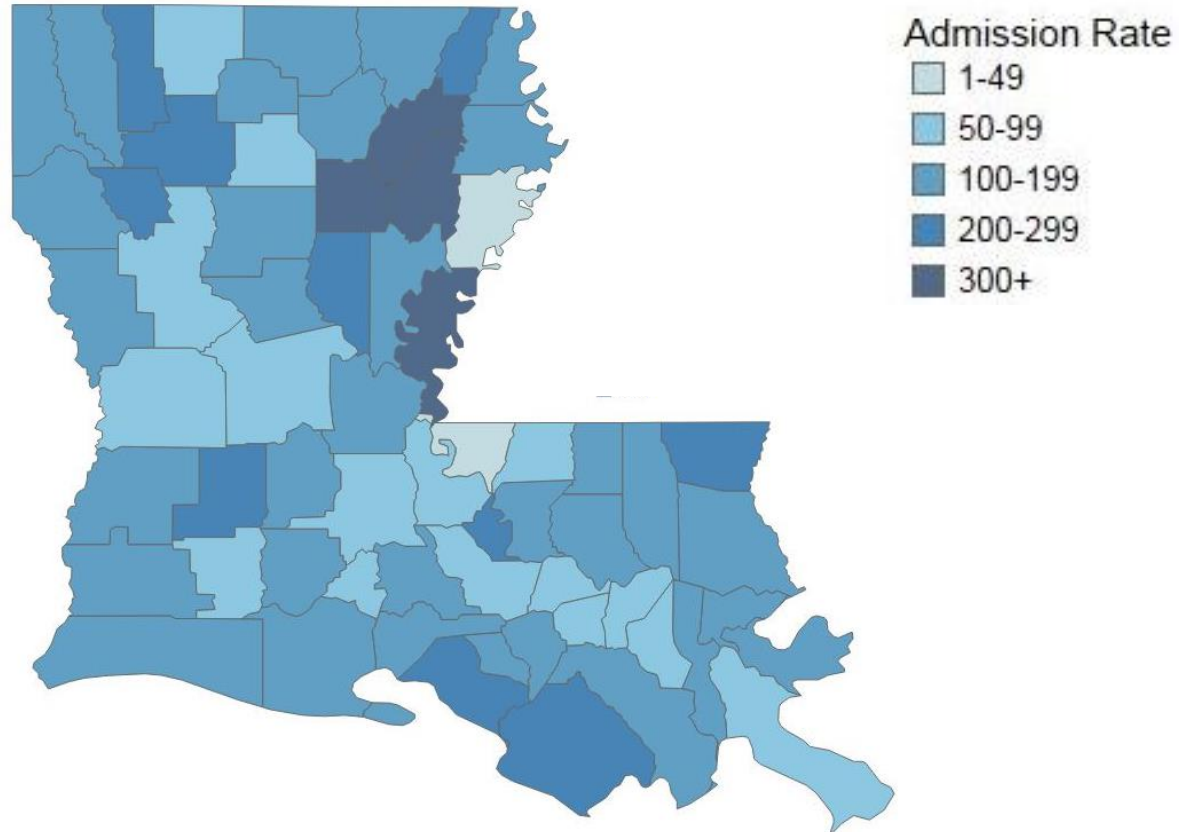
Urban Centers Send Largest Number of Newly Sentenced Prisoners to Prison

**Admissions by Parish of Conviction, Newly Sentenced Prisoners.
2015**



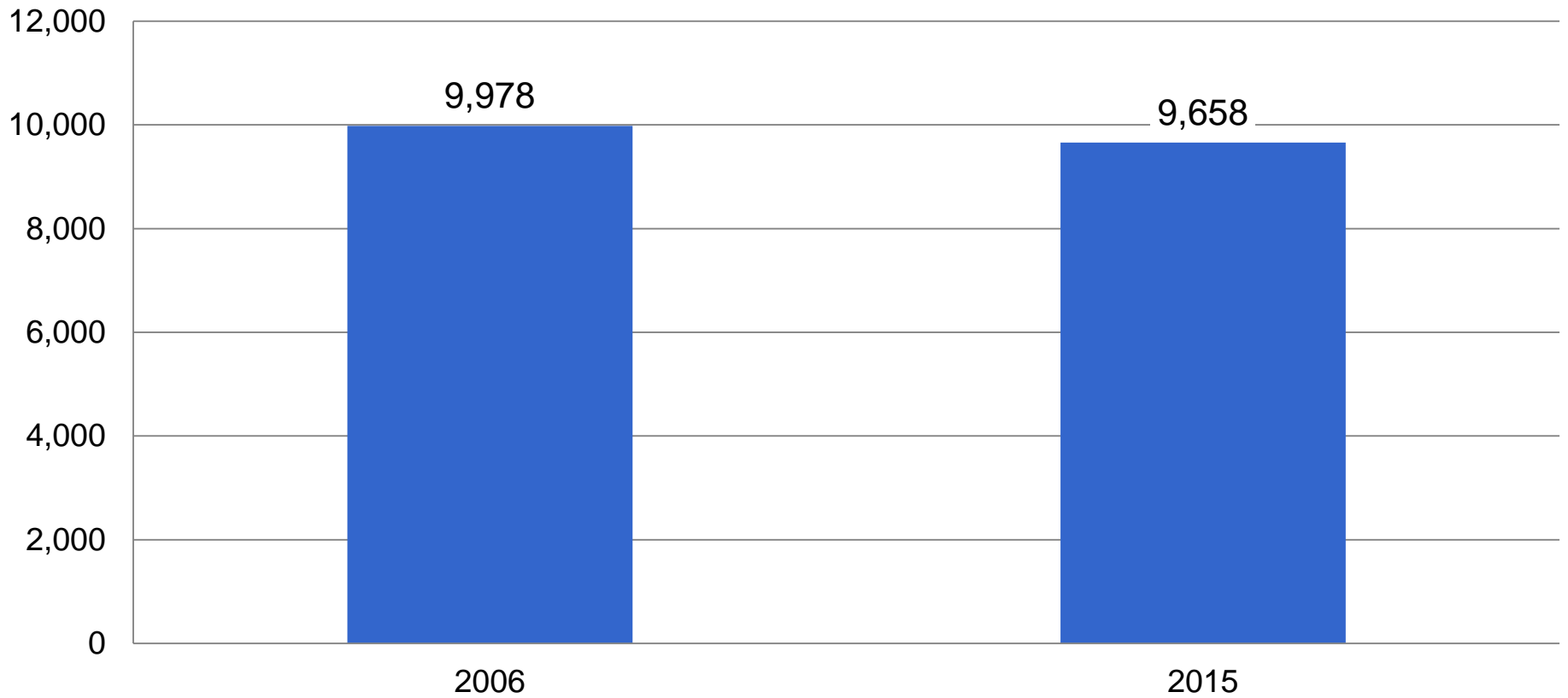
Wide Variation in Admission Rate per 100,000 Residents Across Jurisdictions

Admissions per 100,000 Residents by Parish of Conviction, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2015



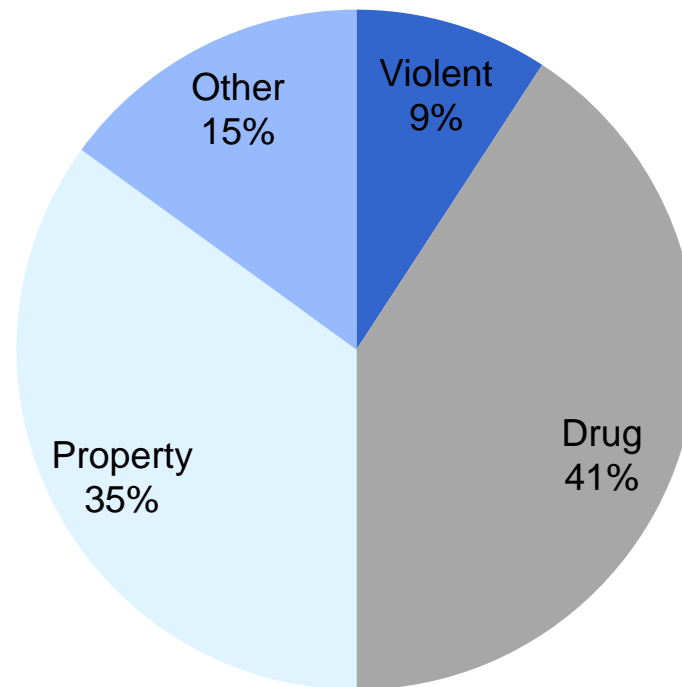
Revocations from Community Supervision to Prison Flat over Last Decade

Revocations from Supervision, 2006 and 2015



Over 75% of Revocations Admitted to Prison Had Underlying Drug or Property Offense

Revocations by Underlying Offense Type, 2015



Key Takeaways: Prison Admissions

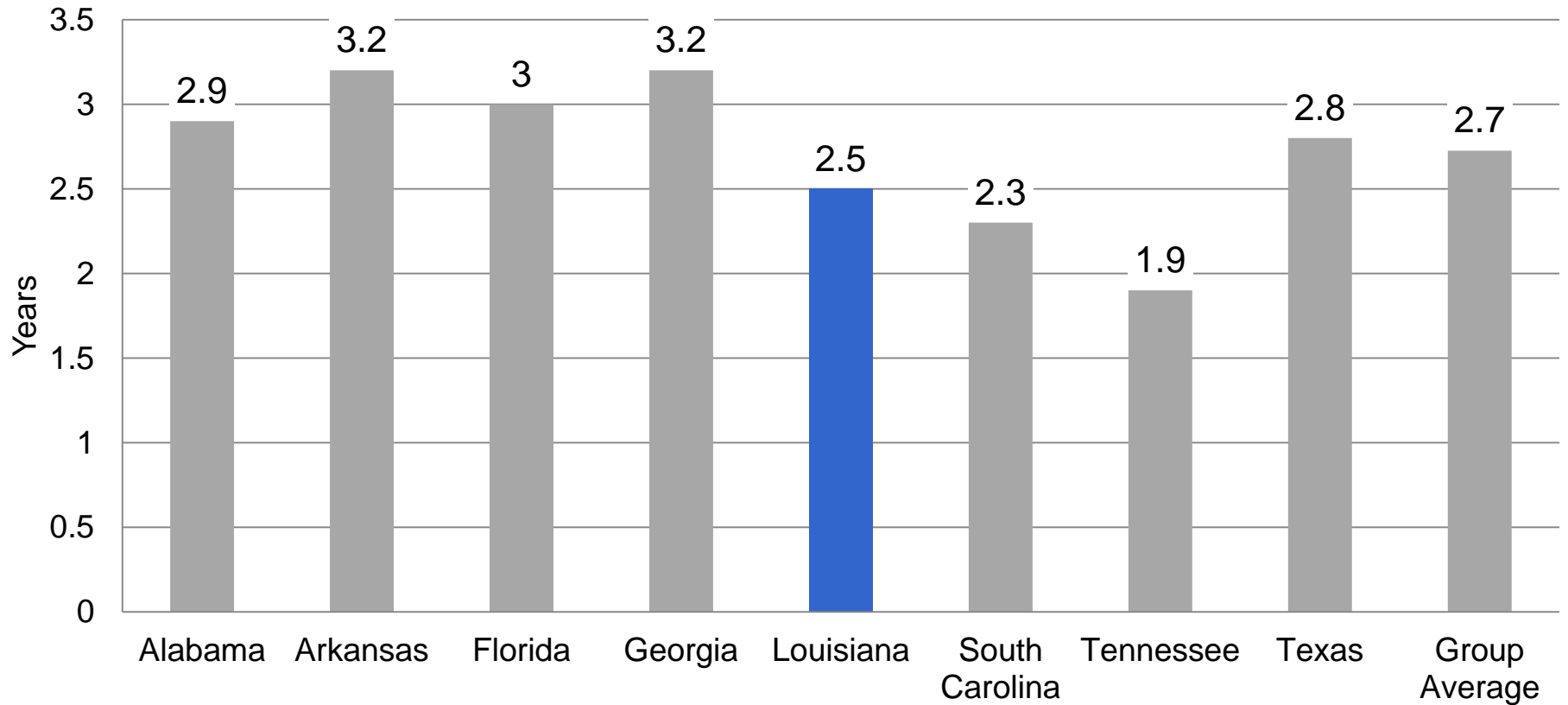
- Prison admissions are up 8% in the last decade but have been falling since 2012.
- Louisiana has the highest prison admission rate of surrounding states with similar crime rates.
 - 86% of prison admissions have a primary offense that is nonviolent.
- Newly sentenced prison admissions are up 49% in the last decade with increases across all offense types.
 - Drug possession is the most common crime at admission for newly sentenced prisoners.
 - All of the top ten most common offenses for newly sentenced prison admissions are nonviolent.
- Revocations make up 59% of prison admissions.

Break

TIME SERVED IN PRISON

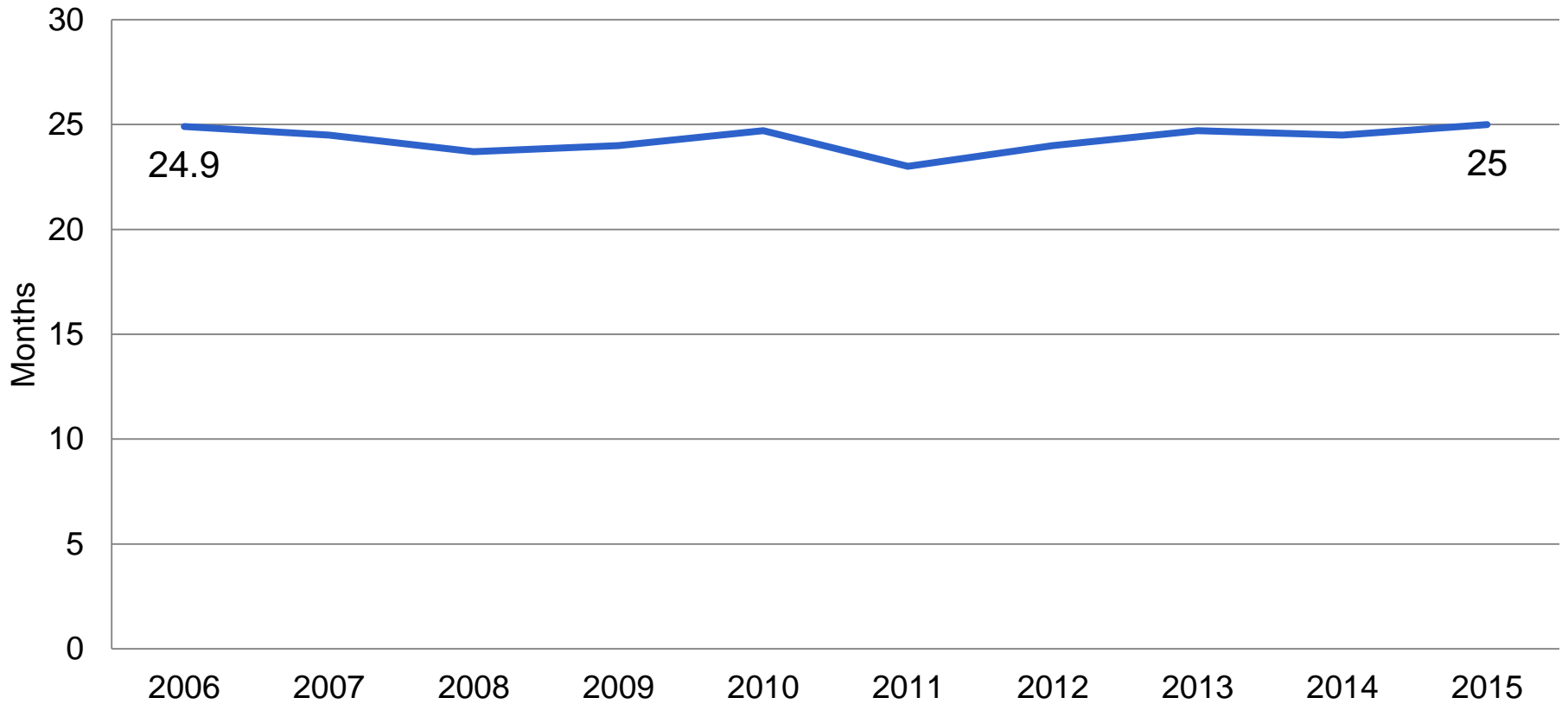
Average Time Served in Prison Is Similar or Slightly Lower Than States in Region with Similar Crime Rates

Average Time Served for All Prison Releases, 2009



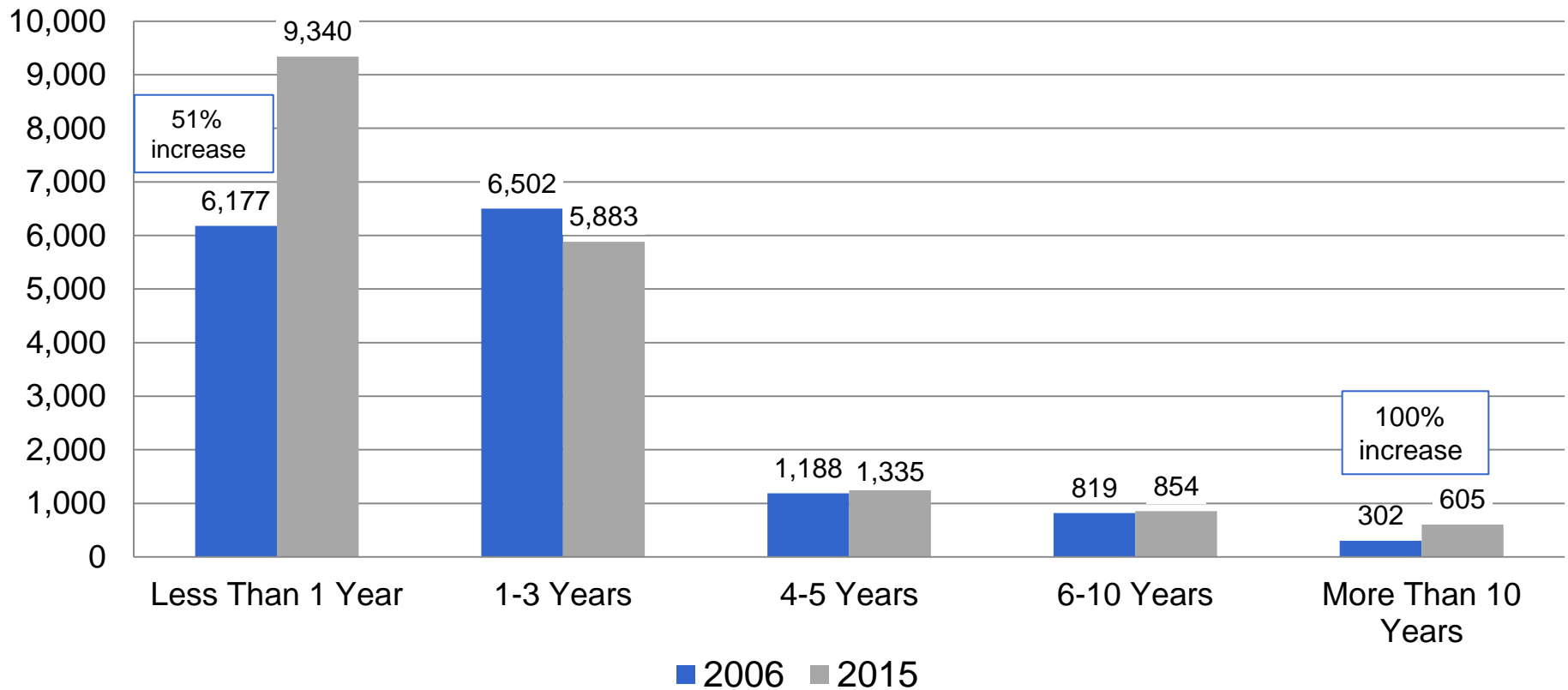
Average Time Served in Prison Has Changed Little in the Last Decade

Average Time Served by Year



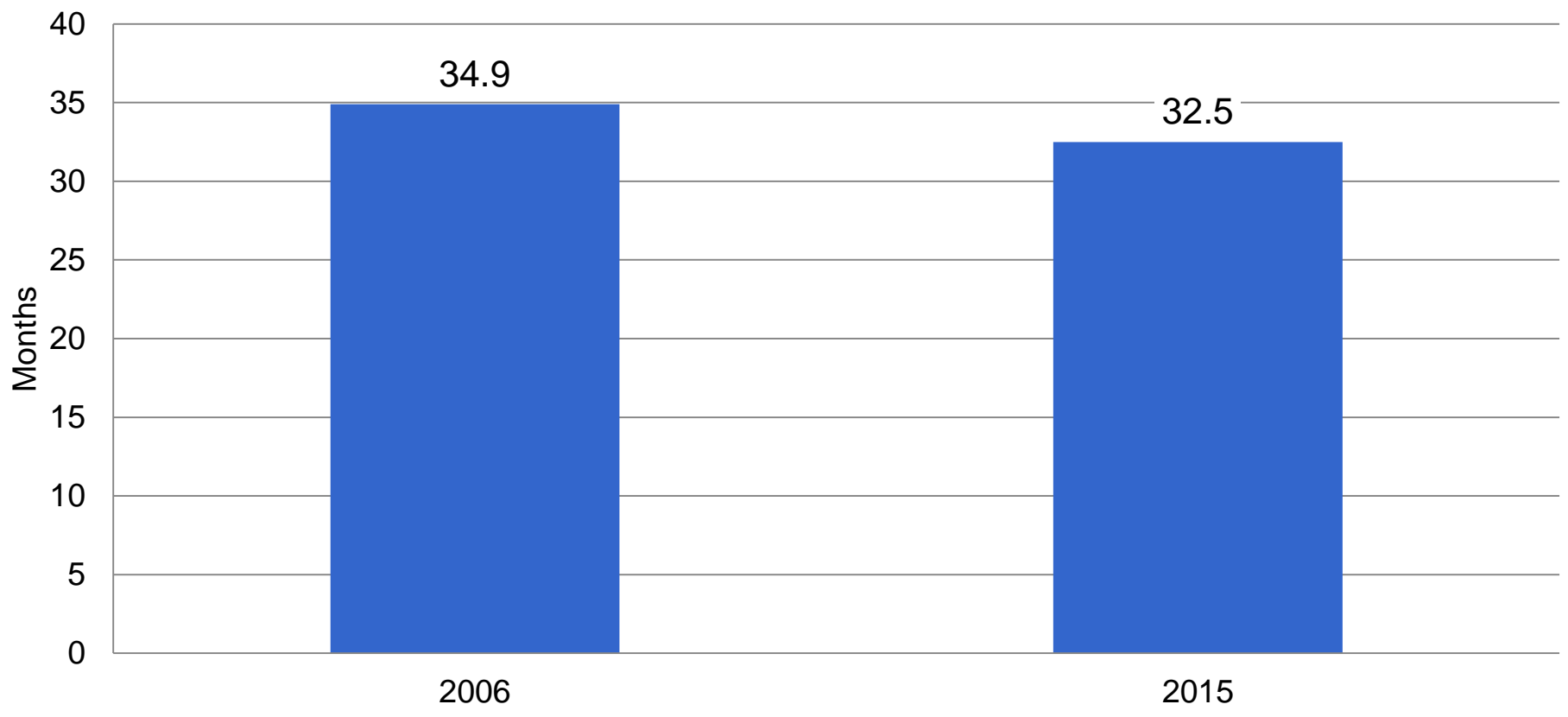
Number of Releases with Shortest and Longest Lengths of Stay Have Increased

Releases by Time Served Category, 2006 and 2015



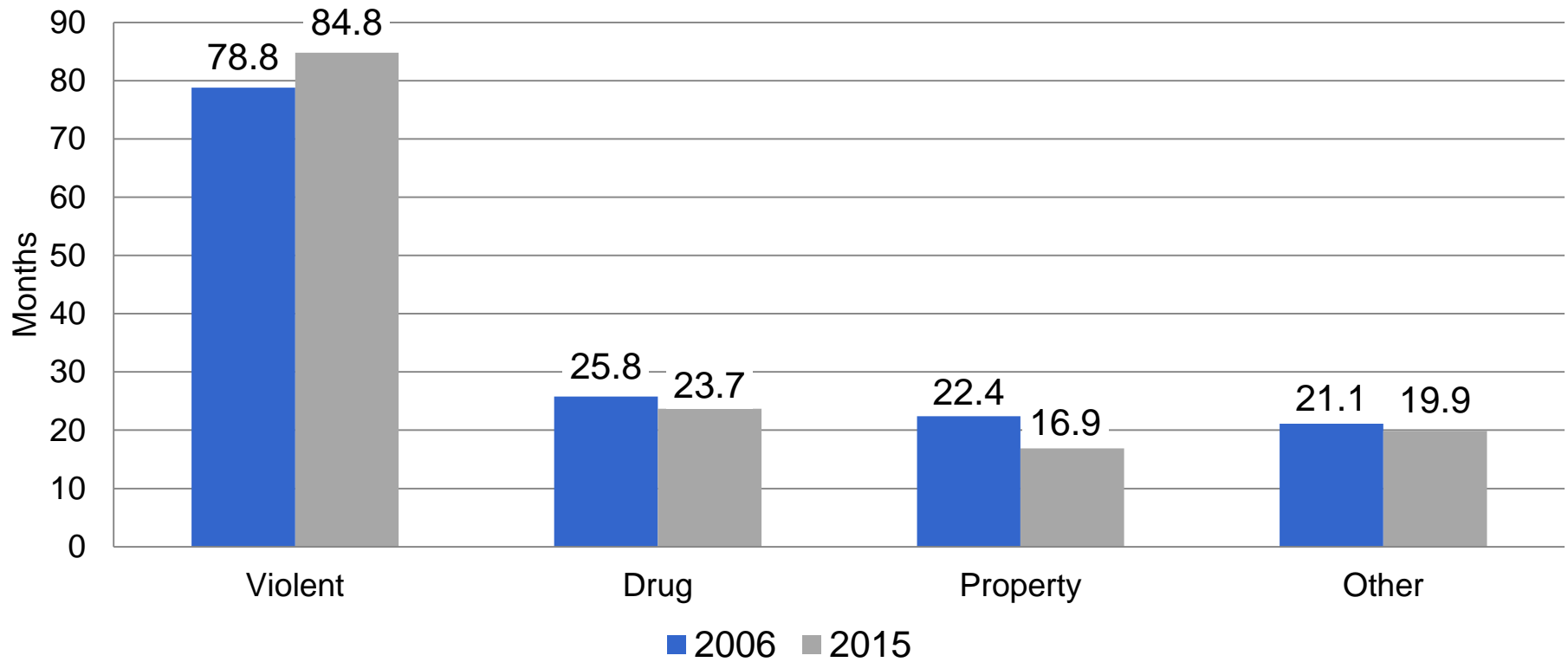
Newly Sentenced Prisoners Serve Nearly Three Years on Average, Slight Decrease in Last Decade

Average Time Served, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2006 and 2015



Average Time Served Down for Drug, Property, Other Offenses

Average Time Served by Offense Type, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, 2006 and 2015

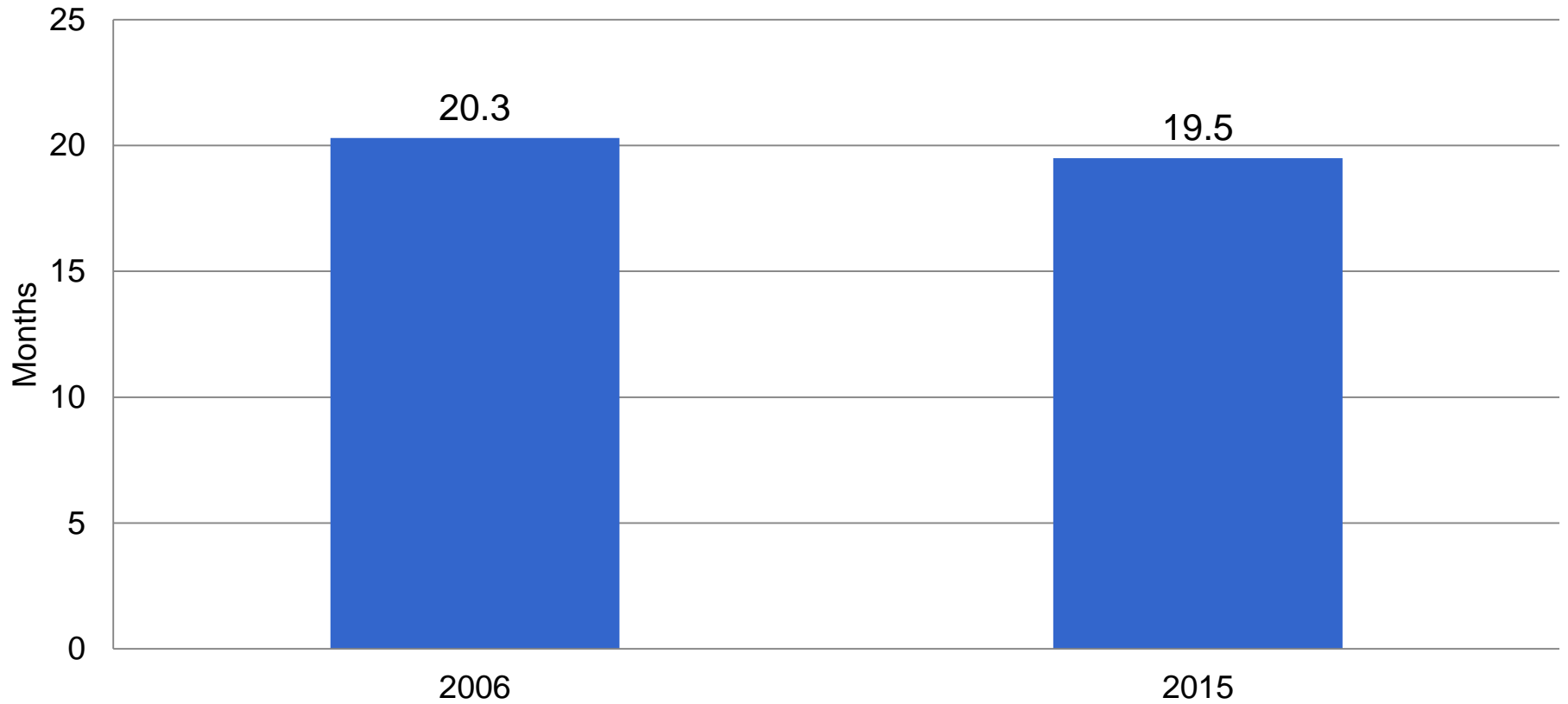


Time Served Climbing for Some Common Offenses

Time Served (Months) for 10 Most Common Offenses at Admission in 2015, Newly Sentenced Prisoners			
Offense	2006	2015	% Change, 2006-2015
POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE II DRUG	17.9	16.8	-6%
SIMPLE BURGLARY	29.7	19.9	-33%
OPERATE VEHICLE WHILE INTOXICATED	6	11.3	88%
POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON	35.9	30.6	-15%
DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE II DRUG	32.3	35.3	9%
POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE II DRUG	29.6	35	18%
POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE I DRUG	28.1	17	-40%
SIMPLE BURGLARY INHABITED DWELLING	29.4	20.5	-30%
POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE SCHEDULE I DRUG	30.9	24.7	-20%
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION VIOLATION	3.2	14	338%

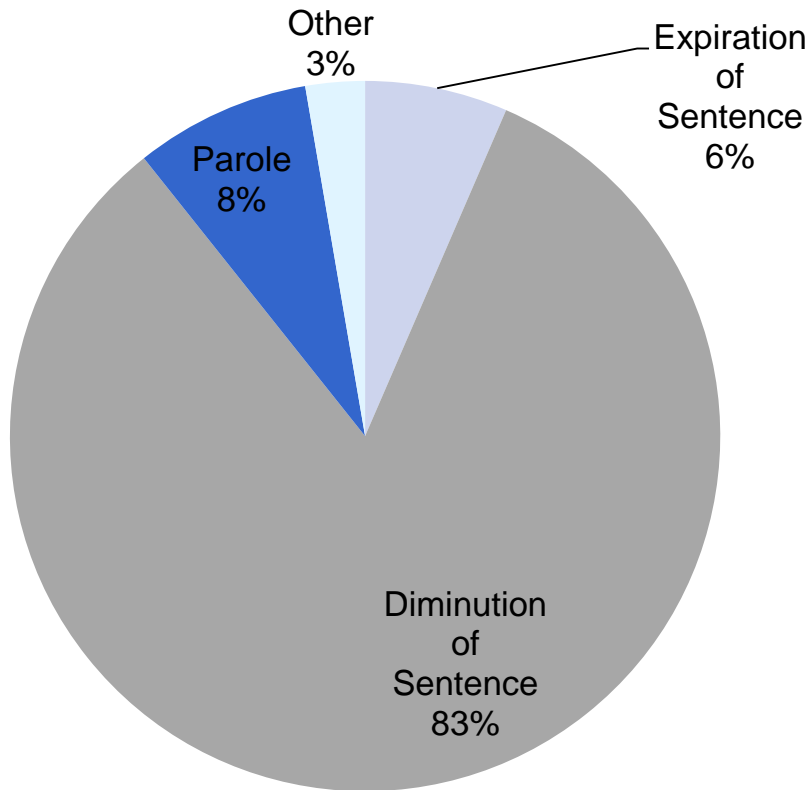
Revocations Serve Roughly a Year and a Half on Average; Little Change in Last Decade

Average Time Served, Revocations, 2006 and 2015

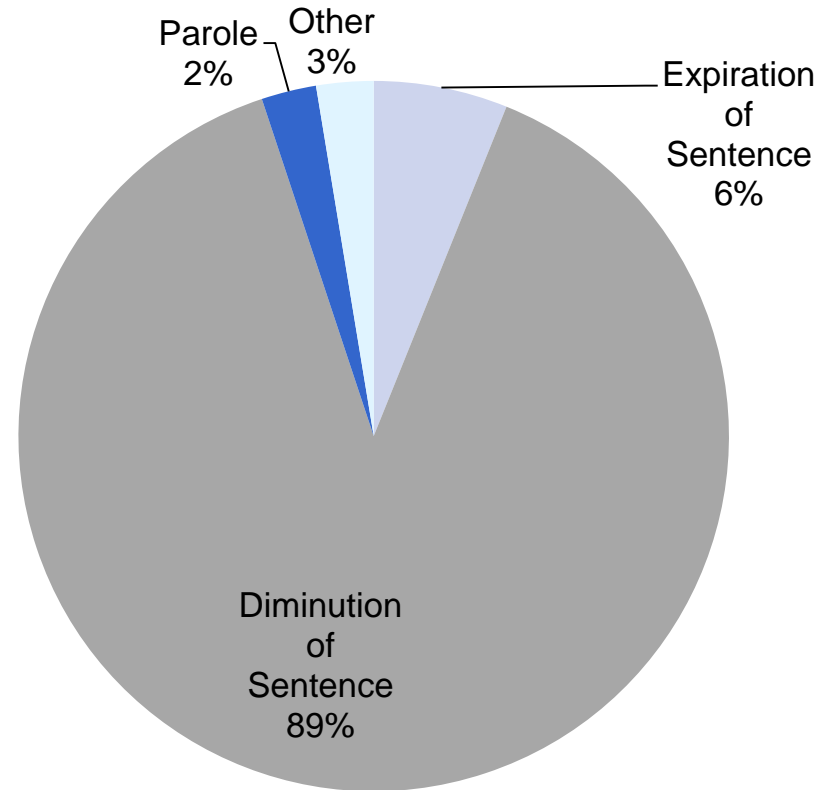


Proportion of Parole Releases Decreased Over Last Decade

Releases by Release Type, 2006

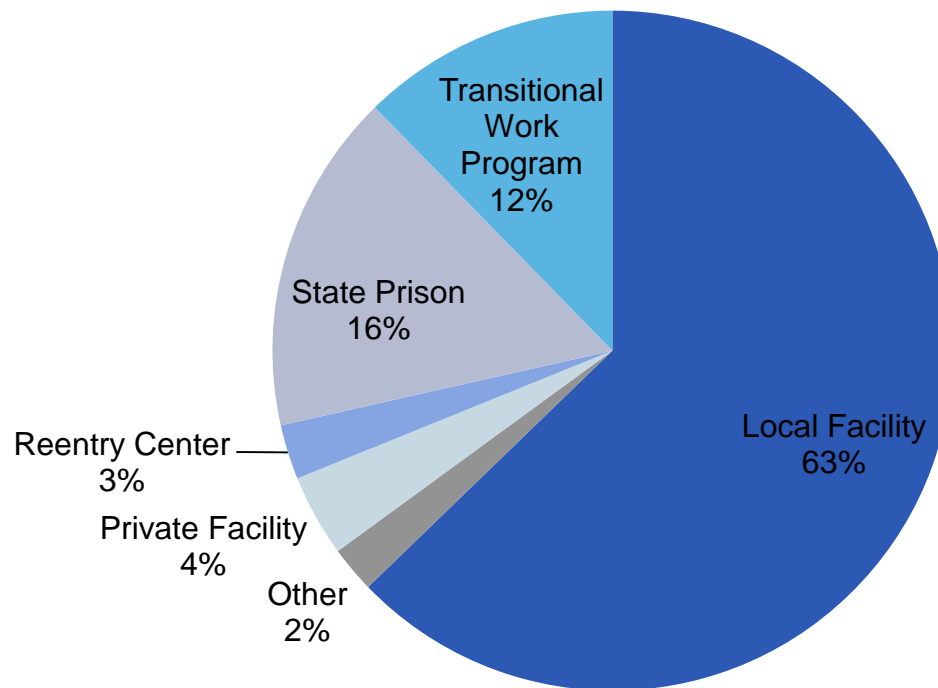


Releases by Release Type, 2015



75% of Releases Exit a Local Facility or Transitional Work Program

Releases by Release Facility, 2015



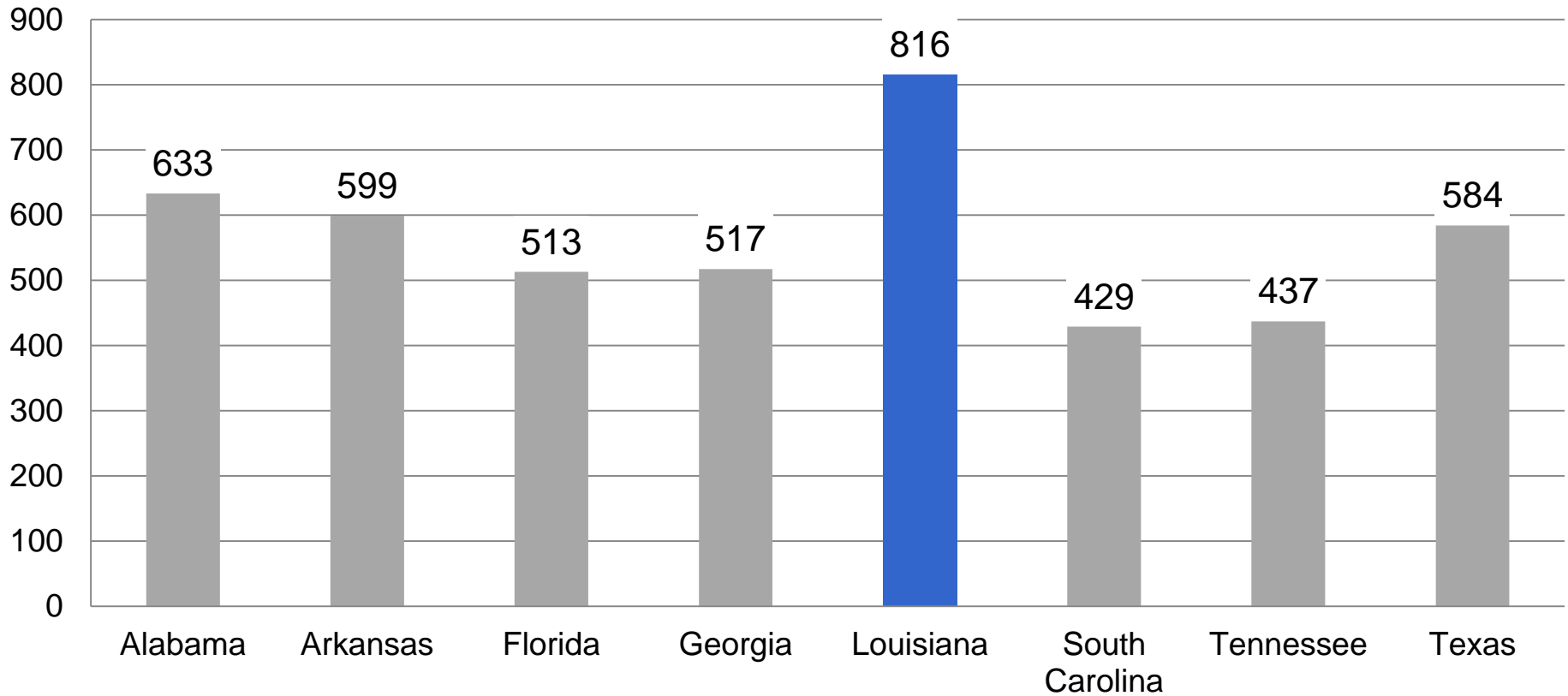
Key Takeaways: Time Served

- On average, time served is decreasing for drug and property offenses, though it is on the rise for some common crimes.
- Newly sentenced prisoners serve longer on average than revocations from community supervision.
- The majority of those released from prison are released from a local facility.

PRISON POPULATION

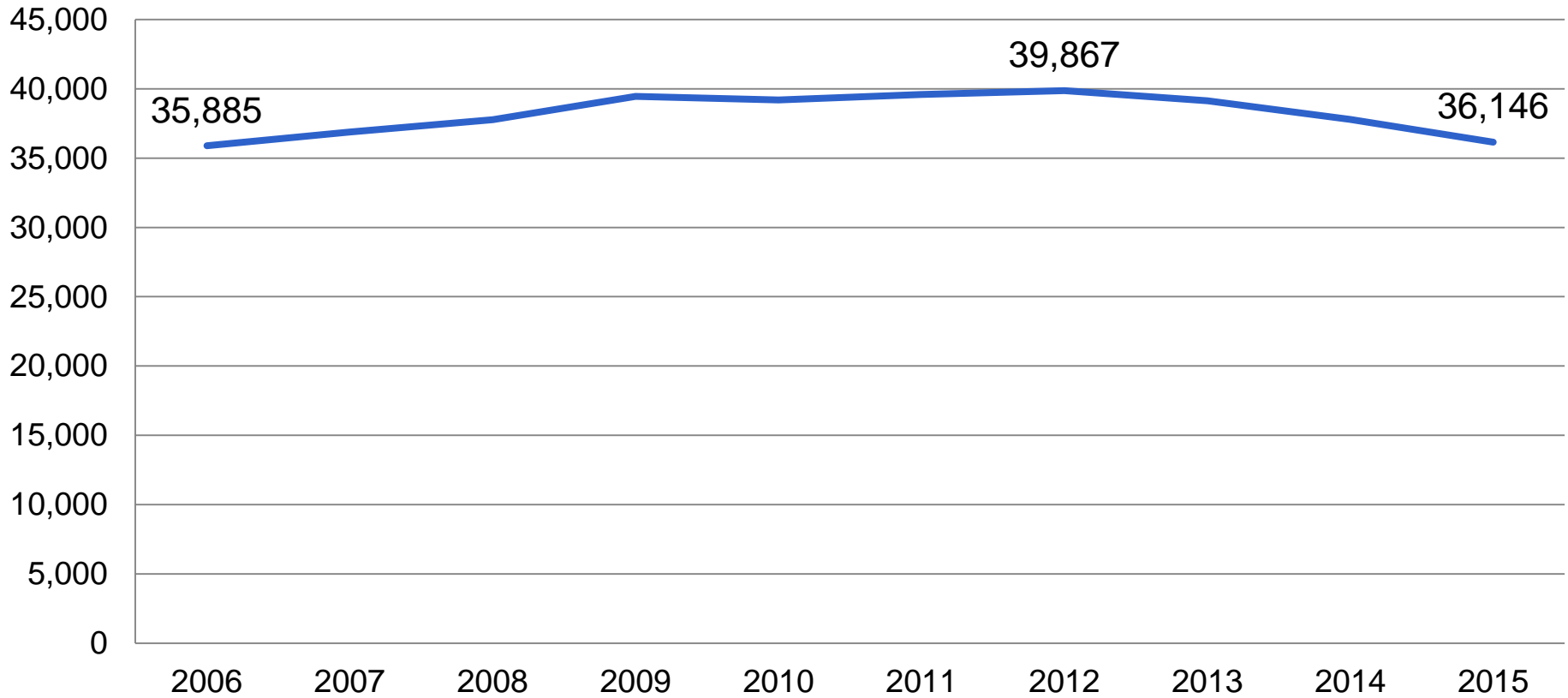
Imprisonment Rate Higher Than States in Region With Similar Crime Rates

Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 Residents, 2014

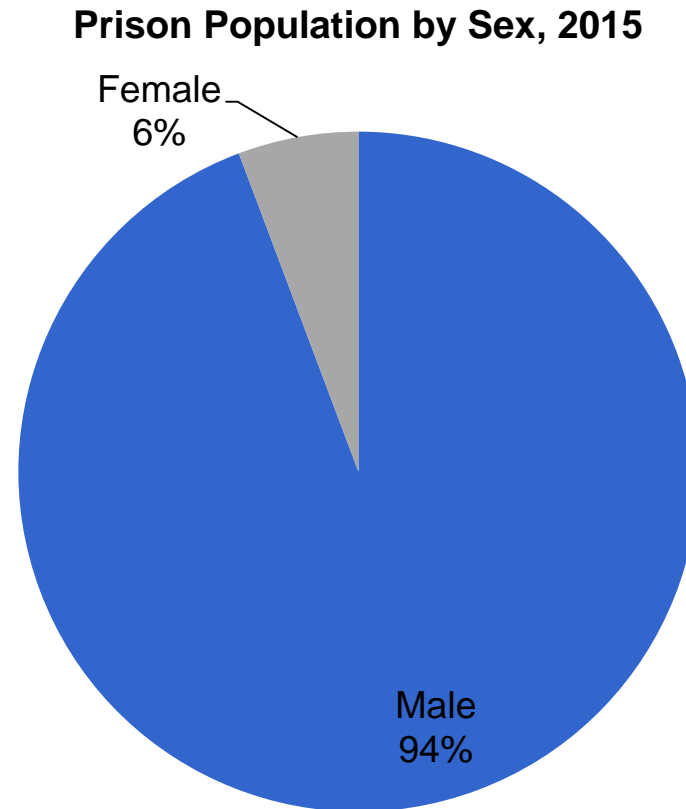


Prison Population Peaked at Roughly 40,000 in 2012; Down 9% in Last 3 Years

Prison Population by Year (December 31 Annual Snapshot)

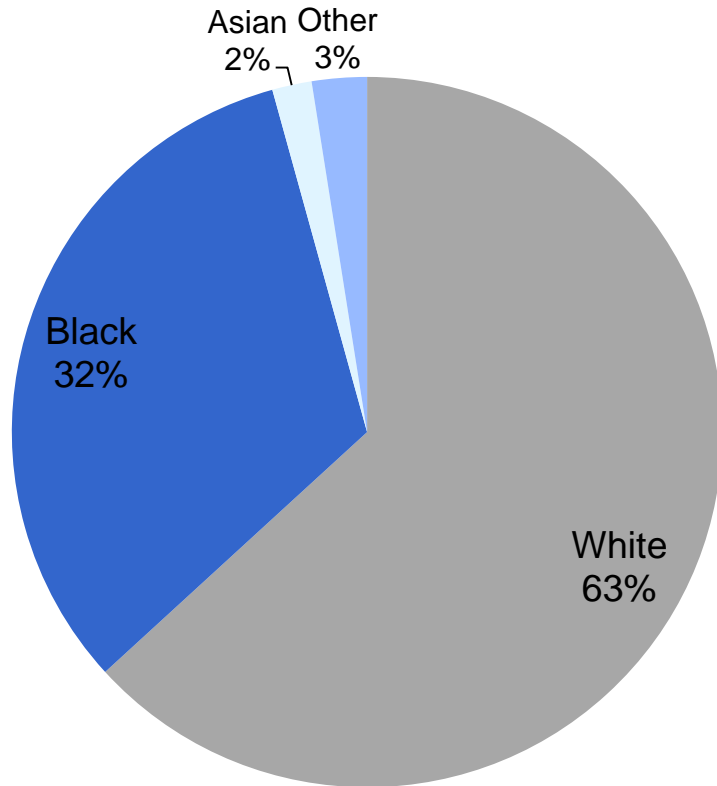


Males Make Up 94% of Prison Population

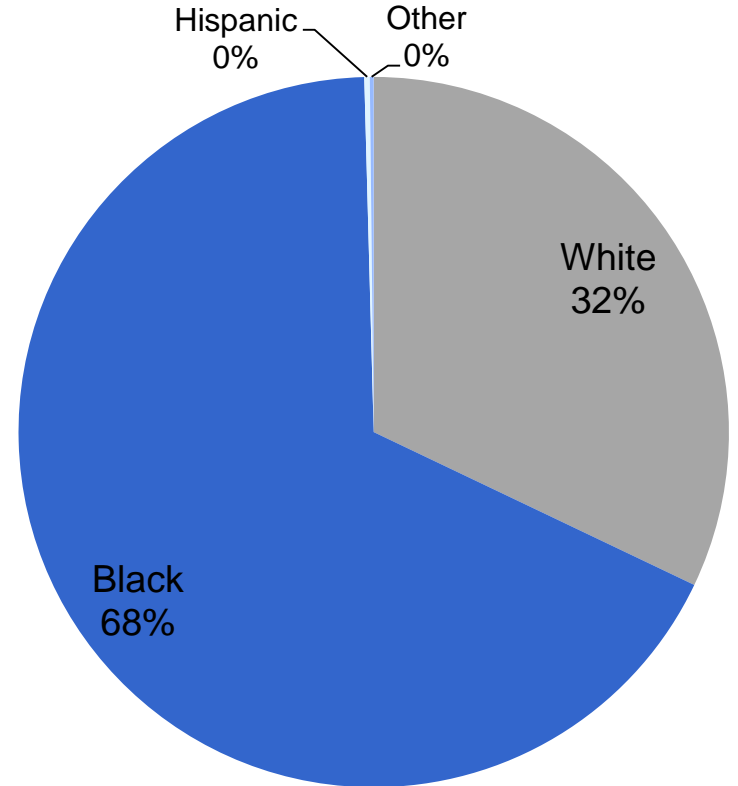


Black Inmates Make Up Majority of Prison Population

State Population by Race, 2015

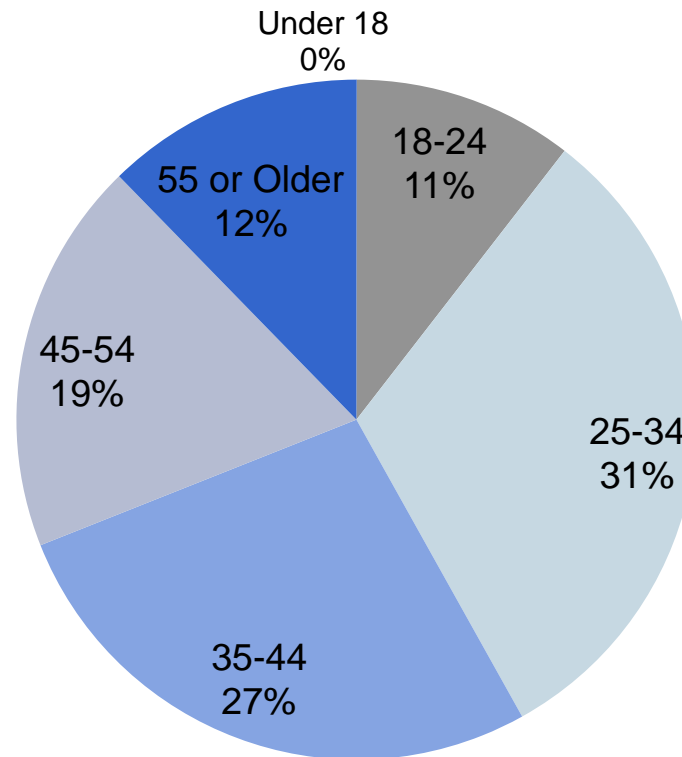


Prison Population by Race, 2015



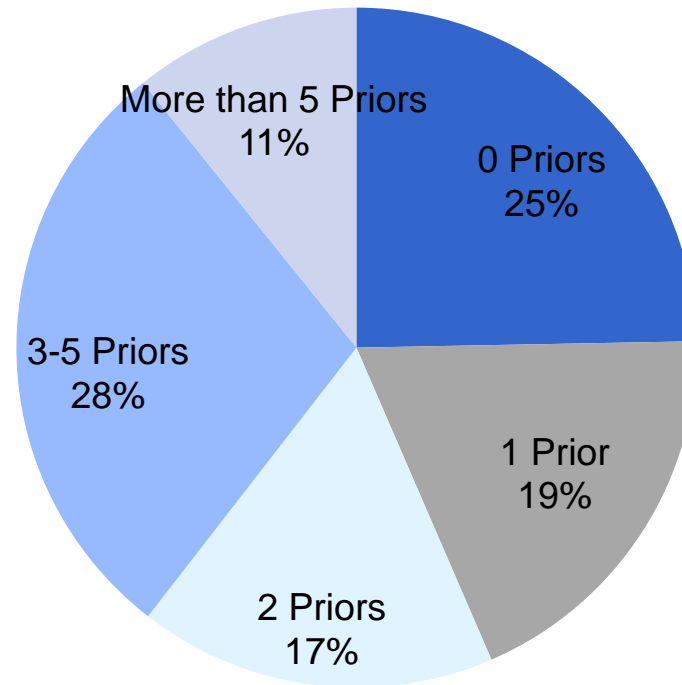
12% of Inmates Are 55 or Older

Prison Population by Age Category, 2015



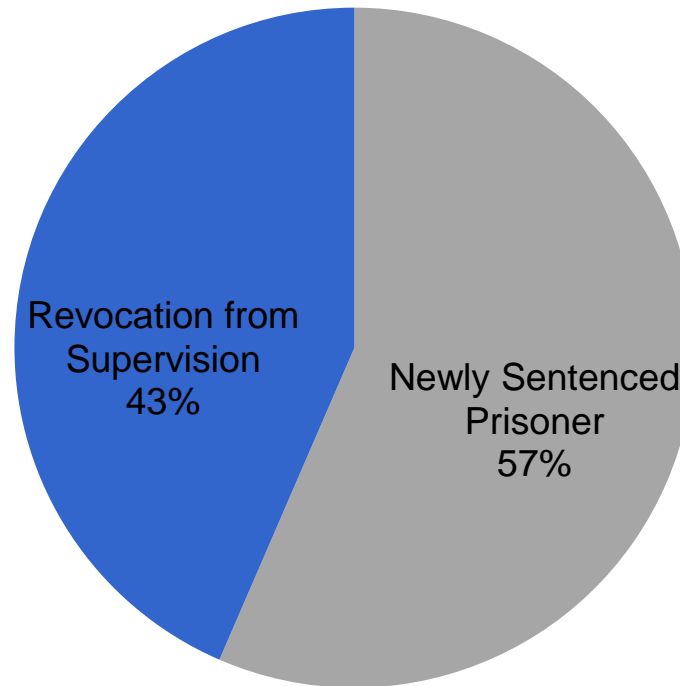
One Quarter of Prisoners Have No Prior DOC Contacts

Prison Population by Prior DOC Contacts, 2015



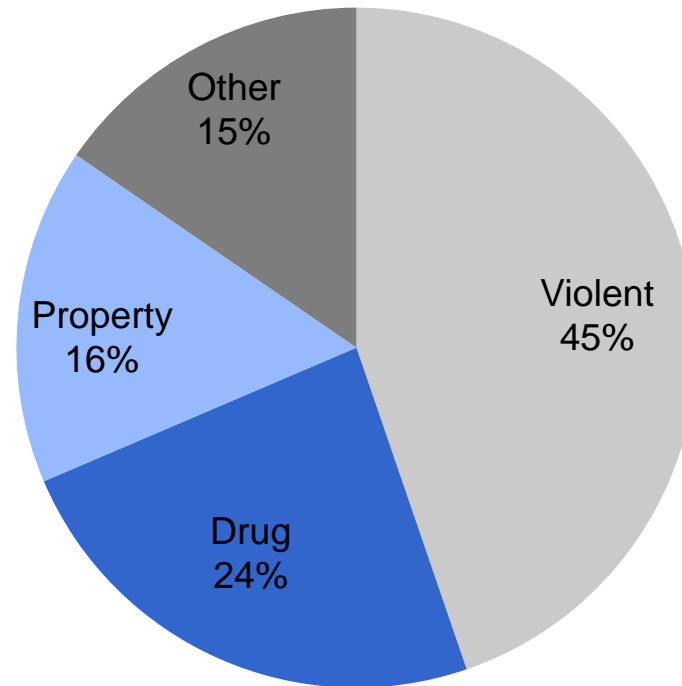
Revocations from Community Supervision Make Up 43% of Prison Population

Prison Population by Admission Type, 2015



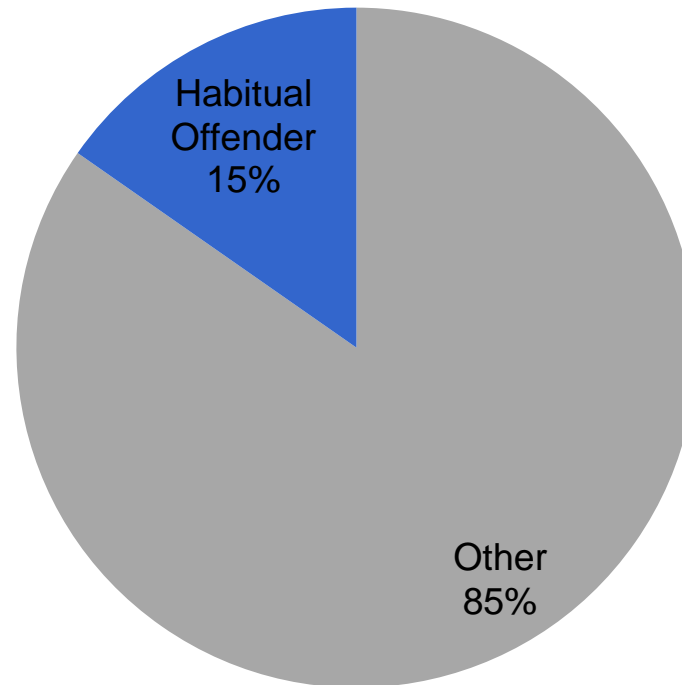
People Sentenced for Drug or Property Crimes Make Up 40% of Prison Population

Prison Population by Offense Type, 2015



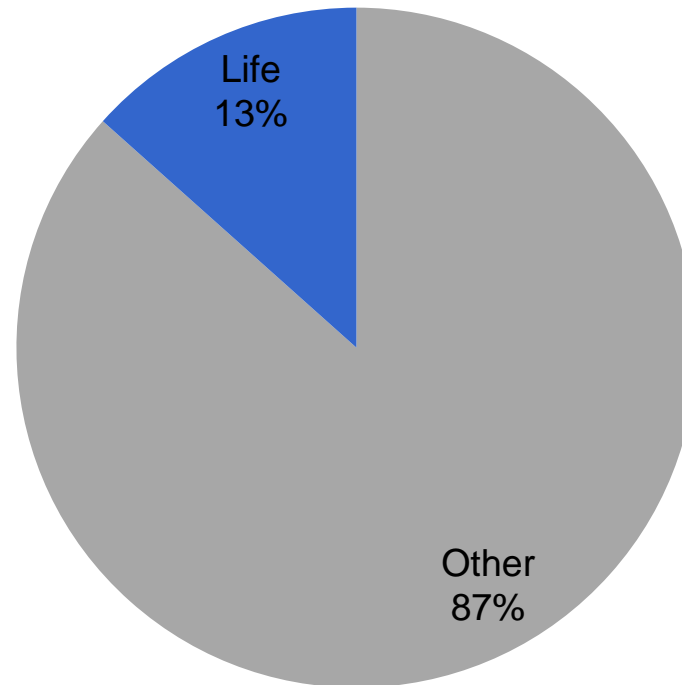
Inmates Convicted Under Habitual Offender Statute Make Up 15% of Prison Population

Prison Population by Habitual Offender Status, 2015



People Serving Life Sentences Make up 13% of Prison Population

Prison Population by Sentence Type, 2015

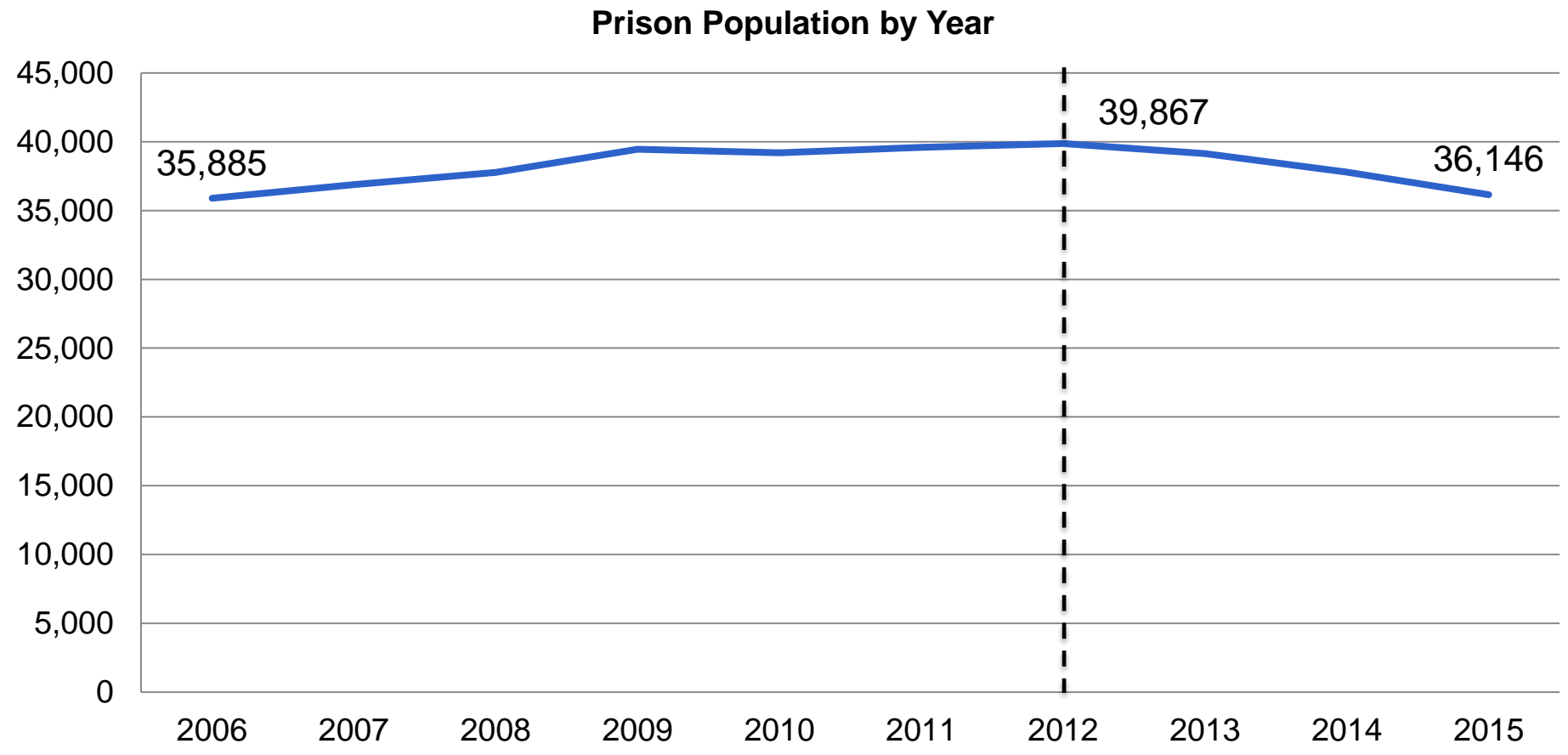


Key Takeaways: Prison Population

- The prison population peaked in 2012 and has declined 9% in the last three years.
 - Despite the decline, Louisiana still has the highest imprisonment rate of any state in the country.
- People serving time for drug or property crimes make up 40% of the prison population.
- 43% of prisoners are revocations from community supervision.

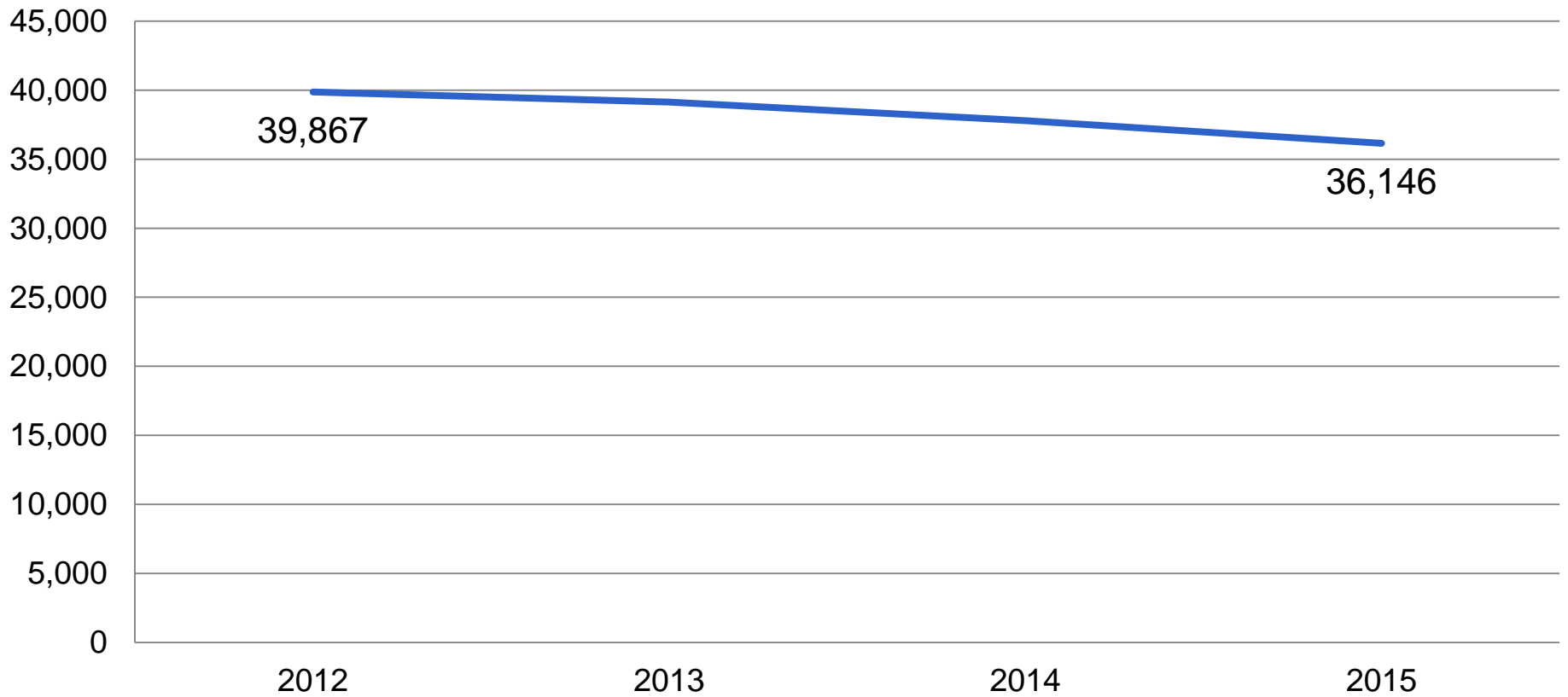
TRENDS IN THE PRISON POPULATION SINCE 2012

Prison Population Peaked in 2012 at Roughly 40,000



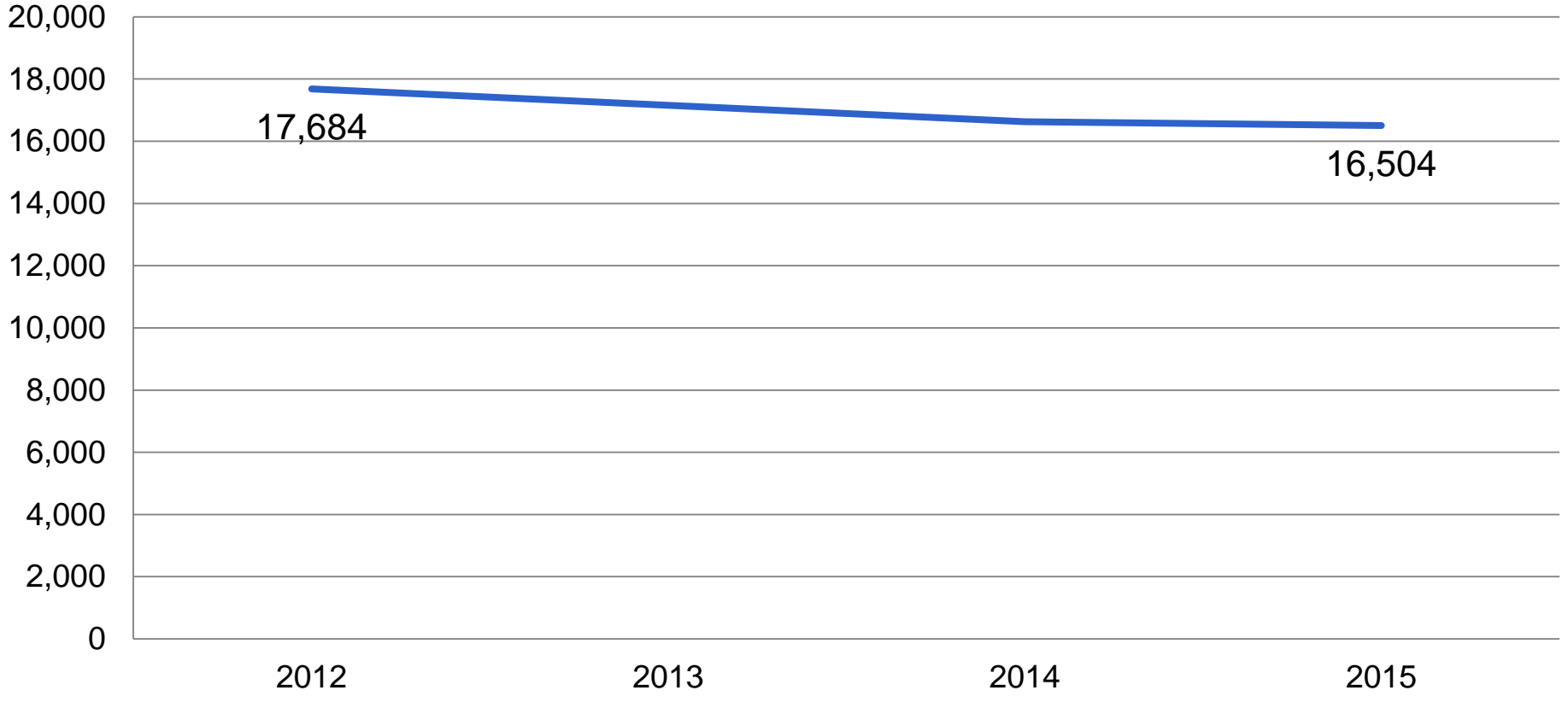
Prison Population Down 9% Since 2012

Prison Population by Year



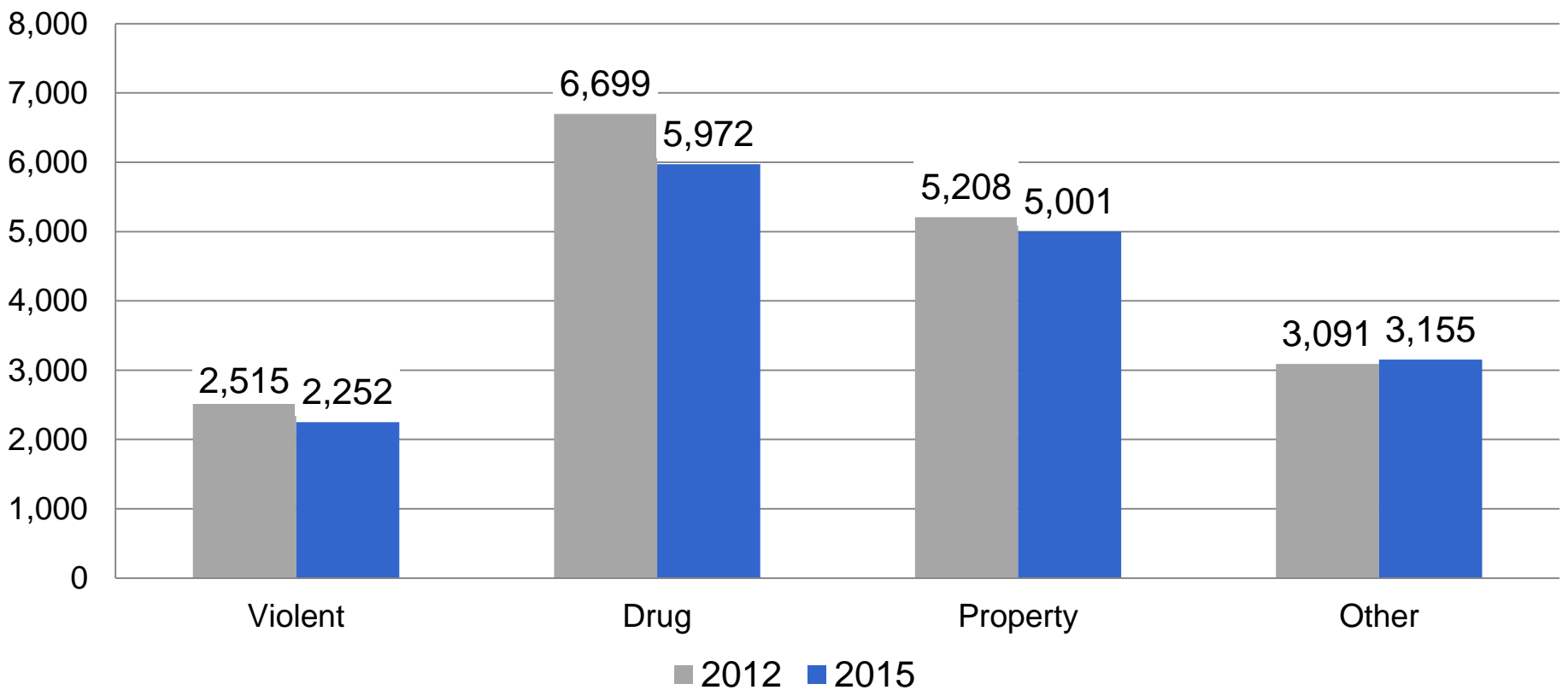
Prison Admissions Down 7% Since 2012

Prison Admissions by Year



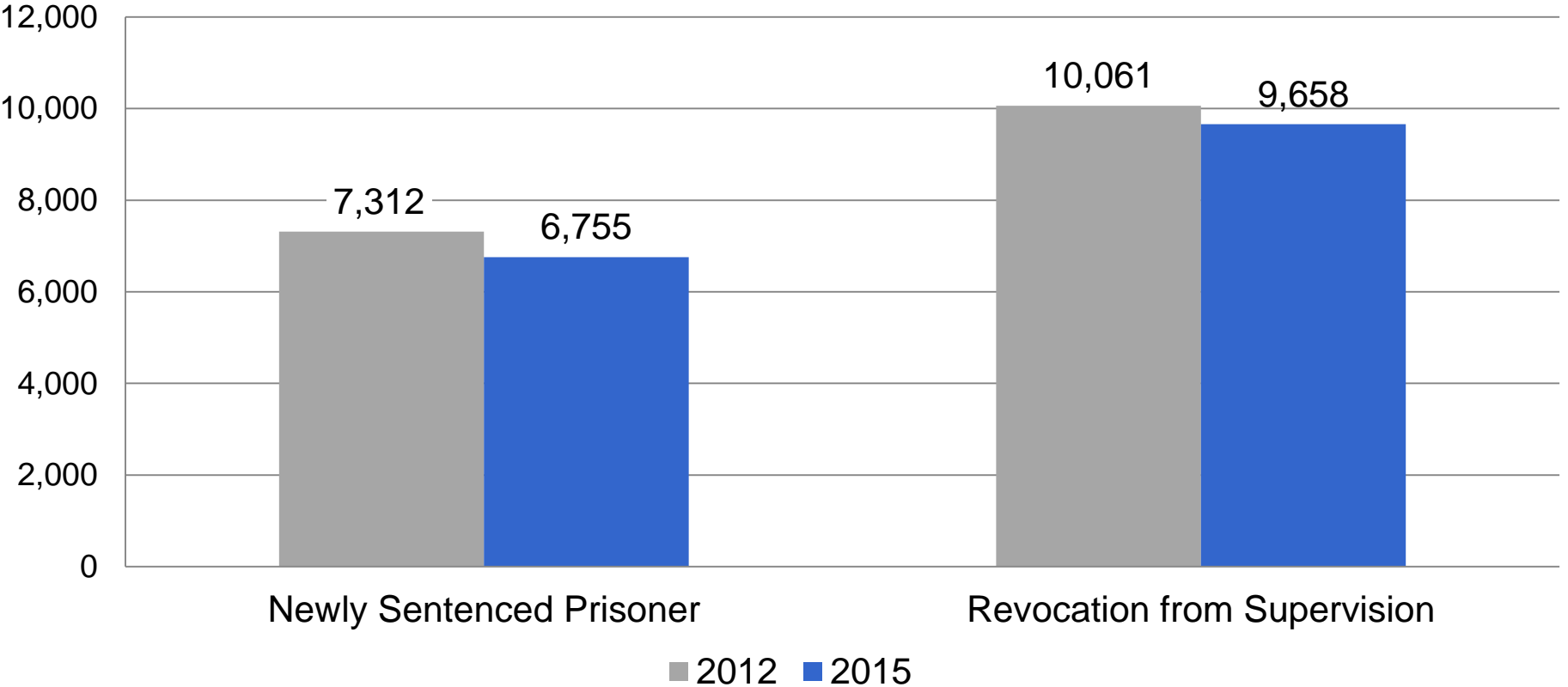
Declines in Admissions Across Most Offense Types

Admissions by Offense Type, 2012 and 2015



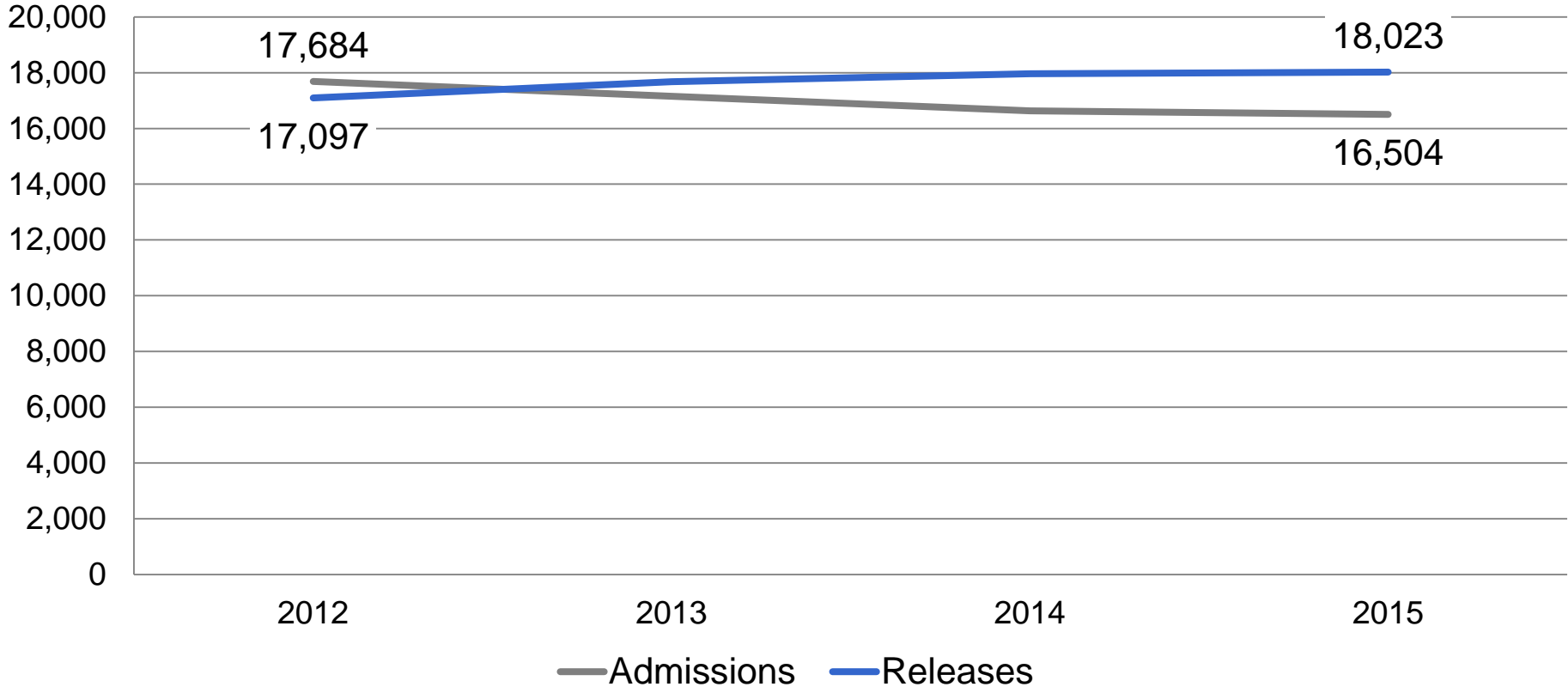
Declines in Newly Sentenced Prisoners and Revocations Admitted to Prison

Admissions by Admission Type, 2012 and 2015



Releases Have Increased 5% Since 2012, Now Outpace Admissions

Admissions and Releases by Year



Key Takeaways: Recent Trends

- The prison population has declined 9% since 2012.
- The decline is driven by a combination of decreasing admissions and increasing releases.
 - Declining admissions across both revocations and newly sentenced prisoners.

SUMMARY

Summary of Takeaways

- Admissions:
 - Prison admissions are up 8% in the last decade but have been falling since 2012.
 - Louisiana has the highest prison admission rate among surrounding states with similar crime rates.
 - 86% of prison admissions have a primary offense that is nonviolent.
 - Newly sentenced prison admissions are up 49% in the last decade with increases across all offense types.
 - Drug possession is the most common crime at admission for newly sentenced prisoners.
 - All of the top ten most common offenses for newly sentenced prison admissions are nonviolent.
 - Revocations make up 59% of prison admissions.

Summary of Takeaways

- Time Served:
 - On average, time served is decreasing for drug and property offenses, though it is on the rise for some common crimes.
 - Newly sentenced prisoners serve longer on average than revocations from community supervision.
 - The majority of those released from prison are released from a local facility.

Summary of Takeaways

- Prison Population:
 - The prison population peaked in 2012 and has declined 9% in the last three years, driven by decreasing admissions and increasing releases.
 - Despite the decline, Louisiana still has the highest imprisonment rate of any state in the country.
 - People serving time for drug or property crimes make up 40% of the prison population.
 - 43% of prisoners are revocations from community supervision.

Questions?

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