

Criminal Justice Responses to Illegal Gun Possession

Presented by

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Presented at the Joyce Foundation's
Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

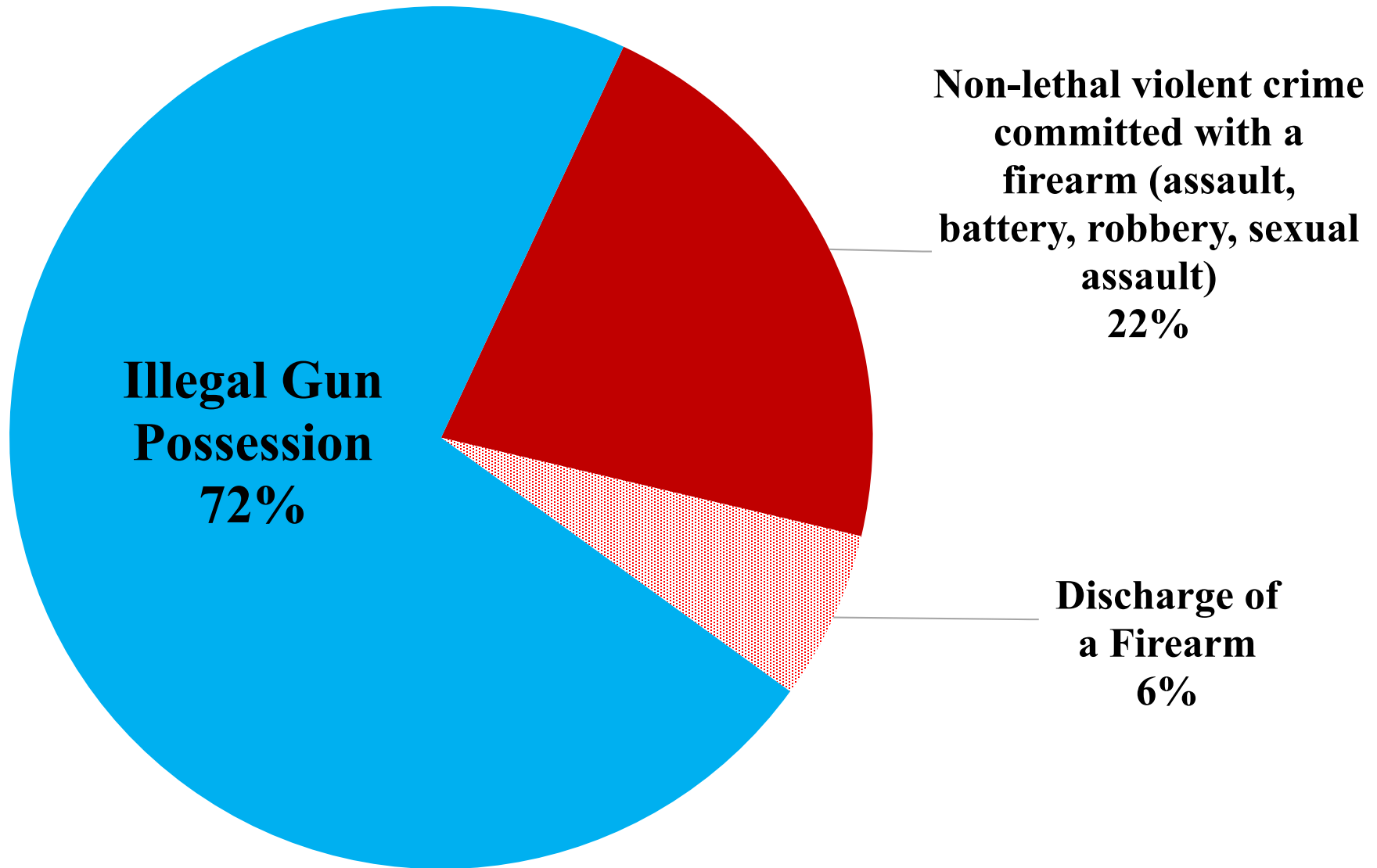
March 25, 2021



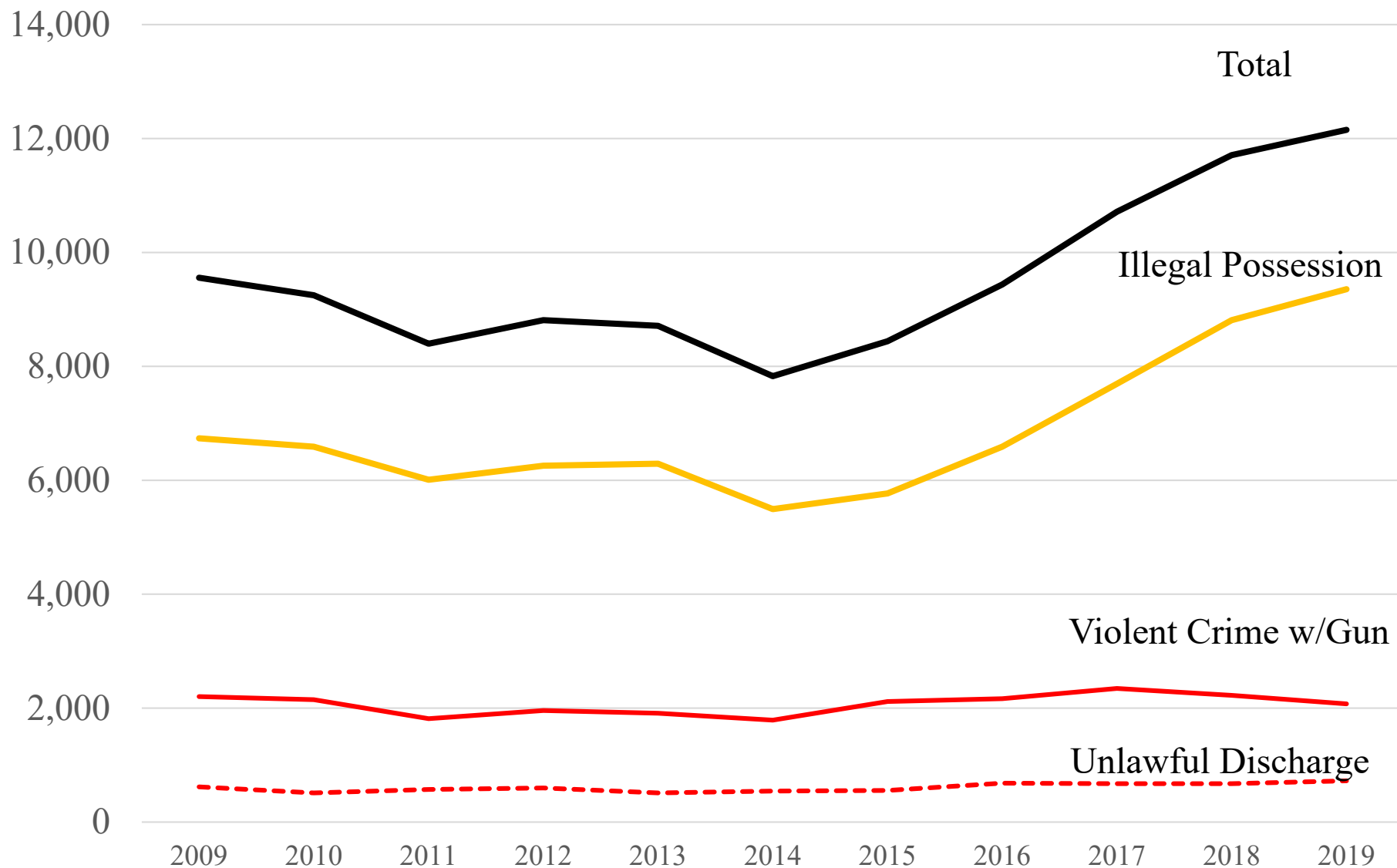
Responses by.....

- Legislature in how behaviors are legally classified
- Police in what, and how, they focus their efforts
- Prosecutors in what they charge and how they plea bargain
- Judges in how they sentence
- Correctional agencies in their goals

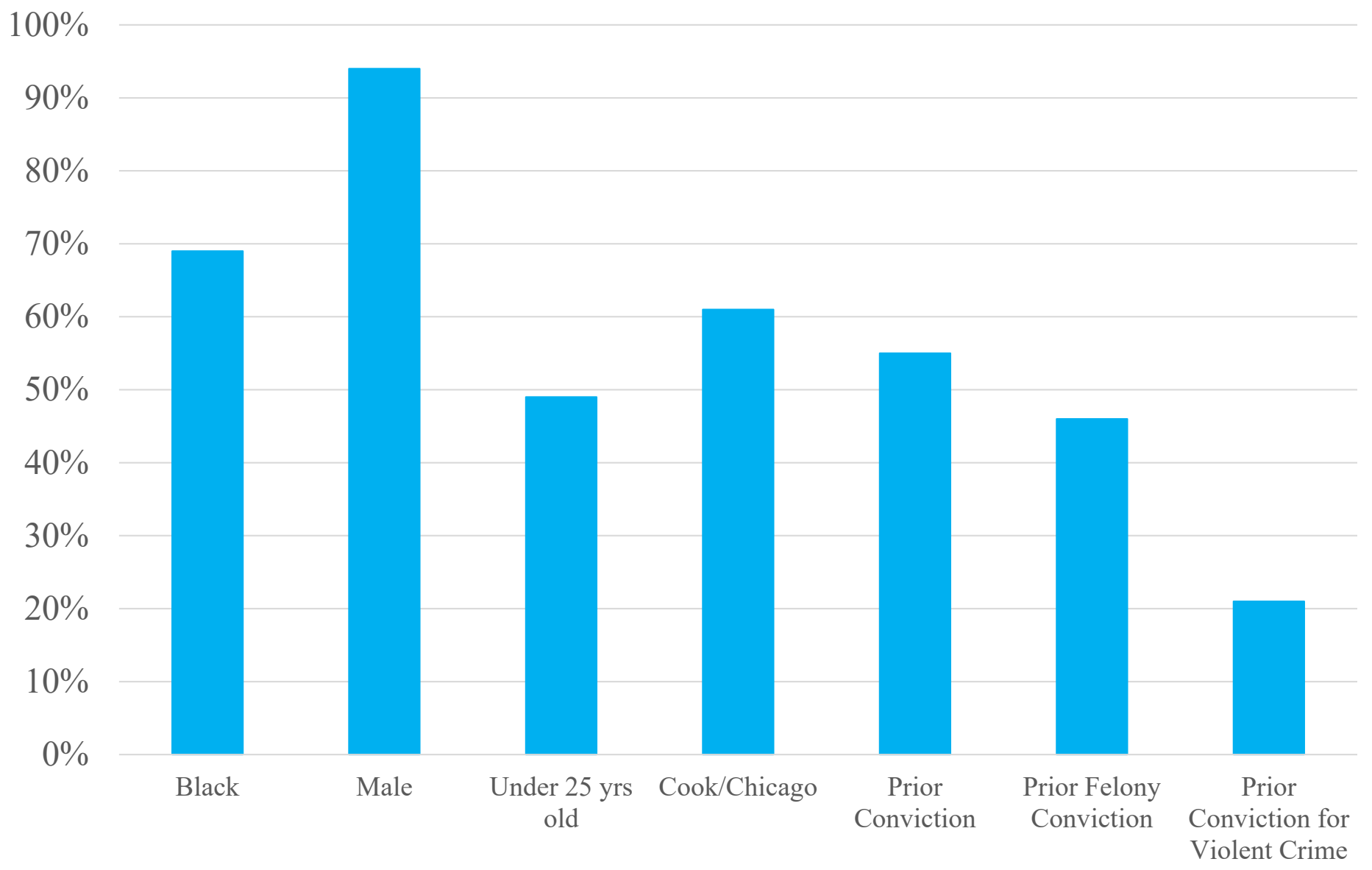
Illinois Gun Crime Arrests, 2008-2019 (N=105,008)



Illinois Gun Crime Arrests

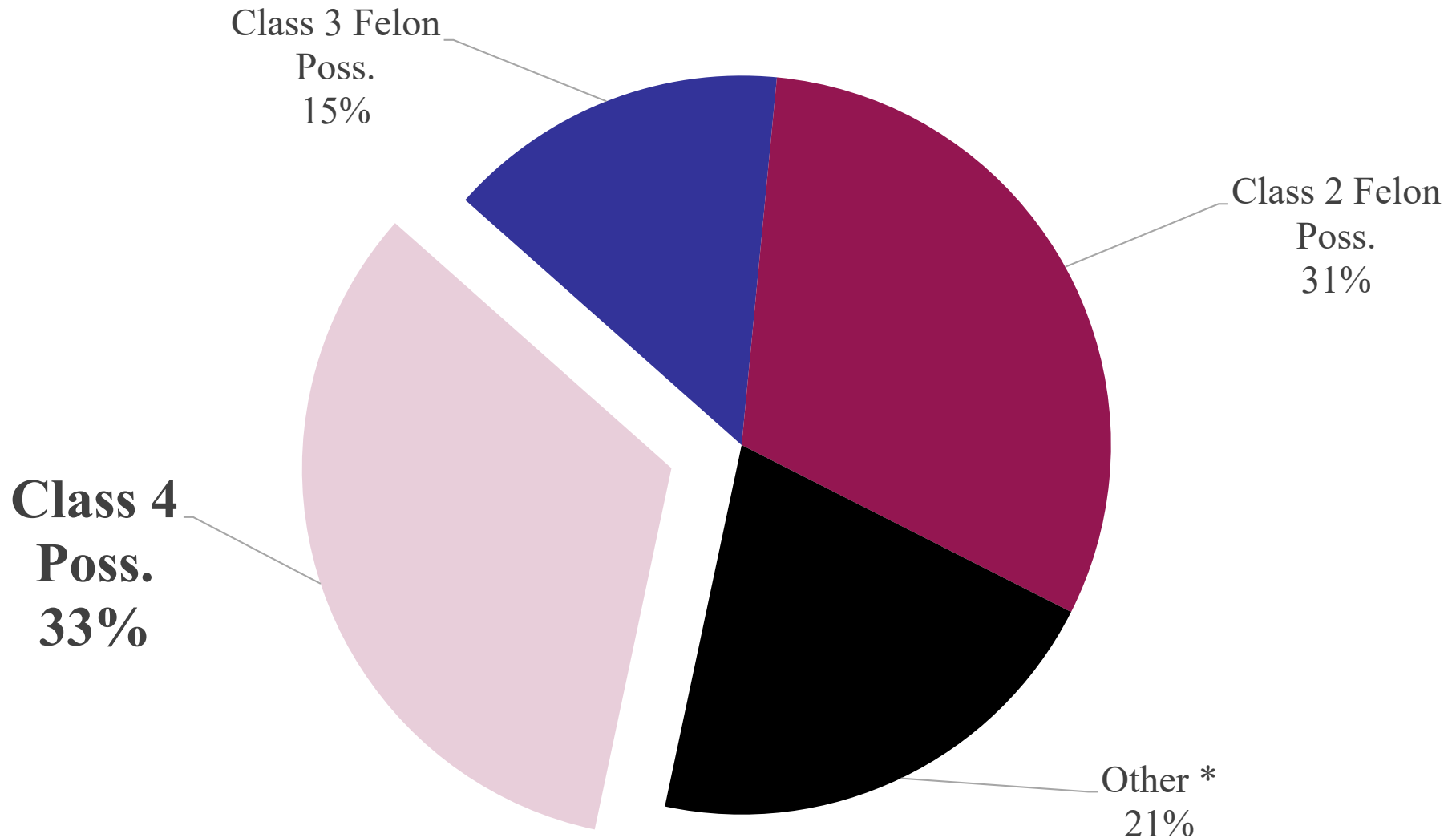


Characteristics of those arrested for illegal gun possession



Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data

Most Serious Felony Conviction Offenses for Illegal Possession Offenses



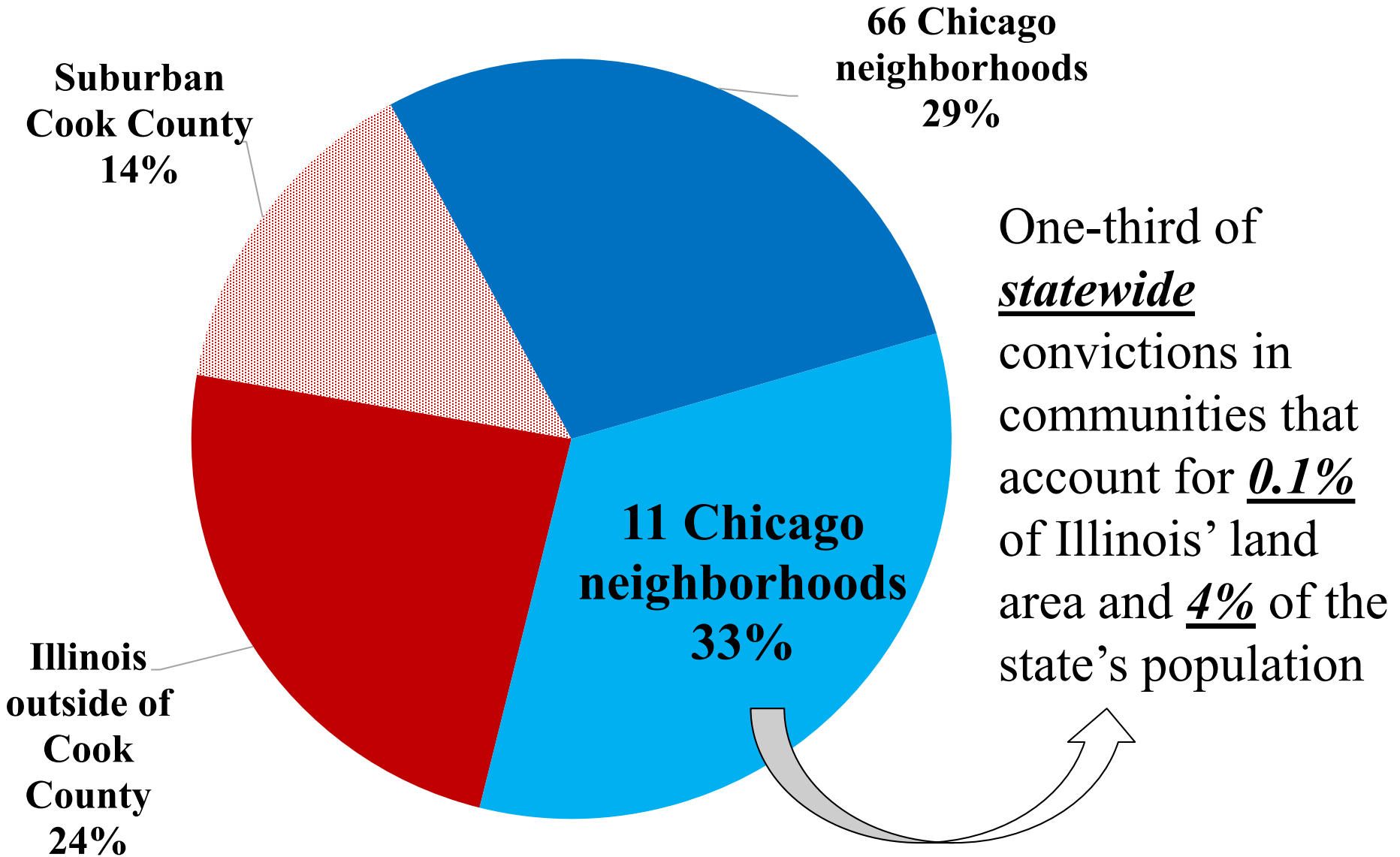
Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data

* Other includes possession of gun with defaced IDs, stolen guns, possession by gang member, armed habitual criminal, and others.

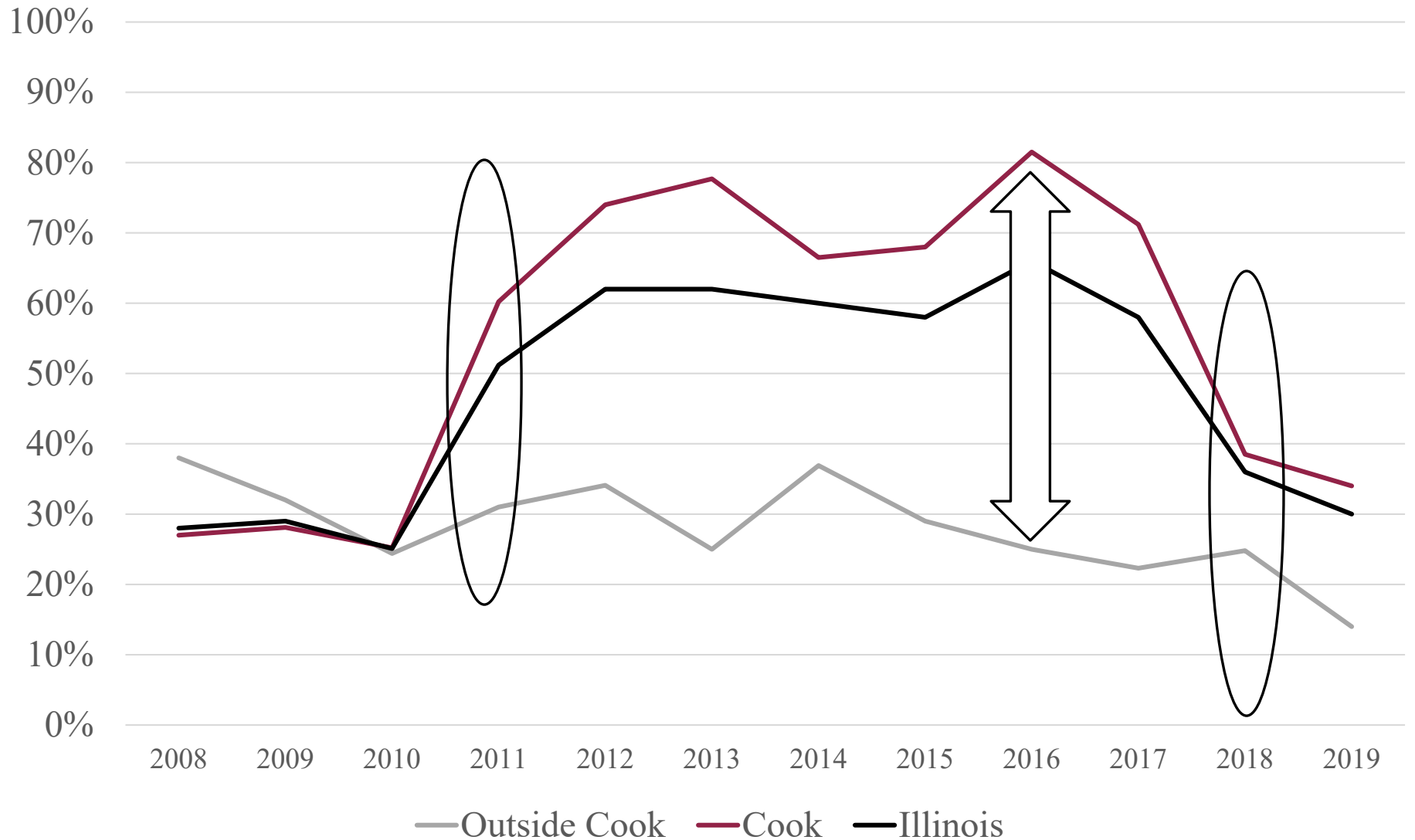
“Brief” Legislative History of Class 4 Felony Gun Possession in Illinois

- Pre-2000 a misdemeanor (no prison possible)
- 2000 Probationable (1 to 3 year prison sentence OR up to 2½ years probation)
- 2011 *Non-probationable* if loaded and accessible
- 2018 Probationable *if* between 18 and 20 years old and no prior violent convictions

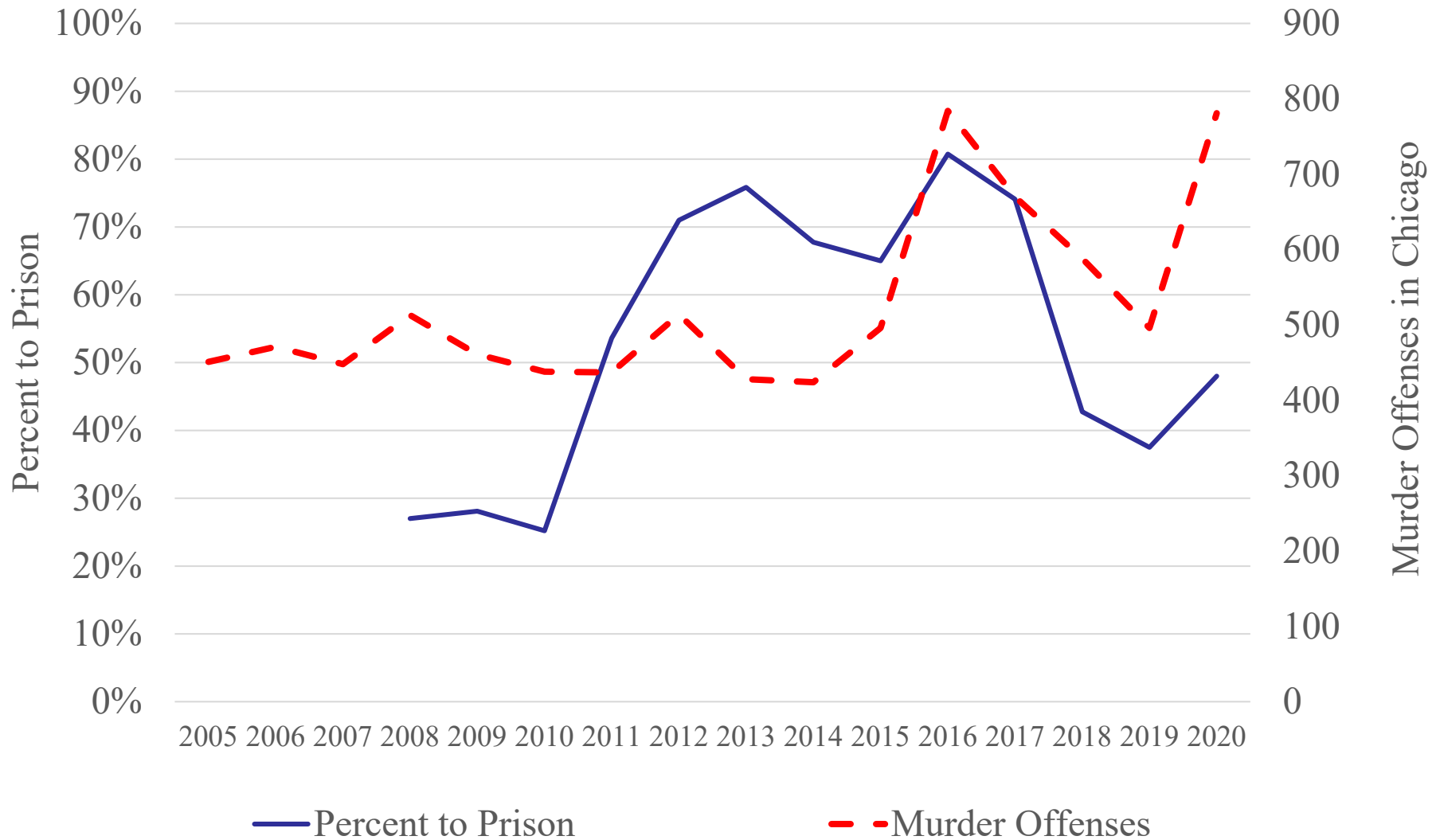
Illinois Convictions Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019



Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison

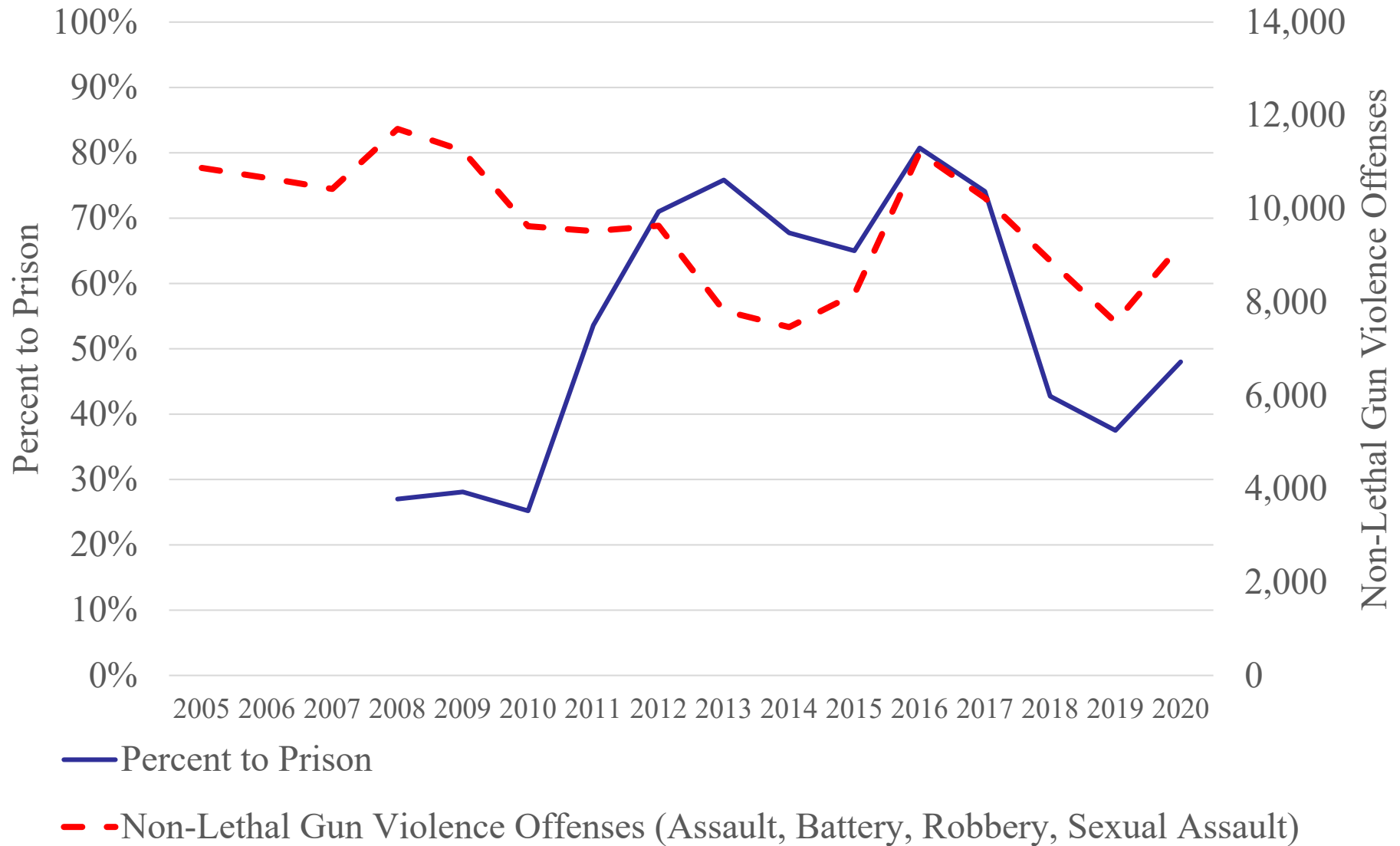


Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison & Murder Offenses in Chicago



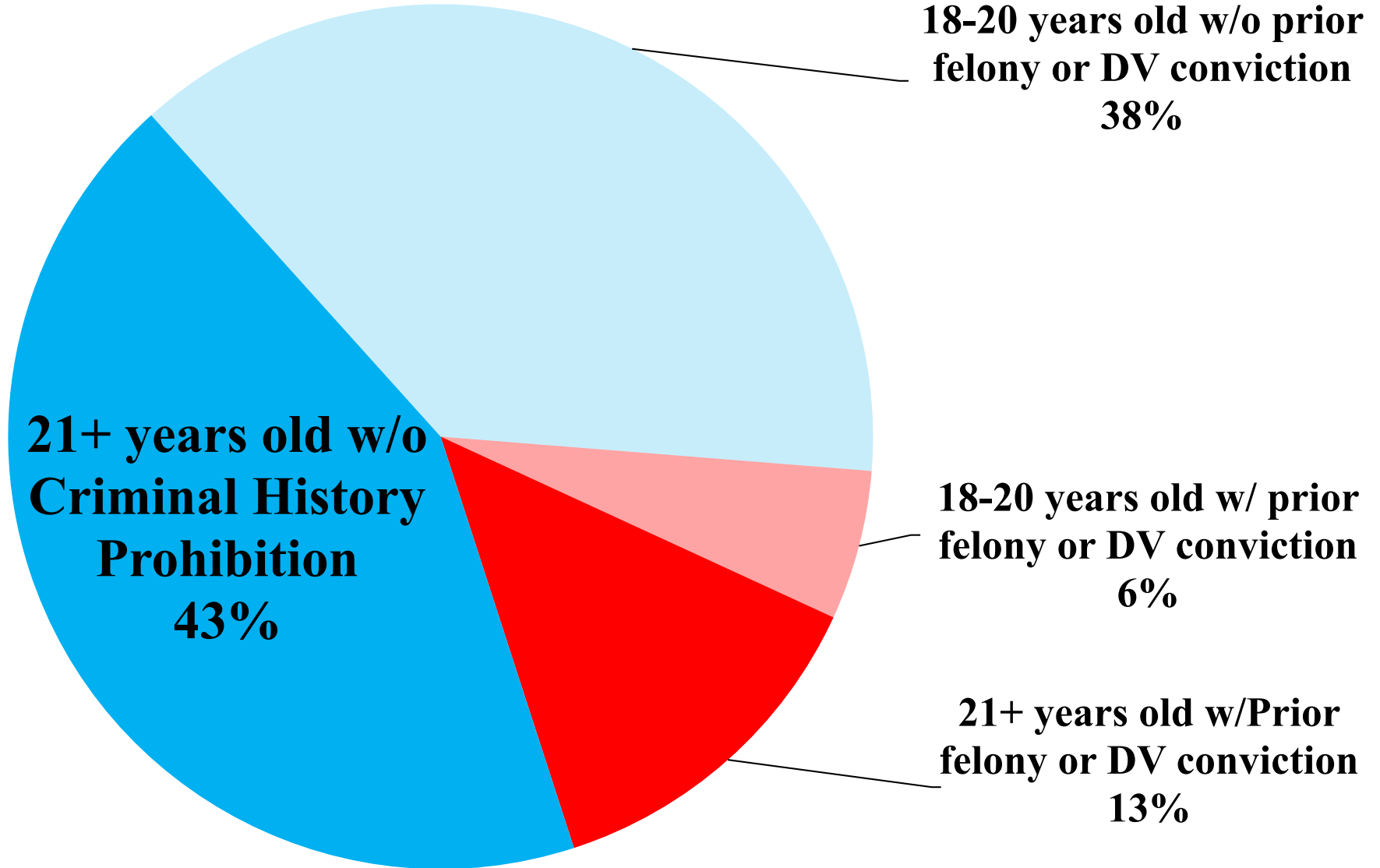
Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data and data from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office data portal & the Chicago Police Data Portal

Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison & Non-Lethal Violent Offns. in Chicago

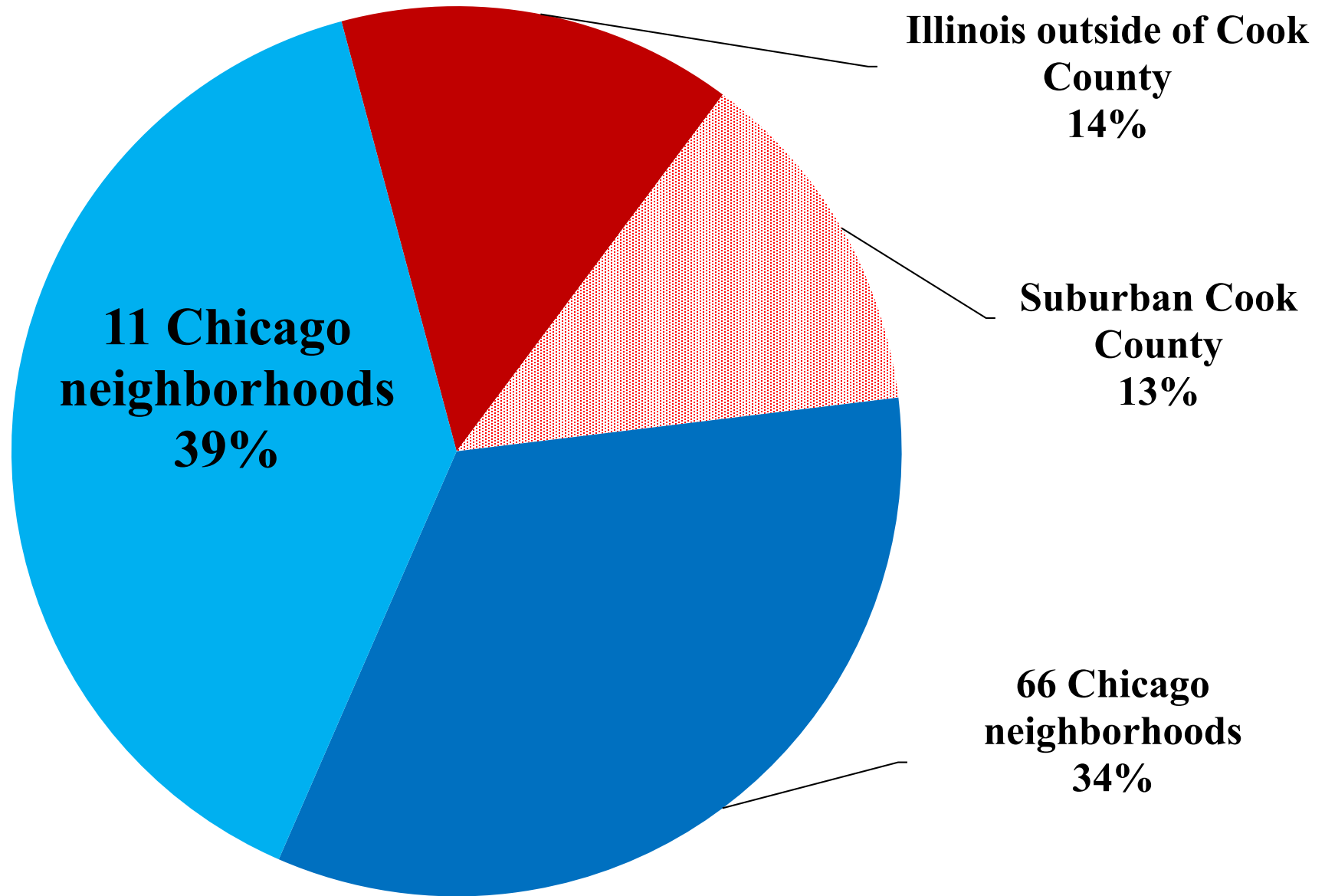


Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data and data from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office data portal & the Chicago Police Data Portal

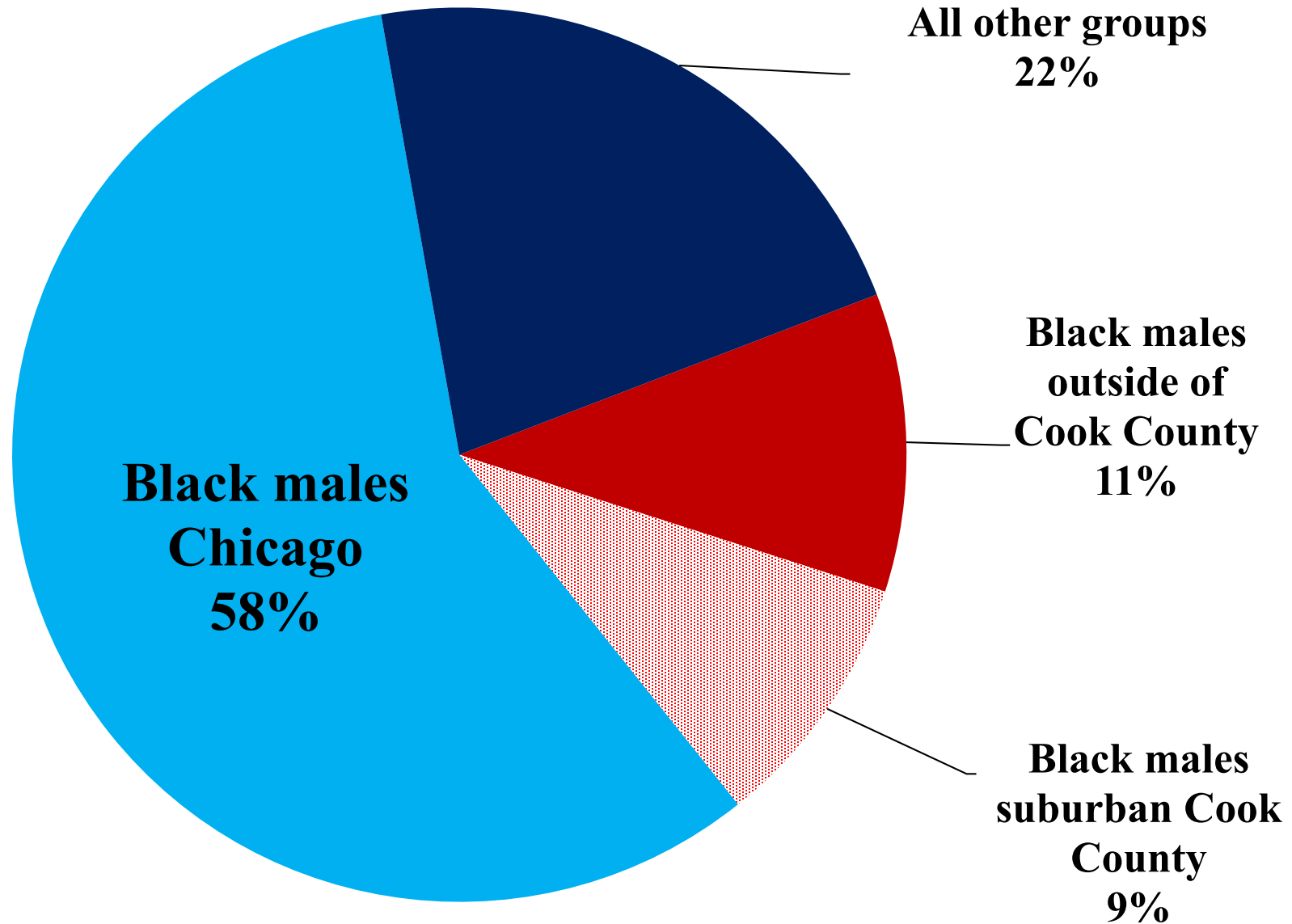
Illinois Convictions Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019



Prison Sentences Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019



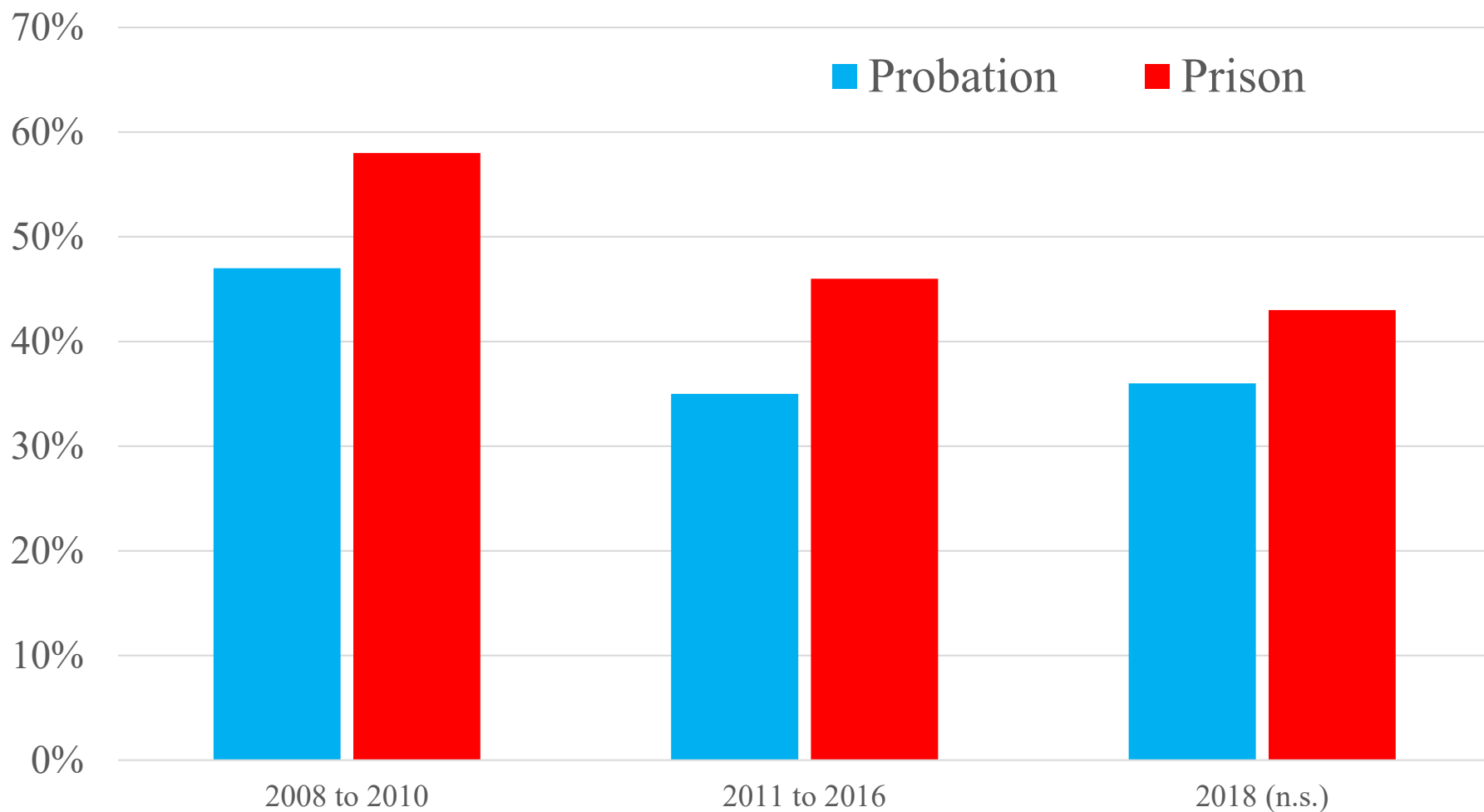
Prison Sentences for Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019



Do Prison Sentences for Class 4 Felony Gun Possession Offenses Improve Public Safety in Cook County?

- Compare re-arrest rates for those with similar characteristics sentenced to prison or probation
 - Black males between 18 and 24 years old with no prior convictions. This subset accounted for 41% of probation sentences and 47% of prison sentences
 - Cases disposed in three different periods: 2008-2010, 2011-2016, and 2018
- Rearrested within 12 months of disposition/ sentencing for any crime or a violent crime

Rearrested for any crime within 12 months of conviction Class 4 Gun Possession in Cook County**

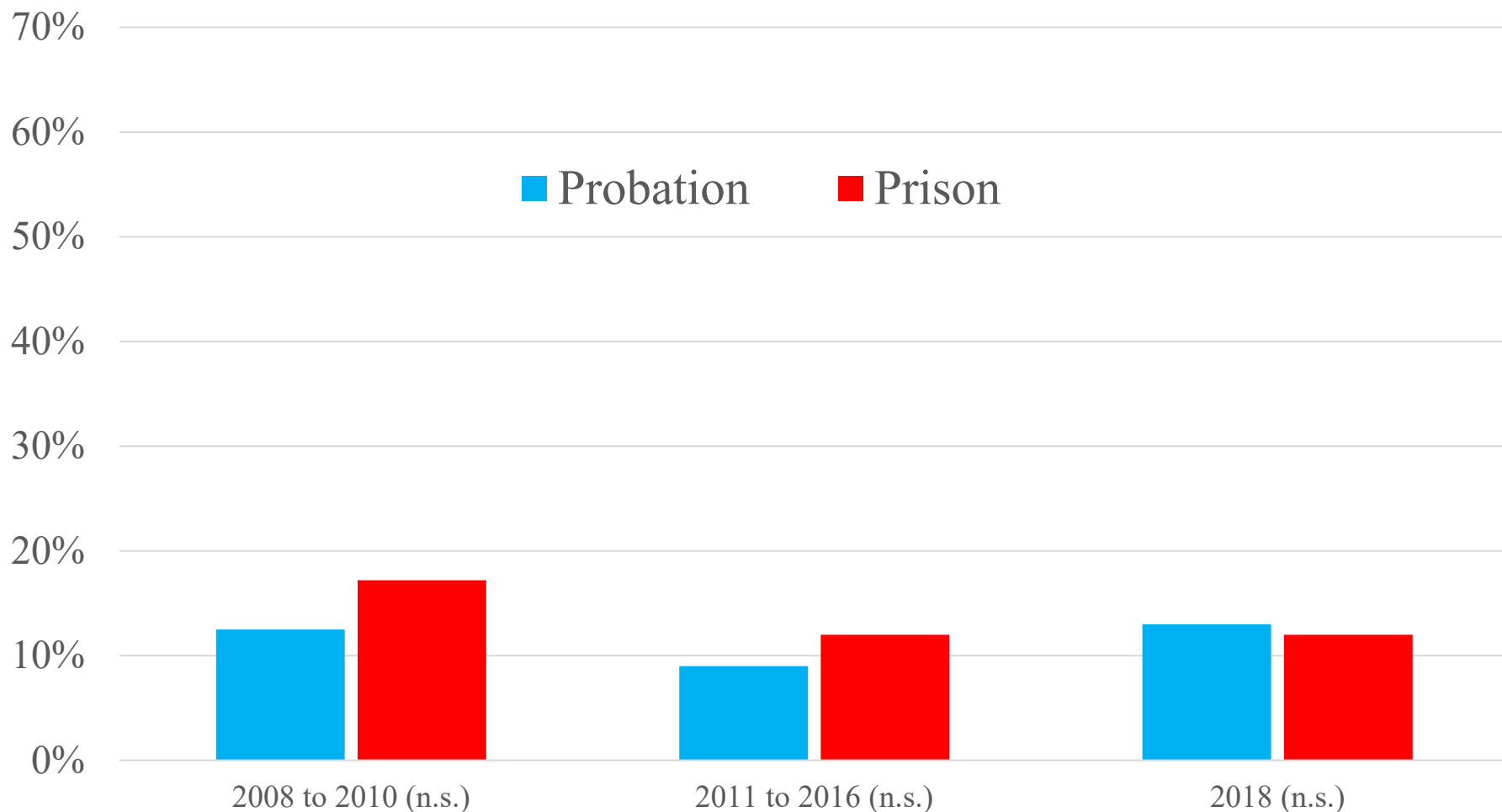


Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data

** Only cases involving Black males between 18 and 24 with no prior convictions. This sub-set accounted for 41% of those sentenced to probation and 47% of those sentenced to prison in Cook County during the periods examined

n.s.=not a statistically significant difference at the $p < .05$ level

Rearrested for a violent crime within 12 months of conviction, Class 4 Gun Possession in Cook County**



Source: Analyses by Loyola's Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data

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Criminal Justice Response to Illegal Gun Possession

- State response vs. Chicago/Cook County response?
 - Impact on Black males, particularly in Chicago (and specific neighborhoods in Chicago)
- Increased *arrests* (in Chicago/Cook), change in *legislation*, and increased likelihood of prison (in Chicago/Cook) combined to double prison admissions from 2010-2018
 - Little correlation between homicides/non-lethal gun violence and likelihood of prison
 - Those sentenced to prison had higher overall rates of rearrest
 - Rearrest rates for a violent crime generally low, and similar between those sentenced to prison or probation