

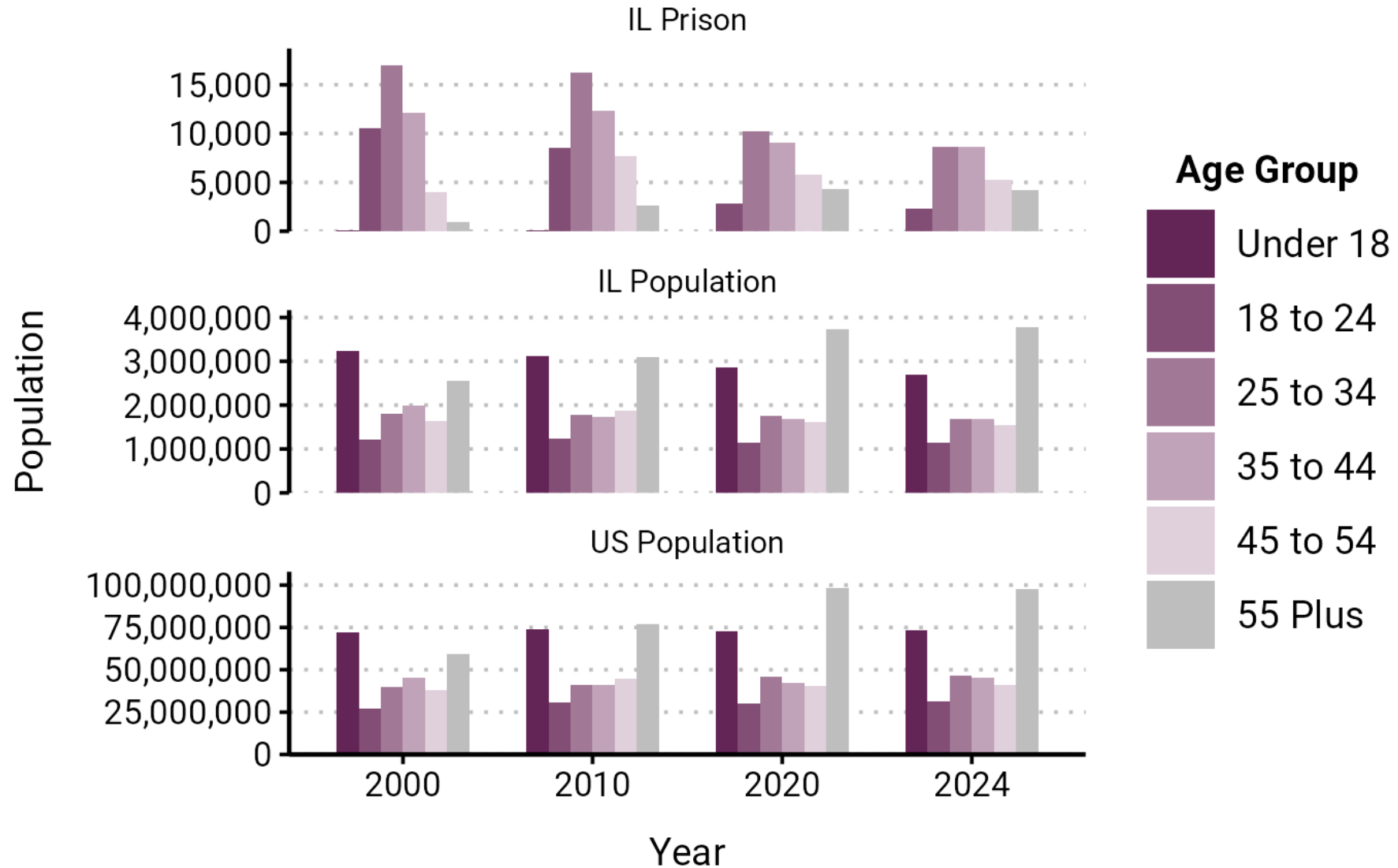


Aging Dynamics in Sentencing

September 19, 2025



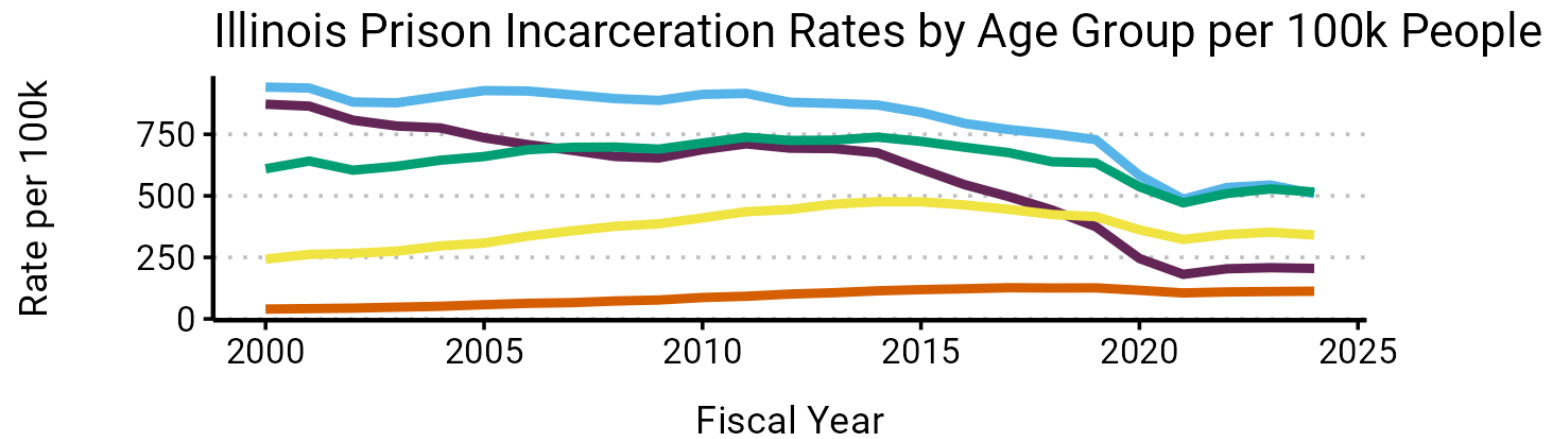
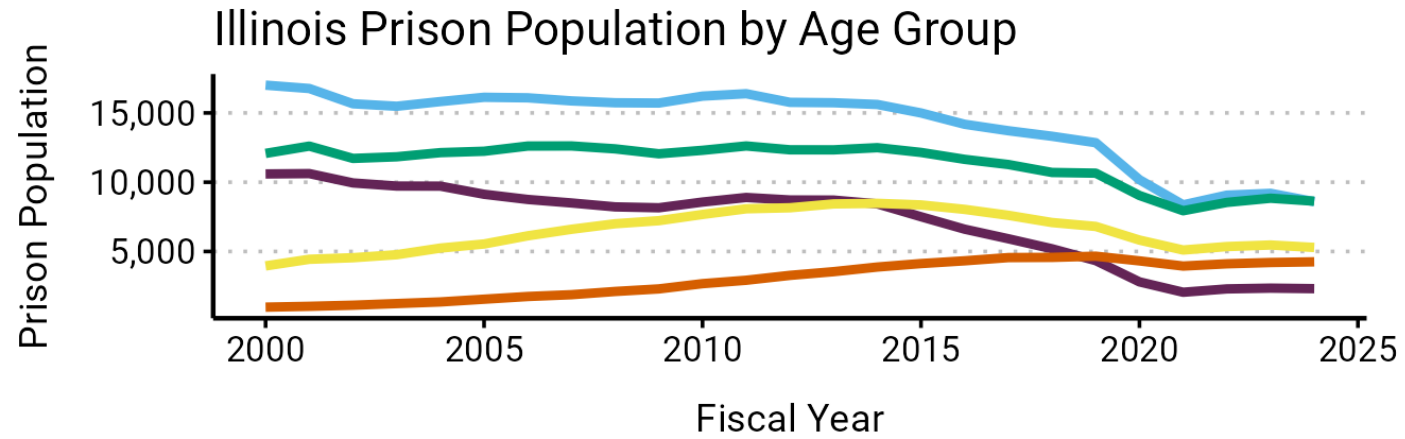
Age Distribution in Illinois Prisons, Illinois Population, and the U.S. Population



Prison Population Makeup and Age - How did we get here?

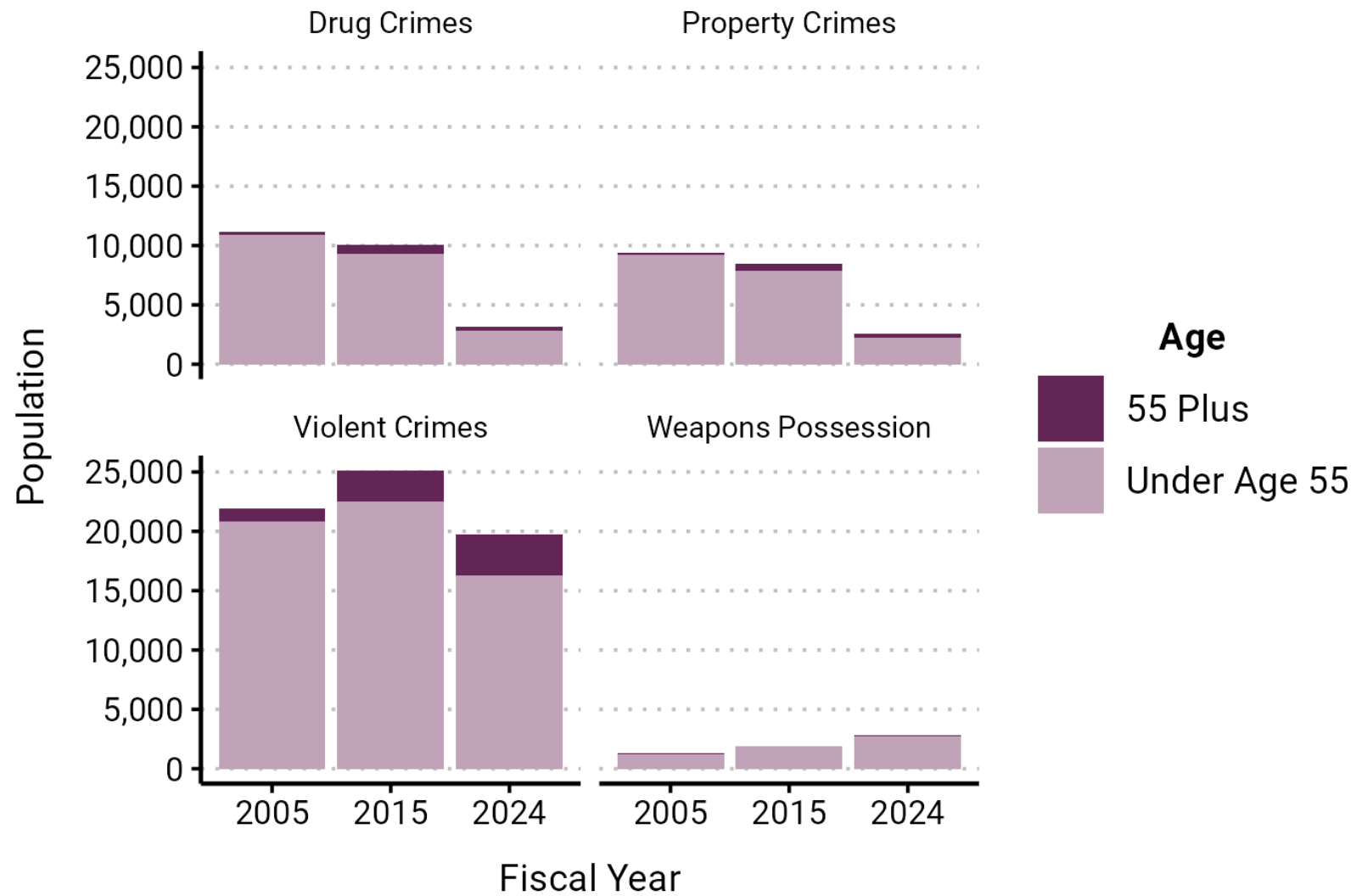
- Iron Law of Prison – prison population is a function of admissions and length of stay
 - Admissions - function of crime control policies, technical violation policies, sentencing, and broader population changes
 - Length of stay (LOS) – long sentences, mandatory supervised release requirements, and/or requiring “Truth in Sentencing”
- Are trends moving in different directions or magnitude by age?



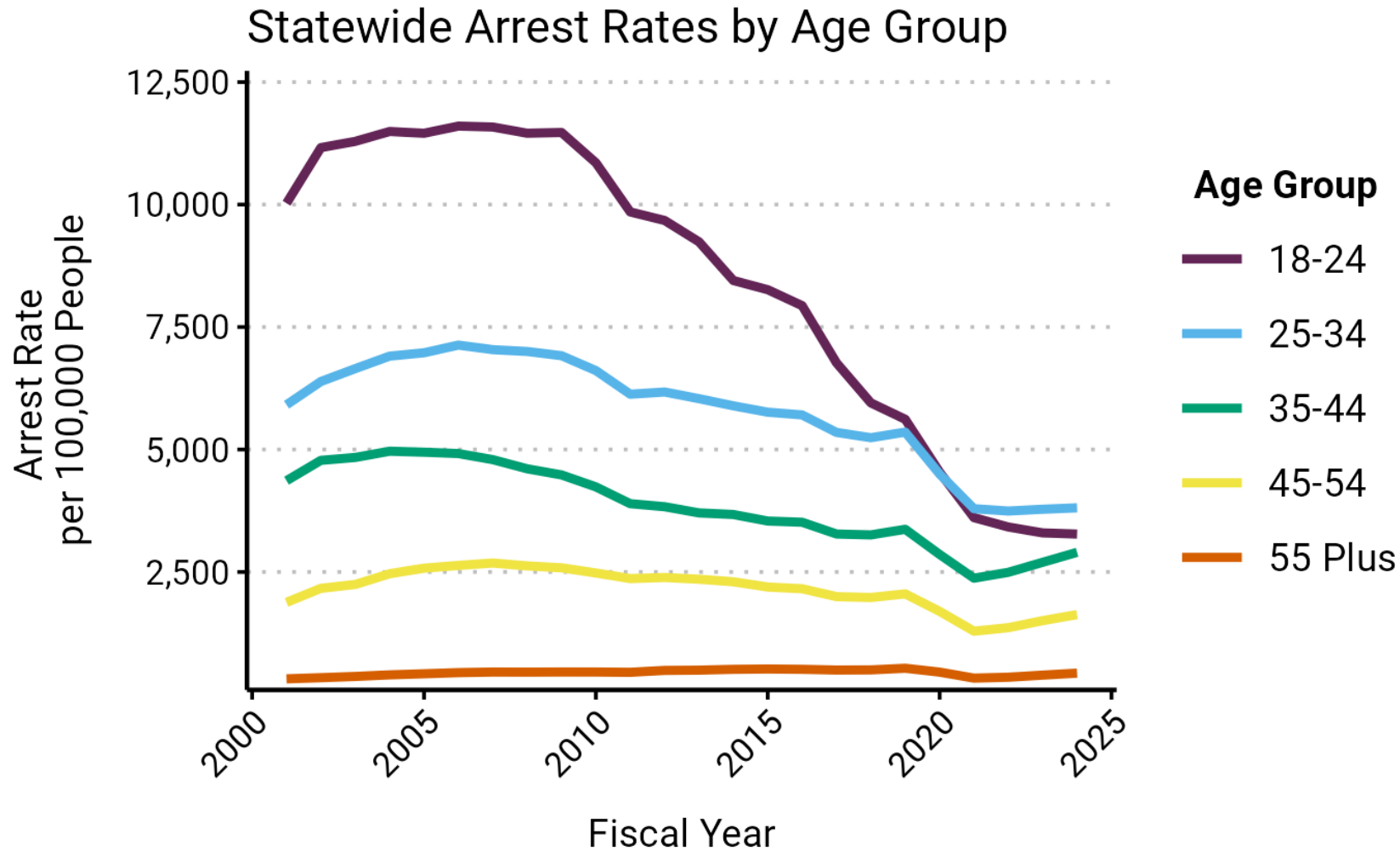


Age Group 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54 55 Plus

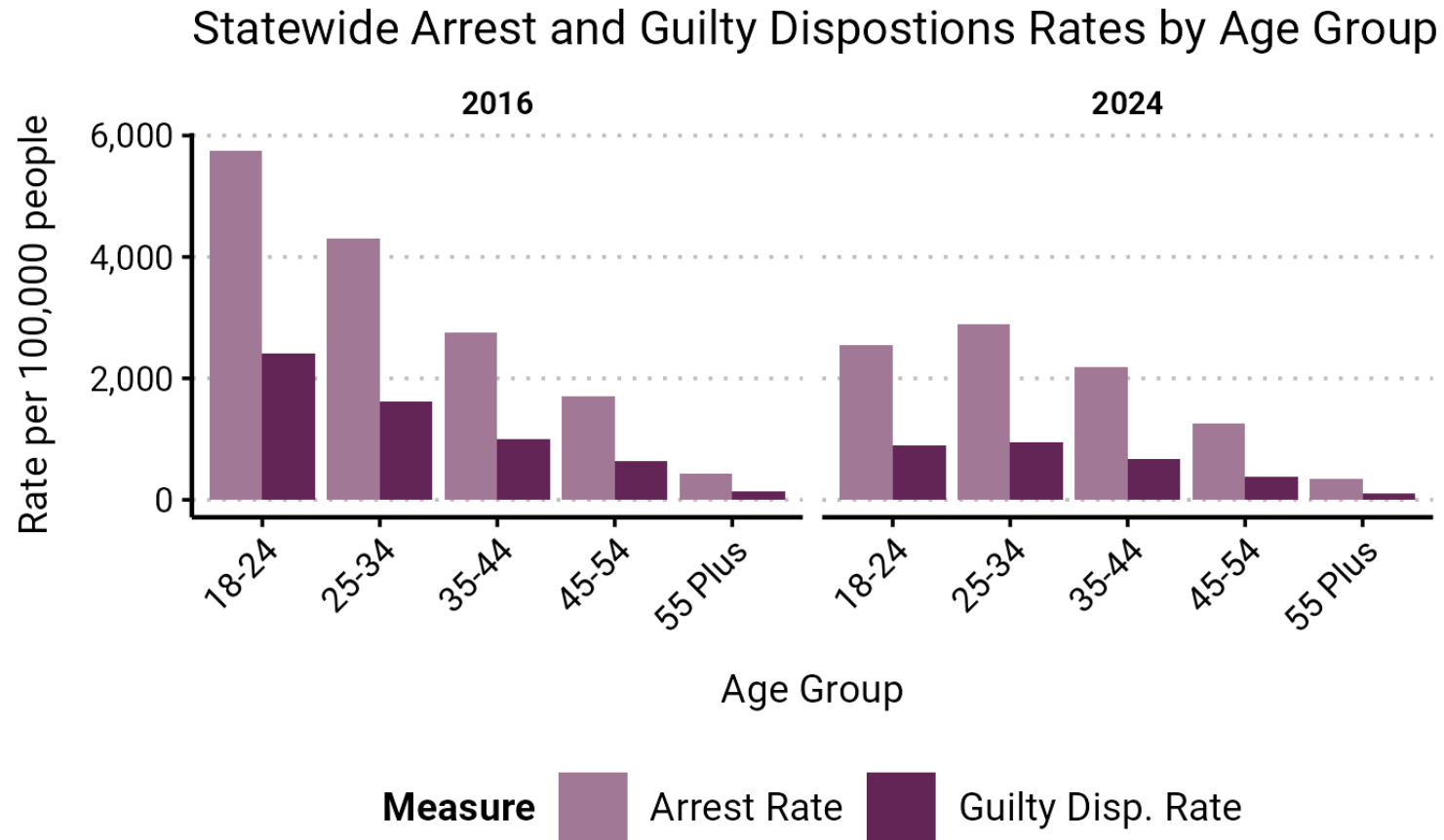
Illinois Prison Population by Age Group and Offense Type



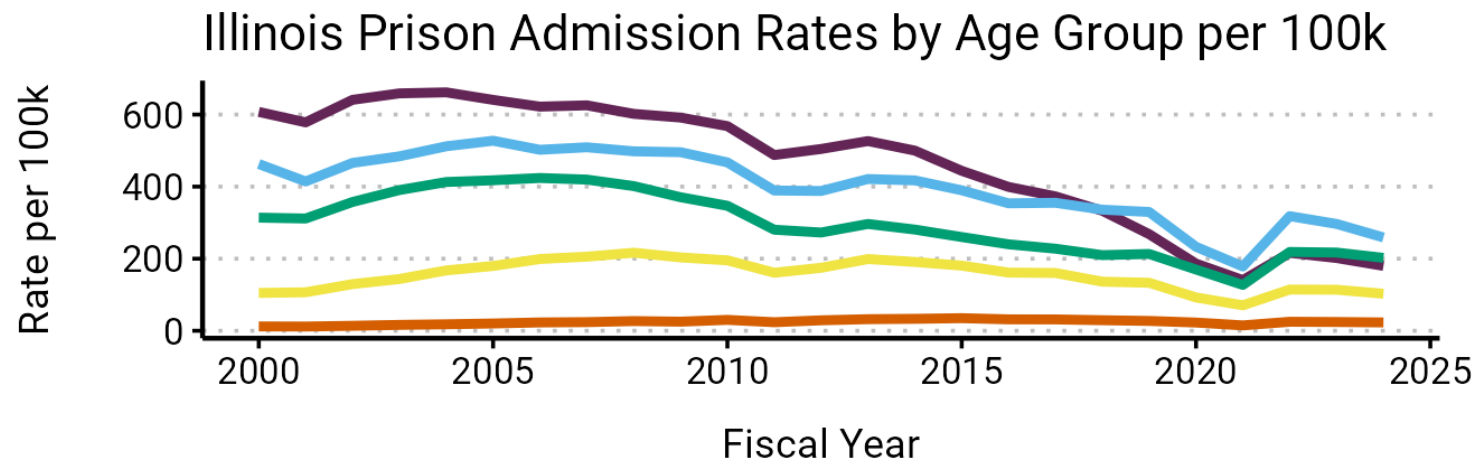
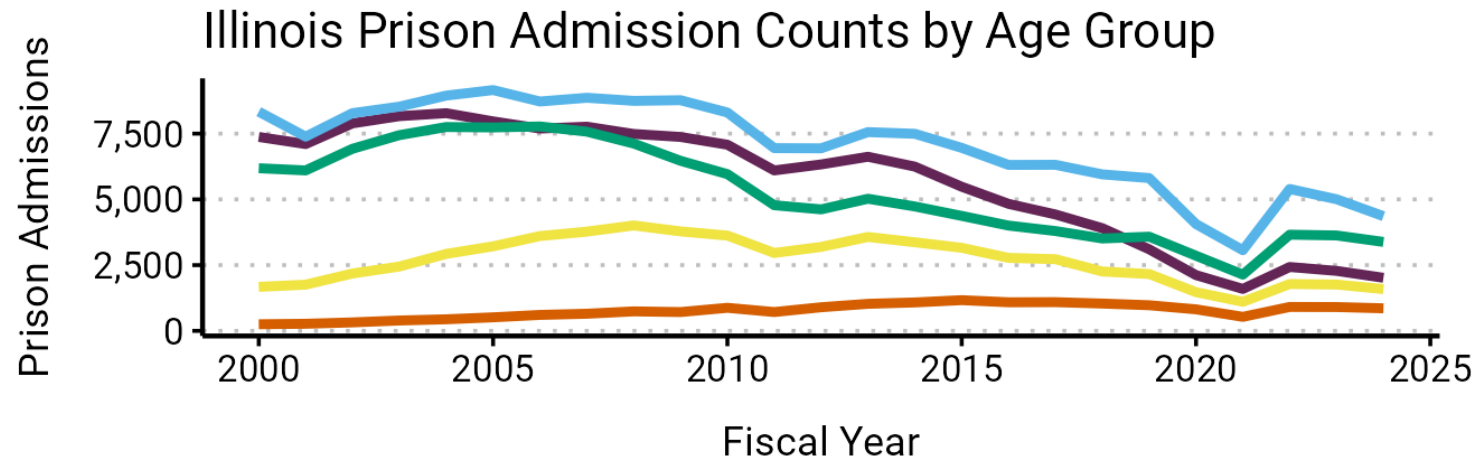
Arrest Counts and Rates by Age Group – Unique Arrests



Arrest and Guilty Disposition Rates by Age Group



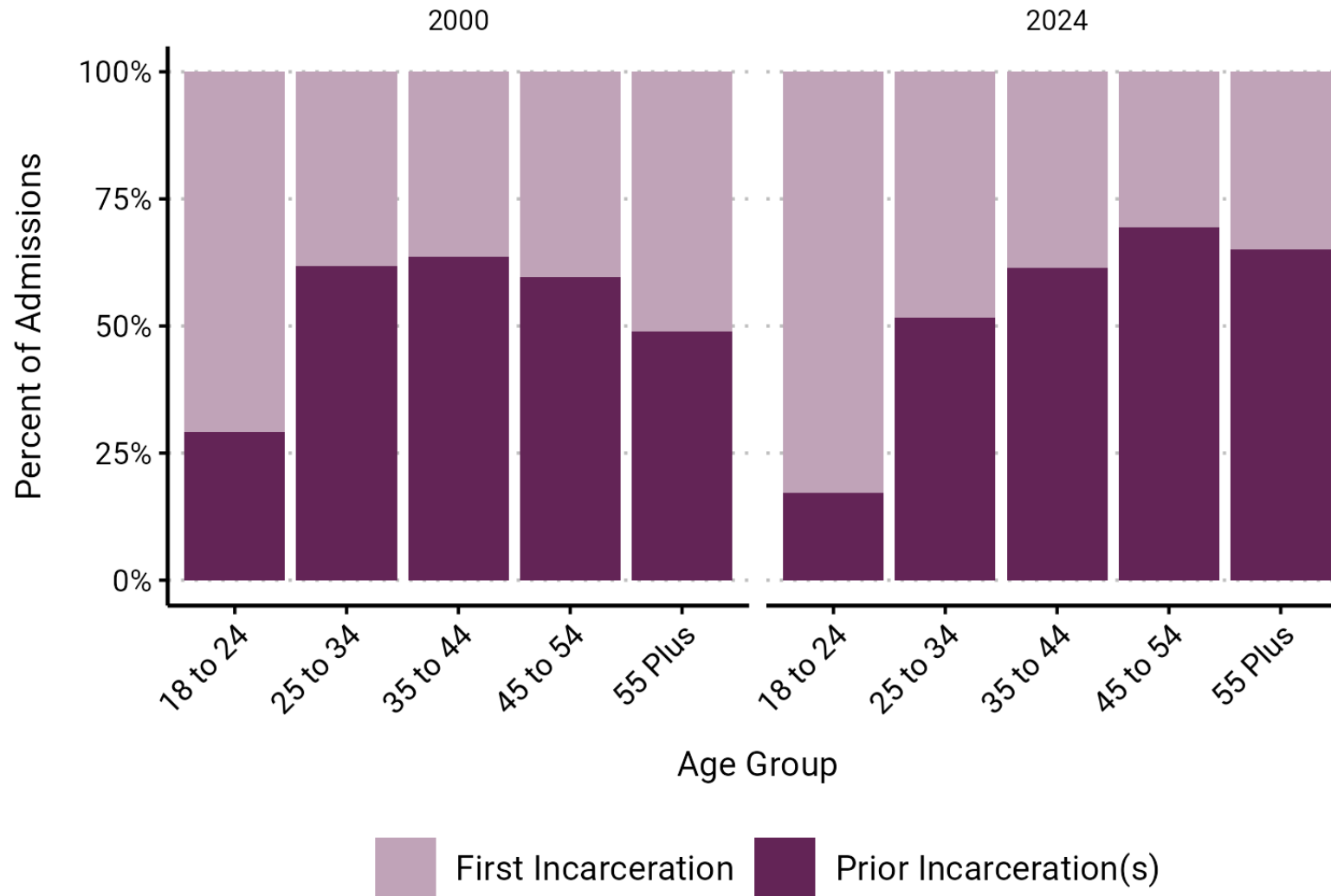
Each person is counted only once in each year if they have multiple arrests and/or dispositions.



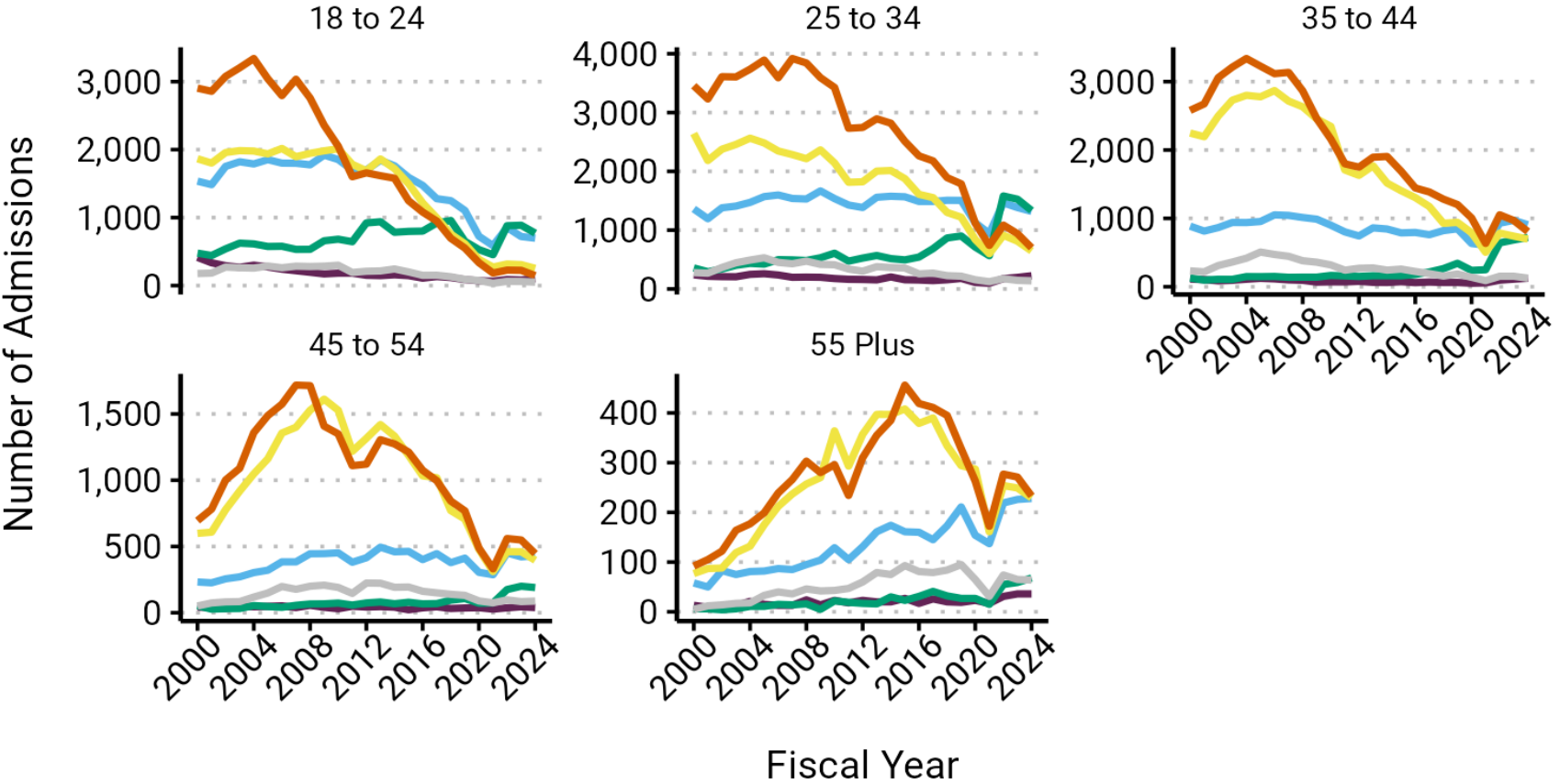
Age Group 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54 55 Plus

Comparison of First-Time Admissions vs. Prior Incarcerations

Illinois Prison Admissions in FY2000 and FY2024

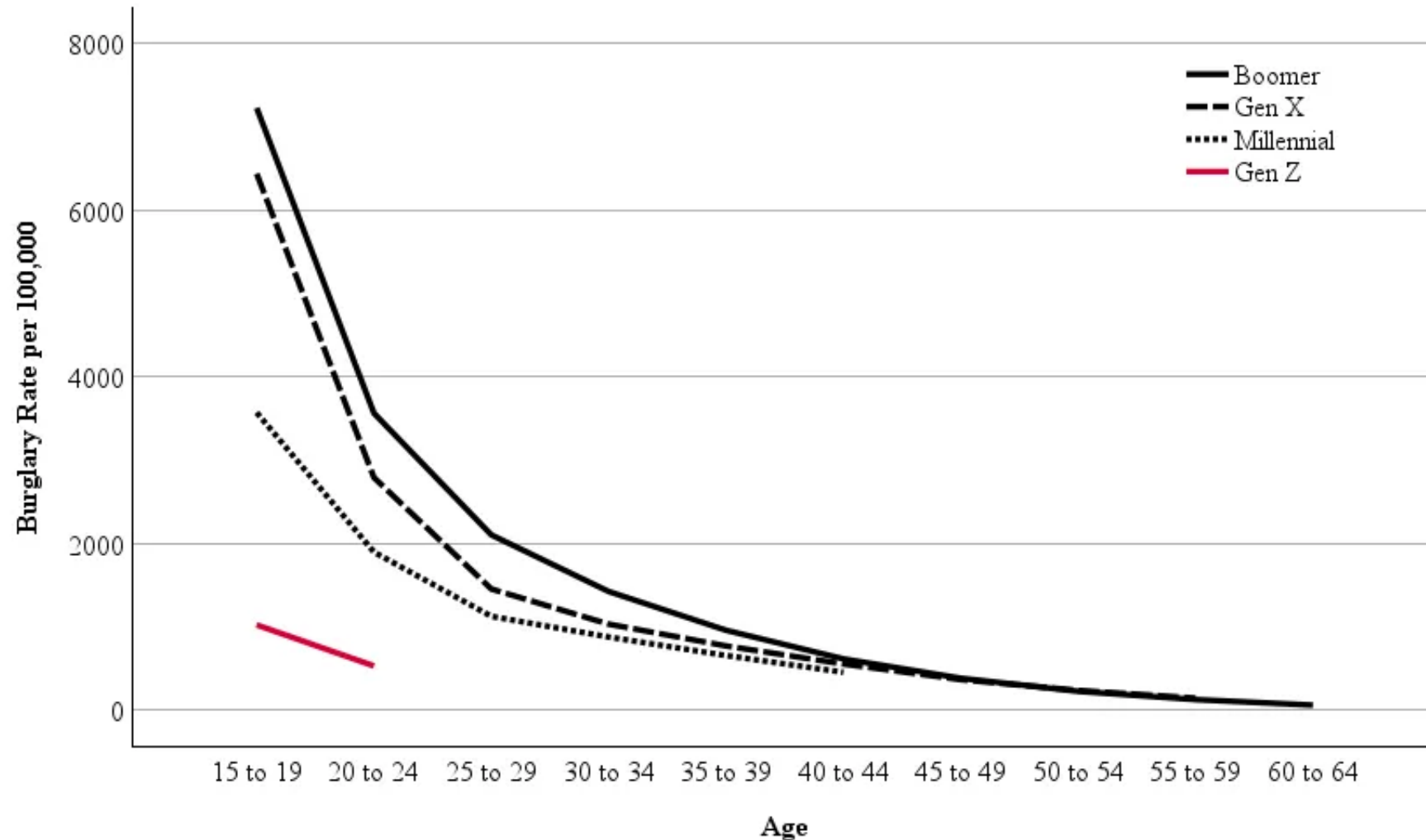


Illinois Prison Admissions by Offense Type and Age Group (FY 2000 to 2024)



Excludes Technical Violators. Homicide includes first degree murder, other forms of homicide, and their inchoates.

Nationwide Burglary Arrest Rates Birth Cohort and Age



Arrests reported to the FBI, 1964 – 2023, excluding 2021.

Tuttle, J. (2025, July 28). *The smartphone-induced crime decline*. *Crime Forecast* [Substack].

<https://crimeforecast.substack.com/p/the-smartphone-induced-crime-decline>

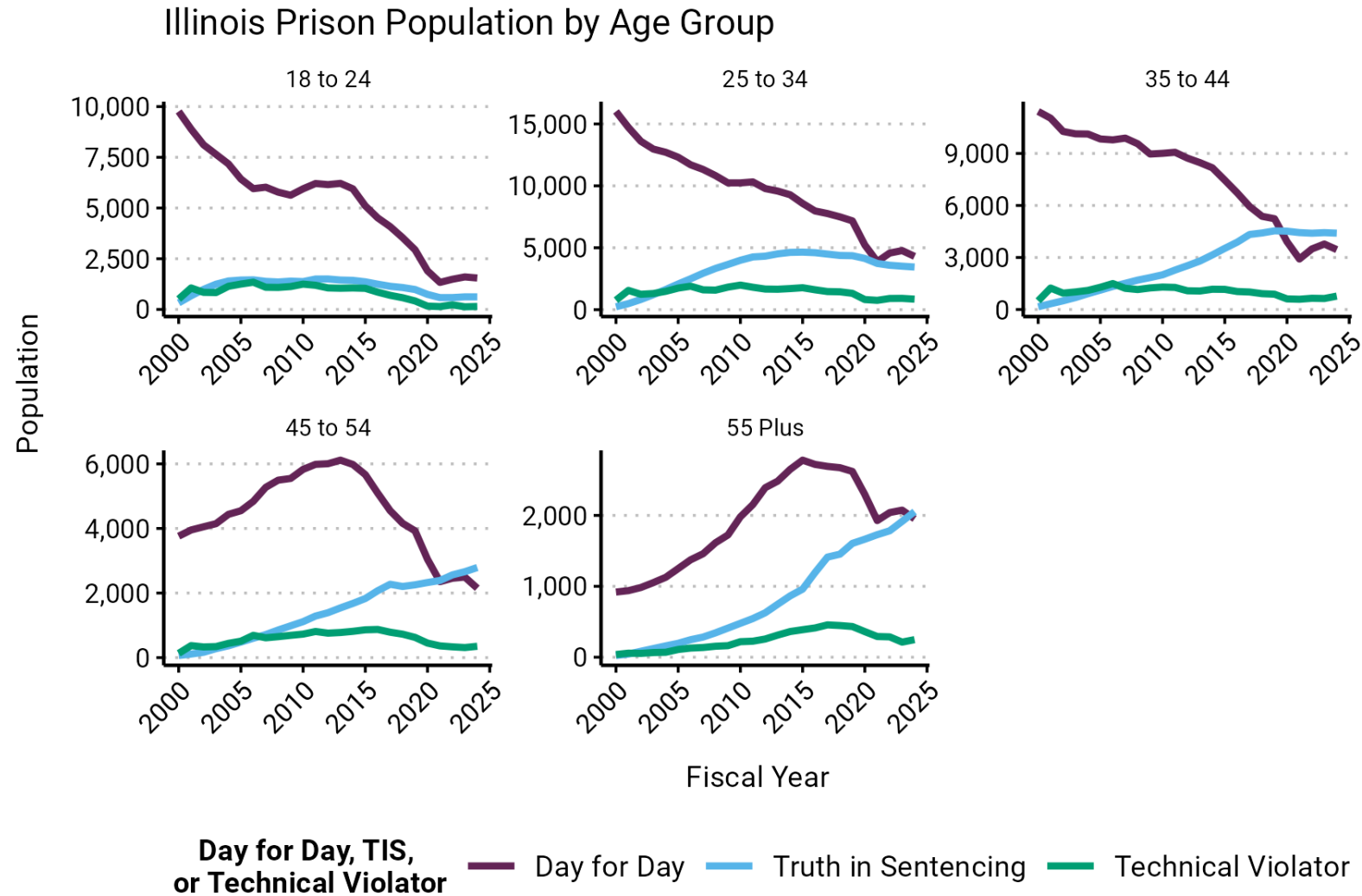
Prison Population – Projected Exit Ages

Population Age	2010 Prison Population Projected Exit Age			2024 Prison Population Projected Exit Age		
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile
20	21	21	23	21	22	23
30	31	32	37	31	33	38
40	41	42	48	41	44	53
50	51	52	58	51	55	66
60	61	63	72	62	68	80
70	72	74	80	76	80	80

Projected exit ages capped at 80 years. Excludes technical violators.

Prison Population

Truth in Sentencing, Day for Day, and Technical Violators



Population Age 55+ Over Time – When did they Admit?

