# Adult Felony Trends in Illinois 2010-2022

SPAC
Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council

June 21, 2024



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## Adult Felony Trends in Illinois, 2010-2022

**SPAC's first general trends report showing a broad look at felony arrests, guilty dispositions, sentences, and prison usage**

- Data sources
  - Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)
  - Automated Disposition Reporting (ADR) extracts
  - Circuit Clerk electronic data
  - IDOC admissions, population, and exit data
- Timeline of significant events
- Data presented as both raw numbers and percentages in the report in graphs and tables with some narrative description



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## *Significant Milestones*

2010-2022

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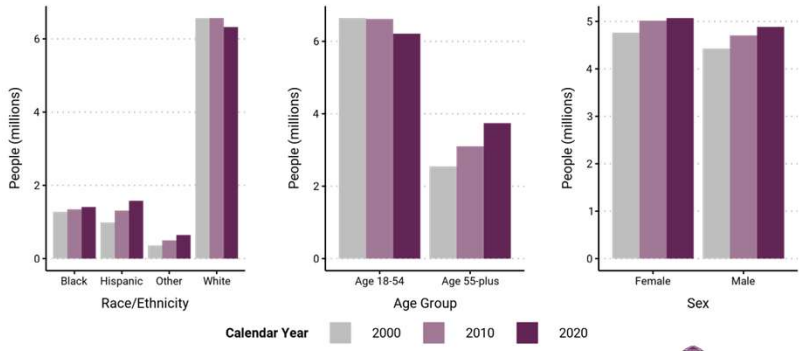
## Illinois Population – Adult Demographic Change



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## Units of Analyses

- Arrests
  - CHRI data
  - Hierarchy - most severe felony class charge and offense type
- Guilty Dispositions and Sentences
  - CHRI, ADR, and Cook Circuit Clerk Data
  - Convictions and Withheld Judgements
    - Convictions - finding of guilt and judgement entered
    - Withheld Judgements - finding of guilt but judgement is not entered if court requirements are satisfied
  - Same hierarchy as arrests
- Prison admissions, population, and exits
  - IDOC Planning and Research Extract Data
  - IDOC establishes holding offense which is the sentence that has the longest period of incarceration



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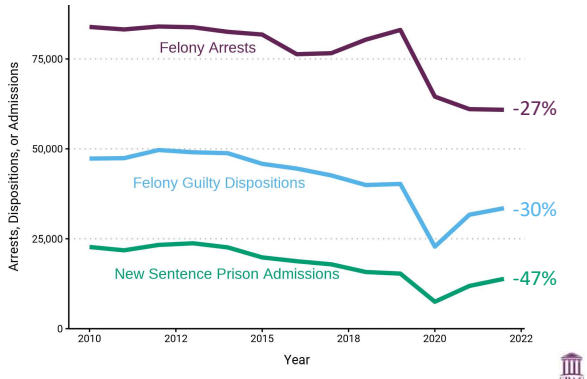
## Arrests, Dispositions, and Prison Admissions Trends



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## Race/Ethnicity Adjustments

- IDOC race is self-reported and allowed Hispanic as a race category through entire timeframe of the report
- Hispanic added as a race option to CHRI in the mid-2010s
- SPAC used a technique called Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) to apply corrections to race in the non-IDOC data
  - Use race from IDOC if a match existed
  - Otherwise, use BISG to estimate the most probable race/ethnicity from an individual based on combination of surname and county of arrest and the demographic makeup of the surname within the county.
- SPAC's ability to implement this in the future will depend on availability of PII information in our CHRI data access



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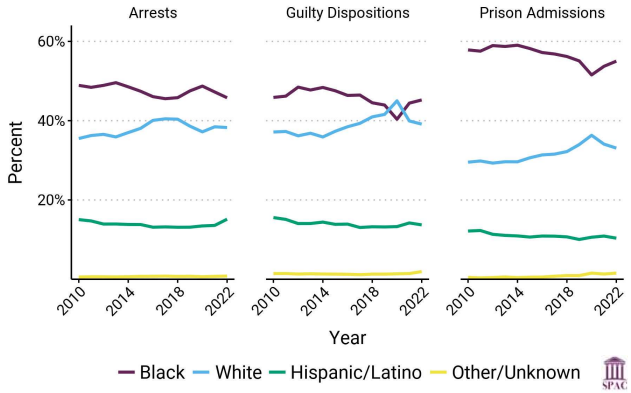
## Race/Ethnicity for Felonies



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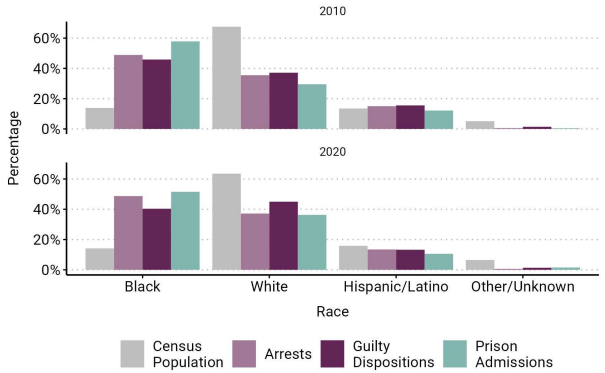
## Census and Criminal Justice System Comparison



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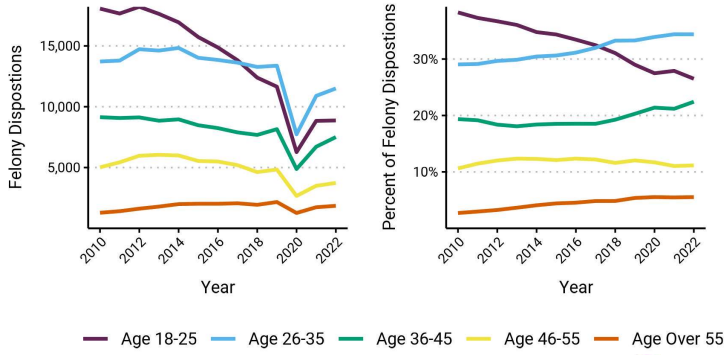
## Felony Guilty Dispositions by Age Group



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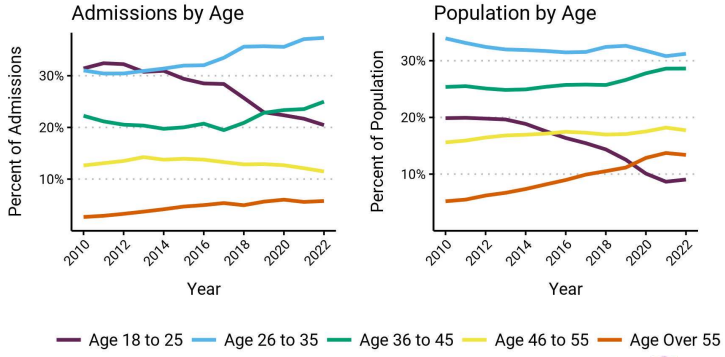
## Prison Admissions and Population by Age Group



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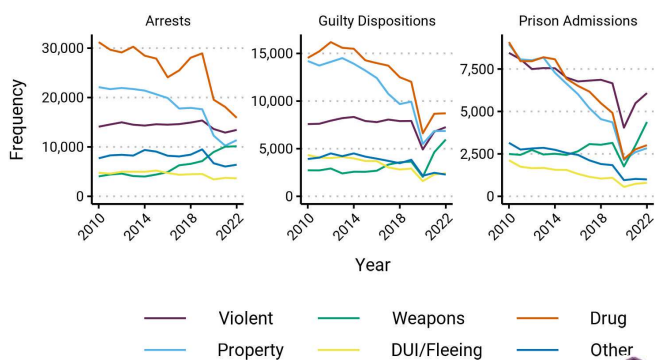
## Offense Type – Arrests, Dispositions, and Admissions



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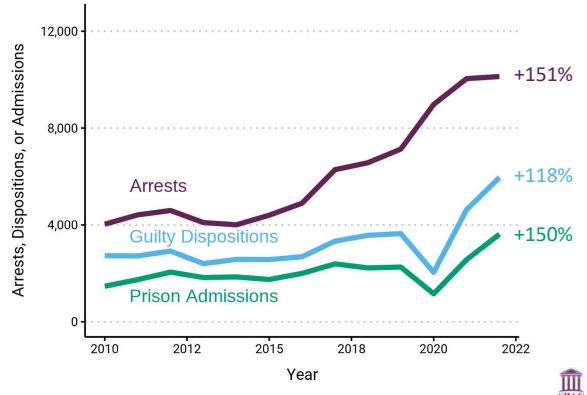
## Weapons Offenses - Arrests, Dispositions, Admissions



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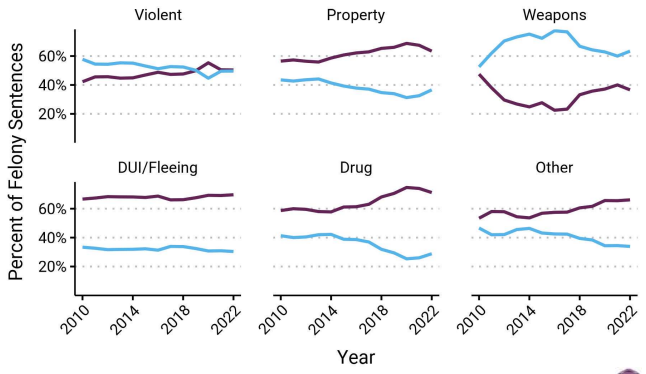
## Sentences Imposed by Offense Type



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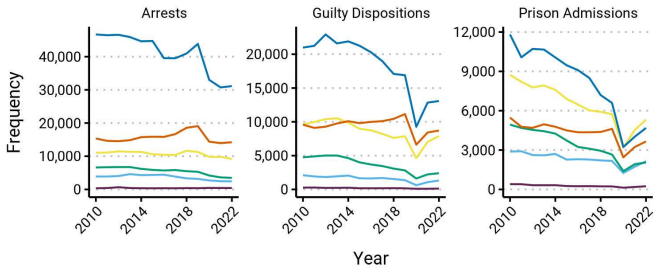
## Offense Class – Arrests, Dispositions, and Admissions



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## Prison Admissions
## Median Sentence Length

| | Median Sentence Length (Years) by Class | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Admission Year** | **M** | **X** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| 2010 | 32.0 | 9.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 2015 | 45.0 | 10.0 | 5.0 | 3.8 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 2020 | 35.0 | 10.0 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 2022 | 37.0 | 10.0 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 |



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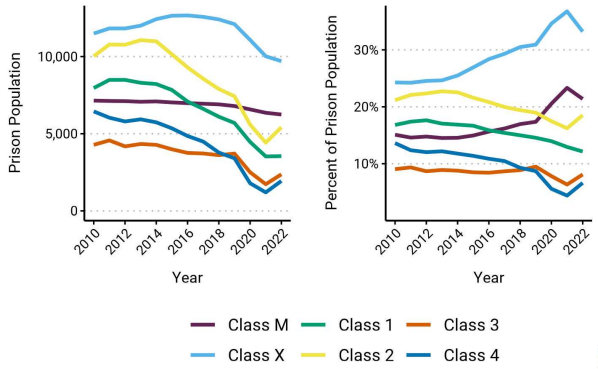
## Prison Population — Offense Class



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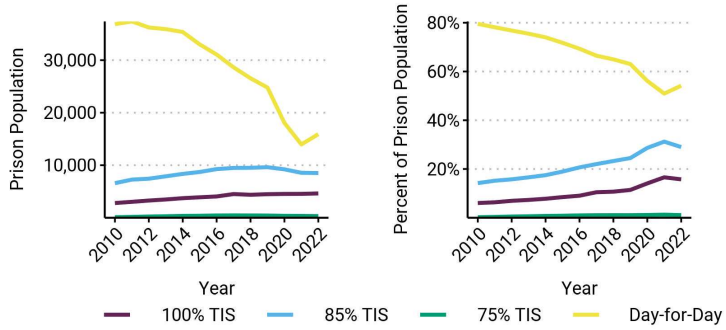
## Prison Population — Truth-in-Sentencing



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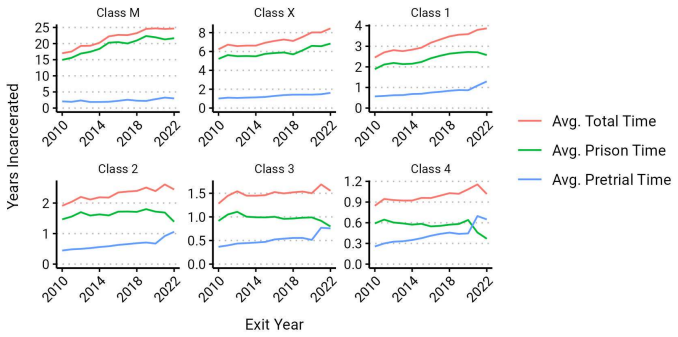
## Prison Exits - Average Length of Stay (Years)



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## Future Plans and Questions?

- Intention is to provide similar updated report every 4-5 years
- In the interim, produce less-broad and more specific smaller reports
- Data landscape will alter what SPAC can do
- Questions?



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