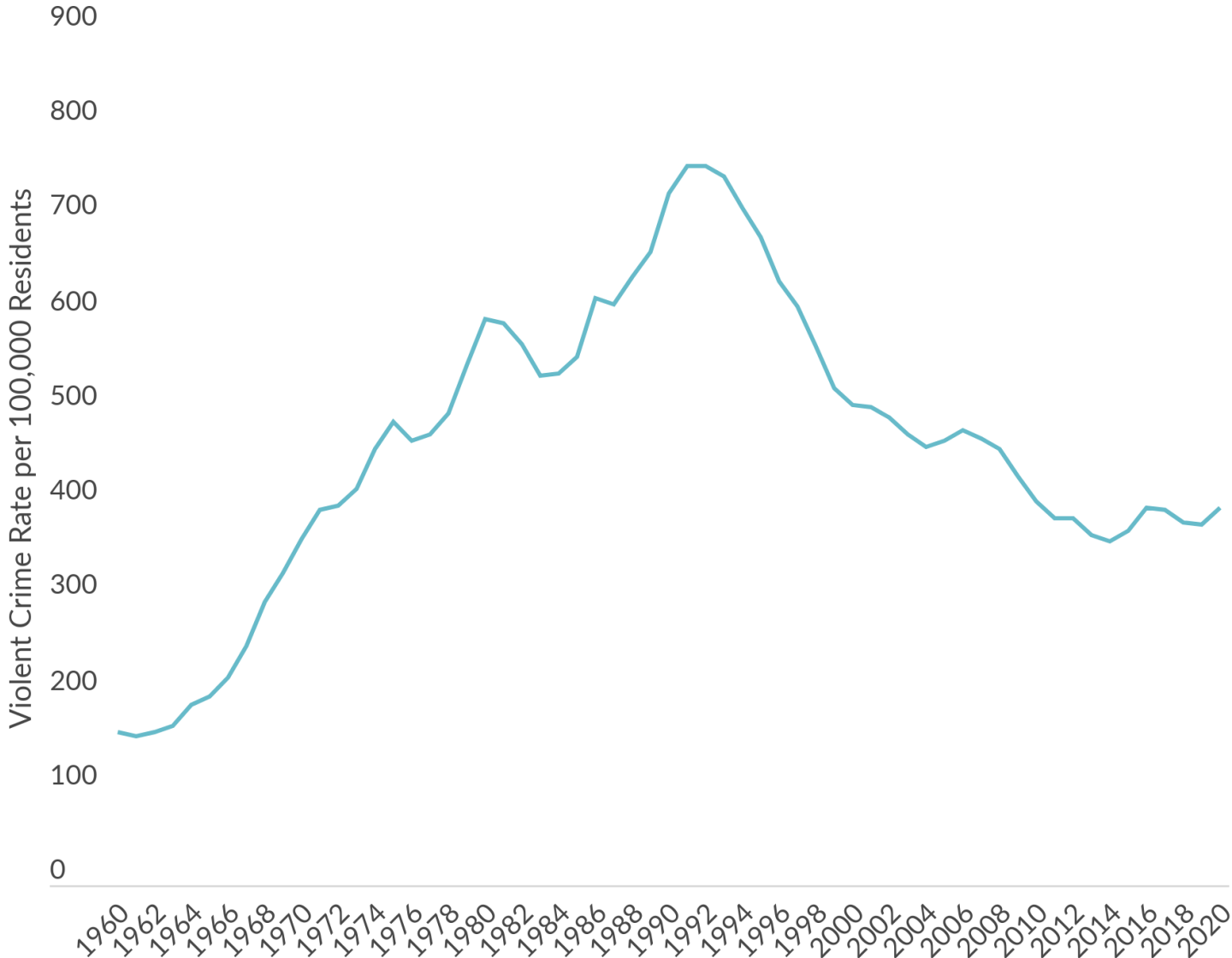


Long Sentences and Responses to Serious Violent Victimization

John Maki
Task Force Director

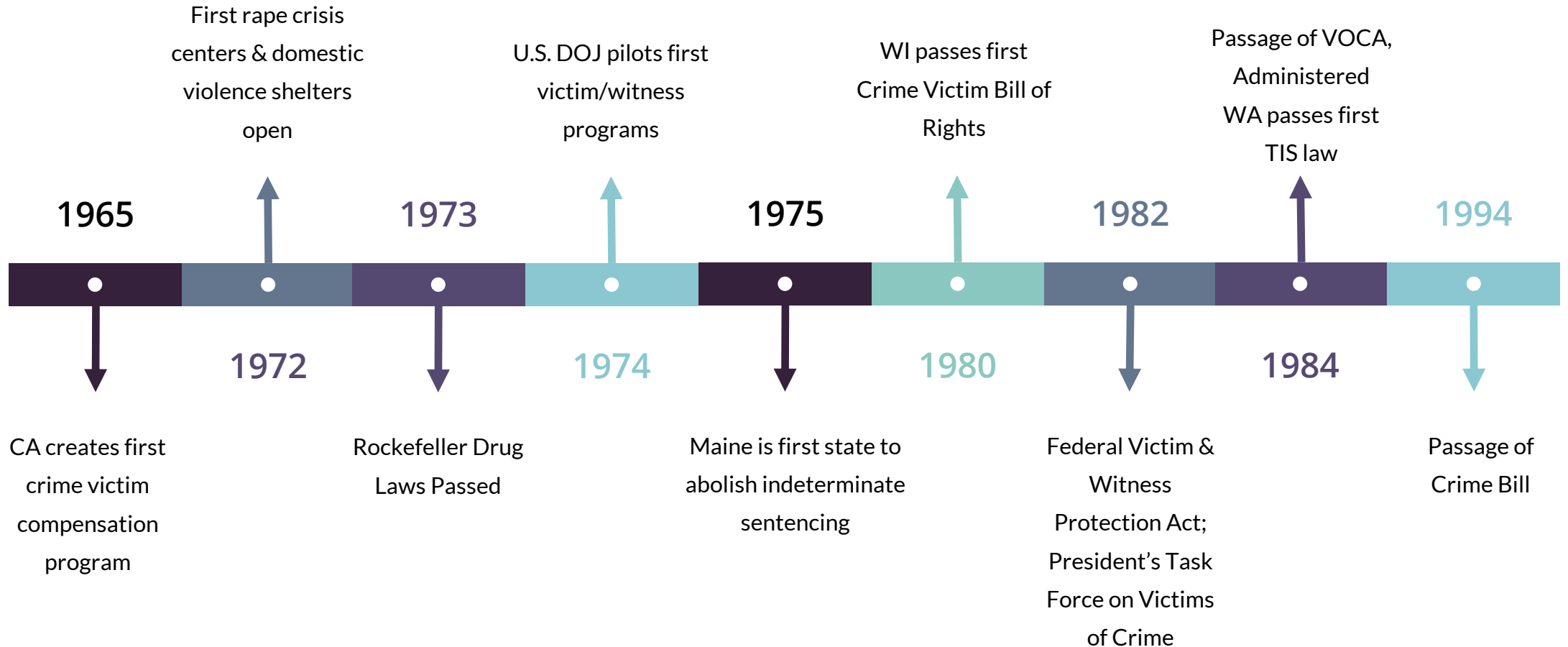
Violent Crime Rate: 1960-2020



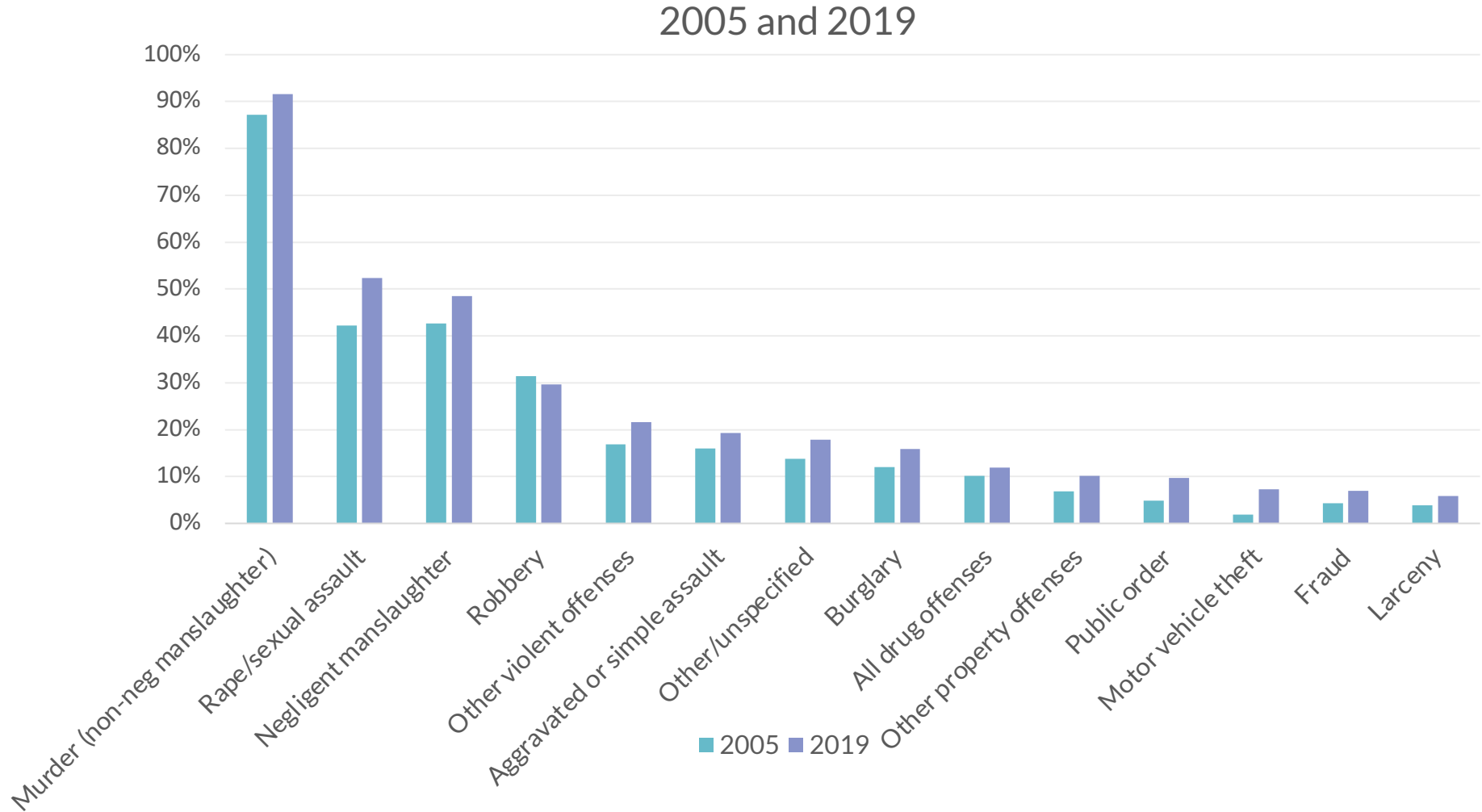
Overlapping Histories: Long Sentences and Victim Services/Rights

- Since mid-1980s, long sentences have been a key policy response to serious violent victimization
- For most of U.S. history, victims/survivors did not have dedicated services or rights
- In the 1970s, our contemporary responses to victimization was shaped by different frameworks
 - Social justice struggle for recognition and safety for victim/survivors, especially for gender-based victimization
 - Criminal justice focus on how victim's role in arrest prosecutions could strengthen cooperation and reduce crime and violence

Overlapping Histories



Share of All Newly Admitted People Sentenced to 10+ Years, By Most Serious Conviction Offense



Source: National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP), Term Records, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Violent Crime in the U.S.

“Something insidious has happened in America: crime has made victims of us all.” *President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime* (Final Report, 1982)

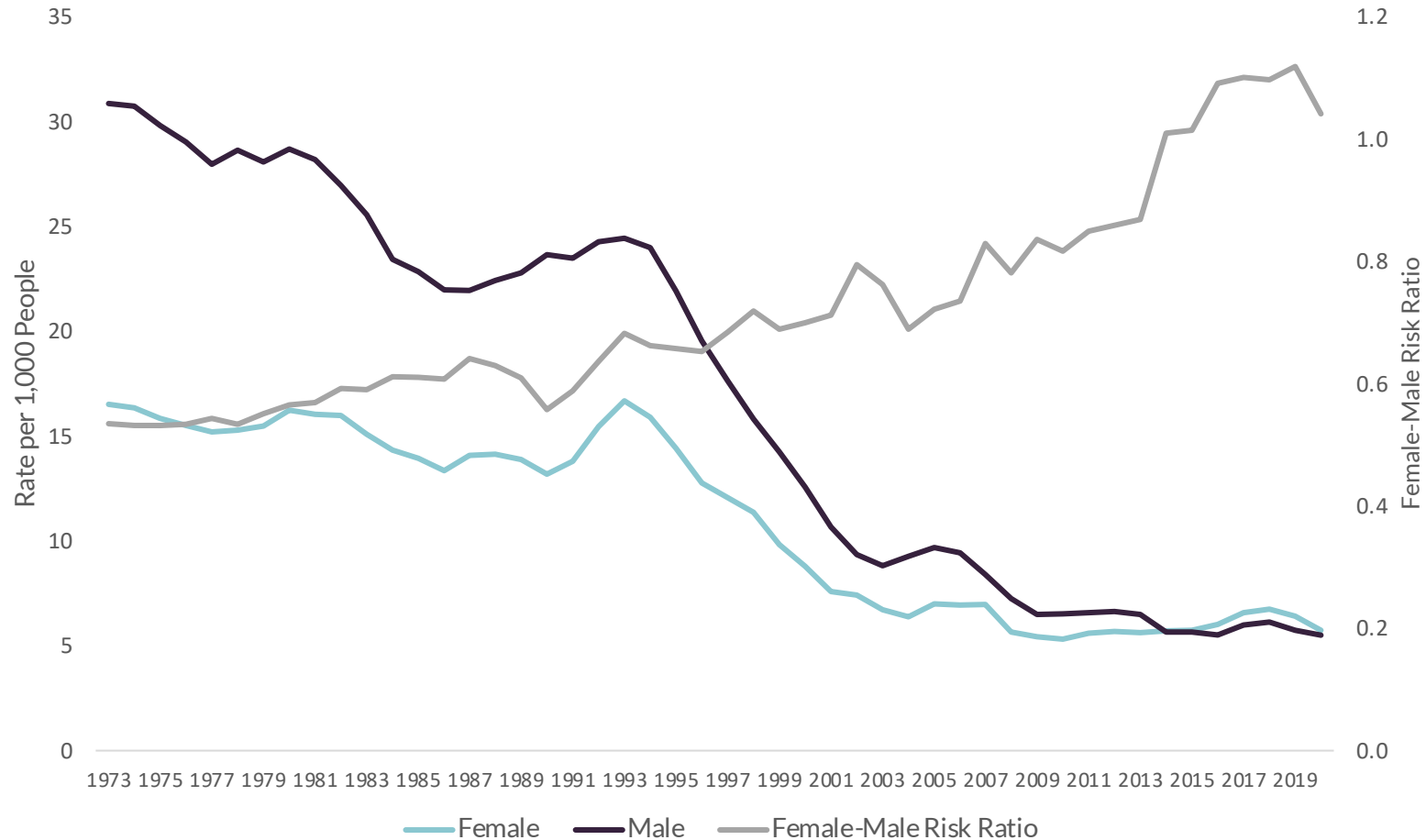
Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2020

Murder rate : 6.5 per 100,000

Robbery rate : 73.9 per 100,000

Aggravated assault rate: 279.7 per 100,000

Serious Violent Victimization Rates for Female and Male Victims, 1973-2020



Source: Warnken & Lauritsen 2019.

Risk of Serious Violence by Race/Ethnicity

Table 2. Risk for Serious Violence for All Race/Ethnic Groups, 2010-2015

	% of Population	Rate	Relative Risk ^a
Non-Hispanic White	65.7	5.1	--
Non-Hispanic Black	12.1	9.2	1.8
Hispanic	15.2	7.0	1.4
Non-Hispanic American Indian	.5	12.1	2.4
Non-Hispanic Asian	4.9	2.8	.6
Non-Hispanic Multiple Races	1.2	20.9	4.1

^a Compared to non-Hispanic whites.

Source: Warnken & Lauritsen 2019

Risk of Serious Violent Victimization by Age, Income, and Residency Type

Persons at higher risk:

- Young 12-34 > 35 and older
- Urban households > suburban > rural
- Low-income households (annual household income < \$25K)

Population at highest risk compared to general population:

- Young, Black males, living in poorest households in urban areas

Source: Warnken & Lauritsen, 2019.

Services for Serious Violent Victimizations

- 10% of victims/survivors access OVC-funded services
- Difference between female and male victims
 - 14.4% of female victims/survivors
 - 5.2% of male victims/survivors
- Greatest need in communities and for demographics most at risk for serious violent victimization
- Federal funding for victim services is under severe stress

Source: Warnken & Lauritsen 2019.

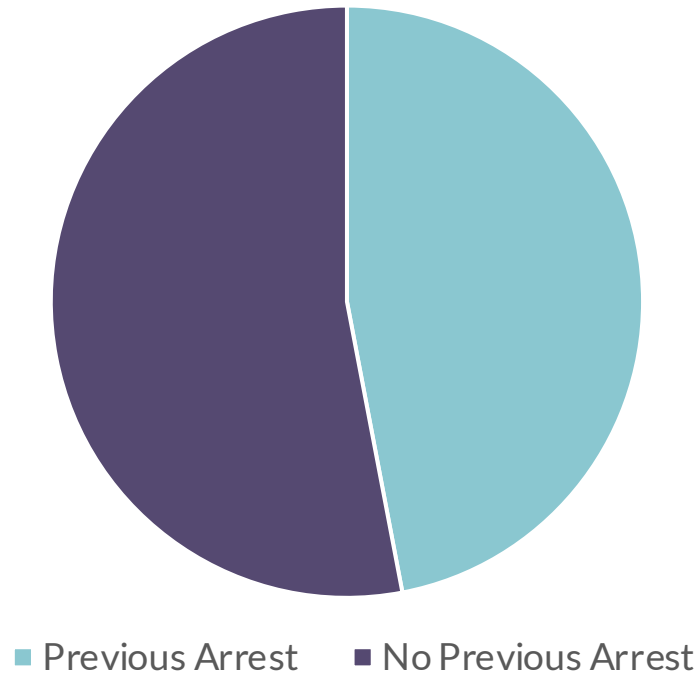
The Cooperative Victim

Responses to serious violent victimization often assume an “innocent victim” who wants to cooperate with arrest and prosecution

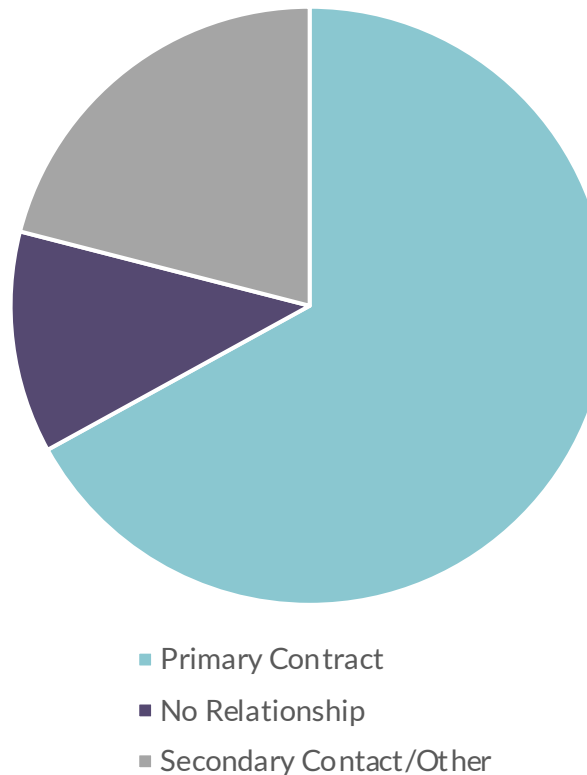
- Gap: Consistently high percentage of victims/survivors (around 50%) never report their victimization to law enforcement (Langton, et al. 2012)
 - No evidence that conditioning victim/services on criminal justice cooperation increases cooperation
 - Some evidence that providing services without conditions increases criminal justice cooperation

The Victim-Offender Overlap

Arrest History of Homicide Victims



Homicide Victim Relationship to Perpetrator



- Since Wolfgang’s classic study, the “victim-offender overlap” has become one of the most robust empirical findings in criminology (Berg & Schreck, 2021)
- Persons with victimization and offending experiences share histories of violent behavior, property arrests, lifestyle characteristics, and neighborhood characteristics
- Particularly strong overlap in violent victimization, especially in homicides

What have we learned?

- Deeper understanding of gaps in services, victim/survivor rights, and an evidence base for what improve outcomes
- Evidence-informed understanding of effective violent crime reduction strategies
- Trauma's effects on victims, its relationship to violence, and interventions that can help people heal and recover from its impacts

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