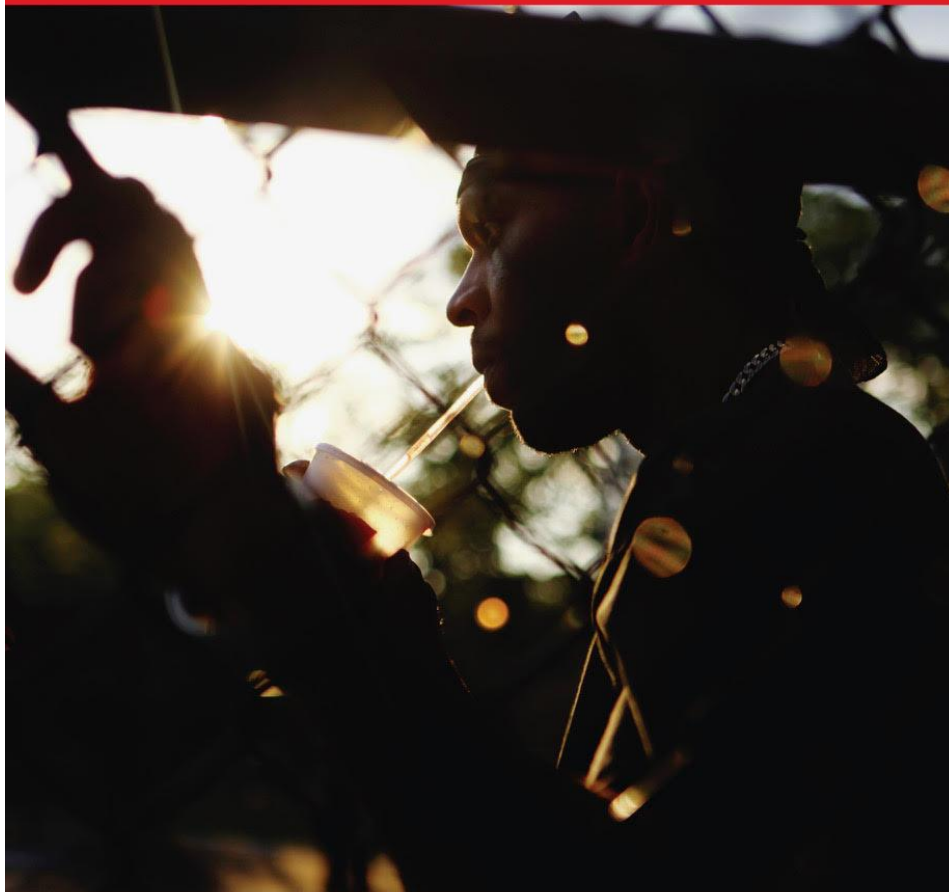


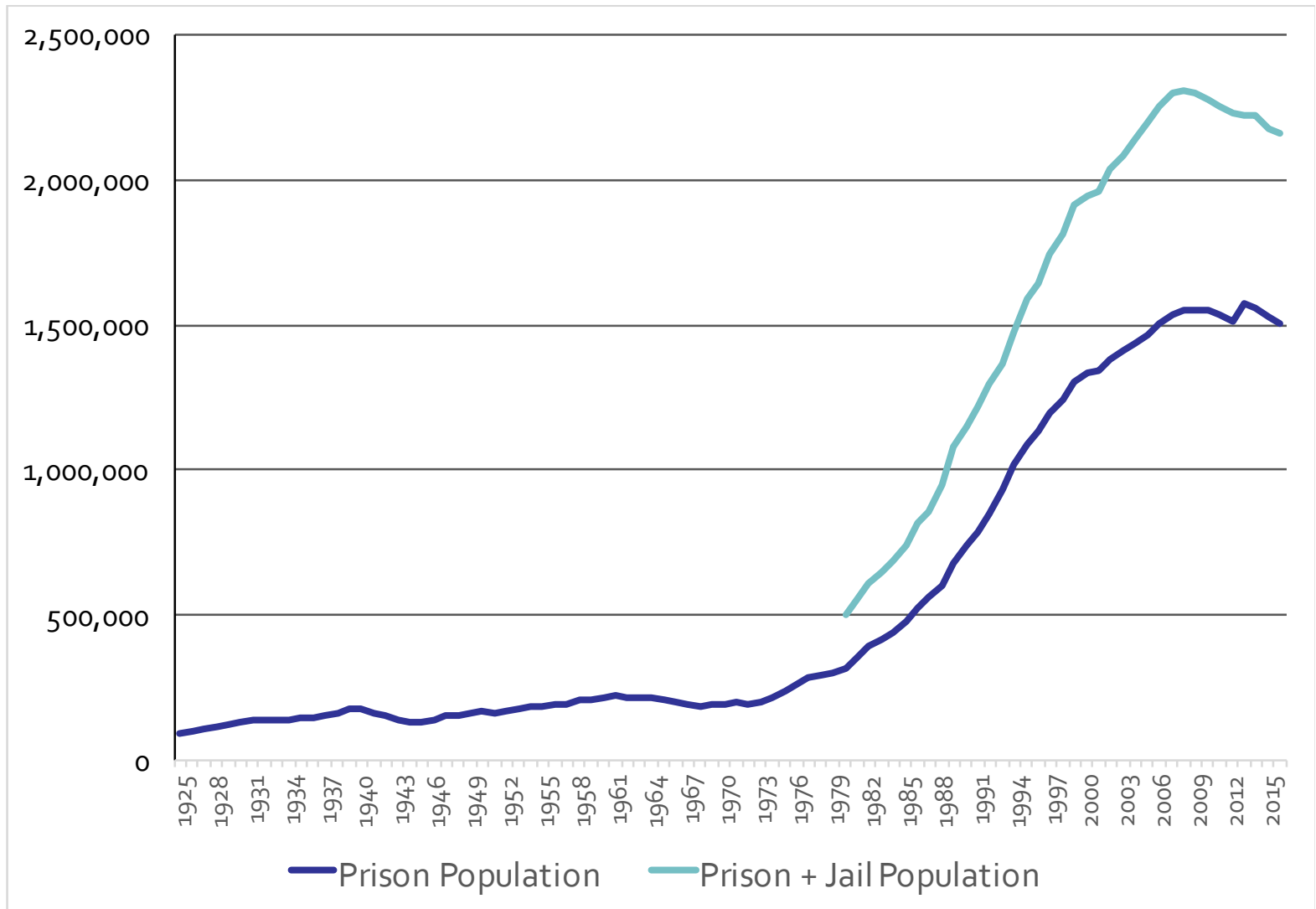
# CHARGED



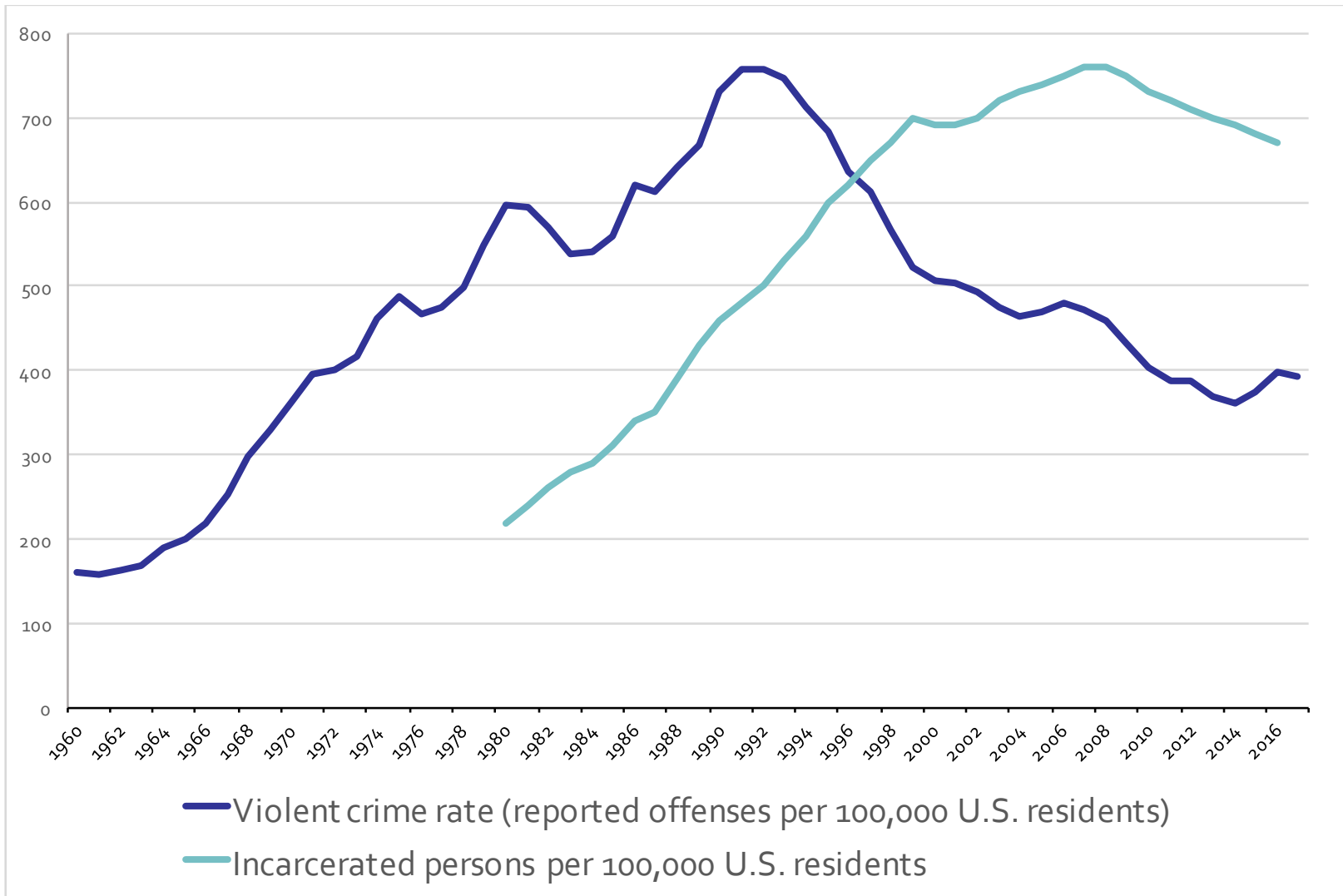
THE NEW MOVEMENT TO TRANSFORM AMERICAN  
PROSECUTION AND END MASS INCARCERATION

EMILY BAZELON

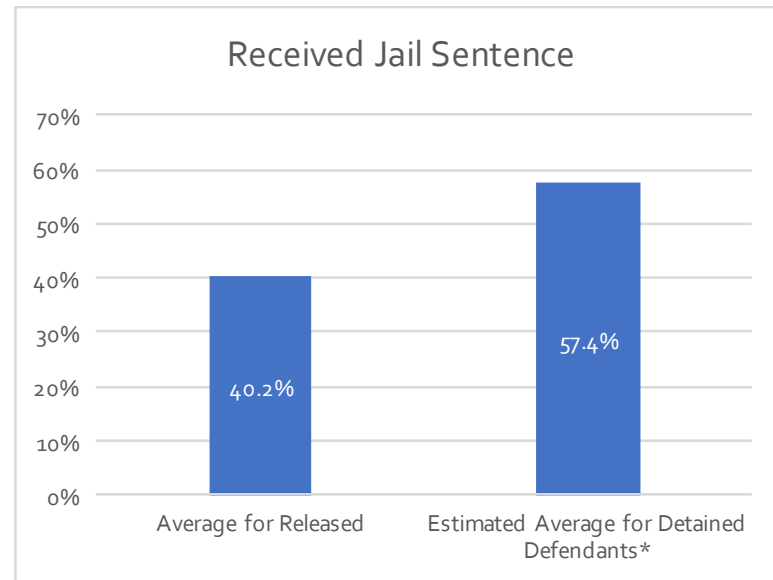
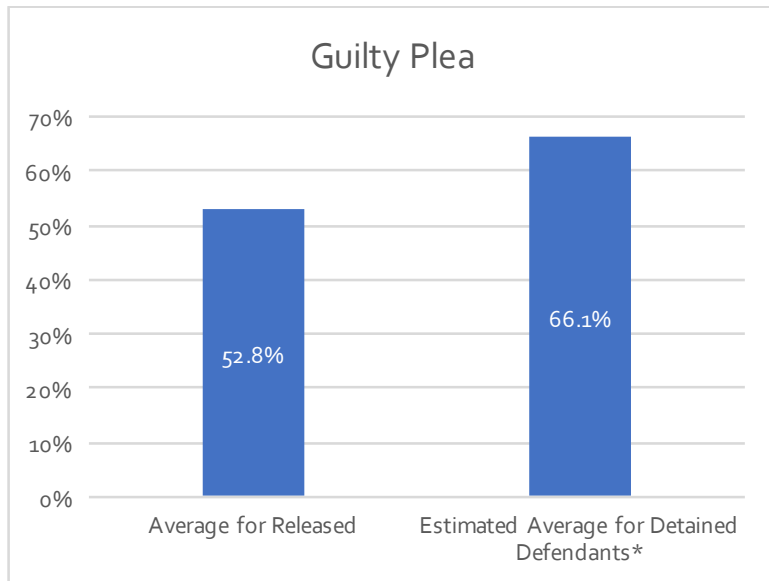
# U.S. Prison Population: 1925–2016



# Crime and Incarceration Rates

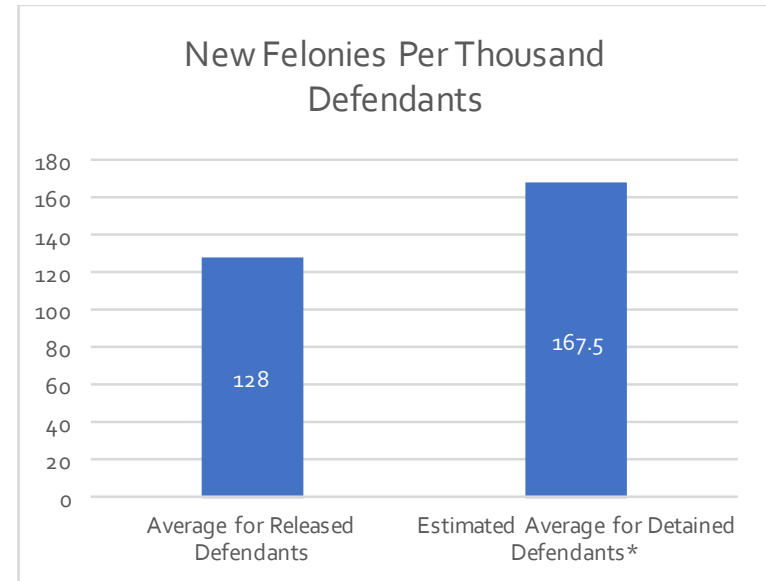
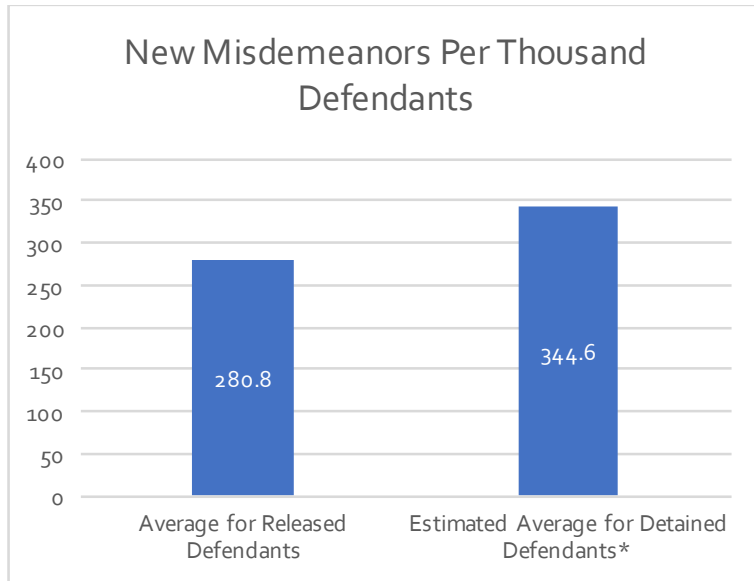


# Jail Before Trial → Guilty Pleas



\*Average for detained defendants represents the estimated effect of detention after controlling for offense type, wealth, criminal history, and bail amount. – Quattrone Center study of Harris County, TX

# Jail → More Crimes



20% more likely to commit a new misdemeanor

30% more likely to commit a new felony

If 40,000 people who couldn't make \$500 bail had been released,  
the state could have prevented 4,000 new crimes.

\*Average for detained defendants represents the estimated effect of detention after controlling for offense type, wealth, criminal history, and bail amount. – Quattrone Center study of Harris County, TX

# Who Is a Criminal?

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CAN'T PAY...



THE  
**\$15**  
TOLL

1st offense

**\$0**  
(just mail in your payment)

Repeat offenses

Registration  
suspended until  
total due is paid



THE  
**\$3.50**  
PARKING  
METER

**\$65**

Car booted or  
towed unless total  
due is paid



THE  
**\$2.75**  
SUBWAY  
FARE

**\$100**

**ARRESTED,  
A CRIMINAL RECORD,  
& POSSIBLE JAIL TIME**

Is this fair? Low-income New Yorkers need a break on the MTA.

**NYC needs #FairFares**

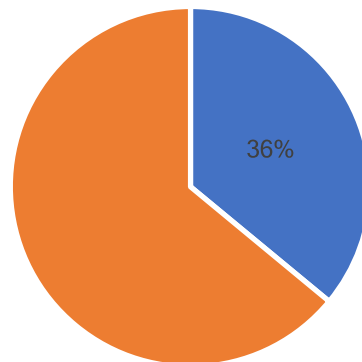
# Who Is a Criminal?

## WEAPONS ARRESTS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

32.2   
*White*

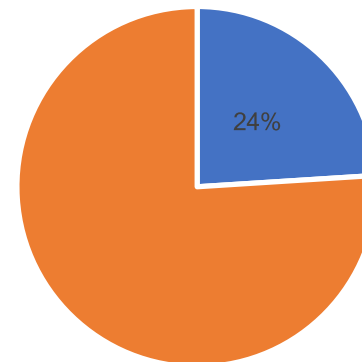
129   
*Black*

Whites



■ % gun ownership (2017)

Blacks



■ % gun ownership (2017)

# Mental Illness and Incarceration

**37%** of people in state and federal prisons have been diagnosed with a mental illness

**44%** of people in locally-run jails have been diagnosed with a mental illness



# Mental Illness and Incarceration

**66%** of people in federal prisons reported not receiving any mental health care while incarcerated

**27%** of people jailed 3+ times within a year who reported having a moderate or serious mental illness

# Mental Illness and Incarceration

**25%** of people experience "serious psychological distress" in jails

In Connecticut, **21%** of people in prison have a serious mental illness.

“Each new community  
non-profit accounted for  
a drop of about 1% in a  
city’s murder rate.”

— Patrick Sharkey, NYU sociologist

**CHARGED**  
by EMILY BAZELON

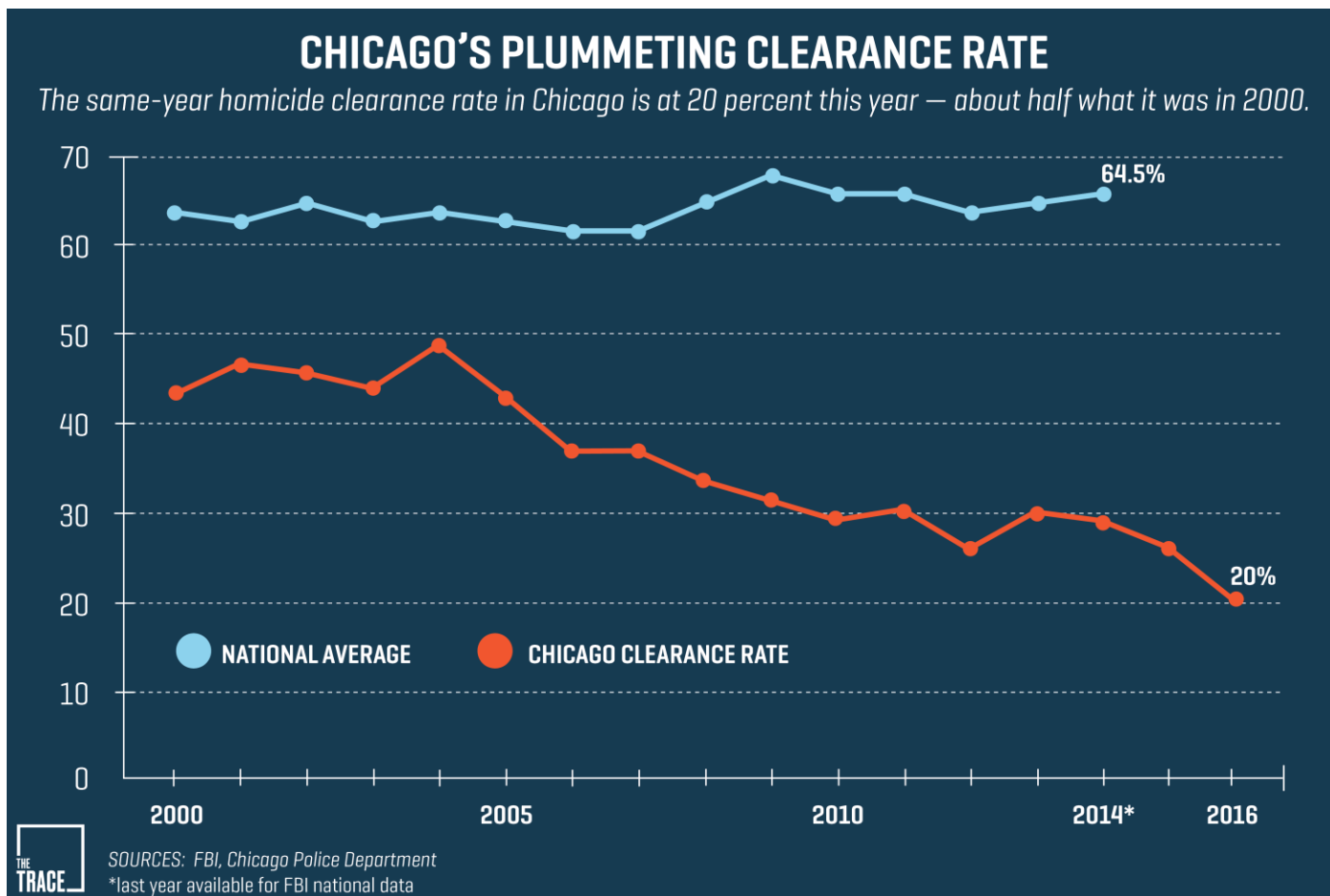
# Policing and Mental Health

**27%** of police shootings in 2015 involved a mental health crisis

**How many 911 calls could be handled by community responders instead of the police?** Estimates range from about 20% in Detroit to 38% in Seattle and Portland.

# The Solve Rate

## Homicide Clearances



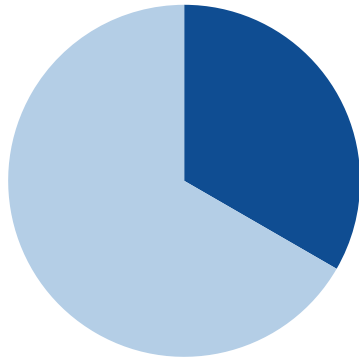
"The power of prosecutors is the missing piece for explaining how the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. has QUINTUPLED since the 1980s, to a total of almost 2.2 million."



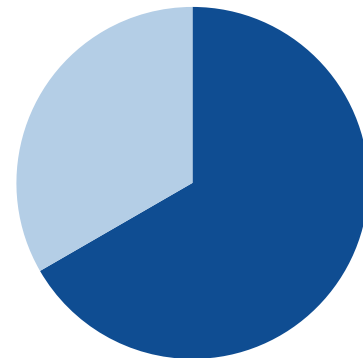
from  
**CHARGED**  
by EMILY BAZELON

# Charging

20 years ago, district attorneys brought felony charges against **one out of three** people who got arrested.



Now the figure for felony arrests is **two out of every three people** who are arrested.



-- John Pfaff, Fordham Law School

# Ratcheting Up Punishment

By 1994, every state in the country enacted at least one mandatory minimum sentence.

Criminal codes expanded, allowing prosecutors to stack multiple charges for a single offense.

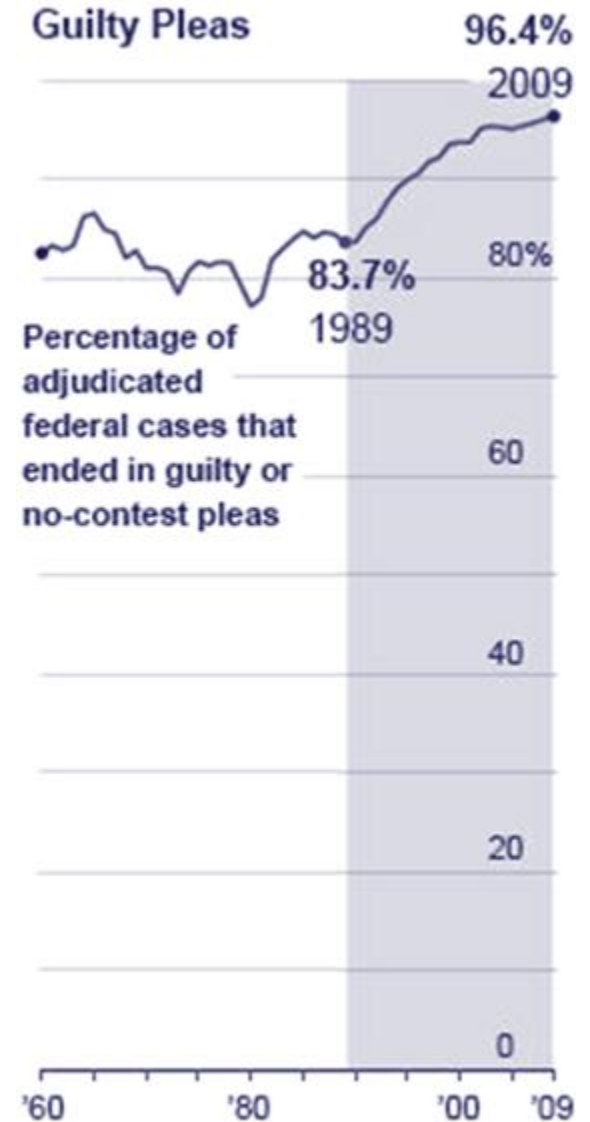


# The Vanishing Trial

In the 1970s, about one in 12 people accused of a felony went to trial in state courts.

Today, only one in 40 people facing felony charges go to trial.

**More than 95% of criminal convictions are obtained through guilty pleas.**



“We, the people, elect  
state prosecutors,  
and that means their  
power is our power.”

from  
**CHARGED**  
by EMILY BAZELON

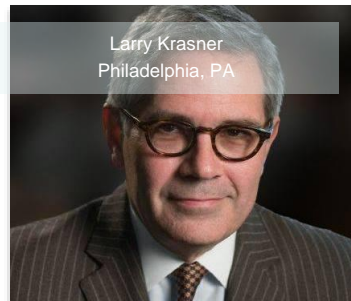
# The Power of Cities

“If progressives succeeded in taking over just 125 DA offices across the country, they could change how prosecution works for about HALF the country’s population.”

—Carissa Hessick & Michael Morse,  
UNC’s Prosecutors and Politics Project

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by EMILY BAZELON

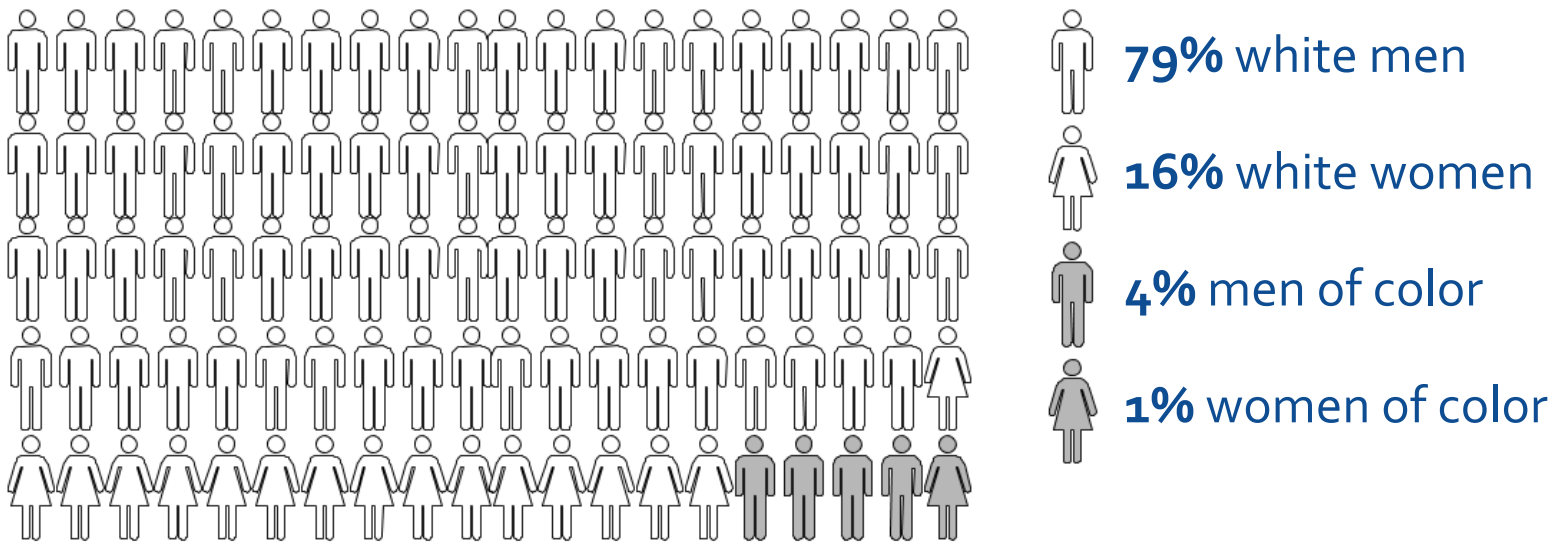
# The New D.A.s



Rachael Rollins  
Suffolk County (Boston), MA

Beth McCann  
Denver, CO

# Prosecutors by Race and Gender



# Political Party and Race of the DA

Elect a Republican district attorney →  
prison admissions rise ~ 20% over next 2 years.

Elect a non-white district attorney →  
prison admissions fall ~ 10% over same period.

- No significant effects on crime or arrest rates.

# Crime and Incarceration Rates

