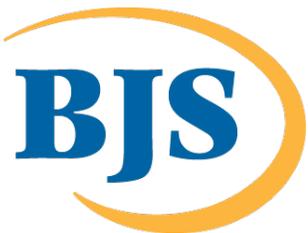




U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Presented by
Danielle Kaeble
BJS Statistician
August 20, 2019

Research Update from BJS:
*Source and Use of Firearms Involved
in Crimes and Time Served in State
Prison, 2016*



BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

Outline of Presentation

- Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI), 2016: Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes
 - Where did people in prison obtain the firearms that they used in the crime for which they are serving time? How did they use the firearms?
- Time Served in State Prison, 2016
 - What was the average time served in state prison for prisoners released in 2016? What offenses were they serving for?



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Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI), 2016

Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes



BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

Background of SPI

- Cross-sectional survey of the U.S. prison population
 - Formerly known as the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities
- Conducted periodically among a sample of state and federal prisoners
 - State prisons: 1974, 1979, 1986, 1991, 1997, 2004, and 2016
 - Federal prisons: 1991, 1997, 2004, and 2016
- Produces national estimates; separate estimates of state and federal prisoners

Topics covered in the 2016 SPI

- Demographics
- Criminal Justice
 - Offense and sentence
 - Incident characteristics
 - Criminal history
 - Weapons/firearms
- Socio-Economic Status
 - Education
 - Employment history
 - Personal income
 - Housing/living status
 - Children
- Health and Healthcare
 - Physical
 - Mental/emotional
 - Substance dependence/abuse
 - Treatment
- Prison Rule Violations
 - Number; type
 - Disciplinary action
- Prison Programs and Work Assignments
 - Type (e.g., job training, education)
 - Motivation
 - Perceived value

Source and Use of Firearms

- Describes firearm possession during the crime for which prisoners were serving time and by type of offense; how the firearm was used during the crime; type of firearm possessed; and methods, sources, and processes of obtaining the firearm.
- Available at bjs.gov

U.S. Department of Justice
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Bureau of Justice Statistics



JANUARY 2019

SPECIAL REPORT

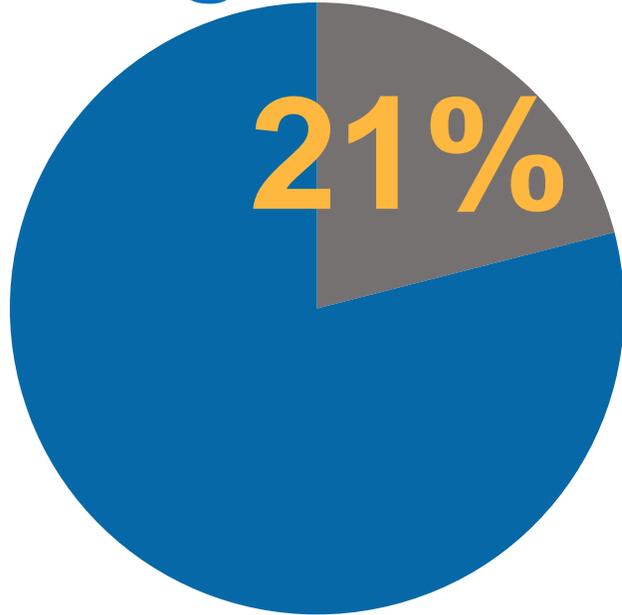
NCJ 251776

Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016

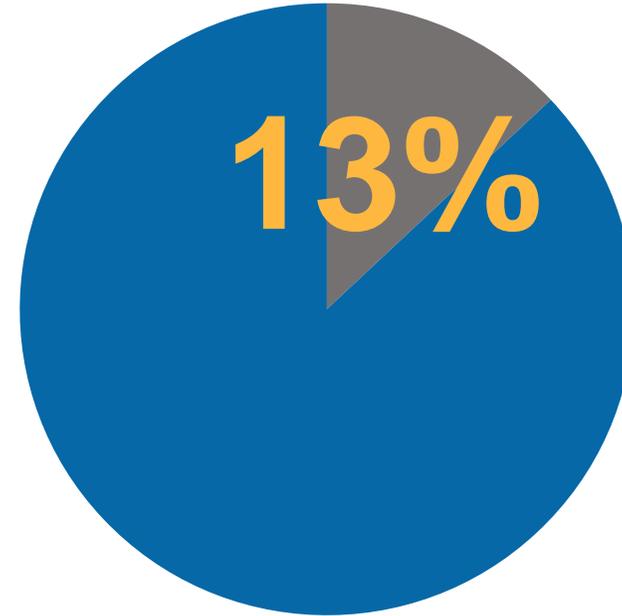
Mariel Alper, Ph.D., and Lauren Glaze, *BJS Statisticians*



Possession and Use of Firearms During Offense



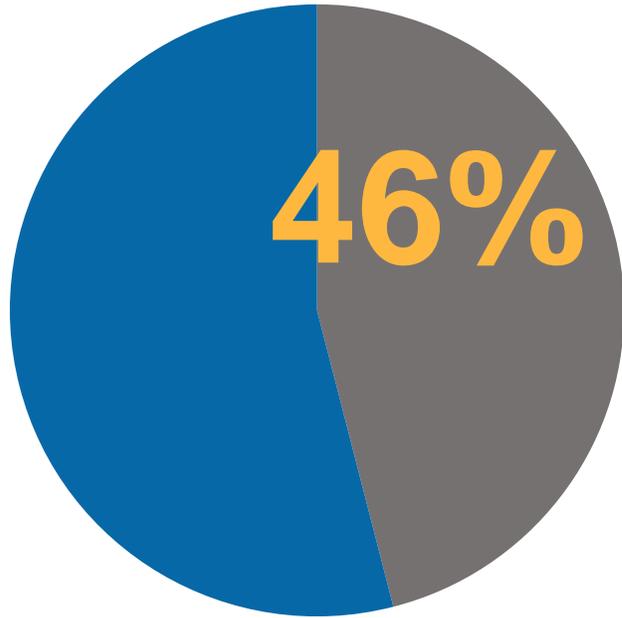
State and federal prisoners possessed or carried a firearm when they committed the offense for which they were serving time in prison



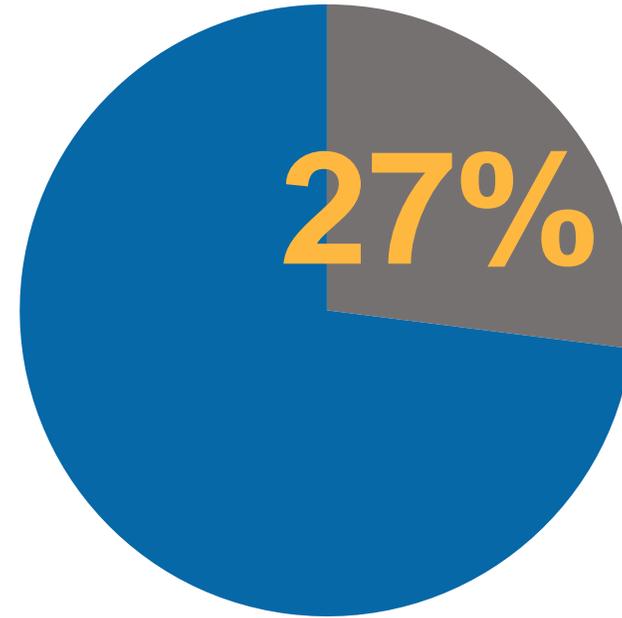
State and federal prisoners used a firearm by showing, pointing, or discharging it during the offense for which they were imprisoned

Use of Firearms During Offense

Among the 21% of **state** prisoners who possessed or carried a firearm when they committed the offense for which they were serving time in prison—



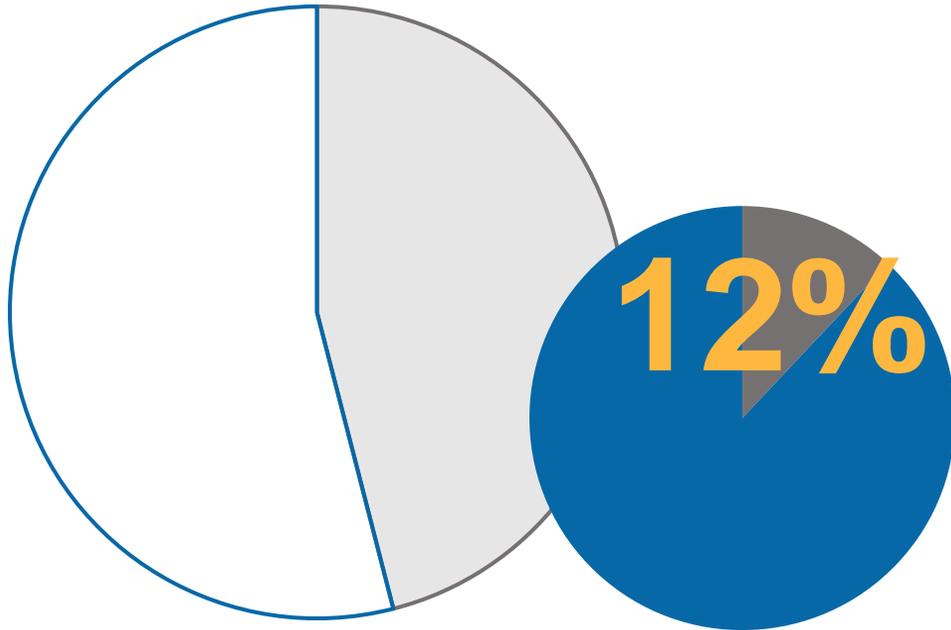
Discharged the firearm during the offense



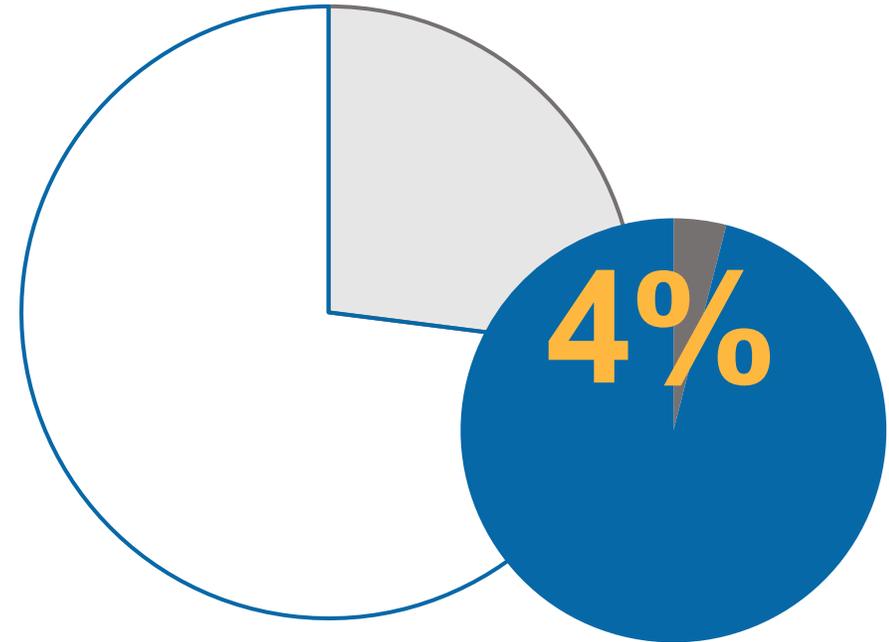
Killed a victim during the offense

Use of Firearms During Offense

Among the 20% of **federal** prisoners who possessed or carried a firearm when they committed the offense for which they were serving time in prison—



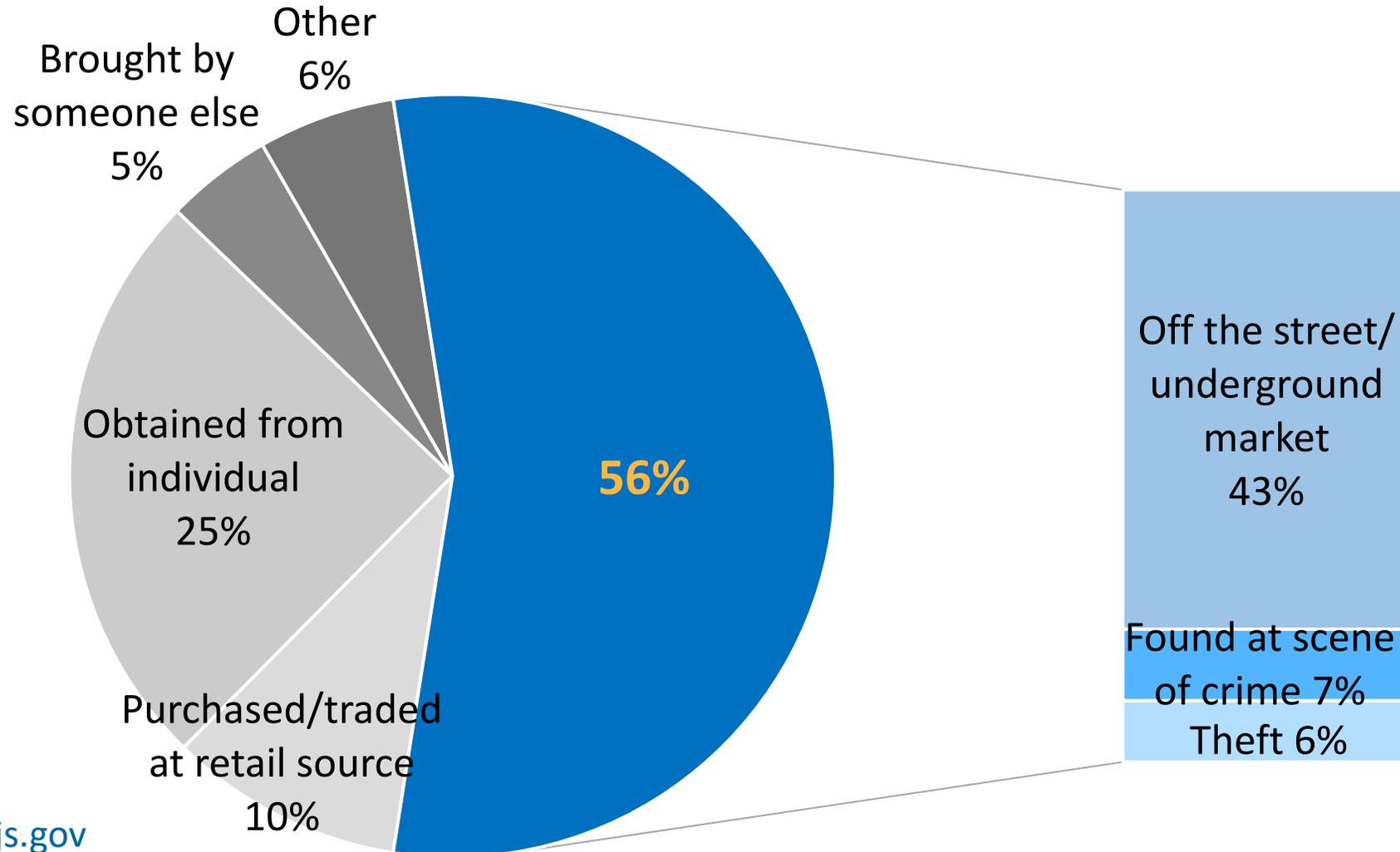
Discharged the firearm during the offense



Killed a victim during the offense

Source of Firearms

Among state and federal prisoners who possessed or carried a firearm when they committed the offense for which they were serving time in prison, the source of the firearm was—





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Time Served in State Prison, 2016

Overview

Background on the National Corrections Reporting Program

Methodology for report

Report results

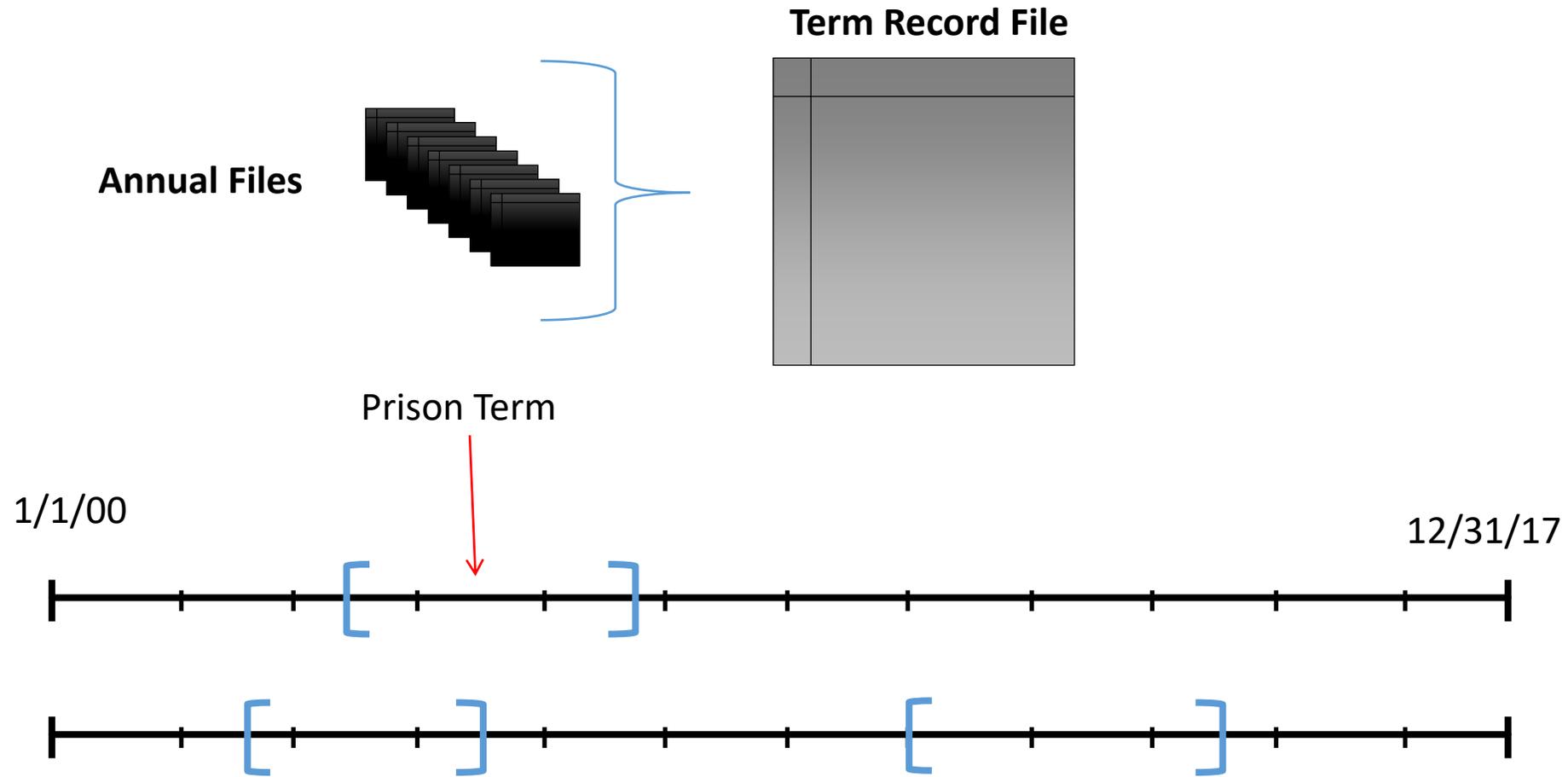
National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP)

- BJS has administered NCRP since 1983
- Annual voluntary data collection of administrative records on individual prisoners submitted by state departments of corrections
- Collects offender-level data on admissions and releases from state prisons and post-confinement community supervision
- Abt Associates serves as data collection agent

Files submitted each year by respondents

- Prison admissions
- Prison releases
- Prison custody at year-end
- Admissions to post-confinement community supervision
- Releases from post-confinement community supervision

Annual Submissions Combined into a Single Term File for Analysis



Key NCRP Data Elements

Offender ID Numbers

- Includes a unique Offender ID, State ID, FBI Number, and SSN

Offender Characteristics

- Includes name, DOB, race, ethnicity, gender, education level, veteran status, last known address

Sentence characteristics

- Includes county where sentence was imposed, offenses, sentence length

Admission date and type

Release date and type

Methodology for report

- **Includes in analysis:**

- release records from 2016
- prisoners' initial release for sentenced offense
- prisoners with a sentence of at least 1 year
- prisoner records with known values for offense type and time served in prison

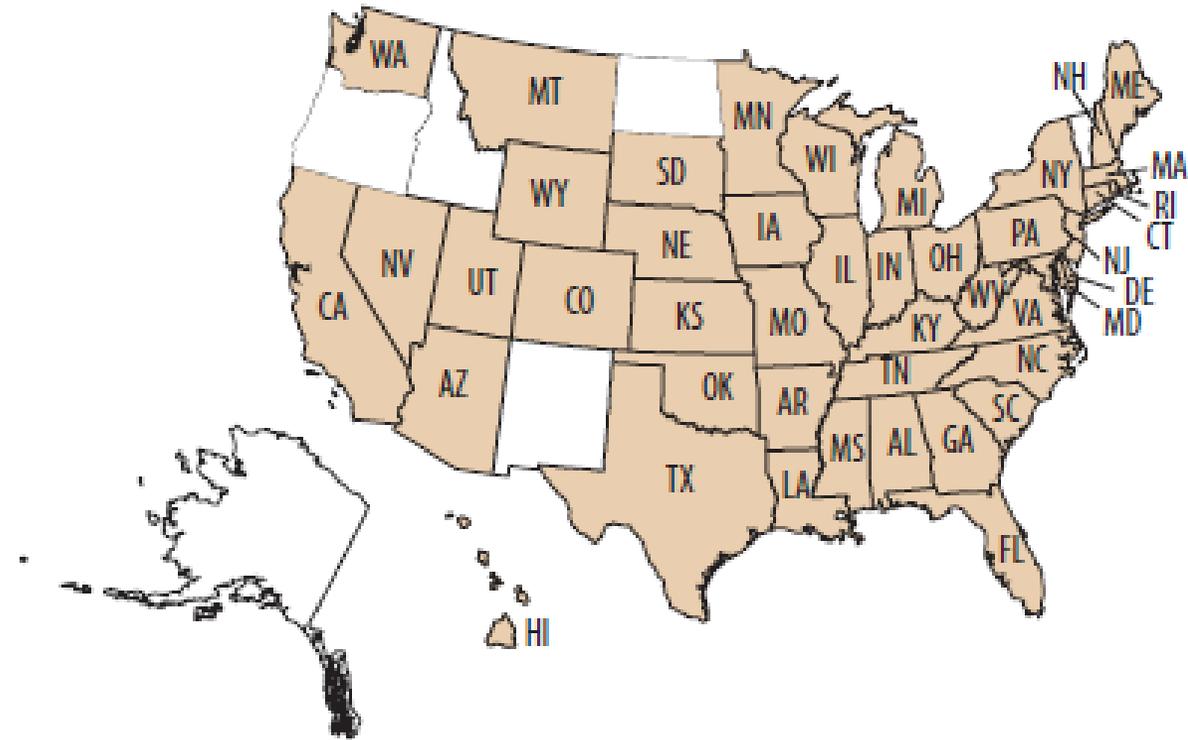
- **Excludes prisoners released by means of:**

- transfer
- appeal
- retainer
- escape

Report Findings

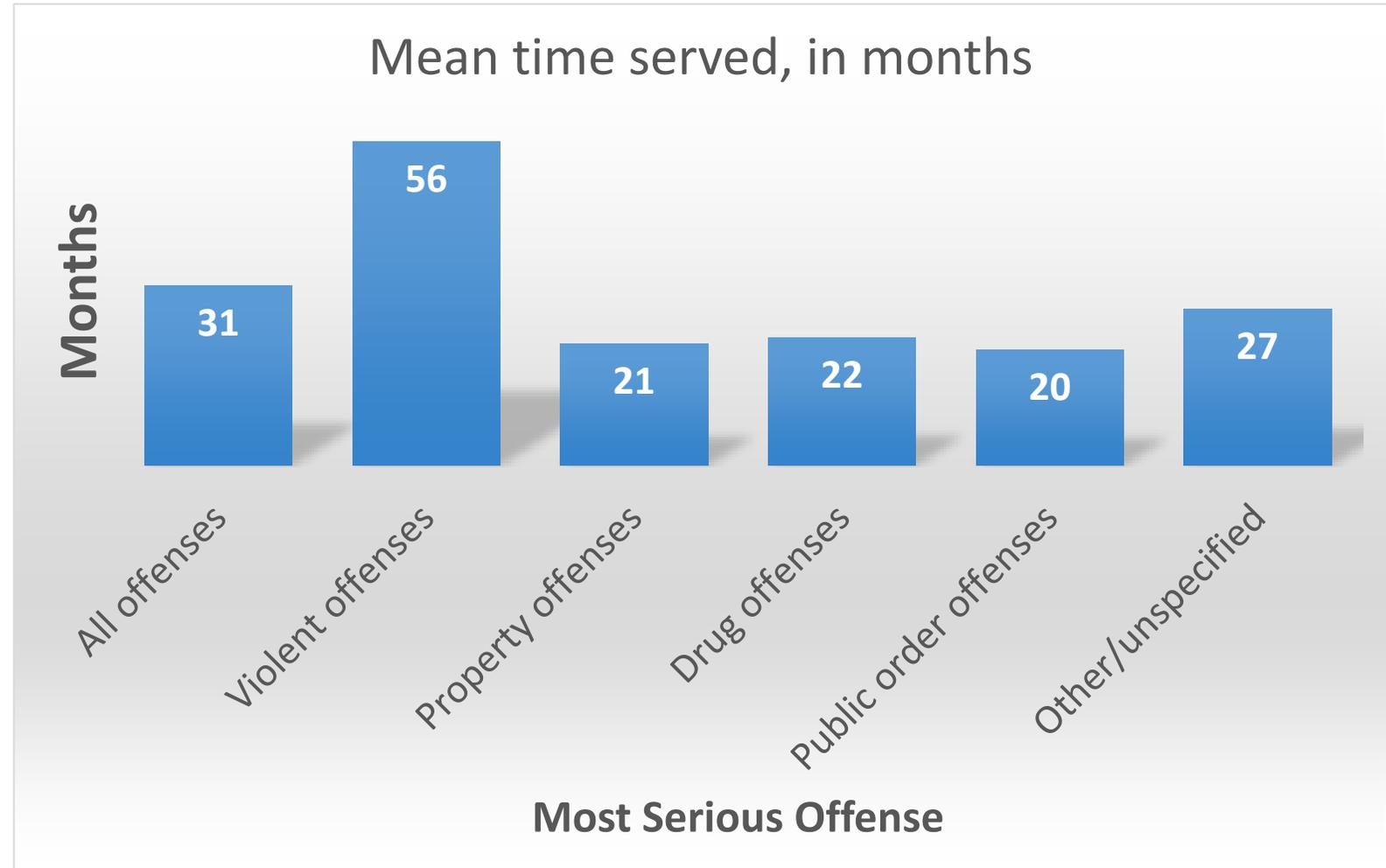
- The average time served by state prisoners released in 2016, from initial admission to initial release, was 2.6 years, and the median time served was 1.3 years.
- Persons serving less than 1 year in state prison represented 40% of first releases in 2016.
- On average, state prisoners serving time for property, drug, or public-order offenses served less than 2 years before initial release.

States included in analysis of time served, 2016



Findings continued

- Based on 377,839 releases in 2016
- Violent offenses made up almost 30% of releases
- Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter made up less than 2% of releases
- Drug offenses made up almost 25% of releases



Distribution of time served, by most serious offense, 2016

Time served at first release	All offenses	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order
Less than 6 months	18.1%	10.8%	20.7%	21.1%	21.6%
6 - 11.9 months	21.4%	13.5%	24.9%	24.0%	25.1%
1 - 1.9 years	25.0%	20.0%	27.2%	27.0%	27.3%
2 - 4.9 years	22.9%	27.5%	21.4%	21.4%	20.3%
5 - 9.9 years	8.1%	15.9%	4.5%	5.4%	4.6%
10 - 19.9 years	3.2%	8.6%	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%
20 years or longer	1.2%	3.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%

Deaths among state prisoners awaiting their first release

2,755

- Number of deaths in 2016 for first time release, based on data from 38 states

49%

- Almost half of all deaths were persons sentenced for murder or rape/sexual assault offenses

68%

- Persons in state prison for violent offenses made up almost 70% of deaths

NCRP Products and Data

- BJS Publications – www.bjs.gov
 - *Time Served in State Prison, 2016 NCJ 252205*
- Archived data at NACJD – www.icpsr.umich.edu
 - Selected variables public dataset
 - Full, de-identified restricted dataset (IRB required)
- NCRP Prisoners Webtool – Forthcoming!

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September 20, 2019**

