

# Recidivism of Adult Offenders in North Carolina

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NORTH CAROLINA SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION

PRESENTATION TO THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MARCH 9, 2017

# 2016 Adult Recidivism Report

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## Sample Description

- All offenders either placed on probation or released from prison in FY 2013

## Follow-Up Period

- Fixed two-year follow-up

## Criminal Justice Outcome Measures

- Arrests, convictions, and incarcerations (in state prison only) during follow-up
- Supplemental information on interim outcome measures for probationers

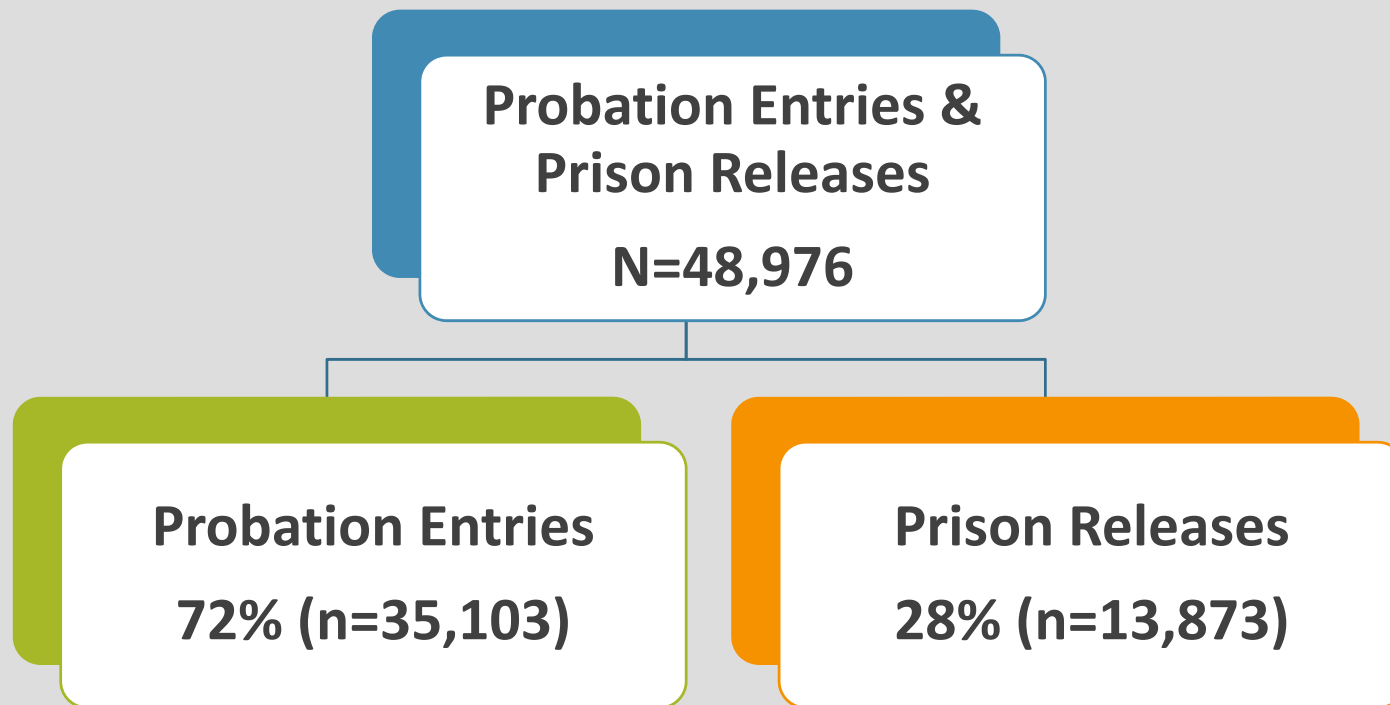
# FY 2013 Sample

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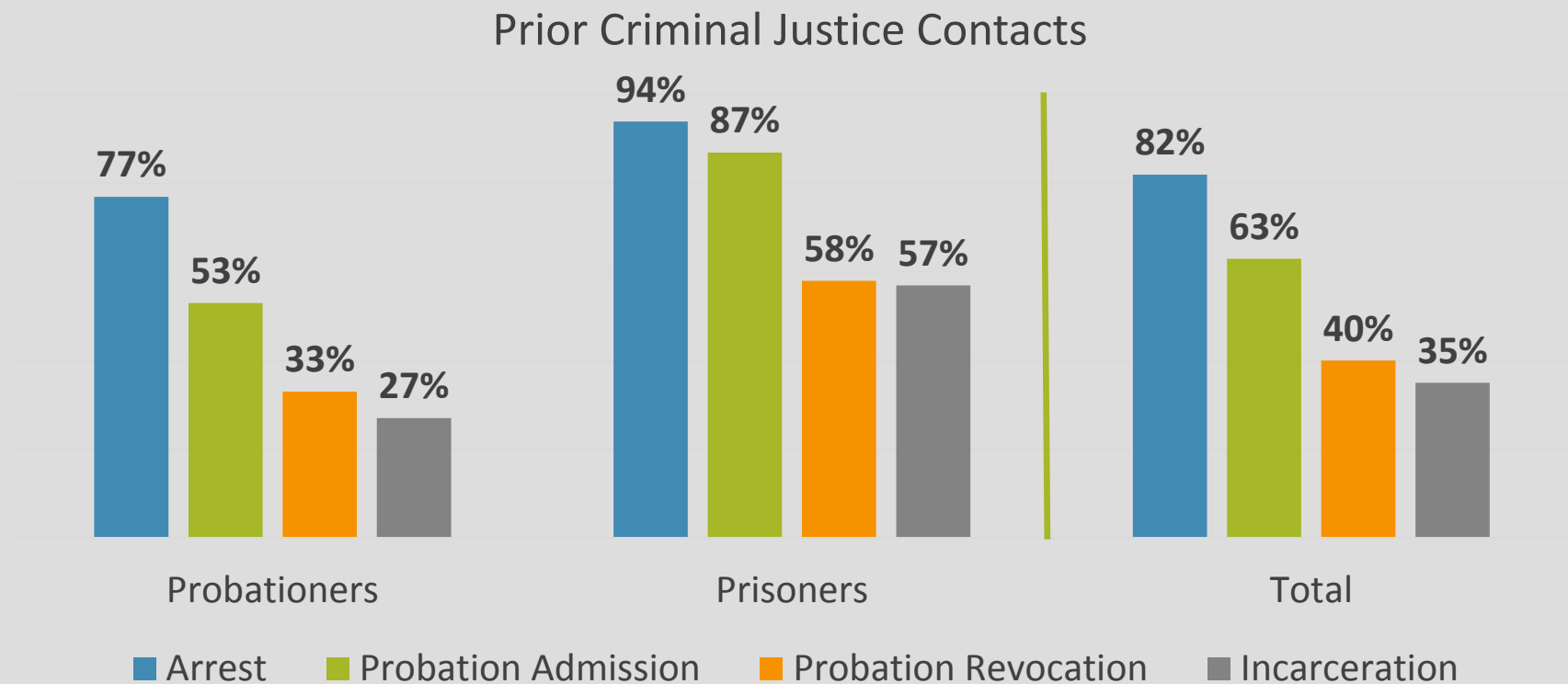
KEY FINDINGS

## Sample Profile

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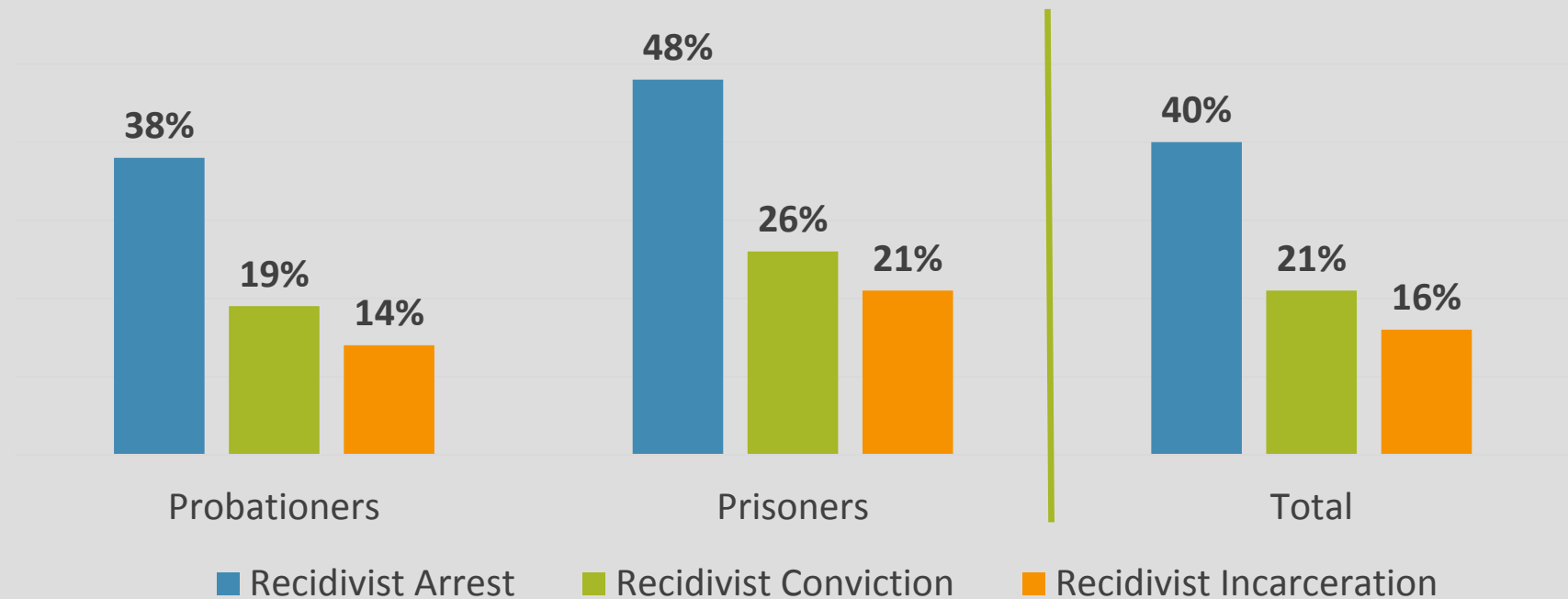


## Prisoners had more extensive prior criminal histories than probationers



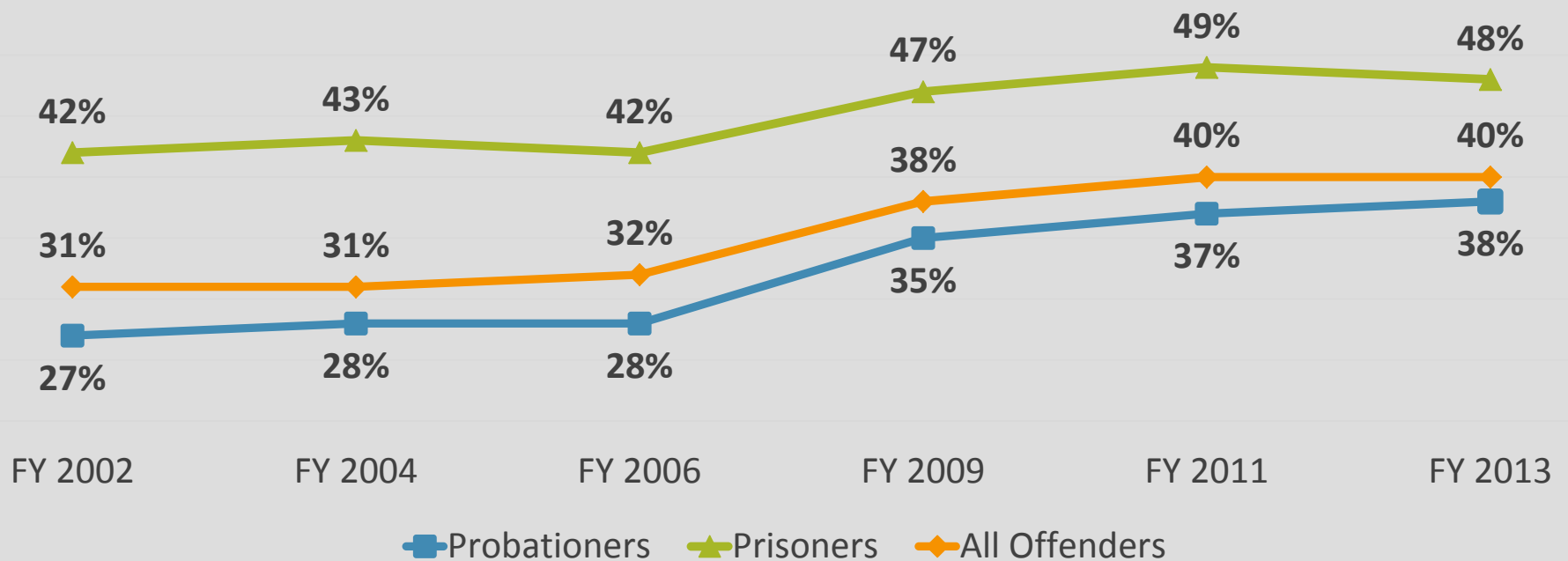
# Prisoners had higher recidivism rates than probationers

Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



Although higher than previous years, recidivist arrest rates have been stable over the past few years

Recidivist Arrest Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



## Recidivist incarceration rates have decreased as a result of the JRA





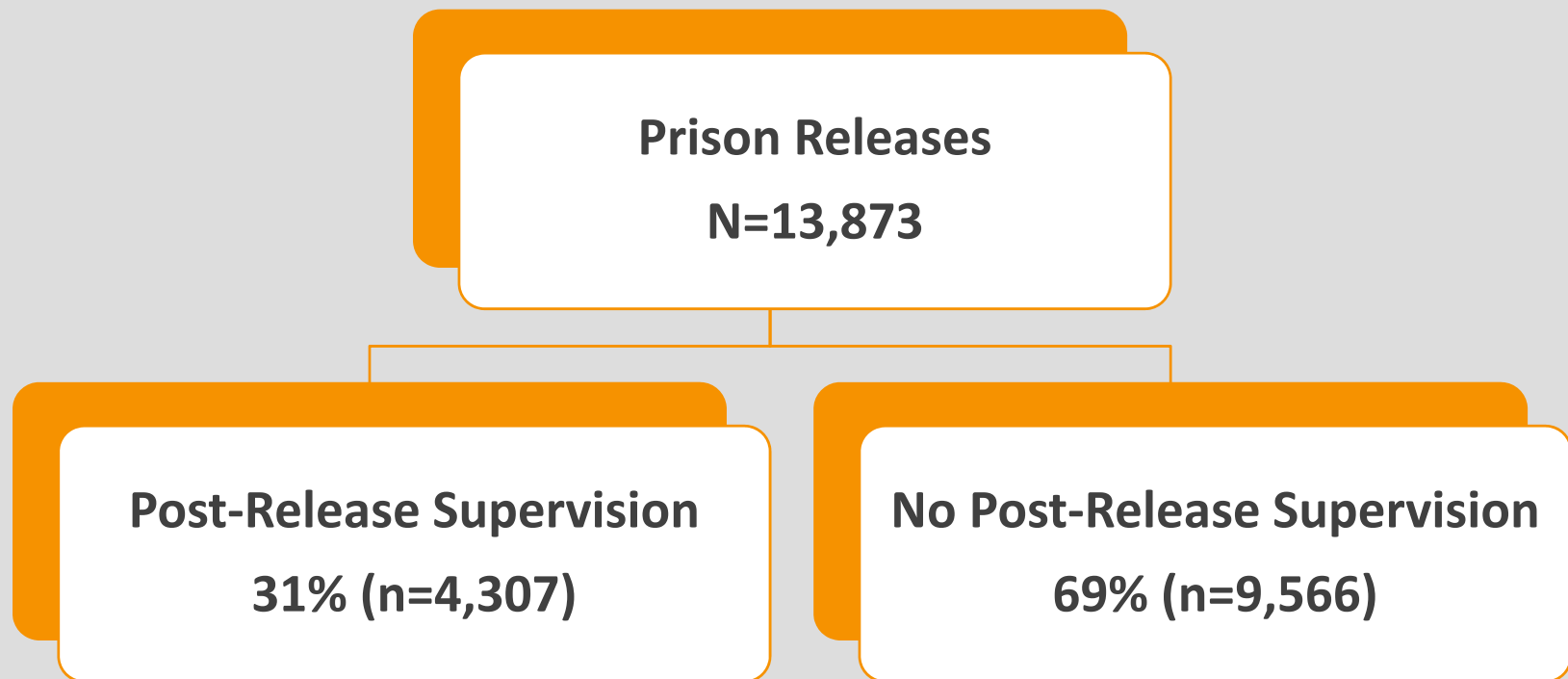
# Prison Releases

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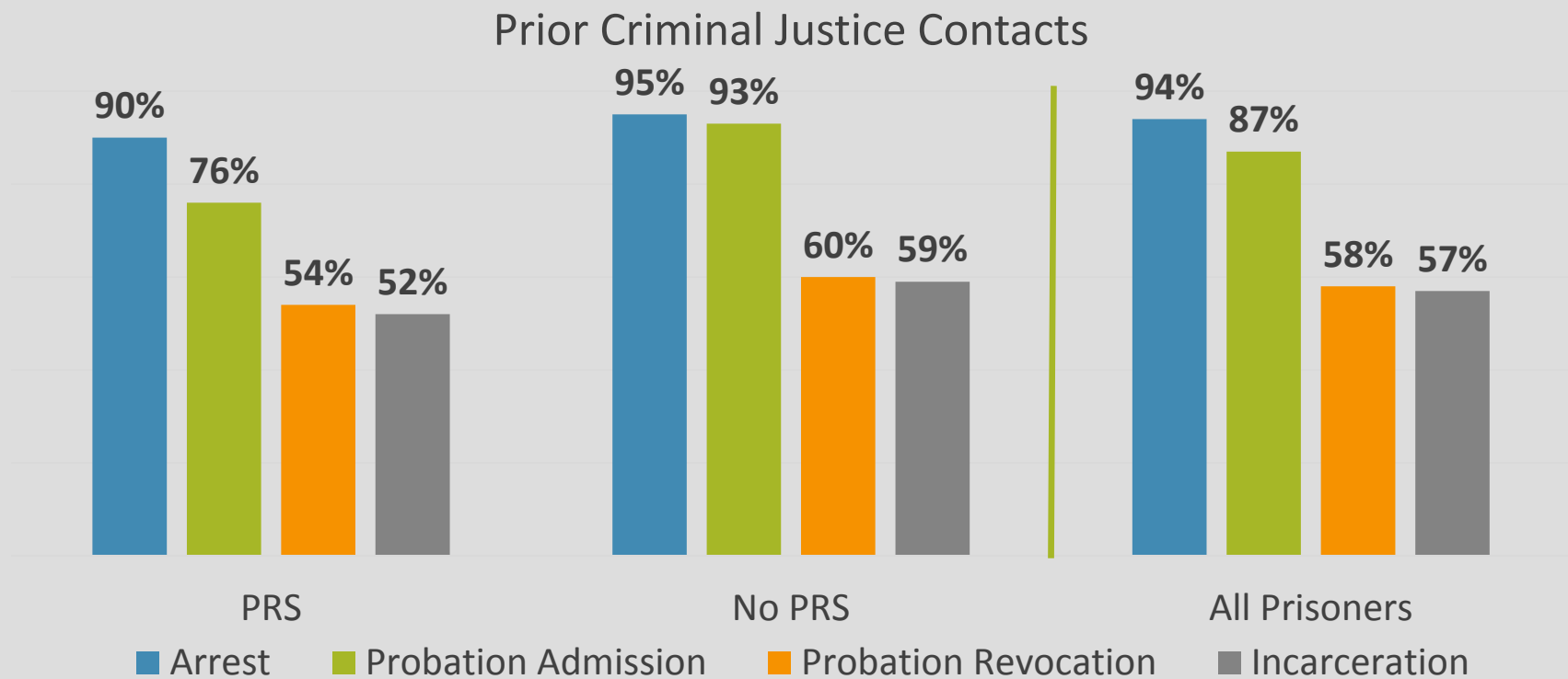
KEY FINDINGS

Very few prisoners (11%) were subject to the provisions of the JRA

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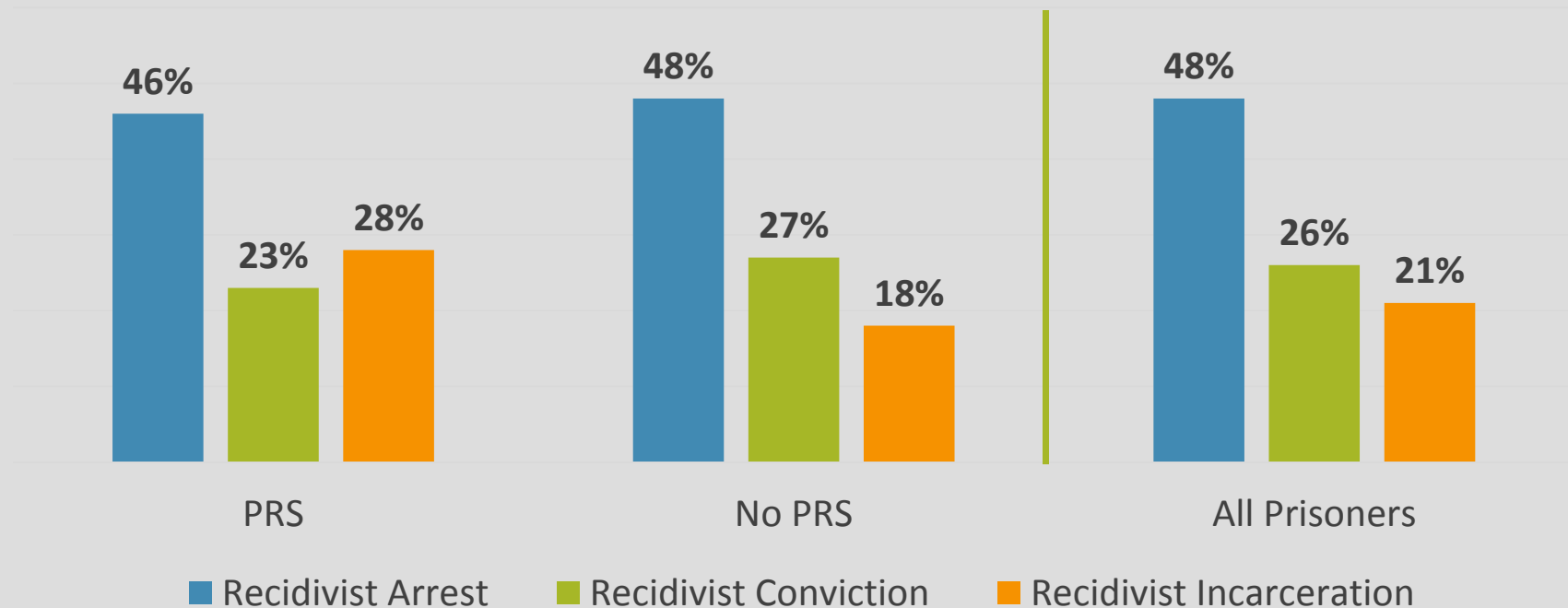


Prisoners released without PRS had more extensive prior criminal histories than those with PRS



Prisoners with PRS had slightly lower recidivist arrest and conviction rates, but higher recidivist incarceration rates, than those without PRS

Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



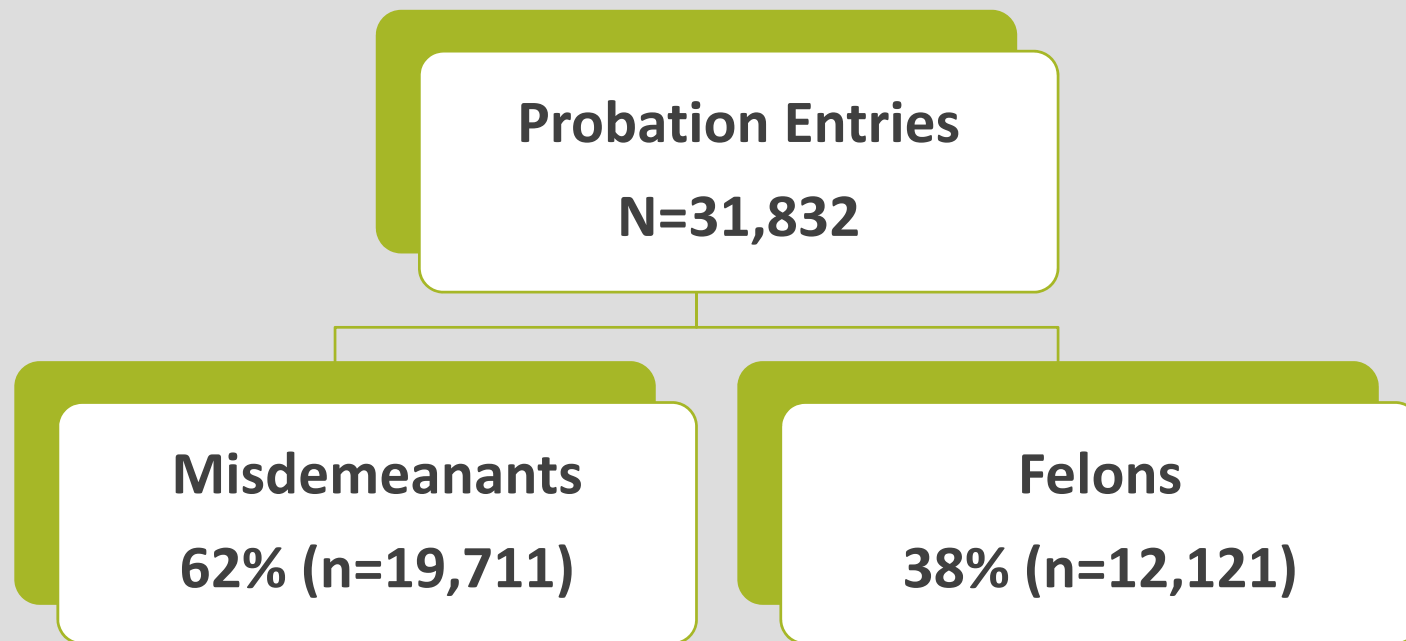
# Probation Entries

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KEY FINDINGS

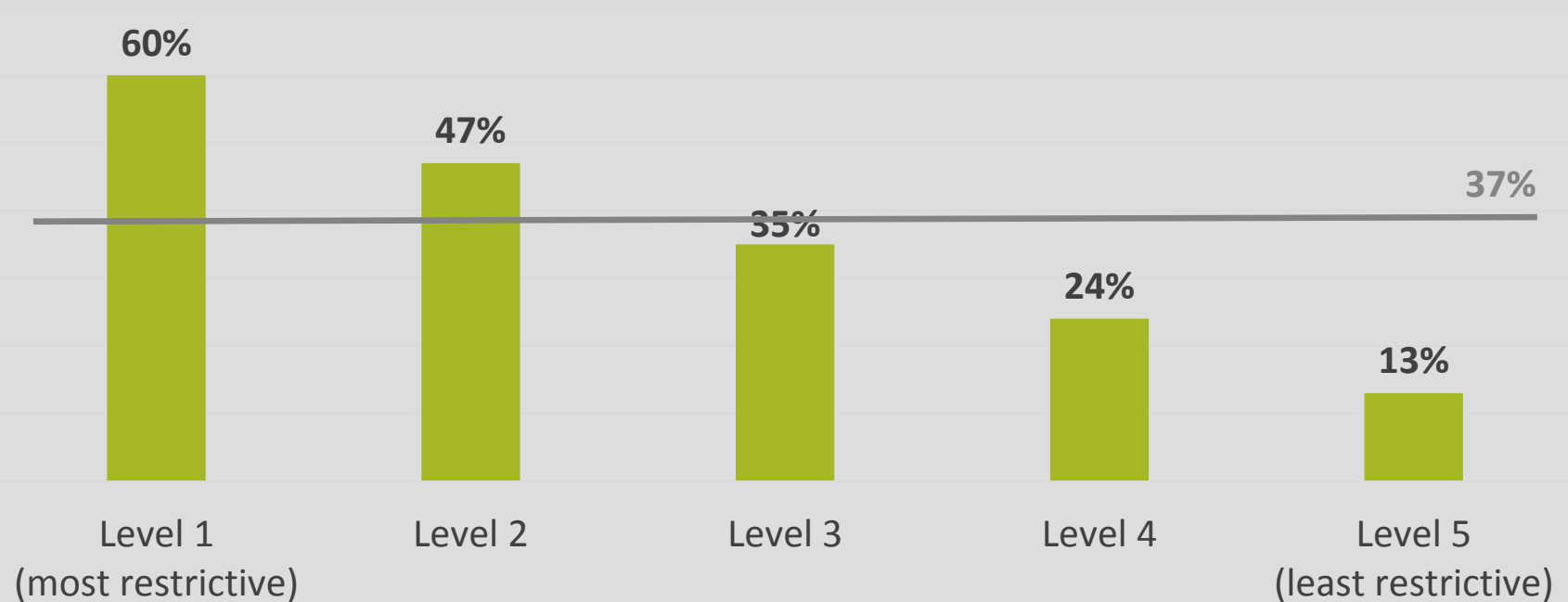
All probationers were subject to the provisions of the JRA

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## Recidivist arrest rates indicate probationers were assigned to appropriate supervision levels

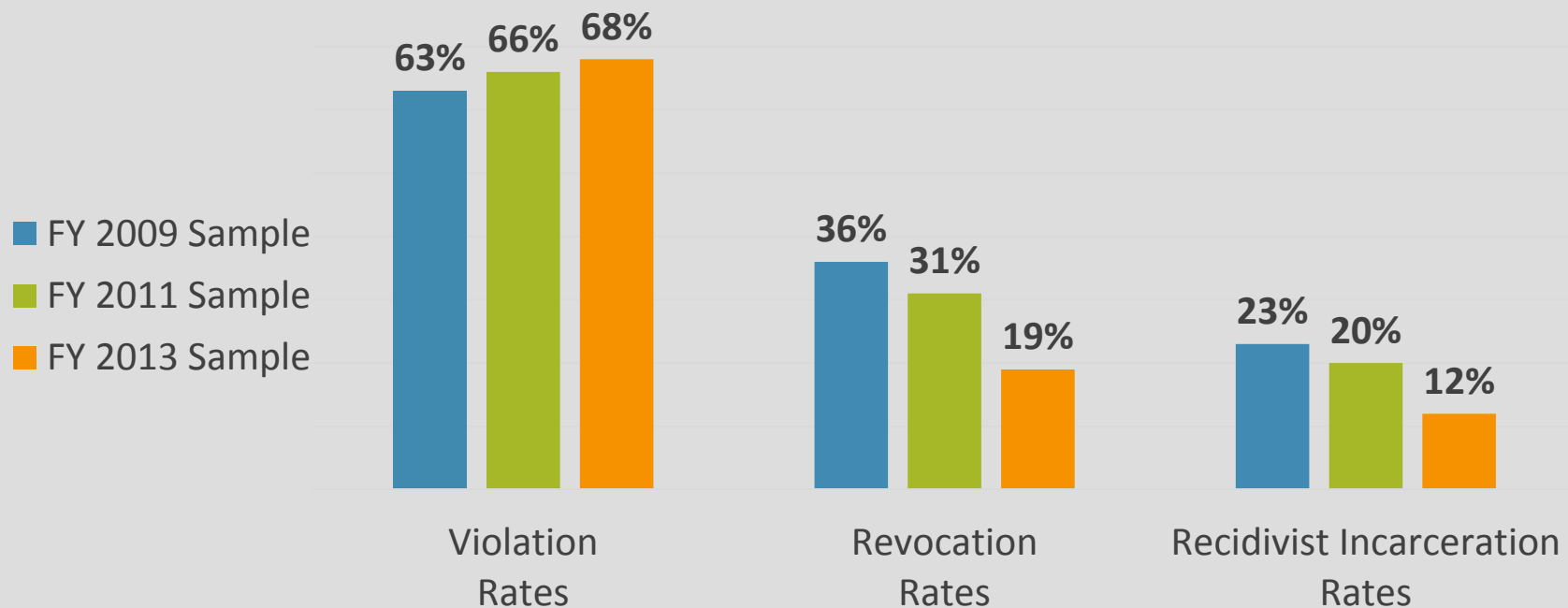
Recidivist Arrest Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



While violation rates have increased, revocation rates and recidivist incarceration rates have decreased as intended by the JRA

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Interim Outcomes: Two-Year Follow-Up



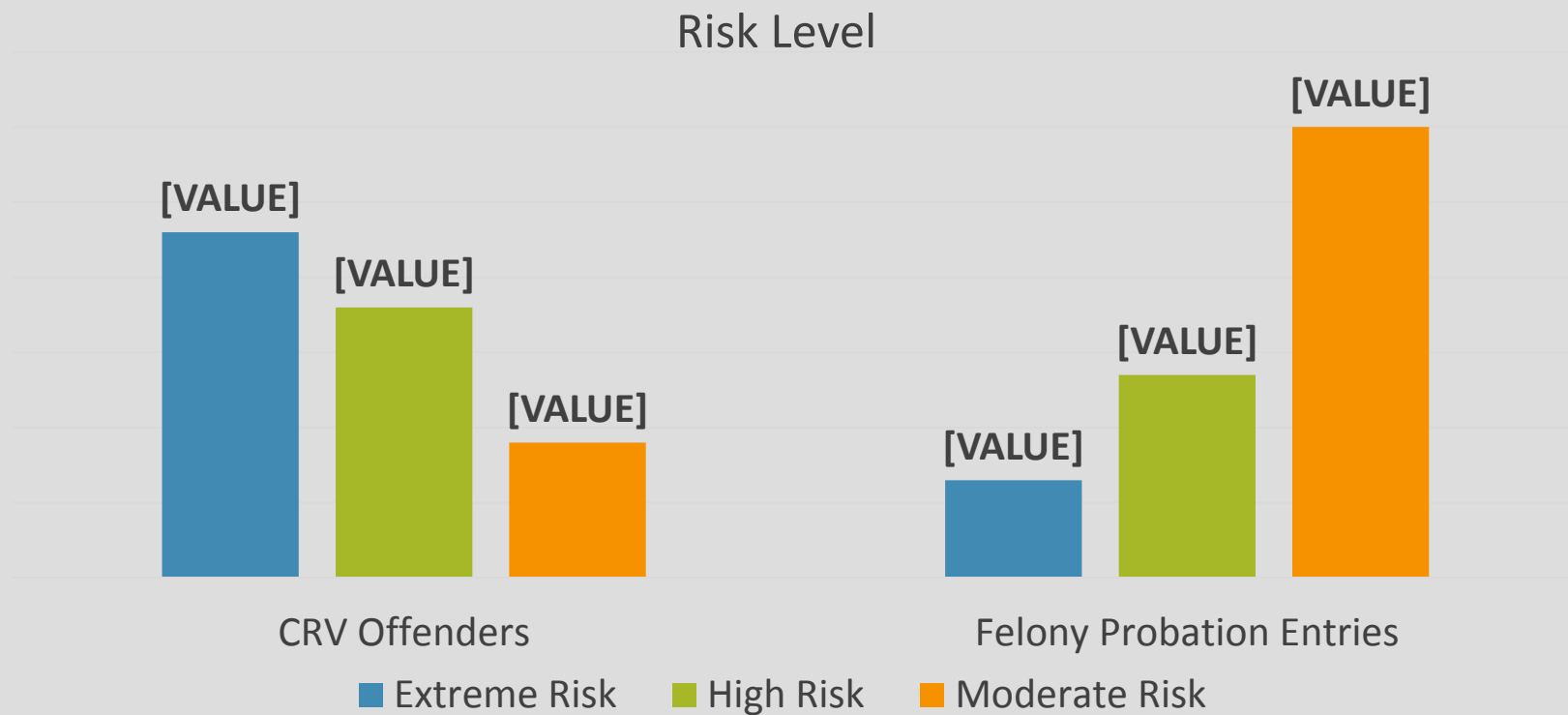


# CRV Offenders

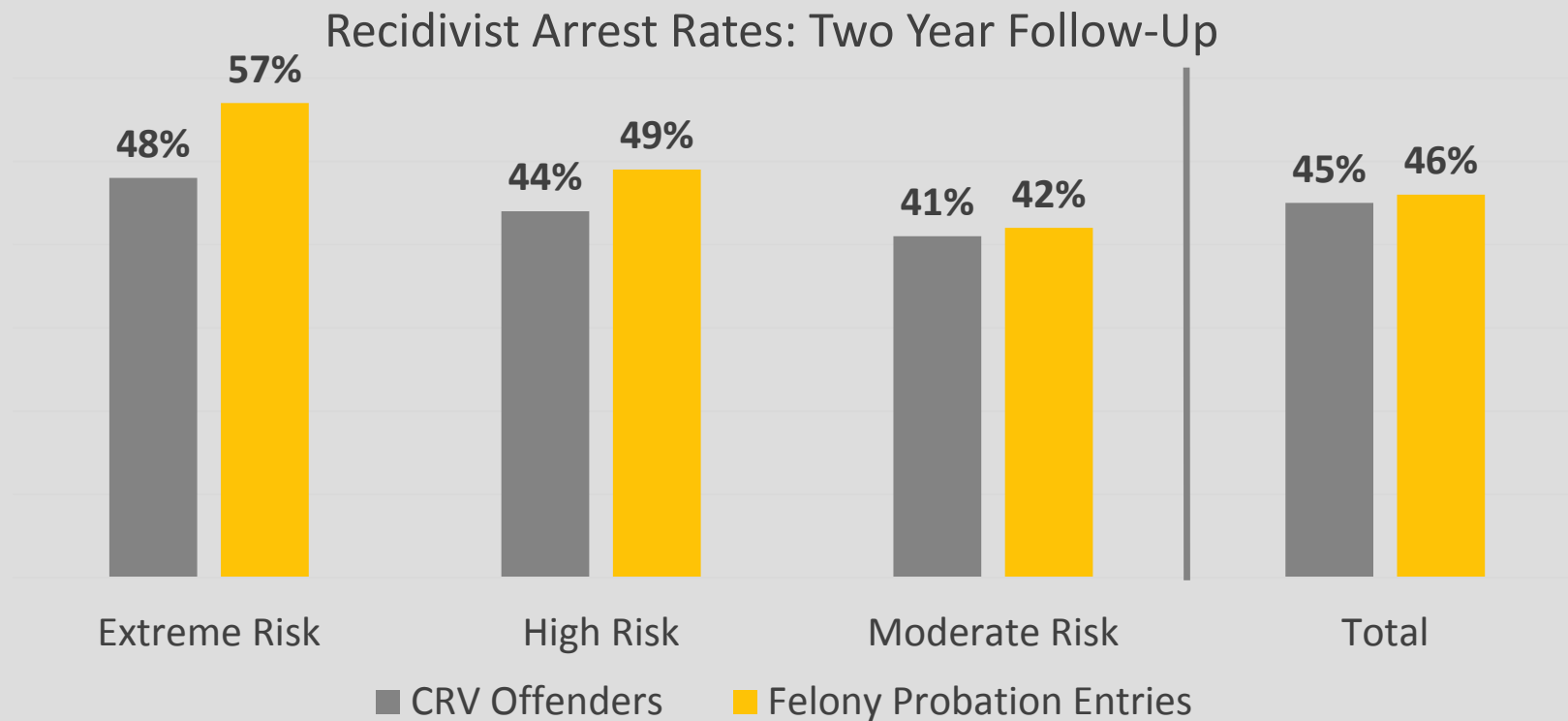
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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The majority of CRV offenders were assessed at the highest risk levels, while the majority of felony probationers were assessed at the moderate risk level



When controlling for risk, CRV offenders had lower recidivist arrest rates than similar felony probationers



## Conclusions

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Statewide recidivism rates have generally been consistent over the past decade

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Consistent findings over time point to the relative success of probationers compared to prisoners

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JRA has contributed to a decline in recidivist incarceration rate due to limits to revocations of probation and shifting misdemeanants out of prison

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Risk assessments are a valuable tool in predicting recidivism

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Expansion of PRS under JRA will have increasing importance in criminal justice system

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SPAC recidivism studies are limited by lack of statewide automated jail data

## Contact Us

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SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION

919-890-1470 | [WWW.NCSPAC.ORG](http://WWW.NCSPAC.ORG)