



# Trends in Sentences for Felony Drug Convictions in State Courts 1996 - 2006

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# National Judicial Reporting Program



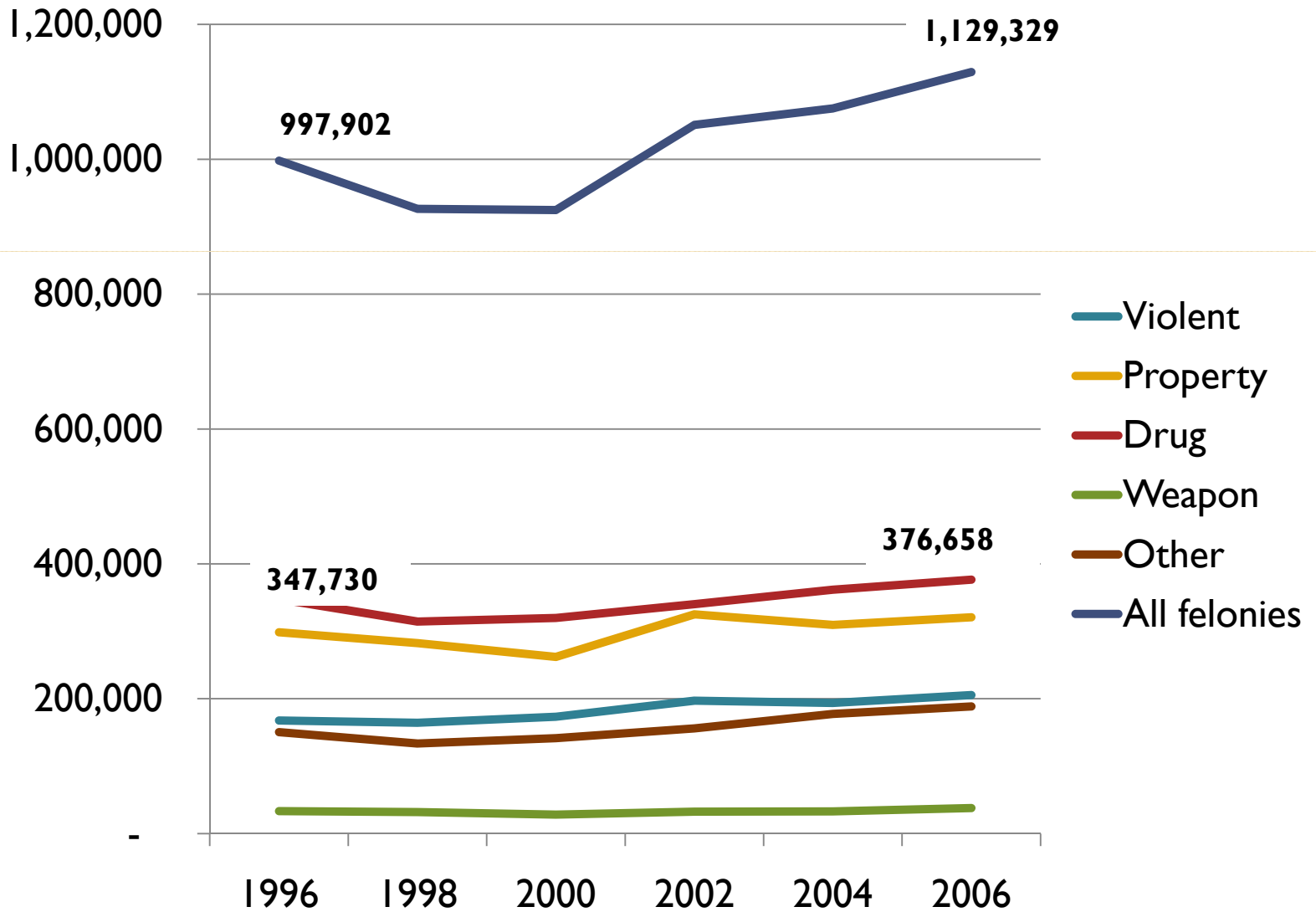
*Bureau of Justice Statistics*

- Collects felony sentencing data from a nationally representative stratified sample of state courts in 300 counties.
- The information collected includes: offender demographics; dates of arrest, conviction and sentencing data; mode of conviction and type of sentence imposed.
- Data have been collected every 2 years since 1986 by the Census Bureau.

# Felony sentences in state courts, 1996 - 2006



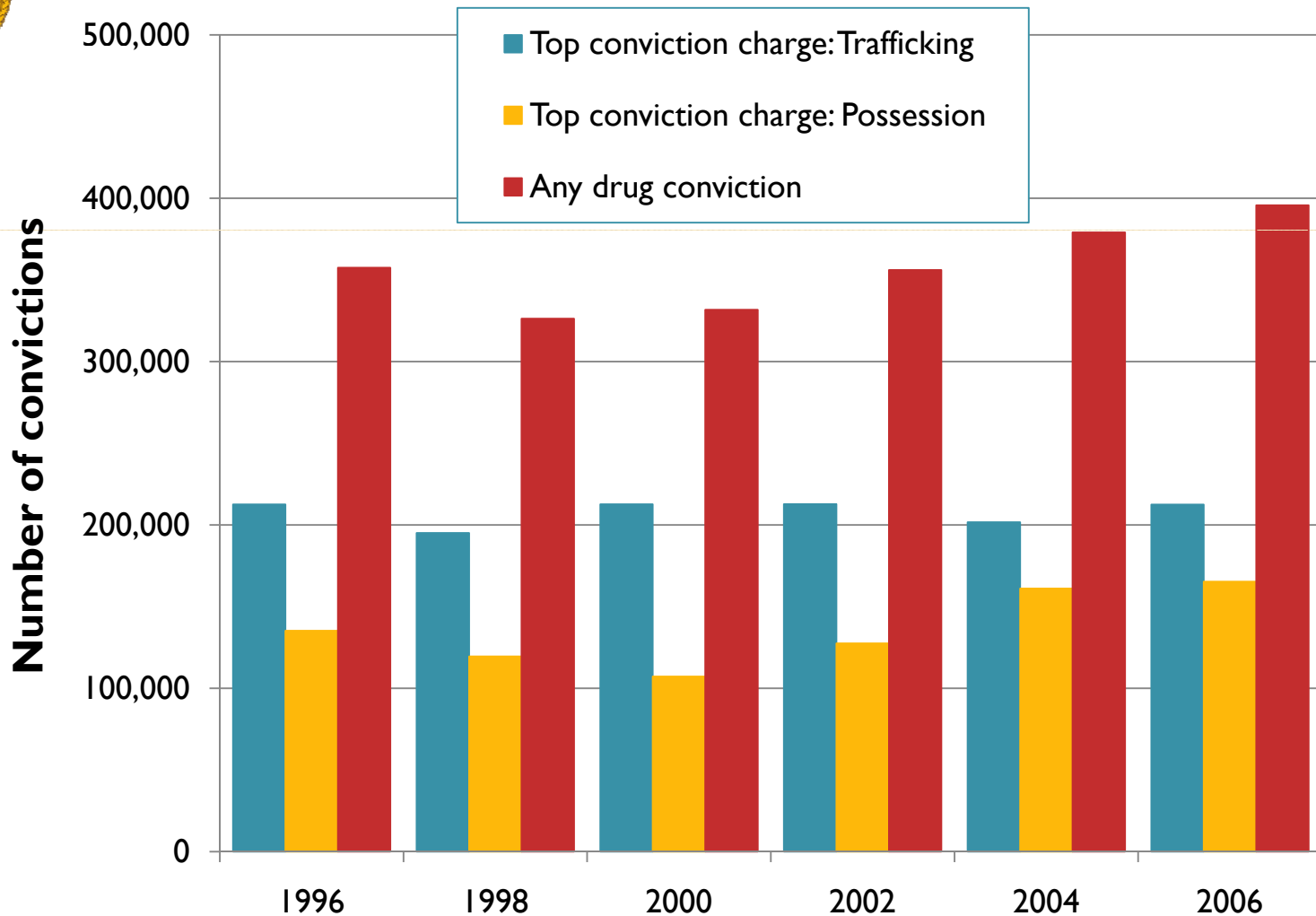
Bureau of Justice Statistics



# Felony drug convictions in state courts, 1996 - 2006



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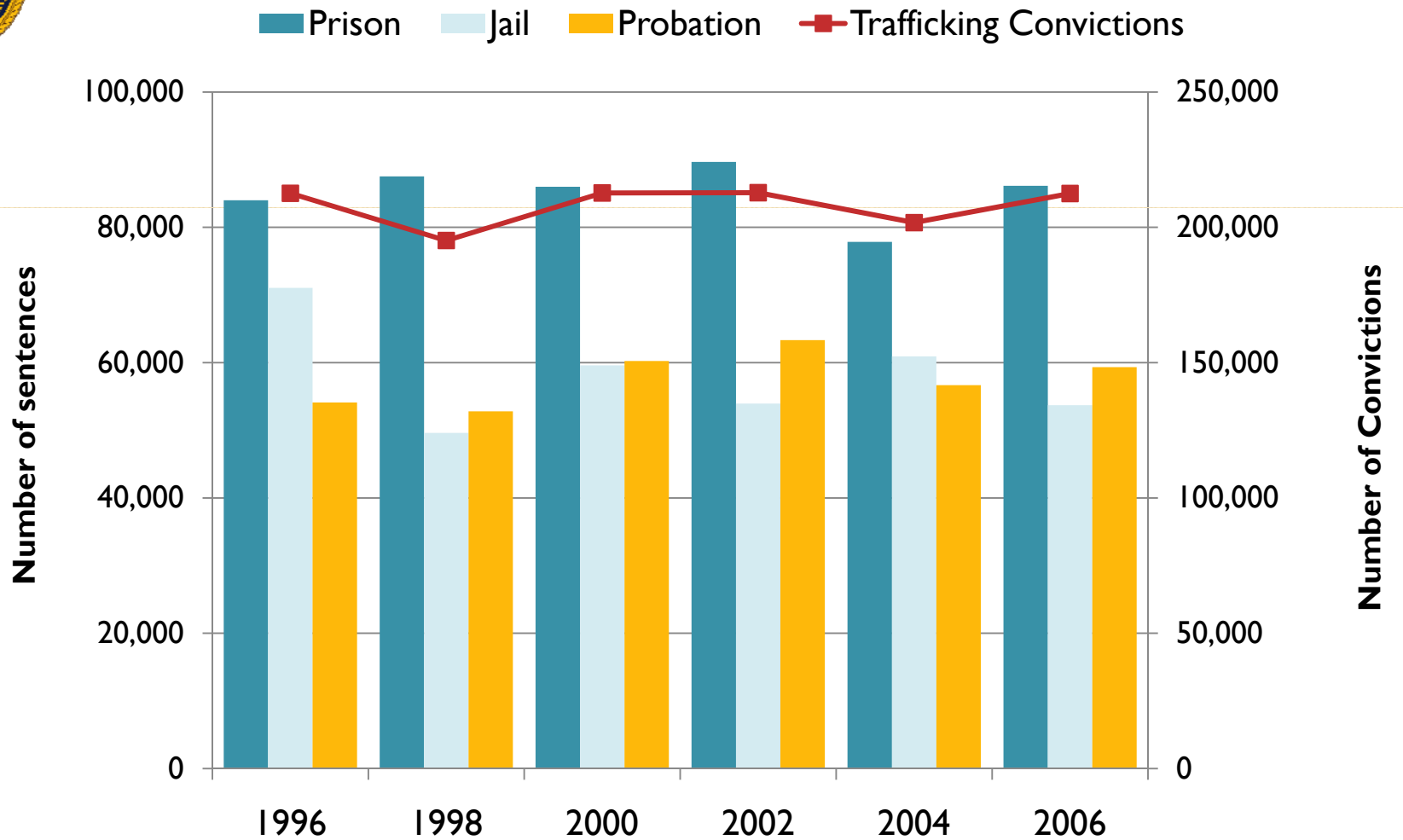


# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types

## *Drug trafficking convictions*



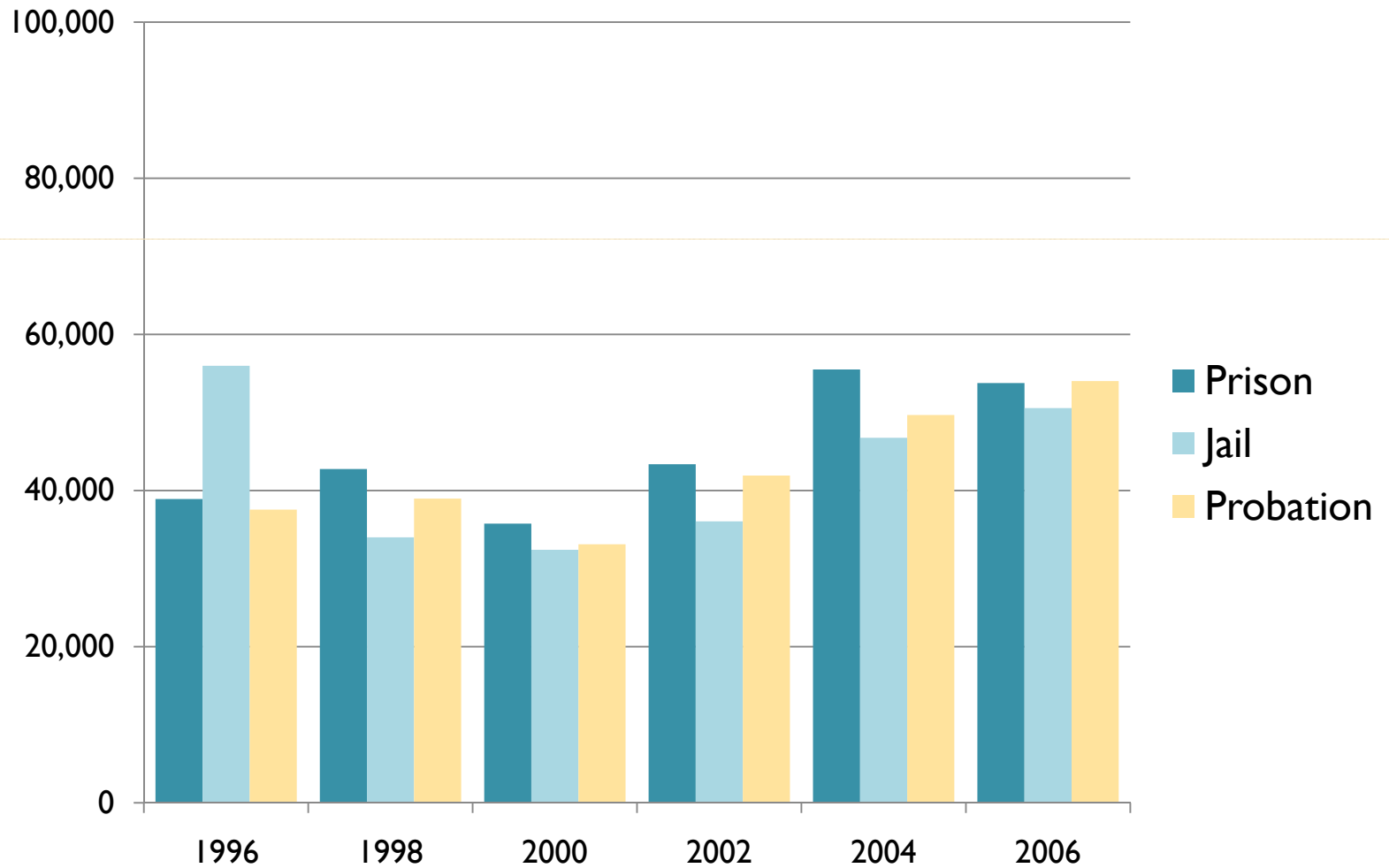
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# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types *Drug possession convictions*



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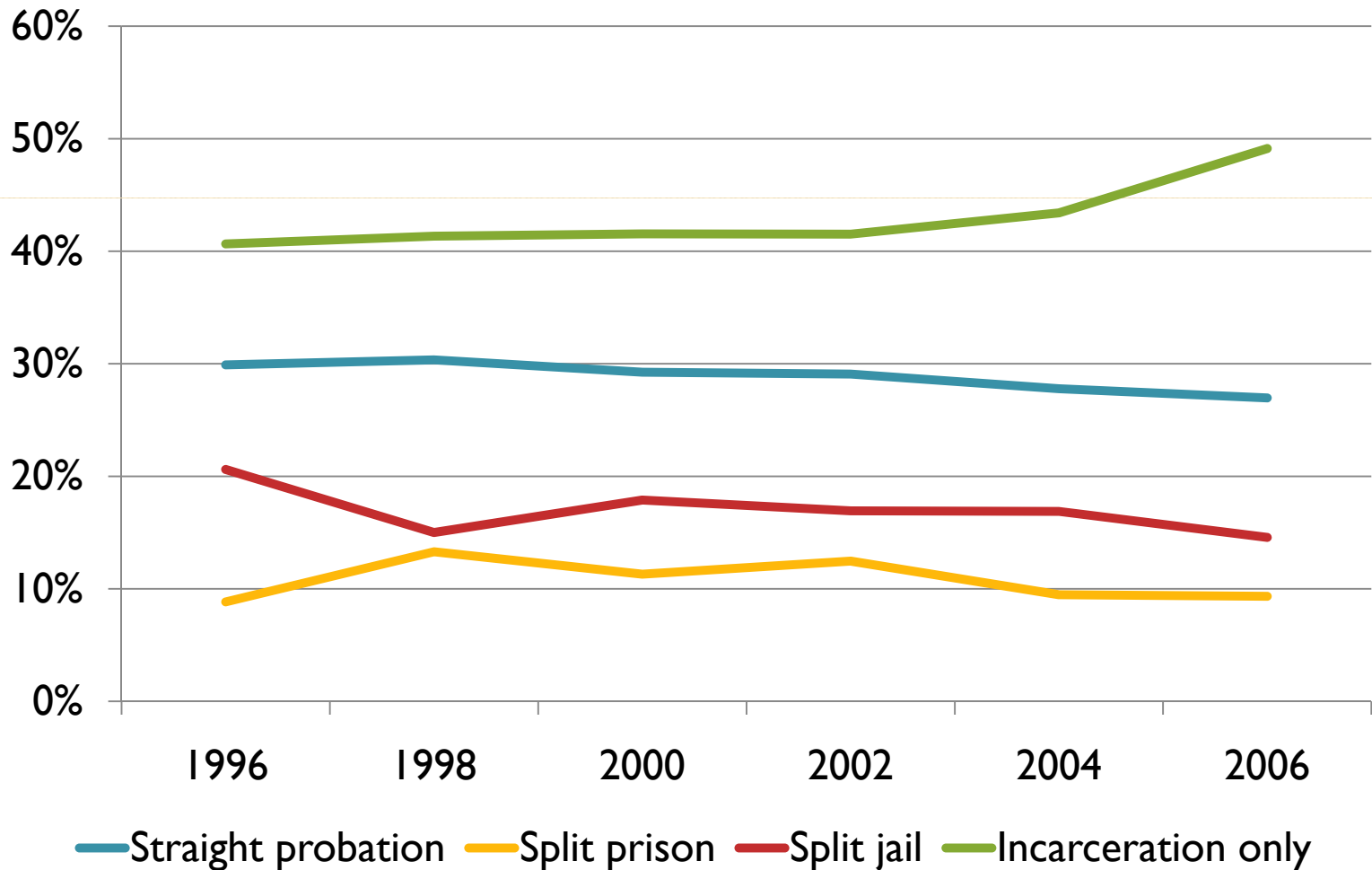


# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types

## All Felony Sentences



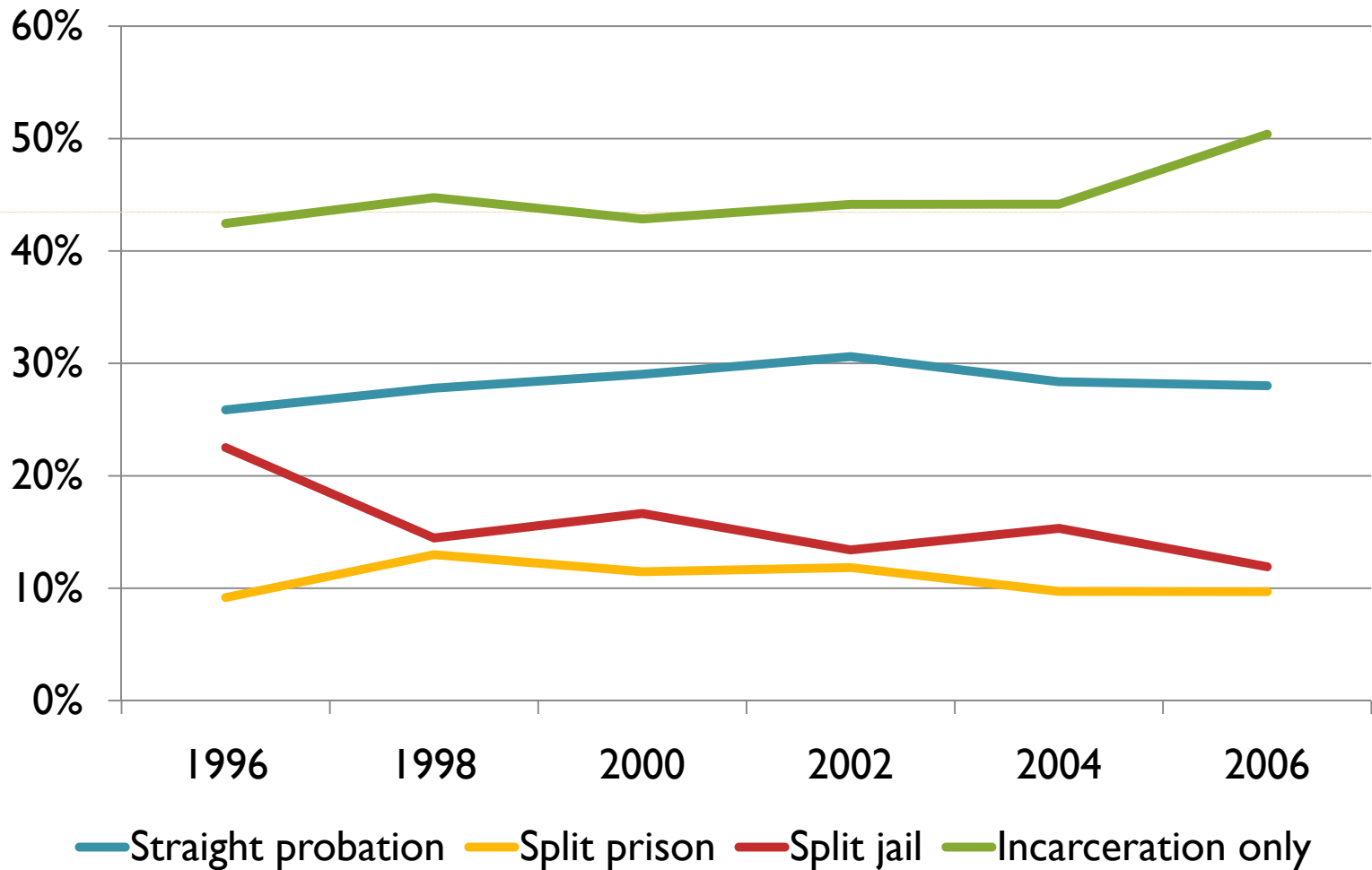
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# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types *Drug Trafficking Felonies*



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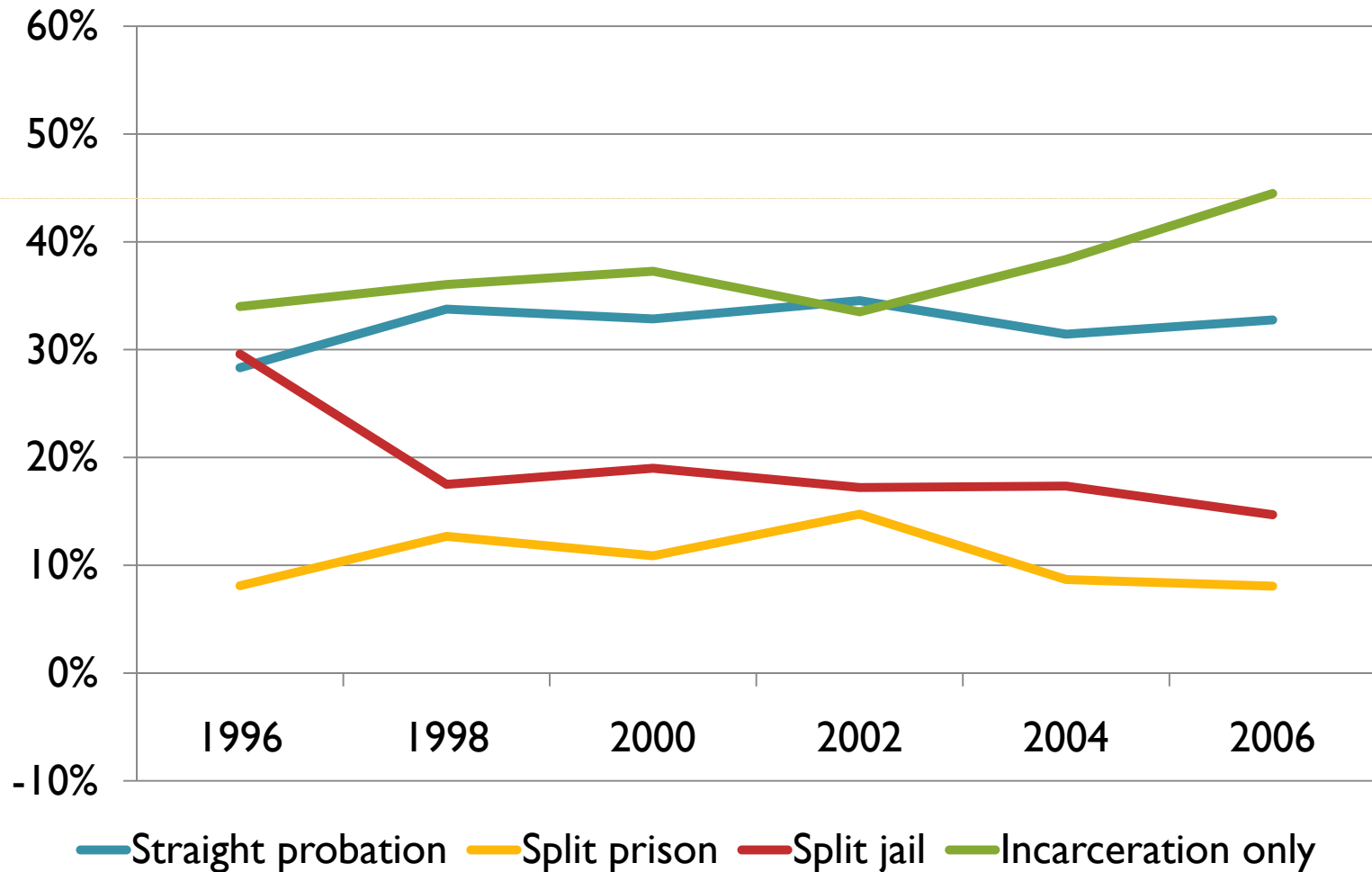


# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types

## *Drug Possession Felonies*



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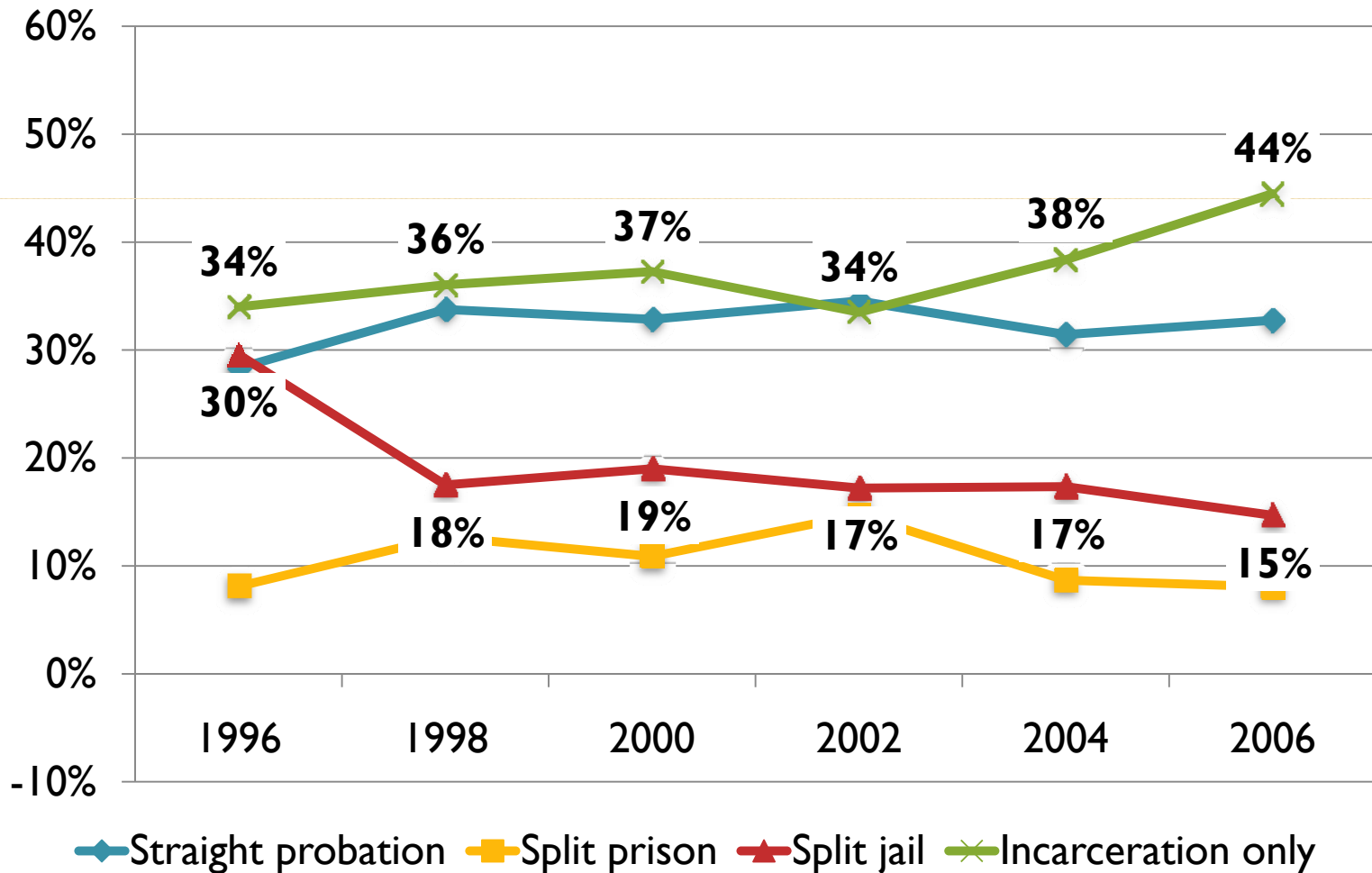


# 1996 – 2006 Felony Sentence Types

## *Drug Possession Felonies*



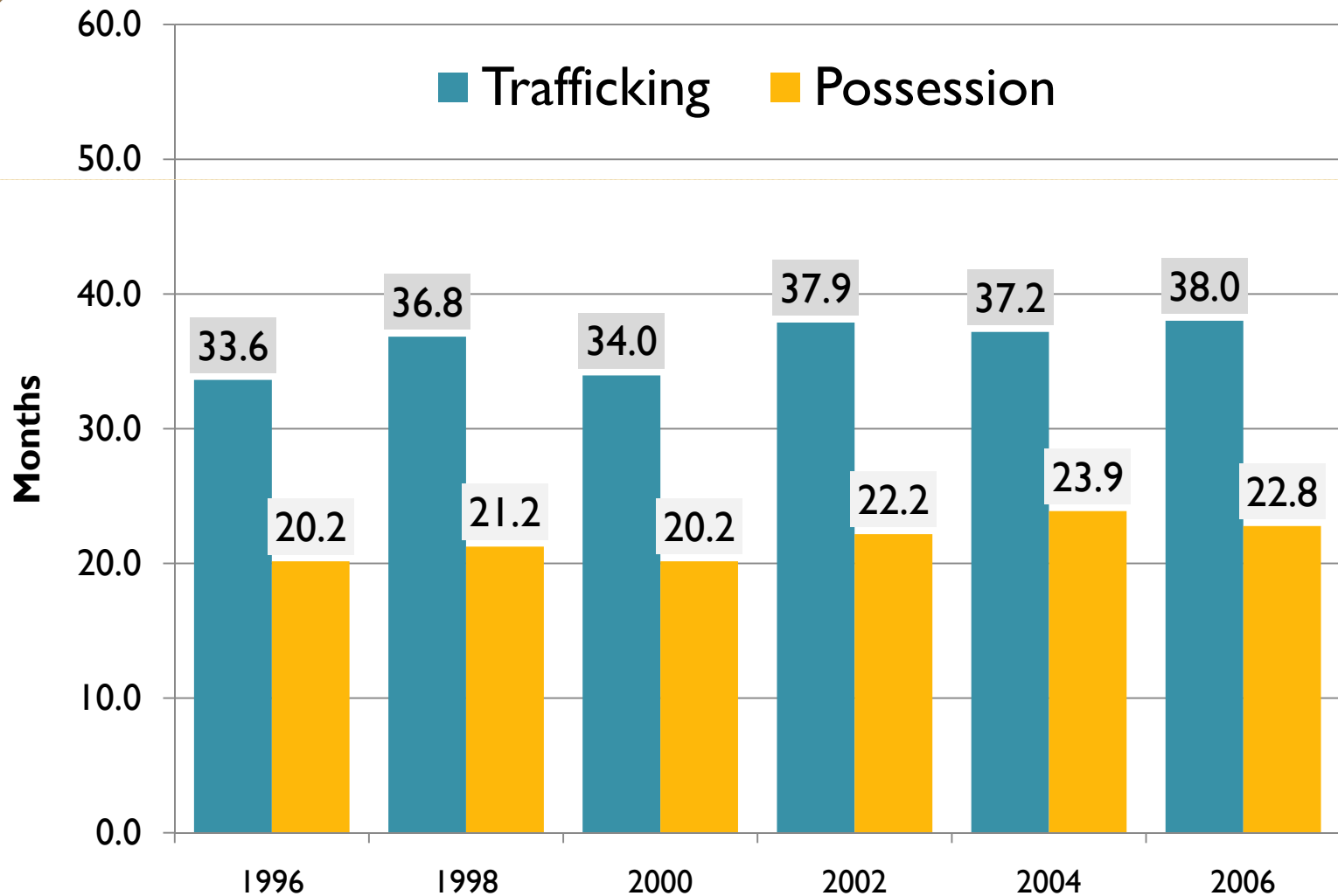
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# Average incarceration sentence length by felony drug conviction type, 1996 – 2006



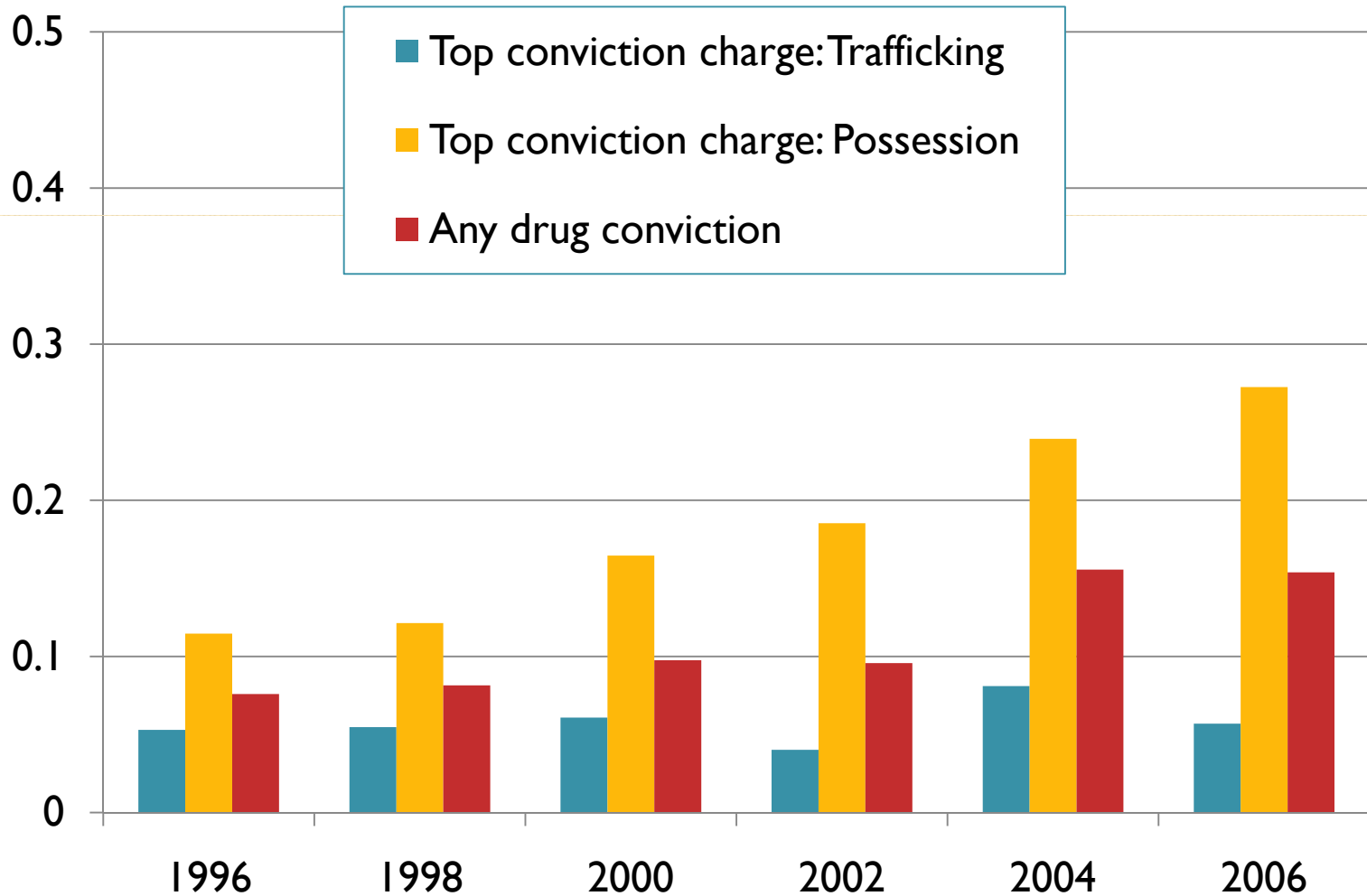
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# Proportion of felony sentences that included treatment, 1996 - 2006



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# Felony Drug Sentence Trends, 1996 - 2006



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- Felony drug convictions account for about a third of all felony convictions.
- Number of felony drug possession convictions increased over the reference period; felony drug trafficking convictions remained about the same.

# Felony Drug Sentence Trends, 1996 - 2006



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- Sentencing patterns for possession convictions more dynamic over time compared to trafficking convictions.
- Few felony drug convictions include a sentence to treatment.



# Limitations of the data

- Inability to develop state-level estimates
- Does not include a number of measures that are likely associated with sentence type and length
- Missing data



# National Judicial Reporting Program Redesign

1. Capacity of states to generate NJRP data at the state level
2. Capacity of states to integrate defendant criminal histories into NJRP data
3. Accessibility of pre-sentencing report data
4. Accessibility of other dispositions and misdemeanor data



## *Felony Drug Sentences:* Other Potential Sources of Information

- **State Court Processing Statistics**
- **National Prosecutors Survey**
- **Census of Problem Solving Courts**
- **Juveniles Processed in Adult Criminal Court**
- **National Corrections Reporting Program**