Training and Technical Assistance Webinar Series

USES OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FROM JAILS: VIRGINIA'S LOCAL INMATE DATA SYSTEM (LIDS)

May 1, 2014

Justice Research and Statistics Association
720 7th Street, NW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20001
www.jrsa.org

Uses of Administrative Data from Jails

VA's Local Inmate Data System (LIDS)

JRSA Webinar

May 1, 2014

Baron Blakley
Research Specialist
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Virginia's Jails

The Virginia system is the most peculiar one in the nation…

…The State, although paying the bills, has no actual authority over the jails other than the power of inspection and recommendation... truly an anomalous situation.

-Virginia Legislative Jail Commission, 1937

- Local and regional jails
- State agencies set standards for construction, operation, training, and monitor compliance
- Virginia Compensation Board provides the state portion of operating costs for jails, including salaries and benefits of correctional officers and support staff, and inmate per diem payments.

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Types of Inmates

- Local-responsible
  - Pretrial
  - Sentenced with pending charges
  - Sentenced misdemeanants
  - Felons sentenced to jail (12-mos or less)
  - Ordinance violators
- State-responsible
  - Sentenced to incarceration with the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC)
  - DOC to pick up from jail within 60 days of final sentencing
- Federal

Local Inmate Data System (LIDS)

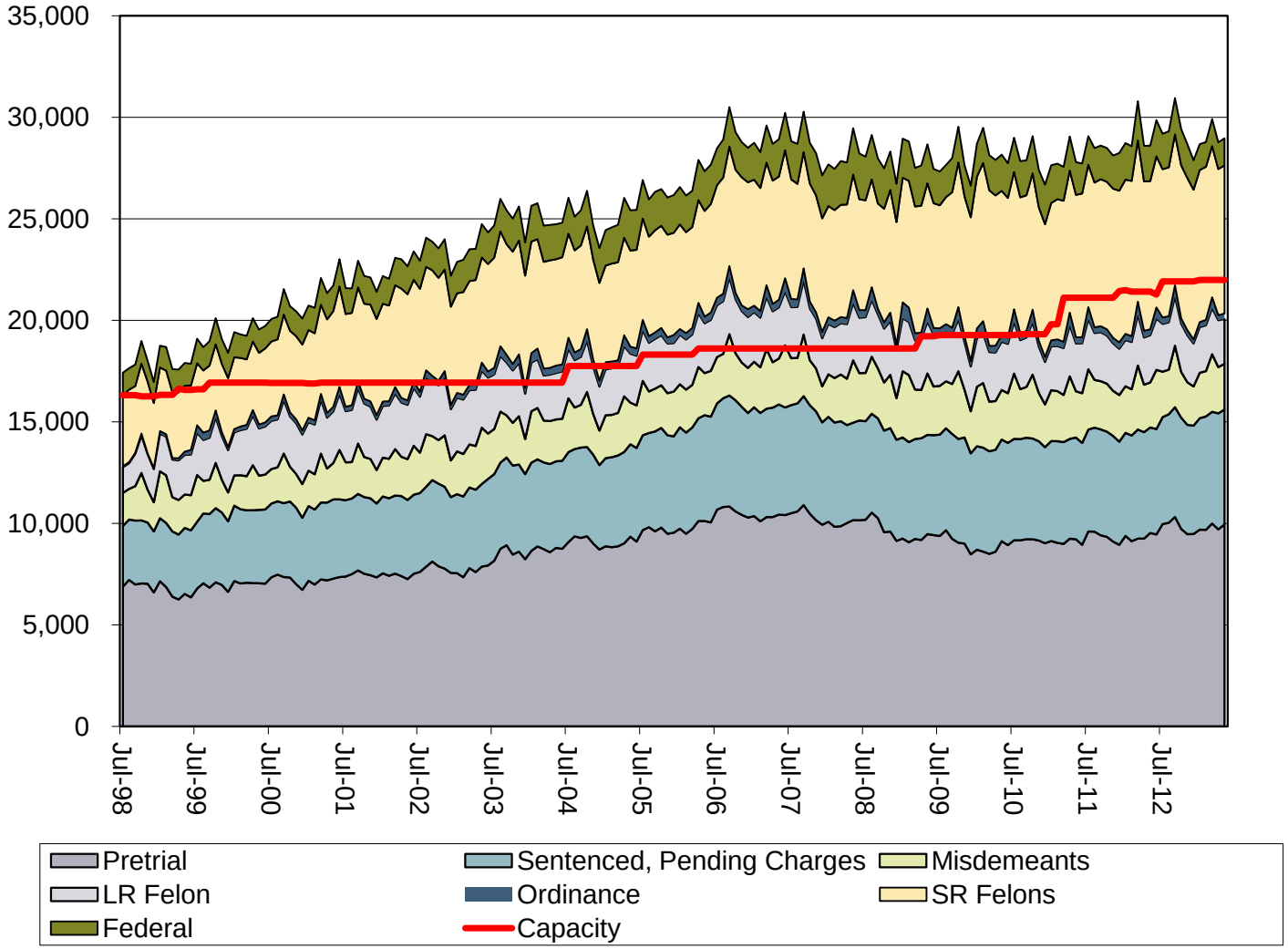
- Maintained by the Compensation Board (pre-2013)
- Primary purpose is to determine appropriate per diem payments
- Tracks persons entering and exiting jails, along with other data
  - Demographics
  - Status (e.g. pretrial, local felon, state-responsible)
  - Committing court
  - Committing offenses
- June 2013: LIDS converted to be part of DOC's data system. Difficulties ensued, new data currently unavailable.

How LIDS Can Be Used

- Financial reimbursements – the primary purpose
- Jails can use LIDS to manage inmate information
- Research
  - Use aggregate monthly data for offender population forecasting
  - Analysis of jail trends
  - Identifying other criminal justice trends
  - Recidivism analysis
  - Program evaluations

Total Jail Population

End of Month, July 1998 to May 2013



Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

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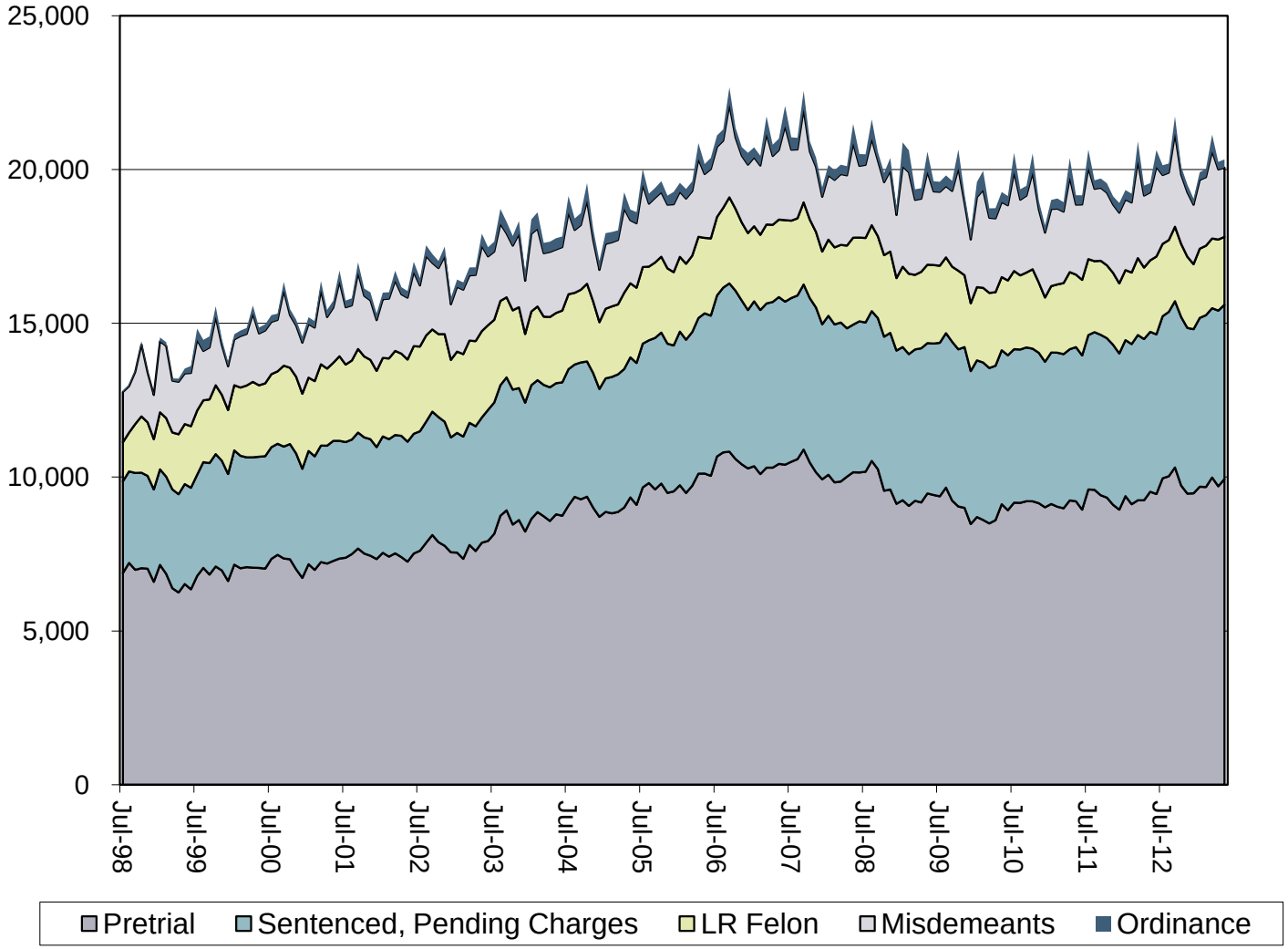
Local-Responsible Population

End of Month, July 1998 to May 2013



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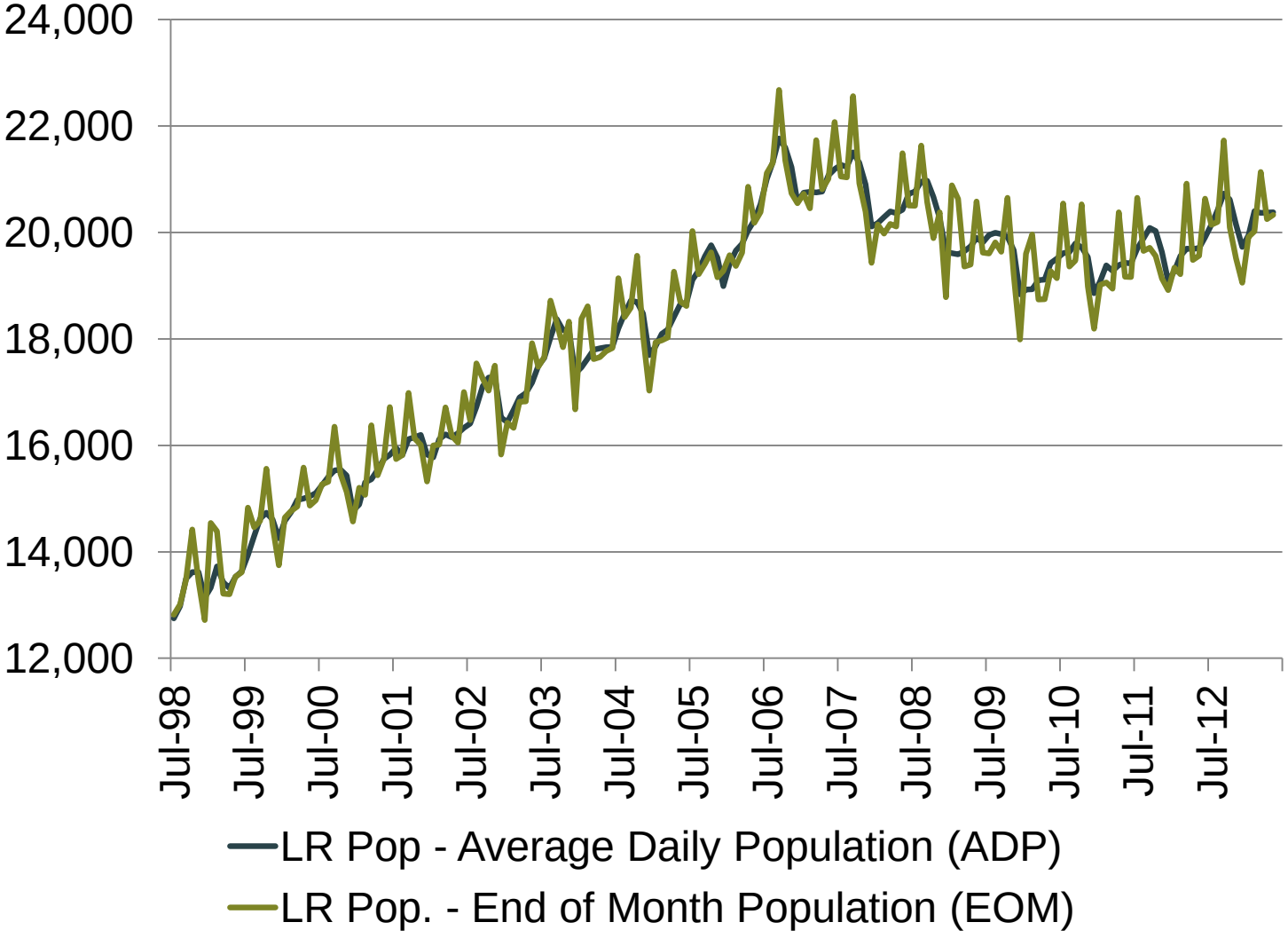
ADP vs EOM – Total Local Responsible Population

For the total local-responsible population Over most recent 5 years, annual average EOM was within 0.5% of annual average ADP.



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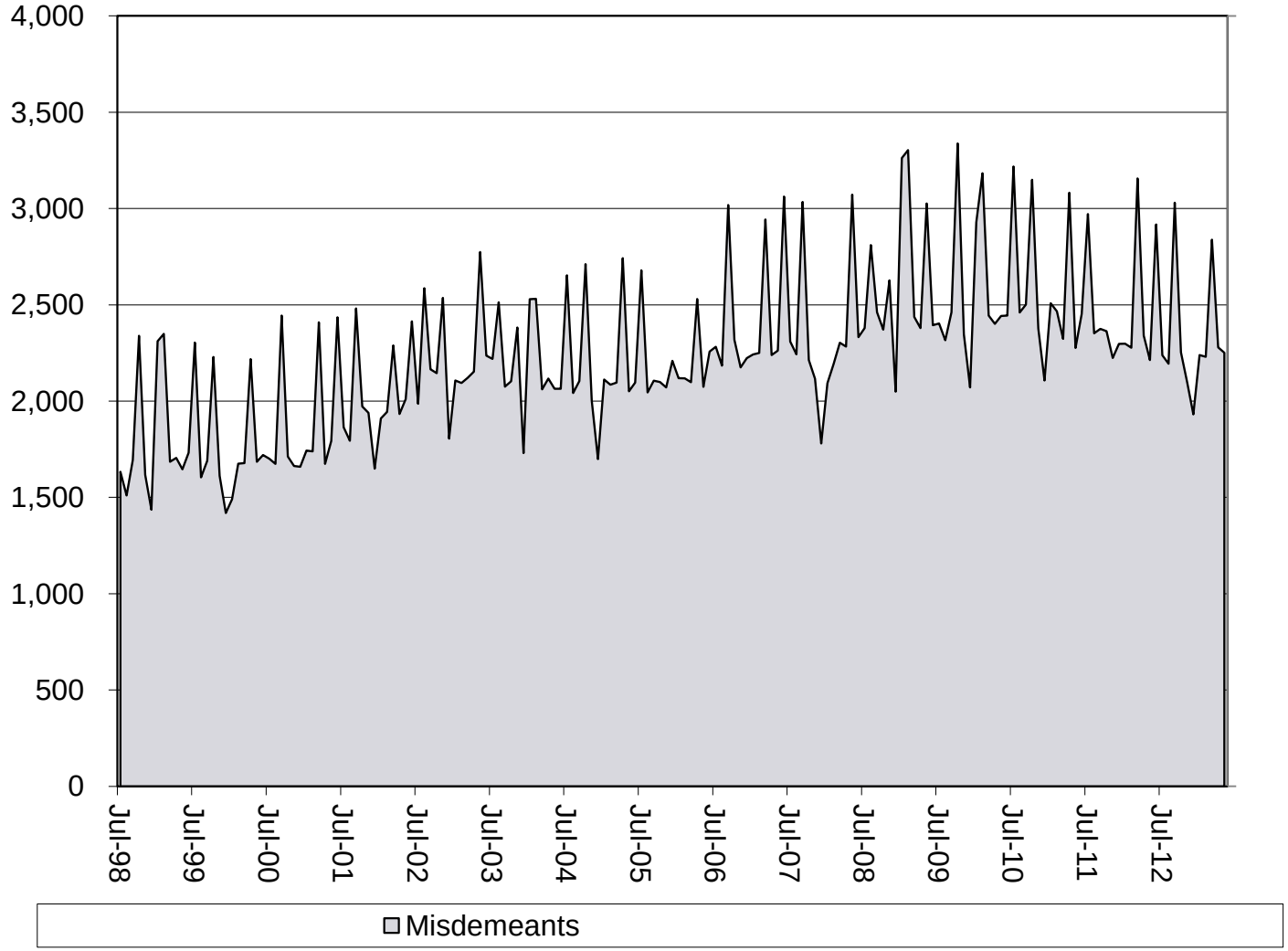
What Are the Spikes? Misdemeanants…

End of Month, July 1998 to May 2013



Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

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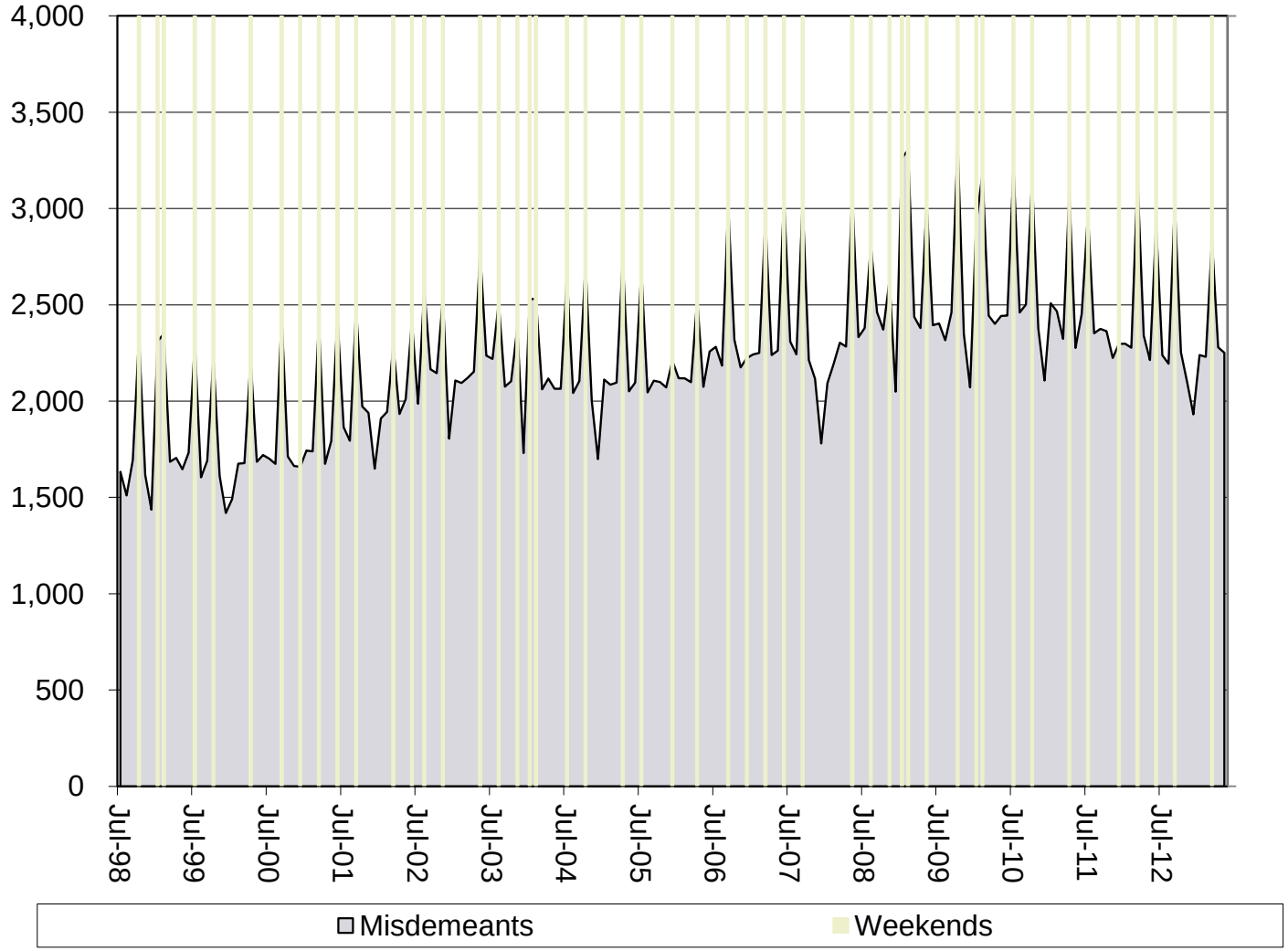
What Are the Spikes? Misdemeanants… Serving Weekends

End of Month, July 1998 to May 2013



Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

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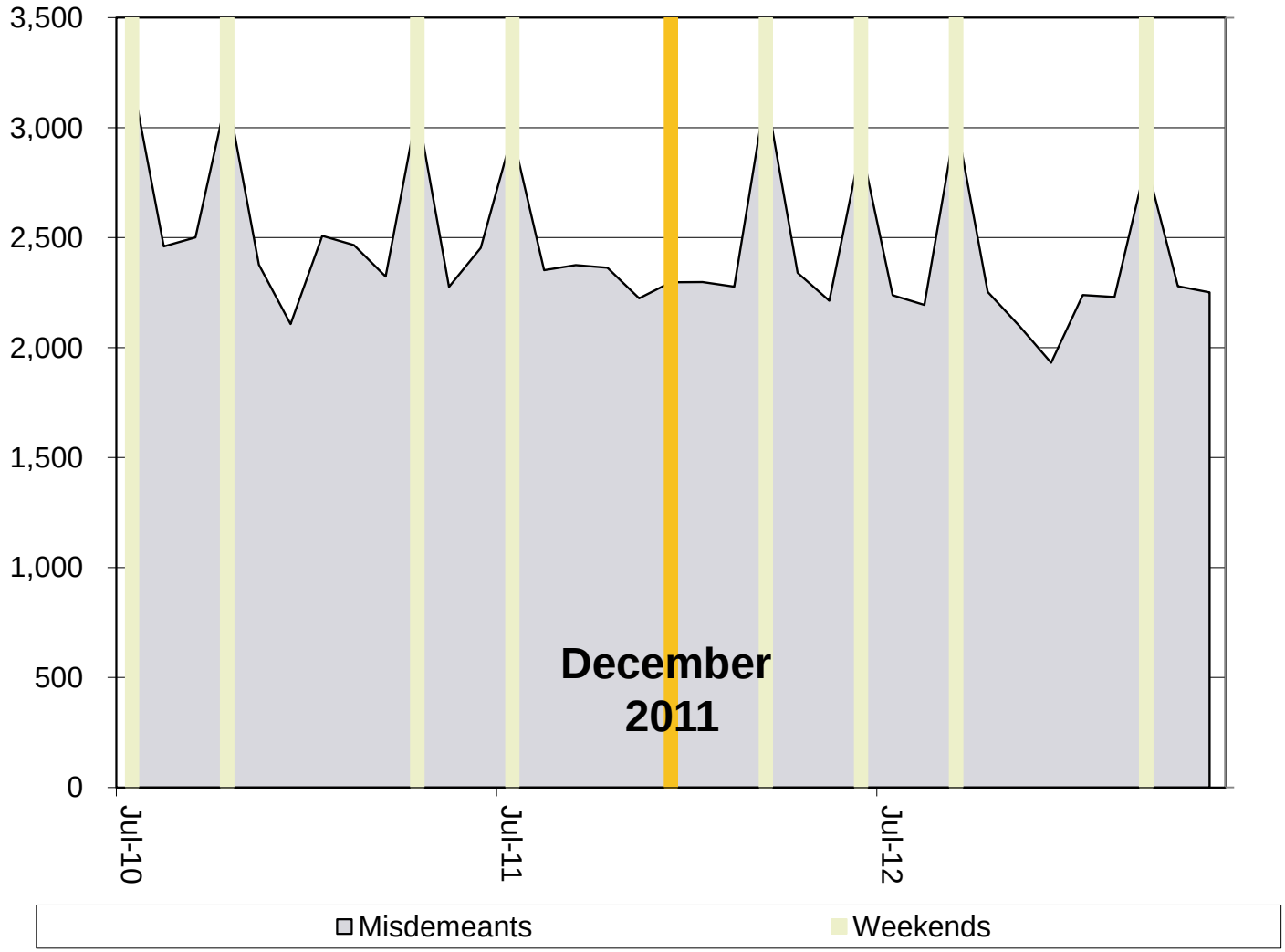
What Are the Spikes? Misdemeanants… Serving Weekends… But not all weekends

End of Month, July 2010 to May 2013



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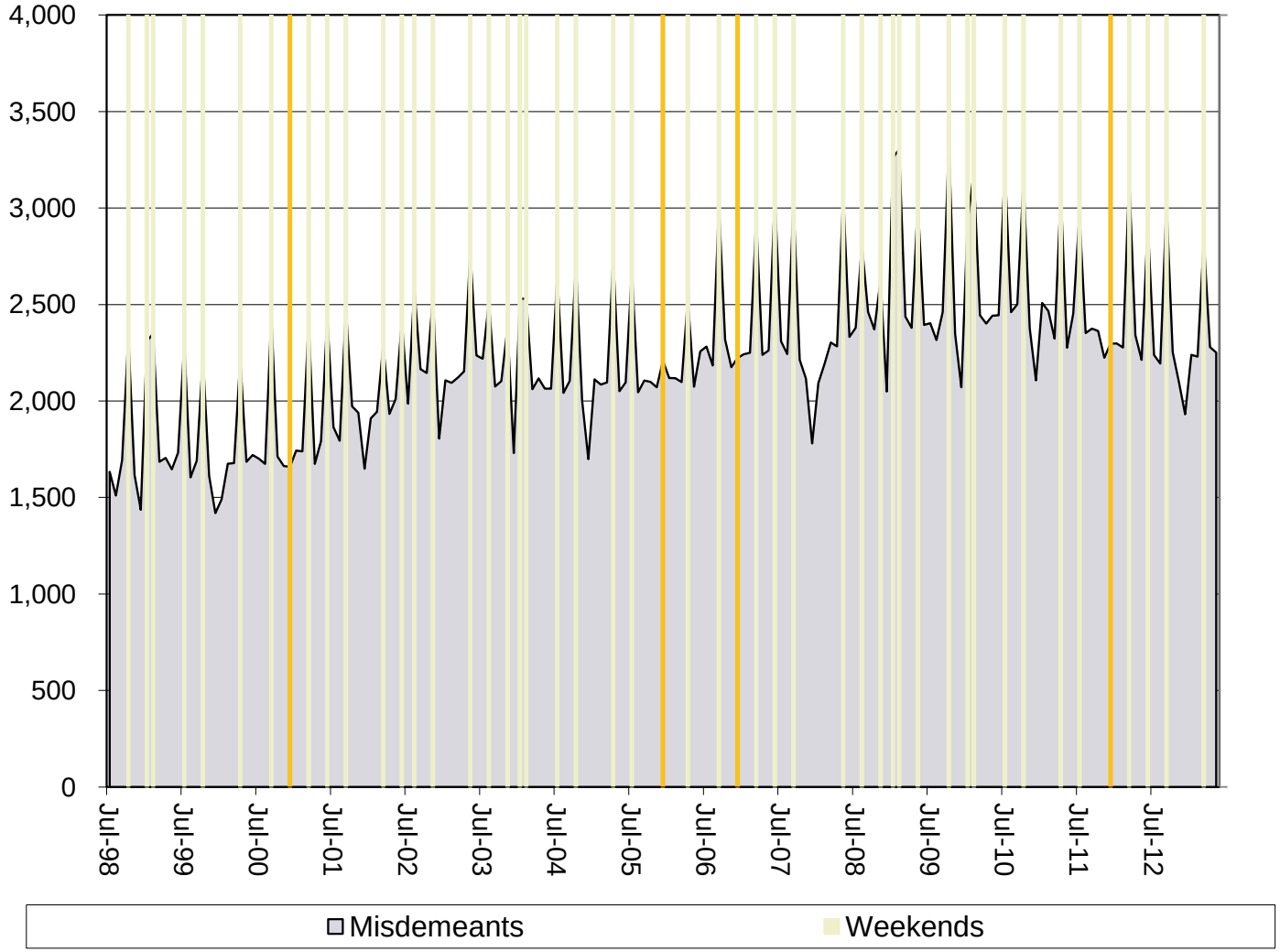

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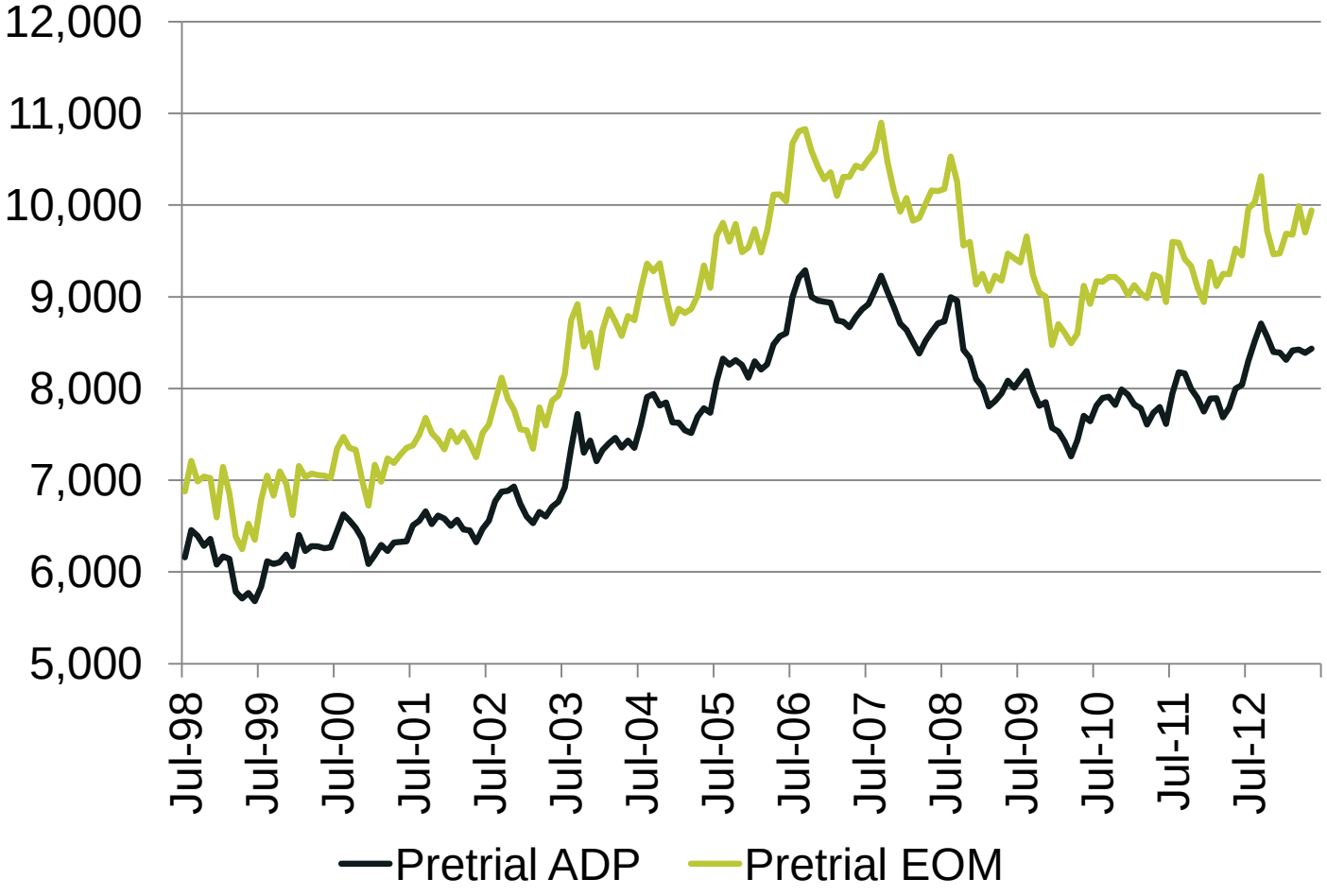
Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

ADP vs EOM – Pretrial

An inmate's confinement status may be overwritten, if it changes prior to release. This impacts ADP much more than EOM.

For the pretrial population, over most recent 5 years, annual average EOM was 16-18% higher than annual average ADP.



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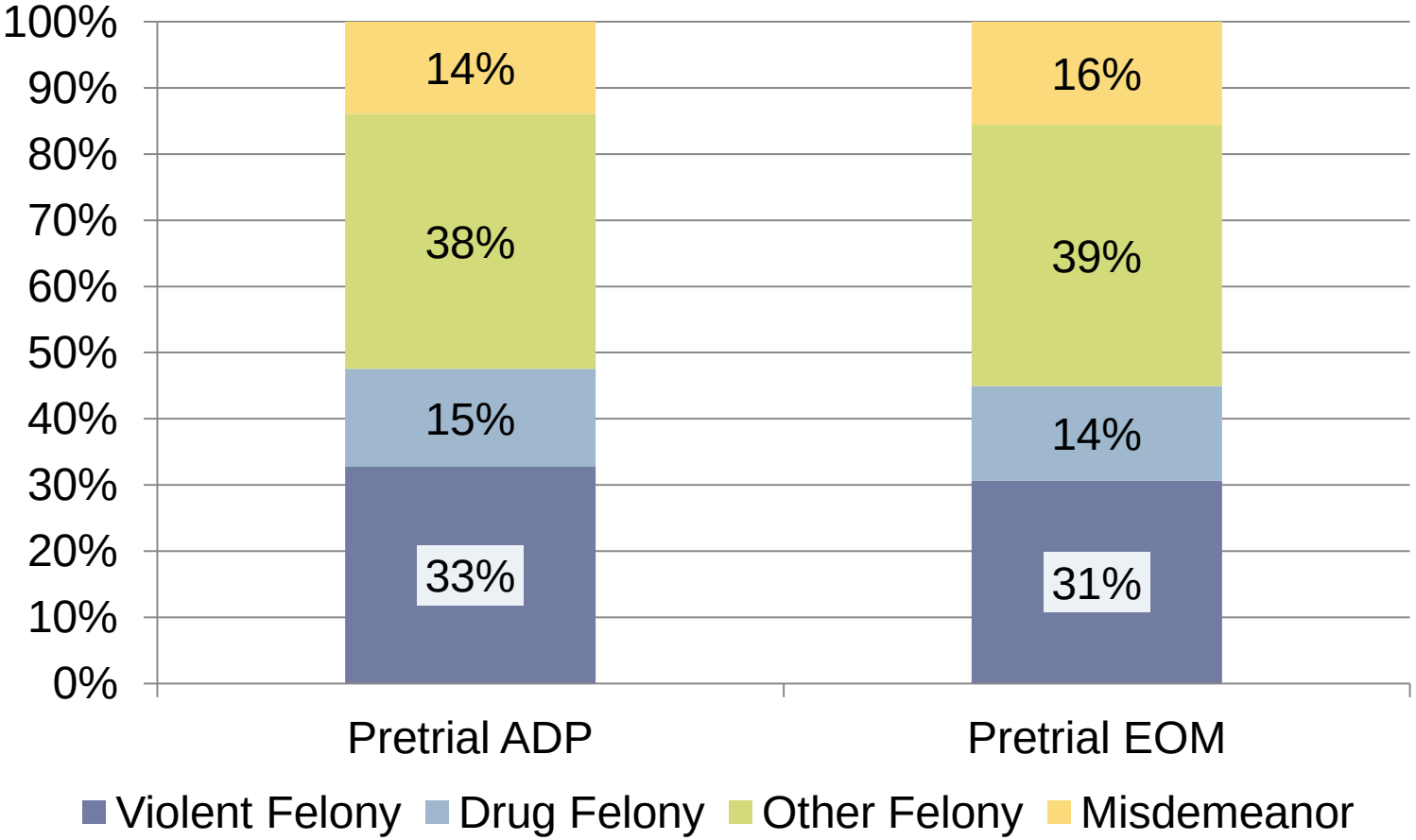
Pretrial ADP vs EOM – Offenses

Most Serious Committing Offense, FY 2012



Inmates charged with misdemeanors or lower-level felonies typically have their cases resolved more quickly. As a result, they are more likely to have their pretrial status overwritten in the database.

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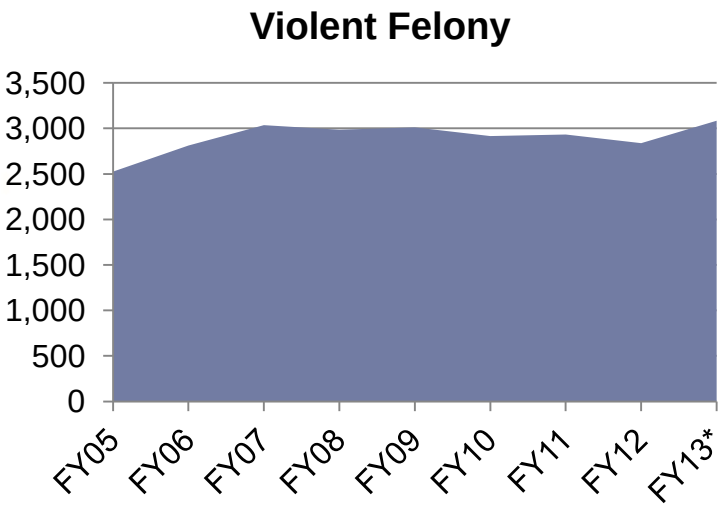
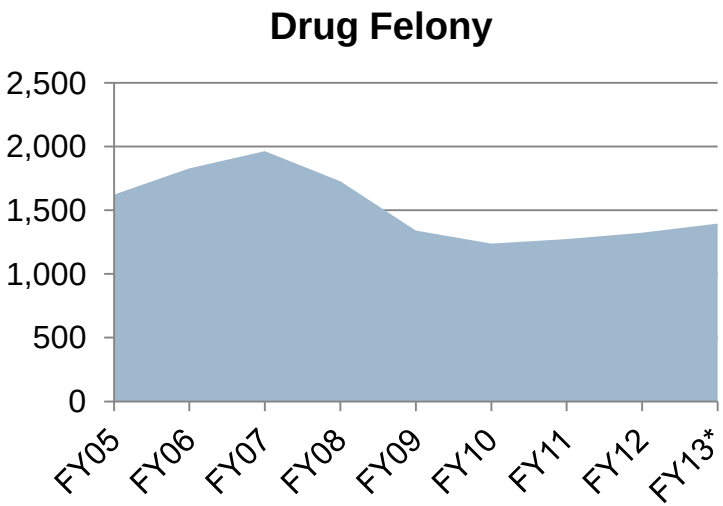
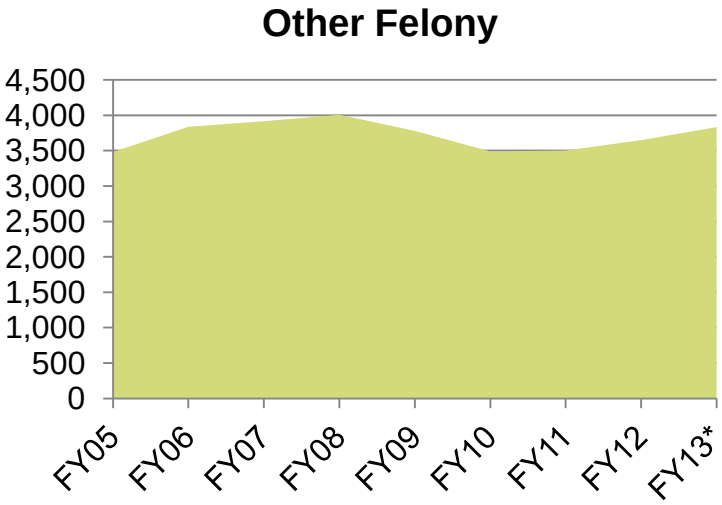
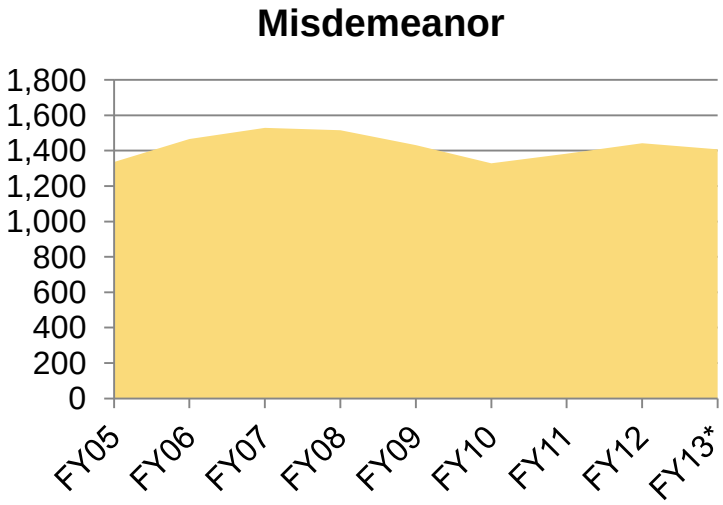
Pretrial – Statewide Average EOM

By Most Serious Committing Offense, Fiscal Year Average









*July 2012 - May 2013

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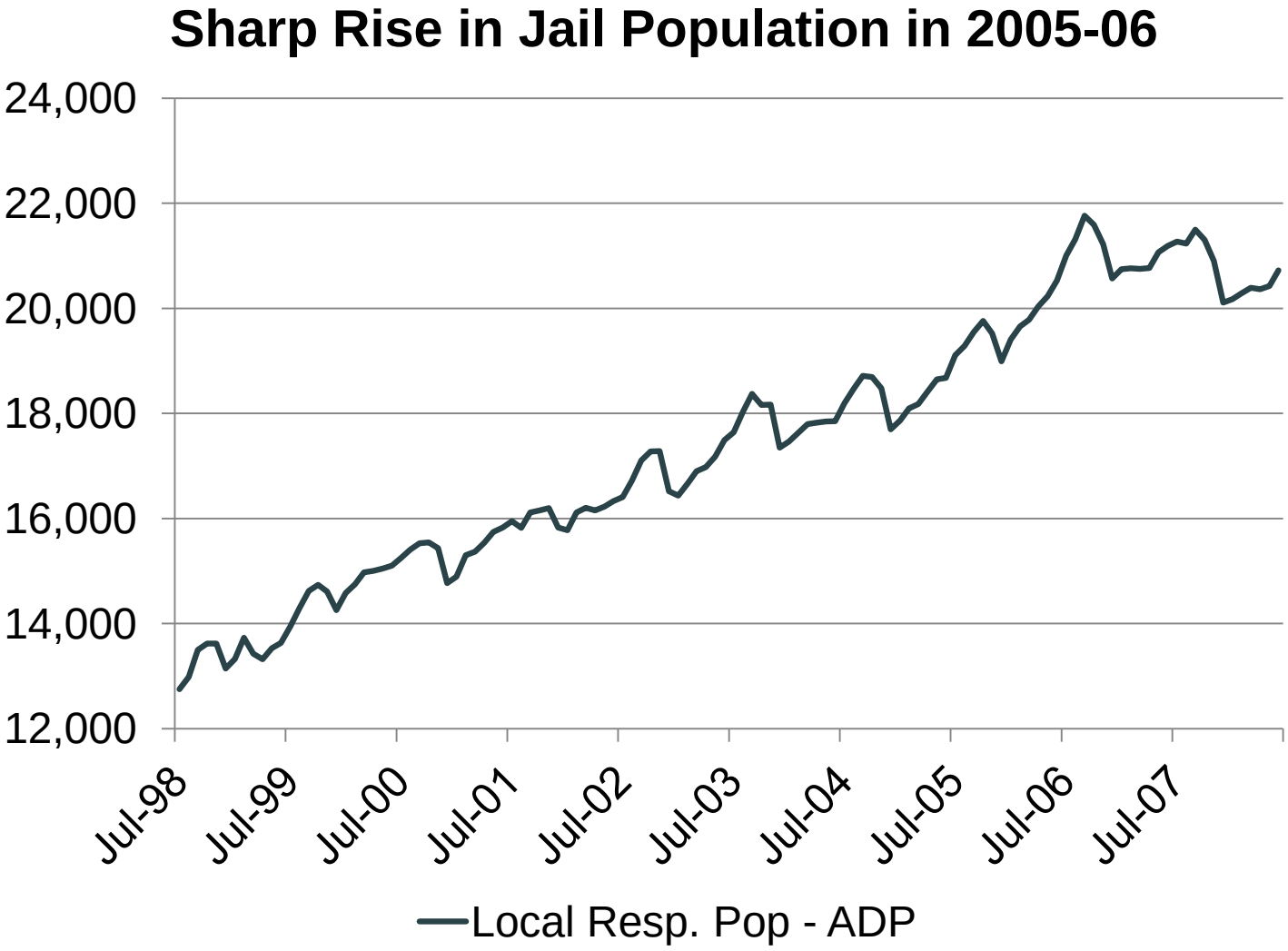
Jail Trends Flag Other Trends



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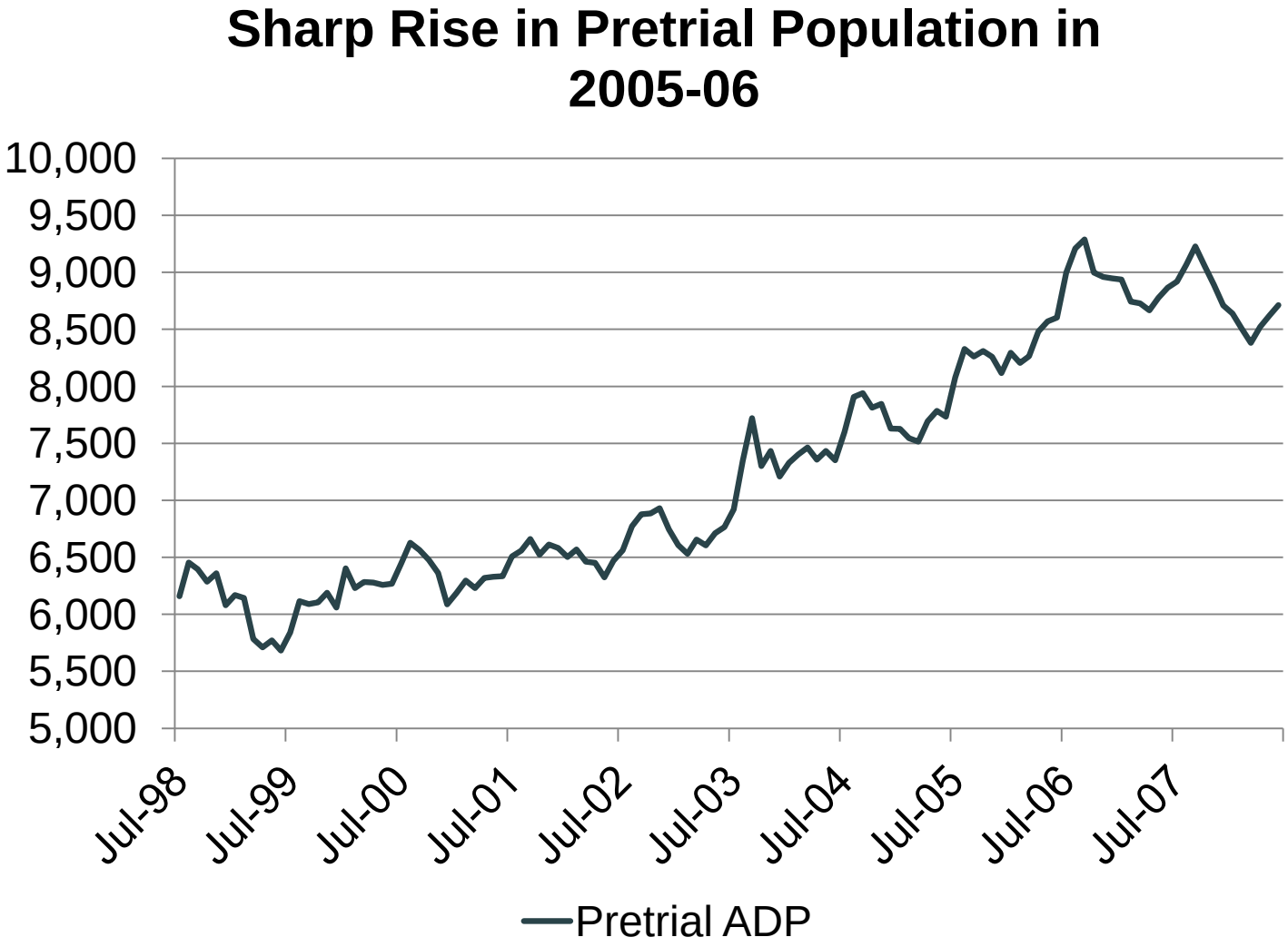

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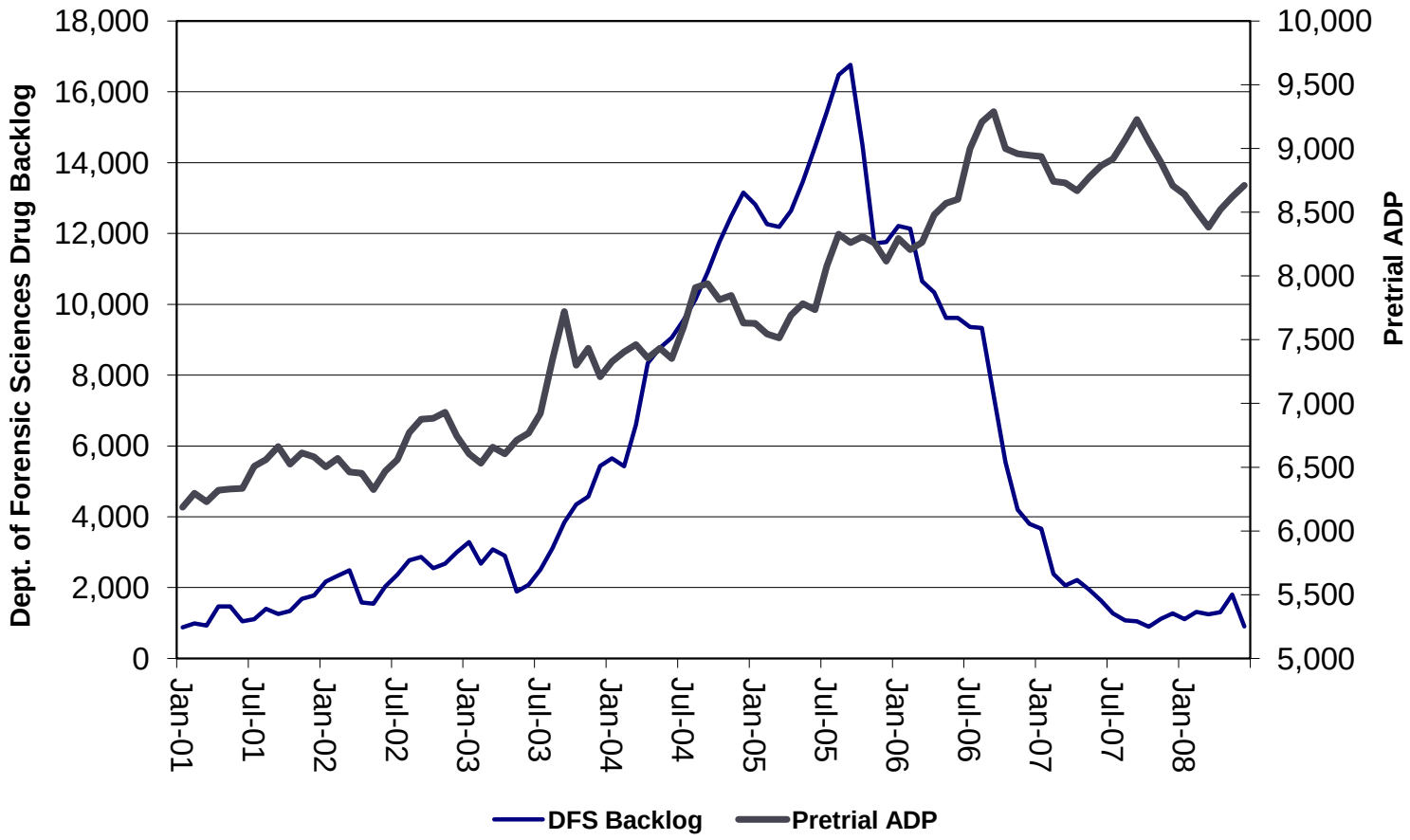
Jail Trends Flag Other Trends

Backlog in Forensic Cases



Data Source: DFS Workload Summary

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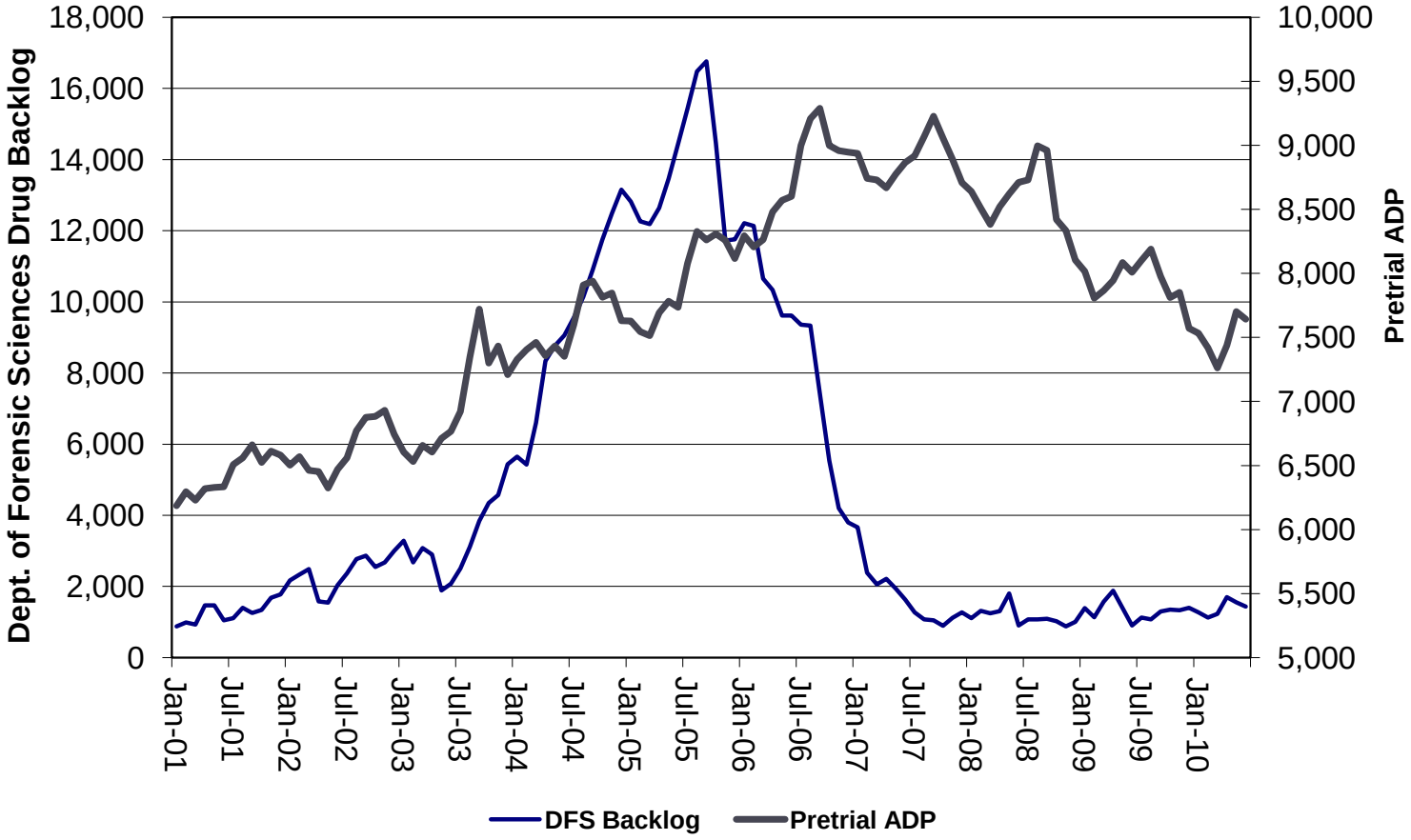
Backlog in Forensic Cases



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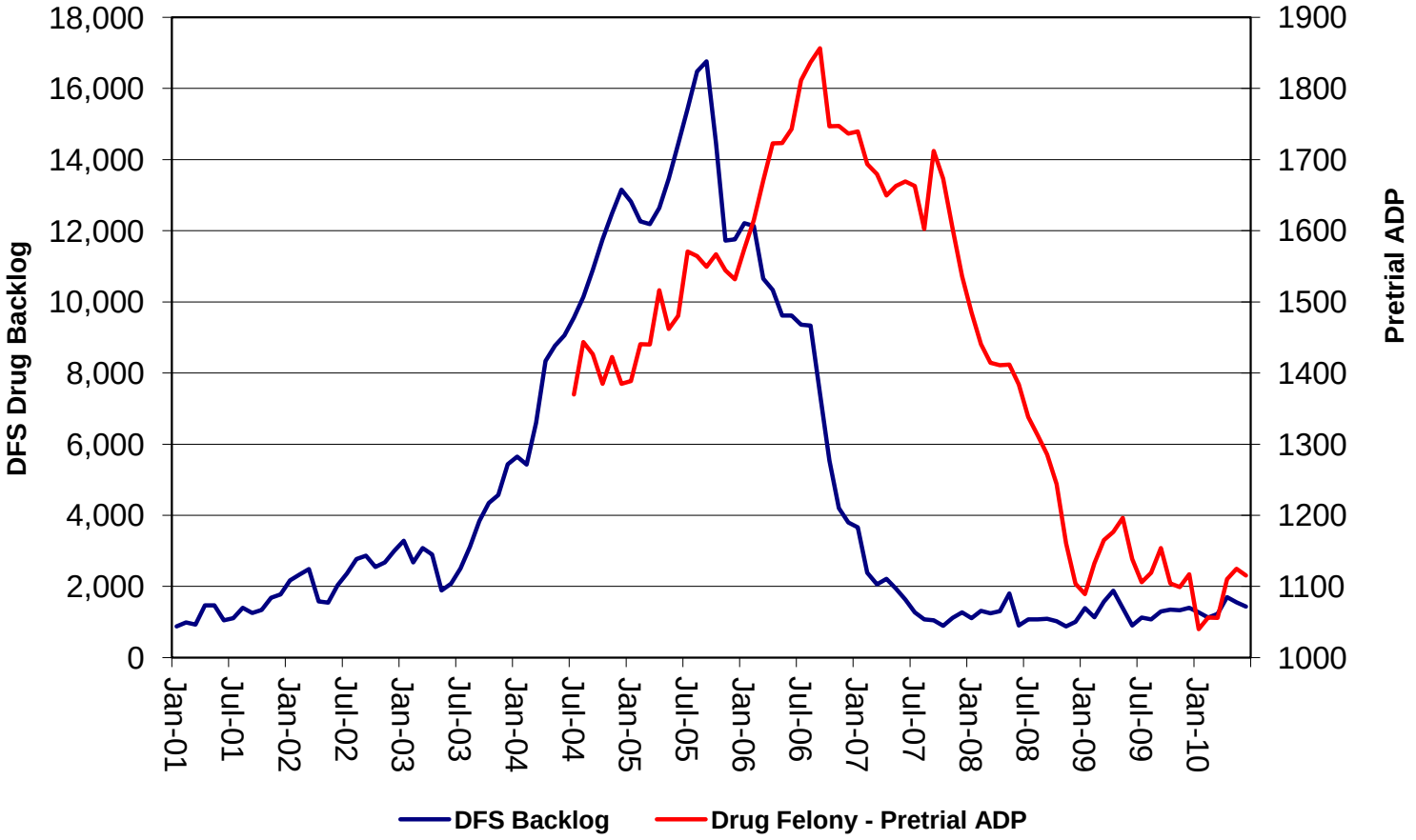

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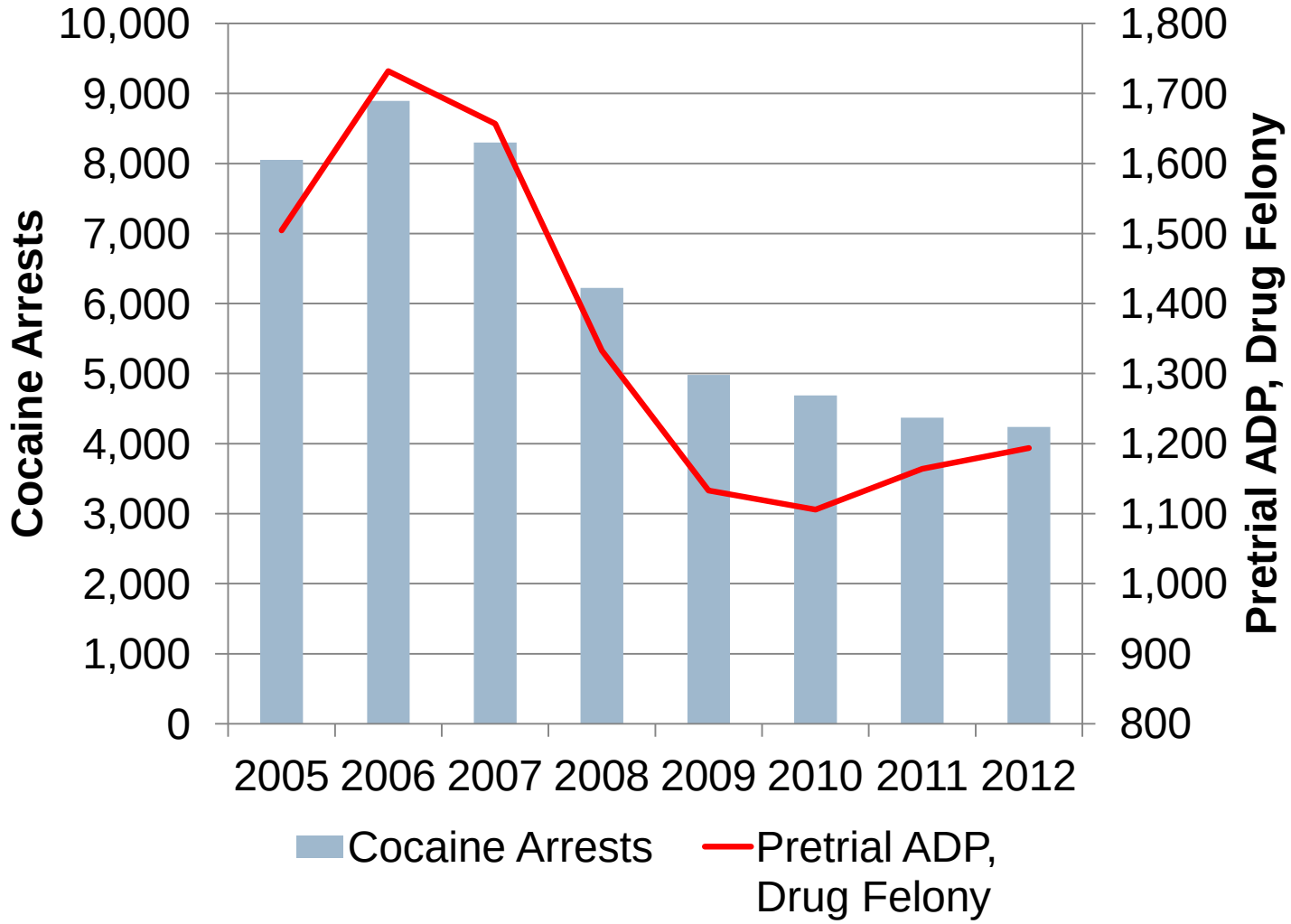
Jail Trends Flag Other Trends

Drop in Cocaine Availability



Data Source: Crime in Virginia Reports, Virginia State Police

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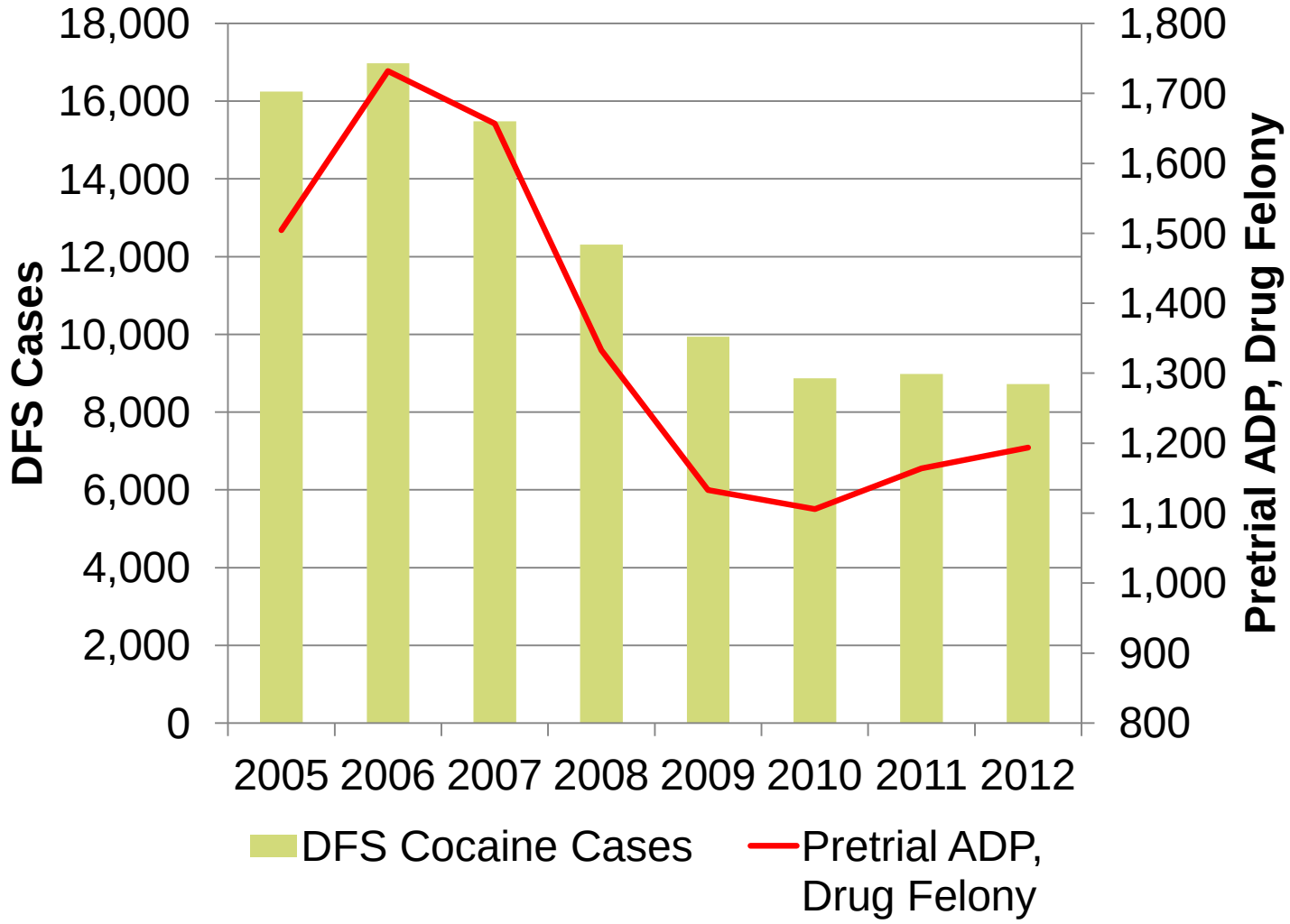
Jail Trends Flag Other Trends

Drop in Cocaine Availability



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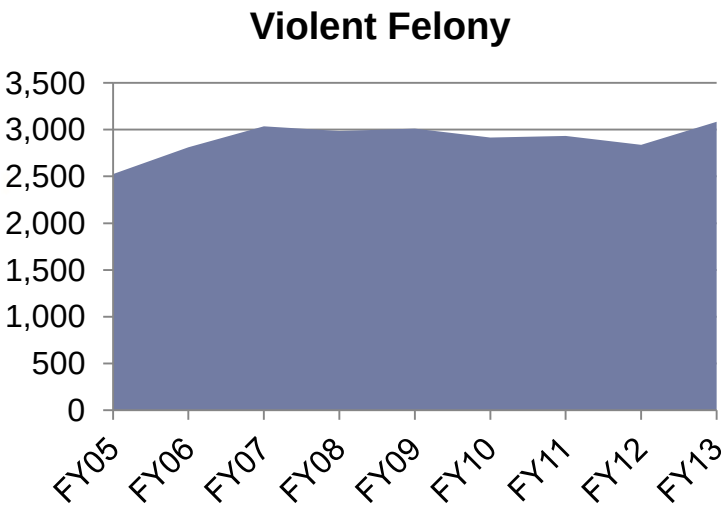

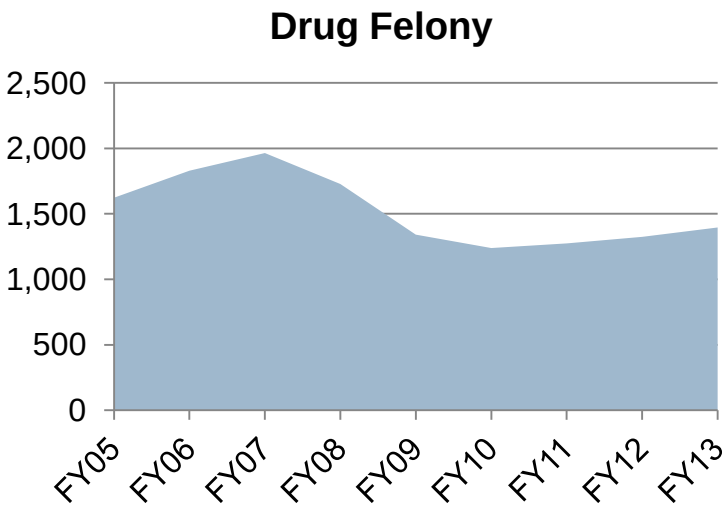

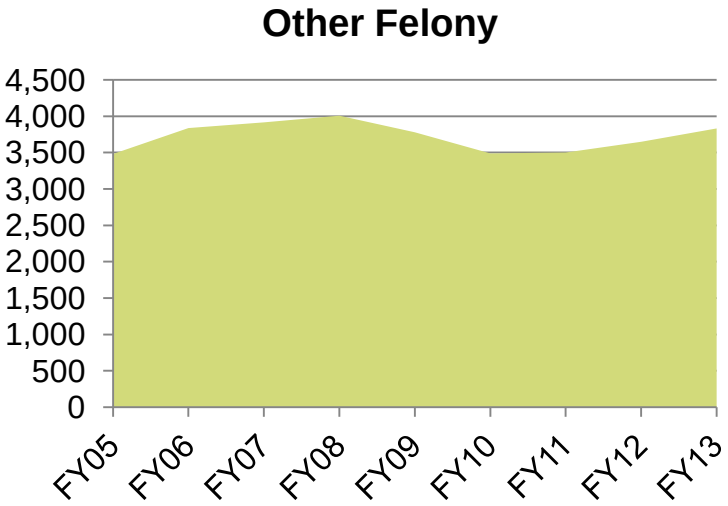

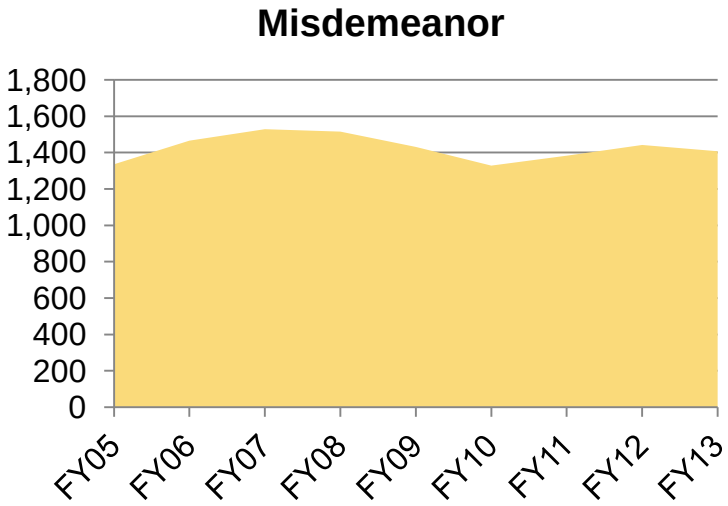

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*July 2012 - May 2013

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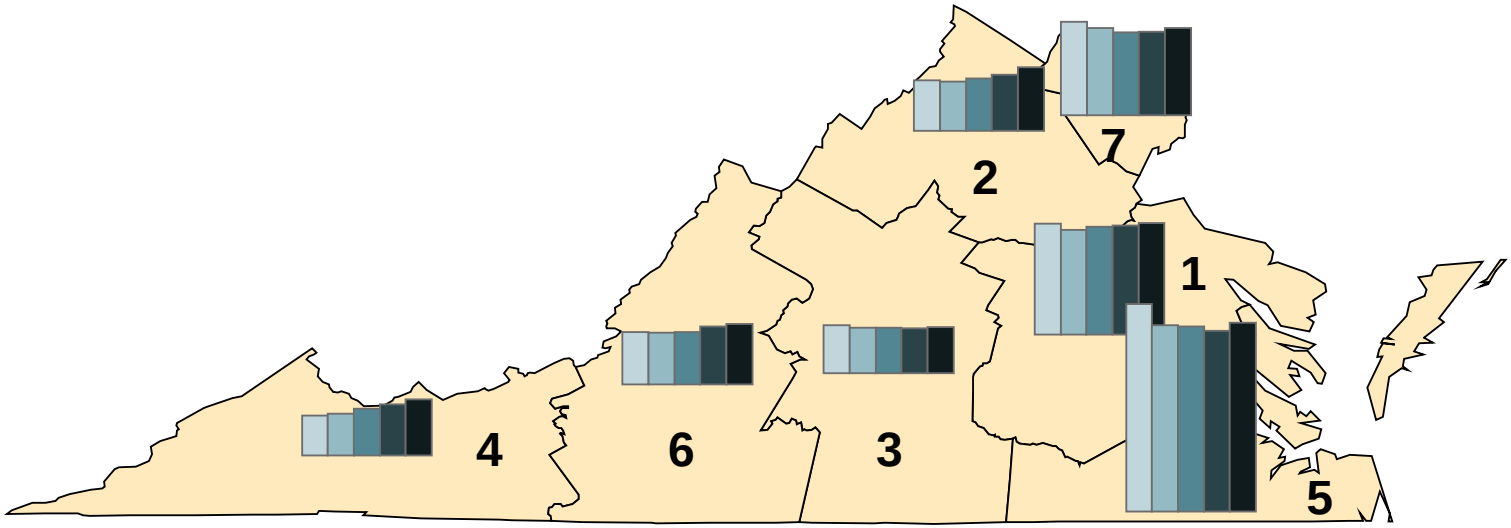
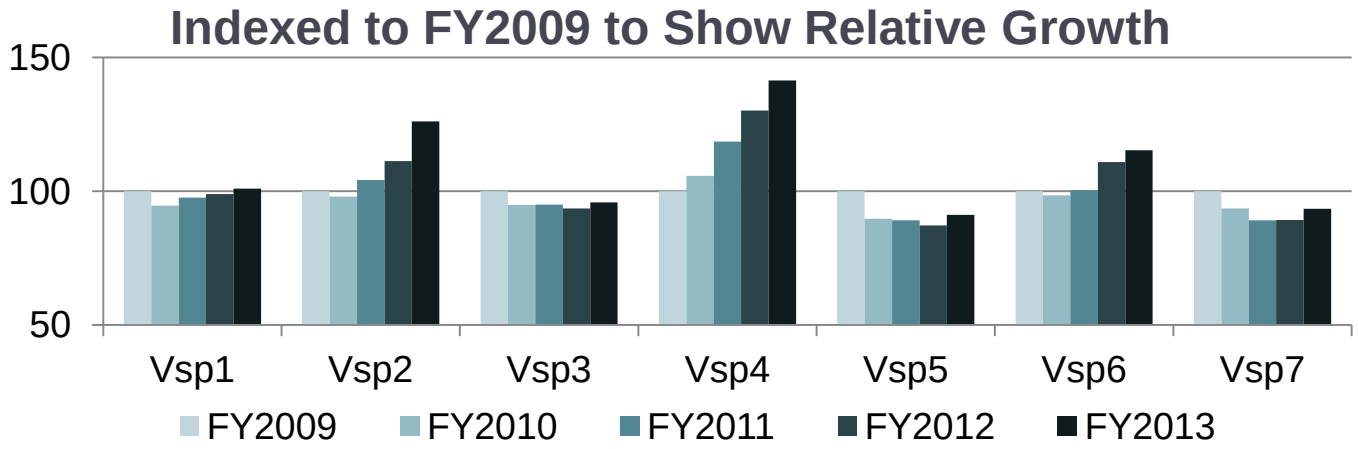
Pretrial Population Changes Vary Across State

Average Pretrial EOM, By Virginia State Police Division





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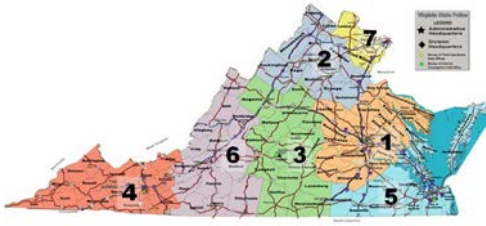
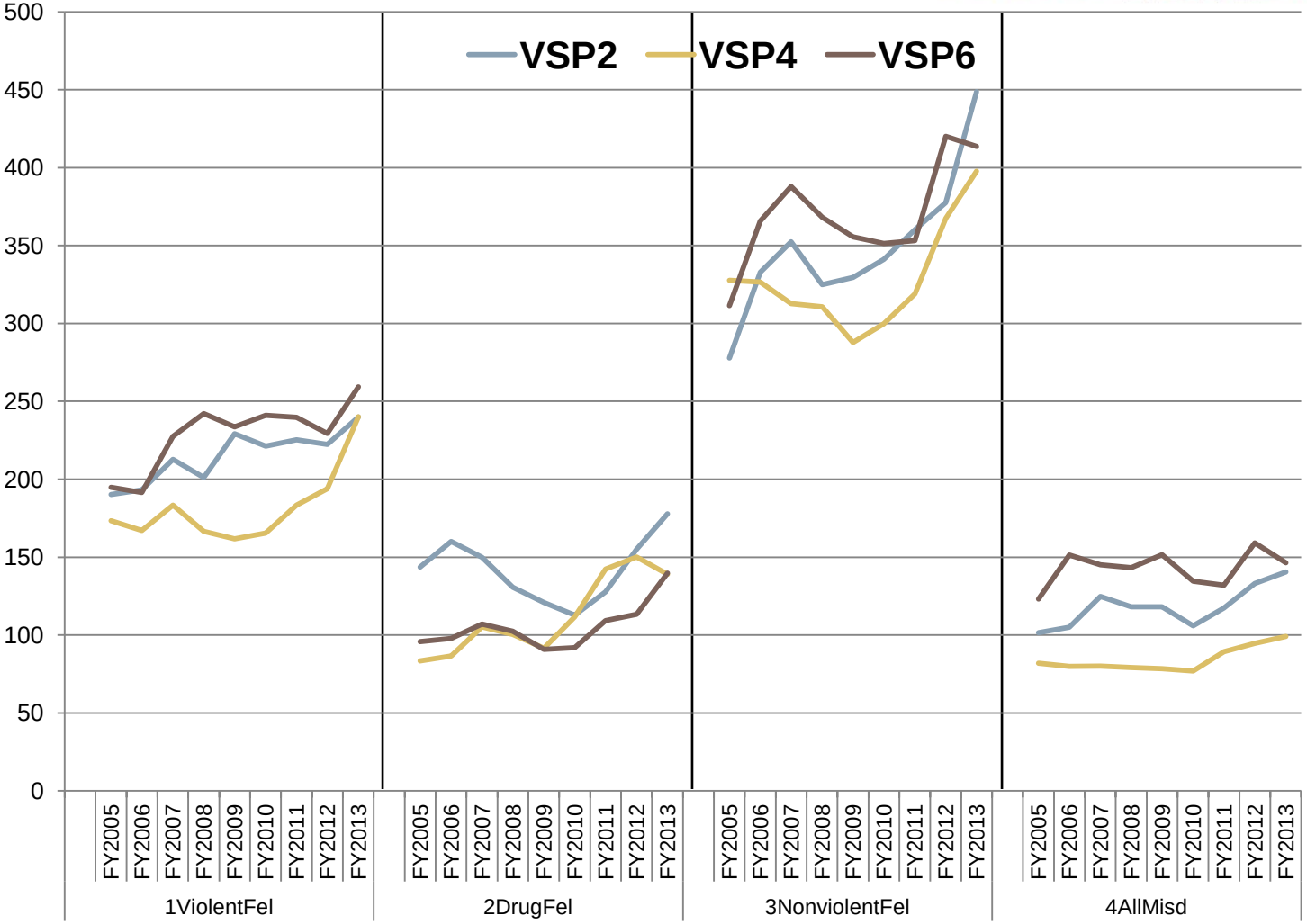
Pretrial EOM, By Offense

VSP2, VSP4, & VSP6





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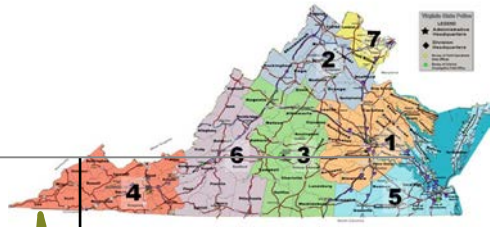
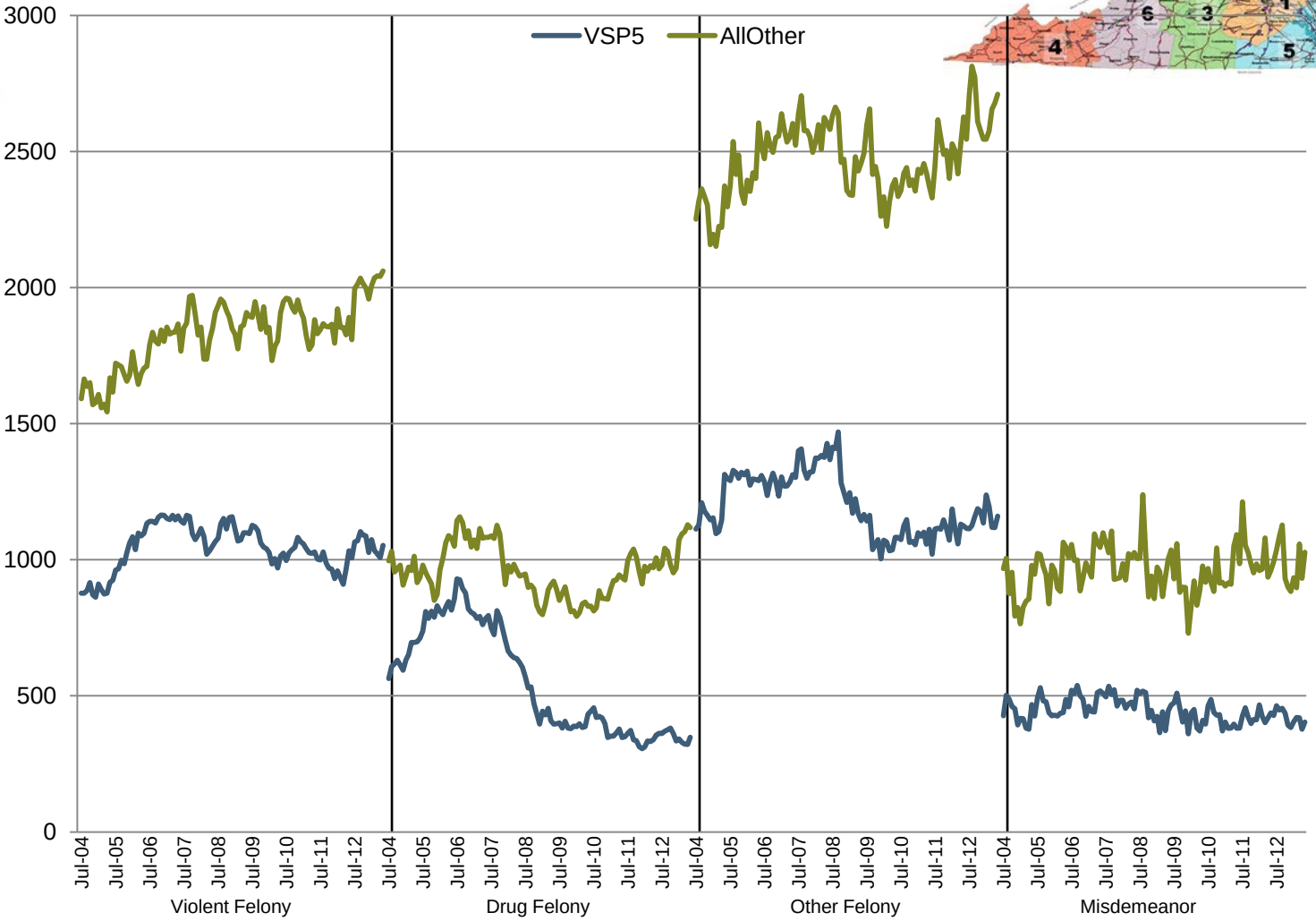
Pretrial EOM, By Offense

VSP5 vs All Other





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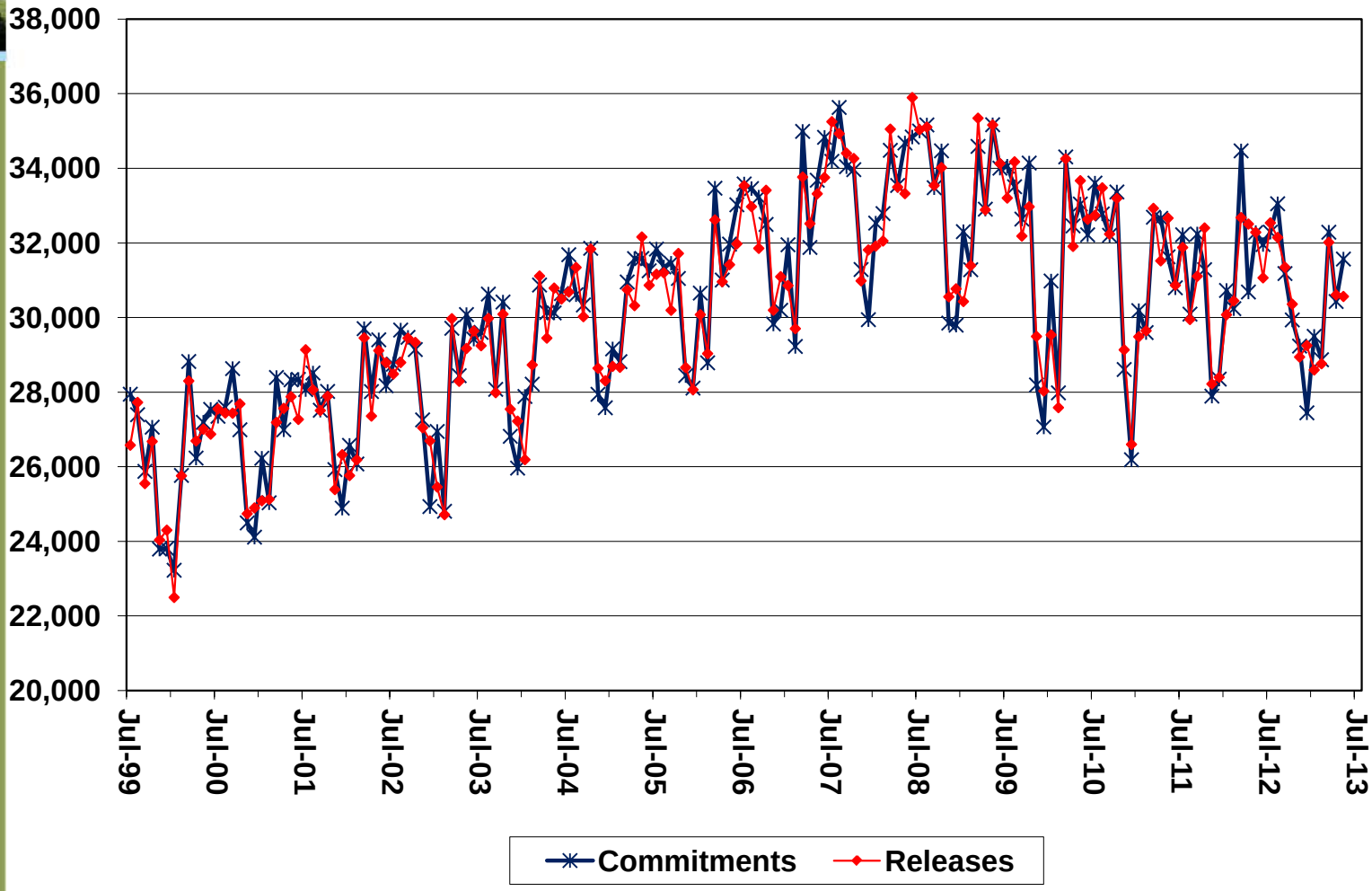
Jail Commitments and Releases Dropped in FY 2013*

Total Monthly



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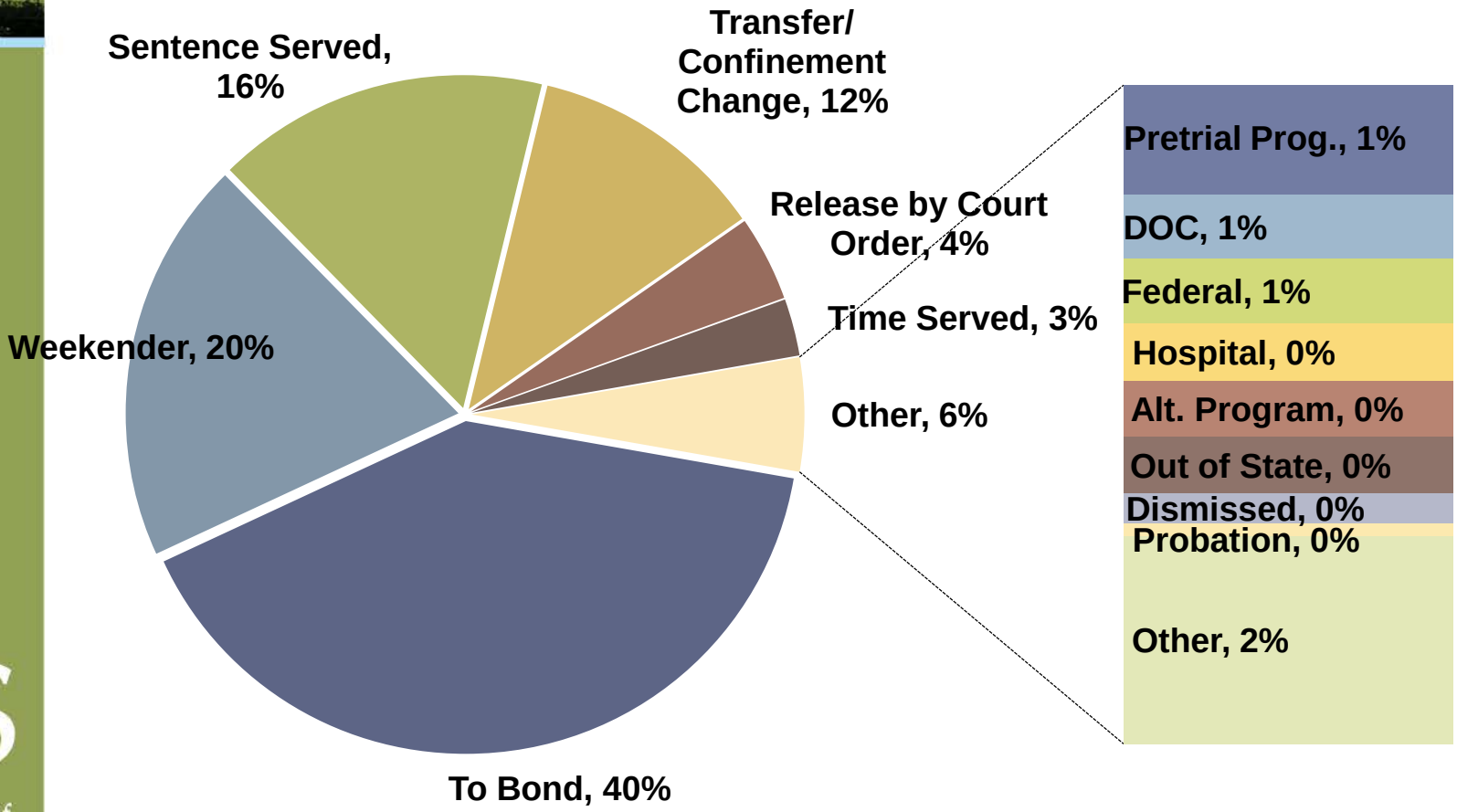
Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

*Average of July 2012-May 2013

Distribution of Releases

Local-Responsible Offenders, FY2009-2013*



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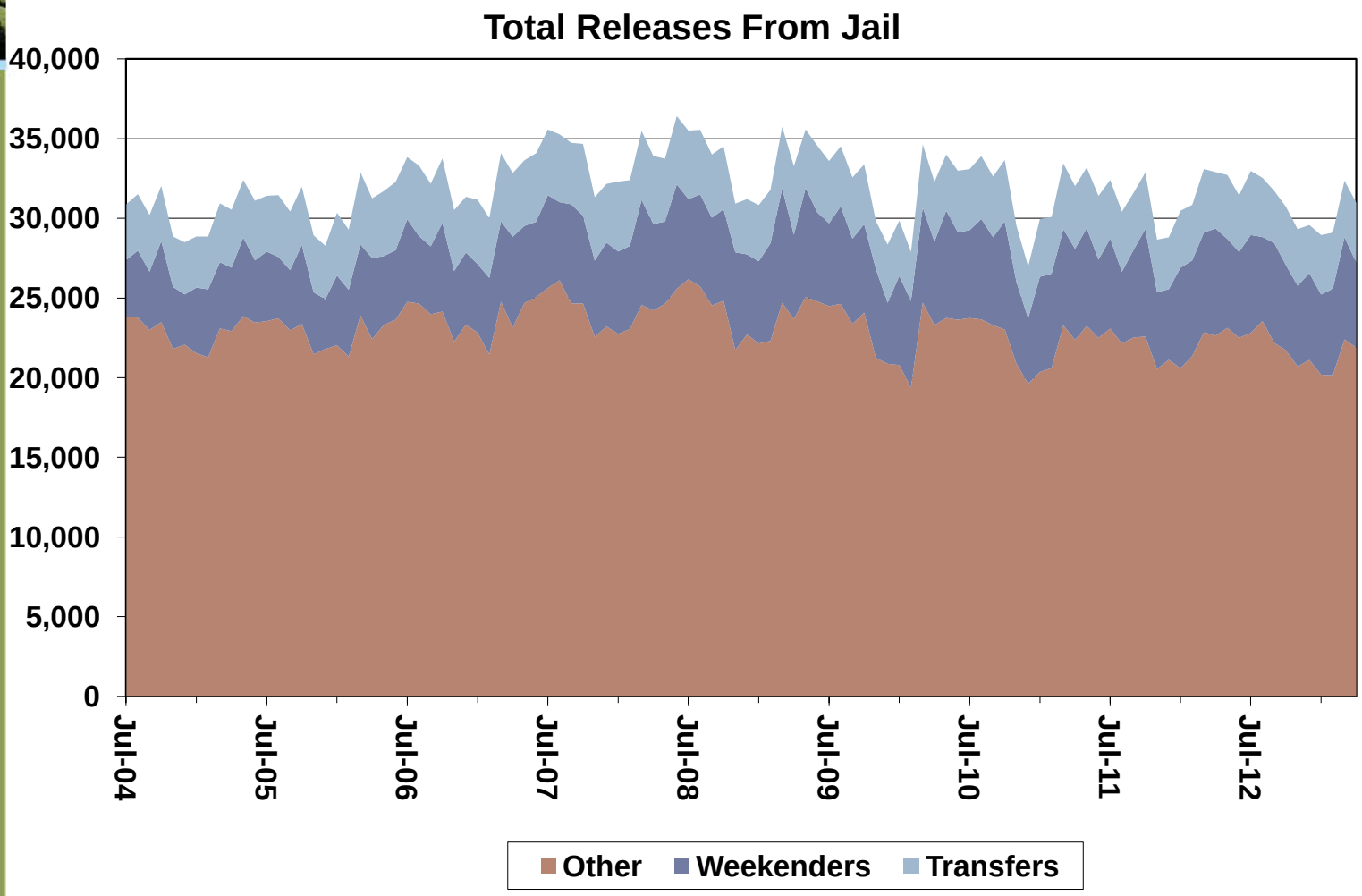
*Average of July 2012-April 2013

All “Releases” and Commitments Are Not Equal

Weekenders and Transfers Represent About 30% of total “Releases”. When they re-enter the facility they are “new” commitments.



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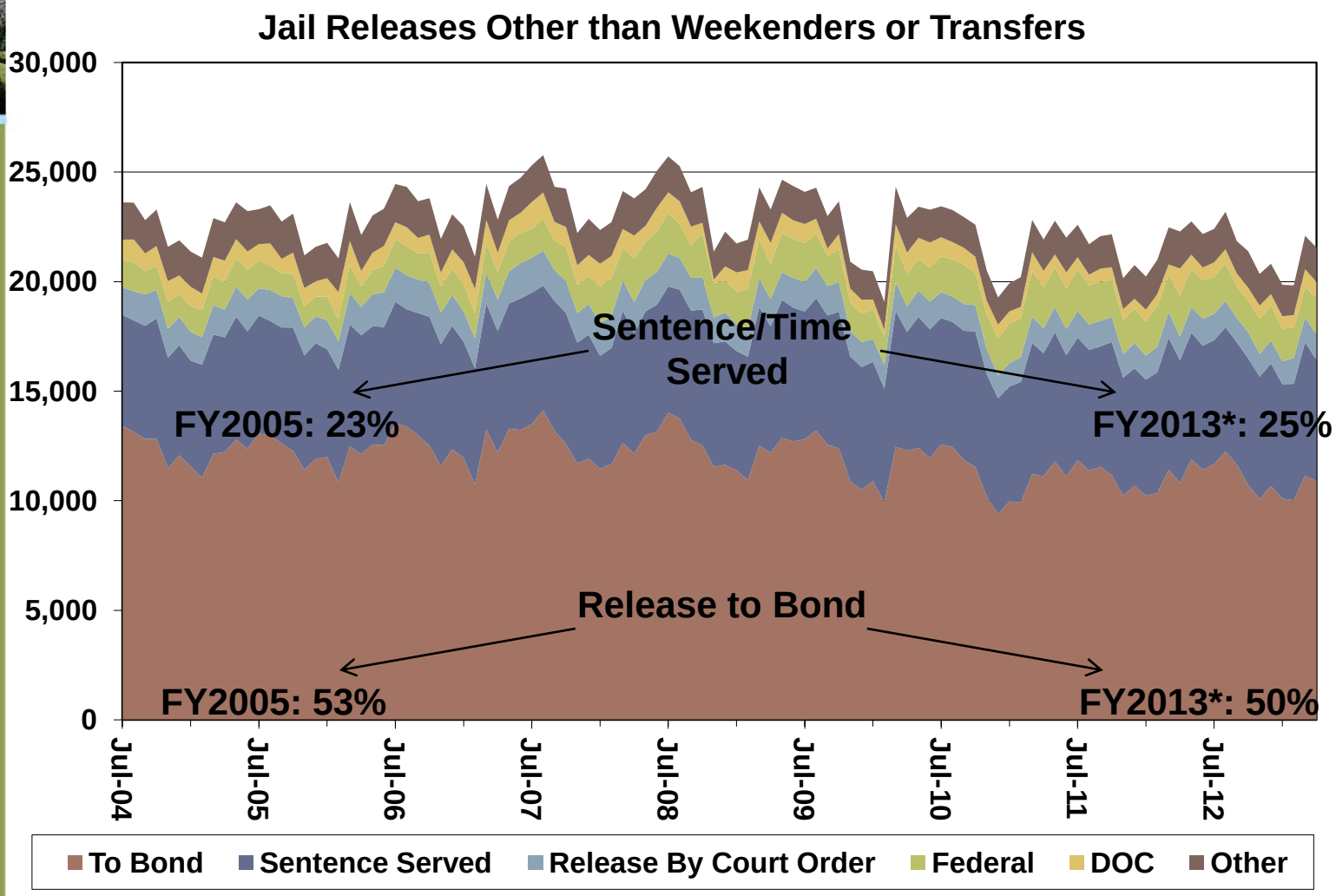
Breaking Out the Other Releases



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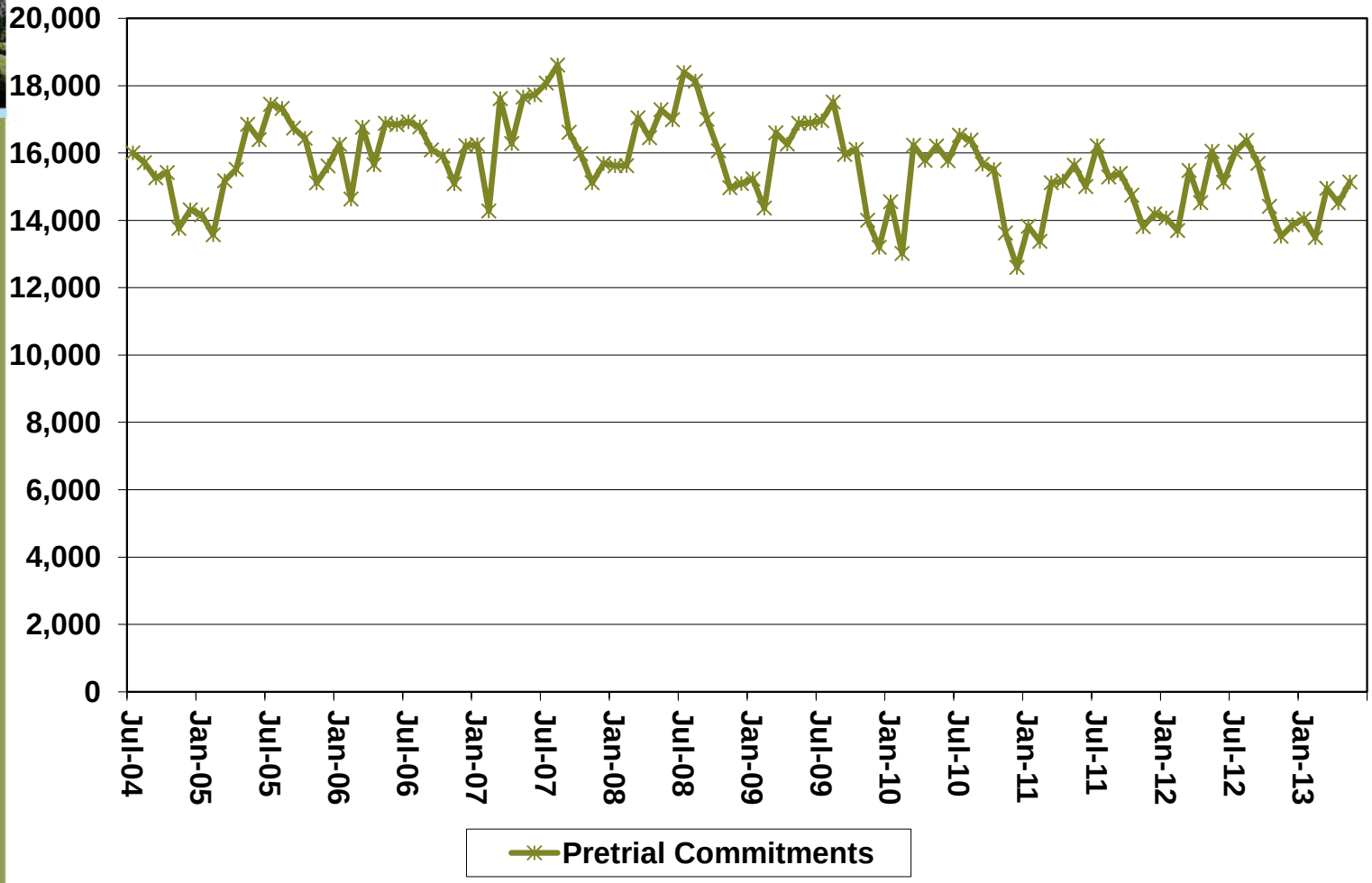
Pretrial Commitments Dropping



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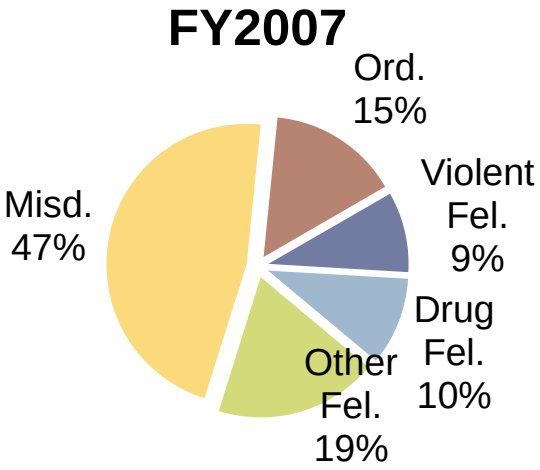
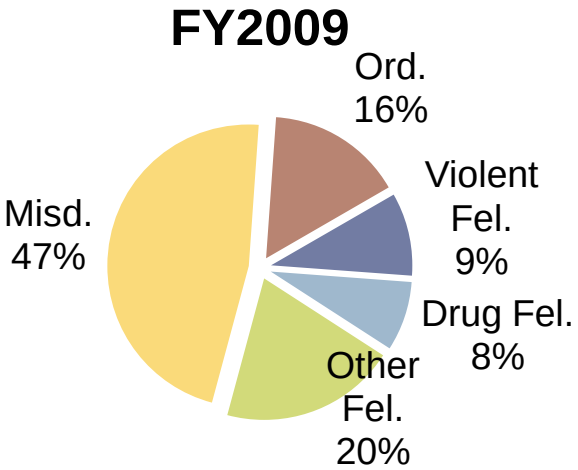
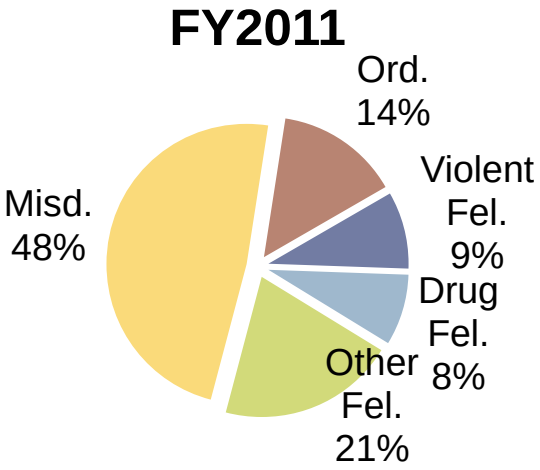
Pretrial = LIDS confinement code 10

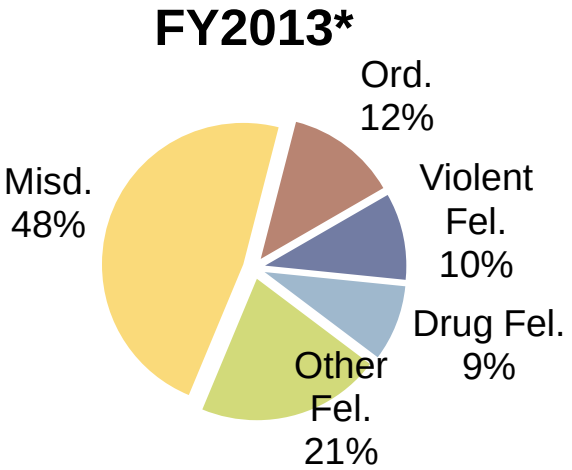
Pretrial Commitments

By Most Serious Committing Offense, Fiscal Year Average









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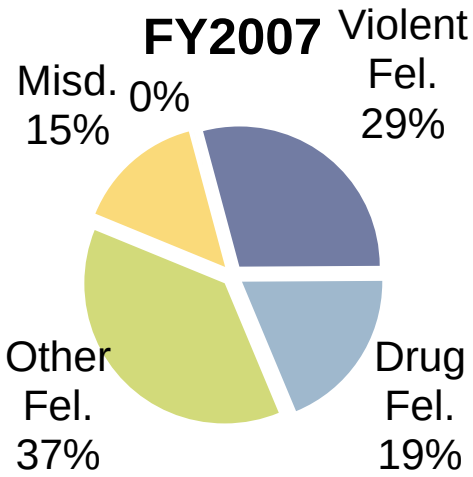
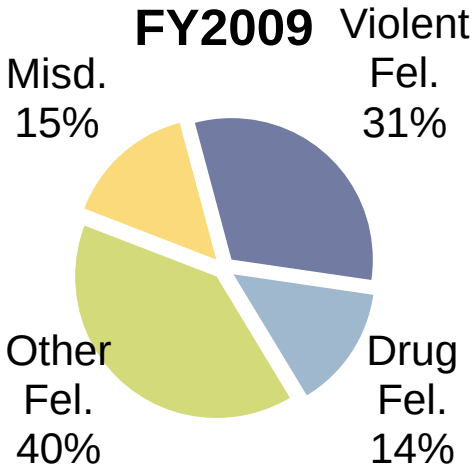
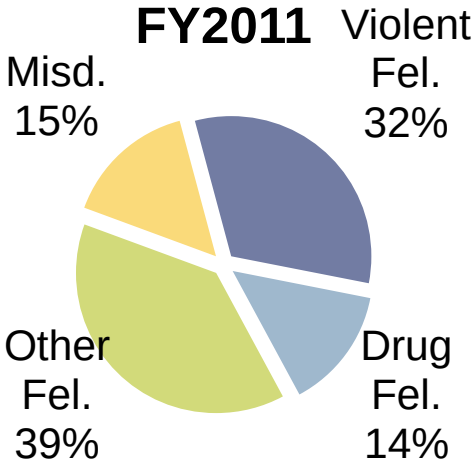
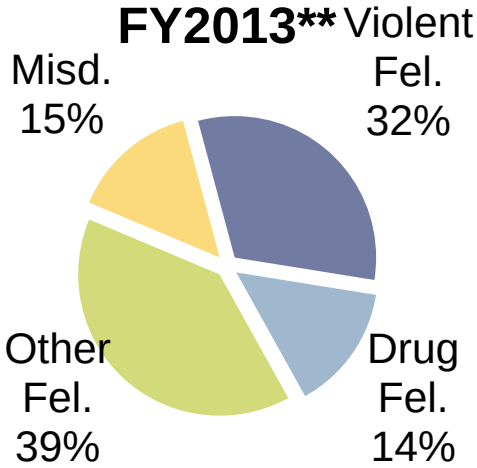
Pretrial - Average EOM

By Most Serious Committing Offense*, Fiscal Year Average









DCJS
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov

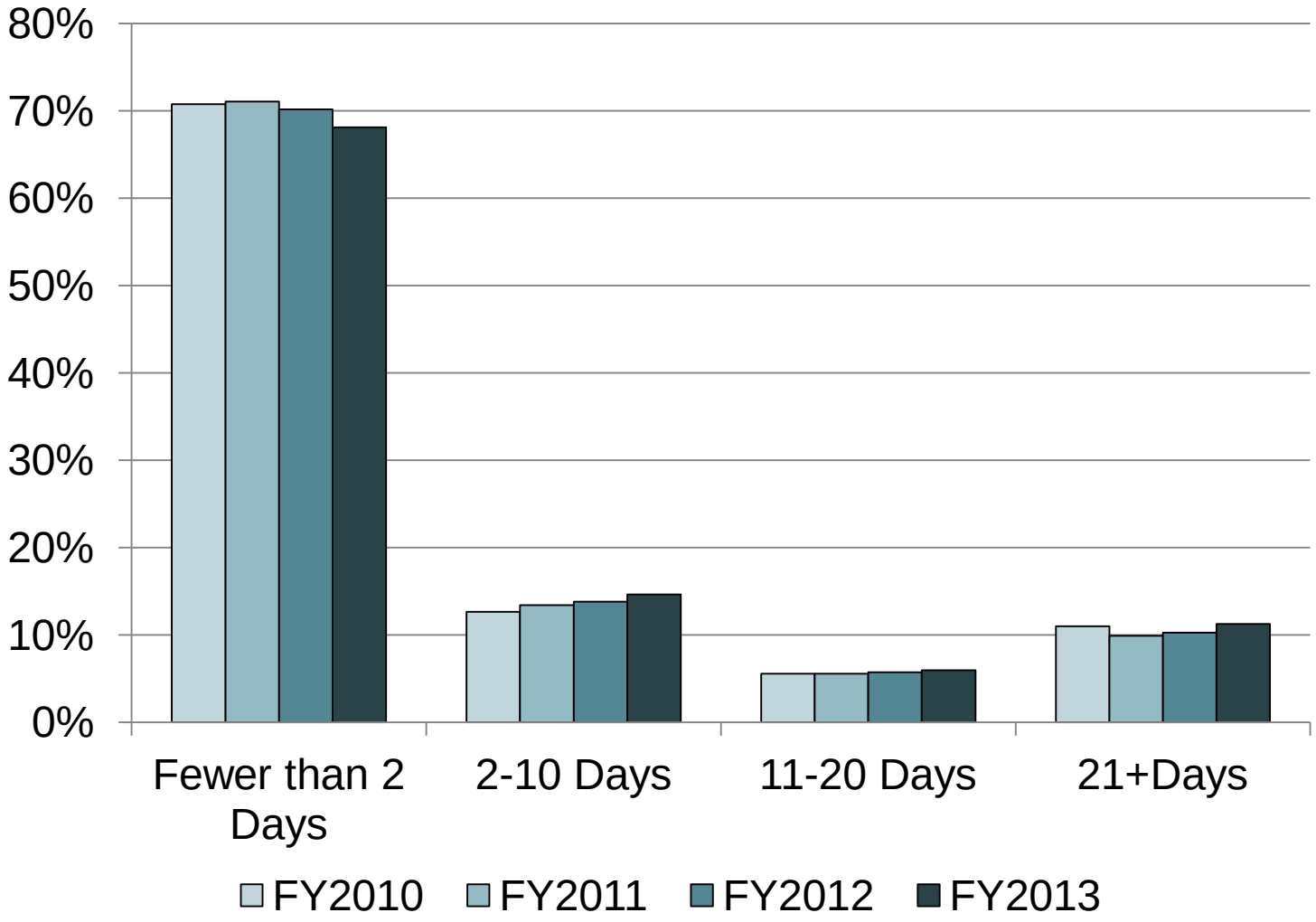
*Ordinance violators, consistently less than 0.05% of EOM, are not shown here.

Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

**July 2012 - May 2013

Pretrial Length of Stay

FY2010-2013



Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

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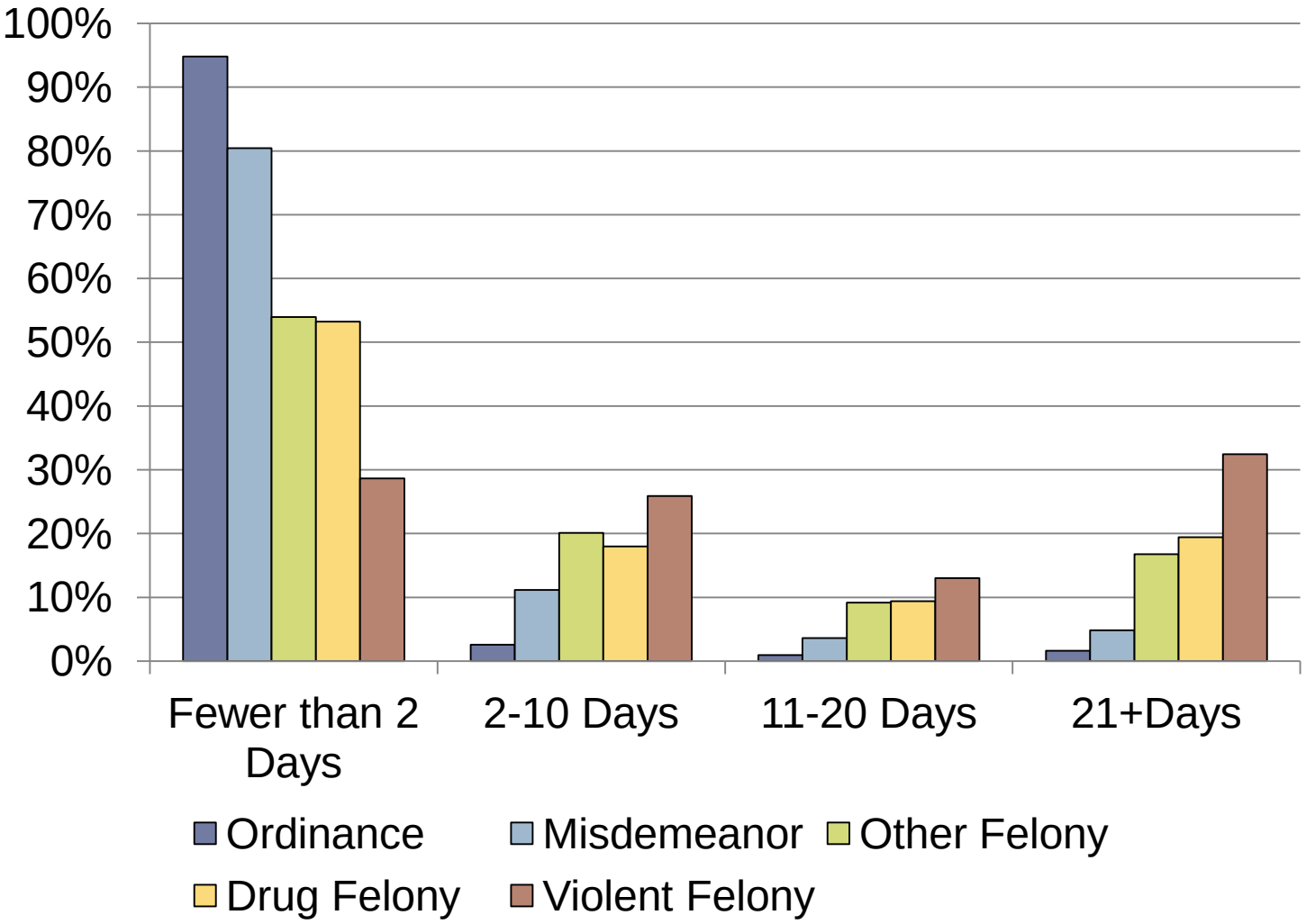
Pretrial Length of Stay

By Most Serious Committing Offense, FY2010-2013 Average



Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

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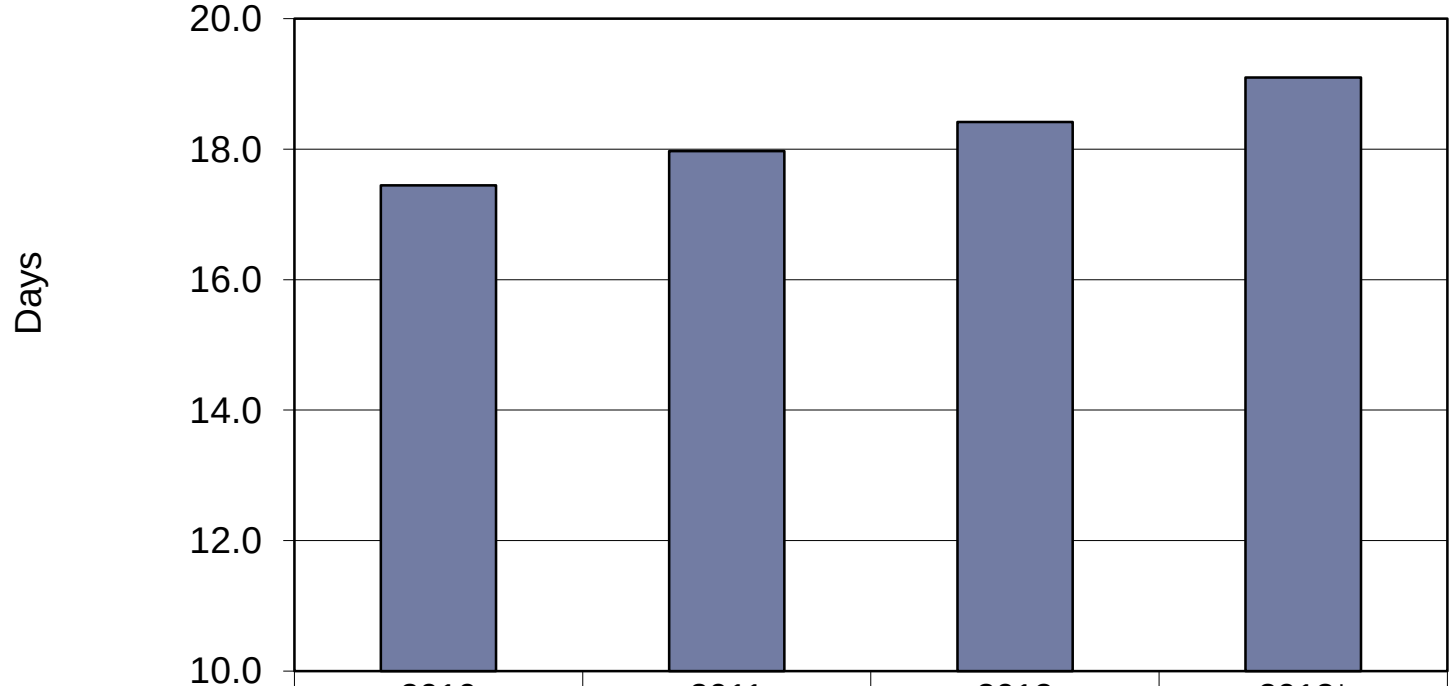
Average LOS is Rising

Local-Responsible Offenders, FY2010-2013*



	2010	2011	2012	2013*
LOS Days Total Releases	17.4	18.0	18.4	19.1
Percent Change		3.0%	2.5%	3.7%

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Data Source: Compensation Board's LIDS database; FY2013 data are preliminary

*Average July 2012-April 2013

Looking at LIDS Data

- Some of the other information we could draw from LIDS:
  - Sentenced offenses
  - Sentence date
  - Detailed offense data
  - Limited gang identification (not a mandatory field)
- All of the information we've looked at could be broken out by:
  - Jail
  - Committing court (locality)
  - Inmate age, sex, race, nationality

Caveats to Consider

- Using database for reasons other than intended, not optimized
- Confinement status can be overwritten
- End of Month data influenced by the day of the week
- Database not designed to track an individual's confinement
  - Each transfer between jails results in an additional commitment and release
    - Skews LOS analysis downward
  - Each weekender is counted for each commitment and release

Recidivism Analysis

- Inmate identifiers can be pulled from LIDS and matched to State Police, court, and Department of Corrections data.
  - Virginia uses various measures: rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration.
  - Need to pull information for inmates who have been released from jail following completion of their sentence.
- "Return to jail" measure
  - Offenders released to bond, rate at which they return to jail

Program Evaluations

- Matched inmates screened by pretrial services programs to LIDS
  - Identified how many were still in jail a week later
  - Broke data out using data from LIDS (offenses) and from community corrections database (bond amount, risk level)
- Matched participants in reentry program to LIDS
  - Compared rearrest rates for program participants to rates for total jail releases
  - Used LIDS data to break offenders out according to number of prior incarcerations

Data Sources

- Virginia Compensation Board's LIDS database, through May 2013; FY2013 data are preliminary
- Virginia Department of Forensic Science, workload summaries and data sent to National Forensic Laboratory Information System
- Annual Virginia Crime Reports, produced by the Virginia State Police