

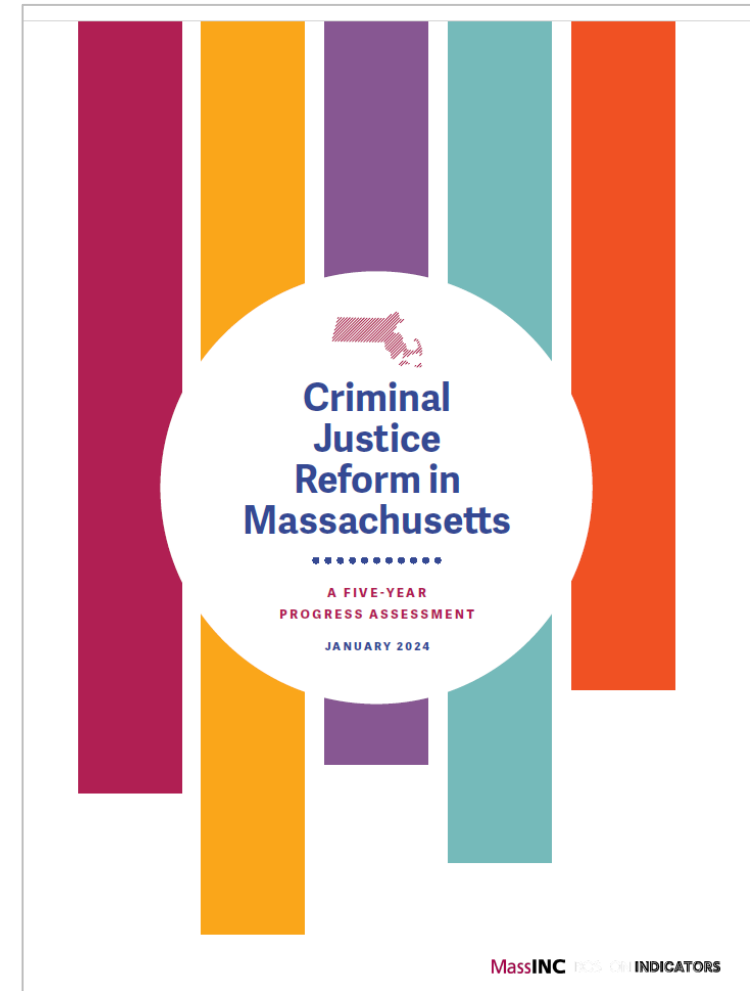


Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts

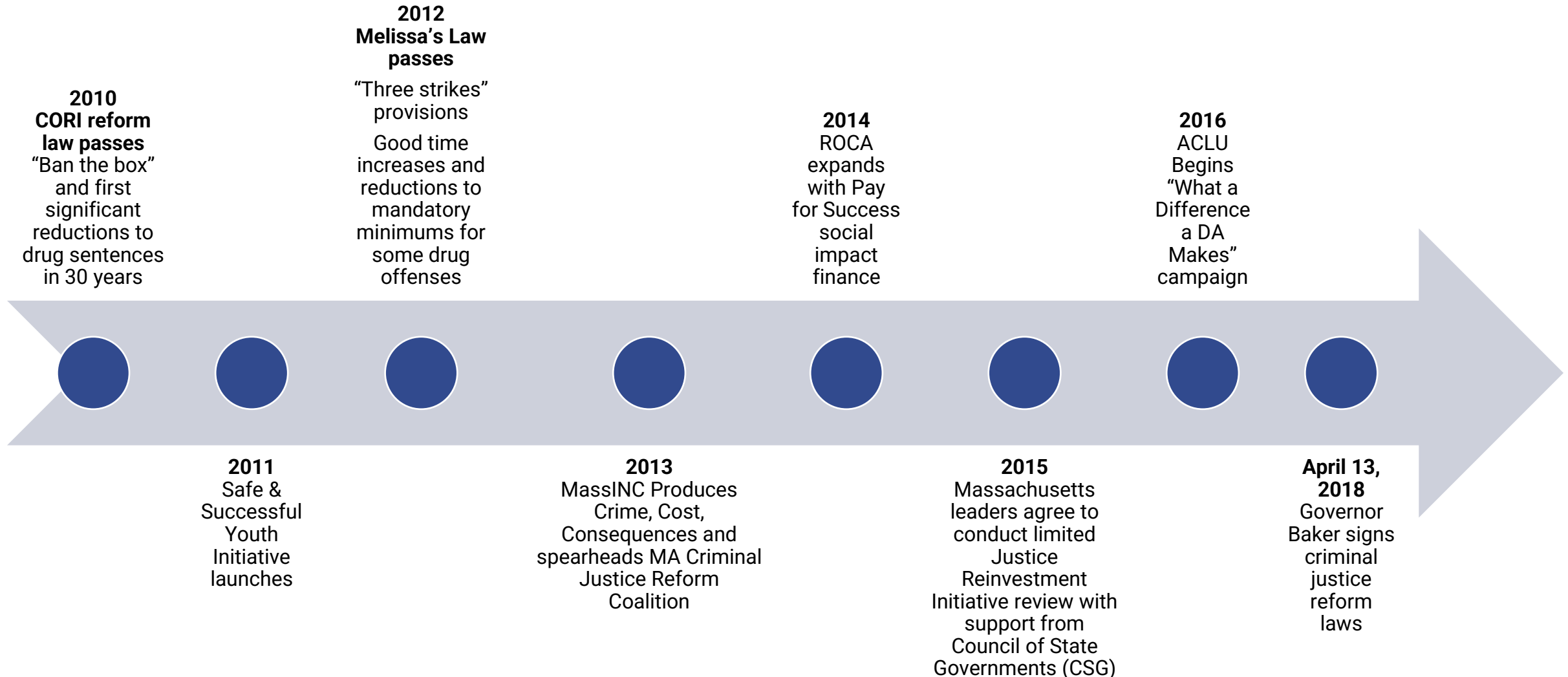
**A Five-Year
Progress Assessment**

Overview

- Primer on criminal justice reform
- Criminal justice trends post-2018
- Reinvestment trends post-reform



The Road to Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts



Goals of the 2018 reform laws

- Reduce incarceration and recidivism
- Improve behavioral health
- Reduce racial disparities in the criminal legal system, and their impact on communities of color
- Underlying theory of change:
“less incarceration = more public safety”

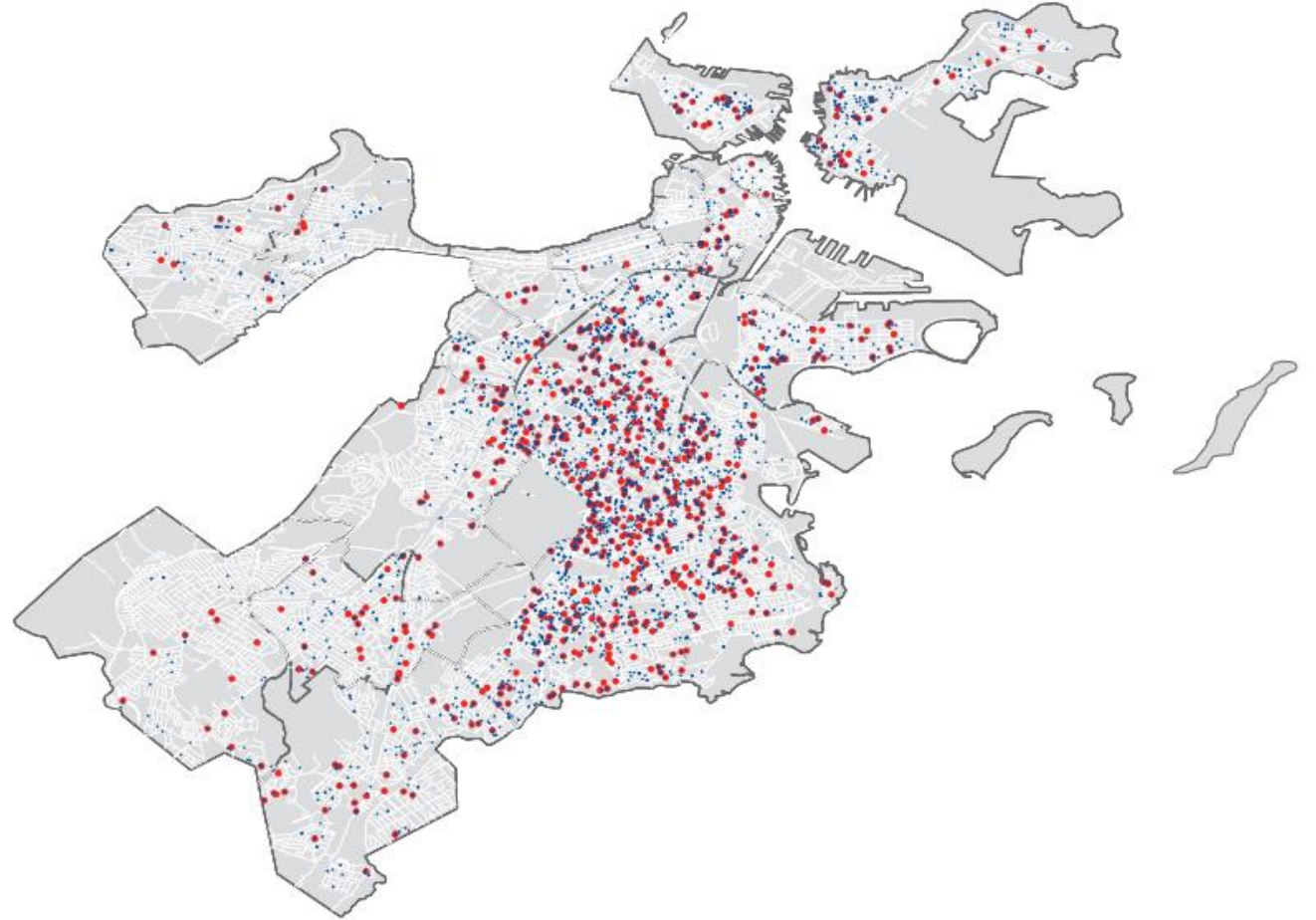


The Geography of Incarceration

A Special Report from the Boston Indicators Project
in Partnership with MassINC and the
Massachusetts Criminal Justice Reform Coalition



Suffolk County House of Correction Commitments and Nashua Street Jail Detentions, 2013



Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform

- Decriminalization and diversion
- Pretrial detention
- Sentence length reductions and enhancements
- Restrictive housing reforms
- Solitary confinement
- Reduced parole and probation fees
- Criminal record sealing changes
- Data collection and transparency

Act Implementing the Joint Recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review

- Good time and program completion credits
- Eligibility for limited good time reductions for some individuals serving mandatory minimums
- Compliance credits for those with post-release parole or probation supervision

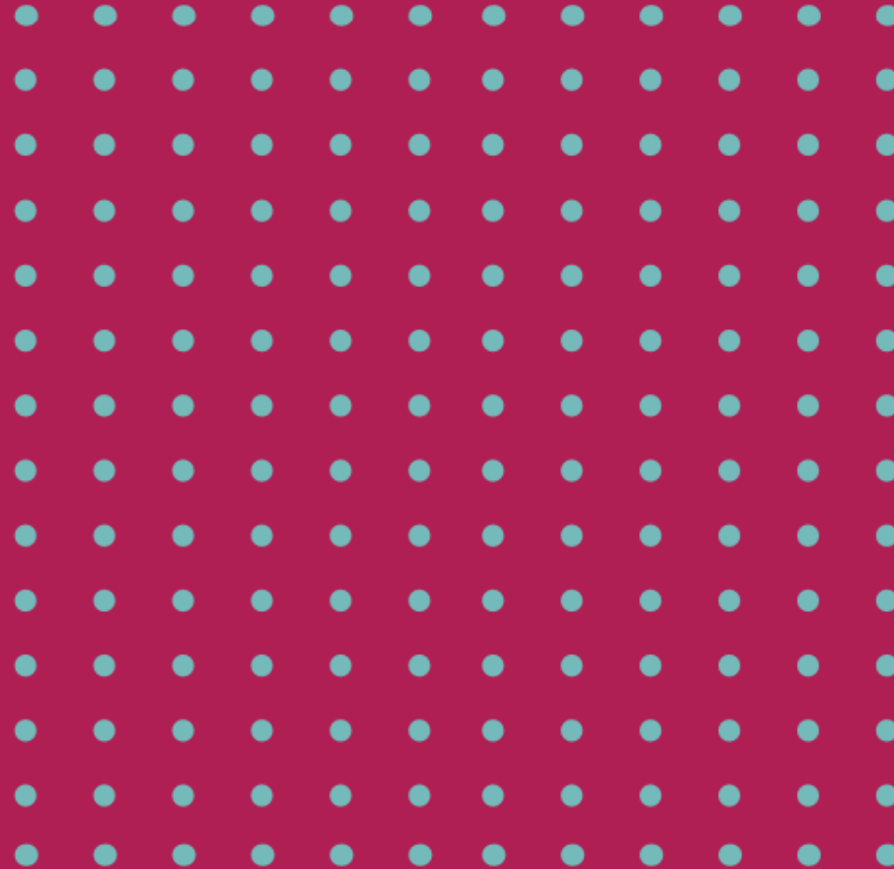
Research Questions

- Did the 2018 reforms lead to meaningful reductions in incarceration?
- Did the 2018 reforms reduce racial disparities in the criminal legal system?
- Has Massachusetts made meaningful investments in alternatives to incarceration?
- Is the less incarceration = more public safety formula working?

Method/Disclaimer

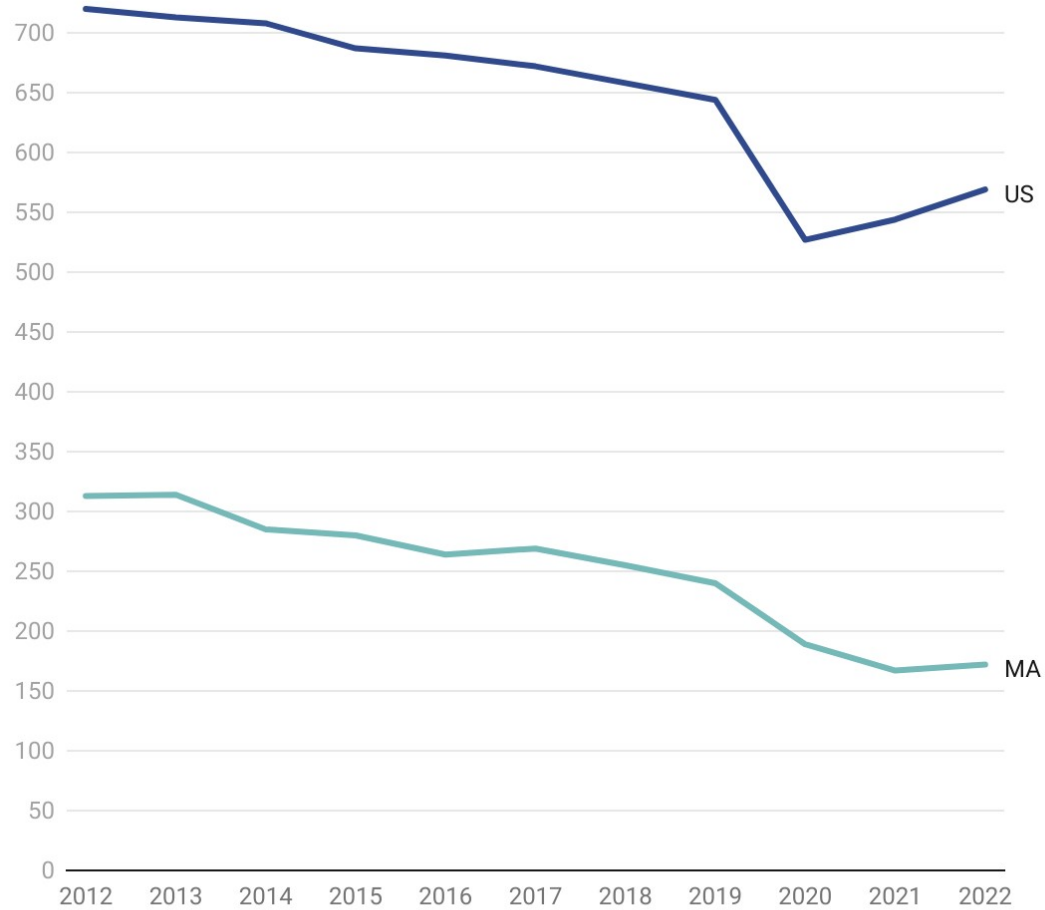
- ✓ Descriptive analysis only
- ✓ All findings are suggestive; we cannot make causal claims about the impact of policy changes

Evaluating Crime and Criminal Justice Trends Post-Reform

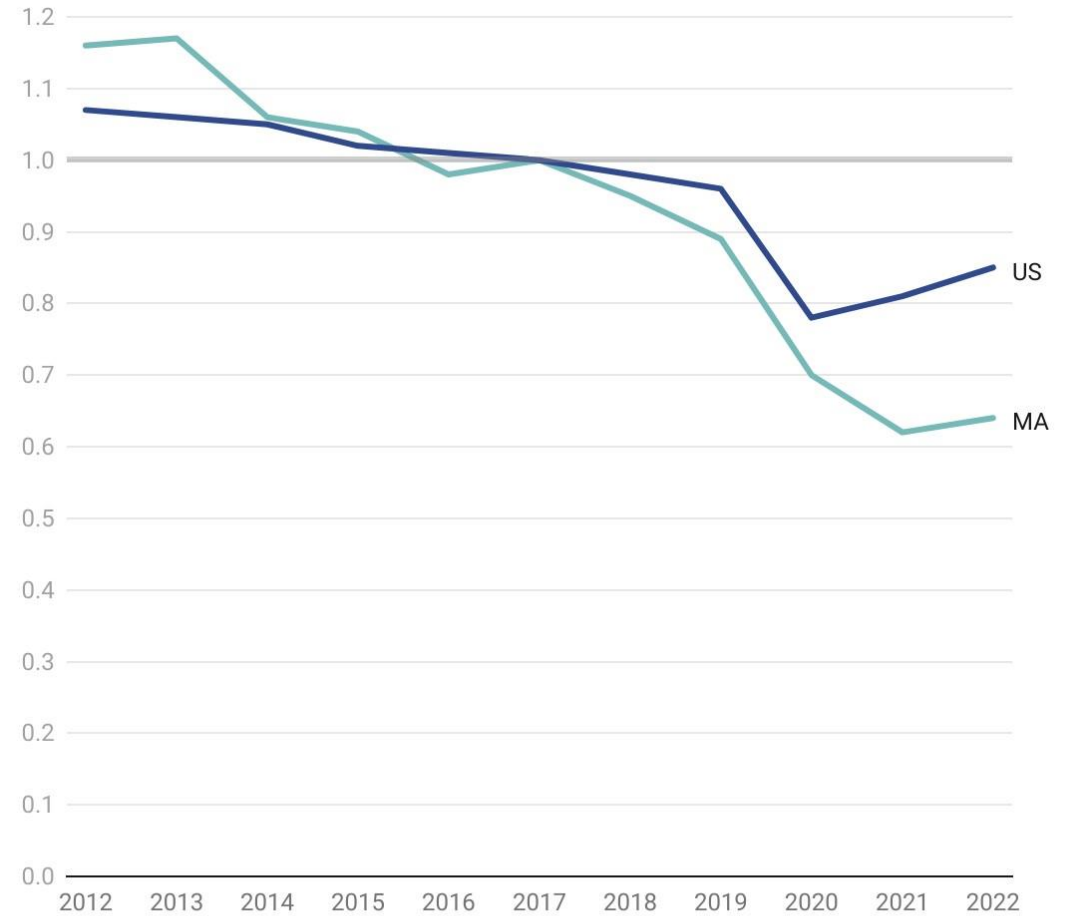


Incarceration rates in the United States versus Massachusetts

Per 100,000 residents



Indexed to 2017

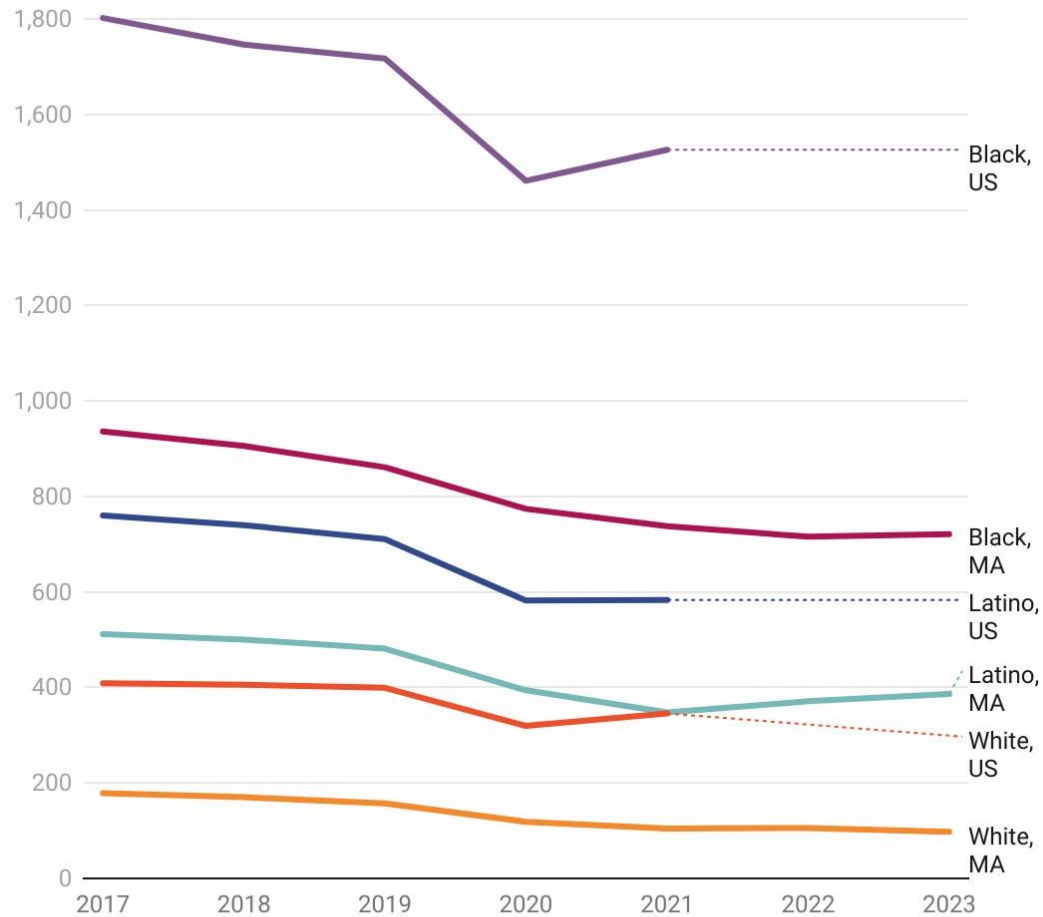


Source: US Bureau of Justice Statistics and Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Cross-Tracking System

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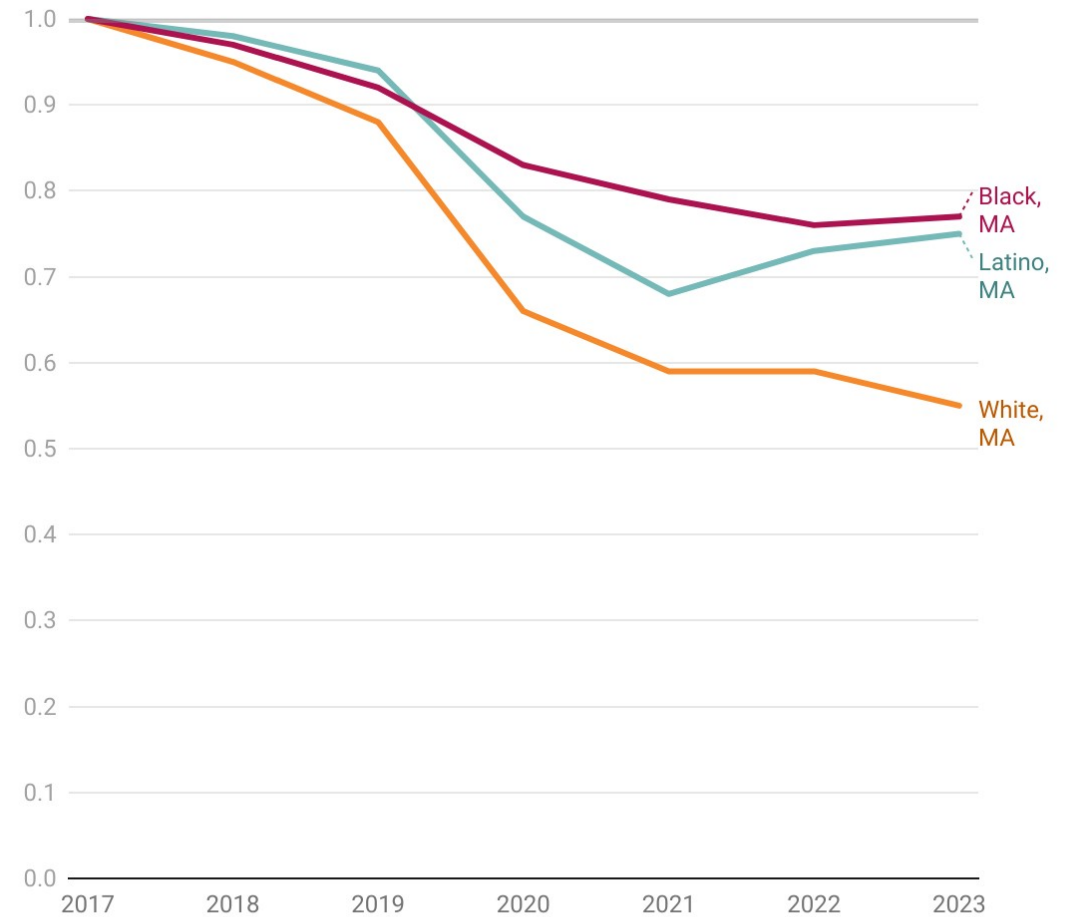
Incarceration rates in the United States versus Massachusetts by race/ethnicity

Per 100,000 residents



Source: US Bureau of Justice Statistics and Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Cross-Tracking System

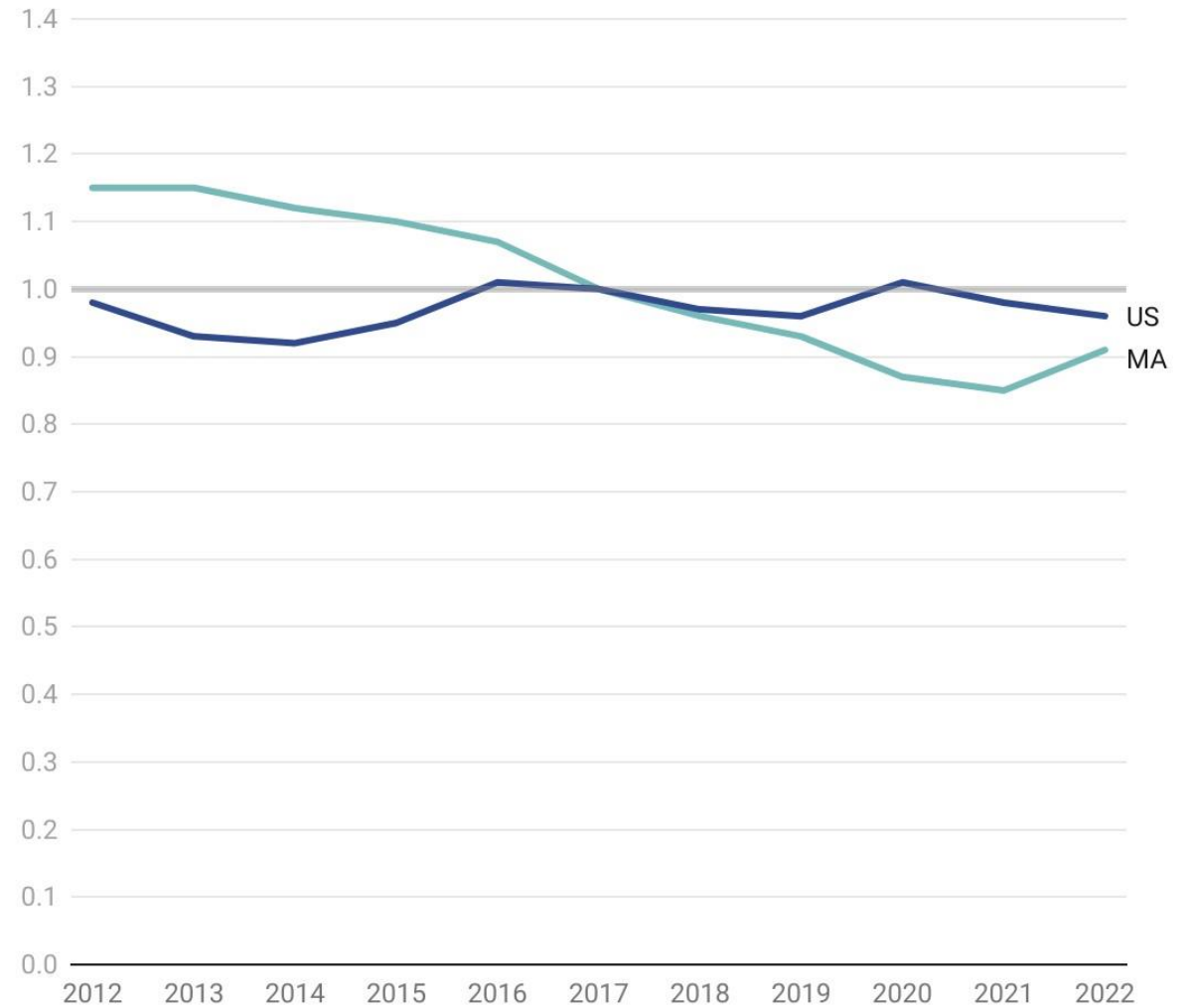
Indexed to 2017



Source: US Bureau of Justice Statistics and Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Cross-Tracking System

Violent crime rates in the United States versus Massachusetts

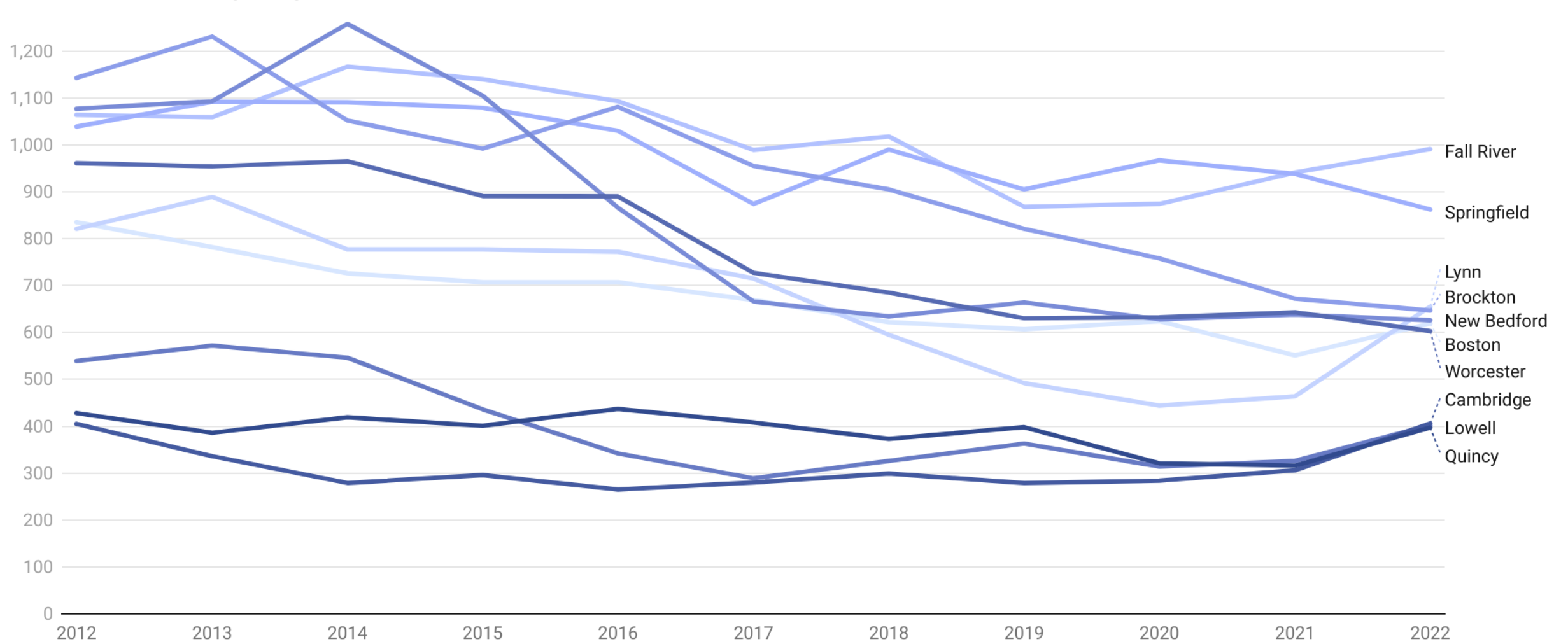
Indexed to 2017



* Note: National 2021 data has a significant margin of error due to data quality issues.

Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

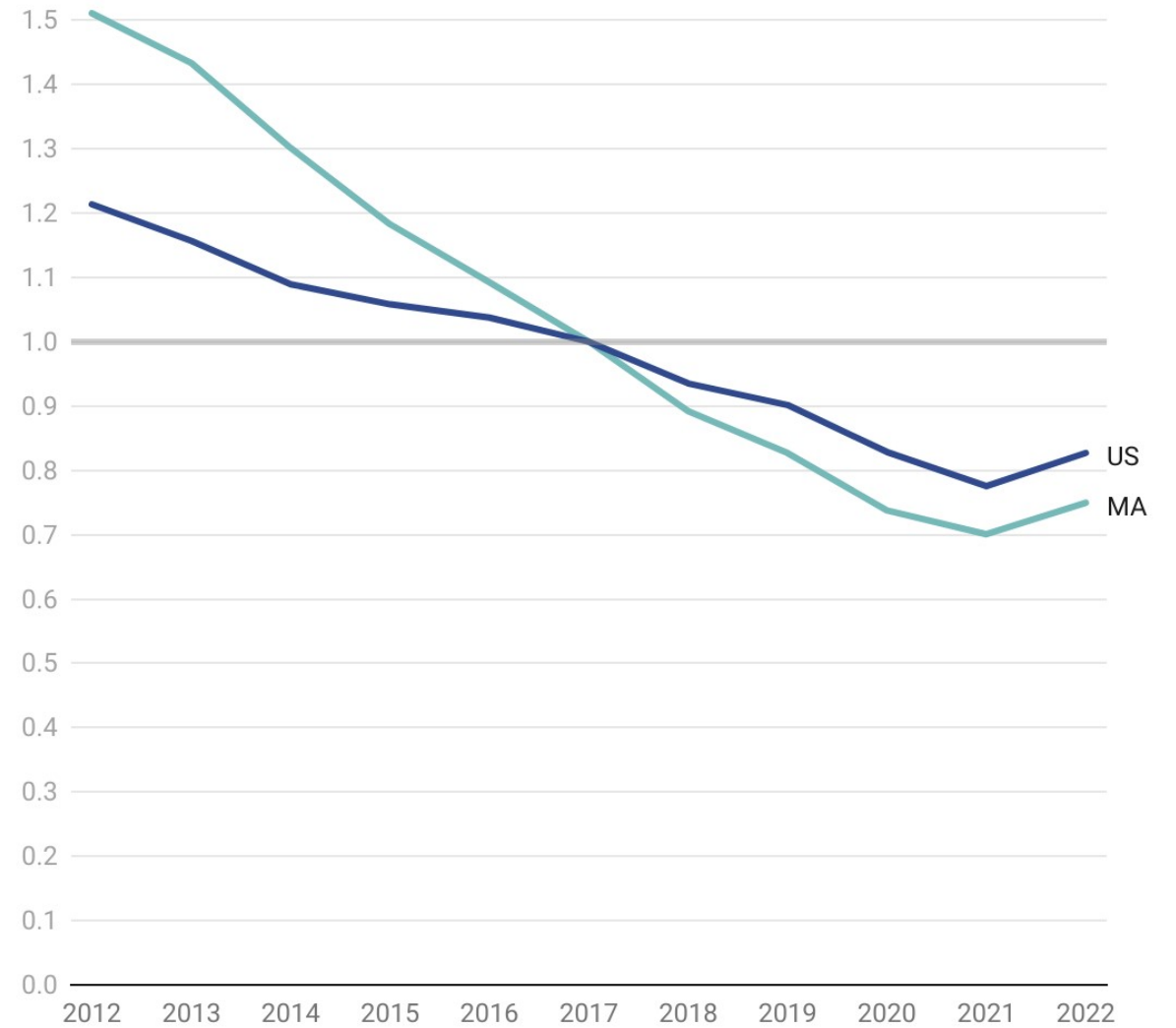
Violent crime rate per 100,000 residents, 10 largest cities



Source: Kaplan, Jacob. Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Offenses Known and Clearances by Arrest (Return A), 1960-2021. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Property crime rates in the United States versus Massachusetts

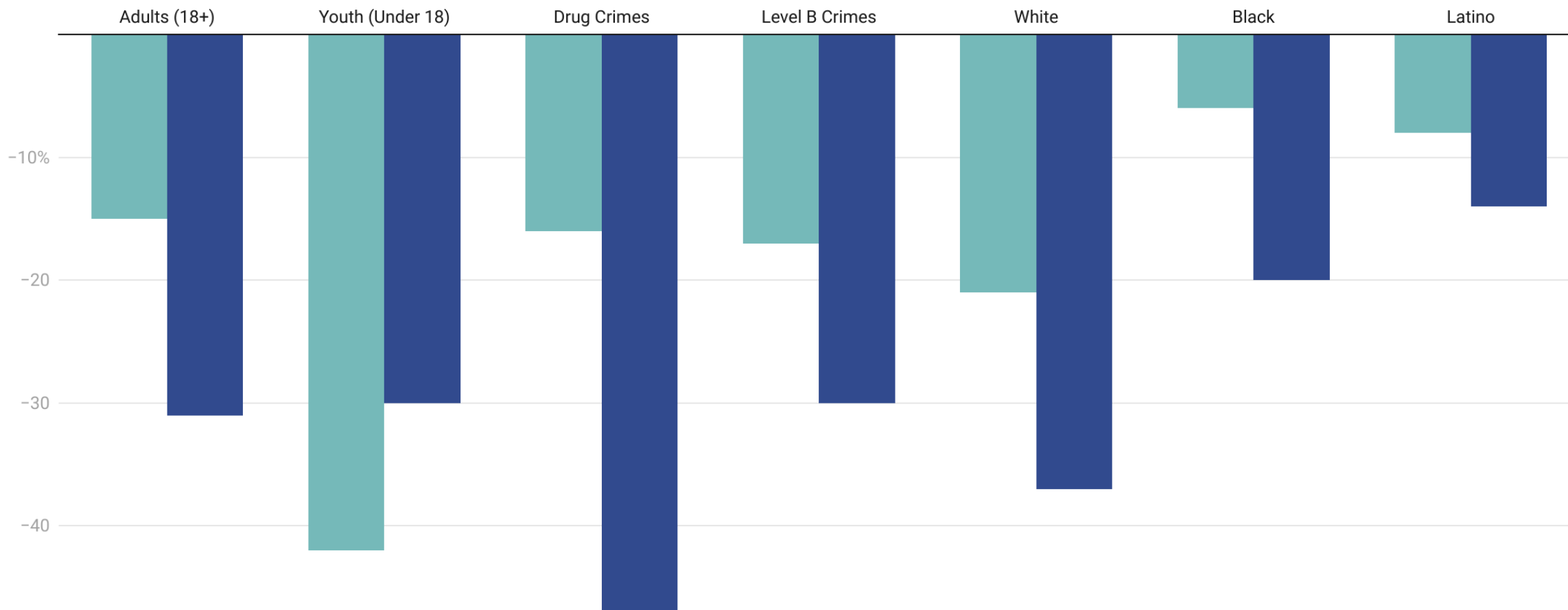
Indexed to 2017



Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

Percent change in arrests in the five years before and after 2018, all reporting jurisdictions

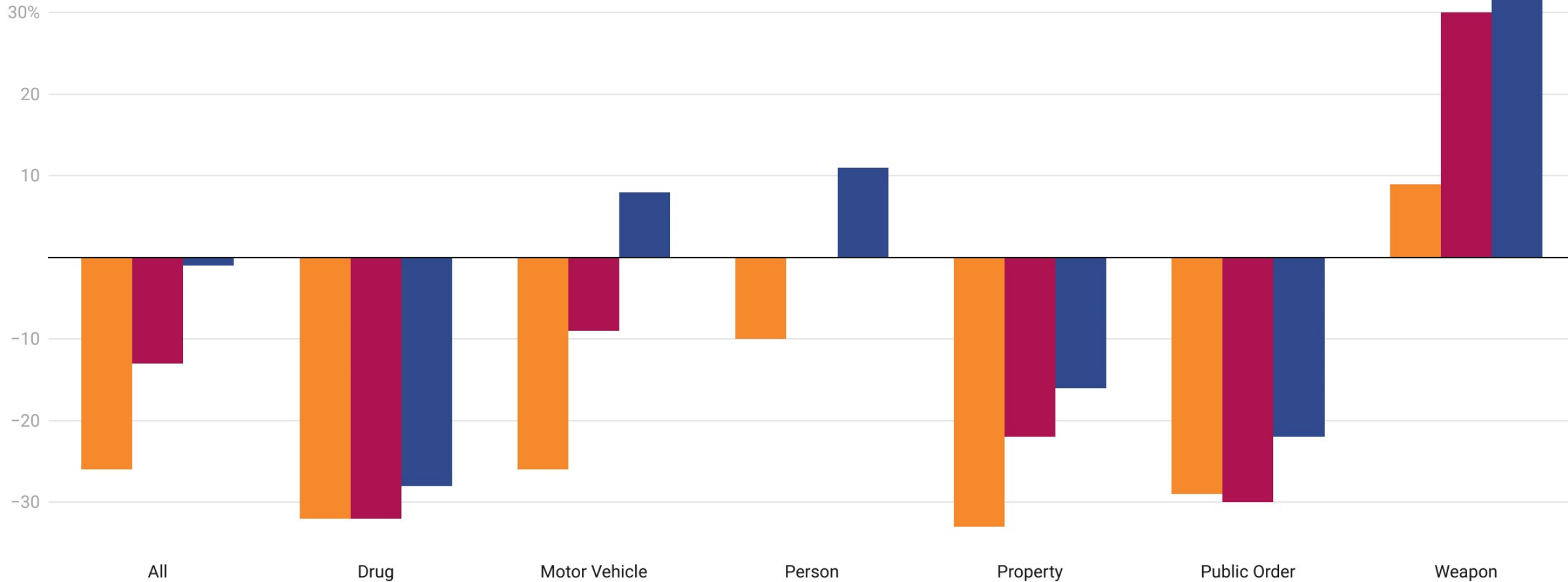
■ 12-'17 % Change ■ 17-'22 % Change



Source: Massachusetts State Police CrimeSOLV

Percent change in charges by offense, Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2023

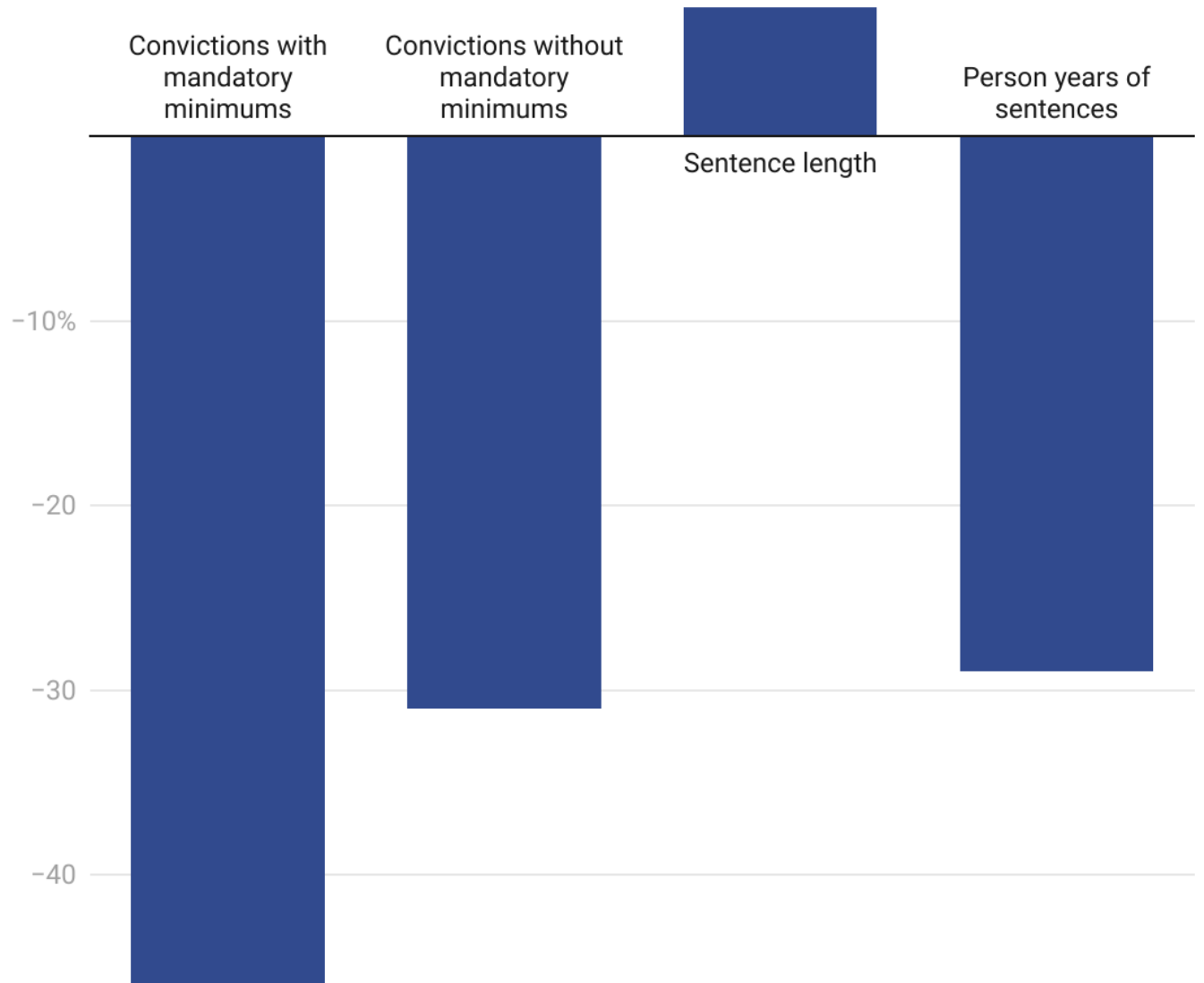
White Black Latino



Source: Massachusetts Trial Court Department of Research and Planning

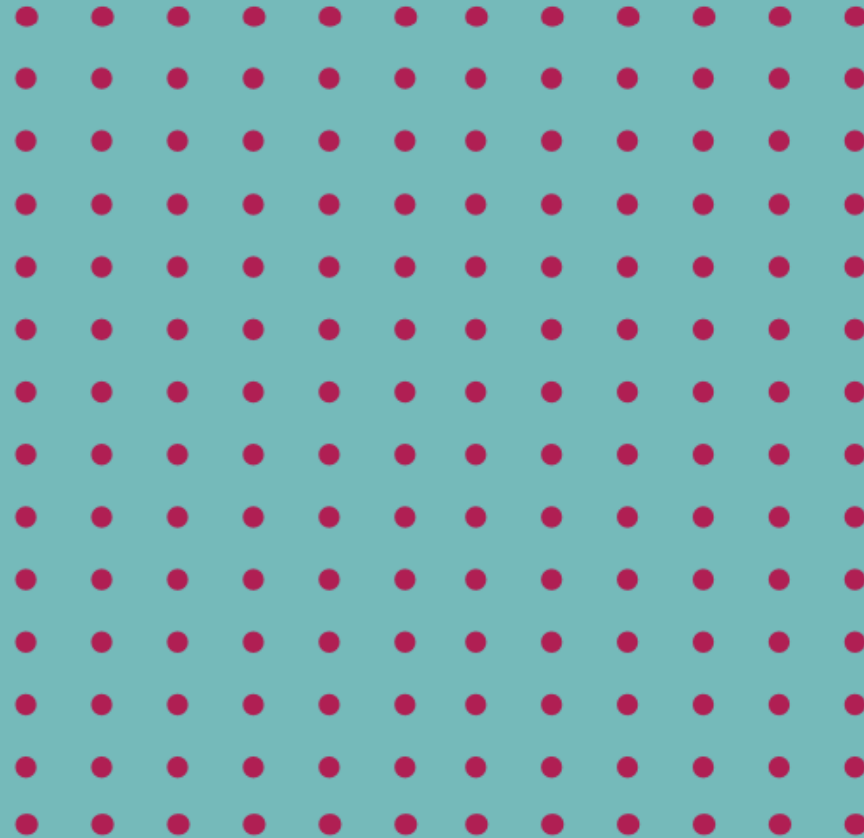
Percent change in annualized averages of drug-related sentences pre vs post reform

from the period before reform (July 1, 2016 to April 13, 2018) to the period after reform (April 17, 2018 to June 30, 2023)



Source: Massachusetts Trial Court and MassINC calculations

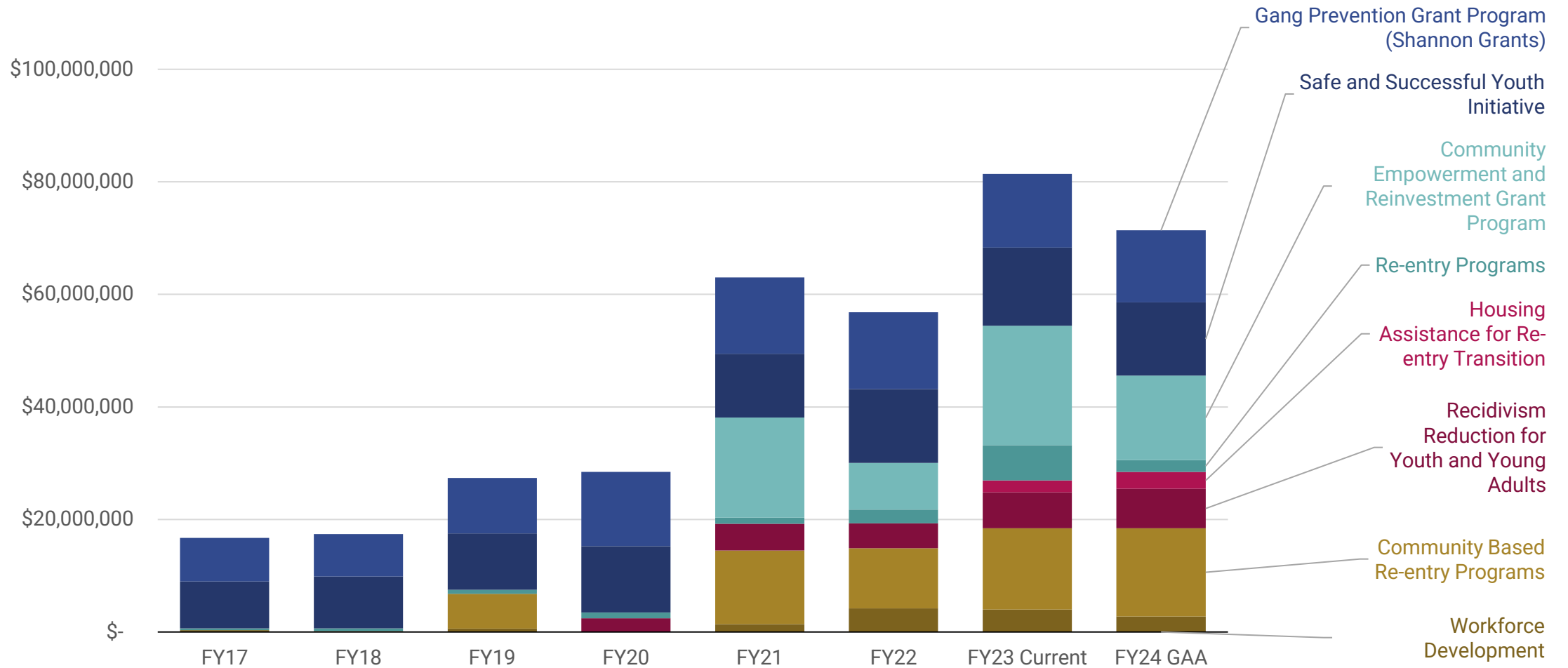
**Evaluating Investment
Trends in Treatment,
Rehabilitation and
Community Economic
Development Post-Reform**



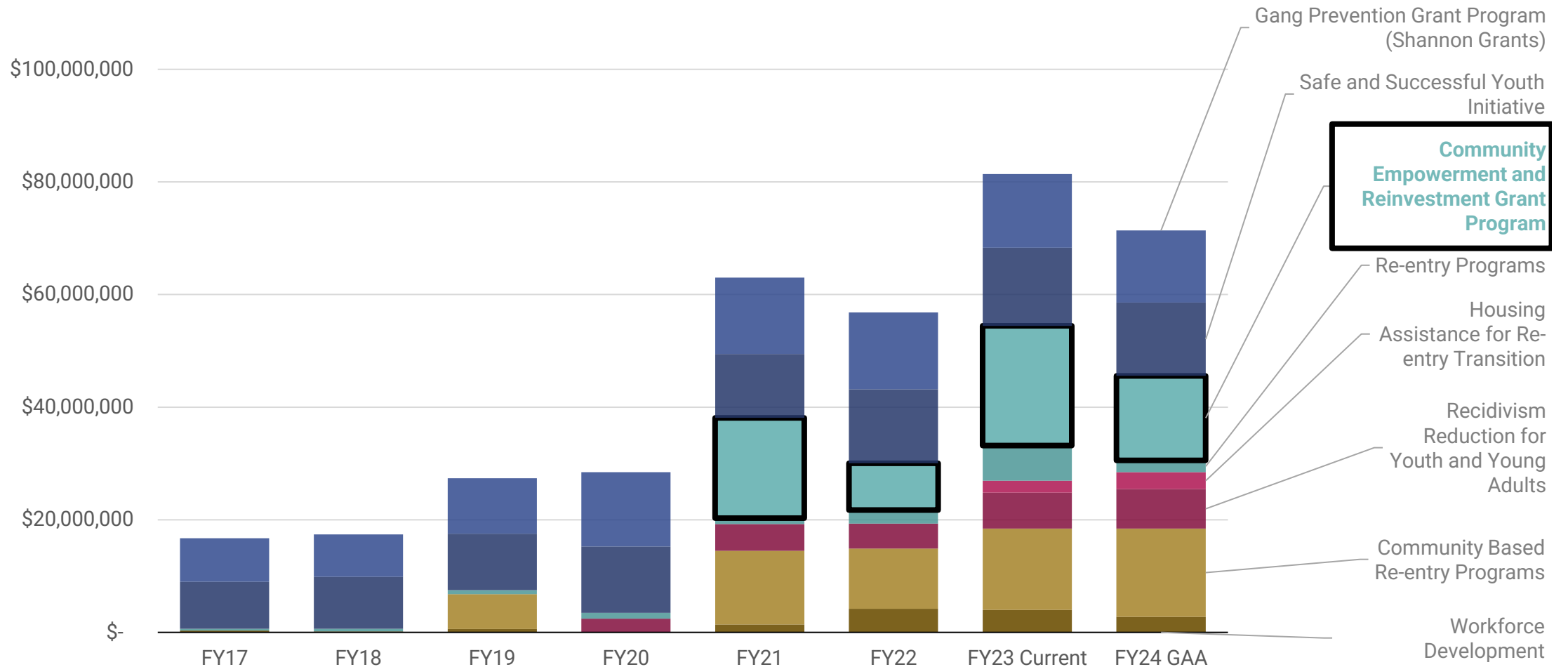
Corrections and Reentry Funding

- Post-reform, per-inmate funding increased significantly.
- It's not clear where this funding is going.
- We have a better understanding of reentry and reinvestment funding, which has seen some of the greatest *new* investments

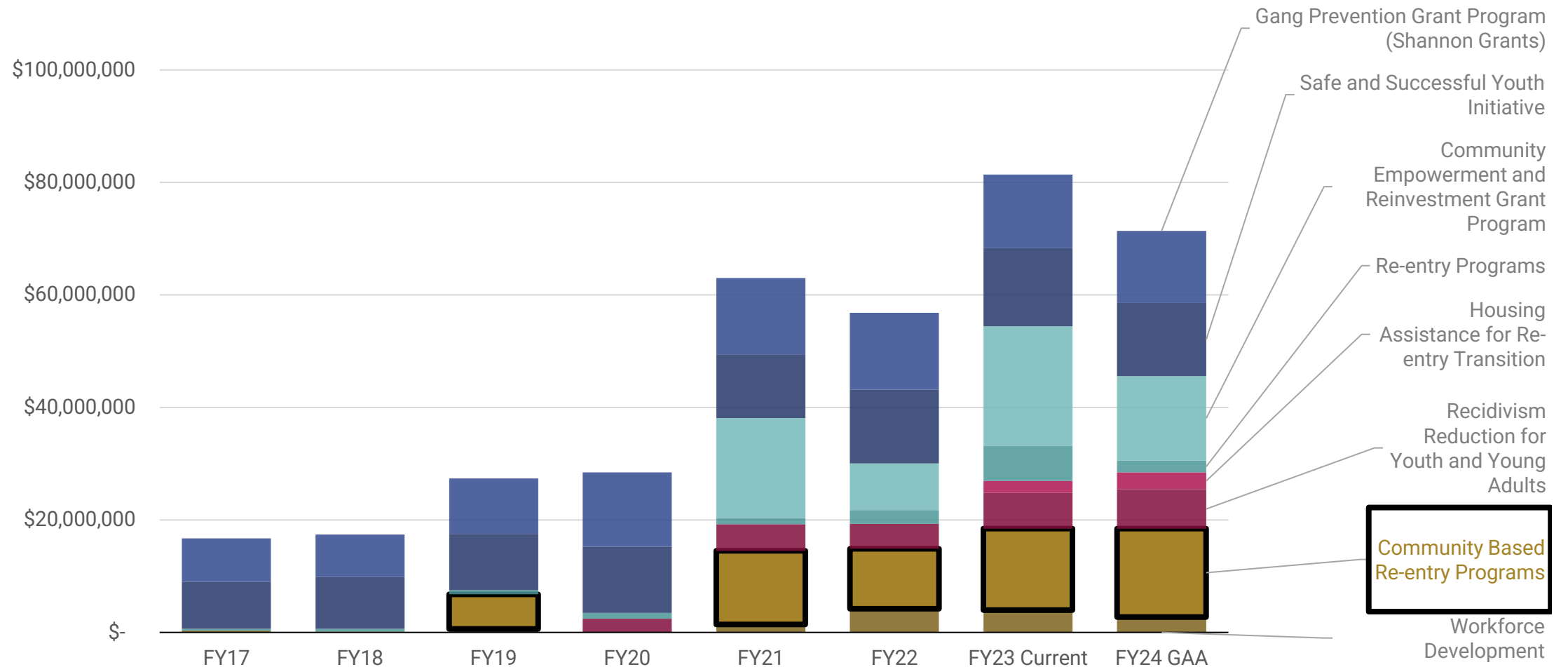
Reentry and reinvestment program funding.



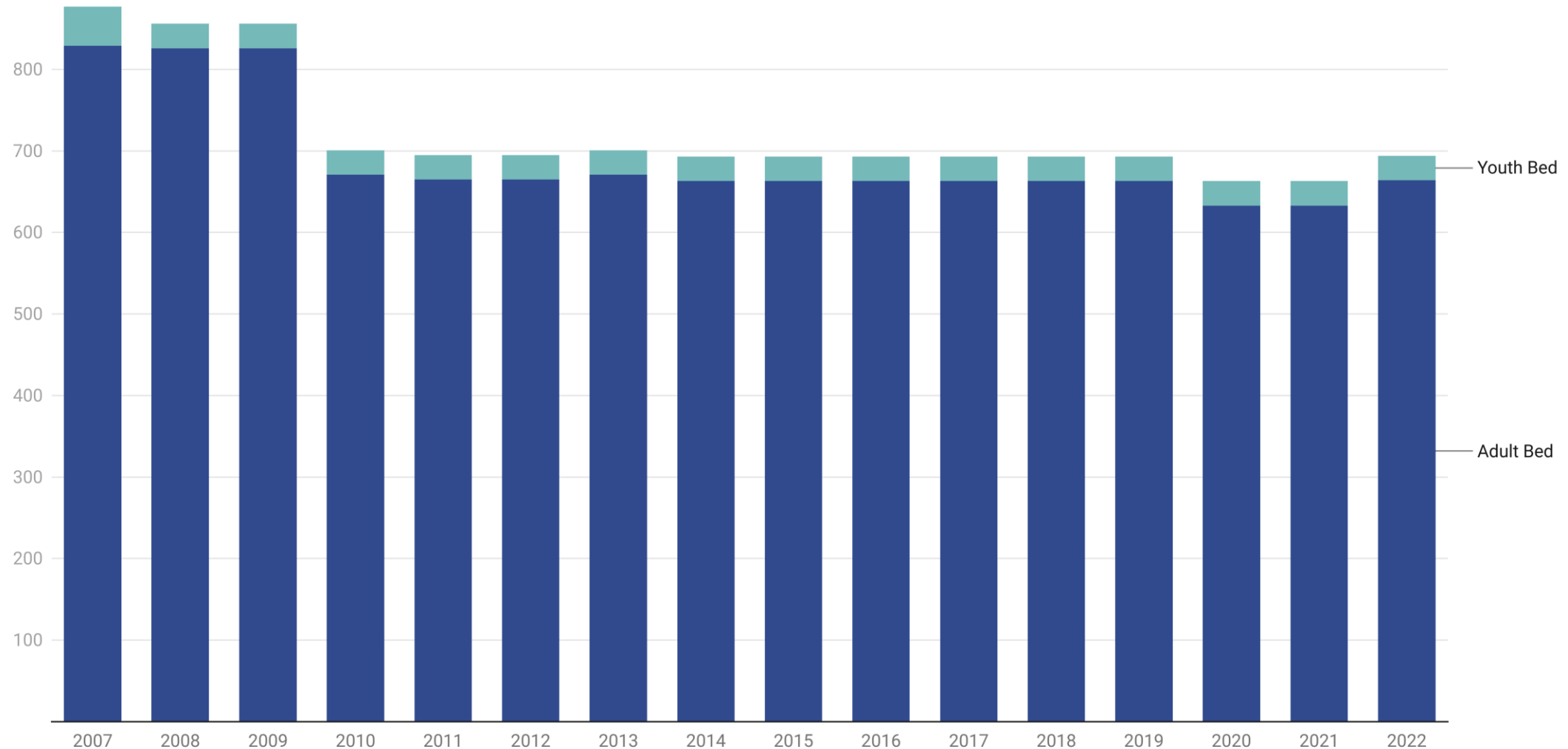
Reentry and reinvestment program funding.



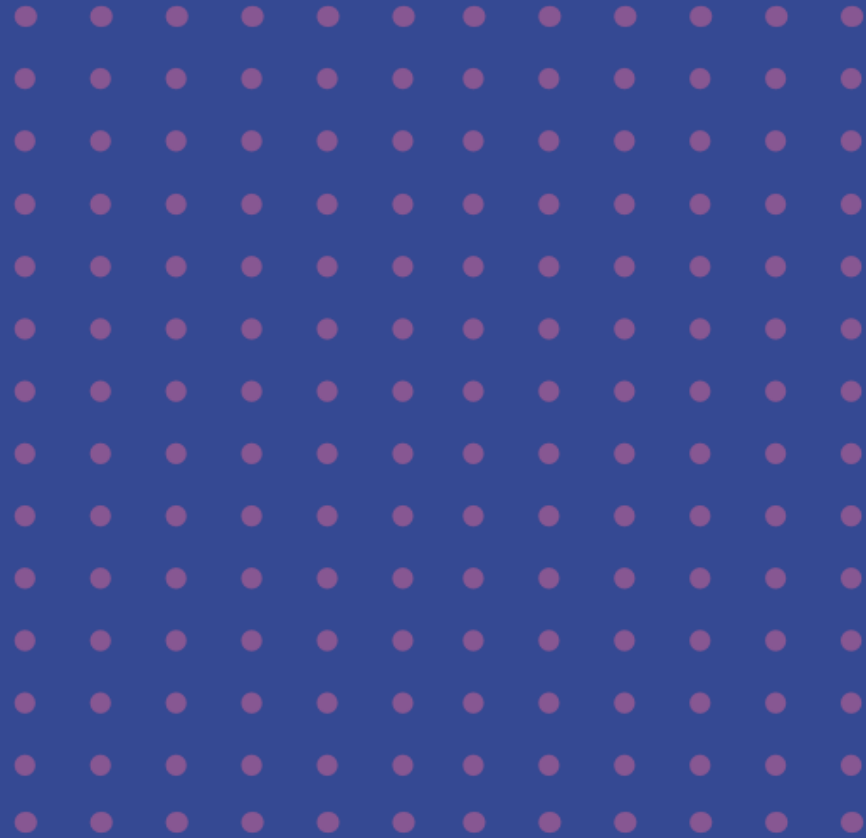
Reentry and reinvestment program funding.



Number of adult and youth continuing care beds. Massachusetts.



Doubling Down on Early Success



Doubling Down on Early Success

1. Fully implement the data and transparency provisions of the 2018 reform law with a deeper commitment to evaluation and unearthing the root causes of racial disparities.
2. Increasing continuing care and community-based treatment capacity.
3. Maintain investments in residential reentry and address unmet housing needs for emerging adults.
4. Build sustainable capacity for community reinvestment and restorative justice.
5. Prepare a correctional facilities master plan that confronts lingering issues that have major implications for criminal justice reform and public safety in the Commonwealth.

Thank You

Ben Forman
Elise Rapoza
Peter Ciurczak