Justice System Interagency Data Analysis (JSIDA): Racial/Ethnic Disparity and Justice System Improvement

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Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Purpose and Intentions/Quality Improvement Process
- Law Enforcement Data Analysis (LEDA) – Data and Definitions
- Arrest Rates, Disparities, and Pretrial
- Conclusions/Next Steps

Limitations - Race/Ethnicity Labels

- Federal reporting standards (OMB, 1997):
  - American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Hispanic or Latino
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)
  - White

- Two categories: Race and ethnicity. We treat Hispanic as race.

- Two forms of data: Administrative data from the justice system. Self-report data for populations.

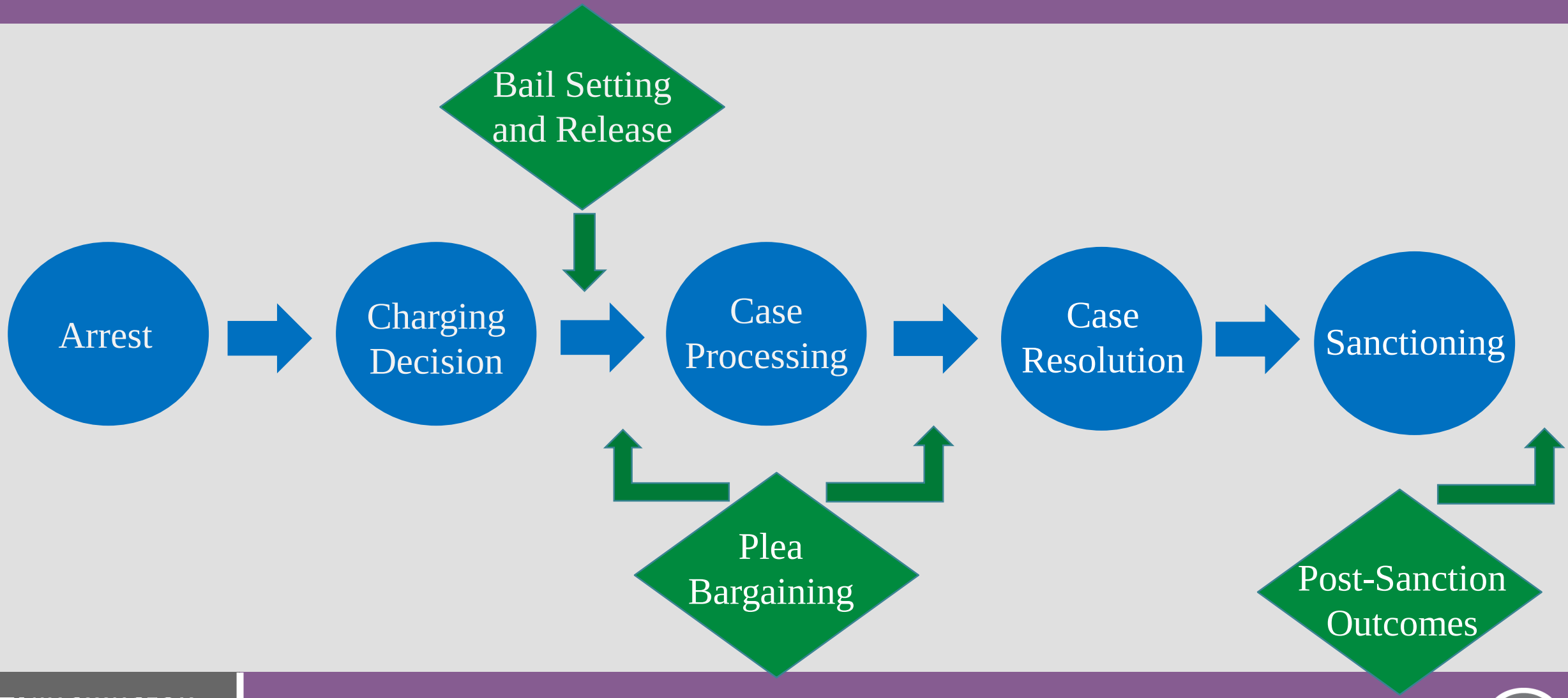
JSIDA Purpose and Plans

- Confluence of multiple factors:
  - Prior efforts at showing courts their disparity numbers led to “We can only work with the cases we are given.”
  - Governor’s report and support from the Office of Juvenile Justice

- Opportunity to create a justice system level quality improvement program to reduce racial/ethnic disparity

- Not just putting information out there and hoping for the best

Justice System Mapping



Common elements of performance improvement

- Leadership that expects and requires ongoing review
- Inclusive internal review – the team meets to review performance, everyone has a voice
  - *Feedback from clients*
- Open discussion of opportunities for improvement
- Peer learning – communities of practice
- Ongoing training and technical assistance
- Learning collaborative to keep up with advances
- Mission focus

Hybrid External Accountability + Internal Learning

- Dependency reporting system
  - Mandated by legislation, required yearly report
- Adapted to support organizational learning
  - Interactive iDTR
  - Used by the Court Improvement Training Academy to engage with courts and set goals
  - Courts provide ideas for improvement to iDTR
- Evidence indicates performance improvement

What We Have Done - Data

- 2017-2019 Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)
  - Local jurisdictions report directly to federal system and WASPC
  - Washington state reporting represented 92.7% of the state's population (2017)
  - Felony and most misdemeanor arrests for each reporting LEA by age, sex, and race/ethnicity (N=499,192)

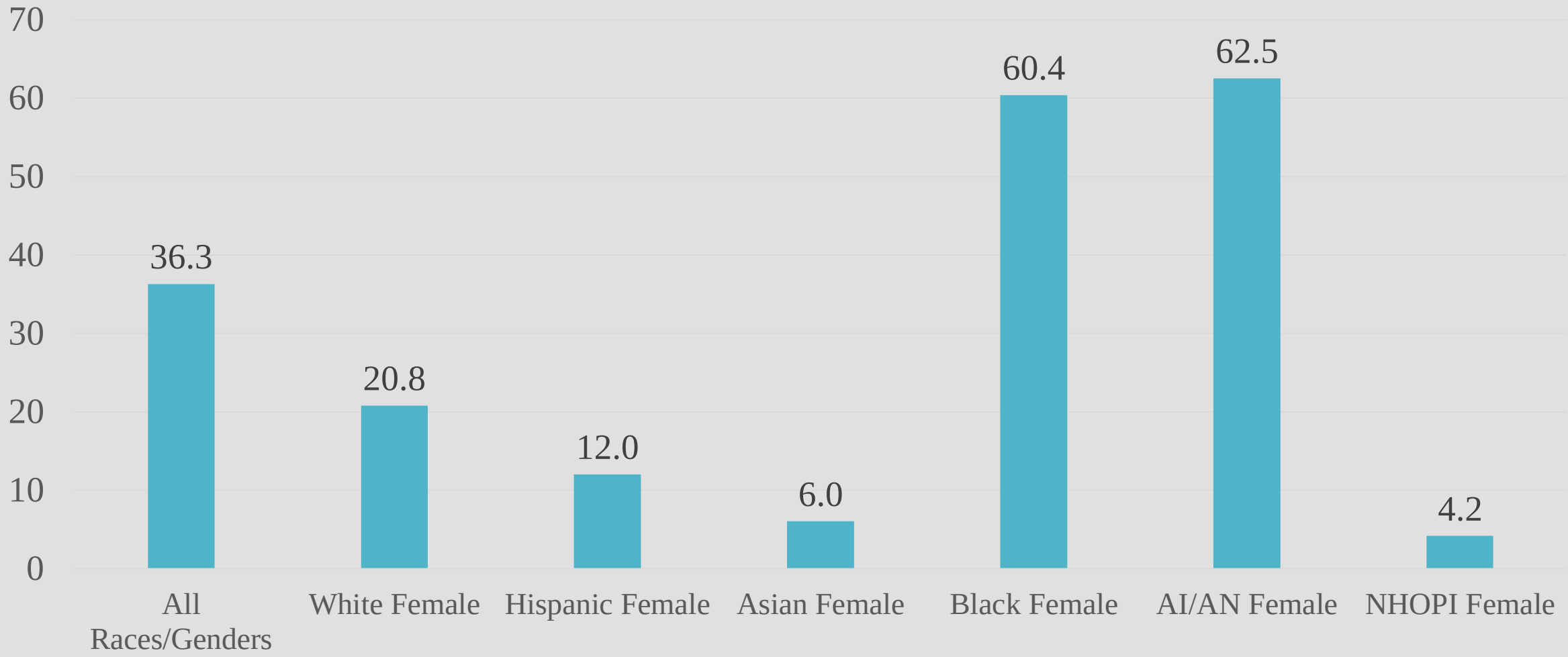
- Office of Financial Management (OFM) and RDA
  - Estimates of the population by age, sex, race, and ethnicity for state, counties, and cities
  - Calculations made to overlap with LE jurisdictions

- Created Population-Based Rates
  - 18-64 year olds
  - Per 1,000 population

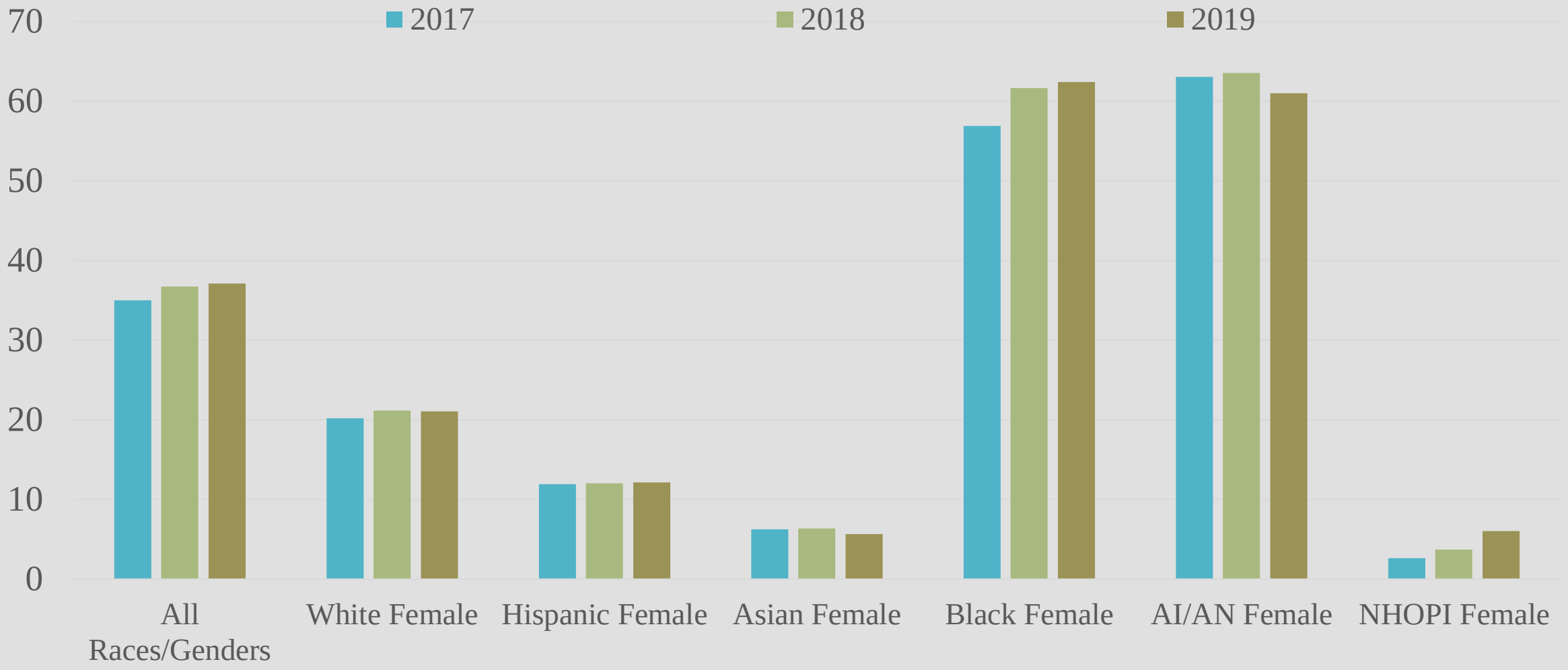
LEDA Analyses Available

- Race/ethnicity and/or gender arrest numbers at state, county, and law enforcement levels
- Race/ethnicity and/or gender arrest numbers by offense type (violent, property, drug, sex, etc.) at state, county, and law enforcement levels
- Race/ethnicity and/or gender and/or age group arrest numbers by offense characteristics (weapon present, controlled substances present, $ value of property damage) at state, county, and law enforcement levels
- Race/ethnicity and/or gender and/or age group arrest numbers by victim characteristics (number of victims, age, race/ethnicity, gender) at state, county, and law enforcement levels

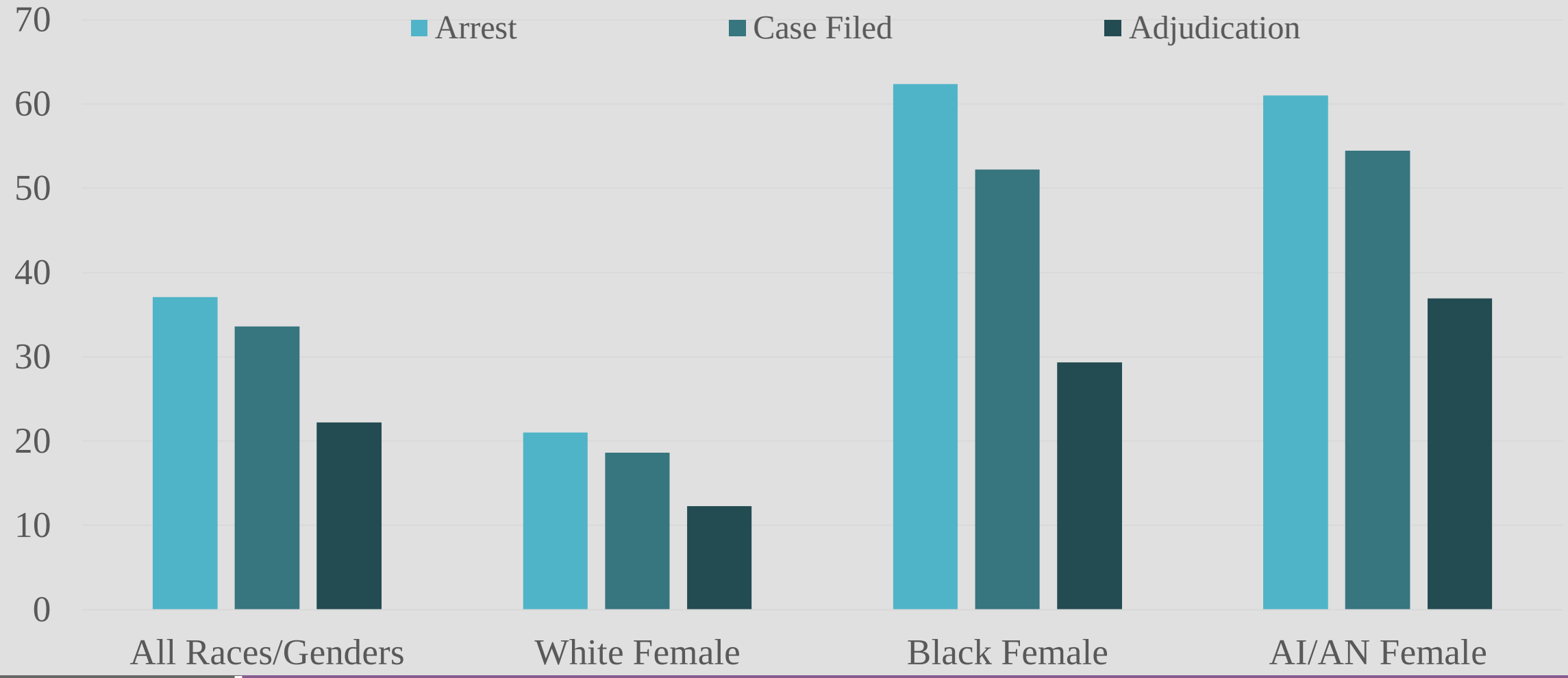
2017-2019 State Level, Female Arrest Rates per 1,000 population by Race/Ethnicity



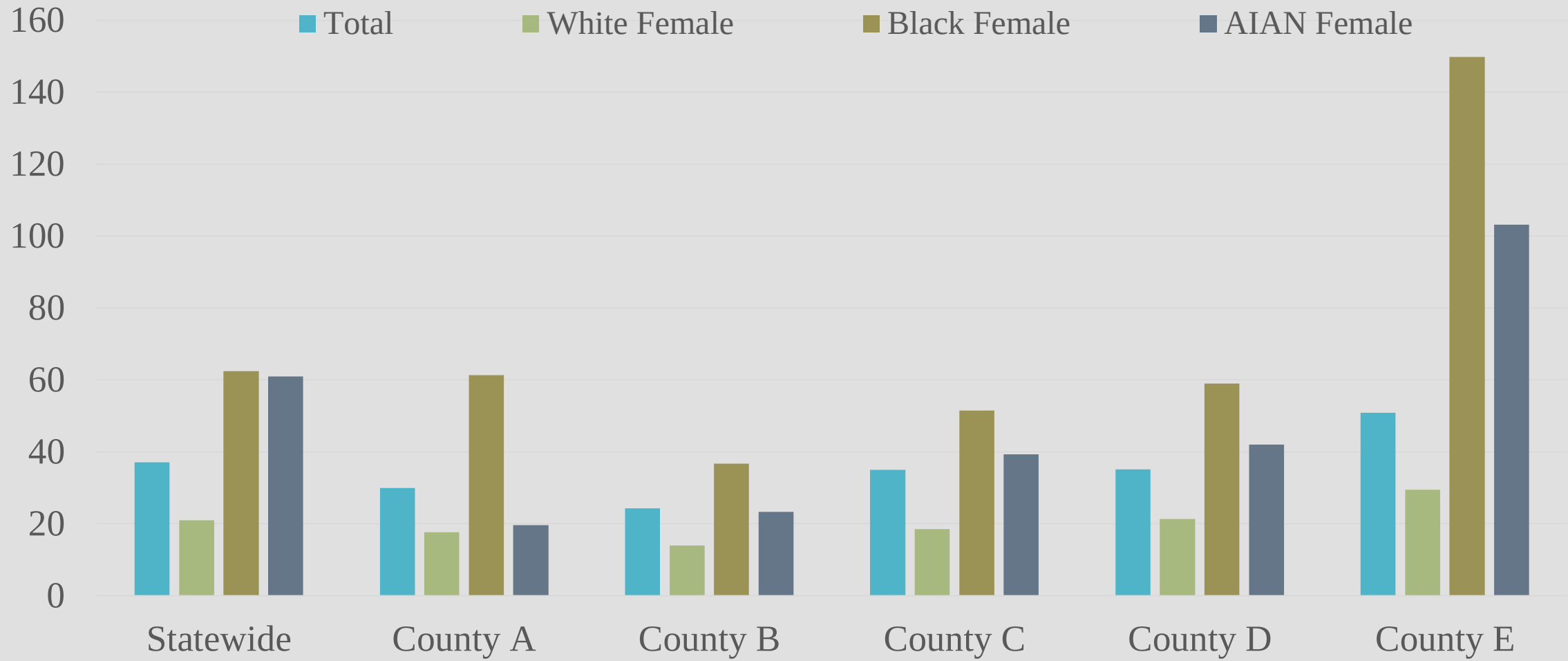
2017-2019 State Level Arrest Rates per 1,000 pop. by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Year



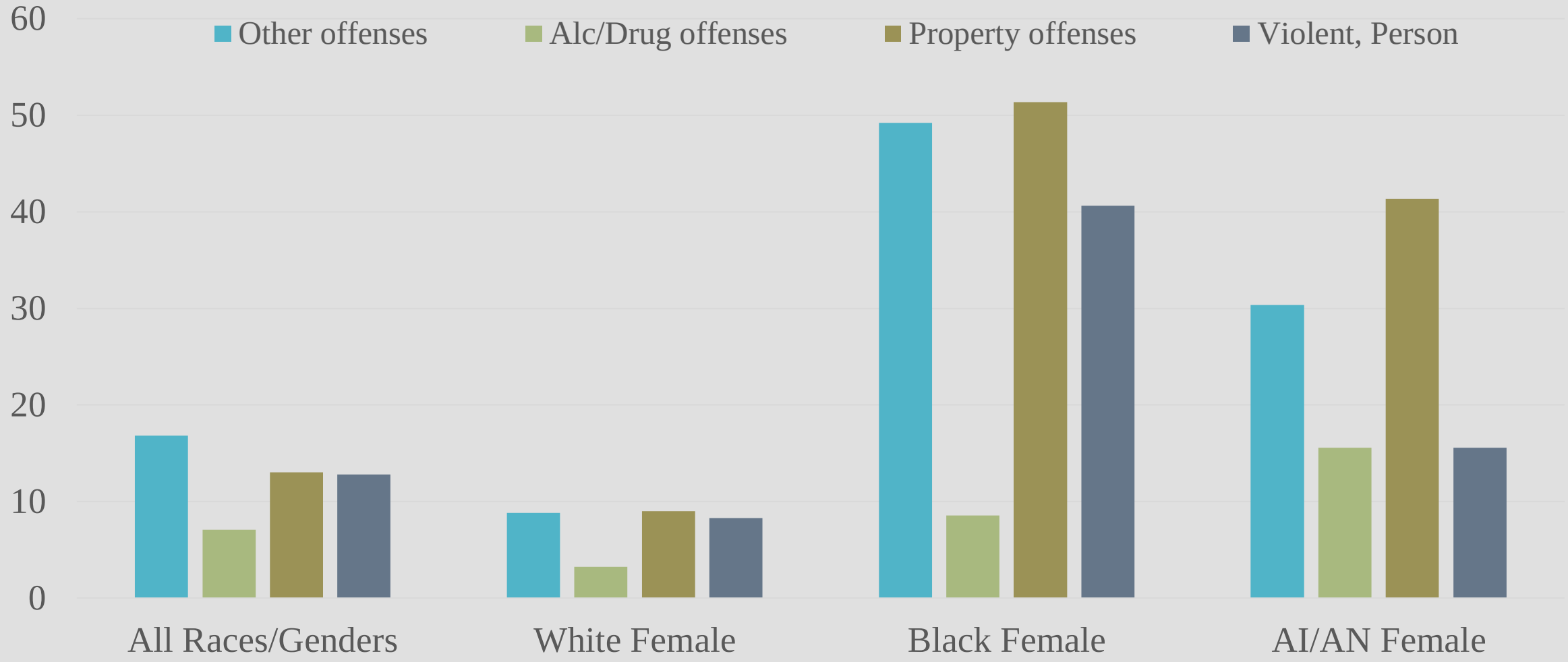
2019 State level, Justice System Progression from Arrest through Adjudication



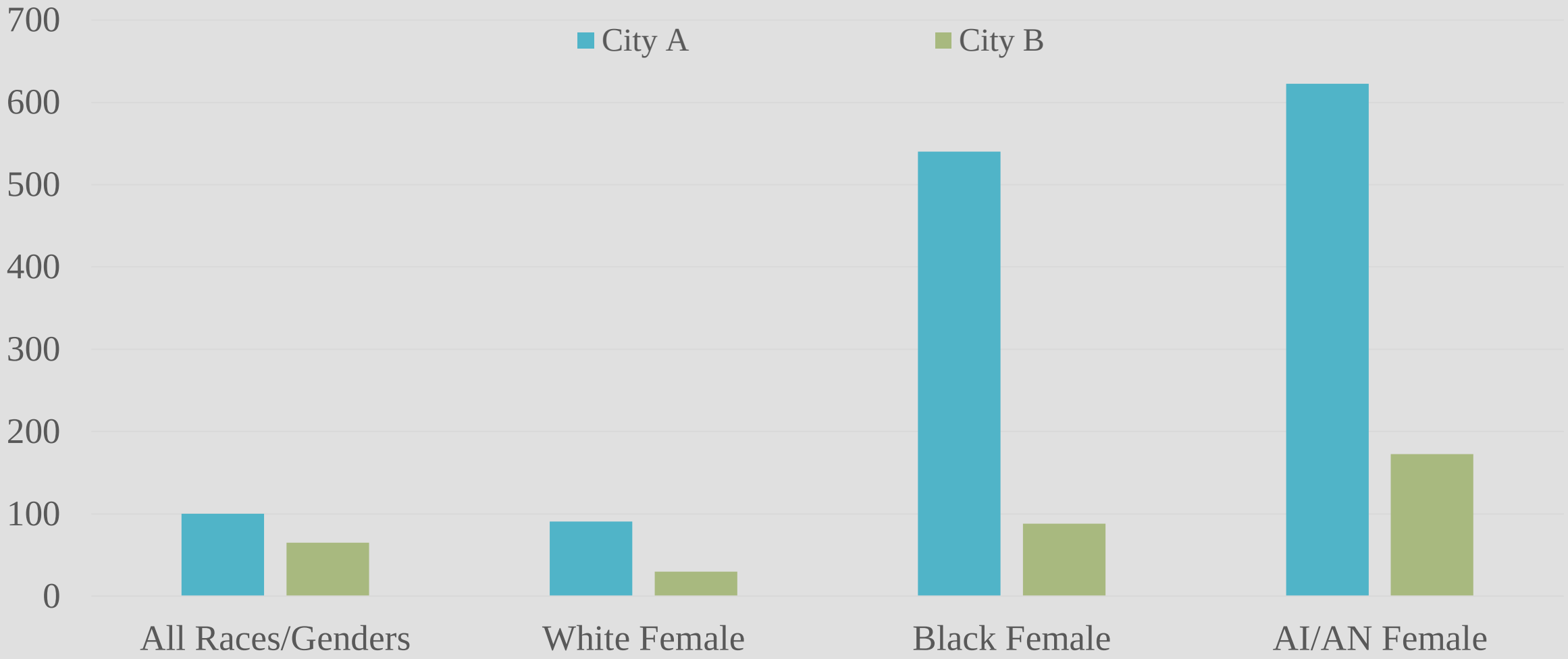
2017-2019 County Level Arrest Rates per 1,000 pop. by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



2017-2019 County E Arrest Rates per 1,000 pop. by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Offense Category



2017-2019 County E, City Level Arrest Rates per 1,000 pop. by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



Next Steps – Pretrial Process/Jail Data

- Initial Project – began January 2021
  - Ten largest counties
  - Ten years (2011-2020)
  - Time in custody, detention reason, release reason, bail amounts, demographics
  - Court data to control for criminal history and current charges

- Current Status
  - 4 counties have sent data
  - 4 counties currently pulling data
  - 2 uncertain

- Continued work with the Minority and Justice Commission

Summary

- Black and American Indian/Alaska Native Women face disproportionate rates of justice system involvement
- There are great variances depending upon the place, racial/ethnic group, offense type, gender, etc.
- We need to continue to fill in knowledge gaps and identify opportunities to reduce disparity and ensure equal justice

Current/Next Steps

- Engage with the law enforcement and justice stakeholders
  - Ensure data and reporting accuracy
  - Inform our partners of key findings and build partnerships
- Publish data and key findings and continue to work on decision point mapping
- Partner with local jurisdictions on developing and implementing data informed, disparity reduction strategies
- Work to make this a self-sustaining, quality improvement program

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