WASHINGTON STATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

# Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center

Informing a data-driven justice system

## Utilizing the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS): Evaluating the Differences in Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society in Washington

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# Abstract

Data is needed to understand and assess the demographic differences—and at times, disparities and disproportionalities—in how the criminal justice system serves our communities and administers justice. Understanding these disparities and disproportionality in the criminal justice system is crucial for addressing systemic inequities. Disparities and disproportionalities within the criminal justice system are present in all stages of the criminal justice system, from arrest to incarceration (Brame et al., 2014; Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). This topic continues to draw significant attention from a variety of resources such as local, state, and federal government agencies, advocacy groups, policymakers and lawmakers, researchers and scholars, and the community. Evaluating these disparities and disproportionality is critical for addressing systemic inequalities and promoting fairness in the administration of justice.

To respond to these impacts, the Washington Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) applied for and received the 2023 State Justice Statistics (SJS) grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Through the use of publicly available data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the SAC sought the grant to first create a series of NIBRS reports to evaluate sex and racial disproportionalities in crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society, and endeavor to better understand more about the different demographic groups that are most impacted, and how these trends vary by time. The SAC sought the grant to now create this report to tie in series of NIBRS reports and evaluate the differences amongst these types of crimes together.

# Background

Racial and sex disproportionality and disparities have long represented preeminent concerns in criminal justice. These disparities and disproportionalities in the criminal justice system are present in all stages of the criminal justice system (Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). Recent research concerning differential rates of maltreatment and increased awareness of differential risk factors has brought increased attention to these concerns and has called into question the appropriateness of past efforts to address them. As understanding and awareness have evolved over time, it has become increasingly important to ensure that disproportionality and disparities are described and identified appropriately, both conceptually and empirically.

Disproportionality encompasses when the percent of persons of a certain race or ethnicity in a target population differs from the percentage of persons of the same group in a reference (or base) population. For example, in the criminal justice system, disproportionality occurs when the proportion of one group in the criminal justice system population – for instance, those who perpetrate an offense – is either proportionately larger (overrepresented) or smaller (underrepresented) than in the general population. While disproportionality refers to the state of being out of proportion, disparity refers to a state of being unequal. Disparity occurs when the ratio of one racial or ethnic group in an event is not equal to the ratio of another racial or ethnic group who experienced the same event. For example, in the criminal justice system, disparity is used to describe inequitable outcomes experienced by one racial or ethnic group at various decision-making points compared to another racial or ethnic group.

Data shows differential treatment and unequal dispensation during each decision point (i.e., policing, sentencing, and incarceration) when comparing across different racial or ethnic groups  (Brame et al., 2014; Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Piquero, 2015). Additionally, there is a growing body of research examining the impact of implicit bias and systemic racism within law enforcement agencies, courts, and correctional

institutions, which contribute to these disparities. These disparities and disproportionalities in the criminal justice system continue to be a topic of significant scholarly inquiry, with researchers examining various aspects of this issue, including arrest rates, sentencing outcomes, and experiences within the correctional system. Factors such as socioeconomic status, education level, and geographic location also play significant roles in these disparities. Assessing these disparities is crucial for addressing systemic inequalities and promoting fairness in the administration of justice. Like other states across the country, Washington has had a history of disproportionate representation of individuals in the BIPOC community and then males in nearly all steps of the criminal justice system compared to their representation in the general population.

## NIBRS Crimes Against Persons Offenses

Crimes against persons as reported through the NIBRS include murder, manslaughter, forcible sex, assault, intimidation and non-forcible sex. These offenses pose an ongoing threat to individuals' daily lives and have severe legal consequences. Additionally, victims of these crimes may suffer long-lasting physical and psychological effects. There are demographic patterns and geographic variations within these types of crimes. In terms of demographic patterns, factors such as age at time of offense, race/ethnicity, and sex may influence individuals' susceptibility to engaging in or being affected by crimes against persons. For example, young adults and males may be disproportionately involved in certain types of persons offenses, while individuals from low-income communities may face higher risks of victimization due to limited resources and security measures. In terms of geographic variations, urban areas may experience higher rates of property crime due to factors like population density and socioeconomic disparities. Conversely, rural regions may face distinct challenges related to law enforcement resources, remoteness, and property layout.

## NIBRS Crimes Against Property Offenses

Crimes against property as reported through the NIBRS include arson, bribery, burglary, counterfeiting and forging, destruction of property, extortion and blackmail, robbery, and theft. These offenses pose an ongoing threat to individuals' daily lives and have severe legal consequences. Additionally, victims of these crimes may suffer long-lasting physical and psychological effects. There are demographic patterns and geographic variations within these types of crimes. In terms of demographic patterns, factors such as age at time of offense, race/ethnicity, and sex may influence individuals' susceptibility to engaging in or being affected by crimes against property. For example, young adults and males may be disproportionately involved in certain types of persons offenses, while individuals from low-income communities may face higher risks of victimization due to limited resources and security measures. In terms of geographic variations, urban areas may experience higher rates of property crime due to factors like population density and socioeconomic disparities. Conversely, rural regions may face distinct challenges related to law enforcement resources, remoteness, and property layout.

## NIBRS Crimes Against Society Offenses

Crimes against society as reported through the NIBRS include drug violations, gambling violations, pornography/prostitution, weapon law violations, and animal cruelty. These offenses represent society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity, and these crimes are typically victimless. There are demographic patterns and geographic variations within these types of crimes. In terms of demographic patterns, factors such as age at time of offense, race/ethnicity, and sex may influence individuals' susceptibility to engaging in or being affected by crimes against society. For example, young adults and males may be disproportionately involved in certain types of society offenses, while individuals

from low-income communities may face higher risks of victimization due to limited resources and security measures. In terms of geographic variations, urban areas may experience higher rates of society crime due to factors like population density and socioeconomic disparities. Conversely, rural regions may face distinct challenges related to law enforcement resources, remoteness, and society layout.

## Current Report

Data serves as a powerful tool for unearthing and understanding sex and racial disparities and disproportionalities within the criminal justice system. Considering the complexities of the criminal justice system, research can help address nuanced insights that inform policy decisions and drive transformative change. As this topic continues to draw significant attention from a variety of resources, continued efforts to understand and act upon data are indispensable for dismantling systemic racism and advancing the cause of justice in the criminal justice system.

Evaluating these differences in crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society in Washington is critical for addressing systemic inequalities and promoting fairness in the administration of justice. Through the use of publicly available data from the NIBRS, an incident-based reporting system for crimes known to the police, this report endeavors to better understand the NIBRS crimes against categories.

# Data Parameters and Methods

Using publicly available data, this report aims to assess how different demographic groups were potentially impacted by NIBRS crimes against categories (i.e., -persons, -property, -society), presence of bias motivation in the commission of the offense (binary variable: yes or no), use of weapons and/or force (binary variable: yes or no), presence of familiarity in victimization (binary variable: yes or no), and how these trends vary by time. See Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 for further operationalizations of terms. As the data from NIBRS is publicly available, this study does not intend to generalize findings. Data parameters include Calendar Years (CY) 2016 to 2019.

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) collects monthly reported incident-based offense statistics from participating law enforcement agencies and sends them to NIBRS. The agencies voluntarily participate as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program NIBRS collects information on 23 different offense categories made up of 47 offenses and allows all reportable offenses within an incident to be reported (see Appendix 1). While WASPC collects this data for Washington state, this product utilizes the publicly available NIBRS data found at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ICPSR). This report utilizes the data from the ICPSR NIBRS source and, as this data is reviewed, cleaned and updated by NIBRS, cannot necessarily be compared to other data products completed by the data that WASPC collects themselves, although trends should be similar. It is important to note that this report, like the others, utilized NIBRS' incident-level files from 2016 to 2019 from ICPSR. Furthermore, offender data was utilized for offenders, not the arrestee data – in the NIBRS system, an "arrestee" refers to a person who was arrested in connection with a crime incident, while an "offender" is the person identified as having committed the crime, meaning not all offenders are necessarily arrested, so an arrestee is a subset of offenders where an arrest was made. This report, as the series, used offender data as this allowed for a potentially larger sample.

Along with offense information, the NIBRS data includes county and agency level data, date of offense, NIBRS crimes against categories (i.e., -persons, -property, -society), presence of bias motivation (binary variable: yes or no), use of weapons and/or force (binary variable: yes or no), presence of familiarity in

victimization (binary variable: yes or no), and demographic characteristics (i.e., race, sex, and age at time of arrest). Note, demographic values are limited to NIBRS values (i.e., sex was limited to the binary values of "male" and "female" and race was limited to "Black," "White," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHIPO)," "American Indian or American Native," or "Asian"). Note that for analysis purposes, this report will utilize the following operationalizations for race: (1) Black, Indigenous and/or people of color (BIPOC) and (2) non-BIPOC.

Table 1 shows the total count and percent of the current dataset. For example, 95.2% of crimes against persons data included the offenders' age while 98.1% of crimes against persons data included the victims' age. The crimes against persons data appears to be more robust as most demographic data was present in offenders and victims, alike. The crimes against property data seemed less robust for the offender sample as compared to the victim sample (for example, at the most, only 42.2% of the offender sample data included age while 73.5% of the victim sample data included age), while the crimes against society data seemed less robust for the victim sample as compared to the offender sample (for example, at the most, only 75.2% of the offender sample data included race but 13.3% of the victim sample data included race). It is important to note that crimes against persons, property, and society cannot necessarily be compared to one another fully as the data is not complete amongst the categories, and the crimes against categories are so uniquely different to one another.

Table 1. Counts and percentage of the sample by age at time of arrest, age at time of victimization, BIPOC community, and sex for NIBRS crimes against categories

|  | Persons | Property | Society |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Unique NIBRS Offenses** | 245,559 | 1,0927,723 | 155,828 |
| **Sex** |  |  |  |
| **Offenders** | 231,818 (94.4) | 354,507 (32.4) | 92,751 (80.1) |
| **Victims** | 242,120 (98.6) | 804,303 (64.6) | 18,215 (15.7) |
| **Age** |  |  |  |
| **Offenders** | 233,723 (95.2) | 461,393 (42.2) | 95,236 (82.2) |
| **Victims** | 240,924 (98.1) | 802,712 (73.5) | 18,227 (15.7) |
| **Race** |  |  |  |
| **Offenders** | 218,166 (88.8) | 328,882 (30.1) | 87,110 (75.2) |
| **Victims** | 225,941 (92.0) | 705,864 (64.6) | 15,407 (13.3) |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, therefore the total does not equate to 100%. The data includes exclusively NIBRS crimes against categories and results may be under reported. Results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as the data is offense level, rather individual level, and there is a likelihood that individuals could have committed more than one offense within the year. This table is intended to show the count and percentage of availability of data.

## Limitations

These limitations are to prepare the audience with the constraints of this work, with several limitations influencing the findings of this report.

First, the analyses are descriptive (e.g., generating summaries on means and counts) and non-generalizable in nature, results are modest, inferences and implications are limited, and results should be interpreted cautiously. Causal relationships cannot be determined, and further analyses must be completed.

Second, the data used in this project included publicly available administrative data and the lack of detail or richness significantly limits any conclusions yielded from this work. No information on the type or severity of offense was provided which could skew results.

Third, NIBRS uses monthly reported incident-based offense statistics from participating law enforcement agencies. The data is based on a "snapshot" of the database because there are no "fixed" statistics, as law enforcement agencies can update their incidents when new information becomes available. Moreover, the data is provided as overall state data and then broken down by county of offense; data should not be compared by county of offense due to numerous variables contributing to crime, including but not limited to the demographics, economics and cultural makeup of the population. Additionally, not all counties and jurisdictions are contributing members to the NIBRS dataset, and not all counties and jurisdictions contribute consecutively. This can skew data.

Fourth, this data was limited to only NIBRS crimes offenses that were recorded; there are other law enforcement agencies that can police, and this data does not reflect a true picture of Washington offenses. Additionally, it is possible that some datasets have incomplete or missing records that were not noted. Furthermore, recent research has shown that a minimum of 16% of NIBRS cases were incorrectly indicated, and this potential erroneous data can impact results (Cross et al., 2023).

Fifth, in terms of demographic assessment (i.e., gender, age, race), these results must be interpreted with caution due to the limitations of the data. It is important to note that any analysis of race across criminal justice decision points, and more specifically, this criminal justice data is negatively impacted by true reliability and validity; as race data can be misclassified. Additionally, any analyses of disproportionality, in terms of demographics, are based on comparisons of outcomes for individuals who are convicted of a criminal offense. This report's findings, as many other findings retrieved from criminal justice data, can be skewed due to the already documented disproportionate treatment in criminal justice. For example, equal dispensation of justice is a consistent concern of policymakers and the public (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). The evidence of differential treatment, unequal dispensation, and injustice in the "justice" system is significant (Kovera, 2019). The findings should be interpreted with caution due to significant limitations and analyses are not causal (i.e., does not show a cause-and-effect relationship).

Lastly, due to the potential impacts of COVID-19, the study parameters included years prior to 2020 – from 2016 to 2019 for a four-year analysis of crimes against society in Washington.

It is important to note that there is a likelihood that individuals can have more than one offense within the year, let alone within the four years of this study's parameters. Therefore, results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as this is offense level data not individual level. Unless otherwise noted, all analyses completed are on the offender population within this study.

While some limitations are identified in this report, there are likely more not listed that could impact information and conclusions yielded from this work.

## Results

The analyses are descriptive and non-generalizable in nature.

### Demographics of the Washington NIBRS Sample

Table 2 shows the overall sample by demographics (i.e., offender age, sex, and race, victim age, sex, and race, and year of offense) by crimes against categories (-persons, -property, and -society).

## Table 2. Distribution of sample by age at time of arrest, age at time of victimization, BIPOC community, sex, and year of offense by NIBRS crimes against categories

| | Persons | Property | Society | | Persons | Property | Society |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age at Time of Offense (Offender)** | | | | **Age at Time of Offense (Victim)** | | | |
| <= 17 | 13.8 | 33.2 | 13.5 | <= 17 | 15.0 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| 18 to 25 | 20.0 | 18.9 | 19.8 | 18 to 25 | 18.7 | 13.9 | 13.5 |
| 26 to 35 | 25.6 | 23.9 | 32.5 | 26 to 35 | 24.3 | 23.7 | 16.7 |
| 36 to 45 | 17.6 | 13.5 | 18.3 | 36 to 45 | 17.4 | 19.2 | 15.6 |
| >= 46 | 18.1 | 10.6 | 15.9 | >= 46 | 22.6 | 41.6 | 53.2 |
| **BIPOC Community (Offender)** | | | | **BIPOC Community (Victim)** | | | |
| Yes | 23.1 | 24.6 | 19.6 | Yes | 17.2 | 14.6 | 14.0 |
| No | 65.8 | 75.4 | 80.4 | No | 74.8 | 85.4 | 86.0 |
| **Sex (Offender)** | | | | **Sex (Victim)** | | | |
| Female | 24.7 | 29.5 | 24.8 | Female | 55.9 | 44.9 | 53.3 |
| Male | 69.7 | 70.5 | 75.2 | Male | 42.7 | 55.1 | 46.7 |
| **Year of Offense** | | | | | | | |
| 2016 | 23.1 | 25.8 | 22.2 | | | | |
| 2017 | 25.2 | 25.9 | 24.7 | | | | |
| 2018 | 26.4 | 24.9 | 26.2 | | | | |
| 2019 | 25.3 | 23.3 | 26.9 | | | | |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, therefore the total does not equate to 100%. The data includes exclusively NIBRS crimes against society offenses and results may be under reported. Results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as the data is offense level, rather individual level, and there is a likelihood that individuals could have committed more than one offense within the year.

In evaluating Washington population estimates (Table A1), results showed that while males and females both make up about half of the population (49.9% and 50.1%, respectively), Table 2 shows that:

- **crimes against persons:** males make up 69.7% of the offender and 42.7% of the victim sample
- **crimes against property:** males make up 70.5% of the offender and 55.1% of the victim sample
- **crimes against society:** males make up 75.2% of the offender and 46.7% of the victim sample

And, furthermore, the Washington population estimates (Table A1) show the BIPOC community makes up an average of 15.3% of Washington's population (from 14.7% in 2016 to 16.1% in 2019), while Table 2 shows that:

- **crimes against persons:** the BIPOC community make up 23.1% of the offender and 17.2% of the victim sample
- **crimes against property:** the BIPOC community make up 24.6% of the offender and 14.6% of the victim sample
- **crimes against society:** the BIPOC community make up 19.6% of the offender and 14.0% of the victim sample

Due to the various age categories in the Washington population estimates, no age comparisons were made.

Lastly, Table 2 showed that:
- **crimes against persons:** these crimes were highest in 2018 and lowest in 2016
- **crimes against property:** these crimes were highest in 2017 and lowest in 2019
- **crimes against society:** these crimes were highest in 2019 and lowest in 2016

## Year of Offense: From 2016 to 2019

**Rates of NIBRS crimes by year of offense and by sex**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions for crimes against persons, but not for crimes against property or crimes against society. This suggests that, only for crimes against persons, the proportion of offenders for rates of NIBRS crimes against persons offenses was uniquely different for 2019 as compared to 2016 to 2018. Regardless of the crimes against categories, findings revealed that, on average, male offenders have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019 as compared to female offenders.

**Rates of NIBRS crimes by year of offense and by age at time of offense**

Regardless of crimes against categories, findings suggest that there were different proportions for crimes against persons but not for crimes against society and crimes against property. Findings suggest that the proportion of offenders for rates of NIBRS crimes against persons offenses was uniquely different for 2019 as compared to 2016 to 2018; while 2017 and 2018 showed increases in proportions of NIBRS crimes against persons offenses, 2019 showed a decrease in proportions of NIBRS crimes against persons offenses for female and male offenders (-1.9% for females and -6.2% for males).

**Rates of NIBRS crimes by year of offense and by BIPOC community**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions for crimes against persons and crimes against property, but not for crimes against society. Regardless of crimes against categories, findings suggest that there were different proportions which indicates that regardless of being part of the BIPOC community, 2019 showed larger decreases in proportions of NIBRS crimes against property offenses.

Additionally, regardless of being part of the BIPOC community, while 2016 to 2018 showed increases in proportions of NIBRS crimes against persons offenses (most notably, the BIPOC community showed an average of 7.6% increase in both years while the non-BIPOC community showed a minimal increase from 2017 to 2018), 2019 showed decreases (-5.1% for BIPOC community and -6.0% for non-BIPOC community).

Regardless of the crimes against categories, findings revealed that, on average, offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019.

## Use of Weapons and/or Force During NIBRS Crimes

**Use of weapons and/or force during NIBRS crimes in overall sample**

The use of weapons and/or force (assessed as binary: use of weapons and/or force or no use of weapons and/or force) during NIBRS crimes against categories (i.e., persons, property, and society) by demographic variables (i.e., age at time of offense, BIPOC community, and sex) were descriptively evaluated (see Table 3). In evaluating Washington population estimates (Table A1), results showed that males and females both make up about half of the population, Table 3 shows that for the use of weapons and/or force:

- **crimes against persons:** males make up 73.3% of the offender sample
- **crimes against property:** males make up 84.1% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** males make up 87.9% of the offender sample

And, furthermore, the Washington population estimates ([Table A1](#)) show the BIPOC community makes up an average of 15.3% of Washington's population, while Table 3 shows that:

- **crimes against persons:** the BIPOC community make up 26.3% of the offender sample
- **crimes against property:** the BIPOC community make up 50.6% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** the BIPOC community make up 13.0% of the offender sample

Due to the various age categories in the Washington population estimates, no age comparisons were made.

Table 3. Distribution of sample by use of weapons and/or force used by age at time of offense, BIPOC community, sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories

| | Persons | Property | Society | | | Persons | Property | Society |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age at Time of Offense** | | | | | **Year of Offense** | | | |
| <= 17 | 14.1 | 22.1 | 15.5 | | 2016 | 22.6 | 24.0 | 22.8 |
| 18 to 25 | 21.0 | 34.8 | 24.2 | | 2017 | 25.1 | 24.6 | 25.5 |
| 26 to 35 | 27.1 | 23.0 | 27.4 | | 2018 | 26.7 | 26.6 | 26.2 |
| 36 to 45 | 18.6 | 13.8 | 15.9 | | 2019 | 25.6 | 24.8 | 25.5 |
| >= 46 | 19.1 | 6.3 | 16.9 | | | | | |
| **BIPOC Community** | | | | | **Sex** | | | |
| Yes | 26.3 | 50.6 | 13.0 | | Female | 26.7 | 15.9 | 12.1 |
| No | 73.7 | 49.4 | 87.0 | | Male | 73.3 | 84.1 | 87.9 |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, therefore the total does not equate to 100%. The data includes exclusively NIBRS crimes against society offenses and results may be under reported. Results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as the data is offense level, rather individual level, and there is a likelihood that individuals could have committed more than one offense within the year.

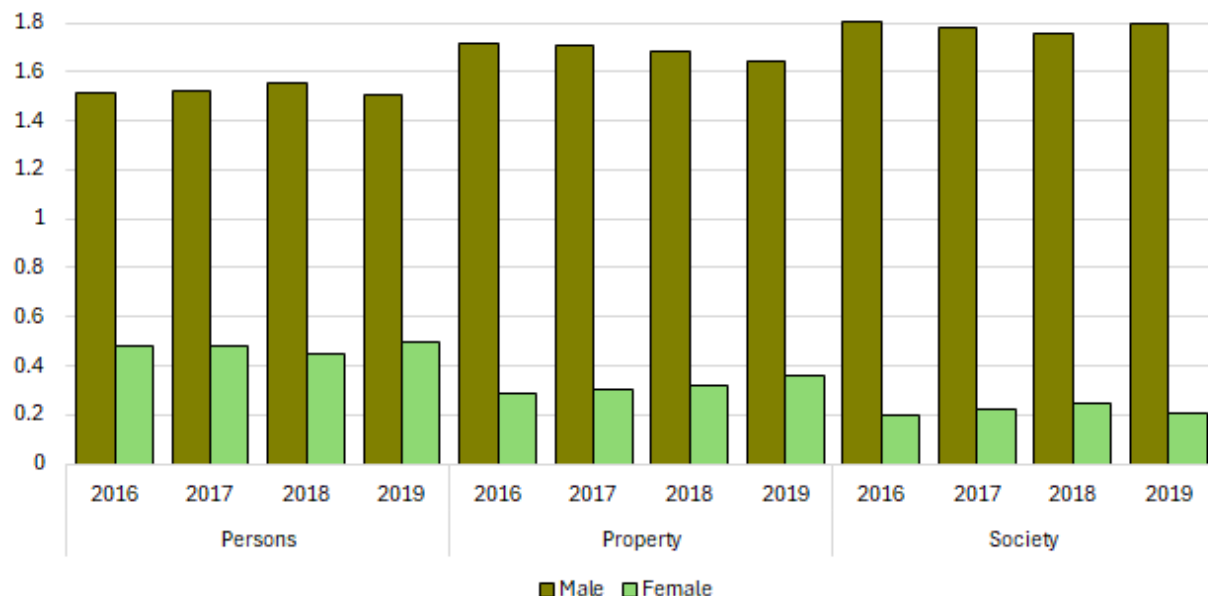**Use of weapons and/or force used by sex**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the use of weapons and/or force for female and male offenders for both crimes against persons and for crimes against property, but not for crimes against society. This result suggests that male offenders were more likely to use weapons and/or force during NIBRS crimes against persons and crimes against property – there were no differences between male or female offender for crimes against society.

Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, findings revealed that:

- **crimes against persons**: male offenders who used weapons and/or force showed decreases from 2016 to 2019; female offenders showed a peak increase in 2019
- **crimes against property:** male offenders who used weapons and/or force showed increases from 2016 to 2018 but decreases by 2019; female offenders showed increases from 2016 to 2019

Figure 1 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the use of weapons and/or force by sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories. Findings revealed that, regardless of crimes against categories, on average, male offenders have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019 as compared to female offenders.

**Use of weapons and/or force by age at time of offense**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the use of weapons and/or force for age at time of offense for both crimes against persons and for crimes against property, but not for crimes against society. Findings revealed that different proportions:

- **crimes against persons:** individuals 18 to 35 were more likely to use weapons and/or force; individuals 17 and younger were least likely to use weapons and/or force
- **crimes against property:** individuals 25 years and younger were more likely to use weapons and/or force; individuals 46 and older were least likely to use weapons and/or force

Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, findings revealed that:

- **crimes against persons:** regardless of age, 2016 to 2018 showed increases in the proportion of offenders who used weapons and/or force, but 2019 showed decreases
- **crimes against property:** there were mixed trends – while 17 and younger and 26 to 35 years of age showed increases in the proportion of offenders who used weapons and/or force from 2016 to 2019, individuals who are 36 years and older showed decreases in 2019
- **crimes against society:** there were mixed trends – while 26 to 35 years of age showed increases in the proportion of offenders who used weapons and/or force from 2016 to 2019, individuals who are 18 to 25 years showed decreases from 2016 to 2019

**Use of weapons and/or force by BIPOC community**

Regardless of crimes against categories, findings suggest that there were different proportions in the use of weapons and/or force for BIPOC community. Findings suggest different proportions in the use of weapons and/or force among BIPOC and non-BIPOC offenders - non-BIPOC offenders were more likely to use weapons and/or force.

Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, findings suggest that there were different proportions for crimes against persons but not for crimes against property or crimes against society. Findings revealed that:

- **crimes against persons**: regardless of involvement in BIPOC community, the proportion of offenders who used weapons and/or force showed increases from 2016 to 2018 with decreases in 2019

Findings revealed that, on average, offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019. Figure 2 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the use of weapons and/or force by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories.

Figure 2. Disproportionality ratios of rates in the use of weapons and/or force by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories
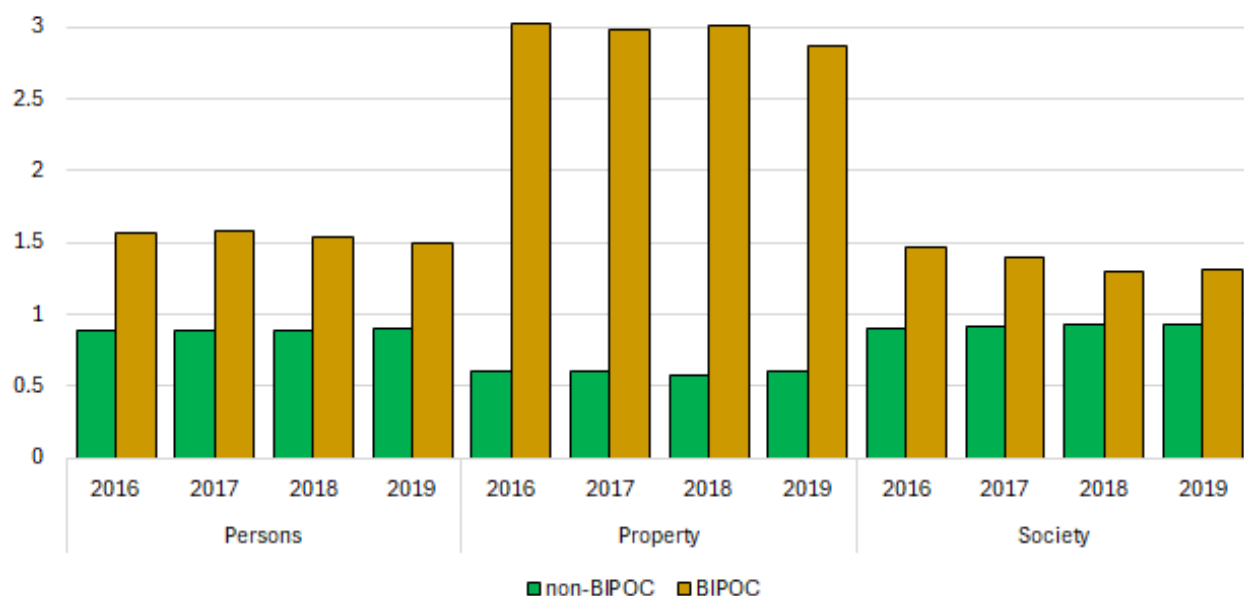


### Rates of Bias Motivation

**Bias motivation during NIBRS crimes against society offenses in overall sample**

Bias motivation (assessed as binary: bias motivation or no bias motivation) during NIBRS crimes against society offenses by demographic variables (i.e., age at time of offense, BIPOC community, year of offense, and sex) were descriptively evaluated (see Table 4). In evaluating Washington population estimates (Table A1), results showed that males and females both make up about half of the population, Table 4 shows the rates of bias motivation:

- **crimes against persons:** males make up 82.5% of the offender sample
- **crimes against property:** males make up 80.2% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** males make up 93.8% of the offender sample

And, furthermore, the Washington population estimates (Table A1) show the BIPOC community makes up an average of 15.3% of Washington's population, while Table 4 shows that:

- **crimes against persons:** the BIPOC community make up 35.0% of the offender sample

- **crimes against property:** the BIPOC community make up 68.7% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** the BIPOC community make up 26.7% of the offender sample

Due to the various age categories in the Washington population estimates, no age comparisons were made.

### Table 4. Distribution of sample by bias motivation by age at time of offense, BIPOC community, sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories

| | Persons | Property | Society | | Persons | Property | Society |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age at Time of Offense** | | | | **Year of Offense** | | | |
| <= 17 | 13.1 | 48.8 | -- | 2016 | 17.2 | 24.5 | -- |
| 18 to 25 | 16.9 | 14.1 | -- | 2017 | 22.6 | 30.9 | 54.2 |
| 26 to 35 | 21.0 | 18.4 | -- | 2018 | 31.9 | 24.0 | -- |
| 36 to 45 | 24.3 | 12.0 | -- | 2019 | 28.4 | 20.5 | -- |
| >= 46 | 24.8 | 6.7 | -- | | | | |
| **BIPOC Community** | | | | **Sex** | | | |
| Yes | 35.0 | 68.7 | 26.7 | Female | 17.5 | 19.8 | 6.2 |
| No | 65.0 | 31.3 | 73.3 | Male | 82.5 | 80.2 | 93.8 |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, therefore the total does not equate to 100%. The data includes exclusively NIBRS crimes against society offenses and results may be under reported. Results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as the data is offense level, rather individual level, and there is a likelihood that individuals could have committed more than one offense within the year.

**Bias motivation by sex**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the presence of bias motivation for female and male offenders for crimes against persons, but not for crimes against property and crimes against society. These findings indicate that male offenders were more likely to have a presence of bias motivation during crimes against persons. Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, regardless of crimes against categories, findings revealed no strong relationships – there were no true unique trend for proportions of offenders with a bias motivation.

Findings revealed that, regardless of crimes against categories, on average, male offenders have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019. Figure 3 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of bias motivation by sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories.
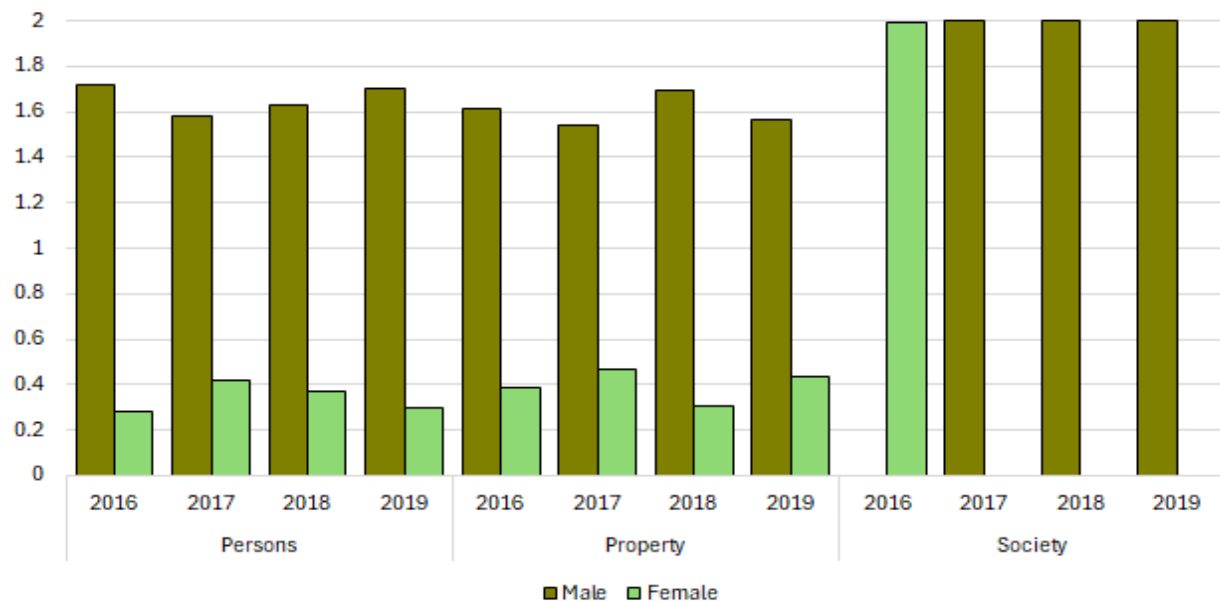
**Notes:** Due to low Ns, disproportionality ratios of rates could not be completed for crimes against society on sex categories.

**Bias motivation by age at time of offense**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the presence of bias motivation and age at time of offense for crimes against persons and crimes against property, but not crimes against society. Findings revealed that different proportions:

- **crimes against persons**: individuals 35 years of age and younger were more likely to show a presence of bias motivation as compared to the older age groups
- **crimes against property:** individuals 26 years of age and older were more likely to show a presence of bias motivation as compared to the younger age groups

Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, findings revealed that:

- **crimes against persons:** offenders who were 26 to 35 years of age showed increases in the proportion of offenders who showed a presence of bias motivation from 2016 to 2019, while all other age groups showed decreases in 2019
- **crimes against property:** offenders who were 26 to 35 years of age and 46 years and older showed increases in the proportion of offenders who showed a presence of bias motivation in 2019, while all other age groups showed decreases in 2019

**Bias motivation by BIPOC community**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the presence of bias motivation for BIPOC and non-BIPOC offenders for crimes against persons and crimes against property, but not crimes against society - non-BIPOC offenders were more likely to have a presence of bias motivation than BIPOC offenders in 2017 and 2018.

When year of offense was included in analyses, findings revealed that no differences in proportions the presence of bias motivation.

Findings revealed that, on average:

- **crimes against persons** and **crimes against property:** offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019
- **crimes against society:** offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented for 2016 and 2019, but offenders who were not part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented for 2017 and 2018

Figure 4 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of bias motivation by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories.

## Figure 4. Disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of bias motivation by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories
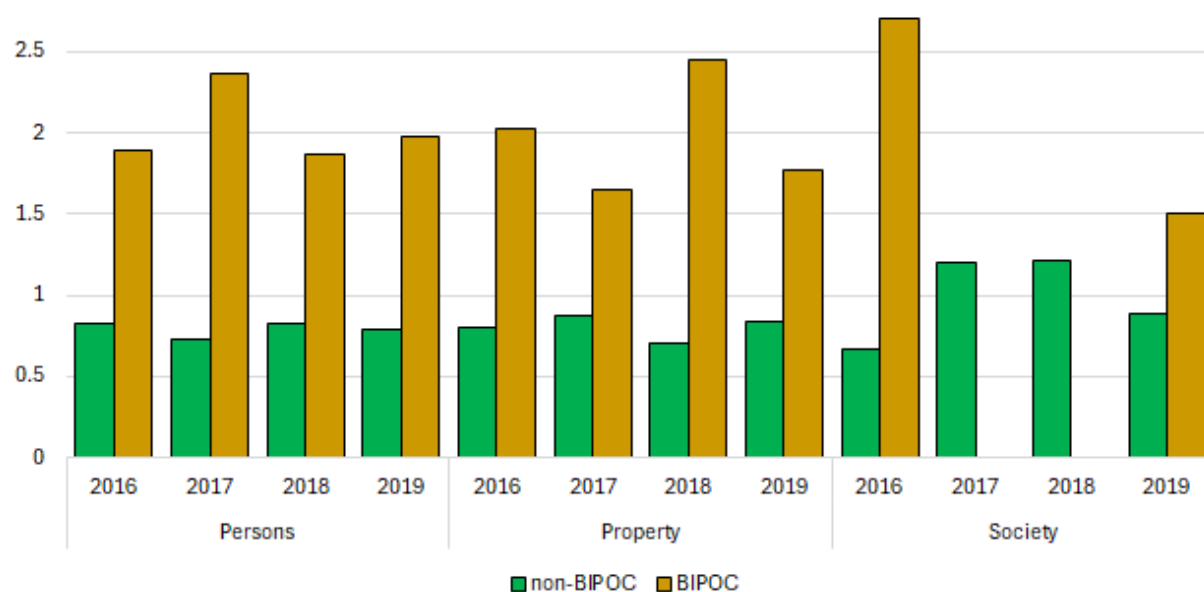


**Notes:** Due to low Ns, disproportionality ratios of rates could not be completed for crimes against society on BIPOC community categories.

## Presence of Familiarity in Victimization

**Presence of familiarity in victimization in overall sample**

The presence of familiarity in victimization (assessed as binary: familiarity or no familiarity) during NIBRS crimes against society offenses by demographic variables (i.e., age at time of offense, BIPOC community, and sex) were descriptively evaluated (see Table 5). In evaluating Washington population estimates (Table A1), results showed that males and females both make up about half of the population, Table 5 shows the rates of bias motivation:

- **crimes against persons:** males make up 72.2% of the offender sample
- **crimes against property:** males make up 68.3% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** males make up 72.0% of the offender sample

And, furthermore, the Washington population estimates (Table A1) show the BIPOC community makes up an average of 15.3% of Washington's population, while Table 5 shows that:

- **crimes against persons:** the BIPOC community make up 23.2% of the offender sample
- **crimes against property:** the BIPOC community make up 24.8% of the offender sample
- **crimes against society:** the BIPOC community make up 20.4% of the offender sample

Due to the various age categories in the Washington population estimates, no age comparisons were made.

### Table 5. Distribution of sample by presence of familiarity in victimization by age at time of offense, BIPOC community, sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories

| | Persons | Property | Society | | Persons | Property | Society |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age at Time of Offense** | | | | **Year of Offense** | | | |
| <= 17 | 13.0 | 14.1 | 7.6 | 2016 | 21.9 | 4.6 | -- |
| 18 to 25 | 20.6 | 21.0 | 16.4 | 2017 | 24.6 | 5.3 | -- |
| 26 to 35 | 28.0 | 30.4 | 31.9 | 2018 | 27.4 | 6.2 | -- |
| 36 to 45 | 18.9 | 18.7 | 15.5 | 2019 | 26.1 | 83.9 | 95.6 |
| >= 46 | 19.4 | 15.8 | 28.7 | | | | |
| **BIPOC Community** | | | | **Sex** | | | |
| Yes | 23.2 | 24.8 | 20.4 | Female | 27.8 | 31.7 | 28.0 |
| No | 76.8 | 75.2 | 79.6 | Male | 72.2 | 68.3 | 72.0 |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, therefore the total does not equate to 100%. The data includes exclusively NIBRS crimes against society offenses and results may be under reported. Results could be skewed when analyzing demographic variables as the data is offense level, rather individu.al level, and there is a likelihood that individuals could have committed more than one offense within the year.

### Presence of familiarity in victimization by sex

Regardless of crimes against categories, findings suggest that there were different proportions in presence of familiarity in victimization for female and male offenders. Findings show that there were strong relationships between bias motivation and age at time of offense for crimes against persons and crimes against property, but not crimes against society. These findings indicate that male offenders were more likely to have a presence of familiarity in victimization. Findings note that:

- **crimes against persons**: the trends for proportions of offenders who committed a NIBRS offense on a familial victim showed increases in 2016 to 2018 but decreases in 2019
- **crimes against property:** the trends for proportions of offenders who committed a NIBRS offense on a familial victim showed increases in 2016 to 2018 with peak increases in 2019

Findings revealed that, on average:

- **crimes against persons** and **crimes against property:** male offenders have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019
- **crimes against society:** male offenders have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019 except for 2018

Figure 5 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of familiarity in victimization by sex, year of offense, and crimes against categories.
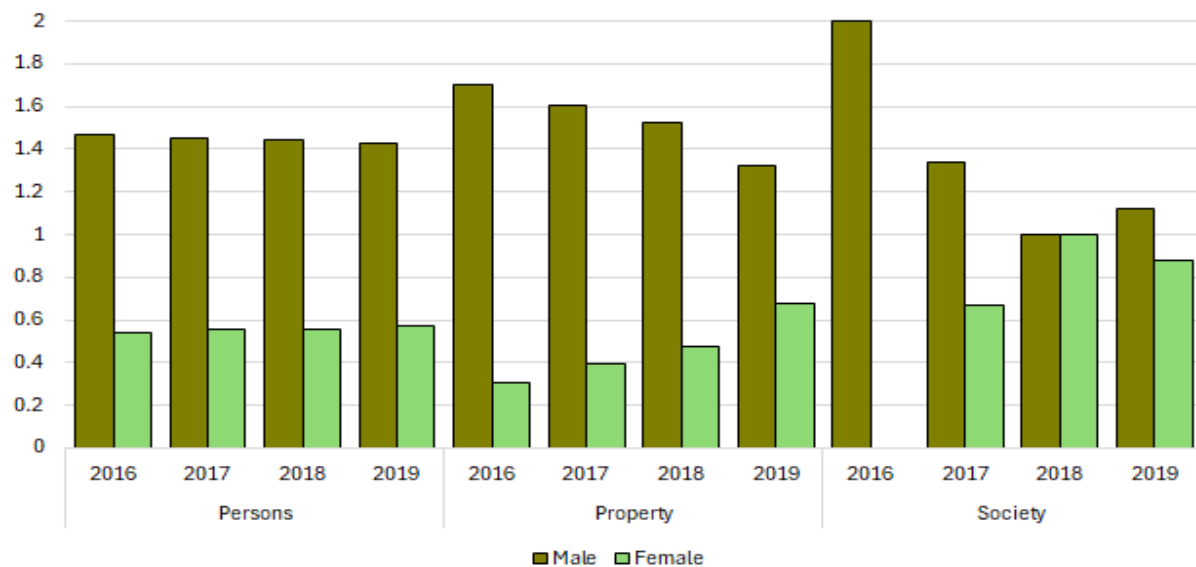
**Notes:** Due to low Ns, disproportionality ratios of rates could not be completed for crimes against society on sex categories.

**Presence of familiarity in victimization by age at time of offense**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the presence of familiarity in victimization and age at time of offense for all crimes against categories. Findings revealed that:

- **crimes against persons**: individuals 26 to 35 years of age as compared to any other age group were more likely to have a presence of familiarity in victimization; similar proportions were found by presence of familiarity in victimization during NIBRS crimes against persons offenses for individuals ages 17 and younger and 18 to 25 years of age, and then with 36 to 45 years of age and ages 46 and older
- **crimes against property:** individuals 26 to 45 years of age as compared to any other age group were more likely to have a presence of familiarity in victimization; similar proportions were found by presence of familiarity in victimization during NIBRS crimes against property offenses for individuals ages 25 and younger
- **crimes against society:** individuals 17 years of age and younger as compared to any other age group were more likely to have a presence of familiarity in victimization; similar proportions were found by presence of familiarity in victimization during NIBRS crimes against society offenses for individuals ages 18 to 35, and then with 36 years of age and older

Furthermore, when year of offense was included in analyses, findings show that there were strong relationships between the presence of familiarity in victimization and age at time of offense for crimes against persons and crimes against property, but not crimes against society:

- **crimes against persons:** individuals 26 to 35 years of age and 46 years and older with a presence of familiarity in victimization were similar throughout the four years of offenses; there were different proportions of offenders who were 26 to 35 years of age throughout the years – and most specifically in 2016 and then in 2019

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- **crimes against property:** individuals 26 to 35 years of age with a presence of familiarity in victimization were similar throughout the four years of offenses – this is similar for individuals 17 and younger; individuals 18 to 25 years of age showed mixed findings throughout the years – and most specifically in 2016 and then in 2019

**Presence of familiarity in victimization by BIPOC community**

Findings suggest that there were different proportions in the presence of familiarity in victimization for all crimes against categories. Results indicate that individuals who were not part of the BIPOC community were more likely to have presence of familiarity in victimization. When year of offense was included in analyses, findings revealed no proportionate differences.

Findings revealed that, on average:

- **crimes against persons** and **crimes against property:** offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019
- **crimes against society:** offenders who were not part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2017 to 2018, and offenders who were part of the BIPOC community have been overrepresented from 2016 to 2019

Figure 6 shows the disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of familiarity in victimization by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories.

Figure 6. Disproportionality ratios of rates in the presence of familiarity in victimization by BIPOC community, year of offense, and crimes against categories
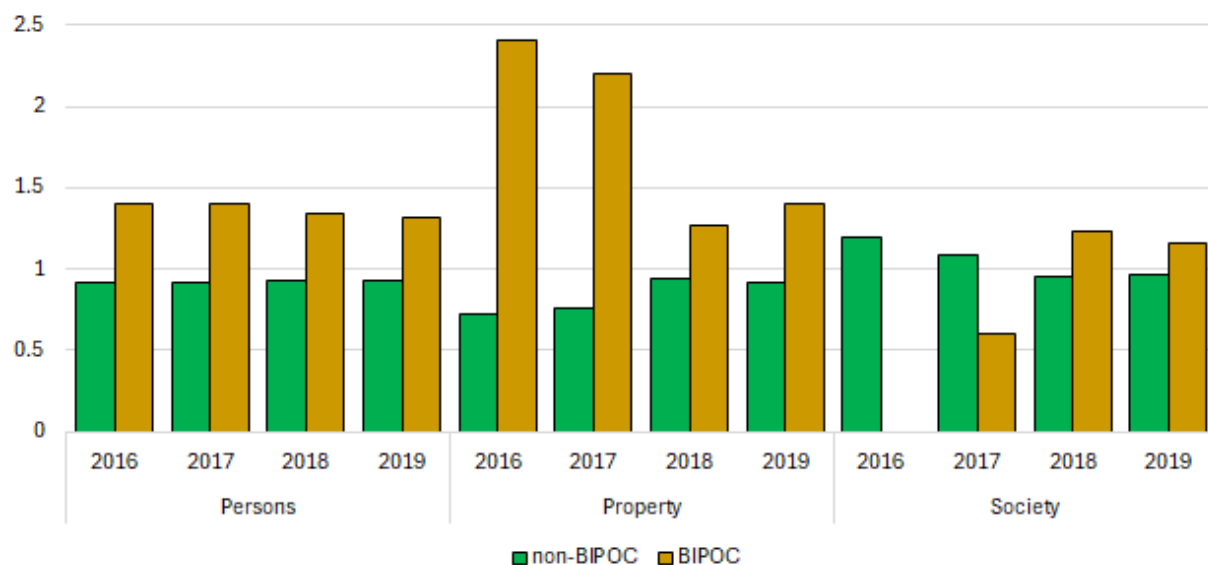


**Notes:** Due to low Ns, disproportionality ratios of rates could not be completed for crimes against society on BIPOC community categories.

## Discussion and Conclusion

Disparities and disproportionalities based on demographic factors, such as race, sex, and age have been common subjects of extensive evaluation. The present report and the associated series of reports on NIBRS offenses reveals significant variations in offense rates among different demographic groups. As part

of a series of documents utilizing NIBRS data to evaluate disparities and disproportionalities in Washington, this report endeavored to evaluate the differences in crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society in Washington.

Factors contributing to these disparities can include societal bias, policing practices, economic inequality, and access to legal representation (Brame et al., 2014). Understanding and addressing these disparities is crucial for achieving a more equitable criminal justice system. Further research and analysis are needed to fully understand the role demographics play in offense rates and crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society.

While stated above, it merits repeating that this report provided analyses that were descriptive and non-generalizable in nature. The results are modest, and subsequently, inferences and implications are limited. Results should be interpreted with caution. As the report was non-generalizable and was not a true representation of the entire population of data, causal relationships cannot be determined and conclusions, if any, are incredibly limited. No recommendations outside of a need for further analyses, including true research endeavors are presented. While this report was limited, it did offer an opportunity to discuss the need to further assess and review demographic differences—and at times, disproportionalities and disparities—in how offenses are applied in efforts to have a true understanding of the impact of different demographic groups that are most impacted by offenses, and how these trends vary by offense categories and time. The criminal justice system continues to be impacted by ethnic and racial inequality. Research shows significant sex and racial disparities and disproportionalities exist throughout all of the stages of criminal legal processing such as policing, offenses, pre-trial detention, sentencing, and incarceration. These inequalities can impact disparities in crime, victimization, and system involvement. Additionally, while this report and the associated series looked at disproportionalities and disparities in NIBRS crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society offenses, it does not capture potential policy impacts that might have influenced the findings of this work.

More work to assess and evaluate NIBRS data is needed. Cross et al. (2023) showed that while 84% of the NIBRS cases matched with law enforcement agencies, more than a tenth of all cases were erroneous. According to their research, some of the issues included potential timings of offenses and human discrepancies such as false negatives (either by incorrectly recording in NIBRS that they had not been resolved by an offense or summons) or by a "design flaw" in NIBRS that made it complicated for data entry staff to enter both summonses and offenses in the appropriate data fields. Furthermore, although law enforcement has the ability to update cases in terms of offenses or summonses following the initial data entry, data entry staff may not make those amendments for a variety of reasons. Cross et al. (2023) continued to caution the limitations of crime trends that are dependent on NIBRS data as they are not representative of Washington's population - as not all law enforcement agencies are included within this database. While there are significant limitations within the NIBRS data, this database can help produce national- and state-level estimates as more law enforcement agencies transition and integrate into the database. As this report utilized data from the NIBRS itself, and not directly from WASPC, caution is advised in attempting to make direct comparisons between data in this report and data in WASPC documentation or other published NIBRS data. Additionally, even though this report did evaluate data by year of offense, there are typically many methodologies of differing levels of participation utilized in preparing data for reports and data products. Thus, some data may not necessarily be comparable from year to year. In addition, because the NIBRS is not yet utilized uniformly statewide in Washington, data users should be cautious in deducing conclusions from published work; similar to Cross et al. (2023), data quality issues with the NIBRS are still evolving and statistical compatibility with other crime information

systems remains to be studied. Until all law enforcement agencies participate in the NIBRS, limitations will continue to persist within this data system.

Comprehensive research is essential to assess where disparities and disproportionalities exist and how policies have impacted those differences over time. Those evaluating the disparities and disproportionalities in the criminal justice system should look for racial, sex, and age differences, as in this report and the series associated with it, but should also expand on geographic and socioeconomic status, in addition to potential interactions among these demographics.

## Disclaimer

This material utilizes publicly available data from the NIBRS. The views expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the NIBRS or other data contributors. Any errors are attributable to the author(s).

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# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Operationalizations of NIBRS Crimes Against Categories

| Crimes against persons | Total number of crimes against persons reported including murder, manslaughter, forcible sex, assault, intimidation, non-forcible sex, justifiable homicide (e.g., the killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a peace officer in the line of duty; or the killing, during the commission of a serious criminal offense, of the perpetrator by a private individual), kidnapping/abduction, violation of a no-contact order and human trafficking |
|---|---|
| Murder | Killing of one person by another or the killing of another person. Includes Non-negligent Manslaughter (e.g., the willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another). Note: attempted murders are reported as aggravated assaults. |
| Manslaughter | Negligent Manslaughter is the killing of another person through negligence. Excludes Vehicular Manslaughter. |
| Forcible Sex | Includes the following offenses: **Forcible Rape:** The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will. **Forcible Sodomy:** Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will. **Sexual Assault with an Object:** To use an object to unlawfully penetrate the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcible and/or against that person's will. **Forcible Fondling:** The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will |
| Assault | Includes the following offenses: **Aggravated Assault:** An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness. **Simple Assault:** An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness. **Intimidation:** To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. |
| Non-Forcible Sex | Includes the following offenses: Incest: Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degree where marriage is prohibited by law. Statutory Rape: Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. |
| Kidnapping and Abductions | The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will, or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian. This offense includes not only kidnapping and abduction, but hostage situations as well. |
| Human Trafficking | Includes the following offenses: **Commercial Sex Acts** – Inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts or in which the person induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age. **Involuntary Servitude –** Obtaining of a person through recruitment, harboring, transportation or provision and subjecting such person by force, fraud or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts) |
| Violation of no Contact | All violations of court ordered no-contact, protection, restraining or antiharassment orders. May not be domestic violence-related. |
| **Crimes against property** | **Total number of crimes against property reported including arson, bribery, burglary, counterfeiting and forgery, destruction of property, extortion/blackmail, robbery, and theft** |
| All Other Larceny | Larceny/Theft Offenses—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person. And all other larceny includes thefts which do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of Larceny/Theft listed above (i.e., pocket-picking, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from building, theft from coin-operated machine or device, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories). |
| Arson | To unlawfully and intentionally damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Bribery | The offering, giving, receiving or soliciting of anything of value to sway the judgment or action of a person in a position of trust or influence. |
| Burglary/ Breaking & Entering | Unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or theft. |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | The altering, copying, or imitation of something, without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine; or the selling, buying, or possession of an altered, copied, or imitated thing with the intent to deceive or defraud. |
| Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud | The unlawful use of a credit (or debit) card or automated teller machine for fraudulent purposes. |
| Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property | To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or person having custody. |
| Embezzlement | The unlawful misappropriation by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody or control. Fraud: The intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or entity in reliance upon it to part with something of value or surrender a legal right. |
| Extortion/Blackmail | To unlawfully obtain money, property or any other thing of value through the use of threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of criminal prosecution, threat of destruction of reputation or through other coercive means. |
| Hacking/Computer Invasion | Wrongfully gaining access to another person's or institution's computer software, hardware, or networks without authorized permissions or security clearances. |
| Identity Theft | Wrongfully obtaining and using another person's personal data (e.g., name, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number, credit card number). |
| Impersonation | Falsely representing one's identity or position and acting in the character or position thus unlawfully assumed, to deceive others and thereby gain a profit or advantage, enjoy some right or privilege, or subject another person or entity to an expense, charge, or liability which would not have otherwise been incurred. |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | The theft of a motor vehicle. |
| Pocket-picking | The theft of articles from another person's physical possession by stealth where the victim usually does not become immediately aware of the theft. |
| Purse-snatching | The grabbing or snatching of a purse, handbag, etc., from the physical possession of another person |
| Robbery | The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or the threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. |
| Shoplifting | The theft, by someone other than an employee of the victim, of goods or merchandise exposed for sale. |
| Stolen Property Offenses | Receiving, buying, selling, possessing, concealing, or transporting any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, as by Burglary, Embezzlement, Fraud, Larceny, Robbery, etc. |
| Theft from Building | A theft from within a building which is either open to the general public or where the offender has legal access |
| Theft from Coin-Operated Machine or Device | A theft from a machine or device which is operated or activated by the use of coins |
| Theft From Motor Vehicle | (Except Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories) The theft of articles from a motor vehicle, whether locked or unlocked |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories | The theft of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle, or necessary for its operation |
| Welfare Fraud | The use of deceitful statements, practices, or devices to unlawfully obtain welfare benefits |
| Wire Fraud | The use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity |
| **Crimes against society** | **Total number of crimes against society reported including drug violations, gambling violations, pornography/prostitution, weapon law violations, and animal cruelty** |
| Drug/Narcotics Violation | Includes the following offenses: Drug/Narcotic Violations: The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance. Excludes DUIs. Drug Equipment Violations: The |

| | |
|---|---|
| | unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics. |
| Gambling Violation | Includes offenses for Betting/Wagering, Operating/ Promoting/Assisting Gambling, Gambling Equipment Violations, False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game, and Sports Tampering |
| Pornography/ Obscene Material | The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, publishing, sale, purchase or possession of sexually explicit material |
| Prostitution | Includes the following offenses: **Prostitution:** To unlawfully engage in or promote sexual activities for profit. **Assisting or Promoting Prostitution:** To solicit customers or transport persons for prostitution purposes; to own, manage or operate an establishment for the purpose of providing a place where prostitution is performed; to otherwise assist or promote prostitution. **Purchasing Prostitution:** To purchase or trade anything of value for commercial sex acts |
| Weapon Law Violation | The violation of laws prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices or other deadly weapons |
| Animal Cruelty | Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause. Included are instances of failure of duty to provide care (food, water, shelter, vet); transporting/confining an animal in a way likely to cause injury/death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated pain/suffering |

**Notes:** First, the WASPC collects monthly reported incident based offense statistics from participating law enforcement agencies and this data are based on a "snapshot" of the repository database, as there are no "fixed" statistics, since law enforcement agencies can update their incidents when new information becomes available. While WASPC collects this data for Washington state, this product utilizes the publicly available NIBRS data found at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ICPSR) (https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR /series/128) The NIBRS series is a component part of the UCR, a nationwide view of crime administered by the FBI, based on the submission of crime information by participating law enforcement agencies. The NIBRS was implemented to meet the new guidelines formulated for the UCR to provide new ways of looking at crime for the 21st century. The data are archived at ICPSR as 13 separate data files. Second, while the data is provided as overall state data and then broken down by county, data should not be compared by county, as there are numerous variables which contribute to crime in a particular jurisdiction, including but not limited to the demographics, economic, and cultural make up of the population. Third, not all counties and jurisdictions are contributing members to the NIBRS dataset, and not all counties and jurisdictions contribute consecutively, which can skew data.

## Appendix 2: Operationalizations of Key Terms

| Variable | Definition |
|---|---|
| Bias Motivation | Bias Motivation was categorized as a binary variable (i.e., yes, bias motivation or no bias motivation). Bias Motivation includes Anti-American Indian or Alaska Native; Anti-Arab; Anti-Asian; Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism; Anti-Bisexual; Anti-Black or African American; Anti-Buddhist; Anti-Catholic; Anti-Eastern Orthodox (Greek, Russian, etc.); Anti-Female; Anti-Gay (Male); Anti-Gender Non-Conforming; Anti-Heterosexual; Anti-Hindu; Anti-Hispanic or Latino; Anti-Islamic (Muslim); Anti-Jehovah's Witness; Anti-Jewish; Anti-Lesbian (Female); Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group); Anti-Male; Anti-Mental Disability; Anti-Mormon; Anti-Multiple Races, Group; Anti-Multiple Religions, Group; Anti-Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; Anti-Other Christian; Anti-Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry; Anti-Other Religion; Anti-Physical Disability; Anti-Protestant; Anti-Sensory Disability; Anti-Sikh; Anti-Transgender; Anti-White). It is important to note that an offender could have more than one bias motivation. At least one bias motivation is required. Bias Motivation indicates whether or not an offense was motivated by an offender's perceived bias. |
| Familiarity to Victimization | Familiarity to victimization was categorized as a binary variable (i.e., yes, familiarity or no familiarity). Familiarity includes Victim was Spouse; Victim was Common-Law Spouse; Victim was Parent; Victim was Sibling; Victim was Child; Victim was Grandparent; Victim was Grandchild; Victim was In-Law; Victim was Stepparent; Victim was Stepchild; Victim was Stepsibling; Victim was Other Family Member; Victim was Offender; Victim was Acquaintance; Victim was Friend; Victim was Neighbor; Victim was Babysittee (the baby); Victim was Boyfriend/Girlfriend; Victim was Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend; Homosexual Relationship; Victim was Ex-Spouse; Victim was Employee; Victim was Employer; Victim was Otherwise Known; Victim was Stranger; Victim was Ex-Relationship (Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend). It is important to note that an offender could have had more than one type of familiarity to the victim. |
| Weapons and/or Force Used | Weapons and/or Force Used was categorized as a binary variable (i.e., yes, weapons and/or force used or no weapons and/or force used). Weapons and/or Force Used includes Asphyxiation; Automatic Handgun; Automatic Rifle; Automatic Shotgun; Blunt Object; Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills; Explosives; Fire/Incendiary Device; Handgun; Knife/Cutting Instrument; Motor Vehicle; Other; Other Automatic Firearm; Other Firearm; Personal Weapons; Poison; Rifle; Shotgun. It is important to note that an offender could have used more than one weapon and/or force – as this report assessed whether or not there was weapons and/or force usage, only the most serious weapon and/or force was included in analyses. |

## Appendix 3: NIBRS Overview (Source: WASPC)

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) collects monthly reported incident-based offense statistics from participating law enforcement agencies. The agencies participate on a voluntary basis as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program. County annual totals include the sum of all reported NIBRS offenses known to participating agencies within the county and reported to WASPC. While the SRS data are recorded in a hierarchical fashion based on eight offense types, NIBRS collects information on 25 different offense categories made up of 53 offenses and allows all reportable offenses within an incident to be reported.

**Group A Offenses**

This product utilized one of the two (2) categories of offenses reported in NIBRS - Group A. There are 25 Group A offense categories made up of 53 Group A offenses. Group A offenses are grouped into three crime types: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property and Crimes Against Society. For counting purposes, agencies count one offense for each victim of a Crime Against Persons, one offense for each distinct operation of a Crime Against Property (except for Motor Vehicle Theft, where one offense is counted for each stolen vehicle), and one offense for each Crime Against Society.

**Incidents and Offenses**

Participation in NIBRS requires Agencies to report certain facts about each criminal incident coming to their attention within their jurisdictions. In most cases, officers capture the data through an incident report when a complainant first reports the crime. For NIBRS, the National UCR Program defines an incident as one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place. Acting in Concert requires all of the offenders to actually commit or assist in the commission of all of the crimes in an incident. The offenders must be aware of, and consent to, the commission of all of the offenses; or even if nonconsenting, their actions assist in the commission of all of the offenses. This is important because NIBRS considers all of the offenders in an incident to have committed all of the offenses in an incident. The arrest of any offender will clear all of the offenses in the incident. If one or more of the offenders did not act in concert, then the Agency should report more than one incident.

The fundamental concept of Same Time and Place presupposes that if the same person or group of persons committed more than one crime and the time and space intervals separating them were insignificant, all of the crimes make up a single incident. Normally, the offenses must have occurred during an unbroken time period and at the same or adjoining locations. However, incidents can also be comprised of offenses which, by their nature, involve continuing criminal activity by the same offenders at different times and places if, Agency deems the activity to constitute a single criminal transaction. Though NIBRS does not follow the Hierarchy Rule, Agencies must still apply the concept of Same Time and Place to determine whether a group of crimes constitutes a single incident. This is crucially important since the application of the concept determines whether Agencies should report the crimes as individual incidents or as a single incident comprised of multiple offenses. For NIBRS, Agencies must report all offenses within a particular crime. Agencies must ensure that each offense is reported as a separate, distinct crime and not just a part of another offense.

## Table A1. Counts of population estimates in Washington by year and by demographics

| | Washington State Population | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved from OFM | | |
| | Total | Male (N, %) | Female (N, %) |
| 2016 | 7,183,700 | 3,583,710 (49.9%) | 3,599,990 (50.1%) |
| 2017 | 7,310,300 | 3,647,541 (49.9%) | 3,662,759 (50.1%) |
| 2018 | 7,427,570 | 3,706,524 (49.9%) | 3,721,046 (50.1%) |
| 2019 | 7,546,410 | 3,766,161 (49.9%) | 3,780,249 (50.1%) |

| | White (N, %) | AA (N, %) | AI/AN (N, %) | Asian (N, %) | NHOPI (N, %) | Hispanic (N, %) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016 | 5,774,170 (80.4%) | 286,814 (4.0%) | 132,404 (1.8%) | 588,265 (8.2%) | 52,366 (.7%) | 907,507 (11.9%) |
| 2017 | 5,841,468 (79.9%) | 296,766 (4.1%) | 134,676 (1.8%) | 620,150 (8.5%) | 54,637 (.7%) | 937,881 (12.1%) |
| 2018 | 5,894,435 (79.4%) | 307,228 (4.1%) | 136,431 (1.8%) | 657,141 (8.8%) | 56,915 (.7%) | 966,164 (12.4%) |
| 2019 | 5,944,674 (78.8%) | 319,305 (4.2%) | 138,490 (1.8%) | 698,194 (9.3%) | 59,393 (.8%) | 995,048 (13.2%) |

**Notes:** Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP offense events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. NIBRS and OFM Bureau data did not present similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).