



THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

South Carolina Data Analysis Part 1: Prison Trends
Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee
September 5th, 2017

Introduction

Data Sources

- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report
- United States Census Bureau
- South Carolina Department of Corrections
 - Prison admissions, 2007-2016
 - Prison releases, 2007-2016
 - Annual snapshots of the prison population, June 30th, 2007-2016
- South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services
 - Case closures, 2007-2016
 - Compliance violation revocations, 2010-2016

Definition of Terms: Admission Types

- **Newly sentenced prisoner**
 - Admission to prison for a court-ordered sentence at the time of conviction.
- **Revocation**
 - Admission to prison for violating the terms of community supervision.
 - **Compliance violation revocation:** Admission to prison for failing to comply with a rule or rules that one is required to follow while under supervision (e.g. missing a meeting, using drugs, willful nonpayment of fines or fees, etc).
 - **New crime revocation:** Admission to prison for committing a new offense while on supervision.

Definition of Terms: Length of Stay

- **Sentence**
 - The court-ordered, Parole Board-ordered, or Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services hearing officer-ordered period of incarceration (does not include terms of suspended incarceration).
- **Time served for people in prison**
 - The amount of time a person in prison has served as of the last day of the fiscal year.
- **Longest-serving inmates**
 - Those people who have served longer than 10 years in prison.

Definition of Terms: Offense Types

- **Offense**
 - The most serious offense at commitment. The most serious offense is determined by SCDC and considers the nature of the crime (violent or nonviolent) and the maximum penalty allowed.
- **Violent offense**
 - Any crime that was defined as violent in statute at the time of conviction.
- **Nonviolent offense**
 - Any crime that was not defined as violent in statute at the time of conviction.

Definition of Terms: Prior Commitments

- **Prior commitments**
 - Previous prison stays in SCDC and previous out-of-state prison stays.
 - Does not include previous misdemeanor incarcerations that were not served in SCDC, felony or misdemeanor probation sentences, specialty court sentences, or pre-trial diversion sentences.

Introduction

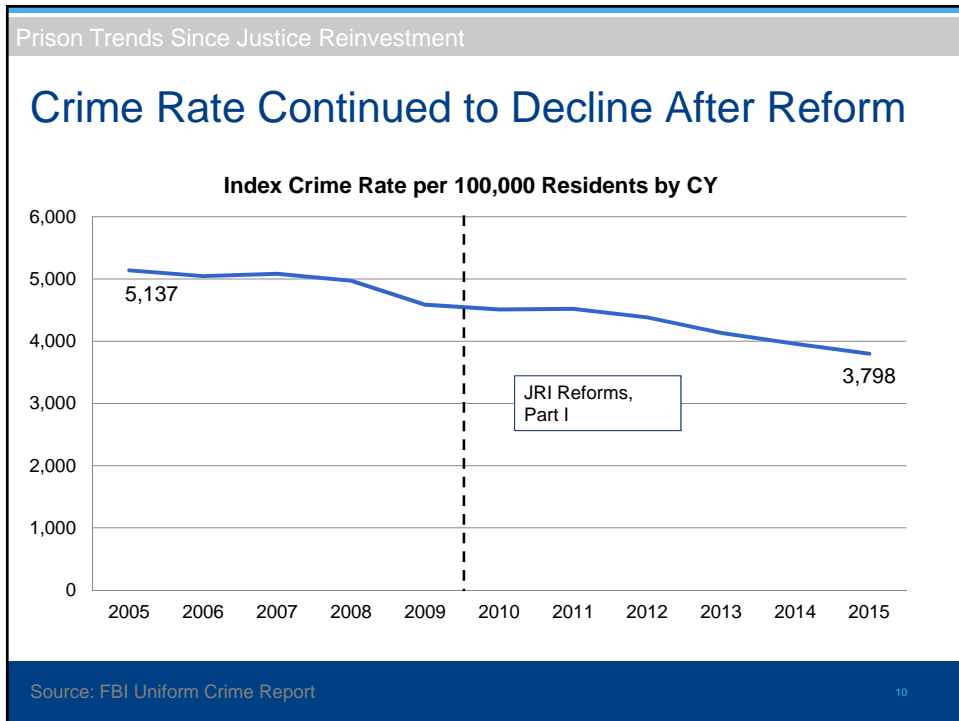
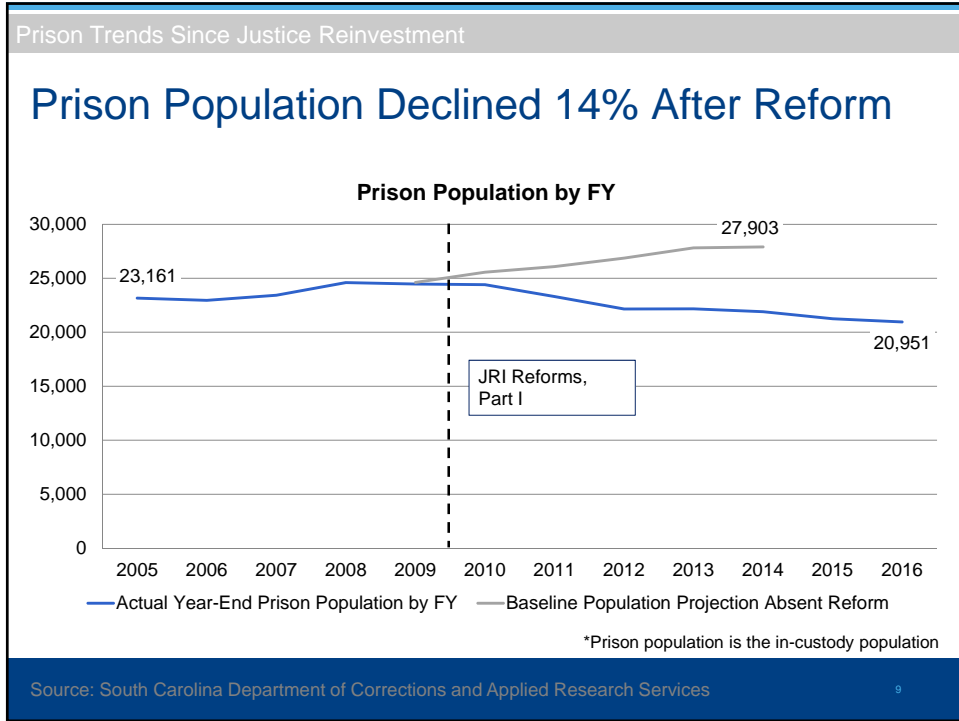
Outline

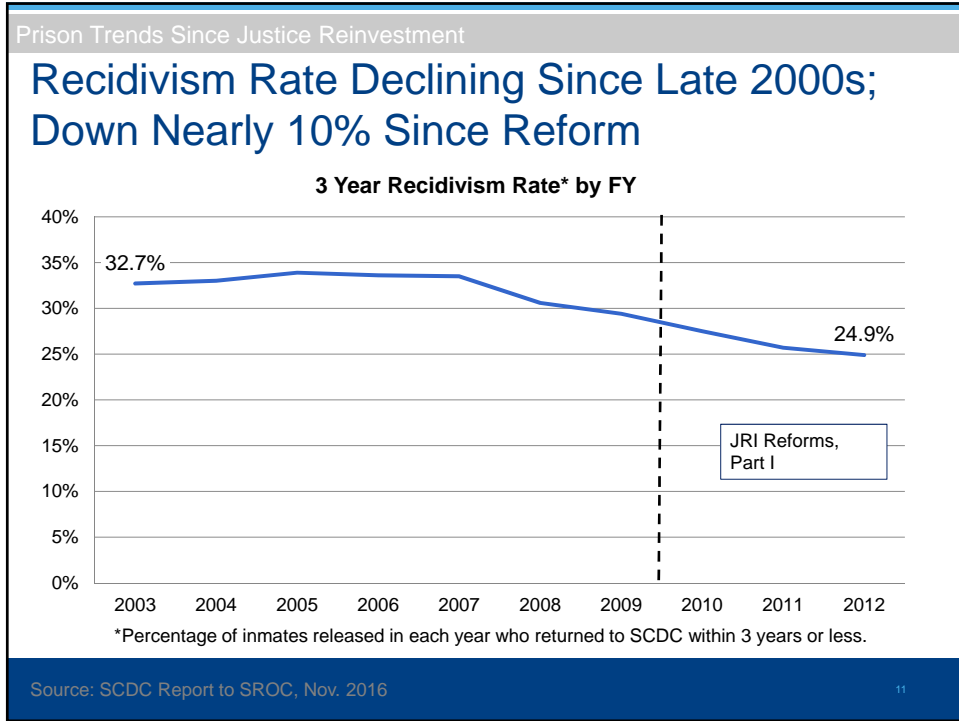
- Prison trends since Justice Reinvestment
- Taking a second look: issues worth examining
- Summary of takeaways
- Topics for next data meeting
- Questions

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PRISON TRENDS SINCE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

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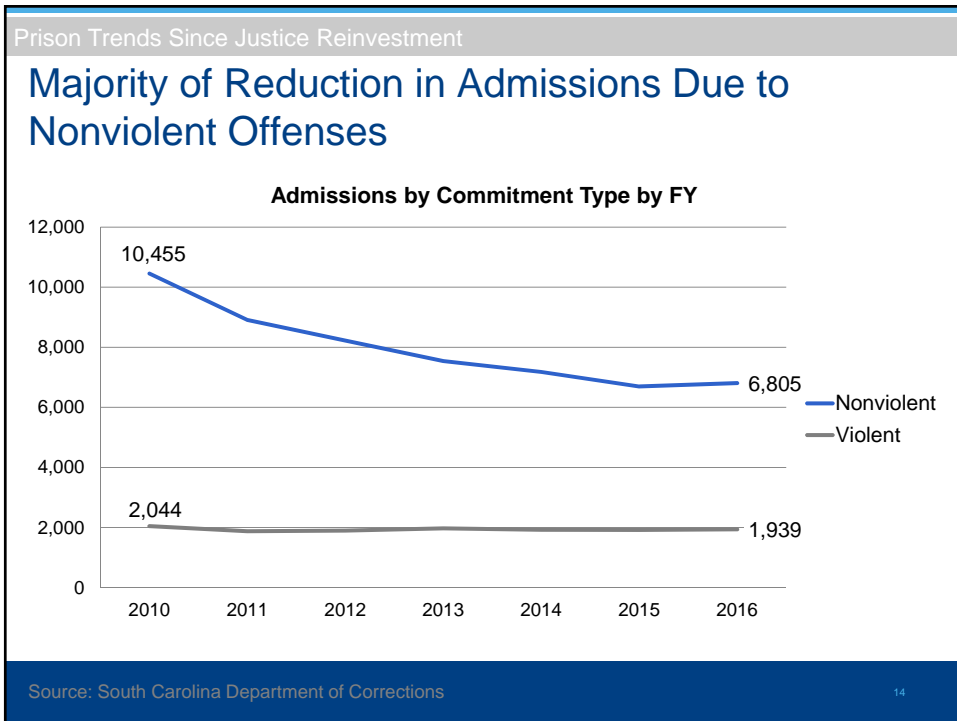
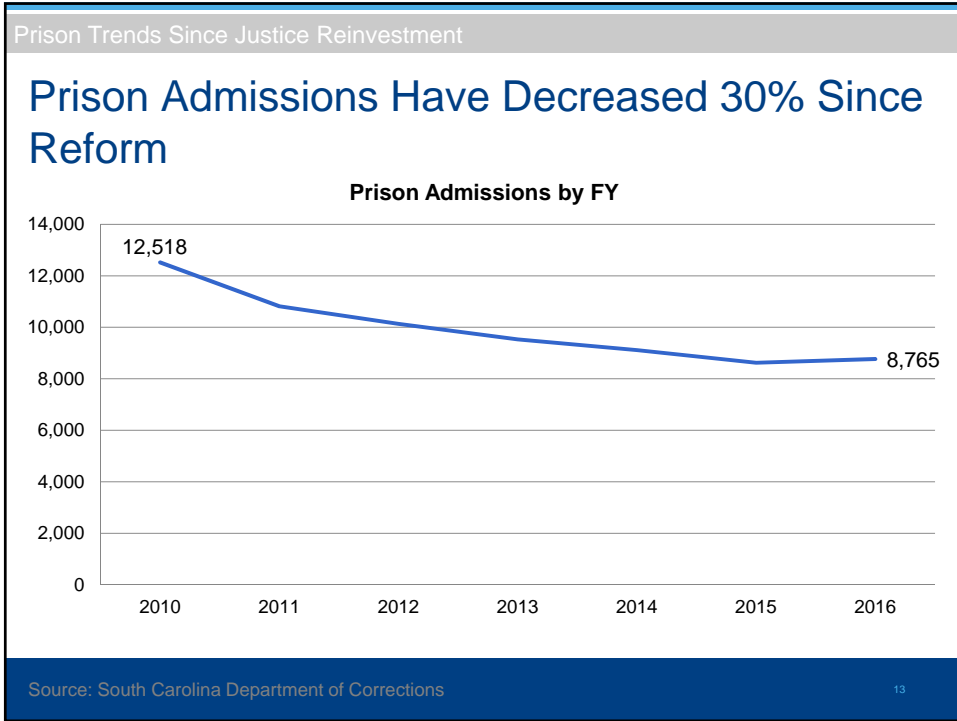
Prison Trends Since Justice Reinvestment

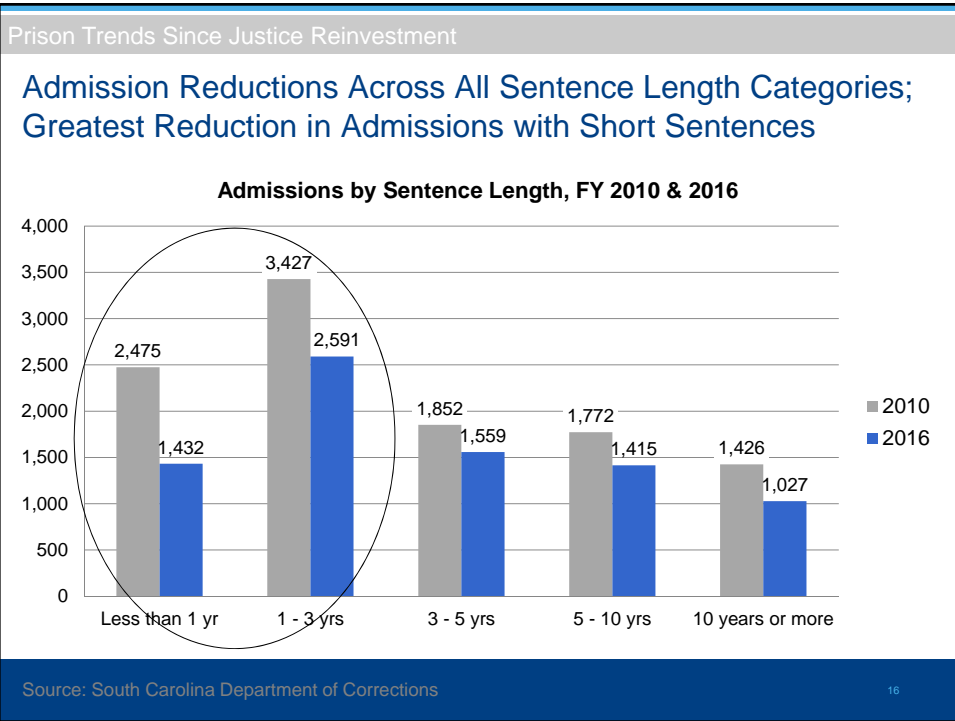
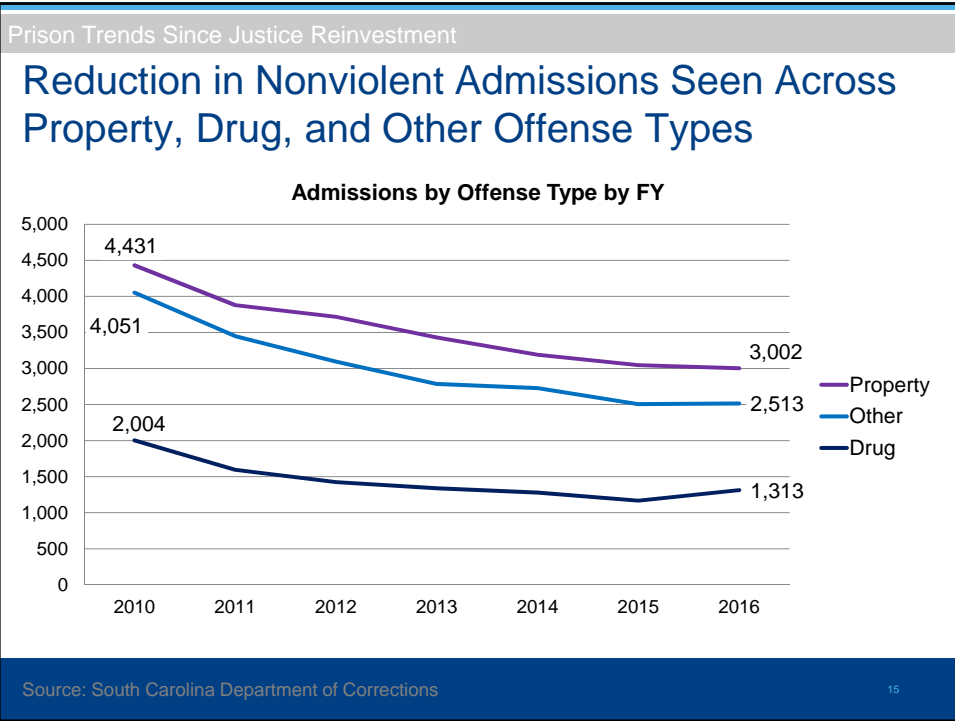
Imprisonment Rate* Fell From 11th in Nation to 19th; Still Higher than National Average

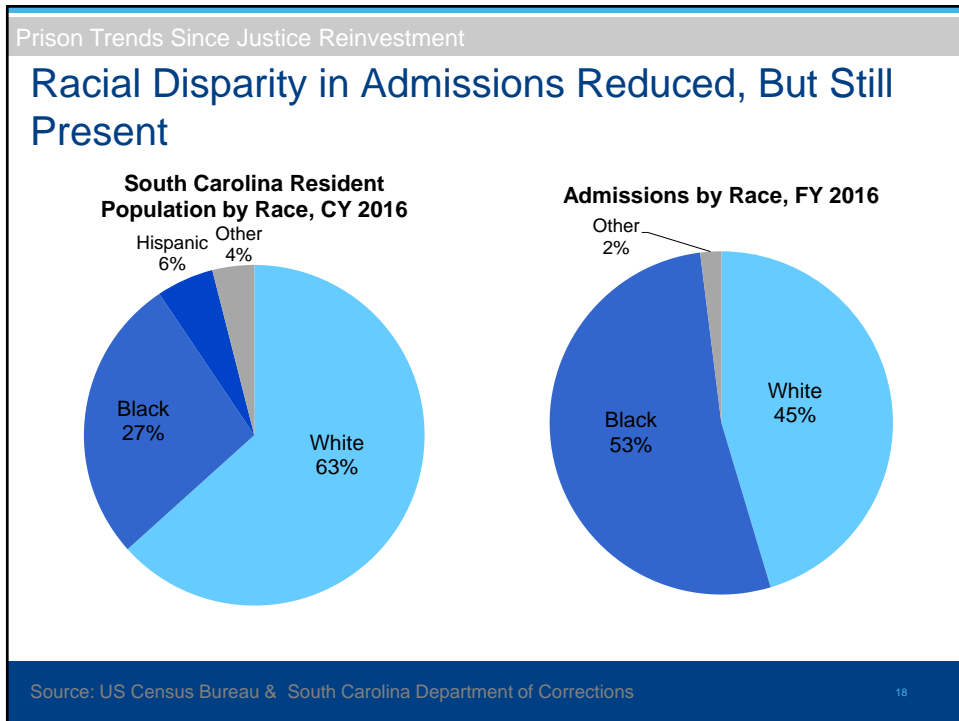
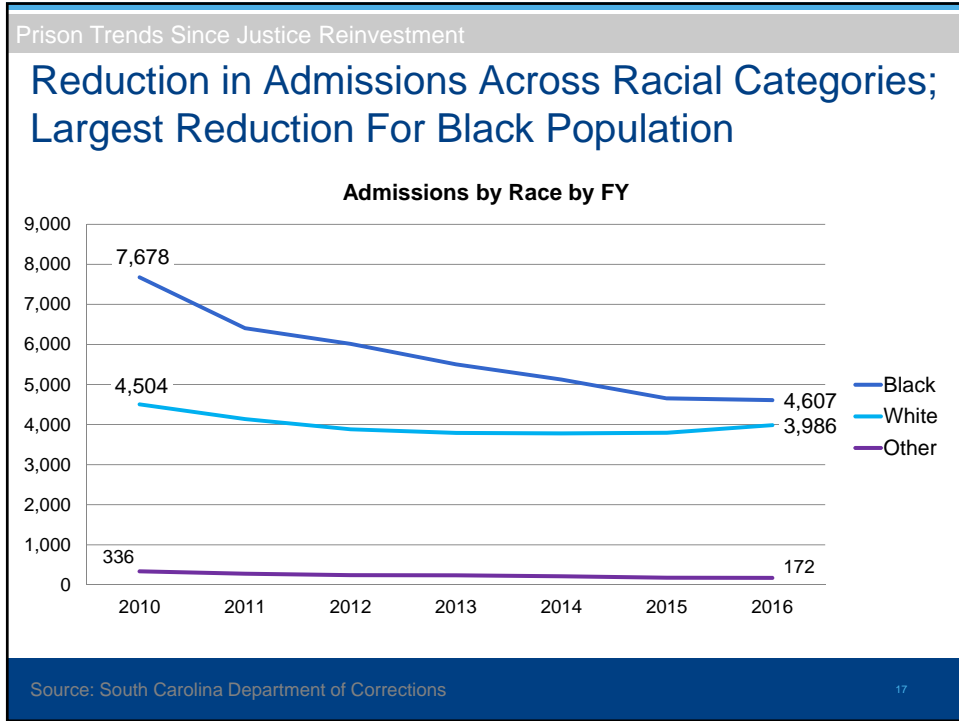
State	2010 Rate	2015 Rate
Louisiana	868	778
Mississippi	686	719
Oklahoma	652	613
Texas	652	609
Alabama	642	600
Arizona	599	593
Georgia	563	572
Florida	554	531
Arkansas	553	506
Missouri	511	500
South Carolina	492	416
Idaho	473	490
Virginia	466	458
Nevada	464	450
Kentucky	459	448
Colorado	452	443
Ohio	448	438
Michigan	447	430
California	440	427
Delaware	440	416
State Average	439	402

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

*The number of prisoners with sentences greater than one year for every 100,000 residents of the state.







TAKING A SECOND LOOK: ISSUES WORTH EXAMINING

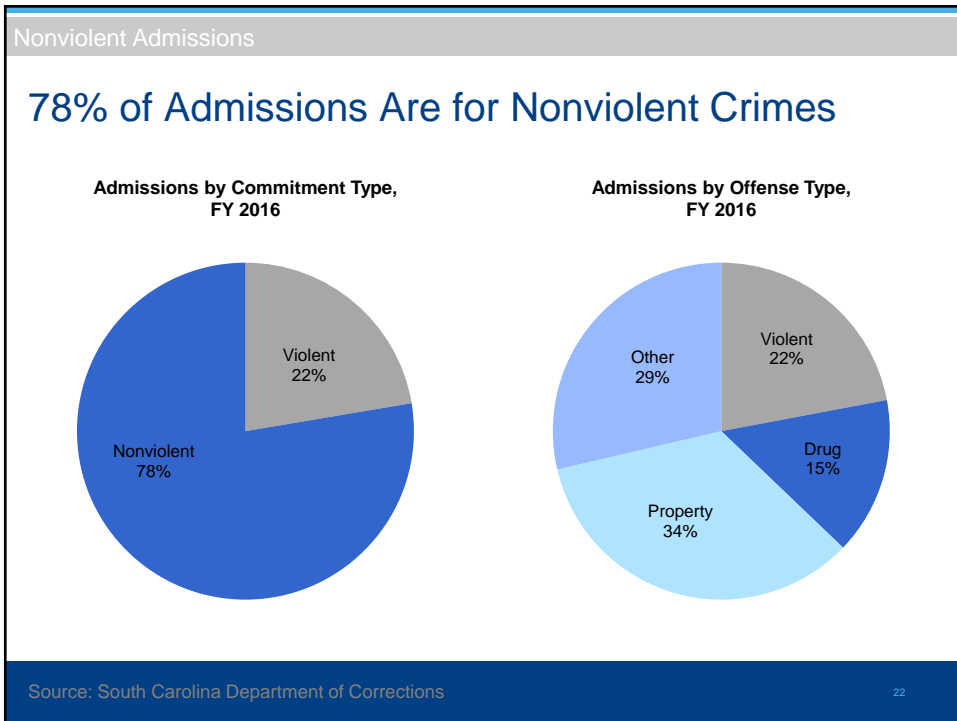
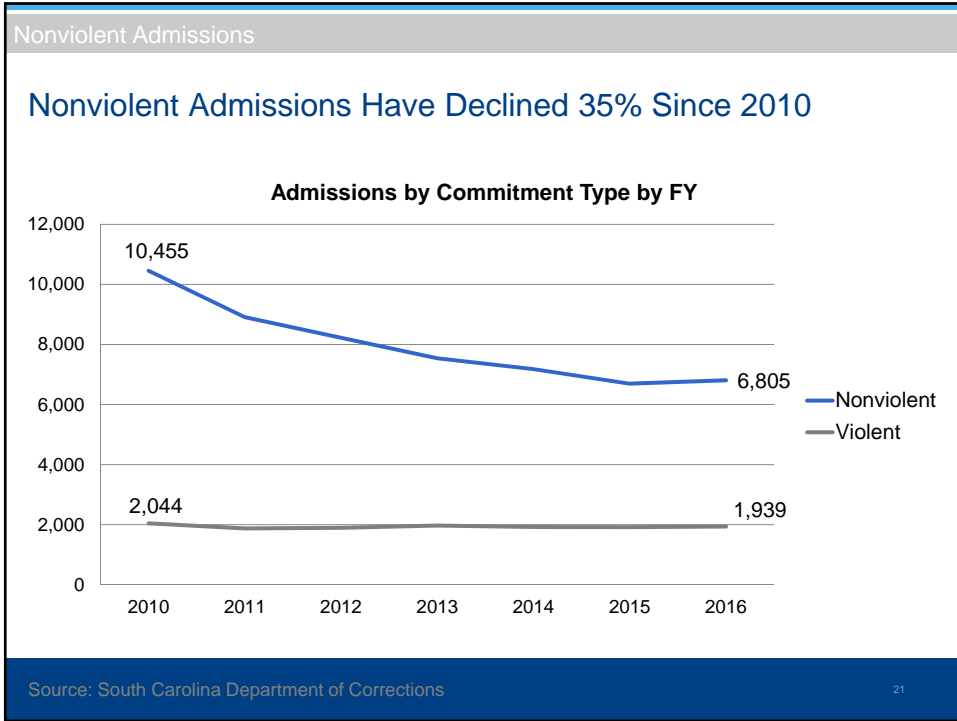
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Nonviolent Admissions

Outline

- Prison trends since Justice Reinvestment
- Taking a second look: issues worth examining
 - Despite decline, 78% of admissions to prison are for nonviolent crimes
 - 1 in 4 admissions to prison are revocations for compliance violations
 - Time served for people in prison up 29% since 2010
- Summary of takeaways
- Topics for next data meeting
- Questions

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Nonviolent Admissions

7 of Top 10 Admissions Offenses are Nonviolent; 4 Drug-Related

Top 10 Offenses at Admission in FY 2016	
Offense	Number of Admissions
Burglary (2 nd degree nonviolent and 3 rd degree)	952
Commercial drug offense	668
Possession drug offense	525
Assault and battery – nonviolent	504
Shoplifting	497
Forgery/fraud	475
Burglary (2 nd degree violent)	312
Common law robbery	288
Manufacture methamphetamine	280
Trafficking controlled substances	271

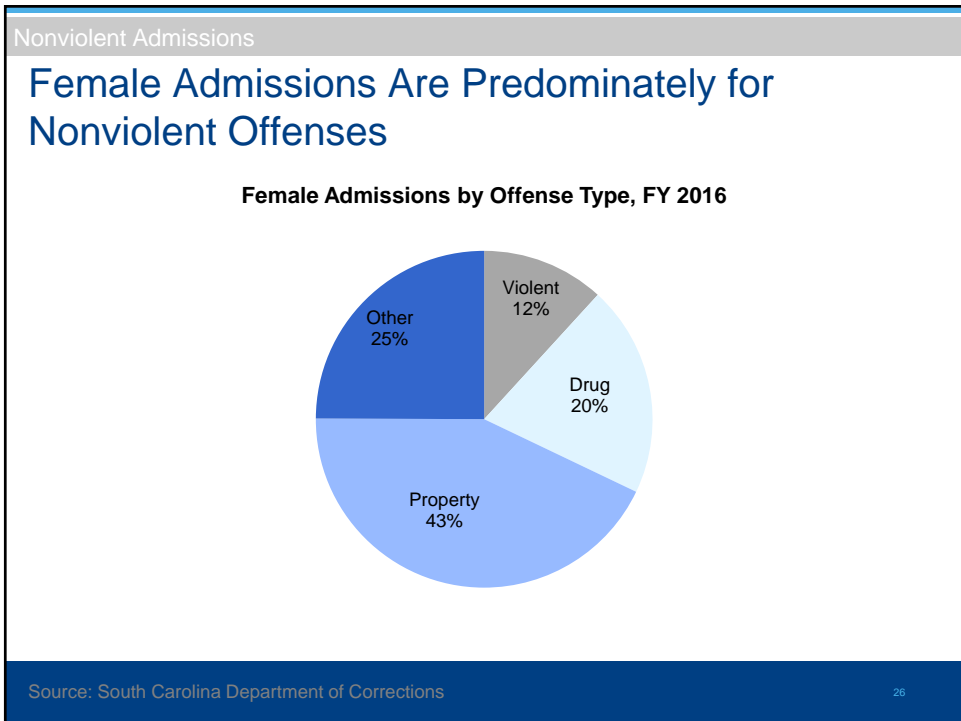
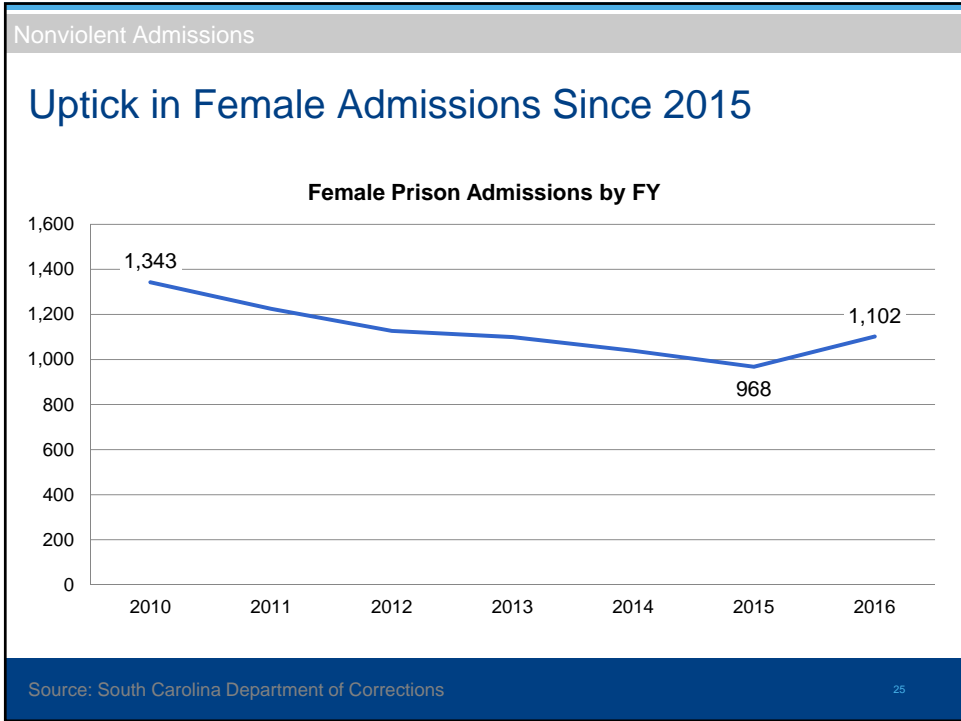
Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 23

Nonviolent Admissions

Sentences for Common Offenses at Admission Vary

Top 10 Offenses at Admission in FY 2016			
Offense	Mean Sentence (Months)	Number of Admissions	Combined Sentences
Burglary (2 nd degree nonviolent and 3 rd degree)	42	952	39,984
Commercial drug offense	50	668	33,400
Possession drug offense	20	525	10,500
Assault and battery – nonviolent	40	504	20,160
Shoplifting	28	497	13,916
Forgery/fraud	23	475	10,925
Burglary (2 nd degree violent)	75	312	23,400
Common law robbery	67	288	19,296
Manufacture methamphetamine	47	280	13,160
Trafficking controlled substance	97	271	26,287

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 24



Nonviolent Admissions

9 of Top 10 Offenses for Female Admissions Are Nonviolent

Top 10 Offenses at Admission for Females in FY 2016	
Offense	Number of Admissions
Forgery/fraud	146
Shoplifting	142
Possession drug offense	133
Child abuse/neglect	80
Burglary (2 nd degree nonviolent and 3 rd degree)	65
Commercial drug offense	56
Manufacture methamphetamine	56
Grand larceny	38
Assault and battery – nonviolent	28
Driving without license/driving on suspended license	23

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 27

Nonviolent Admissions

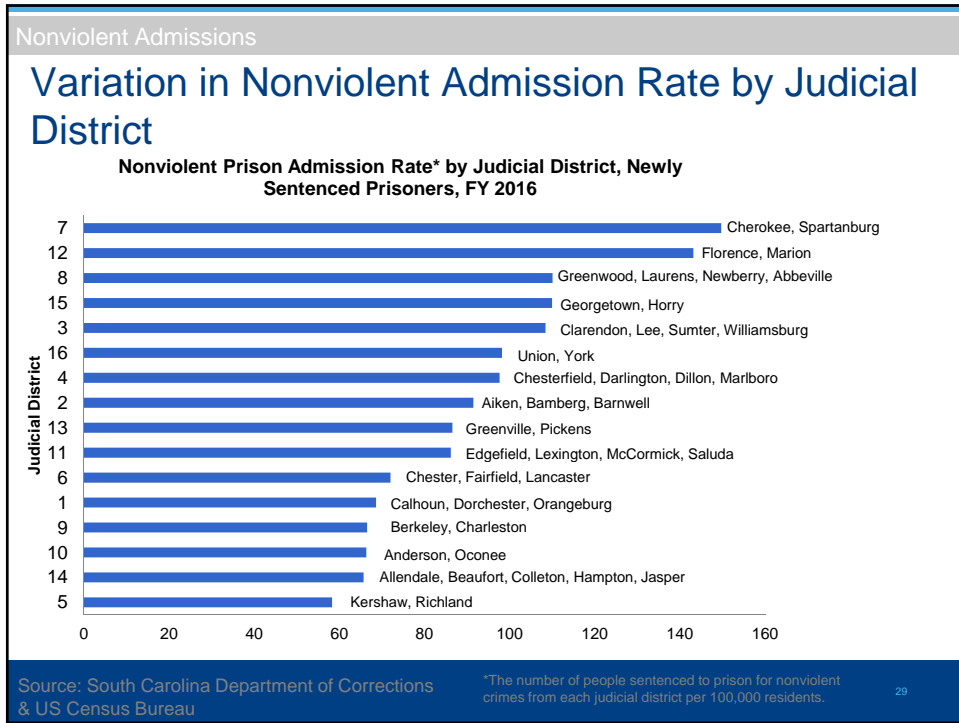
Variation in Nonviolent Admission Rate by Judicial District

Nonviolent Prison Admission Rate*, by Judicial District, Newly Sentenced Prisoners, FY 2016

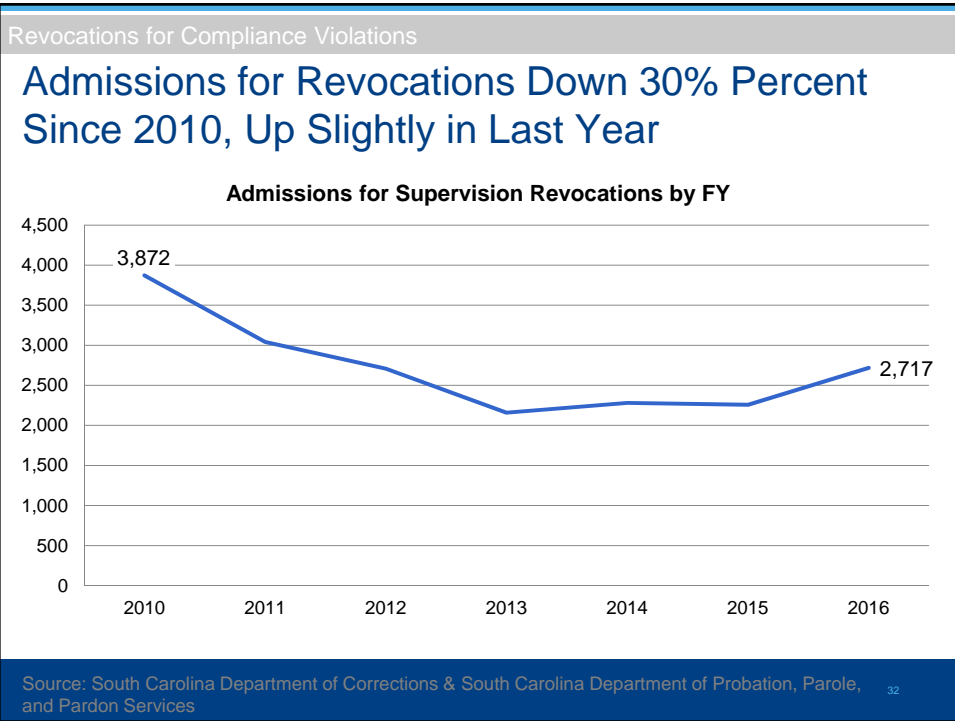
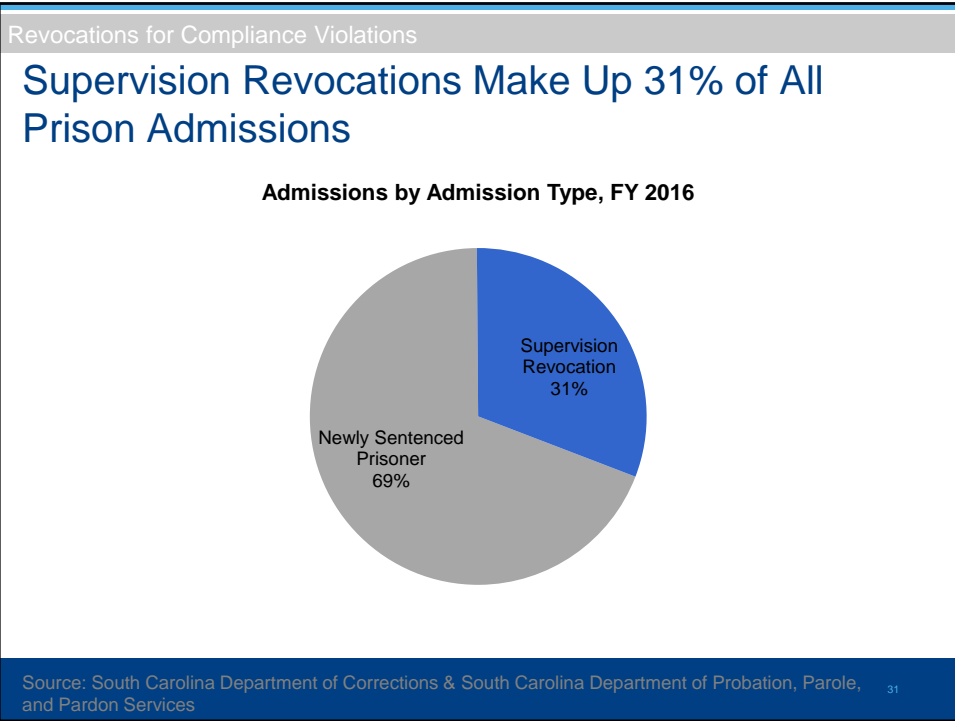
- 125+
- 100-125
- 75-100
- Less than 75

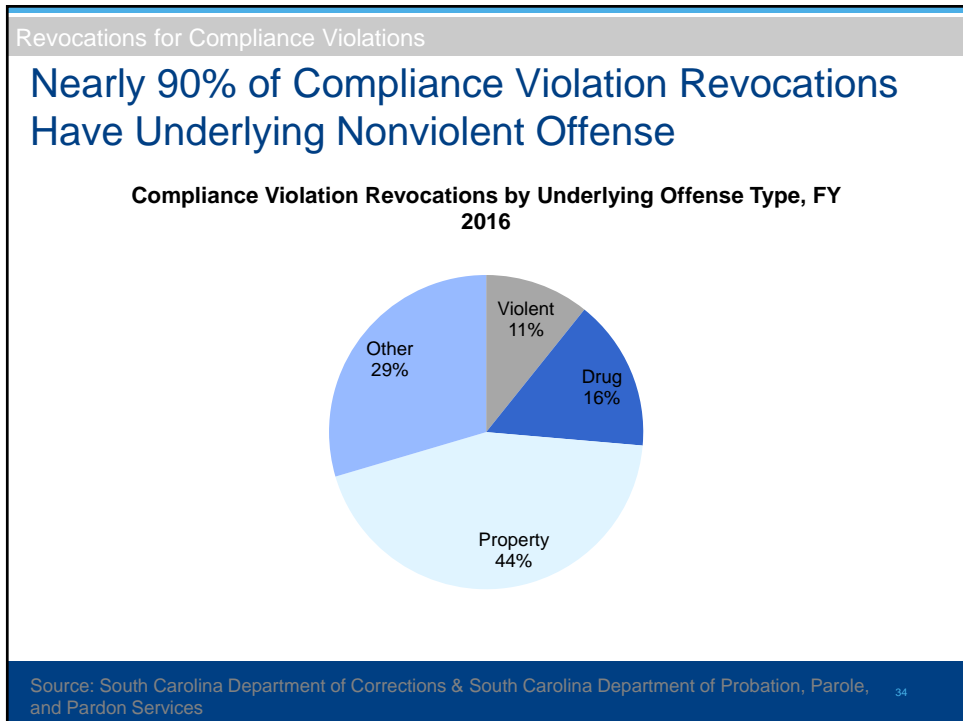
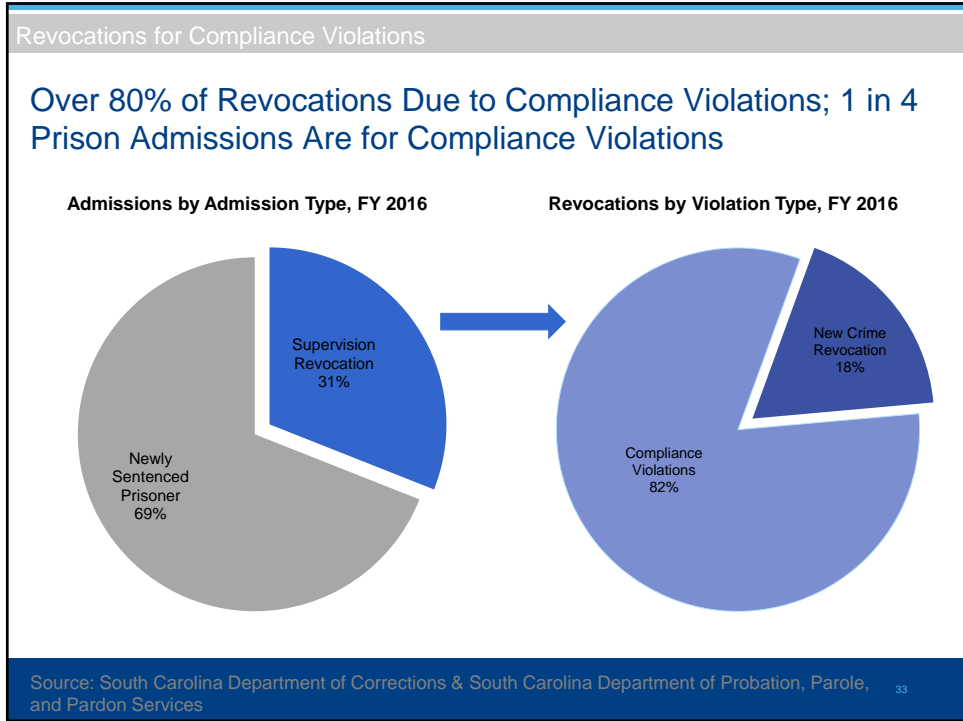
*The number of people sentenced to prison for nonviolent crimes from each judicial district per 100,000 residents.

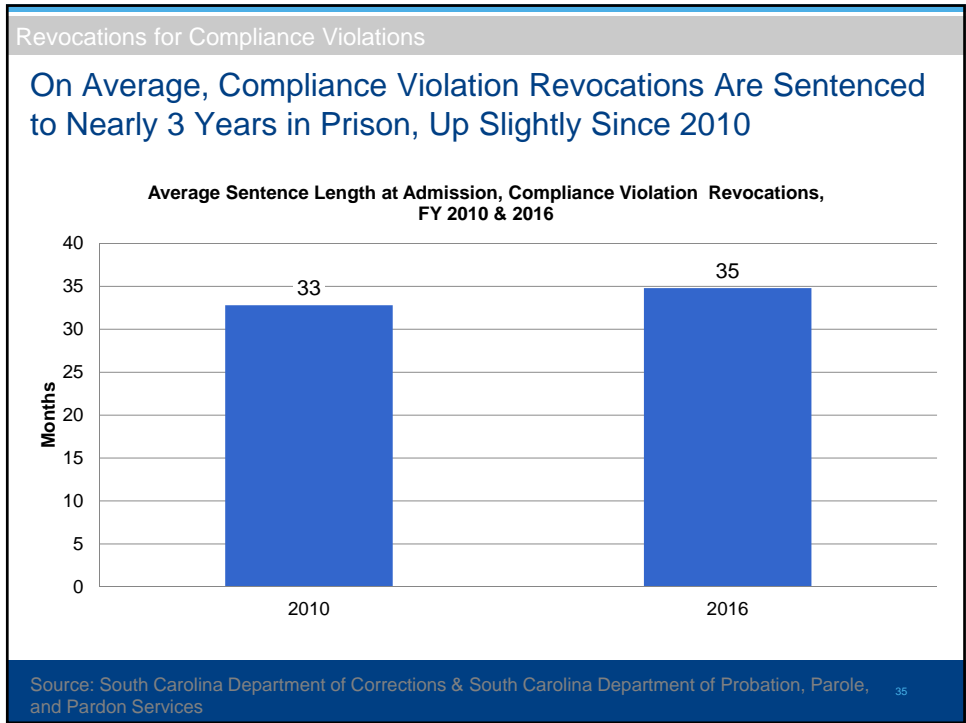
Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections & US Census Bureau 28



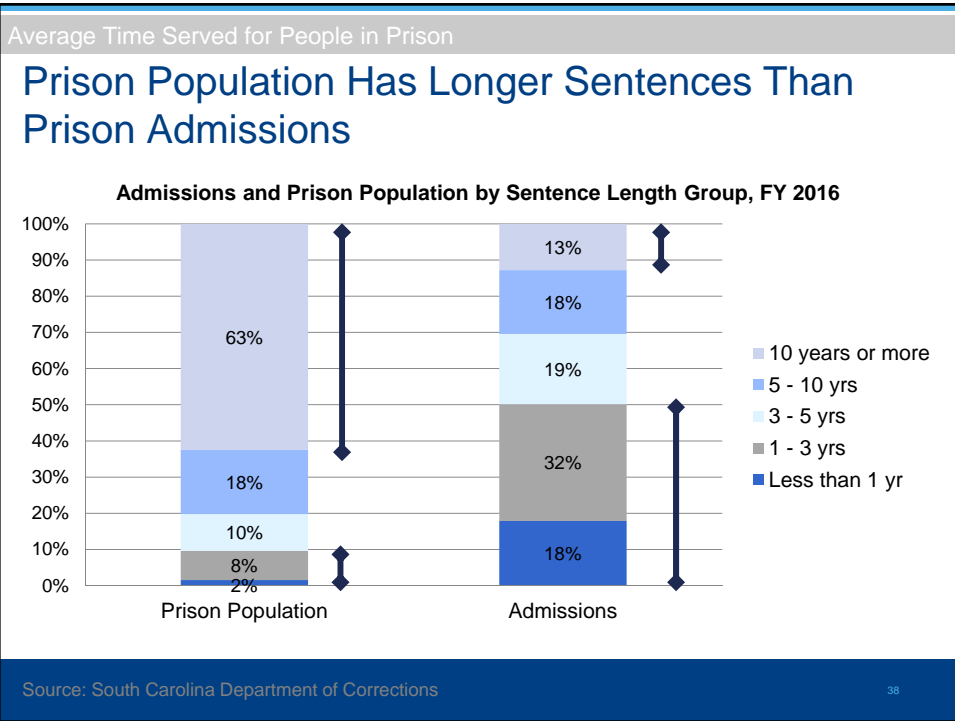
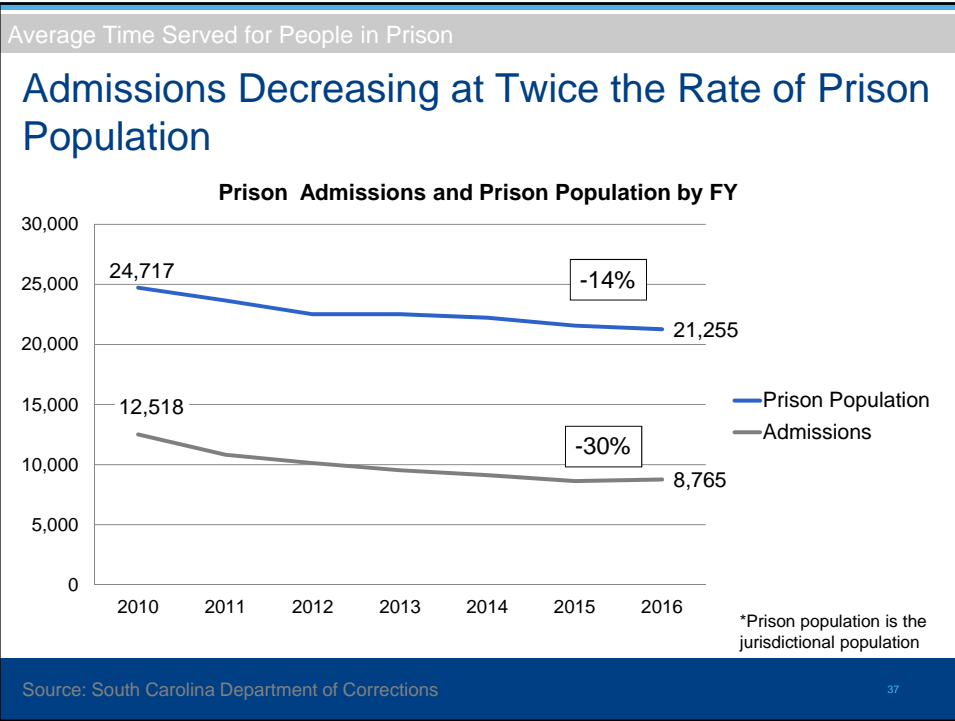
- Revocations for Compliance Violations
- ## Outline
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 - Taking a second look: issues worth examining
 - Despite decline, 78% of admissions to prison are for nonviolent crimes
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 - Summary of takeaways
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 - Questions
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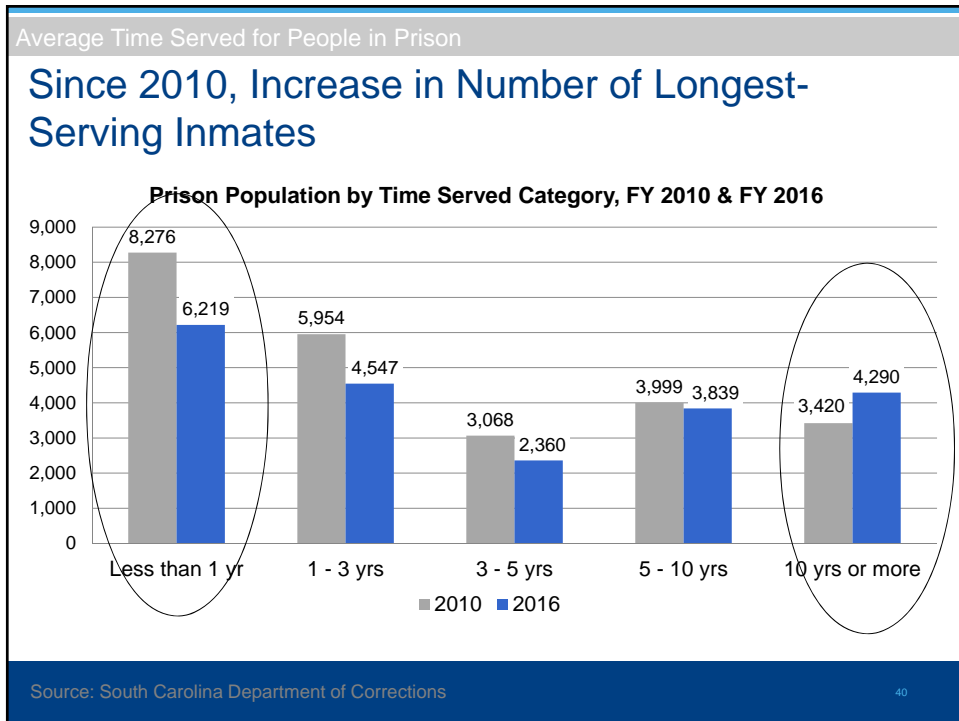
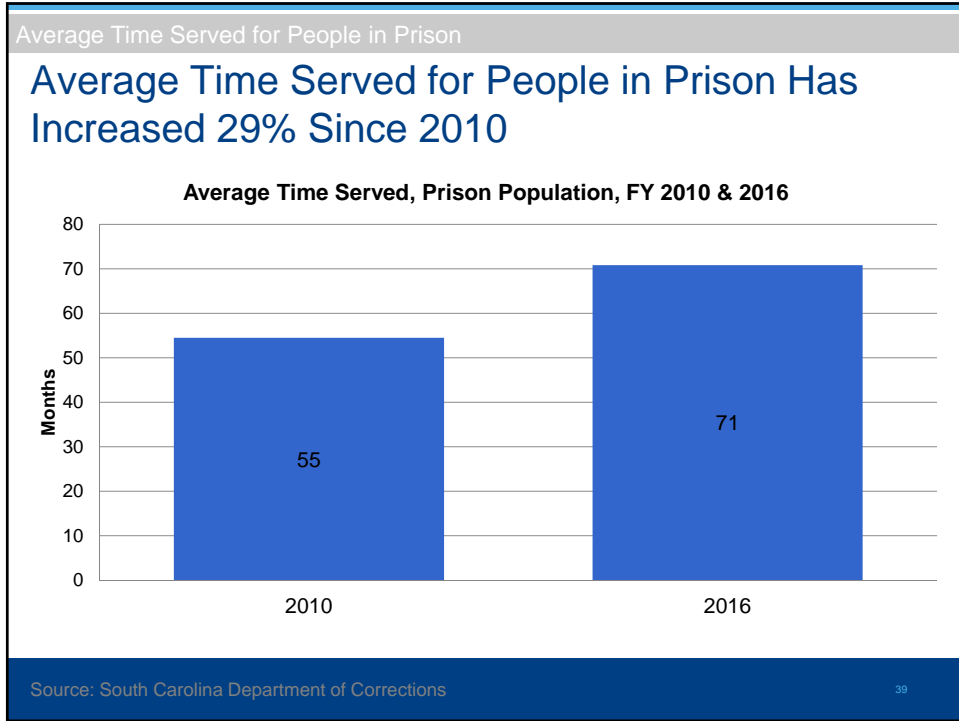


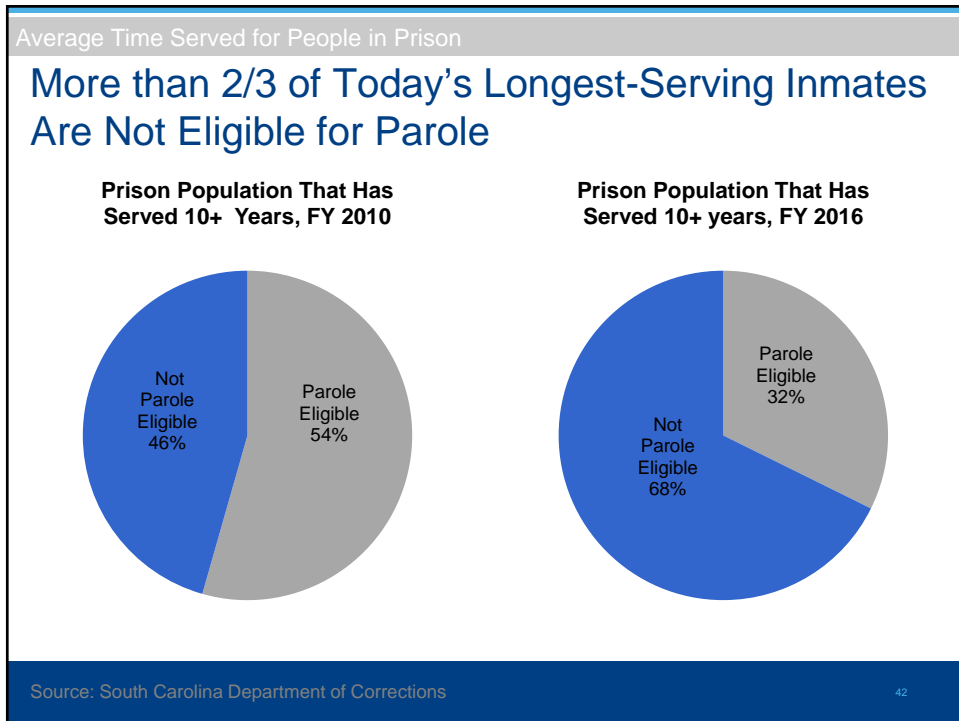
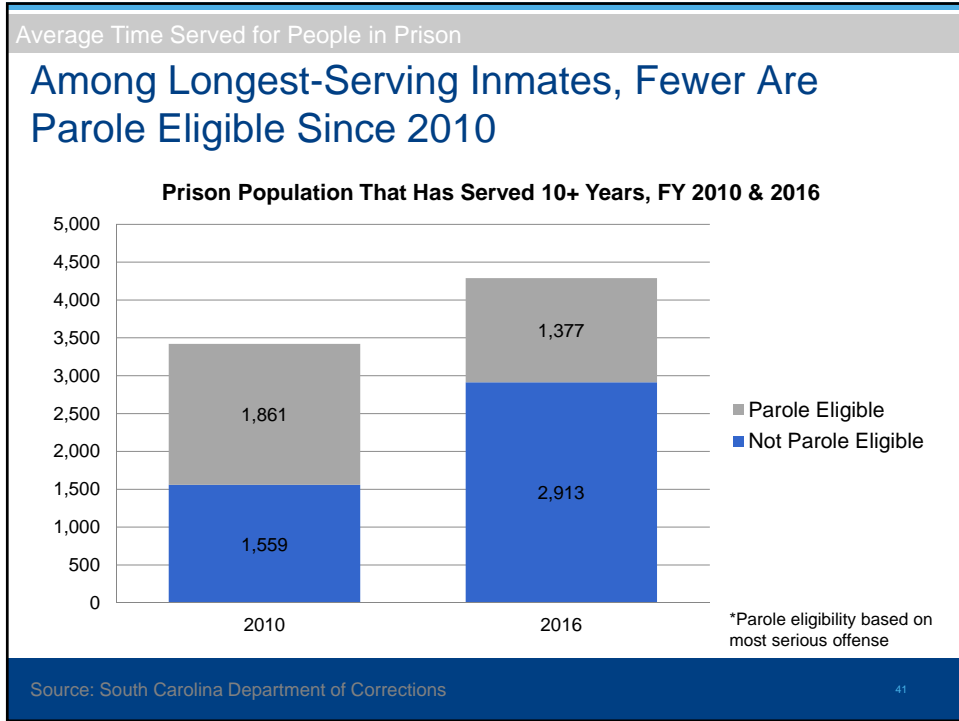




- Average Time Served for People in Prison
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Average Time Served for People in Prison

Of Longest-Serving Inmate Population, All 10 Top Offenses Are Violent; 9 of 10 Are Person Crimes

Most Common Offenses of People in Prison Who Have Served 10+ Years in FY 2016

Offense	Number in Prison	Average Time Served (Months)
Murder	1,621	260
Armed robbery	483	181
Kidnapping	443	221
Voluntary manslaughter	357	183
Burglary (1 st degree)	312	181
Criminal sex conduct (1 st degree and 2 nd degree)	275	232
Trafficking controlled substance	218	167
Criminal sex conduct w/minor (1 st degree and 2 nd degree)	198	174
Assault and battery – high and aggravated nature	126	175
Transportation offenses that result in death – violent	52	162

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 43

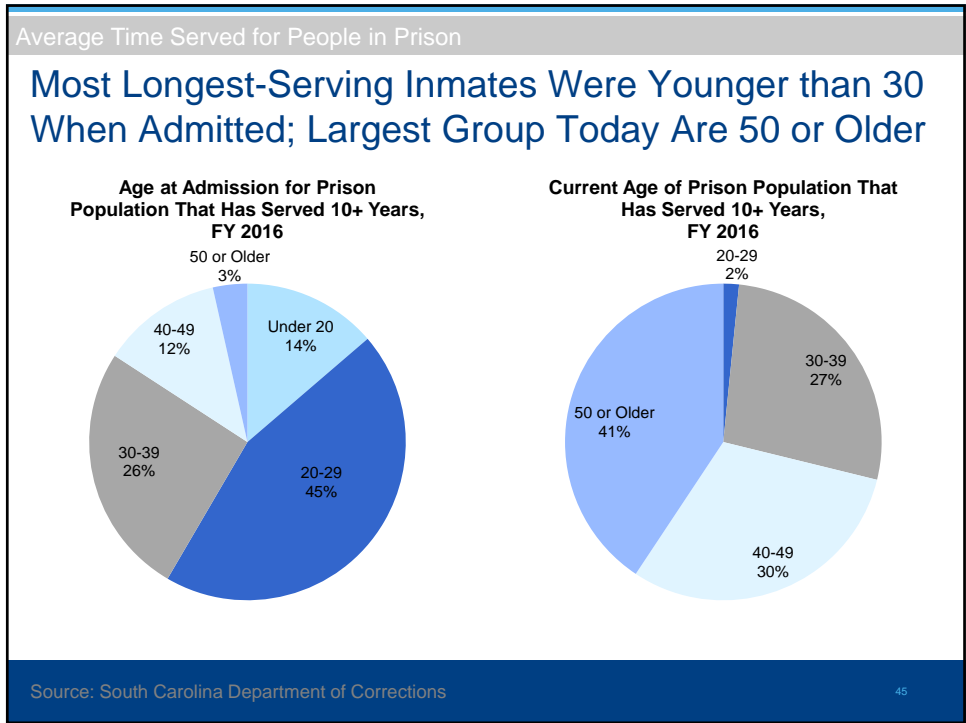
Average Time Served for People in Prison

Majority of Longest-Serving Inmates Have No Prior Commitments to Prison

Prison Population That Has Served 10+ Years by Prior Commitments, FY 2016

Category	Percentage
No Prior Commitments	59%
Prior Commitments	41%

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 44



- Conclusion
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Summary of Takeaways

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- Prison trends since Justice Reinvestment in 2010:
 - Prison population declined by 14%; crime rate declined by 16%; recidivism rate declined by nearly 10%.
 - Imprisonment rate fell from 11th in the nation to 19th; still higher than the national average.
 - Admissions to prison declined by 30%, driven in large part by declines in nonviolent admissions and admissions with short sentences.
 - Admissions declined across racial categories, with the largest reduction for the black population.

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections

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Summary of Takeaways

Summary of Takeaways

- Despite decline, 78% of admissions to prison are for nonviolent crimes:
 - 7 of the top 10 most common offenses at admission are nonviolent; 4 are drug offenses.
 - Uptick in female admissions in last year; female admissions are predominately nonviolent.
 - Wide range in nonviolent admission rate by judicial district.

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections

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Summary of Takeaways

Summary of Takeaways

- 1 in 4 admissions to prison are revocations for compliance violations:
 - Almost 90% of revocations for compliance violations have underlying nonviolent offenses.
 - On average, revocations for compliance violations are sentenced to nearly 3 years in prison.

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections & South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services 49

Summary of Takeaways

Summary of Takeaways

- Average time served for people in prison up 29% since 2010:
 - South Carolina has seen an increase in the number of longest-serving inmates in prison.
 - Among longest-serving inmates, today fewer than 1/3 are parole eligible, down from more than half in 2010.

Source: South Carolina Department of Corrections 50

Topics for Next Data Meeting

Topics for Next Data Meeting

- Trends in release;
- Trends in community supervision; and
- Answers to your questions.

Timeline for Next Data Meeting

- Earliest day for draft of presentation to SROC: Sept. 28th
- Earliest day for next SROC meeting: week of Oct. 2nd

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Questions?

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