

# Welcome!

*The webinar will begin momentarily.*

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 **Access the full reports & RSVP to the in-person event on May 13-14:**



<https://datacollaborativeforjustice.org/work/policing/justice-at-a-crossroads/>



# Justice at a Crossroads in New York City

## Research Findings From Two Studies

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Research supported by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation &  
The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

**DATA COLLABORATIVE FOR JUSTICE**  
AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE  
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



# Goal of the Studies

**To ground policy discussions in objective data** concerning the City's criminal justice footprint from the 1990s to the early 2020s

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## Trends of Interest

1. **Victimization** (based on the National Crime Victimization Survey).
2. **Official crime reports.**
3. **Law enforcement activities** (*e.g.*, pedestrian stops, summonses, & arrests).
4. **Court processing** (*e.g.*, bail decisions, conviction rates, & sentencing).
5. **Incarceration & community supervision.**
6. **Racial disparities.**

# Part 1.

## Studying Crimes in New York City Using the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

*Presented by Min Xie*



DEPARTMENT OF  
CRIMINOLOGY AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

# Data Matters When We Study Crime

- Police data are important. They measure crimes known to the police.
- Victim survey data helps uncover crimes not reported to the police.
- **>50% of crimes are not reported to the police**

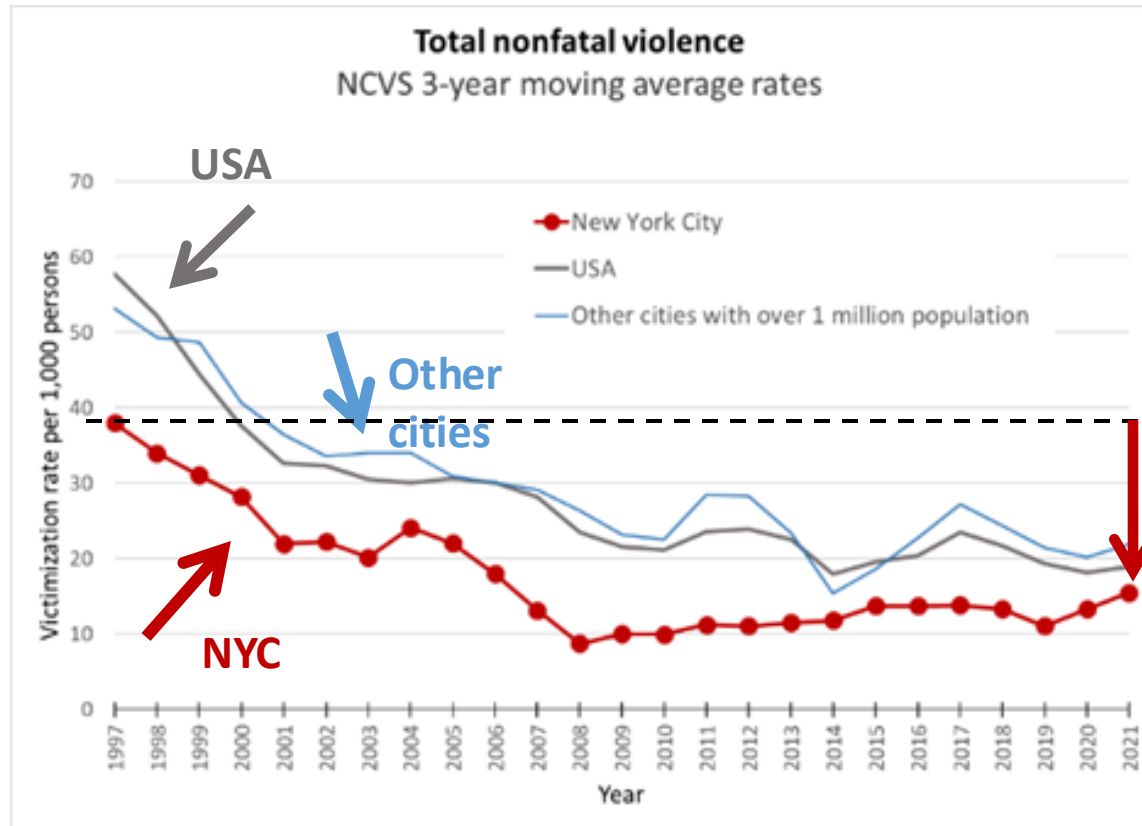
# Use NCVS data to estimate **NYC 1996-2022** **trends in:**

- Criminal victimization
- Police notification rates
- Confidence in the police
- Victims' use of services

# The NCVS 1996-2022

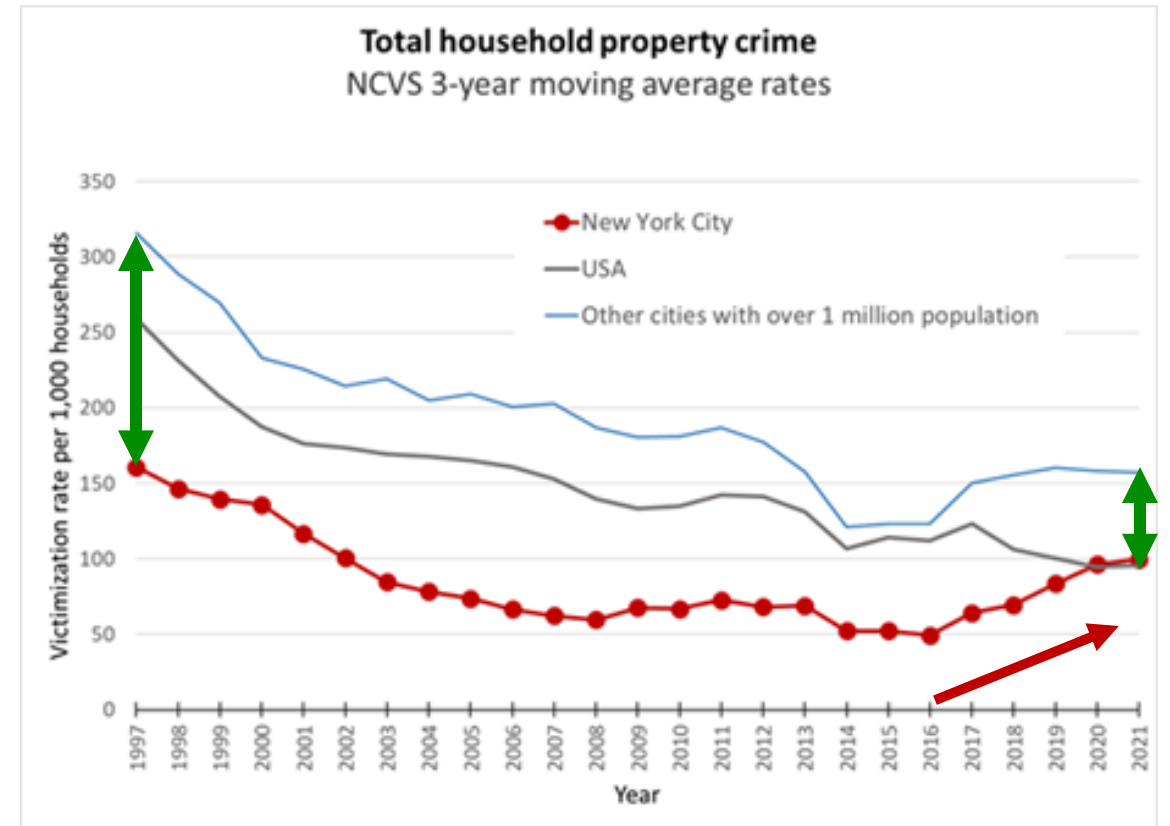
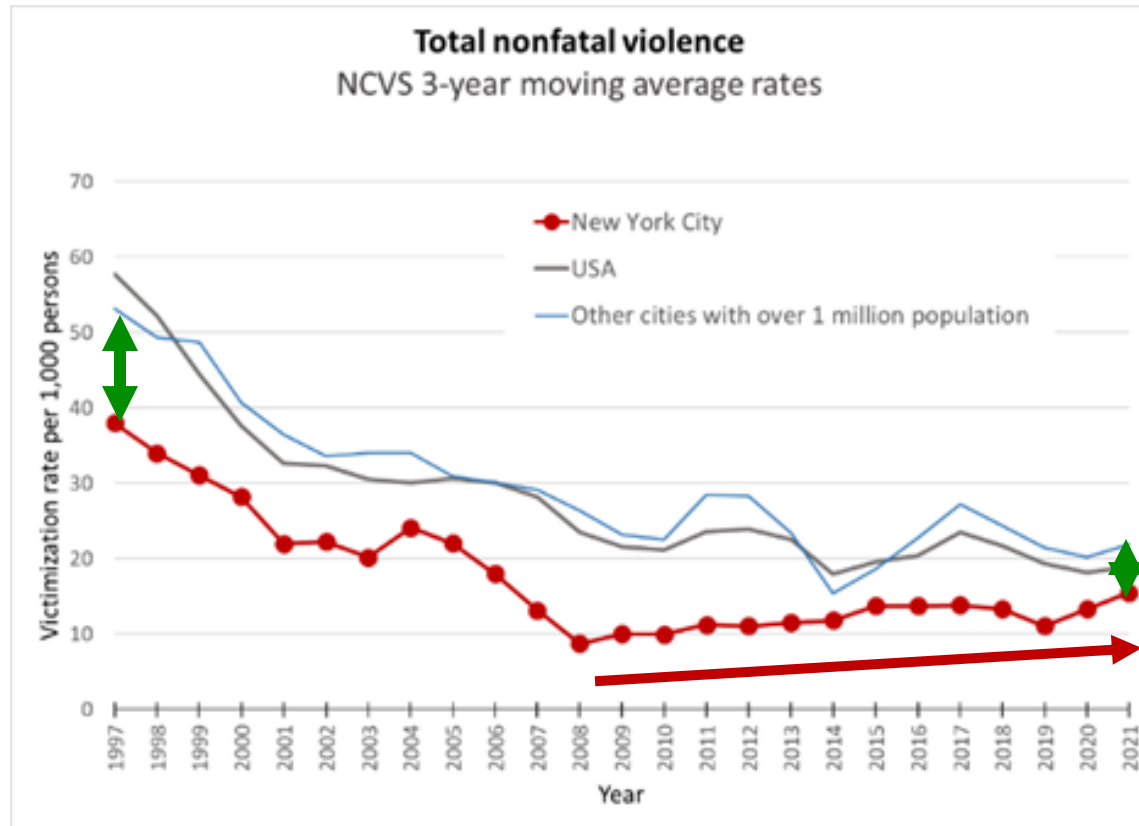
- Crimes reported and unreported to the police
- No data on homicide.
- **Violence** (rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault) and **property crimes** (burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft).
- Serious violence: rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault

# #1: NYC has experienced a decline in crime and has been relatively safe for residents.

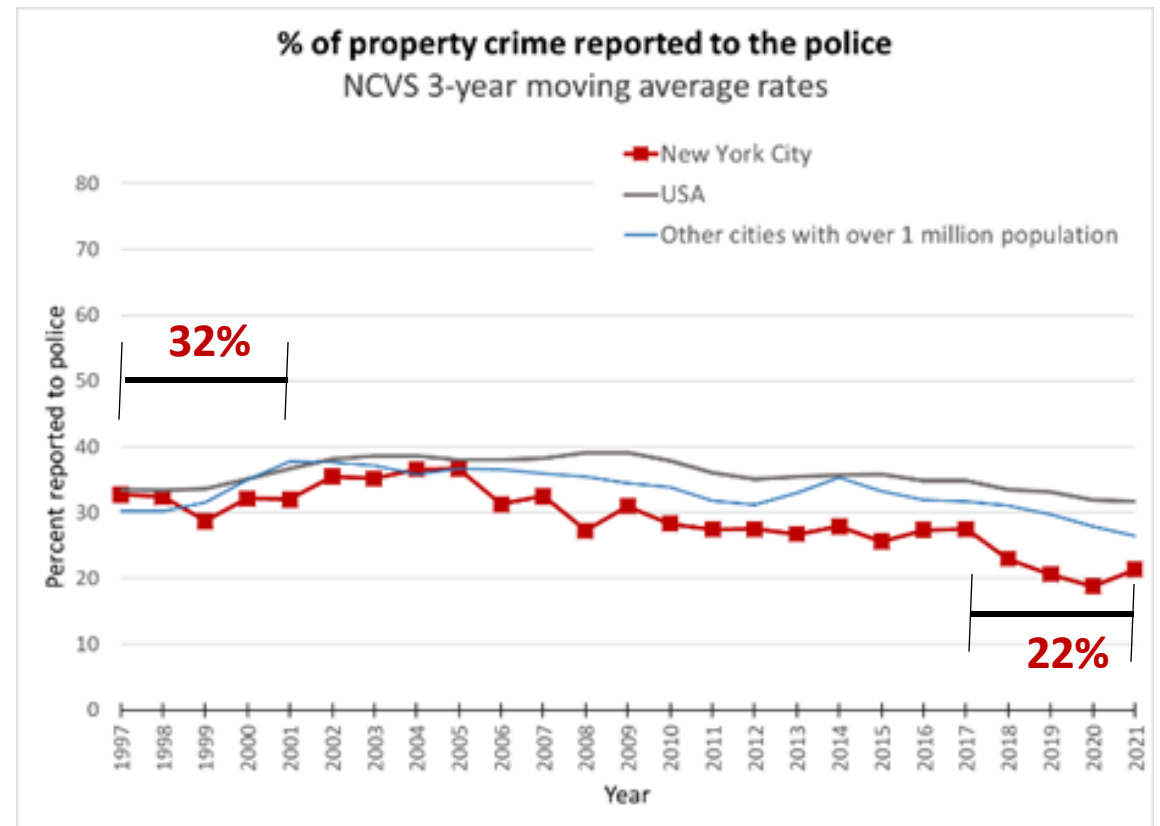
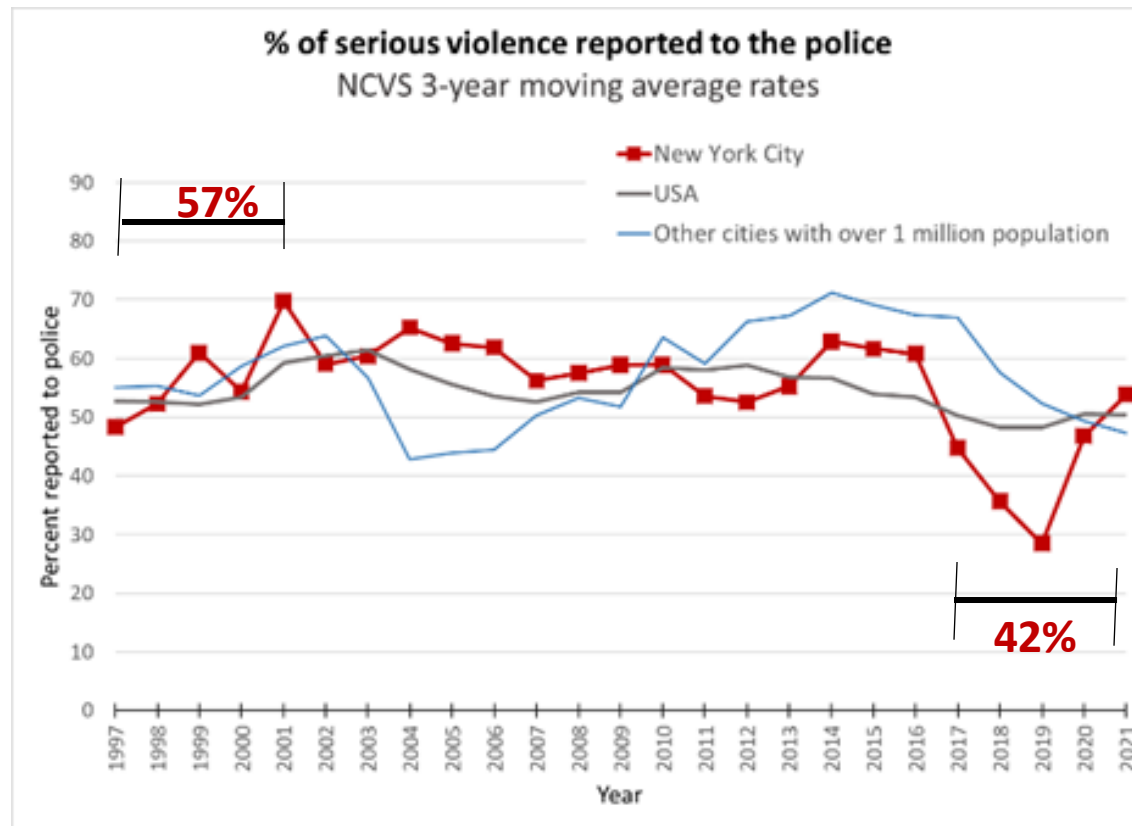




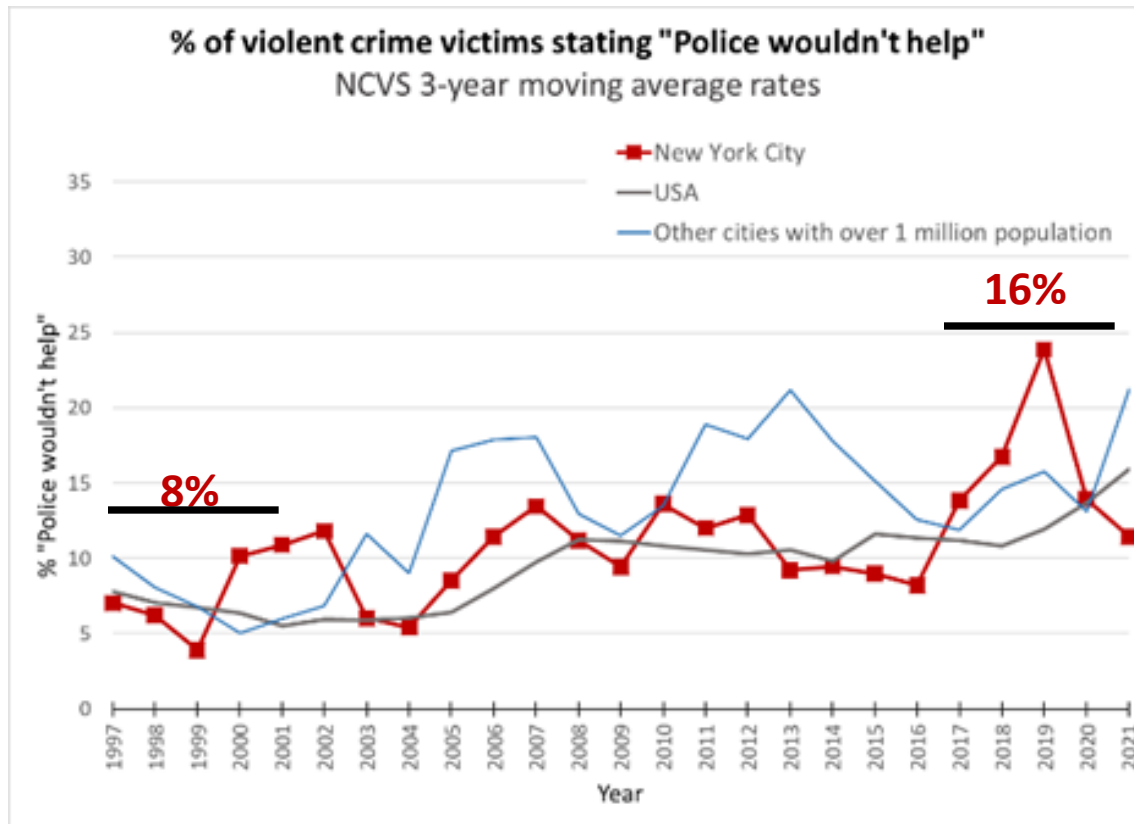
# #2: The gap in victimization between NYC and other cities has narrowed over time.



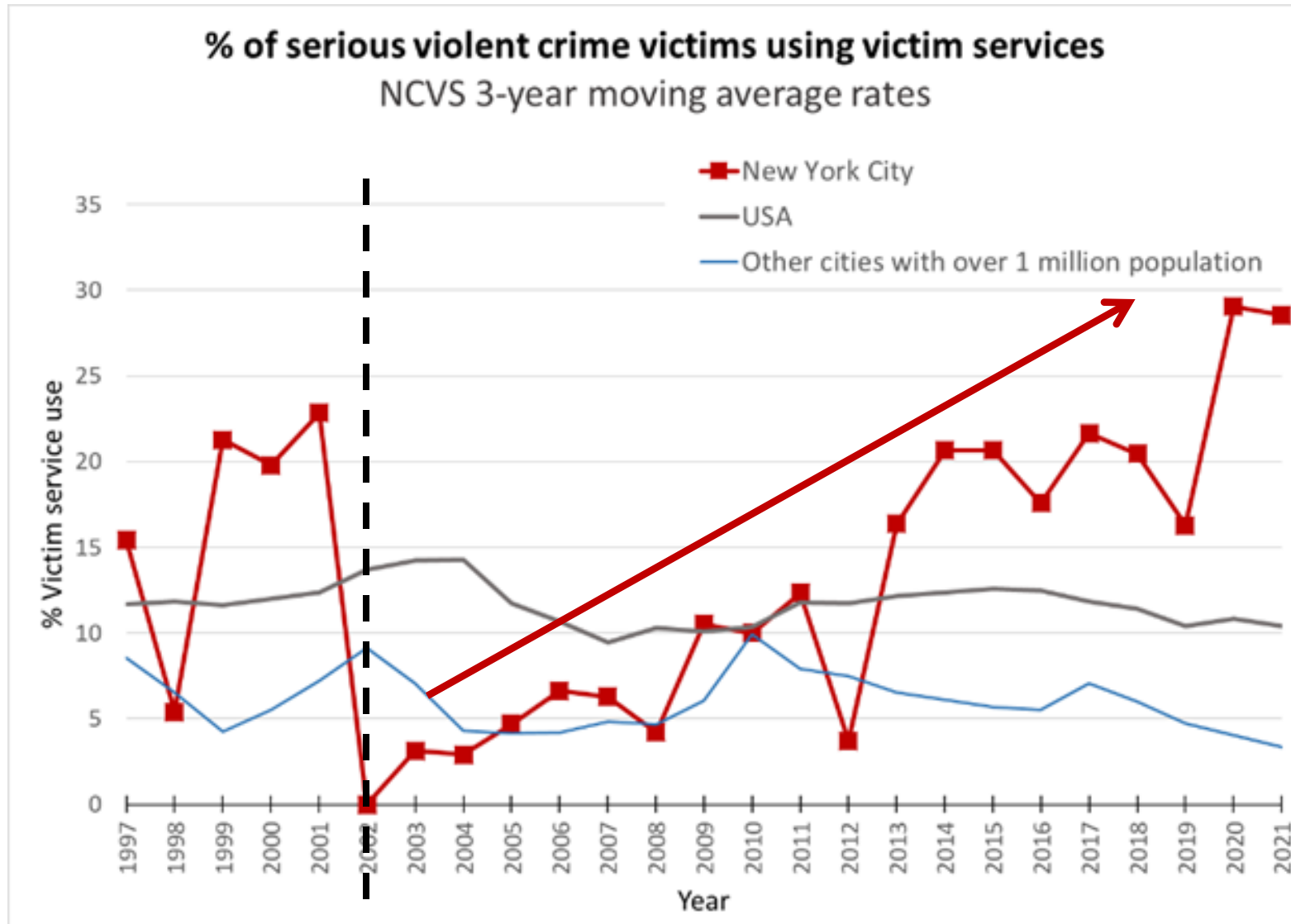
# #3: >50% of crimes in NYC are not reported to the police. The data showed declines in reporting rates.



# #4: NYC victims' confidence in the police has declined.



# #5: Use of victim services has gradually risen after 2002.



# Key Takeaways

## **“Good” news**

- 1996-2022 crime decline; relatively safe compared to other cities
- Increase in victim service use

## **“Bad” news**

- Narrowing gaps in victimization between NYC and other cities;
- Declining police reporting rates; less confidence in police

PART 2.

JUSTICE AT A CROSSROADS:  
LONG-TERM TRENDS

STEPHEN KOPPEL | SR. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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**DATA COLLABORATIVE FOR JUSTICE**

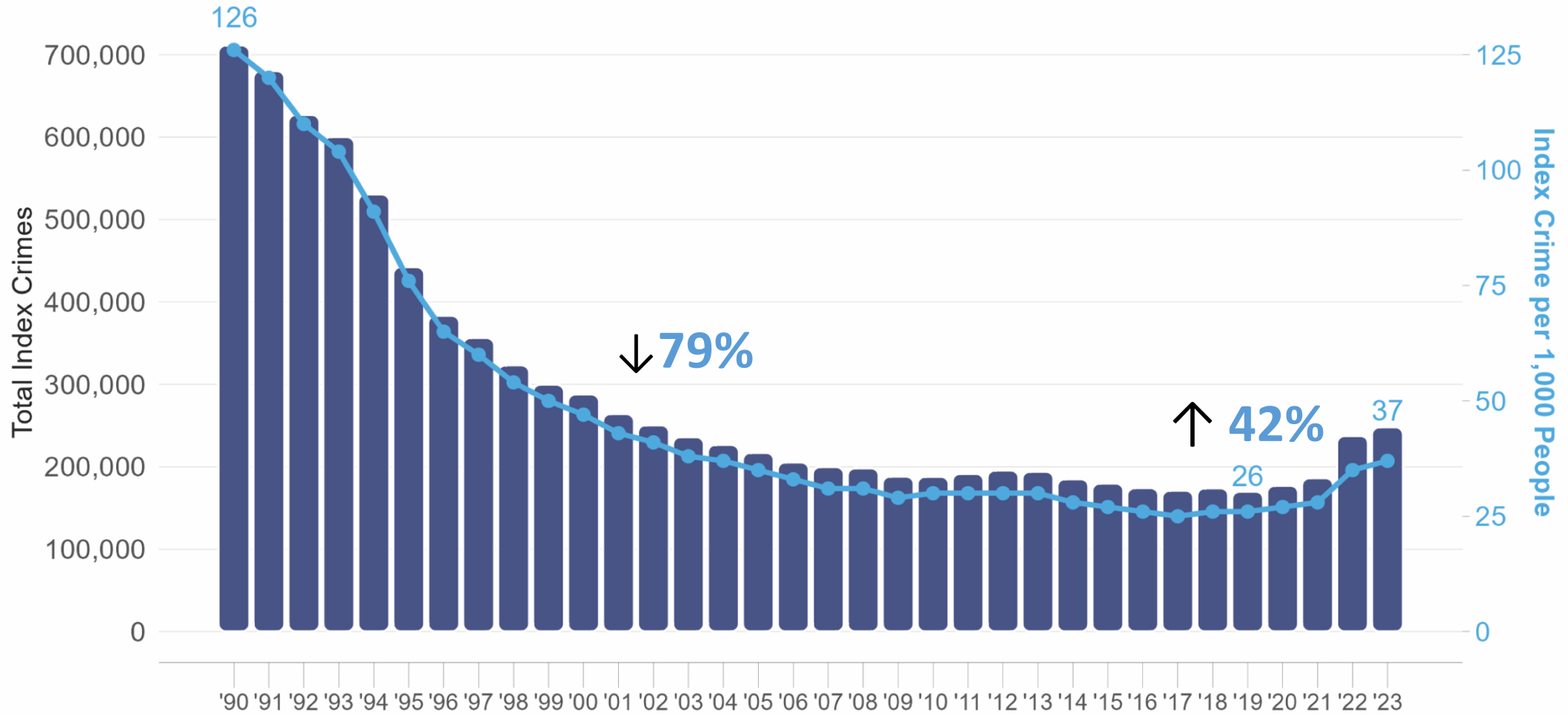
**AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE**

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

# 1. REPORTED CRIME

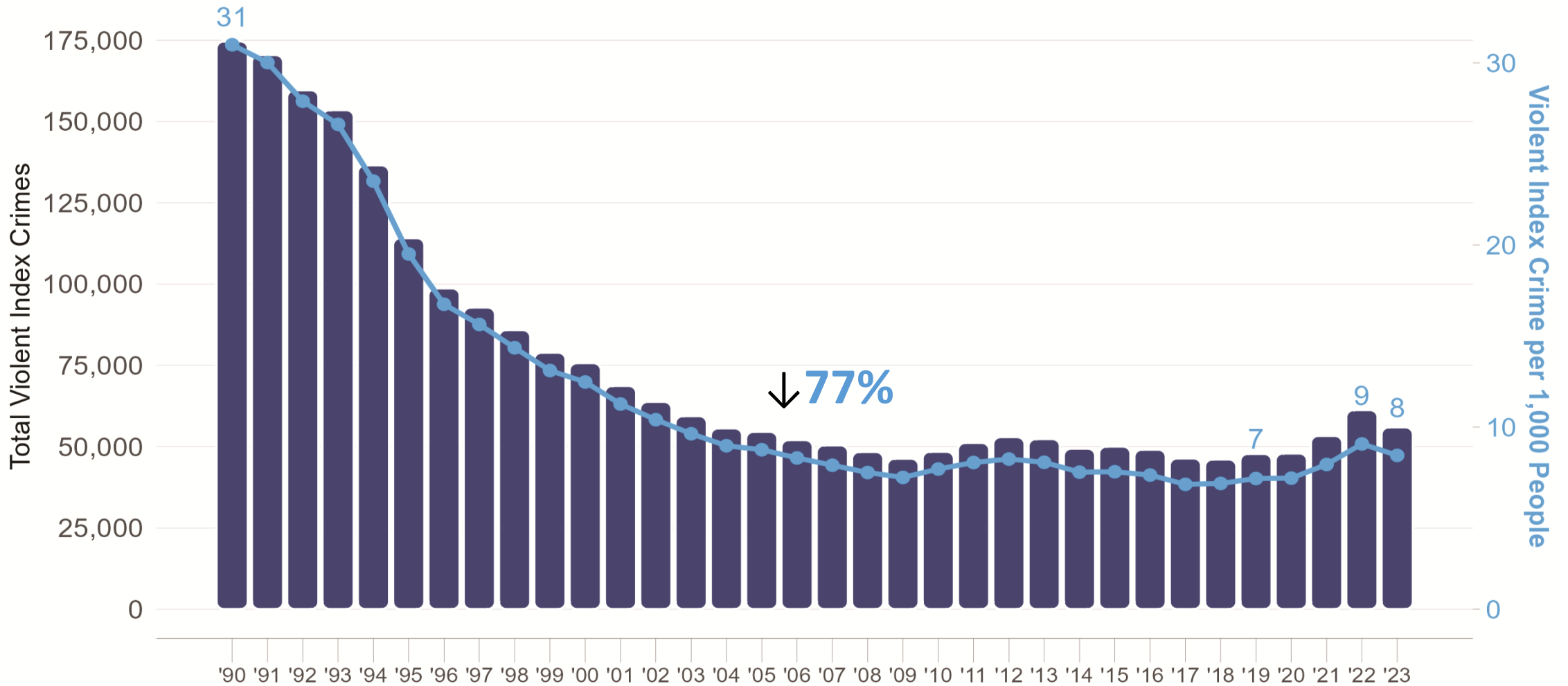
# The index crime rate fell by 79% from 1990 to 2019



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

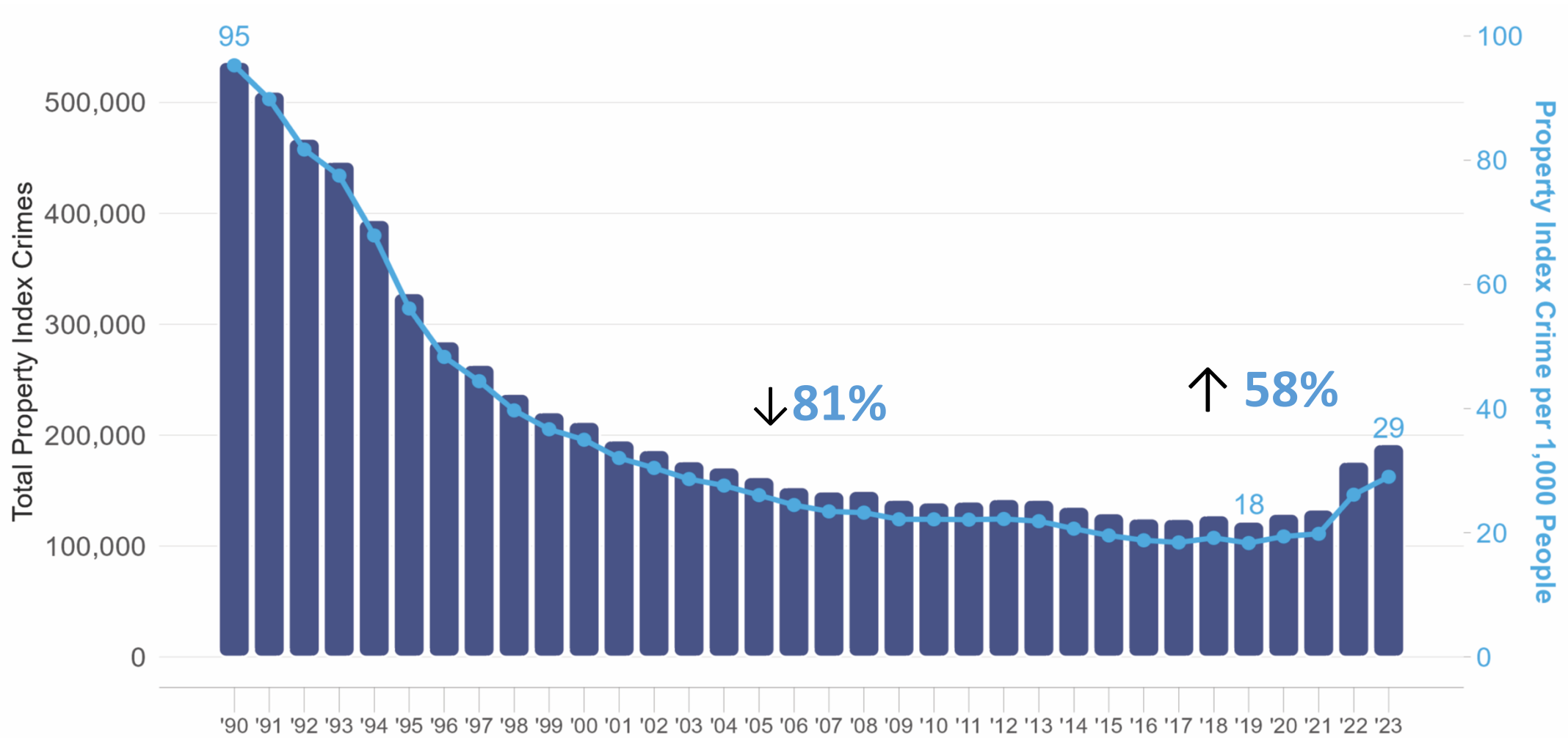


# The violent index crime rate fell by 77% from 1990 to 2019



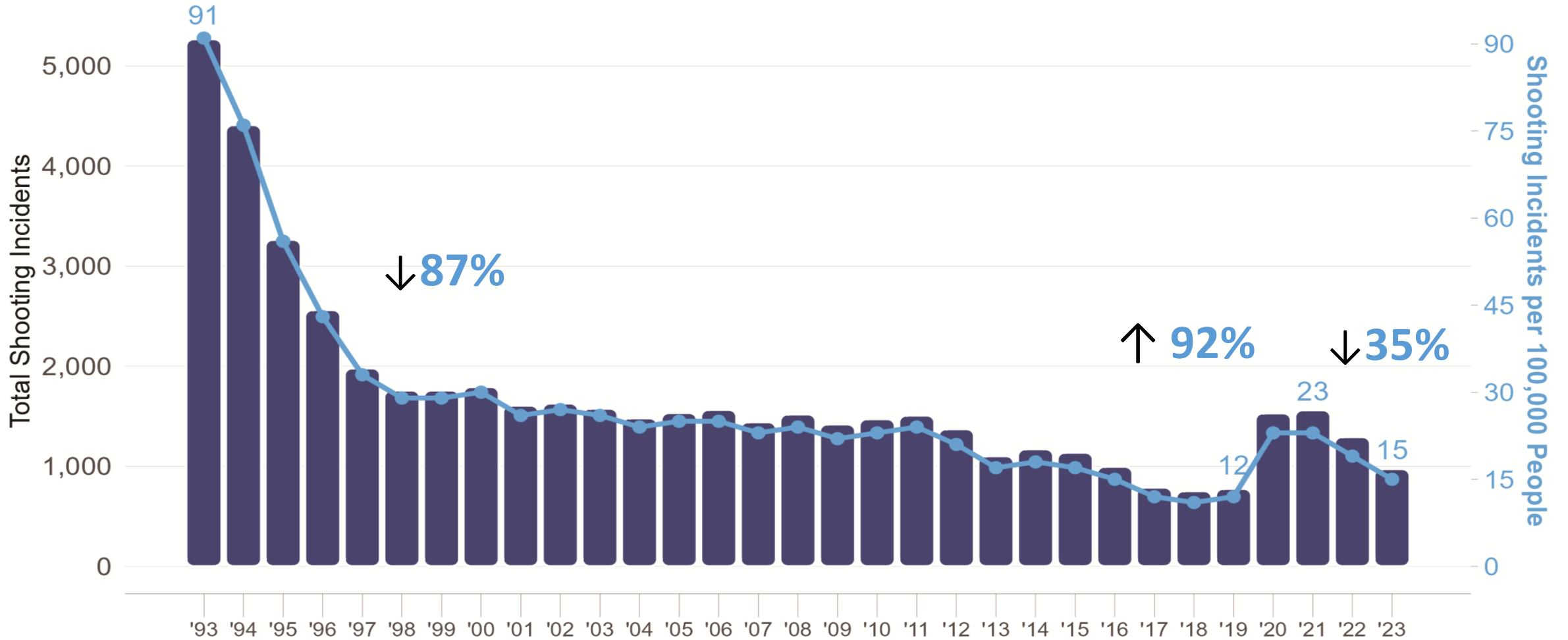
Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

# The property index crime rate fell by 81% from 1990 to 2019



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

# The shooting incident rate fell by 87% between 1993 and 2019



Source: NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (1993-2005)  
& New York Police Department (2006-2023)

## Major crime remains above pre-pandemic levels

	'25 vs. '19
Murder	0%
Rape	+9%
Robbery	+21%
Felony Assault	+49%
Burglary	+29%
Gr. Larceny	+12%
G.L.A.	+199%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+32%</b>
Shooting Incidents	+1%
Petit larceny	+30%
Misdemeanor Assault	+7%

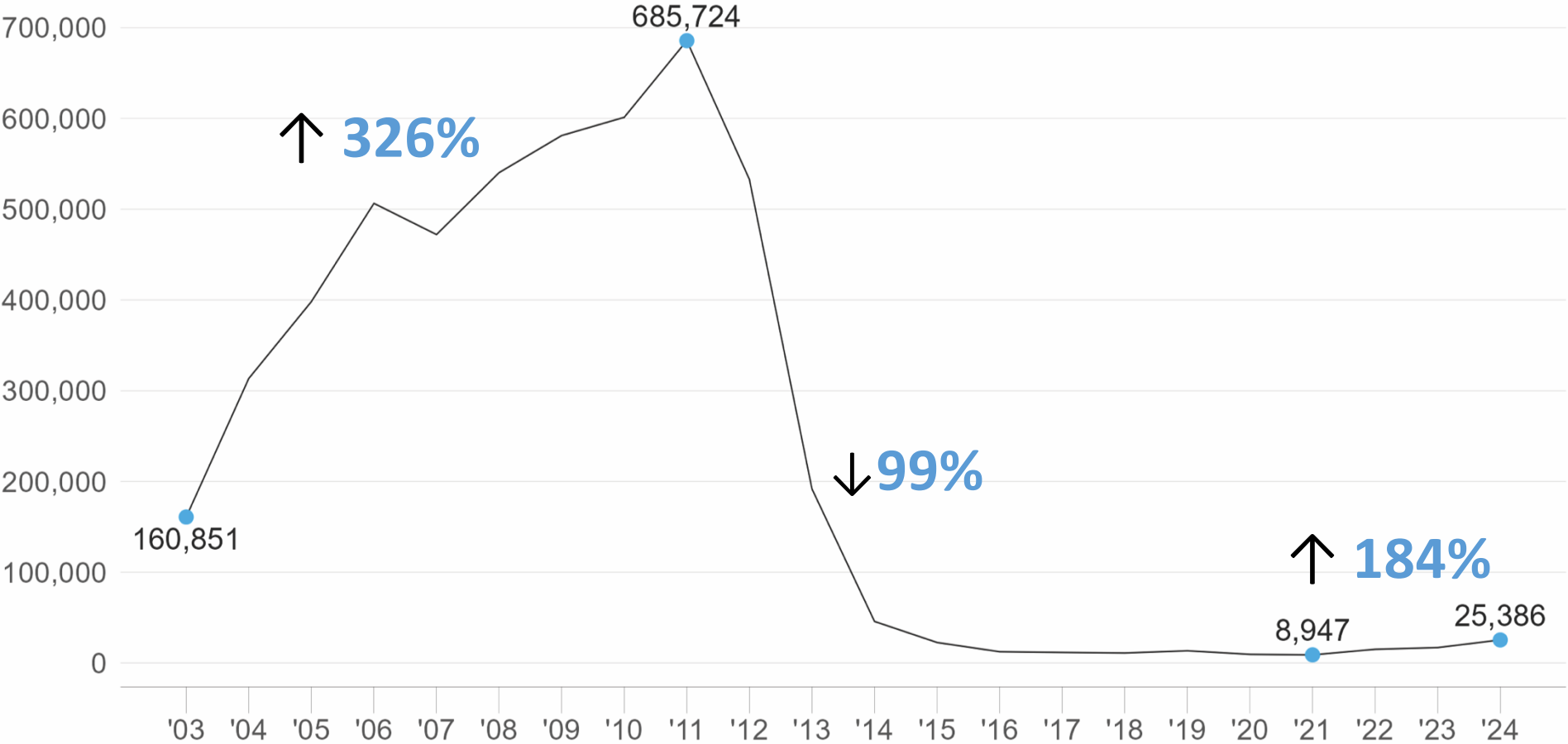
Source: Compares Year-to-Date Figures from NYPD's Citywide Weekly Compstat Reports (5/4/2025 vs 5/5/2019)

- Since 2019, compared to the top 10 largest U.S. cities, NYC has seen the largest increase in serious violent offenses (+35%), and second largest in serious property offenses (+22%). (Source: "Asher's" Real-Time Crime Index).
- In 2025, crime rates in NYC remain low compared to other large U.S. cities: murder (2<sup>nd</sup> lowest), burglary (lowest), robbery (6<sup>th</sup> out of 9). (Source: "Asher's" Real-Time Crime Index).

*\* 2025 data is preliminary*

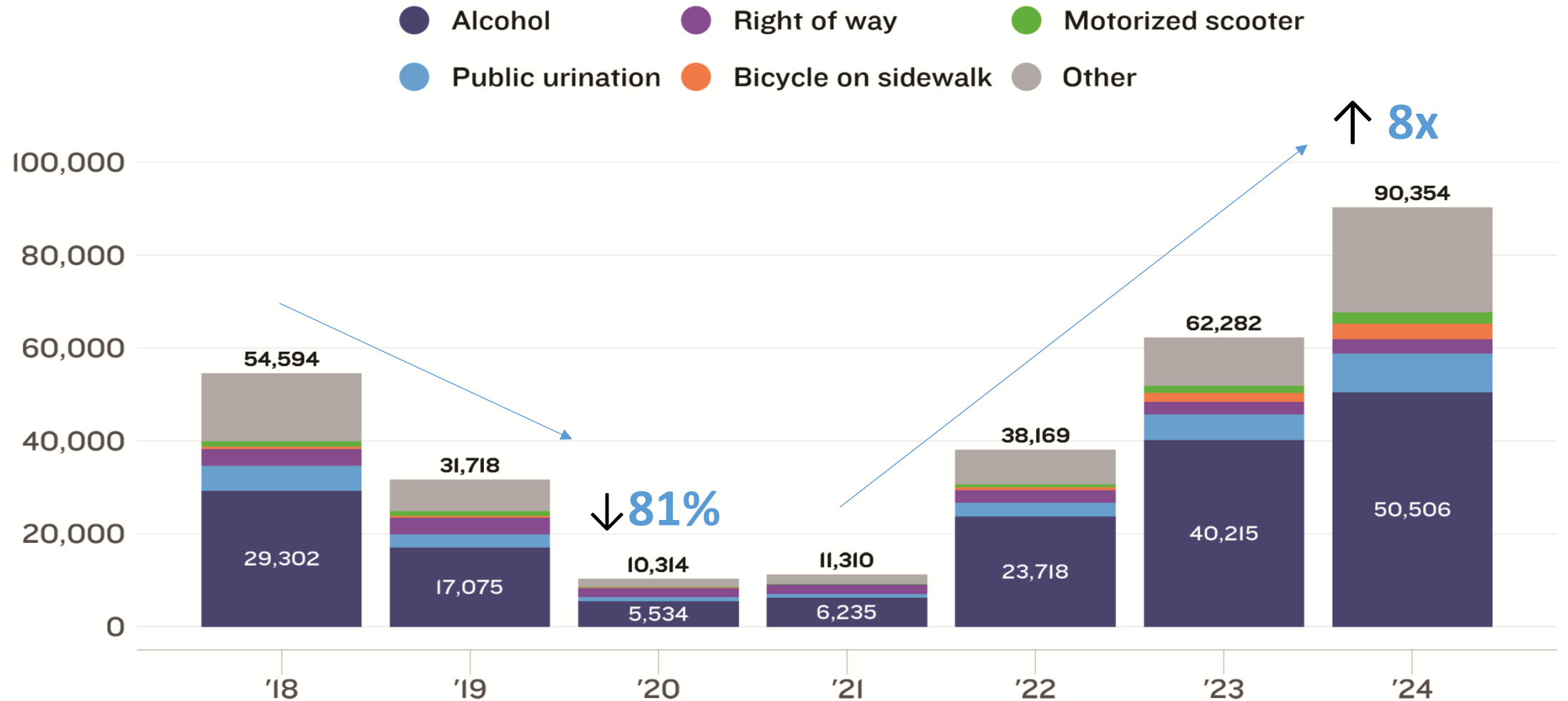
## **2. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

# Pedestrian stops fell by 99% between 2011 and 2021, but have since nearly tripled



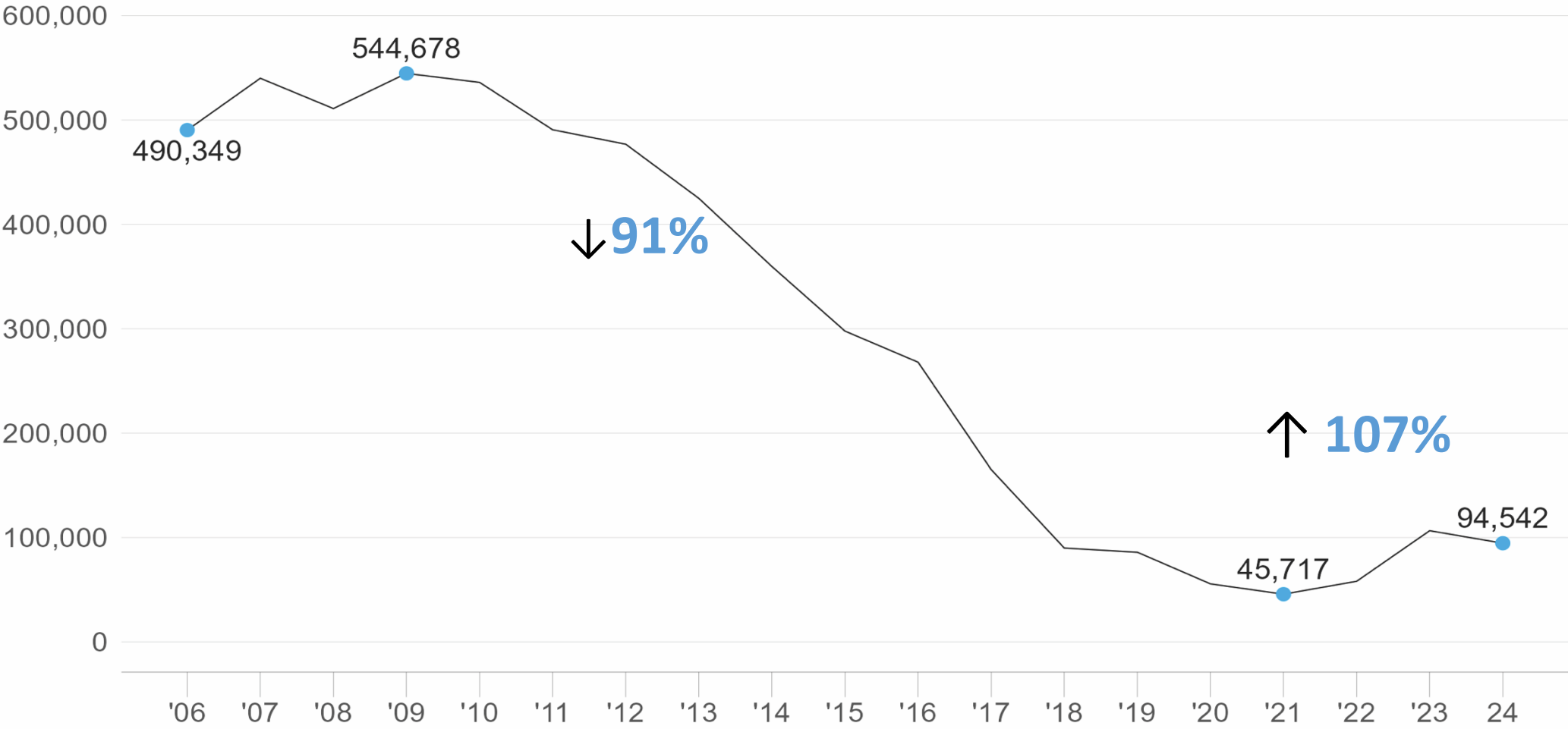
Source: New York City Police Department

# Civil summonses fell by 81% between 2018 and 2020, but have since increased 8-fold



Source: New York City Police Department

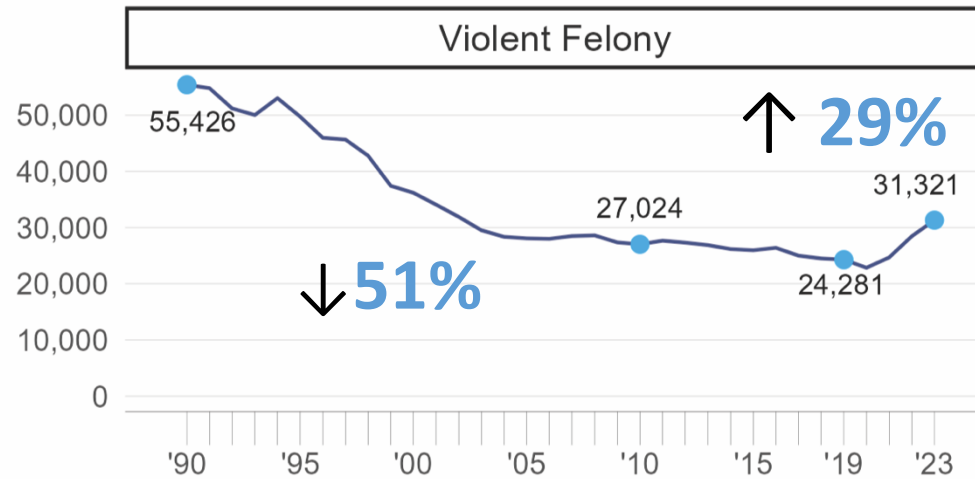
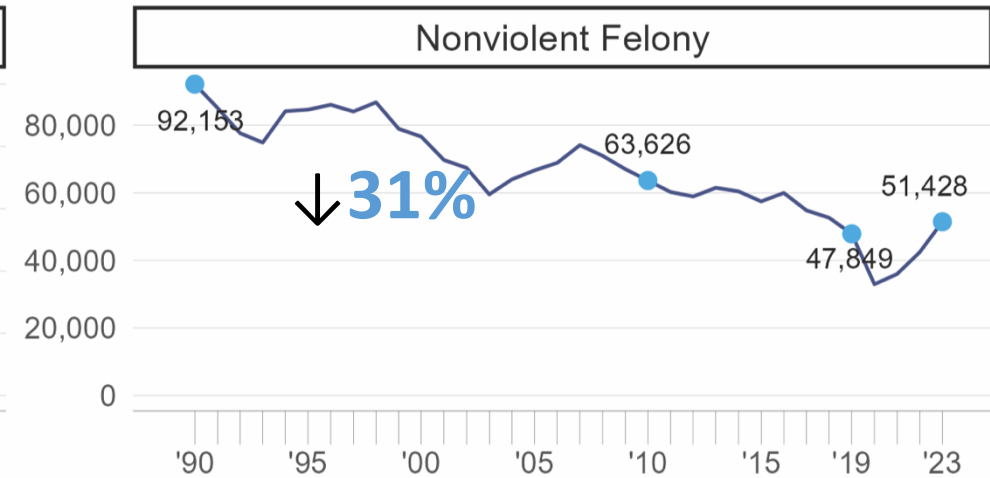
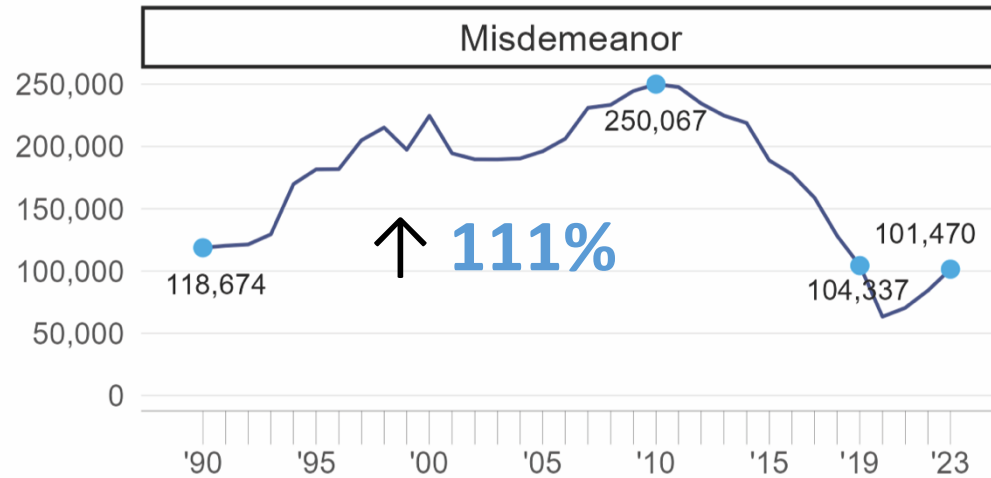
# Criminal summonses fell by 91% between 2006 and 2021, but have more than doubled since



Source: New York City Police Department

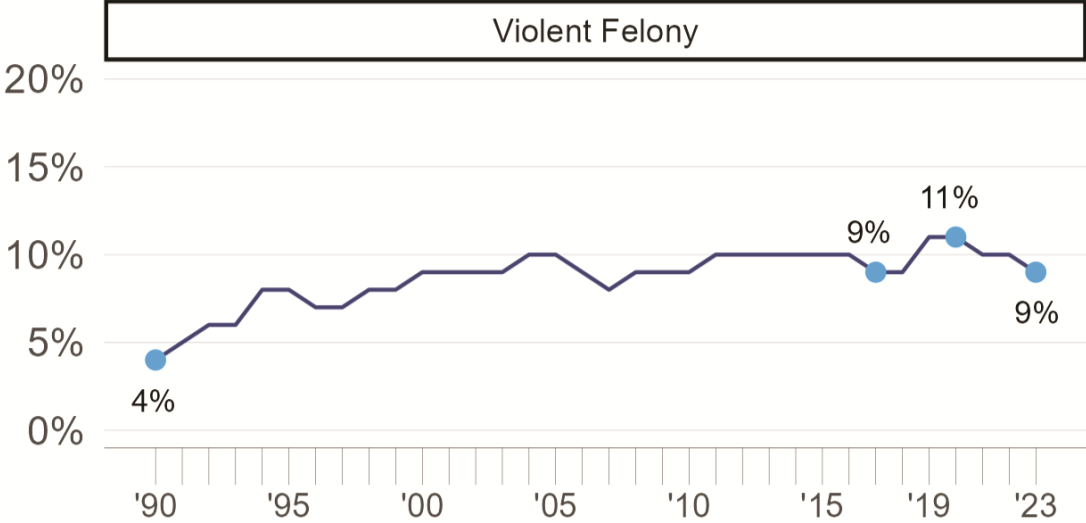
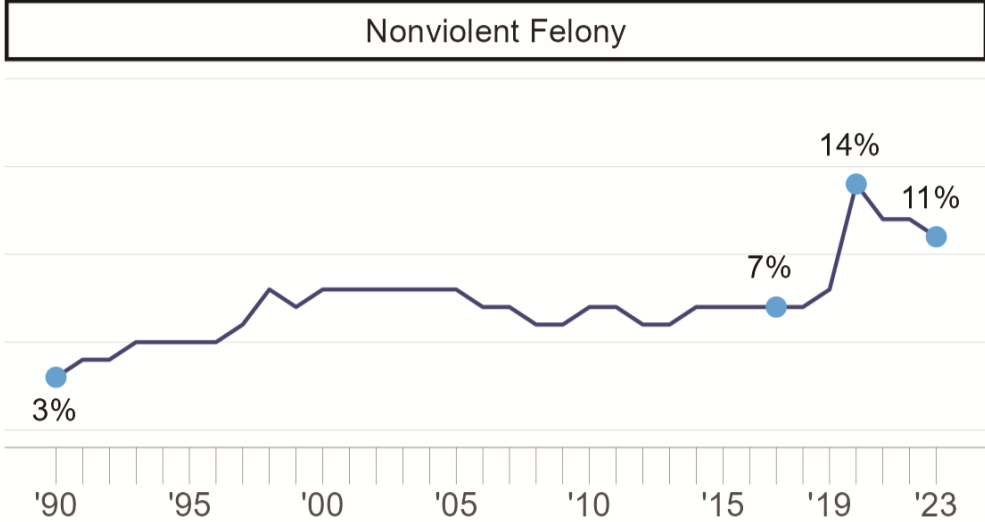
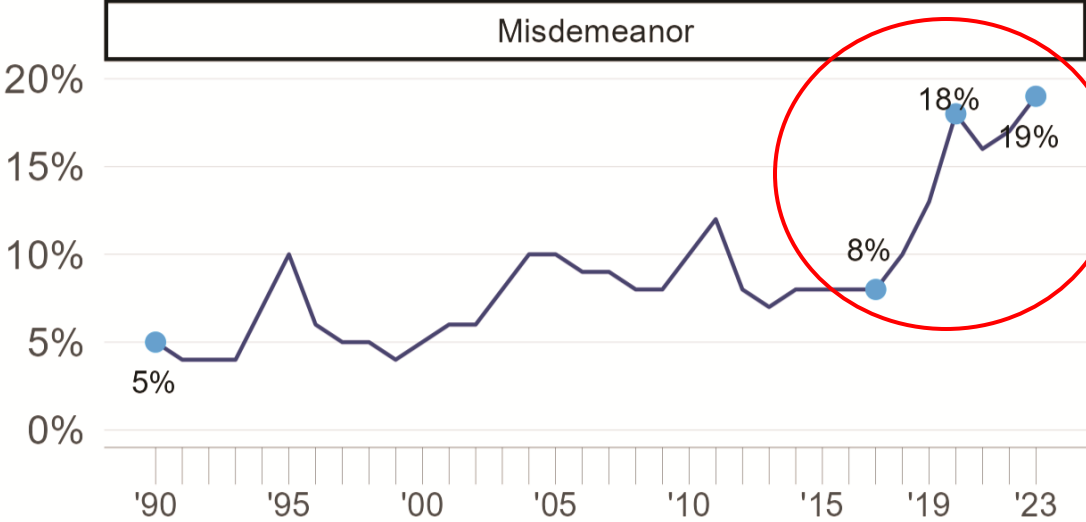


# Arrests increased for misdemeanors but declined for felonies from 1990 to 2010



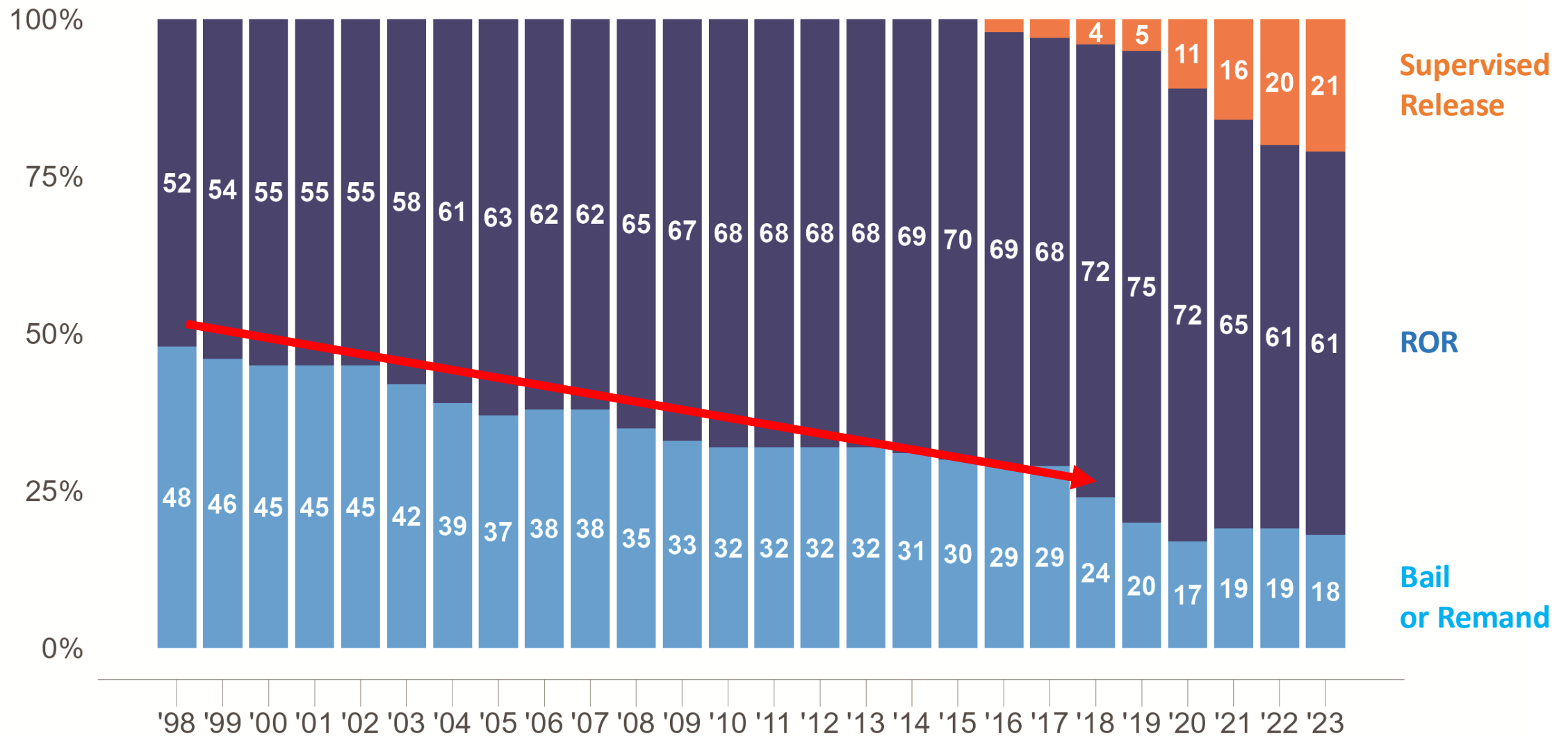
# 3. COURTS

# The rate of declined prosecutions has risen sharply for misdemeanors



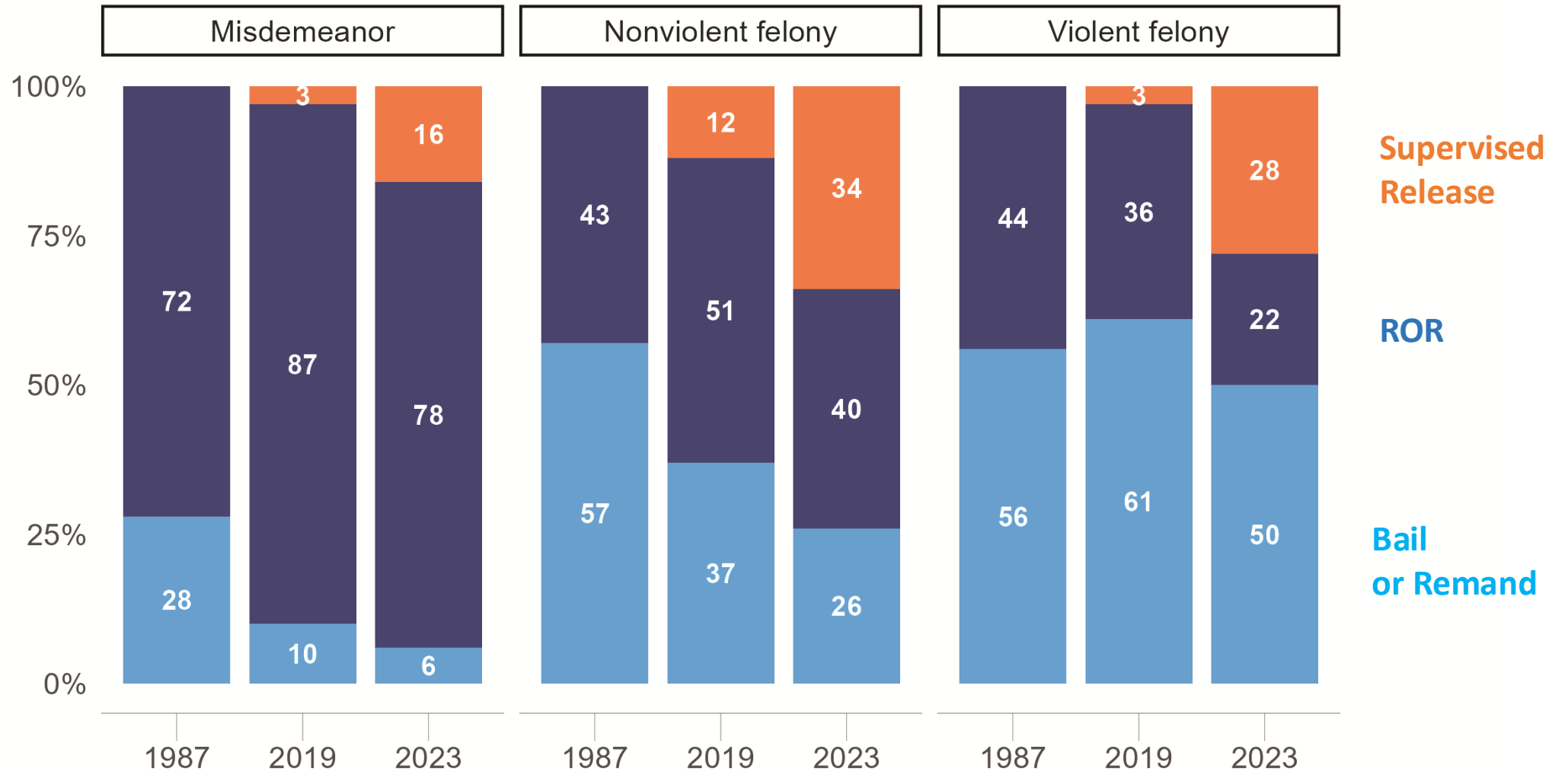
Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

## The rate of bail/remand fell by half even before reform



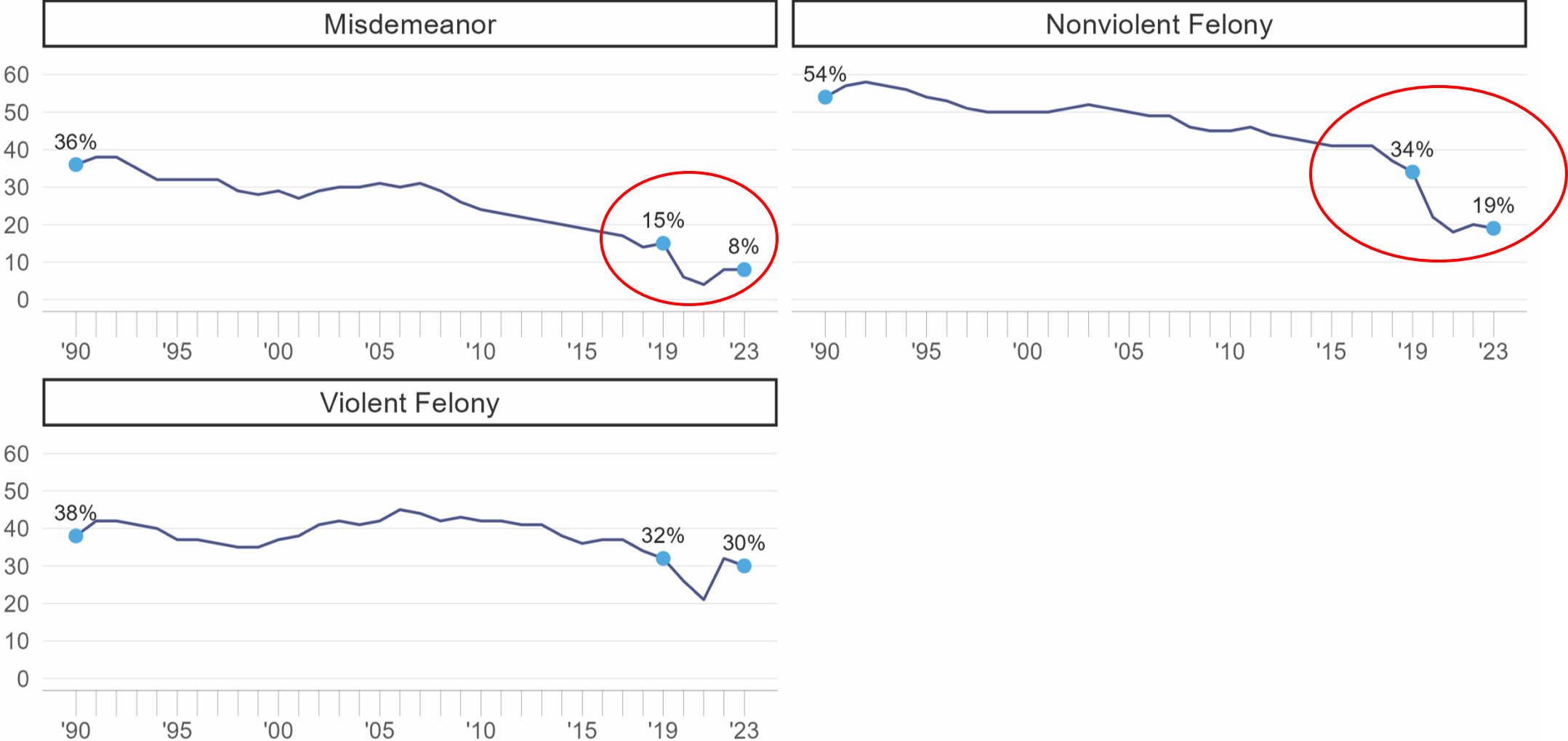
Source: NYC Criminal Justice Agency Annual Reports (1998-2020)  
& New York Office of Court Administration Pretrial Release Data (2021-2023)

From 1987 to 2019, the rate of bail or remand fell for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies only. Post-reform, it fell across the board.



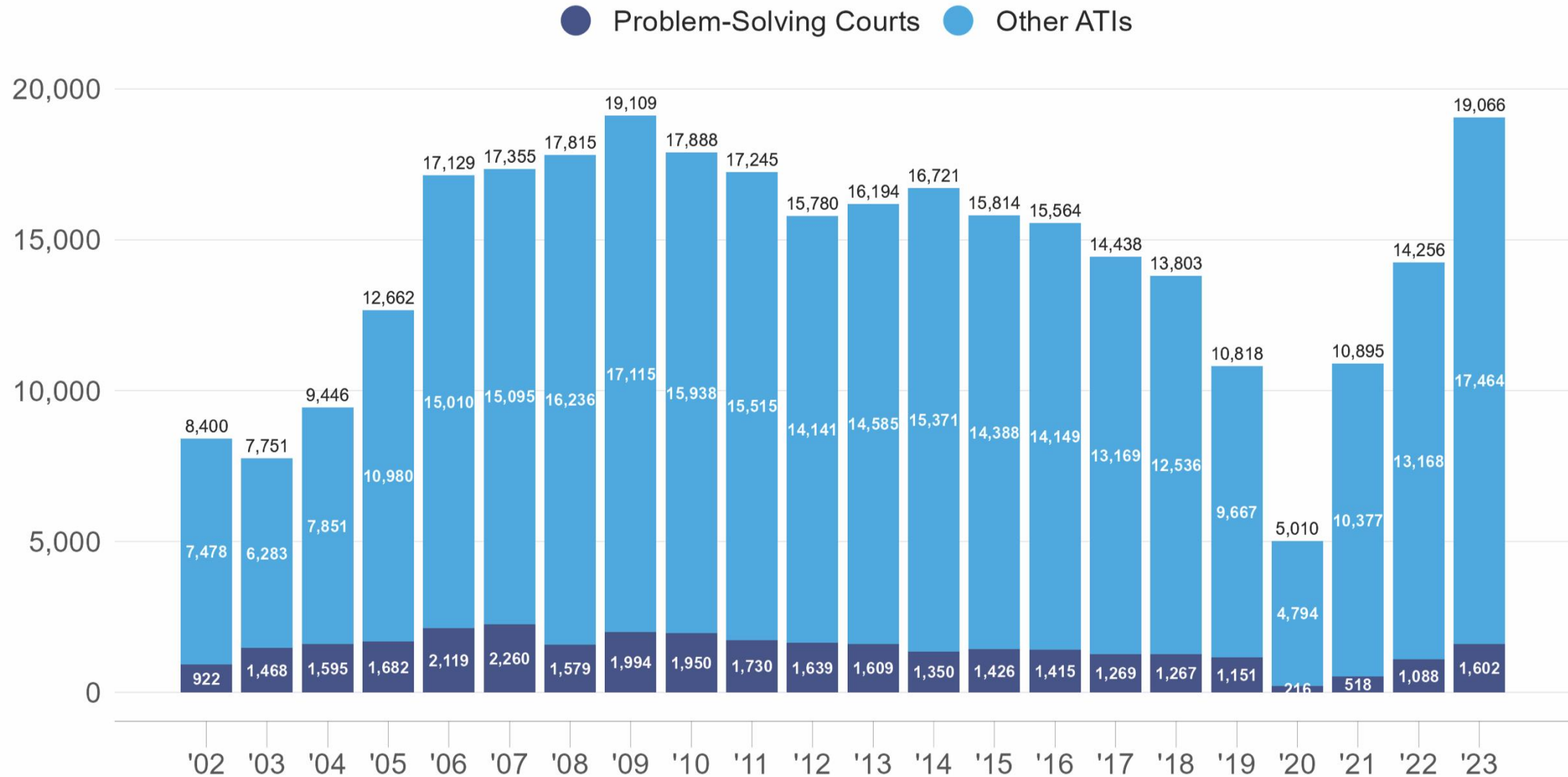
Source: NYC Criminal Justice Agency Reports (1987, 2019) & New York Office of Court Administration Pretrial Release Data (2023)

# The rate of criminal convictions fell for misdemeanor and nonviolent felonies



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

# The use of alternatives to incarceration (ATIs) reached a new high in 2023

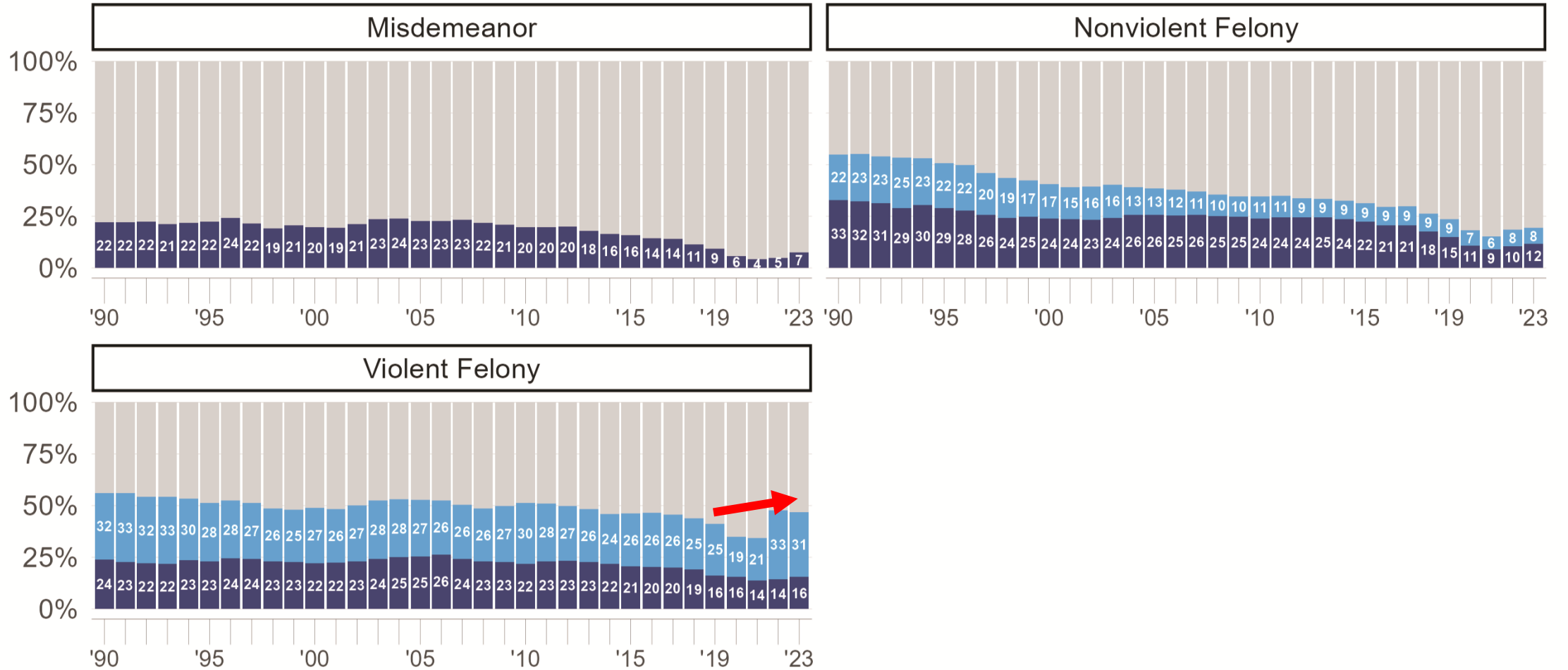


# **4. INCARCERATION & COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**



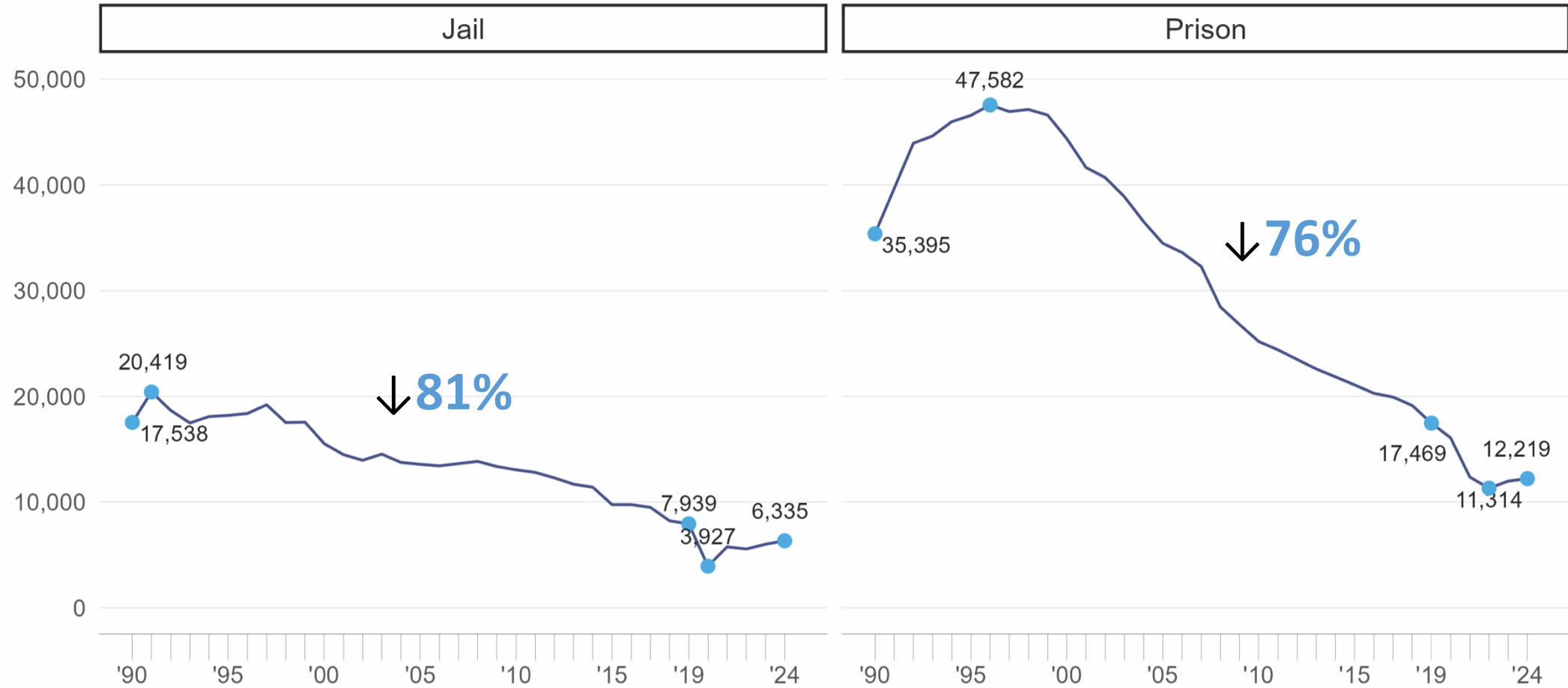
# Those convicted of a violent felony offense have become more likely to receive a carceral sentence since 2019

● Jail Sentence  
 ● Prison Sentence  
 ● Noncarceral Sentence



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

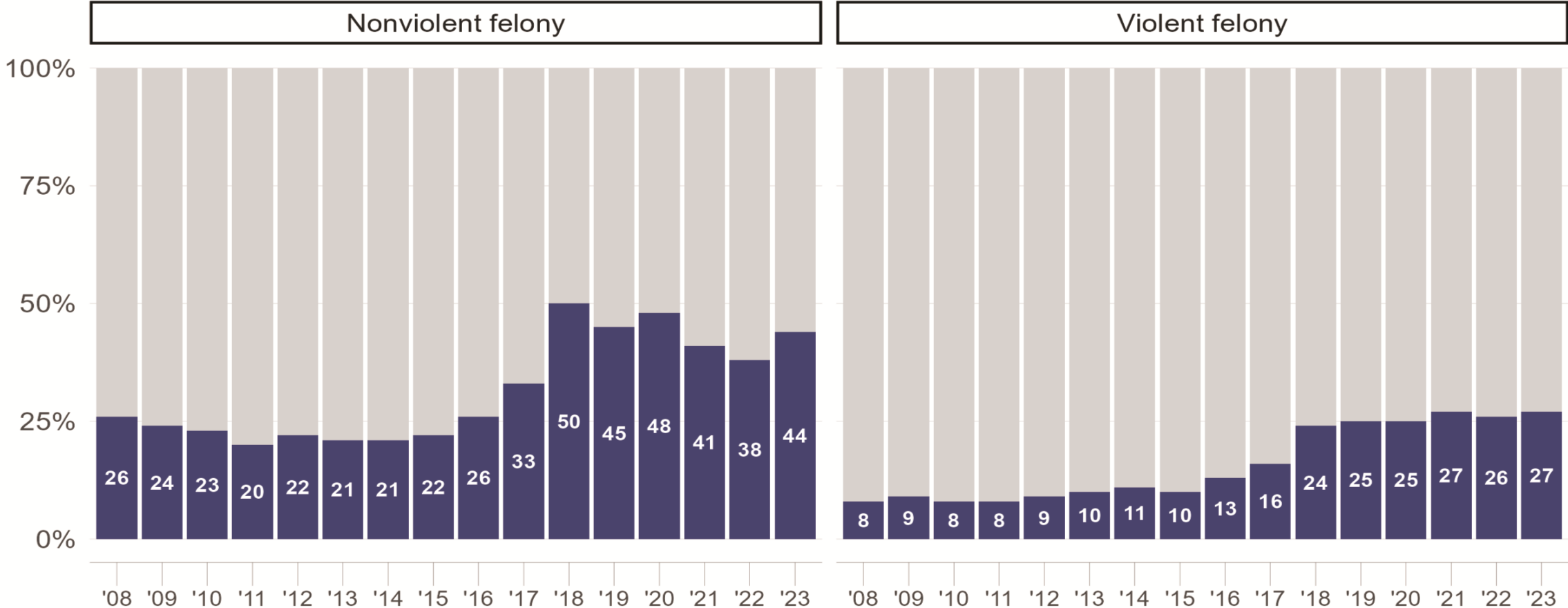
# The average daily jail and prison populations fell substantially from their peak levels



Sources:  
Jail: Vera Incarceration Trends Project  
Prison: Vera Incarceration Trends Project (1990-2007)  
& Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (2008-2024)

# The State's parole board increased its approval rate

● Approved ● Postponed/Denied



Source: New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

# 5. RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES

## Declines across all racial and ethnic groups from the peak to 2019

	<b>Black</b>		<b>Hispanic</b>		<b>White</b>	
	<b>Peak to '19</b>	<b>'19 to '23</b>	<b>Peak to '19</b>	<b>'19 to '23</b>	<b>Peak to '19</b>	<b>'19 to '23</b>
<b>Pedestrian stops</b>	<b>-98%</b>	<b>+25%</b>	<b>-98%</b>	<b>+34%</b>	<b>-98%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>Civil summonses</b>		<b>+22%</b>		<b>+150%</b>		<b>+72%</b>
<b>Criminal summonses</b>		<b>+48%</b>		<b>+117%</b>		<b>+63%</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>-50%</b>	<b>+3%</b>	<b>-47%</b>	<b>+10%</b>	<b>-58%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Misdemeanor arrests</b>	<b>-61%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-57%</b>	<b>+4%</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Felony arrests</b>	<b>-51%</b>	<b>+13%</b>	<b>-57%</b>	<b>+20%</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Jail sentences</b>	<b>-85%</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-83%</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-79%</b>	<b>-53%</b>
<b>Prison sentences</b>	<b>-74%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-79%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-71%</b>	<b>-43%</b>
<b>Jail admission</b>	<b>-75%</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>-74%</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>-74%</b>	<b>-44%</b>
<b>Jail population</b>	<b>-64%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-65%</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>-71%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Prison population</b>	<b>-40%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>-41%</b>	<b>-43%</b>

Narrowing racial disparities from the peak to 2019, then widening for some measures

	Black-White Ratio		Hispanic-White Ratio	
	Peak to '19	'19 to '23	Peak to '19	'19 to '23
Pedestrian stops	-0.4	+5.6	-1.2	+2.5
Civil summonses		-1.4		+0.3
Criminal summonses		-0.7		+1.1
Arrests	-1.8	+0.9	-2.3	+0.7
Misdemeanor arrests	-1.3	+0.8	-0.9	+0.6
Felony arrests	-3.8	+0.9	-5.4	+0.5
Jail sentences	-9.2	-0.9	-5.9	-0.6
Prison sentences	-8.0	+6.7	-11.6	+1.3
Jail admission	-3.0	+1.6	-3.1	+0.1
Jail population	-6.1	-0.1	-6.2	-1.7
Prison population	-1.5	+3.0	-1.2	+0.6

# TAKEAWAYS

- From 1990 to 2019, crime fell alongside a shift toward a lighter touch systemwide.
- From 2019 to 2023, crime rose and some trends reversed, particularly in law enforcement activity.
- **Racial disparities** narrowed from 1990 to 2019 but then widened across some measures over the next four years.
- **Indicators of crime in 2025** are mixed:
  - Positive:
    - Crime remains low relative to historic highs in the 1990s.
    - Crime remains low relative to other large U.S. cities.
    - Shooting incidents and murders have receded back to pre-pandemic levels.
  - Negative:
    - The gap between New York City and other big cities has narrowed.
    - Major felonies overall remain 32% above pre-pandemic levels.

# Thank you for your participation!

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