



ARIZONA CRIMINAL
JUSTICE COMMISSION

Using Criminal History Records to Examine the Reporting of Sexual Assault in Arizona

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Sexual Assault Reporting

- Between 1992 and 2000, 26% of all sexual assaults occurring in the U.S. in which the victim was female were reported to law enforcement
- The following are percentages of injured victims of sexual assault receiving medical treatment when the incident was...
 - Reported to Law Enforcement: 37%
 - Not Reported to Law Enforcement: 18%

*Data provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics August 2002 report, titled *Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992-2000*.

Sexual Assault Reporting

- In Arizona, there were a total of 1,909 forcible rapes in 2006 and 1,797 forcible rapes in 2007 reported to law enforcement in Arizona
- These forcible rape totals include assaults and attempted forcible rape incidents, but exclude incidents with male victims

Sexual Assault Report at a Glance

- A.R.S. 41-2406.B mandates the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) to provide an annual report to stakeholders
- The sexual assault report shall include data for all police reporting, charges, convictions and sentences connected to incidents involving sexual assault

Focus of the Research

- A.R.S. 13-1406 defines sexual assault as “intentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person without consent of such person”
- The Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) is mandated to provide arrest and subsequent disposition data to ACJC

Focus of the Research

- The data to be analyzed must include police reports, charges, convictions and sentences for the following:
 - Sexual Assault Offenses
 - Sexual Assault Offenses involving Spouse
 - False Reports of Sexual Assault involving a Spouse
- Current marital situation of the victim and spouse is also a required data collection piece for all reported sexual assault offenses involving a spouse

Data Available

- AZDPS collects and maintains all arrest and disposition forms throughout the state within the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) repository
- Variables include arrest/disposition offense codes, arrest count, disposition code, sentence type, and the date of arrest

ACCH Data Process

- An offender is booked using Livescan for a finger-printable offense, thus populating ACCH electronically with the arrest data
- The disposition is submitted at a later date and electronically entered and linked to each arrest charge
- Disposition information cannot be entered without an initial booked arrest

Data Collection and Analysis

- An extract of ACCH data is requested from AZDPS
- Any data request must be made 180 days after the conclusion of the prior year for proper disposition completion
- The ACCH data is provided in a text file that can be imported into SPSS for analysis

Strengths of the Data

- ACCH data is collected from all law enforcement and disposition agencies statewide
- The data from the repository is easily accessible electronically

Limitations of the Data

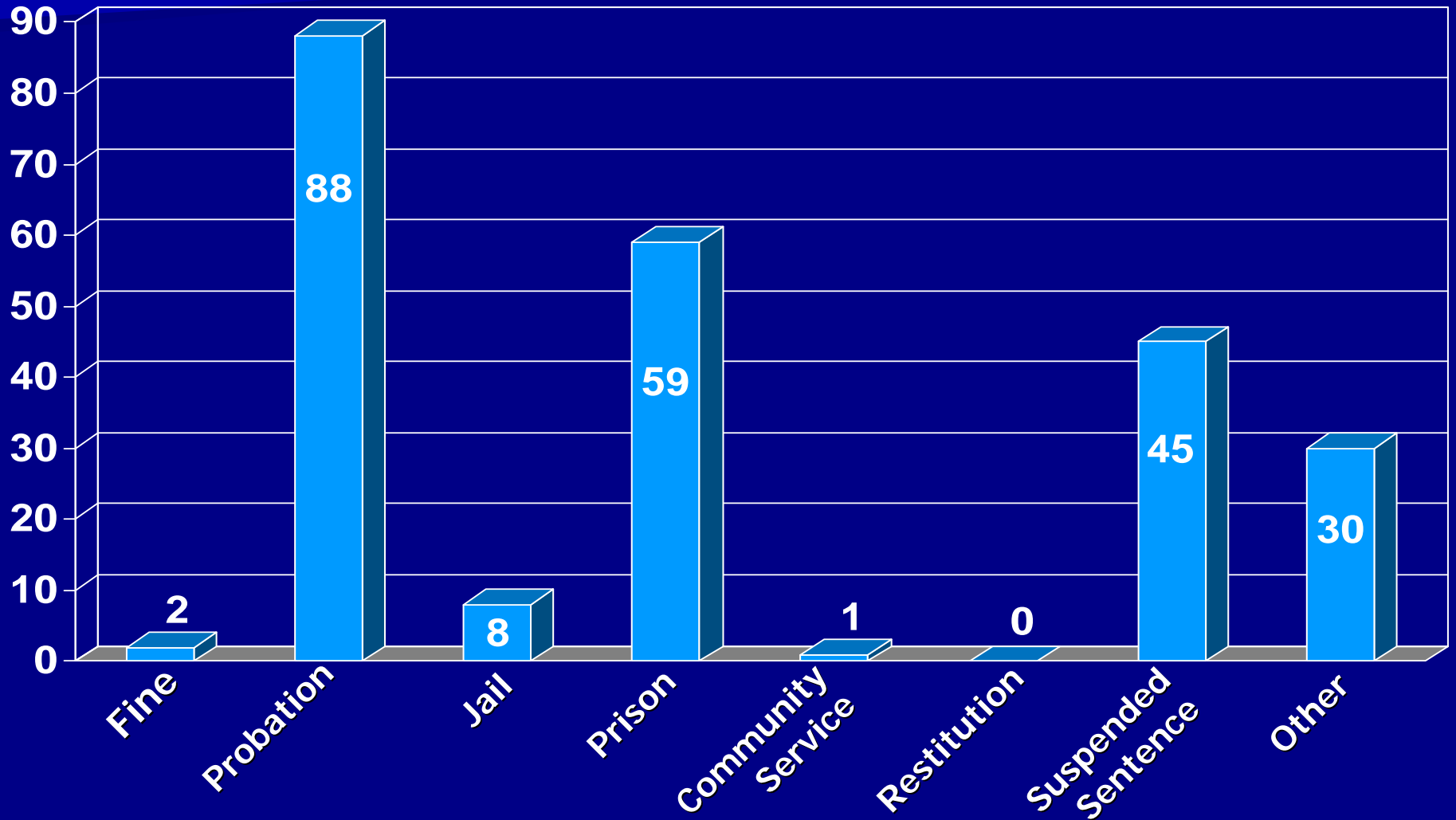
- Arizona no longer has a statute for sexual assault of a spouse
- As a result, no data is available in connection with the marital situation of victims and offenders in these cases
- Criminal history records continue to face obstacles in timeliness and completeness

2006 Data

- **299** police arrest reports were filed with DPS that included a charge of sexual assault
- **548** charges were filed for sexual assault
- **112** charges resulted in convictions for sexual assault

2006 Data

Total Number of Sentences by Sentence Type, 2006



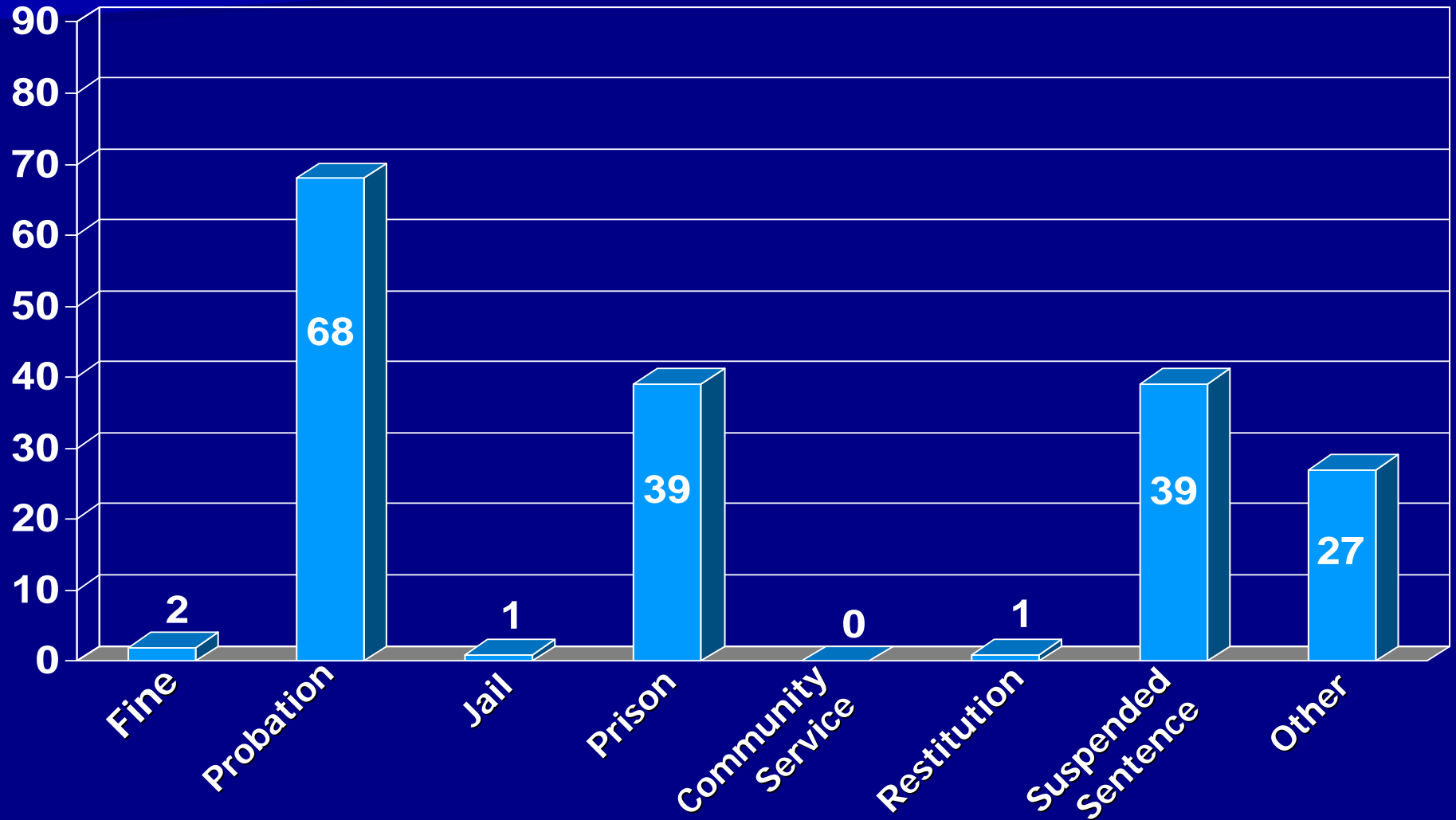
2007 Data

- **271** police arrest reports were filed with DPS that included a charge of sexual assault
- **517** charges were filed for sexual assault
- **87*** charges resulted in convictions for sexual assault

*Data was collected in June 2008, meaning that charges were given until May 2008 for disposition completion.

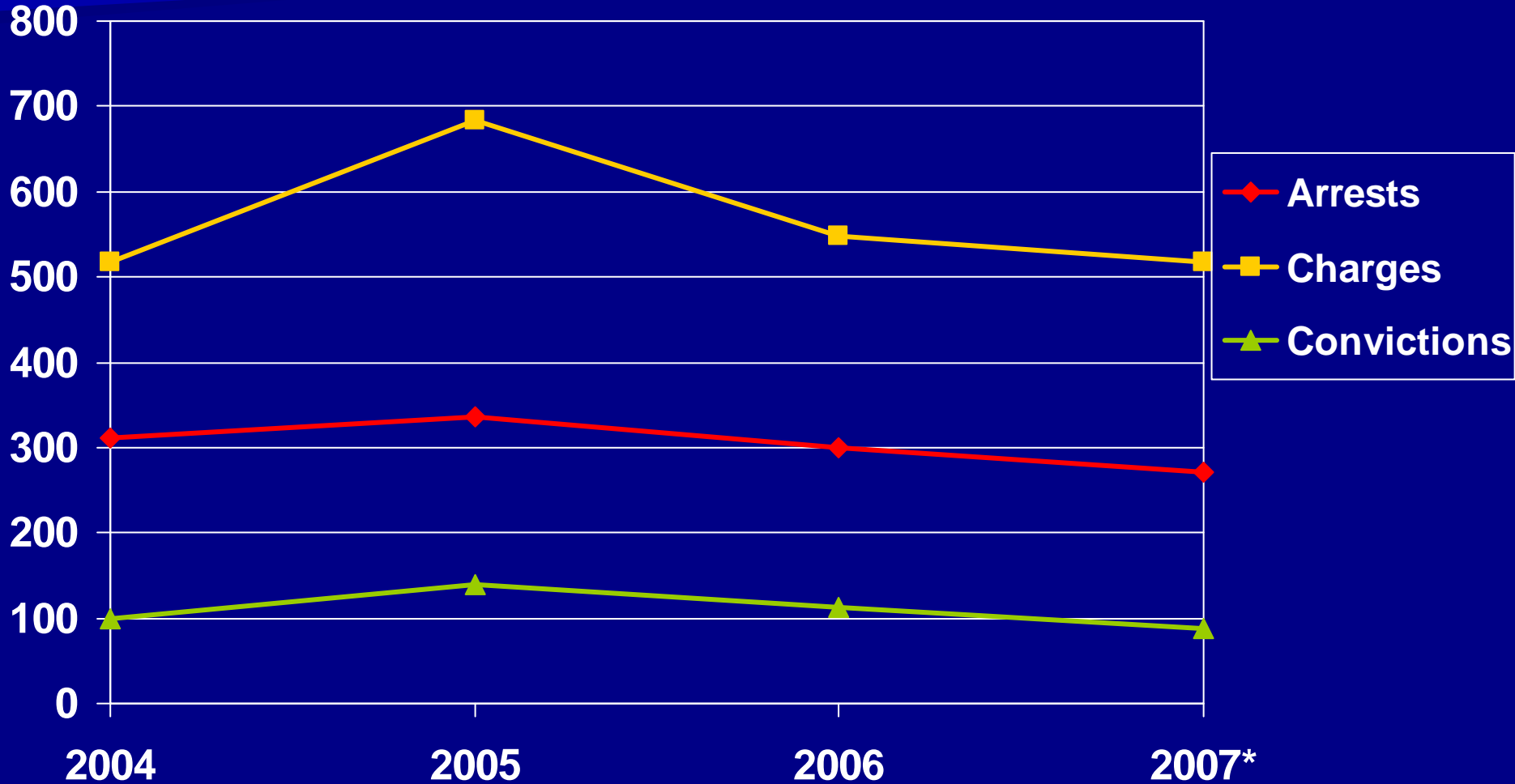
2007 Data

Total Number of Sentences by Sentence Type, 2007*



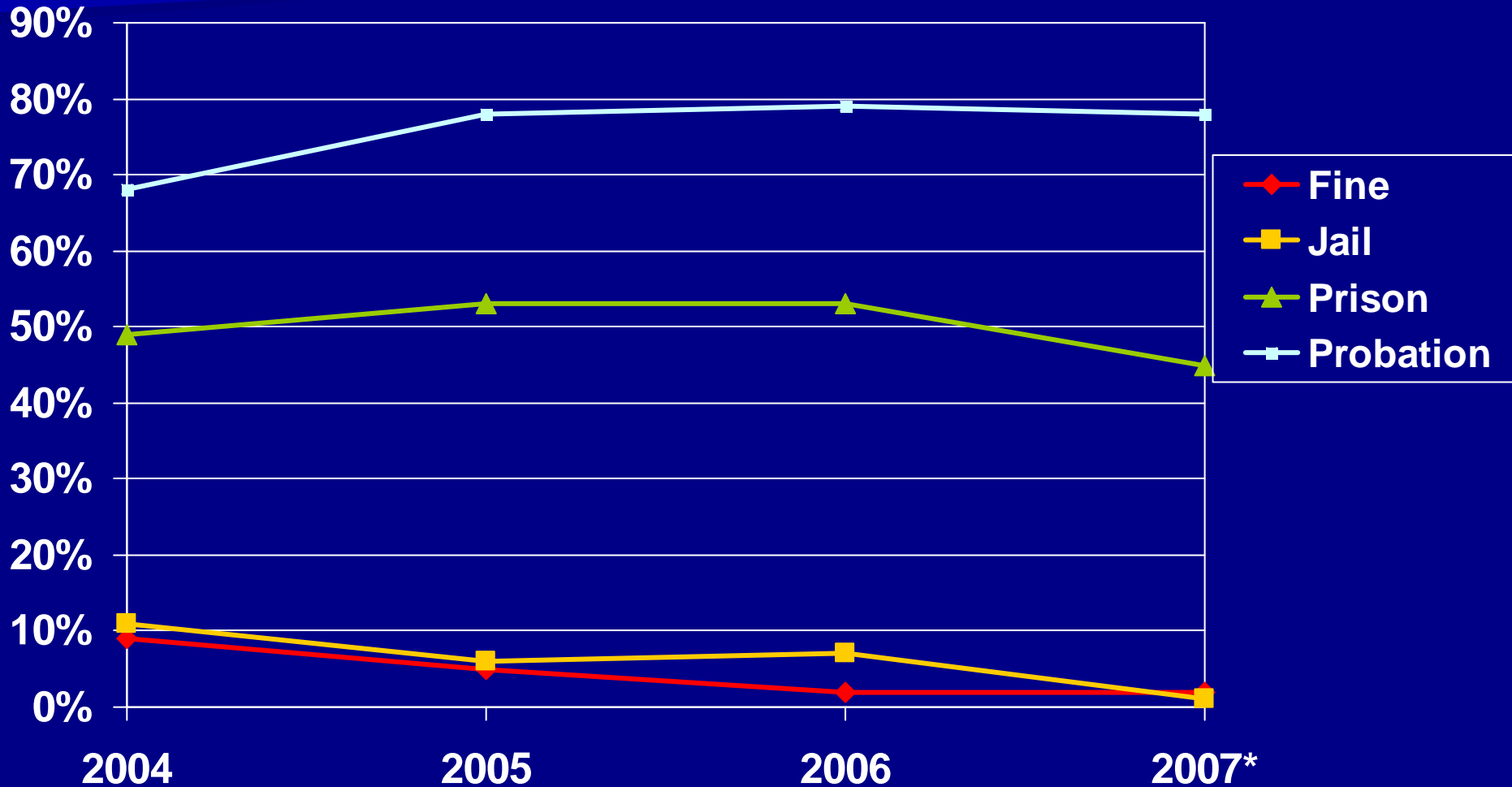
Trend Data

Sexual Assaults, 2004-2007



Trend Data

Percent of Sexual Assault Convictions by Sentence 2004-2007



Policy Implications

- ACJC is utilizing criminal history record data to inform government and the public about the reporting of sexual assault in Arizona
- The report is provided to stakeholders and is available on our website

Future of the Report

- ACJC will be looking to use data from the ACCH to add more information (specifically offender information) to the upcoming 2009 report
- New methods of displaying the data are also being explored

Other Projects Using ACCH Data

- Arizona Homicide Study
- Records Quality Reporting
- Tribal Crime Project
- Sexual Offender Recidivism Study



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