

DATA BRIEF

ANALYZING FEMALE OFFENDER ARRESTS, SENTENCES, AND CRIMINAL HISTORY

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Introduction

This brief explores female offenders and court processing in Vermont. The brief draws on three sources: the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) accessed via the Crime Data Explorer (CDE), which captures crimes reported to the police, the Court Adjudication Database maintained by Crime Research Group (CRG), and Criminal Histories maintained by Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC). These data cover different aspects of the criminal justice process. Please refer to the Criminal Justice Data Pyramid submitted with this document and found on the [CRG website](#).

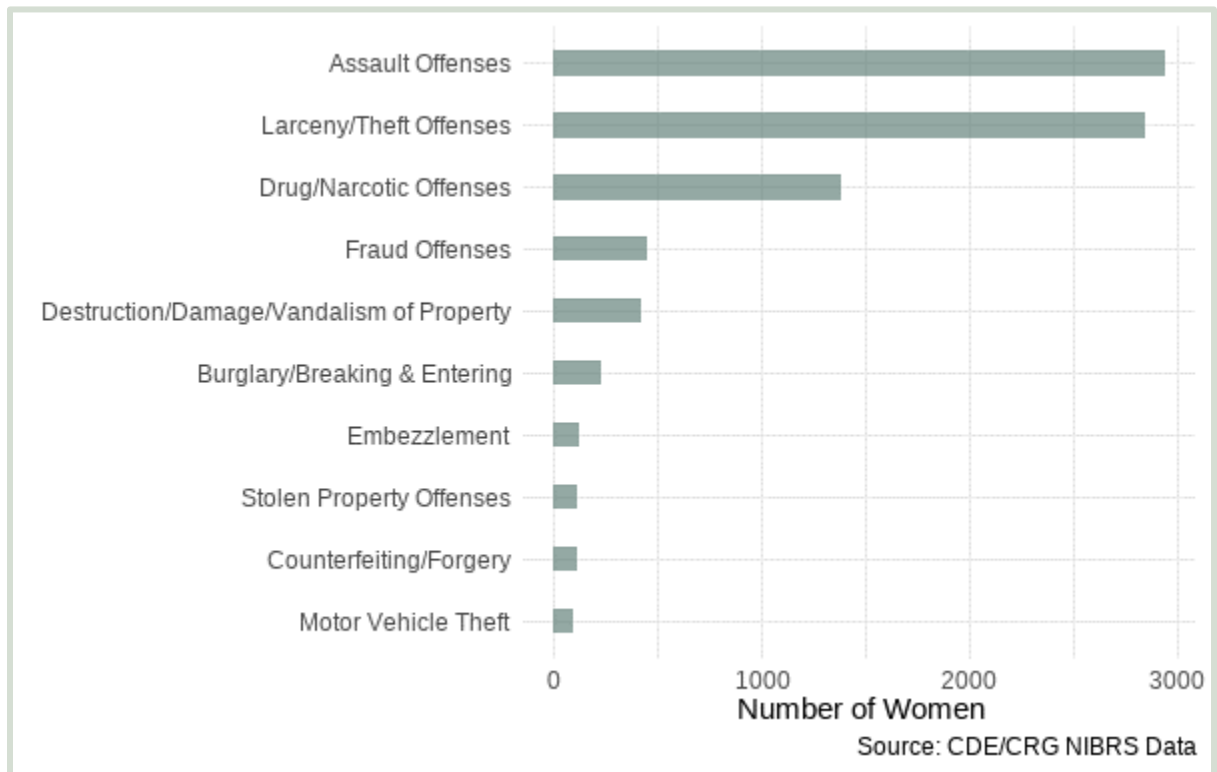
Highlights:

- Women are likely to be arrested for assault and larceny offenses.
- Violation of bail conditions and drug possession charges drive incarceration for women.
- Black women are overrepresented in arrests and sentences to incarceration.
- Washington and Windham counties send the most women to prison.
- Women starting a sentence of incarceration in 2023 were an average age of 38 and had spent about 10% of their lives (3.5 years) incarcerated.
- Probation Violations, Violation of Conditions of Release (Bail), and Escape from Furlough are some of the more common crimes women serve incarceration for.

Arrest Data

NIBRS data capture the most serious offense for which a person was arrested. Figure 1 shows the top 10 crimes women were arrested for between 2018-2022. Assault offenses and larceny offenses were the most common crimes, followed by drugs and narcotic offenses.

Figure 1: Top Ten Crimes Women Were Arrested For 2018-2022



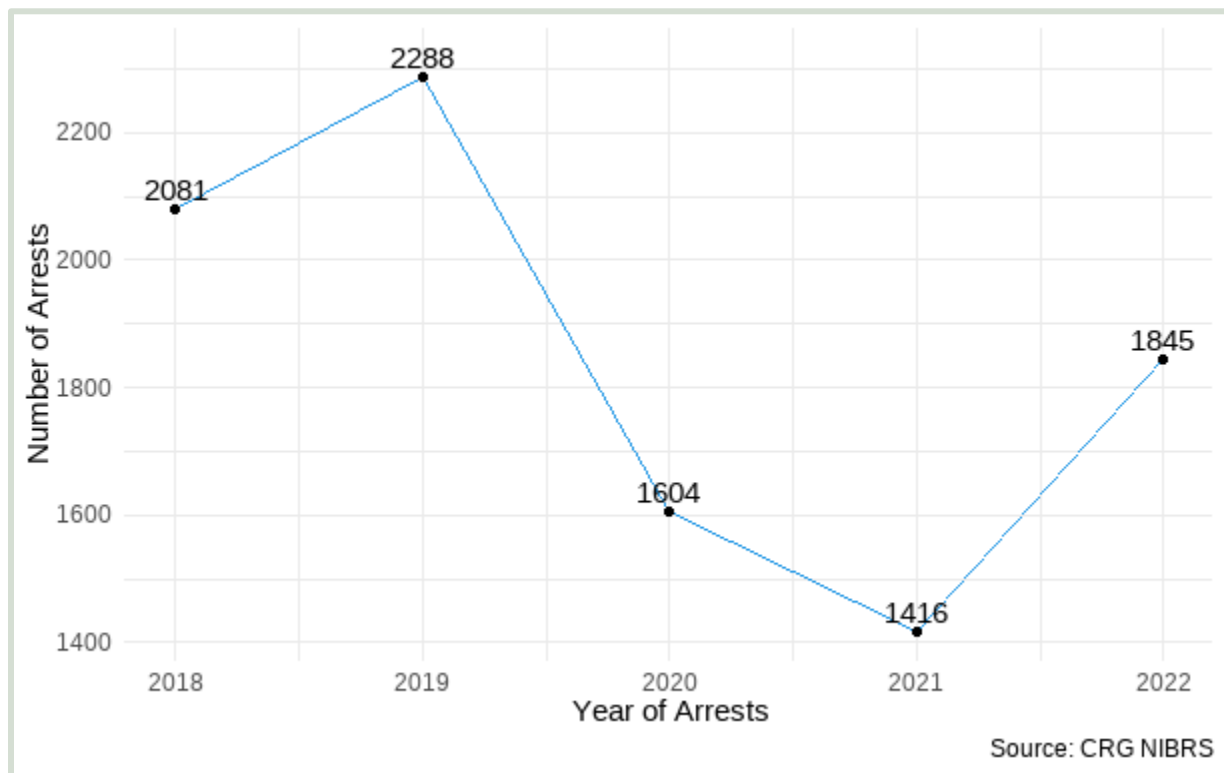
Over 9,000 women were arrested between 2018-2022. A person may have been arrested more than once in the data. It is not possible to determine how many times a particular person has been arrested. Black women were 3.65% of the arrestees, which is an overrepresentation of the approximately .7% of the estimated Black female population in Vermont as documented by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 1: Race of Women Arrested Between 2018-2022

Race	n	Percent
American Indian	25	0.27%
Asian	76	0.82%
Black	337	3.65%
Unknown	59	0.64%
White	8737	94.62%
Total	9234	100.00%

Source: CDE/CRG NIBRS Data

Figure 2 shows the number of arrests by year. The most arrests happened in 2019, when there were 2,288 women arrested.

Figure 2: Number of Women Arrested by Year

Court Data

Using data from the Court Adjudication Database, we explored sentences that resulted in incarceration.

Figure 3 shows the number of charges that women were sentenced to 31 days or more from 2020-2023. One hundred sixty-five women were sentenced to incarceration for 325 charges. The most common charges were drug offenses and public order offenses. The most common public order offense was 13 V.S.A §7559(e) Violation of Conditions of Release on Bail.

Figure 3: Category of Charges by Number of Charges Sentenced to Incarceration January 2020-November 2023

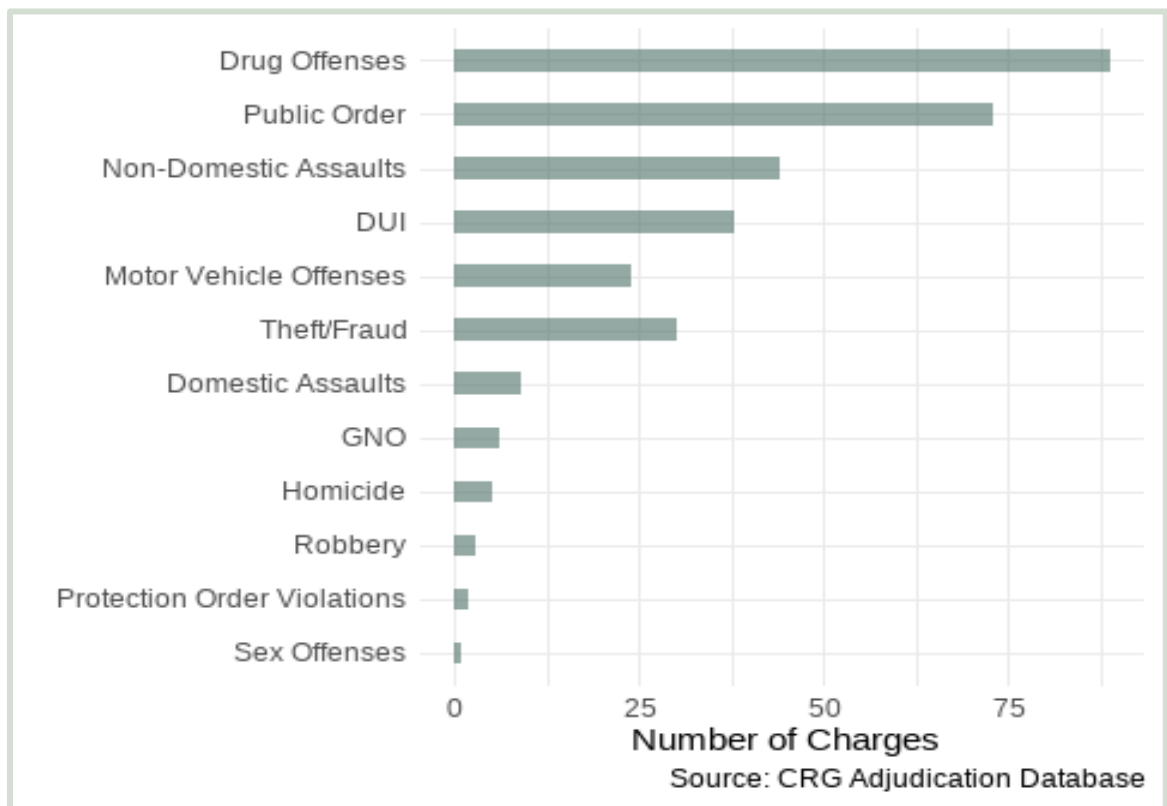


Figure 4 shows the top 3 public order offenses that led to incarceration and Figure 5 shows the top 3 drug crimes that led to incarceration.

Figure 4: Top Three Public Order Offenses Leading to Incarceration

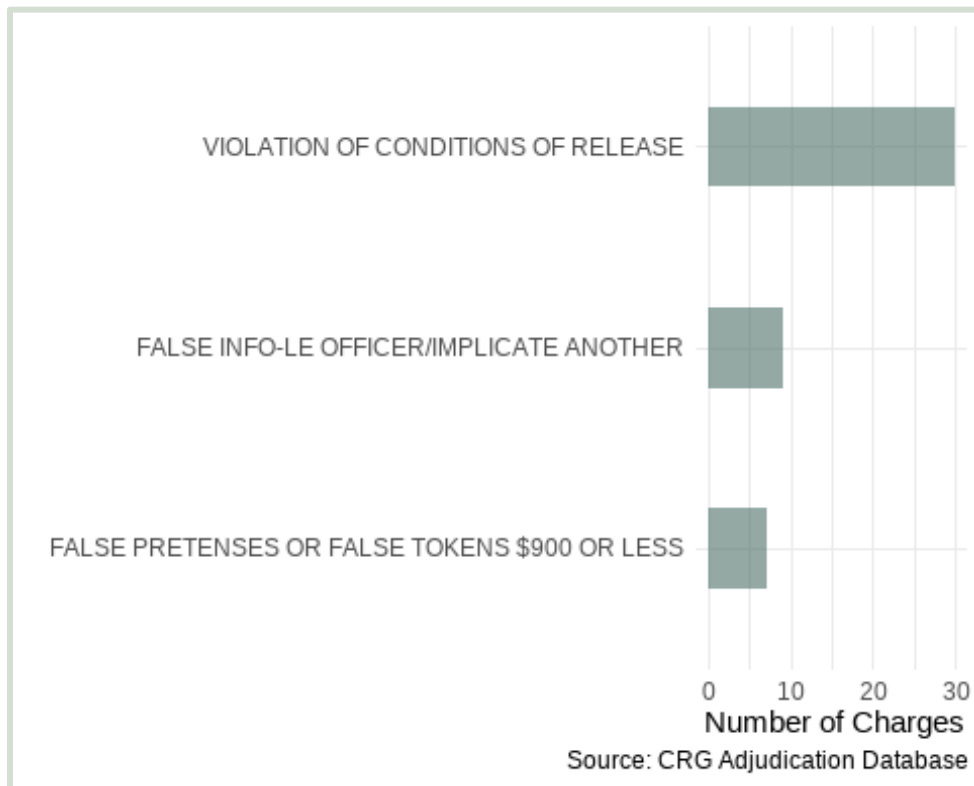


Figure 5: Top Three Drug Charges Leading to Incarceration

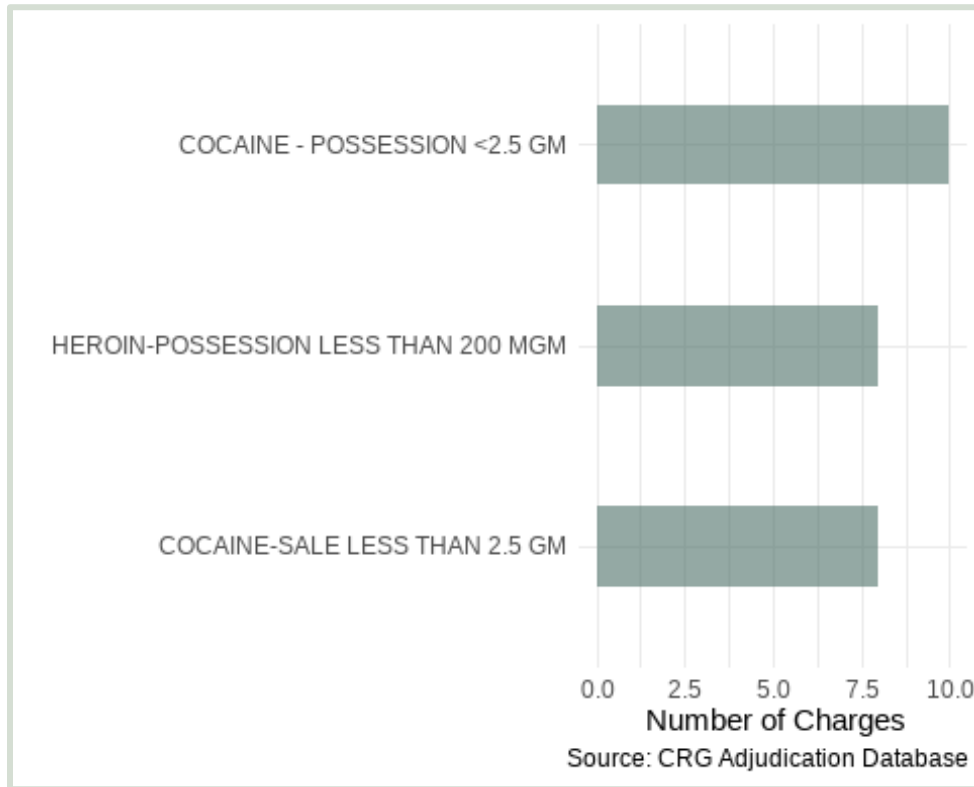
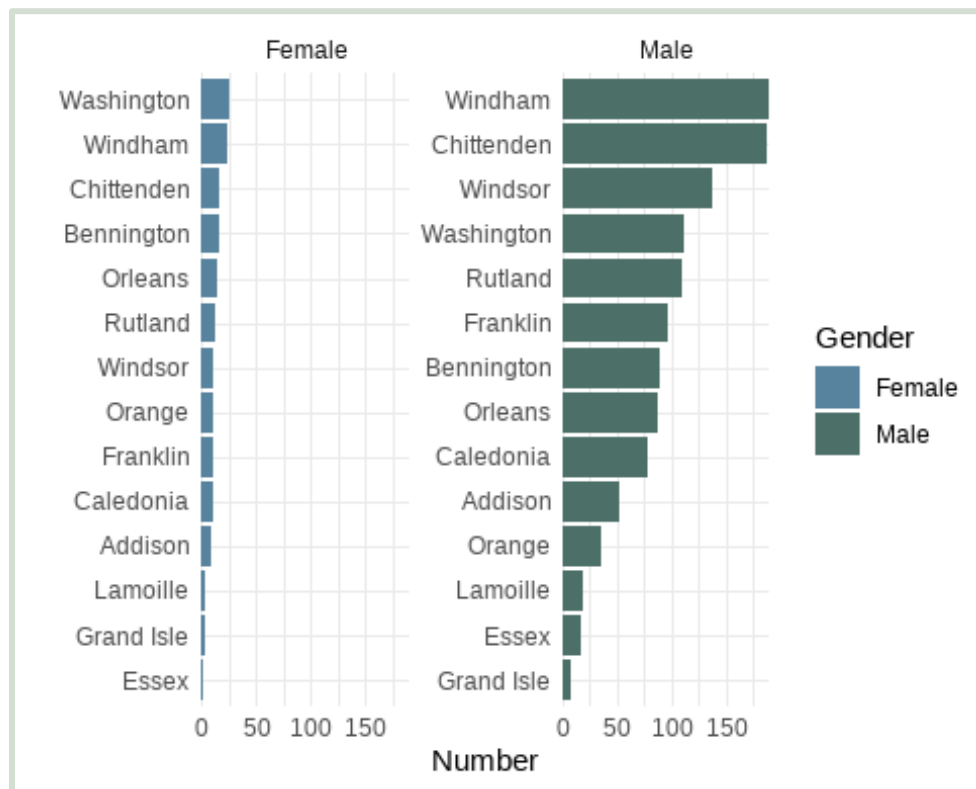


Figure 6 shows that Washington and Windham counties sent the most women to incarceration. Windham and Chittenden sent the most men.

Figure 6: People Sentenced to Incarceration by Gender and County January 2020-November 2023



It is possible to track individuals in the court data. One hundred sixty-five unique women were sentenced to incarceration. Black women were overrepresented at close to 5% of the female population sentenced.

Table 2: Race of Women Sentenced to Incarceration Between January 2020-November 2023

Race	n	Percent
Black	8	4.85%
Missing	2	1.21%
Unknown	5	3.03%
White	150	90.91%
Total	165	100.00%

Source: CRG Adjudication Database

Figure 7 shows the number of cases sentenced to incarceration by year. The increase of incarceration in 2023 over the Covid years may be due to the judiciary processing more cases and clearing the backlog of criminal cases caused by Covid.

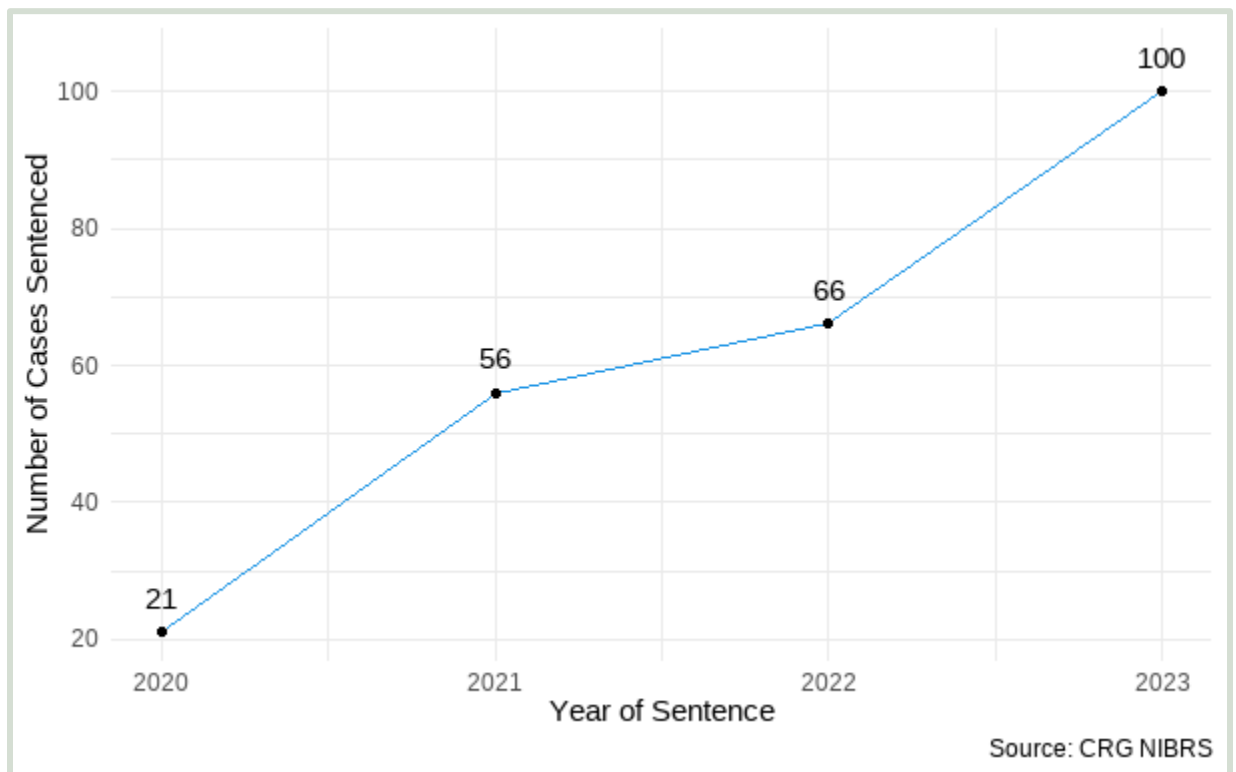
Figure 7: Number of Cases Sentenced to Incarceration January 2020-November 2023

Table 3: Sentence Lengths for Incarceration Between January 2020 - November 2023

	Average Min in Yrs.	Average Max in Yrs.	Days to Serve	Total Charges
DUI - Split				
	2.58	6.67	461.33	6.00
DUI - Straight				
	0.58	2.17	0.00	32.00
Domestic Assaults - Split				
	2.33	5.33	245.75	3.00
Domestic Assaults - Straight				
	1.32	4.07	0.00	6.00
Drug Offenses - Split				
	1.98	4.85	390.07	14.00
Drug Offenses - Straight				
	0.76	2.65	0.00	75.00
GNO - Split				
	2.50	12.00	911.50	1.00
GNO - Straight				
	2.35	6.70	0.00	5.00
Homicide - Split				
	13.90	64.00	2,722.55	5.00
Motor Vehicle Offenses - Split				
	2.00	5.00	30.00	1.00
Motor Vehicle Offenses - Straight				
	0.54	1.52	0.00	23.00

Average Min in Yrs.	Average Max in Yrs.	Days to Serve	Total Charges
Non-Domestic Assaults - Split			
2.71	7.36	693.11	7.00
Non-Domestic Assaults - Straight			
0.67	2.56	0.00	37.00
Protection Order Violations - Split			
0.16	1.00	60.00	1.00
Protection Order Violations - Straight			
0.33	0.67	0.00	1.00
Public Order – Split			
0.75	2.51	160.58	6.00
Public Order - Straight			
0.36	0.72	0.00	67.00
Robbery - Split			
3.00	5.00	365.00	1.00
Robbery - Straight			
1.12	4.00	0.00	2.00
Sex Offenses - Split			
3.00	99.00	1,183.00	1.00
Theft/Fraud - Split			
1.23	4.10	144.90	5.00
Theft/Fraud - Straight			
0.63	2.31	0.00	25.00

Source: CRG Adjudication Database

Criminal History Data

Using the Department of Correction's (DOC) Public Use file, we identified all people who started a carceral sentence in Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) in 2023 (the sample was chosen in December of 2023). This includes women who began serving a sentence in 2023 or were returned to CRCF in violation of furlough or parole. We merged the DOC data with Crime Research Group's (CRG) Court Adjudication Database, to get more personally identifiable information (PII) on the women. We then requested their criminal histories from Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC). The data and analysis in this report come from the criminal history data. These data come from the police, judiciary, and the Parole Board.

There were 161 women in the cohort. Table 4 shows available demographic information for the women. Their average age in 2023 was 38. They were, on average, 21 years of age when they were first arraigned in Vermont and had their first Vermont carceral sentence at age 26. Black women were not overrepresented in this sample.

Table 4: Demographics of Incarcerated Women Starting a Sentence in 2023

Characteristic	N = 161 ¹
Age in 2023	38 (7)
Age at First Arraignment	21.2 (5.4)
Age at First Conviction	22.6 (6.3)
Age at First Incarceration	26 (8)
Race	
American Indian	1 (0.6%)
Black	3 (1.9%)
Missing	1 (0.6%)
Unknown	3 (1.9%)
White	153 (95%)

¹Mean (SD); n (%)

Source: Criminal Histories

Table 5 summarizes the criminal histories of the women. On average, the women had a total of 18 prior criminal court dispositions. The women averaged 2 lifetime felony convictions and 12 lifetime misdemeanor convictions.

Table 5: Criminal History Characteristics of Incarcerated Women Starting a Sentence in 2023

Characteristic	N = 161 ¹
Total Cases	18 (15)
Total Felony	2 (3)
Total Misd	12 (9)

¹Mean (SD)

Source: Criminal Histories

Table 6 shows that during their lifetimes, the women had an average of 8 incarceration sentences and served an average of 3.5 years of their lives in prison.

Table 6: Criminal History Characteristics of Women Prisoners Starting a Sentence in 2023

Characteristic	N = 161 ¹
Average Number of Sentences with Incarceration	8 (7)
Average Lifetime Imprisonment	3.5 (4.7)

¹Mean (SD)

Source: Criminal Histories

Figure 8 shows the types of crimes over the course of the women's criminal histories, resulting in a sentence to incarceration. Public Order offense types, including probation violations, were the most common. Non-Domestic Assaults, the first violent offense in the list, was the sixth most common.

Figure 8: Types of Crimes Leading to Incarceration Over Lifetime

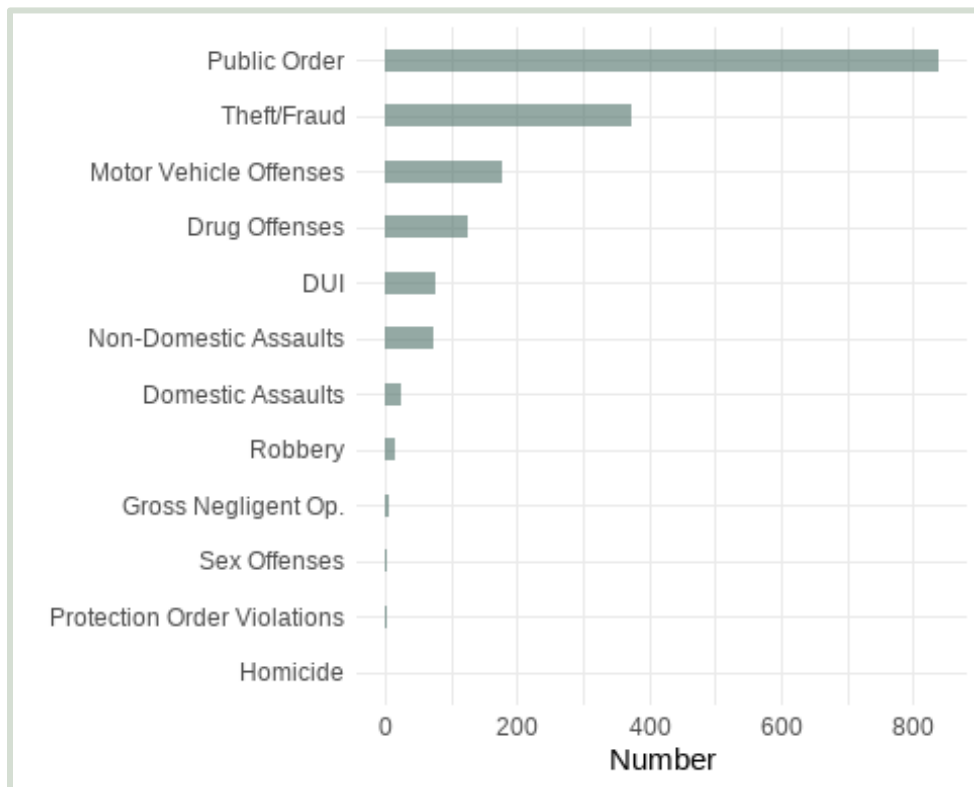
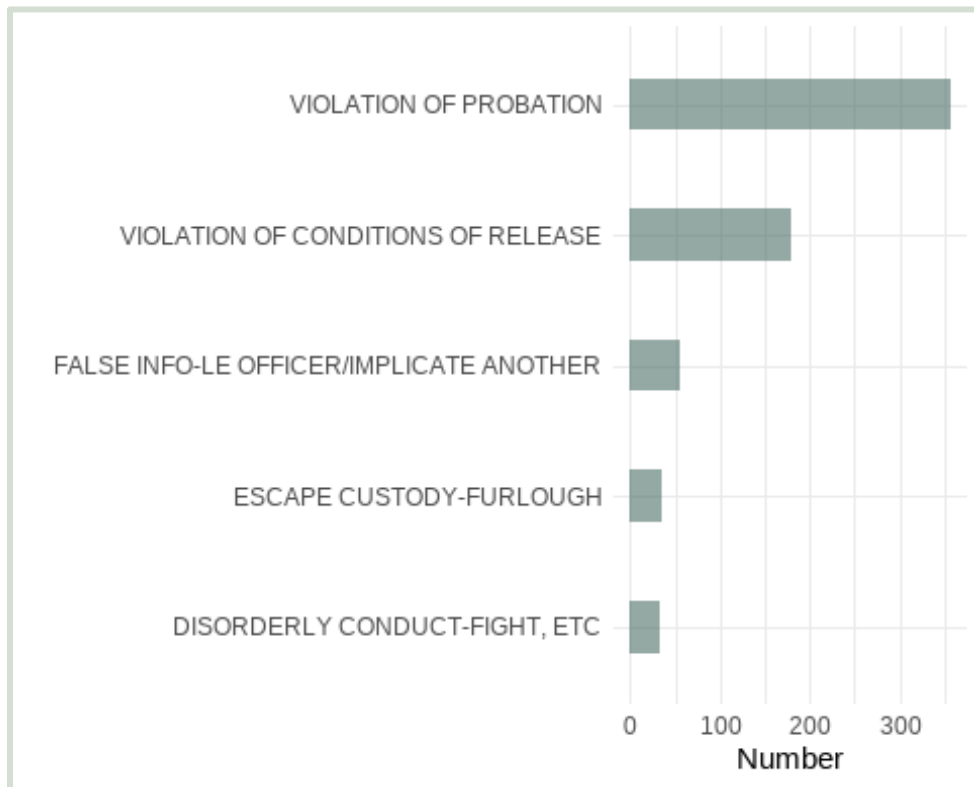


Figure 9 shows the top 5 public order crimes, over the course of the criminal histories, that led to incarceration. Probation violations were the most common public order crime resulting in a sentence to incarceration, followed by 13 V.S.A. § 7559(e) Violation of Conditions of Release on Bail. The first felony in the top five, Escape from Custody-Furlough, was the fourth most common public order offense.

Figure 9: Top Five Public Order Offenses Leading to Incarceration Over Lifetime



For theft/fraud cases, misdemeanor retail theft and petty larceny were the top two charges for property crime incarcerations over the lifetime. Figure 10 shows the top 5 property crimes that led to incarceration for women.

Figure 10: Top Five Property Crimes Leading to Incarceration Over Lifetime

