

THE LATEST ON VIOLENT CRIME DATA AND THE IMPACT OF REFORM

SJC Virtual Network Meeting
December 7, 2023

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Presentation Roadmap

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Purpose of our session today
- Background and context: Debates around public safety and criminal legal reform
- What the evidence shows: Presentations
 - JFA Institute – digging into recent crime trends
 - CUNY ISLG – findings from study following individuals released from jail and whether they were rebooked
- How to use this evidence: Discussion
 - How can sites effectively use these findings to combat false narratives?
 - What additional supports/analyses would be helpful to sites?

Background and Context for JFA and ISLG Analyses

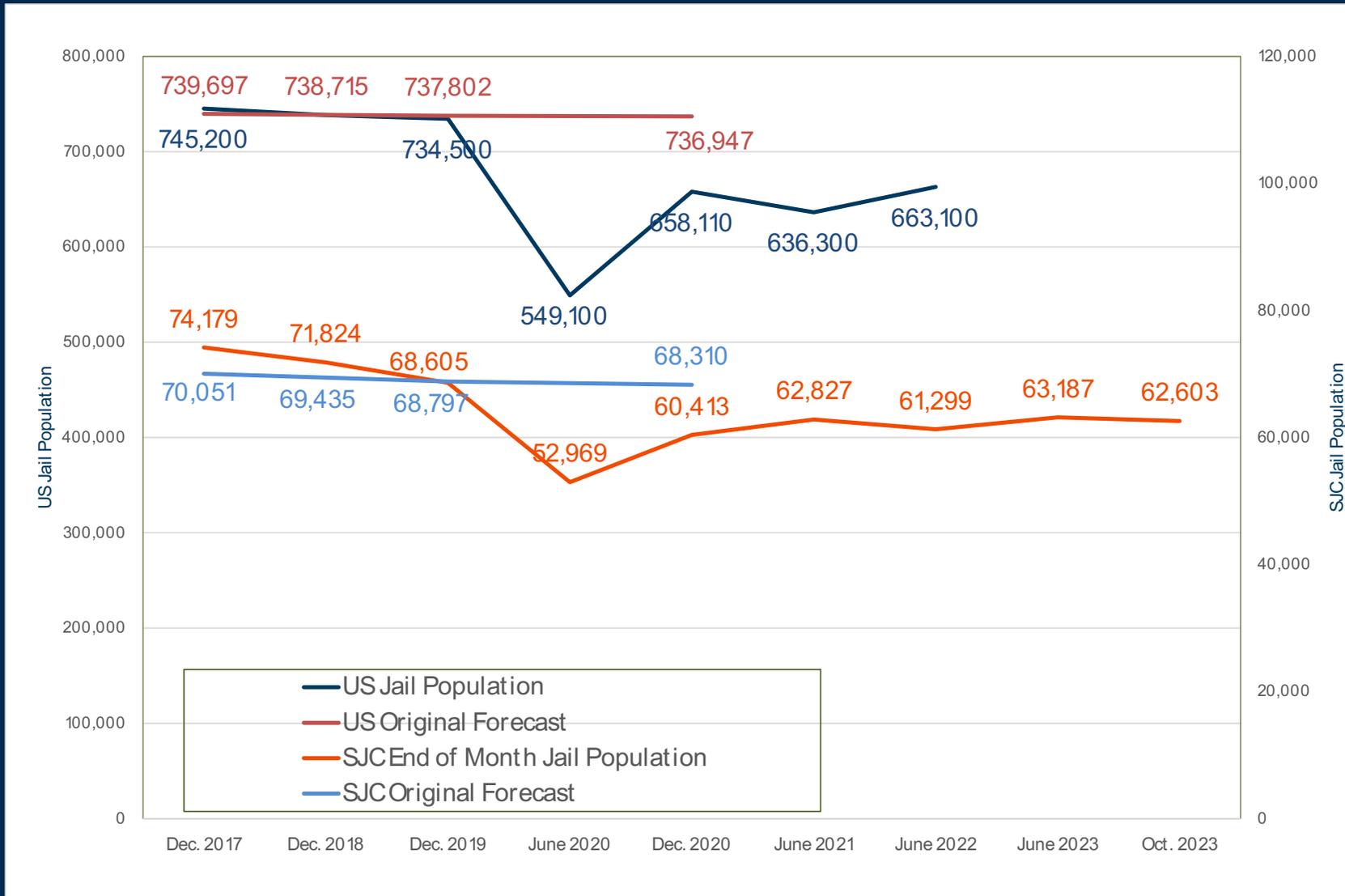
- Prominent public narratives blaming criminal legal reform for rising violence
- Evidence shows this is not the case:
 - Violence trends have stabilized/turned down in 2022
 - Recent increases happened in sites with and without reforms
 - NYC-specific analysis: people released under bail reform no more likely to be rearrested than those released pre-reform
- SJC presents a unique opportunity to contribute **direct evidence** about impact on a **national** scale
 - Robust and comprehensive rebooking data on people released from jail in 17 sites around the country
- Focus today is not just what the data show, but how it can be used to push back on false narratives

THE LATEST ON CRIME RATES

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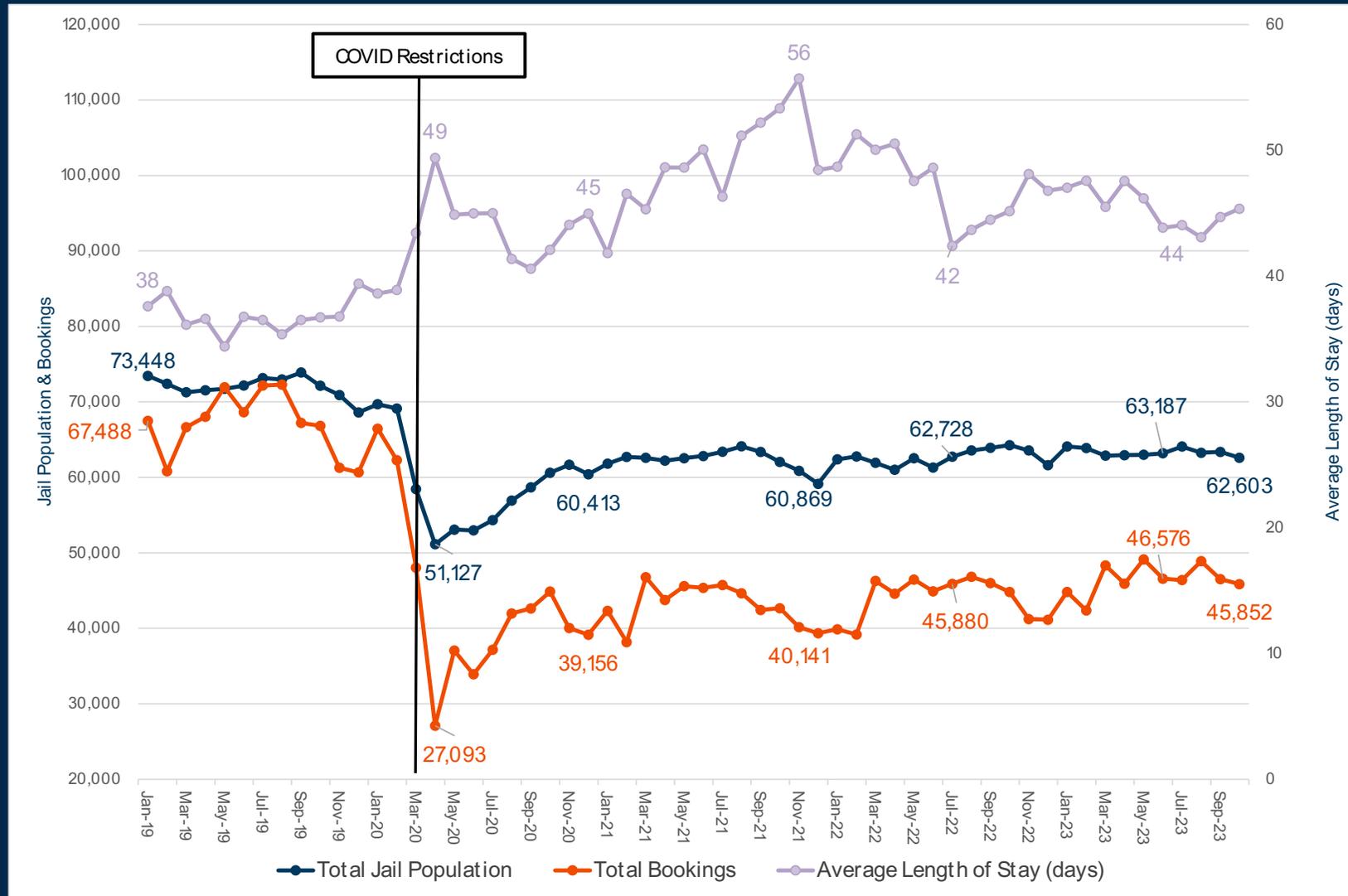
All SJC Site & US Jail Populations: December 2017-October 2023



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, SJC Monthly Jail Reports



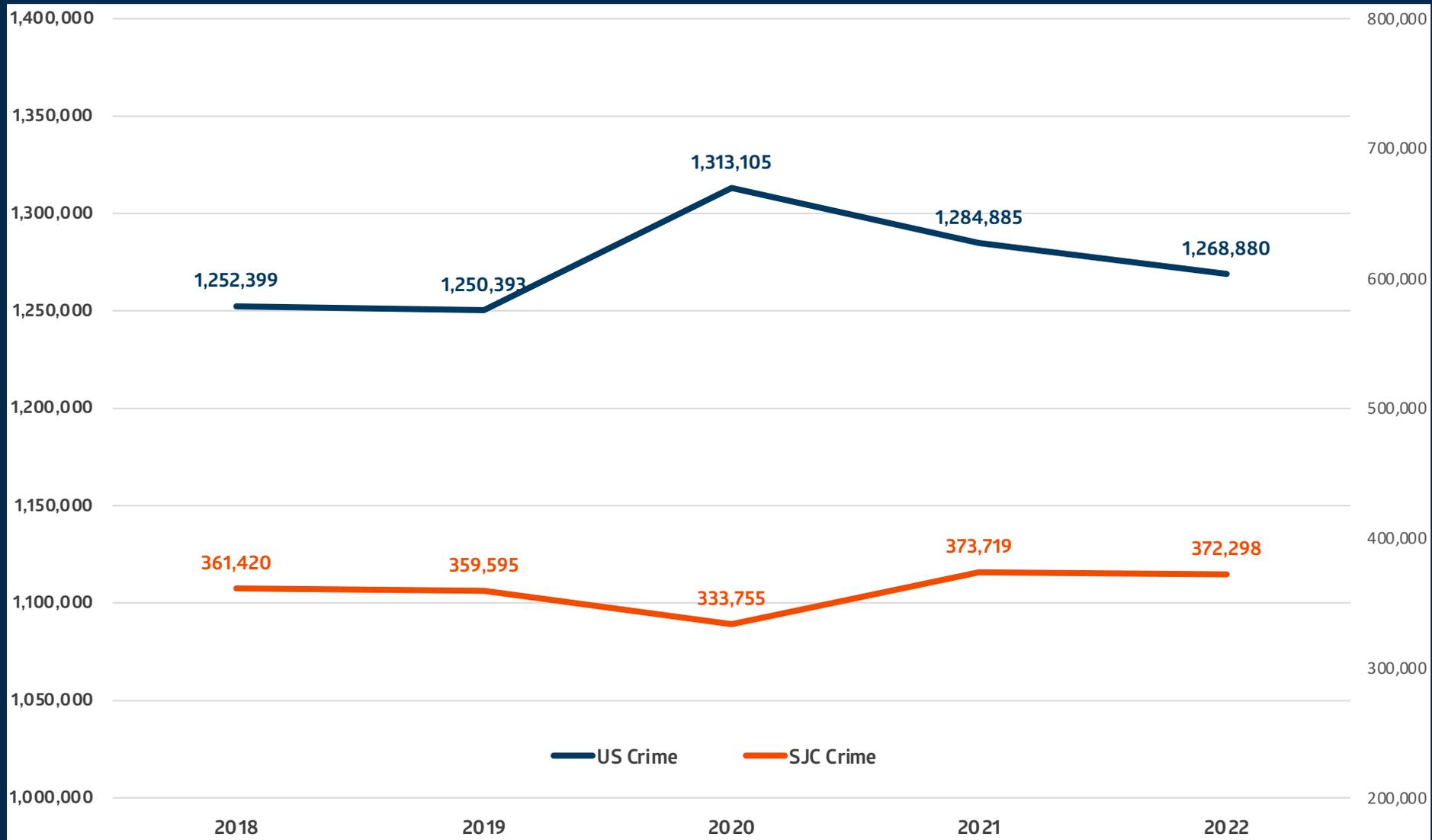
All SJC Sites Jail Population, Bookings & Length of Stay (Days)



Source: SJC Monthly Jail Reports



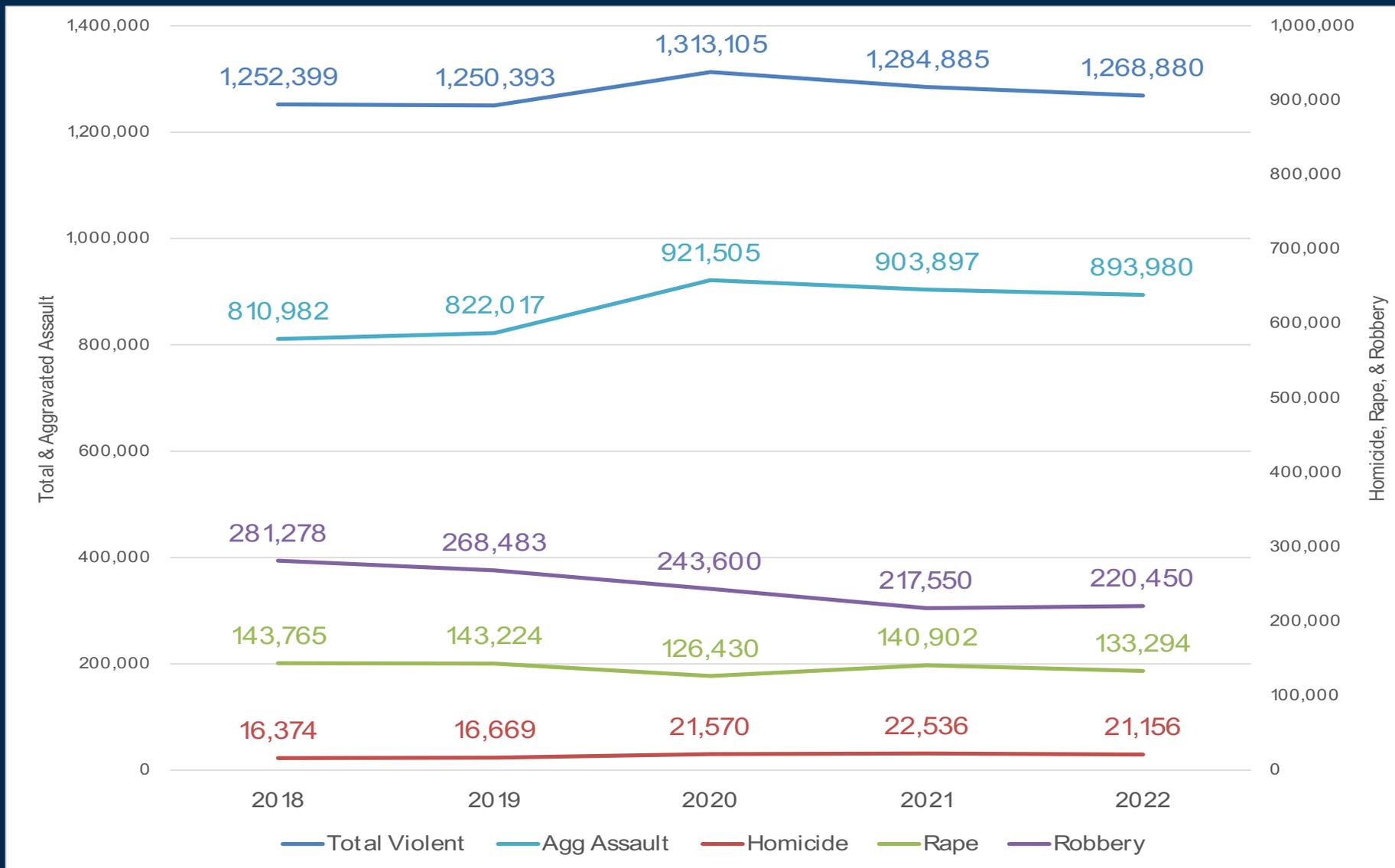
US & SJC Reported Violent Crime 2018-2022



Source: SJC Monthly Jail Reports; State Annual Crime Reports & Dashboards



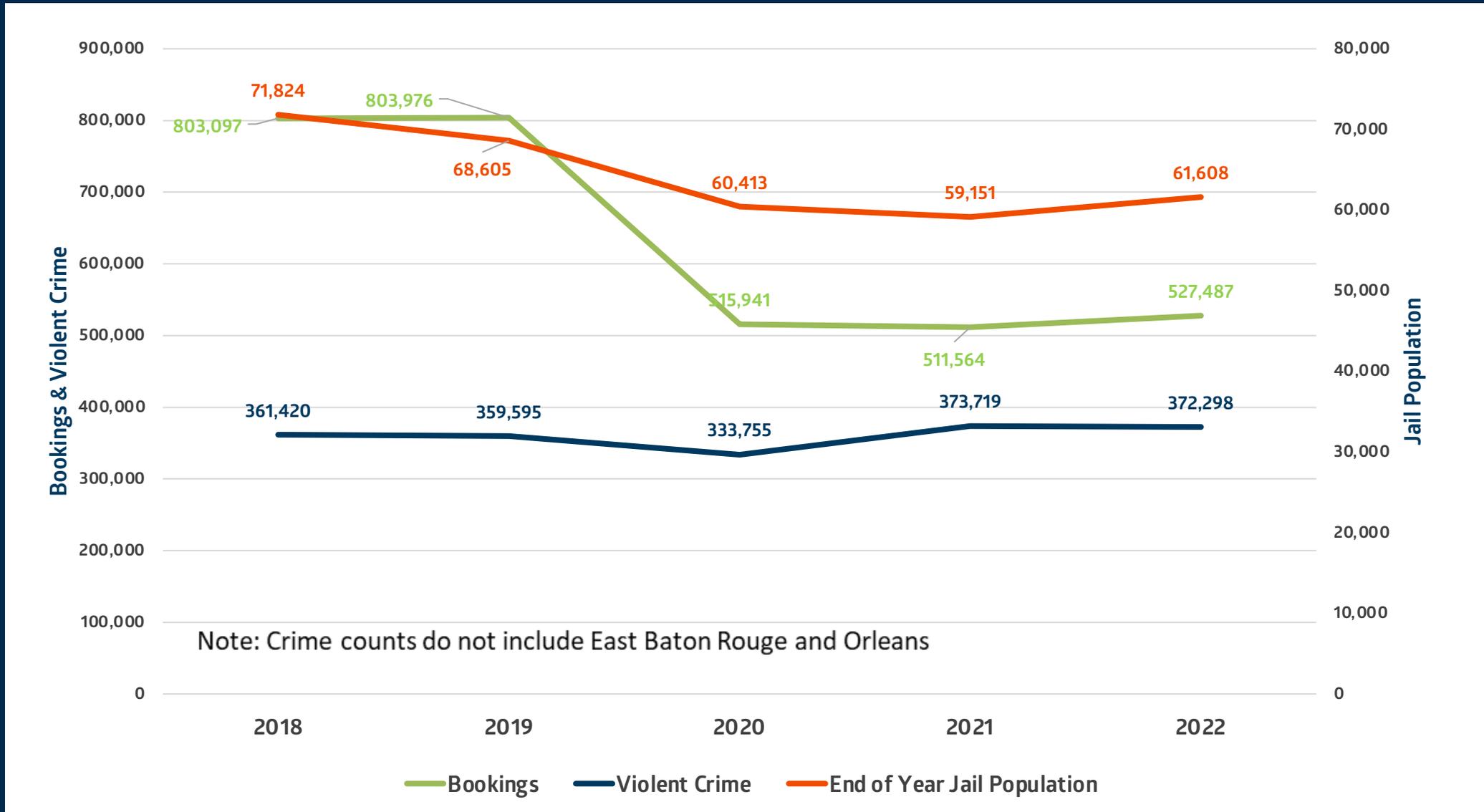
US Reported Violent Crime by Type 2018-2022



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer



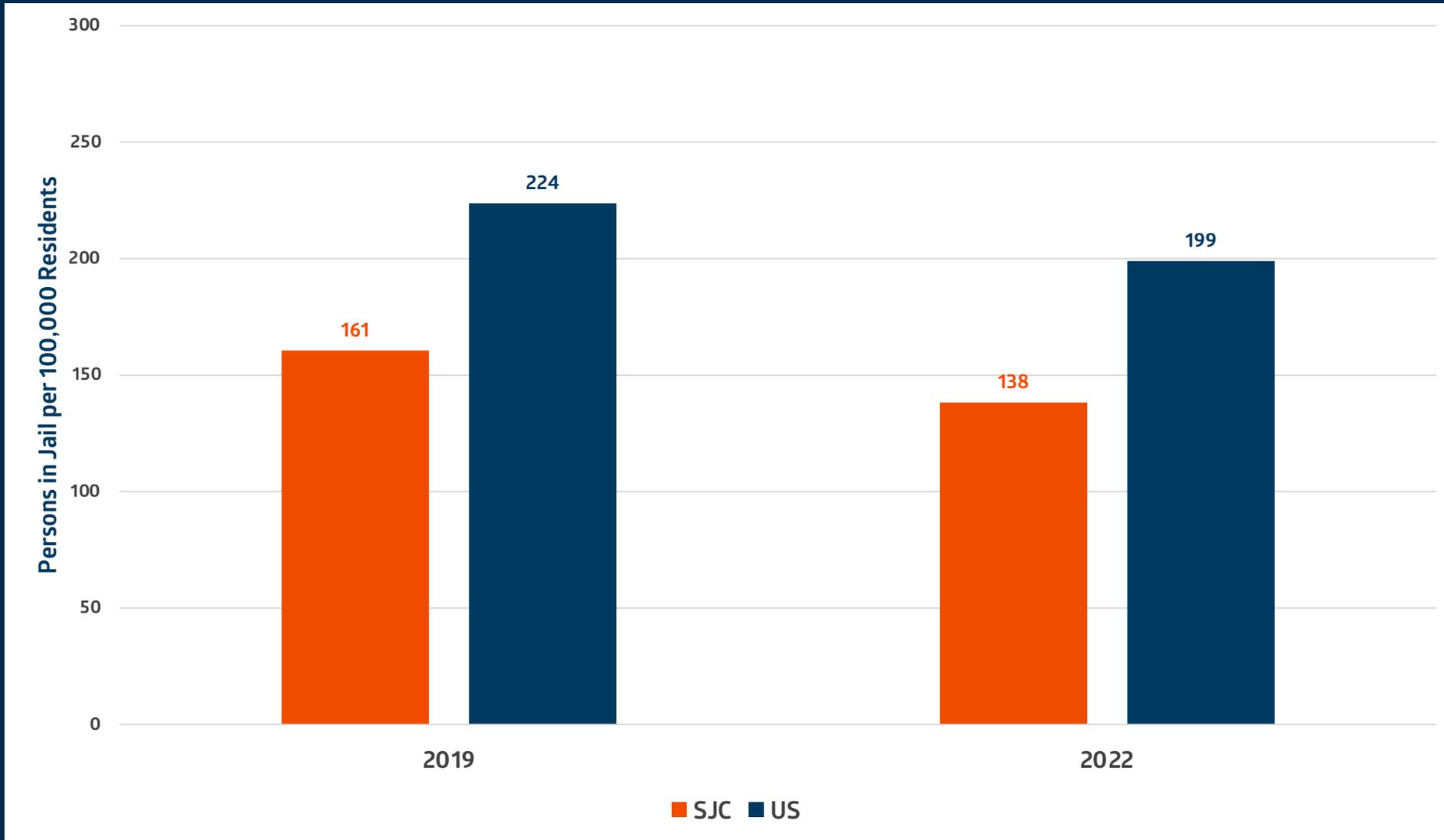
SJC Jail Population, Bookings, & Violent Crime: 2018-2022



Source: SJC Monthly Jail Reports; State Annual Crime Reports & Dashboards



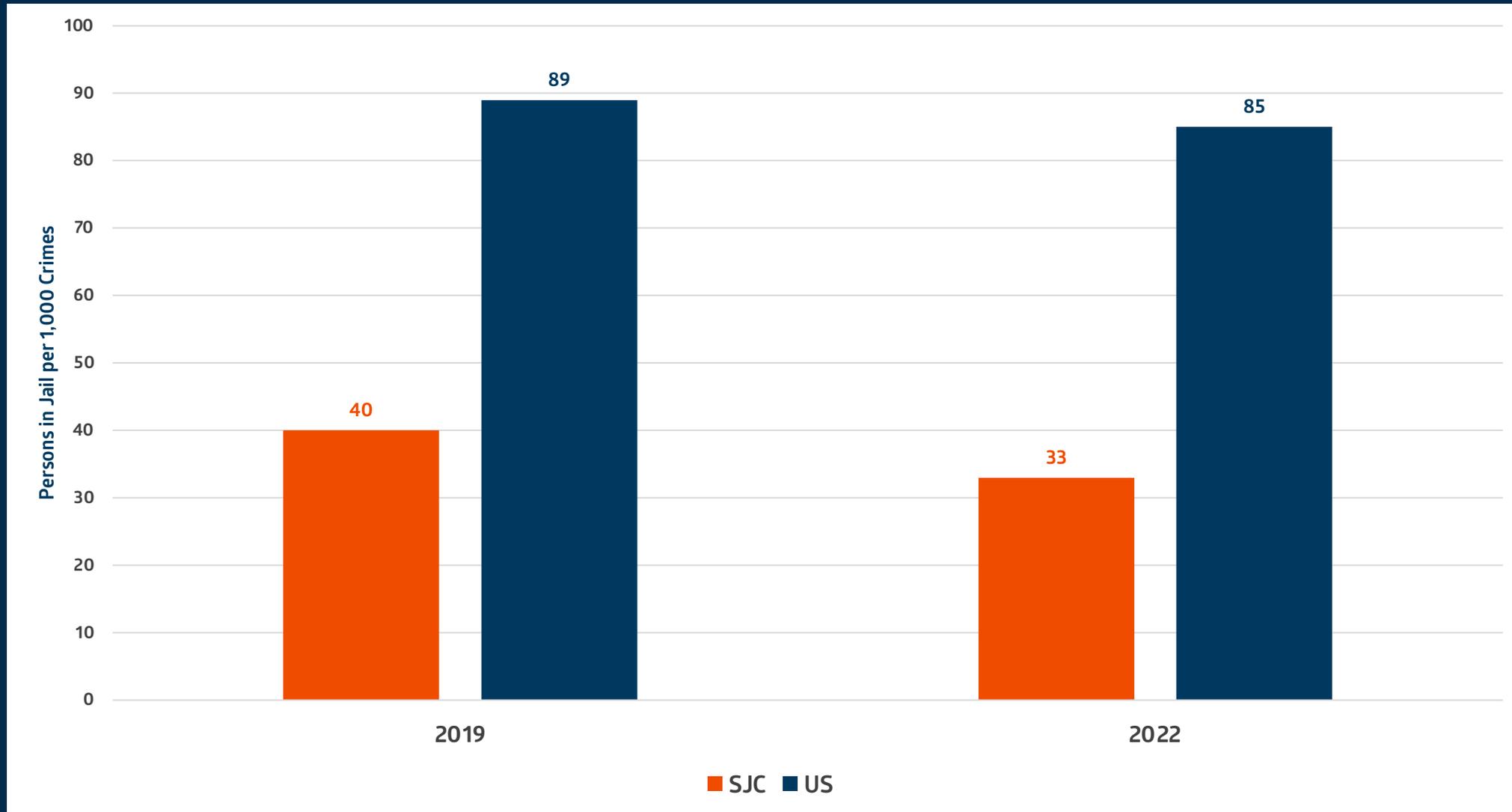
SJC & US Jail Incarceration Index 2019 vs. 2022



Source: SJC Monthly Jail Reports, Bureau of Justice Statistics: Jail Inmates Preliminary Press Release 9/20/2023, US Census Bureau



SJC & US Crime Index 2019 vs. 2022



Source: SJC Monthly Jail Reports, FBI Crime Data Explorer, State Annual Crime Reports & Dashboards



JAIL POPULATIONS, VIOLENT CRIME, AND REBOOKING RATES: LATEST FINDINGS FROM THE SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE

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Emily West, Senior Research Associate, CUNY ISLG



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



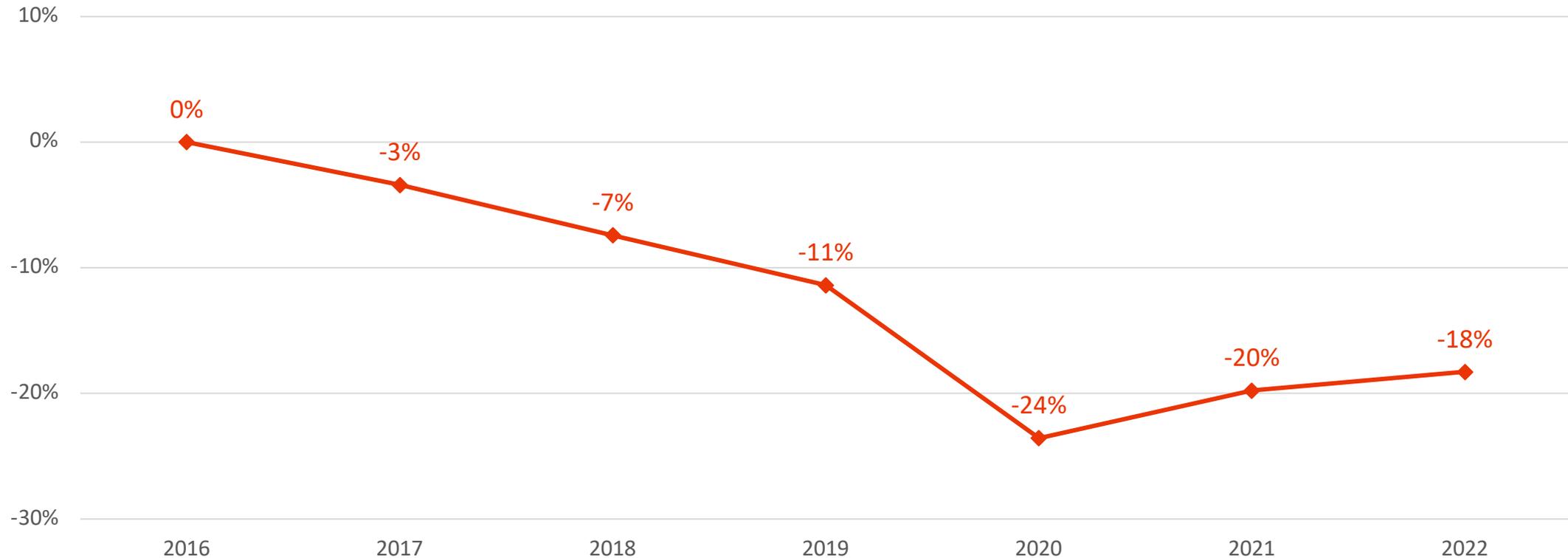
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Background and Context

- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, an uptick in violent crime nationally and in some SJC cities and counties has put the spotlight on criminal legal reform efforts
- Last year's ISLG publication on this topic found no clear evidence that supports the argument that reducing jail populations caused the increase in violent crime
- ISLG updated this analysis through early 2022 using detailed case-level data from SJC cities and counties

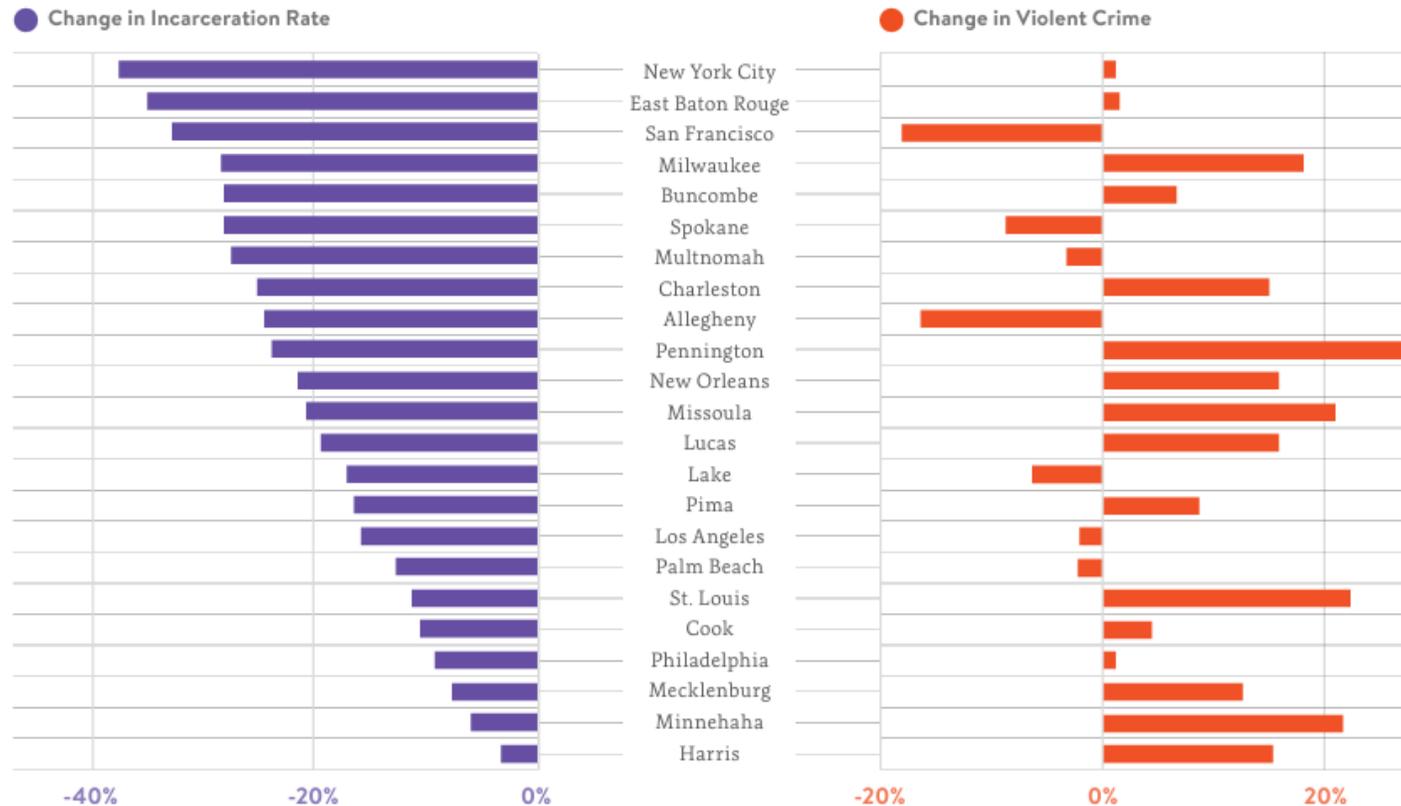
Jail populations declined during early implementation, with a sharp decline during COVID. ADP has risen since, but is still below pre-COVID times.

Indexed Percent Change in Jail Population Across SJC Sites, Pre-SJC to 2022



There is no correlation between declines in incarceration and increases in violent crimes.

Percent Change in the Incarceration Rate and Violent Crime Rate Change Between 2019 and 2020 by SJC Site

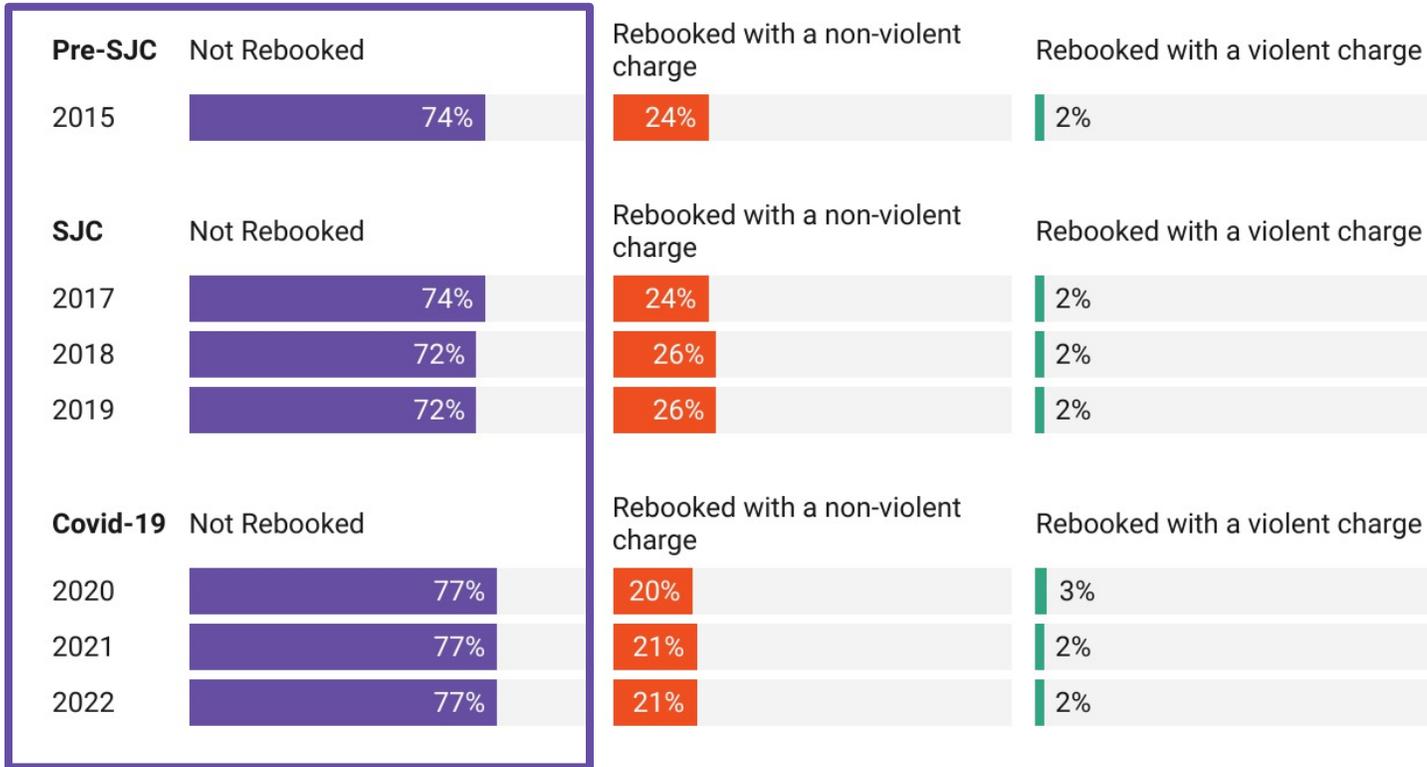


Between 2019 and 2020, incarceration rates declined across all SJC sites.

There was variation in changes in violent crime – both increases and declines.

Safely reducing jail populations is possible: people released pretrial were unlikely to return to jail for any reason.

Rebooking Outcomes of Individuals Released on Pretrial Status within Six Months (Average Across SJC Cities and Counties)

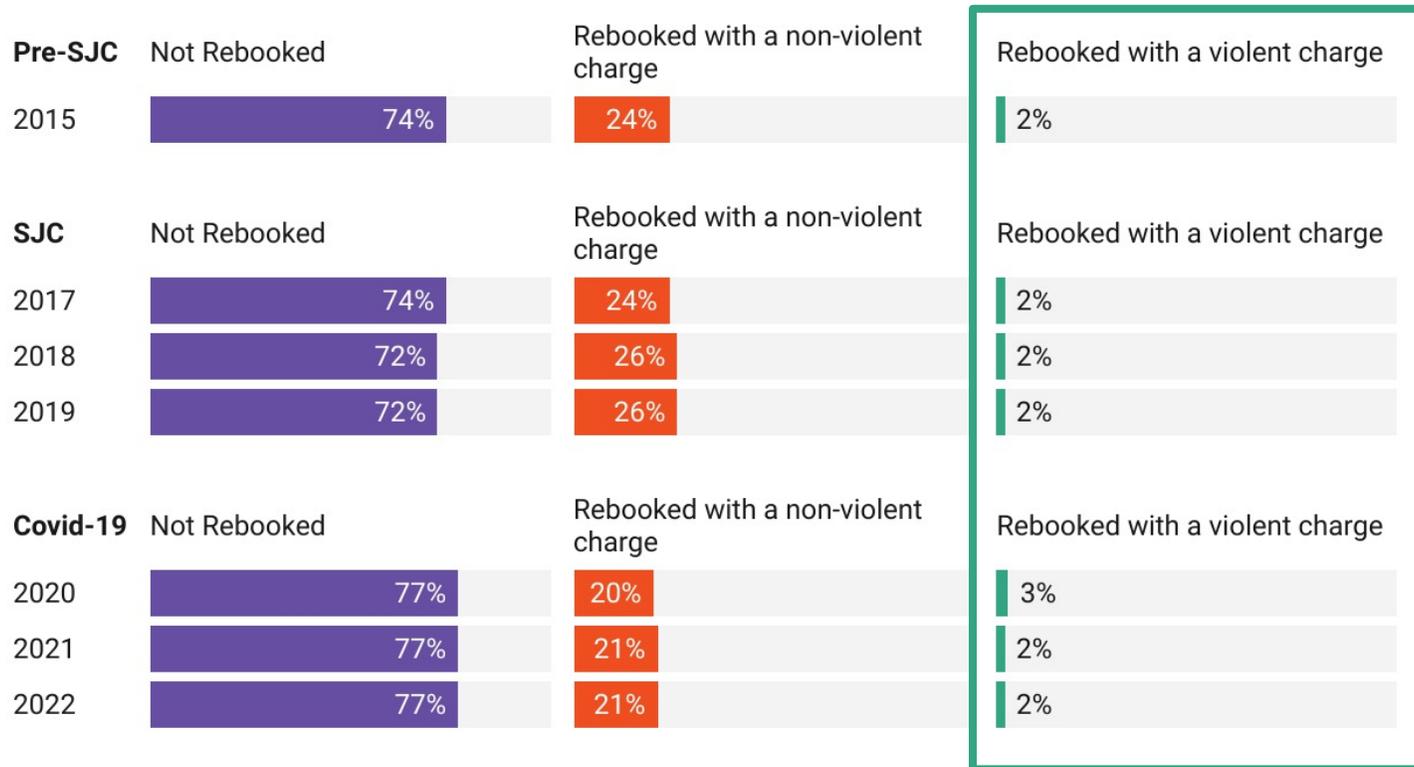


Most individuals released pretrial did not return to jail within six months.

Average across SJC cities and counties (outcomes tracked through April 2023). The 2022 rebooking outcomes are preliminarily and include 10 of 15 sites due to data availability.

Safely reducing jail populations is possible: people released pretrial were extremely unlikely to return for a violent charge.

Rebooking Outcomes of Individuals Released on Pretrial Status within Six Months (Average Across SJC Cities and Counties)



Very few people released pretrial were rebooked for a violent charge and that has not changed following reforms or the pandemic.

Average across SJC cities and counties (outcomes tracked through April 2023). The 2022 rebooking outcomes are preliminarily and include 10 of 15 sites due to data availability.

Of people who were released on pretrial status less than one percent were rebooked into jail on a homicide crime charge.

Homicide Charge Rebooking Outcomes of Individuals Released on Pretrial Status (Average Across SJC Cities Counties), 2015 to 2022

	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Average number of people released pretrial	7,854	8,996	9,141	8,804	6,535	6,873	6,235
Average number of people rebooked for homicide charge	6	6	7	6	6	4	2
Homicide rebooking %	0.0007%	0.0007%	0.0007%	0.0007%	0.0009%	0.0006%	0.0003%

Average across SJC cities and counties (outcomes tracked through April 2023).

*The 2022 rebooking outcomes are preliminarily and include 10 of 15 sites due to data availability.

Key Takeaways

- The recent uptick in violent crime took place across the nation—in cities pursuing criminal legal reform and those maintaining the status quo. More recent data shows the violent crime rate starting to decline from its recent peak.
- The consistent low rebooking outcomes for SJC cities and suggest that informed jail reform efforts did not drive the increase in violent crimes and homicides.
- Advancing equitable and thoughtful criminal legal reform is possible without compromising safety. To suggest otherwise without evidence undermines the harms of incarceration on individuals, their families, and communities.

Reflections and Discussion



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