



ADULT GENERAL DISPROPORTIONALITY REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019

CASELOAD FORECAST COUNCIL



Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force
April 16, 2020

Report Overview

- Required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6032, the 2018 Legislature directed the CFC to submit an annual General Disproportionality Report containing the following information:
 - Percentages based on total number of adult felony sentences by each crime category, distributed by race;
 - Percentages based on total number of adult felony sentences reduced to misdemeanors in each crime category, distributed by race;
 - Percentages of Washington State at-risk population (ages 18-54) by race;
 - A list of felony offenses in each crime forecasting category; and
 - Limitations in the data

Data Sources

- Caseload Forecast Council's Sentencing Database
 - Race as contained in the CFC's Adult Felony Sentence Database
 - State-wide felony sentences imposed in Fiscal Year 2019
 - An individual's race is recorded as it is listed on the county's Judgment and Sentence form

- Administrative Office of the Courts
 - Gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor data imposed in Fiscal Year 2019 was used to calculate percentages of reduced adult felony sentences

- Office of Financial Management
 - Washington State Race Distribution information is data from the 2019 OFM Population Forecast for 2018, excluding the category for two or more races as there is not a comparable group in the sentencing data

Report Overview

- Disproportionality – The degree to which the demographic composition of adults who have been convicted of a felony differ from that of the general population.

- Adult Sentencing Disproportionality Ratio Calculation:

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\% \text{ racial group in sentencing}}{\% \text{ racial group in the Washington state population}}$$

- A ratio lower than one means that a racial group's proportion of the total felony sentences is lower than the racial group's proportion of total WA state population.
- A ratio higher than one means that a racial group's proportion of the total felony sentences is higher than the racial group's proportion of total WA state population.
- A ratio equal to one means that the proportion of sentences to the total population is equal.

Summary Data

- Total FY 2019 adult felony sentences imposed: 24,257
- By Offense Type:
 - Property – 32.6%
 - Drugs – 27.9%
 - Assaults – 20.2%
 - Other felonies – 10.9%
 - Sex – 4.4%
 - Robbery – 1.9%
 - Fail to Register, Sex offense – 1.1%
 - Manslaughter – 0.4%
 - Murder 1 & 2 – 0.5%
- Racial Distribution: Adult Felony Sentences/[State Population \(OFM\)](#):
 - Caucasian – 73% (72%)
 - African American – 13% (3%)
 - Hispanic* – 8% (14%)
 - Native American – 3% (1%)
 - Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander – 3% (9%)

**Hispanic is categorized as a race in CFC data, not as ethnicity*

Trends in Disproportionality in Felony Sentencing Data

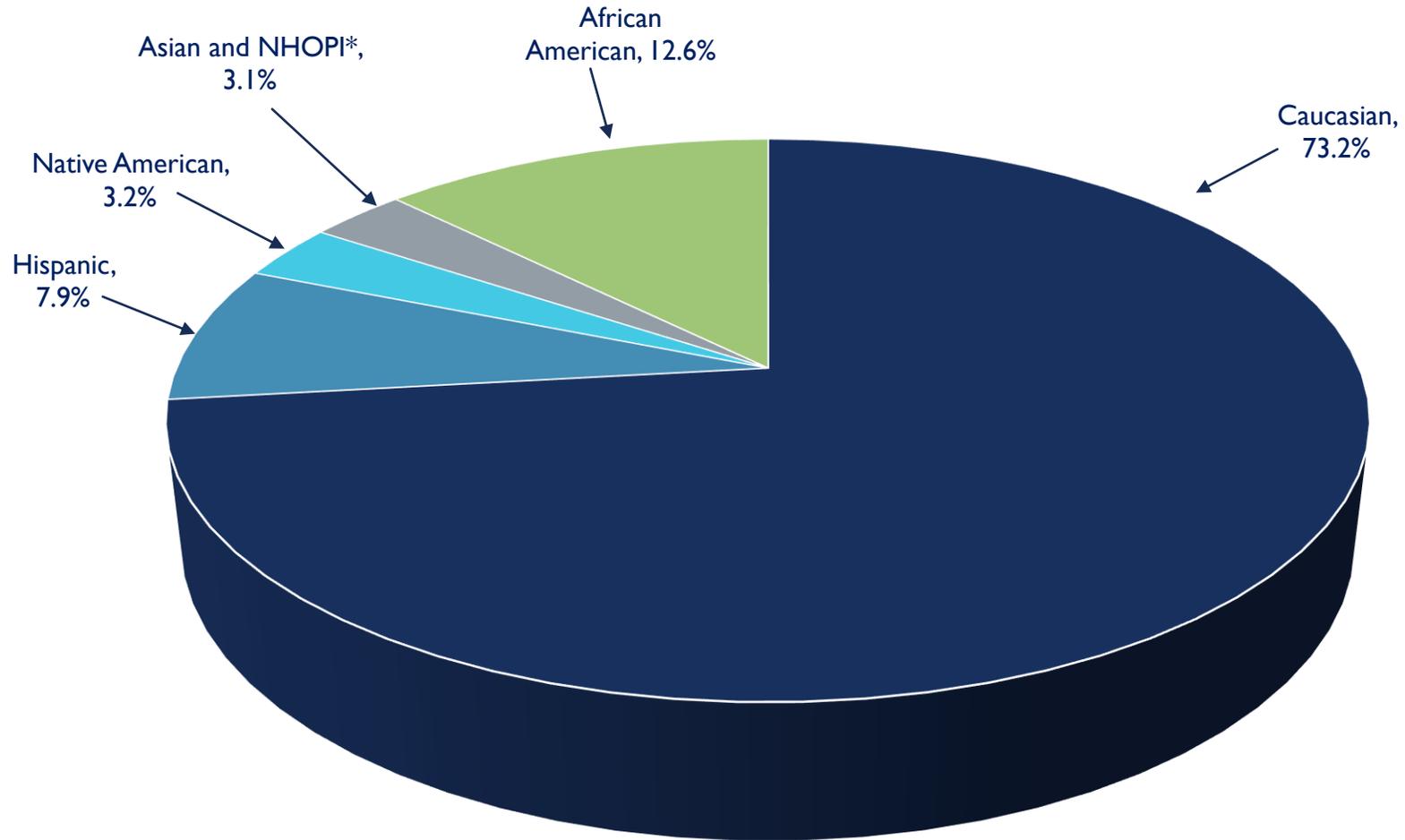
- African American/Native American:
 - Ratios higher than one in all categories

- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander & Hispanic
 - Ratios lower than one in all categories

- Caucasian:
 - Ratios close to one for all categories

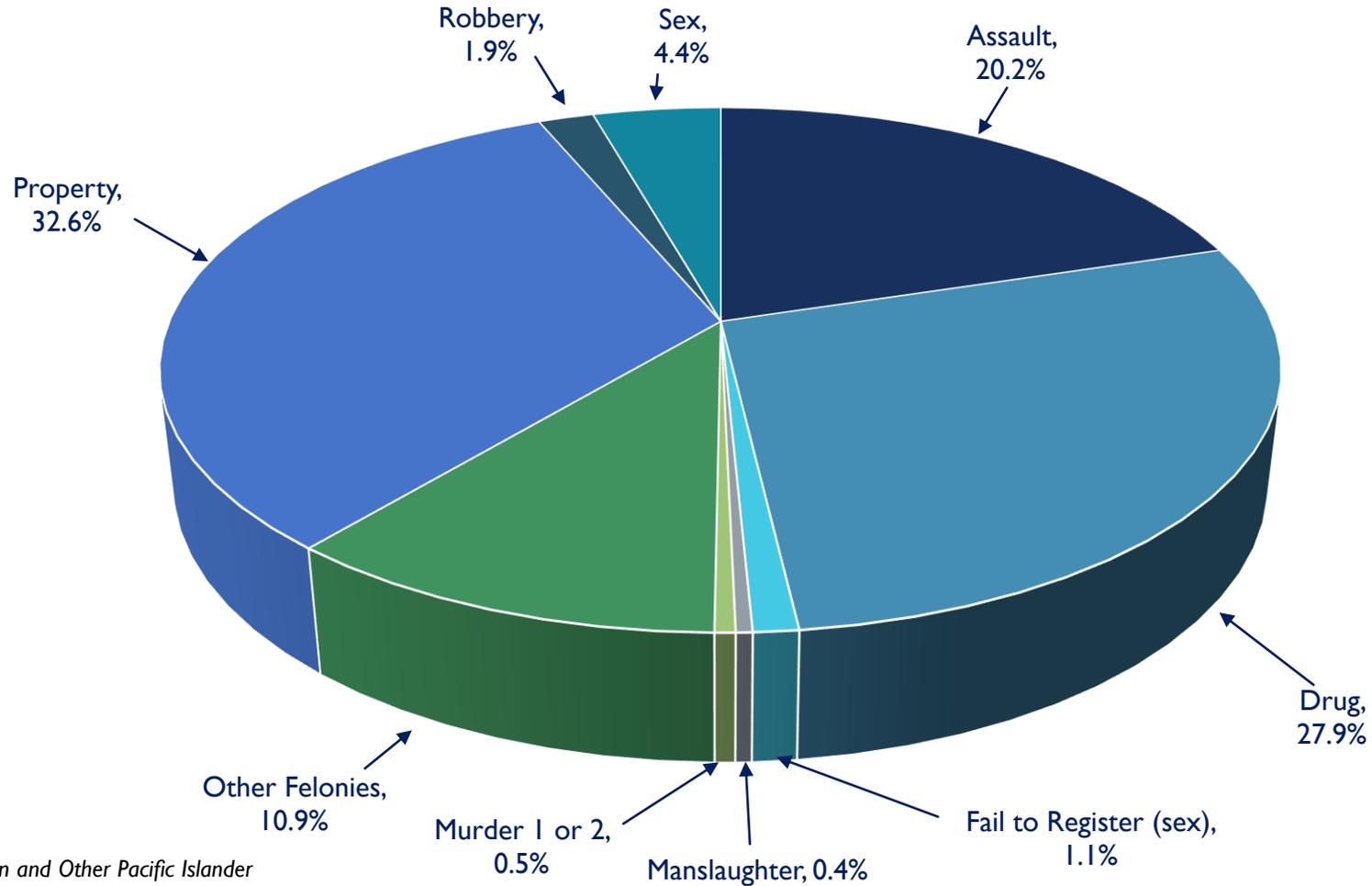
* *Categories: adult sentences vs. population, adult sentences vs. at-risk-age population, and felonies reduced to misdemeanor/gross misdemeanors*

Racial Distribution - Adult Felony Sentences (all ages)



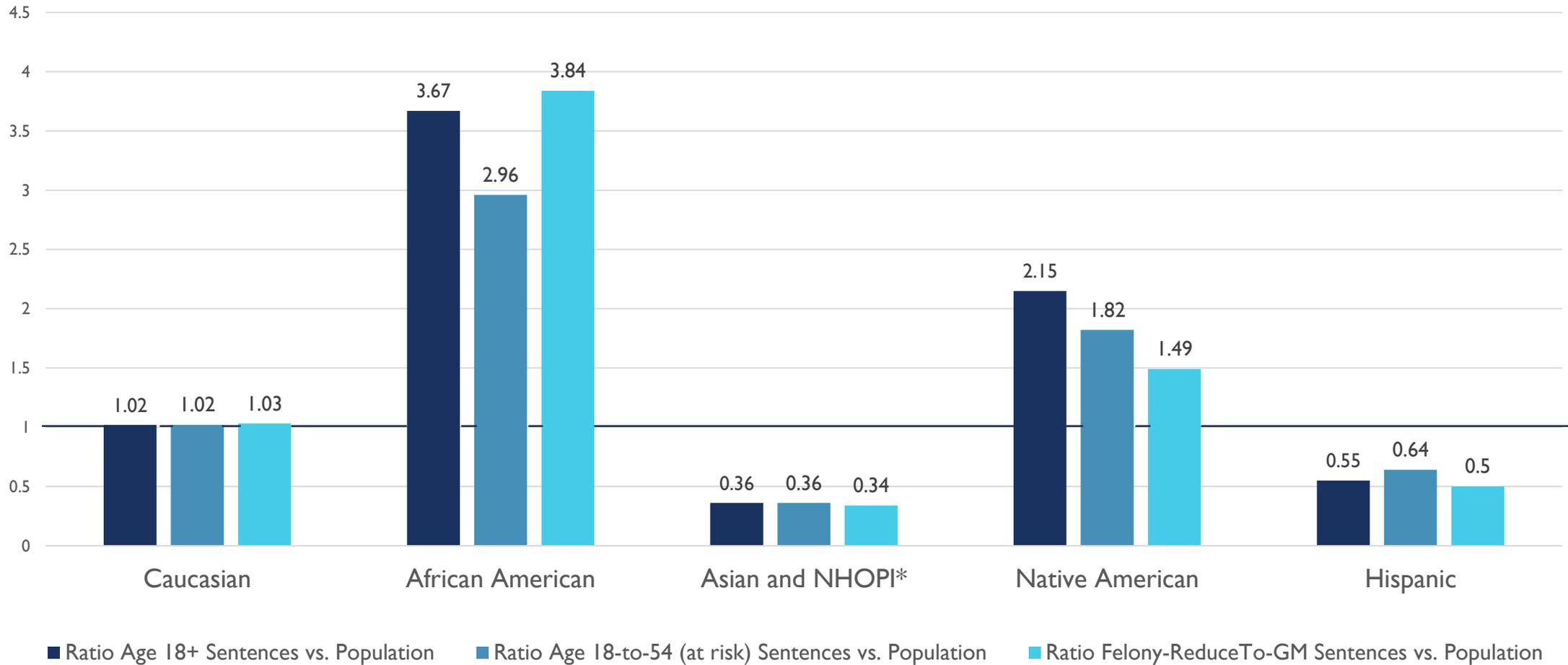
* Including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Crime Categories- Adult Felony Sentences (all ages)



* Including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Comparison of all Ratios



* Including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander