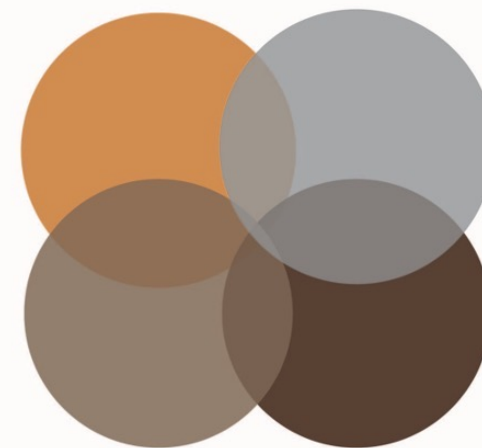


# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE IS NOT INCARCERATED?

Amy Smoyer, Southern CT State University, New Haven, CT

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 10:00 am – 11:15 am

Massachusetts Room



**SHAWN**



The 35th

**National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS**

**"35 Years Strong: How Social Work Will End the Epidemic"**

MAY 24-27, 2023

More  
PASWH

COLLABORATIVE  
SOLUTIONS

GILEAD

# Today's Agenda

10:00 – 11:15

## **10:00 – 10:15:** Part I, Introductions

- Who is in the room? (Padlet)
- HIV in CT and New Haven

## **10:15 – 10:35:** Part II, Criminal Legal Systems & Women's HIV Risk

- Policy & Discretion
- Mapping Exercise

## **10:35 – 10:55:** Part III, SHAWN

- Criminal Legal Changes during COVID
- Impact of these changes on Women's HIV Risk Behavior
- Long Term Implications

## **10:55 – 11:15:** Part IV

### **How Social Work Will End the HIV Epidemic:** Prison Abolition as HIV Prevention

- Public Policy & Community Organizing in CT
- Group Discussion



## Part I

Introductions:  
Who is in the  
room?

### Padlet Icebreaker

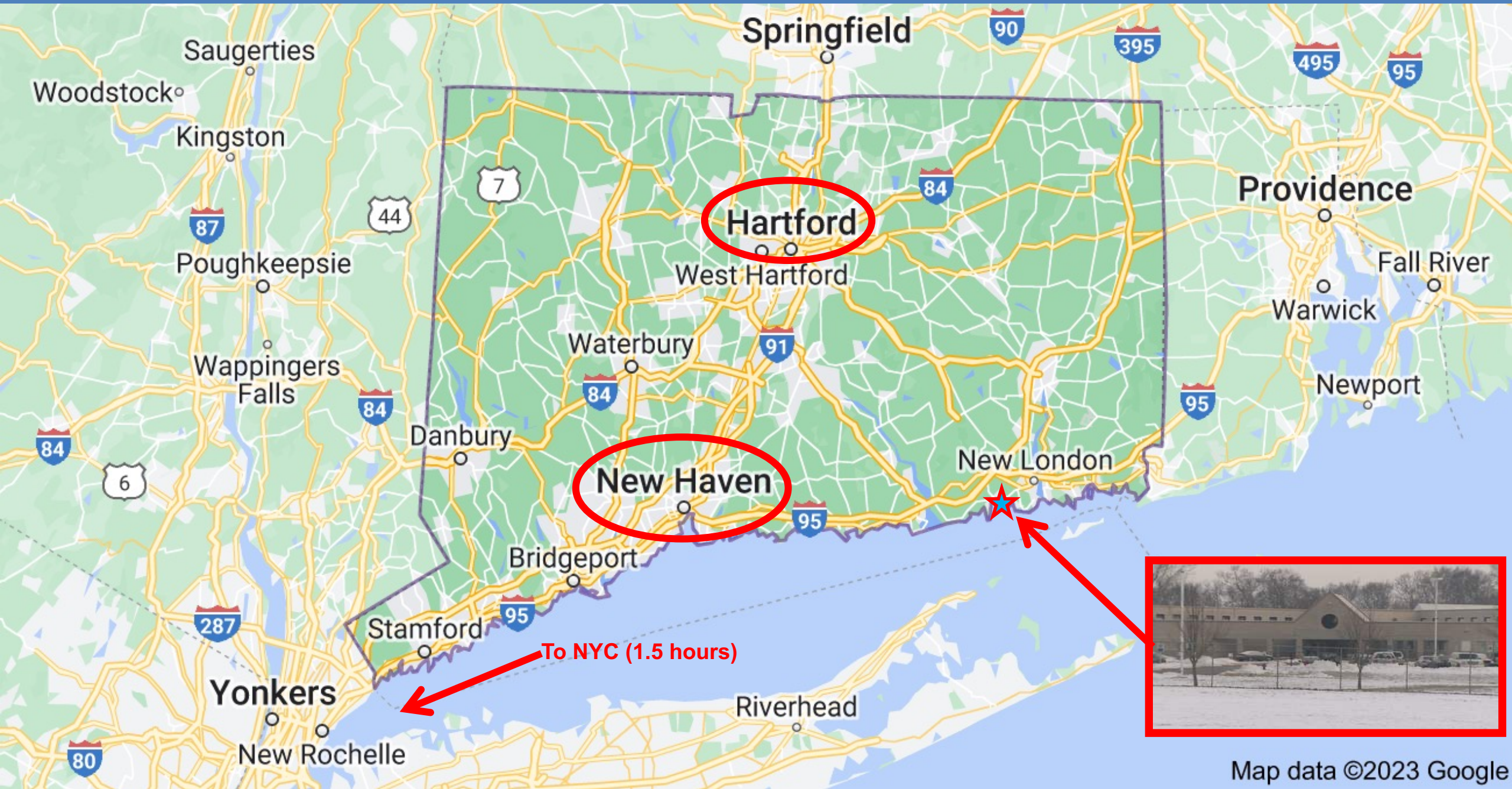
- Name, Pronouns
- Where you are currently living/working
- Social work practice focus
- Questions/Ideas for Today



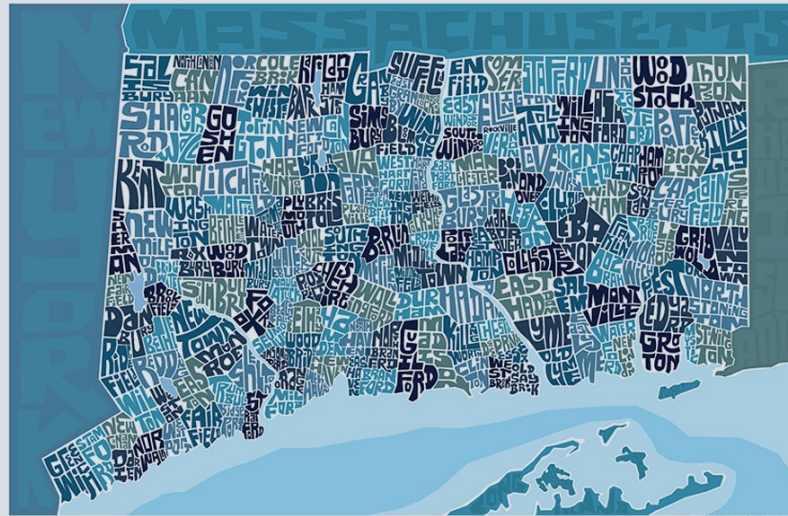
# Southern CT State University

- Public, State-Funded University
  - Tuition = \$12,000/year + Housing
- 7,000 students, primarily undergraduates
- University of Access
- Social Justice Mission
- Historically White Institution
- SWK Program = BSW, MSW & DSW





Sources:  
DPH & Data  
Haven



CONNECTICUT

## Epidemiologic Profile of HIV

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
TB, HIV, STD & Viral Hepatitis Section  
HIV Surveillance Program  
2021



GREATER NEW HAVEN

# Community Wellbeing Index 2023

**30** DataHaven  
The Thirtieth Year

Indicators of well-being, equity, and quality of life in Greater New Haven neighborhoods

A CORE PROGRAM OF

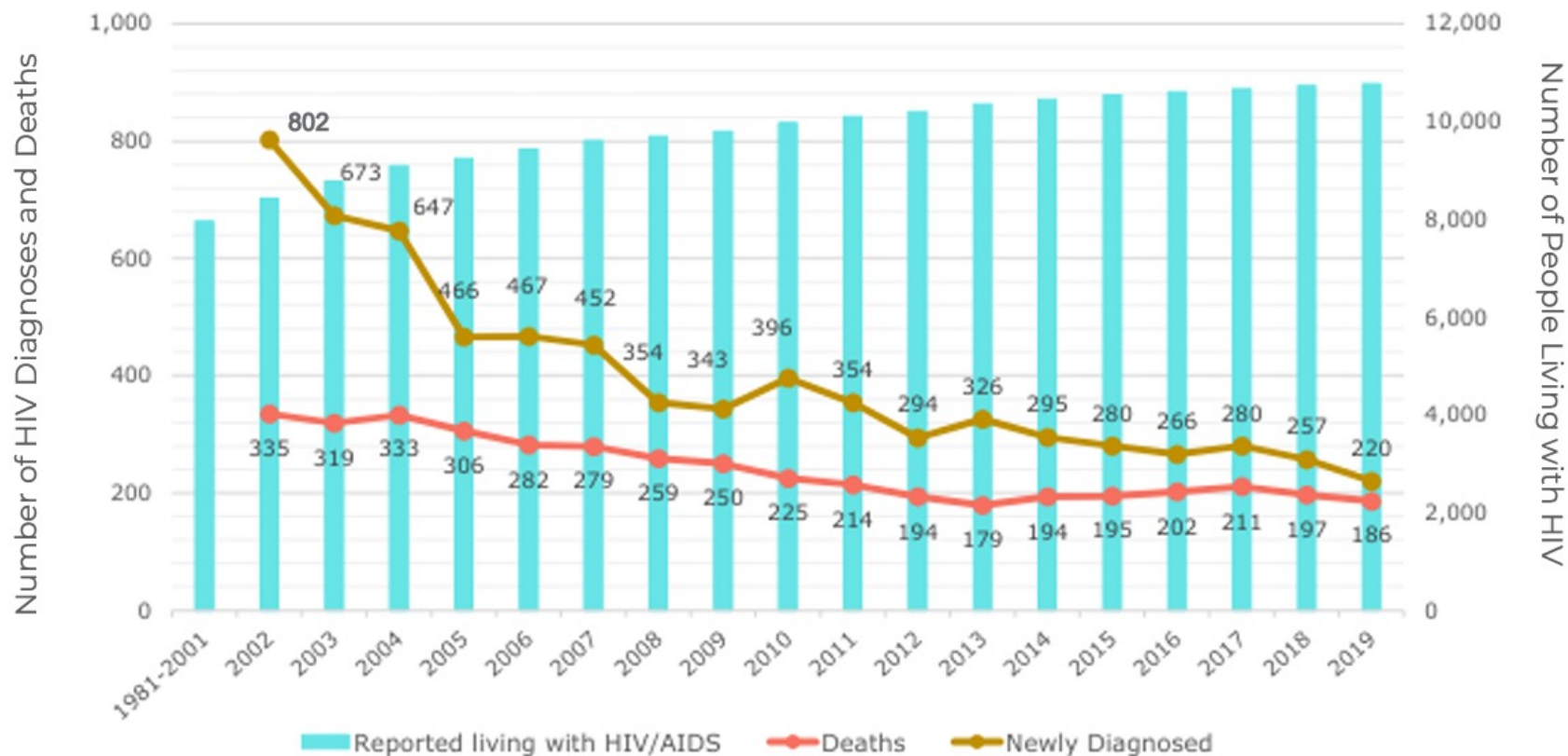
**DataHaven**

In collaboration with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and a Community Health Needs Assessment for the towns served by Yale New Haven Hospital and other regional healthcare providers





Figure 5: Total HIV and AIDS Reported, Newly Diagnosed, and Deaths Connecticut 1981-2019



In the first 20 years of the HIV epidemic (1981 to 2001), 14,848 people were reported to the DPH with HIV or AIDS and 6,898 (46%) have died.

Overall, there have been 22,019 people reported with HIV or AIDS diagnoses and over 11,000 people with HIV have died.



Figure 32: HIV Continuum of Care, 2019

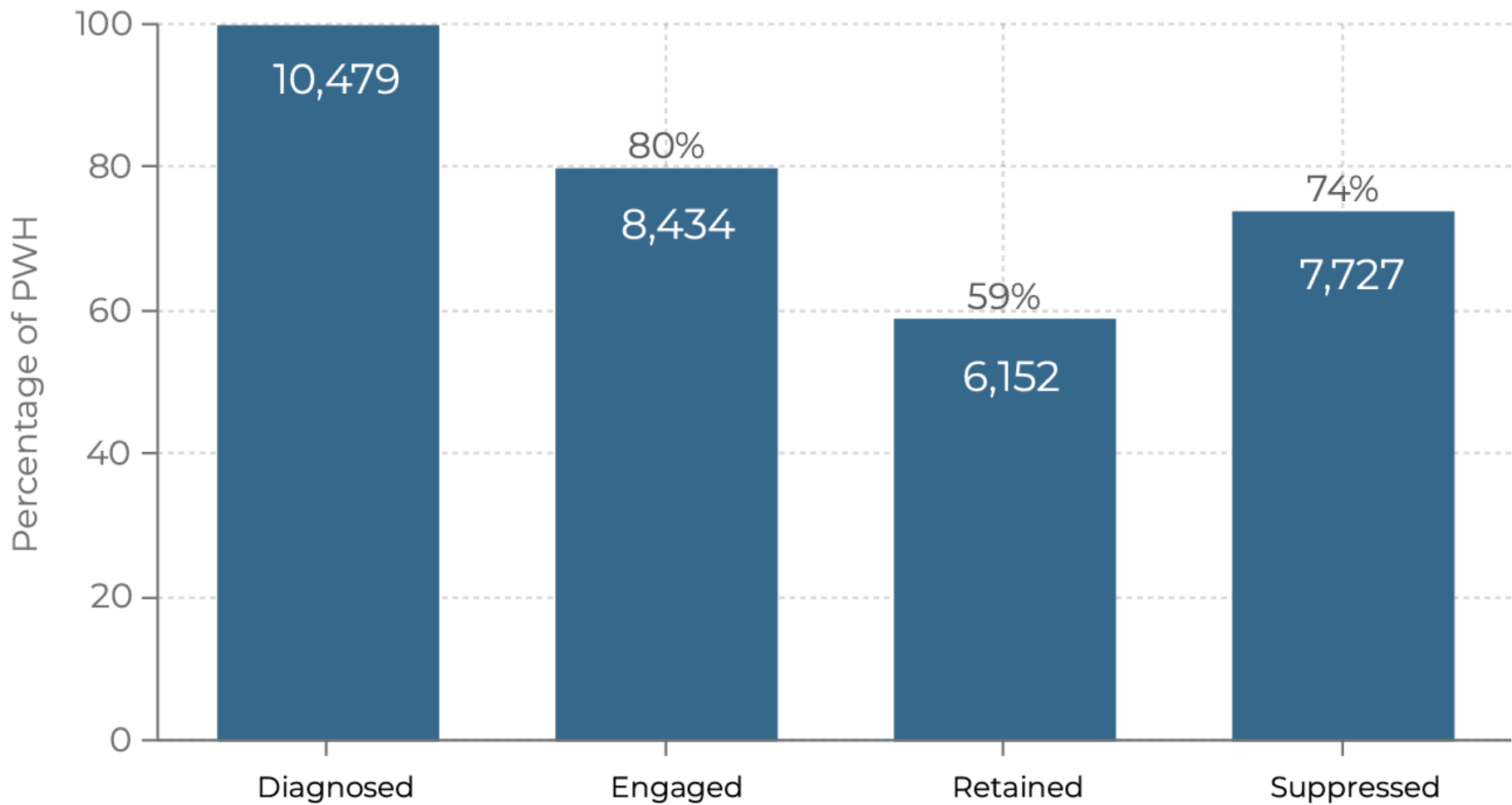




Figure 24: Prevalent HIV Infection by Residence at Diagnosis, Connecticut, 2019

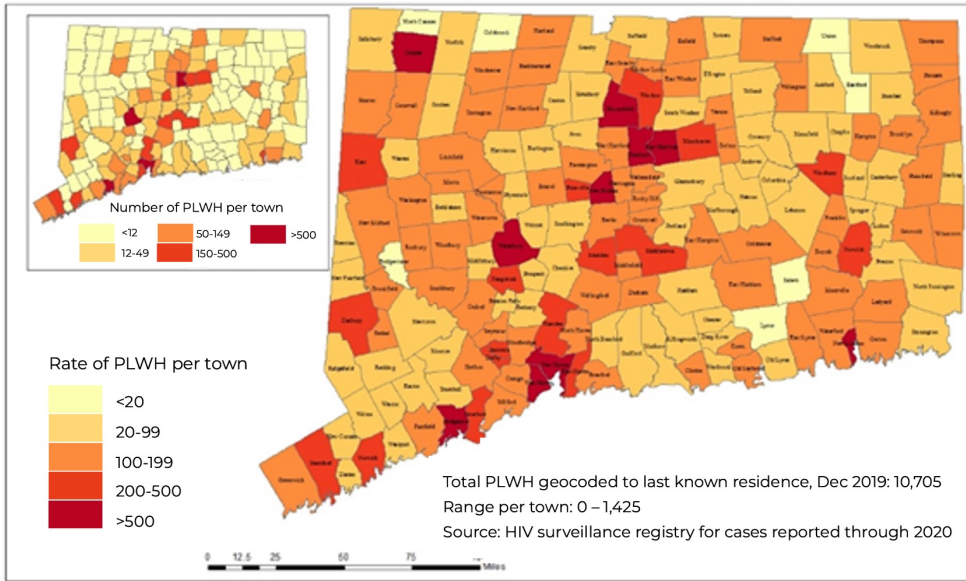


Figure 17: New HIV diagnoses by Town of Residence, Connecticut, 2019

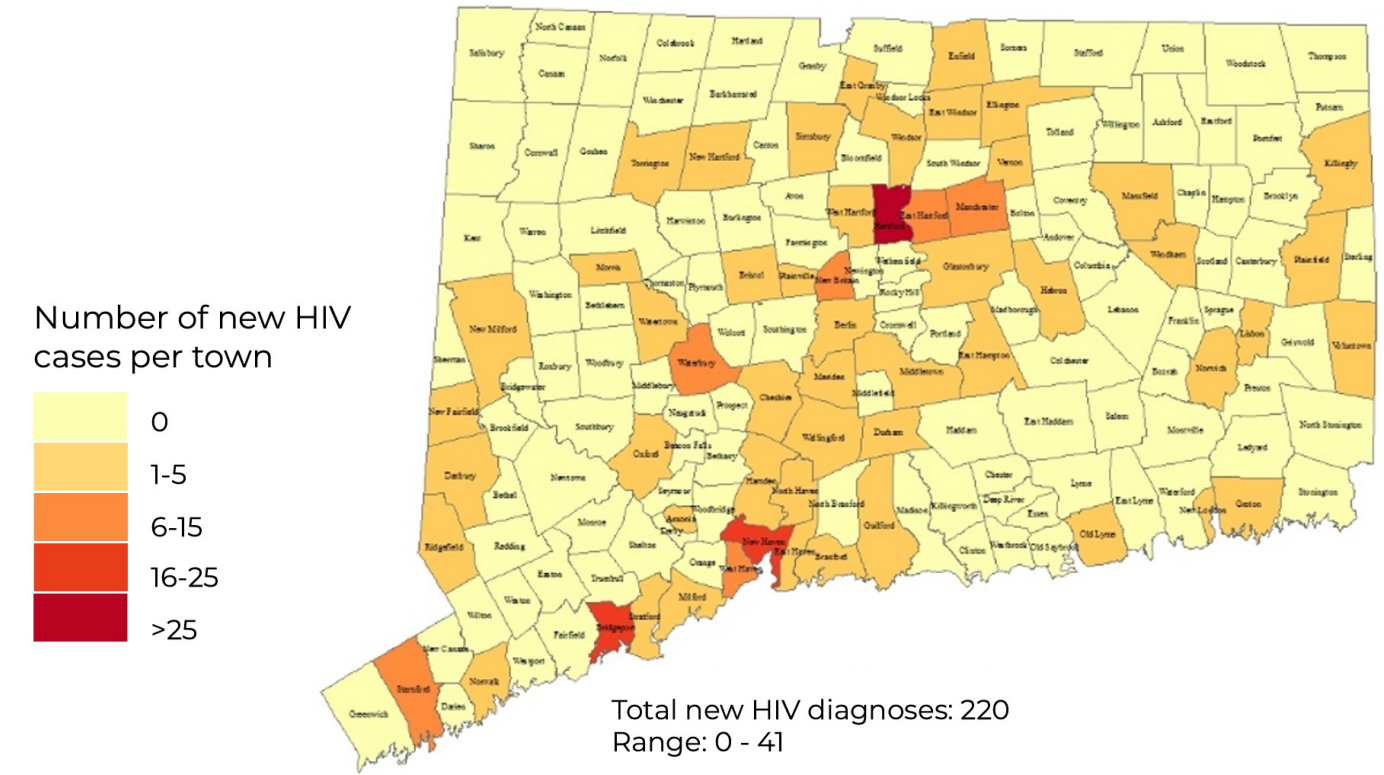
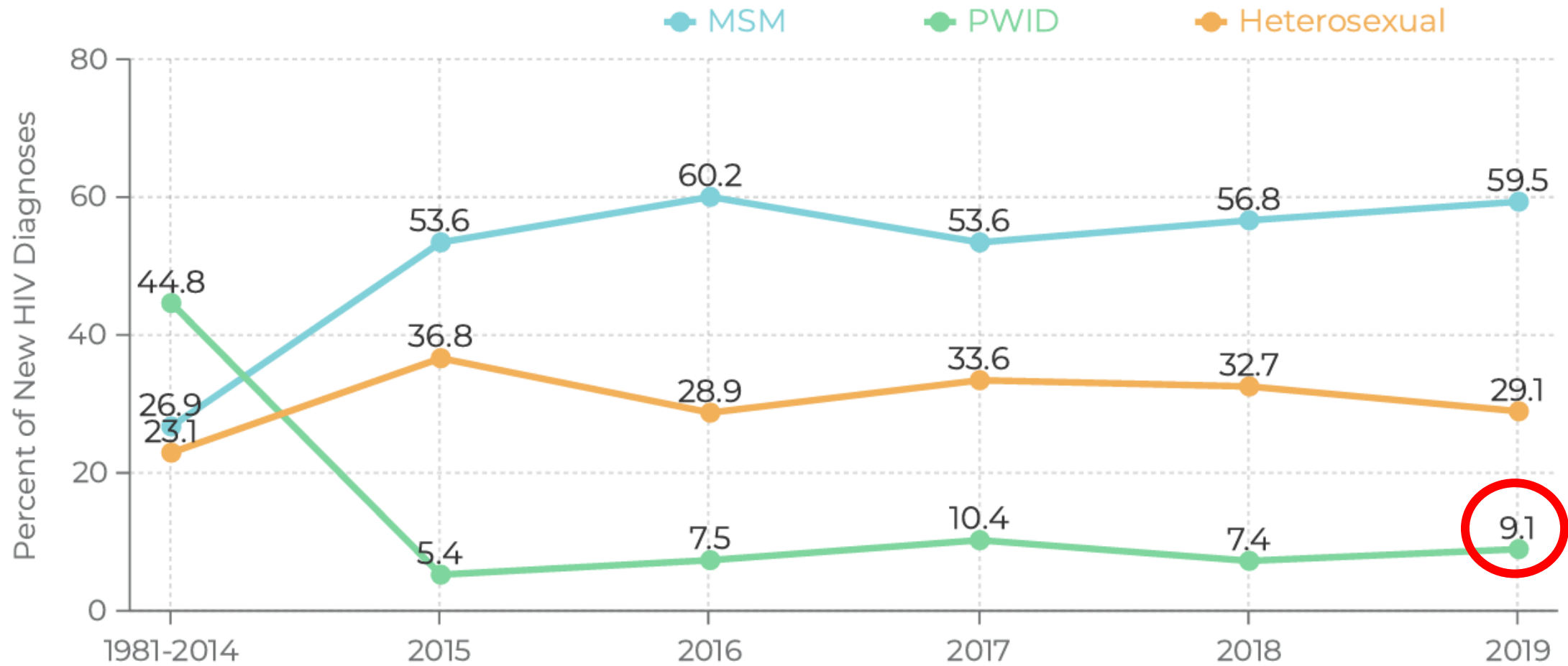


Figure 15: Trend in New HIV Diagnoses by Transmission Category (N=21,724), Connecticut, 1981–2019



# Women & HIV in Connecticut

Figure 10: Number of New HIV Diagnoses by Gender, Connecticut, 2015-2019

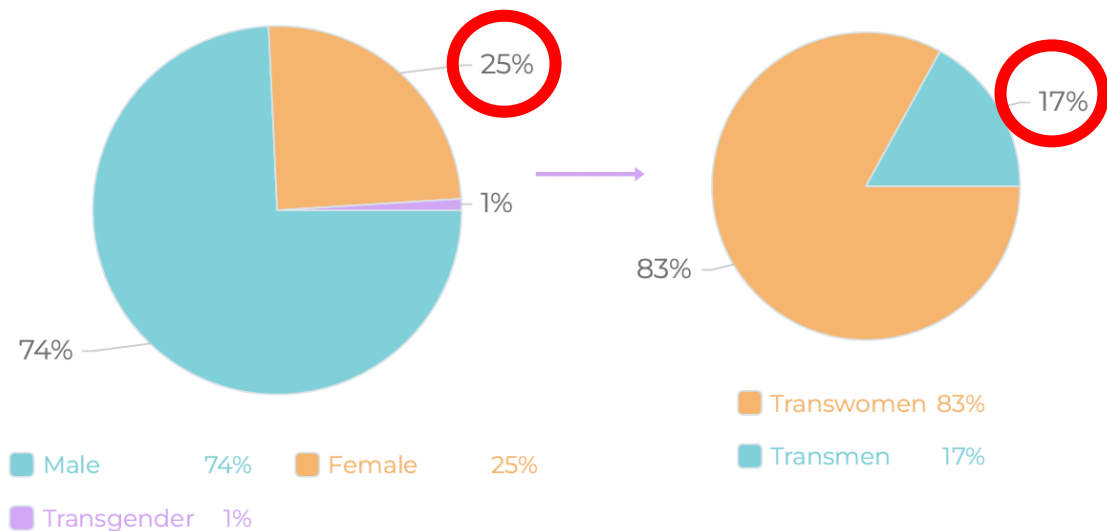


Figure 11: Rate of New HIV Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Sex at Birth, Connecticut, 2019

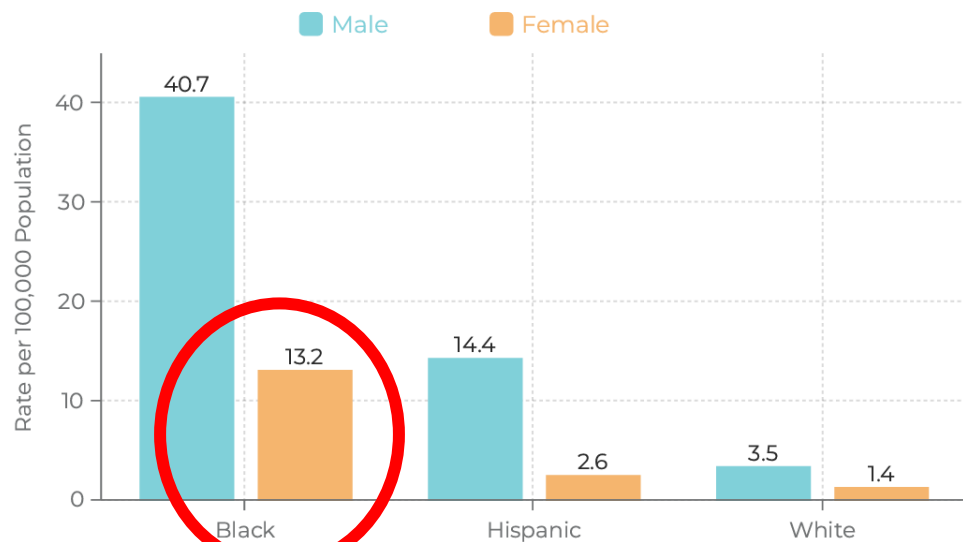


Figure 13: Rates of New HIV Diagnoses HIV in Females by Age-group, 5-Year Trends, Connecticut, 2015-2019

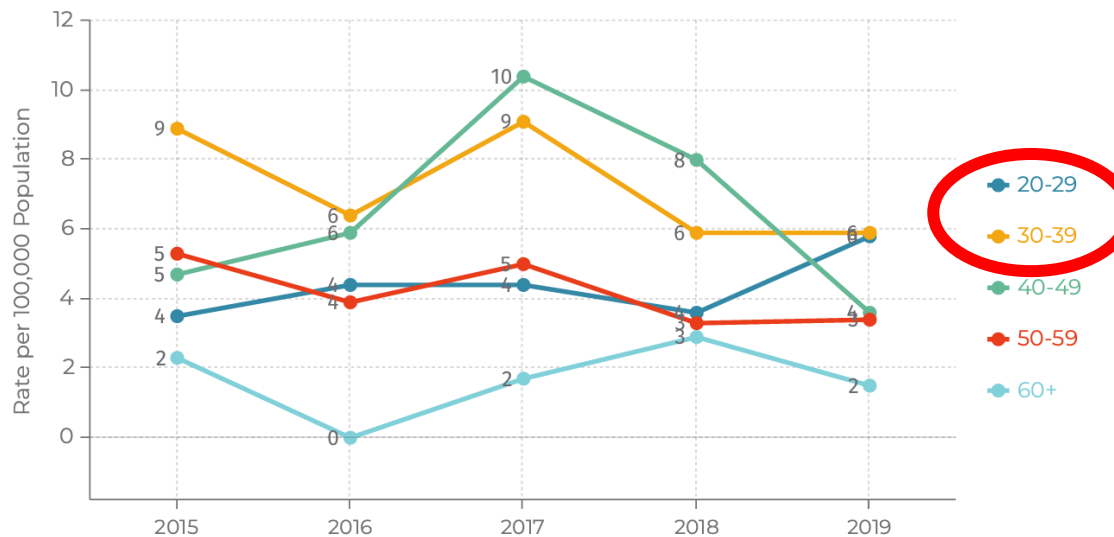


Figure 14: Rate of New HIV Diagnoses by Race, Sex at Birth, and Age-group, Connecticut, 2015-2019

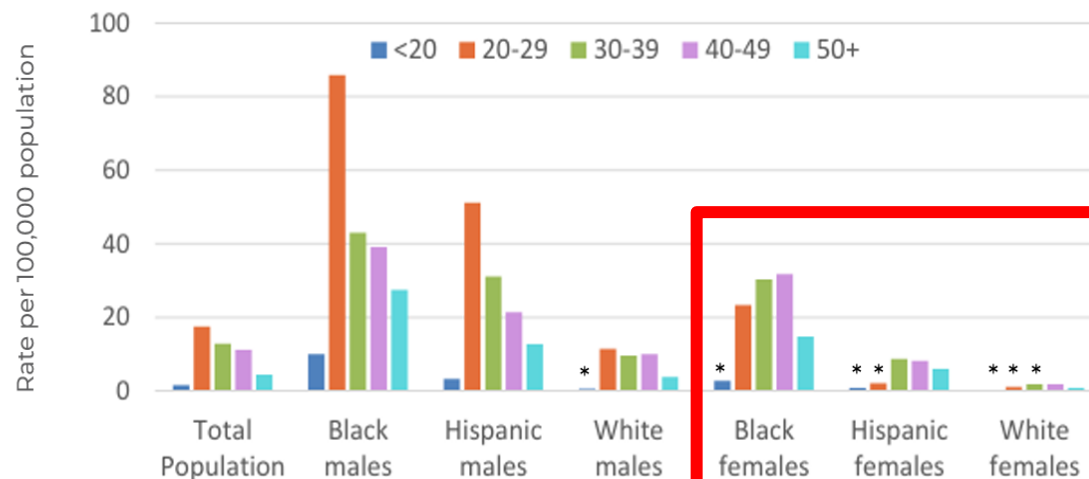
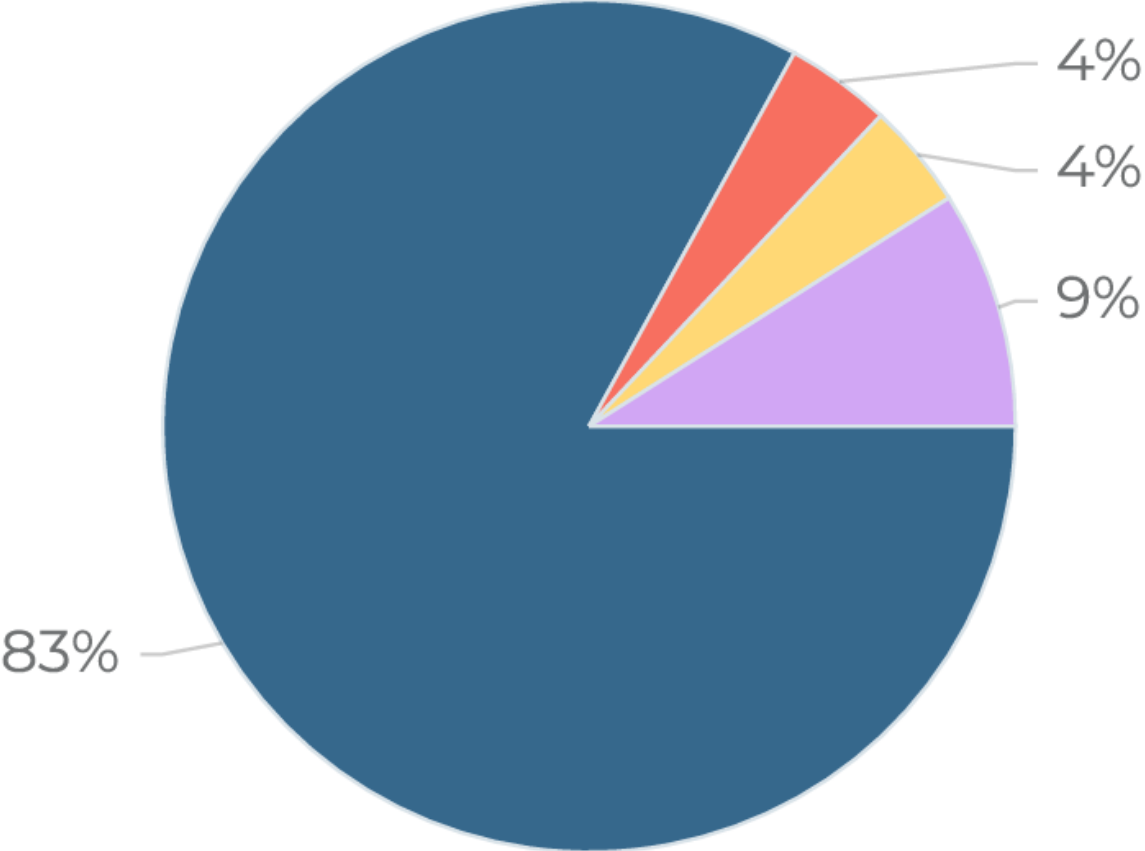
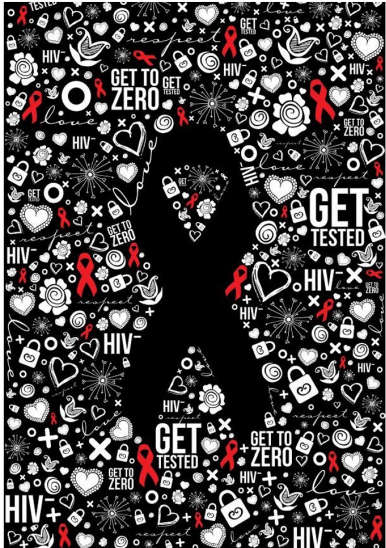


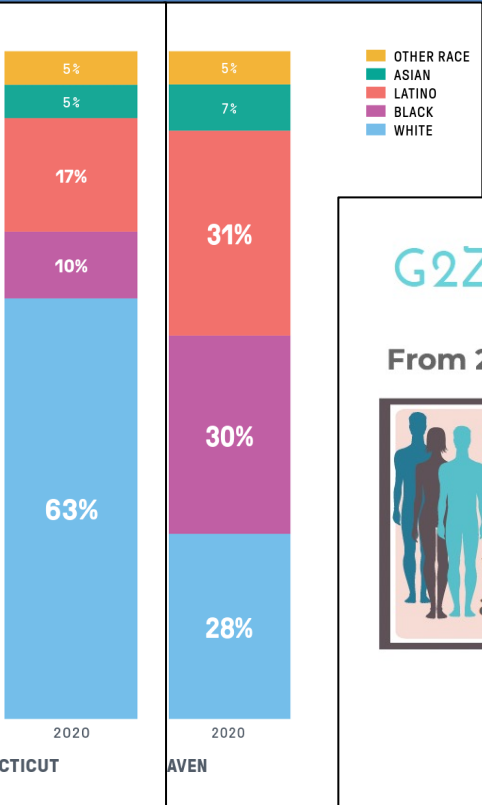
Figure 43: PrEP Initiated Clients (N=656) by Current Gender, DPH-funded Organizations, 2019



Male	83%
Female	4%
Transmen	4%
Transwomen	9%

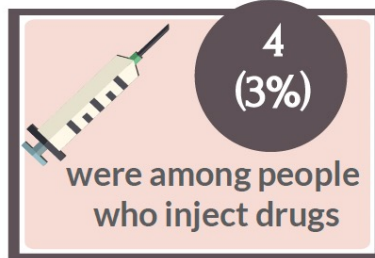
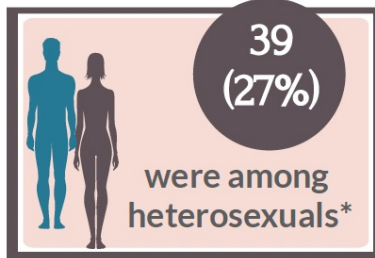
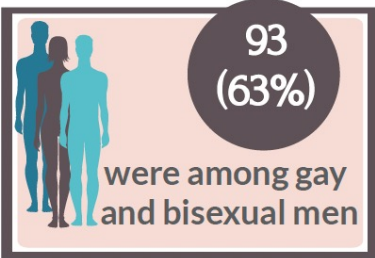


# New Haven



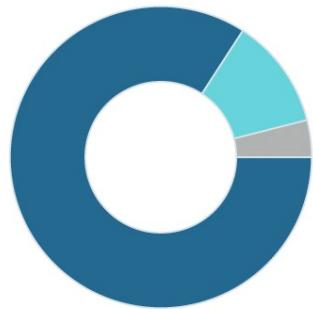
## G2Z - New Haven, 2015-2019

From 2015 through 2019, 147 new HIV infections were reported to DPH.



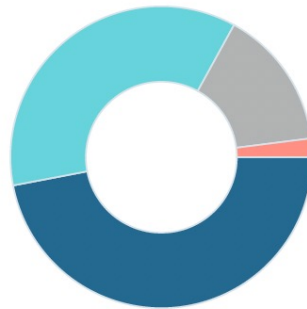
\* includes presumed heterosexual contact

### Newly Diagnosed Females, N=26



- Black females 84%
- Hispanic Females 12%
- White females 4%
- Other race females 0%

### Newly Diagnosed MSM, N=93



- Black MSM 47%
- Hispanic MSM 36%
- White MSM 15%
- Other race MSM 2%

## Community Index scores vary by town within Greater New Haven

INDEX SCORE BY TOWN, 2020

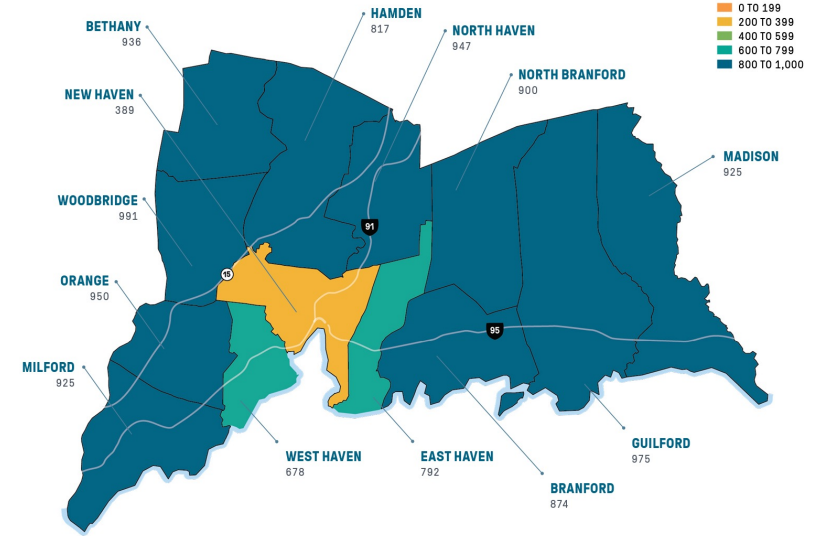
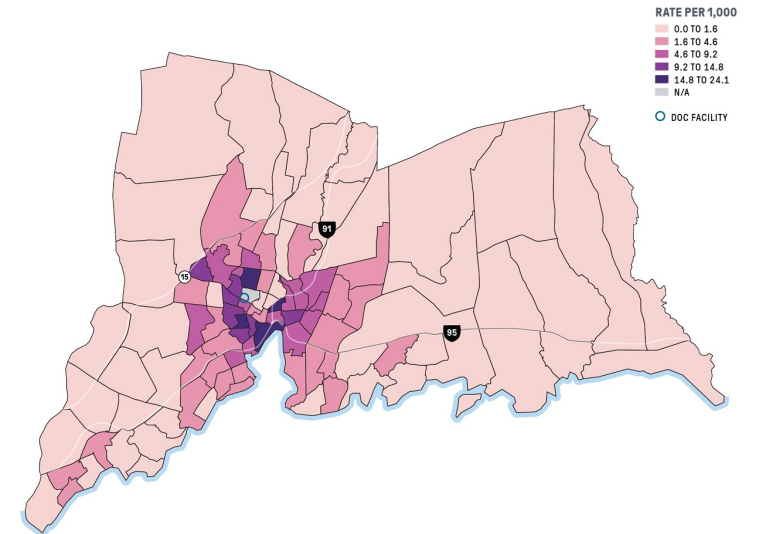


FIGURE 8D

**In some neighborhoods, more than 1 in 100 residents are incarcerated and counted as living elsewhere**

ESTIMATED INCARCERATION RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE BY TRACT OF RESIDENCE, GREATER NEW HAVEN, 2020, WITH CT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC) FACILITIES



## Part II

# Criminal Legal Systems & Women's HIV Risk

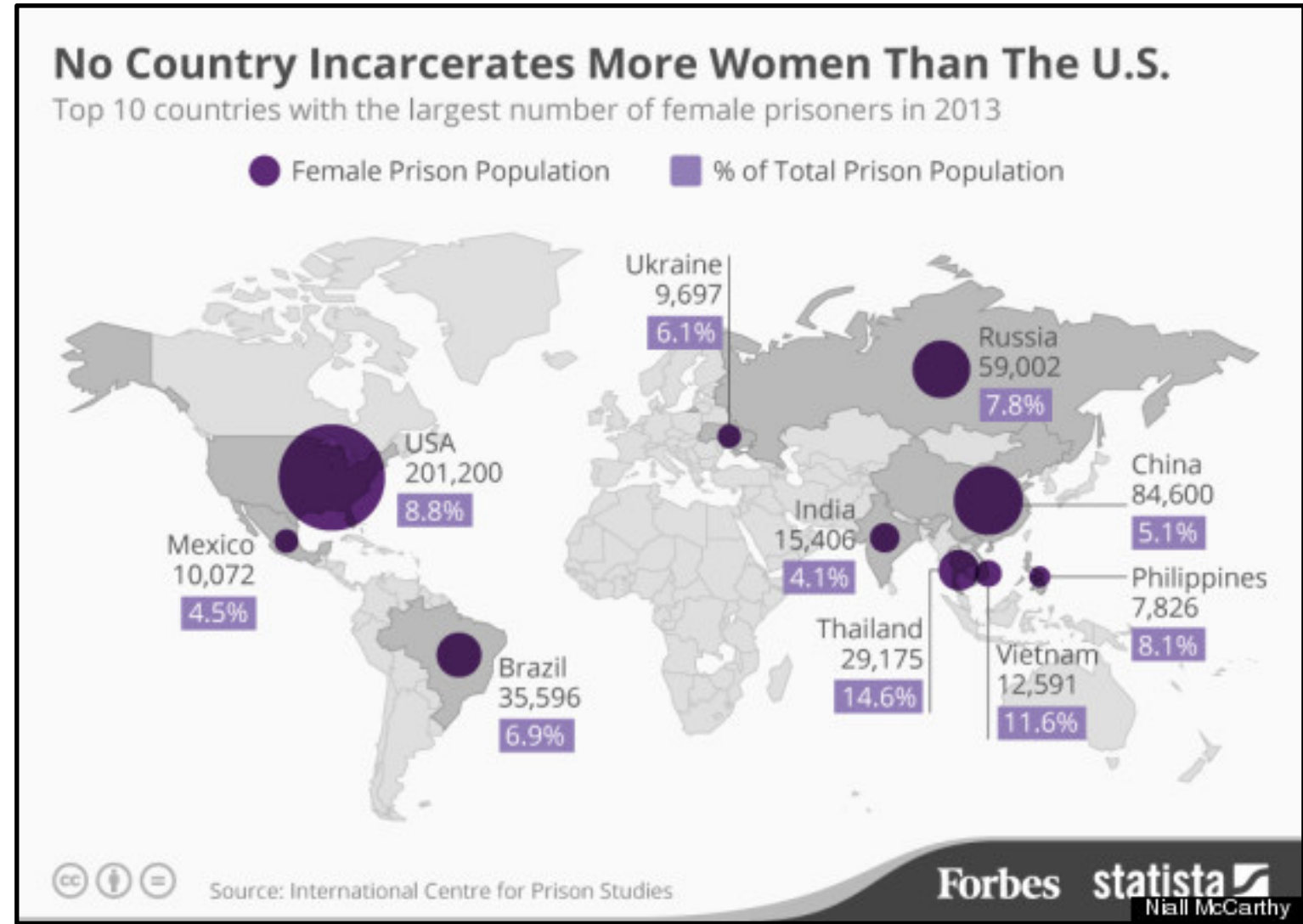


# Mind Mapping

What are criminal-legal systems?



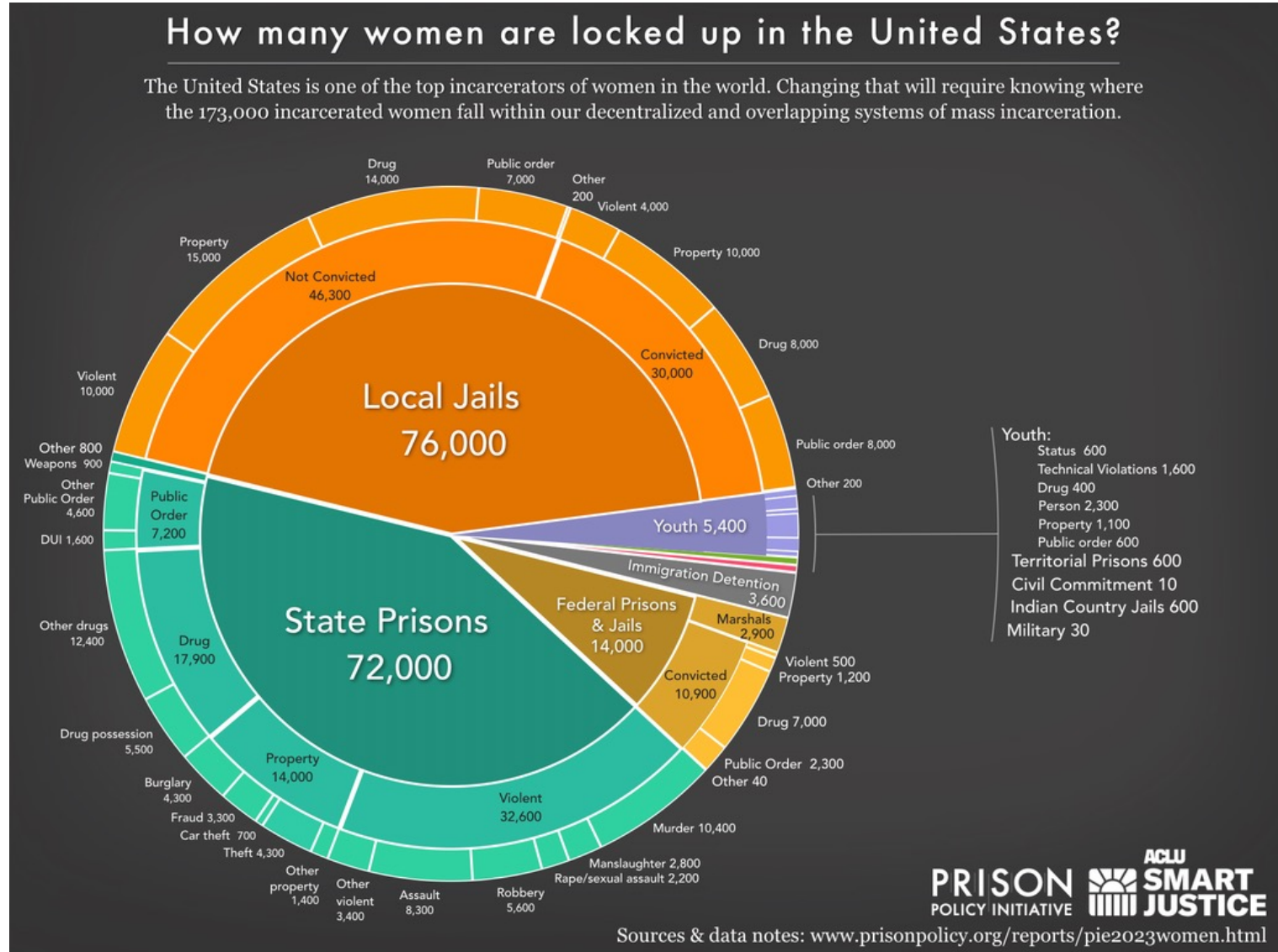
# Women Incarcerated Globally





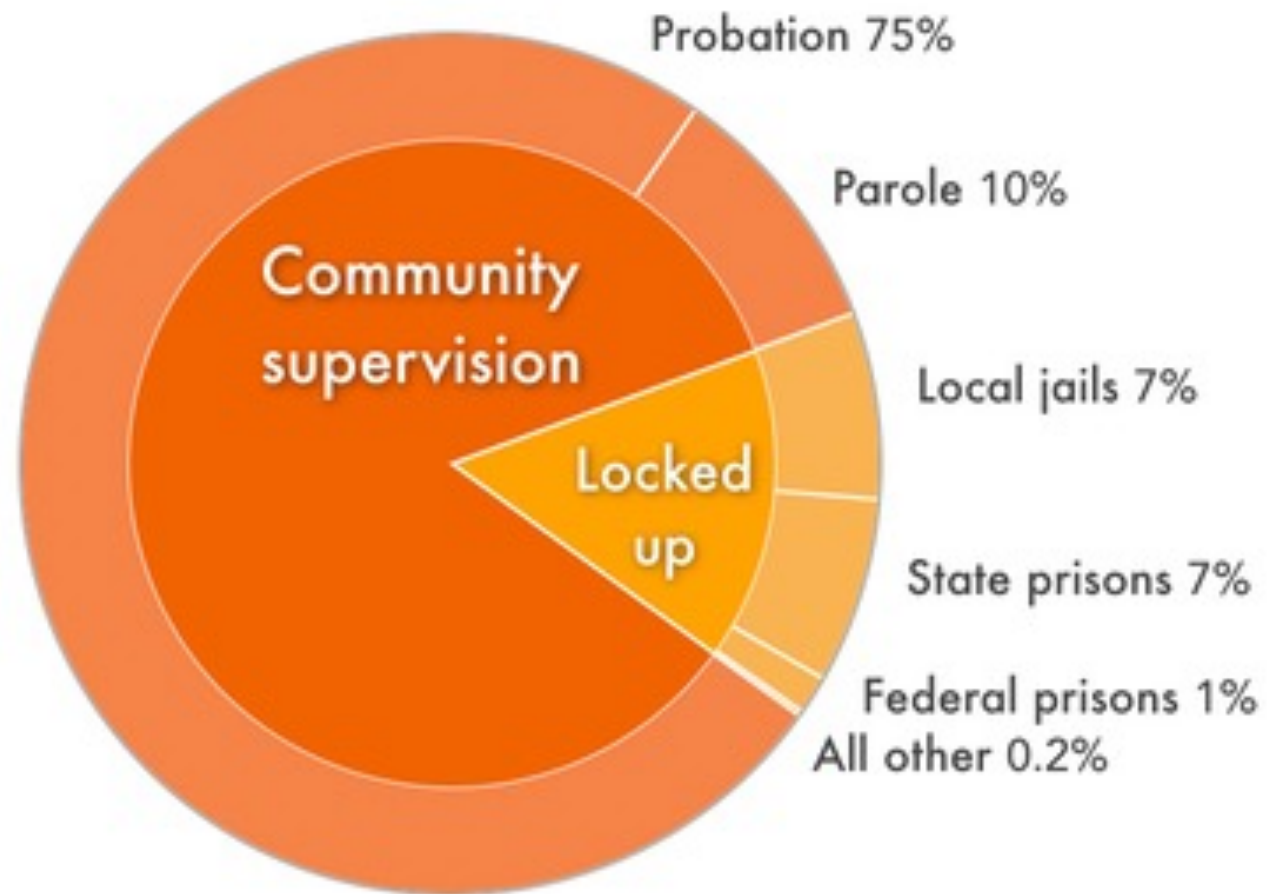
200,000  
Women  
Incarcerated

Jail/Prison =  
50/50



800,000  
women on  
parole or  
probation

## Correctional control of women

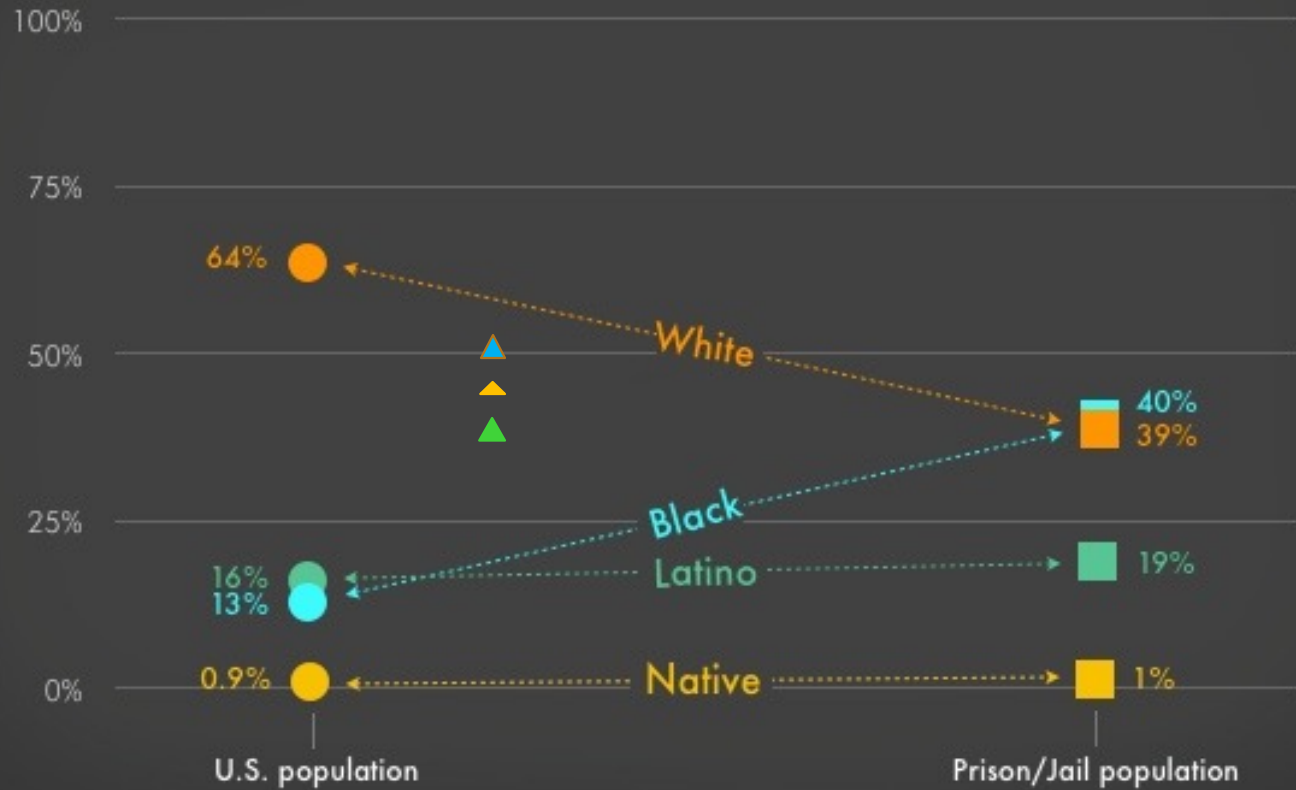


Incarcerated  
People:

Race & Ethnic  
Disparity

## Racial and ethnic disparities in prisons and jails

Whites are underrepresented in the incarcerated population while Blacks are overrepresented.



# Incarcerated Women:

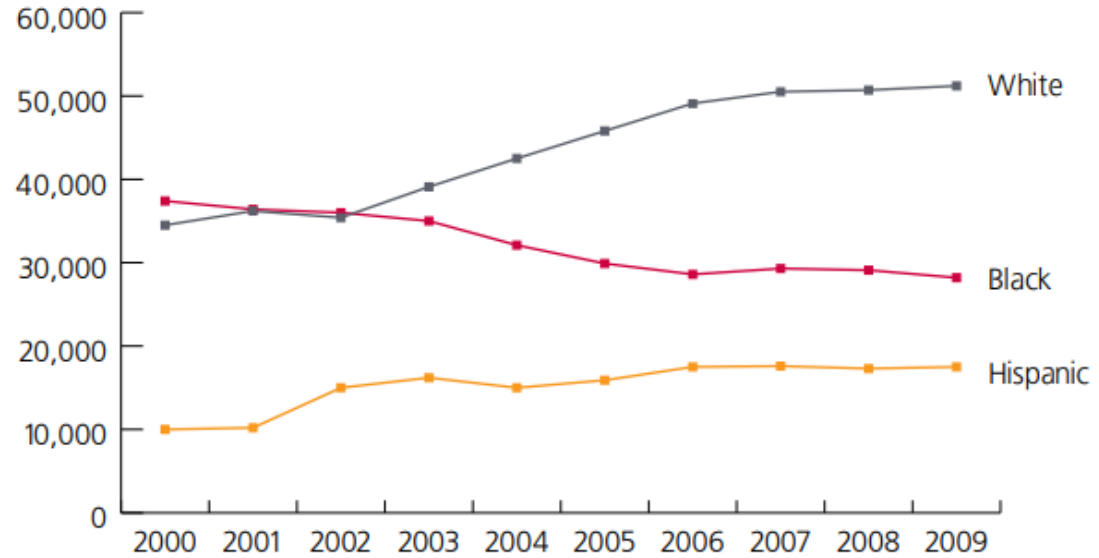
# Race & Ethnic Disparity

THE CHANGING RACIAL DYNAMICS OF WOMEN'S INCARCERATION



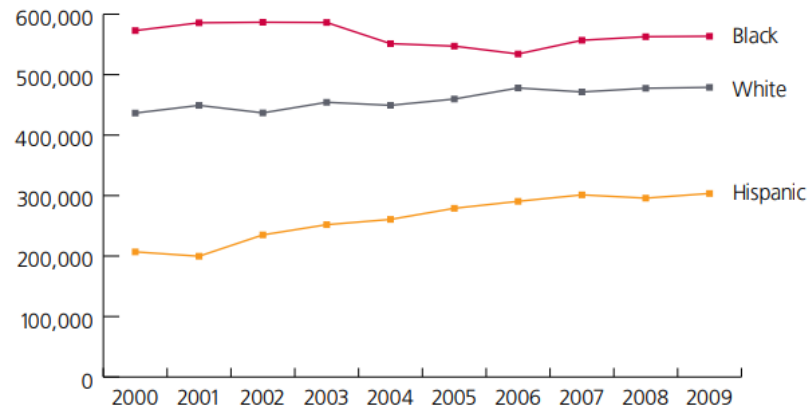
## The Changing Racial Dynamics of Women's Incarceration

Figure 2. Number of female inmates, by race, 2000-2009



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2010*

Figure 1. Number of male inmates, by race, 2000-2009



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2010*

# Incarcerated Women:

# Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

AJPH TRANSGENDER HEALTH

## Incarceration Rates and Traits of Sexual Minorities in the United States: National Inmate Survey, 2011–2012

*Ilan H. Meyer, PhD, Andrew R. Flores, PhD, Lara Stemple, JD, Adam P. Romero, JD, Bianca D. M. Wilson, PhD, and Jody L. Herman, PhD*



**LGB people are 3x more likely to be incarcerated than the general population.\***

**\*According to the William Institute's 2017 report.**

Date collected in 2011 from 55 formerly incarcerated women in New Haven as part of SHARRPP, a NIH/NIDA funded study (5R01DA025521-05). For more info: info@sharrpp.com

## WOMEN @ RE-ENTRY NEW HAVEN

**70%** Have ever been homeless.



Were ever held in juvenile detention.

23%



**71%** Have a child under age of 18.

**60%** Use city bus as primary form of transportation.

**59%** Report having been diagnosed with mental illness.

**37%** Have ever been married.

**30%** Identify as lesbian or bisexual.

**28%** Have ever overdosed.

**The New Haven Women's Resettlement Working Group** is a group of formerly incarcerated people, community activists, academics, and service providers working together to support women during and after incarceration.

Join Us.  
[www.nhwrwg.blogspot.com](http://www.nhwrwg.blogspot.com)

How do  
criminal-legal  
systems  
impact  
women's HIV  
risk  
behaviors?



# HIV Rates Among Incarcerated People

## **HIV Rates**

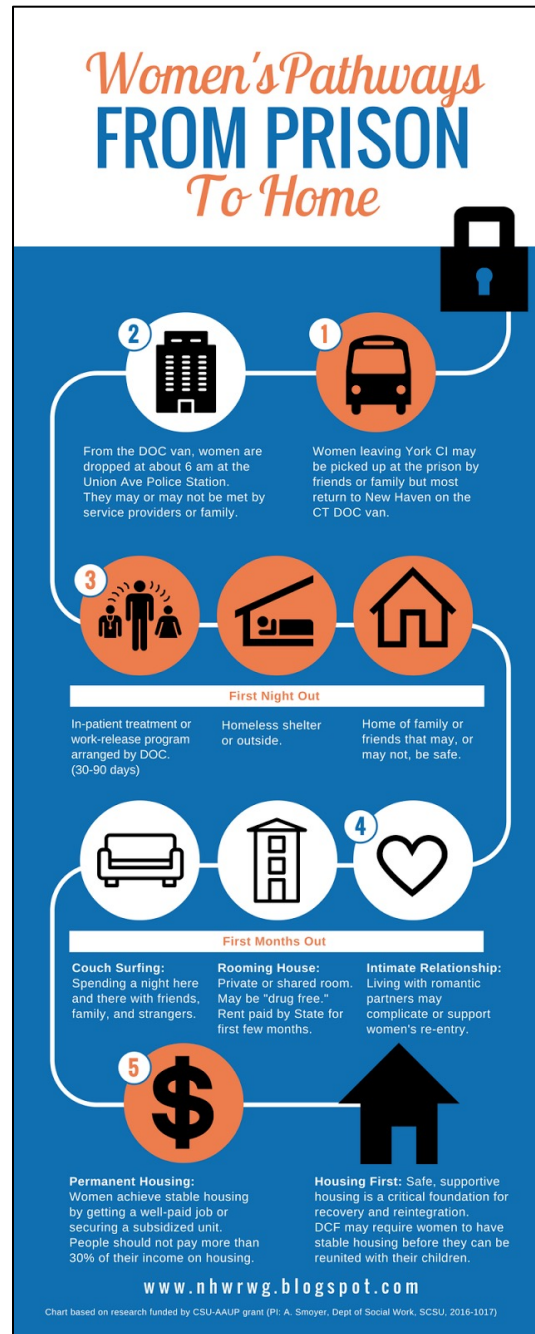
- US: 0.4% - 0.9%
- Women in State Prison: 2.6%
- Men in State Prison: 1.8%





Example:

Housing & HIV  
Risk During  
COVID-19



## Part III

SHAWN

*Stop HIV /AIDS*

*Women's*

*Network*



NIDA/NIH 1R15DA056285-01, (PI Smoyer, Amy B.) Project Title: **Impact of COVID-19 Criminal-Legal Practices on HIV Risk among Women Who Use Drugs: A Multi-Methods Qualitative Exploration**, 05/01/2022 – 04/30/2025



Shawn Lang

This project is inspired and informed by the peer-based activism of HIV/AIDS community organizer Shawn Lang (1956-2021).

Shawn's mentorship and leadership shaped the career development of the PI on this study, Dr. Amy Smoyer, and the lives of all those who had the privilege to work with her.

Her vision is reflected in the project's framework which centers the expertise and knowledge of people with lived experience. The focus on women and people who inject drugs aligns with Shawn's persistent and unflinching focus on **marginalized communities, gender equality, anti-racism practices, and harm reduction programs**, especially housing and syringe exchange.

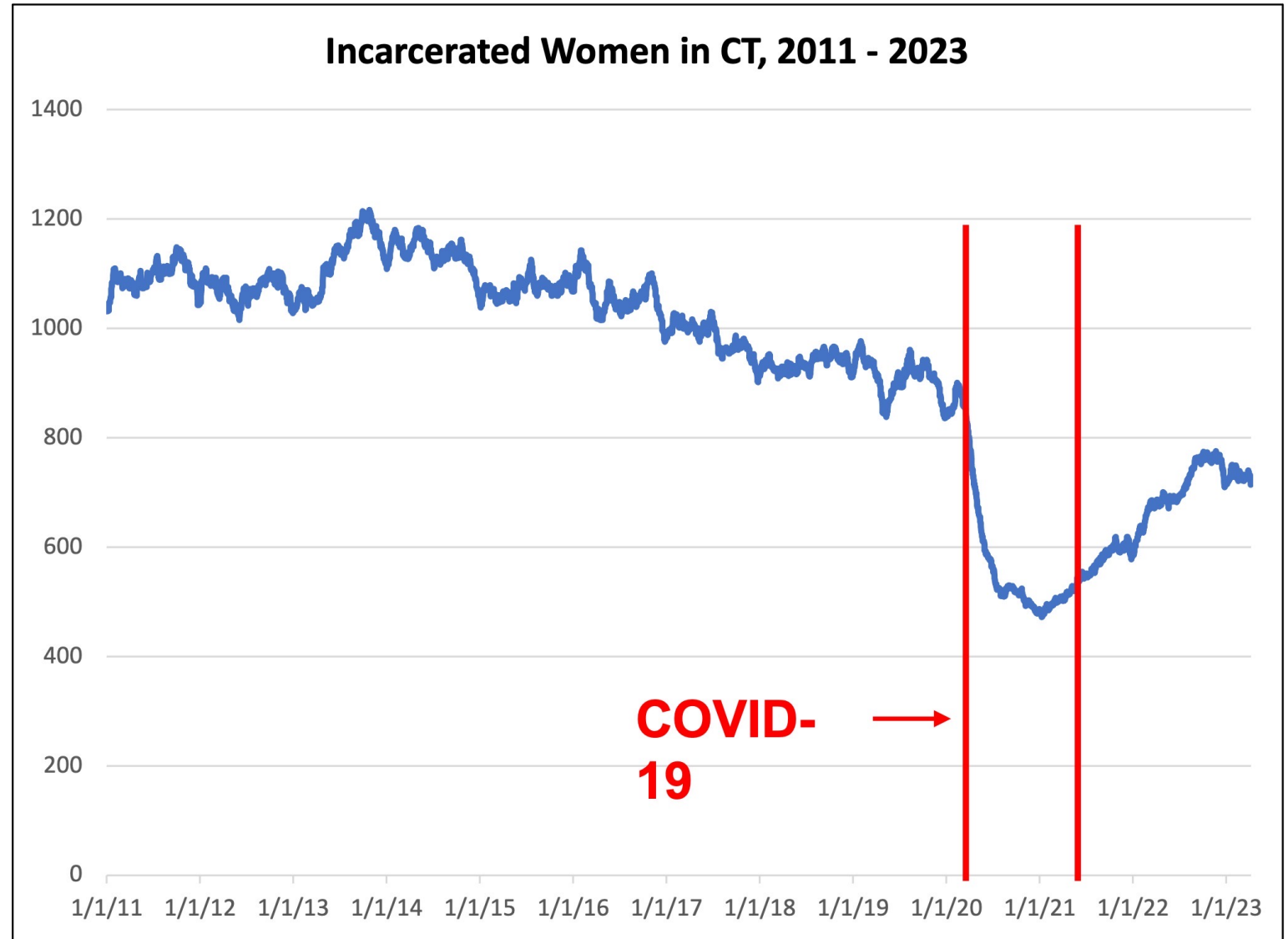


**Pray for the dead.  
Fight like hell for  
the living.**

—Mother Jones

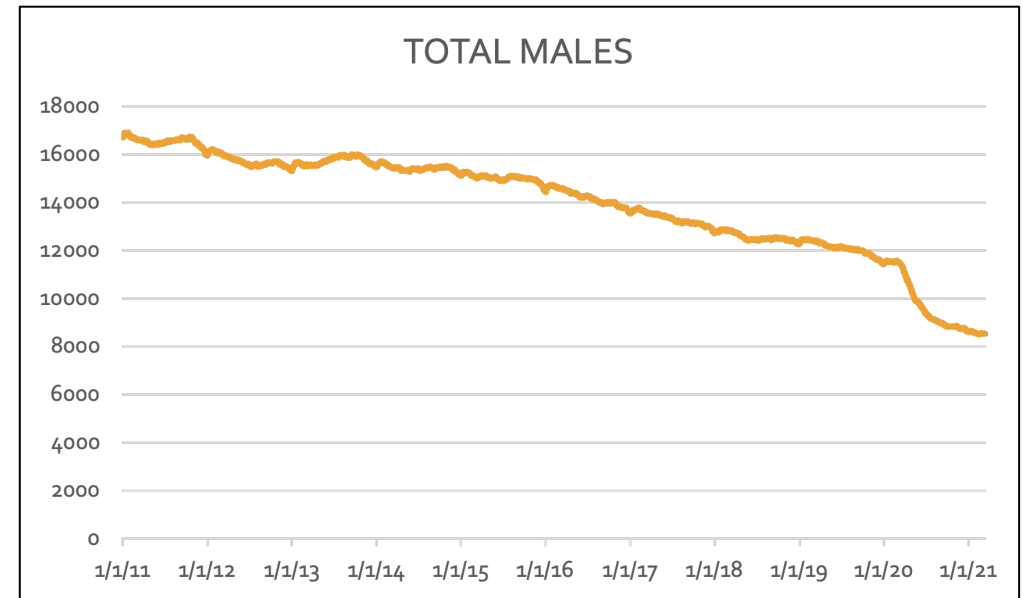
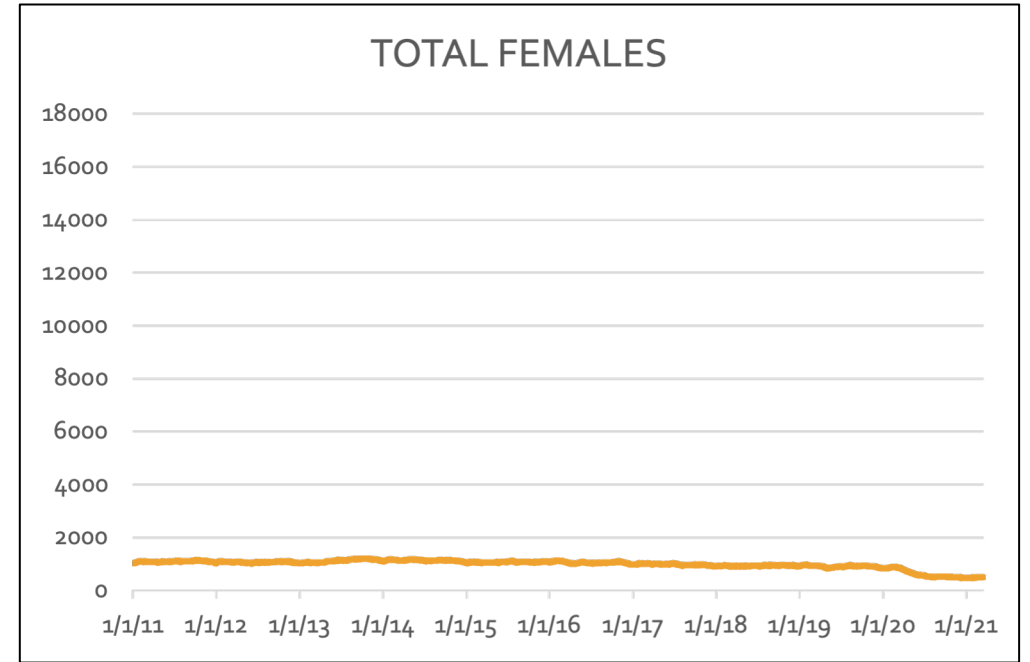
The number of women incarcerated in CT dropped by 43% during COVID.

3/20: 850  
3/21: 500

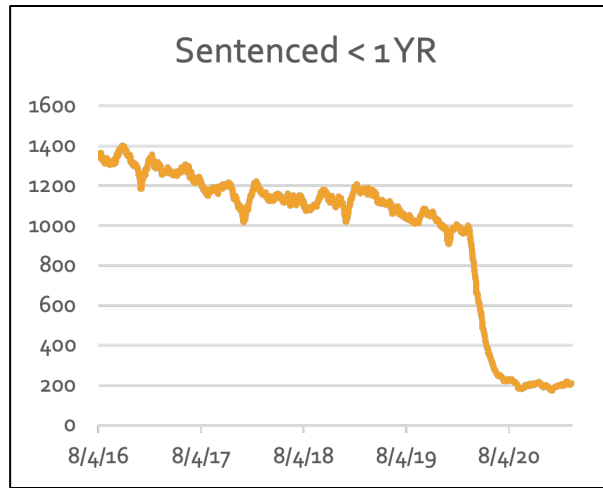
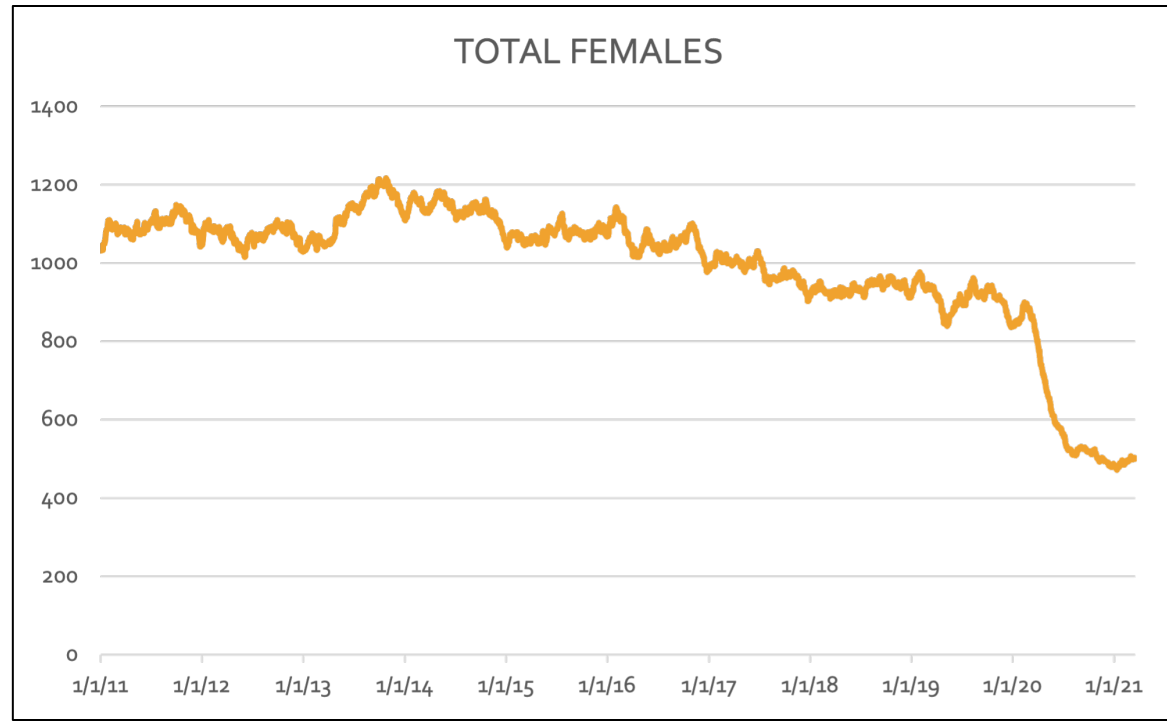


# Criminal Legal Reforms & Gender

	01/01/11	03/16/20	3/13/21	% change
Men	16,715	11,436 -31.58%	8532 -25.39%	- 48.96%
Women	1,031	854 -17.17%	501 -41.33%	- 51.41%



# Reduction in People Sentenced to Less than One Year



# SHAWN

## Specific Aims

### RESEARCH QUESTION:

*What was the impact of COVID-19 shifts in criminal-legal practices on the HIV risk behaviors of justice-involved women who use drugs?*

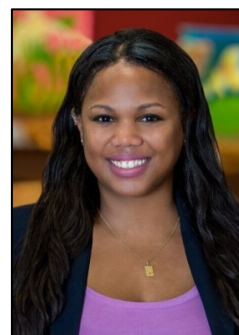
- **Specific Aim #1:** PROVIDE undergraduate students the opportunity to gain significant experience with community engaged research.
- **Specific Aim #2:** IDENTIFY the pre-COVID-19 HIV risk behaviors and protective factors of justice-involved women who use drugs.
- **Specific Aim #3:** DOCUMENT and ASSESS HIV risk during COVID-19 among justice-involved women who use drugs.





# SHAWN Team

- [www.theshawnproject.com/team](http://www.theshawnproject.com/team)
- Seven BSW Undergraduate Students
- Core Team Consultants
  - Maribel Oyola, MSW
  - Nadine Ruff, MSW
  - Jamie Myers, MD, Yale School of Medicine, Clinical Expert
- Community Consultants
  - Ashley Hampton, LCSW – Clinical Supervisor
  - Monya Saunders – Community Activist
  - Maeve Pierce – Graphic Designer
  - Pamela Allen, CEO & President, Evergreen Family Oriented Services – Data Collection





# Data Collection

- Thirty (30) Cisgender Women who use Drugs
- Survey
- Life History Interview – Turning Points
- Calendar Interviews – peri-COVID



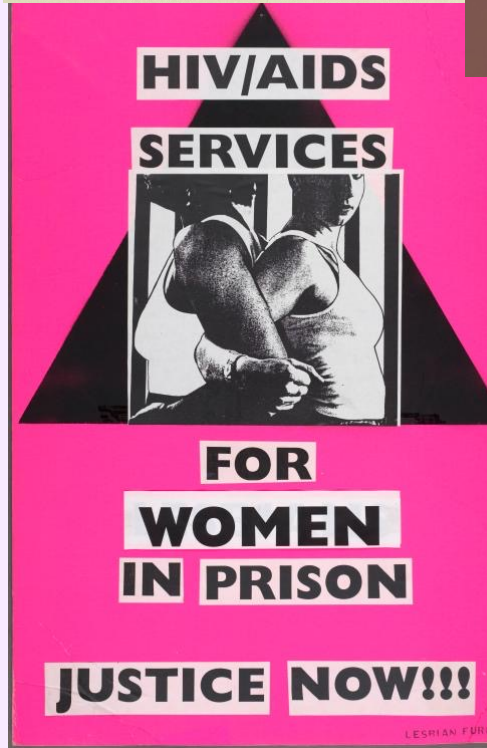
## Group Discussion

- What criminal-legal changes did you observe in your community during COVID-19?
- How did these changes impact the lives of women who used drugs?
- How might these changes in lived experience impact HIV risk?

# Part IV

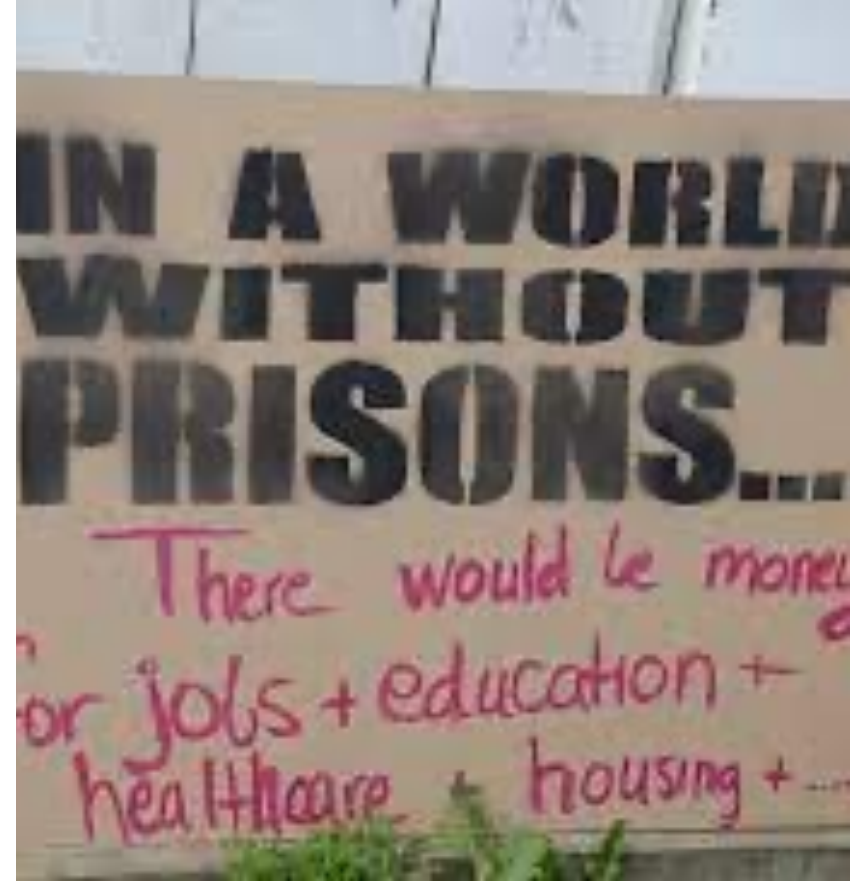
How Social Work will end HIV Epidemic:

*Prison Abolition as HIV Prevention*

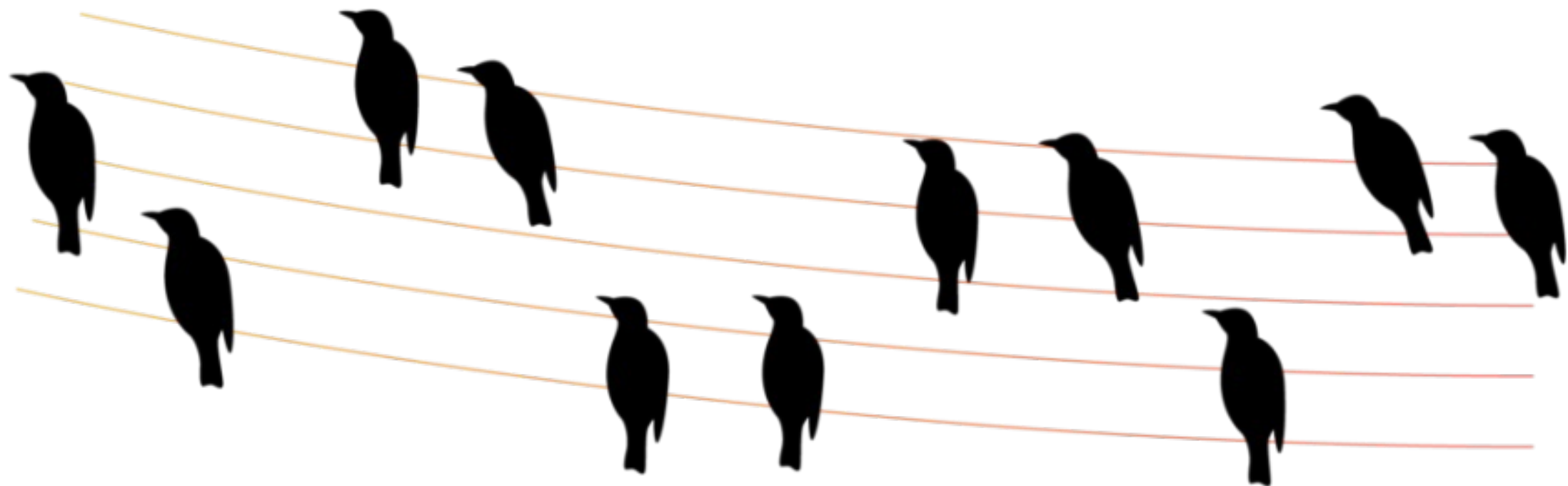


HEALTH  
NOT  
PRISONS  
COLLECTIVE

DISPATCH



What is prison abolition?



IMAGINING THE WORLD TO COME

# End Cash Bail



# Local Activism



# NATIONAL BAIL FUND NETWORK



# Community Alternatives to Incarceration

## SWAN





Reduce  
Institutional  
Violence

Stop Solitary  
CT



# Questions & Ideas



Thank you!



[www.theshawnproject.com](http://www.theshawnproject.com)



Email: [SmoyerA1@southernct.edu](mailto:SmoyerA1@southernct.edu)