

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Data Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting

April 14, 2022

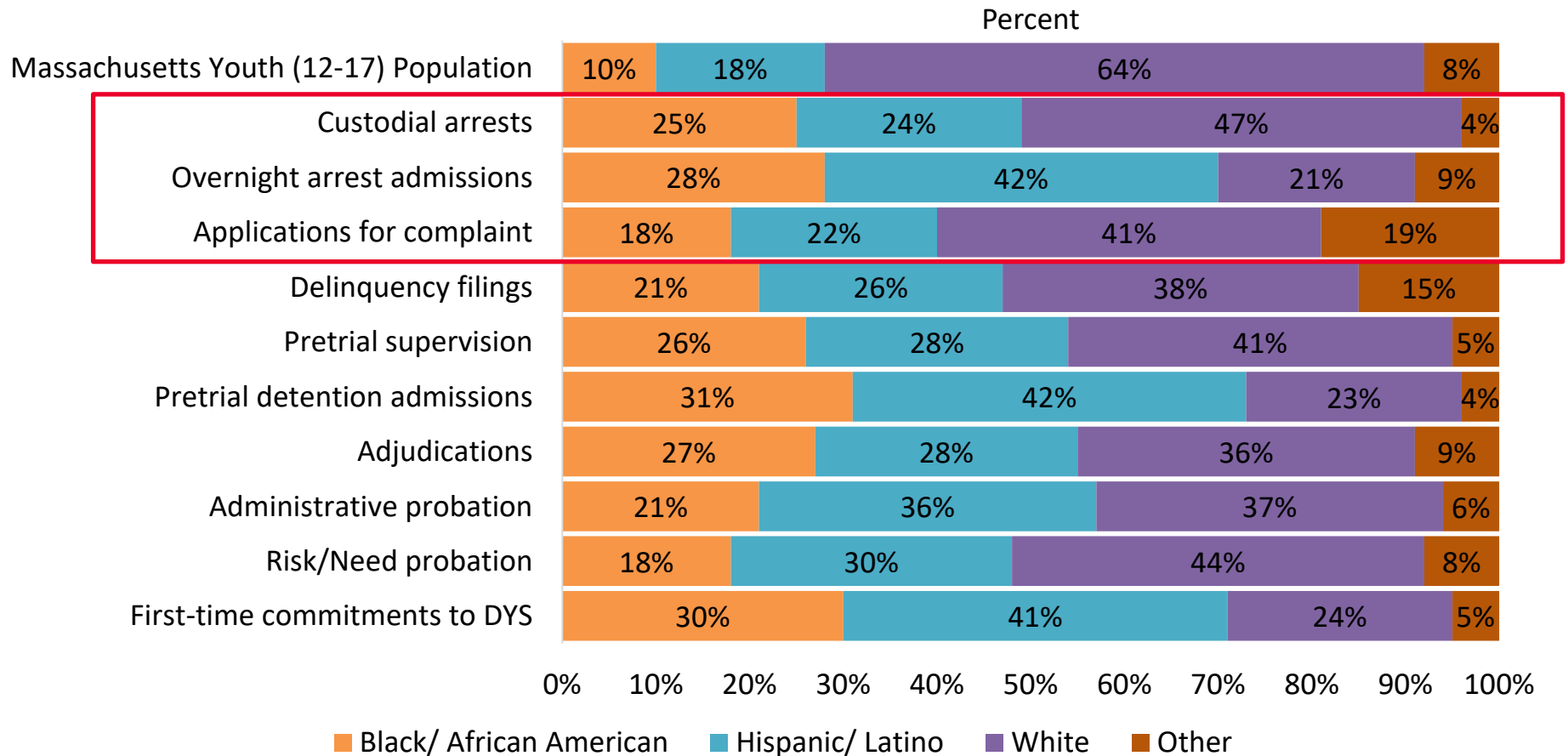
10:30m – 12:00pm

Agenda

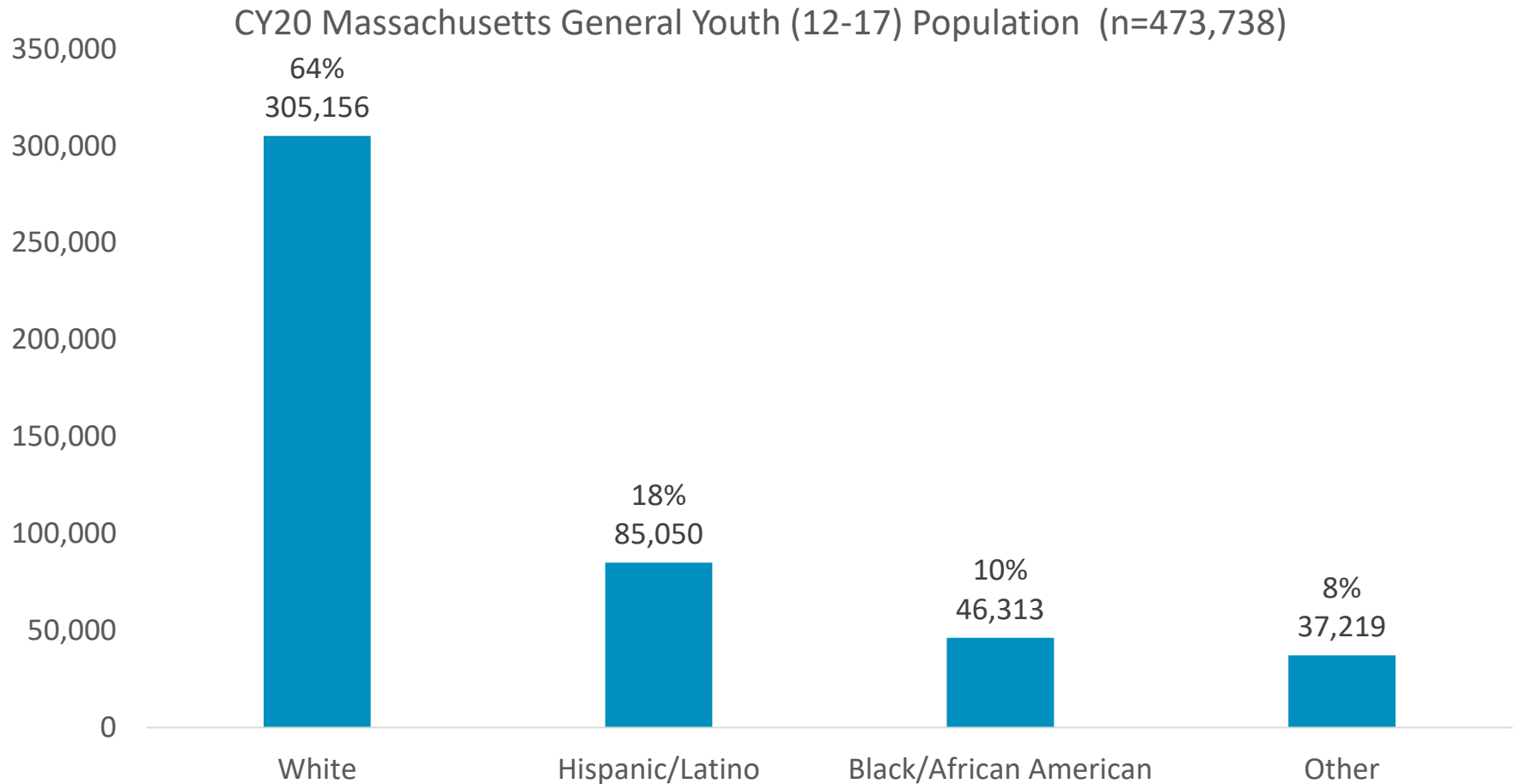
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of March meeting minutes
3. RED Data Brief Discussion

There is a disproportionate number of Black and Latino youth in Massachusetts' juvenile justice system particularly at the “front door” system

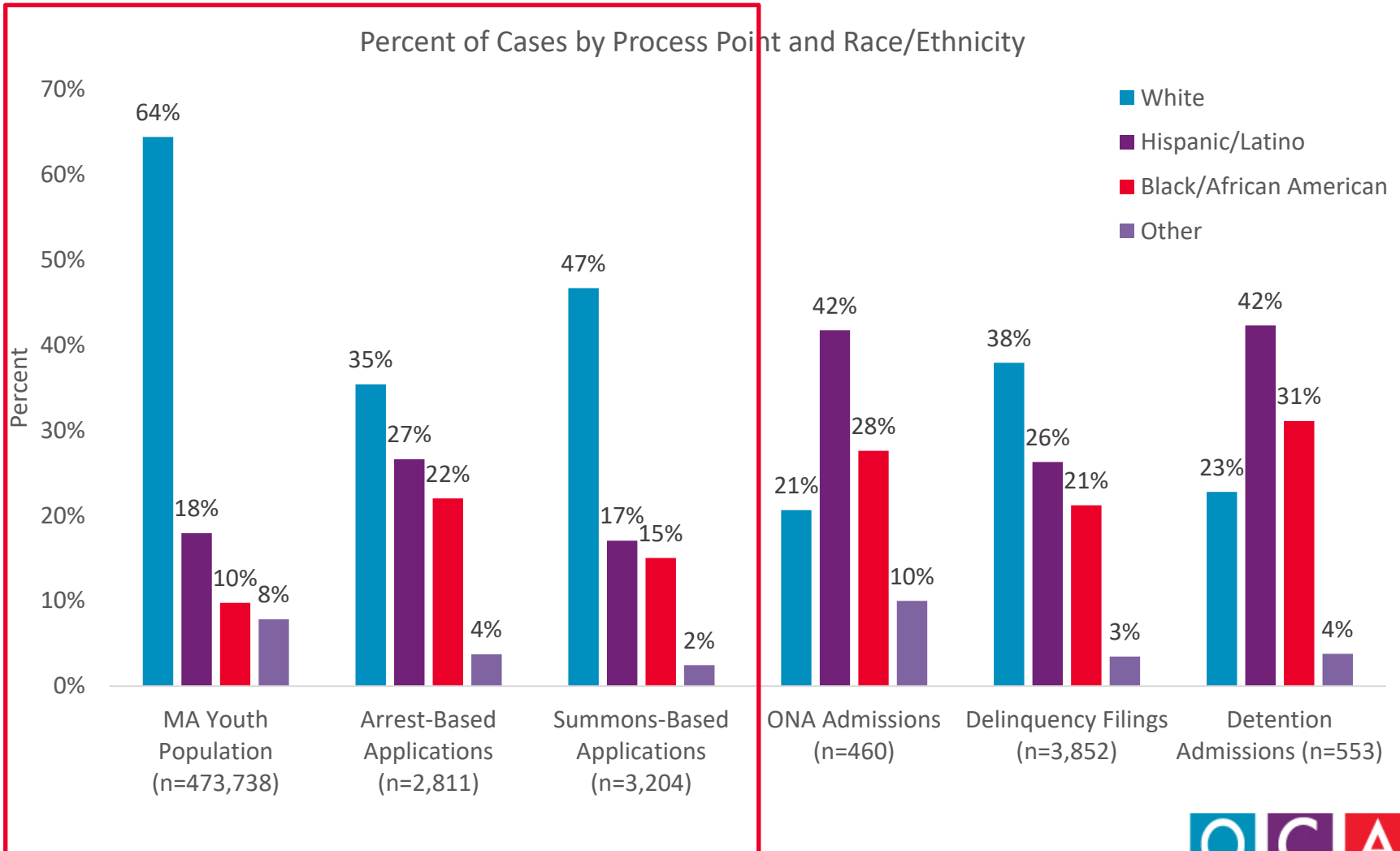
Juvenile Justice System Utilization by Race (FY21)



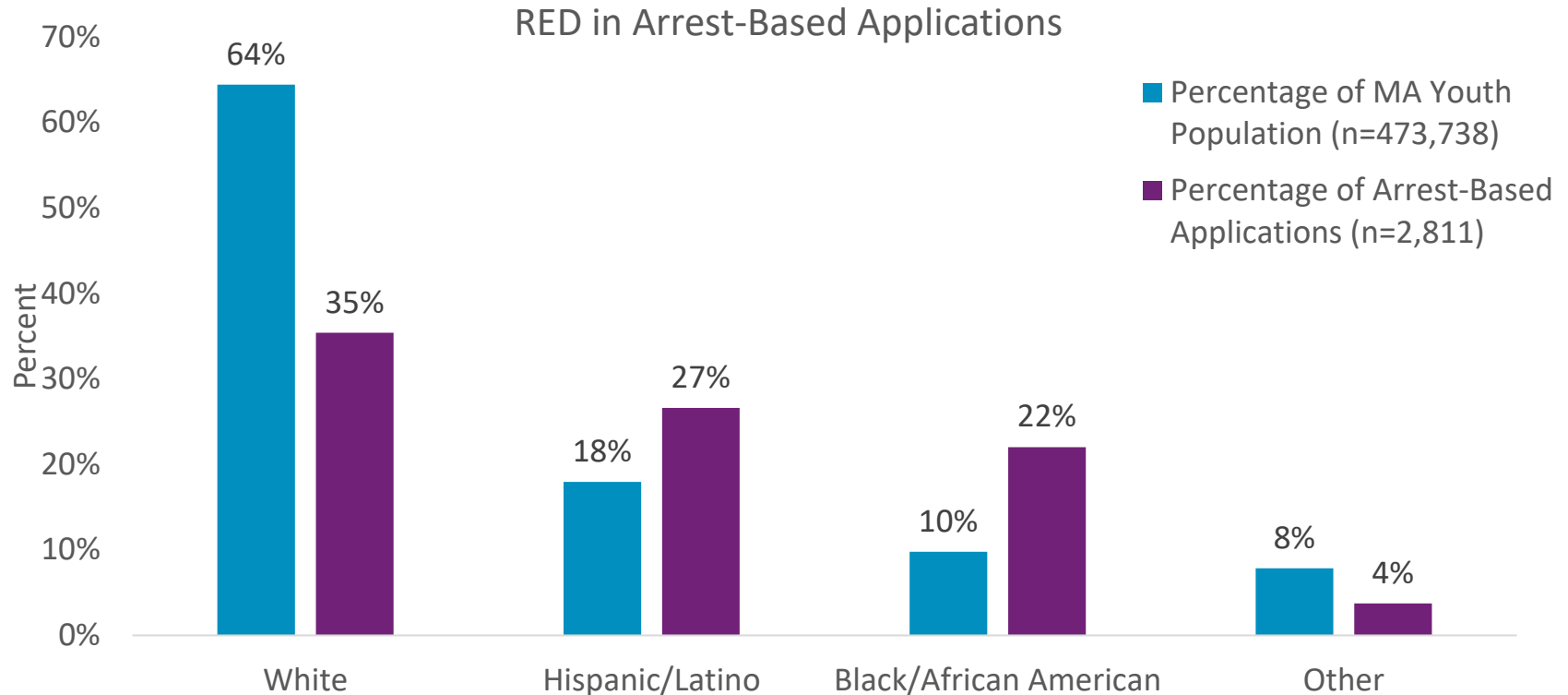
What is the racial distribution of all youth in MA?



What is the racial distribution of youth at the beginning stages of the juvenile justice system?



What is the racial distribution of the youth who are arrested (custodial)?

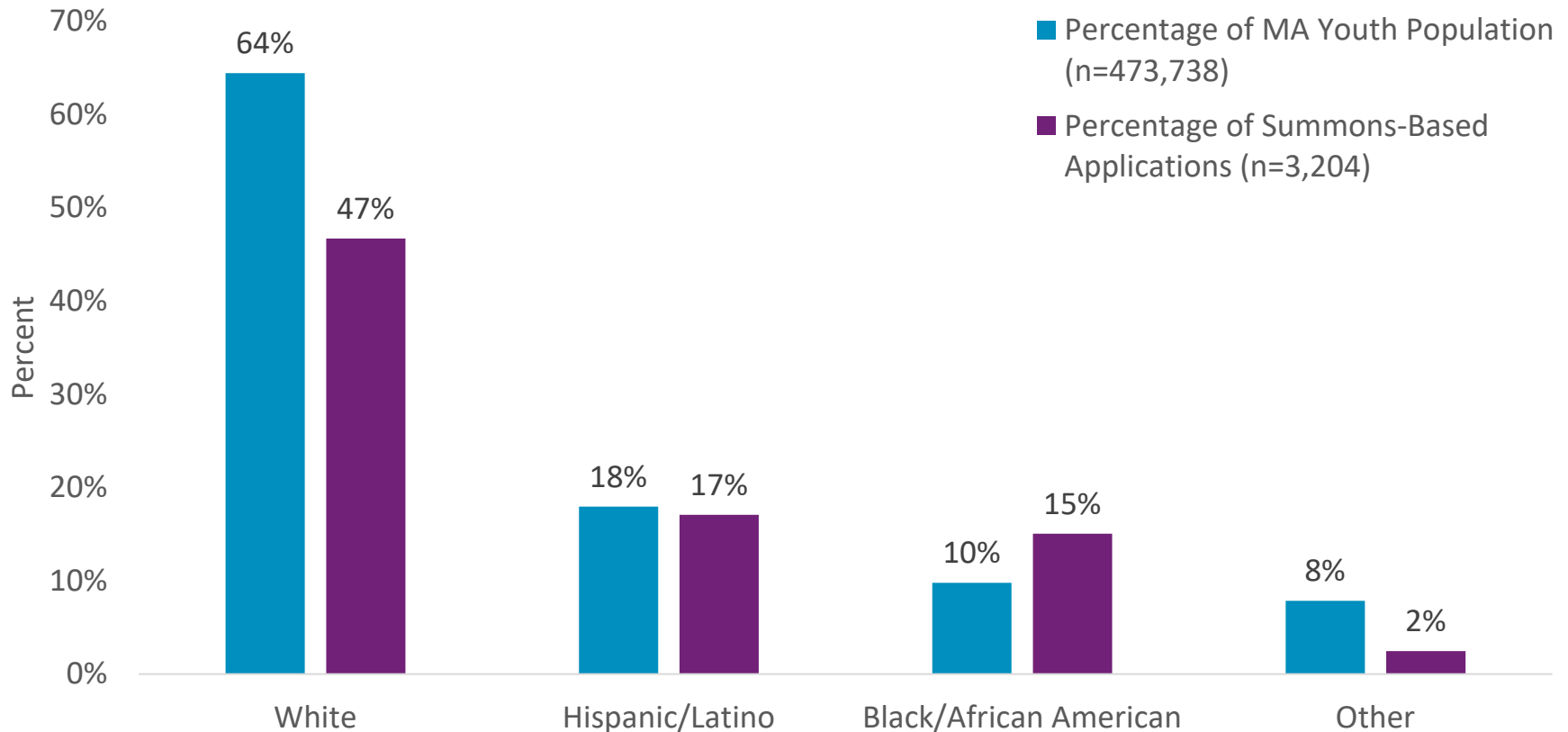


RED in Custodial Arrests Compared to MA General Youth Population (12-17 yrs)

	RoD	RRI
White	0.55	-
Hispanic/Latino	1.48	2.70
Black/African American	2.25	4.10
Other	0.48	0.87

What is the racial distribution of the youth who are summonsed?

RED in Summons-Initiated Applications



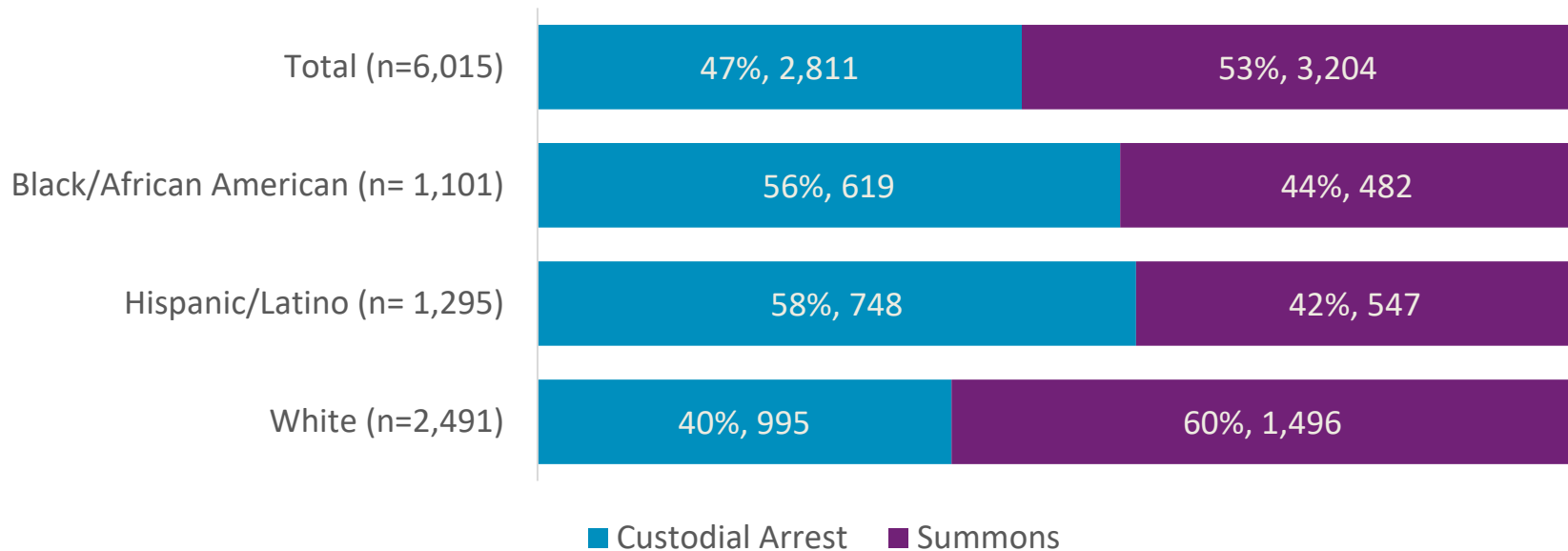
RED in Summons Compared to MA General Youth Population (12-17 yrs)

	RoD	RRI
White	0.72	-
Hispanic/Latino	0.95	1.31
Black/African American	1.54	2.12
Other	0.31	0.43

Racial Disparities in How Youth Enter System (Arrest vs Summons)

Race Distribution of Applications by Case Initiation

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

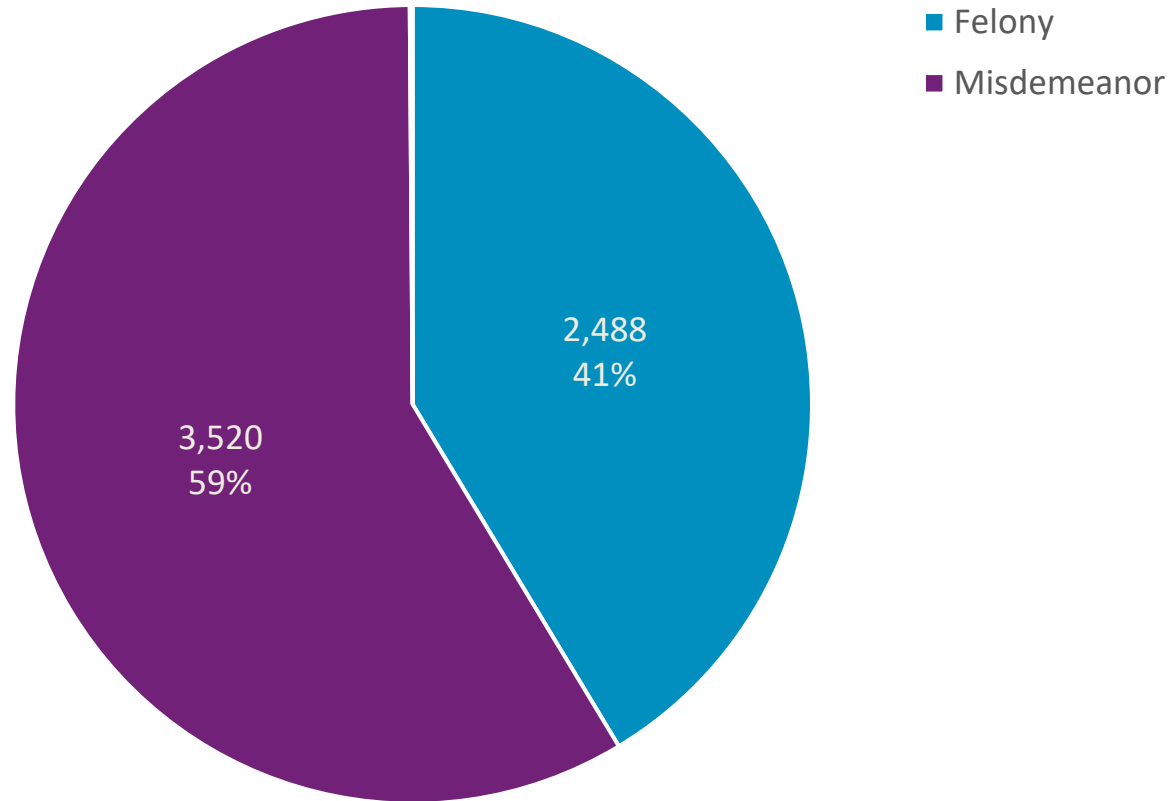


Testing Common Hypotheses: Are Any of These True?

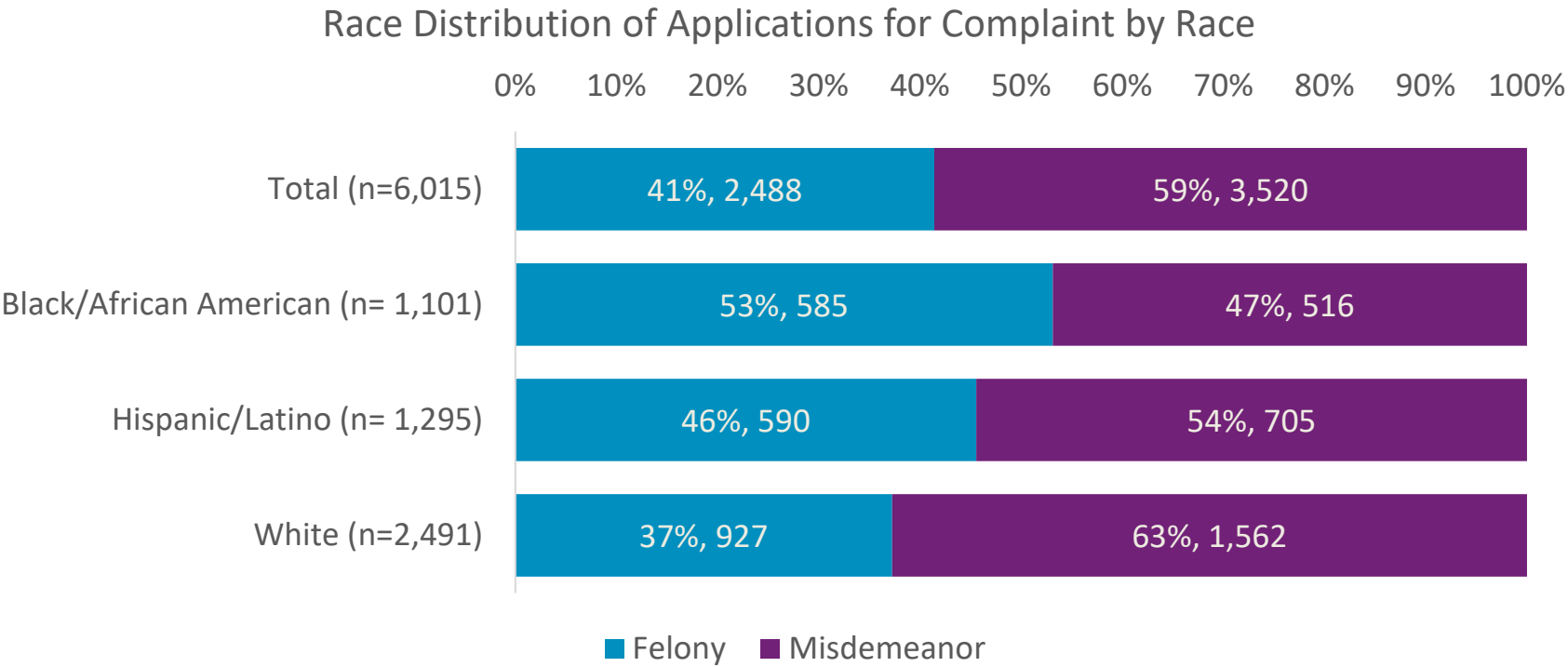
1. **Differences in Offense Severity:** Racial disparities in the use of arrests vs summons can be explained by offense severity (e.g. “Youth of color are brought to court for more serious crimes”)
2. **Differences in Offense Type:** Racial disparities in the use of arrests vs summons can be explained by offense type (e.g. “Youth of color are brought to court for offense types that are more likely to result in arrest”)
3. **Differences in Geography:** Racial disparities in the use of arrests vs summons can be explained by different regional practices (e.g. “Some counties are more likely to use arrest vs summons than others, and those same counties have a % percent of youth of color than other counties”)

What is the distribution of offense severity for applications for complaint?

Applications for Complaint by Offense Severity (n=6,008)

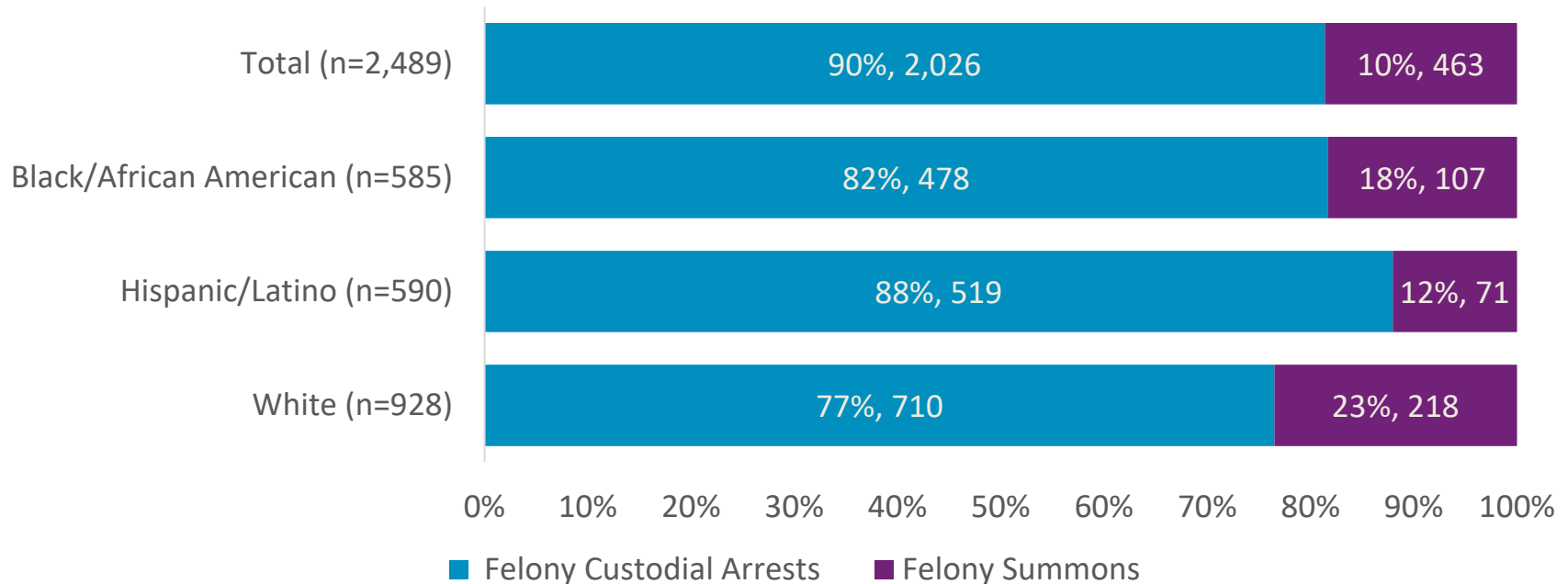


What is the distribution of offense severity for applications for complaint by race?



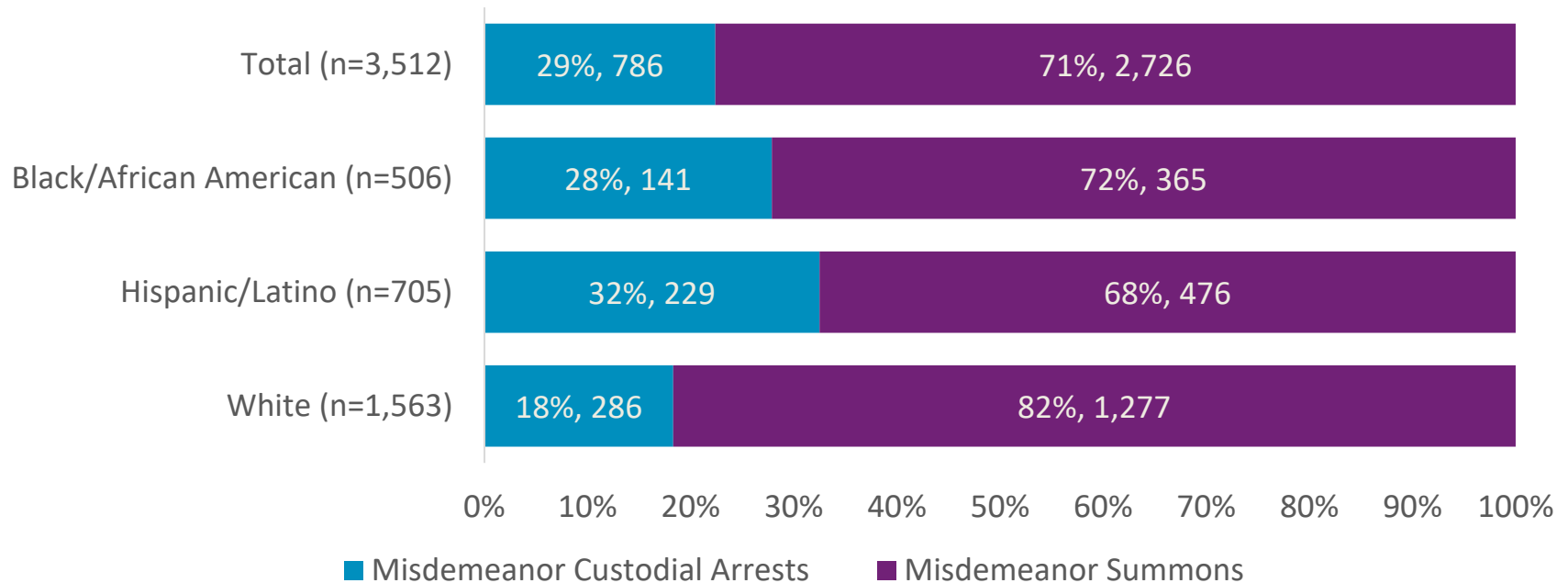
How do youth with felony offenses enter the system?

Race Distribution of Felony Applications by Case Initiation



How do youth with misdemeanor offenses enter the system?

Race Distribution of Misdemeanor Applications by Case Initiation



Differences in Offense Severity Hypothesis

- Differences in offense severity partially, but not fully, explains racial disparities in the decision to arrest vs issue summons.
- Black and Latino youth are somewhat more likely to come in on a felony offense (as compared to a misdemeanor offense) than white youth.

Youth Race	% Felony	% Misd
Black	53%	47%
Latino	46%	54%
White	37%	63%

- Youth coming in on a felony are significantly more likely to come in on arrest (81%) than a summons (19%).
- Therefore, differences in offense severity does explain some of the disparity.
 - *Important to note that charging decisions themselves are a potential source of bias*

Differences in Offense Severity Hypothesis

- Differences in offense severity partially, but not fully, explains racial disparities in the decision to arrest vs issues summons.
- Among youth coming in at the same offense severity level, there are still racial disparities:

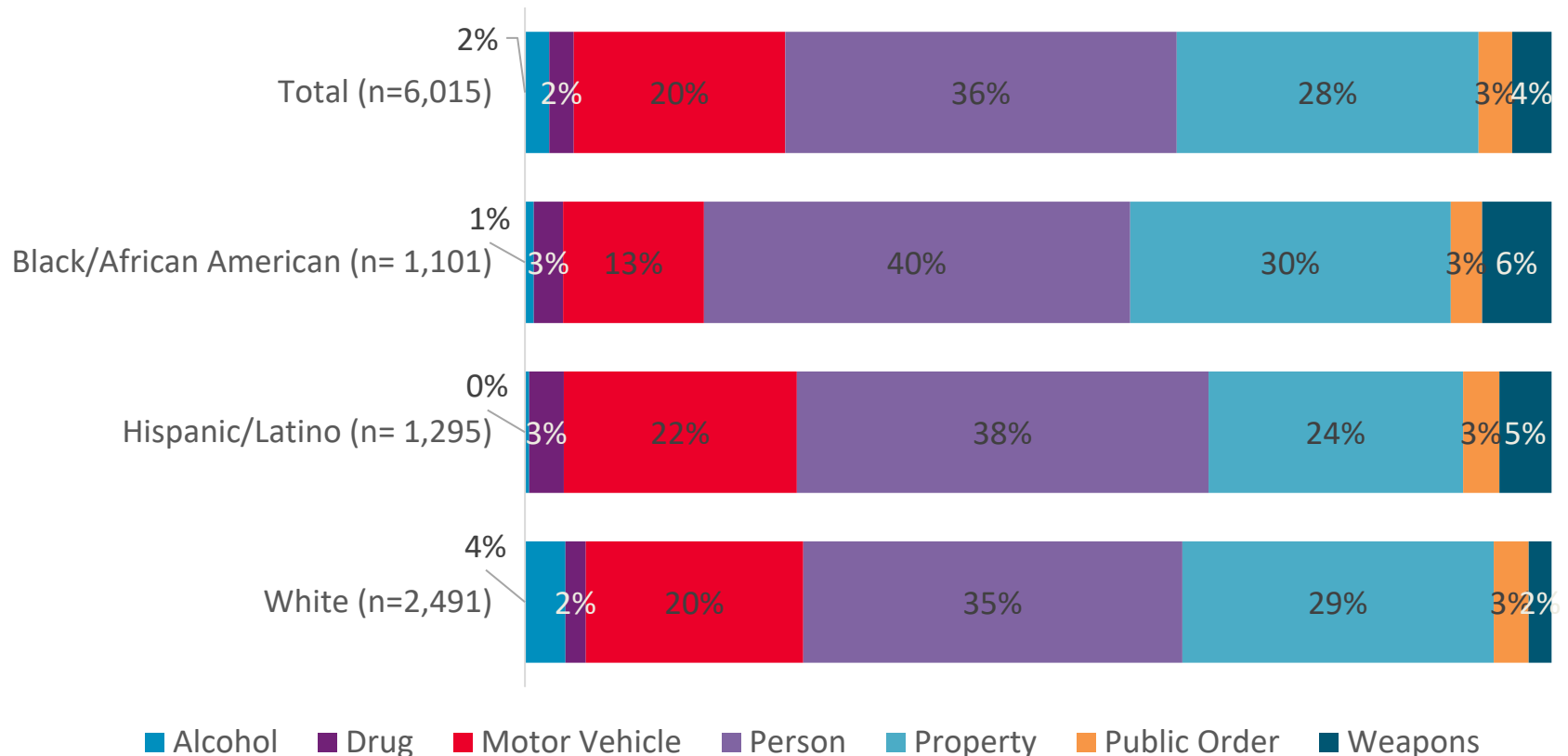
Youth Race	Felony % Arrested	Misdemeanor % Arrested
Black	82%	28%
Latino	88%	32%
White	77%	18%

- The disparities are more significant at the misdemeanor level.
 - This aligns with research that suggests that in situations where police officers have *more discretion* and where offenses are *less serious*, disparities are higher

What are the offense types youth are alleged of committing?

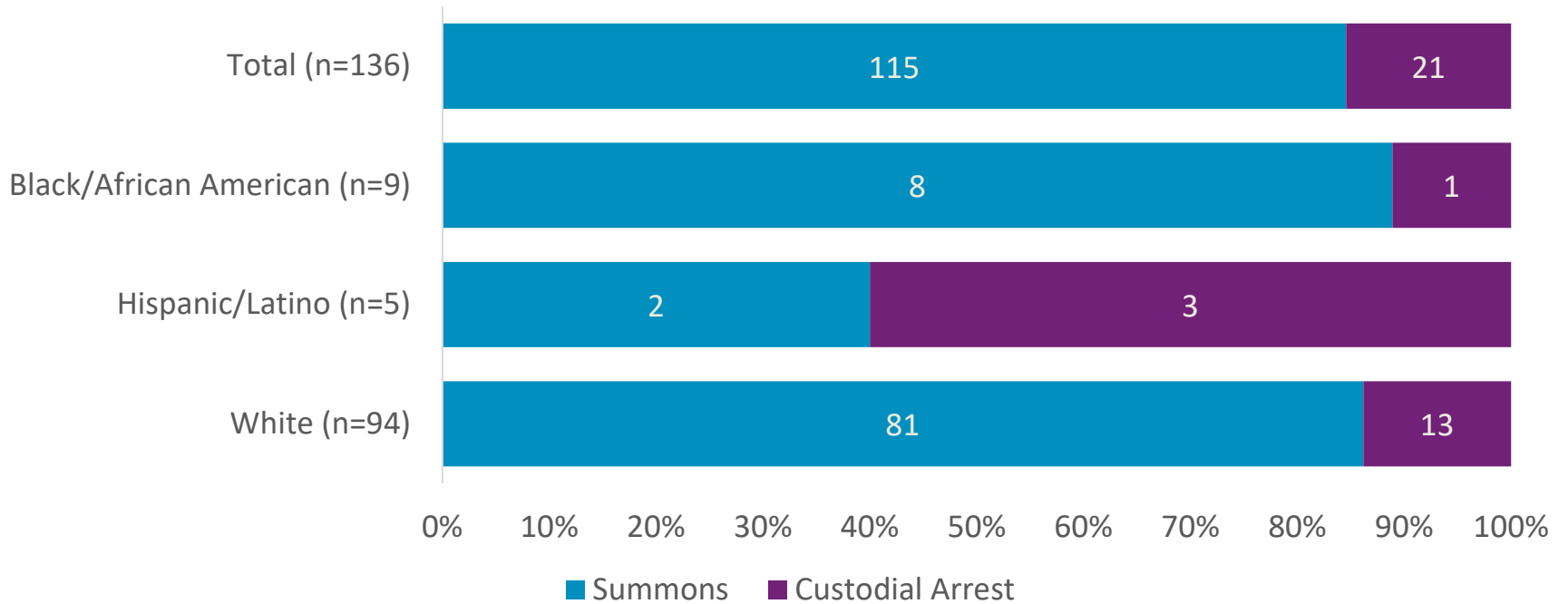
Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint by Offense Type

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



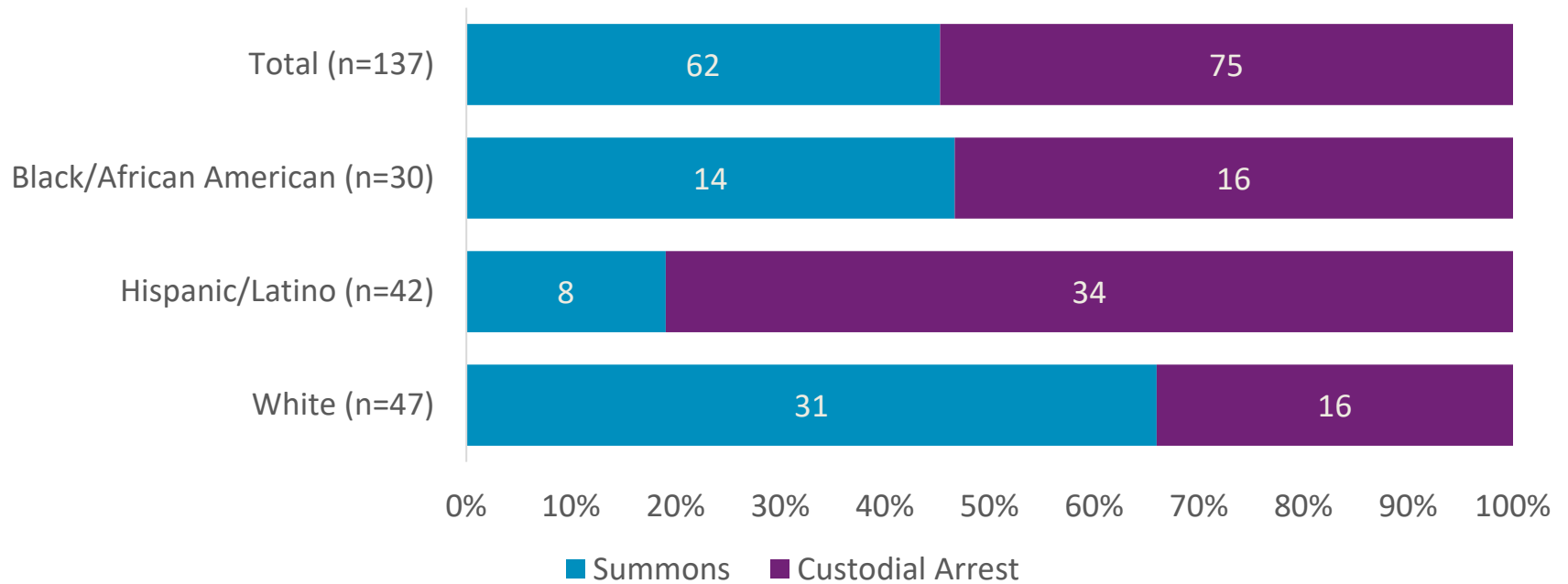
RED in Alcohol Related Cases

Race Distribution of Alcohol-Related Applications by Case Initiation



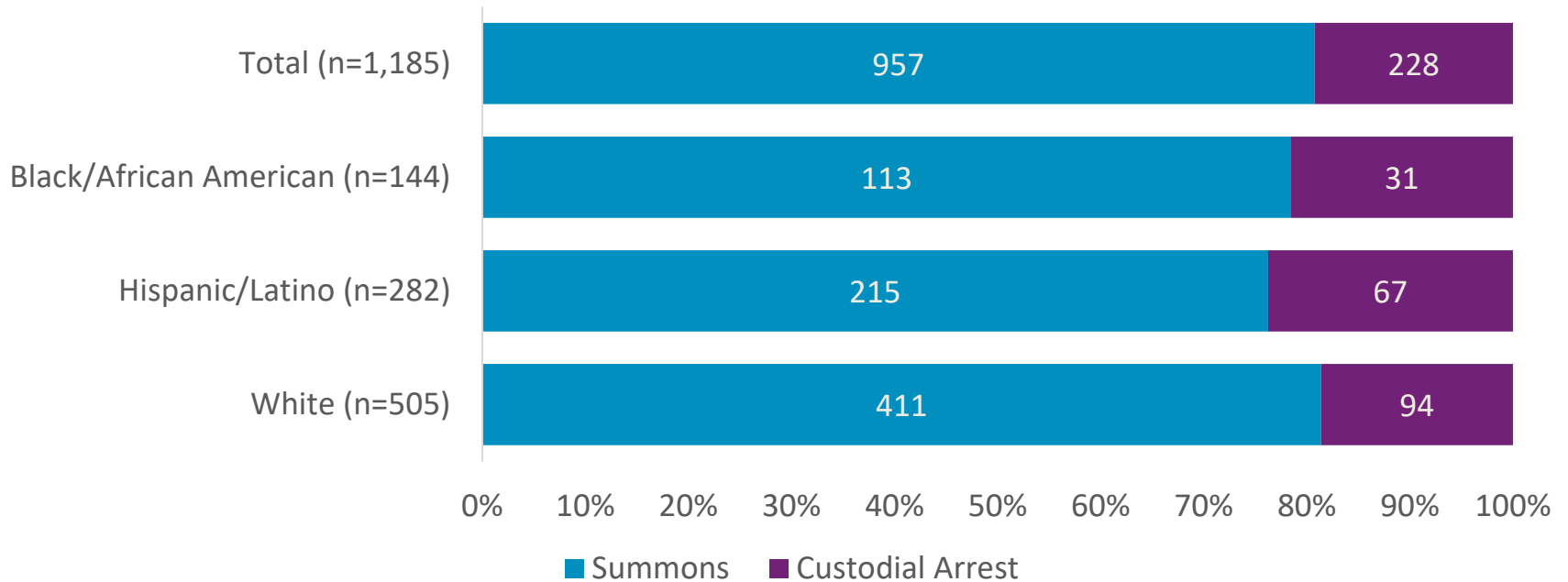
RED in Drug Related Cases

Race Distribution of Drug- Related Applications by Case Initiation



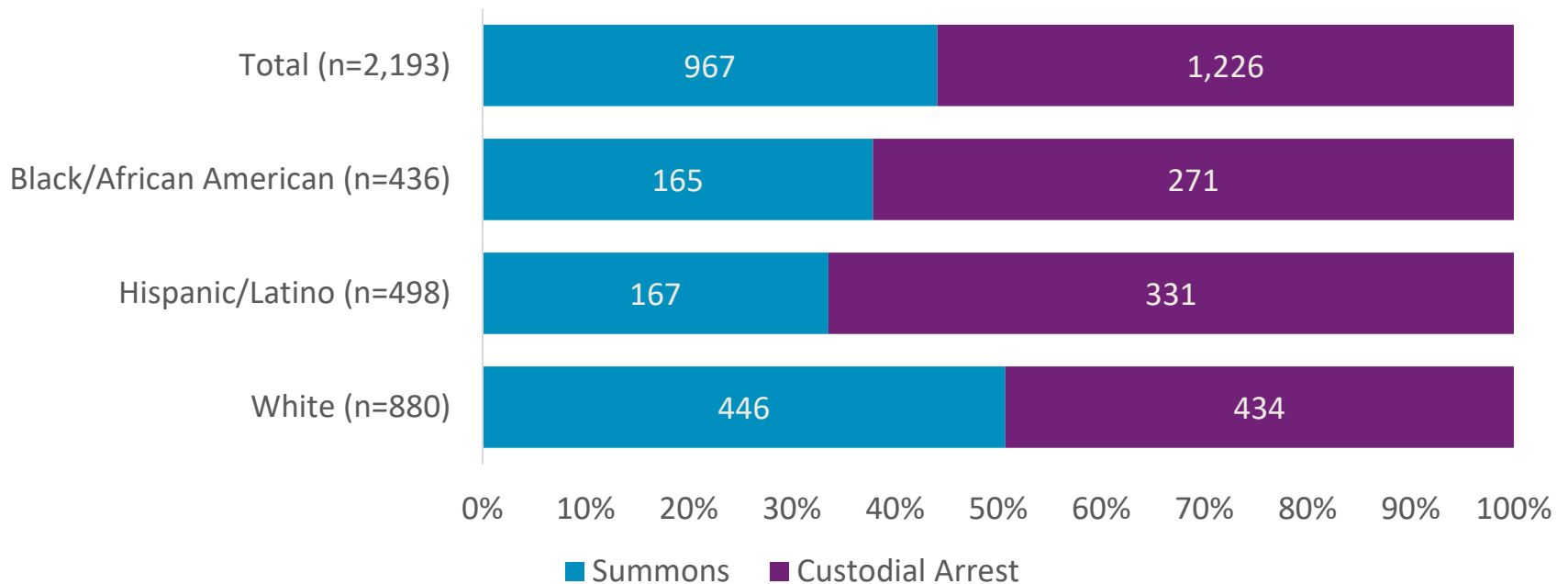
RED in Motor Vehicle Related Cases

Race Distribution of Motor Vehicle-Related Applications by Case Initiation



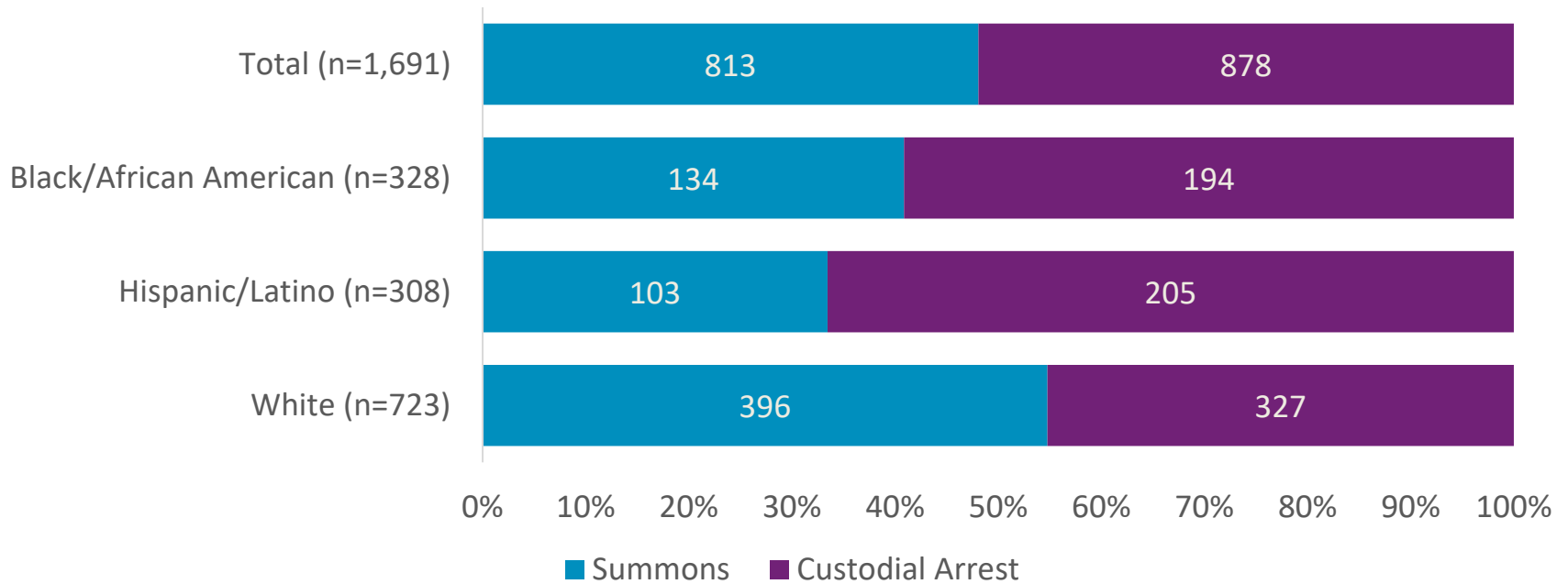
RED in Person Related Cases

Race Distribution of Person-Related Offenses by Case Initiation



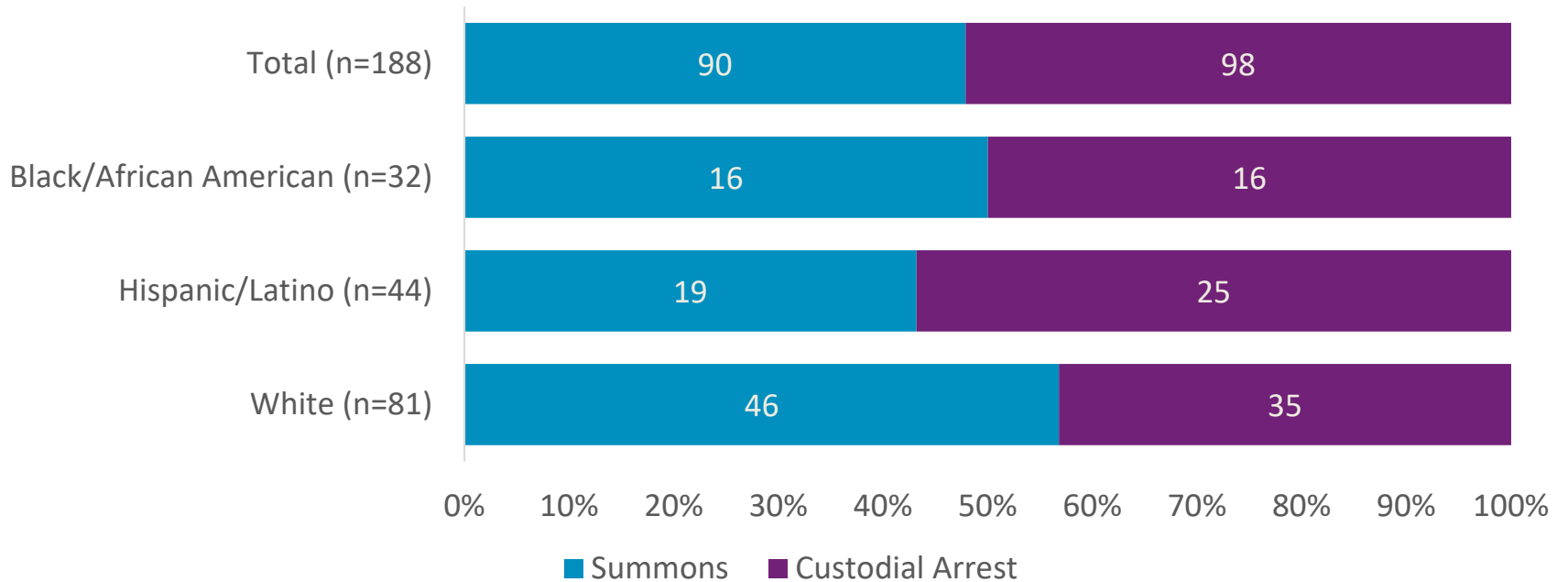
RED in Property Related Cases

Race Distribution of Property-Related Offense by Case Initiation



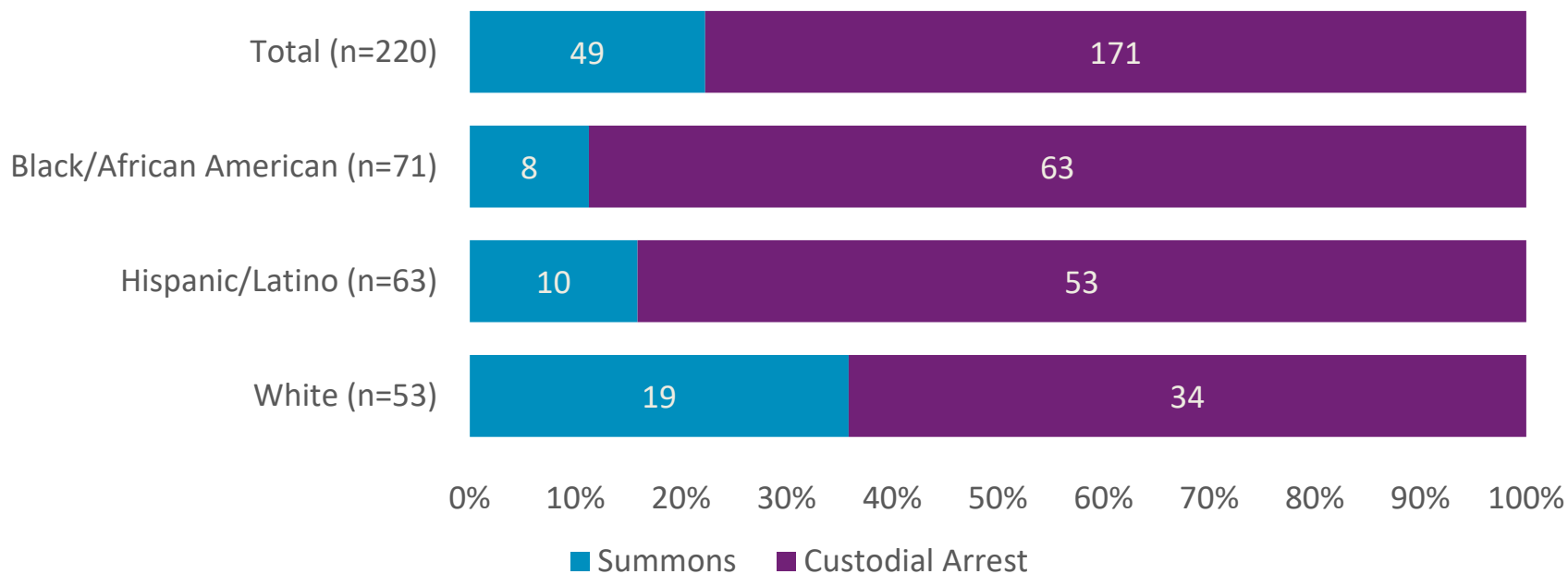
RED in Public Order Related Cases

Race Distribution of Public Order-Related Offenses by Case Initiation



RED in Weapons Related Cases

Race Distribution of Weapon- Related Offenses by Case Initiation



Difference in Offense Type Hypothesis

- **Differences in offense type partially, but not fully, explains racial disparities in the decision to arrest vs issue summons.**
- The offense types most likely to lead to an arrest (vs summons) are weapons offenses (88% arrested) and person offenses (46% arrested).
- Black and Latino youth are slightly more likely to come in with a person offense, which makes up a larger portion (36%) of all offenses coming into court.
- Black and Latino youth are significantly more likely to come in with a weapons offense, although these make up a small (4%) portion of all offenses coming into court.

Youth Race	% ACs for Person	% ACs for Weapons
Black	40%	6%
Latino	38%	5%
White	35%	2%

Difference in Offense Type Hypothesis

- Differences in offense type partially, but not fully, explains racial disparities in the decision to arrest vs issue summons.
- Among youth coming in with the same offense type, however, we still see racial disparities.

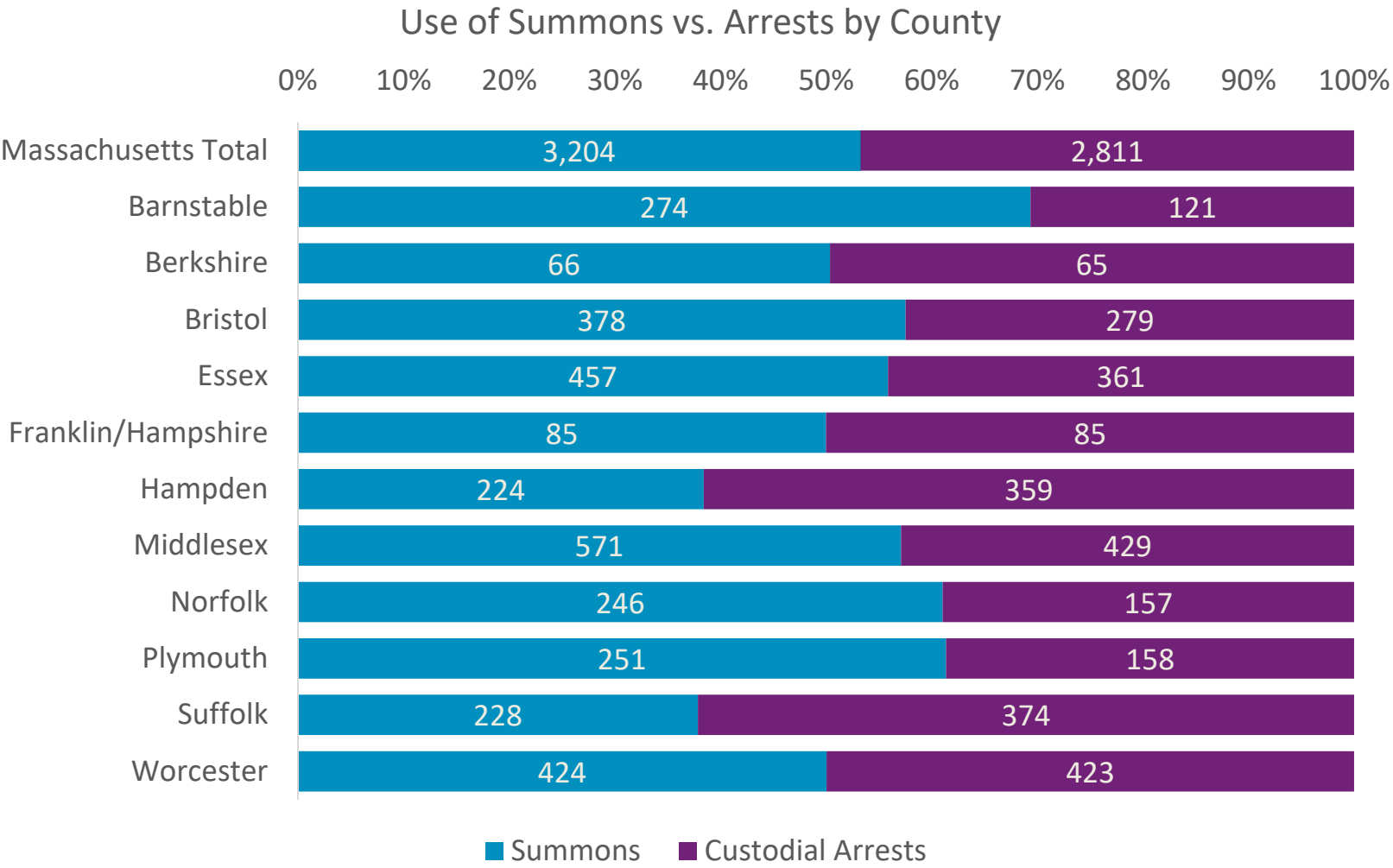
Youth Race	% Arrested Drug	% Arrested Person	% Arrested Prop	% Arrested Weapons	% Arrested Public Order
Black	53%	62%	59%	89%	50%
Latino	81%	66%	67%	84%	57%
White	34%	49%	45%	64%	43%

Takeaways from the Data Part I:



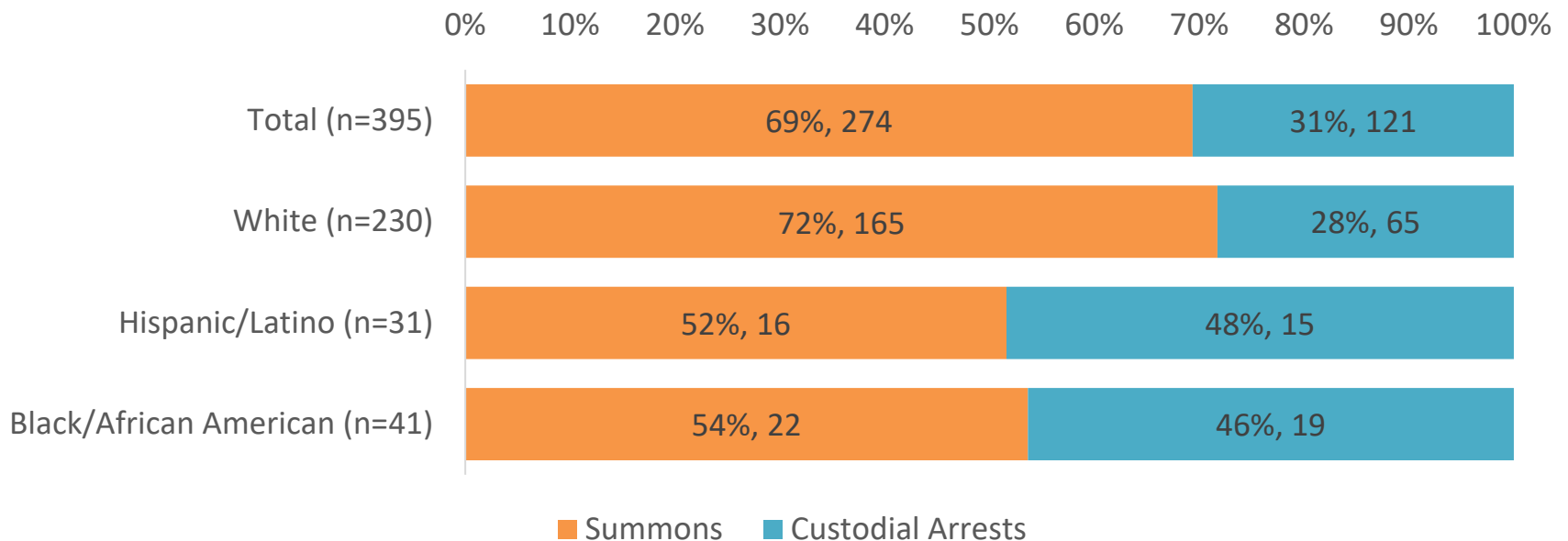
- *What other takeaways did you have?*
 - *Was anything surprising?*
- *What other questions remain?*

Differential Use in Summons vs. Arrests across Court Counties



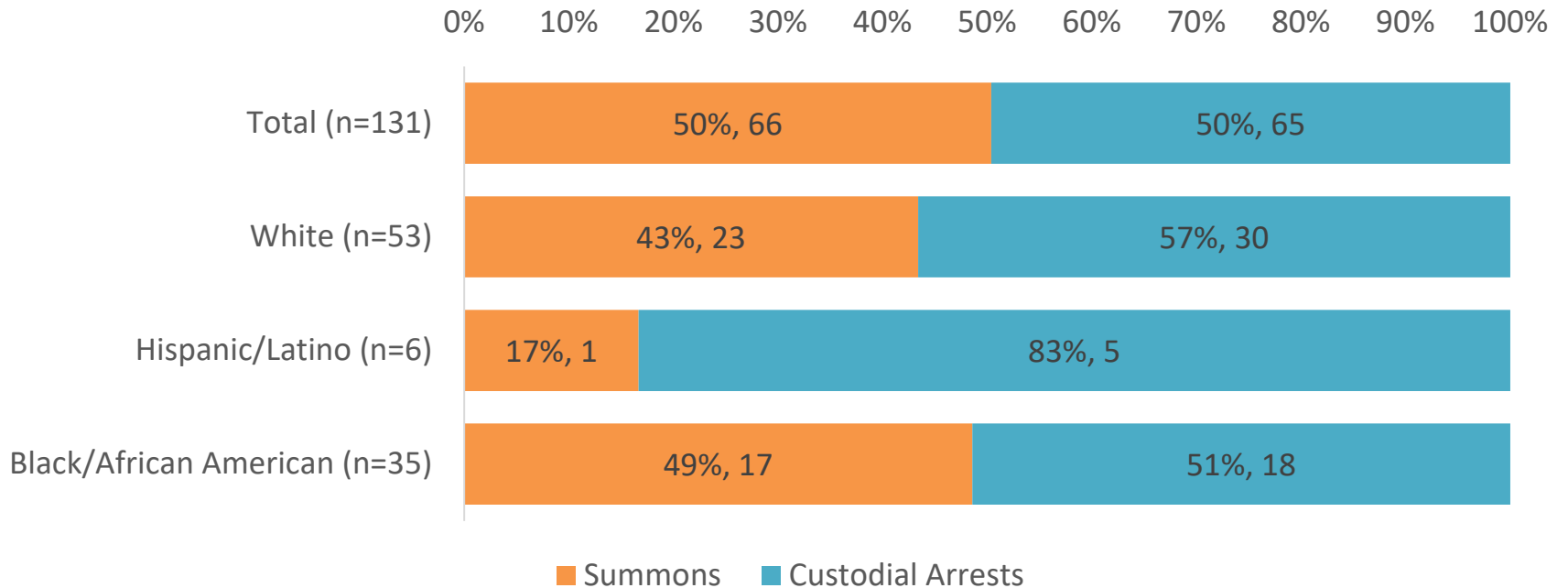
Barnstable

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Barnstable County by
Case Initiation



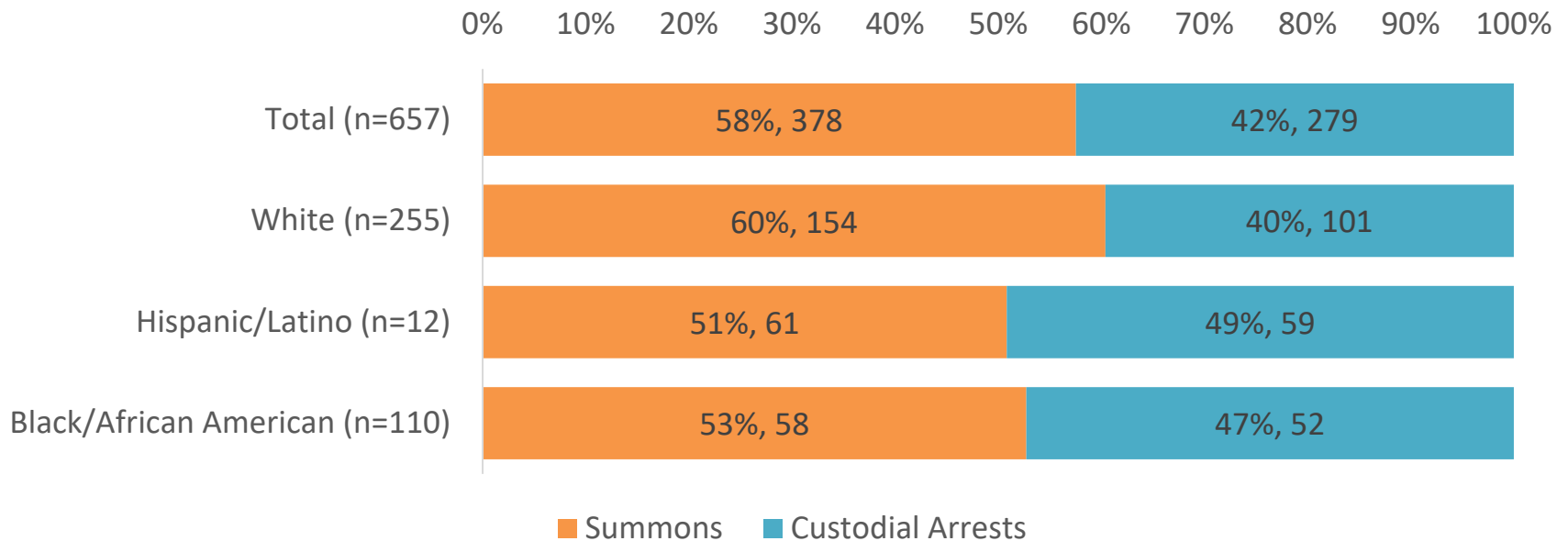
Berkshire

Racial Distribution of Berkshire Application for Complaint by Case Initiation



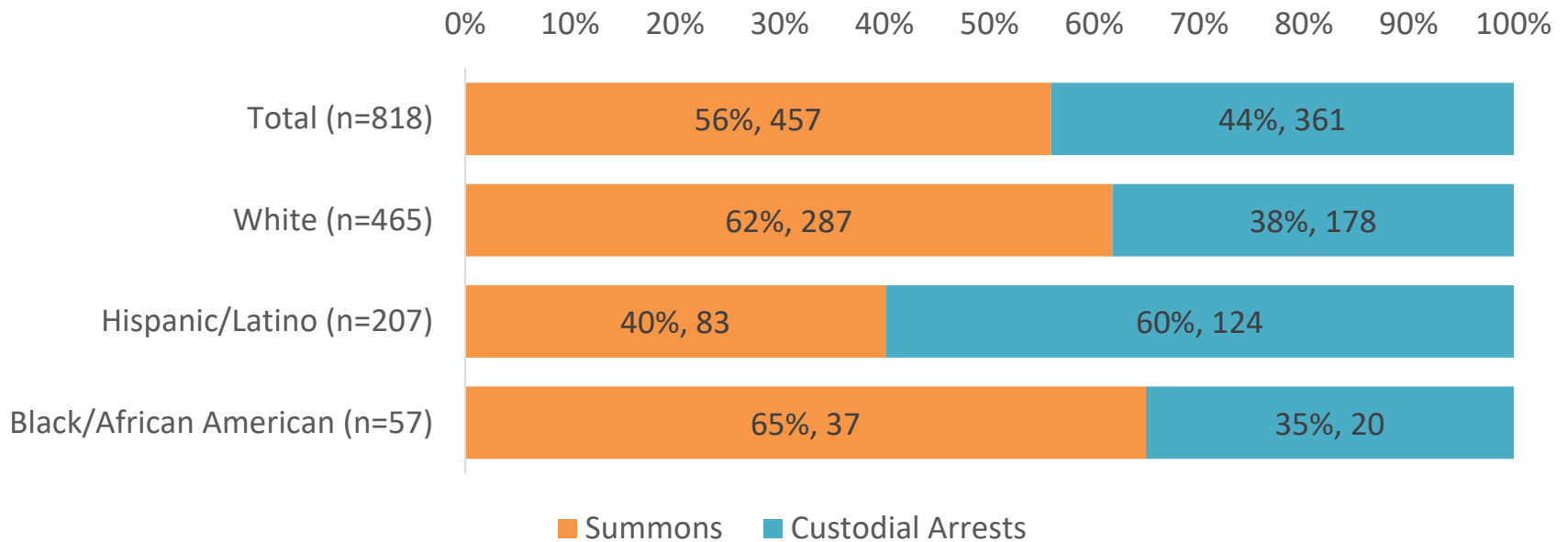
Bristol

Racial Distribution of Bristol County Applications for Complaint by Case Initiation



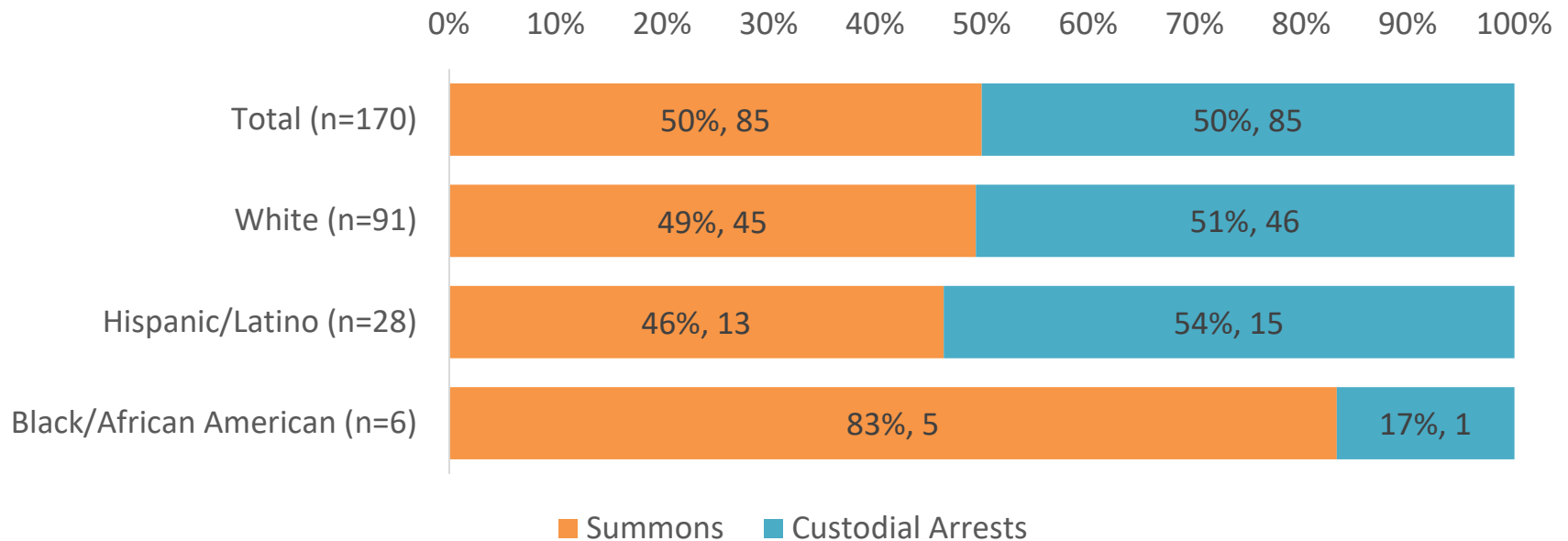
Essex

Racial Distribution of Essex County Applications for Complaint by Case Initiation



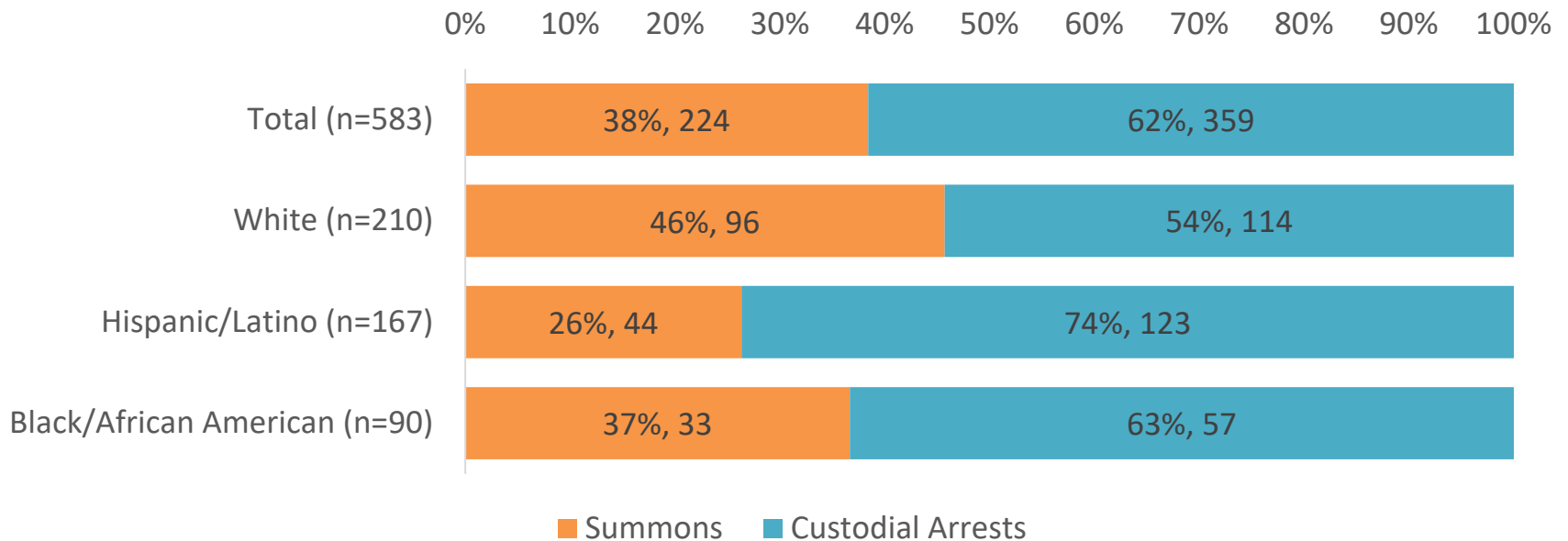
Franklin/Hampshire

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Franklin/Hampshire
County by Case Initiation



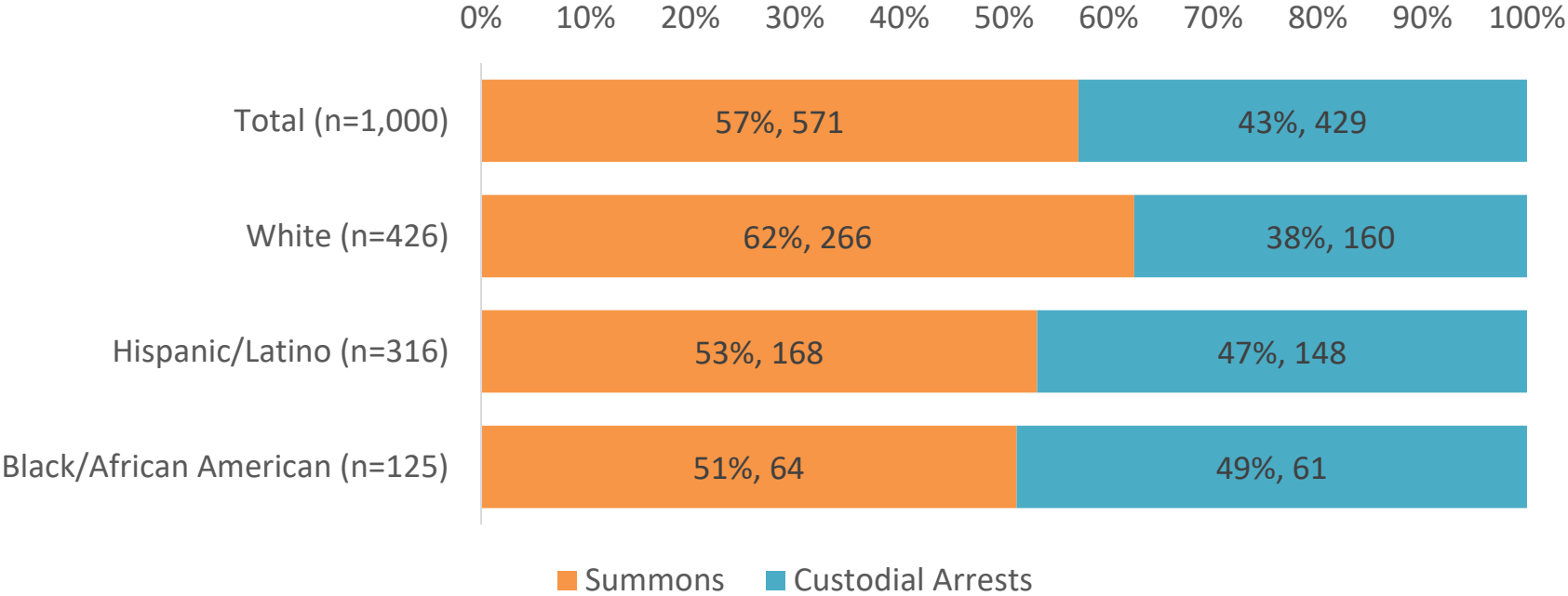
Hampden

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Hampden County by Case Initiation



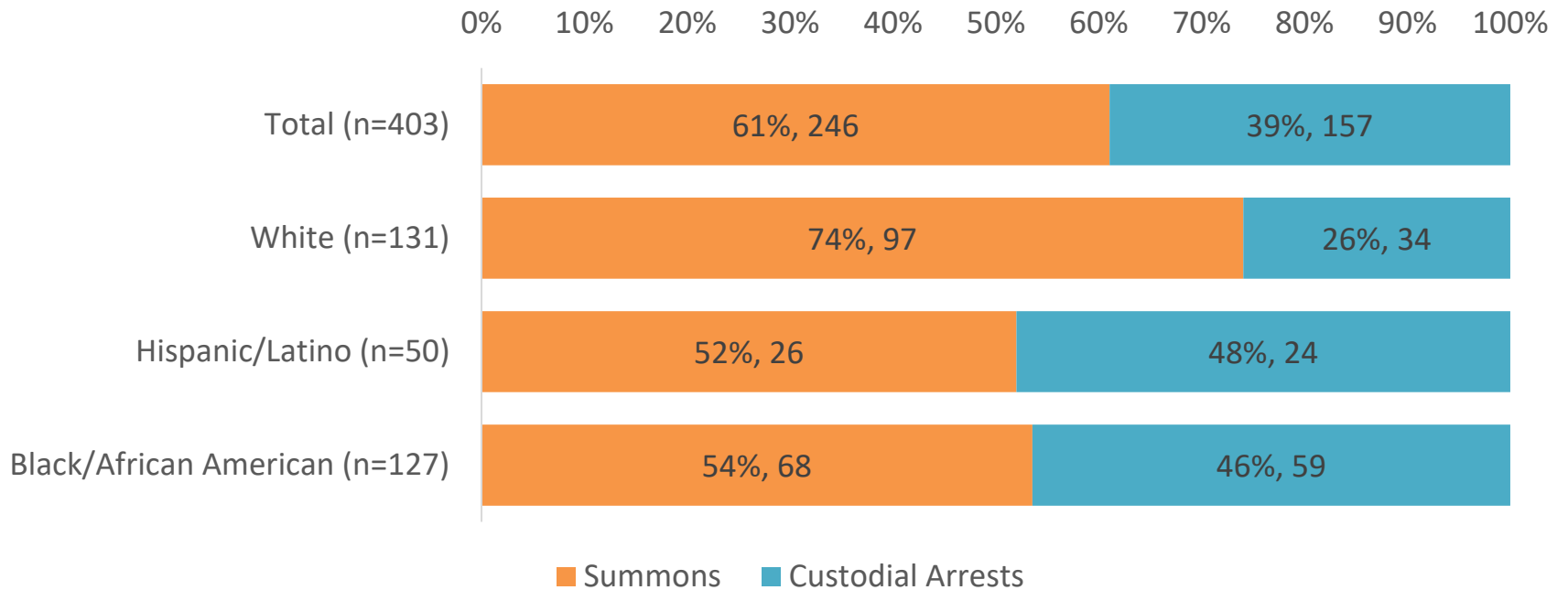
Middlesex

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Middlesex County



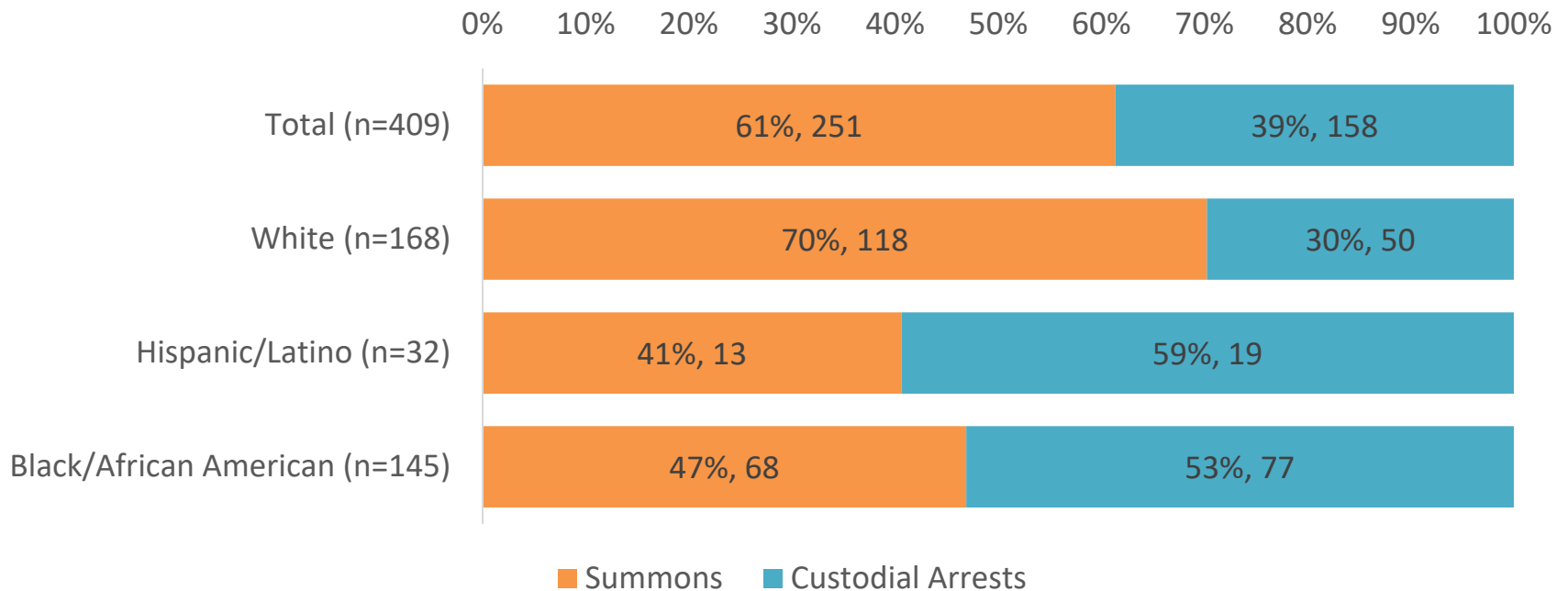
Norfolk

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Norfolk County



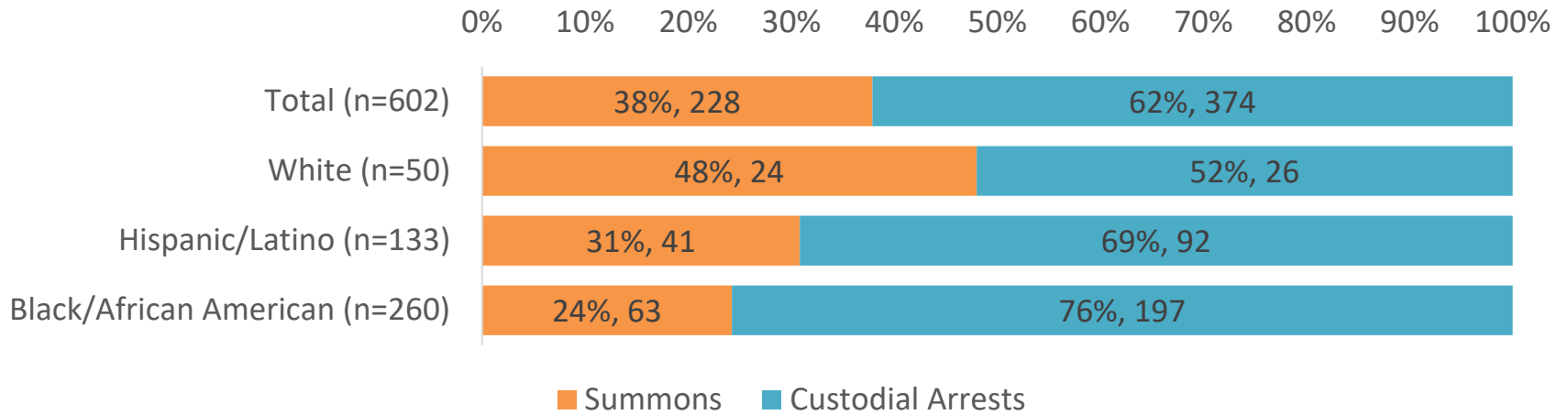
Plymouth

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Plymouth County



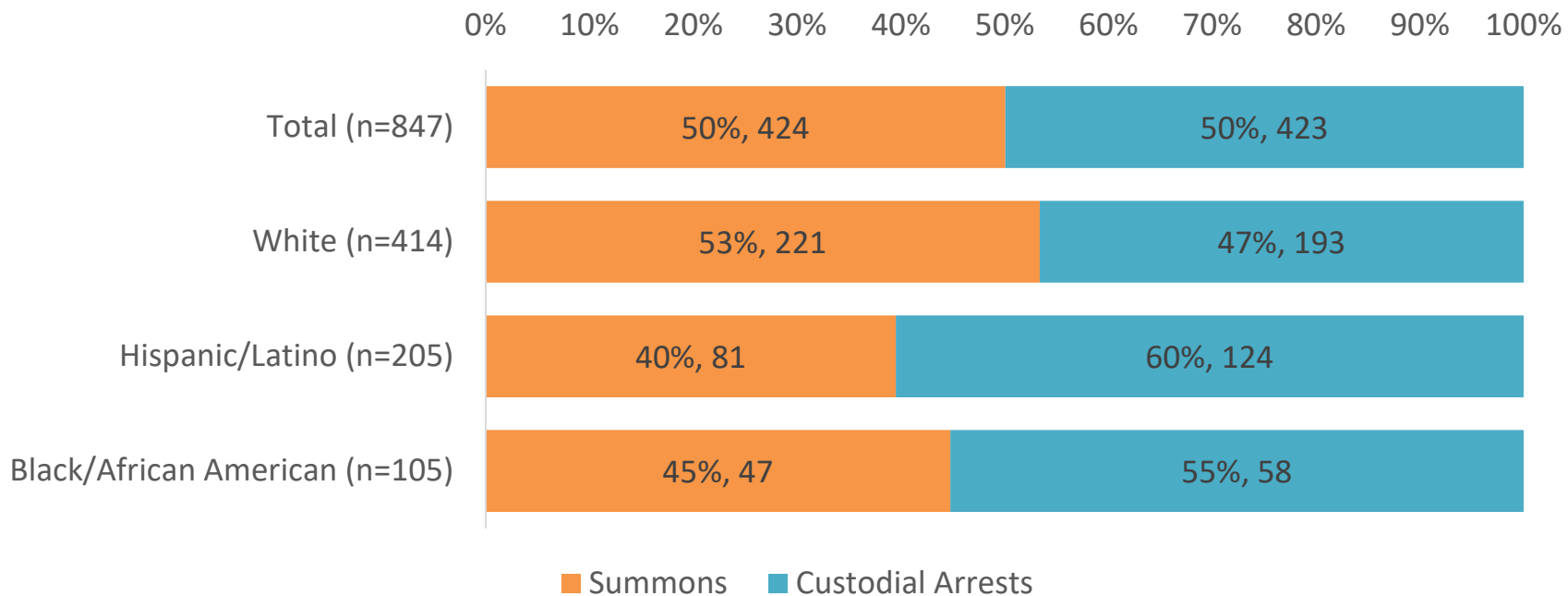
Suffolk

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Suffolk County



Worcester

Racial Distribution of Applications for Complaint in Worcester County



Difference in Geography Hypothesis

- **Differences in county-level practices impact overall statewide disparity rates in a couple of ways.**
- First, some counties *do* use arrest more often than summons, and these counties are ones that have a higher percentage of youth of color – both in general and in terms of youth with complaint applications.
 - Suffolk and Hampden are least likely to use a summons, and both have significant Black/Latino population
 - In comparison, Barnstable County, which has one of the smallest Black/Latino population, is the most likely to use a summons.
- This may be a function of differences in offense severity/type in these counties, different police department practices, or both.

Difference in Geography Hypothesis

- Differences in county-level practices impact overall statewide disparity rates in a couple of ways.
- We see racial disparities in the use of arrest vs summons in all counties, but it is significantly higher in some than others.

Youth Race	Barnstable Arrest %	Berkshire Arrest %	Bristol Arrest %	Essex Arrest %	Franklin/Hampshire Arrest %	Hampden Arrest %	Middlesex Arrest %	Norfolk Arrest %	Plymouth Arrest %	Suffolk Arrest %	Worcester Arrest %
Black	46%	51%	47%	35%	17%	63%	49%	46%	53%	76%	55%
Latino	48%	83%	49%	60%	54%	74%	47%	48%	59%	69%	60%
White	28%	57%	40%	38%	51%	54%	38%	26%	30%	52%	47%

Takeaways from the Data Part II:



- *What other takeaways did you have?*
 - *Was anything surprising?*
- *What other questions remain?*

Policy/Practice Questions for Interviews:

1. How do arrest vs summons + ONA practices differ by county or community?
2. How do practices differ by urban vs suburban vs rural community settings?
3. What offense types qualify as “threatening public safety?”
4. Do the practices differ depending on time of day?
5. What else impacts decision to arrest vs summons + to hold ONA?



What other questions do you have for police and overnight arrest officials?

Next Meeting Date

May 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting

For virtual meeting information, email Morgan Byrnes at Morgan.Byrnes@mass.gov

*2022 Data Subcommittee meetings will be on the
2nd Thursday of the month 10:30am-12pm*

Contact

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