

PRETRIAL OUTCOMES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFENDANTS IN NEW YORK CITY

Richard R. Peterson, Ph.D.
Director, Research Department
New York City Criminal Justice Agency
52 Duane Street
New York, NY 10007
(646) 213-2519
rpeterson@nycja.org

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Peterson, Richard R. 2006. "Pretrial Outcomes for Domestic Violence Defendants."
Research Brief series, no. 12. New York: New York City Criminal Justice Agency.

Peterson, Richard R. 2006. *Pretrial Failure to Appear and Pretrial Re-Arrest Among Domestic Violence Defendants in New York City*. New York: New York City Criminal Justice Agency.

GOALS OF THE STUDY

- Compare pretrial release practices for DV and Non-DV defendants
- Examine pretrial misconduct by DV defendants, especially the commission of new DV offenses
 - Defendants may commit new offenses to retaliate against the victim for the arrest
 - Defendants may commit new offenses to discourage the victim from participating in the prosecution of the case
- Fill a gap in the literature

THE COMBINED FIRST QUARTER 2001 AND THIRD QUARTER 2002 DATASET

SOURCE OF DATA

- NYC arrests in first quarter of 2001 and third quarter 2002
- Defendant-based data file, using only the first arrest for each defendant

TYPES OF CASES SELECTED

- DV and Non-DV cases that involve crimes against persons and property:
Assault, criminal contempt, harassment, crimes against children, larceny, burglary, robbery, criminal mischief, weapons offenses and sex offenses
- Cases disposed in the (lower) Criminal Court (misdemeanor or less)

IDENTIFYING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

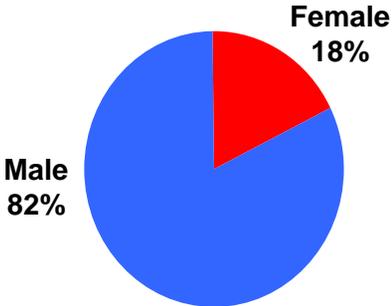
- Court “flag” for DV cases is based on the victim-defendant relationship:
1) married or formerly married, 2) related by blood or marriage,
3) have a child in common, or 4) cohabiting or previously lived together

FIGURE 1

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

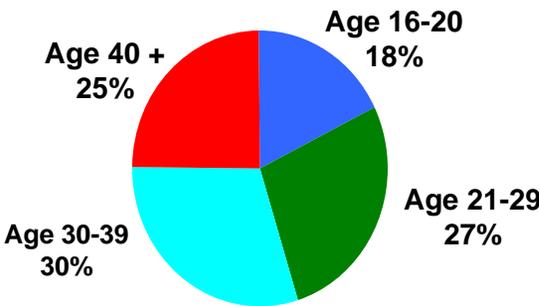
(N=30,269)

Sex

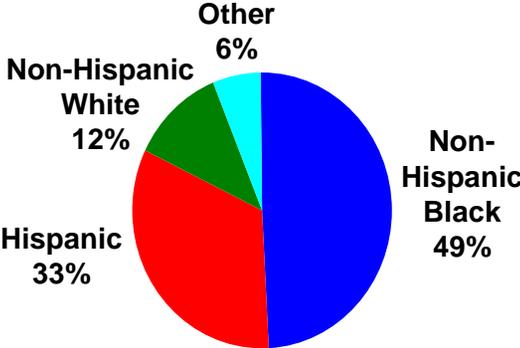


Age

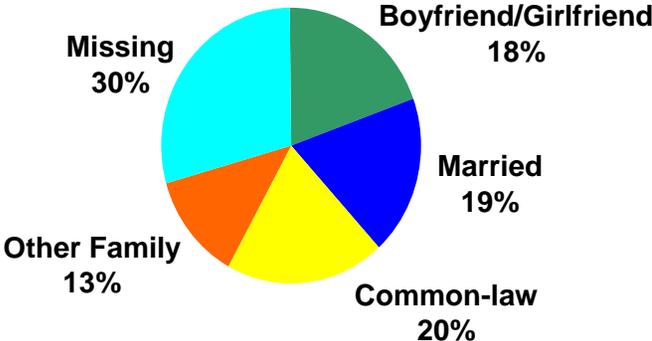
Median: 32



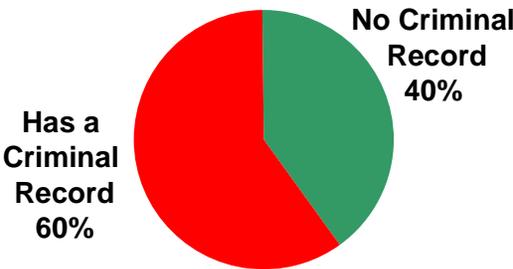
Ethnicity



Defendant-Victim Relationship (DV Only) N=11,938



Criminal History



Borough

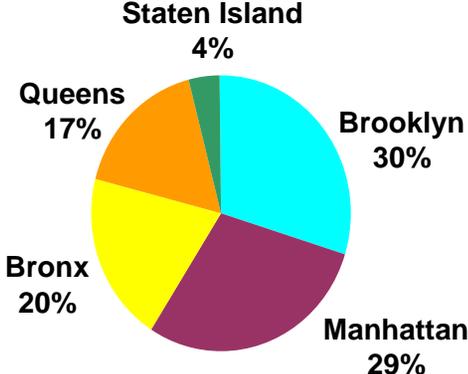
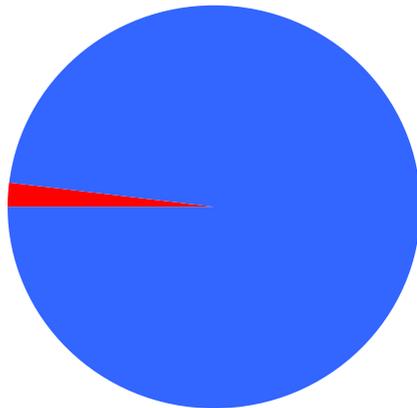


FIGURE 2

CASES DISPOSED AT ARRAIGNMENT

DV CASES

(N=11,938)

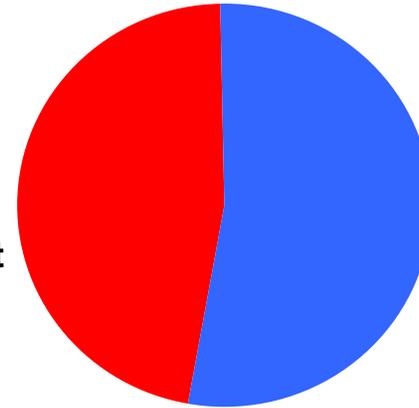


Disposed at
Arraignment
2%

Not Disposed
at Arraignment
98%

NON-DV CASES

(N=18,331)



Disposed at
Arraignment
47%

Not Disposed
at Arraignment
53%

FIGURE 3

RELEASE STATUS AT ARRAIGNMENT

(Defendants with Cases Continued Beyond Arraignment)

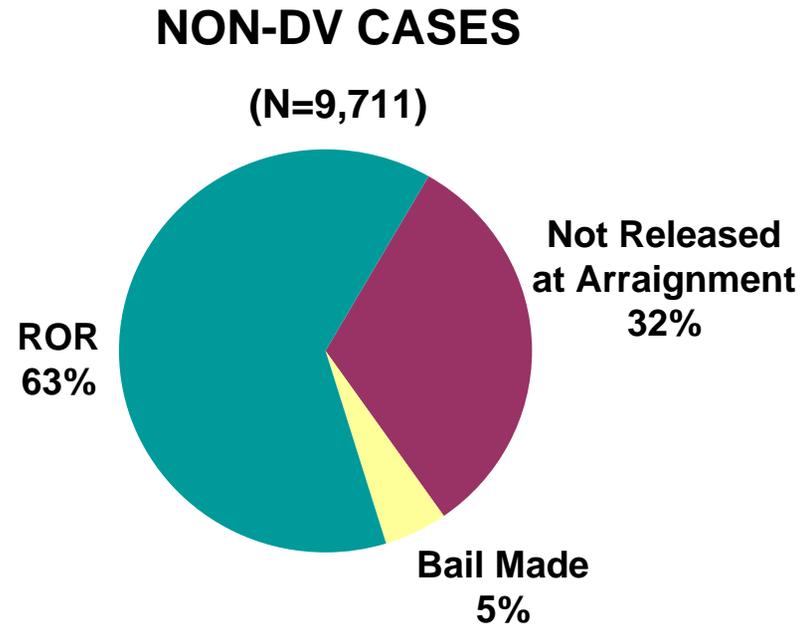
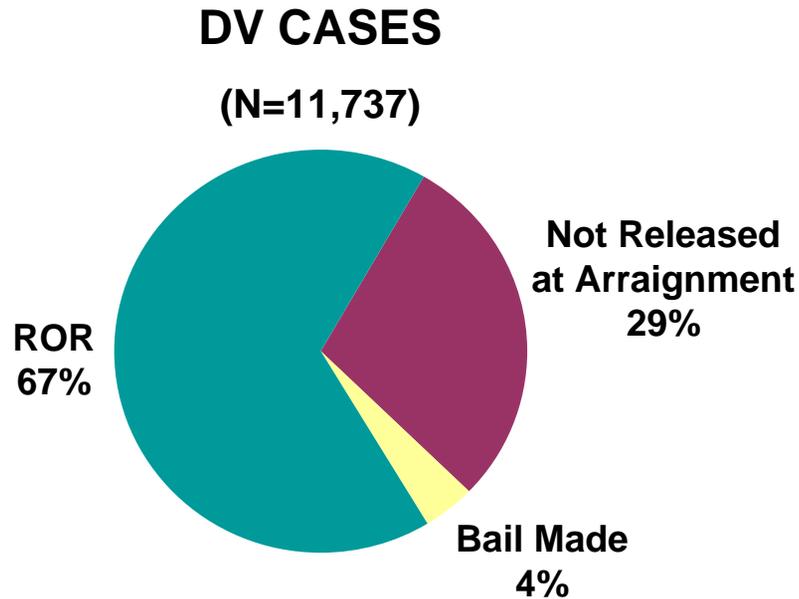
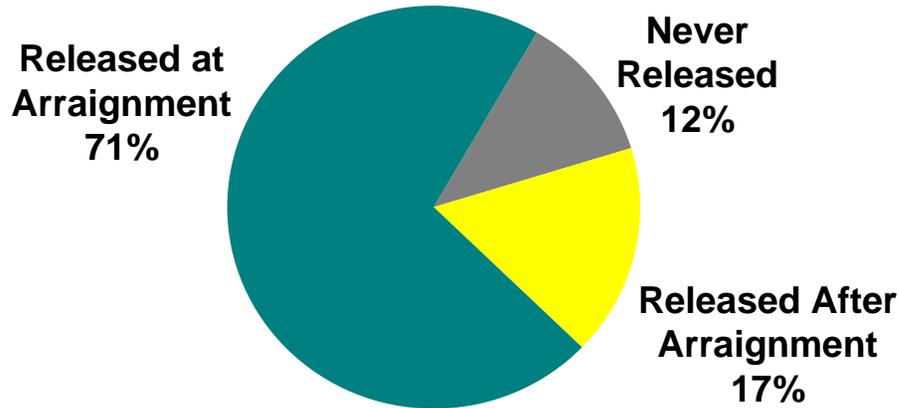


FIGURE 4 STAGE OF FIRST RELEASE

(Defendants with Cases Continued Beyond Arraignment)

DV CASES

(N=11,737)



NON-DV CASES

(N=9,711)

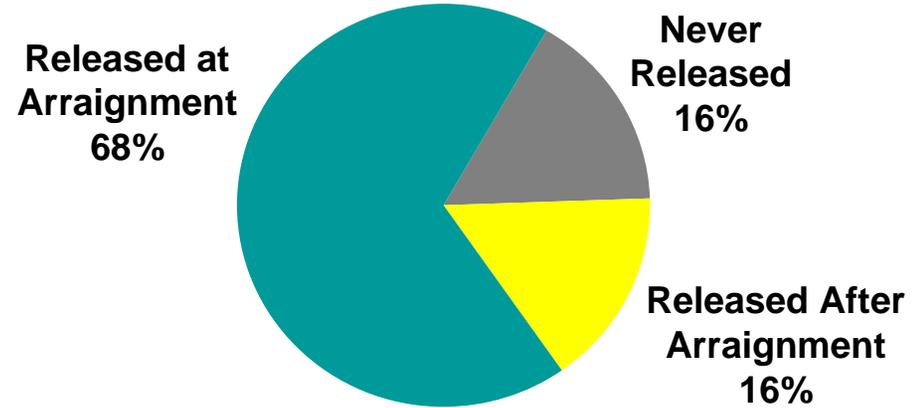


FIGURE 5
AMOUNT OF BAIL SET AT ARRAIGNMENT
(Defendants for Whom Bail Was Set at Arraignment)

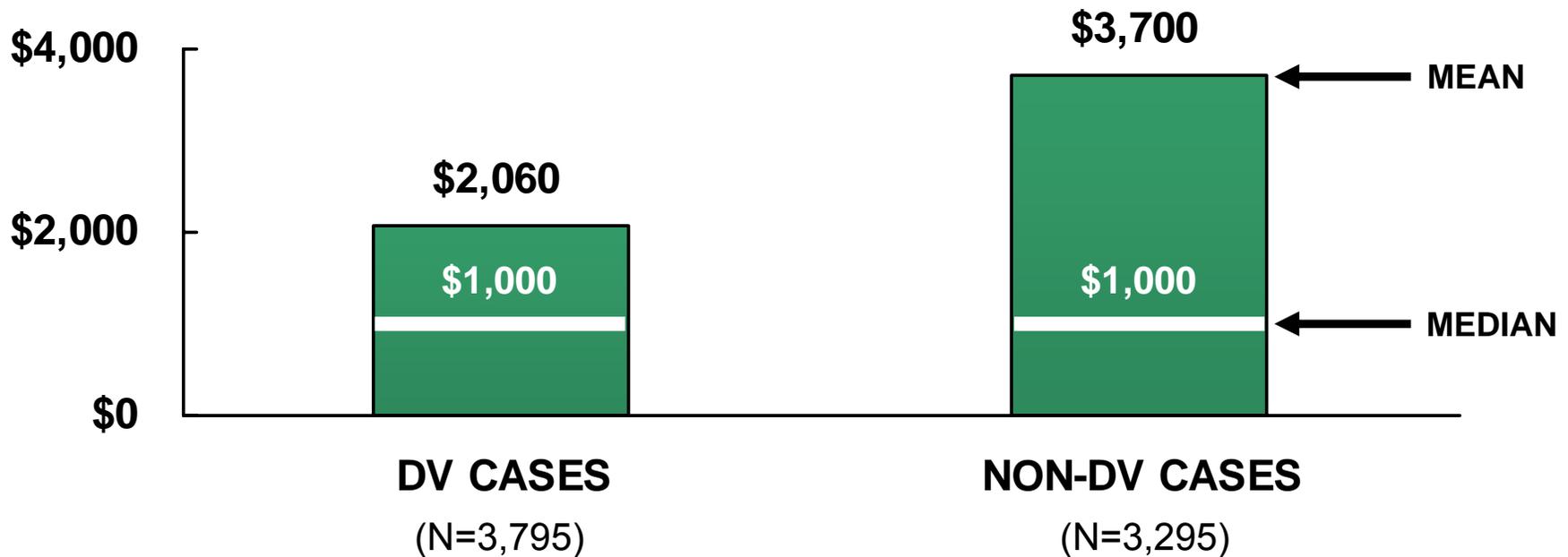


FIGURE 6
FAILURE-TO-APPEAR RATES FOR
DEFENDANTS WHO WERE EVER RELEASED

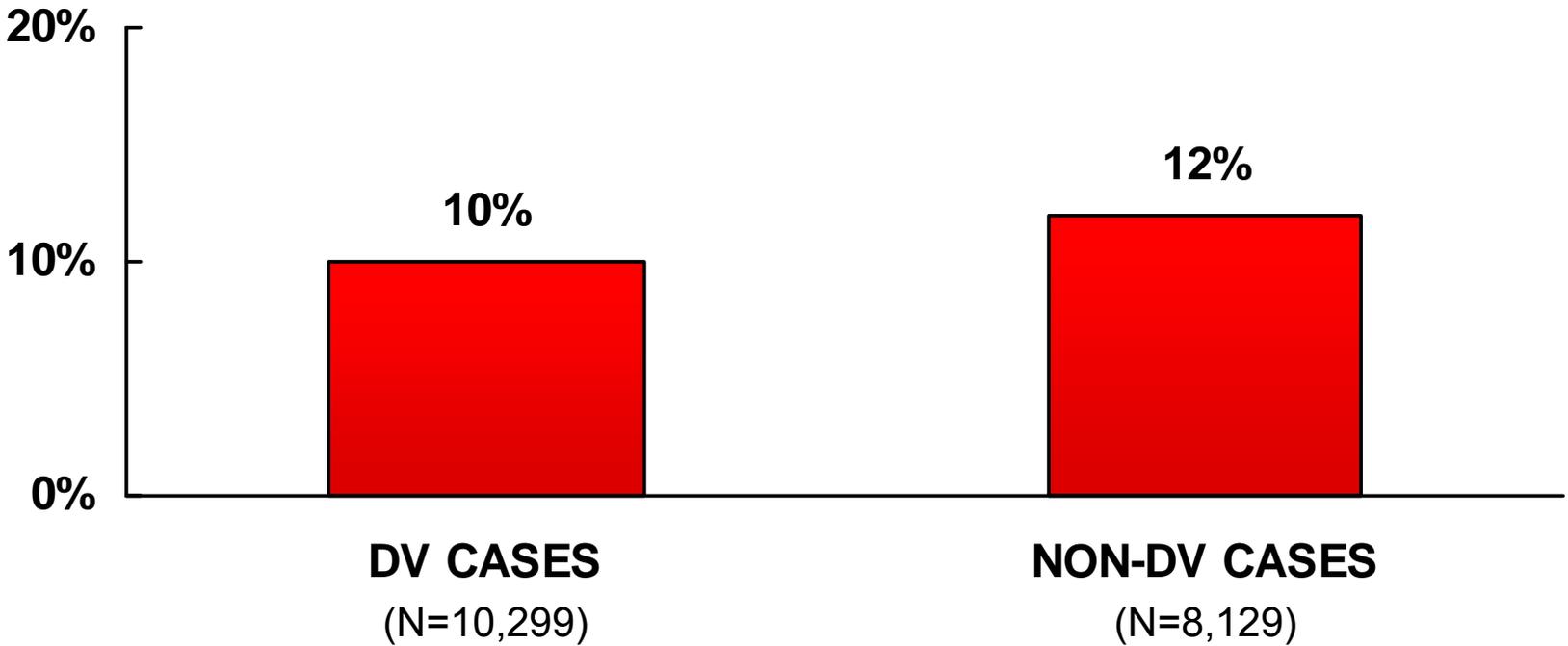


FIGURE 7

PRETRIAL RE-ARREST RATES FOR ANY NEW OFFENSES FOR DEFENDANTS WHO WERE EVER RELEASED

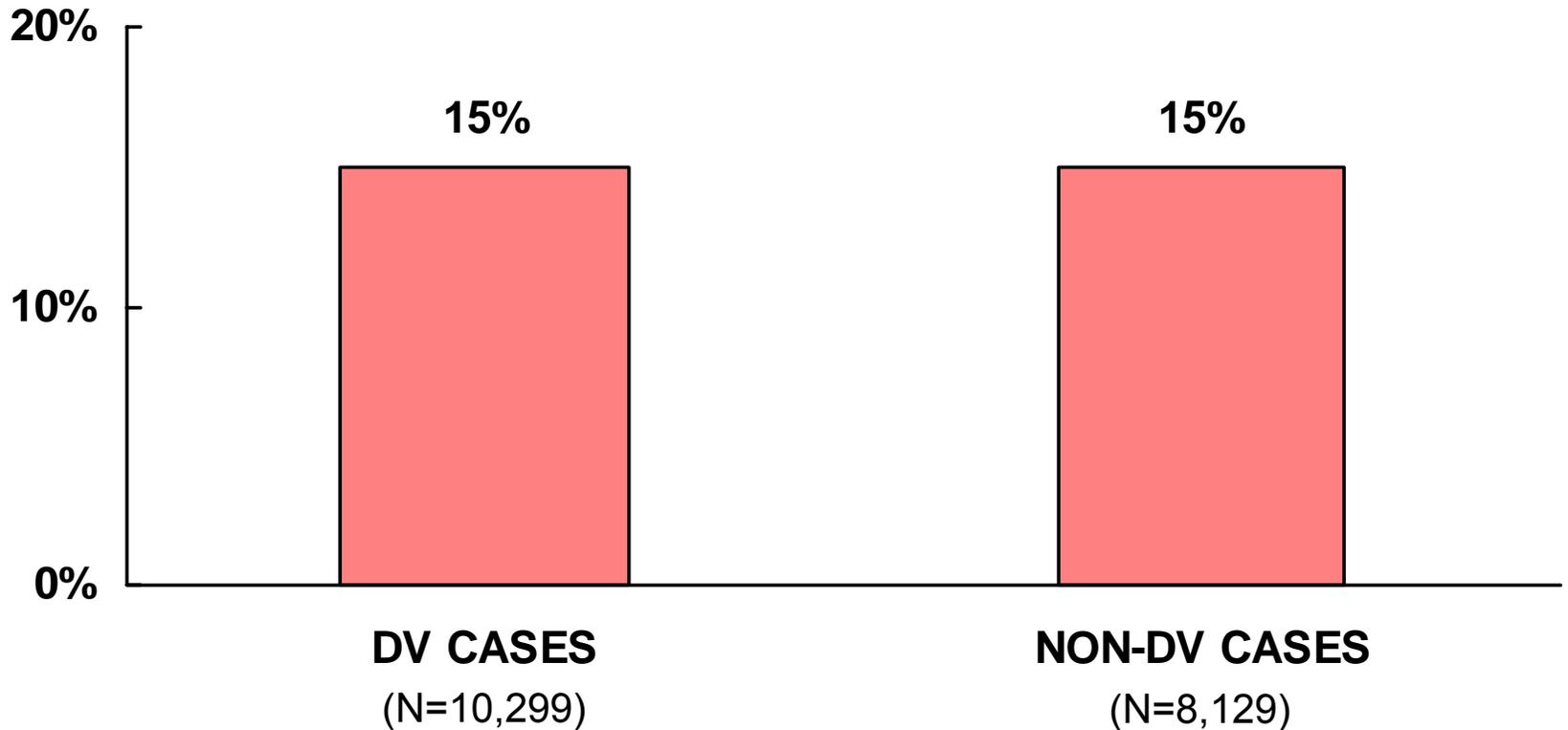
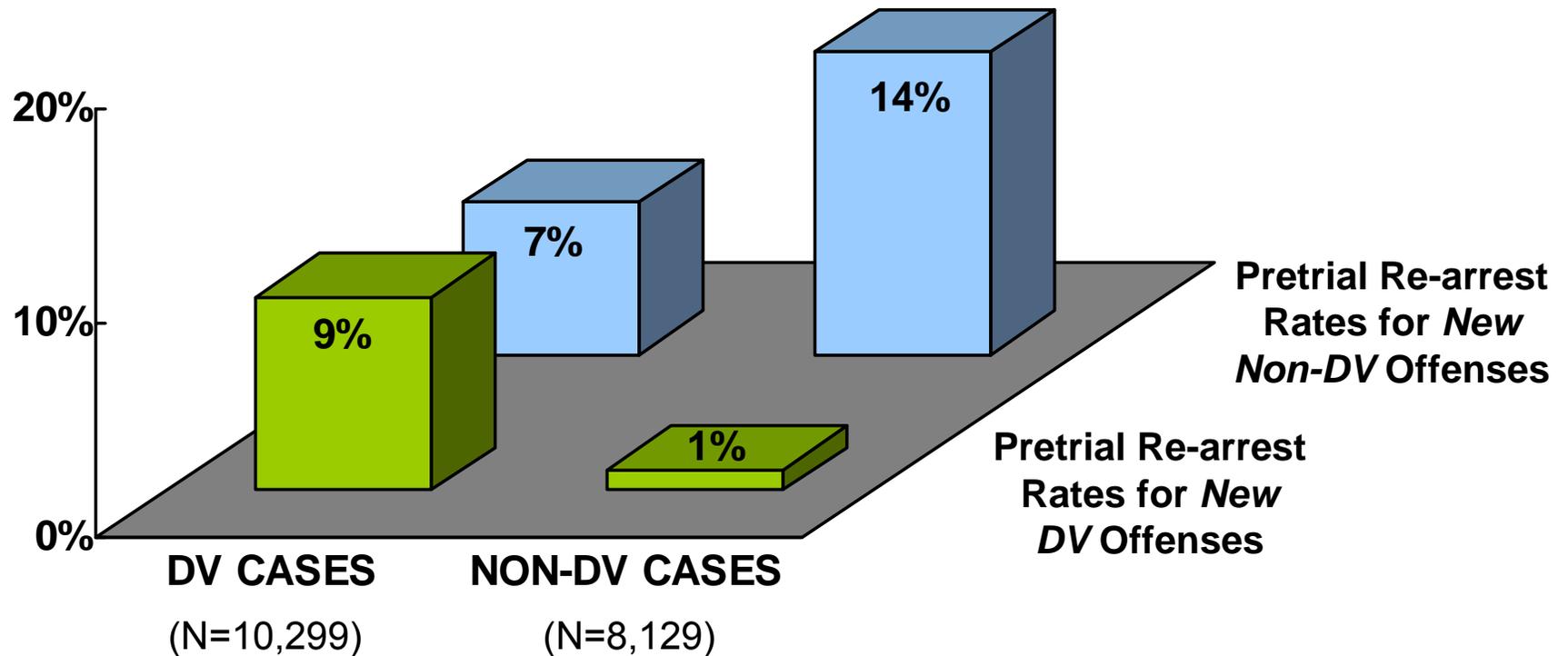


FIGURE 8 PRETRIAL RE-ARREST RATES FOR NEW DV AND NON-DV OFFENSES FOR DEFENDANTS WHO WERE EVER RELEASED



PREDICTORS OF PRETRIAL RE-ARREST FOR A NEW DV OFFENSE

- Criminal history and community ties, especially employment, were important predictors
- DV Defendants charged with criminal contempt were more likely to be re-arrested for a new DV offense
- Whether the defendant was released on recognizance or on bail had no impact on the likelihood of re-arrest for a new DV offense
- Age was the strongest predictor in the model: defendants over 40 were much less likely to be re-arrested for a new DV offense
- Women were less likely to be re-arrested for a new DV offense

CONCLUSIONS

- Pretrial release practices and overall rates of pretrial misconduct are quite similar for DV and Non-DV defendants
- Pretrial re-arrest for new DV offenses is a significant problem, but difficult to prevent
 - There is no evidence that increased use of bail would be effective
 - Pretrial orders of protection are issued in all DV cases, but re-arrests for new DV offenses continue to occur
- A supervised release program for high-risk DV defendants should be considered

FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED

- Studies of pretrial practices for DV defendants
- Studies of pretrial misconduct in multiple jurisdictions
- Forthcoming:
Processing of Domestic Violence Cases in State Courts
conducted by Pretrial Services Resource Center, funded by BJS
- Interviews of victims for information about:
 - Victim reports of re-offending
 - Victim-defendant relationship
 - (Dis)satisfaction with the criminal justice system
- Evaluations of supervised release programs for DV defendants
- Development of instruments to assess the risk of pretrial re-arrest for new DV offenses