

Data On Domestic Violence *from* Arizona Computerized Criminal History Records System

Data Analysis

Maricopa Association of Governments



Evaluating Arrest Outcome Rates

Positive indicators?

- ❑ Increase in Guilty verdicts
- ❑ Decrease in Court Dismissals
- ❑ Decrease in Missing Dispositions.

Negative indicators?

- ❑ Decrease in Guilty verdicts
- ❑ Increase in Court Dismissals
- ❑ Increase in Missing Dispositions.

Issues in Evaluating Arrest Outcomes

- Not every municipality will view high **Court Dismissals** negatively
- Not all municipalities will view high **Guilty** verdicts positively
- High **Missing Disposition** rates distort **Court Dismissals** and **Guilty** verdicts

-Dr. Phillip Stevenson, Director, Statistical Analysis Center at Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Missing Disposition

Defined

- **Missing Disposition:** An arrest occurred and that information was successfully submitted to the ACCH, and there is no information on how that arrest was resolved (e.g., guilty, not guilty, not filed, not referred, etc.).

Nationally

- Almost all states have challenges with missing disposition information, but states may be calculating that number and percentage differently.
- Rates vary from state to state
- There is no standard or “norm” for these rates

Proposed Evaluations

Opportunities to Replicate Best Practices

Low Missing Dispositions=

- DV cases are being tracked efficiently.
- Rates of Guilty verdicts and Court Dismissals are more relevant.

Opportunities to Provide Technical Assistance

High Missing Dispositions=

- DV cases are not being tracked well.
- Rates of Guilty and Court Dismissals might be skewed or wrong.

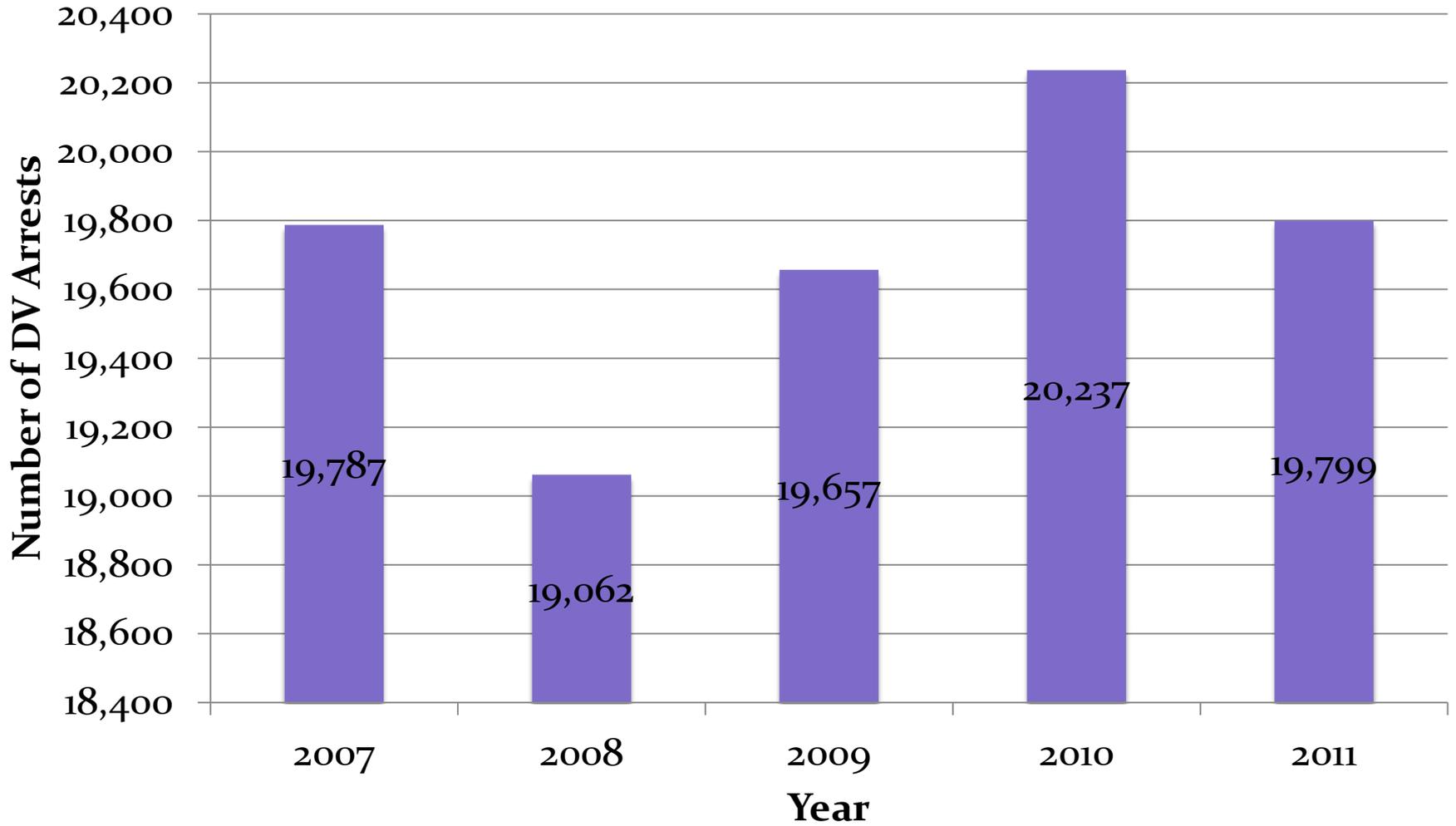
Maricopa County Domestic Violence Arrests



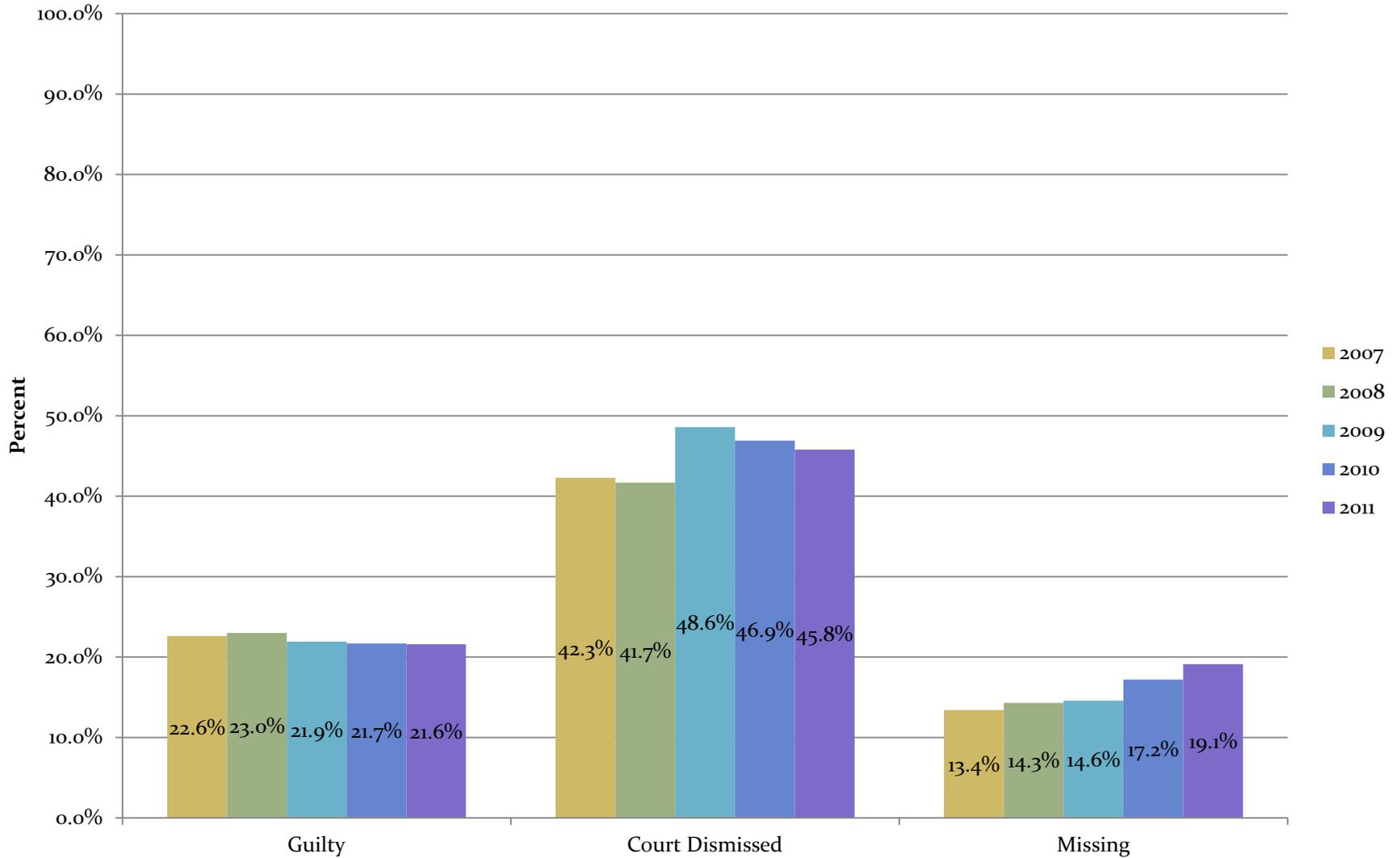
Graphed:

- Number of Arrest Charges
- Guilty Verdicts
- Court Dismissals
- Missing Dispositions

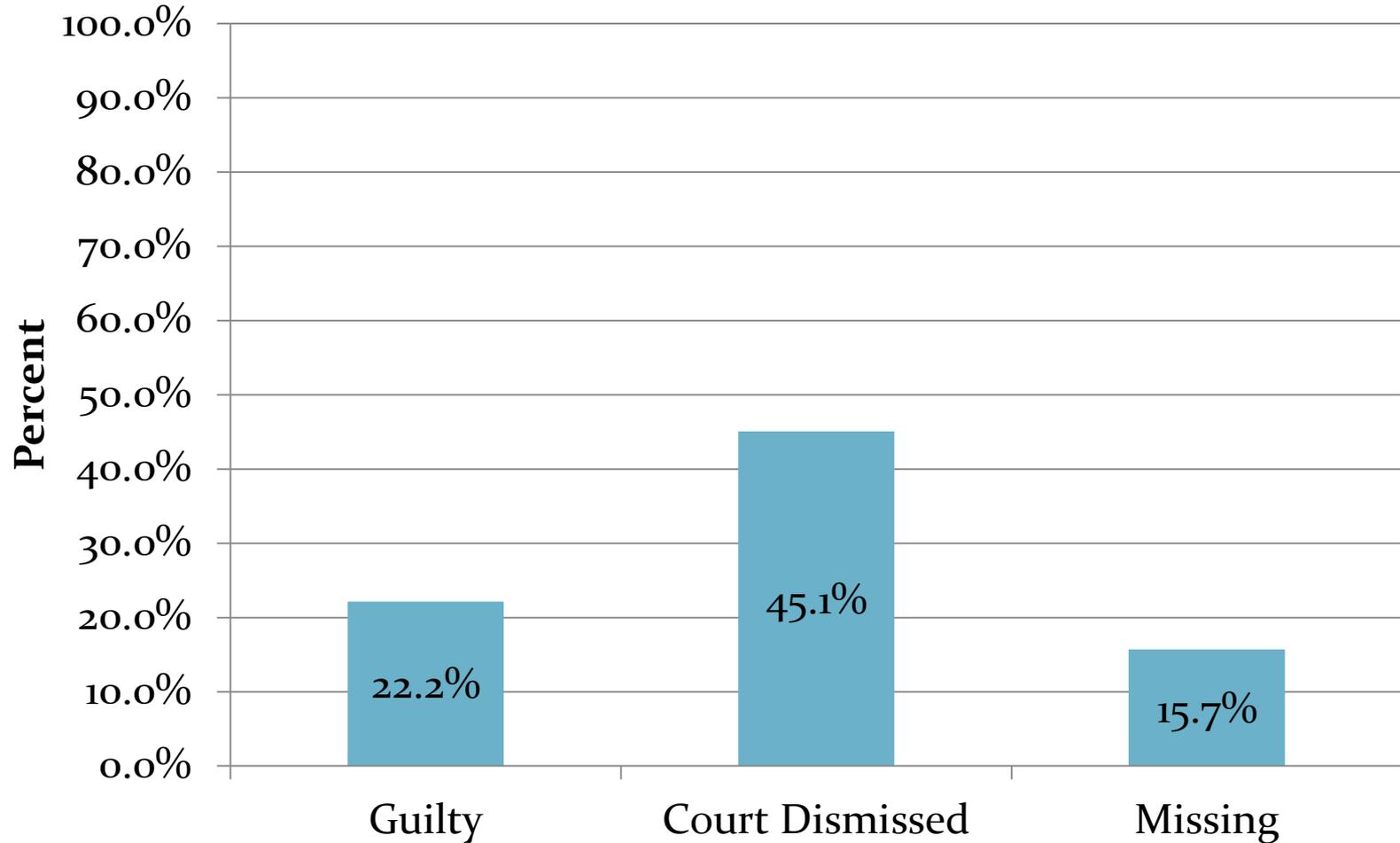
Maricopa County Domestic Violence Arrest Charges Data



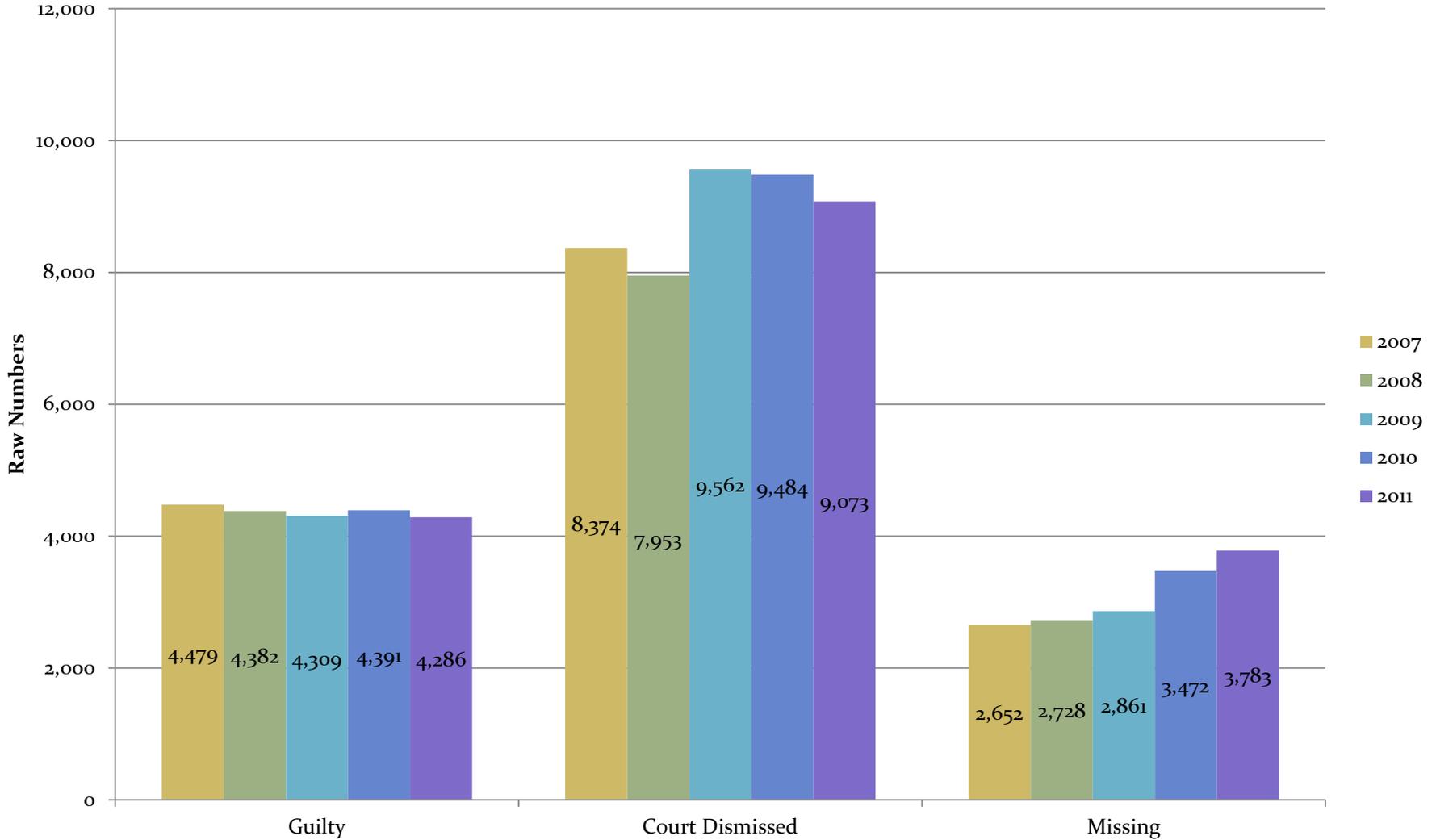
Domestic Violence Arrest Outcomes Maricopa County



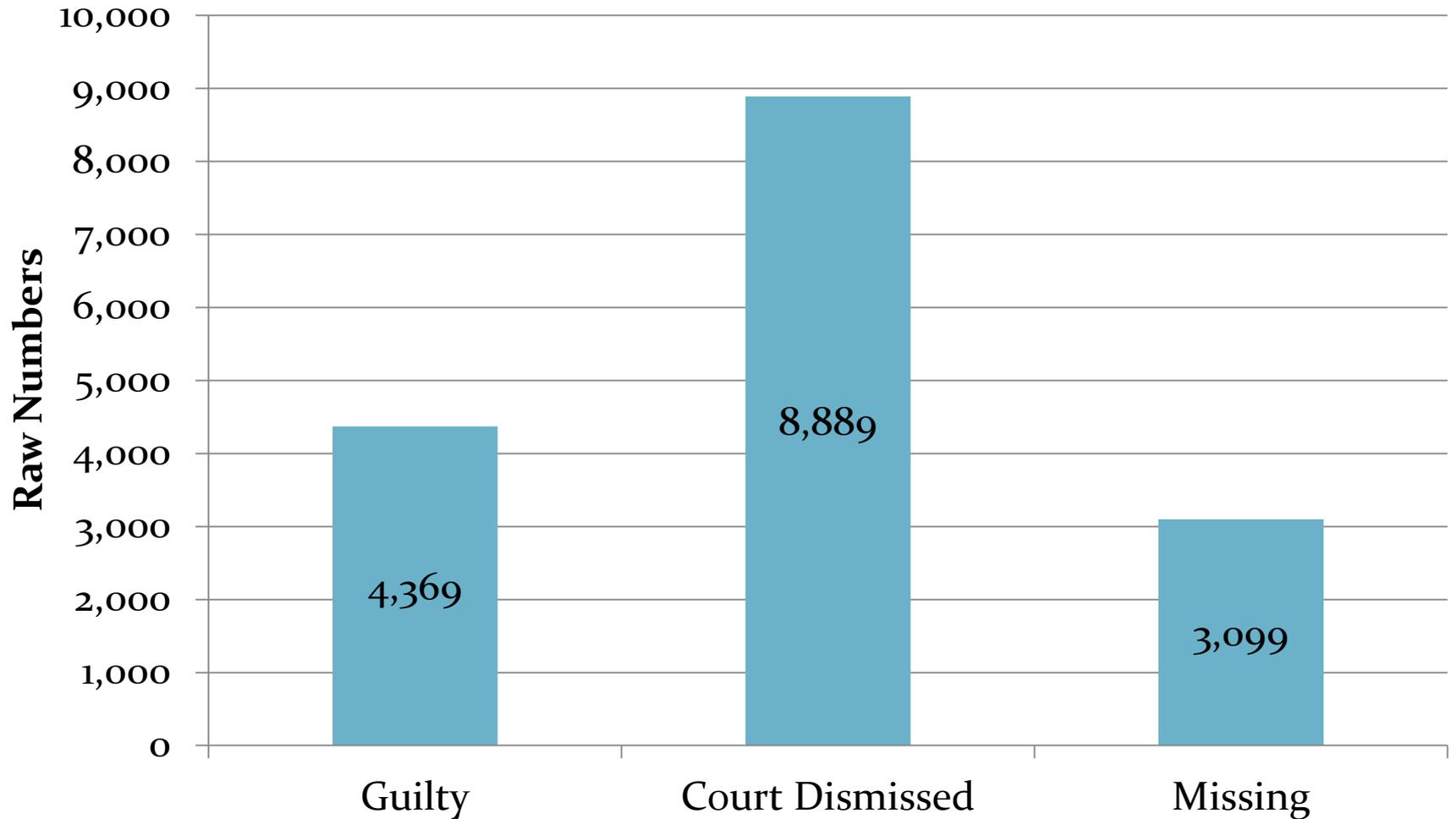
Average Outcomes Maricopa County 2007-2011



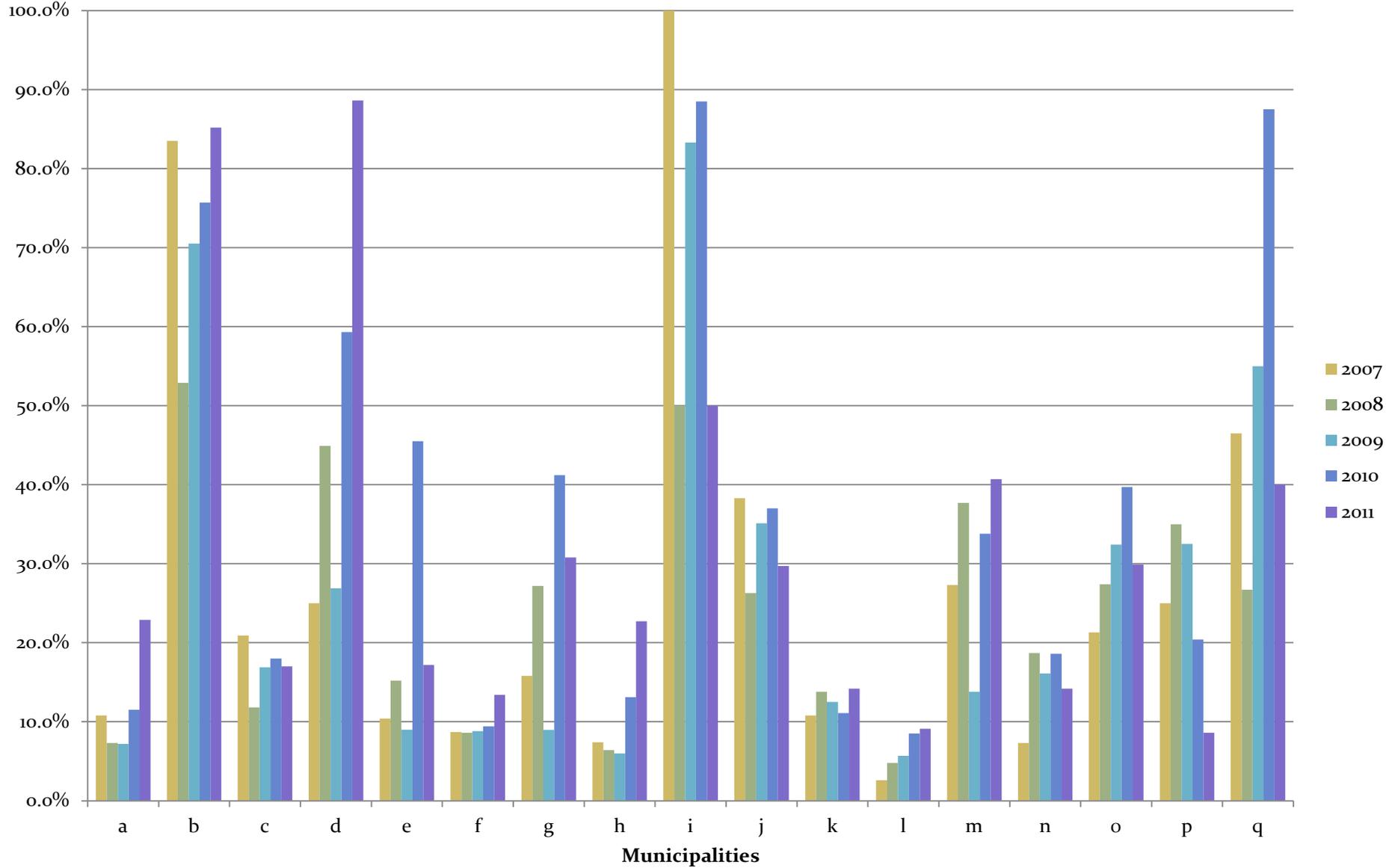
Domestic Violence Arrest Outcomes Maricopa County



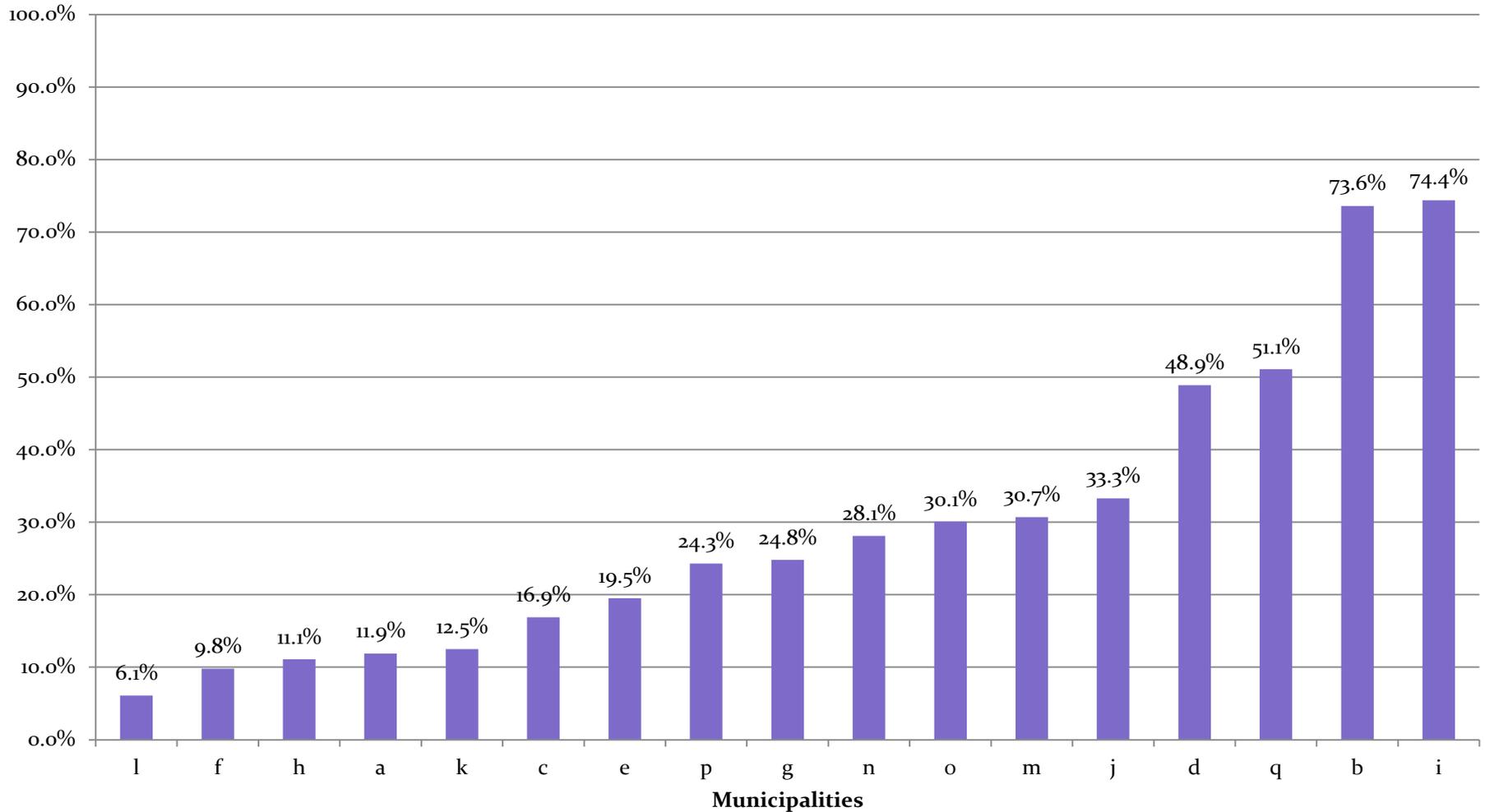
Average Arrest Outcomes Maricopa County 2007-2011



Missing Disposition Trends Across Municipalities (2007-2011)



Average Missing Disposition Rates of Municipalities Maricopa County (2007-2011)



Discussion

What have we learned?

Best Practices

- Vary in size and geography, such as the differences between densely populated, urban Phoenix and more rural Wickenburg.
- Both urban and rural municipalities included cities or towns with low missing disposition rates, as well as cities or towns with high missing disposition rates.

Other Variables

There are many possible variables impacting the data:

- Dispositions are still submitted by most jurisdictions via a paper process
- There is a set of information on the disposition that currently must match information on the arrest submission

Considerations

Crime Count vs. Crime Rate Paradox in Arizona

- “Increases in the population of the state can lead to decreases in crime rates even when the number of crimes have also increased.”

(Stevenson 2011, Stevenson, Litzenberger, Neitch, and Bileski 2009)

Final Note

- “Missing criminal history record information undermines the criminal justice system’s ability to effectively respond to repeat offenders.”

Questions?



Next Steps...

What applications does this data have?

What are the next steps for enhancing data quality based on the report findings?

Thank You!

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