



**THE
SENTENCING
PROJECT**

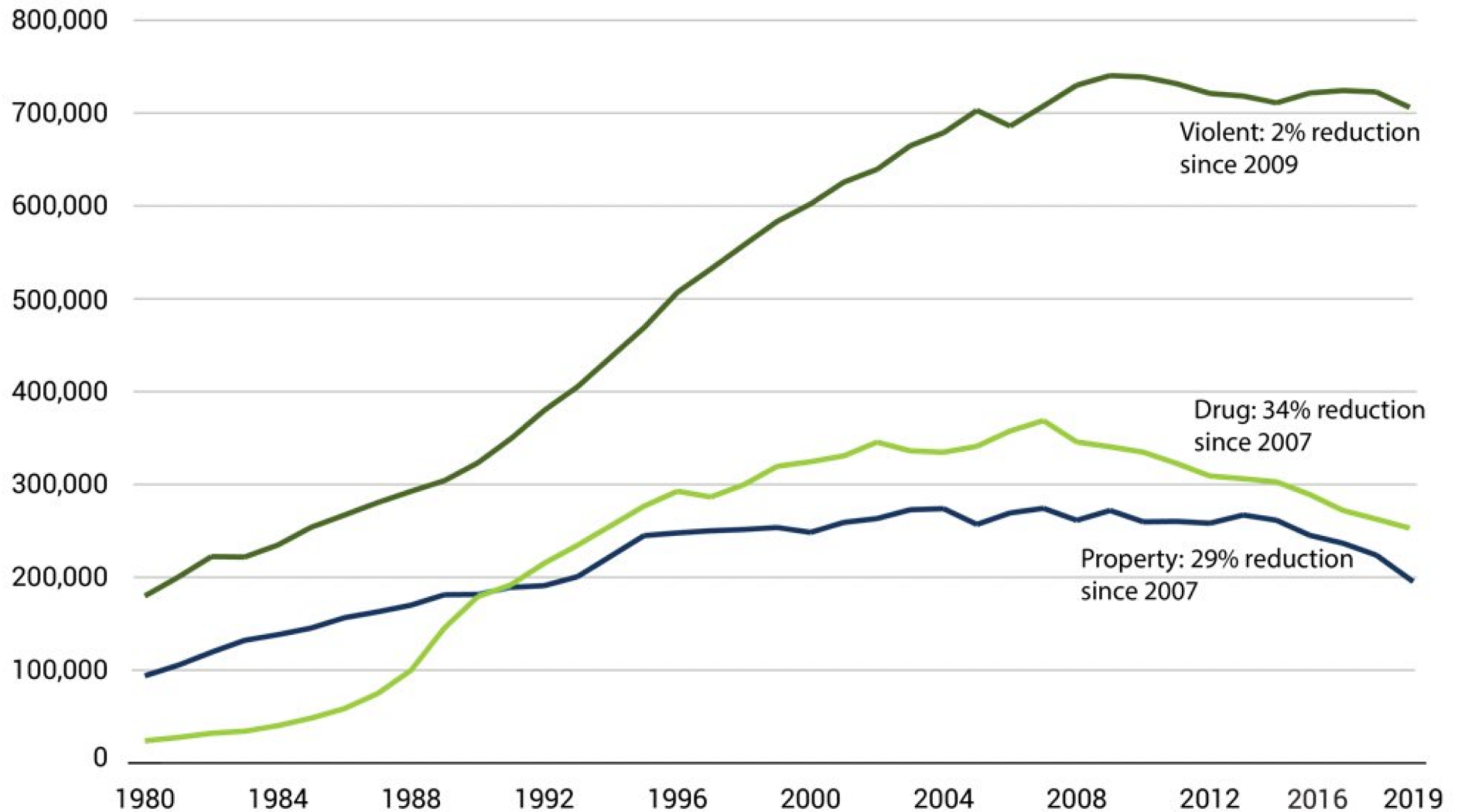
RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR REFORM

Curbing Extreme Sentences

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Ending Mass Incarceration Requires Curbing Extreme Sentences

U.S. Prison Population by Conviction Offense, 1980-2019



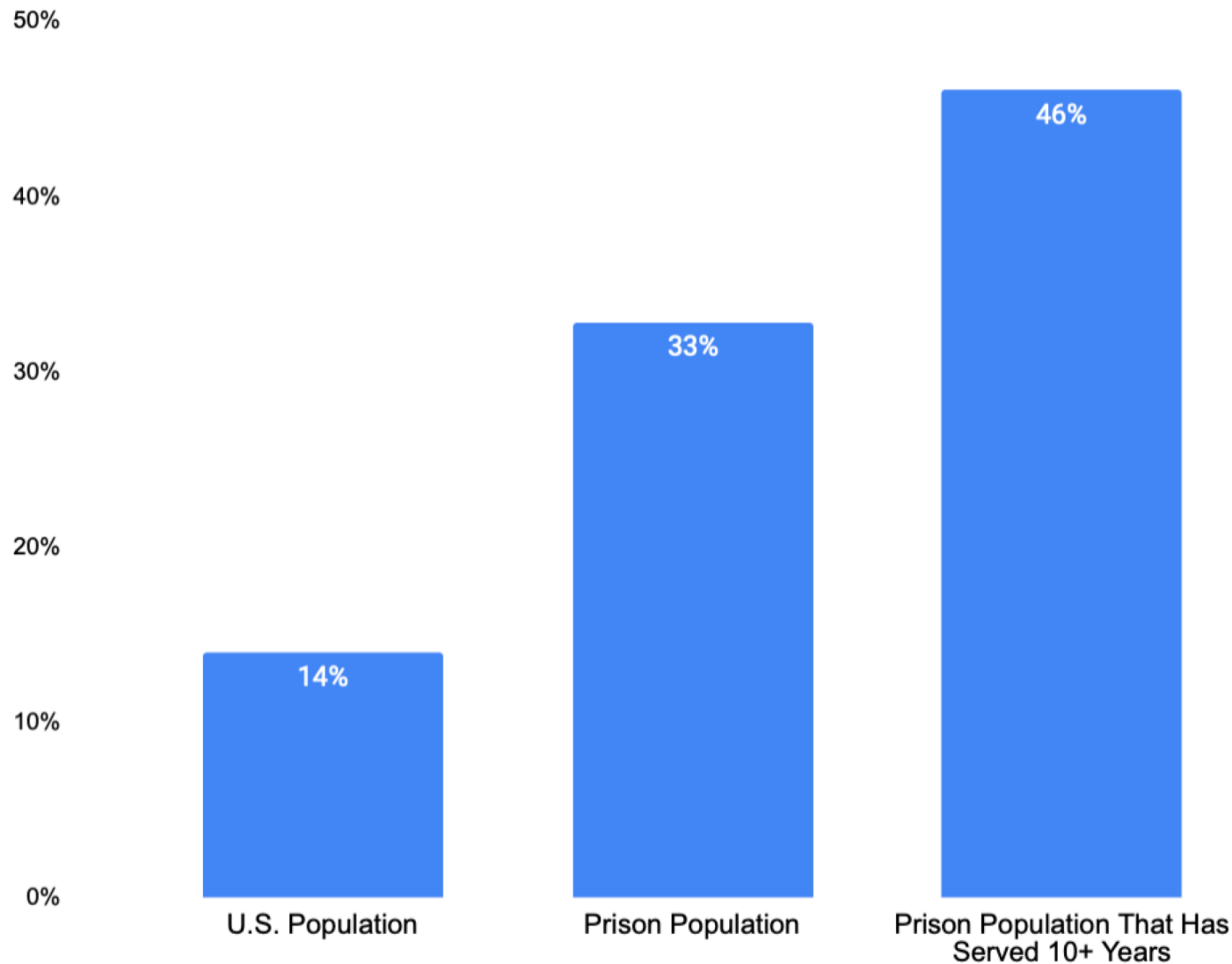
Life Imprisonment



- One in 7 people in U.S. prisons is serving a life sentence, totaling over 200,000 people

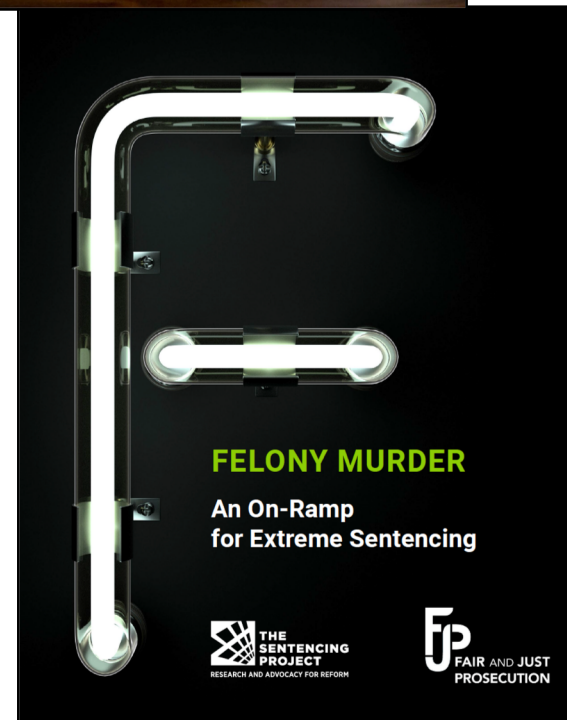
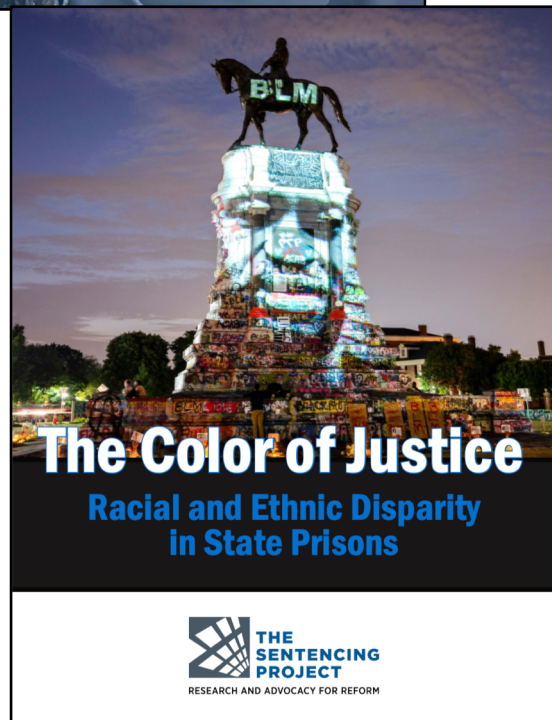
Curbing Extreme Sentences Will Accelerate Racial Justice

Black Americans as a Percentage of ...



We Are Working Towards

- Limiting virtually all **maximum prison terms** to 20 years.
- Taking a **second look** at sentences within 10 years of imprisonment.
- Require prospective and retroactive **racial impact statements** for all criminal statutes.



Sentencing Commissions: Be Bold!

- **Support Legislative Reforms**
 - E.g., DC Criminal Code Reform Commission: maximum sentence length of 45 years and “second look” for all after 15 years
- **Reform Guidelines**
 - E.g., U.S. Sentencing Commission: “Drugs Minus Two” Amendment applied retroactively and former Chair Patti B. Saris recommendation to eliminate mandatory minimums
- **Share Data and Analysis**
 - E.g., Potential felony murder analysis by CT Sentencing Commission

Let's End Mass Incarceration Within Our Lifetime

Historical and projected U.S. federal and state prison populations, based on 2009-2019 rate of decline

