

3-22-2024

Examining the Characteristics that Contribute to Recidivism Among Police Officers, 2006-2018

Grace M. Wadsworth

Bowling Green State University, grawads@bgsu.edu

Eric M. Cooke

Bowling Green State University, emcook@bgsu.edu

Philip M. Stinson

Bowling Green State University, stinspm@bgsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub



Part of the [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Repository Citation

Wadsworth, Grace M.; Cooke, Eric M.; and Stinson, Philip M., "Examining the Characteristics that Contribute to Recidivism Among Police Officers, 2006-2018" (2024). *Criminal Justice Faculty Publications*. 144.

https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub/144

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Health and Human Services at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Criminal Justice Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.



Examining the Characteristics that Contribute to Recidivism Among Police Officers, 2006-2018

Grace M. Wadsworth, Eric M. Cooke, & Philip M. Stinson

Bowling Green State University

Support for this project was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides Foundation.

ABSTRACT

Police misconduct has been subject to increasing public scrutiny over the past several years. One area of police misconduct deserving further investigation is the finding that some police officers tend to engage in multiple forms of misconduct resulting in multiple arrests. This study examines the individual-level, agency-level, and contextual factors that increase the likelihood of officer multi-arrest. Longitudinal data (2006–2018) comes from the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database (scan QR Code above) to examine the multilevel factors that contribute to officer misconduct resulting in multiple arrests.

METHOD

The data for this project were collected as part of a larger research project on police crime. The data were compiled from multiple news sources and court documents from the years 2006-2018. The news sources used for this project were primarily discovered through Google News™ search engine and Google Alerts™ email update service. For this project, we narrowed the data to include all nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers who were arrested two or more times.

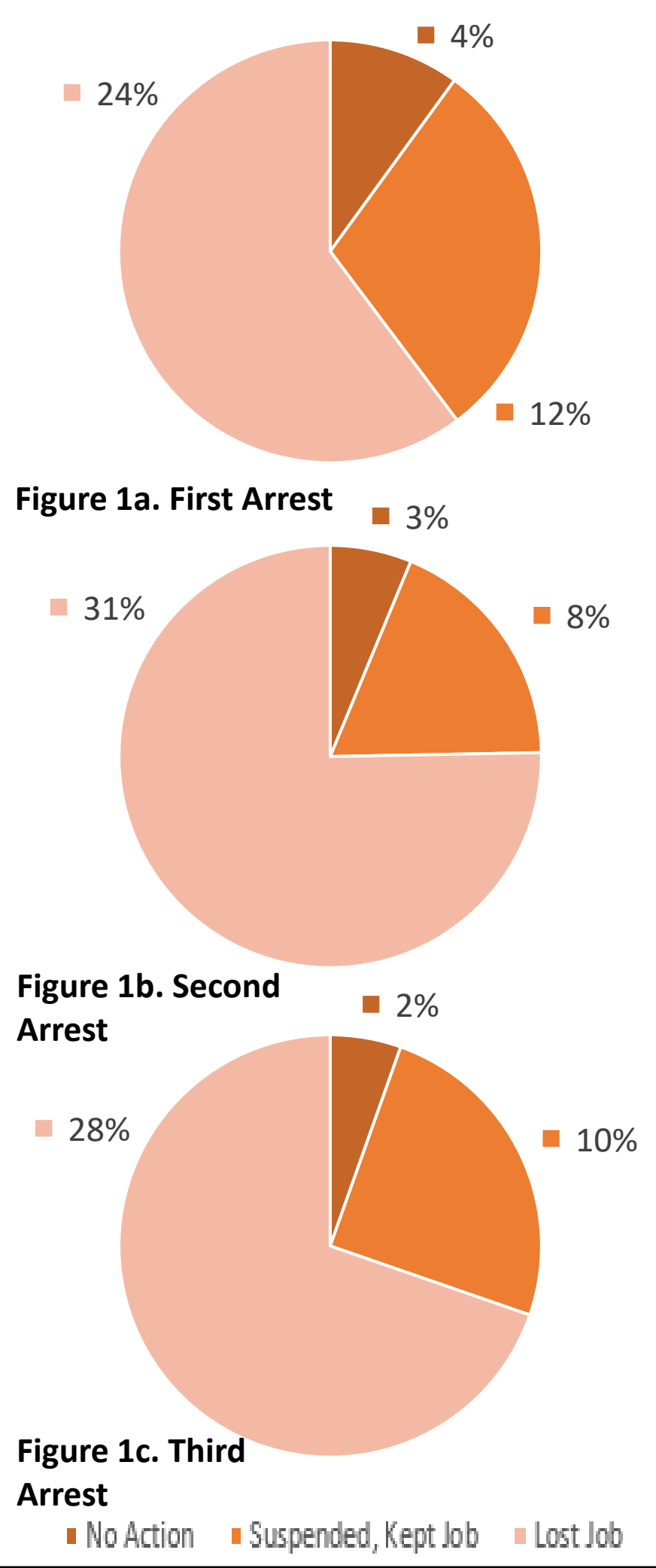
Table 1. Repeat Offender Officer Demographics from 2006-2018 (N = 966)

n (%)		n (%)	
Sex		Type of Agency Employed at 1st Arrest	
Male	917 (95.9)	Municipal Police	693 (71.7)
Female	49 (5.1)	Sheriff's Office	169 (17.5)
Race		County Police	45 (4.7)
White	643 (66.6)	Primary State Police	29 (3.0)
Black	154 (15.9)	Other	30 (3.1)
Other	14 (0.14)	Arrests and Re-Arrests	
Unknown	155 (16.0)	1st Arrest	966 (100.0)
Years of Service at 1st Arrest		2nd Arrest	966 (100.0)
0-5	239 (24.7)	3rd Arrest	138 (14.3)
6-10	179 (18.5)	4th Arrest	26 (2.7)
11-15	148 (15.3)	5th Arrest	6 (0.6)
16-20	103 (10.7)	6th Arrest	3 (0.3)
21-25	46 (4.8)	7th Arrest	2 (0.2)
26-30	21 (2.2)	8th Arrest	1 (0.1)
30+	10 (1.0)	9th Arrest	1 (0.1)
Unknown	220 (22.8)	Crime Type at 1st Arrest	
Officer Rank at 1st Arrest		Drug-Related	86 (8.9)
Line Officer	721 (74.6)	Alcohol-Related	199 (20.6)
Detective	55 (5.7)	Sex-Related	236 (24.4)
Corporal/Sergeant	93 (9.6)	Violence-Related	579 (59.9)
Lieutenant or Higher	97 (10.0)	Profit-Motivated	178 (18.4)

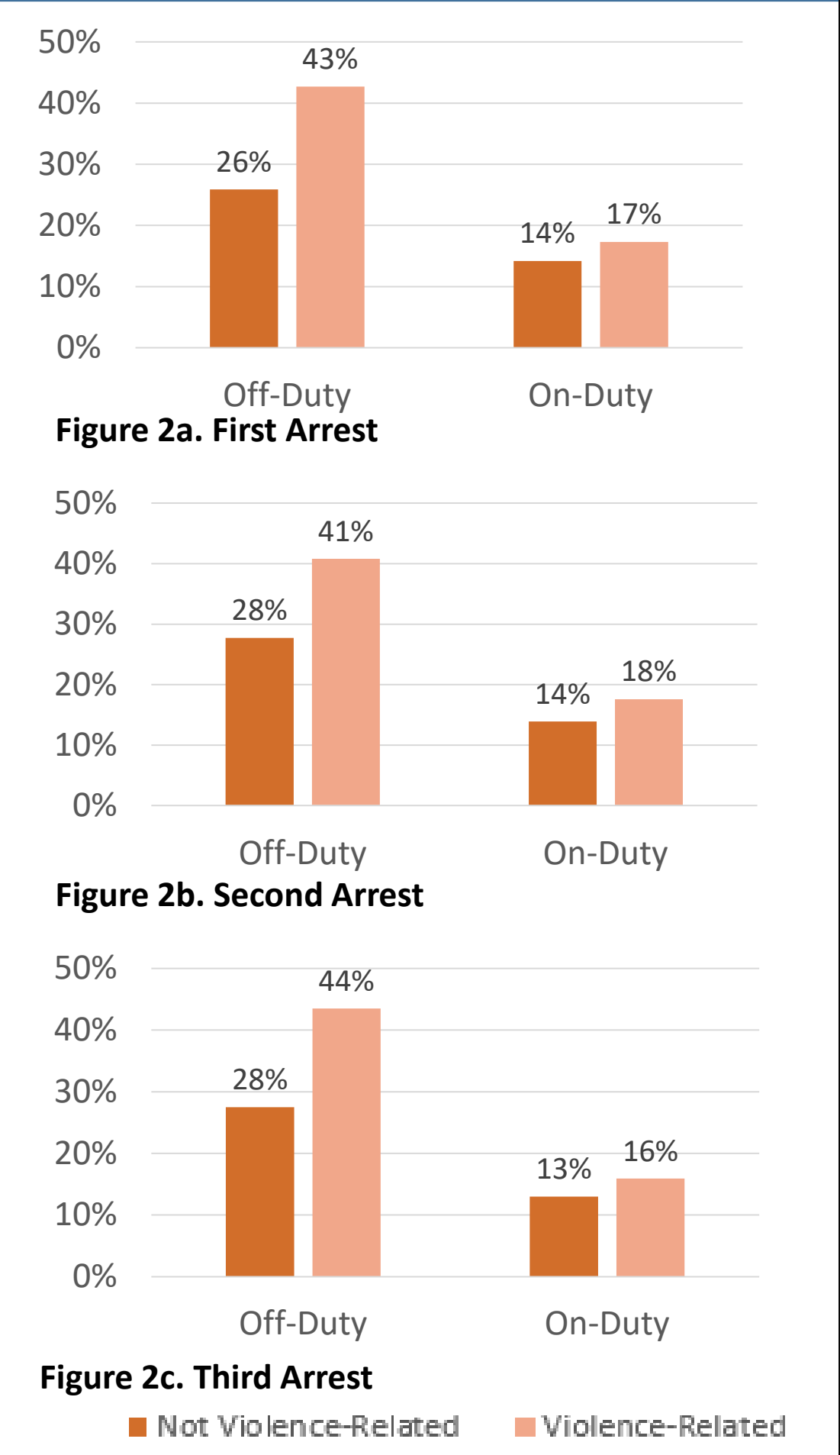
Table 2. Age at 1st Arrest and Days to Re-Arrest (N = 966)

	Mean	SD	Range
Age at 1st arrest	38	8.76	21-75
Days to Re-Arrest			
Arrest 1 to Arrest 2	419	683	1-4,489
Arrest 2 to Arrest 3	270	440	1-2,578
Arrest 3 to Arrest 4	400	841	6-3,847
Arrest 4 to Arrest 5	96	117	6-267

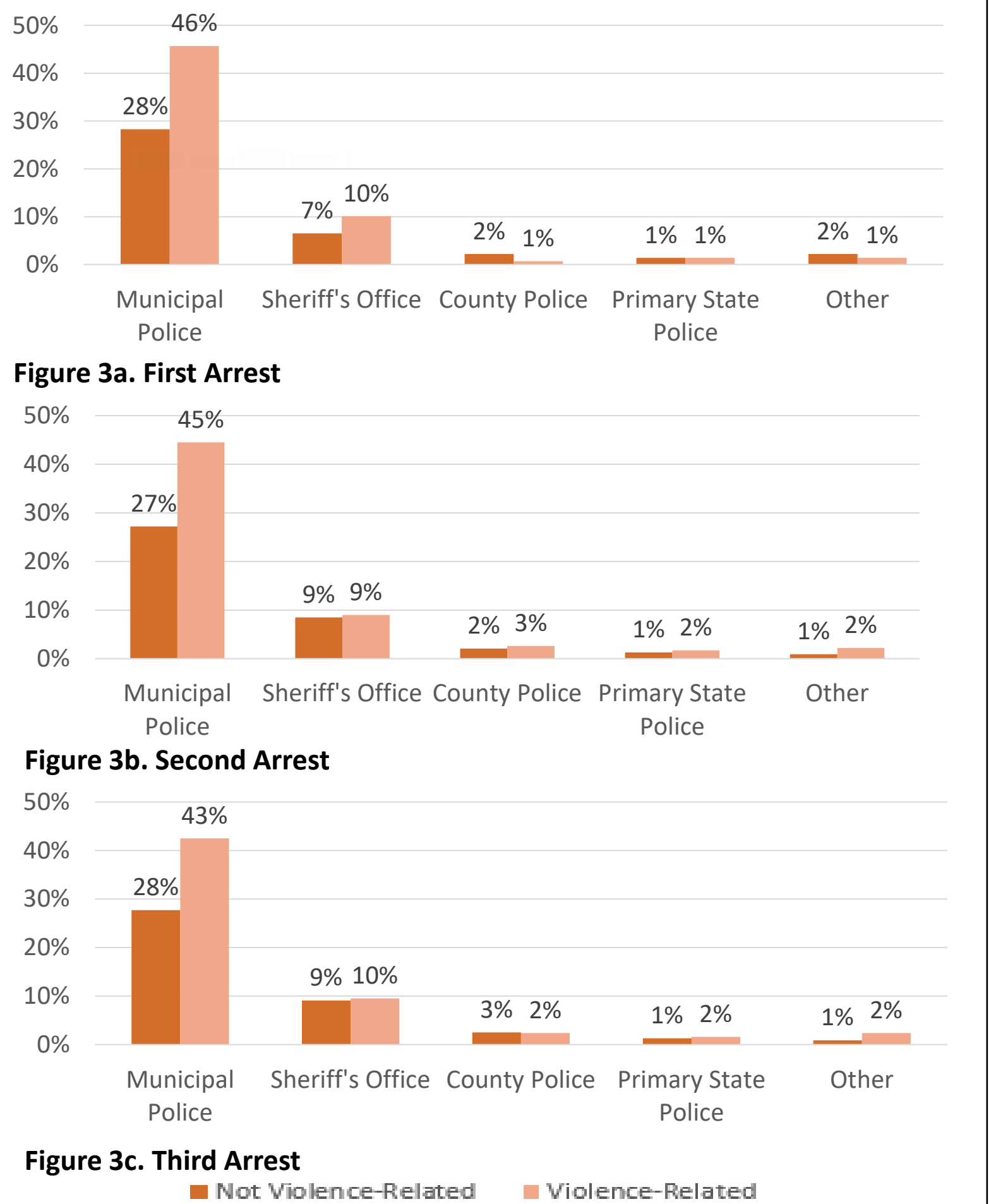
Figures 1a-1c. Employment Outcome



Figures 2a-2c. Duty Status



Figures 3a-2c. Agency Type



DISCUSSION

- Between 2006 and 2018, there were 966 officers who were arrested on more than one occasion for at least one criminal arrest case on more than one occasion.
- Officers typically recidivated within one year from their previous arrest.
- Males made up most of the re-arrest cases.
- Employment Outcome:**
 - The majority of officers lost their job following their second, but not their first, arrest.
 - Most officers lost their jobs following their third arrest.
- Duty Status:**
 - Violence-related crimes frequently occurred when the officers were off-duty compared to when they were on-duty.
- Agency Type:**
 - The bulk of police officers that committed violence-related crimes were employed at a Municipal Police Department.