

Public Safety Trends Special Analysis

Open Container Charges
February 5th, 2013

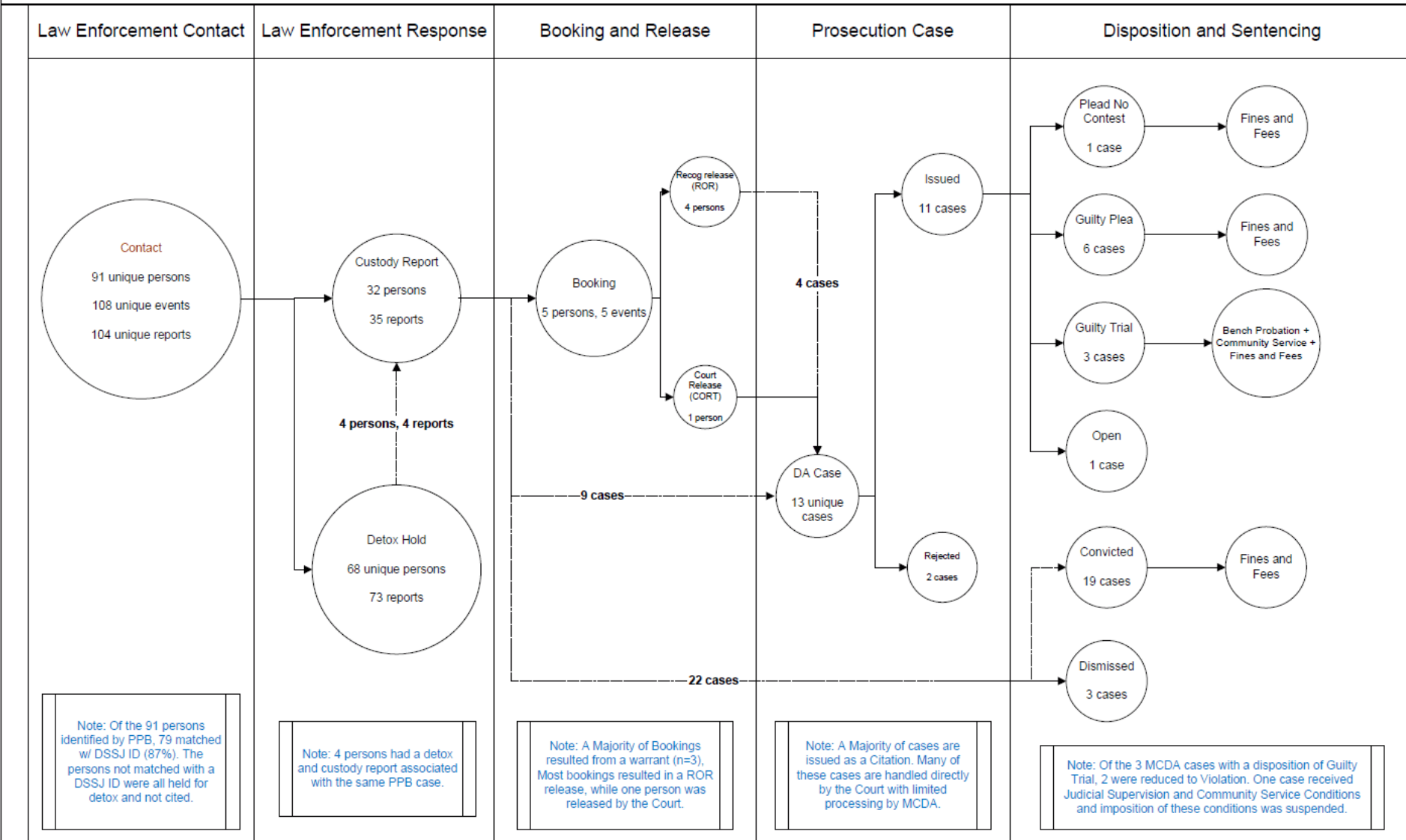


Open Container Charges

- Portland City Code – ex.) 14a.50.101 Alcohol on Public Property and Public Right of Way
- Typically, handled as violations (think speeding ticket), however ‘chronic’ offenders can be charged criminally.
- Specific programs exist to address public drinking, divert persons to sobering, and assist with connecting individuals to resources and services.
- Today is an opportunity to examine how local public safety system handles these types of cases and think about the role homelessness has in this process.
- Finally, is this an opportunity to better align our efforts and achieve the outcomes we desire (ex. reduced cost of enforcement, increased public safety)?

Open Container Charges

Defendant Streams Analysis – Municipal Alcohol Charges January 10-17, 2011



Open Container Charges

Average Daily Arrests by Type in December 2012*

*Misdemeanor and Felony Primary charges presented only. Other charges including infractions and violations make up the additional 10% of arrests in December. 'Fugitive Hold' charges have been broken out from the 'Other Charge' category. 'Fugitive Hold' charges relate to arrests for warrant service.

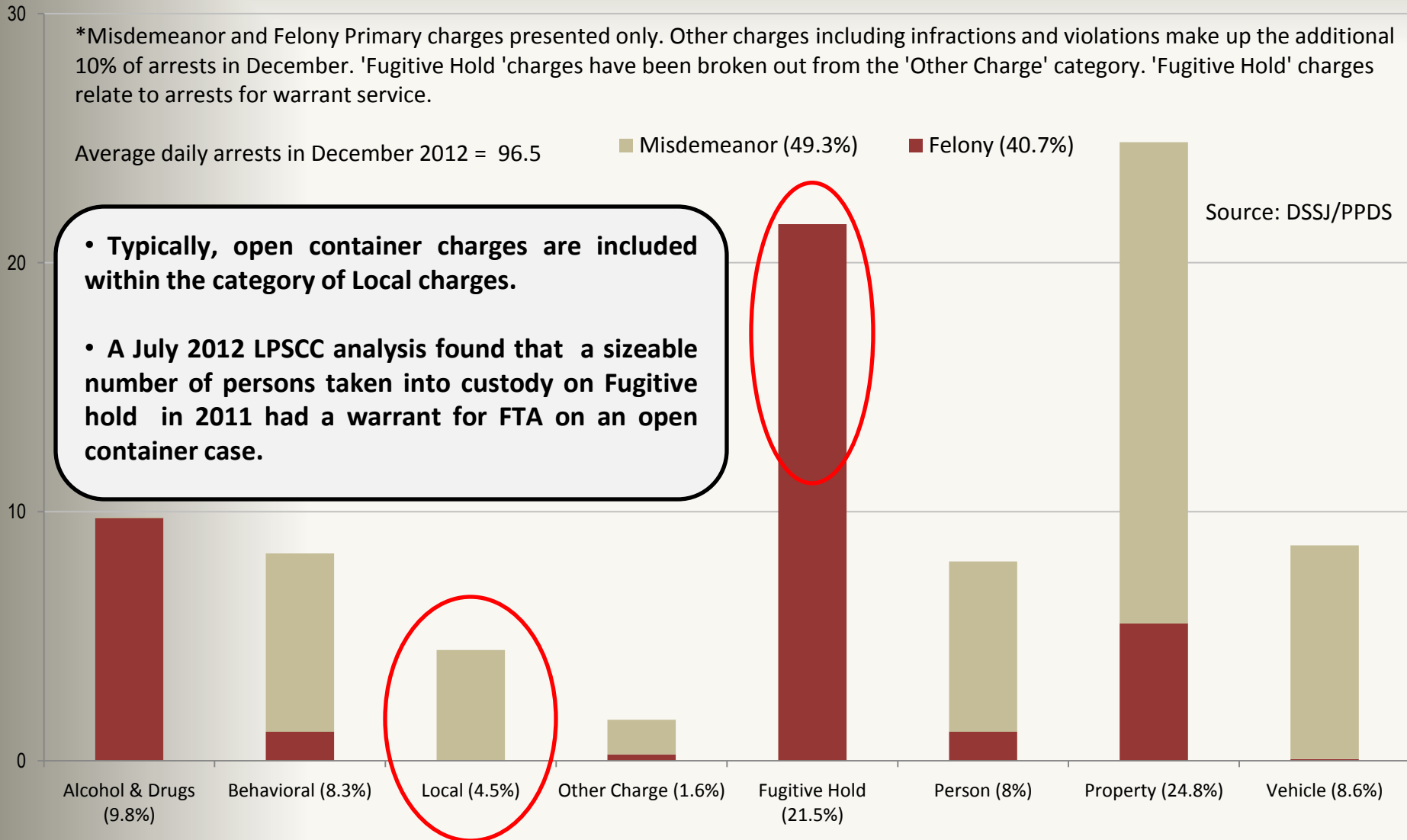
Average daily arrests in December 2012 = 96.5

■ Misdemeanor (49.3%) ■ Felony (40.7%)

Source: DSSJ/PPDS

• Typically, open container charges are included within the category of Local charges.

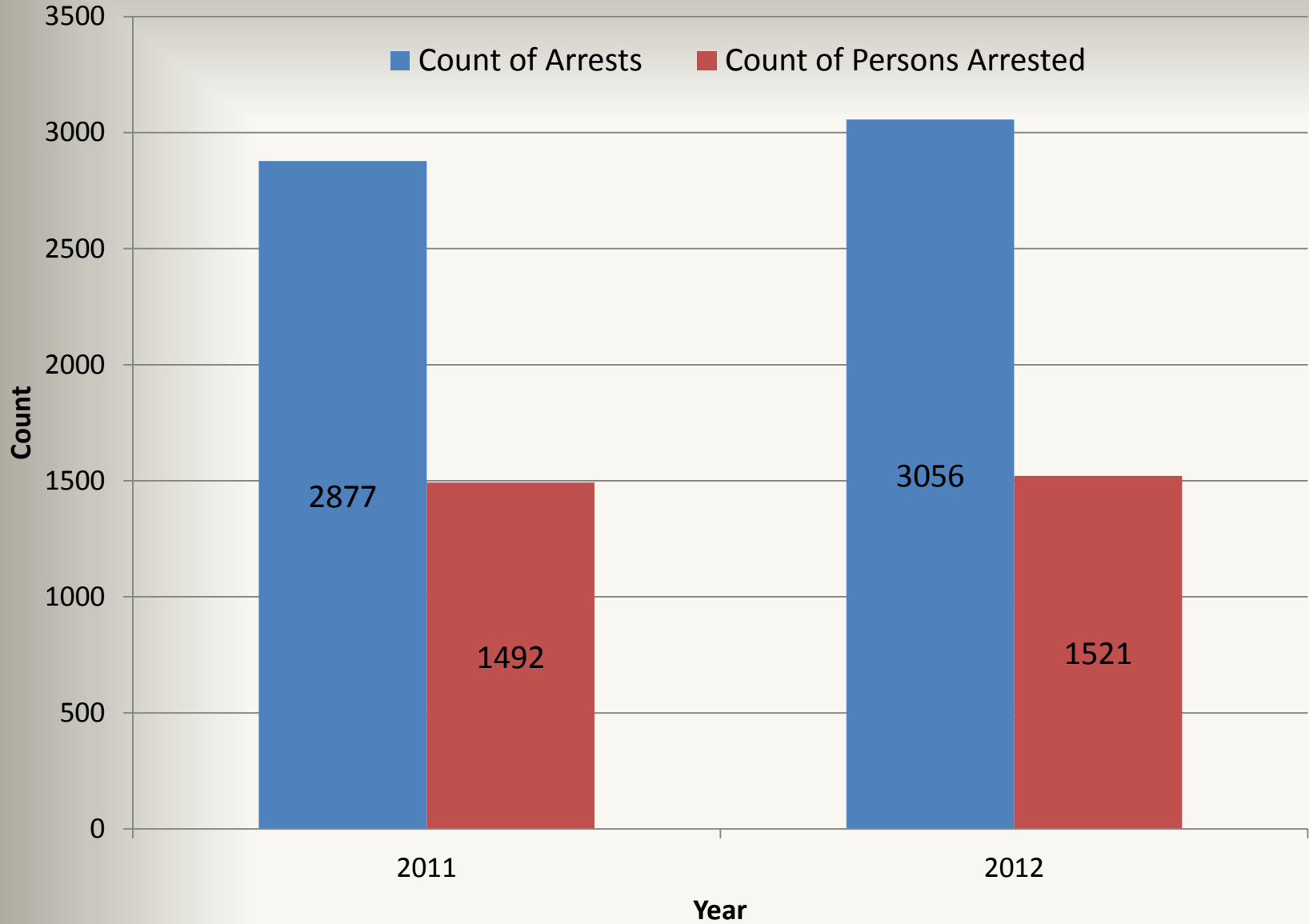
• A July 2012 LPSCC analysis found that a sizeable number of persons taken into custody on Fugitive hold in 2011 had a warrant for FTA on an open container case.



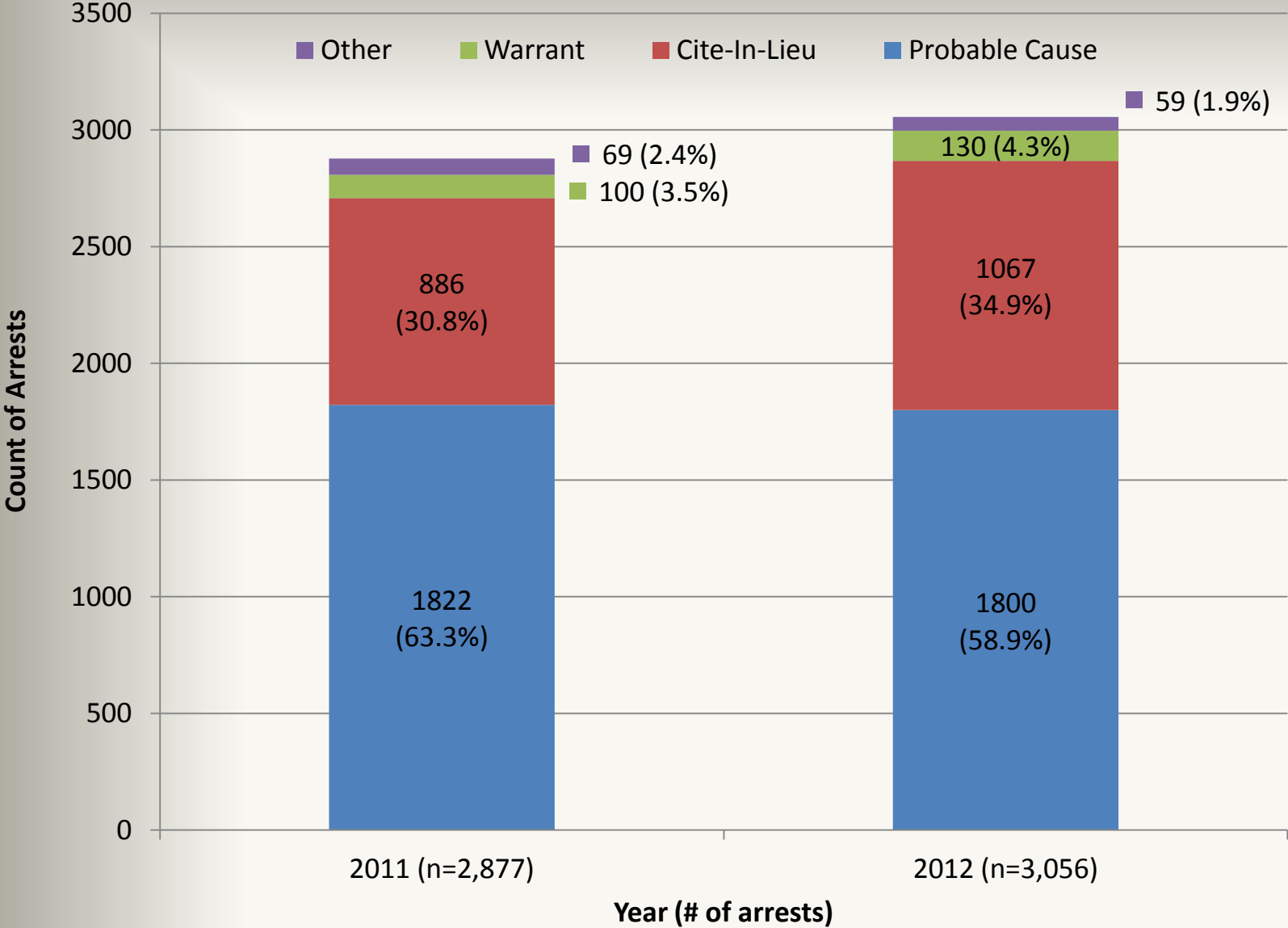
Open Container Charges

- Between 2011 and 2012 there was a modest increase in arrests involving open container charges.
- Most are probable cause arrests, however 2012 saw an increase in cite-in-lieu arrests
- The majority of these arrests involved a single charge.
- Of those arrests with additional charges, Bench Warrant / Failure to appear was the most common charge.
- During this period a small number of individuals accounted for a substantial number of these charges.
- Individuals with multiple arrests for open container during the time period were older on average than those arrested a single time.

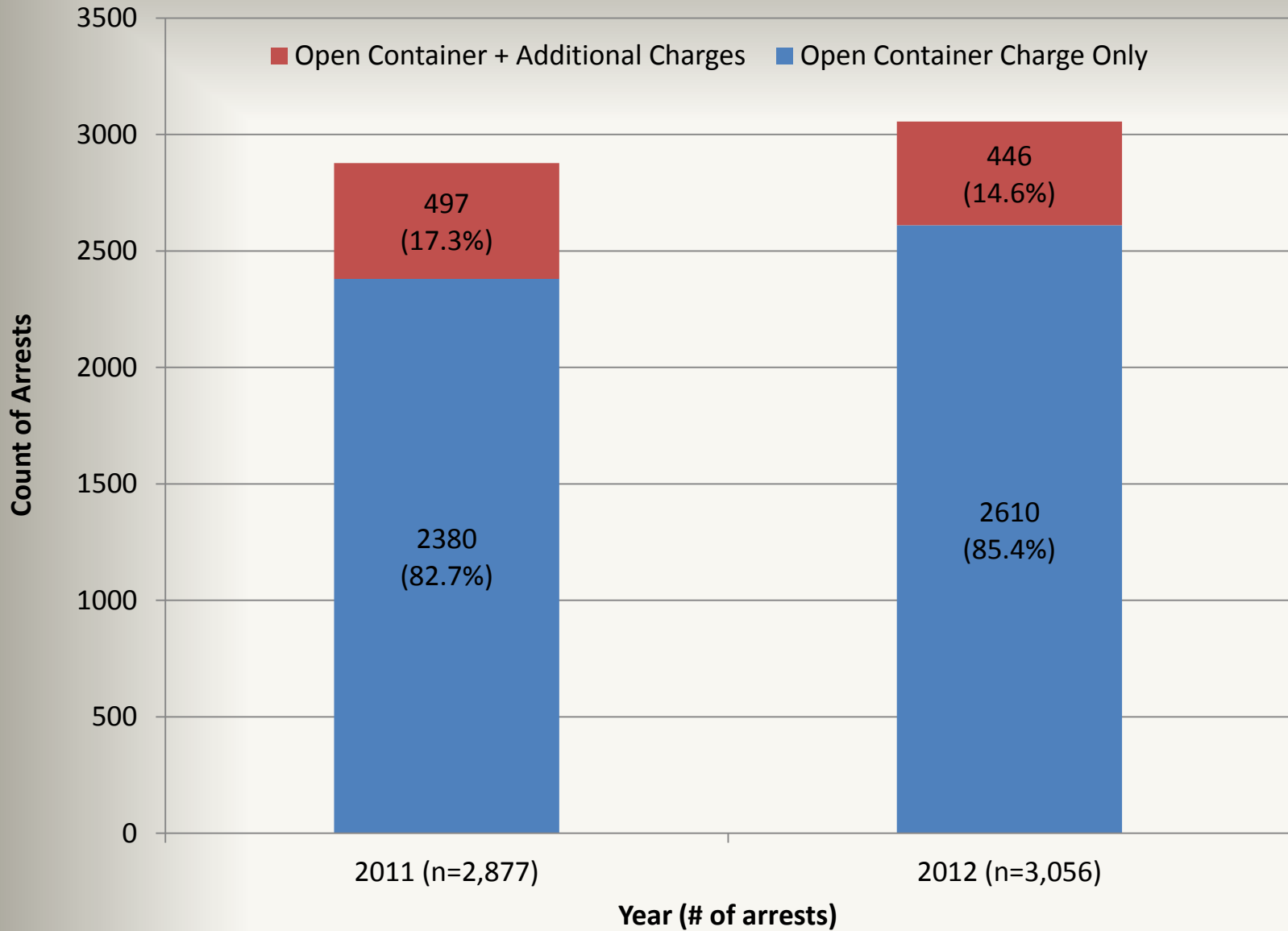
Open Container Arrests



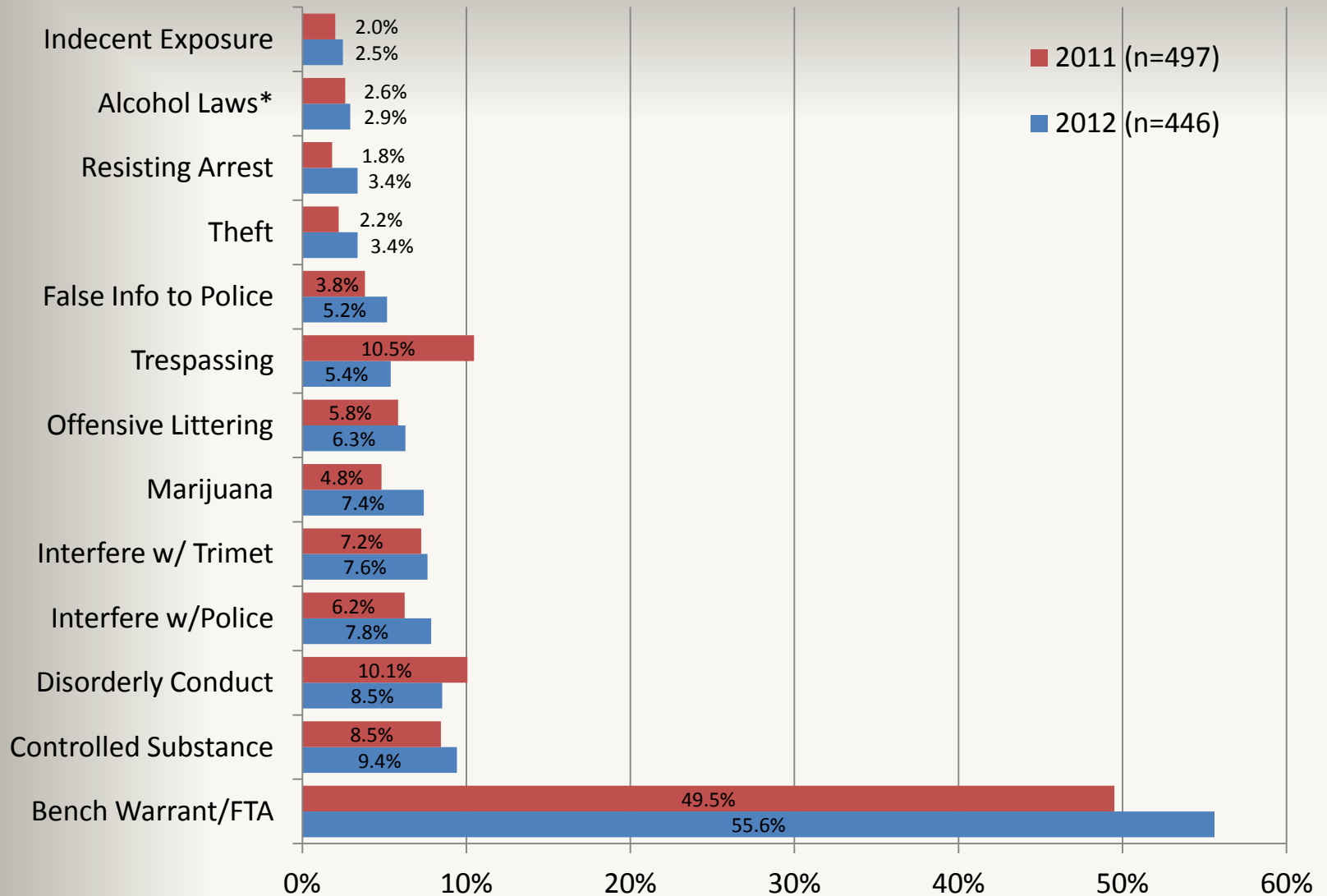
Open Container Arrests by Arrest Type



Open Container Arrests



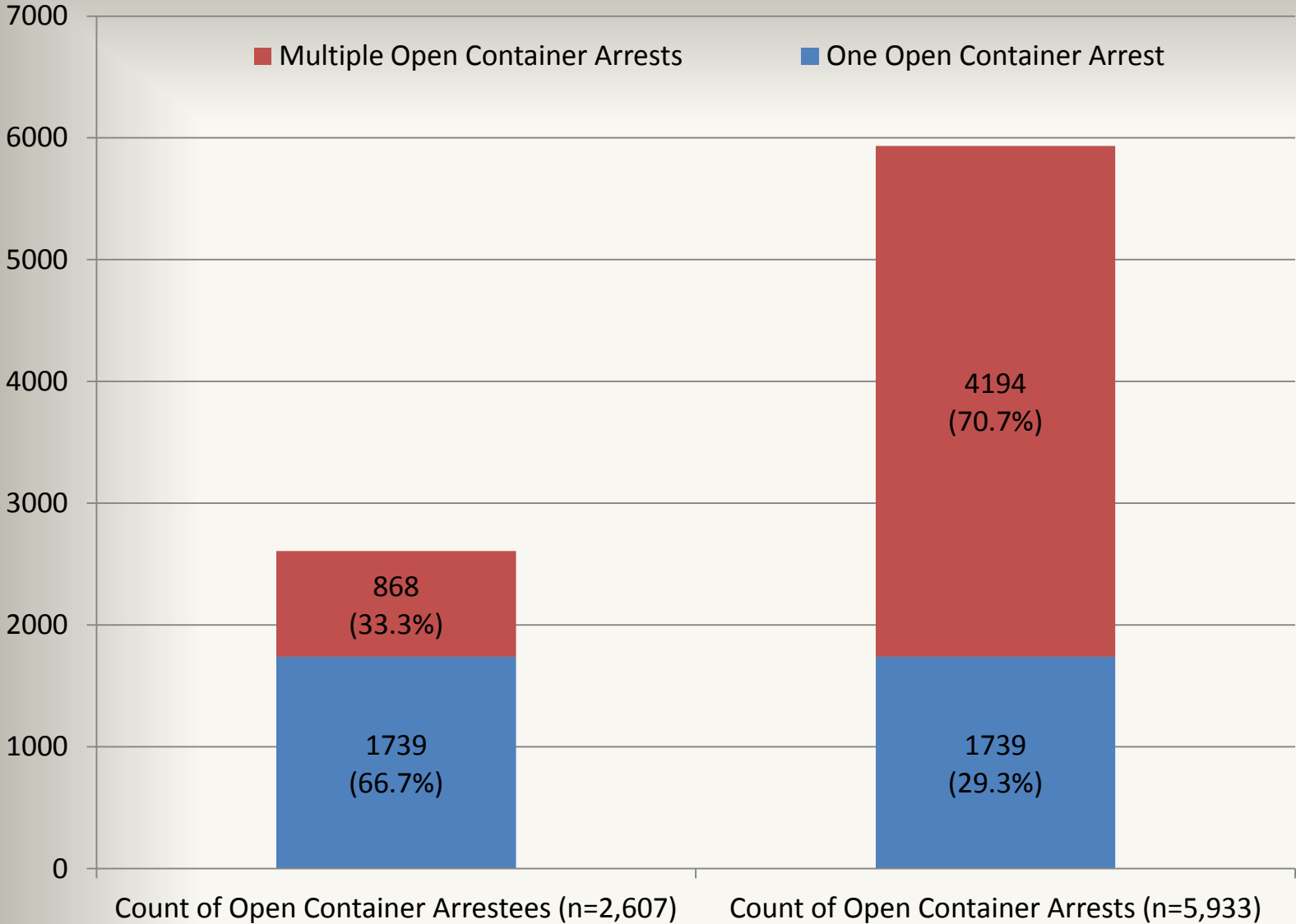
Open Container Arrests with Additional Charges



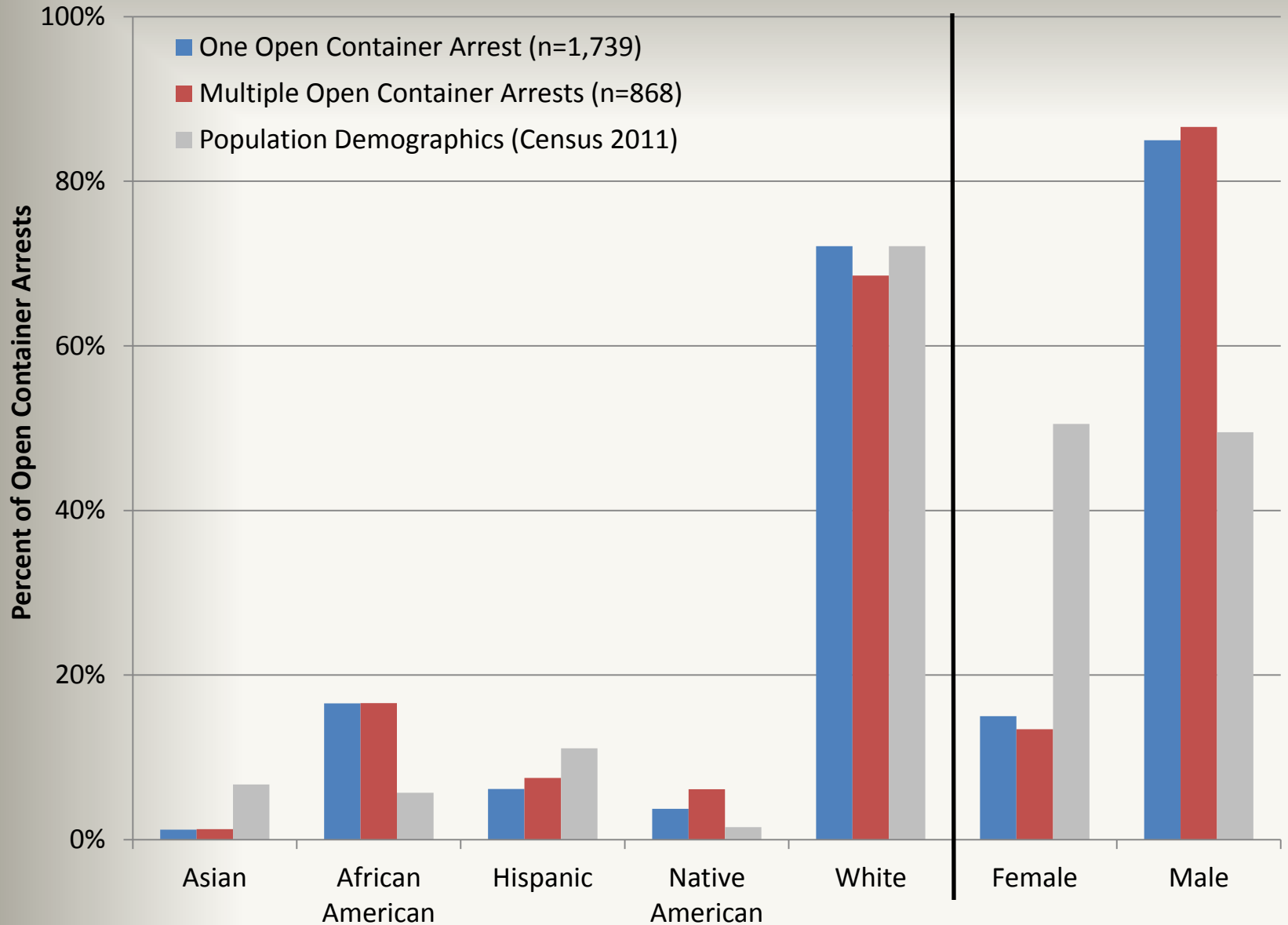
*Alcohol Laws include other non-open container alcohol violations such as minor in possession

Percentage of Cases

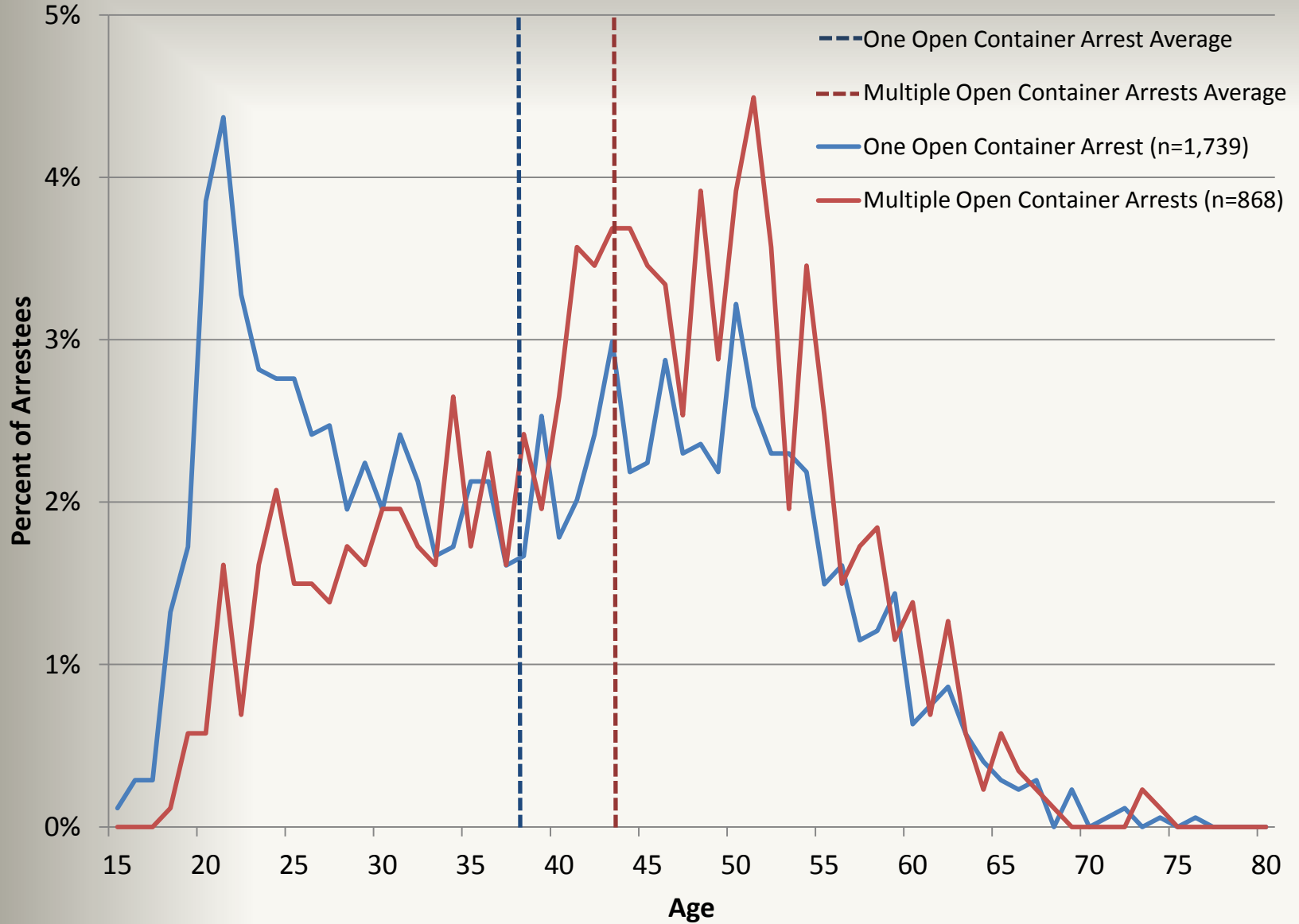
Open Container Arrests (2011-12)



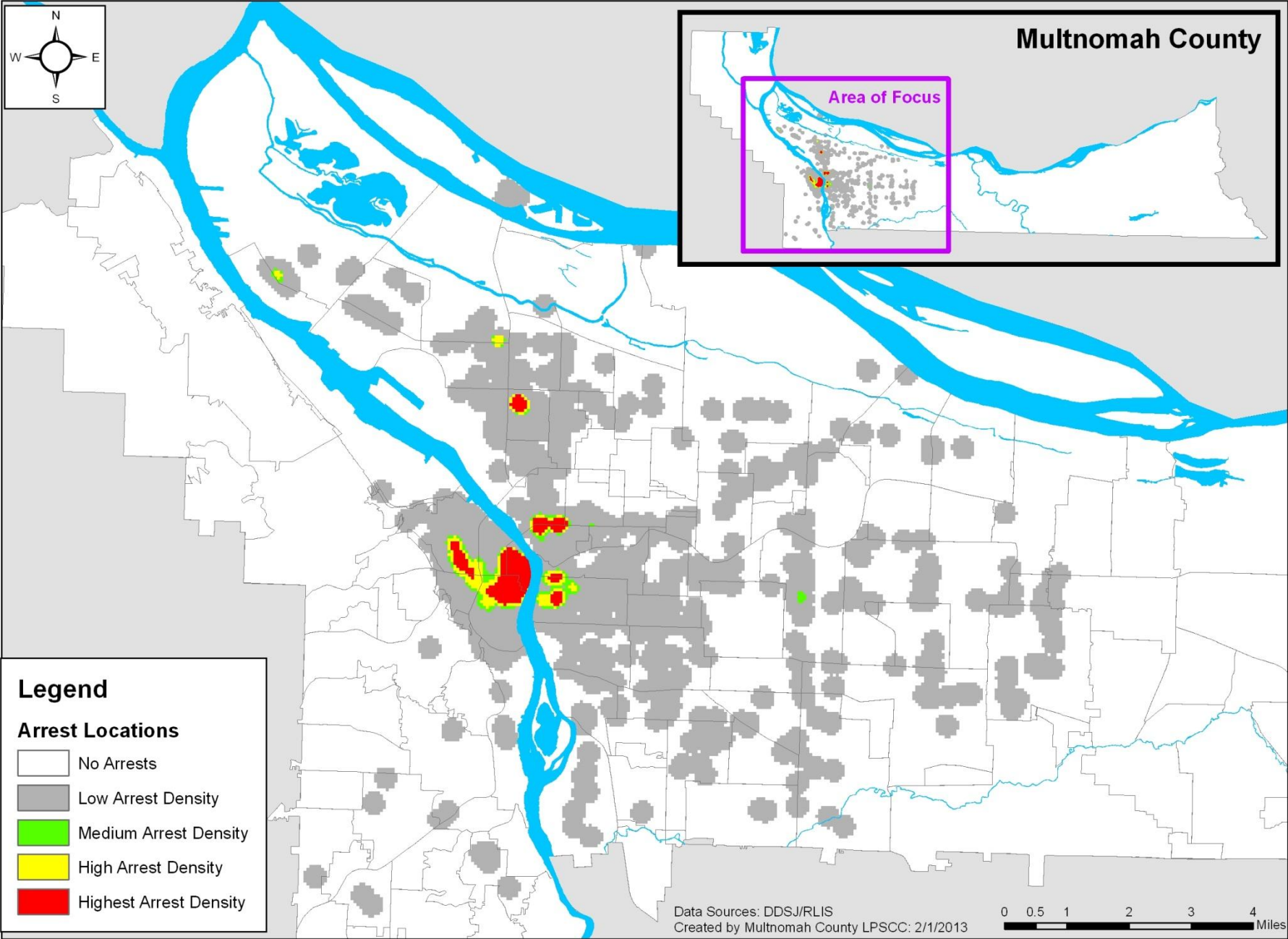
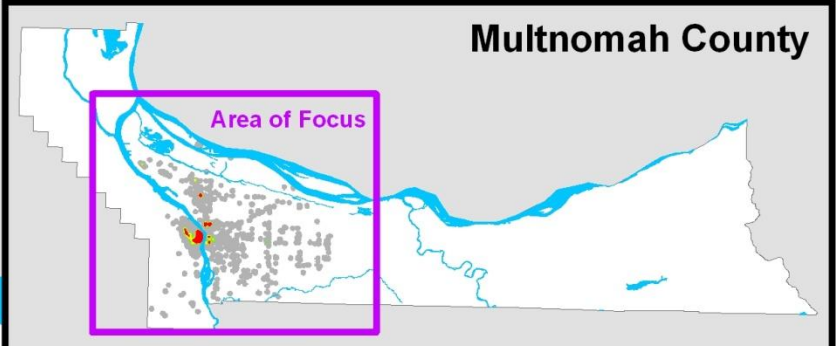
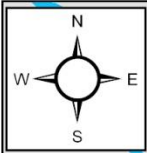
Race and Gender of Open Container Arrestees (2011-12)



Age of Open Container Arrestees








Density of Open Container Arrests (2011-12)



Legend

Arrest Locations

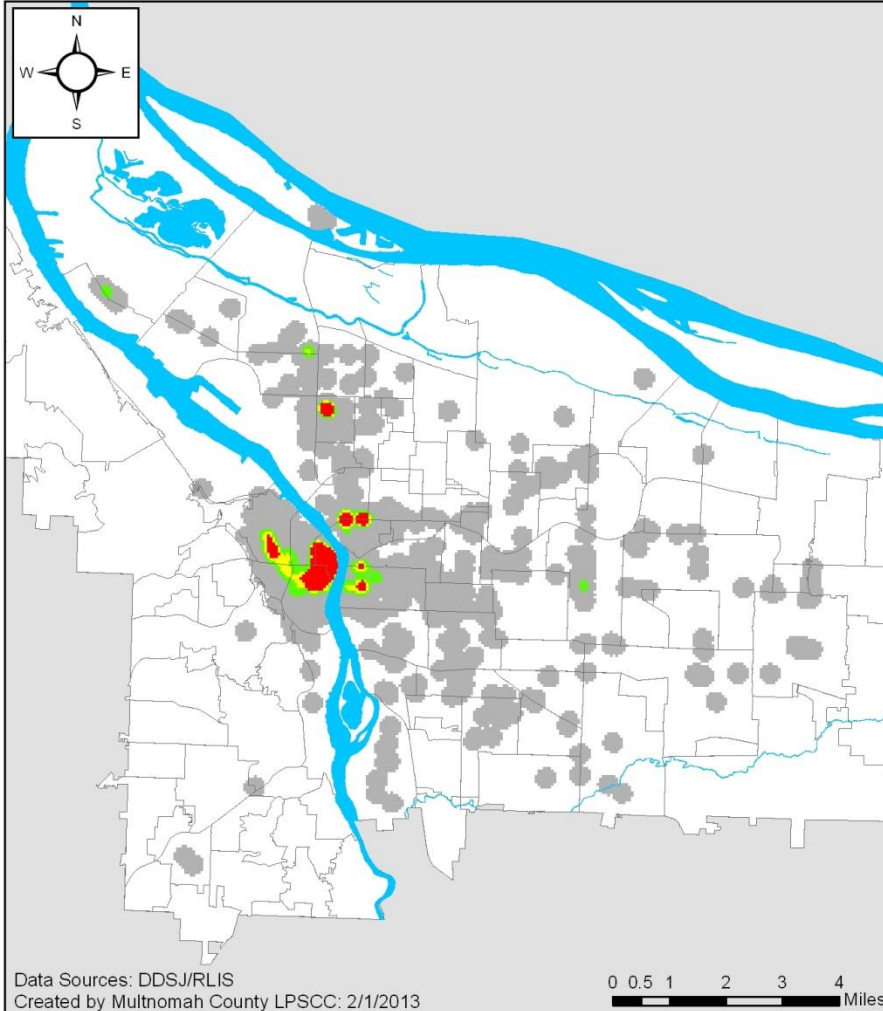
-  No Arrests
-  Low Arrest Density
-  Medium Arrest Density
-  High Arrest Density
-  Highest Arrest Density

Data Sources: DDSJ/RLIS
Created by Multnomah County LPSCC: 2/1/2013

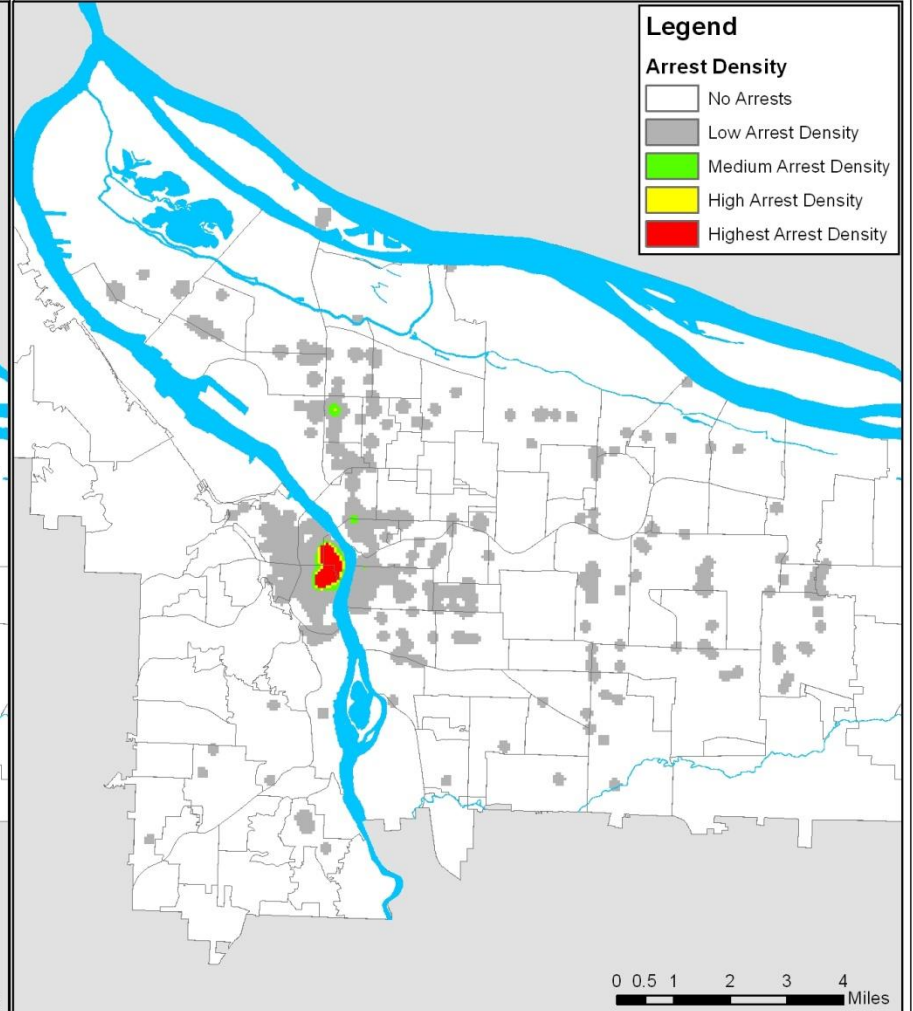


Density of Open Container Arrests (2011-12)

Density of Arrests for People Arrested Multiple Times for Open Container



Density of Arrests for People Arrested A Single Time for Open Container



868 people were arrested for open container multiple times during 2011-12, for a total of 4,194 open container arrests.

1,739 people were arrested a single time for open container during 2011-12, for a total of 1,739 open container arrests.

Open Container Charges

- Open container charges are one of the top 10 most common charges for arrest.
- There is a core group of individuals associated with a majority of these charges.
- These individuals have substantial contact with police due to their public drinking.
- Bench warrants associated with these charges can lead to booking and custody in local jail.
- Often the most 'chronic' individuals have serious physical and mental health challenges, frequently they are homeless.