



# A Study on Sentencing Outcomes for Firearm Offenses

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Connecticut Sentencing Commission  
Van Augur



# Background

- Sentencing Commission's first in-depth analysis of sentencing outcomes
- Utilized data from Judicial Branch Superior Court Operations Division
- Final report consists of 3 sections



# Methodological Notes

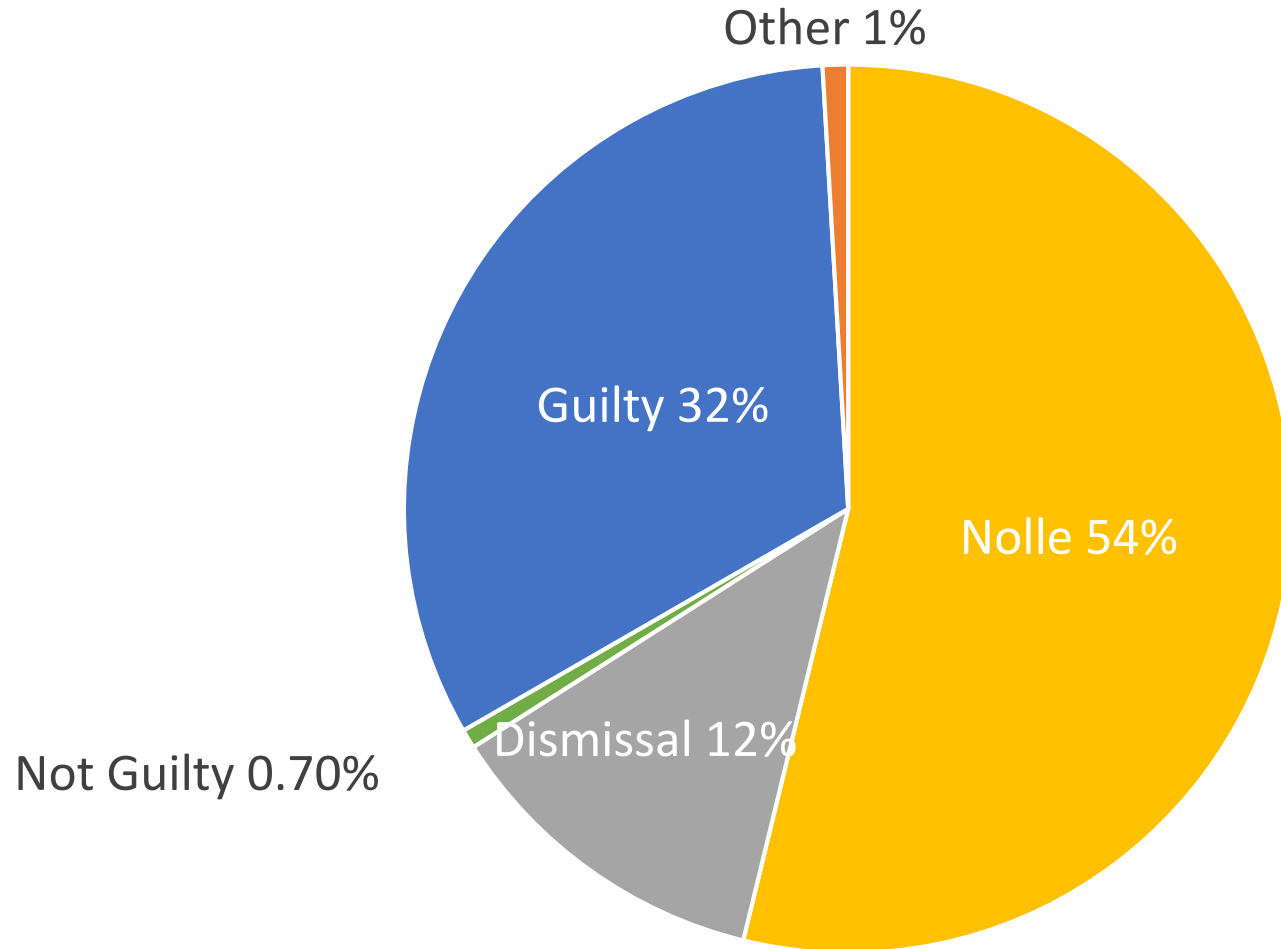
- Data on all firearm offenses in dockets disposed between 2008 and 2017
- Includes violations of firearm laws and other crimes for which a firearm is an essential element
- Sentencing outcomes are primarily analyzed at a ***charge*** level, not a docket/defendant level



# Overall Findings

- 30,977 dockets with firearm charges
  - 27,022 dockets with **final** firearm charges
  - 43,855 final firearm charges
- Of these 43,855 charges...

# Dispositions for Firearm Charges



Guilty	Not Guilty	Dismissed	Nolle	Other	Total
14,207	306	5,344	23,593	405	43,855



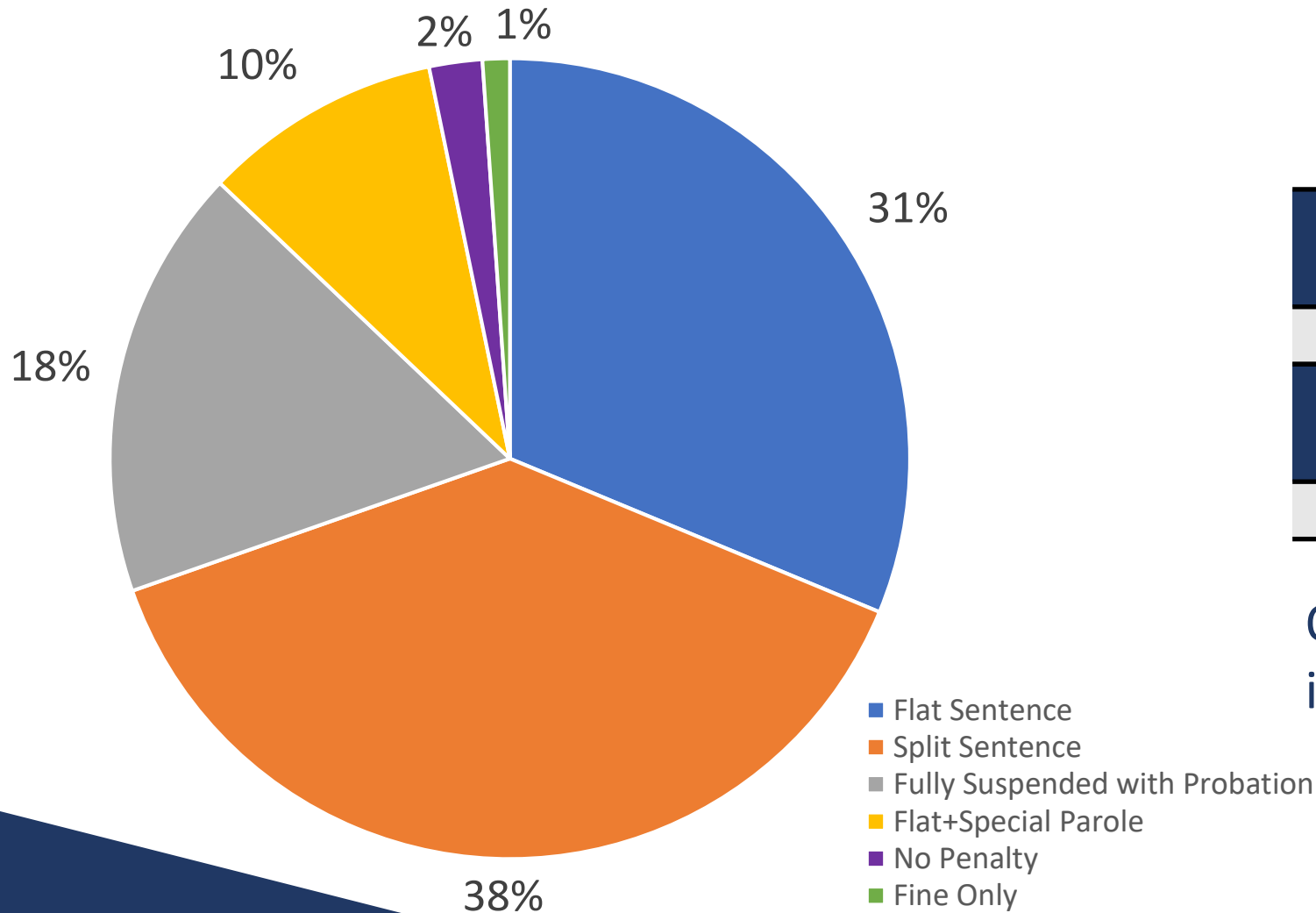
# Overall Findings

7 charges constituted a majority of convictions:

1. Carrying a pistol or revolver without a permit
2. Carrying a dangerous weapon
3. Having a pistol or revolver in a vehicle without a permit
4. Criminal possession of firearm
5. Criminal possession of a pistol or revolver
6. Robbery in the first degree with threatened use of a firearm
7. Stealing a firearm



# Sentences Issued



Flat Sentence	Split Sentence	Fully Susp. w/ Prob.
4,441	5,453	2,479
Flat + Sp. Parole	Fine Only	No Penalty
1,373	156	305

Overall, **79%** of sentences included executed incarceration



# Other Findings

- Average term of incarceration was **3.8 years**
- **33 offenses** carried a minimum sentence
- Controlling for offense, trial sentences were **4 years** longer than plead sentences (2 years, if we include not guilty trial verdicts)
- Increase in the number and length of sentences with incarceration after Public Act 13-3, but these were limited to those offenses affected by the act