

What Do We Want to Measure When We Measure Criminal Justice Contact? Some Thoughts

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March 29, 2016

Today, I want to

- ▶ Present a very basic figure.
- ▶ Note where most research is.
- ▶ Talk a bit about disparities.
- ▶ Talk a bit about mechanisms.
- ▶ Not take up too much time.

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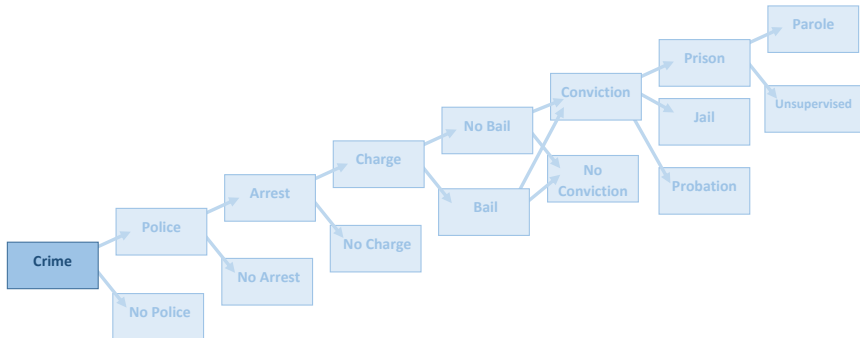
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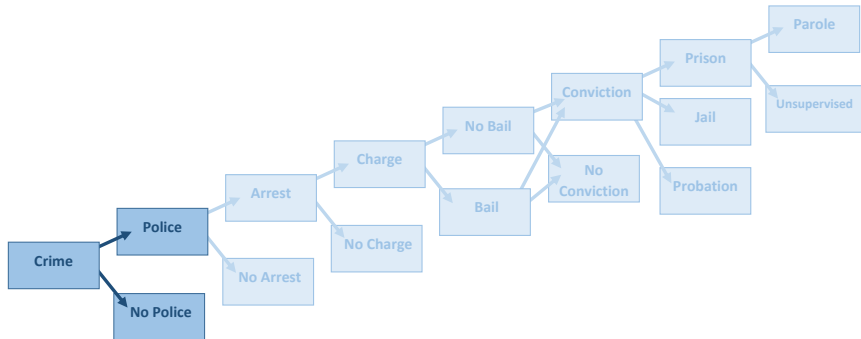
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Present a very basic figure

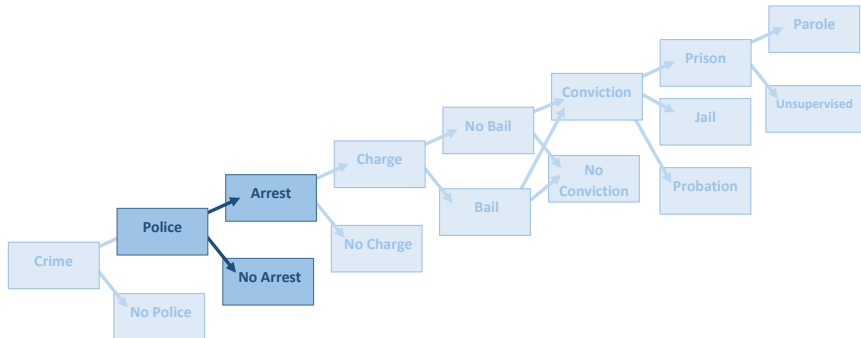
An (Insanely) Simplified Path of Criminal Justice Contact



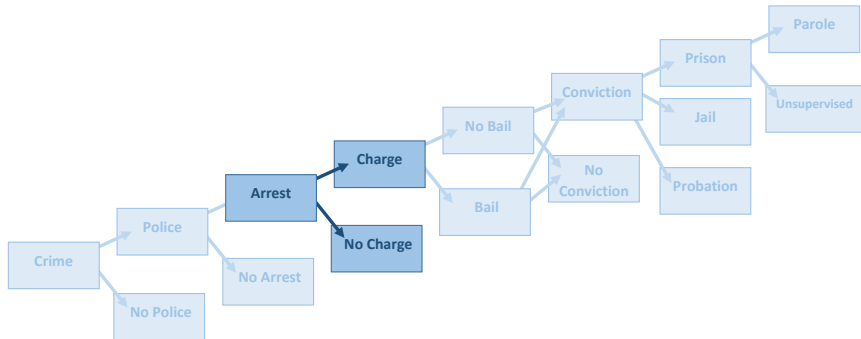
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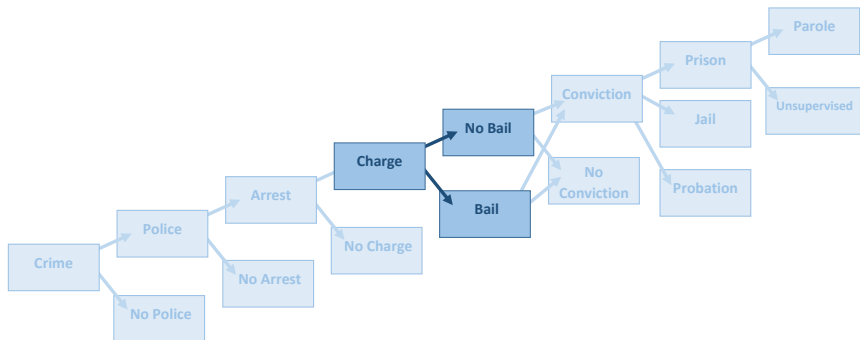
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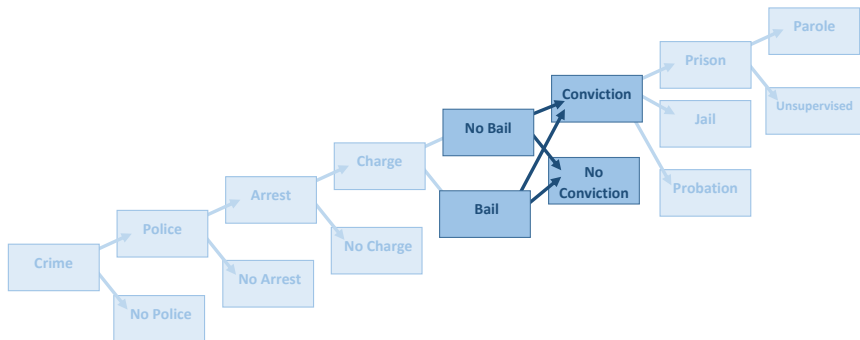
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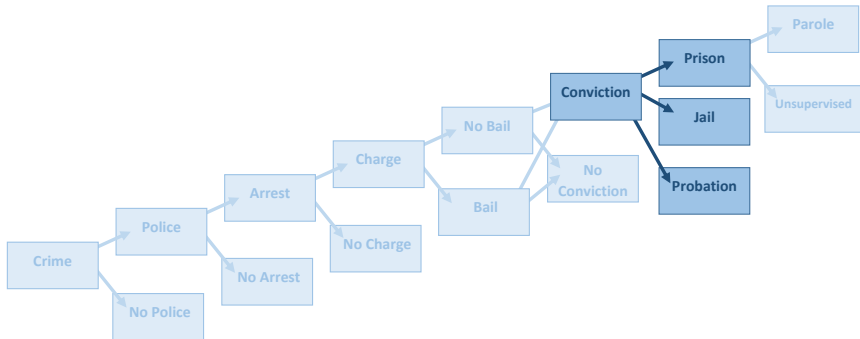
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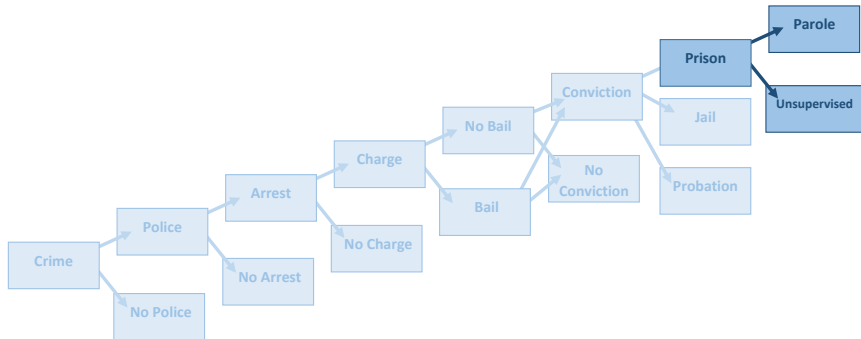
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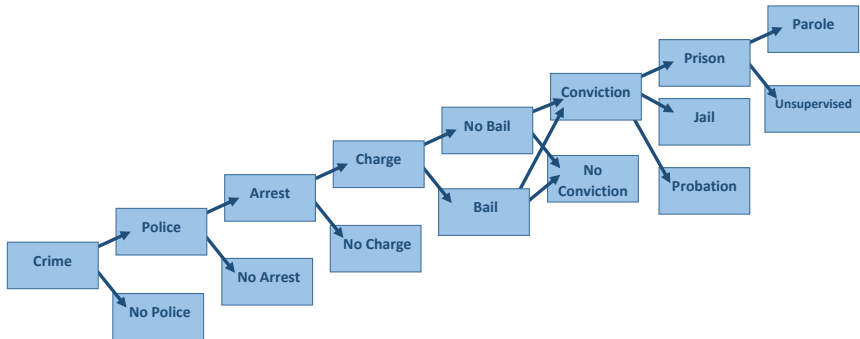
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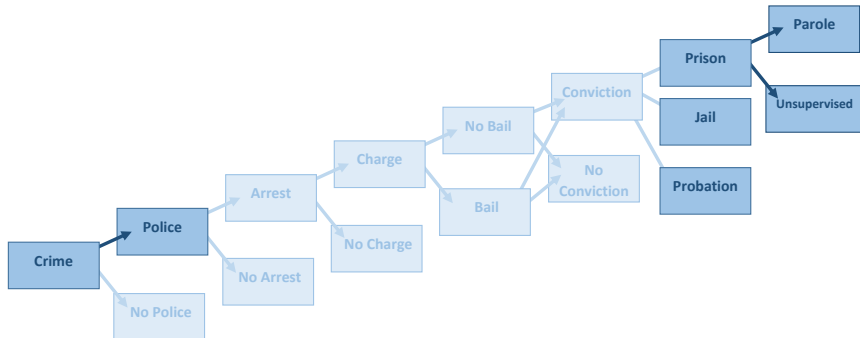
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- ▶ I'm going to try to really focus on **health**.

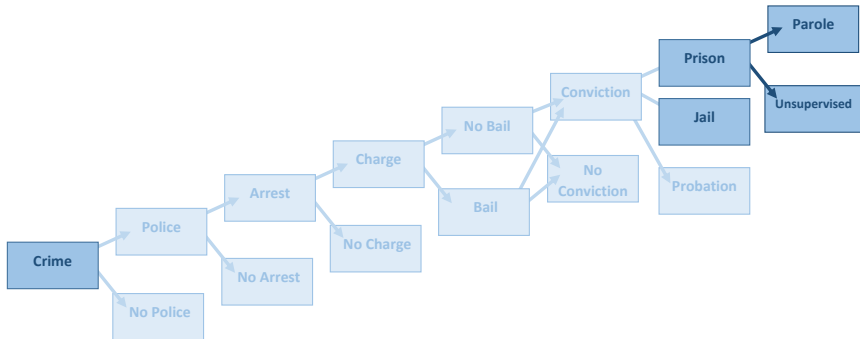
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An (Insanely) Simplified Path of Criminal Justice Contact



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Talk a bit about disparities

We all know

- ▶ How criminal justice contact is concentrated.
- ▶ So I'm not going to spend any time on that...

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Disparities are not constant

- ▶ Disparities in rates (by crime type).
- ▶ Disparities in transition probabilities (by crime type).

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Rates or transition probabilities

- ▶ Rates tell us about total disparities by a given stage.
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Total or by crime type

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- ▶ Crime type allows us to compare apples to apples.

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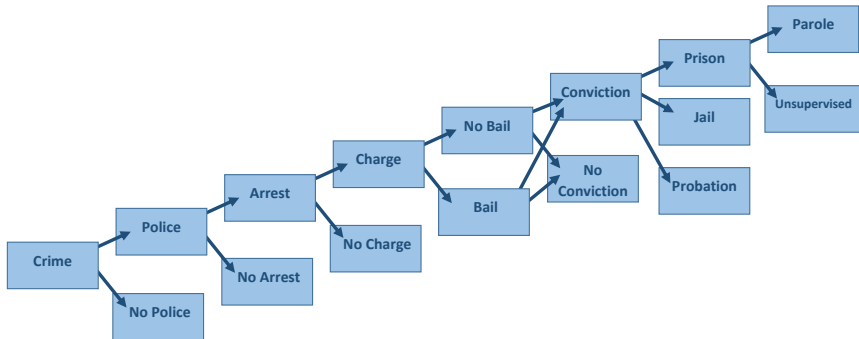
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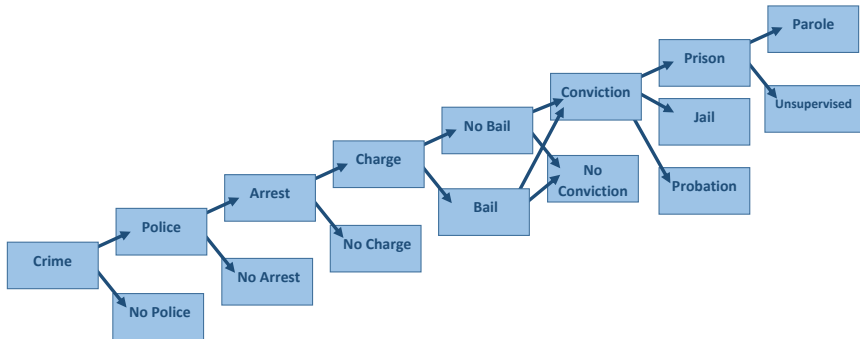
Let's think about this for drugs

An (Insanely) Simplified Path of Criminal Justice Contact



And now let's think about it for homicide

An (Insanely) Simplified Path of Criminal Justice Contact



Talk a bit about mechanisms

Three things to consider

- ▶ Differences **across** levels of criminal justice contact.
- ▶ Differences **within** a level of criminal justice contact.
- ▶ Mechanisms may differ (greatly) for individuals and families.
- ▶ Let's go back to the final figure again...

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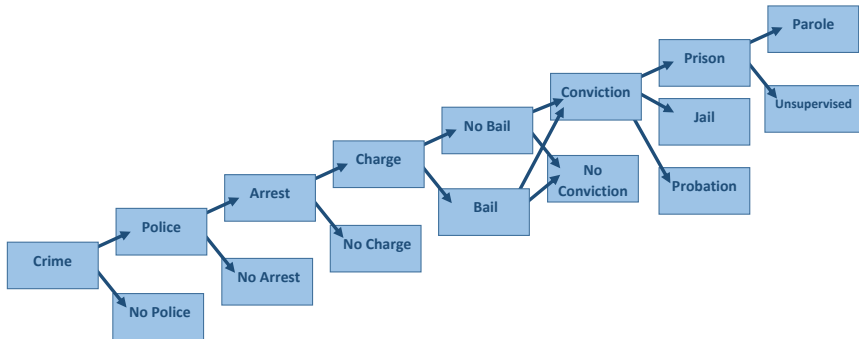
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I lied, one more thing

If we had maybe five questions

- ▶ Self-reported criminal activity ("health behaviors"). [All]
- ▶ Ever arrested? When? [All]
- ▶ Ever incarcerated? When? [Only the ever arrested]
- ▶ Crime incarcerated for. [Only the ever incarcerated]
- ▶ Type of facility incarcerated in. [Only the ever-incarcerated]
- ▶ I guess I lied again. That isn't five.
- ▶ But we lose a lot of folks in skips after arrest/incarceration.

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I realize that we don't have that many questions

- ▶ But this strikes me as good for own effects and family effects.
- ▶ And lets us look at multiple levels of criminal justice contact (and crime), which seems vital for teasing out disparities.
- ▶ Would love to do character of criminal justice contact...
- ▶ And duration/frequency would also be great, although I think crime type helps a bit with that for jail incarceration. And I also think there's little duration action among prisoners.

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