

# FEDERAL INMATE COMPLAINTS

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## BACKGROUND

In June 2024 the Federal Bureau of Prisons released data from their Administrative Remedy Program, which allows federal prison inmates to make formal complaints. The Data Liberation Project received a copy of all 1.7 million database records relating to the Administrative Remedy System (with sensitive information redacted) and released them to the public along with detailed data documentation notes.

Each record has a case number, category of complaint, facility of occurrence, case status, status update date, status reasons, and more. The data is now available to the public, but in its current state, it is only accessible to those who have experience working with large sets of data.

## METHODS

The ultimate goal of this project was to make the data more accessible to the general public and to provide a basic analysis and a variety of visualizations to help users better understand the data.

The data was stored using codes, for which BOP provided codebooks in a variety of formats. I developed a python script which enables users to input a state code to generate a series of enriched and expanded datasets (one for all submissions, another for unique complaints), allowing the data to be understood without using a codebook. The script also generates a series of analysis reports and visualizations using R.

The user can also run the script on all records, allowing them to compare state averages and trends to the national averages and trends.

## RESULTS

NATIONAL – JAN 2000 - MAY 2024

1,783,999

Submissions

38% Rejected

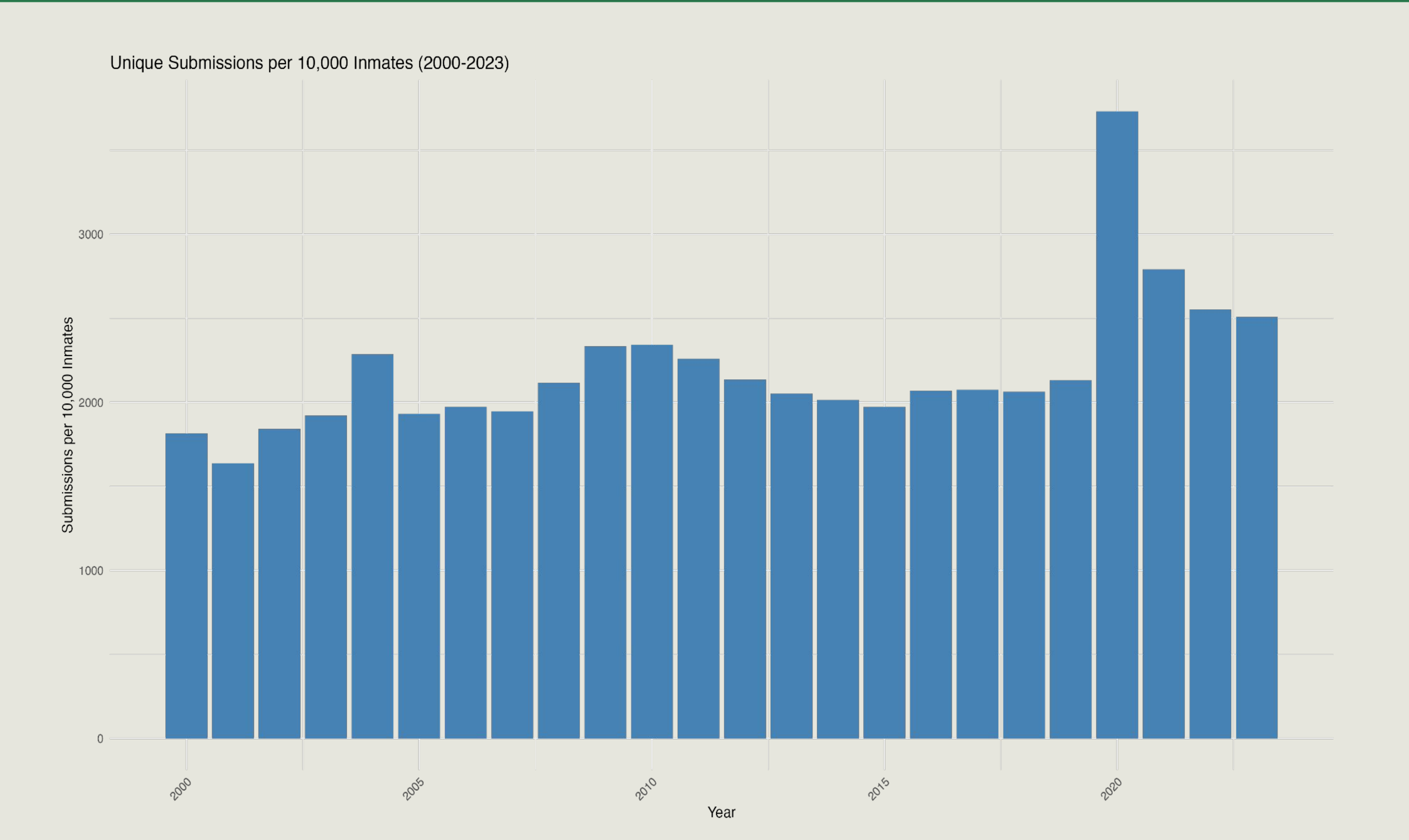
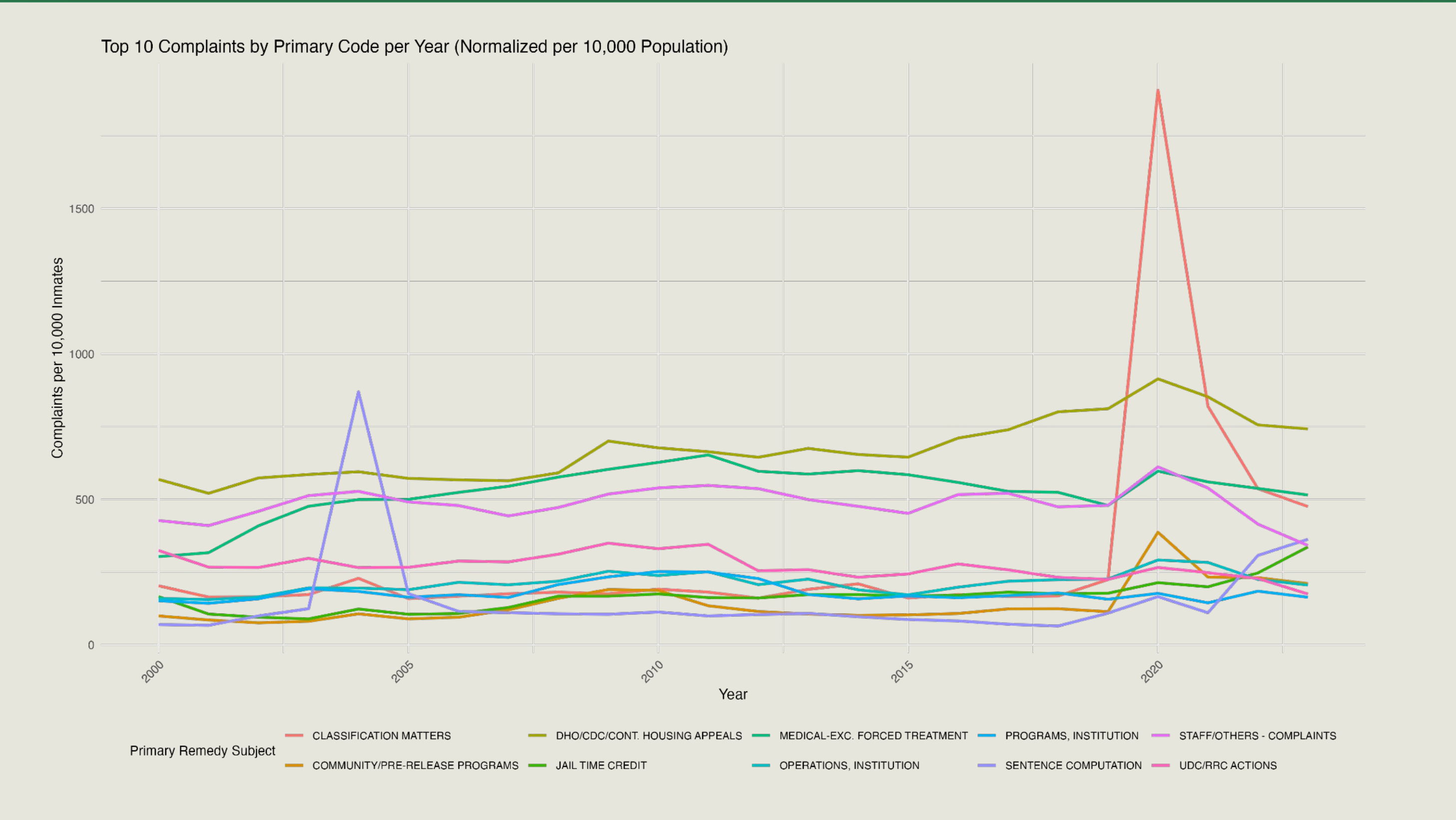
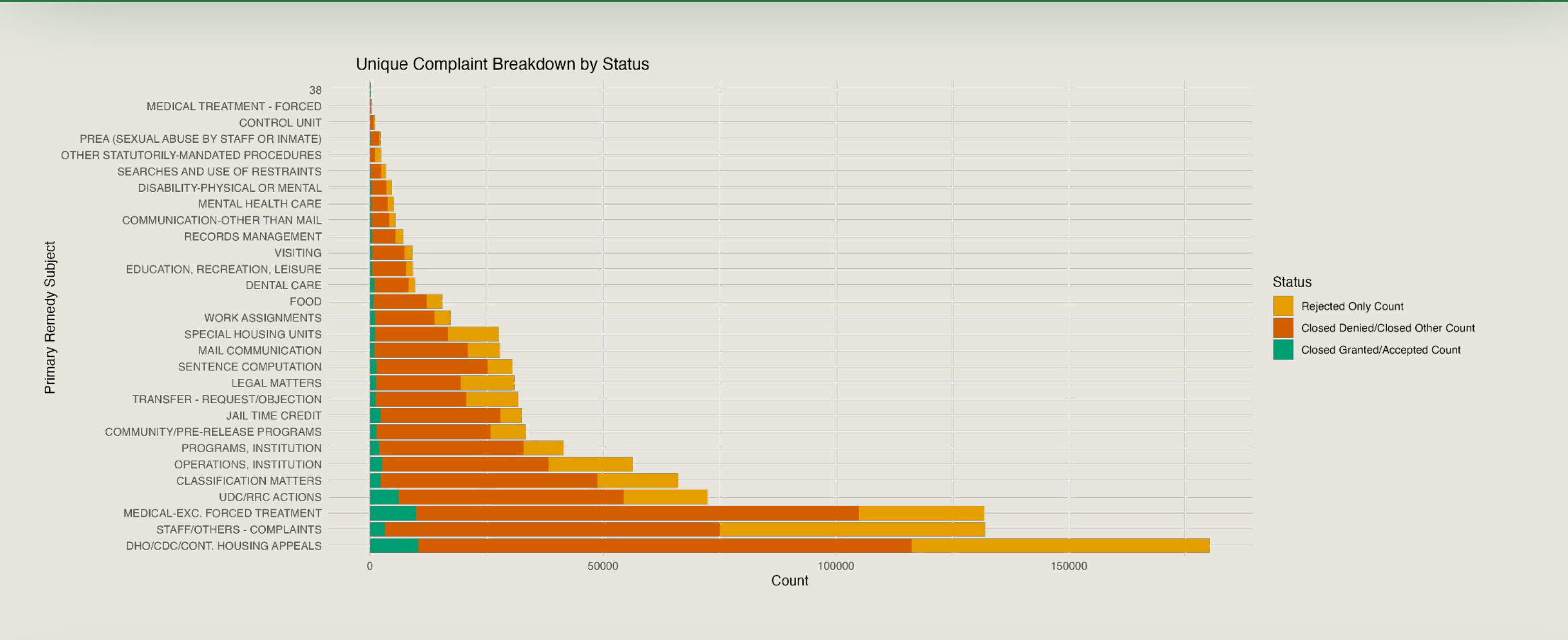
987,989

Unique Complaints

5.2% Granted/Accepted  
65.6% Denied/Other  
29.2% All Submissions Rejected

71 days

Average amount of time between first submission date and last status update



NEW YORK STATE – JAN 2000 - MAY 2024

44,979

Submissions

45% Rejected

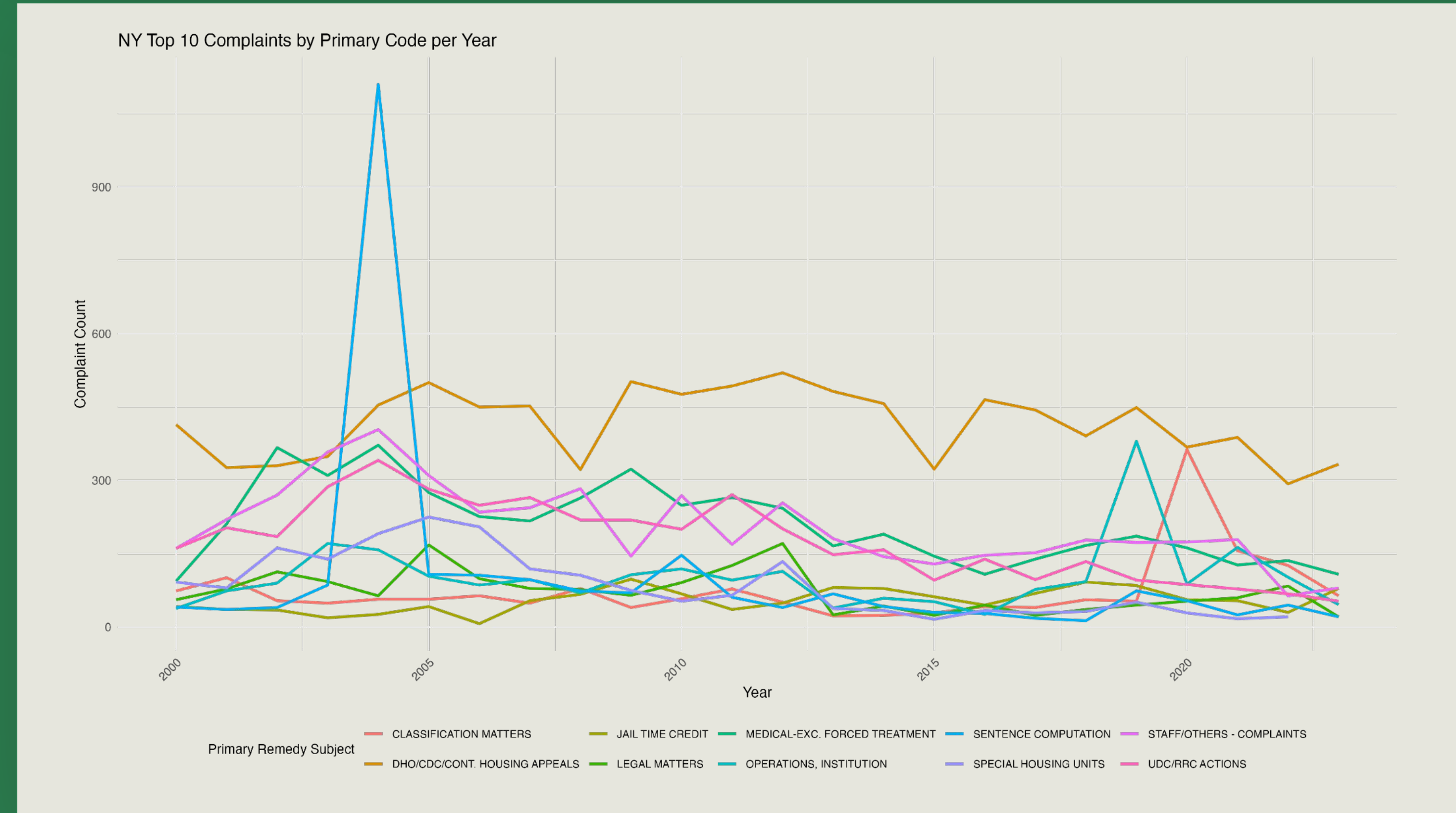
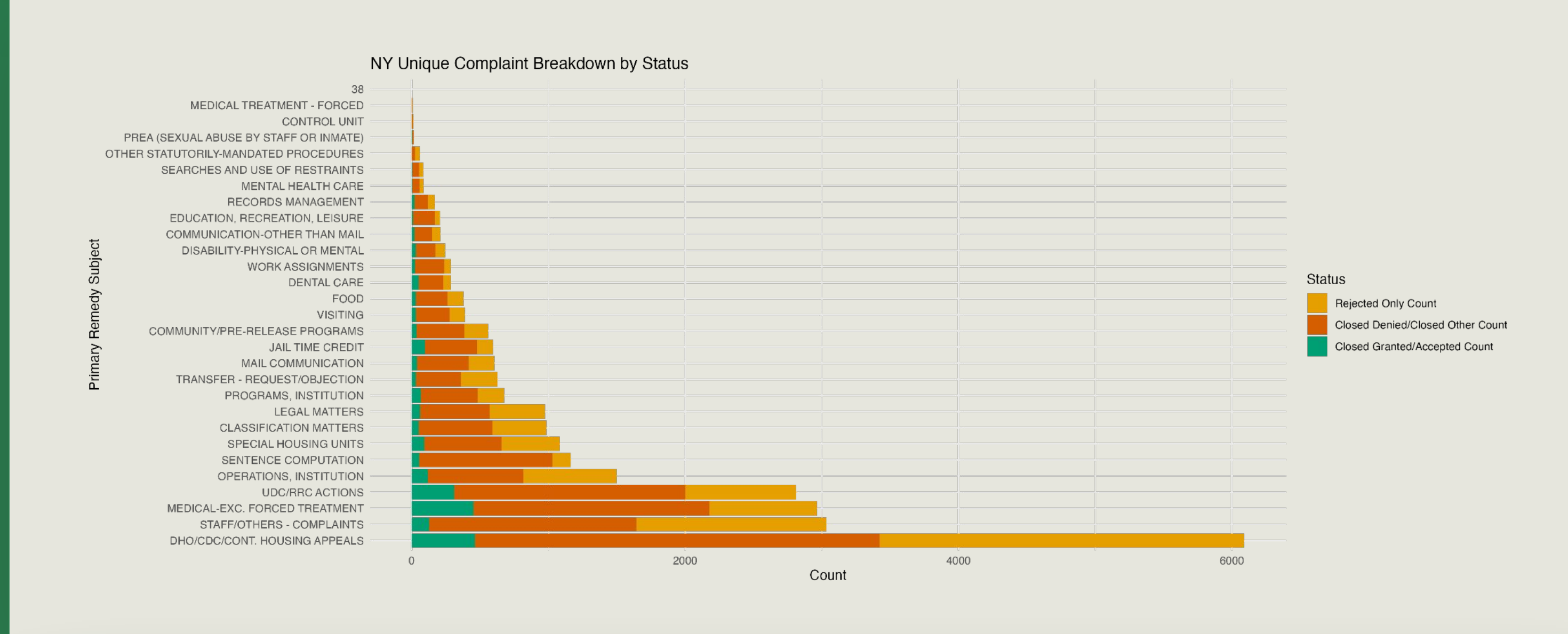
26,119

Unique Complaints

8.5% Granted/Accepted  
55.8% Denied/Other  
35.7% All Submissions Rejected

58 days

Average amount of time between first submission date and last status update



## ADDITIONAL REPORT OUTPUTS

- [STATE]\_SubmissionsEnrichedExpanded.csv
- [STATE]\_UniqueComplaintsEnrichedExpanded.csv
- [STATE]\_GeneralReport.csv
- [STATE]\_PrimarySubjectAnalysis.csv
- [STATE]\_SecondarySubjectAnalysis.csv

## DATA SOURCES

Federal Inmate Complaints. The Data Liberation Project. 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.data-liberation-project.org/datasets/federal-inmate-complaints/>

Past Inmate Population Totals. Federal Bureau of Prisons. 2024. Retrieved from: [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population\\_statistics.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp)