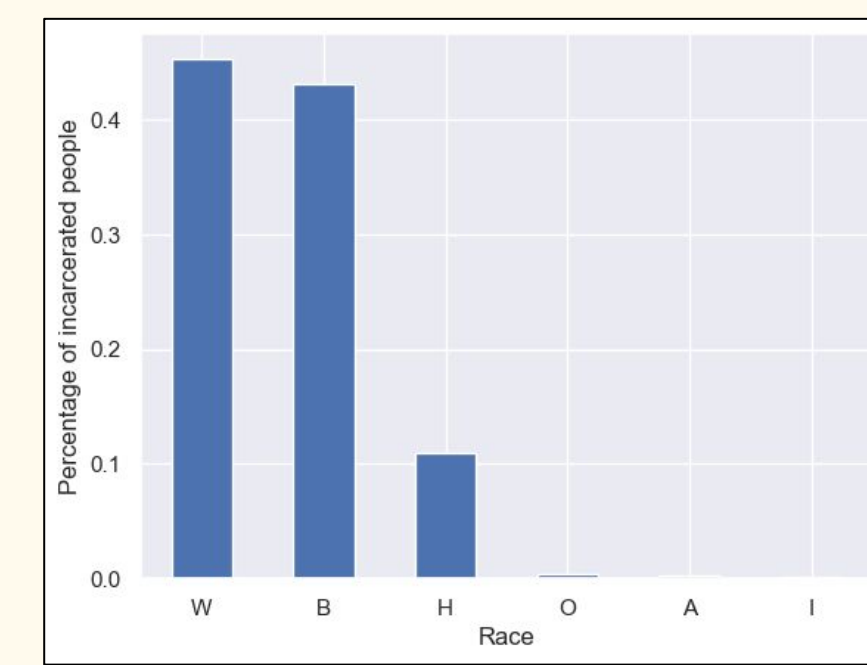
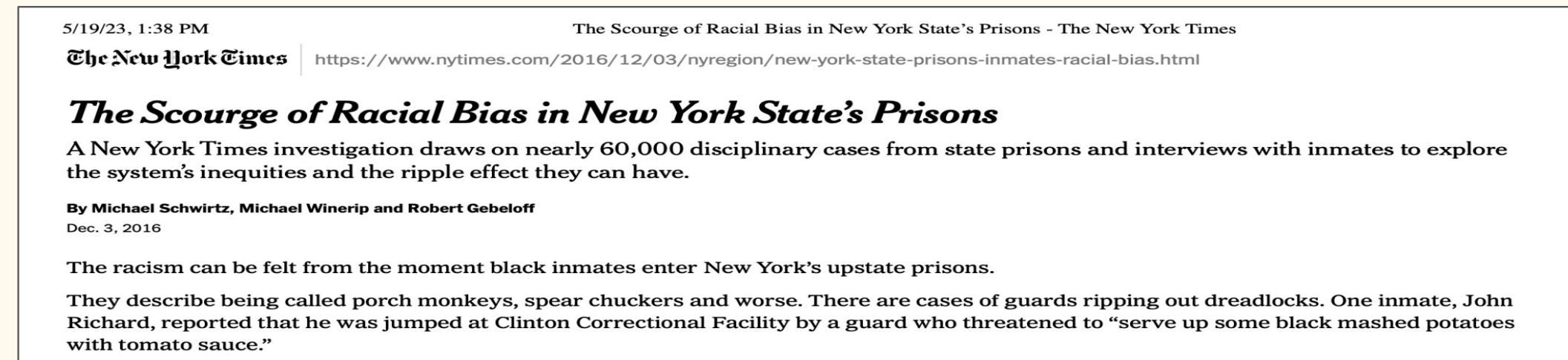


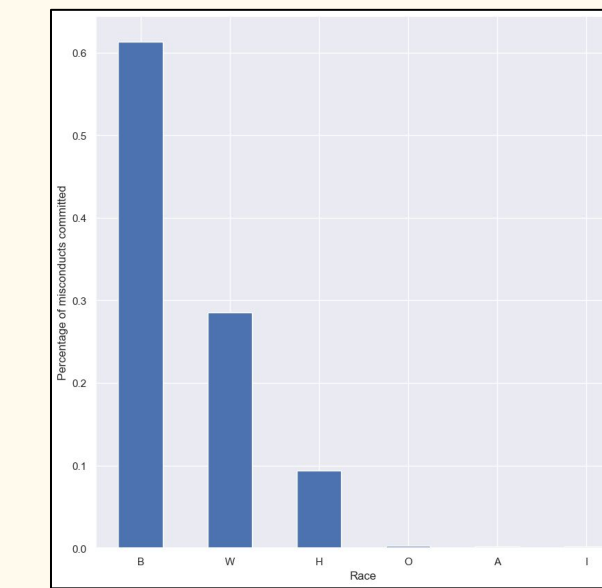
# Disparities in Prison Punishment

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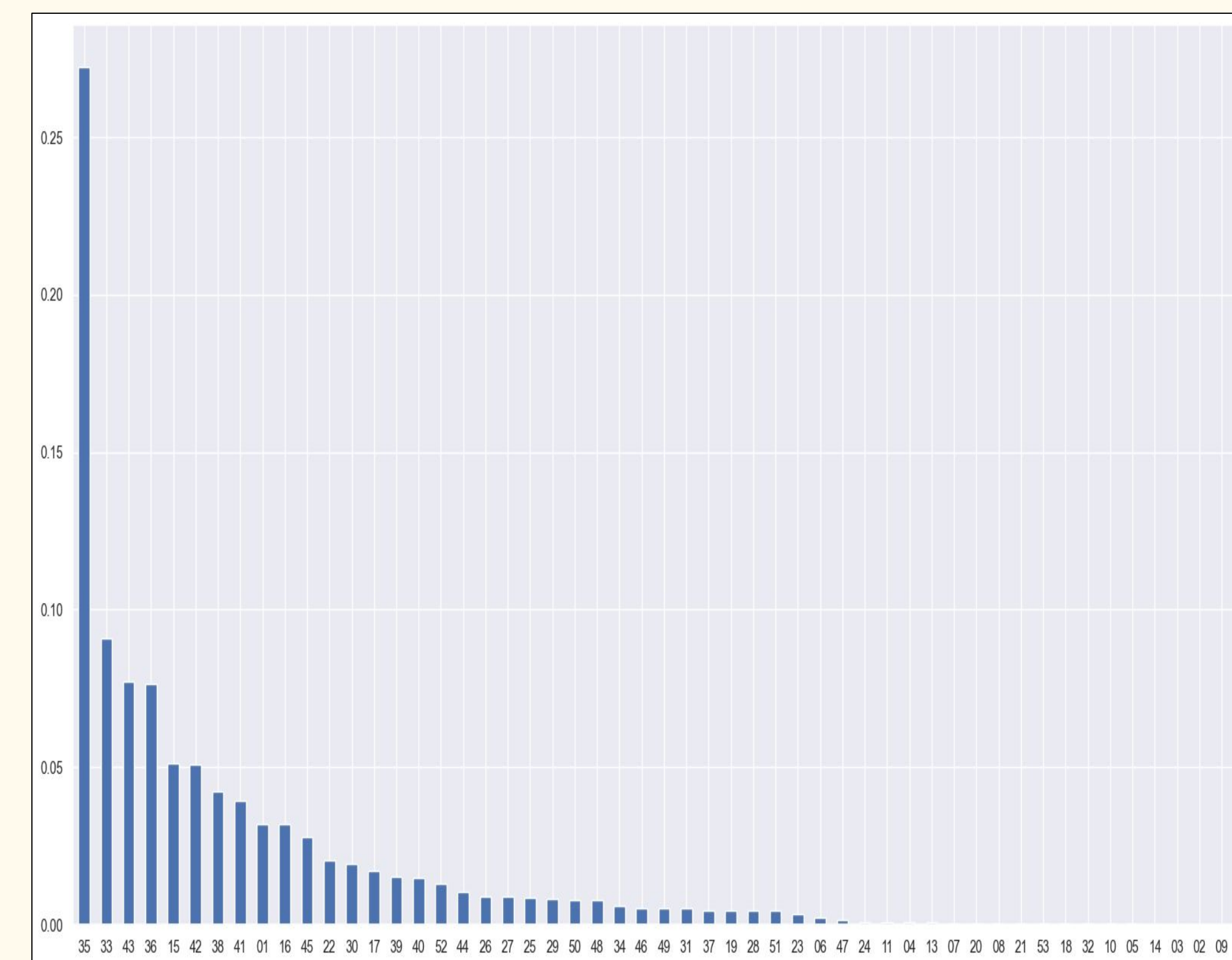
### Introduction



**Figure 2.**  
The graph shows the distribution of incarcerated people by race. %



**Figure 3**  
The graph shows the percentage of recorded misconducts committed and it's distribution by race. Black incarcerated people have the highest recorded misconducts.

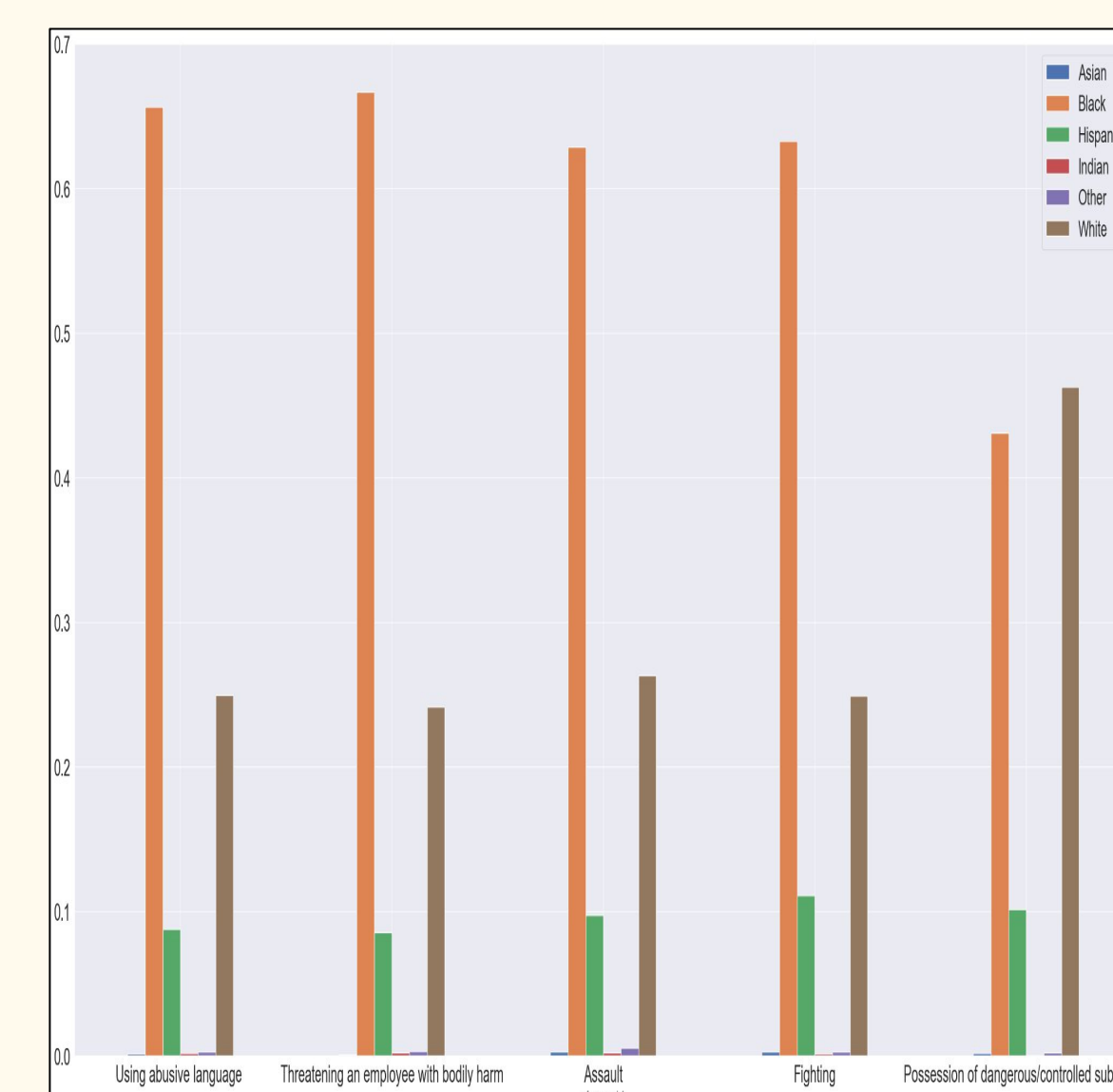


**Figure 4.**  
In this figure, it shows the distribution of misconduct charges from the most recorded to the least recorded misconduct. Notice that the most committed is under reference code 35: Refusal to obey order.

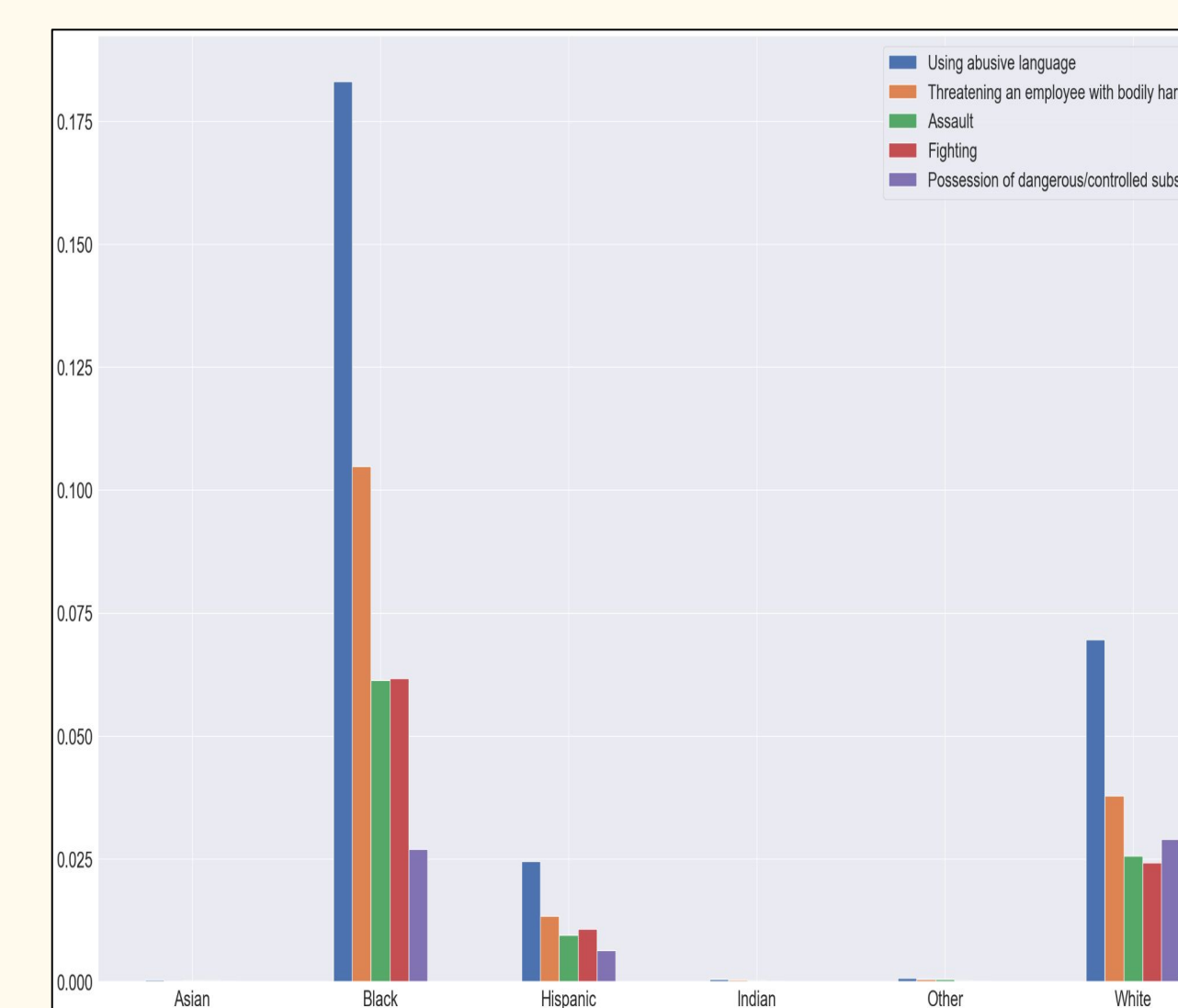
#### A deeper dive into the misconduct charge:

- Each misconduct has a reference code tied to it, which has a matching description.
- The reference codeshare tied to a categories that determine the severity of the misconduct during the hearing.
- The categories are A,B and C,where A is the most severe.
- I took a closer look at each category and examined the type of misconduct and its relation to race.

#### Category Charge A

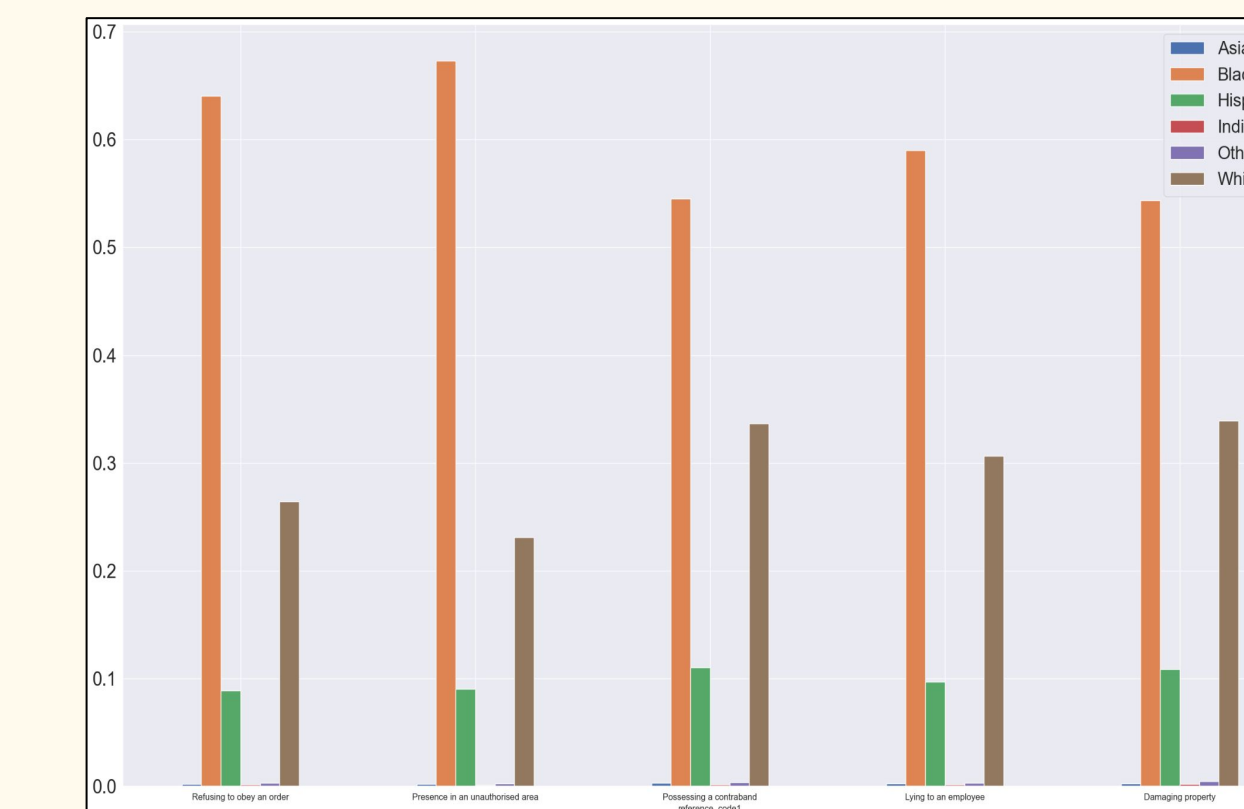


**Figure 5**

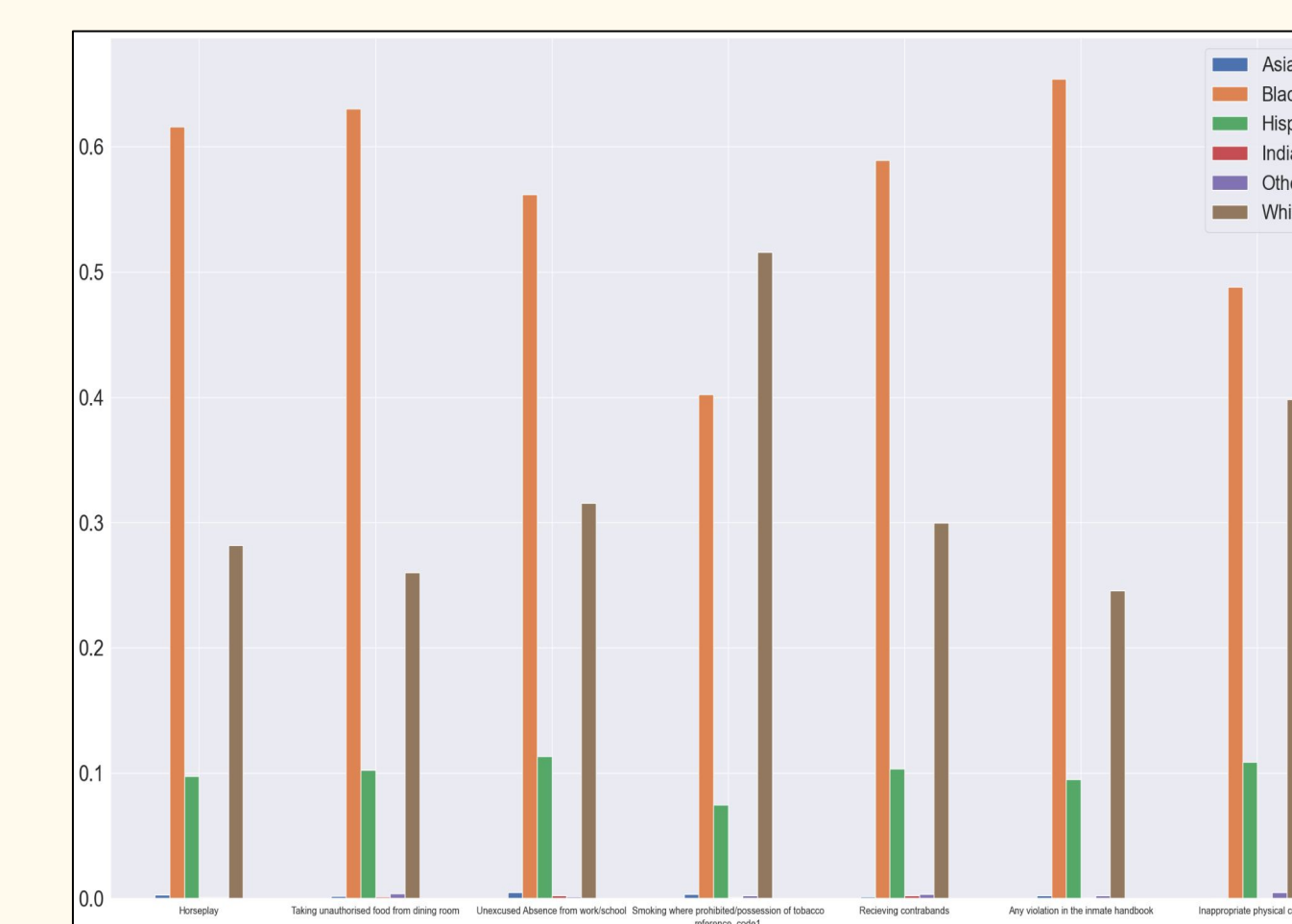


**Figure 6**

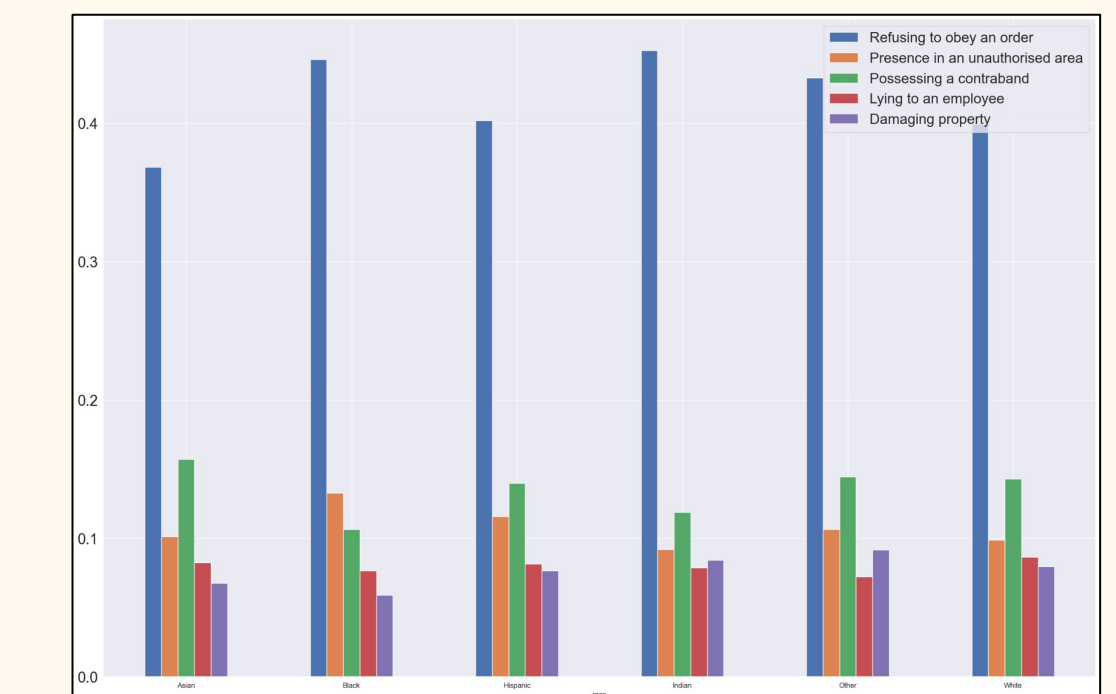
#### Category charge B



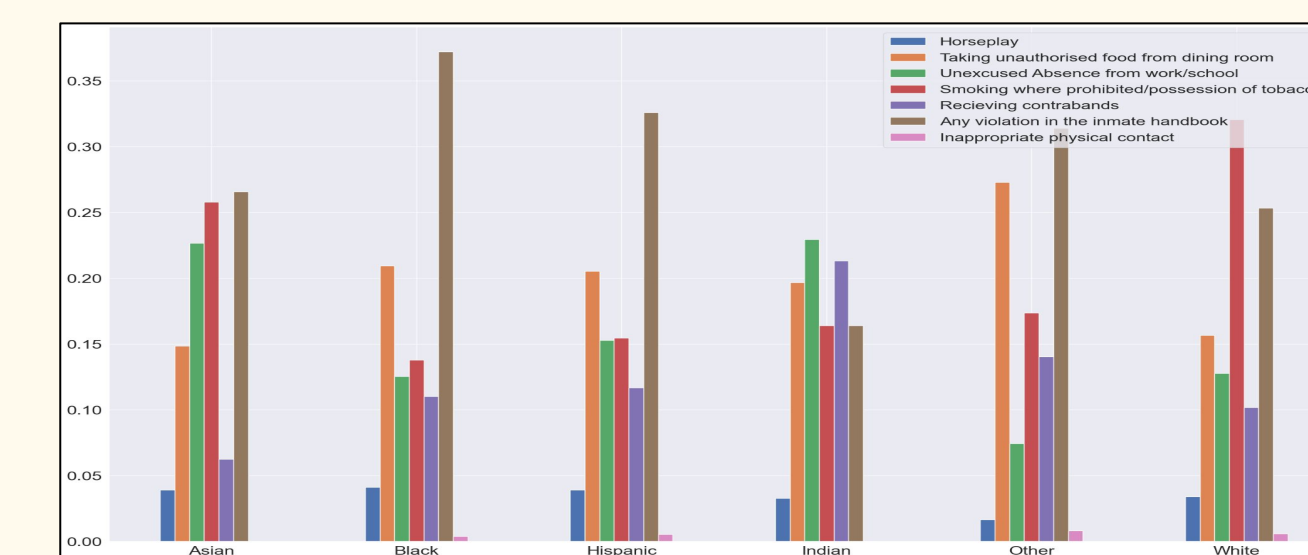
**Figure 7**  
**Category charge C**



**Figure 9**



**Figure 8**



**Figure 10**

### Discussion

- In Fig 7, B35 it is the most recorded misconduct: Refusal to obey an order,and notice that if 0.65 of the misconduct is by black incarcerated people. A33: Using abusive, obscene or inappropriate language to and about an employee. C52: Any violation of a rule or regulation in the inmate handbook not specified as a class 1 misconduct charge.
- However in C50, which is smoking where prohibited or possession of any tobacco products, there has to be tangible evidence for it to be recorded as a misconduct. This is where the status quo is flipped.
- This analysis shows that the most reported misconducts are on Black incarcerated people, and there is indication that for more “subjective” misconducts, Black incarcerated people have higher rates of being charged. This is consistent with the experiences that Black incarcerated people have reported coming in or out of prison by research currently in-progress by other members of our research group as well as the literature[Michael Winerip et al, 2016]

### What next?

- Classify all misconduct categories as "subjective" vs "objective" as per the inmate handbook and investigate if there are disparities in the two categories.
- Investigate the outcomes of the misconduct hearings and especially the misconduct appeals.
- Investigate the statistical relationship between misconducts and custody levels (security levels).
- Investigate the statistical relationship between misconducts and parole outcomes.

### References

- Pennsylvania department of Correction Policy Statement : 801 Inmate Discipline Pennsylvania, July 2015
- Massaro et al, Carceral algorithms and the history of control: An analysis of the Pennsylvania additive classification tool, Volume 9, issue 1, 10.1177/20539517221094002\_
- For Blacks Facing Parole in New York State,New York Times, Michael Winerip, Michael Schwartz and Robert Gebeloff, December 2016.
- The Scourge of Racial Bias in New York State's Prisons, New York Times, Michael Winerip, Michael Schwartz and Robert Gebeloff, December 2016.
- Racial Disparities in Prison Punishment and Parole, New York Times, A github analysis

### Results

- Time frame: April 17th 2000 to February 27th 2019
- The percentage of Black and white incarcerated people are almost equal which in itself is a disparity given that the population of Black or African American people in Pennsylvania is 12% of the its population and in the entire country 13.6%.
- This shows a disparity in not only the intake of incarcerated people as well as a disproportionate number of misconduct within the incarcerated population..