

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Community Supervision

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Division of Probation Services

Presented to the Sentencing Alternatives/Decisions & Probation Working Group  
of the Sentencing Reform Task Force (SRTF) of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ)

# Race and Ethnicity in CO Probation

## Limited Categories

- Must be compatible with CBI and other state systems
- Race and ethnicity are not separated

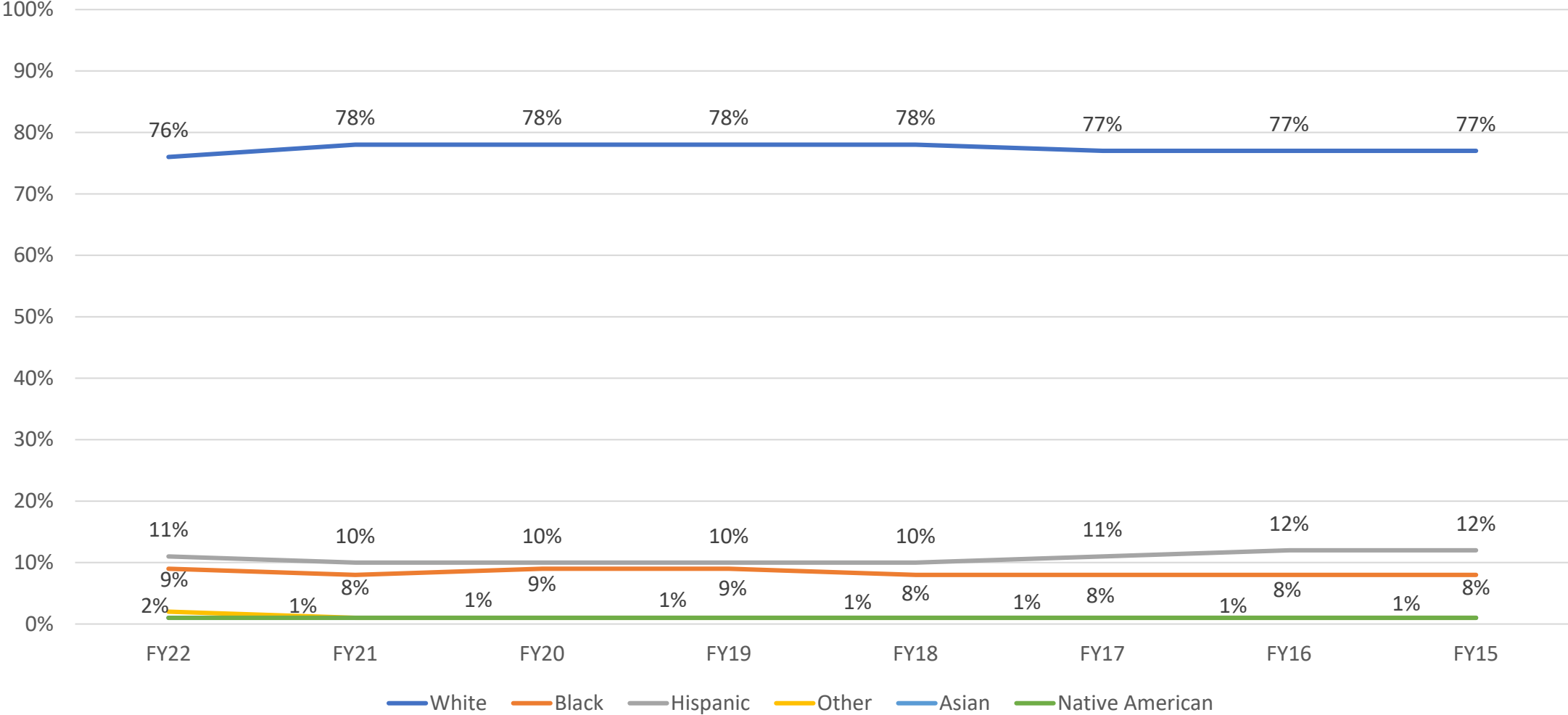
## Dated system

- Challenge to update coding to allow for more categories
- Even if updated, reconciling data from previous cases is burdensome

## Entries often based on perception

- Not self-identified
- Comes from arrest records, tickets, summons, affidavits, etc.

# Population Distributions for New Probationers

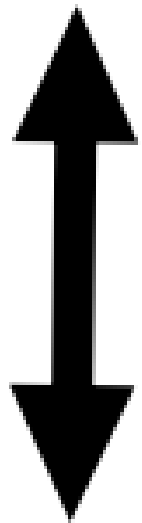


# Colorado Probation

## Colorado Probation's Population: Risk-Need-Responsivity Strategies

Typologies are a research-informed practice that categorize adult probationers according to similar risk and need profiles to better tailor supervision strategies in alignment with the Risk-Needs-Responsivity framework. The profiles are listed below with distinguishing characteristics for each profile.

Higher Risk



Lower Risk

### LS: Limit Setter

- Higher risk probationers with few protective factors and more involved criminal histories.
- Score higher on the *intrinsic* (attitudinal and behavioral) criminogenic need areas (e.g. Impulsivity)

### CC: Casework Control

- High risk and high need in the areas of behavioral health (SUD, MH, Dual Dx).
- Scores above average on almost every measure with chronic instability

### CM: Case Management

- The largest proportion of the probation population
- Assessed as lower to medium risk – often with more *extrinsic* need profiles (employment, family/marital, companions, financial) with no clear indicators that would categorize them in any other group

### SIT: Selective Intervention-Treatment

- Lower risk with remarkable substance abuse or mental health issues (or co-occurring disorders)

### SIS: Selective Intervention-Situational

- Low risk with no treatment need

# Typologies in Colorado Probation: Descriptions, Distributions, and Success Rates

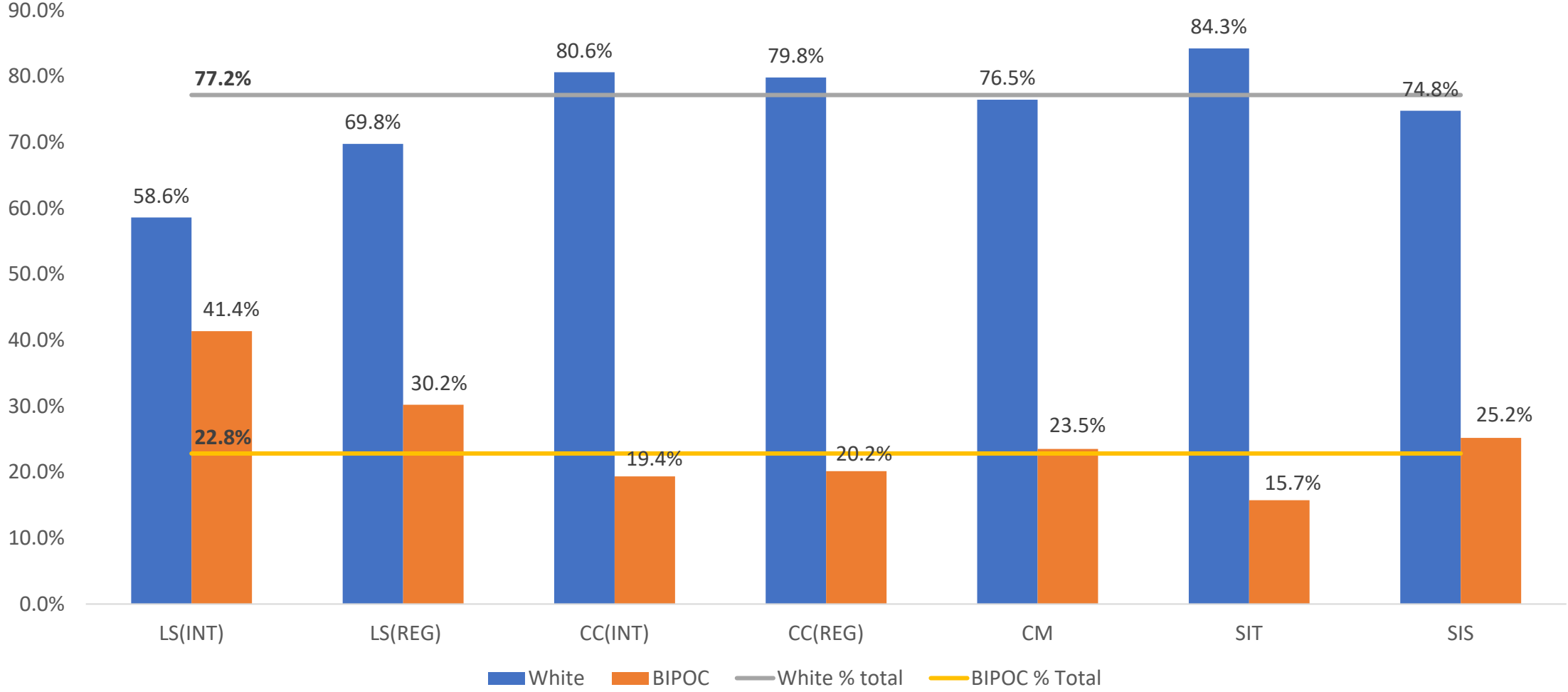
Higher Risk  
and Need



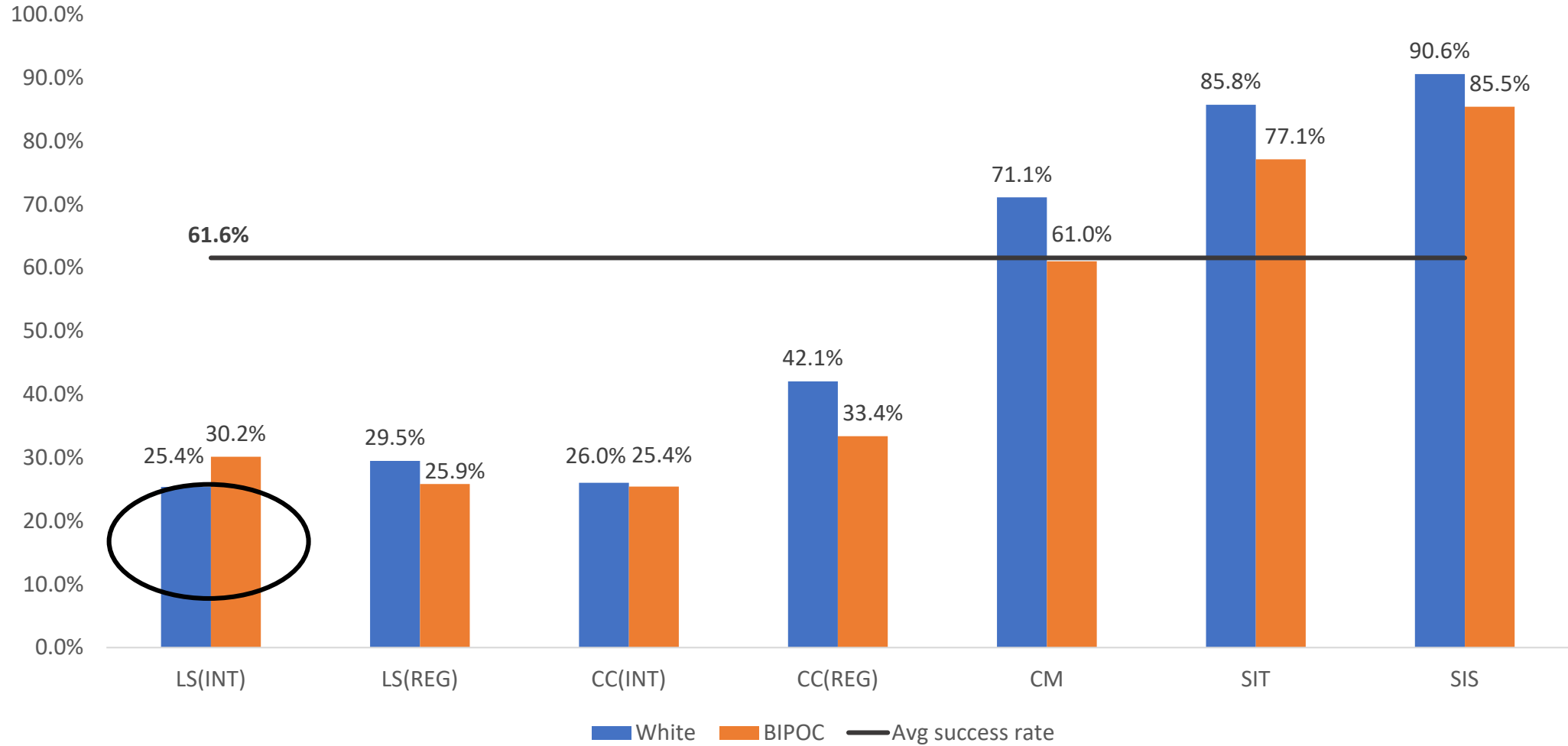
Lower Risk  
and Need

		Distribution	Success Rate	Unsuccessful Termination Rate		
				Abscond	Tech Viol	New Crime
Limit Setter Intensive (LS-INT)	Higher risk with antisocial orientation. Eligible for intensive program.	3%	43.9%	15.0%	20.4%	20.6%
Limit Setter Regular (LS-REG)	Higher risk with antisocial orientation and secondary needs.	12%	40.0%	17.4%	24.6%	18.1%
Casework Control Intensive (CC-INT)	Higher risk and higher need with stability issues. Eligible for intensive program.	5%	47.4%	13.8%	23.7%	15.2%
Casework Control (CC-REG)	Higher risk and higher need with stability issues. Eligible for intensive program.	13%	51.9%	15.0%	21.4%	11.7%
Case Management (CM)	Medium risk and need.	25%	69.6%	11.2%	12.2%	7.0%
Selective Intervention-Treatment (SIT)	Lower risk with single need factor typically related to a substance use or mental health treatment need.	20%	82.0%	7.0%	7.5%	3.5%
Selective Intervention-Situational (SIS)	Lower risk with no distinguishing need factors and high levels of stability and protective factors.	23%	86.9%	6.6%	4.5%	2.0%

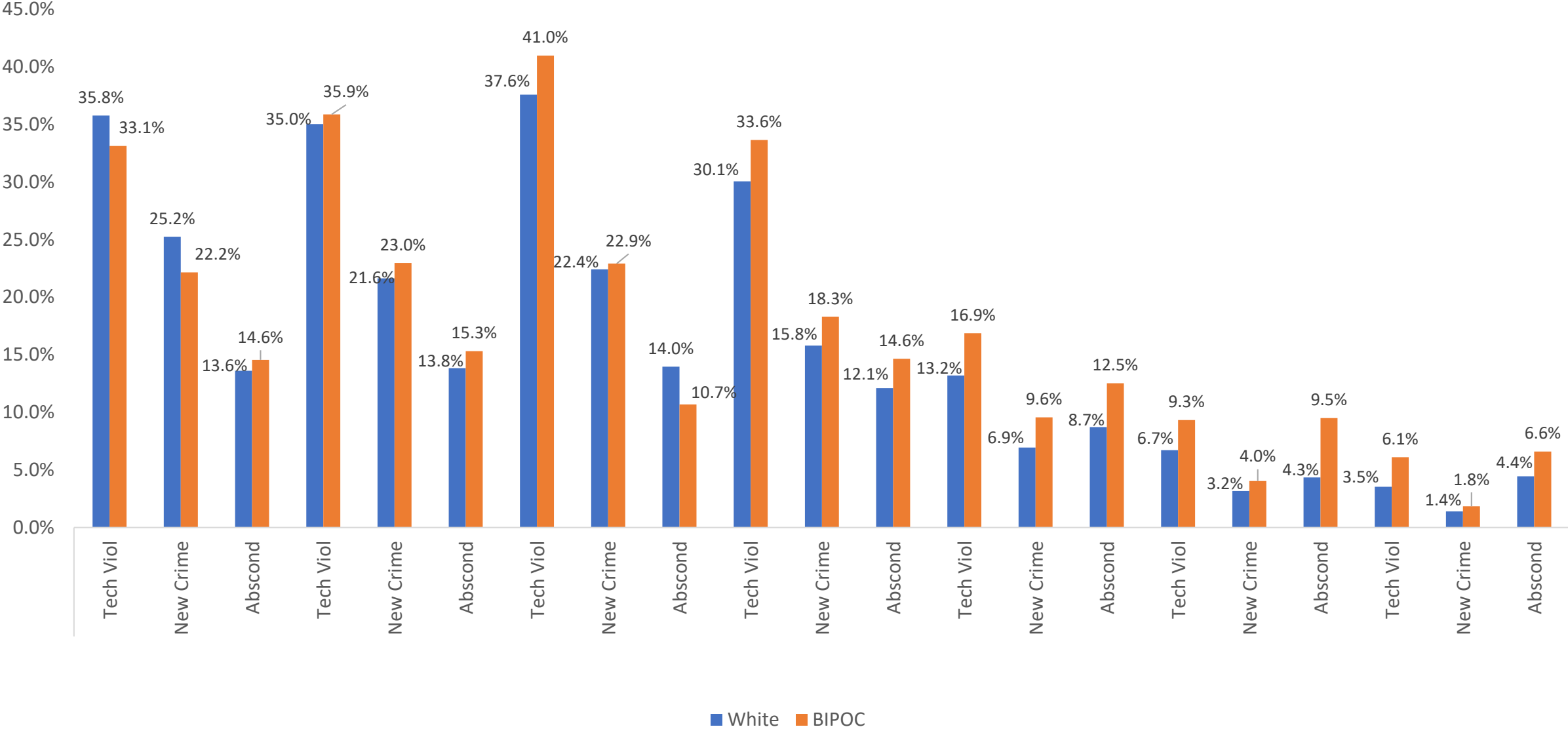
# Disproportionate Representation



# Outcomes by Risk/Need and Race/Ethnicity

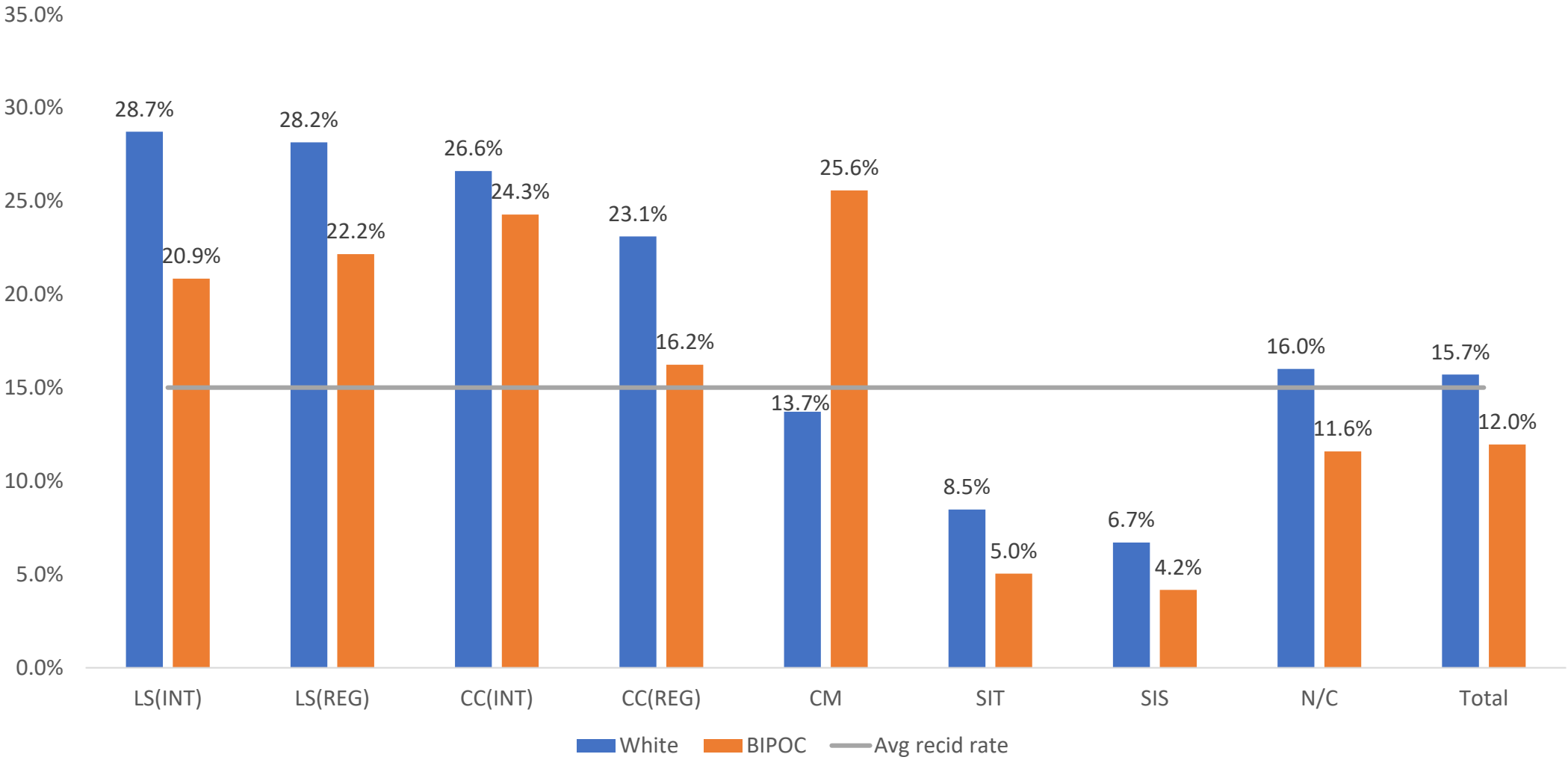


# Unsuccessful Terminations





# Recidivism by Risk/Need and Race/Ethnicity



# Key Takeaways:

**Race and ethnicity data collection and reporting have room for improvement**

Limited categories

Not self-identified

**Probation population is primarily Caucasian**

Hispanic ethnicity isn't separate

**BIPOC are overrepresented in higher risk categories**

Higher success rates in LS(INT)

Lower success rates in other risk/need categories

**BIPOC terminated from probation have lower recidivism rates**

Medium risk group is the exception