

Trends in MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, REFERRALS, & CHARGES in Seattle

Jacqueline B. Helfgott | William S. Parkin | Christopher Fisher
Lauren Morgan | Simran Kaur



SEATTLEU

**CRIMINAL
JUSTICE**

Funding

*The Laura and
John Arnold
Foundation*



Purpose of Research

The Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice

Meredith Patten
Preeti Chauhan



*To examine trends in misdemeanor arrests, charges, and referrals as one of seven jurisdictions in the **Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice** to provide information of value to policymakers, criminal justice professionals, and researchers in Seattle and nationwide to replicate findings from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.*



Data Partners and Stakeholders

Acknowledgements

AGENCY	CONTACT	TITLE
Seattle Police Department	Carmen Best	Chief
	Chris Fisher	Strategic Advisor
	Mark Bridge	Data Driven Program Lead
	Kathy Kolarsick	Management Systems Analyst
	Loren Atherley	Sr. Research Scientist
	Dan Nelson	Sergeant, Crisis Intervention
	Joel Guay	Lieutenant
Seattle City Attorney's Office	Brialle Englehart	Criminal Division Manager
	Pete Holmes	City Attorney
	Kelly Harris	Chief of Criminal Division
	Dana Anderson	Director of Administration
	Gina Landino	Executive Assistant
Seattle Municipal Court	Rich Cook	Lead Analyst/Research, Planning, Evaluation
King County Adult and Juvenile Detention	Steven Larsen	Chief of Administration
	Mike West	Project/Program Manager
	Jennifer Albright	Project/Program Manager
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Dan Satterberg	Prosecuting Attorney
	Leesa Manion	Deputy Chief of Staff

Presentation Outline

- **Introduction and Background**
- **Method**
- **Key Findings**
- **Discussion**
- **Questions**

Introduction and Background *Misdemeanors in Seattle*



- The **majority of individuals processed through the criminal justice system nationally are arrested for misdemeanors**. Misdemeanor are typically shelved as low-priority events with little research attention though misdemeanor sentencing trends have steadily risen nationwide (Natoli, 2012)
- Lum et al (2017) examined national response to “Broken Windows Policing” in response to harms identified to communities of color finding **Seattle is a “Middle Stable” city with respect to misdemeanor arrests** with less than doubled misdemeanor arrests during the 1990-2013 time frame as compared to other cities labeled as . “High Increasers,” “Middle Increasers,” “Middle Stable,” and “Low Stable.”
- ***What Makes Seattle Unique as a RNMJ site?***
 - **The Deprioritization and Legalization of Marijuana**
 - **Innovative Community Initiatives**
 - *Seattle Police Department’s Micro-Community Policing Plans (SPD MCPP)*
 - *Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)*
 - *Seattle Police Crisis Intervention Policy*

Process

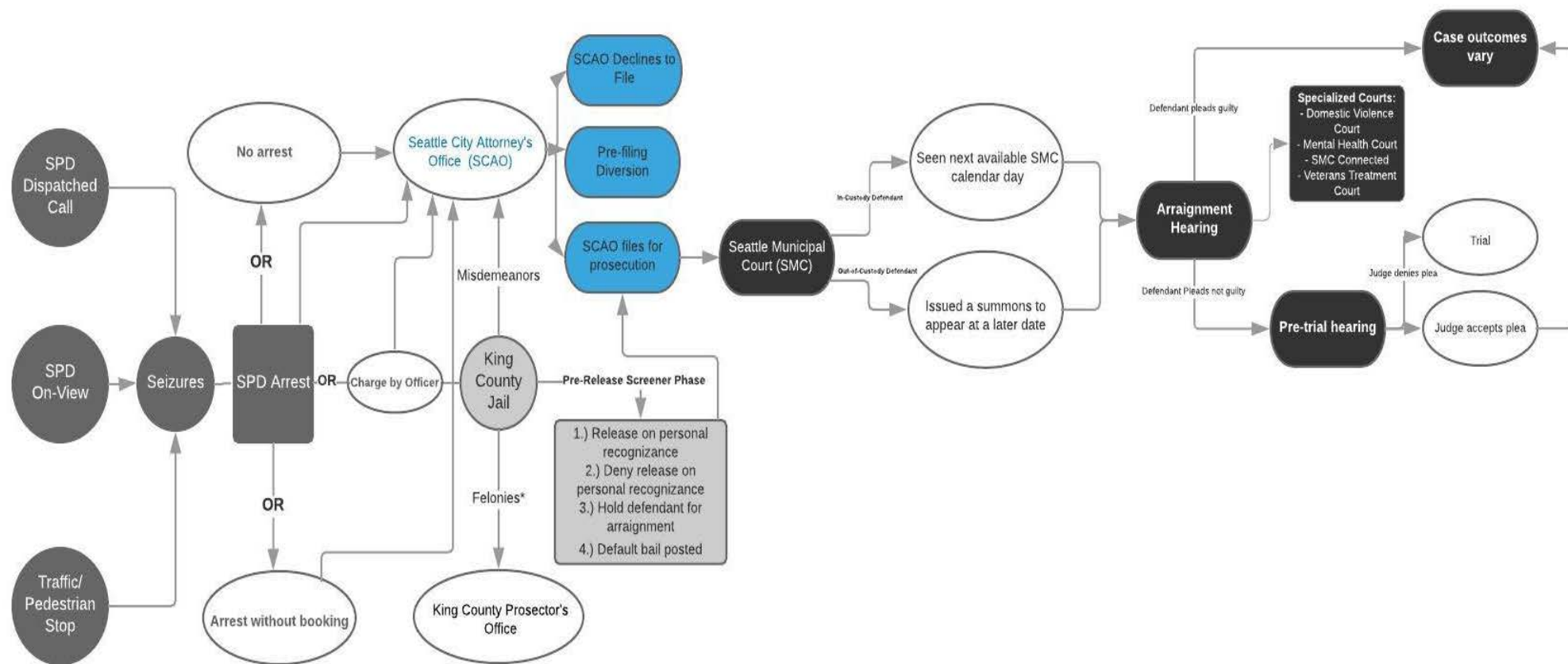
Seattle

Misdemeanor

Process Map

Seattle Misdemeanor Case Process

SPD- Seattle Police Department
 SCAO- Seattle City Attorney's Office
 SMC- Seattle Municipal Court
 King County Jail



Data



PHASE 1 Misdemeanor Arrests, Referrals, & Charges

- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle City Attorney's Office
- United States Census Bureau

PHASE 2 The Misdemeanor Case Process

- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle City Attorney's Office
- Seattle Municipal Court
- King County Adult & Juvenile Detention

PHASE 3 Future Research

- Misdemeanors arrests, referrals, and charges involving behavioral crisis
- Community perception of public safety and neighborhood quality of life and link to misdemeanor arrests, referrals, and charges by micro-community
- Person and place-based misdemeanor arrests, referrals, and charges

Arrests, Referrals,& Charges

Arrests

- Arrested (SPD Booking)
- Outside Agency Arrest
- Summons
- Citations
- SPD contacts with individuals that led to misdemeanor referrals

Referrals

- SPD arrests referred to SCA
- SPD cases referred to SCA

Charges

- Misdemeanors referred to SCA where charges files

Preview of Takeaways *Key Findings*

- **Arrests, referrals, and charges for misdemeanors in Seattle have steadily declined from 2008 to 2016.** This general decline in arrests, referrals, and charges mirrors a similar decline for felonies.
- While arrests, referrals, and charges for misdemeanors are declining in Seattle, **rates for arrests, referrals, and charges are higher for Black and Indigenous groups.**
- The **rate of felony and misdemeanor bookings has decreased while the rate of misdemeanor warrants has increased.**
- **Misdemeanor arrest rates have decreased steadily for all age categories.** The 18-20 age category has seen the most significant decline dropping below 21-24 year olds since 2010 and 25-34 year-olds since 2013.
- **There has been a decline in misdemeanor bookings for both males and females since 2009 with a greater decline for males.**
- **The arrest rate is highest for Black males followed by Indigenous males with some exceptions where the arrest rate for the Indigenous group exceeds Black males and females.** For example, in 2013, Indigenous males age 35-65 were arrested at a higher rate than Black males and Indigenous females age 18-65 were arrested, referred, and charged at an increasing and higher rate than Black females across the study period (in particular in the 35-65 age group) while the referral and charge rate for Black females declined.

Discussion

Summary of Key Findings

- **Arrest rates declined for person, property & theft-related, weapons, drugs, prostitution, and public order offenses from 2010 to 2016 while warrant arrests showed a corresponding increase.** There was a particularly dramatic decrease in prostitution arrests from 2011 to 2012.
- **The rate of misdemeanor dismissals was higher than convictions from 2008- 2015. In 2016, conviction rate exceeded the dismissal rate for the first time during the study period.** There was a decrease in the dismissal and convictions from 2008-2016 while acquittals, which occurred at a relatively low rate, remained steady across the study period.
- **The rate and percentage of misdemeanors at Citywide, Precinct, and Micro-Community level declined and vary by precinct and micro-community.** The East precinct shows the highest rate of misdemeanors, followed by the South, West, Southwest, and North precincts for most of the study period with some fluctuation in 2015-2016 (e.g., arrest rate in South exceeded East and North exceeded Southwest in 2016).

Felony & Misdemeanor Results

Figure 1: Seattle Person & Property Felony Crime Rates per 100,000 Total Population, 2008-2016.

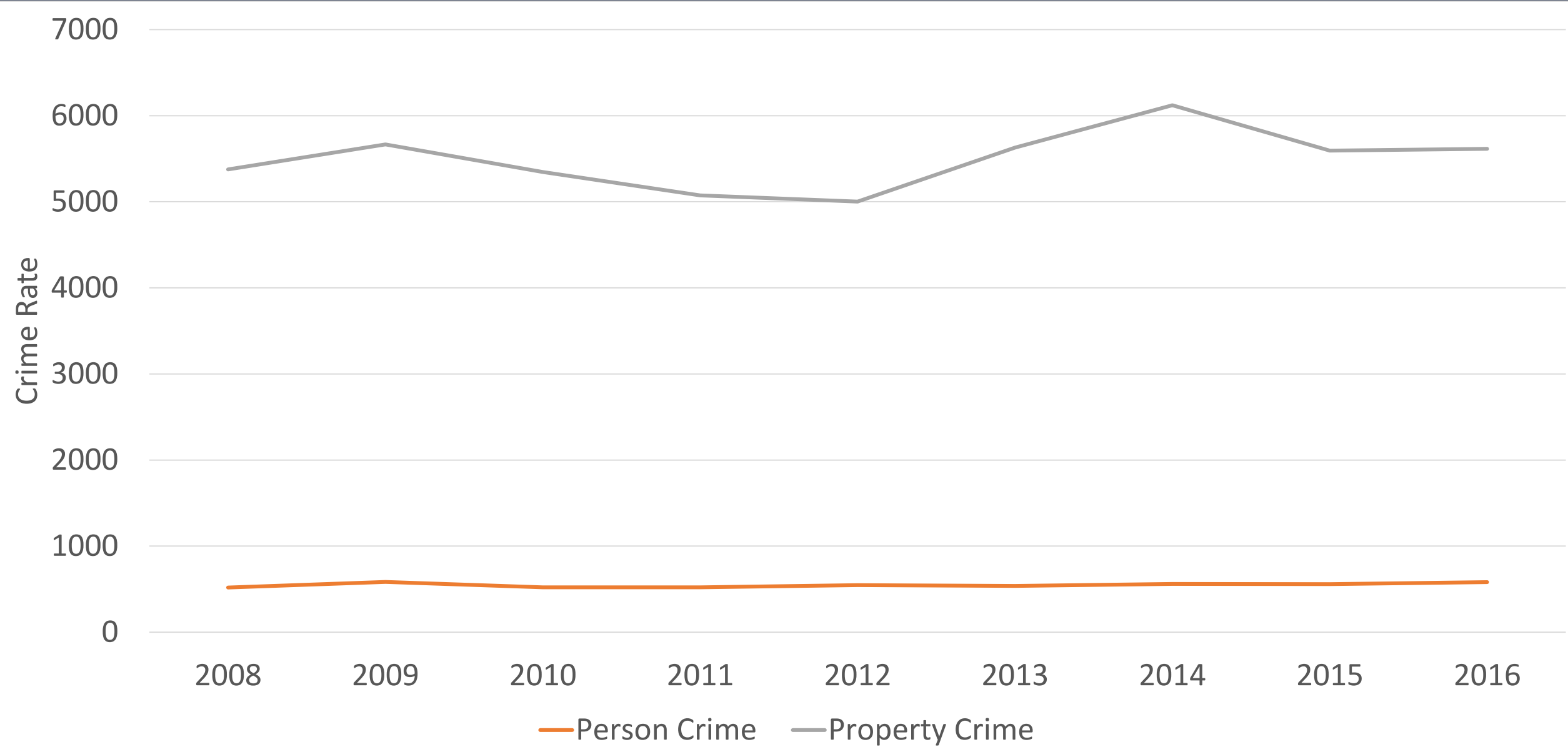


Figure 2: Percent of Total Seattle Person & Property Felony Crimes, 2008-2016.

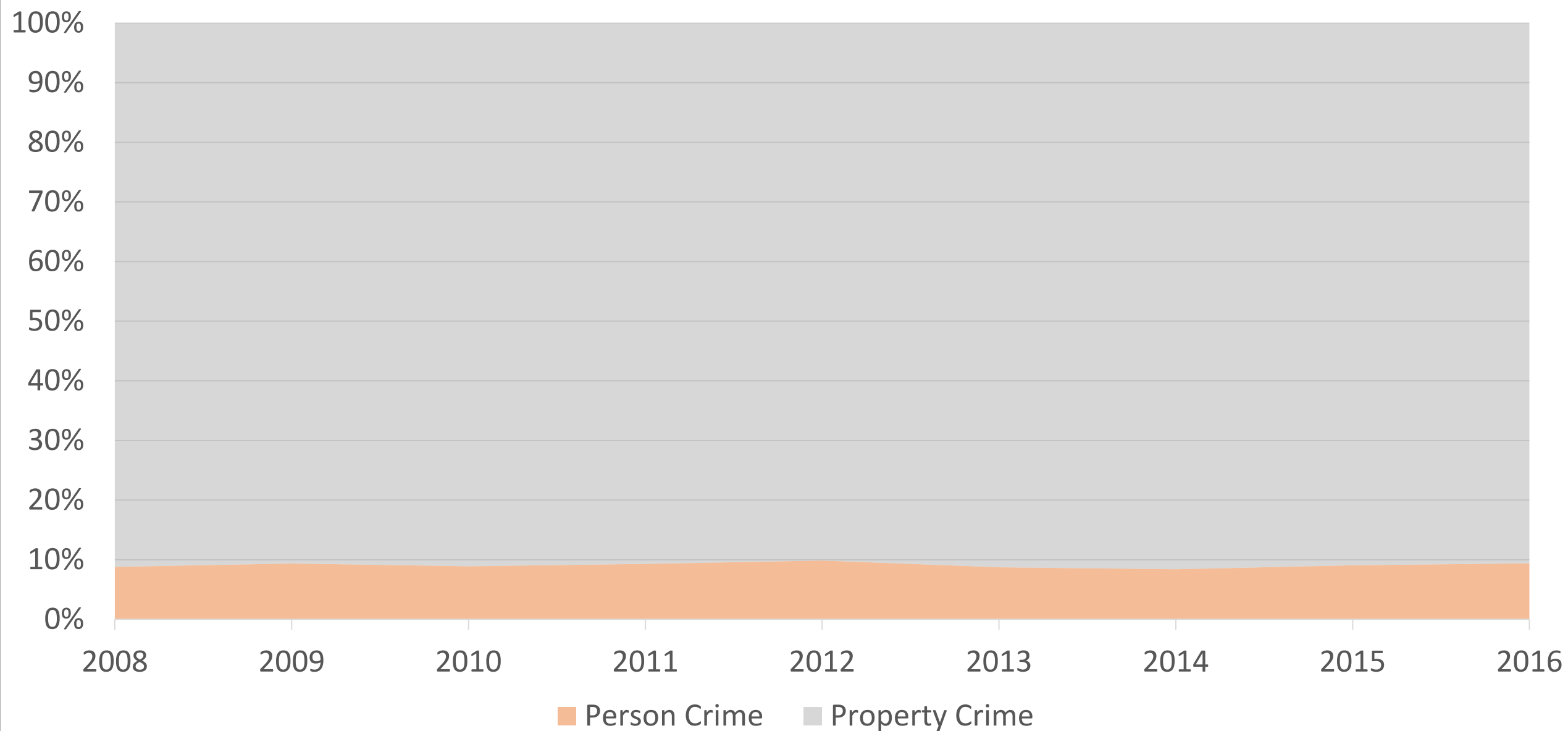


Figure 3: Seattle Police Department Felony and Misdemeanor Arrest Rates per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

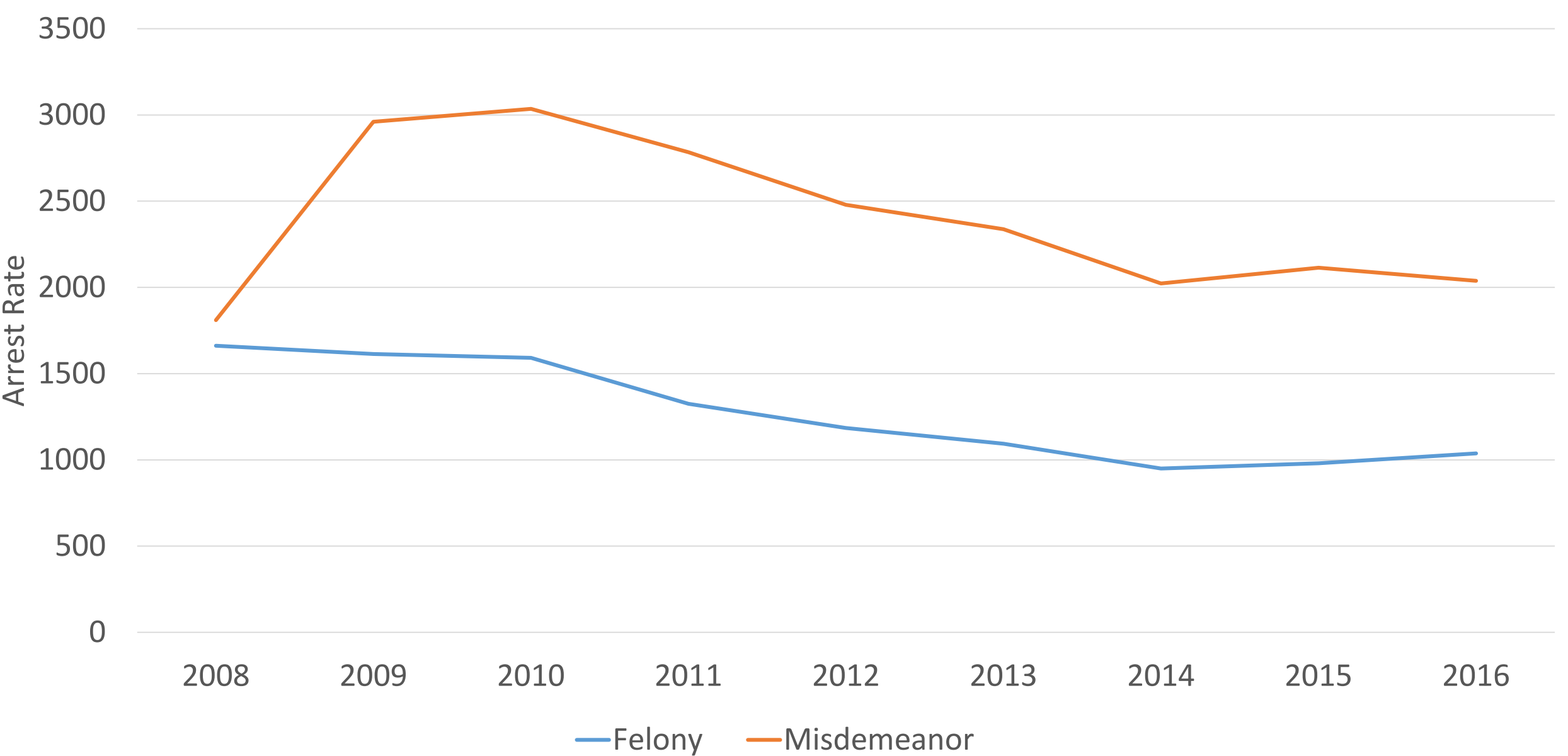


Figure 4: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests, 2008-2016.

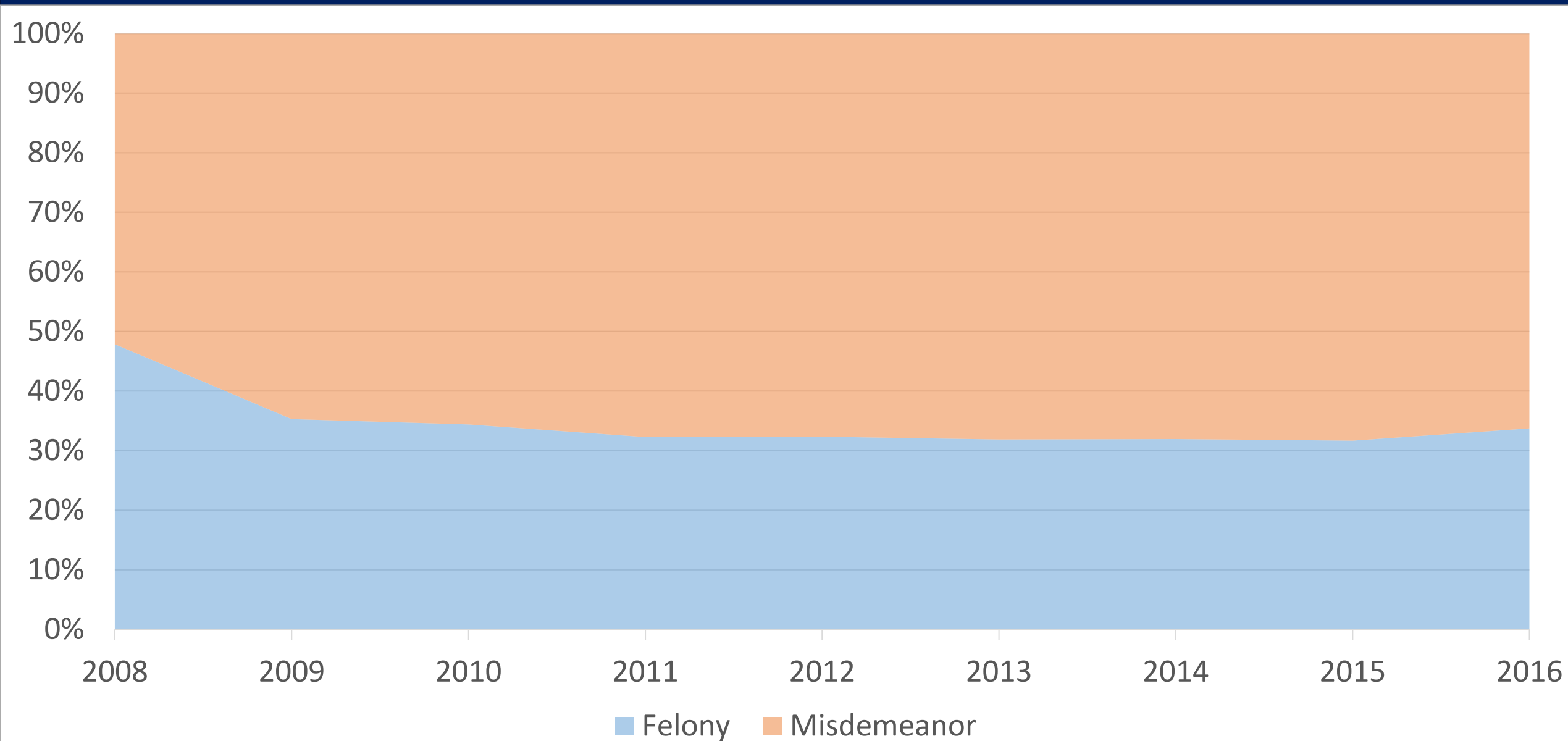


Figure 5: Seattle Police Department Felony and Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Charge Severity per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

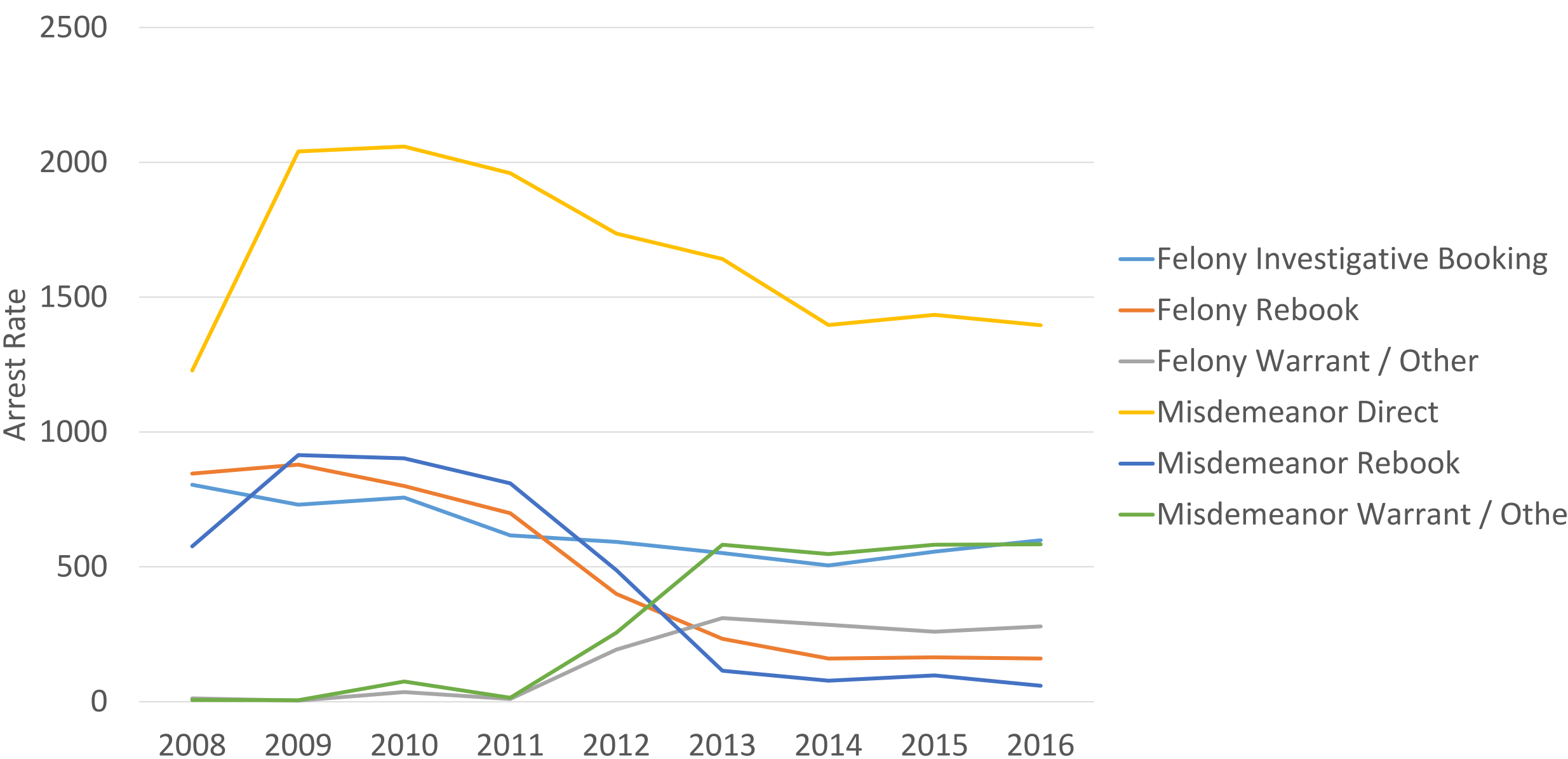
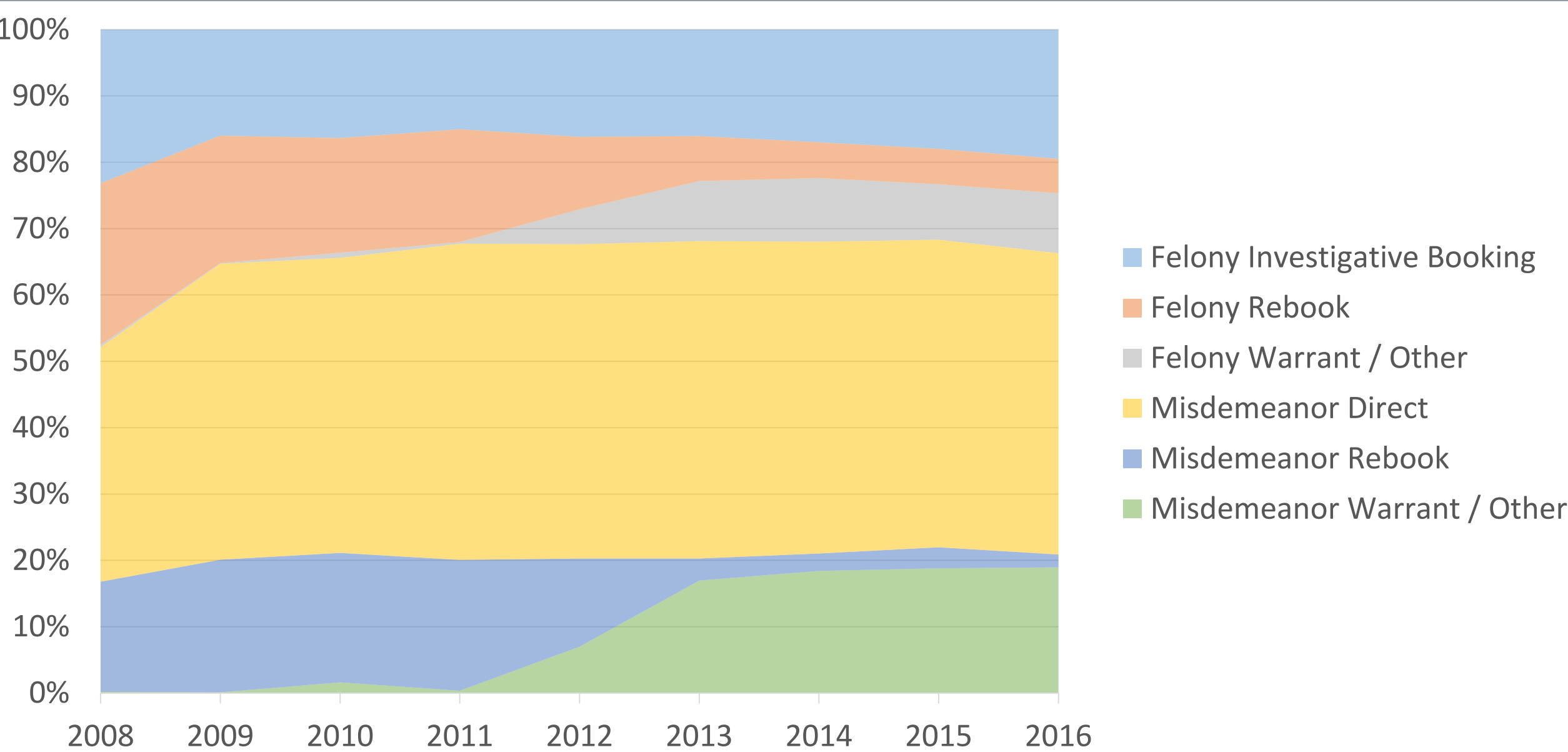


Figure 6: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests by Charge Severity, 2008-2016.



Misdemeanor Arrest Results

Figure 7: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

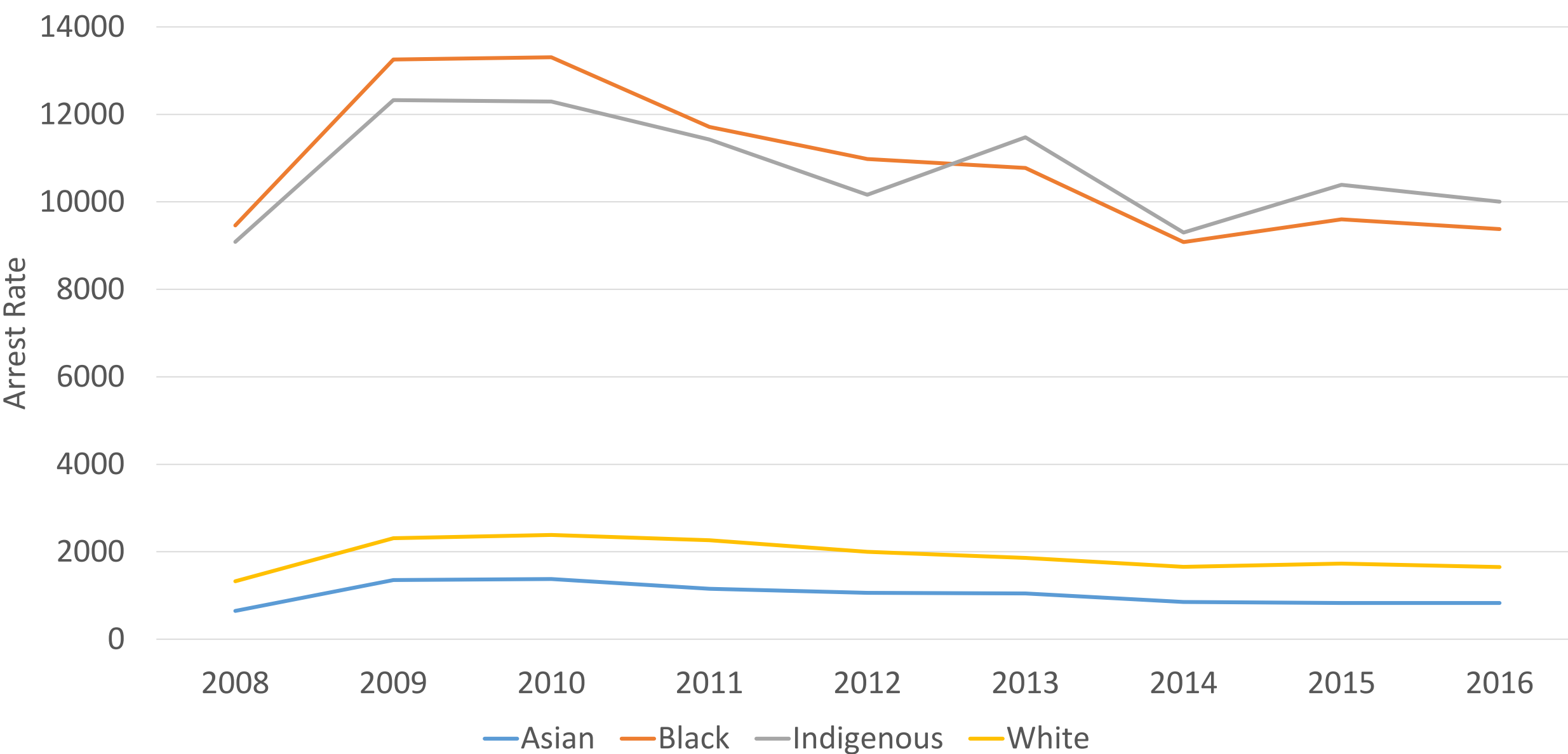


Figure 8: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests by Race, 2008-2016.

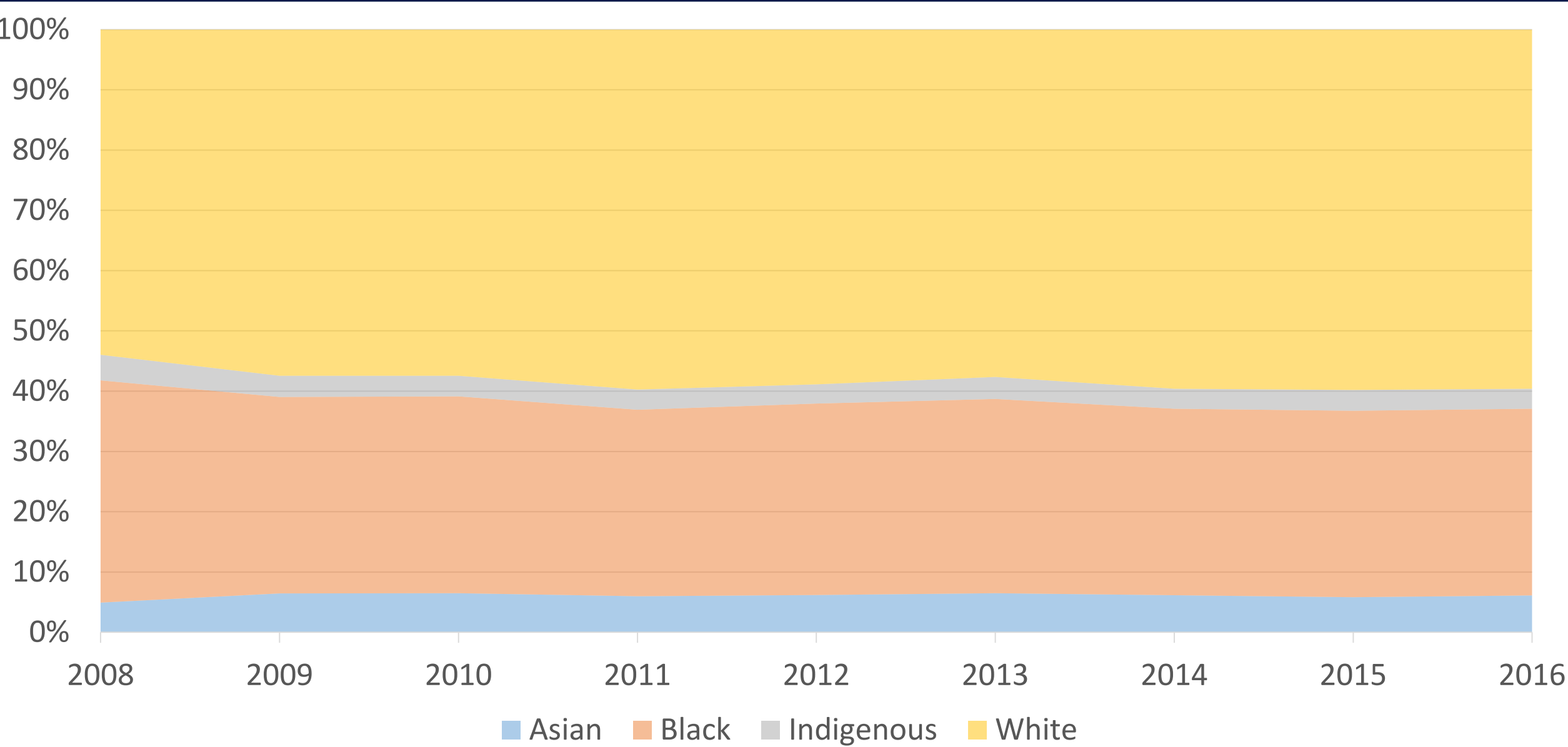


Figure 9: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Age Group per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

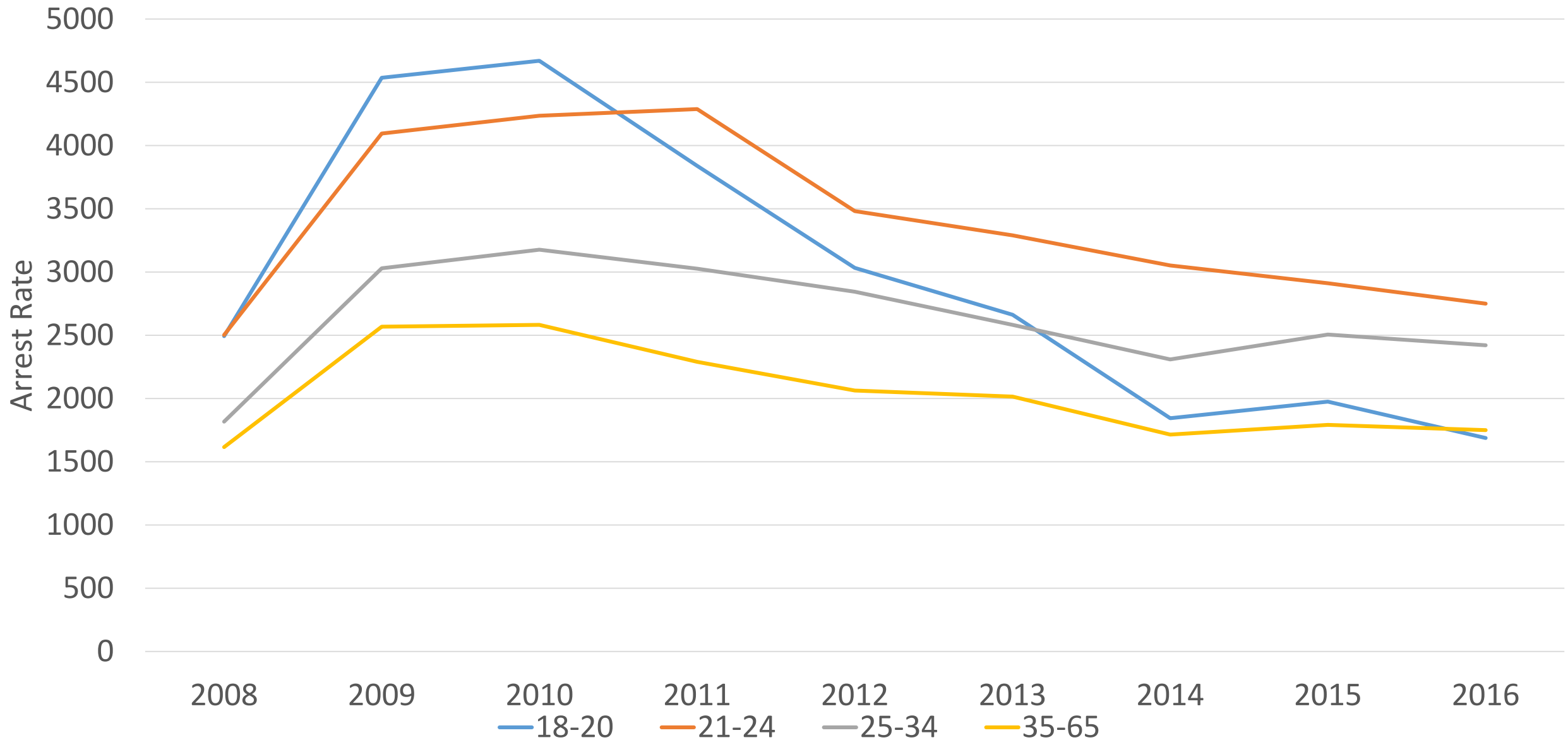


Figure 10: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests by Age Group, 2008-2016.

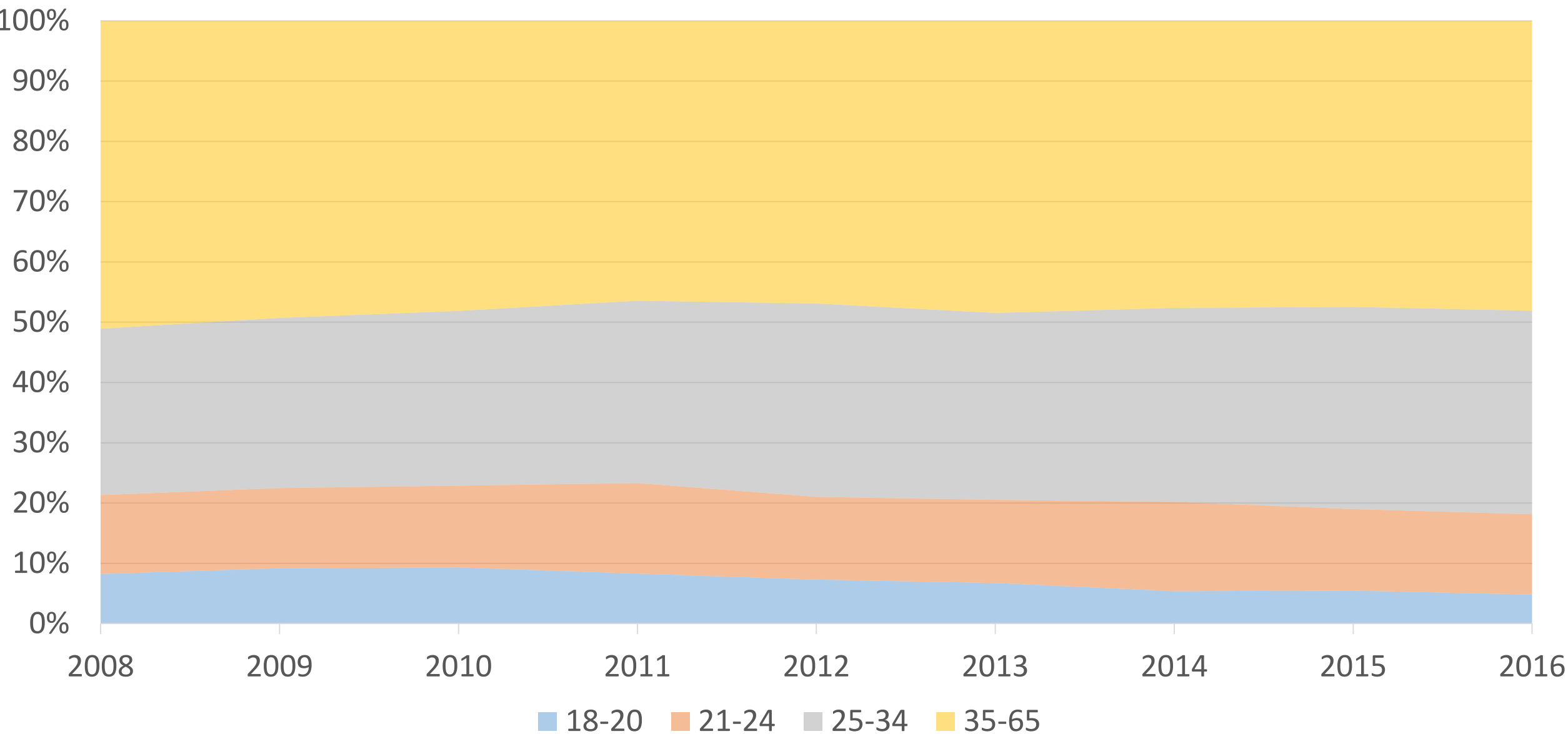


Figure 11: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Sex per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

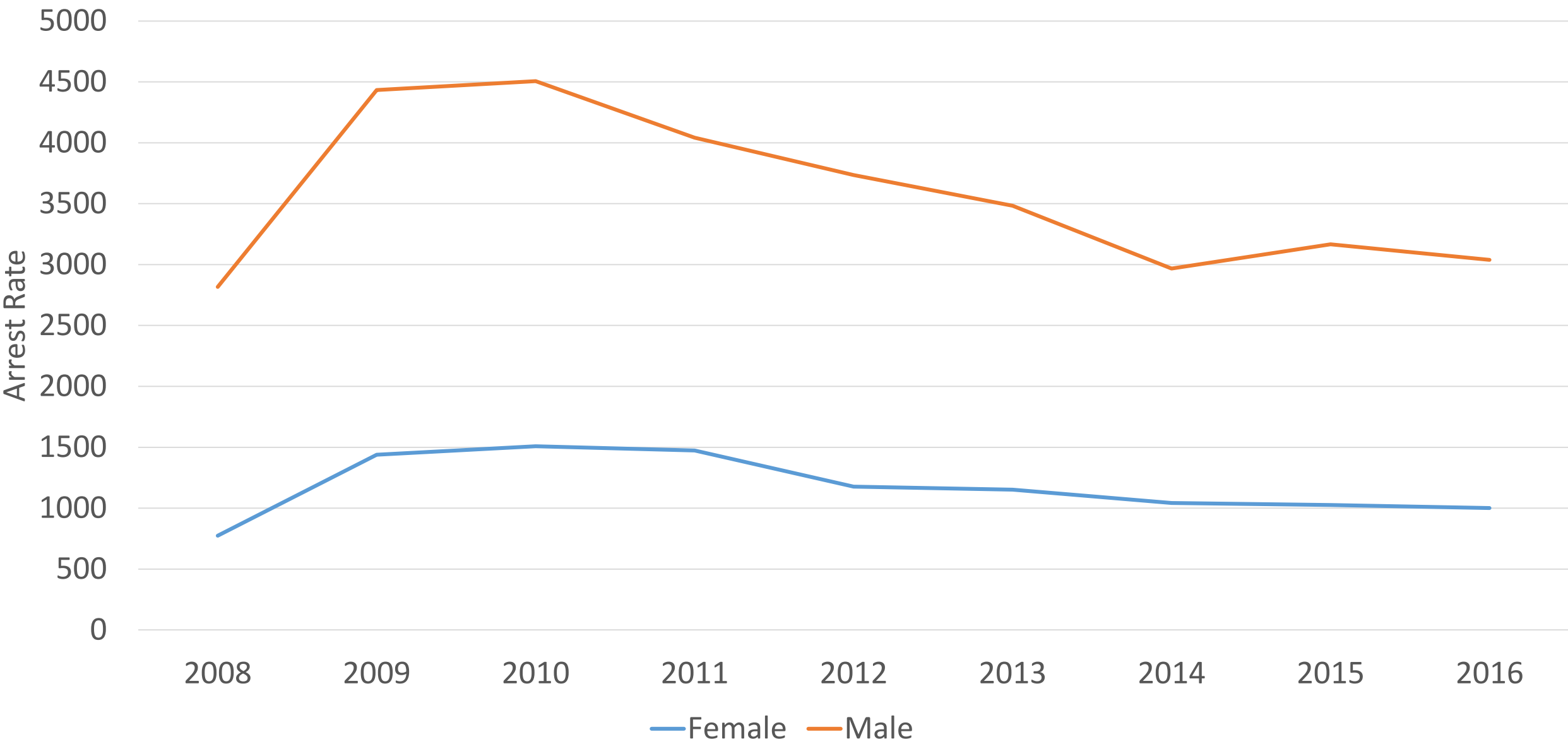


Figure 12: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests by Sex, 2008-2016.

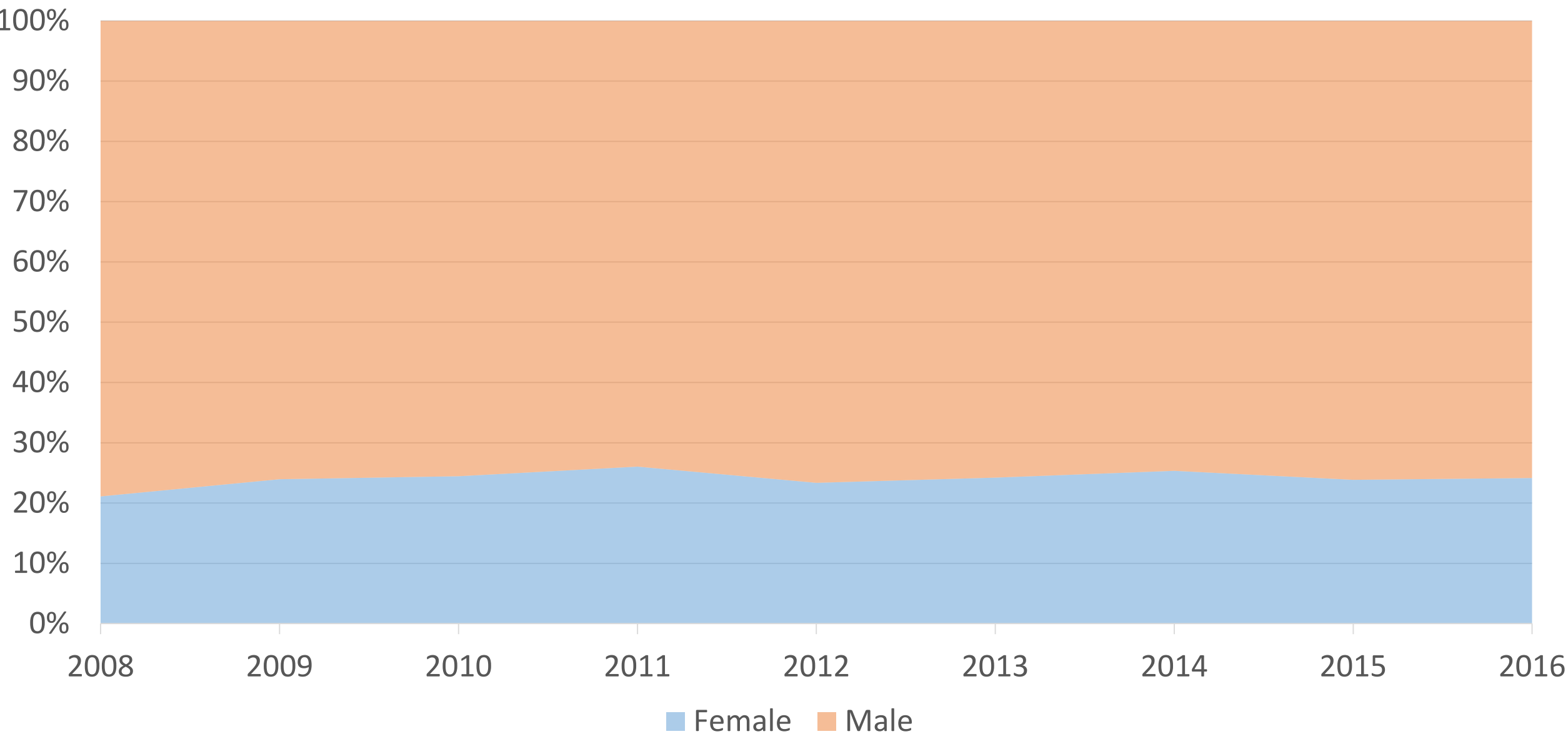


Figure 13: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Males by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

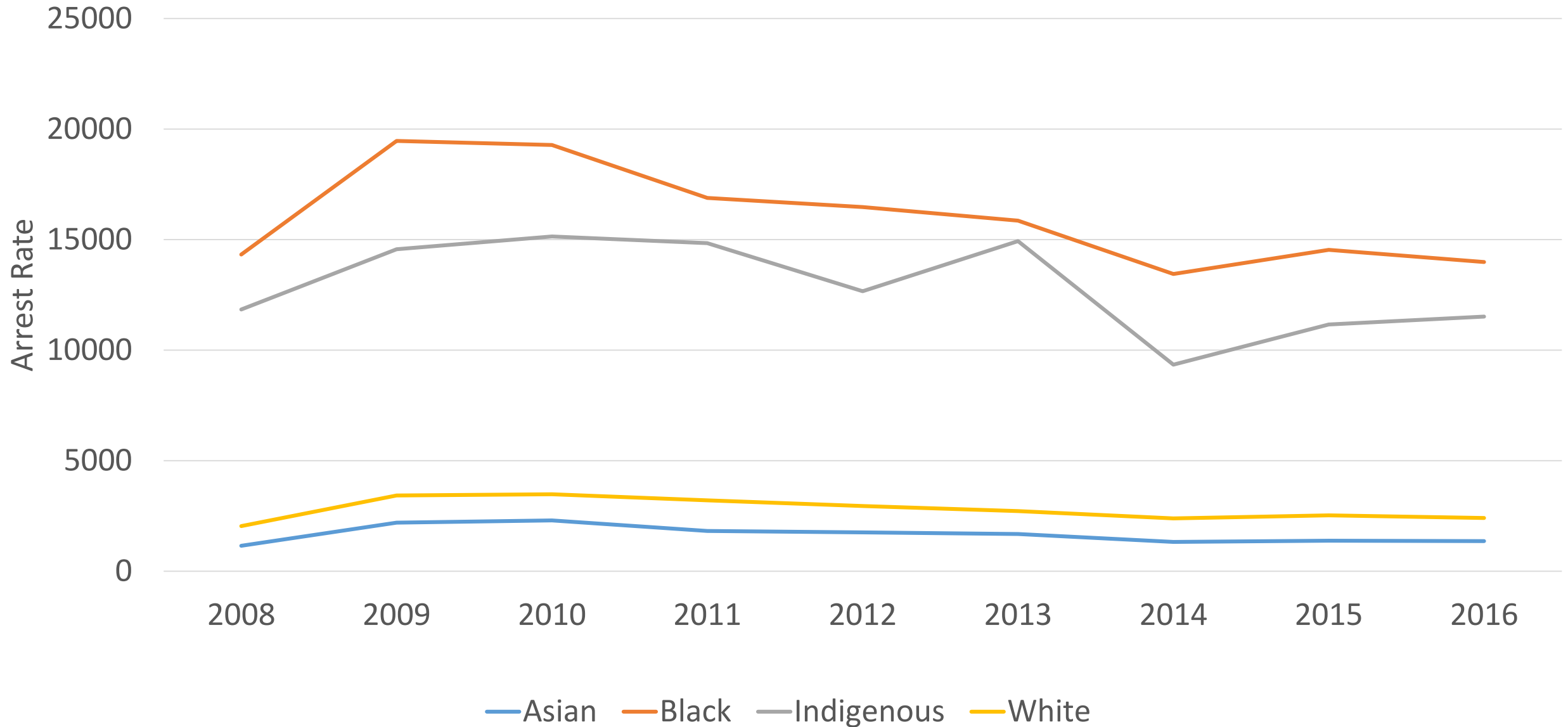


Figure 14: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Males by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

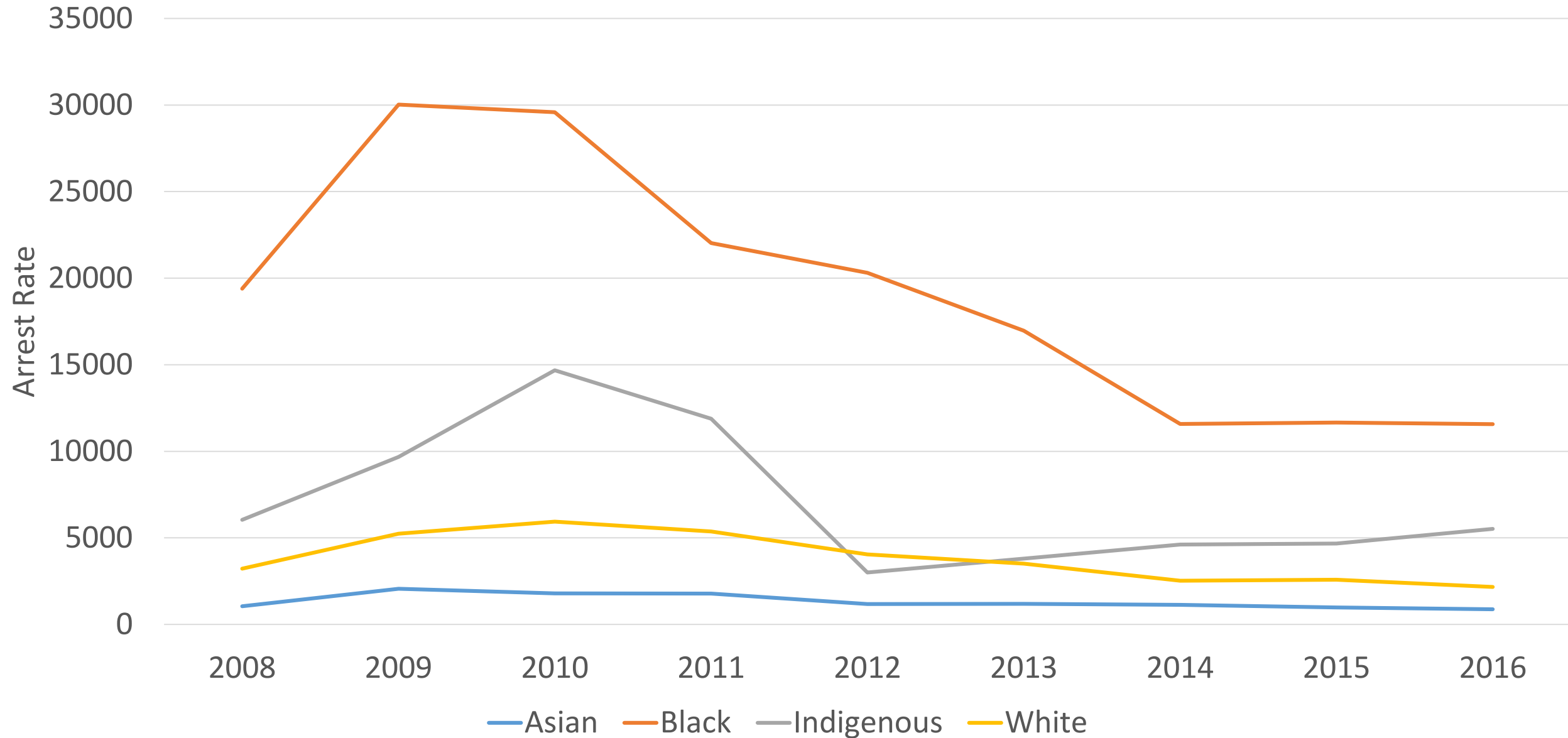


Figure 15: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Males by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

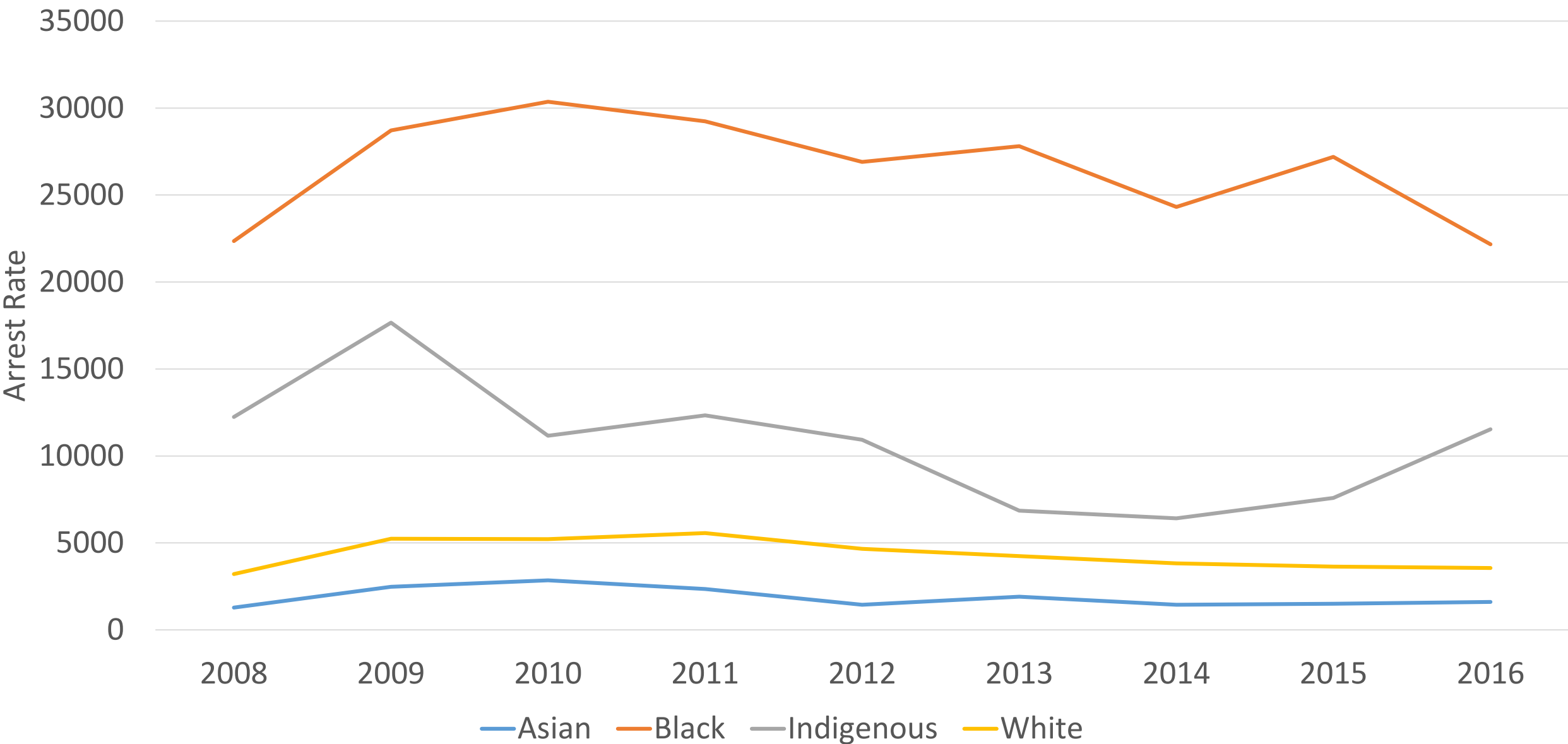


Figure 16: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Males by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

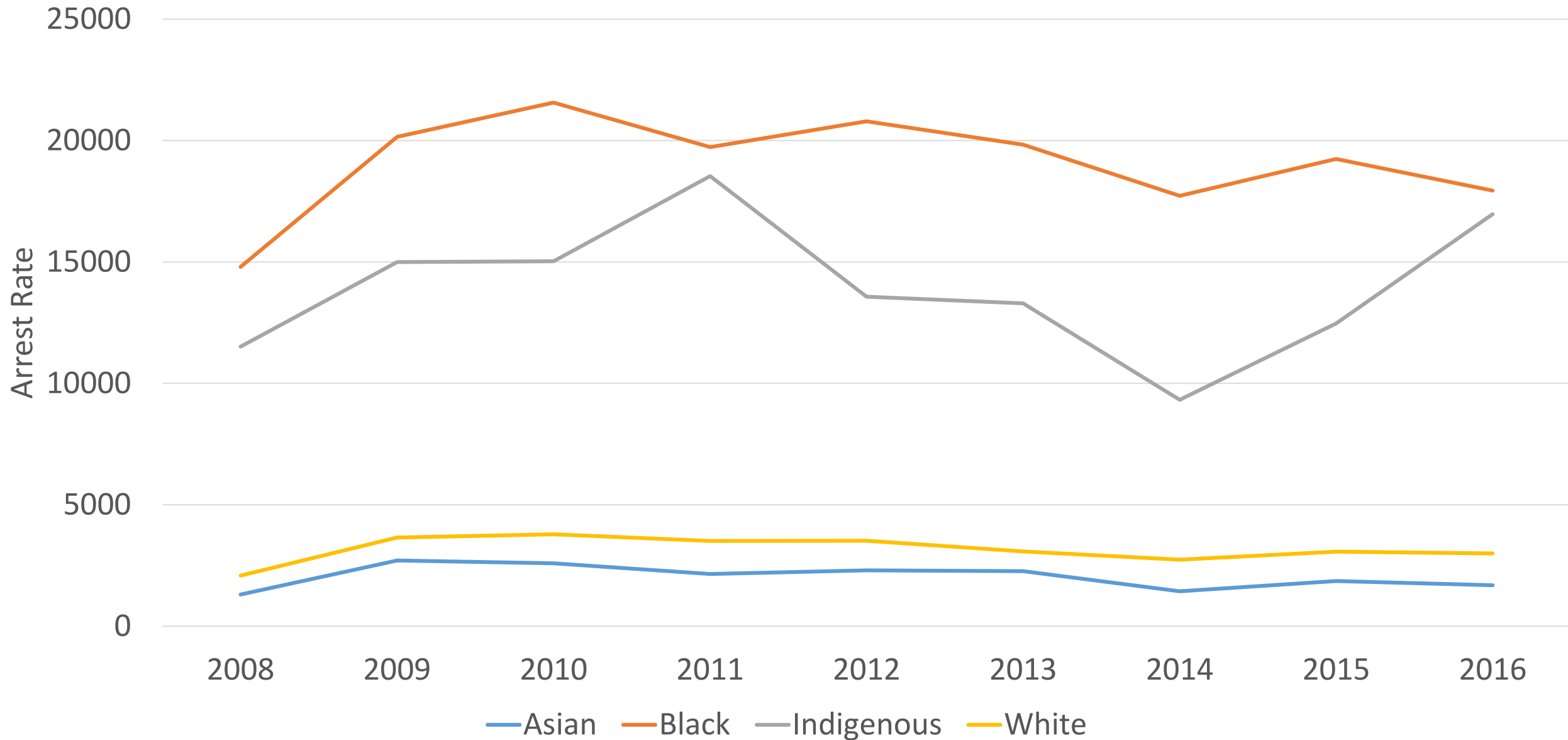


Figure 17: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Males by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

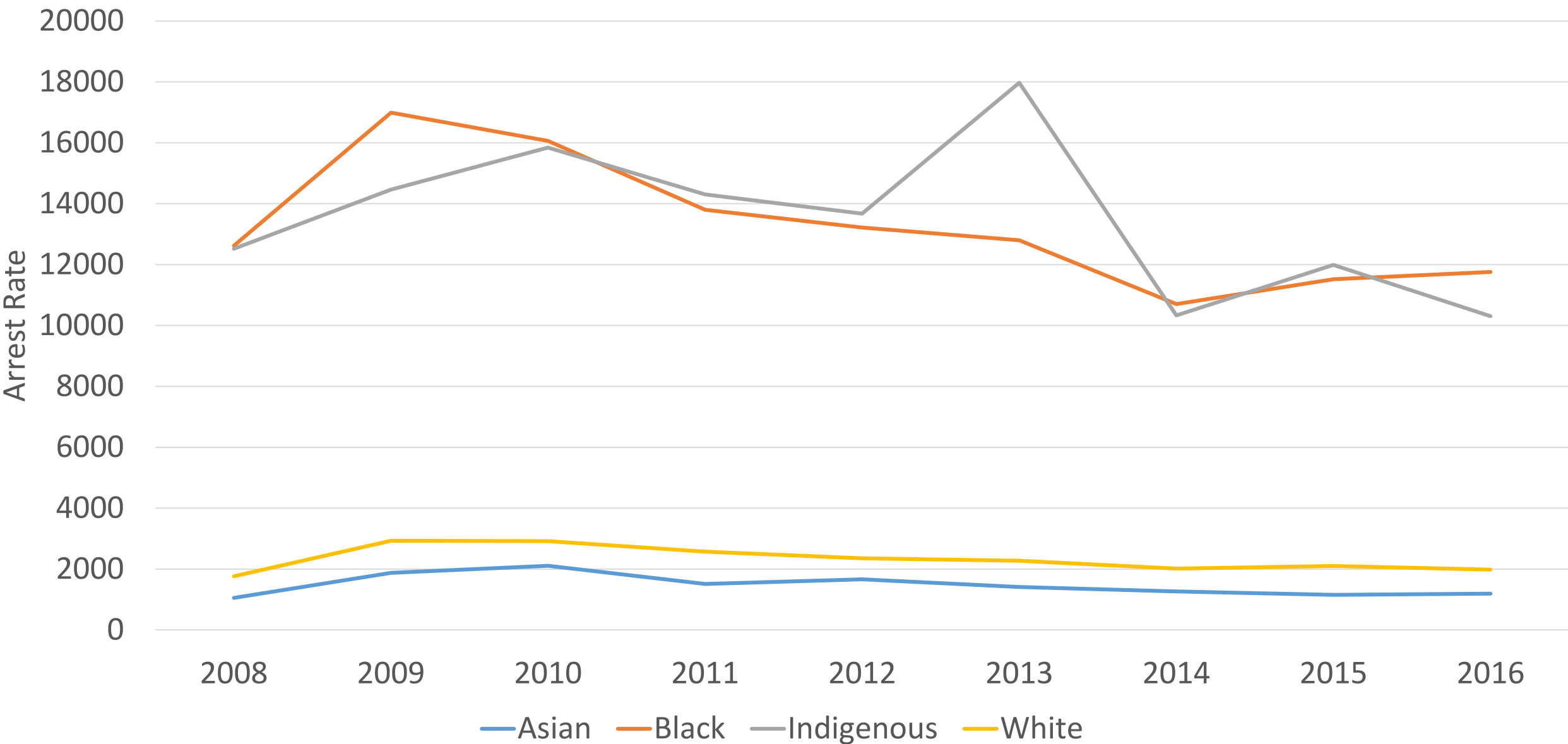


Figure 18: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Females by Race for 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

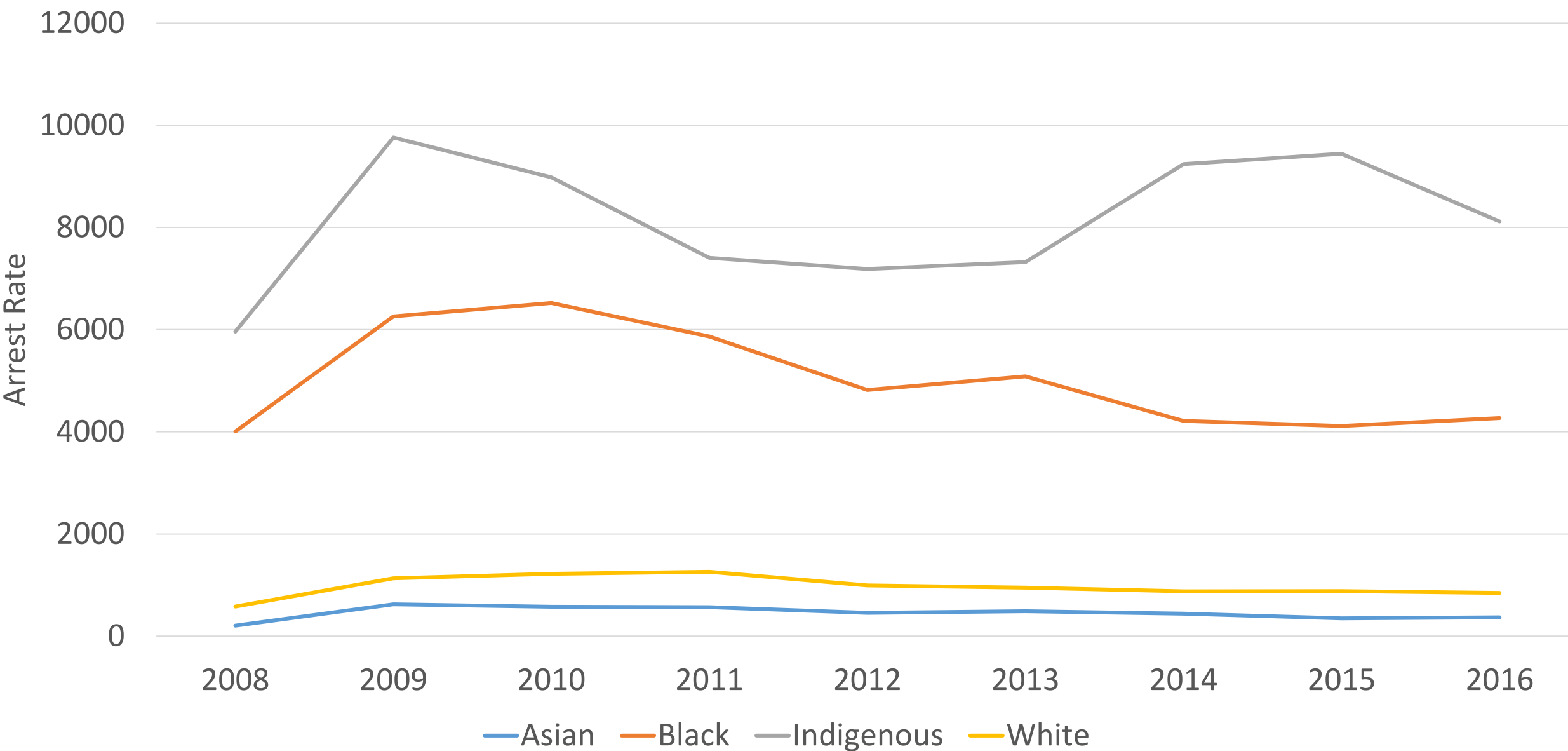


Figure 19: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

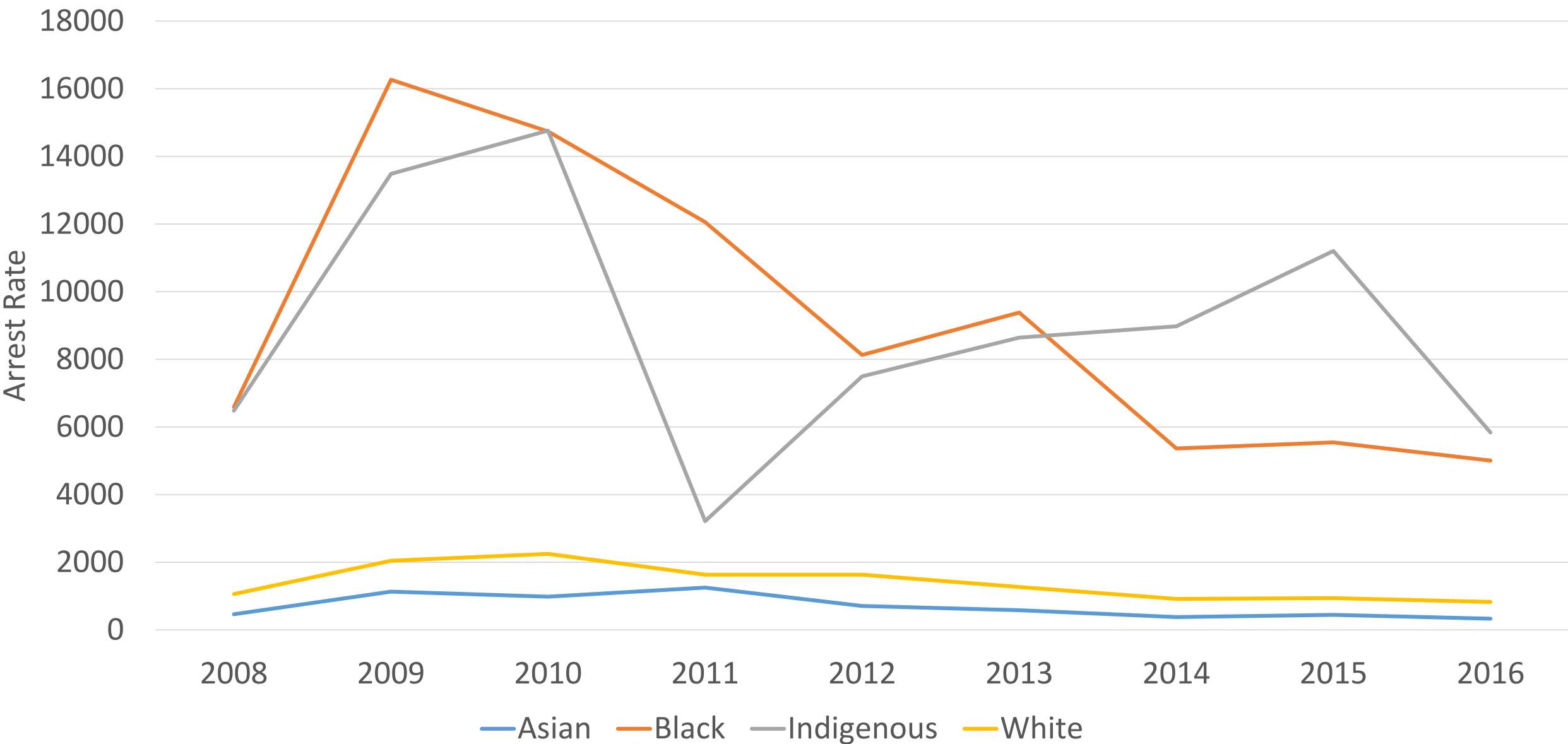


Figure 20: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

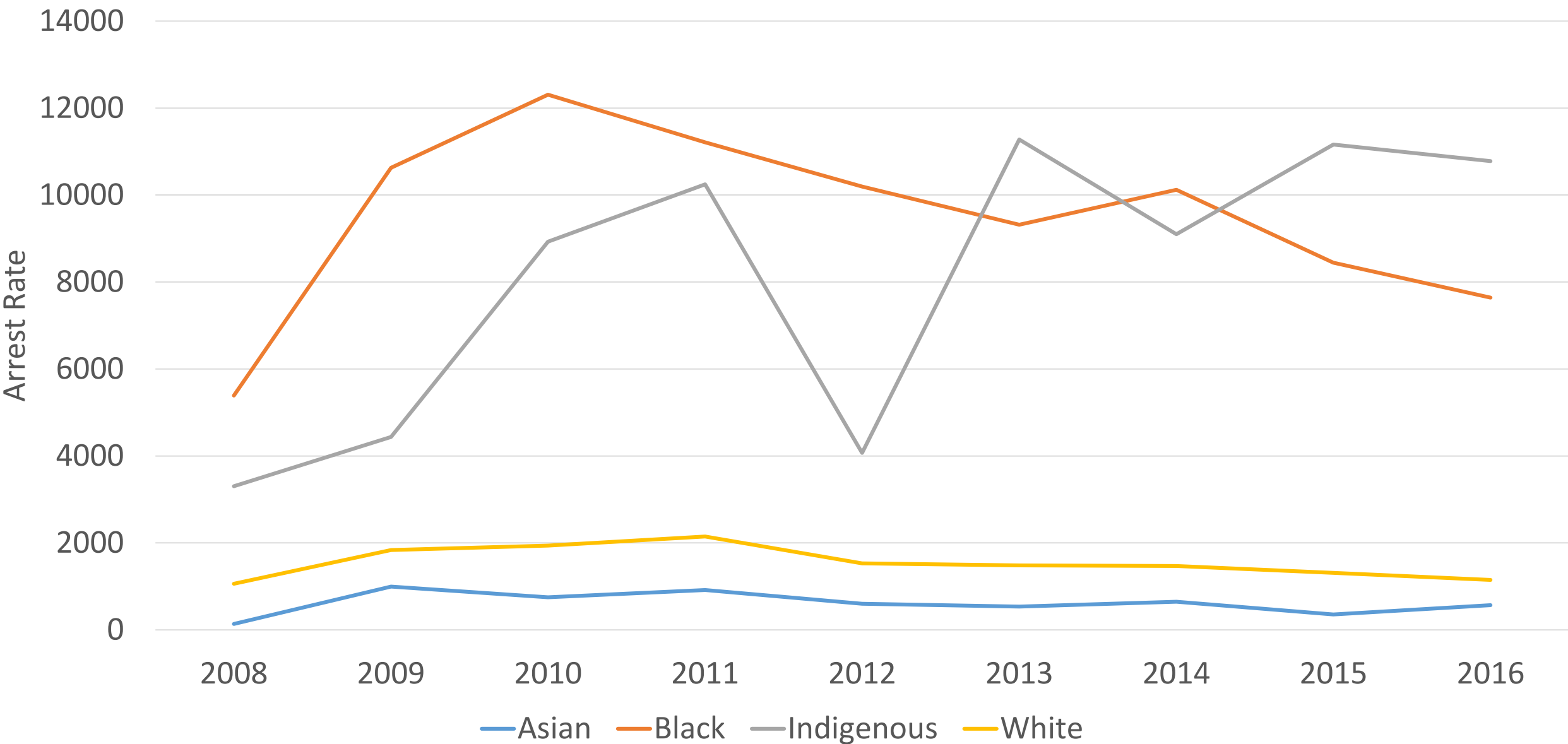


Figure 21: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

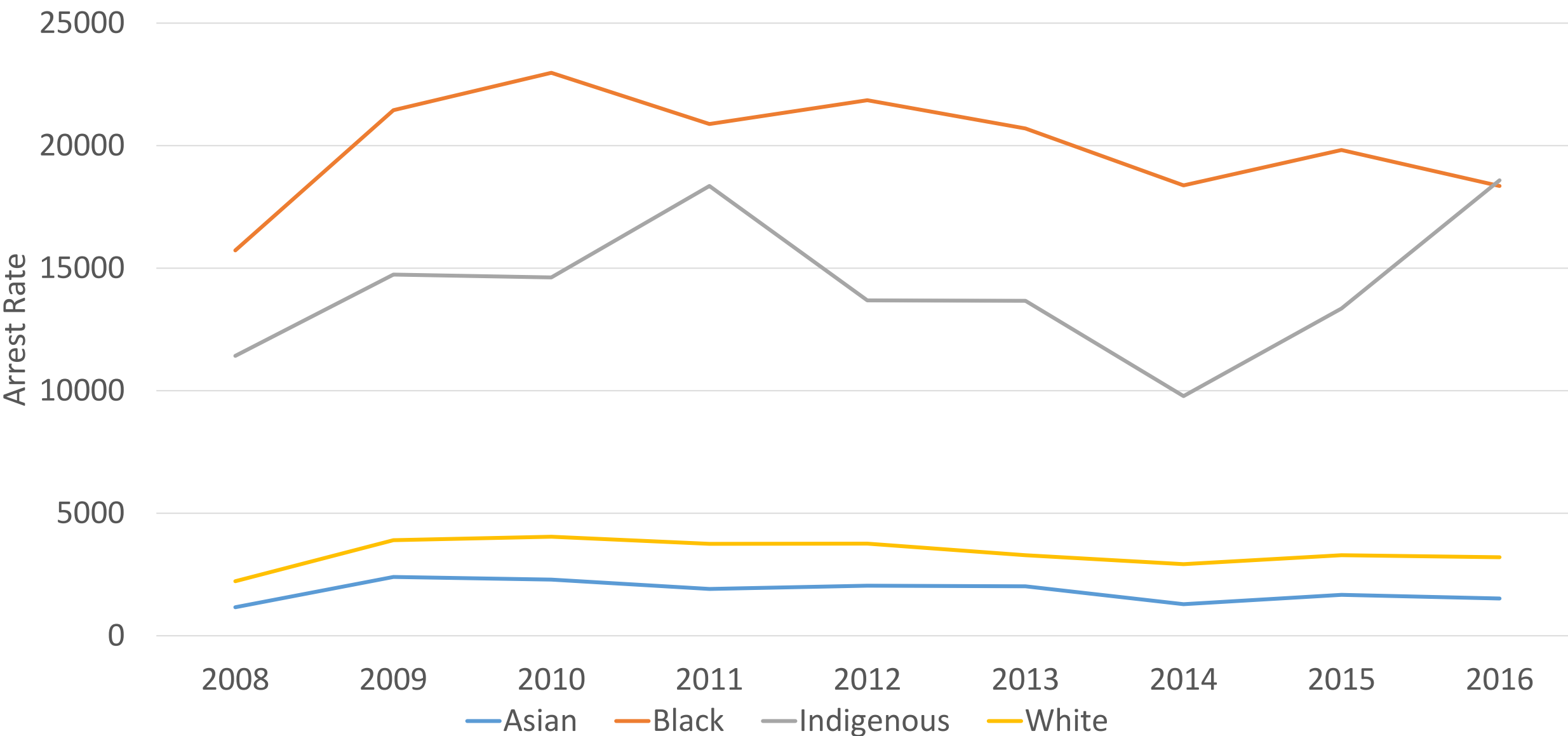


Figure 22: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

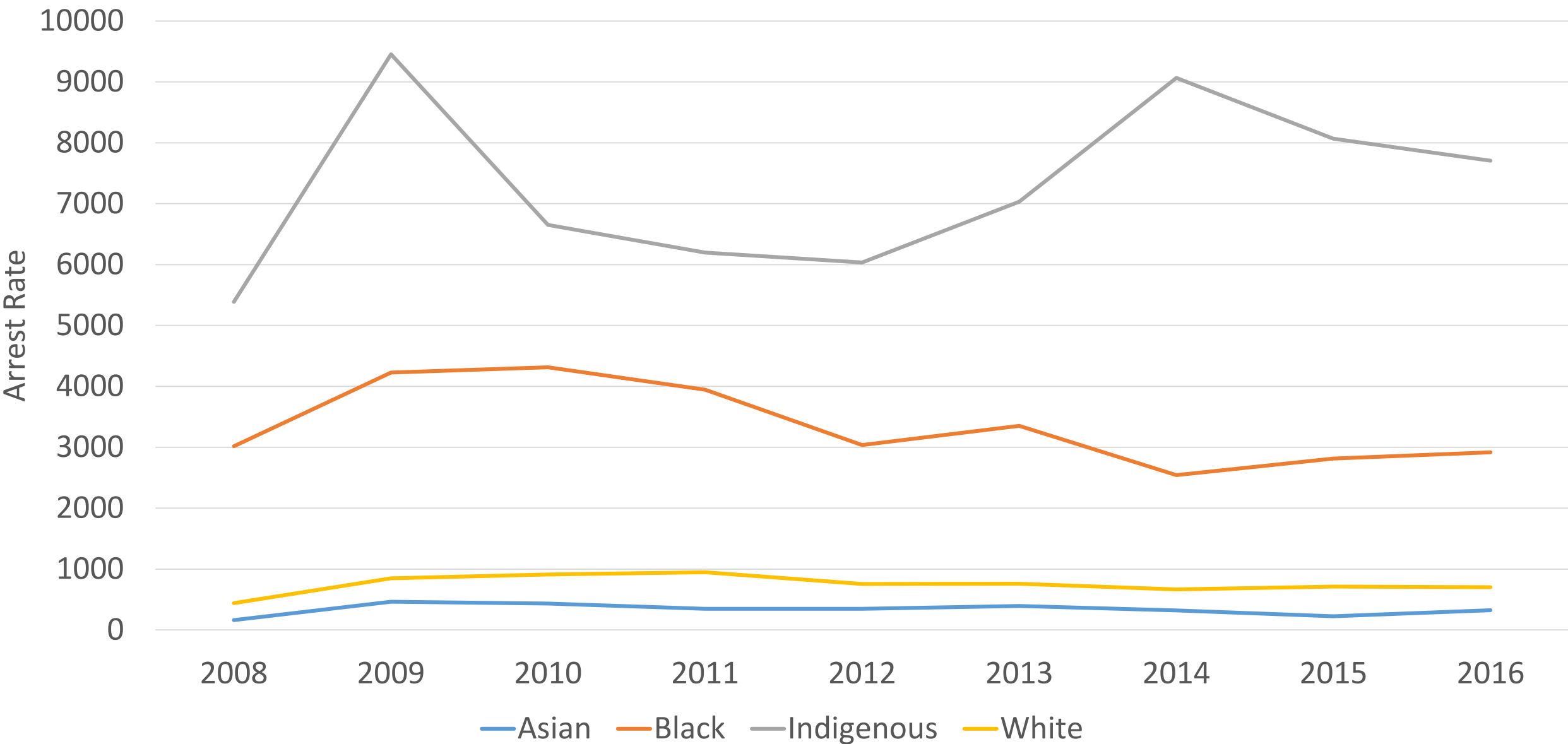


Figure 23: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Charge Type (A) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

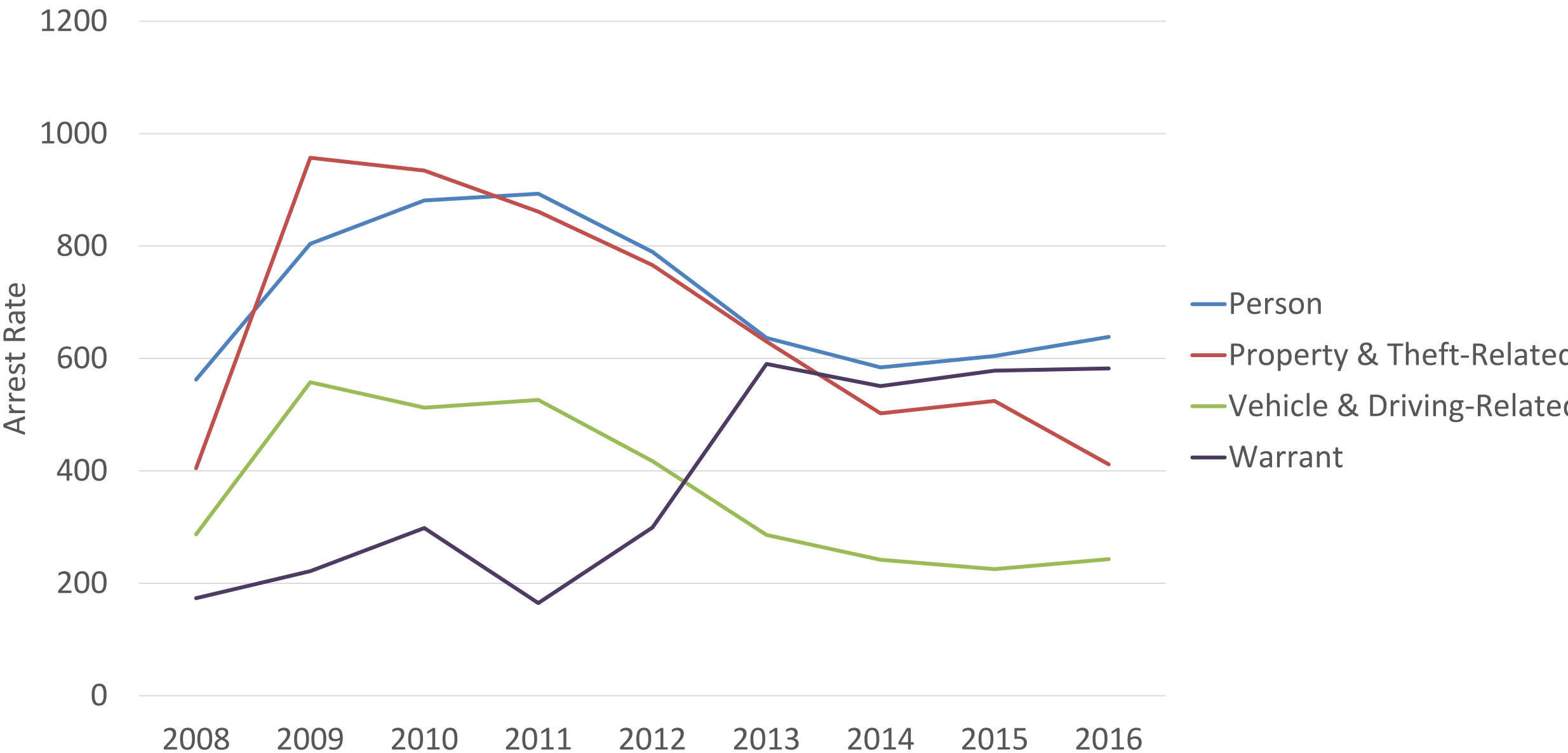


Figure 24: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrests by Charge Type (A), 2008-2016.

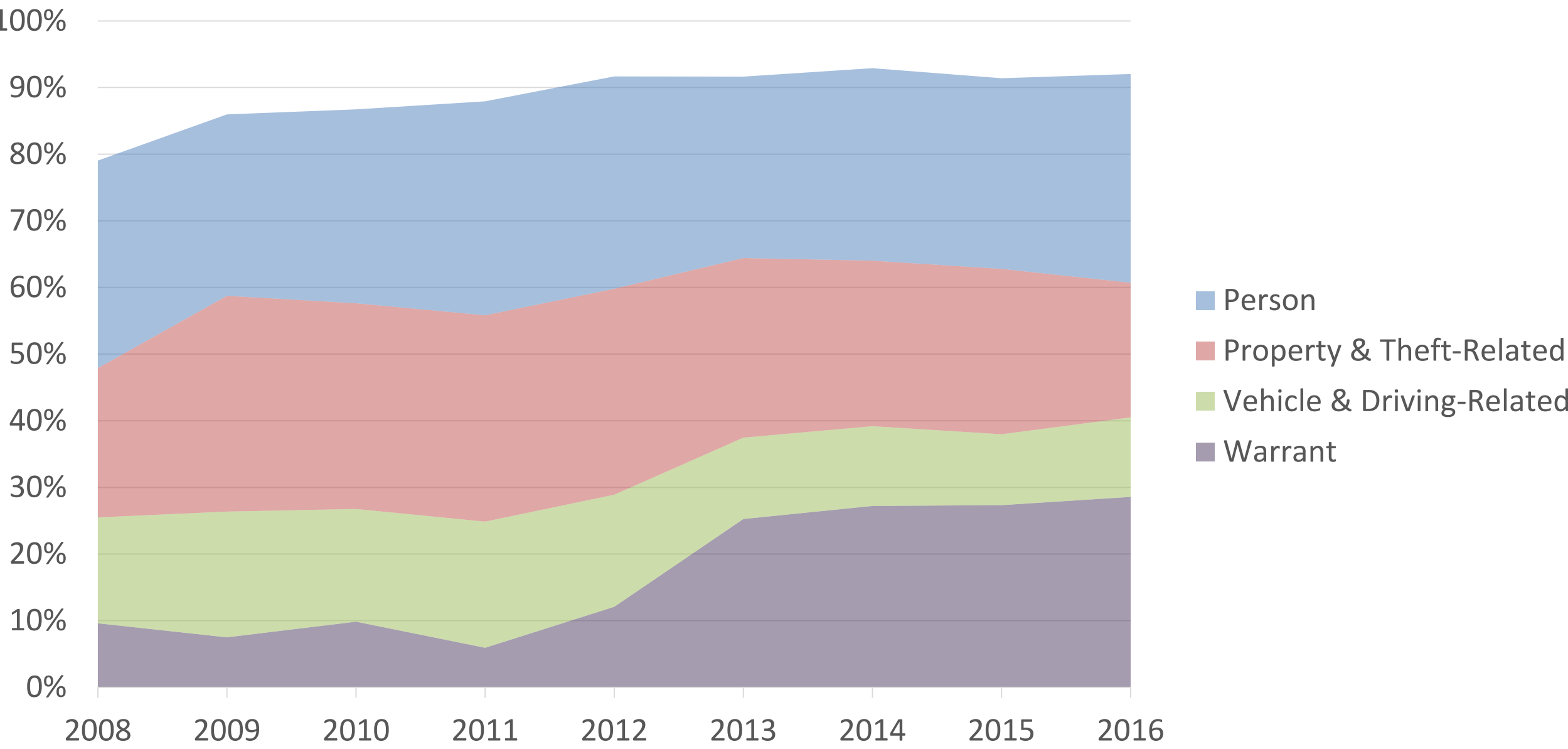


Figure 25: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Charge Type (B) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

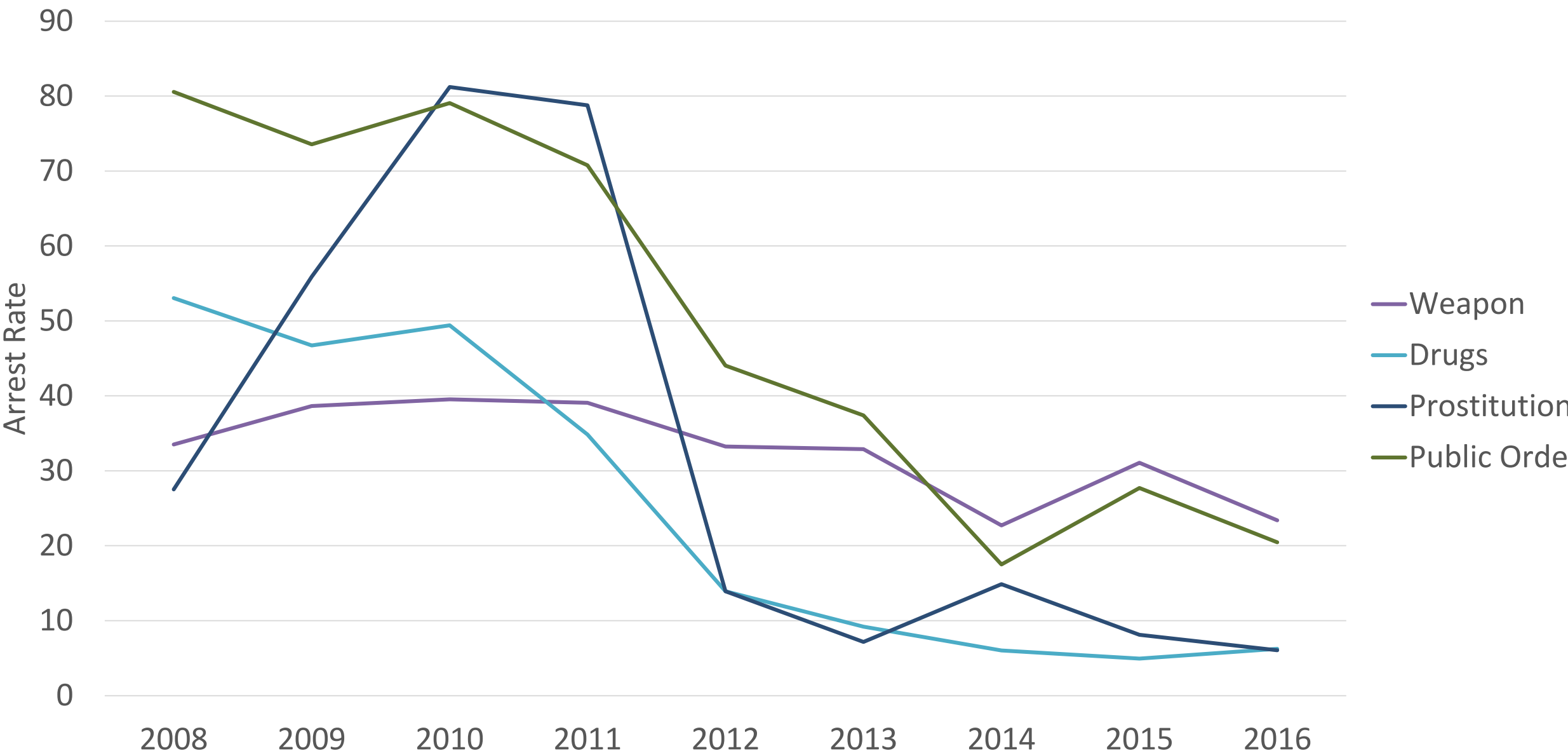


Figure 26: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrests by Charge Type (B), 2008-2016.

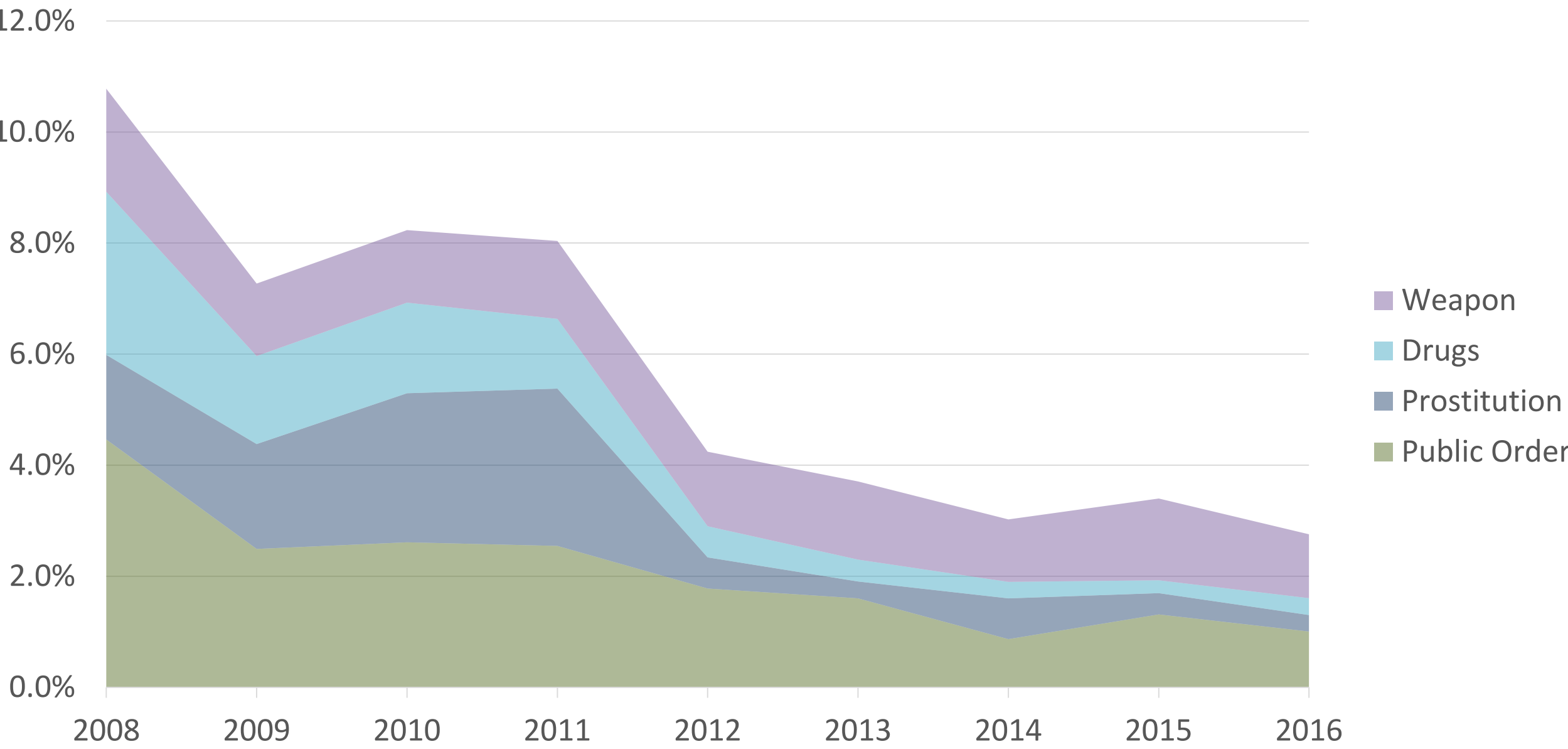


Figure 27: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Charge Type (C) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

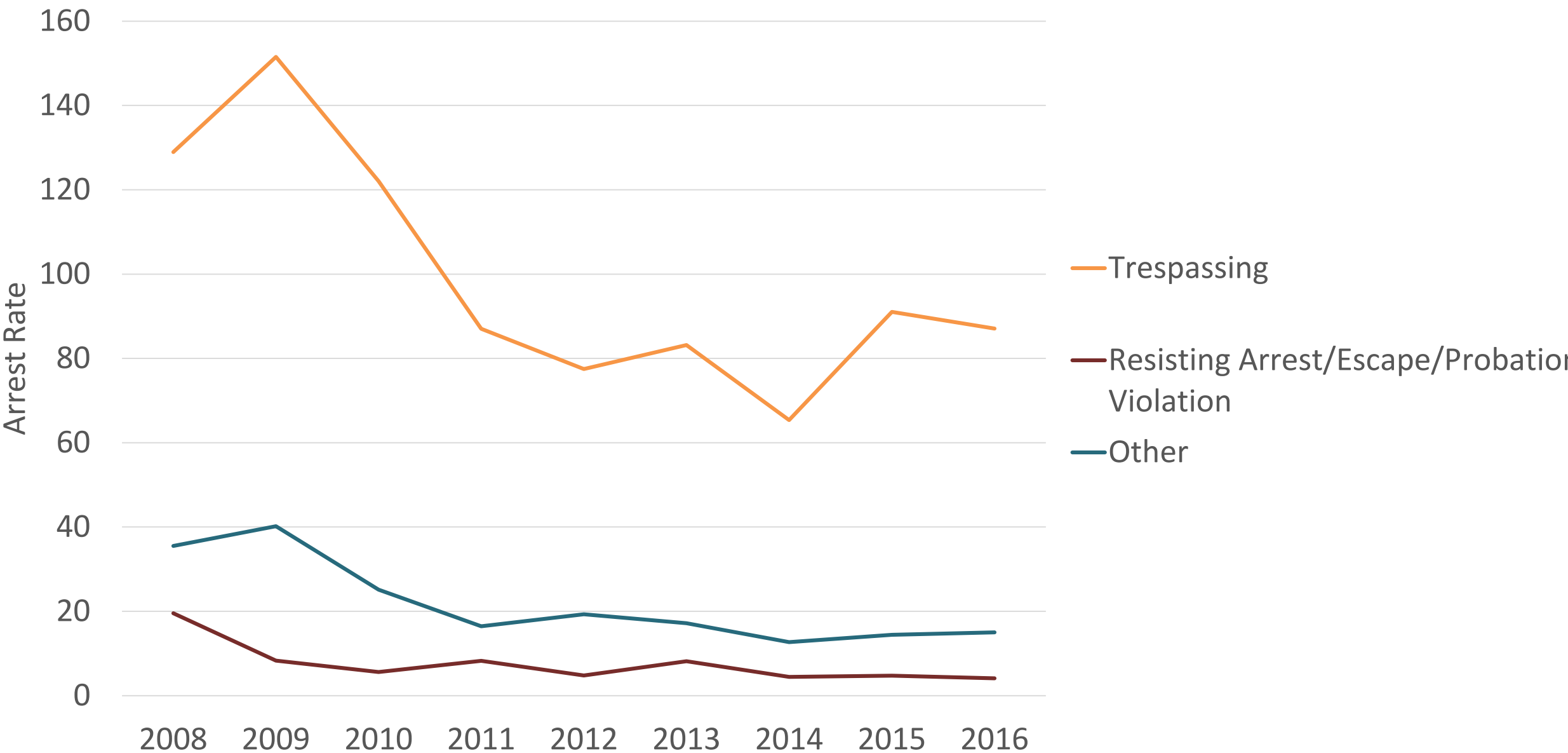


Figure 28: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrests by Charge Type (C), 2008-2016.

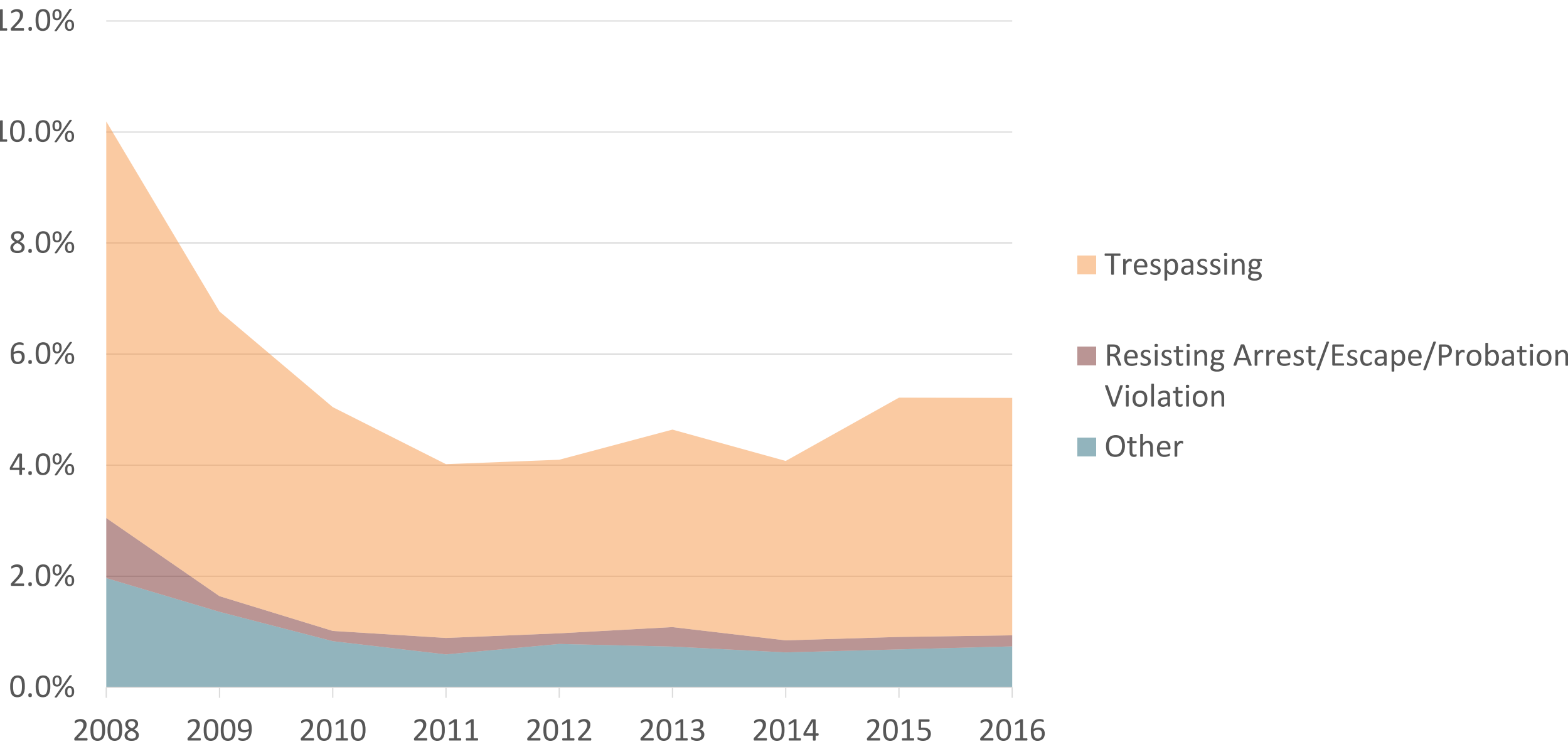


Figure 29: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Enforcement Type per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

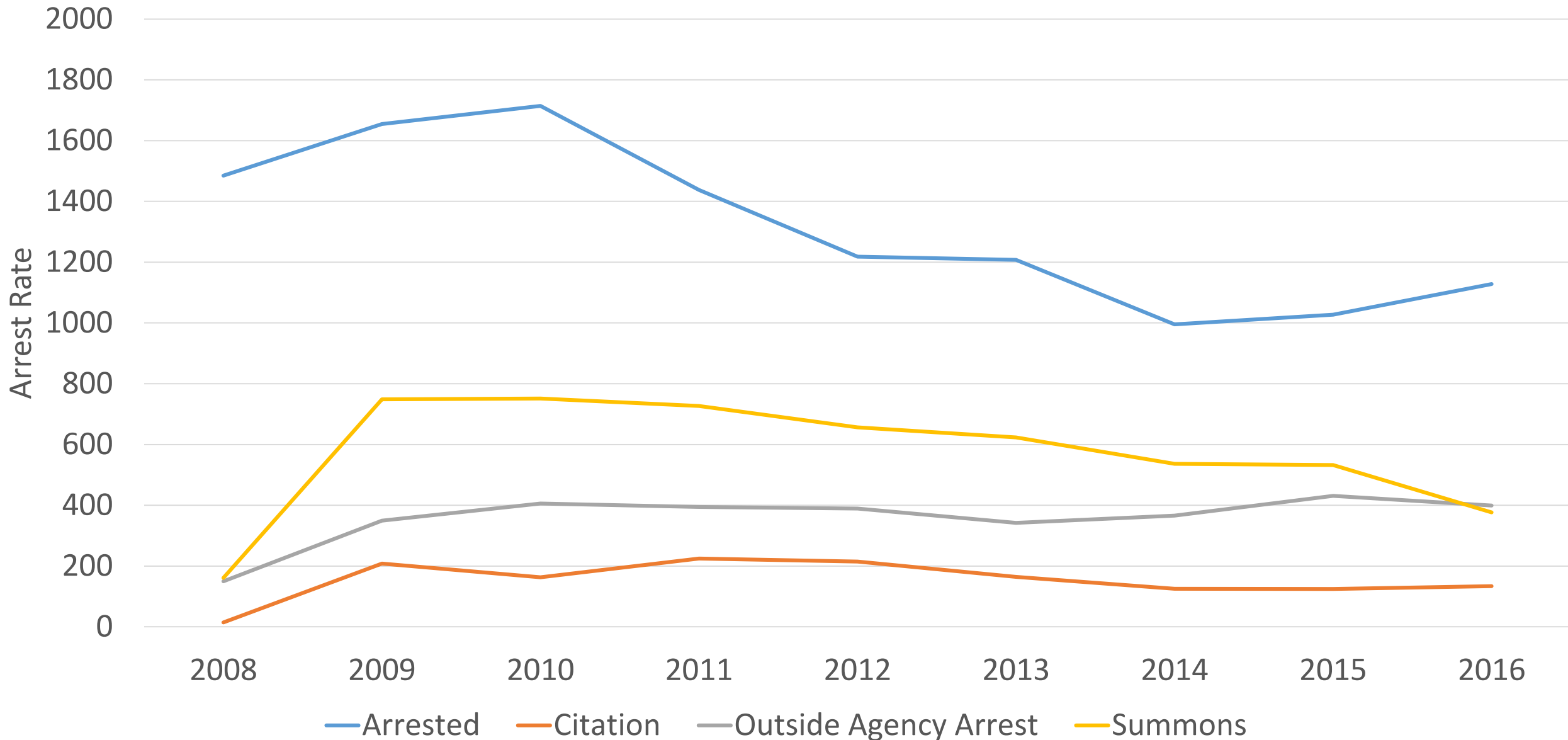
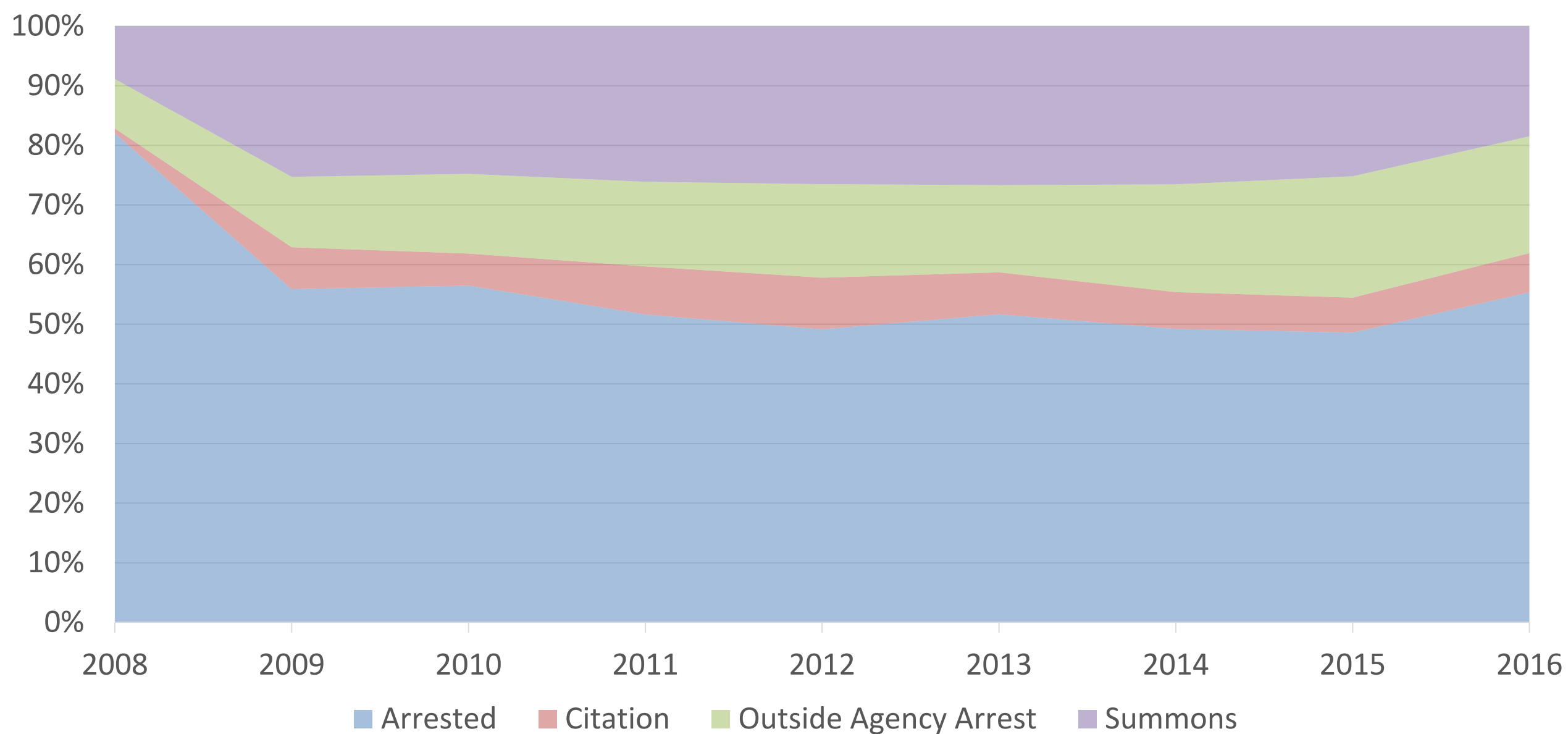


Figure 30: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Arrests by Enforcement Type, 2008-2016.



Misdemeanor Referral Results

Figure 31: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

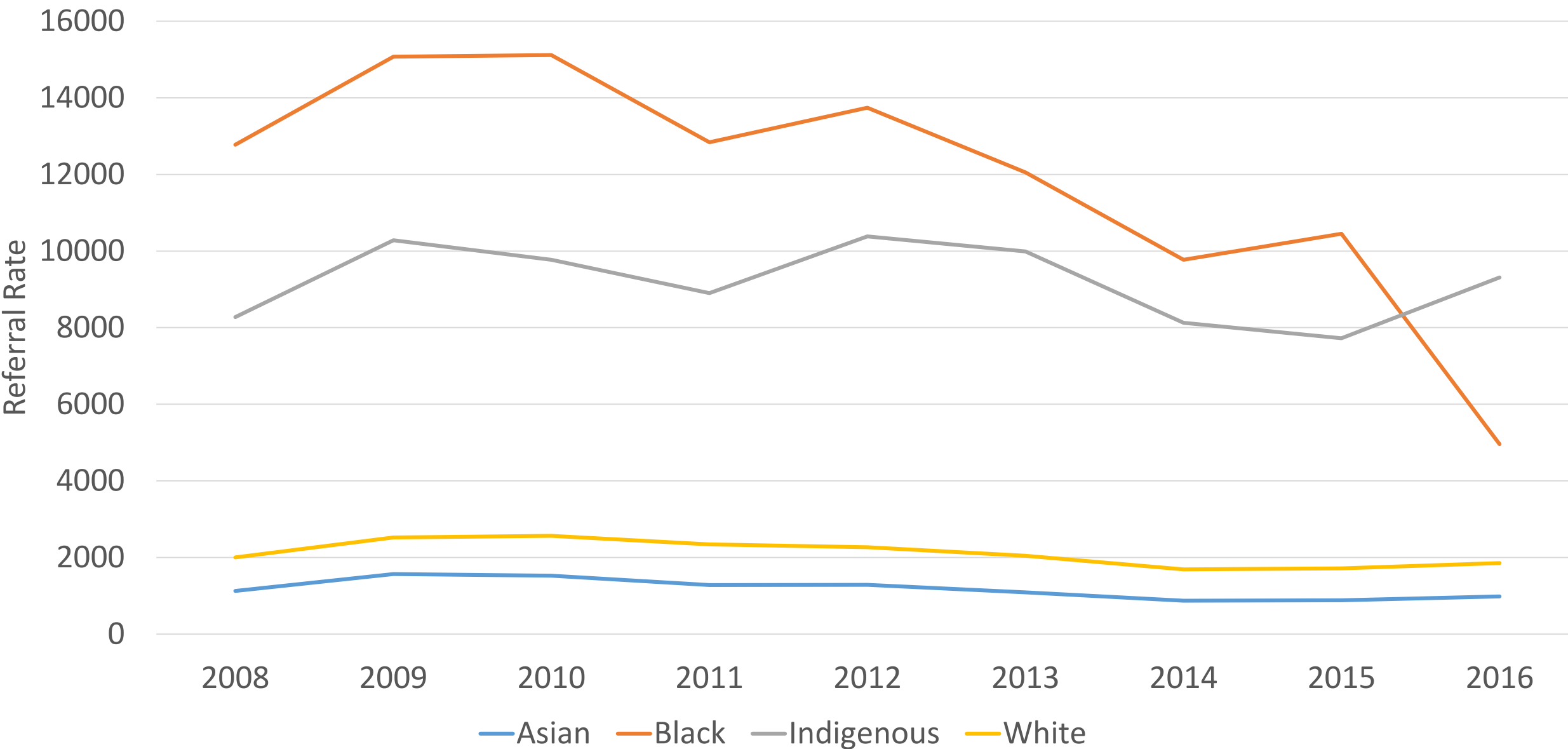


Figure 32: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Race, 2008-2016.

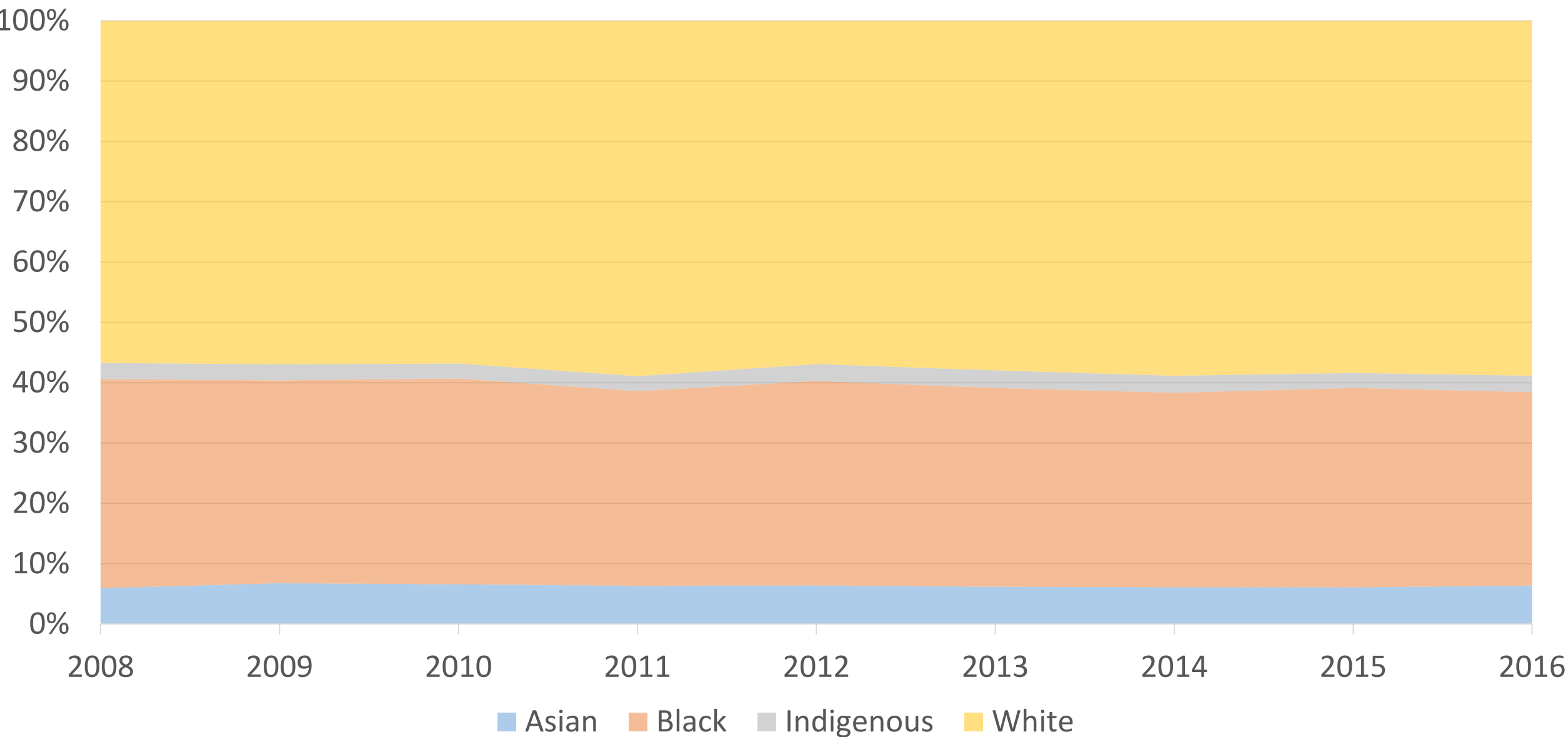


Figure 33: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Age per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

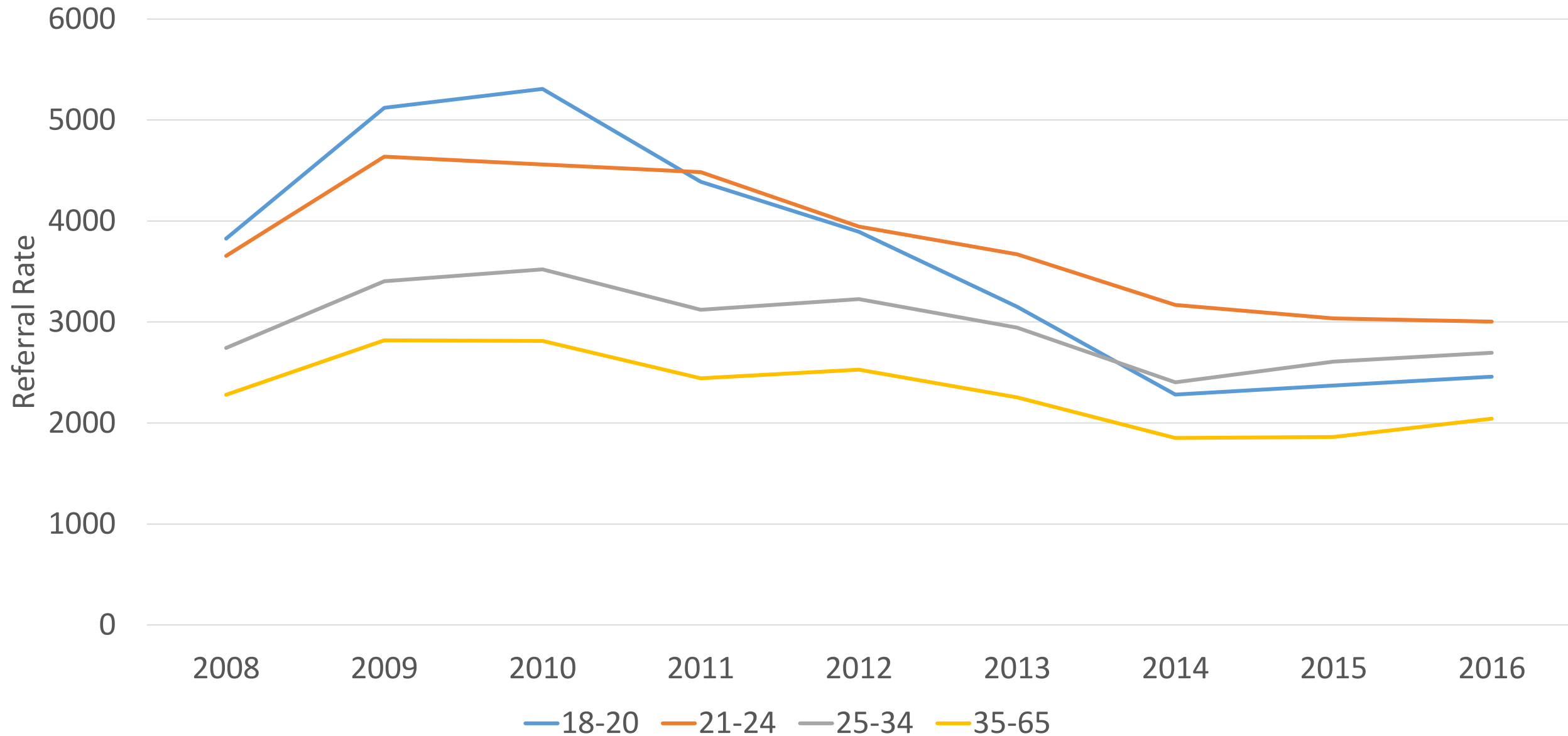


Figure 34: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Age, 18-65.

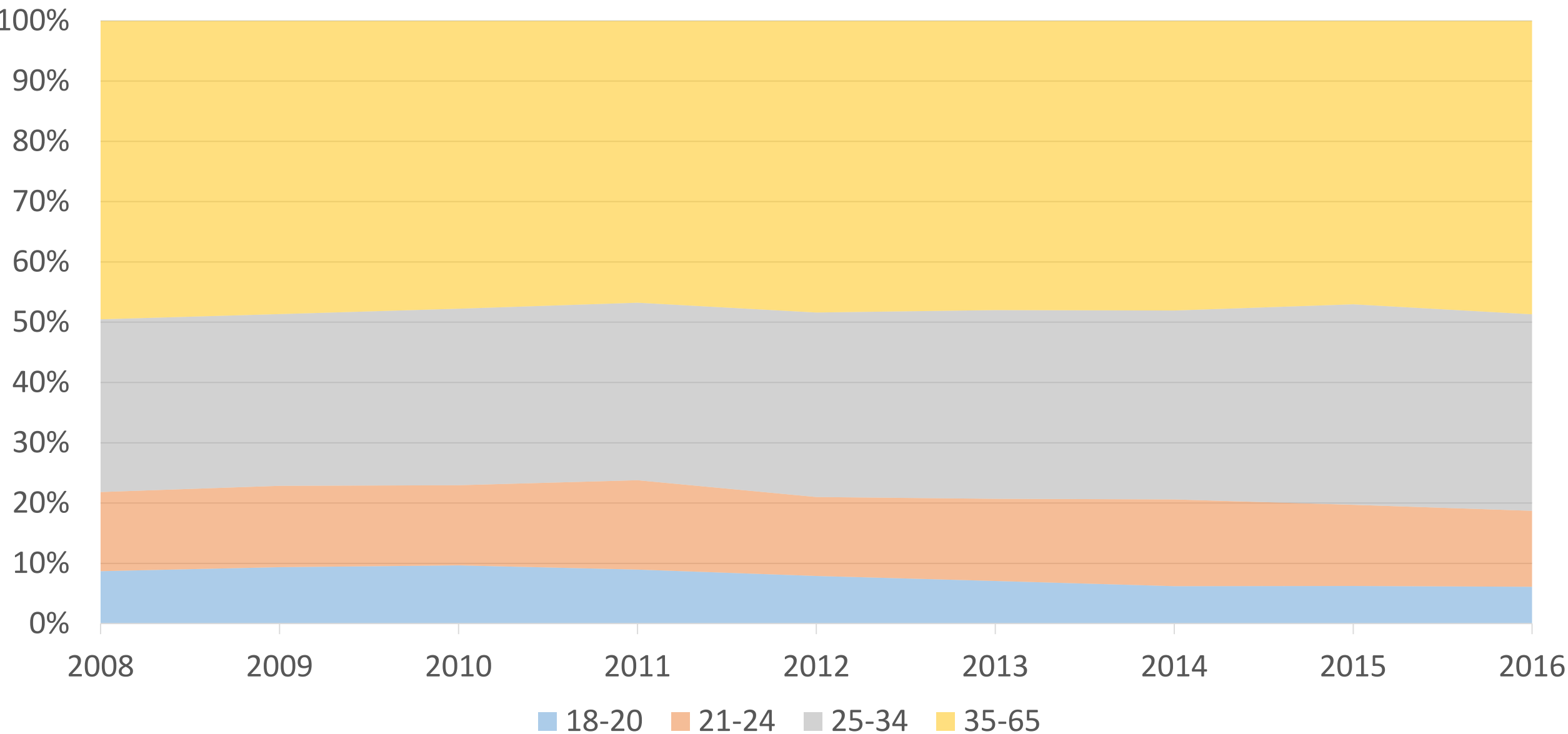


Figure 35: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Sex per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

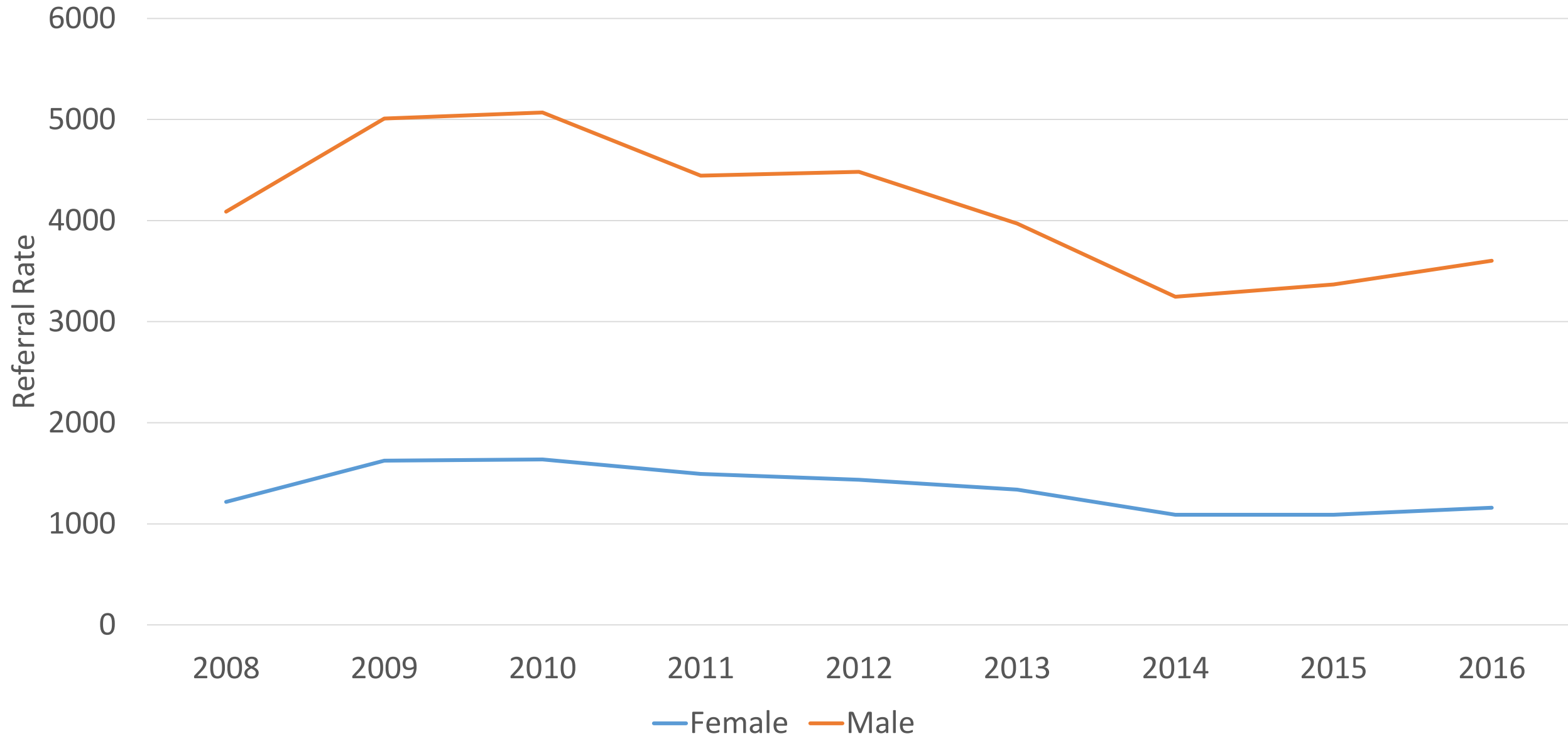


Figure 36: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Sex, 2008-2016.

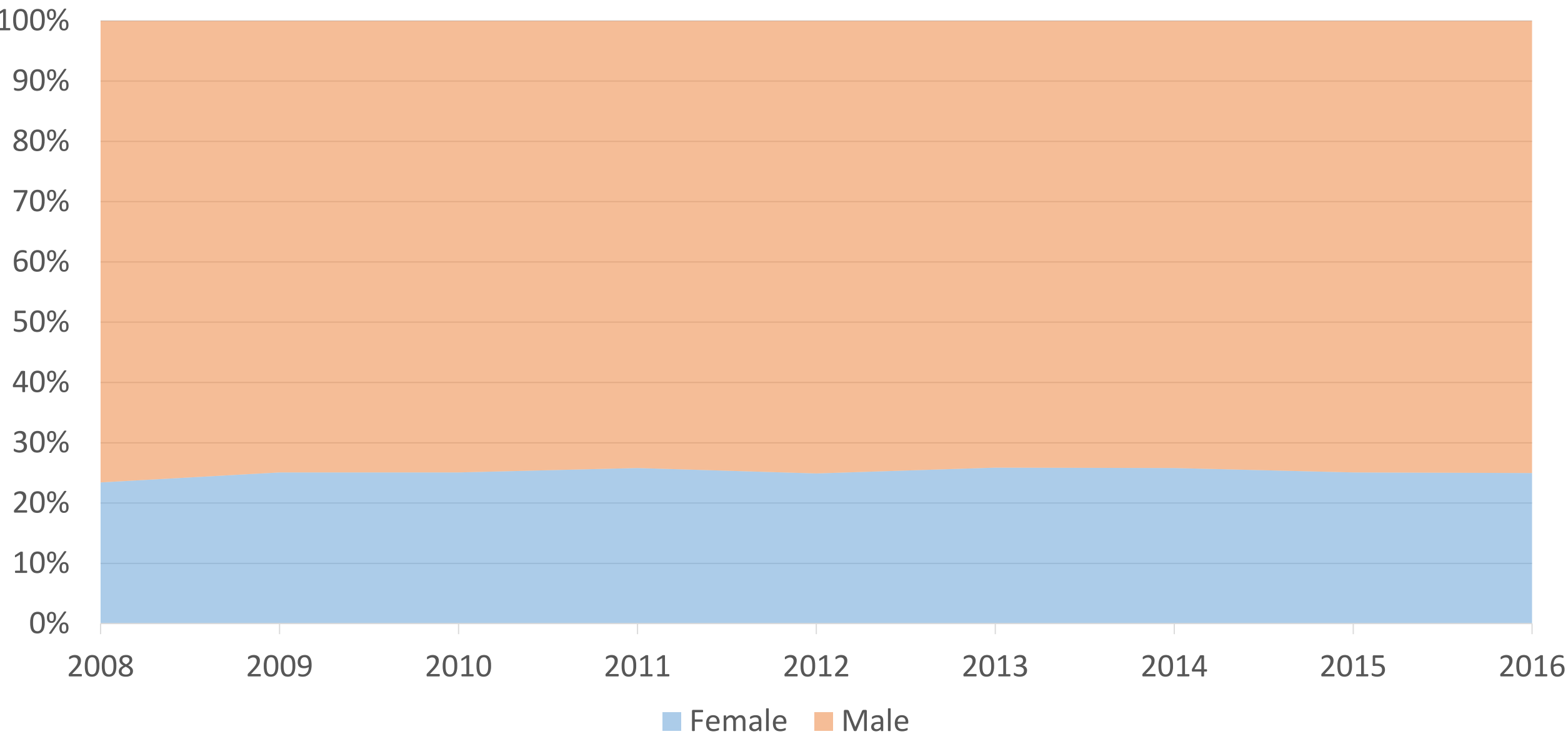


Figure 37: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

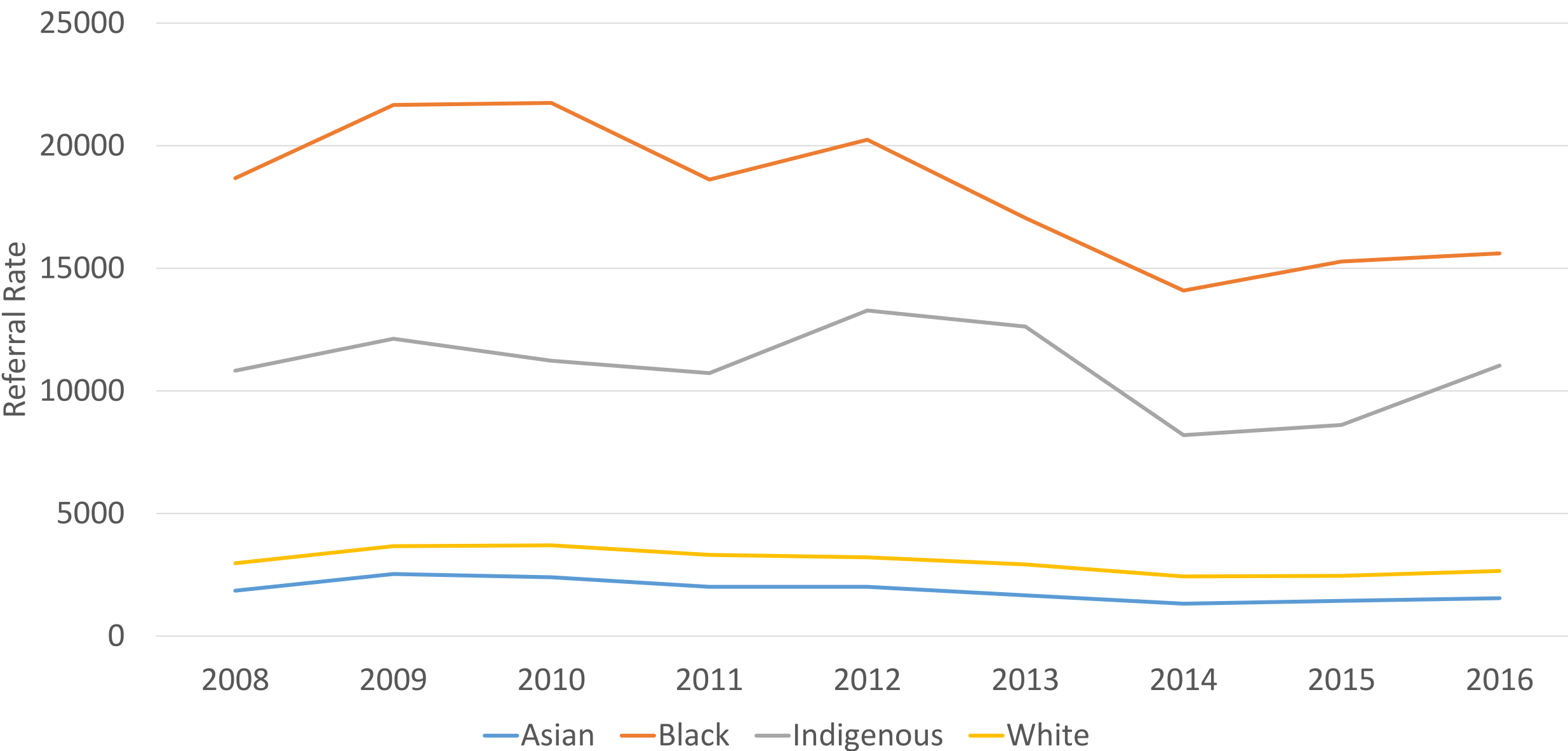


Figure 38: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

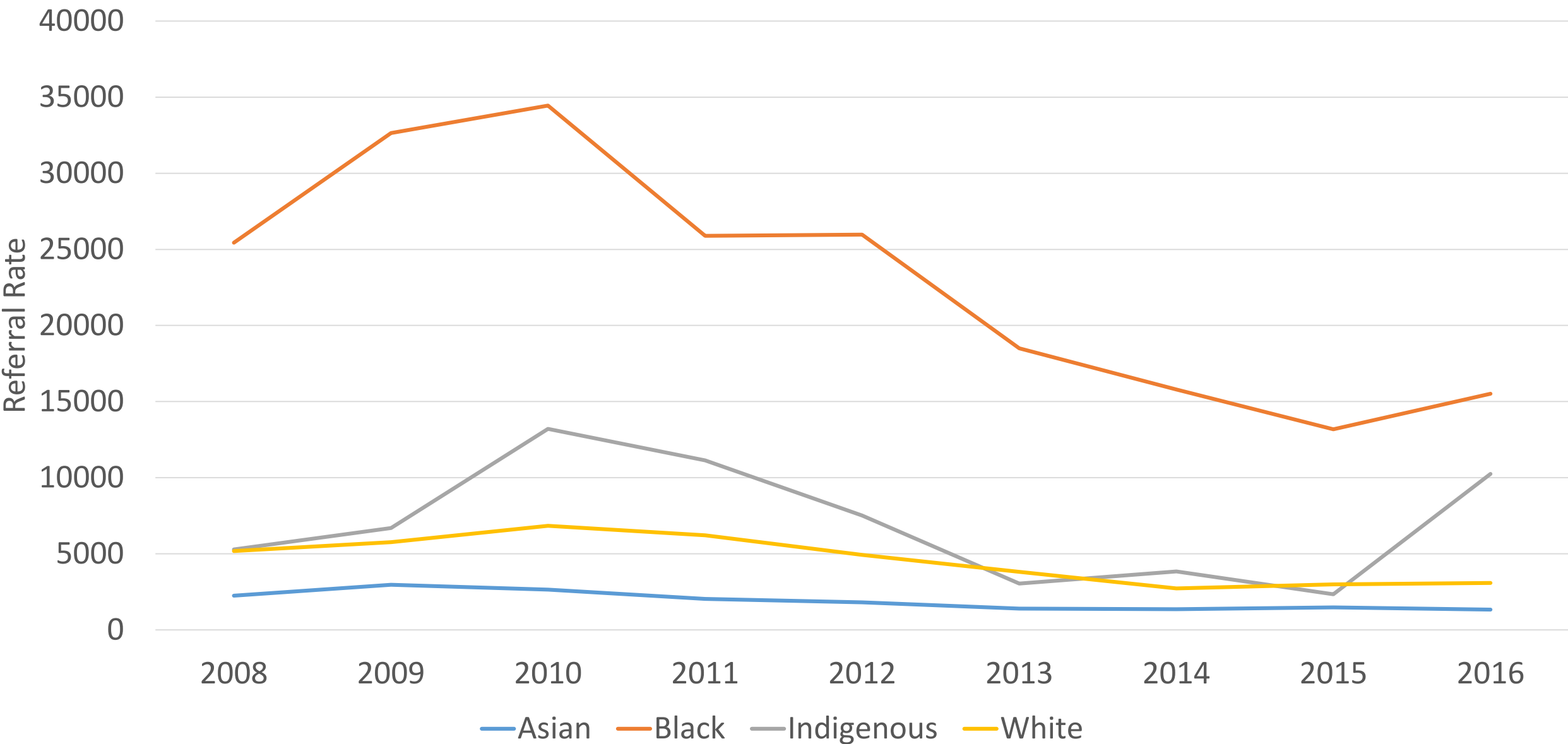


Figure 39: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

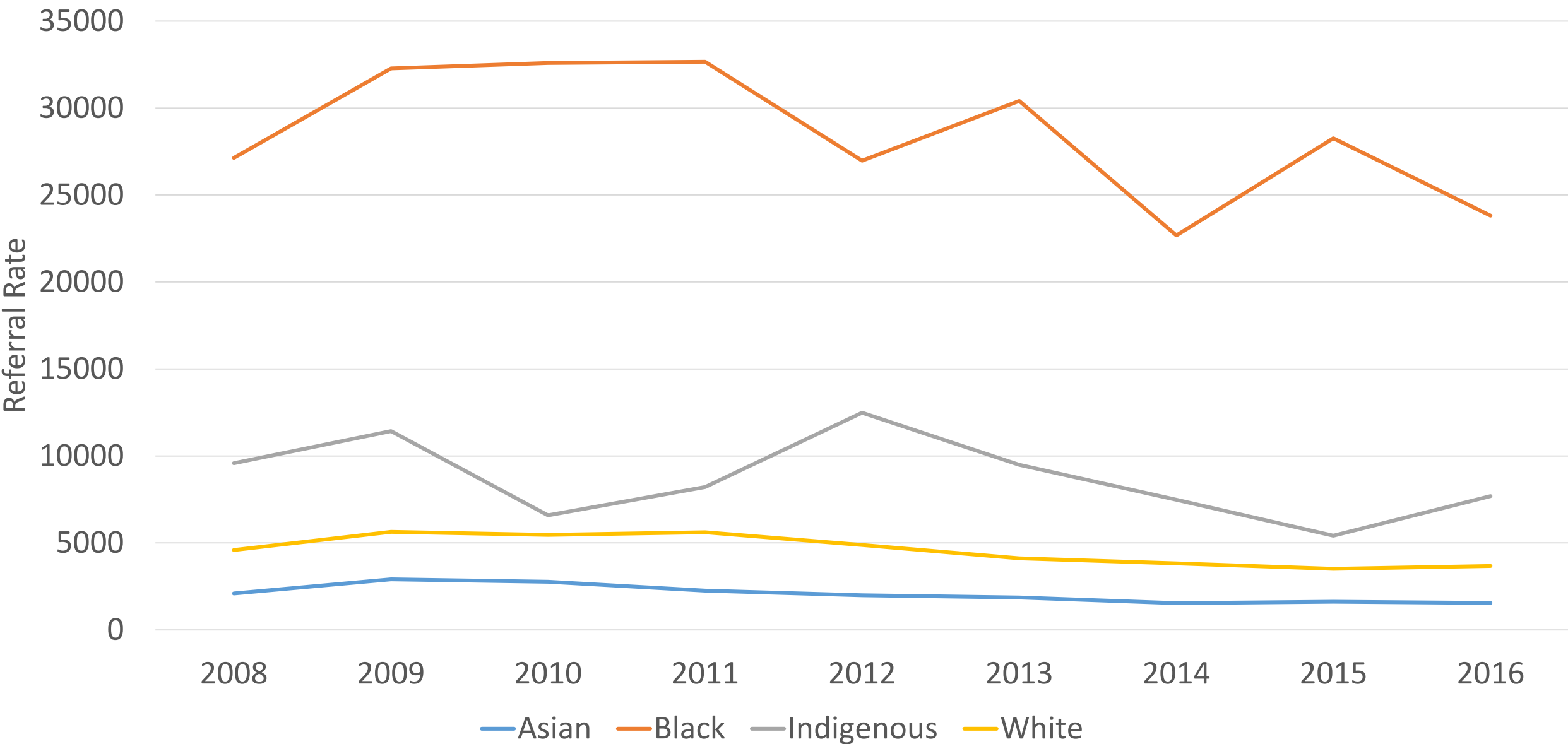


Figure 40: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

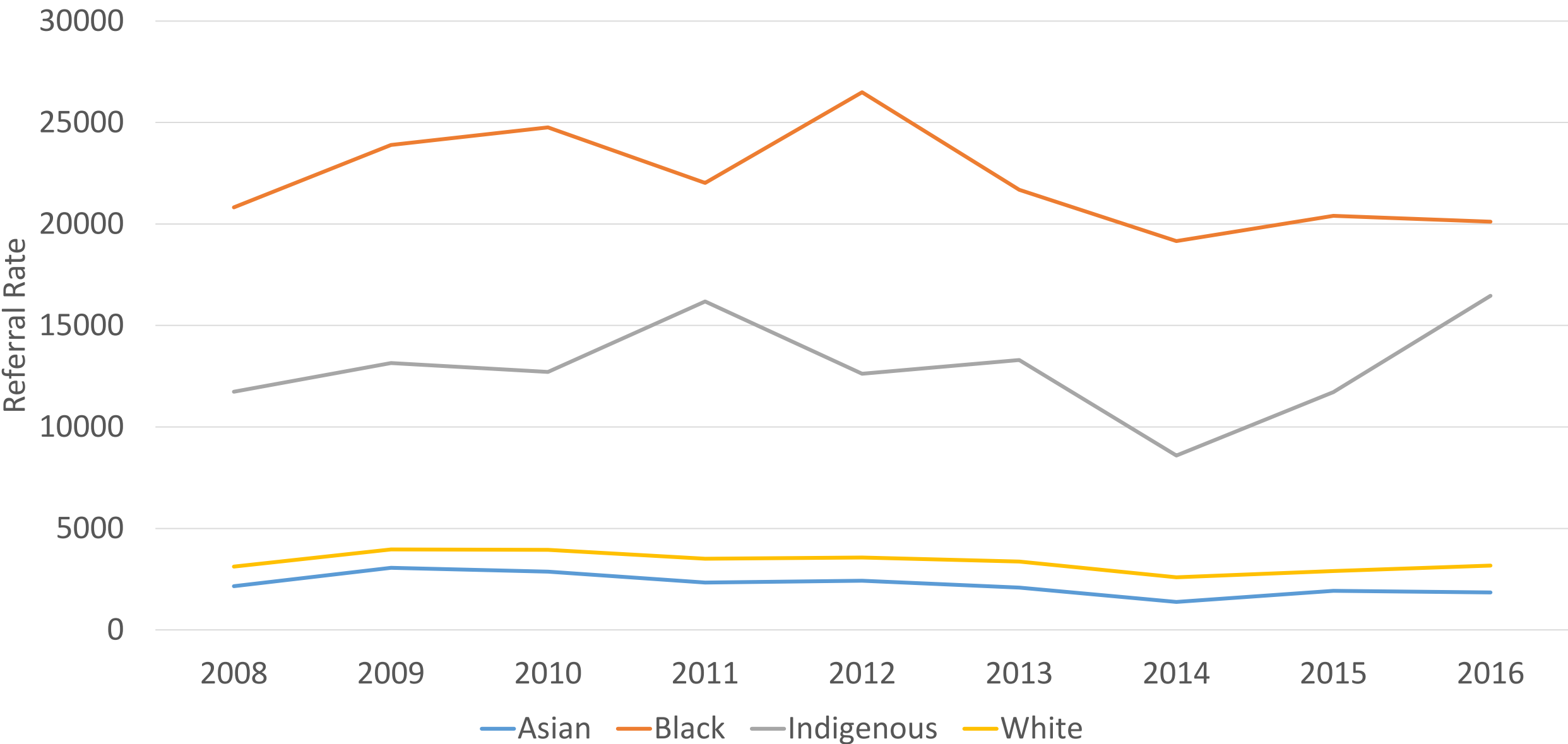


Figure 41: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

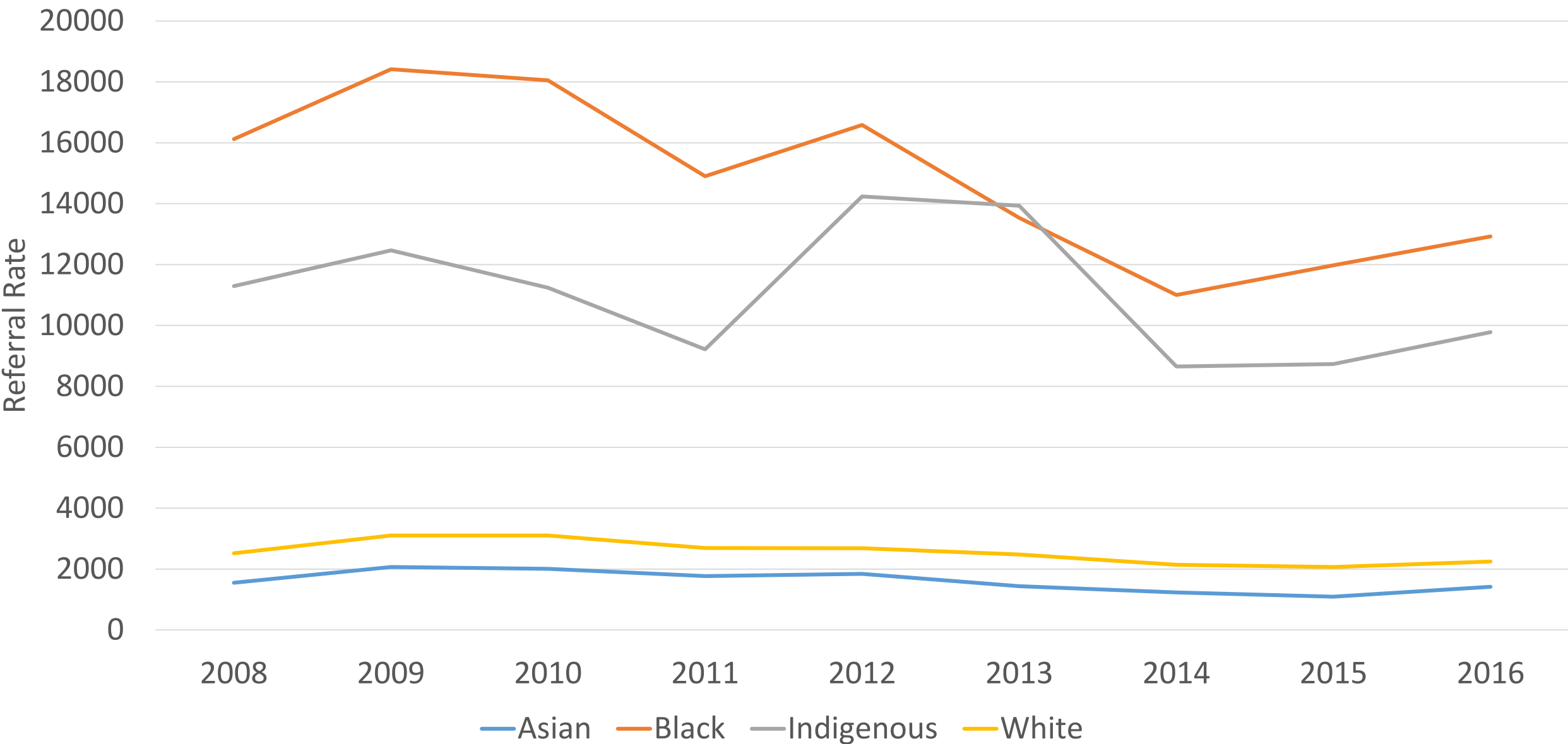


Figure 42: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

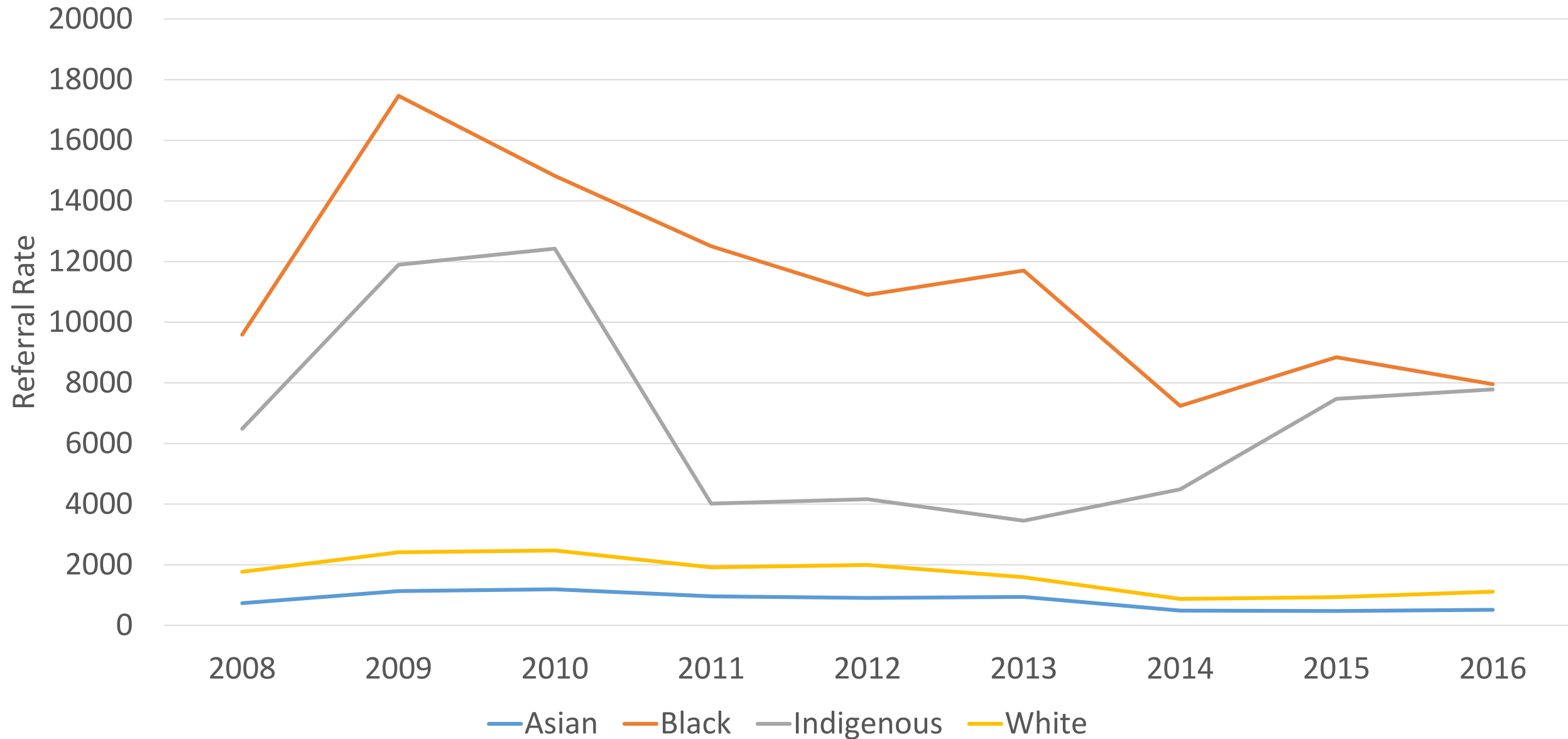


Figure 43: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

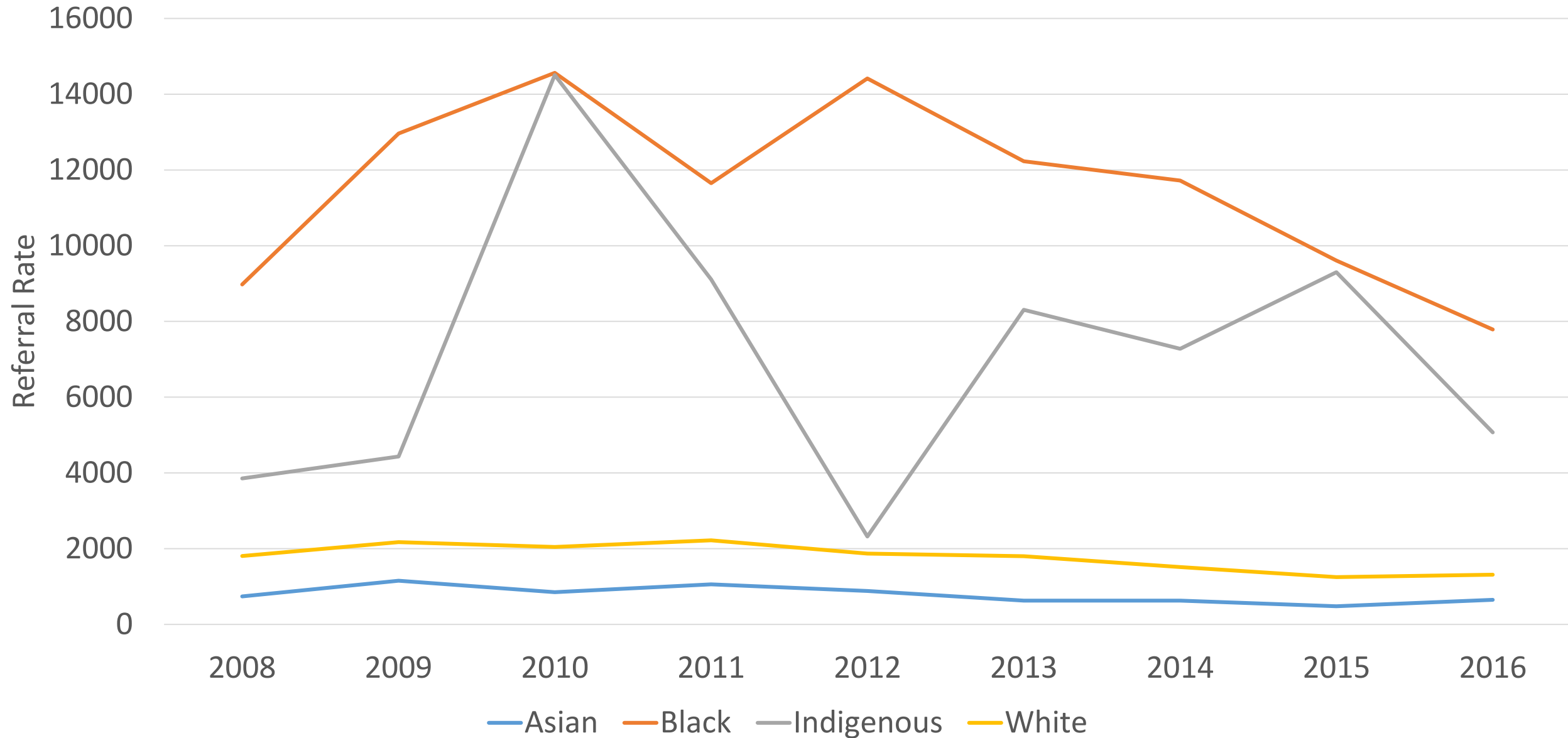


Figure 44: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

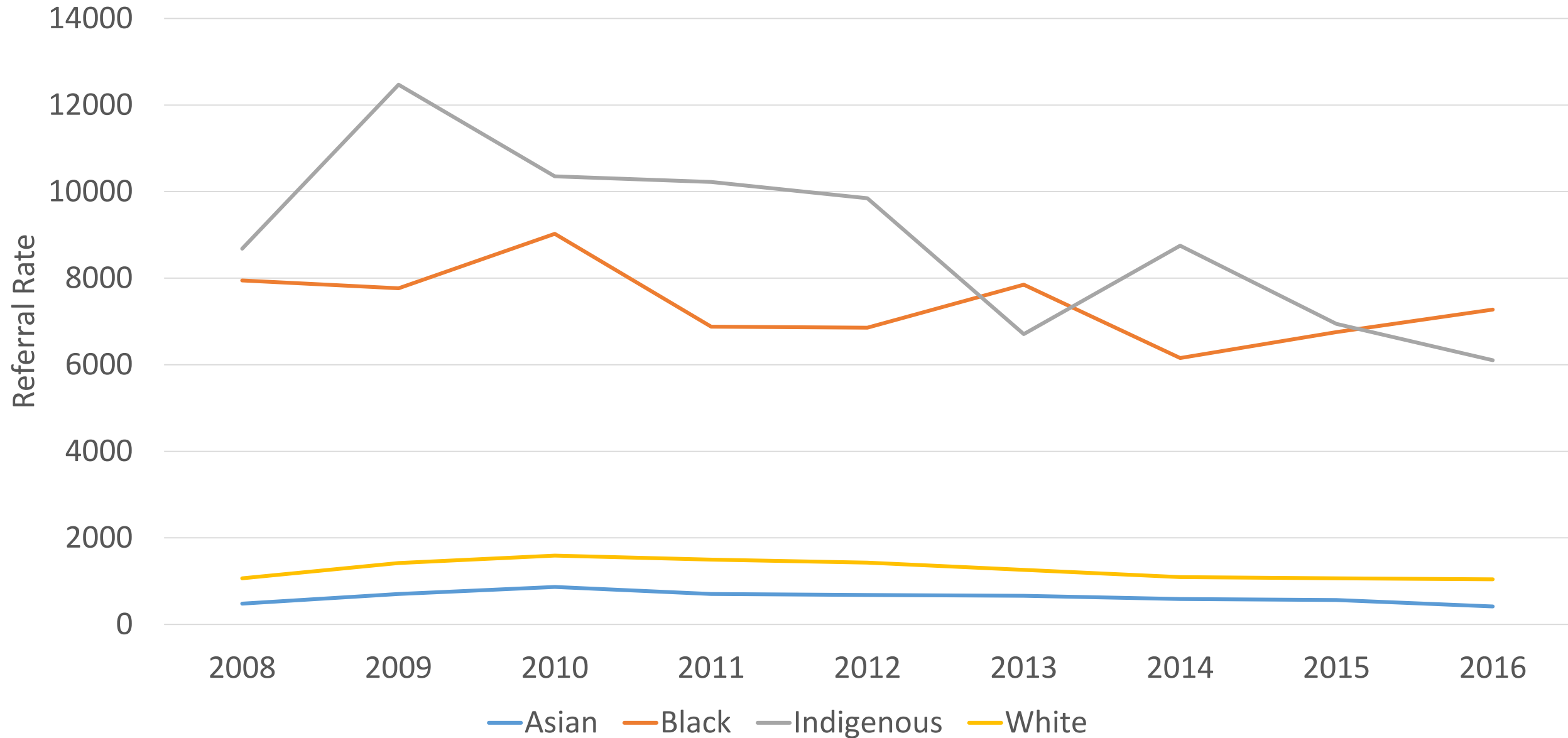


Figure 45: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

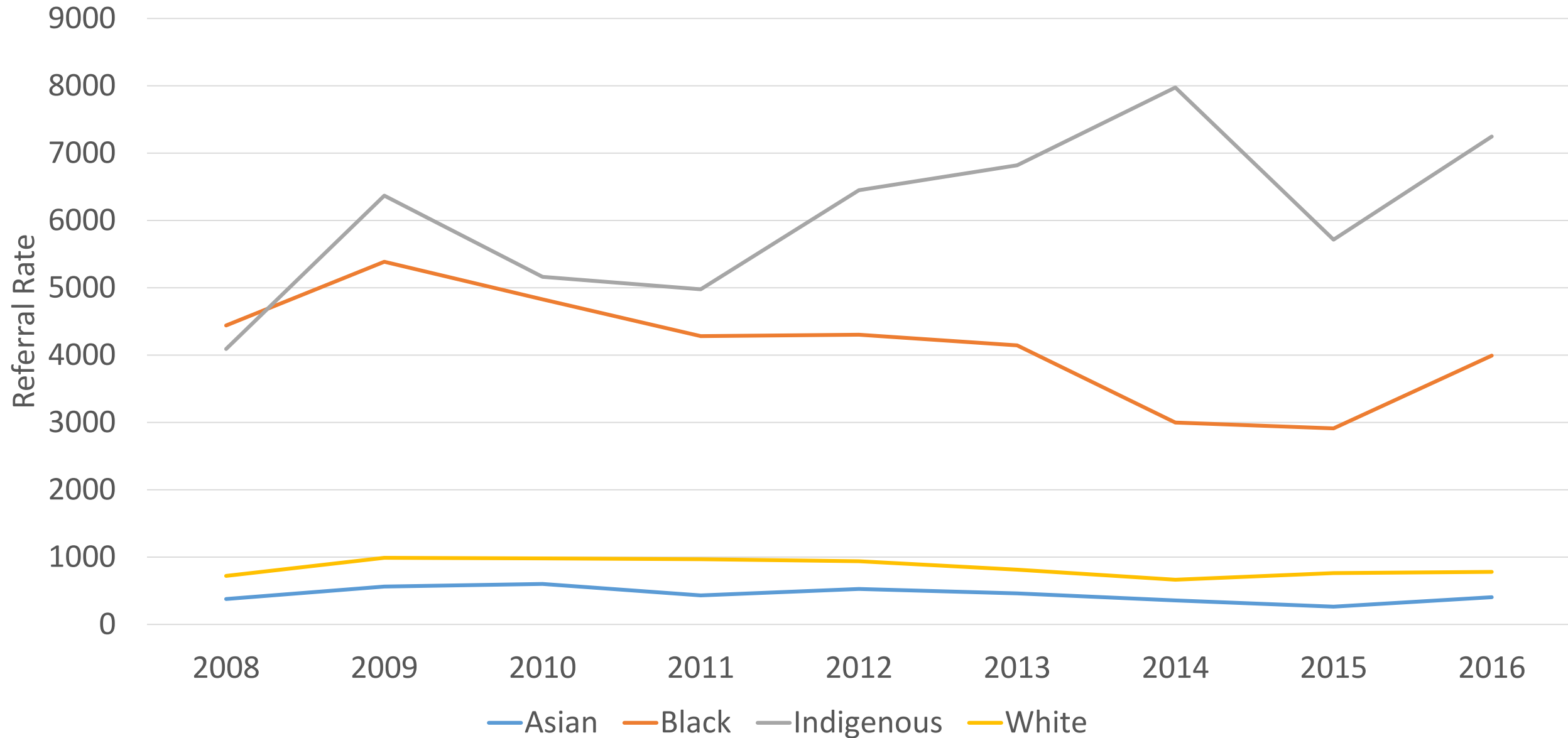


Figure 47: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (A) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

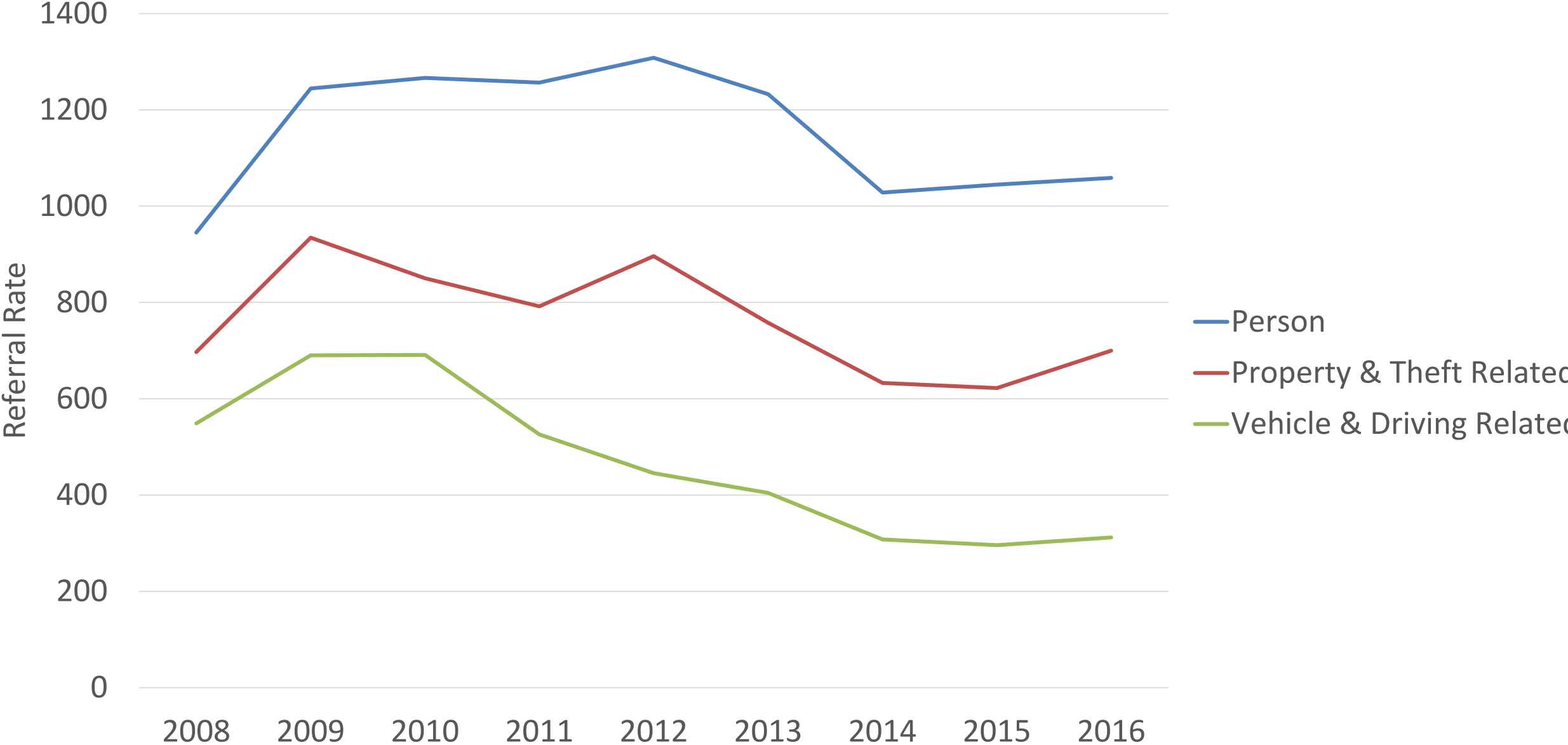


Figure 48: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (A), 2008-2016.

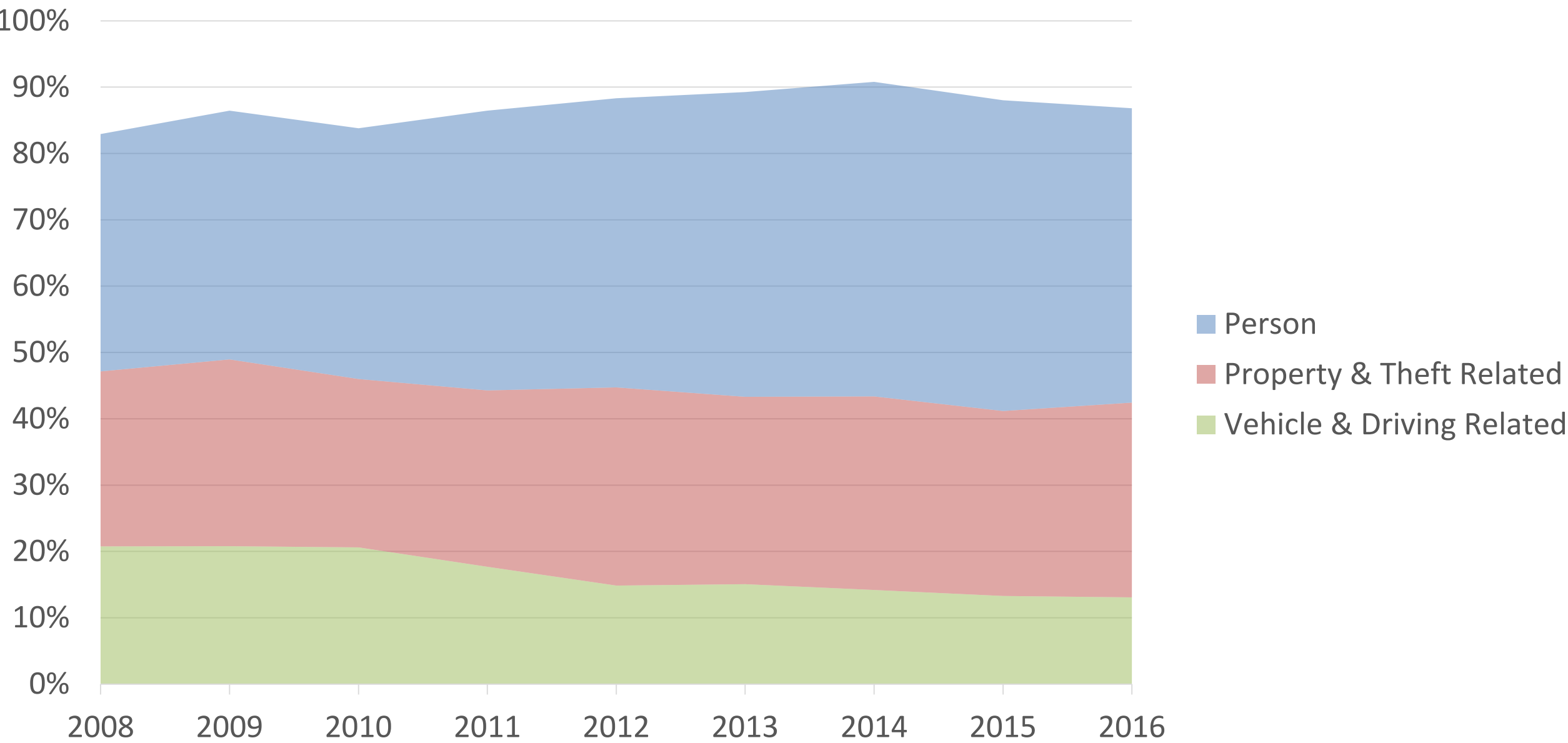


Figure 49: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (B) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

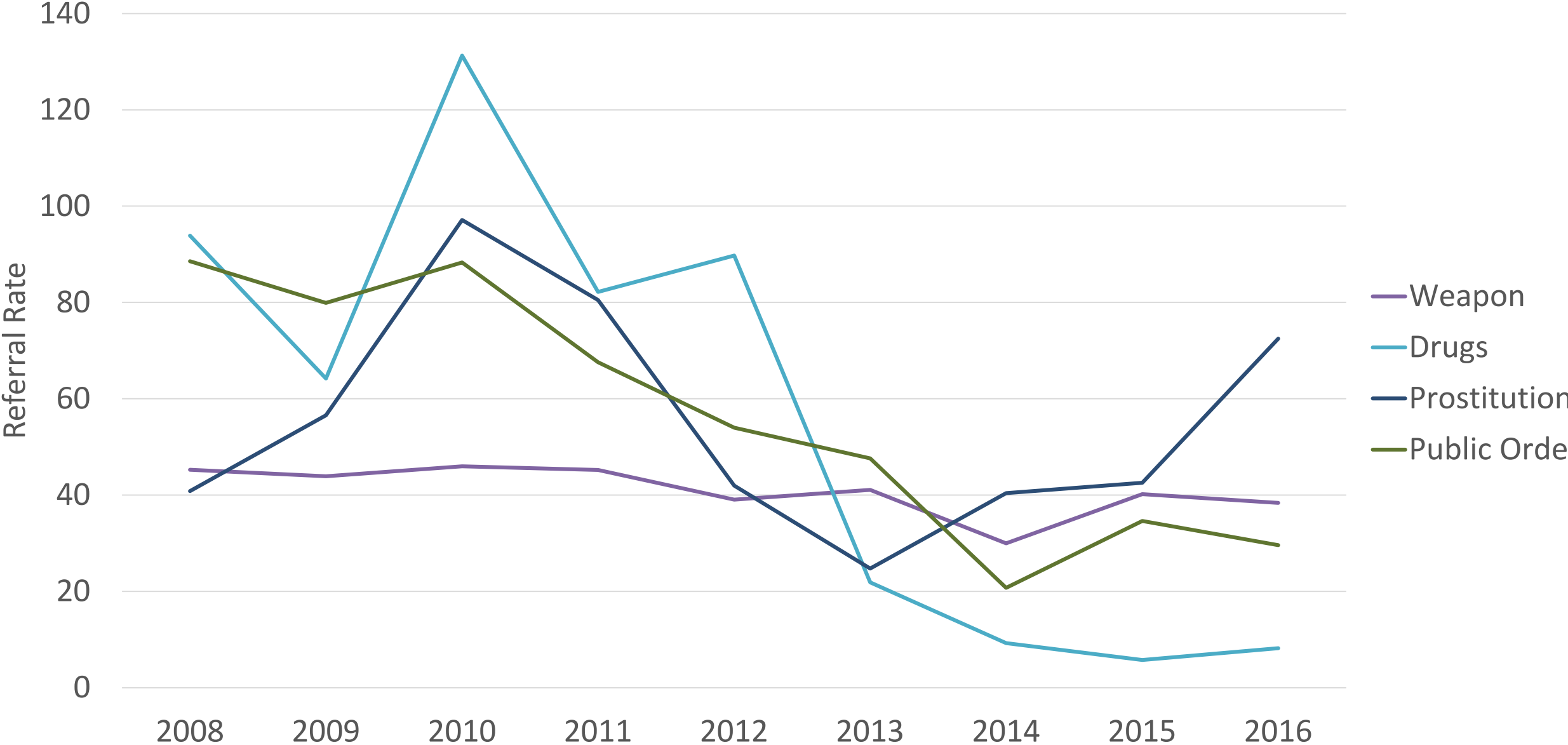


Figure 50: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (B), 2008-2016.

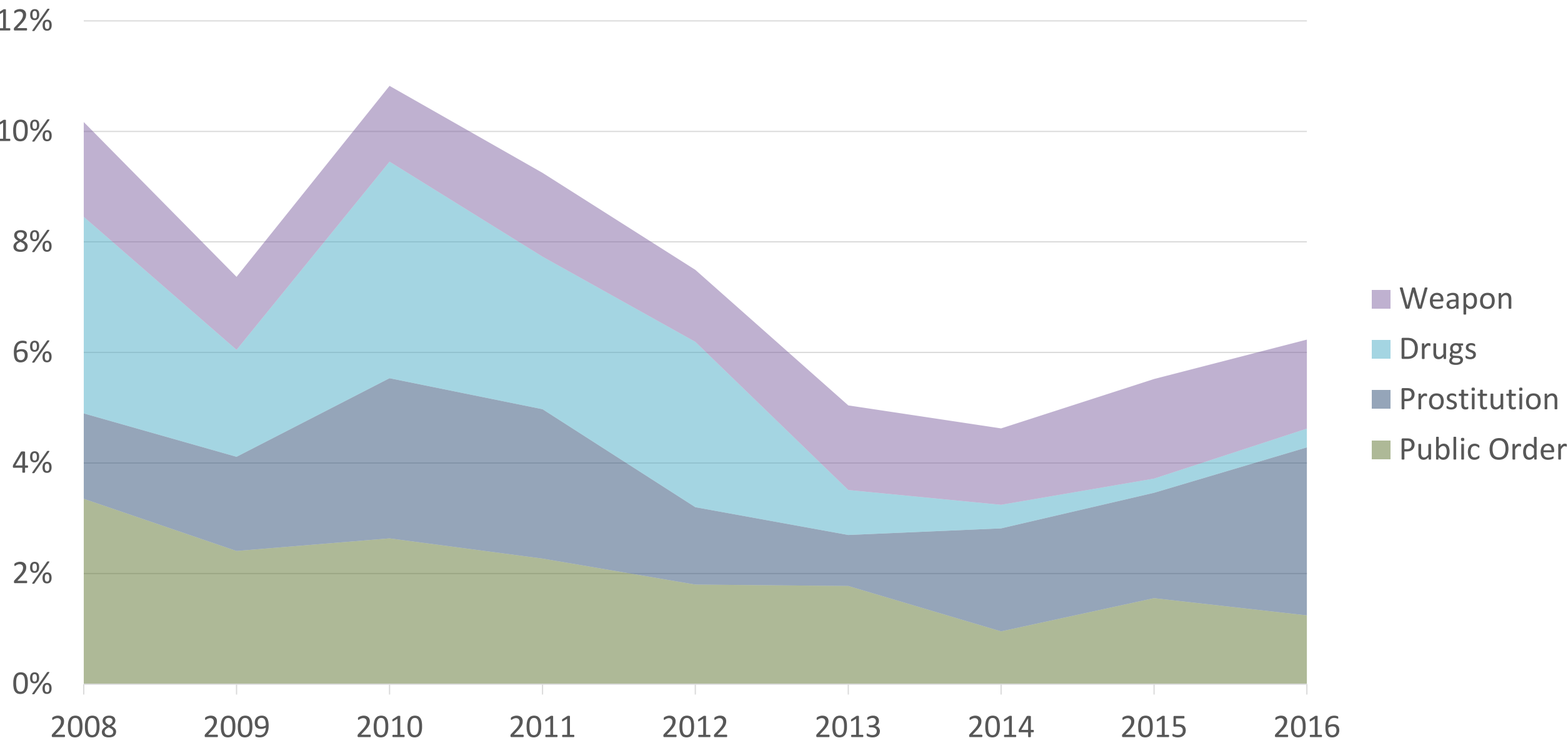


Figure 51: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (C) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

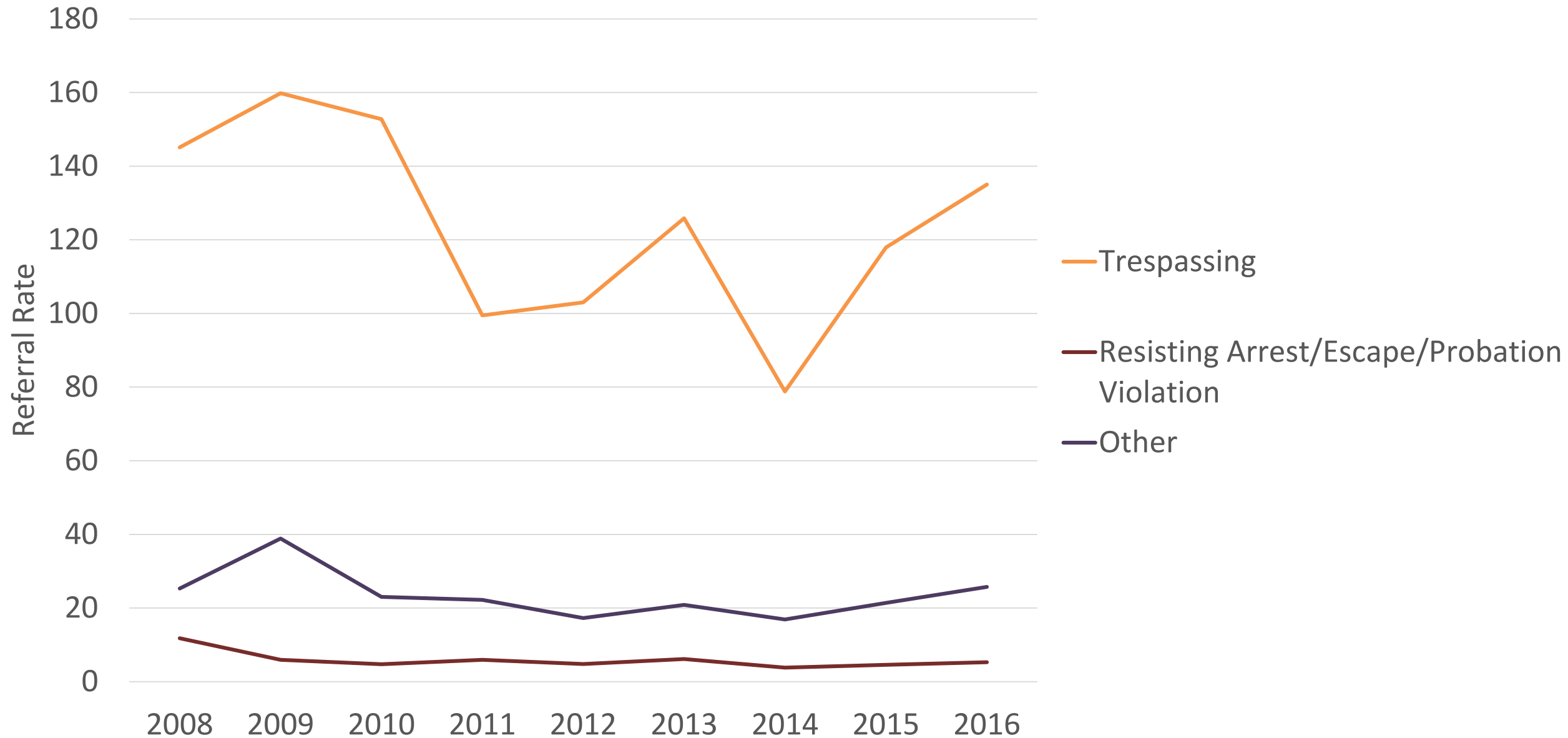


Figure 52: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Charge Type (C), 2008-2016.

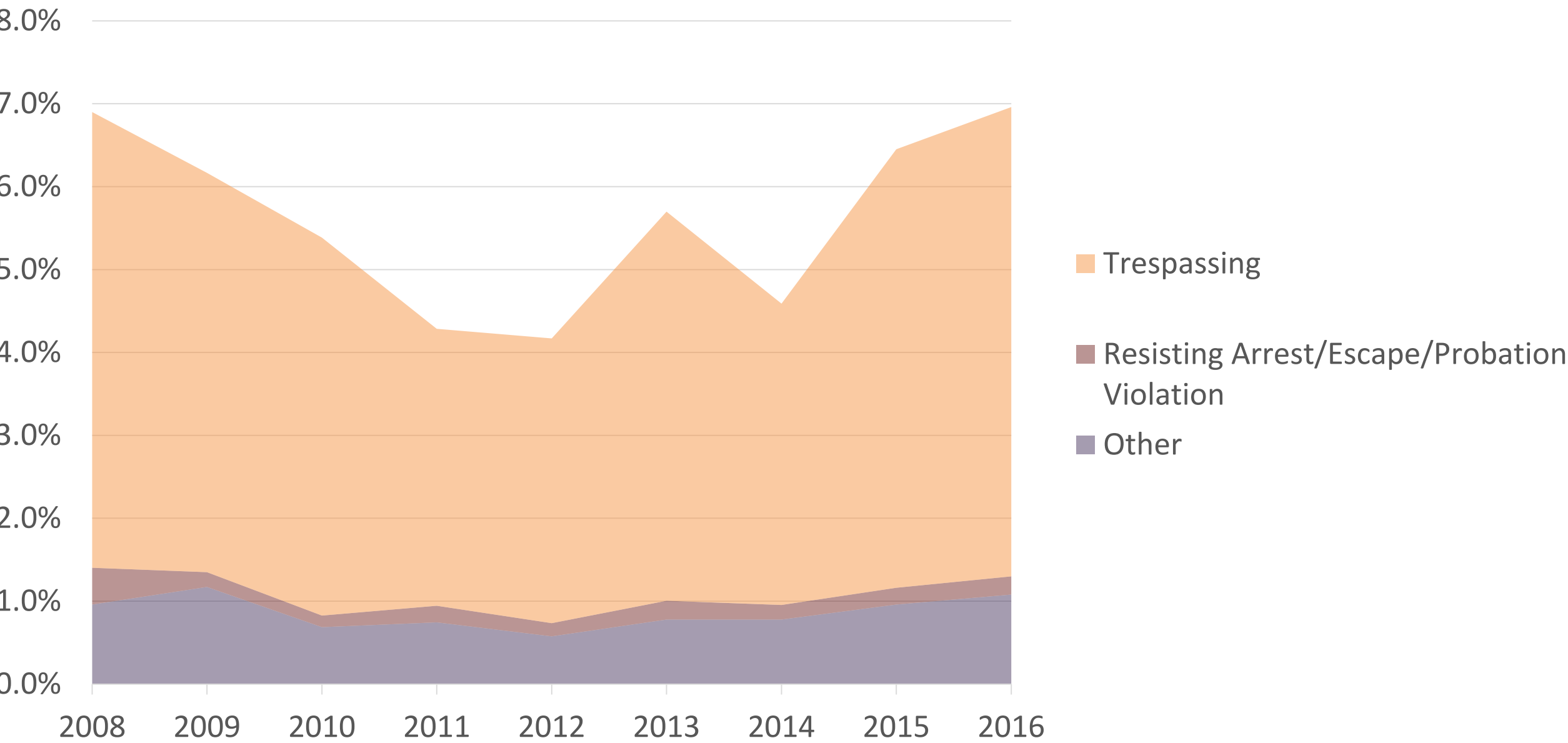


Figure 53: Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Initial Disposition per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

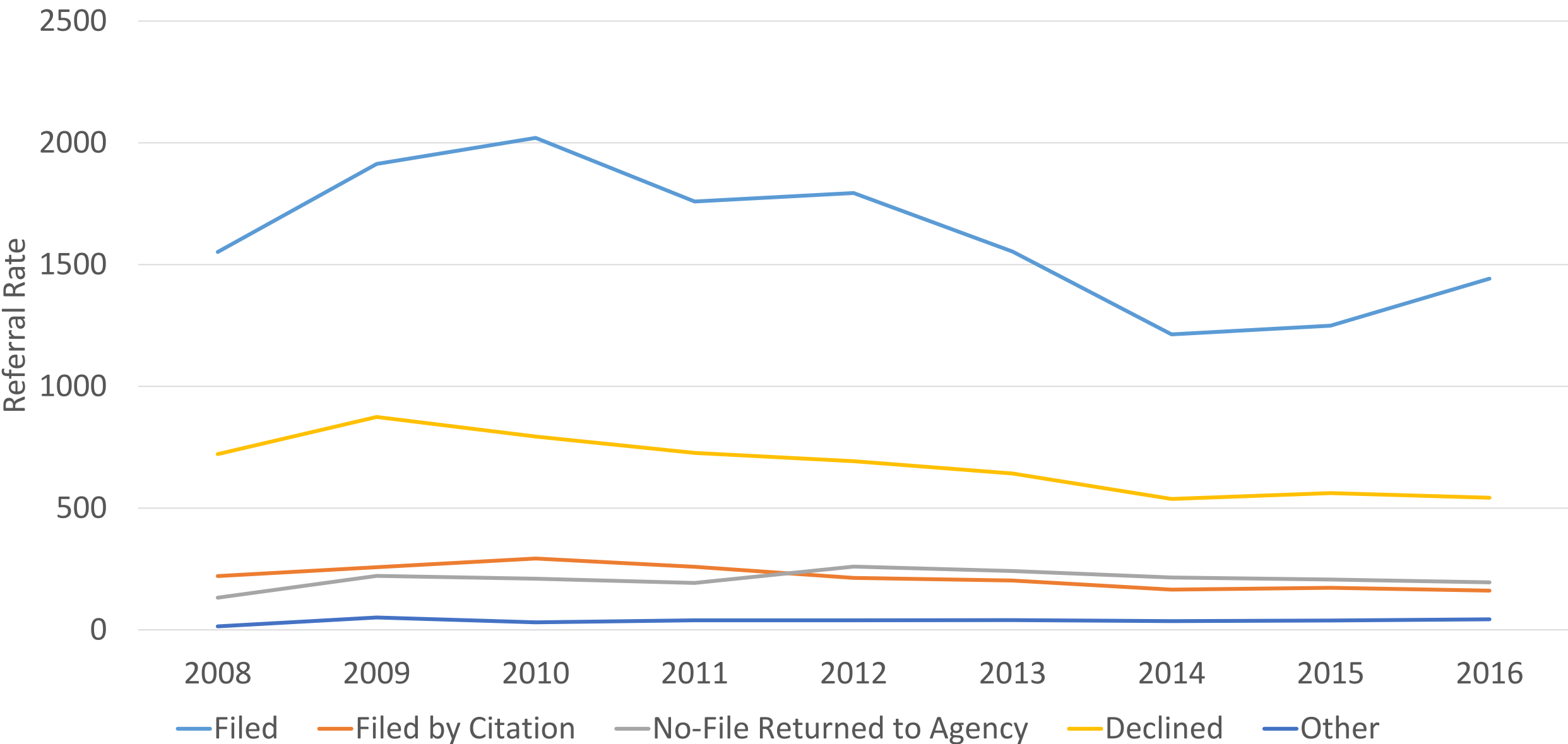


Figure 54: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Initial Disposition, 2008-2016.

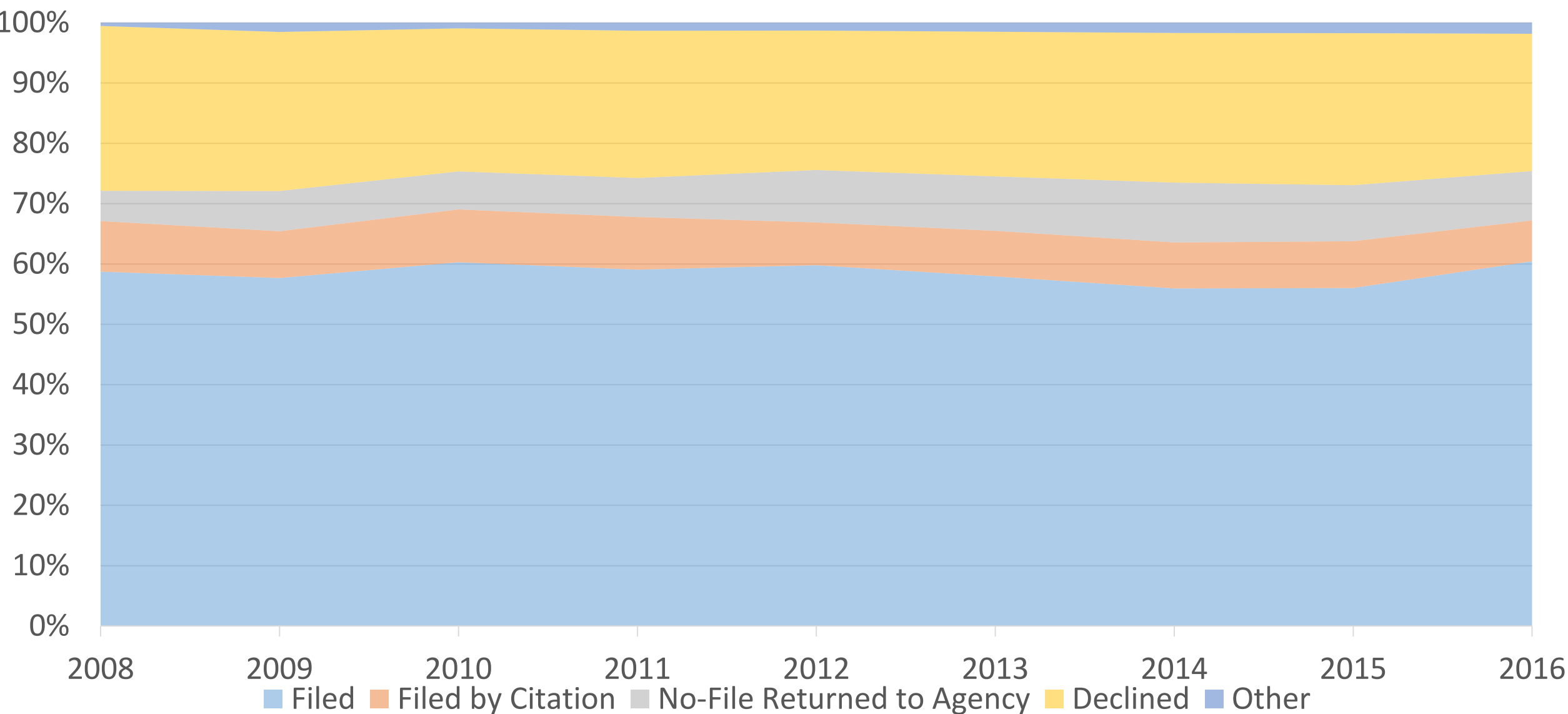
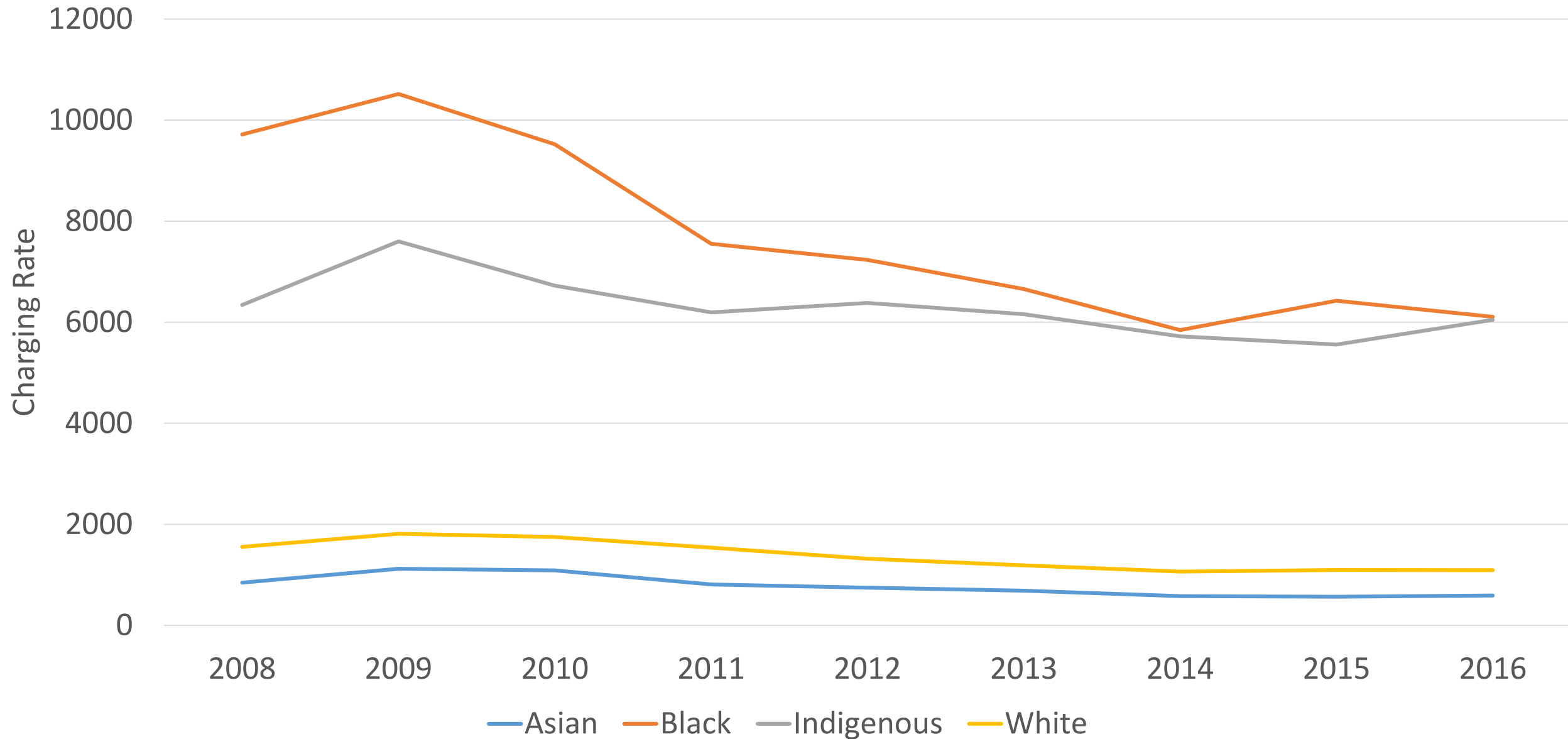


Figure 55: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.



Misdemeanor Charge Results

Figure 56: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Race, 2008-2016.

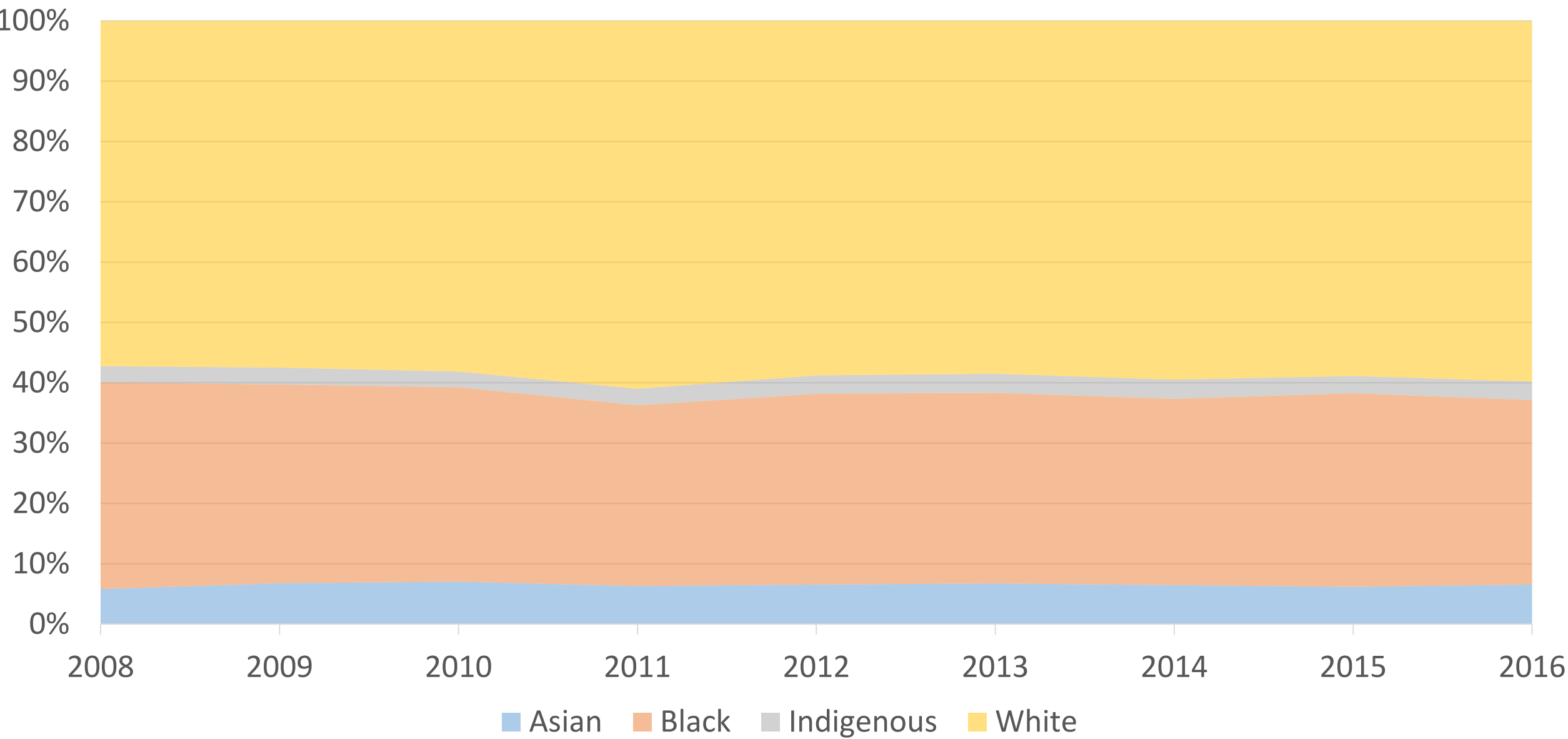


Figure 57: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Age Group per 100,000 Population, 2008-2016.

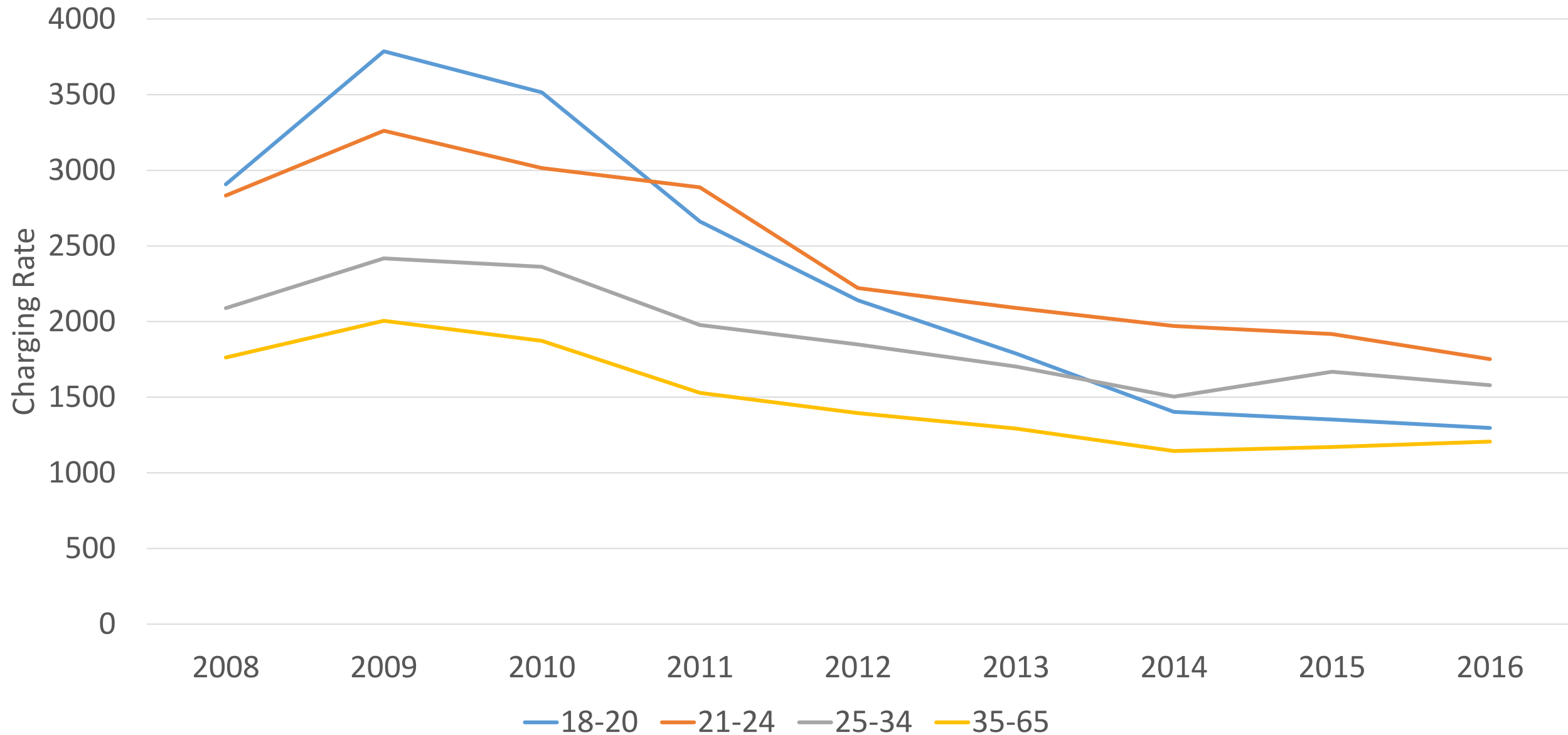


Figure 58: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Age Group, 2008-2016.

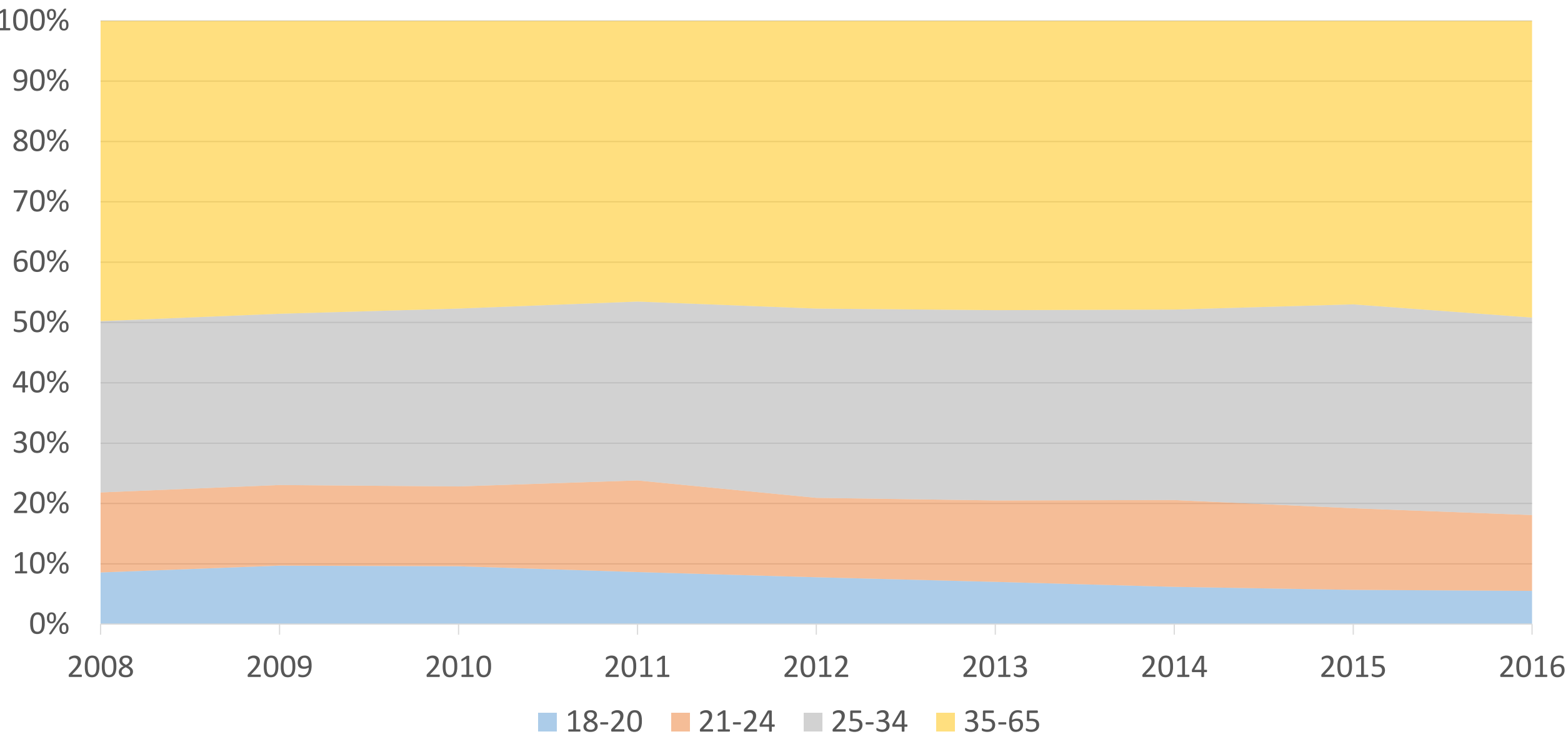


Figure 59: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Sex per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

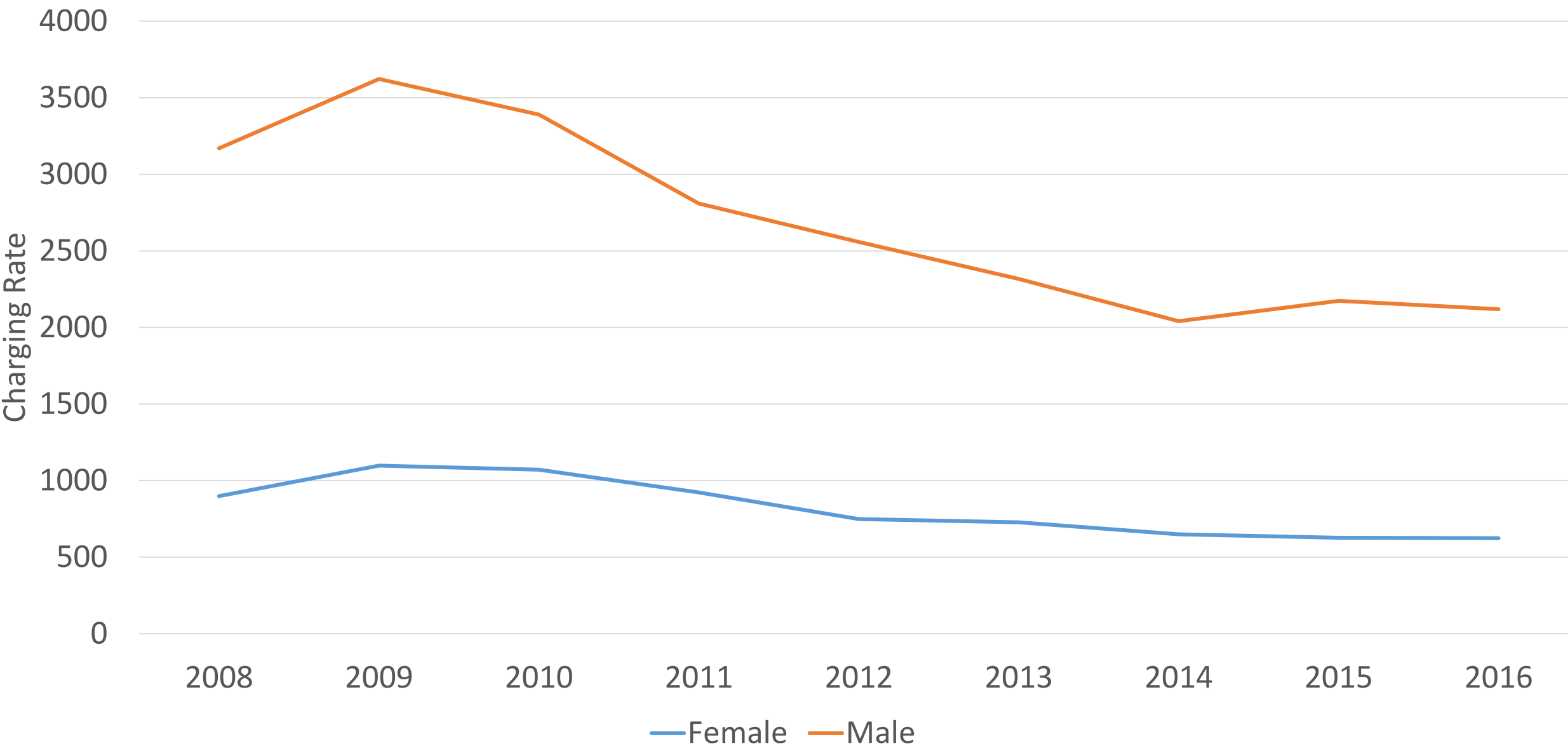


Figure 6o: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Sex, 2008-2016.

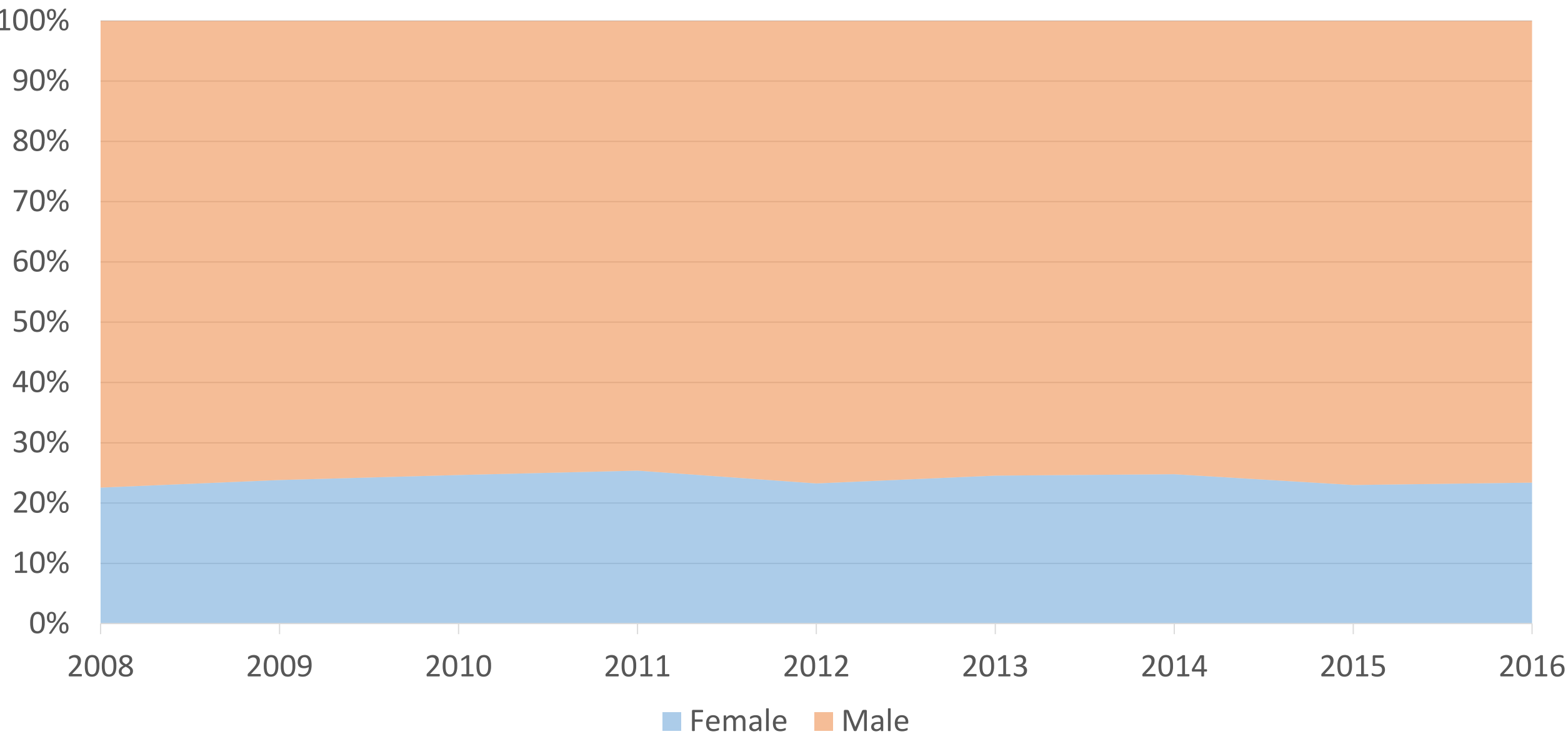


Figure 61: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

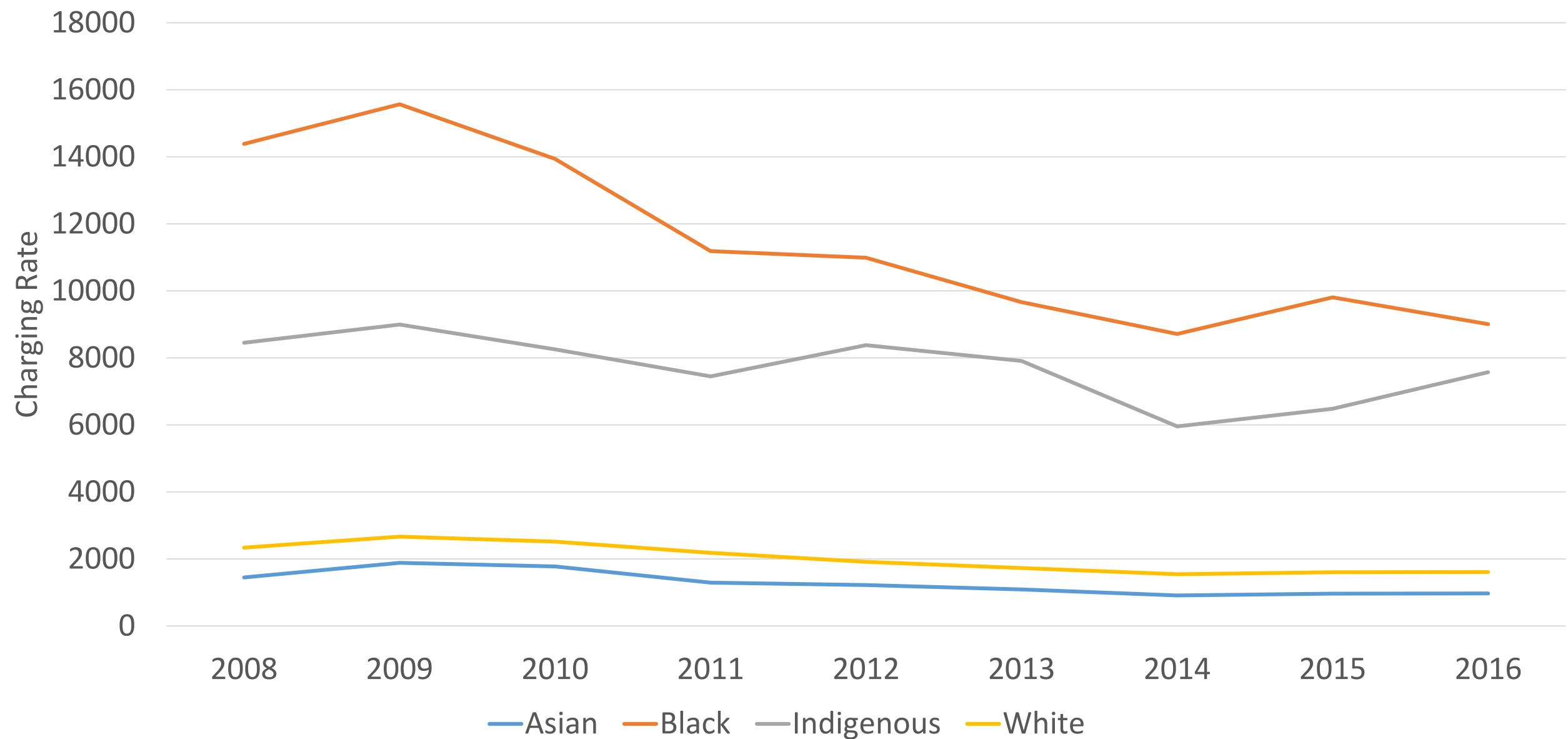


Figure 62: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

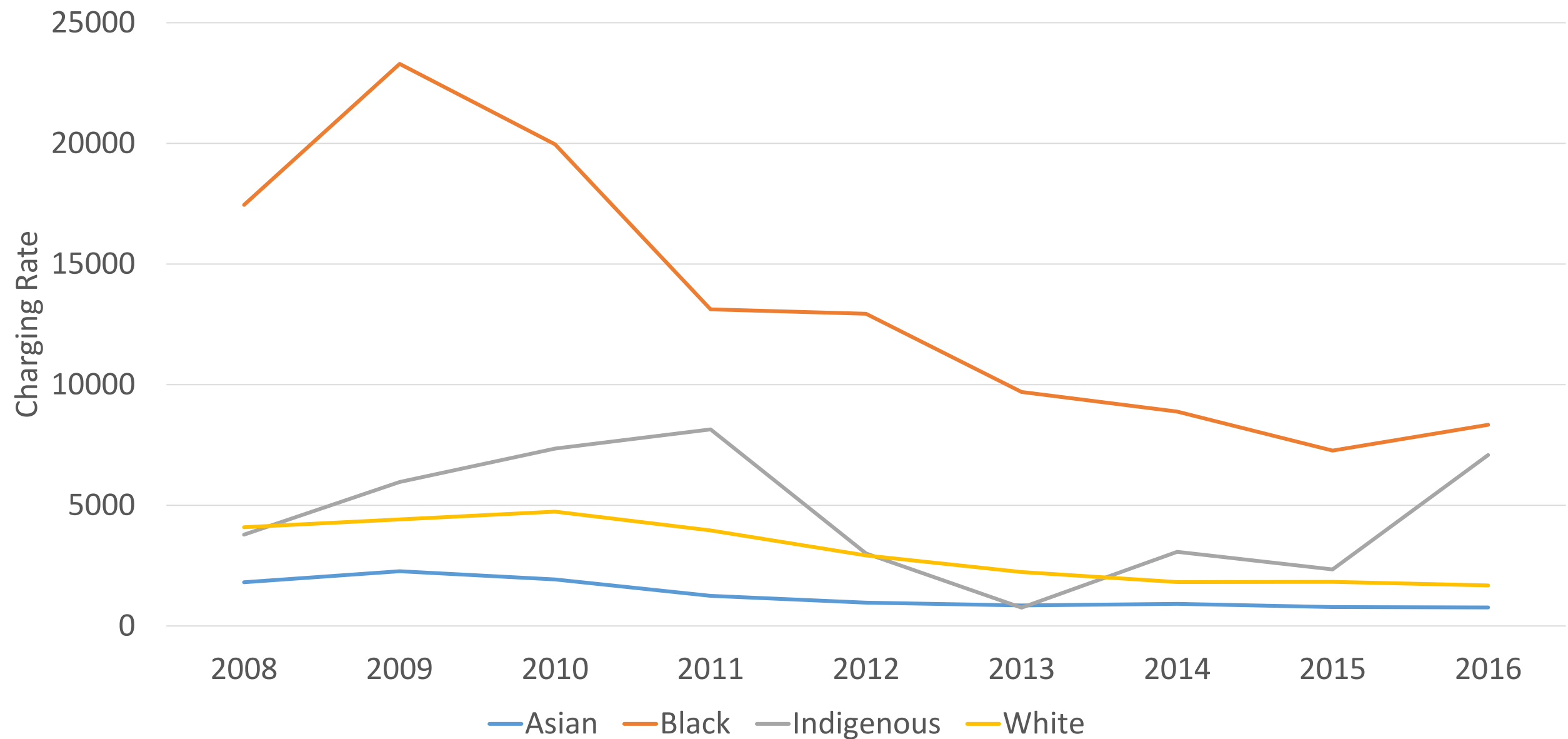


Figure 63: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

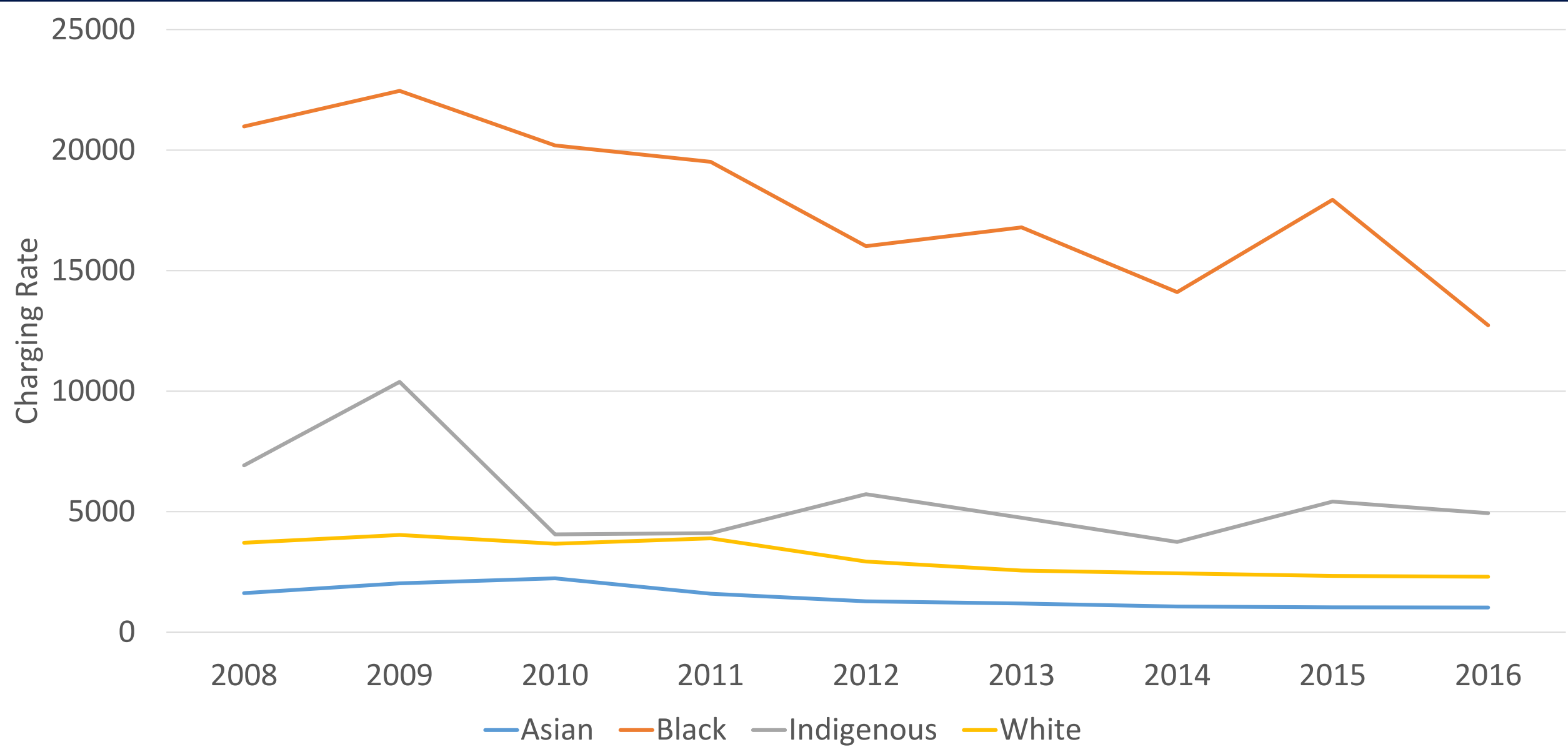


Figure 64: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

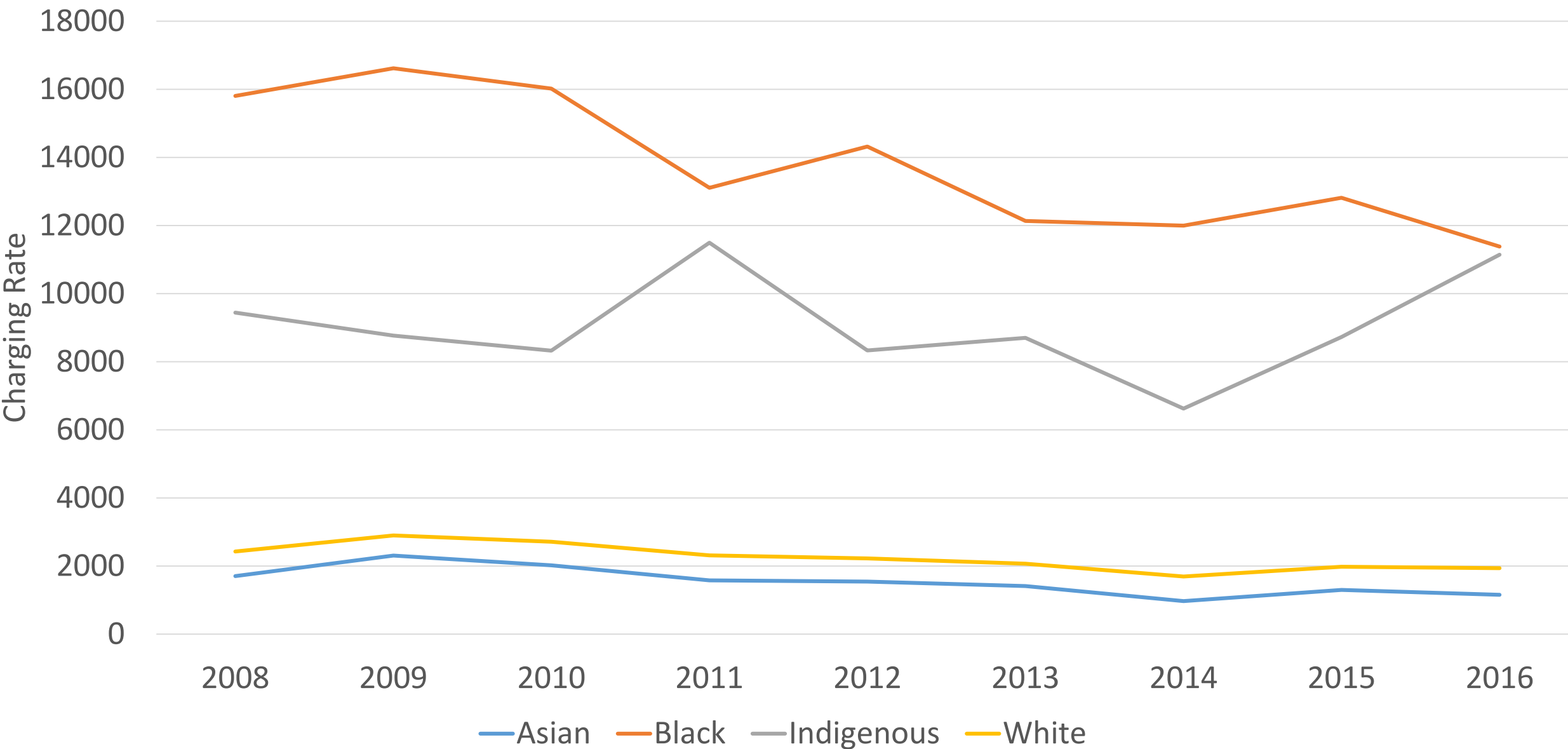


Figure 65: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Males by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

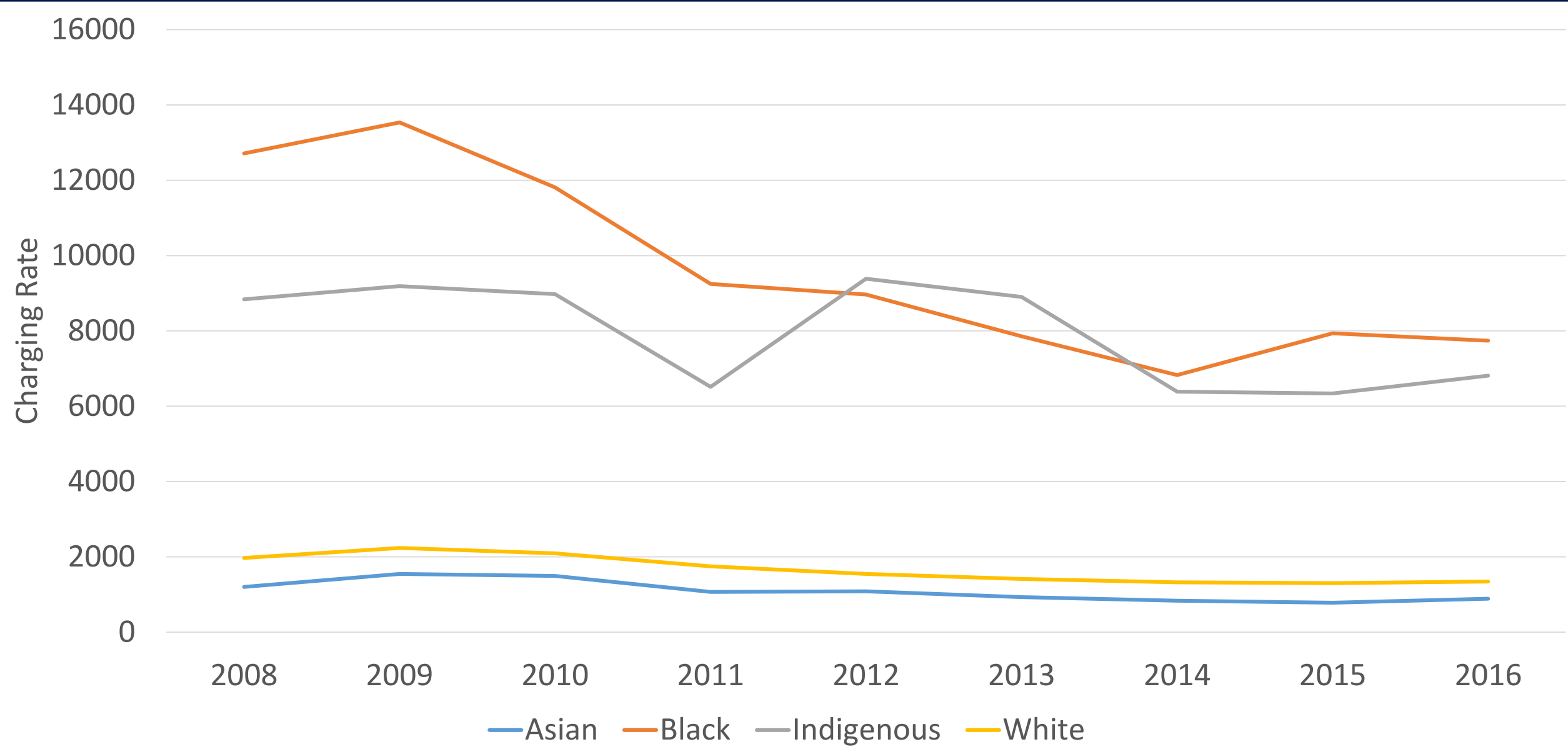


Figure 66: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

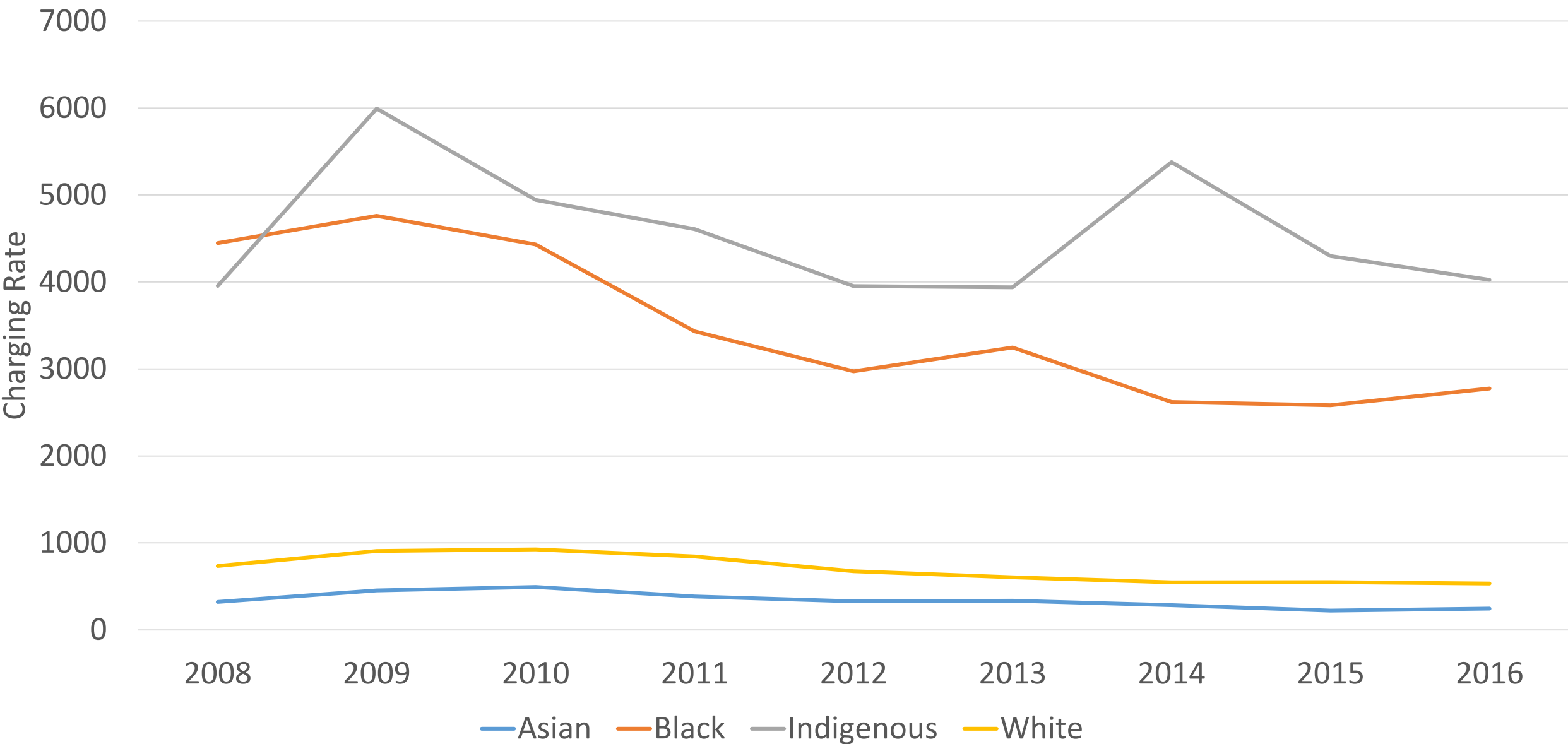


Figure 67: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-20, 2008-2016.

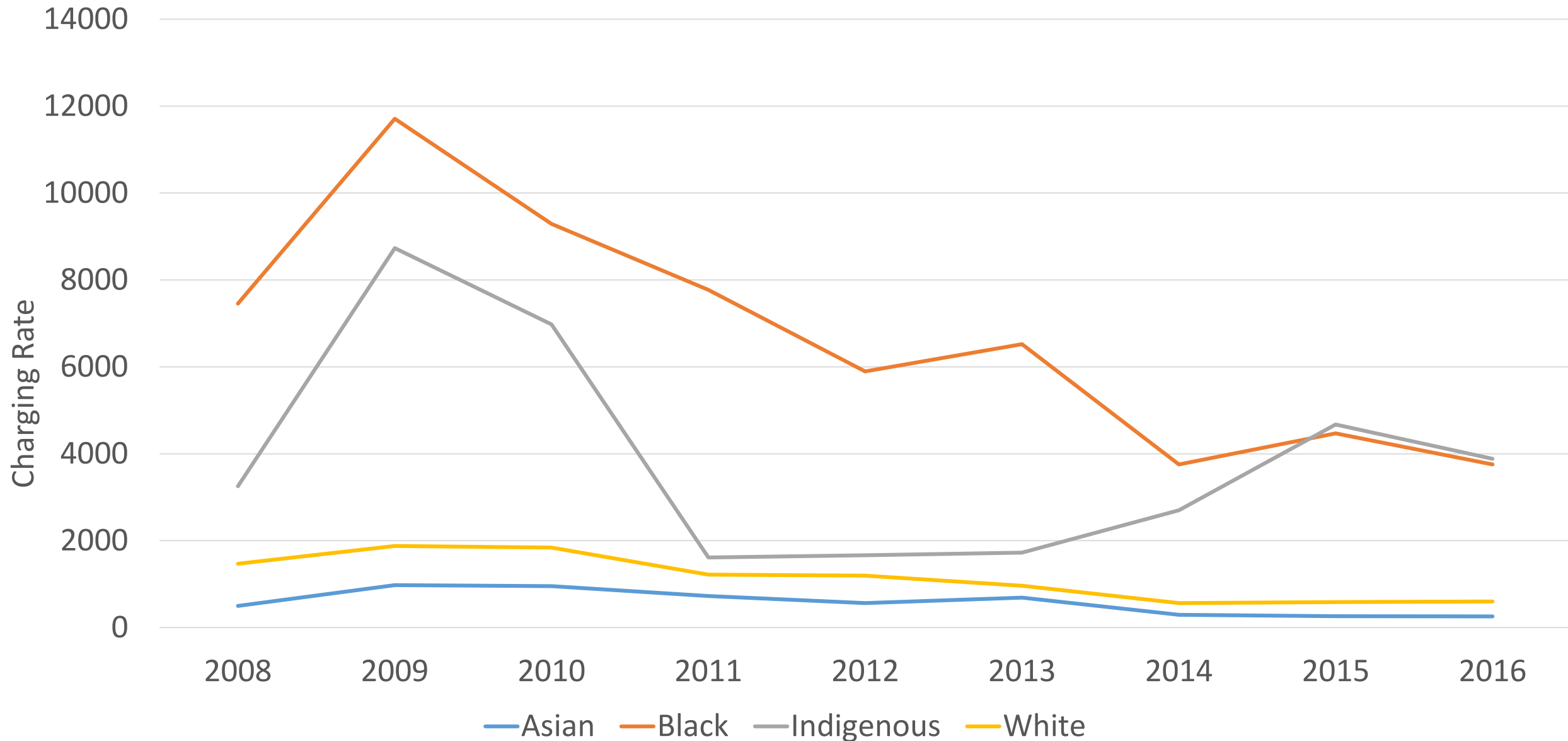


Figure 68: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 21-24, 2008-2016.

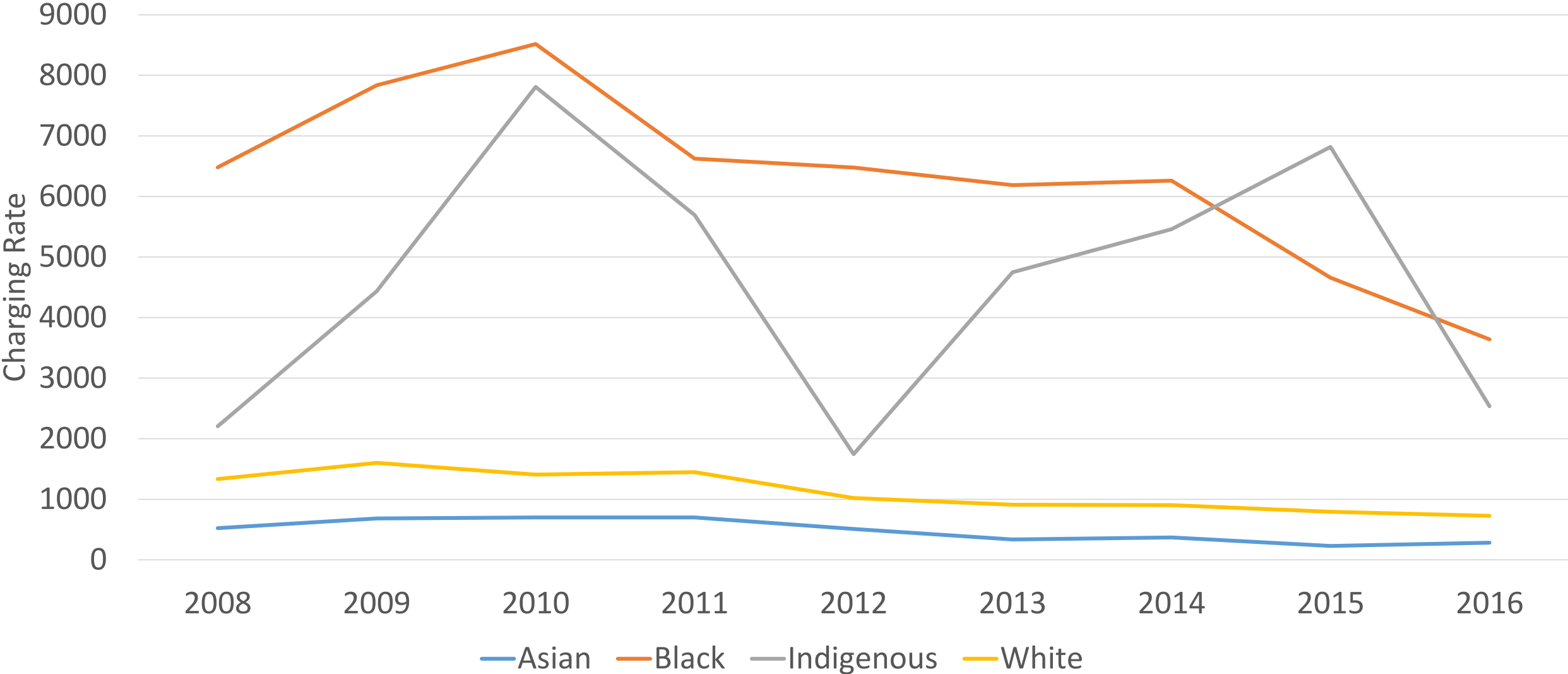


Figure 69: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 25-34, 2008-2016.

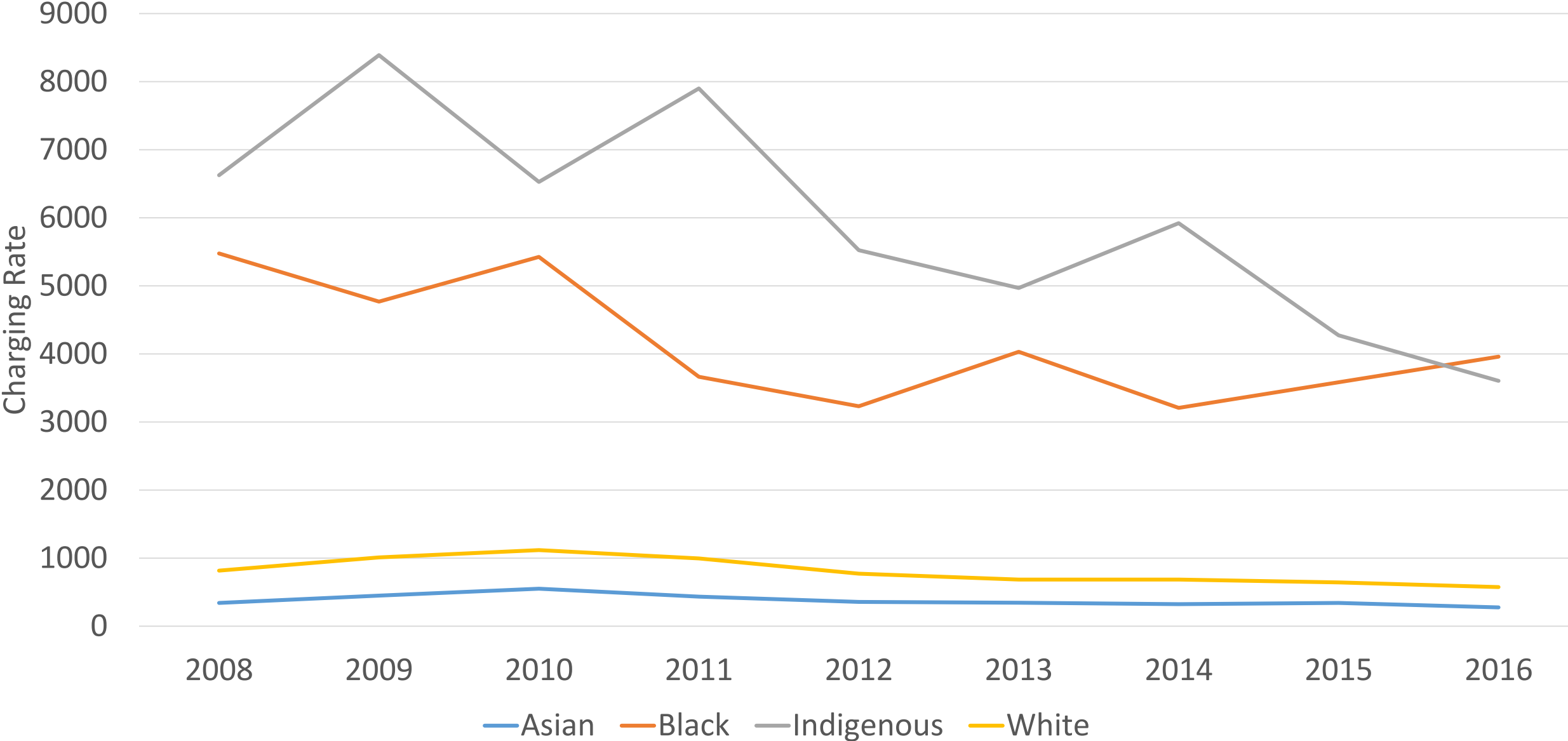


Figure 70: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates for Females by Race per 100,000 Population, Ages 35-65, 2008-2016.

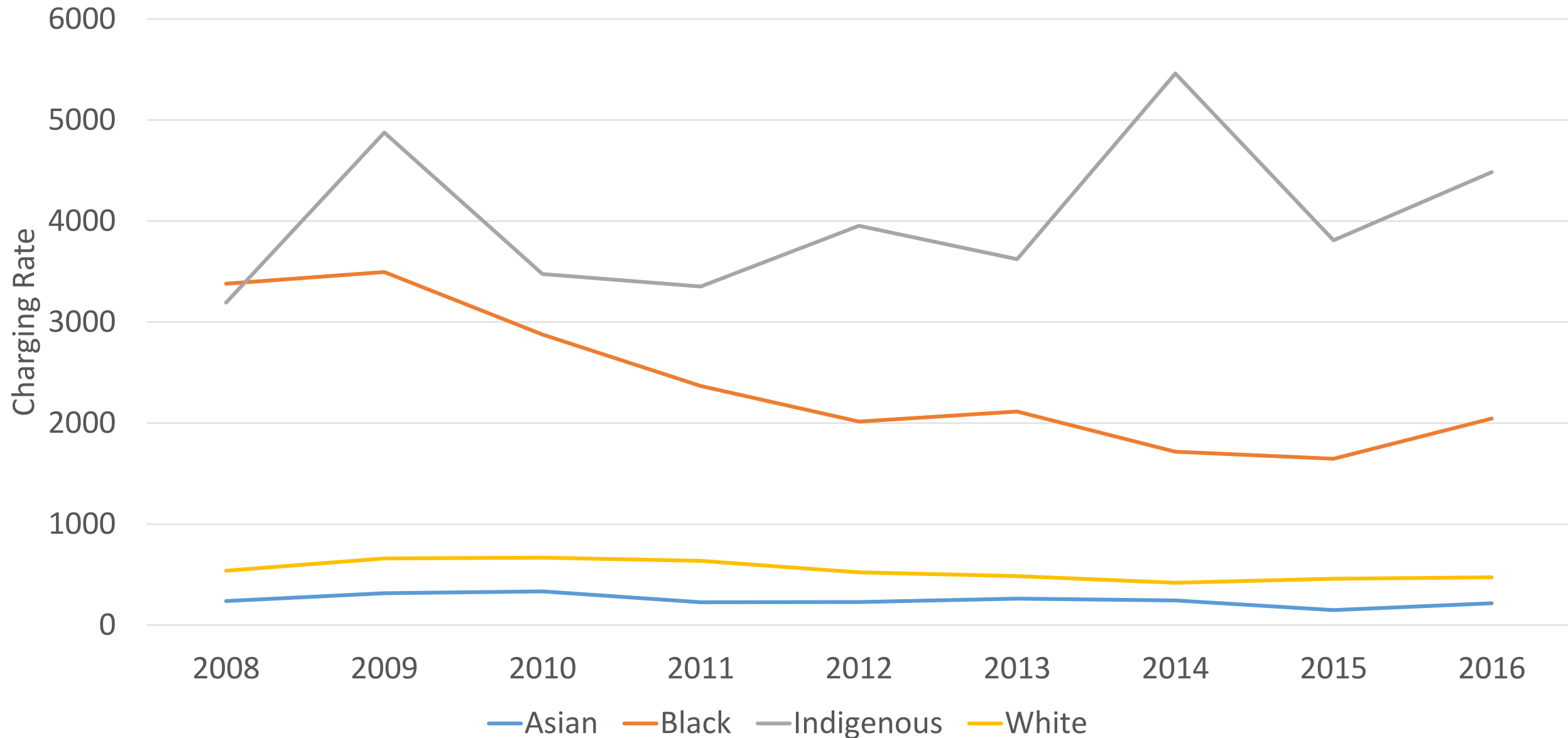


Figure 71: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Charge Type (A) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

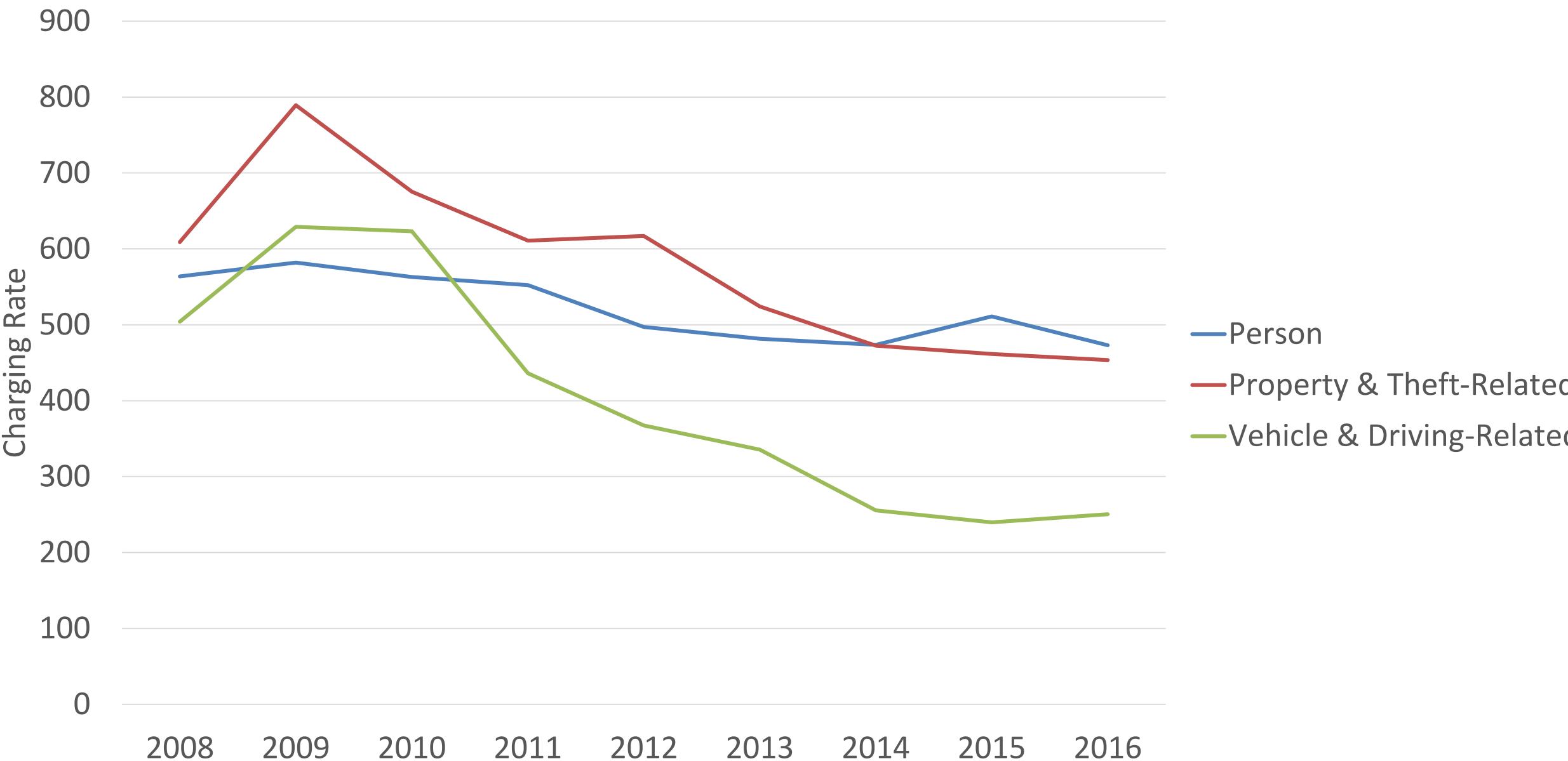


Figure 72: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Charge Type (A), 2008-2016.

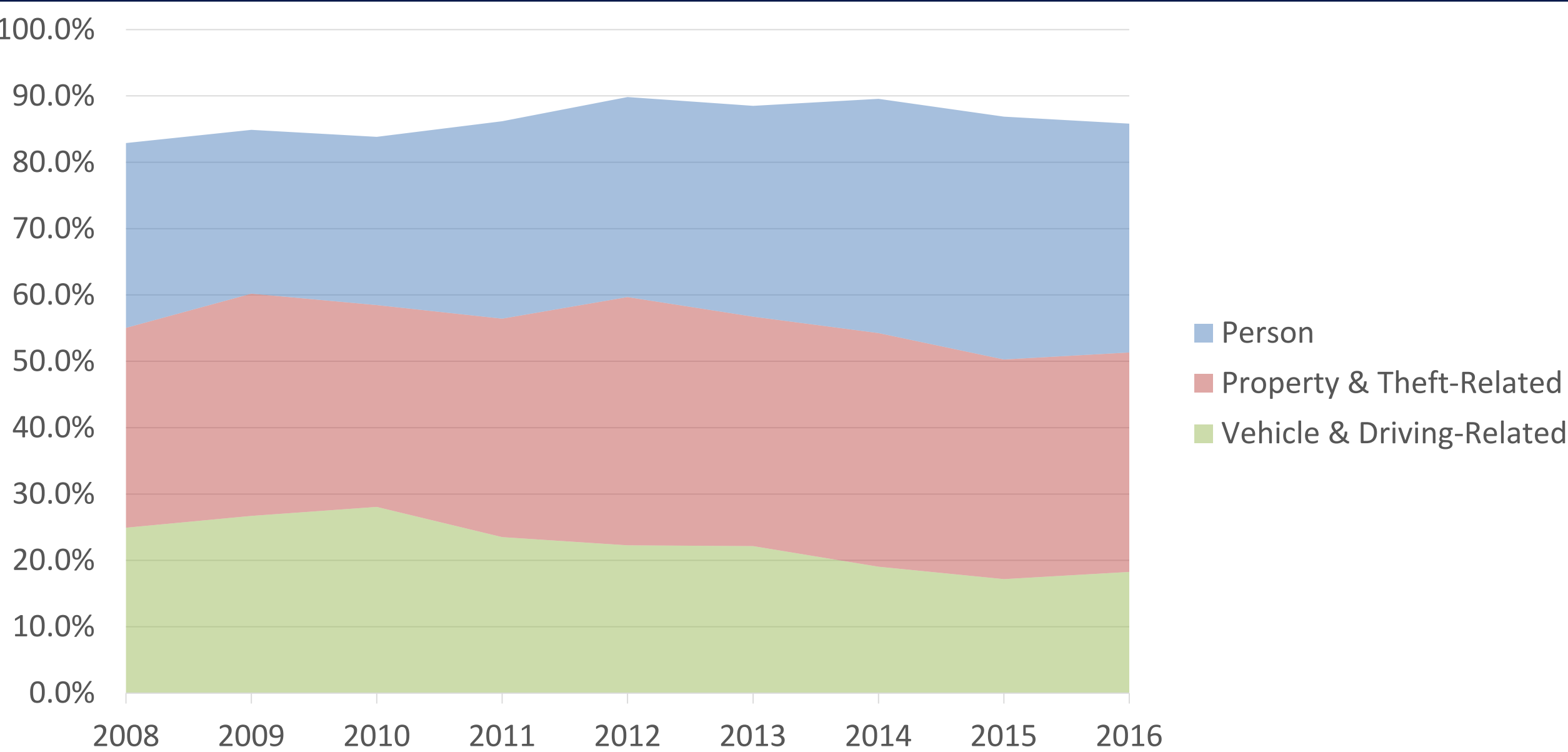


Figure 73: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Charge Type (B) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

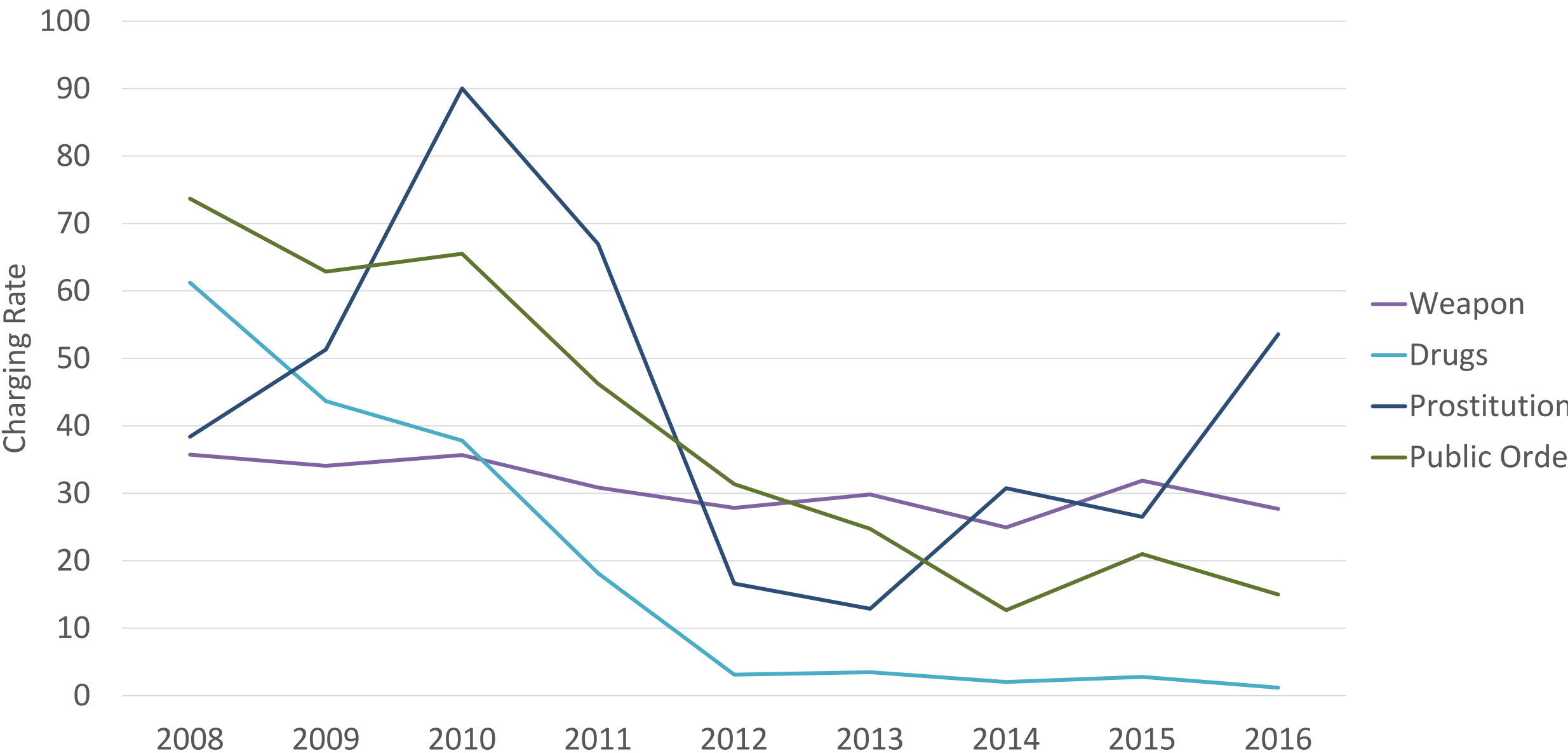


Figure 74: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Charge Type (B), 2008-2016.

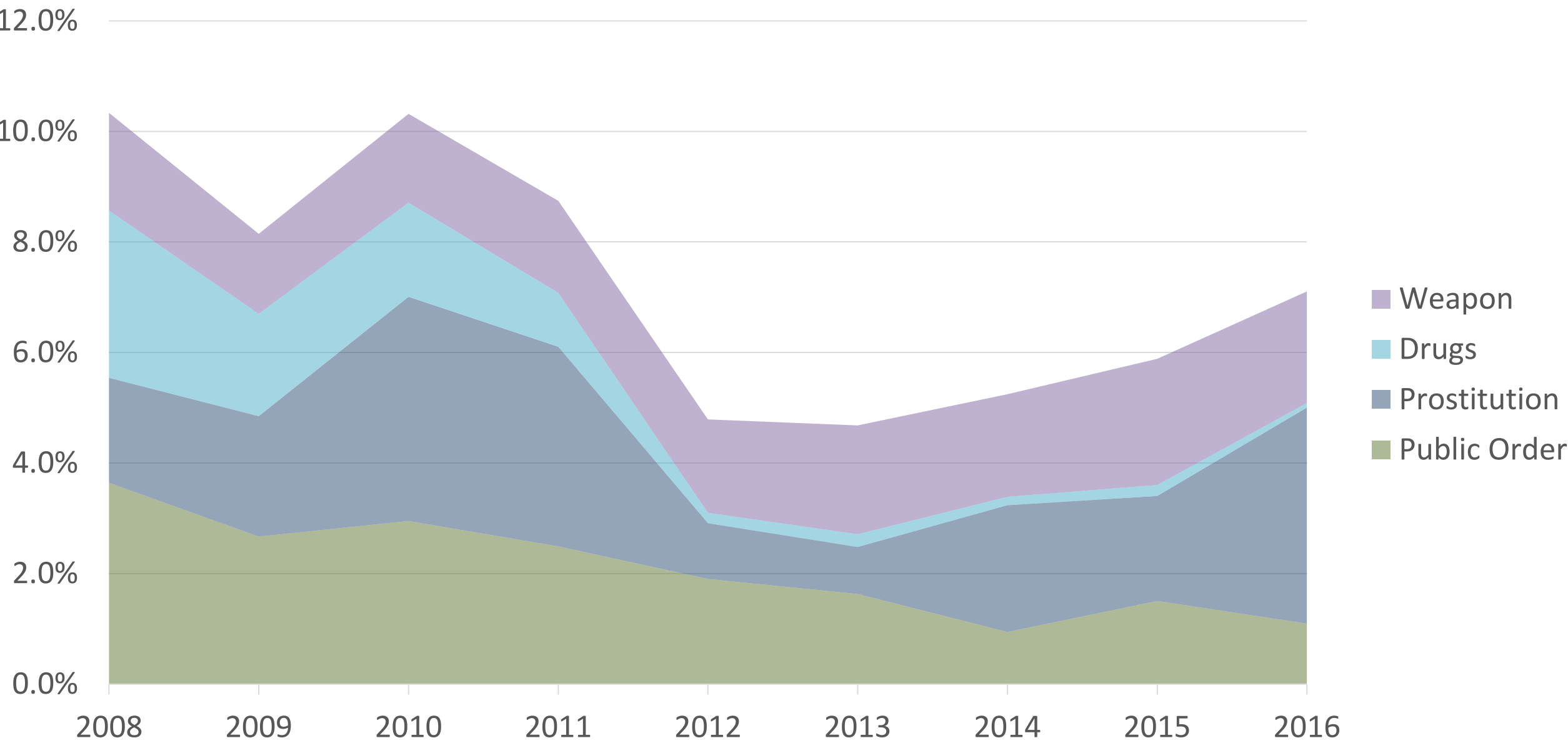


Figure 75: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Charge Type (C) per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

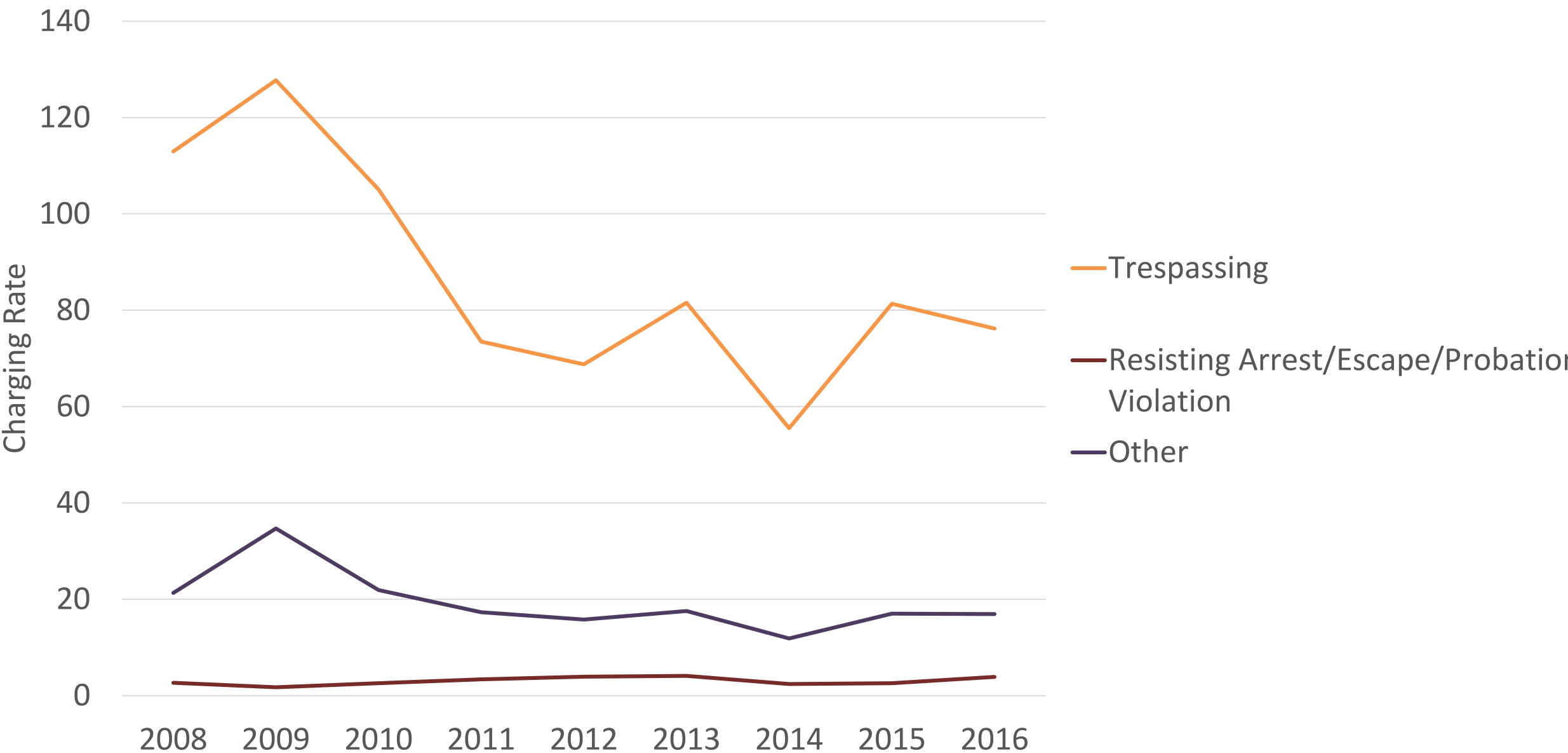


Figure 76: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Charge Type (C), 2008-2016.

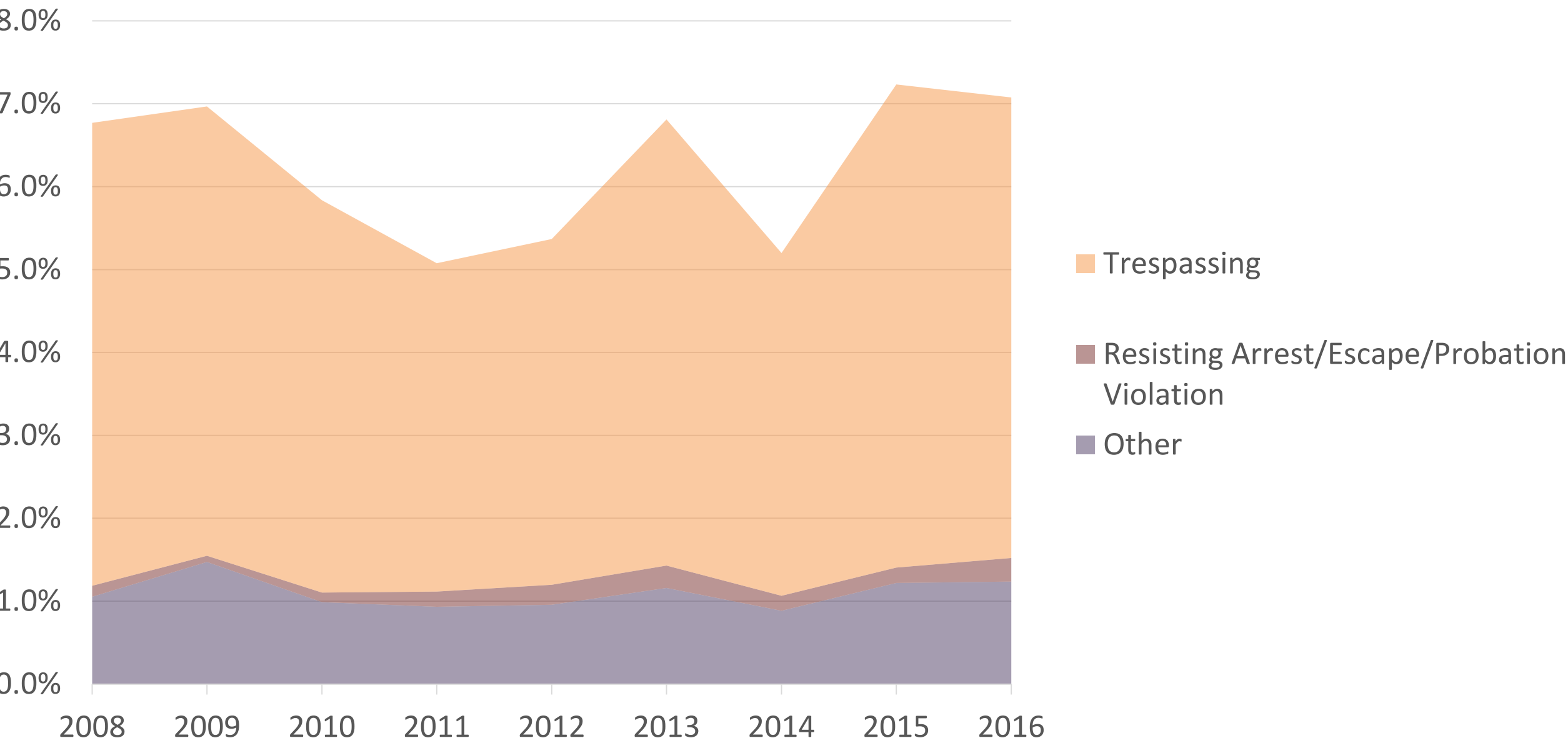


Figure 77: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Final Disposition per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

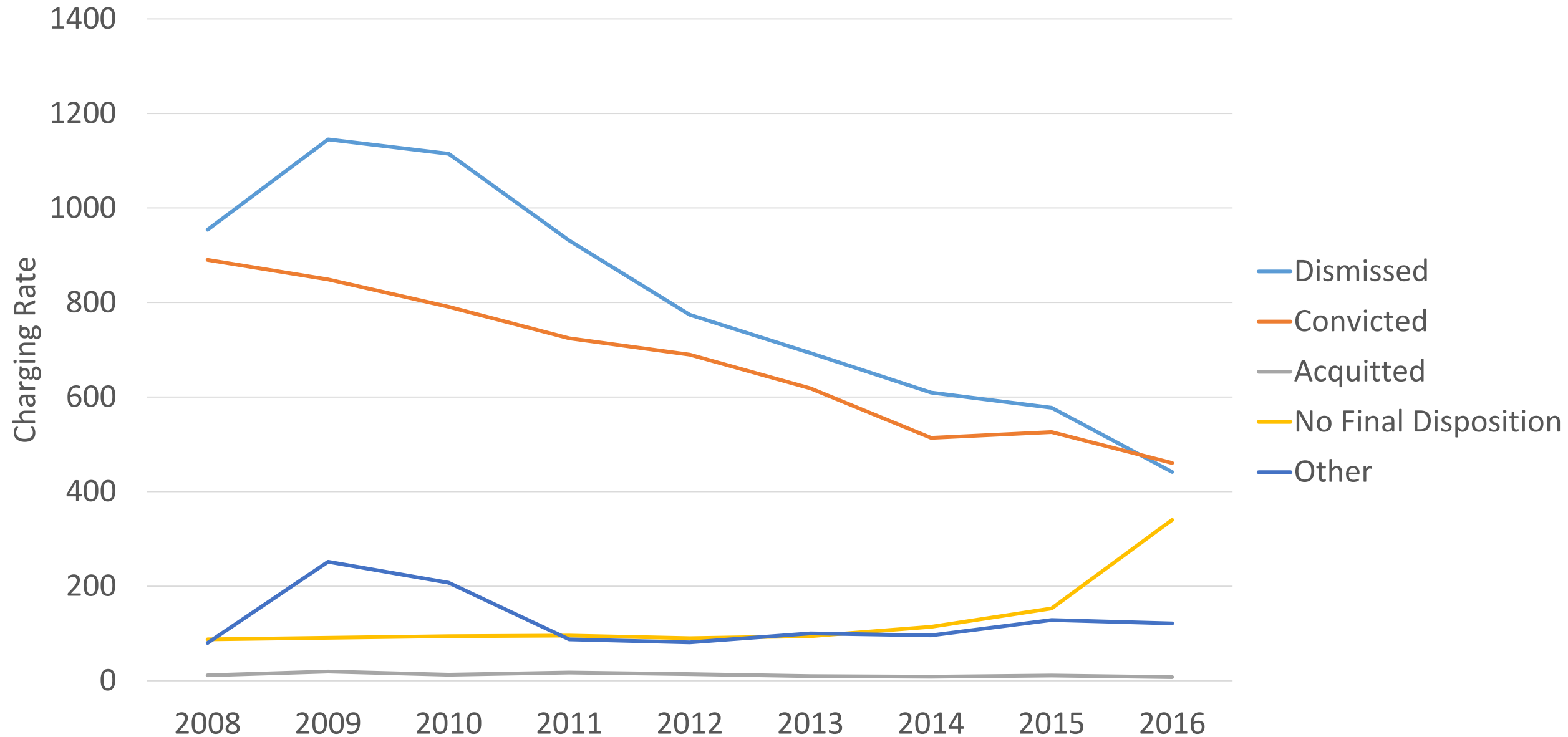
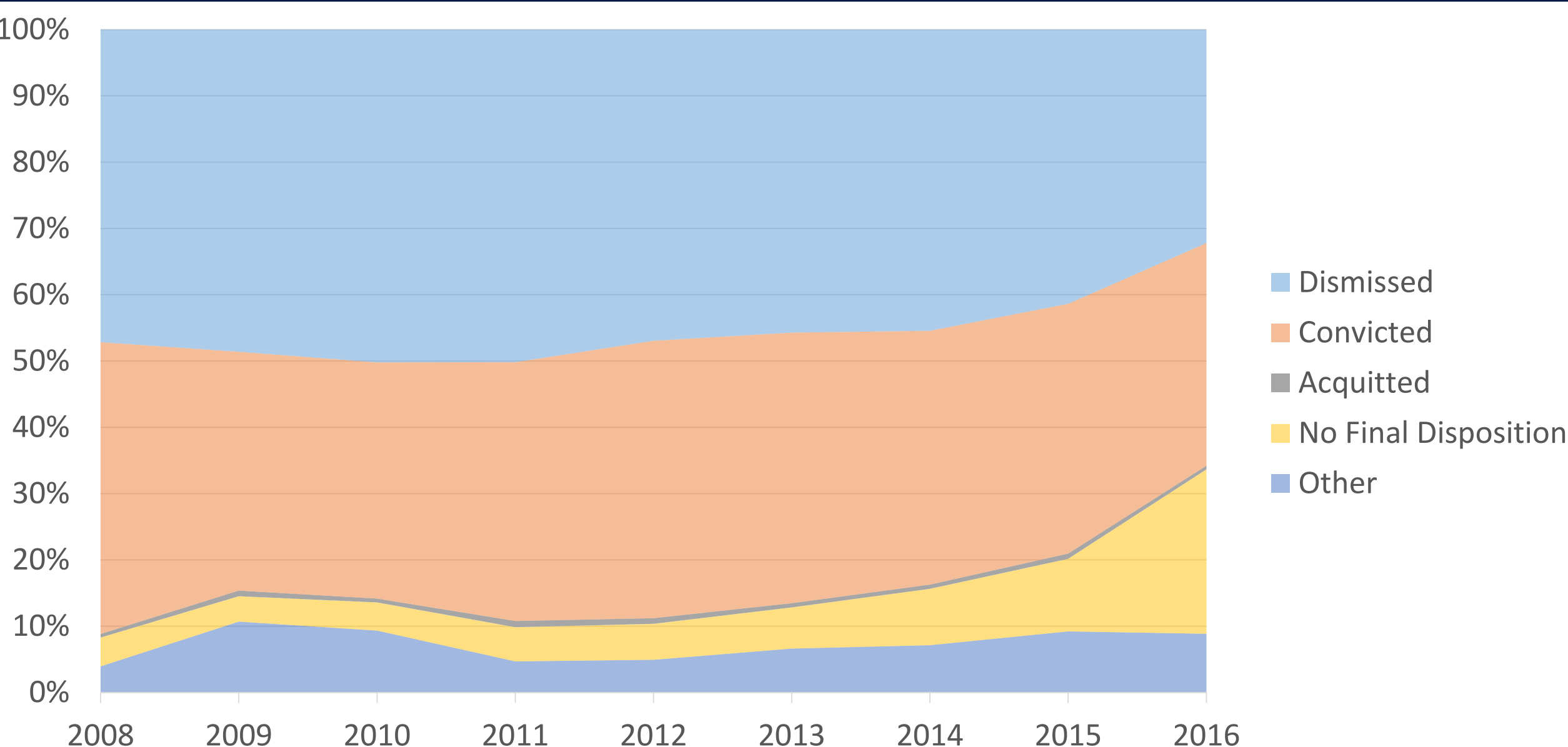


Figure 78: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Final Disposition.



Misdemeanor Results by Precinct & Micro-Community

Seattle

Precincts and Micro-Communities

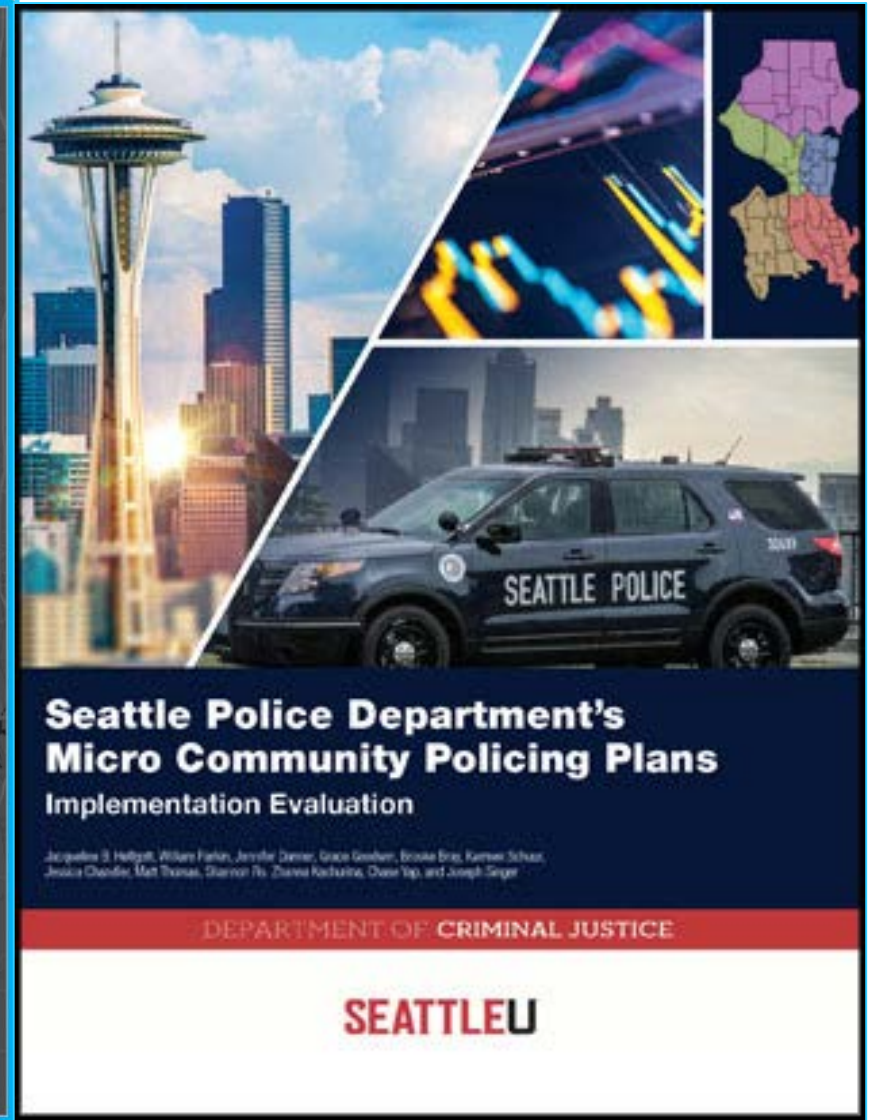
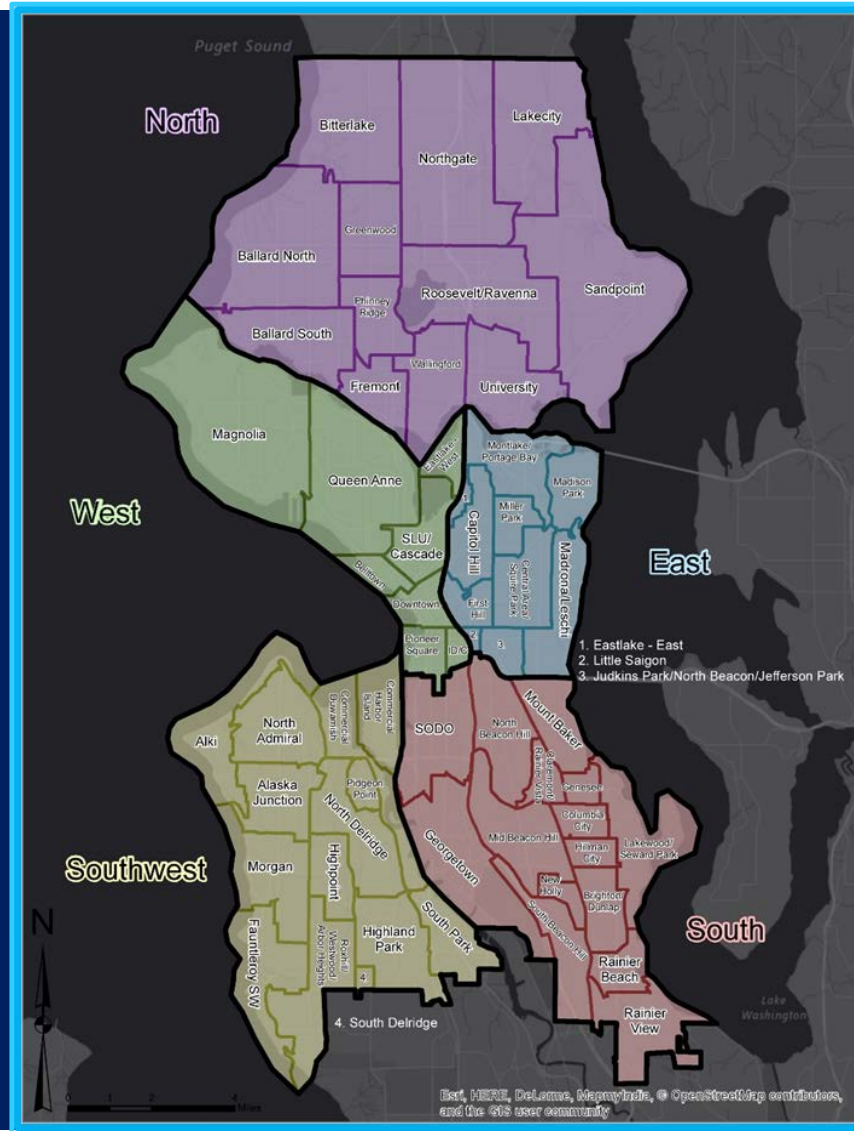


Figure 79: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Precinct of Arrest per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

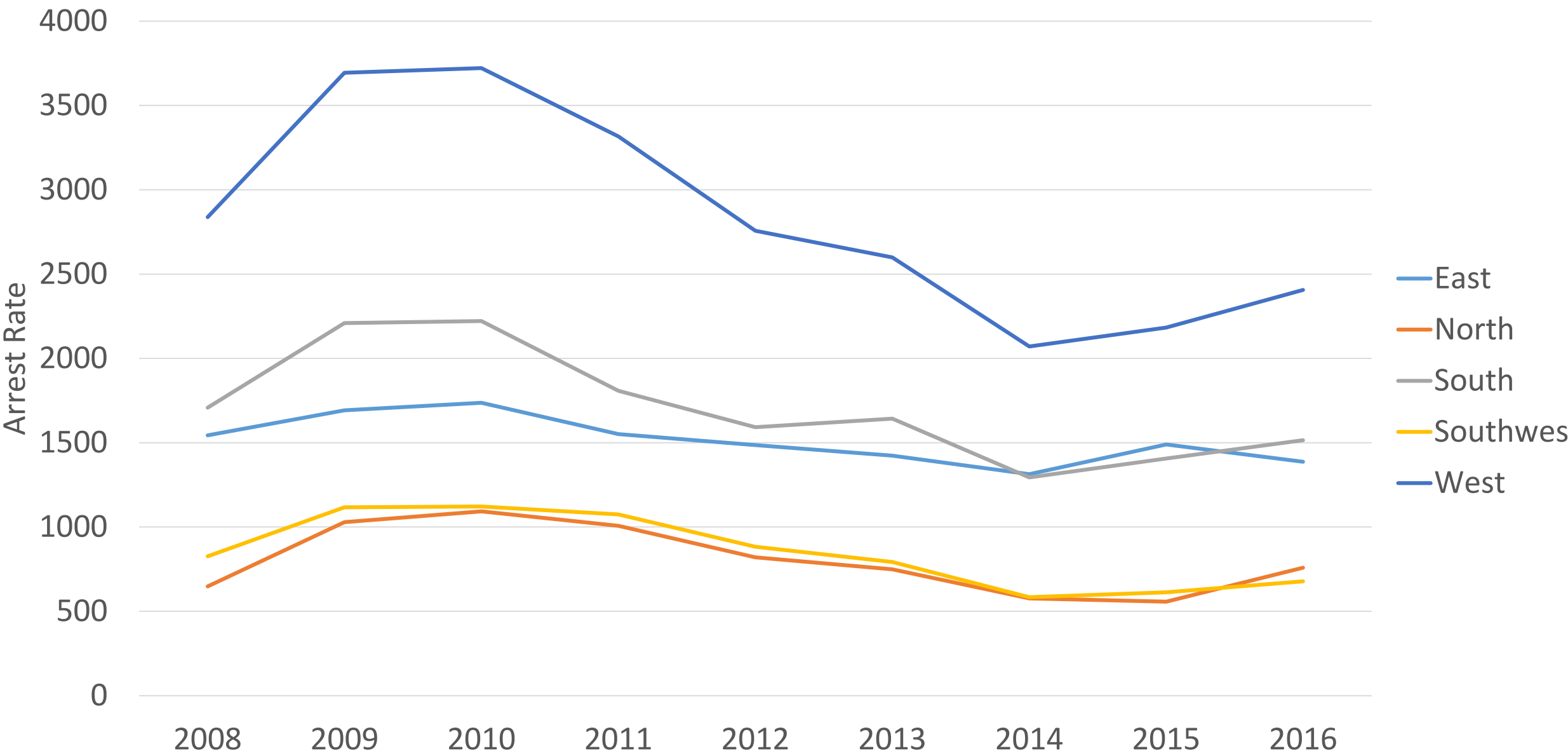


Figure 8o: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Arrests by Precinct of Arrest, 2008-2016.

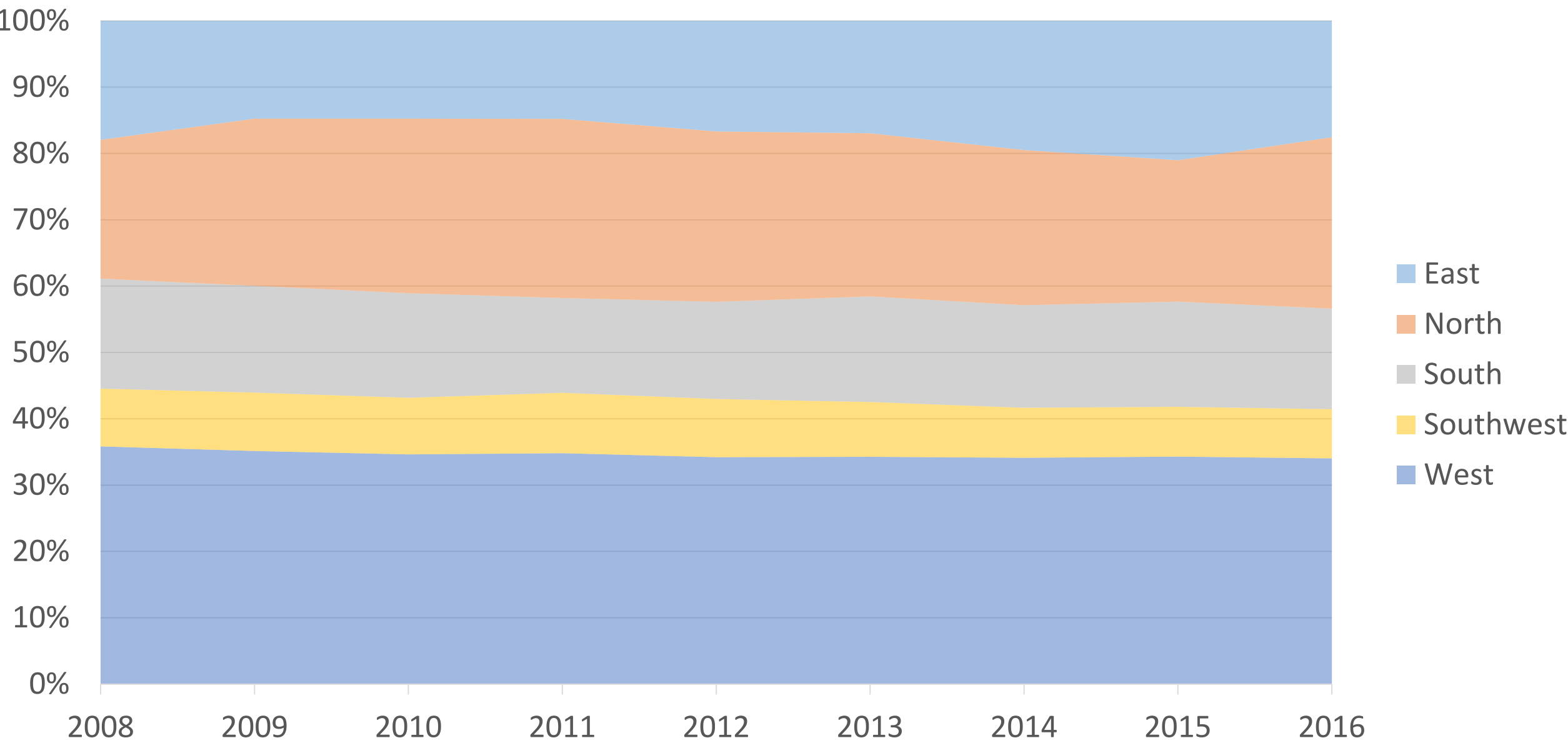


Figure 81: Seattle Police Department Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Precinct of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

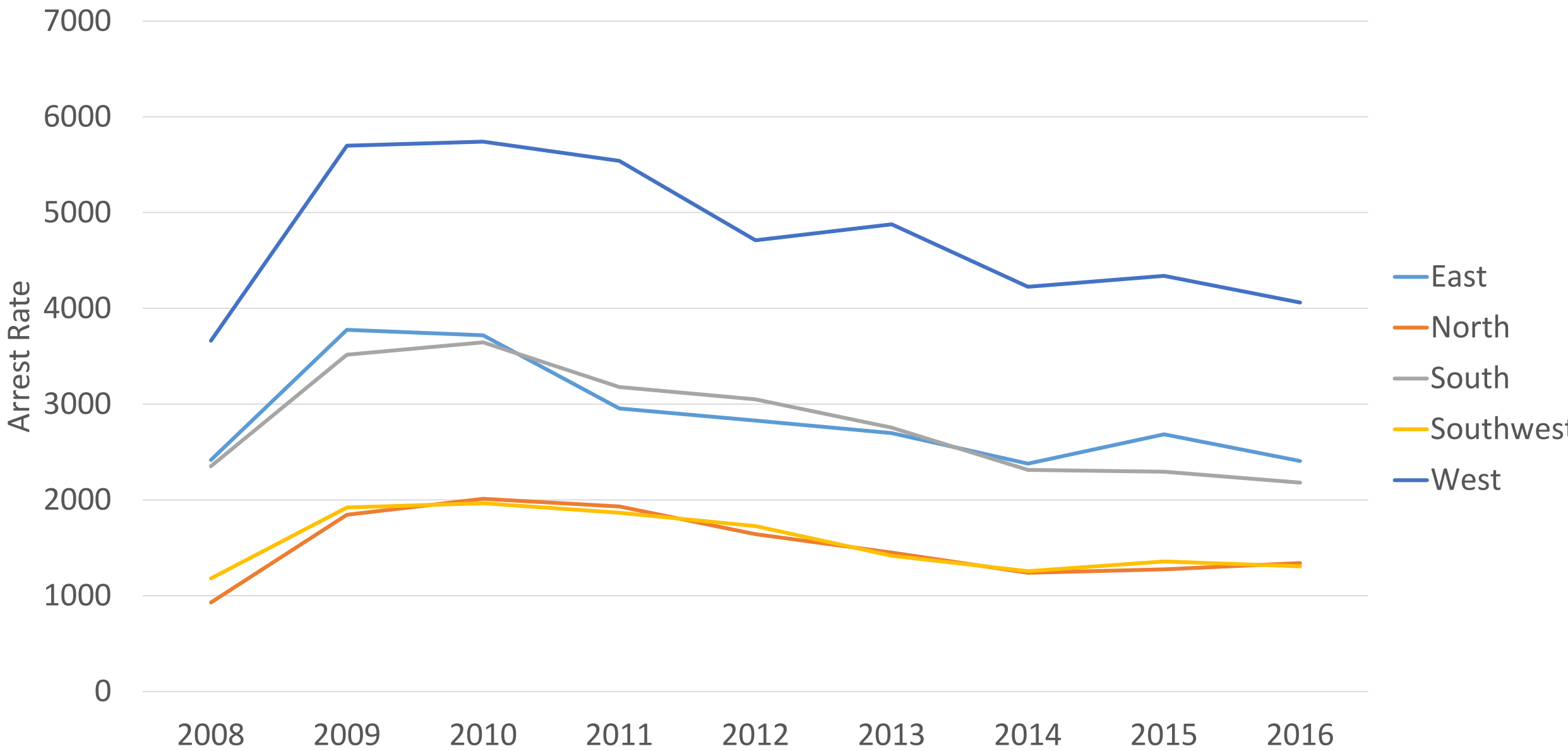


Figure 82: Percent of Total Seattle Police Department Arrests by Precinct of Offense, 2008-2016.

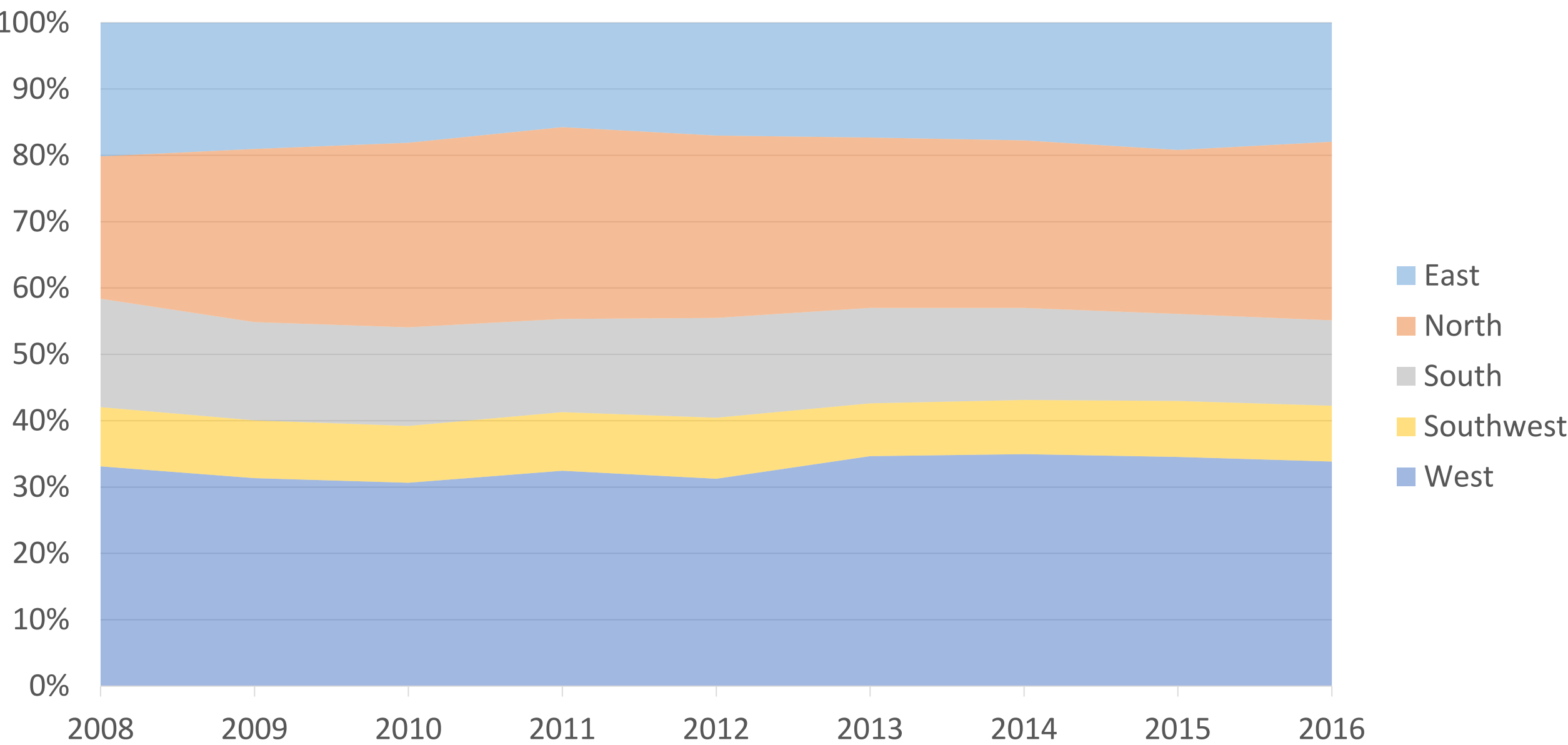


Figure 83: Rate of Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Precinct of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

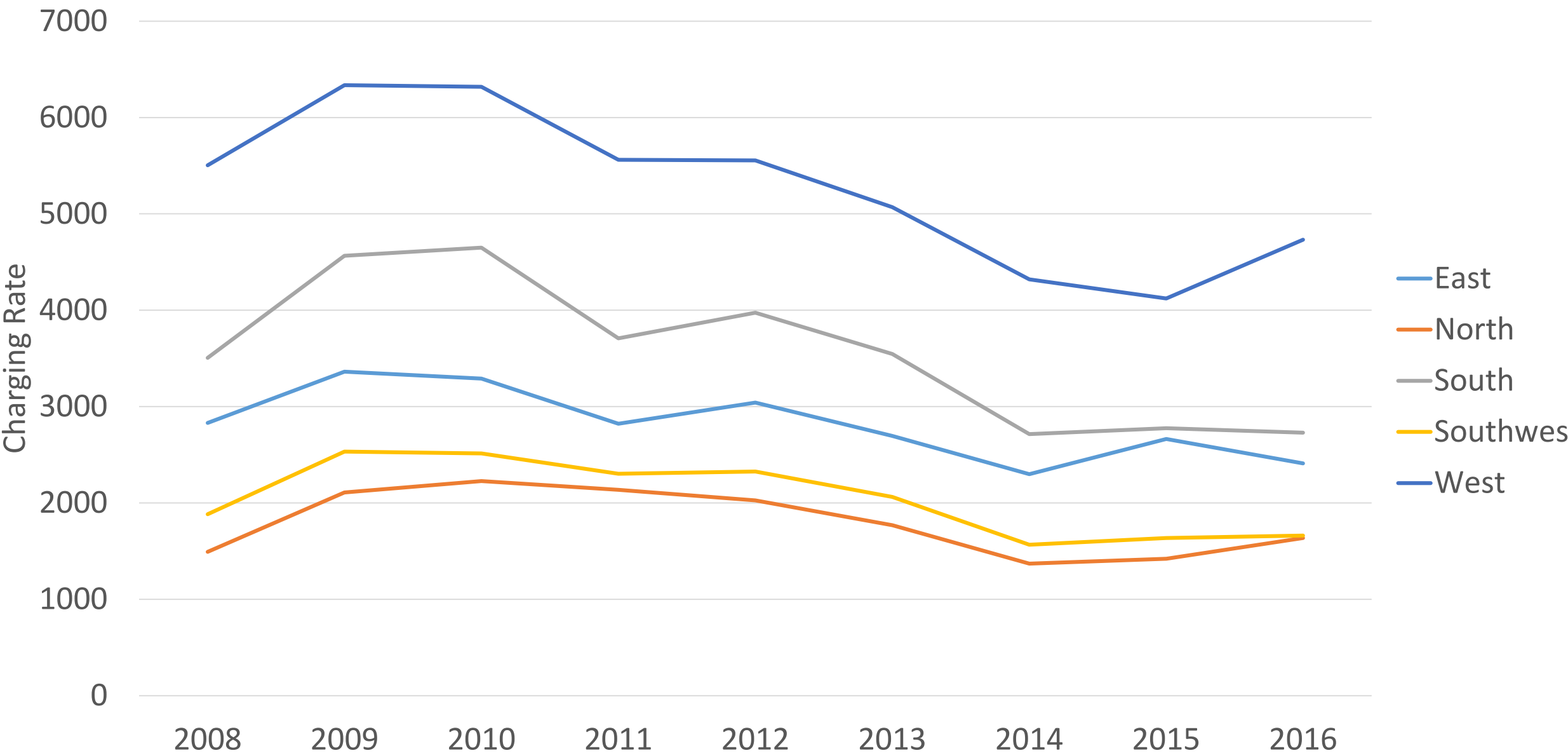


Figure 84: Percent of Total Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Precinct of Offense, 2008-2016.

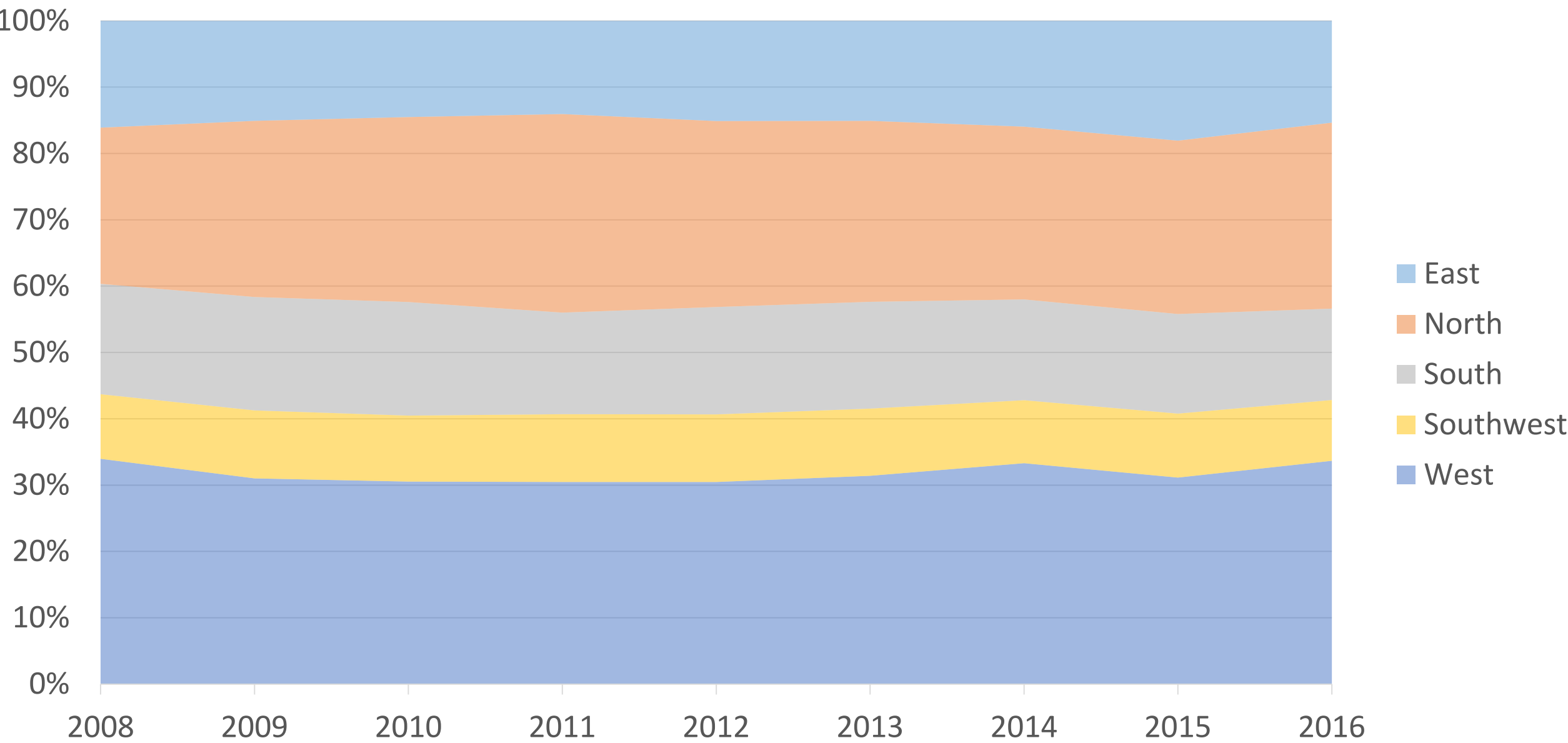


Figure 85: Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Precinct of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

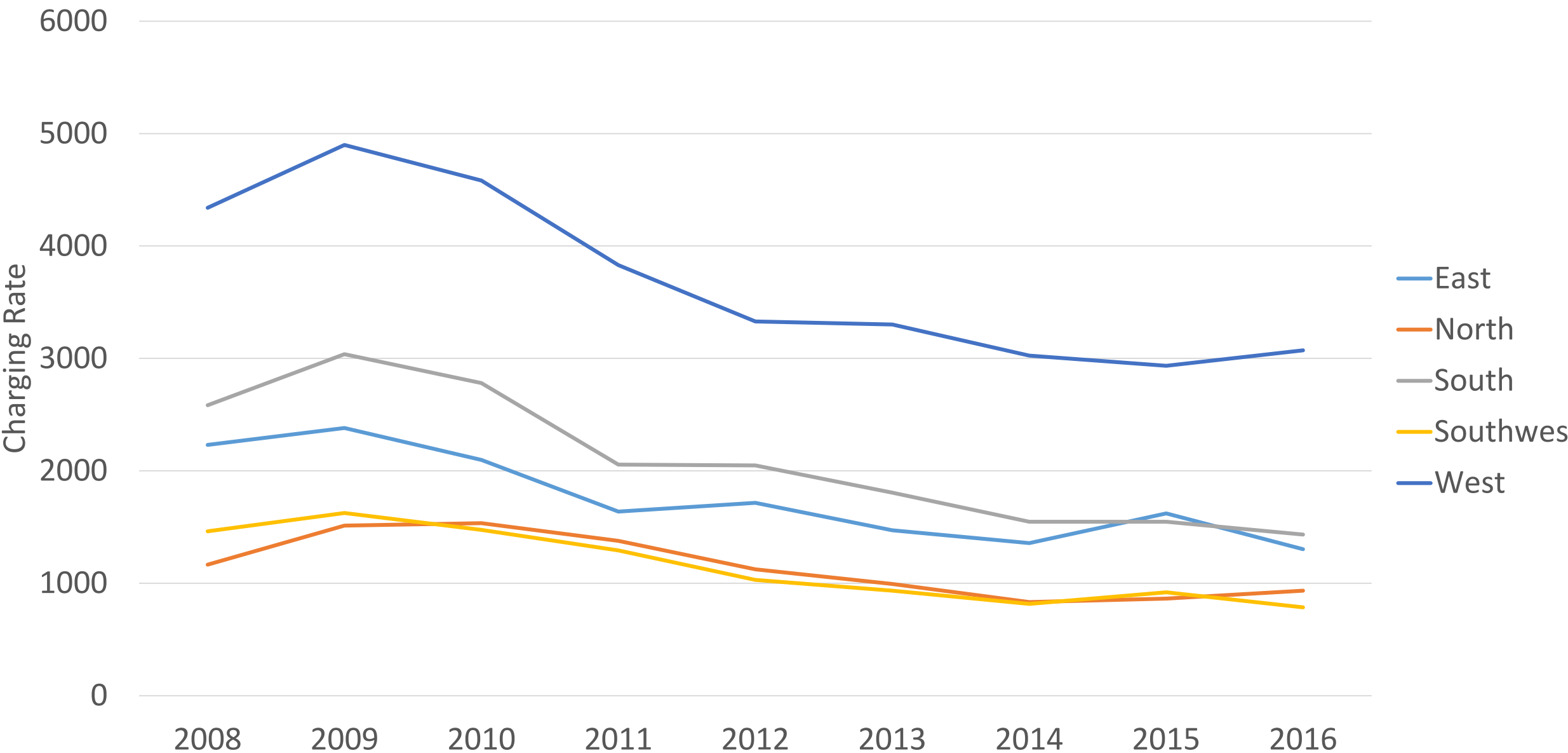


Figure 86: Percent of Total Seattle City Attorney Misdemeanor Charges by Precinct of Offense, 2008-2016.

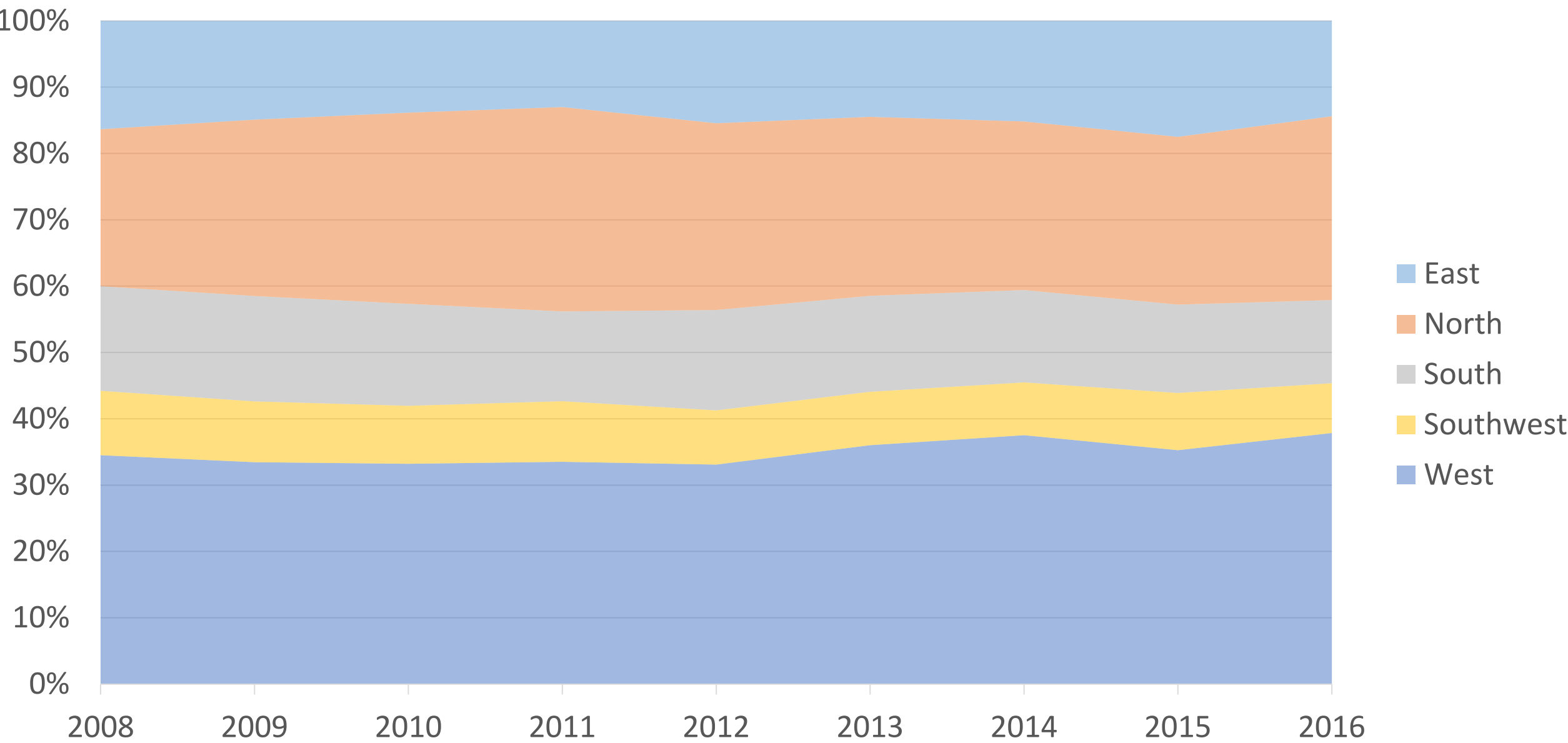
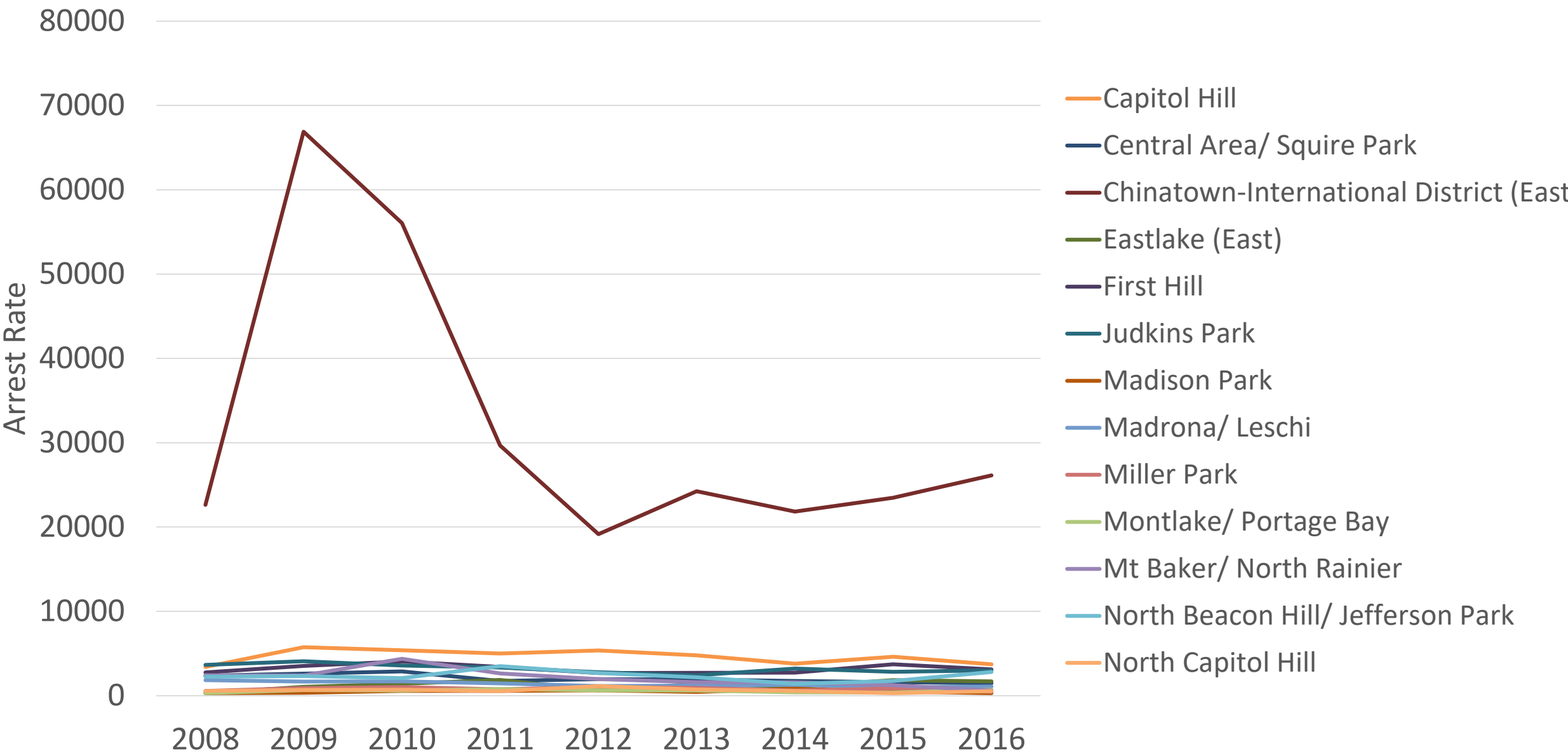


Figure 87a: Seattle Police Department East Precinct Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.



**Figure 87b: Seattle Police Department East Precinct (w/o Chinatown-International District)
Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages
18-65, 2008-2016.**

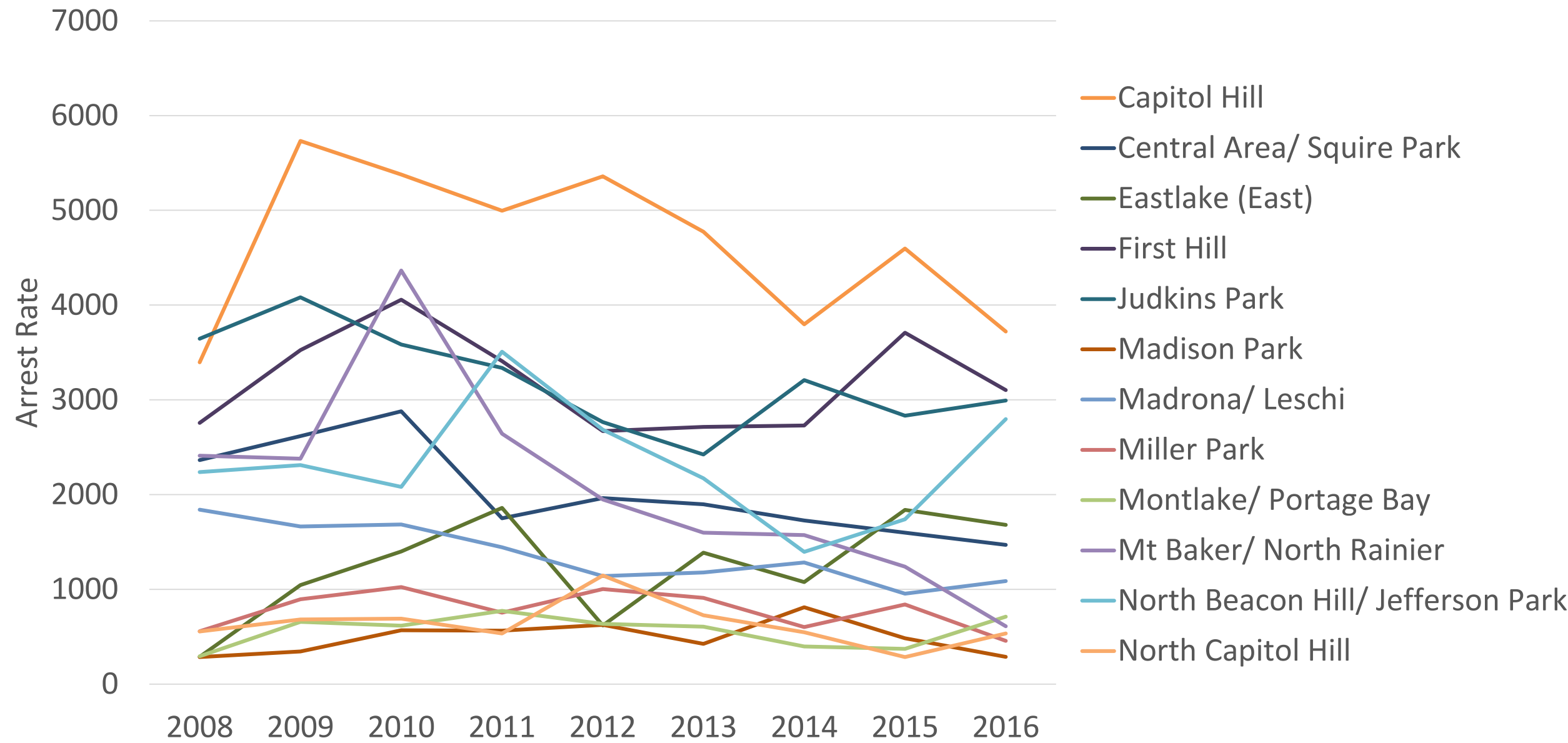


Figure 88: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests in East Precinct by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

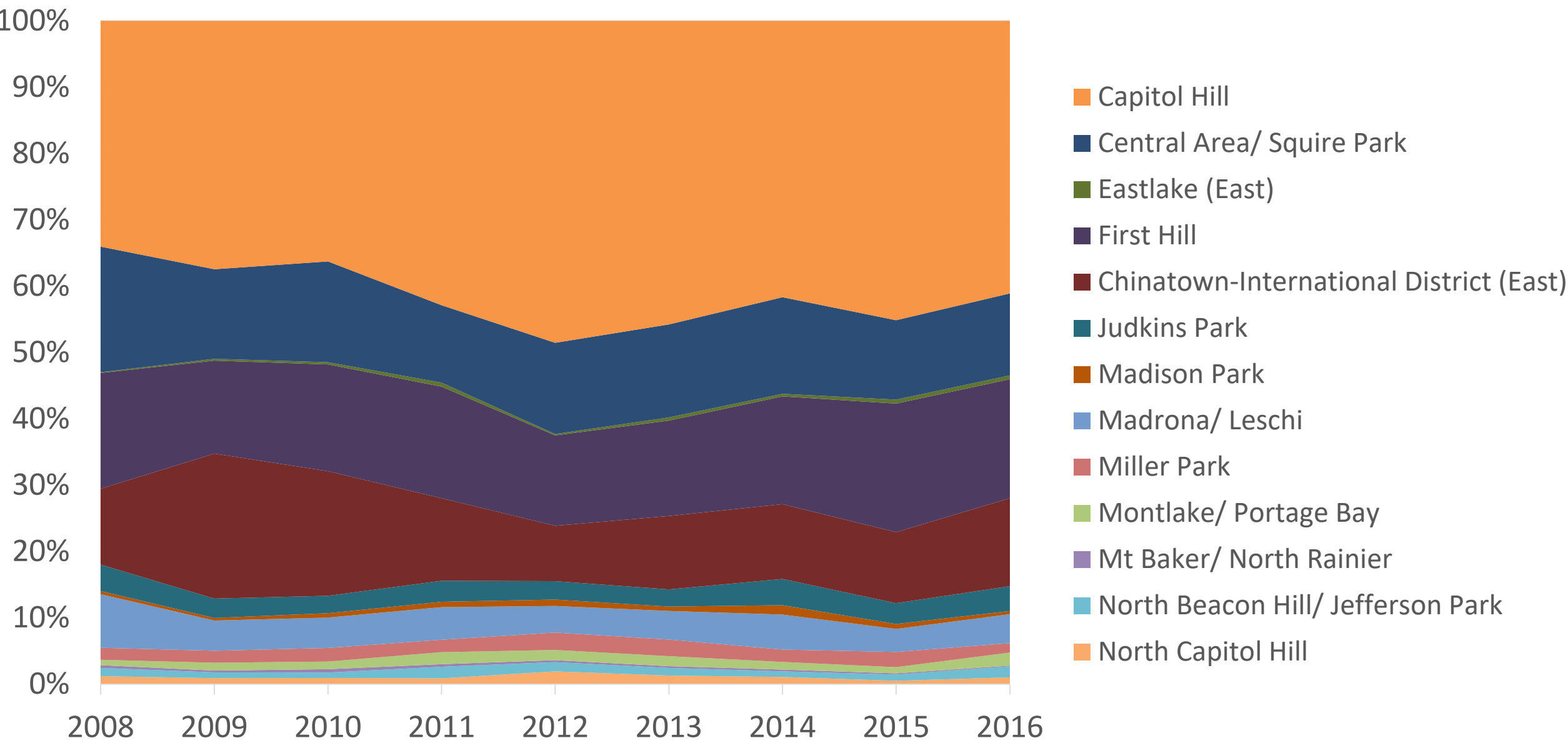


Figure 89: East Precinct Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

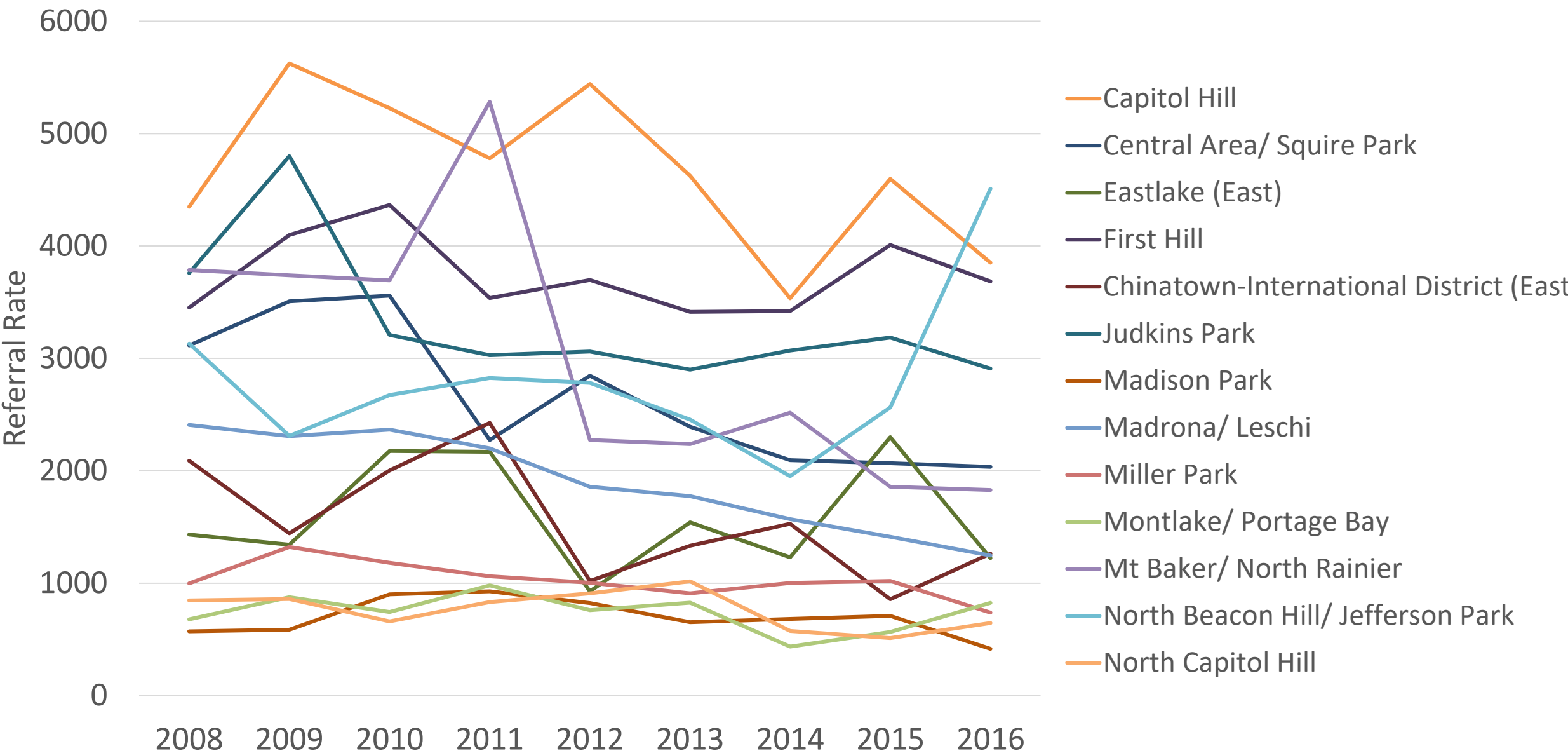


Figure 90: Percent of East Precinct Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

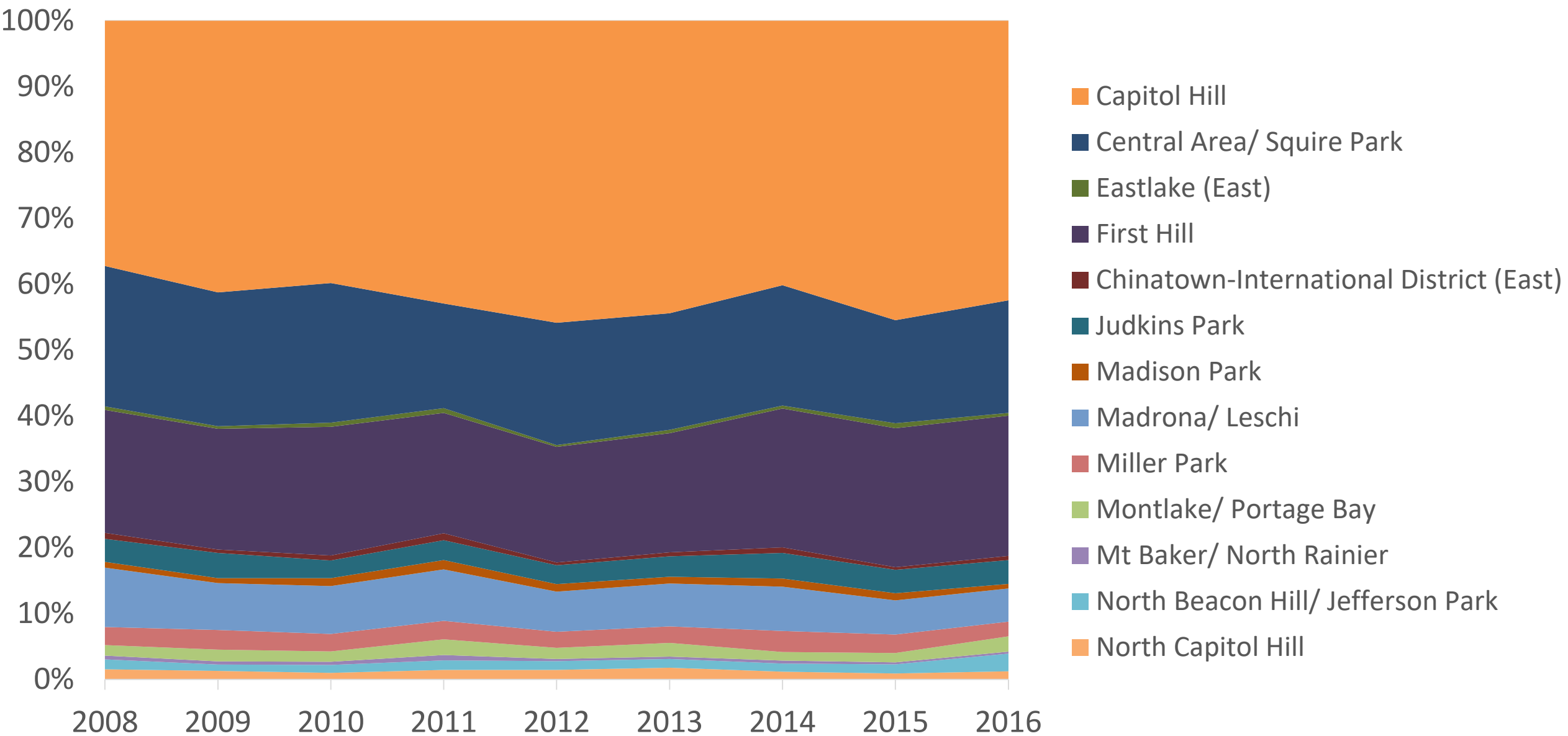


Figure 91: Seattle City Attorney East Precinct Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

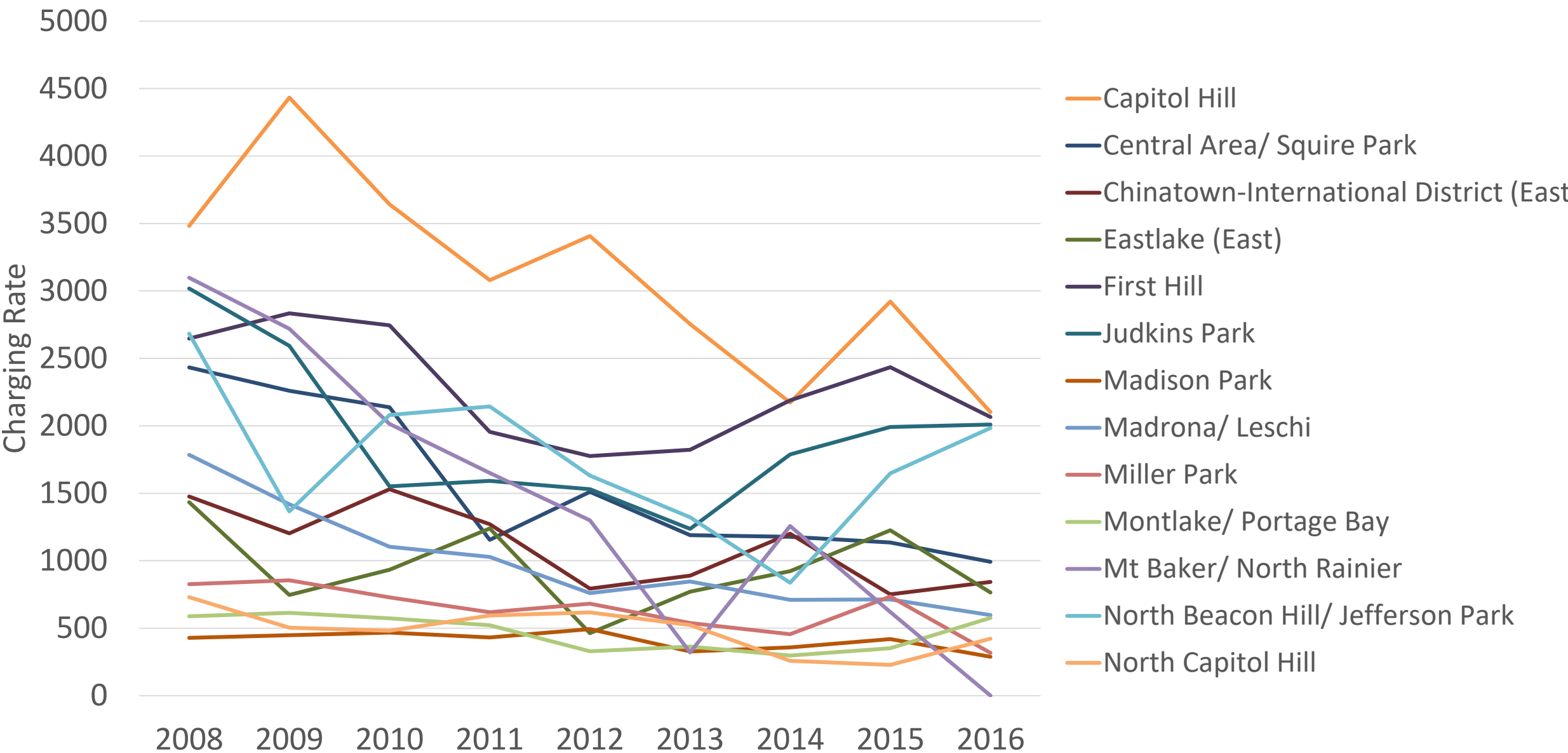


Figure 92: Percent of Seattle City Attorney East Precinct Misdemeanor Charges by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

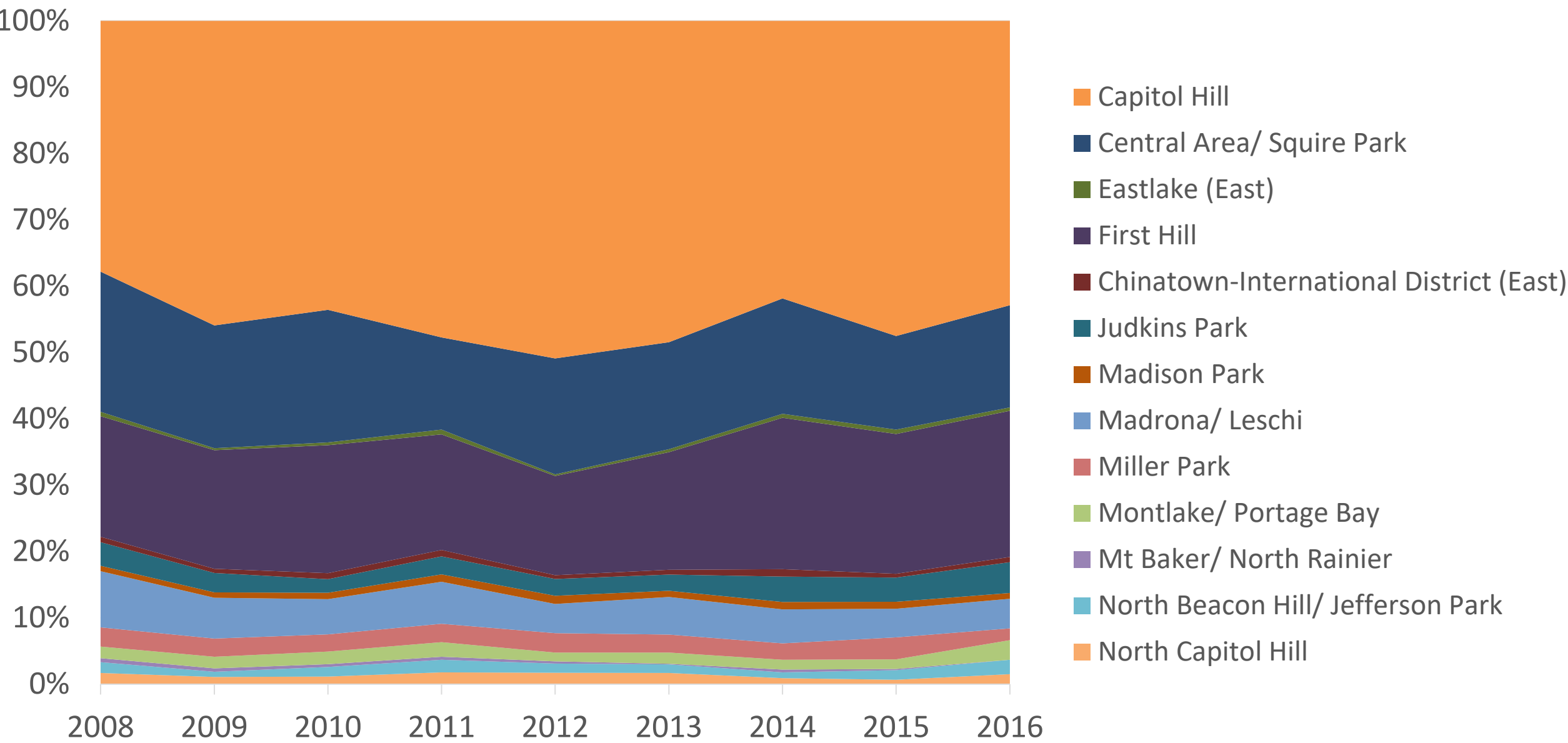


Figure 93: Seattle Police Department North Precinct Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

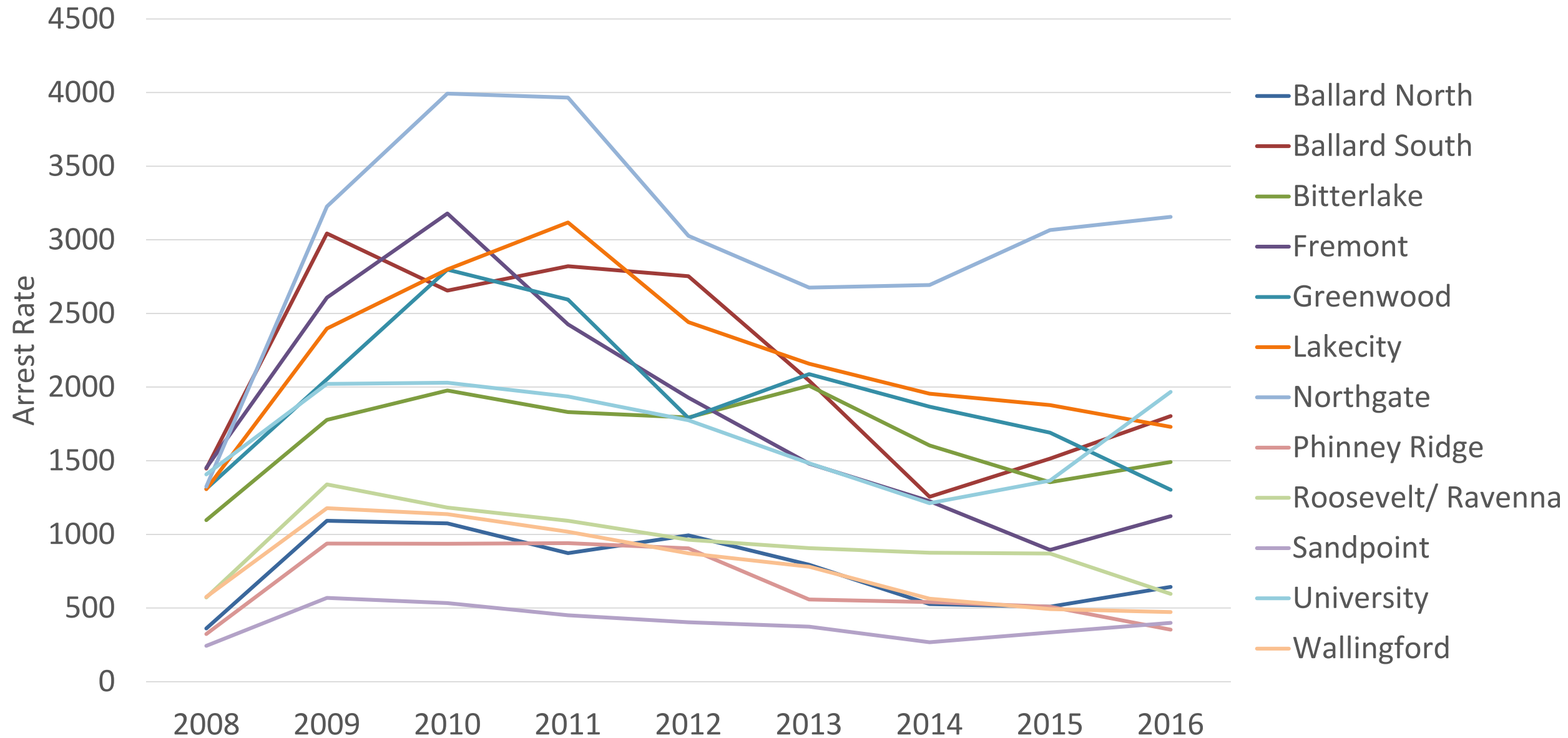


Figure 94: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests in North Precinct by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

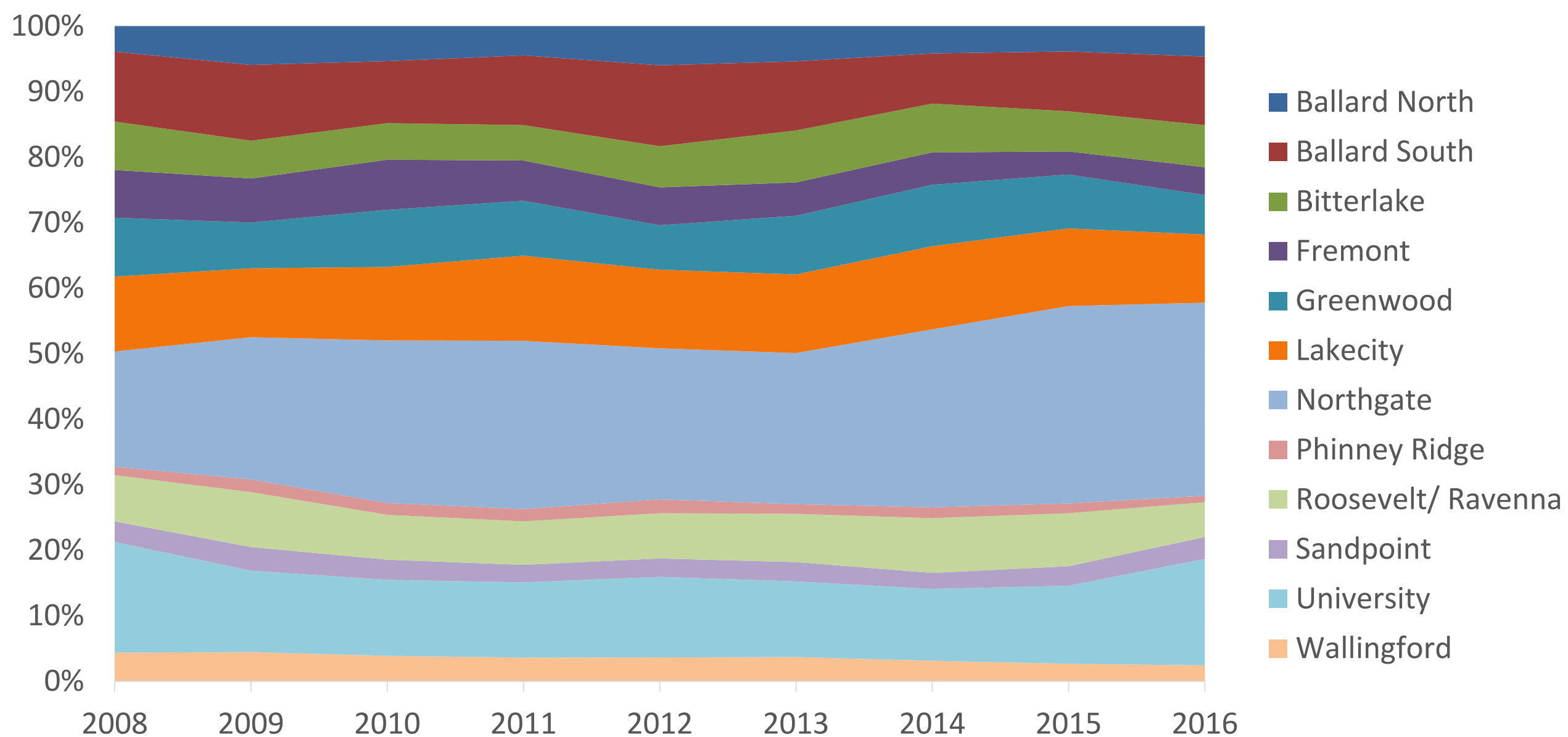


Figure 95: North Precinct Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

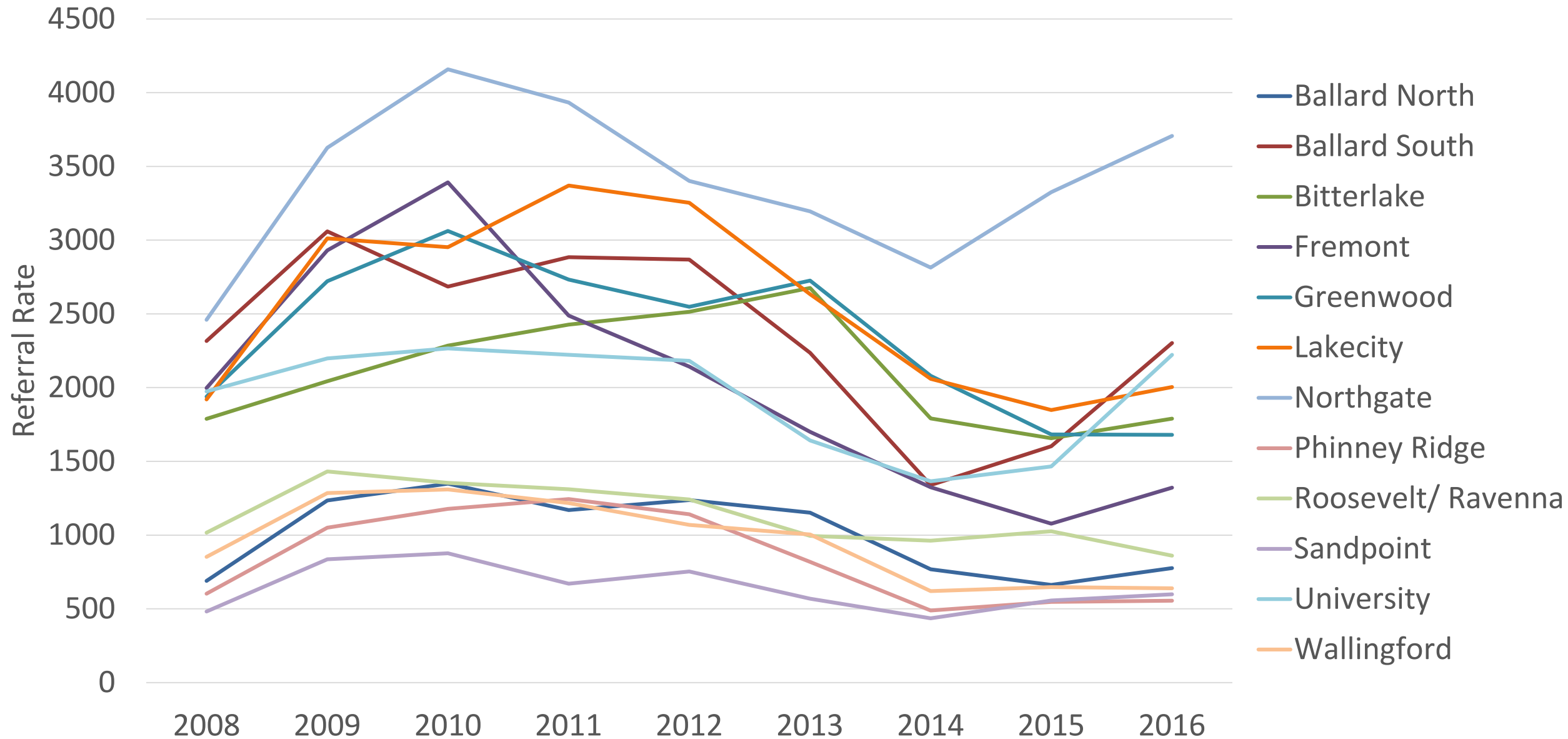


Figure 96: Percent of North Precinct Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

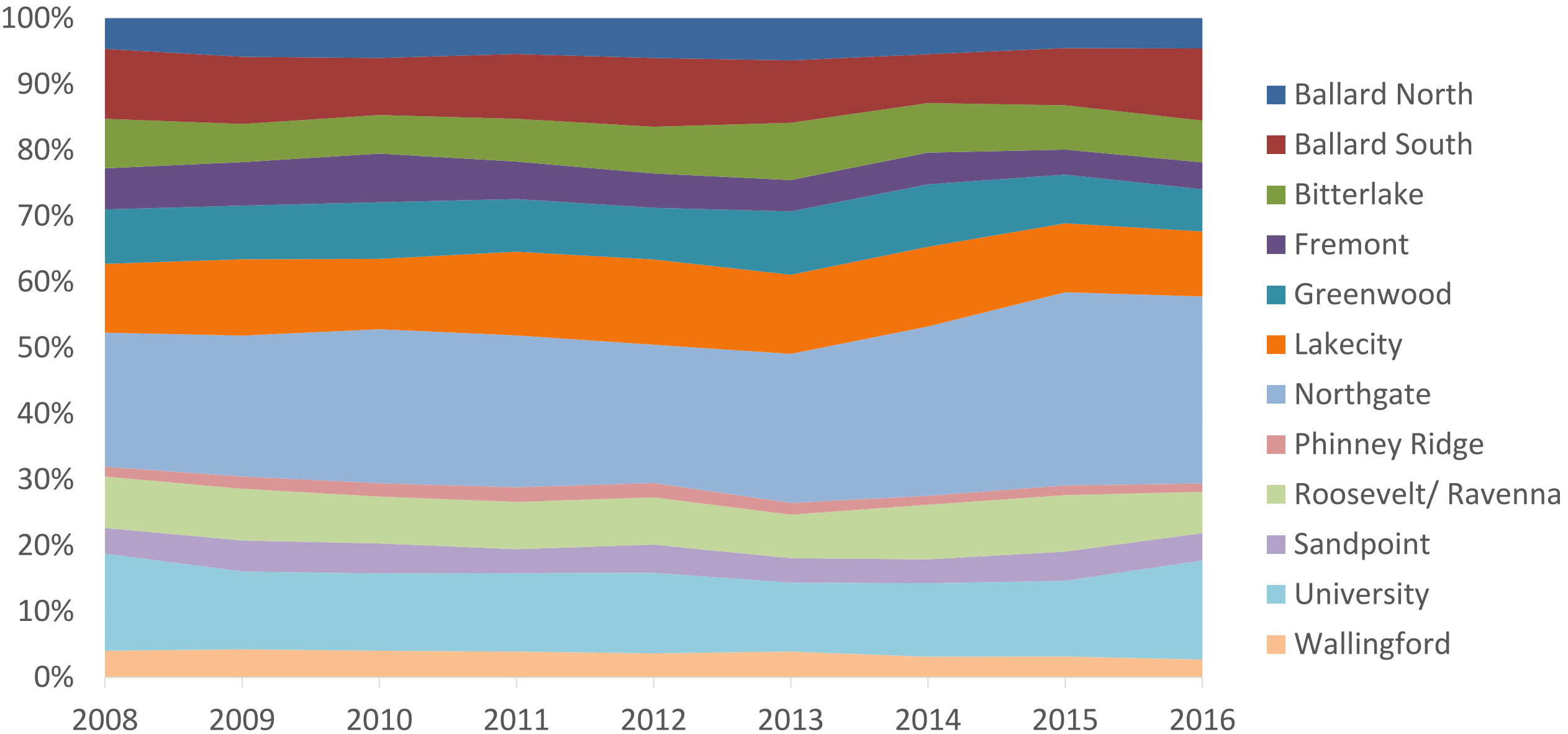


Figure 97: Seattle City Attorney North Precinct Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

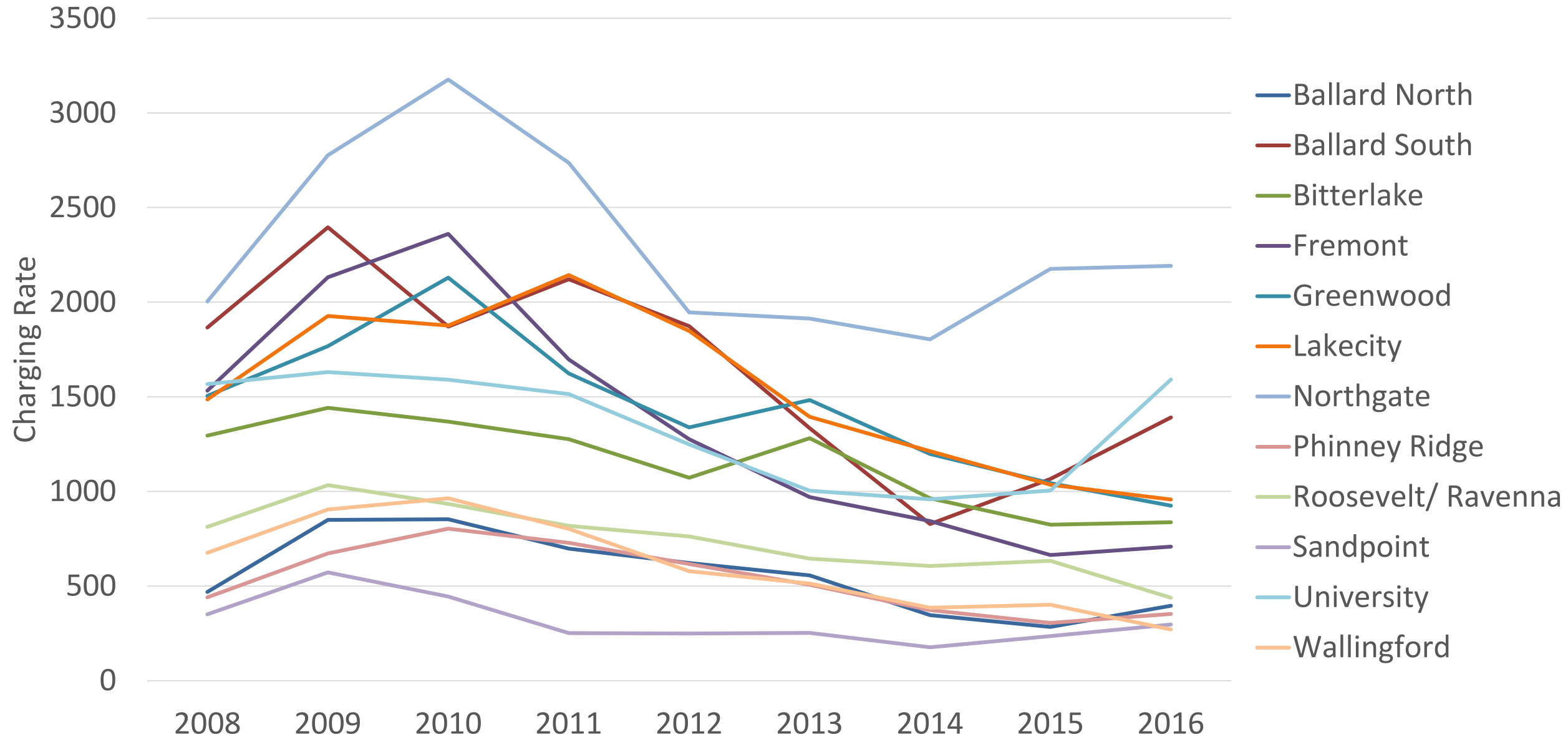


Figure 98: Percent of Seattle City Attorney North Precinct Misdemeanor Charges by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

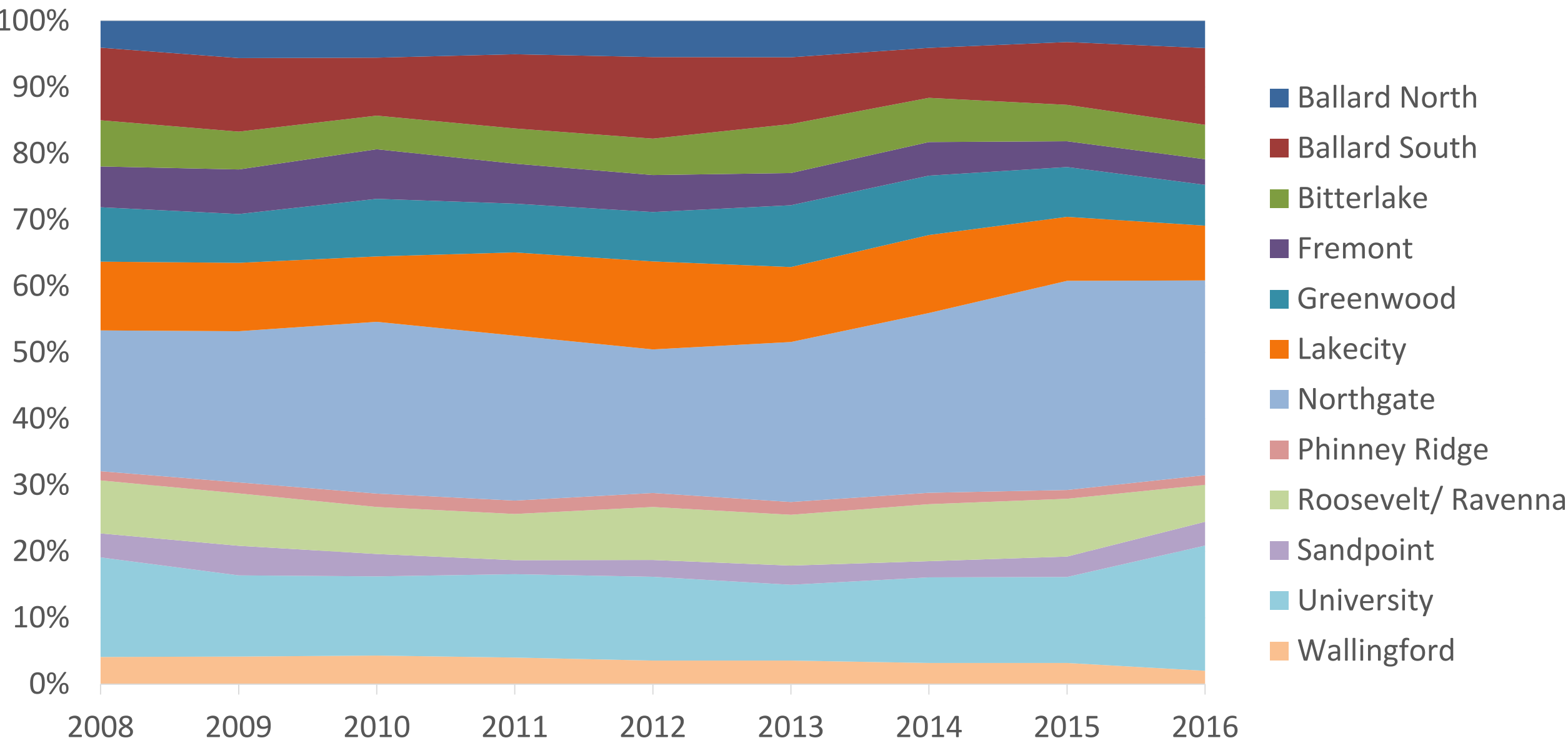


Figure 99: Seattle Police Department South Precinct Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

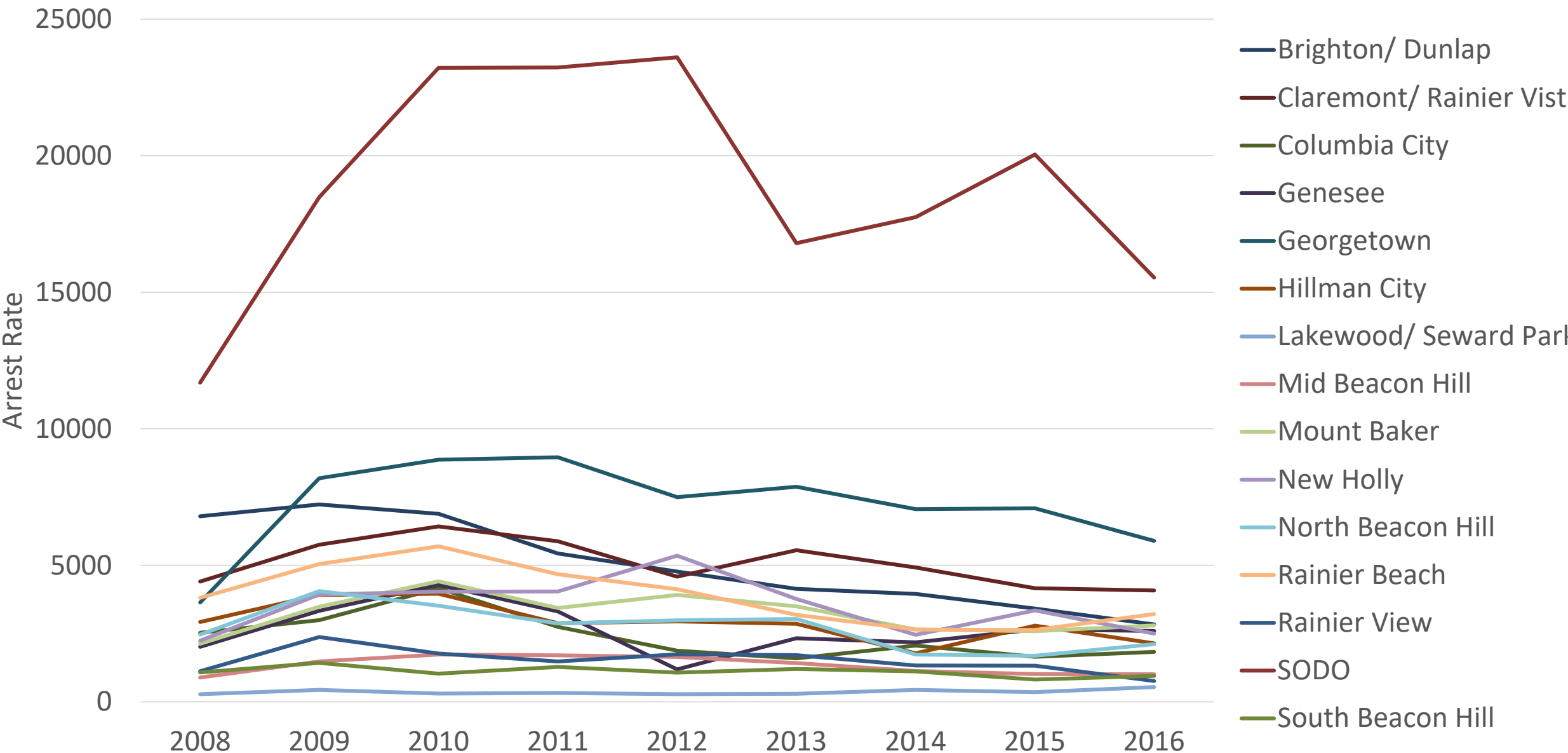


Figure 100: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests in South Precinct by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

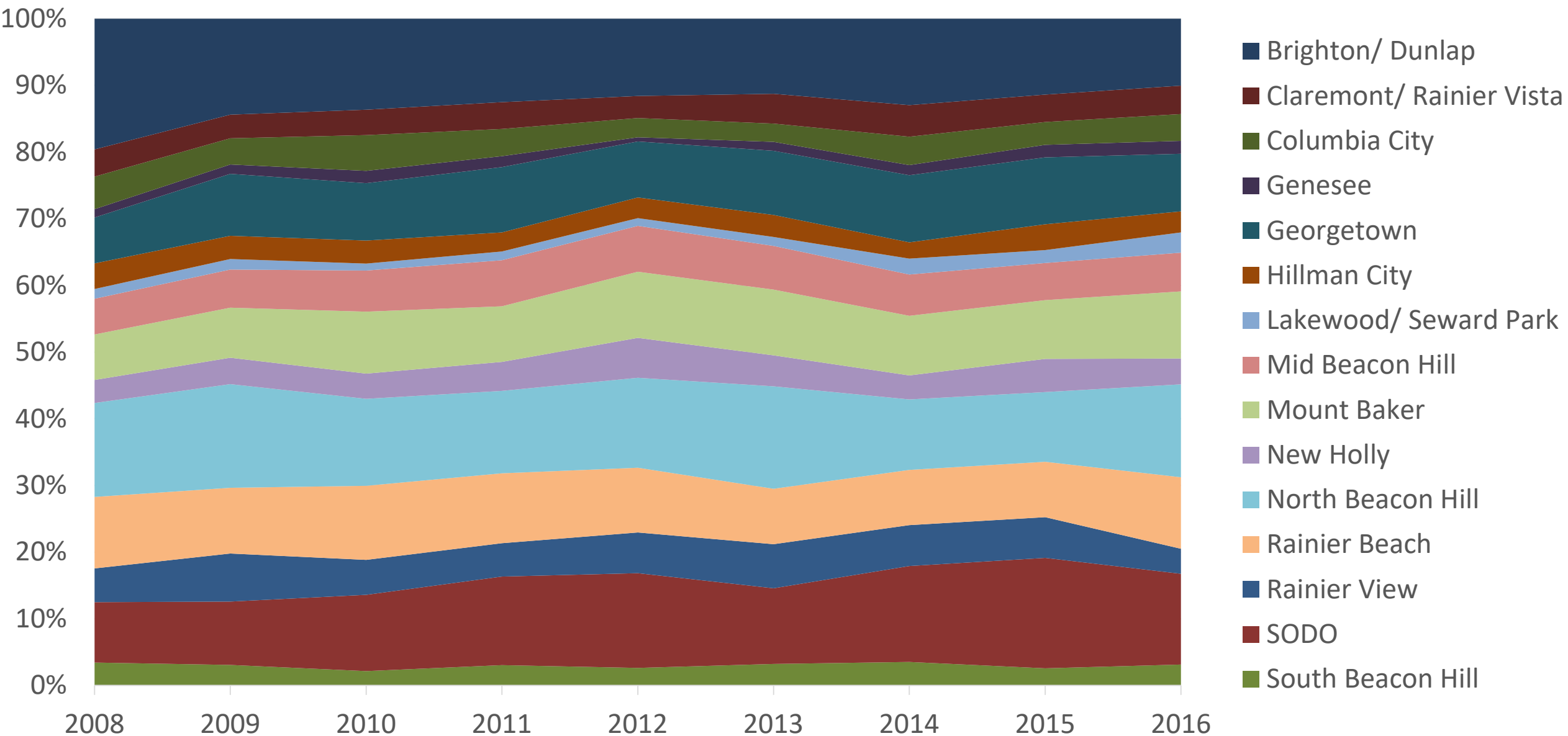


Figure 101: South Precinct Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

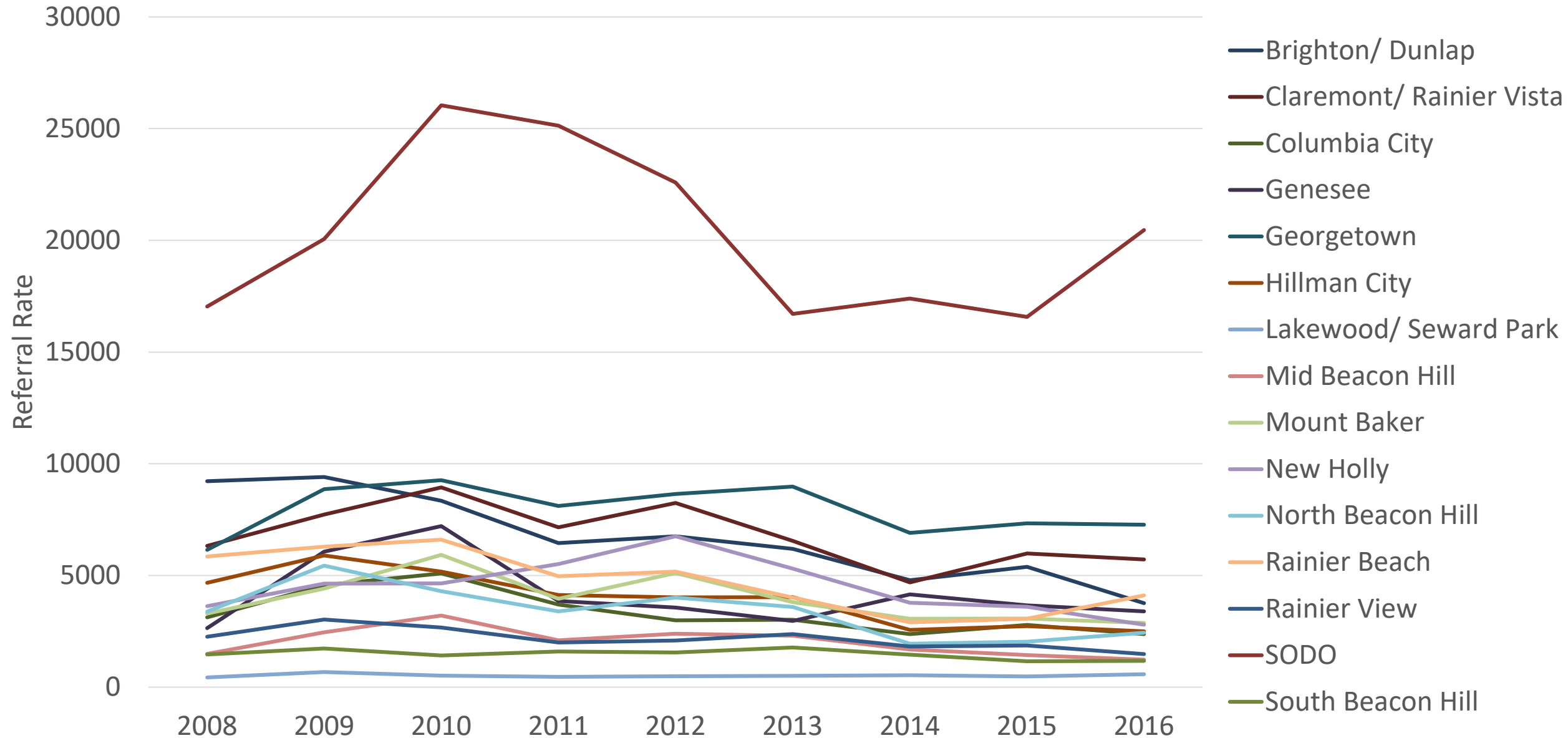


Figure 102: Percent of South Precinct Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

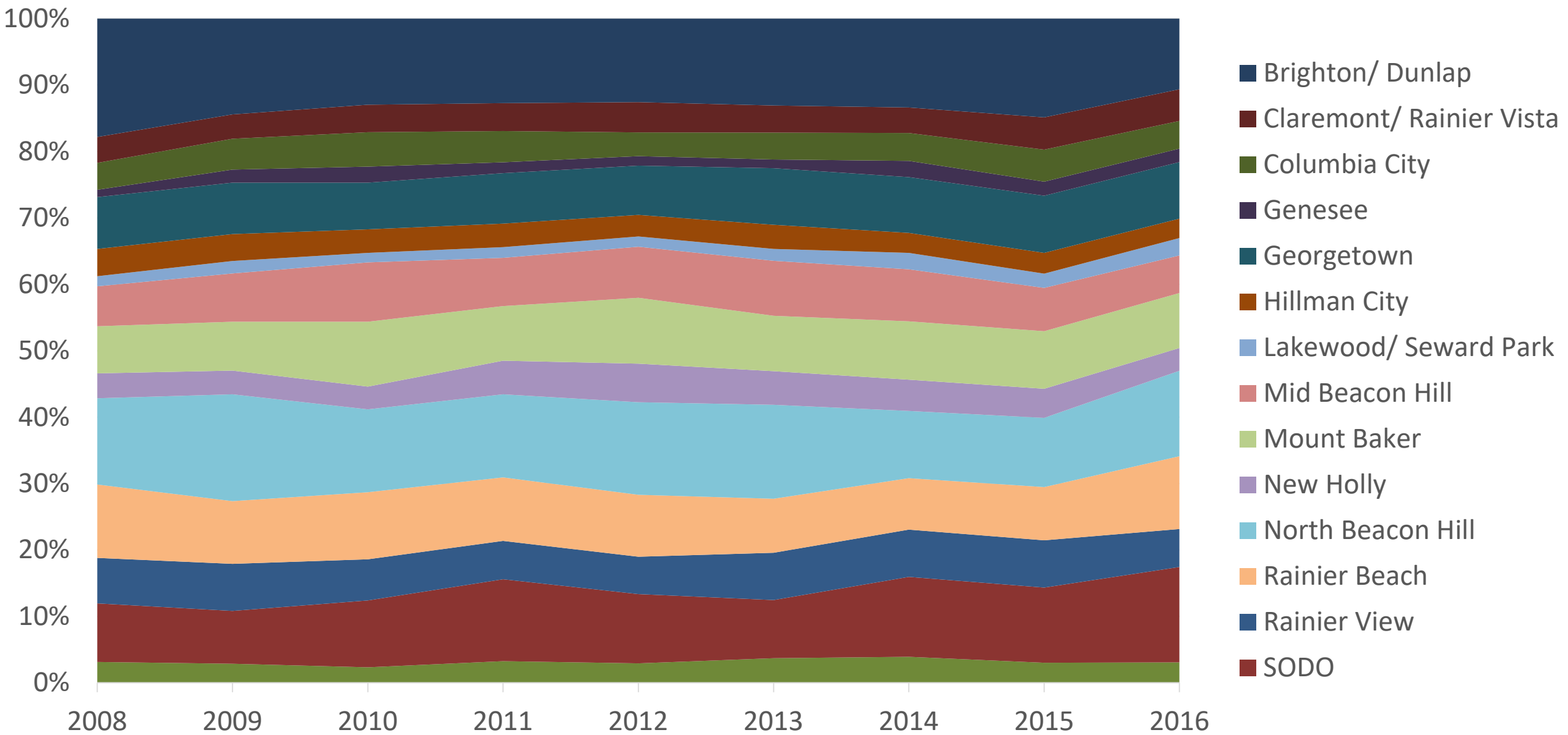


Figure 103: Seattle City Attorney South Precinct Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

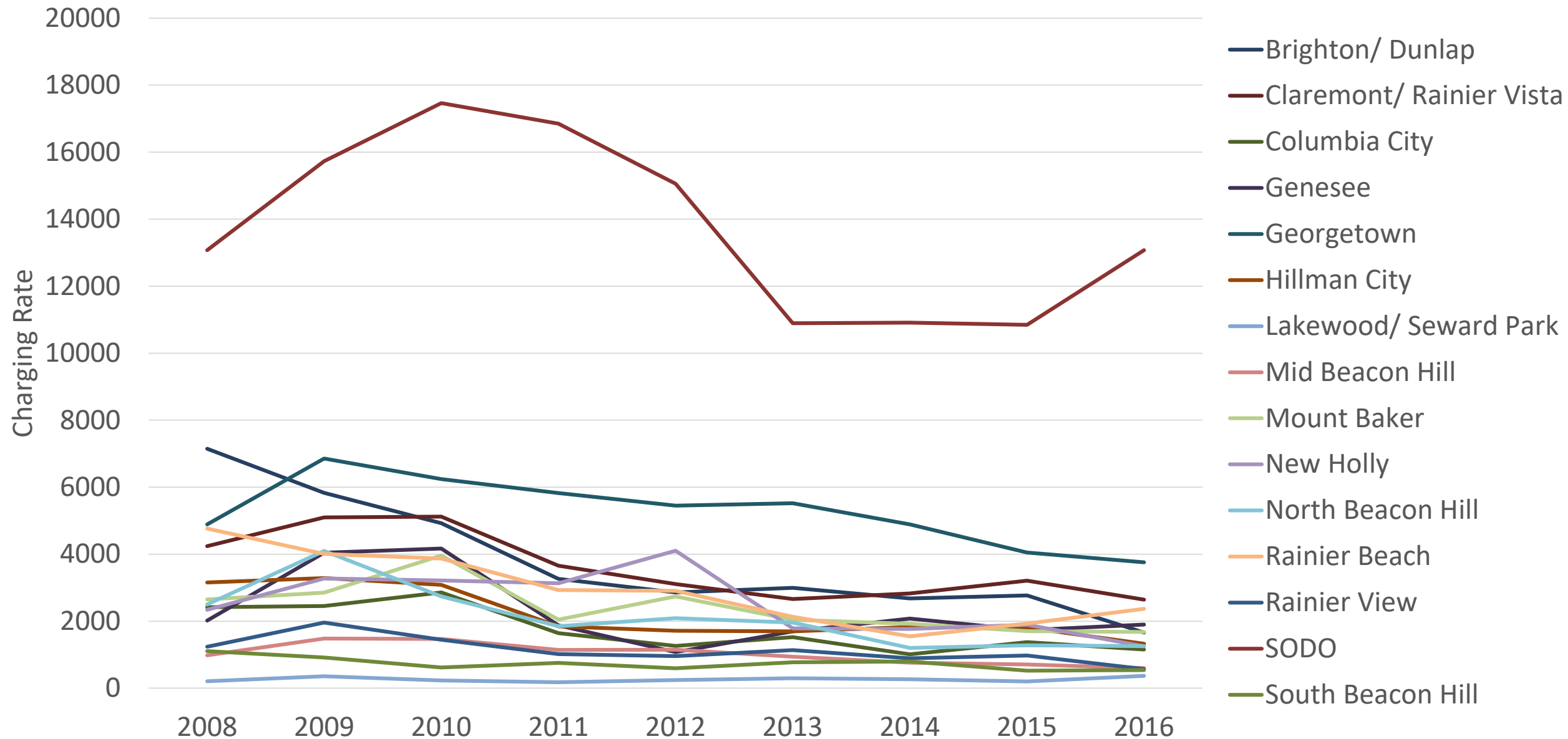


Figure 104: Percent of Seattle City Attorney South Precinct Misdemeanor Charges by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

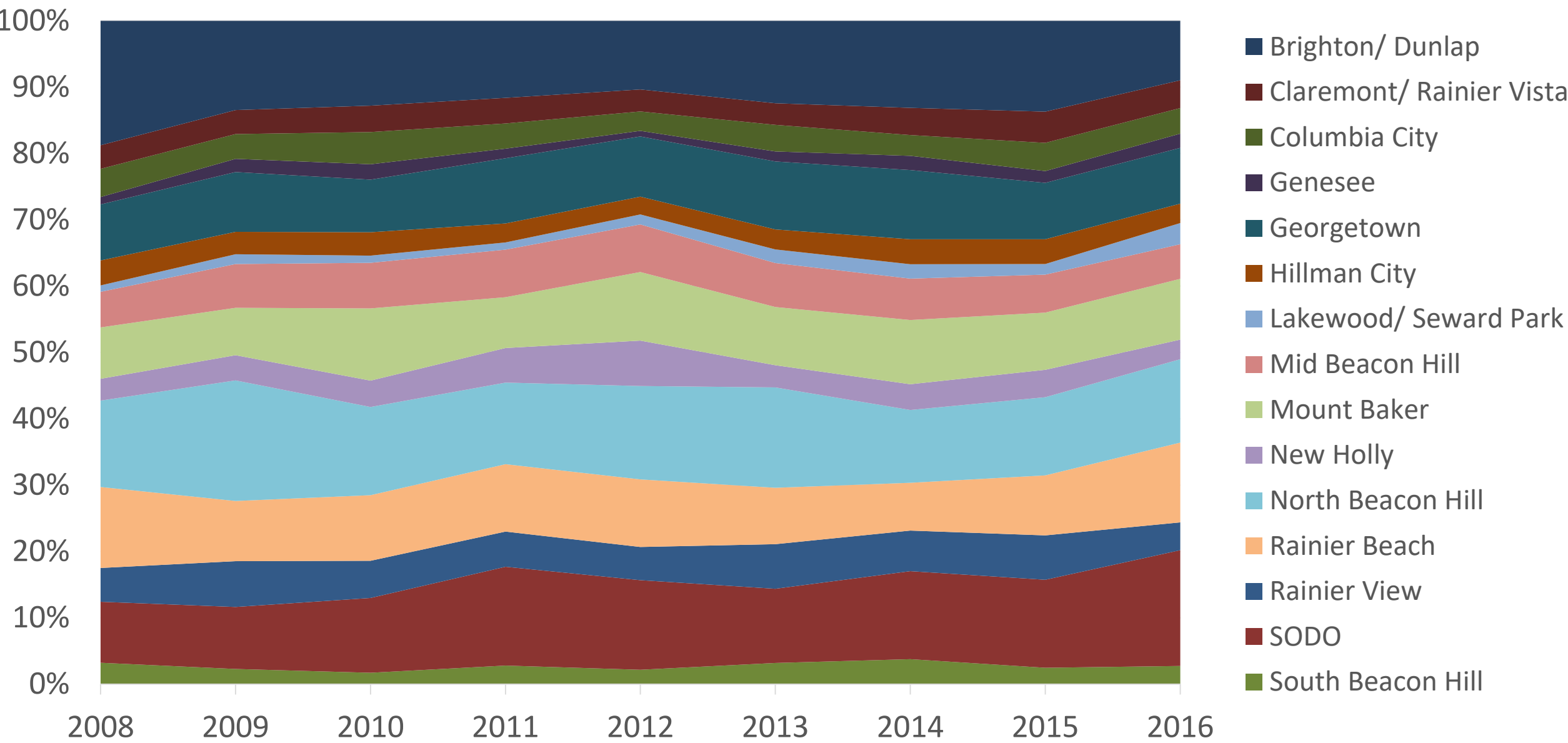


Figure 105: Seattle Police Department Southwest Precinct Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

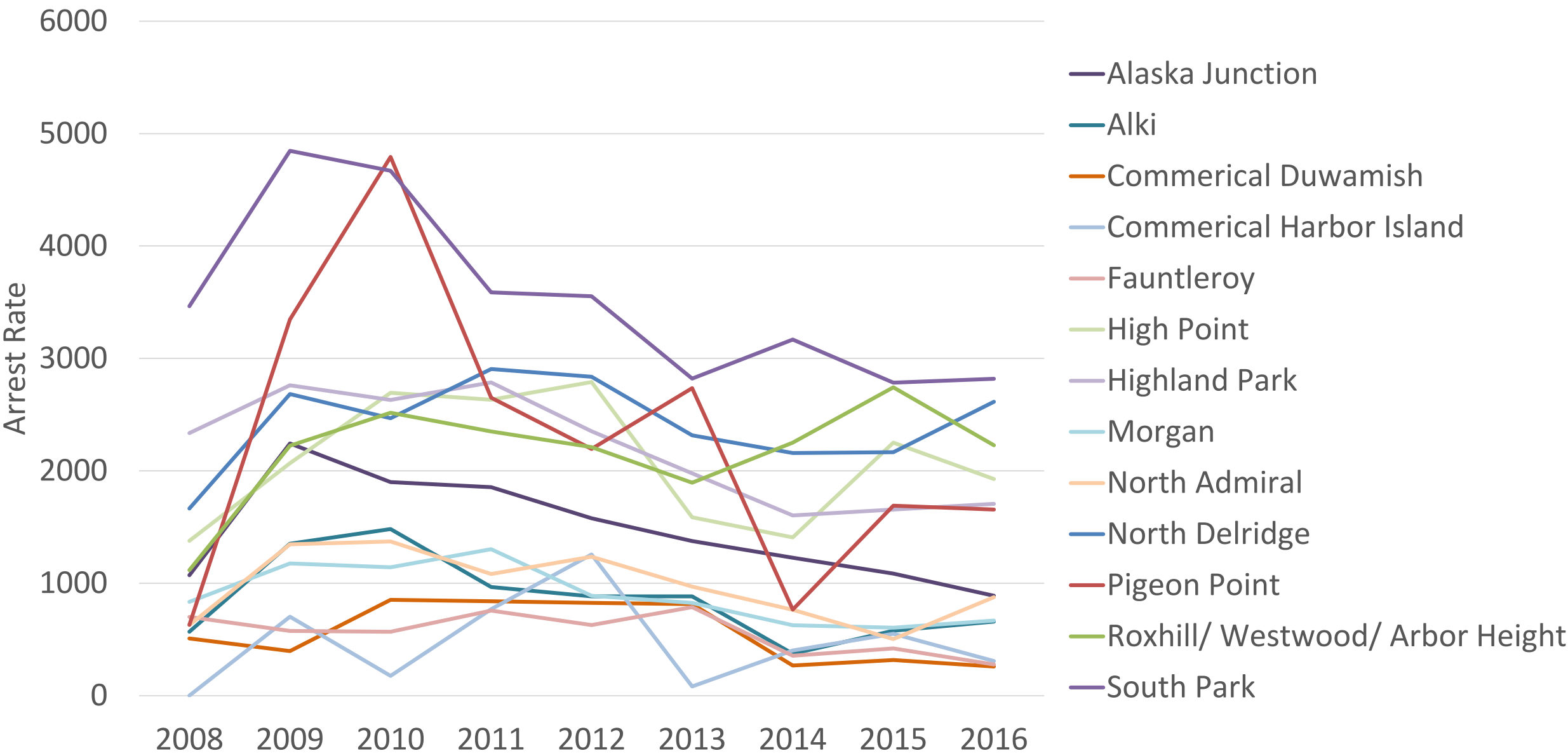


Figure 106: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests in Southwest Precinct by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

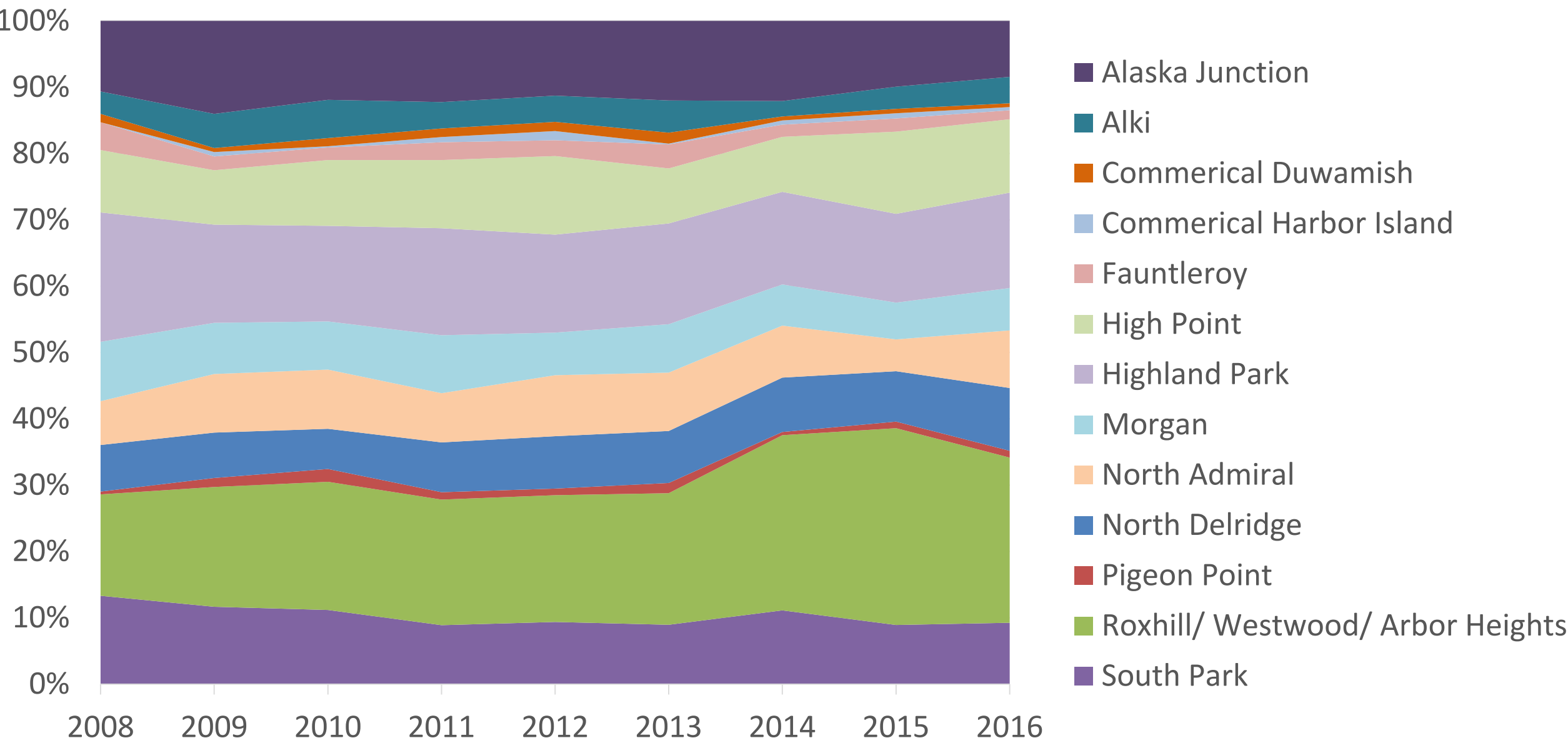


Figure 107: Southwest Precinct Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

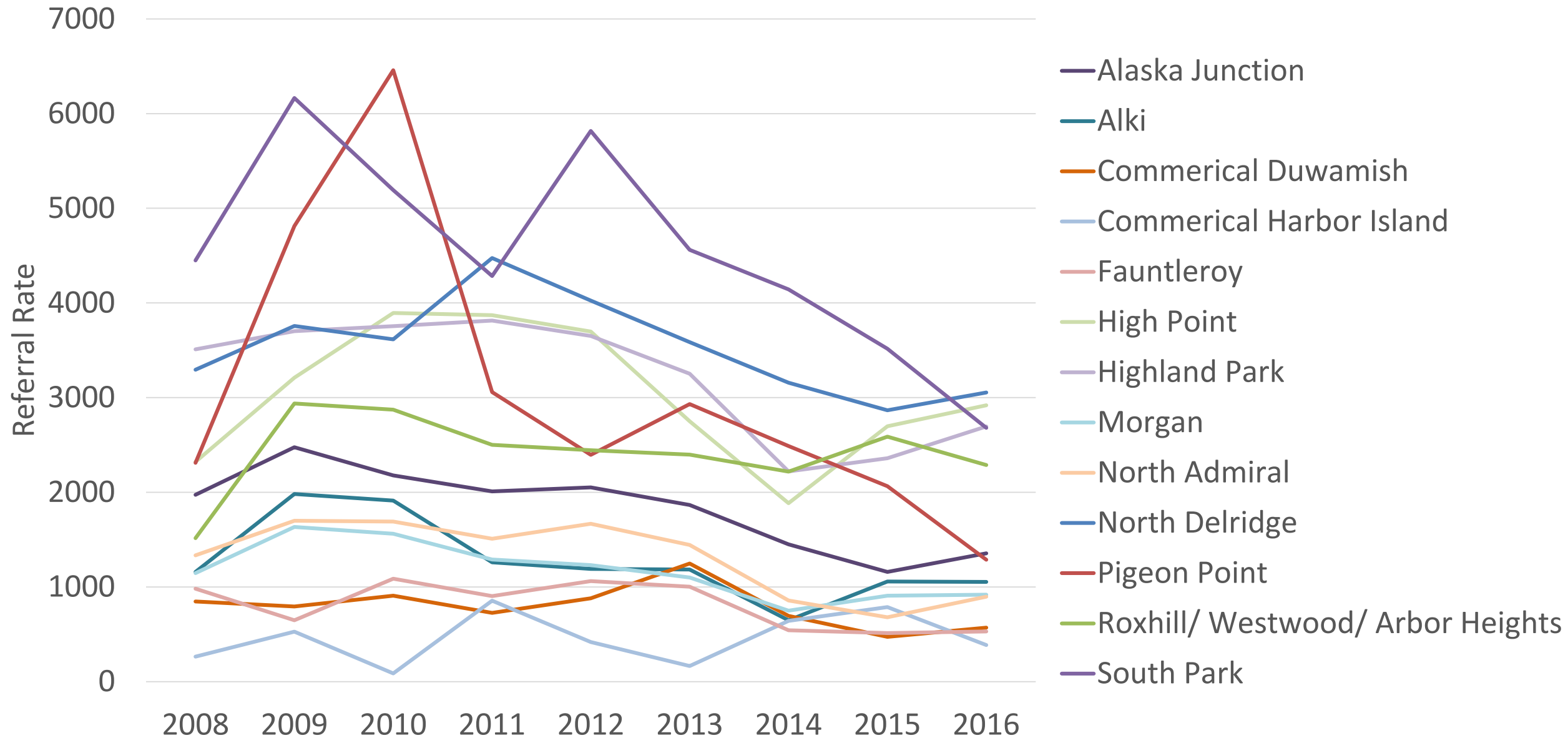


Figure 108: Percent of Southwest Precinct Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

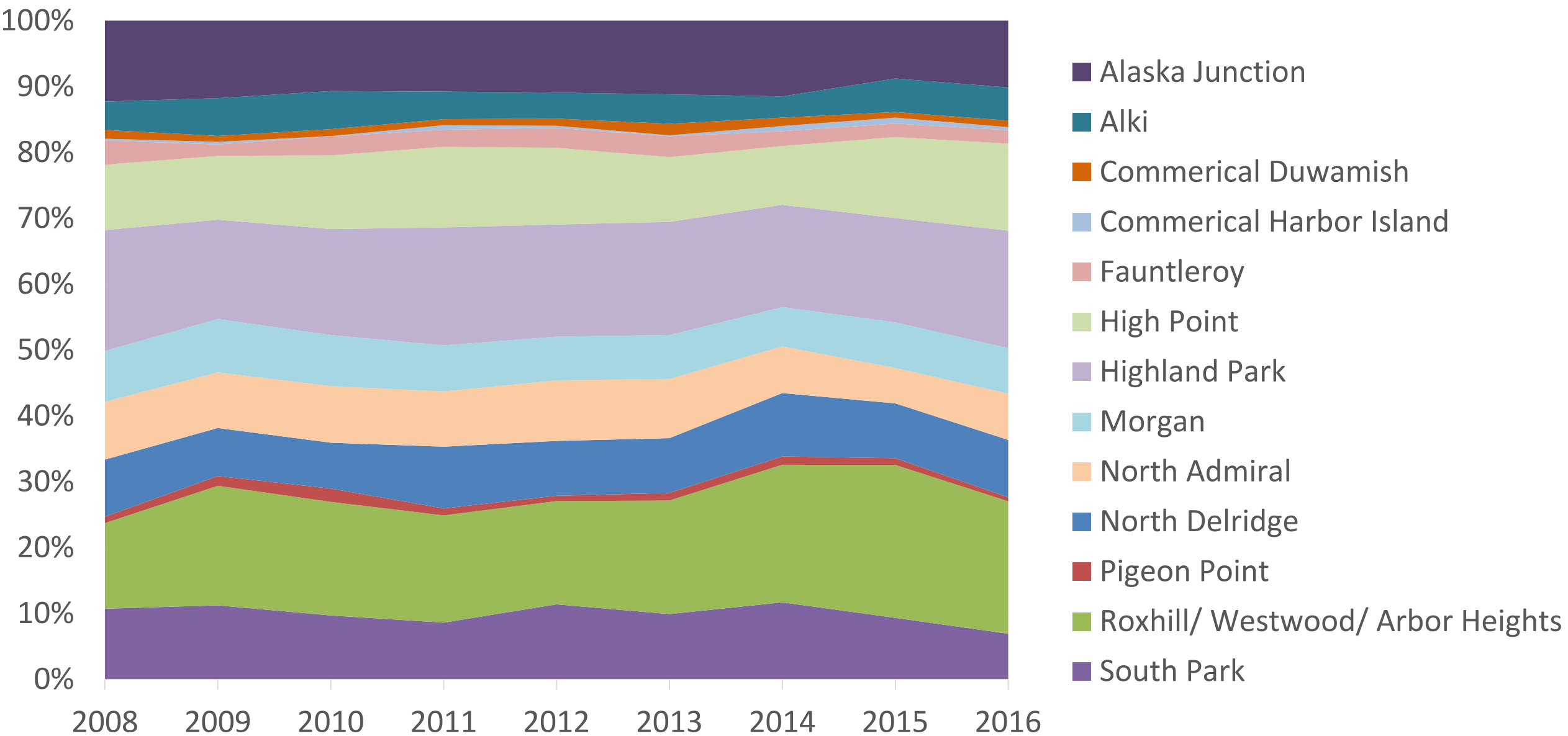


Figure 109: Seattle City Attorney Southwest Precinct Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

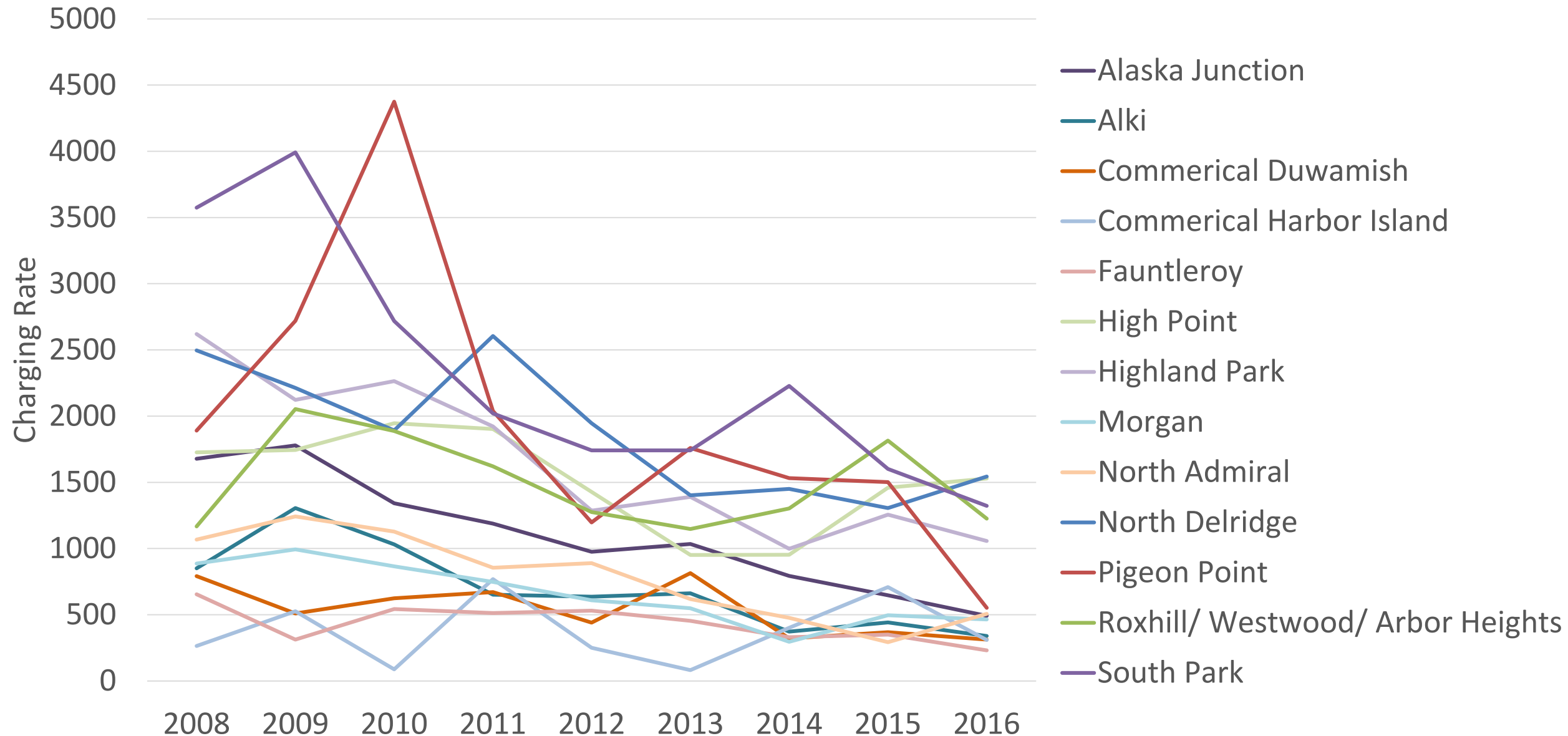


Figure 110: Percent of Seattle City Attorney Southwest Precinct Misdemeanor Charges by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

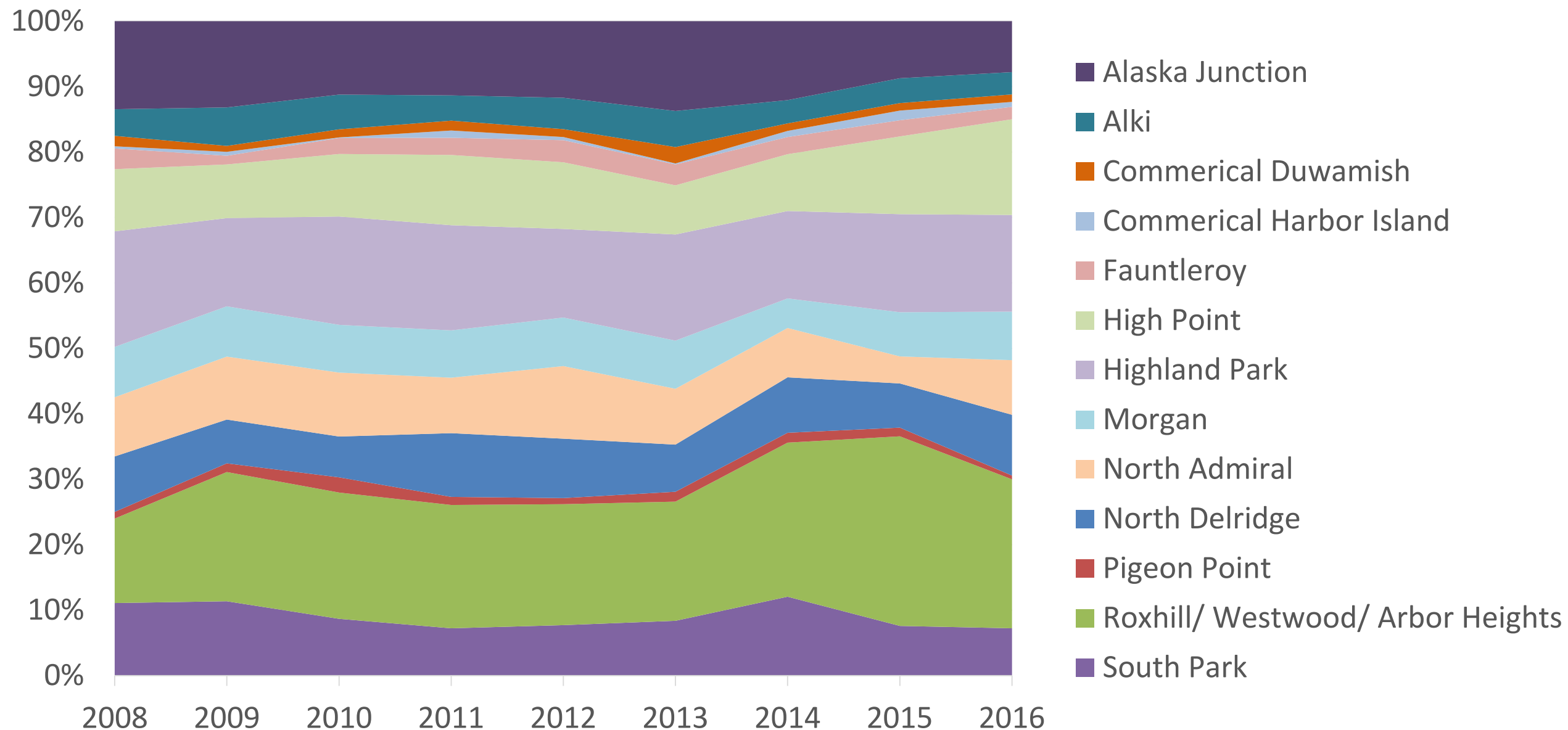


Figure 111: Seattle Police Department West Precinct Misdemeanor Arrest Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

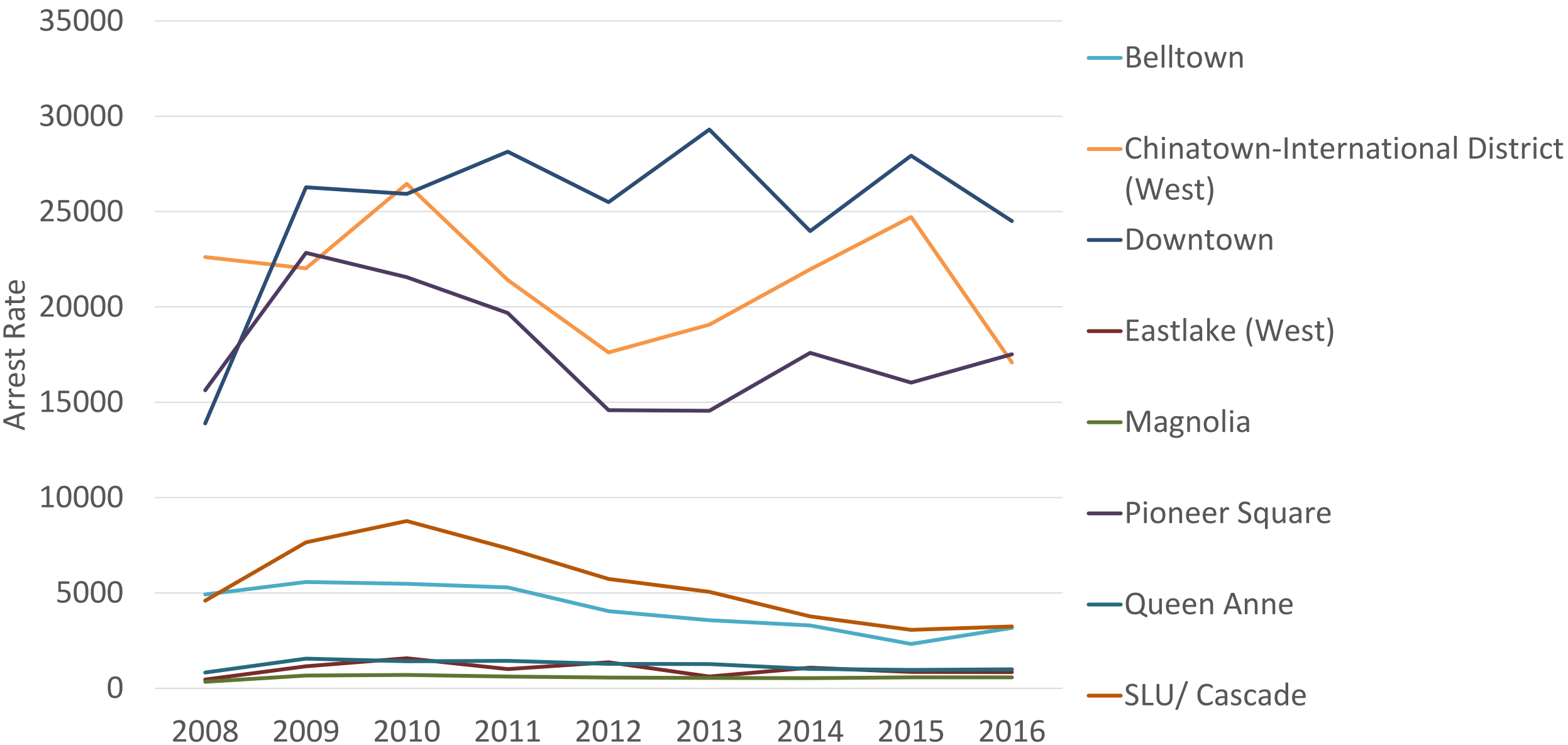


Figure 112: Percent of Seattle Police Department Total Misdemeanor Arrests in West Precinct by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

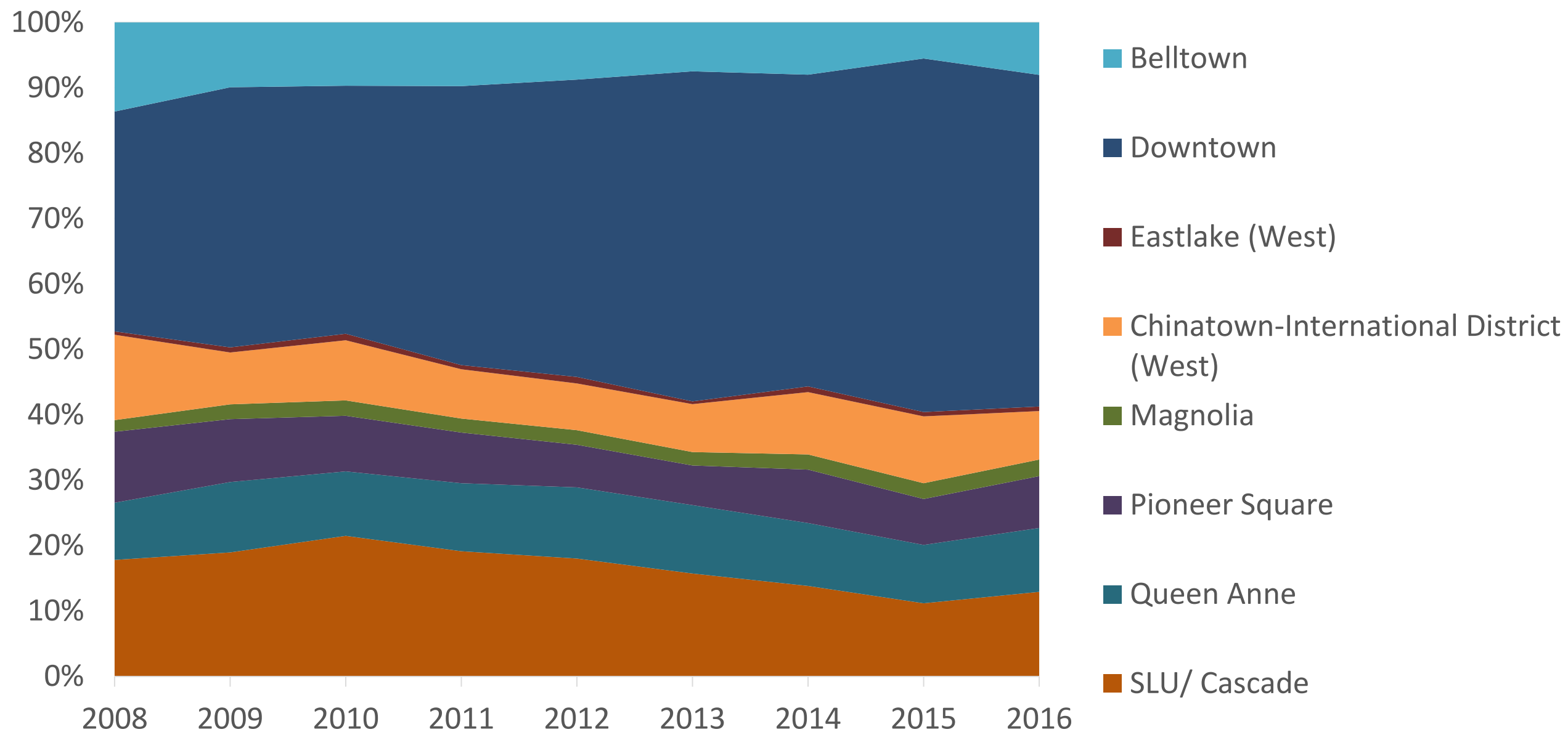


Figure 113: West Precinct Misdemeanor Referral Rates to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

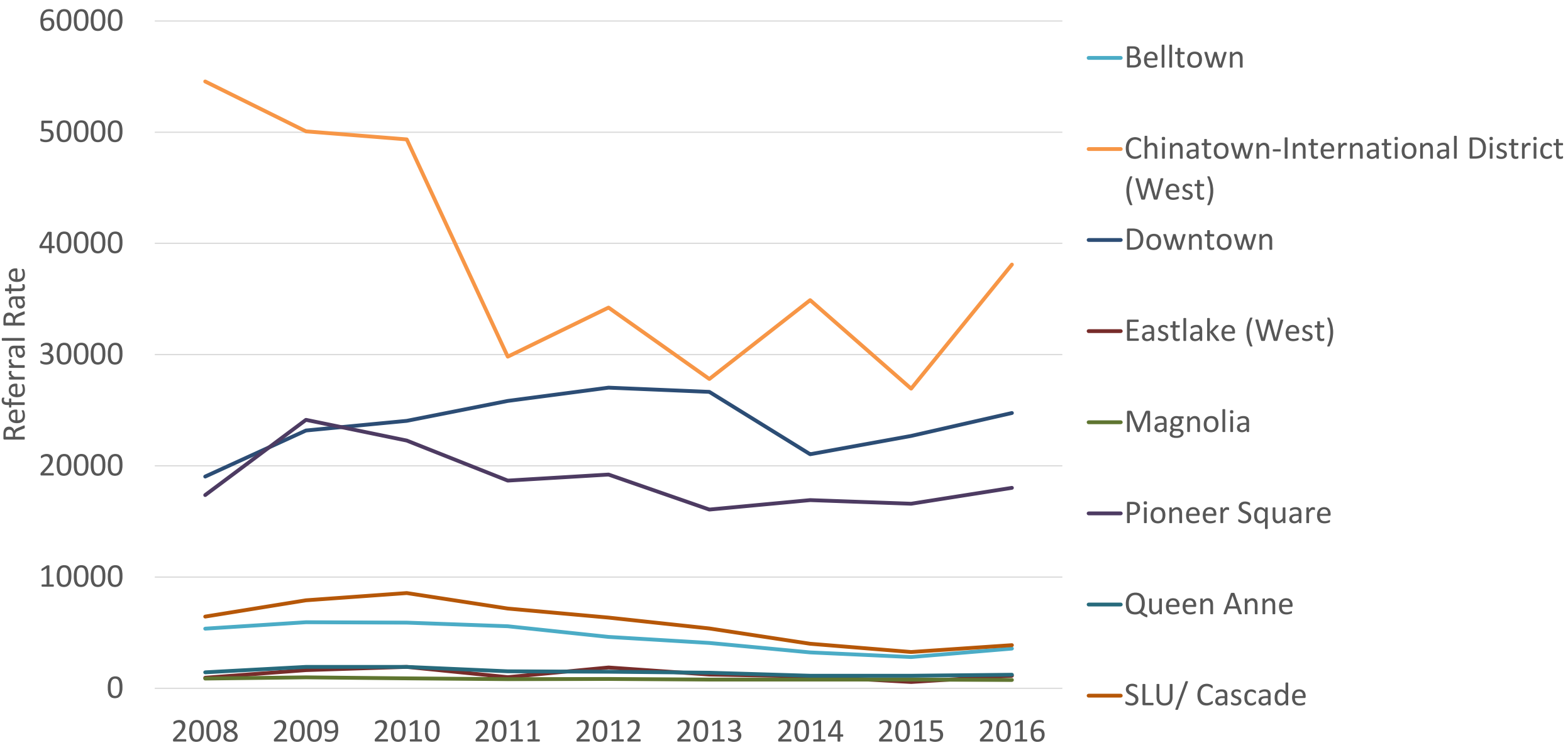


Figure 114: Percent of West Precinct Misdemeanor Referrals to Seattle City Attorney by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.

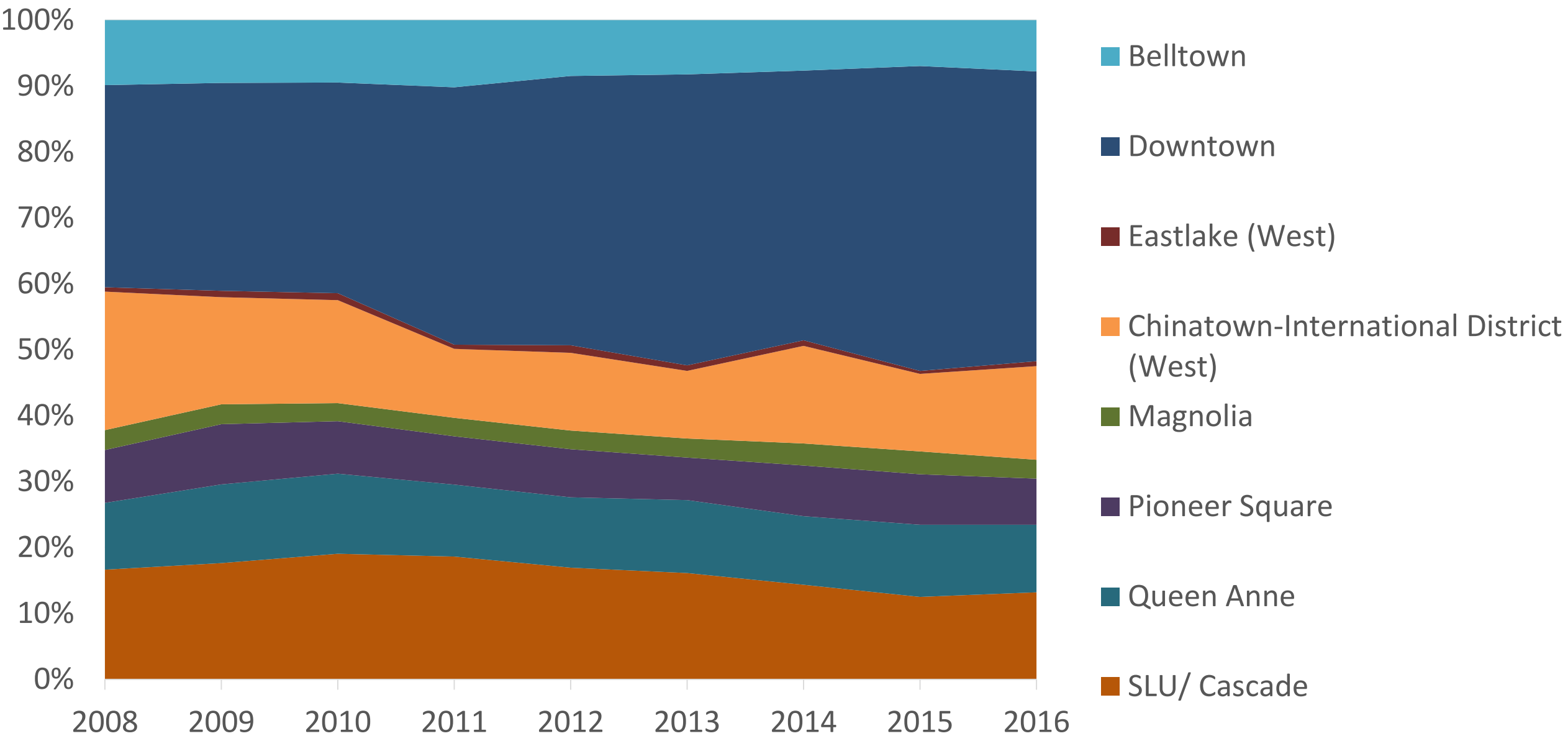


Figure 115: Seattle City Attorney West Precinct Misdemeanor Charging Rates by Micro-Community of Offense per 100,000 Population, Ages 18-65, 2008-2016.

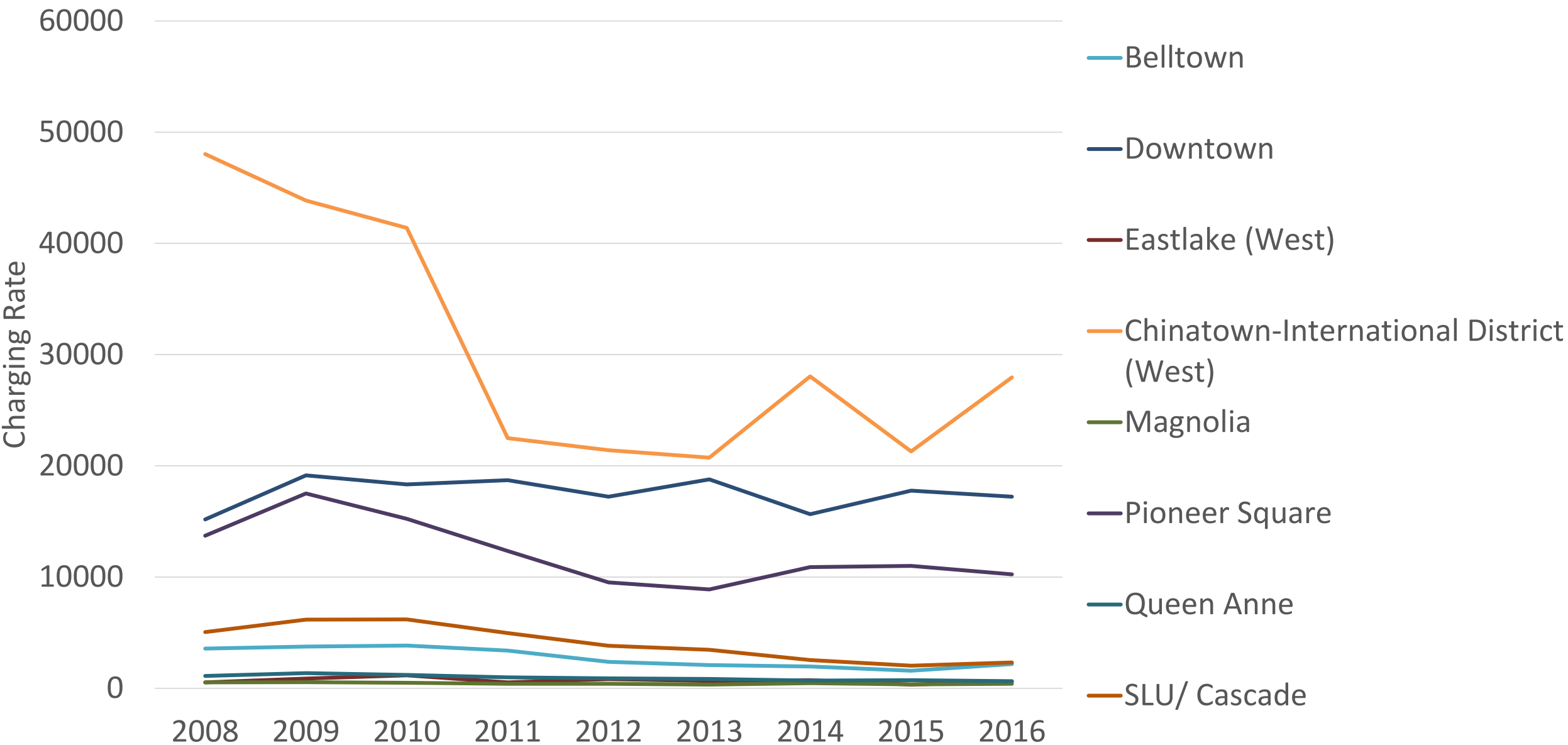
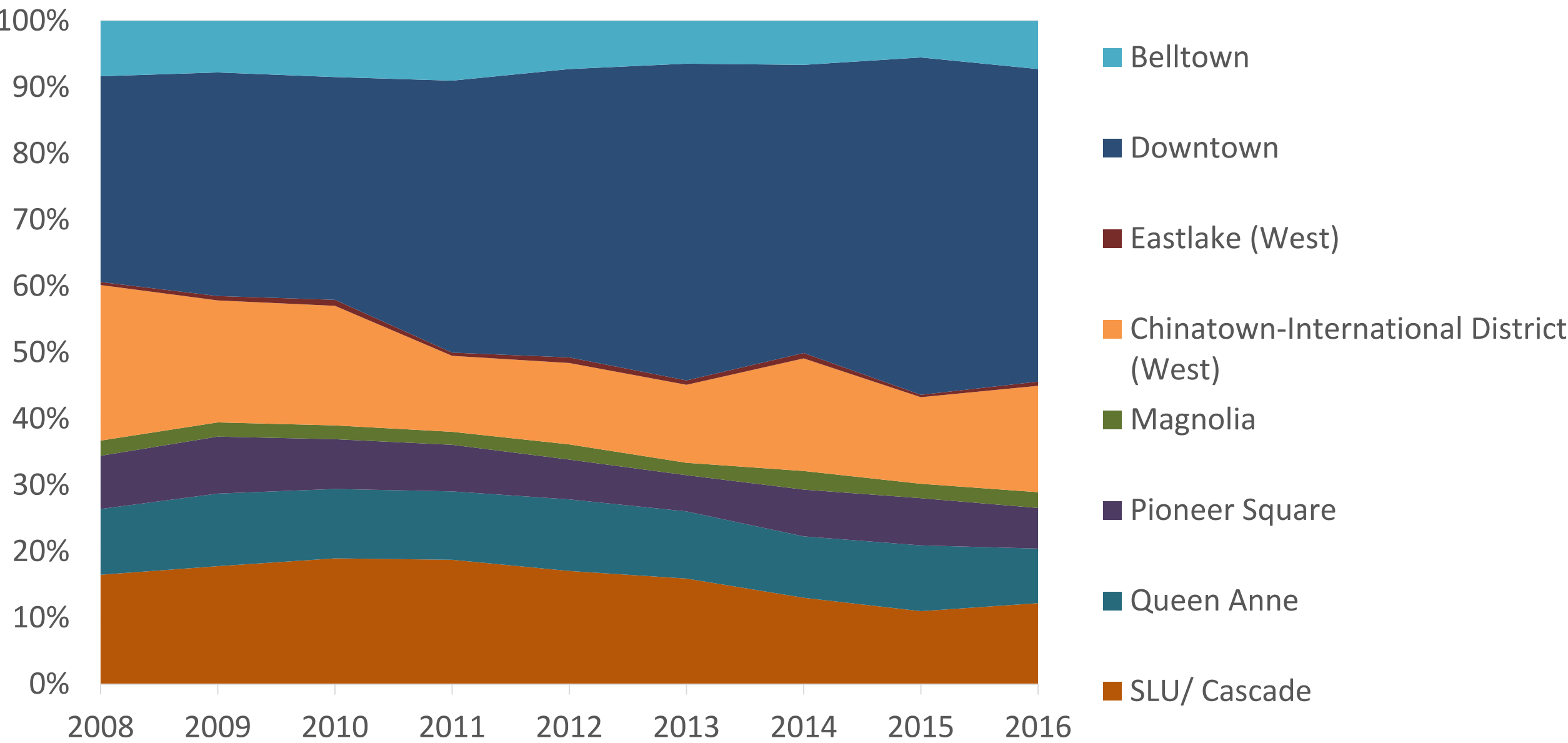


Figure 116: Percent of Seattle City Attorney West Precinct Misdemeanor Charges by Micro-Community of Offense, 2008-2016.



Misdemeanor
Arrests,
Referrals, and
Charges
involving
Behavioral Crisis
2015-2016

What percentage of misdemeanor arrests, referrals, and charges involve behavioral crisis?

- Initial analysis were conducted for the years in which consistent and detailed data was collected by SPD on behavioral crisis incidents (2015-2016).
- When the arrest, referral and charging data are aggregated to the most serious misdemeanor offense, preliminary analyses demonstrate that **5.4% of individuals who were referred to the Seattle City Attorney's office for a misdemeanor offense were identified as being in behavioral crisis when contacted by the Seattle Police Department.**

Person and Place-Based Misdemeanors

2008-2016

- The literature examining person and place-based crime has historically focused on major crimes and not specifically on misdemeanors.
 - 5-6% of offenders commit over 50% of crime (Blumstein et al, 1986; DeLisi, 2005; Falk et al, 2013; Townsely & Pease, 2002; Martinez, et al, 2017; Wolfgang et al, 1972)
 - 2-10% of locations are associated with over 50% of crime (Lee et al, 2017; Weisburd, 2012, 2018; Eck, et al, 2017).
- Examining person and place-based crime at the misdemeanor level provides data to unpack prolific offending patterns and crime types that converge at hot spot locations. In other words, *Is there something different going on with misdemeanors when it comes to person and place-based crime?*
- **Person-Based** – Preliminary analyses show that 12.9% of individuals arrested for at least one misdemeanor offense between 2008 and 2016 account for 50% of misdemeanor arrests; 18.6% of individuals referred for at least one misdemeanor offense between 2008 and 2016 account for 50% of misdemeanor referrals; and 21.2% of individuals charged with at least one misdemeanor offense account for 50% of misdemeanor charges
- **Place-Based** – Preliminary data analysis shows that 4.9% of locations in Seattle where at least one misdemeanor offense occurred between 2008 and 2016 are where 50% of misdemeanor offenses occurred.

Discussion

Summary of Key Findings

- **Arrests, referrals, and charges for misdemeanors in Seattle have steadily declined from 2008 to 2016.** This general decline in arrests, referrals, and charges mirrors a similar decline for felonies.
- While arrests, referrals, and charges for misdemeanors are declining in Seattle, **rates for arrests, referrals, and charges are higher for Black and Indigenous groups.**
- The **rate of felony and misdemeanor bookings has decreased while the rate of misdemeanor warrants has increased.**
- **Misdemeanor arrest rates have decreased steadily for all age categories.** The 18-20 age category has seen the most significant decline dropping below 21-24 year olds since 2010 and 25-34 year-olds since 2013.
- **There has been a decline in misdemeanor bookings for both males and females since 2009 with a greater decline for males.**
- **The arrest rate is highest for Black males followed by Indigenous males with some exceptions where the arrest rate for the Indigenous group exceeds Black males and females.** For example, in 2013, Indigenous males age 35-65 were arrested at a higher rate than Black males and Indigenous females age 18-65 were arrested, referred, and charged at an increasing and higher rate than Black females across the study period (in particular in the 35-65 age group) while the referral and charge rate for Black females declined.

Discussion

Summary of Key Findings

- **Arrest rates declined for person, property & theft-related, weapons, drugs, prostitution, and public order offenses from 2010 to 2016 while warrant arrests showed a corresponding increase.** There was a particularly dramatic decrease in prostitution arrests from 2011 to 2012.
- **The rate of misdemeanor dismissals was higher than convictions from 2008- 2015. In 2016, conviction rate exceeded the dismissal rate for the first time during the study period.** There was a decrease in the dismissal and convictions from 2008-2016 while acquittals, which occurred at a relatively low rate, remained steady across the study period.
- **The rate and percentage of misdemeanors at Citywide, Precinct, and Micro-Community level declined and vary by precinct and micro-community.** The East precinct shows the highest rate of misdemeanors, followed by the South, West, Southwest, and North precincts for most of the study period with some fluctuation in 2015-2016 (e.g., arrest rate in South exceeded East and North exceeded Southwest in 2016).

Future Research

Questions for future study

Gene Balk / FYI Guy f | t

'Mean world syndrome': In some Seattle neighborhoods, fear of crime exceeds reality

Originally published June 28, 2018 at 6:00 am | Updated June 28, 2018 at 10:44 am



People who live in Belltown are less worried about crime than the average Seattleite, despite the higher crime rate in this neighborhood. (Dean Rutz / The Seattle Times)

How fearful of crime is your Seattle neighborhood? An analysis of crime data and a new survey shows some residents' fears are at odds with reality.

- 1) **Misdemeanor Case Processing** – *What happens to individuals arrested for misdemeanors in Seattle as they process through the system?*
 - A subsample of cases will be examined from arrest through case disposition.
 - Case processing of a subsample of case types will be examined across RNJM cities in Seattle, Prince George Maryland, and Meridian, Mississippi.
- 2) **Misdemeanor Crime and Community Perception of Public Safety in Seattle Micro-Communities** – *What is the relationship between misdemeanor arrest patterns and micro-community quality of life and community perceptions of public safety?*
 - How do community perceptions of public safety and quality of life ratings compare with misdemeanor arrests, referrals, and charges in Seattle micro-communities?
 - Are misdemeanor arrests, referrals, and charges and community perception of public safety and quality of life associated with micro-community prevalence of homelessness and mental illness?
- 3) **Misdemeanor Incidents involving behavioral crisis** **Randomized Controlled Trial** – *Does the Criminal Justice System Help or Harm Individuals in Behavioral Crisis?*
 - **HYPOTHESES:**
 - H₁-Processing misdemeanors involving behavioral crisis increases public safety
 - H₂-Processing misdemeanors involving behavioral crisis increases opportunities for individuals who commit misdemeanors involving behavioral crisis helps those individuals connect with social and mental health services.



**Questions ?
Comments?
Feedback?**

References

- Blumstein, A., Cohen, J., Roth, J. A., & Visher, C. A. (eds.). (1986). Criminal careers and "career criminals." Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- DeLisi, M. J. (2005). Career criminals in society. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Eck, J.E., Lee, Y.J., & Martinez, N.N. (2017). Compared to what? Estimating relative concentration of crime at places using systematic and other reviews. *Crime Science*, 6(8), 2-17. DOI 10.1186/s40163-017-0070-4
- Falk, Ö, Wallinius, M., Lundström, S., Frisell, T., Anckarsäter, H., & Kerekes, N. (2013, October 31). The 1 % of the population accountable for 63 % of all violent crime convictions. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3969807/>
- Herbert, S., & Beckett, K. (2017). Banishment and the Post-Industrial City: Lessons from Seattle. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 23(1), 27-40.
- Lee, Y.J. & Eck, J.E., O, S., & Martinez, N.N. (2017). How concentrated is crime at places? A systematic review from 1970-2015. *Crime Science*, 6(6), 1-16. DOI 10.1186/s40163-017-0069-x
- Lum, C. & Vovak, H. (2018). Variability in the Use of Misdemeanor Arrests by Police Agencies from 1990 to 2013: An Application of Group-Based Trajectory Modeling. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 29(6-7), 536–560.
- Martinez, N.N., Lee, Y.J., & O, S. (2017). Ravenous wolves revisited: A systematic review of offending concentration. *Crime Science*, 6(10), 2-17. DOI 10.1186/s40163-017-0072-2
- Natapoff, A. (2012). Misdemeanors. *Southern California Law Review*, 85, 1313- 1376.
- Townsely, M. & Pease, K. (2002). How efficiently can we target prolific offenders. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 4(4), 323-331.
- Weisburd, D. (2012). *The Criminology of Place. Street segments and our understanding of the crime problem*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Weisburd, D. (2018). Hot Spots of Crime and Place-Based Prevention. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(1). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12350> .
- Wolfgang, M. E., Figlio, R. M., & Sellin, T. (1972). Delinquency in a birth cohort. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Contact

Research Team

JACQUELINE HELFGOTT, PHD
Professor
Director, Crime & Justice Research Center
Seattle University Criminal Justice
jhelgott@seattleu.edu
206-954-5132



WILLIAM PARKIN, PHD
Associate Professor
Seattle University Criminal Justice
parkinw@seattleu.edu
206-220-8263



CHRISTOPHER FISHER, PHD
Strategic Advisor
Seattle Police Department
christopher.fisher@seattle.gov



LAUREN MORGAN, MA
Seattle University Criminal Justice
morganl1@seattleu.edu



SIMRAN KAUR, BACJ Candidate
Seattle University Criminal Justice
kaur10@seattleu.edu

