

HONORS COLLEGE CHALLENGE WEEK: CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE



MY CHALLENGE TODAY

- **We are said to be in the midst of a "digital revolution", an "information age." And most of us spend our days using (and relying on) technologies that provide instant access to data, and allow us to instantly communicate information about ourselves, everything from our political beliefs to what we had for lunch. We are also surrounded by automated machines that speak to us, react to us, and transact for us; ATM's, traffic lights, scanners at the grocery store, our automobiles; even microwave ovens and coffee machines. Challenge Week 2017 asks us to step back from our devices to ask questions..**
 - **How is the processing of information with algorithms, through digital technology, shaping our lives and society in unexpected and, perhaps, unknown ways?**
 - **How is information about us, and others, collected, processed, and used in criminal justice such as policing and criminal sentencing?**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE

EXHIBIT A: CASEY ANTHONY



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE

EXHIBIT B: GEORGE ZIMMERMEN



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE

EXHIBIT C: FERGUSON



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE

REALITY VERSUS ENTERTAINMENT: MYTHS ABOUT CRIME

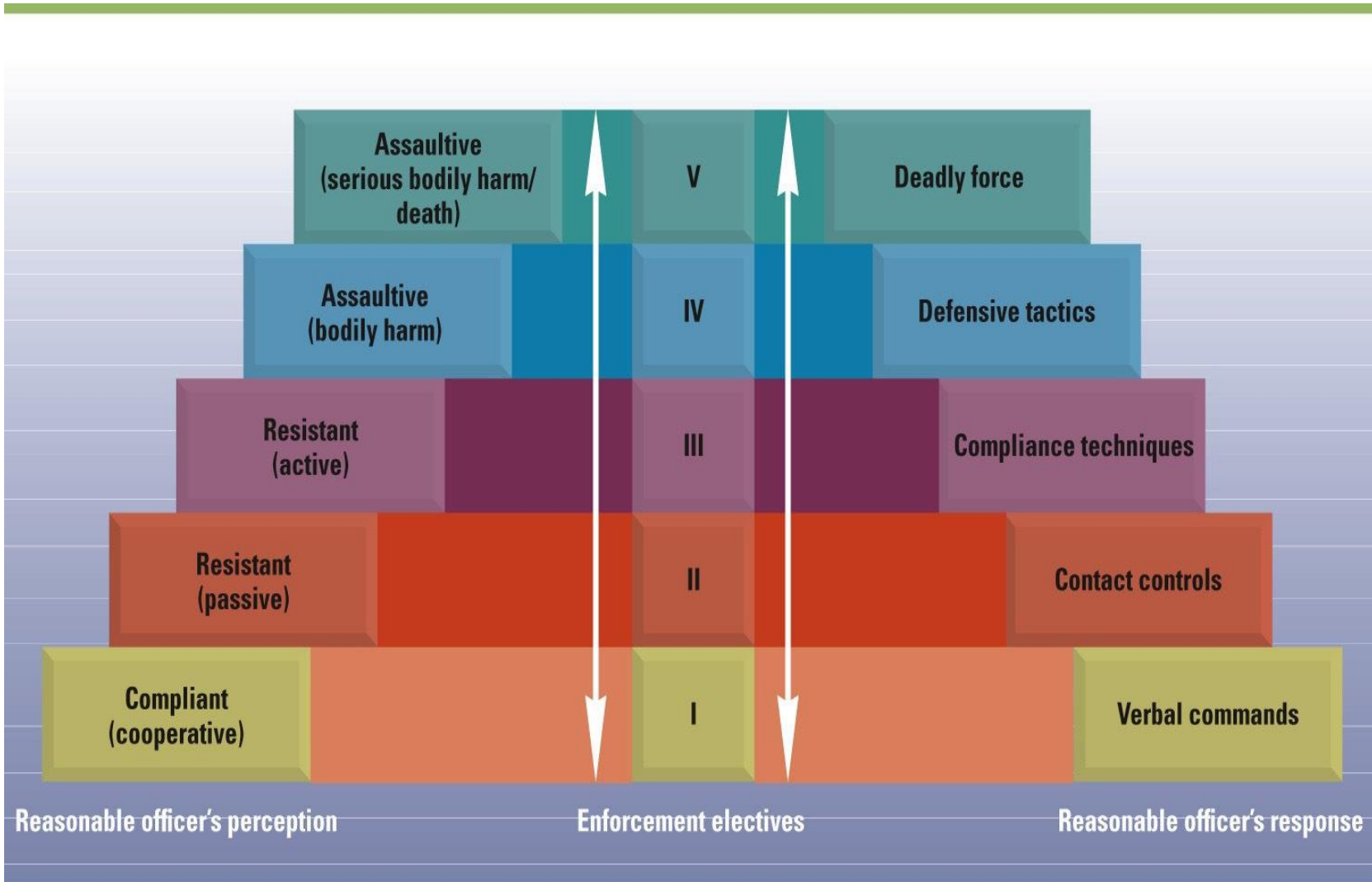
- **MYTH 1: Crime is increasing**
- **MYTH 2: Most crime is committed by minorities**
- **MYTH 3: Most crimes are violent and committed by strangers**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE INFORMATION AGE

REALITY VERSUS ENTERTAINMENT: MYTHS ABOUT POLICING

- MYTH 1: You have to tell me you are a cop
- MYTH 2: I do not have to show you ID
 - People v. Battle Traffic Stop
- MYTH 3: I know my rights. You can't touch me.

USE-OF-FORCE CONTINUUM



Source: Franklin Graves and Gregory Connor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia.

ALGORITHMS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

□ Risk Assessments

○ What?

- Algorithms designed to predict an individual's criminal risk, either on a scale from “low” to “high” or with specific percentages

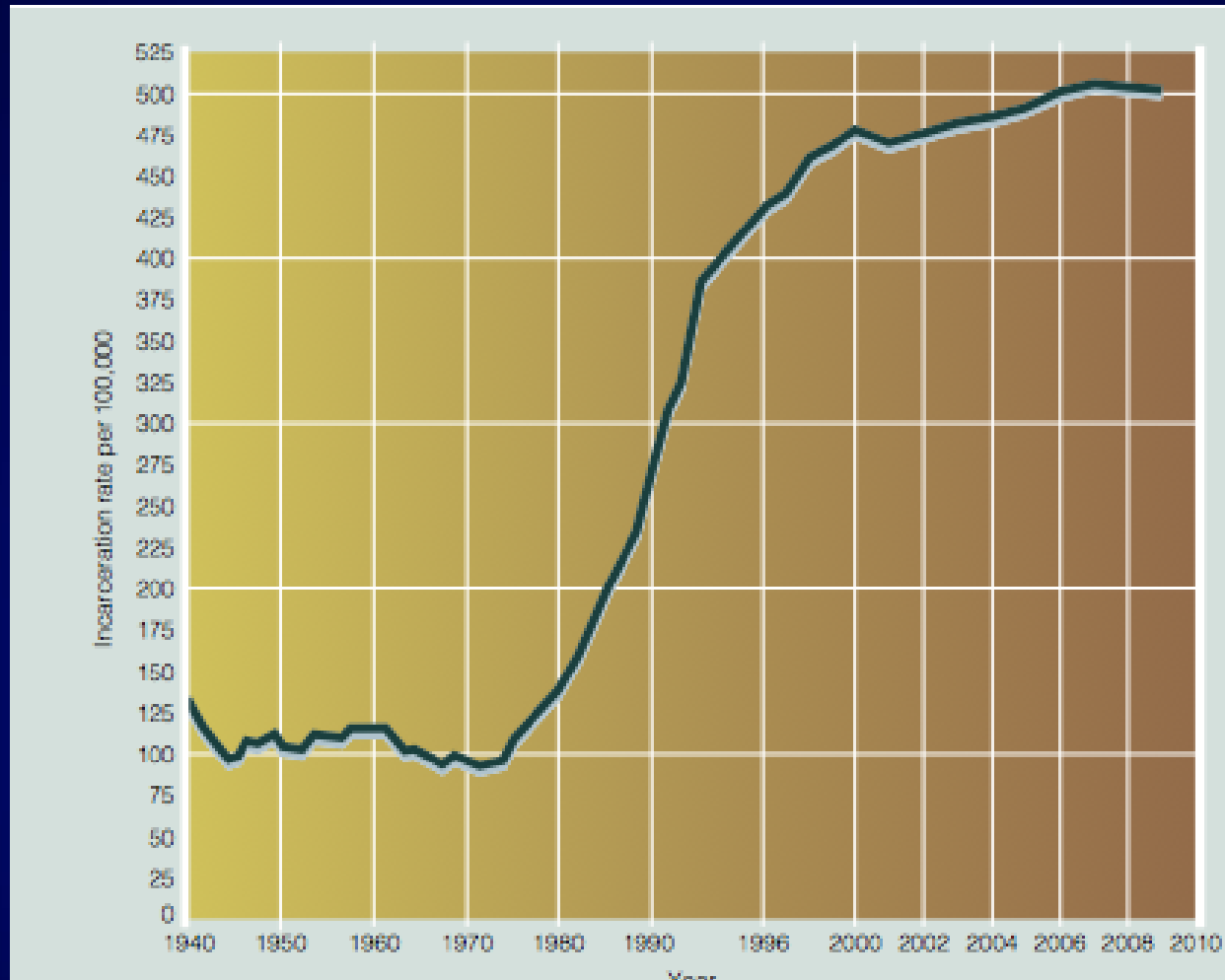
○ How?

- Use socioeconomic status, family background, neighborhood crime, employment status, and other factors

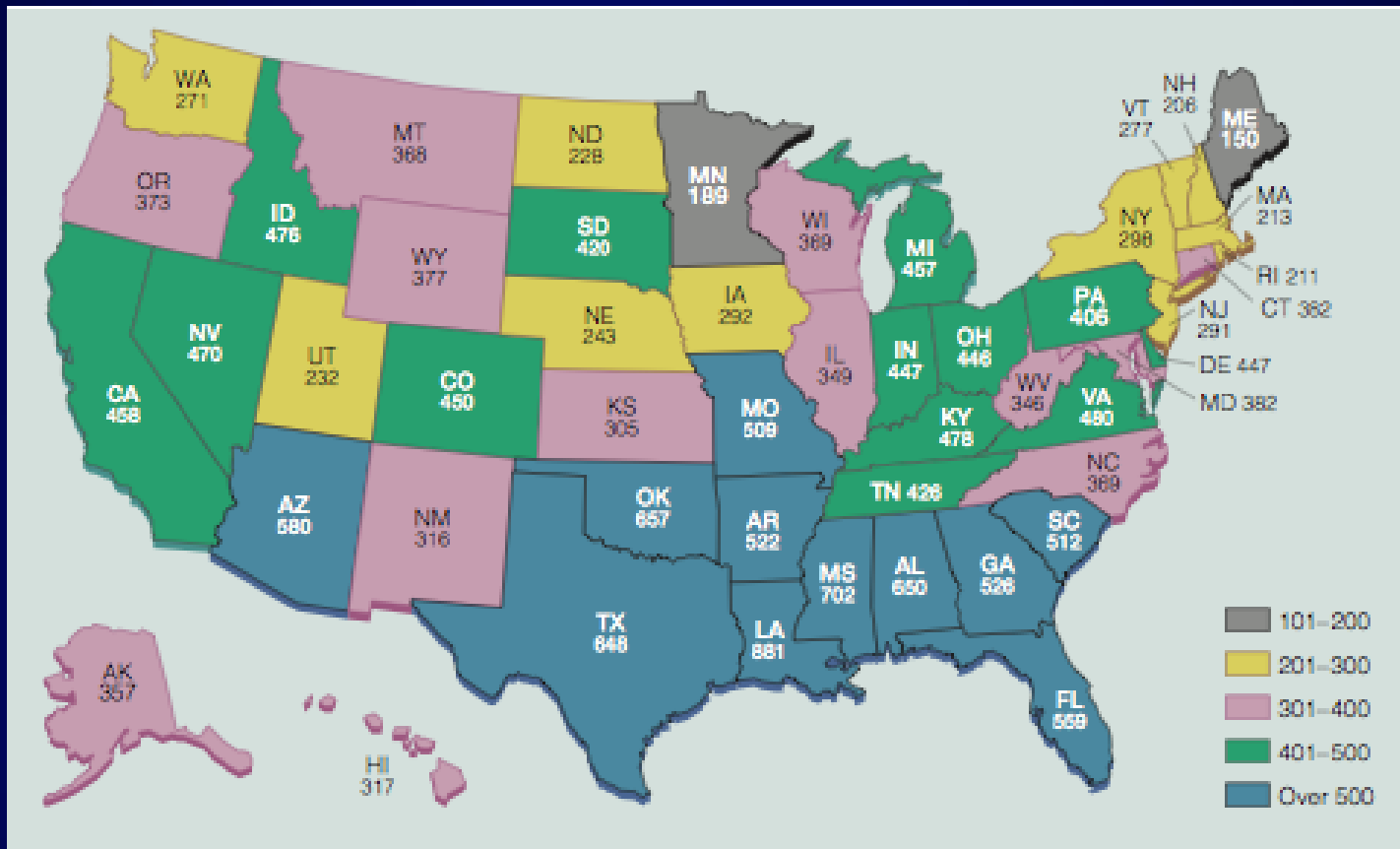
○ So?

- Individuals accused of similar offenses can receive different outcomes such as bail and sentencing based on their risk assessment

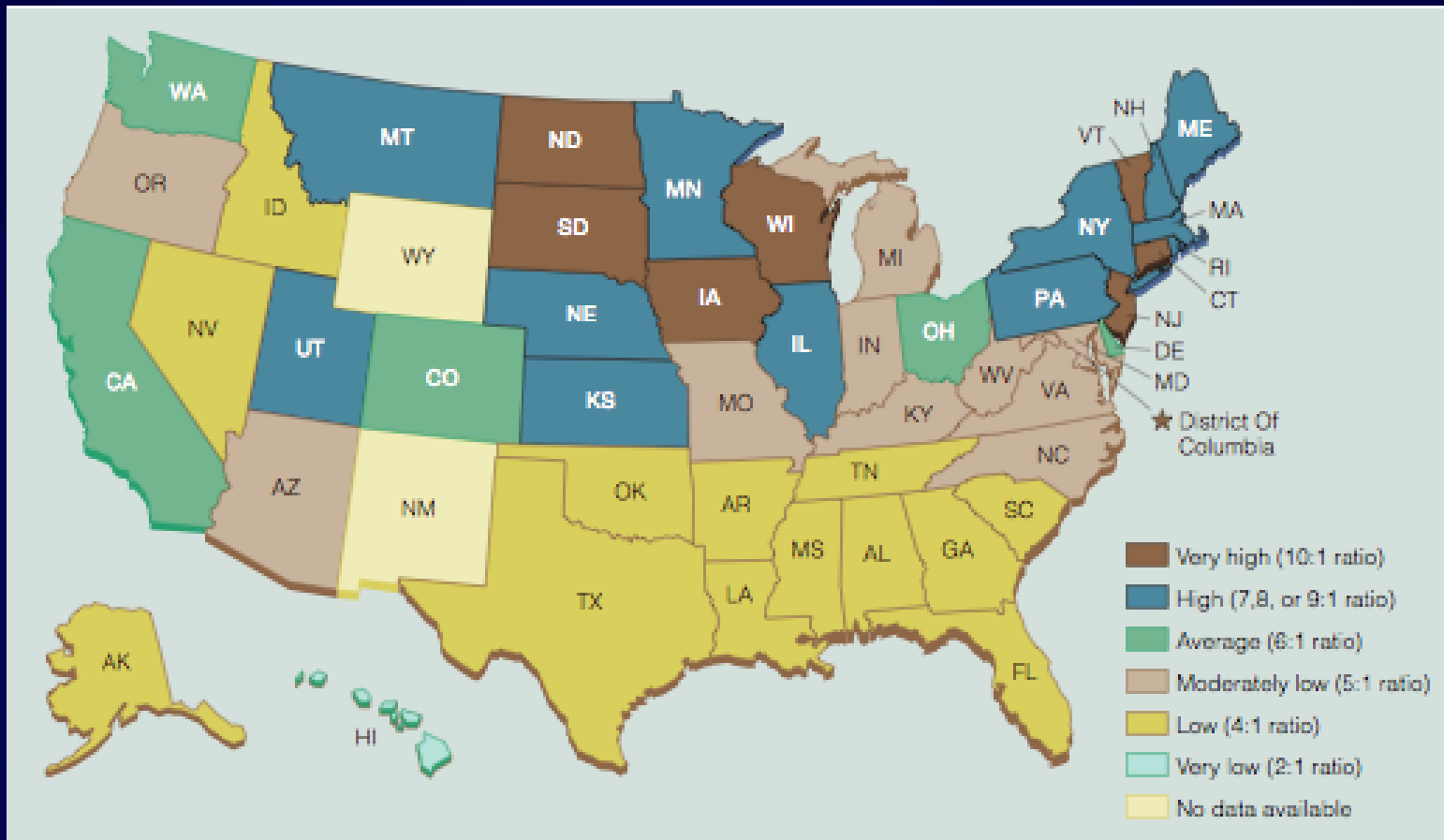
INCARCERATION PER 100,000 POPULATION



SENTENCED PRISONERS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION



RACIAL DISPARITY IN STATE PRISON SYSTEMS: THE RATIO OF AFRICAN AMERICAN INCARCERATION RATES TO WHITE RATES



DISPARITIES EXIST

- The unequal treatment of one group by the criminal justice system, compared with the treatment afforded to other groups.
- For example, 18-24 year old men are arrested more compared to their proportion in the general population.
- African Americans and Hispanics make up the majority of individuals in the system; African Americans make up about 12% of the population but account for almost 2/5 of all arrests for violent crime and 1/4 arrests for property crime. Incarceration rates for African Americans is at least twice as high than for whites, in some states their rate is 10 times as high.
- Geographical Disparity: The South imposes more harsh sentences with western states following suit

CHANGING PHILOSOPHY

- ❑ Since 1973, U.S. imprisonment rate has increased from under 100/100,000 to almost 500/100,000.
- ❑ Probation, parole, and jail populations have quadrupled, from under 1 million to over 7 million.
- ❑ Growth has disproportionately affected minority group members.
- ❑ No agreement about best aims of reform.

THE INFORMATION AGE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE: CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

