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SENTENCING LEADERS IN U.S. ISIS CASES

There is limited research which examines sentencing for federal IS cases in the U.S., and **no known research that examines the impact of leadership role on sentence length.**

In this study, we analyze available U.S. federal case files since 2014 with activities related to IS, collecting information on sentencing and demographics. We used multiple raters to code each defendant as a follower or leader based on pre-determined criteria.

Results indicate that **leadership role is an important factor in sentence length.**

DISCLAIMER

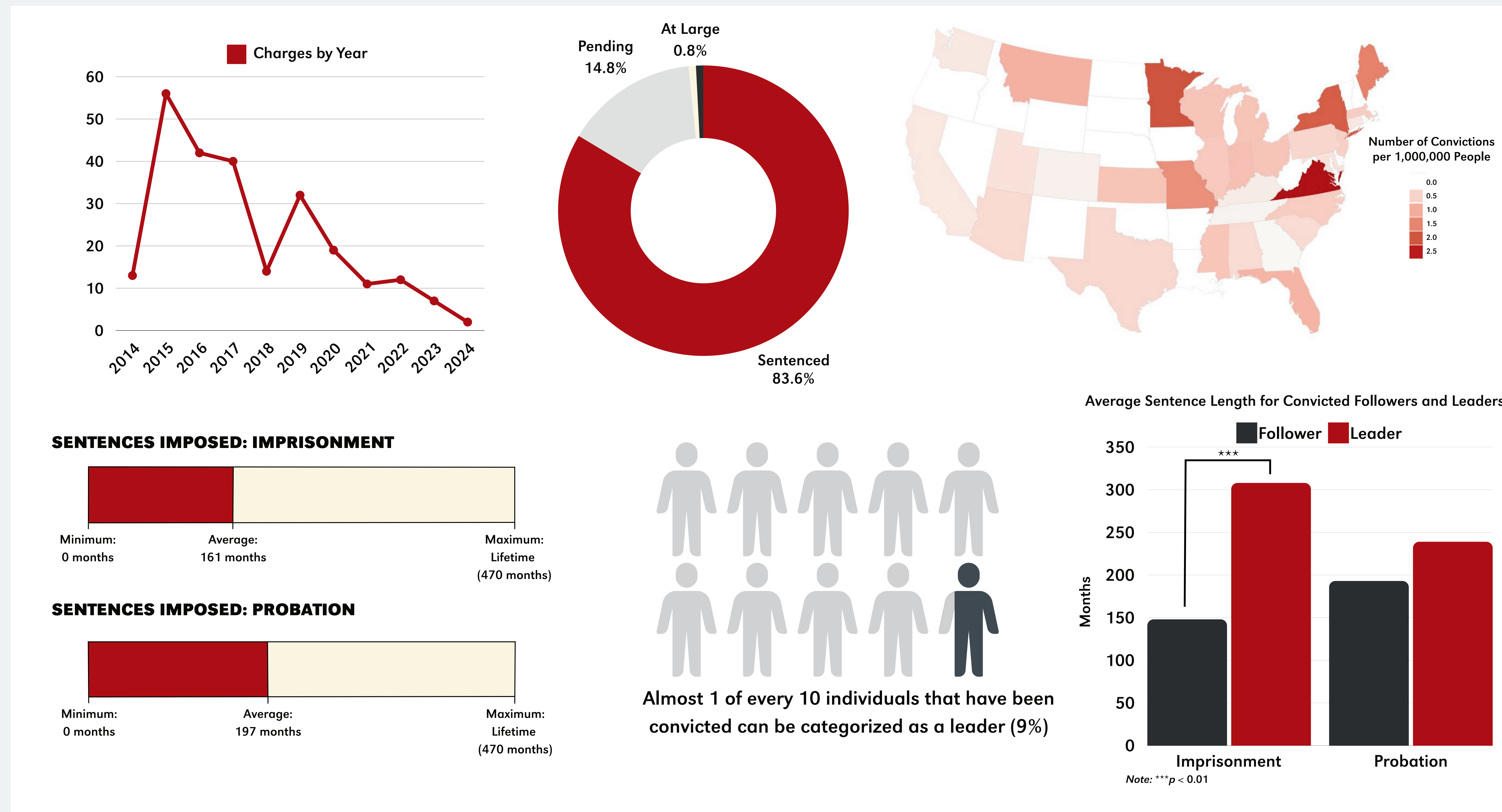
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ISIS CASES IN THE U.S.

Since March 2014, **almost 250 individuals** have been charged federally in the United States with activities related to the Islamic State (IS).

Of these, **204 have been convicted and sentenced** so far. Some cases are still pending, dismissed, or the defendant remains at large.

The majority of convictions have been in **New York (18%)**. Almost **90%** of convictions **are male**, and the **average age is 28**.



SENTENCING

The most common prison sentence among those convicted is **240 months** – the equivalent of 12 years – but the most common probation sentence is for **life**, or the equivalent of 470 months in our sample.

LEADERSHIP

Compared to followers, leaders were sentenced, on average, to **157 additional months** of imprisonment and **46 additional months** of probation.

Some control variables (e.g., age, gender, state) had an impact on the overall model. Future research is needed to explore these relationships.