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An Exploration of Change or Stability Over Time (2005-2018) in the Number and Likelihood of Police Officers Arrested, Dismissed, and Convicted for On- and Off-Duty Misconduct

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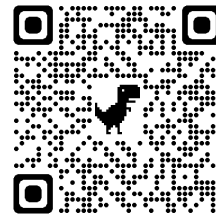
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Conceptual Arguments and Existing Empirical Research

Conceptual Arguments:
- Black Lives Matter (July 2013)
- Eric Garner in NY (July 2014)
- Michael Brown and Ferguson, MO (Aug 2014)
    - Delegitimized the police and created a more agitated public
    - Reduced willingness of police to engage with public (de-policing)
    - Intensified demands for police oversight and accountability (e.g., BWCs)

Empirical Research:
- Crime rates (e.g., Pyrooz et al., 2016)
- Homicides of police officers (e.g., Maguire et al., 2017; Norris, 2023)
- Citizens killed by police officers (e.g., Campbell et al., 2018)
- Frequency of higher discretion traffic/drug citations or arrests (e.g., Shjarback et al., 2017).

- What is trend in on- and off-duty arrests over the time period: 2006 to 2018?
  - Expectation of stabilization/decline post 2014 for on-duty arrests.

- What is the trend in job loss/conviction for on- and off-duty arrests over time period: 2006 to 2018?
  - Expectation of increased job loss/conviction post 2014 for on-duty arrests.

- Similar trends or patterns for on- and off-duty arrests involving violence: 2006 to 2018?
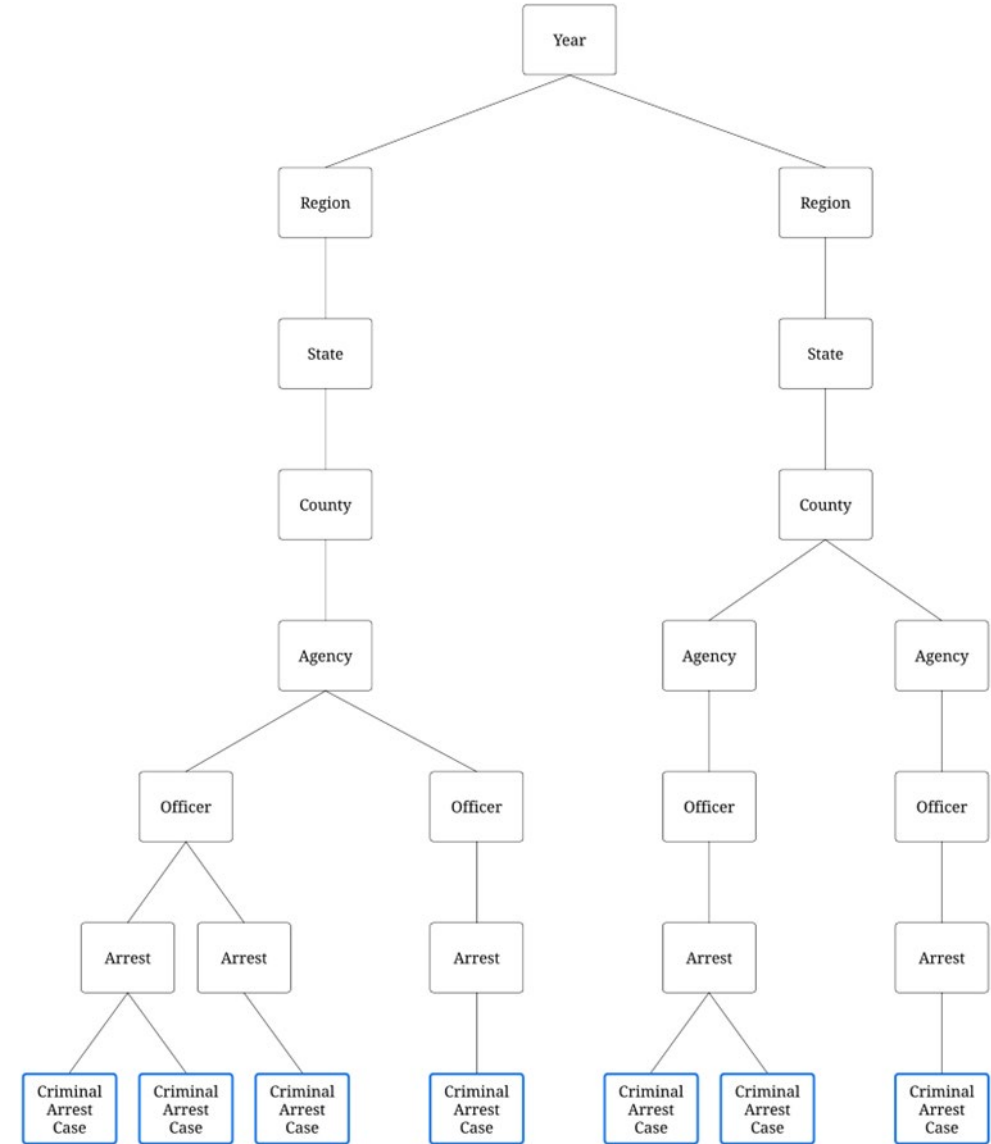 - Conceptual arguments tend to focus more on officer force or violence.

Methods

Data:
- The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database: https://policecrime.bgsu.edu/
  - Cases from 2005-2018
    - 16,563 criminal arrest cases
    - 13,600 nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers
  - Cases identified through Google Alerts
    - Continuous monitoring of Google News Alerts
    - Content analysis on all files to code cases

Data:
- Level 1
  - Criminal arrest case(s)
    - Crimes involving multiple victims or incidents

Data:
- Level 2
  - Arrest(s)
    - One or more arrests per officer
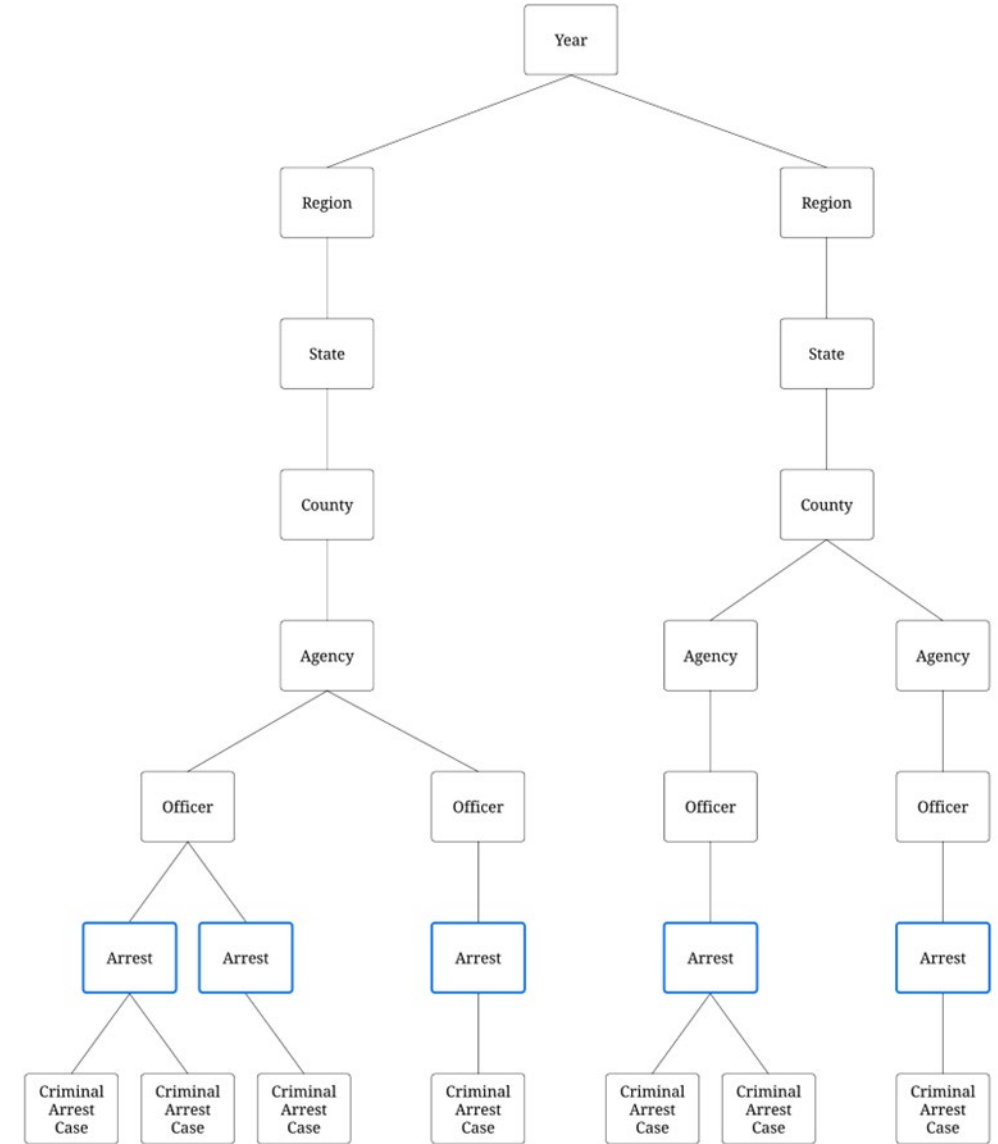   - Each arrest can be for one or more criminal arrest case(s)

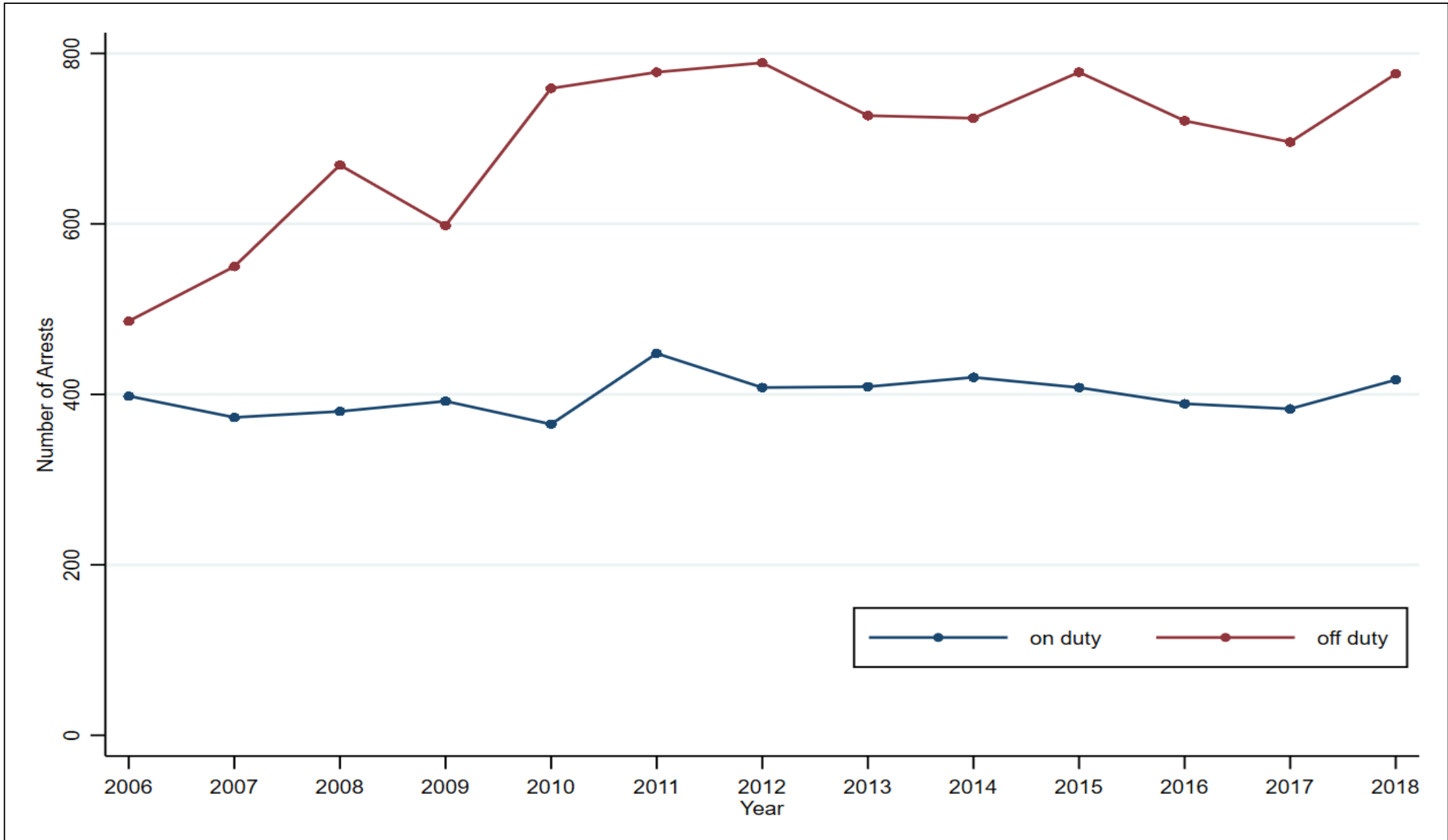Figure 1: Arrests for On- and Off-Duty Offenses from 2006 to 2018

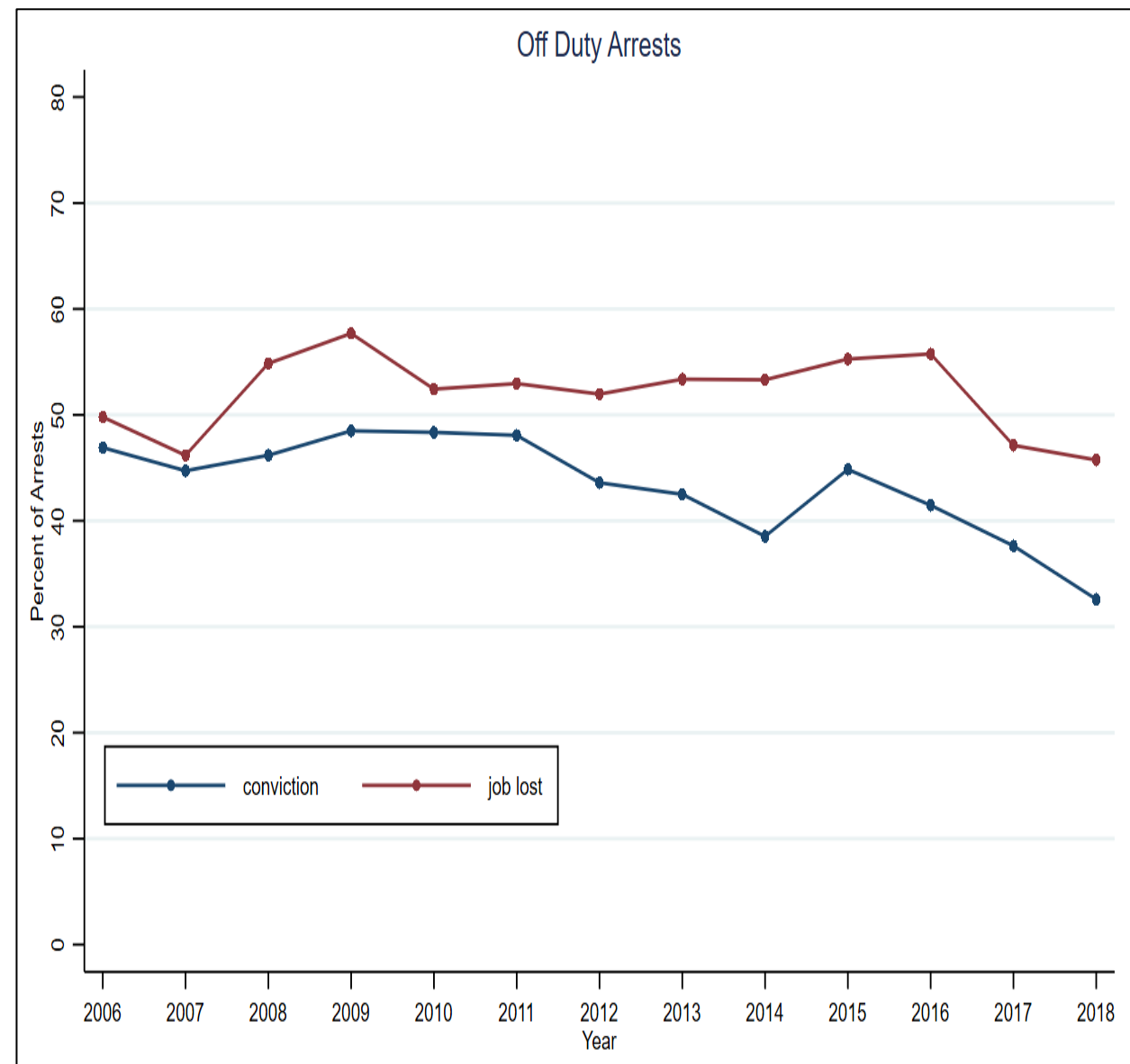# Figure 2: Percent of On- and Off-Duty Arrests for in Which Officer Lost Job or Convicted
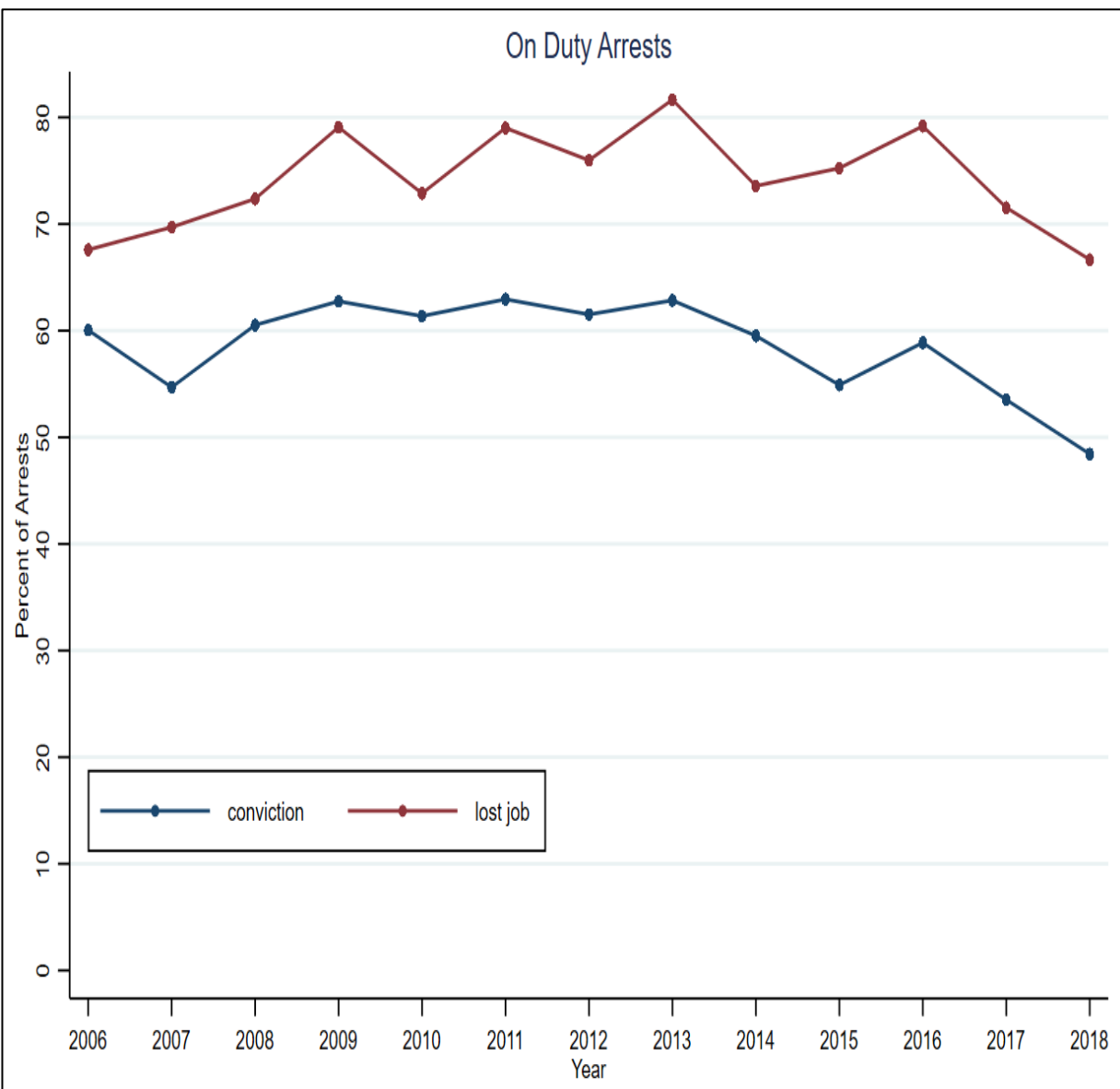
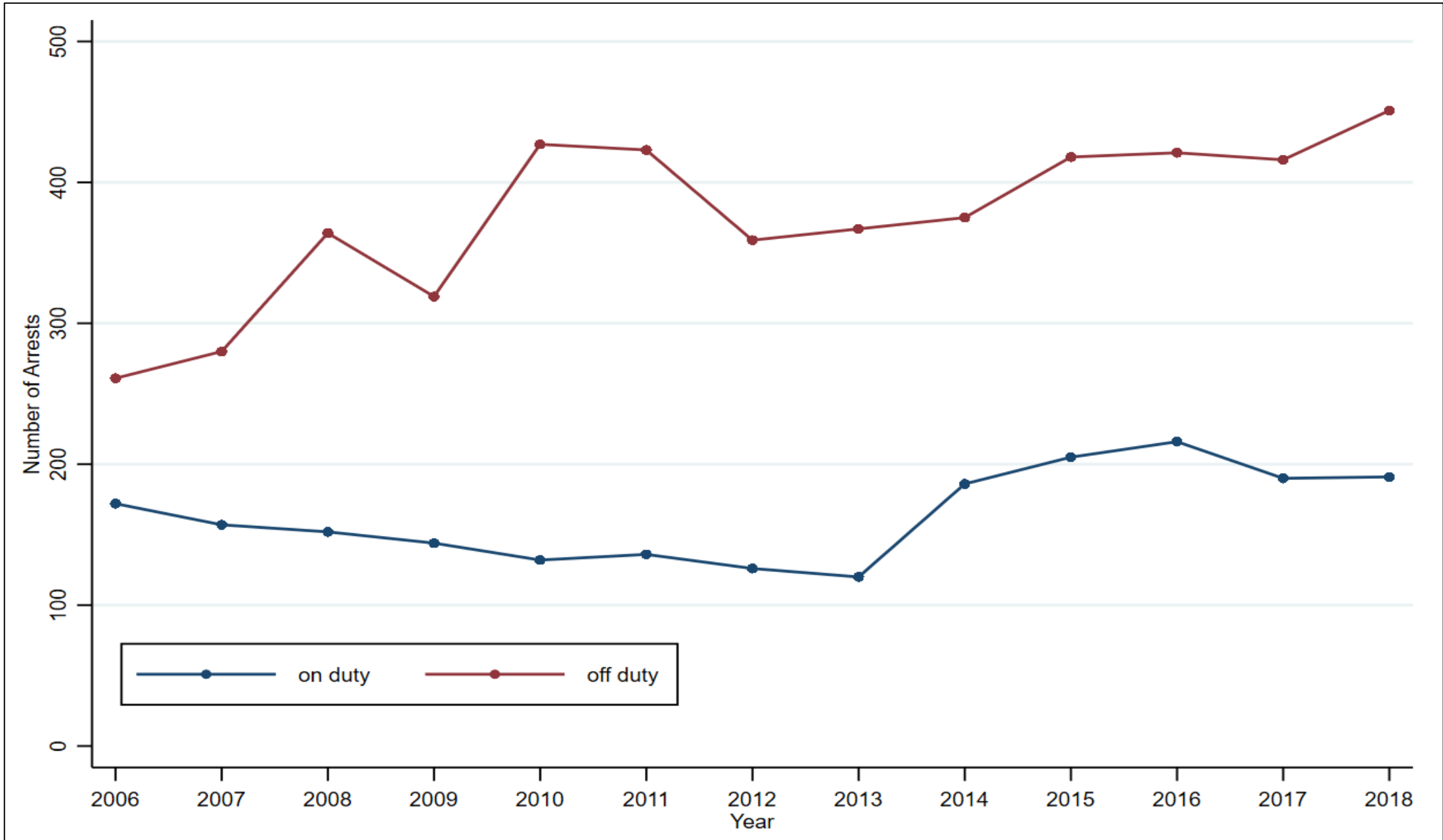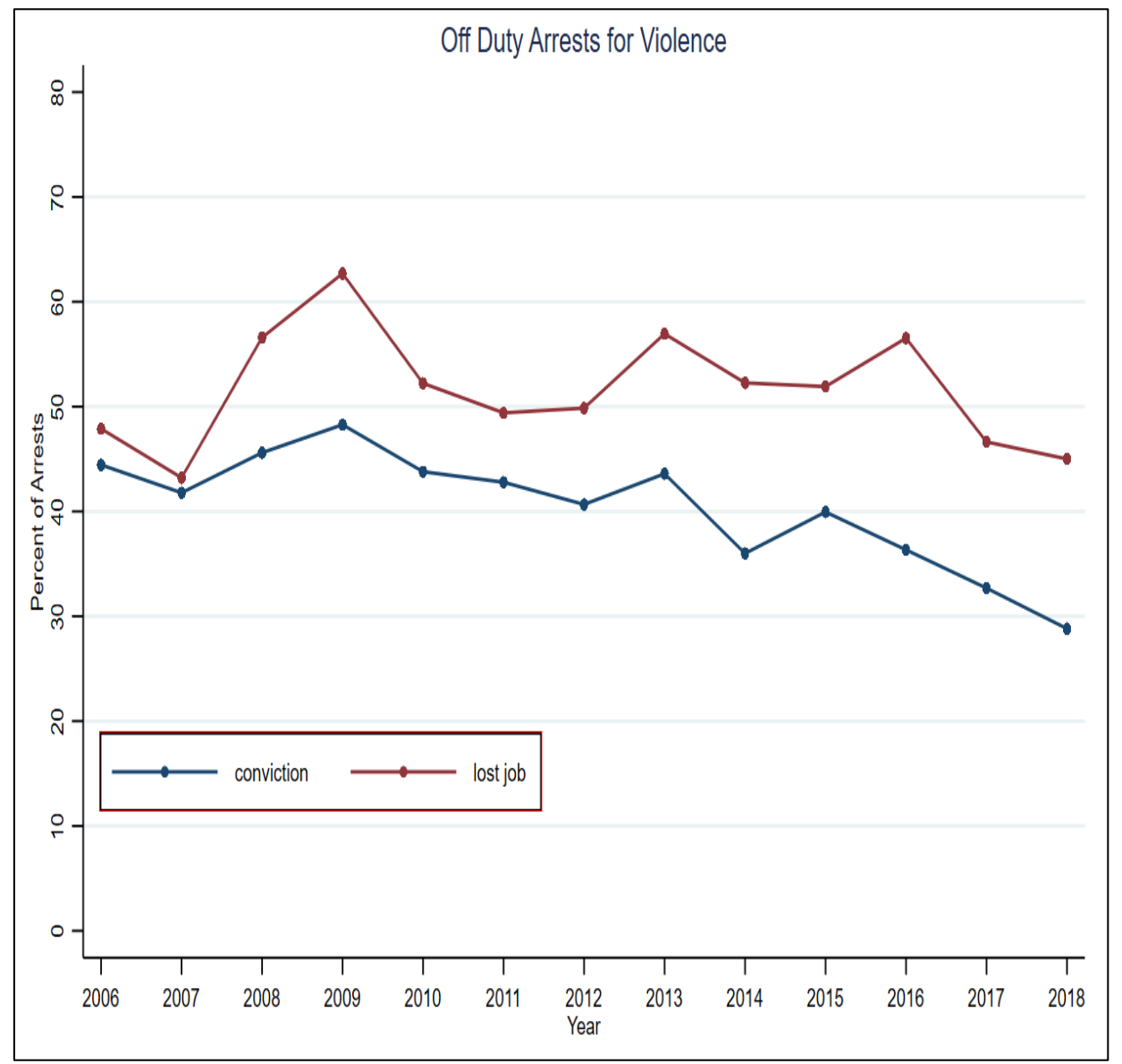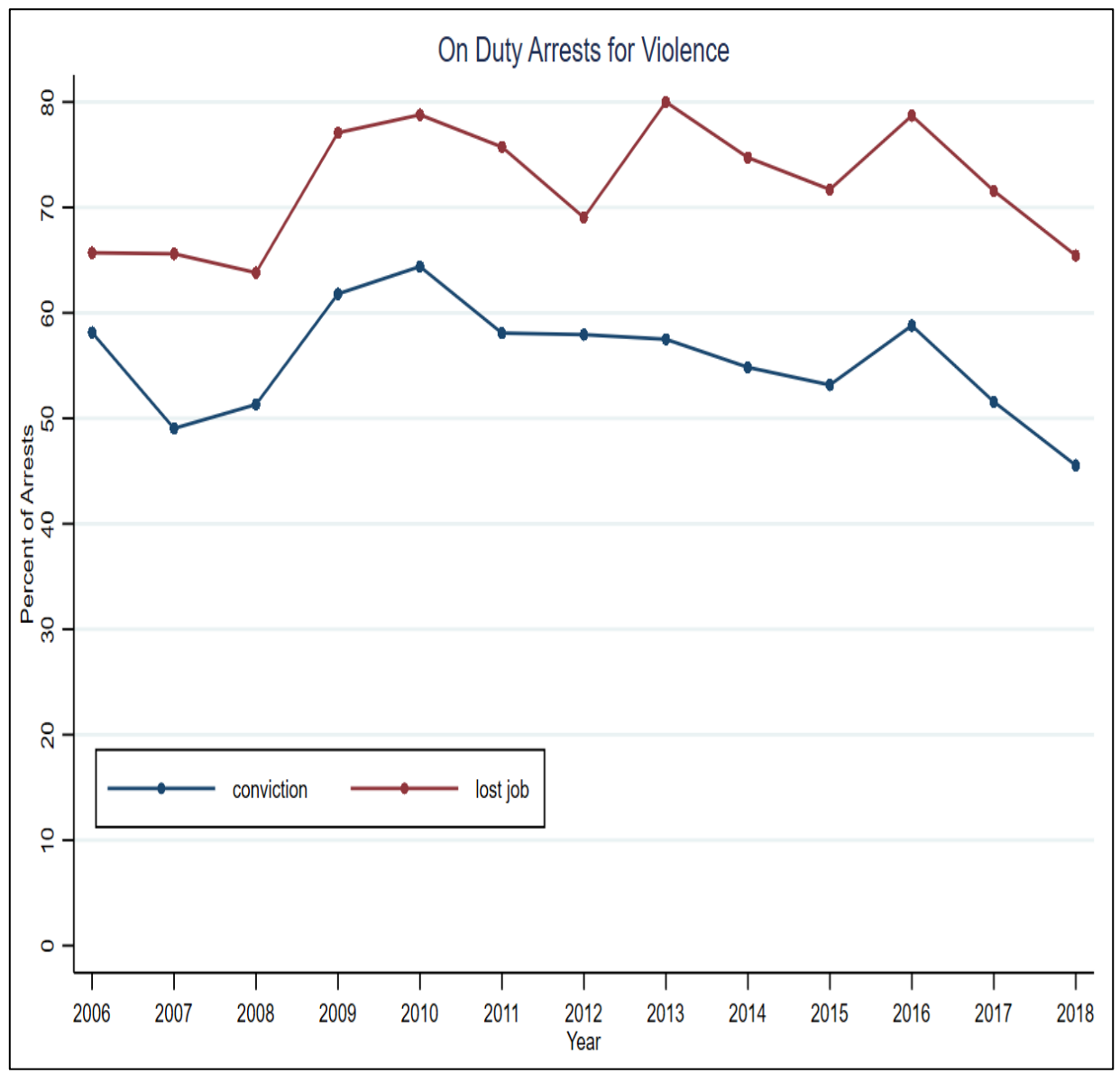Figure 3: Arrests for On- and Off-Duty Violent Offenses from 2006 to 2018

Figure 4: Percent of On- and Off-Duty Arrests for Violence in Which Officer Lost Job or Convicted

Conclusions and Future Directions

Conclusions:
- General stability in overall number of on- and off-duty arrests (stability).
- In contrast, some indication of increase for incidents involving violence on duty (change).
- No evidence that job loss and conviction increased after 2013 (stability).

Future Directions:
- Longitudinal analysis
  - Change point analysis for increase in on-duty arrest for violent crimes
  - Factors that influence multi-arrest
  - Multilevel model for change (MLMC)
- Content analysis
  - Identify themes at the incident-level
  - Gather more information on officer background and history
- Continued data collection and coding
  - Data collected through 2023
  - Starting to code 2019 cases

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