

Background

Nationally, the majority (59%) of warrants are issued for administrative reasons, not for a crime.

As of July 2017, in Monroe County, there are:

- Over 5,000 individuals with warrants
- Over 8,000 warrants
 - Of these, over 3,700 are bench warrants
- Limited number of studies examining this population
- No theories posited to explain this population and living with a warrant

Bench Warrants

Issued post-arraignment and usually for administrative reasons such as:

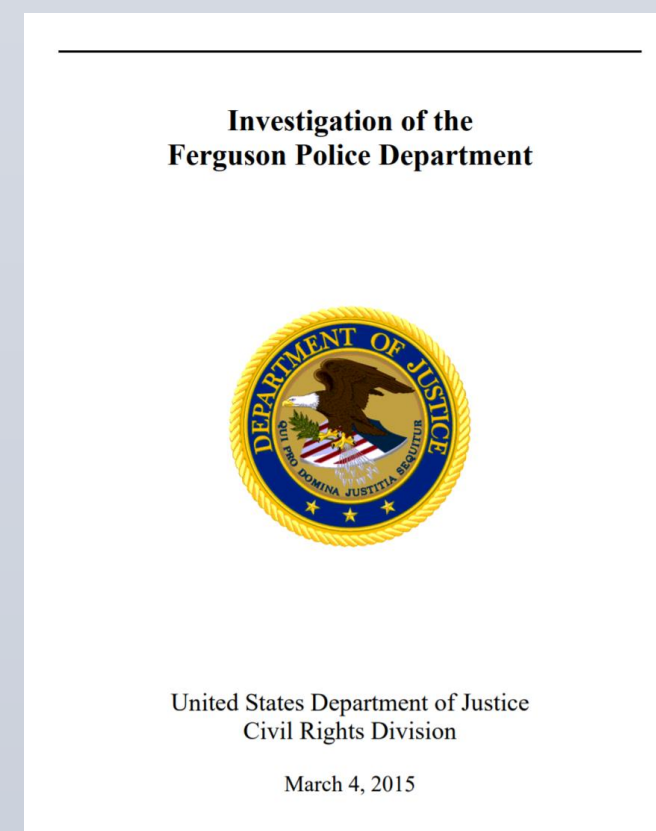
- Failure to appear in court
- Failure to pay assigned fines or fees
- NOT for new criminal behavior

Preliminary Literature Review

Warrants issued not for public safety reasons, but instead are routinely issued for missed court appearances and required fine payments (DOJ report; Ferguson, MO).

Impact of warrants:

- ❖ Public Assistance
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ Transportation/driving
- ❖ Victimization



Study Design

Purpose: Develop a conceptual framework explaining what it is like to live with low-level fugitive status

Grounded theory study, plus customer journey mapping

In-depth interviews with individuals who have a bench warrant(s) or used to have a bench warrant(s)

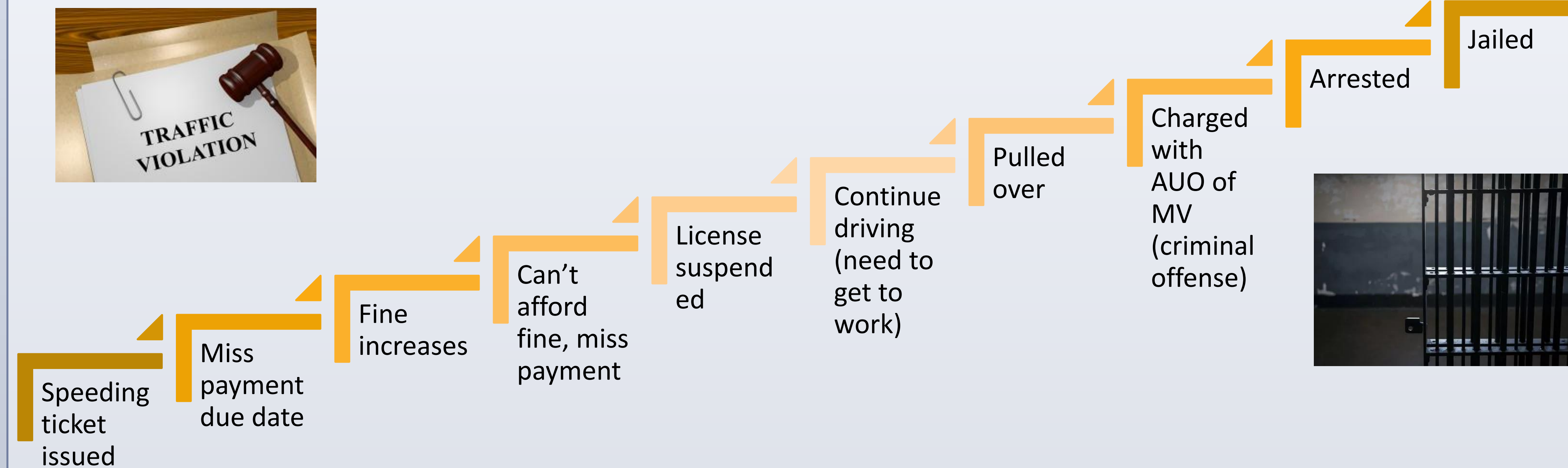
In-depth interviews with trusted individuals of the warrant participants

Interviews with Criminal Justice system professionals

Collect, code and analyze interviews

Develop customer journey map for living with a warrant

Escalation



Selected Interview Questions

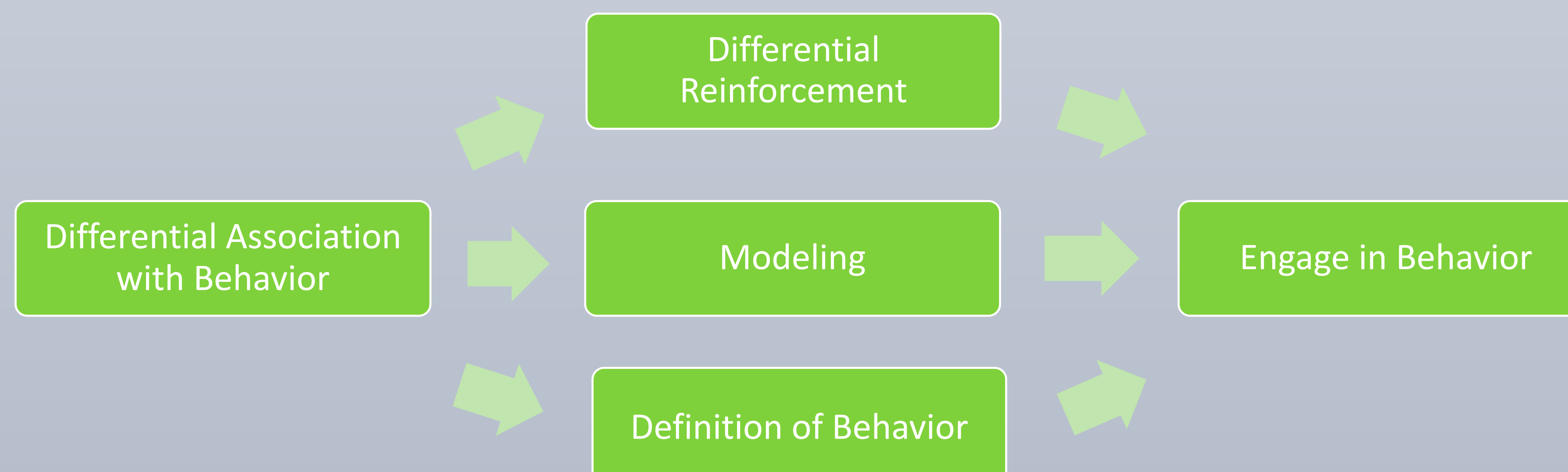
First Interview

1. Describe how you got the warrant issued, from the beginning to the end.
2. What was going on in your life when you got the warrant?
3. Tell me about your experience with having a warrant.
4. Tell me about your experience with the court system, specific to warrant.
5. Tell me about your experience with the police, specific to warrant.

Second Interview

1. Information on the original offense: What was the offense? How was the ticket/arrest/ issued? Who was present, who responded? Where did the offense occur? What was the next step required? How were you made aware of this?
 - a. Describe what happened.
 - b. What were you feeling when going through this?
 - c. What were you thinking when going through this?
2. Did you complete this step? Why or why not?

Example of Theory: Bandura's Social Learning Theory



Implications

- ❖ Criminal justice system processing
 - ❖ Actionable policy steps
 - ❖ Actionable practice steps
- ❖ Improving conditions for individuals with warrants
 - ❖ Legal policy

Next Steps

- Continue interviews with individuals with warrants
- Continue interviews with trusted individuals
- Continue interviews with criminal justice system professionals
- Ongoing and simultaneous coding and analysis of interview data
- Develop categories for eventual theory emergence

Acknowledgements

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References

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