

Plea Agreement Benefits: Judiciary

Quickly and efficiently disposes of cases, and conserves judicial resources

Alleviates congested caseloads and reduces the expense of providing jury trials

Shortens the amount of time for judicial case management and oversight



Plea Agreement Benefits: Attorneys

Provides greater flexibility in handling criminal caseloads

Re-allocates scarce resources to cases that are more trial-worthy

Offers a quick, efficient method of resolving cases



Plea Agreement Benefits: Defendants



Avoids time-intensive and potentially costly trials

Removes the anxieties and uncertainties of trial

Often results in lower sentence in exchange for acknowledgement of guilt

Plea Agreement Benefits: Victims



Knowledge that defendant will not go unpunished for the crime

Allows an immediate sense of closure

Avoids a time-consuming and uncertain trial

Allows victims to make representations to prosecutor regarding plea agreement contents (Kenya Code 137D)

Plea Agreement Benefits: Public Interest



- Conserves public resources
- Reduces or eliminates the cost of going to trial
- Provides parties with a final and definitive resolution of the matter
- Convicts criminals quickly and efficiently
- Reduces judges' caseloads, allowing for faster resolution of cases

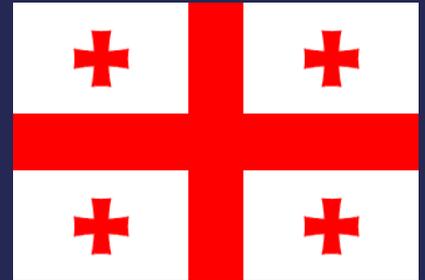
Some Countries With Plea Agreements



Bosnia



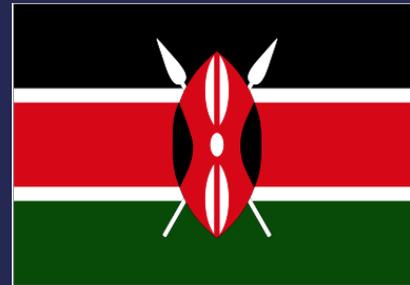
Moldova



Republic of Georgia



U.S.A.



Kenya



South Africa

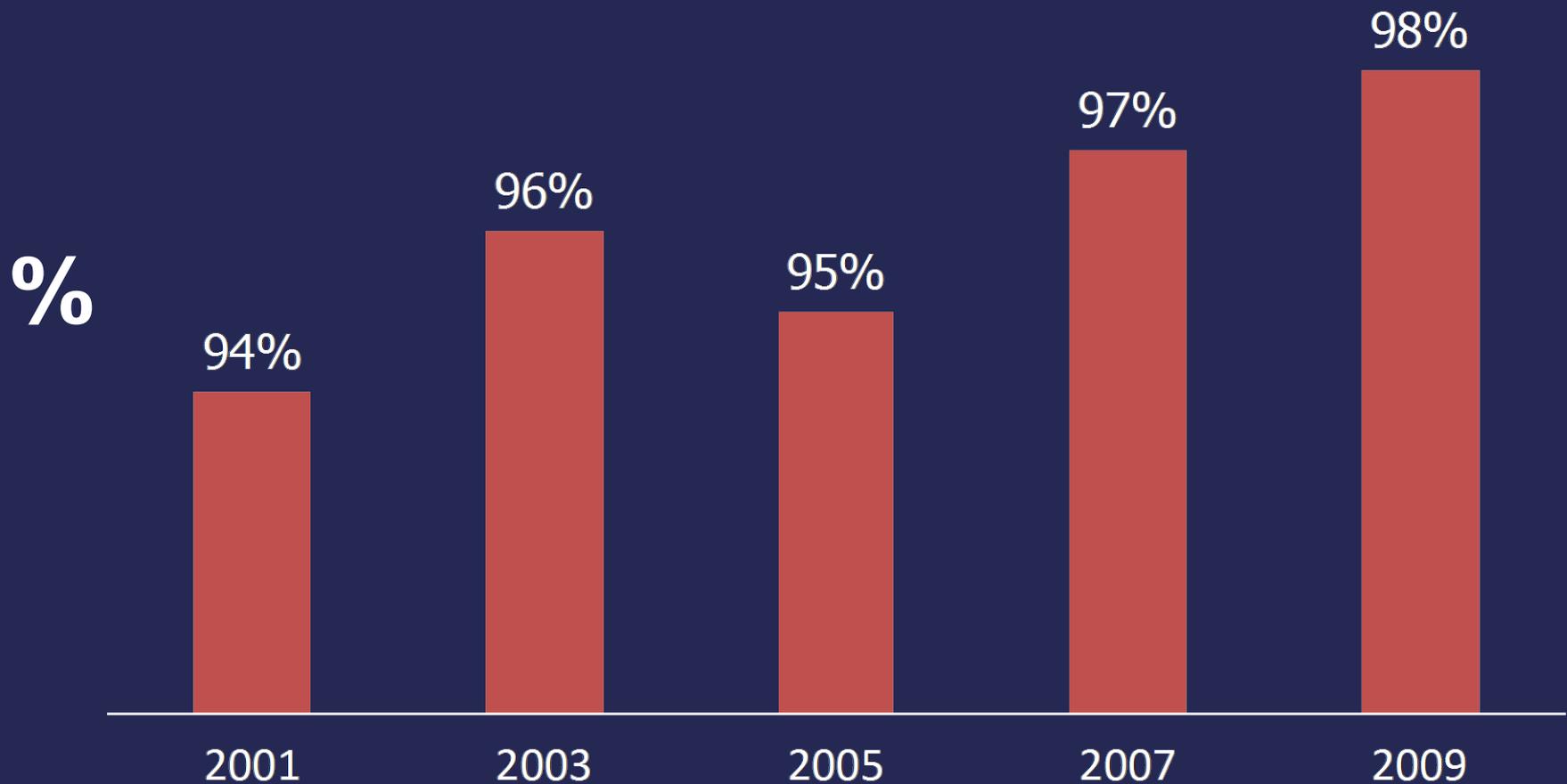


Rwanda



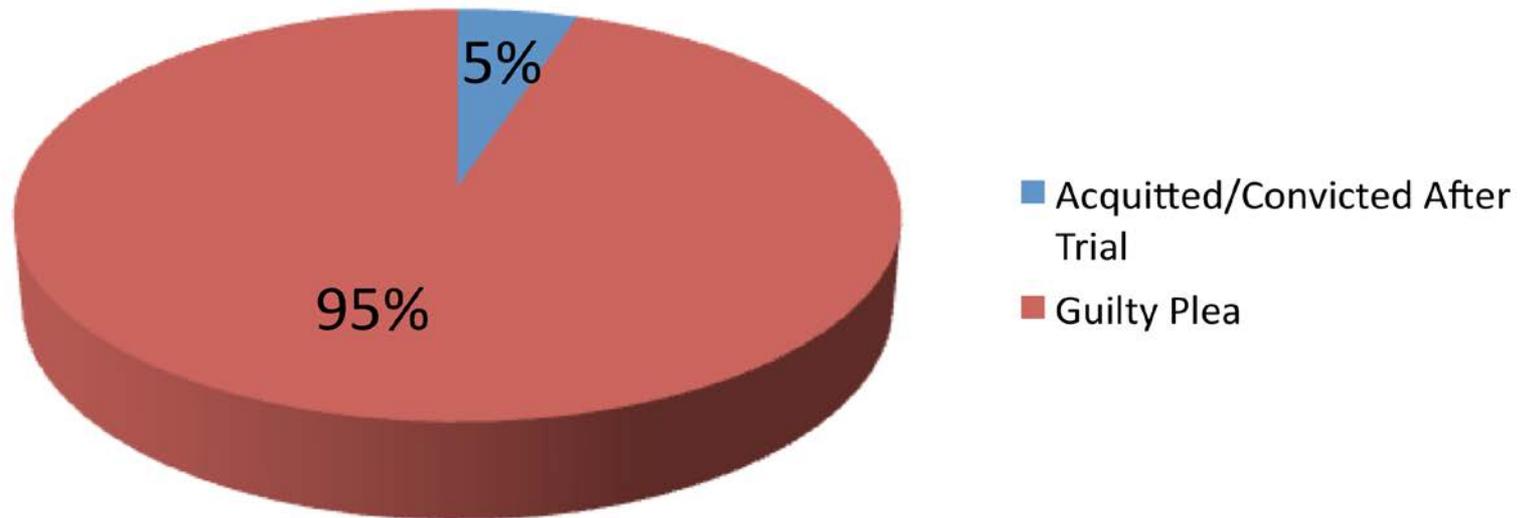
Zimbabwe

Guilty Pleas in U.S. Federal Court, 2001-2009



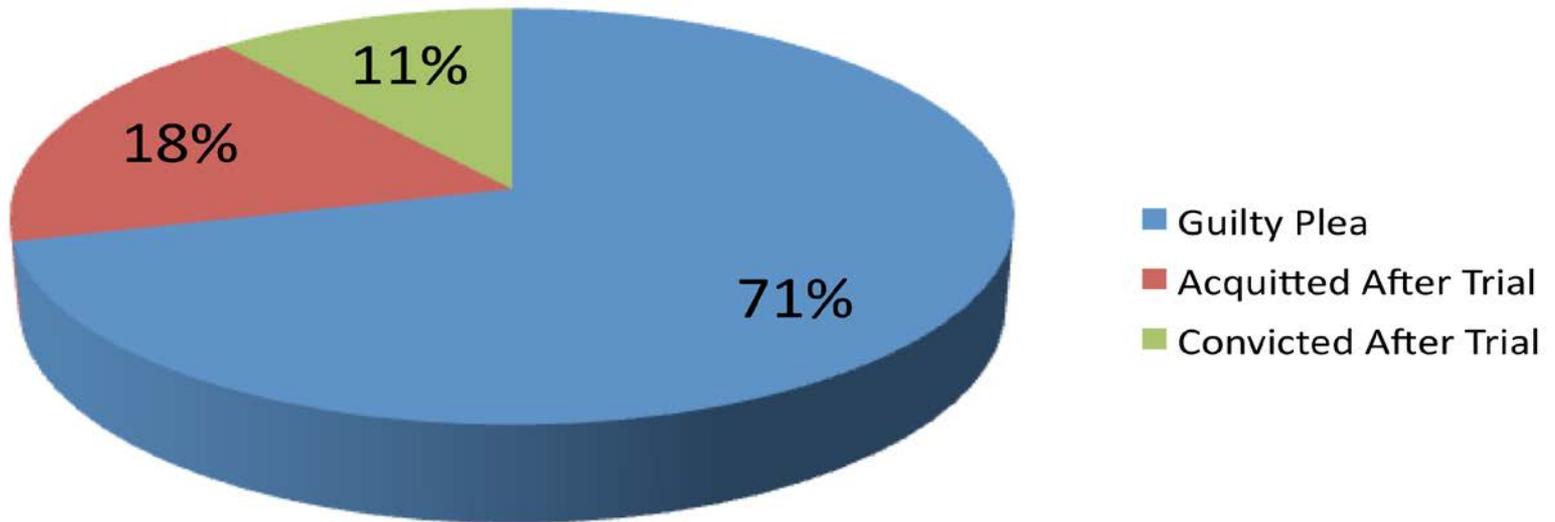
Source: Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, Judicial Business of U.S. Courts, 2003-2009.

Guilty Pleas in U.S. State Court, 2006

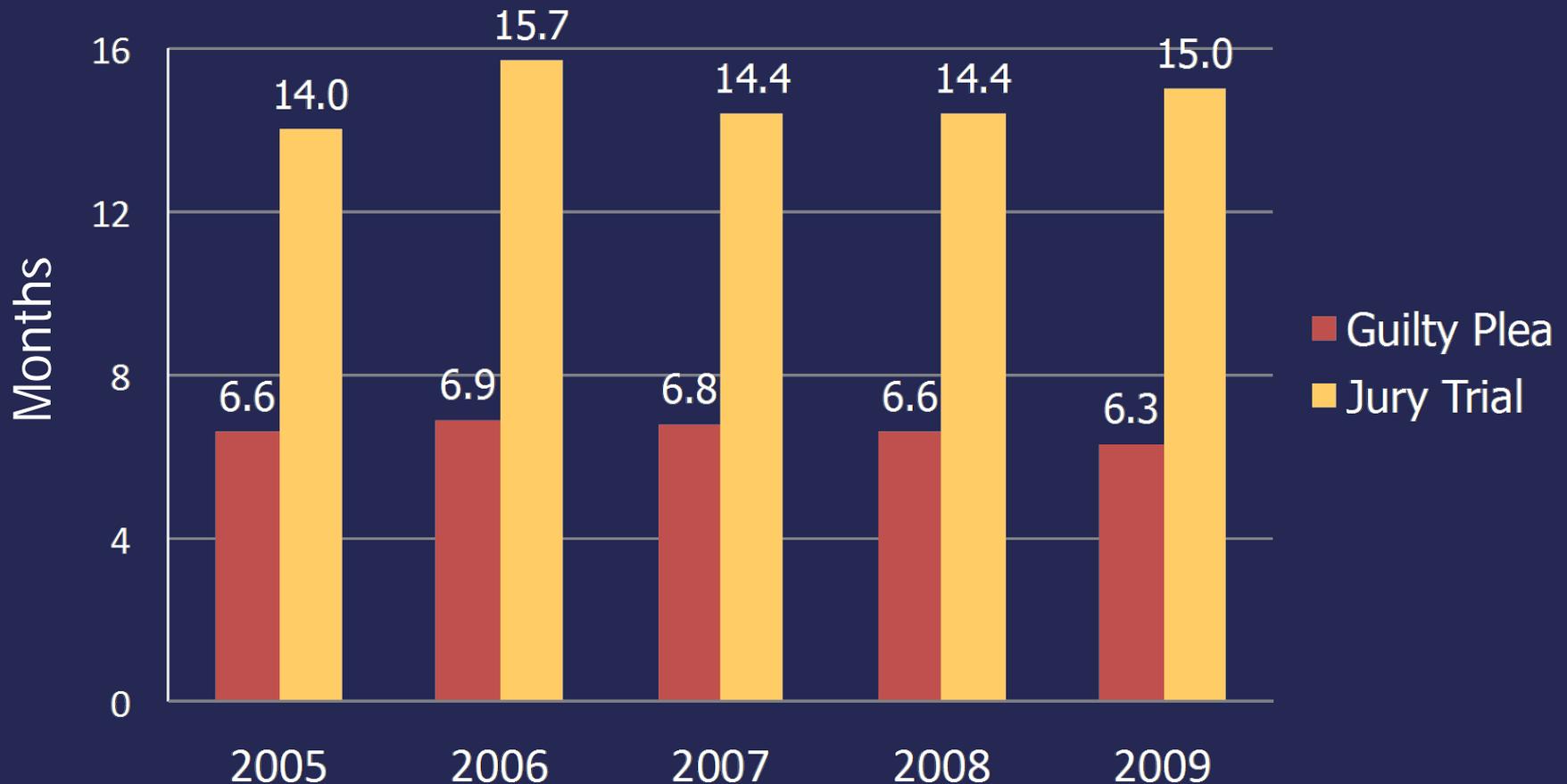


Source: U.S. Department of Justice, State Court Processing Statistics, 2010

Guilty Pleas in U.K. System, 2009



Median U.S. Federal Processing Time in Months, 2005-2009



Source: Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, Judicial Business of U.S. Courts, 2009.

Average U.S. Federal Prison Sentences in Years, 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Criminal Trends, 2006.