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be addressed and overcome. These individual-level data are subsequently augmented with information on district court contextual environments, providing for the first large-scale and systematic investigation of inter-district variation in federal prosecution. In order to provide necessary context for the current work, Chapter 2 provides a brief history of prosecutorial decision making within the broader context of contemporary sentencing reform. It also reviews empirical research examining various aspects of prosecutorial discretion that has been conducted in the past twenty-five years, identifying key limitations and unaddressed issues. Chapter 3 provides an overview of the current study, situating it within the context of the federal criminal justice system and detailing the data, measures and methods that are used in this study. Chapter 4 summarizes and discusses the findings from the current research, beginning with individual disparities and then shifting to inter-court variations in federal charging outcomes. Finally, Chapter 5 summarizes the key findings, identifies limitations and future directions for research, and discusses some of the key policy implications of the results.

