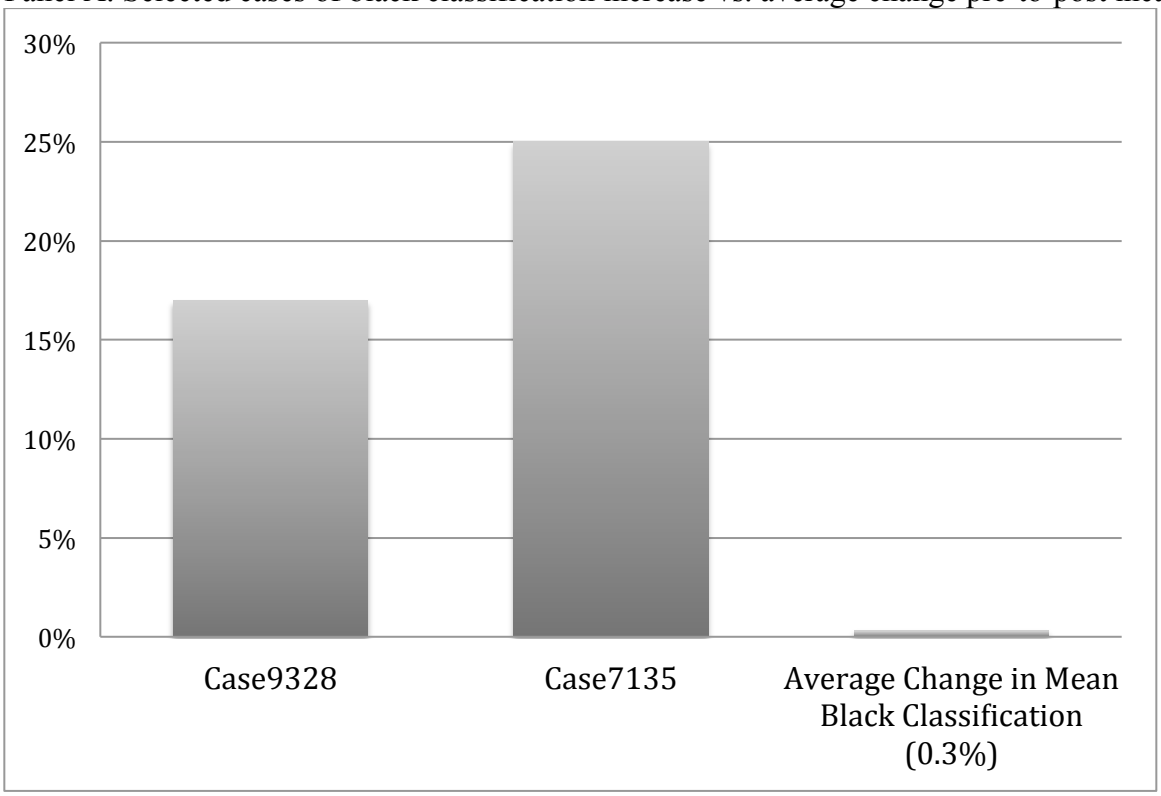
Figure 1. How do the selected cases compare to the average pre-to-post change?

Panel A. Selected cases of black classification increase vs. average change pre-to-post incarceration



Panel B. Selected cases of white classification decrease vs. average change pre-to-post incarceration

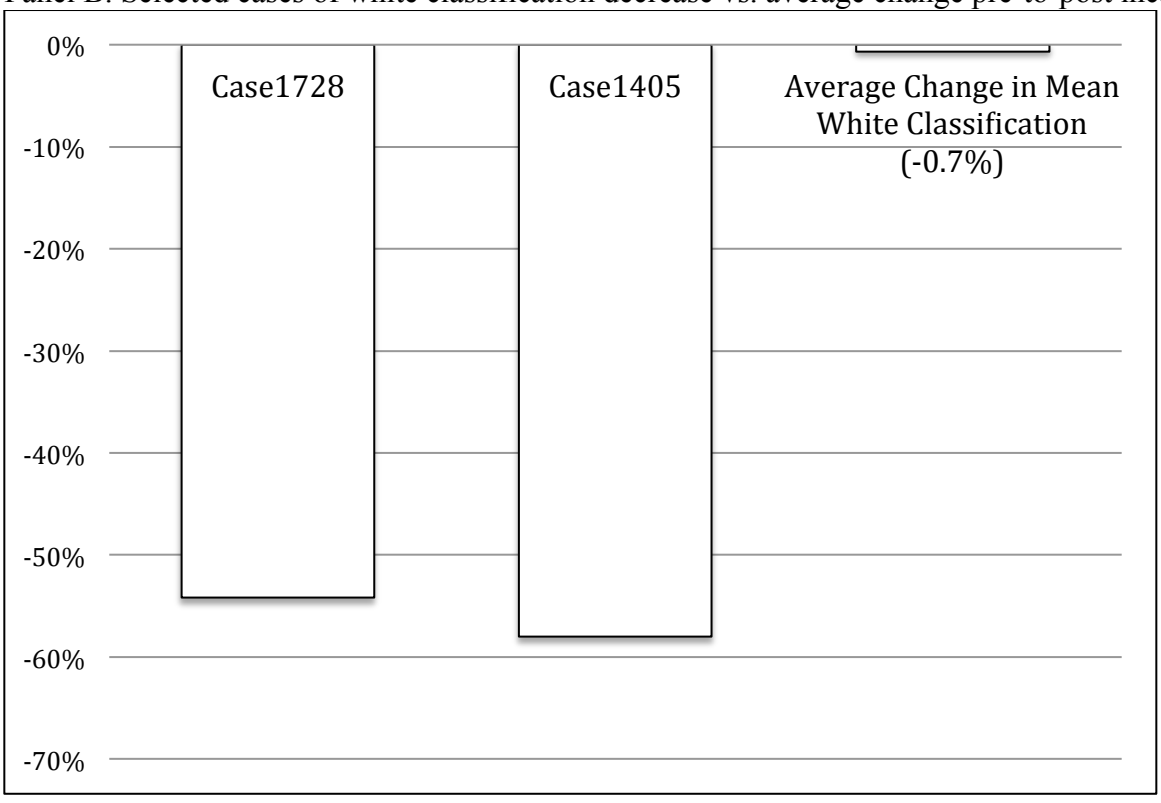


Figure 2. The Number of Respondents Who Saw Their Classifications as Black Decrease, Stay the Same, or Increase During Incarceration

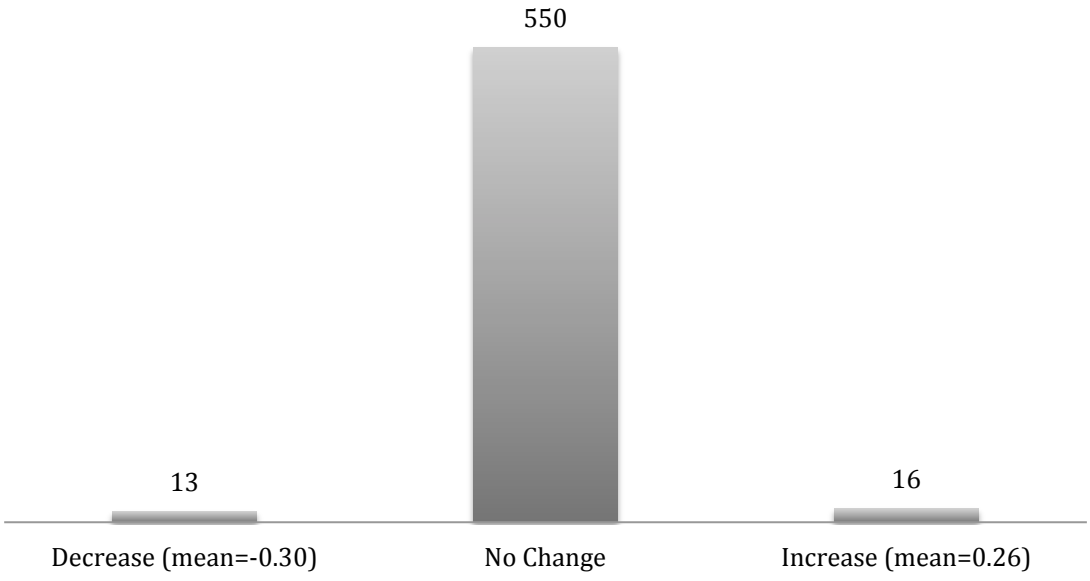
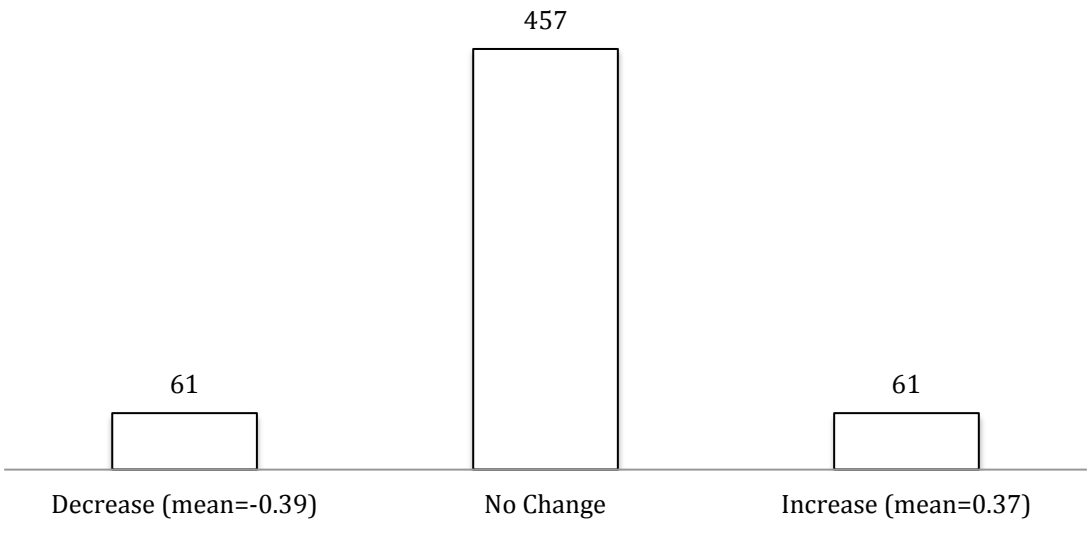


Figure 3. The Number of Respondents Who Saw Their Classifications as White Decrease, Stay the Same, or Increase During Incarceration



Our conclusion: While some NLSY79 respondents saw their proportion of classifications as white or black change for the years they were interviewed in prison/jail (relative to before they were ever incarcerated), a comparable number saw an increase versus decrease (of almost exactly the same magnitude).

Figure 4. The Number of Respondents Who Saw Their Classification as Black Decrease, Stay the Same, or Increase During Incarceration (Restricted to Respondents Interviewed in Prison/Jail 5 or More Times)

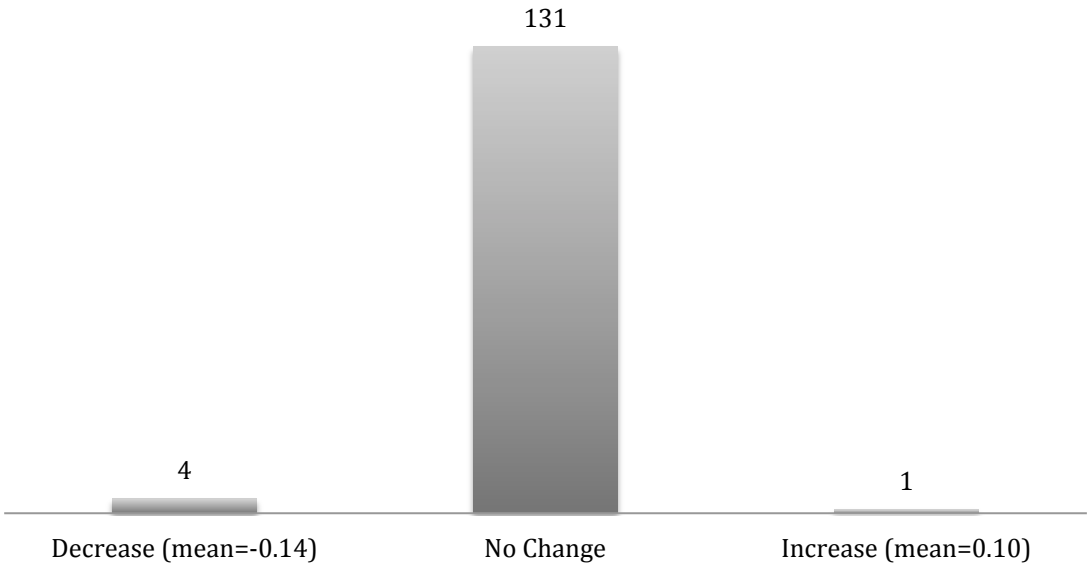
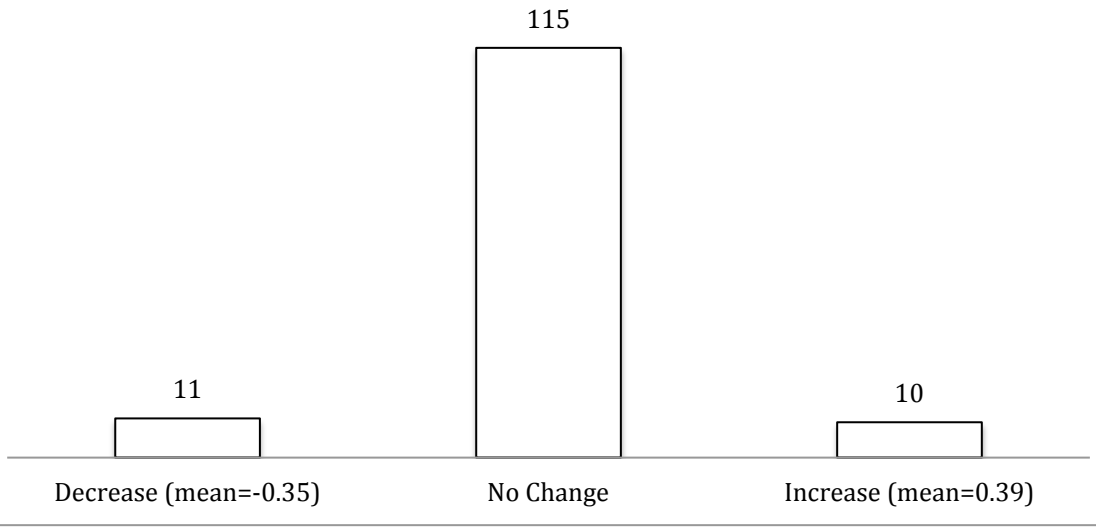


Figure 5. The Number of Respondents Who Saw Their Classification as White Decrease, Stay the Same, or Increase During Incarceration (Restricted to Respondents Interviewed in Prison/Jail 5 or More Times)



Our conclusion: Contrary to the theory that a "longer spell in prison might be more likely to alter an individual's personality or presentation of self in such a way as to influence their racial classification" (Saperstein and Penner 2010, p. 99), more time in prison does not magnify differences with the average racial classification prior to ever being incarcerated.

Table A1. A closer look at the 2,333 NLSY respondents who exclusively or partially self-identified as Black in 2002 (racial identity changers from 1979 are highlighted)

	N	Percentage
Black Racial/Ethnic Identity in 1979		
Answered exclusively "Black"	2,147	92.03%
Answered partially "Black"	97	4.16%
Single Non-Black Racial/Ethnic Identity in 1979		
Answered exclusively "English"	38	1.63%
Answered exclusively of Hispanic Origin	13	0.56%
Answered exclusively "Indian-American or Native American" or "American"	12	0.51%
Answered exclusively "None" or "Other"	8	0.34%
Answered exclusively "French"	4	0.17%
Answered exclusively "Filipino" or "Asian Indian"	2	0.09%
Answered exclusively "Portuguese"	1	0.04%
Multiple Non-Black Racial/Ethnic Identities in 1979		
Answered partially "Indian-American or Native American"	4	0.17%
Answered partially "Other"	3	0.13%
Answered partially of Hispanic Origin	1	0.04%
Missing Data		
Skipped or refused to answer any 1979 racial self-identity questions	3	0.13%

Our conclusion: The NLSY respondents that changed from a non-Black to Black self-identity from 1979 to 2002 constitute a very small group that is not representative of the general population. There were no cases of individuals switching from an Italian, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, German, Polish, Russian, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese ethnic origin to Black. Curiously, the largest category of identity shifters involved youth answering exclusively “English” in 1979. It is possible that the intended meaning of the ethnic origin question was not clearly communicated to some young respondents and they simply assumed that the question was referring to first language.

Table A2. Among the 38 youth that exclusively self-identified as "English" in 1979 and then switched to Black in 2002, how did the respondent's legal guardian initially describe the youth's ethnicity in 1978?

Parent or Guardian's View of Respondent Race in 1978	N	Percentage
% Identifying Respondent as "English, Scottish, or Welsh"	0	00.00%
% Identifying Respondent as "Another group, not listed"	2	05.26%
% Identifying Respondent as "Black, Negro, African American"	36	94.74%

Our conclusion: One characteristic of those that changed categories between 1979 and 2002 that makes them distinctly unrepresentative of the general population is that they overwhelmingly *started off* with inconsistent data (e.g., a mismatch between the youth's answer to the ethnic origin question and how a legal guardian or interviewer described the respondent). In line with the notion that one should expect a certain amount of error in the survey process, the overwhelming majority of youth that were counted as newly Black in 2002 would have been categorized as already Black using alternative initial measures of race/ethnicity.

Table A3. Logistic Regression Estimates of the Relationship between Incarceration and Black Self-identification in 2002 by the Inclusion/Exclusion of Outlying Inconsistent Data

Variable	Full Sample	The 98% starting off with a self-identification that matched the interviewer's Black/Non-Black observation in 1979
Ever Incarcerated (1979-2002)	1.04**	0.27
	(0.34)	(0.56)
Black Self-id in 1979	8.21***	9.95***
	(0.20)	(0.30)
Missing Self-id in 1979	1.18	
	(0.61)	——
N	7,718	7,489

Notes: ** and *** indicate $p<.01$ and $p<.001$ respectively. Standard errors are in parentheses.

Our conclusion: While the effect of incarceration on racial self-identification in 2002 is still significant when controlling for racial self-identification in 1979, the residual incarceration effect is driven by the inclusion of a small number of unrepresentative cases where the respondent's self-identification in 1979 was inconsistent with the interviewer's observation in that same year.