

Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Tenisha Stevens

Commissioner Tenisha Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Roll Call & Opening Remarks

Chief Judge Candice Bates-Anderson	Juvenile Court	Designee Present
Chief Public Defender Danny Engelberg	Public Defender	Designee Present
Tobie Lamy	Probation and Parole	Absent
Councilmember Leslie Harris	City Council	Absent
Sheriff Susan Hutson	Sheriff	Designee Present
Judge Bobby Jones	Judge	Designee Present
Asya Howlette	Office of Youth and Families	Designee Present
Darren Lombard	Clerk of Court	Absent
Dr. Dwight McKenna	Coroner	Designee Present
Gilbert Montaña	Chief Administrator	Designee Present
Vice President Helena Moreno	City Council	Designee Present
Chief Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier	Criminal District Court	Present
Commissioner Tenisha Stevens	Mayor’s Office	Present
Councilmember Oliver Thomas	City Council	Designee Present
Donesia Turner	City Attorney	Absent
Ms. Nikita White	State Office of Juvenile Justice	Absent
District Attorney Jason Williams	District Attorney	Present
Superintendent Ann Kirkpatrick	NOPD	Designee Present
Ms. Thelma French	Total Community Action	Present
Ms. Elizabeth Boh	Chief Executive Officer	Absent
Mr. Troy Glover	Citizen Representative-Reentry	Absent
Dr. Raynard Sanders	Citizen Representative-Equity	Absent
Ms. Margaret Washington	Citizen Representative-Victims/Survivors	Present
Ms. Melissa Sawyer	Citizen Representative- Youth Advocacy	Absent
Mr. Ron McClain	Citizen Representative- Mental Health	Absent

III. Consideration & Approval of the Minutes from August 28, 2024

Commissioner Stevens asked for a motion to accept the adoption of the minutes with one correction to mark the City Attorney's Office as present at the August 28th meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Thelma French. and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Landry. The minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. FY23 Byrne JAG Funding Allocation - \$215,875

Ms. Margaret Washington gave a presentation on behalf of the grant subcommittee to announce the recommendations for the FY23 Byrne JAG funding allocation. Commissioner Stevens gave the group time to discuss the recommendations then asked for asked for a motion to allocate the funding. Andre Gaudin made a motion to accept the grants subcommittee recommendation and allocate the funds accordingly. The motion was seconded by Margaret Washington.

Commissioner Stevens conducted a roll call vote. The motion passed with 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

V. Jail Population Management Data Presentation

Theresa McKinney and Adrienne Tobler did a presentation on the jail population. The presentation is attached. The presentation highlighted the fact that small decreases in length of stay can have a compounding impact on the jail population, and that creating policies that institutionalize even minor case processing expediencies will help in getting our jail population to a more manageable size and keeping it there.

VI. Agency Jail Population Management Presentations & Discussion

Notable comments were made by several councilmembers including Chief Judge Flemings-Davillier who applauded OCJC for continuing to tell the story about what we see in the jail supported by intentional methodology. The judges noted the complexity of cases as well as hold-ups in areas outside of the local jurisdiction such as the ELMS Waitlist, DOC transfers and writs, and detainers from other states or parishes.

The Public Defender's Office noted that the number of jury trials is high, which pushes all cases in that section back and takes considerably more staff time. They also noted concerns around ability to meet with their clients in OPSO's limited visitation rooms and how that takes up valuable staff time. District Attorney Jason Williams echoed the frustration with defendants not being brought to court and commented that not going to court should not be an option for people with docketed matters who are in OPSO custody.

The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office shared a data presentation that was later recirculated with corrections (attached). They made note that there are opportunities to safely lower the jail population if all parties work together to improve efficiency and prioritize case processing improvements where applicable.

VII. Councilmember Updates

No council member updates

VIII. Community Updates

No community updates

IX. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Commissioner Stevens closed out the meeting. There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Margaret Washington.



By the Numbers: Orleans Parish Jail Population Trends

Presented at the joint meeting of the Sandy Krasnoff Criminal Justice Committee and the Jail Population Subcommittee

Thursday, 14 November 2024

Prepared by Theresa RF McKinney

Guiding model, central question, and methods



Jail admissions, jail releases, and lengths of jail stays are three key, interrelated factors that impact jail population.

This presentation aims to address this overarching question:

What can jail admission, jail release, and length-of-jail-stay data tell us about increases in jail population over the last 24 months?

The analysis presented here is based on person and charge data from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office over the last 24 months, from 1 November 2022 through 31 October 2024.

Figure 1. Jail population model

24-month trends, November 2022 - October 2024

- Compared to November 2022, **the average jail population has increased by 60.3%**, from 936 people in November 2022 to 1,500 people in October 2024.
- On average, **the jail population has been increasing by 2.1% month by month** over the last 2 years, with 6 notable, month-to-month increases of 3.5% or higher.
- While jail admissions tend to fluctuate seasonally, **compared to November 2022, monthly jail admissions have increased by 33.6% in October 2024**, from 642 admissions in November 2022 to 858 admissions in October 2024.
- **Jail admissions for felony charges have increased by 45.2%**, from 307 in November 2022 to 446 in October 2024.
- Jail releases have also increased over the last 2 years; however, **from November 2022 to October 2024, the total number of jail admissions exceeded the total number of jail releases by 450**.
- **The average length of jail stay for people admitted with felony charges is 68 days**, over 7 weeks longer than the average length of stay for people admitted for non-felony offenses.

Incremental increases in average jail population and monthly jail admissions are adding up

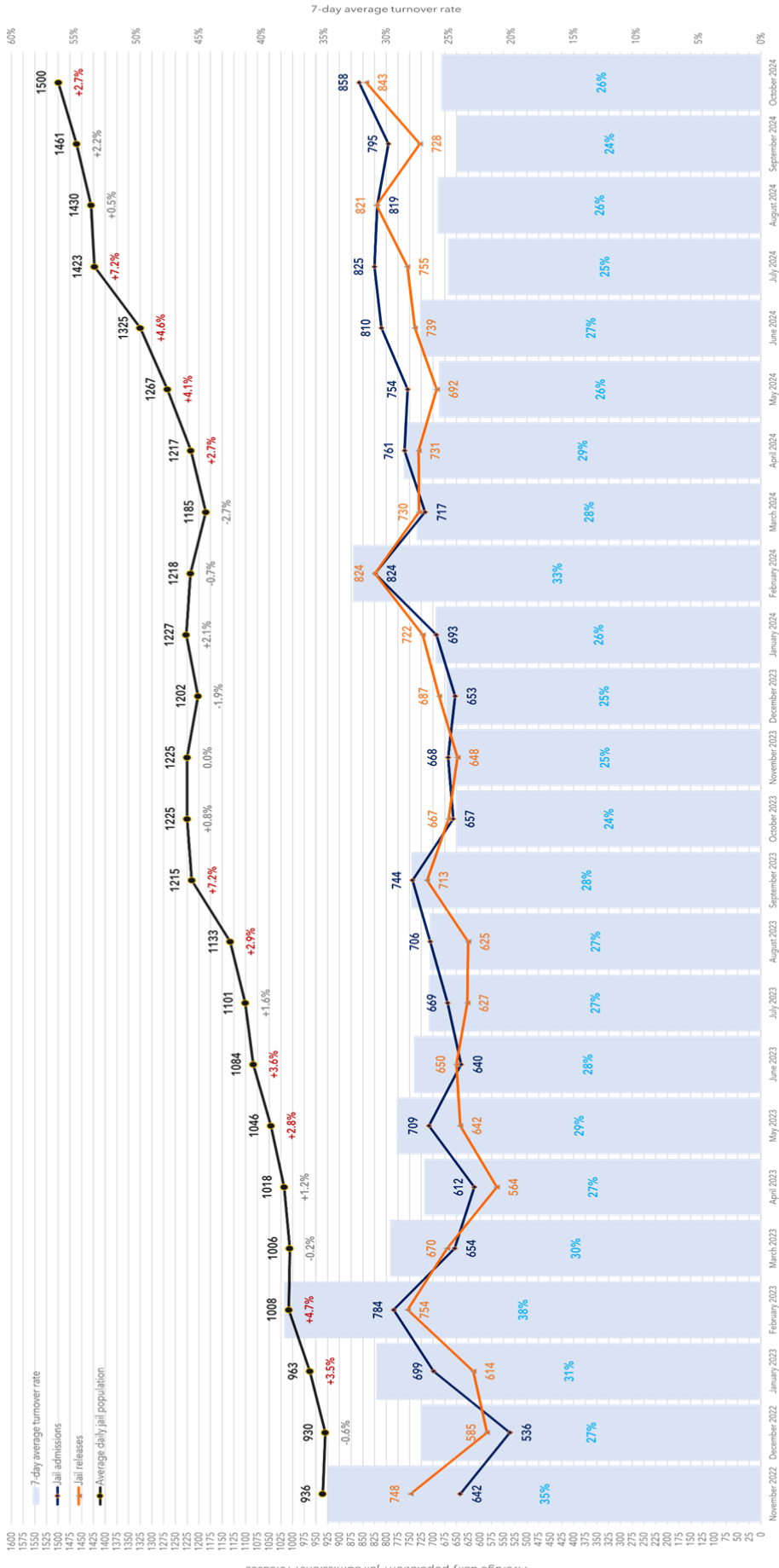


Figure 2 Notes

This data graphic presents several measures.

The gray line at the top represents the average jail population for that month. Beneath each average jail population figure is the percentage change in jail population. Over the last 2 years, the jail population has increased an average of 2.1%. However, there are 10 months out of the last 24 months when the average jail population increased significantly, and these changes are noted in red. Generally, once the monthly average jail population increases, it sets a new "normal" until the next significant increase.

(By "significant", I mean that the increase is greater than the average of 2.1% + the standard deviation of 0.03.)

However, there have been 10 notable increases in the average jail population:

- December 2022 to January 2023: +3.5%
- April 2023 to May 2023: +2.8%
- May 2023 to June 2023: +3.6%
- July 2023 to August 2023: +2.9%
- August 2023 to September 2023: +7.2%
- March 2024 to April 2024: +2.7%
- April 2024 to May 2024: +4.1%
- May 2024 to June 2024: +4.6%
- June 2024 to July 2024: +7.2%
- September 2024 to October 2024: +2.7%

The dark blue line represents monthly jail admissions. Monthly jail admissions tend to fluctuate seasonally, like for Mardi Gras. However, in the last 5 months - since May 2024 - we've observed monthly jail admissions that are greater than the total jail admissions for February 2023. Last month, jail admissions exceeded the number of admissions for February of this year.

The orange line represents monthly jail releases. Where there are more admissions compared to releases, we tend to see an increase in average jail population.

The blue bar represents the 7-day average turnover rate, a measure of the flow into and out of the jail. In the most recent BJS publications, the average turnover rate for jails of our size is 31%.

More people have been admitted to the jail than have been released over the past 24 months

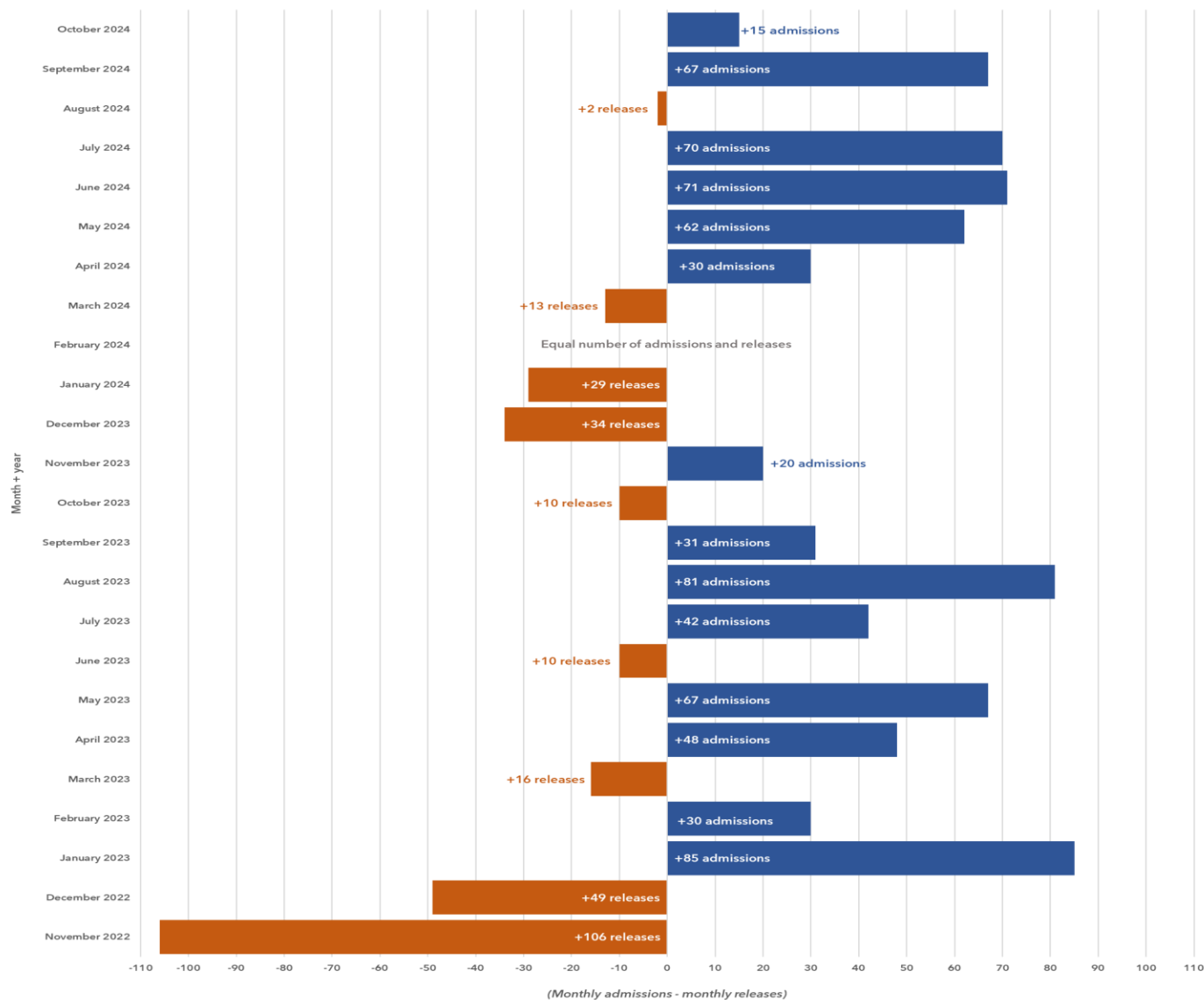


Figure 3. Differences between jail admissions and jail releases, November 2022 - October 2024

Note: This graphic is based on a simple equation: Admissions - Releases. In months when more people were admitted to the jail than were released, the bar will be blue and positive. In months when jail releases exceeded admissions, the bar will be burnt orange and negative. In February 2024, the number of admissions equaled the number of releases, and no bar is displayed.

As felony jail admissions have increased, so too has the average jail population

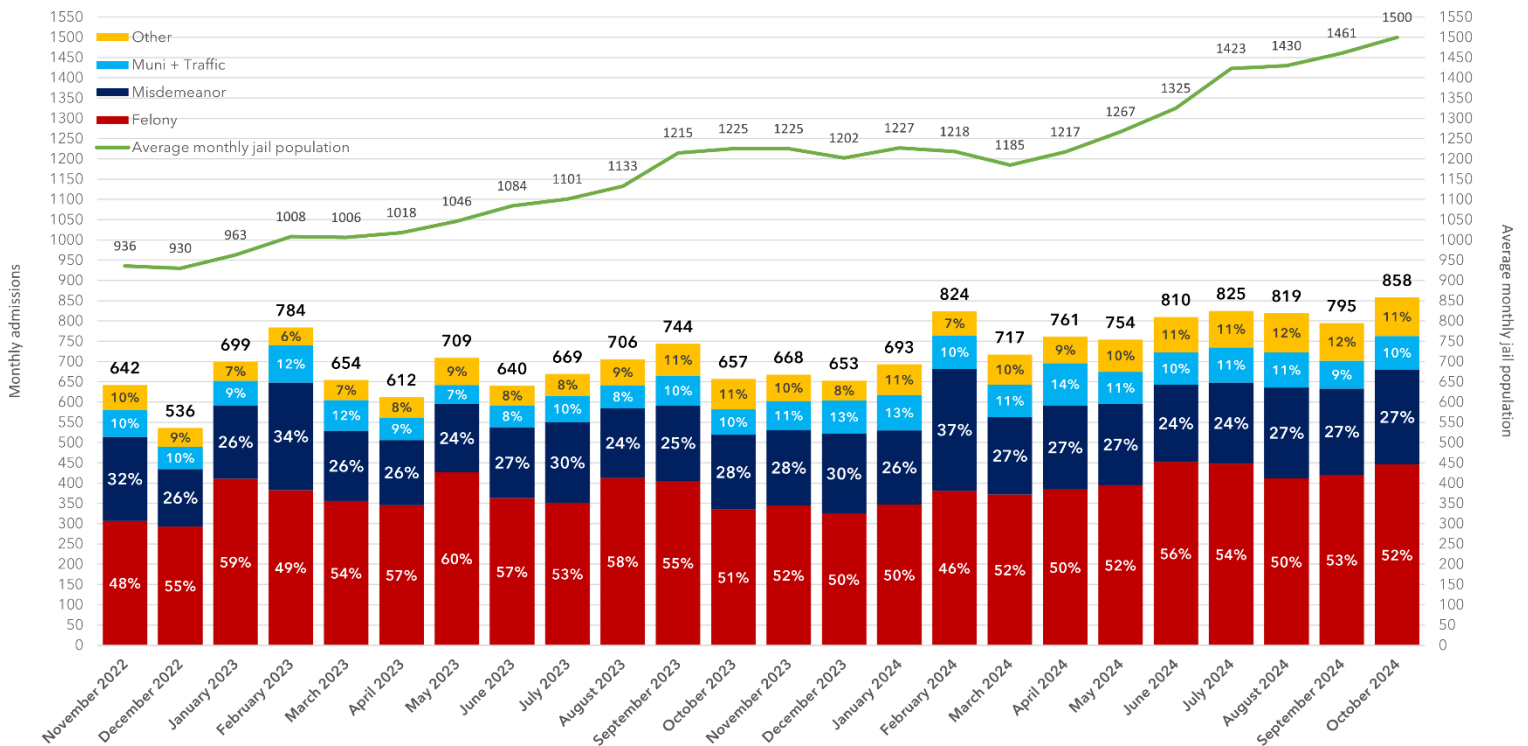


Figure 4. Jail admissions by most serious charge at booking and monthly average jail population, November 2022 - October 2024

When jail admissions on felonies increase, the jail population tends to increase, too.

When felony jail admissions increase numerically AND as a proportion of all jail admissions for the month, we tend to see significant increases to the average monthly jail population.

My hunch is that time is a factor. The effect of an increase in felony admissions might be observed a month or two months after the increase in admissions due to the longer lengths of stay for people admitted on felony charges.

Let's go to the next slide for some insight as to why this seems to be the pattern.

Average lengths of jail stay contribute to increases in jail population

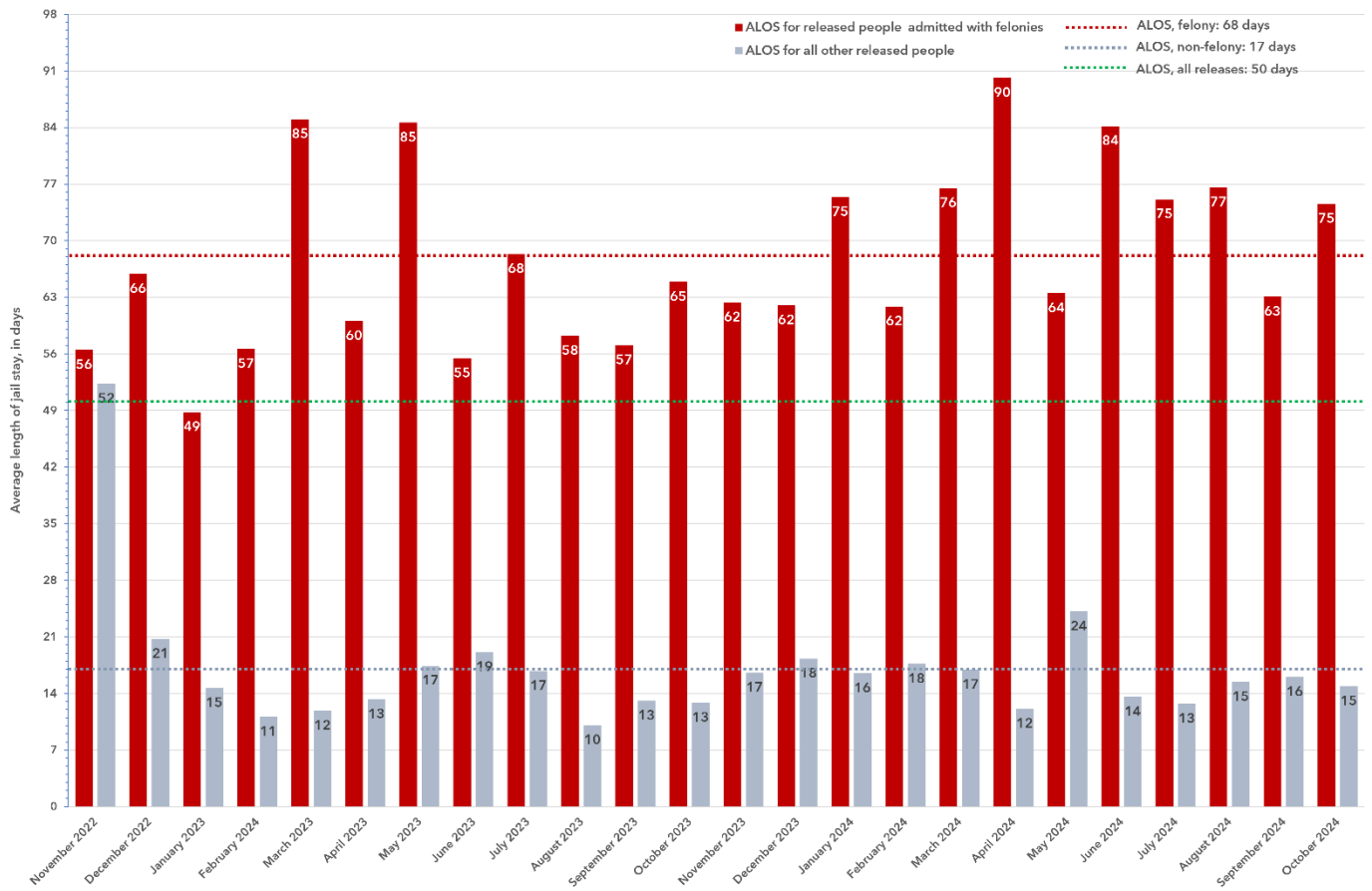


Figure 5. Monthly average lengths of stay for people with felony and non-felony charges who were released between 1 November 2022 through 31 October 2024, N=16,613

People who are admitted to the jail on felony charges tend to stay in jail for much longer than people admitted on non-felony violations. In this graphic, the red bar represents the average length of stay for people with felony charges, and the gray bar represents people admitted to the jail on non-felony charges.

On average, released people who had been admitted on felony charges spent 51 more days - more than 7 weeks -- in custody than those who had been admitted on non-felony charges. The length of stay for people admitted to the jail on felony charges is a likely contributor to the increase in average jail population.

More than 2/3 of all people released had a length of stay of 13 days or fewer

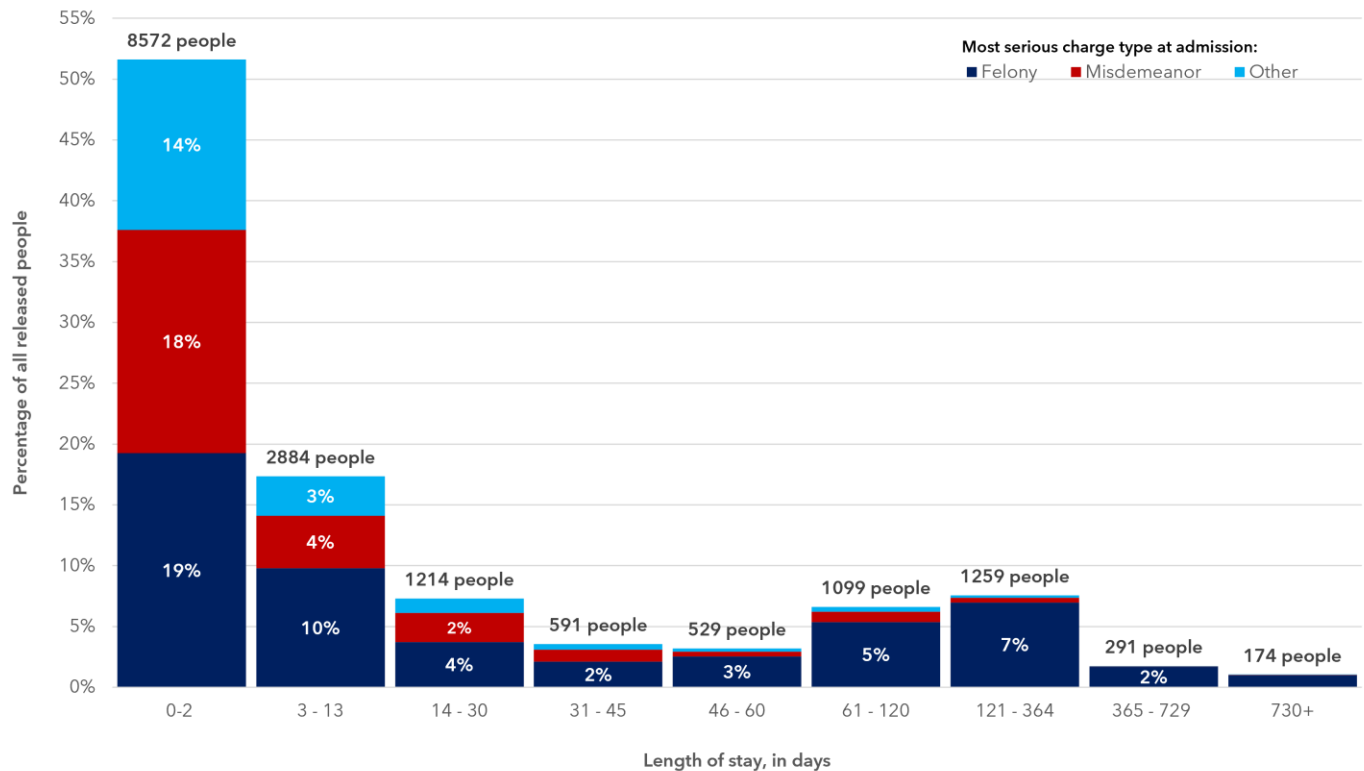


Figure 6 (Main graphic). Length of jail stay for people released in by most serious charge type at release, November 2023 - October 2024, N = 16,613

Figure 7 (Inset). Jail releases by most serious charge at booking, November 2023 - October 2024

While the average length of stay for all people who were released from jail over the last 2 years was 50 days, most people left jail custody within 2 days of jail admission.

Over the last 24 months, 52% percent of released people spent 2 days or less in jail. This tracks with the median jail stay of 2 days for people released between November 2022 and October 2023. Over 2/3 of people released over the last 2 years -- 69% -- were released after a jail stay of 13 days or fewer.

There is, however, a persistent “hump” in this graphic -- it shows up week after week, month and after month. 12% of people who were released over the last 2 years had spent between 61 and 364 days in custody.

A potential way forward, informed by data

Based on October 2024 figures, **a reduction of 5 days in the average length of stay for people with felony charges could reduce the total jail population by 74 people.**

- As a one-time effort, this could reduce the average jail population by 5% from 1500 people to 1426 people in December 2024.
- As a sustained effort, reducing the average length of stay for people with felony charges could bring the average jail population to under 1,300 by February 2025, even if the number of felony jail admissions remains unchanged.

If we synthesize all this information, the picture that emerges is this: Increased jail admissions, with more people being admitted to the jail than being released, is likely contributing to the increase in jail population. Jail admissions of people charged with new felony violations seem to be a key factor: When jail admissions on felony charges increase, the jail population tends to increase, either in the same month or in the following month, likely due to the long lengths of jail stays for people with felony charges, relative to people who are admitted on non-felony charges.

How would we know that our efforts are working?

- 1) The average length of stay for people charged with felony and the overall average length of stay would decrease;
- 2) Within 45-60 days, we would see a decrease in the jail population; and
- 3) The persistent “hump” in the distribution of releases by length of stay would get smaller.

Questions and feedback



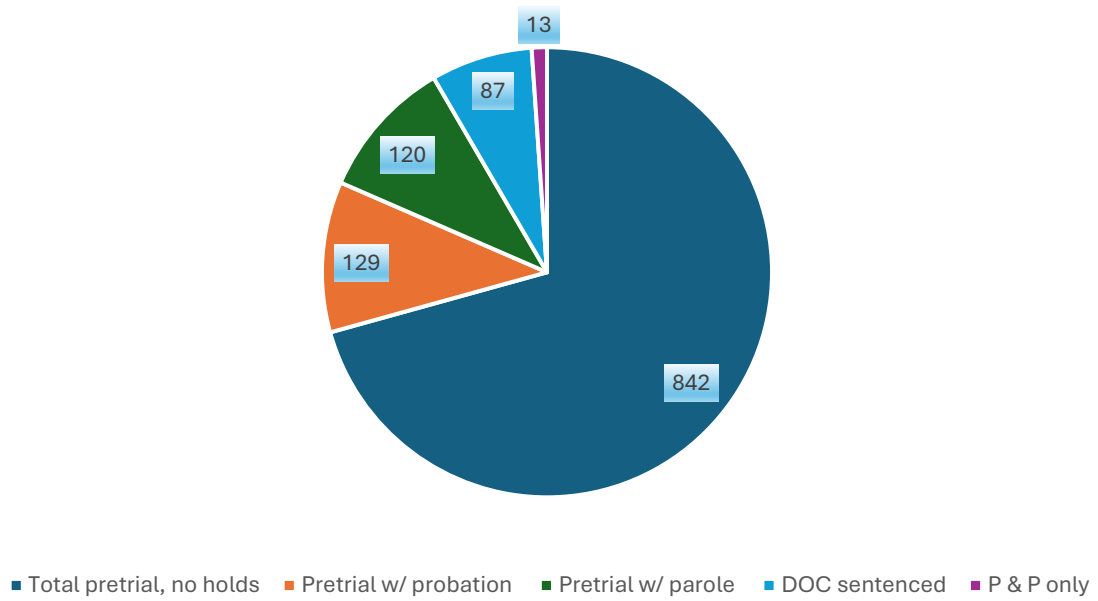
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OPSO Jail population

- # of pretrial (with **NO** holds, warrants or detainers) defendants in jail today vs. 1 yr ago (this is the number of defendants with cases pending in Criminal District Court)
 - October 31, 2023: Of the **total** 1103 defendants with open matters, 842 defendants have NO holds
 - October 31, 2024: Of the **total** 1419 defendants with open matters, 1115 defendants have NO holds
- # of pretrial defendants WITH probation holds today vs. 1 yr ago
 - October 31, 2023: 129 defendants
 - October 31, 2024: 156 defendants
- # of pretrial defendants WITH parole holds today vs. 1 yr ago
 - October 31, 2023: 120 defendants
 - October 31, 2024: 129 defendants
- # of DOC defendants in jail today vs. 1 yr ago
 - October 31, 2023: 87 defendants
 - October 31, 2024: 62 defendants
- # of defendants in jail solely on P & P detainers vs. 1 yr ago
 - October 31, 2023: 13 defendants
 - October 31, 2024: 19 defendants
- Bookings and releases
 - 2023:
 - Bookings: **8,073** (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023)
 - Releases: **7,798** (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023)
 - 2024:
 - Bookings: **8,174** (January 1, 2024-November 13, 2024)
 - There have already been more people booked in 2024 than all of 2023.
 - Releases: **7,871** (January 1, 2024-November 13, 2024)
 - There have already been more people released in 2024 than all of 2023.

October 2023 Jail Population Snapshot



October 2024 Jail Population Snapshot

