



ORLEANS PARISH JAIL POPULATION: By the numbers December 2025

Produced by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Purpose

This report aims to address the question, "Who was detained in OJC last month?" To that end, the report presents information about average daily jail population, admissions, and releases in the last month

Data sources

The data behind the graphics comes from the **Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office** via the OCJC Data Warehouse. OCJC undertakes additional data processing to better enable tabulations and analyses.

Questions?

Contact us!

At OCJC, we are interested in your observations and data questions.

Please reach out to adrienne.tobler@nola.gov to further discuss the possibility of exploring your questions. For more definitions of the terms used in this report, please see our [glossary](#).

For technical questions, contact theresa.mckinney@nola.gov

A glossary of terms used in the report is available [here](#).

Summary

On average, **1,278** people were detained in the jail each day in December 2025, a **decrease of 6.7%** from November's average daily population of 1,369 people.

724 people were admitted to the jail in December, a **decrease of 8.2% compared** with November 2025, when 789 people were admitted to the jail.

826 people were released from the jail in December, a **decrease of 2.1%** compared with November, when 844 people were released from jail.

The average length-of-jail-stay for the 826 people released in December was **71 days**, 2 days shorter than the average jail stay in November.

The jail detention rate for Orleans Parish was **350.9** detained people per 100,000 parish residents, over 180% of the preliminary 2024 national jail detention rate of 194 detained people per 100,000 US residents.

Racial disparities persist in jail detention and admission.

- Black people are detained in the jail at **4.9 times** the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.
- Black people are admitted to the jail at **3 times** the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.

DECEMBER 2025 JAIL POPULATION

DAILY JAIL POPULATION

On average, the jail population in December 2025 decreased *daily* by 0.25%. Comparing the first and last days of the month, the jail population decreased by 7.3%, from 1,336 people on 1 December to 1,237 people on 30 December.

The jail population reached its monthly peak of 1,336 detainees on the 1st of the month and was at its lowest, with 1,229 detainees, on 27 December 2025.

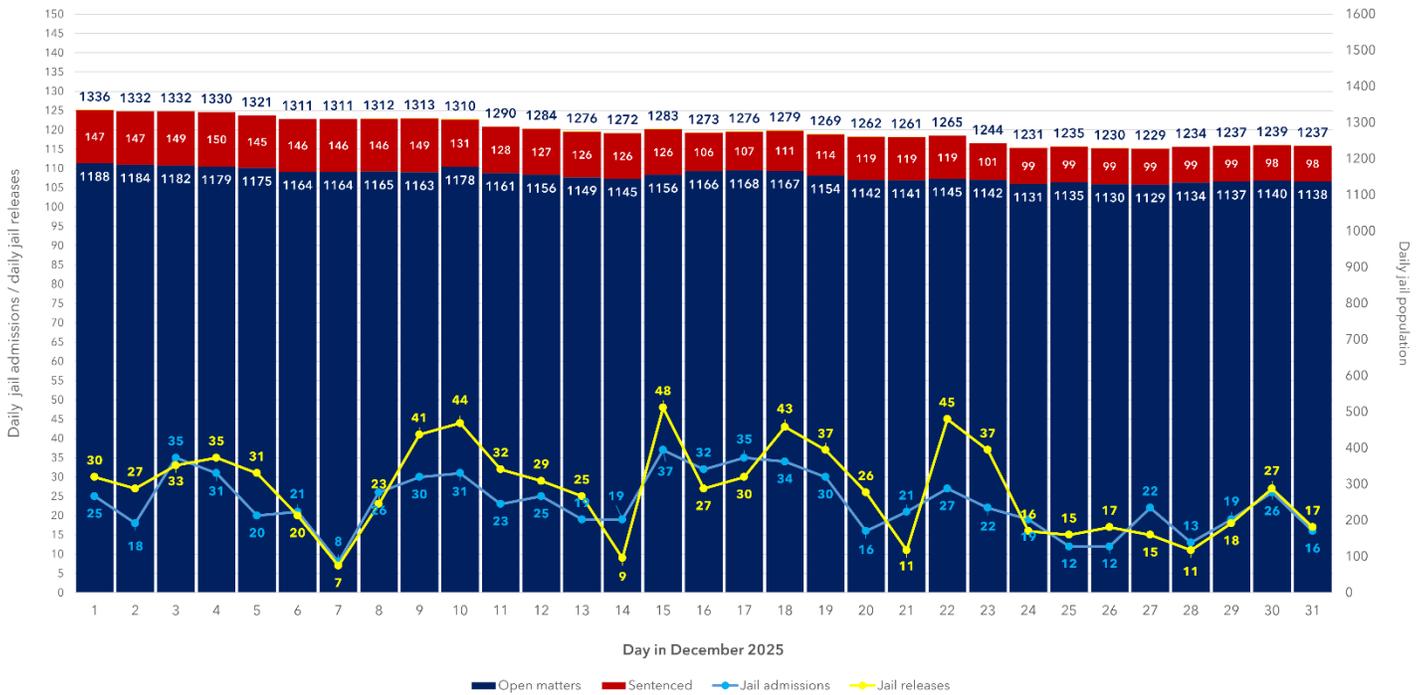


Figure 1. December 2025 daily jail population by legal status (open matters, sentenced); daily admissions; and daily releases.

Note that, by “open matters,” we’re referring to people whose cases have not yet reached a final disposition or those who were admitted to the jail on warrants or detainers only. “Sentenced” refers to detained people whose cases have reached a final disposition; most are awaiting transport to a DOC facility or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System. Please see the glossary of terms in Appendix C.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

On average, 1,278 people were detained in the jail daily in December 2025 (standard dev. = 34.6). The average daily jail population decreased by 6.7% in December compared with November, when the average population was 1,369 detained people.

The average daily jail population in December 2025 was 14.5% lower than the December 2024 average of 1,494 people.

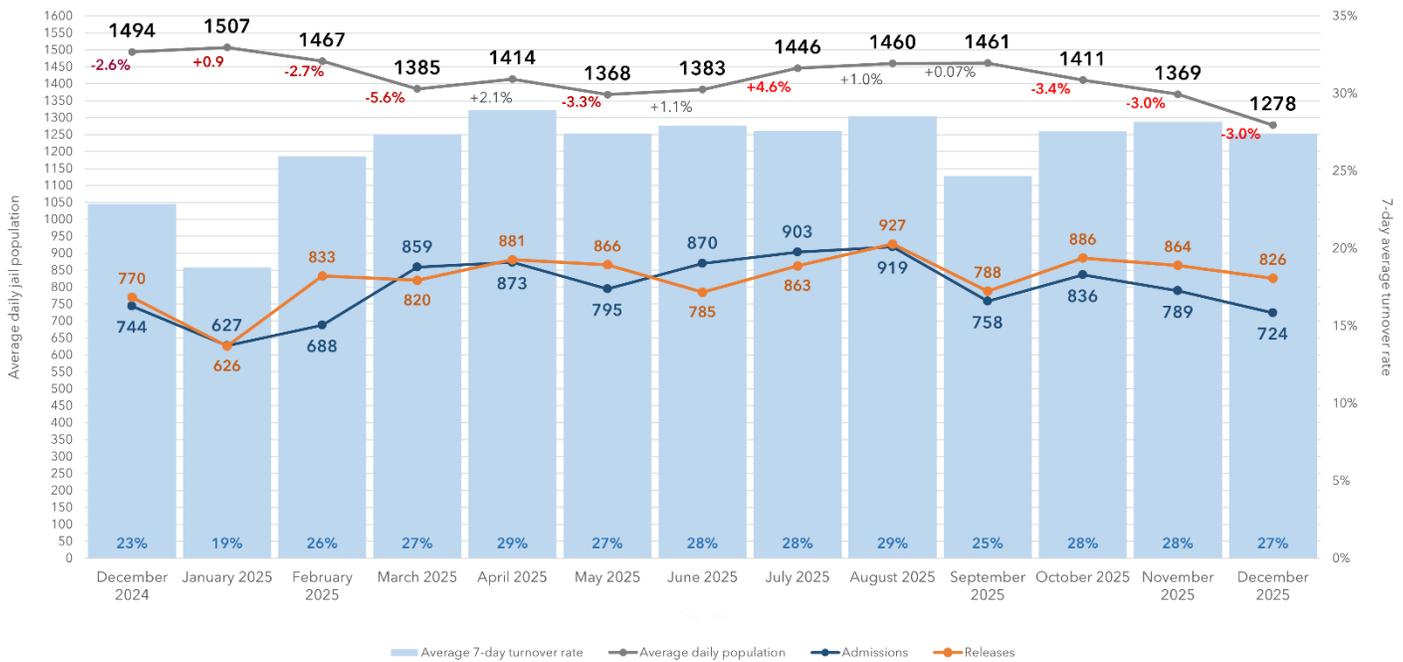


Figure 2. Average daily jail population by month; month-to-month percentage change in average population; total monthly jail admissions; total monthly jail releases; and 7-day average turnover rate, December 2024 - December 2025

The average 7-day turnover rate for December was 27%, one percentage point lower than average rate for November. Developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the turnover rate measures the flow of people into and out of the jail. On average, more than 1 out of 4 people detained in December had been newly admitted or were about to be released. In 2022, BJS reported a [31% national turnover rate for jails of our size](#).

On average, 90.4% of those detained in the jail in December (about 1,155 people daily) were in custody for “open matters” – that is, their state or municipal cases had not yet reached a final disposition, or they had been admitted to the jail only on warrants or probation/parole detainers. 9.5% of people detained in the jail (about 122 people, on average, daily) were in custody having been sentenced: their cases have been “closed”, and they were awaiting transport to a DOC facility (about 101 people daily, on average) or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (about 21 people, on average each day in December).

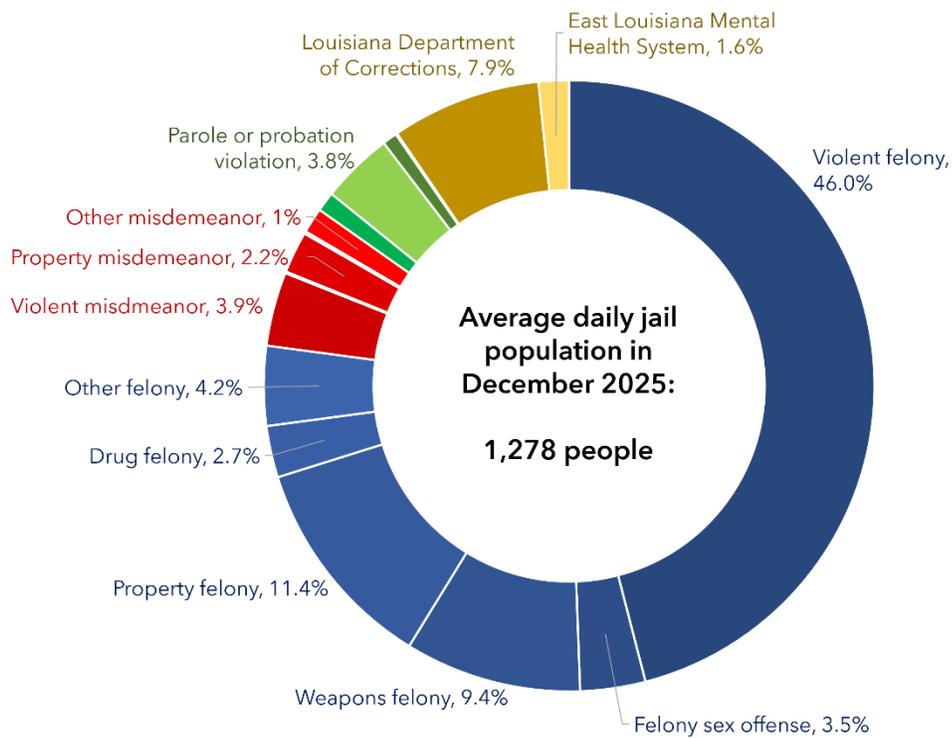
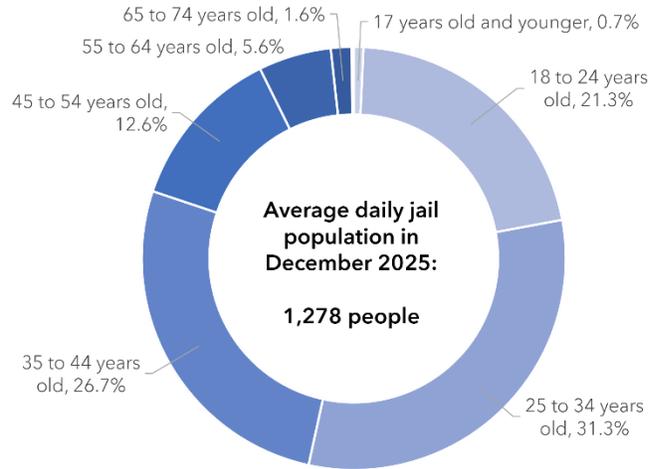


Figure 3. December 2025 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for detainees with open cases and by agency, for detainees with closed cases. Note that, on average, people detained on open misdemeanor weapons, or misdemeanor drug charges; municipal or traffic violations; and those detained on other reasons as the most serious charge at booking made up less than 1% of the average jail population. No one was detained in December on misdemeanor sex offenses as the most serious charge at booking

77.1% of the average daily jail population in December comprised people in custody for open felony charges, and 7.7%, people with open state misdemeanor charges as the most serious charge at booking. 49.9% of those detained, on average, were in custody for an open violent offense as the most serious charge at booking (about 637 people, on average, daily). (See Table 1, Appendix B).

On average, over 9 out of 10 people in jail custody in December were between the ages of 18 and 54 years at the end of the month. Youths aged 17 years or younger made up 0.7% of the average daily population in December (9 young people detained daily, on average)¹.

Figure 4 (at right). December 2025 average daily jail population by age ranges. Note that people aged 75 years or older comprised 0.2% of the average population.



New Orleans is a majority-Black city, yet African Americans are overrepresented in the average jail population. Black/African Americans comprise 56% of the parish population yet made up 88% of the average daily jail population in December 2025.

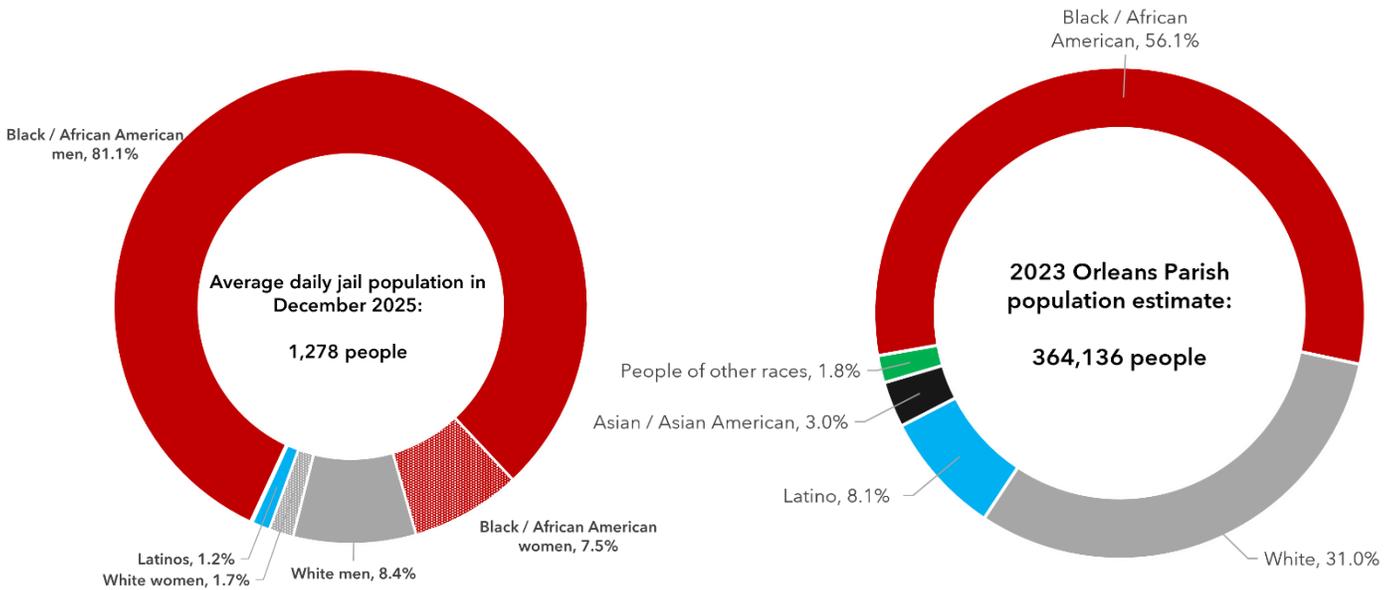


Figure 5 (above, at left). December 2025 average daily jail population by OPSO race categories and sex.

Figure 6 (above, at right). 2023 Orleans Parish population estimates by Census race/ethnicity categories.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey data files.

¹ In December 2025, 1 person, on average, was detained in the jail daily, having been admitted when they were 17 years of age or younger (about 0.1% of the December average daily jail population).

JAIL DETENTION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEX

Orleans Parish detained 350.9 people for every 100,000 parish residents in December 2025, based on the average jail population of 1,278 detained people. The December jail detention rate is 1.8 times the 2024 national jail incarceration rate of 194 people detained in jails per 100,000 US residents².

Looking at the December 2025 jail detention rates by race, “wide” disparities between racial groups become apparent. Black people were detained in the jail at nearly 5 times the rate of white people, per 100,000 New Orleans by race (relative rate index [RRI] = 4.9). For every 100,000 Black / African American New Orleanians, 554 Black people were in jail custody in December, on average, a rate slightly higher than the 2023 US jail incarceration rate of 552 Black detainees per 100,000 Black US residents. For every 100,000 white New Orleanians, nearly 114 white people were detained in the jail last month, a rate lower than the 2023 US jail detention rate for white detainees, 155 per 100,00 white US residents.



Figure 7. Relative rate index (RRI) for December 2025 jail detention rate per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by race; RRI = 4.9.

What do these measures tell us?

Jail detention rates (JDR) and relative rate indexes (RRI) give us a way to make comparisons between groups of different sizes. For example, we can use the JDR to compare how many people are in jail in Orleans Parish to how many people are detained in jails nationwide, even though the population of New Orleans is much smaller than the US population.

Relative rate indexes are commonly used to measure disparities. Typically, RRI is calculated as the rate of a historically disadvantaged group divided by the rate of the historically privileged group. An RRI greater than 1 strongly suggests that disparities exist. An RRI of 1 suggests that parity – the opposite of “disparity” – exists.

For more information about how we operationalize these terms, please see the glossary in Appendix B.

² 2024 are preliminary and may be adjusted in the final report. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Preliminary Data Release - Jails 2024 | Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

DECEMBER 2025 JAIL ADMISSIONS

724 people were admitted to the jail in December 2025.

Black/African American people comprised the majority, 83.4%, or 604 people, of those admitted to the jail in December. The 440 Black men who were admitted to the jail last month made up 60.8% of all jail admissions; the 164 African American women admitted to the jail made up 22.7% of December's jail admissions.

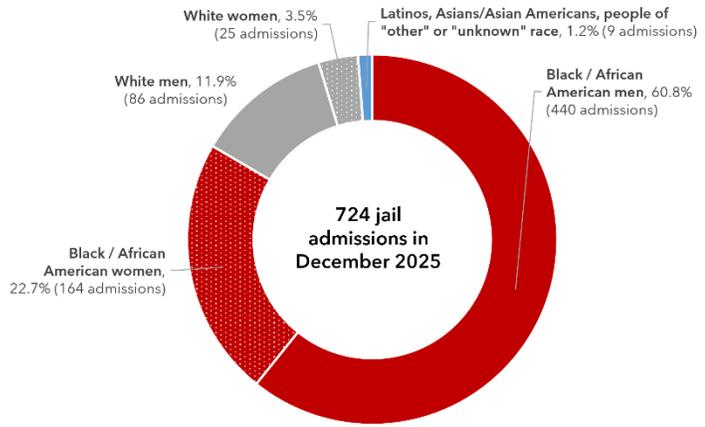


Figure 8. December 2025 jail admissions by OPSO race/ethnicity categories.

Over 72%, or 523 of the 724 people admitted to the jail in December gave an Orleans Parish address as their residence of record at initial booking. The remaining 201 people who were admitted to the jail in December came from other Louisiana parishes (162 people); Alabama, Mississippi, or Texas (17 people); or other states (22 people).

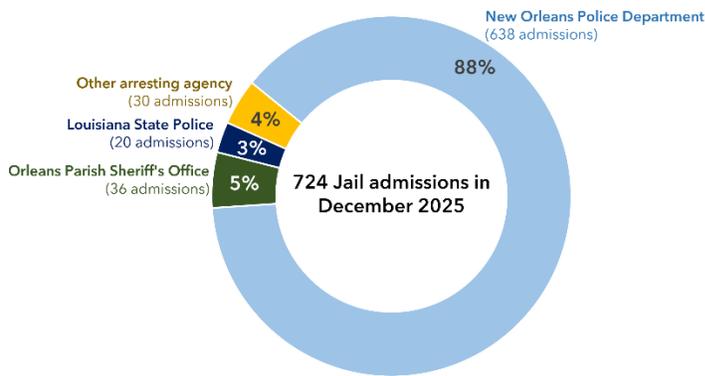


Figure 9. December 2025 jail admissions by arresting agency.

638 – 88% – of the 724 people admitted to the jail in December 2025 had been arrested by a New Orleans Police Department officer. 9% of jail admissions were preceded by arrests by the Sheriff's Office; harbor, levee, and bridge law enforcement agencies; and other agencies such as campus police departments.

The Louisiana State Police (LSP) were credited with 20 arrests that preceded jail admissions in December, a decrease of 64% compared with the 67 arrests credited to LSP in November 2025.

Jail admissions decreased in December by 8.2% compared with November, when 789 people were admitted to the jail. 341 people were admitted to the jail in December with a felony charge as the most serious offense at booking, a decrease of 4.7% compared with November, when 358 people were admitted to the jail with felony charges.

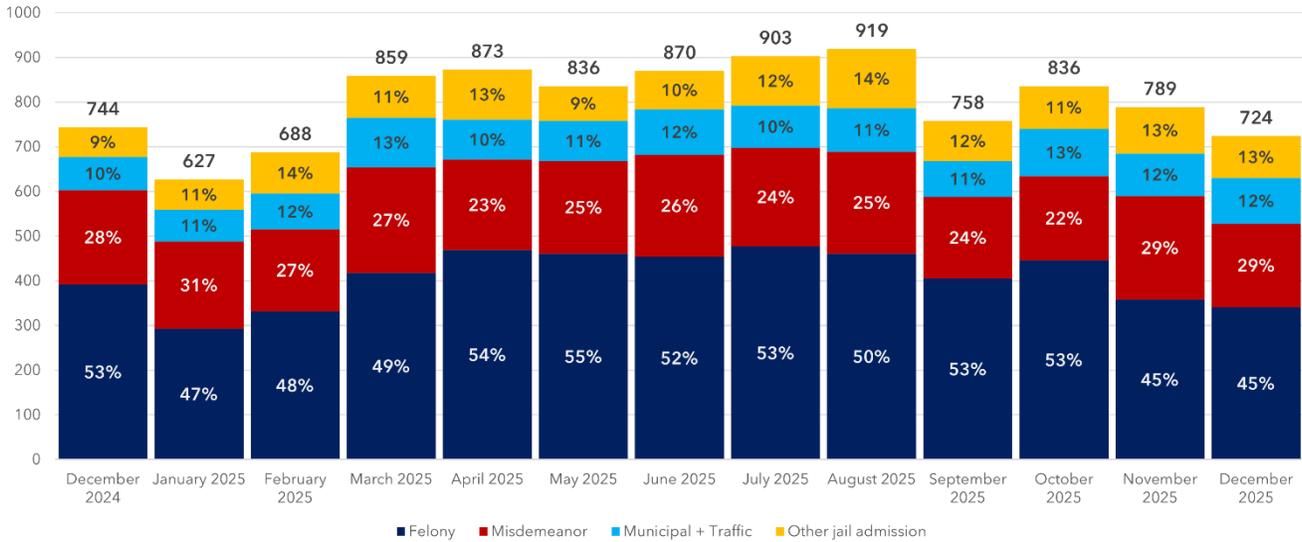


Figure 10. Jail admissions by most serious charge type at booking, December 2024 – December 2025.

187 people were admitted to the jail in December with a state misdemeanor charge as the most serious charge at booking, a decrease of 19.4% compared with November, when 232 people were admitted to the jail with state misdemeanor charges as the most serious offense at booking. State misdemeanor admissions made up 29% of all jail admissions in December, the same proportion of total admissions in November.

37% of all those admitted to the jail in December had been booked on violent felony or state misdemeanor charges (269 out 724 jail admissions), an increase of 3% from the 262 jail admissions on violent charges in November and 4 percentage points higher than the proportion of jail admissions for violent charges out of total jail admissions in November.

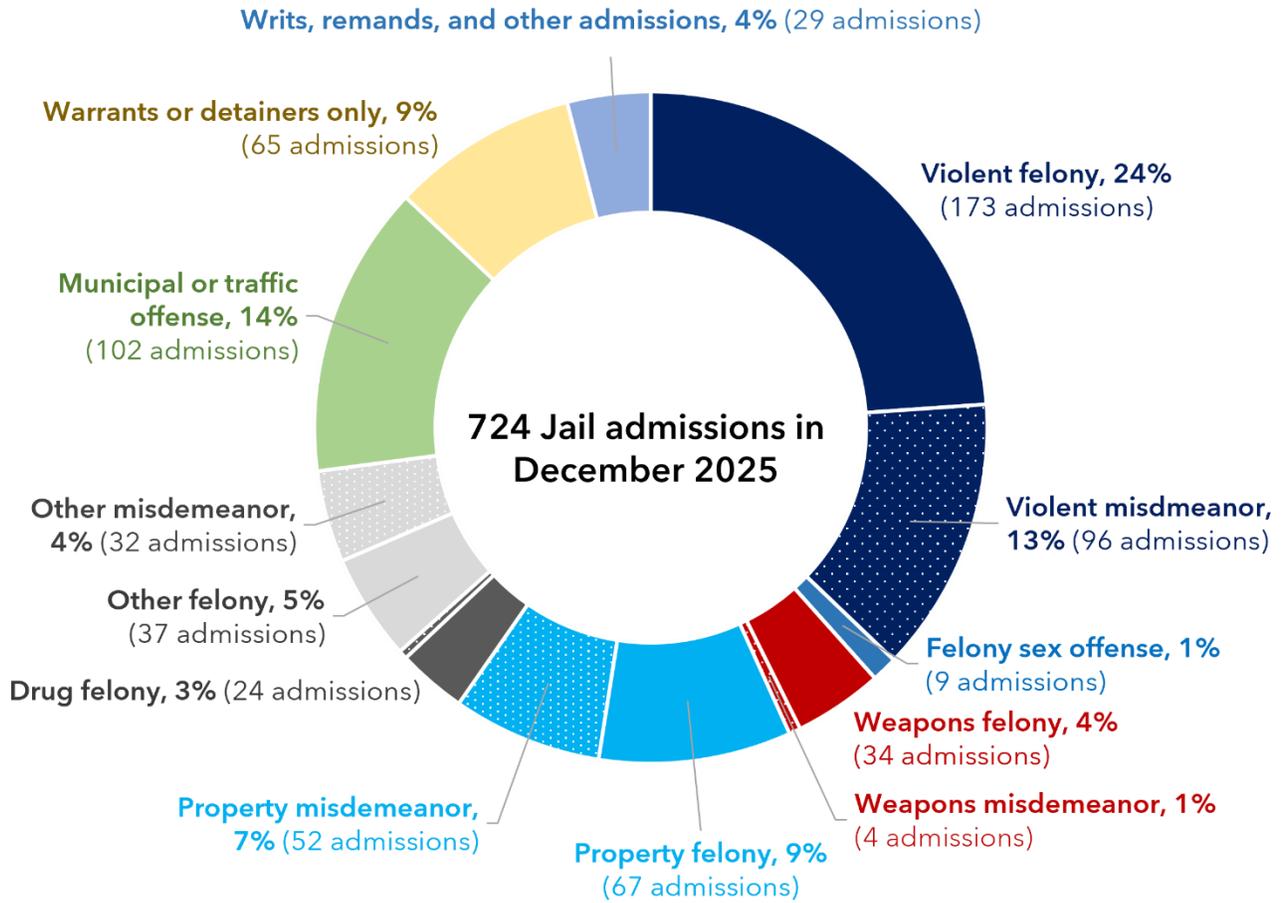


Figure 11. December 2025 jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking. Note that no one was admitted to the jail with a misdemeanor sex offense as the most serious charge at booking last month.

JAIL ADMISSION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEXES

In December, Orleans Parish admitted nearly 199 people into the jail for every 100,000 Parish residents. Black people were admitted to the jail at a rate of over 295 people per 100,000 African American parish residents, while white people were admitted at a rate of over 98 people per 100,000 white New Orleanians. Black people were admitted to the jail at 3 times the rate of white people, per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by rate (RRI = 3.00).



Figure 12. December 2025 relative rate index for jail admission rates per 100,000 Black and white Orleans Parish residents; RRI = 3.00.

Racial disparities are apparent when looking at some admission rates by the most serious charge category at booking, even when controlling for differences in the number of people admitted to the jail by race. For example, in December 2025, 239 Black people with a violent charge as the most serious offense at booking made up 33% of all 724 jail admissions and nearly 40% of all 604 Black people admitted to the jail in December. In contrast, the 28 white people with a violent charge as the most serious charge at booking made up 4% of all 724 jail admissions and 25% of the 111 white people admitted to the jail in December. Thus, Black people were admitted to the jail at 1.6 times the rate of white people, per 100 jail admissions by race.

An RRI was not calculated for December 2025 jail admissions for which weapons charges were the most serious charges at booking. Black people made up 100% of the 35 jail admissions for which weapons violations were the most serious charge at booking. 5.8 Black people were admitted on weapons charges as the most serious charge at booking, per 100 jail admissions of Black people in December. The admission rate for white people with weapons charges as the most serious charge at booking was zero. (See Table 2, Appendix B.)

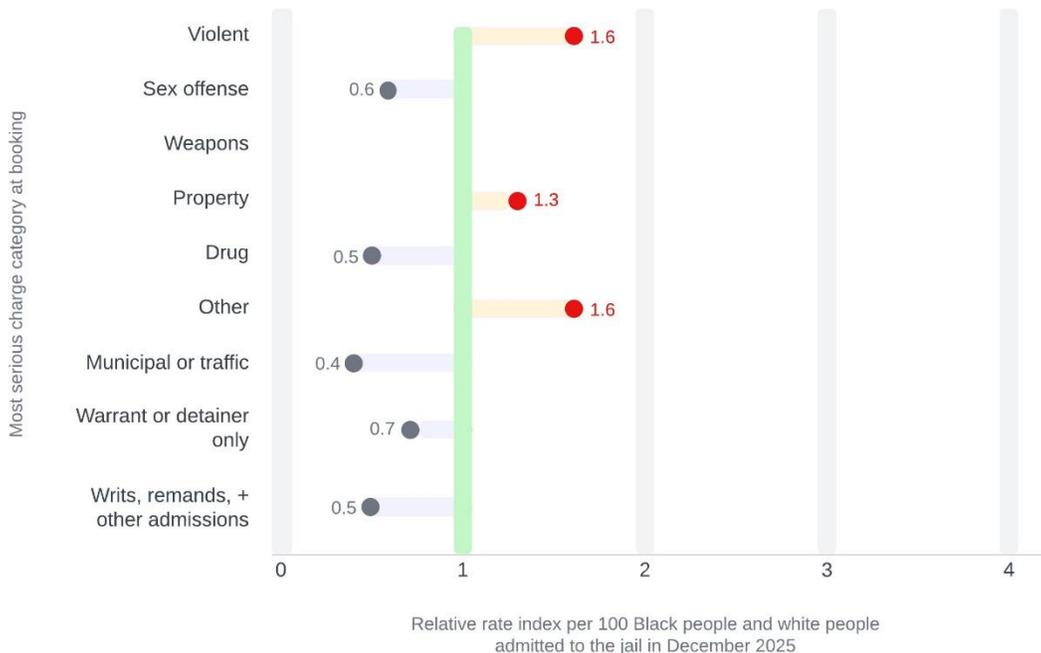


Figure 13. December 2025 relative rate indexes of jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking per 100 jail admissions of Black people and white people.

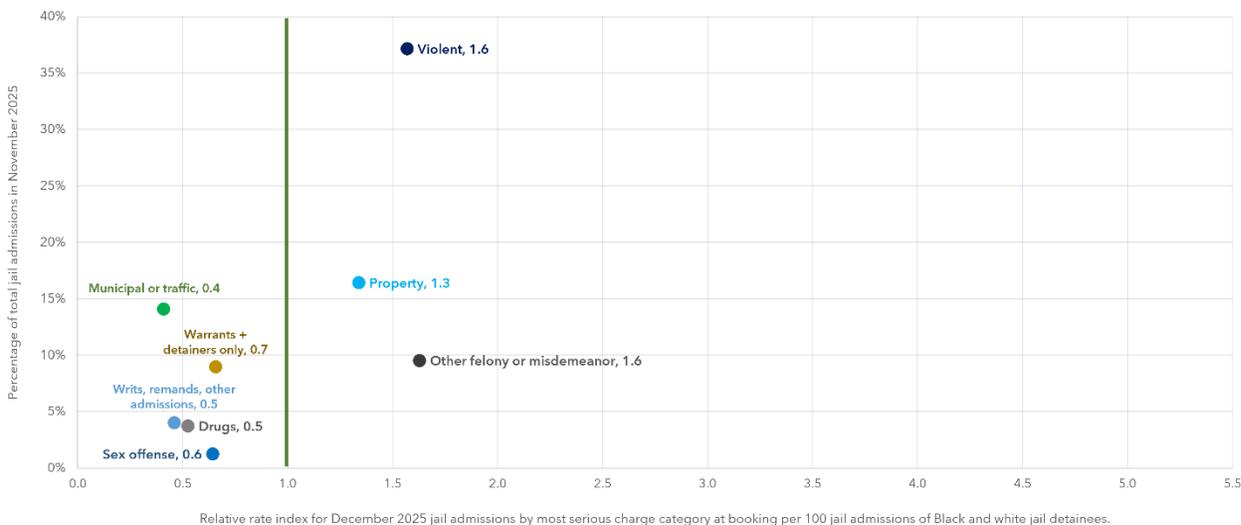


Figure 14. December 2025 relative rate indexes of jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking per 100 jail admissions of Black people and white people by the proportion of total jail admissions by most serious charge at booking. N = 724 jail admissions.

DECEMBER 2025 JAIL RELEASES + AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

826 people were released from jail custody in December 2025, a decrease of nearly 5% from November, when 844 people were released from jail.

Jail releases occur when the Sheriff relinquishes custody of a detained person. A released person may have returned to their community or been transferred to the custody of another law enforcement agency or the Department of Corrections.

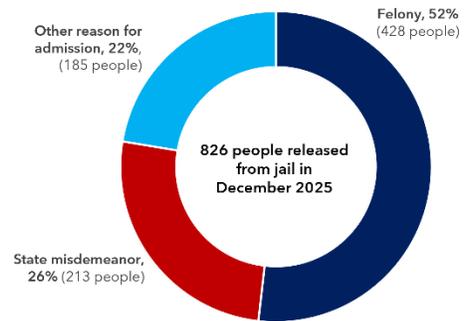


Figure 15. December 2025 jail releases by most serious charge category at booking.

The average length of stay for the 826 people who were released from jail last month was 71.2 days (min = less than 1 day; max = 3,439 days; standard dev. = 231.2; see Table 3, Appendix B.). The median length of stay for all released people in December was 3 days, 1 day shorter than November’s median length of stay. 63.2% of those released in December spent 13 days or fewer in jail. 17.6% (145 people) spent between 61 and 364 days in jail.

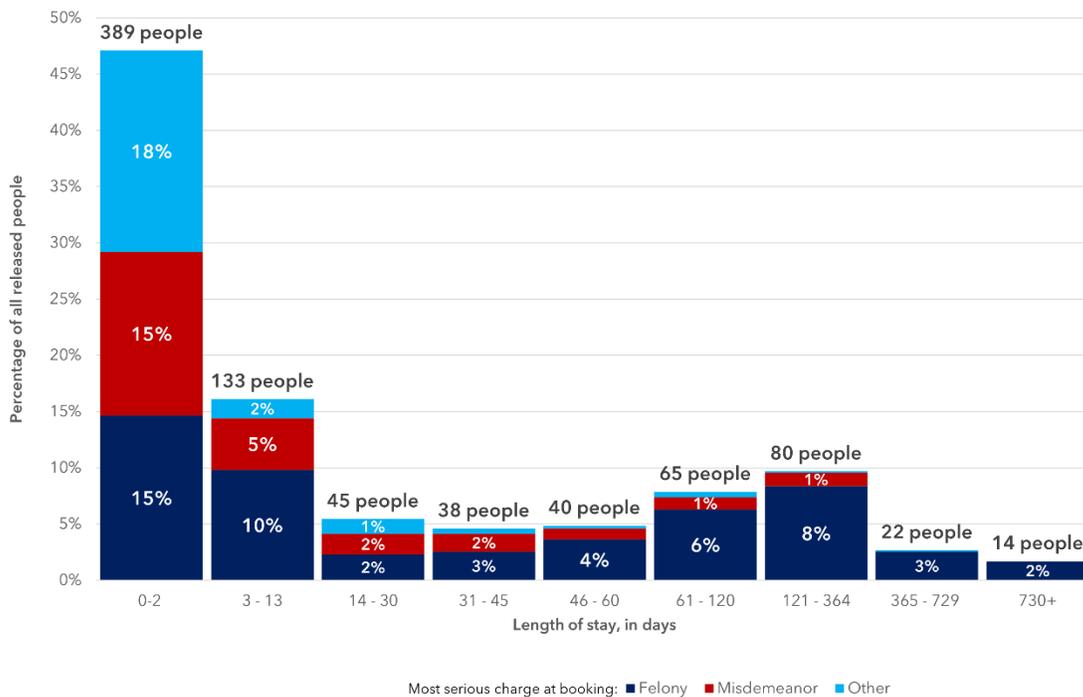


Figure 16. Length of jail stay by most serious charge category at booking, December 2025. N = 826 people.

428 of the 826 people who were released from jail in December (52%) had a felony charge as the most serious offense and spent an average of 123.5 days in custody; the median length of stay for this group was 26 days. People who were released in December, having been booked with a state misdemeanor as the most serious charge at booking, made up nearly 26% of all releasees and spent an average of 20 days in custody, with a median length of stay of 2 days. People booked only on municipal or traffic charges; warrants or detainers only; or on other matters made up the remaining 22% of those released in December; this group spent an average of 8.9 days in custody and had had a median length of stay of less than 1 day.

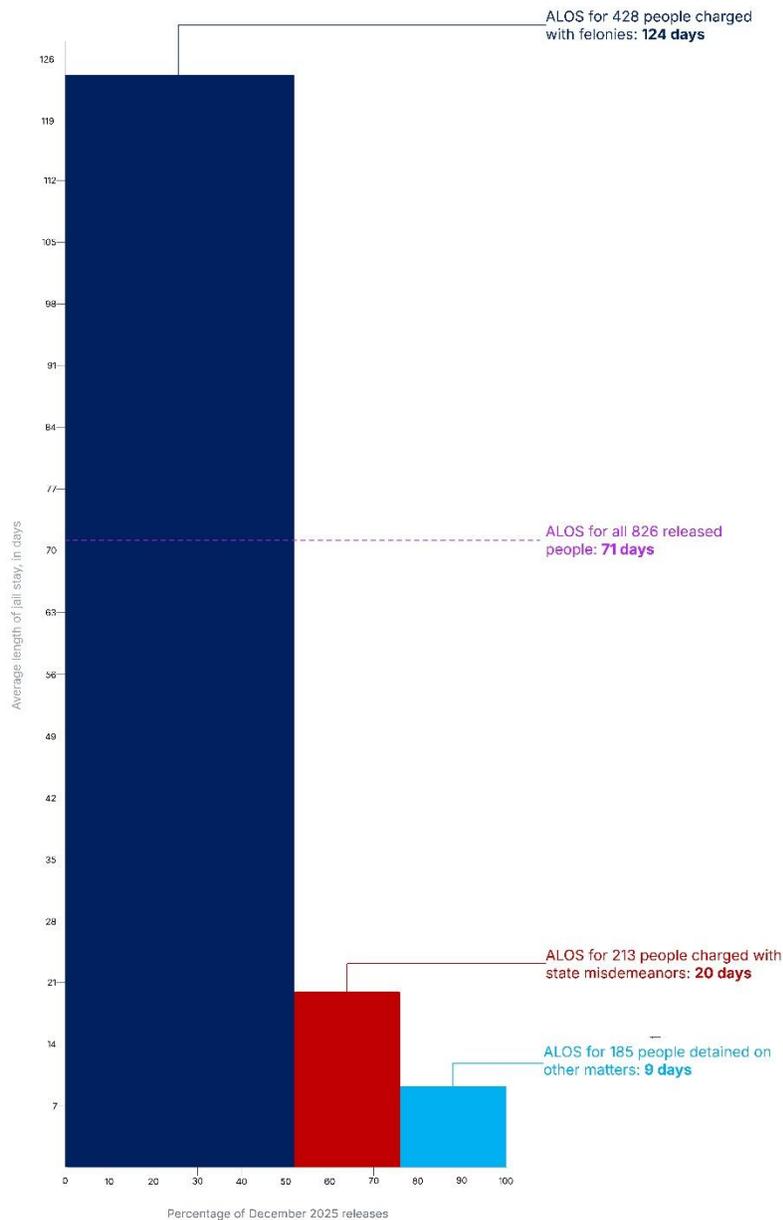


Figure 17. December 2025 average lengths of jail stay by most serious charge type at booking. N = 826

716 African Americans made up 84.9% of the 724 people released from jail in December and spent an average of 78 days in custody. On average, Black people released from jail in December spent nearly 6 and a half weeks longer in custody (46 days) than the 117 white people race released from jail last month, who made up 14% of those released from jail in December. The 7 Latinos who were released from jail in December made up just under 1% of all those released from custody and spent an average of 1 day in custody.

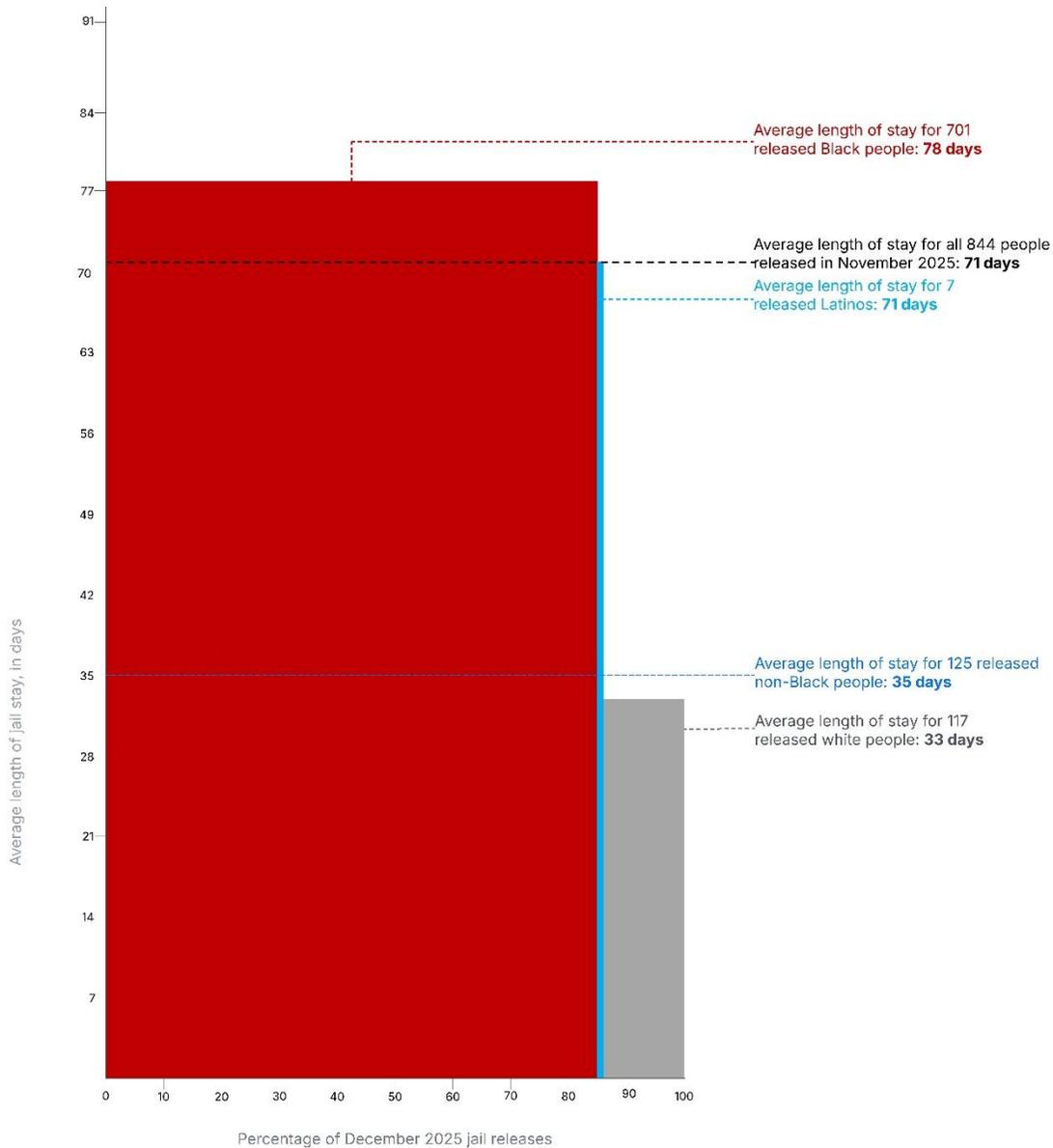


Figure 18. December 2025 average length of jail stay by OPSO racial / ethnic groups, N = 826 released people.

Note that 1 Asian/Asian American person was released in December (0.1% of all December releasees) after 3 days in jail custody. This person’s length of stay is excluded from the data graphic and included in the ALOS calculation for non-Black people.

APPENDIX A: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Production of OCJC's regular reports on the jail population would not have been possible without the assistance, feedback, support, + encouragement from the following people:

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 Will Snowden
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In remembrance of Jon Wool (1958-2025),

who supervised production of *Who's in Jail and Why*, a quarterly Orleans Parish jail population report once published by the Vera Institute, New Orleans office, which OCJC used as the initial template for this report.

APPENDIX B: TABLES

Table 1. December 2025 average daily jail population (ADP) by legal status (open and closed matters).

| Legal status | ADP | % of ADP |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Open matters by most serious charge at booking</i> | 1,155 | 90.4% |
| Violent felony | 587 | 46.0% |
| Felony sex offense | 44 | 3.5% |
| Weapons felony | 119 | 9.4% |
| Property felony | 146 | 11.4% |
| Drug felony | 35 | 2.7% |
| Other felony | 54 | 4.2% |
| Violent misdemeanor | 50 | 3.9% |
| Misdemeanor sex offense | 0 | -- |
| Weapons misdemeanor | 1 | 0.09% |
| Property misdemeanor | 28 | 2.2% |
| Drug misdemeanor | 2 | 0.1% |
| Other misdemeanor | 17 | 1.3% |
| Municipal or traffic violation | 13 | 1.0% |
| Parole or probation violation | 49 | 3.8% |
| Other reasons for admission or missing information | 10 | 0.8% |
| <i>Hold for agency</i> | 1 | 0.1% |
| <i>Sentenced by agency</i> | 122 | 9.5% |
| Louisiana Department of Corrections | 101 | 7.9% |
| East Louisiana Mental Health System | 21 | 1.6% |
| Total | 1,278 | 100% |

Table 2. December 2025 jail admissions by race and most serious charge category at booking.

| Charge category | Black | White | Everyone else | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Violent | 239 | 28 | 2 | 269 |
| Sex offense | 7 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| Weapons | 35 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Property | 102 | 14 | 3 | 119 |
| Drugs | 20 | 7 | 0 | 27 |
| Other | 62 | 7 | 0 | 69 |
| Muni + traffic | 69 | 31 | 2 | 102 |
| Warrants only + LAPP only | 50 | 14 | 1 | 65 |
| Other jail admissions | 20 | 8 | 1 | 29 |
| Total | 604 | 111 | 9 | 724 |

Table 3. December 2025 average length of jail stay (ALOS) by most serious charge category at booking.

| Charge category | ALOS, in days | Median LOS, in days | Max LOS | Standard dev. | N |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|-----|
| Felony | 123.5 | 26 | 3,439 | 309.4 | 428 |
| State misdemeanor | 20.1 | 2 | 312 | 45.9 | 213 |
| Other charge or matter | 8.9 | < 1 | 471 | 40.3 | 185 |
| All people released in December 2025 | 71.2 | 3 | 3,439 | 213.2 | 826 |

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

Criminal legal system definitions

AVERAGE MONTHLY JAIL POPULATION. The sum of all the daily detainee counts, divided by the number of days in the month. We use an average, rather than a population snapshot (i.e. the daily count on a single day of the month) so that we can report one figure that takes into consideration all the daily counts and day-to-day fluctuations in jail population during the month. In monthly reports, we contextualize the average monthly jail population by reporting the minimum and maximum daily populations and the standard deviation for all daily jail counts in the month.

JAIL ADMISSIONS. We acknowledge that the term, *jail admission*, may be defined differently in correctional, pretrial, and other spaces. Here, we define jail admissions as the transfer of custody from an arresting agency to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office following custodial arrests that occurred outside of the jail. Certainly, people can be and are booked on new charges after admission to the jail (for example, for offenses that can only take place within a jail, such as battery of a correctional officer). Our tabulations and analyses only count the initial booking that brought a person from the community into the jail, consistent with the central aims of the report.

JAIL RELEASES. A person's exit from jail custody. Note that the term, *releases*, can refer to releases back into the community (for example, when someone is released on their own recognizance or posts bond); releases to another jurisdiction's law enforcement agency (for example, in the case of someone admitted to the jail on an out-of-state warrant); or releases to the Department of Corrections after sentencing.

LENGTH OF JAIL STAY. The difference, in days, between the date of jail admission and the date of jail release. Note that the length of stay is only calculated for people who have been released from jail to ensure a final, static figure.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY. The mean of all jail stays for people released during the month, calculated as the sum of all lengths of stay for people released during the month divided by the number of people released during the same month. To contextualize our reporting of the average length of stay, we also report the shortest lengths of stay (i.e. the minimum; usually less than 1 day); the longest length of stay (i.e. the maximum); and the standard deviation for all lengths of stay for people released during the month.

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY. When a released person has been released from jail custody after a very long jail stay, that person's length of stay can skew the average length of stay upward. We report the median length of stay, the midway point between all observed lengths of jail stays for people released during the month, to provide additional context for interpreting average length of stay. For a given median length of stay, 50% of those released had a length of stay longer than the median.

Criminal legal system definitions, continued

MOST SERIOUS CHARGE AT BOOKING People detained in jail can have more than one charge at more than one level of seriousness. For example, a detained person may have been booked with a felony property charge, state misdemeanor drug charge, while also having an outstanding local warrant. We created “most serious charge at booking” so that we can name the highest-level charge for which a person is being detained. We use a hierarchy of charge categories to determine the most serious charge at booking. In the hierarchy, all charges are categorized into four types: 1) felonies; 2) state misdemeanors; 3) municipal and traffic offenses; 4) warrants, attachments, and Louisiana parole and probation detainers. All felonies are more serious than state misdemeanors, and within the felony and state misdemeanor categories is a sub-hierarchy of offense types, listed here in order of seriousness: a) violent offenses; b) sex offenses; c) weapons offenses; d) property offenses; e) drug offenses; and f) ‘other’ offenses.

AVERAGE 7-DAY JAIL TURNOVER RATE. A measure “borrowed” from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the average 7-day jail turnover rate aims to capture in broad terms the movement of people into and out of the jail. We calculate the jail turnover rate by dividing the average daily population for the month by the sum of jail admissions and jail releases, multiplying by 7, and dividing by the number of days in the month.

Definitions based on OPSO variables

“LEGAL STATUS”, “OPEN”, AND “CLOSED” MATTERS. “Legal status” is a designation used by the Sheriff to categorize people detained in the jail. There are two types of legal-status designations. People with “open” matters had, at the time of reporting, had cases that had not yet reached a final disposition. People with open matters may also have had active warrants and/or detainers at the time of reporting. Inversely, people with “closed” matters have cases that have reached a final disposition, and any warrants and/or detainers they December have had have been resolved. People with closed matters have been sentenced to a Department of Corrections institution or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System and were, at the time of reporting, awaiting transport to those facilities.

Note that these designations originate from the Sheriff, for the purpose of categorizing people detained in the jail. *Any reporting of frequencies or percentages involving these categories should not be interpreted as measures related to Court activities.*

ARRESTING AGENCY. We report monthly jail admissions by arresting agency in response to inquiries about possible effects of increased Louisiana State Police patrols beyond the French Quarter. The Sheriff collects “arresting agency” data for every person admitted to the jail, and we tabulate this variable to generate a data graphic that appears in the monthly report. *As this variable specifically relates to jail admissions, our reporting on arresting agency should not be interpreted as a measure of law enforcement activities.*

How we operationalize measures of inequality

Disproportionality and over- and underrepresentation. We use these terms to compare the demographic characteristics of a group (like people detained in the jail) to the demographic characteristics of the larger community from which most of that group came (like Orleans Parish). When both groups share similar proportions of people by demographic characteristics, we observe proportionality. We observe disproportionality when one demographic group is overrepresented or is underrepresented, in comparison with the demographic characteristics of Orleans Parish.

Disparity. We use the term, disparity, to refer to differences in the rates at which something occurs among 2 or more groups. To explore the possibility of disparity in our jail population reports, we first calculate the rate of jail detention per 100,000 New Orleans residents by race/ethnicity. The jail detention rate is the average jail population for a group (say, Black people detained in the jail during the month) divided by the estimated number of Black people in New Orleans, then multiplied by 100,000. Generating a rate per 100,000 is useful when comparing rates between groups of differing sizes (for example, the population of New Orleans, a majority [58%] African American city), we can “control” for the differences in size by comparing rates per 100,000 residents.

Further, we can “relate” the jail detention rate for Black people with that of white people to generate a relative rate index (RRI). To do this, we divide the Black jail detention rate per 100,000 Black people in New Orleans by the jail detention rate for white people per 100,000 residents. By using the white rate as the denominator in the calculation, we effectively index the white rate to 1 and defensibly make the statement that, in December 2023 (for example), Black people were jailed at a rate 4.8 times that of white people. We observe parity – a measure of equality – when the RRI = 1.

Notes about race / ethnicity categories: Our reporting on racial and ethnic demographics of people detained in the jail is based on data collected by Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office (OPSO) deputies during the jail admission process. OPSO uses the following mutually exclusive categories for race: Black; White; Hispanic; Asian; American Indian; and Unknown. The race and ethnicity categories currently in use by OPSO do not quite align with those used by the US Census Bureau, which defines race and ethnicity as separate constructs.

Our reporting is rooted in an understanding that the inequalities that we observe are reflections and symptoms of systemically racist systems. We view mass incarceration in the US as the cumulative effects of systemic racism that impact everyone’s lives before any one person is ever booked into jail. Accordingly, our reporting about racial disproportionalities should not be interpreted as critiques of Black people or Black culture; nor should it be interpreted as evidence to support detention of more white people to reduce inequalities.

One thing to keep in mind: we use these measures and categories as a kind of shorthand to describe inequalities, but they certainly don’t tell the whole story. Race – like other categories like gender – is a broad social construct that is shaped by history and contains other constructs, like socio-economic status and access to essentials such as education and health care. Accordingly, the purpose of the sections is to highlight some observed areas of inequality, in the hope that it sparks continued conversation about how to make our community more just and equitable.