



ORLEANS PARISH JAIL POPULATION:

By the numbers

March 2025

Produced by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Summary

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](#).

On average, **1,385** people were detained in the jail each day in March 2025, a **5.6% decrease** from February's average daily population of 1,467 people.

The average daily jail population in March 2025 was **15.1% higher** than the March 2024 average of 1,203 people.

859 people were admitted to the jail in March, **24.9% higher** than jail admissions compared with March, when 688 people were admitted to the jail.

820 people were released from the jail in March, a **decrease in jail releases of 1.6%** compared with February, when 833 people were released from jail.

The average length of jail stays for the 820 people released in March was **43 days**, 22 days shorter than the average jail stay in February.

The jail detention rate for Orleans Parish was **380.3**, and the jail admission rate was **235.9** detainees, per 100,000 parish residents.

Racial disparities persist in jail detention and admission.

- Black people are detained in the jail at **4.5** times the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.
- Black people are admitted to the jail at **2.4** times the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.

MARCH 2025 JAIL POPULATION

DAILY JAIL POPULATION

On average, the jail population in March 2025 decreased daily by 0.06%. Comparing the first and last days of the month, the jail population increased by 1.8%, from 1,370 people on 1 March to 1,395 people on 31 March.

The jail population reached its monthly peak of 1,424 detainees on 5 March (Ash Wednesday) and was at its lowest, with 1,356 detainees, on 22 March.

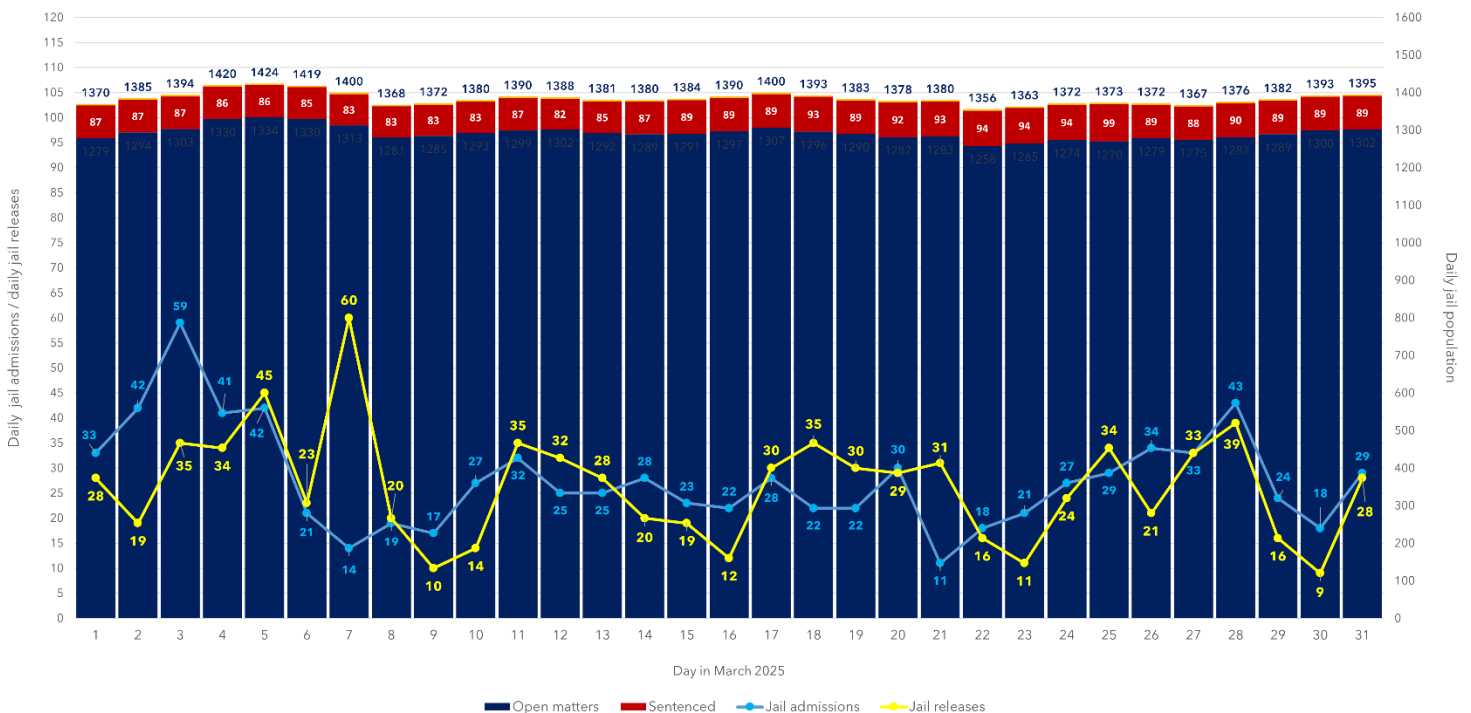


Figure 1. March 2025 daily jail population by legal status (open matters, sentenced); daily admissions; and daily releases.

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 and who are awaiting transport to a DOC facility or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System. Please see the glossary of terms in Appendix B.

AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION

On average, 1,385 people were detained in the jail daily in March 2025 (standard dev. = 15.8). The average daily jail population decreased by 5.6% in March compared with February, when the average population was 1,467 people.

While the average daily jail population has increased by 0.9%, on average, from March 2024 to March 2025, March's average is 15.1% higher than the March 2024 average of 1,203 people.

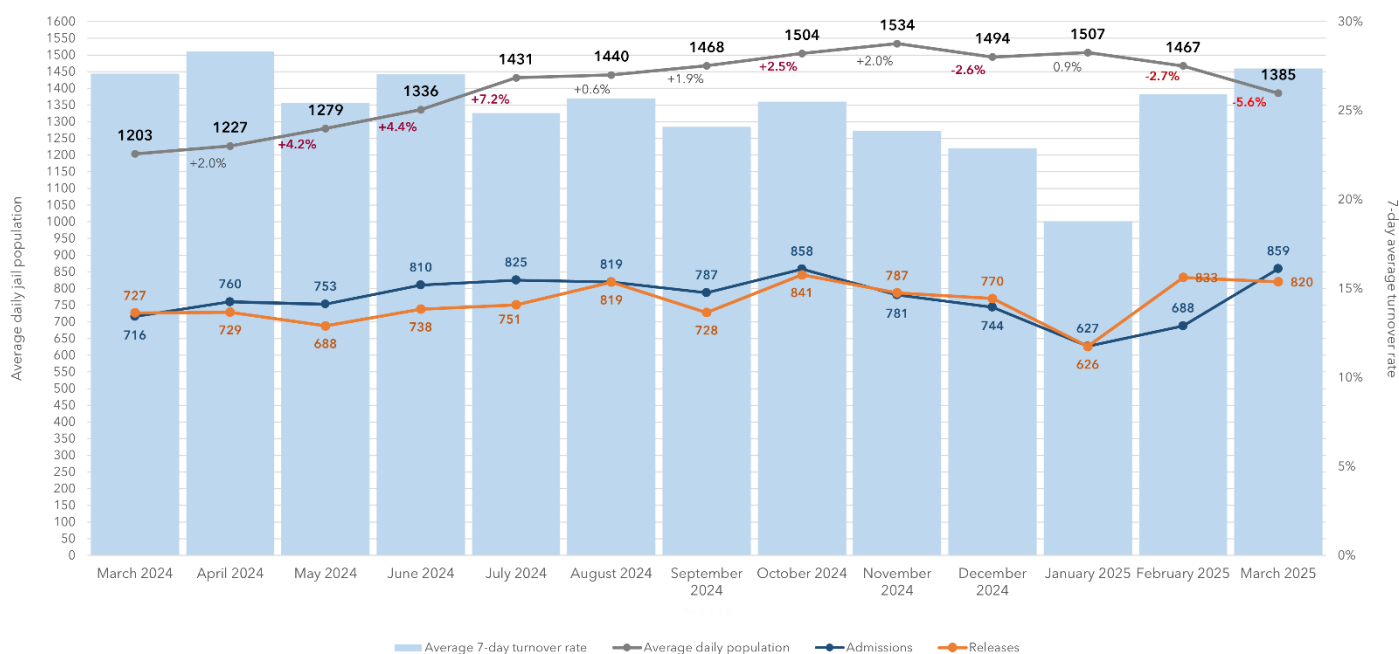


Figure 2. Average daily jail population by month; month-to-month percentage change in average population; total monthly jail admissions; total monthly jail releases; and 7-day average turnover rate, March 2024 - March 2025

The average 7-day turnover rate for March was 27%, 1 percentage point higher than the average turnover rate for February. Developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the turnover rate measures the flow of people into and out of the jail. On average, over 1 in 4 people detained in March 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, nearly 93% of those detained in the jail in March (about 1,281 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. Over 6% of people detained in the jail (about 88 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 54 people daily, on average) or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (about 34 people, on average each day in March).

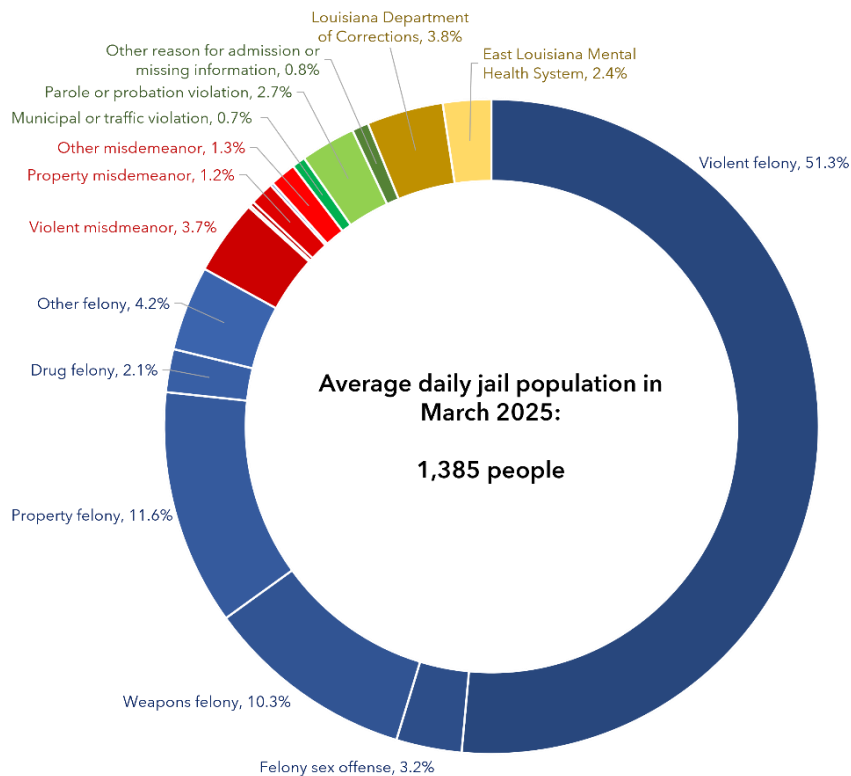
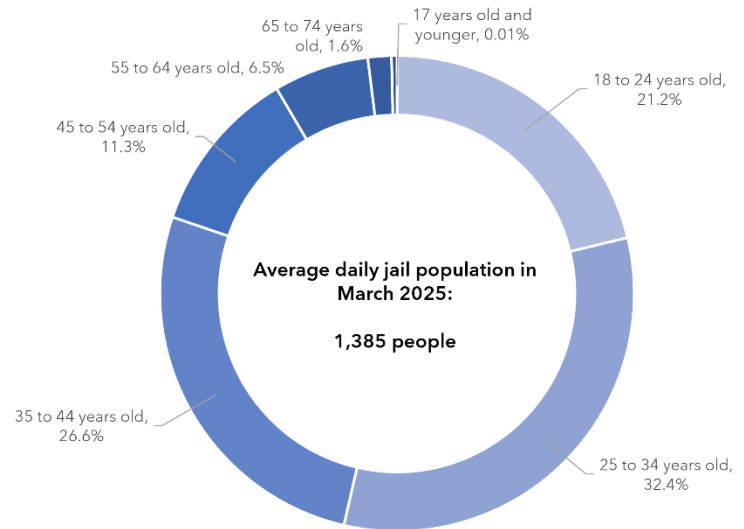


Figure 3. March 2025 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for detainees with open cases. Note that, on average, people detained on open misdemeanor sex offense, weapons, and drug charges made up less than 1% of the average jail population combined. About 16 people (0.8% of the average population) were in custody daily on other matters.

Over 82% of the average daily jail population in March comprised people in custody for open felony charges, and nearly 7.2%, people with open state misdemeanor charges. 55% of those detained, on average, were in custody for an open violent offense as the most serious charge at booking (about 768 people, on average, daily). (See Table 1, Appendix A).

On average, over 9 out of 10 people in jail custody in March were between the ages of 18 and 54 years at the end of the month. Youths aged 17 years or younger made up 0.01% of the average daily population in March (less than 1 young person, on average, daily)¹.

Figure 4 (at right). March 2025 average daily jail population by age ranges. Note that people aged 75 years or older comprised 0.4% 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 March 2025.

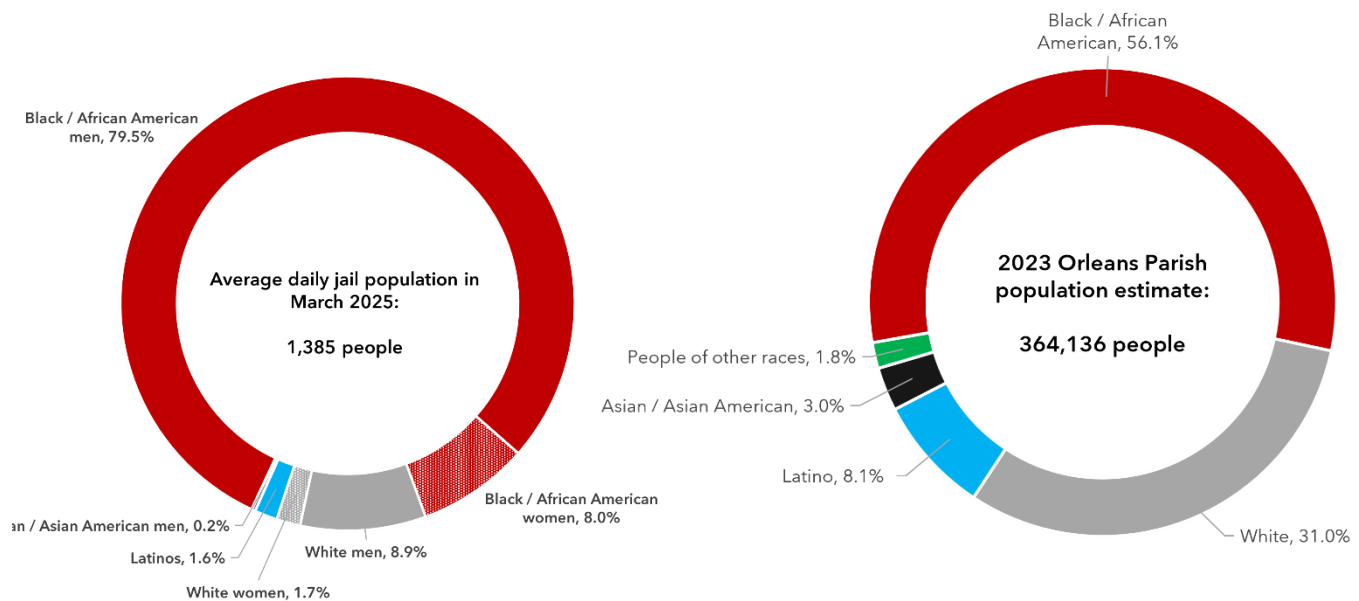


Figure 5 (above, at left). March 2025 average daily jail population by OPSO race categories and sex.

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 March, 18 adults, on average, were detained in the jail daily, having been admitted when they were 17 years of age (about 1.3% of the March average daily jail population).

JAIL DETENTION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEX

Orleans Parish detained 380 people for every 100,000 parish residents in March 2025. The March jail detention rate is nearly double the 2022 national jail incarceration rate of 199 people detained in jails per 100,000 US residents².

Looking at the March 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] = 4.5). For every 100,000 Black / African American New Orleanians, 593 Black people were in jail custody, on average, in March. For every 100,000 white New Orleanians, 131 white people were detained in the jail last month.



Figure 7. Relative rate index (RRI) for March 2025 jail detention rate per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by race; RRI = .4.5.

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 or on the [OCJC website](#).

² 2022 is the most recent year for which statistics are available. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Jail Inmates in 2022 – Statistical Tables](#)

MARCH 2025 JAIL ADMISSIONS

859 people were admitted to the jail in March 2025. Jail admissions increased in March by 24.9% compared with February, when 688 people were admitted to the jail.

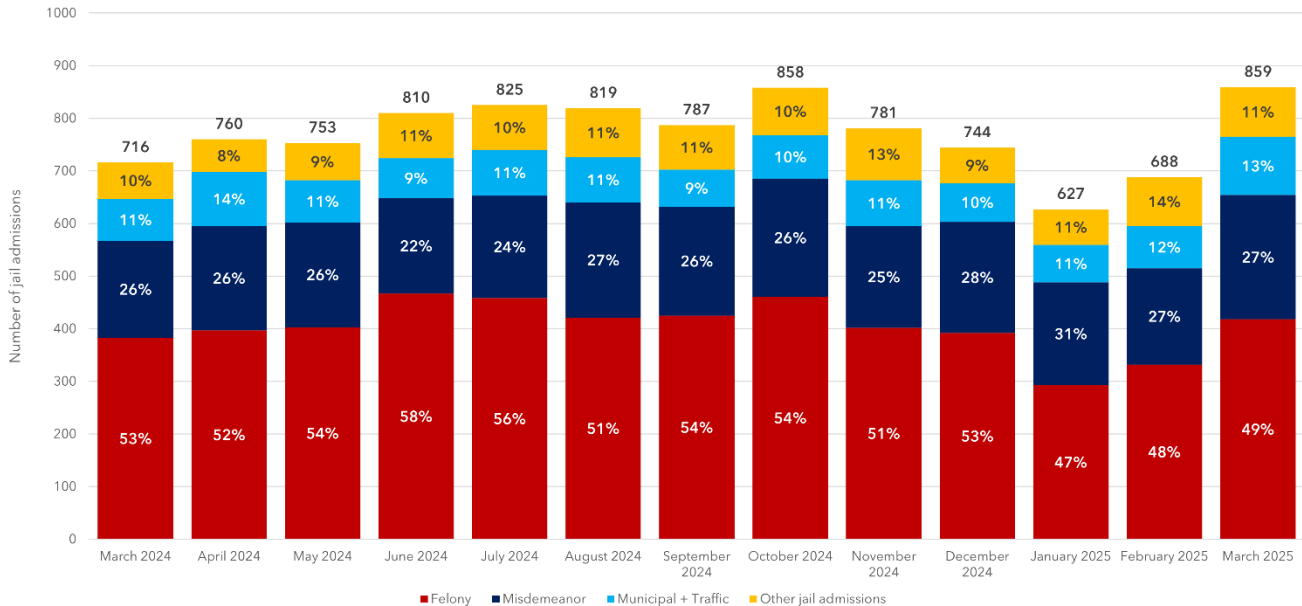


Figure 8. Jail admissions by most serious charge type at booking, March 2024 - March 2025.

418 people were admitted to the jail in March with a felony charge as the most serious offense at booking, an increase of 25.9% compared with February, when 332 people were admitted to the jail with felony charges. As a proportion of all jail admissions, felony admissions increased by 1 percentage point compared with February.

236 people were admitted to the jail in March with a state misdemeanor charge as the most serious charge at booking, an increase of 21.0% compared with February, when 195 people were admitted to the jail with state misdemeanor charges as the most serious offense at booking. State misdemeanor admissions made up the same proportion of jail admissions as they did last month.

676 of the 688 people – 79% – admitted to the jail in March 2025 had been arrested by a New Orleans Police Department officer. 11% 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), which expanded their patrol beyond the French Quarter in 2024, were credited with 88 arrests that preceded jail admissions in March, a nearly fourfold increase compared with the 18 arrests credited to LSP in February 2025.

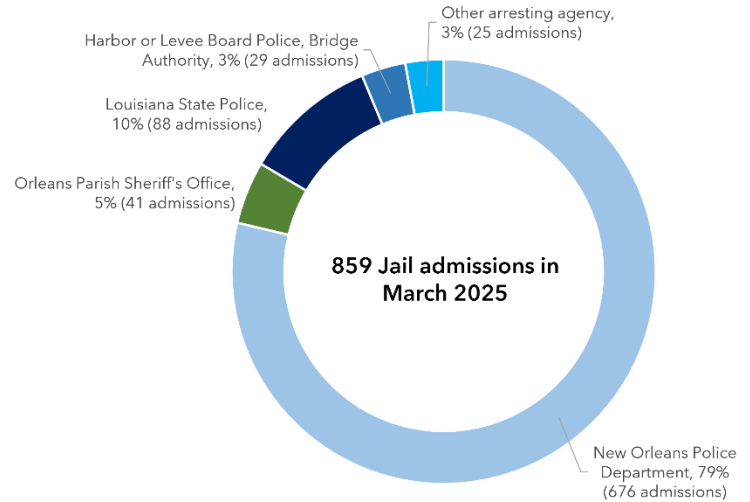


Figure 9. March 2025 jail admissions by arresting agency.

Nearly one-third of all those admitted to the jail in March had been booked on violent felony or state misdemeanor charges (32.8%; 282 of the 859 jail admissions), an increase of 21% from February, when 232 people were admitted to the jail with violent offenses.

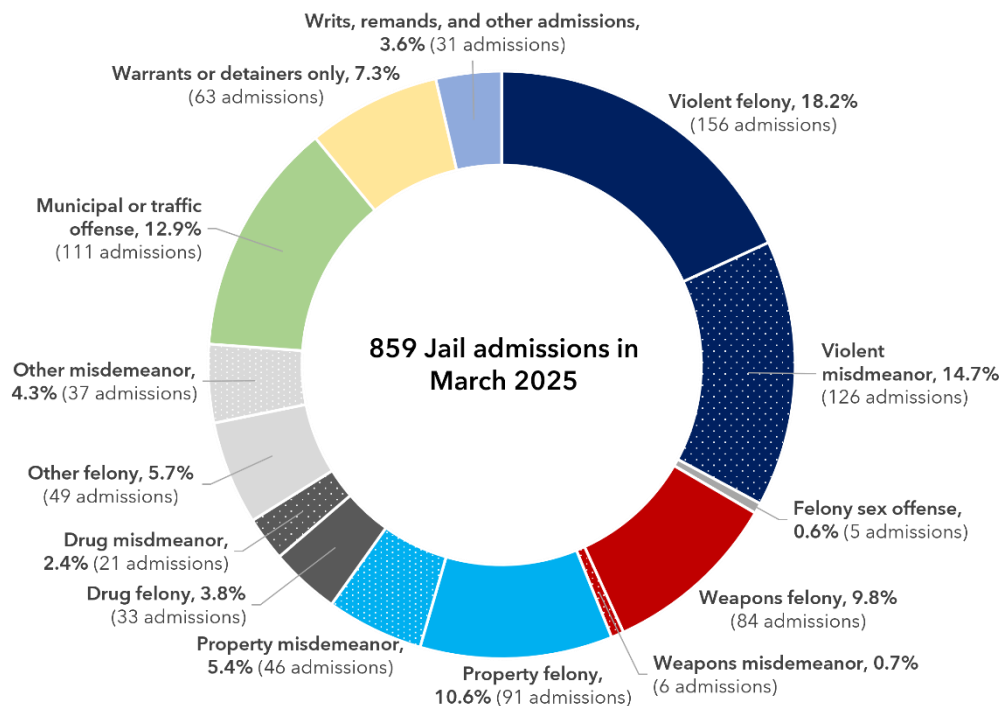


Figure 10. March 2025 jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking.

In March, 137 people were admitted to the jail with property offenses as the most serious charge at booking, an increase of 13% from the 121 admissions for property offenses in February.

90 people were admitted to the jail in March with weapons offenses as the most serious charge at booking, a 125% increase compared with February's 40 jail admissions. Jail admissions for weapons charges as the most serious offense at booking have generally decreased since changes in concealed-carry laws came into effect in July 2024.

JAIL ADMISSION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEXES

In March, Orleans Parish admitted nearly 236 people into the jail for every 100,000 parish residents. Black people were admitted to the jail at a rate of 334 people per 100,000 African American parish residents, while white people were admitted at a rate of 138 people per 100,000 New Orleanians. Black people were admitted to the jail at over twice the rate of white people, per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by rate (RRI = 2.4).



Figure 11. March 2025 relative rate index for jail admission rates per 100,000 Black and white Orleans Parish residents; RRI = 2.4.

Racial disparities are also apparent when looking at admission rates by the most serious charge category at booking.

In March 2025, Black people with weapons charges as the most serious offense made up 9.4% of the 859 jail admissions (81 people admitted to the jail); white people, 0.9% (8 people admitted to the jail).

Within each racial category, Black people with weapons charges made up 11.9% of the 682 African Americans admitted to the jail in March, while white people made up 5.1% of the 156 white people admitted to the jail last month. Stated another way: the admissions rate for Black people with felony or state misdemeanor weapons charges as the most serious offense at booking is 11.9 for every 100 Black people admitted to the jail. For white people, the admissions rate was 5.1 for every 100 white people admitted to the jail. Thus, the RRI for jail admissions on weapons charges in March was 2.3. (See Table 2, Appendix A.)

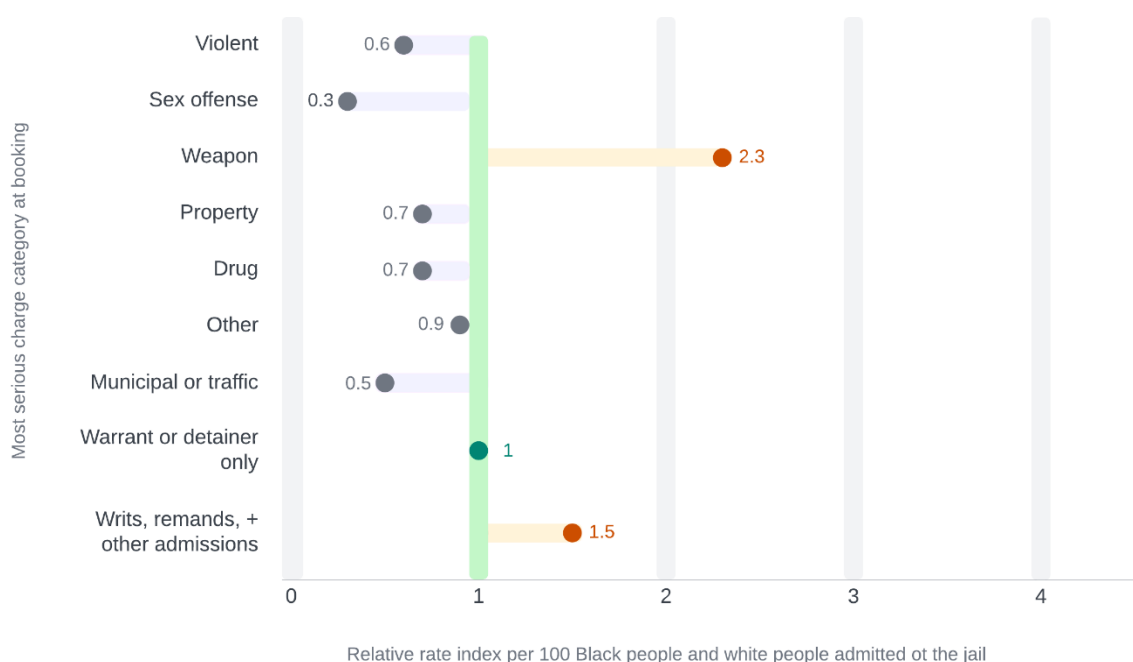


Figure 12. March 2025 relative rate indexes of jail admissions by most serious charge category per 100 jail admissions of Black people and white people.

MARCH 2025 JAIL RELEASES + AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

820 people were released from jail custody in March 2025, a decrease of 1.6% from February, when 833 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 were transferred to the custody of another law enforcement agency or the Department of Corrections.

The average length of stay for the 820 people who were released from jail last month was 43 days (min = less than 1 day; max = 2,106 days; standard dev. = 142.3; see Table 3, Appendix A.). The median length of stay for all released people in March was 1 day, 4 days fewer than the February median. 59% of those released in March spent 13 days or fewer in jail. 13% (107 people) spent between 61 and 364 days in jail.

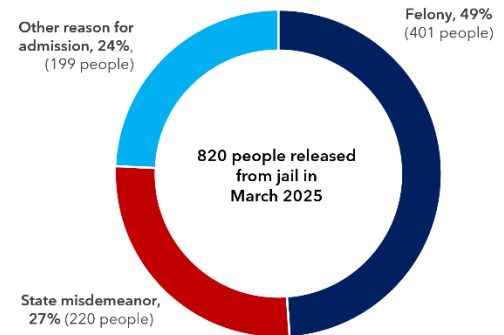


Figure 13. March 2025 jail releases by most serious charge category at booking.

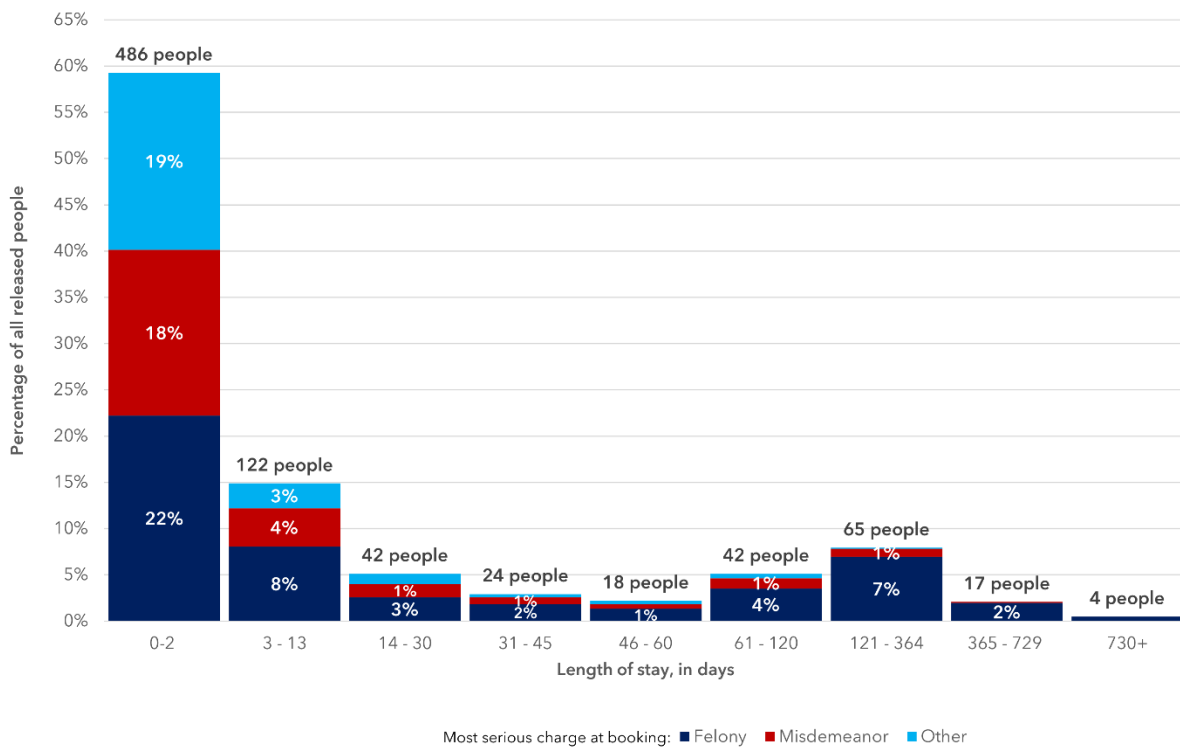


Figure 14. Length of jail stay by most serious charge category at booking, March 2025. N = 820 people.

Nearly 49% of the 820 people who were released from jail in March had a felony charge as the most serious offense and spent an average of 76 days in custody; the median length of stay for this group was 4 days. People who were released in March having been booked with a state misdemeanor as the most serious charge at booking made up nearly 27% of all releasees and spent an average of 15 days in custody, with a median length of stay of 1 day. People booked only on warrants or detainers or admitted to the jail on other matters made up the remaining 24% of those released in March; this group spent an average of 5 days in custody and had a median length of stay of less than one day.

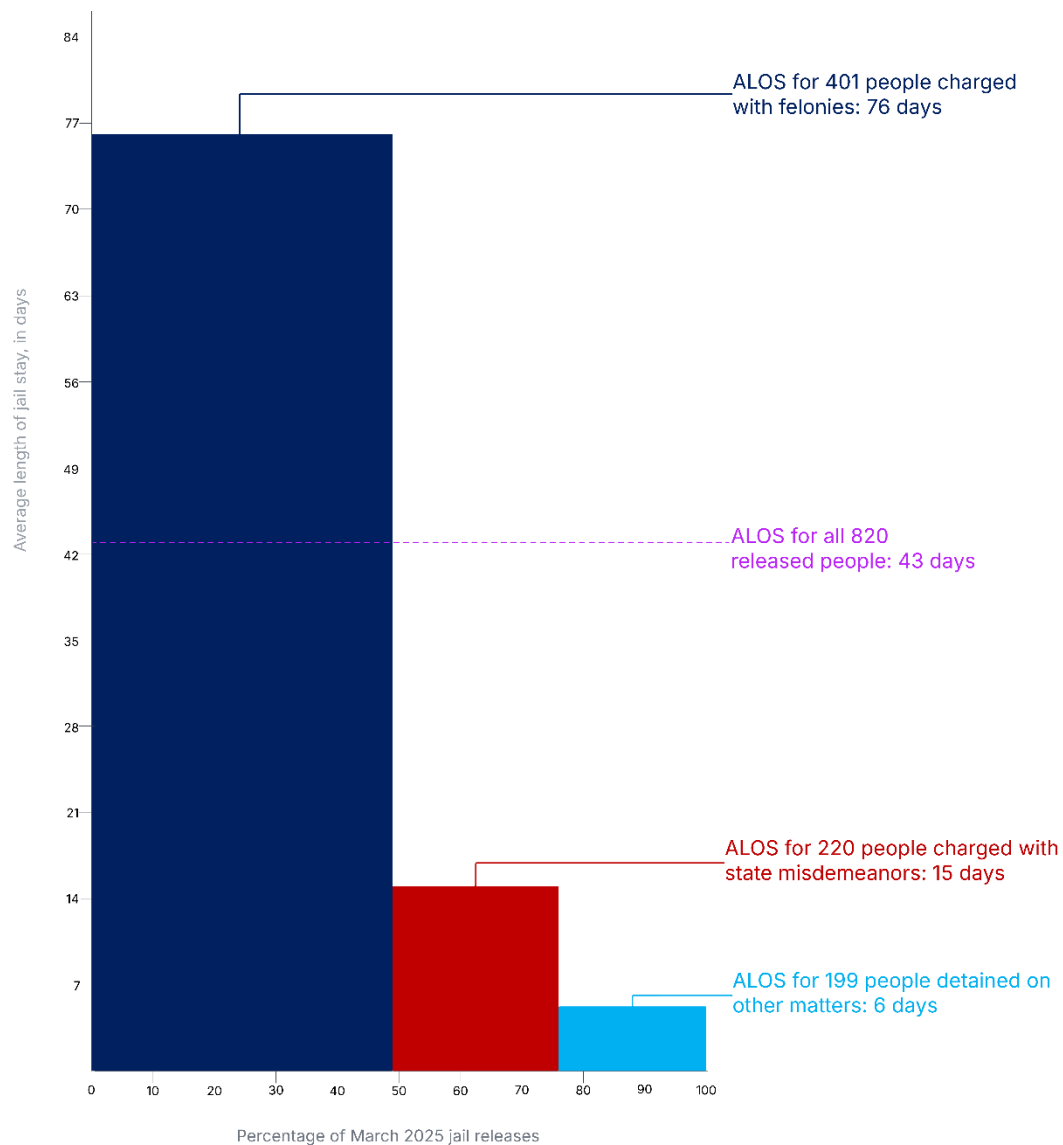


Figure 15. March 2025 average lengths of jail stay by most serious charge at booking.
N = 820 people.

In March 2025, Black people who were released from jail spent 24 days longer in custody compared with white, Latino, Asian/Asian American people and people of “other” and “unknown” race. African Americans who were released from custody last month spent an average of 48 days in jail, while everyone else spent an average of 24 days in jail. (See Appendix A, Table 4,)

The average length of stay for Black releasees decreased by 27 days in March, compared with February’s average length of stay. The difference in average length of jail stays between African Americans and everyone else decreased by 20 days in March, compared with the previous month.

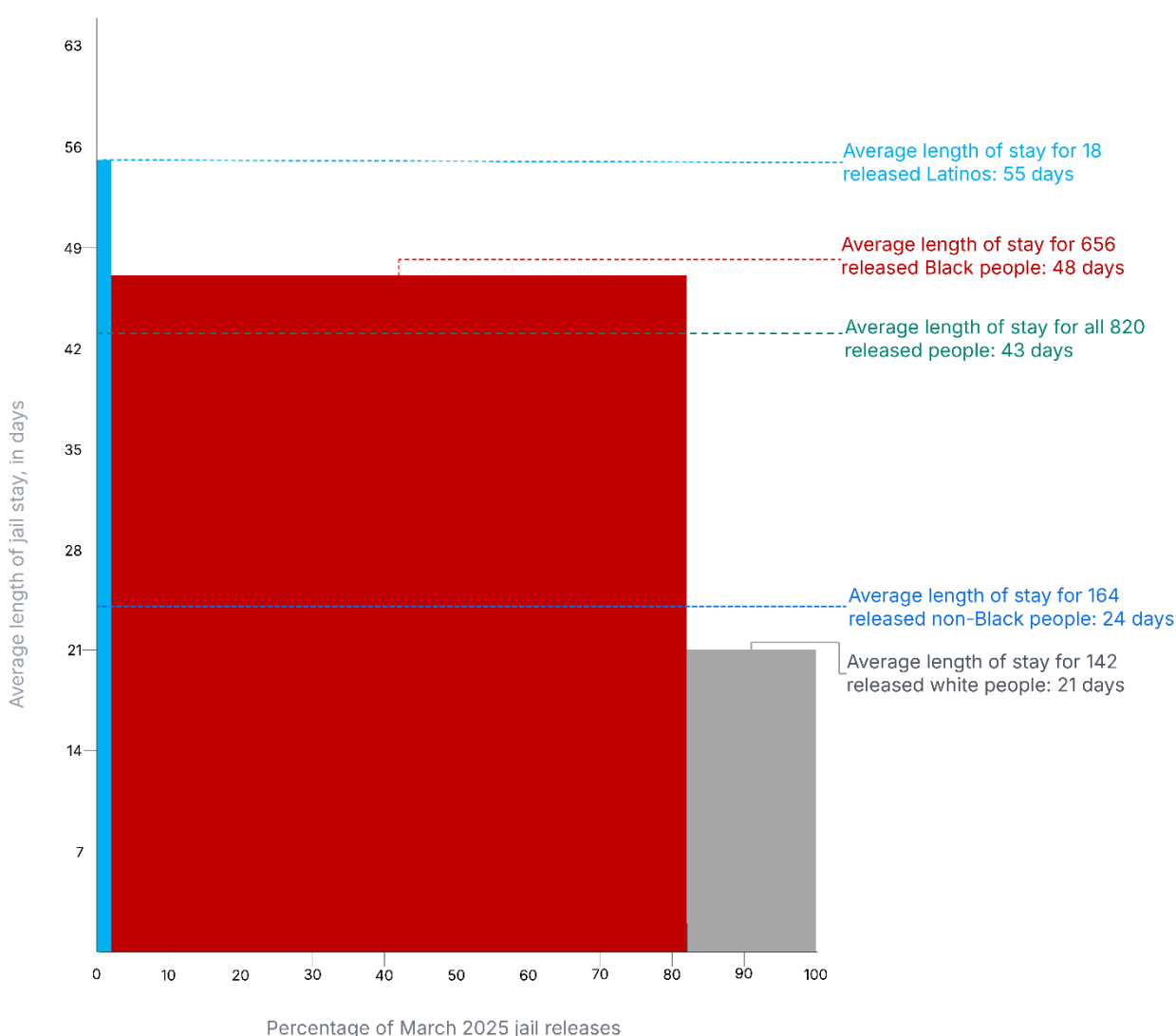


Figure 16. March 2025 average length of stay by race. N = 820 people.

Note that the 2 Asian/Asian American people released in March had an average length of stay of 25 days. They are not represented in the data graphic above, but their lengths of stay are included in the average calculation for all released, non-Black people.

APPENDIX A: TABLES

Table 1. March 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>	1,281	92.5%
Violent felony	707	51.1%
Felony sex offense	43	3.1%
Weapons felony	143	10.3%
Property felony	150	10.8%
Drug felony	35	2.5%
Other felony	59	4.3%
Violent misdemeanor	60	4.4%
Misdemeanor sex offense	1	0.1%
Weapons misdemeanor	2	0.2%
Property misdemeanor	17	1.2%
Drug misdemeanor	2	0.2%
Other misdemeanor	17	1.2%
Municipal or traffic violation	7	0.5%
Parole or probation violation	38	2.7%
<i>Other reason for admission or missing information</i>	16	1.2%
<i>Sentenced, by agency</i>	88	6.4%
Louisiana Department of Corrections	54	3.9%
East Louisiana Mental Health System	34	2.5%
Total	1,385	100%

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

Charge category	Black	White	Everyone else	Total
Violent	241	32	9	282
Sex offense	3	2	0	5
Weapons	81	8	1	90
Property	101	32	4	137
Drugs	41	13	0	54
Other	67	18	1	86
Muni + traffic	71	36	4	111
Warrants only + LAPP only	50	11	2	63
Other jail admissions	27	4	0	31
Total	682	156	21	859

Table 3. March 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	76	4	2,106	194.8	401
State misdemeanor	15	1	372	44.7	220
Other charge or matter	5	> 1	162	17.9	199
All people released in March	43	1	2,106	142.3	820

APPENDIX B: 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 may 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 are 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.