



ORLEANS PARISH JAIL POPULATION:

By the numbers

September 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, **1,461** people were detained in the jail each day in September 2025, an **increase of less than 1%** from August's average daily population of 1,460 people.

758 people were admitted to the jail in September, a **decrease of 17.5% compared** with August 2025, when 919 people were admitted to the jail. This is the lowest number of monthly jail admissions since February 2025, when 688 were admitted to the jail.

788 people were released from the jail in September, a **decrease of 15%** compared with August, when 927 people were released from jail.

The average length-of-jail-stay for the 788 people released in September was **59 days**, 3 days shorter than the average jail stay in August.

The jail detention rate for Orleans Parish was **401.1** detained people per 100,000 parish residents, twice the 2023 national jail detention rate of 198 detained people per 100,000 US residents.

Racial disparities persist in jail detention and admission.

- Black people are detained in the jail at **4.6 times** the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.
- Black people are admitted to the jail at **2.8 times** the rate of white people, per 100,000 parish residents by race.

SEPTEMBER 2025 JAIL POPULATION

DAILY JAIL POPULATION

On average, the jail population in September 2025 decreased *daily* by 0.04%. Comparing the first and last days of the month, the jail population decreased by 1.1%, from 1,461 people on 1 September to 1,445 people on 30 September.

The jail population reached its monthly peak of 1,488 detainees on 8 September and was at its lowest, with 1,424 detainees, on 28 September.

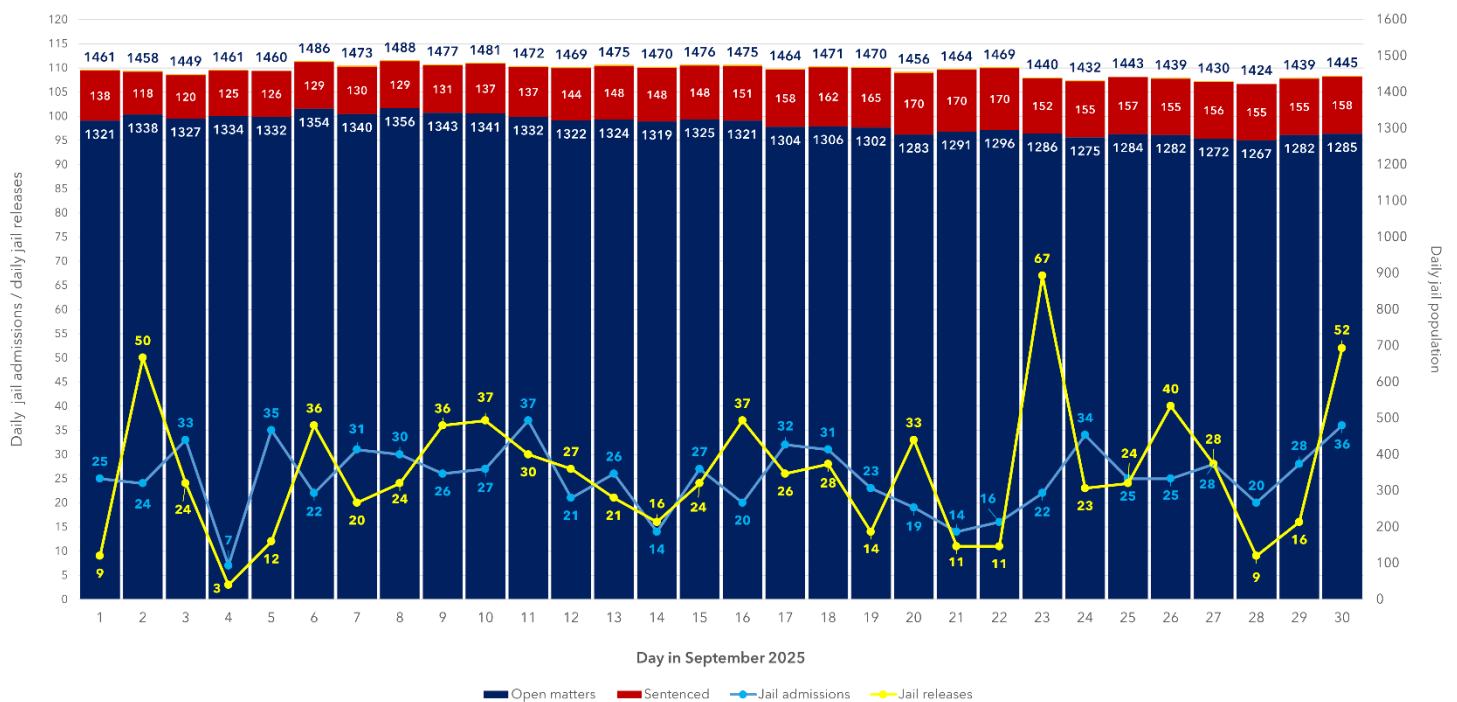


Figure 1. September 2025 daily jail population by legal status (open matters, sentenced); daily admissions; and daily releases.

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 C.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

On average, 1,461 people were detained in the jail daily in September 2025 (standard dev. = 17.0). The average daily jail population increased by 0.07% in September compared with August, when the average population was 1,460 detained people.

The average daily jail population in September 2025 was 0.5% lower than the September 2024 average of 1,468 people.

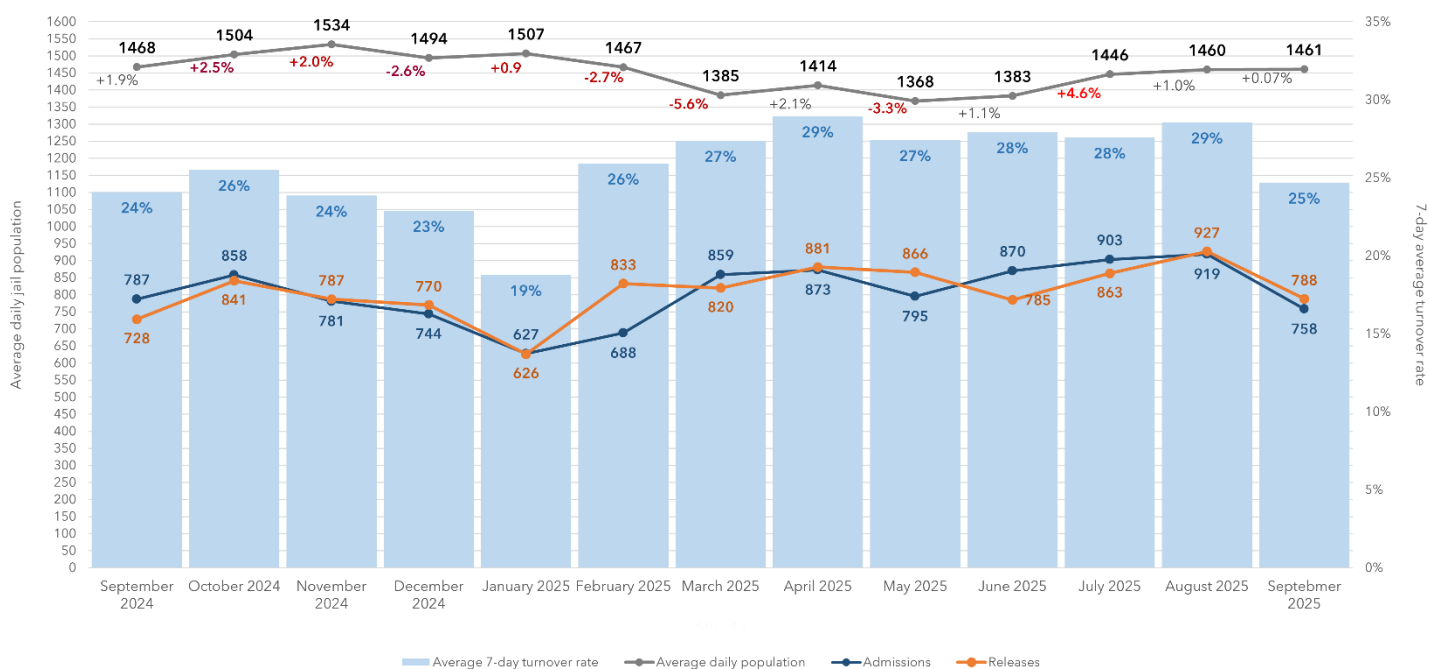


Figure 2. Average daily jail population by month; month-to-month percentage change in average population; total monthly jail admissions; total monthly jail releases; and 7-day average turnover rate, September 2024 - September 2025

The average 7-day turnover rate for September was 25%, 4 percentage points lower than the average turnover rate for August. Developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the turnover rate measures the flow of people into and out of the jail. On average, 1 in 4 people detained in September 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, 89.8% of those detained in the jail in September (about 1,311 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. 10% of people detained in the jail (about 146 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 121 people daily, on average) or to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (about 25 people, on average each day in September).

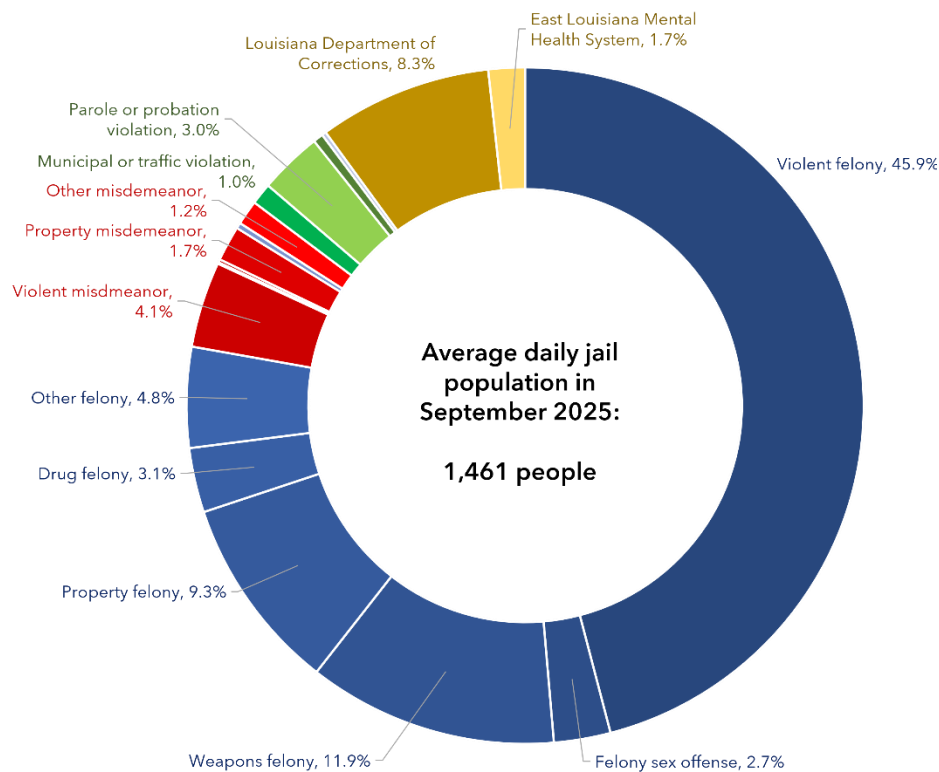
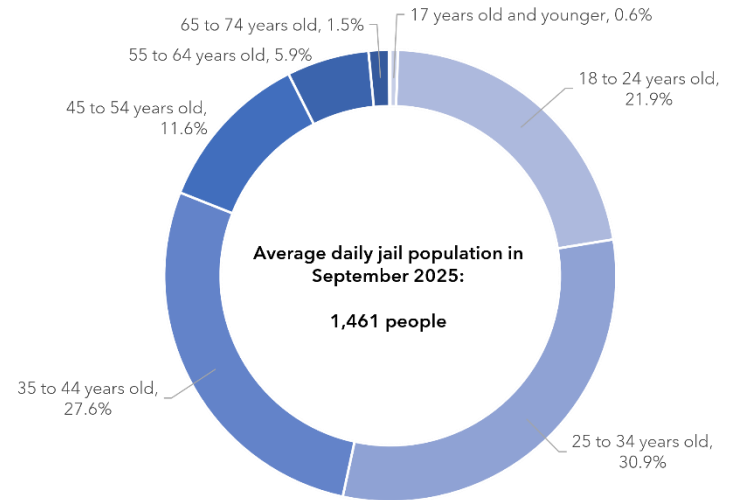


Figure 3. September 2025 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for detainees with open cases and by agency, for detainees with closed cases. Note that, on average, people detained on open misdemeanor sex offenses, misdemeanor weapons, or misdemeanor drug charges; municipal or traffic violations; and those detained on other reasons made up less than 1% of the average jail population.

77.8% of the average daily jail population in September comprised people in custody for open felony charges, and 7.5%, people with open state misdemeanor charges as the most serious charge at booking. 50% of those detained, on average, were in custody for an open violent offense as the most serious charge at booking (about 731 people, on average, daily). (See Table 1, Appendix B).

On average, over 9 out of 10 people in jail custody in September were between the ages of 18 and 54 years at the end of the month. Youths aged 17 years or younger made up 0.6% of the average daily population in September (8 young people detained daily, on average)¹.

Figure 4 (at right). September 2025 average daily jail population by age ranges. Note that people aged 75 years or older comprised 0.1% 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 September 2025.

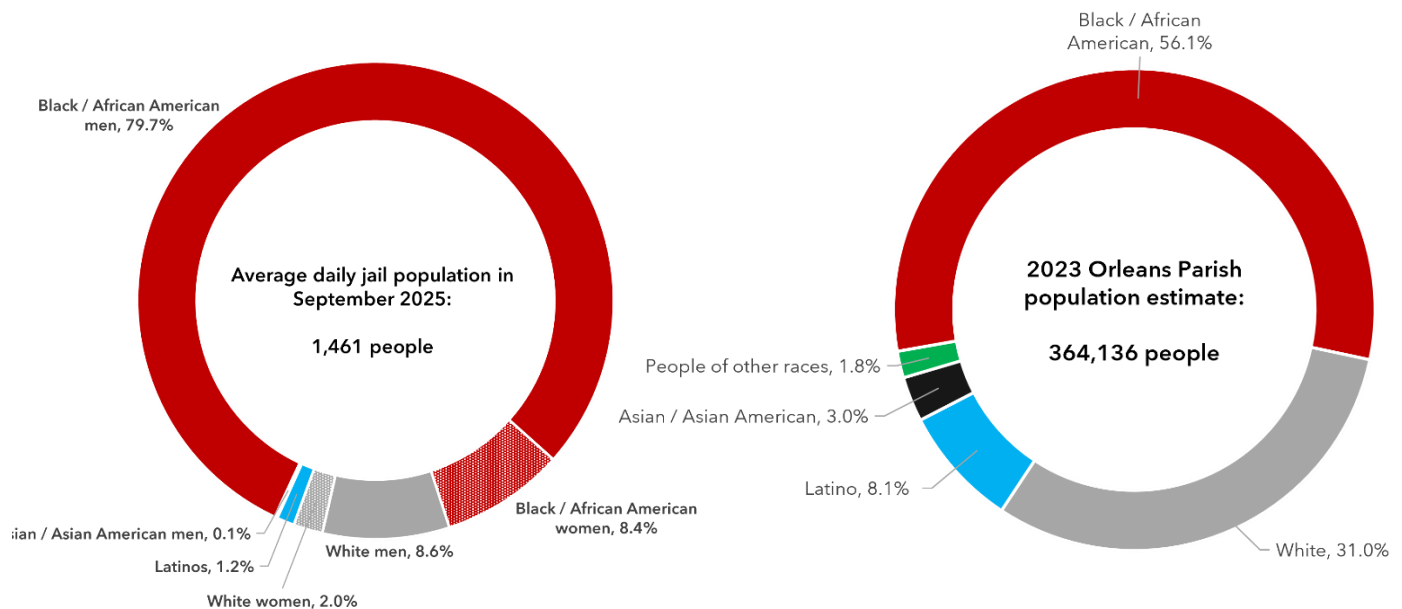


Figure 5 (above, at left). September 2025 average daily jail population by OPSO race categories and sex.

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 September 2025, 21 adults, on average, were detained in the jail daily, having been admitted when they were 17 years of age or younger (about 1.4% of the September average daily jail population).

JAIL DETENTION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEX

Orleans Parish detained 401.1 people for every 100,000 parish residents in September 2025, based on the average jail population of 1,461 detained people. The September jail detention rate is double the 2023 national jail incarceration rate of 198 people detained in jails per 100,000 US residents².

Looking at the September 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] = 4.6). For every 100,000 Black / African American New Orleanians, 629 Black people were in jail custody in September, on average, a rate 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, 137 white people were detained in the jail last month, a rate lower than the US jail detention rate for white detainees, 155 per 100,00 white US residents.

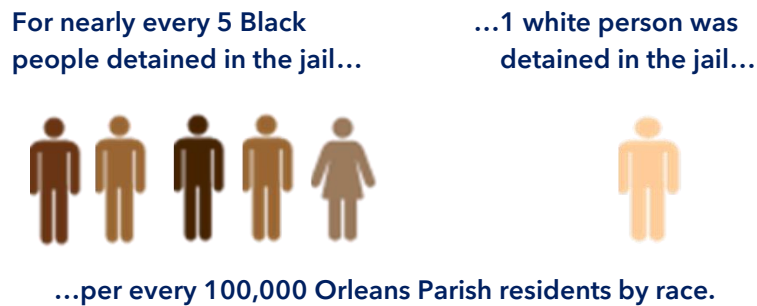


Figure 7. Relative rate index (RRI) for September 2025 jail detention rate per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by race; RRI = 4.6.

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 2023 is the most recent year for which national jail detention rates are available. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Jail Inmates in 2023 - Statistical Tables Full Report](#) | Bureau of Justice Statistics

SEPTEMBER 2025 JAIL ADMISSIONS

758 people were admitted to the jail in September 2025. Black/African American people comprised the majority, 82.3%, or 624 people, admitted to the jail in September. The 468 Black men who were admitted to the jail last month made up 61.7% of all jail admissions; the 156 African American women admitted to the jail made up 20.6% of September's jail admissions.

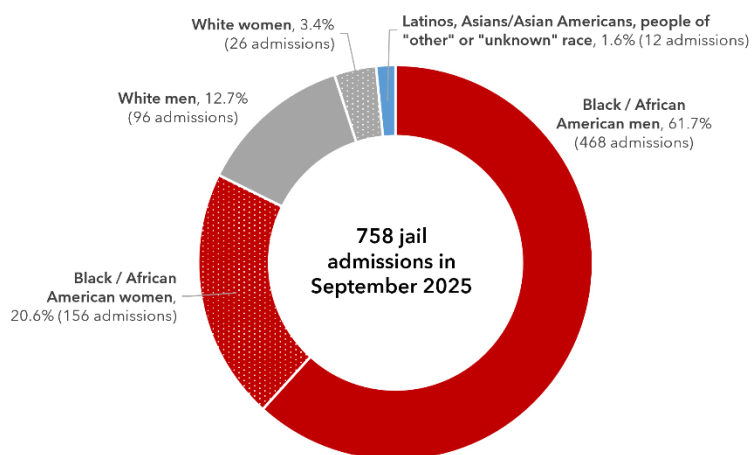
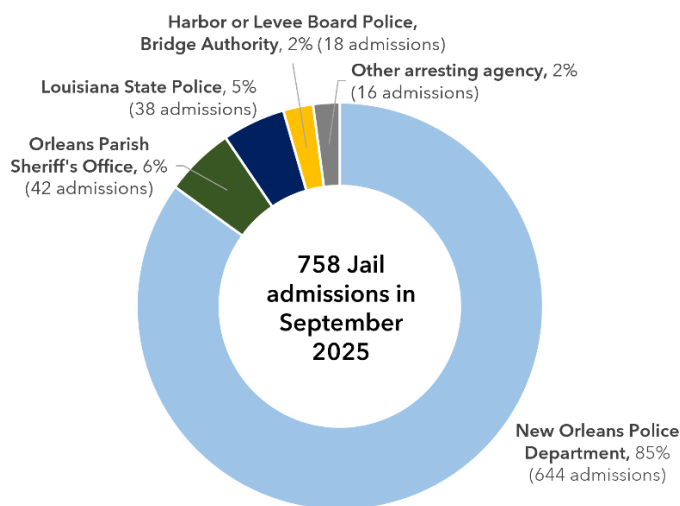


Figure 8. September 2025 jail admissions by OPSO race/ethnicity categories.

3 out of 4, or 75.6%, or 573 of the 758 people admitted to the jail in September gave an Orleans Parish address as their residence of record at initial booking. The remaining 185 people who were admitted to the jail in September came from other Louisiana parishes (140 people); Alabama, Mississippi, or Texas (19 people); or other states (26 people).



644 of the 758 people – 85% – admitted to the jail in September 2025 had been arrested by a New Orleans Police Department officer. 10% 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.

Figure 9. September 2025 jail admissions by arresting agency.

The Louisiana State Police (LSP) were credited with 38 arrests that preceded jail admissions in September, a decrease of 37% compared with the 60 arrests credited to LSP in August 2025.

Jail admissions decreased in September by 17.5% compared with August, when 919 people were admitted to the jail. 405 people were admitted to the jail in September with a felony charge as the most serious offense at booking, a decrease of 12.1% compared with August, when 461 people were admitted to the jail with felony charges. As a proportion of all jail admissions, felony admissions increased by 3 percentage points compared with August.

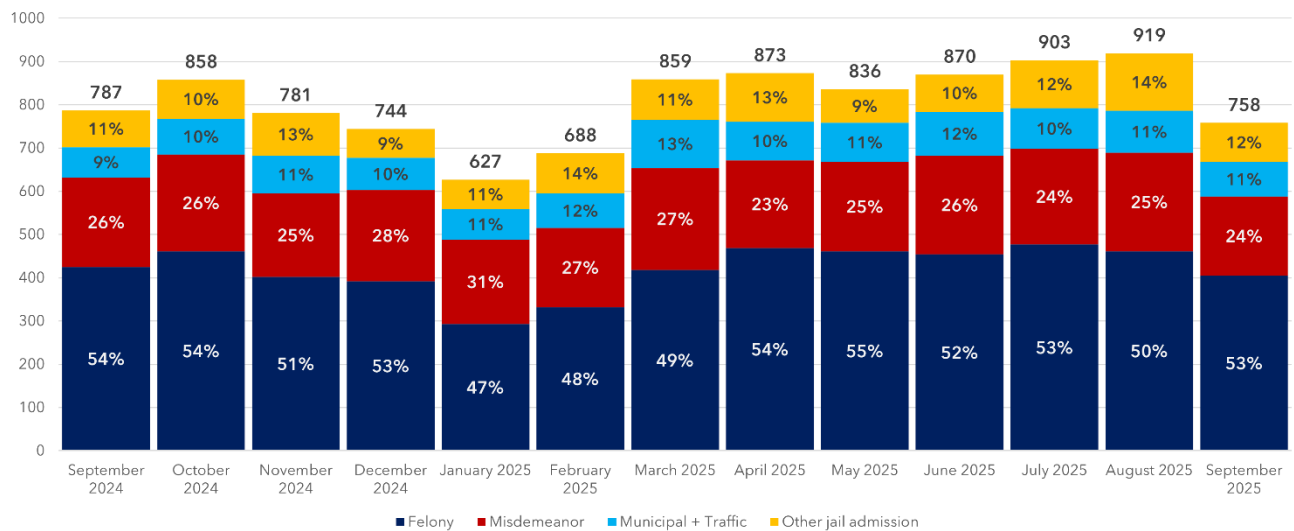


Figure 10. Jail admissions by most serious charge type at booking, September 2024 – September 2025.

183 people were admitted to the jail in September with a state misdemeanor charge as the most serious charge at booking, a decrease of 19.7% compared with August, when 228 people were admitted to the jail with state misdemeanor charges as the most serious offense at booking. State misdemeanor admissions made up 24% of all jail admissions in September, a decrease of 1 percentage point compared with the proportion of jail admissions in August.

36% of all those admitted to the jail in September had been booked on violent felony or state misdemeanor charges (274 out of 758 jail admissions), the same proportion of total jail admissions as August.

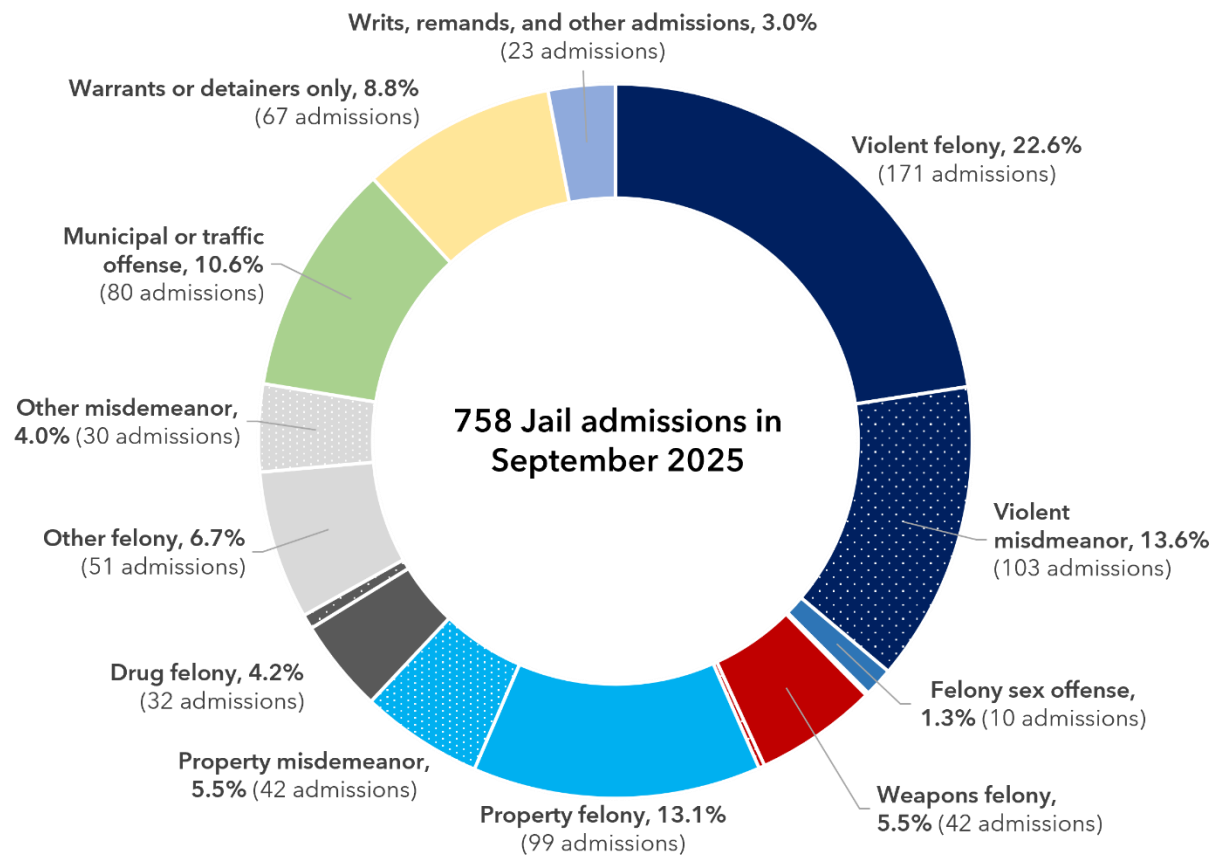


Figure 11. September 2025 jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking.

JAIL ADMISSION RATE + RELATIVE RATE INDEXES

In September, Orleans Parish admitted 208 people into the jail for every 100,000 parish residents. Black people were admitted to the jail at a rate of over 305 people per 100,000 African American parish residents, while white people were admitted at a rate of over 108 people per 100,000 white New Orleanians. Black people were admitted to the jail at over 3 times the rate of white people, per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by rate (RRI = 2.82).

Nearly 3 Black people
admitted to the jail...



...for every 1 white person
admitted to the jail...

...per 100,000 Orleans Parish residents by race.

Figure 12. September 2025 relative rate index for jail admission rates per 100,000 Black and white Orleans Parish residents: RRI = 2.8.

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 September 2025, 45 Black people with weapons charges as the most serious offense made up 5.3% of the 758 jail admissions, while 3 white people was admitted to the jail with weapons misdemeanors as the most serious charge at booking (0.4% of all September jail admissions).

Within each racial category, Black people with weapons charges made up 6.4% of the 624 African Americans admitted to the jail in September, while white people with weapons charges made up 2.5% of the 122 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 6.4 for every 100 Black people admitted to the jail. For white people, the admissions rate was 2.5 for every 100 white people admitted to the jail. Thus, the RRI for jail admissions on weapons charges in September was 2.8. (See Table 2, Appendix B.)

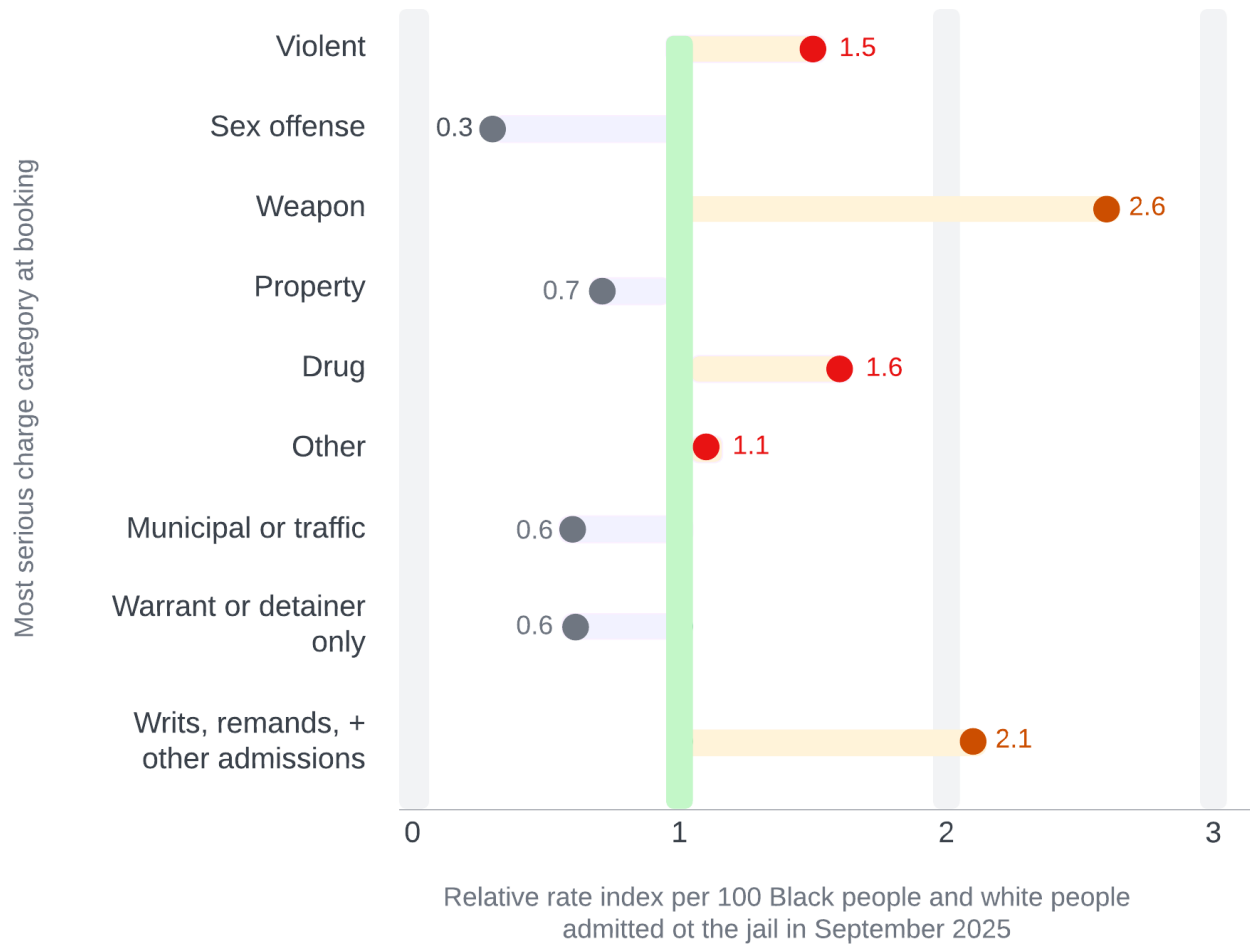


Figure 13. September 2025 relative rate indexes of jail admissions by most serious charge category at booking per 100 jail admissions of Black people and white people.

SEPTEMBER 2025 JAIL RELEASES + AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

788 people were released from jail custody in September 2025, a decrease of nearly 15% from August, when 927 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.

The average length of stay for the 788 people who were released from jail last month was 59 days (min = less than 1 day; max = 2,004 days; standard dev. = 172.9; see Table 3, Appendix B.). The median length of stay for all released people in September was 4 days, 2 days longer than August's median. 62.8% of those released in September spent 13 days or fewer in jail. Nearly 18% (140 people) spent between 61 and 364 days in jail.

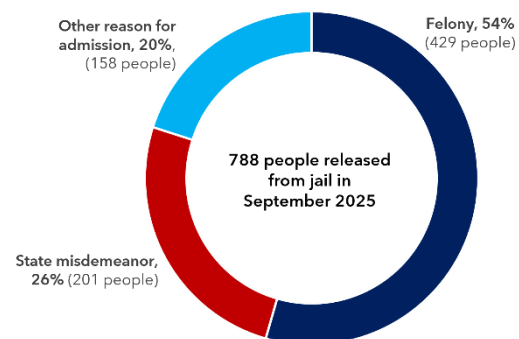


Figure 14. September 2025 jail releases by most serious charge category at booking.

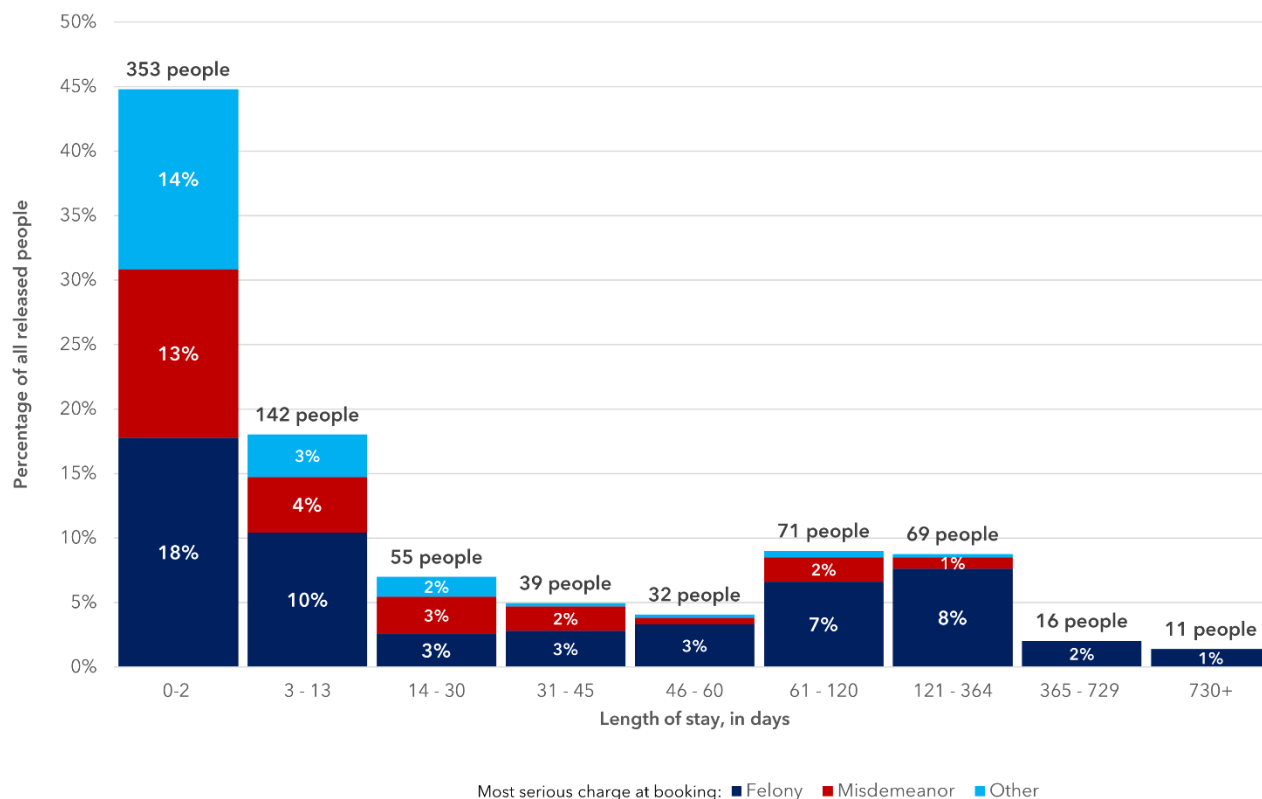


Figure 15. Length of jail stay by most serious charge category at booking, September 2025. N = 788 people.

54% of the 788 people who were released from jail in September had a felony charge as the most serious offense and spent an average of 97 days in custody; the median length of stay for this group was 13 days. People who were released in September having been booked with a state misdemeanor as the most serious charge at booking made up over 25% 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 20% of those released in September; this group spent an average of 9 days in custody and had had a median length of stay of less than 1 day.

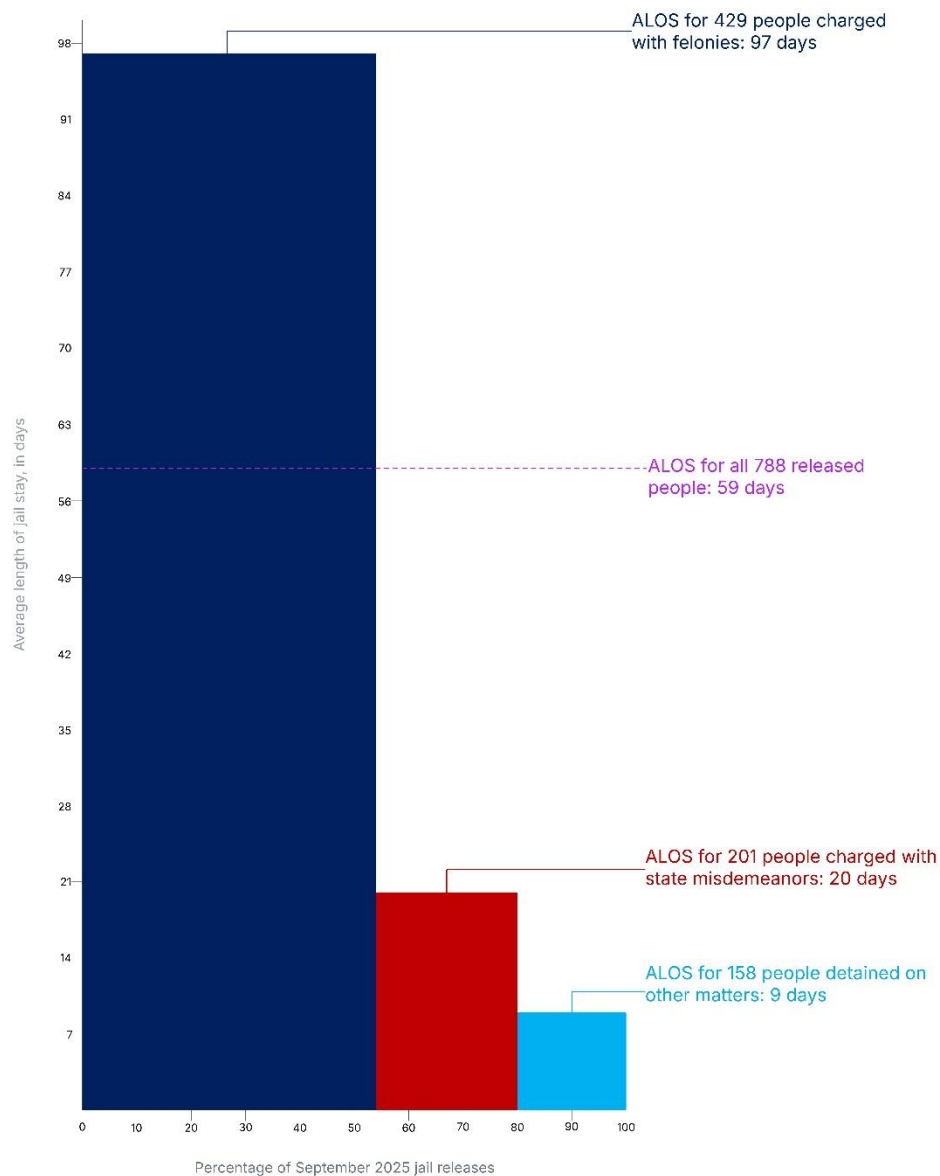


Figure 15. September 2025 average lengths of jail stay by most serious charge at booking. N = 788 people

651 African Americans made up 82.6% of the 788 people released from jail in September and spent an average of 66.2 days in custody, the highest average length of jail stay of all OPSO racial / ethnic groups. On average, Black people released from jail in September spent 39 days (more than 5 weeks) longer in custody than the 128 white people released from jail last month, who made up 16.2% of those released from jail in September.

The 8 Latinos who were released from jail in September made up 1% of all those released from custody and spent an average of 4.4 days in custody.

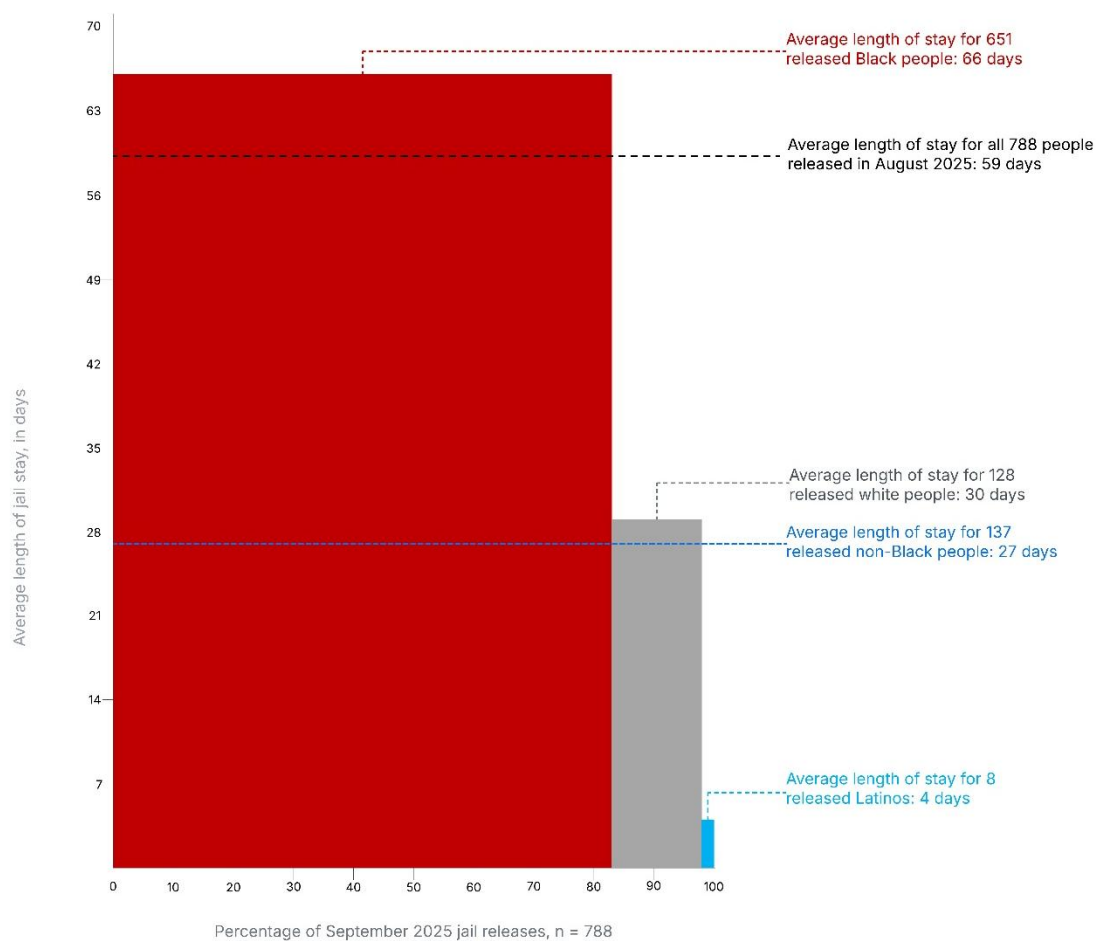


Figure 16. September 2025 average length of jail stay by OPSO racial / ethnic groups, N = 788 released people.

Note that 1 Asian/Asian American person was released in September. This releasee's length of stay is excluded from the data graphic but included in the ALOS calculation for non-Black people.

Appendix A: tables

Table 1. September 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>	<i>1,311</i>	<i>89.8%</i>
Violent felony	71	45.9%
Felony sex offense	40	2.7%
Weapons felony	74	11.9%
Property felony	36	9.3%
Drug felony	45	3.1%
Other felony	70	4.8%
Violent misdemeanor	60	4.1%
Misdemeanor sex offense	1	0.1%
Weapons misdemeanor	2	0.15%
Property misdemeanor	25	1.7%
Drug misdemeanor	4	0.3%
Other misdemeanor	17	1.2%
Municipal or traffic violation	15	1.0%
Parole or probation violation	44	3.0%
Other reasons for admission or missing information	7	0.5%
<i>Hold for agency</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0.3%</i>
<i>Sentenced by agency</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>10.0%</i>
Louisiana Department of Corrections	121	8.3%
East Louisiana Mental Health System	25	1.7%
Total	1,461	100%

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

Charge category	Black	White	Everyone else	Total
Violent	238	32	4	274
Sex offense	7	4	0	11
Weapons	40	3	1	44
Property	110	30	1	141
Drugs	33	4	0	37
Other	66	12	3	81
Muni + traffic	58	19	3	80
Warrants only + LAPP only	51	16	0	67
Other jail admissions	21	2	0	23
Total	624	122	12	758

Table 3. September 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	96.8	13	2,005	225.8	429
State misdemeanor	19.7	2	190	35.5	201
Other charge or matter	8.5	1	202	25.0	158
All people released in September 2025	59.4	4	2,005	172.9	788

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 September 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.