



ORLEANS PARISH JAIL POPULATION: By the numbers

Preliminary report on women detained at the Orleans Justice Center, 2016 - Q2 2025

Produced by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Purpose

This preliminary report aims to address the question, "What are the historic trends in jail admission, average jail population, and average length of stay from 2016 through the end of the second quarter of 2025?"

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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.

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Questions?

Contact us!

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

Please reach out to kate.hoadley@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

The jail population has changed and is changing in fundamental ways. Compared with 2016, at the end of the second quarter, 2025:

- + A larger proportion of women in custody have new misdemeanor violent or property charges.
- + More women - specifically Black women - are being detained in the jail.
- + Women have been charged with misdemeanor violent or property offenses as the most serious charge at booking at rates nearly double that of men, per 100 jail admissions by sex of admitted person.
- Fewer women are being admitted to the jail on misdemeanor sex offenses (the charge category that includes prostitution) or municipal charges as the most serious charge at booking.

THE GUIDING MODELS

At OCJC, our tabulation, analysis, and reporting are supported by a framework based on the idea that jail admissions, jail releases, and length of jail are three key, interrelated factors that impact jail population.

The tabulations, analyses, and findings presented here are subject to change as data files are updated. Analysis is based on tabulation of Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) person- and charge-level data.



Several factors can impact jail admissions, jail releases, and length of jail stay. At OCJC, we try to consider the larger environment that surrounds people detained in the jail, and how environmental characteristics might impact how, and for how long, they are involved in the criminal legal system.

Our working ecological model acknowledges the close relationships between detained people and their immediate circle of family and friends. It also names the criminal legal system actors with whom detained people may interact, and whose actions can have important consequences on the lives of people detained in the jail.

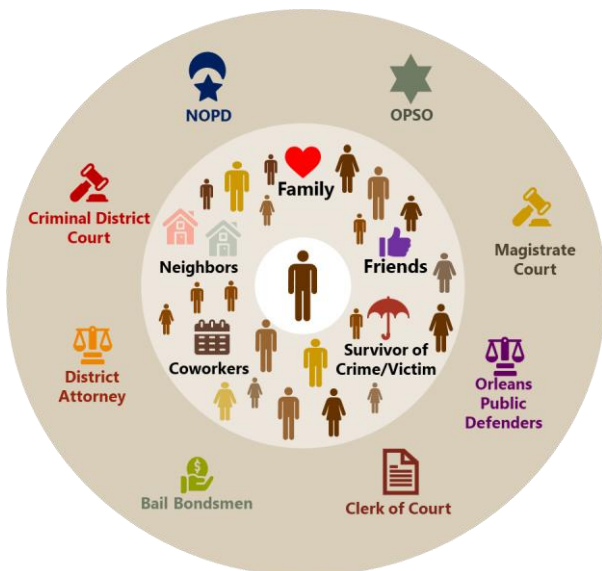


Figure 1 (at top right). OCJC's guiding model for tabulation, analysis, and interpretation of jail population data.

Figure 2 (above, left). OCJC's ecological model of jail detention, based on Bronfenbrenner (1973).

THE BIG PICTURE: AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION, 2016-2025

This section provides some broad context to our exploration of trends in women's jail detention in Orleans Parish. Many of the fluctuations and changes we've observed among women detained in the jail seem to reflect similar changes and fluctuations in the whole jail population.

Between 2016, the beginning of New Orleans involvement with the Safety and Justice Challenge, and the end of 2019, the average daily jail population decreased by 25%, from 1,597 people detained, on average, in 2016 to 1,190 people detained, on average, in 2019. (Please see Figure 3 on the next page.)

In 2020 and 2021, the jail population further decreased as lock-down policies and interagency responses were implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The average jail population reached a low in 2021, when 864 people were detained in the jail -- 45.8% lower than the average daily population of 1,597 detained people in 2016. The *daily* jail population reached an all-time low for this period on 14 May 2021, when 764 were detained in the jail.

Since 2022, the jail population has increased steadily, consistent with nation-wide trends. Between 2023 and 2024, the average population increased by 21.6%, from 1,123 detained people in 2023 to 1,366 people in 2024. The average daily population of people detained in the jail through the first half of 2025 was 1,427 people, an increase of 65% from the 2021 average.

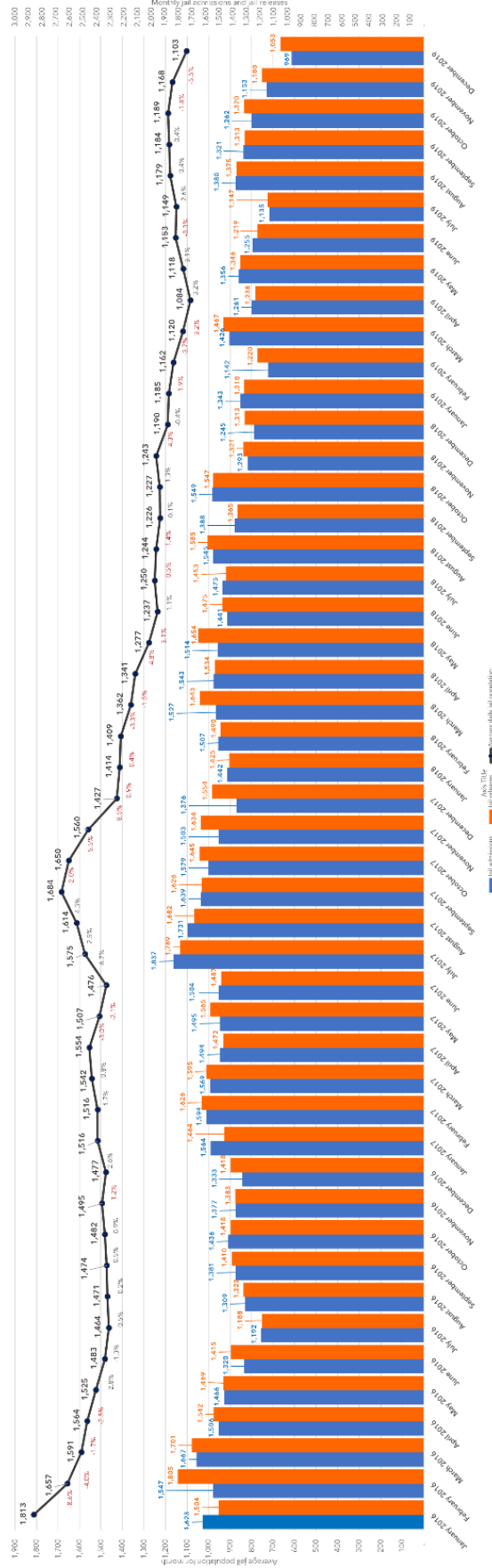


Figure 3. Average daily jail population, jail admissions, and jail releases by month, 2016 – 2019.

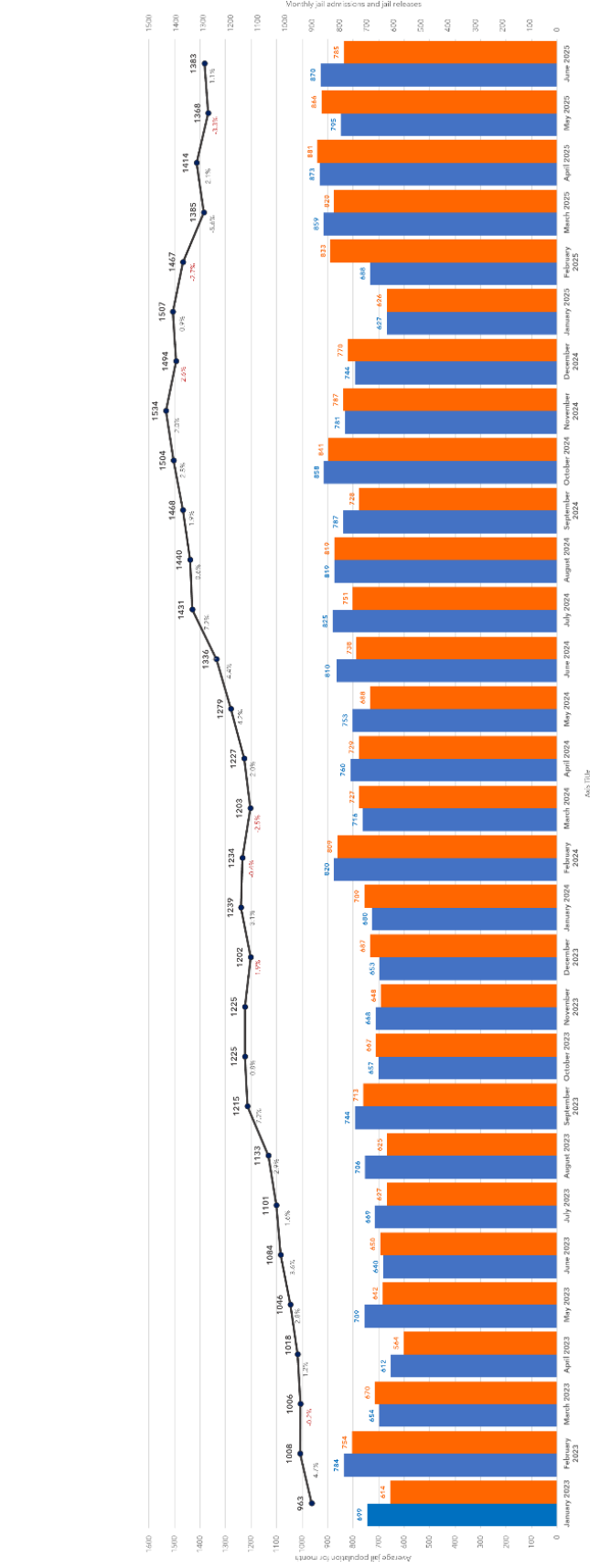
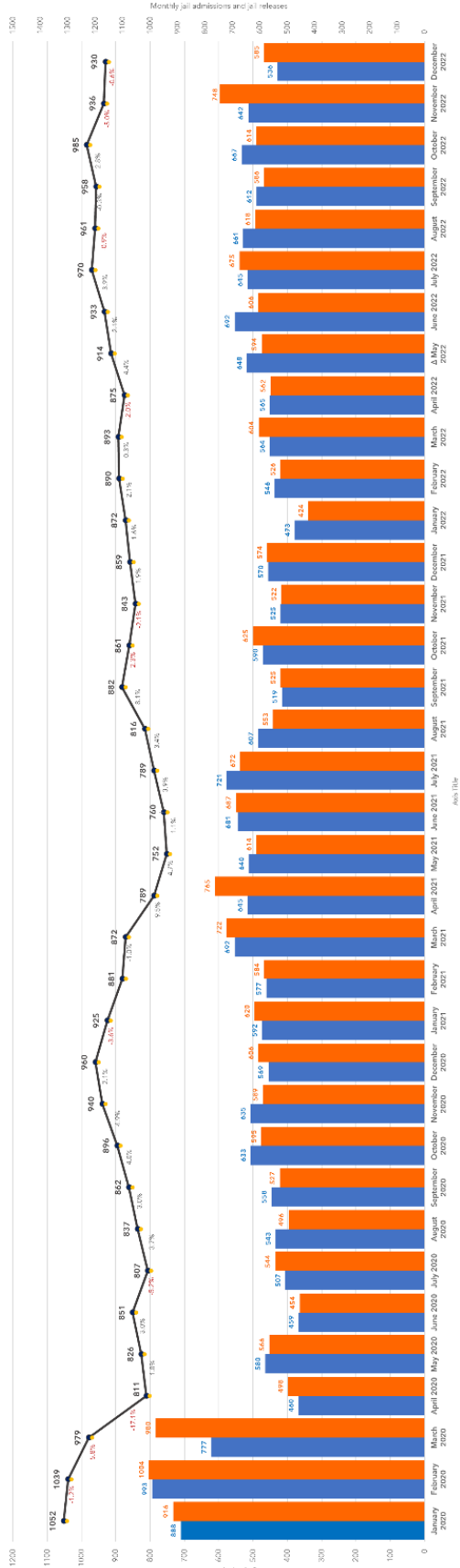


Figure 4 (top). Average daily jail population, jail admissions, and jail releases by month, 2020 - 2022.

Figure 5 (bottom). Average daily jail population, jail admissions, and jail releases by month, 2023 - end of Q2 2025.

Compared to 2016, a much larger percentage of people detained in the jail, on average, are in custody on open violent felony charges. In 2016, 39.5% of the average daily population (about 631 detained people, on average, daily) had a violent felony as the most serious charge at booking. At the end of the second quarter, 2025, 50.3% of the average daily population – about 717 detained people, on average, daily, had a violent felony as the most serious charge at booking.

In addition, both numerically and as a proportion of the average jail population, people in custody with a municipal or traffic violation as the most serious charge at booking has decreased, from 3.1% of the average jail population in 2016 (about 50 detained people) to 0.7% of the average population through the second quarter of 2025 (about 10 detained people).

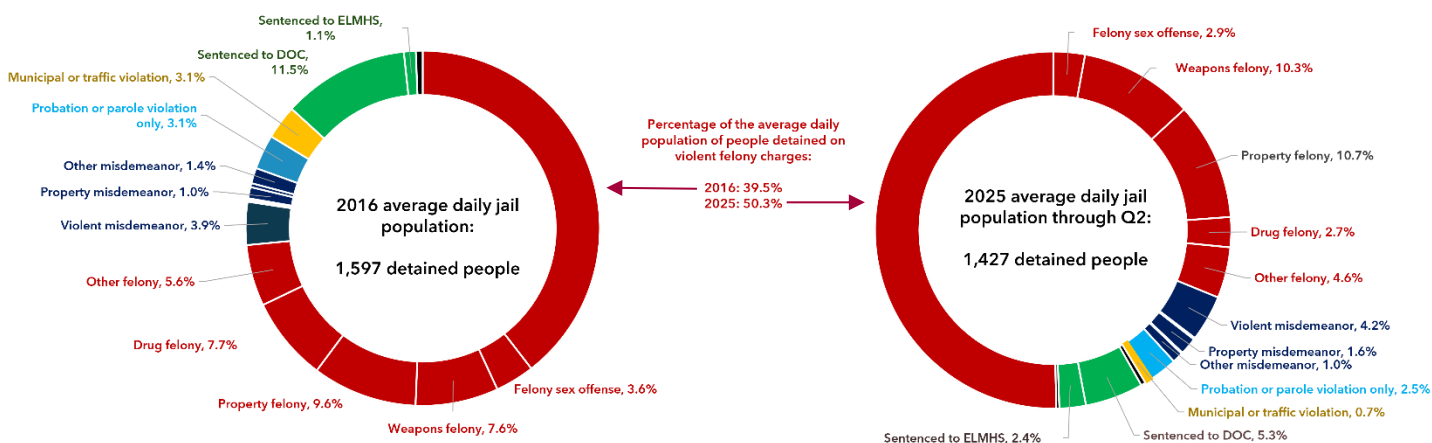


Figure 6 (at left). 2016 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for people with open matters and by sentenced agency for people with closed matters.

Figure 7 (at right). 2025 through Q2 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for people with open matters and by sentenced agency for people with closed matters.

WOMEN'S AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION, 2016-2025

Just as the larger average jail population has fluctuated since 2016, so too has the population of women in jail detention at OJC. On average, in 2016, 132 women were detained in the jail each day. In 2019, the average daily population of detained women decreased by 27% to 96 women detained daily.

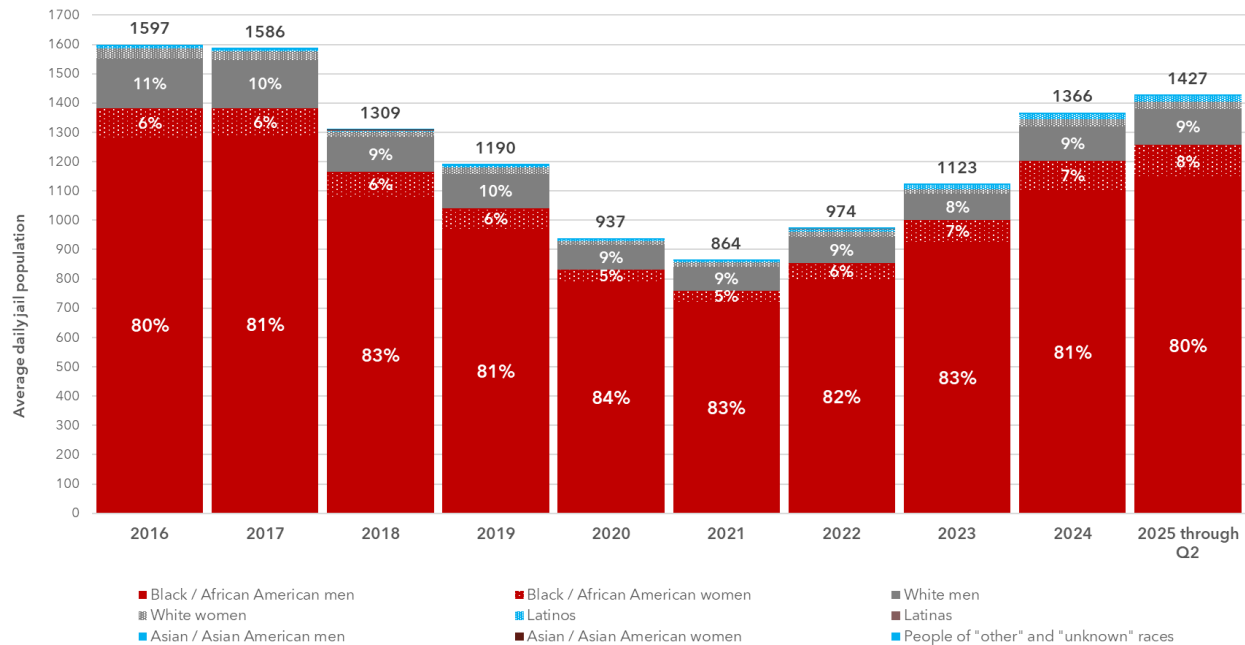


Figure 7. Average daily jail population by race / ethnicity categories and sex, 2016 through Q2 2025.

The population of women detained in the jail further decreased in 2020 and 2021, as did the larger jail population, when the City implemented policies and community partners worked to mitigate the transmission of Covid-19. In 2020, 58 women were detained in the jail, on average, each day, a 40% decrease from the average population of detained women in 2019. The average population of detained women reached a historical low in 2021, when the 55 women who were detained daily, on average, made up 3% of the total jail population that year.

Since 2022, the average population of detained women has been increasing, both numerically and as a proportion of the total average population. In 2023, 90 women were detained in the jail, on average, a 22% increase from the previous year. During the first six months of 2025, 137 women were detained daily, on average, nearly the same as 2016.

The proportion of the average jail population comprising Black women has steadily increased since 2016. In 2016, Black women made up 6% of average daily population. During the pandemic, the percentage of Black women in jail hovered around 5-6%, but their share of the jail population jumped to 7% in 2024. In the first half of 2025, Black women made up 8% of average daily population.

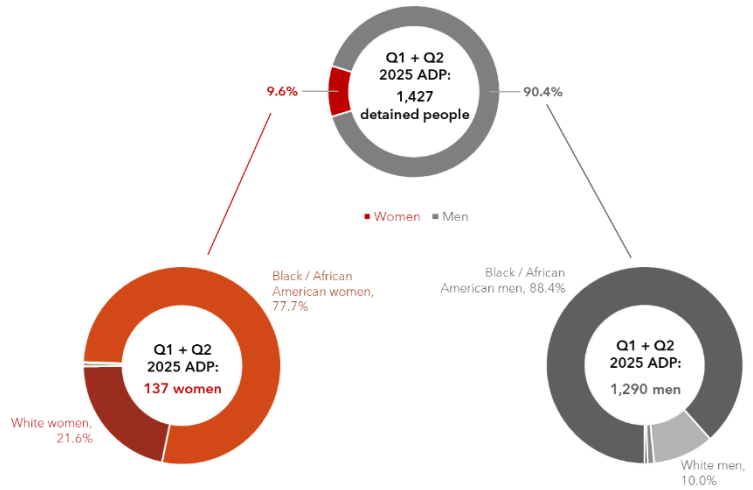


Figure 8. Average daily jail population by race and sex, Q1 and Q2 2025.

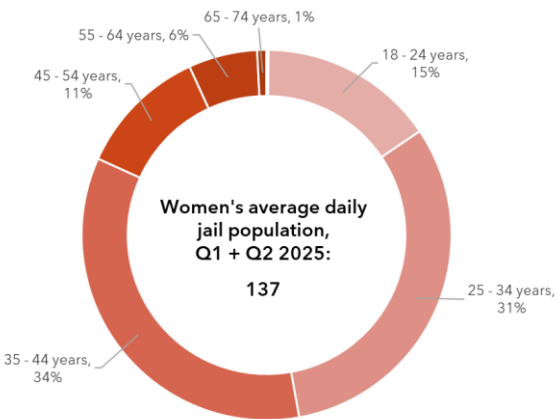


Figure 9. Average daily jail population by age ranges, Q1 and Q2 2025.

From January 2016 through June 2025, about 4 out of 5 women detained in the jail were between the ages of 18 and 44 at the time of their jail admission. In the first 6 months of 2025, over one-third of the average daily population of detained women was between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Young women and girls aged 17 or younger and elder women aged 65 years or older made up less than 1% of the average population of detained women combined. On average, one woman who was a juvenile at the time of jail admission was detained daily in the first six months of 2025.

The most serious charges for which women were detained in the jail, on average, has changed since 2016. In 2016, 39% of the 132 women who were detained daily in the jail, on average, had an open violent felony or state misdemeanor charge as the most serious offense at booking (about 52 women, on average). In 2025, the proportion of women detained daily with open violent charges increased to 47% (about 65 of the 137 women detained in the jail daily, on average). The average number of women detained daily, on average, with open felony and misdemeanor property charges more than doubled, from 12 detained women, on average, in 2016 (10% of the average daily population of detained women) to 27 detained women in 2025 (20% of the average daily population of detained women). The number and proportion of women detained, on average, on municipal or traffic charges decreased in 2025, compared with 2016, from 9 women (7% of the average population of detained women) to 3 women (2% of the average population of detained women).

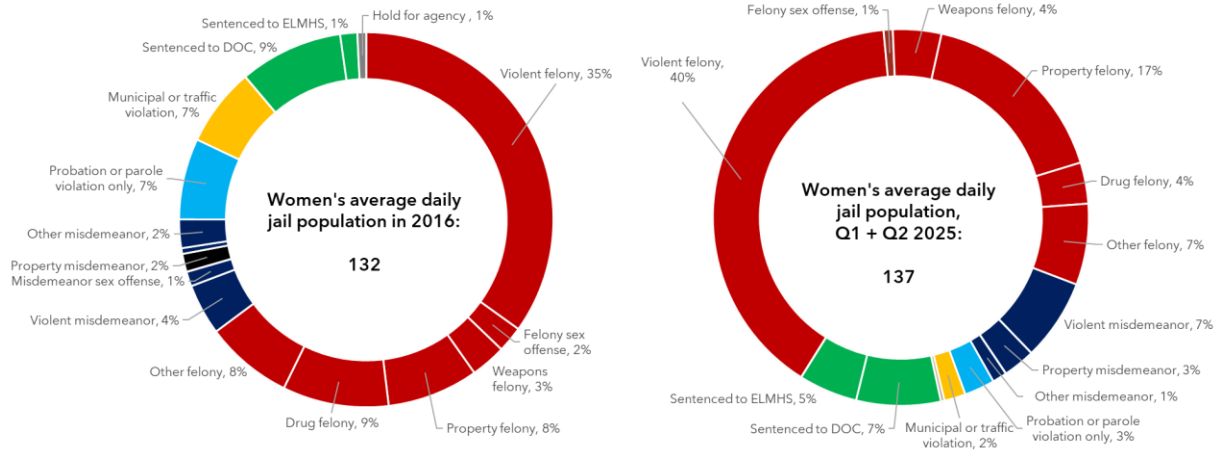


Figure 10 (at left). 2016 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for people with open matters and by sentenced agency for people with closed matters.

Figure 11 (at right). 2025 through Q2 average daily jail population by most serious charge at booking for people with open matters and by sentenced agency for people with closed matters.

THE BIG PICTURE: JAIL ADMISSIONS

Compared to 2016, the number of jail admissions for all people in 2024 decreased by 45.2%, from 17,006 jail admissions in 2016 to 9,319 admissions in 2024.

The most serious charges for which people are admitted to the jail have changed from 2016 to the end of the second quarter, 2025. In 2016, 3,754 jail admissions -- 21% of all admissions that year -- were for people charged with municipal or traffic violations as the most serious charge at booking. Slightly more -- 3,754 jail admissions, or 22% of all admissions in 2016 -- involved people charged with violent felonies or violent misdemeanors as the most serious charge at booking.

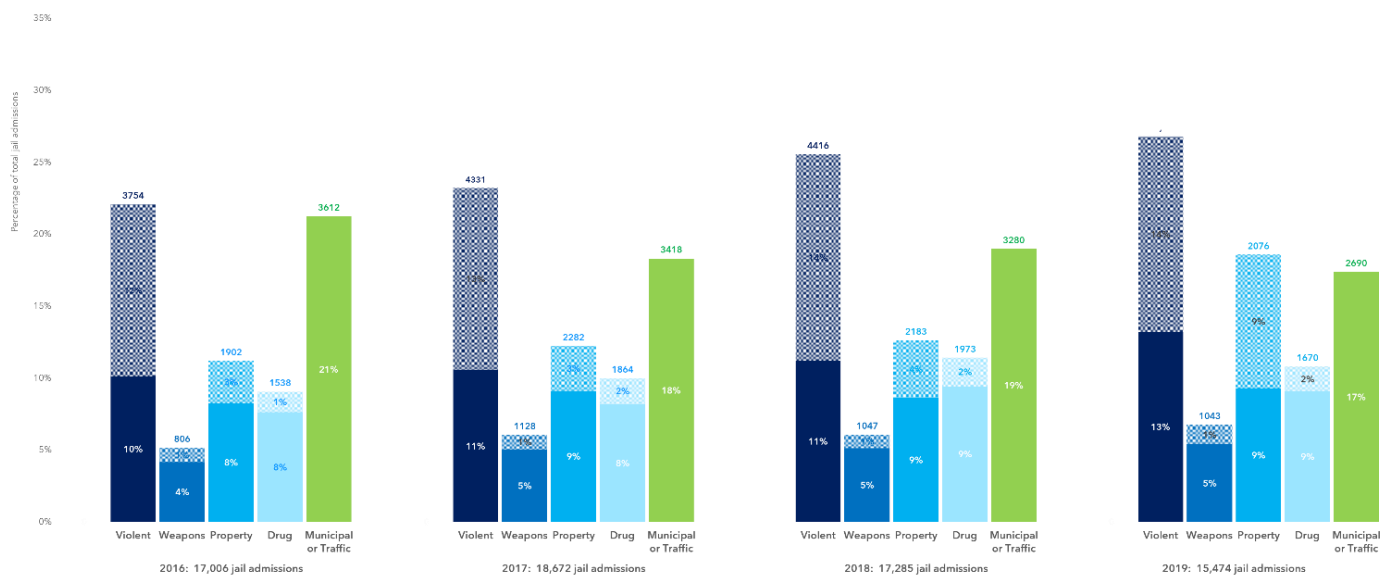


Figure 12. Jail admissions for which violent, weapons, drug, or municipal/traffic charges were the most serious charges at booking, 2016 - 2019.

WHAT IS "THE 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.

In 2020, the number of jail admissions decreased by nearly 55% compared with the previous year, from 17,285 jail admissions in 2019 to 7,842 admissions in 2020. At the same time, the proportion of jail admissions for which violent felonies were the most serious charge at booking doubled, from 11% of all admissions in 2019 to 22%, in 2020. Jail admissions for which municipal or traffic violations were the most serious continued to decrease as a proportion of all jail admissions.

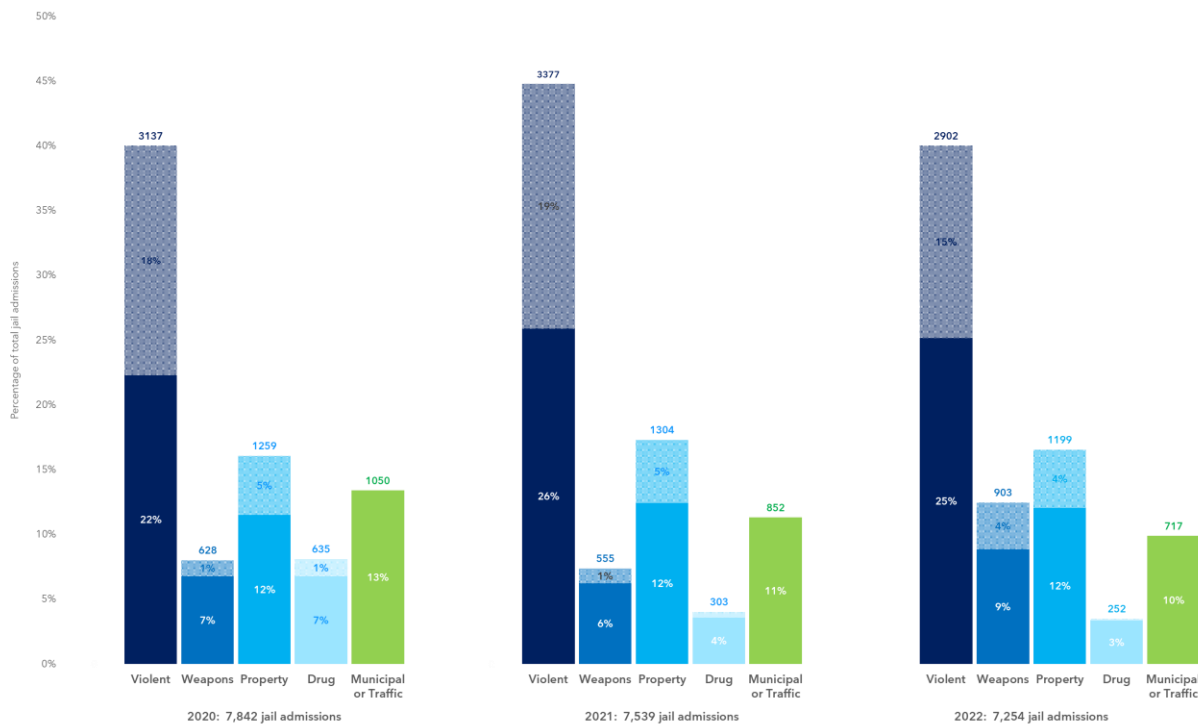


Figure 13. Jail admissions for which violent, weapons, drug, or municipal/traffic charges were the most serious charges at booking, 2020 - 2022.

In 2023, jail admissions remained lower, relative to the numbers of jail admissions in 2016 through 2019. However, the total number of jail admissions in 2023 increased by 11% compared with 2022 jail admissions and continued to rise in 2024, when jail admissions increased by 15% from the previous year. Jail admissions for violent felonies and misdemeanors continued to comprise the plurality throughout this period, while the proportion of jail admissions for weapons charges decreased in 2024, when new, permit-less concealed carry laws took effect.

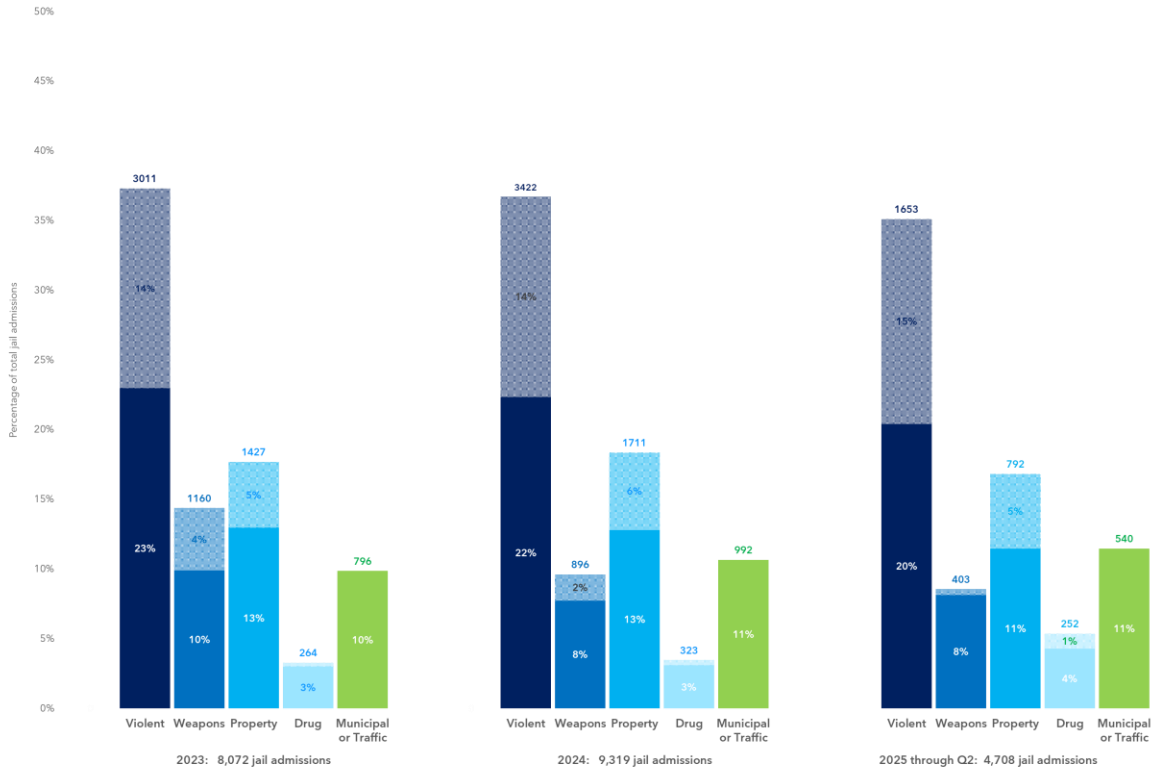


Figure 14. Jail admissions for which violent, weapons, drug, or municipal/traffic charges were the most serious charges at booking, 2023 - Q2 2025.

WOMEN'S JAIL ADMISSIONS + RELATIVE RATE INDEXES

From January 2016 through June 2025, women consistently made up around 22% of all annual jail admissions, even as the total number of jail admissions has decreased.

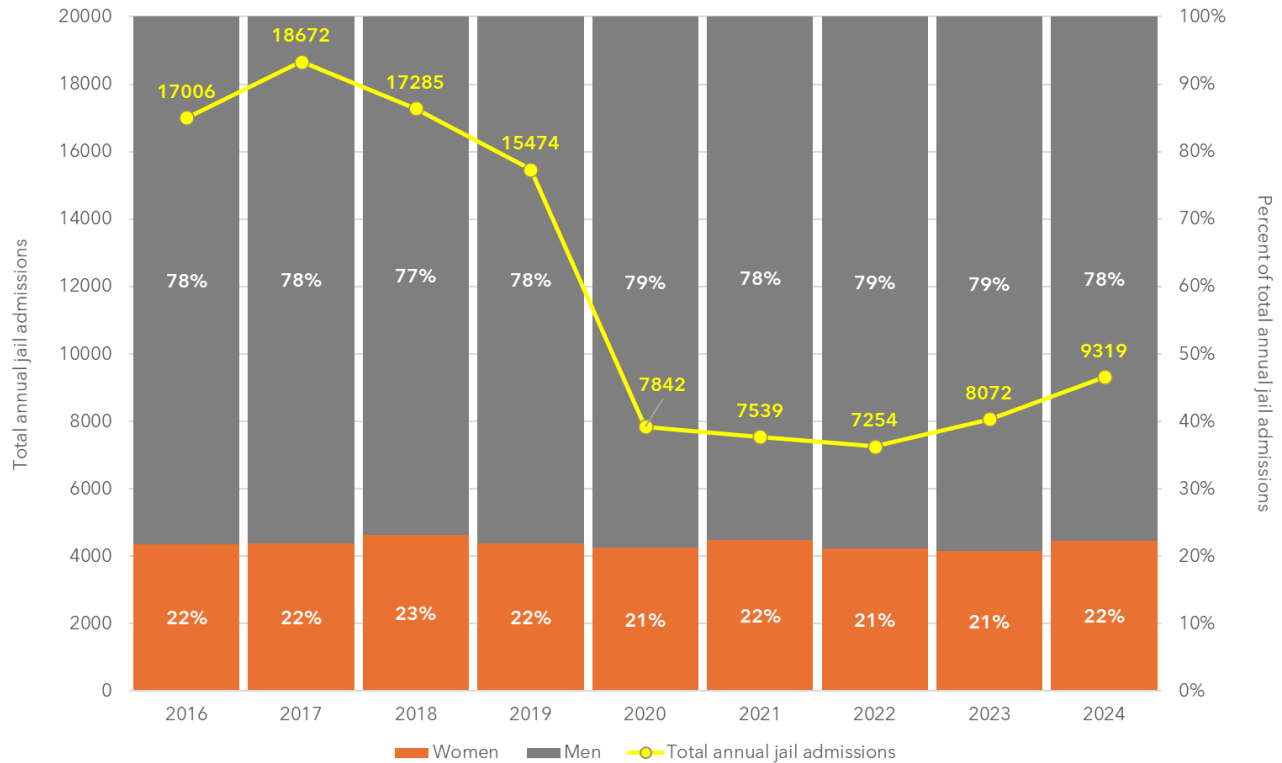


Figure 15. Jail admissions, 2016 - 2024, by sex of admitted person. Note that the yellow line denotes total jail annual admissions.

In the same way that the most serious charge for which people were admitted to the jail has shifted from 2016 to 2025, the most serious charges at booking for women admitted to the jail has changed over this period. In 2016, women with municipal or traffic charges as the most serious charge at booking were among the plurality of all women admitted to the jail that year. However, in the first 6 months of 2025, the plurality of women admitted to the jail had violent felonies or state misdemeanors as the most serious charge at booking. At the same time, the number of women admitted to the jail on felony and misdemeanor sex offenses (a category of charge that includes violations related to prostitution) has significantly decreased between 2016 and 2025.

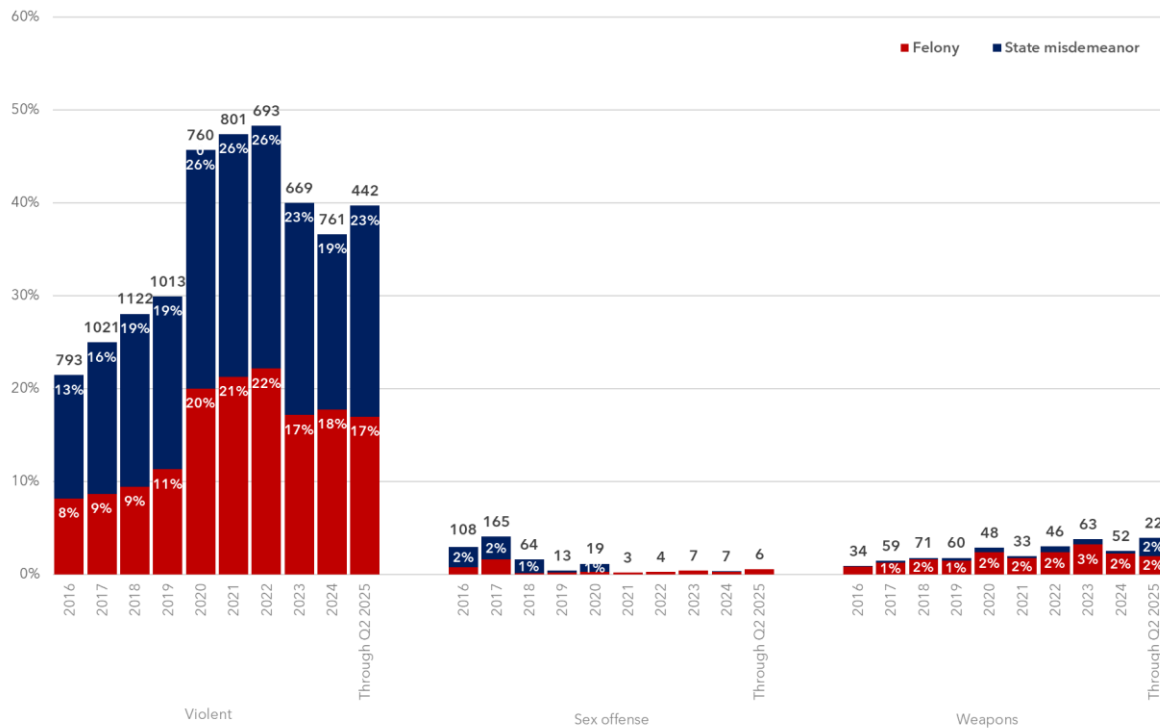


Figure 16. Jail admissions of women for which violent, sex offense, or weapons felonies or state misdemeanors were the most serious charge at booking, 2016 through Q2 2025. Note that the figure atop each bar represents the number of women admitted with that charge category as the most serious offense at booking, and the percentages denote the proportion of those admissions out of all jail admissions of women for that year.

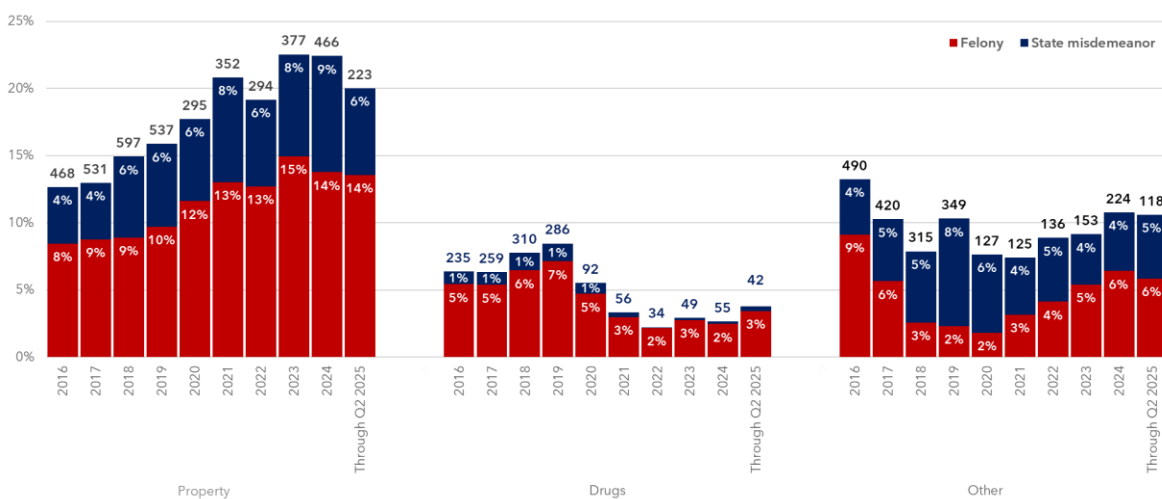


Figure 17. Jail admissions of women for which property, drugs, or "other" felonies or state misdemeanors were the most serious charge at booking, 2016 through Q2 2025.

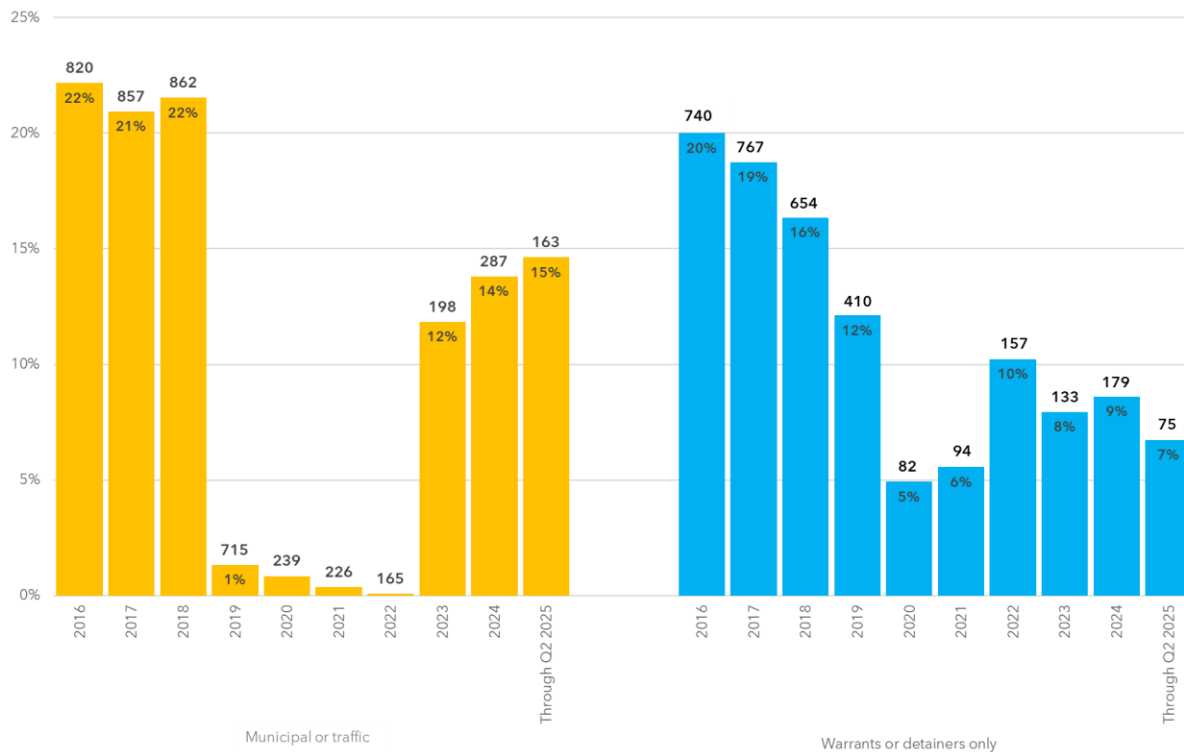


Figure 18. Jail admissions of women for which municipal or traffic offenses or warrants or probation/parole detainees were the most serious charge at booking, 2016 through Q2 2025. Note that the figure atop each bar represents the number of women admitted with that charge category as the most serious offense at booking, and the percentages denote the proportion of those admissions out of all jail admissions of women for that year.

Although the men are admitted to the jail at a ratio of nearly 3 to 1 compared to women, we can use a measure called the *relative rate index* to compare the rates at which women and men are admitted to the jail by the most serious charge at booking. Relative rate indexes (RRI) are commonly used to measure disparities between two groups. 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.

Between 2016 and 2025, we observe several “moments” of disparity in the rates at which women and men were admitted to the jail for violent misdemeanors, misdemeanor sex offenses, and property misdemeanors as the most serious charges at booking. In 2017, for example, women were admitted to the jail for misdemeanor sex offenses at over 11 times the rate of men, per 100 jail admissions by sex (RRI = 11.2). In 2023, women were admitted to the jail at nearly twice the rate of men for violent misdemeanors (RRI = 1.9) or for property misdemeanors (RRI = 1.9).

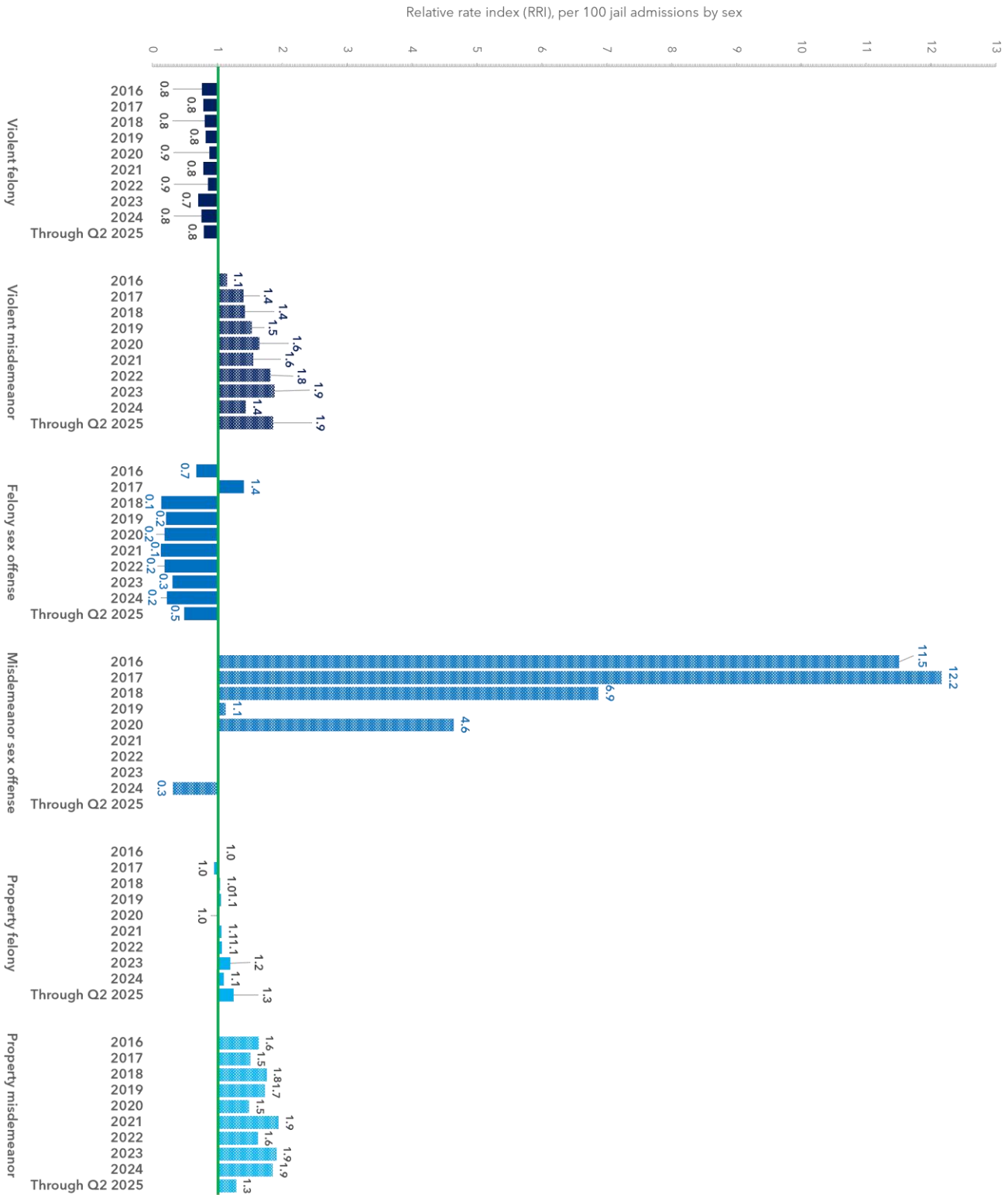


Figure 19. Relative rate indexes for rates of jail admission per 100 admissions by sex of the admitted person and the most serious charge at booking, 2016 through Q2 2025.

Since July 2018, when the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) was first implemented in Orleans Parish, through June 2025, nearly 74% of all women who were admitted to the jail on felony or state misdemeanor charges were assessed to be “lower risk” (Risk Level 1 or Risk Level 2) of failing to appear in court or engaging in new criminal activity if they were to be released from jail custody. Since the PSA uses prior histories to generate risk scores, we can extrapolate the women assessed to be “lower risk” had little to no criminal history or history of failing to appear in court.

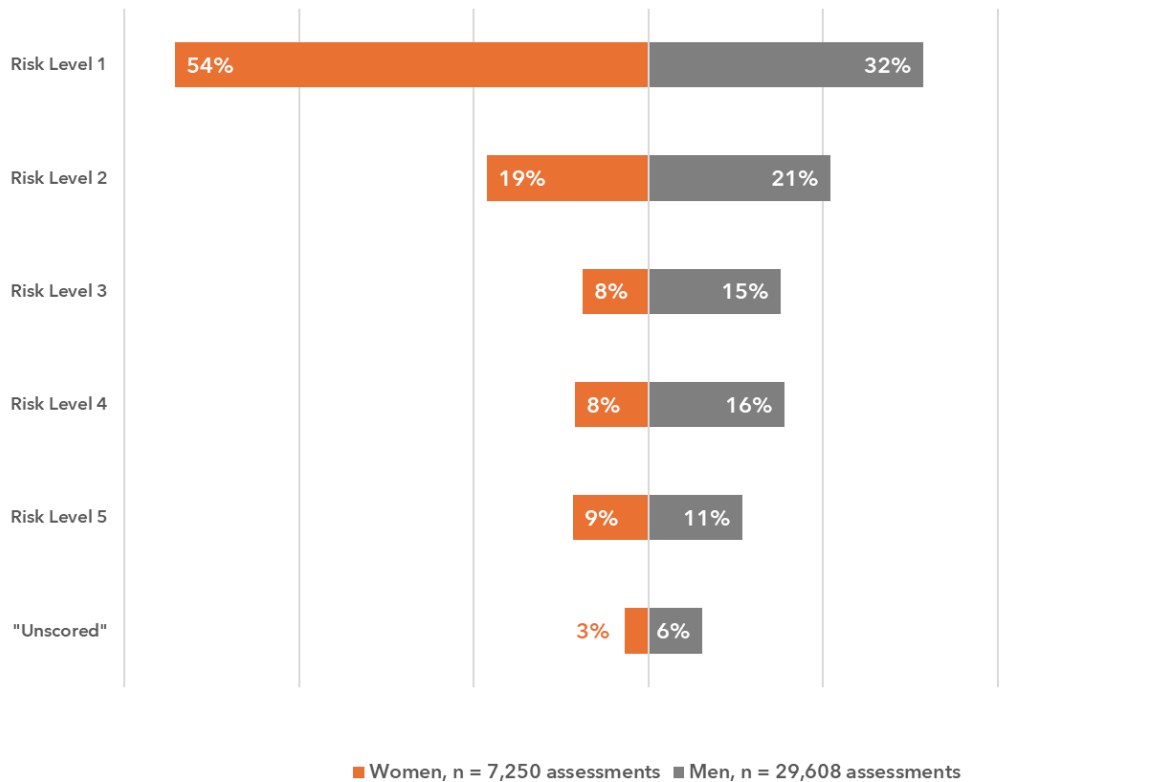


Figure 20. Public Safety Assessment assessed risk levels by sex of person assessed, July 2018 - June 2025

The Public Safety Assessment (PSA) is administered to all people who are admitted to the jail with felony or state misdemeanor charges. The PSA uses factors like age and prior criminal history to generate a “risk score” that judges can take into consideration when making decisions about release terms set at first appearance. Please click [here](#) for more information about the PSA.

THE BIG PICTURE: LENGTHS OF JAIL STAYS

The average length of jail stays has fluctuated monthly between 2016 and the end of the second quarter, 2025, reaching a peak of 76 days for people released in April 2021 and a low of 19 days for people released in May 2020. While the average length of stay, as a measure, is sensitive to outliers – people with very long jail stays can skew a monthly average upward – in general, between 2016 and 2019 the average length of stay for people released from jail custody tended to fall between 25 and 35 days. Since January 2023, the average length of stay for all people released from jail custody has trended upward, and in June 2025, the average length of people released from custody that month was 52 days.

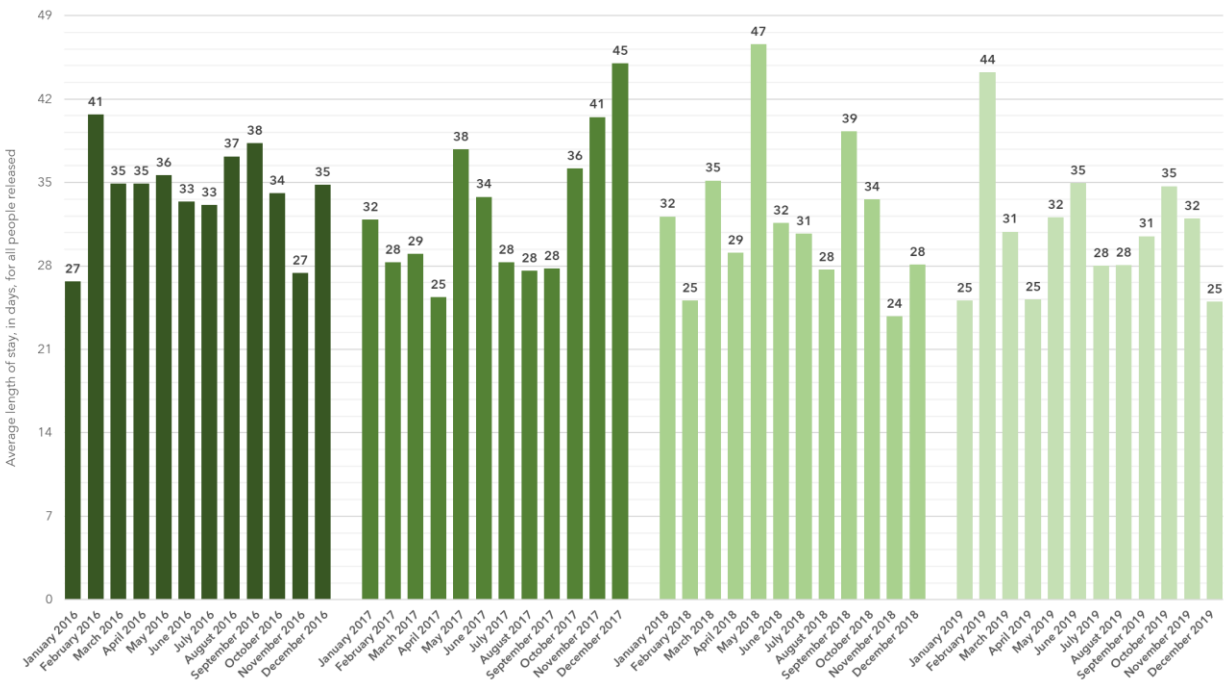


Figure 21. Average length of jail stays, in days, for all released people by month, 2016 – 2019.

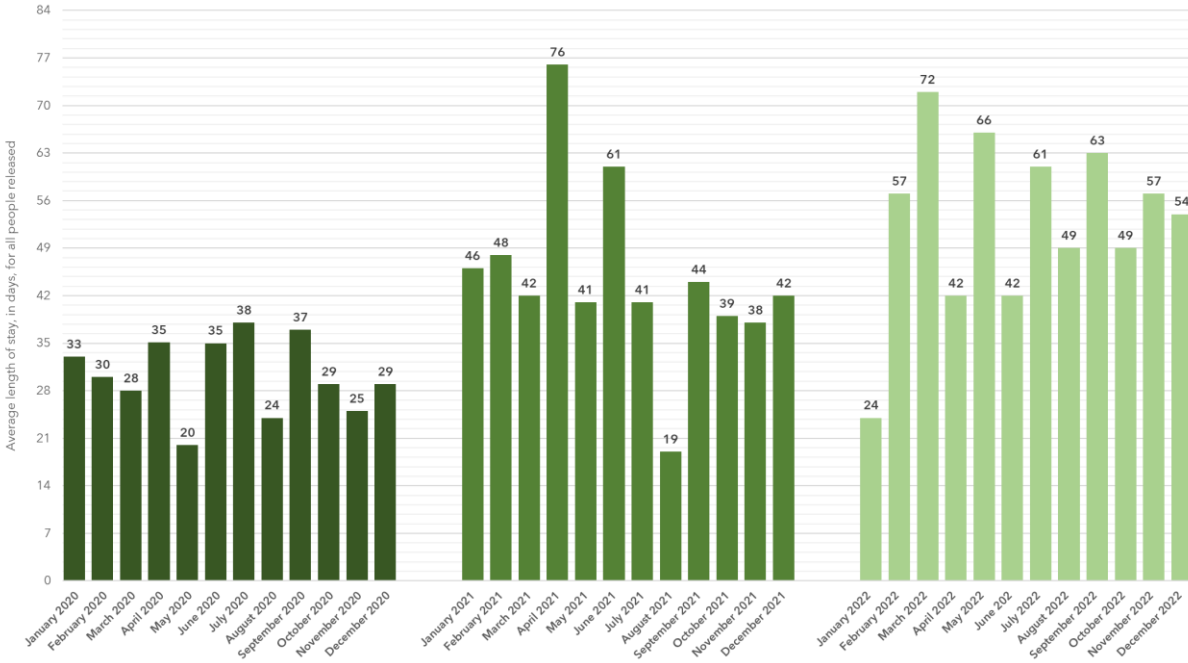


Figure 22. Average length of jail stays, in days, for all released people by month, 2020 - 2022.

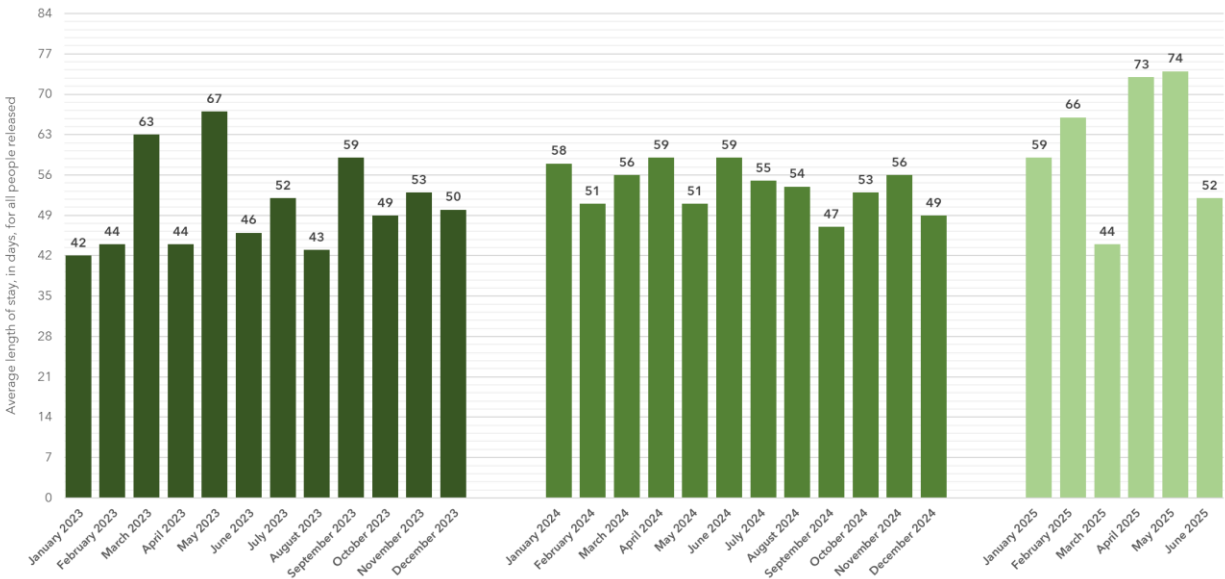


Figure 23. Average length of jail stays, in days, for all released people by month, 2023 - Q2 2025.

LENGTH OF JAIL STAYS FOR RELEASED WOMEN

87.2% of women who were released from jail between January 2016 and June 2025 spent less than 13 days. In the first 6 months of 2025, women released from the jail spent an average of 28 days in custody (n = 1,104; min. = < 1 day; max. = 2,106 days; standard dev. = 115.3) and had a median length of stay of 1 day. On average, women spent 42 days fewer in jail - 7 weeks - compared with men released from jail in the first 6 months of 2025, who spent an average of 70 days in jail custody and had a median length of stay of 4 days (n = 3,696; min. = < 1 day; max. = 2,754 days; standard dev. = 178.2).

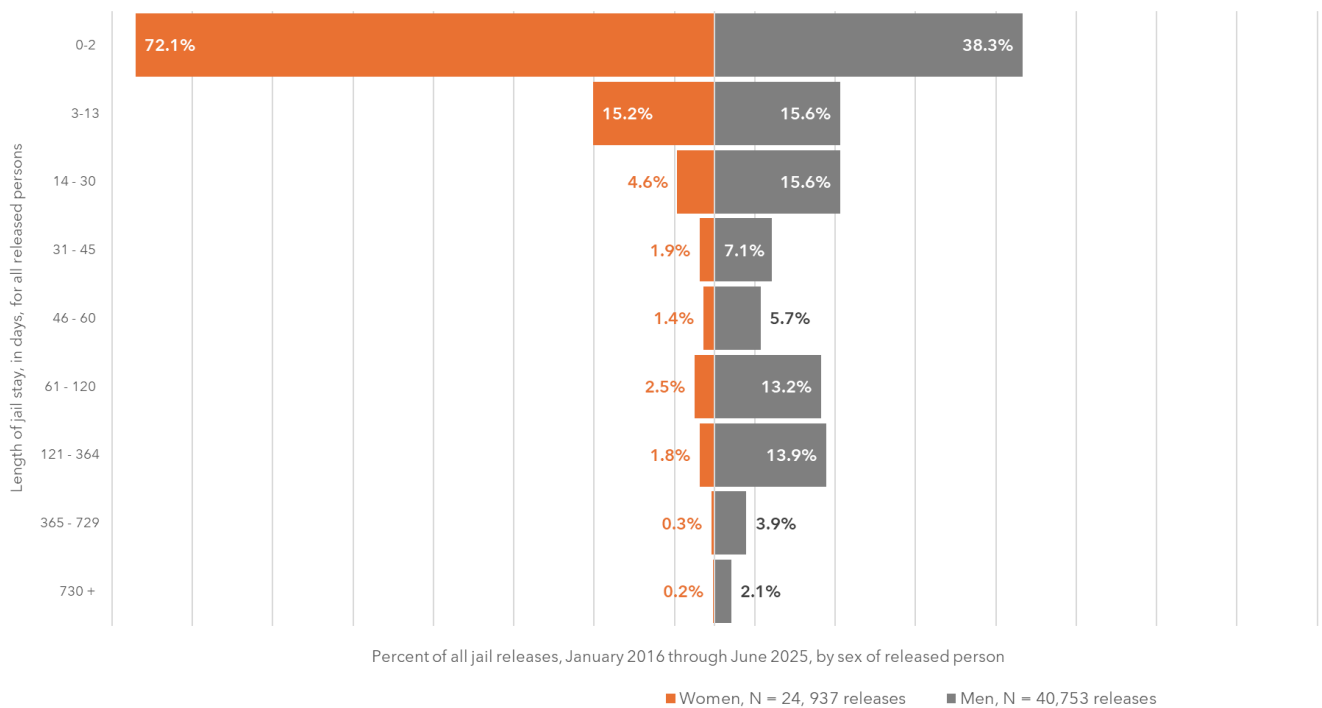


Figure 24. Distribution of lengths of jail stays for all released people, 2016 - 2019. by sex of released person.

APPENDIX A: DATA + INFORMATION ABOUT ORLEANS PARISH WOMEN INCARCERATED IN LOUISIANA PRISONS AND UNDER LOUISIANA PROBATION + PAROLE SUPERVISION

The data graphics presented on the next pages were accessed from the Louisiana Department of Corrections and Public Safety (LADC&PS), the agency that oversees the Louisiana prison system and the Louisiana Department of Probation & Parole.

The data and graphics are from the 30 May 2025 corrections population snapshot and are the most recent information published to the LADC&PS website at the time of reporting.

To summarize:

- 436 women made up about 14% of the 3,150 people under probation or parole supervision, as of 30 May 2025.
- Of the 436 women under LAPP supervision, nearly 75% were on probation (326 women).
- 81 women made up 3% of the 2,614 people incarcerated in Louisiana prisons for whom Orleans Parish was the parish of commitment.
- 89% of the 81 incarcerated women were Black / African American.
- 54% of the 81 women were incarcerated at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women; 41% were serving their sentences in local parish jails; and the remaining 5% were in transitional work programs.

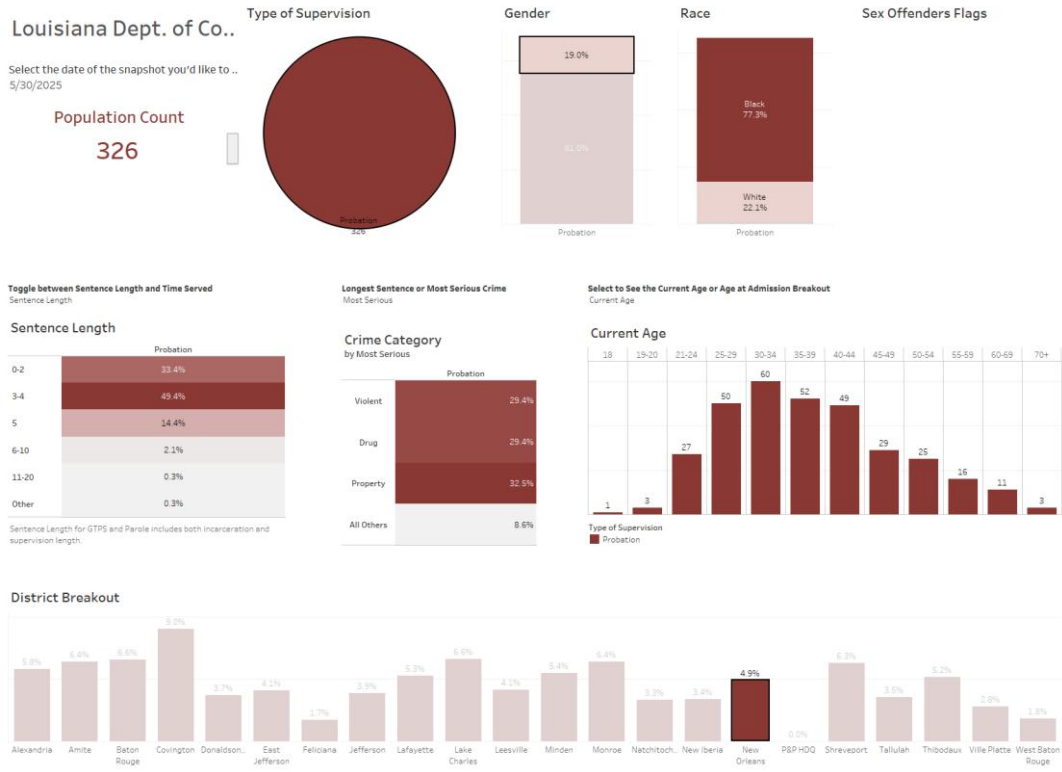


Figure 25. Women on probation data dashboard from LADC&P. Accessed from [P&P Demographic Dashboard - Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections](#)

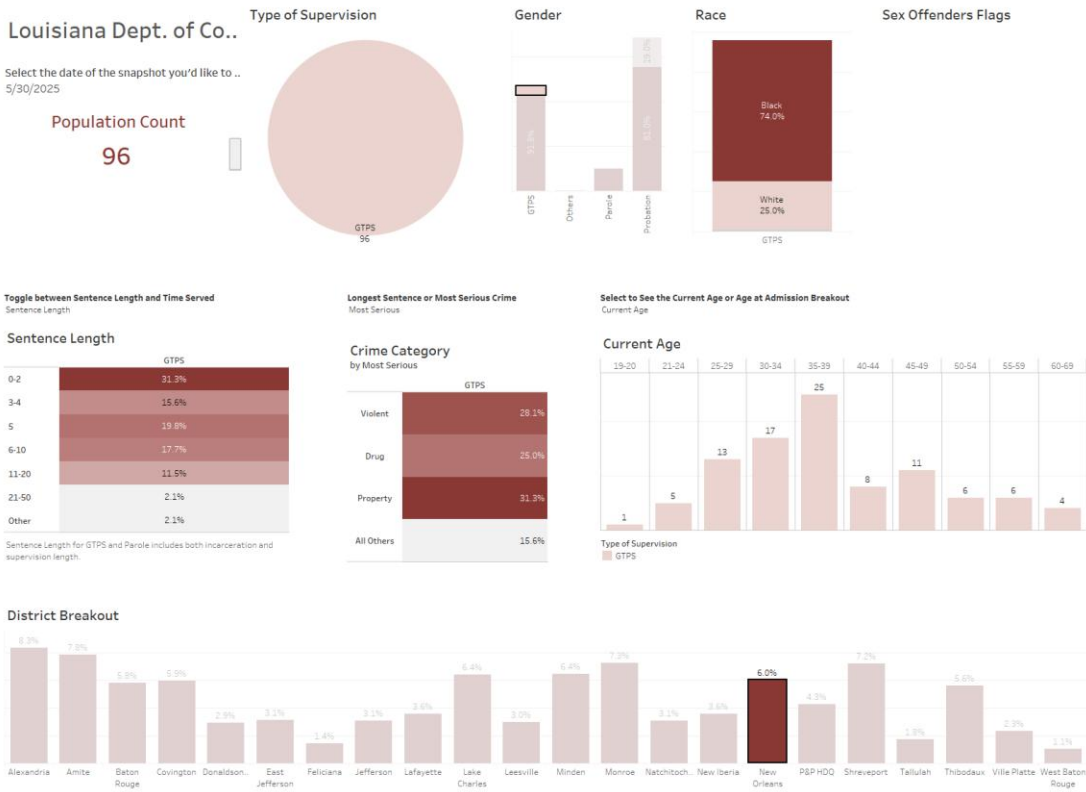


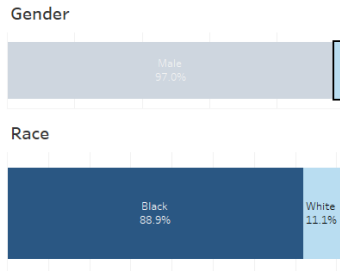
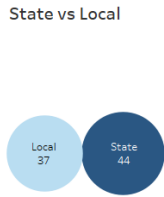
Figure 26. Women on good time prison supervision data dashboard from LADC&P. Accessed from [P&P Demographic Dashboard - Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections](#)

Demographic Dashboard for Website

Louisiana Dept. of Corrections

Select the date of the snapshot you'd like to s.
6/30/2025

Population Count
81



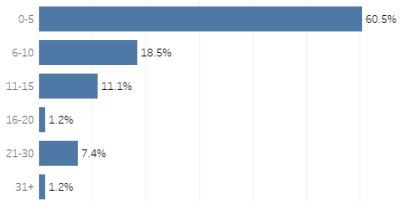
Select to See Counts for Speci..
Sex Offenders

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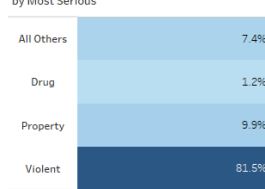
Toggle between Sentence Length and Time Served
Time Served

Time Served



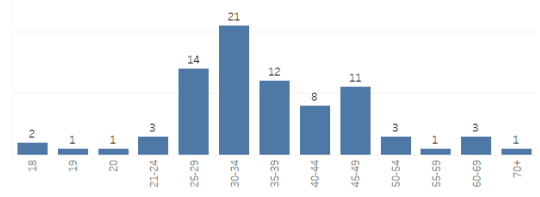
Longest Sentence or Most Serious Crime
Most Serious

Crime Category
by Most Serious

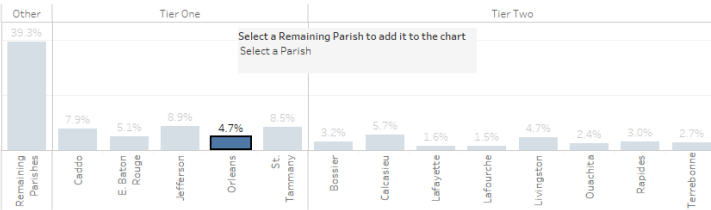


Select to See the Current Age or Age at Admission Breakout
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Parish of Commitment



Facility Breakout

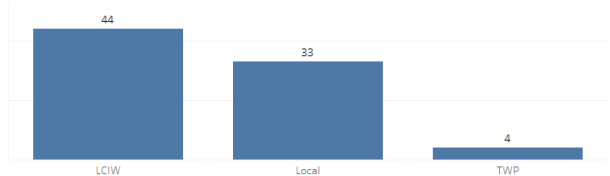


Figure 28. Women incarcerated in Louisiana prisons data dashboard from LADC&P. Accessed from [Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections](#)

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY

Criminal legal system definitions

AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION. The sum of all the daily detainee counts divided by the number of days in the year. 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.

JAIL ADMISSIONS. We acknowledge that the term, *jail admission*, may be defined differently in correctional, pretrial, and other spaces. Here, we base our definition on what an OPSO deputy shared with us: “‘Jail admission’ is a noun; ‘booking’ is a verb.” Accordingly, 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.

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.