



PHILADELPHIA'S JAIL POPULATION DURING COVID-19

Report no. 1 | March 16 - May 15, 2020

This is an inaugural report describing Philadelphia's jail population throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic from March 16 - May 15, 2020. Data were collected weekly to closely monitor the population. During this period, the population declined by 977 people (4,727 on 3/16 - 3,750 on 5/15), and dropped to a level not seen in 35 years (3,655 people on 5/9). Included in the report are areas in which the decline was most prevalent, confinement categories in which an increase occurred, and changes in demographics. Subsequent reports will be released.

Timeline of Events

MARCH 16, 2020

A city-wide stay-at-home order was issued closing all non-essential businesses and the First Judicial District limited operations

JAIL POPULATION: 4,727

MARCH 17, 2020

Philadelphia Police Department announced COVID-19 emergency arrest procedures

JAIL POPULATION: 4,665

APRIL 7, 2020

The First Judicial District, in collaboration with the Defender Association and District Attorney's Office, began expedited criminal motions

JAIL POPULATION: 4,319

April 15, 2020

The MacArthur SJC goal of reducing the jail population by 50% was achieved

JAIL POPULATION: 4,017

MAY 1, 2020

Philadelphia Police Department announced COVID-19 emergency arrest procedures were no longer in effect for certain charges

JAIL POPULATION: 3,694

MAY 9, 2020

Philadelphia's jail population fell to a level not seen since 1985*

JAIL POPULATION: 3,655

MAY 15, 2020

Since May 9, there was a steady, daily increase between 5 - 26 individuals per day

JAIL POPULATION: 3,750

*<http://trends.vera.org/rates/philadelphia-county-pa?incarcerationData=all>



Top 5 Confinement Category Decreases

Note: All volume/proportional reductions are calculated from 3/16 - 5/15

Proportional Change

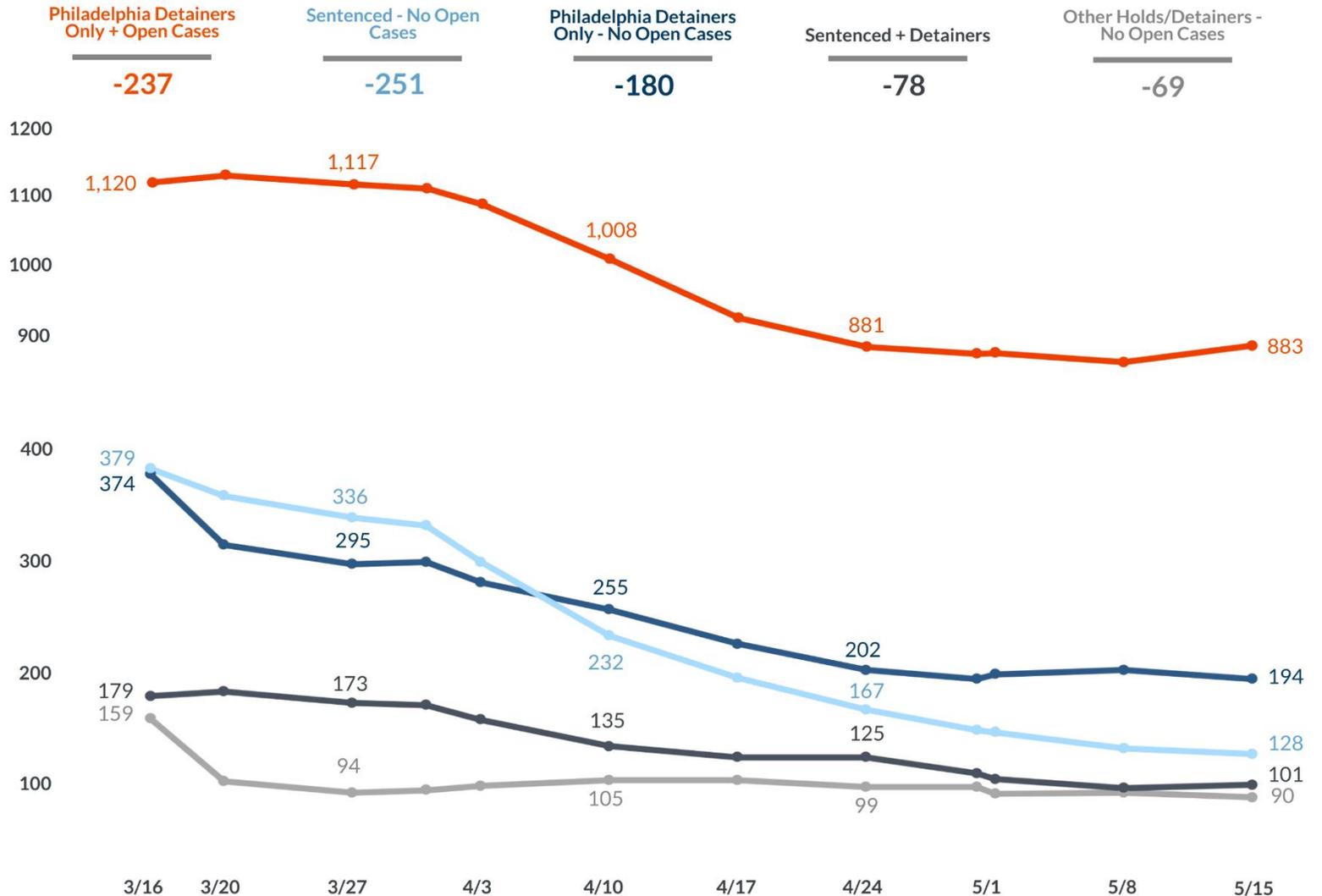
Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases	
MARCH 16	MAY 15
23.7%	23.5%

Sentenced - No Open Cases	
MARCH 16	MAY 15
8.0%	3.4%

Philadelphia Detainers Only - No Open Cases	
MARCH 16	MAY 15
7.9%	5.2%

Sentenced + Detainers	
MARCH 16	MAY 15
3.8%	2.7%

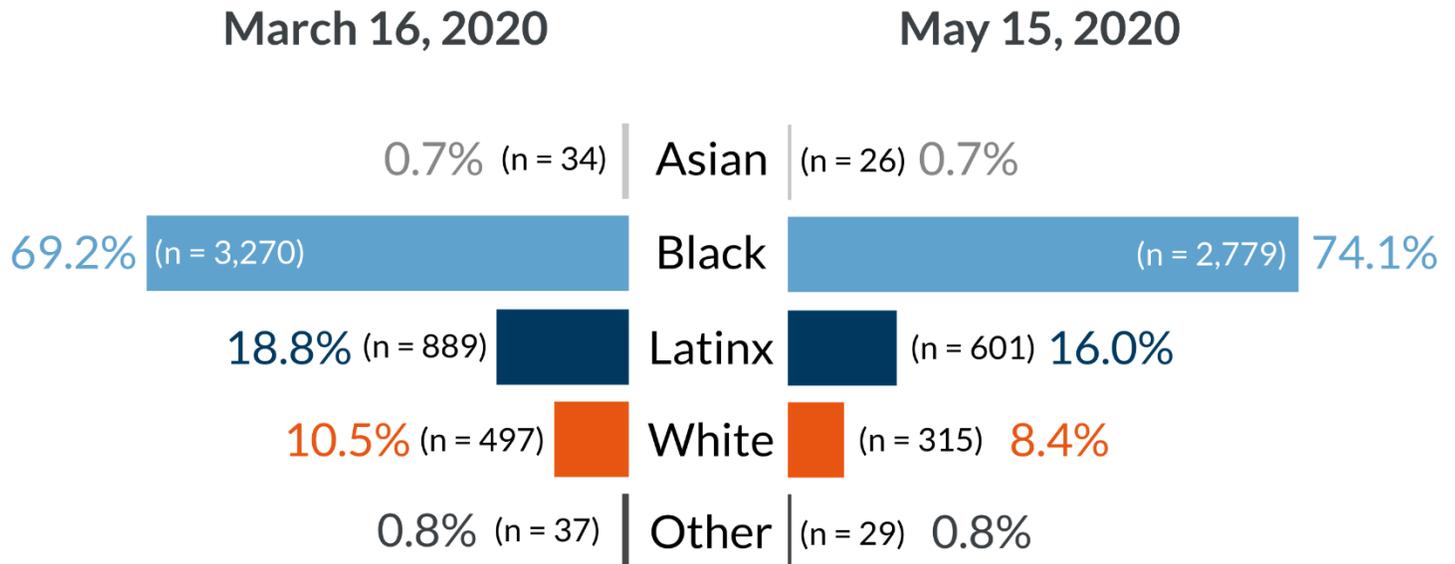
Other Holds/Detainers - No Open Cases	
MARCH 16	MAY 15
3.4%	2.4%



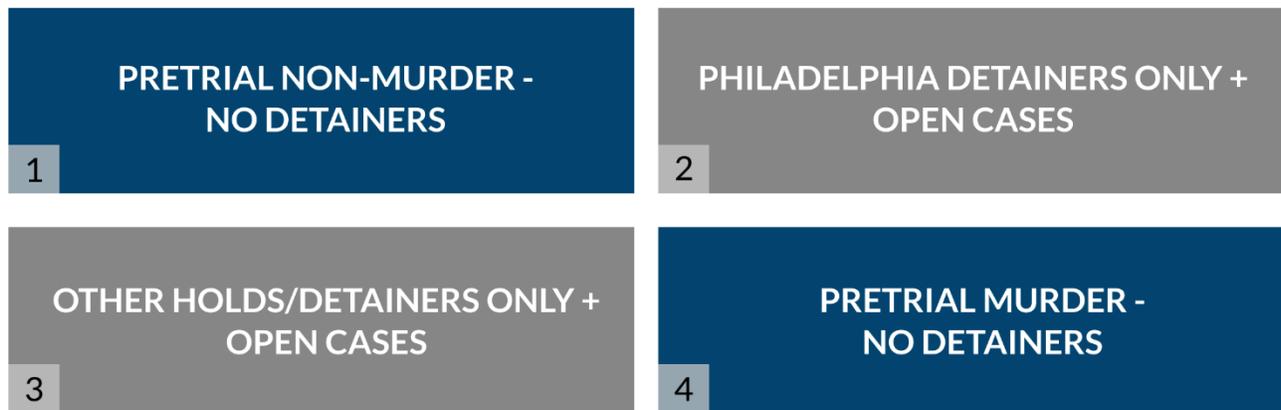


RACE / ETHNICITY

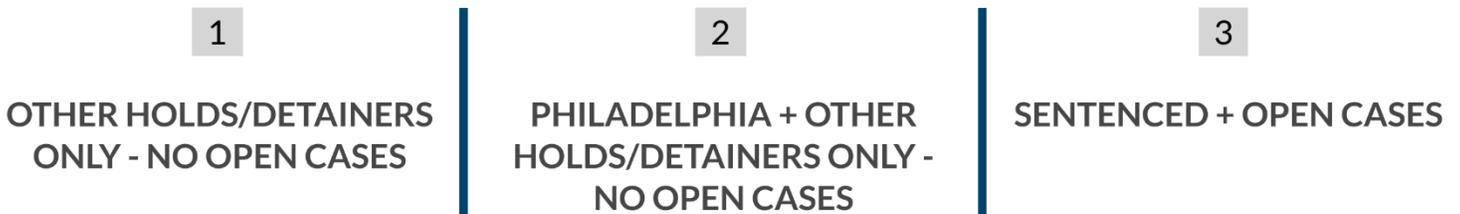
▶ **Black individuals were the only group with a proportional increase, although the volume decreased for all Race/Ethnicity groups**



▶ **The four Confinement Categories below saw the largest proportional increase for Black people**



▶ **There were three confinement categories with a proportional decrease for Black people during this period**





DEMOGRAPHICS

WOMEN IN JAIL

50%

OF THE FEMALE POPULATION WERE RELEASED DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS

March 16, 2020
n = 323

May 15, 2020
n = 164

The remaining women fell into three major categories

1. Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases

→ n = 37

2. Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers

→ n = 34

3. Other Holds/Detainers Only + Open Cases

→ n = 28

May 15, 2020

68.2%

of the women in the Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers group had cash bail over \$50,000

TOTAL POPULATION | AGE

Changes in presence of youth and 65+

◆ 17 and under

March 16, 2020 13

May 15, 2020 20

◆ 65 and over

March 16, 2020 38

May 15, 2020 24

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS POPULATION

Though there were 160 fewer people experiencing serious mental illness in jail, their proportional presence was the same

15.8%
n = 749

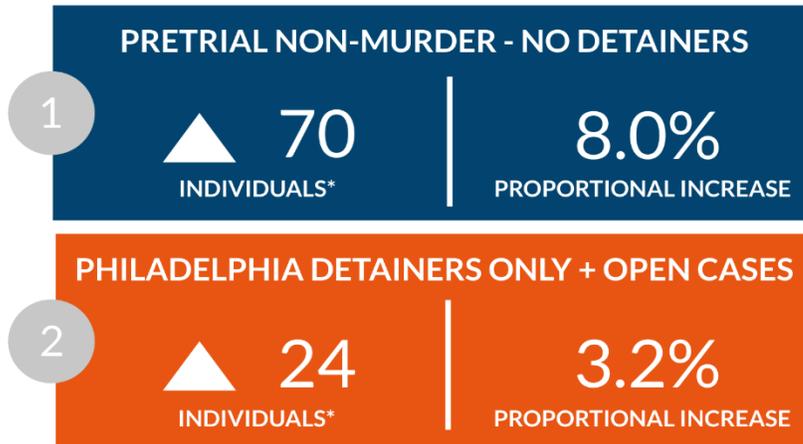
15.7%
n = 589



Population Increase | May 8 - May 15, 2020

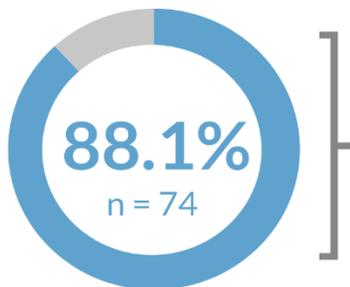
After reaching its lowest point since 1985 on May 9, the jail population started to increase each day. This began the reversal of nearly two months of population decline.

87% of this increase fell into two categories



* The number of individuals that increased in these two confinement categories is greater than the total population increase because other confinement categories decreased during the same period

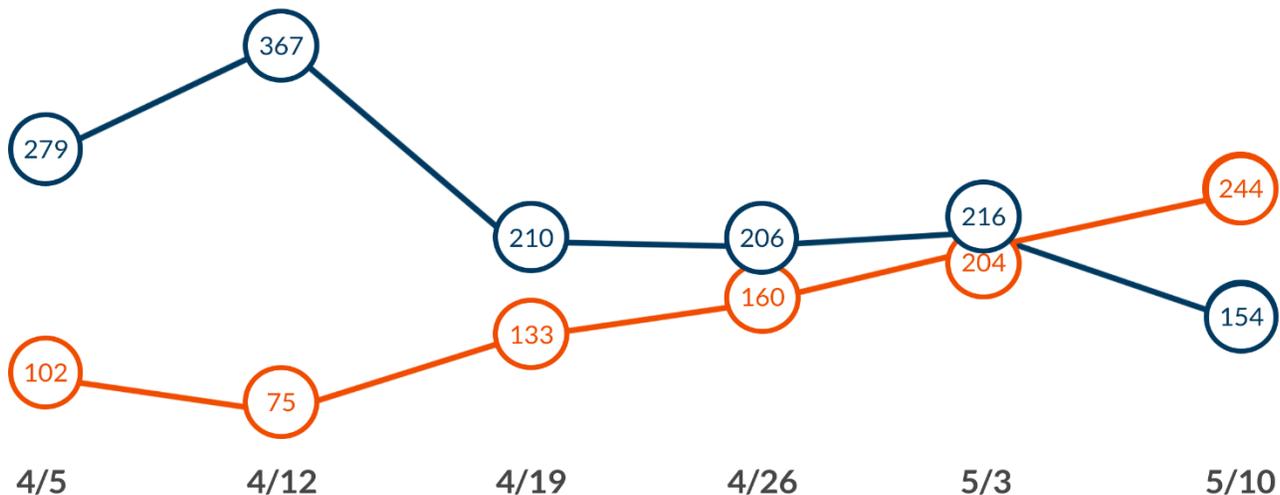
When comparing May 8 and May 15, the volume of Black people increased the most



51 were Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers

20 were Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases

RELEASES vs ADMISSIONS | WEEKLY





Philadelphia's Jail Population | January 2008 - April 2020

