



## Philadelphia Jail Population Report | July 2015 – September 2020

This report was designed specifically to monitor Philadelphia's reform efforts as part of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge. Published monthly, it provides detailed statistics related to the Philadelphia jail population using snapshot data from the courts and the jail to compare the most current end of month jail population to a baseline population from July, 2015. From baseline (population = 8,082) to September, 2020 (population = 4,159), Philadelphia's jail population decreased by 48.5%. Throughout the report, various aspects of the jail population can be viewed including demographic information, bail information, length of stay, and more. The following text explains how the file is created and how important aspects of the data are structured.

### Snapshot Data

The industry standard for monitoring jail populations is the Average Daily Population (ADP), which is a metric used by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons for vital operations. Though ADP for each month is included in this report, additional measures and views of the jail population were necessary for MacArthur endeavors. Thus, a non-conventional approach to data analysis was taken to inform the development and subsequent tracking of MacArthur initiatives.

In 2015, an extensive effort was undertaken to provide data on the jail population to get as detailed and precise data as possible. A one-day, deep-dive snapshot of the jail population was generated by merging data from the First Judicial District (FJD; Municipal Court, Court of Common Pleas, & Adult Probation and Parole) and the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP). The jail population census (aka daily snapshot) on July 30, 2015, was the file selected for analysis and is referred to as 'baseline.' Every month, that one-day, deep-dive process is conducted by supplementing the jail census file from the last day of the month with court data. This approach yields a more descriptive and refined classification process that is tailored to MacArthur efforts and assists with capturing multi-faceted reasons for incarceration.

Feedback and collaboration from all justice partners led to the creation of 14 new, more specific confinement categories to better identify the scenarios for which people were in custody (see Methodology section). The inaugural baseline report was integral in developing the initial set of MacArthur strategies, refining existing programs, and identifying drivers of the jail population to begin efforts to reduce the jail population. It is important to understand that each file is merely a snapshot in time and the reasons why someone is being held in custody can change on a daily basis. For example, if an open case is disposed, but the individual has other holding matters, their confinement category may change from the previous day.

### The Importance of Filters

The data are analyzed with Tableau, a software program which has the ability to dynamically filter data in order to view different dimensions of the dataset. Filtering capabilities are not available in the PDF format. It is important to pay attention to these filters (located at the top of most pages) because in certain instances only the current month is in view.

### Disclaimer

The results detailed in the dashboards are based upon a merge between jail and court data from daily snapshots on July, 2015 and September, 2020. This is the best attempt at capturing a dynamic population; thus, the results should be thoughtfully considered with caution as there are undoubtedly errors. Though the presence of errors prevents unfettered certainty, the trends demonstrated by the data should be considered accurate. Due to COVID-19, a city-wide

stay-at-home order was issued closing all non-essential businesses on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This event is noted on several graphs throughout the report.

## METHODOLOGY

The monthly statistics are generated using the jail census file from the last day of every month. The daily jail file contains information such as legal status, SMI status, detainers (Philadelphia and/or Other Hold/Detainer), race/ethnicity, gender, and length of stay. This file is supplemented with additional data elements from the court's case management system concerning only Philadelphia matters including arrest history, number of open cases, and cash bail amount. Once the jail and court data are merged, the file is analyzed using Tableau software.

**Length of Stay (LOS)** is calculated using the number of days from an individual's admission through the date of the current month; this measure only reflects LOS for people who were in custody on the last day of the month. Note this figure is a different metric than length of stay reported for those who have been released. Individuals incarcerated in other jurisdictions are excluded from this calculation.

## CONFINEMENT CATEGORIES

The 14 confinement categories below are mutually exclusive and exhaustive.

- 1. Pretrial Murder - No Detainers:** People in this group are held on open cases with murder charges and no detainers, while in pretrial posture. Generally, folks are denied bail due to the nature of the charges and may have multiple open Philadelphia cases. Open cases include adjudicated matters that have yet to be sentenced.
- 2. Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers:** This group is held on an open case(s) on non-murder charges with no detainers, including various bail groups (cash bail, revoked, denied, etc.). For those with active bail, 10% of the total bail amount on all open cases would have to be posted to be released from jail. Some people have more than one open Philadelphia matter and/or their case has been disposed, but not sentenced.
- 3. Philadelphia Detainers Only - No Open Cases:** People in this category are only being held on a Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole detainer. Detainers are issued due to a violation of probation/parole conditions and serve as a hold to keep someone confined pending the outcome of a probation violation hearing. There are no other open Philadelphia matters for people in this group, though they could have more than one detainer.
- 4. Other Holds/Detainers Only - No Open Cases:** These individuals are confined on a hold/detainer issued by a jurisdiction other than Philadelphia, though Philadelphia warrants may be considered as a hold in this population. People in this category have no other open Philadelphia matters.
- 5. Philadelphia + Other Holds/Detainers - No Open Cases:** The parameters for this category include the presence of a Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole detainer AND a detainer/hold from another jurisdiction. Individuals in this group do not have any additional open/pending Philadelphia matters.
- 6. Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases:** This section of the population has a detainer from Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole, due to the violation of probation/parole conditions, in addition to at least one open Philadelphia case. Folks in this category may have a case that was disposed, but not yet sentenced.
- 7. Other Holds/Detainers Only + Open Cases:** This category represents those who are confined on a hold/detainer issued by a jurisdiction other than Philadelphia, and/or a Philadelphia warrant, in addition to one or more open

Philadelphia cases. Individuals in this group could have a disposed case, awaiting sentencing. Open cases include matters without a disposition, and also those with a disposition that are not yet sentenced.

- 8. Philadelphia + Other Holds/Detainers + Open Cases:** The parameters for this group include a Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole detainer, a detainer/hold from another jurisdiction, and/or a Philadelphia warrant. Additionally, these folks have at least one Philadelphia open case and/or a case that has been disposed, but not sentenced.
- 9. Sentenced + Detainers:** This category includes those who are serving a sentence and have a detainer from Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole and/or another jurisdiction.
- 10. Sentence Deferred + Detainers:** The Legal Status variable in the jail data designates these people as adjudicated (case disposed), but awaiting sentencing. Additionally, these individuals have a detainer from Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole and/or another jurisdiction, and some have one or more open Philadelphia cases.
- 11. Sentence Deferred - No Detainers:** The category is comprised of folks whose Legal Status in the jail data indicates they are adjudicated (case disposed), but await sentencing. There are no detainers/holds for this section of the population, though a small portion may have open/pending Philadelphia matters.
- 12. Sentenced + Open Cases:** Those who are classified in this group are currently serving a sentence and have at least one open/pending Philadelphia matter in addition to the case(s) on which they were sentenced. Also included as 'open cases' are matters that have a disposition, but still require sentencing.
- 13. Sentenced - No Open Cases:** Individuals are serving a sentence and have no open/pending Philadelphia matters.
- 14. Other:** This category reflects people who did not fall into any of the previous 13 groups due to being held for other entities such as the U.S. Marshal, FBI, and/or courtesy holds for other jurisdictions.

## REPORT DESCRIPTION

The Jail Population Dashboard compares the present day file (last day of the most recent month – figures in **ORANGE**) to the Baseline snapshot file from July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (figures in **BLUE**; Baseline = Blue!).

**SUMMARY** - The top section of this dashboard displays the total jail population for baseline and the current month. The percentage decrease from baseline is indicated in **green** between the population figures. In the middle of the page, race/ethnicity composition and percentages of those experiencing serious mental illness (SMI) are shown. Individuals are designated by the jail as experiencing serious mental illness, which is reflected as a Yes/No indicator in the data. Though an SMI filter is included on multiple dashboards, it is not available for this report in PDF format. The bottom portion of the page indicates the top three confinement categories driving the jail population for both baseline and the current month. The color gradient corresponds with the percentages; the darker the color, the larger the percentage.

**PROGRESS TO DATE** - The MacArthur Foundation set jail population reduction goals for all participating sites. Progress is measured using two separate methods, both of which are endorsed by the Foundation. However, when reporting progress, Philadelphia uses the Baseline Method as that is when reform efforts began.

**Baseline Method:** Compares the population at baseline (July, 2015) to the current month:

$$\frac{\text{Baseline (8,082)} - \text{September 30}^{\text{th}} \text{ population (4,159)}}{\text{Baseline (8,082)}} = 48.5\% \text{ reduction from baseline}$$

**City University of New York (CUNY) Method:** Compares the average population for 6 months (orange section of graph) to the current month:

$$\frac{11/15 - 4/16 \text{ average (7,559)} - \text{September 30}^{\text{th}} \text{ population (4,159)}}{11/15 - 4/16 \text{ average (7,559)}} = 45.0\% \text{ reduction from baseline}$$

**INITIATIVE LAUNCH DATES** - The monthly jail population values are presented on the graph, in addition to the initiative launch dates, and the various phases of the MacArthur grant.

**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION (ADP)** - ADP is the industry standard for tracking jail populations, as such, this dashboard is included to acknowledge the importance of that metric. However, alternative measures are used for MacArthur initiatives. On the left side of the dashboard, figures for ADP and the end of month population are displayed, while ADP is charted on the right.

- **Formula:** Sum of Jail Population Counts each Day of the Month / # Days in the Month = ADP

**ANNUAL POPULATION COMPARISON** - Displayed here is a line graph for the population annually from January, 2015, through September, 2020. Each year is color coded for information found on and around the graph. To the right of the graph, the annual averages are reported. Below the graph, the most populous month each year is shown.

**CATEGORY COMPARISON BY COUNT** - Shown here are the counts of each confinement category for baseline and the current month. This reflects how the volume of the confinement categories changes over time. The confinement categories are sorted from the highest count to the lowest, based on data from the current month.

**CATEGORY COMPARISON BY PERCENT** - On this page is a comparison of the confinement category percentages from baseline and the current month, illustrating how each confinement category has changed from baseline. The order of the confinement categories are sorted from the category comprising the largest proportion of the population to the smallest, based on the percentages from the current month.

**CATEGORY DIFFERENCE FROM BASELINE** - Displayed here is how much each category's current count differs from baseline. Categories in blue indicate a reduction from baseline and categories in orange indicate an increase. The order of the confinement categories are sorted from the largest overall reduction to the smallest.

**COMPARISON DASHBOARD** - The focus of this page is to illustrate the differences between baseline and the current month by several key metrics. The blocks at the top show the race/ethnicity composition, the size of the blocks correspond with the percentage of the groups. The horizontal bar charts in the following section display the distribution of each age group for the total populations. Average length of stay (measured in days), by each race/ethnicity group, is indicated by the clock icons. The solid blue and orange bars at the bottom display the SMI status for baseline and the current month.

**PRETRIAL NON-MURDER - NO DETAINERS** - The Pretrial Non-Murder No Detainers group is the focus of this dashboard. The top portion of this page shows the percentage of the total population and race/ethnicity composition for both baseline and the current month. Bail information for this section is from the court's case management system and reflects total amounts on all open Philadelphia cases. The graphics at the bottom display bail data in two separate ways.

On the left-hand side of the page is a bar chart of bail groups, which are detailed below. The right side illustrates the distribution of the 'Cash Bail' group for both baseline and September, 2020 for direct comparison.

#### **Bail Groups:**

1. **Cash Bail:** This group has active cash bail and would need to post 10% of the total bail amount on all open cases to be released.
2. **Denied:** These individuals are being held without bail.
3. **Revoked:** Initially released by posting unsecured or cash bail, these people have since had their bail revoked.
4. **Awaiting Action:** People in this category could be granted house arrest/electronic monitoring, but not yet released, or have a bench warrant issued, but bail has yet to be revoked.
5. **Adjudicated Awaiting Sentencing:** Folks in this group have disposed cases, but are not yet sentenced.
6. **Baseline Unknown:** Included here are the remaining records from [baseline](#) which did not fall into the prior 5 categories.

**RACE/ETHNICITY** - The top bar graph is a breakdown of race/ethnicity comparing the percentages of baseline and the current month. The graph with the clocks displays average LOS for the race/ethnicity groups. The donut chart is a percentage breakdown of white and people of color.

**GENDER** - On the top left-hand side of this page, a donut chart displays percent by gender for the total population for baseline and the current month. The top right-hand side shows two bubbles representing gender in September, 2020; the larger the bubble, the longer the average length of stay. Another length of stay measure for the current month is shown on the bottom, displayed by race/ethnicity and gender. Gender data from baseline were incorporated in August of 2019. Due to delayed retrieval, 23 records with missing gender information from [baseline](#) were excluded from analysis.

**LENGTH OF STAY (Race/Ethnicity)** - On the left side of this dashboard, LOS is grouped into various time categories and shown for each race/ethnicity. The top clock on the right displays the average overall LOS and the bottom clocks illustrate average LOS by race/ethnicity. Only data for the current month are included on this dashboard.

**LENGTH OF STAY (White vs People of Color)** - This page stems from the previous dashboard, but here the focus is on white and people of color. The addition of this view illustrates how people of color make up a larger proportion of the longer LOS groups. Only data for the current month are included on this dashboard.

**LENGTH OF STAY OVER 1 YEAR** - Only those who have been confined longer than 1 year from the current month's population are included in these figures. The top portion of this page displays average LOS by race/ethnicity, while the donut chart on the top illustrates the race/ethnicity composition of this population. The bottom bar graph shows the percentages of each confinement category for the current month.

**CLEARANCE RATE** - The clearance rate indicates whether more individuals are being released or admitted to jail. If the value is over 100%, more are being released, if it is below 100%, more are being admitted. Clearance rates are depicted by the small circles on the top right side of the page. The bottom right illustrates the average daily population, the darker the color, the higher the population. The left-hand side shows admissions and releases by month, above this visual is an indicator that of whether admissions were greater than releases for the most recent month.

- Formula: Jail Releases / Jail Admissions X 100



## Philadelphia Jail Population Report

Baseline (July 2015)

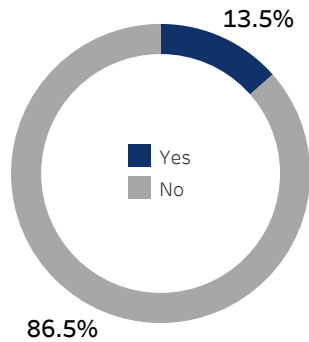
8,082

-48.5%

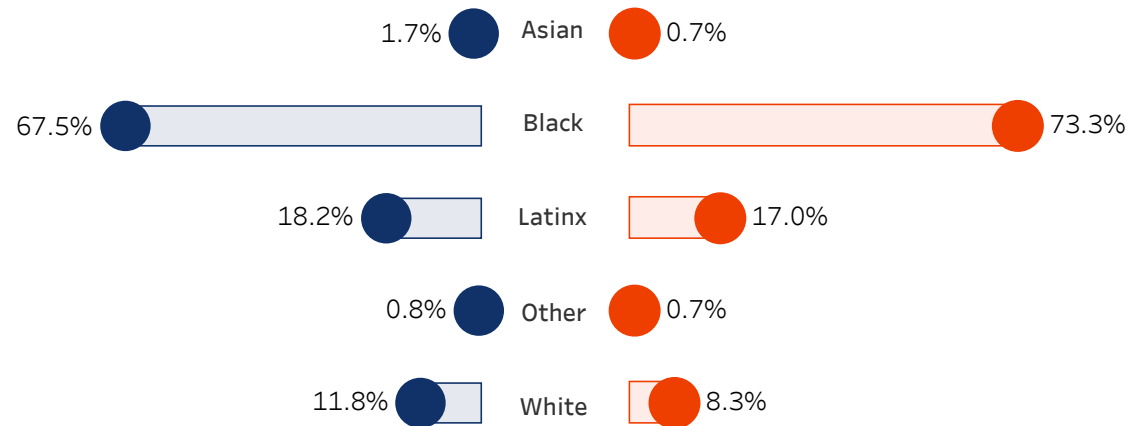
September 2020

4,159

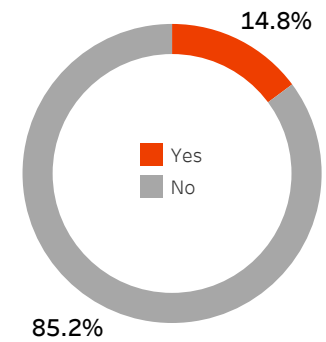
SMI Status | Baseline



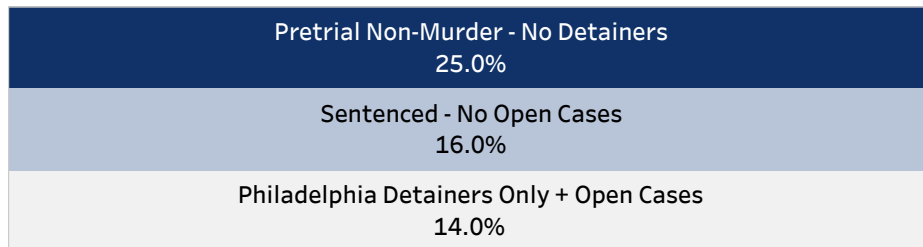
Race/Ethnicity Composition



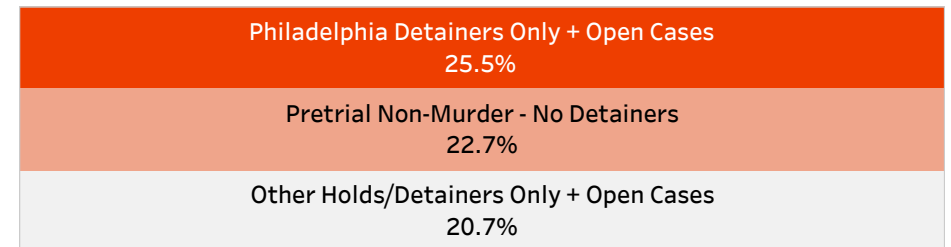
SMI Status | Sept 2020



Baseline | Population Drivers

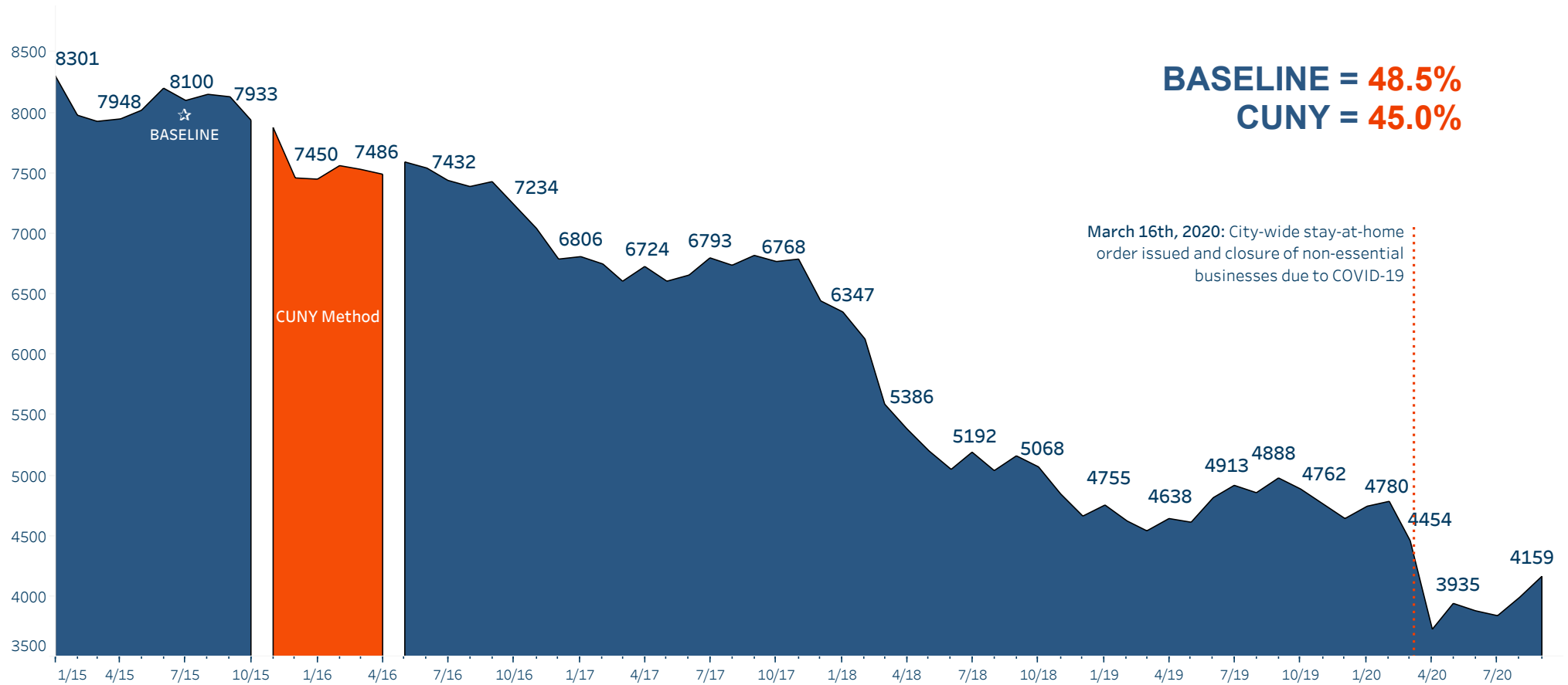


Sept 2020 | Population Drivers





## Jail Population | End of Month | January 2015 - September 2020



## Benchmark Figures

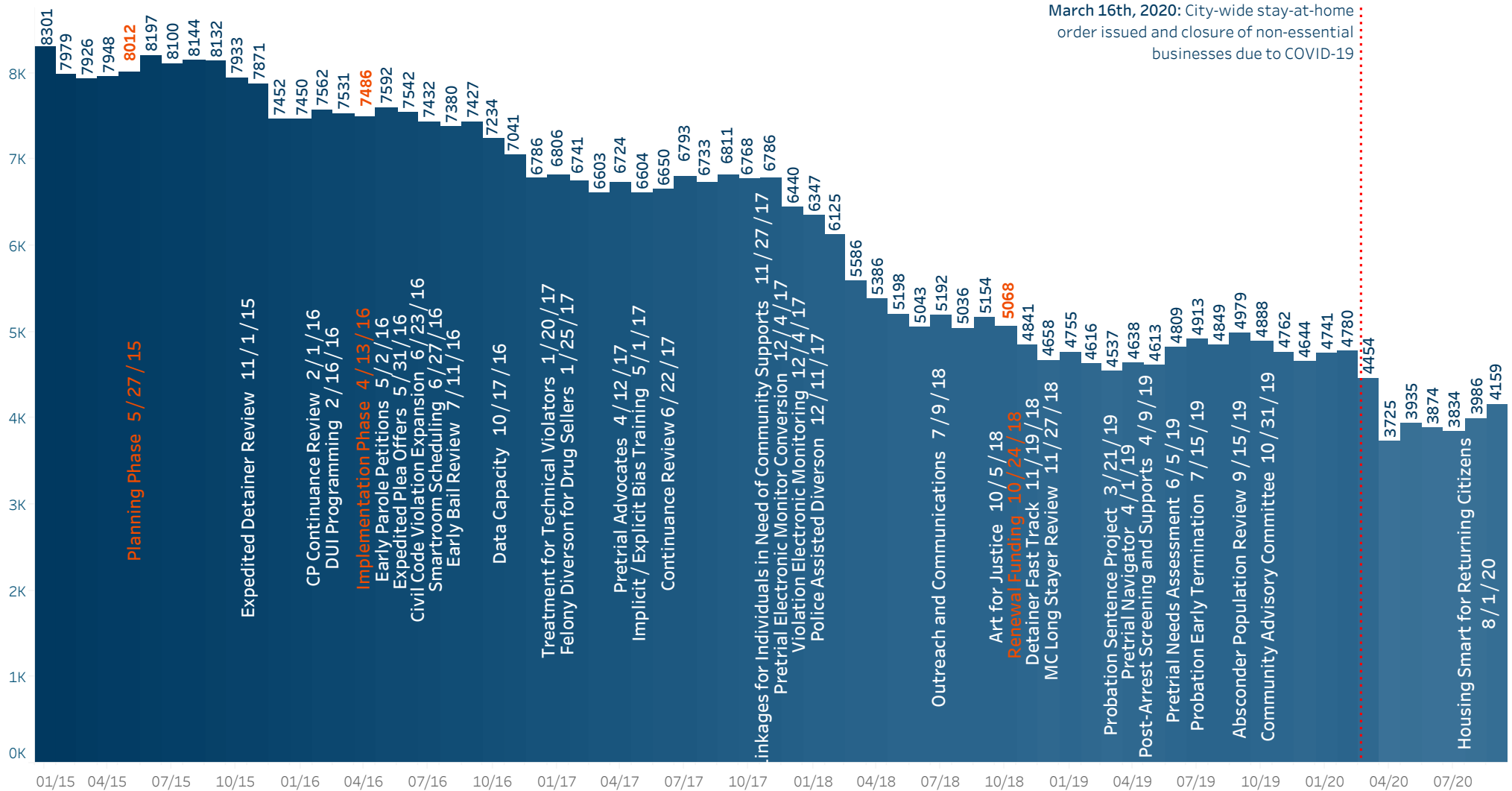
	End Goal	Reduction	Benchmark
Baseline Population (7/30/2015)	4,041	4,041	50.0%
CUNY Method (11/2015 - 04/2016)	5,291	2,268	30.0%

Progress = Baseline (8082) - September 2020 (4159) = 3923

Baseline (8082)



## Philadelphia Prison Population | January 2015 - September 2020 | MacArthur Initiative Launch Dates

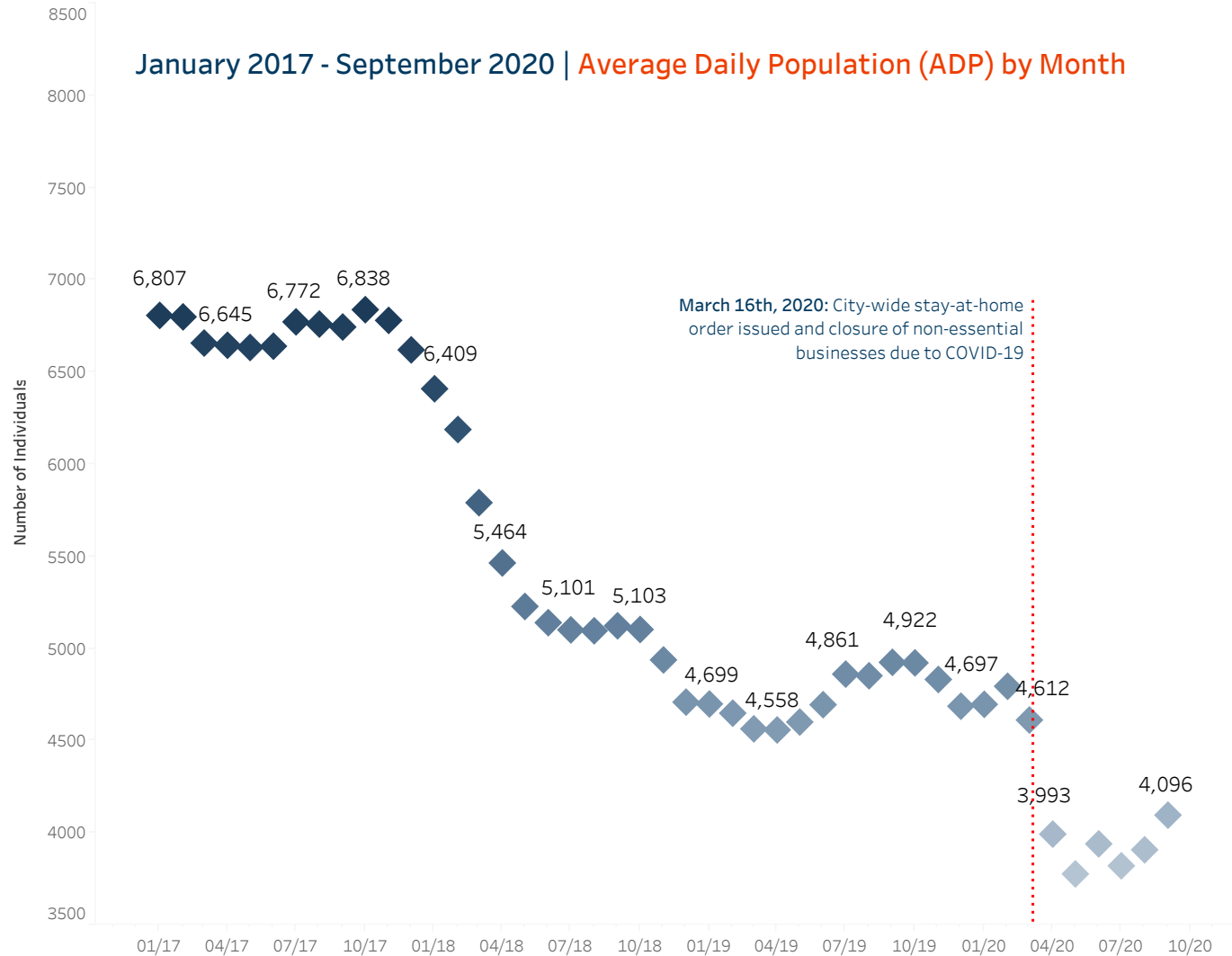






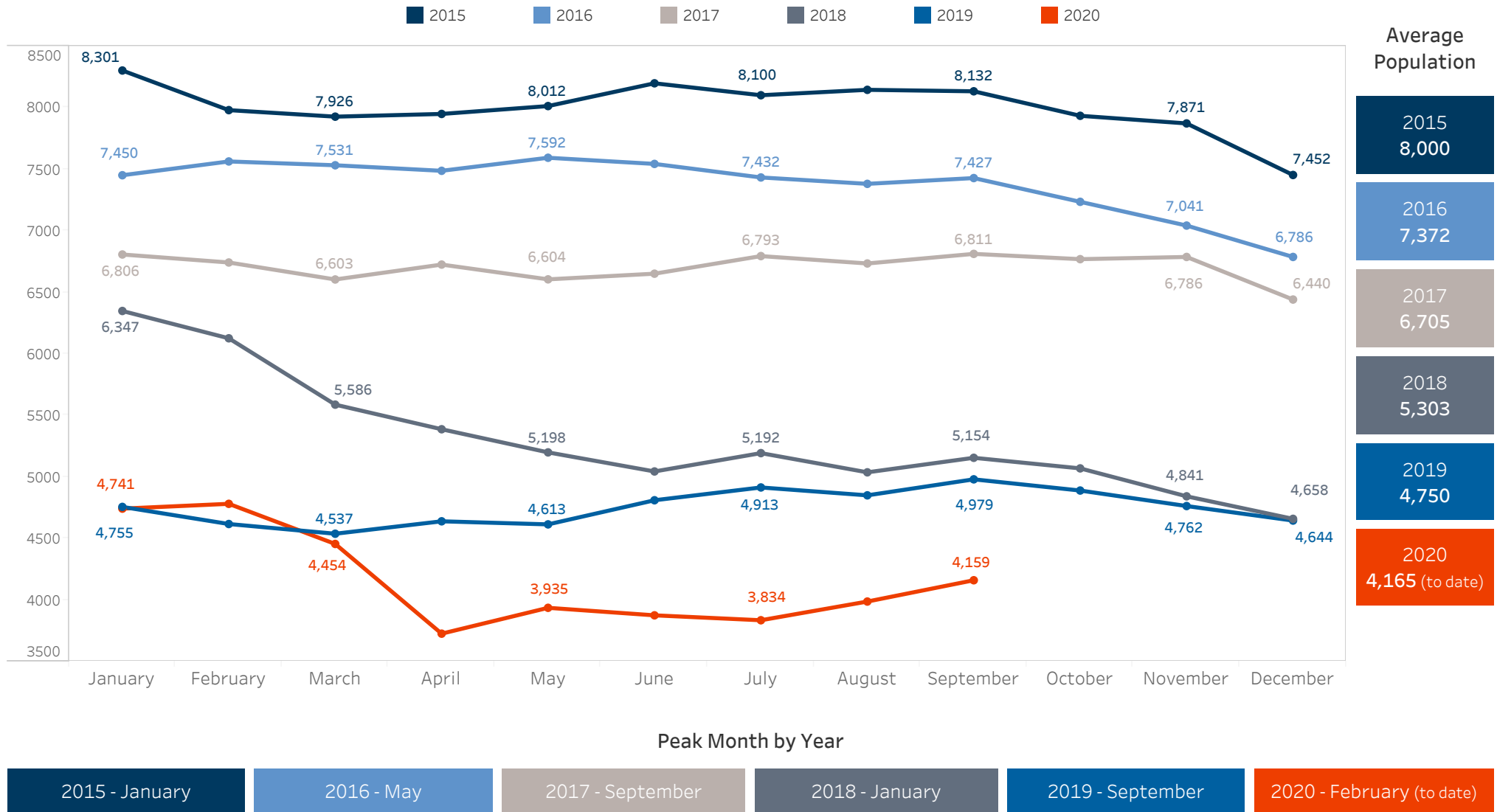
	End of Month Population	Average Daily Population	Orange indicates higher ADP
09/20	4,159	4,096	-63
08/20	3,986	3,908	-78
07/20	3,834	3,821	-13
06/20	3,874	3,940	66
05/20	3,935	3,777	-158
04/20	3,725	3,993	268
03/20	4,454	4,612	158
02/20	4,780	4,795	15
01/20	4,741	4,697	-44
12/19	4,644	4,687	43
11/19	4,762	4,832	70
10/19	4,888	4,922	34
09/19	4,979	4,925	-54
08/19	4,849	4,852	3
07/19	4,913	4,861	-52
06/19	4,809	4,695	-114
05/19	4,613	4,601	-12
04/19	4,638	4,558	-80
03/19	4,537	4,564	27
02/19	4,616	4,649	33
01/19	4,755	4,699	-56
12/18	4,658	4,709	51
11/18	4,841	4,938	97
10/18	5,068	5,103	35
09/18	5,154	5,123	-31
08/18	5,036	5,096	60
07/18	5,192	5,101	-91
06/18	5,043	5,140	97
05/18	5,198	5,228	30
04/18	5,386	5,464	78
03/18	5,586	5,791	205
02/18	6,125	6,188	63
01/18	6,347	6,409	62

Average Difference: 19.67





## Annual Jail Population Comparison | January 2015 - September 2020





Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020      Race/Ethnicity      Gender      SMI Status      Age Group      Count v. Percentage

All

All

All

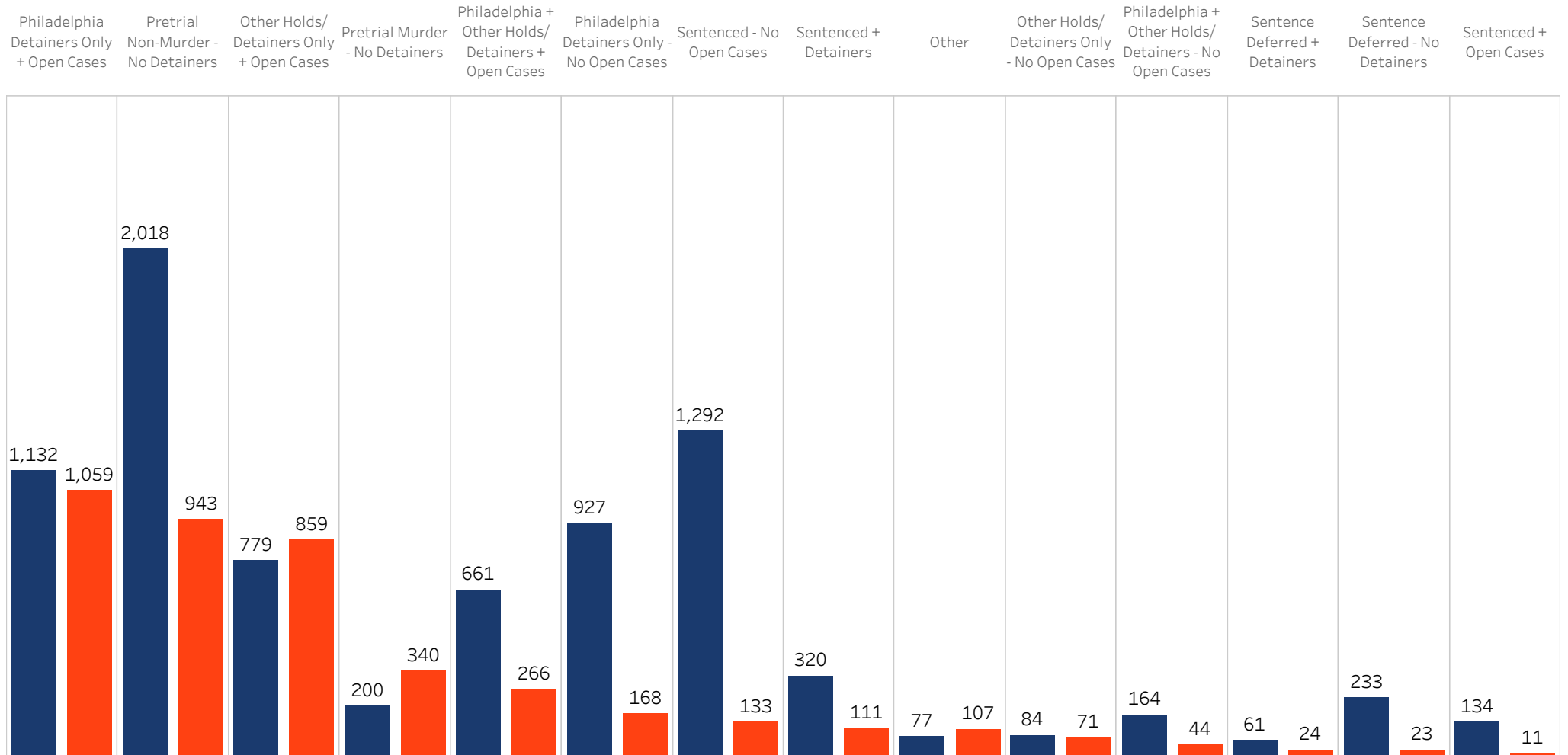
All

All

Count

■ Baseline      ■ September 2020

## Confinement Groups | Baseline v. September 2020

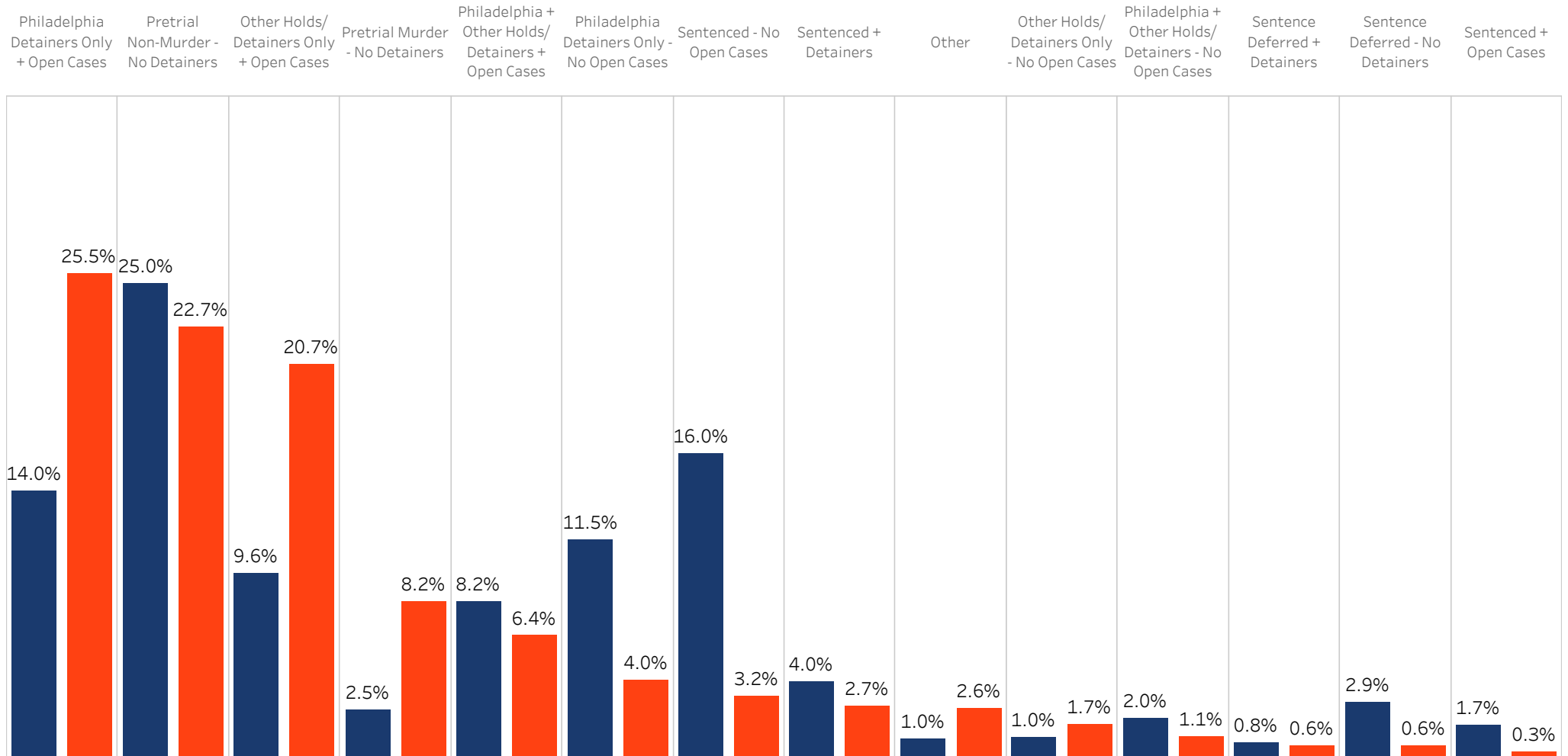




Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020  
All All Race/Ethnicity All Gender All SMI Status All Age Group Count v. Percentage  
Proportion

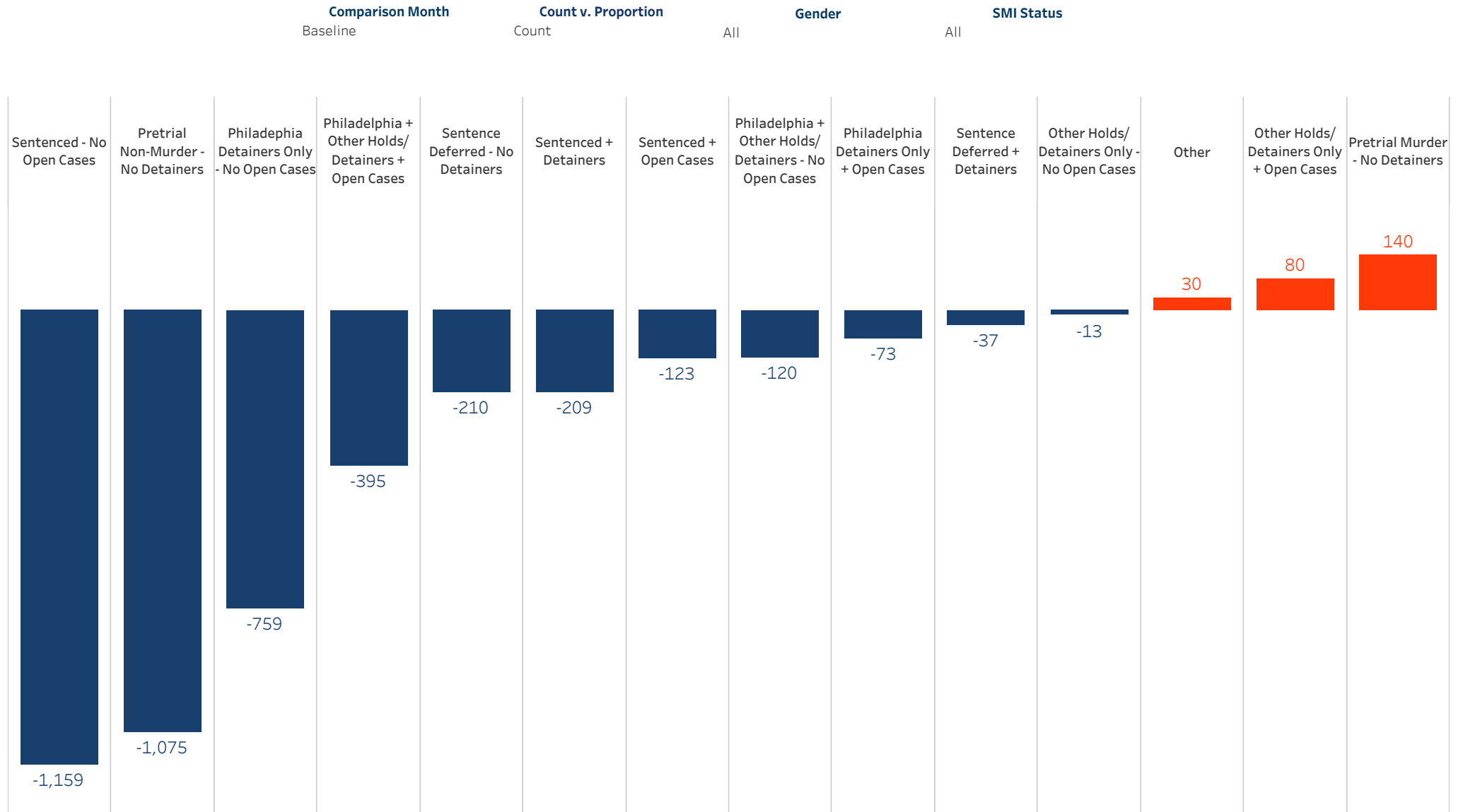
Baseline September 2020

## Confinement Groups | Baseline v. September 2020





## Count by Category | Baseline v. September 2020





Confinement Category

Gender

All

All

Asian

Black

Latinx

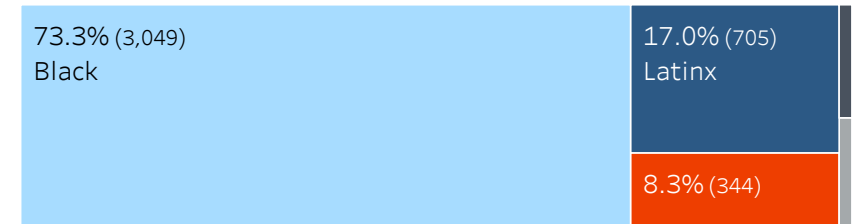
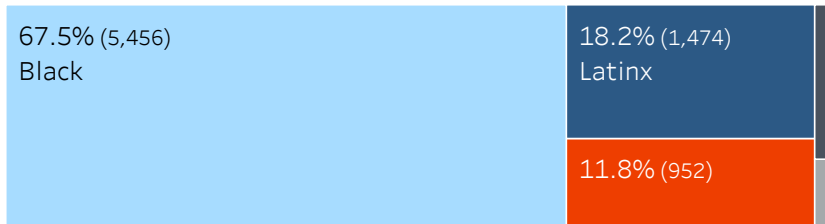
Other

White

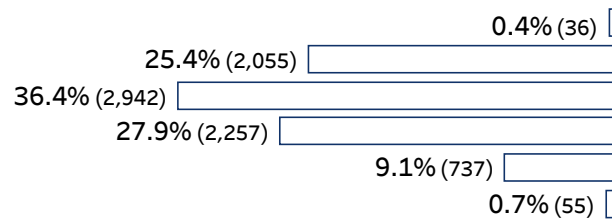
Baseline

September 2020

Race/Ethnicity



Age Distribution



17 and Under

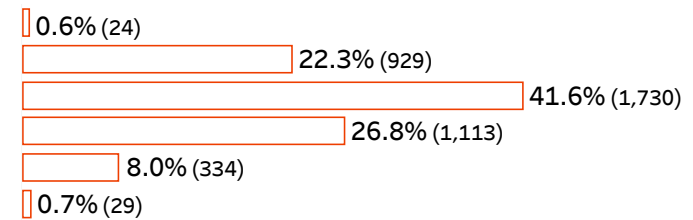
18 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 49

50 - 64

65 and Over



194.1



216.5



176.2



257.0



129.1

Average Length of  
Stay  
(days)



218.9



257.4



219.1



270.3



191.8

SMI Status

No

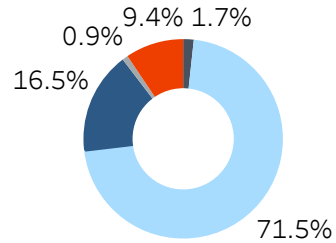
Yes





All Race/Ethnicity All SMI Status All Prior Arrest Count All Gender All Age Group

### Race/Ethnicity

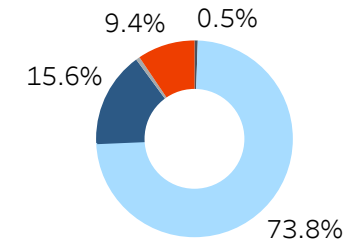


Percentage of Total Population:  
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers

**25.0%**  
BASELINE

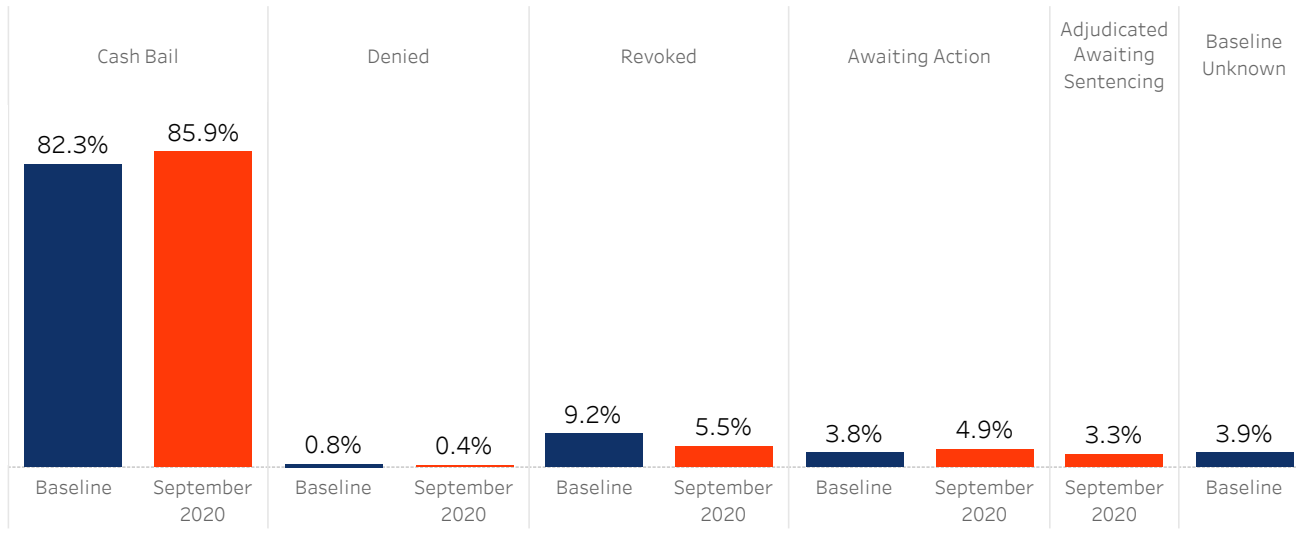
**22.7%**  
SEPT 2020

### Race/Ethnicity

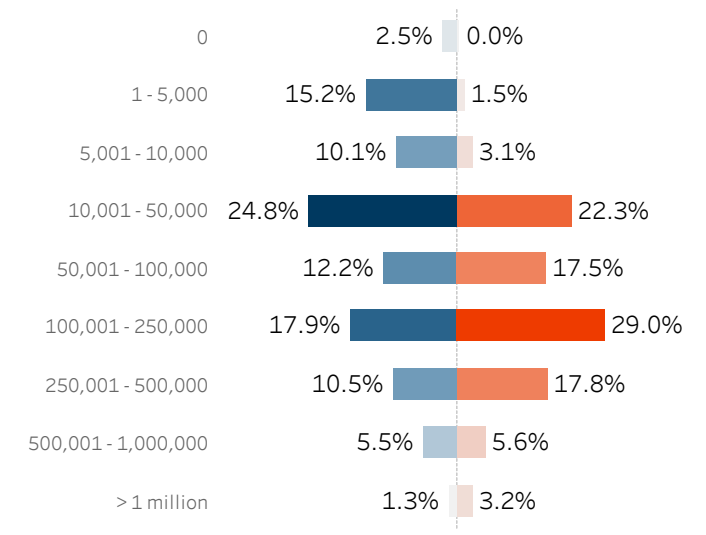


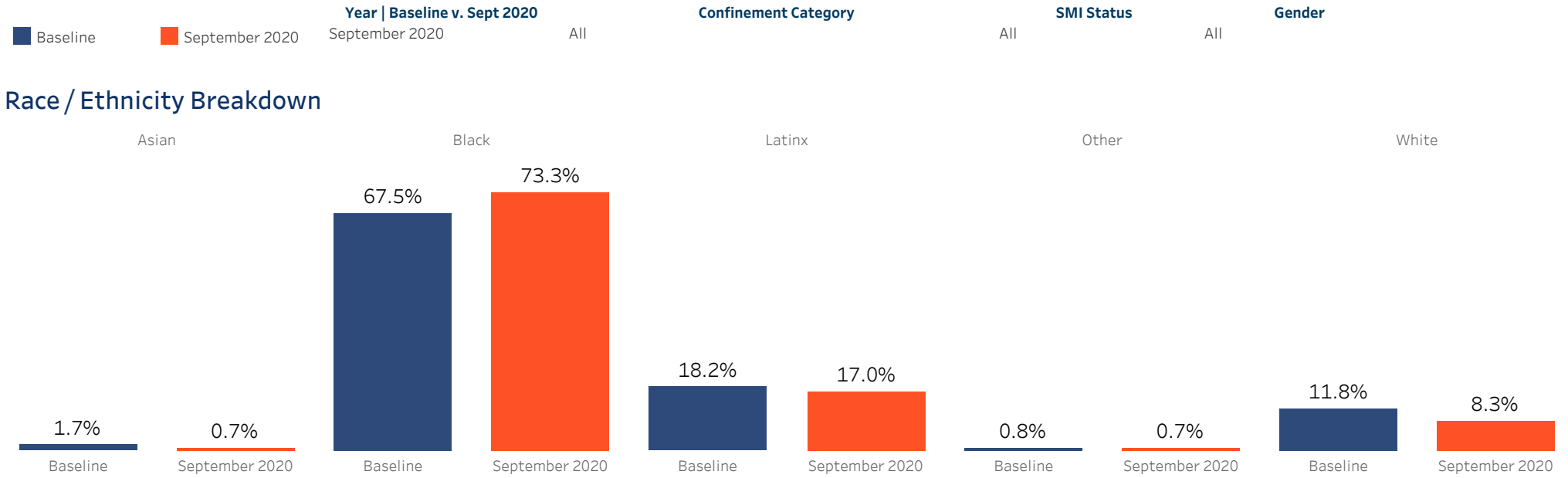
■ Baseline  
■ September 2020

### Bail Groups | Baseline v. September 2020

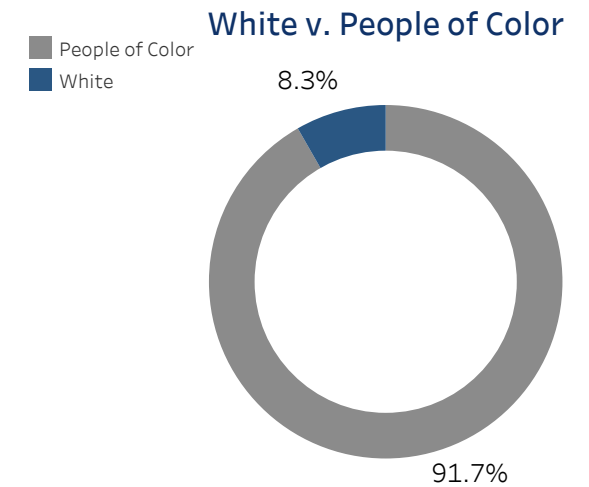
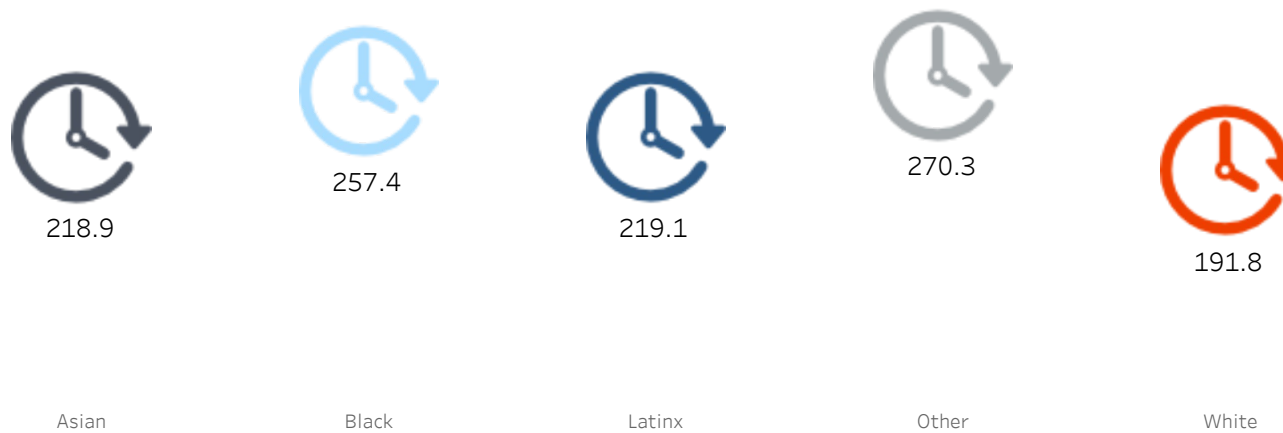


### Bail Amounts | Baseline v. September 2020





### Race / Ethnicity | Length of Stay







Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020

September 2020

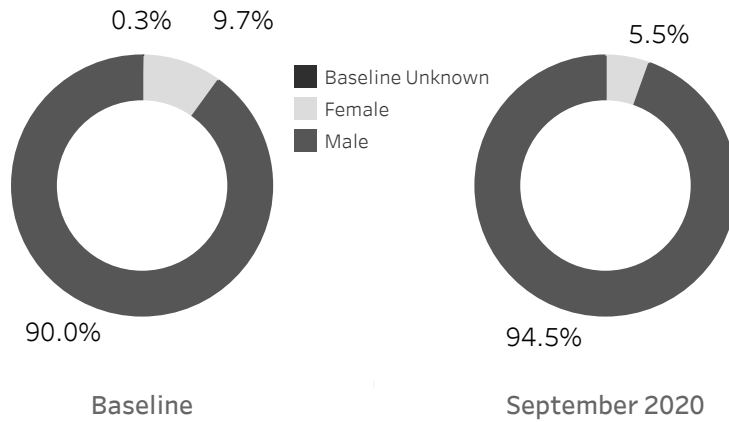
All

Confinement Category

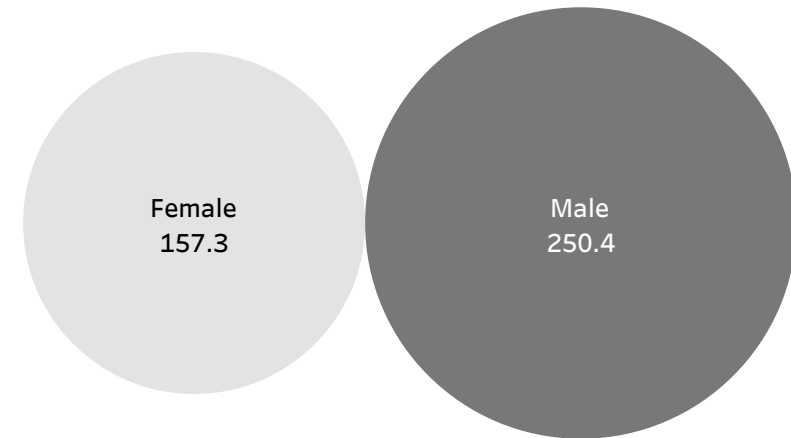
All

SMI Status

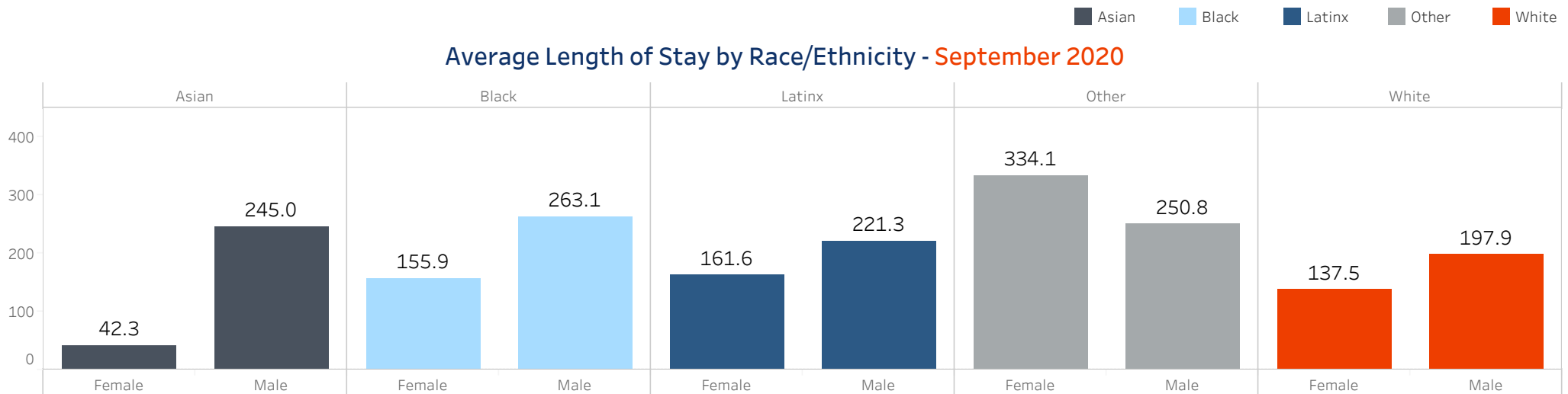
### Gender - Baseline v. September 2020



### Average Length of Stay - September 2020



### Average Length of Stay by Race/Ethnicity - September 2020





Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020  
September 2020

Race/Ethnicity View  
Individual Race/Ethnicity

All

Confinement Category

All

SMI Status

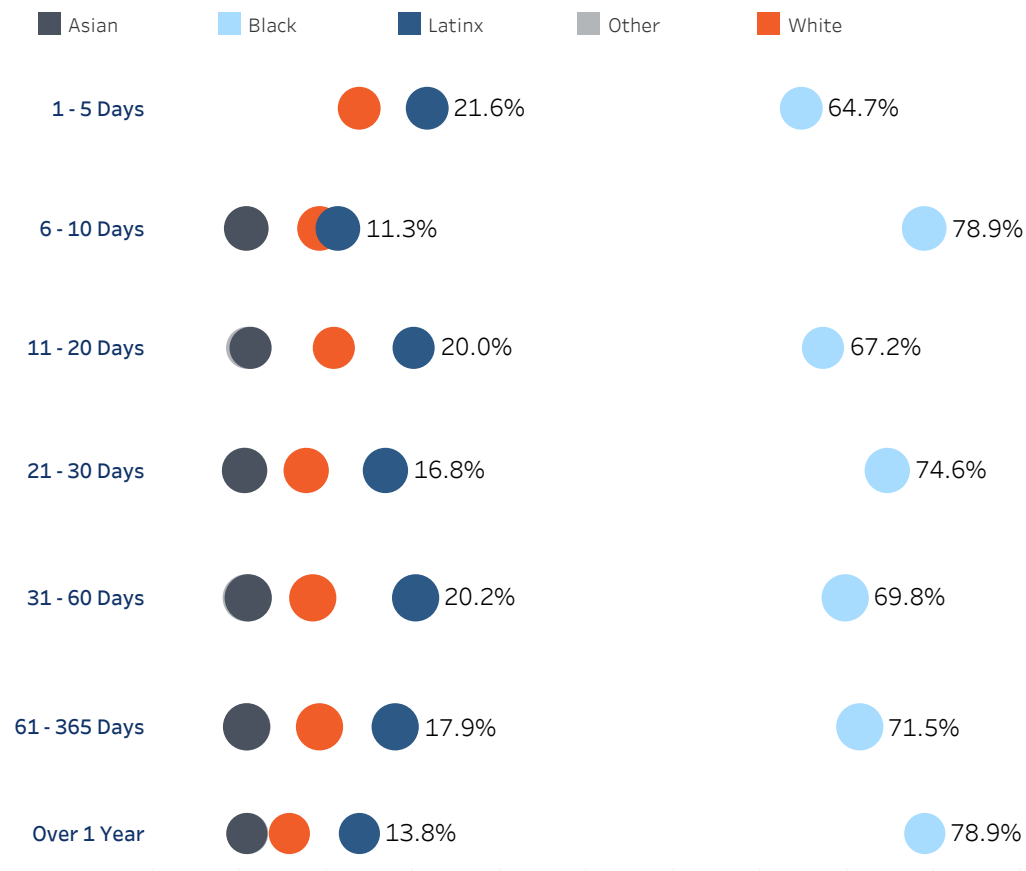
All

Gender

All

Age Group

## Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | September 2020



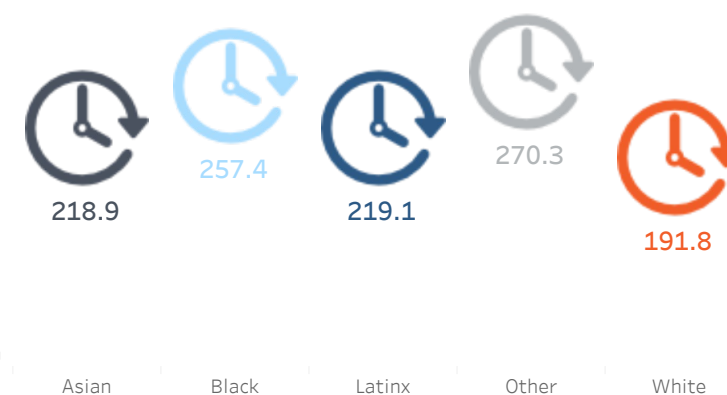
## Average Length of Stay



Baseline

September 2020

## Average LOS | Race/Ethnicity





Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020  
September 2020

Race/Ethnicity View  
People of Color vs White

All

Confinement Category

All

SMI Status

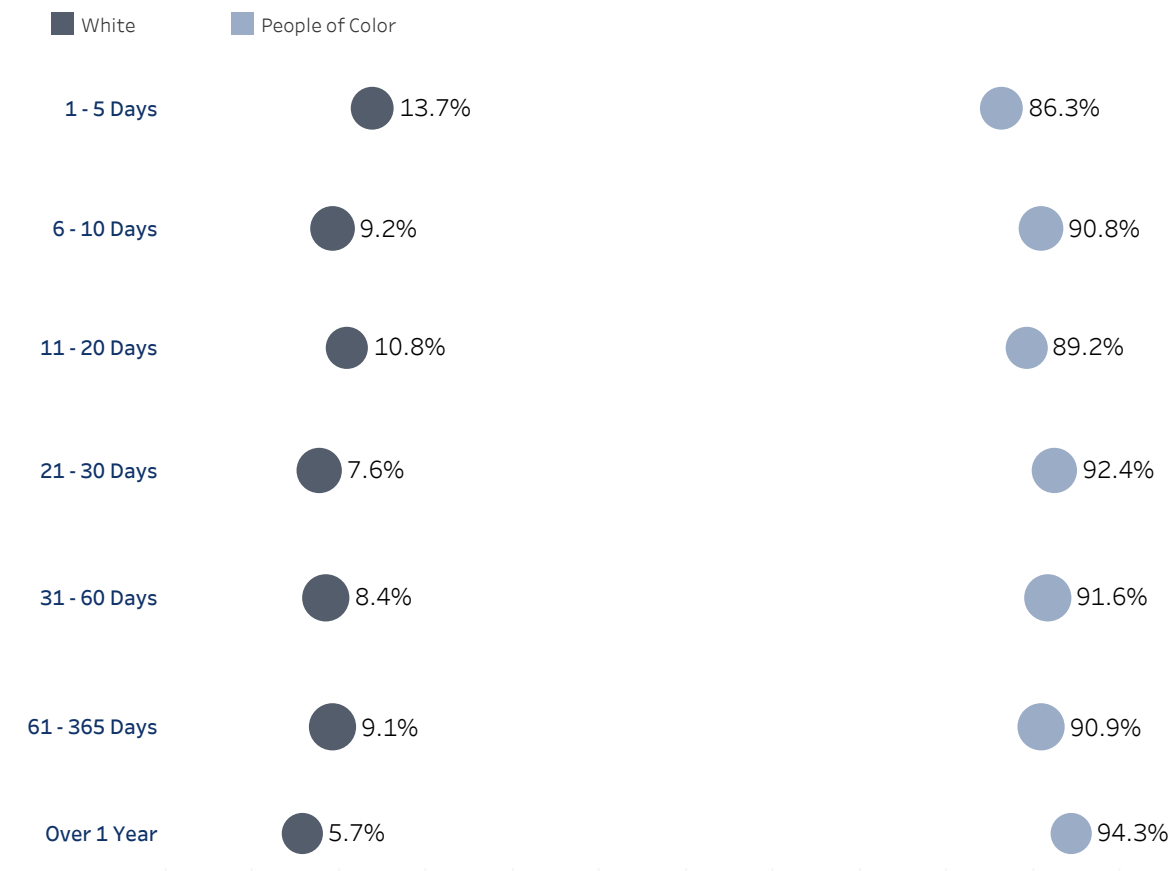
All

Gender

All

Age Group

## Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | September 2020



## Average Length of Stay



Baseline

September 2020

## Average LOS | Race/Ethnicity



White

People of Color



Year | Baseline v. Sept 2020  
September 2020

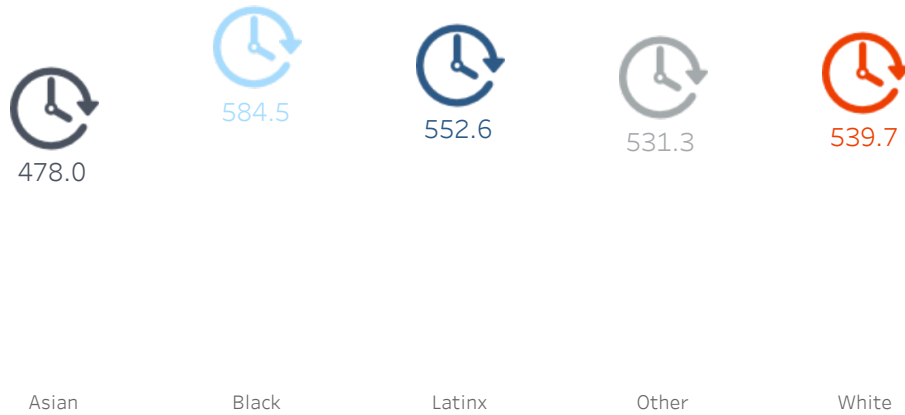
Confinement Category

SMI Status

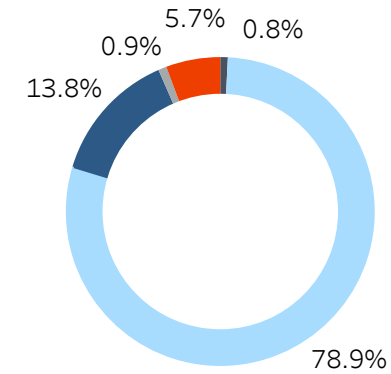
Gender

All  
Asian Black Latinx Other White

### Average Length of Stay | Race/Ethnicity | Over 1 Year

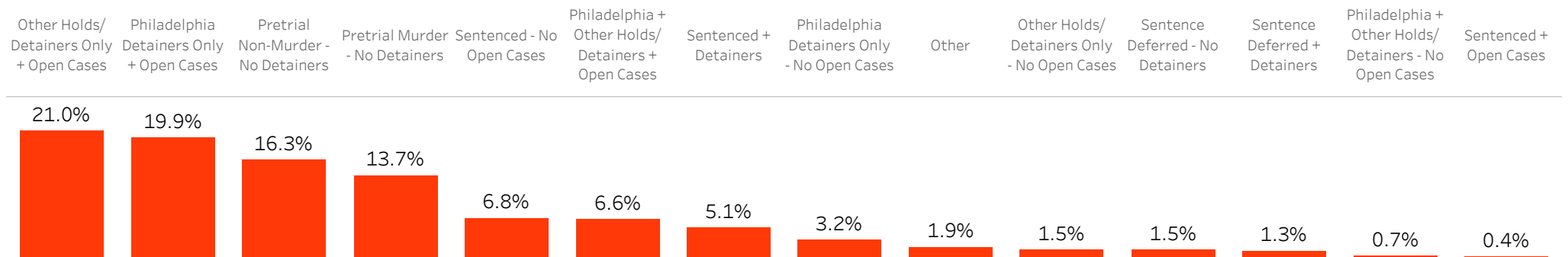


### Length of Stay | Over 1 Year by Race/Ethnicity



September 2020

### Confinement Groups Over 1 Year

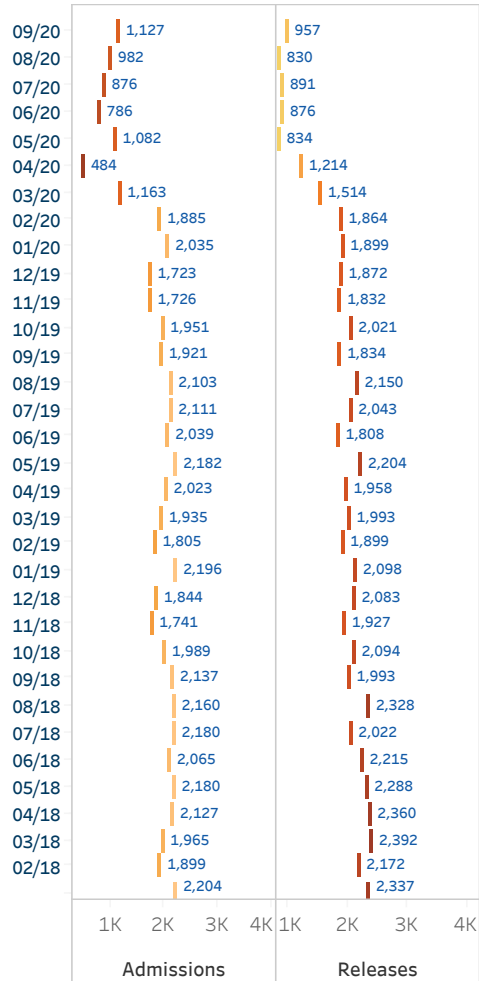




September 2020: Releases > Admissions?

No

Admissions vs. Releases | Jan 2018 - Sept 2020



Clearance Rate | January 2017 - September 2020

