



Philadelphia Prison Population Report | July 2015 – March 2024

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 prison population using snapshot data from the courts and the prison to compare the most current end of month prison population to a baseline population from July 2015. From baseline (population = 8,082) to March 2024 (population = 4,653), Philadelphia’s prison population decreased by 42.4%. Throughout the report, various aspects of the prison 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 prison 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 prison 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 prison population to get as detailed and precise data as possible. A one-day, deep-dive snapshot of the prison 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 prison 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 prison 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 prison population to begin efforts to reduce the prison 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 prison and court data from daily snapshots from July 2015 and March 2024. 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 16th, 2020. This event is noted on several graphs throughout the report.

Between December 18, 2020, and March 16, 2021, an error in the prison data extract resulted in an artificial influx of individuals with Philadelphia detainees. Reports during this period (December 2020, January 2021, & February 2021) were updated with revised data and noted as 'Version 2.' Additionally, information was learned about state special detainees and their representation in the local detainer categories (see page 3 for details). Affected confinement categories now include an asterisk and footnote in the **Confinement Categories** section below. Reports prior to December 2020 did not include the notations, but the state special detainer situation applies to all reports.

METHODOLOGY

The monthly statistics are generated using the prison census file from the last day of every month. The daily prison file contains information such as legal status, SMI status, detainees (Philadelphia and/or Other Hold/Detainer), race/ethnicity, sex, 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 prison 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 detainees, 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 detainees, 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 prison. 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 prison 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 prison 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.

**All Philadelphia detainer categories also include those issued on special probation cases at the request of Pennsylvania State Parole. A sentencing judge may request, while retaining their decision-making power, the Pennsylvania Parole Board to supervise certain people released from state custody, known as 'special probation' cases.*

REPORT DESCRIPTION

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

SUMMARY - The top section of this dashboard displays the total prison 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 prison as experiencing serious mental illness, which is reflected as a Yes/No indicator in the data. In 2022, there was a marked decrease in the SMI population that was attributed to a renewed focus on diagnosing based on observation and assessment rather than self-report, the continued reform efforts, and an increased use of community diversion; more specifically through a bolstered partnership with DBHIDS to keep those experiencing SMI out of custody in July 2022. 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 prison 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 prison 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:

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

$$\frac{\text{Baseline (8,082)} - \text{March 31}^{\text{st}} \text{ population (4,653)}}{\text{Baseline (8,082)}} = 42.4\% \text{ reduction from baseline}$$

$$\frac{11/15 - 4/16 \text{ average (7,559)} - \text{March 31}^{\text{st}} \text{ population (4,653)}}{11/15 - 4/16 \text{ average (7,559)}} = 38.4\% \text{ reduction from baseline}$$

INITIATIVE LAUNCH DATES - The monthly prison 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 prison 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 Prison 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 2020 through March 2024. 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. Please note that open cases with bail deposits are not included in the total amount. 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 March 2024 for direct comparison. In January 2023, the bail logic was amended to reflect revoked and forfeits and reinstated bail amounts (e.g., if the bail was previously revoked, but a new bail set or reinstated). Previous reports did not include this logic.

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.

SEX - On the top left-hand side of this page, a donut chart displays percent by sex for the total population for baseline and the current month. The top right-hand side shows two bubbles representing sex in March 2024; 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 sex. Sex data from baseline were incorporated in September of 2019. Due to delayed retrieval, 23 records with missing sex 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 prison. 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: $\text{Prison Releases} / \text{Prison Admissions} \times 100$

Philadelphia Prison Population Report

Baseline (July 2015)

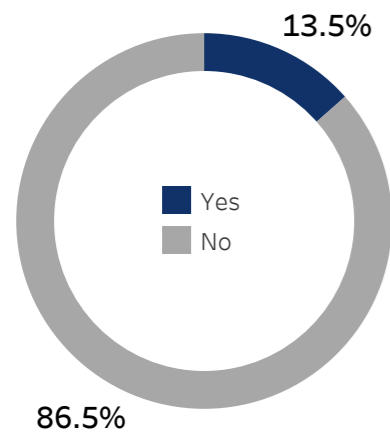
8,082

-42.4%

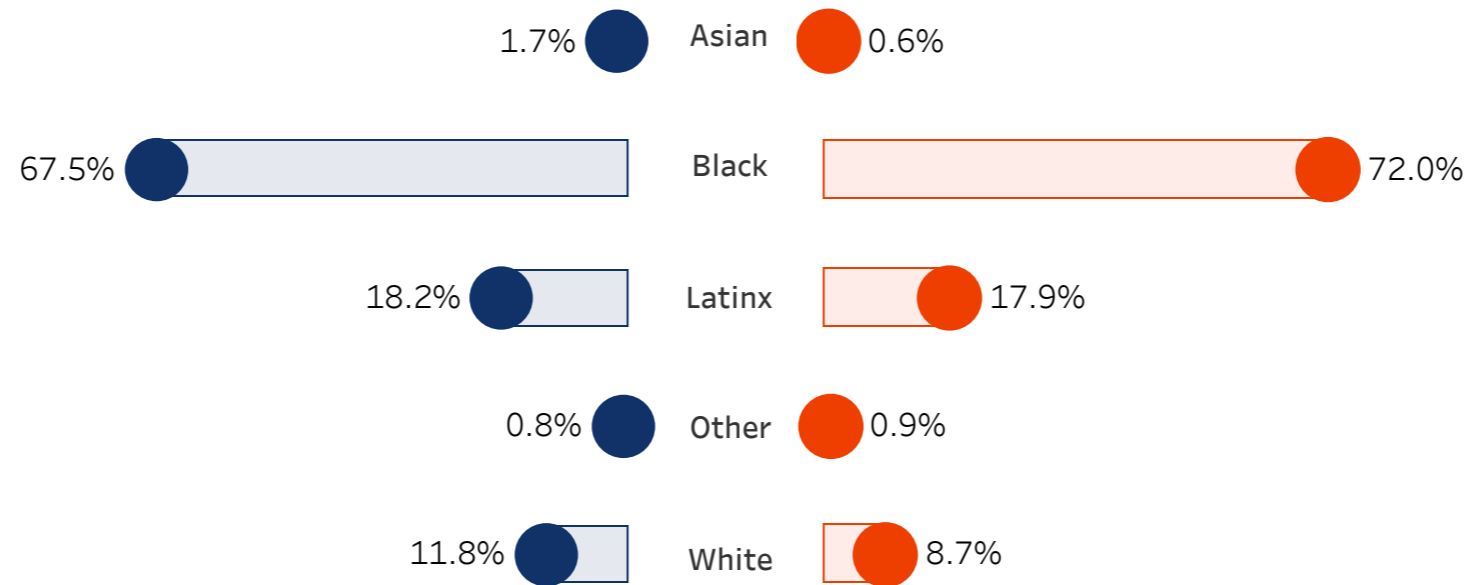
March 2024

4,653

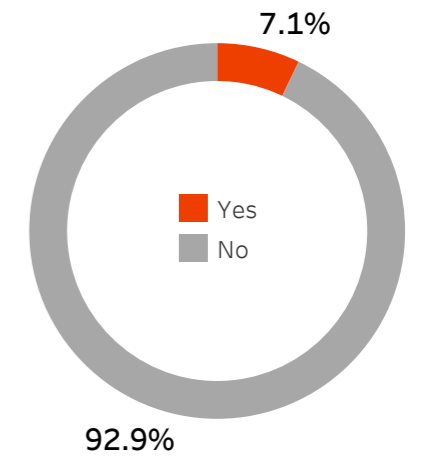
SMI Status | Baseline



Race/Ethnicity Composition



SMI Status | March 2024



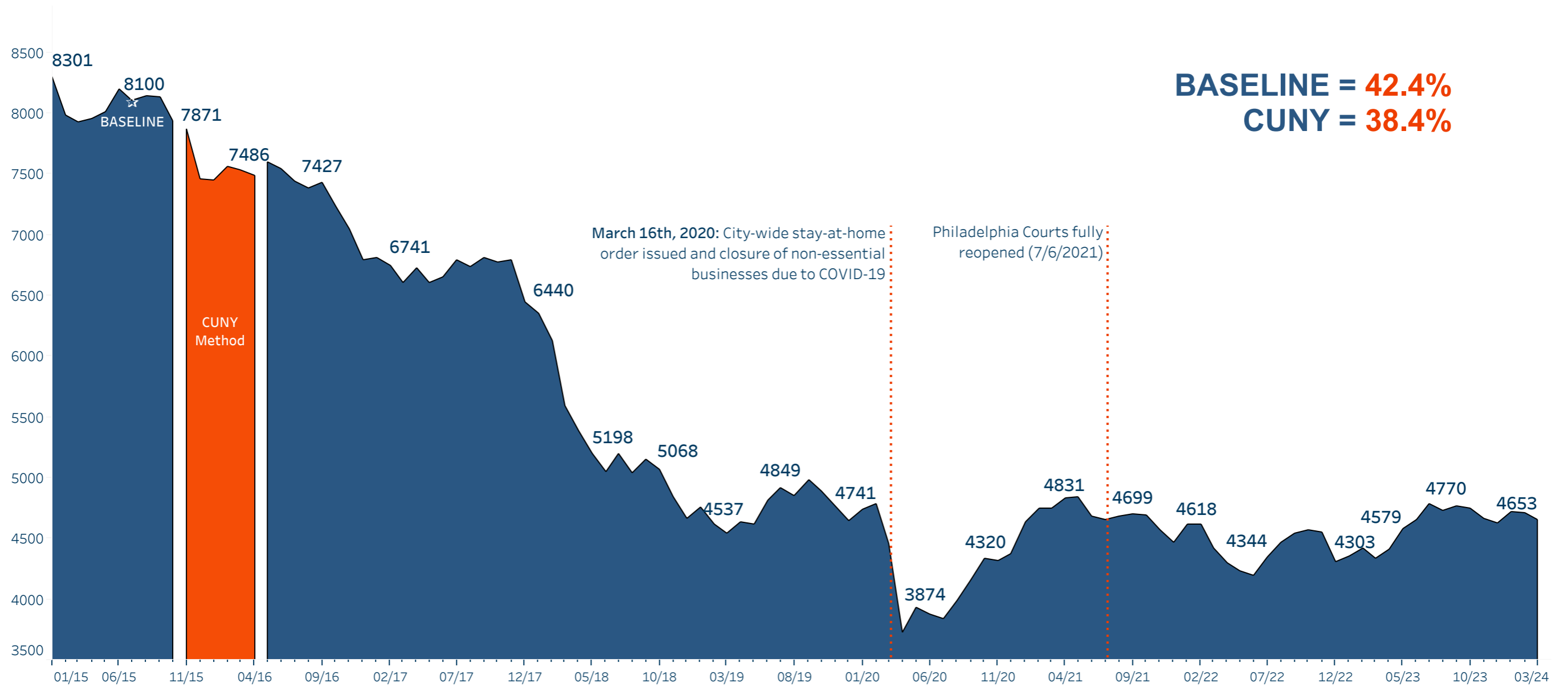
Baseline | Population Drivers

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers	25.0%
Sentenced - No Open Cases	16.0%
Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases	14.0%

March 2024 | Population Drivers

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers	26.8%
Other Holds/Detainers Only + Open Cases	18.5%
Philadelphia Detainers Only + Open Cases	15.9%

Prison Population | End of Month | January 2015 - March 2024



BASELINE = 42.4%
CUNY = 38.4%

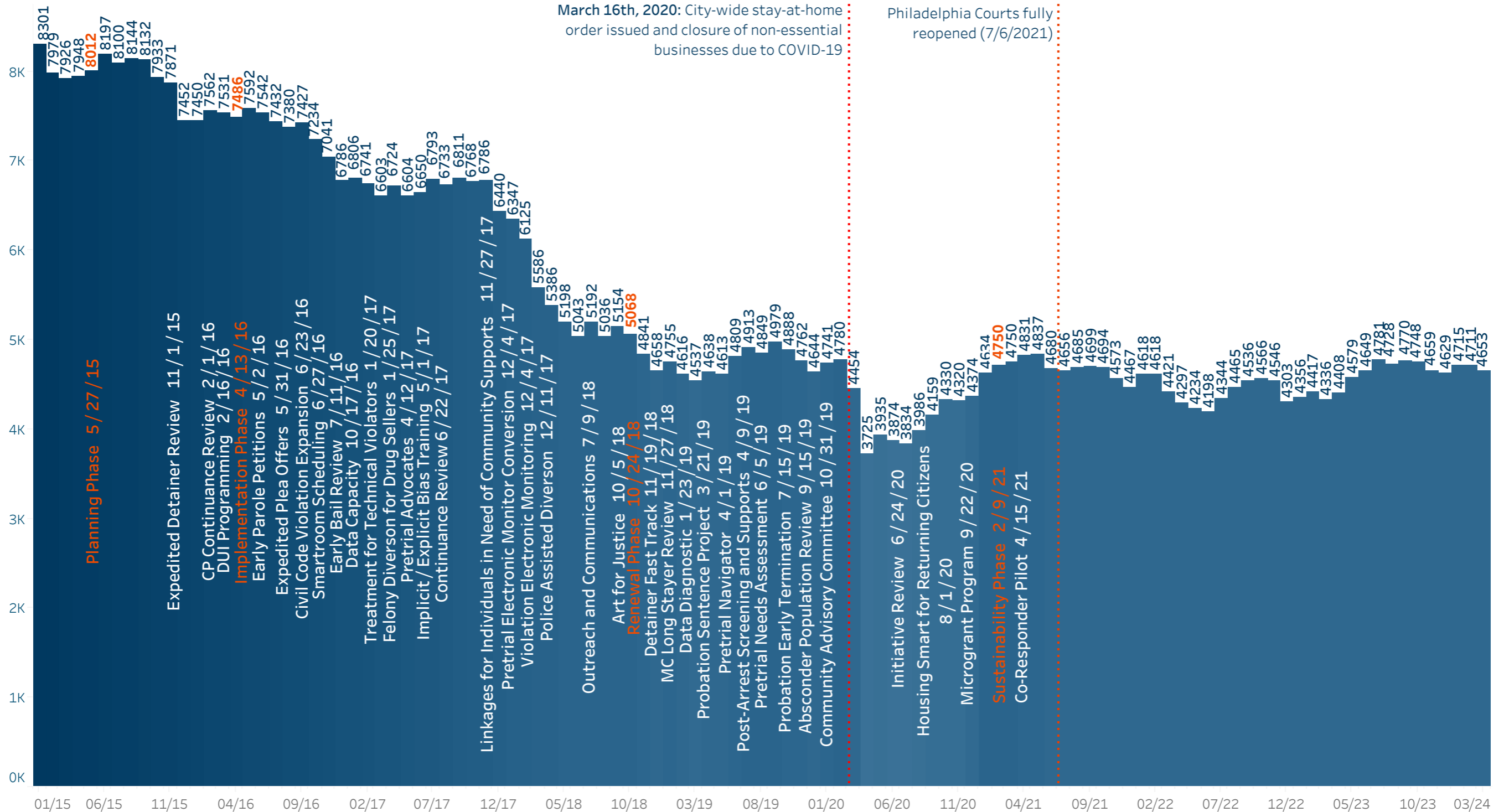
Benchmark Figures

	End Goal	Reduction	Benchmark
Baseline Population (7/30/2015)	3,328	4,754	58.5%
CUNY Method (April 2016 + 5 months prior)	5,291	2,268	30.0%

$$\text{Progress} = \frac{\text{Baseline (8,082)} - \text{March 2024 (4,653)}}{\text{Baseline (8,082)}} = 3,429$$



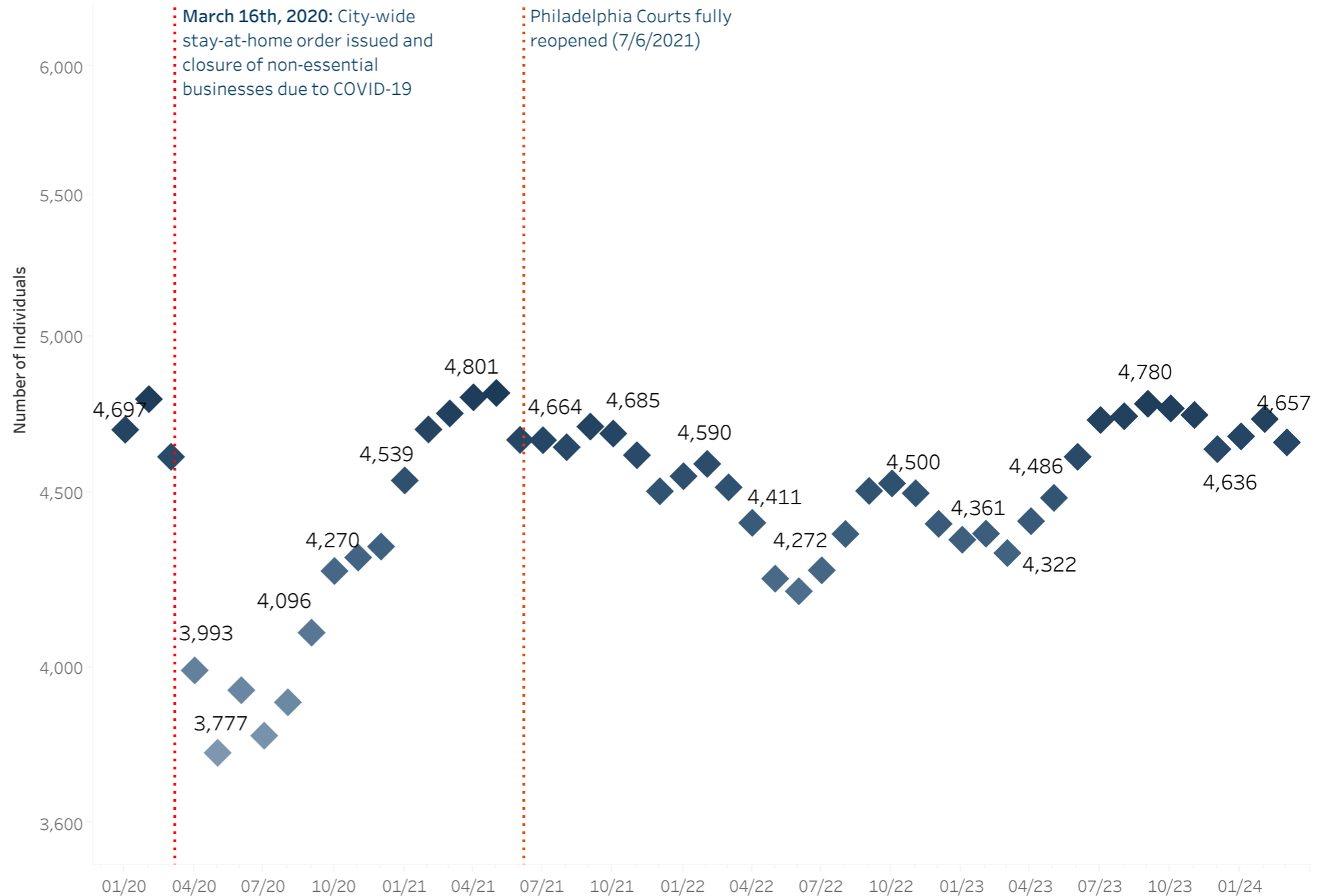
Philadelphia Prison Population | January 2015 - March 2024 | MacArthur Initiative Launch Dates



January 2020 - March 2024 | Average Daily Population (ADP) by Month

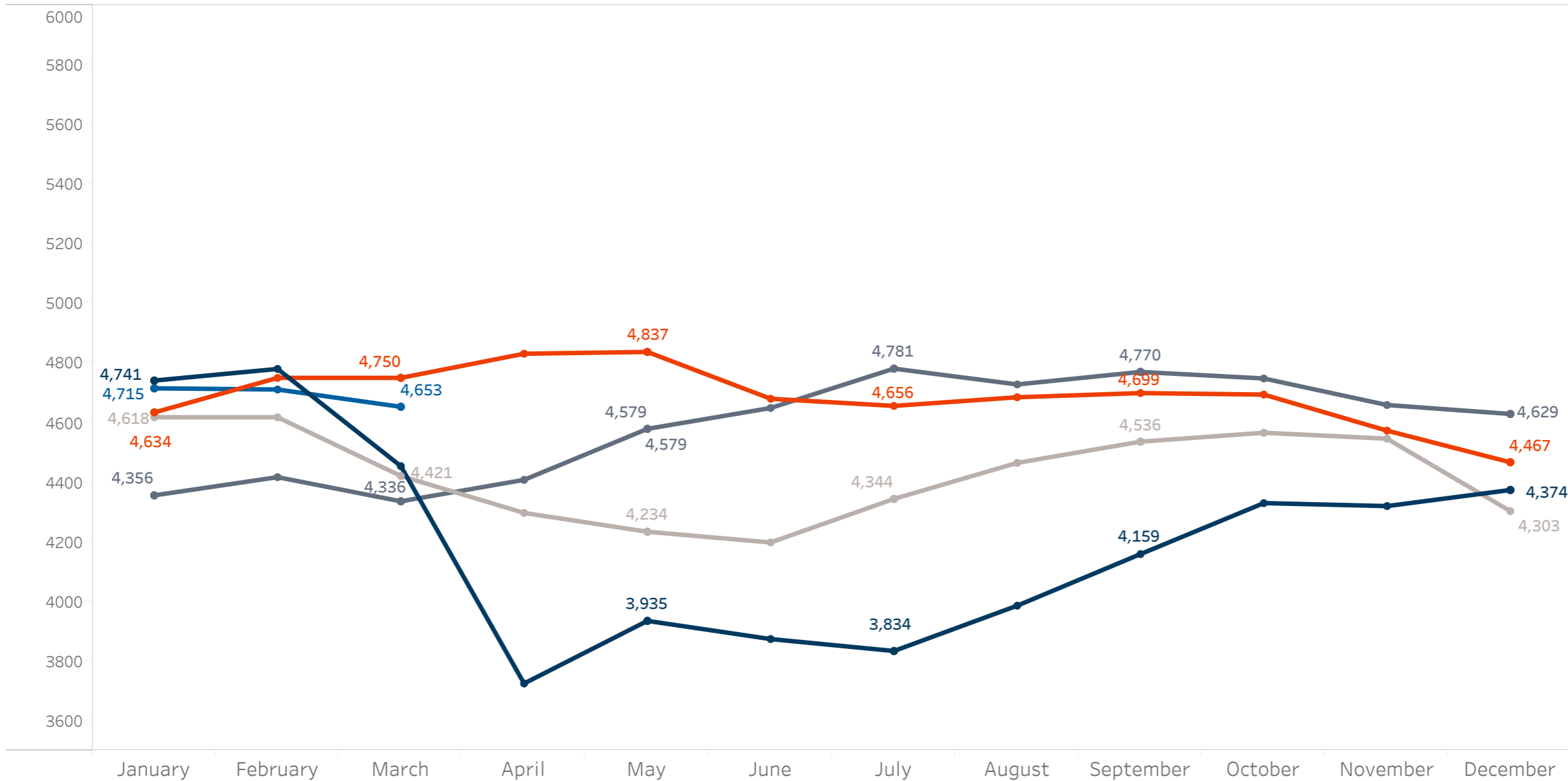
	End of Month Population	Average Daily Population	Orange indicates higher ADP
03/24	4,653	4,657	4
02/24	4,711	4,731	20
01/24	4,715	4,676	-39
12/23	4,629	4,636	7
11/23	4,659	4,744	85
10/23	4,748	4,765	17
09/23	4,770	4,780	10
08/23	4,728	4,740	12
07/23	4,781	4,728	-53
06/23	4,649	4,612	-37
05/23	4,579	4,486	-93
04/23	4,408	4,416	8
03/23	4,336	4,322	-14
02/23	4,417	4,379	-38
01/23	4,356	4,361	5
12/22	4,303	4,408	105
11/22	4,546	4,500	-46
10/22	4,566	4,530	-36
09/22	4,536	4,507	-29
08/22	4,465	4,378	-87
07/22	4,344	4,272	-72
06/22	4,198	4,212	14
05/22	4,234	4,248	14
04/22	4,297	4,411	114
03/22	4,421	4,518	97
02/22	4,618	4,590	-28
01/22	4,618	4,552	-66
12/21	4,467	4,506	39
11/21	4,573	4,617	44
10/21	4,694	4,685	-9
09/21	4,699	4,707	8
08/21	4,685	4,642	-43
07/21	4,656	4,664	8
06/21	4,680	4,665	-15
05/21	4,837	4,815	-22
04/21	4,831	4,801	-30
03/21	4,750	4,749	-1
02/21	4,750	4,698	-52
01/21	4,634	4,539	-95
12/20	4,374	4,341	-33
11/20	4,320	4,309	-11
10/20	4,330	4,270	-60
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

Average Difference: -6.43



Annual Prison Population Comparison | January 2020 - March 2024

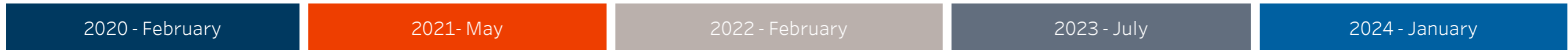
2020 2021 2022 2023 2024



Average Population

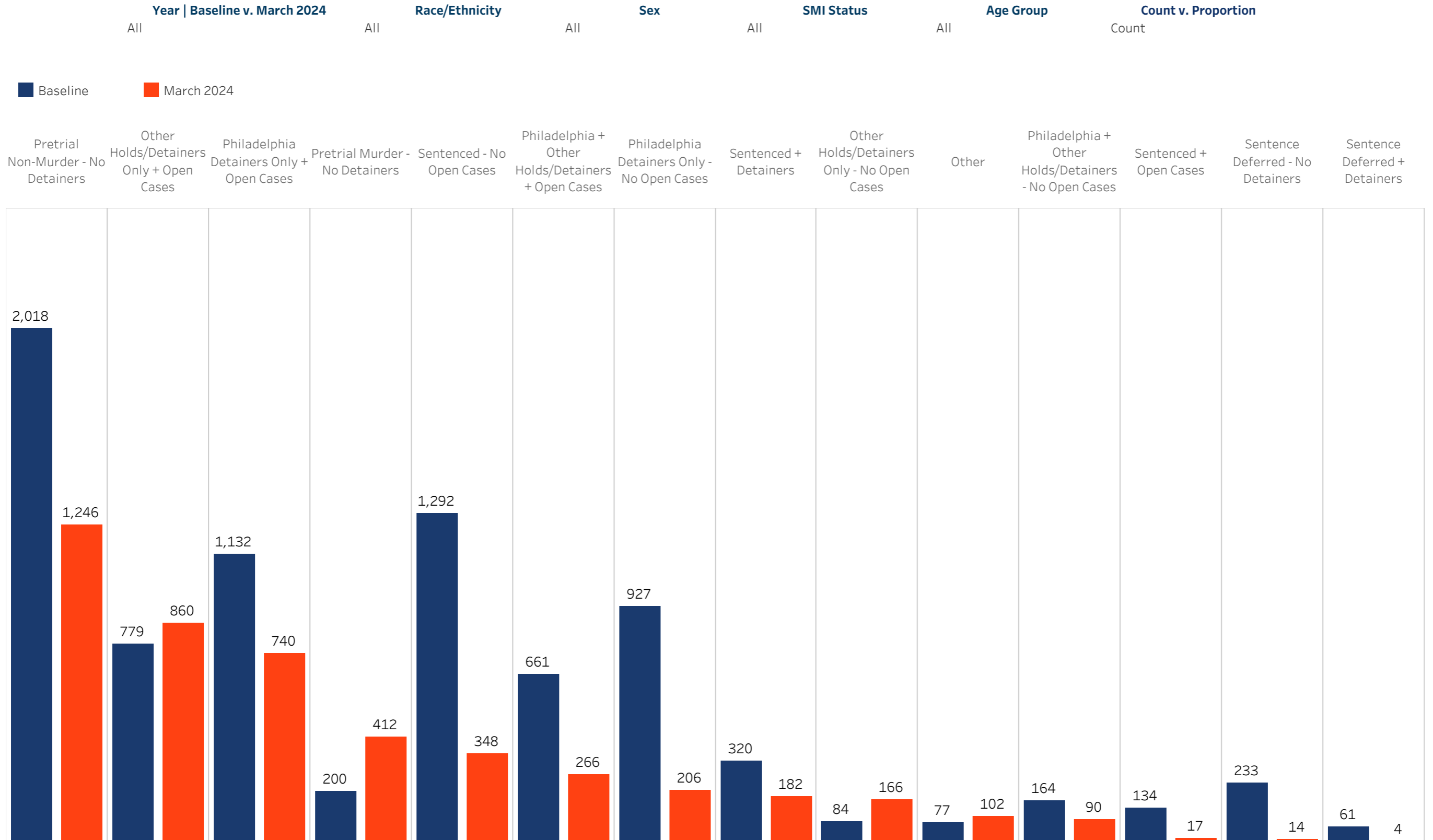
2020	4,209
2021	4,688
2022	4,429
2023	4,588
2024	4,693

Peak Month by Year



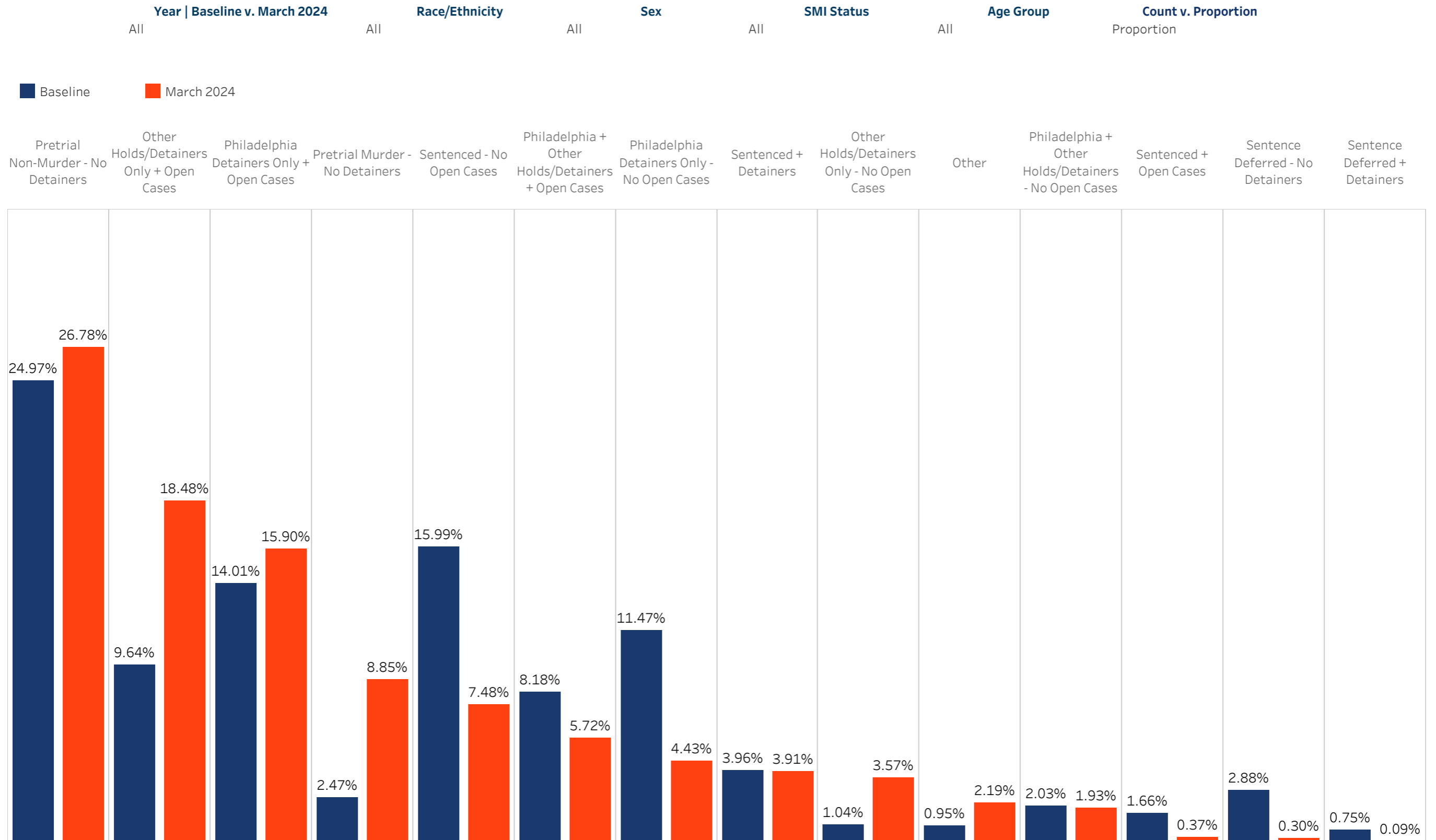


Confinement Groups | Baseline v. March 2024



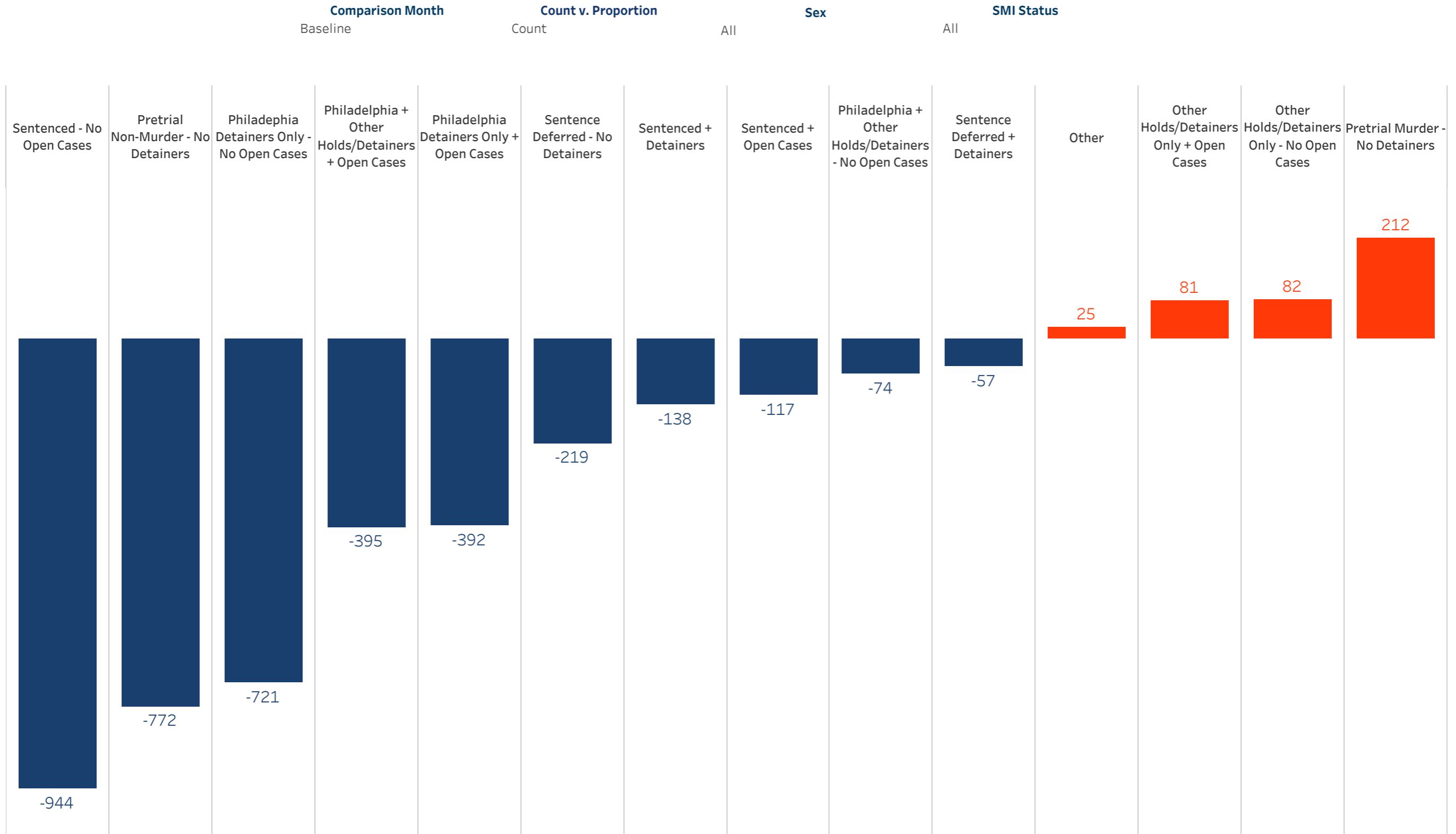


Confinement Groups | Baseline v. March 2024





Count by Category | Baseline v. March 2024



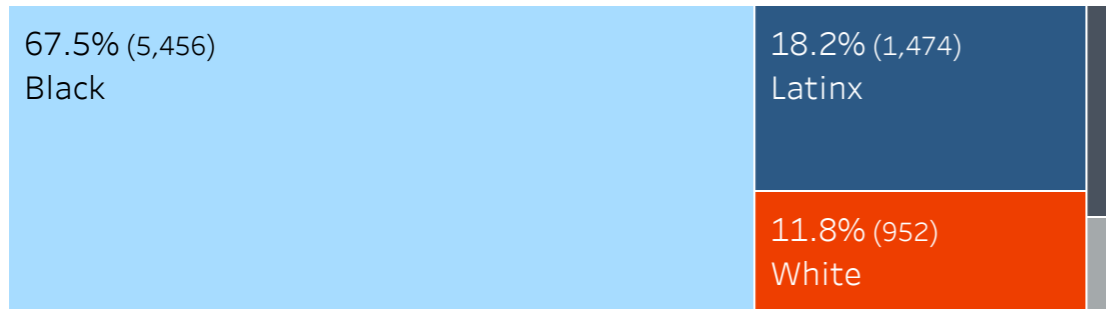
Demographic Comparison

Confinement Category

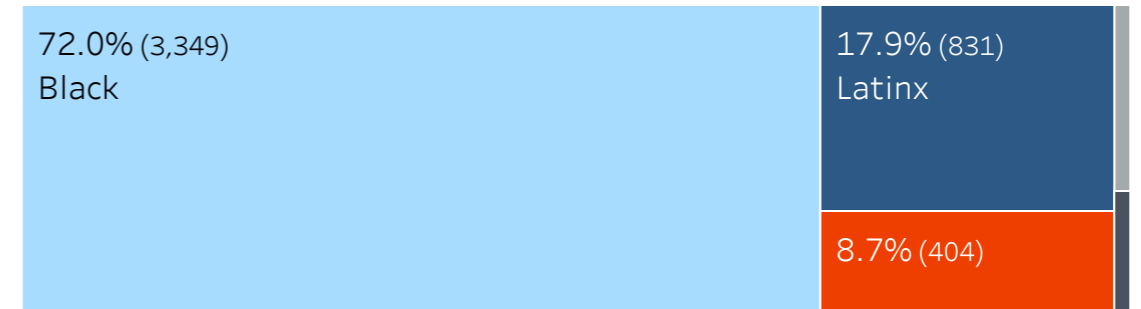
All

■ Asian
 ■ Black
 ■ Latinx
 ■ Other
 ■ White

Baseline

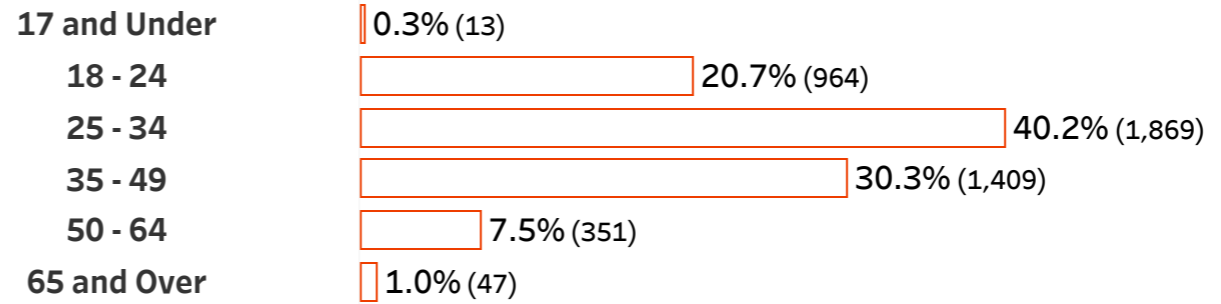
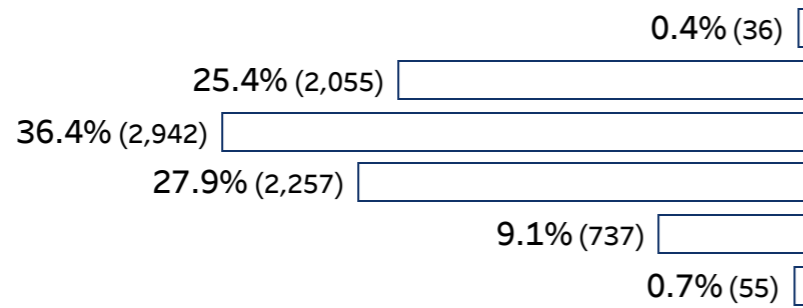


March 2024



Race/Ethnicity

Age Distribution



Average Length of Stay (days)

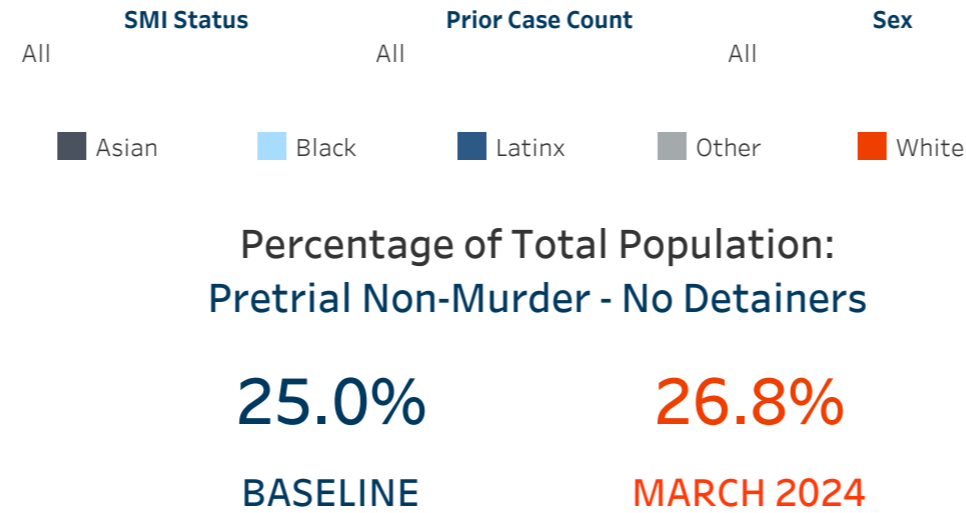
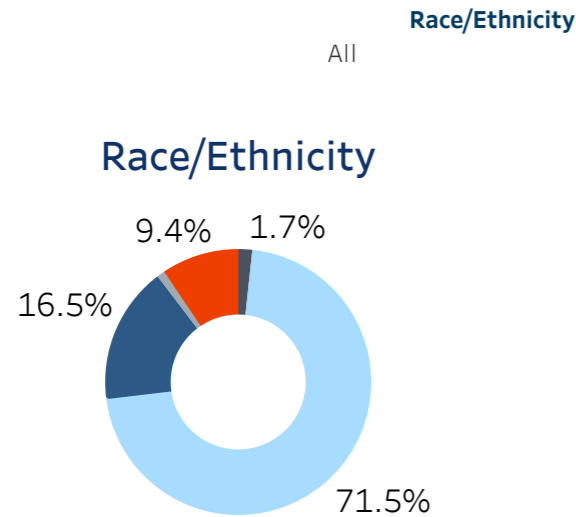


SMI Status



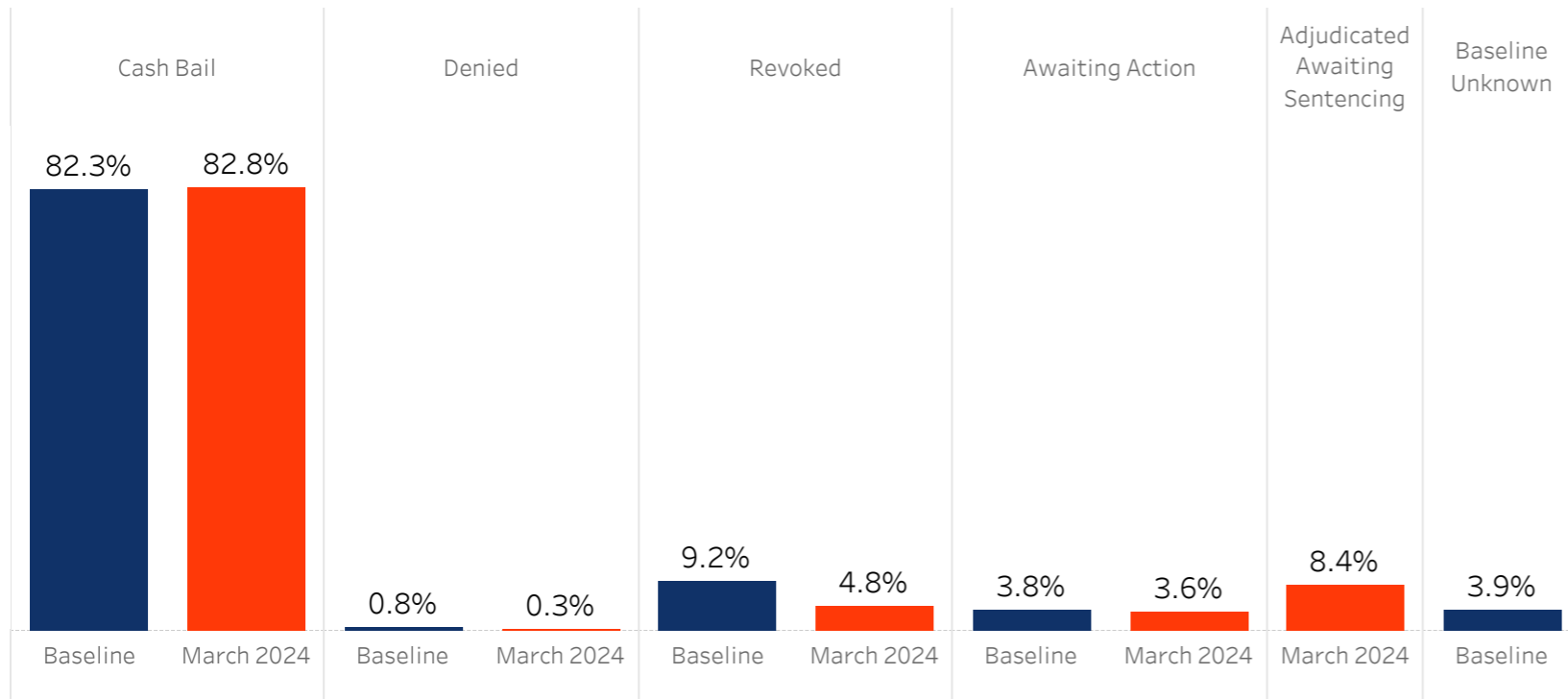


Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers Population

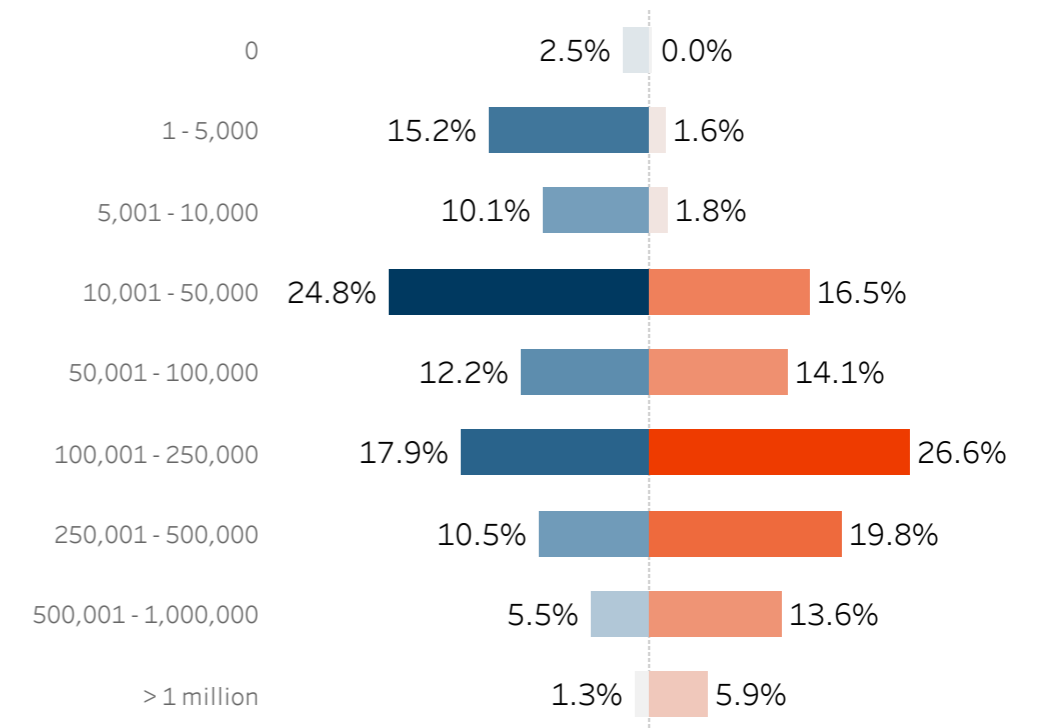


■ Baseline
■ March 2024

Bail Groups | Baseline v. March 2024

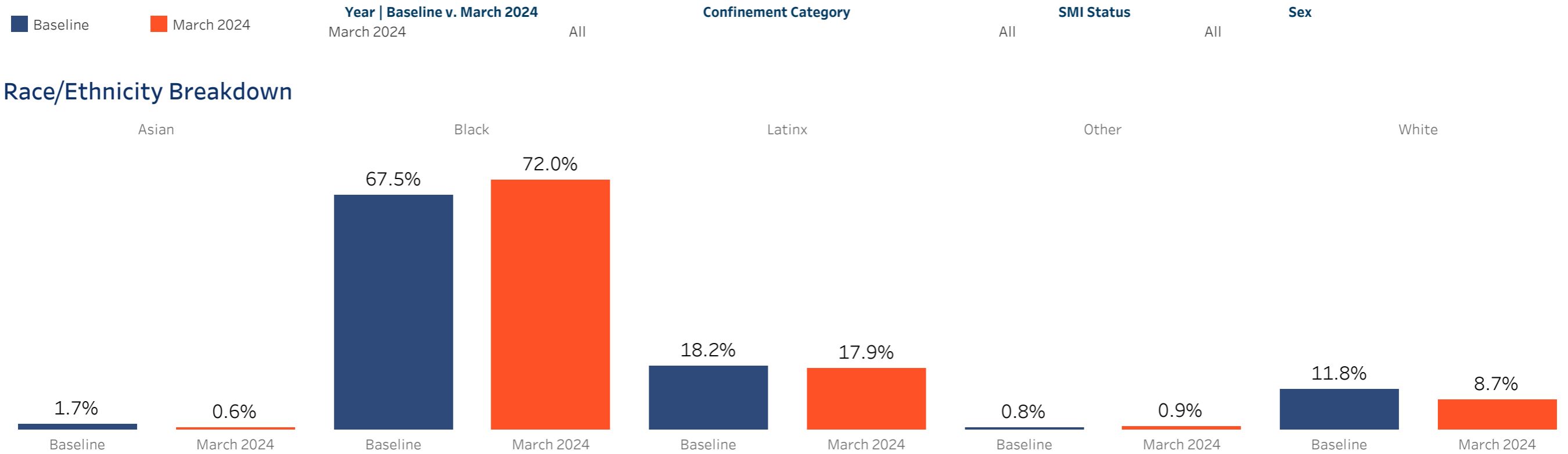


Bail Amounts | Baseline v. March 2024



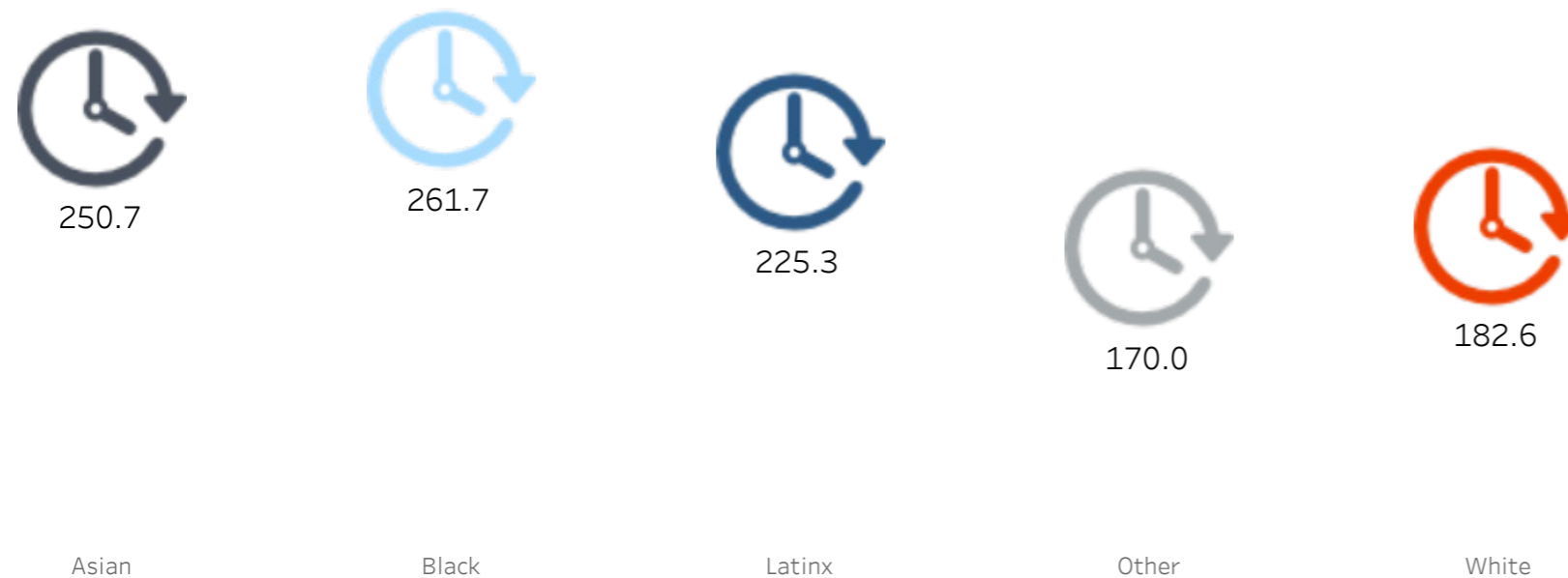


Race/Ethnicity

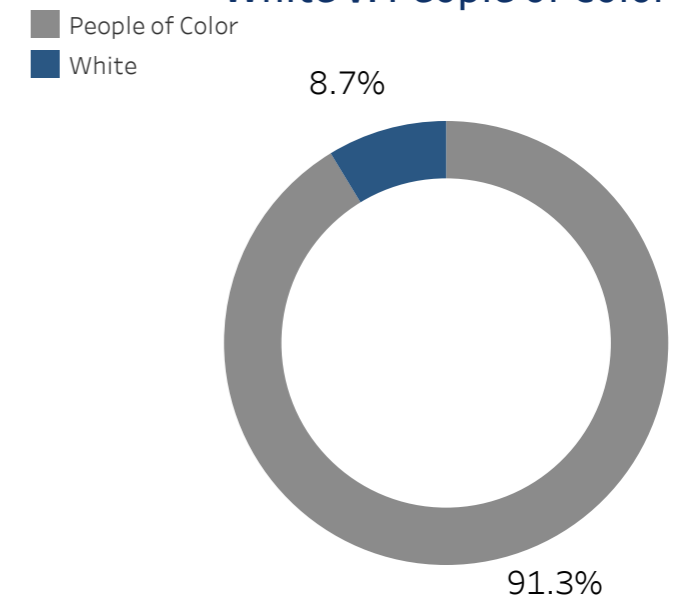


Race/Ethnicity Breakdown

Race/Ethnicity | Length of Stay



White v. People of Color





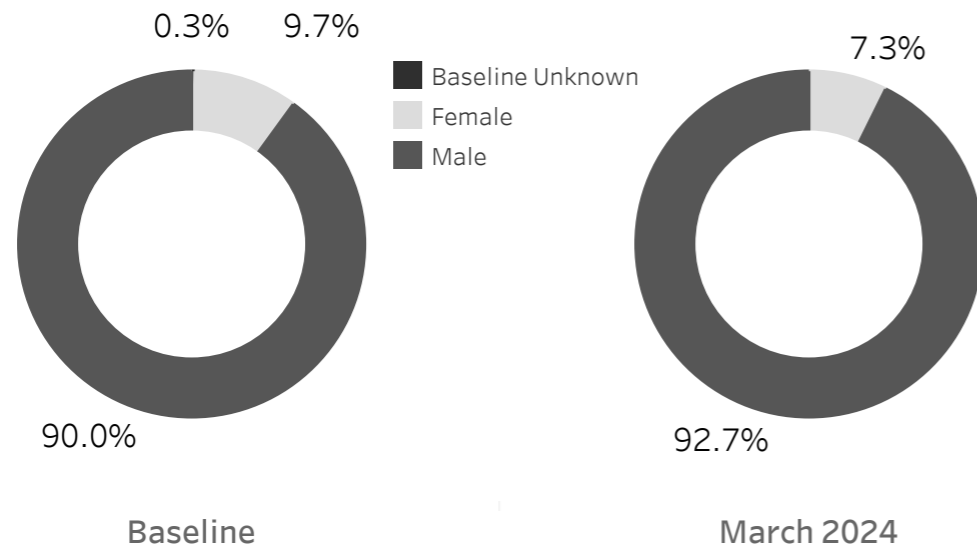
Sex

Year | Baseline v. March 2024
March 2024 All

Confinement Category

SMI Status
All

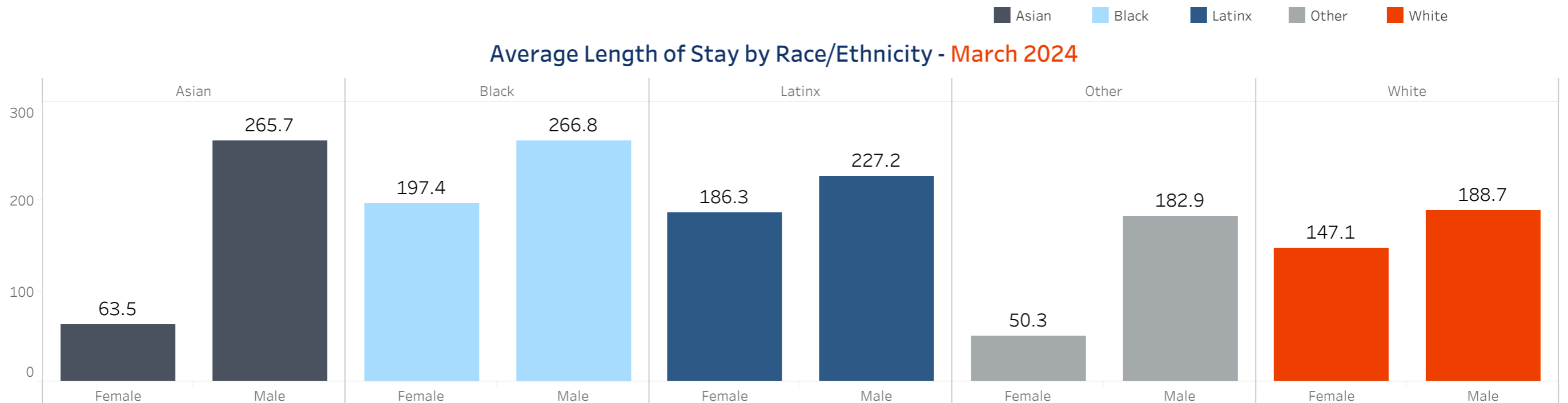
Sex - Baseline v. March 2024



Average Length of Stay - March 2024



Average Length of Stay by Race/Ethnicity - March 2024





Length of Stay

Year | Baseline v. March 2024
March 2024

Race/Ethnicity View
Individual Race/Ethnicity

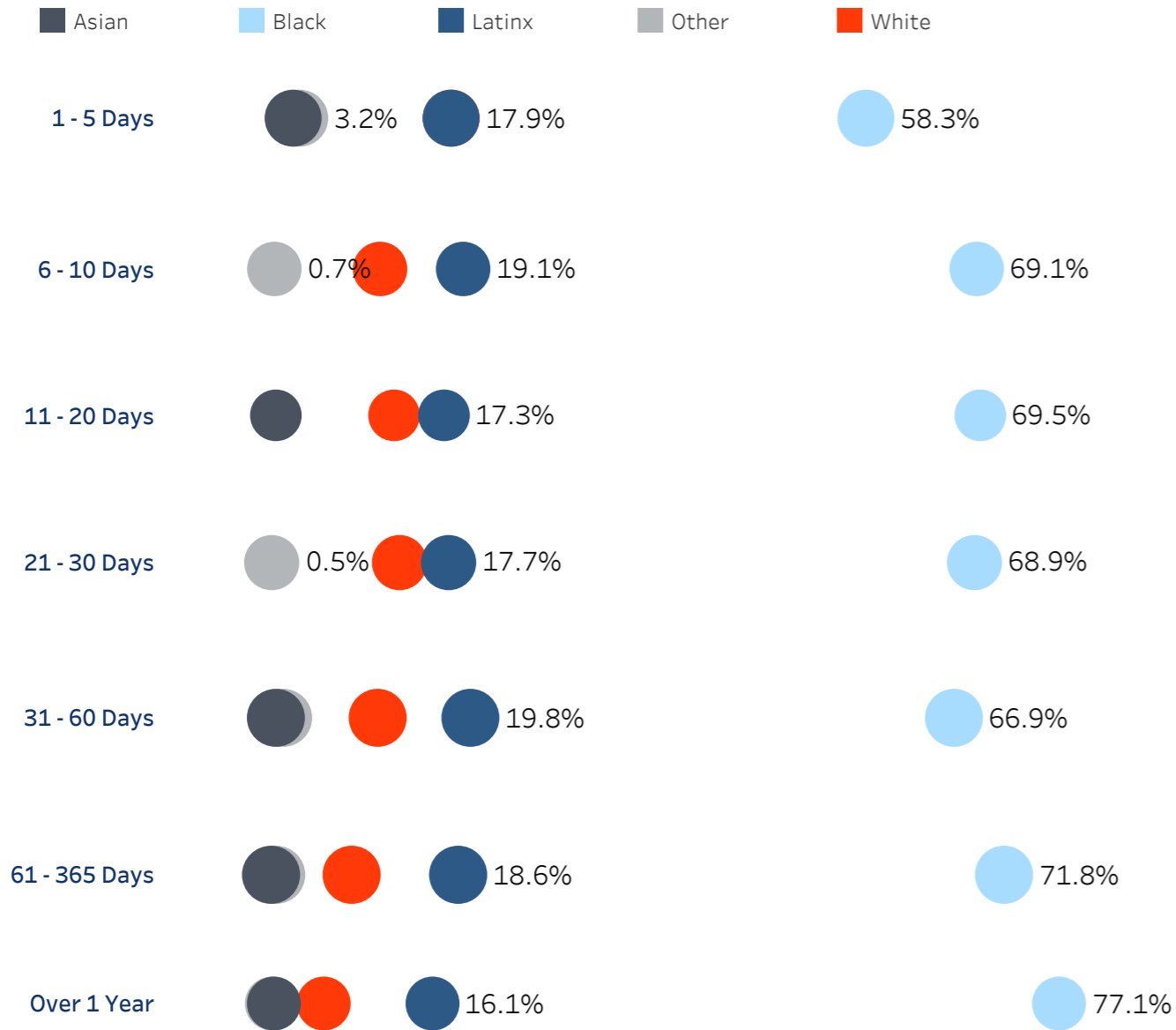
Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

Sex
All

Age Group
All

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | March 2024



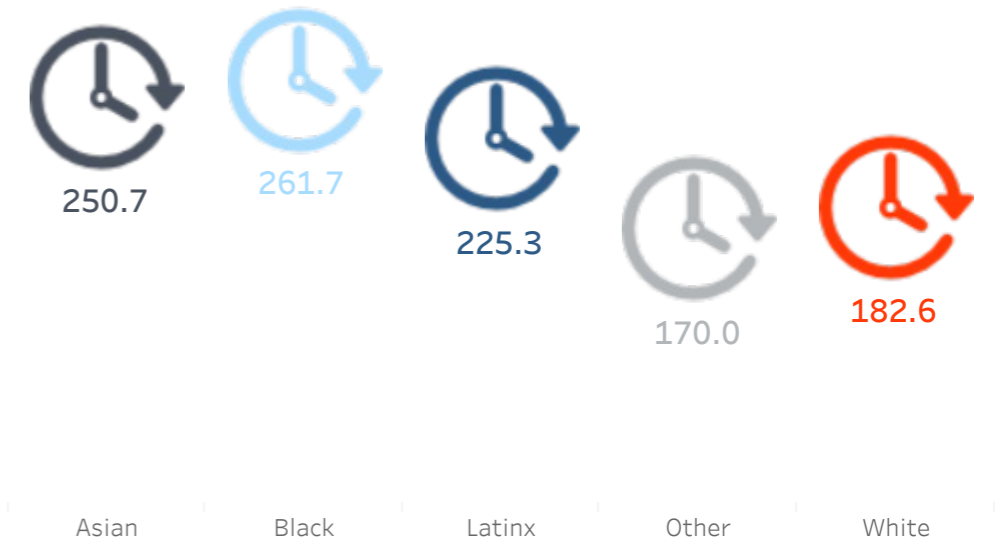
Average Length of Stay



Baseline

March 2024

Average LOS | Race/Ethnicity





Length of Stay

Year | Baseline v. March 2024
March 2024

Race/Ethnicity View
People of Color vs White

All

Confinement Category

All

SMI Status

All

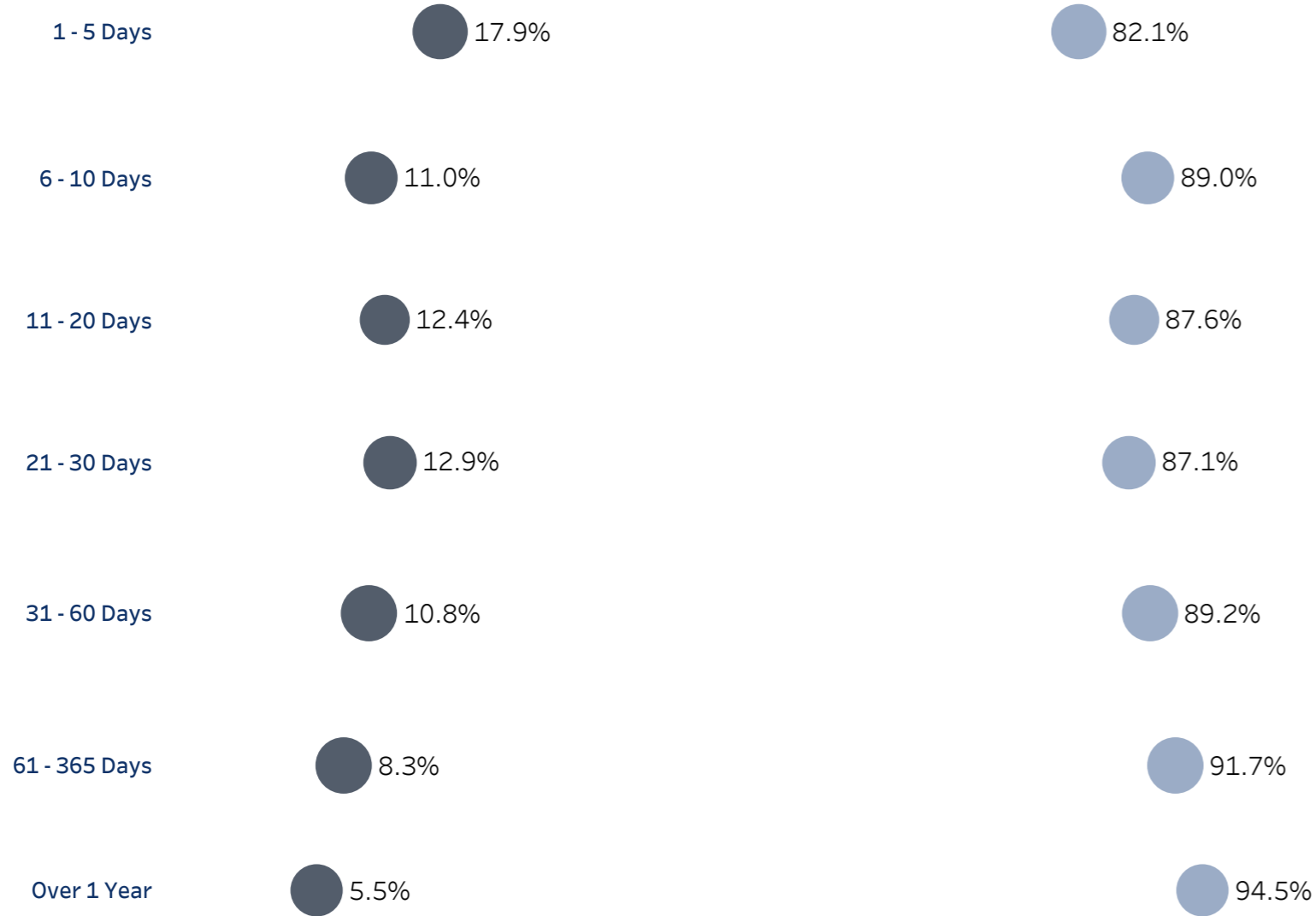
Sex

All

Age Group

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | March 2024

White People of Color



Average Length of Stay



Baseline March 2024

Average LOS | Race/Ethnicity



White People of Color



Length of Stay - Over 1 Year

Year | Baseline v. March 2024
March 2024

Race/Ethnicity
All

All

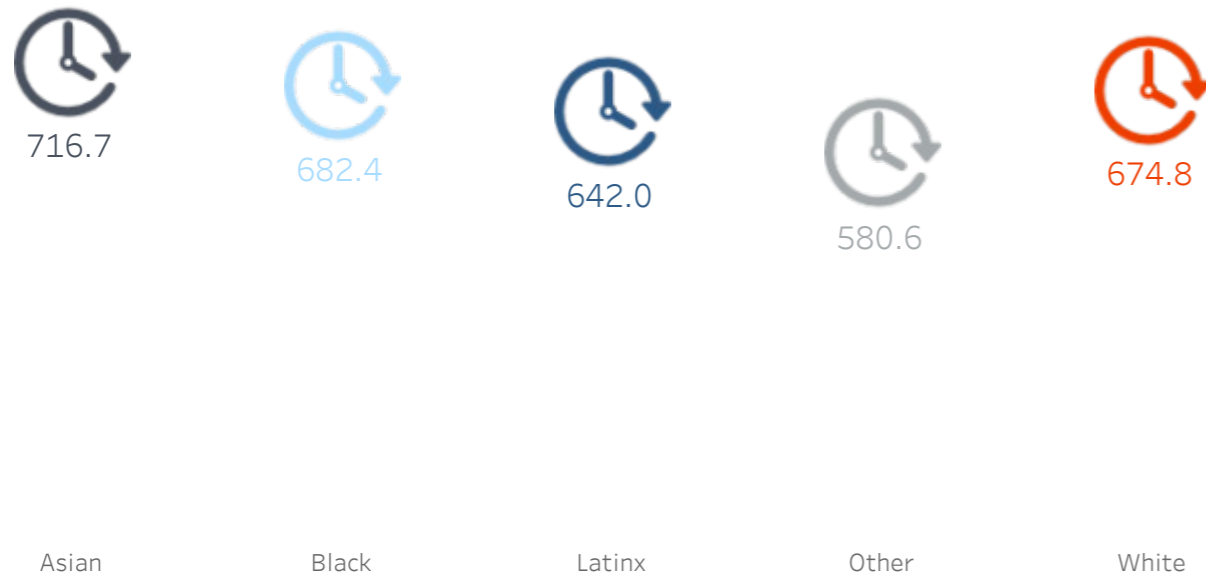
Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

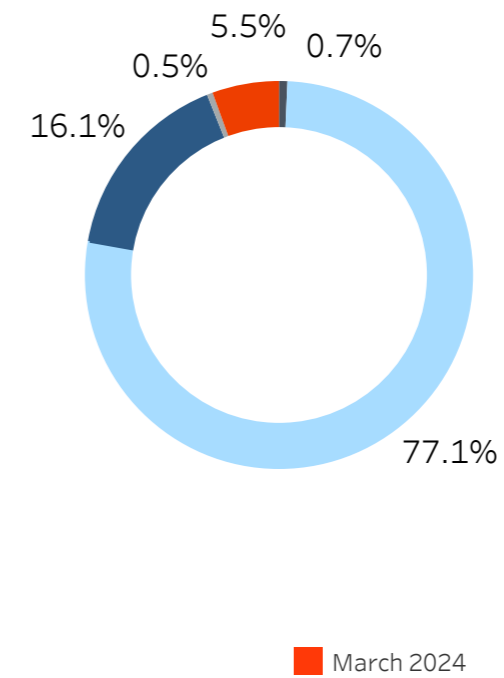
Sex
All

Asian Black Latinx Other White

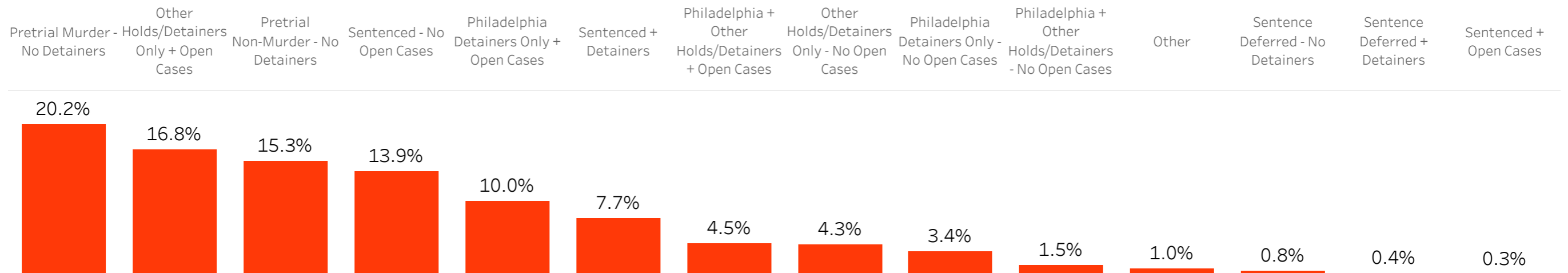
Average Length of Stay | Race/Ethnicity | Over 1 Year



Length of Stay | Over 1 Year by Race/Ethnicity



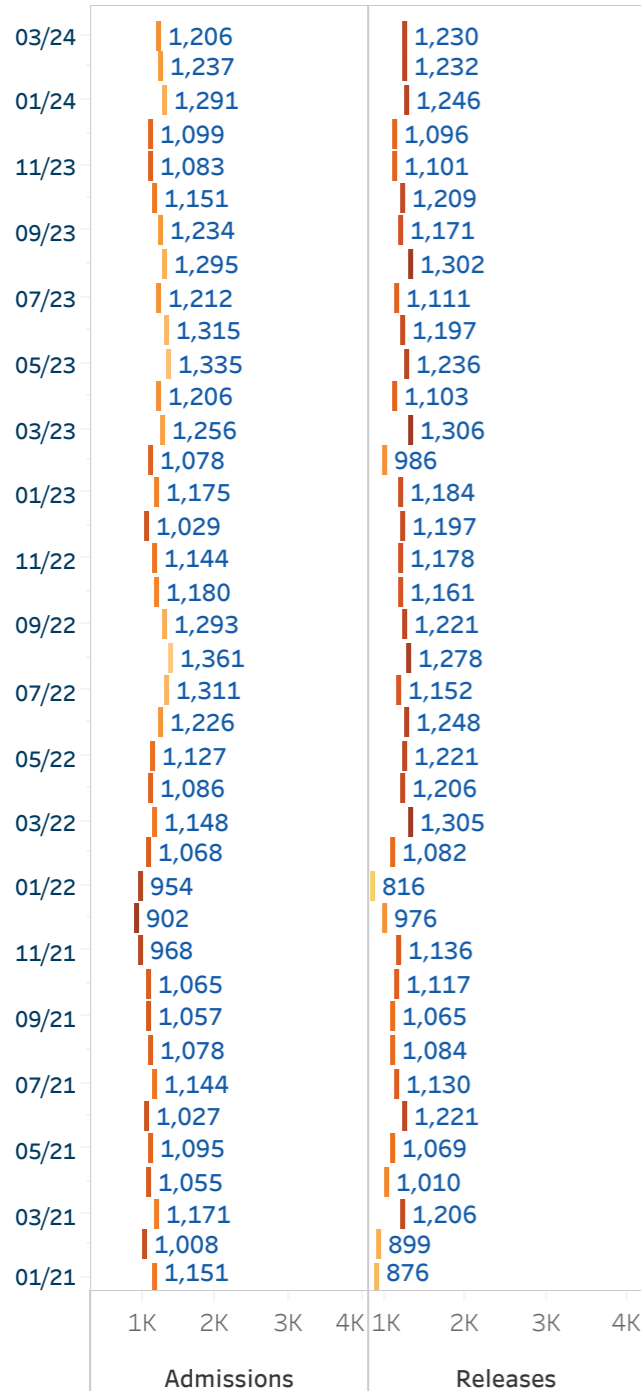
Confinement Groups Over 1 Year



March 2024: Releases > Admissions?

Yes

Admissions vs. Releases | Jan 2021 - Mar 2024



Clearance Rate | January 2021 - March 2024

