Philadelphia Prison Population Report | July 2015 – December 2025

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 current end of month prison population to a baseline population from July 2015. From baseline (population = 8,082) to December 2025 (population = 3,452), Philadelphia's prison population decreased by 57.3%. 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 the 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 the most detailed and precise data on the prison population. 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 file selected for analysis was the prison population census on July 30, 2015 (aka daily snapshot) and is referred to as the 'baseline.' Every month this 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 complex reasons for incarceration.

Feedback and collaboration from all justice partners led to the creation of 14 new specific confinement categories to better identify the scenarios for people in custody (see 'Methodology' section). The baseline report was integral in developing the initial set of MacArthur strategies, refining existing programs, and identifying drivers of the prison population to support efforts to reduce the prison population. It is important to understand that each file is 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. In March 2025, the report was revised to 12 confinement categories due to the Philadelphia Department of Prisons' (PDP) transition to a new jail management system in Fall 2024, which limited the ability to parse out Philadelphia Probation detainers in the data. As such, the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania's Adult Probation and Parole Department began providing supplemental data on Philadelphia Probation detainers for individuals in the snapshot file.

The Importance of Filters

The data are analyzed with Tableau, a software program which can dynamically filter data to view different aspects of the dataset. Filtering is 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 via daily snapshots from July 2015 and December 2025. 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. Additionally, some data are unavailable from October 2024 to February 2025 due to the Philadelphia Department of Prisons' transition to a new jail management system.

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, detainers (Philadelphia and/or Other Hold/Detainer), race/ethnicity, sex, and length of stay. Prior to the new jail management system in Fall 2024, the Philadelphia Department of Prisons did not report race and ethnicity separately; therefore, the dashboard categorizes individuals as 'Latinx' if they identified as 'Latinx' as their ethnicity, regardless of race. This file is supplemented with additional data elements from the court's case management system and Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole, concerning only Philadelphia matters which includes arrest history, number of open cases, cash bail amounts, and Philadelphia Probation detainers. 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. Please note that this figure is a different metric than the length of stay reported for those who have been released. Individuals incarcerated in other jurisdictions are excluded from this calculation.

CONFINEMENT CATEGORIES

The 12 confinement categories below are mutually exclusive and exhaustive. For these confinement categories, open cases refer to Philadelphia cases in pretrial posture.

1. **Pretrial Murder - No Detainers:** People in this group are held on open cases with murder charges per the Philadelphia Department of Prisons 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 prison. Some people have more than one open Philadelphia matter and/or their case has been disposed, but not sentenced.

3. **Philadelphia Probation Detainers* - No Open Cases:** People in this category are 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 cases for people in this group though they could have more than one detainer.

4. **Other Holds/Detainers - 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 open Philadelphia cases.

5. **Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + 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.

6. **Other Holds/Detainers + 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 and are awaiting sentencing. Open cases include matters without a disposition, and also those with a disposition that are not yet sentenced.

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **Sentenced - No Open Cases:** Individuals are serving a sentence and have no open/pending Philadelphia matters.

12. **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.

**People in these categories may also have detainers or holds from other jurisdictions, and/or Philadelphia warrants in addition to their Philadelphia Probation detainer. 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, continued reform efforts, and an increased use of community diversion. These reform and community diversion efforts included 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 refers to the Baseline Method as that is when reform efforts began in the city.

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

$$\frac{\text{Baseline (8,082)} - \text{December 31}^{st}\text{ population (3,452)}}{\text{Baseline (8,082)}} = 57.3\%\text{ reduction from baseline}$$

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

$$\frac{\text{11/15 – 4/16 average (7,559)} - \text{December 31}^{st}\text{ population (3,452)}}{\text{11/15 – 4/16 average (7,559)}} = 54.3\%\text{ reduction from baseline}$$

INTIATIVE 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 2021 through December 2025. 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 of 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 December 2025 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 December 2025; 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 right side of the page. The left-hand side shows admissions and releases by month. Above this visual is an indicator of whether releases were greater than admissions for the most recent month.

- Formula: Prison Releases / Prison Admissions X 100

Philadelphia Prison Population Report

Baseline (July 2015)

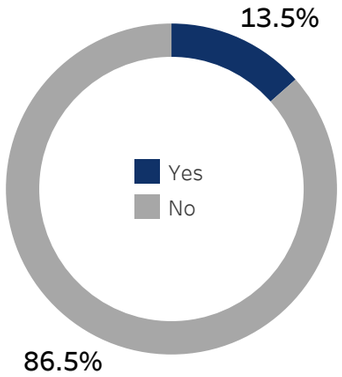
8,082

-57.3%

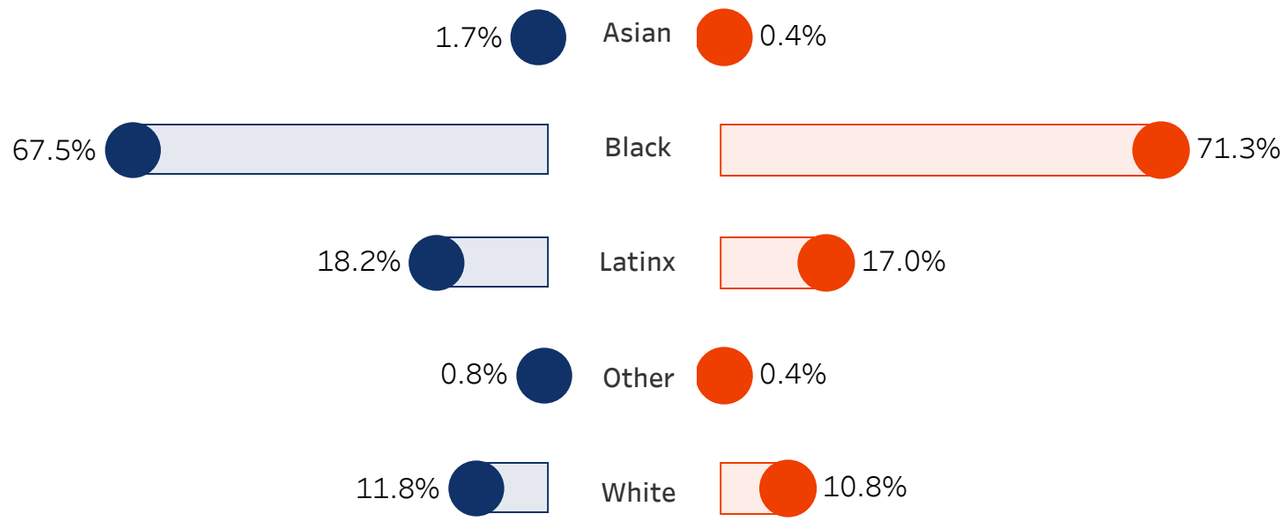
December 2025

3,452

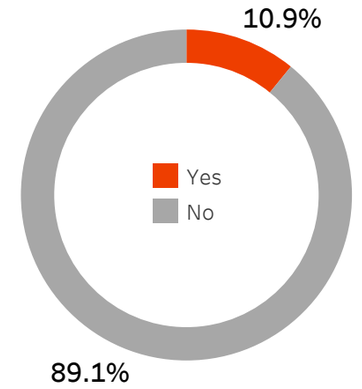
SMI Status | Baseline



Race/Ethnicity Composition



SMI Status | December 2025



Baseline | Population Drivers

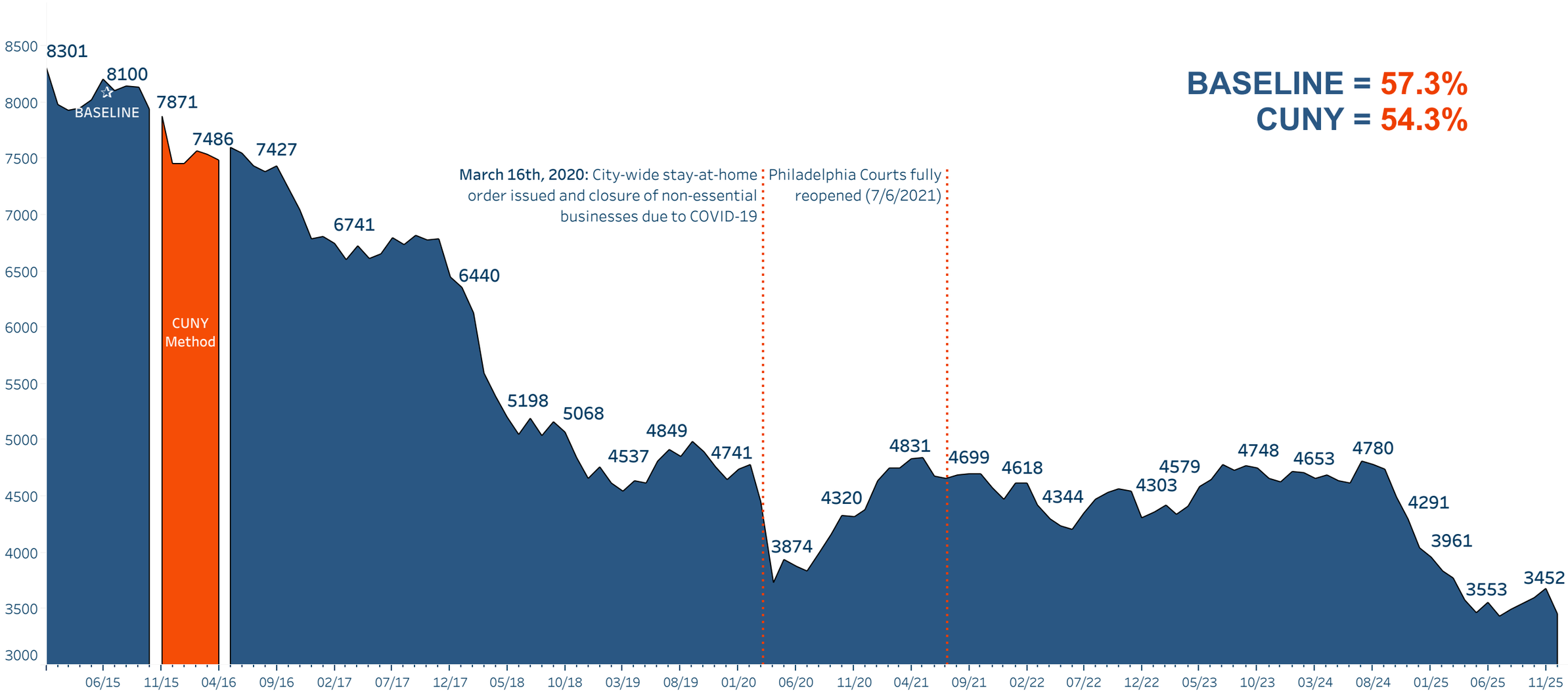
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers 25.0%
Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + Open Cases 22.2%
Sentenced - No Open Cases 16.0%

*Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.

December 2025 | Population Drivers

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers 23.1%
Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + Open Cases 20.8%
Other Holds/Detainers + Open Cases 20.7%

Prison Population | End of Month | January 2015 - December 2025



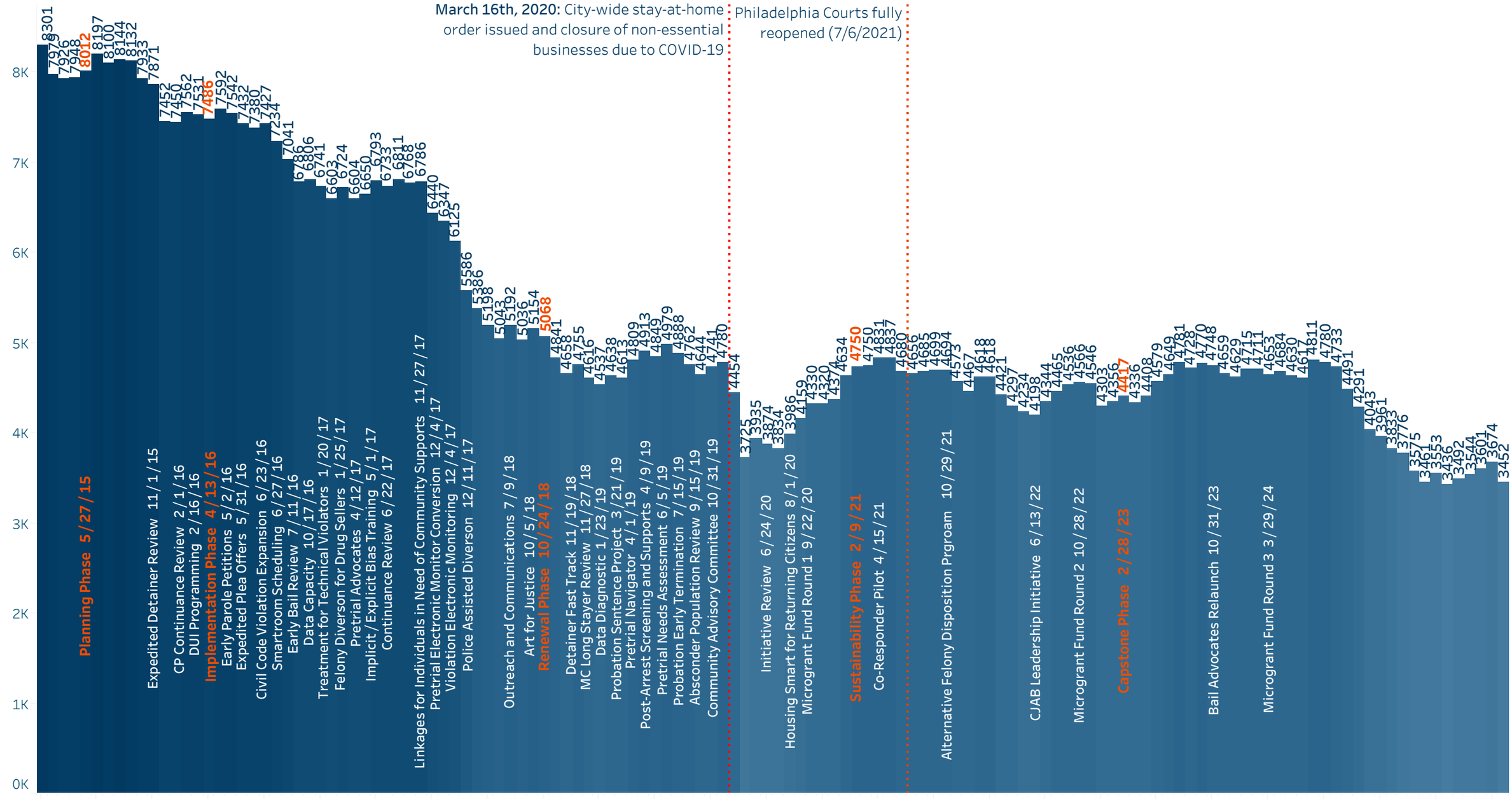
BASELINE = 57.3%
CUNY = 54.3%

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%

$$\text{Progress} = \frac{\text{Baseline (8,082) - December 2025 (3,452)} = 4,630}{\text{Baseline (8,082)}}$$

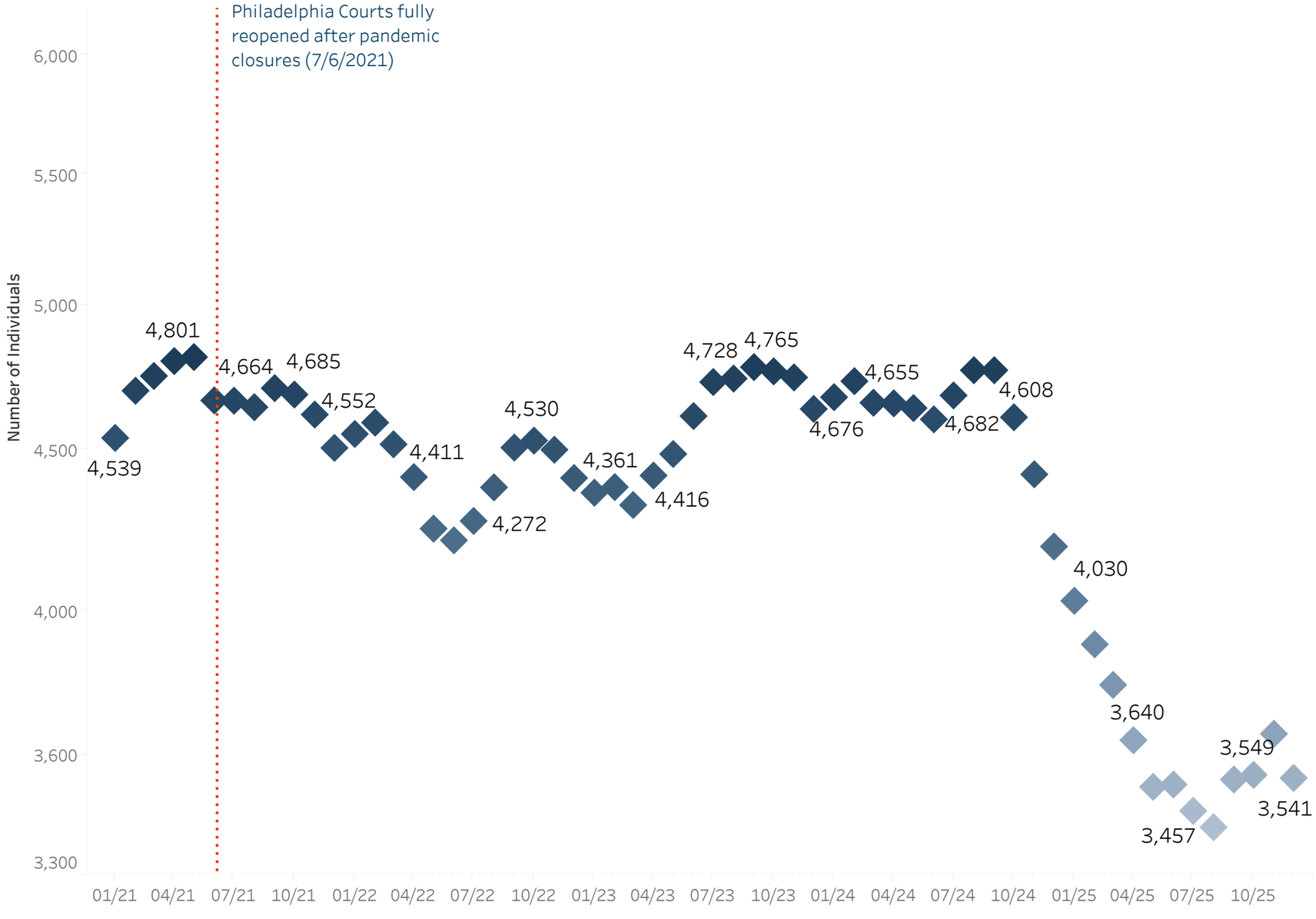
Philadelphia Prison Population | January 2015 - December 2025 | MacArthur Initiative Launch Dates



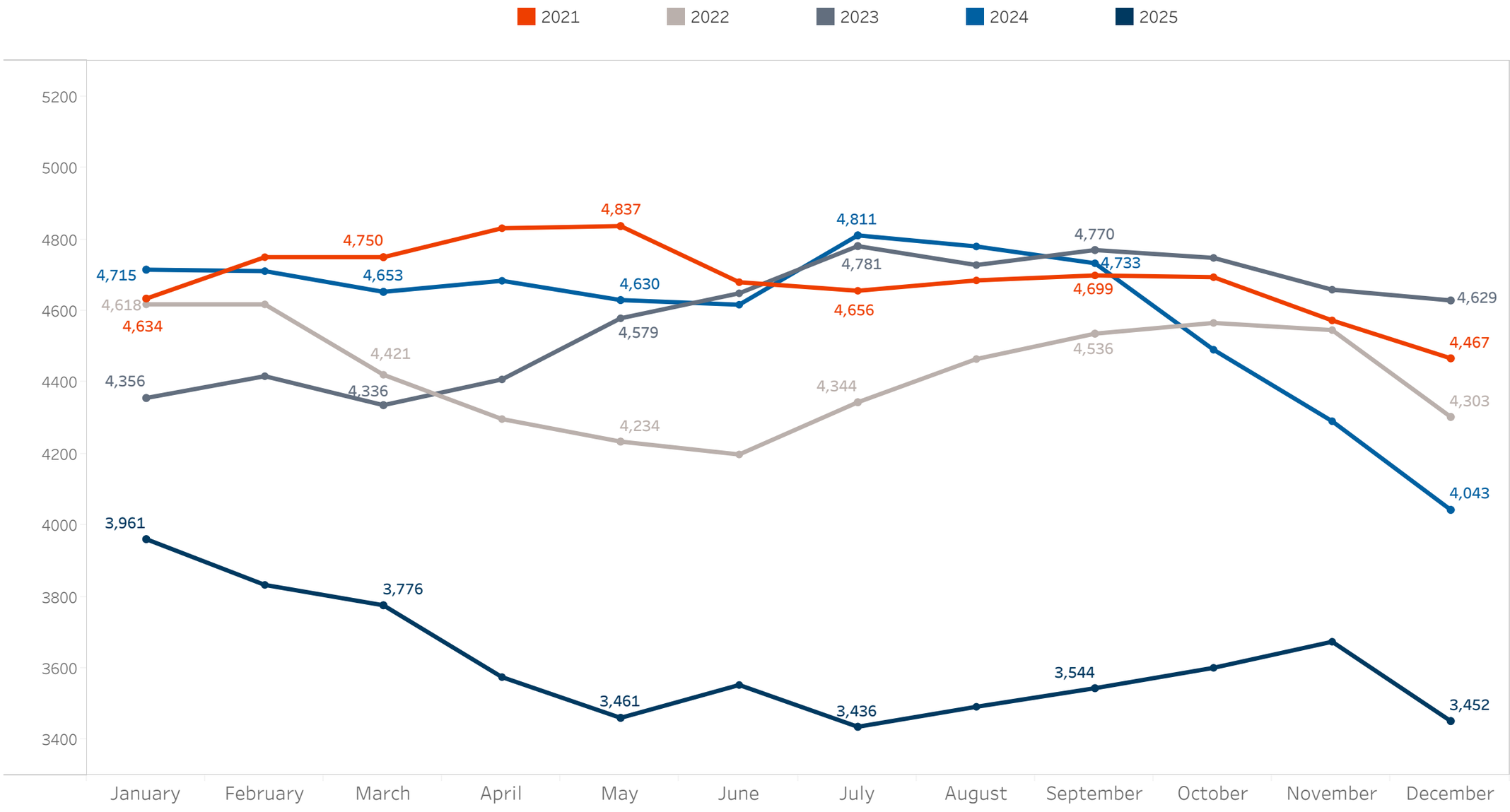
January 2021 - December 2025 | Average Daily Population (ADP) by Month

	End of Month Population	Average Daily Population	Orange indicates higher ADP
12/25	3,452	3,541	89
11/25	3,674	3,657	-17
10/25	3,601	3,549	-52
09/25	3,544	3,537	-7
08/25	3,492	3,416	-76
07/25	3,436	3,457	21
06/25	3,553	3,524	-29
05/25	3,461	3,518	57
04/25	3,575	3,640	65
03/25	3,776	3,790	14
02/25	3,833	3,904	71
01/25	3,961	4,030	69
12/24	4,043	4,193	150
11/24	4,291	4,420	129
10/24	4,491	4,608	117
09/24	4,733	4,769	36
08/24	4,780	4,769	-11
07/24	4,811	4,682	-129
06/24	4,617	4,601	-16
05/24	4,630	4,639	9
04/24	4,684	4,655	-29
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

Average Difference: 2.78



Annual Prison Population Comparison | January 2021 - December 2025



Average Population

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
4,688	4,429	4,588	4,597	3,613

Peak Month by Year

2021 - May	2022 - February	2023 - July	2024 - July	2025 - January

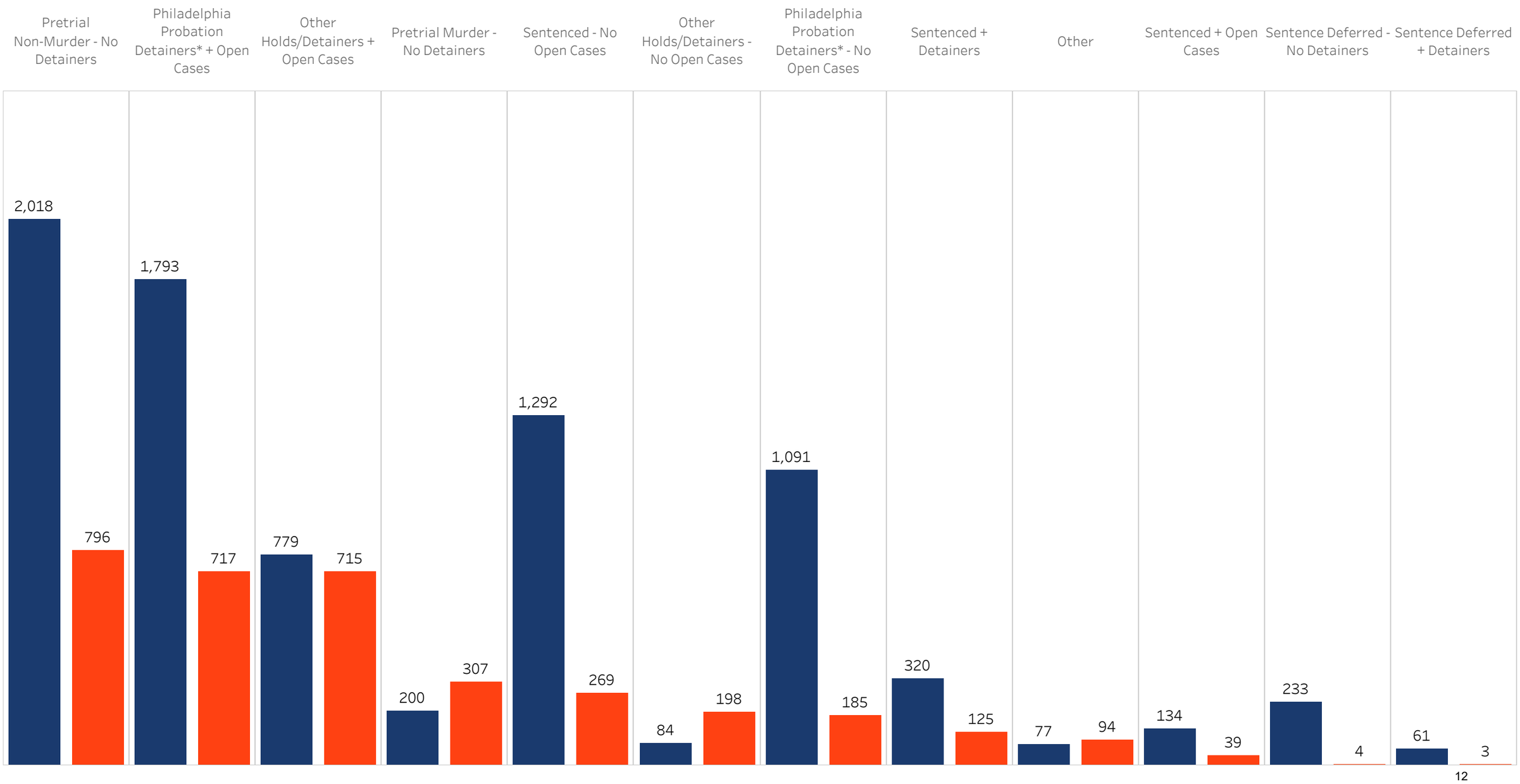
MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge

Research and Development
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Confinement Groups | Baseline v. December 2025

Year | Baseline v. December 2025: All
Race/Ethnicity: All
Sex: All
SMI Status: All
Age Group: All
Count v. Proportion: Count

Baseline December 2025 *Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.



MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge

Research and Development
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Confinement Groups | Baseline v. December 2025

Year | Baseline v. December 2025: All

Race/Ethnicity: All

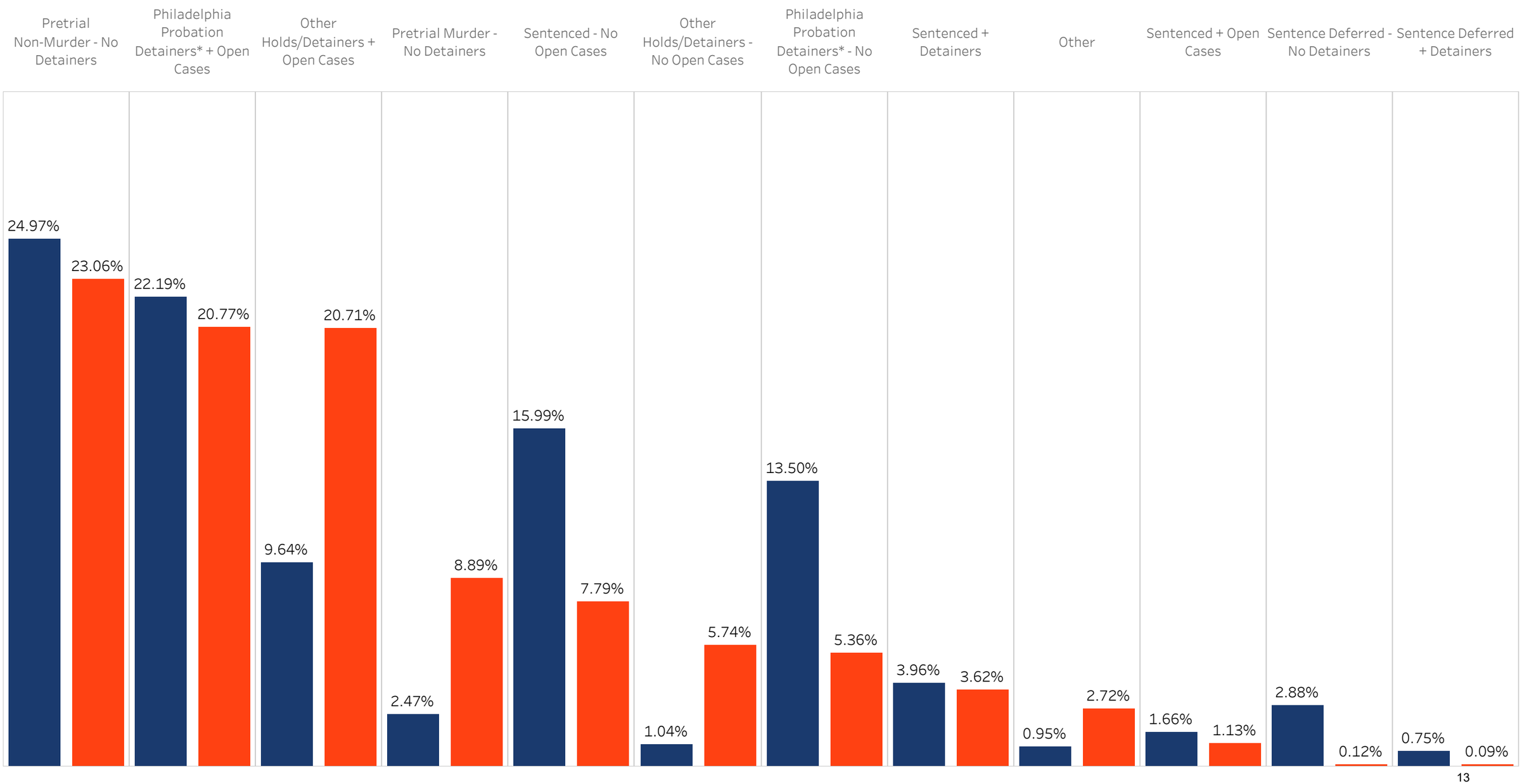
Sex: All

SMI Status: All

Age Group: All

Count v. Proportion: Proportion

Baseline December 2025 *Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.



Count by Category | Baseline v. December 2025

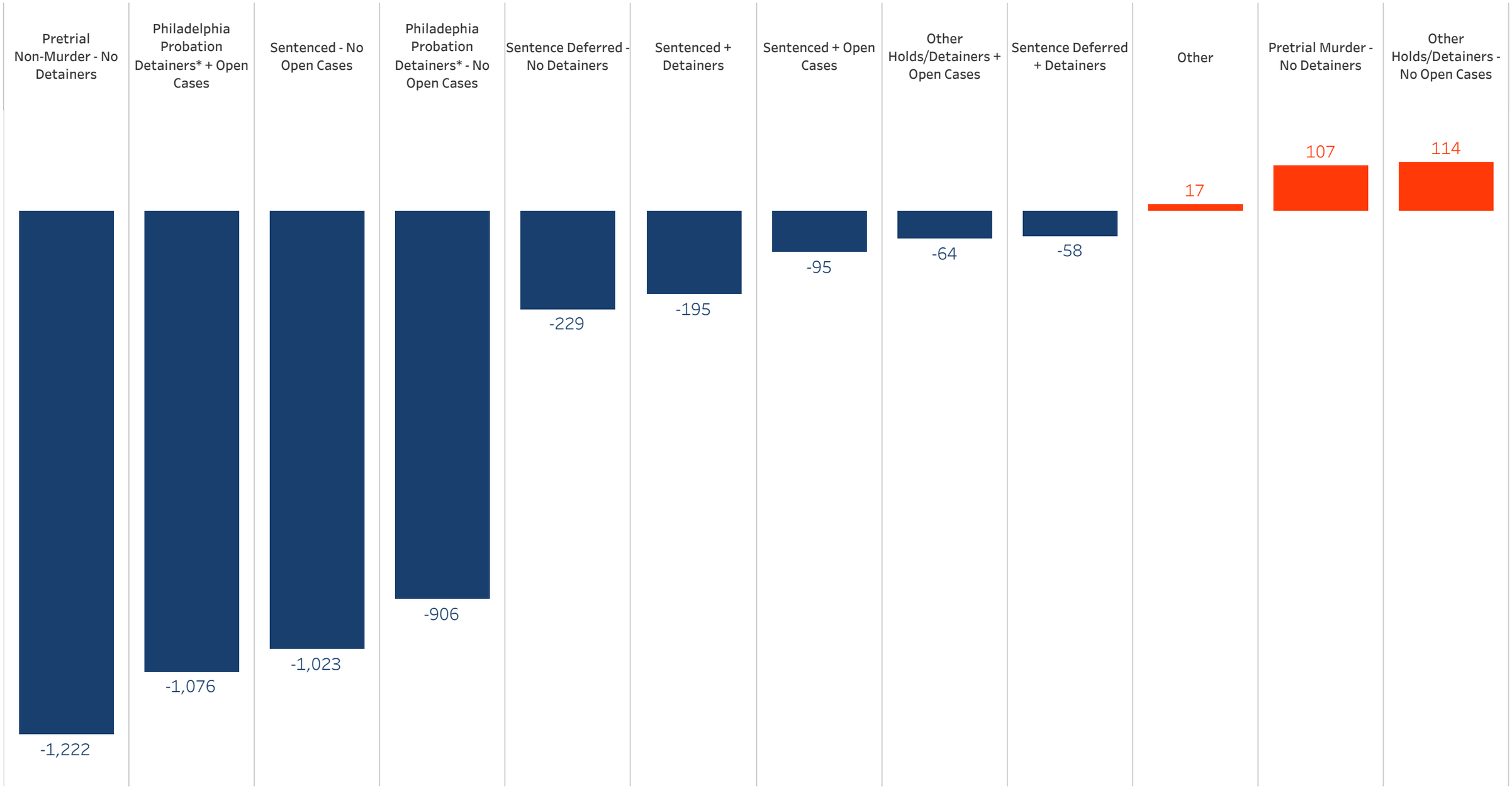
Comparison Month
Baseline

Count v. Proportion
Count

Sex
All

SMI Status
All

*Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.



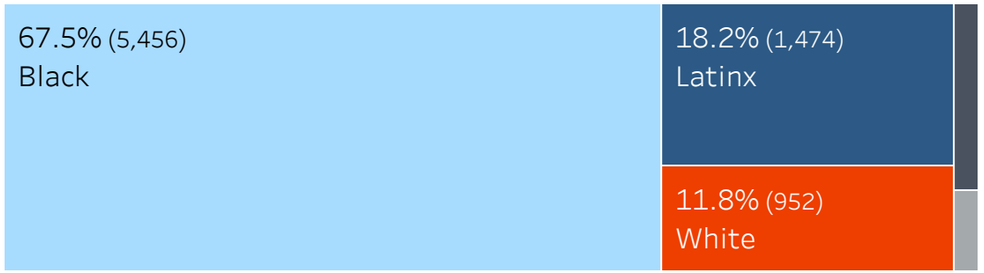
Demographic Comparison

Confinement Category
All

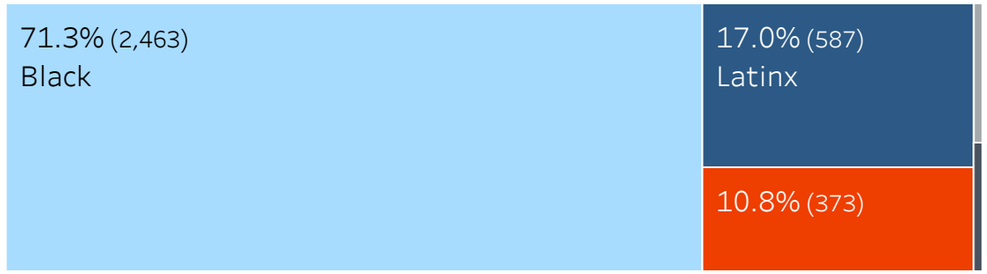
Sex
All

Asian Black Latinx Other White

Baseline



December 2025



Race/Ethnicity

Age Distribution

Baseline		December 2025
0.4% (36)	17 and Under	0.3% (11)
25.4% (2,055)	18 - 24	17.6% (607)
36.4% (2,942)	25 - 34	34.8% (1,203)
27.9% (2,257)	35 - 49	36.2% (1,250)
9.1% (737)	50 - 64	9.7% (336)
0.7% (55)	65 and Over	1.3% (45)

Average Length of Stay (days)

Baseline				December 2025			
194.1	216.5	176.2	257.0	129.1	235.1	248.3	228.3	326.7	166.3

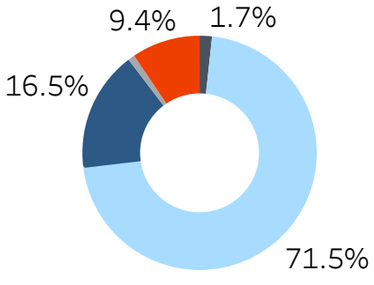
SMI Status

Baseline		December 2025
86.5% 6,993	No	89.1% 3,077
13.5% 1,089	Yes	10.9% 375

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers Population

Race/Ethnicity All | **SMI Status** All | **Prior Case Count** All | **Sex** All | **Age Group** All

Race/Ethnicity

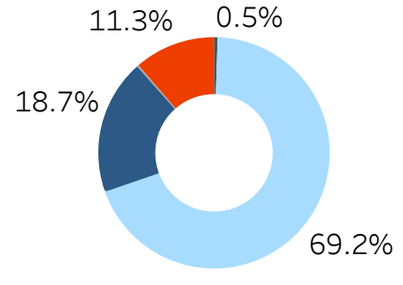


Asian | Black | Latinx | Other | White

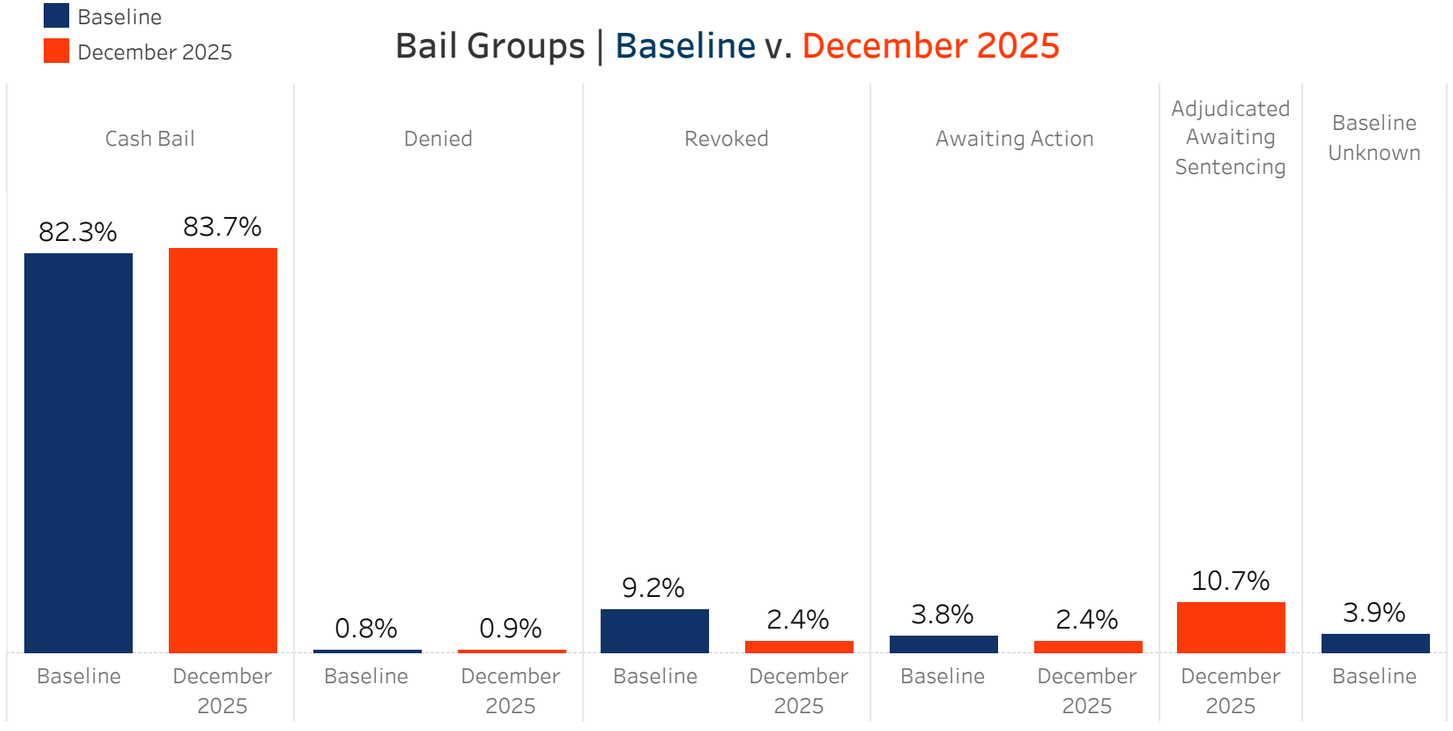
Percentage of Total Population:
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers

25.0%	23.1%
BASELINE	DECEMBER 2025

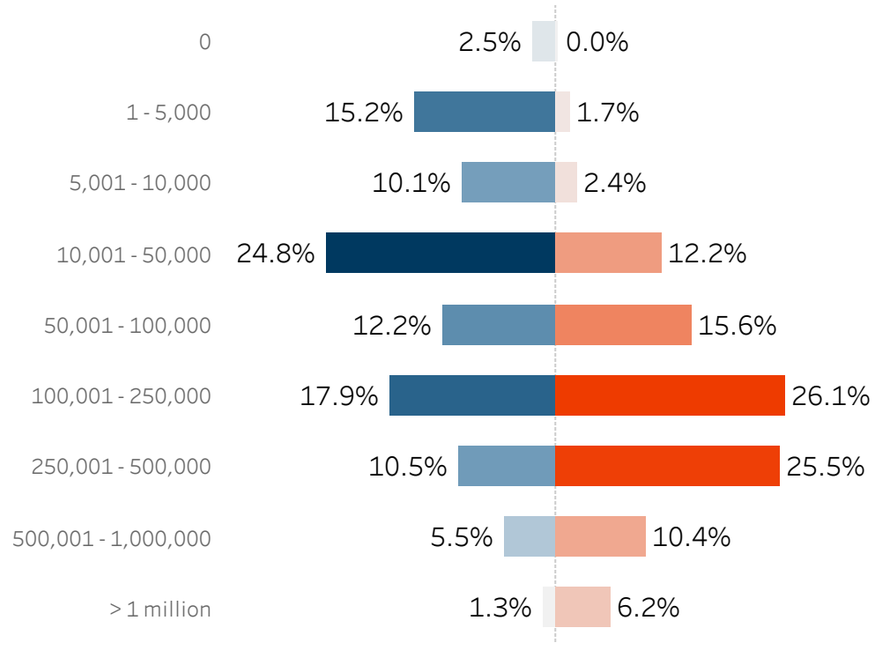
Race/Ethnicity



Bail Groups | Baseline v. December 2025



Bail Amounts | Baseline v. December 2025



Race/Ethnicity

Baseline December 2025

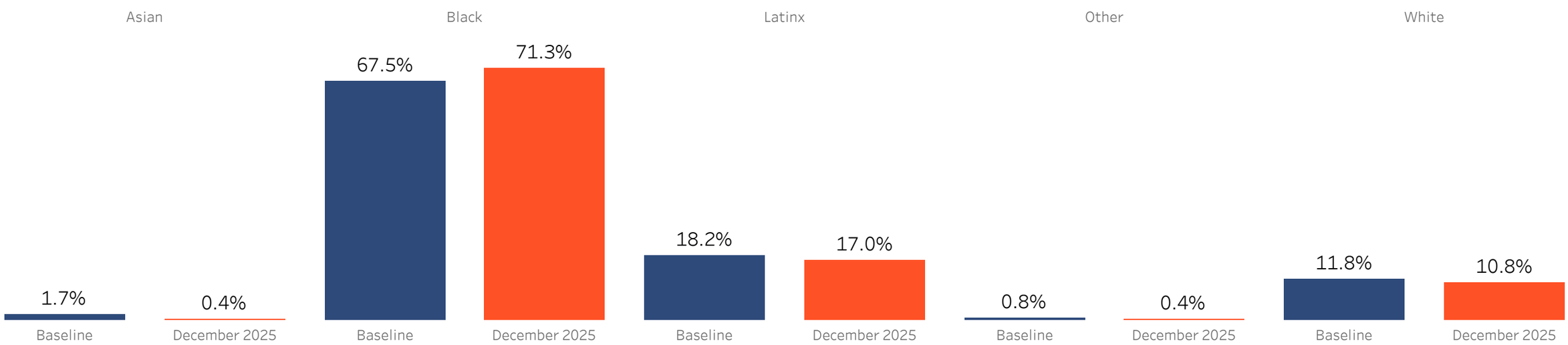
Year | Baseline v. December 2025
December 2025

Confinement Category
All

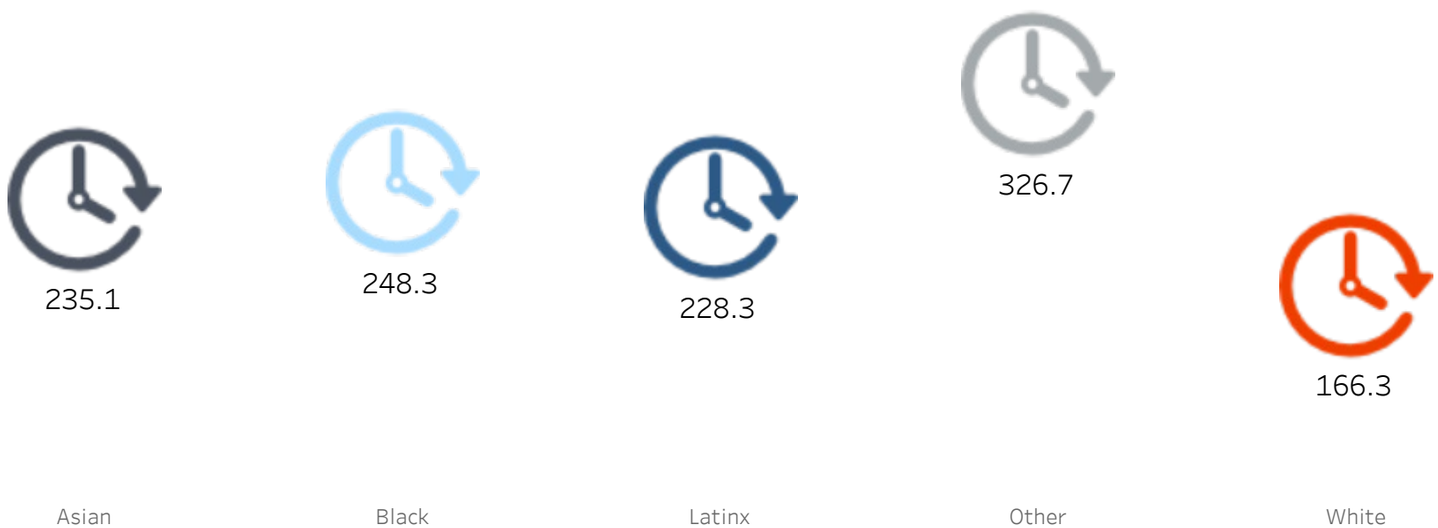
SMI Status
All

Sex
All

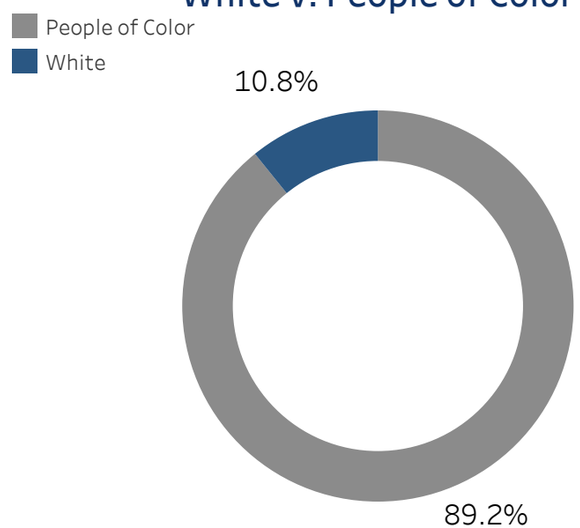
Race/Ethnicity Breakdown



Race/Ethnicity | Length of Stay



White v. People of Color



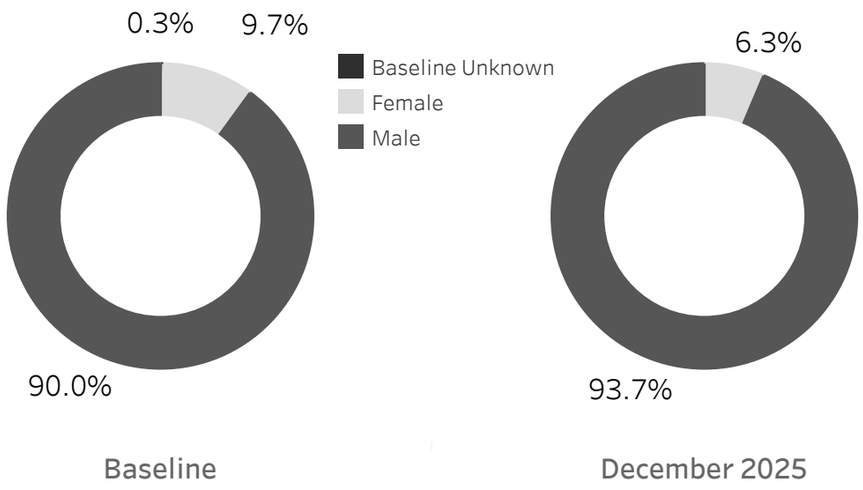
Sex

Year | Baseline v. December 2025
December 2025

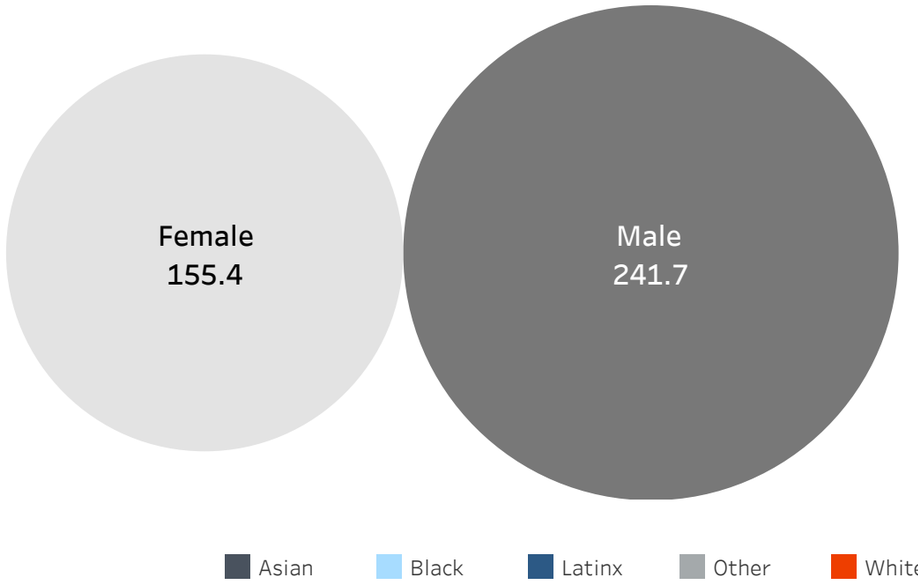
Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

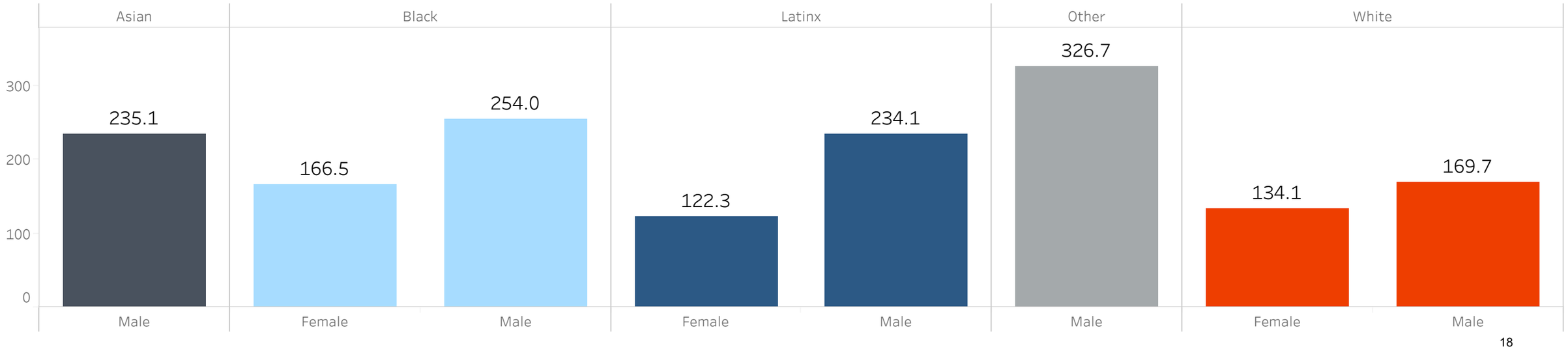
Sex - Baseline v. December 2025



Average Length of Stay - December 2025



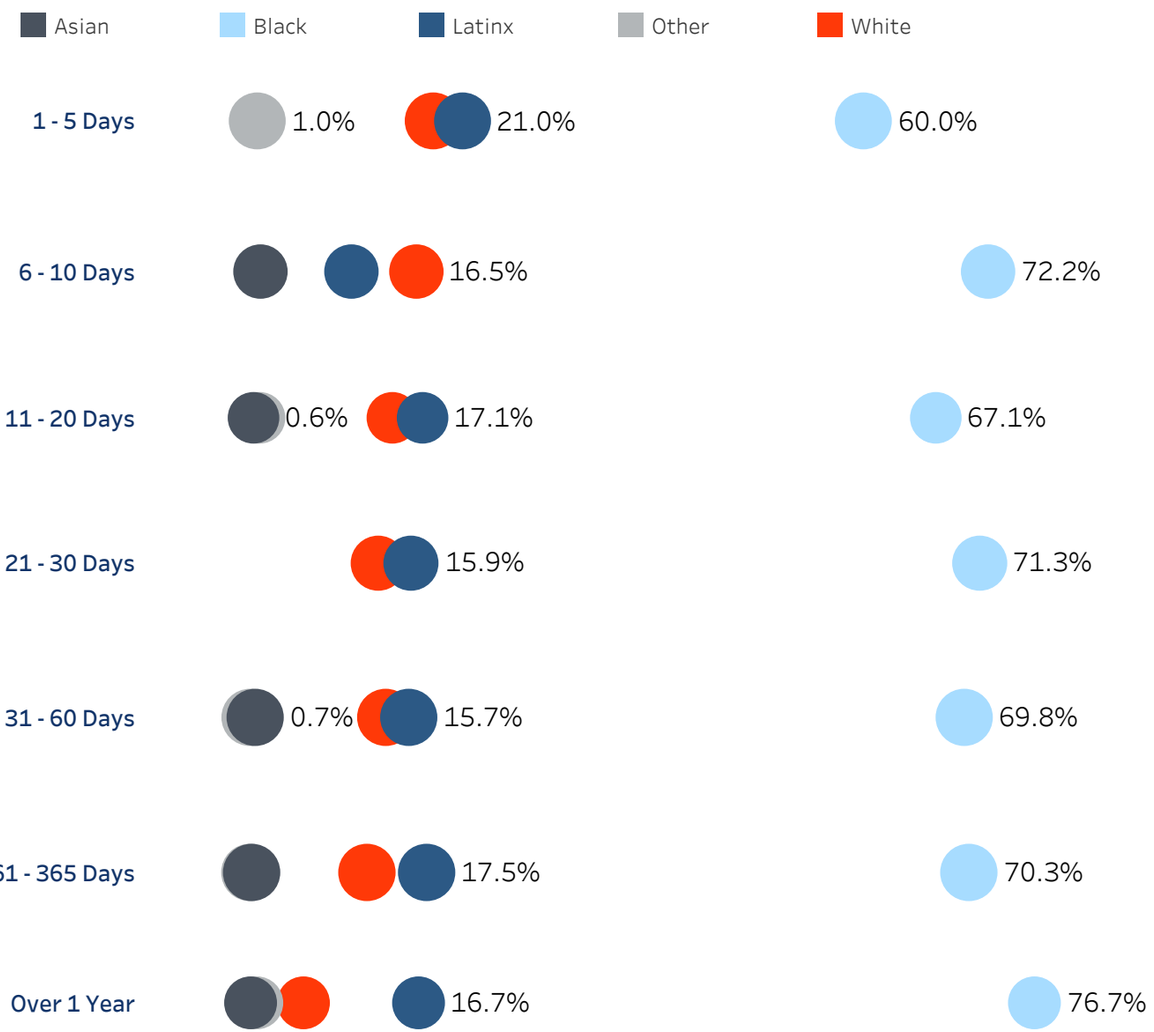
Average Length of Stay by Race/Ethnicity - December 2025



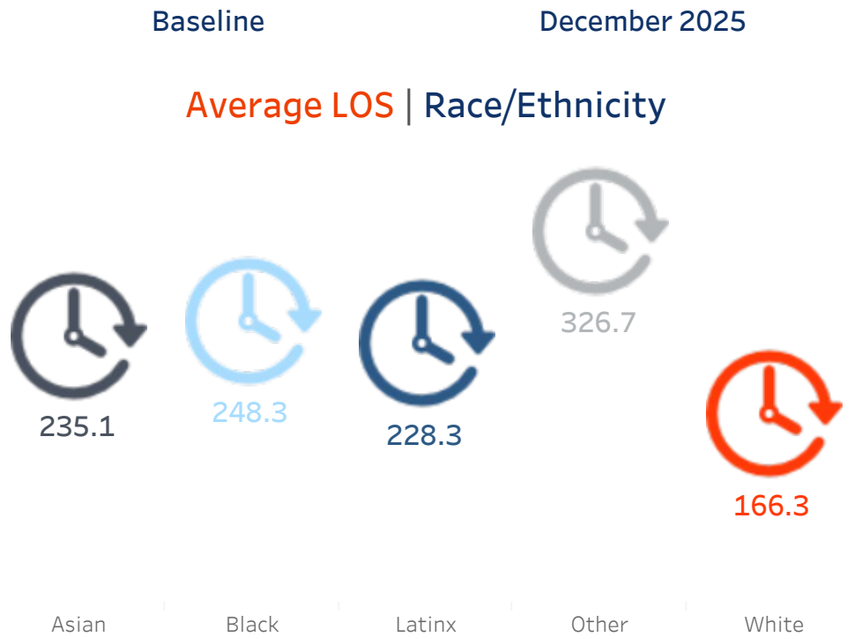
Length of Stay

Year | Baseline v. December 2025	Race/Ethnicity View	Confinement Category	SMI Status	Sex	Age Group
December 2025	Individual Race/Ethnicity	All	All	All	All

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | December 2025



Average Length of Stay



Length of Stay

Year | Baseline v. December 2025	Race/Ethnicity View	Confinement Category	SMI Status	Sex	Age Group
December 2025	People of Color vs White	All	All	All	All

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | December 2025

White People of Color

	White	People of Color
1 - 5 Days	18.1%	81.9%
6 - 10 Days	16.5%	83.5%
11 - 20 Days	14.1%	85.9%
21 - 30 Days	12.7%	87.3%
31 - 60 Days	13.5%	86.5%
61 - 365 Days	11.6%	88.4%
Over 1 Year	5.5%	94.5%

Average Length of Stay

198.8

236.1

Baseline December 2025

Average LOS | Race/Ethnicity

166.3

244.8

White People of Color

Length of Stay - Over 1 Year

Year | Baseline v. December 2025
December 2025

Race/Ethnicity
All

Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

Sex
All

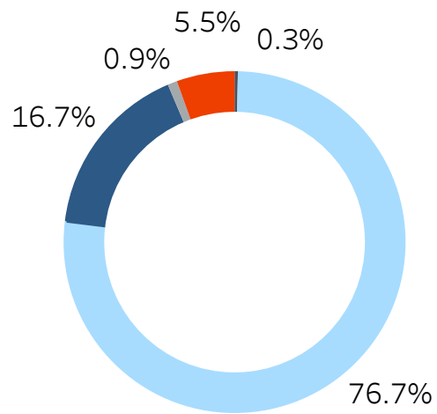
Asian Black Latinx Other White

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

947.0 706.2 650.4 609.3 635.4

Asian Black Latinx Other White

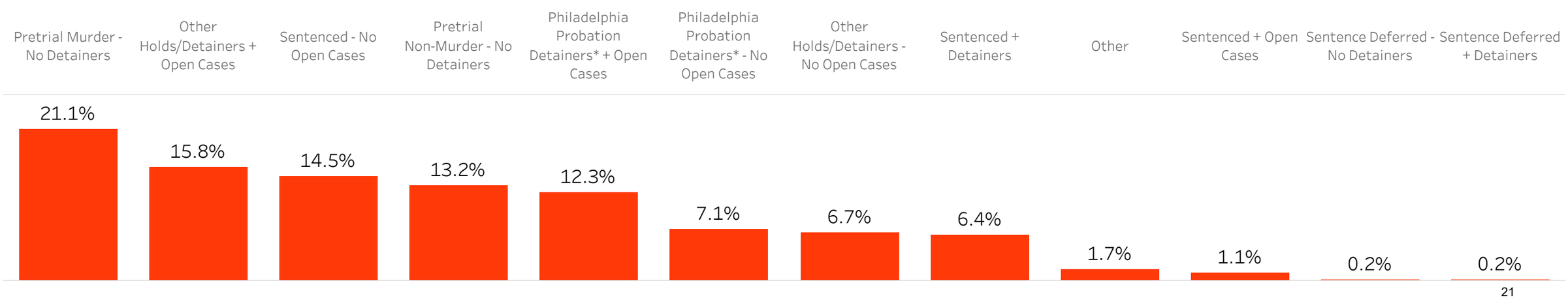
Length of Stay | Over 1 Year by Race/Ethnicity



Confinement Groups Over 1 Year

December 2025

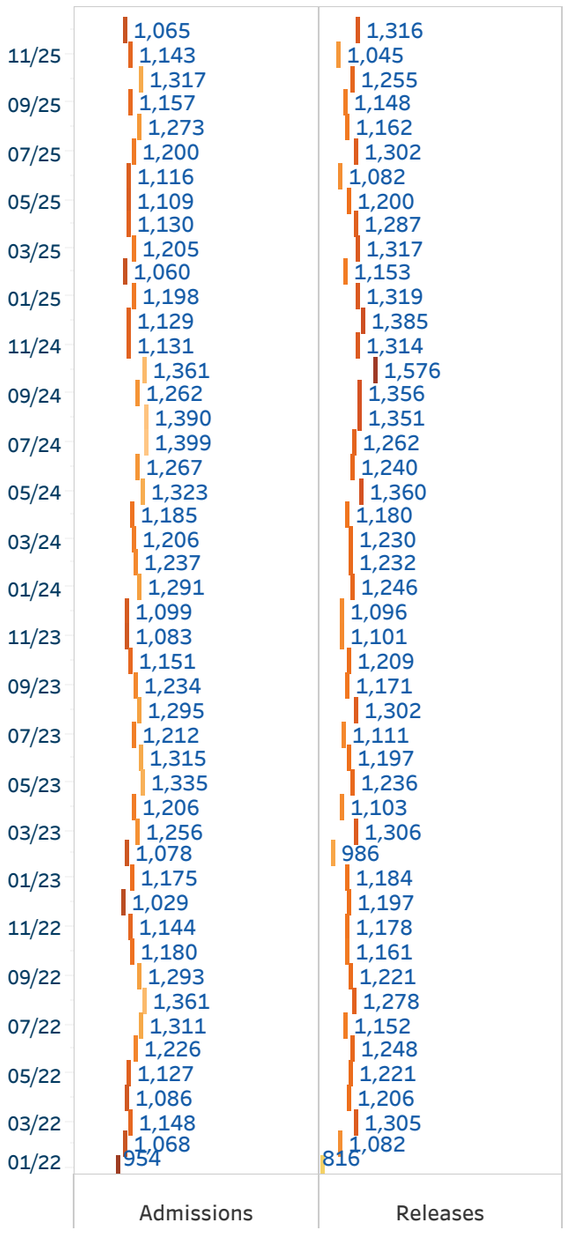
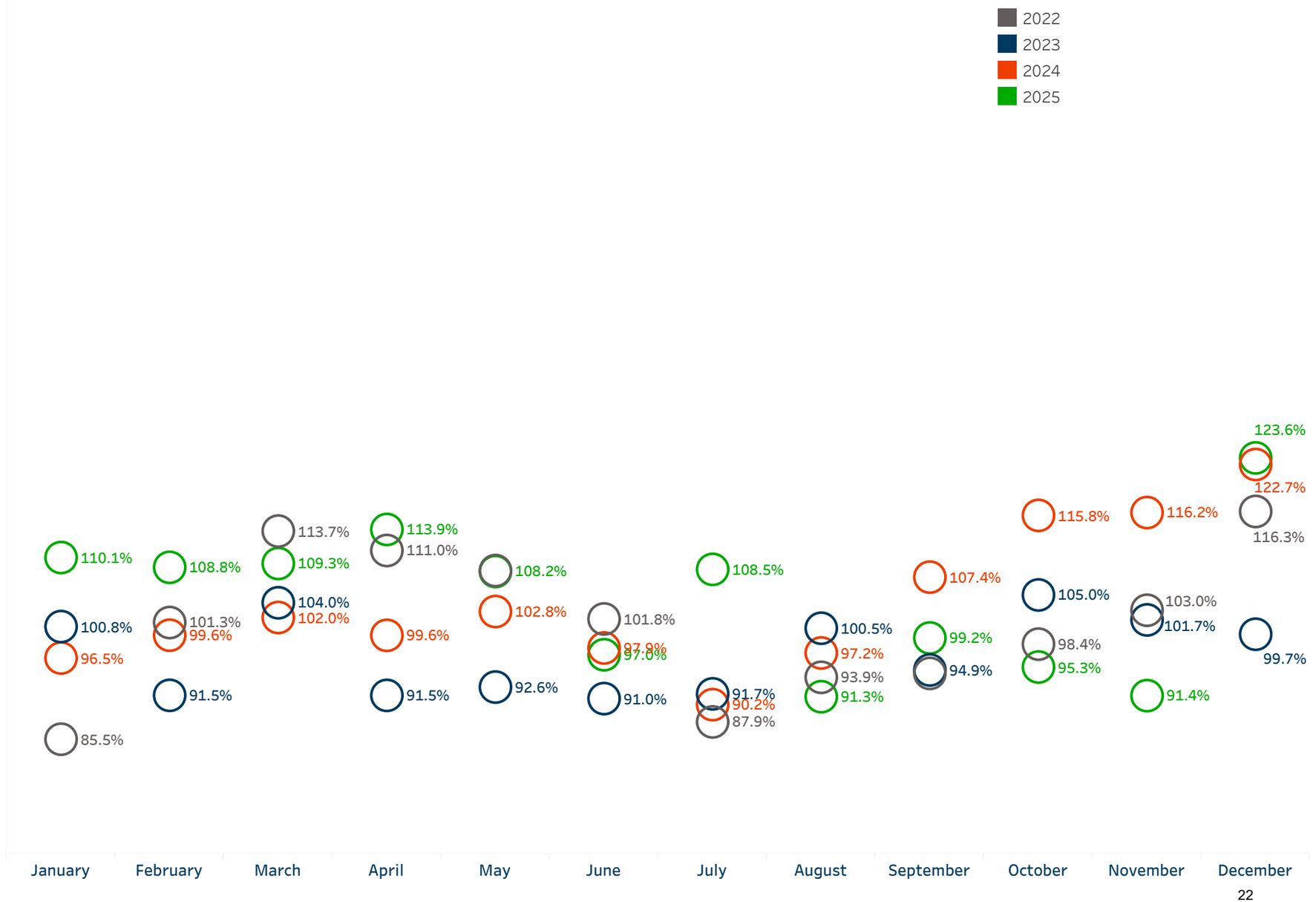
*Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.



December 2025: Releases > Admissions?

Yes

Admissons vs. Releases | Jan 2022 - Dec 2025



Clearance Rate | January 2022 - December 2025