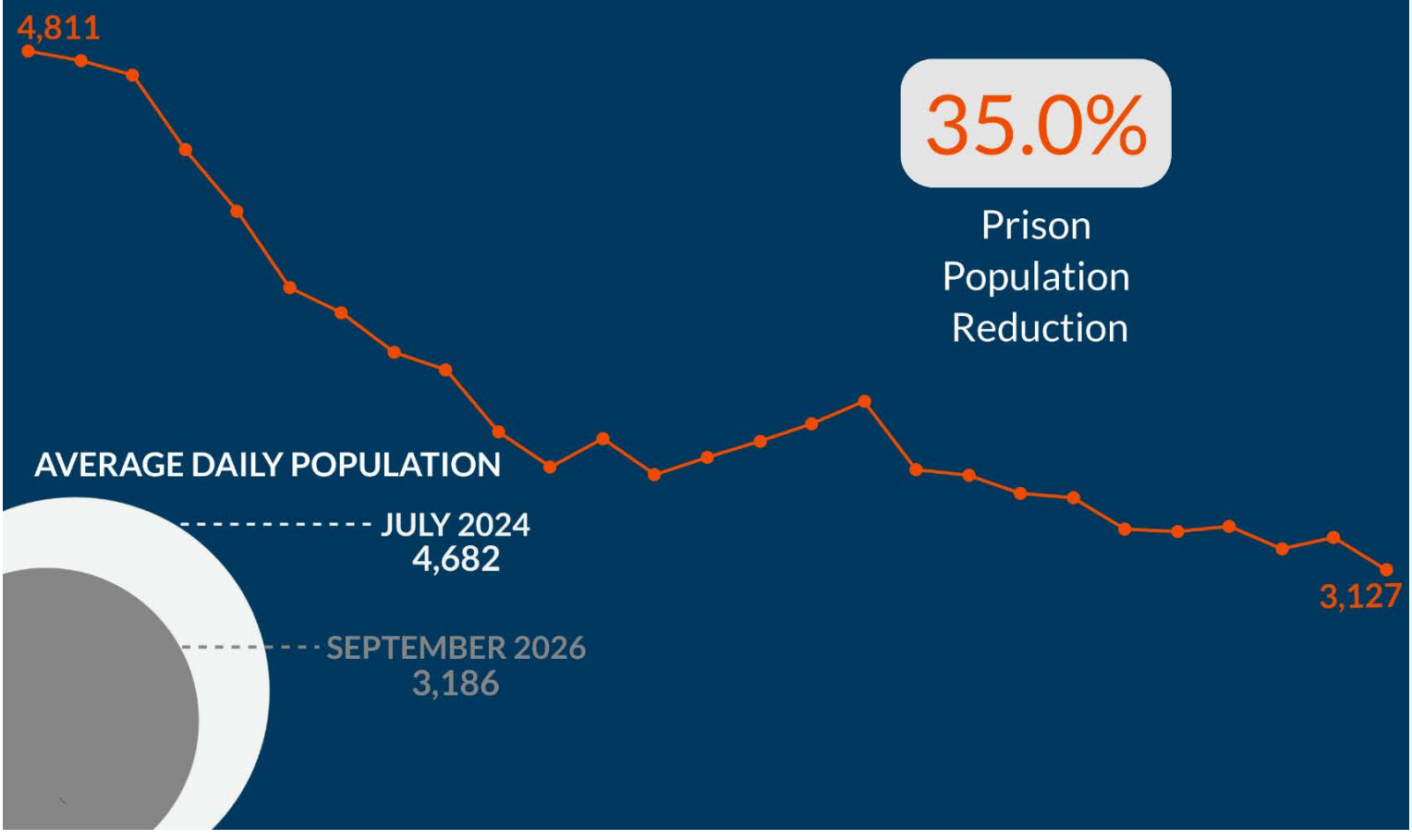
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Department of Research and Development

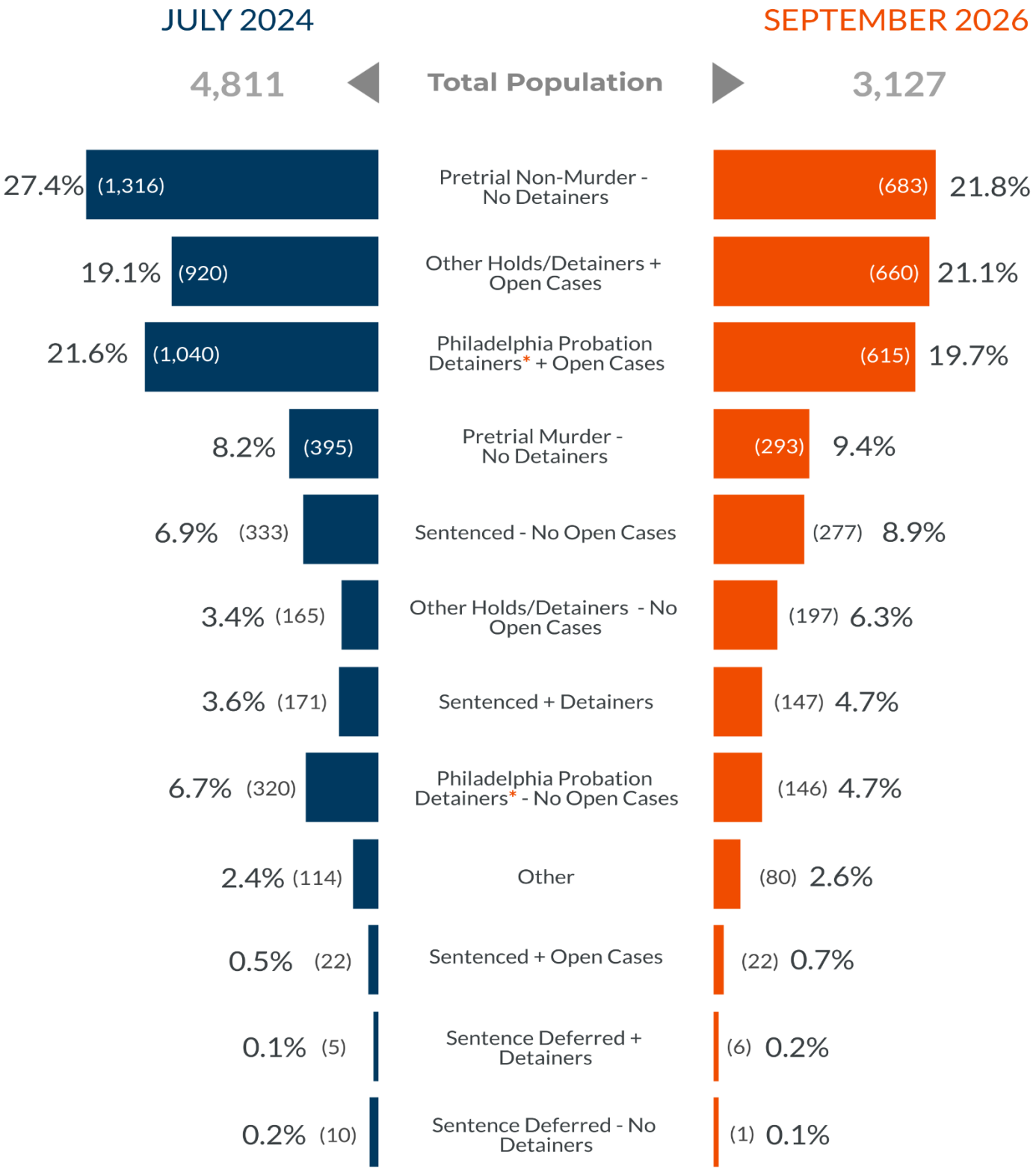
PHILADELPHIA'S PRISON POPULATION | SEPTEMBER 2026

From 2015 to 2025, Philadelphia participated in the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, a national initiative to decrease local jail populations and address racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in the criminal justice system. Philadelphia implemented a number of collaborative reform measures with justice and behavioral health partners. During this time, Philadelphia's prison population fell from 8,082 people in July 2015 to 3,436 in July 2025, a 57.5% reduction. While the SJC ended in 2025, the collaborative reform measures remain. This summary report provides a high level glance at progress by comparing the current population to July 2024, the highest prison population in recent years. Philadelphia's prison population is down **35.0%** from 4,811 people in July 2024 to **3,127 people in September 2026**.



CONFINEMENT CATEGORY* COMPARISON

Note: Counts are noted in parentheses



*Detailed description of confinement categories can be found here: http://bit.ly/2TjoVQS

**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.*

POPULATION OVERVIEW

SEX

SEPTEMBER 2026

92% n = 2,882 MALE

8% n = 245 FEMALE

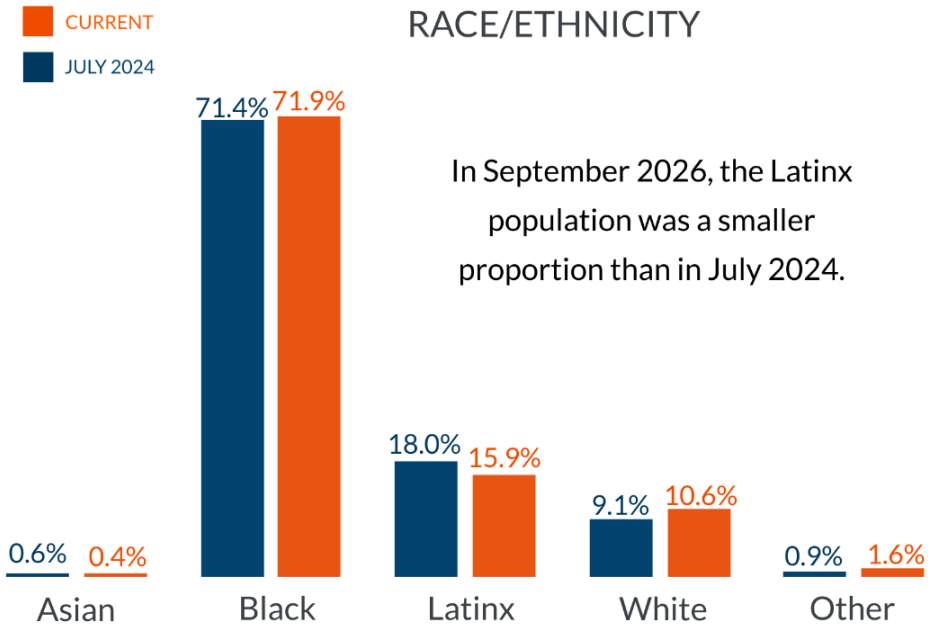
VS

JULY 2024

92% n = 4,448 MALE

8% n = 363 FEMALE

RACE/ETHNICITY



In September 2026, the Latinx population was a smaller proportion than in July 2024.

LENGTH OF STAY*

SEPTEMBER 2026



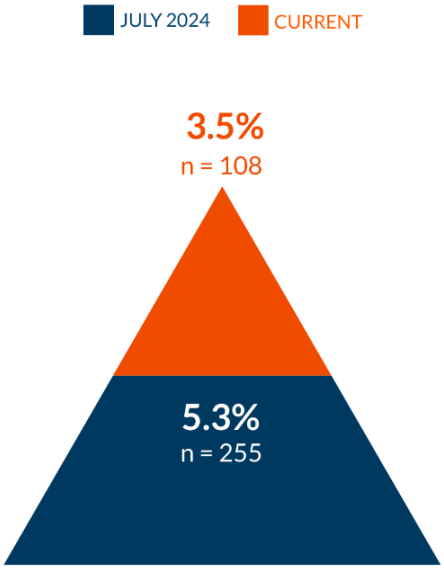
JULY 2024



*Length of stay (LOS) figures are for individuals who were still in custody at the time of the data extraction, as opposed to LOS for people who were released.

CASH BAIL (Under $50,000)

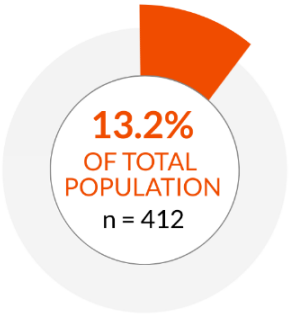
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers



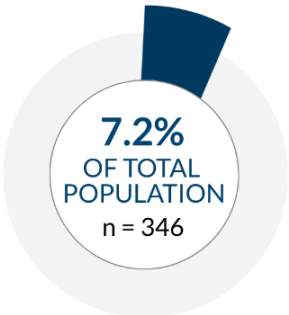
These folks would need to post 10% of their monetary bail to be released from prison.

SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL (SMI)

SEPTEMBER 2026



JULY 2024



First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Department of Research and Development

Philadelphia Prison Population

JANUARY 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2026

