Philadelphia Prison Population Report | July 2024 – October 2026

This report was designed specifically to monitor Philadelphia's reform efforts as part of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), a 10-year criminal justice reform initiative aimed at reducing prison populations across the country through targeted initiatives. From 2015 to 2025, Philadelphia's prison population decreased by over 50%, from 8,082 people in July 2015 to 3,436 people in July 2025. While the SJC ended in 2025, Philadelphia continues to publish this report monthly due to its ongoing commitment to transparency and collaboration between justice partners.

The report 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 population to the end-of-month population from July 2024. From July 2024 (population = 4,811) to October 2026 (population = 3,007), Philadelphia's prison population decreased by 37.5%.

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 to understand 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).

Since 2015, this process has been conducted monthly 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 assists with capturing complex reasons for incarceration. Throughout the SJC, the July 2015 census file was used as the benchmark for measuring progress. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the population reached historic lows, then rebounded and peaked at 4,811 people in July 2024. This month was chosen as a new reference point as it was the highest prison population in recent years.

Confinement categories were developed in conjunction with the justice partners across Philadelphia to better identify why a person is in custody (see 'Methodology' section'). 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.

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 2024 and October 2026. 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 absolute certainty, the trends demonstrated by the data should be considered accurate. 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/Detainers), 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) can be calculated using the number of days from an individual's admission through the date of the current month for an in-custody LOS, or from admission date to release date for individuals released in the current month. The in-custody LOS only reflects LOS for people who were in custody on the last day of the month, and 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 11 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 snapshot file from July 31st, 2024 (figures in **BLUE**).

SUMMARY - The top section of this dashboard displays the total prison population for July 2024 and the current month. The percentage decrease from July 2024 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. 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 July 2024 and

the current month. The color gradient corresponds with the percentages; the darker the color, the larger the percentage.

PROGRESS TO DATE – This page shows the prison population from January 2015 until present. During the SJC, July 2015 was used as the reference point for population reduction progress goals. The reference has since been updated to July 2024, the highest population in recent years. Noted along the graph are periods of reduced operational capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and various phases of the MacArthur SJC.

Percent Change: Compares the population on July 31st, 2024 to the current month**:**

$$\frac{\text{July 2024 (4,811)} - \text{October 31}^{st}\text{ population (3,007)}}{\text{July 2024 (4,811)}} = 37.5\%\text{ reduction from July 2024}$$

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. On the left side of the dashboard, figures for ADP and the end of month population are displayed from January 2023 onwards, 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 2022 through October 2026. 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 July 2024 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 July 2024 and the current month, illustrating how each confinement category has changed from July 2024. 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 JULY 2024 - Displayed here is how much each category's current count differs from July 2024. Categories in blue indicate a reduction 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 July 2024 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 July 2024 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 July 2024 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. Revoked, forfeited, and reinstated bail amounts are included. 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 July 2024 and October 2026 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.

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS (SMI) – This page focuses on those experiencing Serious Mental Illness. The top left visual displays the race/ethnicity composition of this population in the current month, while the top right displays the age distribution. The bottom left shows the sex breakdown of the SMI population. The bottom center shows the top 3 population drivers for the SMI population in October 2026. The average length of stay is displayed in the bottom right.

RACE/ETHNICITY - The top bar graph is a breakdown of race/ethnicity comparing the percentages of July 2024 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 July 2024 and the current month. The top right-hand side shows two bubbles representing sex in October 2026; 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.

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. Below the title is the average LOS from the date of admission to the date of release. This is calculated based on all individuals released in the current month.

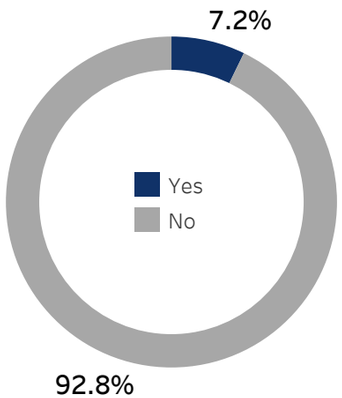
- Clearance Rate Formula: Prison Releases / Prison Admissions X 100

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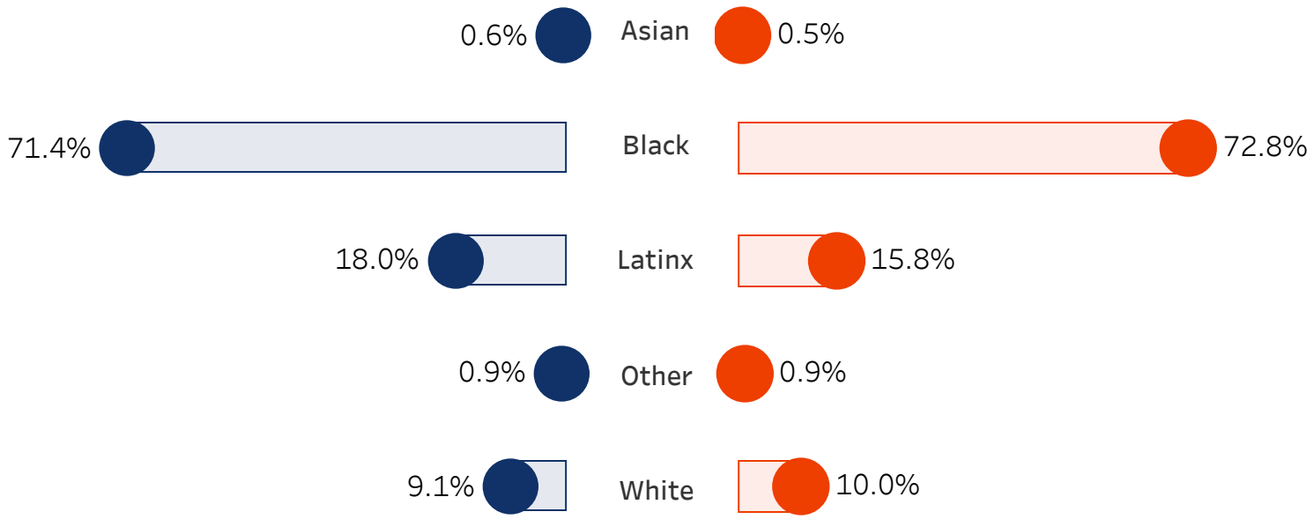
Philadelphia Prison Population Report

July 2024		October 2026
4,811	-37.5%	3,007

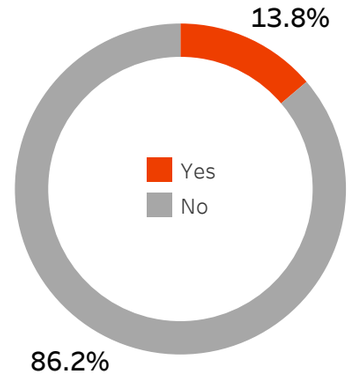
SMI Status | July 2024



Race/Ethnicity Composition



SMI Status | October 2026



July 2024 | Population Drivers

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers 27.4%
Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + Open Cases 21.6%
Other Holds/Detainers + Open Cases 19.1%

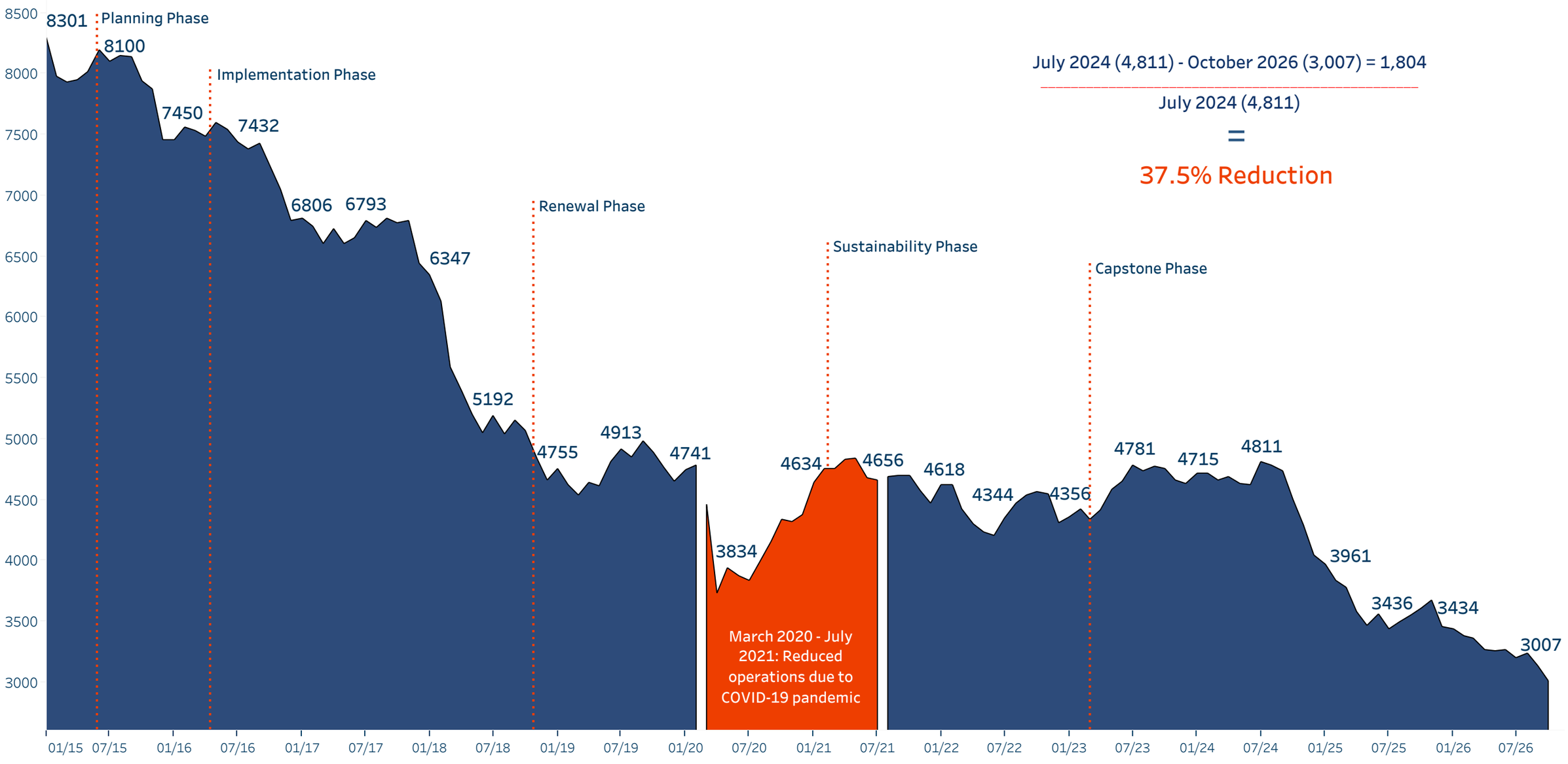
*Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.

October 2026 | Population Drivers

Other Holds/Detainers + Open Cases 21.1%
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers 20.2%
Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + Open Cases 20.0%

Prison Population | End of Month | January 2015 - October 2026

Philadelphia participated in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) from 2015 to 2025. Phases of the SJC are noted throughout the graph.



July 2024 (4,811) - October 2026 (3,007) = 1,804

July 2024 (4,811)

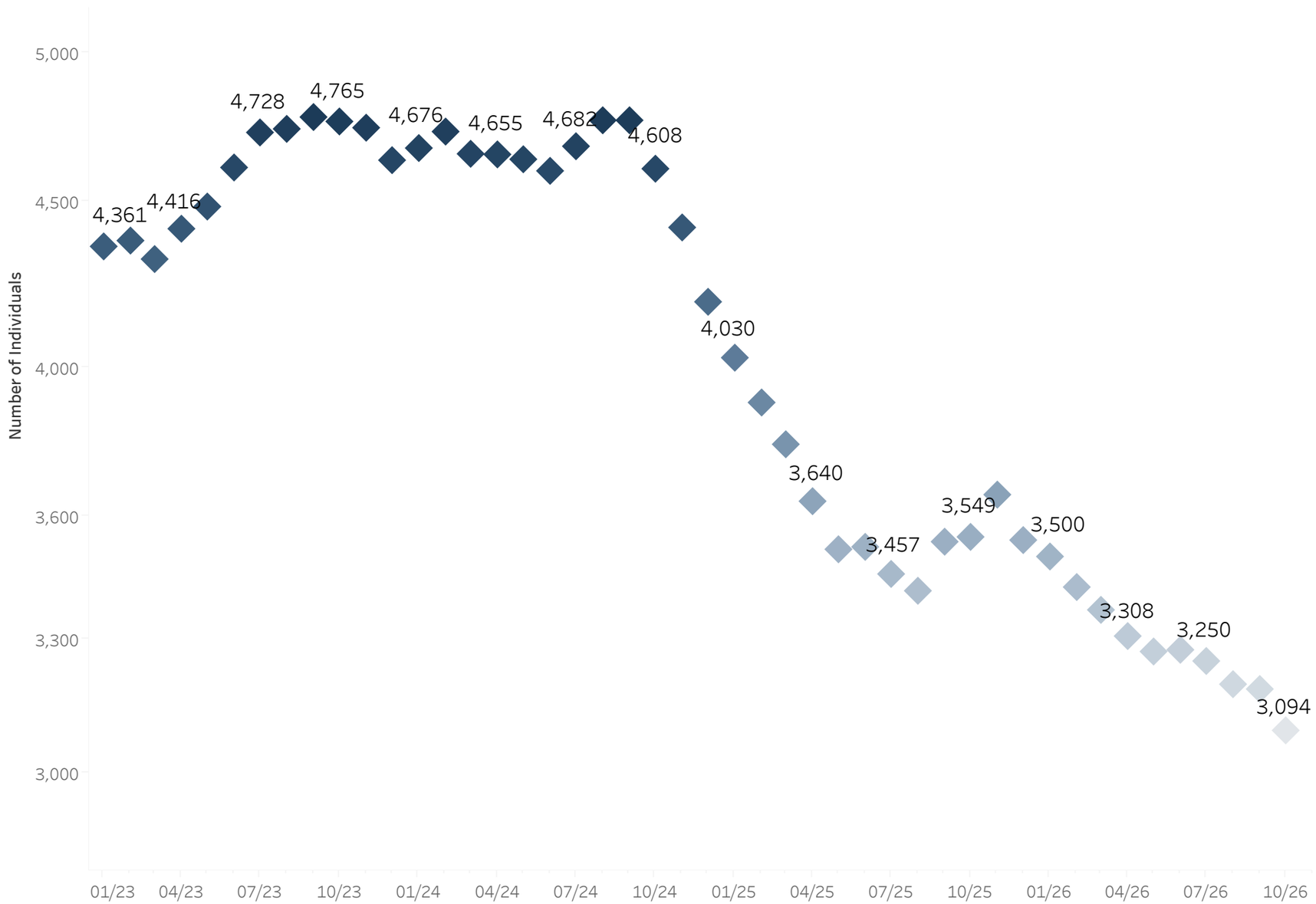
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37.5% Reduction

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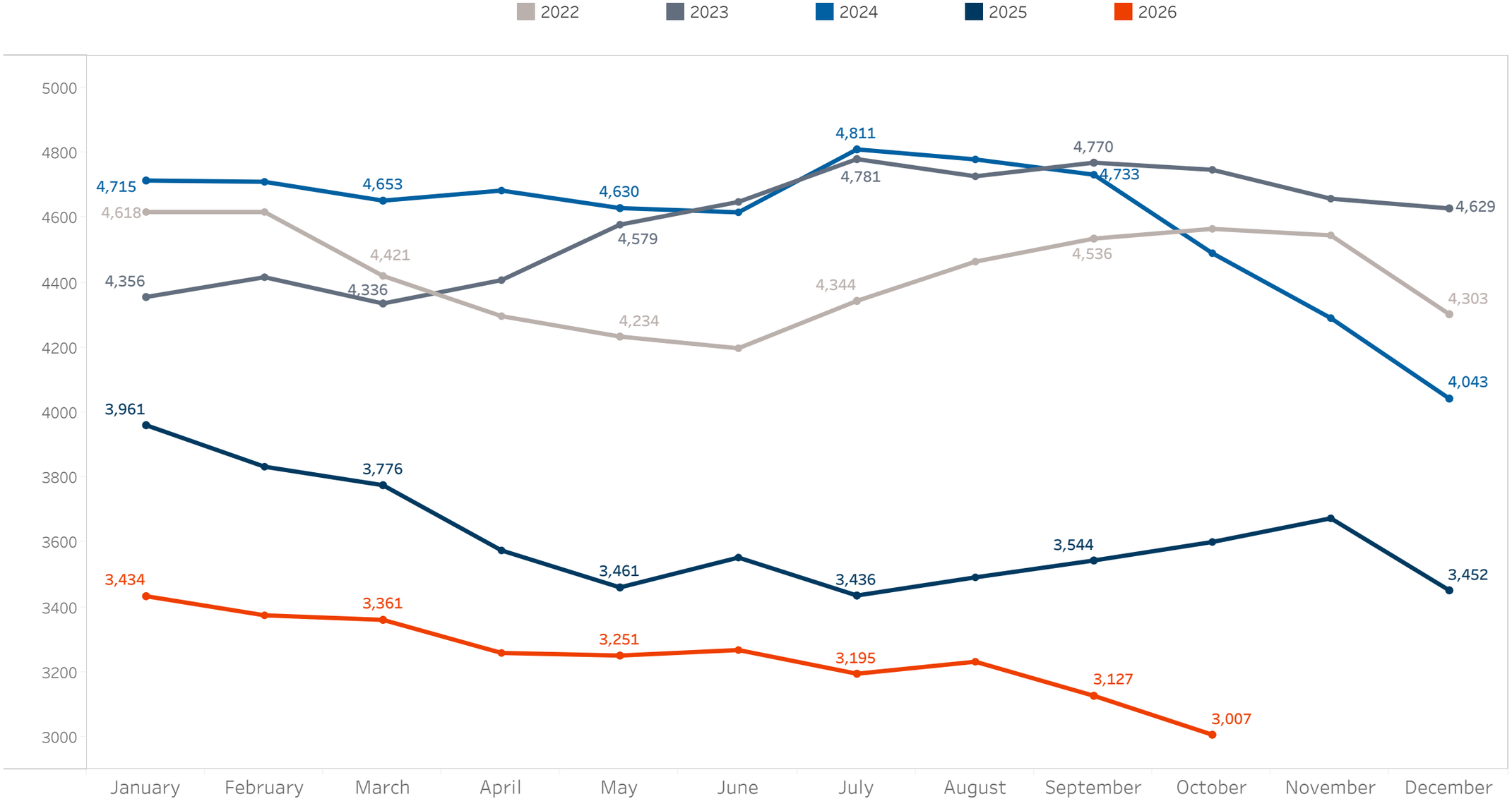
	End of Month Population	Average Daily Population	Orange indicates higher ADP
10/26	3,007	3,094	87
09/26	3,127	3,186	59
08/26	3,232	3,197	-35
07/26	3,195	3,250	55
06/26	3,268	3,276	8
05/26	3,251	3,272	21
04/26	3,259	3,308	49
03/26	3,361	3,370	9
02/26	3,375	3,425	50
01/26	3,434	3,500	66
12/25	3,452	3,541	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
Average Difference:			15.74

January 2023 - October 2026 | Average Daily Population (ADP) by Month



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Annual Prison Population Comparison | January 2022 - October 2026



Average Population

2022	4,429
2023	4,588
2024	4,597
2025	3,628
2026	3,251

Peak Month by Year

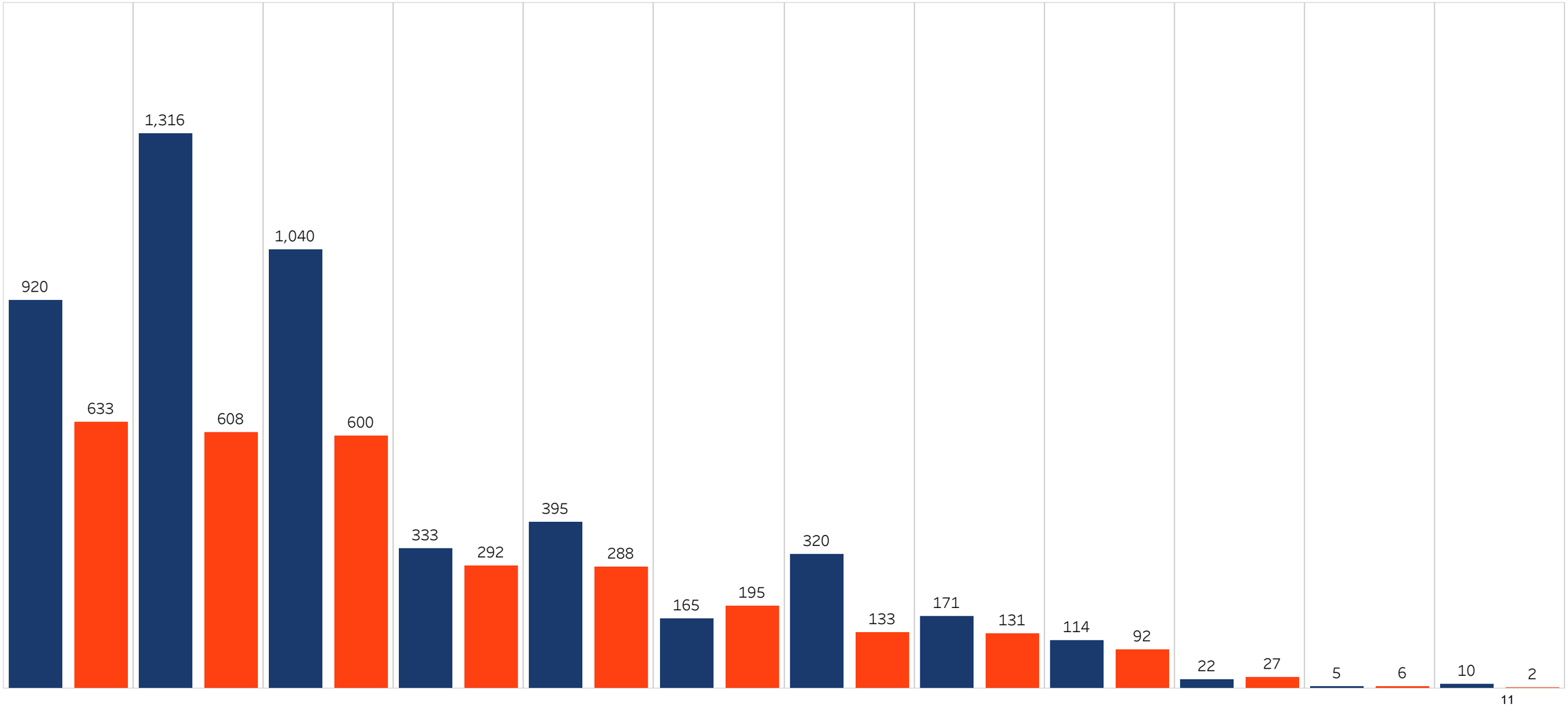
2022 - February	2023 - July	2024 - July	2025 - January	2026 - January

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Confinement Groups | July 2024 v. October 2026

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026: All
Race/Ethnicity: All
Sex: All
SMI Status: All
Age Group: All
Count v. Proportion: Count

July 2024 October 2026 *Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.

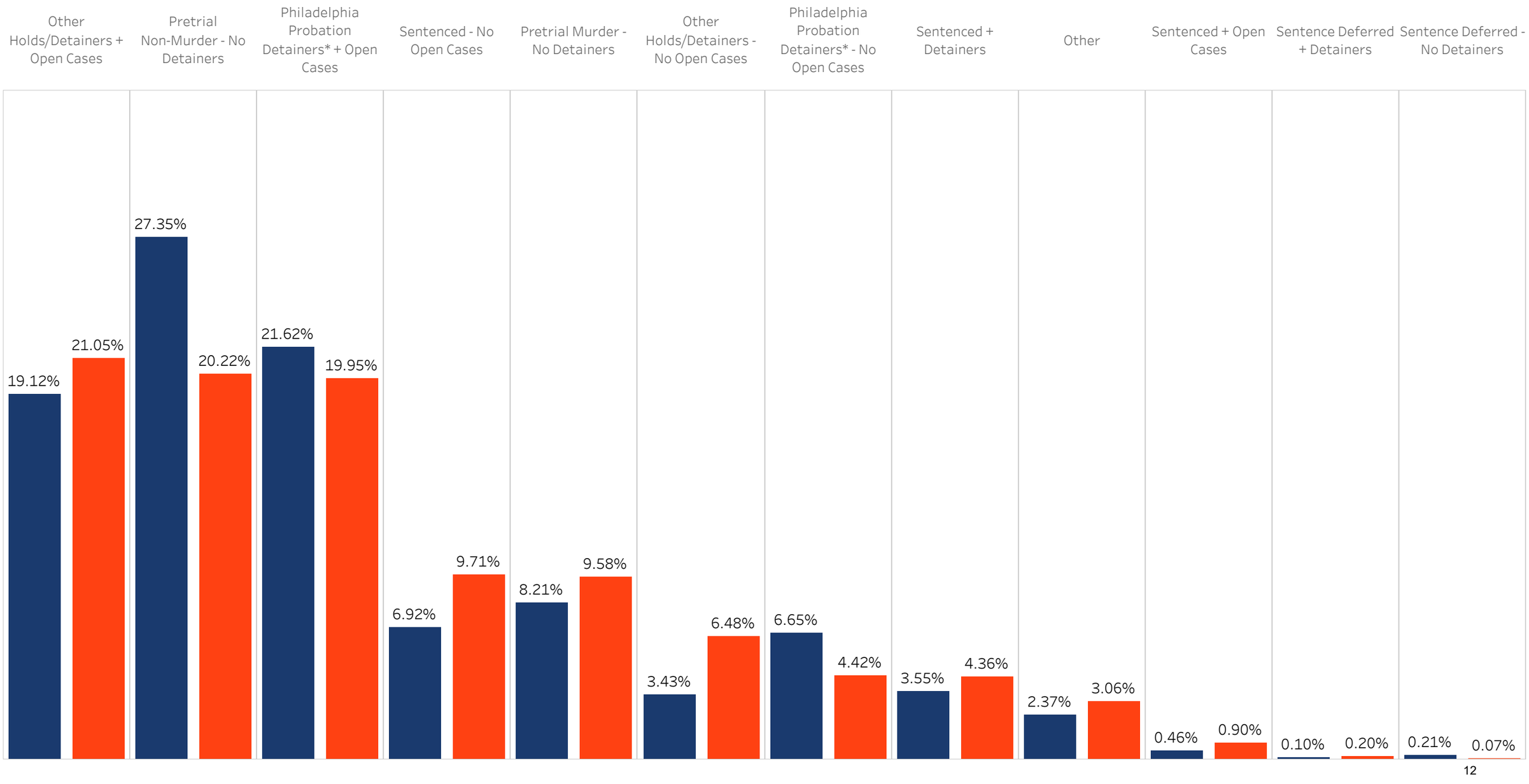


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Confinement Groups | July 2024 v. October 2026

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026 All | **Race/Ethnicity** All | **Sex** All | **SMI Status** All | **Age Group** All | **Count v. Proportion** Proportion

July 2024 October 2026 *Individuals in these confinement categories may also have other holds or detainers.



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Count by Category | July 2024 v. October 2026

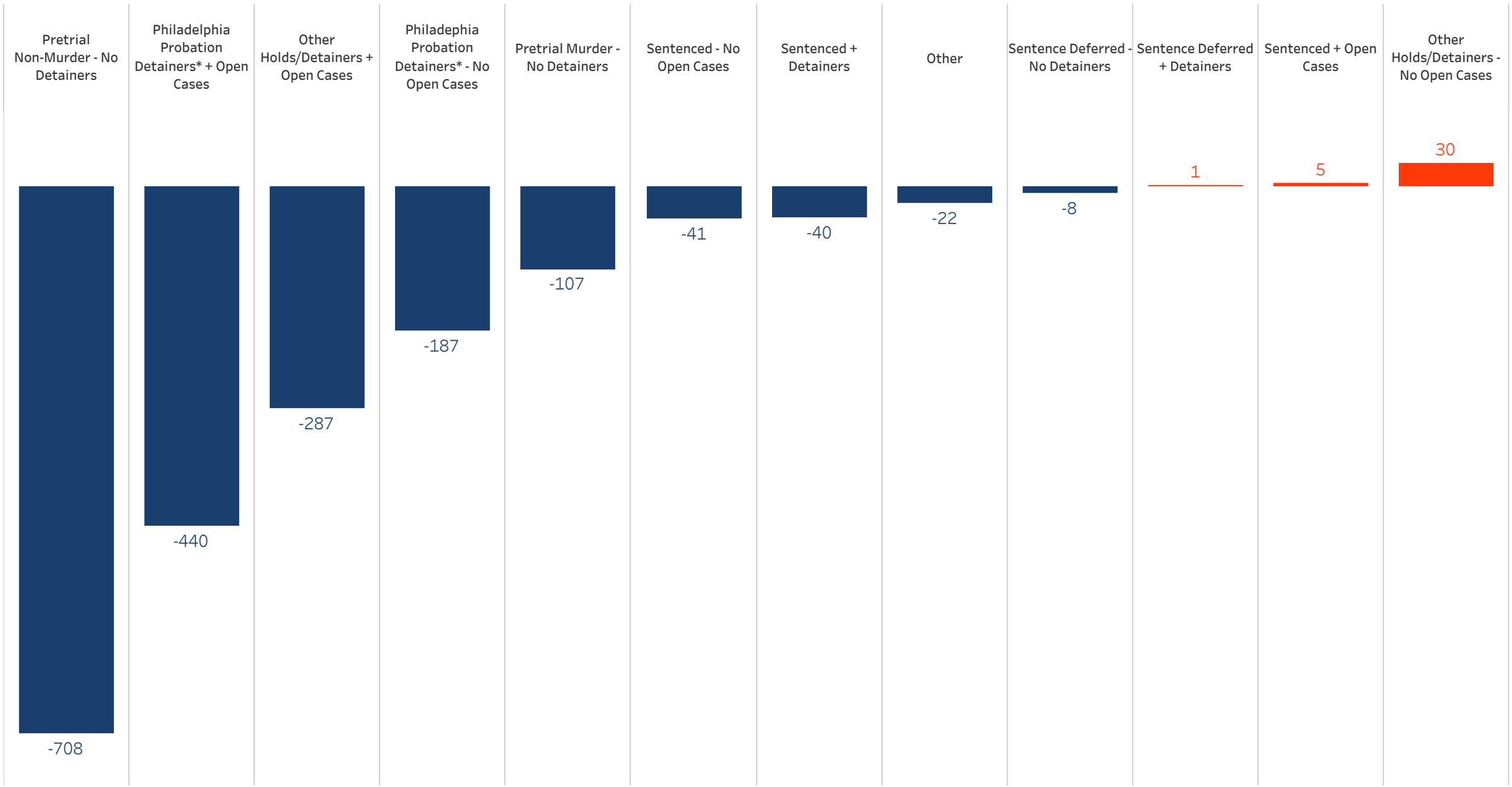
Comparison Month
July 2024

Count v. Proportion
Count

Sex
All

SMI Status
All

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



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Demographic Comparison

Confinement Category: All

Sex: All

Asian | Black | Latinx | Other | White

July 2024

71.4% (3,435) Black

18.0% (867) Latinx

9.1% (440)

October 2026

72.8% (2,190) Black

15.8% (475) Latinx

Race/Ethnicity

Age Distribution

July 2024		October 2026
0.4% (18)	17 and Under	
19.4% (931)	18 - 24	17.9% (539)
39.1% (1,881)	25 - 34	33.8% (1,016)
31.7% (1,525)	35 - 49	36.7% (1,105)
8.5% (409)	50 - 64	10.3% (309)
1.0% (47)	65 and Over	1.3% (38)

Average Length of Stay (days)

July 2024		October 2026
287.1		231.9
264.1		242.7
221.6		213.8
174.6		198.1
168.1		159.0

SMI Status

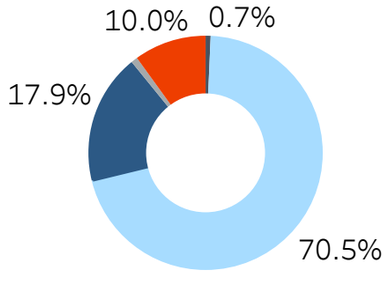
July 2024		October 2026
92.8%	No	86.2%
7.2%	Yes	13.8%

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Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers Population

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

Race/Ethnicity

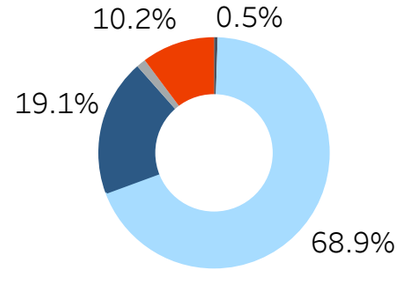


Asian | Black | Latinx | Other | White

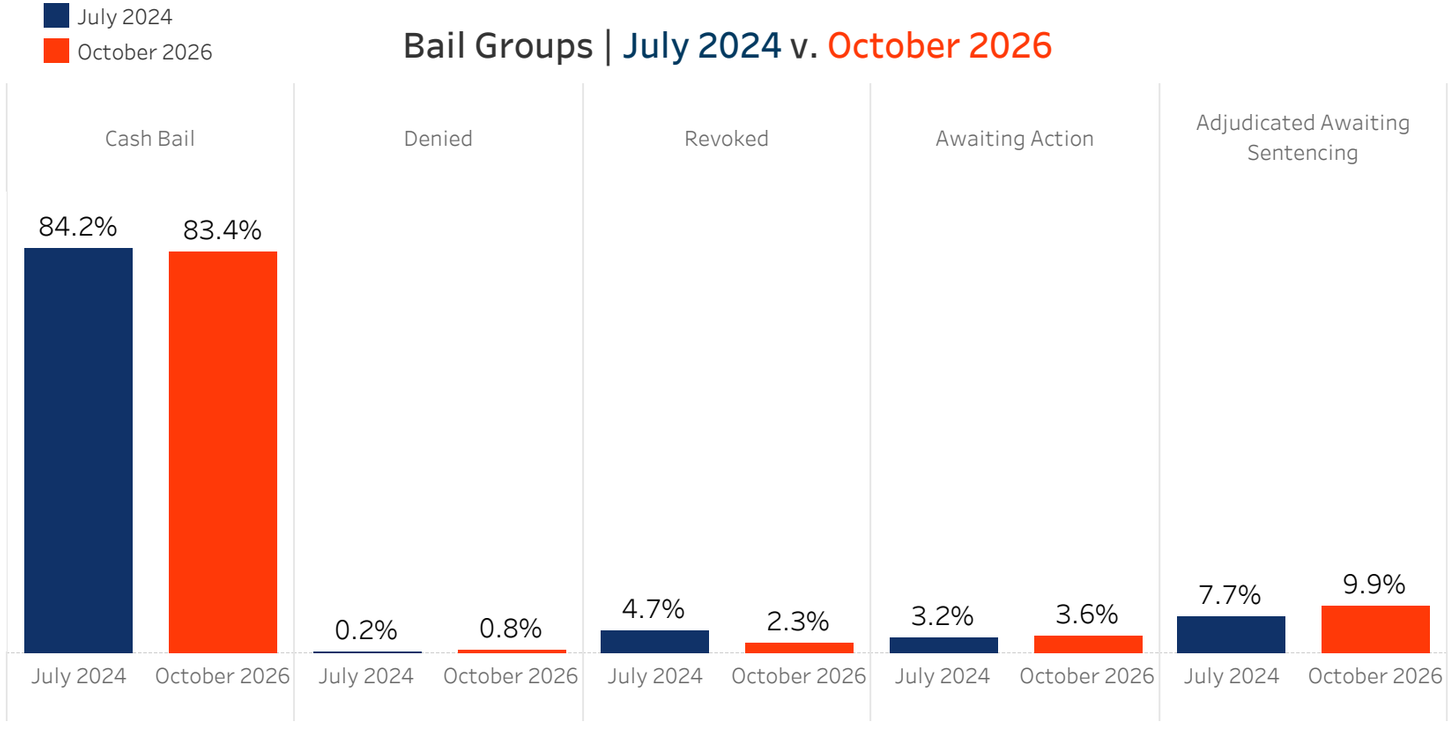
Percentage of Total Population:
Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers

JULY 2024	OCTOBER 2026
27.4%	20.2%

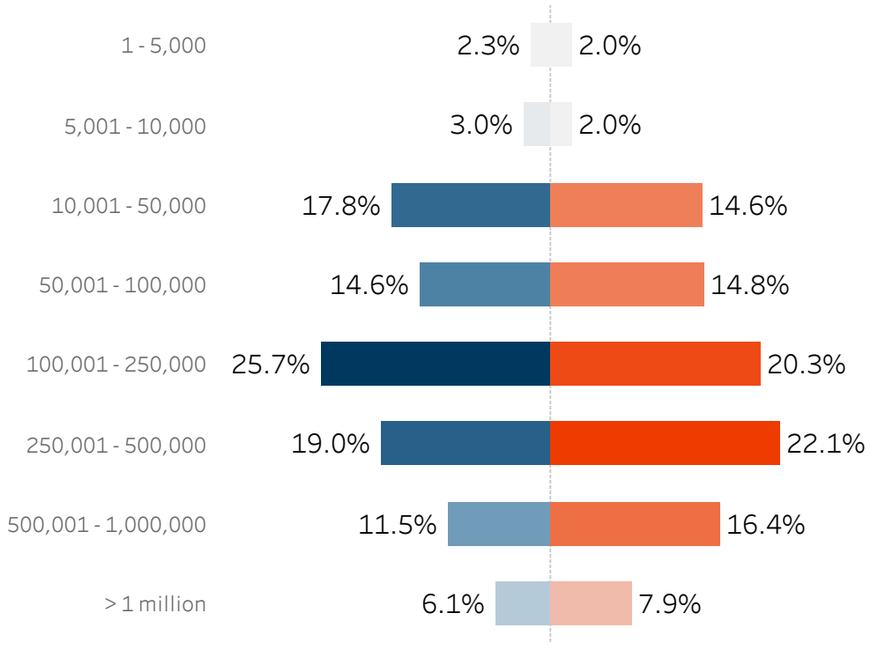
Race/Ethnicity



Bail Groups | July 2024 v. October 2026



Bail Amounts | July 2024 v. October 2026



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Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026: October 2026

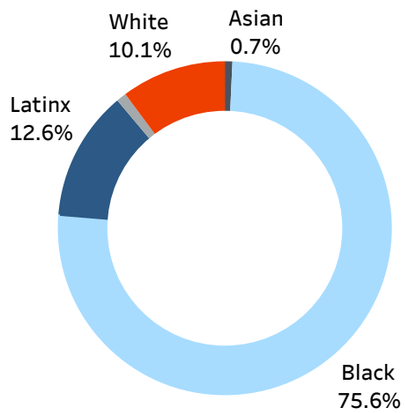
Race/Ethnicity: All

Sex: All

Age Group: All

Confinement Category: All

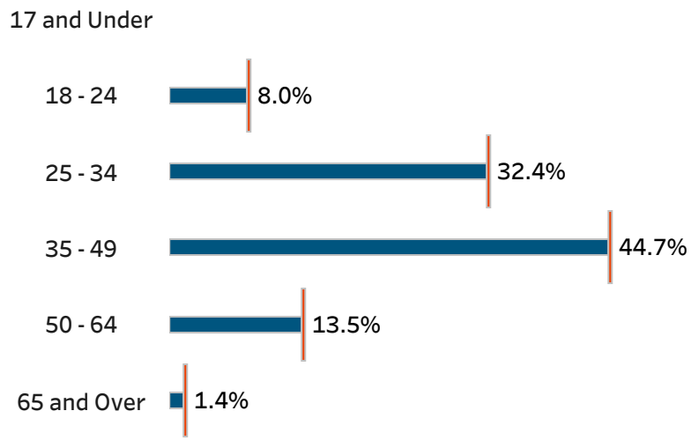
Race/Ethnicity
October 2026



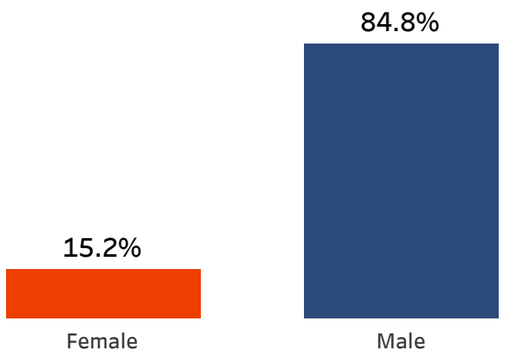
Percentage of Total Population: Serious Mental Illness

JULY 2024	OCTOBER 2026
7.2%	13.8%
346 people	414 people

Age Distribution
October 2026



Sex
October 2026



Population Drivers for SMI Population
October 2026

Pretrial Non-Murder - No Detainers 24.6%
Other Holds/Detainers + Open Cases 20.5%
Philadelphia Probation Detainers* + Open Cases 18.4%

Average Length of Stay (Days)
October 2026



189.3

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Race/Ethnicity

July 2024 October 2026

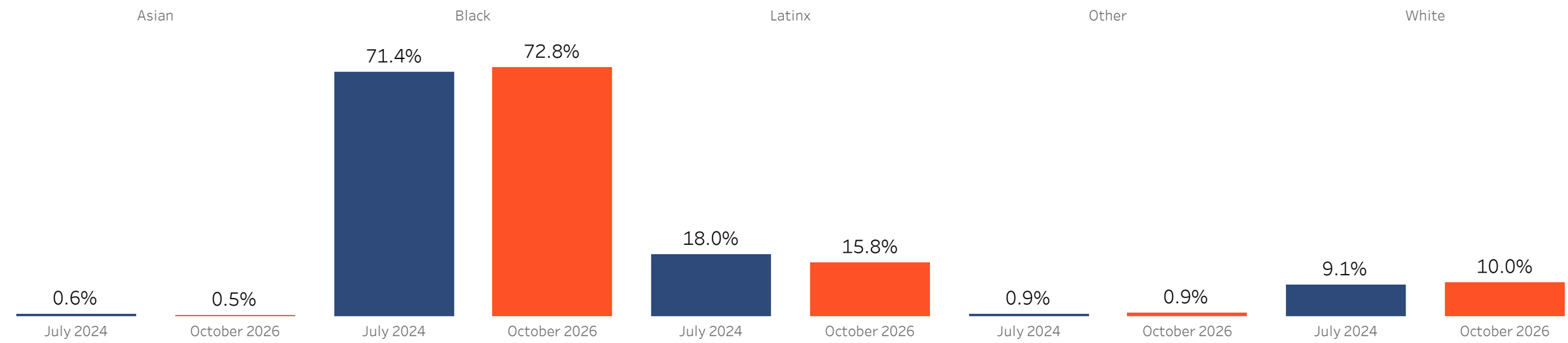
Month | July 2024 v. October 2026
October 2026

Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

Sex
All

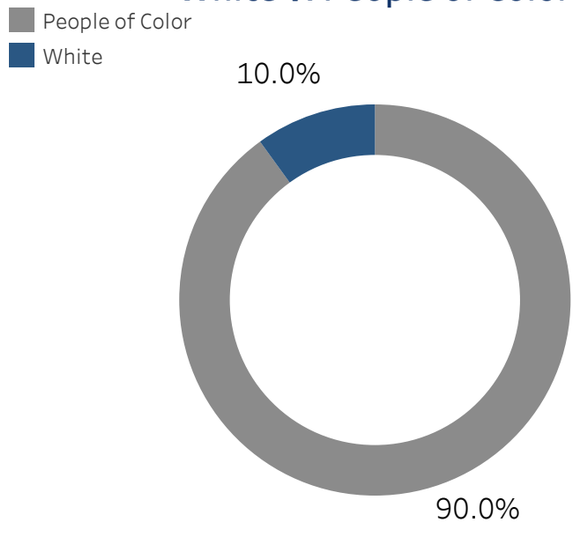
Race/Ethnicity Breakdown



Race/Ethnicity | Length of Stay



White v. People of Color



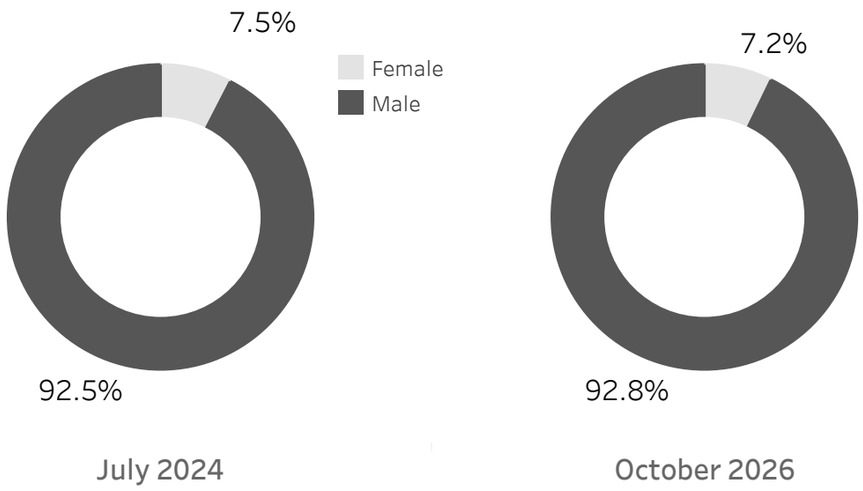
Sex

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026
October 2026

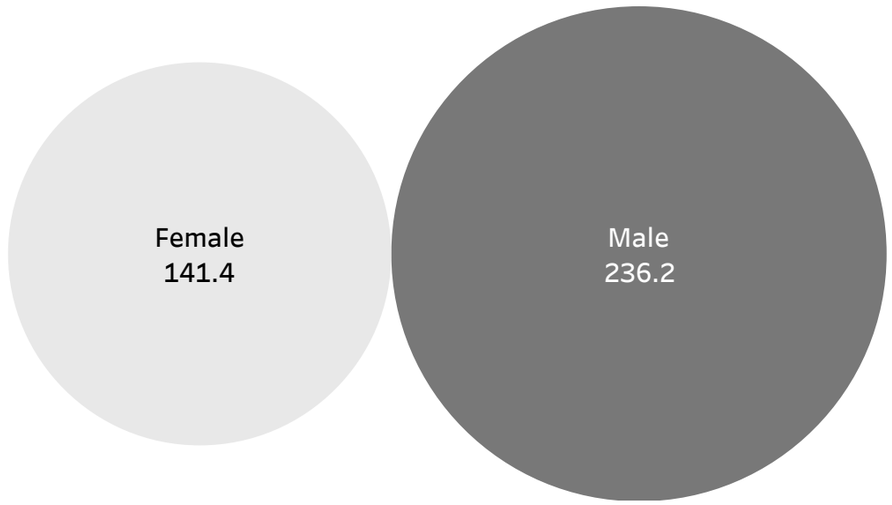
Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

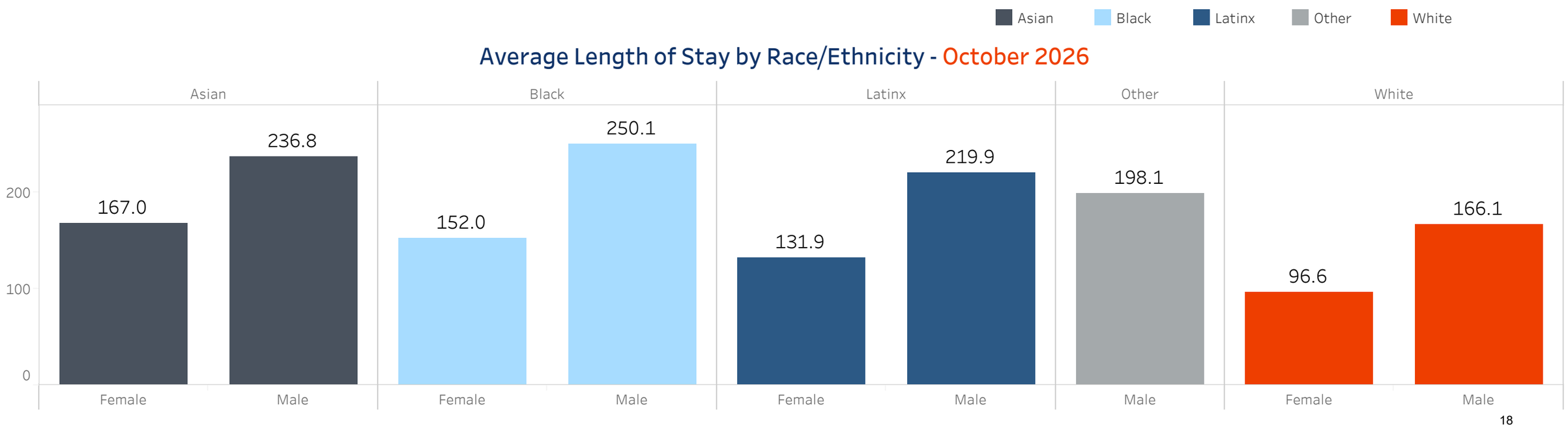
Sex - July 2024 v. October 2026



Average Length of Stay - October 2026



Average Length of Stay by Race/Ethnicity - October 2026

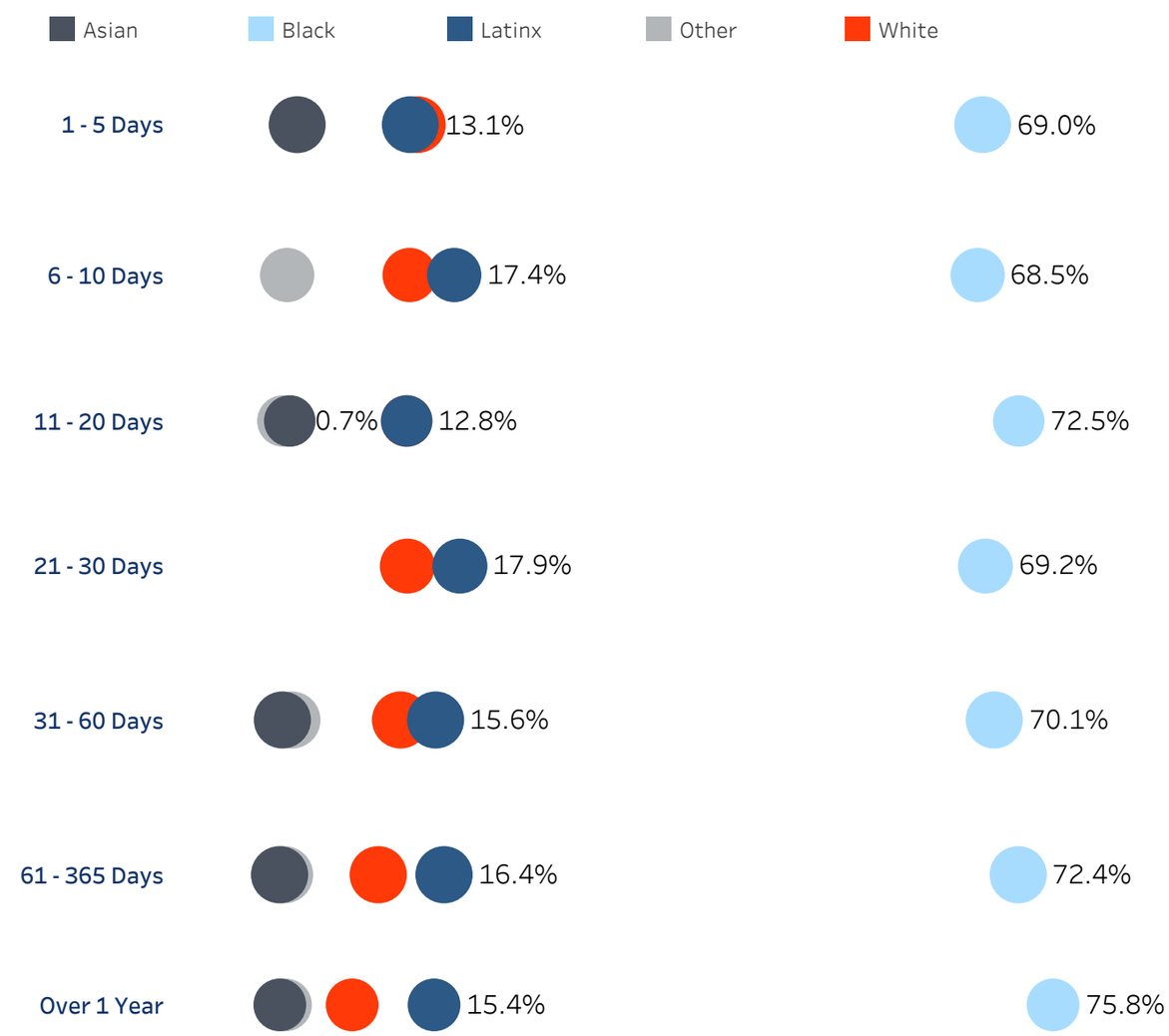


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Length of Stay

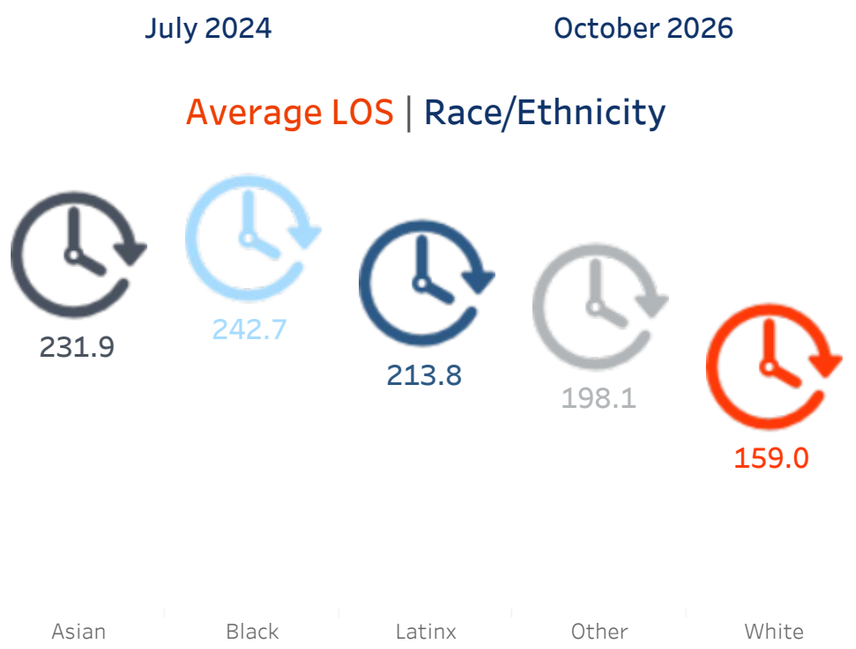
Month | July 2024 v. October 2026	Race/Ethnicity View	Confinement Category	SMI Status	Sex	Age Group
October 2026	Individual Race/Ethnicity	All	All	All	All

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | October 2026



Average Length of Stay



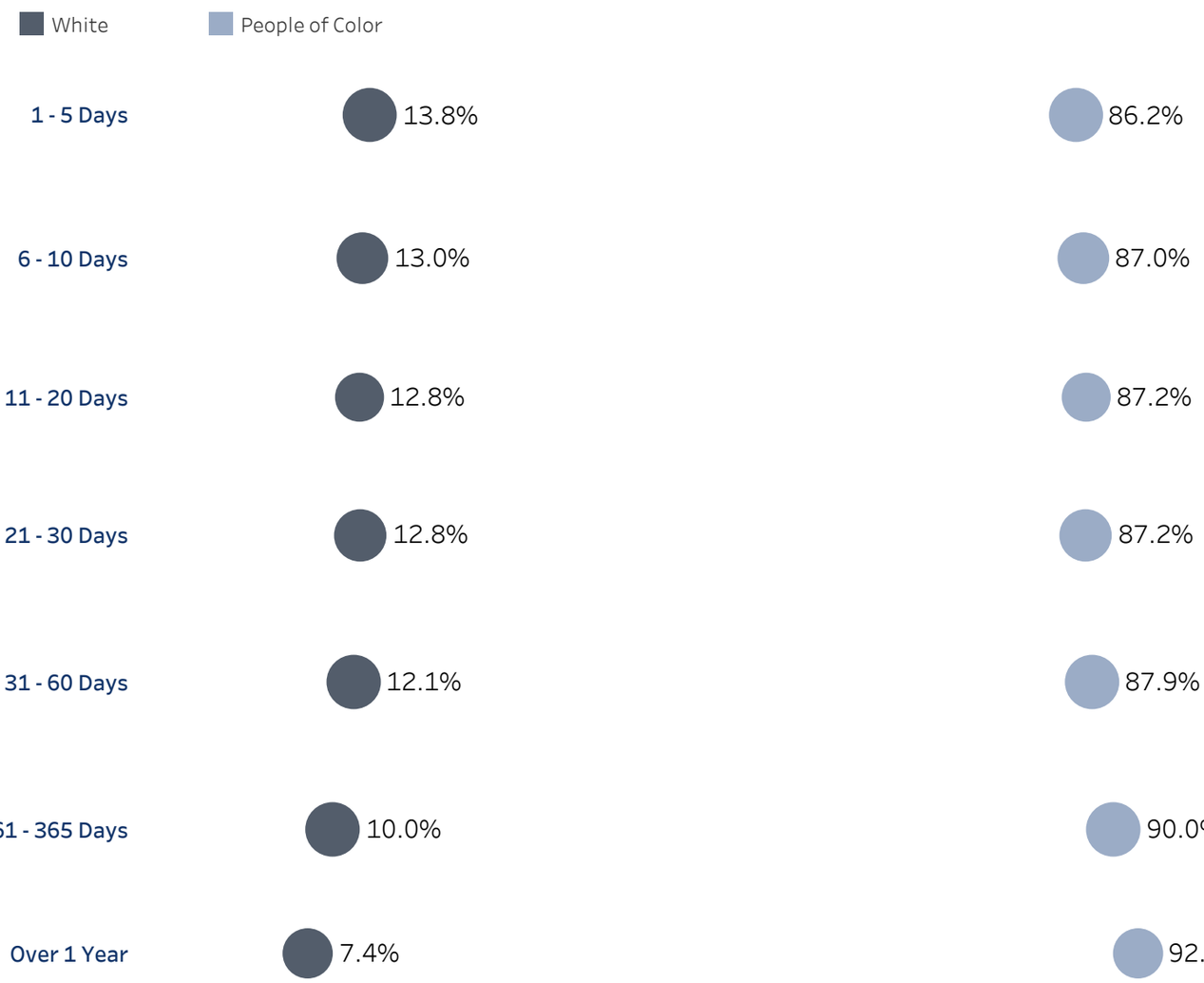


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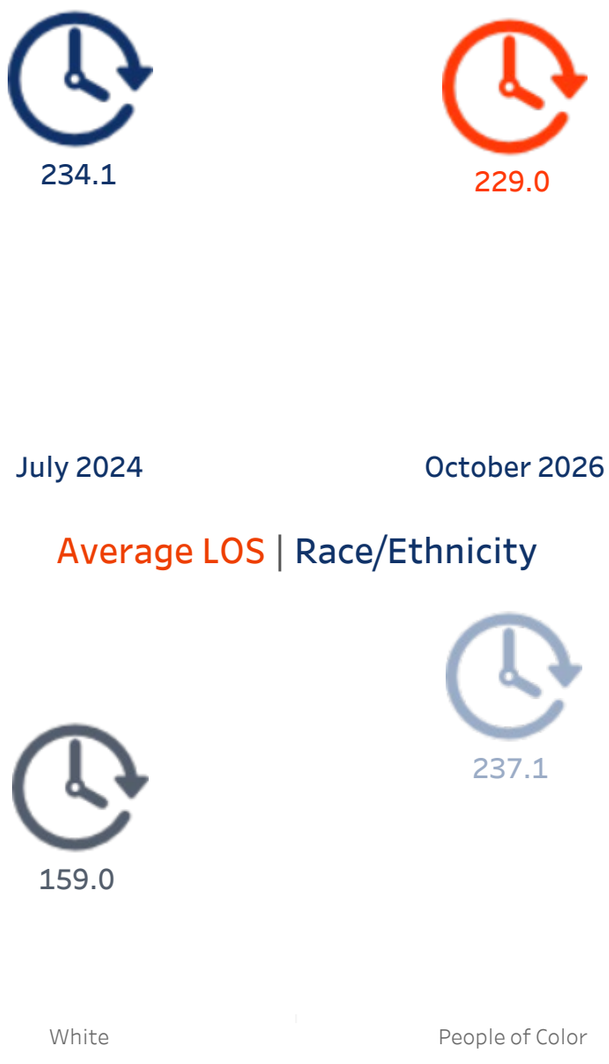
Length of Stay

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026	Race/Ethnicity View	Confinement Category	SMI Status	Sex	Age Group
October 2026	People of Color vs White	All	All	All	All

Proportion of Race/Ethnicity within Stay Groups | October 2026



Average Length of Stay



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Length of Stay - Over 1 Year

Month | July 2024 v. October 2026
October 2026

Race/Ethnicity
All

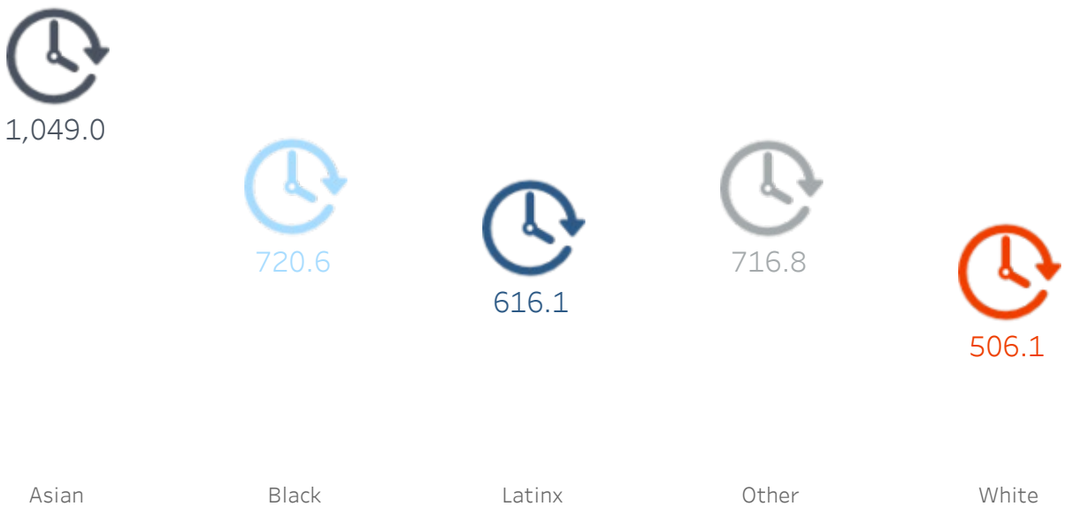
Confinement Category
All

SMI Status
All

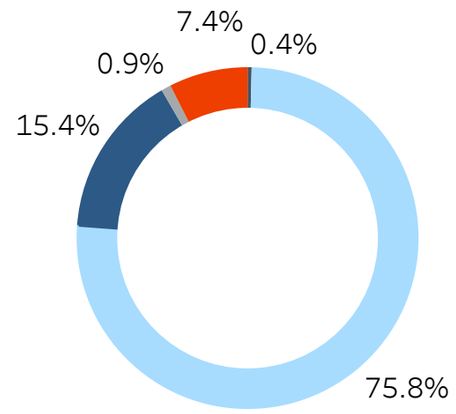
Sex
All

Asian Black Latinx Other White

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



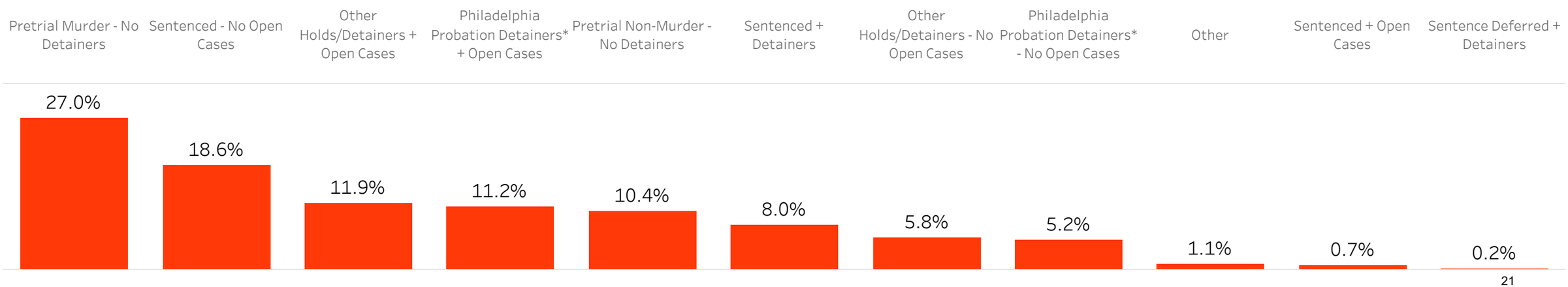
Length of Stay | Over 1 Year by Race/Ethnicity



Confinement Groups Over 1 Year

October 2026

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



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Clearance Rate | January 2023 - October 2026

October 2026: Releases > Admissions?

Yes

Average Length of Stay | Admission to Release
October 2026: 84.5 days

Admissons vs. Releases | Jan 2023 - Oct 2026

