

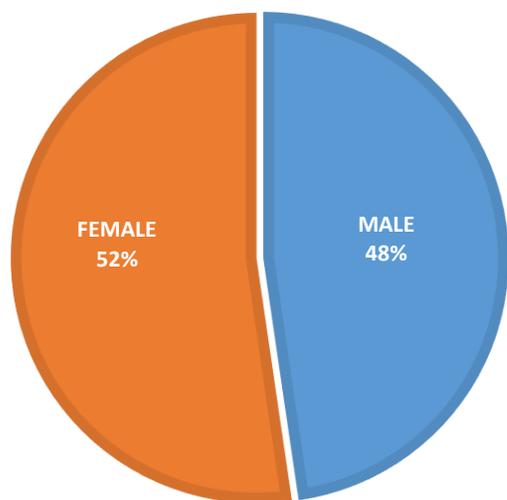
Court Watch NOLA 2015 Data & Statistics

Court Watch NOLA (CWN) would like to thank the following offices for providing us with the below data and thus increasing the transparency of the Orleans Criminal Justice System (listed in alphabetical order): Innocence Project of New Orleans (IPNO), Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB), Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), Orleans Criminal Court Judicial Administrator (OCCJA), Orleans Parish District Attorney (OPDA), Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO), and Vera Institute of Justice -New Orleans Office New Orleans Pretrial Services (Vera).

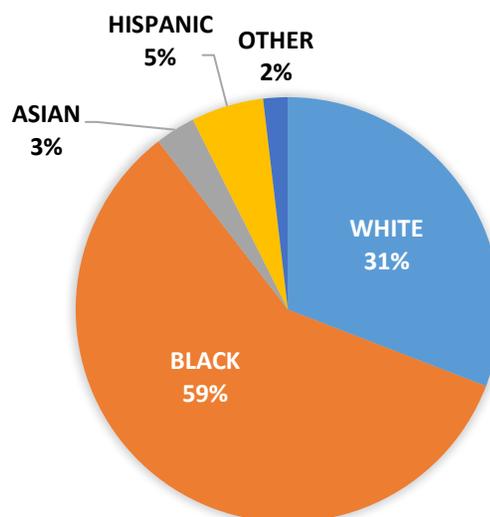
Court Watch NOLA uses a people-centered model in monitoring Orleans Parish criminal courts. This report aims to shed light on those affected by crime and the criminal justice system in 2015.

Compare 2015 Orleans Parish Census Data¹

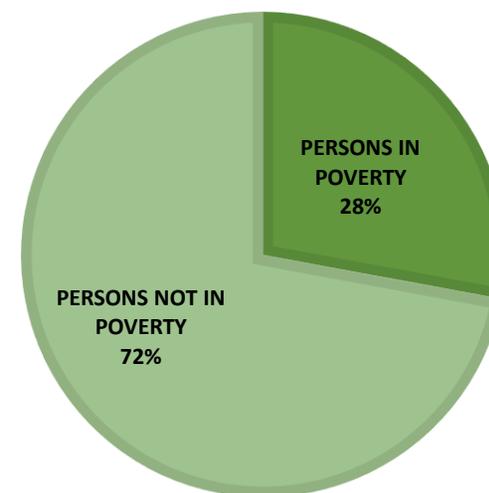
Estimated population: 389,617 (20.4% of persons were under 18 years old)



Gender Distribution



Racial Distribution



Economic Distribution

¹ Orleans Parish, Louisiana Census Estimates as of July 1, 2015. United States Census Bureau <www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/22071>. Last accessed August 31, 2016. In 2015, the poverty threshold for an individual under 65 years old is an annual income of \$12,331. Individuals who earned an annual income at or lower than this threshold are considered in poverty. While Orleans Parish had a 2015 poverty rate of 27.9%, the State of Louisiana had a 2015 poverty rate of 19.8%.



Victims of Crime in Orleans Parish²

38,225 victims identified in 2015 NOPD reports

18,413

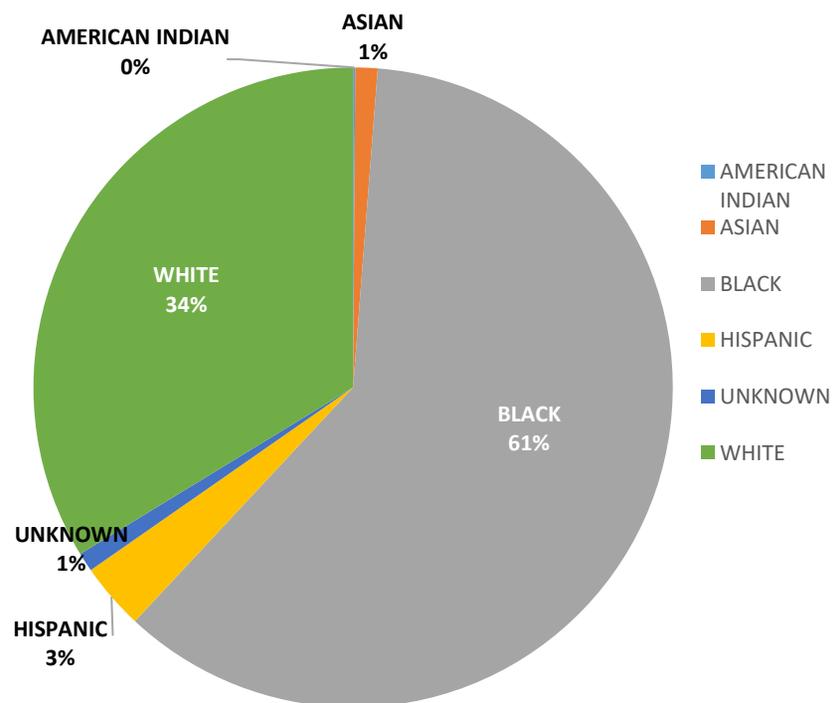


MALES (48%)

19,812



FEMALES (52%)



² This data was jointly provided to CWN by the New Orleans Police Department and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. This information is gathered from 2015 police reports and inputted by the OPSO.

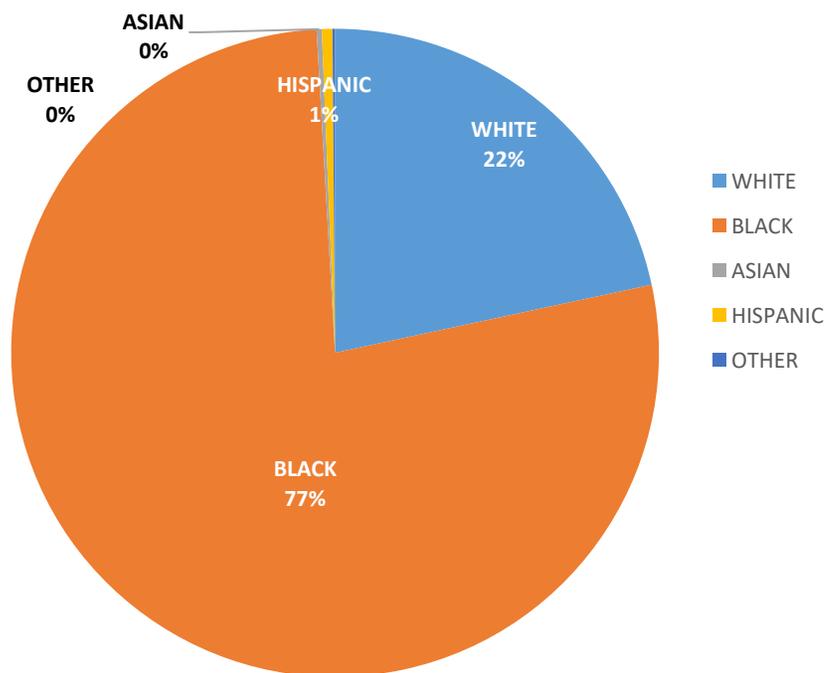


Individuals Arrested in Orleans Parish³

35,818 arrests identified in 2015 NOPD reports

27,910 
MALE (78%)

7,908 
FEMALE (22%)

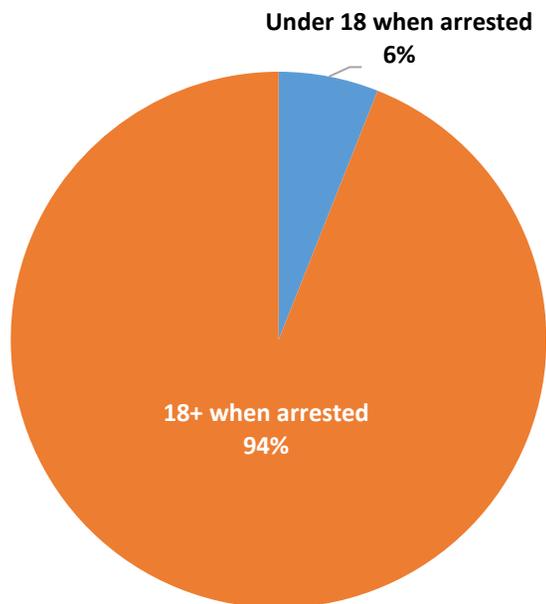


³ Unless otherwise specified, the data in the “Individuals Arrested in Orleans Parish” section of this report was jointly provided to CWN by the New Orleans Police Department and the Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office. This information is gathered from 2015 police reports, inputted by the OPSO, and include arrests for state, municipal, and traffic offenses.



AGES OF INDIVIDUALS

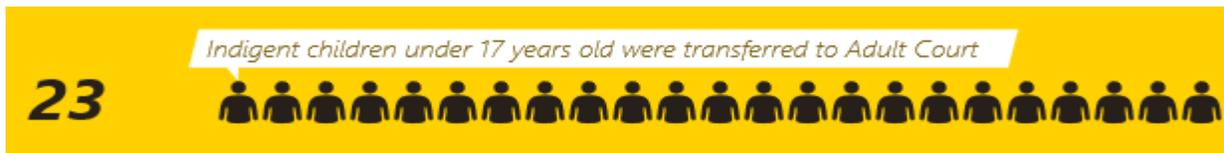
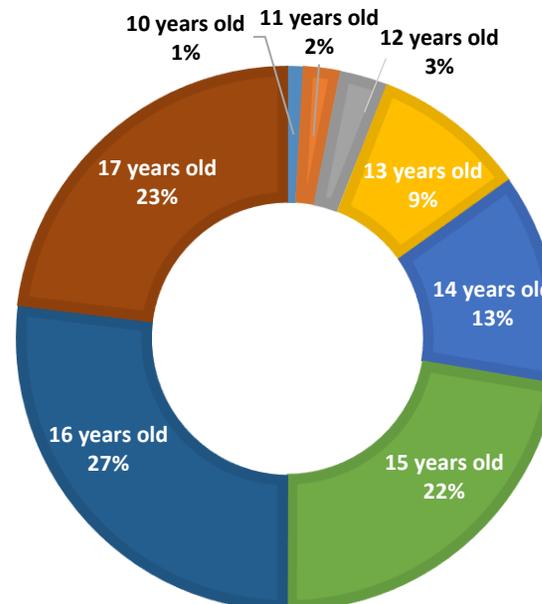
35,818 arrests in Orleans Parish in 2015 (may include repeat offenders)



4

JUVENILES: AGE AT ARREST

1,662 juvenile arrests in Orleans Parish in 2015 (may include repeat offenders)



5

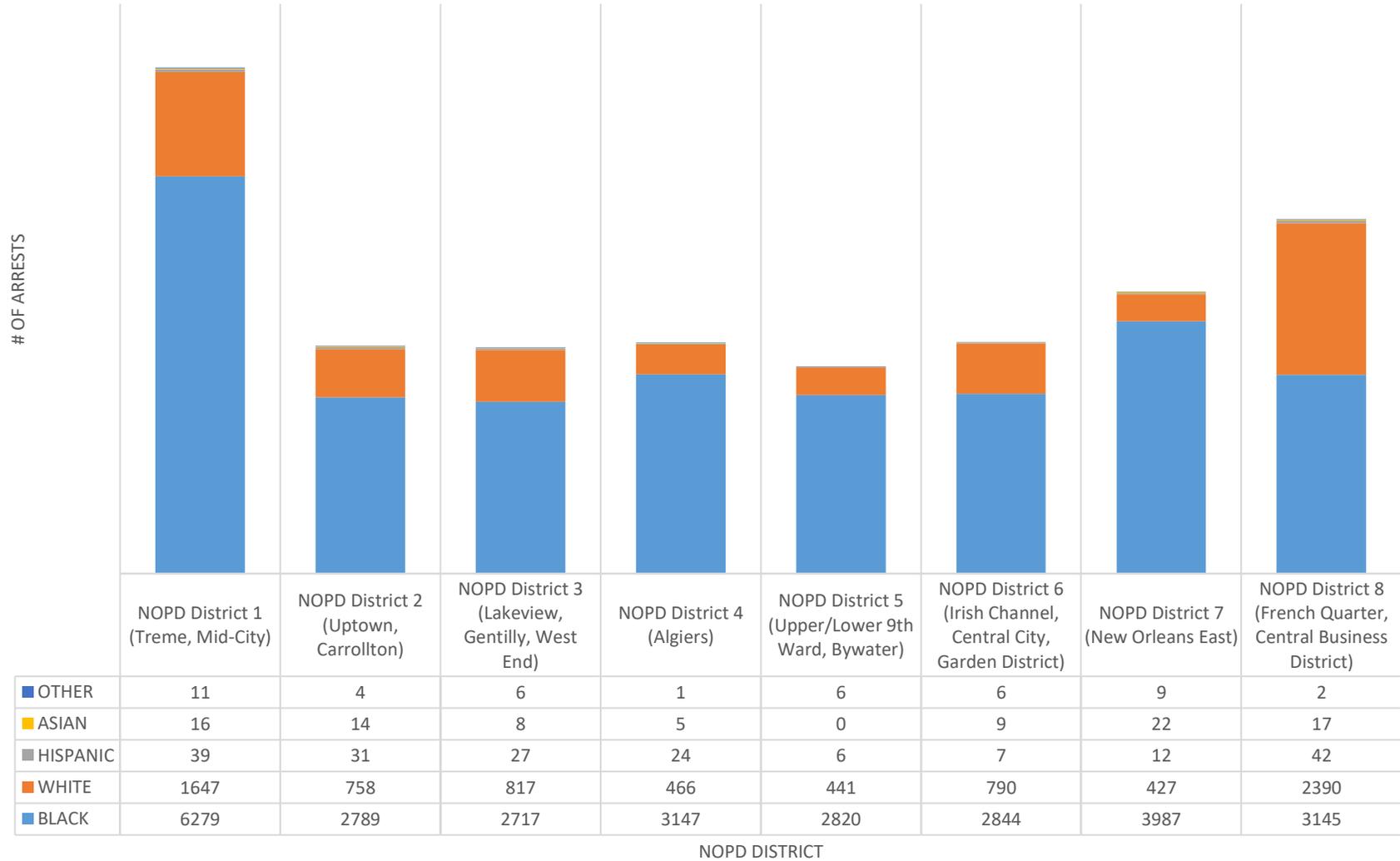
⁴ The charts entitled “Ages of Individuals” and “Juveniles: Age at Arrest” include individuals whose cases were adjudicated by either Orleans Criminal District Court or Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.

⁵ Reported by Orleans Public Defenders to the Louisiana Public Defender Board and publicly available in the Louisiana Public Defender Board 2015 Annual Report.



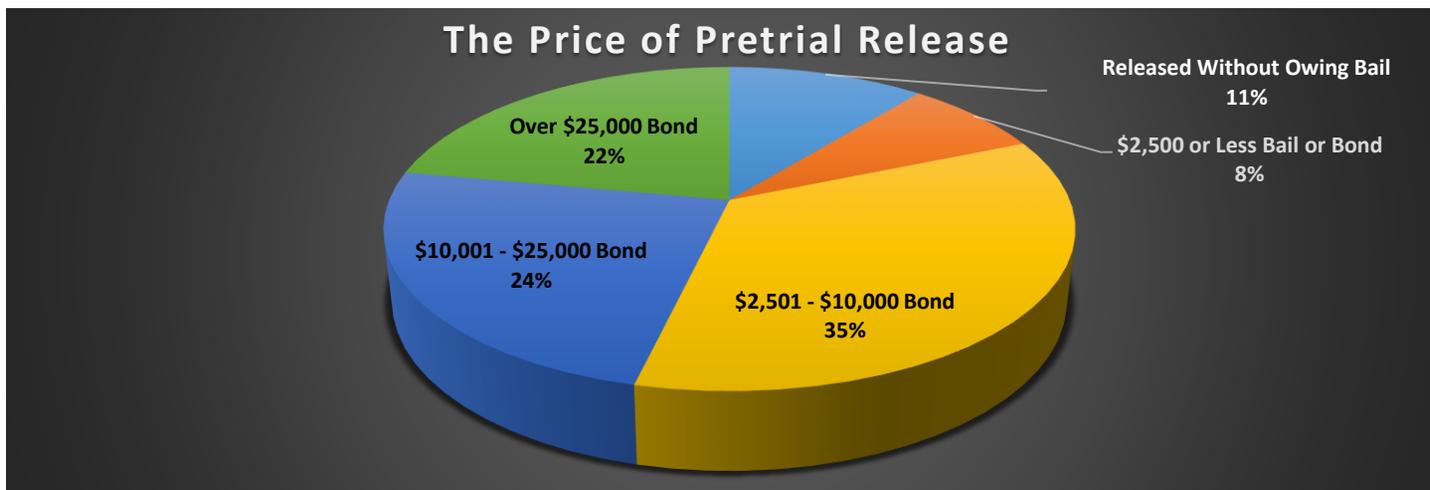
ARRESTS BY DISTRICT

■ BLACK ■ WHITE ■ HISPANIC ■ ASIAN ■ OTHER





While Awaiting Felony Trial, Release or Jail?^{7 8}



⁶ [FOOTNOTE ADDED 09/26/16, with information previously unknown to CWN until after this Report was published on 09/14/16.] The number of arrests made in the First District includes arrests made at the Orleans Justice Center jail, the New Orleans Police Department Headquarters, and the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, all of which are located in NOPD's First District. If arrests made at these three locations are subtracted from the above chart, then the First District's numbers are on par with the other Districts' arrest numbers.

⁷ This data was provided jointly by the Vera Institute of Justice -New Orleans Office, New Orleans Pretrial Services, and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination.

⁸ Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure (La. C. Crim. Proc.) articles 311-12. A defendant can post bail in many forms as required by the Court, including promising to return to scheduled court dates (*a.k.a. release on own recognizance*), putting up property valued at least as much as the bail amount (*a.k.a. personal surety bond*), a cash deposit, or a bond provided by a commercial bondsman in exchange for the payment of a percentage of the bond amount in cash or property (*a.k.a. commercial bail bond*). La. C. Crim. Proc. art. 334. The Magistrate Judge or Commissioner sets the amount of bail sufficient to insure the presence of the defendant and the safety of others, weighing the following factors: (1) the seriousness of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence against the defendant; (3) the defendant's previous criminal record; (4) the defendant's ability to pay; (5) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any other person or the community that would be posed by the defendant's release; (6) the defendant's voluntary participation in a pretrial drug testing program; (7) the absence or presence of any controlled dangerous substance in the defendant's blood at the time of arrest; (8) whether the defendant is currently out on bond on a previous felony arrest; (9) any other circumstances affecting the probability of defendant's appearance; and (10) the type or form of bail.



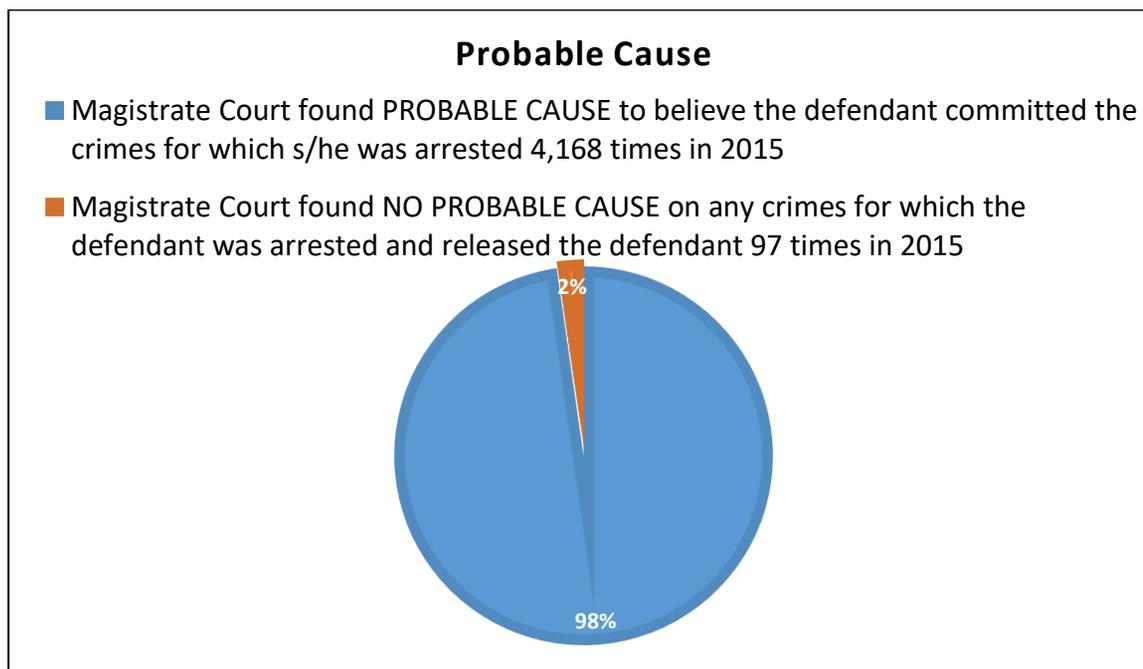
21,040



Admissions into Orleans Justice Center Jail in 2015 (may include repeat offenders)

9

According to information provided by New Orleans Pretrial Services:¹⁰



11

⁹ This figure was reported by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Coordination to the Jail Population Management Subcommittee on August 23, 2016.

¹⁰ This data was provided to CWN jointly by Vera Institute of Justice -New Orleans Office and the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Coordination.

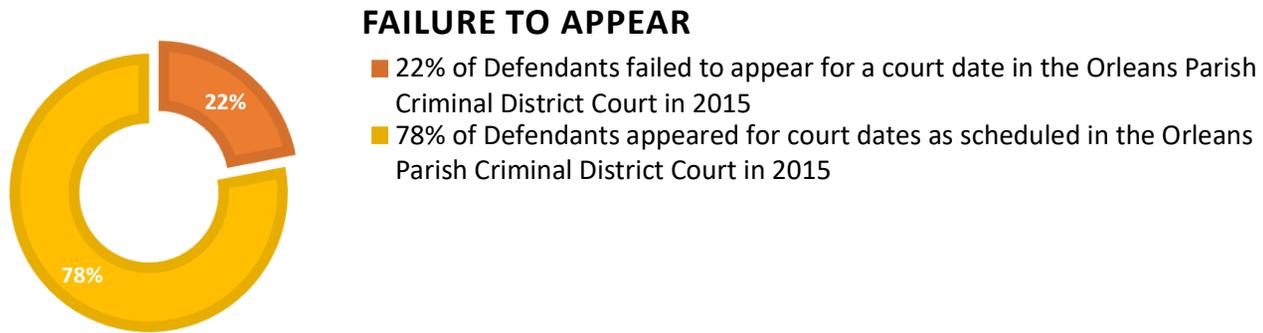
¹¹ New Orleans Pretrial Services (“NOPTS”) assesses whether a felony defendant is a significant risk to public safety or a significant risk of not returning for scheduled court dates. NOPTS assessed 86.1% of first appearances of defendants who were eligible to be released from jail by the Magistrate Court.



According to information provided by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office:



According to information provided by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination:¹²



¹² This figure was reported by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination to the Jail Population Management Subcommittee on August 23, 2016.

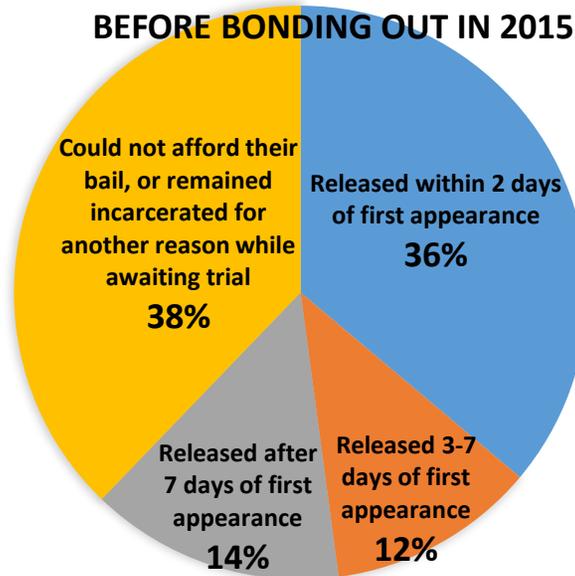


According to information provided by Orleans Public Defenders:



According to information provided by New Orleans Pretrial Services:¹⁴

AMOUNT OF TIME DEFENDANTS SPENT IN JAIL BEFORE BONDING OUT IN 2015

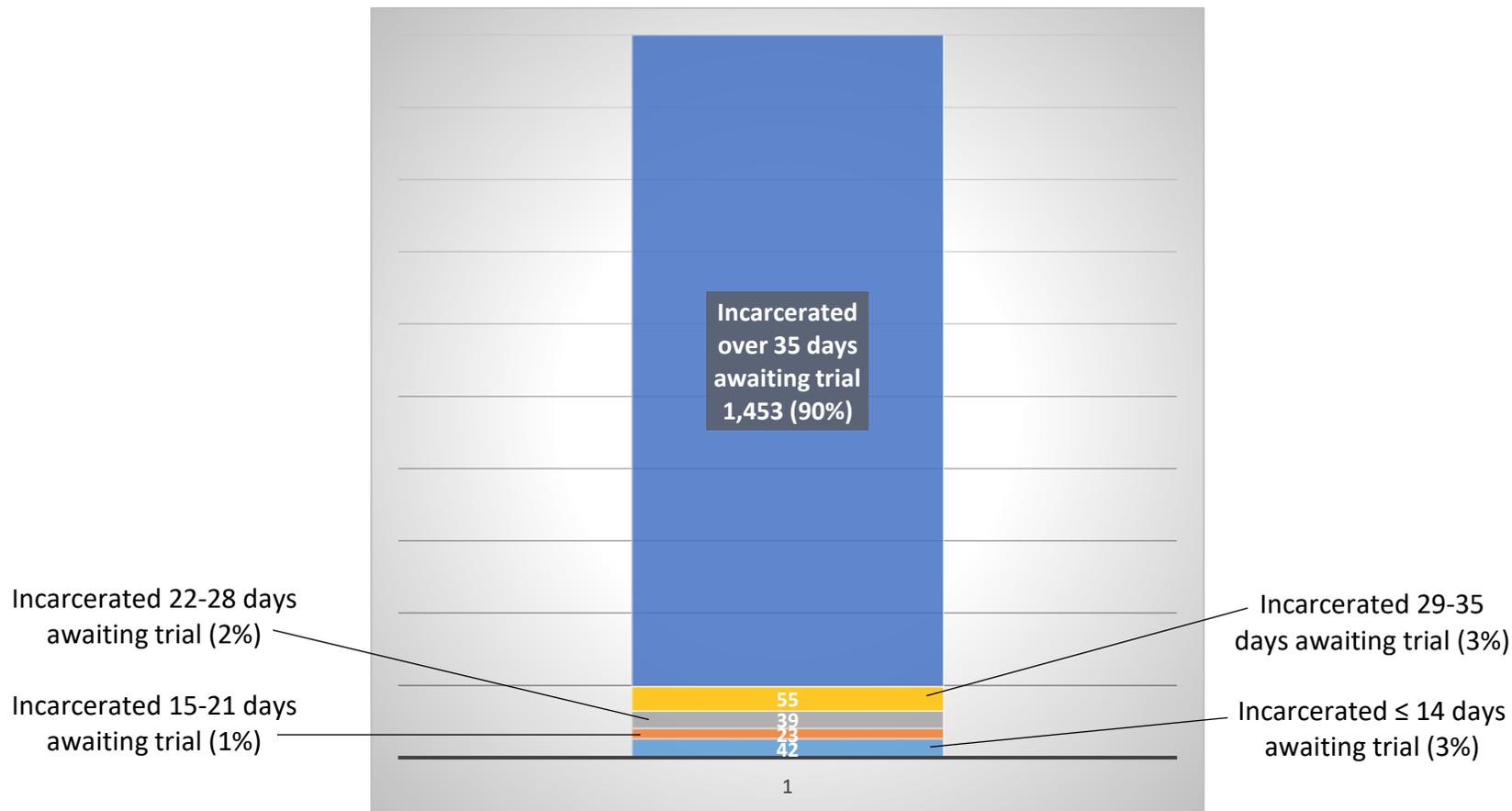


¹³ This figure was reported by Orleans Public Defenders and made publicly available by the Louisiana Public Defender Board 2015 Annual Report.

¹⁴ This data was provided to CWN jointly by Vera Institute of Justice -New Orleans Office and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination.



Amount of Time Defendants Spent in Jail if They Were Unable to Bond Out in 2015

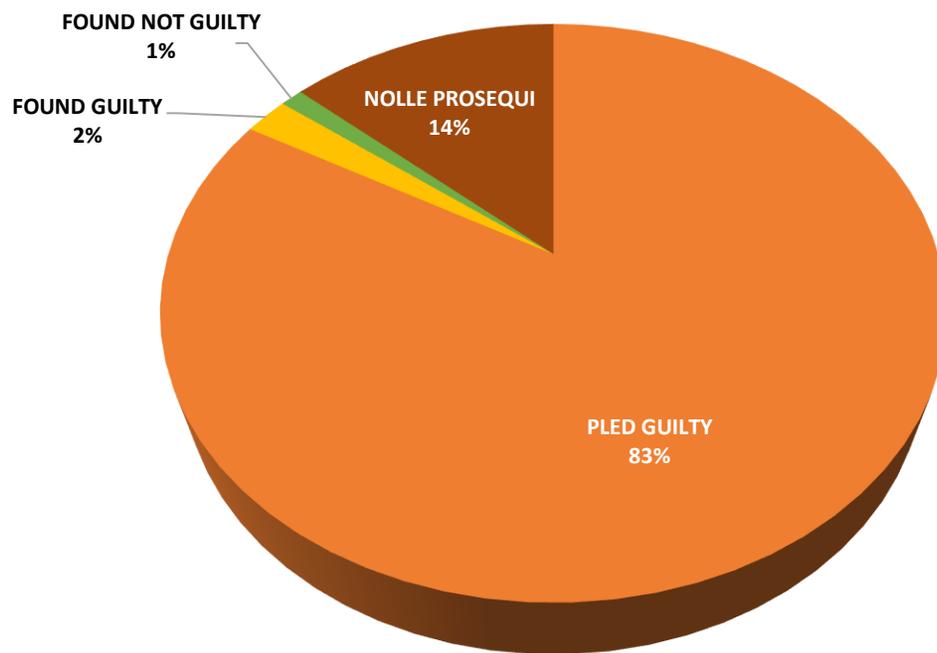




Case Dispositions

All Cases That Reached Final Disposition (Guilty Pleas, Acquittals, Dismissals, and Convictions) in 2015¹⁵

6,773 Defendants Charged with Felony, State Misdemeanor, and Municipal Code Violations



¹⁵ This data was provided to CWN by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. *Nolle prosequi* means the prosecutor dismissed or terminated prosecution. [NOTE ADDED 09/26/16, with information previously unknown to CWN until after this Report was published on 09/14/16.] The percentage of cases terminated by *nolle prosequi* includes 377 clients who were accepted into the OPDA's Diversion Program as an alternative to continued prosecution.

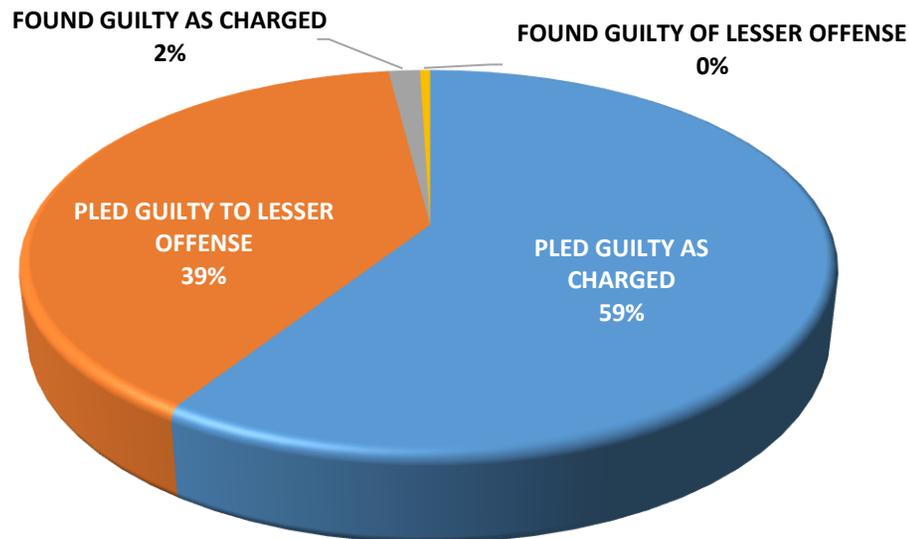


2015 SENTENCING DATA SAMPLE PROVIDED BY OPDA

CWN initially requested all 2015 sentencing data from the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. Due to limited time and resources, the OPDA requested that CWN narrow its request to certain crimes. CWN then requested sentencing data for the following crimes: homicide, manslaughter, aggravated rape, armed robbery, intimidation of a witness, domestic violence, possession with intent and distribution of schedule I dangerous substances, and possession with intent and distribution of schedule II dangerous substances. Below, find 5 pages which relate to the sentencing of those selected crimes.¹⁶

Breakdown of Convictions for Select Crimes

1,864 Convictions of Select Felony and State Misdemeanor Crimes

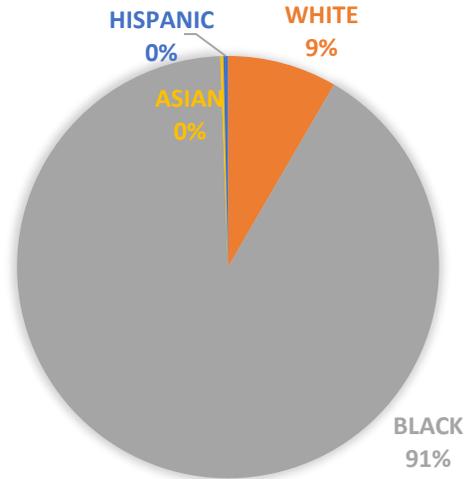
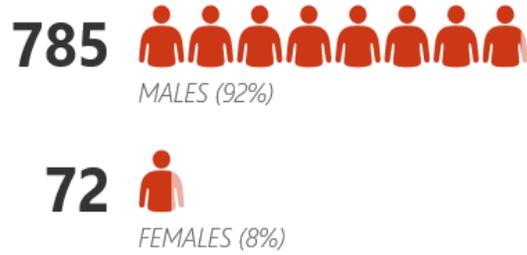


¹⁶ In addition to data received from the OPDA, CWN used publicly available data from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office to create the charts in this section.

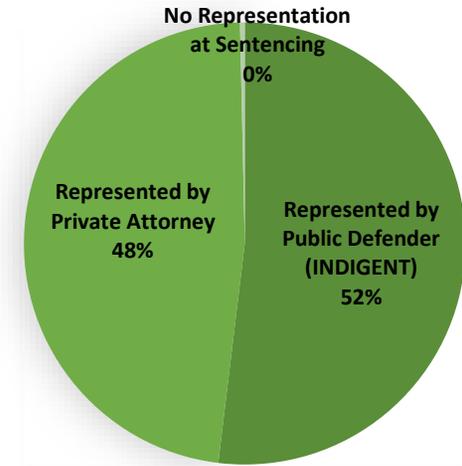


Individuals Sentenced for Select Felonies

858 defendants



COUNSEL PRESENT AT SENTENCING





Sentencing for Select Felonies in 2015

Below, find the average sentence per criminal count that defendants received in 2015 when charged with the selected felonies. Sentences are in years or months (as indicated) and rounded to the nearest tenth.

Sentencing in individual cases vary depending on factors including, but not limited to, a defendant's criminal and personal record, plea settlements, and individual circumstances of the crime. These numbers do not reflect the total sentence that an individual defendant received. Many of the charges in the following table are not "stand-alone" charges; rather, they were often accompanied by multiple other charges related to the same incident. These numbers do not consider defendants' other open or prior criminal cases. In addition, the majority of sentences identified in the following table are pursuant to a plea bargain between the defense and the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. Using data provided to CWN by the OPDA along with data publicly available from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, CWN compared only sentences of defendants who either pled or were found guilty **as charged**. Suspended sentences are not included in these charts.

Felony Offense	Statutory Limits on Sentencing	Avg. Sentence in Orleans Criminal District Court in 2015 ¹⁷	No. of Criminal Charges Sentenced in 2015
<i>2nd degree rape</i> ¹⁸	Min: 5 years, Max: 40 years	31.5 years	12
<i>Armed robbery</i> ¹⁹	Min: 10 years, Max: 99 years	14.4 years	16
<i>Armed robbery with a firearm</i> ²⁰	Min: 15 years, Max: 104 years	21.5 years	36

¹⁷ To find average sentences for each crime across all Orleans Criminal District Court judges in 2015, CWN compared only sentences of defendants who either pled or were found guilty as charged. Suspended sentences are not included in these figures.

¹⁸ LSA-R.S. § 14:42.1.

¹⁹ LSA-R.S. § 14:64.

²⁰ LSA-R.S. § 14:64.3.



Felony Offense	Statutory Limits on Sentencing	Avg. Sentence in Orleans Criminal District Court in 2015 ²¹	No. of Criminal Charges Sentenced in 2015
<i>Domestic abuse battery</i> ²²	Min: 30 days, Max: 50 years	5.6 months	78
<i>Distribution of marijuana or possession of marijuana with intent to distribute</i> ²³	Min: 5 years, Max: 30 years	7.8 years	121
<i>Distribution of cocaine or possession of cocaine with intent to distribute</i> ²⁴	Min: 2 years, Max: 30 years	9.3 years	106

According to information provided by Orleans Public Defenders:



²⁵

Louisiana statute requires a minimum sentence of life imprisonment at hard labor without the opportunity for parole, probation, or suspension of the sentence for aggravated rape (also known as 1st degree rape), 1st degree murder, and 2nd

²¹ To find average sentences for each crime across all Orleans Criminal District Court judges in 2015, CWN compared only sentences of defendants who either pled or were found guilty as charged. Suspended sentences are not included in these figures.

²² LSA-R.S. § 14:35.3. The average sentence in this table refers only to Domestic Abuse Battery charged as felonies.

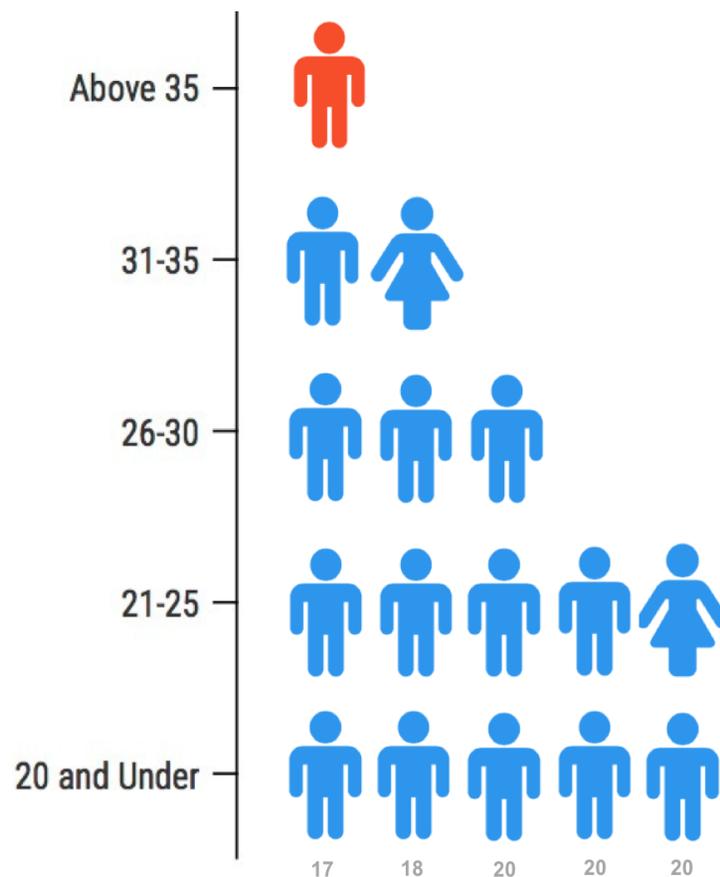
²³ LSA-R.S. § 40:966(A)(1)C21D, C22D, (A)(2)C22D.

²⁴ LSA-R.S. § 40:967(A), (B)(1)(A04D), (A04PD), (A40D), (A40PD).

²⁵ This figure was reported by Orleans Public Defenders to the Louisiana Public Defender Board and made publicly available by the LPDB 2015 Annual Report.



degree murder.²⁶ 16 individuals guilty of 1st degree rape, 1st degree murder, and 2nd degree murder received a life sentence, and their ages at arrest, gender, and race (blue = African American, orange = Caucasian) are depicted below.²⁷



²⁶ See LSA-R.S. § 14.42(D); LSA-R.S. § 14:30(C); and LSA-R.S. § 14:30.1(B).

²⁷ This information was provided to CWN by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and publicly available by the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. One African American man pled guilty as charged to aggravated rape but received a sentence of 40 years rather than a life sentence. One African American woman pled guilty as charged to second-degree murder but received a sentence of 35 years rather than a life sentence.



Case Closed?²⁸

AFTER SENTENCING

6,078 
arrest warrants issued for failure to appear to pay fines and fees

2,482 
bookings into Orleans Justice Center Jail for failure to pay fines and fees

²⁸ These figures were reported by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination to the Jail Population Management Subcommittee on August 23, 2016.