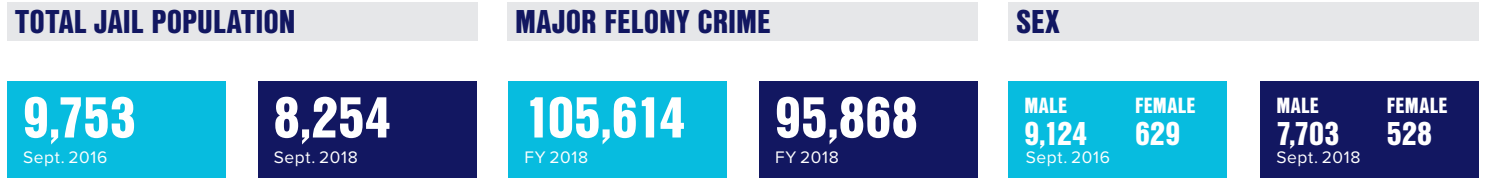


JAIL IN NEW YORK CITY: 2016–2018

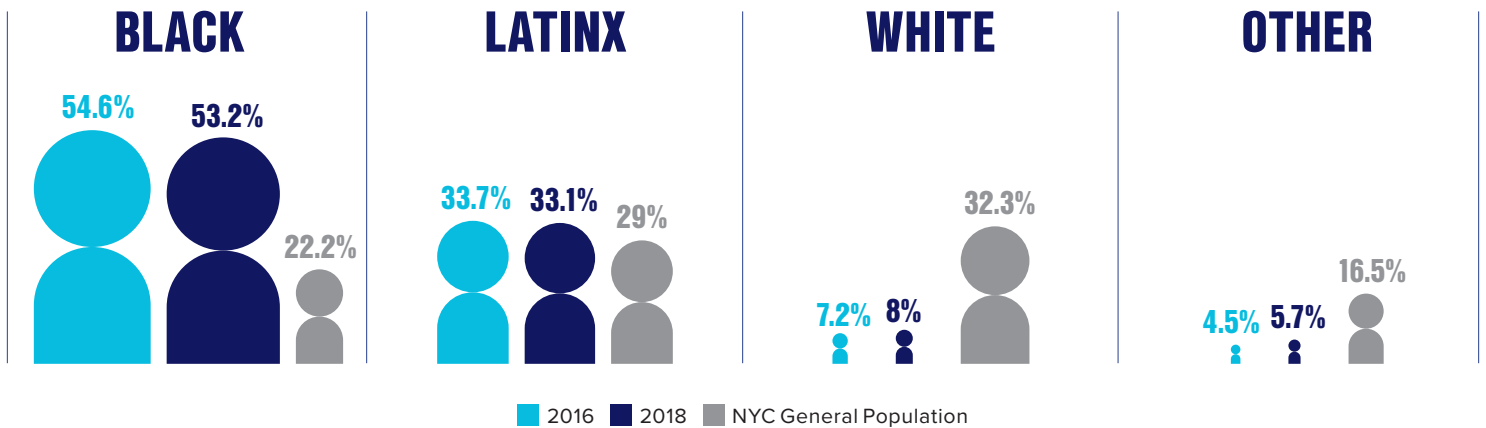
In *A More Just New York City*, we analyzed a snapshot of the people who were incarcerated in New York City jails on September 29, 2016. On that date, there were 9,753 people held in City jails, most of them on Rikers Island.⁴

Two years later, on September 29, 2018, there were 8,254 people in jail—a decline of nearly 1,500 people. In the figures below, we compare these snapshots to illustrate what has changed over the past two years, what has not, and where there are opportunities for further reform.⁵



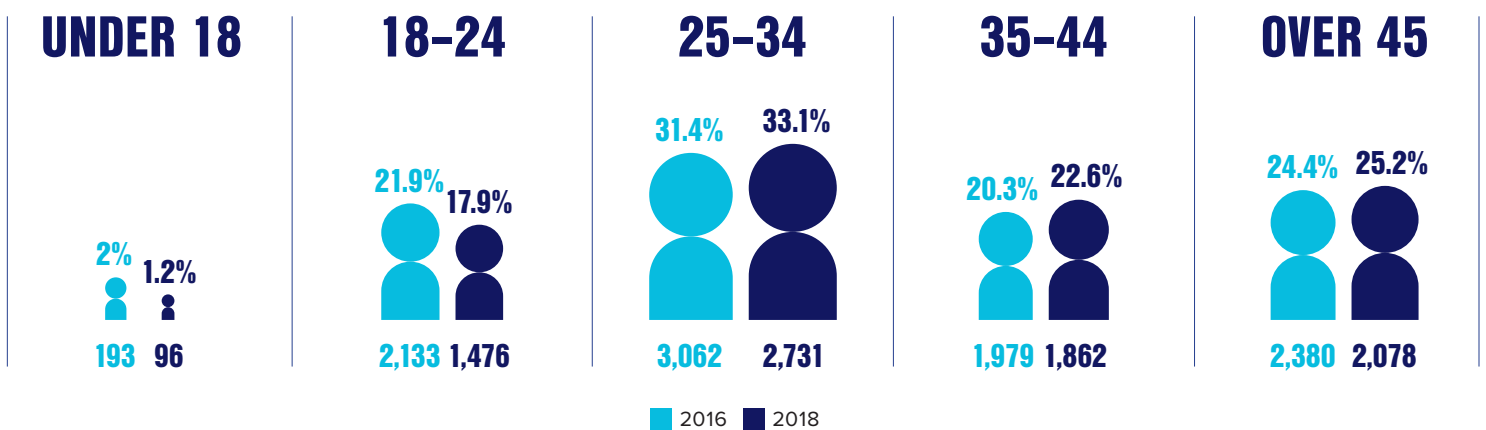
RACE / ETHNICITY

While the number of people in jail has decreased significantly, the racial and gender demographics are essentially unchanged.



AGE

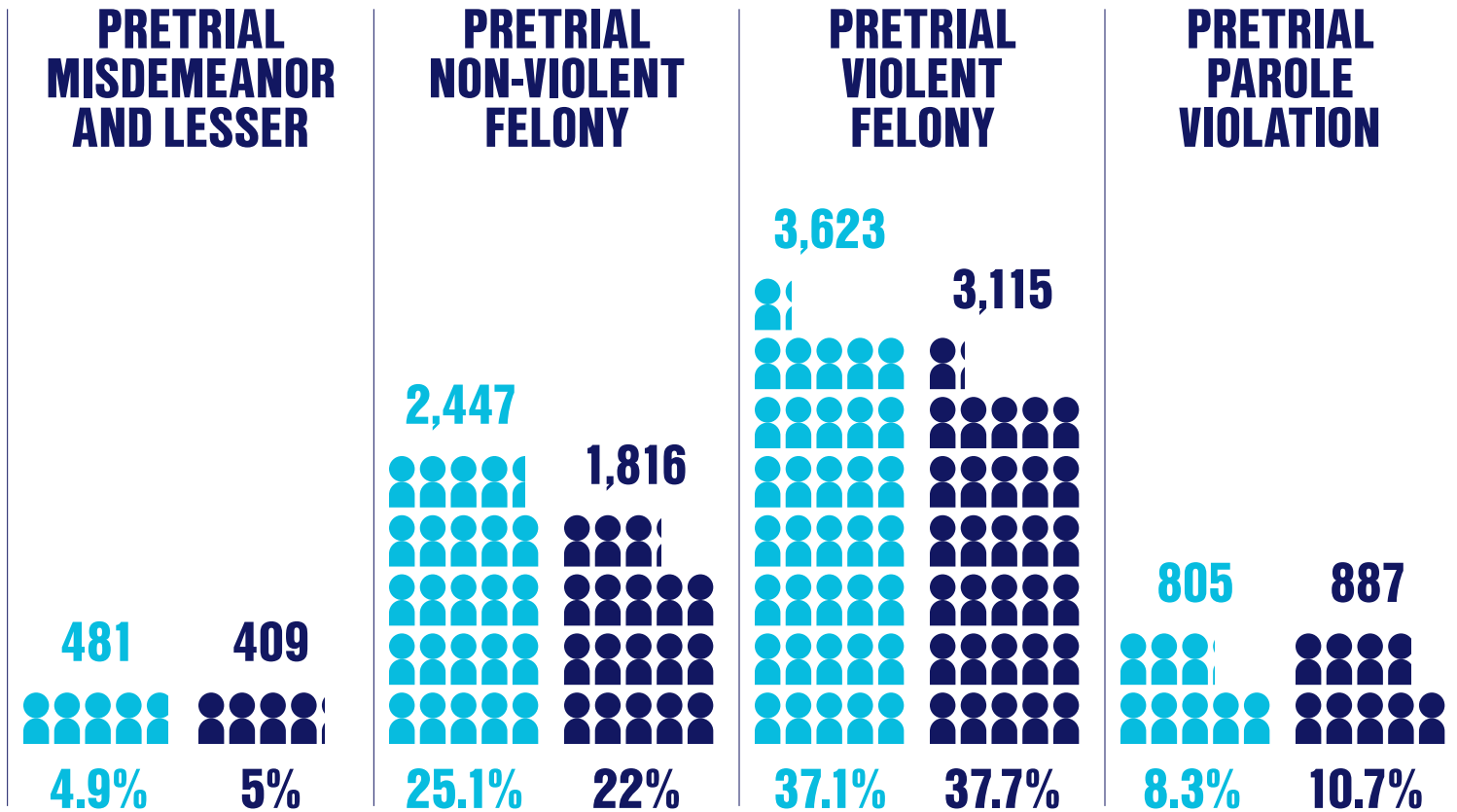
The age of the detained population increased slightly from 2016 to 2018. The large decline in the number of 18 to 24 year-olds in jail is particularly noteworthy—on September 29, 2018, there were 657 fewer people aged 18 to 24 in jail than there were on September 29, 2016. The decline in this cohort amounts to almost 44 percent of the total decline in the number of people in jail.



JAIL IN NEW YORK CITY: 2016–2018

REASON FOR DETENTION

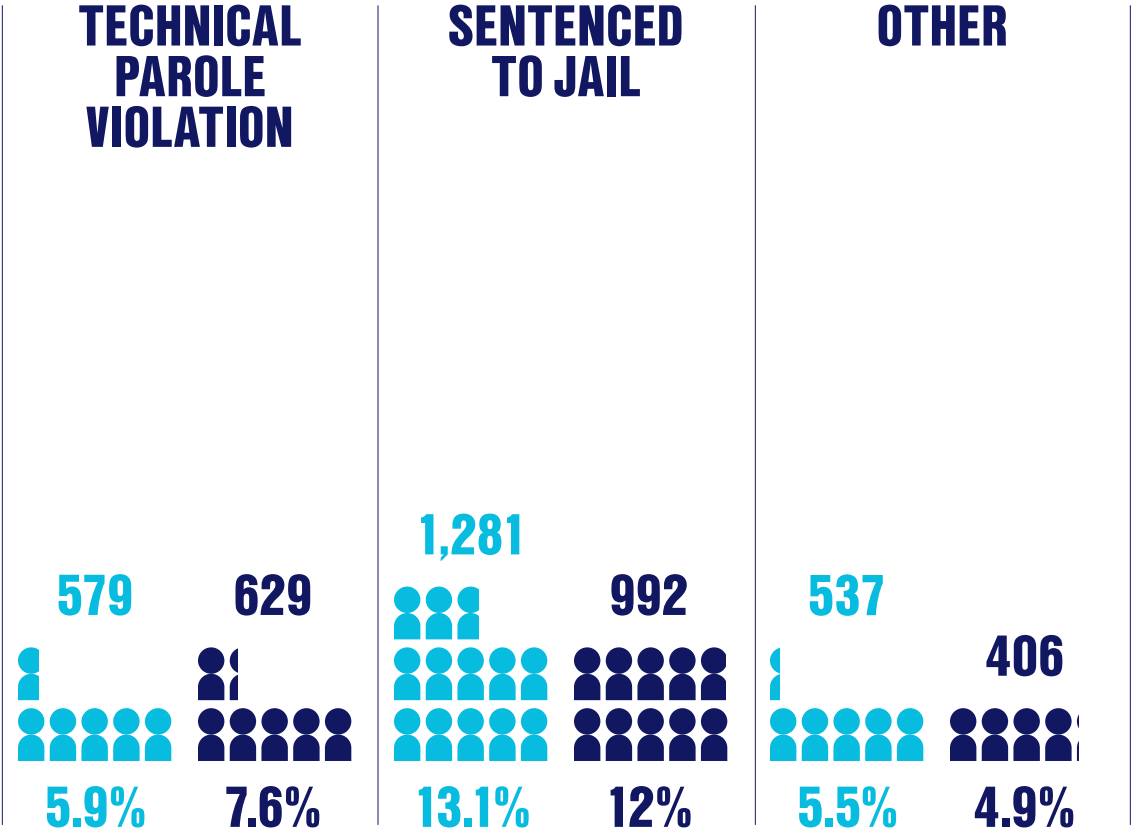
There have been declines in every category of reason for detention, with the exception of parole violations. The number of people detained because of new offenses while on parole (the “Pretrial – Parole Violation” category) and because they allegedly violated other parole conditions (the “Technical Parole Violator” category) are the only categories that increased.



WHAT IS A “VIOLENT FELONY”?

New York law divides felony offenses into two subsets: those that are deemed “violent” and those that are not.⁶ The “violent” label, however, can obscure the range of conduct covered by this category. Some offenses, such as murder, rape, or firearms charges, involve behavior that is obviously violent in nature. Other offenses, however, can encompass behavior that might not ordinarily be viewed as “violent,” including, for example, a person accused of stealing something from the common area of an apartment building or who is charged as an accomplice or accessory,

but who did not themselves use violence. In 2017, 46 percent of all cases charged as violent felonies in the five boroughs were dismissed or resulted in an acquittal—almost as many as resulted in convictions (54 percent). In total, only 12 percent of people accused of a violent felony were sentenced to serve time in state prison.⁷ And according to research from the Center for Court Innovation, 40 percent of violent felony defendants who were detained before trial in 2013 posed only a minimal or low risk of a future violent felony rearrest.⁸



DECLINING JAIL ADMISSIONS

The drop in the daily jail population over the past two years has been matched by a steep decline in the overall number of people who are being admitted into jail. From July 2015 to June 2016, almost 64,000 people were processed into New York City jails. By contrast, from July 2017 to June 2018, fewer than 50,000 were admitted to jail, a 22 percent decline (approximately 14,300 fewer people).⁹