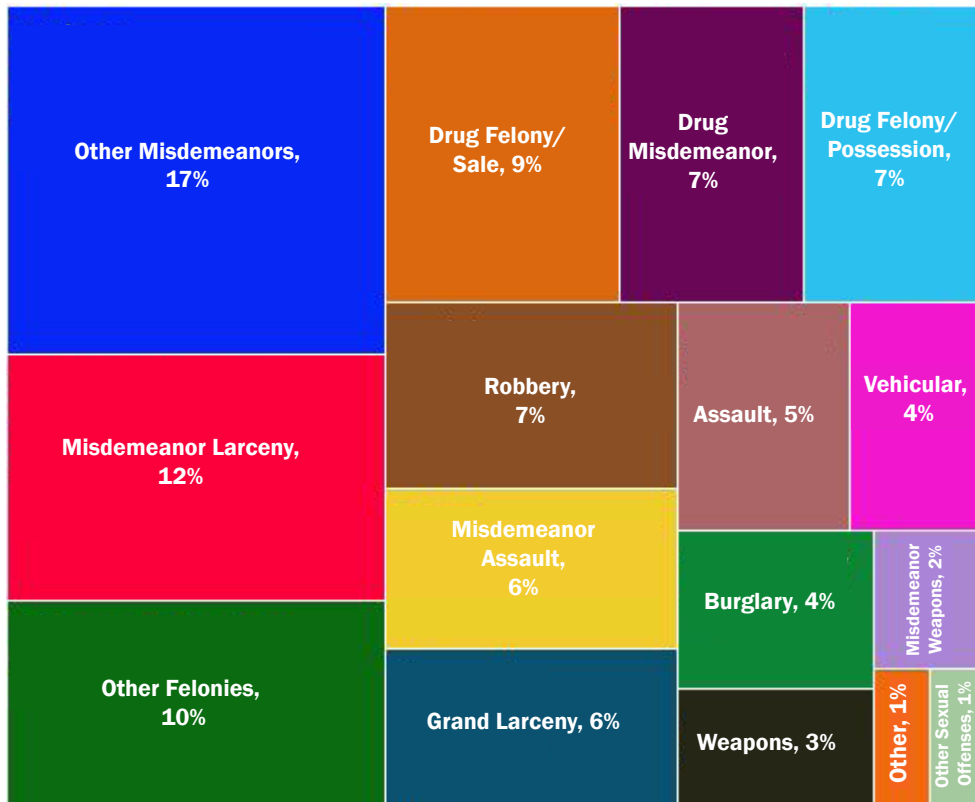


Sentenced to Time in a City Jail: For What Offenses and How Long?

On a typical day in fiscal year 2016, there were about 9,700 people in New York City jails: roughly 7,700 pretrial detainees, 1,200 sentenced to serve time in city jails, and 800 sentenced to terms in state prisons but who remained in city custody. While there has been much discussion of bail reforms that could substantially reduce the number of pretrial detainees in the city's jails, less attention has been paid to those who have been convicted of crimes and sentenced to time in the city's own jails. These city-sentenced inmates serve jail terms of a year or less, although those convicted of multiple crimes and sentenced to consecutive terms can remain in jails run by the Department of Correction for up to two years.

City-Sentenced Population on an Average Day in 2016, By Charge

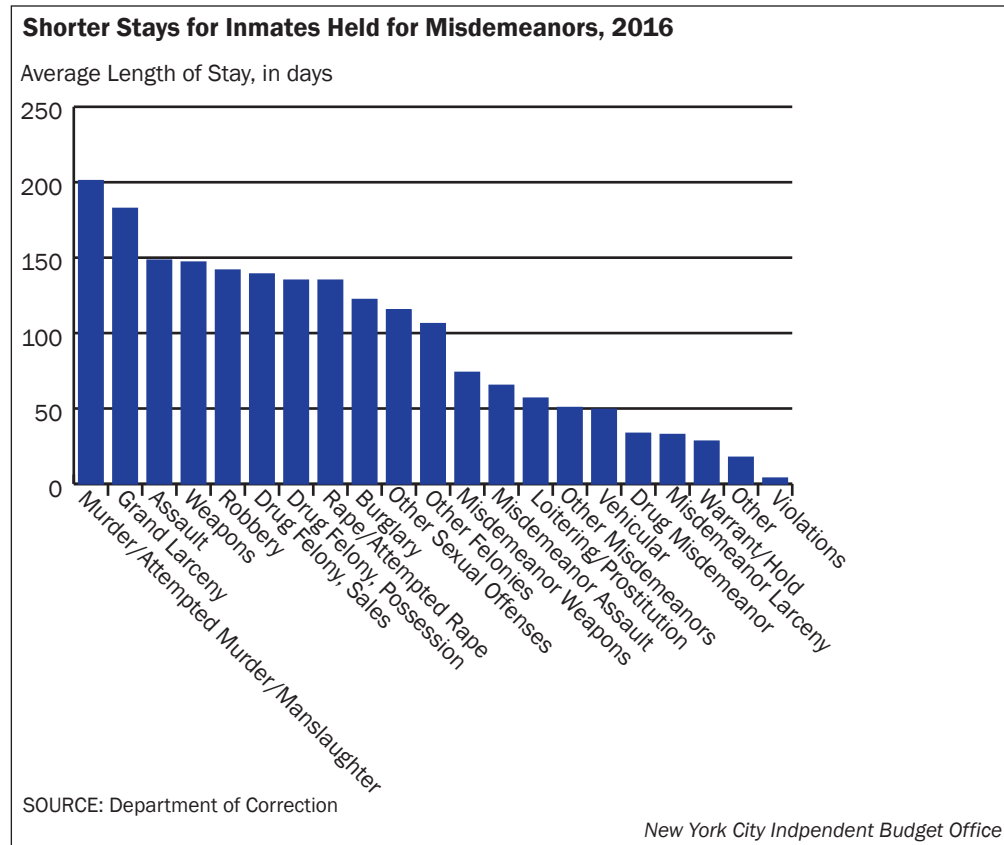


SOURCE: Department of Correction

NOTES: Based on number of beds in use each day. "Other" category includes warrants/holds, rape/attempted rape, murder/attempted murder/manslaughter, and loitering/prostitution.

New York City Independent Budget Office

- On an average day in 2016 about half of the city-sentenced inmates had been convicted of an offense in one of four crime categories: other misdemeanors such as selling MetroCard swipes (17 percent), misdemeanor larceny (12 percent), other felonies such as making a terrorist threat (10 percent), and felony drug sales (9 percent).
- Inmates convicted of violent crimes such as murder, assault, and rape accounted for a relatively small share of all those serving time in city jails because individuals found guilty of these offenses usually receive sentences of more than a year and are sent to state prisons.
- About a quarter of the city-sentenced inmates had been convicted of drug-related crimes.



- The average length of stay for city-sentenced inmates was 63 days, while half of the city-sentenced population served a sentence of 18 days or less. Length of stay is calculated by using discharges in 2016. Some inmates may have been admitted in 2015 or earlier while others may not have been released until 2017 or later.
- The most frequent types of charges carried relatively short sentences. There were about 2,400 discharges of inmates convicted of misdemeanor larceny, after serving an average of 33 days. Just over 2,000 inmates convicted of “other misdemeanors” were discharged after an average of 51 days. About 1,300 inmates convicted of drug misdemeanors were discharged after an average stay of 34 days.
- The shortest average sentence was for those convicted of violations such as disorderly conduct or driving without a license, with about 400 individuals discharged after an average sentence of four days.

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