



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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## NYC Jails Experience 73% Drop in Unique Stays and a Shift in Population Demographics at City Jails, IBO Report Finds

**March 19, 2024**, – The New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) has conducted an analysis on the duration of stays and demographic breakdown of individuals in City jails managed by the Department of Correction.

In this report, IBO analyzed compared data from 2014 and 2023 on each stay at City jails to identify changes in who has been held in DOC custody and how long they stayed. This decade was one of immense volatility, with major changes to the criminal legal system including the *Nunez v. City of New York* consent judgment, the decision to close Rikers Island, and bail reform.

IBO's comprehensive analysis can be found [here](#).

Main takeaways from the report:

- The total number of unique stays in City jails has decreased by 73% from 2014 through 2023. This total is distinct from the number of individuals who have entered DOC jails, as multiple stays are attributed to a single individual if they were incarcerated more than once.
- The demographic landscape of DOC jails has changed dramatically, with two specific groups not constituting a larger share of the jail population: individuals facing the most severe criminal charges, and those identified by the DOC as in need of mental health treatment.
- The share of stays for violent felony charges—the charge type with the longest average length of stay—increased from 17% of jail stays in 2014 to 46% in 2023.
- The duration of jail stays for individuals diagnosed with mental illness is on average more than double compared to those without mental health conditions. Additionally, the share of incarcerations linked to individuals with mental health concerns has risen from 37% to 51%.
- In examining changes in the jail population across age, gender, and race/ethnicity from 2014 to 2023, the IBO found no significant shifts in composition. Nonetheless, there is a notable variance in the average duration of jail stays among these demographic groups.



**New York City Independent Budget Office**

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