ORLEANS PARISH
MARCH-APRIL 2020 COVID-19 ARREST AND INMATE POPULATION TRENDS

Metropolitan Crime Commission
May 12, 2020
The New Normal?
Lower Arrests Rates and Inmate Populations Holding Steady in Orleans Parish Amid COVID-19 Response

Arrests
- 55% decline in total felony arrests and violent felony arrests since first week of March (see Exhibit 1)
  - As of May 2, violent felonies comprised 42% of all felony arrests (Exhibit 2)
  - 6% decline in property-related felony arrests
  - 80% decline in weapons felony arrests
  - 70% decline in drug felony arrests
- Violent misdemeanor arrests near pre-pandemic levels (Exhibit 3)
  - 100% of violent misdemeanor arrests between April 26-May 2 included at least one domestic violence charge (Exhibit 3)
  - Officers are required by law to make arrests in domestic violence cases

Inmate Population
- 23% fewer inmates in custody the week of April 26-May 2 compared to the first two weeks of March, prior to the stay-at-home order (Exhibit 4)
- Inmate population remained largely stable since April 5-11, ranging from 804-819 in custody each day (Exhibit 4)
  - Since April 5-11, 95% of the inmate population has been comprised of offenders held for felony charges (i.e., felony pretrial inmates, felony warrants, Department of Corrections inmates, and probation/parole violators; Exhibit 4)
- 140 inmates were being held on pending murder charges as of May 2, 2020 (Exhibit 5)
Weekly Arrests by Type from March 1st – May 2nd 2020

Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled

City and statewide stay-at-home orders issued; bars/restaurants closed

Exhibit 1. Weekly Orleans Parish Arrests by Type

Arrests from March 1 to May 2, 2020:
Overall, arrests decreased 55%, from 256 the week of March 1-7 to 114 the week of April 26-May 2.
- Felony arrests dropped 55%
- Misdemeanor arrests returned to near pre-pandemic levels the week of April 26-May 2
- Warrant arrests dropped 82%
- Municipal and traffic arrests dropped 84%
- Probation/parole violation arrests dropped 83%
  - Since the week of March 15-21, there has been only one standalone probation/parole violation arrest
Weekly Felony Arrests from March 1\(^{st}\) – May 2\(^{nd}\) 2020

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<tr>
<td>Other Felony</td>
<td>Drug Felony</td>
<td>Property Felony</td>
<td>Weapons Felony</td>
<td>Violent Felony</td>
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Exhibit 2. Weekly Orleans Parish Felony Arrests

Felony Arrests Since March 1, 2020:

Violent felonies continued to show considerable variability from week to week.

- Overall, violent felony arrests declined 55% since the first week of March and comprised 42% of all felony arrests as of May 2, 2020
- Battery/assault charges represented a majority of violent felonies, averaging 65% of violent felony arrests
- Robbery charges were the second most common, comprising an average of 19% of violent felony arrests

Weapons felony arrests declined 80% and showed fewer weekly fluctuations than other types of felony charges.

Property-related felonies declined 6% overall.

- Felony burglary arrests increased 50% since the first week of March.
- Felony theft arrests decreased 33%.
- Felony criminal damage arrests exhibited little change.

Felony drug arrests showed a 70% decline overall since the first week of March.

- Felony drug distribution arrests declined 31%, from 13 March 1-7 to 9 April 26-May 2.
- Felony drug possession arrests dropped 90%, from 20 March 1-7 to 2 April 26-May 2.

Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled
City and statewide stay-at-home orders issued; bars/restaurants closed

Other Felony
Drug Felony
Property Felony
Weapons Felony
Violent Felony
Weekly Misdemeanor Arrests from March 1st – May 2nd 2020

Exhibit 3. Weekly Orleans Parish Misdemeanor Arrests

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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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Misdemeanor Arrests Since March 1, 2020:

As of May 2, violent misdemeanor arrests, which were largely comprised of domestic violence offenses, had nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels:

- 81% of violent misdemeanor arrests during the reporting period included at least one domestic violence charge
- 100% of violent misdemeanor arrests the week of April 26-May 2 included at least one domestic violence charge
- Officers are required by law to make an arrest in all domestic violence cases

19% were property-related misdemeanors such as theft or criminal damage
10% were “other” misdemeanors, most commonly for violation of protective orders- a domestic violence-related offense- or resisting an officer

Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled
City and statewide stay-at-home orders issued; bars/restaurants closed

Exhibit 4. Weekly Orleans Parish Misdemeanor Arrests

Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled
City and statewide stay-at-home orders issued; bars/restaurants closed
Weekly OPSO Inmate Population from March 4th – May 2nd 2020

There were 23% fewer inmates in custody the week of April 26-May 2 compared to the first two weeks of March, prior to the stay-at-home order.

The jail population has been steady since the week of April 5-11 and ranged from 804-819.

Since April 5-11, 95% of inmates were in custody for felonies, including inmates held for the Department of Corrections (DOC), probation/parole violations, warrants, and pending felony charges:

- 82% of DOC inmates were participating in the work release program.

70% of misdemeanor inmates are held for violent offenses such as domestic assault:

- Most days, there are no inmates held on municipal or traffic charges.
- An average of one offender per day was held for misdemeanor drug possession.

(March 13th) Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled.
Weekly OPSO Felony Pretrial Inmate Population from March 4th – May 2nd 2020

From the beginning of March to the week of April 26-May 2:

There were 17% fewer felony pretrial inmates

Violent felony pretrial inmates had a small 3% decline

- Inmates held for murder rose from 132 to 140
- A consistent average of 65 inmates were held for rape
- An average of 105 inmates were in custody for robbery

Inmates held for weapons felonies accounted for 13% of the inmate population

Property felonies were the most serious charge for 6%-8% of inmates

- Burglary charges accounted for a 64% majority of inmates held for property felonies

Pretrial drug felony inmates went from making up 11% of the inmate population to 7% of the inmate population

- A 71% majority of inmates held for drug felonies were charged with distribution

Inmates held for "Other" crimes such as possession of child pornography and failure to register as a sex offender made up 3% of the inmate population

(March 13th)

Statewide school closure announced; city events cancelled

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Exhibit 5. Weekly OPSO Felony Pretrial Inmate Population