Drivers of Prison Population in Oklahoma

Updated 10/16/2026

Entries to Prison

Supervision violations have increased since 2020

- The ratio of **recommitments for violations** to new commitments grew **56%** since 2019

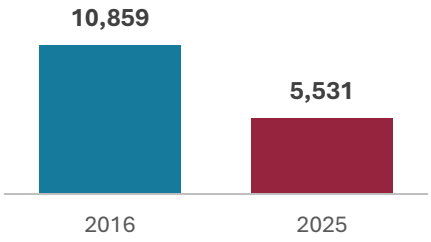
Admissions for public order offenses increased 12% from 2016 to 2025

Prison Admissions by Offense Type, 2016 and 2025

Offense	2016	2025	% Change
Violent	2,039	2,162	▲ +6%
Property	2,230	1,254	▼ -44%
Drug	3,541	998	▼ -72%
Public Order	1,449	1,616	▲ +12%
Other	135	94	▼ -30%

Exits from Prison

Total releases dropped 49% since 2016 and 13% since 2021



▼ **49%**

fewer releases since 2016

▼ **13%** since 2021 (6,338 to 5,531)

Releases to supervision declined 59% over the decade

- From **6,152** in 2016 to **2,529** in 2025, with a significant drop during the pandemic (**5,055** in 2020 to **2,516** in 2022)

Releases to parole increased before and during the pandemic, with a steady decline since

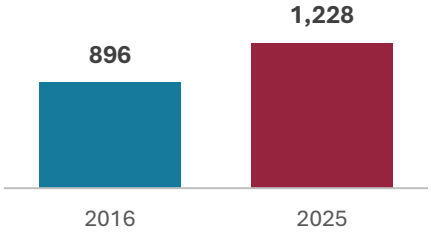
- Increased from **296** in 2018 to a peak of **781** in 2021, then declined **20%** to **626** in 2025

Releases for drug and property sentences have declined

- **Drug** — down **80%** since 2016 and **43%** since 2021
- **Property** — down **56%** since 2016 and **38%** since 2020

Stays in Prison

Average length of stay increased 37% since 2016



▲ 37%

longer average length of stay since 2016

▲ **5%** since 2021 (1,165 to 1,228 days)

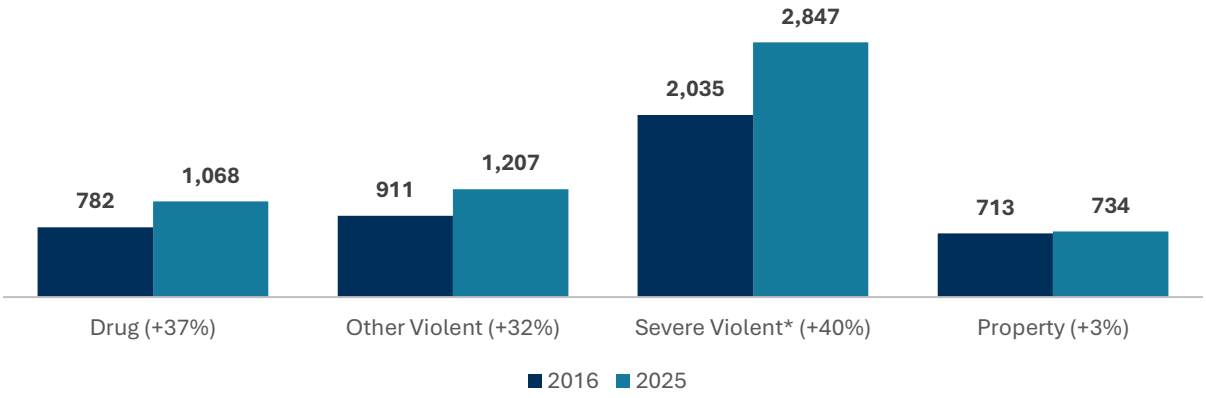
Length of stay for those released to parole declined during the pandemic but has risen since 2023

- Fell from **1,640** days in 2019 to **780** in 2023, then rose to **1,240** in 2025

Length of stay has risen across all offense types

- **Drug offenses** up **37%**; **severe violent offenses*** up **40%**; **other violent offenses** up **32%**

Average Length of Stay (Days) by Offense Type, 2016 and 2025



*Severe violent offenses: aggravated assault, rape, homicide, and robbery. Length of stay is the average days incarcerated for those released in a given year.

Sources:

Oklahoma Department of Corrections, admissions and release data provided to CJI (2016-2025).

Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners Reports (2016-2022).