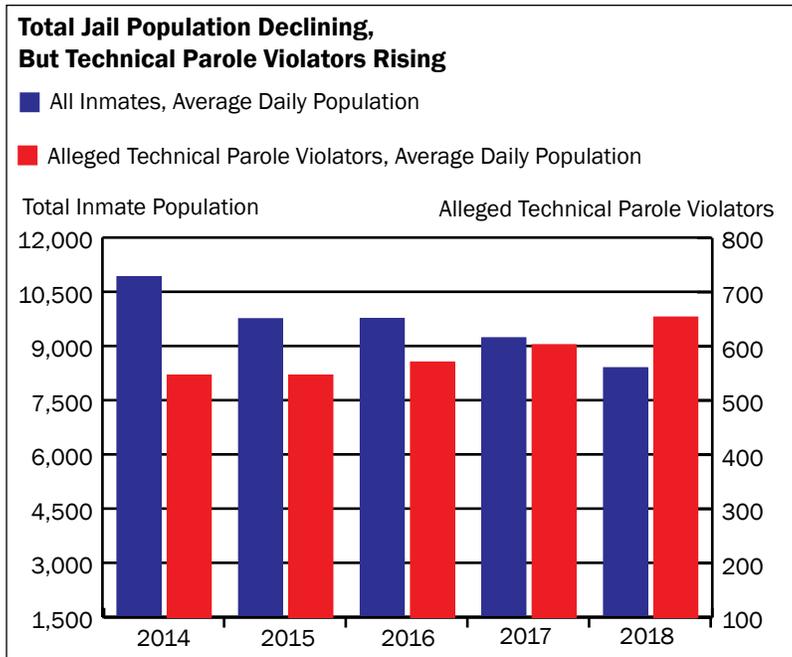


Who Pays for the Rising Number of State Technical Parole Violators in NYC Jails?

While the overall number of inmates in the city’s jails has been declining, at least one subset of inmates has been rising: detainees accused of technical parole violations. Jailed for noncriminal reasons such as being late for curfew or testing positive for drugs, alleged technical parole violators are actually state inmates held at the city’s expense.¹ How much of the jail population is comprised of technical parole violators and what is the cost to the city for keeping them jailed?



- The average daily population in the city’s jails fell from about 10,900 in 2014 to about 8,400 in 2018, a decline of 23 percent. Conversely, the average daily population of inmates held for suspected technical parole violations grew from 550 to 650 over the same period, an increase of 20 percent.
- Technical parole violators spend an average of about 60 days in the city’s jails while state officials determine guilt or innocence and whether to send violators back to state prison.
- Holding these inmates currently costs the city about \$190 million a year and the state has not reimbursed the city for this service since fiscal year 2009. Prior to 2009, the state contributed to some of the cost—an average of about \$12 million annually from fiscal years 2005 through 2008.

The Mayor’s plan for closing Rikers Island aims to reduce the average daily population of technical parole violators in city jails to no more than 400 by 2022, a decrease of about 40 percent from 2018. The Independent Commission on New York Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform has made several recommendations concerning technical parole violators. The recommendations include ending mandatory jailing when citing someone for a technical violation and speeding up parole violation hearings so individuals do not spend weeks or months in a local jail before state officials decide whether to return them to state prison or continue parole.

Correction: After publication the de Blasio Administration slightly revised its count of people held for technical parole violations in 2016 and 2017.

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ENDNOTE

¹Another set of parole violators are pre-trial detainees, who are held in jail for allegedly committing criminal offenses while on parole. They number on average about 900 a day in the city’s jails.