

## Oklahoma Criminal Justice System Update: Prison

### Executive Summary

New data from Oklahoma's Department of Corrections reveal divergent trends that underscore systemic complexities and highlight areas for concern. While the state has made strides in reducing its overall prison population, deeper examination uncovers a tale of disparity, particularly along gender and geographic lines.

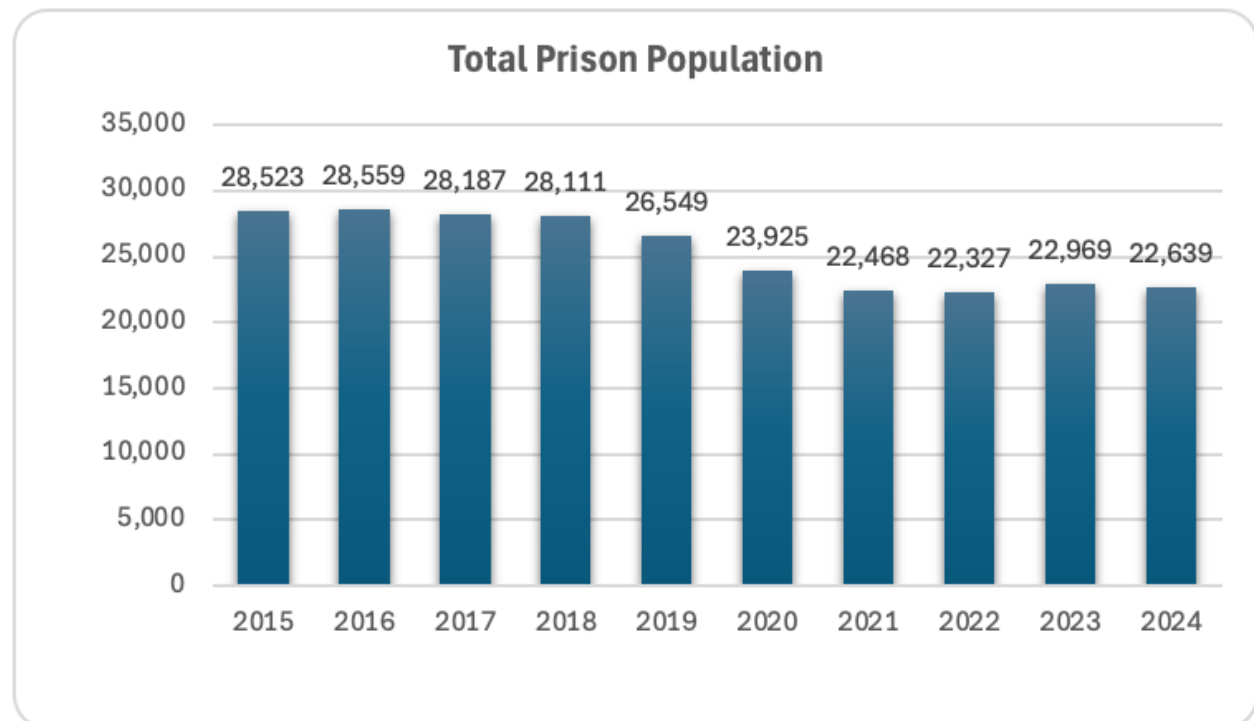
After years of incremental change, Oklahoma's total prison population declined by 1.4% from 2023 to 2024. This marks a positive shift but masks significant undercurrents. Women in the system tell a different story: the female in-custody prison population has surged by 6.2%, outstripping the declining male incarceration rate. This dramatic increase signals not just a change in sentencing trends but a potential shift in the underlying factors driving women into the criminal justice system.

While Oklahoma County made modest progress in reducing sentences, Tulsa County's trajectory diverged sharply, with an 8.7% rise in total sentences. Most concerning is the 28.4% spike in sentences for women, far outpacing increases for men. This growing pipeline of incarcerated women hints at systemic disparities in enforcement, adjudication, or social factors unique to Tulsa County.

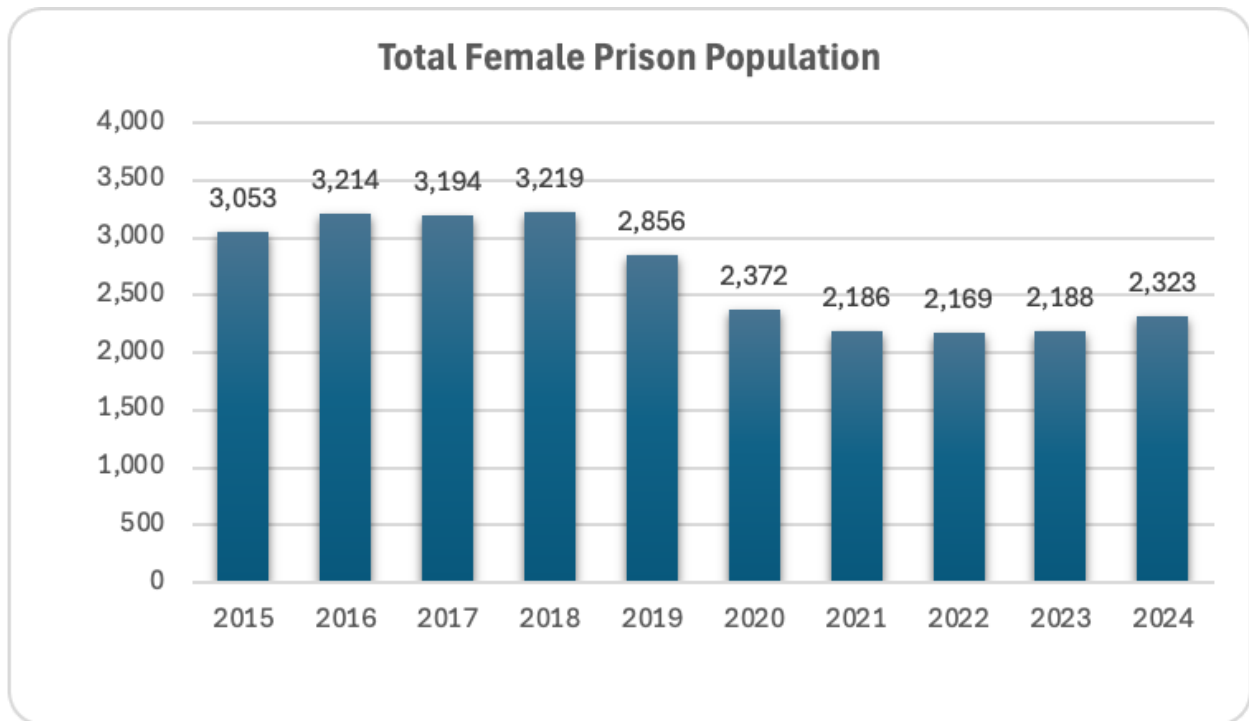
One bright spot is the lower recidivism rate for women in Tulsa County compared to men. This indicates that when women are released, they are more likely to stay out of the system.

### Prison Population

- Total Prison Population: Declined by 1.4% from 2023 to 2024, moderately reducing the overall population after a slight increase last year. \*data includes jail backlog counts



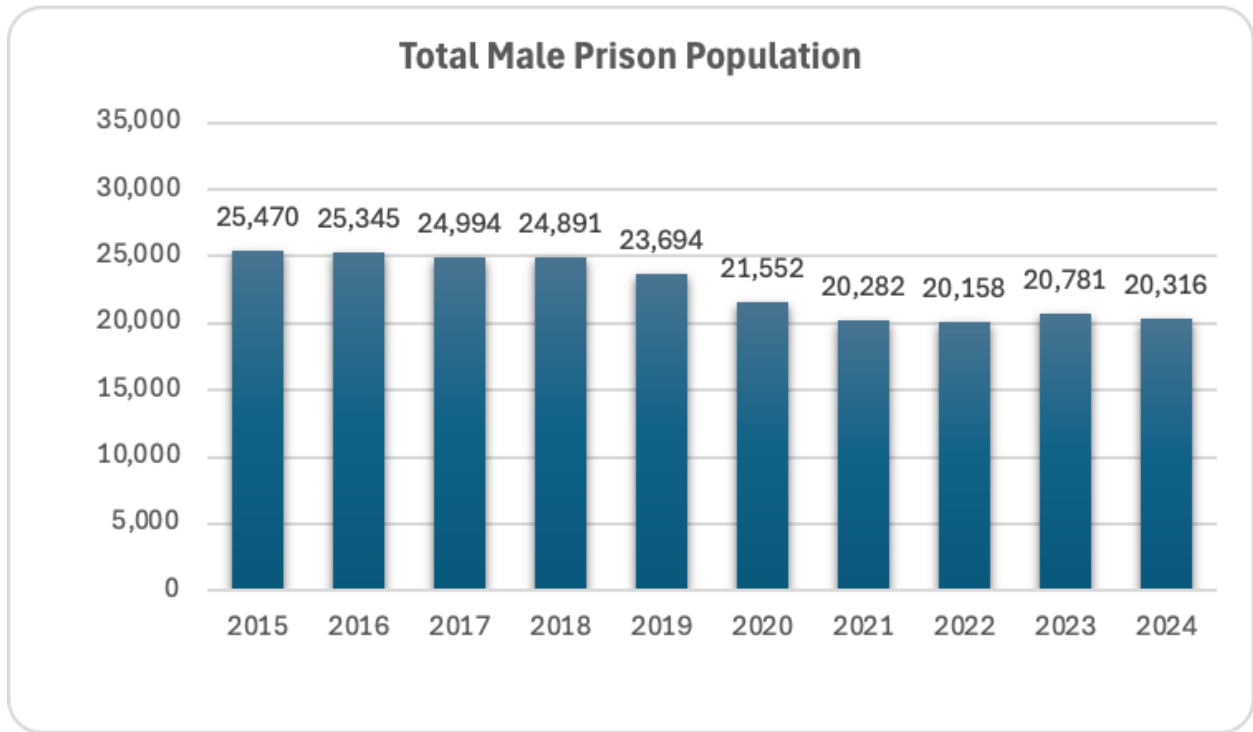
- Female Prison Population: Increased by 6.2% YoY, marking a sharp contrast to the overall trend.



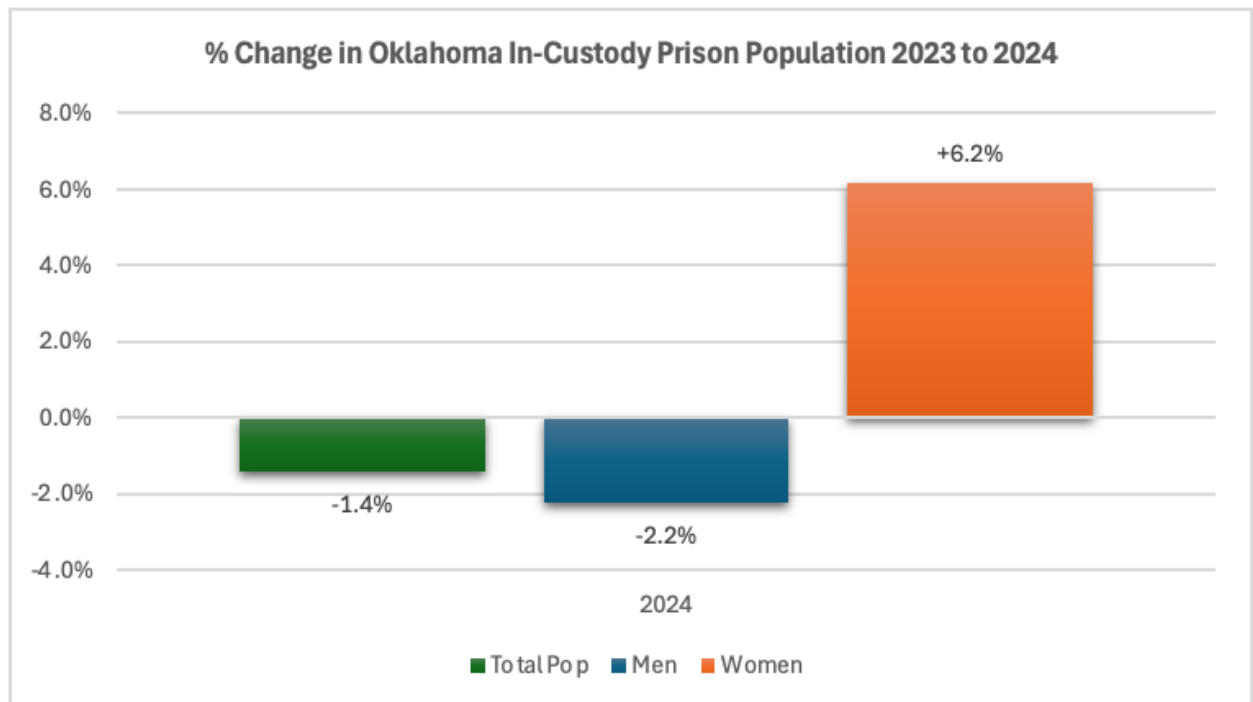
- Female Prison Population: Oklahoma County is responsible for 20.6% of the total female prison population (2,323), while Tulsa is responsible for 14.9%. \*These are calculated estimates due to constraints of available prison data by county.

	County	Female Prisoners	% of Total
1	Oklahoma	478	20.6%
2	Tulsa	345	14.9%
3	Cleveland	108	4.7%
4	Comanche	92	4.0%
5	Muskogee	69	3.0%
6	Rogers	68	2.9%
7	Garfield	65	2.8%
8	Canadian	58	2.5%
9	Stephens	58	2.5%
10	Kay	54	2.3%
	All others	926	39.9%

- Male Prison Population: Decreased by 2.2% YoY, continuing the long-term trend of decline.

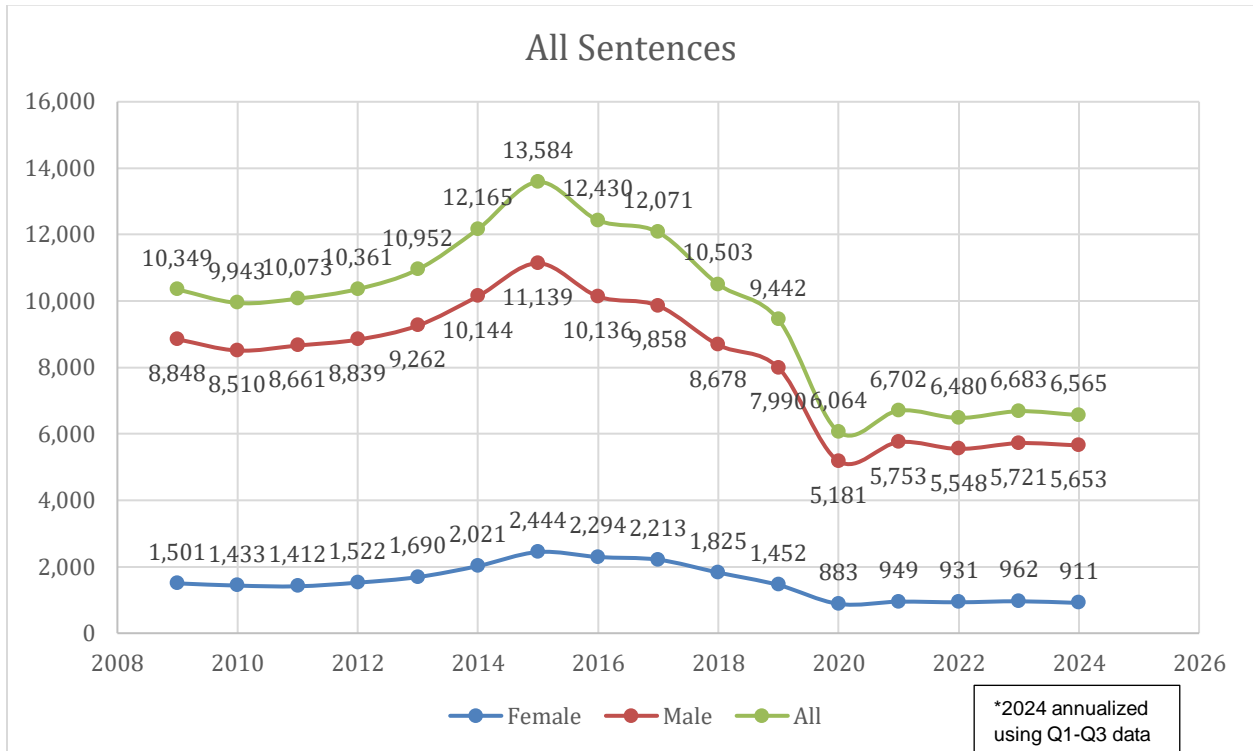


- Population by Gender (2023-2024 YoY): 2024 has seen a sharp increase in the female prison population compared to men.

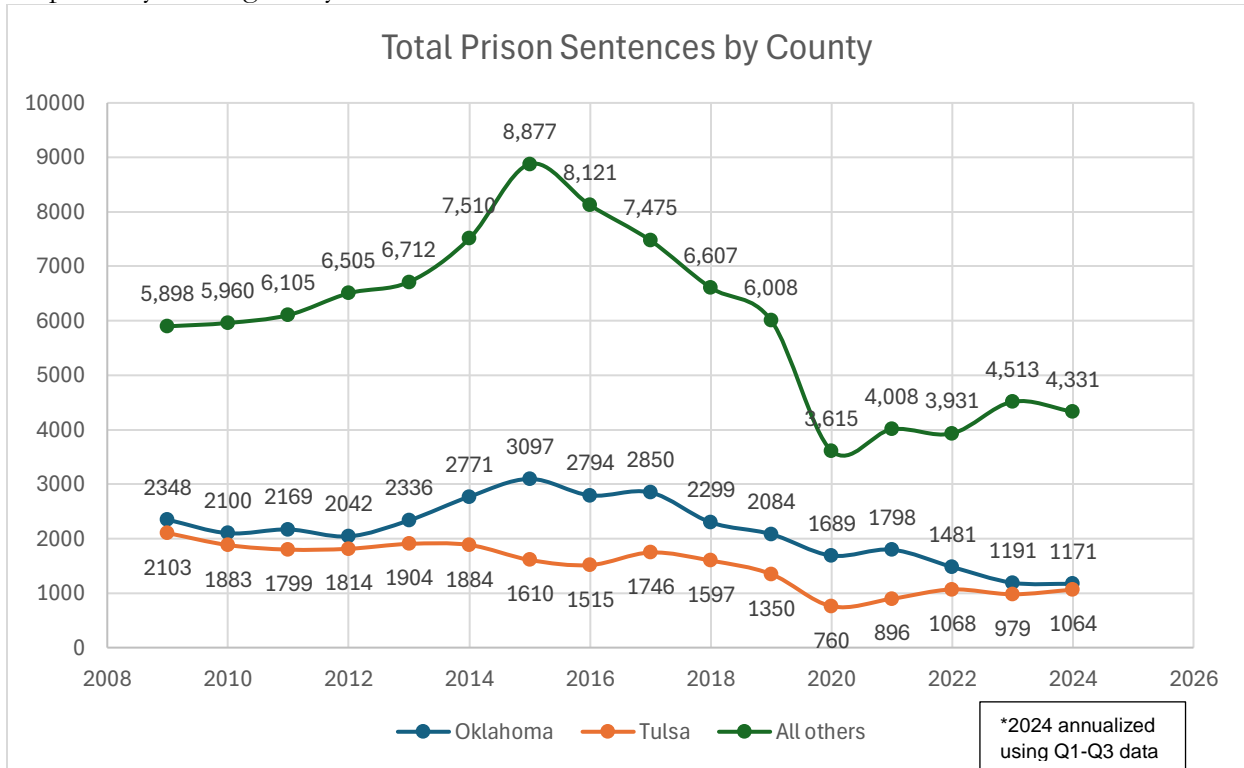


## Prison Sentences

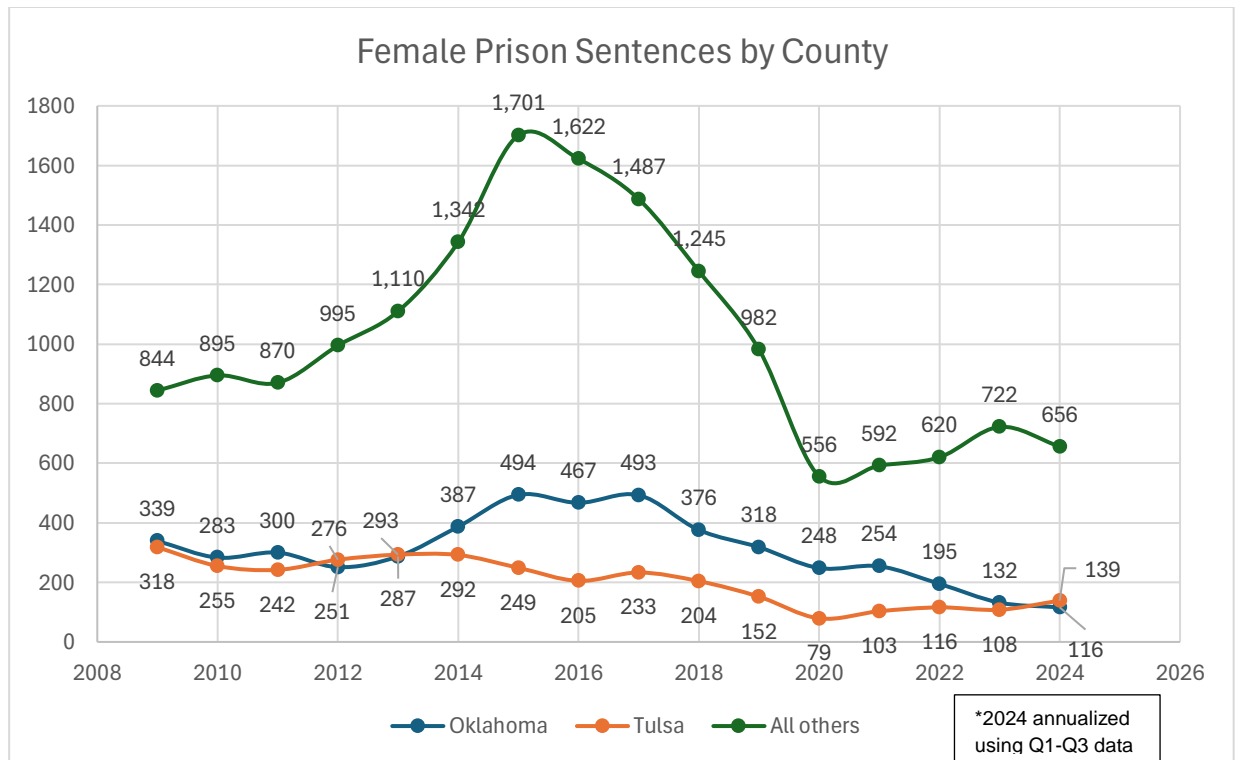
- Overall Sentences (2023-2024 YoY): Oklahoma saw a 1.8% overall decrease, a 1.2% decrease in male sentences, and 5.3% reduction in female sentences.



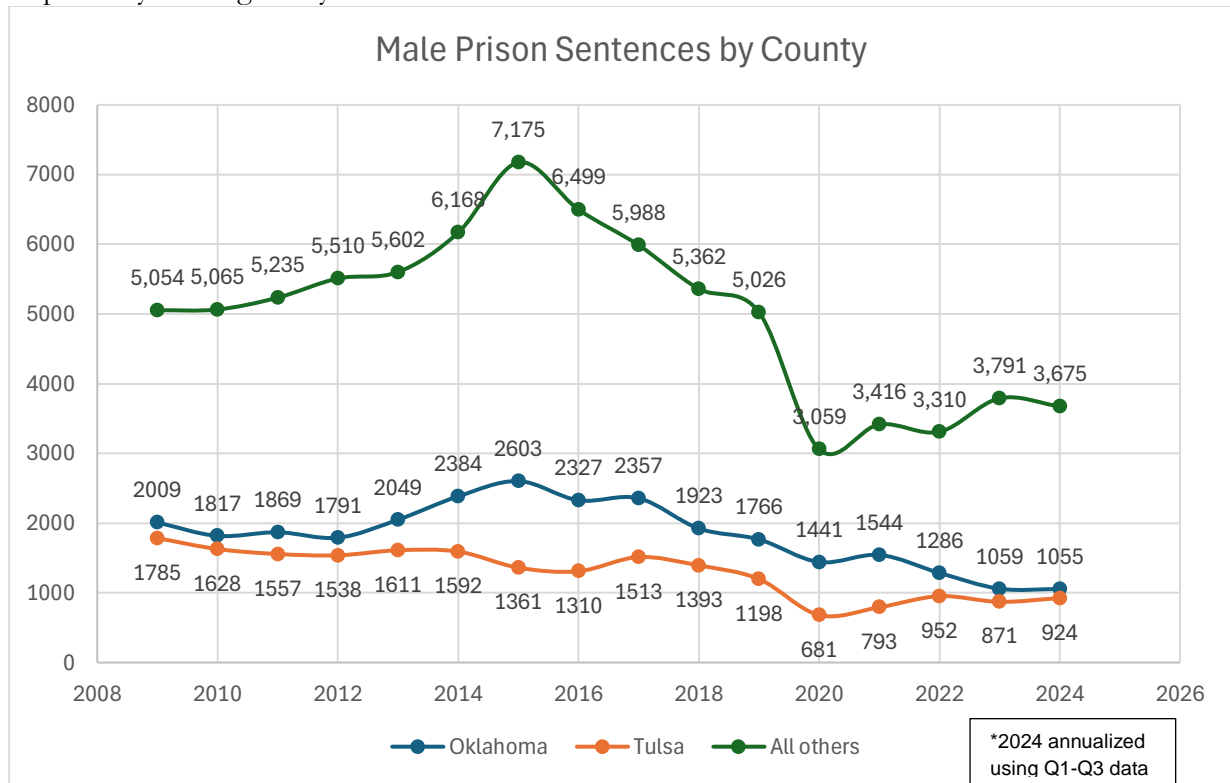
- Overall Sentences (2023-2024 YoY): Oklahoma County saw a 1.7% decrease, while Tulsa County experienced an 8.7% increase.



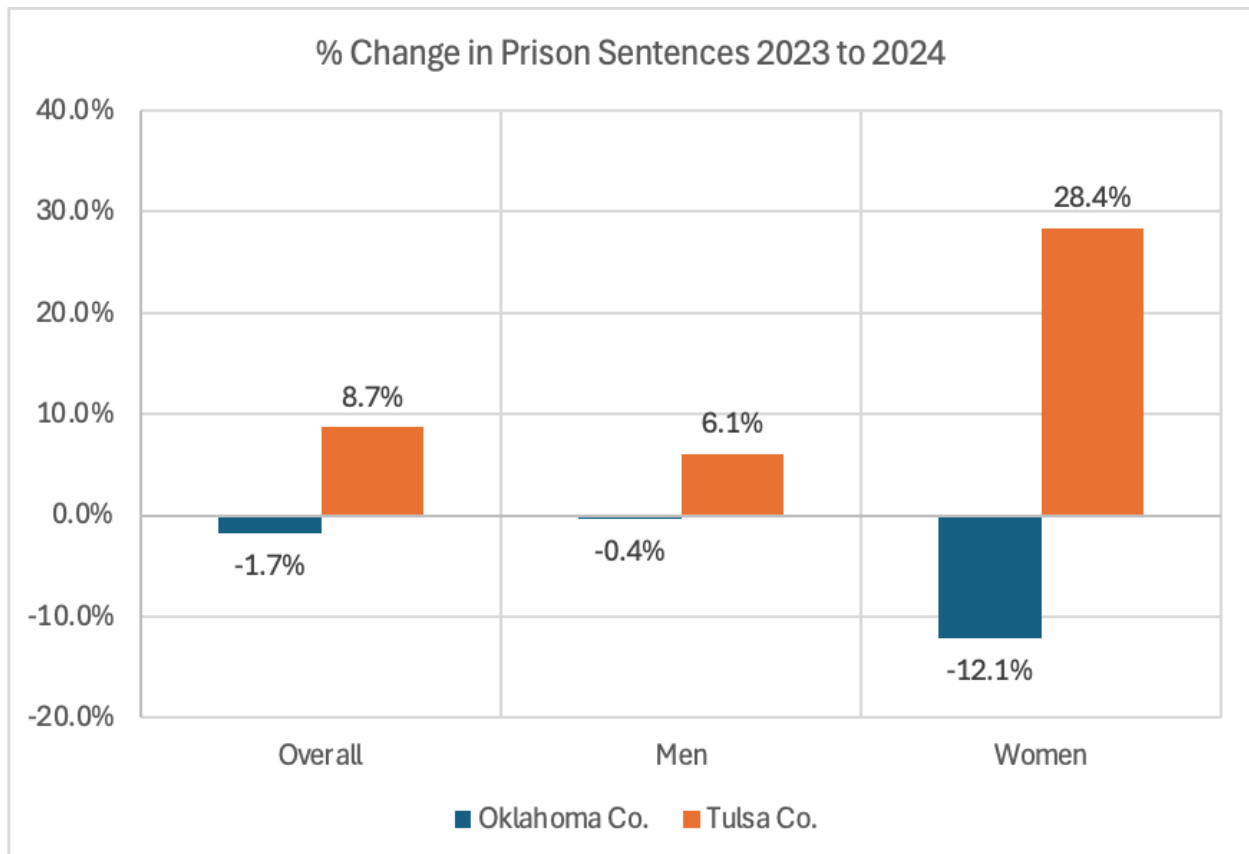
- Female Sentences (2023-2024 YoY): Oklahoma County saw a sharp decline of 12.1%, whereas Tulsa County experienced a dramatic increase of 28.4%.



- Male Sentences (2023-2024 YoY): Oklahoma County decreased slightly by 0.4%, while Tulsa County increased by 6.1%.

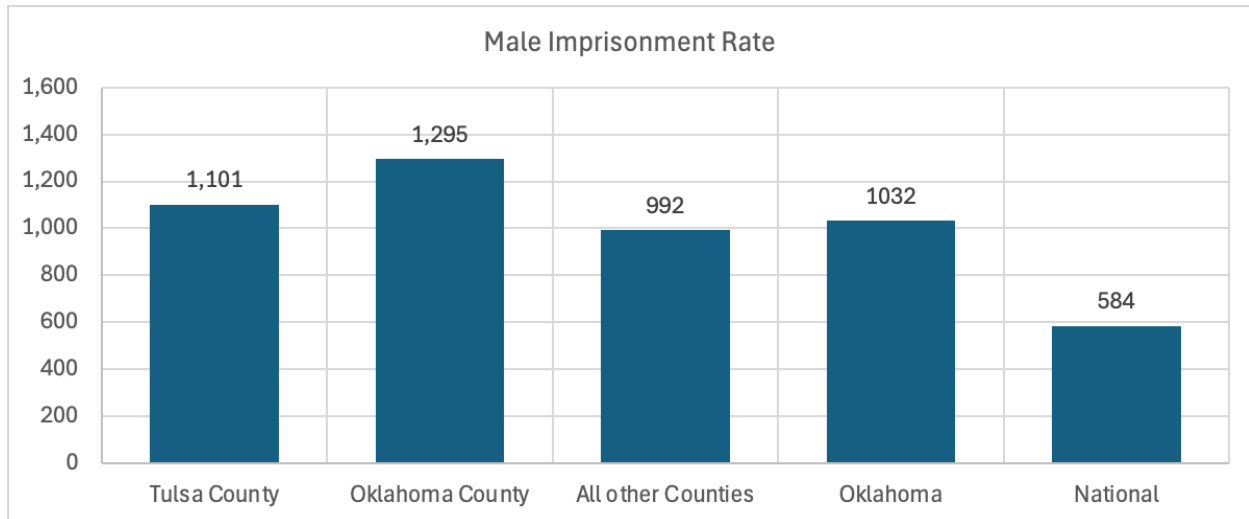


- Sentences by Gender and County 2023-2024 YoY): Tulsa County has seen a sharp increase in the female prison sentences compared to men.



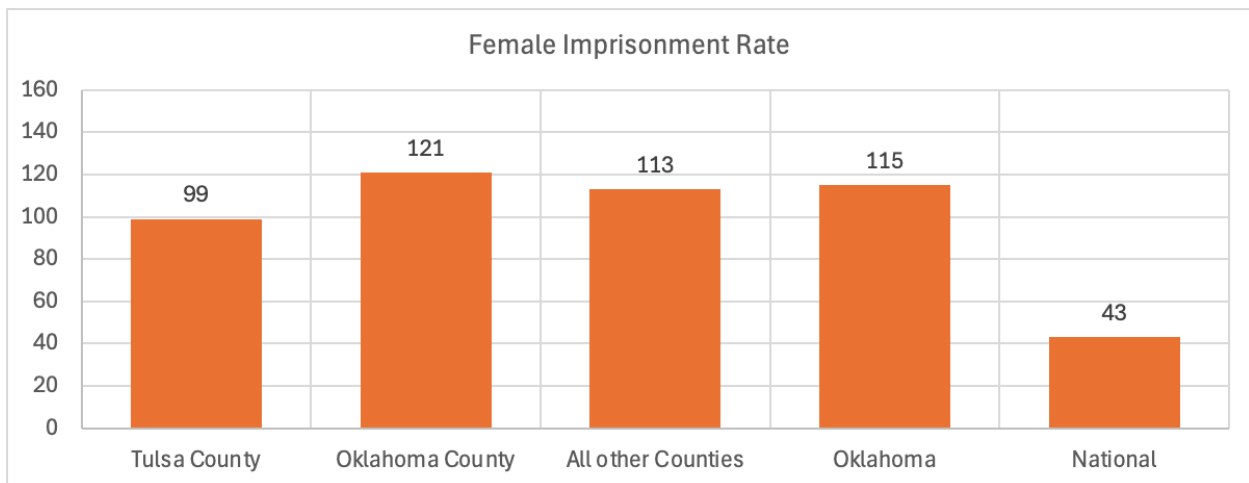
## Imprisonment Rate

- Oklahoma Male Imprisonment Rate 2024: Tulsa County's male imprisonment rate is still below Oklahoma County's but is higher than other geographies. \*data DOES NOT include jail backlog counts



\*National rate (2022 BJS)

- Oklahoma Female Imprisonment Rate 2024: As of Sept 30th Tulsa County's rate was still below Oklahoma County's but is expected to approach, if not exceed, Oklahoma County's female imprisonment rate by the end of the year as county DOC chain pulls and prison receptions increase (see flow below). \*data DOES NOT include jail backlog counts



\*National rate (2022 BJS)

- National Female Imprisonment Rate 2021 and 2022: Tulsa County female imprisonment rate currently ranks between #6 and #7 nationally among US States (2022 BJS rankings).

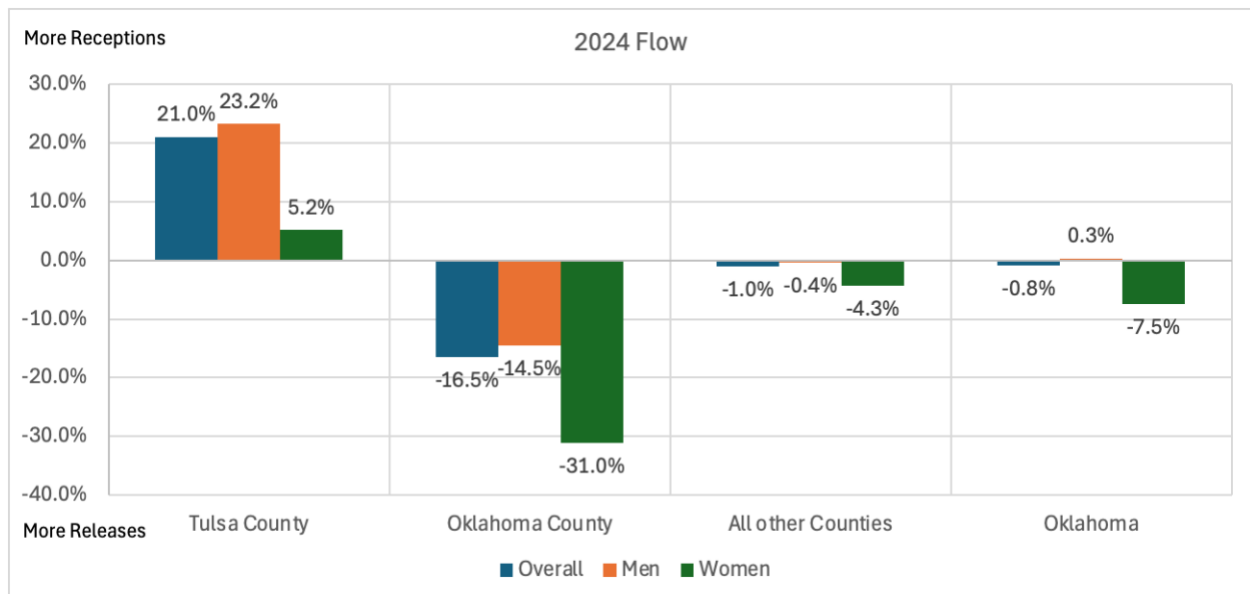
National Female Imprisonment Rates - EOY 2022							
		2021			2022		
		Overall	Male	Female	Overall	Male	Female

Prepared by Starling Analytics

1	Idaho	451	771	127	460	782	132	<--Oklahoma Co. (121)
2	Montana	387	654	111	414	700	119	
3	South Dakota	370	627	104	370	618	114	
4	Oklahoma	555	1,006	107	563	1,021	108	
5	Kentucky	412	737	91	437	778	100	
6	Mississippi	576	1,106	76	661	1,256	100	<--Tulsa Co. (99)
7	Arkansas	559	1,036	93	574	1,068	90	
8	Wyoming	366	625	94	369	638	87	
9	Arizona	454	827	81	446	812	79	
10	Texas	442	817	67	452	833	71	
11	Missouri	374	691	65	381	700	69	
12	West Virginia	328	588	70	331	594	69	
13	Indiana	362	653	75	349	635	67	
14	Louisiana	566	1,101	52	596	1,154	61	
15	Ohio	383	713	60	385	717	61	

## Oklahoma Prison Population Flow

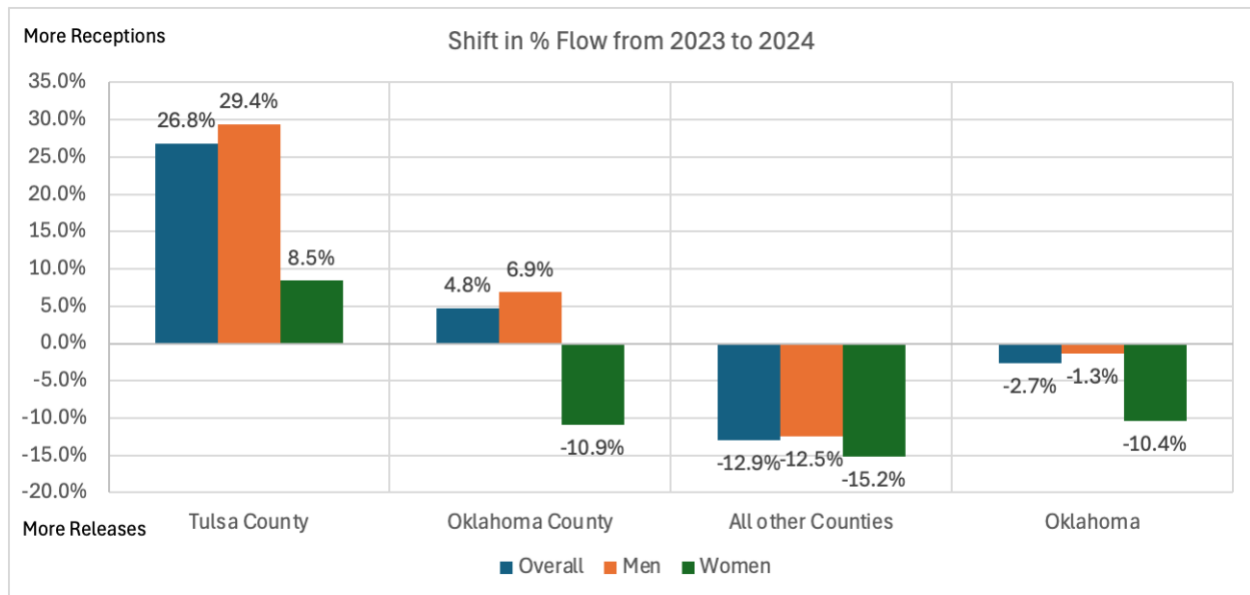
- 2024 Prison Flow (receptions and releases): Most of the Tulsa County women sentenced in 2024 have not yet been received by DOC. Consequently, we've only seen a moderate increase in receptions over releases for Tulsa County women. This will increase dramatically in coming months as transports increase. \*data DOES NOT include jail backlog counts



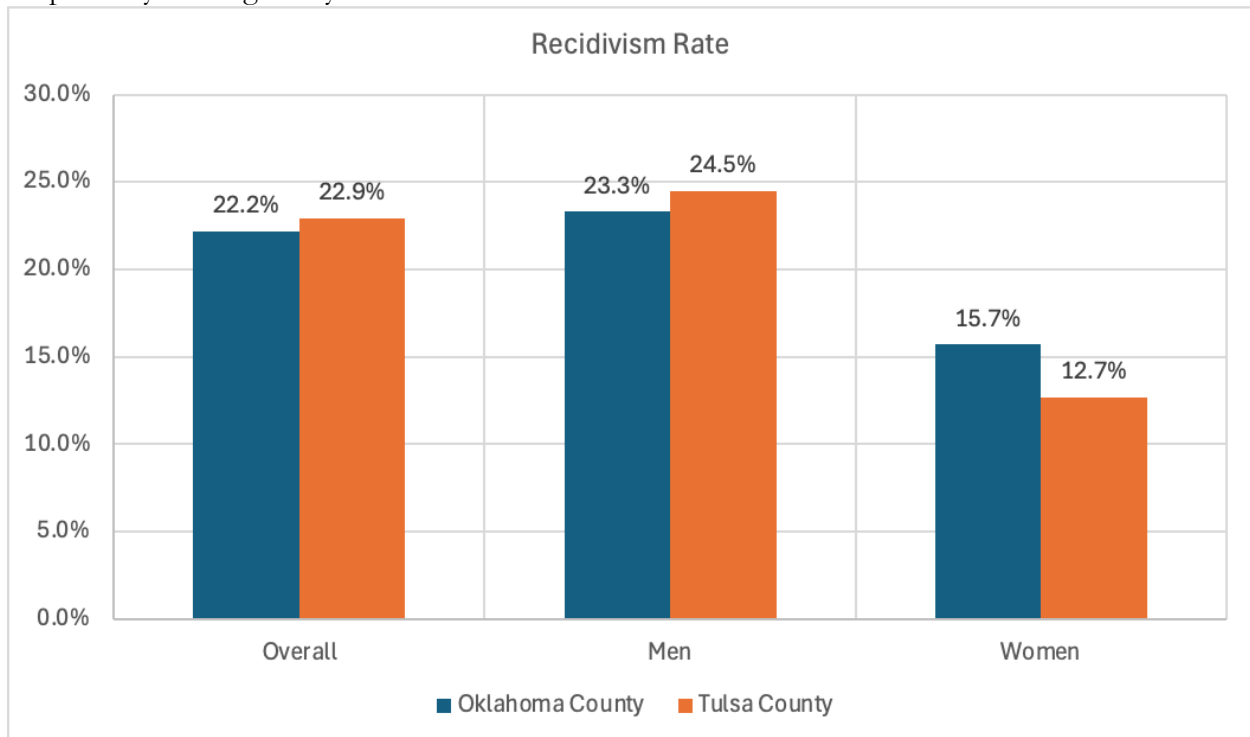


Tulsa County					
All		Male		Female	
Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases
1046	847	927	734	119	113
21.0%		23.2%		5.2%	
Oklahoma County					
All		Male		Female	
Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases
1169	1379	1041	1204	128	175
-16.5%		-14.5%		-31.0%	
All other Counties					
All		Male		Female	
Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases
3954	3994	3315	3327	639	667
-1.0%		-0.4%		-4.3%	
Oklahoma					
All		Male		Female	
Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases	Receptions	Releases
6169	6220	5283	5265	886	955
-0.8%		0.3%		-7.5%	

- 2024 Prison Flow (receptions and releases): Last year Tulsa County DOC releases outpaced receptions by 3.3%. Consequently, the shift from 2023 to 2024 was 8.5% (3.3% in 2023 + 5.2% in 2024). \*data DOES NOT include jail backlog counts



- 2024 Prison Recidivism (3-yr return to prison): Tulsa County female prison recidivism rates are lower than Tulsa County men and Oklahoma County men and women.



Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections