

Massachusetts Department of Correction
Luis S. Spencer, Commissioner
Institution Length of Stay:
January 2011



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Definitions and Overview

This research brief provides an overview of the number of days that inmates spend at each facility—the average institution length of stay. This information can be useful for operations, research or planning purposes as it provides an estimate of how long inmates stay at each facility on average. More specifically, institution length of stay is defined as the number of days between the most recent transfer date to the given facility or the most recent return from a break in custody and the date of January 1, 2011. Trips to hospitals, court, or temporary holds are not considered a break in custody as they are typically moves of a temporary nature.

Data and Methodology

The data used in this study are derived from the January 1, 2011 data file of the active Massachusetts Department of Correction (MADOC) jurisdiction population, including those sentenced to criminal and civil sentences, and those awaiting trial. Institution length of stay is calculated by a time analysis using data from the inmate management system (IMS) admission and release movement history. The most recent transfer date to the facility or the most recent return from a break in custody (release) from the MADOC for each inmate in each institution is subtracted from January 1, 2011, and descriptive statistics were taken across each institution. To obtain accurate estimates of the average length of stay for institutions, extensive manual data cleaning was performed prior to the final analysis.

Table 1. Institution Average Length of Stay (LOS) in Days, January 1, 2011 Population

Institution	AVG LOS 2011	AVG LOS 2009	% Change	Median	Min Days	Max Days	Stan. Dev.	Facility Count
Bay State Correctional Center	1028	1012	2%	415	1	7130	1615.6	313
Boston Pre-Release Center	169	187	-10%	120	2	848	168.6	193
Bridgewater State Hospital	776	721	8%	299	1	15898	1525.8	389
Brooke House	62	n/a	n/a	65	9	107	35.1	17
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	49	n/a	n/a	15	1	522	108.1	27
MASAC ¹	127	43	193%	24	1	625	183.7	135
MA Treatment Center	1404	1308	7%	732	1	12553	1861.5	622
MCI-Cedar Junction ²	212	344	-38%	54	1	6871	541.5	728
MCI-Concord ²	295	143	106%	227	1	2497	263.8	1308
MCI-Framingham	533	490	9%	103	1	8761	1076.4	635
MCI-Norfolk	1509	1409	7%	977	1	11540	1670.5	1500
MCI-Plymouth	249	312	-20%	188	2	1005	215.5	200
MCI-Shirley	680	663	3%	331	1	6935	980.0	1472
NCCI-Gardner	1047	958	9%	653	1	9171	1284.1	937
Northeastern Correctional Center	309	296	4%	234	2	1348	262.9	270
Old Colony Correctional Center	611	773	-21%	199	1	6938	885.6	848
Pondville Correctional Center	272	250	9%	200	1	1257	253.4	186
South Middlesex Correctional Center	209	203	3%	108	2	962	244.1	126
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	454	396	15%	380	1	4436	456.2	1252
Spectrum Women and Children's Program	79	n/a	n/a	53	31	178	67.1	4

¹ Length of stay comparisons from 2009 to 2011 at MASAC should be viewed within the context of the following changes. In April 2009 the security level of MASAC changed from a medium to a minimum designation. In addition to continuing to house 30-day substance abuse civil commitments under MGL Ch. 123 Sec. 35, the facility began housing inmates serving criminal sentences.

² In June 2009 MCI-Cedar Junction officially became the reception center for males, and one unit was designated as medium security. Prior to this time, MCI-Concord was the male reception center.

Table 1 presents data derived from the MADOC jurisdiction population. Average institution length of stay for 2011 in the first column should be compared to the average length of stay calculated in 2009, in the second column. This comparison is being made because the most recent average institution length of stay was calculated in 2009, and it was not calculated in 2010. The percent change between these two time periods is displayed in column three. In addition to the mean institution length of stay, we include the median, minimum and maximum, standard deviation (measure of spread) and the count for each institution on January 1, 2011. The majority of institutions (13) saw an increase in average length of stay between 2009 and 2011, while four institutions saw decreases in average length of stay (percent change data not available for Brooke House, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, and Spectrum Women and Children's Program).

Table 2. Institution Average Length of Stay (LOS) in Days by Security Level, January 1, 2011 Population

Institution	All MADOC		Pre-Release		Minimum		Medium		Maximum	
	LOS	Count	LOS	Count	LOS	Count	LOS	Count	LOS	Count
Bay State Correctional Center	1028	313	--	--	--	--	1028	313	--	--
Boston Pre-Release Center	169	193	159	153	207	40	--	--	--	--
Bridgewater State Hospital	776	389	--	--	--	--	776	389	--	--
Brooke House	62	17	62	17	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	49	27	--	--	--	--	49	27	--	--
MA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Center	127	135	--	--	127	135	--	--	--	--
MA Treatment Center	1404	622	--	--	--	--	1404	622	--	--
MCI-Cedar Junction	212	728	--	--	--	--	724	72	156	656
MCI-Concord	295	1308	--	--	--	--	295	1308	--	--
MCI-Framingham	533	635	--	--	--	--	533	635	--	--
MCI-Norfolk	1509	1500	--	--	--	--	1509	1500	--	--
MCI-Plymouth	249	200	--	--	249	200	--	--	--	--
MCI-Shirley	680	1472	--	--	467	319	739	1153	--	--
NCCI-Gardner	1047	937	--	--	520	26	1062	911	--	--
Northeastern Correctional Center	309	270	408	63	279	207	--	--	--	--
Old Colony Correctional Center	611	848	--	--	358	144	663	704	--	--
Pondville Correctional Center	272	186	219	55	295	131	--	--	--	--
South Middlesex Correctional Center	209	126	353	25	173	101	--	--	--	--
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	454	1252	--	--	--	--	--	--	454	1252
Spectrum Women and Children's Program	79	4	79	4	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table 2 displays the same information as Table 1, but the institutions are disaggregated by security level. Institutions can have housing designated at different security levels. The first two columns show the average length of stay for the given institution, and the following columns show the average length of stay by security level where applicable. Inmates classified at Level 4 typically have the highest average length of stay, which is a function of classification.

It is very important to note that the length of stay for the institutions with mixed security levels is solely based on when the inmate entered the facility, not when they moved to the designated security level of that facility. Thus, this data should be interpreted as providing the following information: for those incarcerated at a given security level on January 1, 2011, this number represents their average length of stay for that institution. Thus, this data does not tell us the length of stay for a given security level, but rather what the average length of stay for inmates at the institution classified as such on January 1, 2011.

Table 3 Institution Average Length of Stay (LOS) in Days by Commitment Type, January 1, 2011

Institution	All MADOC		Criminally Sentenced		Civilly Sentenced		Awaiting Trial/Detainees	
	LOS	Count	LOS	Count	LOS	Count	LOS	Count
Bay State Correctional Center	1028	313	1028	313	--	--	--	--
Boston Pre-Release Center	169	193	169	193	--	--	--	--
Bridgewater State Hospital	776	389	653	137	867	242	241	10
Brooke House	62	17	62	17	--	--	--	--
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	49	27	12	18	17	1*	138	8
MA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Center	127	135	240	67	16	68	--	--
MA Treatment Center	1404	622	970	322	1870	300	--	--
MCI-Cedar Junction	212	728	211	691	--	--	239	37
MCI-Concord	295	1308	346	1008	--	--	124	300
MCI-Framingham	533	635	686	468	14	7	111	160
MCI-Norfolk	1509	1500	1514	1494	--	--	137	6
MCI-Plymouth	249	200	249	200	--	--	--	--
MCI-Shirley	680	1472	685	1461	--	--	136	11
NCCI-Gardner	1047	937	1051	932	--	--	181	5
Northeastern Correctional Center	309	270	309	270	--	--	--	--
Old Colony Correctional Center	611	848	611	848	--	--	--	--
Pondville Correctional Center	272	186	272	186	--	--	--	--
South Middlesex Correctional Center	209	126	209	126	--	--	--	--
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	454	1252	458	1230	6	2*	230	20
Spectrum Women and Children's Program	79	4	79	4*	--	--	--	--

*Due to small population size, these values should not be considered a robust measure of length of stay for the institution.

Table 3 displays the same information as Table 1, but the institutions are disaggregated by commitment type. The first two columns show the average length of stay for the given institution, and the following columns show the average length of stay for those criminally sentenced, civilly sentenced, and those detained or awaiting trial. Aside from Massachusetts Treatment Center which houses those designated as a “sexually dangerous person,” the criminally sentenced typically have the longest average length of stay of the different types of commitments.

This research brief was written by Jessica Simes, Research Intern. Any comments or questions can be addressed by email: Research@doc.state.ma.us. The contributions of Lisa Sampson and Rosemarie Pfefferle were significant and greatly appreciated. This research brief and other research publications by the Office of Strategic Planning and Research can be accessed at <http://www.mass.gov/doc>.

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