

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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An Analysis of Race/Ethnicity and Assaults

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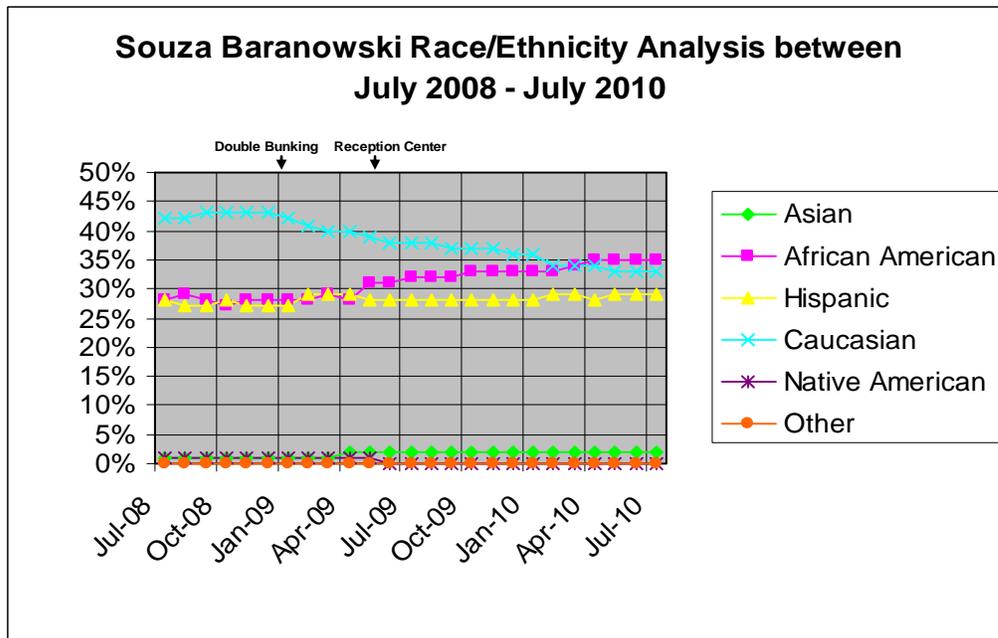
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Introduction

The data presented takes a closer look at the race and ethnicity breakdown of criminally sentenced inmates within the Massachusetts Department of Correction’s Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC) and MCI Cedar Junction (MCI-CJ). After looking at each facility within the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MADOC), only SBCC and MCI-CJ reflected changes in race/ethnicity among their inmate populations during the time period examined, July 2008 to July 2010. Effective January 13, 2009 the MADOC began the process of double bunking inmates in cells at SBCC. On June 1, 2009 MADOC’s MCI Cedar Junction became the Department’s reception center, designating one unit as medium security to hold 72 inmates while the other units remained maximum security. It would appear, these institutional changes impacted the racial/ethnic composition of both facilities as well as the occurrences of assaults, with initial changes beginning to occur in July 2009.

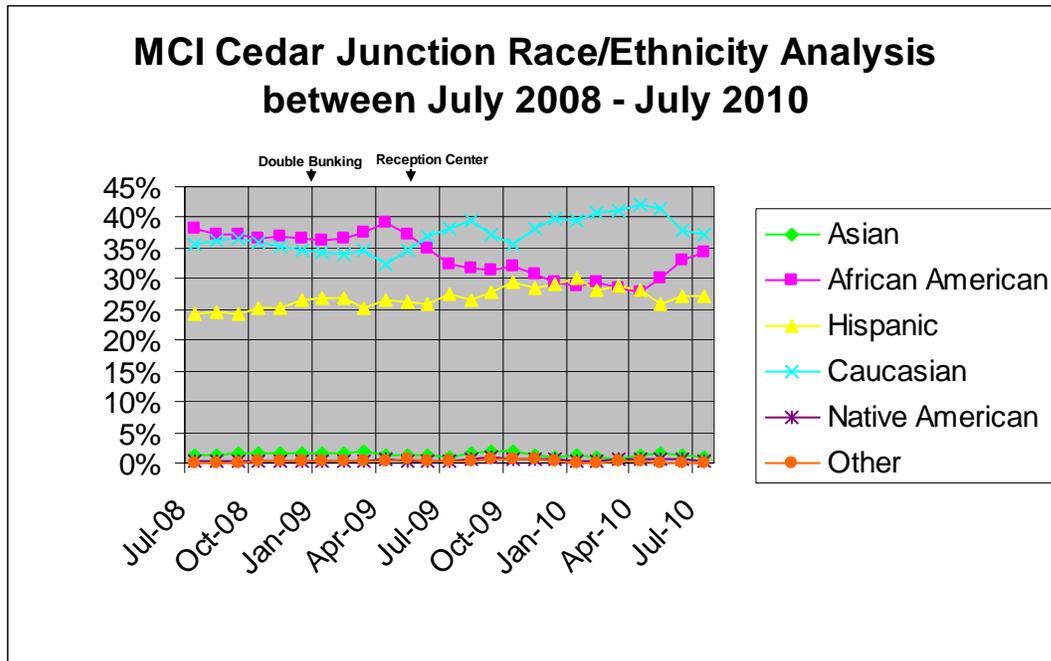
Part 1 Race/Ethnicity Analysis within Souza Baranowski Correctional Center and MCI Cedar Junction

The graphs below take a look at SBCC and MCI-CJ since they were the two facilities that showed the notable change in their racial/ethnic breakdowns between July 2008- July 2010 timeframe.



The graph above shows the change in racial/ethnic compositions within **Souza Baranowski Correctional Center**. It shows the decrease over time of Caucasian inmates and the increase of African American inmates. It also shows the cross over, where African Americans made up the largest proportion of the population. Hispanic population remained relatively constant.

In July of 2008 SBCC's inmate population was made up of the highest percentage of Caucasian inmates (42%) followed by both Hispanic and African American inmates who each made up 28% of the facility population. This remains relatively constant until July 2009 where we see an increase of African American inmates and a decrease of Caucasian inmates. By April 2010, there is a complete crossover, African Americans make up the highest percentage of the population within the facility followed by those who were Caucasian.



The graph above shows the decrease of African American inmates and the increase of the Caucasian inmates in **MCI Cedar Junction**. The Hispanic inmate population stays fairly level. There are no significant changes in the other racial/ethnic categories.

MCI Cedar Junction's inmate population in July 2008 had a large proportion of African American inmates (38%), followed by Caucasian inmates (36%) and Hispanic inmates (24%). By July 2009 the number of Caucasian inmates increased to 38% while the number of African American inmates decreased to 32% followed by Hispanic inmates 27%. By July 2010, Caucasian inmates make up the highest percentage of the inmate population (37%) followed by African American inmates (34%) and Hispanic inmates (27%).

Part 2 Inmate assault data for Souza Baranowski Correctional Center and MCI Cedar Junction between January 2008 – June 2010.¹

Table 1 represents inmate on inmate assaults (2008-2010)

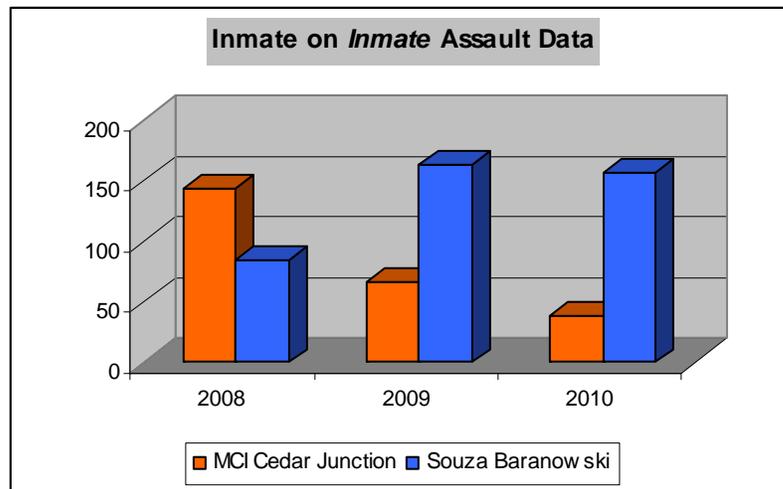
Facility	2008	2009	2010*	Projected 2010**	Average Monthly***
<i>Souza Baranowski</i>	84	163	78	156	11
<i>MCI Cedar Junction</i>	143	66	19	38	7
Total	227	229	97	194	18

*Data for 2010 is up to June of 2010. This was the most recent data compiled

** Projected data multiplied by 2 in order to take into account the remainder of the 2010 calendar year

*** Average monthly data takes into account all three years specified, looking at projected totals for 2010

From 2008-2009 there was a decrease in inmate on inmate assaults at MCI Cedar Junction, the amount of assaults decreased by 77 from 143 to 66, and it continues to decrease in looking at the projected numbers in 2010. At SBCC there were 79 more assaults in 2009 than there was in 2008.



It would appear that inmates perpetrating assaults at MCI-Cedar Junction were transferred to SBCC as part of each facility’s mission change, resulting in an increase in assaults at SBCC. However, the number of inmate on inmate assaults combined reflects less than a 1% increase. If this assault rate continues in the second half of 2010 as it did in the first six months, the decrease from 2009 to 2010 will be 15%.

¹ Number of assaults is based on data from inmate disciplinary reports. When disciplinary data is collected, it does not reflect each incident. The data provided shows the charges, which means if one disciplinary report was written for an inmate noting 3 different assault codes, the report would reflect 3 assaults when in fact only one assault incident took place. If anything, the number of assaults reflected would be inflated from actual assault incidents.

Table 2 represents inmate on staff assaults (2008-2010)

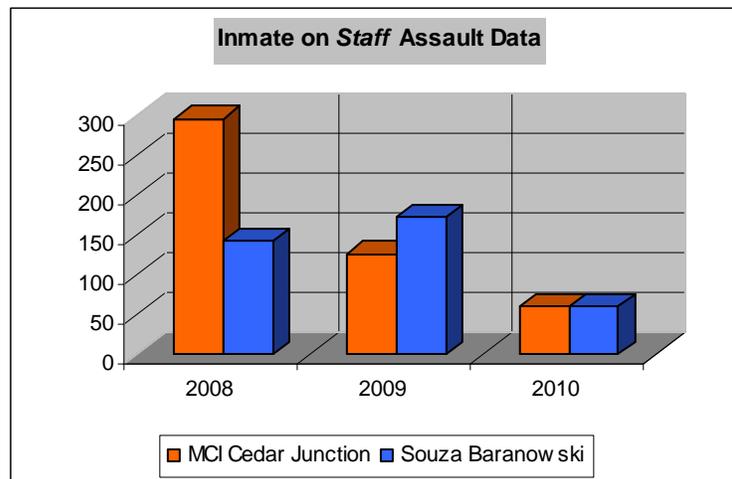
Facility	2008	2009	2010*	Projected 2010**	Average Monthly***
<i>MCI Cedar Junction</i>	296	126	30	60	13
<i>Souza Baranowski</i>	143	173	30	60	10
Total	439	299	60	120	23

*Data for 2010 is up to June of 2010. This was the most recent data compiled.

** Projected data multiplied by 2 in order to take into account the remainder of the 2010 calendar year

*** Average monthly data takes into account all three years specified, looking at projected totals for 2010

Inmate on staff assaults at MCI-Cedar Junction decreased between 2008 and 2009 from 296 to 126 assaults. Souza Baranowski's assaults have increased between 2008 and 2009 from 143 to 173 assaults. Both MCI-CJ and SBCC inmate on staff assaults seem to be decreasing in 2010. When the total number of inmate on staff assaults are combined between the two facilities, they decreased by 32% from 2008 to 2009, during which the mission changes impacting these maximum security facilities were made. If the assault rate on staff continues as it has during the first half of 2010 it will decrease another 60% from 2009 to 2010, realizing a 73% decrease from 2008 to 2010.



Disciplinary reports are not sanctioned to inmates in the MADOC who are civil commitments. Therefore, inmate assault data derived from disciplinary reports are skewed for Bridgewater State Hospital, Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center, MCI-Framingham, and Massachusetts Treatment Center and do not reflect all assaults agency-wide. Excluding assaults perpetrated by civilly committed inmates, the total number of inmate on inmate assaults for criminally sentenced and awaiting trial inmates for 2008 was 574, for 2009 was 521, and for 2010 is projected to be 508 assaults. For inmate on staff assaults in 2008 there were 623 assaults, 477 assaults in 2009, and it is projected to be 218 assaults for 2010.

Conclusion

Based on the data there was a shift of inmates by race from one facility to another and, there is also a parallel shift in the number of assaults. This reflects the shift of housing most inmates classified to be in maximum security at SBCC. SBCC inmate on *inmate* assaults seems to have increased, whereas at Cedar Junction's inmate on *inmate* assaults have decreased. Overall inmate on *inmate* assaults as well as inmate on *staff* assaults are projected to continue to decrease in 2010.

This report was written and prepared by Ashley Montgomery, Research Analyst in the DOC Division of Research and Planning. Any comments or questions can be addressed by e-mail: Research@doc.state.ma.us. Publications from the Department of Corrections' Office of Strategic Planning & Research can be found at www.mass.gov/doc.