

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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**Inmate Assaults
at Maximum Security MADOC Facilities**

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Introduction

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. From the data presented, it would appear that these institutional changes impacted the occurrences of assaults of both facilities with initial changes beginning to occur in July of 2009.

Inmate assault data for Souza Baranowski Correctional Center and MCI Cedar Junction between January 2008 – December 2010.²

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

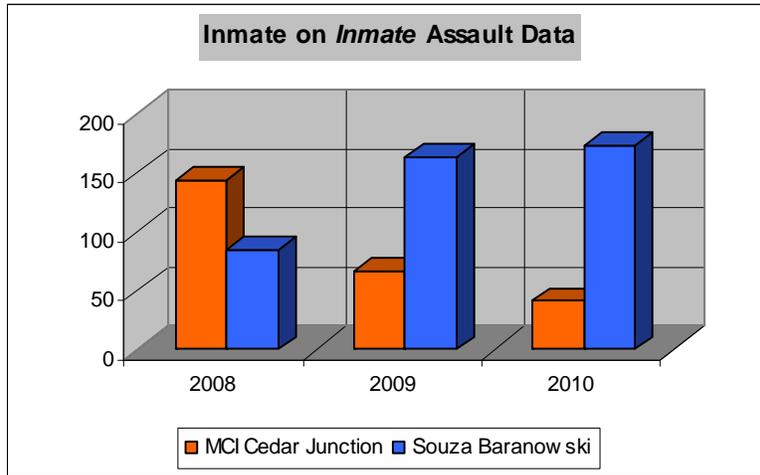
Facility	2008	2009	2010	Average Monthly (by year)
<i>MCI Cedar Junction</i>	143	66	41	7
<i>Souza Baranowski</i>	84	163	173	12
<i>Total</i>	227	229	214	19

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 continued to decrease in 2010 to 41 inmate on inmate assaults. At SBCC there were 79 more assaults in 2009 than there was in 2008.

¹ This report is an update version of the information presented in a prior report “An Analysis of Race/Ethnicity and Assaults.” (September 2010) The prior report reflected projected assault data for 2010, this report reflects actual assault data for the 2010 calendar year.

² 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.

Figure 1:



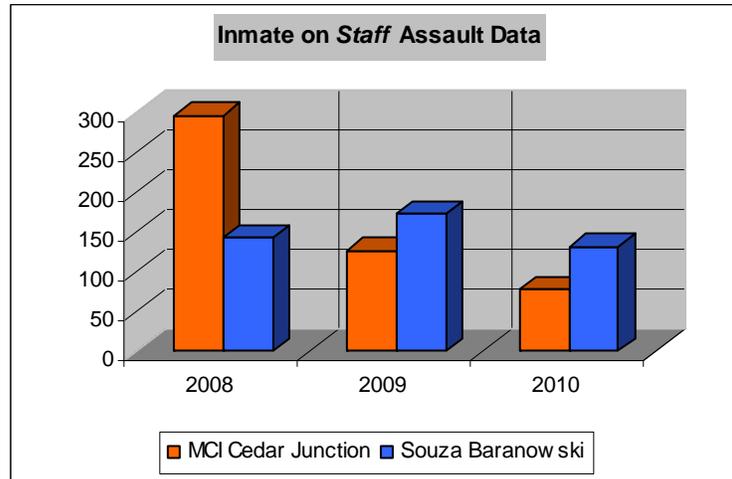
It would appear that inmates perpetrating assaults at MCI-Cedar Junction were transferred to SBCC as part of each facility’s mission change, resulting in an increase in assaults at SBCC. However, the number of inmate on *inmate* assaults combined between both maximum security facilities reflects less than a 1% increase between the two facilities from 2008 to 2009. In turn, that total figure for inmate on inmate assaults at the maximum facilities dropped 7% from 2009 to 2010.

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

Facility	2008	2009	2010	Average Monthly (by year)
<i>MCI Cedar Junction</i>	296	126	78	14
<i>Souza Baranowski</i>	143	173	131	12
Total	439	299	209	26

Inmate on *staff* assaults at MCI-Cedar Junction decreased between 2008 and 2009 from 296 to 126 assaults. Souza Baranowski’s assaults increased between 2008 and 2009 from 143 to 173 assaults. Both MCI-CJ and SBCC inmate on *staff* decreased 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. During 2010 inmate on staff assaults further decreased another 30% from 2009, realizing a 52% decrease from 2008 to 2010.

Figure 2:



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 (based on disciplinary report data and its limitations) for criminally sentenced and awaiting trial inmates for 2008 was 574, for 2009 was 521, and for 2010 was 578 assaults. For inmate on *staff* assaults in 2008 there were 623 assaults, 477 assaults in 2009, and 371 assaults for 2010.

Conclusion

Based on the data there was a shift in the number of assaults from one facility to another. This reflects the shift in housing. Most inmates are classified to be in maximum security at SBCC. As a result, SBCC inmate on *inmate* assaults increased from 2008 to 2010. At MCI Cedar Junction inmate on *inmate* assaults and inmate on *staff* assaults decreased from year to year 2008-2010. Overall inmate on *inmate* assaults consistently decreased during the time frame 2008 through 2010 at the two maximum security facilities combined.

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.