

**A Statistical Description of the  
Sentenced Population of  
Massachusetts Correctional  
Institutions on January 1, 1996**

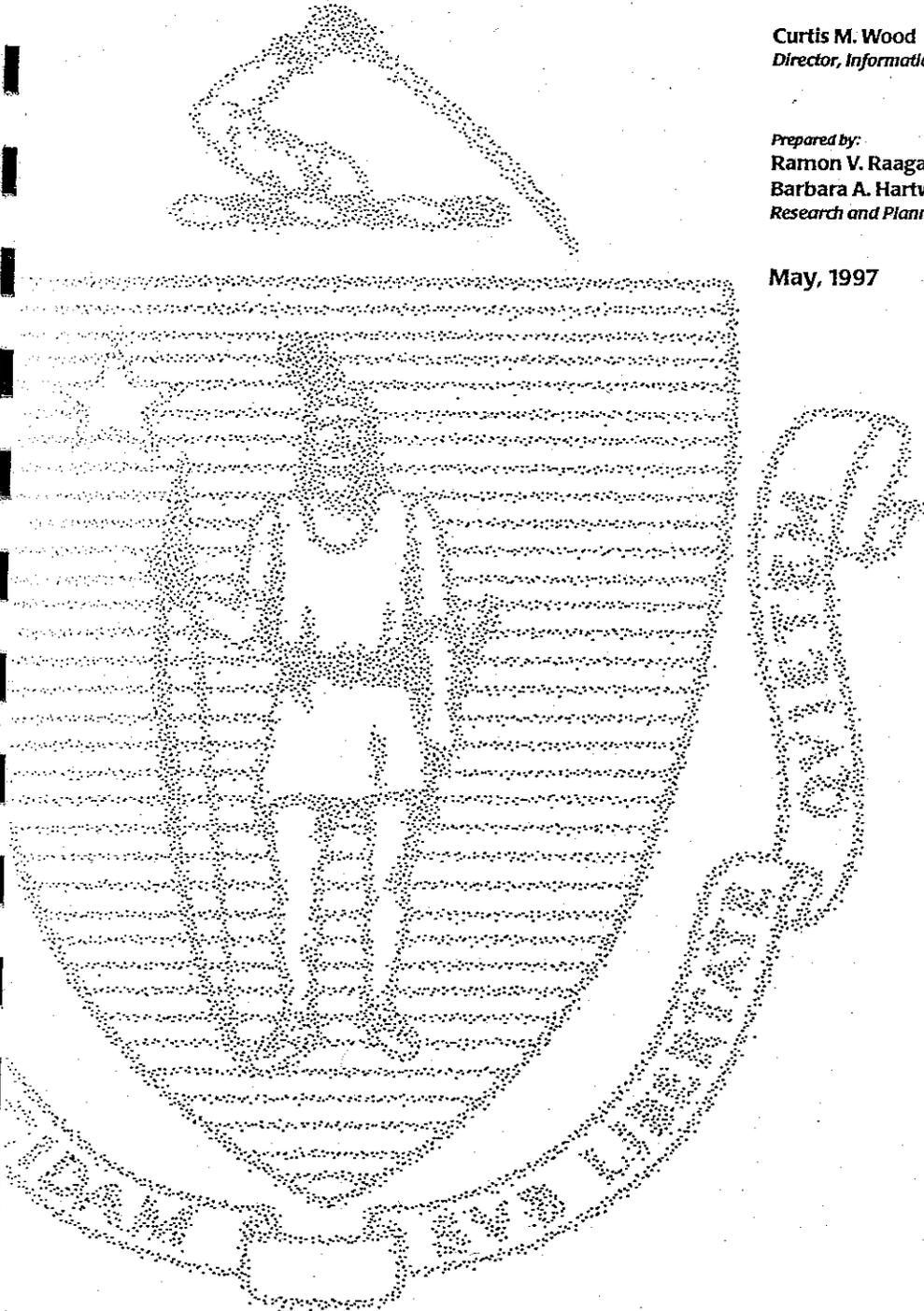
**Massachusetts  
Department of Correction**

**Larry E. DuBois**  
*Commissioner*

**Curtis M. Wood**  
*Director, Information Resources*

*Prepared by:*  
**Ramon V. Raagas**  
**Barbara A. Hartwell**  
*Research and Planning*

**May, 1997**



# ABSTRACT

This report presents a statistical description of 9,736 sentenced individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1996. The report contains information on their present offense and sentence, and personal background characteristics. Changes in the population over the last six years are also given. Highlights from this report include:

On January 1, 1996, the DOC inmate population was 9,736. This represents a 1 percent decrease in the sentenced population from the prior year (N=9,854) and an 18 percent increase since 1991 (N=8,265).

The median age of the population was 32 years. During the six year period, the proportion of offenders in the population age 40 to 64 years old increased from 18 percent in 1991 (N=1,529) to 24 percent in 1996 (N=2,295); a 108 percent increase occurred in the population age 65 and older, from 40 in 1991 to 83.

During the six year period, inmates incarcerated for violent offenses (person & sex offenses) increased by 25 percent, from 4,993 on January 1, 1991 to 6,253 on January 1, 1996.

Eight percent of the population were housed in maximum security facilities, 70 percent in medium security, 5 percent in minimum security, 10 percent in minimum/pre-release security, 2 percent in pre-release security, and 4 percent in the Department's four specialized facilities: Bridgewater State Hospital, Longwood Treatment Center, Massachusetts Boot Camp, and the Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons.

Sixty-four percent (N=6,253) of the population were incarcerated for violent offenses (person & sex offenses) and 36 percent (N=3,483) for non-violent offenses.

Forty-eight percent of the population were incarcerated for offenses against the person, 17 percent for sex offenses, 12 percent for property offenses, 20 percent for drug offenses, and 4 percent for "other" offenses.

More than one out of every 10 inmates (N=1,230) on January 1, 1996 were serving life sentences in the DOC: 530 first-degree lifers and 700 second-degree lifers.

The proportion of males serving life sentences was greater than that of female offenders, 15 percent and 10 percent, respectively. The majority of the male offenders, 49 percent, were serving sentences for person offenses, while drug offenses were the most common among female offenders, 35 percent.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Table of Contents	ii
Introduction	iii
Inmates in Massachusetts Correctional Institutions, January 1, 1991 to January 1, 1996: A Trend Analysis	1
Selected Characteristics of DOC Sentenced Population on January 1, 1991 to January 1, 1996 (Table 1)	3
Inmates of Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1996: Summary of Statistics	4
Number of Sentenced Population in DOC Facilities on January 1, 1996 (Table 2)	7
Selected Characteristics of DOC Sentenced Population on January 1, 1996: A Comparison by Sex	8
Nature of Present Offense	12
Court From Which Committed	13
Committing Institution	13
Minimum Sentence	14
Maximum Sentence	14
Type of Sentence	15
Present Offense: General Categories	15
Present Offense: Person Offenses	16
Present Offense: Sex Offenses	16
Present Offense: Property Offenses	17
Present Offense: Drug Offenses	17
Present Offense: Other Offenses	17
Age at Incarceration	18
Personal Background Characteristics	19
Sex	20
Race/Ethnicity	20
Citizenship Status	20
Marital Status	21
Prior Address: Selected Cities and Towns	21
Last Grade Completed	22
Age as of January 1, 1996	22
Glossary	23



## INTRODUCTION

**T**his report presents a statistical profile of the 9,736 sentenced individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1996. The report presents information about their present offense, and personal background.

**Population.** The population described in this report are inmates incarcerated as a result of a criminal commitment who were in DOC custody on January 1, 1996. This includes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates in DOC custody on January 1, 1996 (N=301). There were 447 individuals in DOC custody who were not serving a criminal sentence on that date: civil commitments at Bridgewater State Hospital (N=123), civil commitments at the Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons (N=119), civil commitments in the Addiction Center at Southeastern Correctional Center (N=130), and women in the Awaiting Trial Unit at Massachusetts Correctional Institution at (MCI) Framingham (N=75). *These individuals, and DOC inmates residing at federal prisons (N=29), out-of-state prisons (N=64), Texas transfers (N=299), and Massachusetts County facilities (N=667) on January 1, 1996 are excluded from the counts provided in the tables of this report.*

Cases with missing information are included in the percentages contained in the statistical tables, but are excluded from the percentages in the narrative description of the population.

**Data Interpretation.** This report is divided into three sections. The first section describes the trend analysis of the sentenced population in the DOC on January 1, 1991 to 1996. The second section presents a summary of statistics of the January 1, 1996 sentenced population, a more detailed review of information in the tables on pages 12 to 22 of this report. The third section compares the sentenced population in the DOC on January 1, 1996 by sex.

Throughout the text of this report, the phrase "in 1996" is substituted for "the population in DOC facilities on January 1, 1996".

**Presentation of Tables.** The tables in this report are presented in two different groups. The first set of tables are for the Nature of Present Offense, which describes the population's commitment, sentences, offenses and the age at incarceration. The second set are the Personal Background Characteristics, which depict sex, race, citizenship, marital status, address (cities), educational attainment, and age as of January 1, 1996.

## Inmates in Massachusetts Correctional Institutions, January 1, 1991 to January 1, 1996: A Trend Analysis

This section of the report presents characteristics of the population in DOC facilities and an analysis of changes in the inmate population from 1991 to 1996. This information is presented in Table 1, and in Figures 1 and 2, on pages 1 through 3.

During the six year period from January 1, 1991 to January 1, 1996, the population in the DOC increased from 8,265 in 1991 to 9,736 in 1996, an increase of 18 percent. During the past year, the population decreased by 118 offenders or 1 percent, from 9,854 in 1995 to 9,736 in 1996. This decrease is attributed to 299 inmates who were transferred to Texas as part of an interstate compact agreement. This program started on October 31, 1995 to alleviate overcrowding in the Commonwealth's facilities.

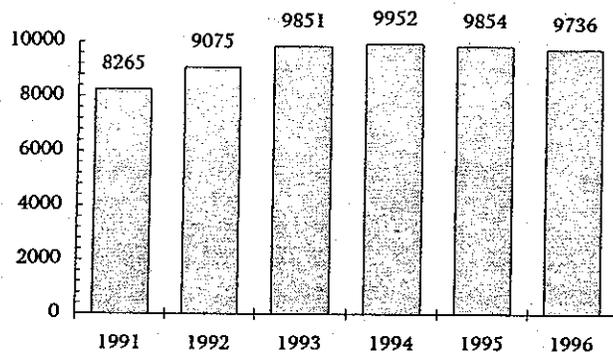


Figure 1.  
January 1 Population.

**Sex.** In 1996, the DOC population was 94 percent male and 6 percent female. Male offenders increased by 18 percent over the period while female inmates increased by 10 percent from 1991.

**Race.** The DOC sentenced population in 1996 was 49 percent Caucasian, 29 percent African American, 20 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent Native American and Asian combined. This represents a decrease in the proportion of Caucasians and an increase in the proportion of Hispanics and African Americans since the beginning of the period when the population was

51 percent Caucasian, 19 percent Hispanic, and 28 percent African American. The number of Native American inmates increased from 12 in 1991 to 14 in 1996, and the number of Asian inmates increased from 46 to 79, or 72 percent during this period.

**Age.** The age distribution of the population shifted upward during the six year period. In 1996, 38 percent of the population were under 30 years old and 62 percent were 30 years or older. In contrast, at the beginning of the period, 45 percent of the population were under 30 years of age and 55 percent were 30 years or older. The number of offenders 65 years and older, increased by 108 percent, from 40 in 1991 to 83 in 1996.

The 19 or younger age group remained stable from 1991 to 1994. This age group increased by 83 percent, from 213 in 1994 to 390 in 1995. In 1996, this age group decreased by 53 percent from the preceding year, from 390 to 184 inmates.

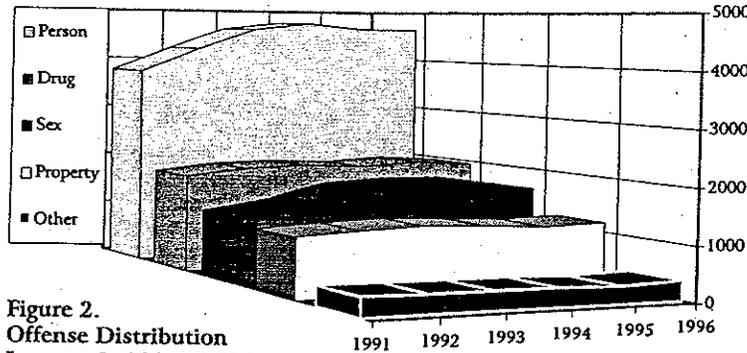


Figure 2.  
Offense Distribution  
January 1, 1991 - 1996.

**Offense.** In 1996, 48 percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against the person, 17 percent for a sex offense, 12 percent for a property offense, 20 percent for a drug offense, and 4 percent for "other" offenses. The two offense categories that grew at the fastest rate during the period were person and sex. In 1991, person offenders (N=3,764) made up 46 percent of the inmate population. In 1996, the number of inmates in this offense category increased by 23 percent to 4,633 representing 48 percent of the inmate population. Fifteen percent (N=1,229) of the DOC population in 1991 were sex offenders compared to 17 percent (N=1,620) in 1996. This

amounted to a 32 percent increase in the sex offender category. The proportion of violent offenders in the population increased from 60 percent in 1991 to 64 percent in 1996. Since 1993, violent offenders constituted between 64 and 65 percent of the inmate population. The number of inmates serving time for violent offenses (person & sex) increased by 25 percent over the period 1991 to 1996.

**Committing Institution.** Eighty-three percent of the population in 1996 were originally committed to Cedar Junction, 8 percent to Concord, 6 percent to Framingham, and 3 percent to other jurisdictions. This represents an increase in the proportion of individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences and sentences from other jurisdictions, and a decrease in the proportions serving \*Concord sentences. Framingham commitments increased by 50, but the proportion remained stable over the period.

**Sentence.** In 1996, 14 percent of the inmate population received no minimum sentence, while 20 percent had a minimum sentence of less than 5 years. This sentence group decreased 1 percent per year from 1991 (19 percent) through 1995 (15 percent) and then increased to 20 percent in 1996. Thirty-one percent had a minimum sentence of 5 to 9 years, 19 percent had a minimum sentence of 10 to 19 years, 3 percent had a minimum sentence of 20 years or more, and 13 percent had a minimum term of life. Compared with the beginning of the period, a smaller proportion of inmates were serving sentences with no minimum (due to the elimination of Concord reformatory sentence). While the proportion of inmates in all the minimum sentence categories increased since 1991, inmates who received a minimum sentence of life represents the largest increase proportionately, from 10 to 13 percent.

\* On January 12, 1994, the Governor signed into law An Act to Promote the Effective Management of the Criminal Justice System. St. 1993, c. 432 generally known as the "truth in sentencing" law. The passage of this law eliminates Concord reformatory sentences for crimes committed after June 30, 1994. This explains the decrease in the proportion serving Concord sentences and corresponding increase in Cedar Junction sentences. This law is expected to have a significant impact on the execution of sentences in Massachusetts.

Table I.

### Selected Characteristics of Sentenced DOC Population on January 1, 1991 to 1996.

	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
<b>Sex</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	7737	94	8506	94	9336	95	9413	95	9258	94	9154	94
Female	528	6	569	6	515	5	539	5	596	6	582	6
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100
<b>Race</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	4254	51	4513	50	4942	50	5034	51	4881	50	4804	49
African American	2351	28	2762	30	2931	30	2933	29	2907	29	2861	29
Hispanic	1602	19	1733	19	1897	19	1906	19	1982	20	1978	20
Native American	12	0	14	0	16	0	13	0	13	0	14	0
Asian	46	1	53	1	65	1	66	1	71	1	79	1
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100
<b>Age on Jan. 1st</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
19 or Younger	203	2	211	2	223	2	213	2	390	4	184	2
20 to 24	1471	18	1608	18	1728	18	1723	17	1795	17	1421	15
25 to 29	2036	25	2143	24	2200	22	2099	21	2035	21	2082	21
30 to 39	2986	36	3307	36	3618	37	3666	37	3539	36	3671	38
40 to 64	1529	18	1756	19	2022	21	2190	22	2036	21	2295	24
65 and Older	40	0	50	1	60	1	61	1	59	1	83	1
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100
<b>Offense</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Person	3764	46	4214	46	4618	47	4724	47	4634	47	4633	48
Sex	1229	15	1402	15	1690	17	1759	18	1758	18	1620	17
Property	1097	13	1168	13	1216	12	1186	12	1135	12	1170	12
Drug	1816	22	1939	21	1973	20	1931	19	2002	20	1942	20
Other	359	4	352	4	354	4	352	4	325	3	371	4
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100
<b>Committing Inst.</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cedar Junction	6278	76	6870	76	7619	77	7783	78	7939	81	8050	83
Concord	1267	15	1452	16	1454	15	1270	13	1022	10	809	8
Framingham	526	6	567	6	513	5	530	5	586	6	576	6
Other Jurisdiction	194	2	186	2	265	3	369	4	307	3	301	3
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100
<b>Minimum Sent.</b>												
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Minimum	1742	21	1915	21	1933	20	1872	19	1619	16	1377	14
Less than 5 yrs	1546	19	1648	18	1671	17	1553	16	1517	15	1943	20
5 to 9 yrs	2424	29	2714	30	3027	31	3113	31	3220	33	3013	31
10 to 19 yrs	1513	18	1684	19	1946	20	2055	21	2040	21	1888	19
20 yrs or more	186	2	197	2	247	3	264	2	289	3	285	3
Life	854	10	917	10	1027	10	1095	11	1169	12	1230	13
Total	8265	100	9075	100	9851	100	9952	100	9854	100	9736	100

## Inmates of Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1996: Summary of Statistics

---

In this section the 9,736 sentenced population in the DOC on January 1, 1996 are described in terms of their institutional placement, present offense and personal background characteristics.

### Institutional Placement

On January 1, 1996 there were 9,736 inmates in DOC facilities (Table 2, page 7). Eight percent (N=807) were housed in maximum security facilities (includes DDU population); 70 percent (N=6,857) in medium security facilities; 5 percent (N=505) in minimum security facilities; 10 percent (N=1,012) in minimum/pre-release security facilities; 2 percent (N=164) in pre-release security facilities, and 4 percent (N=382) housed in the Department's four specialized facilities (Bridgewater State Hospital, Longwood Treatment Center, Massachusetts Boot Camp, and the Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons). There were 9 inmates in contract facilities (Charlotte House and Houston House).

### Nature of Offense

**Court From Which Committed.** Ninety-two percent (N=8,958) of the DOC population on January 1, 1996 were originally committed from a Superior Court; 3 percent (N=335) were originally committed from a lower court; and 5 percent (N=443) were transfers from another jurisdiction or were serving From & After sentences. Four Superior Courts committed 62 percent of the sentenced inmates to the DOC: twenty-five percent from Suffolk (N=2,388), 15 percent from Middlesex (N=1,481), 11 percent from Worcester (N=1,084), and 11 percent from Hampden (N=1,080).

**Sentence.** Of the total population, eighty-three percent (N=8,050) of the population were males serving State Prison (Cedar Junction) sentences with a median minimum sentence of eight years; 8 percent (N=809) were males serving Reformatory (Concord) sentences with a median maximum sentence of 11 years; and 3 percent (N=295) were males from other jurisdictions: counties (N=242), other states (N=47), or Federal Bureau of Prisons (N=6), and 6 percent were females (N=582).

Of the females, 46 percent (N=269) were serving State Prison sentences, 8 percent (N=44) were serving Reformatory sentences, 45 percent (N=264) were serving county sentences, and one percent (N=5) were from other jurisdictions.

## Summary of Statistics

**Offense.** Forty-eight percent (N=4,633) of the population were incarcerated for offenses against the person, 17 percent (N=1,620) for sex offenses, 12 percent (N=1,170) for property offenses, 20 percent (N=1,942) for drug offenses, and 4 percent (N=371) for "other" offenses.

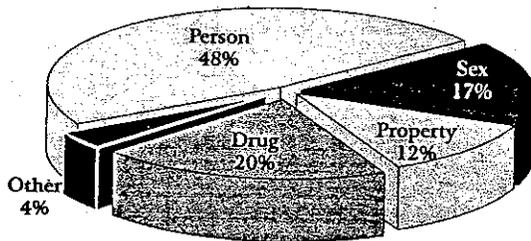


Figure 3.  
Offense Distribution.

There were 1,230 (13 percent) lifers in the DOC which represent a five percent increase over the 1,169 incarcerated on January 1, 1995. Of the 1,230 lifers, there were 530 first degree lifers whose governing offense was murder-1, and 700 second-degree lifers whose governing offenses included murder-2, accessory to murder, armed or unarmed robbery, rape, aggravated rape, rape of a minor, rape of a child or armed burglary. There were eight inmates incarcerated for murder-1 with sentences other than life: four from out of state, and four whose sentences were commuted from life to a term of years prior to January 1, 1996.

### The ten most common offenses for which individuals are incarcerated:

Rank	Offense	N	%
1	<i>Class B drug offenses</i>	1,414	15
2	<i>Armed Robbery</i>	1,322	14
3	<i>Armed Assault</i>	901	9
4	<i>Rape of a minor</i>	763	8
5	<i>Burglary</i>	670	7
6	<i>Second degree murder</i>	622	6
7	<i>First degree murder</i>	538	6
8	<i>Unarmed robbery</i>	428	4
9	<i>Manslaughter</i>	414	4
10	<i>Class A drug offenses</i>	362	4

**Age at Incarceration.** The age at incarceration ranged from 15 to 86 years. The median age at incarceration was 28 years.

Personal Background  
Characteristics

The personal background information presented is based on inmate self-report at the time of commitment.

**Sex:** The population was 94 percent male (N=9,154) and 6 percent female (N=582).

**Race/Ethnicity:** The population was 49 percent Caucasian (N=4,804), 29 percent African American (N=2,861), 20 percent Hispanic (N=1,978), and one percent other races or ethnic groups (N=93).

**Citizenship:** Ninety-six percent (N=9,327) of the inmates were U.S. citizens (including 59 percent born in Massachusetts, 21 percent born in other states, 10 percent born in U.S. territories, and 6 percent born in other countries). Four percent (N=409) were not U.S. citizens.

**Marital Status:** Seventy-one percent (N=6,943) of the inmates were single, 17 percent (N=1,695) were married or common-law, and 11 percent (N=1,098) were divorced, separated or widowed.

**Home Area:** Ninety-four percent (N=9,111) of the population were living in Massachusetts prior to incarceration and 6 percent (N=625) were living out of state. The communities from which inmates most often came were: twenty-five percent from Boston (N=2,423), 7 percent from Springfield (N=706), 6 percent from Worcester (N=600), 4 percent from Lowell (N=393), and 3 percent from each of the communities of Brockton (N=276), Lynn (N=264), and New Bedford (N=249).

**Education:** The median educational level of the population was 11th grade. Fourteen percent (N=993) reported having a grammar school education (eighth grade or less), 38 percent (N=2,642) reported some high school education (grades 9 through 11), 26 percent (N=2,504) were high school graduates or received a GED and no post-secondary education, 6 percent (N=579) had some college education, and 2 percent (N=154) graduated from college.

*The typical inmate profile on January 1, 1996 was a Caucasian male who was 32 years old, single, lived in the Boston area, with an 11th grade education, and was a U.S. citizen.*

**Current Age:** The median age of the population on January 1, 1996 was 32 years, ranging in age from 17 years to 89 years. There were 184 inmates (2 percent) 19 years or younger, and 3,503 inmates (36 percent) who were 20 to 29 years old. There were 3,671 (38 percent) who were 30 to 39 years old, 5,304 inmates (54 percent) 40 to 49 years old, 562 inmates (6 percent) 50 to 59 years old, and 157 inmates (2 percent) 60 to 69 years old. There were twenty-six inmates who were 70 years old or older during January 1, 1996.

Table 2.

**Number of Sentenced Population in  
DOC Facilities on January 1, 1996**

Security Level/ Institution	Population	Percent
<b>Maximum Security</b>		
Cedar Junction	807	8%
<b>Medium Security</b>		
Concord	933	10%
OCCC	701	7%
Frammingham	468	5%
Norfolk	1,332	14%
Bay State	294	3%
NCCI	1,014	10%
SECC	871	9%
Shirley-Medium	1,103	11%
Mass. Boot Camp	141	1%
Sub-Total	6,857	70%
<b>Minimum Security</b>		
Plymouth	167	2%
NECC	235	2%
SECC-Minimum	103	1%
Sub-Total	505	5%
<b>Minimum/Pre-Release</b>		
Lancaster-Male	191	2%
Lancaster-Female	62	1%
Shirley-Lower	357	4%
Pondville	191	2%
SMCC	185	2%
Hodder House	26	0%
Sub-Total	1,012	10%
<b>Pre-Release Security</b>		
Boston State	96	1%
Park Drive	46	0%
PREPP	22	0%
Sub-Total	164	2%
<b>Contract Beds</b>		
Charlotte	7	0%
Houston House	2	0%
Sub-Total	9	0%
<b>Treatment Facilities</b>		
Bridgewater SH	123	1%
Bridgewater TC	119	1%
Longwood TC	140	1%
Sub-Total	382	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,736</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Selected Characteristics of DOC Sentenced Population on January 1, 1996: A Comparison by Sex

In this section, the sentenced population of 582 females and 9,154 males in the DOC on January 1, 1996 are described separately in terms of their minimum and maximum sentence, present offense (general categories), race, last grade completed and age as of January 1, 1996.

State, reformatory and county sentences are defined in the Glossary (page 23) with respective changes due to the "truth in sentencing" law. The following discussion on minimum and maximum sentences should be viewed in context of the type of sentence received, whether state, reformatory or county.

### Minimum Sentence

Minimum sentences ranging from one year to life sentences are described in the table below for female and male offenders.

Sentence	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
One Year	9	(3)	111	(1)	120	(1)
Two Years	9	(3)	244	(3)	253	(3)
Three Years	52	(19)	915	(11)	967	(12)
Four Years	20	(7)	583	(7)	603	(7)
Five Years	47	(17)	930	(11)	977	(12)
Six Years	22	(8)	661	(8)	683	(8)
Seven Years	5	(2)	438	(5)	443	(5)
Eight Years	8	(3)	378	(5)	386	(5)
Nine Years	18	(7)	506	(6)	524	(6)
Ten Years	14	(5)	555	(7)	569	(7)
11 to 12 Yrs.	11	(4)	422	(5)	433	(5)
13 to 15 Yrs.	17	(6)	544	(7)	561	(7)
16 to 19 Yrs.	8	(3)	317	(4)	325	(4)
20 to 24 Yrs.	1	(0)	128	(2)	129	(2)
25 Yrs. or More	0	(0)	156	(2)	156	(2)
Life	28	(10)	1202	(15)	1230	(15)
Sub-Total	269	(100)	8090	(100)	8359	(100)
No Minimum	313	(54)	1064	(12)	1377	(14)
Total	582	(100)	9154	(100)	9736	(100)

The proportion of female and male offenders with a minimum sentence of one to five years differed, 51 percent for females compared to 34 percent for males. There was a greater proportion of male offenders, 51 percent, serving six year sentences or more, than female offenders, 39 percent. The proportion for males serving life sentences was greater than that of female offenders, 15 percent and 10 percent respectively.

The proportion of "No Minimum" sentences is larger in the female offender population because the majority of women, 46 percent, were serving "County Sentences" where they received only maximum sentences and 8 percent were serving State Prison sentences.

## A Comparison by Sex

### Maximum Sentence

Prior to the "truth and sentencing" law, male and female offenders sentenced to the state prison received a minimum and maximum term. Offenders serving reformatory sentences received an indefinite term, indicated by a maximum sentence.

With the new law, reformatory sentences have been eliminated, while state prison and county sentences remain.

Maximum sentences ranging from a "fine or less than one month" to "life sentences" are described in the table below for female and male offenders.

Sentence	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Fine - < 1 Mo.	3	(1)	0	(0)	3	(0)
Less than 1 Yr.	113	(19)	41	(0)	154	(2)
One Year	112	(19)	92	(1)	204	(2)
Two Years	60	(10)	221	(2)	281	(3)
Three Years	30	(5)	297	(3)	327	(3)
Four Years	3	(1)	117	(1)	120	(1)
Five Years	59	(10)	1071	(12)	1130	(12)
Six Years	8	(1)	284	(3)	292	(3)
Seven Years	21	(4)	607	(7)	628	(6)
Eight Years	13	(2)	243	(3)	256	(3)
Nine Years	5	(1)	180	(2)	185	(2)
Ten Years	58	(10)	1693	(18)	1751	(18)
11 to 12 Yrs.	12	(2)	583	(6)	595	(6)
13 to 15 Yrs.	24	(4)	816	(9)	840	(9)
16 to 19 Yrs.	8	(1)	179	(2)	187	(2)
20 to 24 Yrs.	23	(4)	1087	(12)	1110	(11)
25 Yrs. or More	2	(0)	424	(5)	426	(4)
Life	28	(5)	1219	(13)	1247	(13)
<b>Total</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>9154</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

There was a great disparity in the proportion of female offenders serving sentences of two years or less than male offenders, 49 percent compared with 4 percent, respectively. The proportion between female and male offenders who received a maximum sentence of three years to five years was identical at 16 percent. There was a greater proportion of male offenders, 14 percent, serving sentences in the six to nine year range than female offenders, 8 percent. In addition, there was a greater proportion of male offenders serving ten years or more, 52 percent, than female offenders, 22 percent. The proportion of males serving life sentences was more than double that of female offenders, 5 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Present Offense (General Categories)

The majority of male offenders, 49 percent, were serving sentences for a person offense, while drug offenses were the most common among female offenders, 35 percent. Person offenses were

Offense	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Person	168	(29)	4465	(49)	4633	(48)
Sex	17	(3)	1603	(18)	1620	(17)
Property	93	(16)	1077	(12)	1170	(12)
Drug	206	(35)	1736	(19)	1942	(20)
Other	98	(17)	273	(3)	371	(4)
Total	582	(100)	9154	(100)	9736	(100)

the second most common offense for the female population, 29 percent, while drug offenses were the second most common among male offenders, 19 percent. "Other" offenses, ranked the third most common offense for female offenders, 17 percent, while sex offenses were the third most common for

male offenders, 18 percent. Property offenses ranked the fourth most common offense for both males and females, 16 percent and 12 respectively. Sex offenses, 3 percent, were the least common offense for female offenders, while "other" offenses, 3 percent, were the least common for male offenders.

Last Grade Completed

The educational background information presented below is based on inmate self-report at the time of commitment.

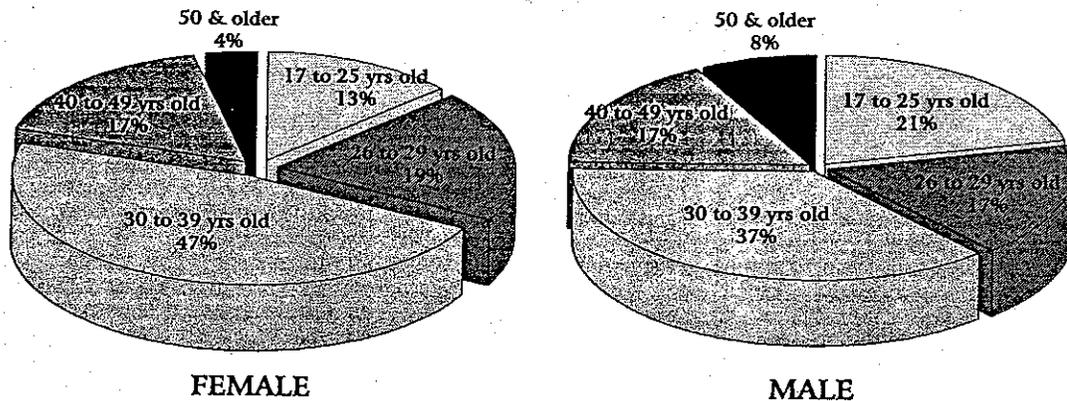
Education	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Third Grade or Less	1	(0)	74	(1)	75	(1)
Fourth Grade	0	(0)	57	(1)	57	(1)
Fifth Grade	4	(1)	66	(1)	70	(1)
Sixth Grade	4	(1)	124	(1)	128	(1)
Seventh Grade	7	(1)	211	(2)	218	(2)
Eighth Grade	21	(4)	424	(5)	445	(5)
Ninth Grade	27	(5)	736	(8)	763	(8)
Tenth Grade	36	(6)	929	(10)	965	(10)
Eleventh Grade	46	(8)	868	(9)	914	(9)
H.S. Grad.	74	(13)	1707	(19)	1781	(18)
GED	29	(5)	694	(8)	723	(7)
Some College	42	(7)	537	(6)	579	(6)
College Grad.	6	(1)	148	(2)	154	(2)
Unknown	285	(49)	2579	(28)	2864	(29)
Total	582	(100)	9154	(100)	9736	(100)

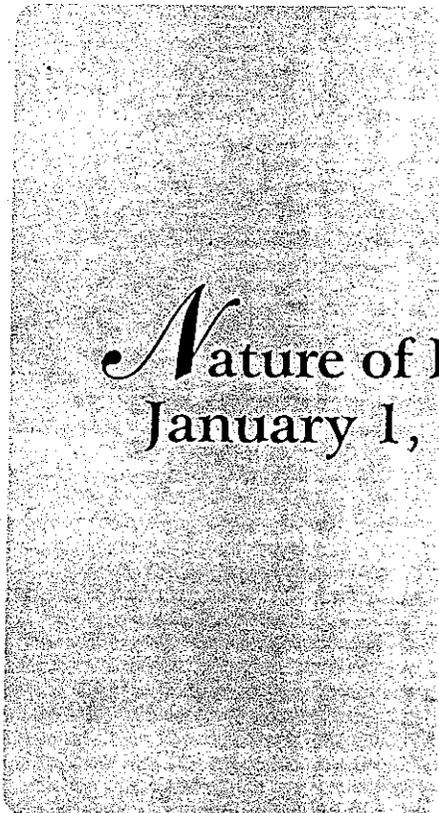
Forty-nine percent of the female offenders had unknown education information, compared to 28 percent of the male offenders. Of those where educational background was available, 51 percent of the female offenders and 47 percent of the male offenders had received a GED or graduated high school.

**Age as of January 1, 1996**

Age	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
17 and younger	1	(0)	8	(0)	9	(0)
18 yrs old	1	(0)	52	(1)	53	(1)
19 yrs old	4	(1)	118	(1)	122	(1)
20 yrs old	7	(1)	149	(2)	156	(2)
21 yrs old	8	(1)	258	(3)	266	(3)
22 yrs old	5	(1)	265	(3)	270	(3)
23 yrs old	13	(2)	332	(4)	345	(4)
24 yrs old	18	(3)	366	(4)	384	(4)
25 yrs old	19	(3)	404	(4)	423	(4)
26 - 29 yrs old	113	(19)	1546	(17)	1659	(17)
30 - 39 yrs old	273	(47)	3398	(37)	3671	(38)
40 - 49 yrs old	99	(17)	1534	(17)	1633	(17)
50 - 59 yrs old	16	(3)	546	(6)	562	(6)
60 - 69 yrs old	5	(1)	152	(2)	157	(2)
70 & older	0	(0)	26	(0)	26	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>9154</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

The age distribution differed for male and female offenders in the DOC on January 1, 1996. A larger proportion of male offenders were in the 17 to 25 year age group (21 percent) than female offenders (13 percent). There were more women in the 26 to 29 year age category (19 percent) than men (17 percent). A greater proportion of the female population were in the 30 to 39 year age group (47 percent) than the male population (37 percent). Seventeen percent of the population were 40 to 49 years old on January 1, 1996 which did not differ by gender. Finally, the proportion of male offenders age 50 and older was double that of female offenders, 8 percent and 4 percent, respectively.





*Nature of Present Offense,*  
January 1, 1996.

- \* Court from which Committed
- \* Committing Institution
- \* Minimum Sentence
- \* Maximum Sentence
- \* Type of Sentence
- \* Present Offense Distribution
- \* Person Offenses
- \* Sex Offenses
- \* Property Offenses
- \* Drug Offenses
- \* Other Offenses
- \* Age at Incarceration

**Table 3.**

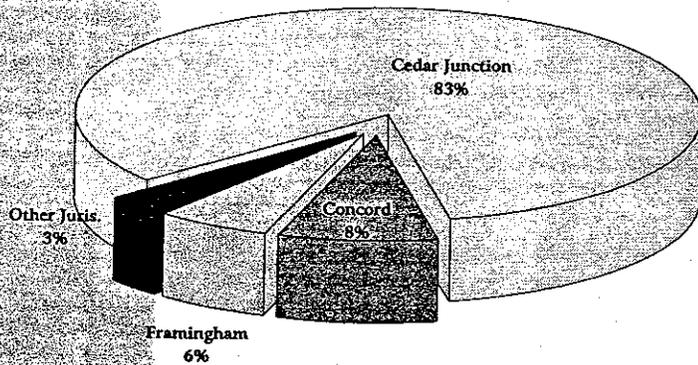
*C*ourt from  
Which Committed

Courts	No. of Offenders	Percent
Barnstable	212	(2)
Berkshire	215	(2)
Bristol	669	(7)
Dukes	4	(0)
Essex	797	(8)
Franklin	94	(1)
Hampden	1080	(11)
Hampshire	109	(1)
Middlesex	1481	(15)
Nantucket	4	(0)
Norfolk	393	(4)
Plymouth	428	(4)
Suffolk	2388	(25)
Worcester	1084	(11)
Municipal Crts	4	(0)
District Crts	332	(3)
Other Juris.	300	(3)
From and After	142	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 4.**

*C*ommitting  
Institution

Institution	No. of Offenders	Percent
Cedar Junction	8050	(83)
Concord	809	(8)
Framingham	577	(6)
Other Juris.	300	(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>



**Table 5.**

Sentence	No. of Offenders	
	No. of Offenders	Percent
One Year	120	(1)
Two Years	253	(3)
Three Years	967	(10)
Four Years	603	(6)
Five Years	977	(10)
Six Years	683	(7)
Seven Years	443	(5)
Eight Years	386	(4)
Nine Years	524	(5)
Ten Years	569	(6)
11 to 12 Yrs	433	(4)
13 to 15 Yrs	561	(6)
16 to 19 Yrs	325	(3)
20 to 24 Yrs	129	(1)
25 Yrs or More	156	(2)
Life	1230	(13)
No Minimum	1377	(14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Minimum Sentence*

**Table 6.**

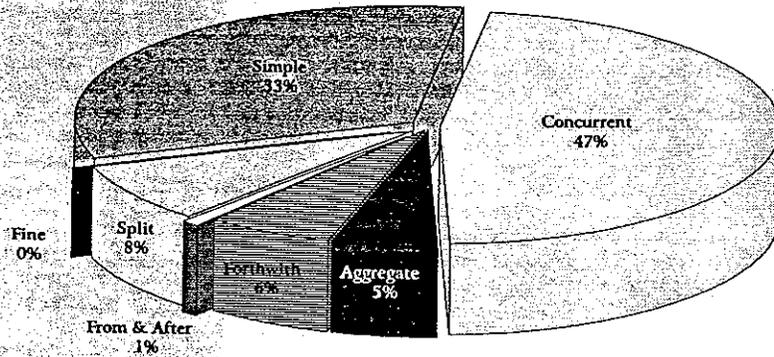
Sentence	No. of Offenders	
	No. of Offenders	Percent
Fine - < 1 Mo.	3	(0)
Less Than 1 Yr.	154	(2)
One Year	204	(2)
Two Years	281	(3)
Three Years	327	(3)
Four Years	120	(1)
Five Years	1130	(12)
Six Years	292	(3)
Seven Years	628	(6)
Eight Years	256	(3)
Nine Years	185	(2)
Ten Years	1751	(18)
11 to 12 Years	595	(6)
13 to 15 Years	840	(9)
16 to 19 Years	187	(2)
20 to 24 Years	1110	(11)
25 Years or More	426	(4)
Life	1247	(13)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Maximum Sentence*

**Table 7.**

Sentence	No. of Offenders	Percent
Simple	3161	(32)
Concurrent	4558	(47)
Aggregate	466	(5)
Forthwith	583	(6)
From and After	189	(2)
Split	778	(8)
Fine	1	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

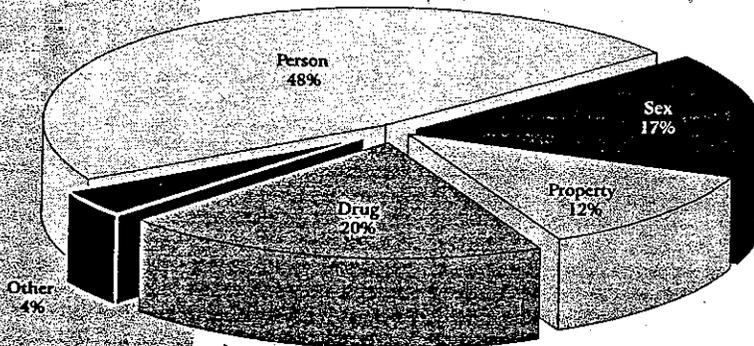
*Type of Sentence*



**Table 8.**

Offense	No. of Offenders	Percent
Person	4633	(48)
Sex	1620	(17)
Property	1170	(12)
Drug	1942	(20)
Other	371	(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Present Offense:  
General Categories*



**Table 9.**

Offense	No. of	
	Offenders	Percent
Murder-1	538	(6)
Murder-2	622	(6)
Manslaughter	414	(4)
MV Homicide	50	(1)
Asslt w/ Int. Murder	105	(1)
Accssry to Murder	25	(0)
Armed Robbery	1322	(14)
Unarmed Robbery	428	(4)
Armed Assault	901	(9)
Unarmed Assault	91	(1)
Mayhem	52	(1)
Extortion	9	(0)
Kidnapping	47	(1)
Civil Rights	19	(0)
Conspiracy	10	(0)
Not Applicable	5103	(52)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Person Offenses*

**Table 10.**

Offense	No. of	
	Offenders	Percent
Rape	276	(3)
Aggravated Rape	285	(3)
Asslt w/ Int to Rape	132	(1)
Rape of Minor	763	(8)
Asslt w/i Rape-Minor	151	(2)
Unnatural Acts	4	(0)
Incest	2	(0)
Sexual Misconduct	3	(0)
Lewdness	4	(0)
Not Applicable	8116	(83)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Sex Offenses*

**Table 11.**

*P*roperty Offenses

Offense	No. of Offenders	Percent
Arson	96	(1)
Armed Burglary	85	(1)
Burglary	670	(7)
Burglary Tools	19	(0)
Stealing	18	(0)
Larceny-Person	14	(0)
Larceny	95	(1)
Unauthorized Use	85	(1)
Forgery-Uttering	27	(0)
Common Theft	13	(0)
Fraud	5	(0)
Rcvng Stolen Goods	33	(0)
Property Injuries	10	(0)
Not Applicable	8566	(88)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 12.**

*D*rug Offenses

(\* = includes the manufacturing, distribution, dispensing or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance)

Offense	No. of Offenders	Percent
Poss. of Narcotics	2	(0)
Poss. of Syringe	13	(0)
Conspiracy	50	(1)
Cntrld Sub. No Class	15	(0)
*Class-A	362	(4)
*Class-B	1414	(15)
*Class-C	2	(0)
*Class-D	12	(0)
*Other Drug	72	(1)
Not Applicable	7794	(80)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 13.**

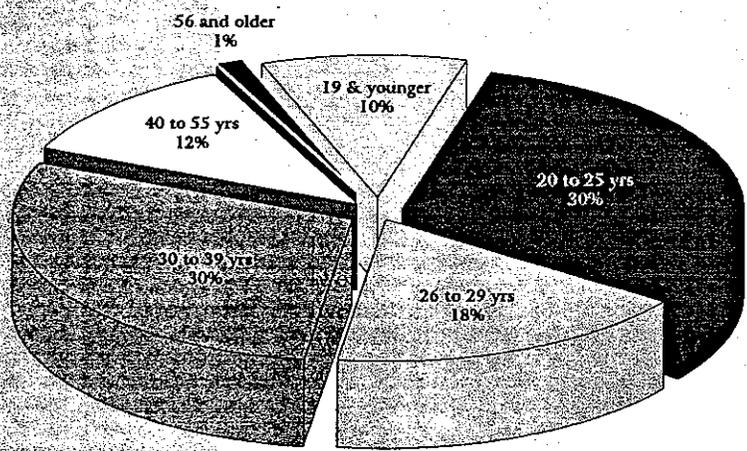
*O*ther Offenses

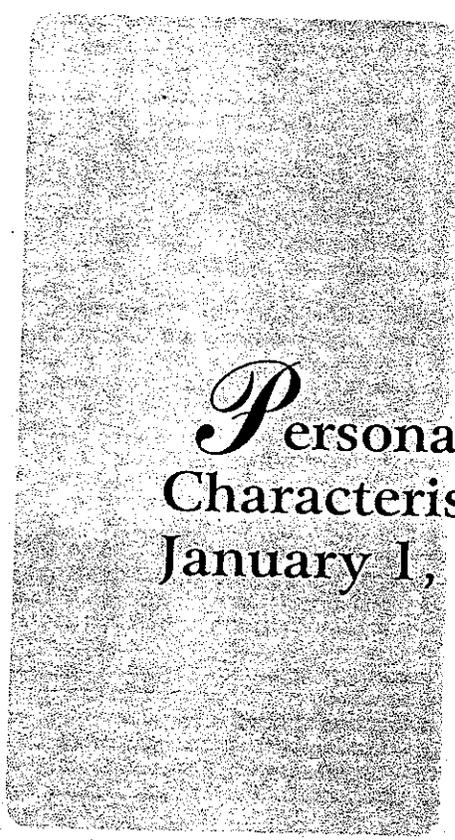
Offense	No. of Offenders	Percent
Escape	24	(0)
Weapons	118	(1)
Comm. Nightwalker	13	(0)
Dist. the Peace	3	(0)
Prostitution	31	(0)
Vehicle Off.	9	(0)
Viol. of Court Order	7	(0)
OUI	144	(1)
Other	22	(0)
Not Applicable	9365	(96)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 14.**

*Age at Incarceration*

Age	No. of Offenders	Percent
Fifteen	3	(0)
Sixteen	14	(0)
Seventeen	113	(1)
Eighteen	364	(4)
Nineteen	470	(5)
Twenty	478	(5)
Twenty-one	514	(5)
Twenty-two	498	(5)
Twenty-three	460	(5)
Twenty-four	471	(5)
Twenty-five	461	(5)
26 to 29 yrs.	1722	(18)
30 to 39 yrs.	2873	(30)
40 to 49 yrs.	960	(10)
50 to 55 yrs.	204	(2)
56 to 59 yrs.	75	(1)
60 to 65 yrs.	41	(0)
66 & Older	15	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>





*P*ersonal Background  
Characteristics,  
January 1, 1996.

- \* Sex
- \* Race / Ethnicity
- \* Citizenship Status
- \* Marital Status
- \* Prior Address - Selected Cities
- \* Last Grade Completed
- \* Age as of January 1, 1996

**Table 15.**

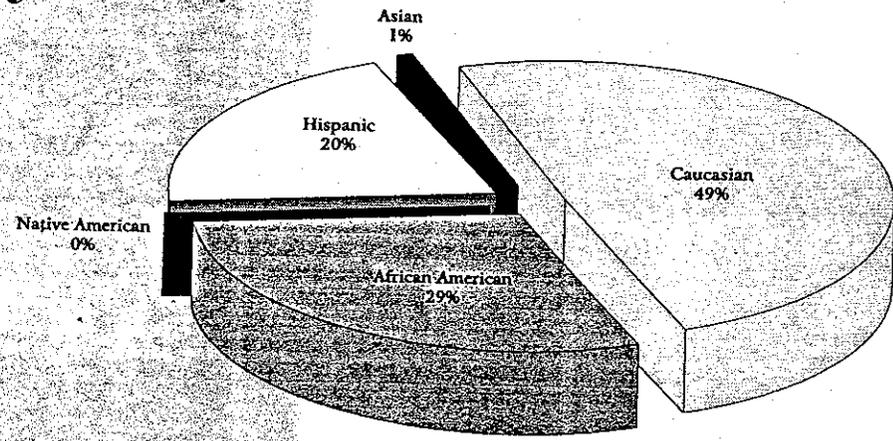
Sex	No. of Offenders	Percent
Female	582	(6)
Male	9154	(94)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Sex*

**Table 16.**

Race	No. of Offenders	Percent
Caucasian	4804	(49)
African American	2861	(29)
Hispanic	1978	(20)
Asian	79	(1)
Native American	14	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Race/Ethnicity*



**Table 17.**

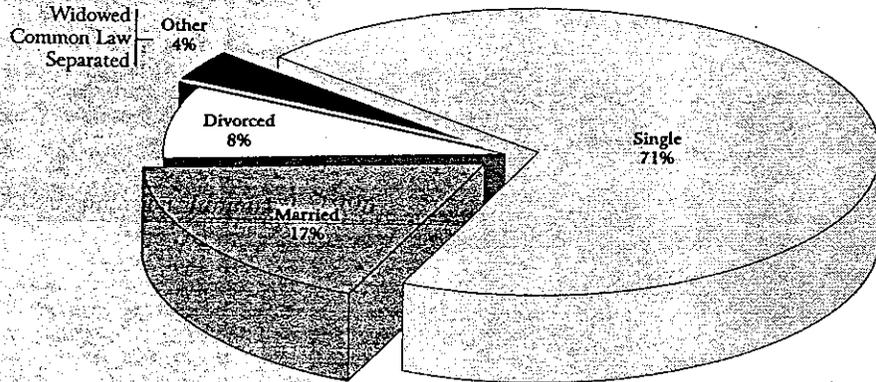
Citizenship	No. of Offenders	Percent
US Cit-Mass Born	5786	(59)
US Cit-Other State	2010	(21)
US Cit-US Terr.	968	(10)
US Cit-Foreign Born	563	(6)
Non-Citizen	409	(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

*Citizenship Status*  
(Self-reported)

**Table 18.**

*M*arital Status  
(Self reported)

Status	No. of Offenders	Percent
Married	1685	(17)
Single	6943	(71)
Divorced	765	(8)
Widowed	71	(1)
Common Law	10	(0)
Separated	262	(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>



**Table 19.**

*P*rior Address-  
Selected Cities  
and Towns  
(Self reported)

Cities	No. of Offenders	Percent
Boston	2423	(25)
Brockton	276	(3)
Cambridge	130	(1)
Chelsea	102	(1)
Fall River	194	(2)
Framingham	97	(1)
Holyoke	191	(2)
Lawrence	243	(2)
Lowell	393	(4)
Lynn	264	(3)
New Bedford	249	(3)
Somerville	146	(1)
Springfield	706	(7)
Worcester	600	(6)
Other Mass	3097	(32)
Out of State	625	(6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 20.**

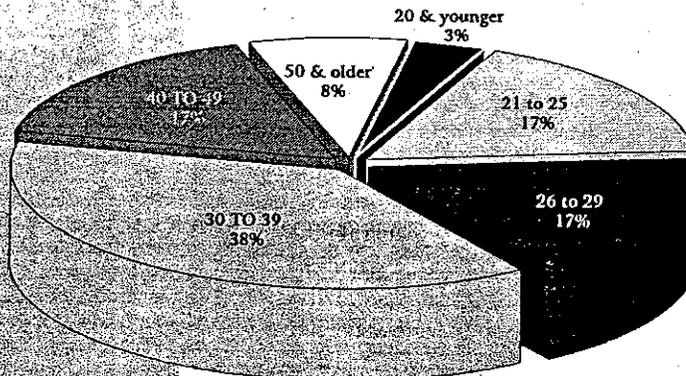
*Last Grade Completed*  
(Self reported)

Grade	No. of Offenders	Percent
Third Grade or Less	75	(1)
Fourth Grade	57	(1)
Fifth Grade	70	(1)
Sixth Grade	128	(1)
Seventh Grade	218	(2)
Eighth Grade	445	(5)
Ninth Grade	763	(8)
Tenth Grade	965	(10)
Eleventh Grade	914	(9)
H.S. Graduate	1781	(18)
GED	723	(7)
Some College	579	(6)
College Graduate	154	(2)
Unknown	2864	(29)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>

**Table 21.**

*Age as of*  
January 1, 1996

Age	No. of Offenders	Percent
17 and Younger	9	(0)
Eighteen	53	(1)
Nineteen	122	(1)
Twenty	156	(2)
Twenty-one	266	(3)
Twenty-two	270	(3)
Twenty-three	345	(4)
Twenty-four	384	(4)
Twenty-Five	423	(4)
26 to 29 yrs.	1659	(17)
30 to 39 yrs.	3671	(38)
40 to 49 yrs.	1633	(17)
50 to 59 yrs.	562	(6)
60 to 69	157	(2)
70 and older	26	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9736</b>	<b>(100)</b>



SENTENCE

**State Prison Sentence** - Prior to the "truth in sentencing" law, if an offender is sentenced to the State Prison, except for life or as an habitual criminal, the court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and minimum term for which he/she may be imprisoned. The minimum term shall not be less than two and a half years. All sentences which have a maximum term (other than life sentences) are eligible to have a maximum term reduced by statutory good time, except for sex offenses and crimes committed while confined.

In the "new law", all state sentences will have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an inmate is sentenced for life or as a habitual criminal. The minimum term is used to determine parole eligibility, and the maximum term is used to determine discharge.

Under both the "old" and "new" sentencing systems, an inmate is discharged from his sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Under the "new" system none of the reduction will be attributable to statutory good time. Under the "old" system, all sentences which have a finite maximum term are eligible to have the term reduced by statutory good time, except for most sex offenses, crimes committed while confined and certain "mandatory" sentences.

**Reformatory Sentence** - Prior to the "Truth in Sentencing" law, males and females can be sentenced to a reformatory sentence, an indefinite term, indicated by a maximum term.

For MCI-Concord, a male not previously sentenced for felony more than three times, convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in any correctional institution of the Commonwealth or by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction may be sentenced for an indefinite term. Concord may confine misdemeanor offenders as well as those who commit felonies.

A female convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in a house of correction, may be sentenced to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Framingham. In addition to those women who commit felonies, MCI-Framingham may confine female misdemeanor offenders.

The District Court cannot impose a sentence in either Framingham/Concord if the defendant has been previously sentenced for a felony more than three times.

The "new" law eliminates "Concord"(or Framingham)sentences to the state reformatory.

**House of Correction Sentences** - Prior to the "truth in sentencing" law, if an offender is sentenced to the House of Correction, the term shall be less than two and a half years. Parole eligibility and discharge are based on the maximum term of a sentence.

Under the "new" law, discharge on this sentence will change because of the elimination of statutory good time. There is no change in the parole eligibility date.

Court from Which Committed	- Municipal Courts are lower courts of Suffolk County - District Courts are lower courts of all counties.
DDU	- Departmental Disciplinary Unit, located at MCI-Cedar Junction.
Drug Offense	- The controlled substance categories include the actual or intended manufacturing, distribution, dispensing or possession of a controlled substance . If the class of the substance is unknown it is included in the "Controlled Sub. No Class" category, otherwise it goes in the Controlled Substance categories: Class A includes heroin & morphine. Class B includes cocaine, opium, amphetamines, and barbiturates. Class C includes hallucinogens. Class D includes marijuana.
Minimum/Maximum Sentence	- In the tables, minimum and maximum sentence lengths are truncated to the closest whole year. For example, a sentence of 5 years 1 day is included in the 5 year category.
Present Offense	- The most serious charge is listed if an individual is committed for more than one offense.
<u>SENTENCE TYPE</u>	
Aggregate	- Multiple sentences received for more than one offense. These sentences will be served consecutively. The sentence length reported reflects the total of all sentences.
Concurrent	- Multiple sentences received for more than one offense. These sentences will be served simultaneously.
Fine	- Incarceration resulting from non-payment of a fine for one or more offenses.
Forthwith	- A sentence that is to be served effective immediately, regardless of other sentences for which the individual is currently incarcerated.
From and After	- A sentence to be served following release from a previous sentence.
Simple	- One sentence received for a single offense.
Split	- A sentence that is divided between a specified period of incarceration followed.