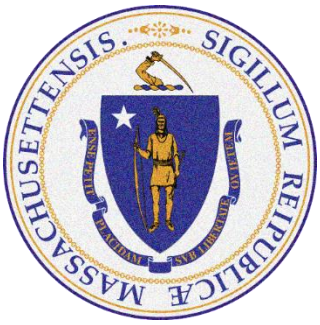


Massachusetts Parole Board
2021 Annual Statistical Report





Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary
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Massachusetts Parole Board
Gloriann Moroney, Chair
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MASSACHUSETTS PAROLE BOARD OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Massachusetts Parole Board ("the Parole Board") is an agency within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) with the decisional authority in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for matters of parole granting, parole supervision, rescission, revocation, discharges, and early termination of parole. The Parole Board has jurisdiction over all individuals committed to state or county correctional facilities for terms of sixty days or more, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 127, § 128, excluding those who are ineligible for parole. The agency serves the public, victims, inmates, parolees, and petitioners for executive clemency throughout the Commonwealth by conducting face-to-face hearings, supervising parolees in the community, providing notice and assistance to victims and their families, and providing reentry services to individuals leaving custody, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 127, § 158.

In 1837, Massachusetts enacted the first law in the United States to authorize parole. Although over the years there have been numerous legislative changes affecting parole in Massachusetts, the agency's core reentry mission remains the same.

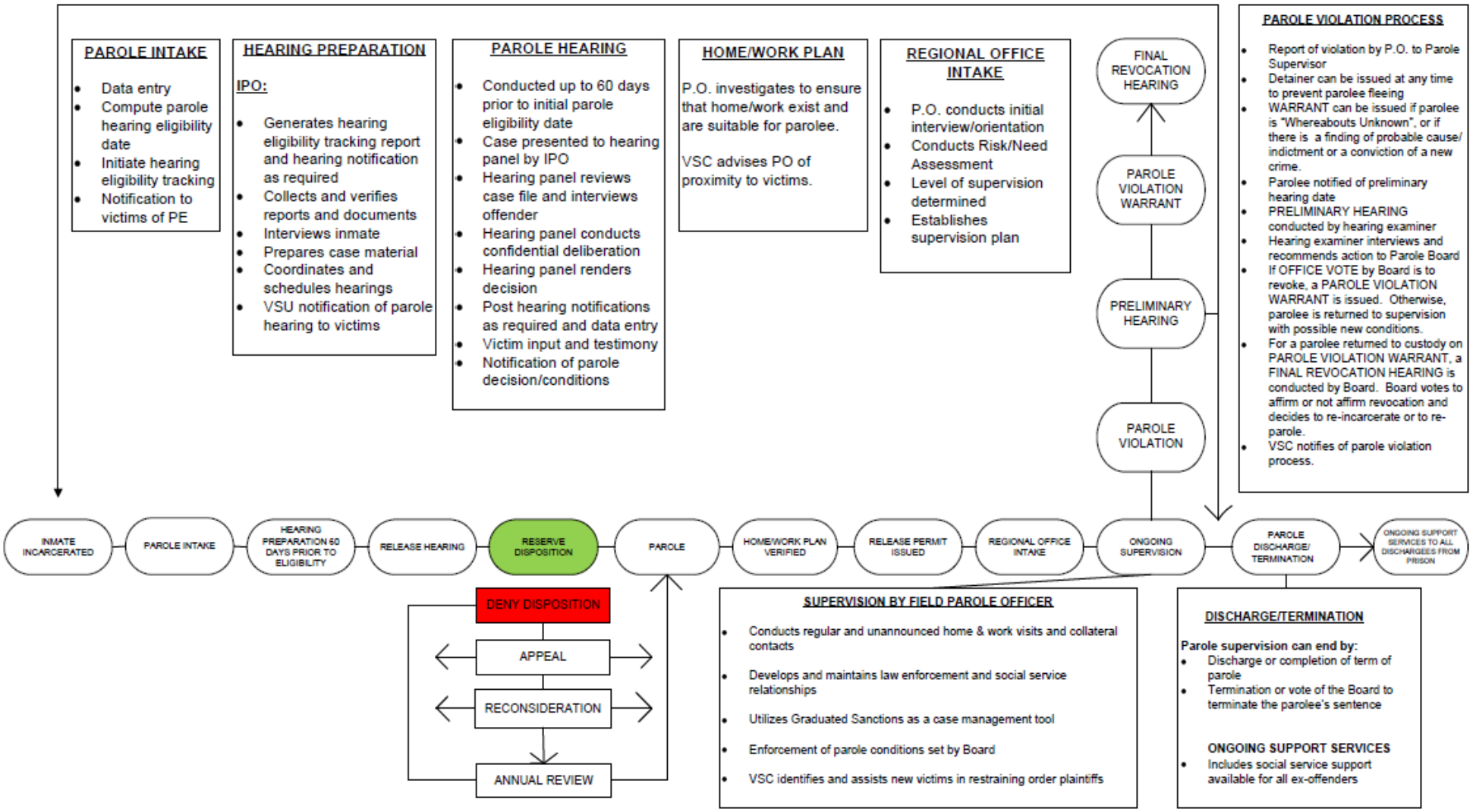
Mission

The Parole Board's overall mission is to promote public safety by the return of inmates to the community through supervised, conditional release, so that a successful transition from confinement to discharge from parole provides a basis for continued responsible conduct.

Parole Process

In Massachusetts, parole is the procedure whereby certain inmates are released prior to the expiration of their sentence, permitting the remainder of their sentence to be served in the community under supervision, subject to specific rules and conditions of behavior. The Parole Board has statutory responsibility for administering the parole process. It determines whether and under what conditions an eligible individual sentenced to a correctional institution should be issued a parole permit. Once released, it supervises all individuals released under parole conditions. It also determines whether alleged parole violations warrant revocation of parole permits, and whether the circumstances warrant early termination of parole before the actual parole discharge date. Figure 1 captures the Massachusetts parole process.

Figure 1. Discretionary Parole Process



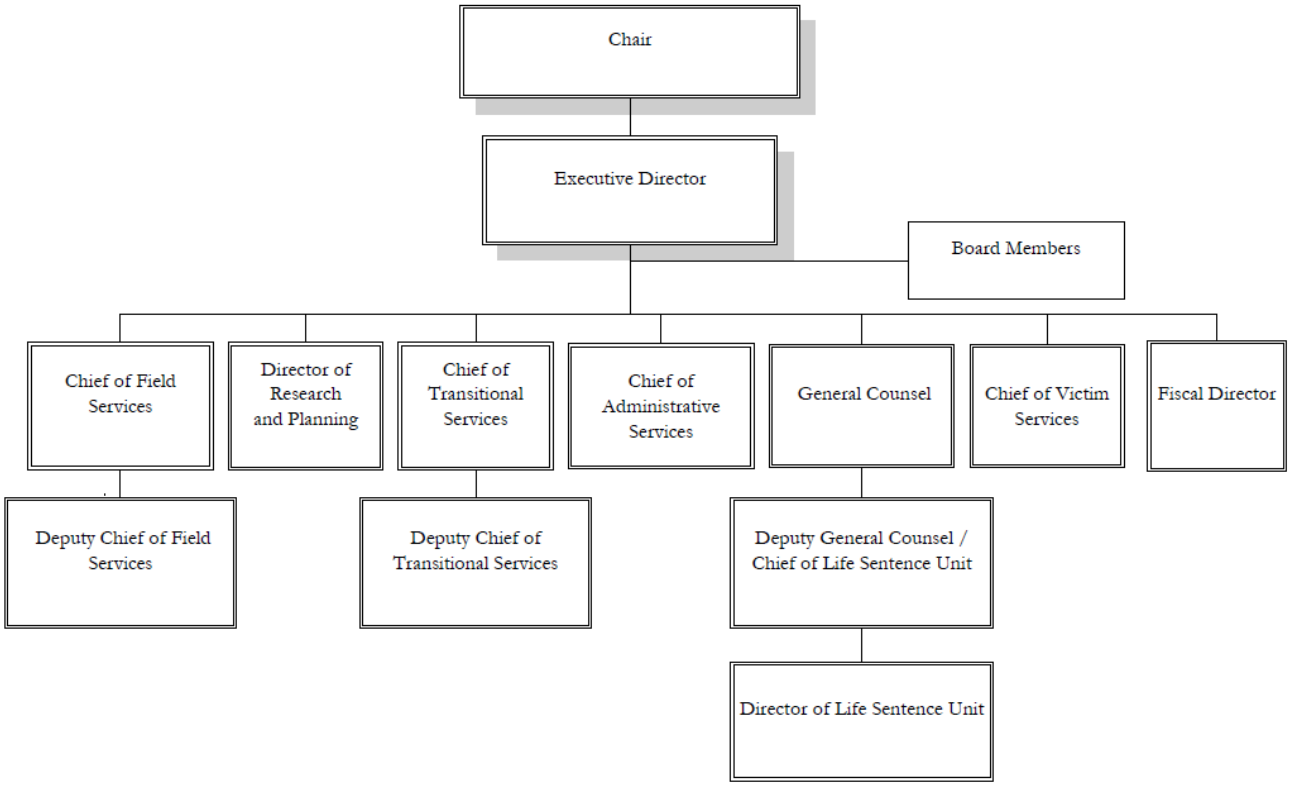
Organization Structure

The Chair of the Parole Board serves as the Executive and Administrative head of the agency, as well as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS). Each Board member, including the Chair, is appointed by the Governor to serve staggered five-year terms. The seven-member Board serves as the decision-making authority with respect to release, rescission, revocation, and early termination of parole, if applicable. Additionally, the Board functions as the Advisory Board of Pardons (ABP), making recommendations to the Governor on petitions for executive clemency.

As captured in the organizational chart (see Figure 2), there are eight divisions/units within the agency that work collaboratively to fulfill the common mission of the Parole Board. The Executive Director of the Parole Board assists the Chair by overseeing the operation of all units within the agency. The eight divisions/units include:

1. Transitional Services Unit (TSU)
2. Field Services Division (FSD)
3. Life Sentence Unit (LSU)
4. Victim Services Unit (VSU)
5. Office of the General Counsel
6. Research and Planning Unit (RPU)
7. Administrative Services Unit (ASU)
8. Fiscal Unit

Figure 2. Organization Structure



The Parole Board's employees are assigned to every state and county correctional institution in the Commonwealth, regional field offices across the state, and at the Parole Board's central office.

LOOKING BACK AT 2021

2021 was, in some regards, a continuation of 2020, with continued COVID-19 restrictions until the middle of the year. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, all units within the Agency managed to function at full capacity, without compromising the overall mission of the Parole Board. In June of 2021, the Agency leadership launched the Agency's reopening plan. On July 1, 2021, the Parole Board resumed in-person hearings for life sentence hearings that are traditionally held at the Central Office in Natick. On August 1, 2021, the Agency resumed in-person institutional hearings and Victim Access Hearings (VAH) at the Central Office. The Agency seamlessly transitioned from virtual hearings to in-person hearings.

In 2021, there was a significant (20 %) decline in the total number of parole hearing-eligible inmates (from 6,472 in 2020 to 5,201 in 2021). This is consistent with the reduction in the combined total population at the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Houses of Correction (HOC) that went down by 27 percent between January 2020 and January 2021. As in 2020, the Agency has continued to expedite the release process for inmates with positive Parole Board vote, especially by increasing home plan options through the availability of new transitional and sober housing programs; continuing to expedite the process used to conduct home plan investigations; along with the additional vetting of home plans by the Field Services staff to maximize the approval of suitable release opportunities. In 2021, the Agency assisted 447 parolees (27% of releases in 2021) with transitional or sober housing, compared to 347 parolees (16% of releases in 2020) receiving such assistance in 2020.

In 2021, the Agency received accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA). ACA accreditation requires that the Agency meets national standards for policy and practice.

Below are summaries from the Transitional Services Unit (TSU), Field Services Division (FSD), and Victim Services Unit (VSU) that sums up how each unit functioned in 2021, followed by some key statistics to summarize the Agency's performance in 2021.

LOOKING BACK AT 2021: Updates from Units

Transitional Services Unit (TSU)

The TSU staff at the institutions adjusted quickly to the shift from hybrid work to fully in-person work, and were able to properly manage their duties, including conducting Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) interviews for inmates, and processing office votes and parole permits. Above all, they successfully transitioned back to conducting in-person parole hearings at the institutions, after over a year of virtual hearings being held at institutions due to the pandemic.

The TSU assisted the LSU, FSD and VSU by providing any necessary documents related to clients. TSU staff also assisted in the re-entry process of inmates by providing assistance with housing.

In 2021, four Institutional Parole Officers (IPOs) and one Transitional Parole Officer (TPO) retired. The unit promoted two IPOs, hired one program coordinator II, and one Office Support Specialist (OSS).

Field Services Division (FSD)

With the resumption of in-person hearings at Central Office, the FSD staff once again started providing security and assistance to visitors and the public attending the hearings.

In partnership with the Behavioral Health for Justice Involved Individuals program (BH-JI), the FSD conducted case management trainings including crisis intervention techniques, decreasing stigma among sex offenders, and reentry communications and collaborations.

Deputy Chief and Training Unit Head became Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) certified trainers in Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP). All field officers and two field service support staff completed FIP training.

In 2021, the Agency assisted 447 parolees (27% of releases in 2021) with transitional or sober housing, compared to 347 parolees (16% of releases in 2020) receiving such assistance in 2020.

Victim Services Unit (VSU)

VSU had a smooth transition from remote to in-person hearings for all VAH hearings. Victim Service Coordinators (VSCs) have continued to meet with victims and family members of homicide victims virtually prior to hearings, in order to help prepare for the hearing and explain the parole hearing process. A continuation of the practice of conducting remote meetings with victims and family members has provided an opportunity for VSU to answer any questions and concerns in a more convenient and comfortable setting.

The VSU staff provided virtual trainings to District Attorneys' offices, educating them about the Agency and the role of the VSU. The VSU also provided trainings to other victim service agencies to bring awareness of the types of services provided by the VSU staff.

LOOKING BACK AT 2021: Hearings and Office Votes

Hearings & Office Votes

In 2021, 2,578 parole-eligible inmates appeared before the Parole Board for institutional hearings and received either a positive or denied vote. Out of these, 1,585 received a positive vote, resulting in a 61% paroling rate.

The 2,578 institutional hearings represented 50% of all hearing-eligible inmates; the total number of hearing-eligible inmates went down by 20 percent, from 6,472 in 2020 to 5,201 in 2021.

In 2021, a total of 269 hearings involved victim access.

A total of 2,095 office votes were processed in 2021.

LOOKING BACK AT 2021: Releases, Compliance Credits, Parole Violations, and Discharges

Releases:

Despite a general decline in the overall inmate population, 1,642 inmates were released to supervision. The Agency achieved this by engaging in a multi-pronged approach to ensure that inmates with a positive vote achieved timely release by:

- Carefully vetting home plan to maximize the rate of suitable home approvals.
- As in 2020, expediting the home plan investigation timeline by shortening the investigation period by one-half in most cases.
- Providing additional transitional and sober housing options through the availability of both transitional housing and Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH) grants in 2021, resulting in 27% of releases to these forms of housing.

Compliance Credits:

Out of all successful discharges from supervision that were eligible for compliance credits (CCs), in 2021, 92% were discharged early due to earning CCs, an increase from 77% in 2020.

Parole Violations:

From 2020 to 2021, there was a 23% decline in the number of reported violations. The decline is reflected in a subsequent decrease in the use of graduated sanctions (17%) as well as the number of revocations (18%).

Discharges:

The successful parole discharge rate, among all parolees who were serving either a house of correction or a department of correction sentence, for 2021 was 73%.

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES UNIT

The TSU is responsible for preparing all release, revocation, and rescission hearings to be heard by the Parole Board related to either the Commonwealth's Department of Correction (DOC) or a county House of Correction (HOC). The division compiles necessary case information for the Parole Board members to make an informed, balanced judgment. Duties include data entry for all inmates committed across the state, date calculations to determine parole eligibility and discharge dates, as well as case preparation for parole hearings. The case preparation for a parole hearing includes reviewing and investigating any inconsistencies in the parole eligible inmate's master file, analyzing and summarizing information for the Parole Board member(s), interviewing the inmate and completing an assessment of his/her criminogenic factors, as well as acting as an agency liaison to the inmate as they prepare for their appearance before the Parole Board. The Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) is conducted as a risk/needs assessment tool. This unit is also responsible for scheduling, coordinating, and facilitating all Parole Board hearings, as well as Parole Board office votes, with the exception of hearings organized by the LSU. The execution of all parole release permits and coordination of transition of inmates to the community is also the responsibility of the TSU. Finally, this unit tracks parole violation warrants and coordinates preliminary revocation hearings in conjunction with Hearing Examiners, for offenders who are returned to custody.

Release, Rescission, and Revocation Hearings

Three types of hearings are held across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in correctional facilities: release, rescission, and revocation hearings. These hearings are primarily held at the institutions and therefore are referred to as institutional hearings. Institutional hearings are typically held in two locations: the HOC facilities, located in each county within the Commonwealth, and the state DOC facilities. There are also parole hearings held at the Parole Board's central administrative office, which include life sentence hearings and victim access hearings; life sentence hearings are separately reported.

Table 1 presents the number of all institutional release, rescission, and revocation hearings held in 2021 with either a positive or denied vote, broken out by facility type. In 2021, the Parole Board held 2,578 institutional hearings with either a positive or a denied vote. Out of the total, 61% of hearings were held for inmates housed in the county HOCs and the remaining 39% were held for inmates housed in the Massachusetts DOC. As a result of these hearings, 1,585 inmates were granted a positive parole vote. In the majority of cases, inmates receiving a positive vote are released to supervision in Massachusetts. They could also be released to out of state supervision through the Interstate Compact Unit (ICU), to serve another state or federal sentence, or to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody where a determination of deportation would be made. In a small number of cases, inmates are also released to a Massachusetts DOC or HOC facility.

As presented in Table 1, the number of positive votes this year resulted in an overall paroling rate of 61% for all inmates, with the paroling rate being higher (at 67%) among inmates from the HOC compared to 53% among inmates from the DOC, which is consistent with the historical trend. The paroling rates at both the DOC and the HOC increased in 2021 compared to 2020. The paroling rate is calculated by dividing the number of hearings that resulted in a positive Parole Board vote by the sum of total hearings held that resulted in either a positive or denied vote.

Table 1. 2021 Institutional Release, Rescission, and Revocation Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	1,044	516	1,560	67%
Department of Correction	541	477	1,018	53%
Total	**1,585**	**993**	**2,578**	**61%**

Figure 3 shows the trend in paroling rates separately by the type of facility. Although the HOC and DOC paroling rates have fluctuated somewhat over the past six years, there is a modest upward trend in the paroling rates for both facilities, as captured by the trendlines in the figure below.

Figure 3. Trend in Paroling Rates for Release, Rescission, and Revocation Hearings.

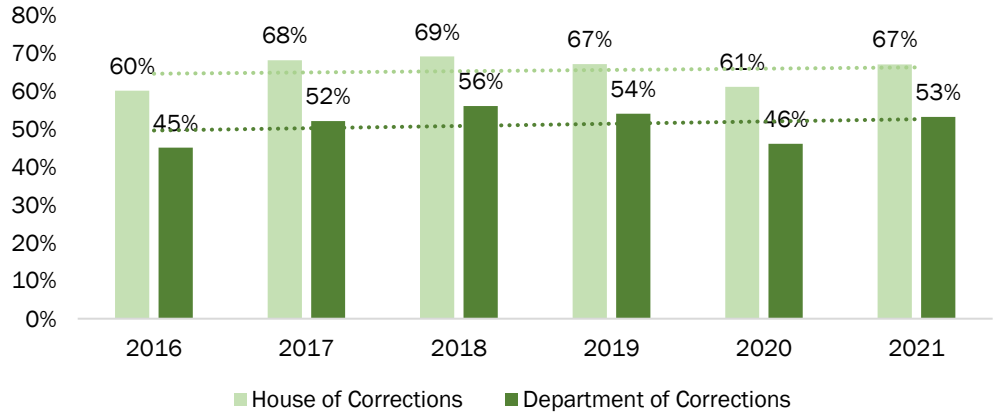


Table 2 provides the racial/ethnic breakdown for all institutional hearings with positive and denied votes.

Table 2. 2021 All Institutional Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Votes by Race/Ethnicity.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
Caucasian/White	826	488	1,314	63%
Hispanic/Latino	432	271	703	61%
African American/Black	279	206	485	58%
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	6	21	71%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	6	2	8	75%
Not Reported	27	20	47	57%
Total	**1,585**	**993**	**2,578**	**61%**

Release Hearings

Table 3 shows release hearings with either a positive or a denied vote for inmates housed in the Massachusetts DOC and HOC facilities.

Table 3. 2021 Release Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	954	428	1,382	69%
Department of Correction	467	430	897	52%
Total	**1,421**	**858**	**2,279**	**62%**

Table 4 further breaks out the release hearings by HOC facilities, which served as the hearing location.

Table 4. 2021 Release Hearings by House of Correction Facility.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate[1]
Barnstable County House of Correction	34	16	50	68%
Berkshire County House of Correction	36	23	59	61%
Bristol County House of Correction	127	50	177	72%
Dukes County House of Correction	3	1	4	n.a.
Essex County Correctional Alternative Center	71	19	90	79%
Essex County House of Correction	141	29	170	83%
Essex County Women in Transition Center	11	1	12	92%
Franklin County House of Correction	22	15	37	59%
Hampden County House of Correction	55	54	109	50%
Hampshire County House of Correction	17	9	26	65%
Middlesex County House of Correction	83	55	138	60%
Norfolk County House of Correction	59	20	79	75%
Plymouth County House of Correction	50	23	73	68%
Suffolk County House of Correction[2]	102	40	142	72%
Western MA Recovery and Wellness Center	41	8	49	84%
Western MA Women's Correctional Center	23	4	27	85%
Worcester County House of Correction	79	61	140	56%
Total	**954**	**428**	**1,382**	**69%**

[1] Paroling rates are not provided where the sum of positive and denied votes is less than 5.

[2] A small subset of inmates were transported from Suffolk County House of Correction to Nashua Street Jail for their hearings.

Table 5 separates the release hearings by DOC facilities, which served as the hearing location.

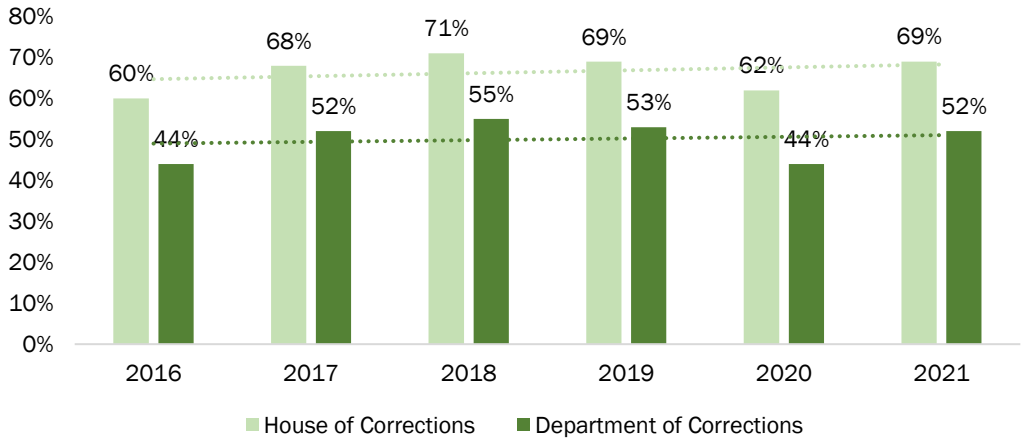
Table 5. 2021 Release Hearings by Department of Correction Facility.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate[3]
Boston Pre-Release Center	26	2	28	93%
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	0	0	n.a.
Central Office - Natick[4]	6	20	26	23%
MA Treatment Center	4	95	99	4%
MCI - Cedar Junction	22	14	36	61%
MCI - Concord	38	30	68	56%
MCI - Framingham[5]	17	3	20	85%
MCI - Norfolk	55	49	104	53%
MCI - Shirley (Medium and Minimum)	104	57	161	65%
NCCI - Gardner (Medium and Minimum)	19	41	60	32%
Northeastern Correctional Center	57	12	69	83%
Old Colony Correctional Center (Medium)	20	28	48	42%
Old Colony Correctional Center (Minimum)	22	5	27	81%
Out of State Cases	3	2	5	60%
Pondville Correctional Facility	50	8	58	86%
South Middlesex Correctional Center	3	0	3	n.a.
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	21	64	85	25%
Total	**467**	**430**	**897**	**52%**

Figure 4 summarizes the trend in paroling rates for release hearings only, separately by the type of facility.

[3] Paroling rates are not provided where the sum of positive and denied votes is less than 5.
[4] These are VAH hearings held at the Parole Board's central administrative office for individuals housed in the DOC facilities.
[5] Due to some Massachusetts counties not having housing for female inmates, numerous females serving county sentences are sentenced to serve at MCI-Framingham. Therefore, some of the hearings held at state facilities are for county sentenced inmates.

Figure 4. Trend in Paroling Rates for Release Hearings.



Rescission hearings

Rescission hearings are held when the Parole Board exercises its discretion to re-visit a prior decision to grant parole, due to a change in circumstances following the date of the inmate's parole hearing to determine whether or not to withdraw, postpone, or allow the inmate's prior positive parole vote to stand. A change of circumstance that prompts the Parole Board to hold a rescission hearing could be when the inmate has received new disciplinary infractions for institutional misconduct or availability of new information since the date of the hearing (i.e. an outstanding warrant). Table 6 displays the paroling rate for rescission hearings by facility type.

Table 6. 2021 Rescission Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	41	17	58	71%
Department of Correction	14	4	18	78%
Total	**55**	**21**	**76**	**72%**

Revocation Hearings

Revocation is the process by which a parolee's parole permit may be permanently or temporarily revoked, as a result of violation of one or more conditions of parole. More information concerning parole violations, which may lead to a revocation hearing is available in the Field Services Division section of this report. Table 7 displays the paroling rate for revocation hearings by facility type.

Table 7. 2021 Revocation Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	49	71	120	41%
Department of Correction	60	43	103	58%
Total	**109**	**114**	**223**	**49%**

Hearing Waivers, Postponements, and Other Dispositions

Not all the inmates who are eligible for a hearing will receive a disposition of positive or denied vote from the Parole Board. Table 8 below breaks out the population that was eligible for institutional hearing in 2021; the total eligible went down by 20 percent, from 6,472 in 2020 to 5,201 in 2021.

Table 8. 2021 All Eligible Institutional Hearings.

Hearings	House of Correction	Department of Correction	Total	Percentage
Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Vote	1,560	1,018	2,578	50%
Waivers, Postponements, and Other Dispositions	2,042	581	2,623	50%
All Eligible Hearings	**3,602**	**1,599**	**5,201**	**100%**

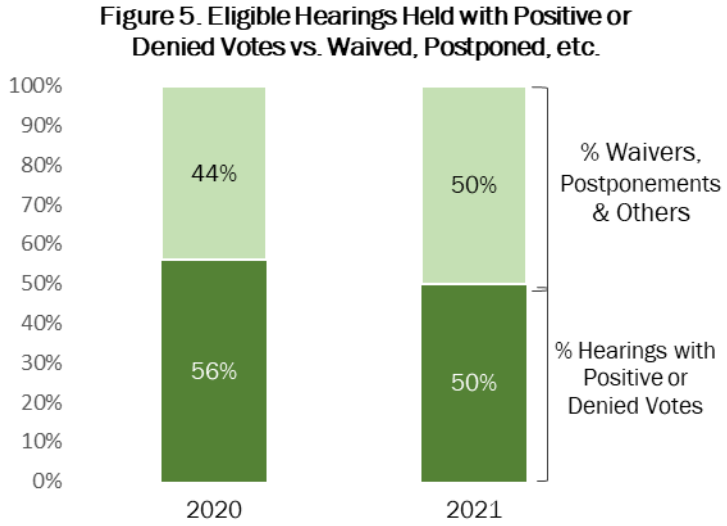
Inmates and parolees may waive their right to a parole hearing, either prior to, or during the hearing process. They may also postpone a scheduled parole hearing at which time, a postponement hearing date is scheduled. An inmate may postpone if they want to receive additional time to establish a plan for his or her parole, to resolve outstanding legal matters, or to have counsel present in situations where representation is needed. In rare instances, where it does not appear possible for a parole eligible inmate to receive an adequate parole hearing due to circumstances outside the inmate's control, the Parole Board may administratively postpone the inmate's hearing. It will then request counsel to be appointed or will work with appointed counsel in order to obtain the inmate's postponement.

In addition to waivers and postponements, hearings may result in an action pending vote or other types of votes. These miscellaneous votes serve as an administrative disposition. For example, if a Board Member needs additional information to make an informed decision, he or she may vote "action pending" for receipt of the desired document, and then make a final decision once the Parole Board has received the desired document. A hearing may result in a vote type of "other" because the inmate was sick and could not be seen (i.e., not seen), the Board Members voted in opposition (i.e., split decision), or the case needs to be put on the next available hearing list (i.e., PONAL). In these cases, the final disposition is captured by a subsequent hearing and disposition. Table 9 displays the breakdown for hearings without a Reserve or Denied disposition.

Table 9. 2021 All Institutional Hearings Without a Reserve or Denied Disposition.

Hearing Location	House of Correction	Department of Correction	Total
Postponed at Own Request	1,272	199	1,471
Postponed at Board Request	55	28	83
Waived Prior to Hearing	680	322	1,002
Waived at Hearing	9	3	12
Action Pending	14	5	19
Other	12	24	36
Total	**2,042**	**581**	**2,623**

Figure 5 below, compares the proportion of the eligible hearings with a positive or denied vote between 2020 and 2021.



Office Votes

In addition to holding institutional hearings, the Parole Board makes decisions on parole related matters that do not require an in-person hearing. This is done by using documentation of the case to provide resolutions via office votes. Office votes require a combination of efforts by TSU, Field, Board Members, and hearing examiners. Office votes are used for a variety of reasons. Examples of office vote types include requests for change of vote, provisional rescissions and revocations, appeal requests, and requests for reconsideration. The description of each office vote type used in 2021 is included in the Appendix. In 2021, the Parole Board processed 2,095 office votes (see Table 10).

Table 10. 2021 Office Votes.

Office Vote Type	Approved	Denied	Set Conditions	Other Dispositions	Total
Change of Vote Request	584	81	n/a	6	671
Request for Provisional Revocation	428	2	n/a	91	521
Reconsideration Request	90	129	n/a	0	219
Appeal Request	10	106	n/a	0	116
Mandatory Release Conditions Requests	n/a	n/a	183	n/a	183
Request for Provisional Rescission	117	21	n/a	0	138
Request for Out of State/Country Travel	137	1	n/a	0	138
Other[6]	62	28	10	9	109
Total	**1,428**	**368**	**193**	**106**	**2,095**

Institutional Risk/Needs Assessments

As a criminal justice agency with a commitment towards public safety, the Parole Board uses a risk/needs assessment instrument in making parole release decisions. The assessment identifies an individual's risk to recidivate, as well as reveals their criminogenic needs, which can then be incorporated into the parolee's case plan. The risk/needs assessment tool used by the Parole Board is the Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI). The Parole Board implemented the LS/CMI in early 2013 as a tool to help in decisions to grant parole to inmates and for formulating appropriate supervision strategies for parolees. The LS/CMI categorizes risk to recidivate from very low to very high as set forth in Table 11. The institutional assessments captured in this table include those conducted by parole officers within the TSU as well as those conducted by Special Investigators within the LSU.

As summarized in Table 11, most of the institutional assessments scored at high risk level (44%), followed by medium risk (35%), and very high (at 13%). Only around 7% of assessments scored at low to very low risk. Table 12 further provides LS/CMI breakdown for race/ethnic groups; the same pattern holds across race/ethnic groups with a much smaller proportion scoring low to very low while a higher proportion scoring medium to very high.

Table 11. 2021 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments by Risk Level.

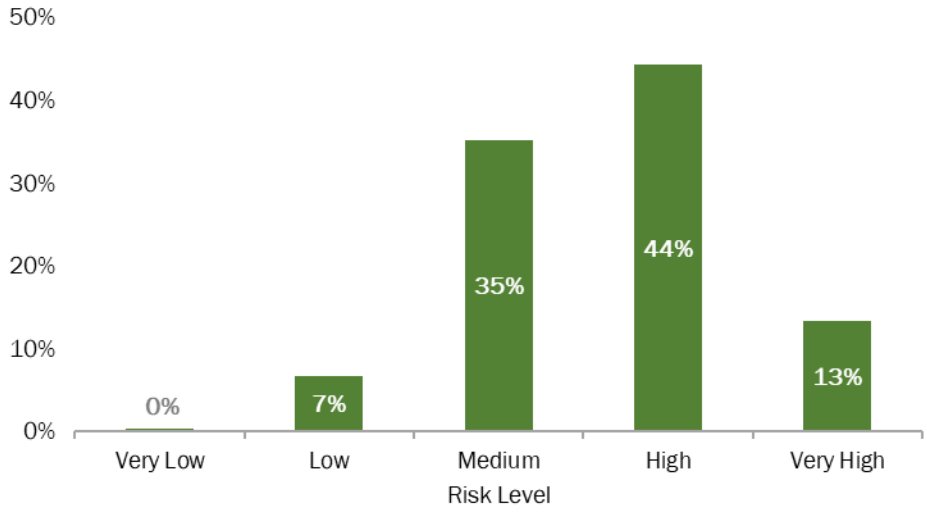
Risk Level	Count	Percentage
Very Low	10	0%
Low	178	7%
Medium	932	35%
High	1,174	44%
Very High	353	13%
Total	**2,647**	**100%**

[6] 'Other' includes all other office vote types that were used less than 50 times in 2021, including request to attend hearing, special consideration request, request to resolve action pending, request to postpone VAH hearing, medical release conditions request, request for the Board to note info. memo, and withdraw warrant request.

Table 12. 2021 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments by Risk Level and Race and Ethnicity.

Race/ Ethnicity	Caucasian/White	Hispanic/Latino	African American/ Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/Native Alaskan	Not Reported	All
Very Low	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	0%
Low	6%	9%	5%	16%	0%	8%	7%
Medium	32%	37%	39%	60%	17%	29%	35%
High	46%	42%	43%	12%	83%	46%	44%
Very High	15%	12%	12%	8%	0%	15%	13%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Figure 6. 2021 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments Risk Level Distribution.



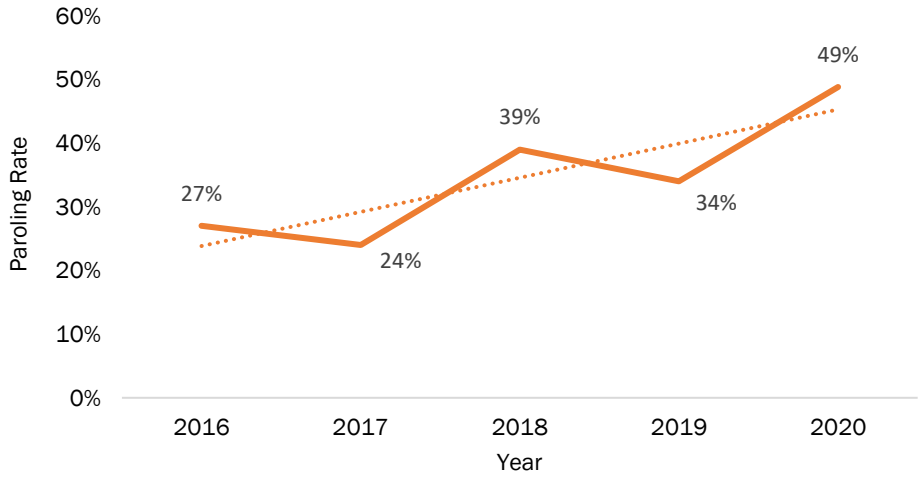
LIFE SENTENCE UNIT

The LSU is responsible for preparing all eligible inmates sentenced to life in prison for parole hearings. This includes gathering case materials, preparing case files for Parole Board members, interviewing inmates in preparation for hearings, and conducting the LS/CMI risk/needs assessments. The unit is responsible for maintaining the inmate's master file, which is a comprehensive compilation of documents and records related to the inmate's criminal history, institutional history, trial testimony, offender assessments, and additional evaluative information. The unit coordinates with affiliate agencies such as the District Attorneys' Offices, the Attorney General's Office, Massachusetts State Police, local police departments, and the DOC in order to obtain such materials. The unit organizes initial life sentence hearings and review hearings, which involves tracking initial parole eligibility and subsequent review hearing eligibility for life sentenced inmates. The unit also provides all necessary notifications of scheduled hearings at the Parole Board's central office and supplies notifications of subsequent decisions.

Life Sentence Hearings

There are two types of parole hearings for life sentenced inmates, initial and review. Adults sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole must serve no less than fifteen (15) years before being eligible for parole. The Parole Board holds the initial hearing within sixty (60) days of initial eligibility. If the Parole Board denies parole after the initial hearing, the inmate is provided with a subsequent review hearing at five years, or earlier, at the discretion of the Parole Board. Both the initial and review hearings take place before all seven members of the Parole Board at the Parole Board's central office and are open to the public. As these hearings are public, Records of Decision (RODs) on life sentence hearings are made available on the Parole Board's website. Statistics on paroling rates for those who had a life sentence hearing in 2021 will be published as an addendum at a later date, as some decisions remain pending. Figure 7 presents trend in paroling rates for life sentence hearings over the past five years.

Figure 7. Trend in Life Sentence Hearings Paroling Rates.



Juveniles with Life Sentences

In *Miller v. Alabama*, 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012), the United States Supreme Court held that the "imposition of a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole on individuals who were under the age of 18 when they committed the murder is contrary to the prohibition on 'cruel and unusual punishments' in the Eighth Amendment." Following the *Miller* decision, a juvenile who had been convicted of first-degree murder filed a petition challenging Massachusetts laws that required all individuals convicted of first-degree murder to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole. On December 24, 2013, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in *Commonwealth v. Diatchenko,* 466 Mass. 655 (2013), that the statutory provisions mandating life without the possibility of parole were invalid as applied to juveniles who committed murder. The Court also determined that its holding was retroactive for all juveniles currently serving life sentences for first degree murder, and that Diatchenko (and others similarly situated) must be given a parole hearing.

After the Supreme Judicial Court's decision on December 24, 2013, the Parole Board identified cases in which offenders were under the age of 18 on the date of the offense, and were serving a sentence of life without parole for a conviction of first-degree murder.

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

The VSU provides statewide assistance to victims of violent crimes whose offenders become parole eligible. It provides assistance to victims of homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, motor vehicle homicide, and other violent crimes. The unit provides critical services to victims and family members, including but not limited to:

- Serve as a source of information for parole eligibility, the parole decision-making process, parole supervision, and notification of parole events.
- Provide assistance in preparing victim impact statements and/or testimony for parole hearings.
- Accompany victims, parents/guardians of minor aged victims, and family members of homicide victims to parole hearings.
- Provide crisis intervention services.
- Request for parole conditions that increase the safety and wellbeing of victims.
- Provide safety planning.
- Offer information on victim compensation.
- Assist with Victim Notification Registration (VNR), which is also known as Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) registration, that enables victims and family members to receive notification and services.
- Make referrals to appropriate criminal justice agencies and community-based victim service providers.

Victim Notifications

The VSU is responsible for providing victim notification for all parole related events, including notice of parole hearing dates, parole hearing decisions, and parole releases. The VSU is also responsible for providing victims and CORI registered petitioners with notification related to public parole hearings conducted for inmates sentenced to life in prison and clemency petitions. In 2021, the VSU sent 17,391 notifications of parole events to registered victims, surviving family members of homicide victims, and citizen-initiated petitioners. In 2021, the VSU worked on 10 medical parole petitions and provided notifications to 46 CORI petitioners (included in the total number of notifications sent above). VSU further worked with family members of two commutation hearings held in 2021; both the commutation petitions were recommended to the Governor by the Advisory Board of Pardon.

Locating Victims for CORI Registration

The VSU is responsible for locating and providing outreach to victims and their families. The VSU continues to increase its efforts to identify victims of violent crimes who are not CORI Certified at the time of sentencing. The unit's efforts include education and outreach to both District Attorney Victim Witness Advocates and community-based victim service agencies. The VSU's active participation in more than 25 community collaborations and high-risk teams across the state has increased awareness of victim rights in the parole process and created a seamless network of services for crime victims. VSU's goal is to ensure through education, outreach, and cross-agency collaboration that each agency working with crime victims recognizes and understands post-conviction victim rights; and that every victim is advised of the importance of the CORI registration process to access post-conviction victim services. These services include timely

notification, assistance, and referrals to appropriate resources. Through their investigative efforts, the VSU has successfully located and established 196 new CORI Registrations in 2021.

Victim Services at Parole Hearings

The VSU assists victims, family members, and survivors of homicide victims during Victim Access Hearings (VAH) and life sentence hearings. During these hearings, victims and family members are provided the opportunity to attend the parole hearing in person and give oral testimony. Victim Service Coordinators (VSCs) are experienced professionals who provide victims and family members with guidance, support, and information throughout each step of the parole process. There are three types of Victim Access Hearings.

- Type A: Offense resulted in death
- Type B: Offense was either violent or sexual in nature
- County: County sentences in which hearings are held in HOC (excluding Type A)

The following table provides the number of VAH and life sentence hearings in 2021 in which the VSU provided services to victims or families of victims, along with the total number of attendees at these hearings. The majority of hearings in which VSU provided its services were for those serving life sentences (66%), followed by Type B VAH hearings (15%), Type A VAH hearings (11%), and finally, VAH county hearings (8%).

Table 13. 2021 VSU Services Provided by Hearing Type.

Hearing Type	Number of Hearings	Percentage of Hearings	Number of Attendees	Percentage of Attendees
VAH (Type A)	31	12%	55	11%
VAH (Type B)	54	20%	70	15%
VAH (County)	35	13%	38	8%
Life Sentence	149	55%	318	66%
Total	**269**	**100%**	**481**	**100%**

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

The Office of the General Counsel represents the Parole Board in all litigation affecting the agency in the state's trial courts and represents the agency in labor and employment matters. It further develops agency regulations and policies, and monitors and drafts parole related legislation. The primary role of the Board's General Counsel, and by extension the Office of the General Counsel as a whole, is to support and represent the Chair and the Board in all legal and policy matters. To that end, the General Counsel has been appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General for the purpose of representing the agency in state and federal court.

Hearing examiners, within the Office of the General Counsel, schedule and conduct preliminary revocation hearings and evaluations for provided counsel at all state and county correctional institutions, parole regional offices, and other designated locations. Evaluations for provided counsel are conducted prior to any parole hearings at a parolee's request. The Office of the General Counsel evaluates each request and grants a referral to the Committee for Public Counsel Services for appointment of counsel to any inmate who does not appear capable of effectively advocating for themselves at their parole hearing.

Preliminary Revocation Hearings

The Parole Board's hearing examiners within the Office of the General Counsel, schedule and conduct preliminary revocation hearings at all state and county correctional facilities, parole regional offices, and other designated locations. At preliminary revocation hearings, the hearing examiner determines whether there exists reasonable grounds to believe that a parolee has committed acts that constitute a violation of parole conditions, and if so, whether there is probable cause to provisionally revoke parole and hold the parolee in custody, pending the result of a final revocation hearing. Following a hearing, the hearing examiner prepares a summary and submits a recommended decision to the Parole Board.

In 2021, the Parole Board's hearing examiners conducted 298 preliminary revocation hearings, which declined by 15% compared to the 352 preliminary revocation hearings that were held in 2020.

Executive Clemency

The Office of the General Counsel reviews all executive clemency requests. In Massachusetts, the power to grant executive clemency is held by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. The Office of the General counsel reviews all petitions for executive clemency submitted to the Governor for consideration to determine if the request meets the Governor's guidelines.[7] It then presents petitions to the Parole Board, which acts as the Advisory Board of Pardons (ABP). If a petition does not meet the Governor's eligibility guidelines, then it is administratively closed. If a petition meets the guidelines, the ABP votes to determine if the petition merits a hearing. In the event that the ABP conducts a public hearing, a recommendation is made to the Governor thereafter.

[7] The Governor issued updated Clemency Guidelines in February 2020.

Pardons

A pardon is the forgiveness of the underlying offense, which has the effect of treating the petitioner as though the offense was never committed. A pardon may be considered if no other adequate administrative or legal remedy is available to remove barriers that are often associated with criminal records or sentences. To be granted a pardon, a petitioner should demonstrate "good citizenship" along with a specific, verified and compelling need for pardon. In making its decision, the ABP views evidence, including support for the petitioner in the institution and community, their accomplishments and achievements, and the nature and extent of any opposition to the petition.

Commutations

A commutation is the lessening of a penalty without forgiveness for the underlying offense; the beneficiary of a commutation is still considered guilty of the offense. Granting of commutation reduces the period of incarceration served for the offense. Therefore, commutation of a sentence may be considered to enable an inmate to appear before the Parole Board for release consideration at a time earlier than permitted by the court-imposed sentence.

Executive Clemency Votes to Grant or Deny a Hearing

Table 14 captures ABP's votes in 2020 and 2021 in response to pardon and commutation requests. A total of 72 pardon petitions were processed, which included 10 administrative closes by the General Counsel. As summarized in Table 14, the remaining 62 pardon petitions were voted by the ABP (including four administrative closes at the ABP level), to determine whether a hearing should be granted. Similarly, a total of 131 commutation petitions were processed, which included 22 administrative closes. As summarized in the table below, 109 petitions were voted by the ABP to determine whether a hearing should be granted.

Table 14. Executive Clemency Votes in 2020 and 2021.

	2020	2021	Total
Pardon Request	**0**	**62**	**62**
Closed Administratively	0	4	4
Request Approved, Grant Hearing	0	9	9
Request Denied	0	49	49
Commutation Request	**41**	**68**	**109**
Request Approved, Grant Hearing	1	2	3
Request Denied	40	66	106
Total	**41**	**130**	**171**

Executive Clemency Hearings

Once the ABP determines a petition warrants a hearing based on the Governor's guidelines, a public hearing is held. Petitioners may provide information and testimony necessary for the ABP to make a formal recommendation to the Governor. Table 15 captures pardon and commutation hearings held in 2020 and 2021. The ABP held 4 pardon hearings and 3 commutation hearings.

Table 15. Executive Clemency Hearings Held in 2020 and 2021.			
	2020	2021	Total
Pardon Request	0	4	4
Commutation Request	1	2	3
Total	**1**	**6**	**7**

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The FSD is composed of the central office management staff, nine regional parole field offices, and specialized units namely, the Interstate Compact Unit (ICU), the Warrant and Apprehension Unit (WAU), and the Training Unit. The division is primarily responsible for supervising and monitoring all parolees who have been released on parole by the Parole Board and/or via the ICU, as well as those on mandatory or medical release. Supervision duties include conducting home and work investigations, conducting home and community visits, and verifying parolee employment or programming. The duties further include ensuring a parolee is in compliance with general and special conditions of parole, responding to any violations of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), administering substance abuse testing, conducting LS/CMI assessments, investigating and reporting on parole violations, making arrests, and transporting parole violators. Above all, the FSD plays a key role in assisting with successful reintegration of parolees into the community by building strong partnerships with community service providers, and referring parolees to treatment and programming that include referrals for employment, housing, medical services, and rehabilitation services.

Releases to Supervision

Releases resulting from a positive Parole Board vote are discretionary releases and make up the largest proportion of all releases to parole. As a result of the criminal justice reform laws passed in April 2018, in 2019, the Parole Board began to also supervise parolees issued a parole permit for mandatory release to supervision, as well as medical releases. A medical release occurs when an inmate's petition for medical parole is granted by the Commissioner of the DOC, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 127, § 119A. A mandatory release to supervision on the other hand is granted when a state inmate completes specific programs as determined by the DOC pursuant to M.G.L. c. 127, § 130B. Completing these programs earns completion credits, which deduct from an inmate's maximum sentence, allowing them to be eligible for mandatory release.

Table 16 breaks down the number and proportion of releases in 2021 by release type. In 2021, discretionary releases made up 89% of all releases to parole, which is consistent with the proportion of discretionary releases in 2020 (at 91%).

Table 16. 2021 Releases to Supervision by Release Type.

Release Type	Released	Percentage
Discretionary	1,460	89%
Mandatory	168	10%
Medical	14	1%
Total	**1,642**	**100%**

Table 17 disaggregates releases to parole supervision in 2021 by commitment type. In cases where an inmate serves one commitment type and is transferred to another (i.e., mixed sentence structure), the initial commitment type will be used for classification.

Table 17. 2021 Releases to Supervision by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Released	Percentage
House of Correction	806	49%
Department of Correction	760	46%
Out of State	76	5%
Total	**1,642**	**100%**

Upon release to parole supervision, most parolees serve the remainder of their sentence (i.e., current commitment) in the community under the supervision of a parole officer assigned to one of the nine regional offices. In some cases, however, an inmate may be granted parole but will not be released directly to the community. Some of these parolees may ultimately end up being supervised in one of the nine regional offices as well. Examples of this include but are not limited to, an inmate who is paroled from their current commitment to begin another consecutive sentence in a HOC, DOC, another state, or federal facility; an inmate who is paroled to a warrant in Massachusetts, another state, or federal jurisdiction; and an inmate who is paroled to ICE custody.

Parole releases are counted based on the initial parole of an inmate's current commitment and re-paroles. A re-parole or a re-release is a subsequent discretionary parole on an inmate's current commitment (i.e., revoked, re-committed, and re-paroled). Releases from a detainer (i.e., warrant for temporary custody) are not included in the number of re-paroles. Table 18 below summarizes releases to supervision in 2021.

Table 18. 2021 Releases to Supervision.

Commitment Type	Released	Re-Released	Total Released	% Total Released
MA Commitments Released to MA Supervision	1307	123	1430	87%
Out of State Commitments Released to MA Supervision	66	10	76	5%
MA Commitments Released to Out of State Compact Supervision	60	0	60	4%
MA Commitments Released to ICE Custody	45	1	46	3%
MA Commitments Released to a Federal or another State's Warrant	30	0	30	2%
Total	**1508**	**134**	**1642**	**100%**

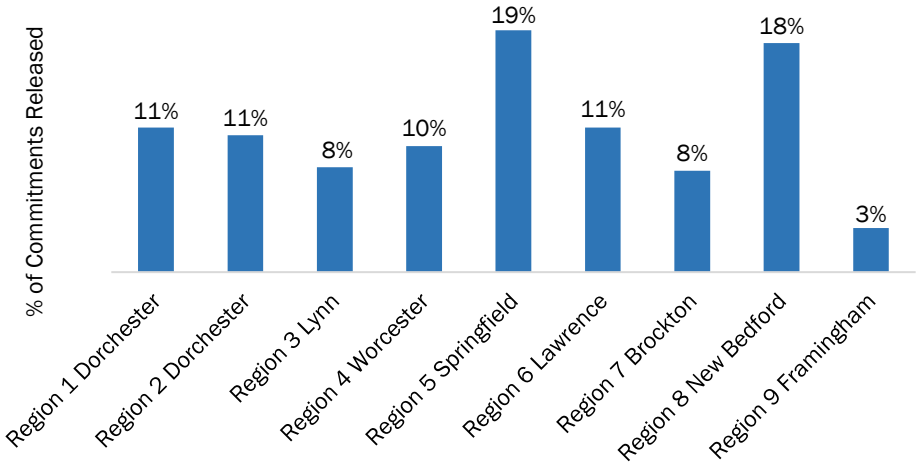
Table 19 provides breakdown of the regional parole offices assigned to commitments that were released to supervision in Massachusetts. The regional office a parolee is assigned to is based on geographical proximity to the parolee's approved home plan.

Table 19. 2021 Releases to MA Supervision by Regional Office.

Location	Released	Percentage
Region 1 Dorchester	171	11%
Region 2 Dorchester	162	11%
Region 3 Lynn	124	8%
Region 4 Worcester	149	10%
Region 5 Springfield	286	19%
Region 6 Lawrence	171	11%
Region 7 Brockton	120	8%
Region 8 New Bedford	271	18%
Region 9 Framingham	52	3%
Total	**1,506**	**100%**

Region 5 had the highest number of parolees released to MA supervision (at 19%) in 2021 while Region 9 Framingham had the lowest (at 3%).

Figure 8. 2021 Commitments Released to MA Supervision by Regional Office.



Tables 20 and 21 provide the demographic breakdown for all parole releases in 2021. Consistent with gender breakdowns for releases in the past years, males accounted for the majority of releases to supervision (at 92%) compared to only 8 percent of females.

Table 20. 2021 Releases to Supervision by Gender.

Location	Released	Percentage
Male	1,515	92%
Female	127	8%
Total	**1,642**	**100%**

Table 21 below displays the racial/ethnic breakdown of parole releases to supervision, separately for HOC and DOC releases. Table A1 provides the racial/ethnic breakdown of the HOC and DOC hearing eligible population in 2021 (see Appendix, Table A).

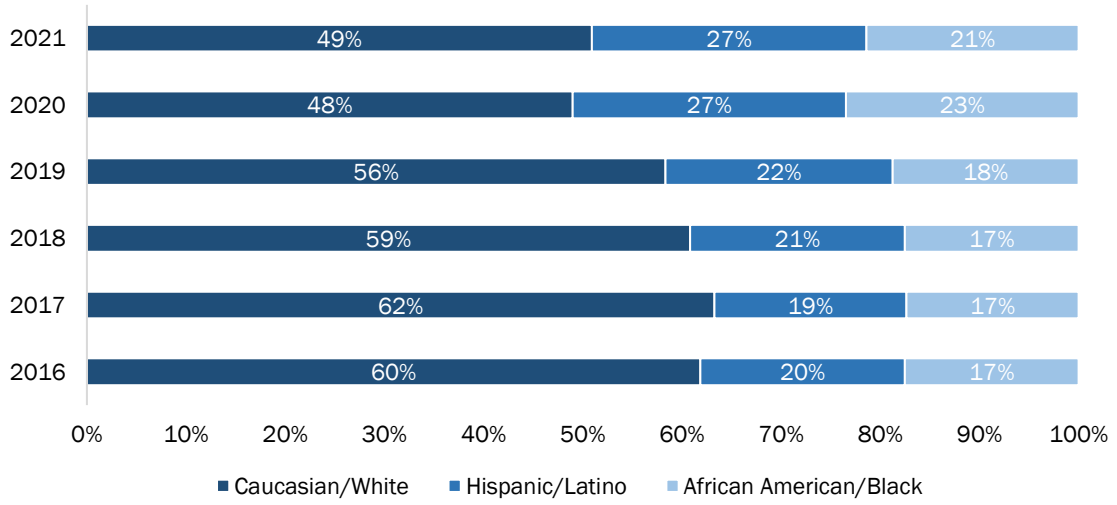
Table 21. 2021 Releases to Supervision by Race/Ethnicity.[8]

Location	HOC		DOC		Out of State		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian/White	479	59%	294	39%	39	51%	812	49%
Hispanic/Latino	181	22%	243	32%	18	24%	442	27%
African American/Black	122	15%	202	27%	17	22%	341	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	1%	14	2%	2	3%	26	2%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	4	<1%	1	<1%	0	n.a.	5	<1%
Not Reported	10	1%	6	1%	0	n.a.	16	1%
Total	**806**	**100%**	**760**	**100%**	**76**	**100%**	**1,642**	**100%**

Figure 9 displays the racial/ethnic composition among releases to supervision for the three major racial/ethnic groups over the past six years.

[8] Race/ethnicity data is based on information provided by each facility. Offenders reported as having a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity are categorized as such for their race/ethnicity.

Figure 9. Trend in Racial/Ethnic Composition among Releases to Supervision.

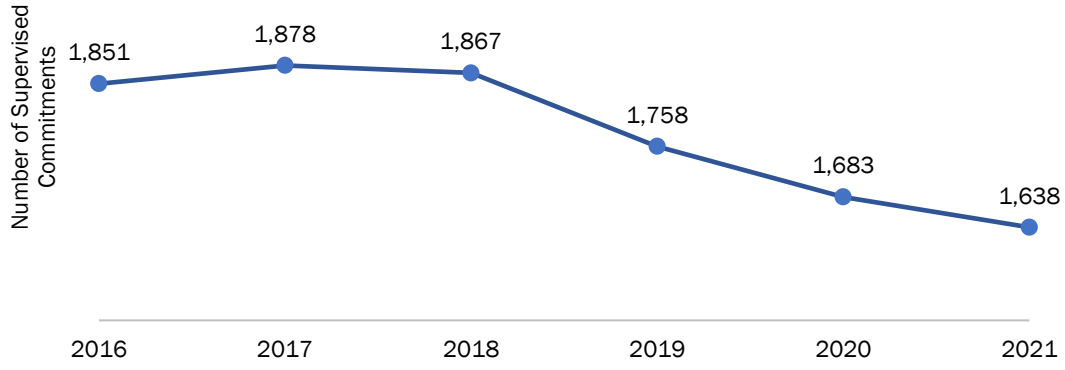


Active Supervision Caseload on 12/31/2021

At the end of 2021, there were **1,638 commitments** under the supervision of the Parole Board. Of these cases:

- **1,312** were being supervised in either one of parole's nine regional offices or under the Warrant and Apprehension Unit of the FSD,
- **227** were Interstate Compact cases, and
- **99** were incarcerated at either a state or county correctional facility (while either awaiting a final revocation hearing or serving a combination of sentences while on parole).

Figure 10. Trend in Total Commitments under MA Parole Board Supervision.



Parolee Monitoring

The Parole Board monitors parolees through the use of tools such as Global Positioning System (GPS). Monitoring with GPS allows the agency to actively track the whereabouts of parolees at any point in time during the supervision period. GPS also allows the Parole Board to set exclusion zones that the parolee must avoid while in the community. An exclusion zone is the area in or around a particular address that, if entered by the parolee, will immediately alert designated parole staff regarding the parolee's location.

There are four ways by which a parolee can be mandated to GPS supervision as a condition of their parole:

1) By Parole Board vote,
2) By Parole Board policy for a sex offense,
3) By Parole Board policy for a non-sex offense, but required to register with the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) for a prior sex offense and classified by SORB as a Level 3 or unclassified sex offender,
4) By a parole supervisor in response to a graduated sanction, as an alternative to incarceration.

At the end of 2021, there were 469 parolees actively on GPS supervision. Throughout the year, there were 1,116 GPS activations as a condition of parole supervision (see Table 22).

Table 22. 2021 Global Positioning System (GPS) Activations by Regional Office.

Regional Office	Count
Region 1 Dorchester	140
Region 2 Dorchester	120
Region 3 Lynn	74
Region 4 Worcester	130
Region 5 Springfield	224
Region 6 Lawrence	89
Region 7 Brockton	108
Region 8 New Bedford	201
Region 9 Framingham	30
Total	**1,116**

Drug and Alcohol Testing

An important part of the Parole Board's community supervision strategy is the ability to conduct drug and alcohol testing. Parole officers use portable drug testing kits and breathalyzers, allowing for immediate access to test results. This type of testing not only provides officers with an effective supervisory tool, but also has a deterrent effect on parolees who know if they violate the conditions of their parole by using alcohol and/or illicit drugs, it will be quickly detected. In addition to parole officers conducting tests, substance use tests are conducted by authorized agencies and treatment programs.

During 2021, 129,736 drug and alcohol tests were conducted on parolees (measured by one test per specimen). Drug tests consisted of the following test types: Cocaine Test, Orallab Test Cup, Teststik, Oxycodone Test, Opiates Test, THC Test, Onsite Test Cup, Benzodiazepines Test, Amphetamines Test, and the iCup (i.e., oxycodone, morphine, benzodiazepines, THC, PCP, methamphetamines, cocaine).

Breathalyzers were used for detecting alcohol use. Additional test types include those conducted by Community Corrections Centers and residential programs.

Table 23. 2021 Drug and Alcohol Tests by Regional Office.

Regional Office	Count
Region 1 Dorchester	13,147
Region 2 Dorchester	13,020
Region 3 Lynn	9,628
Region 4 Worcester	12,556
Region 5 Springfield	26,869
Region 6 Lawrence	17,766
Region 7 Brockton	10,347
Region 8 New Bedford	22,880
Region 9 Framingham	3,523
Total	129,736

Compliance Credits

In 2019, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 127, § 130C, the Parole Board established a policy and procedure for issuance of compliance credits to parolees for satisfactory conduct. To be eligible for compliance credits, parolees would have to meet the following criteria:

- An active parolee released on or after January 13, 2019
- Serving a state sentence
- Released on either discretionary or medical parole
- Supervised in one of the Parole regional offices
- Not be serving a life sentence.

Eligible parolees may earn up to fifteen compliance credits each month, leading up to their earliest parole discharge date based on adherence to their special conditions of parole. The accrued number of credits deducts from a parolee's parole discharge date, ultimately granting them an earlier discharge from parole supervision.

Table 24 exhibits the number and proportion of parolees who earned compliance credits out of all parolees who were eligible, by year of release to parole supervision, along with the average credits received by release year. While 64% of eligible parolees released to supervision in 2020 earned compliance credits, a higher proportion (at 70%) of eligible parolees released in 2021 earned compliance credits[9].

[9] Number of earned credits for releases in 2020 and 2021 are measured as of March of 2021 and March of 2022 respectively, for appropriate comparison across years.

Table 24. Compliance Credits Earned by Year of Release.

Release Year	Eligible for Credits	Earned Credits	% Earned Credits	Avg. Credits Earned
2020	518	334	64%	31
2021	367	257	70%	32

Table 25 presents the number of parolees who were discharged early due to earned compliance credits, broken out by year of discharge from parole supervision. In 2020, out of all successful discharges from supervision that were eligible for CCs, 77% were discharged early due to compliance credits; the proportion discharged early due to earned CCs went up to 92% in 2021.

Table 25. Early Discharge from Supervision due to Compliance Credits (CCs) among CC Eligible Commitments Successfully Discharged from Supervision.

Discharge Year	Eligible for CCs	Discharged Early due to Earned CCs	% Earned CCs	Avg. Credits Earned
2020	211	163	77%	33
2021	263	241	92%	55

Programs

Reentry Navigator Program

The Parole Board's Reentry Navigator Program (formerly known as Substance Abuse Coordinator Program) is a collaborative initiative between the Parole Board and the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). In 2021, there were eight full-time Reentry Navigators, from licensed DPH service vendors, placed and working at each of Parole's regional field offices. Some of the basic duties of the Navigators include parolee intake, triage and referral functions, conducting substance abuse evaluations, providing outreach to service providers and DPH, and tracking and monitoring the progress of clients and treatment providers. The Navigators' services assist parolees in making a successful transition to communities across the state.

Parole Regional Reentry Centers

Parole Regional Reentry Centers (RRC) operate in eight regional areas. Each RRC is housed within the same site as Parole's regional field offices. This gives the Navigators close proximity to the assigned field officer when a case needs to be supervised, reviewed, or sanctioned. Each center is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Onsite supervision of the Navigators are provided jointly by the RRC parole supervisor and the sub-contractor's Clinical Director. The parole officer provides the correctional supervision of the parole participants.

In 2021, there were 443 Parole RRC enrollments. The table below further breaks down 2021 enrollments by regional centers. Region 8 had the highest number of enrollments making up 35% of all enrollments while region 9 had the lowest enrollments, at 3%.

Table 26. 2021 Enrollments in Reentry Navigator Program by Regional Center.

Regional Office	Count	Percentage
Region 1 Dorchester	65	15%
Region 2 Dorchester	61	14%
Region 4 Worcester	37	8%
Region 5 Springfield	74	17%
Region 6 Lawrence	21	5%
Region 7 Brockton	16	4%
Region 8 New Bedford	156	35%
Region 9 Framingham	13	3%
Total	**443**	**100%**

Transitional and Sober Housing Programs

In 2019, the Parole Board collaborated with the Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS), Community Resources for Justice (CRJ), the Sheriffs' Departments, and the DOC to place parolees at three transitional housing locations: Brooke House in Boston, McGrath House in Boston, and the Western Mass. Reentry Center in Springfield. In June 2020, a fourth location named There-Is-A-Solution (TIAS) was added in New Bedford. In June 2021, a fifth location, Rocky Hill Reentry was added in Northampton.

The transitional housing program is funded by the MPS. The program serves parolees, probationers, and discharged inmates. Parolees receive free housing for up to six months with case management and referral services. The Parole Board has been the largest referral source for this program. In 2021, a total of 173 parolees utilized the program across all five locations, as summarized in Table 27.

Table 27. 2021 Utilization of Transitional and Sober Housing Programs.

Housing Programs	Parolees Released to
Transitional Housing	**173**
CRJ Western Mass. Reentry Center	55
CRJ Brooke House	48
CRJ There Is A Solution (TIAS)	43
Rocky Hill Reentry	20
CRJ McGrath House	7
MASH Sober Housing	**274**
Total	**447**

In order to support the goal of further reducing the prison population, and curtailing the spread of COVID-19, the Parole Board initiated a contract with the Massachusetts Alliance of Sober Housing (MASH) in May 2020. The contract enabled provision of eight weeks of paid sober housing upon release of parolees, probationers, and discharged inmates. MPS was further able to identify emergency funds to sustain the initiative during the first two months of FY 2021, pending the award of grant funding via the Coronavirus

Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF). The Federal grant funds enabled the initiative to continue through August 31, 2021. In 2021, a total of 274 parolees benefitted from this initiative.

The availability of both transitional housing and MASH sober housing grants in 2021 enabled the agency to provide additional home plan options to parolees, thus helping ensure timely release of inmates. Data supports that 27% of releases in 2021 were attributable to provision of transitional housing and MASH sober housing programs (447 out of 1,642 releases utilized housing beds through transitional and MASH sober housing grants).

Behavioral Health for Justice Involved Individuals (BH-JI)

In September 2019, the Parole Board collaborated with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the MPS, the DOC, Middlesex County Sheriff's Office (MSO), and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), along with Open Sky Community Services,[10] and Advocates[11] to refer high-risk individuals with acute behavioral health needs to an enhanced navigator program. EOHHS provided funding for this initiative. Navigators assist this specialized population by providing them with access to community-based behavioral health services. The project was piloted in Middlesex and Worcester counties, with the goal of expanding it statewide in FY2021 and FY2022. In CY 2021 alone, there were 979 referrals to the program across all agencies, and 617 participants had enrolled in the program.[12] Out of these referrals and enrollees, there were 31 and 20 referrals and enrollees respectively from the Parole Board. It should be noted that while the majority of referrals and enrollees are not parolees, those referred and enrolled at the DOC and HOC will be eligible for continued services upon release from parole.

Field Services Risk/Needs Assessments

In addition to conducting LS/CMI risk/needs assessments at the correctional institutions in preparation for parole hearings, field parole officers conduct reassessments using the same LS/CMI assessment after release of parolee in the community to apply effective supervision strategies. Outcomes of reassessments in the field can be used to ensure that parolees are receiving appropriate services in response to their case management needs.

Consistent with the previous year, in 2021, most field assessments conducted scored medium risk (46%), followed by low to very low risk (44%), and only 11% scored high to very high risk (see Table 28). This is a stark difference compared to the risk-level distribution seen at the institutional level earlier in this report with a majority scoring at high risk. The pattern holds true across different race/ethnic groups as summarized in Table 29, which provides LS/CMI breakdown by race/ethnicity. This speaks to the lower risk level associated with the population that is deemed suitable for parole supervision; the risk level might decline further for parolees who remain stable and are successful under supervision when they are reassessed by the Field.

[10] Open Sky Community Services is a behavioral health service provider, headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts.
[11] Advocates is a behavioral health service provider located in multiple counties within Massachusetts.
[12] Open Sky's enrollment figures only cover the period through the end of October 2021.

Table 28. 2021 LS/CMI Field Assessments.

Risk Level	Count	Percentage
Very Low	45	6%
Low	289	38%
Medium	354	46%
High	77	10%
Very High	3	<1%
Total	**768**	**100%**

Table 29. 2021 LS/CMI Field Assessments by Risk Level and Race and Ethnicity.

Race/ Ethnicity	Caucasia/ White	Hispanic/ Latino	African American/ Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/Native Alaskan	Not Reported	All
Very Low	8%	2%	4%	14%	0%	0%	6%
Low	38%	41%	32%	59%	50%	67%	38%
Medium	43%	45%	54%	23%	50%	33%	46%
High	10%	10%	10%	5%	0%	0%	10%
Very High	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA")

The Parole Board is committed to zero tolerance of any form of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The agency collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control. In 2021, there was one PREA-related allegation of sexual abuse reported, which was investigated, found not substantiated, and closed without further action.

Graduated Sanctions

The Parole Board's policy for graduated sanctions is intended to provide consistency, transparency, fairness, and efficiency throughout the parole violation process. The installation of graduated sanctions as a case management tool denotes a controlled delegation of authority by the Parole Board to the officers in the FSD.

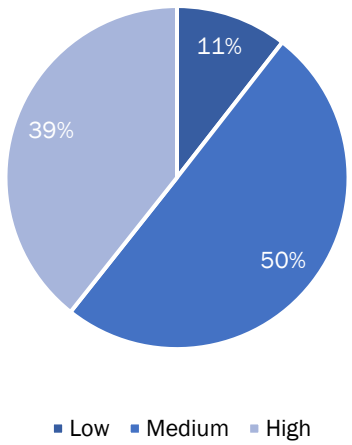
The guidelines for imposing graduated sanctions match the severity of the violation with the parolee's risk level to determine the appropriate treatment, intervention, and/or sanction. For example, if a low to medium risk offender has failed to attend substance abuse classes yet, continues to be employed and maintains a healthy lifestyle, then the parole officer has the discretion to sanction this violation of parole conditions by issuing a warning ticket, requiring the parolee to attend a meeting with the parole officer, or stage an intervention with a substance abuse counselor at one of the regional field offices. The parole officer has the discretion to engage these various graduated sanctions as an alternative to returning the parolee to custody for a parole revocation hearing and possible re-commitment to the original terms of their sentence.

Administered at the discretion of the parole officer and/or parole supervisor, the Parole Board is notified of the graduated sanction, and it will be noted in the parolee's file.

If a parolee is willing to work with his or her parole officer, then the Parole Board will work toward that parolee's continued success. The Parole Board believes success is not achieved through the parolee's automatic return to custody in the event of a parole violation. The agency's primary mission, however, has been and will remain to ensure public safety. Therefore, if a parolee intentionally and willfully evades his or her parole officer, fails to participate in appropriate counseling, and has been deemed high risk, then a positive screen for drugs may result in that parolee's return to custody. In this instance, the Parole Board must balance its responsibility for public safety with its prevalence for keeping parolees in the community, under the supervision of parole officers.

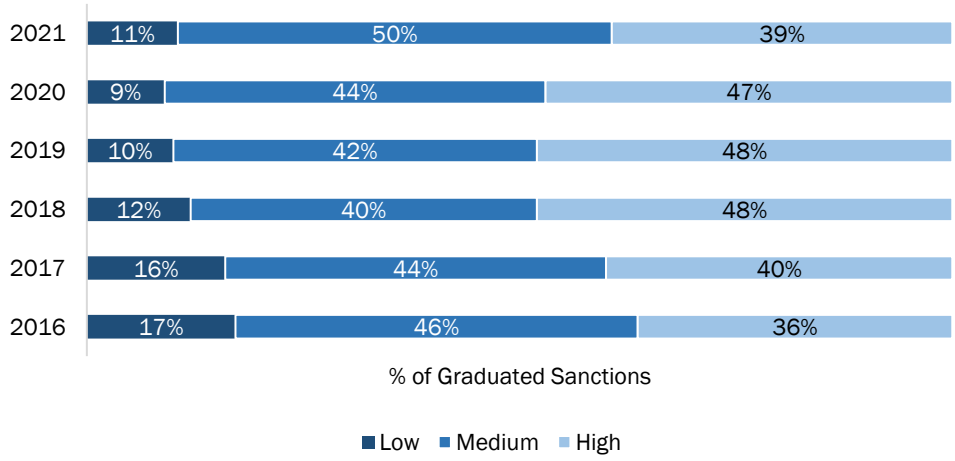
In 2021, there were a total of 1,759 graduated sanctions issued based on 2,486 reported violations. A single graduated sanction can be issued for multiple violations. The risk distribution of parolees receiving these sanctions can be seen in the chart below. A graduated sanctions grid accounts for the parolee's risk level (i.e., risk to reoffend) as determined by the risk/needs assessment (LS/CMI), and the severity of the violation to make a decision as to the appropriate action in response to a violation. Half of the graduated sanctions issued in 2021 were for parolees with a medium risk level, followed by those with high risk level (at 39%).

Figure 11. 2021 Graduated Sanctions by Risk Level.



As presented in the chart below, the proportion of graduated sanctions imposed on higher risk parolees has increased over the past six years, while the proportion of sanctions imposed on low risk parolees has steadily decreased (from 17% in 2015 to 11% in 2021).

Figure 12. Trend in Graduated Sanctions by Risk Level.



Revocations

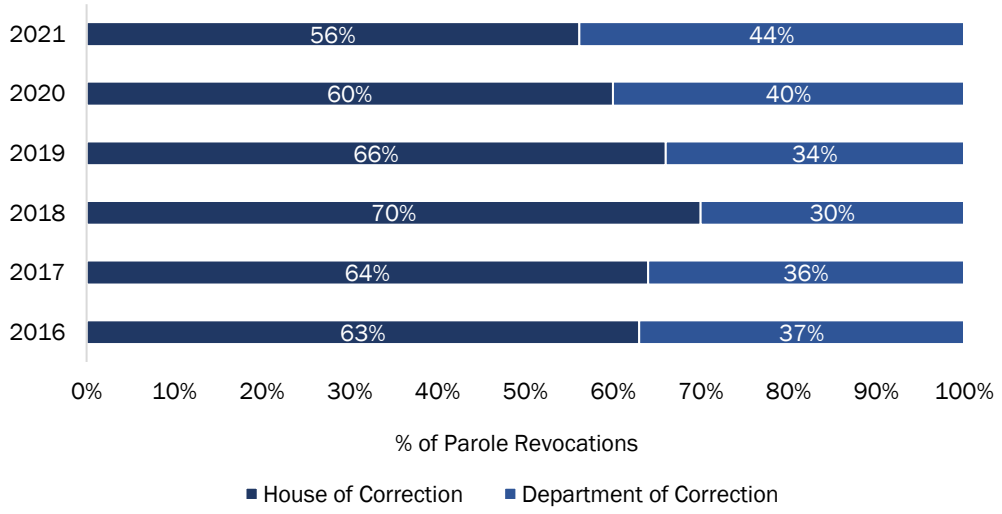
A revocation occurs when a parolee who violates one or more conditions of their parole is re-committed to the terms of their original sentence, following a final revocation hearing. It should be noted that upon revocation of a discretionary parole, parolees do not necessarily serve the remainder of their commitment in a correctional facility. The Parole Board reassesses their suitability for re-parole. Table 30 presents revocations by commitment type, where the final revocation hearing resulted in a "revocation affirmed" vote. This includes all dispositions including reserves, denied, waivers, postponements, action pending, and PONAL. In 2021, 56% of the revocations were HOC commitments while the remaining 44% were DOC commitments.

Table 30. 2021 Revocations by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Count	Percentage
House of Correction	210	56%
Department of Correction	164	44%
Total	**374**	**100%**

Parole revocations in Massachusetts have historically originated primarily from those serving an HOC sentence, which is also a reflection of the Massachusetts parole population that is heavily concentrated in county releases. Figure 13 below, captures the trend in parole revocations by commitment type for the past six years.

Figure 13. Trend in Parole Revocations by Commitment Type.



The tables below provide demographic breakdown for all parole revocations in 2021.

Table 31. 2021 Revocations by Gender.

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	351	94%
Female	23	6%
Total	**374**	**100%**

Table 32 details the racial and ethnic breakdown for revocations.

Table 32. 2021 Revocations by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
Caucasian/White	176	47.1%
Hispanic/Latino	89	23.8%
African American/Black	100	26.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	1.3%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	2	0.5%
Not Reported	2	0.5%
Total	**374**	**100.0%**

Parole violations, which precede revocations, can be of two types: new arrest and non-arrest. Revocations that result from a new criminal charge (i.e., "new arrest") are typically initiated by law enforcement, and not the parolee's field parole officer. Non-arrest violations are violations of general and special conditions of parole, excluding those that involve new arrests or new criminal charges. However, non-arrest violations may include acts that involve criminal behavior that did not lead to new charges. Some revocations may result from both new arrest and non-arrest violations. For example, a parolee who is arrested for assault and battery, drug trafficking, or breaking and entering may be revoked for violations of parole conditions (i.e. non-arrest or technical violation), in addition to incurring new criminal charges (i.e. new arrest violation). Table 33 below breaks down revocations in 2021 by parole violation type.

Table 33. 2021 Revocations by Parole Violation Type.

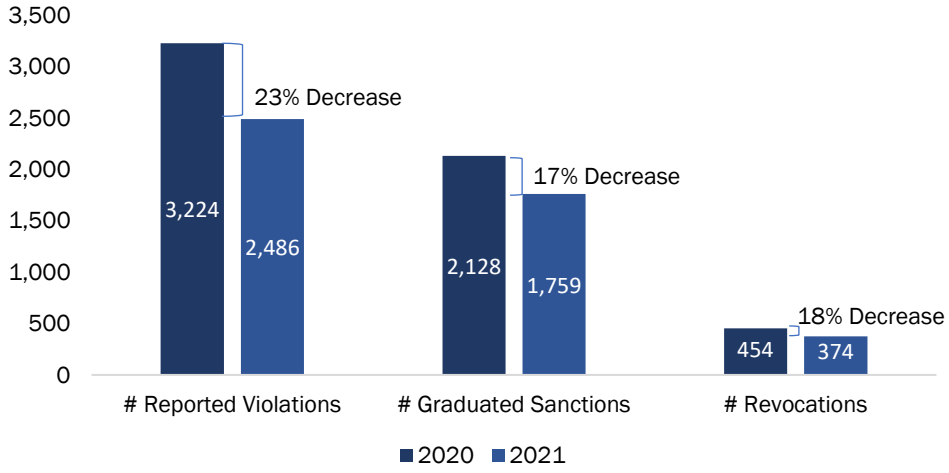
Type	Count	Percentage
Non-Arrest or Technical[13]	302	80.7%
Both New-Arrest and Non-Arrest	58	15.5%
New Arrest	14	3.7%
Total	**374**	**100.0%**

Parole Violations, Graduated Sanctions, and Revocations

Figure 14 captures the decline in reported number of violations from year 2020 to 2021, followed by a subsequent decline in both the use of graduated sanctions (as an alternative to revocation), as well as re-incarceration or revocation of parole.

[13] Of those parolees revoked for a technical violation (302), a total of 187, or 62%, had received at least one prior graduated sanction before their revocation. The majority of the remaining 115 parole violators who had not received a graduated sanction prior to their revocation, incurred violations that included termination from a residential treatment program, transitional housing or sober housing (45 cases), or had absconded from supervision (50 cases). Per Table 7 above, 49% of parolees who availed themselves of a final revocation hearing received a positive vote for re-parole.

Figure 14. Reported Violations, and Use of Graduated Sanctions and Revocations in Year 2020 vs. 2021.



Discharges from Supervision

As with releases to parole, discharges from parole supervision are also based on commitments. The counts in the table below are drawn from the point in time when the commitment was closed. A commitment can close for a variety of reasons, the most common of which is at the parole discharge date. However, parolees may be discharged for other reasons (e.g., Interstate Compact Case closed interest, Good Conduct Discharge after sentence completion from correctional facility, vacated/court release). In addition, parolees can discharge while under supervision by another authority. For example, a parolee may end a period of supervision while under the custody of ICE or another state's warrant. In a majority of cases however, discharge occurs while the parolee is under parole supervision in Massachusetts. Table 34 below, displays the discharges from supervision by commitment type.

Table 34. 2021 Discharges from Supervision by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Count	Percentage
House of Correction	646	49.3%
Department of Correction	566	43.2%
Out of State	98	7.5%
Total	**1,310**	**100.0%**

Tables 35 and 36 provide a demographic breakdown for all parole discharges from supervision in 2021.

Table 35. 2021 Discharges from Supervision by Gender.

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	1,194	91%
Female	116	9%
Total	**1,310**	**100%**

Table 36. 2021 Discharges from Supervision by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
Caucasian/White	658	50%
Hispanic/Latino	351	27%
African American/Black	270	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1	<1%
Not Reported	14	1%
Total	**1,310**	**100%**

Table 37 below, represents discharges from supervision by type.

Table 37. 2021 Discharges from Supervision by Discharge Type.

Discharge Type	Count	Percentage
MA Commitments Closed from MA Supervision	1,016	78%
MA Commitments Closed from MA House of Correction Facility	58	4%
Out of State Commitments Closed from MA Supervision	97	7%
MA Commitments Closed from Out of State Compact Supervision	51	4%
MA Commitments Closed from ICE Custody	26	2%
MA Commitments Closed from Deported Custody	23	2%
MA Commitments Closed from MA Department of Correction	19	1%
MA Commitments Closed from Federal or Out of State Warrant	20	2%
Total	**1,310**	**100%**

Among all commitments closed from Massachusetts parole supervision, a majority are successful discharges. We calculate successful discharge rate for 2021 by dividing the number of Massachusetts commitments successfully discharged or closed from Massachusetts parole supervision[14] by the sum of successful discharges and revocations in 2021; this can be used as a general indicator of parolees' performance upon release to parole supervision. Table 38 captures successful discharges by commitment type. It should however be noted that parolees whose parole is revoked may be re-paroled, therefore revocations will only capture a setback or failure for a short period of time. In fact, among the 374 parolees revoked in 2021, 119 (i.e. 32% of those revoked) were re-paroled, and 47 of them (i.e. 39% of those re-paroled) were successfully discharged from supervision by March 17, 2022.

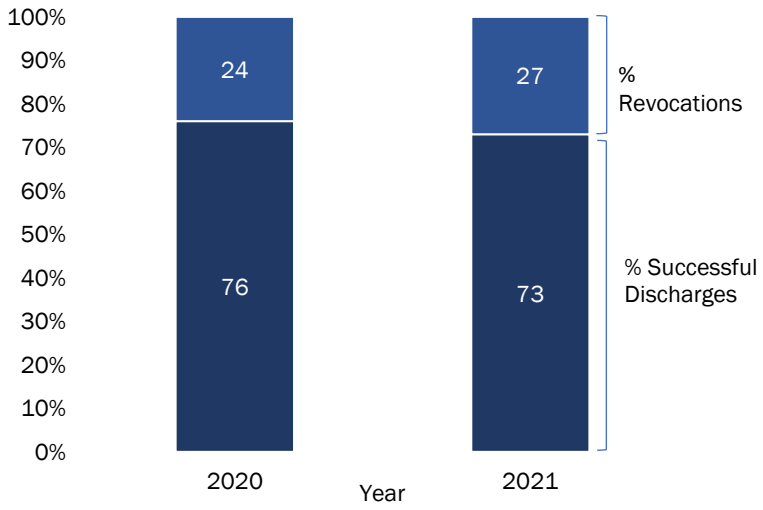
Table 38. 2021 Successful Discharges by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Successful Discharges	Revocations	Successful Discharges + Revocations	% Successful Discharges
House of Correction	544	210	754	72%
Department of Correction	447	164	611	73%
Total	**991**	**374**	**1,365**	**73%**

Figure 15 compares the successful discharge rate in 2021 to that in 2020.

[14] This includes successful discharges from 9 regional offices (i.e. MA commitments closed from MA supervision), excluding deaths and court releases.

Figure 15. Successful Discharge Rate.



Interstate Compact Unit

The ICU, which lies within the FSD, coordinates the interstate transfer of parolees entering or leaving the state and oversees an active caseload of Massachusetts parolees residing out of state under the Interstate Compact. The ICU also supervises all Massachusetts inmates paroled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers and deportation warrants.

At the end of 2021, there were 227 commitments under supervision through the ICU. Parolee status through the ICU encompasses a variety of circumstances including supervision by another state's paroling authority (137), ICE custody (23), and deportation (67).

Throughout 2021, there were 106 commitments from Massachusetts released to the Interstate Compact to be supervised by other states or transferred to other types of custody. Of these cases:

- 60 Parolees were released to be supervised by another state's parole agency, and
- 46 parolees were released to ICE custody.

In addition, during 2021, there were 76 commitments from other states released to Massachusetts for parole supervision.

Warrant and Apprehension Unit

The Warrant and Apprehension Unit (WAU), which lies within the FSD, assists staff in the regional parole offices in locating and apprehending parolees who have violated their parole conditions and absconded from supervision. The unit also arranges for the apprehension of parolees who have fled the Commonwealth and monitors the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) for criminal activity among parole violators. The unit is also responsible for entering, updating, and removing parole violation warrants from the agency's database, as well as coordinating all required extraditions.

The primary function of the WAU is to assist regional parole offices in locating and arresting parole violators and returning them to custody. In addition to conducting these fugitive investigations, the WAU performs numerous other duties as listed below:

- Provides and coordinates security for all life sentence and VAH hearings at the central office in Natick, Massachusetts.[15]
- Enters, modifies, and cancels all Parole Board Warrants for Temporary Custody (WTC) and Warrants for Permanent Custody (WPC).
- Enters, modifies, and cancels information regarding lost or stolen agency equipment.
- Enters broadcasts regarding fugitives and completing extraditions.
- Monitors Criminal Justice Information Services databases.
- Processes all paroles from Massachusetts state and county facilities to out-of-state warrants and/or commitments, and supervises this caseload until release from out-of-state custody.
- Supervises a caseload of warrant cases held in custody out-of-state, ensuring extradition at the appropriate time.
- Maintains a caseload of whereabouts unknown cases, including Interstate Compact cases.
- Maintains the Parole Board's 'Most Wanted' list.
- Serves as the Parole Board's 'After-Hour Duty Station'.

Warrants

A warrant for detainer purposes (i.e., 15-day warrant) and an Interstate Compact warrant for detainer purposes (i.e., 60-day warrant) are referred to as Warrants for Temporary Custody (WTC). A WTC is issued when a parole officer has reasonable belief that a parolee has lapsed into criminal ways, has associated with criminal company, or has violated the conditions of his or her parole. The parole officer may then, with the consent of a parole supervisor or other superior officer, issue a WTC of the parolee. A WTC authorizes the detention of the parolee for a maximum time period of 15 days in the case of a parolee being supervised within the boundaries of Massachusetts, or 60 days in the case of a parolee being supervised by the authorities of another state pursuant to the terms of the Interstate Compact. The issuance of a WTC does not interrupt the parolee's sentence.

A Warrant for Permanent Custody (WPC) is an order of imprisonment of the parolee, which may be issued upon a finding that there exists probable cause to believe that the parolee has violated one or more conditions of parole. The parolee's supervision status upon issuance of a WPC, and the underlying sentence, resumes again upon service of the warrant. With an Interstate Compact warrant for detainer purposes and an Interstate Compact warrant for permanent custody, the Parole Board is authorized to issue and serve a warrant to detain parolees whom the Parole Board is supervising under the Interstate Compact.

As in 2020, the majority of warrants issued in 2021 were warrants for 15-day detainer purposes (50%). The second most common were warrants for permanent custody (44%), followed by the warrant for detainer purposes (60-Days) for ICU (6%).

[15] In the first half of 2021, due to COVID-19 concerns, the WAU provided security on a limited basis for VAH and life sentence hearings. On occasions when it provided security during hearings at the central office, it ensured COVID-19 protocols were followed.

Table 39. 2021 Warrants Issued by Type.

Commitment Type	Count	Percentage
Warrant for Detainer Purposes (15-Days)	489	50%
Warrant for Permanent Custody	426	44%
Warrant for Detainer Purposes (60-Days) - Interstate Compact Warrant	57	6%
Warrant for Permanent Custody - Interstate Compact Warrant	0	0%
Total	972	100%

Arrests and Transportations to Custody

Parole officers have the authority to make arrests and transport offenders to custody. In 2021, WAU parole officers participated in the arrests of 472 offenders. Those arrests included 163 parole violators (107 of them were whereabouts unknown at the time of arrest) and 309 non-parolees through their inter-agency task forces and partnerships. The unit was also responsible for 194 prisoner transports. All the numbers went down in 2021 compared to 2020.

Extraditions

The WAU is also responsible for handling the extradition of parole violators being returned to Massachusetts from other states. The WAU works closely with law enforcement and correctional facilities across the nation in order to fulfill extraditions. In 2021, the WAU supervised the extradition of 15 parole violators from around the United States. This involves collaborating with the arresting states and ensuring that all legal extradition procedures are being followed.

Paroles to Out-of-State Warrants

The WAU processes all paroles from Massachusetts correctional facilities to out-of-state warrants and/or out-of-state commitments. This includes supervising parolees until their release from out-of-state custody. Approximately 18 parolees were released to out of state warrants in 2021.

Warrant Cases In Custody Out-of-State

The WAU oversees all warrant cases held in custody out-of-state. The WAU supervises these parole violators; it monitors inmate/parolee progress with the out-of-state correctional facility, and arranges extradition when the parole violator is made available. The average caseload of warrant cases in custody out-of-state in 2021 was approximately 19 parolees.

Warrant Cases – Whereabouts Unknown

The WAU has responsibility for whereabouts unknown parolees who abscond from supervision and are transferred to the WAU from a regional field office. This includes all sex offender parolees, life sentence parolees, other cases that are deemed by the administration as high-profile, including out of state cases under Massachusetts supervision via Interstate Compact Unit, who abscond from supervision. Many of

these cases involve parolees whose whereabouts have been unknown for decades. The caseload of warrant cases with status of whereabouts unknown at the end of 2021 was 83, up by 15 from 2020, a 22% increase.

The Parole Board's Most Wanted List

The WAU maintains the 'Most Wanted' list. This list consists of parole violators who are considered to be high priority for apprehension and are deemed mandatory for extradition. The WAU responds to all law enforcement inquiries and follows up on civilian tips to assist in locating these offenders.

Twenty-Four Hour Duty Station

The WAU serves as the agency's 'Twenty-Four Hour Duty' station, responding to all emergency inquiries made after 5:00 pm and on weekends and holidays. All after-hour calls are received by the Massachusetts State Police Central Dispatch, who then contacts a member of the WAU for further handling. The WAU contacts the appropriate officer to ensure that each case has been addressed. If the assigned officer is unavailable, then the case is referred to the after-hour duty supervisor from a rotating list. The WAU processes more than 100 after-hour calls annually.

Partnerships

The WAU has become an integral part of the Massachusetts law enforcement community. This is a direct result of partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The WAU has developed particularly strong ties with the Boston Police Fugitive Unit, Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, Federal Bureau of Investigation Southeast Major Gang Task Force, United States Marshals Service, Massachusetts DOC, MPS, Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, as well as county-level correctional facilities and local police departments across the state.

Training Office

The Training Office within the FSD is run by a field parole supervisor, who coordinates all relevant case management and law enforcement trainings, including recruit field parole officers' training and all required annual in-service trainings for officers throughout the division. The Training Office also oversees the agency's Naloxone and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) programs.

Field parole officers are trained annually in areas such as LS/CMI assessments, case management, report writing, defensive tactics, first aid/CPR, naloxone administration, firearms qualification, and arrest and transportation techniques. In 2021, field parole officers completed the LS/CMI reliability tests and received training in Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) CPR/First Responder, MPTC Firearms, and MPTC Defensive Tactics. In partnership with BH-JI, trainings including crisis intervention techniques, decreasing stigma among sex offenders, and reentry communications and collaborations were conducted. The Deputy Chief and the Training Unit head are now certified to train anyone within the agency on Fair and Impartial Policing. All field parole officers, and two field Office Support Specialists (OSS) completed training on Fair and Impartial Policing. All field officers also completed additional Diversity training.

AGENCY GOALS

The following constitute the Massachusetts Parole Board's goals:

- Fully comply with the new regulation that establishes data collection and reporting standards for all Criminal Justice Agencies to ensure consistent and accurate collection of data on inmate population.
- Finalize the agency strategic plan.
- Continue collaborative efforts with different stakeholders to expand transitional housing opportunities for the reentry population.
- Collaborate with Massachusetts Probation Service to ensure continued annual funding for sober house beds.
- Identify opportunities to expand community interventions in lieu of re-incarceration of parolees.
- Expand collaboration with Executive Office of Health and Human Services along with other stakeholders to ensure statewide behavioral health services for justice involved individuals (BHJI).
- Maintain American Correctional Association standards pursuant to 2021 re-accreditation.
- Enhance efforts to digitize parole records and files.
- Ensure continued collaboration with the Department of Correction regarding Release to Supervision and Medical Release opportunities established by Council on State Governments legislation.

APPENDIX

Table A. 2021 All Eligible for Institutional Hearings by Race/Ethnicity.						
Race/Ethnicity	HOC Hearings	%	DOC Hearings	%	All Eligible Hearings	%
Caucasian/White	1,927	53%	700	44%	2,627	51%
Hispanic/Latino	866	24%	469	29%	1,335	26%
African American/Black	642	18%	393	25%	1,035	20%
Asian/Pacific Islander	21	1%	13	1%	34	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	14	<1%	0	n.a.	14	<1%
Not Reported	132	4%	24	2%	156	3%
Total	3,602	100%	1,599	100%	5,201	100%

Office Vote Types

Change of Vote Request: A change of vote is submitted upon request to change conditions of a parole reserve vote (i.e. a positive vote).

Request for Provisional Revocation: When a parolee is alleged to have violated one or more conditions of parole, and satisfactory evidence thereof is presented in a parole violation report, the Parole Board members or a parole supervisor or other superior officer may authorize a preliminary revocation hearing. A Hearing Examiner shall prepare a summary of what occurred at the preliminary revocation hearing and a request for provisional revocation is submitted.

Reconsideration Request: An offender may petition for reconsideration of a parole decision. 120 CMR 304.2. The Board may reconsider a decision on its own initiative.

Mandatory Release Conditions Request: If a prisoner serving a state sentence has not been granted a discretionary parole permit by the prisoner's release to supervision date, then the Parole Board shall issue a mandatory release to supervision parole permit to that prisoner for the remainder of his or her sentence, as reduced by any good conduct deductions issued by the Department of Corrections. The Parole Board does not make any decision on the release and therefore, a request is submitted to set release conditions.

Request for Provisional Rescission: When the Parole Board members set a parole release date, release on that date is contingent upon continued satisfactory conduct by the inmate and the absence of any new and significant adverse information not known to the parole hearing panel at the time the release decision was made. Where the Parole Board learns of new adverse information, the Board may suspend the inmate's parole date pending investigation by the Parole Board.

Request for Out of State Travel: A request for out of state travel is submitted to allow/deny parolee's request for travel.

Appeal Request: An offender may petition for appeal of a parole decision.

Request to Attend Hearing: In general, representatives for the offender are not permitted to attend a closed hearing, except under special circumstances and at final rescission/revocation hearing. A request to attend hearing is submitted to have a witness attend a hearing.

Special Consideration Request: A request for early parole eligibility hearing based on a combined request from the incarcerating facility and the offender.

Request to Resolve Action Pending: A request to resolve a disposition of "action pending" is forwarded to the original hearing panel with information that was not available at the original hearing.

Request to Postpone Victim Access Hearing (VAH): A request to postpone a Victim Access Hearing is requested by the offender, which must be approved by a majority vote of the Parole Board.

Medical Release Conditions Request: Under certain circumstances, the Department of Corrections may grant early release to an inmate due to terminal illness and/or permanent incapacitation. The Parole Board does not make any decision on the release and therefore, a request is submitted to set release conditions.

Request for the Board to Note Information Memo: A request for the Board to note information is submitted to provide the Board with information that was not available at the time of the hearing.

Withdraw Warrant Request: An offender who is serving an intervening sentence with a parole violation warrant lodged, may petition the Parole Board to have the warrant removed if the warrant has not been served.

ADDENDUM

The information provided in this addendum is based on data collected as of January 2023. At the time of initial publication in October 2022, records of decisions for life sentence hearings held in 2021 had not yet been completed.

Table 40 shows life sentence hearings with either a positive or denied vote for both initial and review hearings.

Table 40. 2021 Life Sentence Hearings.

Hearing Type	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Total Votes	Paroling Rate
Initial	8	29	37	22%
Review	66	43	109	61%
Total	**74**	**72**	**146**	**51%**

Table 41 displays the racial/ethnic breakdown of the 146 life sentence hearings.

Table 41. 2021 Life Sentence Hearings by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Total Votes	Paroling Rate	% Denied
Caucasian/White	22	40	62	35%	65%
Hispanic/Latino	18	15	33	55%	45%
African American/Black	28	15	43	65%	35%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	0	5	100%	0%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1	1	2	50%	50%
Not Reported	0	1	1	0%	100%
Total	**74**	**72**	**146**	**51%**	**49%**

The above life sentence hearings comprised of eight 1st degree murder juvenile offenders as summarized in Table 42 below.

Table 42. 2021 Life Sentence Hearings: 1st Degree Murder Juvenile Offenders.

Hearing Type	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Total Votes	Paroling Rate
Initial	1	2	3	33%
Review	4	1	5	80%
Total	**5**	**3**	**8**	**63%**



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