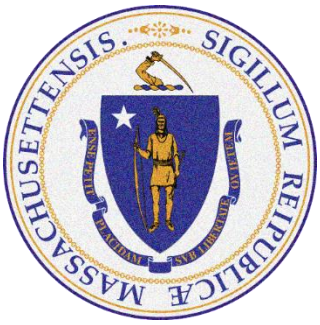


Massachusetts Parole Board
2022 Annual Report





Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Maura T. Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary
Andrew Peck, Undersecretary

Massachusetts Parole Board
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October 2023

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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.

Goals

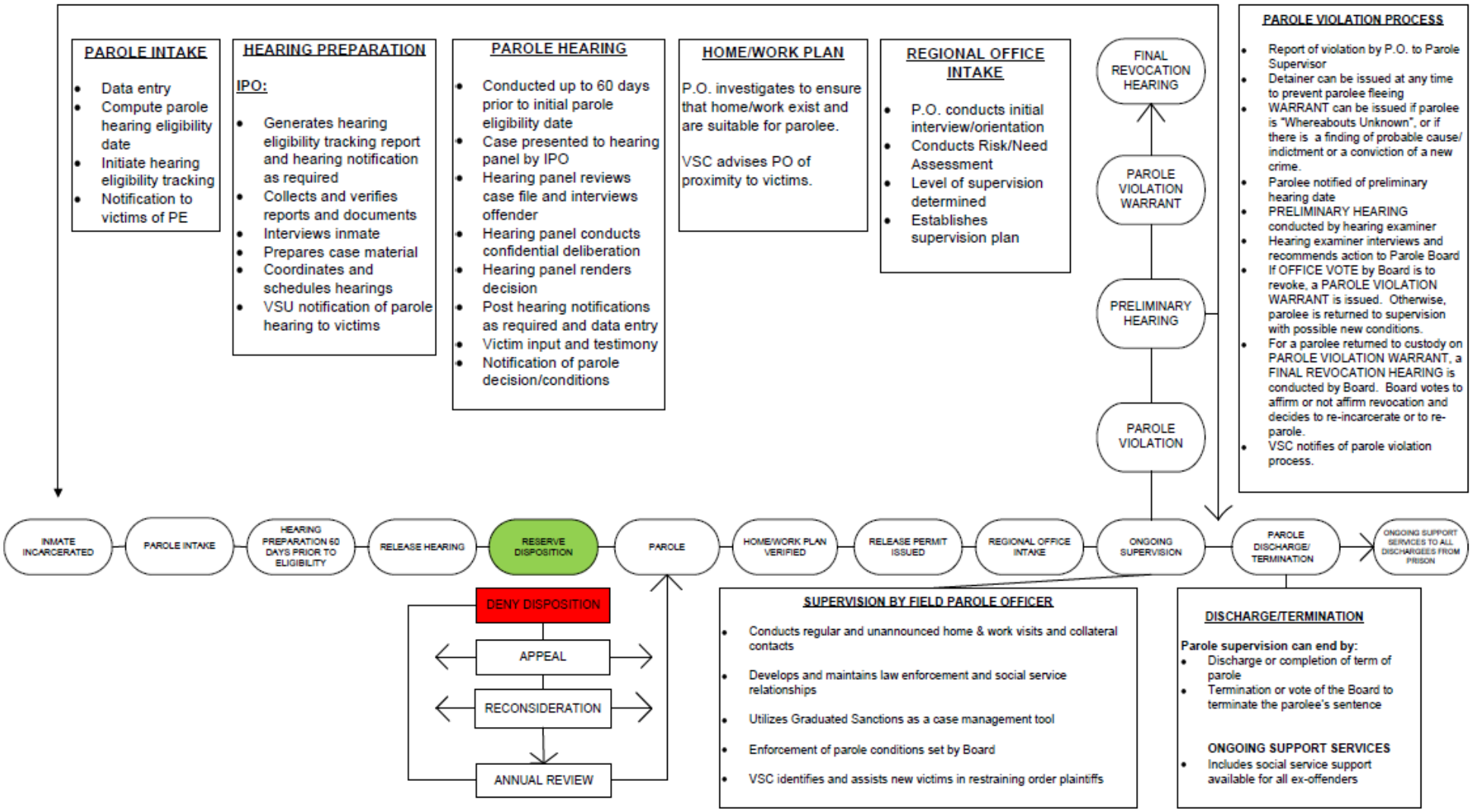
The following constitute the Agency's goals:

- Fully comply with the new regulation that establishes data collection and reporting standards for all Criminal Justice Agencies to ensure consistent and accurate collection and reporting of data on inmate and parolee population.
- Finalize the Agency strategic plan.
- Increase data transparency and data sharing to better capture parole processes and track performance.
- 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 Supports for Justice-Involved Individuals (BH-JI).
- Maintain American Correctional Association (ACA) 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.

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



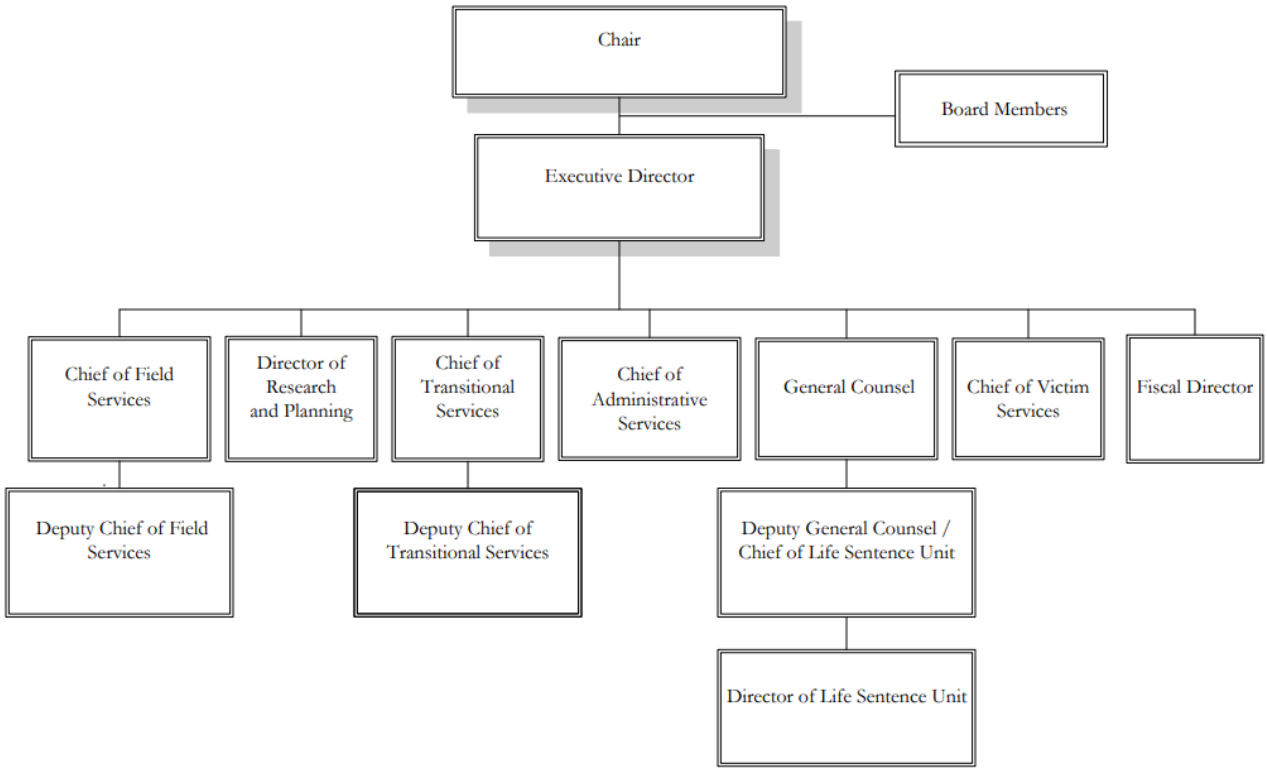
Organization Structure

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 (OGC)
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.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present to you the Massachusetts Parole Board's Annual Report for 2022.

The Parole Board's mission is to promote public safety through the supervised, conditional release of individuals back into the community, which provides the basis for a successful transition from confinement to discharge from parole. We believe that our work helps to encourage continued responsible conduct as individuals return to society.

As an Agency, we are committed to public safety and improving the lives of those we serve, especially our most vulnerable populations. That is no small task. Our work was additionally made more challenging as we continued to move forward from a global pandemic to conduct in-person hearings at thirty-seven different institutional locations across the Commonwealth (and additionally supervising returning citizens at nine regional parole offices). The profiles of the individuals we work with are diverse and have multidimensional needs.

Despite these challenges, the Parole Board has just completed an incredibly impactful year. Here are a few highlights from 2022:

By the end of 2022, the Board held over 3,008 face-to face hearings, while the Victim Services Unit issued 17,635 notifications of parole events to registered victims, surviving family members of homicide victims, and citizen-initiated petitioners. Also, from 2021 to 2022, there was an 11% increase in the number of institutional hearings held and a 14% increase in the number of incarcerated individuals released to parole supervision. Finally, while the total number of individuals under supervision was 8% higher in 2022 compared to 2021, there was a 15% decline in the number of revocations from 2021 to 2022.

As an employee of the Parole Board for the past three plus decades, I have had the privilege of working closely with the Agency's exceptionally talented team of board members, managers, field, and institutional staff and support staff. They are second to none and are enormously talented, hard-working, and committed to the work that we do day in and day out.

As we move into 2023, our organization will be focused on increasing transparency and improving morale, equality and inclusion, staff training, and responsiveness. We will also focus on ensuring equitable access to parole for all incarcerated individuals, better utilization of data in decision-making activities and strengthening partnerships to advance the principles of a more fair and effective criminal justice system while advancing safety in the Commonwealth.

I would like to thank the members of the board and all the staff for their dedication and hard work. Without it, these achievements would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Tina M. Hurley

Tina M. Hurley
Massachusetts Parole Board
Chair

LOOKING BACK AT 2022: Updates from Units

Transitional Services Unit (TSU)

TSU continues to monitor parole eligible inmates and prepare them for parole hearings in a timely manner.

TSU collaborates with all Community Resources for Justice (CRJ) programs, Sober homes, and Long-Term Residential Programs (LTRP's), utilizing a majority of their bed space to ensure timely release of inmates to parole. TSU continues to work with FSD in placing subjects in Rocky Hill, a transitional housing program that has continued to operate in collaboration with the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office.

TSU has conducted unit-wide trainings at the DOC Headquarter in Milford and at the new training space in Southbridge.

In 2022, the unit promoted five Institutional Parole Officers (IPOs), hired six Transitional Parole Officers (TPOs), and four Office Support Specialists (OSS).

In 2022, the paroling rate for all Institutional Hearings was 69%, up from 61% in 2021.

Field Services Division (FSD)

In 2022, the FSD onboarded nine new Field Parole Officers (FPOs). The Parole Training Academy Program is officially located in MPTC Southbridge since the opening of the first official training space in 2022, in collaboration with the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC); the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS) provided classroom and training space.

All FPOs completed over 40 hours of in-service training during 2022, including UMASS/BH-JI MOUD Training, CPR / AED First Responder recertifications, MPTC Firearms recertifications and training, MPTC in-service courses, Mass Achieve (HRD) courses, LS/CMI risk assessment Booster Training, and Suicide prevention training. The training cycle was changed from calendar year to fiscal year to be compatible with MPTC and ACA accreditation time frames.

In 2022, the Agency assisted 653 parolees (35% of releases in 2022) with transitional or sober housing, compared to 447 parolees (27% of releases in 2021) receiving such assistance in 2021.

Victim Services Unit (VSU)

In 2022, VSU secured VOCA funding in the amount of $377,771 that supports two full time Victim Service Coordinators (VSCs) and two part-time VSCs.

VSU conducted trainings for District Attorney's office across the state. It also conducted New Advocate Training with Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA).

Life Sentence Unit (LSU)

In 2022, LSU staff prepared parole eligible inmates serving a life sentence for their parole hearing. Of those parole eligible inmates, 139 appeared before the full board for a hearing.

In 2022, the paroling rate for Life Sentence Hearings was 61%, up from 51% in 2021. Among these, the 1st degree murder juvenile offenders had a paroling rate of 83%, up from 63% in 2021.

LOOKING BACK AT 2022: Hearings and Office Votes

Hearings & Office Votes

Consistent with 2021, in 2022, the same proportion (i.e. 50% of all hearing-eligible inmates) went in front of the Parole Board and received either a positive or denied vote. However, the total number of hearing-eligible inmates went up by 10 percent in 2022 (from 5,201 in 2021 to 5,738 in 2022).

As a result, there was an 11% increase in the number of institutional hearings held with a positive or denied vote in 2022 (at 2,871) compared to 2021 (at 2,578). The paroling rate also went up in 2022 to 69% compared to 61% in 2021.

A higher paroling rate along with an increased number of institutional hearings held resulted in a 24% increase in those receiving positive parole vote (1,968 in 2022 compared to 1,585 in 2021).

In 2022, 137 inmates appeared before the Parole Board for life sentence hearings and received either a positive or denied vote. The paroling rate was 61%, up from 51% in 2021. Among these, the 1st degree murder juvenile offenders had a paroling rate of 83%, up from 63% in 2021.

In 2022, there were 251 victim access hearings and life sentence hearings, where victims or families of victims attended the hearing, in comparison to 269 in 2021.

A total of 2,264 office votes were processed in 2022, in comparison to 2,225 in 2021.

LOOKING BACK AT 2022: Releases, Compliance Credits, Parole Violations, and Discharges

Releases:

1,876 inmates were released to supervision in 2022, a 14% increase from the number released in 2021 (N=1,642). This is partly attributable to an increase in the number of inmates with a positive parole vote in 2022. The Agency further ensured that inmates with a positive vote achieved timely release by:

- Carefully vetting home plan to maximize the rate of suitable home approvals.
- As in 2021, 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 2022. Approximately 35% of releases are attributable to these forms of housing.

Compliance Credits:

Out of all successful discharges from supervision that were eligible for compliance credits (CCs), in 2022, 88% were discharged early due to earning CCs, compared to 92% in 2021.

Parole Violations:

There was a 15% decline in the number of revocations from 2021 to 2022 although the total number of parolees under supervision were 8% higher in 2022 than in 2021. Across both years, for each parole revocation, an average of over three parole rules were violated.

Discharges:

Among all parolees who were either successfully discharged from Massachusetts parole supervision or revoked in 2022, 76% were successful discharges while the remaining 24% were revoked.

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. The TSU is also responsible for scheduling, coordinating, and facilitating all Parole Board hearings, as well as Parole Board office votes, with the exception of life sentence hearings. TSU executes the release of inmates on parole and coordinates with Field staff for successful transition of inmates to the community. Finally, TSU 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 2022 with either a positive or denied vote, broken out by facility type. In 2022, the Parole Board held 2,871 institutional hearings with either a positive or a denied vote. Out of the total, 66% of hearings were held for inmates housed in the county HOCs and the remaining 34% were held for inmates housed in the Massachusetts DOC. As a result of these hearings, 1,968 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 69% for all inmates, with the paroling rate being higher (at 71%) among inmates from the HOC compared to 63% among inmates from the DOC, which is consistent with the historical trend. The paroling rates at both the DOC and the HOC increased in 2022 compared to 2021. 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. 2022 Institutional Release, Rescission, and Revocation Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	1,359	548	1,907	71%
Department of Correction	609	355	964	63%
Total	**1,968**	**903**	**2,871**	**69%**

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, particularly for the DOC facilities, as captured by the trendlines in the figure below.

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

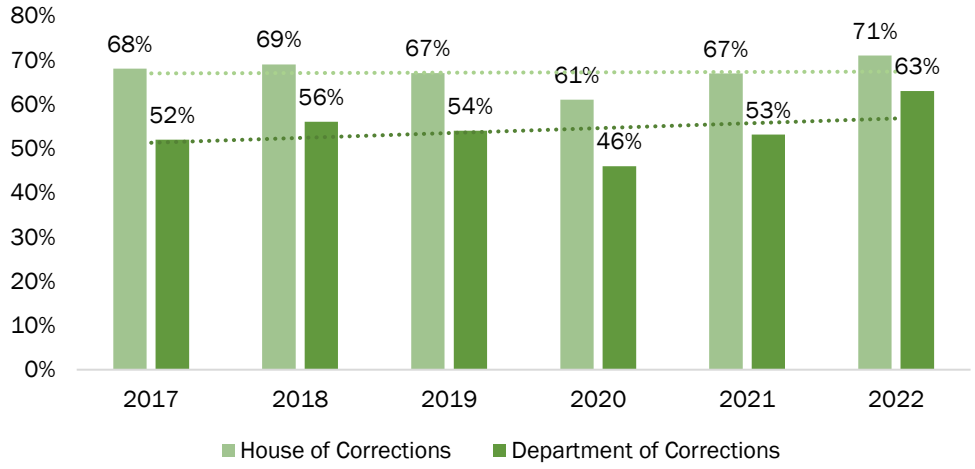


Table 2 provides the racial/ethnic breakdown for all institutional hearings with positive and denied votes.

Table 2. 2022 All Institutional Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Votes by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
Caucasian/White	988	443	1,431	69%
Hispanic/Latino	535	229	764	70%
African American/Black	380	197	577	66%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	5	15	67%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	3	2	5	60%
Not Reported	52	27	79	66%
Total	**1,968**	**903**	**2,871**	**69%**

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. The paroling rates for release hearings held at both the DOC and the HOC increased in 2022 compared to 2021.

Table 3. 2022 Release Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	1,282	472	1,754	73%
Department of Correction	490	314	804	61%
Total	**1,772**	**786**	**2,558**	**69%**

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

Table 4. 2022 Release Hearings by House of Correction Facility.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate[1]
Barnstable County House of Correction	38	19	57	67%
Berkshire County House of Correction	39	24	63	62%
Bristol County House of Correction	184	60	244	75%
Dukes County House of Correction	2	3	5	40%
Essex County Correctional Alternative Center	85	7	92	92%
Essex County House of Correction	144	52	196	73%
Essex County Women in Transition Center	24	1	25	96%
Franklin County House of Correction	41	22	63	65%
Hampden County House of Correction	64	44	108	59%
Hampshire County House of Correction	28	12	40	70%
Middlesex County House of Correction	134	43	177	76%
Norfolk County House of Correction	73	22	95	77%
Plymouth County House of Correction	55	34	89	62%
Suffolk County House of Correction	173	47	220	79%
Western MA Recovery and Wellness Center	43	13	56	77%
Western MA Women's Correctional Center	30	8	38	79%
Worcester County House of Correction	125	61	186	67%
Total	**1,282**	**472**	**1,754**	**73%**

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

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

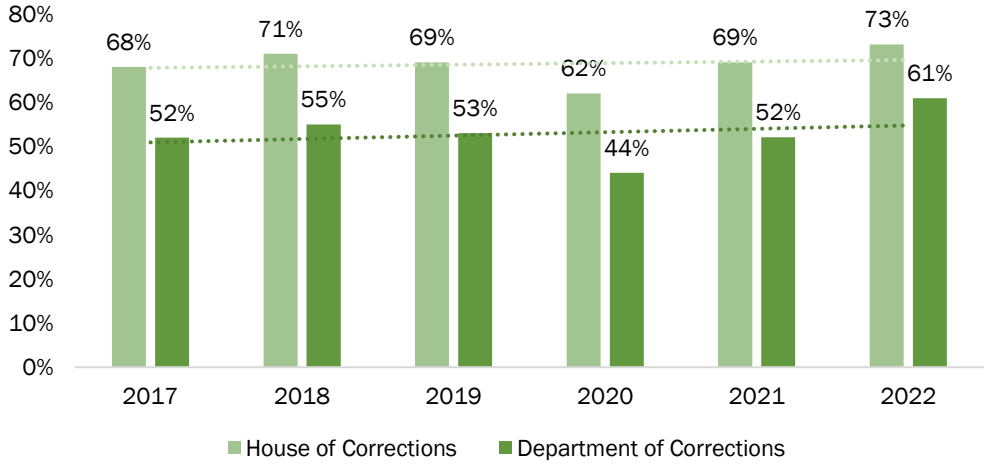
Table 5. 2022 Release Hearings by Department of Correction Facility.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate[2]
Boston Pre-Release Center	15	0	15	100%
Central Office - Natick[3]	19	53	72	26%
MA Treatment Center	12	72	84	14%
MCI - Cedar Junction	7	6	13	54%
MCI - Concord	36	15	51	71%
MCI - Framingham[4]	22	4	26	85%
MCI - Norfolk	69	43	112	62%
MCI - Shirley (Medium and Minimum)	133	25	158	84%
NCCI - Gardner (Medium and Minimum)	25	11	36	69%
Northeastern Correctional Center	55	4	59	93%
Old Colony Correctional Center (Medium)	18	14	32	56%
Old Colony Correctional Center (Minimum)	17	1	18	94%
Walpole Out of State Cases	0	1	1	n/a
Pondville Correctional Facility	28	2	30	93%
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	34	63	97	35%
Total	**490**	**314**	**804**	**61%**

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

[2] Paroling rates are not provided where the sum of positive and denied votes is less than 5.
[3] These are VAH hearings held at the Parole Board's central administrative office for individuals housed in the DOC facilities.
[4] 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. 2022 Rescission Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	27	25	52	52%
Department of Correction	30	10	40	75%
Total	**57**	**35**	**92**	**62%**

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. 2022 Revocation Hearings.

Hearing Location	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
House of Correction	50	51	101	50%
Department of Correction	89	31	120	74%
Total	**139**	**82**	**221**	**63%**

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 2022. The total eligible for hearing went up by 10 percent in 2022 (from 5,201 in 2021 to 5,738 in 2022).

Table 8. 2022 All Eligible Institutional Hearings.

Hearings	House of Correction	Department of Correction	Total	Percentage
Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Vote	1,907	964	2,871	50%
Waivers, Postponements, and Other Dispositions	2,298	569	2,867	50%
All Eligible Hearings	**4,205**	**1,533**	**5,738**	**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 to obtain the inmate's postponement.

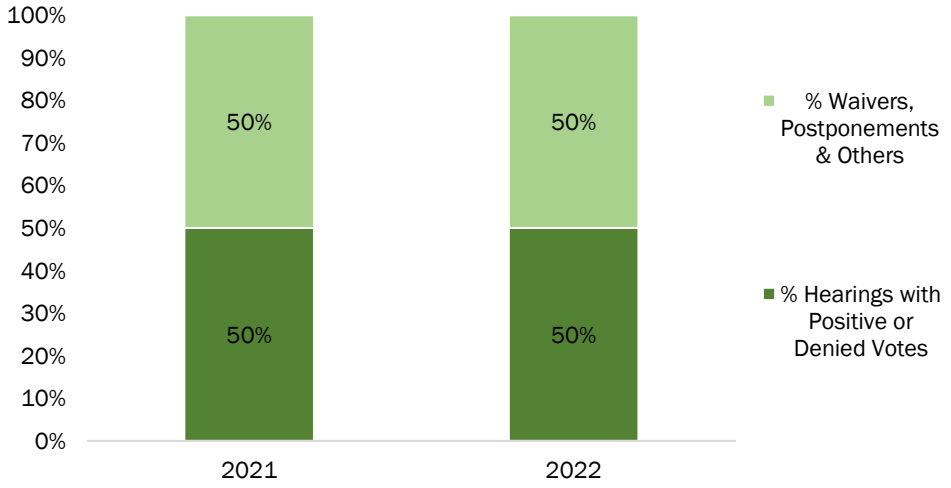
In addition to waivers and postponements, hearings may result in an action pending vote or other types of votes. These miscellaneous votes serve as an administrative disposition. For example, if a Board Member needs additional information to make an informed decision, he or she may vote "action pending" 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 (i.e. waivers, postponements and other dispositions). 1,103 out of 5,738 hearing eligible population (i.e. 19% of the total hearing eligible population) waived their hearing in 2022. Table B1 in Appendix B provides race/ethnic breakdown for those who waived their hearing.

Table 9. 2022 All Institutional Hearings Without a Reserve or Denied Disposition.

Hearing Location	House of Correction	Department of Correction	Total
Postponed at Own Request	1,339	215	1,554
Postponed at Board Request	101	42	143
Waived Prior to Hearing	812	272	1,084
Waived at Hearing	19	0	19
Action Pending	15	9	24
Other	12	31	43
All Waivers, Postponements, and Other Dispositions	**2,298**	**569**	**2,867**

Figure 5 below, compares the proportion of hearings out of all eligible hearings that received a positive or denied vote between 2021 and 2022.

Figure 5. Eligible Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Votes vs. Waived, Postponed, etc.



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 2022 is included in Appendix A. In 2022, the Parole Board processed 2,100 office votes (see Table 10).

Table 10. 2022 Office Votes.[5]

Office Vote Type[6]	Approved	Denied	Set Conditions	Other Dispositions	Total
Change of Vote Request	619	77	n/a	2	698
Request for Provisional Revocation	486	0	n/a	85	571
Reconsideration Request	66	81	n/a	0	147
Appeal Request	11	54	n/a	0	65
Mandatory Release Conditions Request	n/a	n/a	184	n/a	184
Request for Provisional Rescission	122	24	n/a	0	146
Request for Out of State/Country Travel	180	0	n/a	0	180
Other[7]	62	21	18	8	109
Total	**1,546**	**257**	**202**	**95**	**2,100**

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 under supervision. 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 (45%), followed by medium risk (33%), and very high (at 13%). Only around 10% of assessments scored at low to very low risk. Table 12 further provides LS/CMI breakdown for major 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.

[5] Includes all office votes except office votes pertaining to executive clemency, which are processed by the Advisory Board of Pardons and included in the Office of General Counsel section.
[6] n/a refers to not applicable.
[7] Includes all other office vote types that were used less than 50 times in 2022, 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 11. 2022 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments by Risk Level.

Risk Level	Count	Percentage
Very Low	23	1%
Low	254	9%
Medium	955	33%
High	1,300	45%
Very High	375	13%
Total	**2,907**	**100%**

Figure 6. 2022 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments Risk Level Distribution

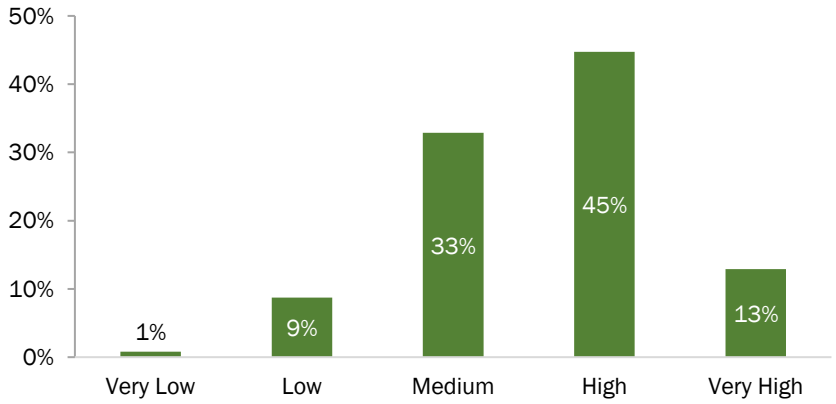


Table 12. 2022 LS/CMI Institutional Assessments by Risk Level and Race/Ethnicity.

Risk Level	Caucasian/ White		Hispanic/Latino		African American/Black		All[8]	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Low	11	1%	8	1%	4	1%	23	1%
Low	96	7%	85	11%	58	9%	254	9%
Medium	437	31%	251	32%	224	36%	955	33%
High	656	47%	321	42%	282	45%	1,300	45%
Very High	208	15%	108	14%	53	9%	375	13%
Total	**1,408**	**100%**	**773**	**100%**	**621**	**100%**	**2,907**	**100%**

[8] Includes other race/ethnic categories such as Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Native Alaskan and not reported.

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. Table 13 provides paroling rates for life sentence hearings held in 2022 with either a positive or denied vote, broken out by initial and review hearings.[9]

Table 13. 2022 Life Sentence Hearings.

Hearing Type	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
Initial	11	23	34	32%
Review	72	31	103	70%
Total	**83**	**54**	**137**	**61%**

Figure 7 presents trend in paroling rates for life sentence hearings over the past seven years.

[9] There were two additional hearings held with a disposition of 'Action Pending'.

Figure 7. Trend in Life Sentence Hearings Paroling Rates.

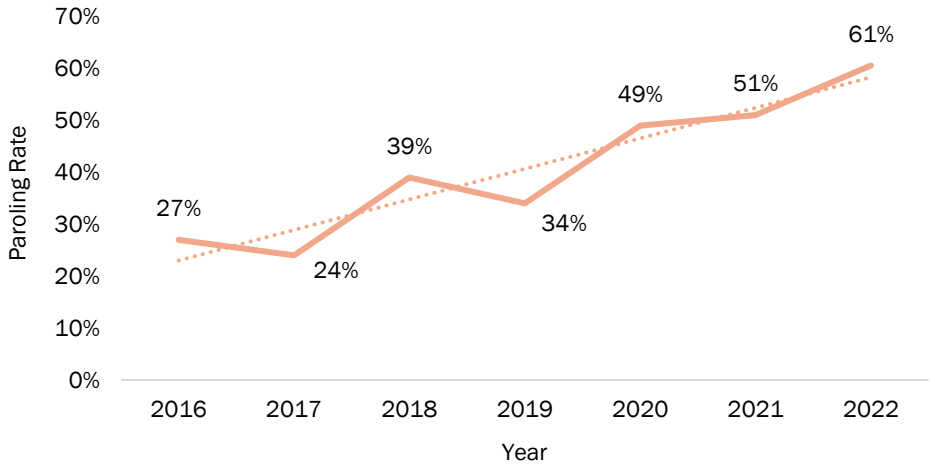


Table 14 displays the racial/ethnic breakdown of the 137 life sentence hearings.

Table 14. 2022 Life Sentence Hearings by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
Caucasian/White	32	23	55	58%
Hispanic/Latino	14	12	26	54%
African American/Black	34	17	51	67%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	2	4	50%
Not Reported	1	0	1	100%
Total	**83**	**54**	**137**	**61%**

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.

The above 137 life sentence hearings held in 2022 comprised of 12 1st degree murder juvenile offenders with paroling rates provided in Table 15.

Table 15. 2022 Life Sentence Hearings: 1st Degree Murder Juvenile Offenders.

Hearing Type	Positive Votes	Denied Votes	Positive + Denied Votes	Paroling Rate
Initial	2	2	4	50%
Review	8	0	8	100%
Total	**10**	**2**	**12**	**83%**

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 2022, the VSU sent 17,635 notifications of parole events to registered victims, surviving family members of homicide victims, and citizen-initiated petitioners. The VSU also worked on 16 medical parole petitions and provided notifications to 35 CORI petitioners (included in the total number of notifications sent above).

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 267 new CORI Registrations in 2022.

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 held in 2022 in which the VSU assisted victims or families of victims who attended the hearing, along with the total number of attendees at these hearings.

Table 16. 2022 VSU Services Provided by Hearing Type.

Hearing Type	No. of Hearings with Attendees	% of Hearings with Attendees	Number of Attendees	% of Attendees
VAH (Type A)	37	15%	106	19%
VAH (Type B)	41	16%	61	11%
VAH (County)	36	14%	38	7%
Life Sentence	137	55%	361	64%
Total	**251**	**100%**	**566**	**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 2022, the Parole Board's hearing examiners conducted 299 preliminary revocation hearings, which is very close to the 298 preliminary revocation hearings that were held in 2021.

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.[10] 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.

[10] 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 17 captures ABP's votes in 2022 in response to pardon and commutation requests. A total of 184 pardon petitions were processed, which included 35 administrative closes by the Office of General Counsel and 3 petitions that were withdrawn. As summarized in Table 17, the remaining 146 pardon petitions were voted by the ABP to determine whether a hearing should be granted. Similarly, 21 commutation petitions were processed, which included 2 administrative closes by the Office of General Counsel and 1 petition that was withdrawn. As summarized in the table below, 18 petitions were voted by the ABP to determine whether a hearing should be granted.

Table 17. Executive Clemency Votes in 2022.	
Pardon Request	**146**
Request Approved, Grant Hearing	27
Request Denied	119
Commutation Request	**18**
Request Approved, Grant Hearing	3
Request Denied	15
Total	**164**

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 18 captures pardon and commutation hearings held in 2022. The ABP held 22 pardon hearings, resulting in 20 favorable recommendations. Likewise, it held one commutation hearing with a favorable decision. In 2022, Governor Baker granted three commutations and fifteen pardons following a favorable recommendation from the ABP.

Table 18. Executive Clemency Hearings Held in 2022.	
Pardon Hearing	22
Favorable Recommendation	20
Unfavorable Recommendation	2
Commutation Hearing	1
Favorable Recommendation	1
Unfavorable Recommendation	0
Total	**23**

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, programming, treatment, etc. 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 19 breaks out the number and proportion of releases in 2022 by release type. In 2022, discretionary releases made up 89.6% of all releases to parole, followed by mandatory releases (at 9.5%), which is consistent with the proportion of discretionary and mandatory releases in 2021 (at 89% and 10% respectively).

Table 19. 2022 Releases to Supervision by Release Type.

Release Type	Released	Percentage
Discretionary	1,680	89.6%
Mandatory	179	9.5%
Medical	17	0.9%
Total	**1,876**	**100%**

Table 20 disaggregates releases to parole supervision in 2022 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 20. 2022 Releases to Supervision by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Released	Percentage
House of Correction	981	52%
Department of Correction	822	44%
Out of State	73	4%
Total	**1,876**	**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 21 below summarizes releases to supervision in 2022.

Table 21. 2022 Releases to Supervision.

Commitment Type	Released	Re-Released	Total Released	% Total Released
MA Commitments Released to MA Supervision	1,555	129	1,684	90%
Out of State Commitments Released to MA Supervision	66	7	73	4%
MA Commitments Released to Out of State Compact Supervision	35	1	36	2%
MA Commitments Released to ICE Custody	47	1	48	3%
MA Commitments Released to a Federal or another State's Warrant	29	1	30	2%
MA Commitments Released to MA State Correctional Facility	1	0	1	<1%
MA Commitments Released to MA Houses of Correction Facility	4	0	4	<1%
Total	**1,737**	**139**	**1,876**	**100%**

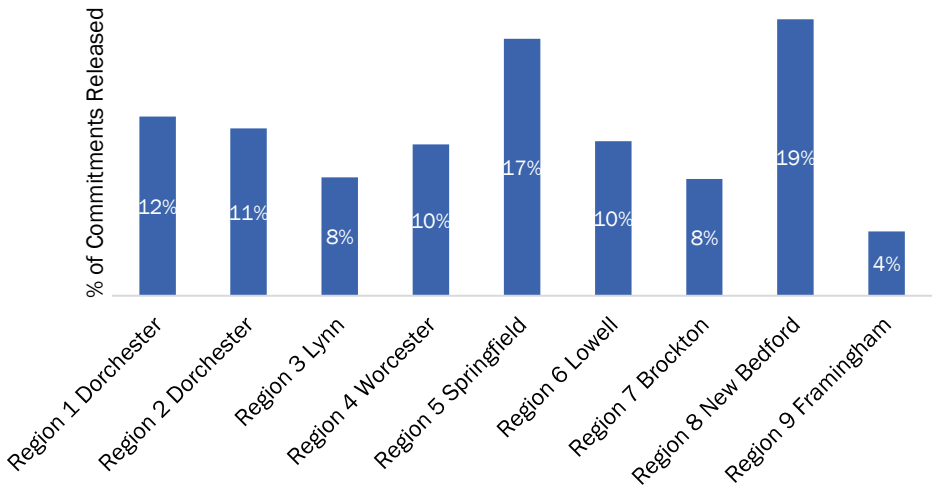
Table 22 provides breakdown of the regional parole offices assigned to commitments that were released to supervision in Massachusetts. The regional office a parolee is assigned to is based on geographical proximity to the parolee's approved home plan.

Table 22. 2022 Releases to MA Supervision by Regional Office.

Location	Released	Percentage
Region 1 Dorchester	212	12%
Region 2 Dorchester	198	11%
Region 3 Lynn	140	8%
Region 4 Worcester	179	10%
Region 5 Springfield	304	17%
Region 6 Lowell	183	10%
Region 7 Brockton	138	8%
Region 8 New Bedford	327	19%
Region 9 Framingham	76	4%
Total	**1,757**	**100%**

Region 8 had the highest number of parolees released to MA supervision (at 19%) in 2022 while Region 9 had the lowest (at 4%).

Figure 8. 2022 Commitments Released to MA Supervision by Regional Office



Tables 23 and 24 provide the demographic breakdown for all parole releases in 2022.

Table 23. 2022 Releases to Supervision by Gender.

Gender	Released	Percentage
Male	1,727	92%
Female	149	8%
Total	**1,876**	**100%**

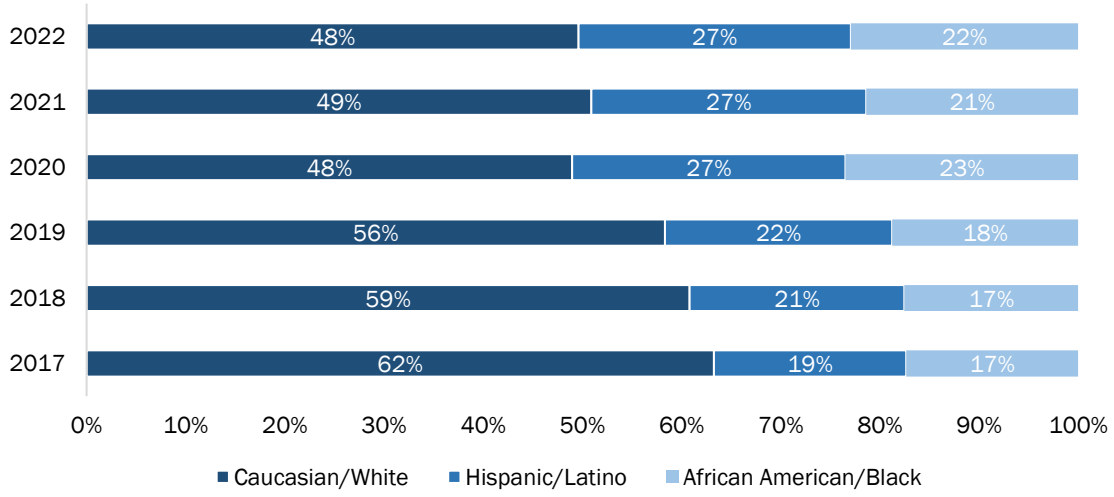
The table below displays the racial/ethnic breakdown of parole releases to supervision, separately for HOC and DOC releases. Tables B2 and B3 in Appendix B provide the racial/ethnic breakdown of the HOC and DOC hearing eligible population, and those who had their hearings with a positive or denied vote in 2022, respectively. Table B1 further provides racial/ethnic breakdown of those who waive their parole hearings.

Table 24. 2022 Releases to Supervision by Race/Ethnicity.[11]

Location	HOC		DOC		Out of State		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian/White	552	56%	313	38%	39	53%	904	48%
Hispanic/Latino	240	24%	245	30%	15	21%	500	27%
African American/Black	157	16%	244	30%	17	23%	418	22%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	<1%	11	1%	2	3%	17	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	3	<1%	3	<1%	0	n/a.	6	<1%
Not Reported	25	3%	6	1%	0	n/a.	31	2%
Total	**981**	**100%**	**822**	**100%**	**73**	**100%**	**1,876**	**100%**

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

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



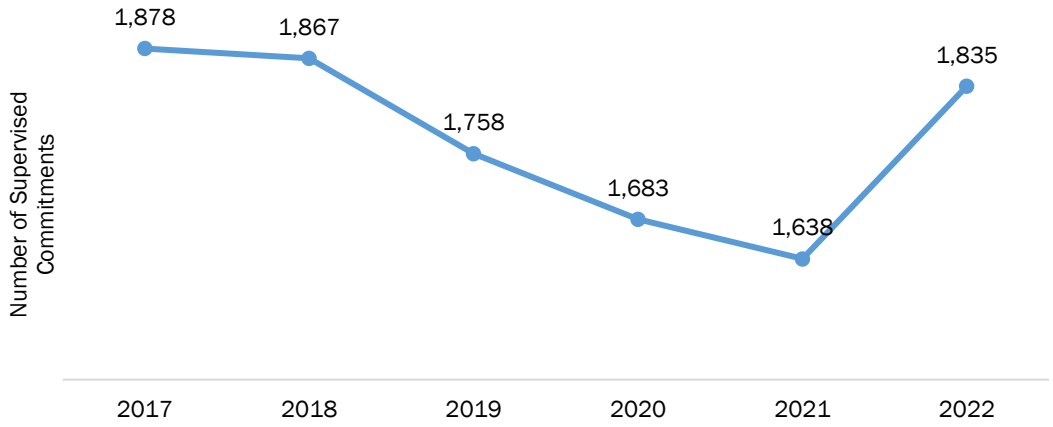
[11] Race/ethnicity data is based on information provided by each facility. Offenders reported as having a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity are categorized as such for their race/ethnicity.

Active Supervision Caseload on 12/31/2022

At the end of 2022, there were **1,835 commitments** under the supervision of the Parole Board. Of these cases:

- **1,497** were being supervised in either one of parole's nine regional offices or under the Warrant and Apprehension Unit of the FSD,
- **229** were Interstate Compact cases, and
- **106** 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 2022, there were 544 parolees actively on GPS supervision. Throughout the year, there were 1,263 GPS activations as a condition of parole supervision (see Table 25).

Table 25. 2022 Global Positioning System Activations by Regional Office.

Regional Office	Count
Region 1 Dorchester	128
Region 2 Dorchester	144
Region 3 Lynn	69
Region 4 Worcester	145
Region 5 Springfield	261
Region 6 Lowell	68
Region 7 Brockton	132
Region 8 New Bedford	281
Region 9 Framingham	35
Total	1,263

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 2022, 122,963 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 26. 2022 Drug and Alcohol Tests by Regional Office.

Regional Office	Count
Region 1 Dorchester	12,285
Region 2 Dorchester	14,711
Region 3 Lynn	6,528
Region 4 Worcester	14,291
Region 5 Springfield	26,933
Region 6 Lowell	13,791
Region 7 Brockton	11,578
Region 8 New Bedford	20,345
Region 9 Framingham	2,501
Total	122,963

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 15 compliance credits each month, equivalent to reduction in Parole Discharge Date by 15 days, 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 27 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. 69% of compliance credit eligible parolees released to supervision in 2022 earned compliance credits, which is comparable to the 70% of eligible parolees released in 2021 who earned compliance credits[12].

Table 27. Compliance Credits Earned by Year of Release.

Release Year	Eligible for Credits	Earned Credits	% Earned Credits	Avg. Credits Earned
2021	367	257	70%	32
2022	420	288	69%	33

[12] Number of earned credits for releases in 2021 and 2022 are measured as of March of 2022 and March of 2023 respectively, for appropriate comparison across years.

Table 28 presents the number of parolees who were discharged early due to earned compliance credits, broken out by year of discharge from parole supervision. In 2021, out of all successful discharges from supervision that were eligible for CCs, 92% were discharged early due to compliance credits; the proportion discharged early due to earned CCs was 88% in 2022.

Table 28. 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
2021[13]	263	241	92%	55
2022	248	219	88%	66

Parole 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 Addiction Services (BSAS). In 2022, there were eight full-time Reentry Navigators from licensed DPH service vendors, placed and working at each of Parole's regional field offices; region 3 and Region 6 share the same Navigator.

Some of the basic duties of the Navigators include parolee intake, triage, and referral functions. They conduct evaluations for potential substance use and mental/behavioral health disorders, provide treatment referrals and outreach to service providers, community-based organizations and resources such as support groups, legal services, and clinical mental health services. They are also responsible for 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 Re-entry Centers

Parole Regional Re-entry 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 RRC is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Onsite supervision of the Navigators is provided jointly by the parole supervisor and the sub-contractor's Clinical Director.

The Navigator is responsible for meeting and interviewing each parolee when they are released on parole, and for completing an "Intake". On conducting substance abuse evaluations, for those parolees with substance abuse history who need help, the Navigators complete an "enrollment" in the BSAS. Finally, after 90 days of enrollment or on being discharged from supervision, whichever date is sooner, the enrolled parolee is disenrolled. During disenrollment, BSAS makes referrals to different services.

In 2022, there were 1,230 parolees who were enrolled in the BSAS. The table below further breaks down these enrollments by regional centers. Among those disenrolled from the BSAS in 2022, they were referred to a variety of services, primarily Outpatient SA Counseling, and mental health services.

[13] 2021 numbers are based on data retrieved as of March of 2022.

Table 29. 2022 Enrollments in the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) by Regional Center.

Location	Count	Percentage
Region 1 Dorchester	168	14%
Region 2 Dorchester	162	13%
Region 4 Worcester	187	15%
Region 5 Springfield	237	19%
Region 3 Lynn and Region 6 Lowell[14]	196	16%
Region 7 Brockton[15]	63	5%
Region 8 New Bedford	175	14%
Region 9 Framingham	42	3%
Total	1,230	100%

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 Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS), the DOC, Middlesex County Sheriff's Office (MSO), and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), along with Open Sky Community Services,[16] and Advocates[17] 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 mission of BH-JI is to help justice-involved individuals with their mental health and substance use needs by connecting them to the right health care and community services programs. The project was piloted in Middlesex and Worcester counties in 2019 with Advocates, Inc and Open Sky Community Services, and was expanded statewide on February 1, 2022. Between February 2022 and December 2022, there were 1,638 referrals to the program across all agencies, and 1,207 participants had enrolled in the program. Out of these, there were 98 and 51 referrals and enrollees respectively from the Parole Board, indicating an increase in both referrals and enrollments from CY 2021. It should be noted that while a 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 on parole.

Transitional and Sober Housing Programs

In 2019, the Parole Board collaborated with the MPS, Community Resources for Justice (CRJ), the Sheriffs' Departments, and the DOC to place parolees at three transitional housing locations: Brooke House in

[14] Region 3 and Region 6 share the same navigator.
[15] The enrollment number is underreported since it is based on enrollments between August and December of 2022 as the region was without a Reentry Navigator prior to August. Nevertheless, all clients released prior to August were still getting referral services directly through Parole Field staff.
[16] Open Sky Community Services is a behavioral health service provider, headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts.
[17] Advocates is a behavioral health service provider located in multiple counties within Massachusetts.

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 2022, a total of 208 parolees utilized the program across all five locations, as summarized in Table 30.

Table 30. 2022 New Placements in Transitional and Sober Housing Programs.

Housing Programs	Parolees Released to or Transferred to
Transitional Housing	**208**
CRJ Western Mass. Reentry Center	49
CRJ Brooke House	73
CRJ There Is A Solution (TIAS)	39
Rocky Hill Reentry	34
CRJ McGrath House	13
MASH Sober Housing	**444**
Total	**653**

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. In 2022, a total of 444 parolees benefitted from this initiative, a 62% increase from the 274 parolees who benefitted from the program in 2021.

The availability of both transitional housing and MASH sober housing grants in 2022 enabled the Agency to provide additional home plan options to parolees, thus helping ensure their timely release. Data supports that approximately 35% of releases in 2022 were attributable to provision of transitional housing and MASH sober housing programs (653 out of 1,876 releases utilized housing beds through transitional and MASH sober housing grants).

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 2022, most field assessments conducted scored medium risk (54%), followed by low to very low risk (39%), and less than 8% scored high to very high risk (see Table 31). 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 31, 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.

Table 31. 2022 LS/CMI Field Assessments.

Risk Level	Count	Percentage
Very Low	43	6%
Low	247	33%
Medium	403	54%
High	53	7%
Very High	3	<1%
Total	**749**	**100%**

Table 32. 2022 LS/CMI Field Assessments by Risk Level and Race and Ethnicity.

Race/ Ethnicity	Caucasian/ White		Hispanic/Latino		African American/Black		Others*		All*	
Risk Level	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Very Low	32	10%	3	2%	5	2%	3	10%	43	6%
Low	101	31%	60	37%	71	32%	15	48%	247	33%
Medium	172	52%	89	54%	130	58%	12	39%	403	54%
High	25	8%	12	7%	15	7%	1	3%	53	7%
Very High	1	0%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%	3	<1%
Total	**331**	**100%**	**164**	**100%**	**223**	**100%**	**31**	**100%**	**749**	**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 2022, 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.

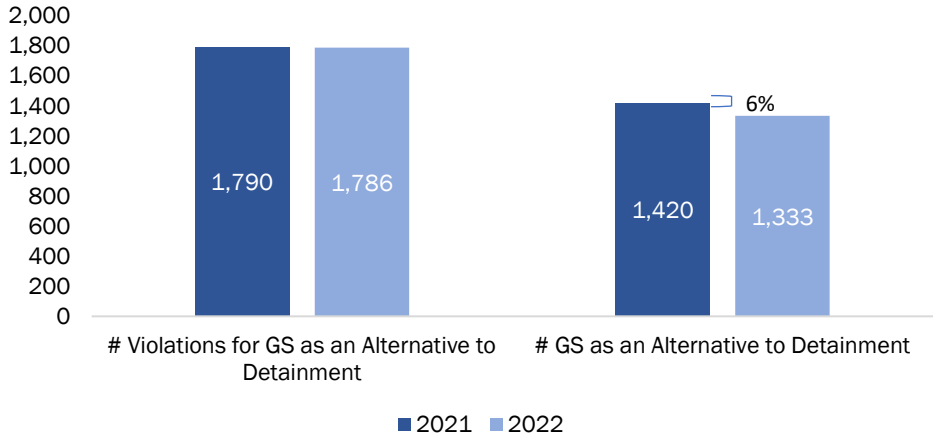
The guidelines for imposing graduated sanctions match the severity of the violation with the parolee's risk level to determine the appropriate treatment, intervention, and/or sanction. For example, if a low to medium

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 2022, there were 1,333 graduated sanctions issued and completed as an alternative to detainment, in response to 1,786 reported violations. A single graduated sanction can be issued for multiple violations. Graduated sanctions are primarily used as an alternative to returning the parolee to custody for a possible revocation of parole. Figure 11 shows that the number of reported violations between years 2021 and 2022 did not change much but there was a 6% decline in the use of graduated sanctions as an alternative to possible revocation of parole. It should be noted that there was also a 15% decline in revocation between 2021 and 2022 (see Figure 15).

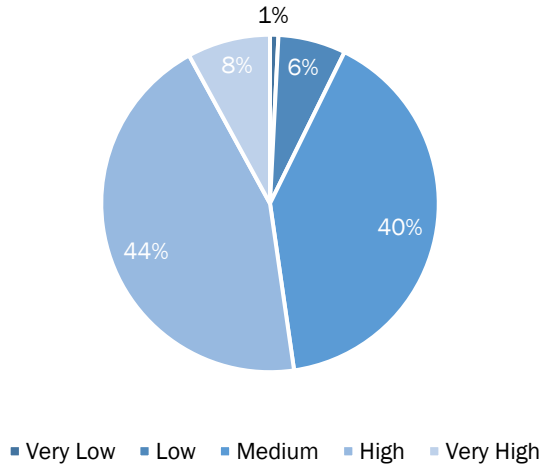
Figure 11. Use of Graduated Sanctions (GS) as an Alternative to Revocations in Year 2021 vs. 2022.



The risk distribution of parolees receiving these sanctions in 2022 can be seen in the chart below. A graduated sanctions grid accounts for the parolee's risk level (i.e., risk to re-offend) as determined by the risk/needs assessment (LS/CMI), and the severity of the violation to make a decision as to the appropriate

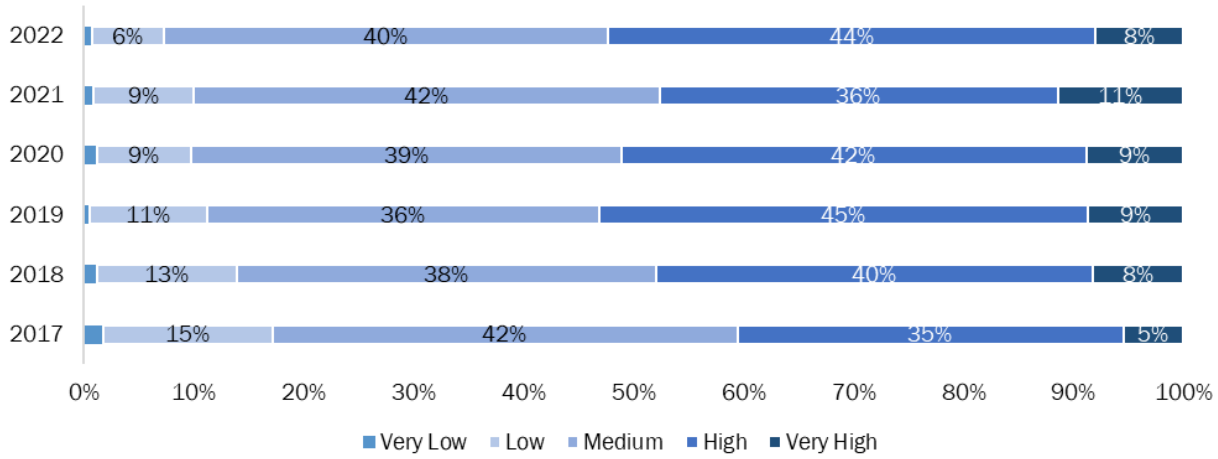
action in response to a violation. A majority of the graduated sanctions issued in 2022 were for parolees with a high risk level (at 44%), closely followed by those with medium risk level (at 40%).

Figure 12. 2022 Graduated Sanctions by Risk Level



As presented in the chart below, the proportion of graduated sanctions imposed on higher risk parolees (medium to very high) has increased over the past six years (from 83% in 2017 to 93% in 2022), while the proportion of sanctions imposed on lower risk parolees (low to very low) has steadily decreased (from 17% in 2017 to 7% in 2022).

Figure 13. Trend in Graduated Sanctions by Risk Level.



Revocations

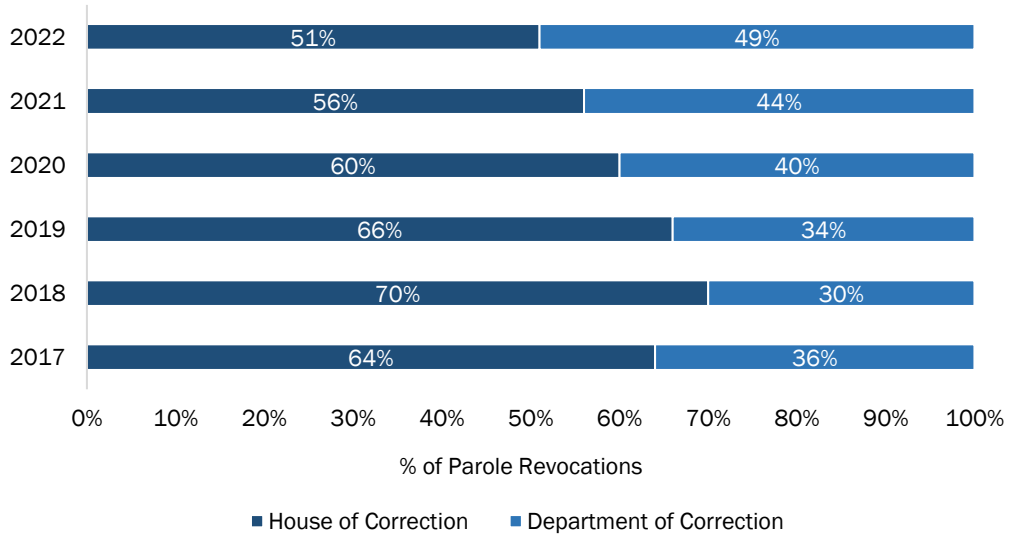
A revocation occurs when a parolee who violates one or more conditions of their parole is re-committed to the terms of their original sentence, following a final revocation hearing. It should be noted that upon revocation of a discretionary parole, parolees do not necessarily serve the remainder of their commitment in a correctional facility. The Parole Board reassesses their suitability for re-parole. Table 33 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 2022, 51% of the revocations were HOC commitments and 49% were DOC commitments.

Table 33. 2022 Revocations by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Technical Violations	Technical Percentage	All Violations	All Percentage
House of Correction	131	52%	163	51%
Department of Correction	123	48%	157	49%
Reformatory	0	0%	1	<1%
Total	**254**	**100%**	**321**	**100%**

Figure 14 below, captures the trend in parole revocations by commitment type for the past six years.

Figure 14. Trend in Parole Revocations by Commitment Type.



The tables below provide demographic breakdown for all parole revocations in 2022. For comparison purposes, Appendix C includes race/ethnicity breakdown for all parolees who were actively on supervision in the regional field offices in year 2022, which would be the base population that would be subject to revocation.

Table 34. 2022 Revocations by Gender.

Gender	Technical Violations	Technical Percentage	All Violations	All Percentage
Male	242	95%	304	95%
Female	12	5%	17	5%
Total	**254**	**100%**	**321**	**100%**

Table 35. 2022 Revocations by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Technical Violations	Technical Percentage	All Violations	All Percentage
Caucasian/White	137	54%	163	51%
Hispanic/Latino	53	21%	78	24%
African American/Black	59	23%	70	22%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	<1%	1	<1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	2	1%	4	1%
Not Reported	2	1%	5	2%
Total	**254**	**100%**	**321**	**100%**

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 36 below breaks down revocations in 2022 by parole violation type.

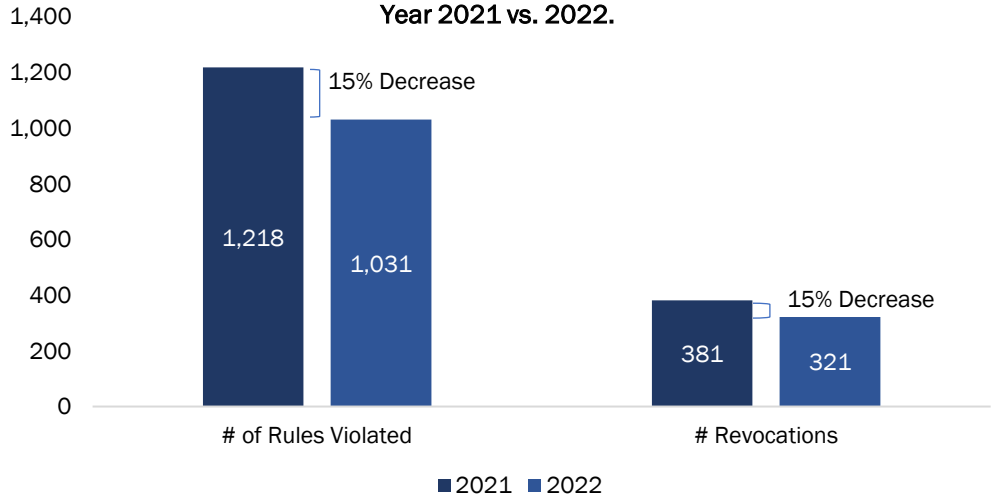
Table 36. 2022 Revocations by Parole Violation Type.

Violation Type	Count	Percentage
Non-Arrest or Technical[18]	254	79%
Both New-Arrest and Non-Arrest	51	16%
New Arrest	16	5%
Total	**321**	**100%**

[18] Of those parolees revoked for a technical violation (254), a total of 136, or 54% had received at least one prior graduated sanction before their revocation. The majority of the remaining 118 parole violators who had not received a prior graduated sanction, incurred violations that included termination from a residential treatment program, transitional housing, or sober housing (72 cases), or had absconded from supervision (46 cases); among these 25 had both violations. Per Table 7 above, 63% of parolees who availed themselves of a final revocation hearing received a positive vote for re-parole.

A revocation typically results from violation of multiple parole rules as recorded in the Parole Violation Report (PVR). In 2022, there were a total of 321 revocations based on 1,031 reported number of PVR rules that were violated. This translates to violation of average of over three rules for each parole revocation. Figure 15 shows there was a 15% decline in the reported number of PVR rules that were violated between years 2021 and 2022, leading to a subsequent 15% decline in the number of revocations across the two years. This decline was in spite of the number of active parolees under supervision being 8% higher in 2022 than in 2021 (2,957 in 2022 compared to 2,734 in 2021).

Figure 15. Number of PVR Rules Violated and Revocations in Year 2021 vs. 2022.



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 37 below, displays the discharges from supervision by commitment type.

Table 37. 2022 Discharges from Supervision by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Count	Percentage
House of Correction	701	52%
Department of Correction	565	42%
Out of State	89	7%
Total	**1,355**	**100%**

Tables 38 and 39 provide a demographic breakdown for all parole discharges from supervision in 2022.

Table 38. 2022 Discharges from Supervision by Gender.

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	1,234	91%
Female	121	9%
Total	**1,355**	**100%**

Table 39. 2022 Discharges from Supervision by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
Caucasian/White	666	49%
Hispanic/Latino	384	28%
African American/Black	270	20%
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	4	<1%
Not Reported	17	1%
Total	**1,355**	**100%**

Table 40 below represents discharges from supervision by type of discharge.

Table 40. 2022 Discharges from Supervision by Discharge Type.

Discharge Type	Count	Percentage
MA Commitments Closed from MA Supervision	1,033	76%
MA Commitments Closed from MA House of Correction Facility	88	6%
Out of State Commitments Closed from MA Supervision	89	7%
MA Commitments Closed from Out of State Compact Supervision	54	4%
MA Commitments Closed from ICE Custody	14	1%
MA Commitments Closed from Deported Custody	28	2%
MA Commitments Closed from MA Department of Correction	40	3%
MA Commitments Closed from Federal or Out of State Warrant	9	1%
Total	**1,355**	**100%**

Among all commitments closed from Massachusetts parole supervision, a majority are successful discharges. Successful discharge rate is calculated by dividing the number of Massachusetts commitments successfully discharged or closed from Massachusetts parole supervision in 2022[19] by the sum of successful discharges and revocations in 2022; this can be used as a general indicator of parolees' performance upon

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

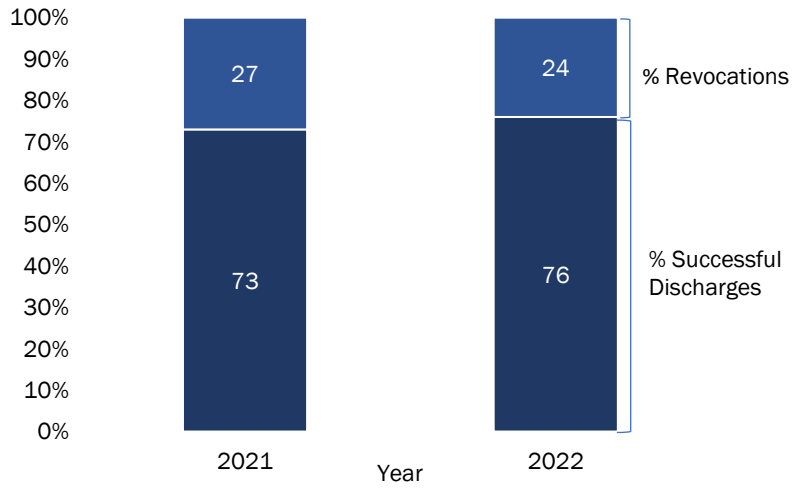
release to parole supervision. Table 41 captures successful discharges by commitment type. It should however be noted that parolees whose parole is revoked may be re-paroled, therefore revocations will only capture a setback or failure for a short period of time. In fact, among the 321 parolees revoked in 2022, 143 (i.e. 45% of those revoked) were re-paroled, and 52 of them (i.e. 36% of those re-paroled) were successfully discharged from supervision by April 20, 2023.

Table 41. 2022 Successful Discharges by Commitment Type.

Commitment Type	Successful Discharges	Revocations	Successful Discharges + Revocations	% Successful Discharges
House of Correction	578	163	741	78%
Department of Correction	428	158	586	73%
Total	**1,006**	**321**	**1,327**	**76%**

Figure 16 compares the successful discharge rate in 2021 to that in 2022, which has increased from 73% in 2021 to 76% in 2022.

Figure 16. 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 2022, there were 229 commitments under supervision through the ICU. Parolee status through the ICU encompasses a variety of circumstances including supervision by another state's paroling authority (133), ICE custody (19), and deportation (77).

Throughout 2022, there were 84 commitments from Massachusetts released to the Interstate Compact to be supervised by other states or transferred to other types of custody. Of these cases:

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

In addition, during 2022, there were 73 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.
- 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 2021, the majority of warrants issued in 2022 were warrants for 15-day detainer purposes (49%). The second most common were warrants for permanent custody (46%), followed by the warrant for detainer purposes (60-Days) for ICU (5%).

Table 42. 2022 Warrants Issued by Type.

Commitment Type	Count	Percentage
Warrant for Detainer Purposes (15-Days)	528	49%
Warrant for Permanent Custody	489	46%
Warrant for Detainer Purposes (60-Days) - Interstate Compact Warrant	54	5%
Warrant for Permanent Custody - Interstate Compact Warrant	0	0%
Total	1,071	100%

Arrests and Transportations to Custody

Parole officers have the authority to make arrests and transport offenders to custody. In 2022, WAU parole officers participated in the arrests of 358 offenders. Those arrests included 152 parole violators (73 of them were whereabouts unknown at the time of arrest) and 206 non-parolees through their inter-agency task forces and partnerships. The unit was also responsible for 178 prisoner transports. All the numbers went down in 2022 compared to 2021.

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 2022, the WAU supervised the extradition of 22 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 28 parolees were released to out of state warrants in 2022.

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 2022 was approximately 17 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 2022 was 74, down by 9 from 2021, an 11% decrease.

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 on weekdays, as well as 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 officer on duty 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 processed approximately 187 after-hour calls in 2022.

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.

The Parole Training Academy Program is officially located in Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) Southbridge since the opening of the first official training space in 2022 in collaboration with the MPTC. In 2022, the training unit expanded its voluntary instructor cadre with 14 more officers attending and completing the MPTC instructor development course. The Unit strives to maintain a level of training that is in line with MPTC.

In 2022, nine new Field Parole Officers (FPOs) were onboarded. Student officer's training hours increased in 2022. Given the new trends in case management for justice involved individuals, use of medically assisted treatment, and changes to law enforcement components of Field Parole supervision, the training hours expanded to over 500 hours with an additional 5-week long orientation at the regional field offices, upon graduation. The Southbridge training space was also utilized for in-service training, localized and state-wide meetings, unit-wide training by the TSU, and Agency-wide LS/CMI training.

All FPOs 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. All FPOs completed over 40 hours of in-service training in 2022, including UMASS/BH-JI MOUD Training, CPR / AED First Responder recertifications, MPTC Firearms recertifications and training, MPTC in-service courses, Mass Achieve (HRD) courses, LS/CMI risk assessment Booster Training, and Suicide prevention training. Some officers attended specialized training offered by MTPC including officer wellness, and female officers overcoming size differences. The training cycle was changed from calendar year to fiscal year to be compatible with MPTC and ACA accreditation time frames.

APPENDIX A

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/Country 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.

APPENDIX B

Parole Hearings by Race/Ethnicity

Table B1. 2022 & 2021 Waivers of Parole Hearing by Race/Ethnicity				
	2021		2022	
	N	%	N	%
Caucasian/White	531	52%	565	51%
Hispanic/Latino	248	24%	268	24%
African American/Black	187	18%	206	19%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	1%	8	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1	<1%	0	n.a.
Not Reported	40	4%	56	5%
Total	**1014**	**100%**	**1103**	**100%**

Table B2. 2022 All Eligible for Institutional Hearings by Race/Ethnicity						
Race/Ethnicity	HOC Hearings	%	DOC Hearings	%	All Eligible Hearings	%
Caucasian/White	2,191	52%	650	42%	2,841	50%
Hispanic/Latino	989	24%	438	29%	1,427	25%
African American/Black	778	19%	408	27%	1,186	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	21	<1%	11	1%	32	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	5	<1%	2	<1%	7	<1%
Not Reported	221	5%	24	2%	245	4%
Total	**4,205**	**100%**	**1,533**	**100%**	**5,738**	**100%**

Table B3. 2022 Hearings Held with Positive or Denied Vote by Race/Ethnicity						
Race/Ethnicity	HOC Hearings	%	DOC Hearings	%	All Positive + Denied	%
Caucasian/White	1,050	55%	381	40%	1,431	50%
Hispanic/Latino	463	24%	301	31%	764	27%
African American/Black	313	16%	264	27%	577	20%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	<1%	7	1%	15	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	4	<1%	1	<1%	5	<1%
Not Reported	69	4%	10	1%	79	3%
Total	**1,907**	**100%**	**964**	**100%**	**2,871**	**100%**

APPENDIX C

Parolees on Supervision by Race/Ethnicity

Table C1. All Active Parolees on Supervision in 2022.		
Race/Ethnicity	**#**	**%**
Caucasian/White	1,423	48%
Hispanic/Latino	715	24%
African American/Black	730	25%
Asian/Pacific Islander	43	1%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	12	<1%
Not Reported	34	1%
Total	**2,957**	**100%**



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