

Communities Incarcerated Individuals Released to in 2021

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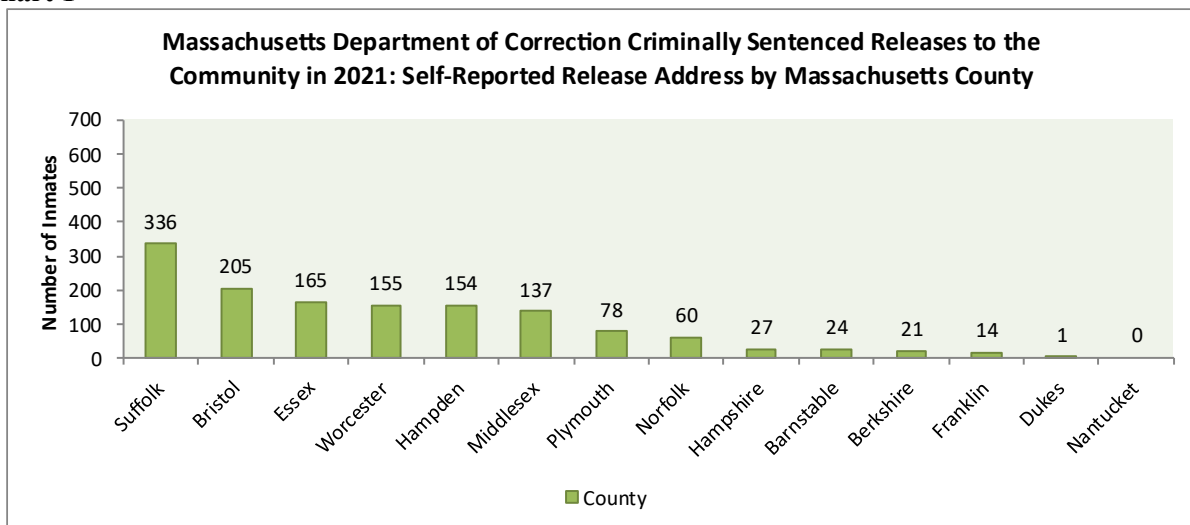
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The population covered in this report, termed ‘release to the community population’, includes any criminally sentenced incarcerated individuals released to the community from a Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) facility as well as DOC incarcerated individuals released from other correctional facilities (jurisdiction). Under this definition, DOC incarcerated individuals released from Massachusetts’ Houses of Correction, other states’ correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons during 2021 are included in the population. The population described in this report includes criminally sentenced incarcerated individuals released via expiration of sentence, parole to the street, releases from parole detainers, court releases and payments/expiration of fine.

Introduction

Incarcerated Individuals (I.I.) under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) are released to many different communities throughout the state and in some cases are released to communities outside of Massachusetts. This brief is a statistical look at the communities to which criminally sentenced I.I. are being released¹. For the purposes of this report, communities may refer to counties, cities, towns or municipalities both in and outside of Massachusetts.

Chart 1



Note: Excludes 94 I.I. including 94 released to communities outside of Massachusetts and 0 unreported

During calendar year 2021, there were 1,471 releases to the community, which was a decrease of 454 releases (24%) from 2020. Males saw a 21% decrease from the previous year in number of releases (n = 375) driven by a decrease in paroles to the community. Female releases experienced a 54% decrease from 147 in 2020 to 68 in 2021 (n = 79), largely as a result of a decrease in females being released via expiration of sentence.

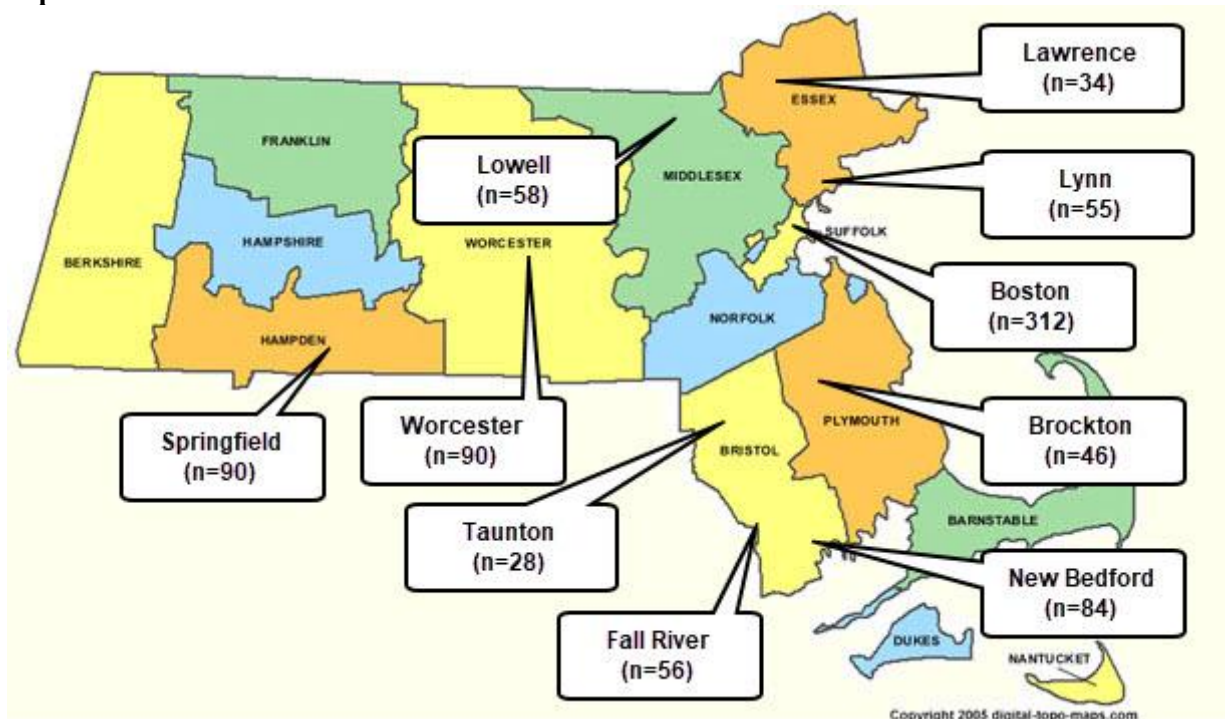
¹ Information regarding release address is self-reported by I.I. prior to their release. It is likely that some release addresses reflect temporary and residential treatment locales, and not necessarily long term residences in the community. If a release address is not reported by the I.I., their last known address was used.

Table 1

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community in 2021: Top Ten Release Address (Cities/Towns)		
City	Total	%
1. Boston	312	21%
2. Springfield	90	6%
3. Worcester	90	6%
4. New Bedford	84	6%
5. Lowell	58	4%
6. Fall River	56	4%
7. Lynn	55	4%
8. Brockton	46	3%
9. Lawrence	34	2%
10. Taunton	28	2%
Sub-Total	853	58%
Other MA Cities/Towns	524	36%
Outside MA	94	6%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	1,471	100%

Please Note: Percentages do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

- The majority (58%) of the releases during 2021 had a reported release address in one of the top ten cities/towns listed in Table 1.
- Mirroring 2020, the release address with the highest number of releases reported was to the various communities in the city of Boston (21%) followed by Springfield (6%) and Worcester (6%).
- Despite slight change in rankings, the top 10 cities/towns were similar to the previous year.

Map 1

**Massachusetts Department of Correction
Releases to the Community in 2021:
Top Ten Release Address Cities**

Table 2

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community 2021: Top Ten Release Address (Cities/Towns) for Males		
	Male	%
1. Boston	304	22%
2. Springfield	89	6%
3. Worcester	87	6%
4. New Bedford	79	6%
5. Fall River	53	4%
6. Lowell	52	4%
7. Lynn	50	4%
8. Brockton	46	3%
9. Lawrence	33	2%
10. Taunton	27	2%
Sub-Total	820	58%
Other MA Cities/Towns	495	35%
Outside MA	88	6%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	1,403	100%

- The majority of females (60%) reported a Massachusetts release address in one of the top ten cities/towns, while (31%) reported a release address outside of the top ten.
- Female releases by community are also skewed, due to the fact that not all counties house females.³

- Boston was the top city reported by both male (22%) and female (13%) incarcerated individuals as their release address. The second most commonly reported city for males was Springfield (6%), followed by Worcester (6%) and New Bedford (6%).
- Similar to 2020, a majority of the male releases (58%) reported a release address in one of the top ten cities/ towns.
- Females differed from the males where the second most commonly reported release address was Lowell (10%), followed by Lynn (8%) and New Bedford (8%).

Table 3

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community in 2021: Top Ten Release Address (Cities/Towns) for Females		
	Female	%
1. Boston	8	13%
2. Lowell	6	10%
3. Lynn	5	8%
4. New Bedford	5	8%
5. Fall River	3	5%
6. Worcester	3	5%
7. Everett	2	3%
8. Framingham	2	3%
9. Methuen	2	3%
10. Taunton	1	2%
Sub-Total	37	60%
Other MA Cities/Towns	19	31%
Outside MA	6	10%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	62	100%

³ Not all Massachusetts counties house their female I.I. Massachusetts General Law dictates that females may be committed directly by the courts to the MA DOC for a House of Correction sentence. The counties of Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, and Suffolk house females in their county correctional facilities. Hampden County has increased their capacity to house county sentenced females for other western Massachusetts regions (including Worcester).

Table 4

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community in 2021: Release Address by Massachusetts Counties (Self-Reported)			
	Total	%	Per 100,000 Residents*
Suffolk County	336	23%	44
Bristol County	205	14%	35
Essex County	165	11%	20
Worcester County	155	11%	18
Hampden County	154	10%	33
Middlesex County	137	9%	8
Plymouth County	78	5%	15
Norfolk County	60	4%	8
Hampshire County	27	2%	17
Barnstable County	24	2%	10
Berkshire County	21	1%	16
Franklin County	14	1%	20
Dukes County	1	<1%	5
Outside MA	94	6%	N/A
Unknown	0	0%	N/A
Total	1,471	100%	21

* Source: U.S. UMass Donahue Institute. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, March 30, 2022.

Twenty-three percent of the total population reported a release address located in Suffolk County, the highest of all Massachusetts Counties. Bristol County had the second highest percentage of releases (14%) followed by Essex County with 11%. When looking at the concentration (the rate per 100,000 residents) of releases to the community, Suffolk County had the greatest concentration at 44 followed by Bristol County with 35 and Hampden County with 33. Although 9% of releases reported an address in Middlesex County (the sixth highest by count), the county's significantly higher population density resulted in the third lowest concentration of releases—8 per 100,000 residents.

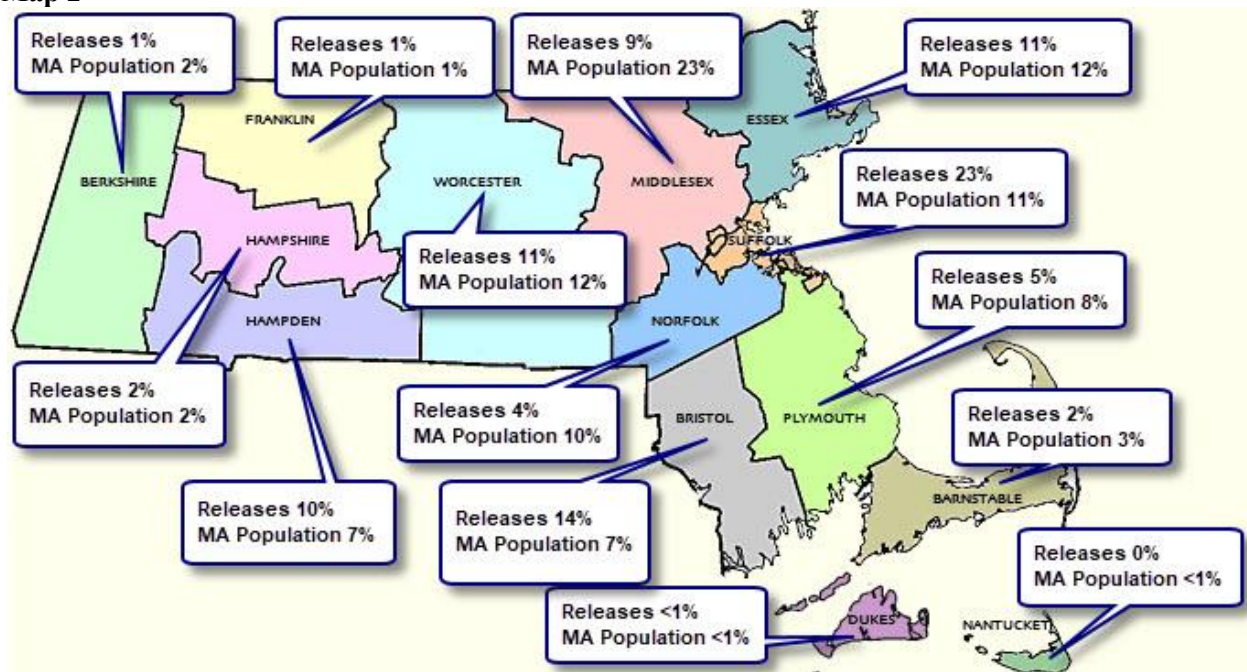
Map 2

Table 5

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community 2021: Release Address by Massachusetts County for Males		
	Male	%
Suffolk County	327	23%
Bristol County	195	14%
Essex County	154	11%
Hampden County	151	11%
Worcester County	150	11%
Middlesex County	120	9%
Plymouth County	77	5%
Norfolk County	59	4%
Hampshire County	25	2%
Barnstable County	22	2%
Berkshire County	21	1%
Franklin County	13	1%
Dukes County	1	<1%
Outside MA	88	6%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	1,403	100%

- The greatest percentage of females were released to Middlesex County (25%), followed by Essex County (16%) and Bristol County (15%).
- Though the list of top releases addresses by Massachusetts County remained almost identical with the top Counties reported in 2020 for females, there was some variation for the proportion of releases to each County. The top four release Counties accounted for 69% of releases to the community in 2021, a 4% increase from 2020.
- No female releases reported a release address in Dukes and Nantucket Counties in 2021.

- The greatest percentage of males were released to Suffolk County (23%), followed by Bristol County (14%) and Essex County (11%).
- Suffolk County was the top Massachusetts county reported for male releases in 2020, mirroring the top county for community releases that year. Hampden County ranked third in 2020 and fourth in 2021.
- No male releases reported a release address in Nantucket County in 2021.

Table 6

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community in 2021: Release Address by Massachusetts County for Females		
	Female	%
Middlesex County	17	25%
Essex County	11	16%
Bristol County	10	15%
Suffolk County	9	13%
Worcester County	5	7%
Hampden County	3	4%
Barnstable County	2	3%
Hampshire County	2	3%
Franklin County	1	1%
Norfolk County	1	1%
Plymouth County	1	1%
Outside MA	6	9%
Unknown	0	0%
Total	68	100%

Table 7

Massachusetts Department of Correction Releases to the Community in 2021: Locations Outside Massachusetts			
	Female	Male	Total
Rhode Island	1	11	12
Connecticut	1	10	11
New Hampshire	1	10	11
New York	0	8	8
Vermont	1	4	5
Florida	0	5	5
Georgia	0	5	5
Texas	0	4	4
Pennsylvania	0	4	4
Maine	1	3	4
Indiana	0	3	3
Puerto Rico	0	3	3
Maryland	1	2	3
Iowa	0	2	2
Arkansas	0	2	2
Wyoming	0	2	2
Ohio	0	2	2
Delaware	0	1	1
Illinois	0	1	1
Tennessee	0	1	1
Alabama	0	1	1
North Carolina	0	1	1
New Jersey	0	1	1
Arizona	0	1	1
Missouri	0	1	1
Total	6	88	94

Of the 1,471 I.I. released to the community, 94 reported a release address outside of Massachusetts. Fifty-Four percent of the I.I. reporting a release address outside of Massachusetts, reported a releasing to a New England state (n = 43) or New York (n = 8) which accounted for most releases outside of Massachusetts for 2020. The proportion of I.I. being released to a New England state or New York decreased from 64% to 54% when compared to the previous release year.

Appendix

The tables on pages 8 through 10 show the self-reported release address by county of incarcerated individuals separated by the institution they were released from. Please note: percentages do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Institutions Housing Male Incarcerated Individuals

Boston Pre-Release Center		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	14	33%
Middlesex County	6	14%
Bristol County	3	7%
Norfolk County	3	7%
Worcester County	3	7%
Plymouth County	2	5%
Hampden County	2	5%
Essex County	1	2%
Barnstable County	1	2%
Hampshire County	1	2%
Outside MA	6	14%
Grand Total	42	100%

Massachusetts Treatment Center		
	Males	Total
Essex County	21	21%
Suffolk County	18	18%
Worcester County	16	16%
Bristol County	10	10%
Plymouth County	10	10%
Middlesex County	9	9%
Hampden County	5	5%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Franklin County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	7	7%
Grand Total	98	100%

MCI-Cedar Junction		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	37	25%
Bristol County	32	22%
Worcester County	18	12%
Essex County	16	11%
Middlesex County	10	7%
Hampden County	10	7%
Norfolk County	8	5%
Plymouth County	7	5%
Berkshire County	5	3%
Hampshire County	2	1%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	2	1%
Grand Total	148	100%

MCI-Concord		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	25	22%
Middlesex County	19	17%
Bristol County	14	12%
Essex County	14	12%
Worcester County	10	9%
Plymouth County	7	6%
Hampden County	6	5%
Norfolk County	4	3%
Hampshire County	3	3%
Berkshire County	3	3%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Franklin County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	8	7%
Grand Total	115	100%

Institutions Housing Male Incarcerated Individuals – Continued

MCI-Norfolk		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	40	32%
Bristol County	15	12%
Hampden County	15	12%
Essex County	12	10%
Worcester County	9	7%
Plymouth County	9	7%
Barnstable County	5	4%
Middlesex County	5	4%
Hampshire County	2	2%
Norfolk County	2	2%
Berkshire County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	11	9%
Grand Total	126	100%

NCCI-Gardner		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	15	21%
Essex County	11	15%
Hampden County	9	13%
Worcester County	9	13%
Bristol County	6	8%
Plymouth County	5	7%
Middlesex County	5	7%
Norfolk County	3	4%
Berkshire County	2	3%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Franklin County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	5	7%
Total	72	100%

MCI-Shirley		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	41	19%
Bristol County	35	17%
Worcester County	23	11%
Essex County	21	10%
Hampden County	21	10%
Middlesex County	19	9%
Plymouth County	12	6%
Hampshire County	11	5%
Norfolk County	8	4%
Barnstable County	4	2%
Berkshire County	3	1%
Dukes County	1	0%
Franklin County	1	0%
Outside MA	11	5%
Grand Total	211	100%

Northeastern Correctional Center		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	33	23%
Middlesex County	18	13%
Worcester County	17	12%
Essex County	15	10%
Bristol County	14	10%
Hampden County	13	9%
Norfolk County	11	8%
Plymouth County	5	3%
Franklin County	2	1%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Berkshire County	1	1%
Unknown	0	0%
Outside MA	14	10%
Grand Total	144	100%

Institutions Housing Male Incarcerated Individuals – Continued

Old Colony Correctional Center		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	35	28%
Bristol County	22	17%
Worcester County	13	10%
Middlesex County	12	10%
Essex County	11	9%
Hampden County	10	8%
Norfolk County	9	7%
Plymouth County	4	3%
Barnstable County	4	3%
Berkshire County	2	2%
Franklin County	1	1%
Outside MA	3	2%
Grand Total	126	100%

Pondville Correctional Center		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	40	30%
Bristol County	22	16%
Worcester County	19	14%
Essex County	12	9%
Plymouth County	10	7%
Hampden County	8	6%
Middlesex County	7	5%
Norfolk County	6	4%
Barnstable County	1	1%
Hampshire County	1	1%
Berkshire County	1	1%
Outside MA	7	5%
Grand Total	134	100%

Shattuck Hospital		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	1	50%
Hampden County	1	50%
Grand Total	2	100%

Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center		
	Males	Total
Suffolk County	24	21%
Bristol County	21	18%
Essex County	14	12%
Worcester County	13	11%
Hampden County	11	10%
Middlesex County	10	9%
Plymouth County	4	3%
Norfolk County	4	3%
Berkshire County	2	2%
Barnstable County	2	2%
Franklin County	1	1%
Outside MA	9	8%
Grand Total	115	100%

Shattuck Hospital		
	Males	Total
Worcester County	1	50%
Bristol County	1	50%
Grand Total	2	100%

Shattuck Hospital		
	Males	Total
Worcester County	1	50%
Bristol County	1	50%
Grand Total	2	100%

Institutions Housing Female Incarcerated Individuals

MCI-Framingham		
	Females	Total
Middlesex County	13	28%
Bristol County	8	17%
Essex County	8	17%
Suffolk County	7	15%
Worcester County	3	6%
Hampden County	2	4%
Plymouth County	1	2%
Barnstable County	1	2%
Hampshire County	1	2%
Outside MA	3	6%
Grand Total	47	100%

South Middlesex Correctional Center		
	Males	Total
Bristol County	2	33%
Norfolk County	1	17%
Essex County	1	17%
Barnstable County	1	17%
Outside MA	1	17%
Grand Total	6	100%

Massachusetts DOC Incarcerated Individuals Housed in a County, Federal, or another State's Correctional Facility

County, Federal, Interstate						
	Females	%	Males	%	Total	%
Hampden County	1	7%	40	57%	41	48%
Essex County	2	13%	6	9%	8	9%
Suffolk County	2	13%	4	6%	6	7%
Franklin County	1	7%	5	7%	6	7%
Hampshire County	1	7%	5	7%	6	7%
Middlesex County	4	27%	0	0%	4	5%
Plymouth County	0	0%	2	3%	2	2%
Worcester County	2	13%	0	0%	2	2%
Bristol County	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Berkshire County	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Norfolk County	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Outside MA	2	13%	5	7%	7	8%
Total	15	100%	70	100%	85	100%

The tables on pages 12 through 15 show the self-reported release address by city/town in each Massachusetts County. Please note: percentages do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Release Address Cities/Towns in Barnstable County			
	Females	Males	Total
Barnstable	1	4	5
Mashpee	0	3	3
Sandwich	0	3	3
Falmouth	0	3	3
Dennis	0	2	2
Yarmouth	0	2	2
Brewster	0	2	2
Harwich	1	0	1
Chatham	0	1	1
Bourne	0	1	1
Provincetown	0	1	1
Total	2	22	24

Release Address Cities/Towns in Berkshire County			
	Females	Males	Total
Pittsfield	0	16	16
North Adams	0	2	2
Adams	0	1	1
Great Barrington	0	1	1
Lanesborough	0	1	1
Total	0	21	21

Release Address Cities/Towns in Bristol County			
	Females	Males	Total
New Bedford	5	79	84
Fall River	3	53	56
Taunton	1	27	28
Norton	1	7	8
Attleboro	0	6	6
Fairhaven	0	6	6
Dartmouth	0	5	5
North Attleboro	0	4	4
Dighton	0	2	2
Raynham	0	2	2
Seekonk	0	1	1
Westport	0	1	1
Acushnet	0	1	1
Rehoboth	0	1	1
Total	10	195	205

Release Address Cities/Towns in Dukes County			
	Females	Males	Total
Tisbury	0	1	1
Total	0	1	1

Release Address Cities/Towns in Essex County			
	Females	Males	Total
Lynn	5	50	55
Lawrence	1	33	34
Haverhill	0	19	19
Salem	1	12	13
Methuen	2	10	12
Peabody	0	7	7
Saugus	0	6	6
Amesbury	0	3	3
Gloucester	0	2	2
Andover	0	2	2
Salisbury	1	1	2
Merrimac	0	2	2
Noth Andover	0	1	1
Groveland	0	1	1
Essex	0	1	1
Danvers	0	1	1
Beverly	0	1	1
Newbury	0	1	1
Georgetown	0	1	1
Ipswich	1	0	1
Total	11	154	165

Release Address Cities/Towns in Hampden County			
	Females	Males	Total
Springfield	1	89	90
West Springfield	1	26	27
Holyoke	0	17	17
Chicopee	0	12	12
Westfield	1	2	3
Palmer	0	2	2
Ludlow	0	2	2
Agawam	0	1	1
Total	3	151	154

Release Address Cities/Towns in Hampshire County			
	Females	Males	Total
Northampton	0	20	20
Ware	1	1	2
Belchertown	0	2	2
Eastampton	0	2	2
Chesterfield	1	0	1
Total	2	25	27

Release Address Cities/Towns in Franklin County			
	Females	Males	Total
Greenfield	0	8	8
Orange	1	3	4
Sunderland	0	1	1
Erving	0	1	1
Total	1	13	14

Release Address Cities/Towns in Middlesex County			
	Females	Males	Total
Lowell	6	52	58
Cambridge	0	8	8
Everett	2	6	8
Billerica	1	6	7
Bedford	0	6	6
Malden	0	6	6
Somerville	0	5	5
Woburn	0	4	4
Ayer	0	4	4
Framingham	2	1	3
Waltham	0	3	3
Tewksbury	1	1	2
Stoneham	1	1	2
Maynard	0	2	2
Wakefield	0	2	2
Newton	0	2	2
Reading	1	1	2
Marlborough	0	2	2
Watertown	0	1	1
Littleton	1	0	1
Winchester	0	1	1
Dracut	0	1	1
Medford	0	1	1
Chelmsford	0	1	1
Wilmington	1	0	1
Sudbury	1	0	1
Lexington	0	1	1
Arlington	0	1	1
Concord	0	1	1
Total	17	120	137

Release Address Cities/Towns in Norfolk County			
	Females	Males	Total
Quincy	1	19	20
Weymouth	0	11	11
Randolph	0	10	10
Stoughton	0	3	3
Braintree	0	2	2
Plainville	0	2	2
Canton	0	2	2
Norwood	0	2	2
Dedham	0	2	2
Bellingham	0	1	1
Brookline	0	1	1
Avon	0	1	1
Wrentham	0	1	1
Holbrook	0	1	1
Needham	0	1	1
Total	1	59	60

Release Address Cities/Towns in Plymouth County			
	Females	Males	Total
Brockton	0	46	46
Wareham	1	4	5
Bridgewater	0	4	4
Middleborough	0	4	4
Plymouth	0	3	3
Lakeville	0	2	2
Mattapoisett	0	2	2
Marion	0	1	1
East Bridgewater	0	1	1
Carver	0	1	1
Duxbury	0	1	1
Halifax	0	1	1
Pembroke	0	1	1
Hanson	0	1	1
Rochester	0	1	1
Rockland	0	1	1
Abington	0	1	1
Hingham	0	1	1
Hull	0	1	1
Total	1	77	78

Release Address Cities/Towns in Suffolk County			
	Females	Males	Total
Boston	8	304	312
Chelsea	0	16	16
Revere	1	7	8
Total	9	327	336

Release Address Cities/Towns in Worcester County			
	Females	Males	Total
Worcester	3	87	90
Fitchburg	0	17	17
Southbridge	0	6	6
Winchendon	0	6	6
Webster	0	5	5
Leominster	0	5	5
Lunenburg	0	3	3
Auburn	0	2	2
Millbury	1	1	2
Athol	0	2	2
Northbridge	1	1	2
Charlton	0	2	2
Milford	0	2	2
West Brookfield	0	1	1
Northborough	0	1	1
Gardner	0	1	1
Leicester	0	1	1
Barre	0	1	1
Oxford	0	1	1
Westborough	0	1	1
East Brookfield	0	1	1
Holden	0	1	1
Spencer	0	1	1
Sutton	0	1	1
Total	5	150	155