

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
July 1, 2020
Compiled by the Research and Planning Division

How many inmates are incarcerated by the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC)?

On July 1, 2020 there were 6,791 criminally sentenced inmates in the jurisdiction of the DOC. There were 456 individuals housed as civil commitments and 65 pre-trial detainees in the DOC. The total jurisdiction population was 7,312.

How many Massachusetts inmates are incarcerated in other jurisdictions' facilities?

On July 1, 2020 there were 90 DOC inmates housed in other state or federal correctional facilities, and 167 DOC inmates housed in county correctional facilities. One DOC inmate was housed in a juvenile facility.

How many institutions do you have and how many security levels are there?

The Department has 16 institutions and 4 security levels: Maximum, Medium, Minimum and Pre-Release.

What is the average cost to house an inmate per year?

MA DOC Institutional Per Capita Costs (FY 2020)

Facility	Security Level	Annual Cost Per Inmate
Boston Pre Release	Min/Pre	\$77,651.29
Bridgewater State Hospital	Med	\$288,688.05
Cedar Junction	Max/Med	\$89,874.86
MCI-Concord	Med	\$85,003.82
MCI-Framingham	Med	\$117,108.31
MCI-Norfolk	Med	\$55,235.87
<i>MCI-Shirley</i>		
MCI-Shirley Medium	Med	\$55,183.90
MCI-Shirley Minimum	Min	\$46,005.39
MASAC @ Plymouth	Min/Pre	\$167,391.98
Massachusetts Treatment Center	Med	\$78,726.79
NCCI Gardner	Med/Min	\$56,456.00
Northeastern Correctional Center	Min/Pre	\$58,513.56
<i>Old Colony Correctional Center</i>		
Old Colony Correctional Center Medium	Med	\$91,014.17
Old Colony Correctional Center Minimum	Min	\$82,096.61
Pondville Correctional Center	Min/Pre	\$58,441.71
Shattuck Hospital	Med	\$317,923.39
South Middlesex Correctional Center	Min/Pre	\$69,600.07
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	Max	\$89,551.12

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
July 1, 2020
Compiled by the Research and Planning Division

Criminally Sentenced Inmates

What is the gender breakdown of the inmate population?

Of the 6,791 criminally sentenced inmates in DOC jurisdiction July 1, 2020, 200 (3%) were female and 6,591 (97%) were male.

What is the racial/Hispanic ethnicity composition of the inmate population?

Inmates serving criminal sentences on July 1, 2020 reported the following race/ethnicity: White – 2,720 (40%), Black – 1,995 (29%), Hispanic - 1,870 (28%), Asian – 113 (2%), Other - 59 (1%), American Indian/Alaskan Native – 33 (<1%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – 1 (<1%).

How many "lifers" are incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities?

On July 1, 2020, there were 1,985 inmates serving a governing life sentence. Of the 1,985, there were 1,041 inmates serving a first-degree life sentence and 908 serving a second degree sentence. The remaining 36 were serving an out of state life sentence including first degree (24) and second degree life sentences (12).

How many people are committed to the DOC in a year?

During FY 2020, there were 1,241 new criminal court commitments to the DOC; 1,049 males and 192 females.

How many people are released from the DOC in a year?

During FY 2020, there were 2,688 criminally sentenced inmates released from both DOC facilities, as well as facilities in other jurisdictions. Of these releases, 2,160 (80%) were released to the community: 823 via parole, 1,267 through expiration of sentence and 70 court release/drug lab. Of the 2,688 inmates released, 2,297 were male and 391 were female.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
July 1, 2020
Compiled by the Research and Planning Division

What is the average time served?

The estimated time served for state criminally sentenced males, including all inmates released to the community from a sentence at the DOC due to expiration of sentence, parole, court release, or payment of fines in 2019, was about 3.5 years. For females, the average time served for **state** criminally sentenced releases to the community was about 2.6 years; and 149 days (5.0 months) for **county** criminally sentenced releases to the community. Inmates with life sentences were not included in the above noted numbers due to significantly longer stays and differences in sentence structure.

Time served is calculated by adding together an inmate's jail credits and their length of stay¹. To clarify, each is defined as:

Jail credits are days of credit for time served awaiting trial. The DOC does not award or take away jail credits; pre-trial confinement is determined by the courts.

Length of stay is the total number of days an inmate is incarcerated on the same DOC commitment number within the DOC jurisdiction population; the total number of days may include time from multiple admission and releases on that same commitment number.

Time Served is defined as the sum of an inmate's total length of stay on the same commitment number within the DOC jurisdiction population including jail credit days.

What is the recidivism rate?

A 3 year recidivism study of 2,411 criminally sentenced inmates released from DOC institutions in 2015² yielded the following results: within the first year post-release 389 (16%) of the 2,411 released inmates recidivated, an additional 211 (9%) recidivated in the second year post-release, and another 191 (8%) recidivated within the third year post-release. The overall recidivism rate for inmates released in 2015 over the span of 3 years was 33%.

The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MADOC) defines a recidivist as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community from MADOC jurisdiction who is re-incarcerated in a Massachusetts state or county facility or to a federal facility for a criminal sentence within three years of their release to the community.

Date last updated: October 2020

¹ All measures of **inmate time served** were done using the **median**, which is preferred to the average when examining time served due to the skewed nature of the variable; the average has a tendency to produce greatly inflated values.

² Starting in 2008, the cohort includes MA DOC inmates released from county, federal and out of state facilities.