

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
July 1, 2025
Compiled by the Research and Planning Division**

How many incarcerated individuals are housed by the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)?

On July 1, 2025, there were 5,873 criminally sentenced individuals in the jurisdiction of the MA DOC. There were 368 individuals housed as civil commitments and 70 pre-trial detainees in the MA DOC. The total jurisdiction population was 6,311.

How many Massachusetts incarcerated individuals are housed in other jurisdictions' facilities?

On July 1, 2025, there were 66 MA DOC incarcerated individuals housed in other state or federal correctional facilities, 101 MA DOC incarcerated individuals housed in a Massachusetts county correctional facility, and three (3) on DOC Electronic Monitoring.

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

On July 1, 2025, the MA DOC had 13 institutions and 4 security levels: Maximum, Medium, Minimum and Pre-Release.

What is the average cost to house an incarcerated individual per year?

MA DOC Institutional Per Capita Costs (FY 2024)

Facility	Security Level	Annual Cost Per Person
Boston Pre Release	Min/Pre	\$188,993.71
Bridgewater State Hospital	Med	\$328,178.52
MCI-Concord*	Med	\$181,433.98
MCI-Framingham	Med	\$213,576.01
MCI-Norfolk	Med	\$89,910.51
MCI-Shirley	Med	\$103,558.29
MASAC @ Plymouth	Min/Pre	\$508,190.42
Massachusetts Treatment Center	Med	\$124,516.14
NCCI Gardner	Min/Pre	\$96,024.53
Northeastern Correctional Center	Med/Min	\$85,648.58
Old Colony Correctional Center Medium	Med	\$152,139.30
Old Colony Correctional Center Minimum	Min	\$140,165.14
Pondville Correctional Center	Min/Pre	\$102,081.56
Shattuck Hospital	Med	\$595,909.05
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	Max	\$115,908.63

*MCI-Concord was shuttered in June 2024.

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Criminally Sentenced Commitments

What is the assigned sex breakdown of the incarcerated population?

Of the 5,873 criminally sentenced commitments in the MA DOC jurisdiction on July 1, 2025, 201 (3%) were female and 5,672 (97%) were male.

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

Incarcerated individuals serving criminal sentences on July 1, 2025, reported the following race/ethnicity: White – 2,085 (36%), Black or African American – 1,763 (30%), Hispanic – 1,851 (31%), Asian or Pacific Islander – 113 (2%), Unknown - 22 (<1%), and American Indian or Native Alaskan – 39 (<1%).

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

On July 1, 2025, there were 1,732 incarcerated individuals serving a governing life sentence. Of the 1,732, there were 883 incarcerated individuals serving a first-degree life sentence and 815 serving a second-degree life sentence. The remaining 34 were serving an out of state life sentence including first degree (26) and second-degree life sentences (8).

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

During FY 2025, there were 1,381 criminal new court commitments to the DOC; 1,287 males and 94 females.

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

During FY 2025, there were 1,550 total criminally sentenced individuals released from both MA DOC facilities, as well as facilities in other jurisdictions. Of the 1,550 total releases, 1,459 were male and 91 were female. Of these 1,550 releases, 1,236 (79%) were released to the community: 791 via parole, 422 through expiration of sentence and 23 court release/crime lab.

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What is the average time served?

For the purpose of this section, LOS and time served were calculated based on the criminally sentenced population who had their first release to the community from the MA DOC jurisdiction in 2024.

Expiration of Sentence

The average time served for males released to the community due to expiration of sentence was 5.1 years. For females released due to expiration of sentence, the average time served was 1.8 years.

Parole to the Community

The average time served for males who have been paroled to the community was 7.1 years. The average time served for females paroled to the community was 5.1 years.

Jail credits are reported as a total number of days and can be accrued either in a MA DOC facility and/or a non-DOC facility.

Length of stay is defined as the number of days an individual is incarcerated under MA DOC jurisdiction between date of admission and date of release.

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

What is the recidivism rate?

A 3-year recidivism study of 1,947 criminally sentenced individuals released from MA DOC institutions in 2019¹ yielded the following results: within the first-year post-release 264 (14%) of the 1,947 released individuals recidivated, an additional 128 (7%) recidivated in the second-year post-release, and another 108 (6%) recidivated within the third-year post-release. The overall recidivism rate for incarcerated individuals released in 2019 over the span of 3 years was 26%.

The MA DOC defines a recidivist as any criminally sentenced individual released to the community from MA DOC 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.

¹Starting in 2008, the cohort includes MA DOC incarcerated individuals released from county, federal and out of state facilities.

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Date last updated: July 2025