

Massachusetts Department of Correction Operational Capacity Report

Calendar Year 2023
Quarter 4



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Maura T. Healey, Governor
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary of Public Safety and Security

2023 Fourth Quarter Report

Section Twenty-one of Chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985 directs the Commissioner of Correction to report quarterly on the status of overcrowding in state and county facilities.

“Such report shall include, by facility, the average daily census for the period of the report and the actual census on the first and last days of the report period. Said report shall also contain such information for the previous twelve months and a comparison to the rated capacity of such facility.”

This report, prepared by Alexandria Sahtouris of the Research and Planning Division, is based on counts submitted by Massachusetts Sheriffs and the Department of Correction’s Inmate Management System.

2023 Fourth Quarter Report

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Table 1 provides the DOC figures for the fourth quarter of 2023. The DOC custody population decreased over the quarter, by 65 incarcerated people, or one (1) percent. By the end of the quarter, the DOC was operating with 5,994 incarcerated people in the system. During the fourth quarter, the DOC had an average daily custody population of 6,019, operating at 80 percent of the design capacity of 7,494.

DOC incarcerated individuals housed in non-DOC facilities averaged 151 incarcerated people daily, the majority housed in county Houses of Correction, and an average of 69 inmates housed in other states. The Electronic Monitoring program (ELMO) established by the DOC in February 2021 showed an average of five (5) incarcerated individuals daily during the fourth quarter of 2023.

Overall, the average daily total DOC jurisdiction population for the fourth quarter of 2023 was 6,170. There was a decrease of 61 incarcerated person, less than one (1) percent increase from the beginning to the end of the quarter.

Table 1

Fourth Quarter 2023					
Population in DOC Facilities, October 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023					
Security Level/Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
<u>Maximum</u>					
MCI-Cedar Junction	0	0	0	555	0%
SBCC	1,068	1,091	1,042	1,024	104%
Sub-Total, Maximum	1,068	1,091	1,042	1,579	68%
<u>Medium</u>					
Massachusetts Treatment Center	478	479	472	563	85%
MCI-Cedar Junction	0	0	0	78	0%
MCI-Concord	388	381	401	614	63%
MCI-Framingham (Female)	215	215	213	452	48%
MCI-Norfolk	1,166	1,165	1,169	1,084	108%
MCI-Shirley	823	830	817	720	114%
NCCI-Gardner	709	710	712	568	125%
OCCC	432	428	436	480	90%
Shattuck Correctional Unit	16	18	14	24	67%
State Hospital @ Bridgewater	251	261	250	227	111%
Sub-Total, Medium	4,478	4,487	4,484	4,810	93%
<u>Minimum</u>					
MASPLY	66	74	59	151	44%
MCI-Shirley	n.a	n.a	n.a	299	n.a
NCCI-Gardner	n.a	n.a	n.a	30	n.a
OCCC	59	58	57	100	59%
<u>Minimum/Pre-Release</u>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	41	40	42	150	27%
NECC	192	195	193	150	128%
Pondville Correctional Center	115	114	117	100	115%
SMCC (Female)	0	0	0	125	0%
Sub-Total, Minimum/Pre-Release	473	481	468	1,105	43%
Total Custody	6,019	6,059	5,994	7,494	80%
<u>DOC Inmates in Non-DOC Facilities</u>					
Houses of Correction	67	64	72	n.a.	n.a.
Department of Youth Services	1	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Federal Prisons	9	9	9	n.a.	n.a.
Inter-State Compact	69	70	68	n.a.	n.a.
DOC Electronic Monitoring Program	5	6	4	n.a.	n.a.
Sub-Total, Non-DOC Facilities	151	150	154	n.a.	n.a.
Total Jurisdiction	6,170	6,209	6,148	7,494	82%

See Technical Notes, p. 8, for information on design capacity, custody level designations, facility closings or name changes relevant to this time period.

Table 2 provides the DOC figures for the previous twelve months. The DOC custody population experienced a slight increase; over the 12-month period, the custody population increased by 38 incarcerated persons, or less than 1 percent.

DOC incarcerated person housed in non-DOC facilities had an average daily population of 158 inmates over this period. In county facilities, the population continued to sharply decrease with a high of 164 in November 2022 and a low of 46 in June 2023, ending the trend period at a 72 percent decrease.

The average DOC jurisdiction population was 6,093. During the 12-month period, this population went from 6,185 to 6,137, experiencing a decrease of 48 incarcerated individuals, or less than one (1) percent.

Table 2

**Previous Twelve Months
Population in DOC Facilities, October 31, 2022 to September 30, 2023**

Security Level/Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
<u>Maximum</u>					
MCI-Cedar Junction	43	83	0	555	8%
SBCC	968	913	1,050	1,024	95%
Sub-Total, Maximum	1,011	996	1,050	1,579	64%
<u>Medium</u>					
Massachusetts Treatment Center	513	535	488	563	91%
MCI-Cedar Junction	10	26	0	78	13%
MCI-Concord	381	380	367	614	62%
MCI-Framingham (Female)	200	194	206	452	44%
MCI-Norfolk	1,162	1,181	1,160	1,084	107%
MCI-Shirley	801	787	821	720	111%
NCCI-Gardner	702	699	720	568	124%
OCCC	444	454	442	480	93%
Shattuck Correctional Unit	17	17	19	24	72%
State Hospital @ Bridgewater	239	239	256	227	105%
Sub-Total, Medium	4,469	4,512	4,479	4,810	93%
<u>Minimum</u>					
MASPLY	66	77	66	151	44%
MCI-Shirley	0	0	0	299	0%
NCCI-Gardner	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	n.a.
OCCC	70	62	59	100	70%
<u>Minimum/Pre-Release</u>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	38	48	32	150	25%
NECC	185	172	193	150	124%
Pondville Correctional Center	96	84	110	100	96%
SMCC (Female)	0	0	0	125	0%
Sub-Total, Minimum/Pre-Release	455	443	460	1,075	42%
Total Custody	5,935	5,951	5,989	7,464	80%
<u>DOC Inmates in Non-DOC Facilities</u>					
Houses of Correction	77	157	66	n.a.	n.a.
Department of Youth Services	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Federal Prisons	9	9	8	n.a.	n.a.
Inter-State Compact	68	68	68	n.a.	n.a.
DOC Electronic Monitoring Program	5	n.a.	6	n.a.	n.a.
Sub-Total, Non-DOC Facilities	159	234	148	n.a.	n.a.
Total Jurisdiction	6,094	6,185	6,137	7,494	81%

See Technical Notes, p. 8, for information on design capacity, custody level designations, facility closings or name changes relevant to this time period.

Table 3 presents the county figures for the fourth quarter of 2023. During the fourth quarter, the county population sharply decreased by 372 inmates, or 5.4 percent, a decrease from the third quarter of 2023. The average daily population across all counties was 6,713, together operating at 60 percent of these facilities' design capacity.

Table 3

**Fourth Quarter 2023
Population in County Correctional Facilities by County,
October 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	182	190	176	300	61%
Berkshire	196	200	194	292	67%
Bristol	655	666	624	566	116%
Dukes	13	12	15	19	67%
Essex	972	1,016	934	1,654	59%
Franklin	183	179	189	144	127%
Hampden	967	978	945	1,632	59%
Hampshire	143	139	139	287	50%
Middlesex	630	644	606	1,501	42%
Norfolk	353	354	344	620	57%
Plymouth	588	602	537	1,140	52%
Suffolk	1,158	1,191	1,132	2,249	52%
Worcester	673	694	658	822	82%
Total	6,713	6,865	6,493	11,226	60%

Table 4 presents the county figures for the fourth quarter of 2023. The following table presents a breakdown of facility population and capacity for counties that operate more than one facility.

Table 4

**Fourth Quarter 2023
Population in County Correctional Facilities by Facility,
October 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Bristol County					
Bristol Ash Street	103	107	91	206	50%
Bristol Dartmouth	507	508	489	304	167%
Bristol Women's Center	45	51	44	56	81%
Essex County					
Essex Middleton	858	892	825	1,291	66%
Essex W.I.T.	17	18	17	23	74%
Essex LCAC	97	106	92	340	29%
Hampden County					
Hampden HOC	728	738	707	1,178	62%
Hampden WMCAC	83	79	87	148	56%
Hampden Women's Center	156	161	151	306	51%
Suffolk County					
Suffolk Nashua Street	354	426	324	453	78%
Suffolk South Bay	804	765	808	1,796	45%

Due to rounding, the average population by county may not equal the average county population by facility total.

Table 5 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. The county population experienced an overall decrease of 55 inmates, or less than one (1) percent, between October 2022 and September 2023. The population fluctuated throughout the year, but experienced a steady increase with a total of 7.6 percent from April 2023 through August 2023, ending the trend period at a 1.3 percent decrease between August 2023 and September 2023. Over the trend period, the county facilities operated on average at 58 percent of their total design capacity.

Table 5

**Previous Twelve Months
Population in County Correctional Facilities by County,
October 25, 2022 to September 25, 2023**

Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	180	171	181	300	60%
Berkshire	176	158	200	292	60%
Bristol	658	710	626	566	116%
Dukes	14	14	12	19	73%
Essex	1,036	1,111	1,030	1,654	63%
Franklin	167	169	185	144	116%
Hampden	883	906	932	1,632	54%
Hampshire	131	124	137	287	45%
Middlesex	651	668	641	1,501	43%
Norfolk	338	332	364	620	55%
Plymouth	529	546	519	1,140	46%
Suffolk	1,159	1,247	1,204	2,249	52%
Worcester	644	630	700	822	78%
Total	6,566	6,786	6,731	11,226	58%

Table 6 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. The following table presents a breakdown of facility population and capacity for counties that operate more than one facility.

Table 6

**Previous Twelve Months
Population in Counties with Multiple Correctional Facilities,
October 25, 2022 to September 25, 2023**

Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design/Rated Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Bristol County					
Bristol Ash Street	99	107	112	206	48%
Bristol Dartmouth	516	547	486	304	170%
Women's Center	47	56	45	56	84%
Essex County					
Essex Middleton	926	1,005	915	1,291	72%
Essex W.I.T.	14	19	10	23	61%
Essex LCAC	92	87	86	340	27%
Hampden County					
Hampden HOC	681	719	696	1,178	58%
Hampden WMCAC	63	50	67	148	43%
Hampden Women's Center	144	137	167	306	47%
Suffolk County					
Suffolk Nashua Street	382	476	381	453	84%
Suffolk South Bay	752	771	747	1,796	42%

Due to rounding, the average population by county may not equal the average county population by facility total.

Technical Notes

- Average Daily Population for the previous year was calculated by using the last day of each month.
- Average Daily Population for county facilities was calculated by using the figures provided during the last week of every month.
- Custody snapshot data is based on an end of the month count. Prior to the 4th quarter 2011, custody snapshot data was taken based on the first of the month.
- Design/Rated capacity is provided by the County, Federal, and Interstate Unit.

Timeline of DOC and County Facility Closures and Expansions

(For previous years, please refer to reports between 2011-2015)

2011

- MCI-Cedar Junction began double-bunking maximum security housing units 2 and 3 on March 17, 2011, and the Orientation Unit on March 29, 2011.
- Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center was opened in Hampden County on November 2011, housing most county sentenced females from the western half of the state.

2012

- On July 1, 2012, the maximum number of days an individual could be civilly committed as a Section 35 at MASAC or MCI-Framingham was increased from 30 days to 90 days.
- On June 24, 2012 six pre-release beds were added to MCI-Plymouth. An additional four pre-release beds were added by the end of 2012.
- Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2012, known as the Crime Bill, was enacted on August 2, 2012 and resulted in an immediate change to sentence structure for dozens of inmates.

2013

- Effective April 1, 2013, Brooke House has three types of bed categories; DOC Reentry, Parole Transitional and Parole Halfway. Historically, Brooke House beds were only DOC Reentry.
- As of May 2013, 6 medium security beds were added to MCI-Cedar Junction.
- In May 2013, inmates housed at the Cambridge Jail in Middlesex County were temporarily housed elsewhere due to issues with the water system.
- On October 15, 2013, MCI-Plymouth increased its pre-release capacity to 15 beds while decreasing its minimum capacity to 212 beds. The overall operational capacity remained the same.

2014

- On June 28, 2014 the Middlesex County Jail in Cambridge was officially closed.
- Effective June 30, 2014, the DOC terminated their contract with Spectrum Women and Children's Program which included 15 beds for female incarcerated people.
- Inmates were temporarily moved out of NCCI-Gardner Minimum in October 2014 due to an energy conservation project.

2015

- Throughout 2015, there were various changes reported for design capacity for numerous county facilities. All design capacities and occupancy data for Massachusetts Houses of Correction and jails reported herein is provided by the County, Federal, and Interstate Unit.
- Effective May 28, 2015, the DOC terminated their contract with Brooke House which included 20 beds for male incarcerated people.
- Inmates are no longer housed at Bay State Correctional Center as of June 30, 2015. The transfer of incarcerated people housed at BSCC to other facilities began in April 2015.
- Effective June 30, 2015, a unit of 48 beds was reallocated at Pondville Correctional Center to house those who have been granted parole and are currently in the Transitional Treatment Program (TTP). They are not considered part of the DOC's custody or jurisdiction populations.

- Due to the closing of facilities, the design capacity for the DOC decreased from 8,029 to 7,728 (301 beds). This change is reflected beginning in the third quarter of 2015.
- During the fourth quarter of 2015, numerous units were inactivated within MCI-Concord resulting in the transferring of inmates to other facilities (including all 52A pre-trial inmates at this facility). The closing of units reduced the operational capacity of the facility.

2016

- Effective October 2016, four housing units designated for criminally sentenced incarcerated people at MCI-Framingham were disabled. As a result, these incarcerated people were moved to other housing units within the facility, including units previously designated for pre-trial inmates.
- Effective December 5, 2016, the Transitional Treatment Program was relocated from Pondville Correctional Center to Boston Pre-Release Center. The transfer of parolees affected the number of beds allotted for incarcerated people as well as the capacity figures at both facilities.
- Effective December 22, 2016, MCI-Plymouth was shuttered, and remaining incarcerated people were transferred to other DOC facilities.

2017

- During 1st quarter 2017, design capacity was reduced by 151 incarcerated people due to the closing of MCI-Plymouth.
- Effective May 1, 2017, Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth opened at the former site of MCI-Plymouth, with a design capacity of 151.
- Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center was mothballed on May 6, 2017, resulting in a reduction of 236 from the design capacity.

2018

- Beginning in 2018, the DOC entered into a contract with Stony Brook Treatment and Stabilization Center in Hampden County to house men with Section 35 civil commitments.

2019

- Beginning March 2019, NCCI-Gardner temporarily closed its minimum security unit.

2020

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center built a cell with two beds in its health services unit, increasing the design capacity by 2.

2021

- Effective February 2021, MCI-Shirley Minimum was shuttered and remaining incarcerated people were transferred to other DOC facilities.
- Effective March 2021, South Middlesex Correctional Center was shuttered and remaining incarcerated people were transferred to other DOC facilities.
- Effective February 2021, the DOC established the Electronic Monitoring Program (ELMO)

2022

- The Department of Correction announced the phased closure of MCI-CJ. Since that time, it has moved the intake/reception center services to SBCC and only the Department's Disciplinary Unit (DDU) and BMU remain open at MCI-CJ. Both units are scheduled to be closed and the Department currently anticipates that this closure will be accomplished by the end of the calendar year 2023.

2023

- Effective June 2023, MCI-CJ Medium was shuttered and the remaining incarcerated people were transferred to other DOC facilities.

Guide to Acronyms and Institutions

Acronym	Institution Name	Security Level
ADP	Average Daily Population	n.a.
BPRC	Boston Pre-Release Center	Pre-release, minimum
BSH	Bridgewater State Hospital	Medium
CFI	County/Federal/Interstate	All
MCI-CJ	MCI-Cedar Junction	Medium, maximum (male reception center)
MCI-C	MCI-Concord	Medium
DOC	Department of Correction	n.a.
DYS	Department of Youth Services	n.a.
ELMO	Department of Corrections Electronic Monitoring Program	Electronic Monitoring
MCI-F	MCI-Framingham	Medium (female reception center)
HOC	House of Correction	n.a.
LSH	Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	Medium
MCI	Massachusetts Correctional Institution	n.a.
MTC	Massachusetts Treatment Center	Medium
MASPLY	Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	Minimum
MCI-N	MCI-Norfolk	Medium
MCI-S	MCI-Shirley	Medium
NECC	Northeastern Correctional Center	Pre-release, minimum
NCCI	North Central Correctional Institution	Minimum, medium
OCCC	Old Colony Correctional Center	Minimum, medium
PCC	Pondville Correctional Center	Pre-release, minimum
SMCC	South Middlesex Correctional Center	Pre-release, minimum
SBCC	Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center	Maximum

Definitions

Custody Population	Refers to all inmates incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
Jurisdiction Population	Jurisdiction population refers to all inmates considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the inmate regardless of where the inmate is being held. DOC jurisdiction includes those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities and those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (i.e. Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other states' correctional facilities, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
Design/Rated Capacity	The number of inmates that planners or architects intended for the institution [as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)]. Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to institutions within the jurisdiction, essentially formally updated from the original design capacity.
Electronic Monitoring Program (ELMO)	A program which promotes reentry by maximizing an inmate's time in the community prior to release, thereby allowing the inmate to demonstrate their ability to function in a realistic living environment while monitored under strict conditions of accountability.

Security Levels

In May 2012, new security level designations were established according to **103 DOC 101, *Correctional Institutions/Security Levels*** policy which states:

Pre-Release/ Contracted Residential Placement	The perimeter is marked by non-secure boundaries. Physical barriers to inmate movement and interaction are either non-secure or non-existent. Inmate movements and interactions are controlled by rules and regulations only. Inmates may leave the institution daily for work and/or education in the community. Supervision while on the grounds of the facility is intermittent. While in the community, supervision is occasional, although indirect supervision (e.g. contact with employer) may be more frequent. Inmates must be within eighteen (18) months of parole eligibility or release and not barred by sentencing restrictions for either placement in a pre-release facility or participation in work, education or program related activities (PRA) release programs.
Minimum	The perimeter is marked by non-secure boundaries. Physical barriers to movement and interaction are either non-secure or non-existent. Inmates may be housed in single, double or multiple occupancy areas. Inmate movements and interactions are controlled by rules and regulations only. Supervision is intermittent. Inmates may leave the perimeter under supervision. Contact visits and personal clothing are allowed.
Medium	The perimeter and physical barriers to control inmate movement and interaction are present. Inmates may be housed in single, double or multiple occupancy areas. Inmate movement and interaction are generally controlled by rules and regulations, as well as with physical barriers. Inmates are subject to direct supervision by staff. Work and program opportunities are available. Contact visits and personal clothing may be allowed. Inmates assigned to medium custody designation at MCI-Cedar Junction will receive contact visits.
Maximum	The perimeter is designed and staffed to prevent escapes and the introduction of contraband. Inmate movement and interaction are controlled by physical barriers. Inmates are housed in single and double cells. The design of the facility offers an ability to house some offenders separate from others without a limitation of work and/or program opportunities. Inmates are subject to direct supervision by staff. At the superintendent's discretion, contact visits may be allowed at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center and MCI Cedar Junction's reception beds (which are considered maximum security). Personal clothing is generally not allowed.