

# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2016



RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

March 2017



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The notable decrease in the **Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)** prison population over the last five years has been reflected in the mothballing of Bay-State Correctional Center in 2015 and the recent shuttering of the MCI-Plymouth facility on December 22, 2016. Facility populations remain the lowest in years and average daily population (ADP) has seen a significant decline since 2015. When looking at ADP, both the jurisdiction and custody populations experienced a decrease in 2016, 9,822 and 9,343 respectively. The jurisdiction ADP experienced a seven percent decrease and the custody ADP experienced an eight percent decrease compared to 2015. Many factors can be attributed to this decrease from sentencing reforms passed in August 2012 to successful prison reentry initiatives by the MA DOC and numerous collaborations. Reentry efforts are numerous, including programming for inmates implemented throughout the incarceration experience and continued through the transition out of prison and back to the community.

The MA DOC's most significant decline in its prison population over the past 10 years has been in the last 5 years. Since 2012, the jurisdiction population experienced a 19% decrease (11,723 in 2012 compared to 9,496 in 2017). Over the last decade (2008-2017), the total prison population (MA jurisdiction) decreased 16%, based on a snapshot of the first of January of each year. This is largely a reflection of the male criminally sentenced population, comprising 87% of the MA DOC population.

Between 2012 and 2017, criminally sentenced, pre-trial, and civil commitment populations have all experienced a substantial decrease, 20%, 54%, and 14% respectively. When looking specifically at the pre-trial population by gender, females have decreased slightly over a ten year trend period from 2008 to 2017. Pre-trial female counts rose from 144 in 2010 up to 278 on January 1, 2014, but have decreased 38% since 2014. Although there were decreases among the female pre-trial population (MA custody), pre-trial males housed by the MA DOC have seen the largest decrease (75%) between the genders since 2013 (433 in 2013 and 110 in 2017). While the total pre-trial population has decreased 40% since 2008, the proportion of males and females made a large shift during this period. The significant decrease in males can be attributed to a shift in those County correctional facilities, who previously transferred "52A's" to MA DOC, now being able to house more of their pre-trial population in county jails. Similarly, the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correction Center opened in 2011 to house county female inmates in western Massachusetts jurisdictions.

The drop in total prison population could be explained by an increase in releases over the past year however, there was a 10 percent decrease in releases to the community since 2015. This decrease can be attributed to a decline in new court commitment admissions (9%) since 2015. While the numbers of inmates in the MA DOC's population have been decreasing those who remain, and continue to be sentenced to MA DOC, have arguably more deficits and challenges in terms of education, employability, criminogenic thinking, mental health, and substance abuse problems. The concentration among MA DOC inmates' levels of risk to recidivate remain among those in the moderate to high ranges. For the second time in the past decade, the majority of criminally sentenced (MA Jurisdiction) female offenders (56%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. The reduction of the MA DOC population is largely attributable to a pronounced decline in the number of inmates with a governing drug offense. In comparison, drug offenders historically have had one of the lower recidivism rates, particularly in comparison with violent "person" offenses and non-violent "property" offenses.

Thus, at the same time inmates with a higher propensity to recidivate comprise the vast majority and those with a lower risk to recidivate have decreased (drug offenders), the recidivism rate at the MA DOC has decreased. If anything, it would not be surprising to see the rates, at least temporarily, have increased. Yet, the three year recidivism rate fell well below 40% among inmates released in 2010 through 2013, to a low of 32%, unprecedented since the data has been collected three years post release in the mid-1990's. A similar trend was noted for one year post-release recidivism rates, when inmates are at their highest risk to recidivate. There have been a number of departmental accomplishments, many already in place, others being newer initiatives, which have contributed to the lowered recidivism rates and more successful transitions to the community. These include, engaging more inmates in needed programs and services by increasing positive incentives and availability of programs in facilities in which they are housed; focusing resources for inmates with similar needs in the same facilities; maintaining fidelity among evidence-based programs to reduce recidivism; expanding educational resources; and studying the effectiveness and cost benefit analysis of various interventions to reduce recidivism and addressing associated practices and policies accordingly. Information regarding such work and other research related reports can be found on the DOC website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/law-enforce-and-cj/prisons/rsch-data/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhiana Kohl".

Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D.,  
Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Research  
Massachusetts Department of Correction

## ***Report Populations***

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This report, *Massachusetts Department of Correction Prison Population Trends 2016*, covers many different aspects of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) prison population.

### **For the purposes of this report, populations include:**

#### Jurisdiction Population

An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual, regardless of where the inmate is being held including those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities as well as those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other states' correctional facilities, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).

#### Custody Population

An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when he/she is being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.

### **Commitment type includes:**

#### Criminally Sentenced or "Sentenced":

Individuals who have been found guilty of a criminal offense by a judge or jury and have been committed to a period of incarceration, whether directly or after a violation of probation or parole.

#### Civil Commitment or "Civil":

Individuals who have been committed by a court based on a finding that their mental health or substance abuse issues present a danger to themselves or others.

#### Pre-Trial or "Detainee":

Individuals who are held in custody in a correctional facility prior to trial.

A complete list of report definitions is located in the 'Caveats and Definitions' section at the end of this report.

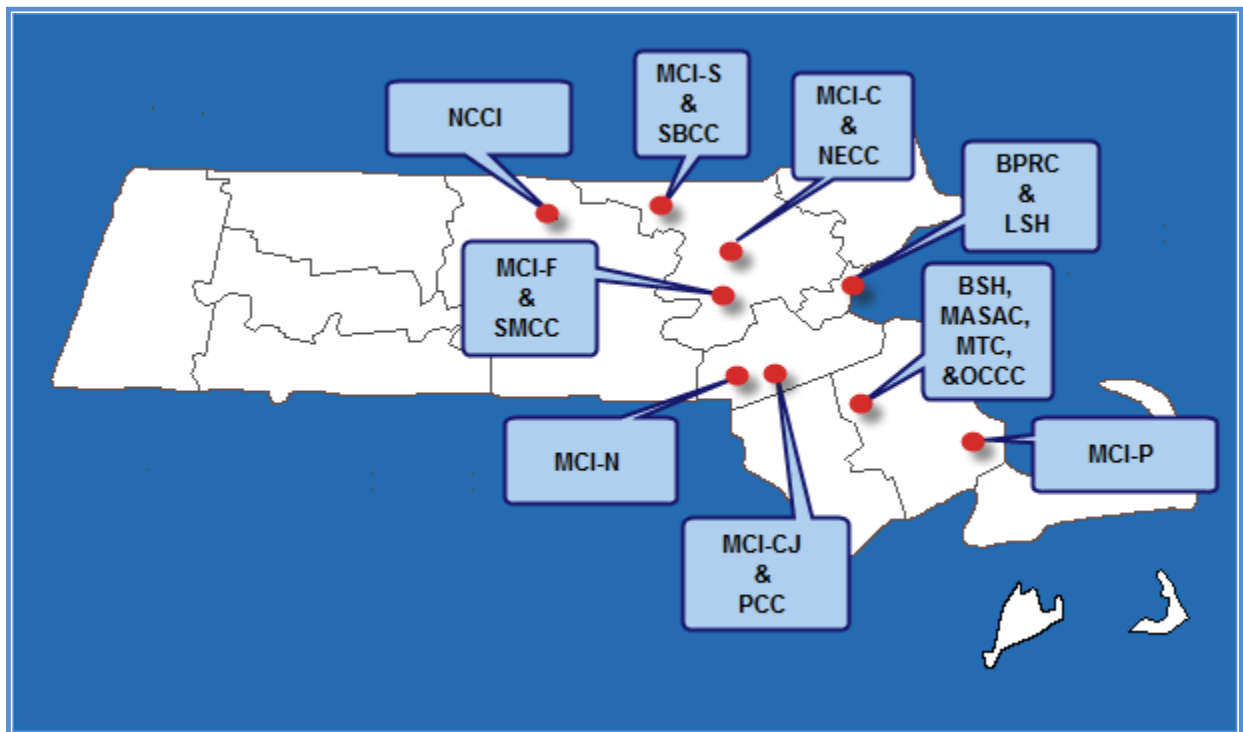
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# Massachusetts DOC 2016 Institution Overview

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## Institution Overview

### Boston Pre-Release Center (BPRC)

*Roslindale, MA*

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2000
- Opened: 1972 - Renovated: 2003 (New Building)
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$51,387
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 128
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 137
- Operational Capacity: 175  
Minimum: 60 & Pre-Release: 115



BPRC is a facility housing criminally sentenced males. It was the first pre-release institution in Massachusetts and is now a structured program focused on reintegration. Close public transportation increases opportunities for employment, access to community support agencies and other approved programming. As of December 5, 2016, the Transitional Treatment Program (TTP), a program which temporarily houses recently paroled inmates, was relocated to BPRC from Pondville Correctional Center. On January 1, 2017, the majority of inmates were pre-release (n=81), with an additional 47 minimum security inmates, and 33 additional TTP parolees not included in our active prison population.

### Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)

*Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1998
- Opened: 1974
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$171,561
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 310
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 311
- Operational Capacity: 372
- Civil Commitments: 319  
Work Unit (Inmates): 53



BSH is a facility housing male patients in several categories: civil commitments with underlying criminal sentences, civil commitments without criminal sentences, criminally sentenced inmate workers, and pre-trial detainees sent for competency and criminal responsibility evaluations by the court. Each individual civilly admitted to this facility is subject to a court-ordered evaluation under an applicable section of Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) Chapter 123. Patients may be committed to this facility following the observation period for an initial commitment period of six months, with subsequent commitments of one year, as ordered by the court, where the failure to hospitalize in strict security would create a likelihood of serious harm by reason of mental illness.

### Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Correctional Unit (LSH)

*Jamaica Plain, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Opened: 1974 - Expanded: 1982, 1987
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$283,749
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 24
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 28
- Operational Capacity: 29



The DOC, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, operates a correctional unit within the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital providing secure inpatient and outpatient medical care to male and female inmates from both the state and county. It is a transient facility with few long term patients. On January 1, 2017, the population consisted of 15 criminally sentenced state inmates, 8 pre-trial detainees, and one civil commitment. The average age of inmates housed on this date was 51 years old.



## Institution Overview

### Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center (MASAC) *Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1993
- Opened: 1992 - Mission Change: 2002
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$67,252
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 146
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 182
- Operational Capacity: 213
- Sentenced: 32 & Civil Commitments: 181



MASAC is a facility whose institutional focus is to provide services to males civilly committed by the court under M.G.L. Chapter 123, Section 35 for detoxification and substance abuse treatment for up to 90 days. The facility underwent a mission change in 2002 after the closing of Southeastern Correctional Center (SECC) when all detoxification services and programs for civilly committed males formerly housed at SECC were moved to this facility and it was renamed the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center. On January 1, 2017, there were 118 civil commitments and 28 criminally sentenced inmates.

### Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC) *Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1997
- Opened: 1986 - Expanded: 1997
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$64,390
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 521
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 523
- Operational Capacity: 673
- Sentenced: 312 & Civil Commitments: 361



The MTC is a medium security facility separately housing criminally sentenced male inmates identified as sex offenders and those who have been civilly committed as sexually dangerous persons (SDPs) as defined by M.G.L. Chapter 123A for a day to life commitment. The facility offers a comprehensive sexual offender treatment program intended to reduce the risks associated with reoffending. On January 1, 2017, there were 310 criminally sentenced inmates, 174 SDPs, and 38 temporary civil commitments.

### MCI-Cedar Junction (MCI-CJ) *South Walpole, MA*

- Security Level: Maximum Reception & Diagnostic Center w/ Medium Component
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2002
- Opened: 1956 - Expanded: 1991 Modular Unit, DDU
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$70,237
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 722
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 744 Maximum: 672 & Medium: 72
- Operational Capacity: 646 Maximum: 568 & Medium: 78



In 2009, the mission of MCI-CJ shifted from a maximum security institution to the Department's Reception and Diagnostic Center for male inmates with a focus on the completion of assessments to determine an inmate's initial classification designation and the development of individualized program plans. The Department Disciplinary Unit (DDU) for the Department's most serious discipline issues is also located here. On January 1, 2017, MCI-CJ housed 674 criminally sentenced inmates and 48 federal or out of state pre-trial detainees. There were 650 inmates housed in maximum security (124 of those in DDU) and 72 in medium security.

## Institution Overview

### MCI-Concord (MCI-C)

*Concord, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1878 - Renovations: 1999, 2005 Special Management Unit
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$64,703
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 699
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 657
- Operational Capacity: 752



MCI-C, the former Reception and Diagnostic Center for the Department, shifted to a medium security facility for male inmates when MCI-CJ took over the reception role in 2009. In 2015, due to budgetary reasons, the operational capacity was reduced and inmates and pre-trial detainees were transferred to other facilities or returned to their county of origin.

### MCI-Framingham (MCI-F)

*Framingham, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1995
- Opened: 1877 - Expanded: 1965 4 Cottages & Health Services Unit Bldg., 1983 Modular Unit, 1989 Modular Unit, 1991 Betty Cole Smith Bldg.
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$72,004
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 468
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 512
- Operational Capacity: 639



MCI-F is the Department's Reception and Diagnostic Center for female inmates, providing a comprehensive network of gender responsive, trauma informed programming for women who are serving criminal sentences, awaiting trial or civilly committed. It is the oldest operating women's prison in the country. On January 1, 2017, this medium security facility housed 293 criminally sentenced inmates, 170 pre-trial detainees, and 5 civil commitments.

### MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N)

*Norfolk, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$43,760
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 1,424
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,450
- Operational Capacity: 1,473



MCI-N, a facility housing male inmates, holds the distinction of being the largest medium security institution in the Massachusetts DOC. It was the first community-based prison in the United States, created to be more spacious with a campus-like atmosphere and architecture. Inmate housing consists of eighteen dormitory-style living units and two modular units divided by a large central grass quadrangle.

## Institution Overview

### MCI-Plymouth (MCI-P)

*Plymouth, MA*

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1994
- Opened: 1952
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$50,418
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: N/A
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 118
- Operational Capacity: 239  
Minimum: 224 & Pre-Release: 15



MCI-P originated as a Prison Camp in the 1950s on the grounds of the Myles Standish State Forest. The facility houses criminally sentenced males, partnering with and providing inmate community work crews and services to neighboring towns, thereby enhancing inmate re-entry and reparation. In 2012, MCI-P opened a pre-release component in response to one of the many re-entry initiatives outlined in the Massachusetts Corrections Master Plan. On October 2013, MCI-P increased its pre-release capacity to 15 beds and decreased its minimum capacity to 212 beds. Effective December 22, 2016, MCI-Plymouth was shuttered and remaining inmates were transferred to other DOC facilities.

### MCI-Shirley (MCI-S)

*Shirley, MA*

- Security Level: Medium & Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1995
- Opened: Minimum in 1972, Medium in 1991
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$43,332
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 1,458
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,462  
Medium: 1,153 & Minimum: 309
- Operational Capacity: 1,455  
Medium: 1,129 & Minimum: 326



MCI-S encompasses two facilities housing both medium and minimum custody level inmates. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2017 were in medium security housing units (n=1,137) with 321 housed in minimum security. The two security levels were considered separate institutions until July 2002, when they were combined as one, operating under one administration. Along with a skilled nursing facility (SNF), MCI-S operates an Assisted Daily Living Unit for medium inmates.

### North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI)

*Gardner, MA*

- Security Level: Medium & Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1989
- Opened: 1981 - Renovations: 1982, 1993
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$49,239
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 918
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 953  
Medium: 937 & Minimum: 16
- Operational Capacity: 1,012  
Medium: 982 & Minimum: 30



NCCI is a facility housing criminally sentenced males. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2017 were in medium security housing units (n=906) with 12 housed in minimum security. The institution is located on the land formerly occupied by the Gardner State Hospital which was open from 1902 until its doors were closed in 1976.

## Institution Overview

### Northeastern Correctional Center (NECC)

Concord, MA

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1982
- Opened: 1932
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$45,383
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 198
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 215
- Operational Capacity: 277
- Minimum: 213 & Pre-Release: 64



NECC is a facility, operating under the Superintendent of MCI-Concord, housing criminally sentenced males. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2017 were in minimum security housing units (n=142), with 56 housed in pre-release. The facility was originally the supporting farm for MCI-Concord. Currently, the programming is designed to enable a smooth transition from confinement to the community. Community work crews provide cost effective labor to surrounding communities.

### Old Colony Correctional Center (OCCC)

Bridgewater, MA

- Security Level: Medium & Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1989
- Opened: 1987 - Expanded: 1990 Modular Unit
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$54,975
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 617
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 749
- Medium: 650 & Minimum: 99
- Operational Capacity: 906
- Medium: 746 & Minimum: 160



A mission change was facilitated in 2010 at OCCC shifting their medium security operation to a mental health focused facility with the objective of providing needed mental health services more efficiently while at the same time promoting rehabilitation and re-entry. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2017 were housed in a medium security unit (n=518), with 99 housed in minimum security.

### Pondville Correctional Center (PCC)

Norfolk, MA

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1994
- Opened: 1990
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$52,216
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 168
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 127
- Operational Capacity: 204
- Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



PCC is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 128 minimum and 40 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2017. The original name of the facility was Norfolk Pre-Release Center (NPRC). The facility was constructed in 1975. In 1990, following significant renovations, the facility then became known as Pondville Correctional Center housing both minimum and pre-release inmates. Beginning in July 2015, in partnership with the Massachusetts Parole Board and Spectrum Health Services Inc., a 48-bed unit was dedicated to parolees who are in need of transitional services. The TTP program was relocated to Boston Pre-Release Center as of December 5, 2016.



## ***Institution Overview***

### **South Middlesex Correctional Center (SMCC)**

***Framingham, MA***

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1983
- Opened: 1976
- Mission Change: 2002 all Female
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$47,840
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 103
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 113
- Operational Capacity: 185  
Minimum: 140 & Pre-Release: 45



SMCC is a facility for criminally sentenced state and county females housing 78 minimum and 25 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2017. The facility began as a male facility and became a female facility on July 1, 2002 following a mission change. The community based environment encourages ongoing utilization of skills and resources necessary for successful re-entry into the community while ensuring public safety.

### **Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC)**

***Shirley, MA***

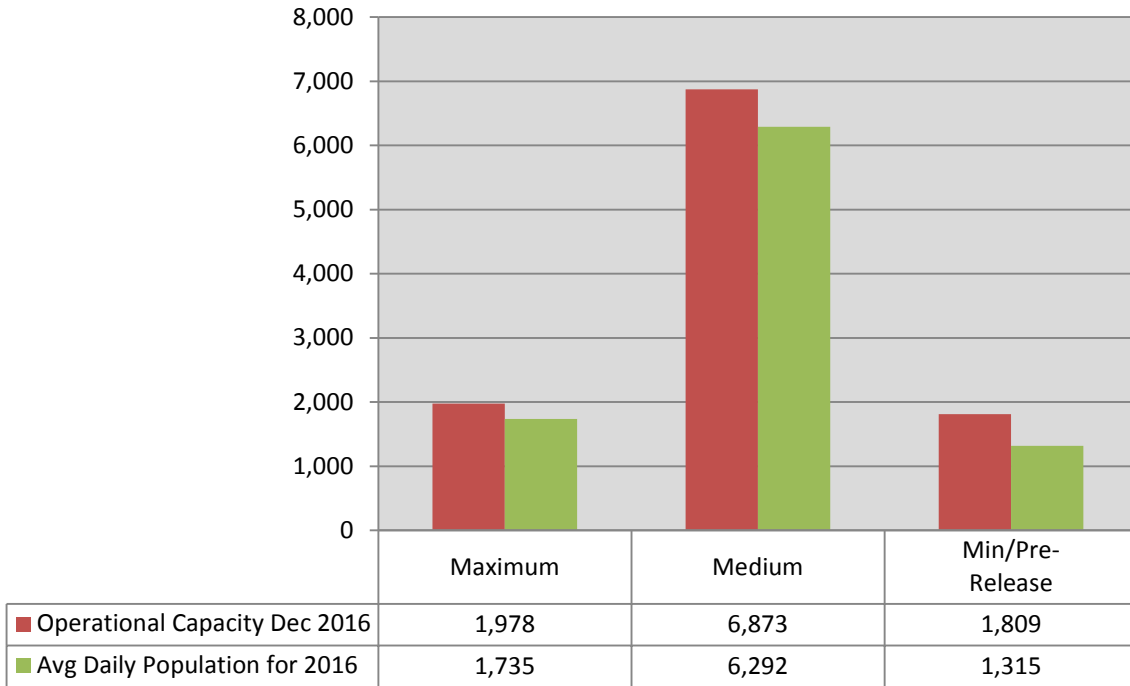
- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2016): \$64,211
- January 1, 2017 Facility Population: 1,134
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,063
- Operational Capacity: 1,410



SBCC is the one exclusively maximum security male facility in Massachusetts. SBCC is currently the newest state correctional facility in Massachusetts, having opened on September 30, 1998. At the time, it was built with the highest degree of technological integration of any prison in the country, including a keyless security system and one of the largest camera matrix systems nationwide.

## Institution Capacity

MA DOC 2016 Average Daily Custody Population vs. Operational Capacity



### Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2016

Operational Capacity = 10,660

Average Daily Population for 2016 (Custody Population) = 9,343

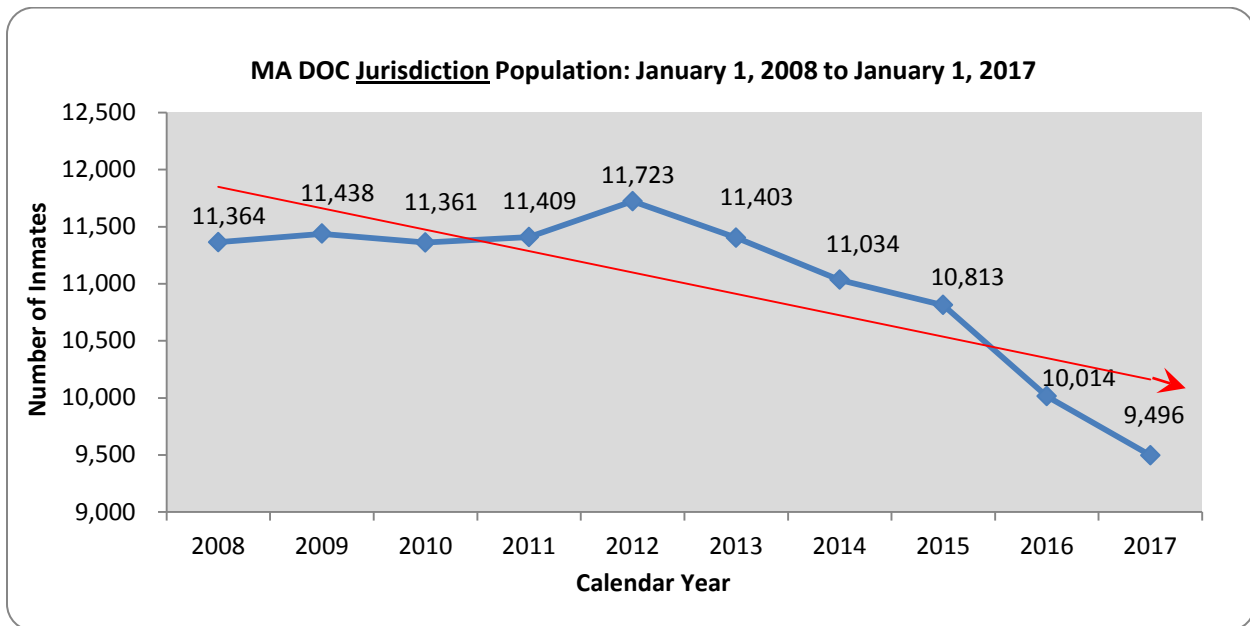
Average Daily Population for 2016 (Jurisdiction Population) = 9,822

- ◆ **Operational Capacity** is the number of beds authorized for safe and efficient operation of the facility. It does not include beds reserved for discipline, investigations, infirmary or other temporary holds because these beds are used for temporary or special purposes.
- ◆ The numbers utilized in this report associated with operational capacity are from January 1, 2017.

# Massachusetts DOC 2016 Population Trends

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## Population Trends



### Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population continued to decline for the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year, a decrease of 19% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2012 (n=11,723).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017, there was a 5% decrease in inmates, from 10,014 to 9,496.
- ◆ The overall trend in the MA DOC jurisdiction population shows a decrease of 16% between January 1, 2008 (n=11,364) and January 1, 2017.

### National

- ◆ The estimated number of persons in state and federal prisons decreased to 1,526,792 at year-end 2015<sup>1</sup>, a 2% decrease (n=35,527), from year-end 2014 (n=1,562,319).<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ After a slight increase in the state and federal jurisdiction population in 2013, there was a decrease of 3% between year-end 2013 and year-end 2015, the largest decline in more than 35 years. There was a 7% decrease in the total federal population (n=14,112) and a 2% decrease in the total state population (n=21,415) between year-end 2014 and year-end 2015.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2015 was 458 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, a decrease of 3% from 471 in 2014 and the lowest rate since 1997 (n=444).<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between 2014 and 2015, twenty-nine (29) states saw decreases in their state's jurisdiction population.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Year-end 2015 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (December 2016). *Prisoners in 2015* (NCJ 250229). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

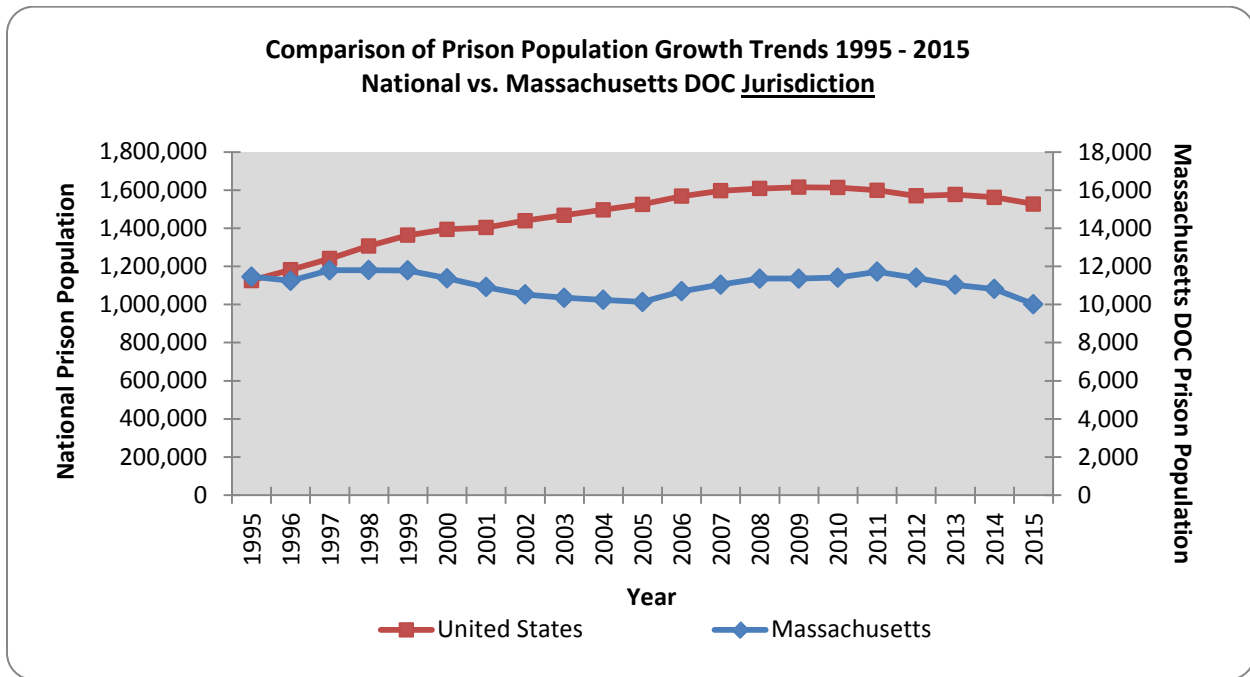
<sup>3</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 3, table 1.

<sup>4</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 8.

<sup>5</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 4.



## Population Trends



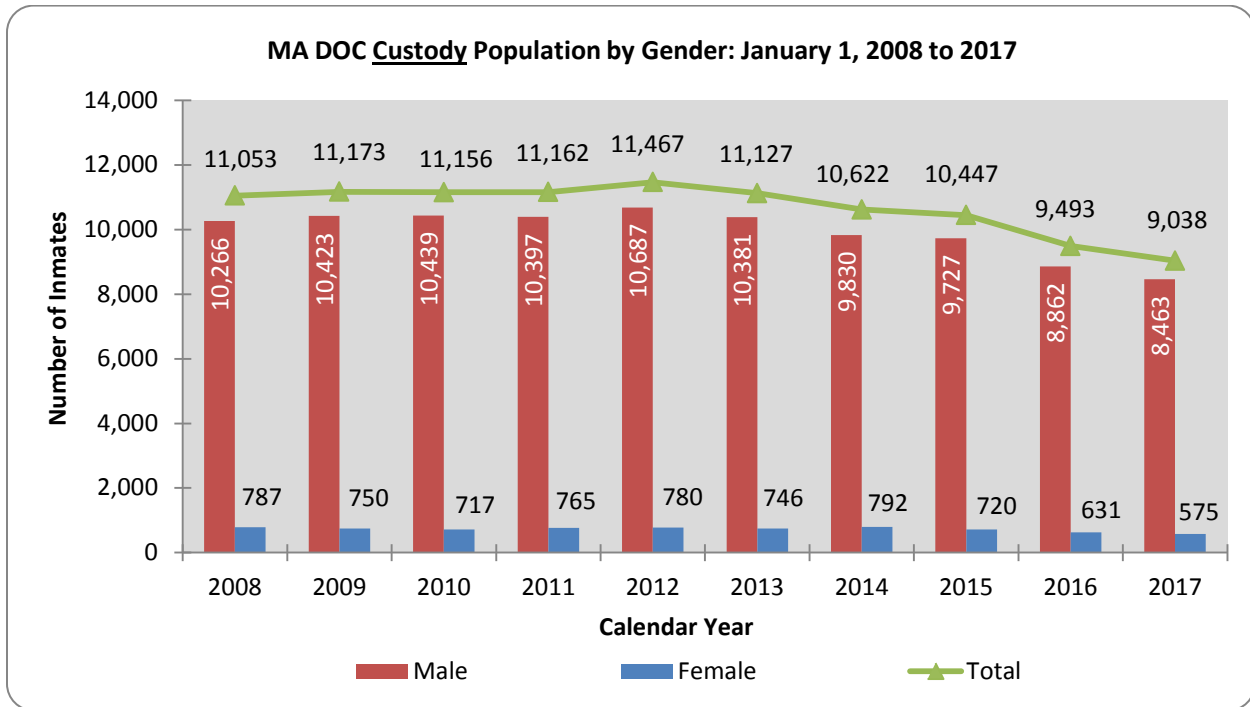
**Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 1995 – 2015:**  
**National<sup>6</sup> vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction**

Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
1995	1,125,874	6.7	11,462	-0.3
1996	1,183,368	5.1	11,242	-1.9
1997	1,242,153	5.0	11,794	4.9
1998	1,302,019	4.8	11,807	0.1
1999	1,363,701	4.7	11,792	-0.1
2000	1,394,231	2.2	11,377	-3.5
2001	1,404,032	0.7	10,919	-4.0
2002	1,440,144	2.6	10,534	-3.5
2003	1,468,601	2.0	10,354	-1.7
2004	1,497,100	1.9	10,242	-1.1
2005	1,525,910	1.9	10,138	-1.0
2006	1,568,674	2.8	10,699	5.5
2007	1,596,835	1.8	11,045	3.2
2008	1,608,282	0.7	11,364	2.9
2009	1,615,487	0.4	11,361	0.0
2010	1,613,803	-0.1	11,409	0.4
2011	1,598,968	-0.9	11,723	2.8
2012	1,570,397	-1.8	11,403	-2.7
2013	1,576,950	0.4	11,034	-3.2
2014	1,562,319	-0.9	10,813	-2.0
2015	1,526,792	-2.3	10,014	-7.4

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 13% from 11,462 in 1995 to 10,014 in 2015; over the same time period, the national population increased by 36%, from 1,125,874 to 1,526,792.
- ◆ Between the years 2014 and 2015, there was a 7% (n=799) decrease in the Massachusetts jurisdiction population, the largest decrease experienced in the observed trend period. Since 2011, the Massachusetts prison population had a cumulative decrease of 15% (n=1,709).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 43% from 1995 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 5% from 2010 to 2015. The 2% decrease in the national prison population between 2014 and 2015 was the largest decline in the national prison population in the observed trend period.

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (December 2016). *Prisoners in 2015* (NCJ 250229). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

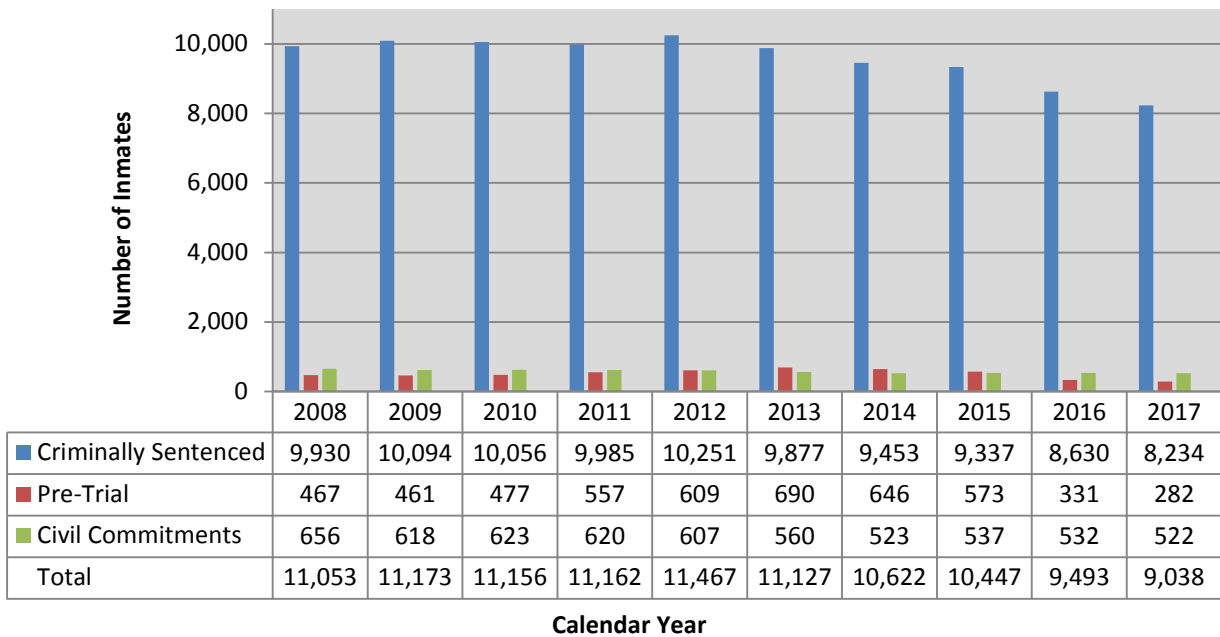
## Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC custody population has shown a significant decrease of 18% between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2017. Over the 10 year period there was an increase of 4% from 2008 to 2012, with the population remaining relatively constant between 2008 and 2011 before spiking in 2012 to 11,467 inmates. Following the increase there was then a notable decrease in population of 21% from 2012 to 2017.
- ◆ Male inmates increased 4% between 2008 and 2012. In the past five years however, the male custody population dropped from 10,687 in 2012 to 8,463 in 2017 which drove a 21% decrease in the total custody population.
- ◆ The female population experienced more fluctuation than their male counterparts during this time frame, most notably a 9% drop between 2008 and 2010. Females then experienced a 10% increase between 2010 and 2014. However, in the past three years both females and males have had a significant decrease in their custody populations 27% and 14% respectively.
- ◆ From November 2011 to February 2012, 51 county sentenced female inmates in DOC custody were transferred to a regional correctional center in Hampden County. Beginning in November 2011, county sentenced females including those from Worcester County and west, were held in the custody of this regional center and no longer at the MA DOC.

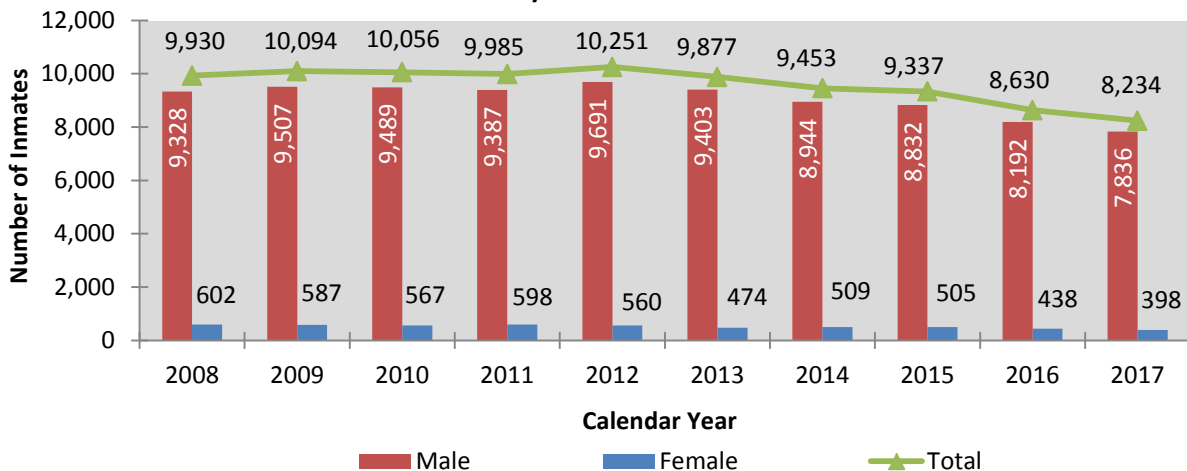
## Population Trends

**MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2008 to 2017**



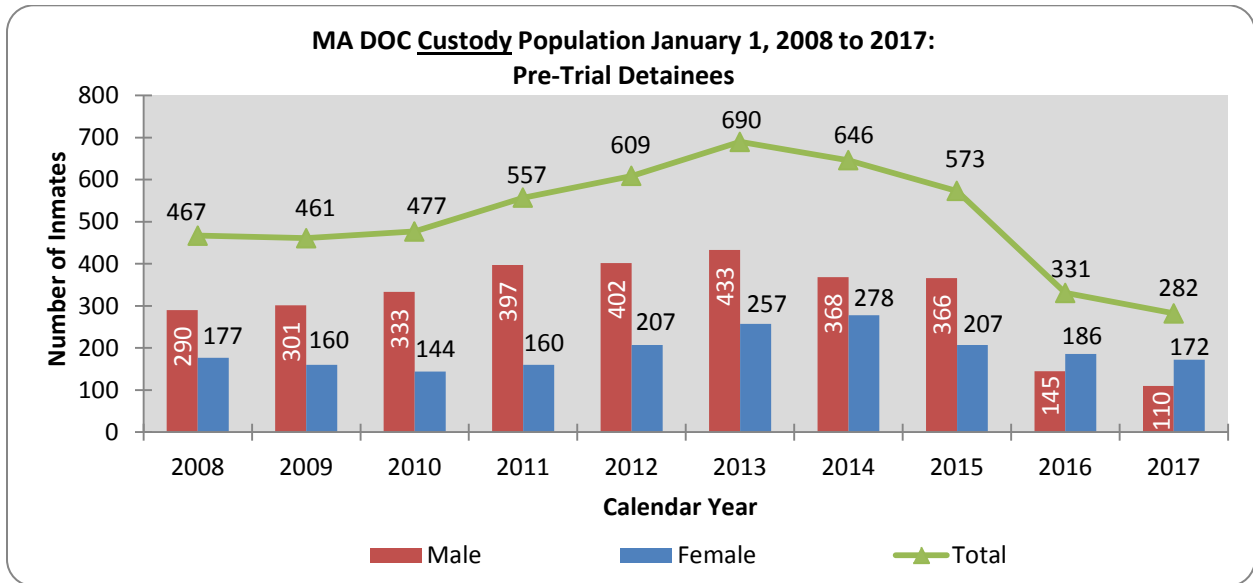
The Massachusetts DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (17%), civil (20%) and pre-trial (40%) commitment populations between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2017. Since 2012, the criminally sentenced population has experienced a 20% reduction. The population that showed the largest decline of the three commitment types was the pre-trial population with a 59% decrease from 2013-2017.

**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2008 to 2017:  
Criminally Sentenced Inmates**

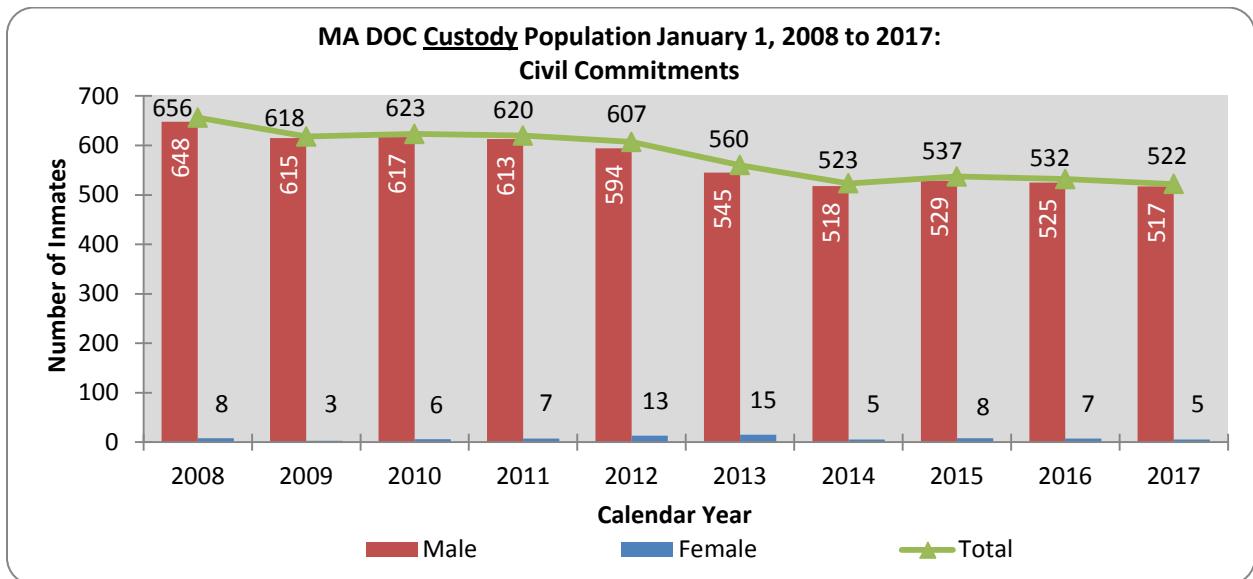


- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates compose 91% of the Massachusetts DOC custody population.
- ◆ From 2008 through 2017, both males and females experienced a decreased, 16% percent and 34% respectively. The total criminally sentenced population experienced a 17% drop over the same time period (2008 to 2017) but in the past five years saw a decrease of 20% from 2012 to 2017 after peaking at 10,251 inmates in 2012.

## Population Trends

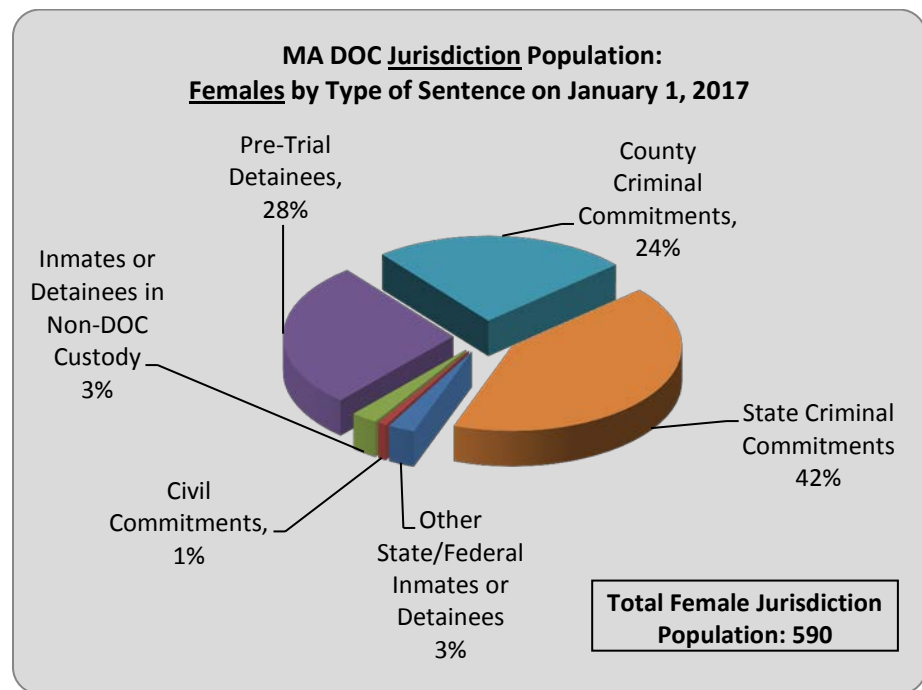
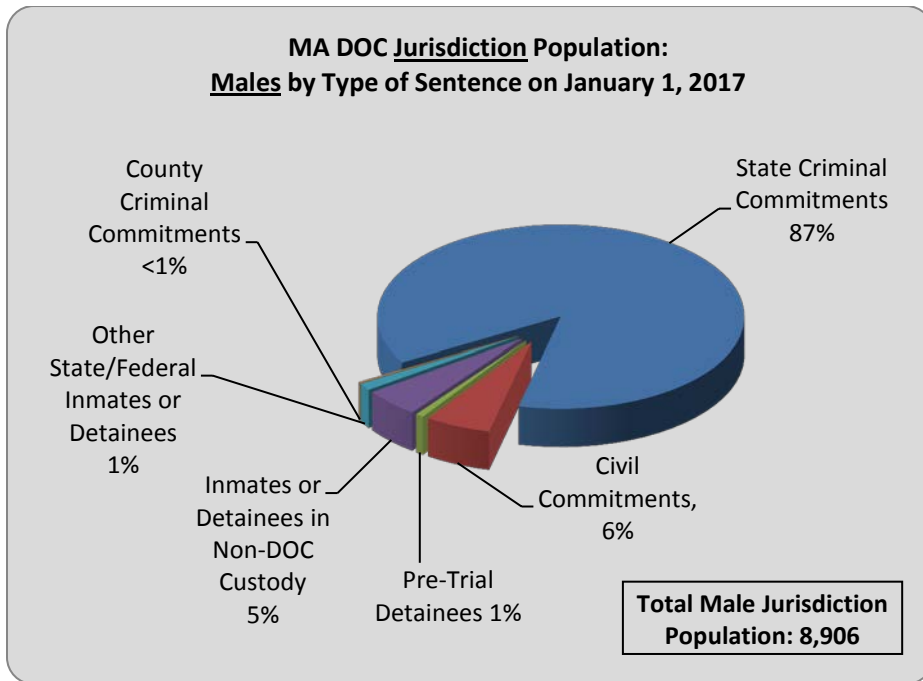


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased 40% between 2008 and 2017.
- ◆ In 2011, males made up 71% of the pre-trial population compared to 57% in 2014 and then was ultimately taken over by females (56%) in 2016 with males only consisting of 44% of pre-trial commitments. In 2017, this trend continued as females now make up 61% of the pre-trial population. While the total population has decreased since 2008, the proportion of males and females made a large shift during this period largely due to 52A's no longer being held in MCI-Concord starting late in 2015.



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consists almost entirely of male inmates (99%). The total civil commitment population and the male civil commitment populations experienced a notable decrease, 20% each, from 2008 to 2017.
- ◆ Averaging 8 inmates a year over the trend period, female civil commitment inmates represent the smallest population with a low of 3 in 2009 and a high of 15 in 2013.

## Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were state criminal commitments (87%) on January 1, 2017.
- ◆ Female state criminal commitments (42%) represent a smaller portion of their total commitments compared to males (87%) due to the MA DOC housing several counties female inmates for capacity issues/ lack of housing. Therefore, there was a more even distribution of females compared to their male counterparts.

Note: Throughout this document percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Inmate Characteristics

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## ***Inmate Characteristics by Gender***

### **Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2017**

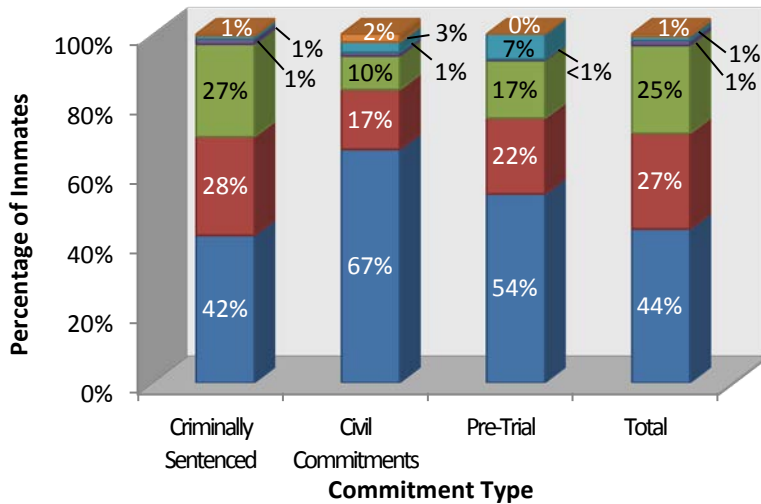
- ◆ 8,906 total males in the jurisdiction population: 8,226 criminally sentenced, 113 pre-trial detainees, and 567 civil commitments
  - ◆ Average age was 41 years old
  - ◆ 96% were serving a sentence of more than three years
  - ◆ 70% had a violent governing offense
  - ◆ 846 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
  - ◆ 45% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
  - ◆ 44% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math level
  - ◆ The 2013 three year recidivism rate was 32% for the total male population
  - ◆ 29% were open mental health cases, 7% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 21% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2016
- Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

### **Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2017**

- ◆ 590 total females in the jurisdiction population: 408 criminally sentenced, 177 pre-trial detainees, and 5 civil commitments
  - ◆ Average age was 37 years old
  - ◆ 61% were serving a sentence of more than three years
  - ◆ 56% had a violent governing offense
  - ◆ 22 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
  - ◆ 31% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
  - ◆ 31% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math level
  - ◆ The 2013 three year recidivism rate was 33% for the total female population
  - ◆ 74% were open mental health cases, 15% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 61% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2016
- Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

## Inmate Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**

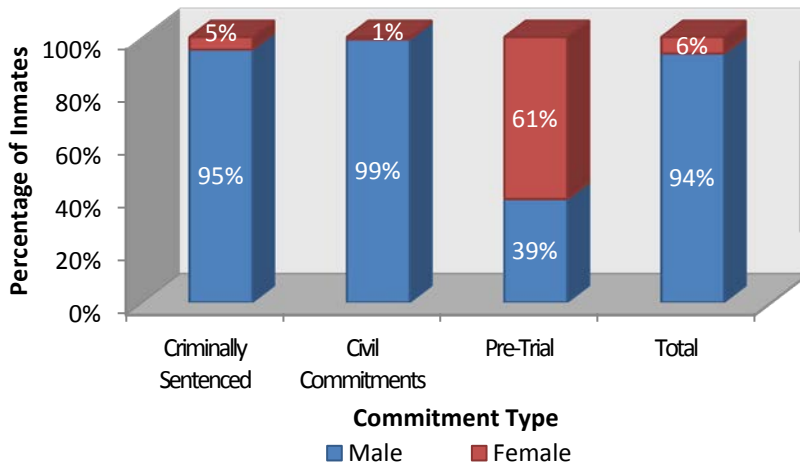
Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	3,652	383	157	4,192
Black	2,442	98	63	2,603
Hispanic	2,291	55	48	2,394
Asian	125	6	1	132
Other	76	17	21	114
Native American	48	13	0	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,634</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9,496</b>

\*Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by inmate at time of admission.

■ White
 ■ Black
 ■ Hispanic
 ■ Asian
 ■ Other
 ■ Native Amer.

Similar to previous years, the largest percentage of the total inmate population had a race/ethnicity of White (44%), followed by Black and Hispanic (27% and 25% respectively), which was mirrored in each commitment type. There was little change in proportions from last year with the exception of pre-trial inmates which experienced a 6 percentage point decrease in black inmates and small increases for White (2%), Hispanic (2%), and Other (3%) inmates.

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	8,226	567	113	8,906
Female	408	5	177	590
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,634</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9,496</b>

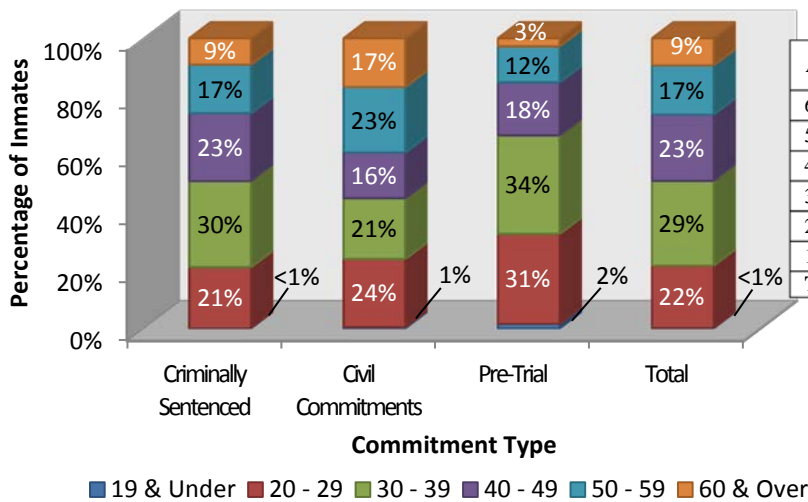
The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males with 95% and 99% respectively. For the second year pre-trial detainees continued to have a greater proportion of females (61%) versus males (39%) due to the transfer of pre-trial males from MCI-Concord back to their counties of origin.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> MCI-Framingham has two awaiting trial units (ATUs) designated to house female pre-trial detainees. This is unique as pre-trial detainees are largely housed by the counties for males. Several counties are not equipped with adequate, or in a number of cases, any housing for pre-trial females.



## Inmate Characteristics by Age and Age at Time of Incarceration

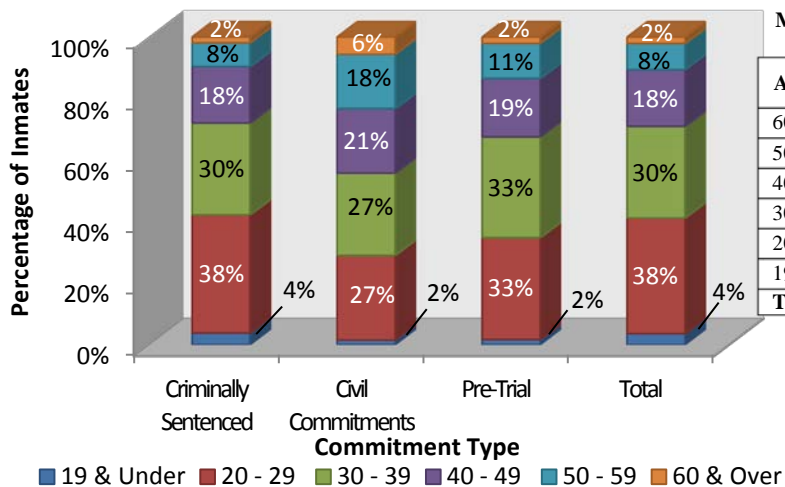
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type  
on January 1, 2017**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type  
on January 1, 2017**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	782	96	8	886
50 - 59	1,446	129	36	1,611
40 - 49	2,006	89	53	2,148
30 - 39	2,564	120	98	2,782
20 - 29	1,821	135	90	2,046
19 & Under	15	3	5	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,634</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9,496</b>

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration  
and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration  
and Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	164	32	6	202
50 - 59	668	101	33	802
40 - 49	1,579	120	55	1,754
30 - 39	2,575	153	95	2,823
20 - 29	3,317	157	96	3,570
19 & Under	331	9	5	345
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,634</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9,496</b>

- ◆ As of January 1, 2017, 51% (n=4,385) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 4,234 inmates (49%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 5,892 inmates in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (68%) with 3,317 between ages 20-29 (38%).
- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates who comprised the majority of the jurisdiction population mirrored the total jurisdiction population with 87% between the ages 20-49 at the time of incarceration and 74% between the ages 20 – 49 on January 1, 2017.
- ◆ The oldest inmates in the jurisdiction population as of January 1, 2017 relative to sentence type were civil commitments, with 55% of inmates (n=314) aged 40 and older differing from age at incarceration, in which 319 inmates (56%) were 39 years old and younger.
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age on January 1, 2017 to age at incarceration (65% and 66% respectively being between the ages of 20-39) suggesting a more transitional population with shorter institutional stays.

## **Inmate Characteristics by Age, Age at Time of Incarceration, and Release**

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Age Averages and Ranges by Commitment Type on January 1, 2017**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	41 Years	44 Years	40 Years	<b>41 Years</b>
Median	39 Years	44 Years	38 Years	<b>39 Years</b>
Youngest	17 Years	18 Years	23 Years	<b>17 Years</b>
Oldest	93 Years	85 Years	83 Years	<b>93 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	38 Years	42 Years	34 Years	<b>37 Years</b>
Median	36 Years	45 Years	32 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	26 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	72 Years	49 Years	61 Years	<b>72 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	41 Years	44 Years	37 Years	<b>41 Years</b>
Median	39 Years	44 Years	35 Years	<b>39 Years</b>
Youngest	17 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>17 Years</b>
Oldest	93 Years	85 Years	83 Years	<b>93 Years</b>

In contrast to last year, at the time of incarceration criminally sentenced (35 years old) and civilly committed (42 years old) females were older on average than criminally sentenced (34 years old) and civilly committed (39 years old) males.

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Age Averages and Ranges by Commitment Type at Time of Incarceration on January 1, 2017**

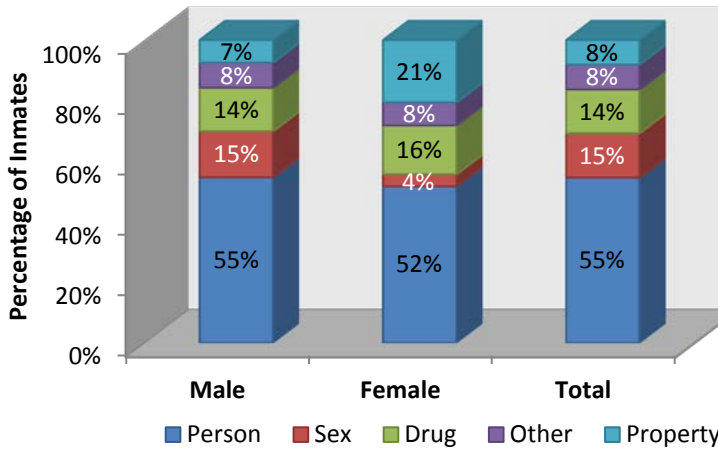
	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	34 Years	39 Years	39 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	32 Years	37 Years	37 Years	<b>32 Years</b>
Youngest	15 Years	17 Years	23 Years	<b>15 Years</b>
Oldest	82 Years	73 Years	82 Years	<b>82 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	35 Years	42 Years	33 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Median	33 Years	45 Years	32 Years	<b>33 Years</b>
Youngest	18 Years	26 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	67 Years	49 Years	61 Years	<b>67 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	34 Years	39 Years	36 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	32 Years	37 Years	34 Years	<b>32 Years</b>
Youngest	15 Years	17 Years	18 Years	<b>15 Years</b>
Oldest	82 Years	73 Years	82 Years	<b>82 Years</b>

**MA DOC 2016 Jurisdiction Population Age Averages and Ranges by Commitment Type at Time of Release**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	38 Years	37 Years	40 Years	<b>37 Years</b>
Median	36 Years	34 Years	39 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Youngest	17 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>17 Years</b>
Oldest	89 Years	81 Years	76 Years	<b>89 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	36 Years	34 Years	34 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	34 Years	30 Years	32 Years	<b>32 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	20 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	68 Years	64 Years	68 Years	<b>68 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	38 Years	37 Years	35 Years	<b>36 Years</b>
Median	35 Years	33 Years	33 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Youngest	17 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>17 Years</b>
Oldest	89 Years	81 Years	76 Years	<b>89 Years</b>

## Inmate Characteristics by Offense Types

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2017**

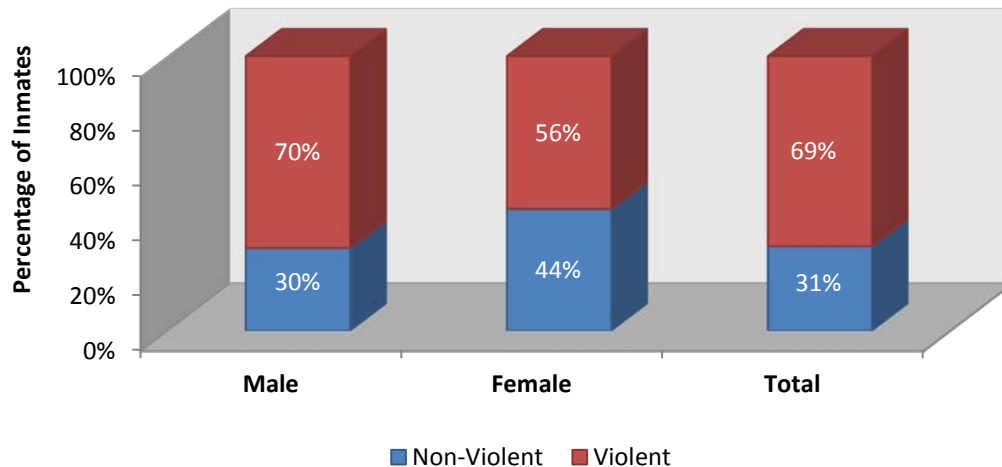


**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2017**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	4,499	211	4,710
	Sex	1,248	16	1,264
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	1,182	66	1,248
	Other	682	31	713
	Property	615	84	699
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,226</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>8,634</b>

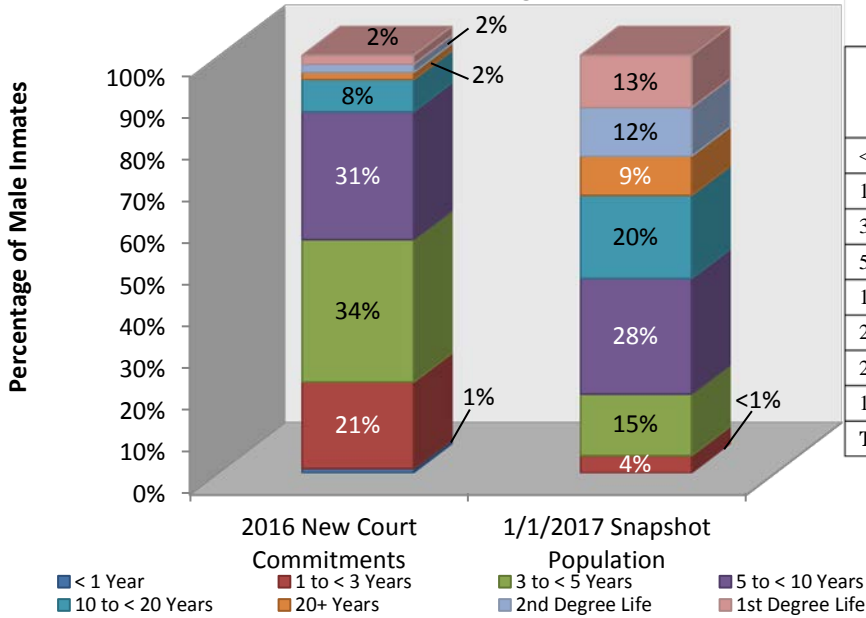
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for both the total criminally sentenced population and criminally sentenced male inmates on January 1, 2017 were person (55%), sex (15%), and drug offenses (14%).
- ◆ Differing slightly from their male counterparts the top three offenses for females were person offenses (52%), property offenses (21%), and drug offenses (16%).
- ◆ For the second year, the majority of criminally sentenced female inmates (56%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Males remained consistent with 70% incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Gender on January 1, 2017**



## Inmate Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

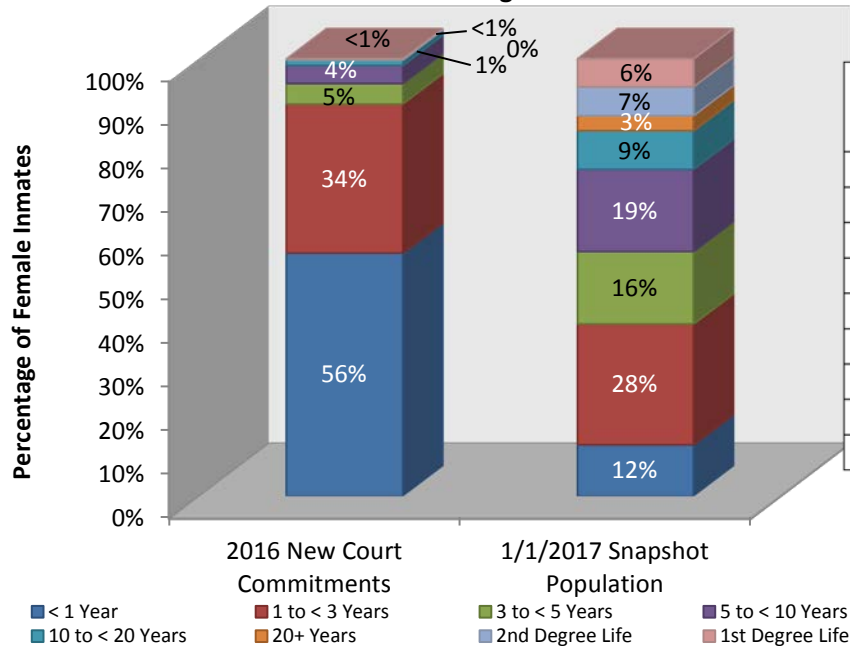
**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2016 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2017 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**



**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2016 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2017 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**

Sentence Length	2016 New Court Commitments	1/1/2017 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	17	4
1 to < 3 Years	328	339
3 to < 5 Years	541	1,214
5 to < 10 Years	485	2,276
10 to < 20 Years	122	1,636
20+ Years	27	773
2nd Degree Life	31	955
1st Degree Life	34	1,029
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>8,226</b>

**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2016 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2017 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**



**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2016 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2017 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**

Sentence Length	2016 New Court Commitments	1/1/2017 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	334	48
1 to < 3 Years	205	113
3 to < 5 Years	28	67
5 to < 10 Years	25	77
10 to < 20 Years	7	36
20+ Years	0	14
2nd Degree Life	1	27
1st Degree Life	1	26
<b>Total*</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>408</b>

The comparisons of 2016's new court commitments to the January 1, 2017 snapshot population are significant in that they demonstrate who is entering into the MA DOC (commitments) versus who is "stacking up" in the population (snapshot). The above charts and tables illustrate that over time it is the long-term inmates that stack up in the population. For example, approximately 24% of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these inmates only comprised 3% of new court commitments.

## ***Inmate Characteristics by Sentence Length***

In 2016, 90% of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only 40% of females in the January 1, 2017 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, 86% of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only 47% of the males in the January 1, 2017 snapshot population were serving a sentence not greater than 10 years. As mentioned earlier in this report, the MA DOC houses females who are pre-trial and those who are criminally sentenced for several counties; thus, many women are serving county sentences with the MA DOC, which are shorter terms than state sentences.

Between January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017, the percentage of state, criminally sentenced female inmates in the MA DOC jurisdiction increased by one percentage point, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced female inmates decreased by two percentage points. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2017:

- ◆ 63% (n=257) were state sentenced
- ◆ 35% (n=144) were county sentenced
- ◆ 2% (n=7) were out of state/federally sentenced

Naturally, sentence lengths vary by offense type. The following table reflects maximum sentence lengths less than 3 years and equal to or greater than 3 years by governing offense type and gender. The maximum sentence lengths are based on the total maximum number of days an inmate can serve on their commitment, which is the sum of their consecutive sentences. Sixty-eight percent of criminally sentenced males were serving a maximum sentence length of 3 years or more on a violent governing offense. In comparison, criminally sentenced females who were serving a maximum sentence length of 3 years or more on a violent governing offense made up 47% of the female sentenced population, with 30% of criminally sentenced females serving a maximum sentence length of less than 3 years on a non-violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2017:  
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Gender**

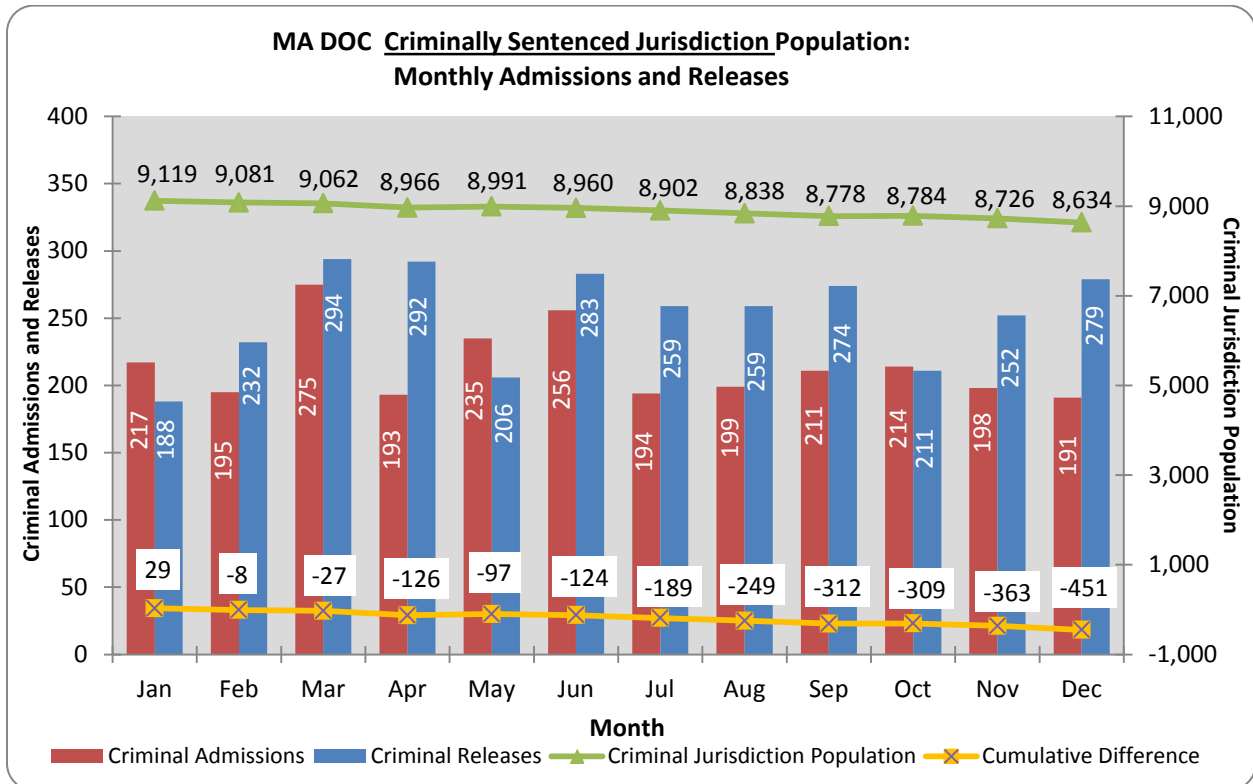
	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	113	4,386	35	176	148	4,562
	SEX	10	1,238	2	14	12	1,252
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	113	1,069	38	28	151	1,097
	PROPERTY	50	565	61	23	111	588
	OTHER	57	625	25	6	82	631
TOTALS		343	7,883	161	247	504	8,130
		8,226		408		8,634	

On January 1, 2017 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=1,248) for both criminally sentenced males (14%) and females (16%). A majority (70%) of drug offenders were serving sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. There were a total of 868 inmates sentenced for a mandatory drug governing offense: 846 males and 22 females.

## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Admissions and Releases

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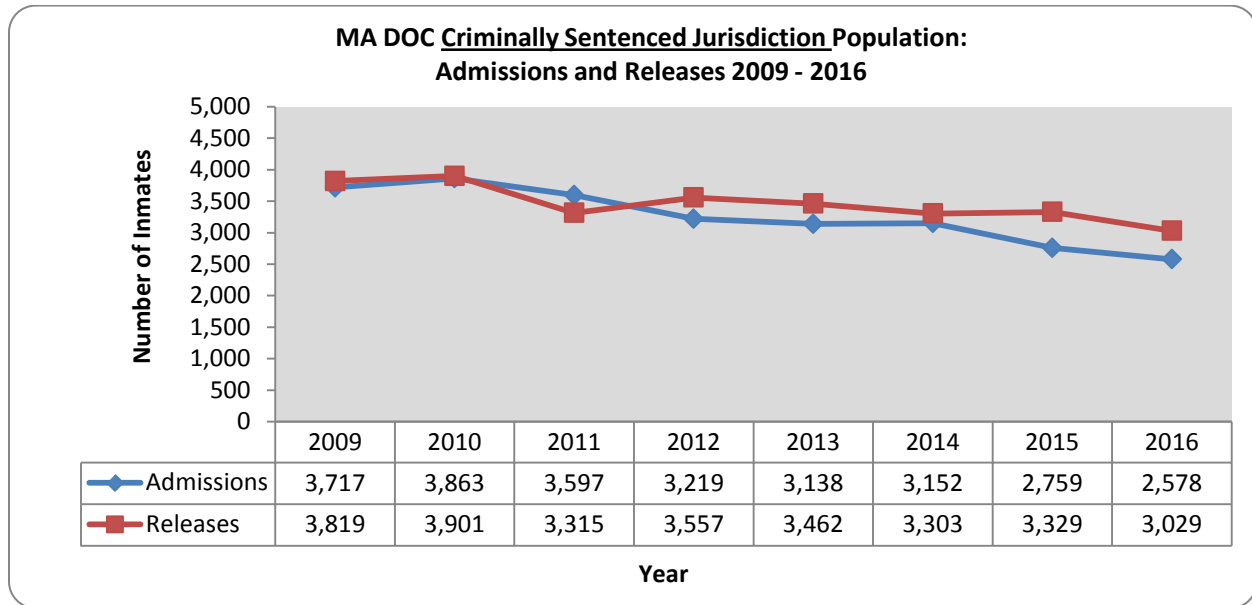
## Admissions and Releases



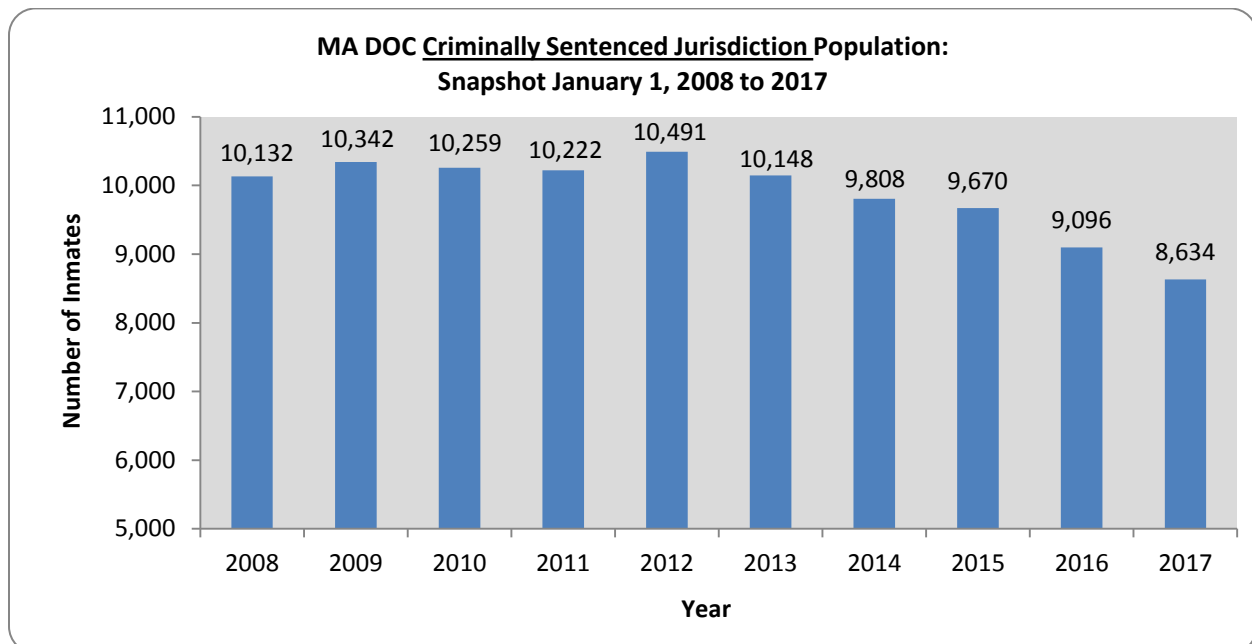
**Note:** Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2016 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was less than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 215 per month and criminal releases averaging 252.
- ◆ During the trend period, criminal admissions ranged between 191 in December and 275 in March. Criminal releases ranged between 188 in January and 294 in March.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 451 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2016 was 8,634, a 5% decrease from the population at the end of January 2015, at 9,096. This rate decrease was the same decrease seen when comparing year's end 2015 and 2014 criminally sentenced populations.

## Admissions and Releases



During the past eight years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal admissions exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal releases. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 5% each year; criminal admissions during 2015 and 2012 had the largest declines of 12% and 11%, respectively. Releases saw an average annual decrease of 3%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2011 and 2016, 15% and 9%, respectively.

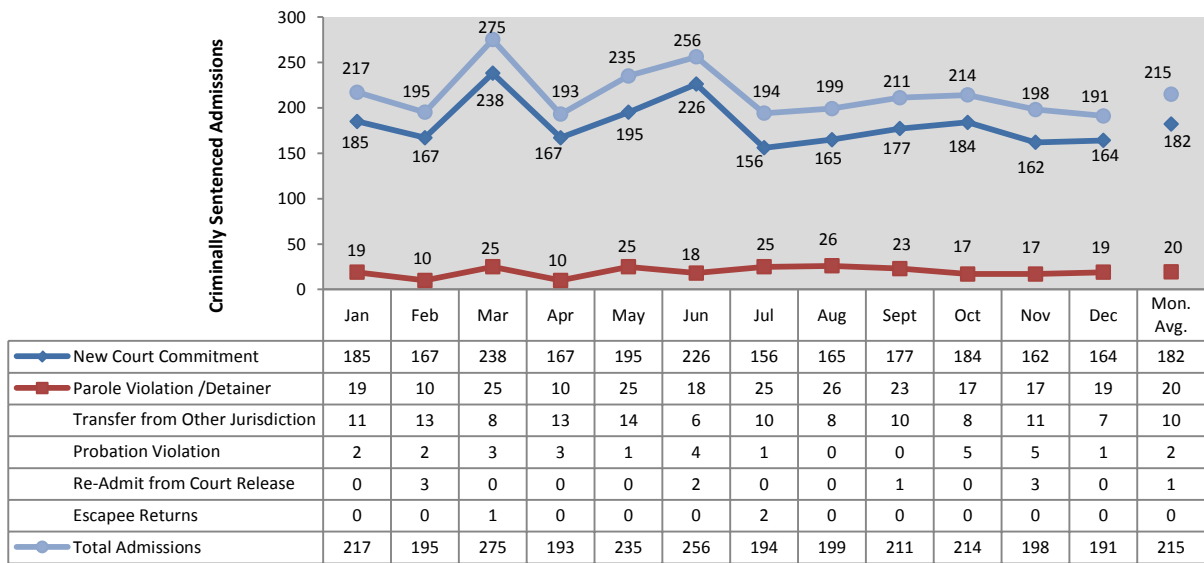


The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 15% from 2008 to 2017, averaging a 2% decrease per year. However, the years since 2012 saw an average yearly decrease of 4%, with 2017 seeing a decrease of 5%, compared to the previous year.



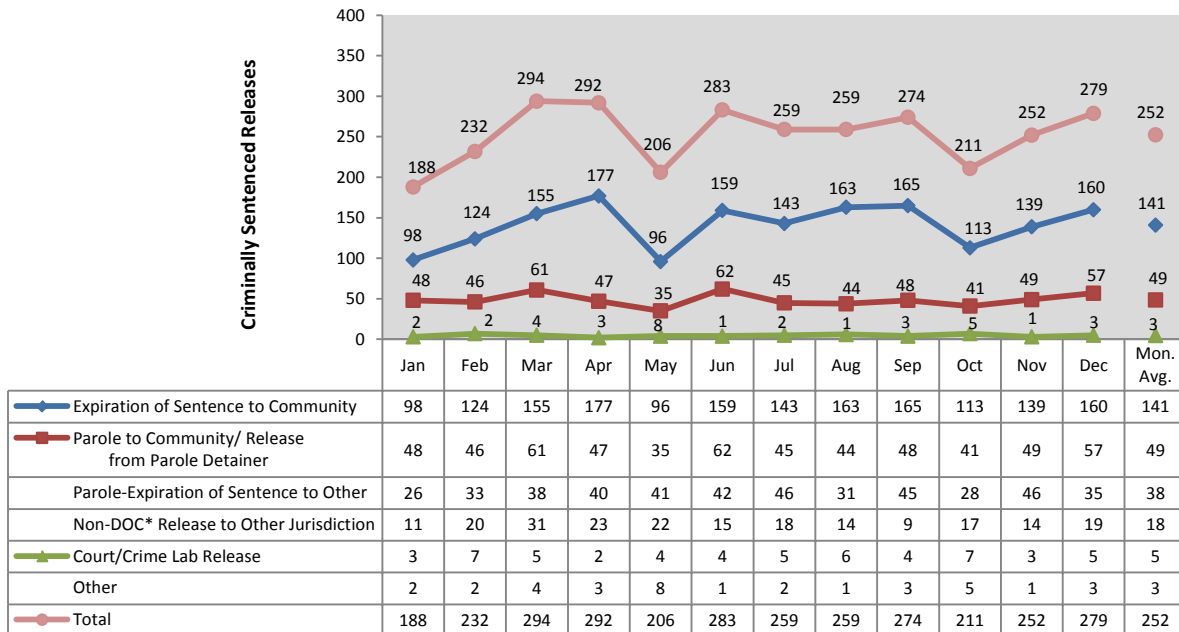
## Admissions and Releases

**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month**



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2016 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 156 to 238 with a monthly average of 182, 17 less than the monthly average in 2015. Total criminal admissions ranged from 191 to 275 for a monthly average of 215, fifteen less than the 2015 monthly average of 230.

**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Month**



\*Non-DOC refers to inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

Total criminal jurisdiction releases for 2016 ranged between 188 and 294 for a given month and averaged 252; twenty-five less than the monthly average from 2015 of 277. Releases due to expiration of sentence displayed a general upward monthly trend during 2016, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer remained fairly stable. Parole related releases to the community resulted in 19% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2016; slightly lower than 2015 releases, at 22%.

## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Gender**

Admission Type	Female		Male		Total	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	601	85%	1,585	85%	2,186	85%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	39	6%	195	10%	234	9%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	37	5%	82	4%	119	5%
Probation Violation	26	4%	1	<1%	27	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	2	<1%	7	<1%	9	<1%
Escapee Return	2	<1%	1	<1%	3	<1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>100%</b>

During 2016, 85% of both male and female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments; while new court commitments made up a slightly higher percentage of male and female criminally sentenced admissions during 2015, 86% and 88%, respectively.

### **MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Gender**

Release Type	Female		Male		Total	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	385	51%	1,307	58%	1,692	56%
Parole to Street / Release from Parole Detainer	128	17%	455	20%	583	19%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	102	13%	349	15%	451	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	129	17%	84	4%	213	7%
Court Release / Crime Lab	12	2%	43	2%	55	2%
Other Release	3	<1%	32	1%	35	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Non-DOC refers to inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

- ◆ Releases to the community are a subset of all releases consisting of: expiration of sentence to street, parole to community/release from parole detainer, and court release/crime lab. Of the 2,328 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2016, approximately 73% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 25% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and 2% were court/crime lab.
- ◆ Females accounted for 23% of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2016; 23% of the expirations of sentence to the community, 22% of paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 18% of court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 31 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2016: all were males.

## Admissions and Releases

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2014 - 2016

Admission Type	2014		2015		2016	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	2,731	87%	2,390	87%	2,186	85%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	234	7%	222	8%	234	9%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	126	4%	112	4%	119	5%
Probation Violation	23	1%	25	1%	27	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	34	1%	8	<1%	9	< 1%
Escapee Return	4	< 1%	2	<1%	3	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>3,152</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>100%</b>

- ◆ From 2014 to 2016 the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments remained fairly steady, despite the number of admissions who were new court commitments dropping from 2,731 in 2014, to 2,186 in 2016, a 20% decrease.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer dropped slightly between 2014 and 2015, from 234 to 222 admissions. The number rebounding during 2016, matching the 234 admissions seen during 2014.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2014 to 2016 saw its lowest point in 2016, down 18% from 2014.

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2014 - 2016

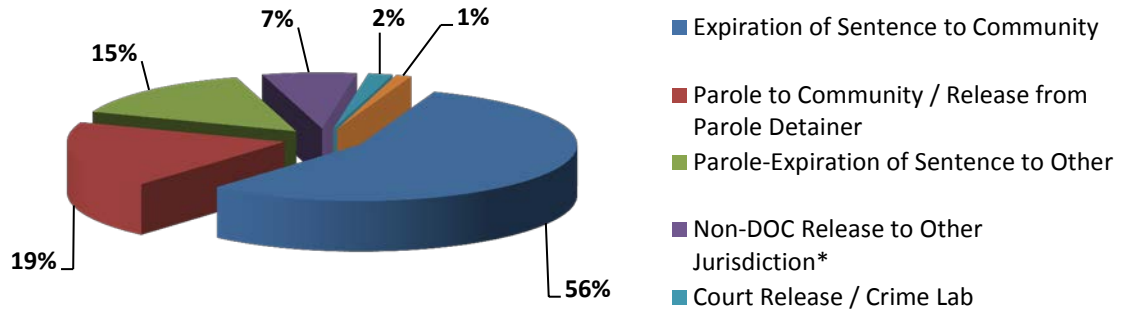
Release Type	2014		2015		2016	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	1,769	54%	1,789	54%	1,692	56%
Parole to Street / Release from Parole Detainer	695	21%	734	22%	583	19%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	501	15%	476	14%	451	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	217	7%	240	7%	213	7%
Court Release / Crime Lab	73	2%	59	2%	55	2%
Other Release	48	1%	31	1%	35	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Non-DOC refers to inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

- ◆ The number of expirations of sentence to the community remained similar over the past three years, but saw its lowest point in 2016 when it was 5% lower than the height in 2015. Releases increased by less than 1% between 2014 and 2015, followed by a 9% decrease during 2016.
- ◆ There was one escape from a pre-release facility.

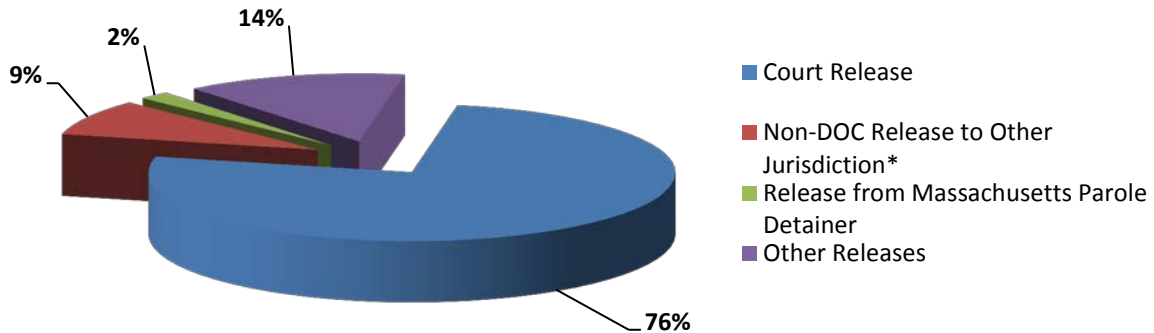
## Releases by Release Type

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



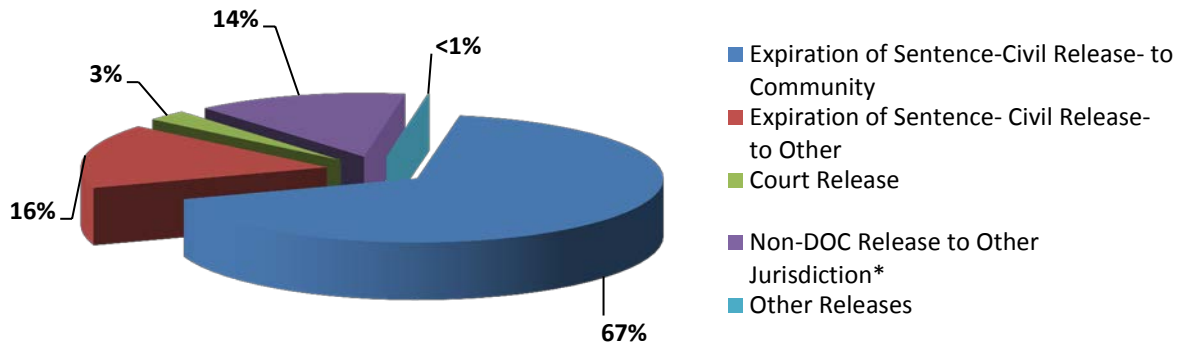
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county,

MA DOC 2016 Pre-Trial Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



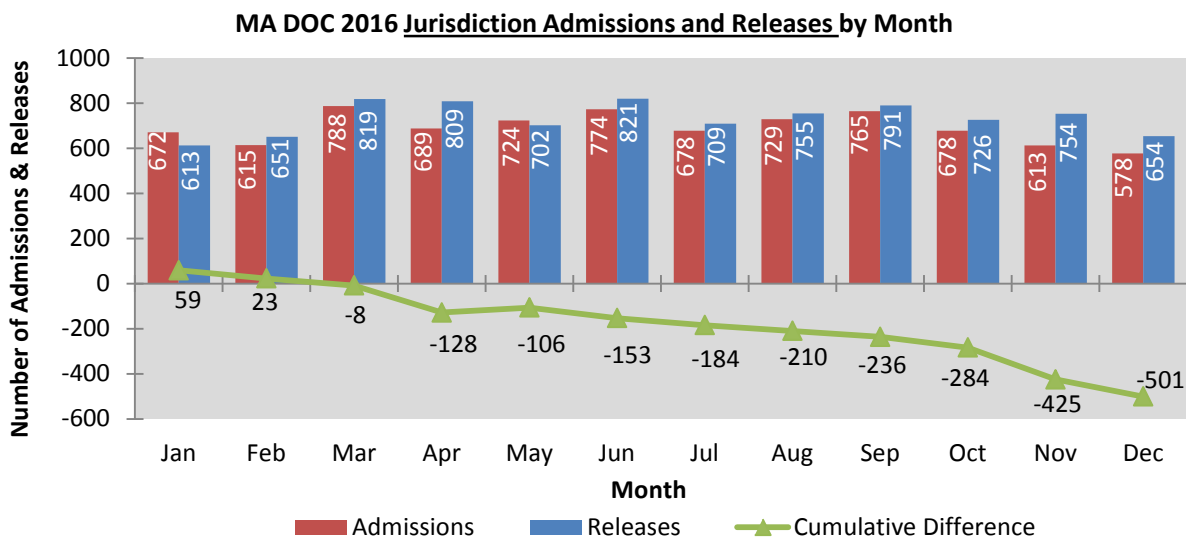
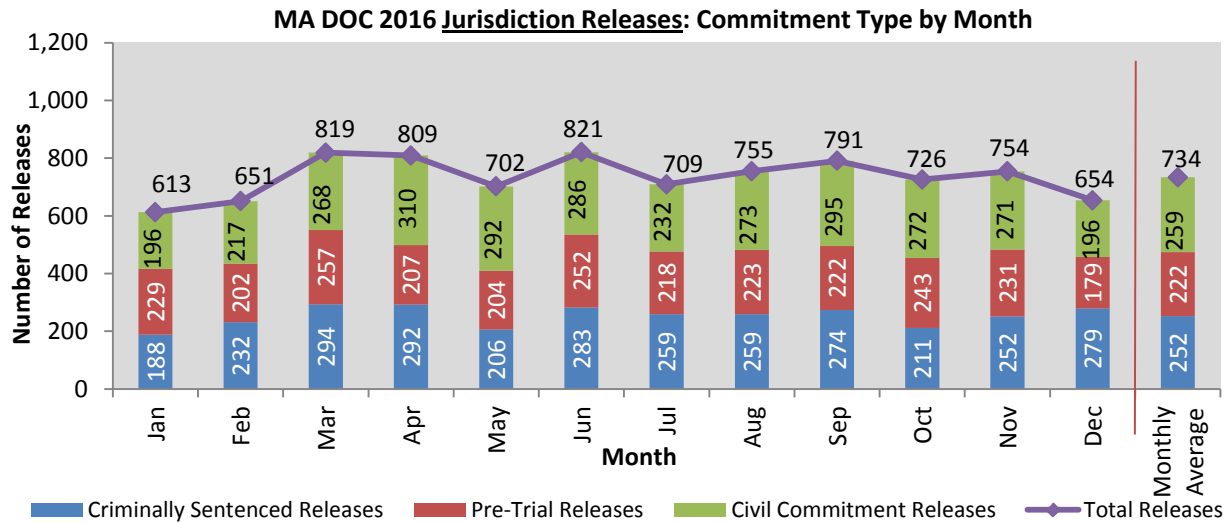
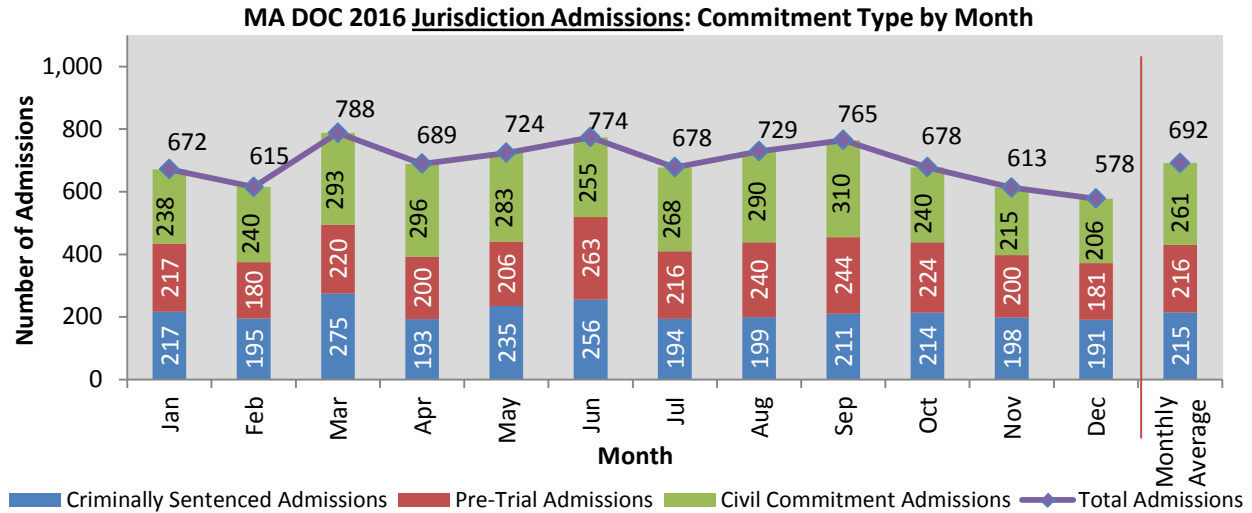
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

MA DOC 2016 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county or another state's jurisdiction released to county or another state's jurisdiction.

## Criminal, Civil, and Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases



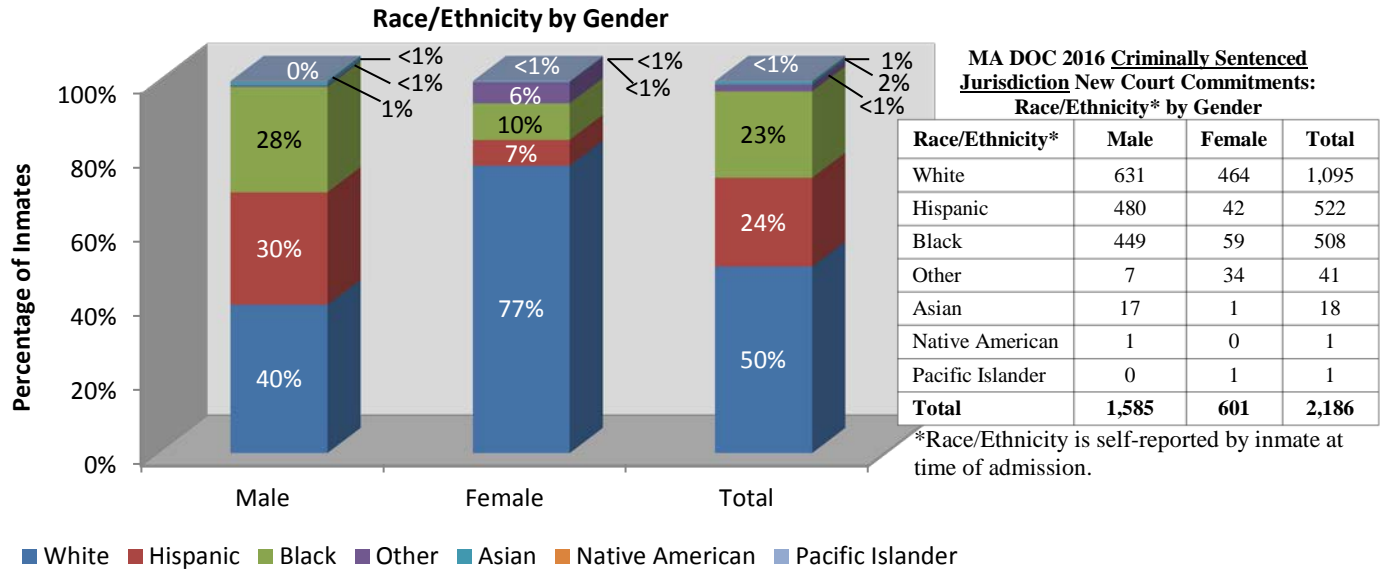
During 2016, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a downward trend, ending in an overall cumulative decrease of 501 inmates. This was a 37% decrease compared to the cumulative decrease of 791 inmates seen during 2015.

## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Admissions by New Court Commitments

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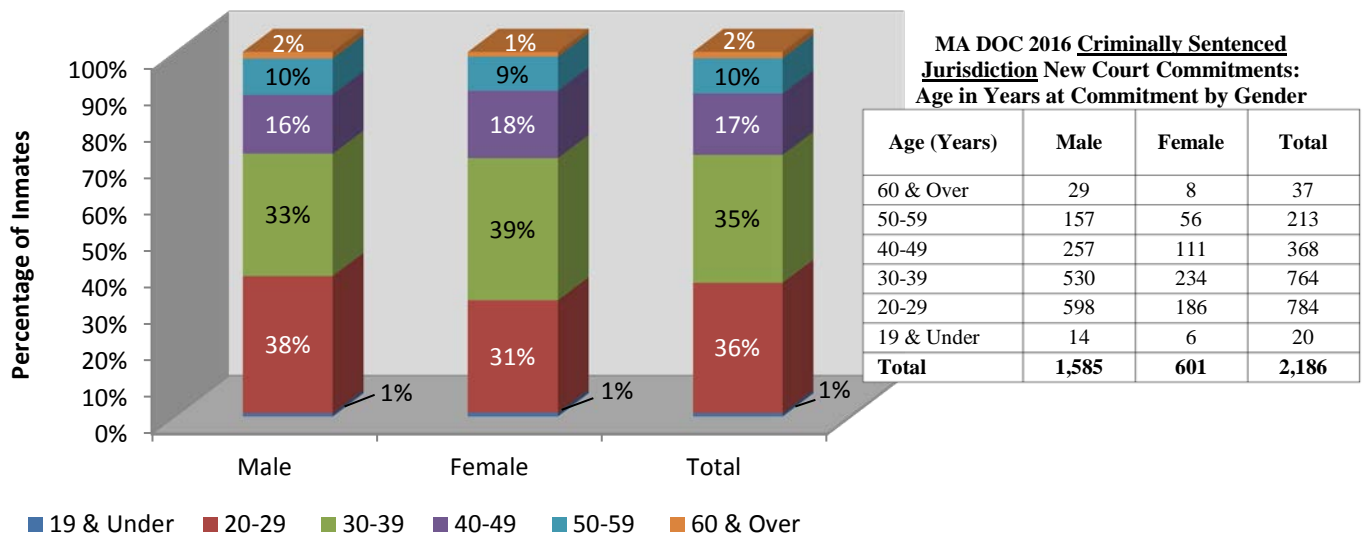
## Admissions by New Court Commitments

### MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:



For males, the most common races for criminally sentenced new court commitments were White (40%), followed by Hispanic (30%) and Black (28%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (77%), followed by Black (10%) and Hispanic (7%). As males made up 73% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

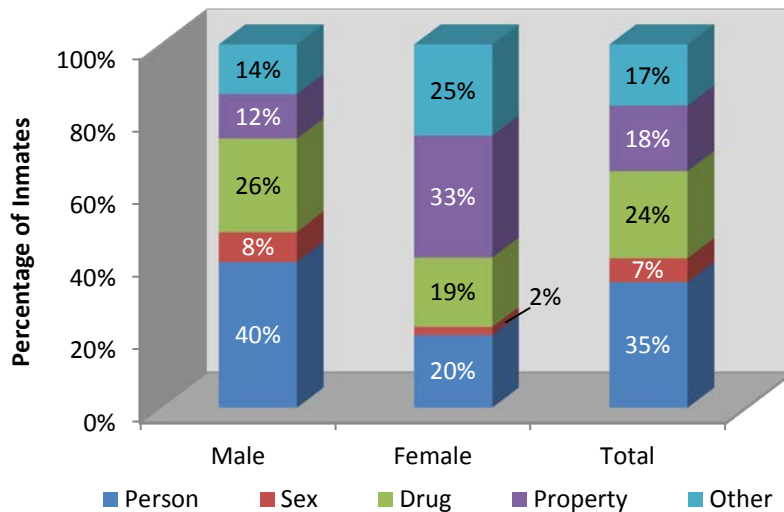
### MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Age in Years at Commitment by Gender



The age distribution of male new court commitments was concentrated in the 20 – 29 year age group (38%). Starting with the 20 – 29 year age group, each group in order was a progressively smaller percent of the total male population. The largest percent of female criminal new court commitments fell into the 30 – 39 year age group, followed by the 20 – 29 year age group. Males and females had very similar age distributions in the 40 or older age groups, with twenty-eight percent of both the male and female criminally sentenced new court commitments falling into these categories.

## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

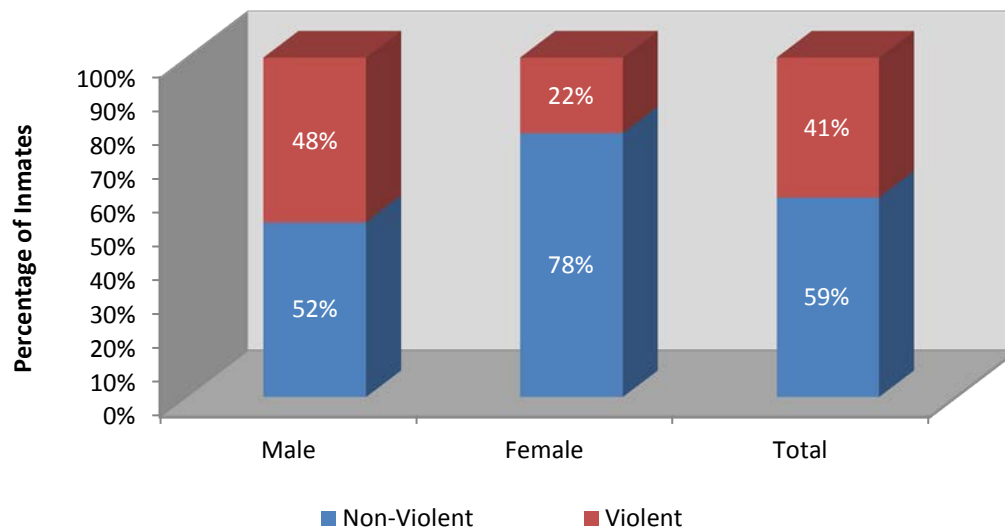


**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction  
New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	637	120	757
	Sex	131	14	145
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	406	115	521
	Property	194	201	395
	Other	217	151	368
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>2,186</b>

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (40%), followed by drug (26%). Among females, property offenses were the most common (33%), followed by “other” offenses (25%). Sex offenses were the least common, accounting for 7% of governing offenses for the criminally sentenced new court commitments; 8% of the male governing offenses and 2% of the female governing offenses.

**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Gender**

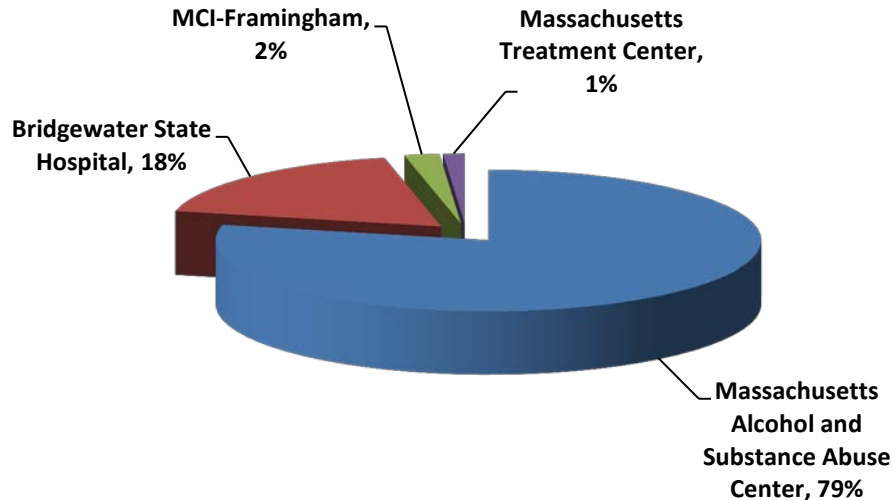


The majority of both male and female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses; fifty-two percent of males and seventy-eight percent of females falling into this category. Overall, criminally sentenced jurisdiction inmates had predominately non-violent governing offenses (59%). Though males made up almost three-quarters of the new court commitments, the overall percentages of non-violent offenses were increased due to female inmates having a much higher rate of non-violent to violent offenses.



## Admissions by New Court Commitments

MA DOC 2016 Jurisdiction Admissions: Civil Commitments by Institution



MA DOC 2016 Jurisdiction Admissions: Civil Commitments by Institution

Institution	Female	Male	Total
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center	0	2,459	2,459
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	568	568
MCI-Framingham	65	0	65
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3,067</b>	<b>3,132</b>

Civil commitments to the DOC are generally broken into three groups: “Mental Health Commitments”, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Commitments” (i.e., Section 35’s), and “Sexually Dangerous Person Commitments”. Female civil commitments are housed at MCI-Framingham. Male civil commitments are housed in three facilities: “Mental Health Commitments” at Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH), Sections 35’s at the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center (MASAC), and “Sexually Dangerous Persons” at the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC), all of which are located on the DOC Bridgewater Complex.

- ◆ In 2016, there were 3,132 civil commitments, representing 38% of the overall 8,303 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (79%) of civil commitments in 2016 were Section 35’s admitted to MASAC. This was up from 71% in 2015. The number of Section 35’s increased from 2,126 during 2015, to 2,459 during 2016, or 16%. Commitments to MASAC are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ During 2016, there were 568 civil commitments to BSH. This was a slight decrease compared to the previous year (n=584). During 2016, eighteen percent of the civil commitments were to BSH, this was down slightly from 19% during 2015.
- ◆ Females represented 2% of the civil commitments during 2016, notably lower than the 9% seen during 2015.

## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Releases to the Community

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## ***Releases to the Community by Supervision Type***

The definition of releases to the community is the release of an inmate from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts DOC by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release, expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.

### **Post Release Supervision of Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Inmates Released to the Community from the MA DOC: 2012 - 2016**

Post Release Supervision Type	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
Parole Supervision (only)	346	13%	441	17%	441	17%	455	18%	356	15%
Probation Supervision (only)	905	33%	915	34%	830	33%	901	35%	859	37%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	222	8%	275	10%	254	10%	278	11%	227	10%
No Post Release Supervision	1,232	46%	1,045	39%	1,012	40%	946	37%	886	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100%</b>

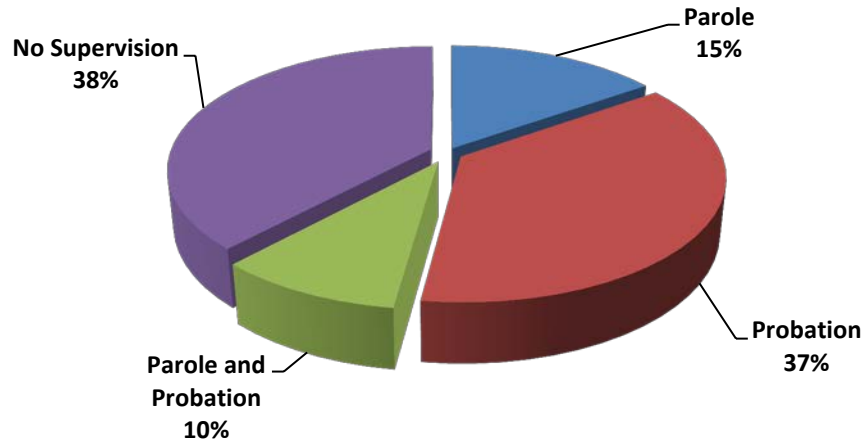
  

Post Release Supervision	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
Supervision	1,473	54%	1,631	61%	1,525	60%	1,634	63%	1,442	62%
No Supervision	1,232	46%	1,045	39%	1,012	40%	946	37%	886	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100%</b>

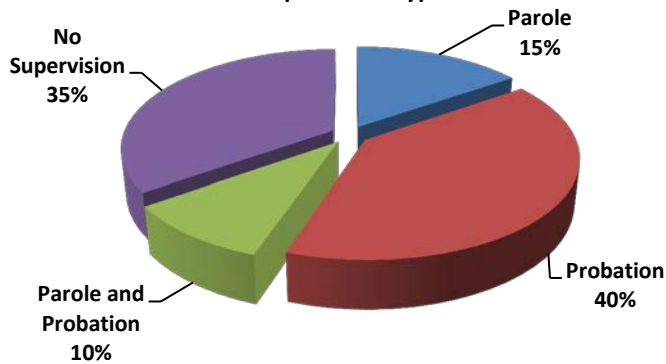
- ◆ Overall, there was a 14% decrease (n=377) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2012 and 2016. Though each release year experienced a decline (except for 2015), the largest decrease was at the end of the trend period between 2015 and 2016. The 10% decrease in releases, from 2,580 in 2015 to 2,328 in 2016, was in large part due to a decrease in male parole releases.
- ◆ There was a slight decrease of 1% in the number of inmates released to the community between 2012 and 2013 (n=29). Despite the small change in total releases, there was a notable difference in the percentage of inmates released under supervision between the two years. Those who were released under supervision in 2012 represented 54% of releases to the community compared to 61% in 2013. This would remain nearly identical in 2014 with 60% of inmates being released with some type of supervision. There was an increase in 2015 with 63% being released under supervision, a drastic change from the beginning of the trend period. This would remain almost stagnant at the end of the trend period with 62% of releases in 2016 having supervision.
- ◆ Inmates released via court release are released by the court due to their sentence being revoked, stayed or vacated. The number of inmates released via court release reached a high of 334 in 2012. This peak was primarily driven by court releases due to the crime lab situation. The number of court releases has steadily declined since 2012 for each release year with 2016 having 53 court releases.

## Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

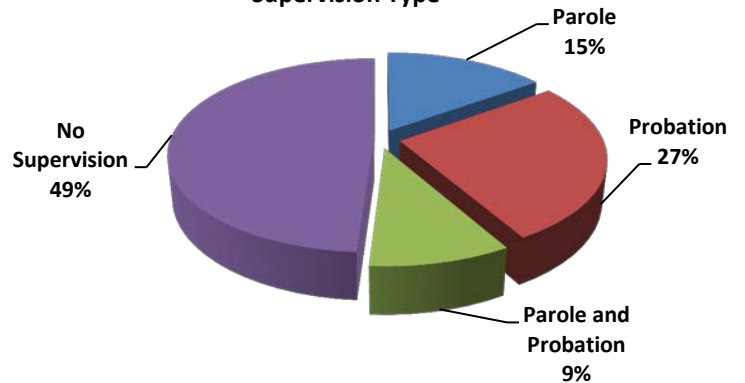
**MA DOC 2016 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



**MA DOC 2016 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



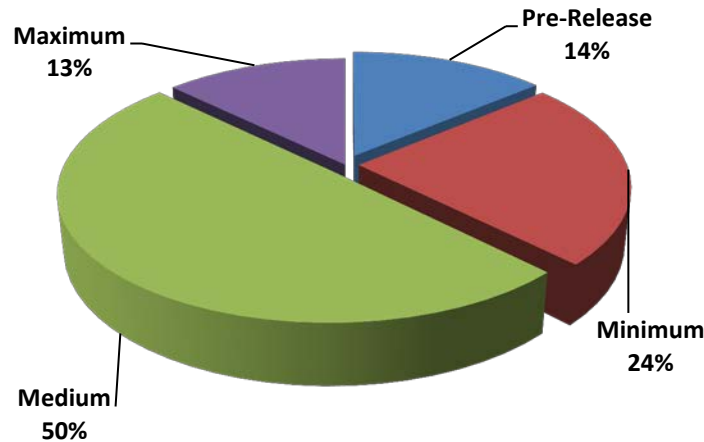
**MA DOC 2016 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



During 2016, male inmates were more likely than female inmates to be released to the community under probation supervision only - 40% of males compared to 27% of females. Conversely, female inmates were more likely to be released with no supervision - 49% of females compared to 35% of males. The percentage of male and female inmates supervised in the community by means of parole only was identical at 15% each.

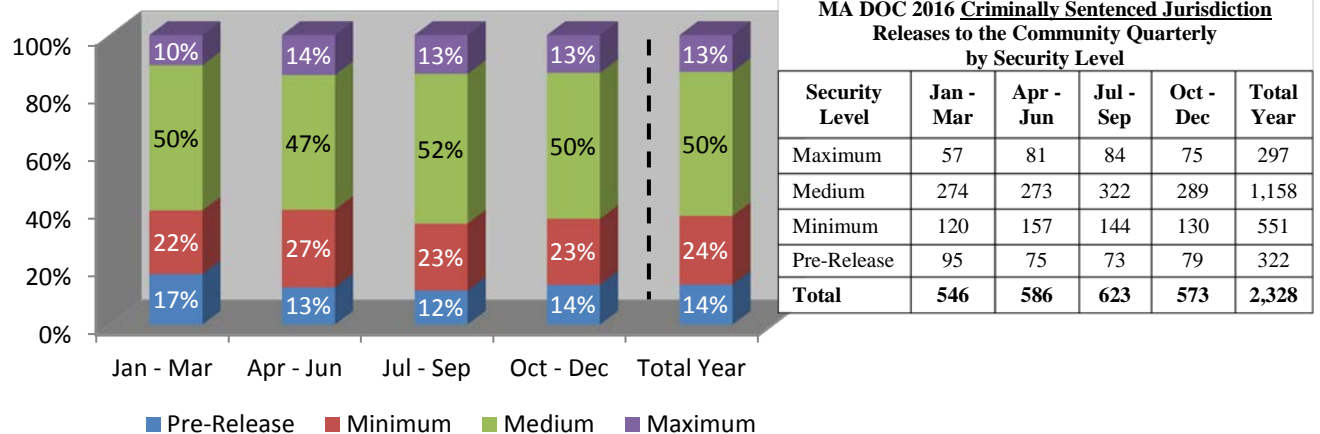
## Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Overall, the number of criminally sentenced inmates released to the community decreased by 10% from 2,580 releases in 2015 to 2,328 releases in 2016.
- The proportion of releases from medium and minimum securities remained nearly identical between 2015 and 2016. There was, however, a change in proportion for those released from maximum security, 10% to 13%, and pre-release, 17% to 14%. This was largely driven by a decrease in male releases from pre-release.

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Half of the criminally sentenced inmates released to the community were from medium security facilities (n=1,158), followed by releases from lower security facilities (minimum and pre-release) with 873 releases.

## ***Releases to the Community by Security Level***

**MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Security Level and Institution**

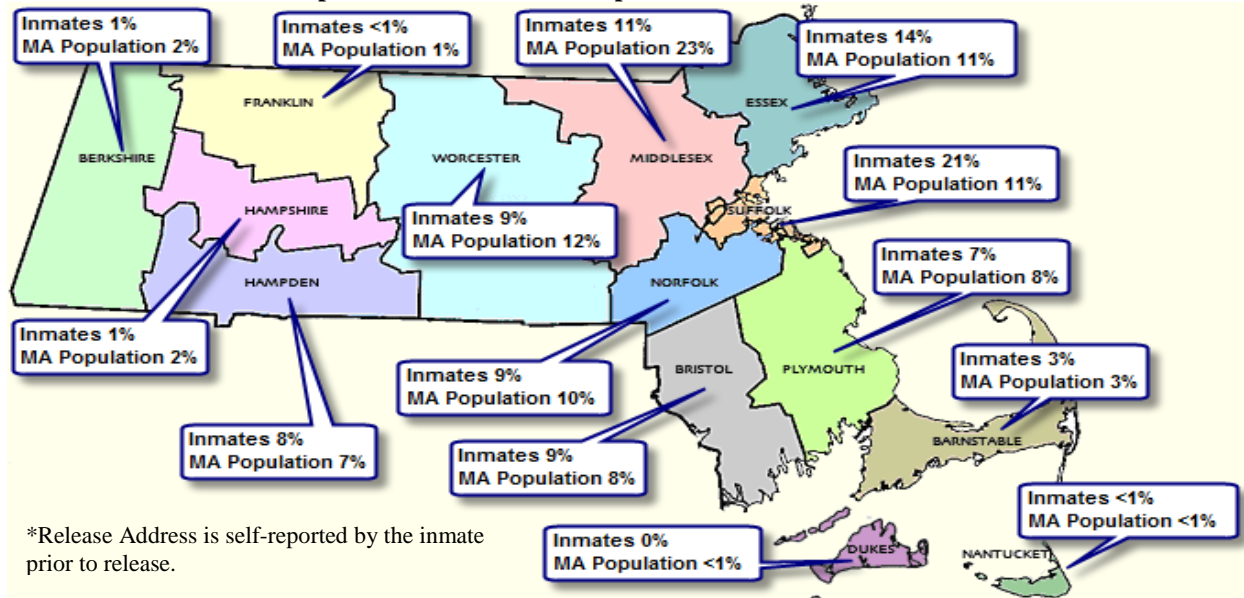
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
<b>Male</b>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	15	106	121
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	3	0	0	3
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center	0	0	15	0	15
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	54	0	0	54
MCI-Cedar Junction	133	4	0	0	137
MCI-Concord	0	142	0	0	142
MCI-Norfolk	0	150	0	0	150
MCI-Plymouth	0	0	42	14	56
MCI-Shirley	0	179	72	0	251
NCCI-Gardner	0	108	14	0	122
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	76	63	139
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	125	62	0	187
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	49	47	96
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	164	0	0	0	164
<b>Female</b>					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
MCI-Framingham	0	295	0	0	295
South Middlesex Correctional Center	0	0	176	36	212
<b>Total DOC Facilities</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>2,145</b>
County, Federal, Interstate	0	97	30	56	183
<b>Total Jurisdiction</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>2,328</b>

\*Note: 14 inmates were ELMO's (electronic monitoring) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing DOC facility of release in 2016, the greatest number of criminally sentenced inmates were released to the community from MCI-Framingham (n=295), followed by MCI-Shirley (n=251) and South Middlesex Correctional Center (n=212).
- ◆ A number of state correctional institutions have multilevel security classifications. When comparing security level at time of release, the greatest number of criminally sentenced males were released to the community from medium security units at MCI-Shirley (n=179), followed by MCI-Norfolk (n=150) and MCI-Concord (n=142).
- ◆ The majority of maximum security releases to the community were released from Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=164) compared to 133 releases from the maximum units at MCI-Cedar Junction.

## Release Address by County

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties\*  
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2015



\*Release Address is self-reported by the inmate prior to release.

Note: 2015 estimated county population statistics were provided by the U.S Census Bureau, 2016 was not available.

Note: Not all MA DOC inmates are released in Massachusetts; approximately 6% were released outside of Massachusetts.

The above map demonstrates the U.S Census Bureau's estimated percentage of the Massachusetts population residing in each county in 2015 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC inmates released to each county in 2016. Suffolk, Essex, Hampden, and Bristol were the only four counties with a higher percentage of inmates released to the county (52% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (37% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 11% of the releases from the MA DOC.

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: County by GenderΩ

Female†			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Essex	126	24%	Suffolk	432	24%	Suffolk	491	21%
Middlesex	89	17%	Essex	198	11%	Essex	324	14%
Plymouth	59	11%	Hampden	186	10%	Middlesex	265	11%
Suffolk	59	11%	Middlesex	176	10%	Bristol	217	9%
Norfolk	58	11%	Worcester	175	10%	Norfolk	216	9%
Bristol	44	8%	Bristol	173	10%	Worcester	205	9%
Worcester	30	6%	Norfolk	158	9%	Hampden	196	8%
Barnstable	25	5%	Plymouth	100	6%	Plymouth	159	7%
Hampden	10	2%	Barnstable	38	2%	Barnstable	63	3%
Hampshire	3	1%	Berkshire	28	2%	Berkshire	29	1%
Berkshire	1	<1%	Hampshire	12	1%	Hampshire	15	1%
Franklin	1	<1%	Franklin	10	1%	Franklin	11	<1%
Dukes	0	0%	Nantucket	2	<1%	Nantucket	2	<1%
Nantucket	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>94%</b>
Outside MA	17	3%	Outside MA	114	6%	Outside MA	131	6%
Unknown	1	<1%	Unknown	3	<1%	Unknown	4	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100%</b>

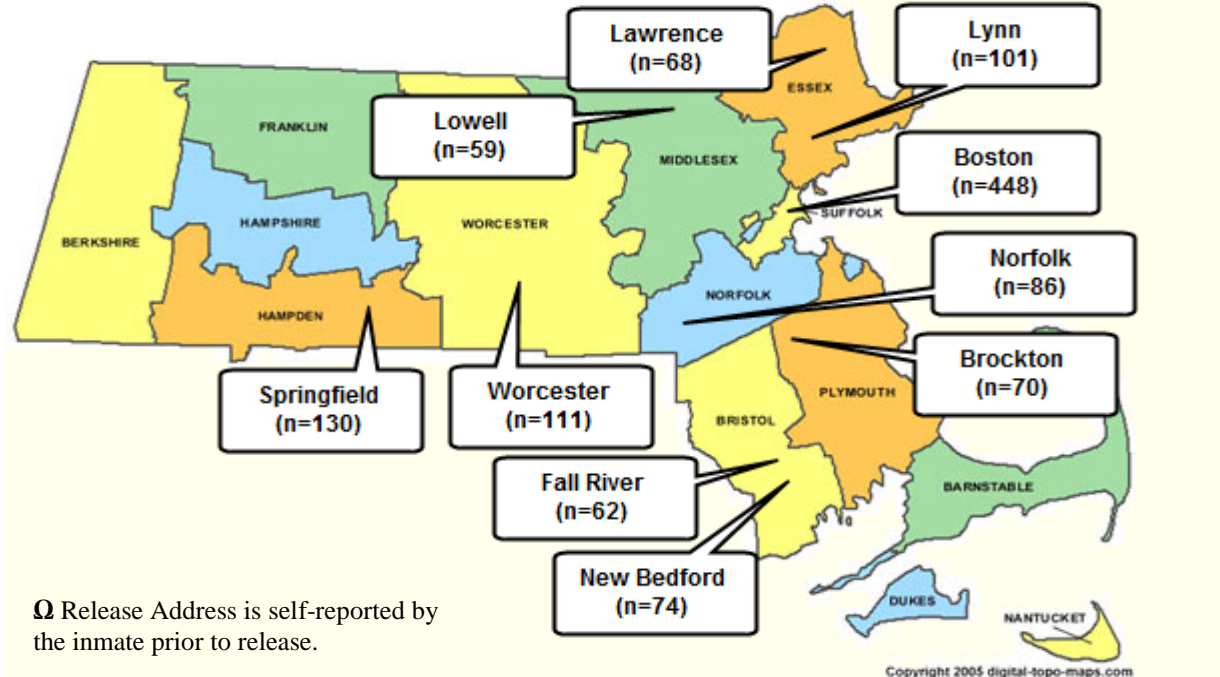
Ω Release Address is self-reported by the inmate prior to release.

\*Note: that data may be skewed by the fact some counties do not house their female inmates resulting in a higher representation at the DOC.



## Release Address by Top Ten Cities

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten Cities <sup>Ω</sup>



Of the 2,328 criminally sentenced inmates released to the community in 2016, 1,209 (52%) inmates reported a release address in one of the top ten cities listed in the above map. Boston was the city with the greatest number of releases (n=448) followed by Springfield (n=130) and Worcester (n=111). The male population mirrored the top three of the ten cities. Females' release locations differed from males' in that the city of Lynn (n=42) was the second most frequent city of release followed by Lowell (n=17).

MA DOC 2016 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Top Ten Releases to the Community: City by Gender<sup>Ω†</sup>

Female*			Male			Total		
City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage
Boston	51	10%	Boston	397	22%	Boston	448	19%
Lynn	42	8%	Springfield	123	7%	Springfield	130	6%
Lowell	17	3%	Worcester	100	6%	Worcester	111	5%
Lawrence	16	3%	Norfolk	86	5%	Lynn	101	4%
Brockton	15	3%	New Bedford	61	3%	Norfolk	86	4%
New Bedford	13	2%	Lynn	59	3%	New Bedford	74	3%
Quincy	13	2%	Brockton	55	3%	Brockton	70	3%
Fall River	12	2%	Lawrence	52	3%	Lawrence	68	3%
Haverhill	11	2%	Fall River	50	3%	Fall River	62	3%
Worcester	11	2%	Lowell	42	2%	Lowell	59	3%

<sup>Ω</sup> Release Address is self-reported by the inmate prior to release.

<sup>†</sup> Calculations include inmates released to states outside of Massachusetts.

\*Note: Female releases include MCI-Framingham, South Middlesex Correctional Institution and both state and county sentences.



## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Average Institutional Length of Stay

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## ***Institutional Length of Stay***

**MA DOC Average Institutional Length of Stay in Days on January 1, 2017:  
Institution by Commitment Type**

Institution	Commitment Type							
	Criminally Sentenced		Civil Commitments		Pre-Trial		Total Population	
	Length of Stay	Number of Inmates	Length of Stay	Number of Inmates	Length of Stay	Number of Inmates	Length of Stay	Number of Inmates
Boston Pre-Release Center	199	128	0	0	0	0	199	128
Bridgewater State Hospital	665	113	870	195	1,594	2	800	310
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	156	15	77	1	87	8	131	24
MA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Center	307	28	18	118	0	0	74	146
Massachusetts Treatment Center	680	321	2,570	200	0	0	1,408	521
MCI-Cedar Junction	198	674	0	0	145	48	195	722
MCI-Concord	742	699	0	0	0	0	742	699
MCI-Framingham	1,018	293	22	5	80	170	666	468
MCI-Norfolk	1,723	1,418	0	0	309	6	1,717	1,424
MCI-Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MCI-Shirley	840	1,442	857	3	254	13	835	1,458
NCCI-Gardner	1,312	909	0	0	160	9	1,300	918
Northeastern Correctional Center	338	198	0	0	0	0	338	198
Old Colony Correctional Center	1,158	615	0	0	347	2	1,155	617
Pondville Correctional Center	193	168	0	0	0	0	193	168
South Middlesex Correctional Center	178	103	0	0	0	0	178	103
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	480	1,110	0	0	400	24	478	1,134
County, Federal, Interstate	666	400	16	50	708	8	594	458

\*Note: On June 1, 2009, MCI-Cedar Junction became the reception center for sentenced inmates where they are housed temporarily prior to classification, affecting the average length of stay (LOS). Also affecting average LOS, approximately a quarter of the population at MCI-Framingham is serving a House of Correction sentence. Within MCI-Shirley there is a skilled nursing facility (SNF) that may affect LOS.

For the purposes of this report institutional length of stay was derived from the January 1, 2017 data file of the active Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population, including those sentenced to criminal and civil sentences, and those awaiting trial from the inmate management system (IMS) admission movement history. Institutional length of stay is the number of days between January 1, 2017 and the most recent transfer date to the facility or the most recent break in custody from the Massachusetts DOC.

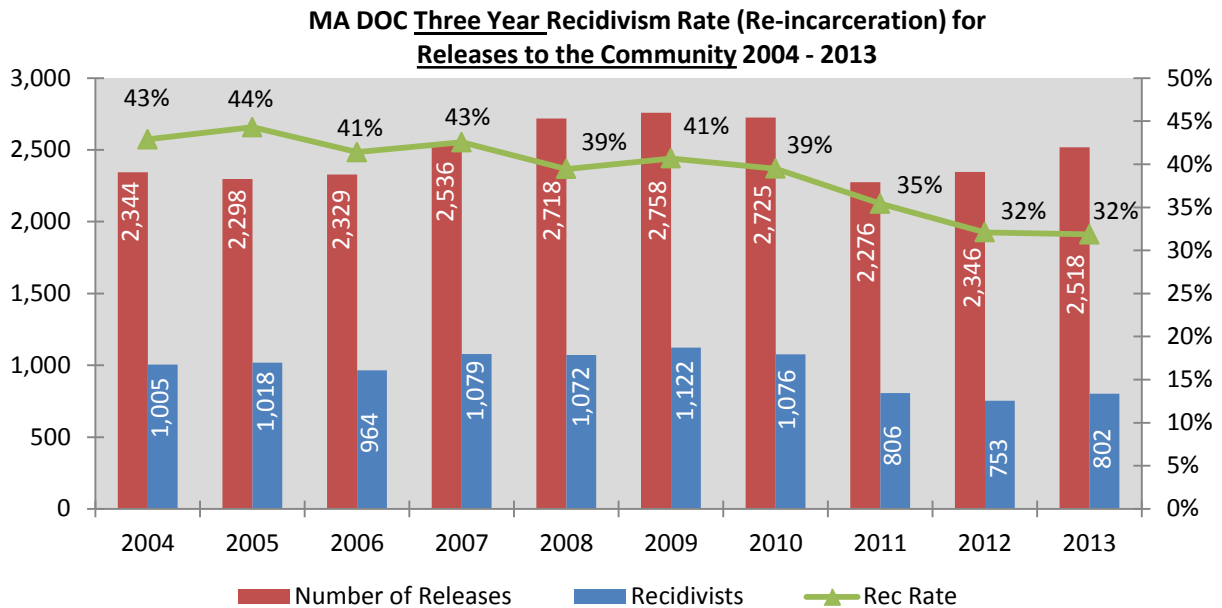
- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population average institutional length of stay was almost 2 and a half years (895 days) on January 1, 2017.
- ◆ Inmates under the jurisdiction of the DOC housed in a county, federal or other state's facility had an average institutional length of stay of about a year and 8 months (594 days).
- ◆ The institutions with the longest average lengths of stay were MCI-Norfolk (1,717 days) driven by its criminally sentenced population (1,723 days), Massachusetts Treatment Center (1,408 days) driven by its civilly committed population (2,570 days) and NCCI Gardner (1,300 days) driven by its criminally sentenced population (1,312 days).

# Massachusetts DOC 2016 Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates

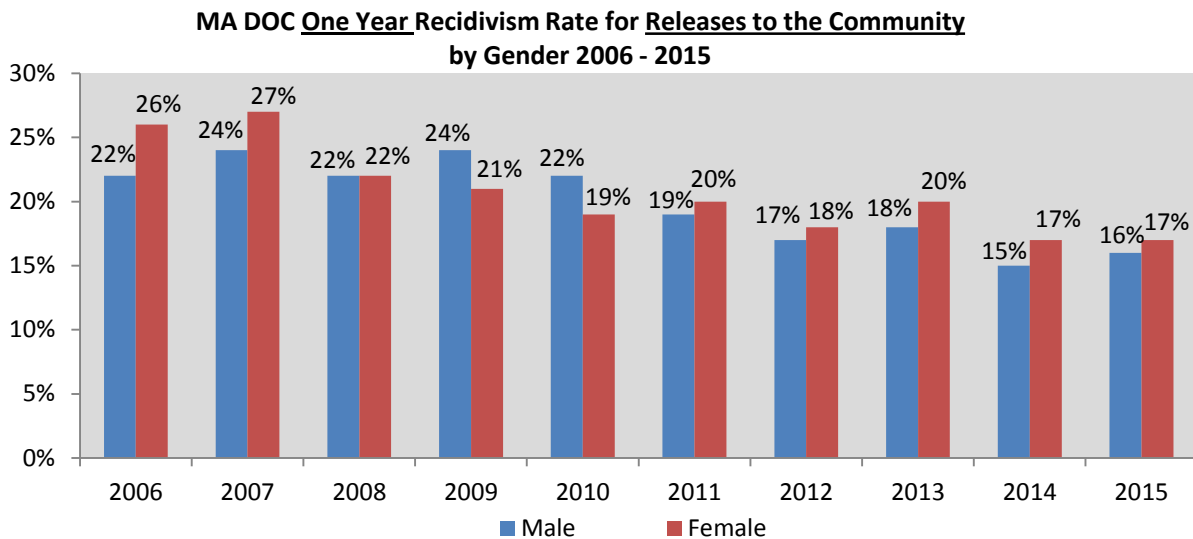
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## Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2013 who is **re-incarcerated** for a new sentence or violation of parole or probation to a Massachusetts state or county facility or to a federal facility within three years of his/her release. Types of re-incarceration include technical violation of parole, parole violation with a new offense, return to county custody, return to state or federal custody, technical violation of probation, and probation violation with a new offense. An inmate who is re-incarcerated due to a technical violation of parole or probation is re-incarcerated for violating the terms of the conditions set forth regarding their release in the community, not for committing a new offense.



Over the ten year trend period, the three year recidivism rate has seen a strong negative trend, ending the trend with an overall recidivism rate decrease of 12 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2005.



Except for the years 2009 and 2010, females had either the same or higher recidivism rates than their male counterparts. For males, the one-year rate reached a low for the trend period during 2014 with a rate of 15% before increasing by one percentage point in 2015 to end the trend period. The overall one-year rate for 2015 was 16%.

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2013 Releases to the Community by Security Level of Releasing Institution and Gender**

Security Level	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Maximum	256	52%	n.a.	n.a.	256	52%
Medium	928	33%	352	36%	1,280	34%
Minimum and Pre-Release	774	23%	208	28%	982	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Recidivism rates for inmates released during 2013 were positively correlated with the security level of the inmates releasing facility. The recidivism rate for both male and female inmates increased as the security level of the releasing institution increased.
- ◆ Male inmates released from lower<sup>8</sup> security had the lowest recidivism rate, with 23% of those inmates re-incarcerated within three years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 33%, while the rate for males released from maximum security was 52%, the highest of all security levels.
- ◆ The recidivism rate for female inmates released from a lower security facility was 28%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 36%.

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2013 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type<sup>9</sup>**

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence <sup>10</sup>	461	34%
State Sentence	98	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>33%</b>

\*One female in the release cohort was serving an out of state sentence and therefore was not included in this comparison.

- ◆ Female inmates released from a county sentence had a much higher recidivism rate (34%) than those released from a state sentence (29%).
- ◆ Females serving a county sentence drove the total female three year recidivism rate (33%), accounting for 82% of female releases to the community in 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Lower security includes minimum and pre-release

<sup>9</sup> Since some county correctional facilities do not house female inmates, some females released during 2013 who received a county sentence from the court served that sentence at the Massachusetts DOC.

<sup>10</sup> Includes inmates released from Massachusetts DOC serving a county sentence.

## Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates

Inmates released to the community with parole conditions are supervised for a period of time upon release to the community. Paroled inmates who do not adhere to the conditions of their release can violate their parole and be re-incarcerated. A parole revocation can result from technical violation of the terms of release, or can result from the commission of a crime. By virtue of being under supervision in the community, an inmate may have a higher likelihood of re-incarceration.

The following tables provide a comparison of the recidivism rates<sup>11</sup> of inmates released during 2013, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2013 Including and Excluding  
Re-incarcerations for Technical Violations:  
Type of Release by Gender**

Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Gender <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community	550	91	17%	156	26	17%	706	117	17%
Expiration of Sentence	1,408	430	31%	404	124	31%	1,812	554	31%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>27%</b>
Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Gender <u>Including</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community*	550	186	34%	156	57	37%	706	243	34%
Expiration of Sentence	1,408	432	31%	404	127	31%	1,812	559	31%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>32%</b>

\*Inmates paroled to the community may be discharged from parole and no longer supervised in the community prior to the end of the three-year recidivism period.

- ◆ When reporting on the recidivism rates for offenders released on parole, it is important to note that a portion of the paroled offenders re-incarcerated within the three-year period are no longer under parole supervision at the time they recidivate.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Of the 2,518 inmates released to the community during 2013, 28% (n=706) were paroled to the community, while 72% (n=1,812) were released via expiration of sentence. Inmates paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (34%) than the recidivism rate of inmates released via expiration of sentence (31%). Again, the higher recidivism rate for paroled offenders suggests the role of supervision to prevent future criminality, with a large portion of re-incarcerations occurring as a result of a technical violation of parole conditions.

<sup>11</sup> To calculate the recidivism rate excluding technical violations, the first non-technical re-incarceration was used. A non-technical violation would be a parole or probation violation with a new offense, or a new court commitment to a facility. It is important to note that inmates returned originally for a technical violation are re-incarcerated for some period of time during the three-year follow-up period. Though many are re-incarcerated for short periods of time, the inmate's opportunity to commit new crime is diminished. This is a potential issue with the non-technical definition showing lower recidivism rates resulting from an inmate's inability to commit a new crime for a portion of the three-year follow-up.

<sup>12</sup> Inmates paroled to the community may be discharged from parole and no longer be supervised in the community prior to the end of the three-year recidivism period.

## Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates

- ◆ Of the 802 inmates who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 174 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole or probation conditions. One hundred and sixty-six of the recidivists were technical parole violations and 8 were technical violations of probation.
- ◆ Of the 174 inmates who returned for a technical violation, 43 had another return that was not a technical violation of their parole or probation conditions within the three-year period that was used when determining the recidivism rate excluding technical violations.
- ◆ Overall, the recidivism rate decreased by five percentage points, from 32% to 27% when excluding technical violations, with inmates paroled to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 34% to 17%. The recidivism rate for female inmates decreased from a rate of 33% to a rate of 27%. The male recidivism rate also decreased from 32% to 27% when excluding technical violations.

### MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2013 Releases to the Community

Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Gender	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	560	71	13%	57	10%	22	4%	150	27%
Male	1,958	238	12%	173	9%	110	6%	521	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>27%</b>
Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Including</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Gender	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	560	110	20%	56	10%	18	3%	184	33%
Male	1,958	350	18%	169	9%	99	5%	618	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Both male and female releases experienced a lower first year recidivism rate when excluding technical violators, resulting in a decrease of six percentage points in the recidivism rate for the first year.
- ◆ For the second year and third year follow-up period, there was no difference when excluding technical violations, with recidivism rates of 9% and 5% respectively.

## Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2013 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Category and Gender

	Males		Females		Total	
Offense Category	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Property	219	43%	189	39%	408	41%
Person	813	37%	128	34%	941	37%
Other	232	36%	136	31%	368	34%
Drug	538	22%	101	21%	639	21%
Sex	156	15%	6	n.a.	162	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ The highest recidivism rate for male releases were property offenders (43%), followed by person offenders (37%) and ‘other’ offenders who recidivated at 36%.
- ◆ Mirroring their male counterparts, the highest recidivism rate for female releases were property offenders (39%), followed by person offenders (34%) and ‘other’ offenders (31%).
- ◆ Inmates serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (17%).

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2013 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Type and Gender

	Males		Females		Total	
Offense Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Violent	969	33%	134	35%	1,103	34%
Non-Violent	989	30%	426	32%	1,415	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>32%</b>

Non-violent offenders released in 2013 had a lower recidivism rate (30%) compared to violent offenders (34%). Inmates serving a governing drug offense accounted for nearly half of all non-violent offenses and also had the second lowest recidivism rate, likely contributing to the lower recidivism rate of non-violent offenders.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2013 Releases to the Community by  
Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentence and Gender

	Males		Females		Total	
Drug Offense Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Non-Mandatory Drug Offense	213	24%	78	19%	291	23%
Mandatory Drug Offense	325	20%	23	26%	348	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>21%</b>

Of the 639 released inmates who were incarcerated for a governing drug offense, the majority (54%) percent were serving a mandatory drug sentence (n=348). Mandatory drug offenders had a lower recidivism rate than non-mandatory drug offenders, recidivating at a rate of 20% and 23% respectively.



## ***Recidivism Trends and 2013 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2013 Releases to the Community by Race/Ethnicity\* and Gender<sup>13</sup>**

	Males		Females		Total	
Race/Ethnicity	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Caucasian	835	32%	443	33%	1,278	33%
African American/Black	535	33%	63	30%	598	33%
Hispanic	561	29%	24	33%	585	29%
Other	6	n.a	28	32%	34	32%
Asian	12	n.a	2	n.a	14	n.a
Native American/Alaskan Native	9	n.a	0	n.a	9	n.a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>32%</b>

\*Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by inmate at time of admission

- ◆ Within three years of their release to the community, male inmates who reported a race of African American/Black had the highest recidivism rate (33%), followed by Caucasian (32%) and Hispanic inmates at 29%.
- ◆ Caucasian and Hispanic female inmates had the highest recidivism rates (33%) followed by inmates who reported a race of Other (32%).
- ◆ Inmates who reported a race of Caucasian or African American/Black recidivated the highest rate overall (both 33%), followed by inmates who reported a race of Other at 32%.

<sup>13</sup> For releases where the numeric value was less than 20, recidivism rates were not reported in the table.

## Massachusetts DOC 2016 Caveats and Definitions

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## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>ACA</b>	The American Correctional Association
<b>Admissions</b>	Inmates who are admitted to a facility of the Department of Correction (DOC), pursuant to a court order, as a transfer from another DOC facility, pursuant to the execution of a parole violation warrant or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant.
<b>Commitment for Alcohol or Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	A male who has been committed by a court to the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35, or a female who, prior to April 24, 2016, was committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35.
<b>Average Daily Population (ADP)</b>	The average daily population for calendar year 2016 was calculated by adding together the count from the last day of each month broken out by institution, then divided by twelve (12).
<b>Civil Commitment or “Civil”</b>	A male who has been committed by a court to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18; or to the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or to the Massachusetts Treatment Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123A; a female who, prior to April 24, 2016, was committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or a female who has been committed to MCI-Framingham, a branch of the Massachusetts Treatment Center, pursuant to G.L. c. 123A.
<b>Commitments</b>	Inmates who are newly admitted to a committing institution pursuant to a sentence, an order of civil commitment or as otherwise prescribed by law.
<b>Court Release</b>	Inmates are released from the Massachusetts DOC by operation of a court order, and include the following: Habeas to Court – Sentenced Habeas to Court – Did not return Habeas to Court – Return with new case number Habeas to Court – Received forthwith sentence Court Release – Sentence revoked/stayed/vacated Bailed-Released on personal recognizance Bailed-Released on personal recognizance to a warrant
<b>Crime Bill</b>	The common term for Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2012, effective August 2, 2012, which resulted in an immediate change to the sentence structure for numerous inmates.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>Crime Lab</b>	The William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute, commonly referenced as the “Hinton Drug Lab.” Issues regarding the accuracy of testing at the Hinton Drug Lab resulted in several hundred releases by court orders, primarily during the months of September-November of 2012.
<b>Criminally Sentenced or “Sentenced”</b>	Individuals who have been found guilty of a criminal offense by a judge or jury and have been committed to a period of incarceration, whether directly or after a violation of probation or parole.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An inmate who is incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Design Capacity</b>	The number of inmates that planners or architects intended to house in a facility.
<b>DOC</b>	The Massachusetts Department of Correction.
<b>Drug Offense</b>	Offenses set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94C, including offenses pertaining to the distribution or possession with intent to distribute, trafficking of drugs, and drug violations within proscribed distances from schools and parks.
<b>Earned Good Time</b>	Credits against sentences granted pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 129D. Inmates may be awarded up to 5 days of earned good time per program and up to but not to exceed 10 days per month.
<b>Escape</b>	The act by which an inmate, lawfully sentenced or admitted to the custody of the Department of Correction, engages in an unauthorized departure from the confines of a correctional institution, the custody of escorting officers, or who fails to return from an authorized release to the community at the designated time.
<b>Expiration Of Sentence</b>	The discharge of an inmate from his/her sentence upon the expiration of his/her term, as reduced by any statutory or earned good time. Note: Statutory good time was eliminated for all offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the “Truth-in-Sentencing” Act of 1994.
<b>Governing Offense</b>	With respect to an individual who is incarcerated for multiple offenses, the governing offense is the offense that carries the longest maximum sentence.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Jurisdiction Population**

An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual 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).

### **Mandatory Minimum Sentence**

The provision of a criminal penalty for a particular offense which specifies the minimum term of incarceration and prohibits suspension of any sentence, placement on file, continuance without a finding, probation, and release on parole until the minimum term of imprisonment has been served.

### **Mental Health Commitments**

The commitment of a male to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18.

### **New Court Commitment**

Newly sentenced and committed inmates admitted to a committing institution as prescribed by law. All new court commitments and those individuals who began serving new sentences (e.g., from-and-after sentences) during the year are included in this category even if there was no physical release from custody upon the completion of one sentence and the commencement of another sentence. If an individual is committed to the DOC more than once during 2016, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.

### **Non-DOC Releases to Other Jurisdiction**

The transfer of non-DOC inmates (from a county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction) out of DOC custody and remand back to the agency of presiding authority.

### **Non-Violent Offense**

Any offense that falls within the definition of "Property Offense", "Drug Offense" or "Other Offense."

### **Operational Capacity**

The total bed capacity across all Massachusetts DOC facilities throughout the agency on the last day of a given month. The capacity of a facility is the number of beds authorized for safe and efficient operation of the facility. Operational capacity does not include beds reserved for discipline, investigations, infirmary, or other temporary holds because these beds are used for temporary or special purposes.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>Other Offenses</b>	Offenses that are not clearly categorized into one of the offense categories of Person, Property, Sex or Drug. Other Offenses include obstruction of justice, habitual criminal, prostitution and some weapons possession crimes.
<b>Other Releases</b>	Releases by virtue of deaths, escapes and transfer out of state.
<b>Parole</b>	The discharge of an inmate from a Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction to the supervision of the Parole Board while in the community. Such discharged inmates may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision imposed by the Parole Board.
<b>Parole or Expiration of Sentence to Other</b>	<p>Inmates who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parole to out of state sentence</li> <li>parole to federal authority</li> <li>parole to immigration</li> <li>parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence</li> <li>parole to warrant</li> <li>parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence</li> <li>expiration release to out of state sentence</li> <li>expiration release to federal authority</li> <li>expiration release to immigration</li> <li>expiration release to from and after House of Correction sentence</li> <li>expiration release to warrant</li> <li>expiration release to from and after/concurrent at Department of Correction</li> <li>expiration to civil commitment</li> <li>parole to civil commitment</li> <li>release from civil commitment to warrant</li> </ul>
<b>Parole to Community</b>	Inmates released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.
<b>Parole Violator/Detainer</b>	Parolee who violates conditions of parole. A parole violator may be returned to prison for a parole violation with a new offense or technical parole violation. For reporting purposes, inmates who have been returned to Massachusetts DOC custody pursuant to a parole detainer are included in this group.
<b>Person Offense</b>	Crimes against Person (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 265), including assault and battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>Pre-Trial or “Detainee”</b>	Individuals who are held in custody in a correctional facility prior to trial.
<b>Probation</b>	A court-ordered sentence whereby an inmate is released from confinement but remains under court supervision.
<b>Probation Violation</b>	An inmate who has been returned to resume serving a previously imposed sentence (return on a split sentence) following a revocation of his/her terms of probation. Split sentences to the state prison were eliminated for offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the “Truth-in-Sentencing” Act of 1994.
<b>Property Offense</b>	Crimes against Property (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 266), including arson, burglary and fraud.
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	A measurement of the rate at which released inmates are re-incarcerated due to the commission of a new crime or technical violation of their parole or probation.
<b>Release from Parole Detainer</b>	A small number of inmates who are released from a temporary parole detainer (n=14).
<b>Release to the Community</b>	The release of an inmate from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts DOC by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release (see Crime Lab), expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.
<b>Sentence/Sentence Type</b>	<p><b>State Prison Sentence</b></p> <p>When an inmate is sentenced to state prison, except for life or as a habitual criminal, the court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and minimum term for which s/he may be imprisoned. Prior to the truth-in-sentencing law, the imposed minimum term shall not be less than two and one half years. All sentences that have an imposed maximum term are eligible to have the term reduced by earned good time, except for habitual offenders, and certain “mandatory” sentences.</p> <p>All state prison sentences have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an inmate is sentenced for life or as a habitual criminal/offender. The minimum term is used to determine parole eligibility, and the maximum term is used to determine discharge.</p> <p>An inmate is discharged from his/her sentence at the expiration of his/her maximum term reduced by any statutory or earned good time. As the truth-in-sentencing law repealed statutory good time, statutory good time cannot reduce a sentence whose</p>

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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date of offense was after the effective date of the Truth-in-Sentencing Act.

### **House of Correction or “County Sentence”**

A House of Correction sentence has one imposed term which cannot exceed two and a half years. Parole eligibility and discharge are based on the imposed term.

### **Other State, Federal Sentence**

This category is used for inmates who were received by the DOC from another state correctional agency or the Federal Bureau of Prisons and are not sentenced under Massachusetts General Law.

### **Sex Offense**

Sex Offenses against the Person primarily set forth by G.L. c. 265 (Crimes against the Person) and G.L. c. 272 Offenses (Crimes against Chastity, Morality, Decency and Good Order) and include rape, unnatural acts, and indecent assault & battery on a child under 14.

### **Sexually Dangerous Person Commitments**

Persons who have been committed by a court to the Massachusetts Treatment Center or MCI-Framingham, a branch of the Massachusetts Treatment Center for female sex offenders, pursuant to G.L. c. 123A, pending the disposition of petitions to commit them as sexually dangerous persons (SDPs) or for one day to life following adjudication as SDPs.

### **Snapshot Population**

The total number of inmates of all commitment types incarcerated in the Massachusetts DOC on a given day, including all pre-trial detainees, civil commitments, criminally sentenced and transfer inmates from another state, federal, or county authority. The “Snapshot Population” may be used as a gauge to determine population trends in different categories (i.e. stock jurisdiction or stock custody population over time).

### **Technical Violation**

A violation of parole conditions that does not necessarily constitute grounds for a parole revocation.

### **Violent Offense**

Any offense that falls within the definition of a “Person Offense” or “Sex Offense.”



## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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**Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center** From November 2011 to February 2012, 51 county sentenced female inmates in DOC custody were transferred to a regional correctional center in Hampden County. Beginning in November 2011, county sentenced females, including those from Worcester County and counties west of Worcester County, will be held in the custody of this regional center and no longer at the MA DOC.