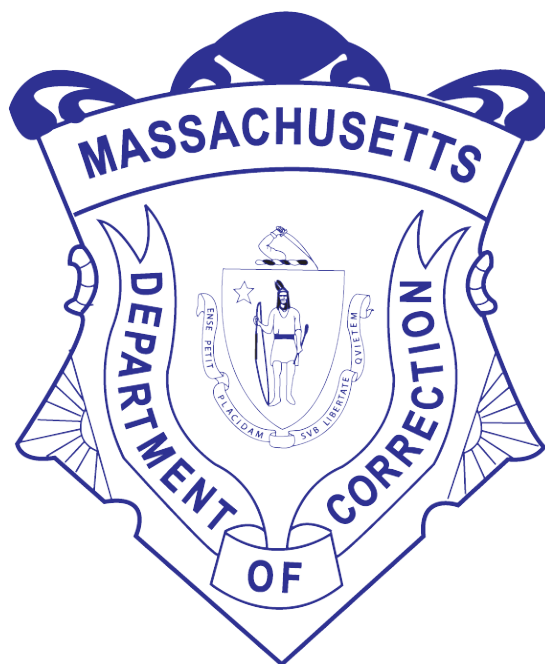


# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2017



RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

March 2018



## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publication of this report would not be possible without the assistance of the following Divisions within the Massachusetts Department of Correction:

Institutional and Central Records  
Executive Office of Technology Services and Security  
Health Services Division

Special recognition is given to Nicholas Cannata for his role as editor along with Gina Papagiorgakis as co-editor.  
Special assistance provided by Stephanie Collins and Susan McDonald.

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**This and other Massachusetts Department of Correction publications can be accessed on the internet at: <https://www.mass.gov/inmate-and-prison-research-statistics>**

Publication No. 18-88-DOC-01 64 pgs. 75 cps. March 29, 2018

Authorized by Gary Lambert, Assistant Secretary for Operational Services

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) jurisdiction prison population's decline since 2012 (n=11,723) continued through to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (n=9,207). Over the*

last **five** years, the criminally sentenced **custody** population experienced a **21%** reduction. While the majority of the population decrease was among criminally sentenced inmates compared to those civilly committed or pre-trial, the largest percentage decline was reflected by the pre-trial population—decreasing 63% from 2013-2018.

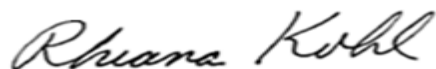
This marks the third year where the majority (57% in 2017) of criminally sentenced female offenders were incarcerated for a violent (versus non-violent) governing offense. This shift seems to be on an upward trend, whereby 52% were serving a violent offense in 2016. Males remained consistent with 70% incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Another notable trend is the continued aging of the population, particularly among male inmates. The average age of 42 years old on January 1, 2018 was up from 39 years in 2011. Interestingly, there have been shifts in educational levels with a lower percentage of male and female inmates in 2017 with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level compared to 2011, but the reverse was true for how they compared on having lower math levels.

Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits, and Time Served is a new section in this report. Length of Stay (LOS) is defined as the number of days an inmate is incarcerated under MA DOC jurisdiction between the admission date and date of release. There were 1,847 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2017; the majority (77%) was released by expiration of sentence with 23% paroled. On average, males released via parole served five years before initially being released. On the other hand, those who “wrapped up,” averaged nearly 4.5 years. Post-release criminal justice supervision by Probation continued to exceed those being paroled. Among the 2017 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community, 60% were supervised: 36% Probation only, 13% Parole only and 11% BOTH Probation and Parole. During 2017, male inmates were more likely than female inmates to be released to the community under probation supervision only. Conversely, female inmates were more likely to be released with no supervision, 52% compared to 37% of males.

The significant efforts focused on prison reentry, by MA DOC, continue to reflect positive outcomes as measured by recidivism rates. The three year post-release re-incarceration recidivism rate among the 2014 release cohort was 32%. This lower rate has remained stable since 2012, 12 percentage points lower than ten years earlier (2005). Moreover the reduction in recidivism rates can be seen across security levels. In 2007, those inmates (males) released from maximum security level recidivated at a rate of 62%, whereas the rate was 52% among 2014 releases. Similarly, inmates releasing from medium security had a rate of 45% in 2007 compared to 33% in 2014 with minimum/pre-release inmates' recidivism rates declining from 34% to 24% those same years.

Information regarding all MA DOC Research related reports and statistics can be found on our website at <https://www.mass.gov/inmate-and-prison-research-statistics>.

Sincerely,



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 2017*, 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 MA DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual, regardless of where the inmate is being held including those incarcerated in MA DOC facilities as well as those housed in correctional facilities outside of the MA DOC (Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other states' correctional facilities, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).

#### Custody Population

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

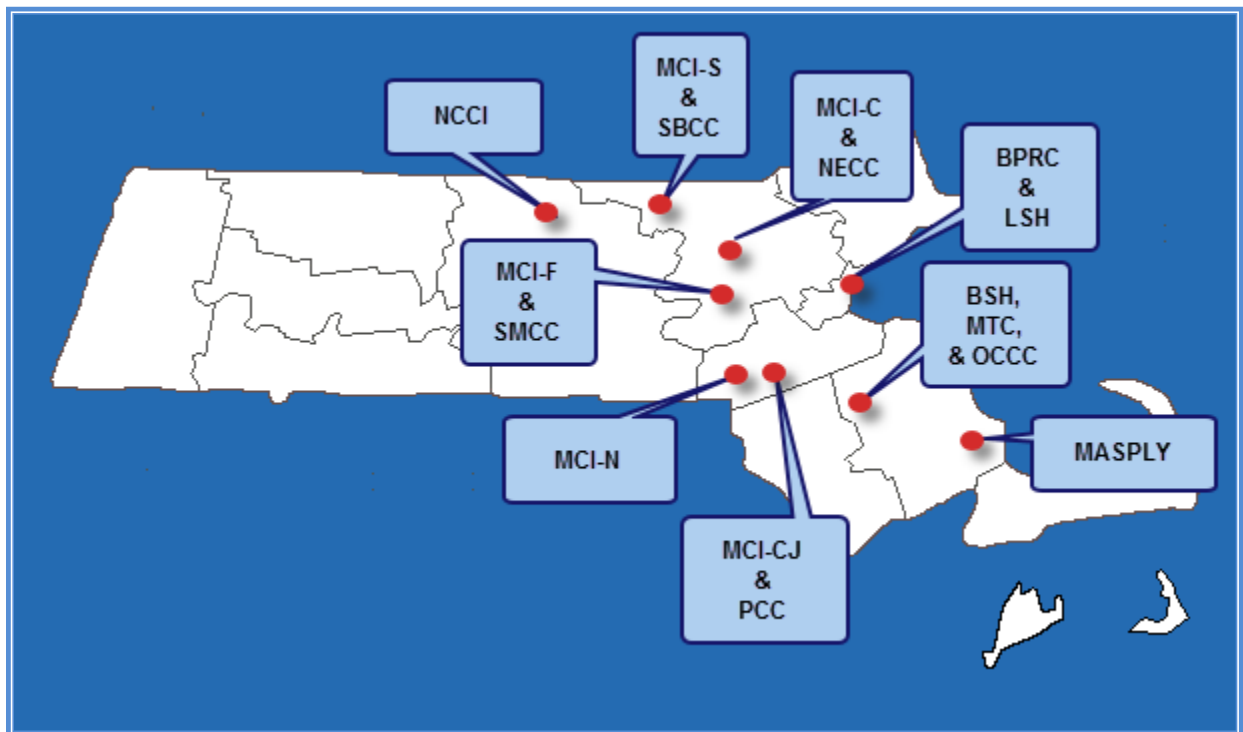
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# Massachusetts DOC 2017 Institution Overview

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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 2017): \$60,850
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 116
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 143
- 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. Transitional Treatment Program (TTP), a program which temporarily houses recently paroled inmates, was relocated to BPRC from Pondville Correctional Center. On January 1, 2018, the majority of inmates were pre-release (n=76), with an additional 40 minimum security inmates, and 25 additional TTP parolees not included in the active prison population.

### Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)

*Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1998
- Opened: 1974
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2017): \$227,414
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 207
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 219
- Operational Capacity: 319



BSH was reverted to Correct Care Solutions (CCRS) in 2017. It is a facility housing male patients in several categories: civil commitments with underlying criminal sentences, civil commitments without criminal sentences, 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 2017): \$285,000
- January 1, 2018 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, 2018, the population consisted of 13 criminally sentenced state inmates, 10 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 at Plymouth (MASPLY) *Plymouth, MA*

- Security Level: Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1993
- Opened: 1992 - Mission Change: 2002
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2017): \$68,509
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 182
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 203
- Operational Capacity: 275
- Sentenced: 24 & Civil Commitments: 251



MASAC at Plymouth 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. As of May 1, 2017 MASAC was relocated to the shuttered MCI-Plymouth facility. On January 1, 2018, there were 158 civil commitments and 24 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 2017): \$67,691
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 580
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 531
- Operational Capacity: 669
- Sentenced: 416 & Civil Commitments: 253



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, 2018, there were 394 criminally sentenced inmates, 189 SDPs, and 31 temporary civil commitments (provided by MTC).

### 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 2017): \$74,308
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 753
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 748  
Maximum: 677 & Medium: 71
- 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, 2018, MCI-CJ housed 711 criminally sentenced inmates and 42 federal or out of state pre-trial detainees. There were 683 inmates housed in maximum security (125 of those in DDU) and 70 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 2017): \$69,643
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 613
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 696
- 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 2017): \$82,116
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 434
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 466
- Operational Capacity: 572



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, 2018, this medium security facility housed 264 criminally sentenced inmates, 166 pre-trial detainees, and 4 civil commitments.

### MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N)

*Norfolk, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2017): \$46,772
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 1,322
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,394
- 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 2017): \$56,051
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: N/A
- Average Daily Population (ADP): N/A
- Operational Capacity: N/A
- Minimum: N/A & Pre-Release: N/A



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 preparation. Effective December 22, 2016, MCI-Plymouth was shuttered and remaining inmates were transferred to other DOC facilities. As of May 1, 2017 MASAC was relocated to the shuttered MCI-Plymouth facility and is now named MASAC at Plymouth. For more information please see MASAC at Plymouth on page 3.

### 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 2017): \$45,549
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 1,436
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,449
- Medium: 1,145 & Minimum: 304
- 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, 2018 were in medium security housing units (n=1,141) with 295 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 2017): \$52,454
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 956
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 955
- Medium: 944 & Minimum: 11
- Operational Capacity: 1,012
- Medium: 982 & Minimum: 30



NCCI is a facility housing criminally sentenced males. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2018 were in medium security housing units (n=944) 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 2017): \$54,904
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 188
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 197
- Operational Capacity: 277
- Minimum: 208 & Pre-Release: 69



NECC is a facility, operating under the Superintendent of MCI-Concord, housing criminally sentenced males. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2018 were in minimum security housing units (n=129), with 59 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 2017): \$73,756
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 745
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 702
- Medium: 575 & Minimum: 127
- Operational Capacity: 757
- Medium: 597 & 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, 2018 were housed in a medium security unit (n=617), with 128 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 2017): \$52,316
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 156
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 154
- Operational Capacity: 204
- Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



PCC is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 119 minimum and 37 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2018. 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. 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 2017): \$48,142
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 90
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 116
- Operational Capacity: 185  
Minimum: 140 & Pre-Release: 45



SMCC is a facility for criminally sentenced state and county females housing 70 minimum and 20 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2018. 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)

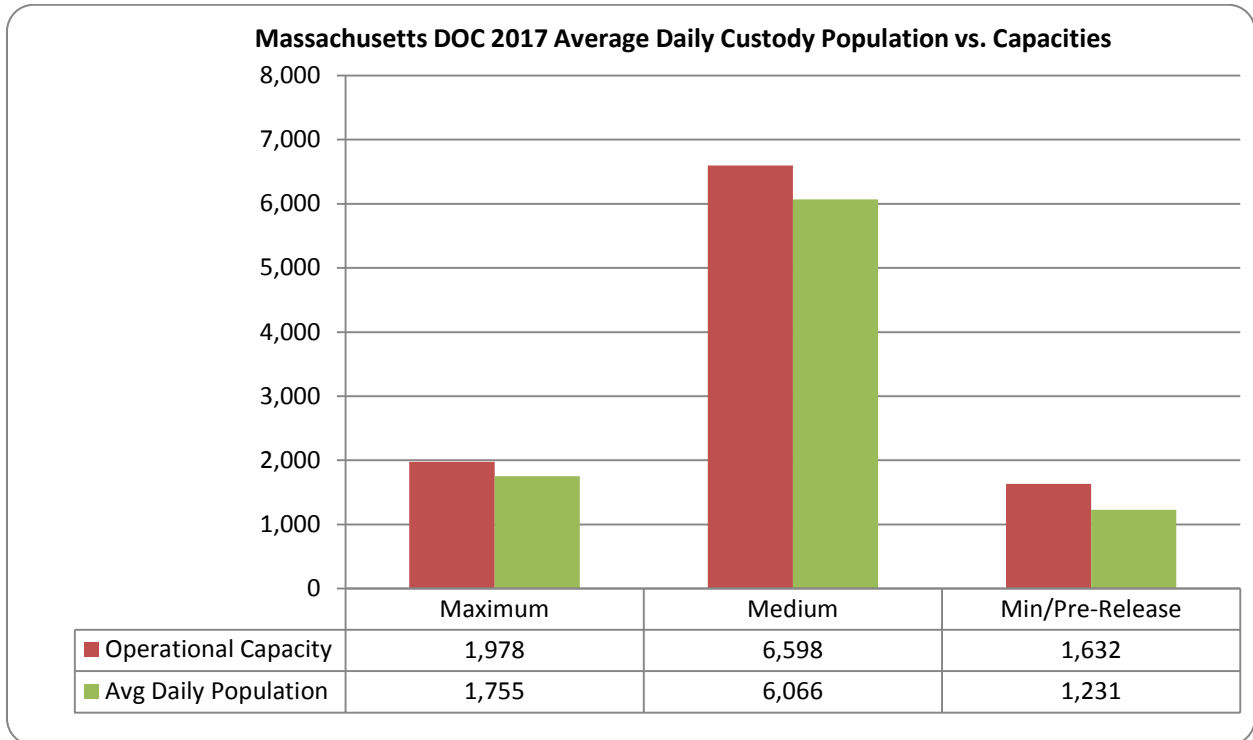
*Shirley, MA*

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2017): \$65,506
- January 1, 2018 Facility Population: 1,057
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,079
- 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



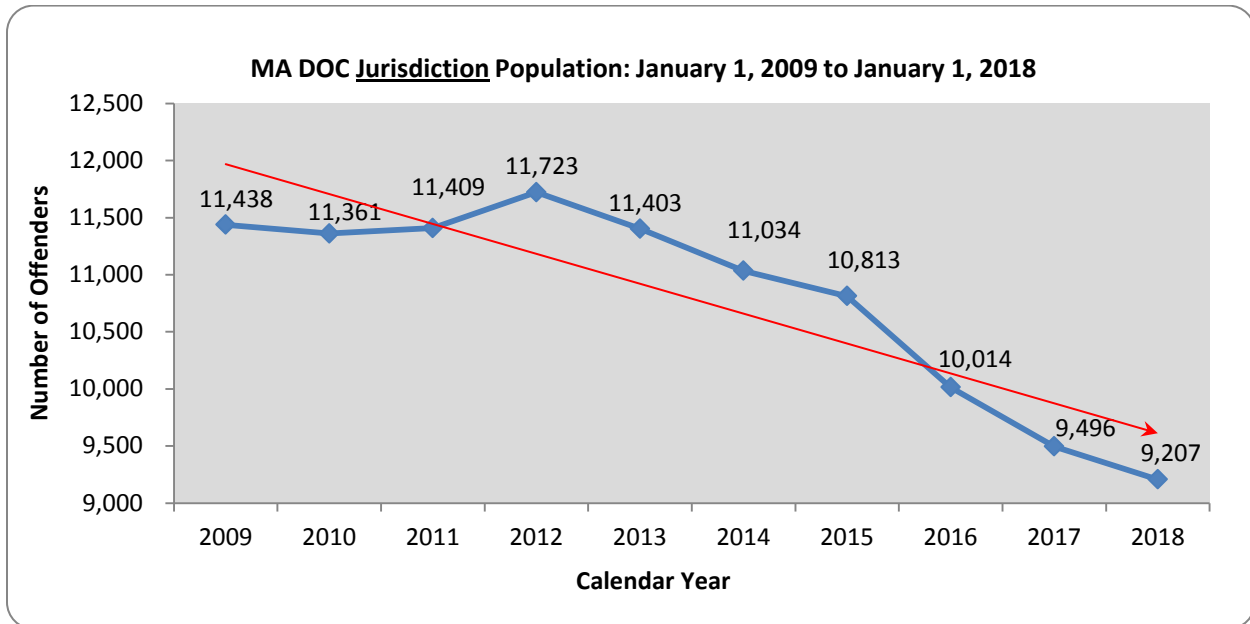
**Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2017**  
 Operational Capacity = 10,208  
 Average Daily Population for 2017 (Custody Population) = 9,052  
 Average Daily Population for 2017 (Jurisdiction Population) = 9,440

- ◆ **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, 2018.

# Massachusetts DOC 2017 Population Trends

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## Population Trends



### Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population continued to decline for the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year, a decrease of 21% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2012 (n=11,723).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018, there was a 3% decrease in inmates, from 9,496 to 9,207.
- ◆ The overall trend in the MA DOC jurisdiction population shows a decrease of 20% between January 1, 2009 (n=11,438) and January 1, 2018.

### National

- ◆ The estimated number of persons of all commitment types held in state and federal prisons decreased to 1,505,397 at year-end 2016<sup>1</sup>, a 1% decrease (n=21,206), from year-end 2015 (n=1,562,603).<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ After a slight increase in the sentenced state and federal jurisdiction population in 2013, there was a decrease of 5% between year-end 2013 and year-end 2016, the largest decline in more than 35 years. There was a 4% decrease in the federal population (n=7,206) and a 1% decrease in the state population (n=11,468) between year-end 2015 and year-end 2016.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2016 was 450 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, a decrease of 2% from 459 in 2015 and the lowest rate since 1997 (n=444).<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between 2015 and 2016, thirty-one (31) states saw decreases in their state's total jurisdiction population.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Year-end 2016 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (January 2018). *Prisoners in 2016* (NCJ 251149). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

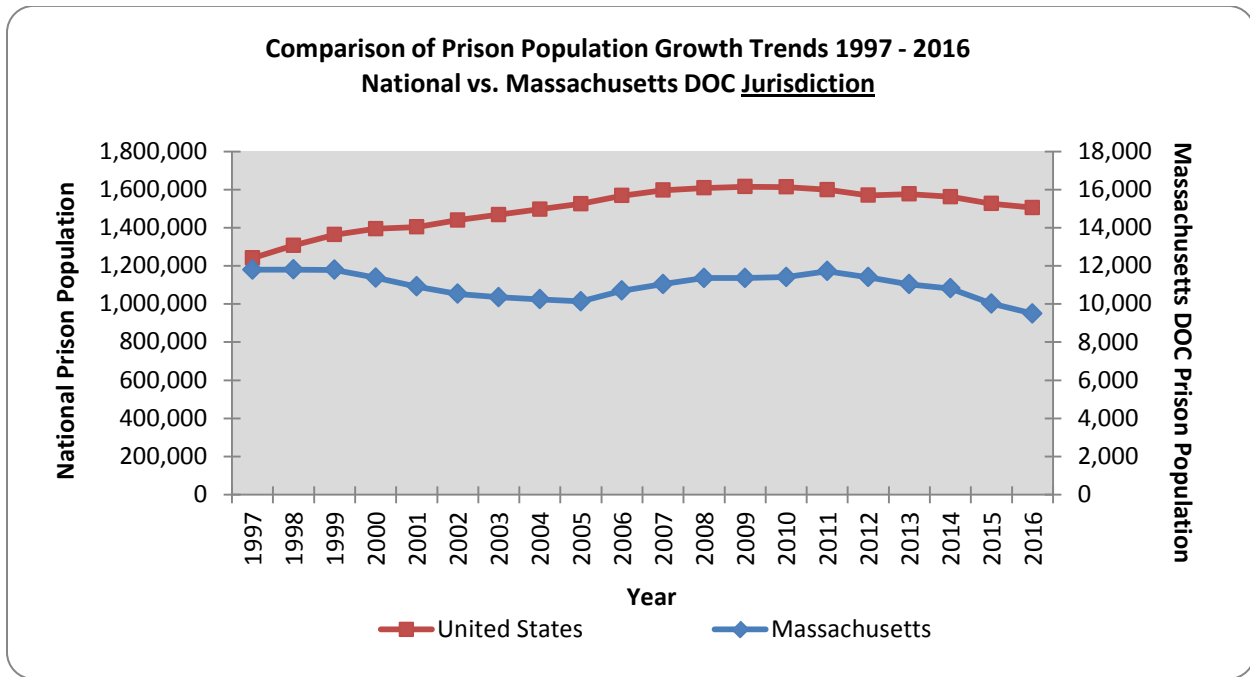
<sup>3</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 5, table 3.

<sup>4</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 8, table 6.

<sup>5</sup> BJS, 2016, pg. 3



## Population Trends



**Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 1997 – 2016:**  
**National<sup>6</sup> vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction**

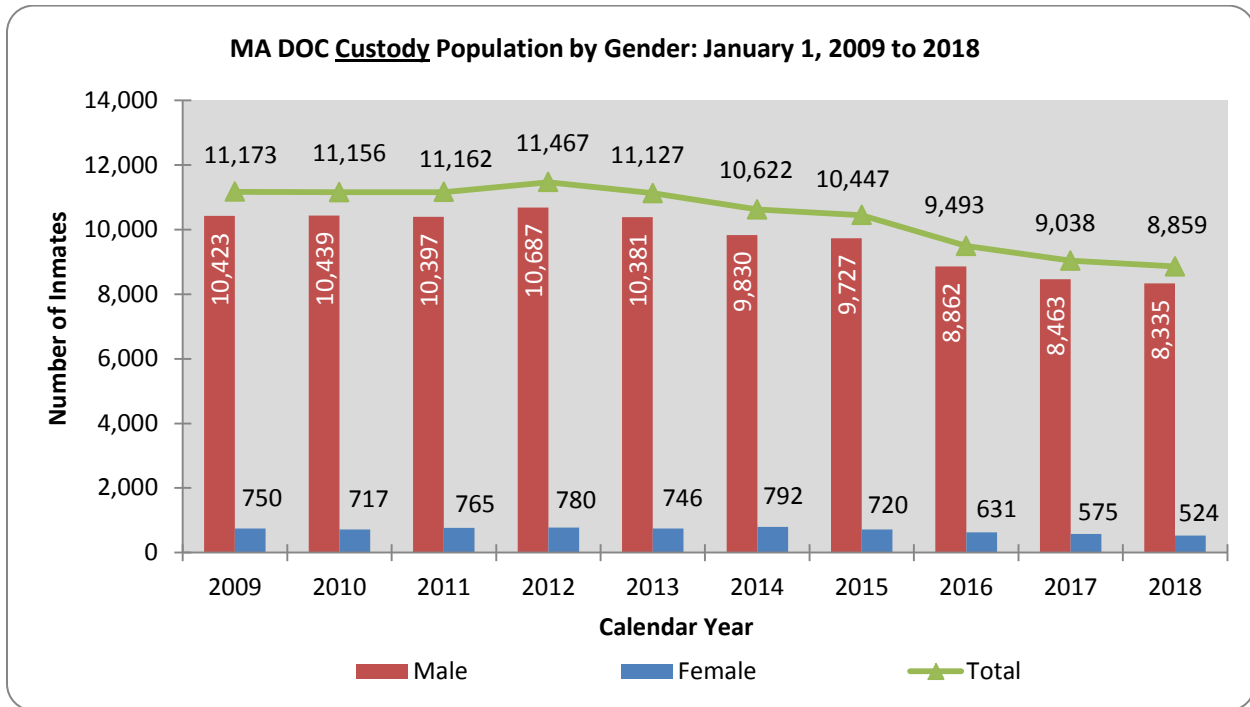
Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
1997	1,242,153	5.0	11,794	4.9
1998	1,302,019	4.8	11,807	0.1
1999	1,363,701	4.7	11,792	-0.1
2000	1,394,231	2.2	11,377	-3.5
2001	1,404,032	0.7	10,919	-4.0
2002	1,440,144	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	1,526,603	-2.3	10,014	-7.4
2016	1,505,397	-1.4	9,496	-5.2

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 19% from 11,794 in 1997 to 9,496 in 2016; over the same time period, the national population increased by 21%, from 1,240,659 to 1,505,397.
- ◆ Between the years 2015 and 2016, there was a 5% (n=518) 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 19% (n=2,227).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 43% from 1995 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 7% from 2010 to 2016. 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 (January 2018). *Prisoners in 2016* (NCJ 251149). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.



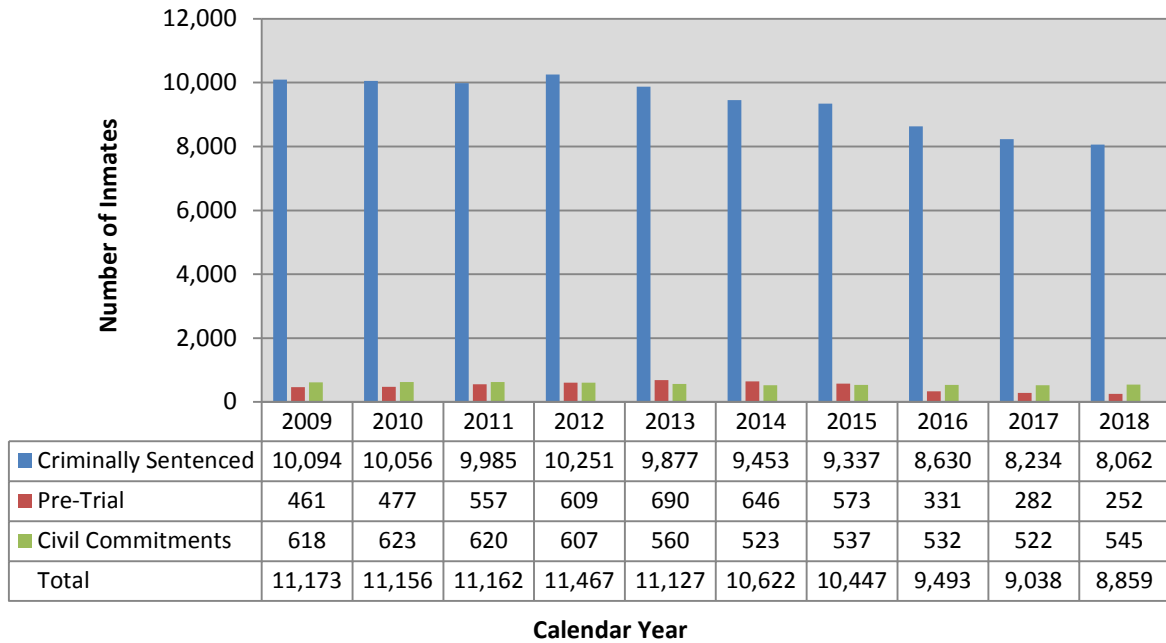
## Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC custody population has shown a significant decrease of 21% between January 1, 2009 and January 1, 2018. Over the 10 year period there was a slight increase of 3% from 2009 to 2012, with the population remaining relatively constant between 2009 and 2011 before spiking in 2012 to 11,467 inmates. Following the increase there was then a notable decrease in population of 23% from 2012 to 2018. 2018 has the lowest total custody population of the 10 year trend with 8,859 inmates.
- ◆ Male inmates increased 3% between 2009 and 2012. In the past six years however, the male custody population dropped from 10,687 in 2012 to 8,335 in 2018 which drove the 23% decrease in the total custody population over that same time period.
- ◆ The female population experienced more fluctuation than their male counterparts during the ten year time frame. Females saw a 4% drop from 2009 to 2010, followed by a 10% increase between 2010 and 2014. In the past four years females experienced a significant decrease in their custody populations of 34%.
- ◆ 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

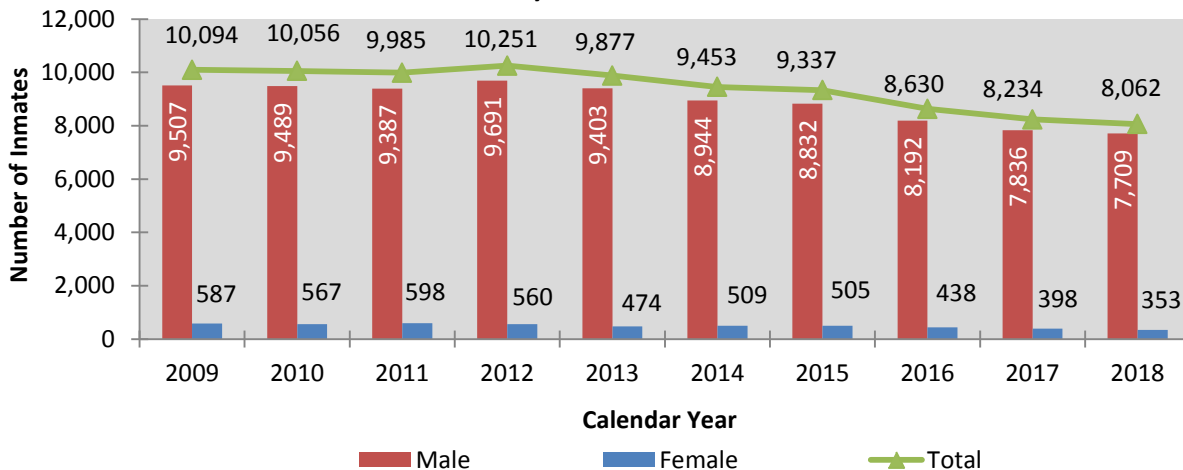
**MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2009 to 2018**



The Massachusetts DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (20%), civil (12%) and pre-trial (45%) commitment populations between January 1, 2009 and January 1, 2018. Since 2012, the criminally sentenced population has experienced a 21% reduction. The population that showed the largest percentage decline of the three commitment types was the pre-trial population with a 63% decrease from 2013 to 2018.

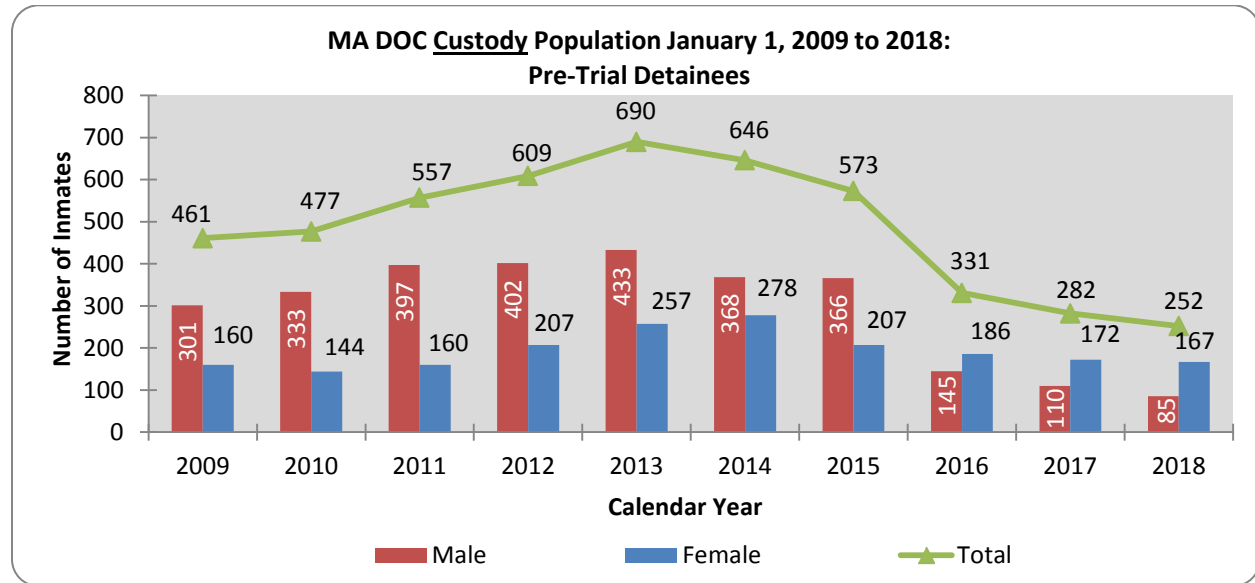
**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2009 to 2018:**

**Criminally Sentenced Inmates**

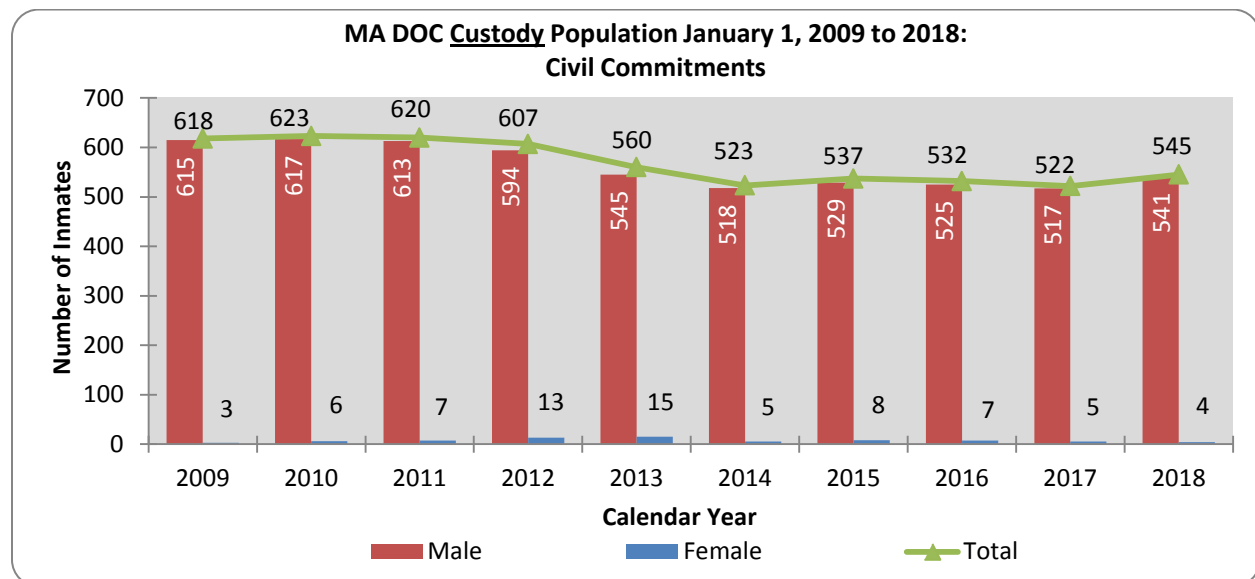


- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates compose 91% of the Massachusetts DOC custody population.
- ◆ From 2009 through 2018, both males and females experienced a decrease, 19% and 40% respectively. In the past five years there was a decrease of 21% from 2012 to 2018 after peaking at 10,251 inmates in 2012.

## Population Trends

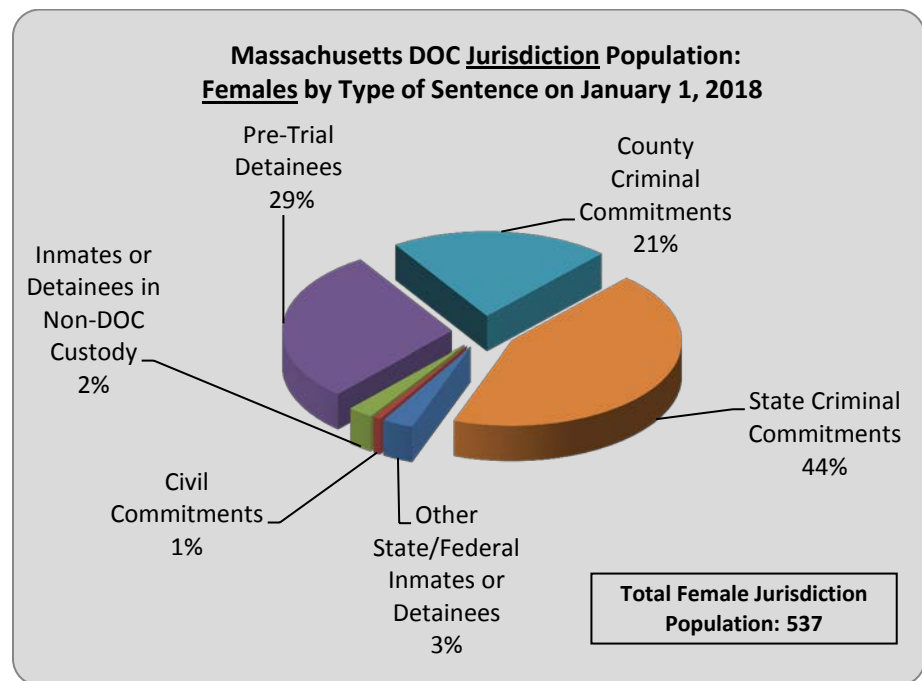
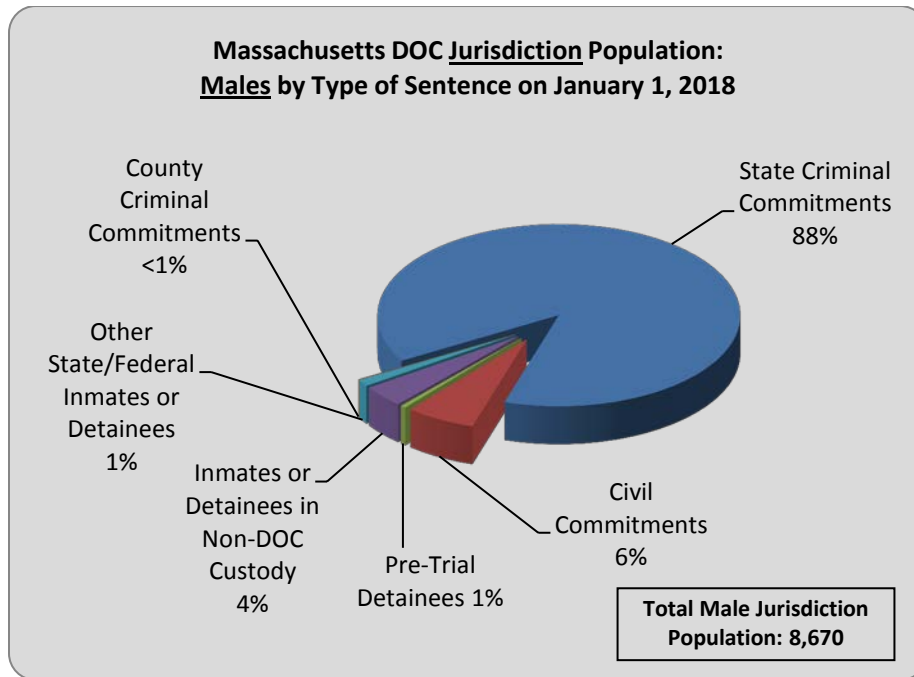


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased 45% between 2009 and 2018.
- ◆ In 2011, males made up 71% of the pre-trial population compared to 57% in 2014 and then was ultimately surpassed by females (56%) in 2016 with males only consisting of 44% of pre-trial commitments. In 2018, this trend continued as females now make up 66% of the pre-trial population. While the total population has decreased since 2009, the proportion of males and females made a large shift during this period largely due to the fact that counties for the most part house their own 52A's.



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consists almost entirely of male inmates (99%). Although the total civil commitment population experienced a decrease from 2009 to 2017, the population increased 4% over the past year breaking the previous two year downward trend.
- ◆ Averaging seven inmates a year over the trend period, female civil commitment inmates represent the smallest population in the MA DOC with a low of three in 2009 and a high of 15 in 2013.

## Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were **state criminal commitments** (88%) on January 1, 2018.
- ◆ Female state criminal commitments (44%) represent a smaller portion of their total commitments compared to males (88%) due to the MA DOC housing several county's female inmates for capacity issues/ lack of housing. Therefore, there was a more even distribution of female commitment types compared to their male counterparts.

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

## Massachusetts DOC 2017 Inmate Characteristics

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

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### **Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2018**

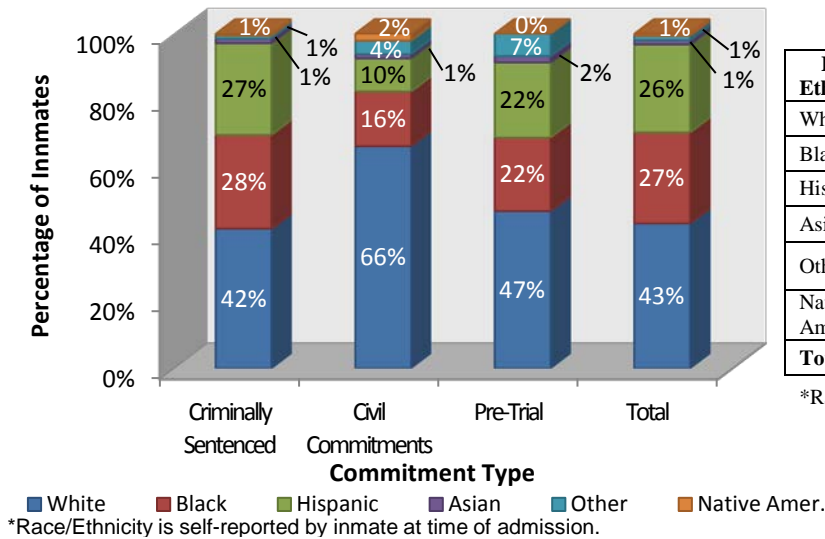
- ◆ 8,670 total males in the jurisdiction population: 8,044 criminally sentenced, 85 pre-trial detainees, and 541 civil commitments
  - ◆ Average age was 42 years old
  - ◆ 95% were serving a sentence of more than three years
  - ◆ 70% had a violent governing offense
  - ◆ 785 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
  - ◆ 42% 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 2014 three year recidivism rate was 32% for the total male population
  - ◆ 31% were open mental health cases, 7% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 22% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2017
- Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

### **Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2018**

- ◆ 537 total females in the jurisdiction population: 363 criminally sentenced, 170 pre-trial detainees, and 4 civil commitments
  - ◆ Average age was 37 years old
  - ◆ 65% were serving a sentence of more than three years
  - ◆ 57% had a violent governing offense
  - ◆ 18 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
  - ◆ 29% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
  - ◆ 34% entered the Massachusetts DOC with less than a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math level
  - ◆ The 2014 three year recidivism rate was 32% for the total female population
  - ◆ 79% were open mental health cases, 12% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 55% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2017
- 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, 2018



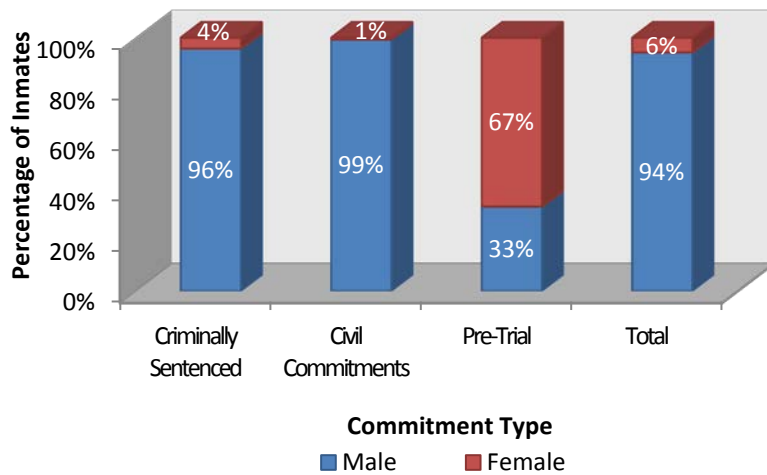
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2018

Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	3,511	362	120	3,993
Black	2,360	89	56	2,505
Hispanic	2,301	54	57	2,412
Asian	114	7	5	126
Other	74	22	17	113
Native American	47	11	0	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>9,207</b>

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

Similar to previous years, the largest percentage of the total inmate population had a race/ethnicity of White (43%), followed by Black and Hispanic (27% and 26% 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 7 percentage point decrease in White inmates and small increases for Hispanic (5%), and Asian (1%) inmates.

MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2018



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2018

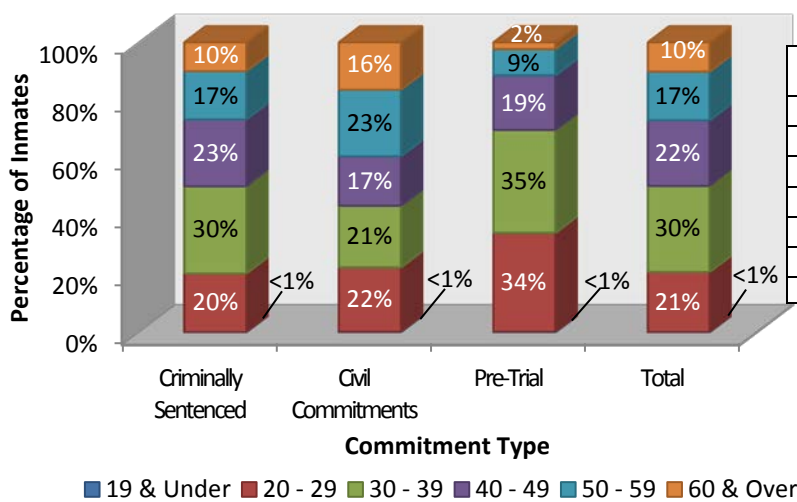
	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	8,044	541	85	8,670
Female	363	4	170	537
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9,207</b>

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males with 96% and 99% respectively. For the third year pre-trial detainees continued to have a greater proportion of females (67%) versus males (33%) due to the transfer of pre-trial males from the MA DOC back to their counties of origin.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> MCI-Framingham has housing units 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

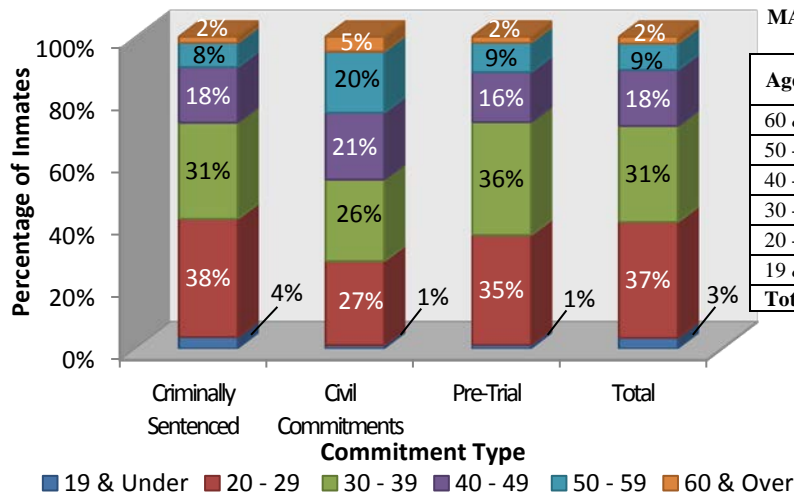
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type  
on January 1, 2018**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type  
on January 1, 2018**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	836	89	6	931
50 - 59	1,397	125	23	1,545
40 - 49	1,922	92	48	2,062
30 - 39	2,530	116	90	2,736
20 - 29	1,705	121	87	1,913
19 & Under	17	2	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>9,207</b>

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration  
and Commitment Type on January 1, 2018**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration  
and Commitment Type on January 1, 2018**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	167	26	5	198
50 - 59	654	107	24	785
40 - 49	1,499	117	41	1,657
30 - 39	2,584	142	92	2,818
20 - 29	3,195	147	90	3,432
19 & Under	308	6	3	317
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>9,207</b>

- ◆ As of January 1, 2018, 50% (n = 4,235) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 4,155 inmates (49%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 5,779 inmates in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (69%) with 3,195 between ages 20-29 (38%).
- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates who comprised the majority of the jurisdiction population mirrored the total jurisdiction population with 86% between the ages 20-49 at the time of incarceration and 73% between the ages 20 – 49 on January 1, 2018.
- ◆ The oldest inmates in the jurisdiction population as of January 1, 2018 relative to sentence type were civil commitments, with 56% of inmates (n=306) aged 40 and older differing from age at incarceration, in which 295 inmates (54%) were 39 years old and younger.
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age on January 1, 2018 to age at incarceration (69% and 71% 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, 2018**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	42 Years	44 Years	40 Years	<b>42 Years</b>
Median	39 Years	44 Years	38 Years	<b>40 Years</b>
Youngest	18 Years	19 Years	21 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	94 Years	86 Years	84 Years	<b>94 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	39 Years	38 Years	34 Years	<b>37 Years</b>
Median	36 Years	38 Years	32 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	26 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	73 Years	49 Years	63 Years	<b>73 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	41 Years	44 Years	36 Years	<b>41 Years</b>
Median	39 Years	44 Years	33 Years	<b>39 Years</b>
Youngest	18 Years	19 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	94 Years	86 Years	84 Years	<b>94 Years</b>

Consistent with last year, at the time of incarceration criminally sentenced females (35) were older on average than criminally sentenced males (34).

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Age Averages and Ranges by Commitment Type at Time of Incarceration on January 1, 2018**

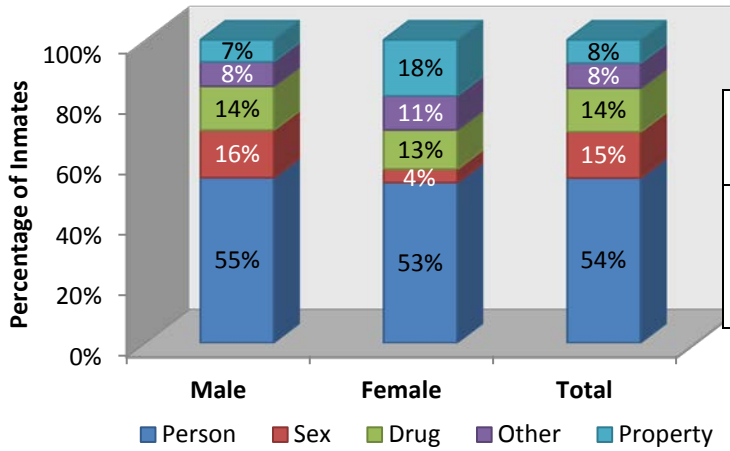
	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	34 Years	39 Years	38 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	32 Years	38 Years	37 Years	<b>32 Years</b>
Youngest	15 Years	17 Years	20 Years	<b>15 Years</b>
Oldest	77 Years	74 Years	82 Years	<b>82 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	35 Years	38 Years	33 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	33 Years	38 Years	31 Years	<b>33 Years</b>
Youngest	18 Years	26 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	68 Years	49 Years	62 Years	<b>68 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	34 Years	39 Years	35 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Median	32 Years	38 Years	33 Years	<b>32 Years</b>
Youngest	15 Years	17 Years	18 Years	<b>15 Years</b>
Oldest	77 Years	74 Years	82 Years	<b>82 Years</b>

**MA DOC 2017 Jurisdiction Population Age Averages and Ranges by Commitment Type at Time of Release**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
<b>Male</b>				
Mean	39 Years	37 Years	40 Years	<b>38 Years</b>
Median	37 Years	34 Years	38 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	88 Years	83 Years	83 Years	<b>88 Years</b>
<b>Female</b>				
Mean	35 Years	35 Years	34 Years	<b>35 Years</b>
Median	33 Years	33 Years	33 Years	<b>33 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	70 Years	58 Years	69 Years	<b>70 Years</b>
<b>Total</b>				
Mean	38 Years	37 Years	35 Years	<b>37 Years</b>
Median	36 Years	34 Years	33 Years	<b>34 Years</b>
Youngest	19 Years	18 Years	18 Years	<b>18 Years</b>
Oldest	88 Years	83 Years	83 Years	<b>88 Years</b>

## Inmate Characteristics by Offense Types

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2018**

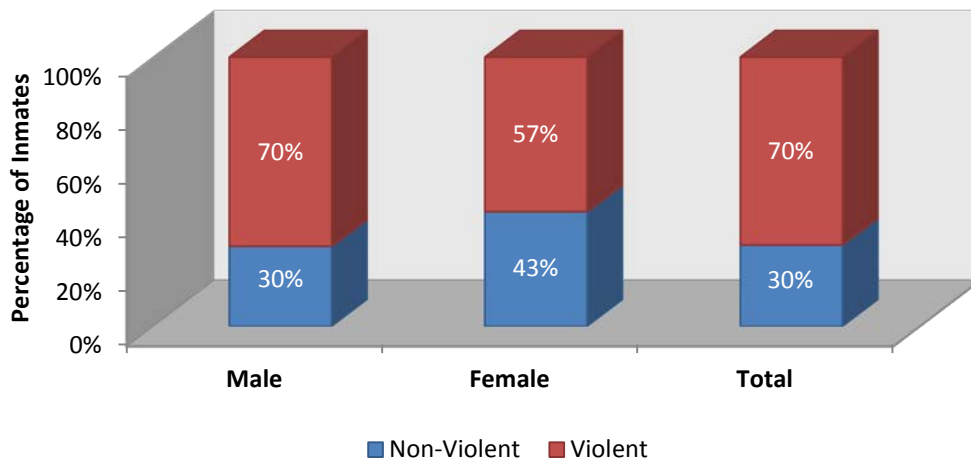


**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2018**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	4,386	192	4,578
	Sex	1,259	16	1,275
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	1,165	47	1,212
	Other	653	41	694
	Property	581	67	648
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,044</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>8,407</b>

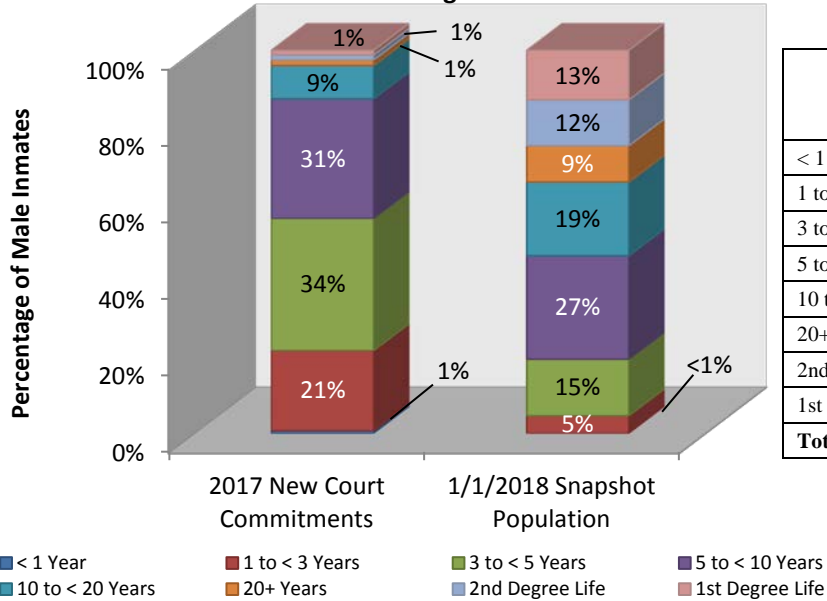
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for both the total criminally sentenced population and criminally sentenced male inmates on January 1, 2018 were person, sex, and drug offenses.
- ◆ Differing slightly from their male counterparts the top three offenses for females were person offenses (53%), property offenses (18%), and drug offenses (13%).
- ◆ For the third year, the majority of criminally sentenced female inmates (57%) 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, 2018**



## Inmate Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

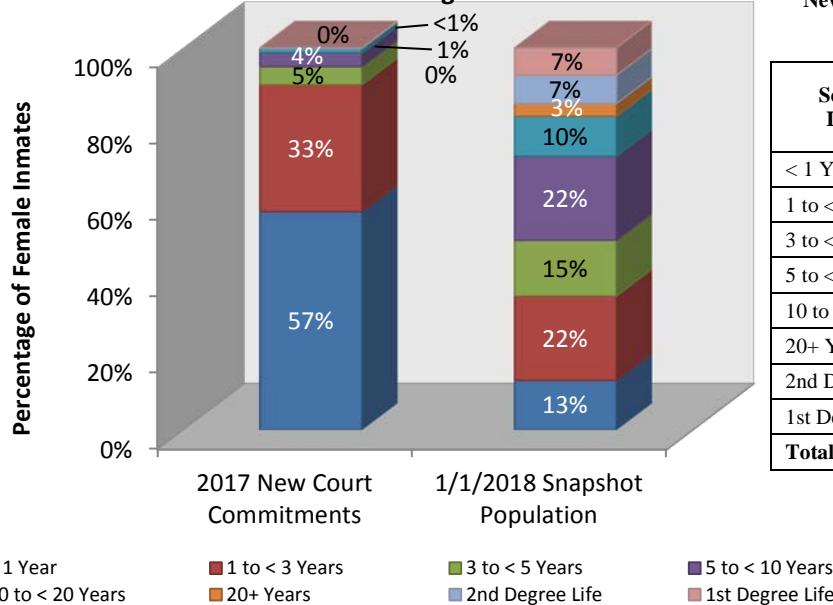
**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2017 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2018 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**



**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2017 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2018 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**

Sentence Length	2017 New Court Commitments	1/1/2018 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	12	1
1 to < 3 Years	355	371
3 to < 5 Years	585	1,185
5 to < 10 Years	530	2,170
10 to < 20 Years	147	1,548
20+ Years	25	764
2nd Degree Life	22	961
1st Degree Life	21	1,044
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>8,044</b>

**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2017 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2018 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**



**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2017 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2018 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length**

Sentence Length	2017 New Court Commitments	1/1/2018 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	302	47
1 to < 3 Years	176	80
3 to < 5 Years	25	53
5 to < 10 Years	19	80
10 to < 20 Years	6	38
20+ Years	0	12
2nd Degree Life	1	27
1st Degree Life	0	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>363</b>

The comparisons of 2017's new court commitments to the January 1, 2018, 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 offenders that stack up in the population. For example, approximately 24% of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised 2% of new court commitments.

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

In 2017, 90% of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only 35% of females in the January 1, 2018 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, 87% of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only 46% of the males in the January 1, 2018 snapshot population were serving a sentence less 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 numerous counties; thus, many women are serving county sentences with the MA DOC, which are shorter terms than state sentences.

Between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018, the percentage of state, criminally sentenced female inmates in the MA DOC jurisdiction increased by four percentage points, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced female inmates decreased by four percentage points. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2018:

- ◆ 67% (n=244) were state sentenced
- ◆ 31% (n=113) were county sentenced
- ◆ 2% (n=6) 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 50% of the female sentenced population, with 28% 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, 2018:  
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Gender**

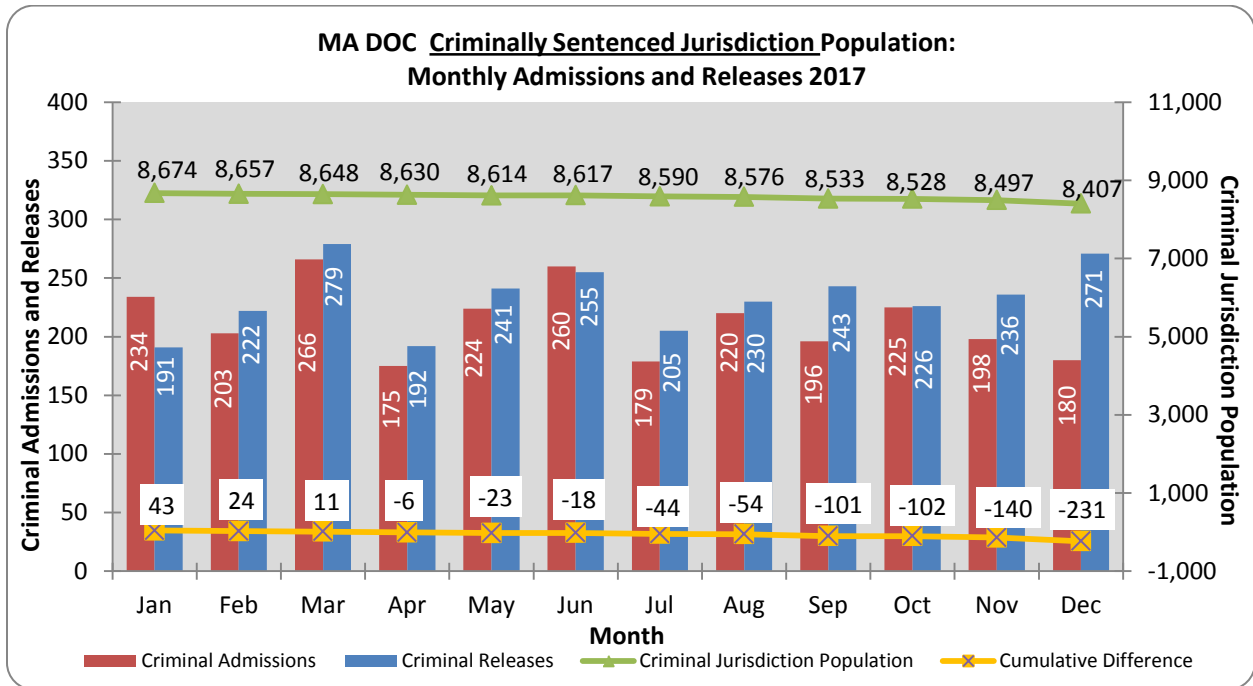
	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	134	4,252	25	167	159	4,419
	SEX	16	1,243	2	14	18	1,257
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	131	1,034	20	27	151	1,061
	PROPERTY	51	530	49	18	100	548
	OTHER	40	613	31	10	71	623
TOTALS		372	7,672	127	236	499	7,908
		8,044		363		8,407	

On January 1, 2018 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=1,212) for both criminally sentenced males (14%) and females (13%). A majority (66%) of drug offenders were serving sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. There were a total of 803 inmates sentenced for a mandatory drug governing offense: 785 males and 18 females.

## Massachusetts DOC 2017 Admissions and Releases

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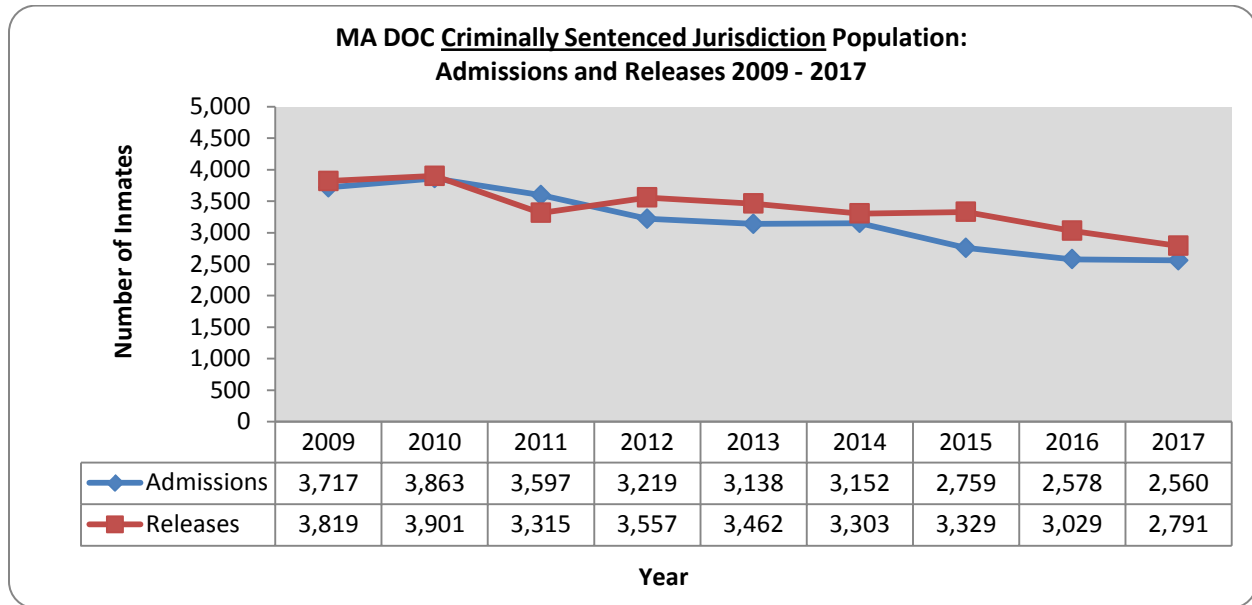
## Admissions and Releases



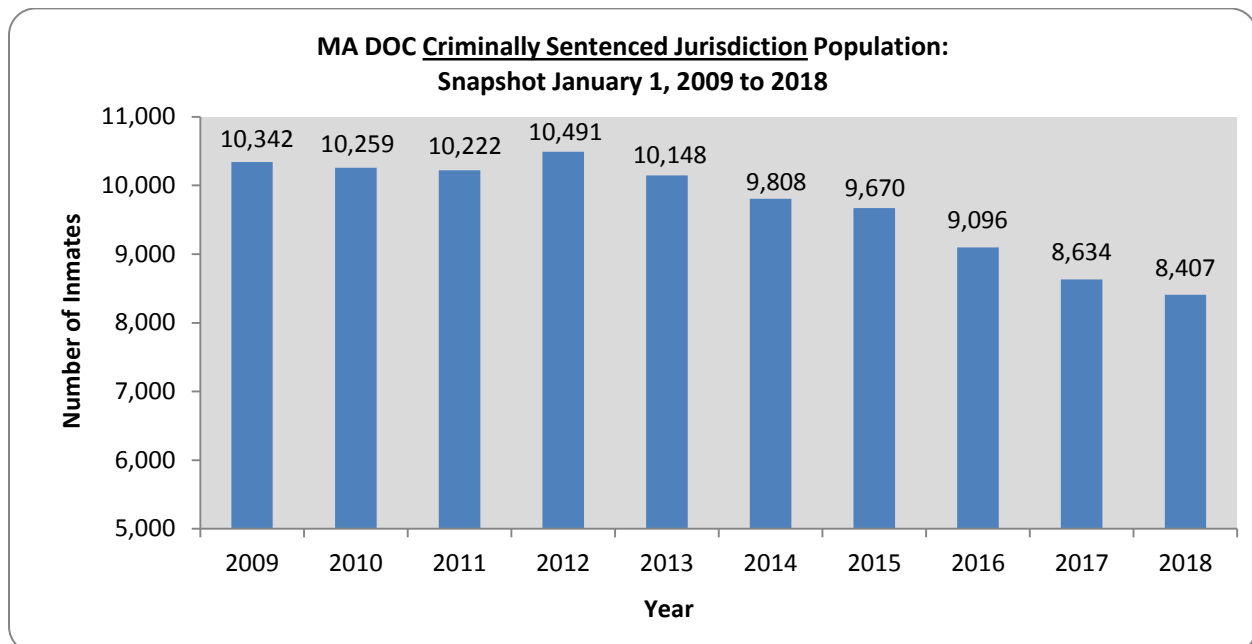
**Note:** Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2017 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was less than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 213 per month and criminal releases averaging 233.
- ◆ During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 175 in April, and 266 in March. Criminal releases ranged between 191 in January, and 279 in March.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 231 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2017 was 8,407, a 3% decrease from the population at the end of 2016, at 8,634. This rate decrease was less than the decrease seen when comparing years end 2016 and 2015 criminally sentenced populations.

## Admissions and Releases



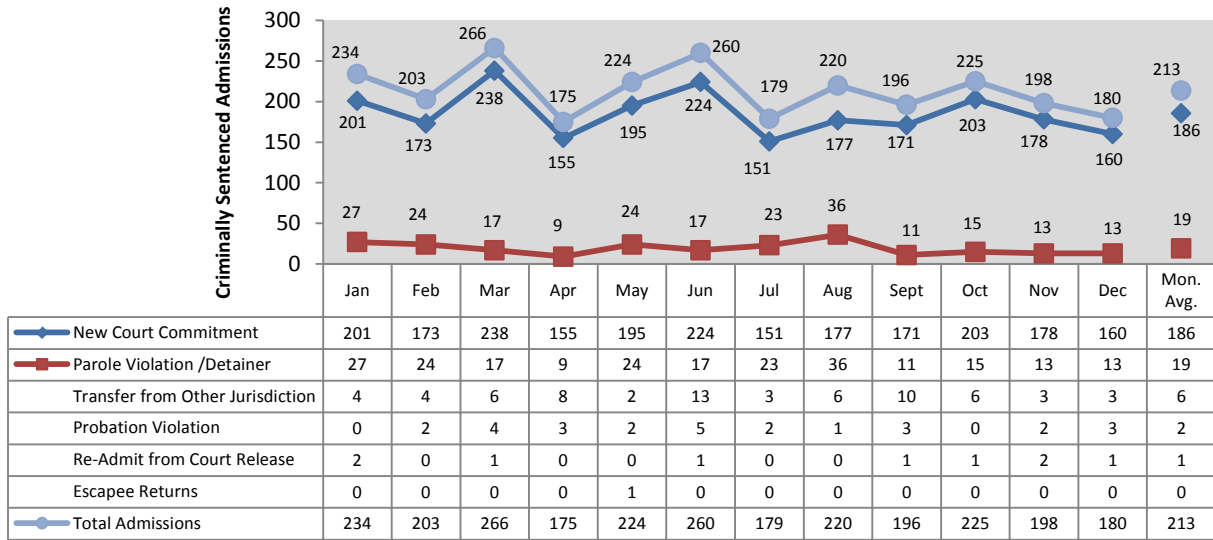
During the past eight years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal admissions exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal releases. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 4% each year; criminal admissions during 2015 and 2012 had the largest declines of 12% and 11%, respectively. Releases also saw an average annual decrease of 4%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2011 and 2016, 15% and 9%, respectively.



The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 19% from 2009 to 2018, averaging a 2% decrease per year. However, the years since 2013 saw an average yearly decrease of 4%, with 2018 seeing a decrease of 3%, compared to the previous year.

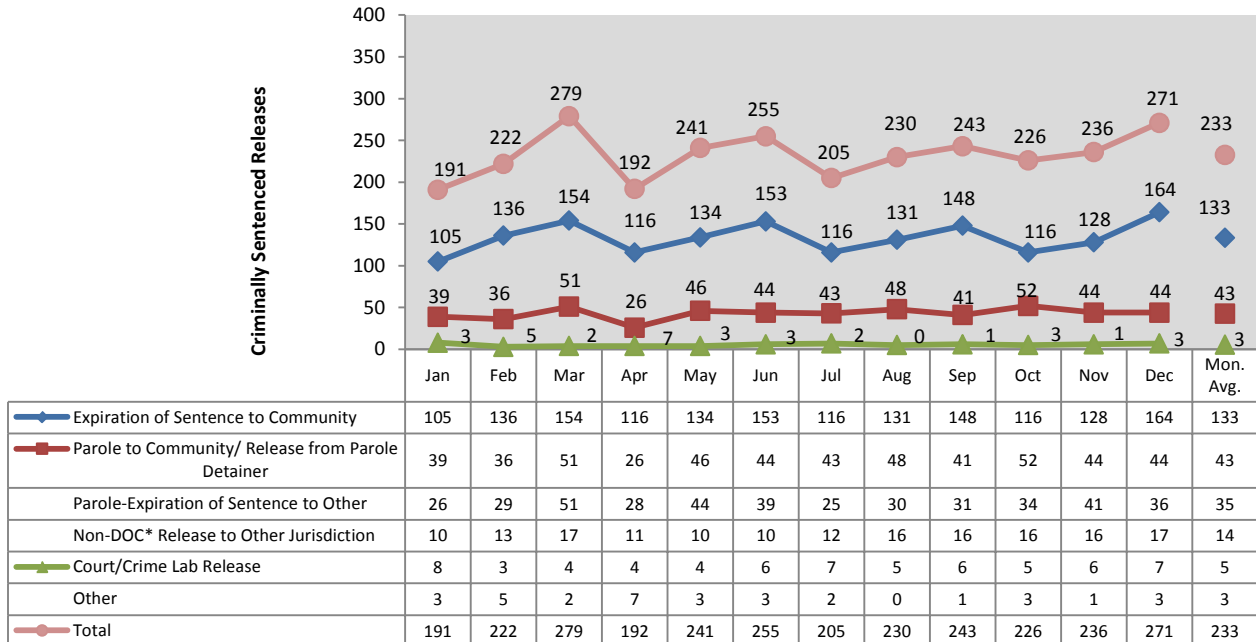
## Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2017 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 151 to 238 with a monthly average of 186, four more than the monthly average in 2016. Total criminal admissions ranged from 175 to 266 for a monthly average of 213, two fewer than the 2016 monthly average of 215.

MA DOC 2017 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 2017 ranged between 191 and 279 for a given month and averaged 233; nineteen fewer than the monthly average from 2016 of 252. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 131 releases per month in the first 11 months during 2017 and ended up higher in December, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer remained fairly stable. Parole related releases to the community resulted in 18% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2017; about the same as 2016 releases, at 19%.



## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC 2017 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	529	86%	1,697	87%	2,226	87%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	35	6%	194	10%	229	9%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	25	4%	43	2%	68	3%
Probation Violation	26	4%	1	< 1%	27	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	2	< 1%	7	< 1%	9	< 1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	1	< 1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>100%</b>

During 2017, 87% of male and 86% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments; while new court commitments made up a slightly lower percentage of male and female criminally sentenced admissions during 2016, 85% for both groups.

### **MA DOC 2017 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	362	55%	1,239	58%	1,601	57%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	94	14%	420	20%	514	18%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	84	13%	330	16%	414	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	107	16%	57	3%	164	6%
Court Release / Crime Lab	16	2%	49	2%	65	2%
Other Release	1	< 1%	32	2%	33	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,791</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 community, parole to community/release from parole detainer, and court release/crime lab. Of the 2,178 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2017, approximately 73% were released via expiration of sentence to the community 24% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and 3% were court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ Females accounted for 22% of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2017; 23% of the expirations of sentence to the community, 18% of paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 22% of court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 31 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2017: all were males.

## Admissions and Releases

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2015 - 2017

Admission Type	2015		2016		2017	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	2,390	87%	2,186	85%	2,226	87%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	222	8%	234	9%	229	9%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	112	4%	119	5%	68	3%
Probation Violation	25	1%	27	1%	27	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	8	< 1%	9	< 1%	9	< 1%
Escapee Return	2	< 1%	3	< 1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>100%</b>

- ◆ From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments remained fairly steady. The number of admissions who were new court commitments dropped from 2,390 in 2015, to 2,226 in 2017, a moderate 7% decrease compared with the 20% drop between 2014 and 2016.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, increased between 2015 and 2016, from 222 to 234 admissions. The number went down to 229 during 2017, sliding closer to the 222 admissions seen during 2015.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2015 to 2017 saw its lowest point in 2017, down 7% from 2015.

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2015 - 2017

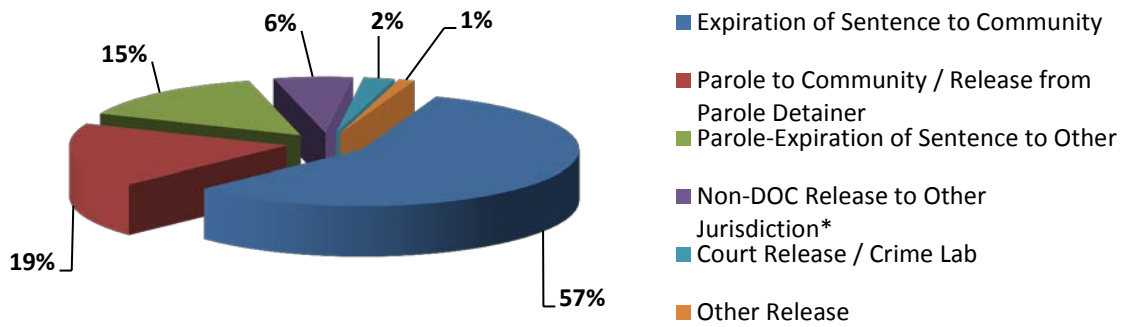
Release Type	2015		2016		2017	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	1,789	54%	1,692	56%	1,601	57%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	734	22%	583	19%	514	18%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	476	14%	451	15%	414	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	240	7%	213	7%	164	6%
Court Release / Crime Lab	59	2%	55	2%	65	2%
Other Release	31	1%	35	1%	33	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,791</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 2017 when it was 11% lower than the height in 2015. Releases decreased by 9% between 2015 and 2016, followed by another 8% decrease during 2017.

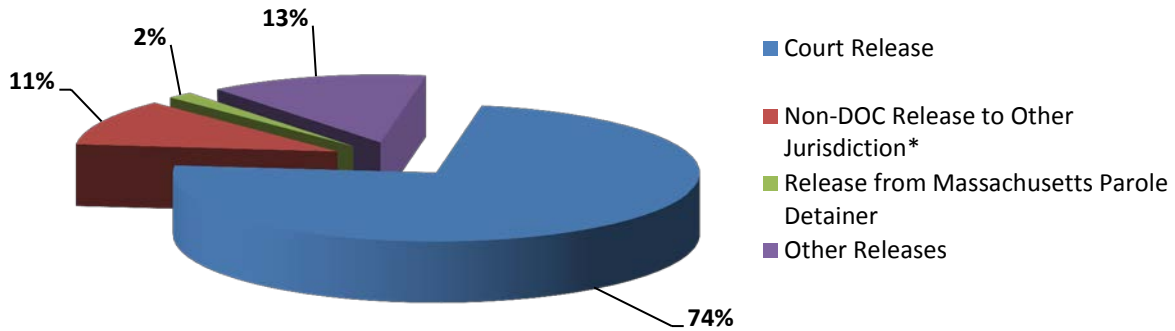
## Releases by Release Type

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



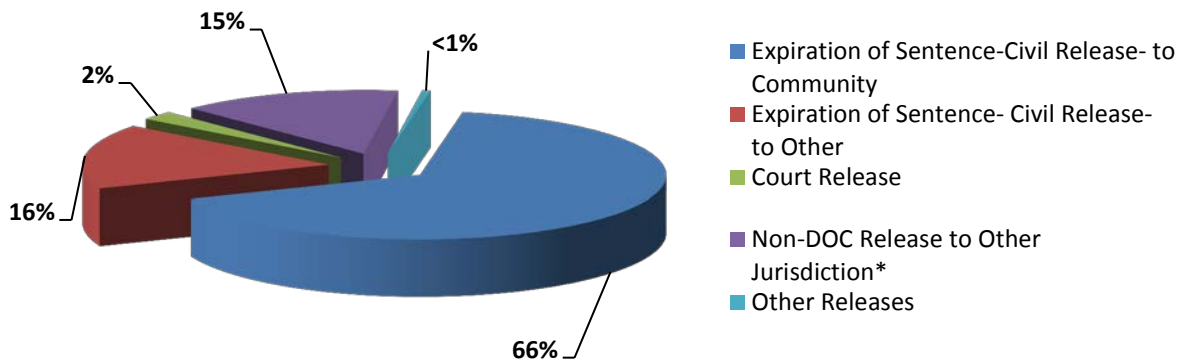
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

MA DOC 2017 Pre-Trial Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



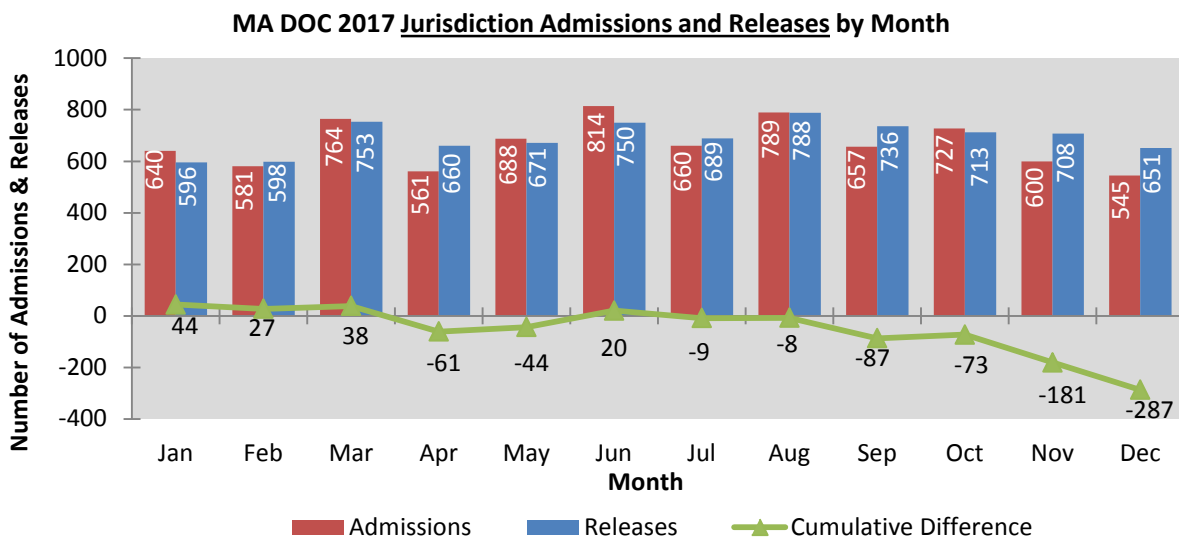
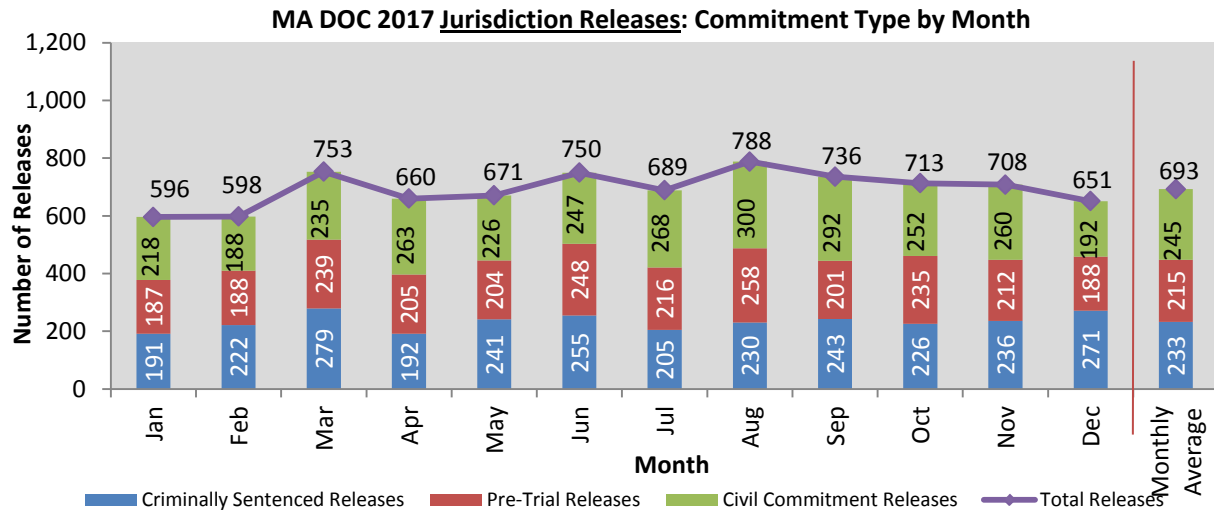
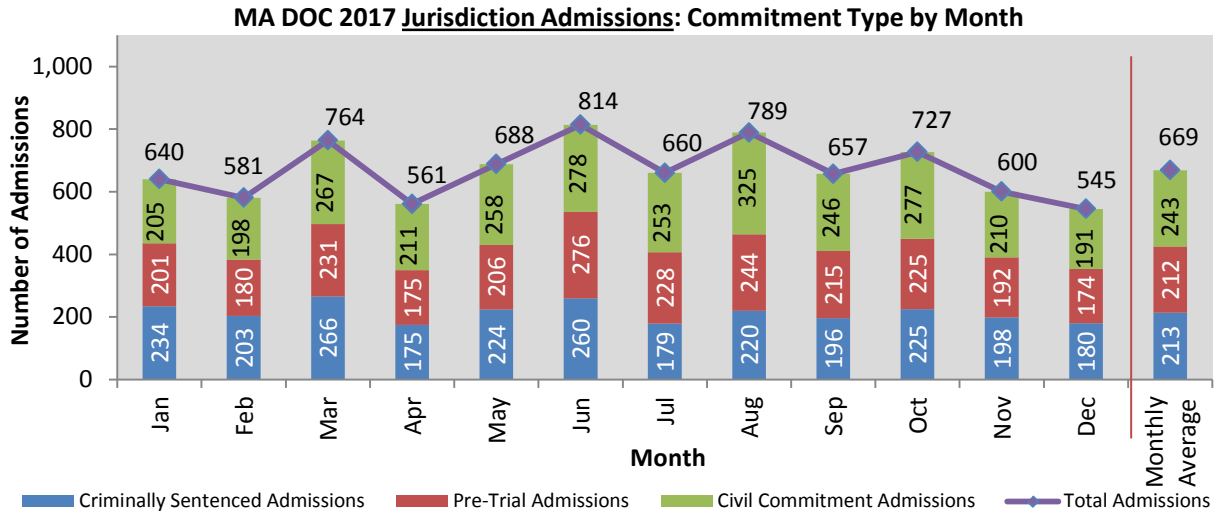
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

MA DOC 2017 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



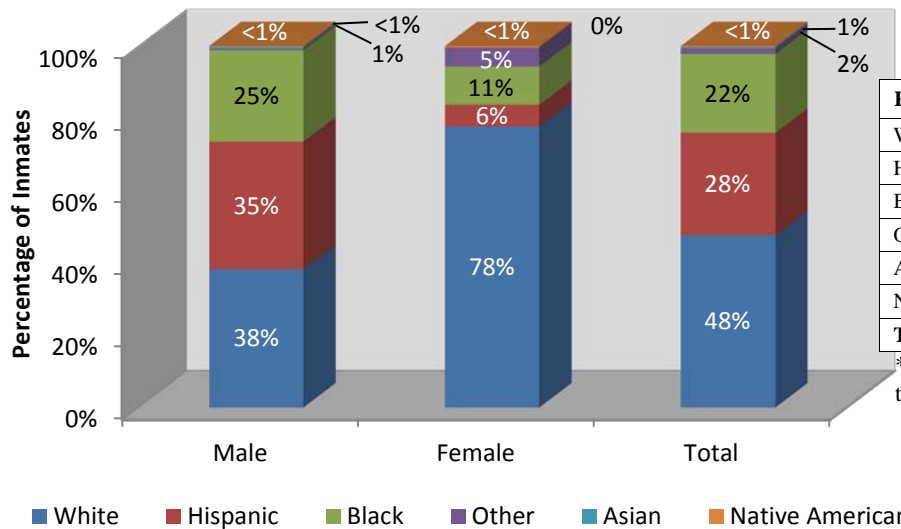
During 2017, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a downward trend, ending in an overall cumulative decrease of 287 inmates. This was a 43% decrease compared to the cumulative decrease of 501 inmates seen during 2016.

## Massachusetts DOC 2017 Admissions by New Court Commitments

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## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Race/Ethnicity by Gender**



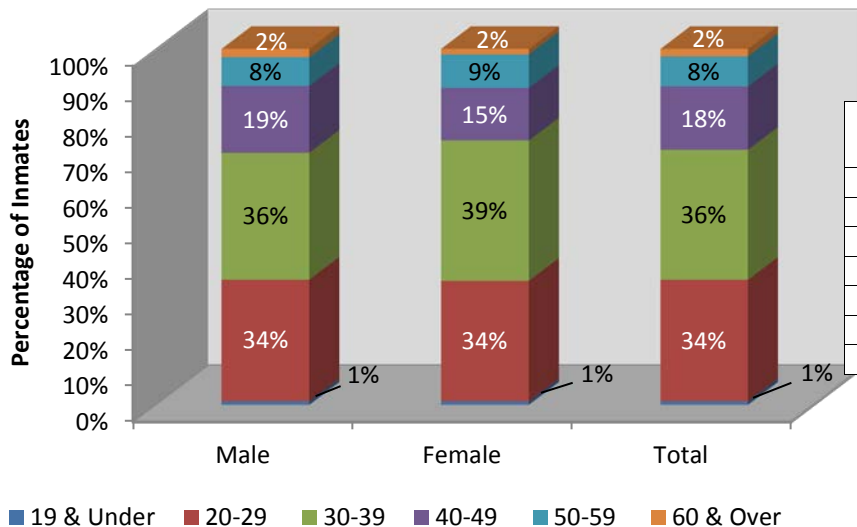
**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Race/Ethnicity\* by Gender**

Race/Ethnicity*	Male	Female	Total
White	648	411	1,059
Hispanic	600	32	632
Black	429	56	485
Other	8	28	36
Asian	9	0	9
Native American	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>2,226</b>

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

For males, the most common race/ethnicity for criminally sentenced new court commitments were White (38%), followed by Hispanic (35%) and Black (25%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (78%), followed by Black (11%) and Hispanic (6%). As males made up 76% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Age in  
Years at Commitment by Gender**



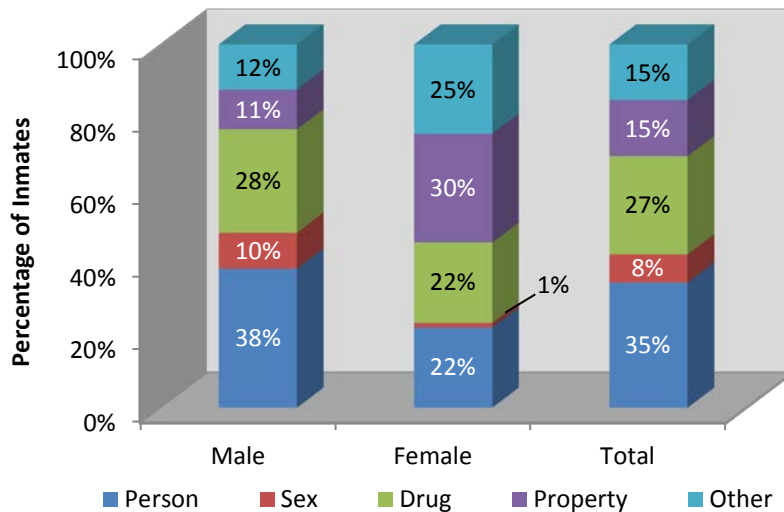
**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Age in Years at Commitment by Gender**

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
60 & Over	39	8	47
50-59	138	50	188
40-49	318	78	396
30-39	603	208	811
20-29	582	180	762
19 & Under	17	5	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>2,226</b>

The age distribution of male new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (36%), followed by the 20 – 29 year age group (34%). The largest percent of female criminal new court commitments also fell into the 30 – 39 year age group (39%), followed by the 20 – 29 year age group (34%) as well. Males and females had similar age distributions in the 40 or older age groups, with 29% male and 26% female criminally sentenced new court commitments falling into these categories.

## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

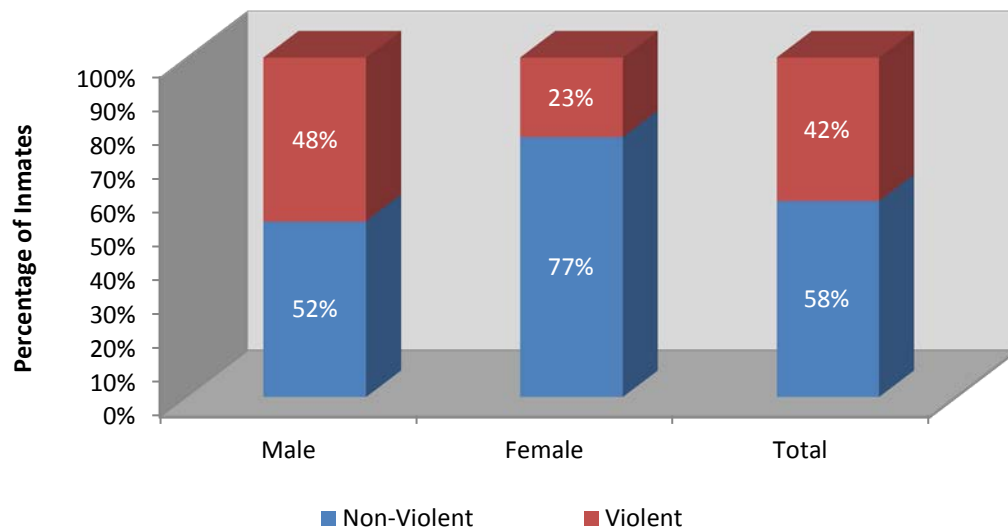


**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction  
New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	652	117	769
	Sex	166	7	173
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	482	117	599
	Property	186	158	344
	Other	211	130	341
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>2,226</b>

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (38%), followed by drug (28%). Among females, property offenses were the most common (30%), followed by “other” offenses (25%). Sex offenses were the least common, accounting for 8% of governing offenses for the criminally sentenced new court commitments, 10% of the male governing offenses and 1% of the female governing offenses.

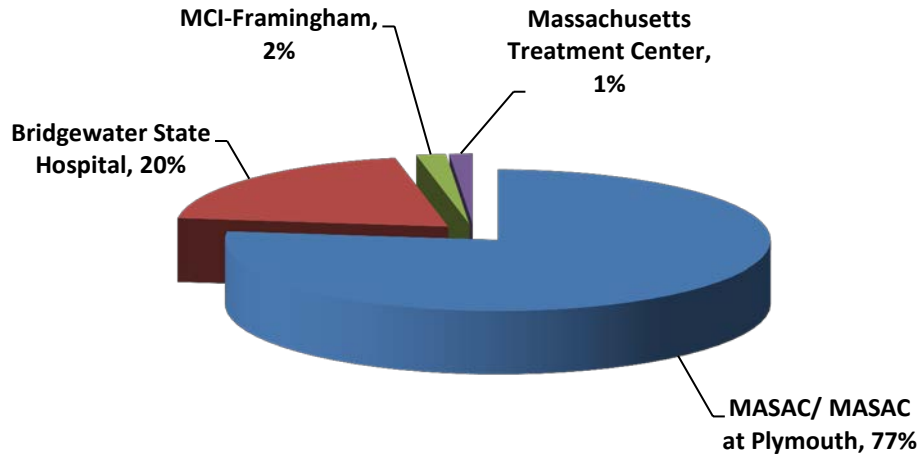
**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Gender**



The majority of both male and female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses; fifty-two percent of males and 77% of females falling into this category. Overall, criminally sentenced jurisdiction inmates had predominately non-violent governing offenses (58%). Though males made up over 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 2017 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Civil Commitments by Institution



MA DOC 2017 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution

Institution	Female	Male	Total
MASAC/ MASAC at Plymouth	0	2,237	2,237
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	579	579
MCI-Framingham	51	0	51
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>2,907</b>

Civil commitments to the MA 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 MA DOC Bridgewater Complex.

- ◆ In 2017, there were 2,907 civil new court commitments, representing 36% of the overall 8,026 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (77%) of civil commitments in 2017 were Section 35’s admitted to MASAC. This was slightly down from 79% in 2016. The number of Section 35’s decreased from 2,459 during 2016, to 2,237 during 2017, or -9%. Commitments to MASAC are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ During 2017, there were 579 civil commitments to BSH. This was a slight increase compared to the previous year (n=568). During 2017, 20 percent of the civil commitments went to BSH; this was up slightly from 18% during 2016.
- ◆ Females represented 2% of the civil commitments during 2017, the same as seen during 2016.



## Massachusetts DOC 2017 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: 2013 - 2017**

Post Release Supervision Type	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
Parole Supervision (only)	441	17%	441	17%	455	18%	357	15%	281	13%
Probation Supervision (only)	915	34%	830	33%	901	35%	859	37%	787	36%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	275	10%	254	10%	279	11%	227	10%	233	11%
No Post Release Supervision	1,045	39%	1,012	40%	946	37%	885	38%	877	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,178</b>	<b>100%</b>

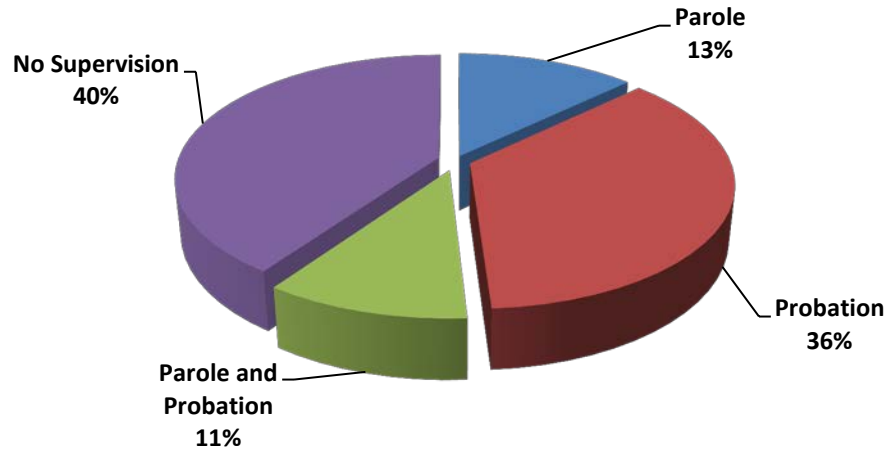
  

Post Release Supervision	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
Supervision	1,631	61%	1,525	60%	1,635	63%	1,443	62%	1,301	60%
No Supervision	1,045	39%	1,012	40%	946	37%	885	38%	877	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,178</b>	<b>100%</b>

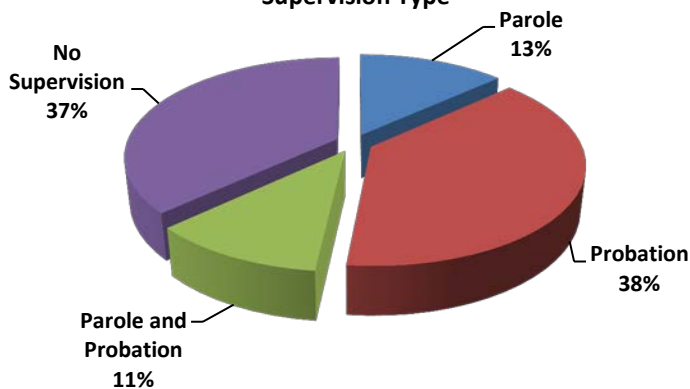
- ◆ Overall, there was a 19% decrease (n=498) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2013 and 2017. Though each release year experienced a decline (except for 2015), the largest decrease was between 2015 and 2016 (10%). The 10% decrease in releases, from 2,581 in 2015 to 2,328 in 2016, was in large part due to a decrease in male parole releases.
- ◆ Releases to the community have experienced a consistent downward trend from a high of 2,676 in 2013 to a low of 2,178 in 2017. This downward trend is evident in both those being released due to expiration of sentence as well as those being paroled to the community; however the latter has driven the overall decrease particularly at the end of the trend period. Those released with parole supervision accounted for 27% (n=716) of releases to the community at the start of the trend period in 2013 whereas this figure decreased to 24% (n=514) in 2017.
- ◆ Since its inception in July 2015, the Transitional Treatment Program (TTP) has continued to house parolees recently paroled to the community from the MA DOC. There has been an increase in proportion of inmates being paroled directly to the TTP in comparison to those being paroled to the community outside of the TTP, accounting for 19% of paroles to the community in 2016 versus 24% in 2017.

## Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

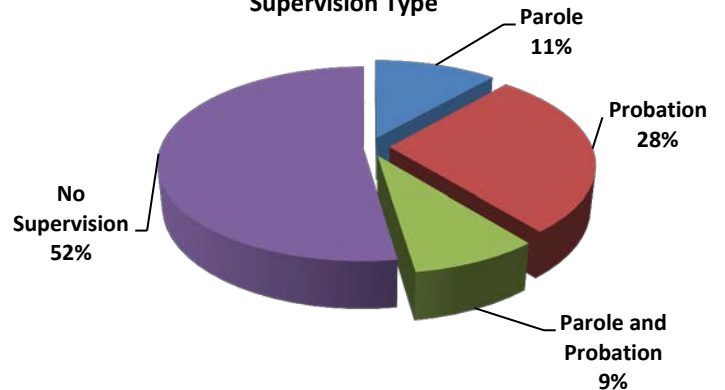
**MA DOC 2017 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



**MA DOC 2017 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



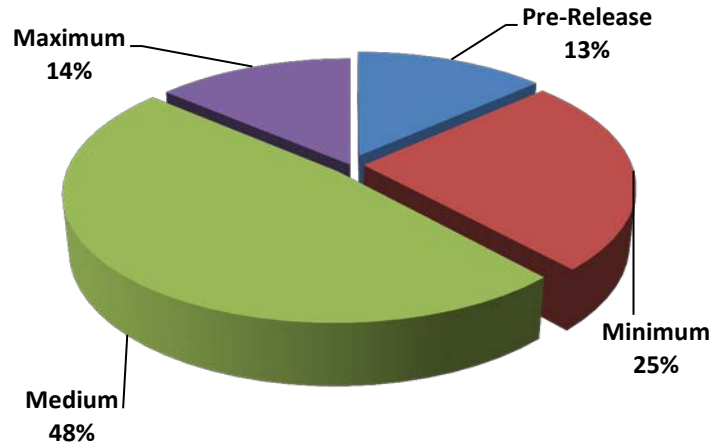
**MA DOC 2017 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



During 2017, male inmates were more likely than female inmates to be released to the community under probation supervision only - 38% of males compared to 28% of females. Conversely, female inmates were more likely to be released with no supervision - 52% of females compared to 37% of males. The percentage of male and female inmates supervised in the community by means of parole only or both parole and probation were more similar, 24% and 20% respectively.

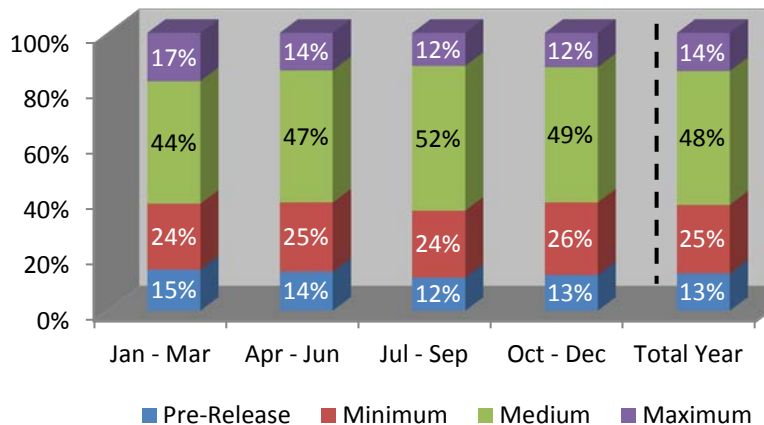
## Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Overall, the number of criminally sentenced inmates released to the community decreased by 6% from 2,328 releases in 2016 to 2,178 releases in 2017.
- The proportion of releases from all security levels remained nearly identical between 2016 and 2017. The largest difference, however, was a change in proportion for those released from medium security, 50% to 48%. This was largely driven by a slight increase in male releases from maximum security units.

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community Quarterly by Security Level

Security Level	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Total Year
Maximum	93	72	65	70	300
Medium	235	253	283	275	1,046
Minimum	127	133	132	148	540
Pre-Release	79	75	65	73	292
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>2,178</b>

- Nearly half of the criminally sentenced inmates released to the community were from medium security facilities (n=1,046), followed by releases from lower security facilities (minimum and pre-release) with 832 releases.

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

**MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Security Level and Institution**

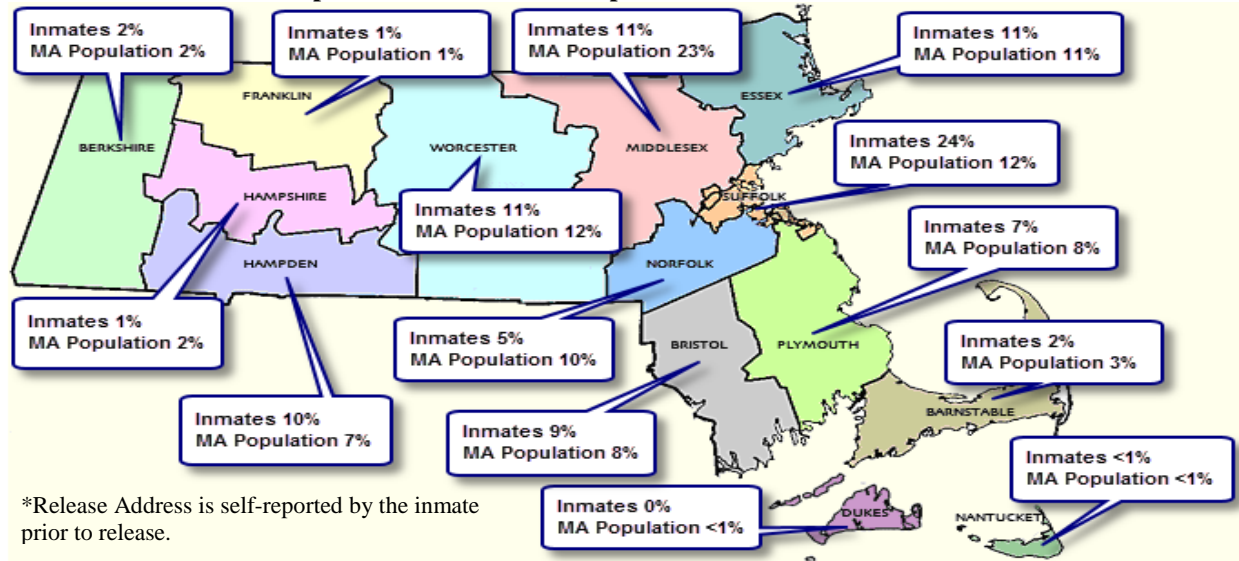
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
<b>Male</b>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	21	98	<b>119</b>
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center	0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	47	0	0	<b>47</b>
MCI-Cedar Junction	119	9	0	0	<b>128</b>
MCI-Concord	0	146	0	0	<b>146</b>
MCI-Norfolk	0	142	0	0	<b>142</b>
MCI-Shirley	0	201	121	0	<b>322</b>
NCCI-Gardner	0	88	14	0	<b>102</b>
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	69	66	<b>135</b>
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	67	51	0	<b>118</b>
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	57	46	<b>103</b>
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	181	0	0	0	<b>181</b>
<b>Female</b>					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
MCI-Framingham	0	259	0	0	<b>259</b>
South Middlesex Correctional Center	0	0	154	47	<b>201</b>
<b>Total DOC Facilities</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>2,013</b>
County, Federal, Interstate	0	85	45	35	<b>165</b>
<b>Total Jurisdiction</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>2,178</b>

\*Note: 10 inmates were ELMO's (electronic monitoring) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing MA DOC facility of release in 2017, the greatest number of criminally sentenced inmates were released to the community from MCI-Shirley (n=322), followed by MCI-Framingham (n=259) and South Middlesex Correctional Center (n=201).
- ◆ 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=201), followed by MCI-Concord (n=146) and MCI-Norfolk (n=142).
- ◆ The majority of maximum security releases to the community were released from Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=181) compared to 119 releases from the maximum units at MCI-Cedar Junction.

## Release Address by County

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties\*  
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2016



Note: 2016 estimated county population statistics were provided by the U.S Census Bureau, 2017 was not available.

Note: Not all MA DOC inmates are released in Massachusetts; approximately 5% 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 2016 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC inmates released to each county in 2017. Suffolk, Hampden, and Bristol were the only three counties with a higher percentage of inmates released to the county (43% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (27% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 11% of the releases from the MA DOC.

MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: County by GenderΩ

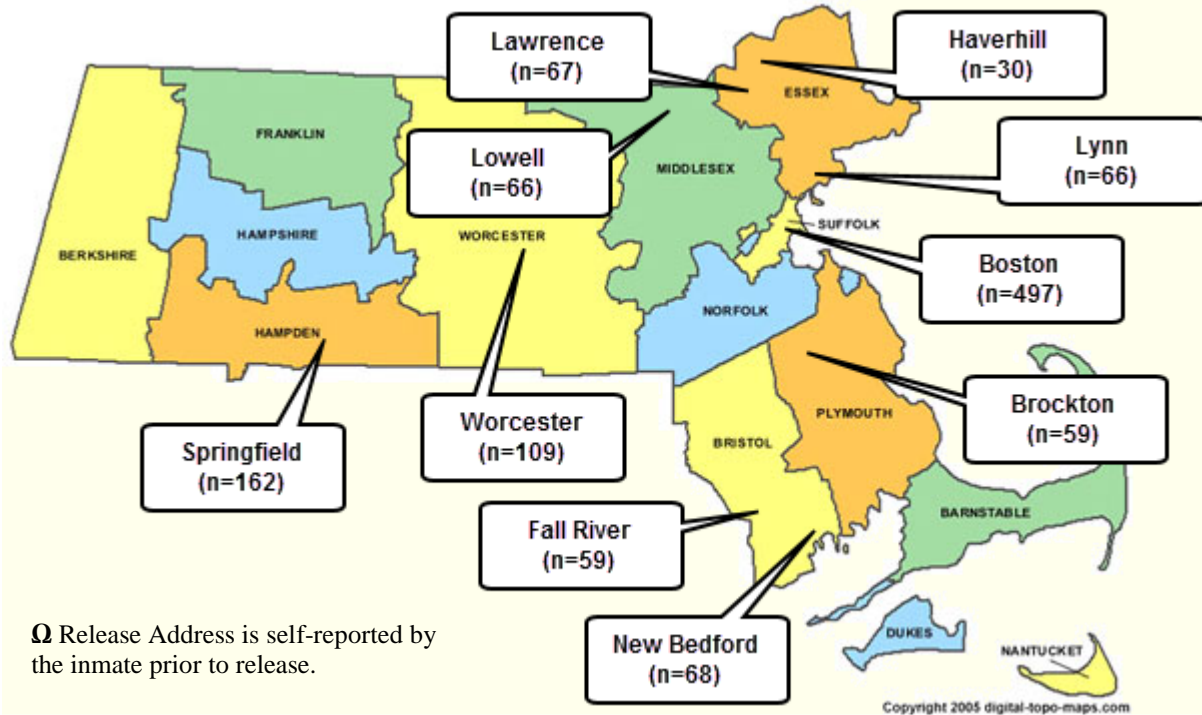
Female†			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Middlesex	103	22%	Suffolk	469	27%	Suffolk	531	24%
Essex	89	19%	Hampden	217	13%	Middlesex	246	11%
Suffolk	62	13%	Worcester	200	12%	Essex	244	11%
Plymouth	53	11%	Bristol	171	10%	Worcester	236	11%
Norfolk	43	9%	Essex	155	9%	Hampden	226	10%
Worcester	36	8%	Middlesex	143	8%	Bristol	206	9%
Bristol	35	7%	Plymouth	103	6%	Plymouth	156	7%
Barnstable	15	3%	Norfolk	62	4%	Norfolk	105	5%
Hampden	9	2%	Barnstable	37	2%	Barnstable	52	2%
Berkshire	3	1%	Berkshire	30	2%	Berkshire	33	2%
Hampshire	2	<1%	Hampshire	16	1%	Hampshire	18	1%
Franklin	0	0%	Franklin	12	1%	Franklin	12	1%
Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	1	<1%	Nantucket	1	<1%
Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>95%</b>
Outside MA	19	4%	Outside MA	92	5%	Outside MA	111	5%
Unknown	1	<1%	Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,178</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 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten Cities <sup>Ω</sup>



Of the 2,178 criminally sentenced inmates released to the community in 2017, 1,183 (54%) 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=497) followed by Springfield (n=162) and Worcester (n=109). The male population mirrored the top three of the ten cities. Females' release locations differed from males' in that Lowell (n=23) was the second most frequent city of release followed by Lawrence (n=22).

MA DOC 2017 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	59	13%	Boston	438	26%	Boston	497	23%
Lowell	23	5%	Springfield	157	9%	Springfield	162	7%
Lawrence	22	5%	Worcester	91	5%	Worcester	109	5%
Worcester	18	4%	New Bedford	57	3%	New Bedford	68	3%
Lynn	17	4%	Fall River	52	3%	Lawrence	67	3%
Haverhill	12	3%	Brockton	51	3%	Lowell	66	3%
New Bedford	11	2%	Lynn	49	3%	Lynn	66	3%
Brockton	8	2%	Lawrence	45	3%	Brockton	59	3%
Plymouth	8	2%	Lowell	43	3%	Fall River	59	3%
Quincy	8	2%	Fitchburg	29	2%	Haverhill	30	1%

<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 2017 Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits and Time Served

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## ***Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits, and Time Served***

Length of Stay (LOS) is defined as the number of days an inmate is incarcerated under MA DOC jurisdiction between date of admission and date of release. An inmate may accrue jail credits to be used towards their sentence. Jail credits are reported as a total number of days and can be accrued either in a MA DOC facility and/or non-DOC facility. Time served is calculated by adding the inmate's LOS and jail credits.

For the purpose of this report, LOS and time served were calculated based on criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release to the community from MA DOC jurisdiction in 2017.

### **MA DOC 2017 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits, and Time Served: by Release Type and Gender**

Release Type	LOS	Jail Credits	Time Served
<b>Males</b>			
Parole to the Community	1,561 Days	293 Days	1,854 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,309 Days	298 Days	1,606 Days
<b>Females</b>			
Parole to the Community	415 Days	103 Days	517 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	277 Days	94 Days	371 Days
<b>Total</b>			
Parole to the Community	1,353 Days	259 Days	1,612 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,086 Days	254 Days	1,340 Days

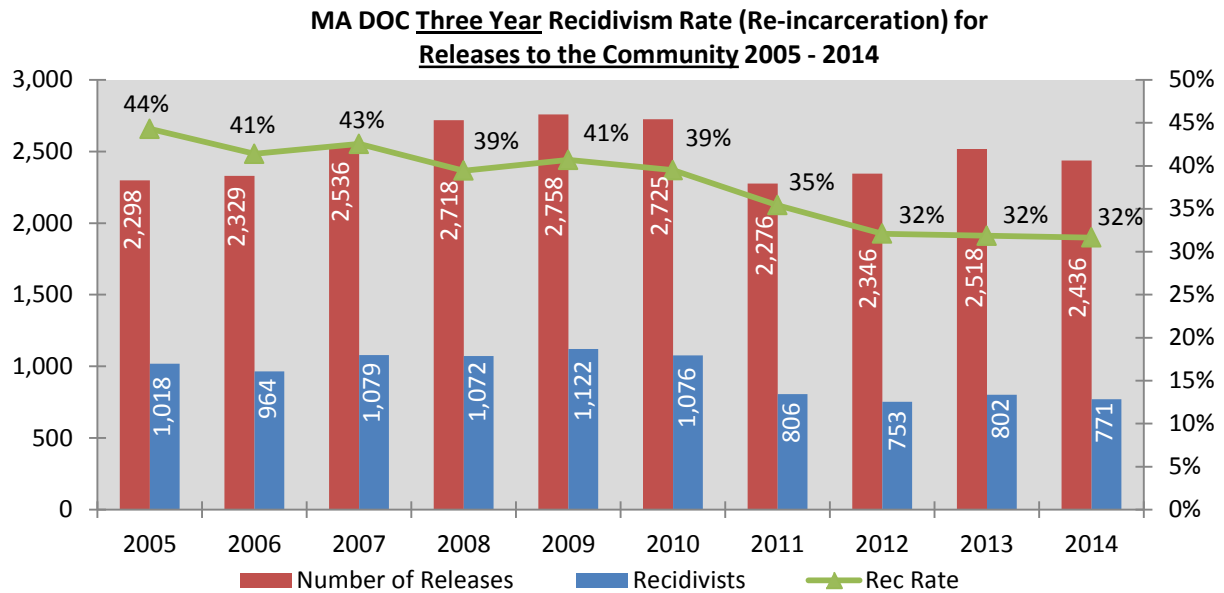
- ◆ There were 1,847 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2017. Seventy-seven percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n=1,416), meaning they served their sentence in its entirety. The remaining 23% were paroled to the community.
- ◆ Of the 1,847 releases, the majority were males (79%). On average, males released via parole served 5 years before initially being released. On the other hand, males who served their entire sentence, served nearly 4.5 years.
- ◆ Females represented 21% of the total releases in 2017 (n=383). Similar to their male counterparts, those released via parole had a longer average time served compared to those who released via expiration of sentence, 17 months and 12 months respectively. It is important to note that 81% of the female releases were serving a county sentence, thereby shortening the overall time served.

## Massachusetts DOC 2017 Recidivism Trends and 2014 Recidivism Rates

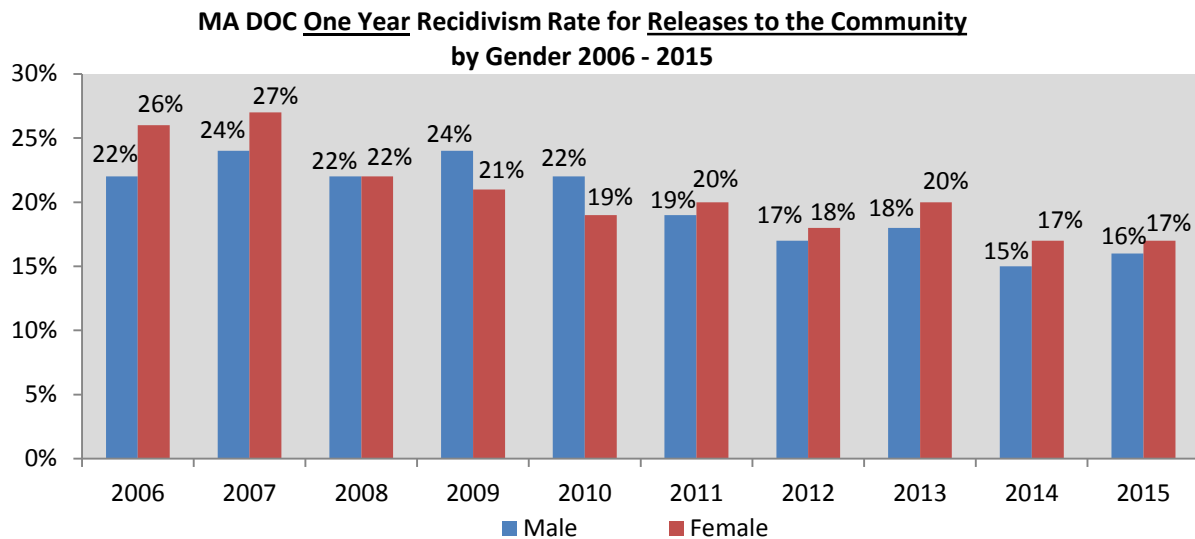
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## Recidivism Trends and 2014 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2014 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 of 15% for the trend period during 2014 followed by a one percentage point increase in 2015 to end the trend period. During the last two years of the trend, the female recidivism rate remained at a low of 17%. The overall one-year rate for 2015 was 16%.

## Recidivism Trends and 2014 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2014 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	247	52%	n.a.	n.a.	247	52%
Medium	823	32%	393	35%	1,216	33%
Minimum and Pre-Release	745	24%	228	25%	973	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Recidivism rates for inmates released during 2014 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 24% of those inmates re-incarcerated within three-years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 32%, 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 25%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 35%.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2014 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type<sup>9</sup>

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
State Sentence	103	33%
County Sentence <sup>10</sup>	518	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Historically, female inmates released from a **county** sentence have had a much higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. In 2014, however, state sentenced females had a higher recidivism rate (33%) compared to county sentenced females (31%) released from MA DOC facilities.
- ◆ There was a 2 percentage point difference in recidivism rates by **sentence type** for females released to the community in 2014 from the MA DOC; this was the smallest gap in rates seen between these cohorts compared to previous years.

<sup>8</sup> Lower security includes minimum, minimum pre-release, state pre-release, and contract pre-release facilities.

<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 2014 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 2014, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2014 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	542	96	18%	141	30	21%	683	126	18%
Expiration of Sentence	1,273	401	32%	480	139	29%	1,753	540	31%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>666</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*	542	173	32%	141	51	36%	683	224	33%
Expiration of Sentence	1,273	402	32%	480	145	30%	1,753	547	31%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>771</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 inmates released on parole, it is important to note that a portion of the paroled inmates re-incarcerated within the three-year period are no longer under parole supervision at the time they recidivate.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Of the 2,436 inmates released to the community during 2014, 28% (n=683) were paroled to the community, while 72% (n=1,753) were released via expiration of sentence. Inmates paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (33%) than the recidivism rate of inmates released via expiration of sentence (31%). Again, the higher recidivism rate for paroled inmates 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 2014 Recidivism Rates

- ◆ Of the 771 inmates who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 151 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole or probation conditions. One hundred and forty-one of the recidivists were technical parole violations and 10 were technical violations of probation.
- ◆ Of the 151 inmates who returned for a technical violation, 46 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 33% to 18%. The recidivism rate for both male and female inmates decreased from a rate of 32% to a rate of 27%, mirroring the total cohort.

**MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2014 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	621	81	13%	52	8%	36	6%	169	27%
Male	1,815	221	12%	152	8%	124	7%	497	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>666</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	621	110	18%	53	9%	33	5%	196	32%
Male	1,815	313	17%	147	8%	115	6%	575	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>771</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 five percentage points in the recidivism rate for the first year post-release.
- ◆ For the second year in the follow-up period, there was no difference when excluding technical violations, with recidivism rates of 8%.
- ◆ The recidivism rate increased by one percentage point in the third year when excluding technical violations of parole or probation compared to when including technical violators, 7% and 6% respectively.

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2014 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2014 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Category and Gender**

Offense Category	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Property	228	45%	212	35%	440	40%
Person	768	36%	150	37%	918	36%
Other	204	26%	132	27%	336	26%
Drug	490	24%	116	25%	606	24%
Sex	125	22%	11	n.a.	136	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Property offenders had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (45%), followed by person offenders (36%) and 'other' offenders who recidivated at 26%.
- ◆ On the other hand, the highest recidivism rate for female releases was person offenders (37%), followed by property offenders (35%) and 'other' offenders (27%).
- ◆ Inmates serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (22%).

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2014 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Type and Gender**

Offense Type	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Violent	893	34%	161	36%	1,054	34%
Non-Violent	922	29%	460	30%	1,382	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>32%</b>

Non-violent offenders released in 2014 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 2014 Releases to the Community by  
Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentence and Gender**

Drug Offense Type	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Non-Mandatory Drug Offense	211	26%	95	23%	306	25%
Mandatory Drug Offense	279	22%	21	33%	300	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>24%</b>

Of the 606 released inmates who were incarcerated for a governing drug offense, the proportion of inmates serving a mandatory vs. non-mandatory drug sentence was 50/50. Mandatory drug offenders had a lower recidivism rate than non-mandatory drug offenders, 23% and 25% respectively.

## Recidivism Trends and 2014 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2014 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	748	35%	469	33%	1,217	34%
Other	8	n.a	42	31%	50	32%
African American/Black	529	31%	69	29%	598	31%
Hispanic	506	27%	39	23%	545	27%
Asian	19	n.a	0	n.a	19	n.a
Native American/Alaskan Native	5	n.a	2	n.a	7	n.a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,436</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 Caucasian had the highest recidivism rate (35%), followed by African American/Black (31%) and Hispanic inmates at 27%.
- ◆ Caucasian female inmates had the highest recidivism rates (33%) followed by inmates who reported a race of Other (31%) and African American/Black (29%).
- ◆ Overall, inmates who reported a race of Caucasian recidivated at the highest rate (34%), followed by inmates who reported a race of Other at 32% and African American/Black at 31%.

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



## Massachusetts DOC 2017 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 2017 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 2017, 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=5).
<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.