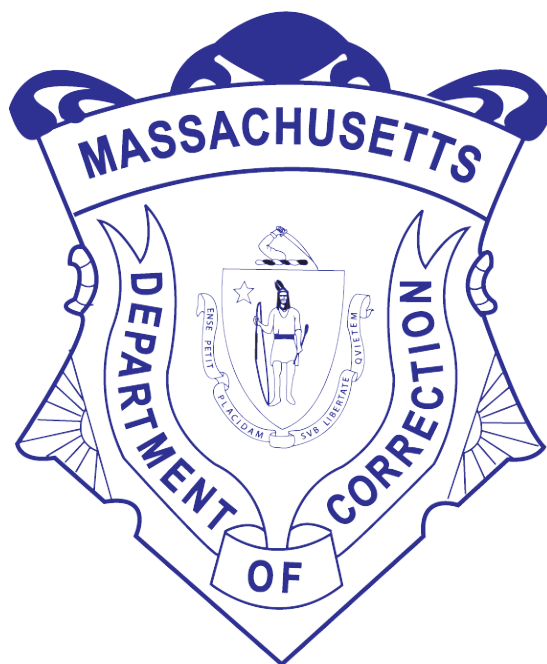


# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2019



RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

*April 2020*



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor



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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>**

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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>, 2020 (n=8,292). Overall, the*

total jurisdiction AND custody MA DOC populations declined 29% since 2012, and also reflect the lowest counts dating back to just before the year 2000.

January 1, 2020 marks the fifth year of an upward trend where the majority (66%) of criminally sentenced females were incarcerated for a violent (versus non-violent) governing offense. There was a 10 percentage point increase in female violent governing offenses in just the last year. The population decline has led to a higher concentration of inmates with violent offenses due to their longer sentences as well as changes in crime reform for alternatives to incarceration among non-violent offenders.

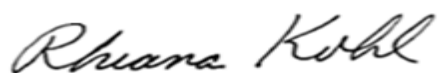
Another notable trend is the continued aging of the population, particularly among male inmates. The average age of 42 years old on January 1, 2020 was up from 39 years old in 2011. The percentage of inmates 29 years old and under decreased by 4 percentage points from January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2020, while the number of inmates age 60 years old and over increased by 3 percentage points during the same timeframe. This five year shift shows an aging inmate population which ties into the concentration of inmates serving time for a violent offense. For example, 37% of the jurisdiction population was serving a sentence of 20 plus years. Yet, it's important to note approximately one-third of new court commitments are under the age of 30 years.

The majority of inmates are leaving prison under supervision, be it they are paroled, had a probation term to serve after "wrapping up" their sentence, or both. This report provides new data on average length of stay, jail credits and time served. There were 1,758 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2019. Seventy-two percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n = 1,269), meaning they served their sentence in its entirety. The remaining 28% were paroled to the community. Of the 1,758 releases, the majority were males (82%). On average, males released via parole served 5.1 years before initially being released, an increase from 2018 male parolees. On the other hand, males released via expiration of sentence served 4.5 years – this average did not change from 2018. Females represented 18% of the total releases in 2019 (n = 318). Females released via parole served for longer (approximately 25 months) than those who released via expiration of sentence (11 months). More than 75% of the female releases had served county sentences, which tend to be shorter than state prison sentences. In 2019, among those released to the community, 18% had parole only, 33% had a probation term to serve, 10% had both parole & probation, and 38% had no post-release criminal justice supervision.

Significant prison reentry efforts continue to reflect positive outcomes as measured by recidivism rates. The majority of MA DOC inmates do not recidivate. The three year post-release re-incarceration recidivism rate among the 2015 release cohort was 33%, remaining relatively stable since 2012 and 8 percentage points lower than ten years earlier (2006). Moreover the reduction in recidivism rates can be seen across all security levels. In 2007, for example, those inmates (males) released from maximum security level recidivated at a rate of 62%, whereas the rate was 48% among 2015 releases.

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 2019*, 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.

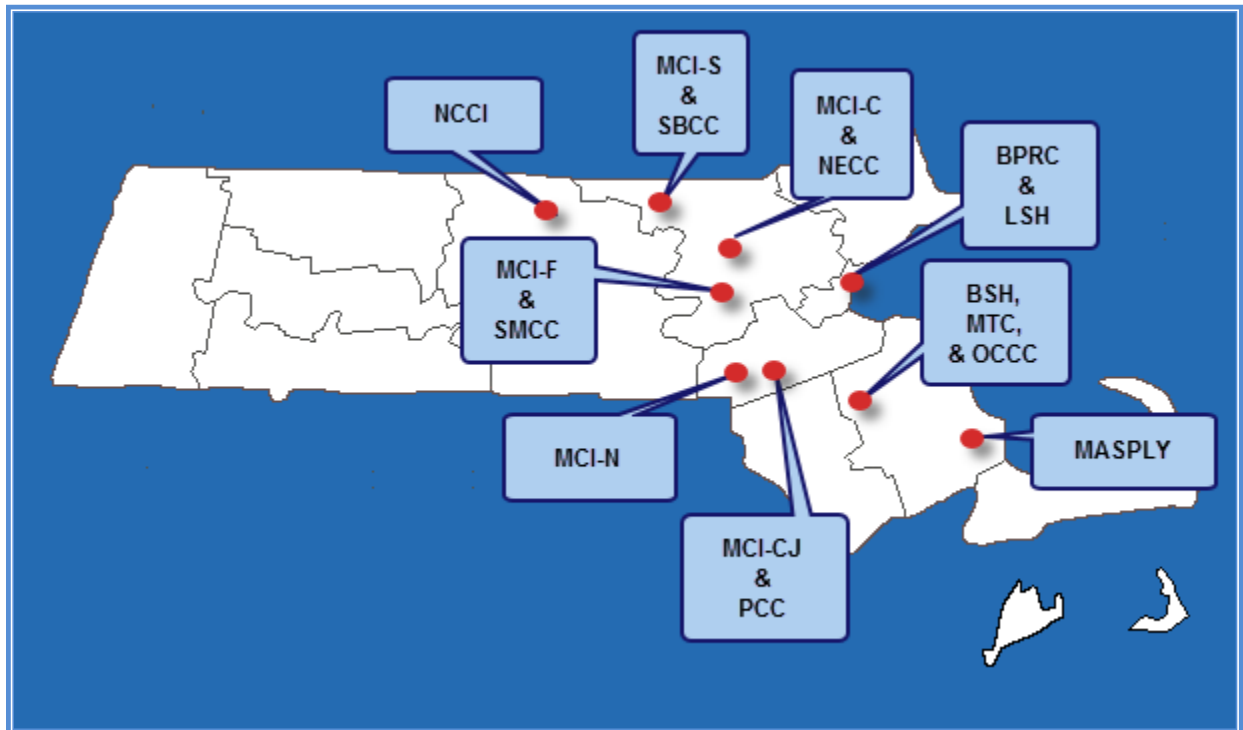
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# Massachusetts DOC 2019 Institution Overview

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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 2019): \$77,652
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 91
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 103
- 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, 2020, the majority of inmates were pre-release (n=60), with 31 minimum security inmates, and 13 additional Transitional Treatment Program 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 2019): \$288,689
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 225
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 222
- Operational Capacity: 294



Wellpath assumed BSH patient care in 2018. BSH 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 2019): \$317,924
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 23
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 25
- 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 counties. It is a transient facility with few long term patients. On January 1, 2020, the population consisted of 11 criminally sentenced state inmates, 1 criminally sentenced county inmate, and 11 pre-trial detainees. The average age of inmates housed on this date was 56 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 2019): \$167,392
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 134
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 148
- Operational Capacity: 275
- Sentenced: 24 & Civil Commitments: 251



MASPLY 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. As of May 1, 2017 MASAC was relocated to the shuttered MCI-Plymouth facility. MCI-Plymouth originated as a Prison Camp in the 1950s on the grounds of the Myles Standish State Forest. On January 1, 2020, there were 111 civil commitments and 23 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 2019): \$78,727
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 571
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 569
- Operational Capacity: 667
- Sentenced: 414 & 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, 2020, there were 397 criminally sentenced inmates, 132 SDPs, and 42 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 2019): \$89,875
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 544
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 626
- Maximum: 556 & Medium: 70
- 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, 2020, MCI-CJ housed 504 criminally sentenced inmates and 40 federal or out of state pre-trial detainees. There were 479 inmates housed in maximum security (88 of those in DDU) and 65 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 2019): \$85,004
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 623
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 608
- 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 2019): \$117,109
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 226
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 394
- 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, 2020, this medium security facility housed 176 criminally sentenced inmates, 45 pre-trial detainees, and 5 civil commitments.

### MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N)

*Norfolk, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2019): \$55,236
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 1,297
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,300
- 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-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 2019):  
Medium: \$55,184 & Minimum: \$46,006
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 1,332
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,398  
Medium: 1,111 & Minimum: 287
- 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, 2020 were in medium security housing units (n=1,063) with 269 housed in minimum security. The two security levels were considered separate institutions until July 2002, when they were combined to operate 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 2019): \$56,456
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 899
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 950  
Medium: 946 & Minimum: 21\*
- Operational Capacity: 1,004  
Medium: 974 & Minimum: 30



NCCI is a facility housing criminally sentenced males. 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. \*The Minimum Security housing units stopped housing inmates in February of 2019.

### Northeastern Correctional Center (NECC)

### Concord, MA

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1982
- Opened: 1932
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2019): \$58,514
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 190
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 192
- 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, 2020 were in minimum security housing units (n=129), with 61 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.

## Institution Overview

### 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 2019):  
Medium: \$91,015 & Minimum: \$82,097
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 758
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 751  
Medium: 641 & Minimum: 110
- 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, 2020 were housed in a medium security unit (n=653), with 105 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 2019): \$58,442
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 151
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 146
- Operational Capacity: 204  
Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



PCC is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 107 minimum and 44 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2020. 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.

### 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 2019): \$69,601
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 64
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 73
- Operational Capacity: 185  
Minimum: 140 & Pre-Release: 45



SMCC is a facility for criminally sentenced state and county females housing 51 minimum and 13 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2020. 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.

## ***Institution Overview***

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

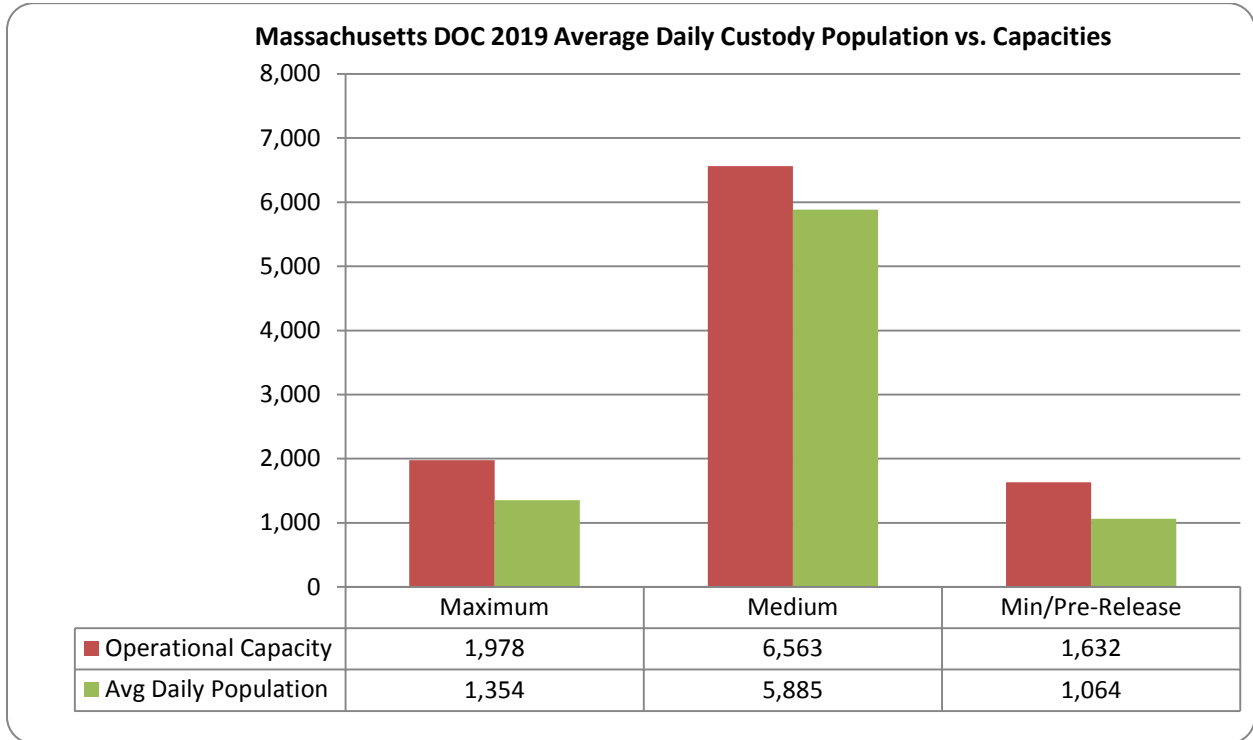
***Shirley, MA***

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2019): \$89,552
- January 1, 2020 Facility Population: 795
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 798
- 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



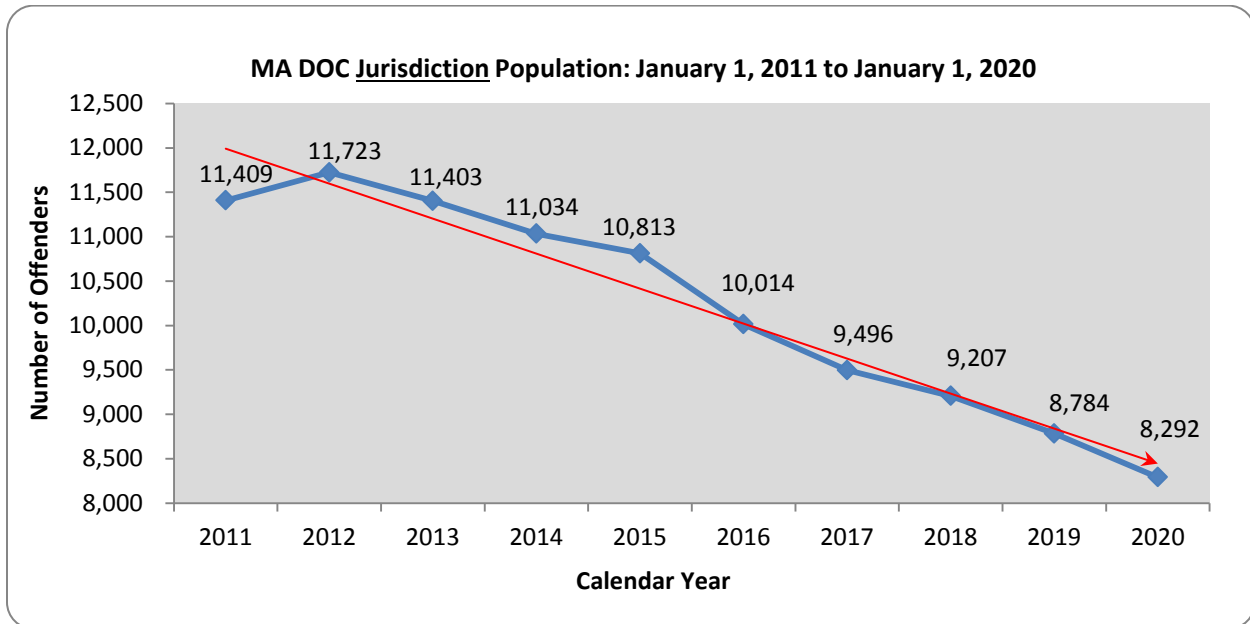
**Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2019**  
 Operational Capacity = 10,173  
 Average Daily Population for 2019 (Custody Population) = 8,303  
 Average Daily Population for 2019 (Jurisdiction Population) = 8,719

- ◆ **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, 2020.

# Massachusetts DOC 2019 Population Trends

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## Population Trends



### Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population continued to decline for the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year, a decrease of 29% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2012 (n=11,723).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020, there was a 6% decrease in inmates, from 8,784 to 8,292.
- ◆ The overall trend in the MA DOC jurisdiction population shows a decrease of 27% between January 1, 2011 (n=11,409) and January 1, 2020.

### National

- ◆ The estimated number of persons of all commitment types held in state and federal prisons nationally decreased to 1,489,363 at year-end 2017<sup>1</sup>, a 1% decrease (n=18,766), from year-end 2016 (n=1,508,129).<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ After a slight increase in the sentenced state and federal jurisdiction population in 2013, there was a decrease of 6% between year-end 2013 and year-end 2017, the largest decline in more than 36 years. There was a 3% decrease in the federal population (n=6,134) and a 1% decrease in the state population (n=12,632) between year-end 2016 and year-end 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2017 was 440 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, a decrease of 2% from 450 in 2016 and the lowest rate since 1997 (n=444).<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between 2016 and 2017, twenty-nine (29) states saw decreases in their state's total jurisdiction population.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Year-end 2017 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (April 2019). *Prisoners in 2017* (NCJ 252156). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

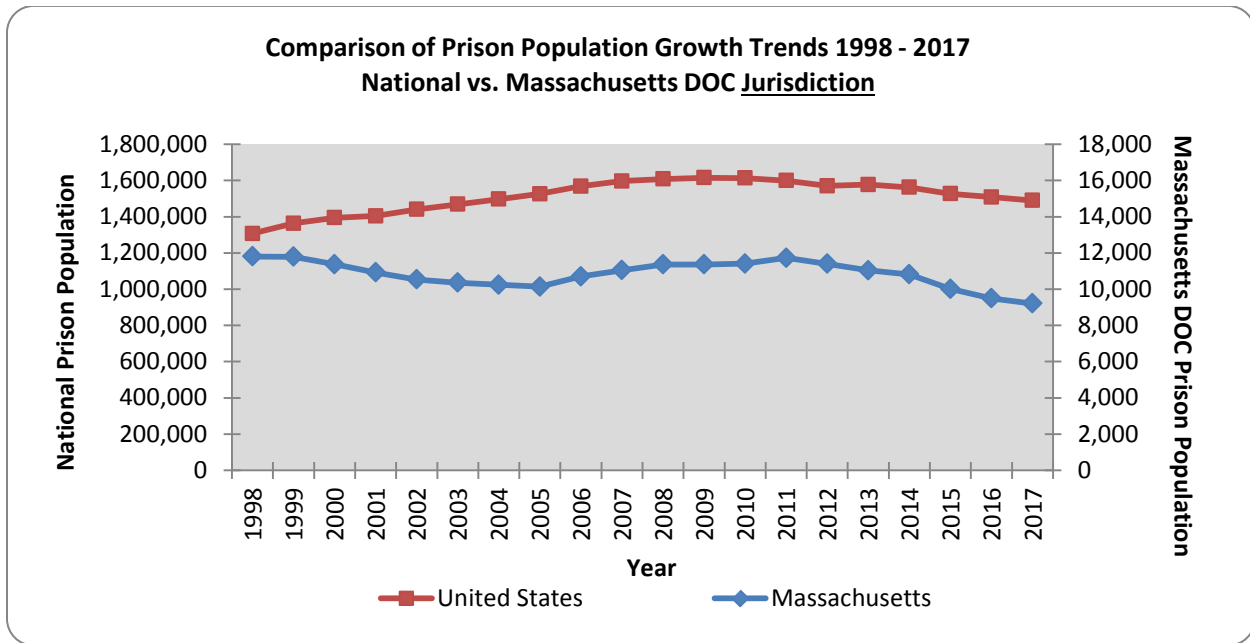
<sup>3</sup> BJS, 2017, pg. 3, table 3.

<sup>4</sup> BJS, 2017, pg. 9, table 5.

<sup>5</sup> BJS, 2017, pg. 9



## Population Trends



**Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 1998 – 2017:**  
**National<sup>6</sup> vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction**

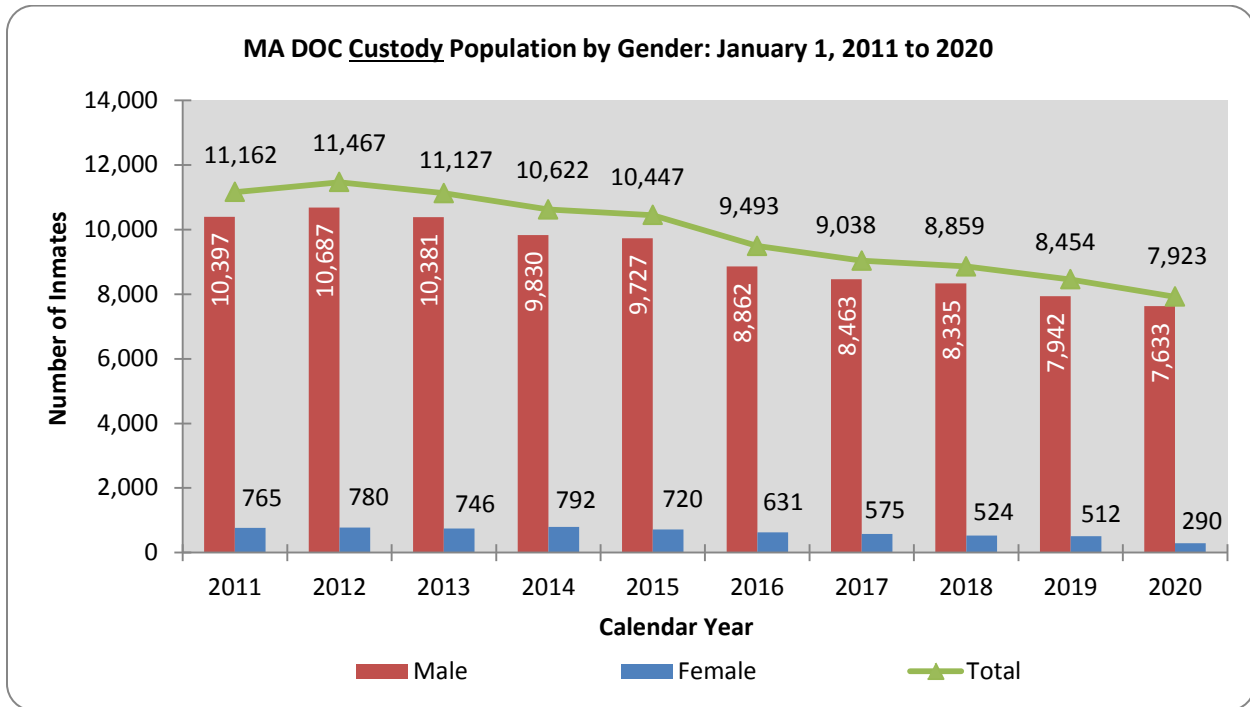
Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
1998	1,307,154	5.4	11,807	0.1
1999	1,363,689	4.3	11,792	-0.1
2000	1,394,231	2.2	11,377	-3.5
2001	1,404,032	0.7	10,919	-4.0
2002	1,440,144	2.6	10,534	-3.5
2003	1,468,601	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	1,508,129	-1.2	9,496	-5.2
2017	1,489,363	-1.2	9,207	-3.0

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 22% from 11,807 in 1998 to 9,207 in 2017; over the same time period, the national population increased by 14%, from 1,302,019 to 1,489,363.
- ◆ Between the years 2016 and 2017, there was a 3% (n=289) decrease in the Massachusetts jurisdiction population. Since 2011, the Massachusetts prison population had a cumulative decrease of 22% (n=2,516).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 24% from 1998 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 8% from 2010 to 2017. The 2% decrease in the national prison population between 2014 and 2015 was the largest yearly decline in the national prison population in the observed trend period from 1998 to 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (April 2019). *Prisoners in 2017* (NCJ 252156). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.



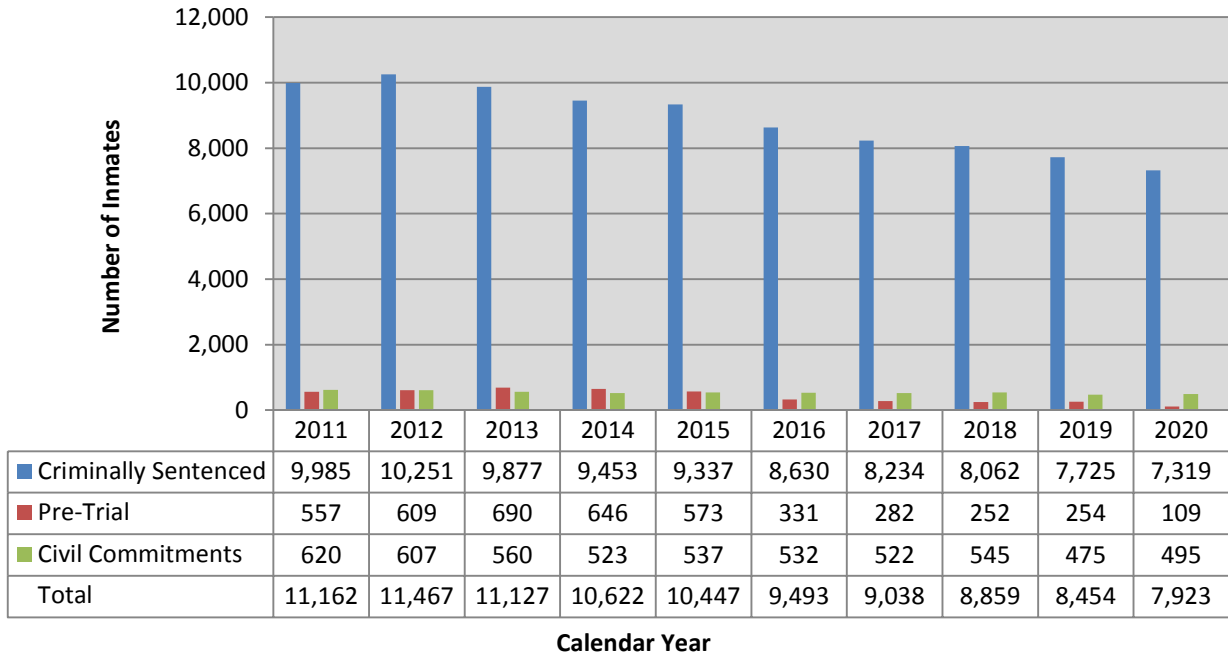
## Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC custody population has shown a significant decrease in our prison population of 29% between January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2020. Over the 10 year period there was a slight increase of 3% from 2011 to 2012. Following the slight increase in 2012 (11,467) there has since been a steady decrease of the total custody population with the most significant decrease over the trend period being 31% when comparing 2012 to 2020. January 1, 2020 had the lowest total custody population of the 10 year trend with 7,923 inmates, down from 8,454 the year previous.
- ◆ Male inmates increased 3% between 2011 and 2012. In the past eight years however, the male custody population dropped from a high of 10,687 in 2012 to a low of 7,633 in 2020 which drove the 31% decrease in the total custody population over that same time period.
- ◆ The female population experienced more fluctuations than its male counterpart during the ten year time frame. Females saw a 4% decrease from 2012 to 2013, a 6% increase between 2013 and 2014, and in the past seven years (2014-2020) the female custody population has decreased drastically by 63%. This decrease was driven by several MA Counties taking their criminally sentenced and pre-trial commitments into their custody that they were previously not able to house due to capacity issues/ lack of housing
- ◆ Starting in October 2019, approximately 144 county inmates and detainees at MCI-Framingham were transferred per an MOU that Essex, Plymouth, Norfolk, and Suffolk County entered into, which now redirects all those under these county jurisdictions to be housed at Southbay Correctional Center with Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

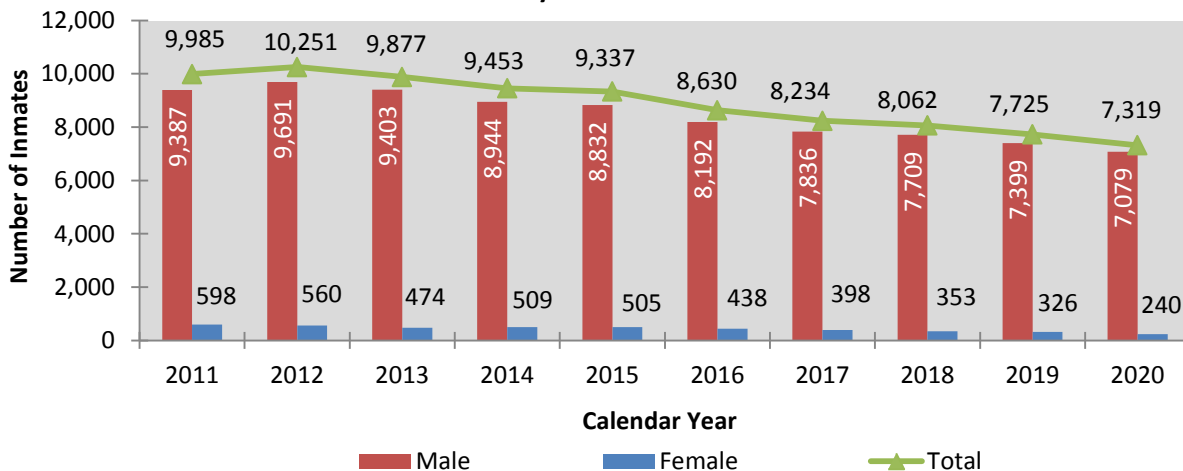
## Population Trends

**MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2011 to 2020**



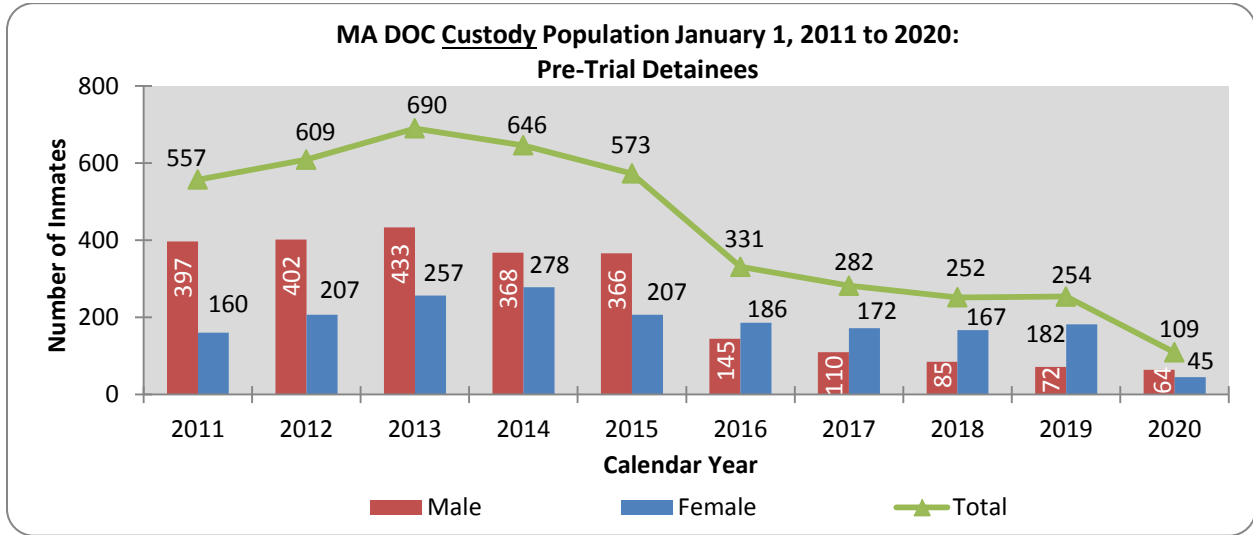
The Massachusetts DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (27%), civil (20%) and pre-trial (80%) commitment populations between January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2020. Since 2012, the criminally sentenced population has experienced a 29% reduction. The population that showed the largest percentage decline of the three commitment types was the pre-trial population with an 84% decrease from 2013-2020.

**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2011 to 2020:  
Criminally Sentenced Inmates**

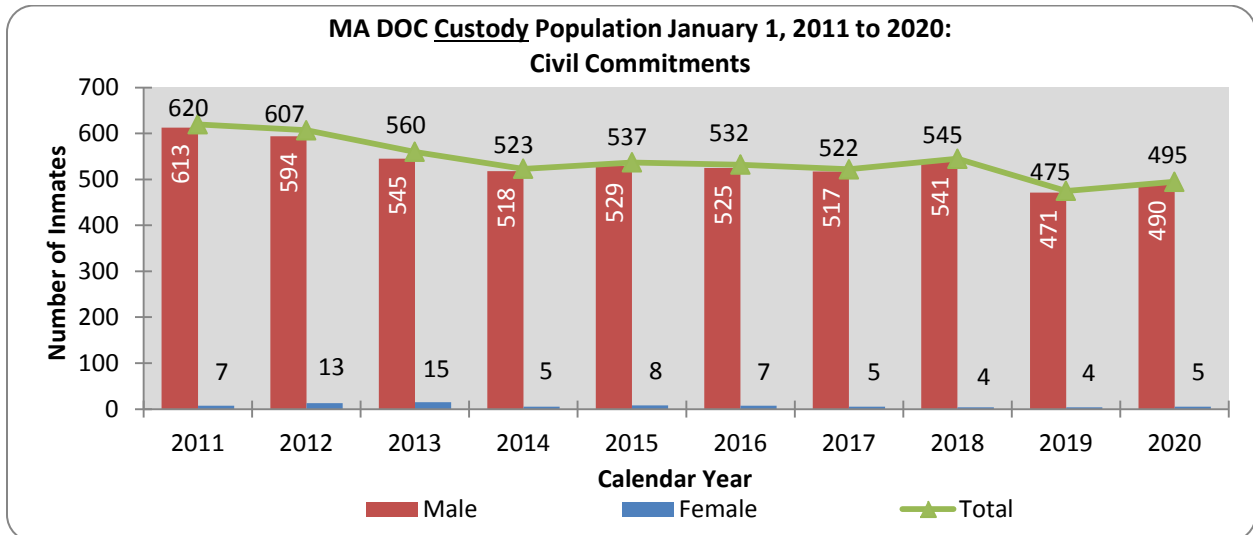


- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates compose 92% of the Massachusetts DOC custody population.
- ◆ From 2011 through 2020, both males and females experienced a decrease, 25% and 60% respectively. Peaking at 10,251 inmates in 2012 the total criminally sentenced population has shown a steady decrease for almost the entire trend period.

## Population Trends

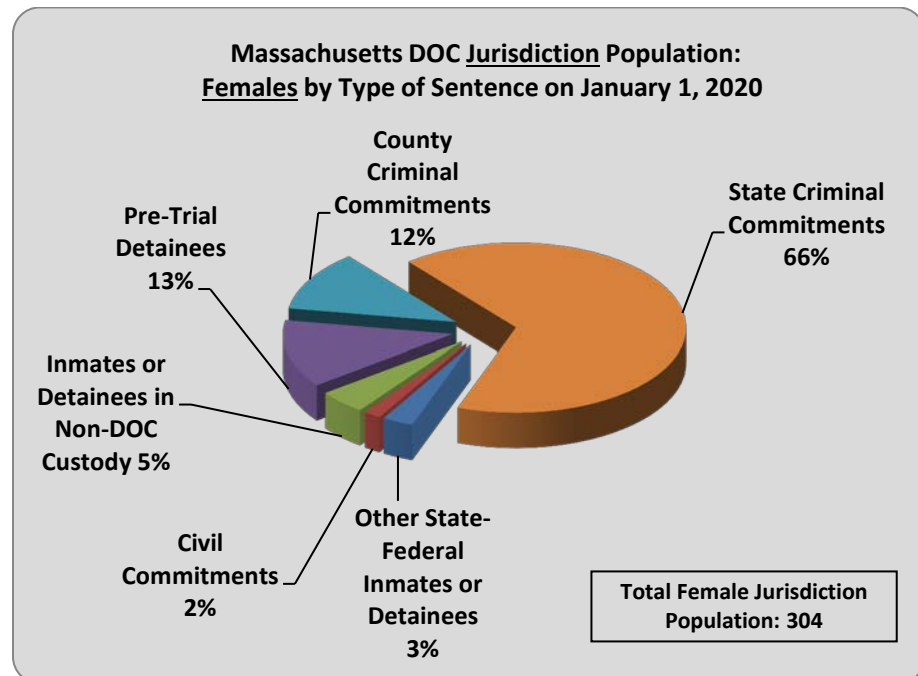
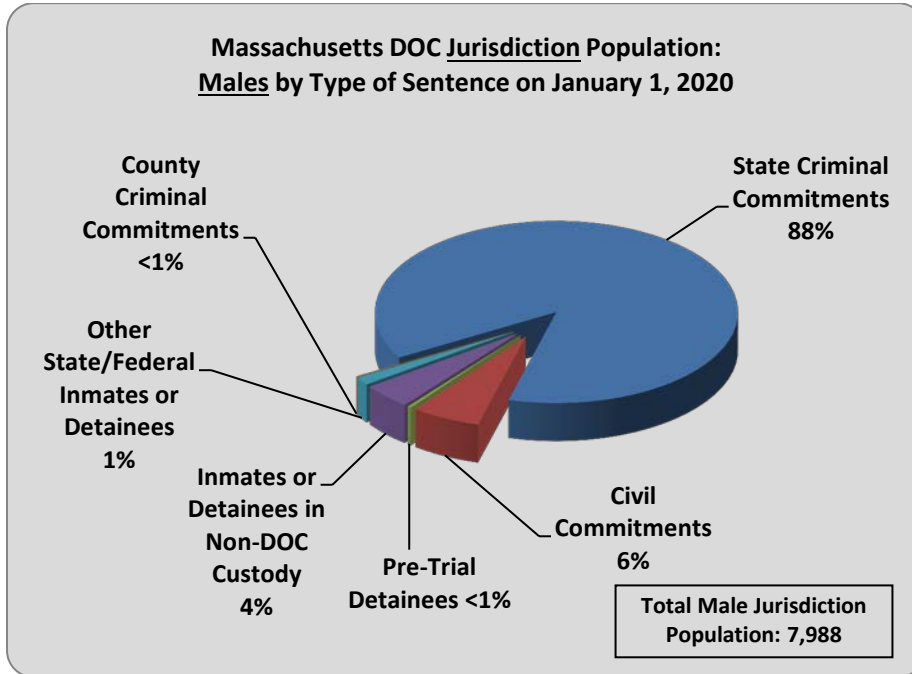


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased 80% between 2011 and 2020.
- ◆ In 2011, males made up 71% of the pre-trial population compared to 57% in 2014 and then was ultimately taken over by females (56%) in 2016 with males only consisting of 44% of pre-trial commitments. This trend continued into 2019, as females made up 72% of the pre-trial population. However, 2020 saw a shift back to the majority of males (59%) due to several MA Counties taking their criminally sentenced and pre-trial commitments into their own custody.



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consists almost entirely of male inmates (99%) on January 1, 2020. This population has fluctuated many times over the trend period. Most notably a 16% decrease from 2011 to 2014, a small increase of 4% from 2017 to 2018, and a sharp decrease of 13% between 2018 and 2019. The most recent increase (4%) between 2019 and 2020 can be attributed to the new contract between the MA DOC and Hampden County that partners with the Stonybrook Stabilization and Treatment Center to house and treat section 35 civil commitments.
- ◆ Averaging 7 inmates a year over the trend period, female civil commitment inmates represent the smallest population in the MA DOC with a low of 4 in 2018 and 2019 and a high of 15 in 2013.

## Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were state criminal commitments (88%) on January 1, 2020.
- ◆ In previous years female state criminal commitments represented a smaller portion of their total commitments (39% in 2019 versus 66% in 2020) compared to males (89% in 2019 and 88% in 2020) due to the MA DOC housing numerous counties' female inmates due to capacity issues/lack of housing. This trend has shifted in 2020 because several MA counties are now able to take criminally sentenced and pre-trial commitments into their own custody.

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

## Massachusetts DOC 2019 Inmate Characteristics

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## Inmate Characteristics by Gender

### Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2020

- ◆ 7,988 total males in the jurisdiction population: 7,348 criminally sentenced, 64 pre-trial detainees, and 576 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (3,310), Black (2,276), Hispanic (2,165), Asian (118), Other (73), American Indian/ Native Alaskan (46)
- ◆ Average age was 42 years old (youngest inmate was 18 years old and oldest inmate was 90 years old)
- ◆ 96% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 73% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 561 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2015 three year recidivism rate was 33% for the total male population
- ◆ 36% were open mental health cases, 28% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 26% were on psychotropic medication for the Custody Population as of 12/31/2019

Note: Information provided by Health Services Division...  
It is important to note that the marked increase in SMI percentages in 2019 is solely due to CJRA 2018 which expanded the definition and list of diagnosis.

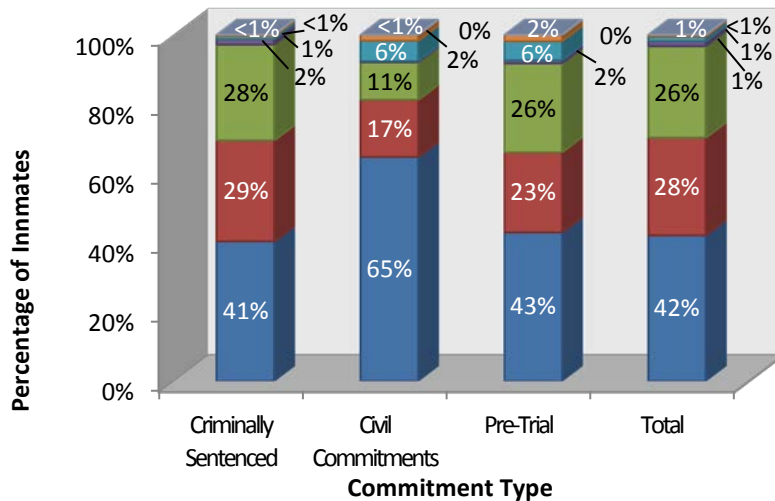
### Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2020

- ◆ 304 total females in the jurisdiction population: 254 criminally sentenced, 45 pre-trial detainees, and 5 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (192), Black (50), Other (30), Hispanic (27), Asian (2), American Indian/ Native Alaskan (2), Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (1)
- ◆ Average age was 40 years old (youngest inmate was 19 years old and oldest inmate was 75 years old)
- ◆ 83% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 66% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 15 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2015 three year recidivism rate was 32% for the total female population
- ◆ 81% were open mental health cases, 75% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 58% were on psychotropic medication for the Custody Population as of 12/31/2019

Note: Information provided by Health Services Division...  
It is important to note that the marked increase in SMI percentages in 2019 is solely due to CJRA 2018 which expanded the definition and list of diagnosis.

## Inmate Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**



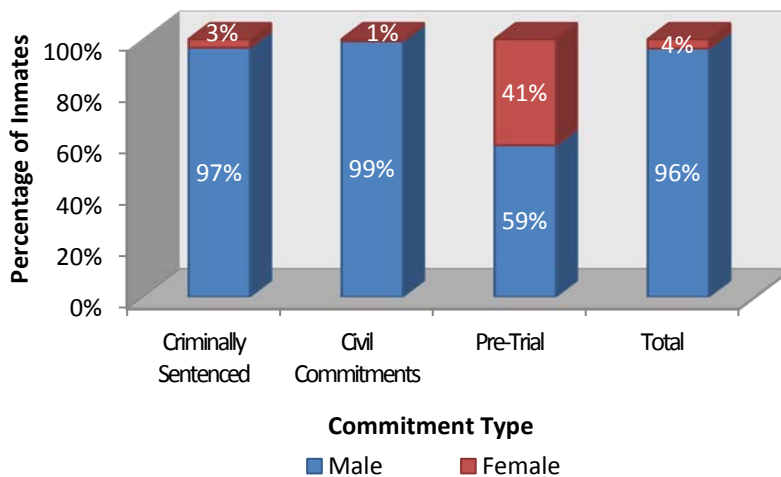
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**

Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	3,079	376	47	3,502
Black	2,205	96	25	2,326
Hispanic	2,101	63	28	2,192
Asian	117	2	1	120
Other	63	34	6	103
Native American	36	10	2	48
Pacific Islander	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>8,292</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 (42%), followed by Black and Hispanic (28% and 26% respectively), which was mirrored in each commitment type with the exception of pre-trial. There was little change in proportions from last year with the exception of pre-trial inmates, which experienced a 13 percentage point decrease in White inmates and small increase for Hispanic (9%), Other (3%), and Black (3%) inmates.

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**

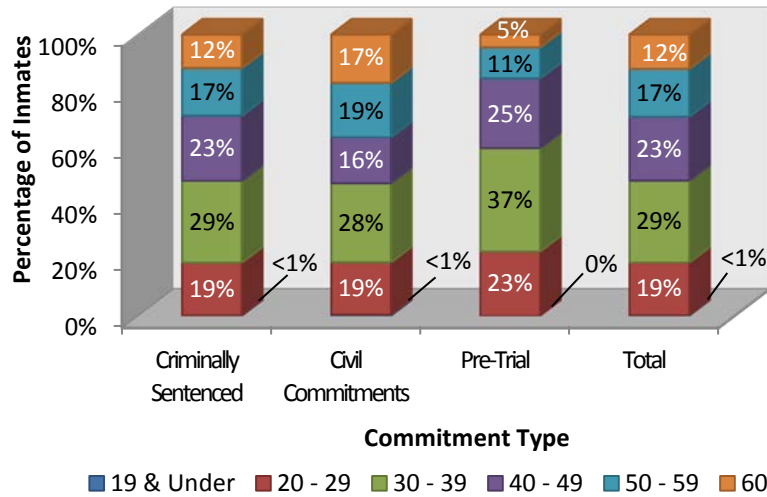
	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	7,348	576	64	7,988
Female	254	5	45	304
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>8,292</b>

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males with 97% and 99% respectively. This year, pre-trial detainees saw a greater proportion of males (59%) versus females (41%), with females experiencing a 31 percentage point decrease while males saw a 31 percentage point increase from January 1, 2019.<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. A few 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

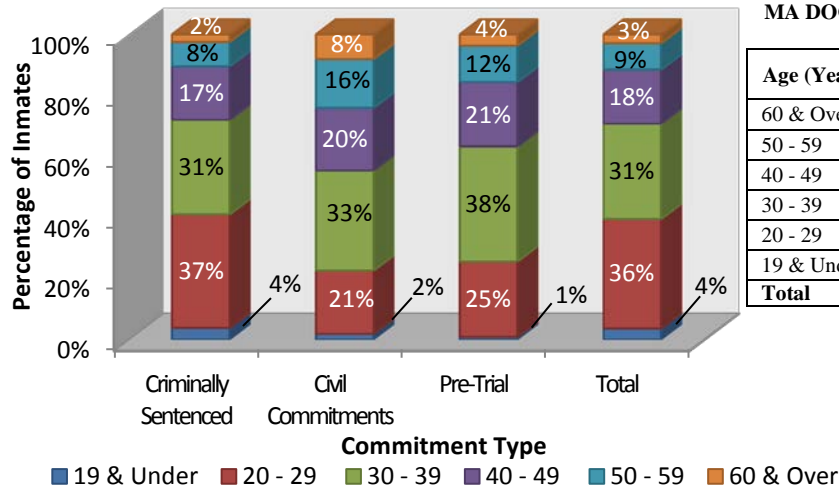
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	906	100	5	1,011
50 - 59	1,287	112	12	1,411
40 - 49	1,757	95	27	1,879
30 - 39	2,209	163	40	2,412
20 - 29	1,426	108	25	1,559
19 & Under	17	3	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>8,292</b>

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2020**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	189	47	4	240
50 - 59	608	93	13	714
40 - 49	1,329	119	23	1,471
30 - 39	2,345	190	41	2,576
20 - 29	2,837	121	27	2,985
19 & Under	294	11	1	306
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>8,292</b>

- ◆ As of January 1, 2020, 48% (n=3,635) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 3,950 inmates (52%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 5,182 inmates in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (68%) with 2,837 between ages 20-29 (37%).
- ◆ 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 71% between the ages 20 – 49 on January 1, 2020.
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age on January 1, 2020 to age at incarceration. Sixty percent of pre-trial detainees were between the ages of 20 and 39 on January 1, 2020, while 62% were between the ages of 20-39 at the time of incarceration, supporting the idea of the pre-trial population as more transitional with shorter institutional stays.



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

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Average Age Comparison by Gender and Inmate Type: January 1, 2020, Date of Commitment, and Date of Release**

Gender	Inmate Type	Average Age		
		1/1/2020	Commitment	Release
Female	Criminal	41	37	38
	Civil	29	29	33
	Pre-Trial	34	34	36
	<b>Female Total</b>	40	36	36
Male	Criminal	42	34	40
	Civil	44	40	39
	Pre-Trial	41	40	39
	<b>Male Total</b>	42	34	39
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>

Civilly committed males were the oldest inmates on average on January 1, 2020 (44). At time of commitment both civilly committed and pre-trial male inmates averaged 40 years old. Criminally sentenced males (40) were the oldest releases on average during 2019. On January 1, 2020 inmates ranged in age from 18 through 90 years old.

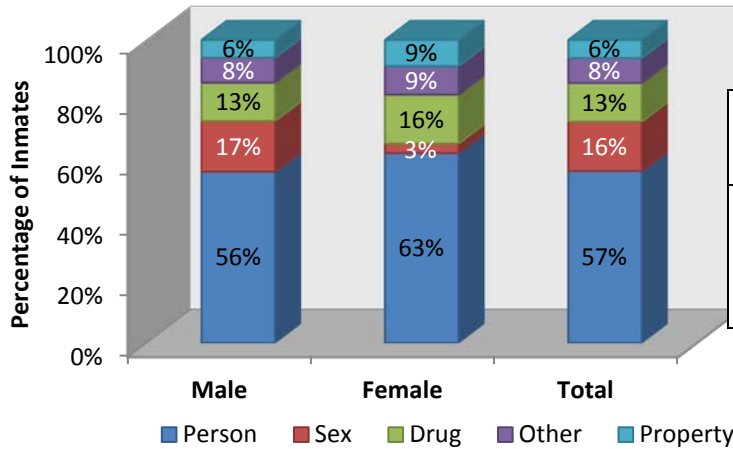
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Five Year Comparison of Specialty Age Groups January 1, 2016 – January 1, 2020**

Age Range		Year				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
29 and Under	Number	2,269	2,069	1,933	1,705	1,579
	% of Population	23%	22%	21%	19%	19%
60 and Over	Number	869	886	931	983	1,011
	% of Population	9%	9%	10%	11%	12%
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>10,014</b>	<b>9,496</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>8,784</b>	<b>8,292</b>

The percentage of inmates 29 years old and under decreased by 4 percentage points from January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2020, while the number of inmates age 60 years old and over increased by 3 percentage points during the same timeframe.

## Inmate Characteristics by Offense Types

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2020**

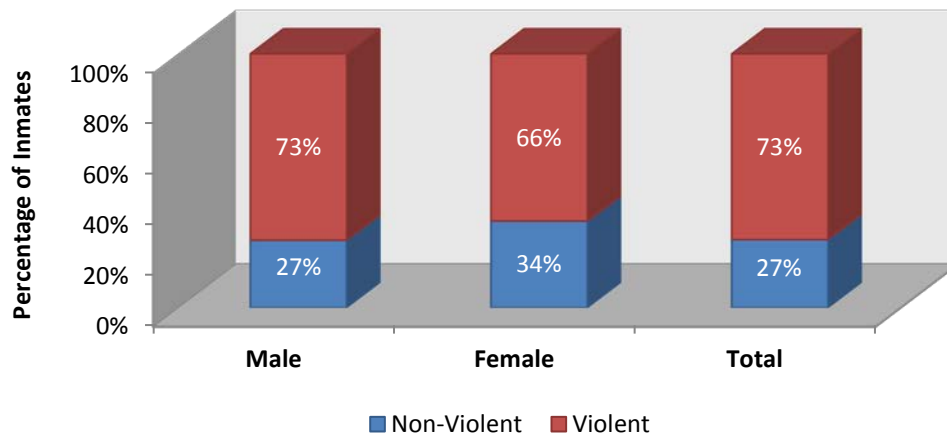


**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2020**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	4,151	159	4,310
	Sex	1,231	8	1,239
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	927	41	968
	Other	607	24	631
	Property	432	22	454
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>7,602</b>

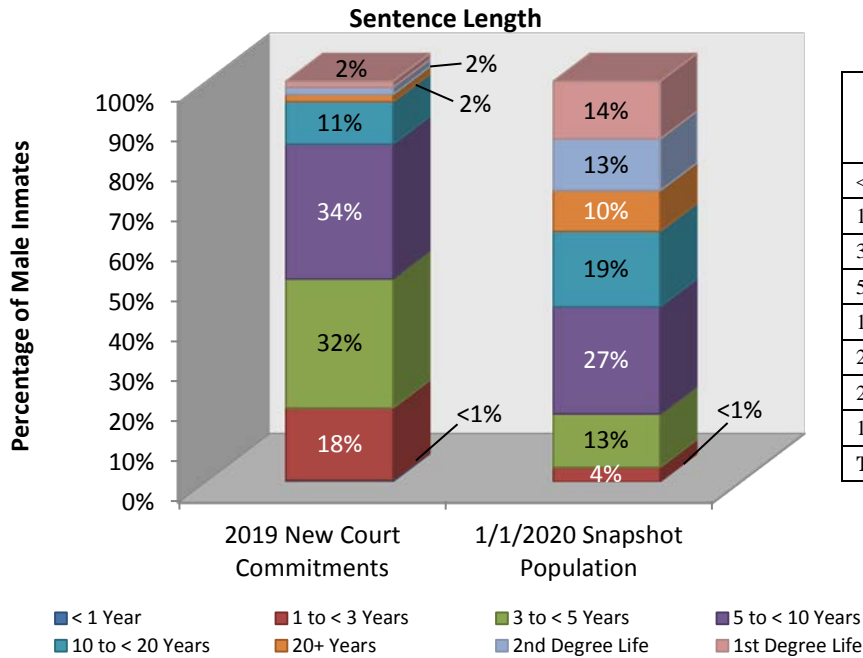
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for the total criminally sentenced population on January 1, 2020 were person (57%), sex (16%), and drug offenses (13%). For males, the top three governing offenses were person (56%), sex (17%), and drug (13%).
- ◆ Differing slightly from their male counterparts, the top three offenses for females were person offenses (63%), drug offenses (16%), and both property and other offenses (9%).
- ◆ For the fifth year, the majority of criminally sentenced female inmates (66%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Males increased slightly from the previous year (72%) with 73% incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Gender on January 1, 2020**



## Inmate Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

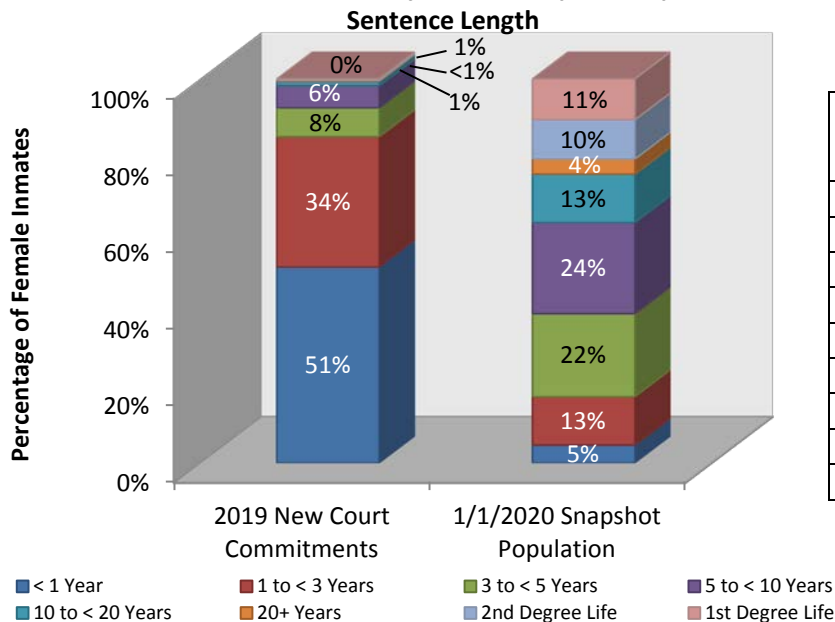
**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2019 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2020 Snapshot Population:**



**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2019 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2020 Snapshot Population:**

Sentence Length	2019 New Court Commitments	1/1/2020 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	7	1
1 to < 3 Years	275	269
3 to < 5 Years	492	980
5 to < 10 Years	512	1,973
10 to < 20 Years	161	1,374
20+ Years	28	746
2nd Degree Life	27	949
1st Degree Life	23	1,056
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>7,348</b>

**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2019 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2020 Snapshot Population:**



**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2019 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2020 Snapshot Population:**

Sentence Length	2019 New Court Commitments	1/1/2020 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	204	12
1 to < 3 Years	135	32
3 to < 5 Years	30	55
5 to < 10 Years	23	60
10 to < 20 Years	4	32
20+ Years	1	10
2nd Degree Life	2	26
1st Degree Life	0	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>254</b>

The comparisons of 2019's new court commitments to the January 1, 2020, 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 27% of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised 3% of new court commitments.

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

In 2019, 85% of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only 17% of females in the January 1, 2020 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, 84% of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only 44% of the males in the January 1, 2019 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, 2019 and January 1, 2020, the percentage of state, criminally sentenced female inmates in the MA DOC jurisdiction increased by 20%, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced female inmates decreased by 19%. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2020:

- ◆ 85% (n=216) were state sentenced
- ◆ 14% (n=35) were county sentenced
- ◆ 1% (n=3) 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. Seventy-two 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 61% of the female sentenced population, with 13% 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, 2020:  
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Gender**

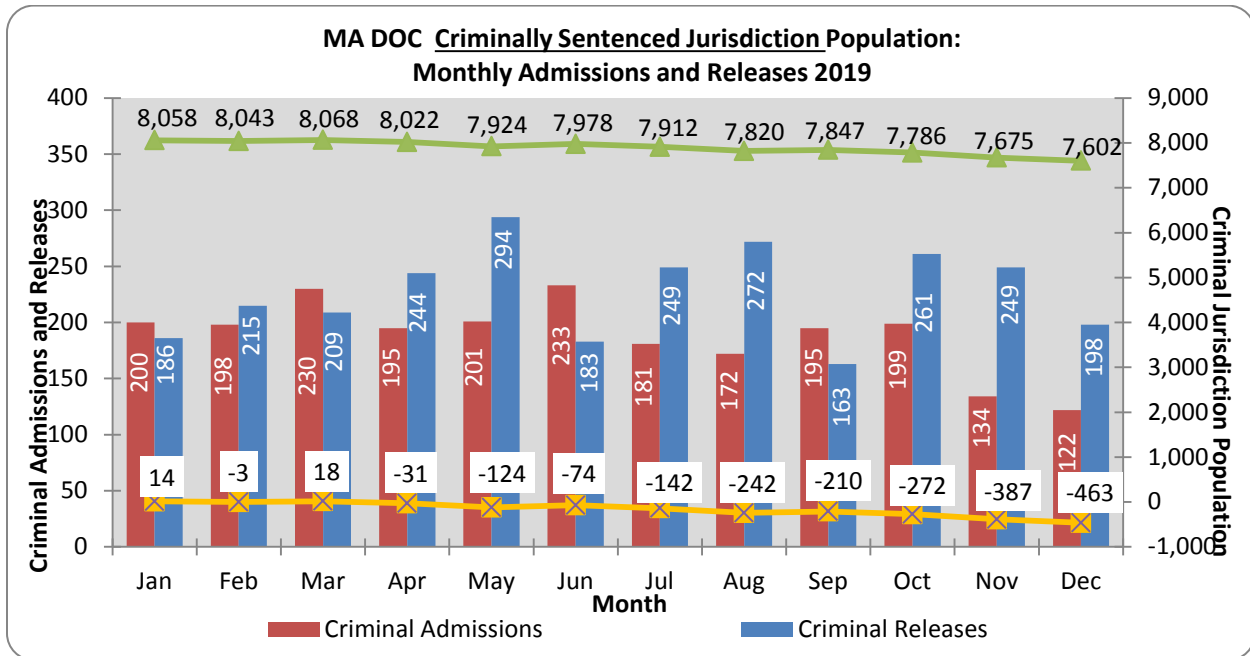
	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	104	4,047	10	149	114	4,196
	SEX	12	1,219	1	7	13	1,226
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	75	852	9	32	84	884
	PROPERTY	40	392	10	12	50	404
	OTHER	39	568	14	10	53	578
TOTALS		270	7,078	44	210	314	7,288
		7,348		254		7,602	

On January 1, 2020 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=968) for criminally sentenced males (13%) and second largest for females (16%). A majority (60%) of drug offenders were serving governing sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. There were a total of 576 inmates sentenced for a mandatory drug governing offense: 561 males and 15 females.

## Massachusetts DOC 2019 Admissions and Releases

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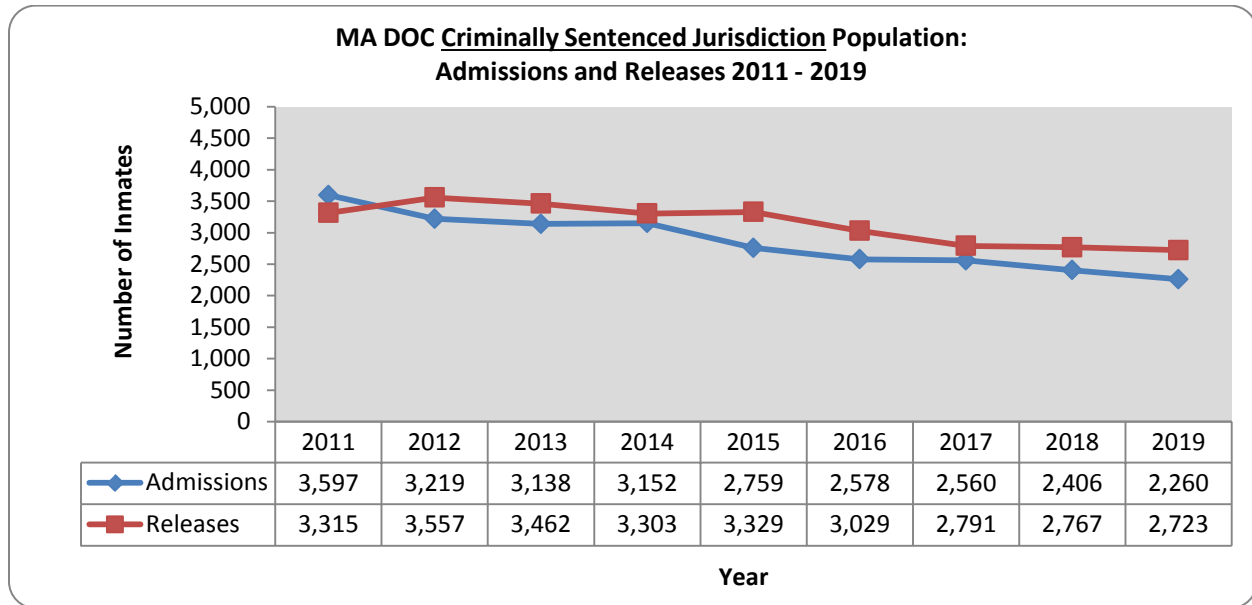
## Admissions and Releases



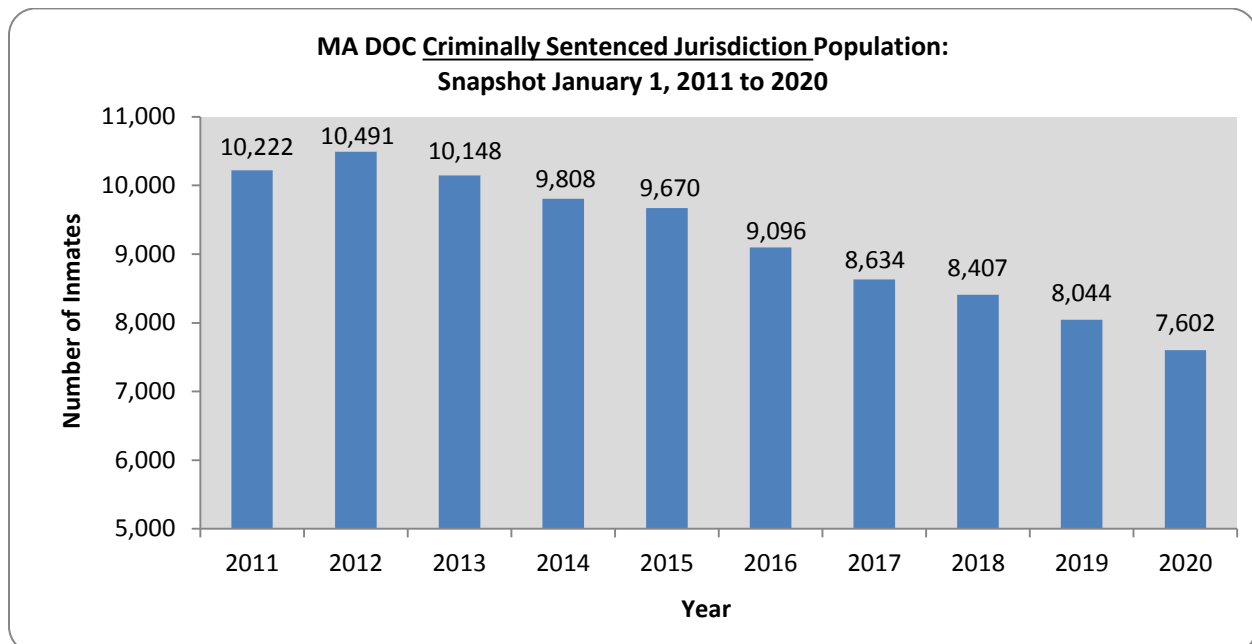
**Note:** Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2019 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was less than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 188 per month and criminal releases averaging 227.
- ◆ During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 122 in December, and 233 in June. Criminal releases ranged between 163 in September, and 294 in May.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 463 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2019 was 7,602, a 5% decrease from the population at the end of 2018, at 8,044. This rate of decrease was more than the decrease seen when comparing years end 2018 and 2017 criminally sentenced populations.

## Admissions and Releases



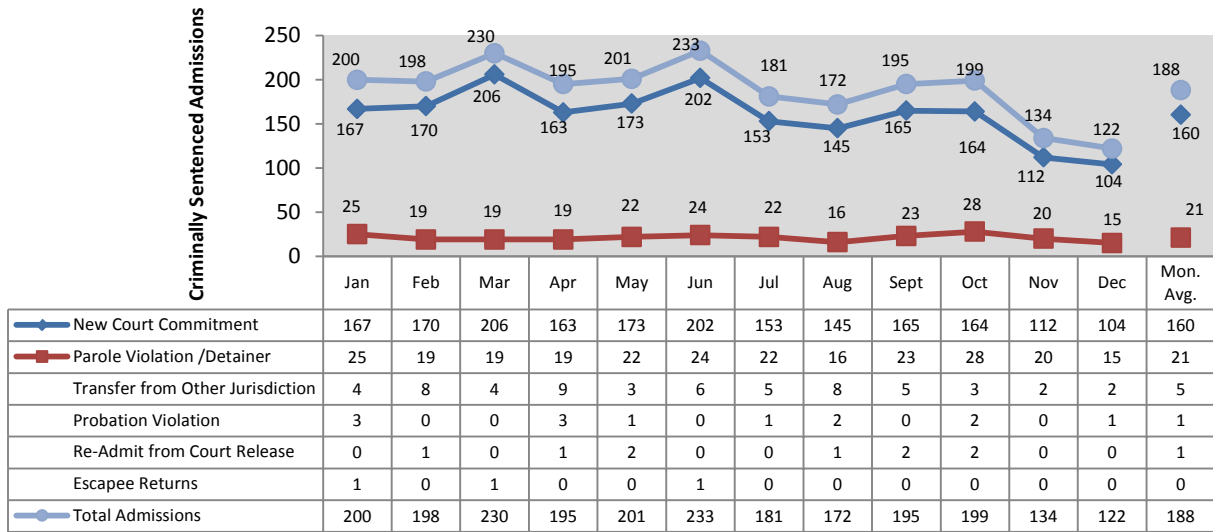
During the past eight years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal admissions exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal releases. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 6% each year; criminal admissions during 2015 and 2012 had the largest declines of 12% and 11% respectively. Releases also saw an average annual decrease of 2%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2016 and 2017, 9% and 8% respectively.



The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 26% from 2011 to 2020, averaging a 3% decrease per year. However, the years since 2016 saw an average yearly decrease of nearly 5%, with 2019 seeing a decrease of over 5%, compared to the previous year.

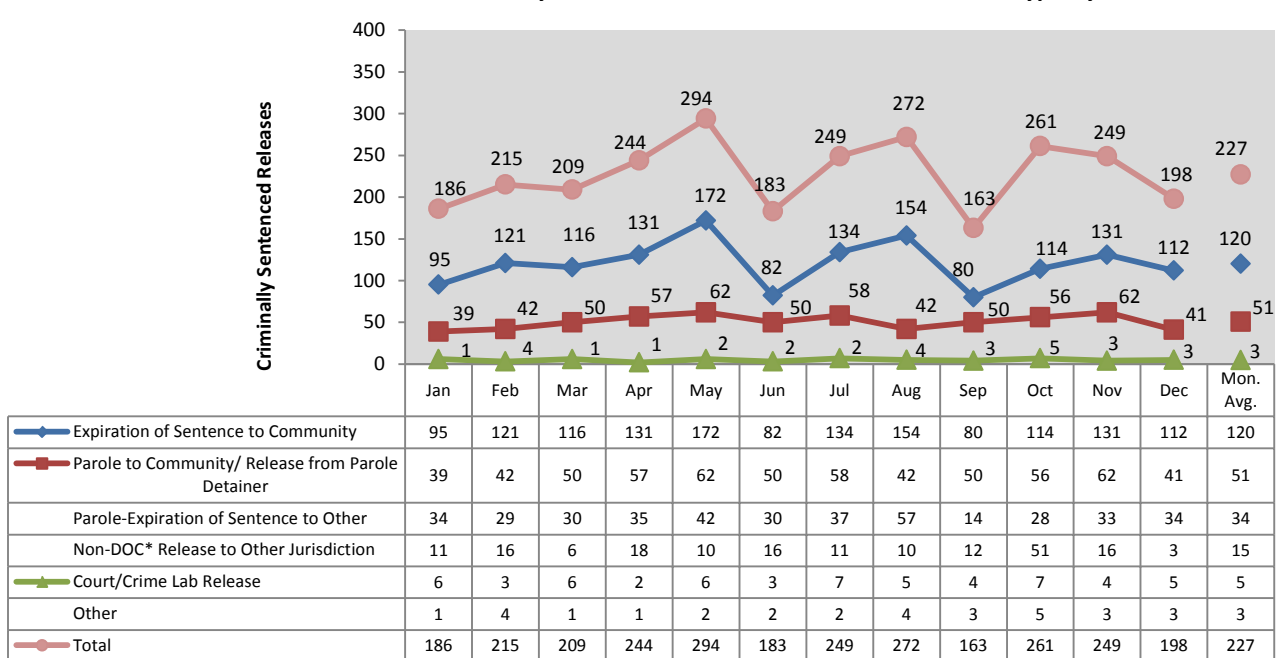
## Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2019 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 104 to 206 with a monthly average of 160, fourteen fewer than the monthly average in 2018. Total criminal admissions ranged from 122 to 233 for a monthly average of 188, thirteen fewer than the 2018 monthly average of 201.

MA DOC 2019 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 2019 ranged between 163 and 294 for a given month and averaged 227; four fewer than the monthly average from 2018 of 231. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 120 releases per month during 2019, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer remained fairly stable. Parole related releases to the community resulted in 22% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2019; slightly higher than 2018 releases, at 21%.



## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC 2019 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	399	84%	1,525	86%	1,924	85%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	37	8%	215	12%	252	11%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	26	5%	33	2%	59	3%
Probation Violation	13	3%	0	0%	13	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	1	0%	8	< 1%	9	< 1%
Escapee Return	1	0%	2	< 1%	3	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>100%</b>

During 2019, 86% of male and 84% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments. The percentage of new court commitments went down slightly from the percentage of male and female criminally sentenced admissions during 2018, 87% for males and 87% for females.

### **MA DOC 2019 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	256	45%	1,186	55%	1,442	53%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	118	21%	491	23%	609	22%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	58	10%	345	16%	403	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	129	23%	51	2%	180	6%
Court Release / Crime Lab	7	1%	51	2%	58**	2%
Other Release	0	0%	31	1%	31	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

\*\* Two court releases received forthwith sentences and were not counted as a release to community.

- ◆ 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 2,107 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2019, approximately 68% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 29% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and 3% were court/crime lab releases to the community\*\*.
- ◆ Females accounted for 18% of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2019; 18% of the expirations of sentence to the community, 19% of paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 12% of court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 30 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2019: all males.

## Admissions and Releases

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2017 - 2019

Admission Type	2017		2018		2019	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	2,226	87%	2,085	87%	1,924	85%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	229	9%	223	9%	252	11%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	68	3%	77	3%	59	3%
Probation Violation	27	1%	17	1%	13	1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	9	< 1%	3	< 1%	9	< 1%
Escapee Return	1	< 1%	1	< 1%	3	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>100%</b>

- ◆ From 2017 to 2019, 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 2,226 in 2017 to 1,924 in 2019, a far more substantial 14% decrease compared with the 5% drop between 2016 and 2018.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, decreased between 2017 and 2018 from 229 to 223. It increased to 252 in 2019, the highest since 2013, and only below the 277 admissions seen during 2012.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2017 to 2019 saw its lowest point in 2019, down 12% from 2017.

### MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2017 - 2019

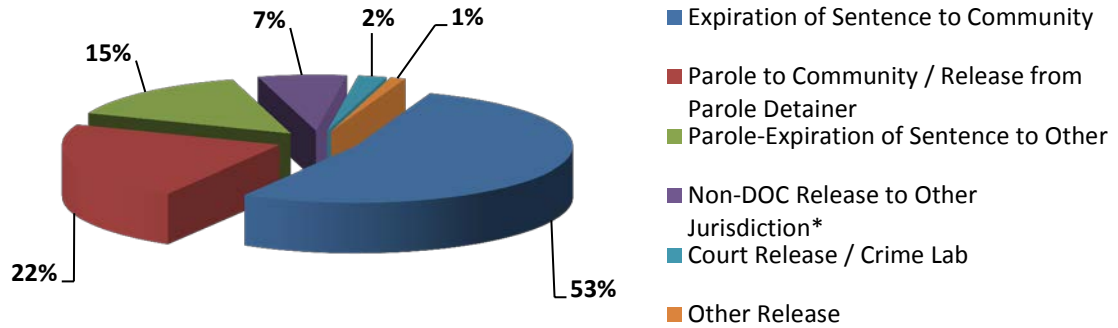
Release Type	2017		2018		2019	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	1,601	57%	1,527	55%	1,442	53%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	514	18%	593	21%	609	22%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	414	15%	389	14%	403	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	164	6%	169	6%	180	7%
Court Release / Crime Lab	65	2%	48	2%	58	2%
Other Release	33	1%	41	1%	31	1%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,723</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 decreased over the past three years, but saw its lowest point in 2019 when it was 10% lower than the height in 2017. Total releases decreased by 1% between 2017 and 2018, followed by another 2% decrease during 2019.

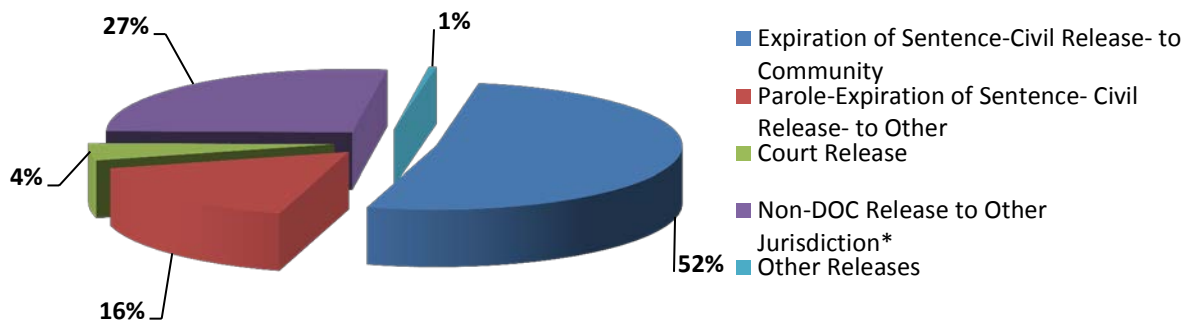
## Releases by Release Type

**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



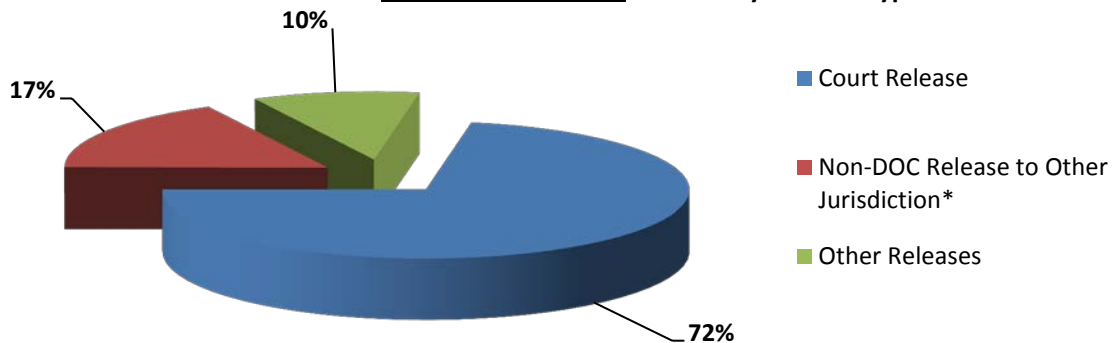
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

**MA DOC 2019 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



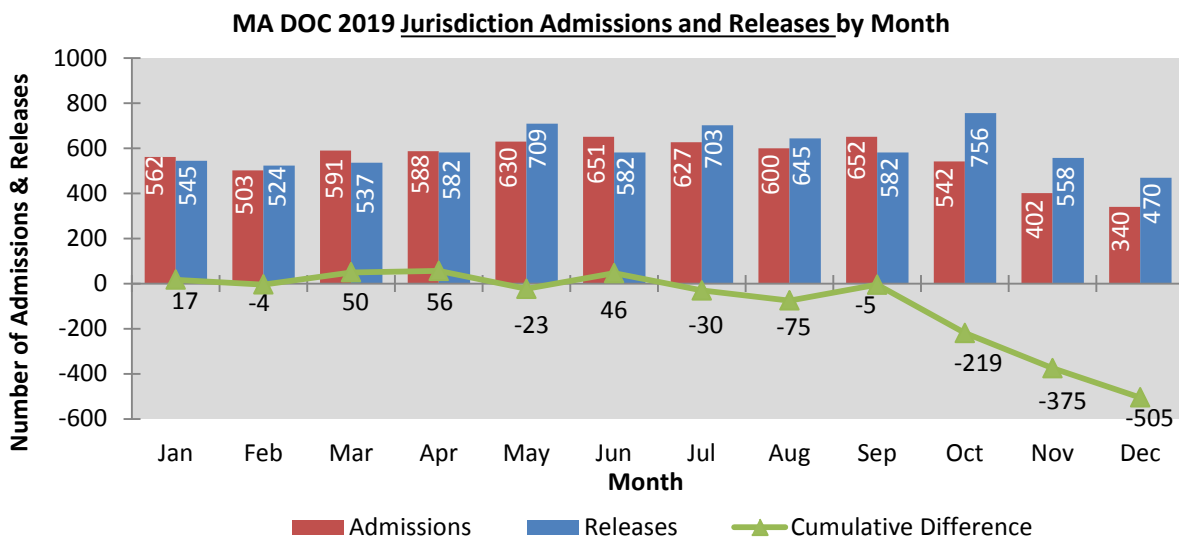
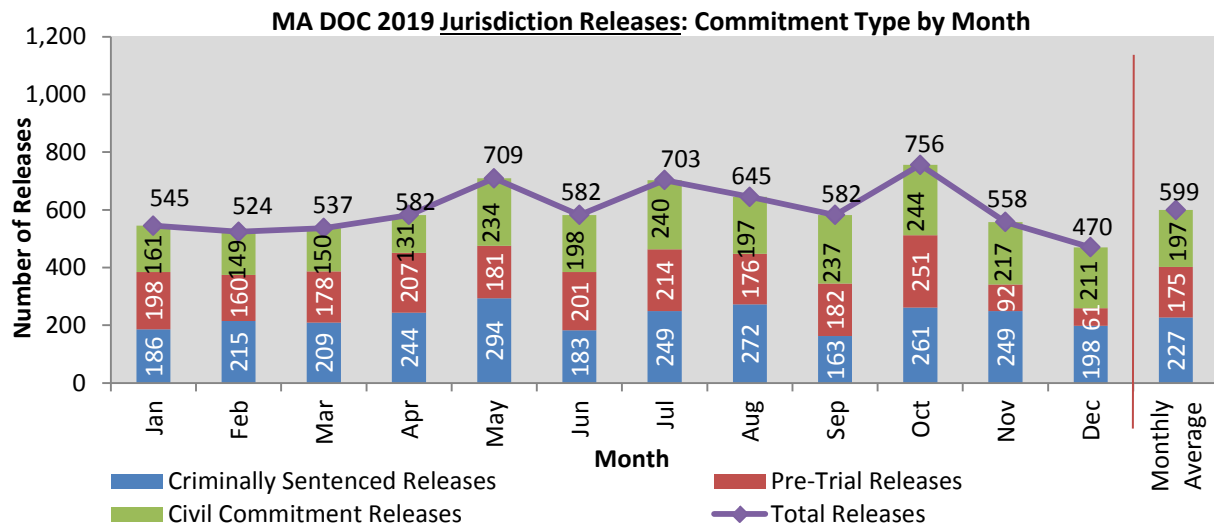
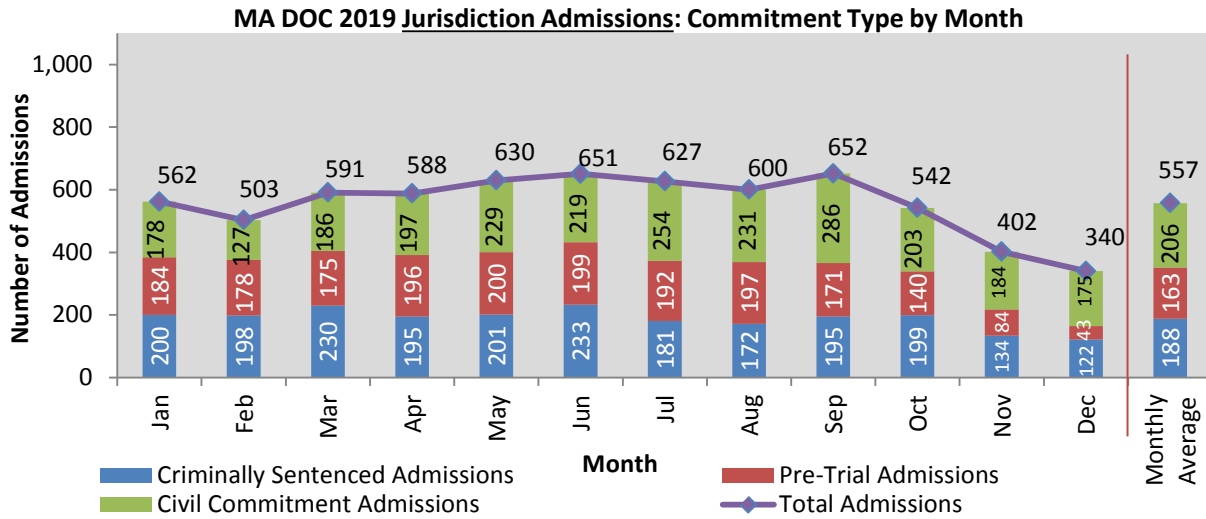
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county or another state's jurisdiction released to

**MA DOC 2019 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.

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



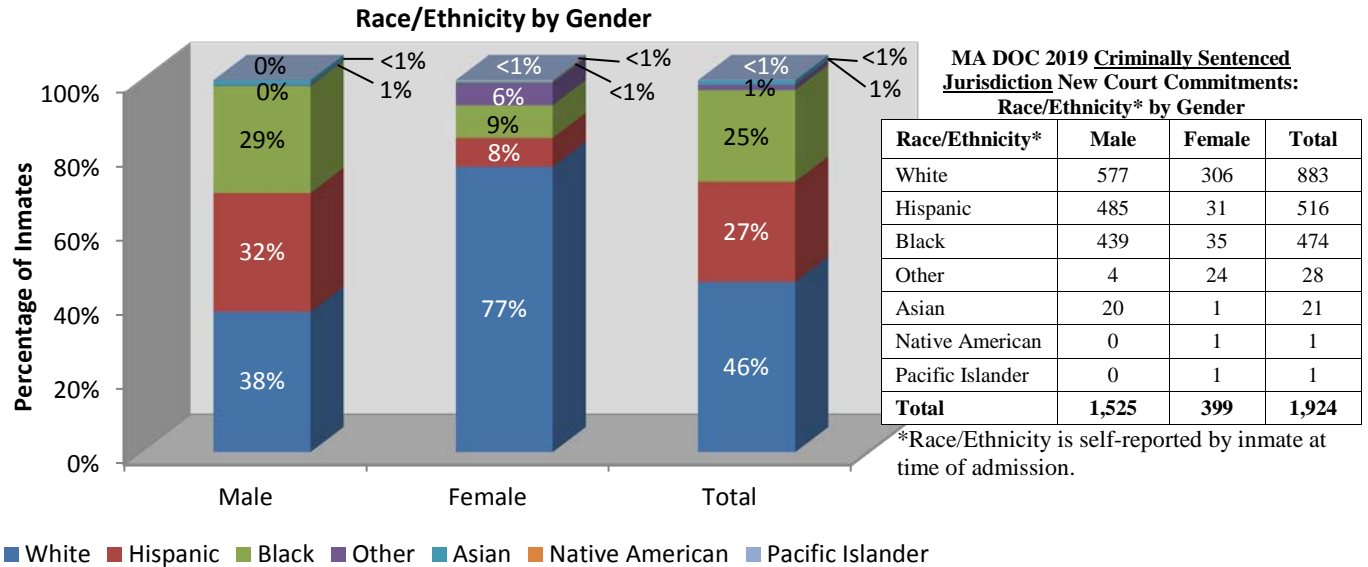
During 2019, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a downward trend, ending in an overall cumulative decrease of 505 inmates. This was a 22% increase compared to the cumulative decrease of 415 inmates seen during 2018.

## Massachusetts DOC 2019 Admissions by New Court Commitments

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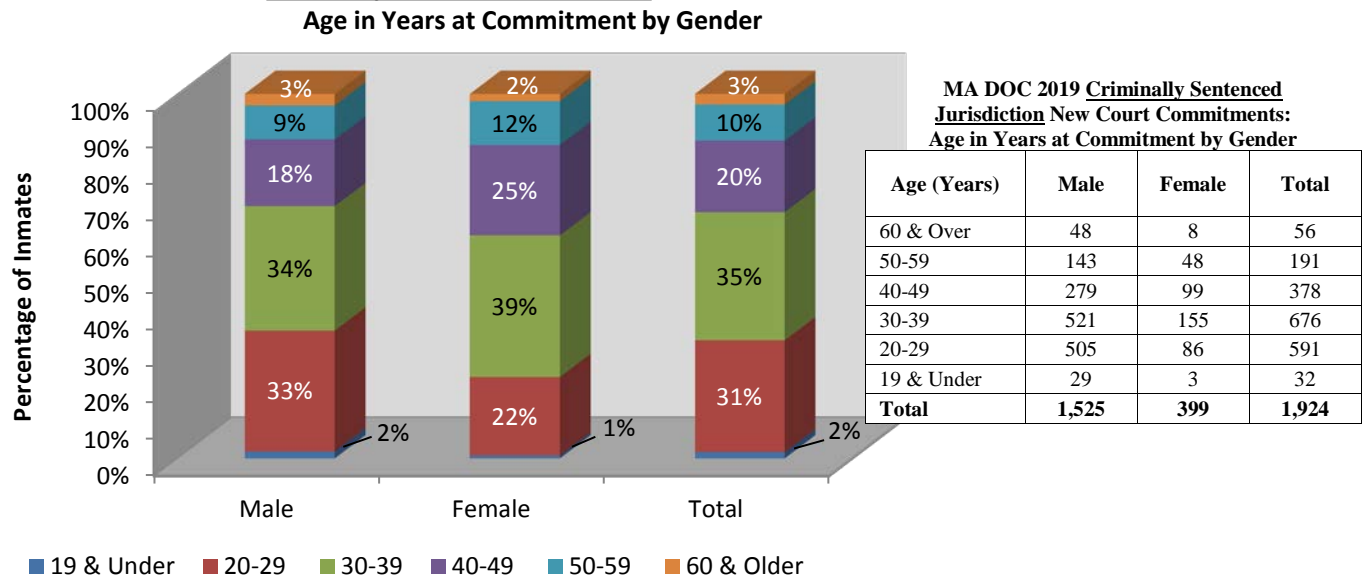
## Admissions by New Court Commitments

### MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:



For males, the most common races for criminally sentenced new court commitments were White (38%), followed by Hispanic (32%) and Black (29%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (77%), followed by Black (9%) and Hispanic (8%). As males made up 79% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

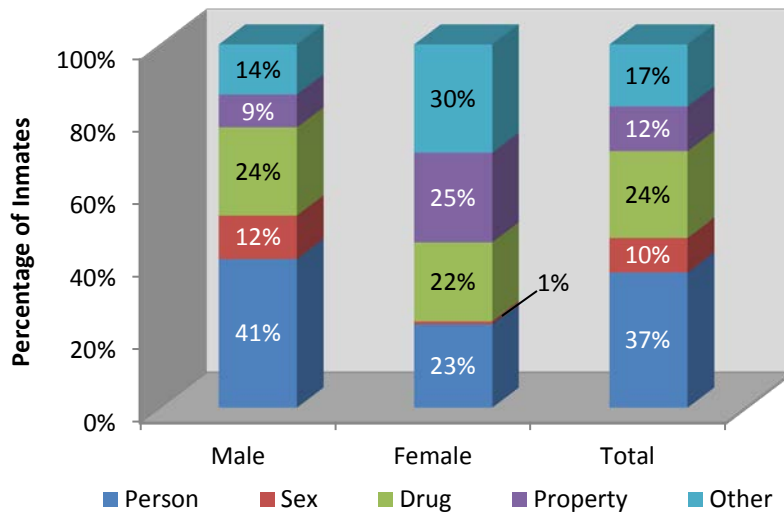
### MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:



The age distribution of male new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (34%) and the 20 – 29 year age group (33%). The largest percent of female criminal new court commitments fell into the 30 – 39 year age group (39%), followed by the 40 – 49 year age group (25%). Males and females had moderately different age distributions in the 40 or older age groups, with 31% male and 39% female criminally sentenced new court commitments falling into these categories.

## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

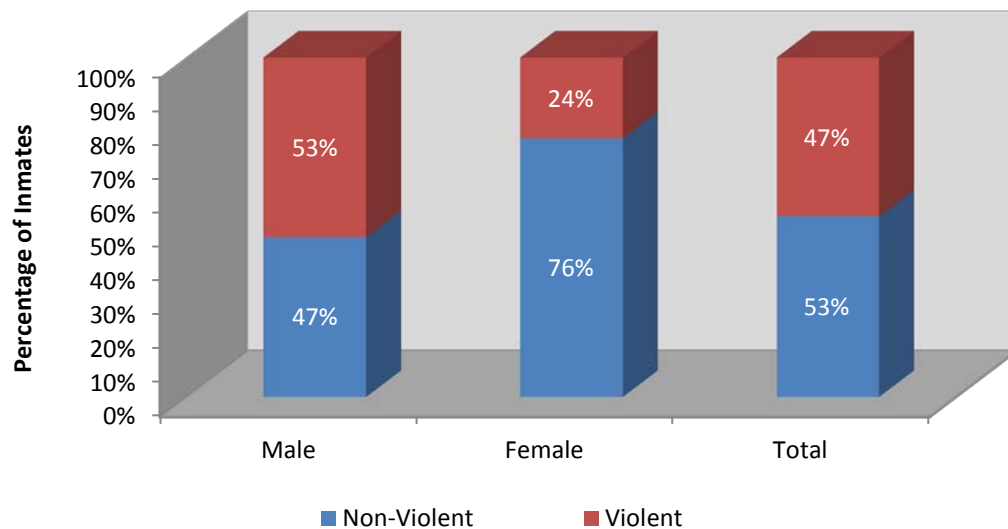


**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction  
New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	626	92	718
	Sex	180	3	183
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	370	87	457
	Property	139	98	237
	Other	210	119	329
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1,924</b>

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (41%), followed by drug (24%). Among females, “other” offenses were the most common (30%), followed by property offenses (25%). Sex offenses were the least common, accounting for 10% of governing offenses for the criminally sentenced new court commitments, 12% of the male governing offenses and 1% of the female governing offenses.

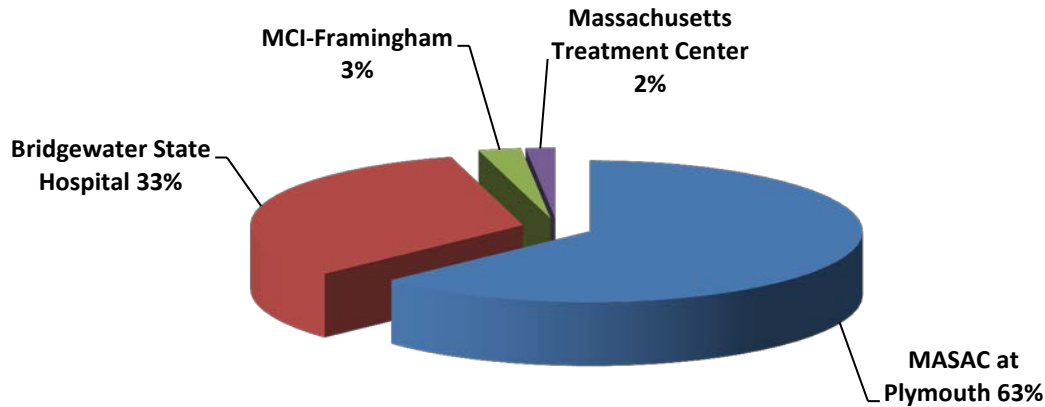
**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Gender**



The majority of male criminally sentenced new court commitments had violent governing offenses (53%) while the majority of female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses (76%). Overall, criminally sentenced jurisdiction inmates had predominately non-violent governing offenses (53%). Though males made up four-fifths 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 2019 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Civil Commitments by Institution**



**MA DOC 2019 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution**

Institution	Female	Male	Total
MASAC at Plymouth (MASPLY)	0	1,548	<b>1,548</b>
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	806	<b>806</b>
MCI-Framingham	62	0	<b>62</b>
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	43	<b>43</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,459</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), Section 35’s at the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth (MASPLY), and “Sexually Dangerous Persons” at the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC).

- ◆ In 2019, there were 2,459 civil new court commitments, representing 37% of the overall 6,688 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (63%) of civil commitments in 2019 were Section 35’s admitted to MASPLY. This was down from 70% in 2018. The number of Section 35’s decreased from 1,814 during 2018 to 1,548 during 2019, a 15% decrease. Commitments to MASPLY are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ During 2019, there were 806 civil commitments to BSH. This was a 19% increase compared to the previous year (n=676). During 2019, 33% of the civil commitments went to BSH, up from 26% during 2018.
- ◆ Females represented 3% of the civil commitments during 2019, slightly higher than the female civil commitments during 2018 and 2017.



## Massachusetts DOC 2019 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: 2015 - 2019**

Post Release Supervision Type	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
Parole Supervision (only)	455	18%	357	15%	281	13%	368	17%	389	18%
Probation Supervision (only)	901	35%	859	37%	788	36%	728	34%	688	33%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	279	11%	227	10%	233	11%	225	10%	220	10%
No Post Release Supervision	946	37%	886	38%	877	40%	844	39%	810	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>100%</b>

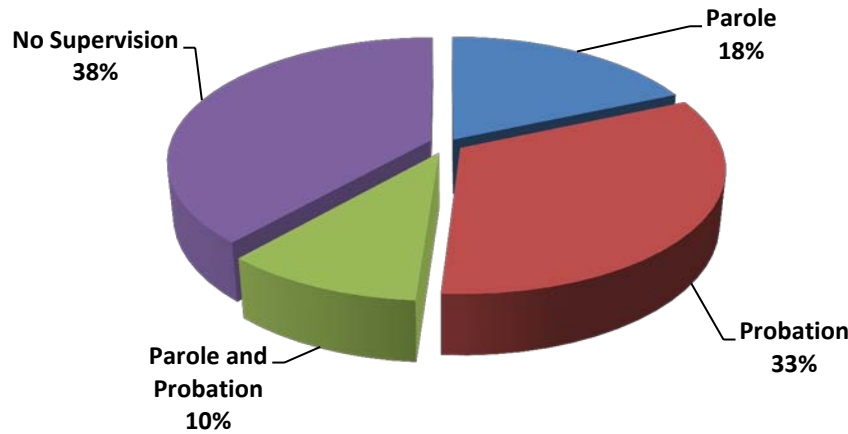
  

Post Release Supervision	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
Supervision	1,635	63%	1,443	62%	1,302	60%	1,321	61%	1,297	62%
No Supervision	946	37%	886	38%	877	40%	844	39%	810	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>100%</b>

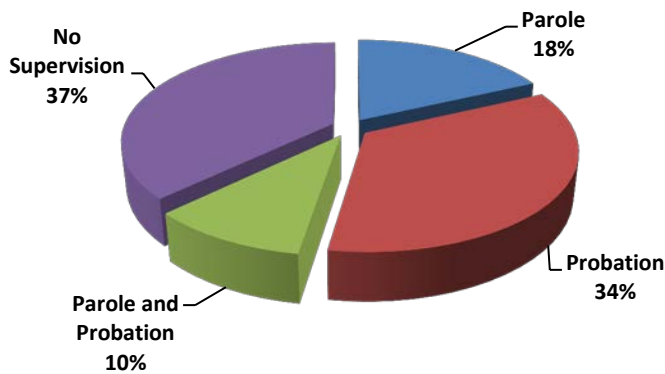
- ◆ Overall, there was an 18% decrease (n=474) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2015 and 2019. Though each subsequent year saw fewer releases, the largest decrease was between 2015 and 2016 (10%). The 10% decrease in releases, from 2,581 in 2015 to 2,329 in 2016, was in large part due to a decrease in male parole releases.
- ◆ Releases to the community have experienced a consistent downward trend from a high of 2,581 in 2015 to a low of 2,107 in 2019. Those released with parole supervision accounted for 18% (n=455) of releases to the community in 2015, and they return to this level (18%, or n=389) in 2019, after dipping in 2016 and 2017. Meanwhile, probation-only supervision has reached a low level of 33 percent.
- ◆ 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. The proportion of inmates who were paroled directly to the TTP has decreased, going from 18% of paroles to the community in 2018 to 15% in 2019.

## Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

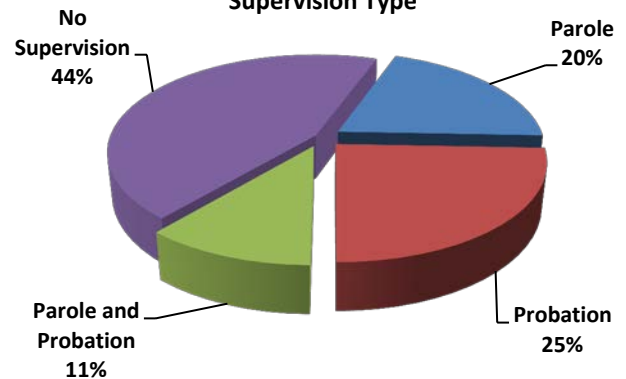
**MA DOC 2019 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



**MA DOC 2019 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



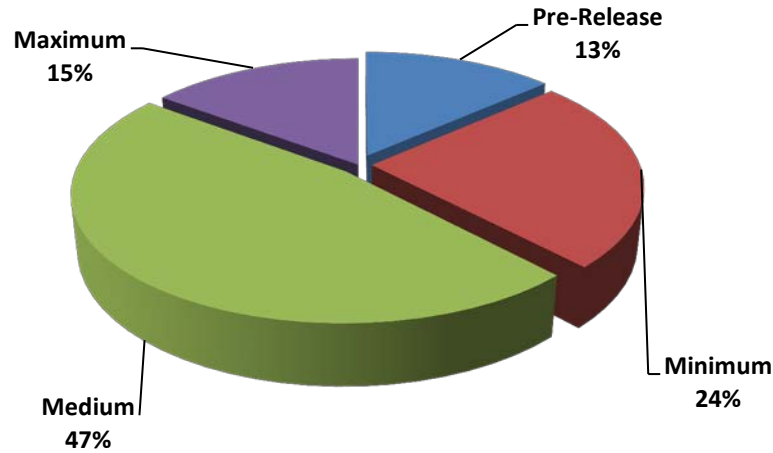
**MA DOC 2019 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



In 2019, male inmates were more likely than female inmates to be released to the community under probation supervision only - 34% of males compared to 25% of females. Conversely, female inmates were more likely to be released with no supervision - 44% of females compared to 37% of males. The percentage of male and female inmates supervised in the community by means of both parole and probation were more similar, 10% and 11% respectively.

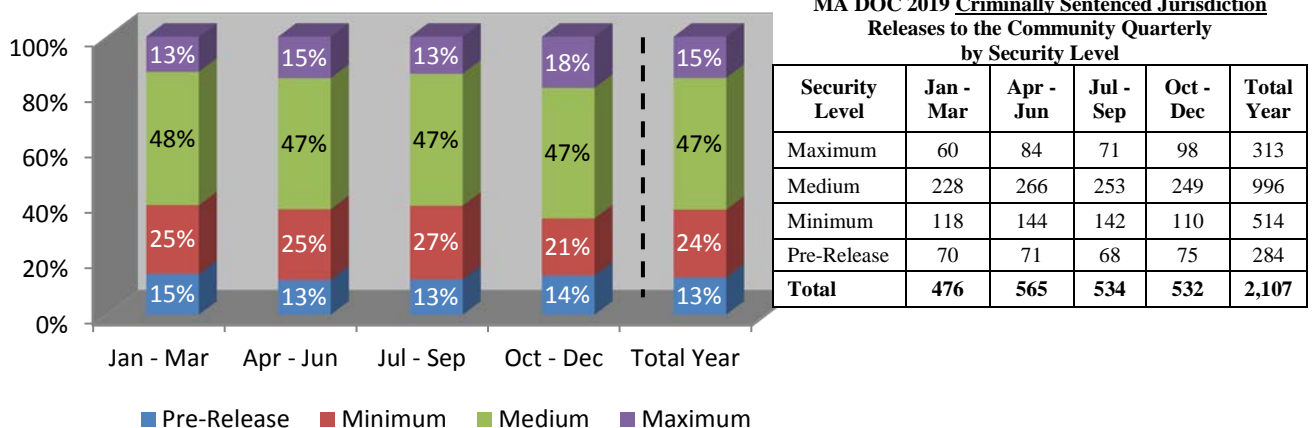
## Releases to the Community by Security Level

**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level**



- ◆ Overall, the number of criminally sentenced inmates released to the community decreased by fewer than 3% from 2,165 releases in 2018 to 2,107 releases in 2019. Releases came from facilities of all security levels.
- ◆ The proportion of releases from all security levels remained nearly identical between 2018 and 2019. Releases from minimum are up 1% from 2018, and releases from maximum are down 1% from 2018. Male releases from maximum security units have increased each year since 2015, at which time they accounted for 10% of releases.

**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level**



- ◆ Just under half of the criminally sentenced inmates released to the community were from medium security facilities (n=996); just under one-fourth of these releases (n=514) came from minimum security facilities.

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

**MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Security Level and Institution**

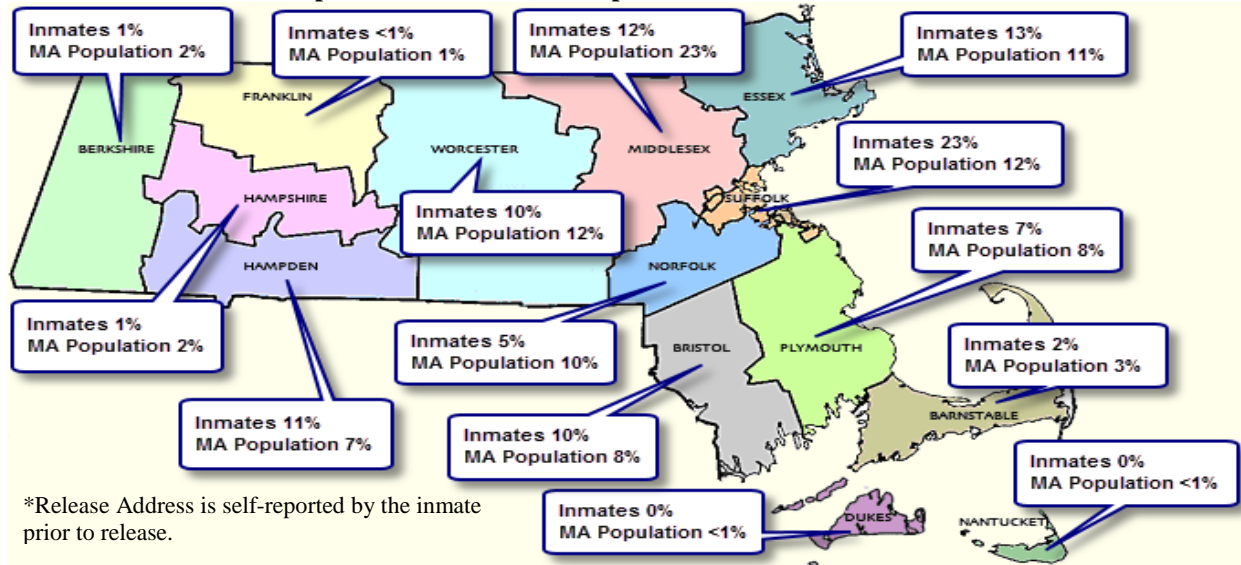
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
<b>Male</b>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	15	70	<b>85</b>
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	8	0	<b>8</b>
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	81	0	0	<b>81</b>
MCI-Cedar Junction	165	11	0	0	<b>176</b>
MCI-Concord	0	151	0	0	<b>151</b>
MCI-Norfolk	0	127	0	0	<b>127</b>
MCI-Shirley	0	190	113	0	<b>303</b>
NCCI-Gardner	0	89	2	0	<b>91</b>
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	61	76	<b>137</b>
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	80	70	0	<b>150</b>
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	56	61	<b>117</b>
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	148	0	0	0	<b>148</b>
<b>Female</b>					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
MCI-Framingham	0	198	0	0	<b>198</b>
South Middlesex Correctional Center	0	0	138	28	<b>166</b>
<b>Total DOC Facilities</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>1,941</b>
County, Federal, Interstate	0	66	51	49	<b>166</b>
<b>Total Jurisdiction</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>2,107</b>

\*Note: 6 inmates were ELMO's (electronic monitoring) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing total DOC facility of release in 2019, the greatest number of criminally sentenced inmates were released to the community from MCI-Shirley (n=303), followed by MCI-Framingham (n=198) and MCI-Cedar Junction (n=176).
- ◆ The greatest number of criminally sentenced males were released to the community from the medium security level unit of MCI-Shirley (n=190), followed by maximum security level releases from MCI-Cedar Junction (n=165), and medium security level releases from MCI-Concord (n=151).
- ◆ Each year DOC inmates serve sentences at, and are released directly from, county, federal, and interstate facilities. With little change from 2018, there were 166 releases from the population housed outside of the MA DOC custody in 2019.
- ◆ A number of state correctional institutions have multilevel security classifications. Every security level unit within each institution released at least one inmate in 2019.

## Release Address by County

MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties\*  
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2018



Note: 2018 estimated county population statistics were provided by the U.S Census Bureau, 2019 was not available.

Note: Not all MA DOC inmates are released in Massachusetts; approximately 4% 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 2018 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC inmates released to each county in 2019. Suffolk, Essex, Hampden, and Bristol were the only four counties with a higher percentage of inmates released to the county (57% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (38% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 12% of the releases from the MA DOC.

MA DOC 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: County by GenderΩ

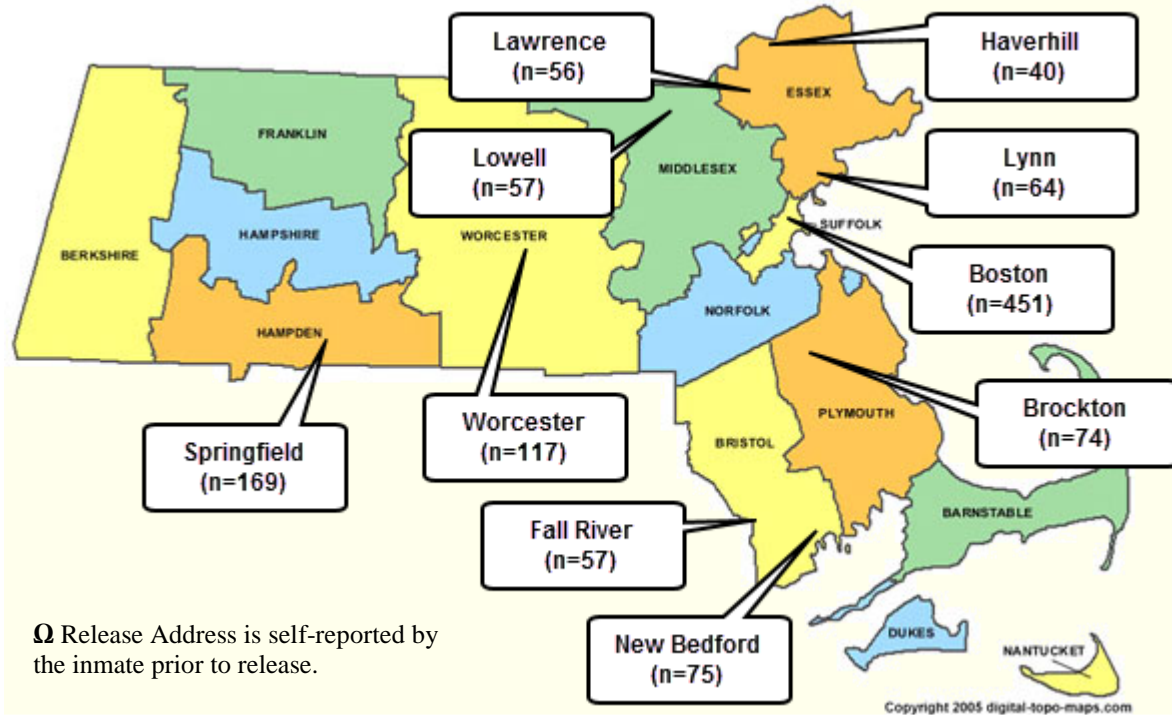
Female*			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Essex	88	23%	Suffolk	436	25%	Suffolk	492	23%
Middlesex	75	20%	Hampden	219	13%	Essex	266	13%
Suffolk	56	15%	Worcester	205	12%	Middlesex	244	12%
Norfolk	38	10%	Bristol	182	11%	Hampden	228	11%
Plymouth	36	9%	Essex	178	10%	Worcester	218	10%
Bristol	30	8%	Middlesex	169	10%	Bristol	212	10%
Barnstable	13	3%	Plymouth	118	7%	Plymouth	154	7%
Worcester	13	3%	Norfolk	65	4%	Norfolk	103	5%
Hampden	9	2%	Barnstable	38	2%	Barnstable	51	2%
Hampshire	2	1%	Berkshire	26	2%	Berkshire	27	1%
Berkshire	1	<1%	Hampshire	17	1%	Hampshire	19	1%
Franklin	0	0%	Franklin	6	<1%	Franklin	6	<1%
Nantucket	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
Dukes	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>96%</b>
Outside MA	18	5%	Outside MA	68	4%	Outside MA	86	4%
Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	1	<1%	Unknown	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,107</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 2019 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten Cities <sup>Ω</sup>



Of the 2,107 criminally sentenced inmates released to the community in 2019, 1,160 (55%) 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=451) followed by Springfield (n=169) and Worcester (n=117). The male population mirrored the top three of the ten cities. Females' release locations differed from males' in that Lynn (n=19) was the second most frequent city of release followed by Framingham (n=13) and Haverhill (n=13).

MA DOC 2019 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	48	13%	Boston	403	23%	Boston	451	21%
Lynn	19	5%	Springfield	165	10%	Springfield	169	8%
Framingham	13	3%	Worcester	113	7%	Worcester	117	6%
Haverhill	13	3%	New Bedford	65	4%	New Bedford	75	4%
Salem	12	3%	Brockton	64	4%	Brockton	74	4%
Taunton	11	3%	Fall River	51	3%	Lynn	64	3%
Brockton	10	3%	Lowell	49	3%	Fall River	57	3%
New Bedford	10	3%	Lawrence	47	3%	Lowell	57	3%
Lawrence	9	2%	Lynn	45	3%	Lawrence	56	3%
Lowell	8	2%	Holyoke	31	2%	Haverhill	40	2%

<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 2019 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 2019.

**MA DOC 2019 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	1,531 Days	334 Days	1,865 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,350 Days	307 Days	1,658 Days
<b>Females</b>			
Parole to the Community	620 Days	118 Days	738 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	240 Days	80 Days	321 Days
<b>Total</b>			
Parole to the Community	1,341 Days	289 Days	1,630 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,161 Days	269 Days	1,430 Days

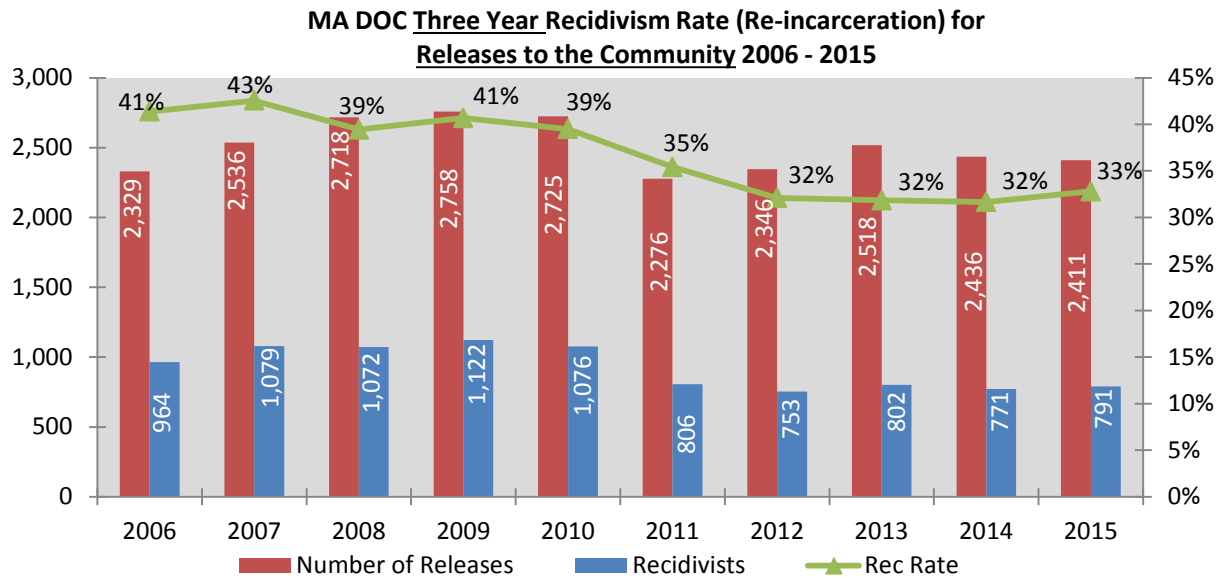
- ◆ There were 1,758 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2019. Seventy-two percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n = 1,269), meaning they served their sentence in its entirety. The remaining 28% were paroled to the community.
- ◆ Of the 1,758 releases, the majority were males (82%). On average, males released via parole served 5.1 years before initially being released, an increase from 2018 male parolees. On the other hand, males released via expiration of sentence served 4.5 years – this average did not change from 2018.
- ◆ Females represented 18% of the total releases in 2019 (n = 318). Females released via parole served for longer (approximately 25 months) than those who released via expiration of sentence (11 months). It is important to note that two-thirds of female releases served a county sentence which is shorter than state sentences, thereby shortening the overall time served.

## Massachusetts DOC 2019 Recidivism Trends and 2015 Recidivism Rates

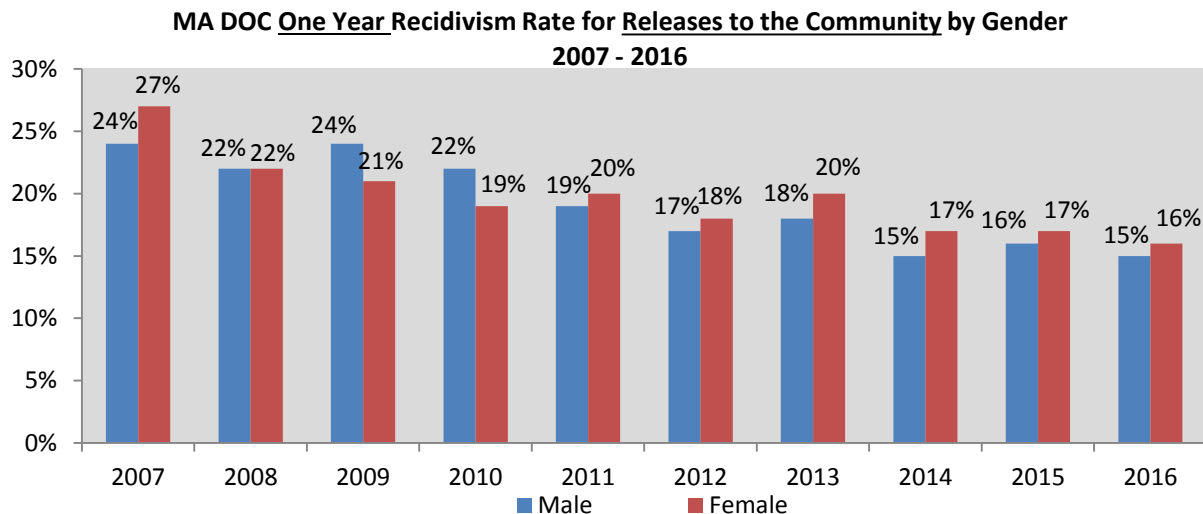
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## Recidivism Trends and 2015 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2015 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 10 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2007.



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 for the 2016 releases (15%) tied the low for the ten year period reached in 2014. The 2016 female recidivism rate of 16% was the lowest of the 10 year period.

## Recidivism Trends and 2015 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2015 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	215	48%	n.a.	n.a.	215	48%
Medium	884	34%	312	36%	1,196	34%
Minimum and Pre-Release	794	28%	206	28%	1,000	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>33%</b>

- ◆ Recidivism rates for inmates released during 2015 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 28% of those inmates re-incarcerated within three-years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 34%, while the rate for males released from maximum security was 48%, the highest of all security levels.
- ◆ The recidivism rate for female inmates released from a lower security facility was 28%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 36%.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2015 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type<sup>9</sup>

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence <sup>10</sup>	424	33%
State Sentence	94	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>

- ◆ Historically, female inmates released from a county sentence have had a higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. An exception to this was the 2014 release cohort, where state sentenced females had a slightly higher recidivism rate than county sentenced. For the 2015 release cohort, the recidivism rate for county sentenced inmates was slightly higher than that of state sentenced, 33% and 31%, respectively.
- ◆ For the second year in a row there was a 2 percentage point difference in recidivism rates by **sentence type** for females released to the community in 2015 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 2015 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 2015 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 2015, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2015 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	518	107	21%	119	34	29%	637	141	22%
Expiration of Sentence	1,375	415	30%	399	111	28%	1,774	526	30%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>28%</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*	518	208	40%	119	52	44%	637	260	41%
Expiration of Sentence	1,375	415	30%	399	116	29%	1,774	531	30%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>33%</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 2,411 inmates released to the community during 2015, 26% (n = 637) were paroled to the community, while 74% (n = 1,774) were released via expiration of sentence. Inmates paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (41%) than the recidivism rate of inmates released via expiration of sentence (30%). 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 2015 Recidivism Rates

- ◆ Of the 791 inmates who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 157 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole or probation conditions. One hundred and fifty-one of the recidivists were technical parole violations and 6 were technical violations of probation.
- ◆ Of the 157 inmates who returned for a technical violation, 33 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 33% to 28% when excluding technical violations, with inmates paroled to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 41% to 22%. The recidivism rate for males decreased from 33% to 28%, while females decreased from 32% to a rate of 28%.

MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2015 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	518	65	13%	43	8%	37	7%	145	28%
Male	1,893	191	10%	165	9%	166	9%	522	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>28%</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	518	94	18%	41	8%	33	6%	168	32%
Male	1,893	295	16%	170	9%	158	8%	623	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>33%</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.
- ◆ For the second year in the follow-up period, there was no difference when excluding technical violations, with recidivism rates of 9%.
- ◆ The recidivism rate remained the same in the third year when excluding technical violations of parole or probation compared to when including technical violators, with a recidivism rate of 8%.

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2015 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2015 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	261	44%	171	37%	432	41%
Person	803	37%	128	38%	931	37%
Other	225	31%	109	27%	334	30%
Drug	469	28%	103	24%	572	27%
Sex	135	10%	7	n.a.	142	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>33%</b>

- ◆ Property offenders had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (44%), followed by person offenders (37%) and ‘other’ offenders who recidivated at 31%.
- ◆ On the other hand, the highest recidivism rate for female releases was person offenders (38%), followed by property offenders (37%) and ‘other’ offenders (27%).
- ◆ Inmates serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (11%).

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2015 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	938	33%	135	37%	1,073	34%
Non-Violent	955	33%	383	31%	1,338	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>33%</b>

Non-violent offenders released in 2015 had a lower recidivism rate (32%) compared to violent offenders (34%). Though property offenders had the highest recidivism rate, inmates serving a governing drug offense accounted for over forty percent of all non-violent offenses and also had the second lowest recidivism rate, contributing to the lower recidivism rate of non-violent offenders.

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2015 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	218	30%	88	26%	306	25%
Mandatory Drug Offense	251	25%	15	13%	266	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>27%</b>

Of the 572 released inmates who were incarcerated for a governing drug offense the proportion of mandatory to non-mandatory were nearly equal. Mandatory drug offenders had a lower recidivism rate than non-mandatory drug offenders, 23% and 25% respectively.

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2015 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2015 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
Hispanic	527	33%	37	41%	564	34%
Caucasian	798	33%	383	32%	1,181	33%
African American/Black	548	33%	59	41%	607	33%
Other	4	n.a	34	21%	38	24%
Asian	12	n.a	2	n.a	14	n.a
Native American/Alaskan Native	4	n.a	3	n.a	7	n.a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>33%</b>

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

- ◆ The three year recidivism rate for male releases was 33%, regardless of race.
- ◆ For females, both African American/Black and Hispanic inmates had the highest recidivism rate, at 41%, followed by Caucasian females (32%), and Other (21%).
- ◆ Overall, inmates who reported a race of Hispanic recidivated at the highest rate (34%), followed by inmates who reported a race of Caucasian or African American/ Black, both with a rate of 33%. Those who reported a race of Other had the lowest recidivism rate, at 24%.

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



## Massachusetts DOC 2019 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 2019 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 of 2012</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 Bill of 2018</b>	The common term for Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2018, effective April 13, 2018, which resulted in changes to Restrictive Housing, Earned Good Time, and Medical Releases.
<b>Crime Lab</b>	A term referring to issues regarding the accuracy of testing at the William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute, commonly referenced as the “Hinton Drug Lab” and the State Crime Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts Amherst which resulted in hundreds of releases by court orders beginning in September 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 7.5 days of earned good time per program and up to but not to exceed 15 days per month for work related programs and an additional deduction of up to 10 days for successful completion of a program or activity as long as combined deductions do not reduce the imposed maximum term or aggregate maximum terms by more than 35%.
<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.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<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.
<b>Jurisdiction Population</b>	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).
<b>Mandatory Minimum Sentence</b>	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.
<b>Mental Health Commitments</b>	The commitment of a male to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18.
<b>New Court Commitment</b>	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 2019, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.
<b>Non-DOC Releases to Other Jurisdiction</b>	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.
<b>Non-Violent Offense</b>	Any offense that falls within the definition of “Property Offense”, “Drug Offense” or “Other Offense.”

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **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.

### **Other Offenses**

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.

### **Other Releases**

Releases by virtue of deaths, escapes and transfer out of state.

### **Parole**

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.

### **Parole or Expiration of Sentence to Other**

Inmates who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following:  
 parole to out of state sentence  
 parole to federal authority  
 parole to immigration  
 parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence  
 parole to warrant  
 parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence  
 expiration release to out of state sentence  
 expiration release to federal authority  
 expiration release to immigration  
 expiration release to from and after House of Correction sentence  
 expiration release to warrant  
 expiration release to from and after/concurrent at  
     Department of Correction  
 expiration to civil commitment  
 parole to civil commitment  
 release from civil commitment to warrant

### **Parole to Community**

Inmates released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<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.
<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=4).
<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>

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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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.

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 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).

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>Technical Violation</b>	A violation of parole conditions that does not necessarily constitute grounds for a parole revocation.
<b>Violent Offense</b>	Any offense that falls within the definition of a “Person Offense” or “Sex Offense.”
<b>Western Massachusetts Regional Women’s Correctional Center</b>	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.