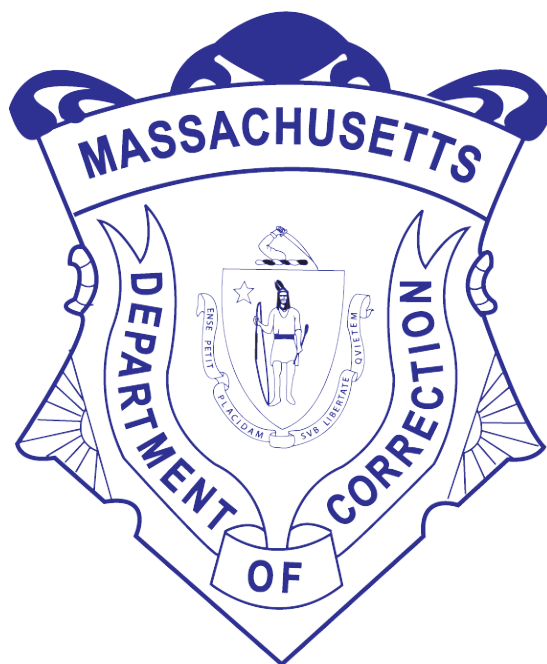


# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2020



RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

*May 2021*



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor



## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary

## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Carol A. Mici, Commissioner

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

### AUTHOR: RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

Nicholas Cannata  
Susan McDonald

Benjamin Desrochers  
Jiqiang Rong  
Leah Wang

Hollie Matthews  
Alexandria Sahtouris

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For questions regarding this report, please contact the Research and Planning Division:

Research & Planning Division  
MCI-Concord/SFU Building  
PO BOX 9125  
Concord, MA 01742  
(978) 405-6677  
Research@doc.state.ma.us

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Published May 19, 2021

Authorized by Gary Lambert, Assistant Secretary for Operational Services

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report reflects descriptive statistics of the **Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)** from a variety of perspectives, including a focus on the population as of January 1<sup>st</sup>*

*at the end of the calendar year (2020) in review, the flow of the population during that year and comparisons to previous years.* Given what a unique year 2020 was in light of the coronavirus, it is important to carefully consider such comparisons, particularly with the reduction of admissions (court closings) and increases in releases to maximize the health and well-being of individuals in MA DOC facilities and overall of public-safety. The MA DOC jurisdiction population's historic decline since 2012 (n=11,723) continued through to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (n=6,848). Overall, the total jurisdiction and custody MA DOC populations declined, 42% and 43% respectively, and reflect the lowest incarcerated counts dating back prior to 2000. Due in a large part to the coronavirus pandemic, admissions fell in mid-March 2020 and continued to fall well below the higher rate of releases, resulting in a population decrease from the onset of the pandemic.

January 1, 2021 marks the sixth year of an upward trend where the majority (75%) of criminally sentenced females were incarcerated for a violent (versus non-violent) governing offense. There was a 19 percentage point increase in female violent governing offenses in the last two years. 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 factor is partnerships between MA DOC and County Sheriff Departments resulting in there being fewer pre-trial detainees and county sentenced individuals in MA DOC custody. This reflects more of a shift in where those inmates were incarcerated versus a reduction in the statewide population, inclusive of the county jail and prison population.

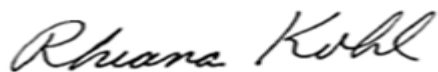
Another notable trend is the continued aging of the population, particularly among male inmates. The average age of 43 years old on January 1, 2021 was up from 39 years old, ten years ago, in 2011. The percentage of inmates 29 years old and under, decreased by 5 percentage points from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2021, while the number of inmates age 60 years old and over increased by 5 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, 42% 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 were under the age of 30 years.

The majority of inmates (74%) in 2020 released from prison under criminal justice supervision (increase of 10% from 2019), 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 1,600 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2020. Fifty-four percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n = 865), meaning they served their sentence in its entirety. The remaining 46% were paroled to the community. On average, males released via parole served 5.8 years before initially being released, an increase from 2019 male parolees. Their average 334 jail credits did not change from 2019; only length of stay increased. Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 4.5 years before releasing to the community – this average did not change from 2019. Females represented 7% of the total releases in 2020 (n = 113). Females released via parole served 3.2 years, on average, and those who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 1.9 years. These figures are both increases from 2019, due in part to the higher proportion of state-sentenced to county-sentenced females in this release cohort.

Significant prison reentry efforts and impacts of crime reform continue to indicate 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 2016 release cohort was 30% remaining relatively stable since 2012 and 13 percentage points lower than ten years earlier (2007). Individuals in the current MA DOC population reflect an overall older and more violent population, serving longer sentences and being at higher risk to recidivate.

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

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 2020*, 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.

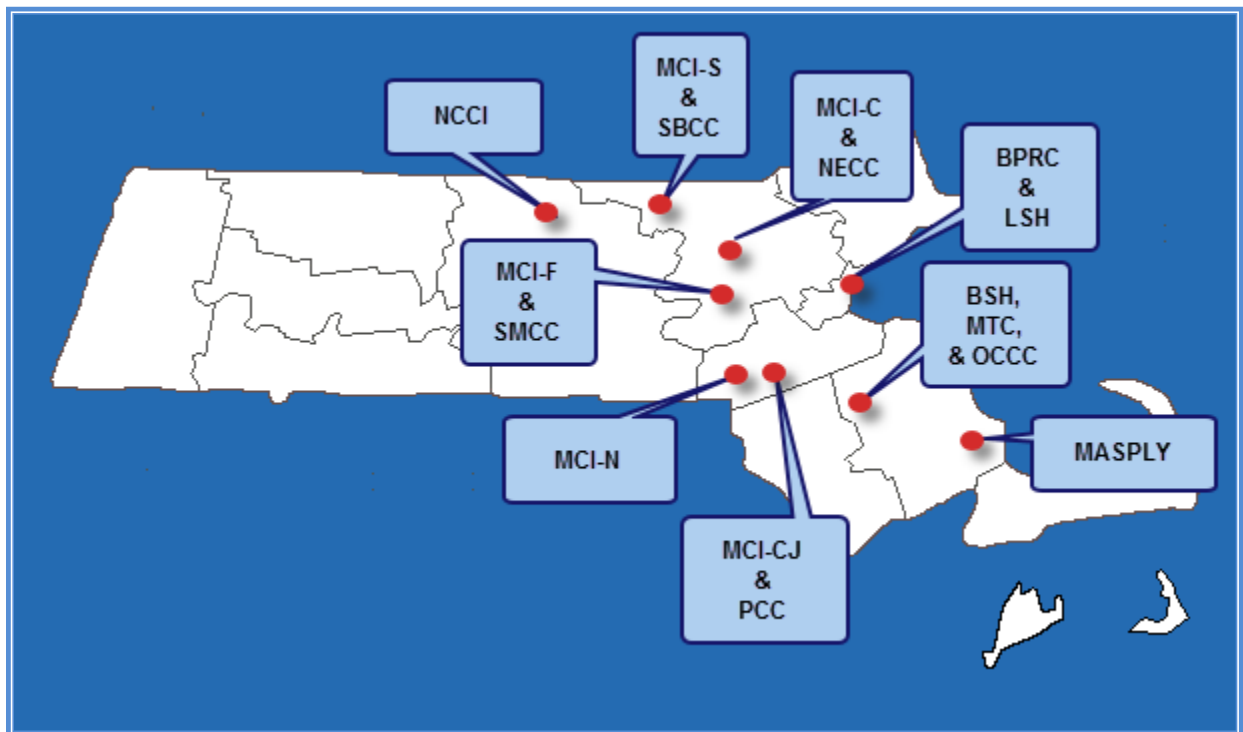
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# Massachusetts DOC 2020 Institution Overview

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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 2020): \$89,423
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 38
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 64
- 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 located at

BPRC which temporarily houses recently paroled inmates, closed in early February 2020. On January 1, 2021, the majority of inmates were minimum security (n=20), with 18 pre-release inmates.

### Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)

*Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1998
- Opened: 1974
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2020): \$310,686
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 198
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 211
- 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 2020): \$331,211
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 15
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 19
- 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, 2021, the population consisted of 7 criminally

sentenced state inmates, 1 criminally sentenced county inmate, and 7 pre-trial detainees. The average age of inmates housed on this date was 60 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 2020): \$234,668
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 21
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 74
- Operational Capacity: 251



Wellpath assumed MASPLY patient care in 2020. 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. As of March 2020, MASPLY no longer houses 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 2020): \$84,559
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 544
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 552
- 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, 2021, there were 377 criminally sentenced inmates, 166 SDPs, and 43 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 2020): \$110,713
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 433
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 478
- Maximum: 419 & Medium: 59
- 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, 2021, MCI-CJ housed 398 criminally sentenced inmates and 35 federal or out of state pre-trial detainees. There were 386 inmates housed in maximum security (66 of those in DDU) and 47 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 2020): \$93,518
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 499
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 558
- 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 2020): \$162,260
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 166
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 193
- 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, 2021, this medium security facility housed 135 criminally sentenced inmates, 30 pre-trial detainees, and (1) civil commitments.

### MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N)

*Norfolk, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2020): \$61,241
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 1,203
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,260
- Operational Capacity: 1,369



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 2020):  
Medium: \$63,109 & Minimum: \$58,460
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 1,047
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,187  
Medium: 966 & Minimum: 221
- Operational Capacity: 1,505  
Medium: 1,129 & Minimum: 376



MCI-S encompasses two facilities housing both medium and minimum custody level inmates. The majority of inmates on January 1, 2021 were in medium security housing units (n=878) with 169 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 2020): \$64,548
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 831
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 895  
Medium: 895 & Minimum: 0\*
- Operational Capacity: 1,024  
Medium: 994 & 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 2020): \$64,171
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 125
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 157
- 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, 2021 were in minimum security housing units (n=93), with 32 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 2020):  
Medium: \$93,885 & Minimum: \$85,406
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 690
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 719  
Medium: 632 & Minimum: 88
- Operational Capacity: 765  
Medium: 605 & 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, 2021 were housed in a medium security unit (n=617), with 73 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 2020): \$71,775
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 109
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 126
- Operational Capacity: 204  
Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



PCC is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 97 minimum and 12 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2021. 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 2020): \$107,594
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 28
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 39
- Operational Capacity: 185  
Minimum: 140 & Pre-Release: 45



SMCC is a facility for criminally sentenced state and county females housing 22 minimum and 6 pre-release inmates on January 1, 2021. 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)**

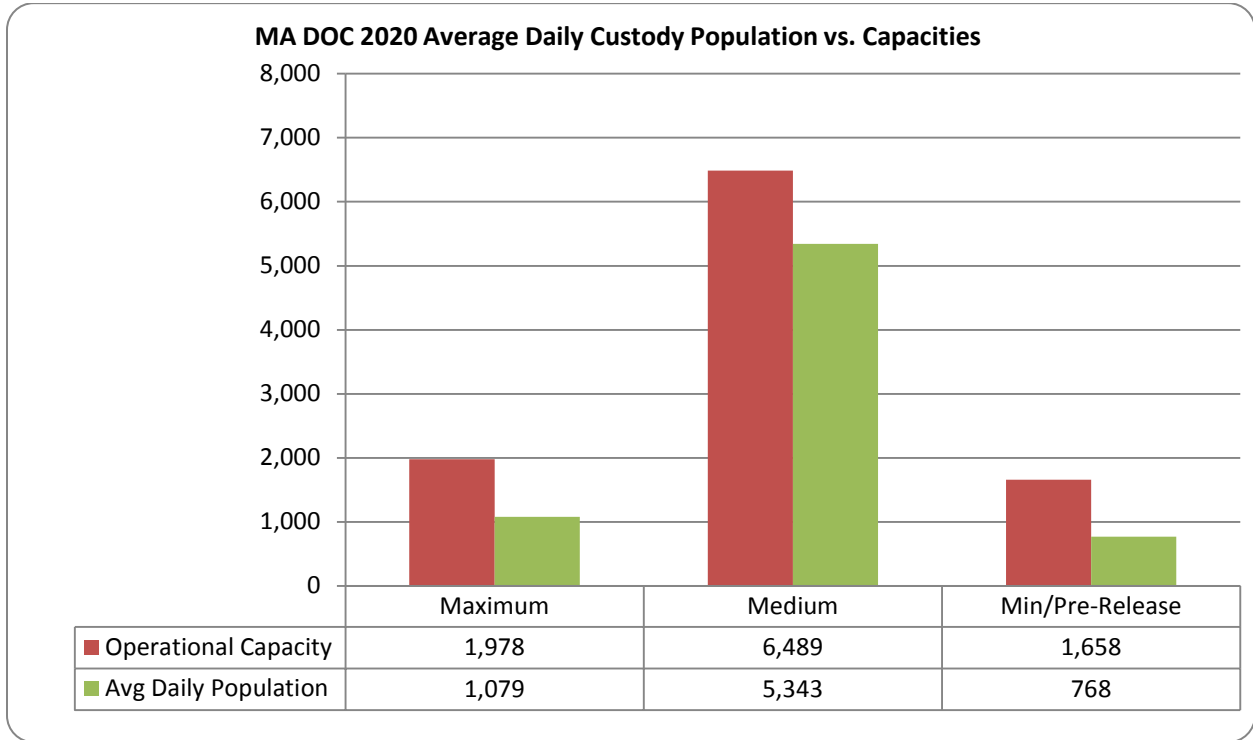
***Shirley, MA***

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per inmate (FY 2020): \$111,674
- January 1, 2021 Facility Population: 621
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 660
- 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



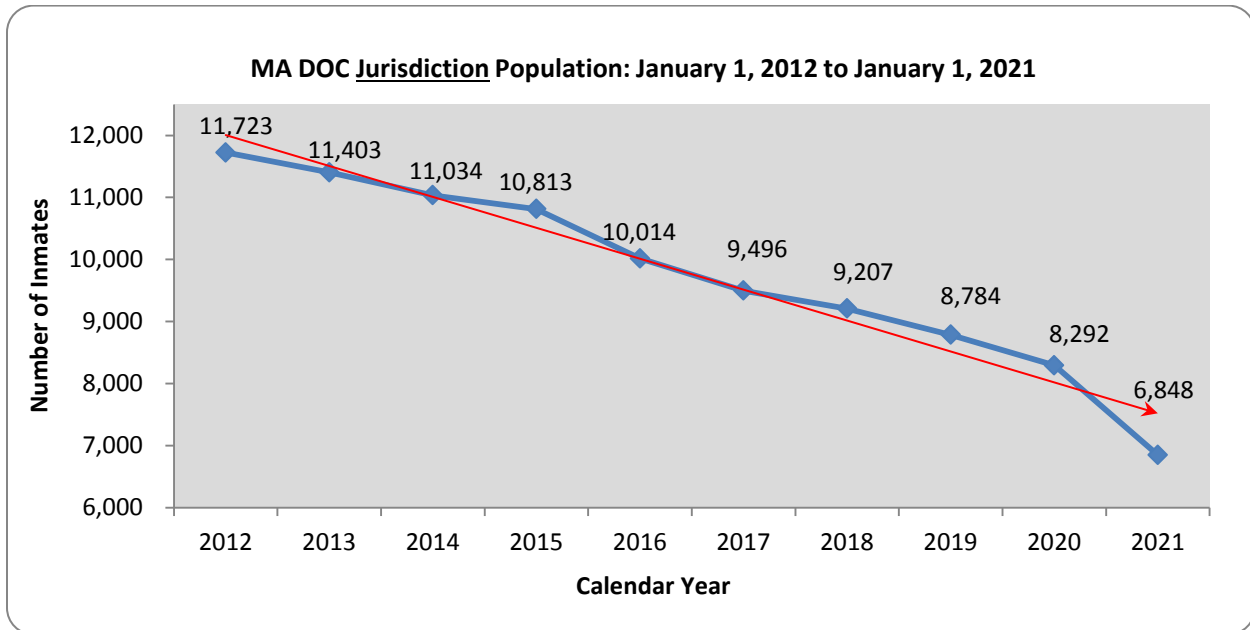
**Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2020**  
 2020 Operational Capacity = 10,125  
 Average Daily Population for 2020 (Custody Population) = 7,190  
 Average Daily Population for 2020 (Jurisdiction Population) = 7,502

- ◆ **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 taken from the January 4, 2021 Weekly Count produced by Research and Planning.

# Massachusetts DOC 2020 Population Trends

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## Population Trends



### Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population continued to decline for the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year, a decrease of 42% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2012 (n=11,723).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, there was a 17% decrease in the jurisdiction population, from 8,292 to 6,848.
- ◆ The overall trend in the MA DOC jurisdiction population shows a decrease of 42% between January 1, 2012 (n=11,723) and January 1, 2021.

### National

- ◆ The estimated number of persons of all commitment types held in state and federal prisons nationally decreased to 1,430,805 at year-end 2019<sup>1</sup>, a 2% decrease (n=33,580), from year-end 2018 (n=1,464,385).<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ After a slight increase in the sentenced state and federal jurisdiction population in 2013, there was a decrease of 9% between year-end 2013 and year-end 2019, the largest decline in more than 38 years. There was a 3% decrease in the federal population (n=4,782) and a 2% decrease in the state population (n=28,798) between year-end 2018 and year-end 2019.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2019 was 419 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, a decrease of 3% from 432 in 2018 overtaking the lowest rate since 1995 (n=411).<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between 2018 and 2019, thirty-five (35) states saw decreases in their state's total jurisdiction population.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Year-end 2019 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (October 2020). *Prisoners in 2019* (NCJ 255115). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

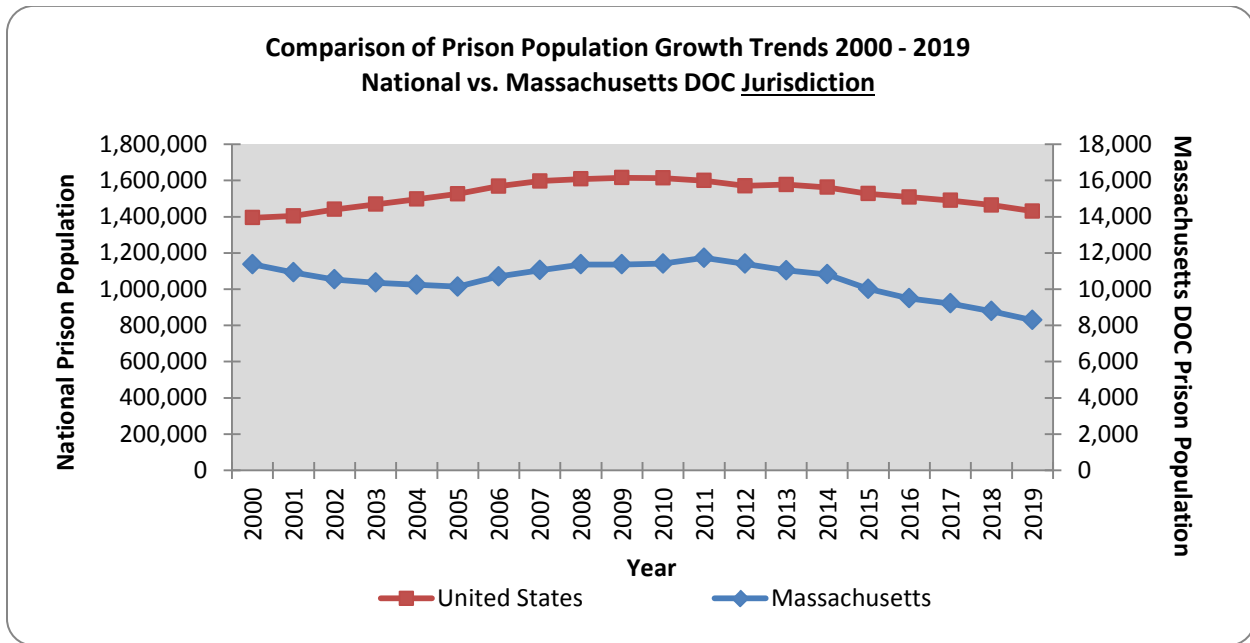
<sup>3</sup> BJS, 2020, pg. 3, table 1.

<sup>4</sup> BJS, 2020, pg. 9, table 5.

<sup>5</sup> BJS, 2020, pg. 3



## Population Trends



**Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 2000 – 2019:**  
**National<sup>6</sup> vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction**

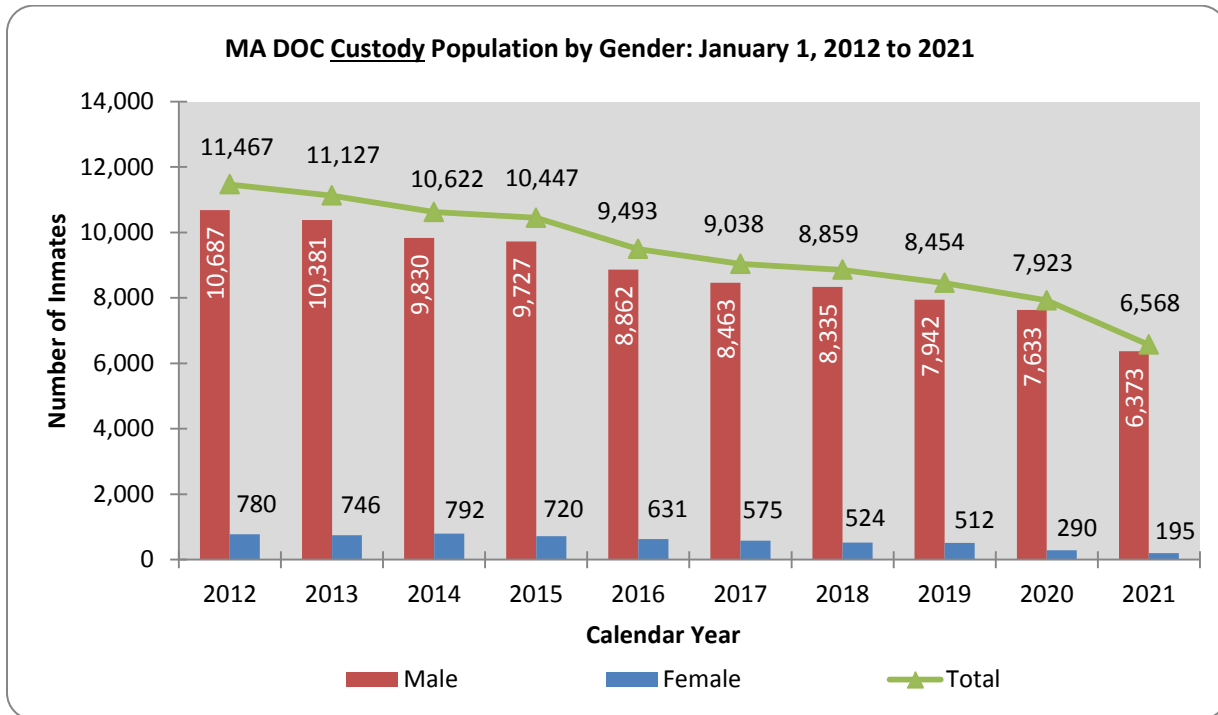
Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
2000	1,394,231	2.2	11,377	-3.5
2001	1,404,032	0.7	10,919	-4.0
2002	1,440,144	2.6	10,534	-3.5
2003	1,468,601	2.0	10,354	-1.7
2004	1,497,100	1.9	10,242	-1.1
2005	1,525,910	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
2018	1,464,385	-1.7	8,784	-4.6
2019	1,430,805	-2.3	8,292	-5.6

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 27% from 11,377 in 2000 to 8,292 in 2019; over the same time period, the national population increased by 3%, from 1,394,231 to 1,430,805.
- ◆ Between the years 2018 and 2019, there was a 6% (n=492) decrease in the Massachusetts jurisdiction population. Since 2011, the Massachusetts prison population had a cumulative decrease of 29% (n=3,431).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 16% from 2000 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 11% from 2010 to 2019. The largest yearly decline in the national prison population during the observed trend period from 2000 to 2019 was between 2014 to 2015 and 2018 to 2019, both showing a 2% decrease.

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (October 2020). *Prisoners in 2019* (NCJ 255115). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.



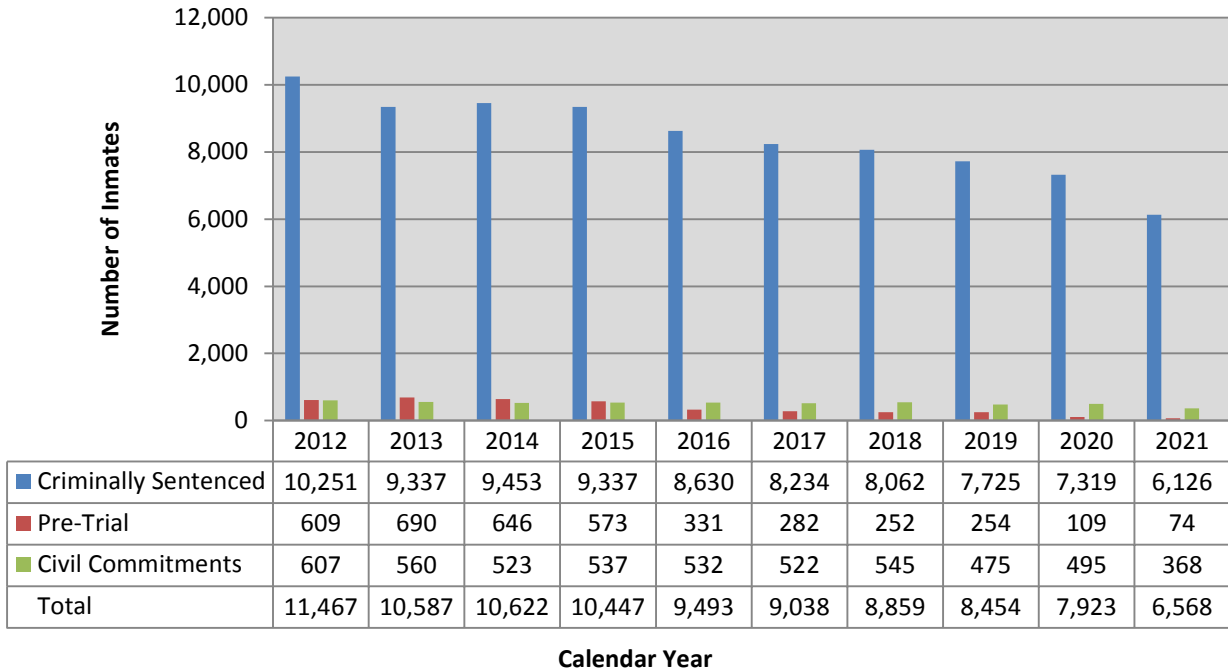
## Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) custody population has shown a drastic decrease in our prison population of 43% between January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2021. Over the 10 year period there has been a steady decrease of the total custody population with the most significant one year decrease over the trend period being 17% when comparing January 1, 2020 to 2021. January 1, 2021 had the lowest total custody population of the 10 year trend with 6,568 inmates, down from 7,923 the year previous.
- ◆ The male custody population dropped from a high of 10,687 in 2012 to a low of 6,373 on January 1, 2021 which drove the 43% decrease in the total custody population over that same time period.
- ◆ The female population experienced more fluctuations than its male counterpart during the 10 year time frame. Females saw a 4% decrease from 2012 to 2013, a 6% increase between 2013 and 2014, and in the past eight years (2014-2021) the female custody population in the MA DOC has decreased drastically by 75%. This decrease was driven by several Massachusetts Counties taking their criminally (county) sentenced and pre-trial detainees 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.

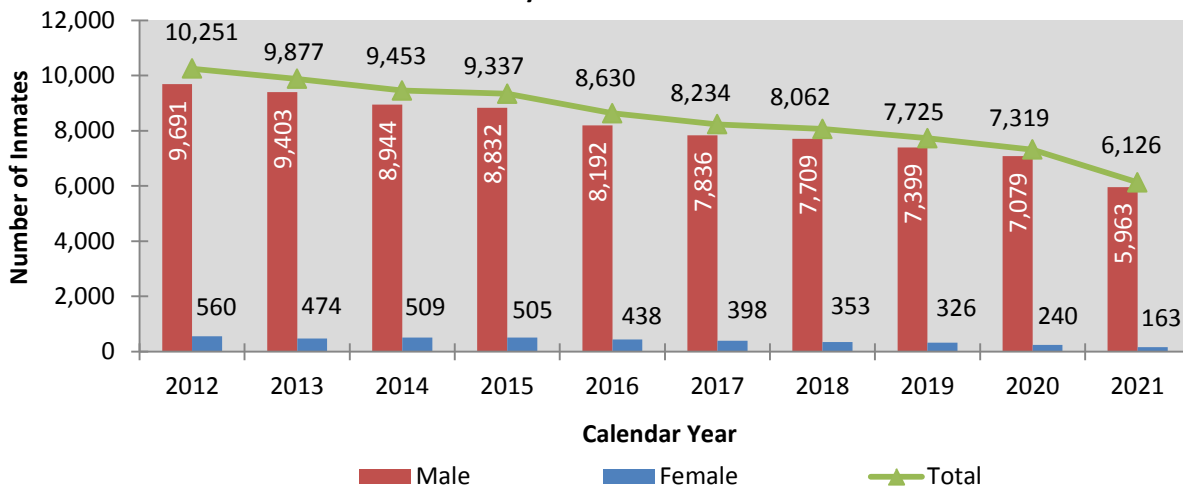
## Population Trends

**MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2012 to 2021**



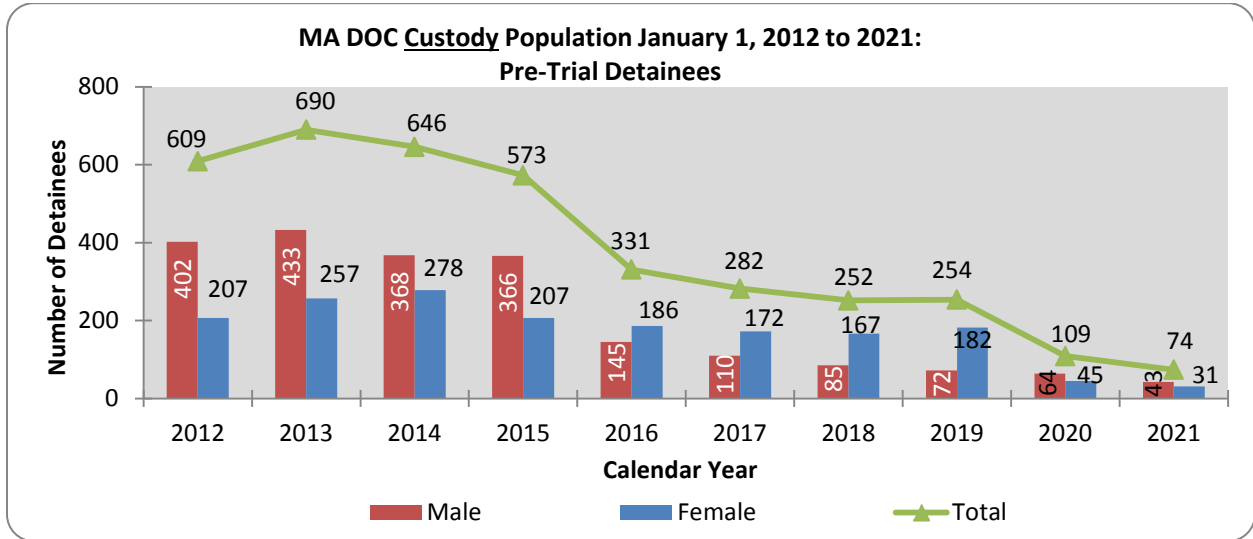
The Massachusetts DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (40%), pre-trial detainees (88%), and civilly committed (39%) populations between January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2021. The population that showed the largest percentage decline of the three commitment types was the pre-trial population with an 89% decrease from 2013-2021.

**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2012 to 2021:  
Criminally Sentenced Inmates**

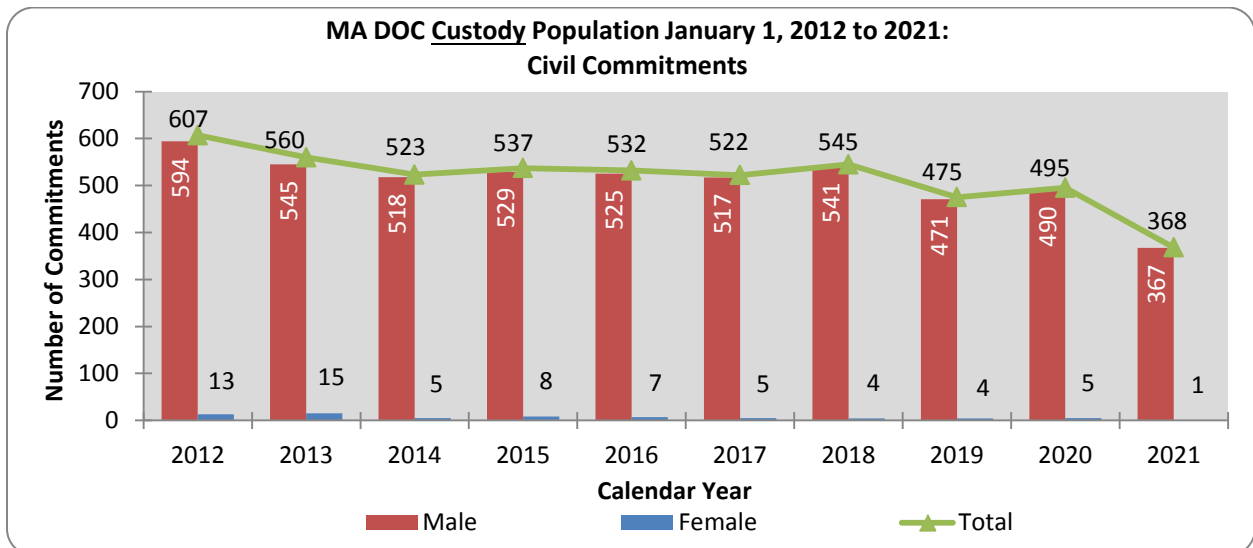


- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates composed 93% of the Massachusetts DOC custody population on January 1, 2021.
- ◆ From 2012 through 2021, both the male and female populations have experienced a decrease, 38% and 71% respectively. Peaking at 10,251 inmates in 2012 the total criminally sentenced population has shown a steady decrease for the entire trend period.

## Population Trends

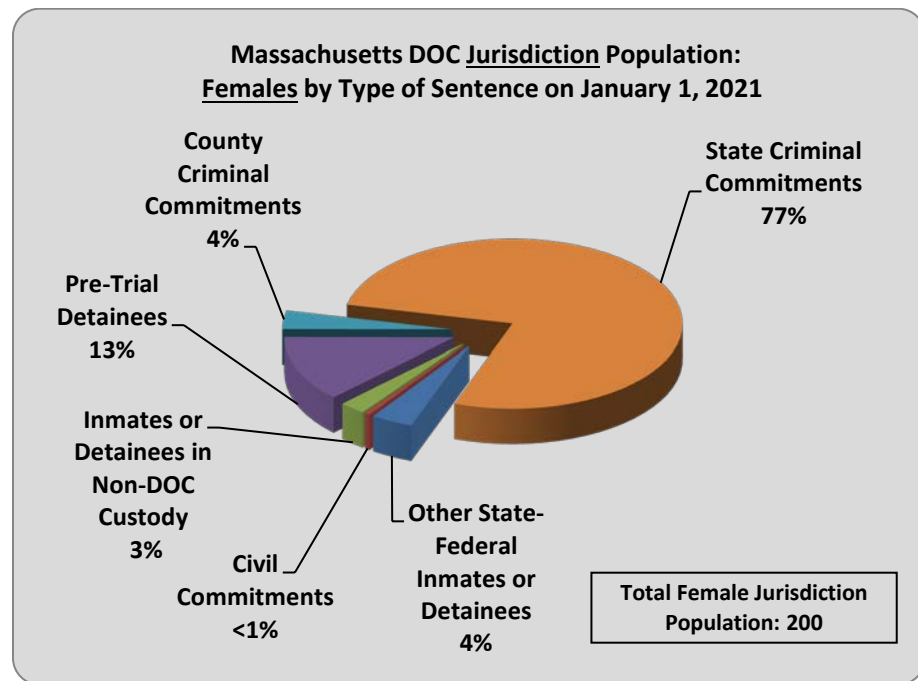
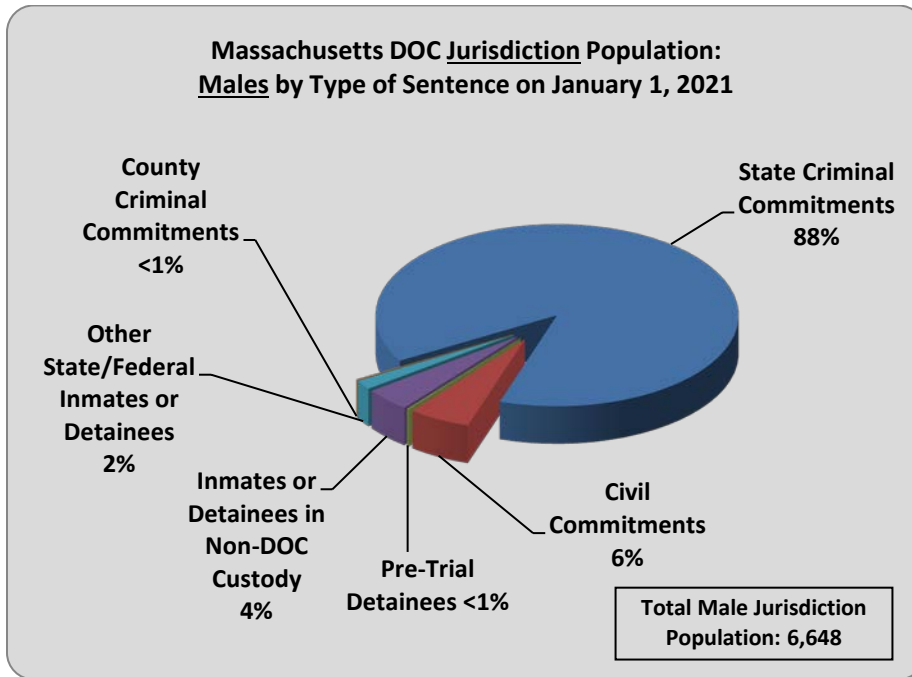


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased 88% between 2012 and 2021.
- ◆ In 2012, males made up 66% of the pre-trial population compared to 57% in 2014 and then was ultimately exceeded by females (56%) in 2016 with males only consisting of 44% of pre-trial commitments. This trend continued into 2019, 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 (county) sentenced and pre-trial detainees into their own custody.



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consisted almost entirely of male inmates (99%) on January 1, 2021. This population has fluctuated many times over the trend period. Most notably a 14% decrease from 2012 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. 2021 saw a new drastic decrease of 26% when comparing 2020-2021 largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic affecting all facets of the MA DOC.
- ◆ 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 1 in 2021 and a high of 15 in 2013.

## Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were state criminal commitments (88%) on January 1, 2021.
- ◆ In previous years female state criminal commitments represented a smaller portion of their total commitments (39% in 2019 versus 66% in 2020 and now 77% in 2021) compared to males (88% in 2020 and 2021) due to the MA DOC housing numerous counties' female inmates due to capacity issues/lack of housing. This trend shifted in 2020 because several Massachusetts Counties are now able to take criminally (county) sentenced and pre-trial detainees into their own custody.

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

## Massachusetts DOC 2020 Inmate Characteristics

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

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### **Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2021**

- ◆ 6,648 total males in the jurisdiction population: 6,114 criminally sentenced, 43 pre-trial detainees, and 491 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (2,734), Black (1,917), Hispanic (1,783), Asian (112), Other (63), American Indian/ Native Alaskan (39)
- ◆ Average age was 43 years old (youngest inmate was 18 years old and oldest inmate was 87 years old)
- ◆ 98% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 78% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 390 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2016 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 29% for the total male population
- ◆ 38% were open mental health cases, 31% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 28% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2020

Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

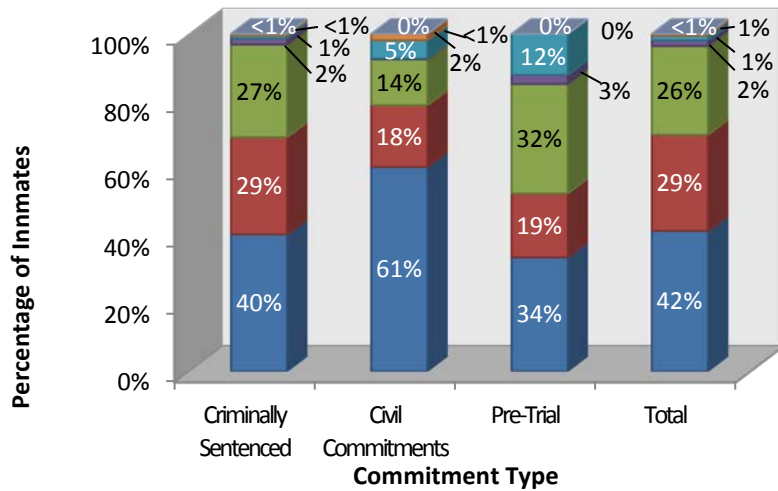
### **Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2021**

- ◆ 200 total females in the jurisdiction population: 168 criminally sentenced, 31 pre-trial detainees, and 1 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (117), Black (35), Other (28), Hispanic (17), Asian (2), Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (1)
- ◆ Average age was 42 years old (youngest inmate was 20 years old and oldest inmate was 76 years old)
- ◆ 93% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 75% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 11 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2016 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 31% for the total female population
- ◆ 70% were open mental health cases, 67% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 63% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2020

Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

## Inmate Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**

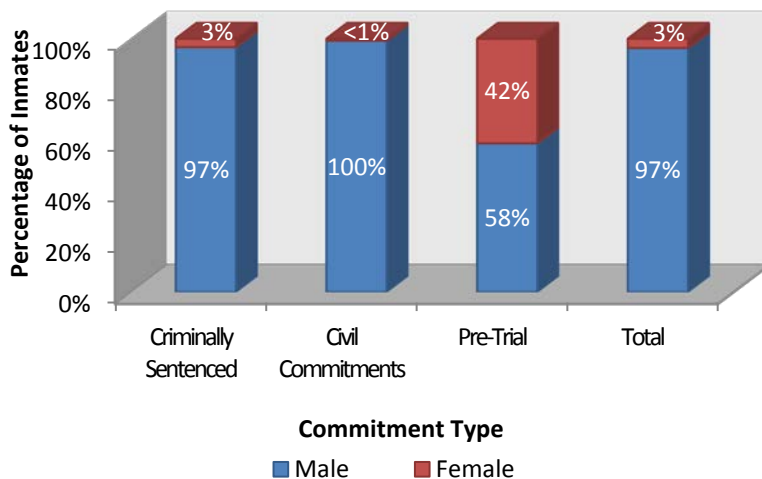
Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	2,528	298	25	2,851
Black	1,848	90	14	1,952
Hispanic	1,709	67	24	1,800
Asian	111	1	2	114
Other	55	27	9	91
Native American	30	9	0	39
Pacific Islander	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6,848</b>

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

■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ Asian ■ Other ■ Native Amer. ■ Pacific Island.  
 \*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 (29% and 26% respectively), which was mirrored in each commitment type with the exception of pre-trial detainees. There was little change in proportions from last year with the exception of pre-trial detainees, which experienced percentage point decreases in White (9%), Black (4%), and Native American (2%) inmates and small increases in Hispanic (6%), Other inmates (6%) and Asian inmates (2%).

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**



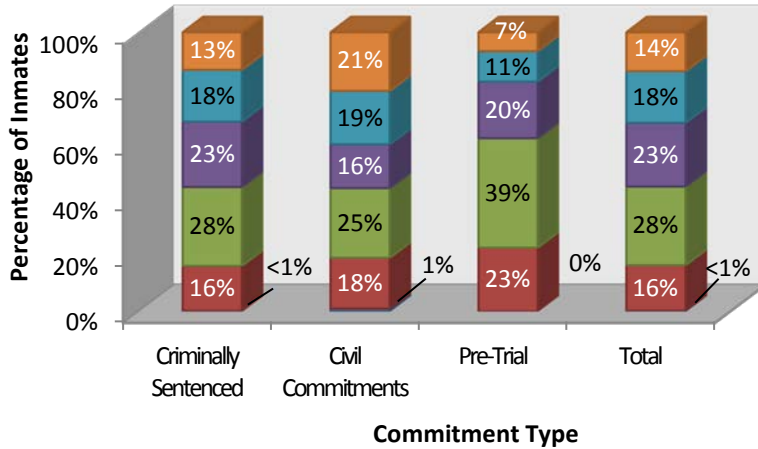
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Gender and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	6,114	491	43	6,648
Female	168	1	31	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6,848</b>

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males with 97% and almost 100% respectively. This year, pre-trial detainees continued to see a greater proportion of males (58%) versus females (42%), with males experiencing a slight one percentage point decrease while females experienced a one percentage point increase from January 1, 2020.

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

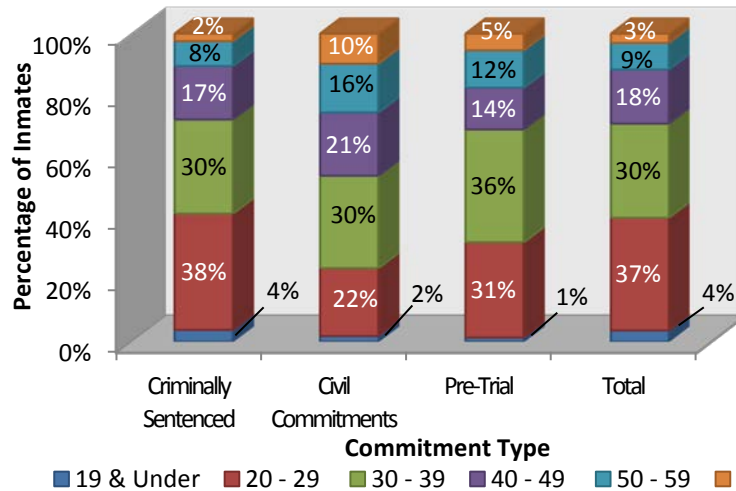
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	843	103	5	951
50 - 59	1,162	94	8	1,264
40 - 49	1,467	77	15	1,559
30 - 39	1,781	123	29	1,933
20 - 29	1,021	90	17	1,128
19 & Under	8	5	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6,848</b>

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2021**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	155	48	4	207
50 - 59	506	78	9	593
40 - 49	1,090	101	10	1,201
30 - 39	1,908	147	27	2,082
20 - 29	2,384	109	23	2,516
19 & Under	239	9	1	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6,848</b>

- ◆ As of January 1, 2021, 45% (n = 2,802) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 3,472 inmates (55%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 4,292 inmates in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (68%) with 2,384 inmates between ages 20-29 (38%).
- ◆ Criminally sentenced inmates, who comprised the majority of the jurisdiction population, mirrored the total jurisdiction population with 86% between the ages 20-49 at the time of incarceration and 68% between the ages 20 – 49 on January 1, 2021.
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age on January 1, 2021 to age at incarceration. Sixty-two percent of pre-trial detainees were between the ages of 20 and 39 on January 1, 2021, while 68% 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, 2021, Date of Commitment, and Date of Release in 2020**

Gender	Inmate Type	Average Age		
		1/1/2021	Commitment	Release
Female	Criminal	43	37	38
	Civil	35	34	33
	Pre-Trial	37	37	35
	<b>Female Total</b>	42	37	36
Male	Criminal	43	34	40
	Civil	45	40	38
	Pre-Trial	39	38	40
	<b>Male Total</b>	43	34	39
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>

Civilly committed males were the oldest inmates on average on January 1, 2021 (45) and at time of commitment (40). Criminally sentenced and pre-trial males (40) were the oldest releases on average during 2020. On January 1, 2021 inmates ranged in age from 18 through 87 years old.

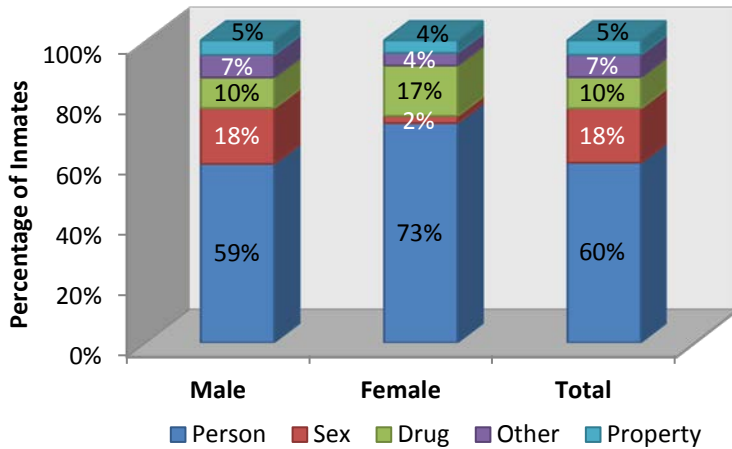
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Five Year Comparison of Specialty Age Groups January 1, 2017 – January 1, 2021**

Age Range		Year				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
29 and Under	Number	2,069	1,933	1,705	1,579	1,141
	% of Population	22%	21%	19%	19%	17%
60 and Over	Number	886	931	983	1,011	951
	% of Population	9%	10%	11%	12%	14%
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>9,496</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>8,784</b>	<b>8,292</b>	<b>6,848</b>

The percentage of inmates 29 years old and under decreased by five percentage points from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2021, while the number of inmates age 60 years old and over increased by five 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, 2021**

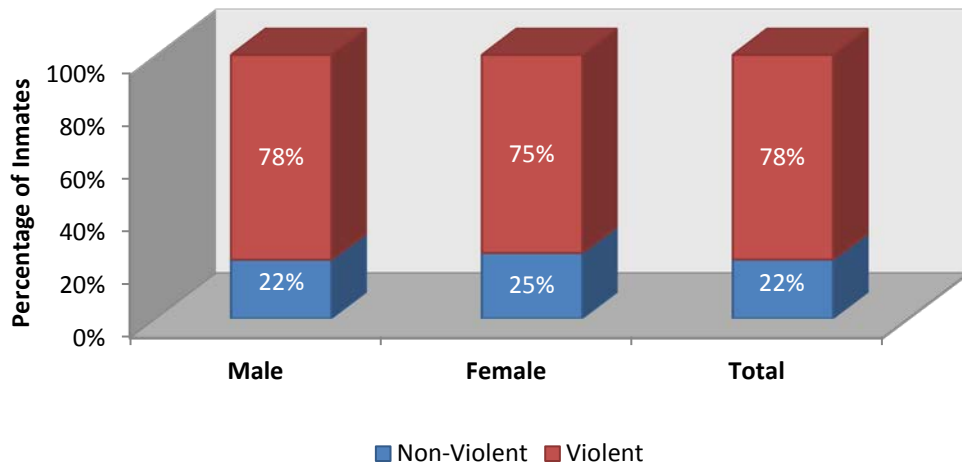


**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Gender on January 1, 2021**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	3,616	122	3,738
	Sex	1,127	4	1,131
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	620	28	648
	Other	456	7	463
	Property	295	7	302
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,114</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>6,282</b>

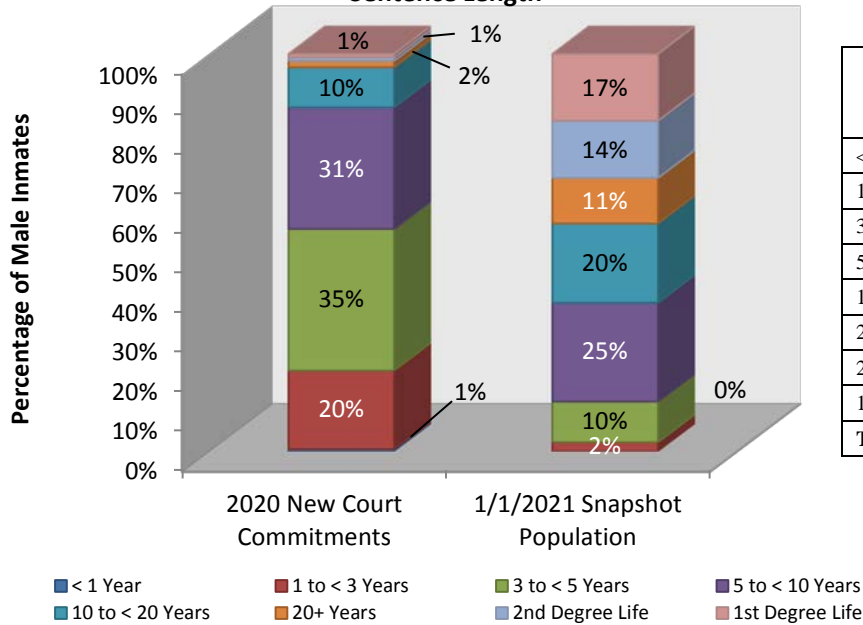
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for the total criminally sentenced population on January 1, 2021 were person (60%), sex (18%), and drug offenses (10%). For males, the top three governing offenses were also person (59%), sex (18%), and drug (10%).
- ◆ Differing slightly from their male counterparts, the top three offenses for females were person offenses (73%), drug offenses (17%), and both property and other offenses (4%).
- ◆ For the sixth year, the majority of criminally sentenced female inmates (75%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Males increased from the previous year (73%) with 78% incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Gender on January 1, 2021**



## Inmate Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

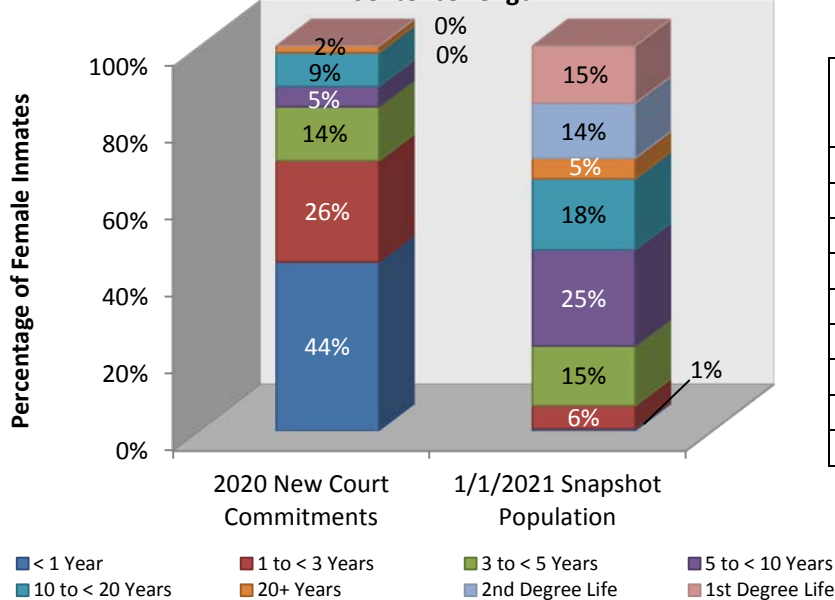
**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2020 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2021 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length



**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2020 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2021 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2020 New Court Commitments	1/1/2021 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	4	0
1 to < 3 Years	137	143
3 to < 5 Years	243	630
5 to < 10 Years	210	1,528
10 to < 20 Years	69	1,209
20+ Years	11	698
2nd Degree Life	6	880
1st Degree Life	6	1,026
<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>6,114</b>

**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2020 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2021 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length



**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2020 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2021 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2020 New Court Commitments	1/1/2021 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	25	1
1 to < 3 Years	15	10
3 to < 5 Years	8	26
5 to < 10 Years	3	42
10 to < 20 Years	5	31
20+ Years	1	9
2nd Degree Life	0	24
1st Degree Life	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>168</b>

The comparisons of 2020's new court commitments to the January 1, 2021, 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 31% of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised 2% of new court commitments.

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

In 2020, 70% of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only 7% of females in the January 1, 2021 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, 87% of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only 38% of the males in the January 1, 2021 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 were serving county sentences in the custody of MA DOC, which are shorter terms than state sentences.

Between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, the percentage of state, criminally sentenced female inmates in the MA DOC jurisdiction decreased by 5%, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced female inmates increased by 2%. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2021:

- ◆ 80% (n=160) were state sentenced
- ◆ 16% (n=32) were county sentenced
- ◆ 4% (n=8) 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-seven percent of criminally sentenced males were serving a maximum sentence length of 3 years or more on a violent governing offense. Criminally sentenced females who were serving a maximum sentence length of 3 years or more on a violent governing offense made up seventy-one percent of the female sentenced population, with three percent of criminally sentenced females serving a maximum sentence length of less than 3 years for a non-violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2021:  
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Gender**

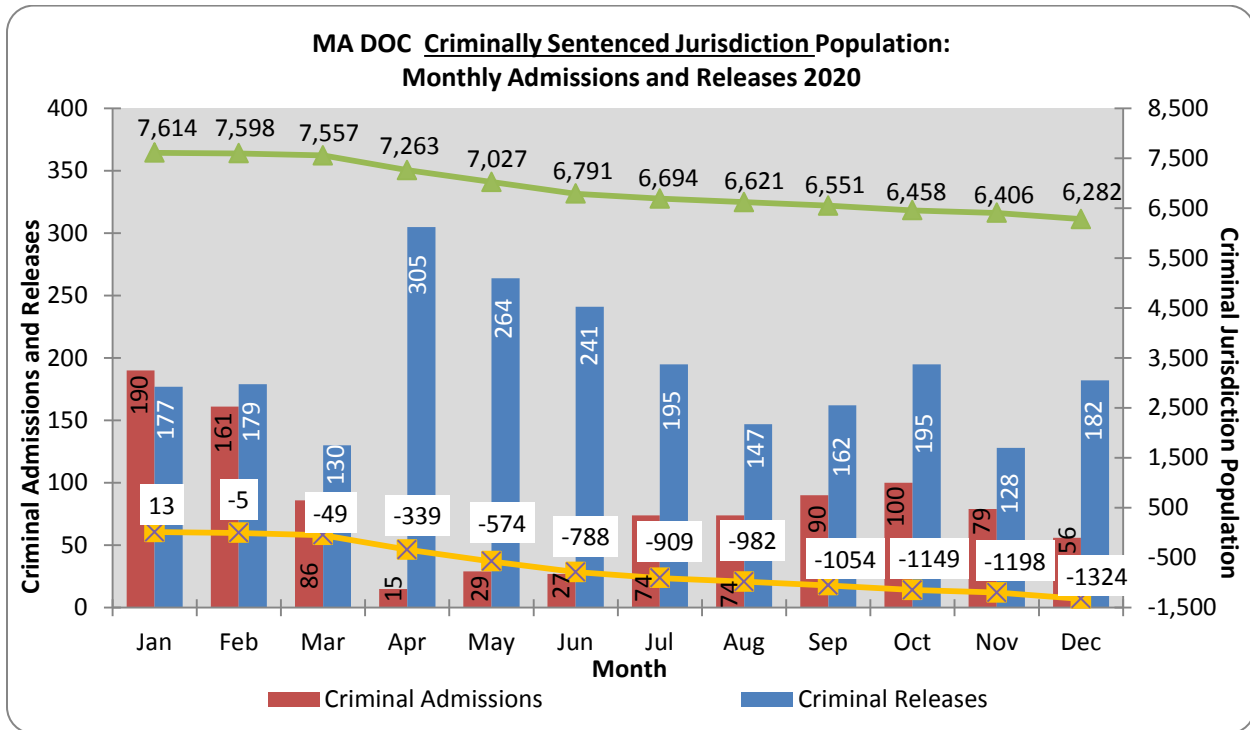
	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	52	3,564	6	116	58	3,680
	SEX	6	1,121	0	4	6	1,125
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	40	580	4	24	44	604
	PROPERTY	23	272	0	7	23	279
	OTHER	22	434	1	6	23	440
TOTALS		143	5,971	11	157	154	6,128
		6,114		168		6,282	

On January 1, 2021 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=620) for criminally sentenced males (10%) and second largest for females (17%). A majority (62%) of drug offenders were serving governing sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. A total of 401 inmates serving a mandatory drug governing offense: 390 males and 11 females.

## Massachusetts DOC 2020 Admissions and Releases

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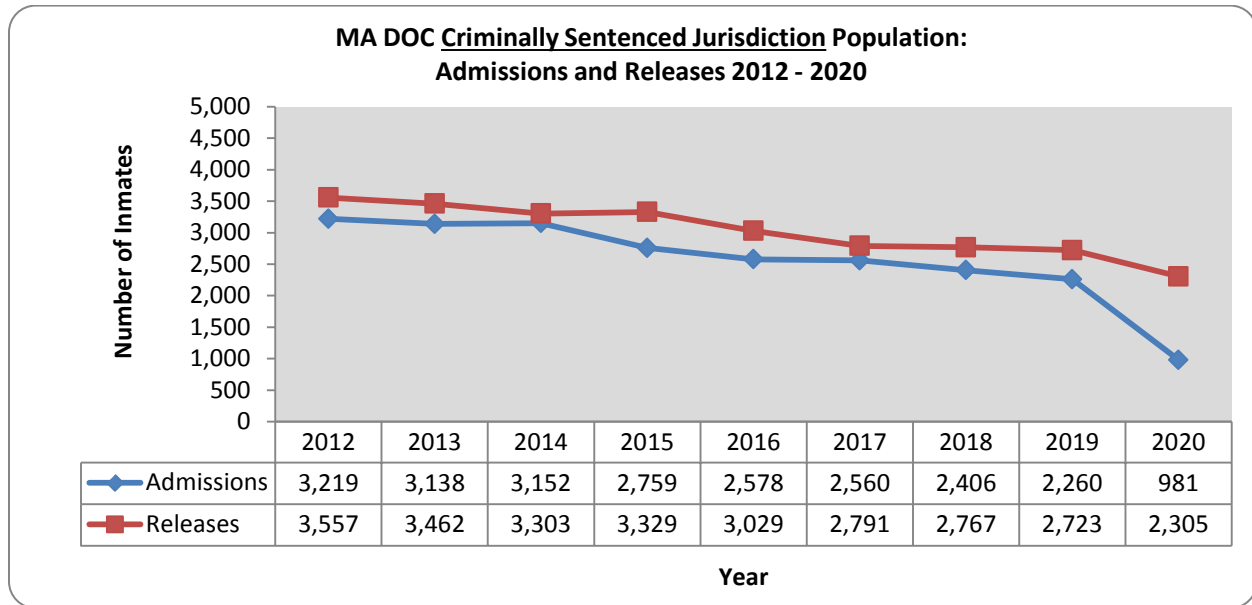
## Admissions and Releases



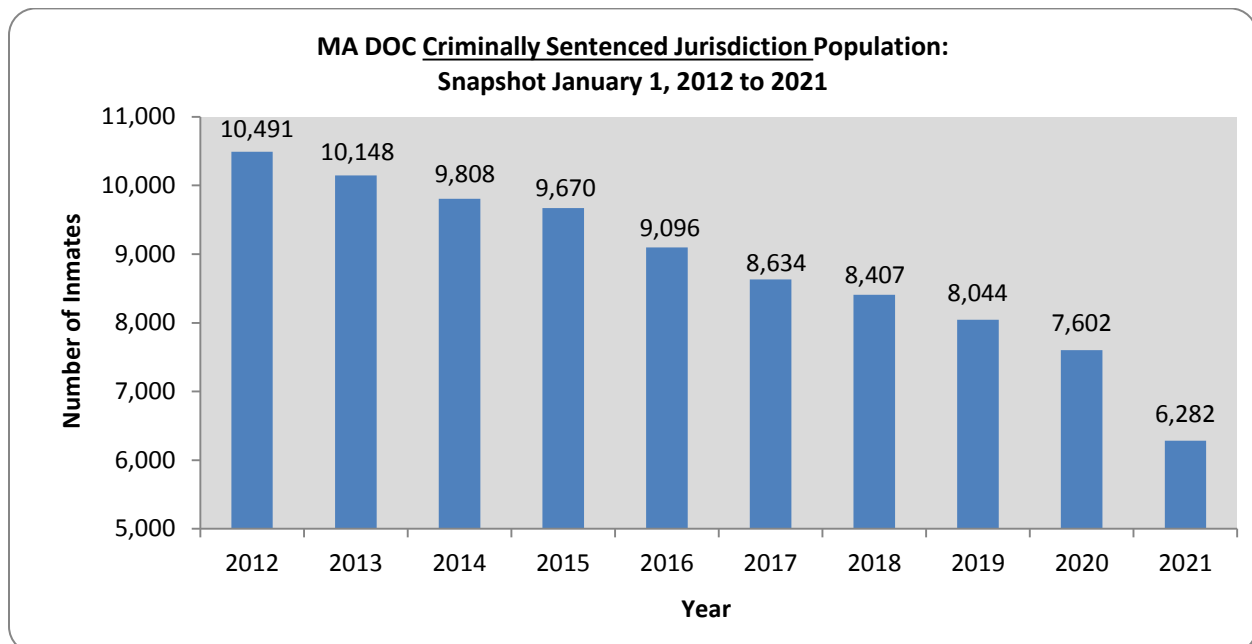
**Note:** Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2020 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was less than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 82 per month and criminal releases averaging 192.
- ◆ During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 15 in April, and 190 in January. Criminal releases ranged between 128 in November, and 305 in April.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 1,324 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2020 was 6,282, a 17% decrease from the population at the end of 2019, at 7,602. This rate of decrease was more than the decrease seen when comparing years end 2019 and 2018 criminally sentenced populations. Much of this shift in the population lowering is related to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Admissions and Releases



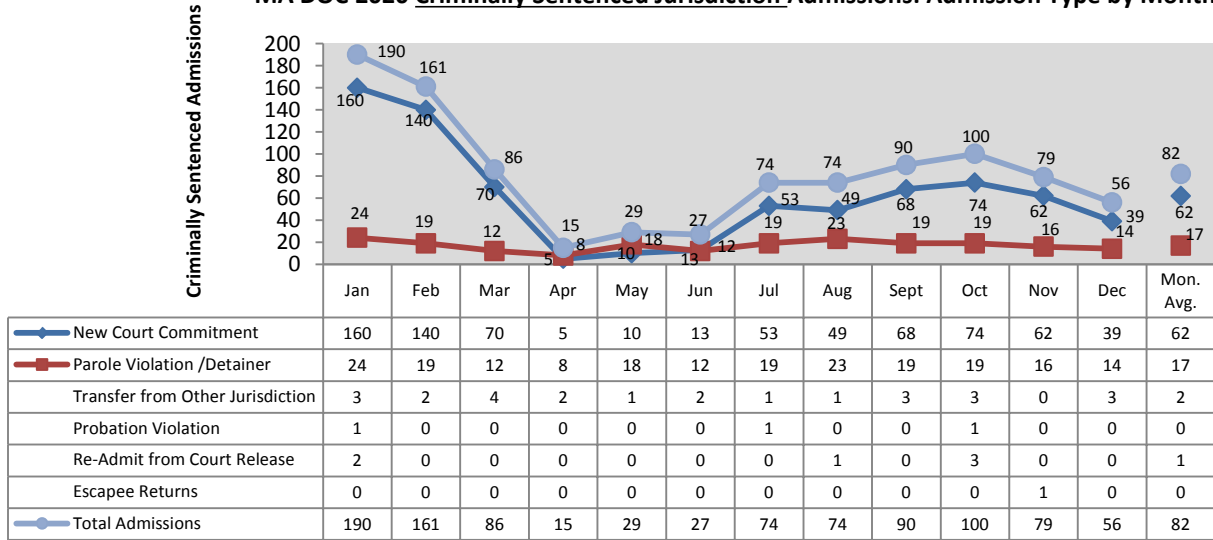
Over the past eight years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal admissions exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal releases. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 11% each year; criminal admissions during 2020 and 2015 had the largest declines of 57% and 12% respectively. Releases also saw an average annual decrease of 5%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2020 and 2016, 15% and 9% respectively.



The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 40% from 2012 to 2021, averaging a 5% decrease per year. This population saw its largest yearly decrease of over 17% between 2020 and 2021 due to changes resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

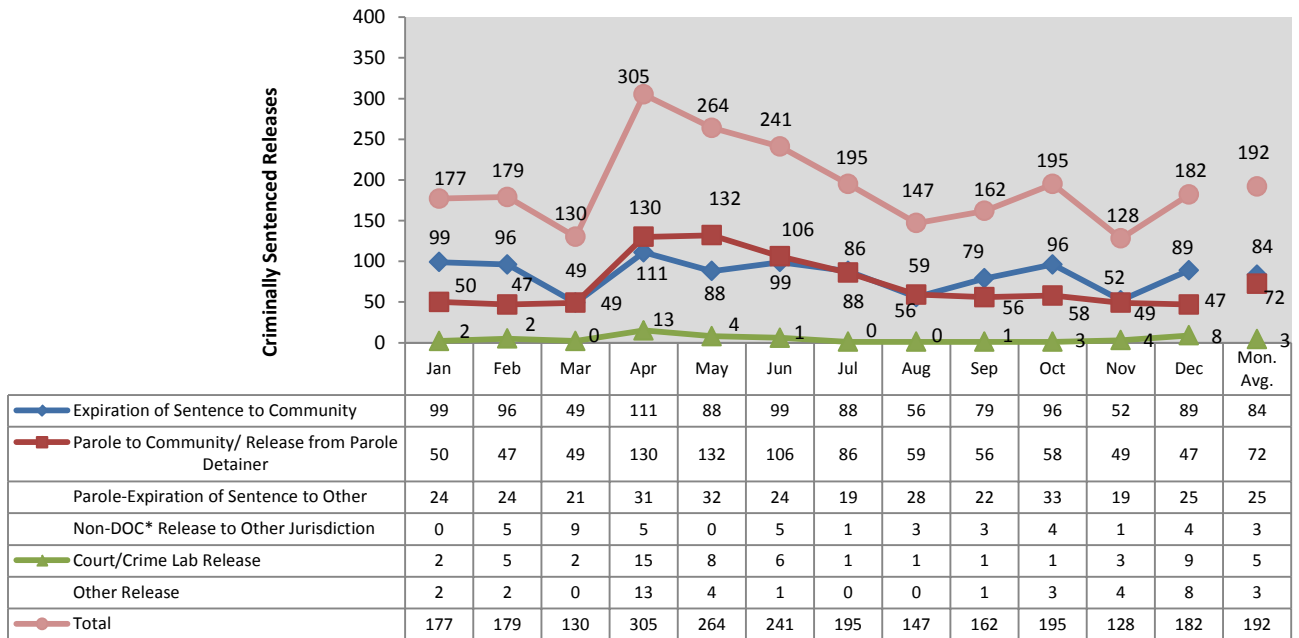
## Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2020 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 5 to 160 with a monthly average of 62, ninety-eight fewer than the monthly average in 2019. Total criminal admissions ranged from 15 to 190 for a monthly average of 82, one hundred and six fewer than the 2019 monthly average of 188.

MA DOC 2020 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 2020 ranged between 128 and 305 for a given month and averaged 192; thirty-five fewer than the monthly average from 2019 of 227. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 84 releases per month during 2020, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer peaked in April, May and June, the three months after the outbreak of Covid-19 in March. Parole-related releases to the community resulted in 38% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2020; much higher than 2019 releases, at 22%.



## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC 2020 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	57	66%	686	77%	743	76%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	23	27%	180	20%	203	21%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	2	2%	23	3%	25	3%
Probation Violation	3	3%	0	0%	3	< 1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	1	< 1%	5	< 1%	6	< 1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	1	< 1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>100%</b>

During 2020, 77% of male and 66% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments. The percentage of new court commitments decreased from the percentage of male and female criminally sentenced admissions during 2019, which were 86% for males and 84% for females.

### **MA DOC 2020 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	76	44%	926	43%	1,002	43%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	67	39%	802	38%	869	38%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	13	8%	289	14%	302	13%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	11	6%	29	1%	40	2%
Court Release / Crime Lab	4	2%	50	2%	54	2%
Other Release	1	1%	37	2%	38	2%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- ◆ Releases to the community are a subset of all releases consisting of: expiration of sentence to community, parole to community/release from parole detainer, and court release/crime lab. Of the 1,925 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2020, approximately 52% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 45% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and 3% were court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ Females accounted for 8% of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2020; 8% of total expirations of sentence to the community, 8% of total paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 7% of total court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 37 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2020: 36 males and 1 female.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated prisoner can be given compassionate release. In 2020, 29 inmates were released using medical parole: all males.

## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2018 - 2020**

Admission Type	2018		2019		2020	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	2,085	87%	1,924	85%	743	76%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	223	9%	252	11%	203	21%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	77	3%	59	3%	25	3%
Probation Violation	17	1%	13	< 1%	3	< 1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	3	< 1%	9	< 1%	6	< 1%
Escapee Return	1	< 1%	3	< 1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>100%</b>

- ◆ From 2018 to 2020, the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments went down moderately from 87% to 76%. The number of admissions who were new court commitments dropped substantially from 2,085 in 2018 to 743 in 2020, a far more sizeable 64% decrease compared with the 14% drop between 2017 and 2019.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, increased between 2018 and 2019 from 223 to 252. It then decreased to 203 in 2020. Its percentage of all criminal admissions, on the other hand, jumped from 9% in 2018 to 21% in 2020.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2018 to 2020 saw its lowest point in 2020, down 59% from 2018 owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020.

### **MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2018 - 2020**

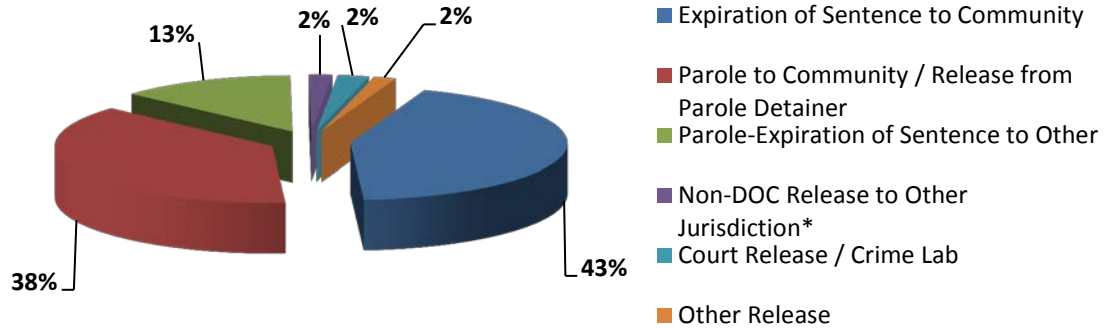
Release Type	2018		2019		2020	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	1,527	55%	1,443	53%	1,002	43%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	593	21%	609	22%	869	38%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	389	14%	402	15%	302	13%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	169	6%	180	7%	40	2%
Court Release / Crime Lab	48	2%	58	2%	54	2%
Other Release	41	1%	31	1%	38	2%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,305</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, seeing its lowest point in 2020 when it was 34% lower than the height in 2018. Expiration of sentence to the community decreased by close to 6% between 2018 and 2019, followed by another 31% decrease during 2020.

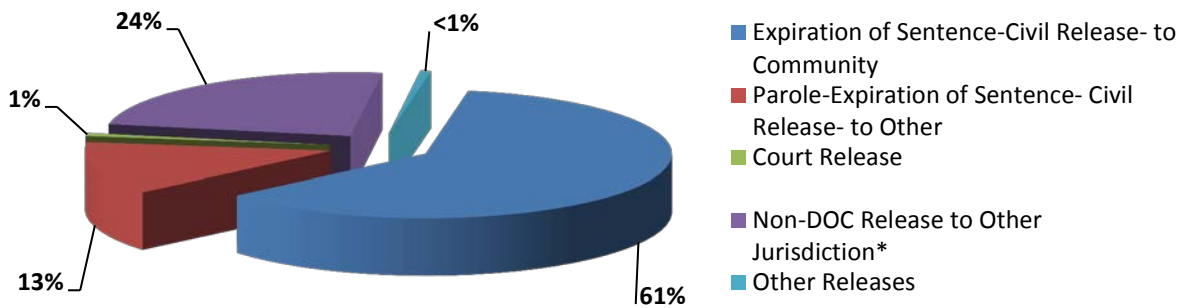
## Releases by Release Type

**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



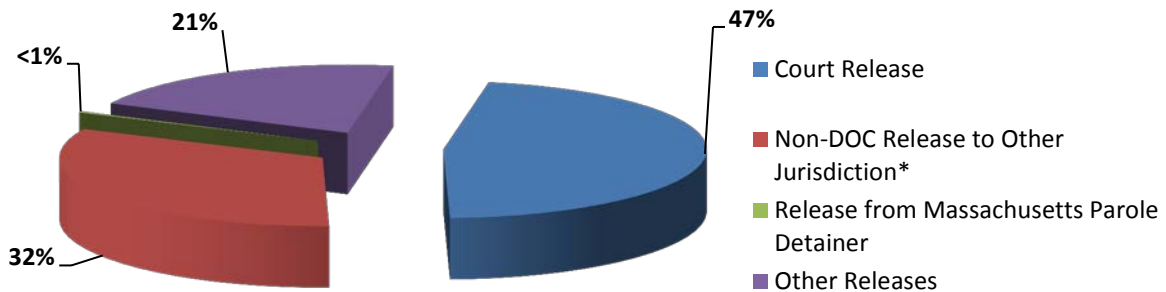
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

**MA DOC 2020 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



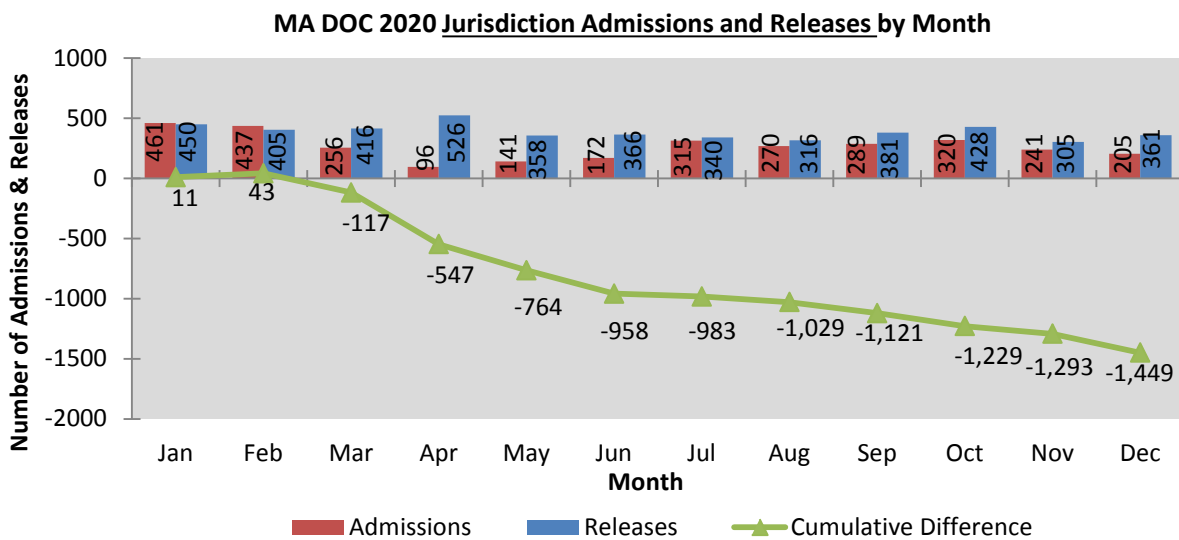
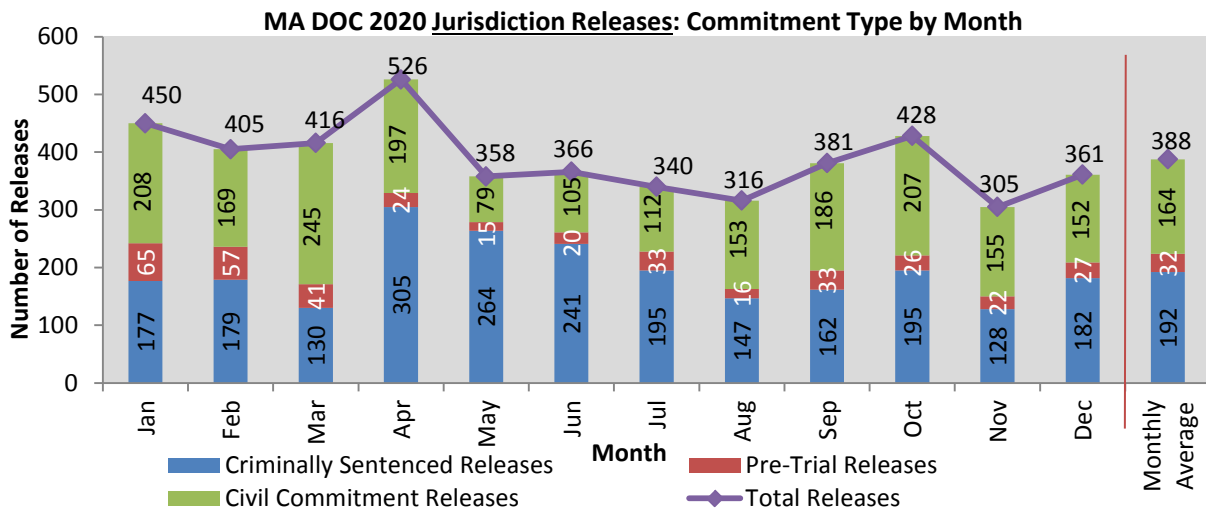
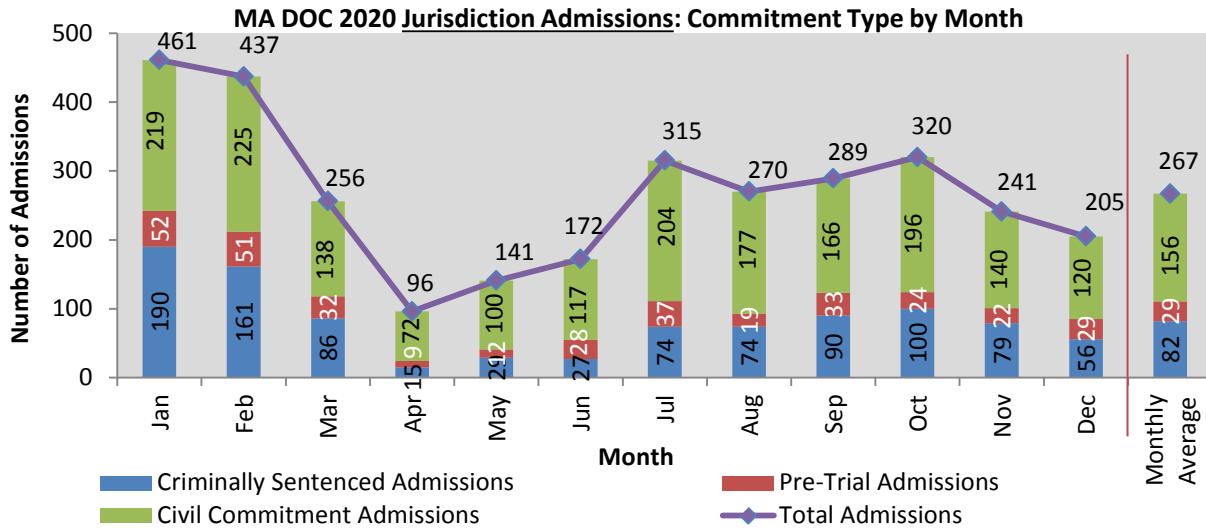
\*Refers to non-DOC inmates from county or another state's jurisdiction released to county or another state's jurisdiction.

**MA DOC 2020 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



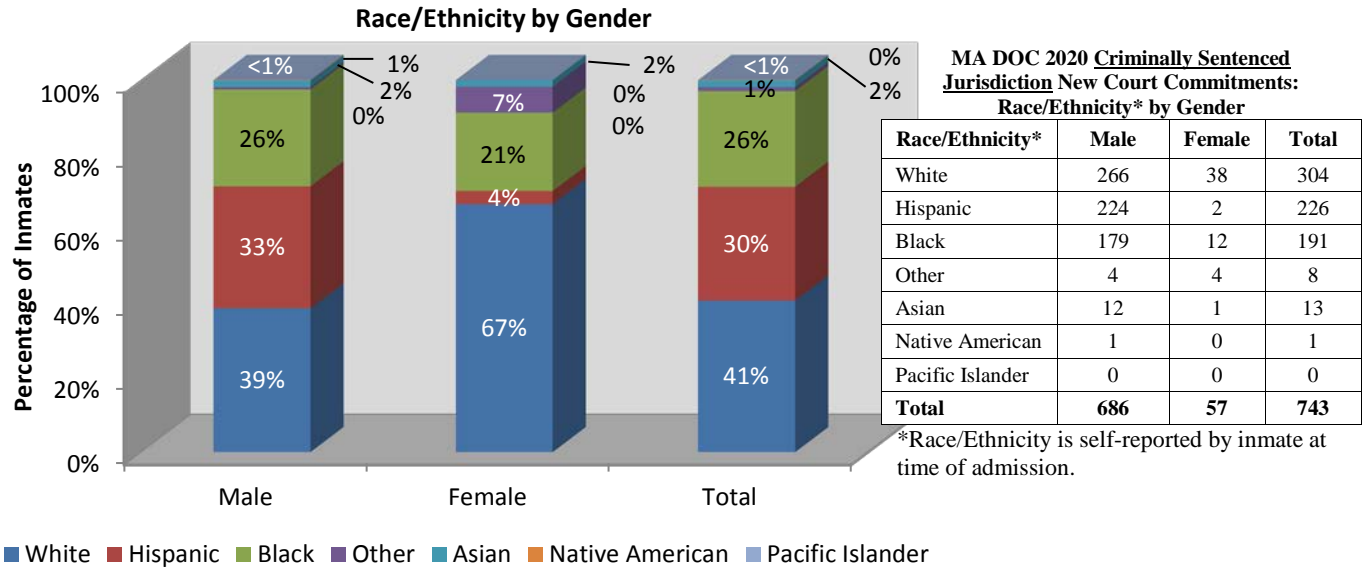
During 2020, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a downward trend, ending in an overall cumulative decrease of 1,449 inmates. This was a 187% increase compared to the cumulative decrease of 505 inmates seen during 2019.

## Massachusetts DOC 2020 Admissions by New Court Commitments

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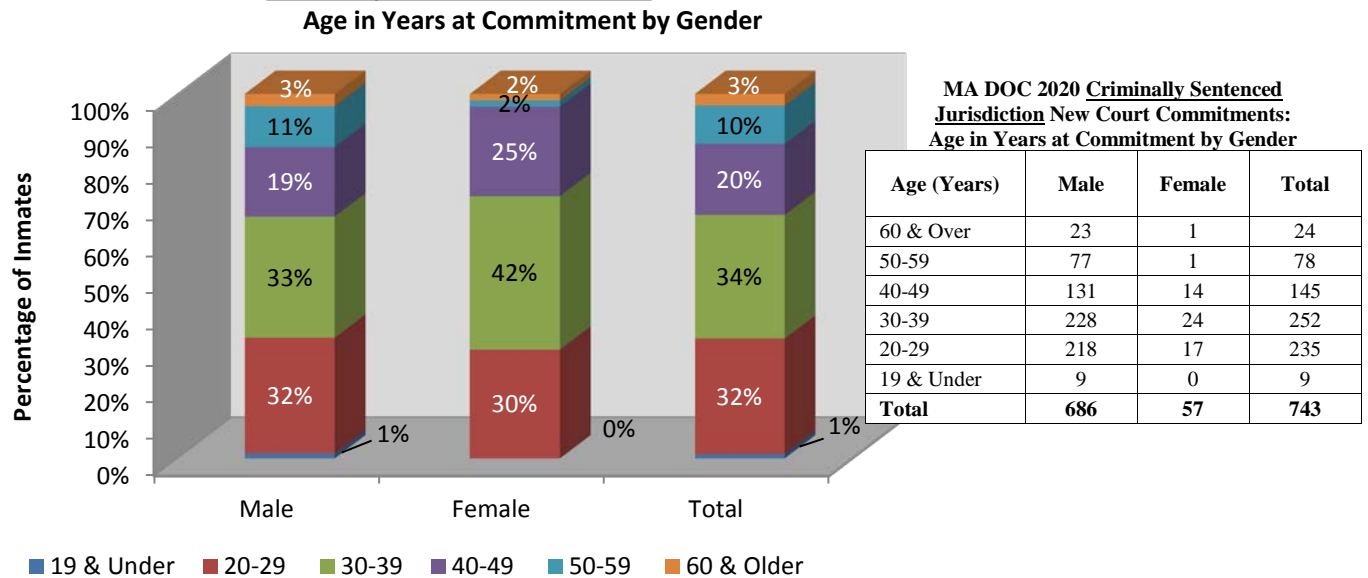
## Admissions by New Court Commitments

### MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:



For males, the most common races for criminally sentenced new court commitments were White (39%), followed by Hispanic (33%) and Black (26%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (67%), followed by Black (21%) and Other (7%). As males made up 92% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

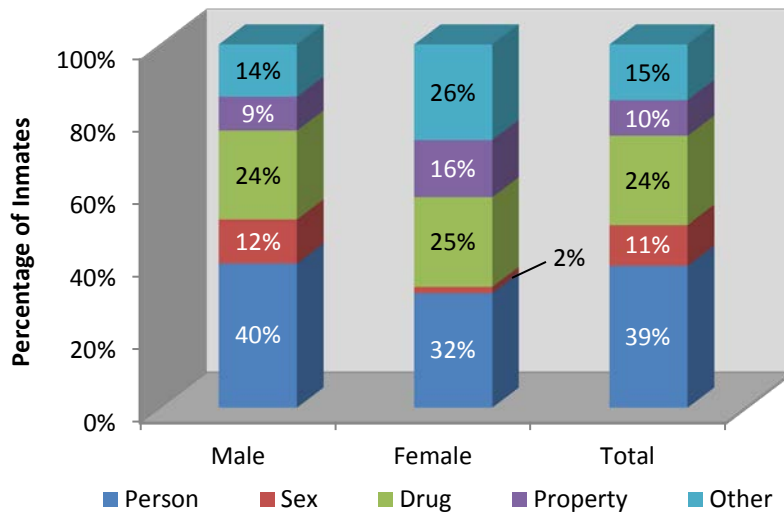
### MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:



The age distribution of male new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (33%) and the 20 – 29 year age group (32%). The largest percent of female criminal new court commitments fell into the 30 – 39 year age group (42%), followed by the 20 – 29 year age group (30%) as well. Males and females had moderately different age distributions in the 40 or older age groups, with 34% male and 28% female criminally sentenced new court commitments falling into these categories.

## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

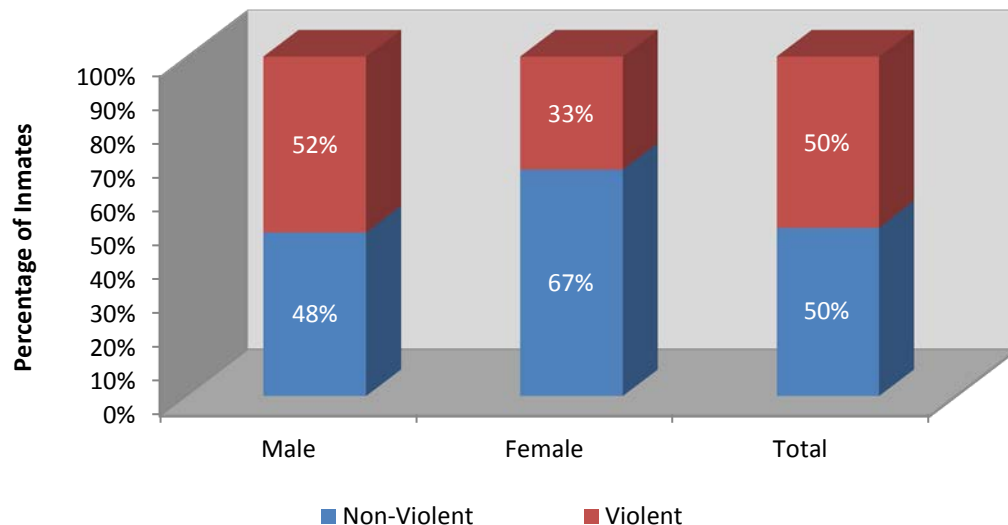


**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction  
New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Gender**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	273	18	291
	Sex	82	1	83
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	168	14	182
	Property	64	9	73
	Other	99	15	114
	<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>743</b>

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (40%), followed by drug (24%). Among females, person offenses were the most common (32%) as well, followed by “other” offenses (26%). Property offenses were the least common, accounting for 10% of governing offenses for the criminally sentenced new court commitments, 9% of the male governing offenses and 16% of the female governing offenses.

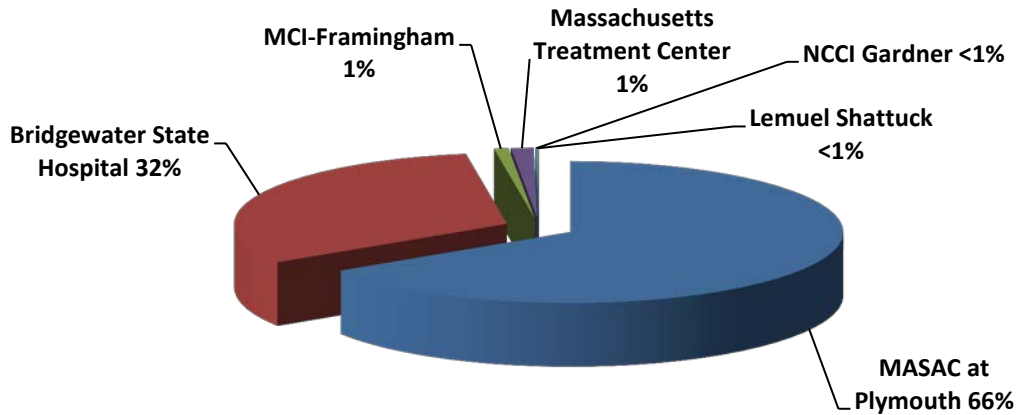
**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Gender**



The majority of male criminally sentenced new court commitments had violent governing offenses (52%) while the majority of female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses (67%). Overall, criminally sentenced jurisdiction inmates split evenly between violent (50%) and non-violent (50%) governing offenses. Though males made up 92% 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 2020 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Civil Commitments by Institution**



**MA DOC 2020 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution**

Institution	Female	Male	Total
MASAC at Plymouth (MASPLY)	0	1,230	1,230
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	592	592
MCI-Framingham	16	0	16
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	25	25
NCCI Gardner	0	3	3
Lemuel Shattuck	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>1,867</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 2020, there were 1,867 civil new court commitments, representing 58% of the overall 3,203 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (66%) of civil commitments in 2020 were Section 35’s admitted to MASPLY. This was slightly up from 63% in 2019. The number of Section 35’s decreased from 1,548 during 2019 to 1,230 during 2020, a 21% decrease. Commitments to MASPLY are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ During 2020, there were 592 civil commitments to BSH. This was a 27% decrease compared to the previous year (n = 806). During 2020, 32% of the civil commitments went to BSH, about the same as in 2019, at 33%.
- ◆ Females represented less than 1% of the civil commitments during 2020, lower than the female civil commitments during 2019 and 2018.



## Massachusetts DOC 2020 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: 2016 - 2020**

Post Release Supervision Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Parole Supervision (only)	357	15%	281	13%	368	17%	389	18%	493	26%
Probation Supervision (only)	859	37%	788	36%	728	34%	688	33%	560	29%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	227	10%	233	11%	225	10%	220	10%	376	20%
No Post Release Supervision	886	38%	877	40%	844	39%	810	38%	496	26%
<b>Total</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>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>100%</b>

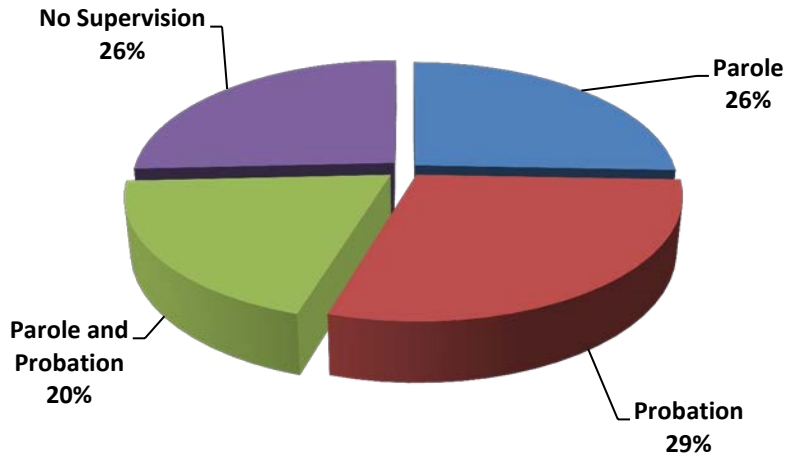
  

Post Release Supervision	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Supervision	1,443	62%	1,302	60%	1,321	61%	1,297	62%	1,429	74%
No Supervision	886	38%	877	40%	844	39%	810	38%	496	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>100%</b>

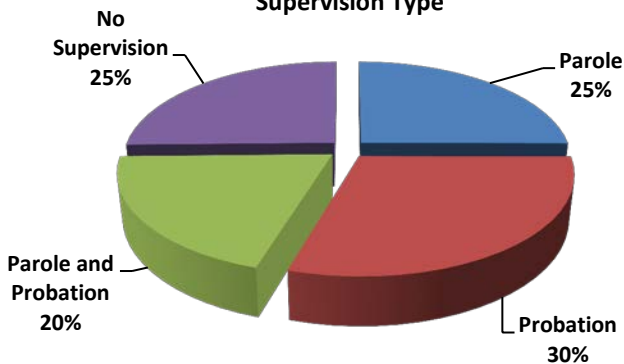
- ◆ Overall, there was a 17% decrease (n=404) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2016 and 2020. Though each subsequent year saw fewer releases, the largest decrease was between 2019 and 2020 (about 9%). While releases to parole supervision increased between 2019 and 2020, releases with no supervision dropped by a staggering 39 percent.
- ◆ Releases to the community have experienced a consistent downward trend from a high of 2,329 in 2016 to a low of 1,925 in 2020. This trend follows that of the overall criminally sentenced custody population, which decreased by over 16 percent from 1/1/2020 to 1/1/2021.
- ◆ In 2020, the distribution among post-release supervision types has become more evenly spread, with the proportions receiving parole, probation, both, or no supervision all at or above 20 percent. However, the proportion of releases receiving any supervision has reached a trend period high of 74% while only 26% are released with no supervision.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated prisoner can be given compassionate release. In 2020, 29 inmates were released to the community using medical parole.

## Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

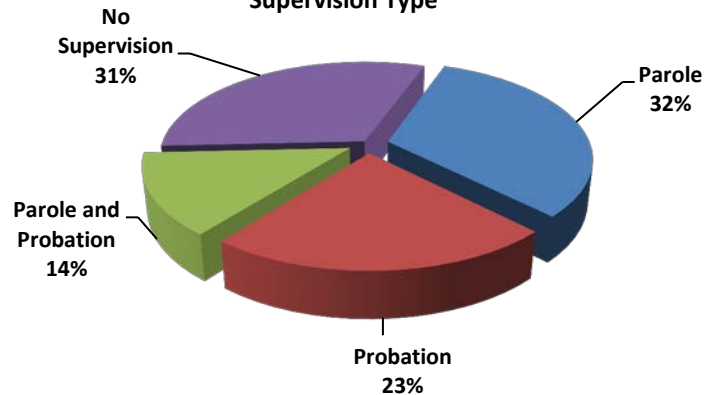
**MA DOC 2020 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



**MA DOC 2020 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



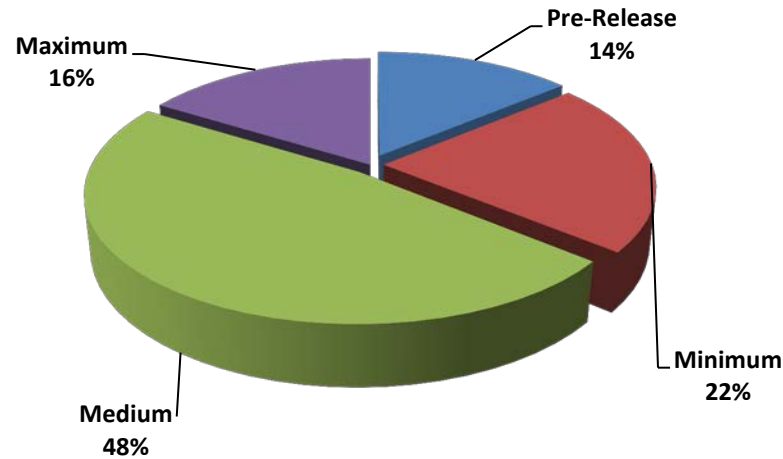
**MA DOC 2020 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



In 2020, male inmates were more likely than female inmates to be released to the community under probation supervision only - 30% of males compared to 23% of females. Conversely, female inmates were more likely to be released with no supervision - 31% of females compared to 25% of males. Males and females released with parole (including “Parole and Probation”) at similar rates.

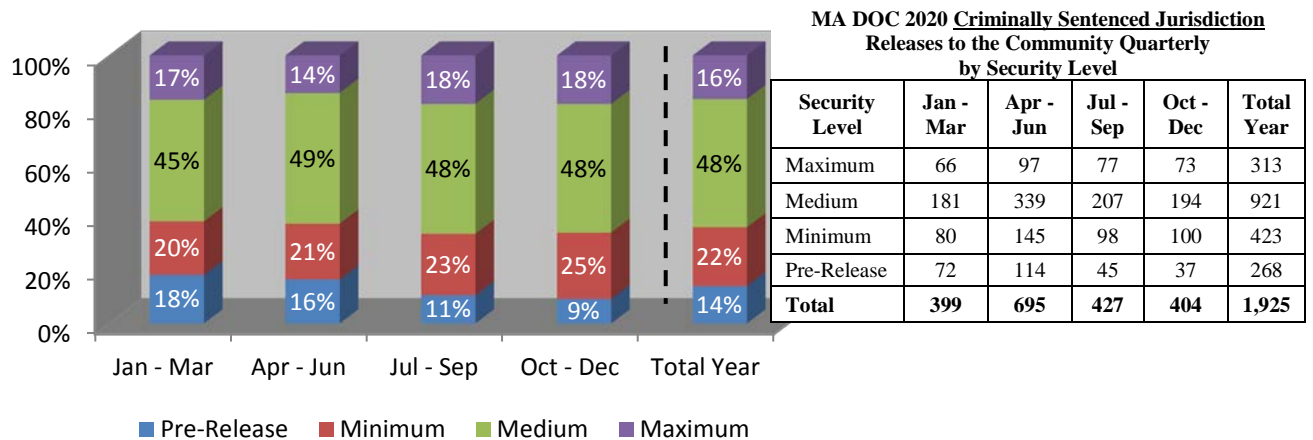
## Releases to the Community by Security Level

**MA DOC 2020 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 9% from 2,107 releases in 2019 to 1,925 releases in 2020. Releases came from facilities of all security levels.
- ◆ Just under half of the criminally sentenced inmates released to the community were from medium security facilities (n=921). Less than one-fourth (n=423) came from minimum security facilities, and about one-sixth came from maximum security facilities.

**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level**



- ◆ The highest release activity occurred between April and June of 2020 (n = 695) the three months after the outbreak of Covid-19 in March. April through June of 2020 had a 23% increase in releases compared to April through June of 2019; this is a notable spike given the overall decline in releases in 2020.

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

**MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Security Level and Institution**

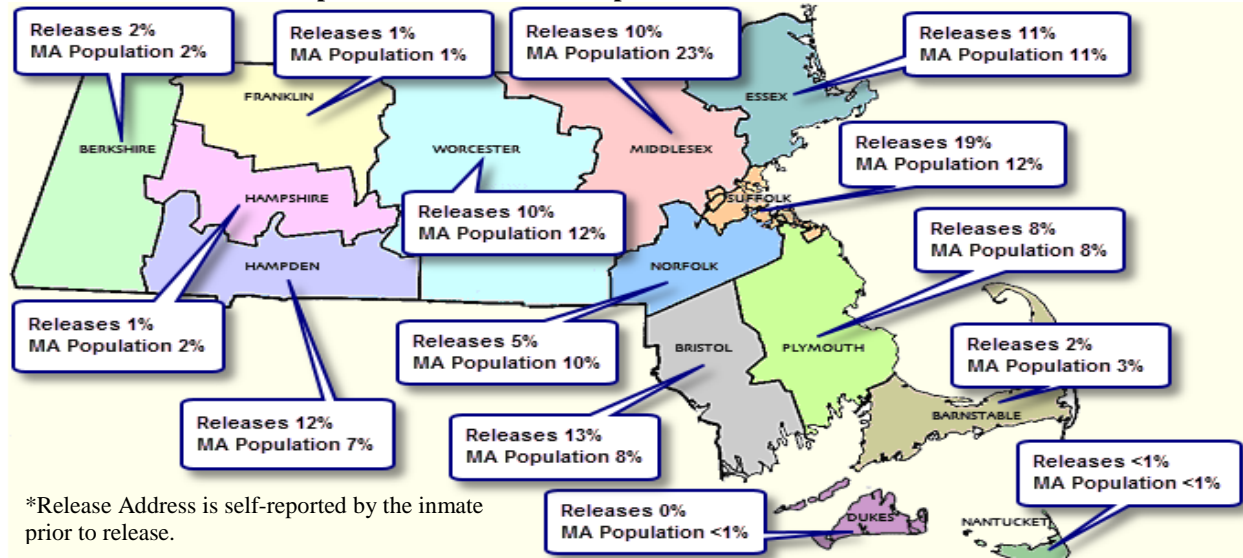
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
<b>Male</b>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	19	72	<b>91</b>
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	3	0	0	<b>3</b>
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	90	0	0	<b>90</b>
MCI-Cedar Junction	171	1	0	0	<b>172</b>
MCI-Concord	0	148	0	0	<b>148</b>
MCI-Norfolk	0	137	0	0	<b>137</b>
MCI-Shirley	0	224	118	0	<b>342</b>
NCCI-Gardner	0	86	0	0	<b>86</b>
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	67	81	<b>148</b>
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	81	56	0	<b>137</b>
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	77	64	<b>141</b>
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	140	0	0	0	<b>140</b>
<b>Female</b>					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
MCI-Framingham	0	82	0	0	<b>82</b>
South Middlesex Correctional Center	0	0	35	17	<b>52</b>
<b>Total DOC Facilities</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1,771</b>
County, Federal, Interstate	2	69	49	34	<b>154</b>
<b>Total Jurisdiction</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,925</b>

\*Note: 6 inmates were County, Federal, Interstate - Electronic Monitoring (CFI ELMO) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing DOC facility of release in 2020, the greatest number of criminally sentenced inmates were released to the community from MCI-Shirley (n=342), followed by MCI-Cedar Junction (n=172), and MCI-Concord and Northeastern Correctional Center (both n=148).
- ◆ The greatest number of criminally sentenced males were released to the community from the medium security unit of MCI-Shirley (n=224), followed by maximum security releases from MCI-Cedar Junction (n=171).
- ◆ Each year, DOC inmates serve sentences at, and are released directly from, county, federal, and interstate facilities. There were 154 releases from this county, federal, and interstate population in 2020.
- ◆ A number of state correctional institutions have multilevel security classifications. Every operational security level unit within each institution released at least one inmate in 2020.

## Release Address by County

MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties\*  
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2019



Note: 2019 estimated county population statistics were provided by the U.S Census Bureau, 2020 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 2019 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC inmates released to each county in 2020. Suffolk, Bristol, and Hampden were the only three counties with a higher percentage of inmates released to the county (45% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (27% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 10% of the releases from the MA DOC.

MA DOC 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: County by GenderΩ

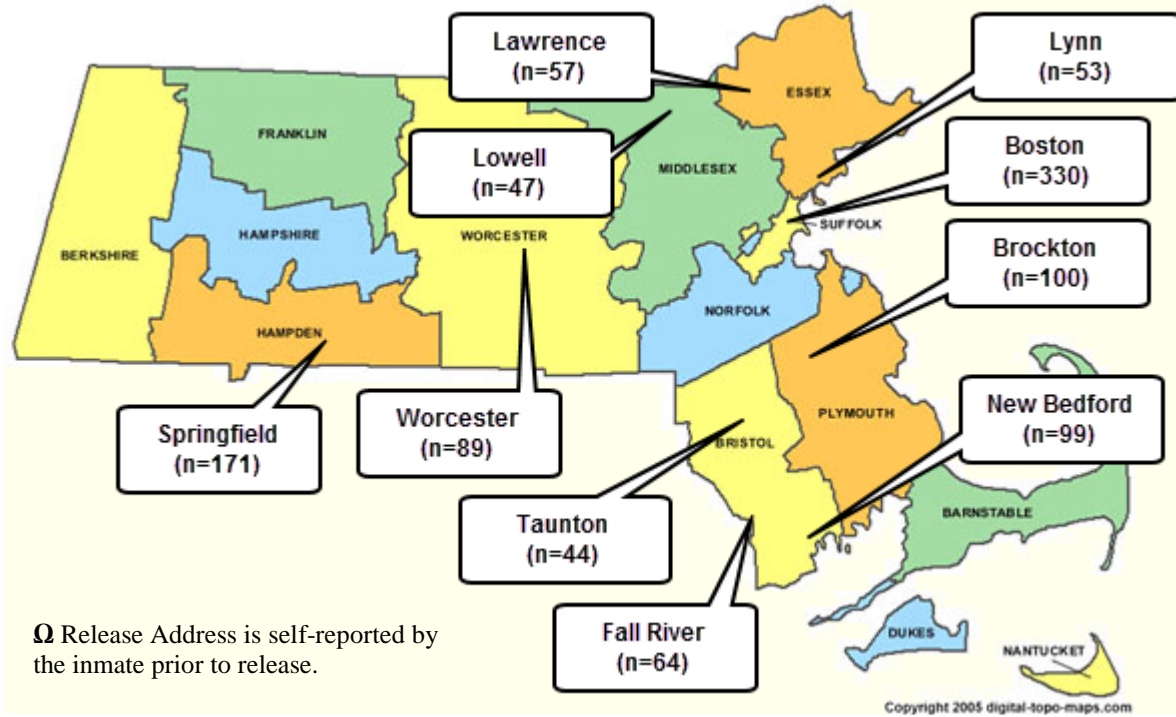
Female*			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Middlesex	43	29%	Suffolk	348	20%	Suffolk	370	19%
Suffolk	22	15%	Bristol	242	14%	Bristol	255	13%
Hampden	15	10%	Hampden	224	13%	Hampden	239	12%
Essex	14	10%	Essex	192	11%	Essex	206	11%
Bristol	13	9%	Worcester	182	10%	Worcester	193	10%
Worcester	11	7%	Plymouth	151	8%	Middlesex	189	10%
Norfolk	10	7%	Middlesex	146	8%	Plymouth	159	8%
Plymouth	8	5%	Norfolk	82	5%	Norfolk	92	5%
Barnstable	2	1%	Berkshire	36	2%	Berkshire	38	2%
Berkshire	2	1%	Barnstable	30	2%	Barnstable	32	2%
Franklin	1	1%	Franklin	24	1%	Franklin	25	1%
Hampshire	1	1%	Hampshire	17	1%	Hampshire	18	1%
Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	2	<1%	Nantucket	2	<1%
Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>94%</b>
Outside MA	5	3%	Outside MA	101	6%	Outside MA	106	6%
Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	1	<1%	Unknown	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,925</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 2020 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten Cities <sup>Ω</sup>



Of the 1,925 criminally sentenced inmates released to the community in 2020, 1,054 (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=330) followed by Springfield (n=171) and Brockton (n=100). The male population mirrored the total top ten release cities. The female top ten release cities were similar but differed in positioning on the list and the inclusion of Billerica, Bridgewater, and Everett.

MA DOC 2020 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	20	14%	Boston	310	17%	Boston	330	17%
Springfield	9	6%	Springfield	162	9%	Springfield	171	9%
Lowell	5	3%	Brockton	97	5%	Brockton	100	5%
New Bedford	5	3%	New Bedford	94	5%	New Bedford	99	5%
Billerica	4	3%	Worcester	85	5%	Worcester	89	5%
Bridgewater	4	3%	Fall River	63	4%	Fall River	64	3%
Everett	4	3%	Lawrence	54	3%	Lawrence	57	3%
Lynn	4	3%	Lynn	49	3%	Lynn	53	3%
Worcester	4	3%	Lowell	42	2%	Lowell	47	2%
Brockton	3	2%	Taunton	41	2%	Taunton	44	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 2020 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 a 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 2020.

**MA DOC 2020 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	1,771 Days	334 Days	2,105 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,327 Days	331 Days	1,659 Days
<b>Females</b>			
Parole to the Community	928 Days	236 Days	1,164 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	506 Days	193 Days	699 Days
<b>Total</b>			
Parole to the Community	1,711 Days	327 Days	2,038 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,270 Days	322 Days	1,592 Days

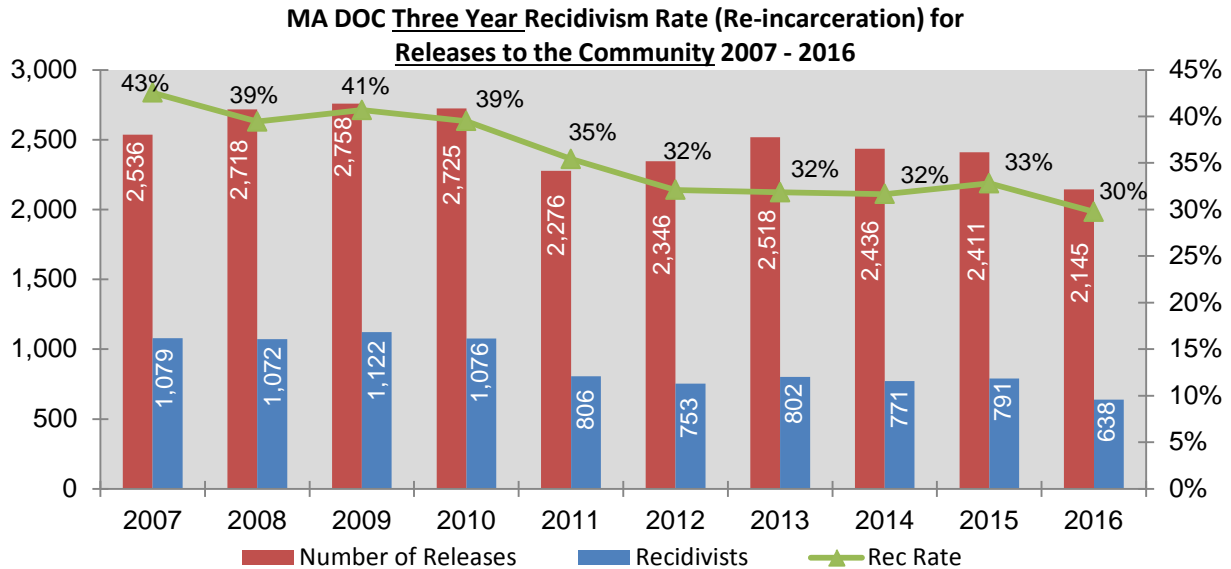
- ◆ There were 1,600 criminally sentenced inmates who had their first release in 2020. Fifty-four percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n = 865), meaning they completed their sentence. The remaining 46% were paroled to the community.
- ◆ Of the 1,600 releases, the majority were males (93%). On average, males released via parole served 5.8 years before initially being released, an increase from 2019 male parolees. Their average 334 jail credits did not change from 2019; only length of stay increased. Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 4.5 years before releasing to the community – this average did not change from 2019.
- ◆ Females represented 7% of the total releases in 2020 (n = 113). Females released via parole served for 3.2 years on average, and those who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 1.9 years. These figures are both increases from 2019, due in part to the higher proportion of state-sentenced to county-sentenced females in this release cohort.

## Massachusetts DOC 2020 Recidivism Trends and 2016 Recidivism Rates

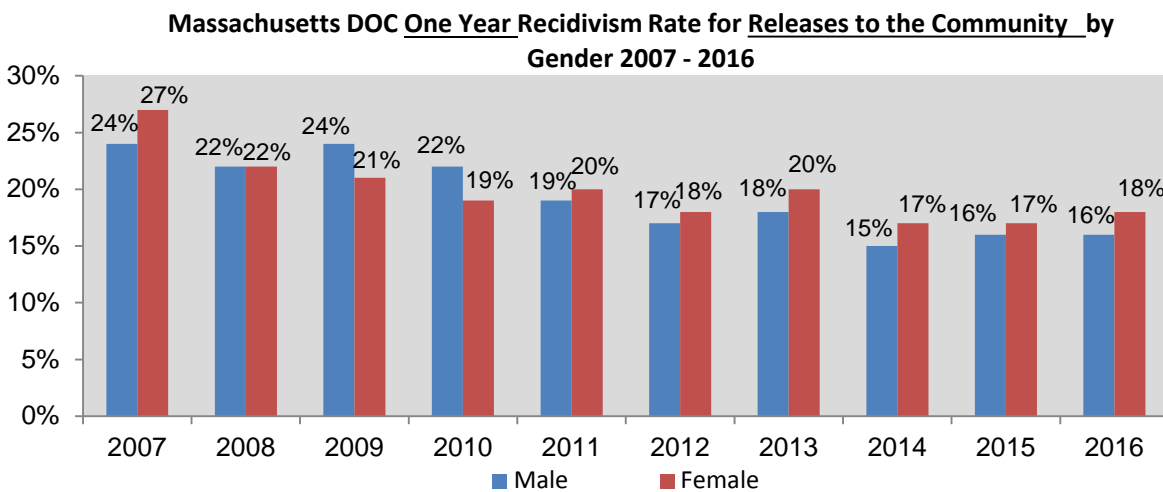
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## Recidivism Trends and 2016 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community via expiration of sentence/ parole<sup>7</sup> from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2016 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 13 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2007.



Since 2011, females have had higher recidivism rates than their male counterparts. The one-year recidivism rate for males and females has remained fairly consistent since 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Inmates paroled to the Transitional Treatment Program (TTP) are not included in the release cohort.

## Recidivism Trends and 2016 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2016 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	264	45%	n.a.	n.a.	264	45%
Medium	780	30%	284	34%	1,064	31%
Minimum and Pre-Release	596	22%	221	27%	817	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>30%</b>

- ◆ Recidivism rates for inmates released during 2016 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 22% of those inmates re-incarcerated within three-years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 30%, while the rate for males released from maximum security was 45%, the highest of all security levels.
- ◆ The recidivism rate for female inmates released from a lower security facility was 27%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 34%.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2016 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type<sup>9</sup>

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence <sup>10</sup>	395	32%
State Sentence	110	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31%</b>

- ◆ Historically, female inmates released from a county sentence have had a higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. For the 2016 release cohort, the recidivism rate for county sentenced inmates was higher than that of state sentenced, 32% and 25%, respectively.

<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 2016 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 2016 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 2016, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2016 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	339	48	14%	124	26	21%	463	74	16%
Expiration of Sentence	1,301	377	29%	381	102	27%	1,682	479	28%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>26%</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*	339	105	31%	124	49	40%	463	154	33%
Expiration of Sentence	1,301	377	29%	381	107	28%	1,682	484	29%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>30%</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 2,145 inmates released to the community during 2016, 22% (n = 463) were paroled to the community, while 78% (n = 1,682) were released via expiration of sentence. When using the definition including technical violations, inmates paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (33%) than the recidivism rate of inmates released via expiration of sentence (29%). 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 2016 Recidivism Rates***

- ◆ Of the 638 inmates who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 110 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole or probation conditions. One hundred and four of the recidivists were technical parole violations and 6 were technical violations of probation.
- ◆ Of the 110 inmates who returned for a technical violation, 25 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 four percentage points, from 30% to 26% when excluding technical violations, with inmates paroled to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 33% to 16%. The recidivism rate for males decreased from 29% to 26%, while females decreased from 31% to a rate of 25%.

**MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2016 Releases to the Community**

<b>Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations</b>									
		<b>1st Year</b>		<b>2nd Year</b>		<b>3rd Year</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Female</b>	505	57	11%	43	9%	28	6%	128	25%
<b>Male</b>	1,640	202	12%	129	8%	94	6%	425	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Including</u> Technical Violations</b>									
		<b>1st Year</b>		<b>2nd Year</b>		<b>3rd Year</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Female</b>	505	91	18%	40	8%	25	5%	156	31%
<b>Male</b>	1,640	263	16%	134	8%	85	5%	482	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>30%</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 8%.
- ◆ The recidivism rate increased to from 5% to 6% in the third year when excluding technical violations of parole or probation compared to when including technical violators.

## Recidivism Trends and 2016 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2016 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	193	47%	157	32%	350	40%
Person	734	31%	132	35%	866	31%
Other	219	32%	118	24%	337	30%
Drug	381	21%	89	34%	470	23%
Sex	113	15%	9	n.a.	122	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>30%</b>

- ◆ Property offenders had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (47%), followed by ‘other’ offenders (32%) and person offenders who recidivated at 31%.
- ◆ Person offenders had the highest recidivism rate for female releases (35%), followed by drug offenders (34%) and property offenders (32%).
- ◆ Inmates serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (16%).

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2016 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	847	28%	141	34%	988	29%
Non-Violent	793	30%	364	30%	1,157	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>30%</b>

Violent offenders released in 2016 had a lower recidivism rate (29%) compared to non-violent offenders (30%). Inmates in the property offense category had the highest recidivism rate, contributing to the higher recidivism rate of non-violent offenders.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2016 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	167	26%	77	35%	244	29%
Mandatory Drug Offense	214	17%	12	25%	226	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>23%</b>

Of the 470 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, 18% and 29% respectively.

## Recidivism Trends and 2016 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC **Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2016 Releases to the Community by Race/Ethnicity\* and Gender<sup>13</sup>**

	Males		Females		Total	
Race/Ethnicity	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Caucasian	658	30%	393	32%	1,051	31%
Other	6	n.a	29	31%	35	31%
African American/Black	466	31%	46	24%	512	30%
Hispanic	496	27%	35	29%	531	27%
Asian	10	n.a	1	n.a	11	n.a
Native American/Alaskan Native	4	n.a	0	n.a	4	n.a
Native American/ Pacific Islander	0	n.a	1	n.a	1	n.a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>30%</b>

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

- ◆ The three year recidivism rate for male releases was 31% for African American/Black inmates, 30% for Caucasian inmates and 27% for Hispanic inmates.
- ◆ For female releases, Caucasian inmates had the highest recidivism rate (32%), followed by Other (31%), Hispanic (29%), and African American/Black (24%).
- ◆ Overall, inmates who reported a race of Caucasian or Other recidivated at the highest rate (31%), followed by inmates who reported a race of African American/ Black (30%). Those who reported a race of Hispanic had the lowest recidivism rate, at 27%.

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



## Massachusetts DOC 2020 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 2020 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 2020, 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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### **Parole Violator/Detainer**

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.

### **Person Offense**

Crimes against Person (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 265), including assault and battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder.

### **Pre-Trial or “Detainee”**

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

### **Probation**

A court-ordered sentence whereby an inmate is released from confinement but remains under court supervision.

### **Probation Violation**

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.

### **Property Offense**

Crimes against Property (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 266), including arson, burglary and fraud.

### **Recidivism Rate**

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.

### **Release from Parole Detainer**

A small number of inmates who are released from a temporary parole detainer (n=1).

### **Release to the Community**

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.

### **Sentence/Sentence Type**

#### **State Prison Sentence**

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.

## ***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.