

# Massachusetts Department of Correction Prison Population Trends Report

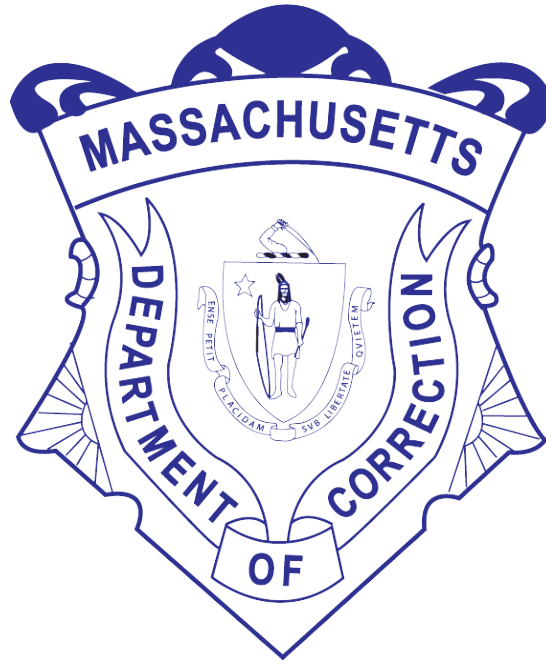
Calendar Year 2022



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
July 2023

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

# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2022



RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

*July 2023*



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Maura T. Healey, Governor

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Authorized by Gary Lambert, Assistant Secretary for Operational Services

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)** population has been declining consistently since its' peak in 2012. This past year, January 2021 to 2022, reflected a 3% decrease alone. While the 17% drop during 2020 was largely influenced by the pandemic, the multitude of factors in place before, during and currently have greatly contributed to a reduction in the population and other positive outcomes. In the last ten years the population size fell 45% from January 1, 2014 (n=11,034) to 2023 (n=6,070), exceeding the rate of the national prison population reduction. Partnerships among criminal justice agencies, state and local leadership, community providers and other stakeholders have emphasized the need for more effective alternatives to prison. MA DOC's continued focus on evidenced-based initiatives and shifts in correctional culture are for the betterment of those who live in, work at, and visit state prisons, resulting in a healthier, and more positive experience overall.

One indicator of this success is a decline in recidivism rates. The majority of incarcerated individuals released from MA DOC do NOT recidivate as defined by reincarceration within three years of being released. Among the criminally sentenced population released in 2018, the three year rate was 29%, not only the lowest rate in ten years (2009-2018), but since the MA DOC has been tracking recidivism data in this manner, dating back to at least 1995. The highest rate in the last ten years was 41% in 2009. The improved recidivism rate is most notable in the context of the population reflecting a higher concentration with violent offenses (for all genders), and their longer sentences. With (young) age correlating highly with recidivism it is also important to note the percentage of the population under 30 years old decreased by four percentage points from January 1, 2019 to 2023. Simultaneously, those individuals 60+ years increased by five percentage points. In the same vein, medical and mental health needs remain high among the population, particularly for females where 79% have open mental cases and 74% determined seriously mentally ill. While lower in comparison, more than a third of males have open mental health cases (41%) or seriously mentally ill (34%).

Throughout 2022 total releases exceeded admissions among those criminally sentenced including the yearly average, 142 to 132 respectively. The admissions monthly average of 132, was also up compared to the 2021 monthly average of 100. Release types have notably shifted in the last few years, pandemic time frame. In 2020, individuals released by expiration of sentence ("wrapped up") comprised 43% of the criminally sentenced release cohort compared to only 34% in 2022. While representing a smaller proportion of the population, with such high turnover and shorter stays, civil commitments continue to reflect the most admissions and releases in total. The majority of civil commitments were "section 35" males committed to MASAC at Plymouth with a maximum 90-day limit.

This report provides new data for average length of stay, jail credits and time served. There were 1,122 criminally sentenced incarcerated individuals who had their first release in 2022. On average, males released via parole (versus "expiration of sentence") served 7.1 years before initially being released, an increase of 0.8 years from 2021 male parolees (6.3 years). Their average 389 jail credits did not change much from 2021; average length of stay did increase to six years up from 5.3 years in 2021. Males released via expiration of sentence (or "wrapped up") served an average of five years before releasing to the community. Females represented 6% of the total releases in 2022 (n = 63). Females released via parole served an average of 4.8 years--more than double 2.1 years in 2021, but was closer to the average of 3.2 years in 2020. Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of two years in 2022.

Notable shifts among trends for post-release supervision can be found during the last five years, particularly during the last three years of the pandemic. The ratio of criminally sentenced individuals released on supervision (parole and/or probation) rose from 61% to 80%. This shift can be attributed to the population paroled doubling proportionally, 27% in 2018 compared to 56% in 2022, while there was a slight decrease among those with probation terms to serve post-release.

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 2022*, 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 individual 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 housed in MA DOC custody who are held for another MA authority and are detained prior to and during a trial, conviction, and sentencing and not yet convicted of a crime. Detainees are also held by the MA DOC for other jurisdictions on pending federal criminal charges and out-of-state parole violation warrants.

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

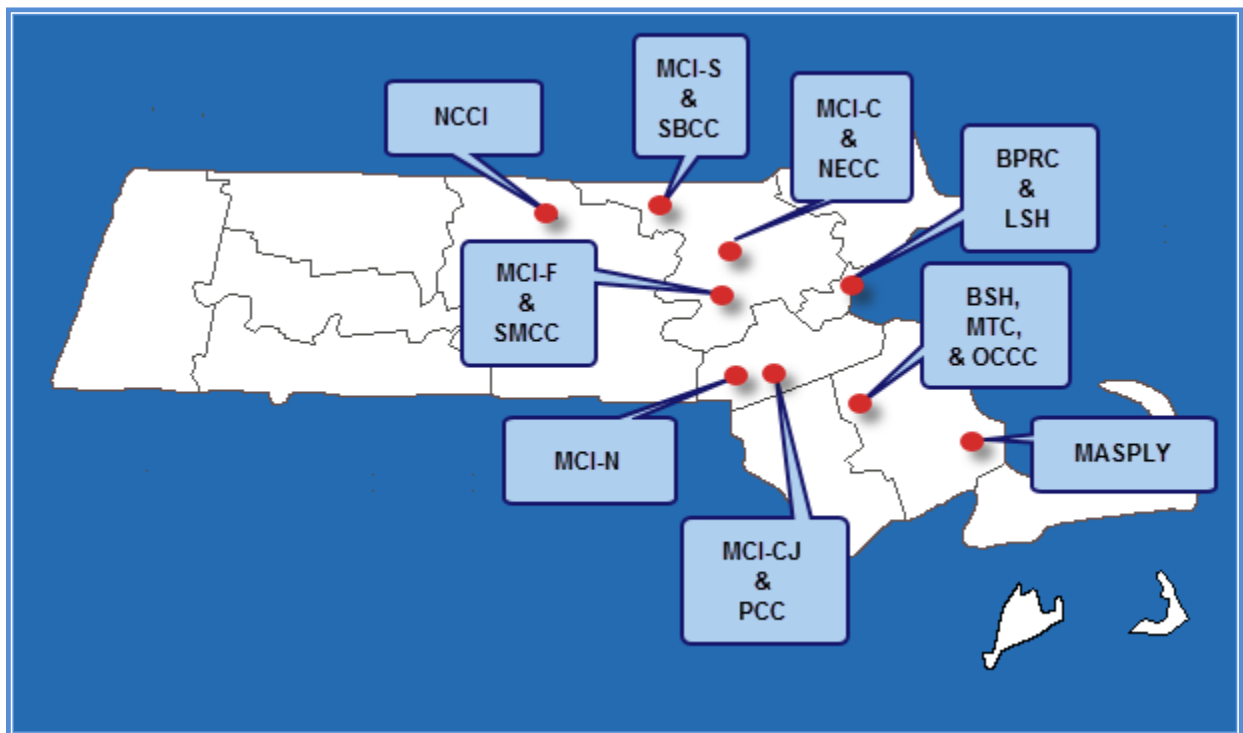
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# Massachusetts DOC 2022 Institution Overview

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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 person (FY 2022): \$153,785
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 42
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 41
- Operational Capacity: 200  
Minimum: 95 & Pre-Release: 105



Boston Pre-Release Center houses minimum and pre-release males nearing the completion of their state sentences. Having been Massachusetts' first pre-release institution, BPRC affords incarcerated individuals structured programming focused on education and reintegration, access to public transportation increasing pre-release employment opportunities as well as access to other support agencies. On January 1, 2023, there were 31 minimum security commitments and 11 pre-release at BPRC.

### **Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)**

*Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1998
- Opened: 1974
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$331,731
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 224
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 232
- Operational Capacity: 372



In April 2017, Wellpath Recovery Solutions assumed all operational and treatment services at Bridgewater State Hospital, inclusive of a comprehensive program of medical, mental health, forensic evaluation as well as all patient safety and security services. BSH is a Joint Commission accredited psychiatric hospital for males requiring strict security for forensic evaluation or civil commitment per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 123. Following an initial observation and evaluation period, patients may be committed to BSH for up to six months, with subsequent commitments of one year, as ordered by the Court.

### **Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Correctional Unit (LSH)**

*Jamaica Plain, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Opened: 1974 - Expanded: 1982, 1987
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$523,011
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 14
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 17
- Operational Capacity: 29



The Massachusetts Department of Correction, 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 incarcerated males and females from both the state and counties. It is a transient facility with few long-term patients. On January 1, 2023, the population consisted of seven (7) criminally sentenced state commitments, six (6) pre-trial detainees and one (1) civilly committed individual. The average age of the incarcerated individuals housed on this date was 58 years old.



## Institution Overview

### Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth (MASAC at PLY) *Plymouth, MA*

- Security Level: Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1993
- Opened: 1992 - Mission Change: 2002
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$391,365
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 64
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 73
- Operational Capacity: 251



Formerly a minimum-security facility for criminally sentenced males, MCI-Plymouth's mission was transitioned to providing substance use services in a therapeutic environment with the population of the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center. Per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 123, Section 35, the Court may order an individual with an alcohol or substance use disorder where there is a likelihood of serious harm as a result of the person's alcohol or

substance use disorder for up to 90 days. With its new mission, MASAC at Plymouth opened in 2017 for Section 35 substance use services inclusive of detoxification and treatment, and in 2020, Wellpath, LLC expanded its scope of services to include a licensed Opioid Treatment Program, as well as all patient safety and security services.

### Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)

*Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1997
- Opened: 1986 - Expanded: 1997
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$99,745
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 531
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 536
- Operational Capacity: 680



The Massachusetts Treatment Center is a medium security facility specializing in the assessment and treatment of deviant sexual interests. Housed and treated separately and apart, criminally sentenced individuals identified as sex offenders and those adjudicated as Sexually Dangerous Persons (SDP) as defined by MGL Chapter 123a and civilly committed for a day to life by the Court receive comprehensive assessment and evidence-based treatment to address empirically

derived risk factors of sexual offending with the goal of a reduction in the risk of re-offense within the correctional environment and upon release to the community. On January 1, 2023, there were 390 criminally sentenced commitments, 105 SDPs, and 32 temporary civil commitments (provided by MTC).

### MCI-Cedar Junction (MCI-CJ)

*South Walpole, MA*

- Security Level: Maximum & Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2002
- Opened: 1956 - Expanded: 1991
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$145,849
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 103
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 319  
Maximum: 287 & Medium: 32
- Operational Capacity: 691  
Maximum: 619 & Medium: 72



MCI-Cedar Junction is a maximum-security facility that formerly housed the Department's male Reception and Diagnostic Center. The Department of Correction announced the phased closure of MCI-CJ. Since that time, it has moved the intake/reception center services to Souza Baranowski Correctional Center and only the Department's Disciplinary Unit (DDU) and Behavior Assessment Unit (BAU) remain open at MCI-CJ. Both units are scheduled to be

closed and the Department currently anticipates that this closure will be accomplished by the end of the calendar year 2023. On January 1, 2023, MCI-CJ housed 103 criminally sentenced commitments. Of those commitments, 103 were housed in maximum security (64 of those in DDU).

## ***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 person (FY 2022): \$125,876
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 389
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 401
- Operational Capacity: 614



MCI-Concord is a medium security facility that houses males. MCI-Concord offers numerous programs including one of the Department's Correctional Recovery Academies for substance use disorder, vocational training and education. In August 2021, the B.R.A.V.E. program opened providing a housing unit for incarcerated adolescent fathers. This unit specializes in positive youth development and models of strength-based psychology with the support of an older incarcerated mentor and specially trained staff.

### **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 person (FY 2022): \$227,503
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 201
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 191
- Operational Capacity: 469



MCI-Framingham serves as the Department's Reception and Diagnostic Center for the female population, 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, 2023, MCI-Framingham housed 148 criminally sentenced commitments, 42 pre-trial detainees, and 11 civil commitments.

### **MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N)**

***Norfolk, MA***

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$70,091
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 1,161
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,160
- Operational Capacity: 1,367



MCI-Norfolk, a facility housing males, 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. The 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
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1995
- Opened: 1991
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$100,470
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 781
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 770
- Operational Capacity: 1,034



MCI-Shirley houses two specialized medical units. The Nursing Care Unit provides care to individuals who require long term, supportive care for significant medical and neurological conditions, while the Clinical Stabilization Unit provides care to those who require assistance with the activities of daily living. Along with a skilled nursing facility (SNF), MCI-S operates an Assisted Daily Living Unit for medium security commitments.

### **North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI)**

***Gardner, MA***

- Security Level: Medium & Minimum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1989
- Opened: 1981 - Renovations: 1982, 1993
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$92,306
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 689
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 688  
Medium: 688 & Minimum: 0\*
- Operational Capacity: 989  
Medium: 959 & Minimum: 30



North Central Correctional Institution is a medium security facility that houses 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 facility operates the Department's Optical Shop, training individuals in the manufacturing of eyeglasses and lenses. The minimum security housing units stopped housing incarcerated individuals in February of 2019.

### **Northeastern Correctional Center (NECC)**

***Concord, MA***

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1982
- Opened: 1932
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$78,378
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 186
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 186
- Operational Capacity: 277  
Minimum: 208 & Pre-Release: 69



Northeastern Correctional Center houses minimum and pre-release males, offering the opportunity to complete the correctional recovery academy in a minimum setting. On January 1, 2023, NECC housed 176 incarcerated individuals in minimum security housing units and 10 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. The NECC work crews provide cost effective labor to the 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 person (FY 2022):  
Medium: \$127,457 & Minimum: \$116,670
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 501
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 522  
Medium: 457 & Minimum: 65
- Operational Capacity: 818  
Medium: 658 & Minimum: 160



Old Colony Correctional Center houses medium and minimum-security males with a special focus on the delivery of mental health care to patients diagnosed with serious mental illness or other diagnosed psychiatric needs. The Department's largest Residential Treatment Unit, a general population unit, provides group and individual treatment to the OCCC medium population focused on individual symptom management and treatment goals. In addition, OCCC houses the Bridgewater State Hospital State Sentenced Units for state sentenced individuals who have been admitted for observation, forensic evaluation, or civil commitment pursuant to MGL Chapter 123. The majority of commitments on January 1, 2023 were housed in a medium security unit (n=434), with 67 housed in minimum security.

### **Pondville Correctional Center (PCC)**

***Norfolk, MA***

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1994
- Opened: 1990
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$94,202
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 86
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 97
- Operational Capacity: 204  
Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



Pondville Correctional Center is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 80 minimum commitments and 6 pre-release on January 1, 2023. 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 a minimum and pre-release population.

### **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 person (FY 2022): N/A
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: N/A
- Average Daily Population (ADP): N/A



South Middlesex Correctional Center was once a facility for criminally sentenced state and county females. The facility began as a male facility and became a female facility on July 1, 2002 following a mission change. As of February 2021, South Middlesex Correctional Center no longer houses incarcerated individuals.

## ***Institution Overview***

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

***Shirley, MA***

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per person (FY 2022): \$164,011
- January 1, 2023 Facility Population: 889
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 707
- Operational Capacity: 1,427

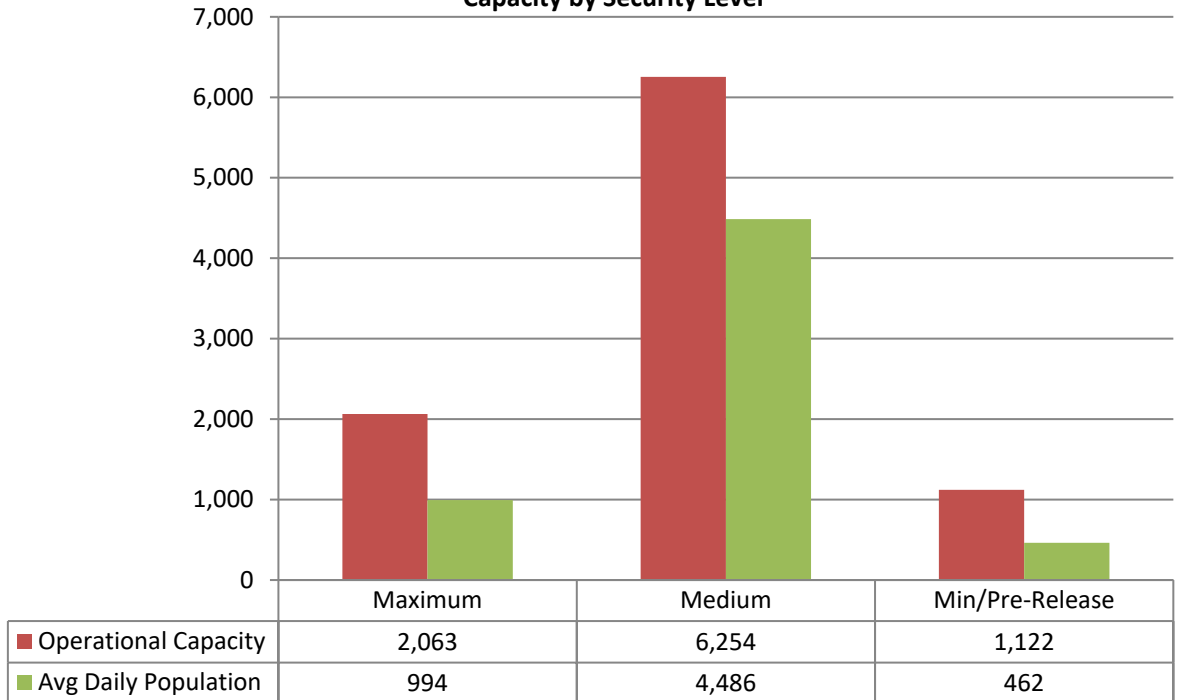


Souza Baranowski Correctional Center is the one exclusively maximum security male facility in Massachusetts and now houses the Department's male Reception and Diagnostic Center focusing on the orientation and assessment of newly sentenced admissions. Through various assessments, the initial classification determinations and the development of an individualized program plan are completed within 90 days of commitment. SBCC houses two specialized mental health treatment units, including a maximum security Residential Treatment Unit. 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

**Massachusetts DOC 2022 Average Daily Custody Population vs. Operational Capacity by Security Level**



### Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2022

2022 Operational Capacity = 9,439

Average Daily Population for 2022 (Custody Population) = 5,942

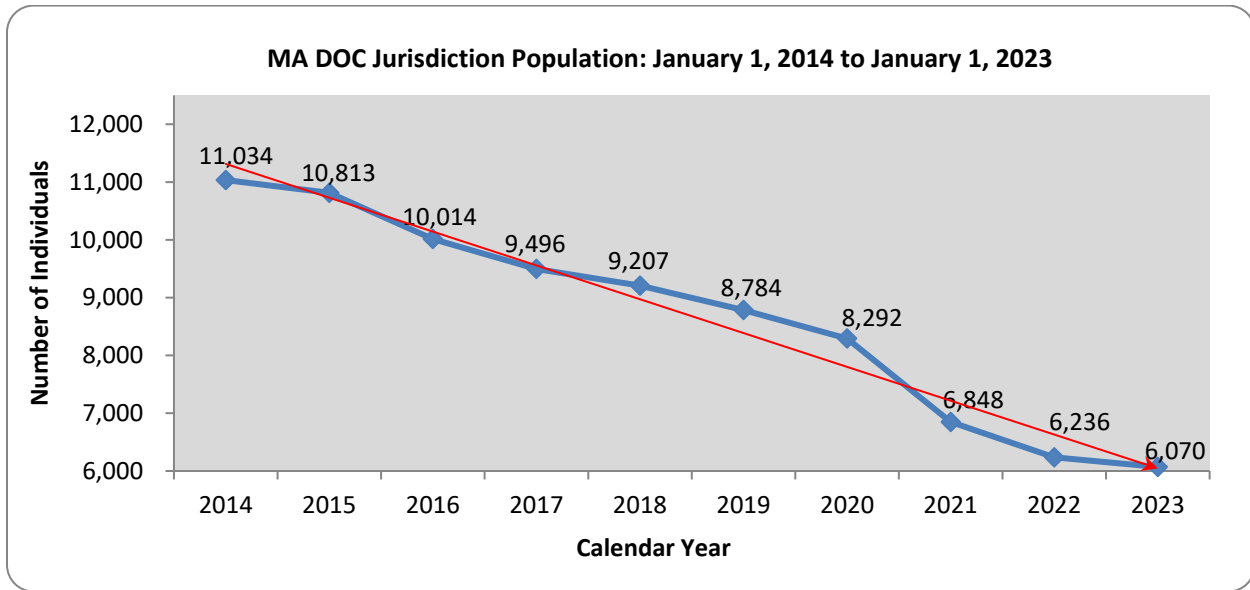
Average Daily Population for 2022 (Jurisdiction Population) = 6,183

- ◆ **Operational Capacity** refers to 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 2, 2023 Weekly Count produced by the Research and Planning Division.

# Massachusetts DOC 2022 Population Trends

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## Population Trends



### Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population continued a decades long decline with a decrease of 45% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2014 (n=11,034).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023, there was a 3% decrease in incarcerated individuals, from 6,236 to 6,070.
- ◆ The largest decrease in the MA DOC jurisdiction population occurred between 2020 and 2021 which resulted in a 17% decrease.

### National

- ◆ The estimated number of individuals of all commitment types held in state and federal prisons nationally decreased to 1,204,322 at year-end 2021<sup>1</sup>, representing a 1% decrease (n=16,842), from year-end 2020 (n=1,221,164) a much smaller decline than the 15% from 2019 to 2020.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ There was a 23% decrease in the sentenced state and federal jurisdiction population between year-end 2014 and year-end 2021, the largest decline in more than 39 years. There was a 3% decrease in the federal population (n=5,158) and a 2% decrease in the state population (n=22,000) between year-end 2020 and year-end 2021.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2021 was 350 sentenced individuals per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, a decrease of 2% from 358 in 2020 overtaking the lowest rate of last year and second lowest rate in 1993 (n=360).<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Between 2020 and 2021, Kentucky and Ohio were the only states to see an increase in their total jurisdiction population while other states saw decreases of 13% to 21%.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Year-end 2021 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (December 2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 305125). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

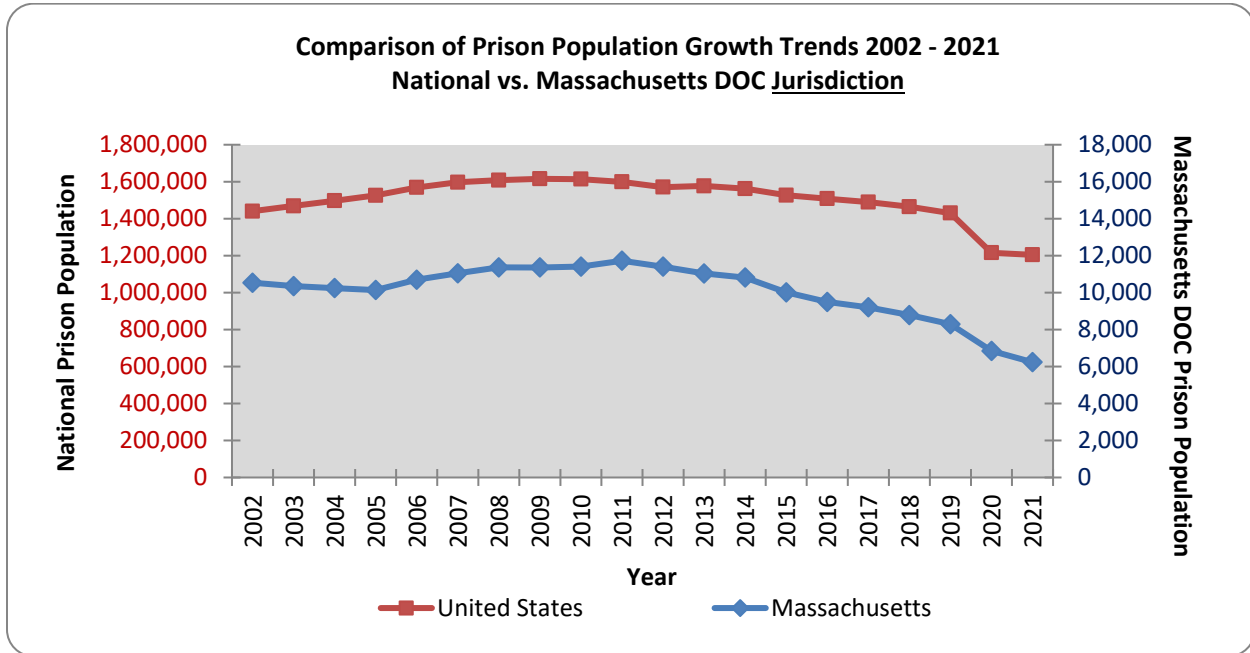
<sup>3</sup> BJS, 2021, pg. 7, table 1.

<sup>4</sup> BJS, 2021, pg. 13, table 5.

<sup>5</sup> BJS, 2021, pg. 1



## Population Trends



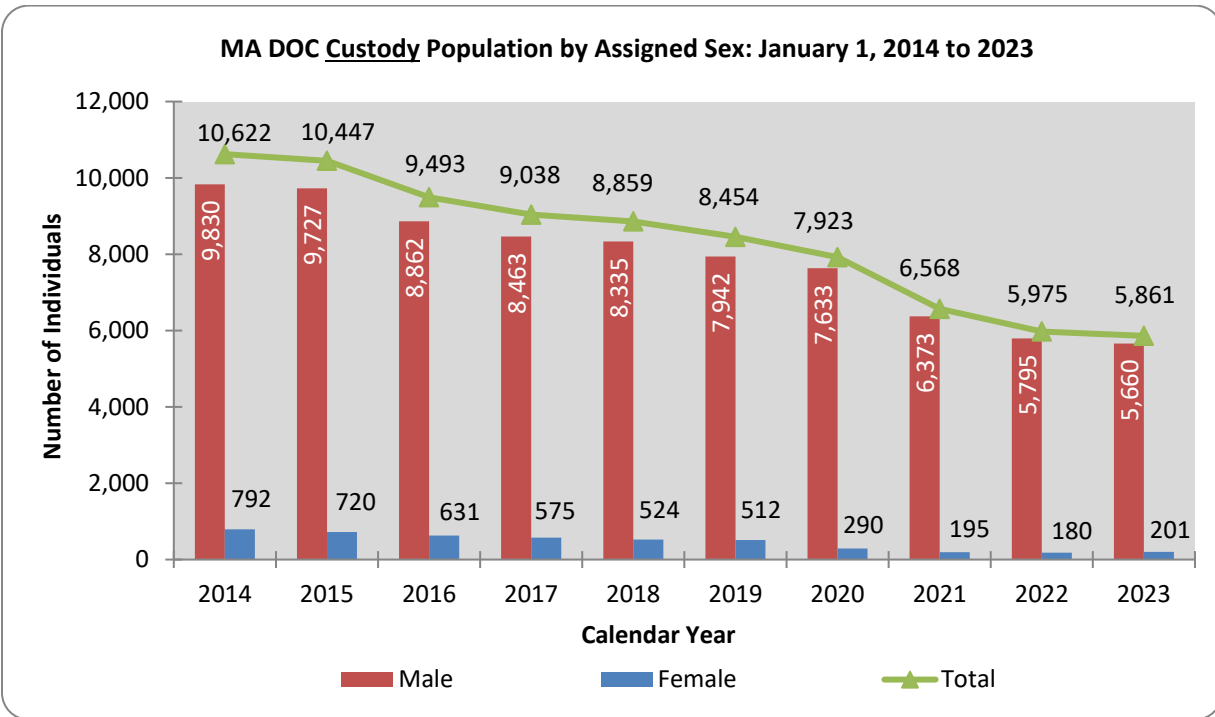
**Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 2002 – 2021:**  
**National<sup>6</sup> vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction**

Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
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	1,430,165	-2.3	8,292	-5.6
2020	1,221,164	-14.6	6,848	-17.4
2021	1,204,322	-1.4	6,236	-8.9

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 41% from 10,534 in 2002 to 6,236 in 2021; over the same period, the national population decreased by 16%, from 1,440,144 to 1,204,322.
- ◆ Between the years 2020 and 2021, there was a 9% (612) decrease in the Massachusetts jurisdiction population. Since 2011, the Massachusetts prison population had a cumulative decrease of 47% (5,487).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 15% from 2001 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 25% beginning in 2010 to 2021. The largest yearly decline in the national prison population during the observed trend period from 2002 to 2021 was between 2019 to 2020, showing a 15% decrease.

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (December 2022). *Prisoners in 2021* – Statistical Tables (NCJ 305125). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

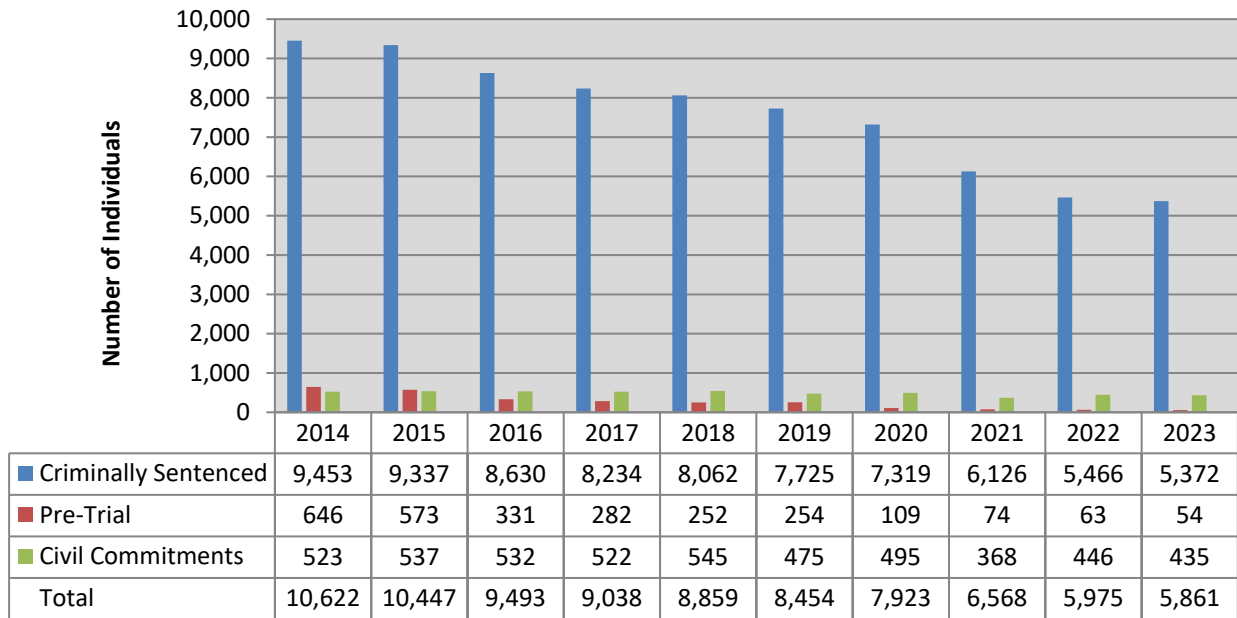
## Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) has continued its sharp decrease in the custody prison population (45%) between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2023. Over the 10-year period there has been a steady decrease of the total custody population with 17% being the most significant one-year decrease over the trend period when comparing January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. The lowest total custody population of the 10-year trend was January 1, 2023 with 5,861 incarcerated individuals, down from 5,975 the previous year.
- ◆ The male custody population dropped 42% from a high of 9,830 in 2014 to a low of 5,660 on January 1, 2023 which drove the decrease in the total custody population over that same period.
- ◆ The female custody population has decreased 75% over the 10-year trend period (2014-2023). Several Massachusetts Counties were previously not able to house females due to capacity issues/ lack of housing. The significant decrease in the female population was driven by the decision of those Counties to take their criminally (county) sentenced and pre-trial detainees into their own custody. MA DOC females went from a high of 792 in 2014 to a low of 180 in 2022, but in the past year they increased their population by 12%.
- ◆ Starting in October 2019, approximately 144 county sentenced and pre-trial detainees at MCI-Framingham were transferred per a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that Essex, Plymouth, Norfolk, and Suffolk County entered into, which now redirects all those under these county jurisdictions to be housed at South Bay Correctional Center with Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

## Population Trends

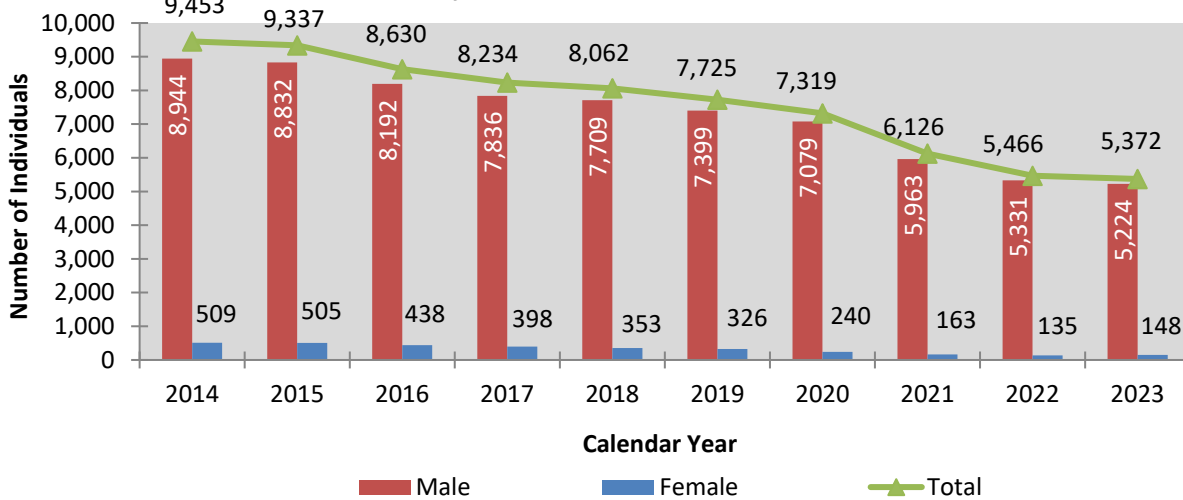
**MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2014 to 2023**



Calendar Year

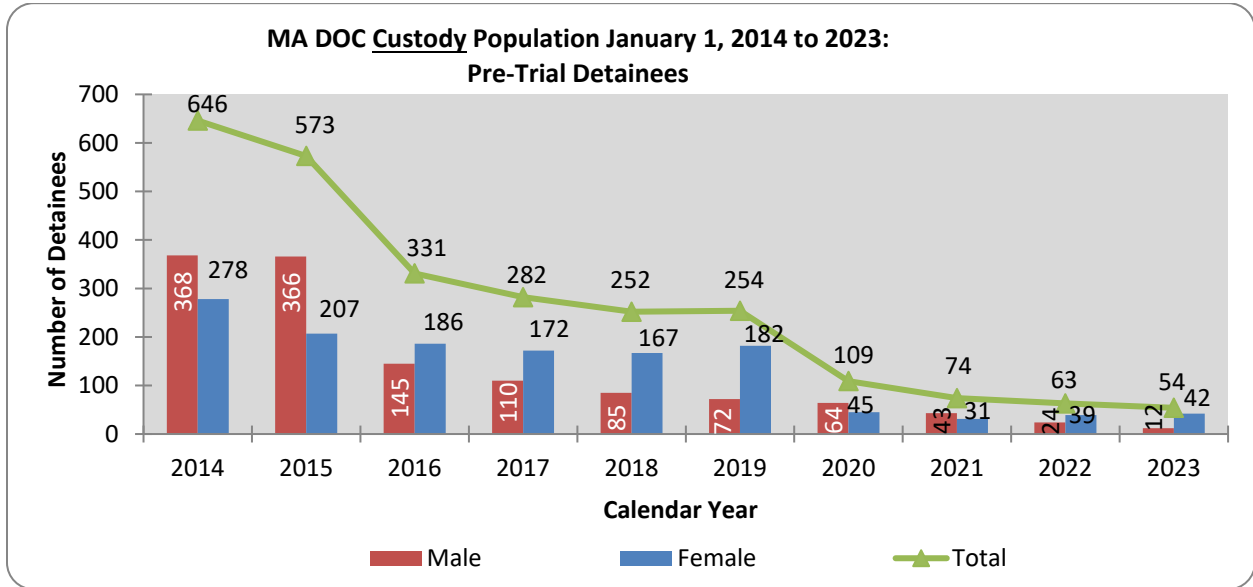
The MA DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (43%), pre-trial detainees (92%), and civilly committed (17%) populations between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2023.

**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2014 to 2023:  
Criminally Sentenced Commitments**

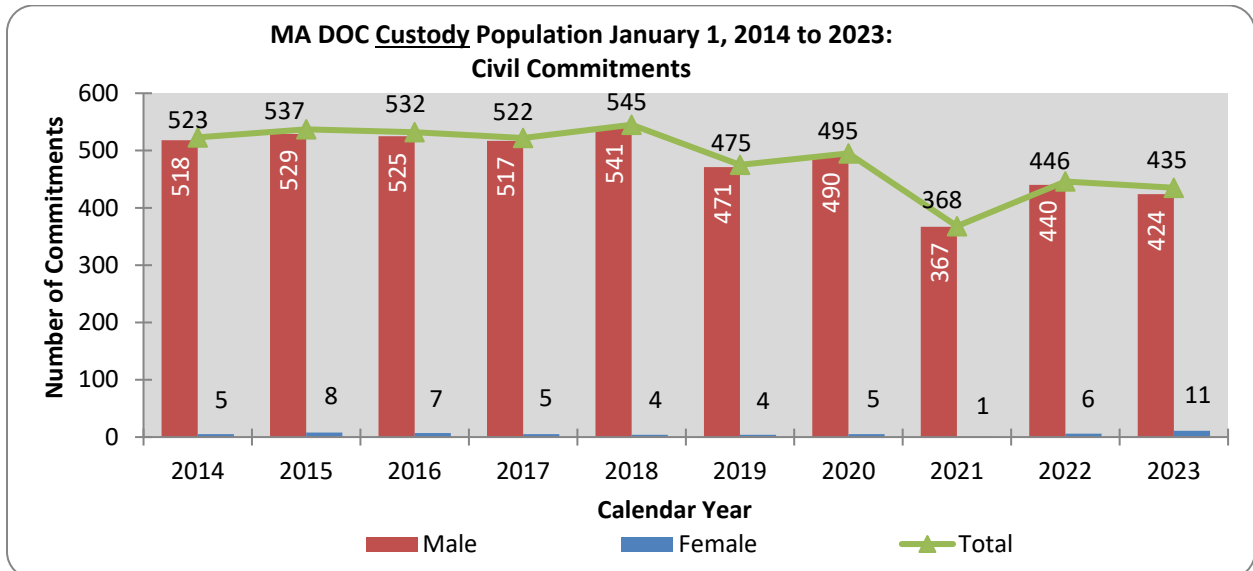


- ◆ Criminally sentenced commitments composed 92% of the MA DOC custody population on January 1, 2023.
- ◆ Between 2014 and 2023, both the male and female populations have experienced a decrease, 42% and 71% respectively. Peaking at 8,944 in 2014, the total criminally sentenced population has shown a steady decrease over the entire trend period.

## Population Trends

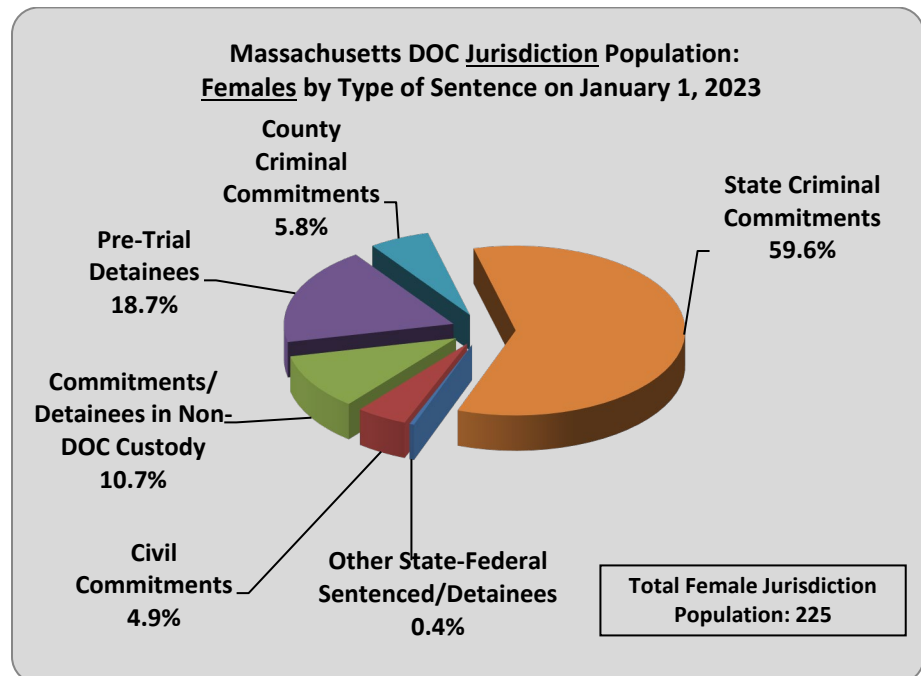
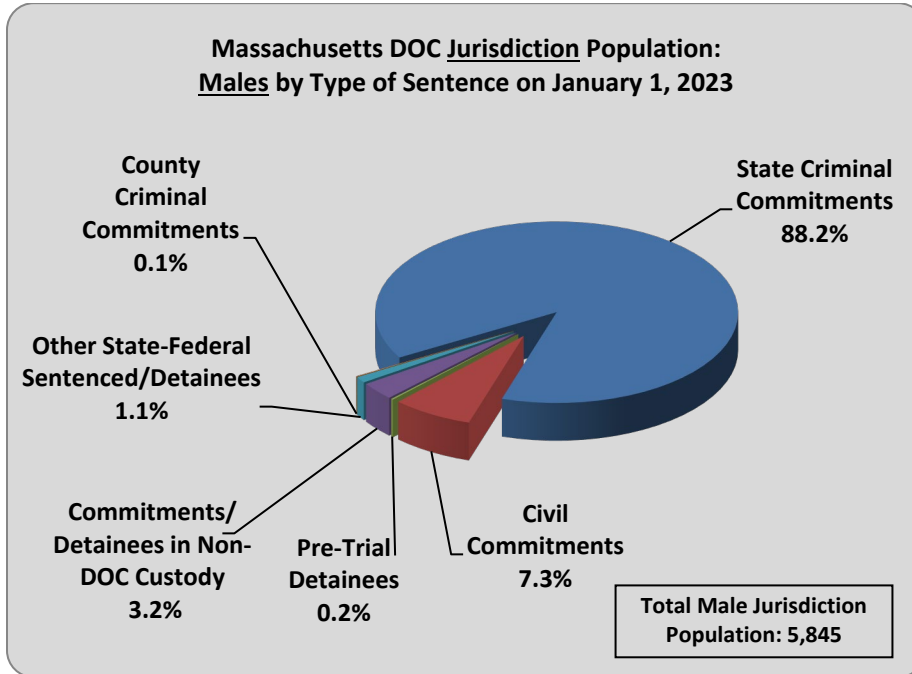


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased by 92% between 2014 and 2023.
- ◆ Fluctuations in the total pre-trial population were common over the 10-year trend period. Males were in the majority four of the ten years and females six of the ten with the last two years flipping back to a female majority (62% in 2022 and 78% in 2023).



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consisted almost entirely of males (97%) on January 1, 2023. This population has remained static over most of the trend period but in recent years has fluctuated. Most notably a 13% decrease from 2018 to 2019, a small increase of 4% between 2019 and 2020, and a new drastic decrease of 26% in 2021 which is largely due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all facets of the MA DOC. The population rebounded to nearly normal levels with a 21% increase in 2022 and the trend period ended with a slight decrease of 2% in 2023.
- ◆ Averaging 6 commitments a year over the 10-year trend period, female civil commitments represent the smallest population in the MA DOC with a low of 1 in 2021 and recently a high of 11 in 2023.

## Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were state criminal commitments (88%) on January 1, 2023.
- ◆ In previous years female state criminal commitments represented a smaller portion of their total commitments (39% in 2019 versus 60% in 2023) compared to males (88% in 2023). This is due in part to the MA DOC previously housing numerous counties' female population 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 2022 Population Characteristics

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## **Population Characteristics by Assigned Sex**

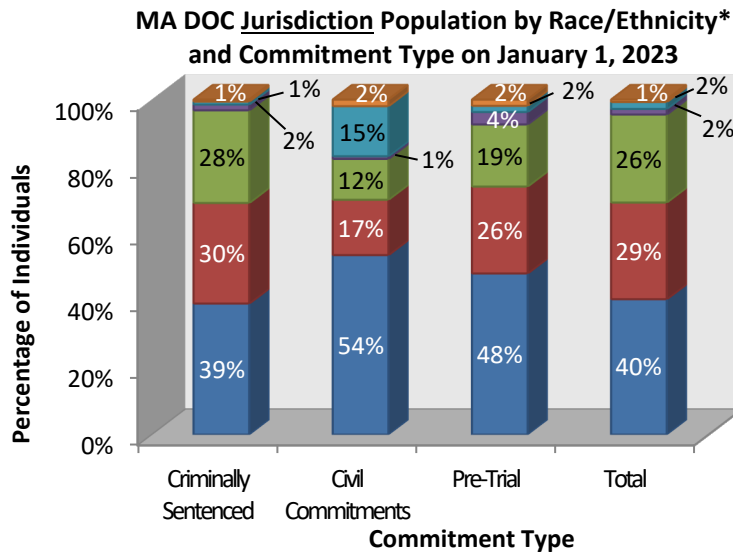
### **Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2023**

- ◆ 5,845 total males in the jurisdiction population: 5,335 criminally sentenced commitments, 12 pre-trial detainees, and 498 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (2,317), Black or African American (1,712), Hispanic (1,576), Unknown (102), Asian or Pacific Islander (96), American Indian or Alaska Native (42)
- ◆ Average age was 44 years old (youngest incarcerated individual was 18 years old and the oldest was 88 years old)
- ◆ 97% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 79% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 267 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2018 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 29% for the total male population
- ◆ 41% of males had an open mental health case, 34% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 29% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2022 Note: Information provided by Data Analytics Unit and Health Services Division

### **Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2023**

- ◆ 225 total females in the jurisdiction population: 172 criminally sentenced commitments, 42 pre-trial detainees, and 11 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (139), Black or African American (39), Unknown (23), Hispanic (17), Asian or Pacific Islander (5), American Indian or Alaska Native (2)
- ◆ Average age was 41 years old (youngest incarcerated individual was 20 years old and the oldest was 78 years old)
- ◆ 88% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 72% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 11 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2018 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 28% for the total female population
- ◆ 79% of females had an open mental health case, 74% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 65% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2022 Note: Information provided by Data Analytics Unit and Health Services Division

## Population Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Assigned Sex



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity\* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**

Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	2,157	273	26	2,456
Black or African American	1,653	84	14	1,751
Hispanic	1,521	62	10	1,593
Asian or Pacific Islander	95	4	2	101
Unknown	48	76	1	125
American Indian or Alaska Native	33	10	1	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6,070</b>

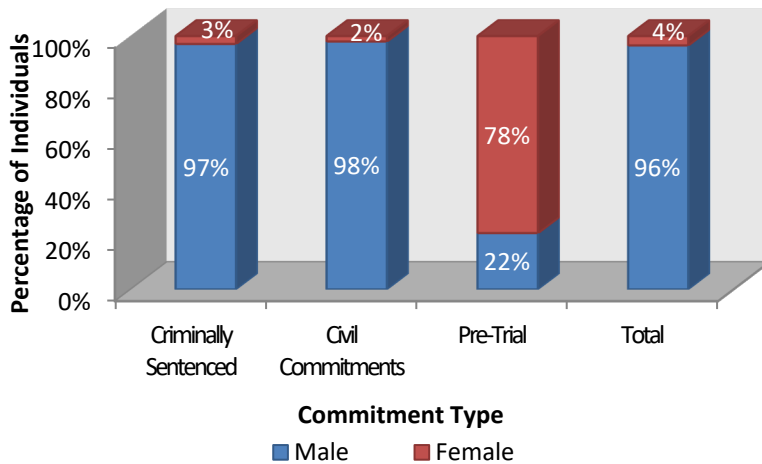
\*Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by the individual at time of admission.

■ White ■ Black or African American ■ Hispanic ■ Asian or Pacific Islanders ■ Unknown ■ American Indian or Alaska Native

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

Similar to previous years, the largest percentage of the total population had a race/ethnicity of White (40%), followed by Black or African American and Hispanic (29% and 26% respectively), which was mirrored in each commitment type. There was little change in proportions from last year with the exception of pre-trial detainees, which experienced a percentage point increase in Black or African American (4%), Hispanic (3%), Asian (2%) and American Indian or Alaska Native (2%) with a small decrease in the White (4%) and Unknown (6%) pre-trial populations.

### MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**

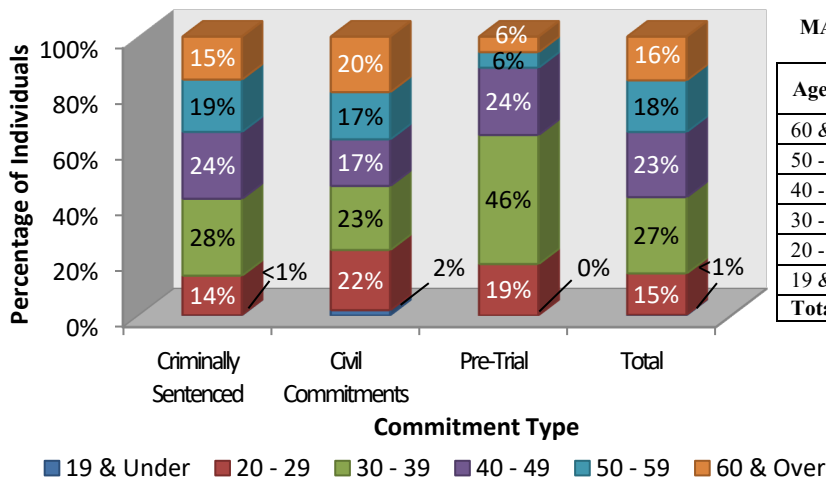
	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	5,335	498	12	5,845
Female	172	11	42	225
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6,070</b>

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males with ninety-seven (97%) and ninety-eight (98%) percent, respectively. This year, pre-trial detainees began to see a greater proportion of females (78%) versus males (22%), with males experiencing a sixteen (16%) percentage point decrease while females experienced a sixteen (16%) percentage point increase from January 1, 2022.



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

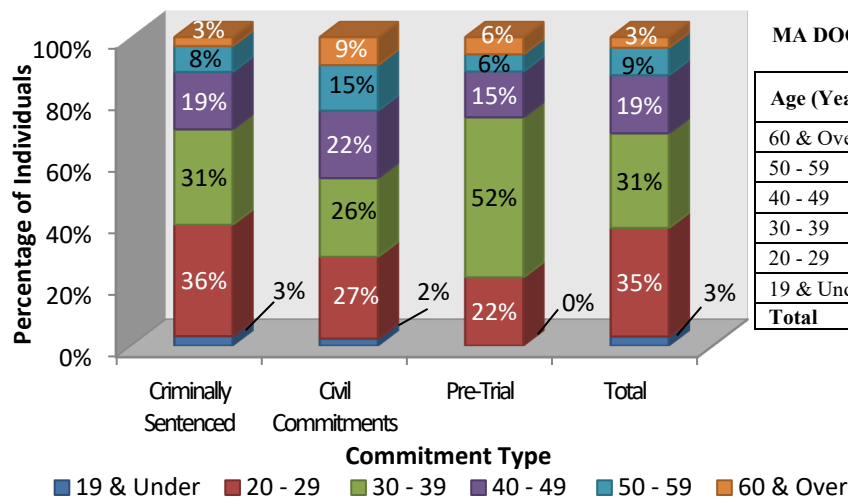
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	845	101	3	949
50 - 59	1,031	86	3	1,120
40 - 49	1,320	85	13	1,418
30 - 39	1,521	117	25	1,663
20 - 29	784	110	10	904
19 & Under	6	10	0	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6,070</b>

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**



**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2023**

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	160	46	3	209
50 - 59	461	75	3	539
40 - 49	1,021	111	8	1,140
30 - 39	1,702	130	28	1,860
20 - 29	1,991	135	12	2,138
19 & Under	172	12	0	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6,070</b>

- ◆ As of January 1, 2023, forty-two (42%) percent (n = 2,305) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 3,196 criminally sentenced (58%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 3,693 in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (67%) with 1,991 between ages 20-29 (36%).
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age groups on January 1, 2023 to age at incarceration. Just over sixty-four (64%) percent of pre-trial detainees were between the ages of 20-39 on January 1, 2023, while seventy-four (74%) were between the ages of 20-39 at the time of incarceration. This supports the idea that the pre-trial population is transitional with shorter institutional stays.
- ◆ The oldest incarcerated individuals in the jurisdiction population as of January 1, 2023, relative to sentence type, were criminally sentenced with fifty-eight (58%) of individuals (n = 3,196) aged 40 and older. This differs from age at incarceration, in which 3,865 criminally sentenced individuals (70%) were 39 years old and younger.

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

**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Average Age Comparison by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type: January 1, 2023, Date of Commitment, and Date of Release in 2022**

Assigned Sex	Commitment Type	Average Age		
		1/1/2023	Commitment	Release
<b>Female</b>	Criminal	43	37	40
	Civil	35	35	35
	Pre-Trial	36	35	36
	<b>Female Total</b>	41	37	37
<b>Male</b>	Criminal	44	35	41
	Civil	44	40	38
	Pre-Trial	48	45	45
	<b>Male Total</b>	44	35	40
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>

**Note:** There were two individuals released in 2022 with an unknown self-reported assigned sex

Pre-Trial males on average were the oldest individuals on January 1, 2023 (48) as well as the oldest at time of commitment (45). Pre-trial males (45) were also the oldest releases on average during 2022. On January 1, 2023, the total population ranged in age from 18 through 88 years old.

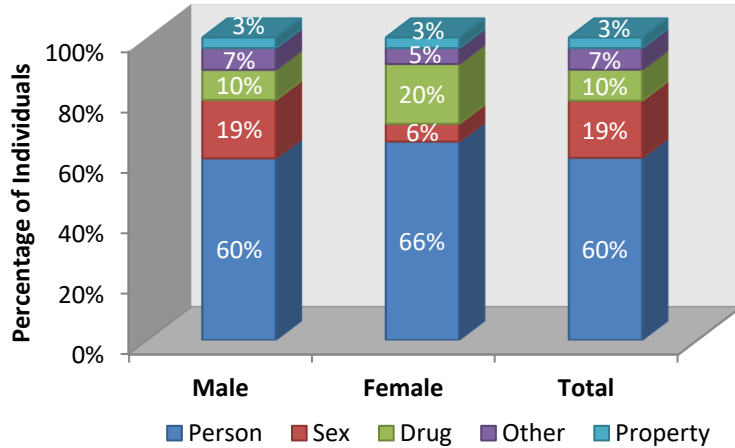
**MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Five Year Comparison of Youngest and Oldest Age Groups January 1, 2019 – January 1, 2023**

Age Range		Year				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>29 and Under</b>	<b>Number</b>	1,705	1,579	1,141	933	920
	<b>% of Population</b>	19%	19%	17%	15%	15%
<b>60 and Over</b>	<b>Number</b>	983	1,011	951	928	949
	<b>% of Population</b>	11%	12%	14%	15%	16%
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>9,207</b>	<b>8,784</b>	<b>8,292</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>6,070</b>

The percentage of the population 29 years old and under decreased by four (4) percentage points from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2023, while the number of incarcerated individuals aged 60 years old and over increased by five (5) percentage points during the same timeframe.

## Population Characteristics by Offense Types

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2023**

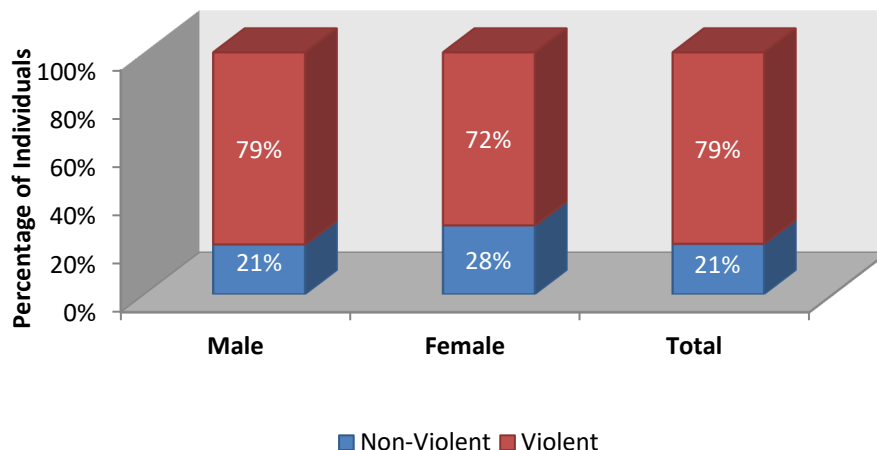


**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2023**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	3,210	113	3,323
	Sex	1,025	10	1,035
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	532	34	566
	Other	383	9	392
	Property	185	6	191
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,335</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>5,507</b>

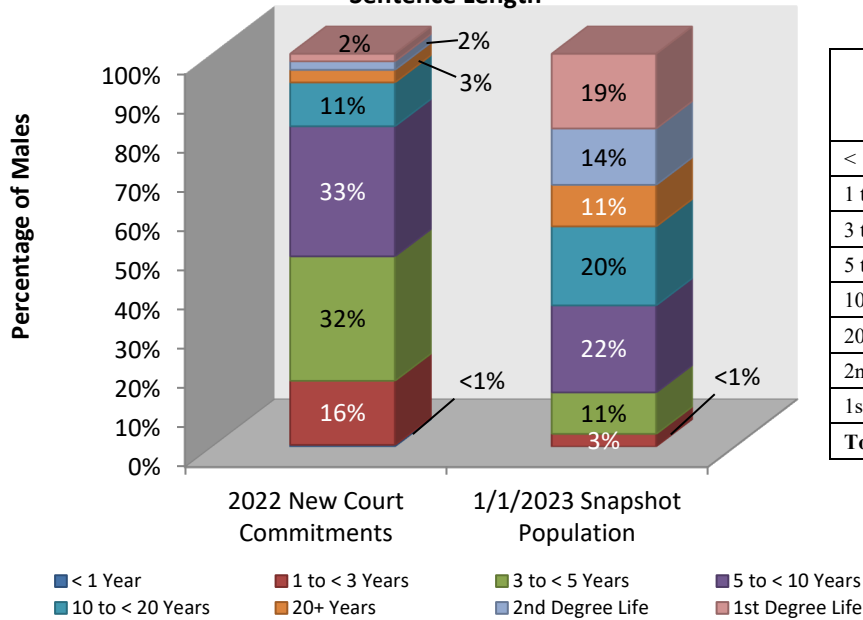
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for the total criminally sentenced population on January 1, 2023 were person (60%), sex (19%), and drug offenses (10%). For males, the top three governing offenses were also person (60%), sex (19%), and drug (10%).
- ◆ Differing slightly in order from their male counterparts, the top three offenses for females were person offenses (66%), drug offenses (20%), and sex offenses (6%).
- ◆ The majority of criminally sentenced females (72%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense although the population dropped 6 percentage points in 2023 compared to 2022. Males remained the same as the previous year with seventy-nine (79%) percent incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2023**



## Population Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

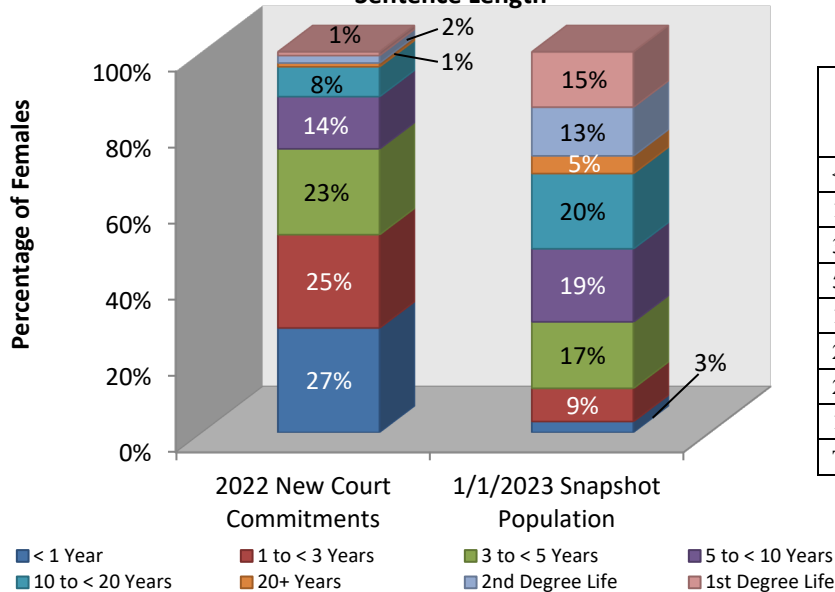
**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2022 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2023 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length



**MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2022 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2023 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2022 New Court Commitments	1/1/2023 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	6	1
1 to < 3 Years	204	174
3 to < 5 Years	396	564
5 to < 10 Years	413	1,182
10 to < 20 Years	139	1,074
20+ Years	40	564
2nd Degree Life	27	763
1st Degree Life	24	1,013
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>5,335</b>

**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2022 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2023 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length



**MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2022 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2023 Snapshot Population:**  
Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2022 New Court Commitments	1/1/2023 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	28	5
1 to < 3 Years	25	15
3 to < 5 Years	23	30
5 to < 10 Years	14	33
10 to < 20 Years	8	34
20+ Years	1	8
2nd Degree Life	2	22
1st Degree Life	1	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>172</b>

The comparisons of 2022's new court commitments to the January 1, 2023, 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 thirty-three (33%) percent of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised four (4%) percent of new court commitments.

## ***Population Characteristics by Sentence Length***

In 2022, fifty-two (52%) percent of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only twelve (12%) percent of females in the January 1, 2023 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, eighty-two (82%) percent of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only thirty-six (36%) percent of the males in the January 1, 2023 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, 2022 and January 1, 2023, the percentage of state criminally sentenced females in the MA DOC jurisdiction decreased by three (3%) percentage points, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced females increased by four (4%) percentage points. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2023:

- ◆ 92% (n=158) were state sentenced
- ◆ 8% (n=13) were county sentenced
- ◆ Less than 1% (n=1) 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 incarcerated individual can serve on their commitment, which is the sum of their consecutive sentences. Seventy-eight (78%) 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 sixty-seven (67%) percent of the female sentenced population, with eight (8%) percent of criminally sentenced females serving a maximum sentence length of less than 3 years on a non-violent governing offense.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2023:  
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Assigned Sex**

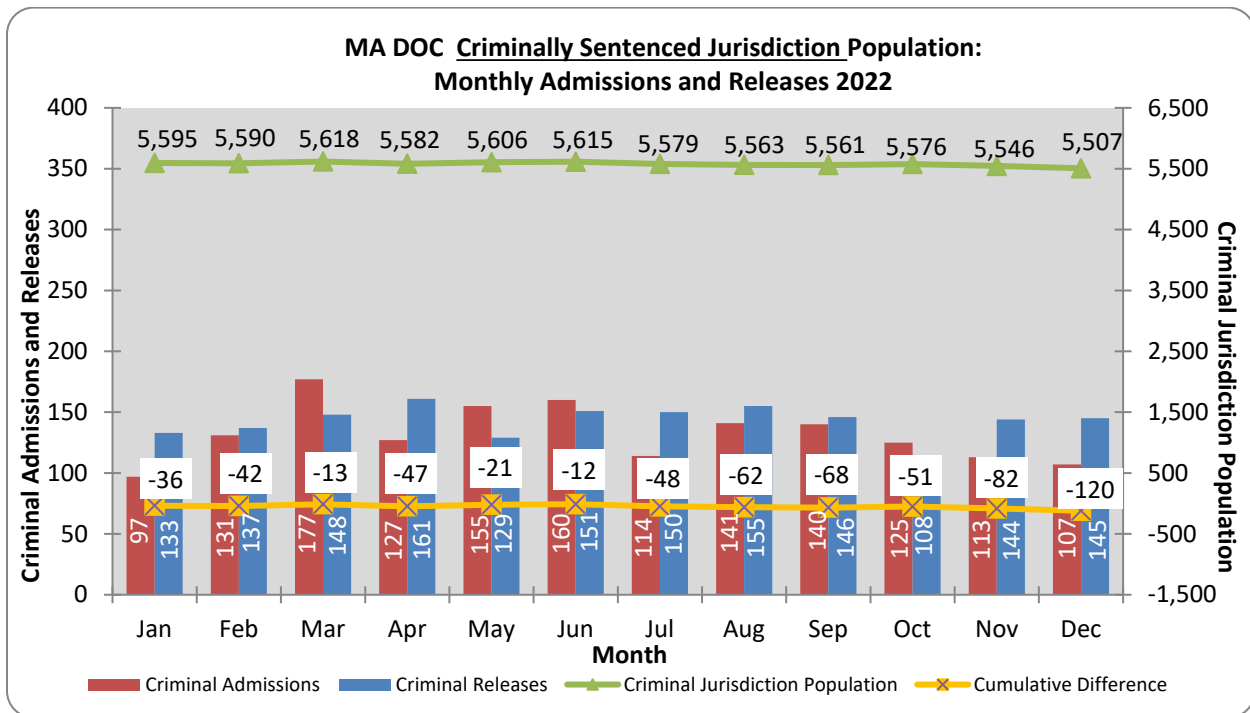
	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	64	3,146	7	106	71	3,252
	SEX	17	1,008	0	10	17	1,018
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	43	489	6	28	49	517
	PROPERTY	14	171	2	4	16	175
	OTHER	37	346	5	4	42	352
TOTALS		175	5,160	20	152	195	5,312
		5,335		172		5,507	

On January 1, 2023 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=532) for criminally sentenced males (10%) and the second largest (n=34) for females (20%). The majority (49%) of drug offenders were serving governing sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. A total of 278 were serving a mandatory drug governing offense: 267 males and 11 females.

## Massachusetts DOC 2022 Admissions and Releases

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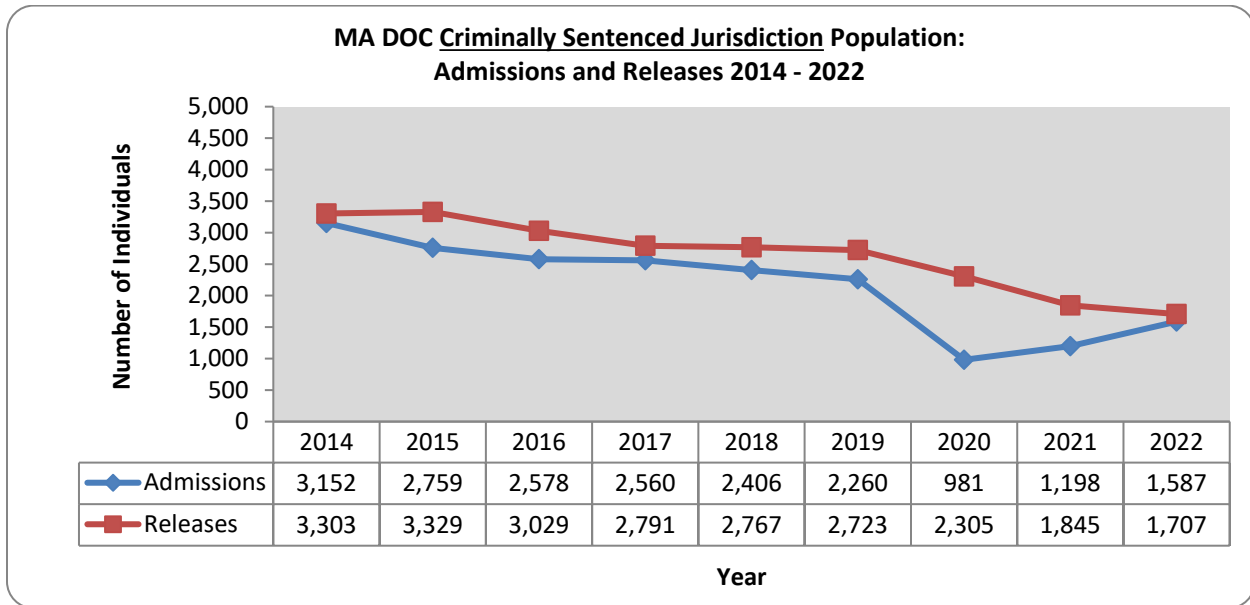
## Admissions and Releases



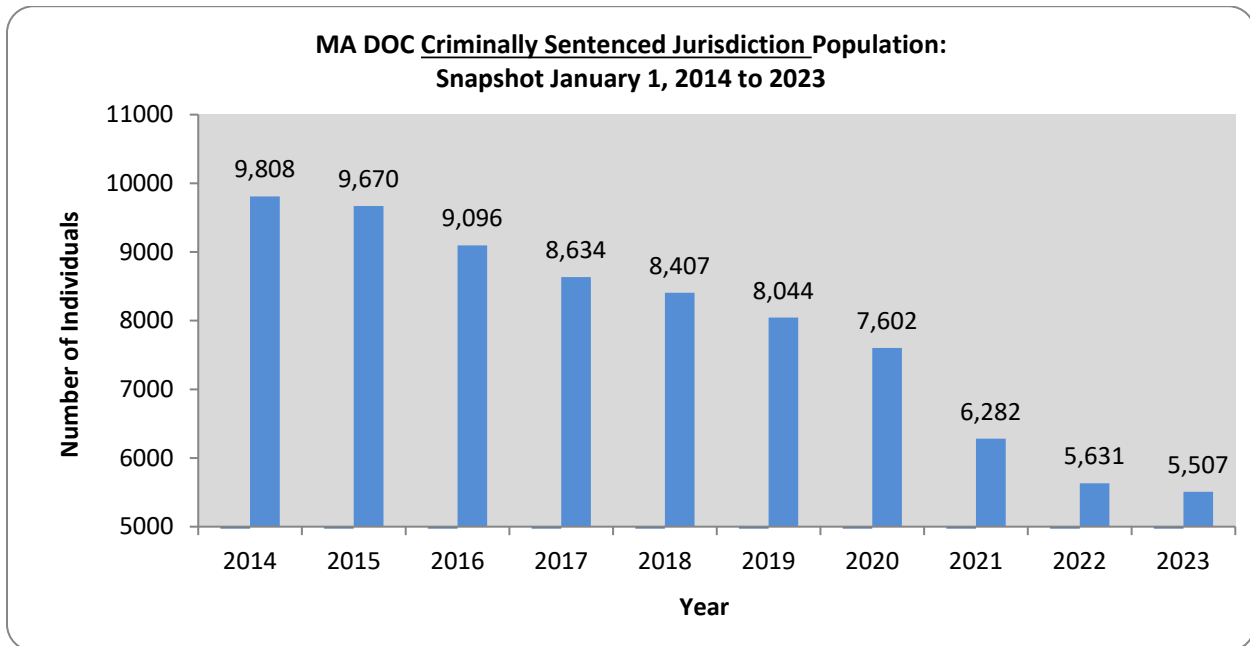
**Note:** Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2022 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was less than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 132 per month and criminal releases averaging 142.
- ◆ During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 97 in January, and 177 in March. Criminal releases ranged between 108 in October, and 161 in April.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 120 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2022 was 5,507, a 2% decrease from the population at the end of 2021, at 5,631. This rate of decrease was less than the decrease seen when comparing years end 2021 and 2020 criminally sentenced populations.

## Admissions and Releases



Over the past nine years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal admissions exhibiting a slightly stronger decline than criminal releases. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of a little more than 6% 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 6%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2021 and 2020, 20% and 15% respectively.

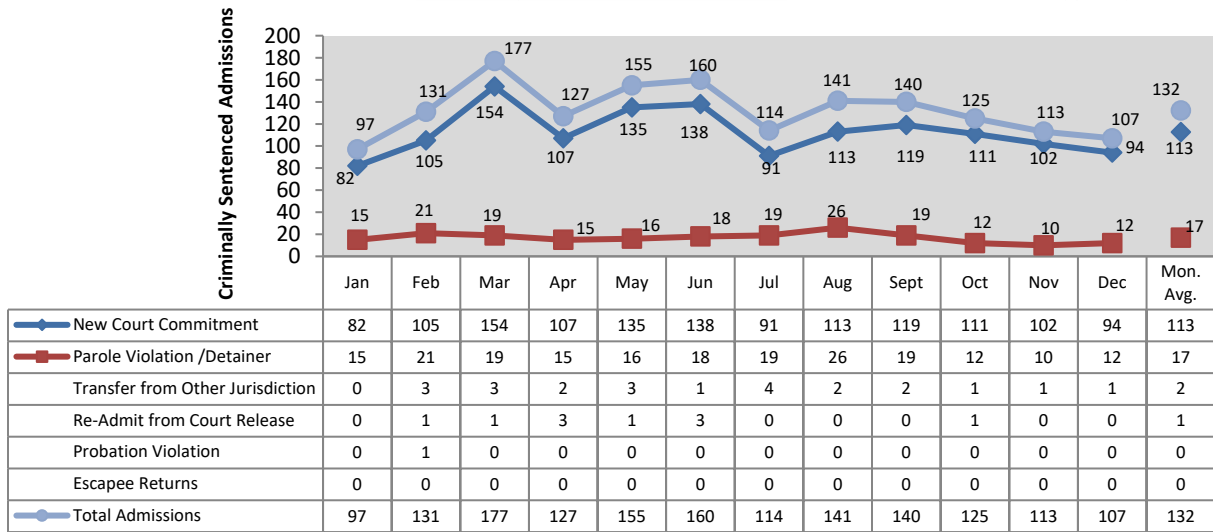


The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 44% from 2014 to 2023, averaging a 5% decrease per year. This population saw its largest yearly decrease of over 17% between 2020 and 2021 due to changes resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.



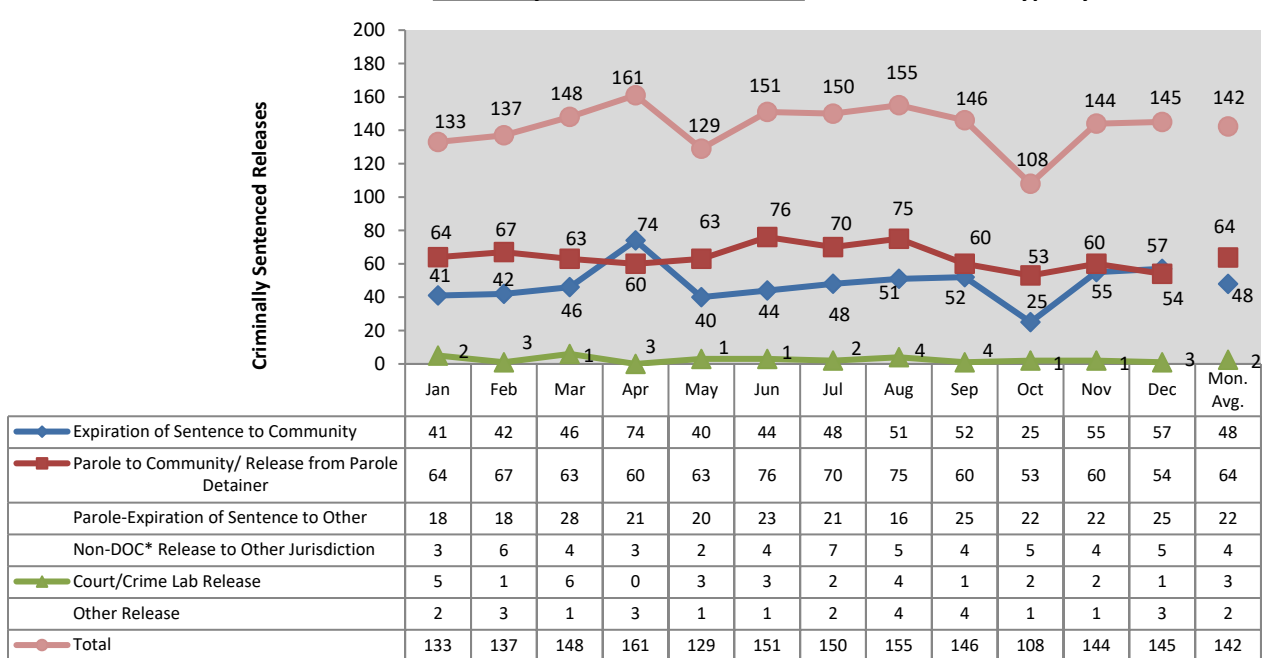
## Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2022 were driven primarily by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 82 to 154 with a monthly average of 113, thirty-three more than the monthly average in 2021. Total criminal admissions ranged from 97 to 177 for a monthly average of 132, thirty-two more than the 2021 monthly average of 100.

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Month



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

Total criminal jurisdiction releases for 2022 ranged between 108 and 161 for a given month and averaged 142; twelve fewer than the monthly average from 2021 of 154. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 48 releases per month during 2022, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer moved up and down around a flat line of 64 per month. Parole-related releases to the community resulted in 45% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2022; higher than 2021 releases, at 39%.

## Admissions and Releases

### MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions:

#### Admission Type by Assigned Sex

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	102	94%	1,249	85%	1,351	85%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	4	4%	198	13%	202	13%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	1	<1%	22	1%	23	1%
Probation Violation	1	<1%	0	0%	1	<1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	1	<1%	9	<1%	10	1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>100%</b>

During 2022, 85% of male and 94% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments. The percentage of new court commitments increased from the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions during 2021 for both males and females, which were 80% for males and 82% for females.

### MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases:

#### Release Type by Assigned Sex

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	35	38%	540	33%	575	34%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	35	38%	730	45%	765	45%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	13	14%	246	15%	259	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	7	8%	45	3%	52	3%
Court Release / Crime Lab	2	2%	28	2%	30	2%
Other Release	1	1%	25	2%	26	2%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Non-DOC refers to individuals 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 1,370 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2022, approximately 42% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 56% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and 2% were court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ Females accounted for 5% of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community (1,370) in 2022; 6% of total expirations of sentence to the community, 5% of total paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 7% of total court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 26 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2022: 25 males and 1 female.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated individual can be released on parole. In 2022, 17 individuals were released using medical parole: 15 males and 2 females.

## ***Admissions and Releases***

### **MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2020 - 2022**

Admission Type	2020		2021		2022	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	743	76%	963	81%	1,351	85%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	203	21%	195	16%	202	13%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	23	2%	25	2%	23	1%
Probation Violation	3	<1%	1	<1%	1	<1%
Re-Admit from Court Release	6	<1%	12	<1%	10	1%
Escapee Return	1	<1%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>100%</b>

- ◆ From 2020 to 2022, the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments went up from 76% to 85%. The number of admissions who were new court commitments grew from 743 in 2020 to 1,351 in 2022, an 82% increase compared with the 50% drop between 2019 and 2021.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, decreased between 2020 and 2021 from 203 to 195. It then increased to 202 in 2022. Its share of all criminal admissions dropped from 21% in 2020 to 13% in 2022.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2020 to 2022 saw its lowest point in 2020, which was 22% and 62% lower than criminal admissions from 2021 and 2022 owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020.

### **MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2020 - 2022**

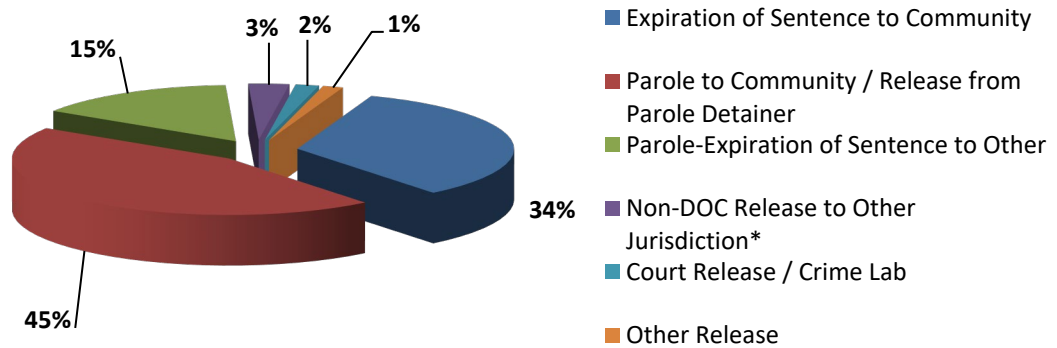
Release Type	2020		2021		2022	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	1,001	43%	725	39%	575	34%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	869	38%	711	39%	765	45%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	302	13%	288	16%	259	15%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	39	2%	43	2%	52	3%
Court Release / Crime Lab	54	2%	35	2%	30	2%
Other Release	38	2%	41	2%	26	2%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Non-DOC refers to individuals 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 2022 when it was 43% lower than the peak in 2020. Releases decreased by close to 20% between 2020 and 2021, followed by another 7% decrease during 2022.

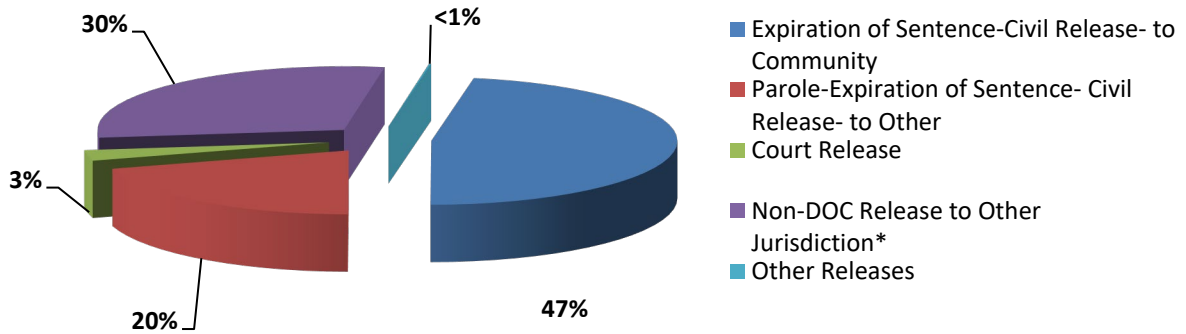
## Releases by Release Type

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



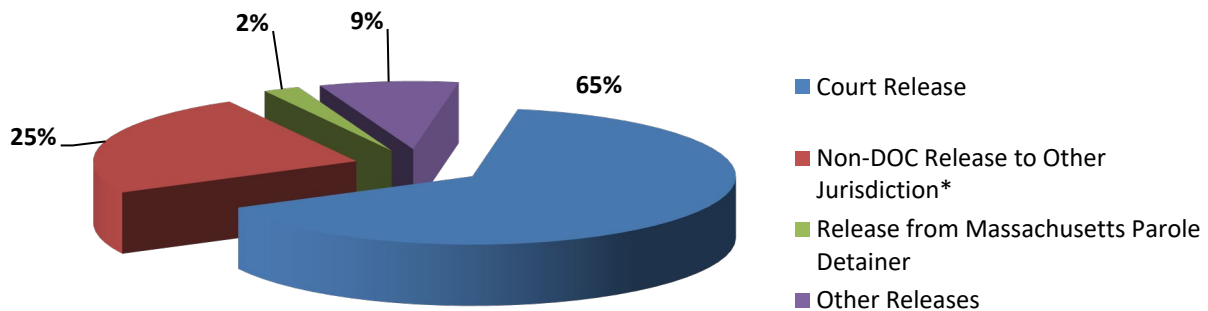
\*Refers to non-DOC commitments from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

**MA DOC 2022 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



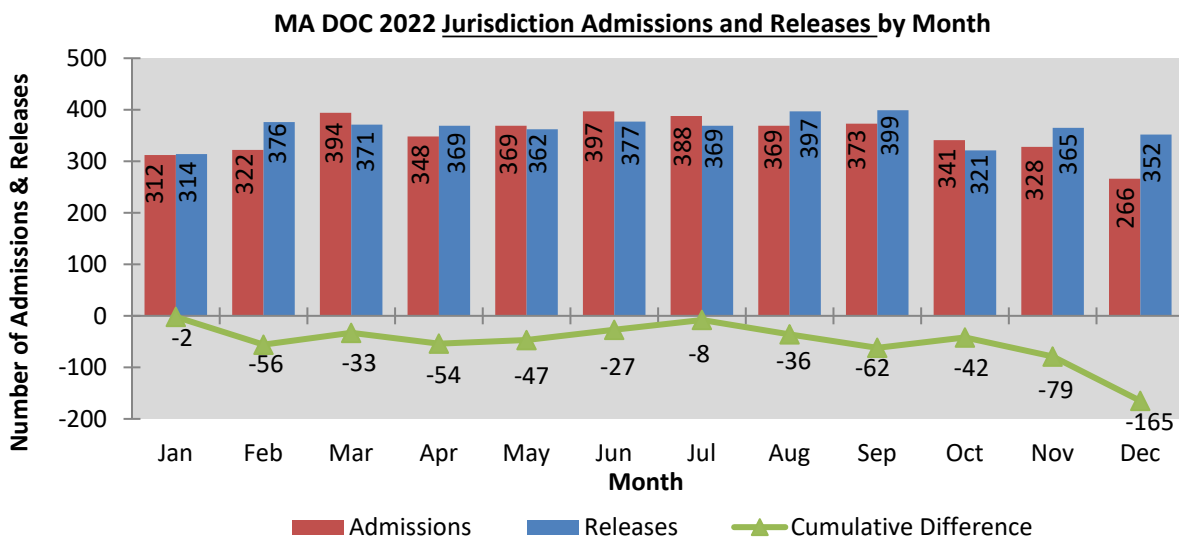
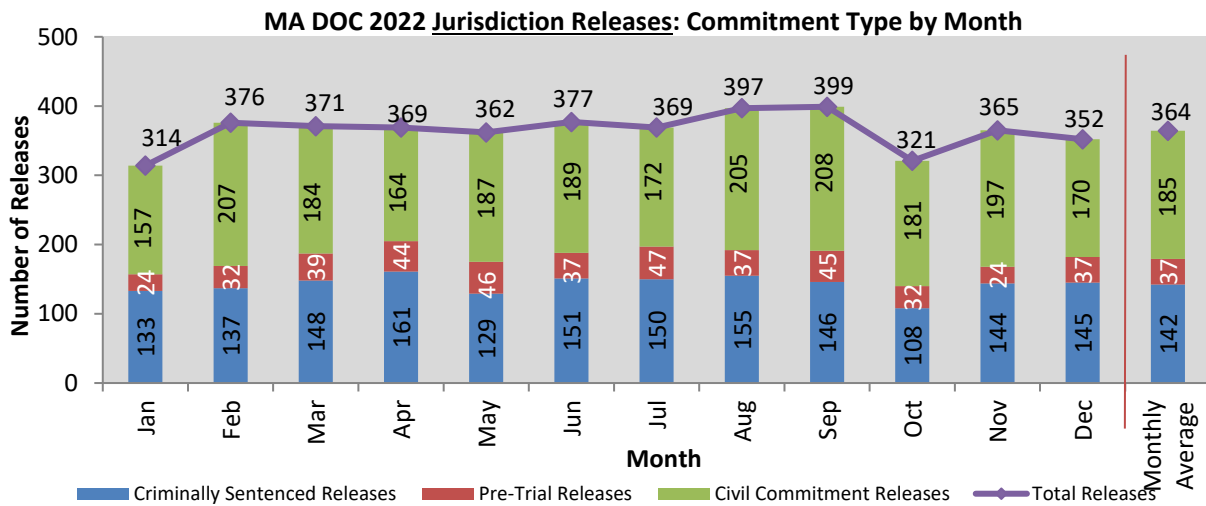
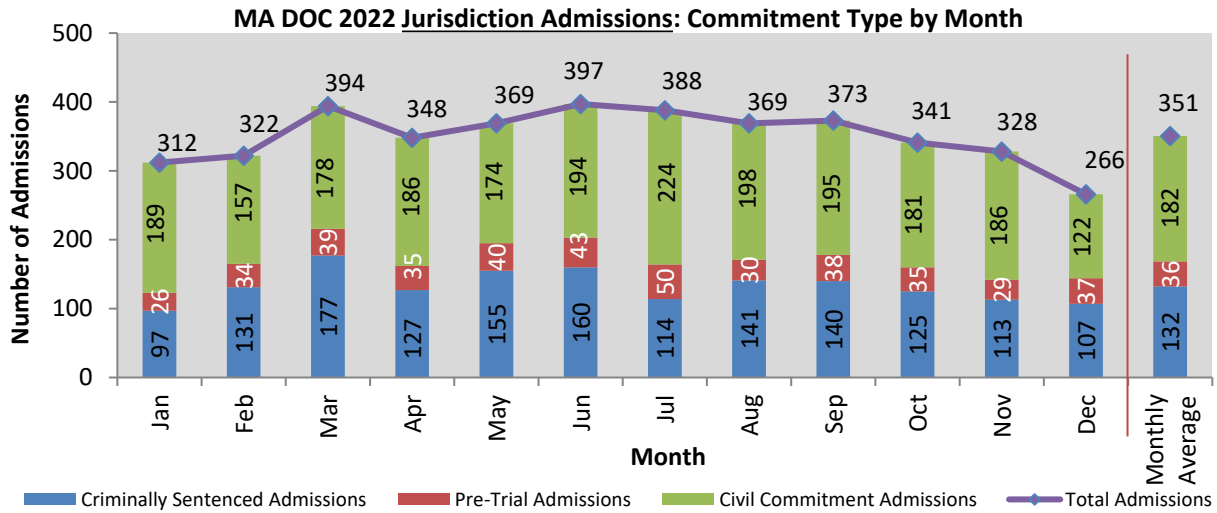
\*Refers to non-DOC commitments from county or another state's jurisdiction released to county or another state's jurisdiction.

**MA DOC 2022 Pre-Trial Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type**



\*Refers to non-DOC commitments 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



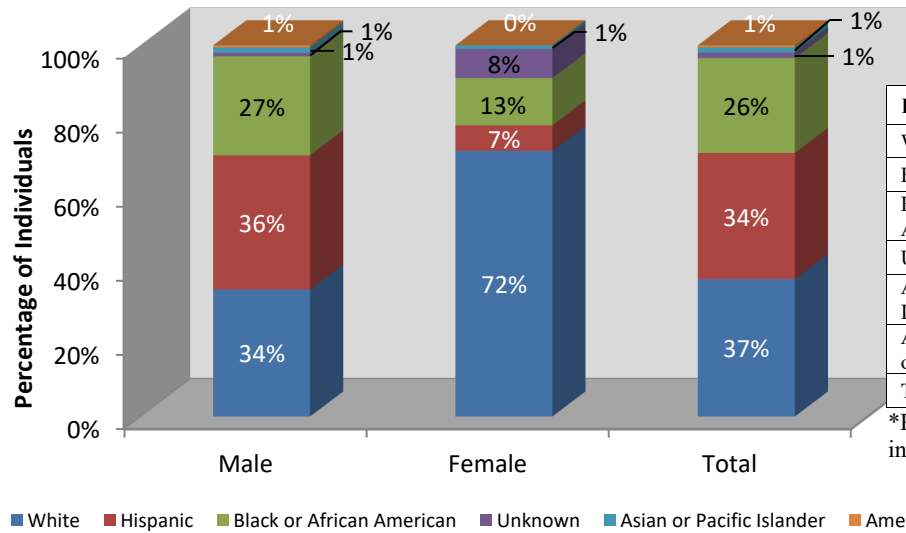
Throughout 2022, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a downward trend, ending in an overall cumulative decrease of 165 incarcerated individuals. This was a 73% decrease compared to the cumulative decrease of 603 incarcerated individuals seen during 2021.

## Massachusetts DOC 2022 Admissions by New Court Commitments

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## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Race/Ethnicity by Assigned Sex**



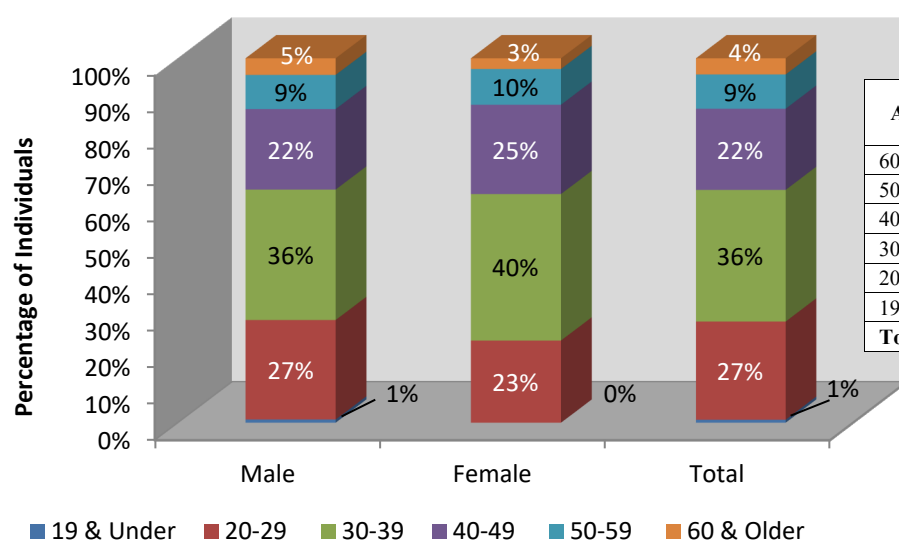
**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Race/Ethnicity\* by Assigned Sex**

Race/Ethnicity*	Male	Female	Total
White	427	73	500
Hispanic	452	7	459
Black or African American	333	13	346
Unknown	12	8	20
Asian or Pacific Islander	18	1	19
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1,351</b>

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

For males, the most common races for criminally sentenced new court commitments were Hispanic (36%), followed by White (34%) and Black or African American (26%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (72%), followed by Black or African American (13%) and Unknown (7%). As males made up 92% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex**



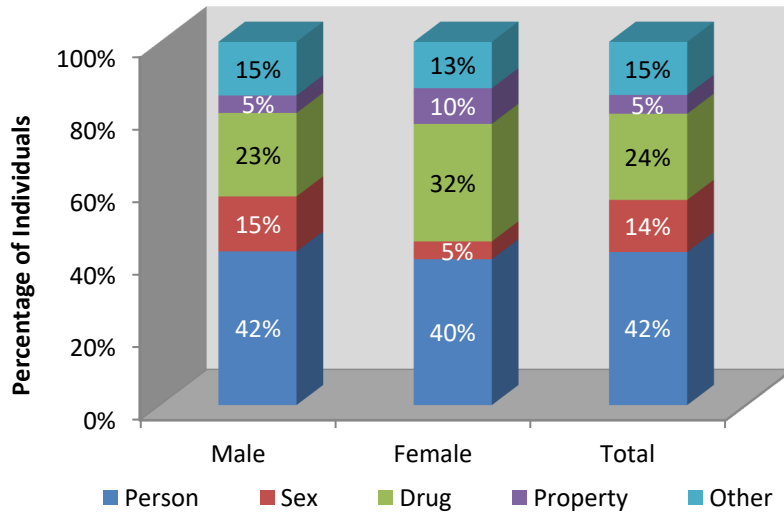
**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex**

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
60 & Over	57	3	60
50-59	117	10	127
40-49	276	25	301
30-39	447	41	488
20-29	341	23	364
19 & Under	11	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1,351</b>

The age distribution of male new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (36%) and the 20 – 29 year age group (27%). The largest percent of female criminal new court commitments fell into the 30 – 39 year age group (40%) as well, followed by the 40 – 49 year age group (25%). Males and females had similar age distributions in the rest of age groups, with 37% male and 35% female criminally sentenced new court commitments falling into these categories.

## Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Assigned Sex**

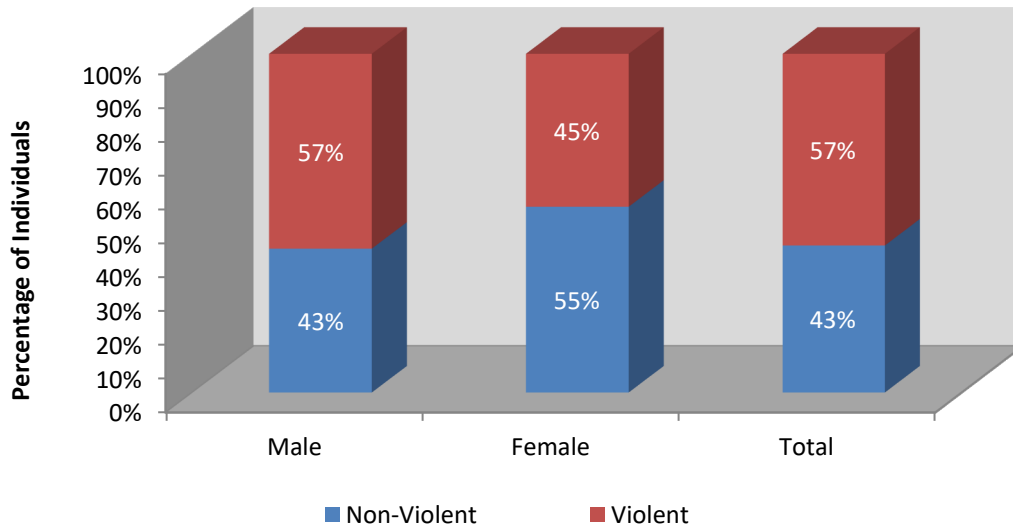


**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction  
New Court Commitments:  
Governing Offense by Assigned Sex**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	529	41	570
	Sex	189	5	194
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	287	33	320
	Property	60	10	70
	Other	184	13	197
	Total	1,249	102	1,351

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (42%), followed by drug (23%). Among females, person offenses were the most common (40%), followed by drug offenses (32%) as well. Property offenses were the least common, accounting for 5% of governing offenses for the criminally sentenced new court commitments, 5% of the male governing offenses and 10% of the female governing offenses.

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Assigned Sex**

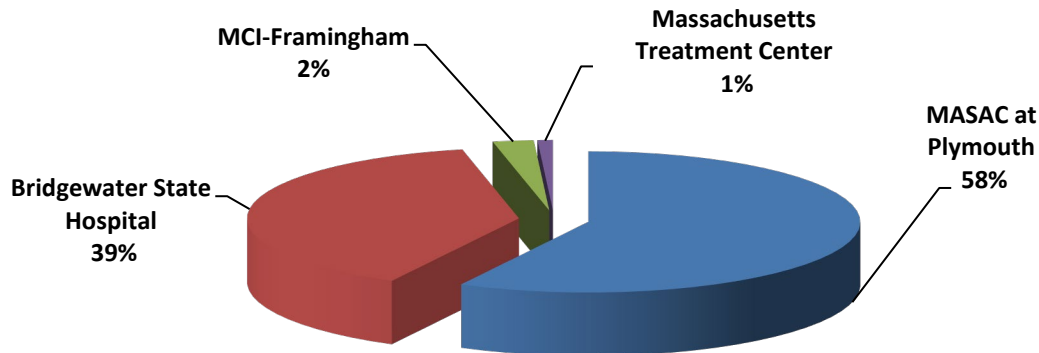


The majority of male criminally sentenced new court commitments had violent governing offenses (57%) while the majority of female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses (55%). Overall, because males made up 92% of the new court commitments, criminally sentenced jurisdiction population split in the same way as male criminally sentenced jurisdiction population with 57% having violent and 43% having non-violent governing offenses.



## Admissions by New Court Commitments

MA DOC 2022 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:  
Civil Commitments by Institution



MA DOC 2022 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution

Institution	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
MASAC at Plymouth	0	1,258	1	1,259
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	848	1	849
MCI-Framingham	53	0	0	53
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	20	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,181</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, and “Sexually Dangerous Persons” at the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC).

- ◆ In 2022, there were 2,181 civil new court commitments, representing 52% of the overall 4,207 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (58%) of civil commitments in 2022 were Section 35’s admitted to MASAC at Plymouth. This was lower than the 65% in 2021. The number of Section 35’s decreased from 1,541 during 2021 to 1,259 during 2022, an 18% decrease. Commitments to MASAC at Plymouth are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ During 2022, there were 849 civil commitments to BSH. This was a 10% increase from 774 of the previous year. During 2022, 39% of the civil commitments went to BSH, higher than the 33% during 2021.
- ◆ Females represented a little over 2% of the civil commitments during 2022, higher than the female civil commitments during 2021. In addition, 2 civil commitments reported their assigned sex as unknown during 2022.

## Massachusetts DOC 2022 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 individual 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.

**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Post Release Supervision Type and Year 2018 - 2022**

Post Release Supervision Type	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Parole Supervision (only)	368	17%	389	18%	493	26%	419	28%	434	32%
Probation Supervision (only)	728	34%	687	33%	559	29%	403	27%	332	24%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	225	10%	220	10%	377	20%	292	20%	331	24%
No Post Release Supervision	844	39%	810	38%	496	26%	357	24%	273	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

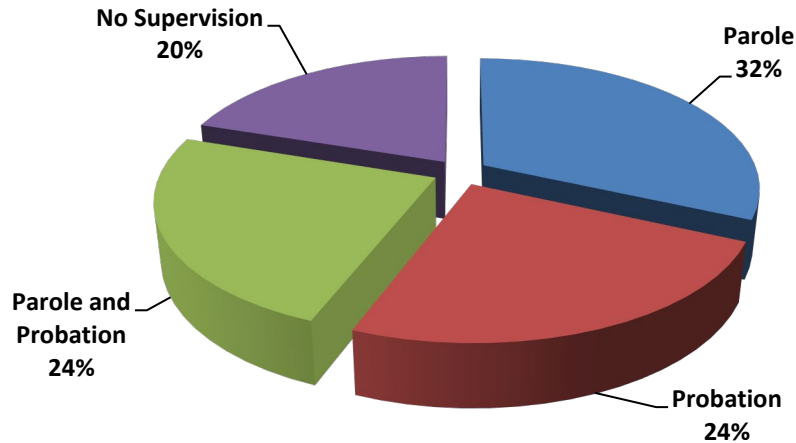
  

Post Release Supervision	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Supervision	1,321	61%	1,296	62%	1,429	74%	1,114	76%	1,097	80%
No Supervision	844	39%	810	38%	496	26%	357	24%	273	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

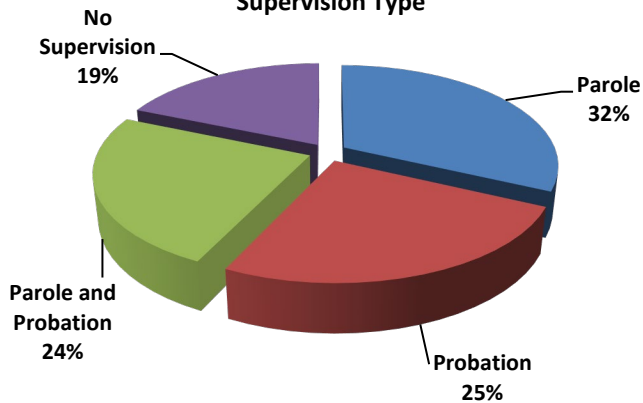
- ◆ Overall, there was a 37% decrease (n=795) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2018 and 2022. Though each subsequent year saw fewer releases, the largest decrease was between 2020 and 2021 (about 24%). While releases to parole supervision increased between 2019 and 2020, releases overall have dropped from 2021 to 2022.
- ◆ Releases to the community have experienced a consistent downward trend from a high of 2,165 in 2018 to a low of 1,370 in 2022. This trend follows the overall criminally sentenced custody population, which decreased by over 2 percent from 1/1/2022 to 1/1/2023. The percentage of those released with parole supervision has increased year to year while interrupted between 2020 to 2021, the trend has started to increase into 2022. Incarcerated individuals released with no supervision decreased by 68% from 2018 to 2022.
- ◆ In 2022, 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 80% while only 20% are released with no supervision.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated individual can be released on parole. In 2022, 17 individuals were released to the community using medical parole.

## Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

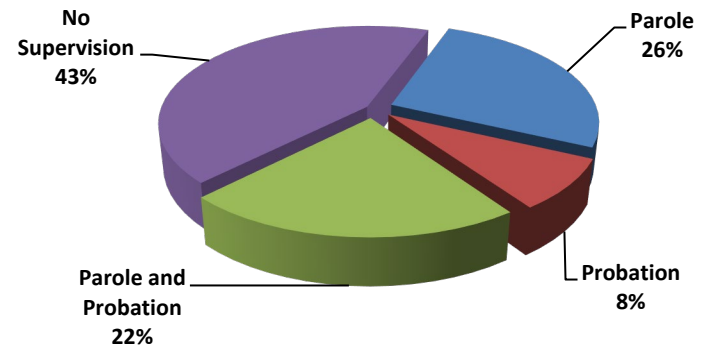
**MA DOC 2022 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



**MA DOC 2022 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



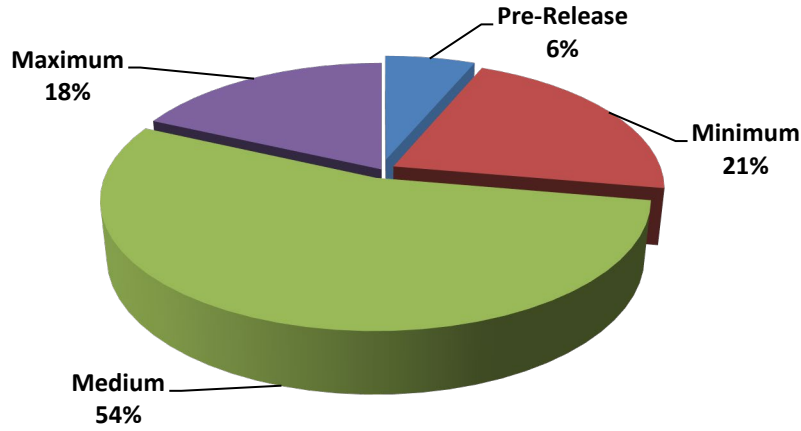
**MA DOC 2022 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type**



In 2022, the male population was more likely than the female population to be released to the community under probation supervision only - 25% of males compared to 8% of females. Conversely, female were more likely to be released with no supervision - 43% of females compared to 19% of males. While males and females released with parole (including “Parole and Probation”) at similar rates in 2021 (49% each), it was a different story for 2022 with males at 56% and females at 48%. This is likely due in part to the 24% decrease in no post release supervision from 2021 to 2022.

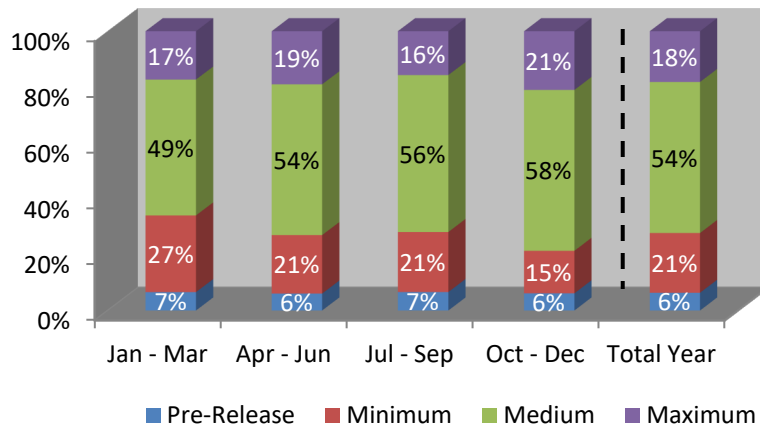
## Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Overall, the number of criminally sentenced releases to the community decreased by fewer than 7% from 1,471 releases in 2021 to 1,370 releases in 2022. Releases came from facilities of all security levels.
- In comparison to previous years, the criminally sentenced releases from medium security facilities surpassed the 50% mark with a total of 54% (n=741). Less than one-fourth (n=293) came from minimum security facilities, and slightly above one-sixth came from maximum security facilities.

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community Quarterly by Security Level

Security Level	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Total Year
Maximum	58	69	57	65	249
Medium	163	196	204	178	741
Minimum	92	76	78	47	293
Pre-Release	22	22	24	19	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>1,370</b>

- The highest release activity occurred between April and June of 2022 (n=363) and replicated between July and September. Although being the highest release activity, it differs from the previous year 2021, where the highest release activity occurred between January and March (n=383).

## Releases to the Community by Security Level

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community  
by Security Level and Institution**

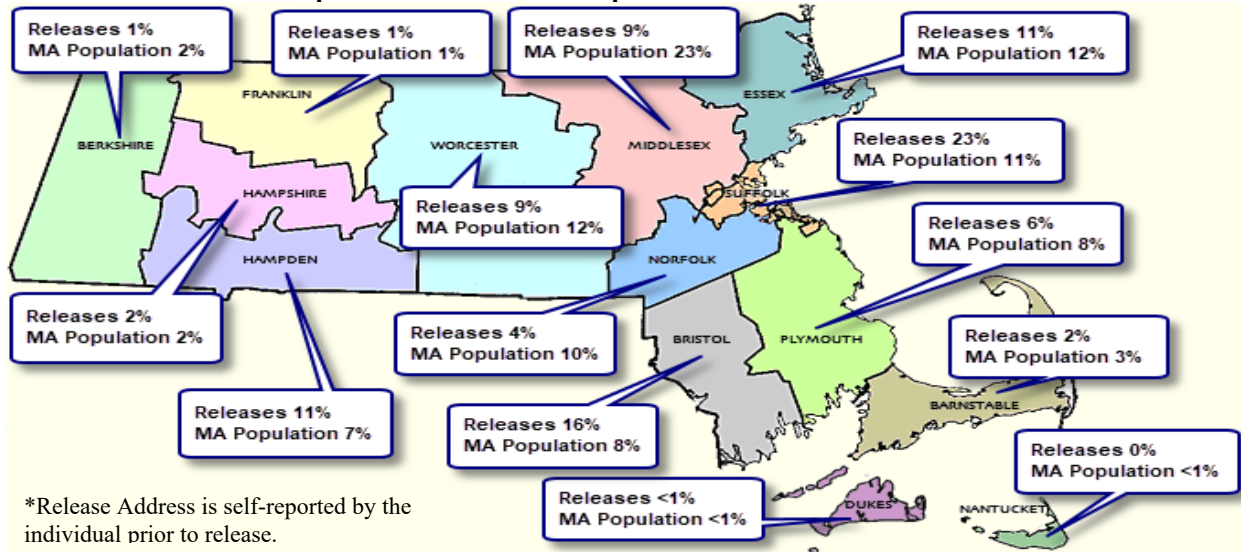
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
<b>Male</b>					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	24	22	46
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	3	0	0	3
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	95	0	0	95
MCI-Cedar Junction	90	2	0	0	92
MCI-Concord	0	80	0	0	80
MCI-Norfolk	0	134	0	0	134
MCI-Shirley	0	217	0	0	217
NCCI-Gardner	0	87	0	0	87
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	101	17	118
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	53	55	0	108
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	81	20	101
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	159	0	0	0	159
<b>Female</b>					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
MCI-Framingham	0	54	0	0	54
South Middlesex Correctional Center	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total DOC Facilities</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,295</b>
County, Federal, Interstate	0	15	32	28	75
<b>Total Jurisdiction</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1,370</b>

\*Note: 12 individuals (10 male, 2 female) were County, Federal, Interstate - Electronic Monitoring (CFI ELMO) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing DOC facility of release in 2022, the greatest number of criminally sentenced individuals were released to the community from MCI-Shirley (n=217), followed by Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=159), and MCI-Norfolk (n=134).
- ◆ The greatest number of criminally sentenced males were released to the community from the medium security unit of MCI-Shirley (n=217), followed by maximum security releases from Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=159).
- ◆ Each year, DOC commitments serve sentences at, and are released directly from, county, federal, and interstate facilities. There were 75 releases from this county, federal, and interstate population in 2022.

## Release Address by County

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties\*  
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2021



Note: 2021 estimated county population statistics were provided by the U.S Census Bureau, 2022 was not available.

Note: The MA DOC population are not always 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 2021 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC population released to each county in 2022. Suffolk, Bristol, and Hampden were the only three counties with a higher percentage of incarcerated individuals released to the county (51% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (26% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 9% of the releases from the MA DOC.

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: County by Assigned Sex<sup>Ω</sup>

Female*			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Middlesex	19	26%	Suffolk	300	23%	Suffolk	317	23%
Suffolk	17	24%	Bristol	216	17%	Bristol	221	16%
Essex	11	15%	Hampden	150	12%	Hampden	154	11%
Bristol	5	7%	Essex	137	11%	Essex	148	11%
Hampden	4	6%	Worcester	120	9%	Middlesex	125	9%
Norfolk	4	6%	Middlesex	106	8%	Worcester	123	9%
Plymouth	3	4%	Plymouth	77	6%	Plymouth	80	6%
Worcester	3	4%	Norfolk	56	4%	Norfolk	60	4%
Barnstable	2	3%	Hampshire	30	2%	Hampshire	30	2%
Franklin	1	1%	Barnstable	24	2%	Barnstable	26	2%
Berkshire	0	0%	Berkshire	19	1%	Berkshire	19	1%
Dukes	0	0%	Franklin	14	1%	Franklin	15	1%
Hampshire	0	0%	Dukes	1	<1%	Dukes	1	<1%
Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>96%</b>
Outside MA	3	4%	Outside MA	48	4%	Outside MA	51	4%
Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

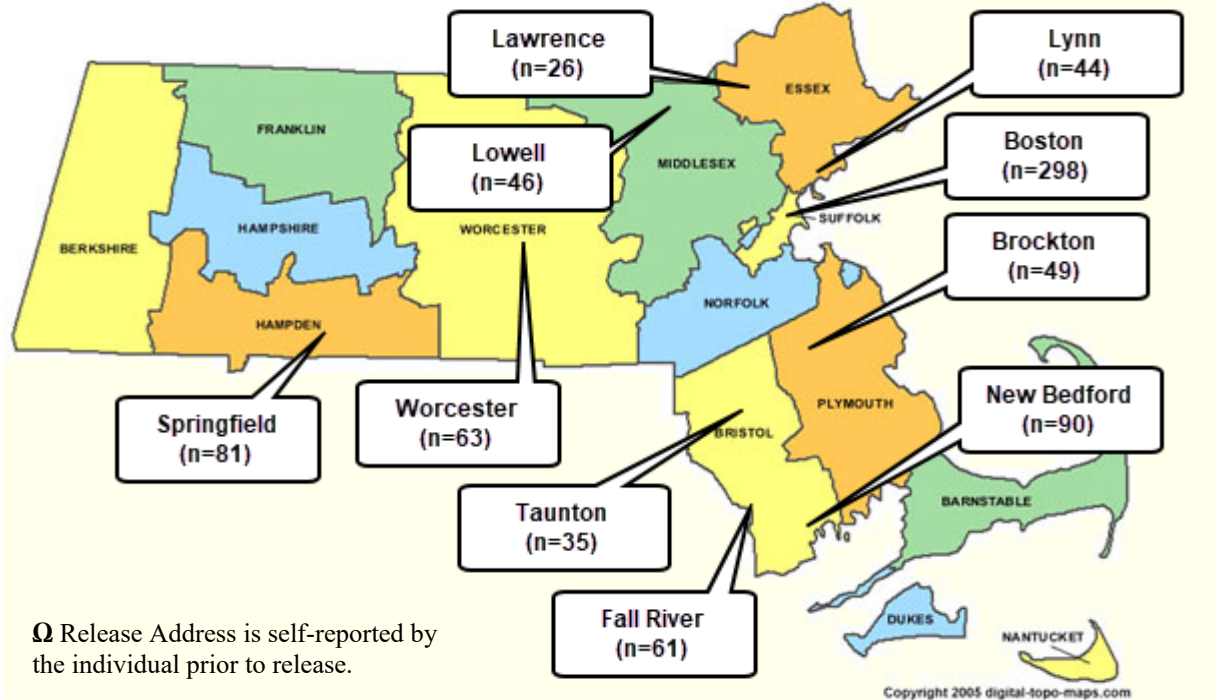
<sup>Ω</sup> Release Address is self-reported by the individual prior to release.

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



## Release Address by Top Ten Cities

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten Cities <sup>Ω</sup>



Of the 1,370 criminally sentenced releases to the community in 2022, 793 (58%) individuals 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=298) followed by New Bedford (n=90) and Springfield (n=81). The male population mirrored the total top ten release cities. The female top ten release cities were similar to males in that Boston was in the top spot, but the other cities differed in positioning on the list and were in very small numbers.

MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Top Ten Releases to the Community: City by Assigned Sex <sup>Ω†</sup>

Female*			Male			Total		
City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage
Boston	16	22%	Boston	282	22%	Boston	298	22%
Lowell	6	8%	New Bedford	88	7%	New Bedford	90	7%
Lynn	6	8%	Springfield	81	6%	Springfield	81	6%
Framingham	3	4%	Worcester	62	5%	Worcester	63	5%
Methuen	3	4%	Fall River	59	5%	Fall River	61	4%
West Springfield	3	4%	Brockton	44	3%	Brockton	49	4%
Everett	2	3%	Lowell	40	3%	Lowell	46	3%
Fall River	2	3%	Lynn	38	3%	Lynn	44	3%
Falmouth	2	3%	Taunton	35	3%	Taunton	35	3%
Fitchburg	2	3%	Lawrence	26	2%	Lawrence	26	2%

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

† Calculations include individuals released to states outside of Massachusetts.

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



## Massachusetts DOC 2022 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 individual is incarcerated under MA DOC jurisdiction between date of admission and date of release. An incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individual's LOS and jail credits.

For the purpose of this report, LOS and time served were calculated based on criminally sentenced population who had their first release to the community from the MA DOC jurisdiction in 2022.

**MA DOC 2022 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits, and Time Served:  
by Release Type and Assigned Sex**

Release Type	LOS	Jail Credits	Time Served
<b>Males</b>			
Parole to the Community	2,209 Days	389 Days	2,598 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,476 Days	375 Days	1,852 Days
<b>Females</b>			
Parole to the Community	1,411 Days	326 Days	1,736 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	605 Days	141 Days	746 Days
<b>Total</b>			
Parole to the Community	2,170 Days	386 Days	2,557 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,419 Days	360 Days	1,779 Days

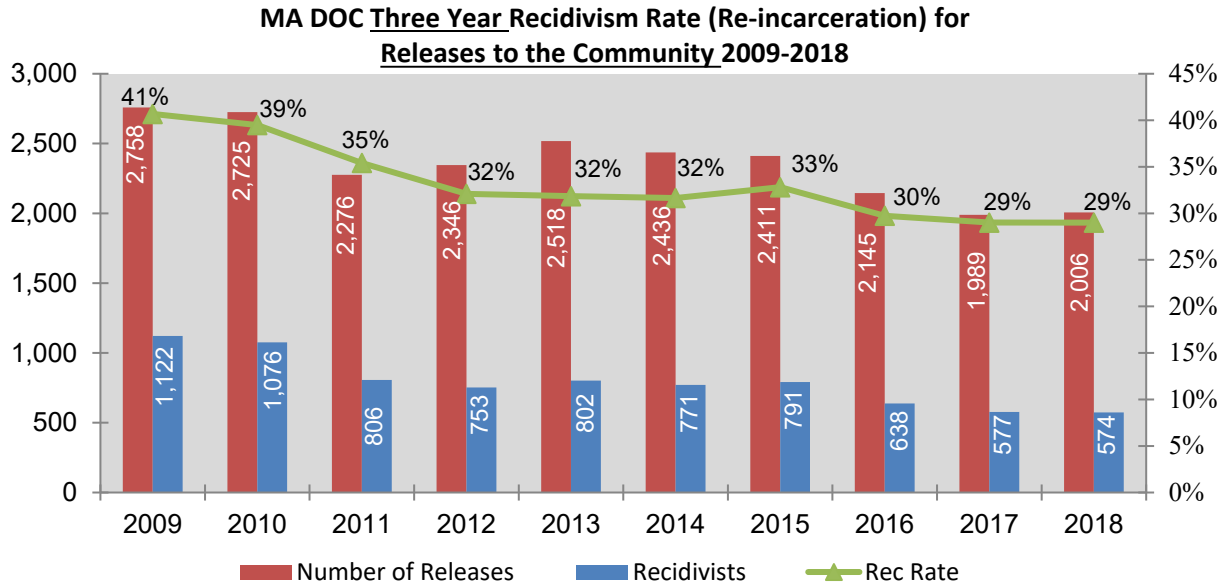
- ◆ There were 1,122 criminally sentenced individuals who had their first release in 2022. Forty-five percent were released due to an expiration of sentence (n = 503), meaning they completed their sentence. The remaining 55% were paroled to the community.
- ◆ Of the 1,122 releases, the majority were males (94%). On average, males released via parole served 7.1 years before initially being released, an increase of .8 years from 2021 male parolees (6.3 years). Their average 389 jail credits did not change much from 2021; length of stay also increased to 6 years up from 5.3 years in 2021. Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 5 years before releasing to the community.
- ◆ Females represented 6% of the total releases in 2022 (n = 63). Females released via parole served 4.8 years which is more than double the 2.1 years in 2021 but was closer to the average of 3.2 years in 2020. Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 2 years in 2022.

# Massachusetts DOC 2022 Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates

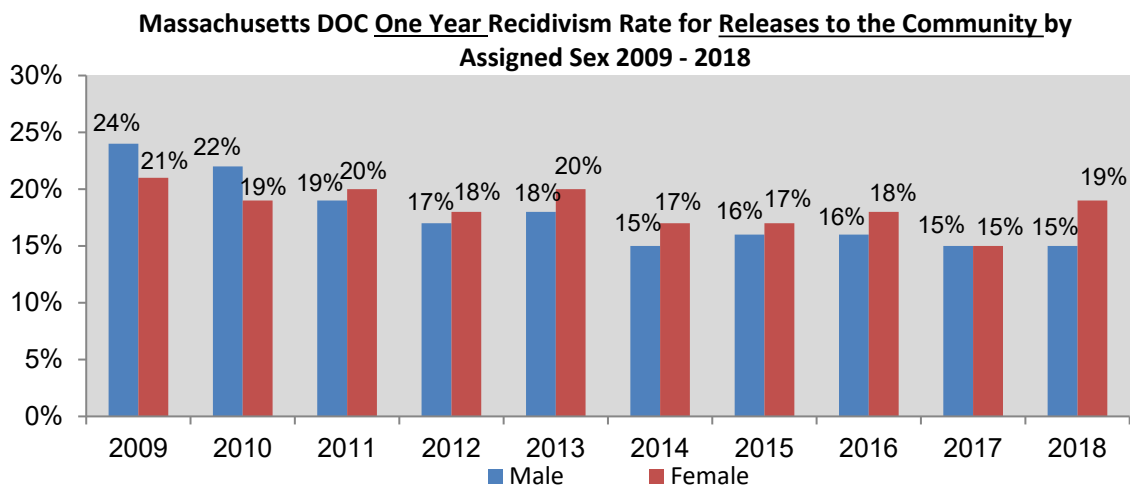
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## Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced incarcerated individual released to the community via expiration of sentence/ parole<sup>7</sup> from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2018 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 re-incarcerated due to a technical violation of parole or probation is a re-incarcerated for violating the terms of the conditions set forth regarding a release in the community, not for committing a new offense.



Over the ten-year trend period, the three year recidivism rate has seen a strong negative trend, ending the trend with an overall recidivism rate decrease of 12 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2009.



The male one-year recidivism rate has stayed fairly consistent from 2014 – 2018, ranging between 15% and 16%. The female rate of 19% was the highest since the decline in 2014, mirroring rates more consistent with what was seen earlier in the trend period.

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

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2018 Releases to the Community by Security Level of Releasing Institution and Assigned Sex**

Security Level	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Maximum	314	40%	n.a.	n.a.	314	40%
Medium	761	29%	240	30%	1,001	29%
Minimum and Pre-Release	528	22%	163	26%	691	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>29%</b>

- ◆ Recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals released during 2018 were positively correlated with the security level of their releasing facility. The recidivism rate for both male and female releases increased as the security level of the releasing institution increased.
- ◆ Males released from lower<sup>8</sup> security had the lowest recidivism rate, with 22% of those releases re-incarcerated within three-years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 29%, while the rate for males released from maximum security was 40%, the highest of all security levels.
- ◆ The recidivism rate for females released from a lower security facility was 26%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 30%.

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2018 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type<sup>9</sup>**

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence <sup>10</sup>	323	29%
State Sentence	80	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>

- ◆ Historically, females released from a county sentence have had a higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. For the 2018 release cohort, the recidivism rate for county sentenced incarcerated individuals was higher than that of state sentenced, 29% and 24%, respectively.

<sup>8</sup> Lower security includes electronic monitoring, minimum, and minimum pre-release.

<sup>9</sup> Some of the females released during 2018 who received a county sentence from the court served that sentence at the Massachusetts DOC, as some county correctional facilities do not house female incarcerated individuals.

<sup>10</sup> Includes incarcerated individuals released from the Massachusetts DOC serving a county sentence.

## ***Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates***

Individuals released to the community with parole conditions are supervised for a period of time upon release to the community. Paroled individuals 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 individual may have a higher likelihood of re-incarceration.

The following tables provide a comparison of the recidivism rates<sup>11</sup> of the population released during 2018, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2018 Including and Excluding  
Re-incarcerations for Technical Violations:  
Type of Release by Assigned Sex**

<b>Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation</b>									
<b>Release Type</b>	<b>Males</b>			<b>Females</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Parole to Community	379	61	16%	103	12	12%	482	73	15%
Expiration of Sentence	1,224	321	26%	300	72	24%	1,524	393	26%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex <u>Including</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation</b>									
<b>Release Type</b>	<b>Males</b>			<b>Females</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Number Releases</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Parole to Community*	379	139	37%	103	41	40%	482	180	37%
Expiration of Sentence	1,224	321	26%	300	73	24%	1,524	394	26%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>29%</b>

\*Individuals 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 parolees, it is important to note that a portion of the those re-incarcerated within the three-year period are no longer under parole supervision at the time they recidivate.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Of the 2,006 incarcerated individuals released to the community during 2018, 24% (n = 482) were paroled to the community, while 76% (n = 1,524) were released via expiration of sentence. When using the definition including technical violations, those paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (37%) than the recidivism rate of those released via expiration of sentence (26%). Again, the higher recidivism rate for parolees 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 those incarcerated individuals who 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 opportunity to commit new crime is diminished. This is a potential issue with the non-technical definition showing lower recidivism rates resulting from an incarcerated individual's inability to commit a new crime for a portion of the three-year follow-up.

<sup>12</sup> Incarcerated individuals 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 2018 Recidivism Rates***

- ◆ Of the 574 who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 126 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole conditions.
- ◆ Of the 126 who returned for a technical violation, 18 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 six percentage points, from 29% to 23% when excluding technical violations, with paroles to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 40% to 12%. The recidivism rate for males decreased from 29% to 24%, while females decreased from 28% to a rate of 21%.

**MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2018 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>Assigned Sex</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>	403	44	11%	30	7%	10	2%	84	21%
<b>Male</b>	1,603	163	10%	137	9%	82	5%	382	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>23%</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>Assigned Sex</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>	403	75	19%	30	7%	9	2%	114	28%
<b>Male</b>	1,603	243	15%	138	9%	79	5%	460	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>29%</b>

- ◆ Both male and female releases experienced a lower first year recidivism rate when excluding technical violators, resulting in a decrease of six percentage points in the recidivism rate for the first year.
- ◆ There was no difference in the second-year recidivism rate whether including or excluding technical violations. While, the third-year recidivism rate increased from 4% to 5% when excluding technical violations.

## Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2018 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Category and Assigned Sex

Offense Category	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Property	202	42%	102	31%	304	38%
Person	668	32%	102	28%	770	31%
Other	216	29%	117	24%	333	27%
Drug	398	20%	74	34%	472	22%
Sex	119	18%	8	n.a.	127	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>29%</b>

- ◆ Those who had been serving governing property offenses had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (42%), followed by person offenses (32%) and ‘other’ offenses who recidivated at 29%.
- ◆ Females serving governing drug offenses had the highest recidivism rate (34%), followed by property offenses (31%) and person offenses (28%).
- ◆ Incarcerated individuals serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (17%).

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2018 Releases to the Community by  
Offense Type and Assigned Sex

Offense Type	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Violent	787	30%	110	26%	897	29%
Non-Violent	816	28%	293	29%	1,109	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>29%</b>

- ◆ Incarcerated individuals released from a governing violent offense in 2018 had a higher recidivism rate (29%) compared to non-violent (28%).

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2018 Releases to the Community by  
Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentence and Assigned Sex

Drug Offense Type	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Non-Mandatory Drug Offense	173	26%	67	36%	240	29%
Mandatory Drug Offense	225	15%	7	n.a.	232	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>22%</b>

- ◆ Of those released who had been serving a governing drug offense, those with a mandatory drug offense had a lower recidivism rate than non-mandatory drug offenders, 15% and 29% respectively.



## ***Recidivism Trends and 2018 Recidivism Rates***

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2018 Releases to the Community by Race/Ethnicity\* and Assigned Sex<sup>13</sup>**

	Males		Females		Total	
Race/Ethnicity	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Black or African American	458	33%	42	19%	500	32%
White	671	28%	310	31%	981	29%
Hispanic	449	27%	23	22%	472	26%
Unknown	5	n.a.	27	22%	32	19%
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	n.a.	1	n.a.	9	n.a.
Asian or Pacific Islander	12	n.a.	0	n.a.	12	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>29%</b>

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

- ◆ The three-year recidivism rate was highest for Black or African American male releases (33%), followed by White male releases (28%) and Hispanic male releases (27%).
- ◆ For female releases, White incarcerated individuals had the highest recidivism rate (31%), followed by Hispanic and Unknown (22%), and Black or African American (19%).
- ◆ Overall, releases who reported a race of Black or African American recidivated at the highest rate (32%), followed by releases who reported a race of White (29%), and Hispanic (26%).

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

## Massachusetts DOC 2022 Caveats and Definitions

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## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>ACA</b>	The American Correctional Association
<b>Admissions</b>	Individuals 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 2022 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>	Individuals 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>	Individuals 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 individuals.

## ***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 individual who is incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Design Capacity</b>	The number of individuals 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. Individuals 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 individual, 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 individual 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 individual 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 individuals 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 2022, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.
<b>Non-DOC Releases to Other Jurisdiction</b>	The transfer of non-DOC individuals (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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<b>Operational Capacity</b>	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.
<b>Other Offenses</b>	Offenses that are not clearly categorized into one of the offense categories of Person, Property, Sex or Drug. Other Offenses include obstruction of justice, habitual criminal, prostitution and some weapons possession crimes.
<b>Other Releases</b>	Releases by virtue of deaths, escapes and transfer out of state.
<b>Parole</b>	The discharge of an individual from a Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction to the supervision of the Parole Board while in the community. Such discharged individuals may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision imposed by the Parole Board.
<b>Parole or Expiration of Sentence to Other</b>	<p>Individuals who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parole to out of state sentence</li> <li>parole to federal authority</li> <li>parole to immigration</li> <li>parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence</li> <li>parole to warrant</li> <li>parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence</li> <li>expiration release to out of state sentence</li> <li>expiration release to federal authority</li> <li>expiration release to immigration</li> <li>expiration release to from and after House of Correction sentence</li> <li>expiration release to warrant</li> <li>expiration release to from and after/concurrent at Department of Correction</li> <li>expiration to civil commitment</li> <li>parole to civil commitment</li> <li>release from civil commitment to warrant</li> </ul>
<b>Parole to Community</b>	Individuals released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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<b>Parole Violator/Detainer</b>	Parolee who violates conditions of parole. A parole violator may be returned to prison for a parole violation with a new offense or technical parole violation. For reporting purposes, individuals who have been returned to Massachusetts DOC custody pursuant to a parole detainer are included in this group.
<b>Person Offense</b>	Crimes against Person (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 265), including assault and battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder.
<b>Pre-Trial or “Detainee”</b>	Individuals housed in MA DOC custody who are held for another MA authority and are detained prior to and during a trial, conviction, and sentencing and not yet convicted of a crime. Detainees are also held by the MA DOC for other jurisdictions on pending federal criminal charges and out-of-state parole violation warrants.
<b>Probation</b>	A court-ordered sentence whereby an individual is released from confinement but remains under court supervision.
<b>Probation Violation</b>	An individual who has been returned to resume serving a previously imposed sentence (return on a split sentence) following a revocation of his/her terms of probation. Split sentences to the state prison were eliminated for offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the “Truth-in-Sentencing” Act of 1994.
<b>Property Offense</b>	Crimes against Property (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 266), including arson, burglary and fraud.
<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	A measurement of the rate at which released individuals are re-incarcerated due to the commission of a new crime or technical violation of their parole or probation.
<b>Release from Parole Detainer</b>	A small number of individuals who are released from a temporary parole detainer (n=12).
<b>Release to the Community</b>	The release of an individual 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.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Sentence/Sentence Type**

#### **State Prison Sentence**

When an individual 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. All state prison sentences have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an individual 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 individual 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 individuals 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.



## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Snapshot Population**

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

### **Technical Violation**

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

### **Violent Offense**

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