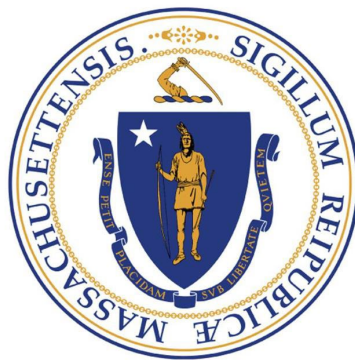


Massachusetts Department of Correction Prison Population Trends Report

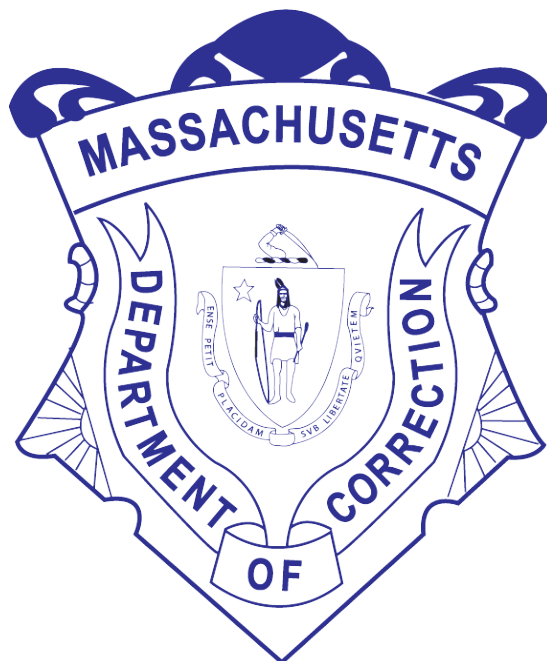
Calendar Year 2024



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
April 2025

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

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



PRISON POPULATION TRENDS 2024

RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

April 2025



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Maura T. Healey, Governor

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary

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Published April 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)** population had been declining consistently from its' peak in 2012. January 1, 2025, saw a less than one (<1%) percent increase in the MA DOC jurisdiction population. Since January 1, 2011 there have only been two years of increase with the last two years (2024 and 2025) being them. 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 38% from January 1, 2016 (n=10,014) to January 1, 2025 (n=6,168), 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 2019, the three year rate was 26%, not only the lowest rate in ten years (2010-2019), 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 39% in 2010. The improved recidivism rate is most notable in the context of the population reflecting a higher concentration with violent offenses 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 two percentage points from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2025. Simultaneously, those individuals 60+ years increased by two percentage points. In the same vein, medical and mental health needs remain high among the population, particularly for females where 78% have open mental health cases (OMH) and 74% determined seriously mentally ill (SMI). While lower in comparison, more than a third of males have OMH (42%) and SMI (37%).

Release types have notably shifted in the last few years, pandemic time frame. In 2020, individuals released by expiration of sentence comprised 43% of the criminally sentenced release cohort compared to only 27% in 2024. 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 male "mental health commitments" committed to Bridgewater State Hospital.

Notable shifts among trends for post-release supervision can be found during the last six years (2019-2024), particularly during the last three years of the pandemic. The ratio of criminally sentenced individuals released on supervision (parole and/or probation) rose from 62% to 84%. This shift can be attributed to the paroled population more than doubling proportionally, 29% in 2019 compared to 64% in 2024, while those release without supervision has dropped 76% from 2019 to 2024.

There were 994 criminally sentenced incarcerated individuals who had their first release in 2024. On average, time served for males released via parole was 7.1 years before being released, an increase of 0.2 years from the 2023 male parolees. Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 5.1 years before releasing to the community. Females represented only 6% of the total releases in 2024 (n=61). On average, the time served for females released via parole was 5.1 years before their 2024 release. Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 1.8 years in 2024, which was a 0.5-year increase compared to 2023.

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>.

Report Populations

This report, *Massachusetts Department of Correction Prison Population Trends 2024*, 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":

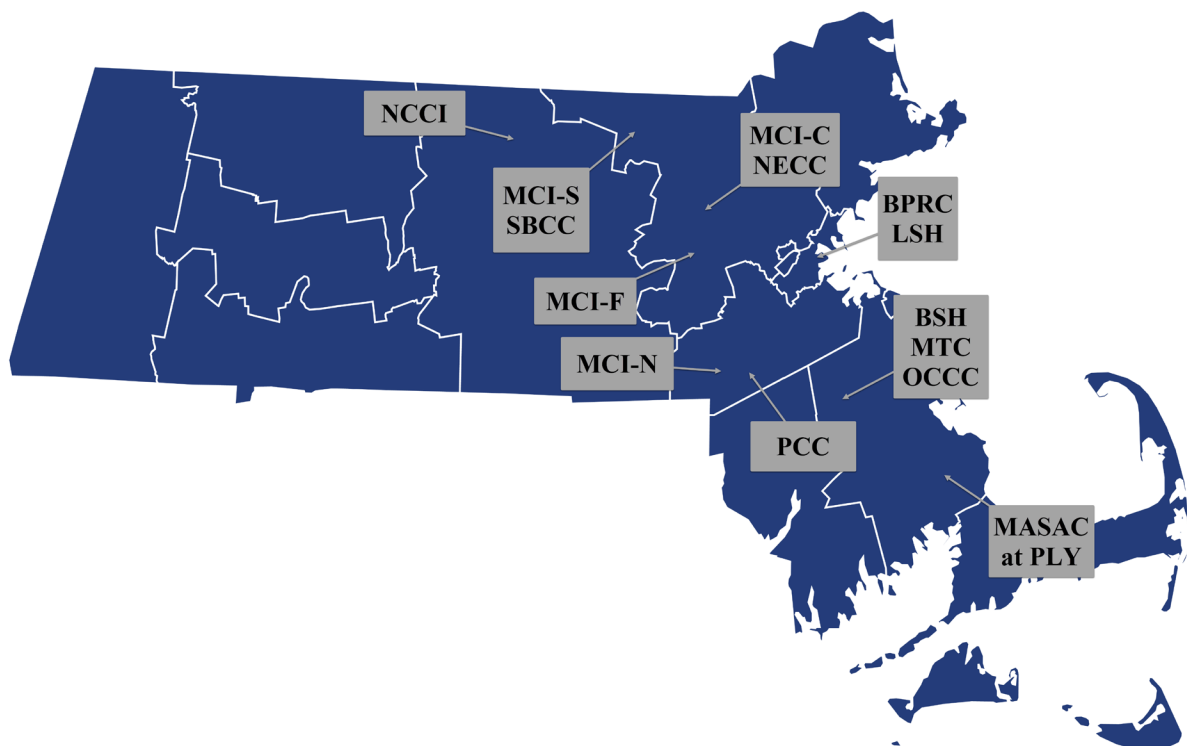
Individuals housed in MA DOC custody who are held for another MA authority and are detained prior to and during a trial, conviction, and sentencing and not yet convicted of a crime. Detainees are also held by the MA DOC for other jurisdictions on pending federal criminal charges and out-of-state parole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

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

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Massachusetts DOC 2024 Institution Overview



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 2024): \$188,993
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 57
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 60
- 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, 2025, there were 38 incarcerated individuals in minimum security and 19 in pre-release security at BPRC.

Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)

Bridgewater, MA

- Security Level: Medium
- Joint Commission Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1974
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$328,178
- January 1, 2024 Facility Population: 234
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 251
- 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 2024): \$595,909
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 12
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 14
- 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 the state and counties. It is a transient facility with few long-term patients. On January 1, 2025, the population consisted of six (6) pre-trial detainees, five (5) criminally sentenced state commitments and one (1) civilly committed individual. The average age of the incarcerated individuals housed on this date was 59 years old.

Institution Overview

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

- Security Level: Minimum
- CARF Accreditation: 2023
- Opened: 1992 - Mission Change: 2002
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$508,190
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 47
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 63
- Operational Capacity: 251



Formerly a minimum-security facility for criminally sentenced males, MASAC'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 be committed 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. MASAC at PLY is undergoing a shift in management as it transitions to the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC) *Bridgewater, MA*

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1997
- Opened: 1986 - Expanded: 1997
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$124,516
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 454
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 469
- 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, 2025, there were 356 criminally sentenced commitments, 77 SDPs, and 21 temporary civil commitments (provided by MTC).

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 2024): \$181,433
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: N/A
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 125
- Operational Capacity: 614



MCI-Concord was a medium security facility that housed incarcerated males for nearly 150 years. The MA DOC announced the phased closure of MCI-C in January 2024 and it was shuttered as of June 2024.

Institution Overview

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 2024): \$213,576
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 206
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 209
- 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, 2025, MCI-F housed 164 criminally sentenced commitments, 31 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 2024): \$89,510
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 1,144
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,166
- 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.

MCI-Shirley (MCI-S)

Shirley, MA

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1995
- Opened: 1991
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$103,558
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 1,007
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 929
- 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.

Institution Overview

North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI)

Gardner, MA

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1989
- Opened: 1981 - Renovations: 1982, 1993
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$96,024
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 857
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 829
- Operational Capacity: 908



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. In 2024, the B.R.A.V.E. program re-opened in NCCI 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.

Northeastern Correctional Center (NECC)

Concord, MA

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1982
- Opened: 1932
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$85,648
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 191
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 193
- 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, 2025, NECC housed 179 incarcerated individuals in minimum security housing units and 12 in pre-release. The facility was originally the supporting farm for MCI-Concord. Currently, 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.

Old Colony Correctional Center (OCCC)

Bridgewater, MA

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1989
- Opened: 1987 - Expanded: 1990 Modular Unit
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024):
Medium: \$152,139 & Minimum: \$140,165
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 529
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 557
- Operational Capacity: 582



Old Colony Correctional Center houses medium 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. OCCC minimum concluded housing operations in October of 2024.

Institution Overview

Pondville Correctional Center (PCC)

Norfolk, MA

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1994
- Opened: 1990
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$102,081
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 142
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 130
- Operational Capacity: 204
- Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



Pondville Correctional Center is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 132 minimum commitments and 10 pre-release on January 1, 2025. 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.

Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC)

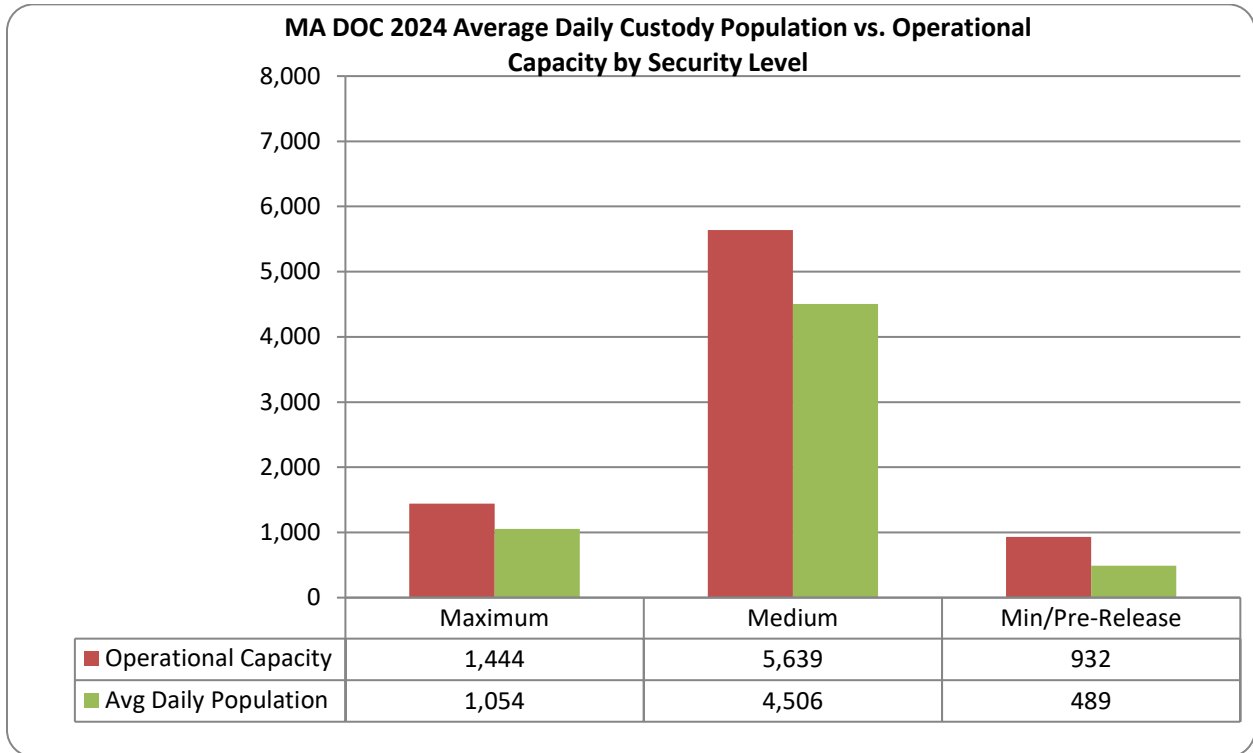
Shirley, MA

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per person (FY 2024): \$115,908
- January 1, 2025 Facility Population: 1,108
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,054
- Operational Capacity: 1,523



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. Having opened on September 30, 1998, SBCC 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. On May 4, 1998, in a lasting memorial to two Department of Correction employees killed in the line of duty, MA DOC Commissioner Michael T. Maloney named the state's newest maximum-security institution, the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, in honor of Correction Officer James Souza and Civilian Instructor Alfred Baranowski.

Institution Capacity

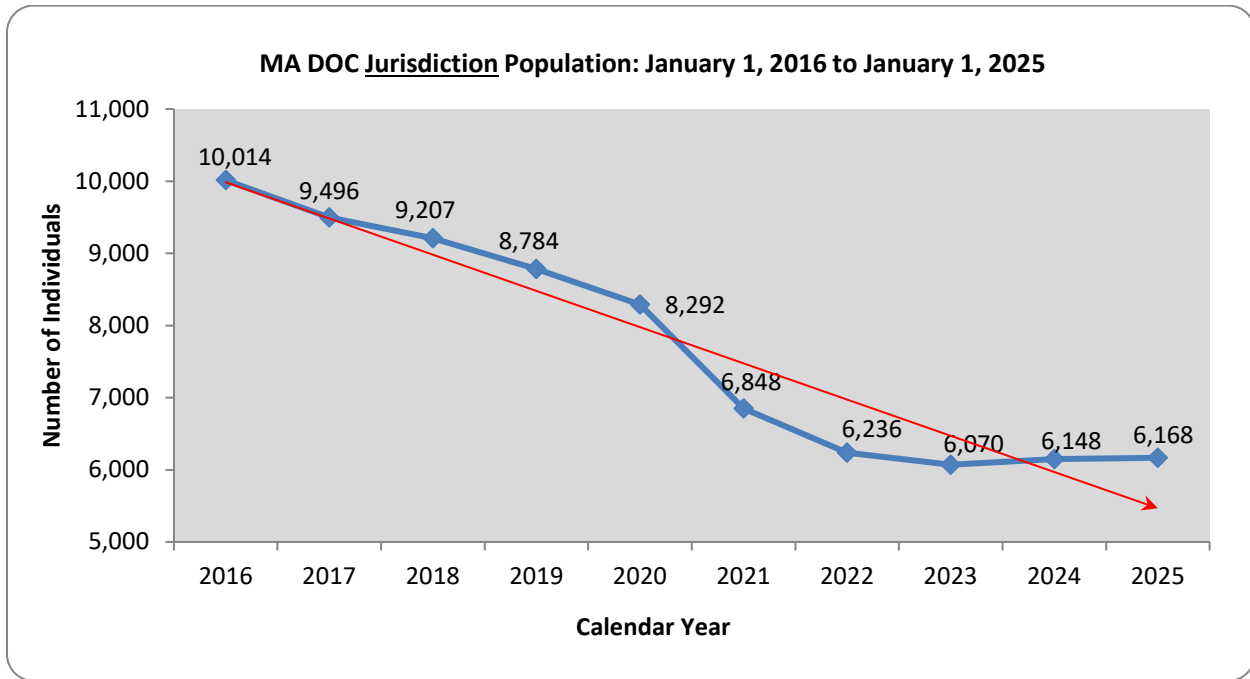


Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2024
 2024 Operational Capacity = 8,015
 Average Daily Population for 2024 (Custody Population) = 6,049
 Average Daily Population for 2024 (Jurisdiction Population) = 6,216

- ◆ **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 6, 2025 Weekly Count produced by the Research and Planning Division.

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Population Trends

Population Trends



Massachusetts

- ◆ The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population reflects a decades long decline with a decrease of 38% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2016 (n=10,014).
- ◆ Between January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025, there was a slight increase in incarcerated individuals of <1%, from 6,148 to 6,168.
- ◆ 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 increased to 1,254,224 at year-end 2023¹, a 2% increase (n=24,081), from year-end 2022 (n=1,230,143), this is the second year of increase in total prison population after 8 consecutive years of declines from 2014 to 2021.²
- ◆ There was a 17% decrease in the sentenced state and federal jurisdiction population between year-end 2016 and year-end 2023. There was a 2% increase in the federal population (n=2,682) and a 3% increase in the state population (n=26,763) between year-end 2022 and year-end 2023.³
- ◆ The national imprisonment rate at year-end 2022 was 355 sentenced incarcerated individuals per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, an increase of 1% from 350 in 2021.⁴
- ◆ The imprisonment rate at year-end 2022 (n=355) has decreased by 23% from year-end 2015 (n=459).⁵

¹ Preliminary year-end 2023 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.

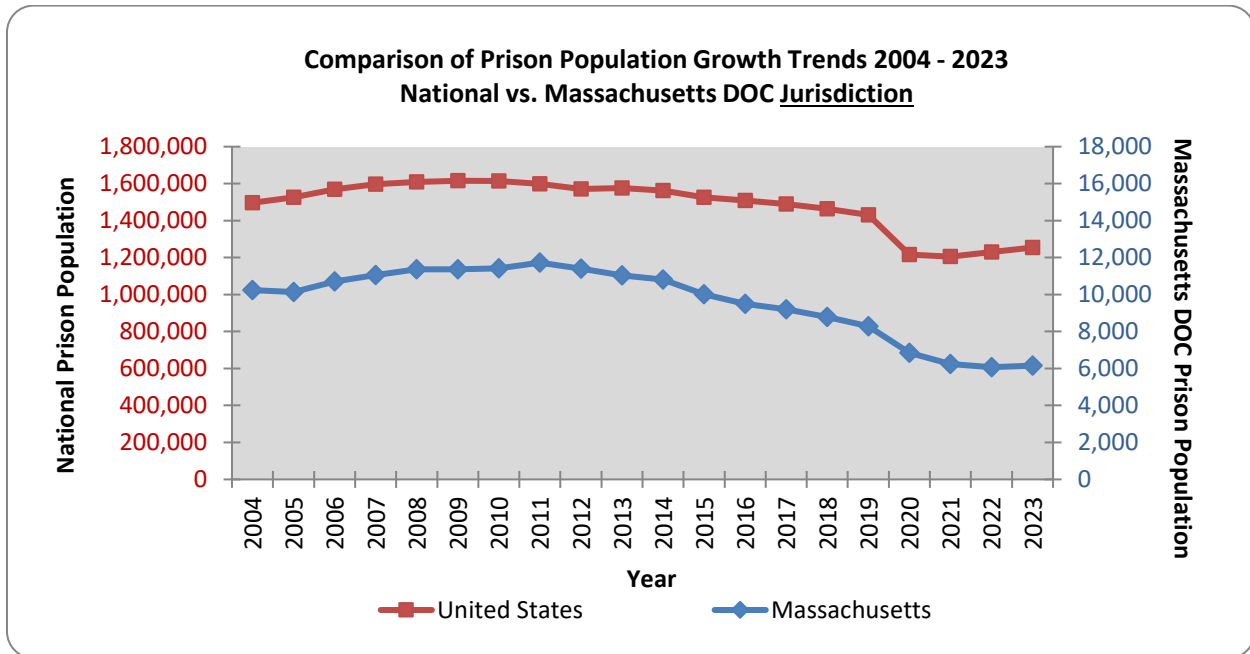
² Bureau of Justice Statistics (November 2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 307149). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

³ BJS, 2022, pg. 5, table 1.

⁴ BJS, 2022, pg. 12, table 5.

⁵ BJS, 2022, pg. 1

Population Trends



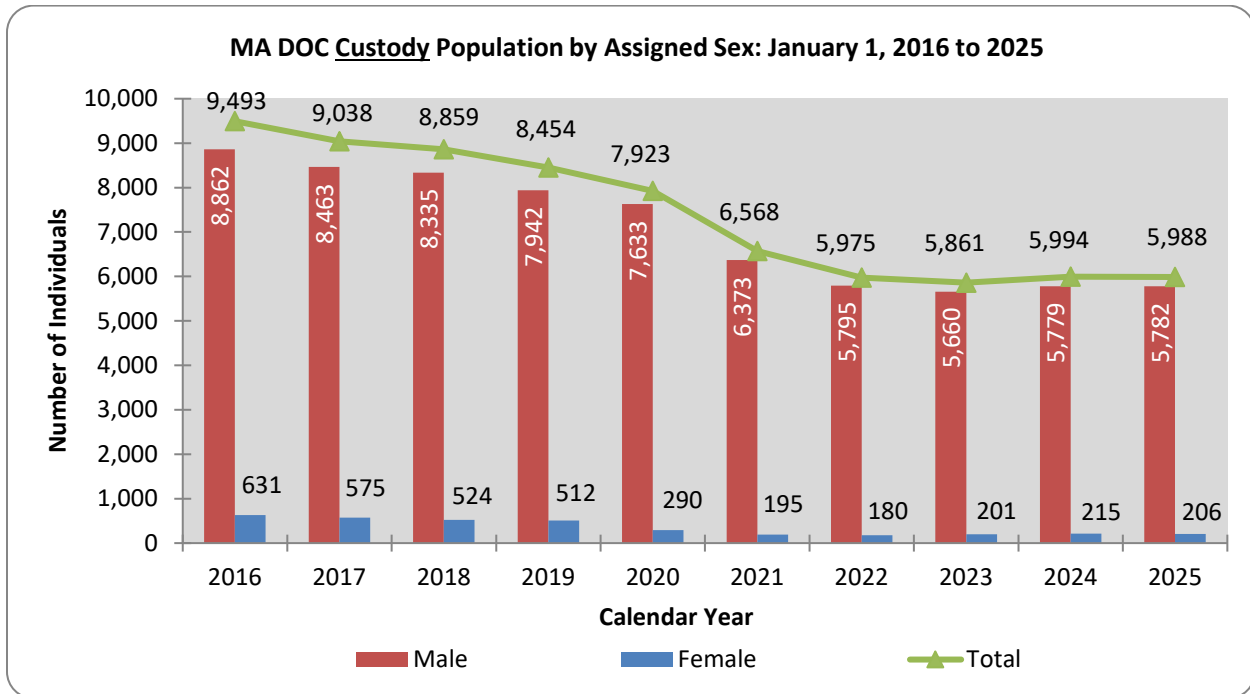
Comparison of Prison Population Growth Trends 2004 – 2023:
National⁶ vs. Massachusetts DOC Jurisdiction

Year	National Jurisdiction Population		Massachusetts Jurisdiction Population	
	Population	Percent of Change	Population	Percent of Change
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	1,205,087	-1.3	6,236	-8.9
2022	1,230,143	2.1	6,070	-2.7
2023	1,254,224	2.0	6,148	1.3

- ◆ The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 40% from 10,242 in 2004 to 6,148 in 2023; over the same period, the national population decreased by 16%, from 1,497,100 to 1,254,224.
- ◆ Between the years 2022 and 2023, there was a 1% (n=78) increase in the Massachusetts jurisdiction population. Since 2011, the Massachusetts prison population had a cumulative decrease of 48% (n=5,575).
- ◆ The national prison population experienced an increase of 8% from 2004 to 2009, followed by a decrease of 22% beginning in 2010 to 2023. The largest yearly decline in the national prison population during the observed trend period was between 2019 to 2020, showing a 15% decrease. This large decrease was also experienced by Massachusetts (17%)

⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics (November 2023). *Prisoners in 2022* – Statistical Tables (NCJ 307149). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

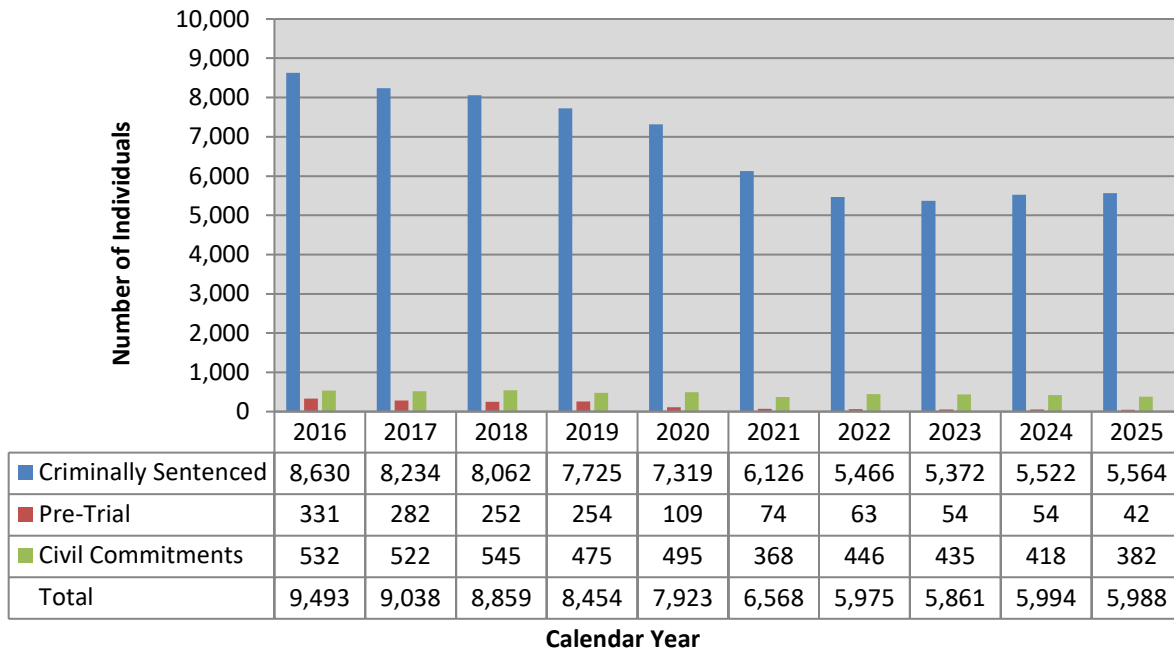
Population Trends



- ◆ The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) custody prison population has stabilized over the past 4 years hovering around 5,900. This stabilization followed a 9 year decrease of (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 36% from a high of 8,862 in 2016 to a low of 5,660 on January 1, 2023 which drove the decrease in the total custody population over that same time period.
- ◆ The female custody population has decreased 67% over the 10-year trend period (2016-2025). 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 631 in 2016 to a low of 180 in 2022, but in the past three years the population increased 14%.
- ◆ 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.

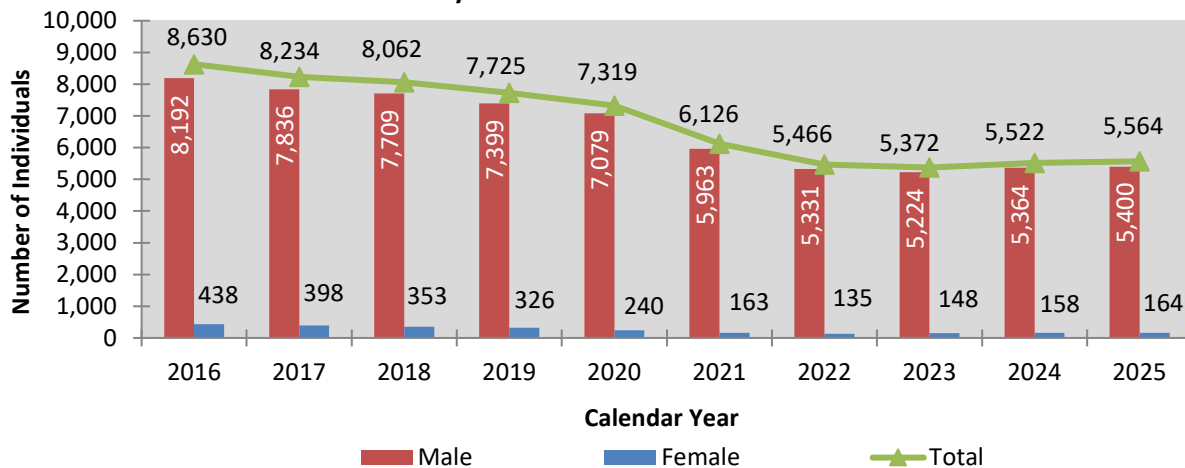
Population Trends

MA DOC Custody Population by Commitment Type: January 1, 2016 to 2025



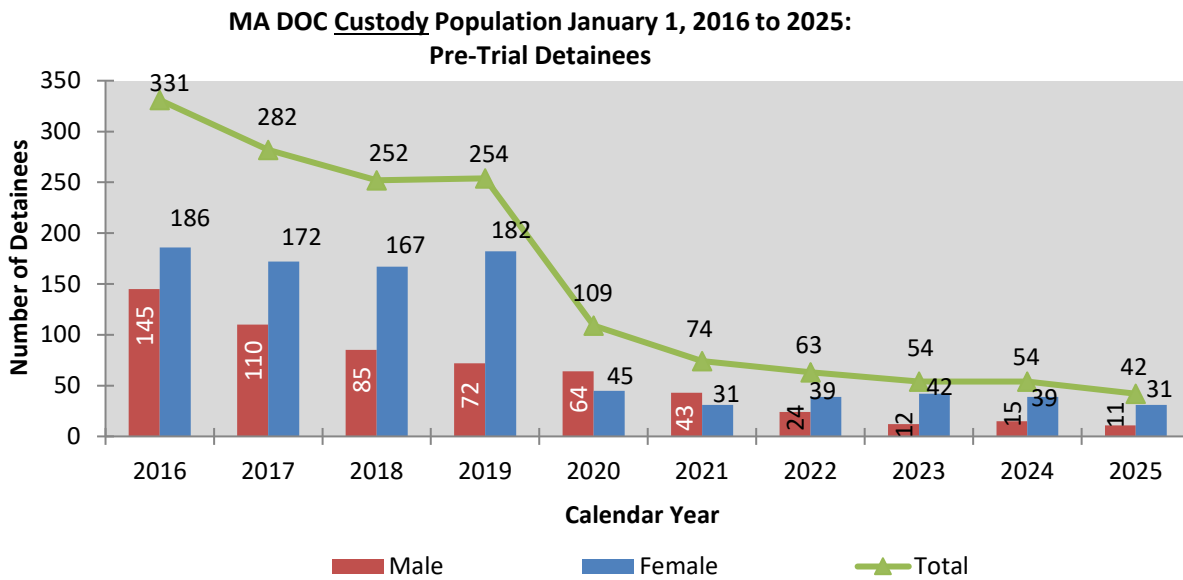
The MA DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (36%), pre-trial detainees (87%), and civilly committed (28%) populations between January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2025.

**MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2016 to 2025:
Criminally Sentenced Commitments**

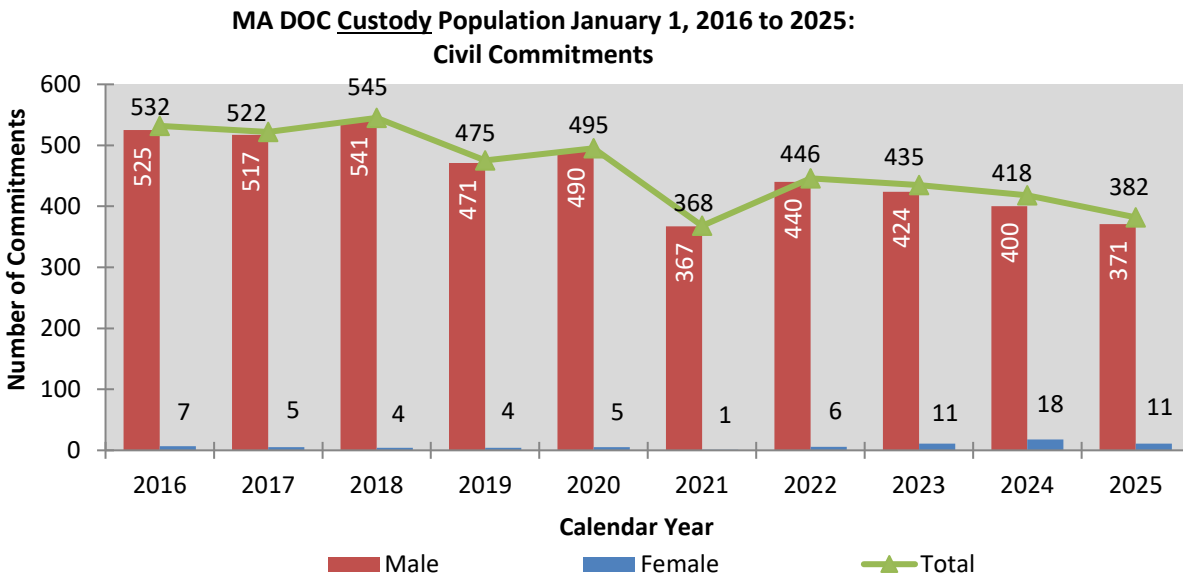


- ◆ Criminally sentenced commitments composed 93% of the MA DOC custody population on January 1, 2025.
- ◆ Between 2016 and 2025, both the male and female populations have experienced a decrease, 34% and 63% respectively. Peaking at 8,630 in 2016, the total criminally sentenced population has shown a steady decrease for the trend period. However, the population has now increased 4% since 2023.

Population Trends

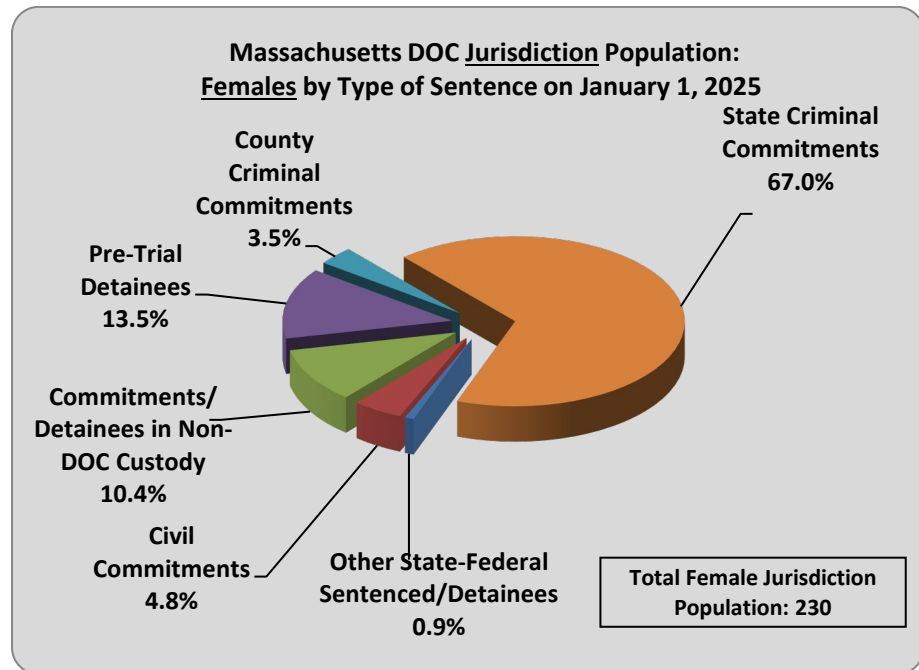
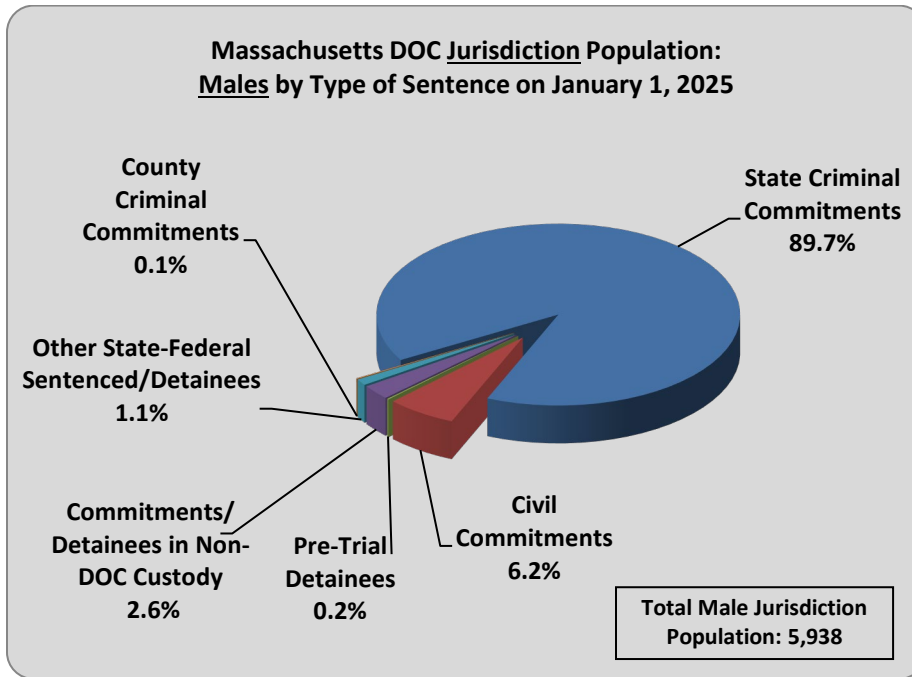


- ◆ The total pre-trial population decreased 87% between 2016 and 2025.
- ◆ Fluctuations in the total pre-trial population were common over the 10-year trend period. Males were in the majority two of the ten years and females flipped back to the majority over the last four year. What the chart above illustrates is the sharp decline in the pre-trial population which has decreased in nine of the ten years.



- ◆ The total civil commitment population consisted almost entirely of males (97%) on January 1, 2025. This population has fluctuated over the years. Most notably a decrease of 26% in 2021 which is due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all facets of the MA DOC and court system. The population rebounded to near normal levels with a 21% increase in 2022 but has now decreased 14% over the last three years.
- ◆ Averaging 7 commitments a year over the 10-year trend period, female civil commitments are tied at 11 for the smallest population in the MA DOC with male pre-trials.

Population Trends



- ◆ The vast majority of males were state criminal commitments (90%) on January 1, 2025.
- ◆ In previous years female state criminal commitments represented a smaller portion of their total commitments (39% in 2019 vs. 67% in 2025). 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 2024 Population Characteristics

Population Characteristics by Assigned Sex

Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2025

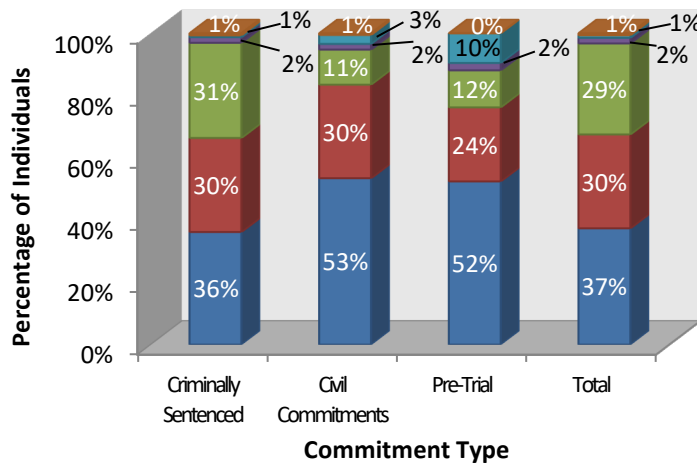
- ◆ 5,938 total males in the jurisdiction population: 5,556 criminally sentenced, 11 pre-trial detainees, and 371 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (2,154), Black or African American (1,819), Hispanic (1,784), Asian or Pacific Islander (109), American Indian or Alaska Native (38), Unknown (34),
- ◆ The average age was 44 years old (the youngest incarcerated individual was 18 years old and the oldest was 90 years old)
- ◆ 97% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 75% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 311 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2019 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 26% for the total male population
- ◆ 42% of males had an open mental health case, 37% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 29% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2024 Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2025

- ◆ 230 total females in the jurisdiction population: 188 criminally sentenced, 31 pre-trial detainees, and 11 civil commitments
- ◆ Race/Ethnicity: White (148), Black or African American (41), Hispanic (22), Unknown (16), Asian or Pacific Islander (2), American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- ◆ The average age was 42 years old (the youngest incarcerated individual was 20 years old and the oldest was 78 years old)
- ◆ 93% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- ◆ 68% had a violent governing offense
- ◆ 17 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- ◆ The 2019 release cohort three year recidivism rate was 23% for the total female population
- ◆ 78% 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 12/31/2024 Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

Population Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Assigned Sex

MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025

Race/Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	2,076	204	22	2,302
Black or African American	1,735	115	10	1,860
Hispanic	1,758	43	5	1,806
Asian or Pacific Islander	103	7	1	111
Unknown	35	11	4	50
American Indian or Alaska Native	37	2	0	39
Total	5,744	382	42	6,168

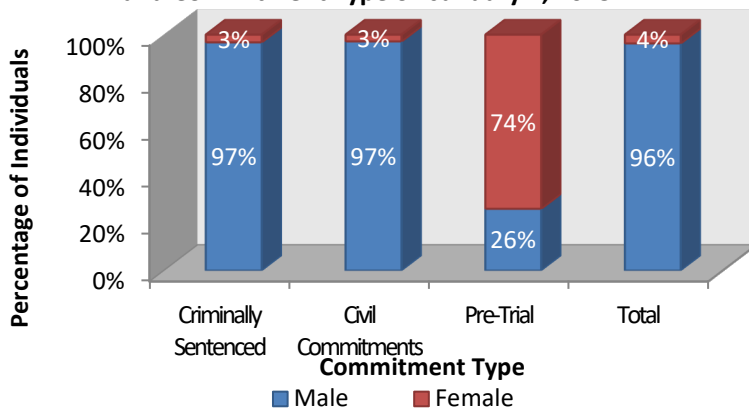
*Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by the individual at time of admission.

■ 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 incarcerated individual population had a race/ethnicity of White (37%), followed by Black and Hispanic (30% and 29%) respectively. This distribution was reflected in both the Civil and Pre-trial populations, however the criminally sentenced Hispanic population outnumbered the Black or African American population by one (1%) percent. There was some change, in proportions from last year, among both the civil commitments and pre-trial detainee populations. Civil commitments experienced an increase in the Black or African American (5 percentage points) population, while a decrease of four and three percentage points for White and Unknown populations was observed. Among the pre-trial population, there was an (6 percentage point) increase in the Unknown and (3 percentage points) Hispanic populations, while a decrease was seen in the White (11 percentage points) pre-trial population.

MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025



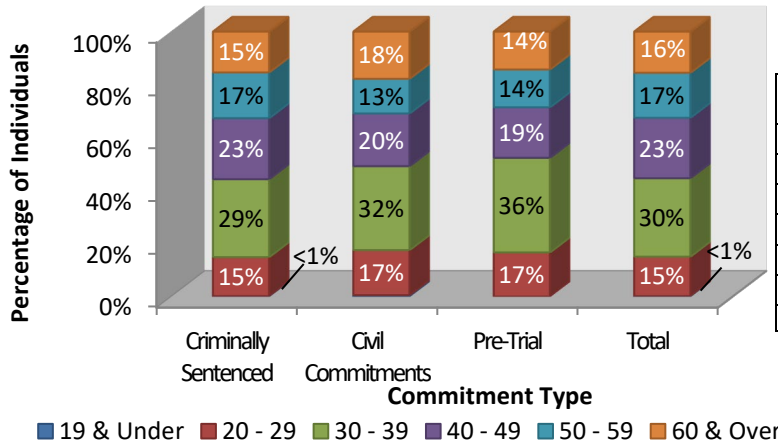
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	5,556	371	11	5,938
Female	188	11	31	230
Total	5,744	382	42	6,168

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males, with males making up ninety-seven (97%) percent of the two commitment types. Also following the trend of previous years, pre-trial detainees saw a higher female population (74%) than a male population (26%). Between January 1st of 2024 and January 1st of 2025, the pre-trial male population experienced a (2 percentage point) decrease, while females experienced a (2 percentage point) increase.

Population Characteristics by Age and Age at Time of Incarceration

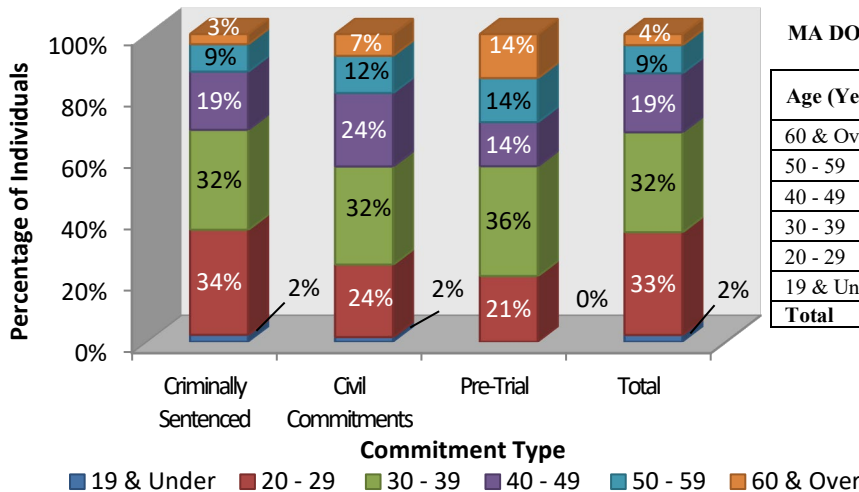
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	885	68	6	959
50 - 59	992	50	6	1,048
40 - 49	1,322	76	8	1,406
30 - 39	1,690	121	15	1,826
20 - 29	846	65	7	918
19 & Under	9	2	0	11
Total	5,744	382	42	6,168

MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2025

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	189	27	6	222
50 - 59	510	46	6	562
40 - 49	1,084	91	6	1,181
30 - 39	1,866	122	15	2,003
20 - 29	1,963	90	9	2,062
19 & Under	132	6	0	138
Total	5,744	382	42	6,168

- ◆ As of January 1, 2025, forty-four (44%) percent (n=2,536) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 3,199 criminally sentenced individuals (56%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 3,829 incarcerated individuals in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (67%) with 1,963 individuals between ages 20-29 (34%).
- ◆ Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age groups on January 1, 2025, to age at incarceration. Just over fifty-two (52%) percent of pre-trial detainees were between the ages of 20-39 on January 1, 2025, while fifty-seven (57%) 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, 2025, relative to sentence type, were criminally sentenced individuals with fifty-six (56%) (n=3,199) aged 40 and older. This differs from age at incarceration, in which 3,961 criminally sentenced individuals (69%) 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, 2025, Date of Commitment, and Date of Release in 2024

Assigned Sex	Commitment Type	Average Age		
		1/1/2025	Commitment	Release
Female	Criminal	42	38	41
	Civil	38	36	36
	Pre-Trial	40	38	39
	Female Total	42	38	39
Male	Criminal	44	36	42
	Civil	43	38	39
	Pre-Trial	47	42	44
	Male Total	44	37	40
Total Population		44	37	40

Pre-Trial males on average were the oldest incarcerated individuals on January 1, 2025 (47) as well as the oldest at time of commitment (42). Pre-trial males (44) were also the oldest releases on average during 2024. On January 1, 2025, incarcerated individuals ranged in age from 18 to 90 years old.

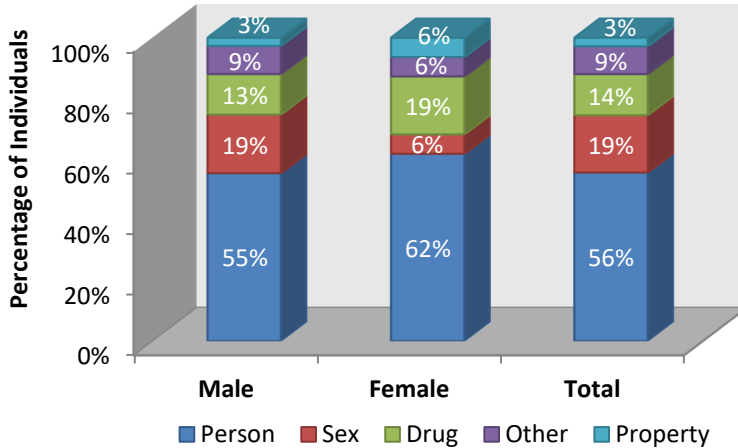
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Five Year Comparison of Youngest and Oldest Age Groups January 1, 2021 – January 1, 2025

Age Range		Year				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
29 and Under	Number	1,141	933	920	925	929
	% of Population	17%	15%	15%	15%	15%
60 and Over	Number	951	928	949	945	959
	% of Population	14%	15%	16%	15%	16%
Total Population		6,848	6,236	6,070	6,148	6,168

The percentage of individuals 29 years old and under decreased by two (2) percentage points from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2025, while the number of individuals age 60 years old and over increased by two (2) 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, 2025

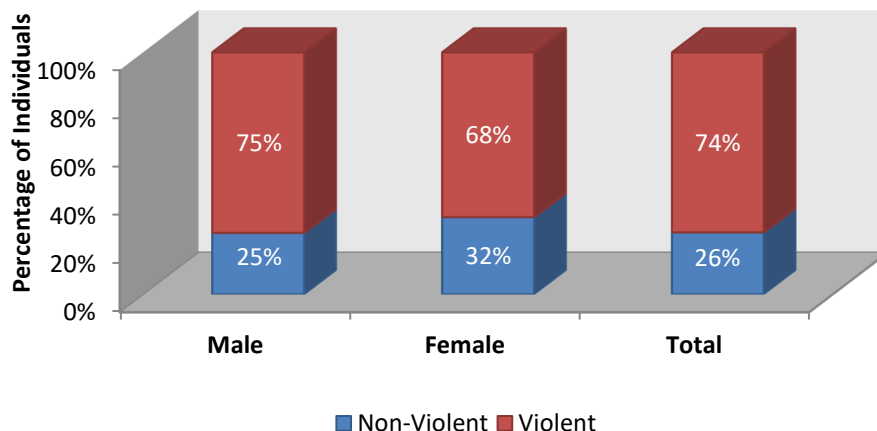


MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2025

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	3,073	116	3,189
	Sex	1,073	12	1,085
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	744	36	780
	Other	515	12	527
	Property	151	12	163
	Total	5,556	188	5,744

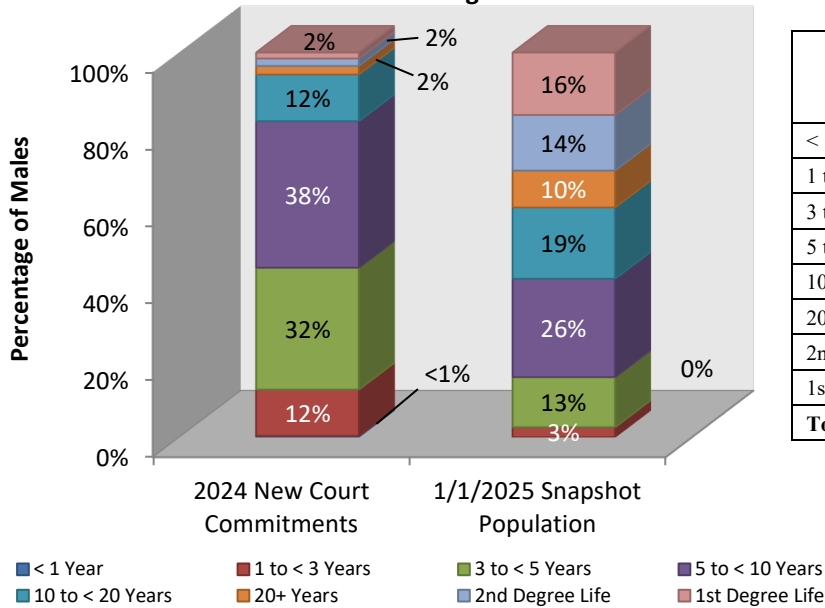
- ◆ The top three governing offenses for the total criminally sentenced population on January 1, 2025 were person (56%), sex (19%), and drug offenses (14%). For males, the top three governing offenses were also person (55%), sex (19%), and drug (13%).
- ◆ Differing slightly in order from their male counterparts, the top offenses for females were person offenses (62%) and drug offenses (19%), with sex, property and other offenses each at six percent (6%).
- ◆ The majority of criminally sentenced females (68%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Males decreased from the previous year by two percentage points with seventy-five (75%) percent incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2025



Population Characteristics by Sentence Lengths

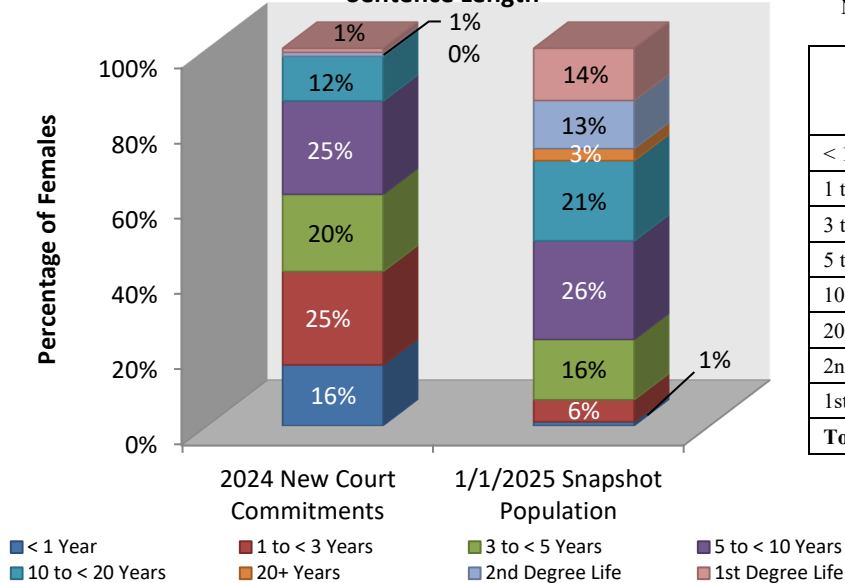
MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2024 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2025 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length



MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2024 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2025 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2024 New Court Commitments	1/1/2025 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	4	0
1 to < 3 Years	156	144
3 to < 5 Years	410	724
5 to < 10 Years	493	1,419
10 to < 20 Years	157	1,030
20+ Years	29	533
2nd Degree Life	25	803
1st Degree Life	20	903
Total	1,294	5,556

MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2024 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2025 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length



MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2024 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2025 Snapshot Population: Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2024 New Court Commitments	1/1/2025 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	15	2
1 to < 3 Years	23	11
3 to < 5 Years	19	30
5 to < 10 Years	23	49
10 to < 20 Years	11	40
20+ Years	0	6
2nd Degree Life	1	24
1st Degree Life	1	26
Total	93	188

The comparisons of 2024's new court commitments to the January 1, 2025, 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-one (31%) percent of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised three (3%) percent of new court commitments.

Population Characteristics by Sentence Length

In 2024, forty-one (41%) percent of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only seven (7%) percent of females in the January 1, 2025 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 forty-one (41%) percent of the males in the January 1, 2025 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 from other MA Counties. Women serving county sentences in the custody of the MA DOC typically serve shorter terms than state sentences.

Between January 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025, the percentage of state criminally sentenced females in the MA DOC jurisdiction increased by three (3) percentage points, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced females decreased by three (3) percentage points. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2025:

- ◆ 95% (n=178) were state sentenced
- ◆ 4% (n=8) were county sentenced
- ◆ 1% (n=2) 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-four (74%) 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-six (66%) percent of the female sentenced population, with five (5%) percent of criminally sentenced females serving a maximum sentence length of less than 3 years on a non-violent governing offense.

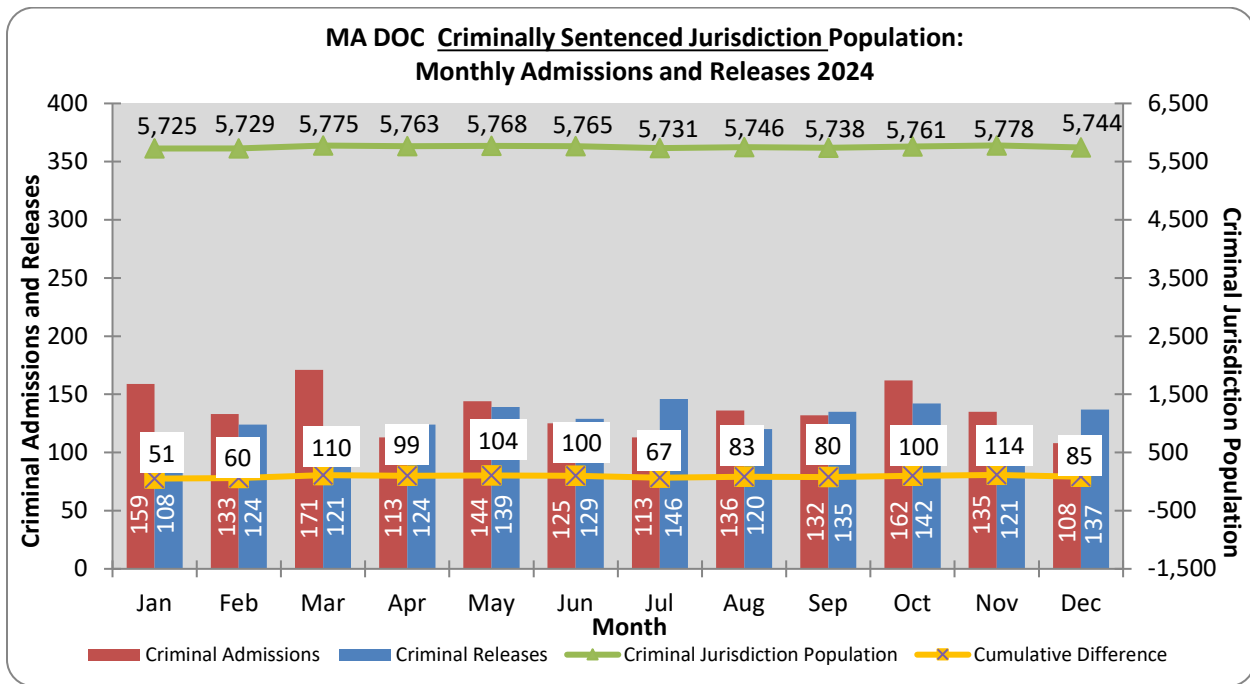
**MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2025:
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Assigned Sex**

	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	50	3,023	3	113	53	3,136
	SEX	10	1,063	0	12	10	1,075
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	35	709	4	32	39	741
	PROPERTY	9	142	2	10	11	152
	OTHER	40	475	4	8	44	483
TOTALS		144	5,412	13	175	157	5,587
		5,556		188		5,744	

On January 1, 2025 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=744) for criminally sentenced males (13%) and second largest for females (19%). A majority (44%) of drug offenders were serving governing sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. A total of 328 incarcerated individuals serving a mandatory drug governing offense: 311 males and 17 females.

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Admissions and Releases

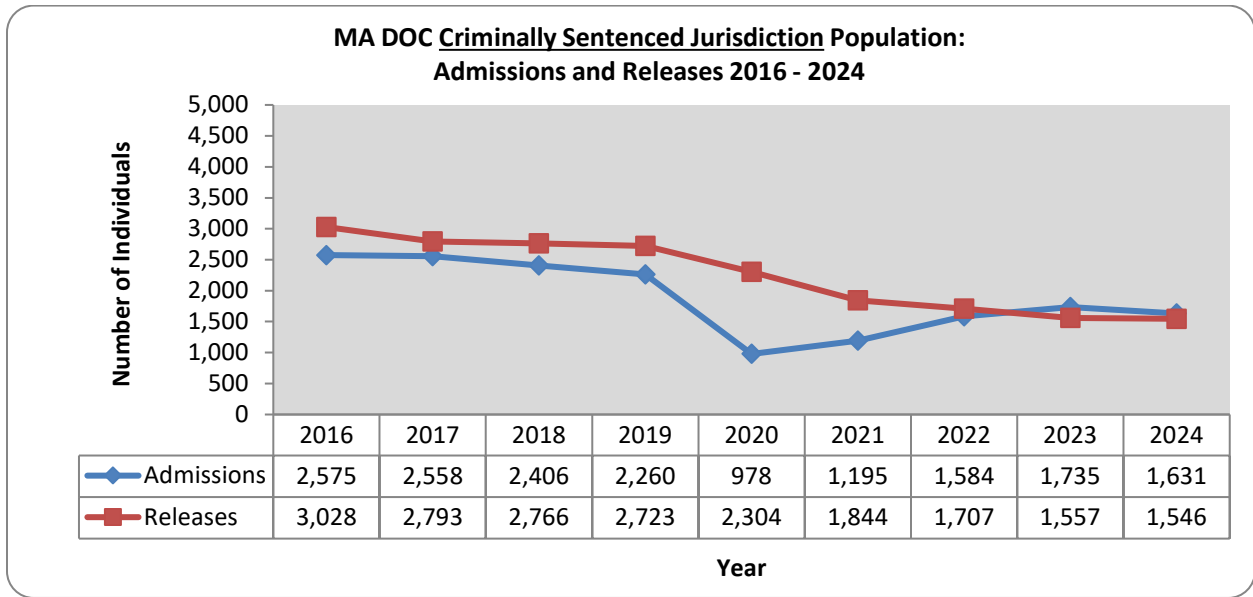
Admissions and Releases



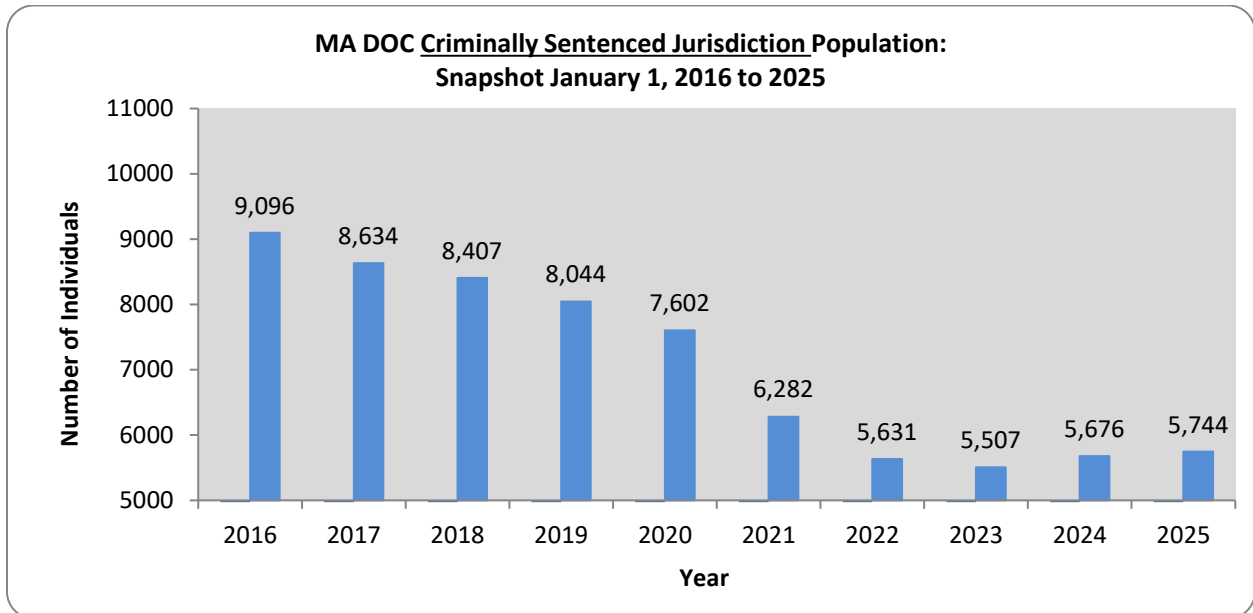
Note: Monthly jurisdiction population is based on the end of the month count of the criminally sentenced jurisdiction population and will not reflect the cumulative difference in admissions and releases.

- ◆ Overall, throughout 2024 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was more than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 136 per month and criminal releases averaging 129.
- ◆ During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 108 in December, and 171 in March. Criminal releases ranged between 108 in January, and 146 in July.
- ◆ The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative increase of 85 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.
- ◆ The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2024 was 5,744, a 1.2% increase from the population at the end of 2023, at 5,676. This is the second annual increase after declines from 2015 to 2023 when comparing year's end criminally sentenced populations.

Admissions and Releases



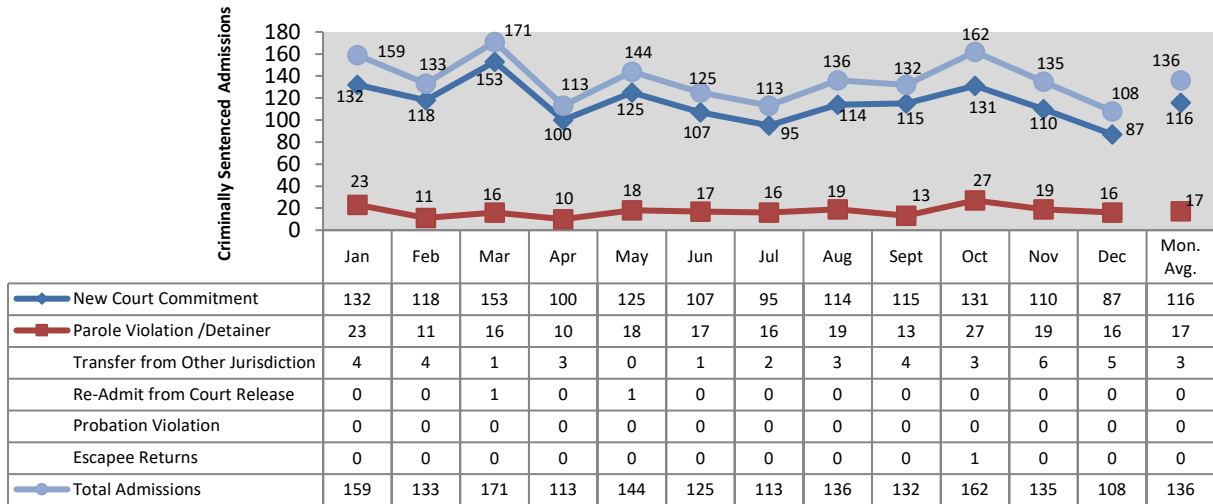
Over the past nine years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal releases exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal admissions. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 5% each year; criminal admissions during 2020 had the largest decline of 57%. Releases 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 37% from 2016 to 2025, averaging about 4% 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.

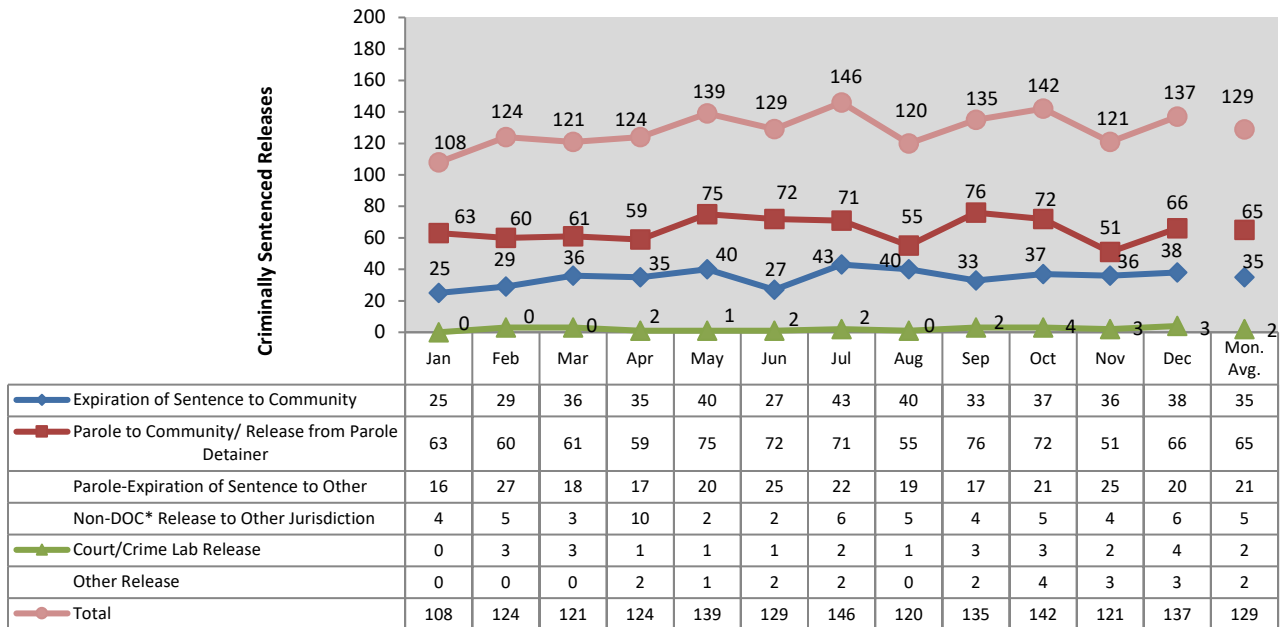
Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2024 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 87 to 153 with a monthly average of 116, seven fewer than the monthly average of 123 in 2023. Total criminal admissions ranged from 108 to 171 for a monthly average of 136, nine fewer than the 2023 monthly average of 145.

MA DOC 2024 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 2024 ranged between 108 and 146 for a given month and averaged 129; one fewer than the monthly average from 2023 of 130. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 35 releases per month during 2024, while paroles to the community or release from parole detainer moved up and down around a flat line of 65 per month. Parole-related releases resulted in 51% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2024; higher than 2023 releases, at 47%.

Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2024 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	93	92%	1,294	85%	1,387	85%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	8	8%	197	13%	205	13%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	0	0%	36	2%	36	2%
Probation Violation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Re-Admit from Court Release	0	0%	2	<1%	2	<1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	1	<1%	1	<1%
Total Admissions	101	100%	1,530	100%	1,631	100%

During 2024, 85% of male and 92% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments. The percentage of new court commitments for males remained the same as the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions during 2023 and increased for females, which was 90% in 2023.

MA DOC 2024 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	28	27%	391	27%	419	27%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	43	42%	738	51%	781	51%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	19	19%	228	16%	247	16%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	10	10%	46	3%	56	4%
Court Release / Crime Lab	2**	2%	22	2%	24**	2%
Other Release	0	0%	19	1%	19	1%
Total Releases	102	100%	1,444	100%	1,546	100%

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

**There was one county female court release which received a forthwith sentence that is not considered a release to community

- ◆ Releases to the community** are a subset of all releases consisting of expiration of sentence to community, parole to community/release from parole detainer, and court release/crime lab. Of the 1,223 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2024, approximately 34% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 64% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and nearly 2% were court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ Females accounted for 72 (6%) of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2024; 7% of total expirations of sentence to the community, 6% of total paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 4% of total court/crime lab releases to the community.
- ◆ There were 18 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2024: all males.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated individual can be released on parole. In 2024, 12 incarcerated individuals were released using medical parole: 11 males and 1 female.

Admissions and Releases

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Year 2022 - 2024

Admission Type	2022		2023		2024	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	1,351	85%	1,473	85%	1,387	85%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	200	13%	210	12%	205	13%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	22	1%	44	3%	36	2%
Probation Violation	1	<1%	0	0%	0	0%
Re-Admit from Court Release	10	1%	7	<1%	2	<1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	1	<1%	1	<1%
Total Admissions	1,584	100%	1,735	100%	1,631	100%

- ◆ From 2022 to 2024, the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments stayed flat at 85%. The number of admissions who were new court commitments grew from 1,351 in 2022 to 1,387 in 2024, a 3% increase compared with the 53% growth between 2021 and 2023, 963 versus 1,473 respectively.
- ◆ The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, increased between 2022 and 2023 from 200 to 210. It then decreased to 205 in 2024. Its share of all criminal admissions stayed flat at 13% in 2022 to 2024.
- ◆ Total criminal admissions during the period from 2022 to 2024 saw their lowest point in 2022, which was 10% and 3% lower than criminal admissions from 2023 and 2024 owing to the lingering impact of the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020.

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Year 2022 - 2024

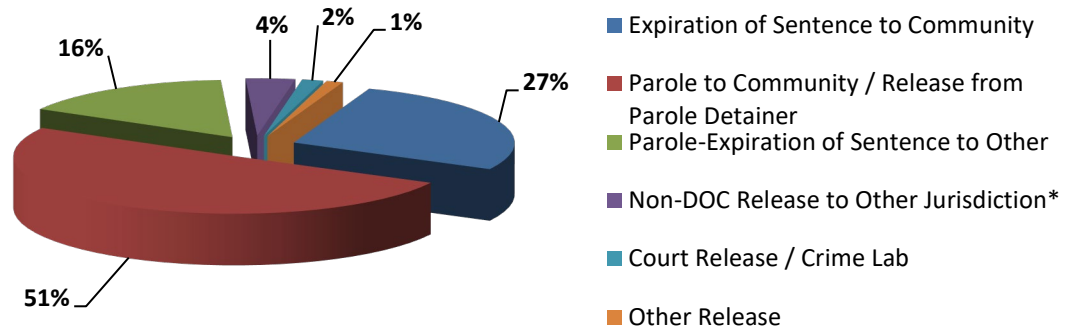
Release Type	2022		2023		2024	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	575	34%	495	32%	419	27%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	765	45%	730	47%	781	51%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	259	15%	233	15%	247	16%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	52	3%	59	4%	56	4%
Court Release / Crime Lab	30	2%	19	1%	24	2%
Other Release	26	2%	21	1%	19	1%
Total Releases	1,707	100%	1,557	100%	1,546	100%

*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 2024 when it was 27%, lower than the height in 2022. Releases decreased by 9% between 2022 and 2023, followed by another 1% decrease during 2024.

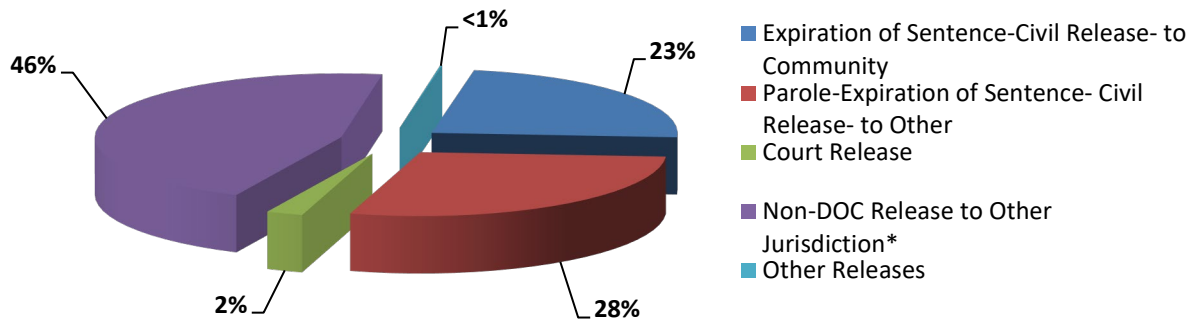
Releases by Release Type

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



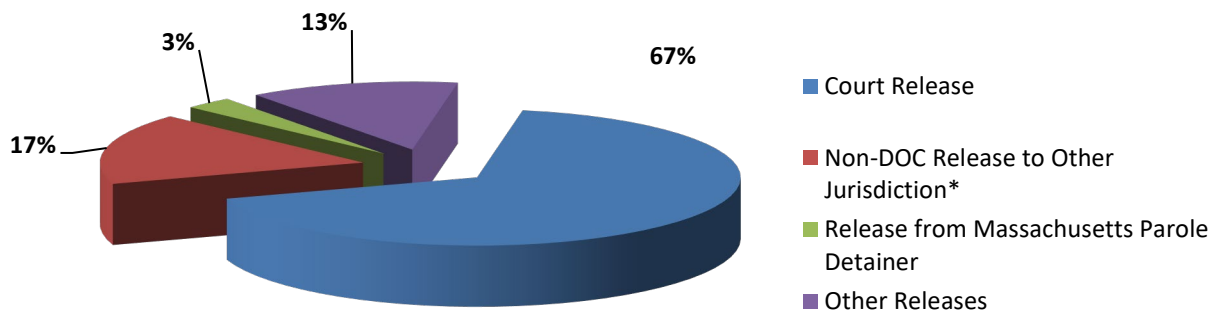
*Refers to non-DOC individuals from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county,

MA DOC 2024 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



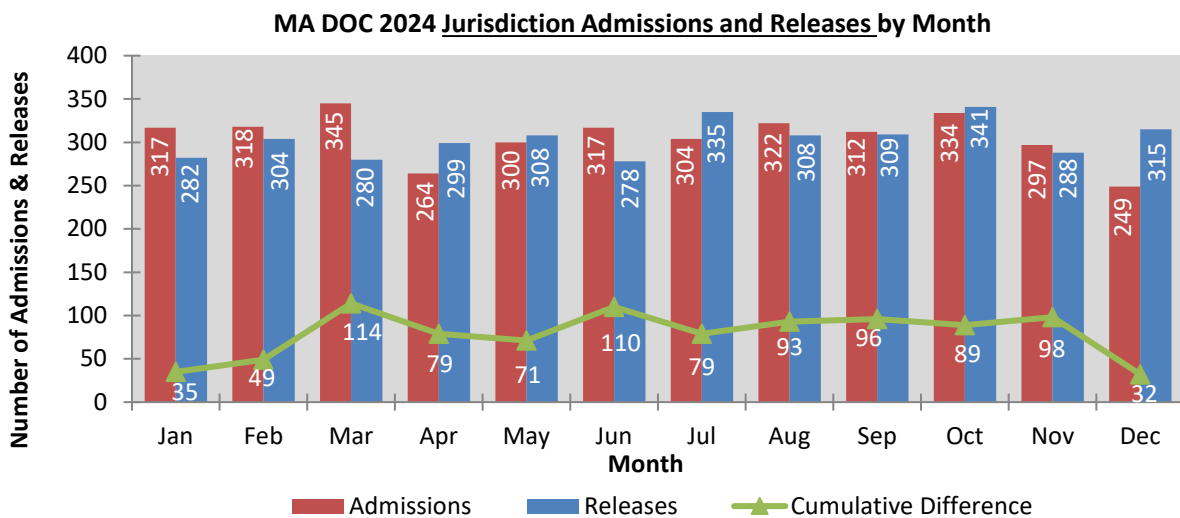
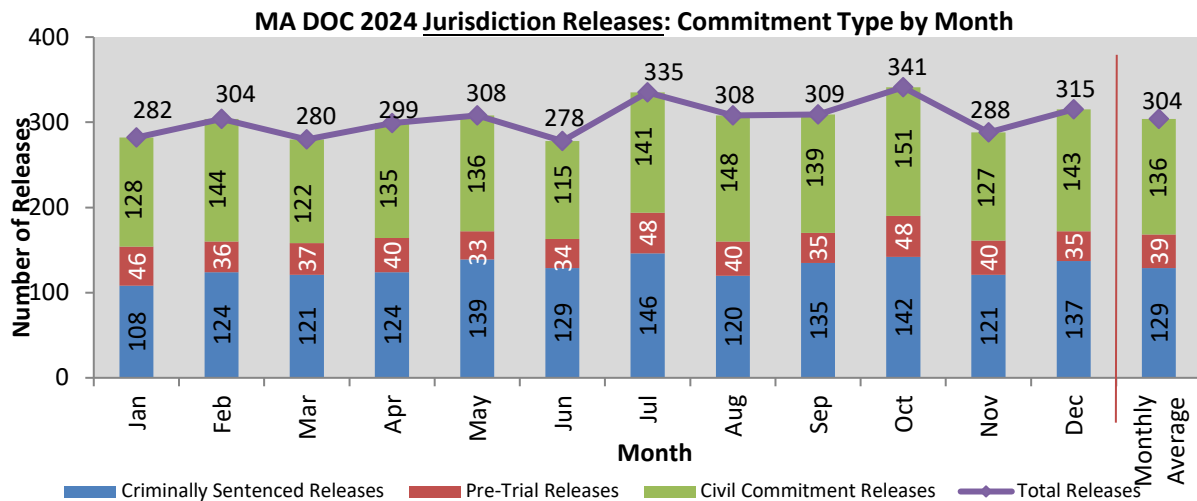
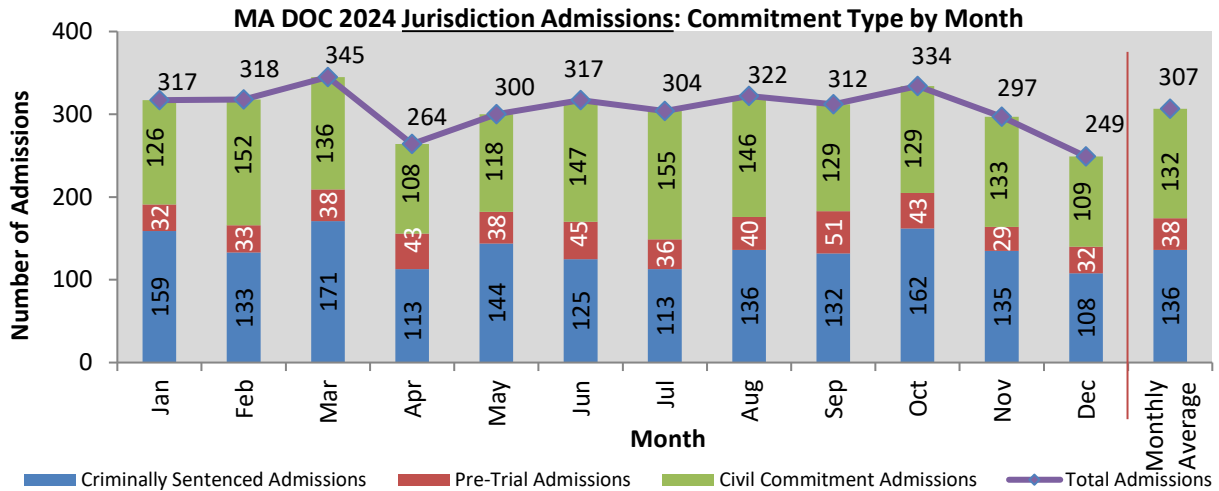
*Refers to non-DOC individuals from county or another state's jurisdiction released to

MA DOC 2024 Pre-Trial Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



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

Criminal, Civil, and Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases

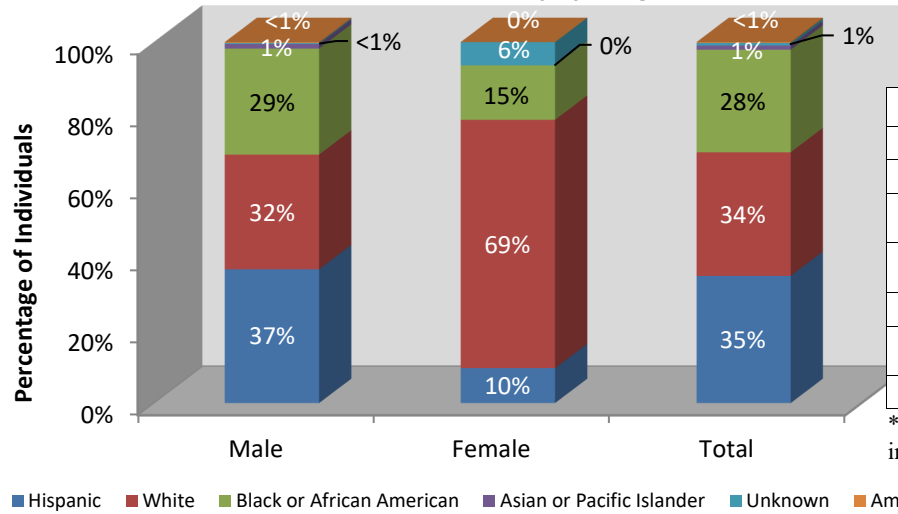


During 2024, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in a small upward trend, ending in an overall cumulative increase of 32 incarcerated individuals. This was a 65% decrease compared to the cumulative increase of 92 incarcerated individuals seen during 2023.

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Admissions by New Court Commitments

Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Race/Ethnicity by Assigned Sex**



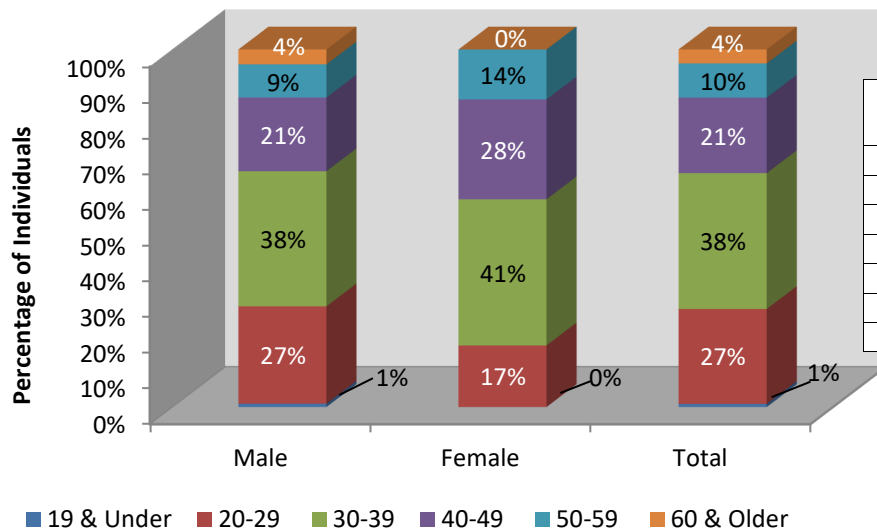
**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced
Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Race/Ethnicity* by Assigned Sex**

Race/Ethnicity*	Male	Female	Total
Hispanic	480	9	489
White	411	64	475
Black or African American	380	14	394
Asian or Pacific Islander	16	0	16
Unknown	4	6	10
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0	3
Total	1,294	93	1,387

*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 (37%), followed by White (32%) and Black or African American (29%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (69%), followed by Black or African American (15%) and Hispanic (10%). As males made up 93% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex**



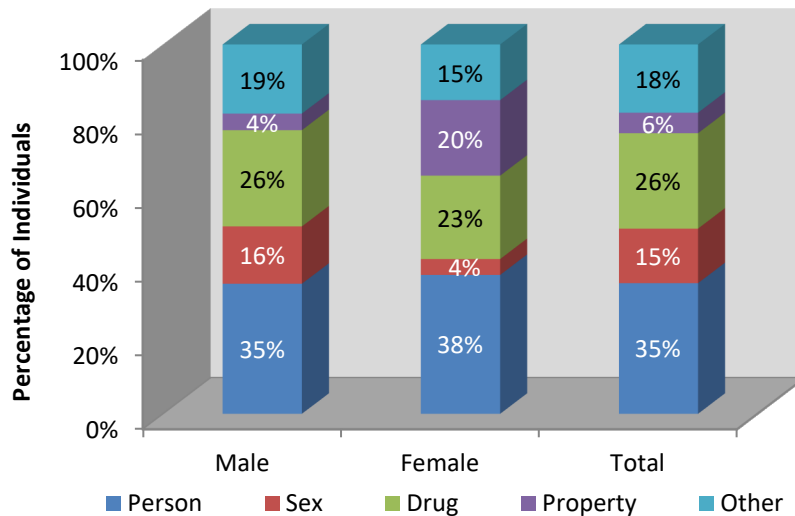
**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced
Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex**

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
60 & Over	54	0	54
50-59	120	13	133
40-49	267	26	293
30-39	489	38	527
20-29	352	16	368
19 & Under	12	0	12
Total	1,294	93	1,387

The age distribution of male criminal new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (38%) 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 (41%) as well. However, the second largest category for females was the 40 – 49 year age group (28%).

Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Governing Offense by Assigned Sex**

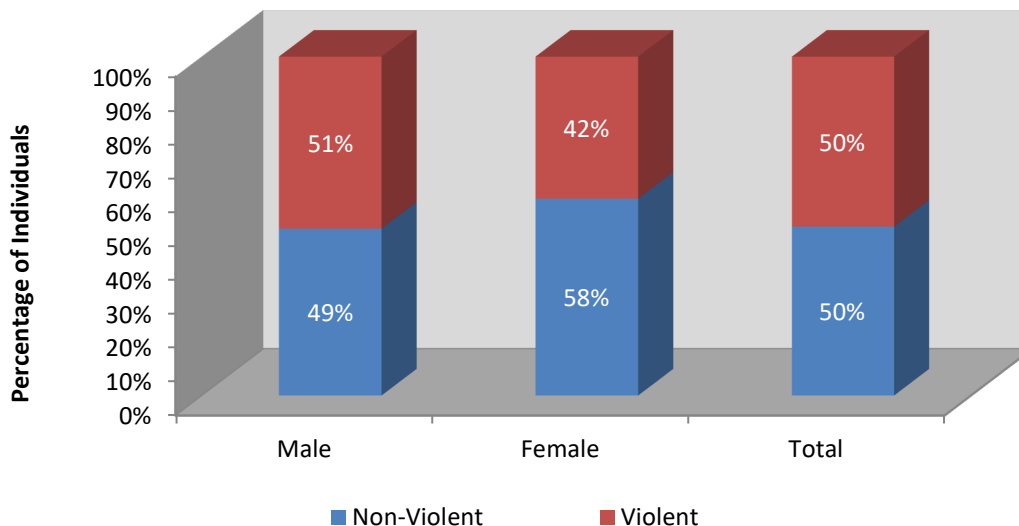


**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Governing Offense by Assigned Sex**

	Governing Offense	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	456	35	491
	Sex	201	4	205
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	337	21	358
	Property	58	19	77
	Other	242	14	256
	Total	1,294	93	1,387

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (35%), followed by drug (26%). Among females, person offenses were the most common (38%), followed by drug offenses (23%) as well. Property offenses were the least common, accounting for 6% of all governing offenses for criminally sentenced new court commitments, 4% of the male governing offenses and 20% of the female governing offenses.

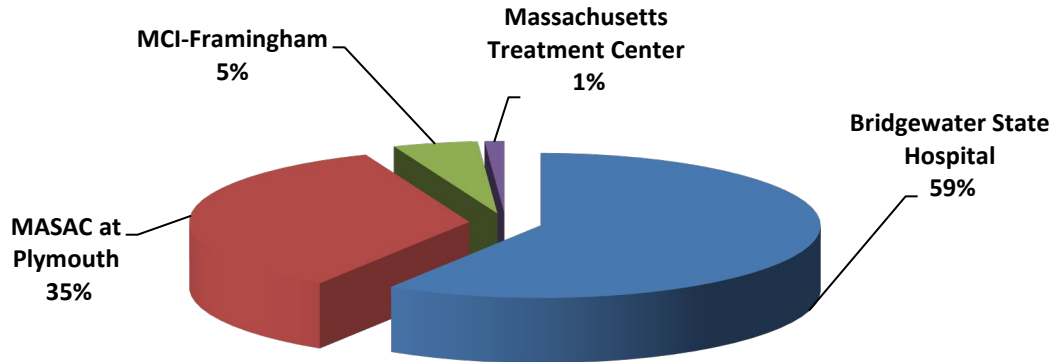
**MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Assigned Sex**



Male criminally sentenced new court commitments had a nearly even distribution of violent (51%) and non-violent (49%) governing offenses, while the majority of female criminally sentenced new court commitments had non-violent governing offenses (58%). The overall breakout of criminally sentenced new court commitments was split evenly between violent (50%) and non-violent (50%) governing offenses since males compose 93% of the population.

Admissions by New Court Commitments

**MA DOC 2024 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments:
Civil Commitments by Institution**



MA DOC 2024 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution

Institution	Female	Male	Total
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	936	936
MASAC at Plymouth	0	556	556
MCI-Framingham	78	0	78
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	18	18
Total	78	1,510	1,588

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 2024, there were 1,588 civil new court commitments, representing 43% of the overall 3,679 admissions.
- ◆ The majority (59%) of civil commitments in 2024 were mental health commitments admitted to Bridgewater State Hospital. This is 3 percentage points higher than the 56% in 2023. However, there were 936 civil commitments to BSH in 2024. This is a 10% increase from 854 of the previous year.
- ◆ The number of Section 35’s decreased from 576 during 2023 to 556 during 2024, a 3% decrease. Commitments to MASAC at Plymouth are limited to 90 days in length.
- ◆ Females represented 5% of the civil commitments during 2024, the female civil commitments during 2024 remained the same as 2023.

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Releases to the Community

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 2020 - 2024

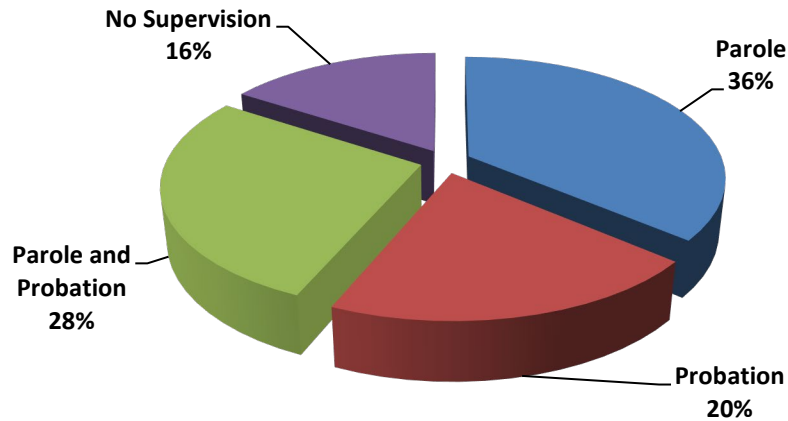
Post Release Supervision Type	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Parole Supervision (only)	493	26%	419	28%	434	32%	421	34%	442	36%
Probation Supervision (only)	559	29%	403	27%	332	24%	278	22%	248	20%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	377	20%	292	20%	331	24%	309	25%	339	28%
No Post Release Supervision	496	26%	357	24%	273	20%	236	19%	194	16%
Total	1,925	100%	1,471	100%	1,370	100%	1,244	100%	1,223	100%

Post Release Supervision	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Supervision	1,429	74%	1,114	76%	1,097	80%	1,008	81%	1,029	84%
No Supervision	496	26%	357	24%	273	20%	236	19%	194	16%
Total	1,925	100%	1,471	100%	1,370	100%	1,244	100%	1,223	100%

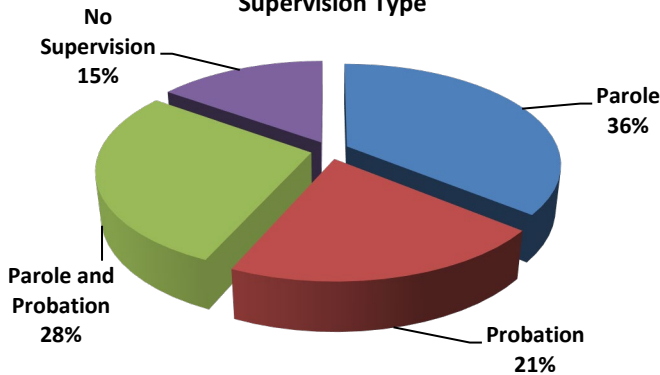
- ◆ Overall, there was a 36% decrease (n=702) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2020 and 2024. Though each subsequent year saw fewer releases, the largest decrease was between 2020 and 2021 (about 24%). While releases to Supervision have continued to increase, a low of 74% in 2020 and high of 84% in 2024, releases overall have continued to drop. The size of the drop has steadied over the last three years, which includes a modest 2 percent decrease from 2023 to 2024.
- ◆ Releases to the community have experienced a consistent downward trend from a high of 1,925 in 2020 to a low of 1,223 in 2024. During the same timeframe individuals released with No Supervision decreased 61% and individuals placed under Probation Supervision only experienced a 56% decrease between 2020 and 2024.
- ◆ Parole Supervision increased from 26% in 2020 to 36% in 2024, while No Post Release Supervision has decreased from 26% to 16%. This aligns with the overall split of 84% under Supervision and 16% under 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 2024, 12 individuals were released to the community using medical parole.

Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

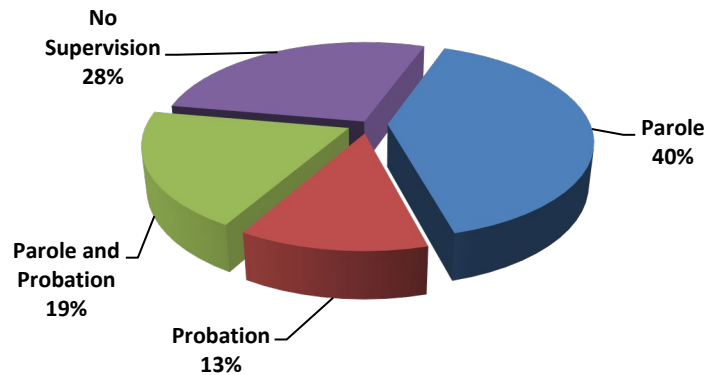
MA DOC 2024 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type



MA DOC 2024 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type



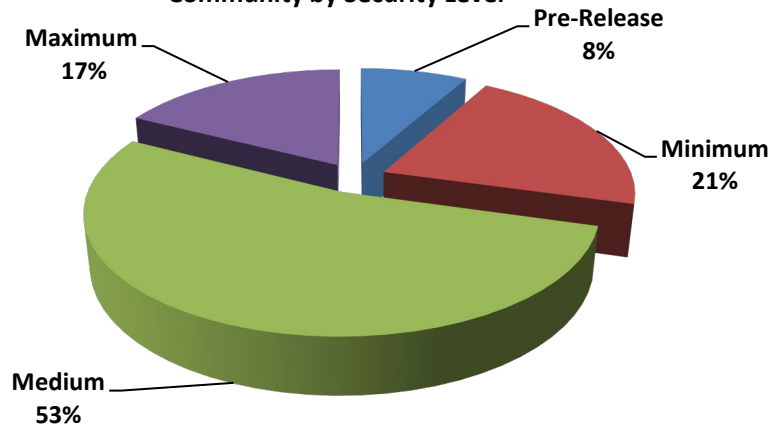
MA DOC 2024 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type



In 2024, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of females released to the community solely under probation supervision, falling from 24% to 13%. Females released with no supervision had decreased from 43% to 21% between 2022 to 2023. For 2024 we can see those releases with no supervision increased from 21% to 28%. Despite these shifts, the overall distribution remained relatively stable compared to the previous year, with a marginal percentage change of 3% or less which aligns with the male releases.

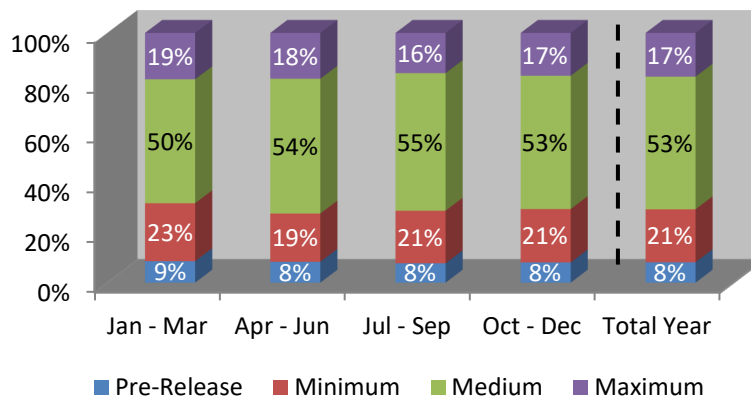
Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Overall, the number of criminally sentenced releases to the community decreased by 2% from 1,244 releases in 2023 to 1,223 releases in 2024. 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 53% (n=650). Less than one-fourth (n=259) came from minimum security facilities, and slightly below one-fifth came from maximum security facilities.

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level



MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community Quarterly by Security Level

Security Level	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Total Year
Maximum	52	57	52	53	214
Medium	139	168	178	165	650
Minimum	65	60	68	66	259
Pre-Release	24	26	25	25	100
Total	280	311	323	309	1,223

- The highest release activity occurred between July through September of 2024 (n=323). Although being the highest release activity, it differs from the previous year 2023, where the highest release activity occurred between quarter one (Jan – Mar) and quarter four (Oct – Dec) (n=321).

Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Security Level and Institution

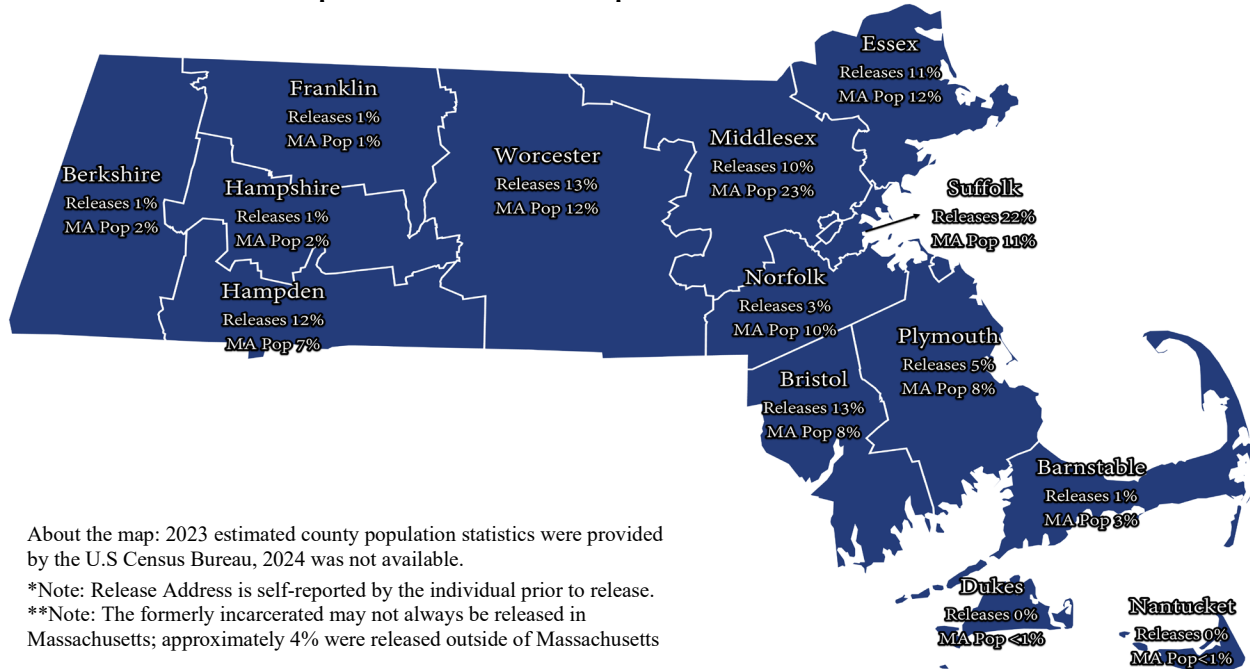
Institution	Security Level				
	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Pre-Release	Total
Male					
Boston Pre-Release Center	0	0	16	26	42
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	75	0	0	75
MCI-Concord**	0	44	0	0	44
MCI-Norfolk	0	130	0	0	130
MCI-Shirley	0	186	0	0	186
NCCI-Gardner	0	85	0	0	85
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	81	24	105
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	76	44	0	120
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	93	20	113
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	213	0	0	0	213
Female					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
MCI-Framingham	0	45	0	0	45
Total DOC Facilities	213	642	234	70	1,159
County, Federal, Interstate	1	8	25	30*	64
Total Jurisdiction	214	650	259	100	1,223

*Note: 12 individuals (8 male, 4 female) were released from County, Federal, Interstate - Electronic Monitoring (CFI ELMO) and coded as pre-release.

- ◆ When comparing DOC facility of release in 2024, the greatest number of criminally sentenced individuals were released to the community from Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=213), followed by MCI-Shirley (n=186), and MCI-Norfolk (n=130).
- ◆ The most substantial increase in releases is observed at NCCI-Gardner, with an increase from 64 in 2023 to 85 in 2024. Consequently, there has been a notable decrease in releases from MCI-Concord, with a decrease from 80 in 2023 to 44 in 2024, attributed to the closure of the latter facility in June of 2024**.
- ◆ Each year, DOC commitments serve sentences at, and are released directly from, county, federal, and interstate facilities. There were 64 releases from this county, federal, and interstate population in 2024.

Release Address by County

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Counties*
Compared to the Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2023



The above map demonstrates the U.S Census Bureau's estimated percentage of the Massachusetts population residing in each county in 2023 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC population released to each county in 2024. Suffolk, Worcester, Bristol, and Hampden were the only counties with a higher percentage of incarcerated individuals released to the county (61% combined) than the percentage of Massachusetts residents residing there (38% combined). In contrast, Middlesex County represented 23% of the Massachusetts population but only 10% of the releases from the MA DOC.

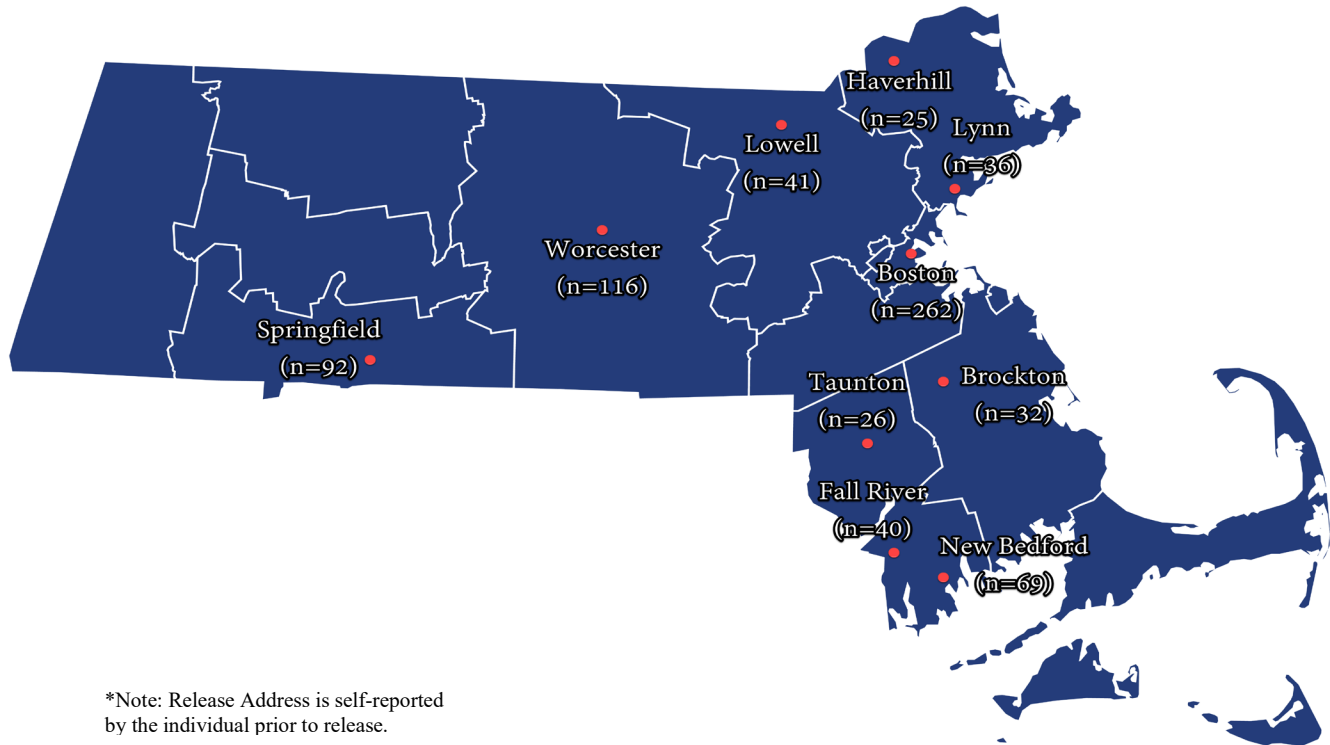
MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: MA County by Assigned Sex*

Female			Male			Total		
County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage	County	Number	Percentage
Middlesex	15	21%	Suffolk	262	23%	Suffolk	275	22%
Suffolk	13	18%	Bristol	158	14%	Worcester	165	13%
Essex	9	13%	Worcester	158	14%	Bristol	162	13%
Hampden	9	13%	Hampden	136	12%	Hampden	145	12%
Worcester	7	10%	Essex	129	11%	Essex	138	11%
Plymouth	5	7%	Middlesex	112	10%	Middlesex	127	10%
Bristol	4	6%	Plymouth	56	5%	Plymouth	61	5%
Norfolk	4	6%	Norfolk	36	3%	Norfolk	40	3%
Barnstable	2	3%	Barnstable	16	1%	Barnstable	18	1%
Berkshire	2	3%	Hampshire	15	1%	Berkshire	15	1%
Franklin	1	1%	Berkshire	13	1%	Hampshire	15	1%
Dukes	0	0%	Franklin	7	1%	Franklin	8	1%
Hampshire	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%
Sub-Total	71	99%	Sub-Total	1,098	96%	Sub-Total	1,169	96%
Outside MA	1	1%	Outside MA	53	4%	Outside MA	54	4%
Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	0	<1%	Unknown	0	<1%
Total	72	100%	Total	1,151	100%	Total	1,223	100%

*Note: Release Address is self-reported by the individual prior to release.

Release Address by Top Ten Cities

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by Top Ten MA Cities*



*Note: Release Address is self-reported by the individual prior to release.

Of the 1,223 criminally sentenced releases to the community in 2024, 739 (60%) 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=262) followed by Worcester (n=116) and then Springfield (n=92). 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 fewer in number.

MA DOC 2024 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Top Ten Releases to the Community: MA City by Assigned Sex*

Female			Male			Total		
City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage	City	Number	Percentage
Boston	13	18%	Boston	249	22%	Boston	262	21%
Lowell	7	10%	Worcester	110	10%	Worcester	116	9%
Worcester	6	8%	Springfield	88	8%	Springfield	92	8%
Springfield	4	6%	New Bedford	69	6%	New Bedford	69	6%
Lawrence	3	4%	Fall River	38	3%	Lowell	41	3%
Fall River	2	3%	Lowell	34	3%	Fall River	40	3%
Framingham	2	3%	Lynn	34	3%	Lynn	36	3%
Haverhill	2	3%	Brockton	31	3%	Brockton	32	3%
Holyoke	2	3%	Taunton	26	2%	Taunton	26	2%
Lynn	2	3%	Haverhill	23	2%	Haverhill	25	2%

*Note: Release Address is self-reported by the individual prior to release.

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits and Time Served

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 2024.

MA DOC 2024 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
Males			
Parole to the Community	2,164 Days	420 Days	2,584 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,469 Days	388 Days	1,856 Days
Females			
Parole to the Community	1,518 Days	346 Days	1,864 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	466 Days	201 Days	667 Days
Total			
Parole to the Community	2,126 Days	416 Days	2,542 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,403 Days	375 Days	1,778 Days

There were 994 criminally sentenced individuals who had their first release in 2024. Sixty-five percent were paroled to the community (n=644). The remaining 35% were released due to an expiration of sentence, meaning they completed their sentence.

Male Releases

- ◆ Of the 994 releases, the majority were males (94%).
- ◆ On average, time served for males released via parole was 7.1 years before initially being released, an increase of .2 years from the 2023 male parolees (6.9 years). Length of stay also increased slightly to 5.9 years up from 5.8 in 2023.
- ◆ Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 5.1 years for time served before releasing to the community. Both release types for LOS and Time Served experienced an increase of around 120 days in comparison to last year's averages.

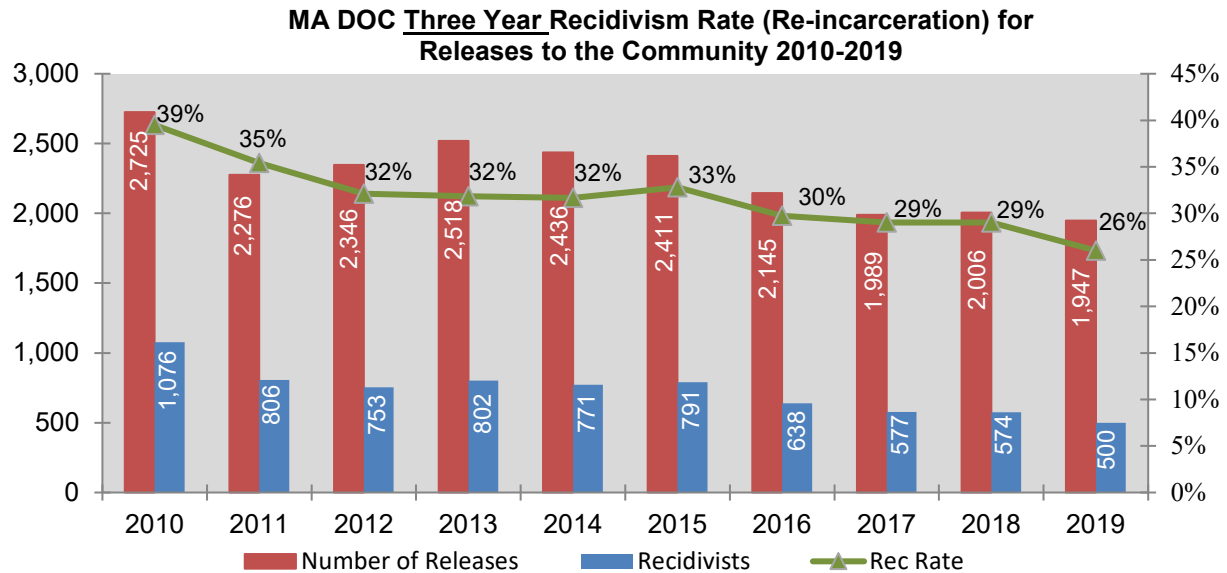
Female Releases

- ◆ Females represented 6% of the total releases in 2024 (n = 61).
- ◆ Average days for female parole and expiration of sentences fluctuate more than their male counterpart year to year. This is likely caused by the smaller cohort size where the average days can become skewed from the larger and smaller outliers.
- ◆ Females released via parole served 5.1 years on average for 2024, this was an increase of .6 years in time served compared to the 4.5 years for 2023.
- ◆ Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 1.8 years in 2024, which resulted in a .5 year increase compared to 2023.

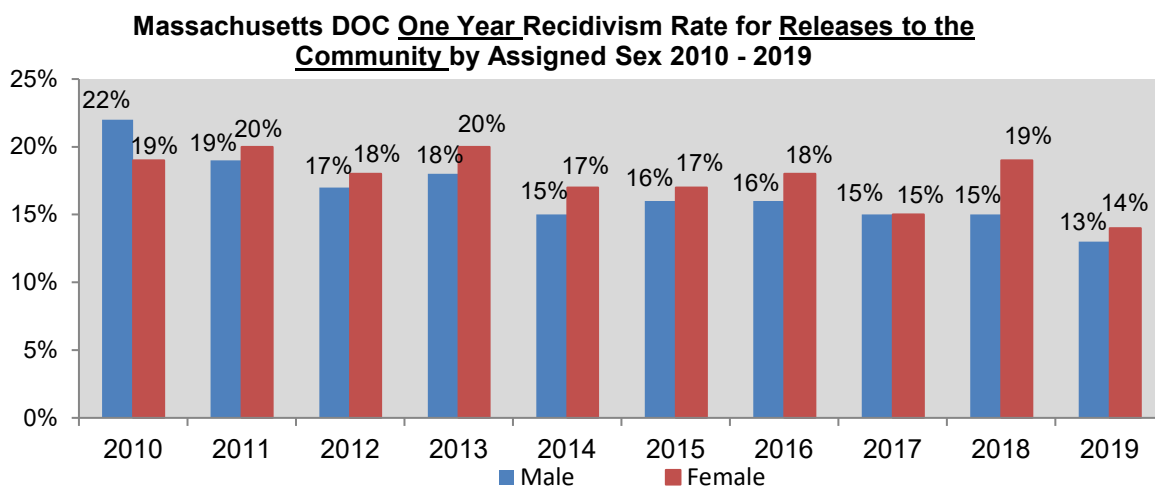
Massachusetts DOC 2024 Recidivism Trends and 2019 Recidivism Rates

Recidivism Trends and 2019 Recidivism Rates

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced incarcerated individual released to the community via expiration of sentence/ parole⁷ from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2019 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 incarcerated individual who recidivates due to a technical violation of parole or probation is 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 13 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2010.



The male one-year recidivism rate has stayed fairly consistent from 2014 – 2018, ranging between 15% and 16%, then dropped to a low of 13% in 2019. The female rate declined in 2019 to 14%, the lowest one-year rate for females in the trend period.

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

Recidivism Trends and 2019 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for 2019 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	272	40%	n.a.	n.a.	272	40%
Medium	752	28%	194	25%	946	27%
Minimum and Pre-Release	552	18%	177	20%	729	18%
Total	1,576	26%	371	23%	1,947	26%

- ◆ Recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals released during 2019 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 lower⁸ security had the lowest recidivism rate, with 18% of those releases re-incarcerated within three-years of their release to the community. The recidivism rate for males released from medium security was 28%, 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 20%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 25%.

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2019 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type⁹

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence ¹⁰	289	22%
State Sentence	82	24%
Total	371	23%

- ◆ Historically, females released from a county sentence have had a higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. For the 2019 release cohort, the recidivism rate for county sentenced incarcerated individuals was slightly lower than that of state sentenced, 22% and 24%, respectively.

⁸ Lower security includes electronic monitoring, minimum, and minimum pre-release.

⁹ Some of the females released during 2019 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.

¹⁰ Includes incarcerated individuals released from the Massachusetts DOC serving a county sentence.

Recidivism Trends and 2019 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 rates¹¹ of the population released during 2019, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

**MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2019 Including and Excluding
Re-incarcerations for Technical Violations:
Type of Release by Assigned Sex**

Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community	394	65	16%	117	20	17%	511	85	17%
Expiration of Sentence	1,182	275	23%	254	38	15%	1,436	313	22%
Total Releases	1,576	340	22%	371	58	16%	1,947	398	20%
Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex <u>Including</u> Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
Release Type	Males			Females			Total		
	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community*	394	140	36%	117	43	37%	511	183	36%
Expiration of Sentence	1,182	276	23%	254	41	16%	1,436	317	22%
Total Releases	1,576	416	26%	371	84	23%	1,947	500	26%

*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 those re-incarcerated within the three-year period are no longer under parole supervision at the time they recidivate.¹²
- ◆ Of the 1,947 incarcerated individuals released to the community during 2019, 26% (n = 511) were paroled to the community, while 74% (n = 1,436) were released via expiration of sentence. When using the definition including technical violations, those paroled to the community had a higher recidivism rate (36%) than the recidivism rate of those released via expiration of sentence (22%). 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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 2019 Recidivism Rates

- ◆ Of the 500 who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 120 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole conditions and 4 for a technical probation violation.
- ◆ Of the 124 who returned for a technical violation, 22 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 26% to 20% when excluding technical violations, with paroles to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 36% to 17%. The recidivism rate for males decreased from 26% to 22%, while females decreased from 23% to a rate of 16%.

MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2019 Releases to the Community

Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Excluding</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Assigned Sex	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	371	26	7%	12	3%	20	5%	58	16%
Male	1,576	125	8%	117	7%	98	6%	340	22%
Total	1,947	151	8%	129	7%	118	6%	398	20%
Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates <u>Including</u> Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Assigned Sex	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	371	52	14%	14	4%	18	5%	84	23%
Male	1,576	212	13%	114	7%	90	6%	416	26%
Total	1,947	264	14%	128	7%	108	6%	500	26%

- ◆ 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 and third year recidivism rates whether including or excluding technical violations.

Recidivism Trends and 2019 Recidivism Rates

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2019 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	182	34%	96	27%	278	31%
Person	662	31%	99	34%	761	31%
Other	190	30%	94	17%	284	26%
Drug	415	20%	73	11%	488	18%
Sex	127	9%	9	n.a.	136	9%
Total	1,576	26%	371	23%	1,947	26%

- ◆ Those who had been serving governing property offenses had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (34%), followed by person offenses (31%) and ‘other’ offenses who recidivated at 30%.
- ◆ Females serving governing person offenses had the highest recidivism rate (34%), followed by property offenses (27%) and ‘other’ offenses (17%).
- ◆ Incarcerated individuals serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (9%).

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2019 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	789	27%	108	31%	897	28%
Non-Violent	787	25%	263	19%	1,050	24%
Total	1,576	26%	371	23%	1,947	26%

- ◆ Incarcerated individuals released from a governing violent offense in 2019 had a higher recidivism rate (28%) compared to non-violent (24%).

**MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2019 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	202	20%	67	12%	269	18%
Mandatory Drug Offense	213	20%	6	n.a.	219	19%
Total	415	20%	73	11%	488	18%

- ◆ Of those released who had been serving a governing drug offense, the recidivism rate for those with a non-mandatory drug offense was nearly equal to those serving a mandatory drug offense, 18% and 19% respectively.

Recidivism Trends and 2019 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three Year Recidivism Rates for 2019 Releases to the Community by Race/Ethnicity* and Assigned Sex¹³

	Males		Females		Total	
Race/Ethnicity	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Unknown	4	n.a	20	25%	24	30%
Black or African American	427	28%	30	27%	457	28%
White	649	28%	290	22%	939	26%
Hispanic	484	23%	31	26%	515	23%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	n.a	0	n.a	2	n.a
Asian or Pacific Islander	10	n.a	0	n.a	10	n.a
Total	1,576	26%	371	23%	1,946	26%

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

- ◆ The three-year recidivism rate was highest for Black or African American and White male releases, (28%), followed by Hispanic male releases (23%).
- ◆ For female releases, Black or African American incarcerated individuals had the highest recidivism rate (27%), followed by Hispanic (26%) and Unknown (25%).
- ◆ For those individuals who reported a race/ ethnicity, Black or African Americans recidivated at the highest rate (28%), followed by those who reported a race of White (26%), and Hispanic (23%). A small number of individuals had an unknown race/ethnicity. The recidivism rate for those 24 individuals was 30%.

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

Massachusetts DOC 2024 Caveats and Definitions

Caveats and Definitions

ACA	The American Correctional Association
Admissions	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.
Commitment for Alcohol or Substance Abuse Disorder	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.
Average Daily Population (ADP)	The average daily population for calendar year 2024 was calculated by adding together the count from the last day of each month broken out by institution, then divided by twelve (12).
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	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.
Commitments	Individuals who are newly admitted to a committing institution pursuant to a sentence, an order of civil commitment or as otherwise prescribed by law.
Court Release	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
Crime Bill of 2012	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

Crime Bill of 2018	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.
Crime Lab	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.
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.
Custody Population	An individual who is incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
Design Capacity	The number of individuals that planners or architects intended to house in a facility.
DOC	The Massachusetts Department of Correction.
Drug Offense	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.
Earned Good Time	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%.
Escape	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

Expiration Of Sentence	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.
Governing Offense	With respect to an individual who is incarcerated for multiple offenses, the governing offense is the offense that carries the longest maximum sentence.
Jurisdiction Population	An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual regardless of where the 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).
Mandatory Minimum Sentence	The provision of a criminal penalty for a particular offense which specifies the minimum term of incarceration and prohibits suspension of any sentence, placement on file, continuance without a finding, probation, and release on parole until the minimum term of imprisonment has been served.
Mental Health Commitments	The commitment of a male to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18.
New Court Commitment	Newly sentenced and committed 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 2024, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.
Non-DOC Releases to Other Jurisdiction	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.
Non-Violent Offense	Any offense that falls within the definition of “Property Offense”, “Drug Offense” or “Other Offense.”

Caveats and Definitions

Operational Capacity	The total bed capacity across all Massachusetts DOC facilities throughout the agency on the last day of a given month. The capacity of a facility is the number of beds authorized for safe and efficient operation of the facility. Operational capacity does not include beds reserved for discipline, investigations, infirmary, or other temporary holds because these beds are used for temporary or special purposes.
Other Offenses	Offenses that are not clearly categorized into one of the offense categories of Person, Property, Sex or Drug. Other Offenses include obstruction of justice, habitual criminal, prostitution and some weapons possession crimes.
Other Releases	Releases by virtue of deaths, escapes and transfer out of state.
Parole	The discharge of an 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.
Parole or Expiration of Sentence to Other	<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"> parole to out of state sentence parole to federal authority parole to immigration parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence parole to warrant parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence expiration release to out of state sentence expiration release to federal authority expiration release to immigration expiration release to from and after House of Correction sentence expiration release to warrant expiration release to from and after/concurrent at Department of Correction expiration to civil commitment parole to civil commitment release from civil commitment to warrant
Parole to Community	Individuals released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.

Caveats and Definitions

Parole Violator/Detainer	Parolee who violates conditions of parole. A parole violator may be returned to prison for a parole violation with a new offense or technical parole violation. For reporting purposes, individuals who have been returned to Massachusetts DOC custody pursuant to a parole detainer are included in this group.
Person Offense	Crimes against Person (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 265), including assault and battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder.
Pre-Trial or “Detainee”	Individuals 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.
Probation	A court-ordered sentence whereby an individual is released from confinement but remains under court supervision.
Probation Violation	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.
Property Offense	Crimes against Property (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 266), including arson, burglary and fraud.
Recidivism Rate	A measurement of the rate at which released individuals are re-incarcerated due to the commission of a new crime or technical violation of their parole or probation.
Release from Parole Detainer	A small number of individuals who are released from a temporary parole detainer (n=19).
Release to the Community	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

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

SMI/ OMH

Acronym for “Serious Mental Illness”. (M.G.L. c.127, §1) A current or recent diagnosis by a qualified mental health professional of one or more of the following disorders described in the 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: (a) schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders; (b) major depressive disorders; (c) all types of bipolar disorders; (d) a neurodevelopmental disorder, dementia or other cognitive disorder; (e) any disorder commonly characterized by breaks with reality or perceptions of reality; (f) all types of anxiety disorders; (g) trauma and stressor related disorders; or (h) severe personality disorders; or a finding by a qualified mental health professional that the incarcerated individual is at serious risk of substantially deteriorating mentally or emotionally while confined in Restrictive Housing, or already has so deteriorated while confined in Restrictive Housing, such that diversion or removal is deemed to be clinically appropriate by a qualified mental health professional.

Acronym for “Open Mental Health”. An incarcerated individual who is diagnosed with a mental illness or determined to be in need of mental health intervention on an ongoing basis. At any time during his or her incarceration, an individual may become an open mental health case (OMH) based on a mental health crisis, including suicidal threats or self-injurious behavior and/or the display of signs and/or symptoms of mental illness or emotional distress. Based upon clinical indications and within the discretion of the Primary Care Clinician (PCC), in consultation with the site Psychiatrist (if on medication) and/or Site Mental Health Director, an individual may also be removed from the active mental health caseload. However, any incarcerated individual carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an open mental health case.

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.”