Massachusetts Department of Correction
Prison Population Trends Report

Calendar Year 2025

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July 2026

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

PRISON POPULATION TRENDS
2025

RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

July 2026

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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Executive Summary

The **Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC)** population had been declining consistently from its' peak in 2012. January 1, 2026, continued a three-year increase in the MA DOC jurisdiction population (3% since 2023). Since January 1, 2011, there have only been three years of increase with the last three years being them (2024, 2025, 2026). 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 34% from January 1, 2017 (n=9,496) to January 1, 2026 (n=6,240), 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 evidence-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 our low recidivism rates. The majority of incarcerated individuals released from the MA DOC do NOT recidivate as defined by reincarceration within three years of being released. Among the criminally sentenced population released in 2020, the three-year rate was 27%. The second lowest rate in ten years (2011-2020), but also the second lowest 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 has remained 15% between January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2026. Simultaneously, those individuals 60+ years old increased by one percentage point to 16% of the jurisdiction population. 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 66% are determined to be seriously mentally ill (SMI). While lower in comparison, more than a third of males have OMH (44%) and SMI (39%). 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.

Release types have notably shifted in the last few years. In 2021, individuals released by expiration of sentence comprised 43% of the criminally sentenced release cohort compared to only 28% in 2025. Overall, there was a 16% decrease (n=231) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2021 and 2025. The largest decrease was between 2022 and 2023 (9%). The decline has stabilized over the past three years, including a modest 2 percent decrease from 2023 to 2024, followed by a slight increase of 1% (n=17) in 2025.

There were 996 criminally sentenced individuals who had their first release in 2025. On average, time served for males released via parole was 7.8 years before initially being released, an increase of .7 years from the 2024 male parolees (7.1 years). Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 4.6 years for time served before releasing to the community. Females represented only 6% of the total releases in 2025 (n=61). On average, time served for females released via parole served 4.7 years in 2025. Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 2.2 years in 2025, which resulted in a .4-year decrease in time served compared to 2024.

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 2025,* covers various aspects of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) prison population.

Vision: To be leaders in strengthening environments that contribute to safer healthier communities.

Mission: Promoting growth, success, and resiliency through a team of correctional professionals who foster a safe, empathic, results-driven environment.

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.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements i

Executive Summary ii

Report Populations iii

Institution Overview 1

Institution Capacity 7

Population Trends 8

Population Characteristics 15

Assigned Sex 16

Race/Ethnicity and Assigned Sex 17

Age and Age at Time of Incarceration 18

Age, Age at Time of Incarceration, and Release 19

Offense Types 20

Sentence Lengths 21

Admissions and Releases 23

Releases by Release Type 29

Criminal, Civil, and Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases 30

Admissions by New Court Commitments 31

Releases to the Community 35

Supervision Type 36

Security Level 38

Release Address by County 40

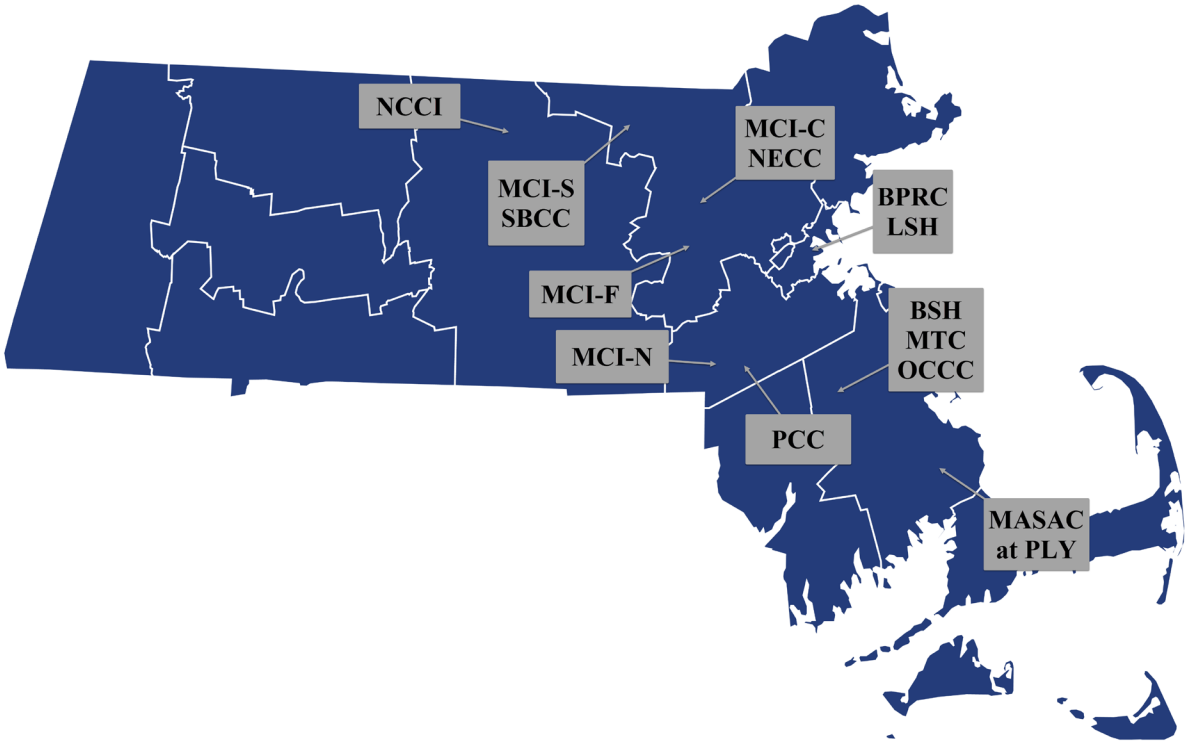
Release Address by Top Ten Cities 41

Average Length of Stay, Jail Credits and Time Served 42

Recidivism Trends 44

Caveats and Definitions 51

Massachusetts DOC 2025 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 2025): $154,097
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 46
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 55
- 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, 2026, there were 32 incarcerated individuals in minimum security and 14 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 2025): $367,007
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 245
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 219
- 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 2025): $823,081
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 19
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 13
- 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, 2026, the population consisted of twelve (12) criminally sentenced state commitments, six (6) pre-trial detainees and one (1) civilly committed individual. The average age of the incarcerated individuals housed on this date was 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 2025): $606,443
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 31
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 48
- 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 2025): $150,598
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 530
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 471
- Operational Capacity: 703



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, 2026, there were 434 criminally sentenced commitments, 74 SDPs, and 22 temporary civil commitments (provided by MTC).

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 2025): $256,220
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 229
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 226
- Operational Capacity: 668



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, 2026, MCI-F housed 181 criminally sentenced commitments, 26 pre-trial detainees, and 22 civil commitments.

MCI-Norfolk (MCI-N) ***Norfolk, MA***

- Security Level: Medium
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2003
- Opened: 1931
- Annual cost per person (FY 2025): $96,794
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 1,171
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,194
- 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 2025): $107,476
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 1,039
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,005
- Operational Capacity: 1,033



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 2025): $101,867
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 729
- 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 2025): $102,718
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 191
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 197
- 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, 2026, NECC housed 177 incarcerated individuals in minimum security housing units and 14 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 2025): $170,801
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 493
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 505
- 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.

Institution Overview

Pondville Correctional Center (PCC) ***Norfolk, MA***

- Security Level: Minimum & Pre-Release
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 1994
- Opened: 1990
- Annual cost per person (FY 2025): $91,673
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 138
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 147
- Operational Capacity: 204
  Minimum: 156 & Pre-Release: 48



Pondville Correctional Center is a facility for criminally sentenced males housing 130 minimum commitments and 8 pre-release on January 1, 2026. 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.

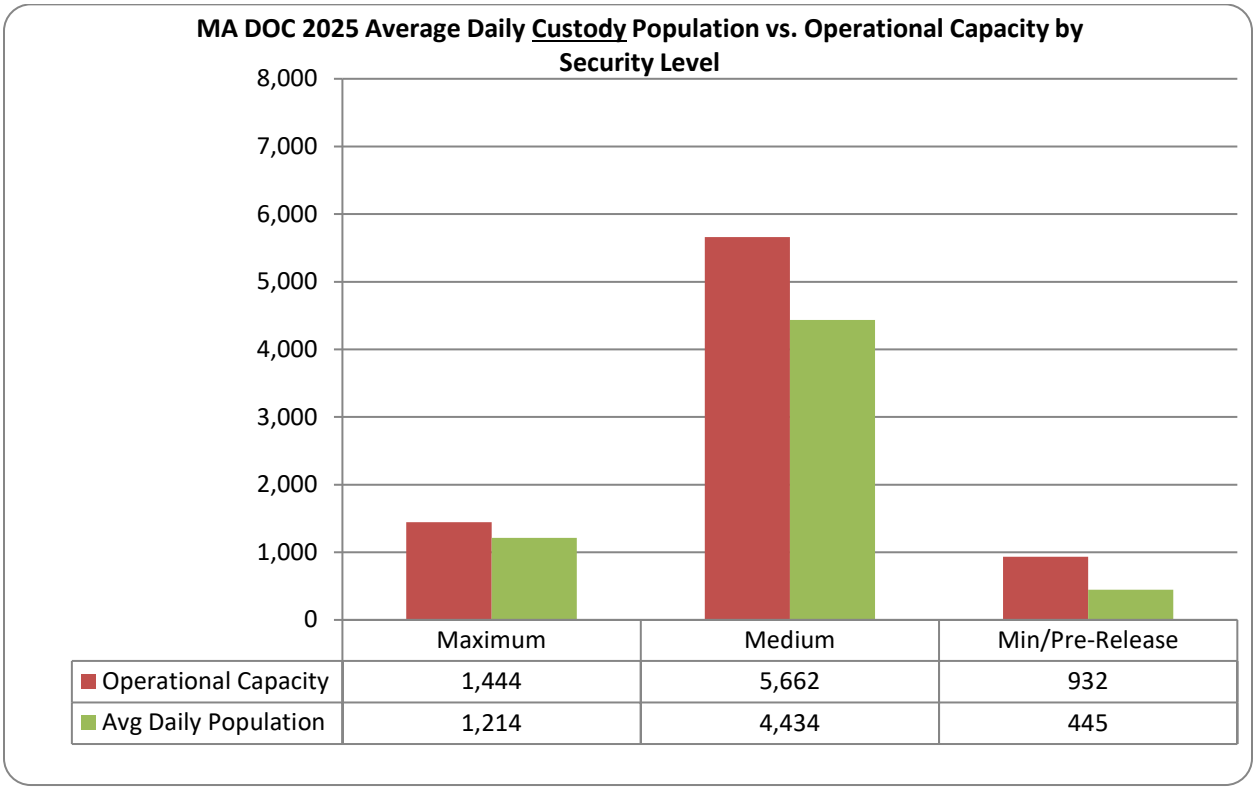
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC) ***Shirley, MA***

- Security Level: Maximum
- Initial ACA Accreditation: 2001
- Opened: 1998
- Annual cost per person (FY 2025): $130,240
- January 1, 2026 Facility Population: 1,252
- Average Daily Population (ADP): 1,054
- Operational Capacity: 1,444



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



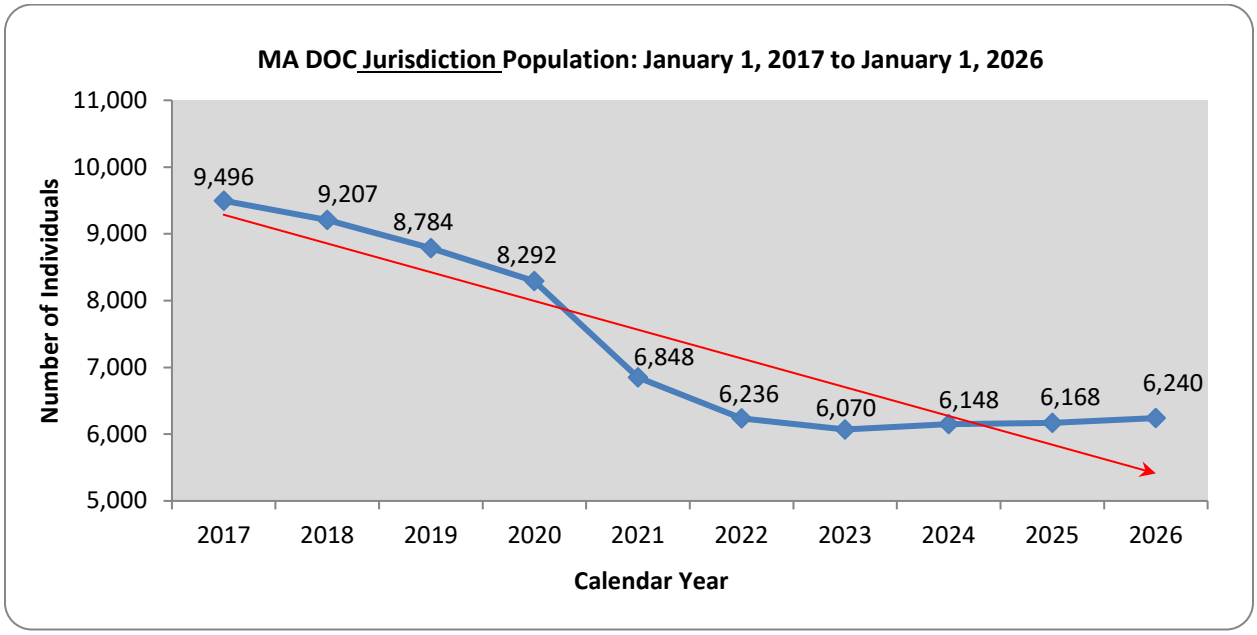
Total Massachusetts Department of Correction 2025
2025 Operational Capacity = 8,038
Average Daily Population for 2025 (Custody Population) = 6,093
Average Daily Population for 2025 (Jurisdiction Population) = 6,265

- **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 5, 2026 Weekly Count produced by the Research and Planning Division.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 Population Trends

Population Trends



Massachusetts

- The Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction population reflects a decades long decline with a decrease of 34% since the trend's peak on January 1, 2017 (n=9,496).
- Between January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026, there was a slight increase in incarcerated individuals of 1%, from 6,168 to 6,240.
- 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 2023[1], 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] Year-end 2023 statistics were the most recent national statistics available at the time.
[2] Bureau of Justice Statistics (September 2025). *Prisoners in 2023* – Statistical Tables (NCJ 310197). 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: National[6] 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

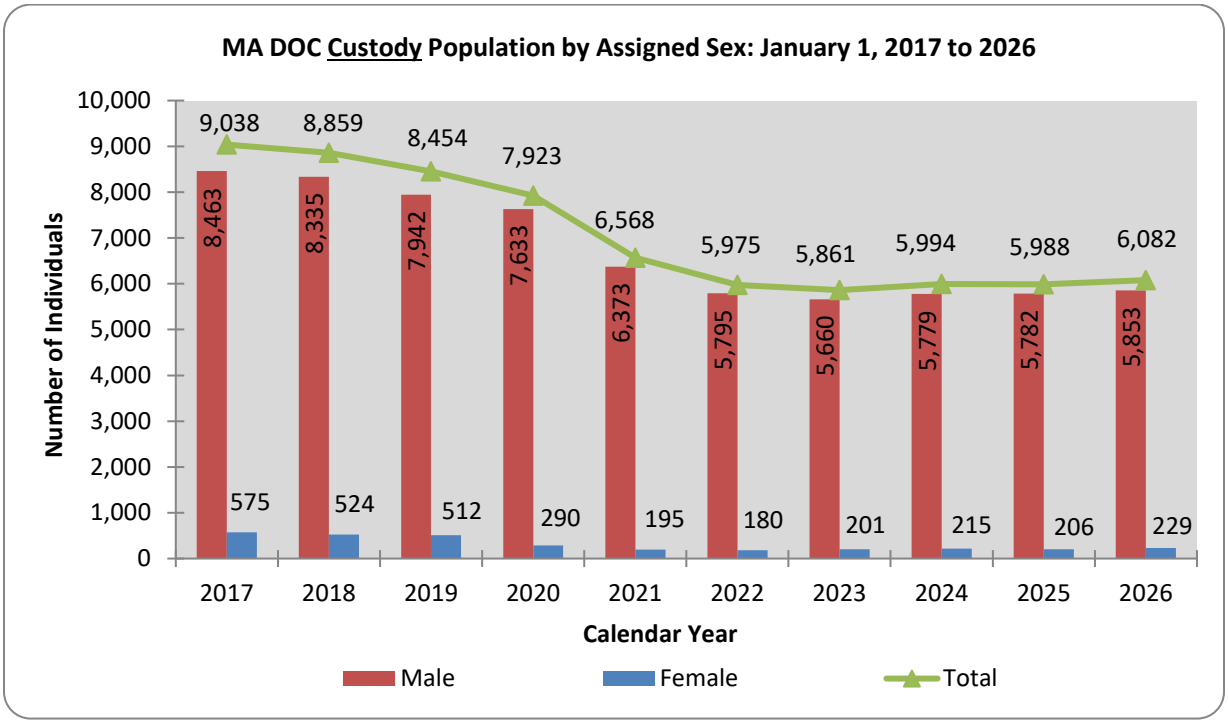
- The Massachusetts jurisdiction prison population decreased by 40% from 10,242 in 2004 to 6,148 in 2023; over the same period, the national population decreased by 16%, from 1,497,100 to 1,254,224.

- 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%) as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[6] Bureau of Justice Statistics (September 2025). *Prisoners in 2023* – Statistical Tables (NCJ 310197). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Population Trends



- The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) custody population has stabilized over the past 5 years averaging around 5,980. 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.

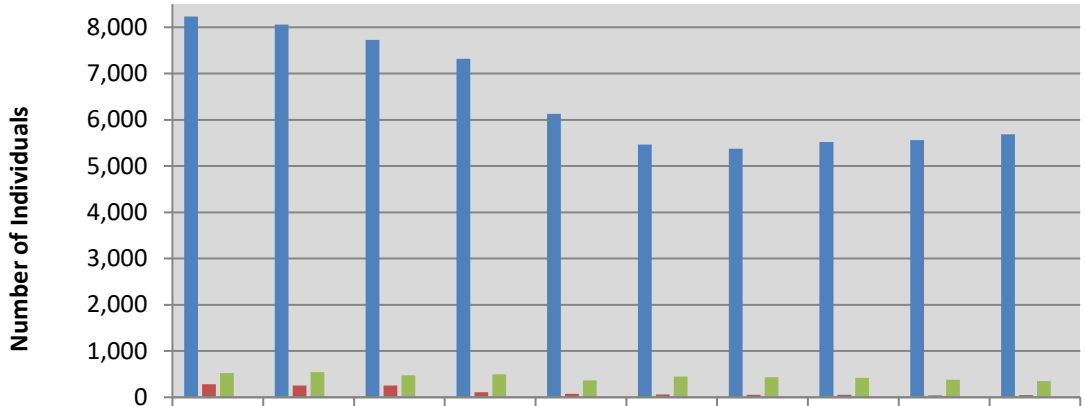
- The male custody population dropped 33% from a high of 8,463 in 2017 to a low of 5,660 on January 1, 2023 which drove the decrease in the total custody population over that same time period.

- The female custody population has decreased 60% over the 10-year trend period (2017-2026). 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 575 in 2017 to a low of 180 in 2022, but in the past four years the population increased 27%.

- 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, 2017 to 2026

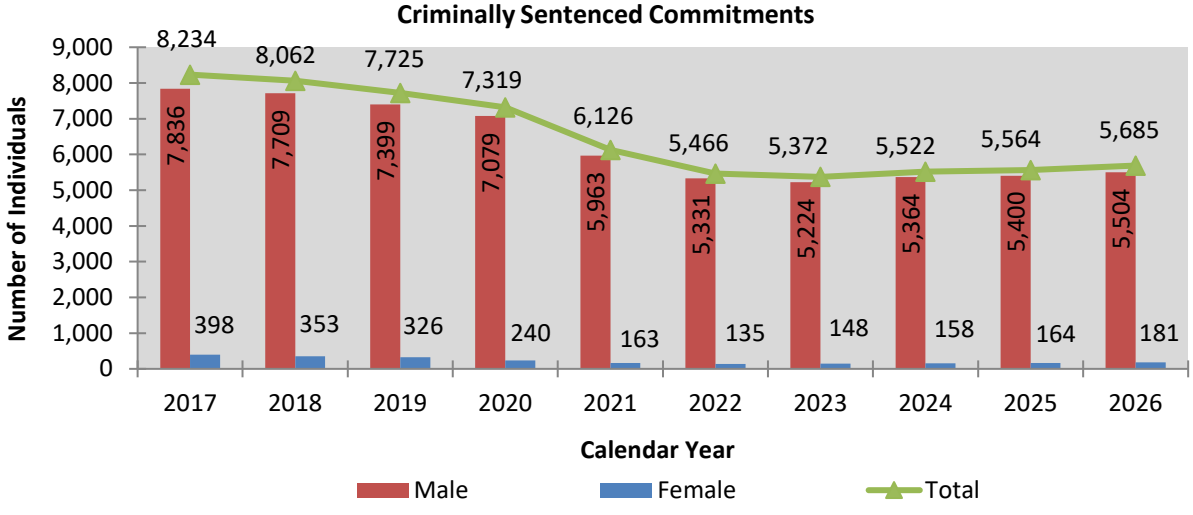


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Criminally Sentenced	8,234	8,062	7,725	7,319	6,126	5,466	5,372	5,522	5,564	5,685
Pre-Trial	282	252	254	109	74	63	54	54	42	44
Civil Commitments	522	545	475	495	368	446	435	418	382	353
Total	9,038	8,859	8,454	7,923	6,568	5,975	5,861	5,994	5,988	6,082

Calendar Year

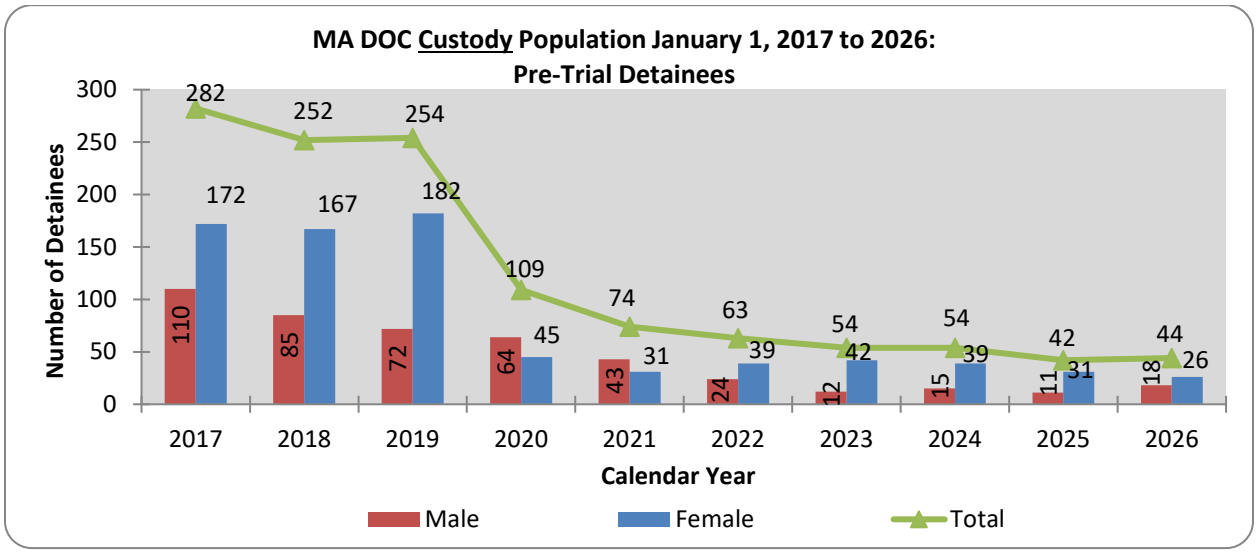
- The MA DOC has seen a considerable decrease in criminally sentenced (31%), pre-trial detainees (84%), and civilly committed (32%) populations between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2026.

MA DOC Custody Population January 1, 2017 to 2026: Criminally Sentenced Commitments

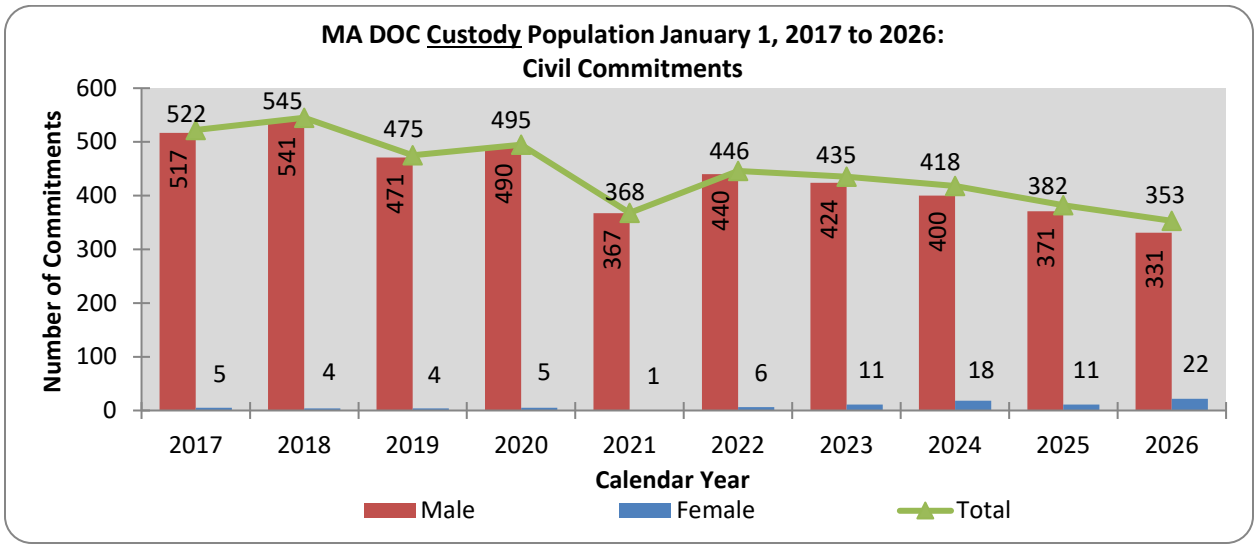


- Criminally sentenced commitments composed 93% of the MA DOC custody population on January 1, 2026.
- Between 2017 and 2026, both the male and female populations have experienced a decrease, 30% and 55% respectively. Peaking at 8,234 in 2017, the total criminally sentenced population has shown a steady decrease for the trend period. However, the population has now increased 6% since 2023.

Population Trends

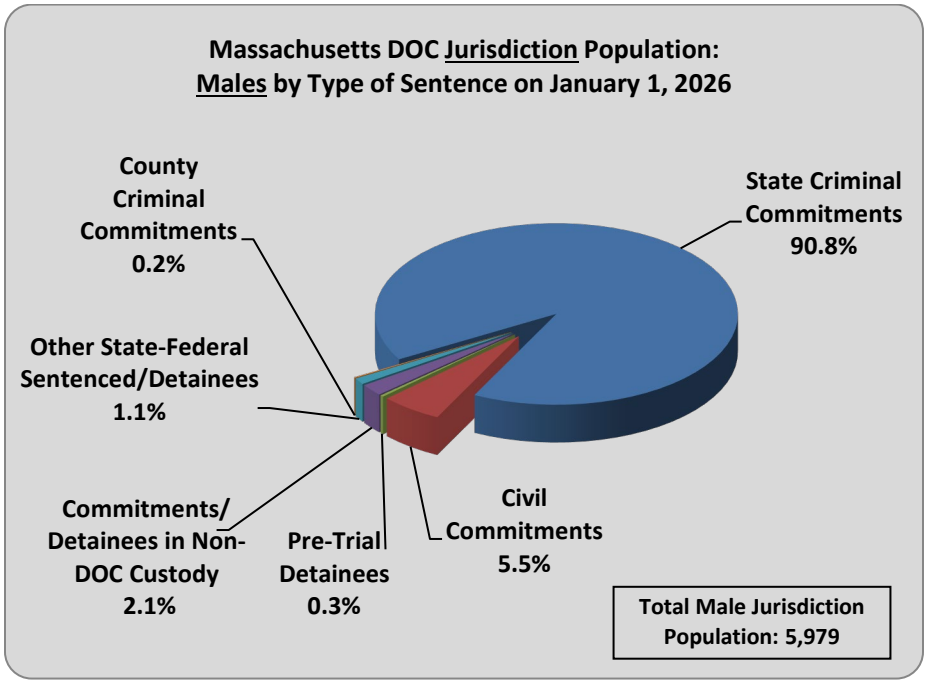


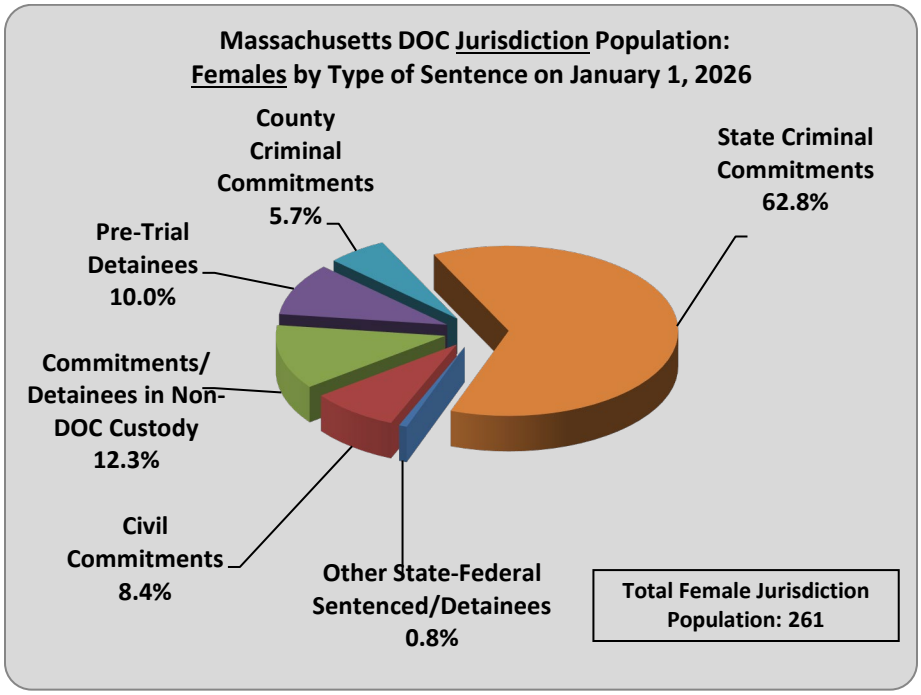
- The total pre-trial population decreased 84% between 2017 and 2026.
- Fluctuations in the total pre-trial population were common over the 10-year trend period. Males were in the majority two of the ten years and females flipped back to the majority over the last five years. What the chart above illustrates is the sharp decline in the pre-trial population which has decreased in eight of the ten years.



- The total civil commitment population consisted almost entirely of males (94%) on January 1, 2026. 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 19% over the last four years.
- Averaging 9 commitments over the 10-year trend period, female civil commitments have experienced a low of 1 in 2021 and high of 22 in 2026. However, the female civil population is still one of the smallest in the MA DOC, slightly larger than the 18 male pre-trial detainees.

Population Trends





- On January 1, 2026, the vast majority of males (91%) were state criminal commitments.
- In previous years female state criminal commitments represented a smaller portion of their total female commitments (39% in 2019 vs. 63% in 2026). 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 2025 Population Characteristics

Population Characteristics by Assigned Sex

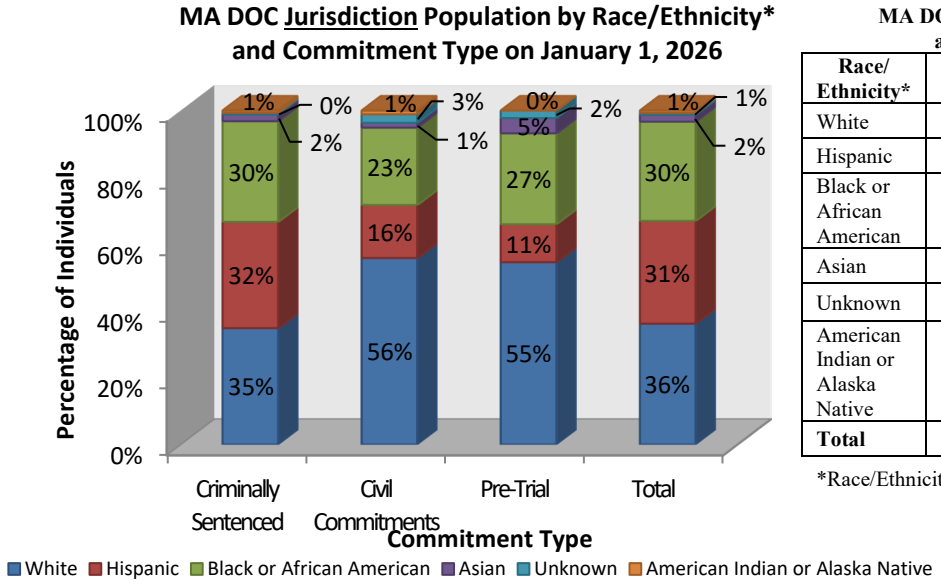
Male Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2026

- 5,979 total males in the jurisdiction population: 5,630 criminally sentenced, 18 pre-trial detainees, and 331 civil commitments
- Race/Ethnicity: White (2,095), Hispanic (1,882), Black or African American (1,815), Asian (121), American Indian or Alaska Native (43), Unknown (23)
- The average age was 44 years old (the youngest incarcerated individual was 19 years old and the oldest was 91 years old)
- 97% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- 73% had a violent governing offense
- 322 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- The 2020 release cohort three-year recidivism rate was 28% for the total male population
- 44% of males had an open mental health case, 39% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 31% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2025 Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

Female Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2026

- 261 total females in the jurisdiction population: 213 criminally sentenced, 26 pre-trial detainees, and 22 civil commitments
- Race/Ethnicity: White (161), Black or African American (43), Hispanic (37), Unknown (13), Asian (4), American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- The average age was 41 years old (the youngest incarcerated individual was 19 years old and the oldest was 79 years old)
- 87% were serving a sentence of more than three years
- 62% had a violent governing offense
- 16 were serving a governing mandatory drug sentence
- The 2020 release cohort three-year recidivism rate was 20% for the total female population
- 78% of females had an open mental health case, 66% had a serious mental illness (SMI), and 64% were on psychotropic medication for the **Custody** Population as of 12/31/2025 Note: Information provided by Health Services Division

Population Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity and Assigned Sex



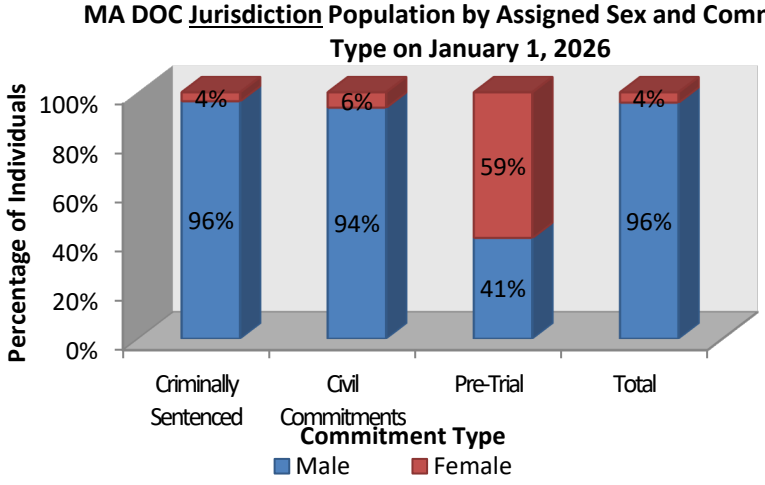
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Race/Ethnicity* and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026

Race/ Ethnicity*	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
White	2,035	197	24	2,256
Hispanic	1,858	56	5	1,919
Black or African American	1,764	82	12	1,858
Asian	118	5	2	125
Unknown	26	9	1	36
American Indian or Alaska Native	42	4	0	46
Total	**5,843**	**353**	**44**	**6,240**

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

*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 (36%), followed by Hispanic and Black (31% and 30%) respectively. This distribution was reflected in the criminally sentenced population. However, for the Civil and Pre-Trial populations, the Black population outnumbered the Hispanic population. 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 Hispanic (5 percentage points) and White (3 percentage points) populations, while there was a 7 percentage points decrease observed in the Black population. Among the pre-trial population, there was a (3 percentage points) increase in both the Black and White populations but a decrease of (8 percentage points) for Asian.



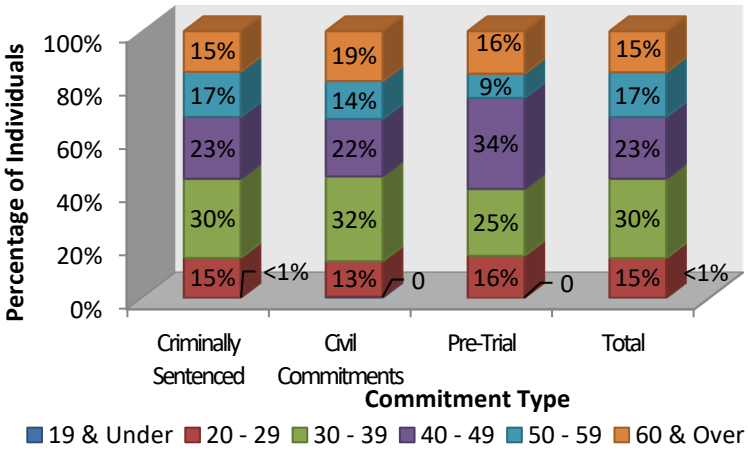
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Assigned Sex and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026

	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
Male	5,630	331	18	5,979
Female	213	22	26	261
Total	**5,843**	**353**	**44**	**6,240**

The commitment types of criminally sentenced and civil commitments had the greatest percentage of males, with males making up 96% and 94%, respectively. Also following the trend of previous years, pre-trial detainees saw a higher female population (59%) than a male population (41%).

Population Characteristics by Age and Age at Time of Incarceration

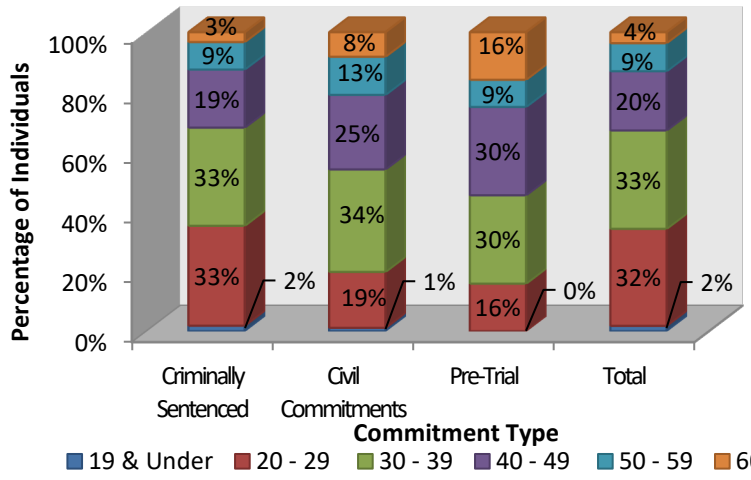
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	888	66	7	961
50 - 59	989	50	4	1,043
40 - 49	1,353	76	15	1,444
30 - 39	1,730	112	11	1,853
20 - 29	877	47	7	931
19 & Under	6	2	0	8
Total	**5,843**	**353**	**44**	**6,240**

MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026



MA DOC Jurisdiction Population by Age at Time of Incarceration and Commitment Type on January 1, 2026

Age (Years)	Criminally Sentenced	Civil Commitments	Pre-Trial	Total
60 & Over	193	29	7	229
50 - 59	537	45	4	586
40 - 49	1,135	88	13	1,236
30 - 39	1,918	121	13	2,052
20 - 29	1,952	66	7	2,025
19 & Under	108	4	0	112
Total	**5,843**	**353**	**44**	**6,240**

- As of January 1, 2026, forty-five (45%) percent (n = 2,607) of the criminally sentenced population were between the ages of 20-39 with 3,230 criminally sentenced individuals (55%) age 40 years or older. At the time of incarceration, 3,870 incarcerated individuals in the criminally sentenced population were between ages 20-39 (66%) with 1,952 individuals between ages 20-29 (33%).
- Pre-trial detainees varied the least in age when comparing the percentage of age groups on January 1, 2026, to age at incarceration. About 41% percent of pre-trial detainees were between the ages of 20-39 on January 1, 2026, while 45% 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, 2026, relative to sentence type, were pre-trial individuals with 59% (n = 26) aged 40 and older. This is the same as age at incarceration, in which 24 pre-trial individuals (55%) were 40 years and older. However, the pre-trial population is only a small fraction of our jurisdiction population.

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, 2026, Date of Commitment, and Date of Release in 2025

Assigned Sex	Commitment Type	Average Age		
		1/1/2026	Commitment	Release
Female	Criminal	42	37	40
	Civil	37	37	37
	Pre-Trial	39	38	38
	Female Total	41	37	38
Male	Criminal	44	35	42
	Civil	45	40	38
	Pre-Trial	49	48	44
	Male Total	44	36	40
Total Population		**44**	**36**	**40**

Pre-Trial males on average were the oldest incarcerated individuals on January 1, 2026 (49) as well as the oldest at time of commitment (48). Pre-trial males were also the oldest releases on average (44) during 2025. On January 1, 2026, the incarcerated individuals ranged in age from 19 to 91 years old.

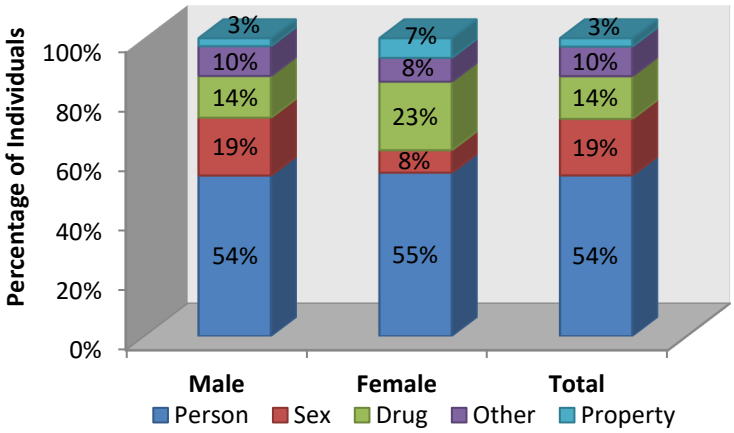
MA DOC Jurisdiction Population Five Year Comparison of Youngest and Oldest Age Groups January 1, 2022 – January 1, 2026

Age Range		Year				
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
29 and Under	Number	933	920	925	929	939
	% of Population	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
60 and Over	Number	928	949	945	959	961
	% of Population	15%	16%	15%	16%	16%
Total Population		**6,236**	**6,070**	**6,148**	**6,168**	**6,240**

The percentage of individuals 29 years old and under remained the same from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2026, while the number of individuals age 60 years old and over increased by one (1) percentage point during the same timeframe.

Population Characteristics by Offense Types

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2026



MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Governing Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2026

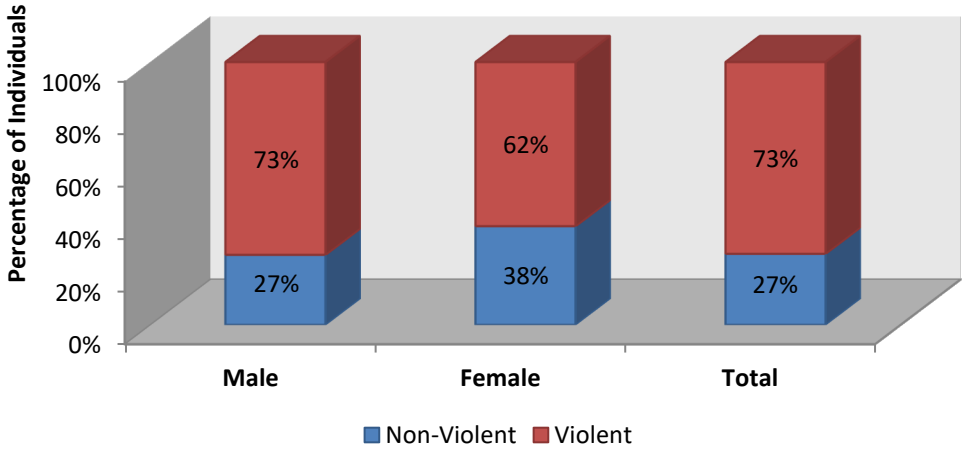
Offense Category	Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	3,039	117	3,156
	Sex	1,091	16	1,107
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	788	49	837
	Other	562	17	579
	Property	150	14	164
Total	**All Types**	**5,630**	**213**	**5,843**

- The top three governing offenses for the total criminally sentenced population on January 1, 2026, were person (54%), sex (19%), and drug offenses (14%). For males, the top three governing offenses were also person (54%), sex (19%), and drug (14%).

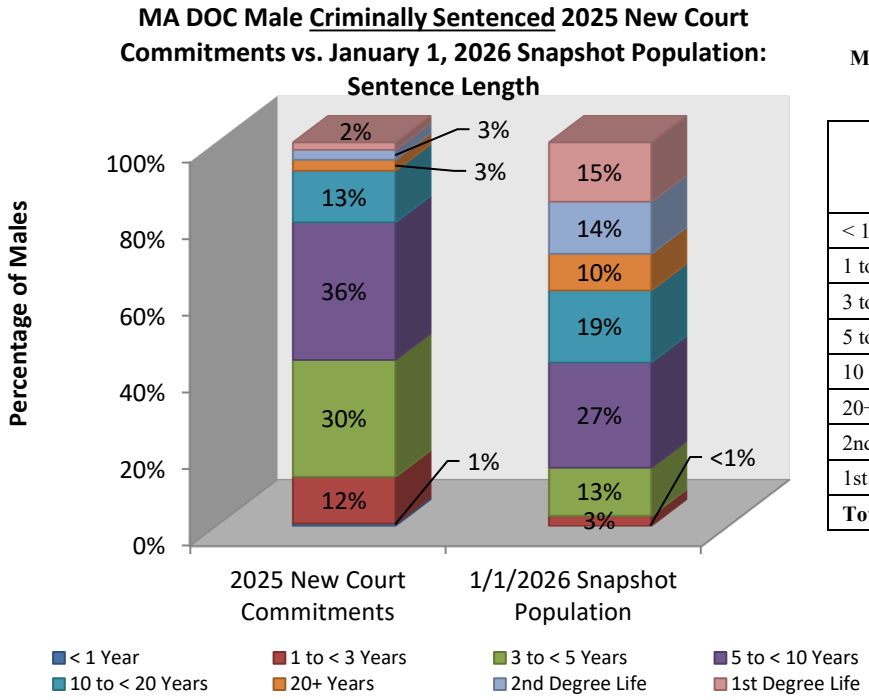
- Differing slightly in order from their male counterparts, the top offenses for females were person offenses (55%) and drug offenses (23%), with sex offenses and other crimes both at 8%.

- The majority of criminally sentenced females (62%) were incarcerated for a violent governing offense. Males decreased from the previous year by two percentage points with seventy-three (73%) percent incarcerated for a violent governing offense.

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population by Violent/Non-Violent Offense and Assigned Sex on January 1, 2026

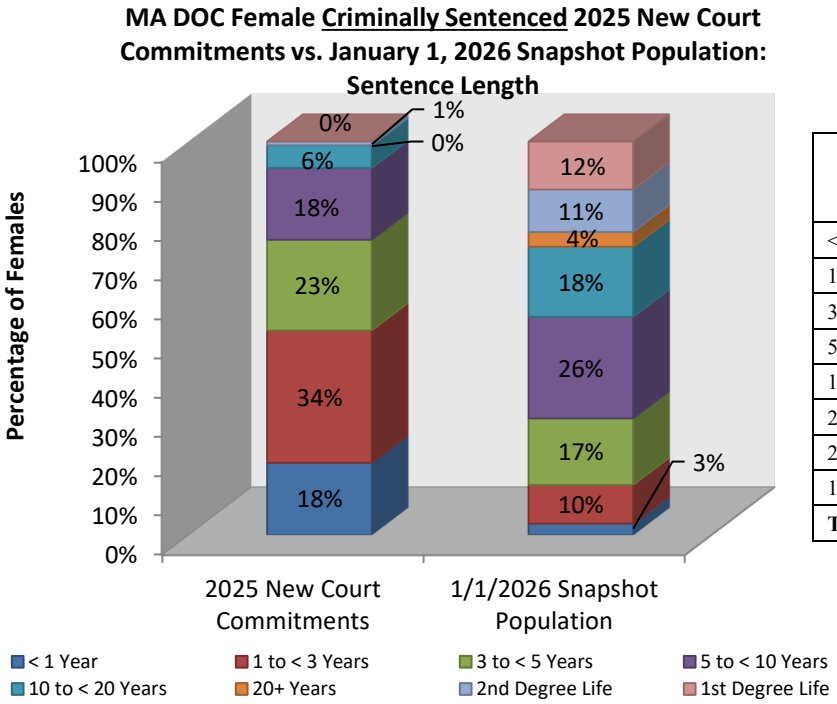


Population Characteristics by Sentence Lengths



MA DOC Male Criminally Sentenced 2025 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2026, Snapshot Population: Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2025 New Court Commitments	1/1/2026 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	9	2
1 to < 3 Years	158	149
3 to < 5 Years	396	707
5 to < 10 Years	466	1,542
10 to < 20 Years	175	1,058
20+ Years	37	537
2nd Degree Life	34	765
1st Degree Life	25	870
Total	**1,300**	**5,630**



MA DOC Female Criminally Sentenced 2025 New Court Commitments vs. January 1, 2026, Snapshot Population: Sentence Length

Sentence Length	2025 New Court Commitments	1/1/2026 Snapshot Population
< 1 Year	19	6
1 to < 3 Years	35	21
3 to < 5 Years	24	36
5 to < 10 Years	19	55
10 to < 20 Years	6	38
20+ Years	0	8
2nd Degree Life	1	23
1st Degree Life	0	26
Total	**104**	**213**

The comparisons of 2025's new court commitments to the January 1, 2026, 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 29% of the snapshot population is serving a life sentence; however, these offenders only comprised 4% of new court commitments.

Population Characteristics by Sentence Length

In 2025, 52% of female new court commitments were serving a sentence less than three years, whereas only 13% of females in the January 1, 2026 snapshot population were serving a sentence less than three years. Comparatively, 79% of male new court commitments were serving a sentence less than 10 years, while only 43% of the males in the January 1, 2026 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, 2025 and January 1, 2026, the percentage of state criminally sentenced females in the MA DOC jurisdiction decreased by 3 percentage points, while the percentage of county criminally sentenced females increased by 3 percentage points. Among the criminally sentenced females in MA DOC jurisdiction on January 1, 2026:

- 92% (n=196) were state sentenced
- 7% (n=15) 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-two 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 62% of the female sentenced population, while 12% of criminally sentenced females were serving a maximum sentence length of less than 3 years on a non-violent governing offense.

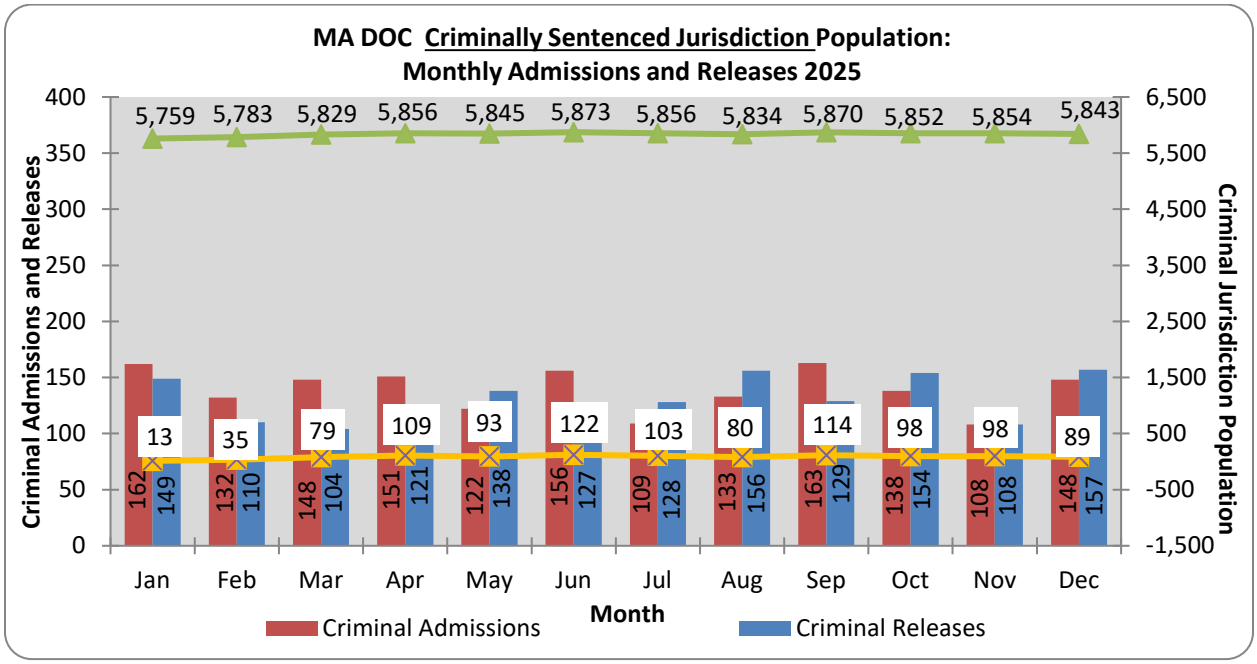
MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population on January 1, 2026:
Governing Offense by Sentence Length and Assigned Sex

	Governing Offense	Males		Females		Total	
		< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years	< 3 Years	≥ 3 Years
Violent Offenses	PERSON	54	2,985	2	115	56	3,100
	SEX	11	1,080	0	16	11	1,096
Non-Violent Offenses	DRUG	37	751	10	39	47	790
	PROPERTY	10	140	6	8	16	148
	OTHER	39	523	9	8	48	531
	TOTALS	**151**	**5,479**	**27**	**186**	**178**	**5,665**
		5,630		**213**		**5,843**	

On January 1, 2026 drug offenses comprised the third largest governing offense type (n=788) for criminally sentenced males (14%) and second largest for females (23%). Forty percent of drug offenders were serving governing sentences associated with a mandatory minimum term. A total of 338 serving a mandatory drug governing offense: 322 males and 16 females.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 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.

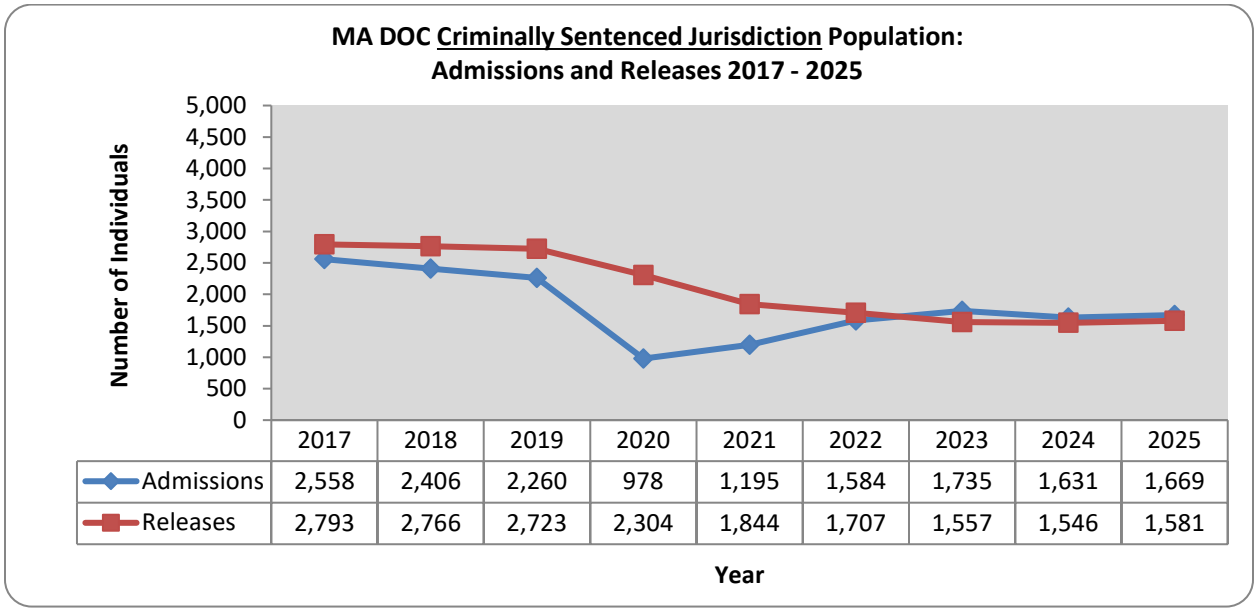
- Overall, throughout 2025 the number of criminally sentenced admissions was more than the number of criminally sentenced releases, criminal admissions averaging 139 per month and criminal releases averaging 132.

- During the trend period criminal admissions ranged between 108 in November, and 163 in September. Criminal releases ranged between 104 in March, and 157 in December.

- The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative increase of 89 in the criminally sentenced population by year's end.

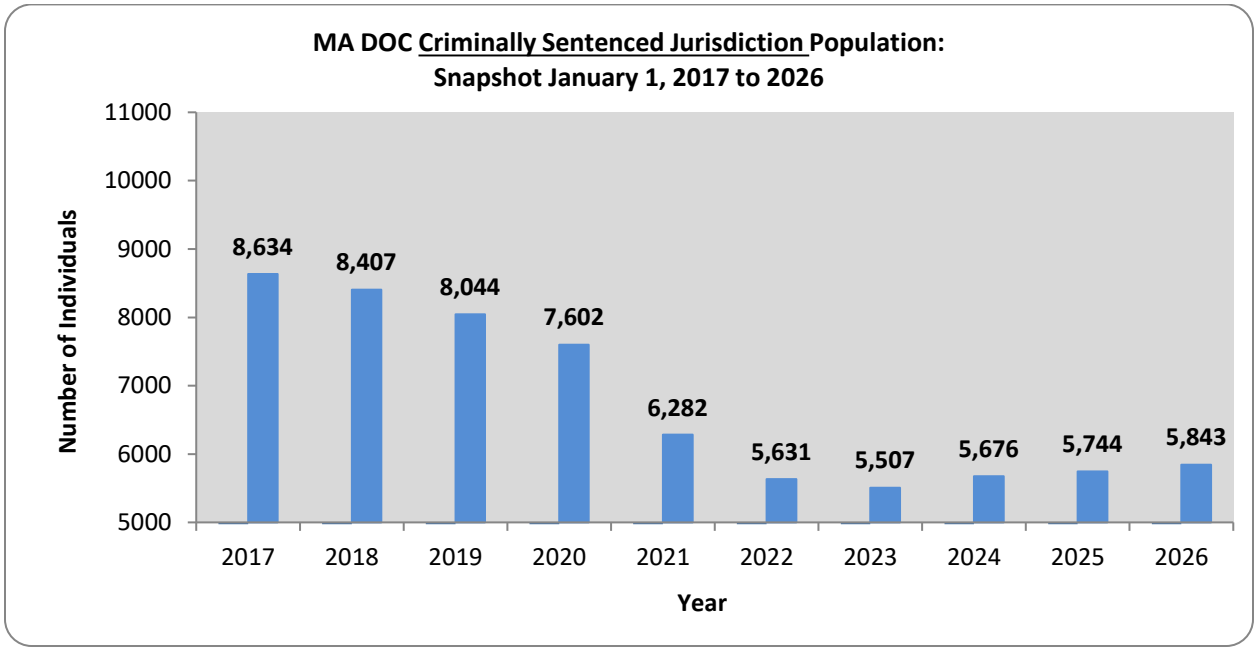
- The criminally sentenced population at the end of 2025 was 5,843, a 1.7% increase from the population at the end of 2024, at 5,744. This is the third annual increase after declines from 2015 to 2022 when comparing year's end criminally sentenced populations.

Admissions and Releases



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Admissions	2,558	2,406	2,260	978	1,195	1,584	1,735	1,631	1,669
Releases	2,793	2,766	2,723	2,304	1,844	1,707	1,557	1,546	1,581

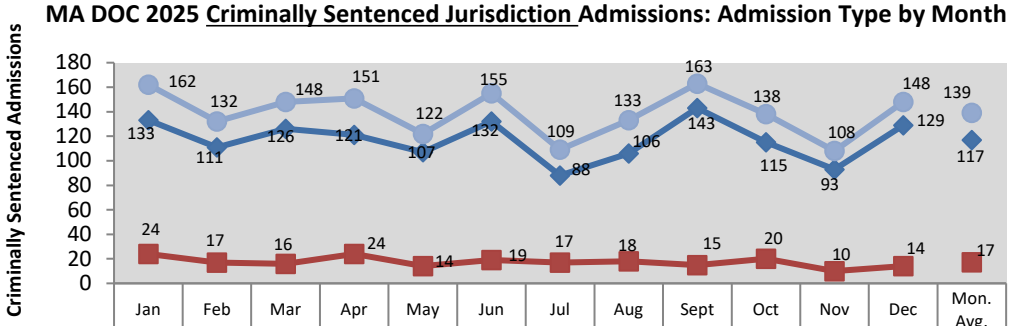
Over the past nine years, criminal admissions and releases both exhibited negative trends, with criminal releases exhibiting a stronger decline than criminal admissions. Admissions saw an average annual decrease of 4% each year; criminal admissions during 2020 had the largest decline of 57%. Releases saw an average annual decrease of 5%, with the largest decreases experienced during 2021 and 2020, 20% and 15% respectively.



The criminally sentenced population saw a total decrease of 32% from 2017 to 2026, 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 Covid-19 pandemic.

Admissions and Releases

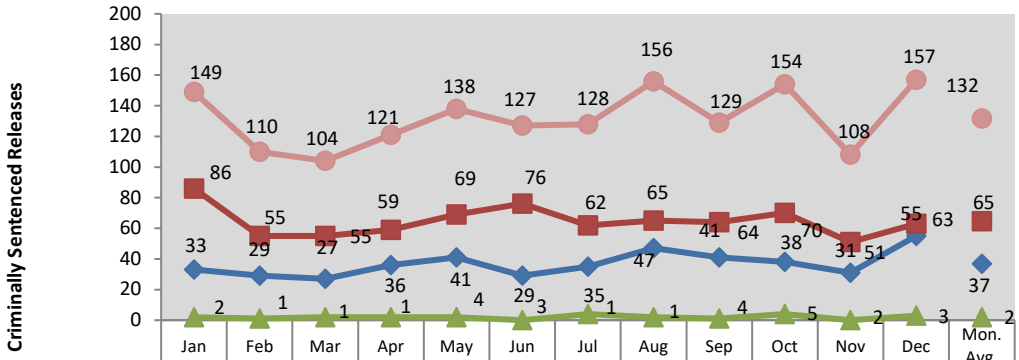
MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions: Admission Type by Month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Avg.
New Court Commitment	133	111	126	121	107	132	88	106	143	115	93	129	117
Parole Violation /Detainer	24	17	16	24	14	19	17	18	15	20	10	14	17
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	5	4	6	5	1	3	4	8	4	3	4	5	4
Re-Admit from Court Release	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Probation Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Escapee Returns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Admissions	162	132	148	151	122	155	109	133	163	138	108	148	139

Total criminal jurisdiction admissions for 2025 were driven by new court commitments to the MA DOC, as evidenced by the parallel yearly trends. New court commitments ranged from 88 to 143 with a monthly average of 117, one more than the monthly average of 116 in 2024. Total criminal admissions ranged from 108 to 163 for a monthly average of 139, three more than the 2024 monthly average of 136.

MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases: Release Type by Month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Avg.
Expiration of Sentence to Community	33	29	27	36	41	29	35	47	41	38	31	55	37
Parole to Community/ Release from Parole Detainer	86	55	55	59	69	76	62	65	64	70	51	63	65
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	21	21	15	20	19	15	23	34	13	31	21	27	22
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	5	3	4	3	3	4	3	7	6	6	3	6	4
Court/Crime Lab Release	2	1	2	2	2	0	4	2	1	4	0	3	2
Other Release	2	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	4	5	2	3	2
Total	149	110	104	121	138	127	128	156	129	154	108	157	132

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

Total criminal jurisdiction releases for 2025 ranged between 104 and 157 for a given month and averaged 132; three more than the monthly average from 2024 of 129. Releases due to expiration of sentence fluctuated around a flat trend line of 37 releases per month during 2025, 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 65% of the criminal jurisdiction releases in 2025; higher than 2024 releases, at 51%.

Admissions and Releases

MA DOC 2025 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	104	91%	1,300	84%	1,404	84%
Parole Violation - Parole Detainer	7	6%	201	13%	208	12%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	3	3%	49	3%	52	3%
Probation Violation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Re-Admit from Court Release	0	0%	5	<1%	5	<1%
Escapee Return	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total Admissions	**114**	**100%**	**1,555**	**100%**	**1,669**	**100%**

During 2025, 84% of male and 91% of female criminally sentenced admissions were new court commitments. The percentage of new court commitments for both males and females went down 1 percentage point from the criminally sentenced admissions during 2024, which was 85% for males and 92% for females in 2024.

MA DOC 2025 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	38	40%	404	27%	442	28%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	34	36%	741	50%	775	49%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	14	15%	246	17%	260	16%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	6	6%	47	3%	53	3%
Court Release / Crime Lab	2	2%	21	1%	23	1%
Other Release	0	0%	28	2%	28	2%
Total Releases	**94**	**100%**	**1,487**	**100%**	**1,581**	**100%**

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

- Releases to the community are a subset of all releases consisting of expiration of sentence to community, parole to community/release from parole detainer, and court release/crime lab. Of the 1,240 criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2025, approximately 36% were released via expiration of sentence to the community, 63% were via parole to the community/release from parole detainer, and nearly 2% were court/crime lab releases to the community.
- Females accounted for 74 (6%) of total criminally sentenced jurisdiction releases to the community in 2025; 9% of total expirations of sentence to the community, 4% of total paroles to the community/release from parole detainer, and 9% of total court/crime lab releases to the community.
- There were 28 deaths in the criminal jurisdiction population during 2025: 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 2025, 11 incarcerated individuals were released using medical parole: 10 males and 1 female.

Admissions and Releases

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Admissions:
Admission Type by Year 2023 - 2025

Admission Type	2023		2024		2025	
	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
New Court Commitment	1,473	85%	1,387	85%	1,404	84%
Parole Violation/ Parole Detainer	210	12%	205	13%	208	12%
Transfer from Other Jurisdiction	44	3%	36	2%	52	3%
Probation Violation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Re-Admit from Court Release	7	<1%	2	<1%	5	<1%
Escapee Return	1	<1%	1	<1%	0	0%
Total Admissions	**1,735**	**100%**	**1,631**	**100%**	**1,669**	**100%**

- From 2023 to 2025, the percentage of criminally sentenced admissions that were new court commitments went down 1 percentage point to 84% in 2025. The number of admissions who were new court commitments dropped from 1,473 in 2023 to 1,404 in 2025, a 5% decrease compared with 3% increase between 2022 and 2024, 1,351 versus 1,387 respectively.
- The second most common criminally sentenced admission type, parole violator/parole detainer, decreased between 2023 and 2024 from 210 to 205. It then increased to 208 in 2025. This categories share of all criminal admissions stayed largely flat at 12% in 2023 and 2025, and 13% in 2024.
- Total criminal admissions during the period from 2023 to 2025 saw their highest point in 2023, which was 6% and 4% higher than criminal admissions from 2024 and 2025 owing to the recovery from the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020.

MA DOC Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases:
Release Type by Year 2023 - 2025

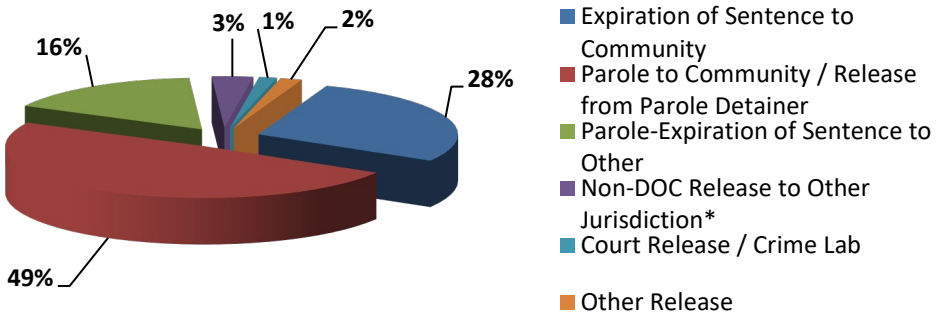
Release Type	2023		2024		2025	
	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases	Number of Releases	Percent of Releases
Expiration of Sentence to Community	495	32%	419	27%	442	28%
Parole to Community / Release from Parole Detainer	730	47%	781	51%	775	49%
Parole-Expiration of Sentence to Other	233	15%	247	16%	260	16%
Non-DOC* Release to Other Jurisdiction	59	4%	56	4%	53	3%
Court Release / Crime Lab	19	1%	24	2%	23	1%
Other Release	21	1%	19	1%	28	2%
Total Releases	**1,557**	**100%**	**1,546**	**100%**	**1,581**	**100%**

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

- The number of expirations of sentence to the community from 2023 to 2025 saw its lowest point in 2024 when it was 27%. Releases decreased by 15% between 2023 and 2024, followed by an increase of 5% between 2024 and 2025.

Releases by Release Type

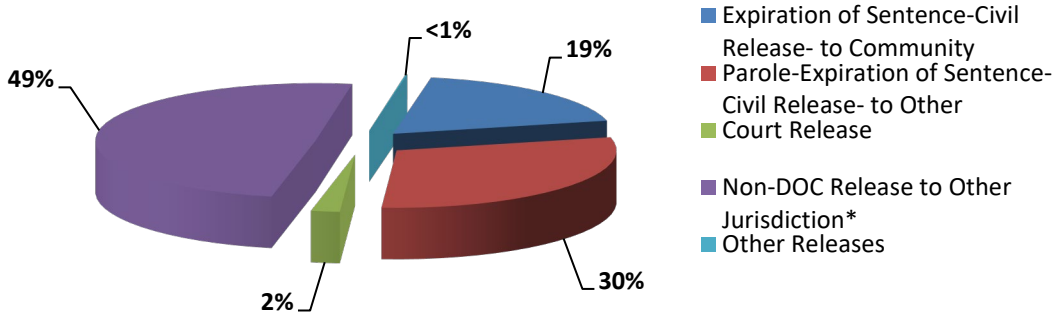
MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



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

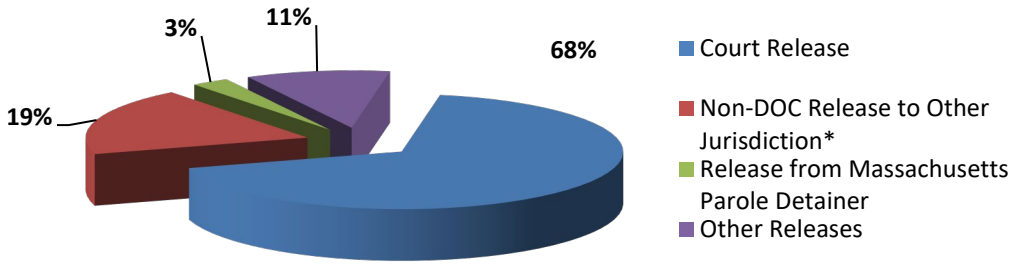
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MA DOC 2025 Civil Commitment Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type



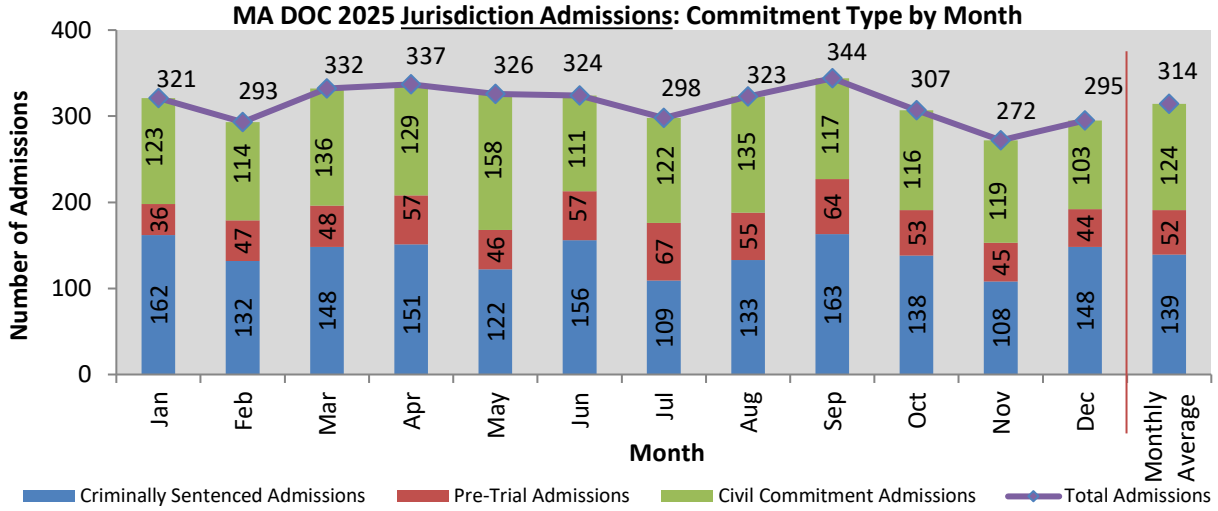
*Refers to non-DOC individuals from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

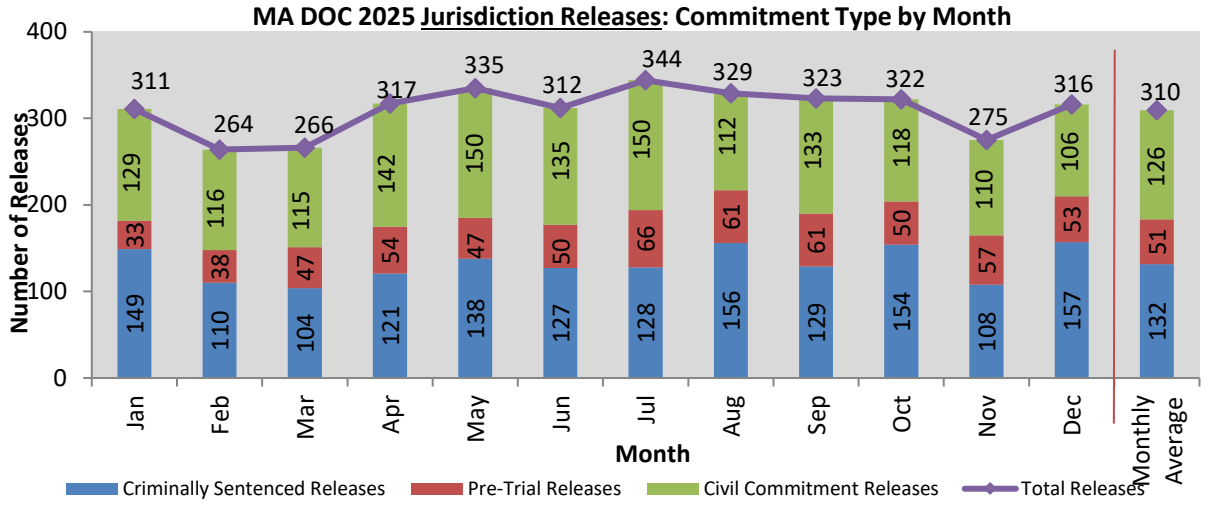
MA DOC 2025 Pre-Trial Jurisdiction Releases by Release Type

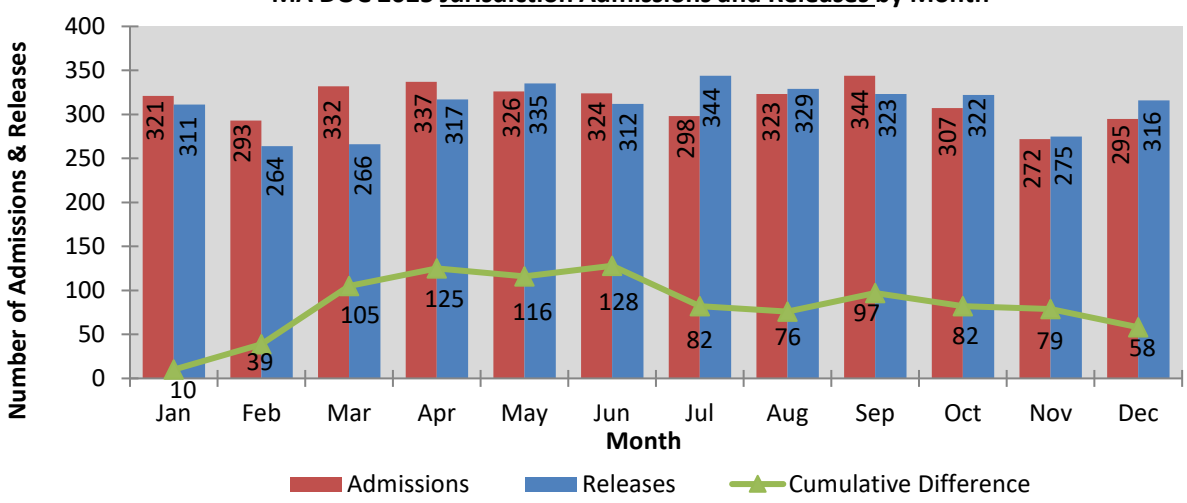


*Refers to non-DOC individuals from county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction released to county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction.

Criminal, Civil, and Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases





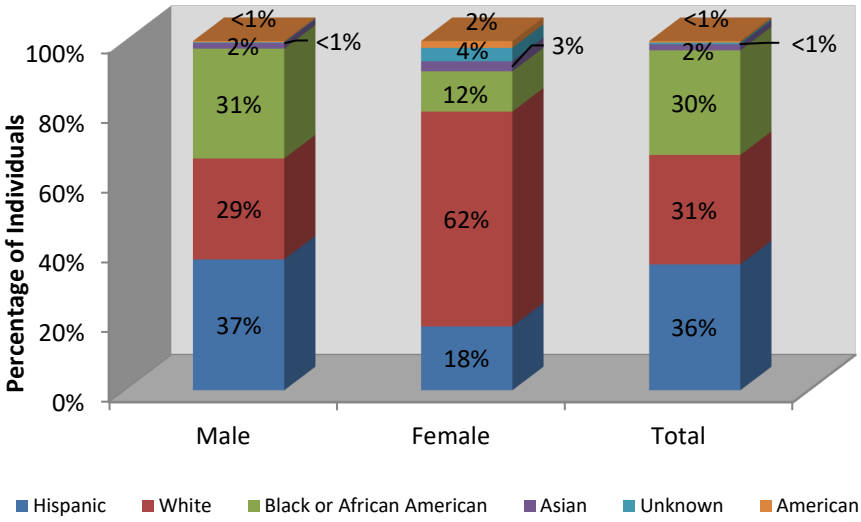


During 2025, the difference in admissions and releases resulted in an upward trend, ending in an overall cumulative increase of 58 incarcerated individuals. This was an 81% increase compared to the cumulative increase of 32 incarcerated individuals seen during 2024.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 Admissions by New Court Commitments

Admissions by New Court Commitments

MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Race/Ethnicity by Assigned Sex



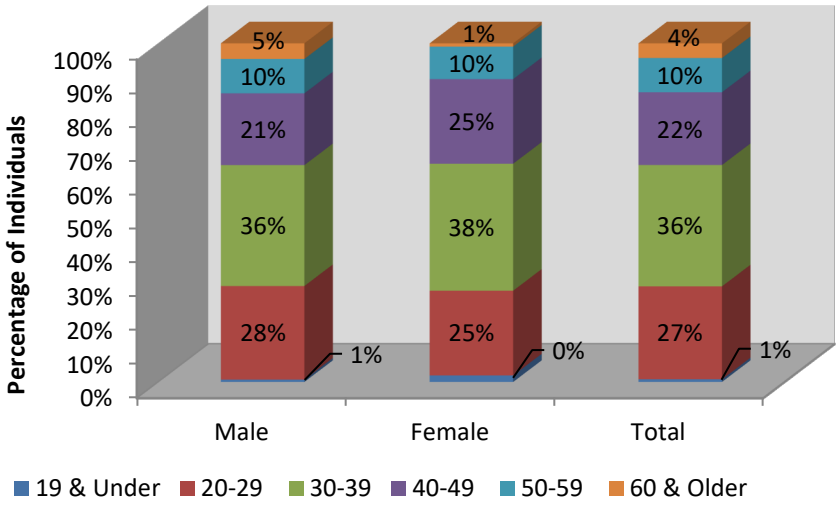
MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Race/Ethnicity* by Assigned Sex

Race/Ethnicity*	Male	Female	Total
Hispanic	487	19	506
White	376	64	440
Black or African American	409	12	421
Asian	21	3	24
Unknown	3	4	7
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	2	6
Total	**1,300**	**104**	**1,404**

*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 Black or African American (31%) and White (29%). For females, the majority of new court commitments were White (62%), followed by Hispanic (18%) and Black or African American (12%). As males made up 93% of criminally sentenced new court commitments, the total distribution more closely followed the male distribution.

MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex



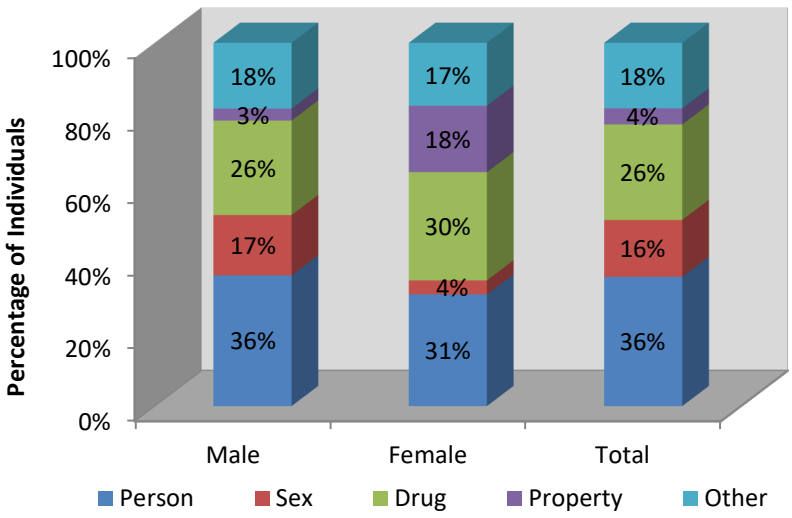
MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Age in Years at Commitment by Assigned Sex

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
60 & Over	60	1	61
50-59	132	10	142
40-49	276	26	302
30-39	464	39	503
20-29	359	26	385
19 & Under	9	2	11
Total	**1,300**	**104**	**1,404**

The age distribution of male criminal new court commitments was concentrated in the 30 – 39 year age group (36%) and the 20 – 29 year age group (28%). The largest percentage of female criminal new court commitments fell into the 30 – 39 year age group (38%) as well. However, the second largest category for females were both the 20 – 29 year age group and 40 – 49 year age group (25%).

Admissions by New Court Commitments

MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Governing Offense by Assigned Sex

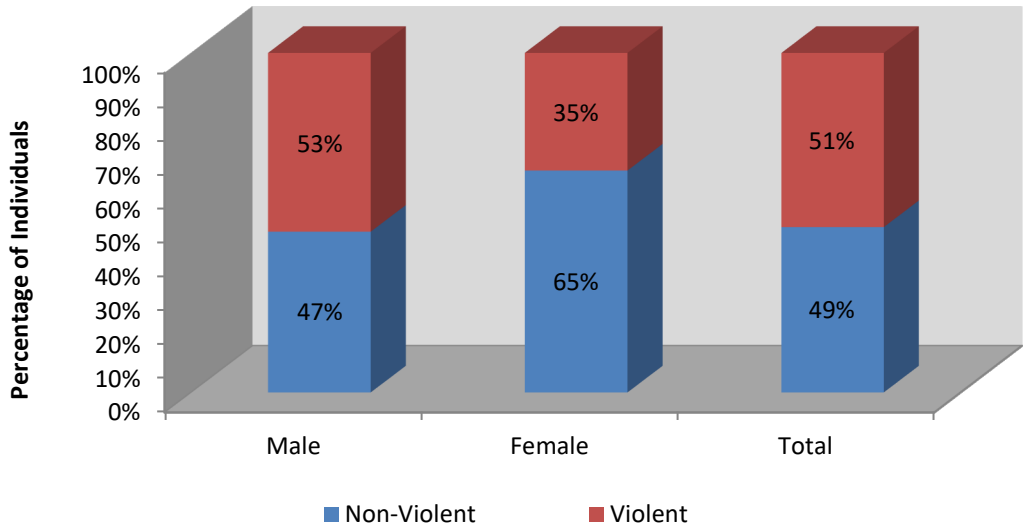


MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Governing Offense by Assigned Sex

Offense Category	Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent Offenses	Person	468	32	500
	Sex	216	4	220
Non-Violent Offenses	Drug	338	31	369
	Property	43	19	62
	Other	235	18	253
Total	**All Types**	**1,300**	**104**	**1,404**

The most common governing offense type for male criminally sentenced new court commitments was person (36%), followed by drug (26%). Among females, person offenses were the most common (31%), followed by drug offenses (30%) as well. Property offenses were the least common, accounting for 4% of all governing offenses for criminally sentenced new court commitments, 3% of the male governing offenses and 18% of the female governing offenses.

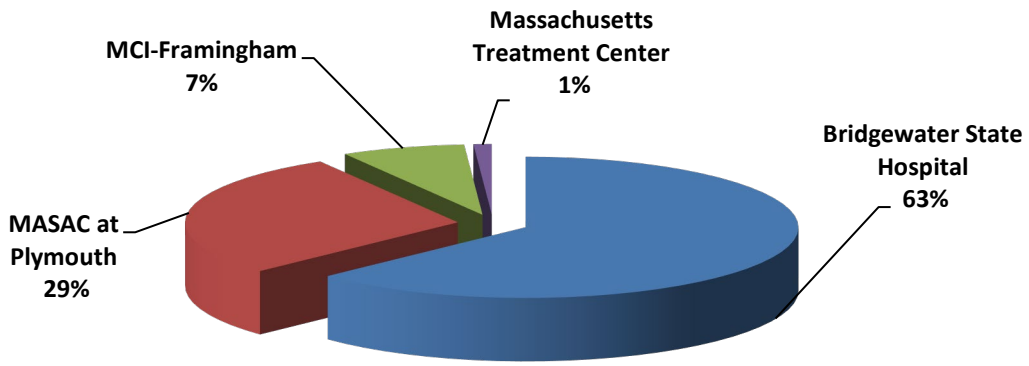
MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Violent/Non-Violent Offense by Assigned Sex



Male criminally sentenced new court commitments had a nearly even distribution of violent (53%) and non-violent (47%) governing offenses, while the majority of female criminally sentenced new court commitments consisted of non-violent governing offenses (65%). The overall breakout of criminally sentenced new court commitments were nearly even between violent (51%) and non-violent (49%) governing offenses due to males composing 93% of the population.

Admissions by New Court Commitments

MA DOC 2025 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution



MA DOC 2025 Jurisdiction New Court Commitments: Civil Commitments by Institution

Institution	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	931	1	932
MASAC at Plymouth	0	425	0	425
MCI-Framingham	109	0	0	109
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	16	0	16
Total	**109**	**1,372**	**1**	**1,482**

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 2025, there were 1,482 civil new court commitments, representing 39% of the overall 3,771 admissions.
- The majority (63%) of civil commitments in 2025 were mental health commitments admitted to Bridgewater State Hospital. This is 4 percentage points higher than the 59% in 2024. However, there were 932 civil commitments to BSH in 2025 this is a less than 1% decrease from 936 of the previous year.
- The number of Section 35's decreased from 556 during 2024 to 425 during 2025, a 24% decrease. Commitments to MASAC at Plymouth are limited to 90 days in length.
- Females represented 7% of the civil commitments during 2025, the female civil commitments increased by two percentage points from 2024.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 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 2021 - 2025

Post Release Supervision Type	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Parole Supervision (only)	419	28%	434	32%	421	34%	442	36%	470	38%
Probation Supervision (only)	403	27%	332	24%	278	22%	248	20%	216	17%
Parole and Probation Supervision (both)	292	20%	331	24%	309	25%	339	28%	305	25%
No Post Release Supervision	357	24%	273	20%	236	19%	194	16%	249	20%
Total	**1,471**	**100%**	**1,370**	**100%**	**1,244**	**100%**	**1,223**	**100%**	**1,240**	**100%**
Post Release Supervision	**2021**		**2022**		**2023**		**2024**		**2025**	
Supervision	1,114	76%	1,097	80%	1,008	81%	1,029	84%	991	80%
No Supervision	357	24%	273	20%	236	19%	194	16%	249	20%
Total	**1,471**	**100%**	**1,370**	**100%**	**1,244**	**100%**	**1,223**	**100%**	**1,240**	**100%**

- Overall, there was a 16% decrease (n=231) in criminally sentenced releases to the community between 2021 and 2025. The largest decrease was between 2022 and 2023 (9%). The decline has stabilized over the past three years, including a modest 2 percent decrease from 2023 to 2024, followed by a slight increase of 1% (n=17) in 2025.

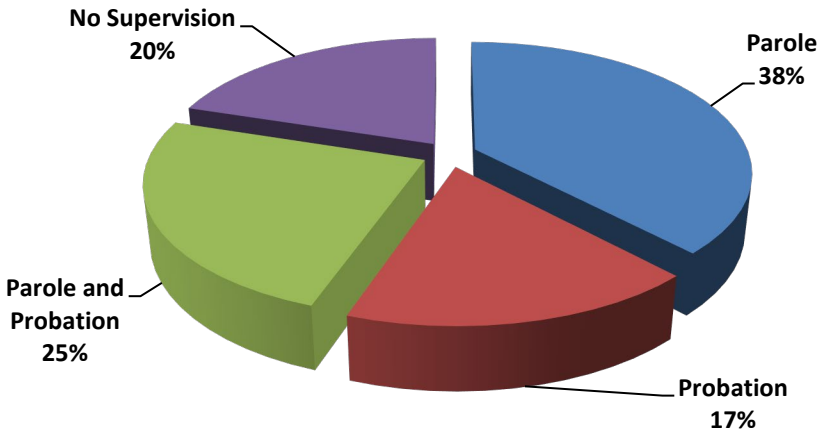
- Between 2021 and 2025, the number of individuals released without supervision dropped by 30%, while those placed solely on probation fell by 46%.

- Parole Supervision (only) increased 12% (419 to 470), while Parole and Probation Supervision (both) grew by 4% (292 to 305). This supports the continuing trend that incarcerated individuals are more likely to be released with supervision versus no supervision with an overall split of 80% under Supervision and 20% under No Supervision.

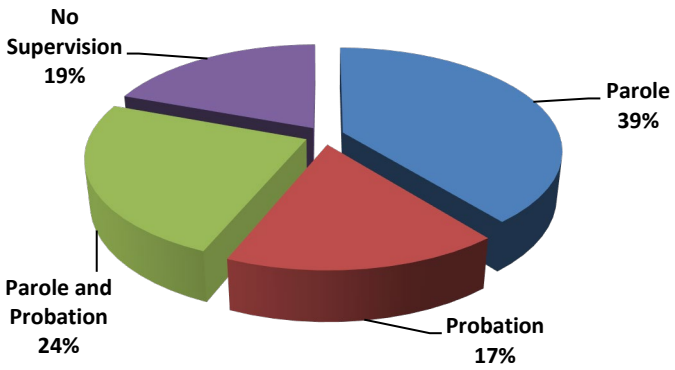
- The Massachusetts Crime Bill of 2018 instituted medical parole, in which a terminally ill or permanently incapacitated individual can be released on parole. In 2025, 11 individuals were released to the community using medical parole.

Releases to the Community by Supervision Type

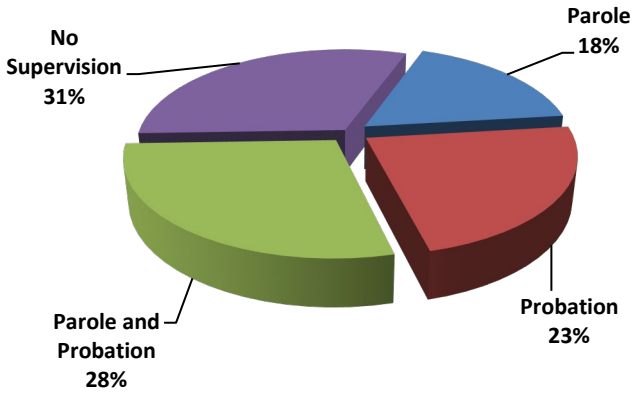
MA DOC 2025 Total Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type



MA DOC 2025 Male Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type

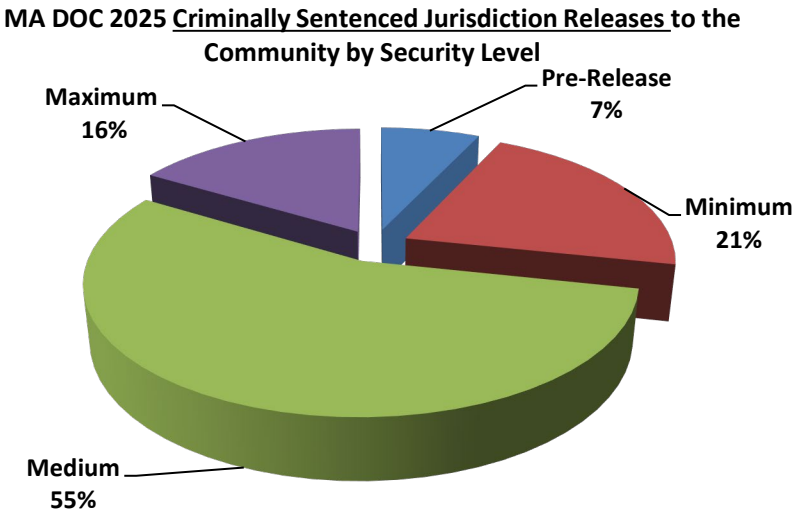


MA DOC 2025 Female Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: Supervision Type

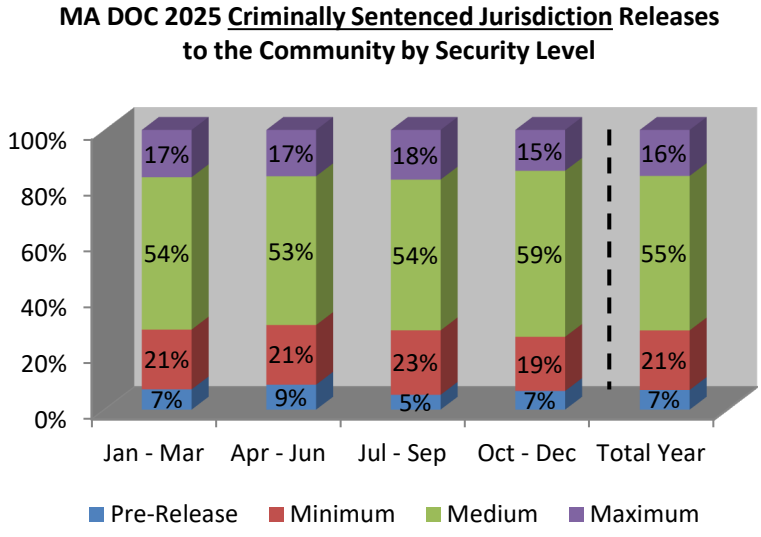


In 2025, females released to the community solely under probation supervision, rose from 13% to 23% when comparing 2024 to 2025. Females released with no supervision had increase from 28% to 31% between 2024 to 2025. Despite these shifts, the overall distribution remained relatively stable compared to the previous year, with a percentage point change of 4% or less which aligns with the male releases.

Releases to the Community by Security Level



- Overall, the number of criminally sentenced releases to the community increased by 1% from 1,223 releases in 2024 to 1,240 releases in 2025. Releases came from facilities of all security levels.
- The criminally sentenced releases from medium security facilities surpassed the 50% mark with a total of 55% (n=685). Over a quarter of releases (n=351) came from minimum and pre-release security facilities, and slightly below one-fifth came from maximum security facilities.



MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community Quarterly by Security Level

Security Level	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Total Year
Maximum	49	52	57	46	204
Medium	158	167	173	187	685
Minimum	62	67	74	61	264
Pre-Release	21	28	17	21	87
Total	**290**	**314**	**321**	**315**	**1,240**

- The highest release activity occurred between July through September of 2025 (n=321), similar from the previous year 2024.

Releases to the Community by Security Level

MA DOC 2025 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	21	30	**51**
Bridgewater State Hospital	0	0	0	0	**0**
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	2	0	0	**2**
Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center at Plymouth	0	0	0	0	**0**
Massachusetts Treatment Center	0	85	0	0	**85**
MCI-Norfolk	0	142	0	0	**142**
MCI-Shirley	0	244	0	0	**244**
NCCI-Gardner	0	78	0	0	**78**
Northeastern Correctional Center	0	0	96	18	**114**
Old Colony Correctional Center	0	52	0	0	**52**
Pondville Correctional Center	0	0	117	18	**135**
Souza Baranowski Correctional Center	203	0	0	0	**203**
Female					
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	0	0	0	0	**0**
MCI-Framingham	0	59	0	0	**59**
Total DOC Facilities	**203**	**662**	**234**	**66**	**1,165**
County, Federal, Interstate	1	23	30	21*	**75**
Total Jurisdiction	**204**	**685**	**264**	**87**	**1,240**

*Note: 15 individuals (9 male, 6 female) were released from County, Federal, Interstate - Electronic Monitoring (CFI ELMO) and coded as pre-release.

- When comparing DOC facility of release in 2025, the greatest number of criminally sentenced individuals were released to the community from MCI-Shirley (n=244), followed by Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (n=203), and MCI-Norfolk (n=142).
- The most substantial increase in releases is observed at MCI-Shirley, with an increase from 186 in 2024 to 244 in 2025. Consequently, there has been a notable decrease in releases from Old Colony Correctional Center, with a decrease from 120 in 2024 to 52 in 2025.
- Each year, DOC commitments serve sentences at, and are released directly from, county, federal, and interstate facilities. There were 75 releases from this county, federal, and interstate population in 2025.
- Fifteen (15) individuals (9 male, 6 female) were released from County, Federal, Interstate - Electronic Monitoring (CFI ELMO) and coded as pre-release.

Release Address by County

MA DOC 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community by MA County*
Compared to the U.S. Census Bureau Estimated Population of Massachusetts in 2024

MA County	Percent of Releases	Percent of Population
Suffolk	**22%**	**11%**
Bristol	**15%**	**8%**
Hampden	**15%**	**7%**
Worcester	**13%**	**12%**
Essex	12%	12%
Middlesex	10%	23%
Plymouth	4%	8%
Norfolk	3%	10%
Berkshire	1%	2%
Hampshire	1%	2%
Franklin	1%	1%
Barnstable	1%	3%
Dukes	0%	<1%
Nantucket	0%	<1%
Total	**97%**	**100%**

*Note: 3% of releases were outside of Massachusetts
(https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html#v2024)

The table above demonstrates the U.S Census Bureau's estimated percentage of the Massachusetts population residing in each county in 2024 compared to the percentage of criminally sentenced MA DOC population released to each county in 2025. Suffolk, Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester were the only counties with a higher percentage of incarcerated individuals released to the county (64% 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 2025 Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Releases to the Community: MA County by Assigned Sex*

Female			Male			Total		
County	**Number**	**Percentage**	**County**	**Number**	**Percentage**	**County**	**Number**	**Percentage**
Suffolk	20	27%	Suffolk	249	21%	Suffolk	269	22%
Essex	15	20%	Bristol	182	16%	Bristol	185	15%
Middlesex	15	20%	Hampden	174	15%	Hampden	181	15%
Hampden	7	9%	Worcester	158	14%	Worcester	160	13%
Bristol	3	4%	Essex	139	12%	Essex	154	12%
Berkshire	2	3%	Middlesex	104	9%	Middlesex	119	10%
Franklin	2	3%	Plymouth	52	4%	Plymouth	53	4%
Worcester	2	3%	Norfolk	32	3%	Norfolk	33	3%
Barnstable	1	1%	Berkshire	13	1%	Berkshire	15	1%
Norfolk	1	1%	Hampshire	12	1%	Hampshire	12	1%
Plymouth	1	1%	Franklin	7	1%	Franklin	9	1%
Dukes	0	0%	Barnstable	6	1%	Barnstable	7	1%
Hampshire	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%	Dukes	0	0%
Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%	Nantucket	0	0%
Sub-Total	**69**	**93%**	**Sub-Total**	**1,128**	**97%**	**Sub-Total**	**1,197**	**97%**
Outside MA	5	7%	Outside MA	38	3%	Outside MA	43	3%
Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	0	0%	Unknown	0	0%
Total	**74**	**100%**	**Total**	**1,166**	**100%**	**Total**	**1,240**	**100%**

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

Release Address by Top Ten Cities

MA DOC 2025 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	19	26%	Boston	241	21%	Boston	260	21%
Lowell	7	9%	Springfield	111	10%	Springfield	113	9%
Lynn	5	7%	Worcester	100	9%	Worcester	102	8%
Methuen	4	5%	New Bedford	86	7%	New Bedford	89	7%
New Bedford	3	4%	Lowell	49	4%	Lowell	56	5%
Billerica	2	3%	Lynn	45	4%	Lynn	50	4%
Framingham	2	3%	Fall River	32	3%	Fall River	32	3%
Greenfield	2	3%	Brockton	30	3%	Brockton	30	2%
Holyoke	2	3%	Lawrence	28	2%	Lawrence	30	2%
Lawrence	2	3%	Holyoke	24	2%	Holyoke	26	2%

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

Of the 1,240 criminally sentenced releases to the community in 2025, 788 (64%) reported a release address in one of the top ten cities listed in the table above. Boston was the city with the greatest number of releases (n=260) followed by Springfield (n=113) and then Worcester (n=102). 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.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 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 2025.

MA DOC 2025 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	2,396 Days	440 Days	2,836 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,265 Days	416 Days	1,681 Days
Females			
Parole to the Community	1,380 Days	324 Days	1,704 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	550 Days	241 Days	791 Days
Total			
Parole to the Community	2,349 Days	435 Days	2,783 Days
Expiration of Sentence to the Community	1,201 Days	401 Days	1,602 Days

There were 996 criminally sentenced individuals who had their first release in 2025. Sixty-five percent were paroled to the community (n=648). The remaining 35% were released due to an expiration of sentence, meaning they completed their sentence.

Male Releases

- Of the 996 releases, the majority were males (94%).
- On average, time served for males released via parole was 7.8 years before initially being released, an increase of .7 years from the 2024 male parolees (7.1 years). Length of stay also increased to 6.6 years up from 5.9 in 2024.
- Males released via expiration of sentence served an average of 4.6 years for time served before releasing to the community. Both release types of LOS (3.5 in 2025) and Time Served (4.6 in 2025) experienced a decrease in comparison to last year's averages (4 years in 2024 and 5.1 years in 2024 respectively).

Female Releases

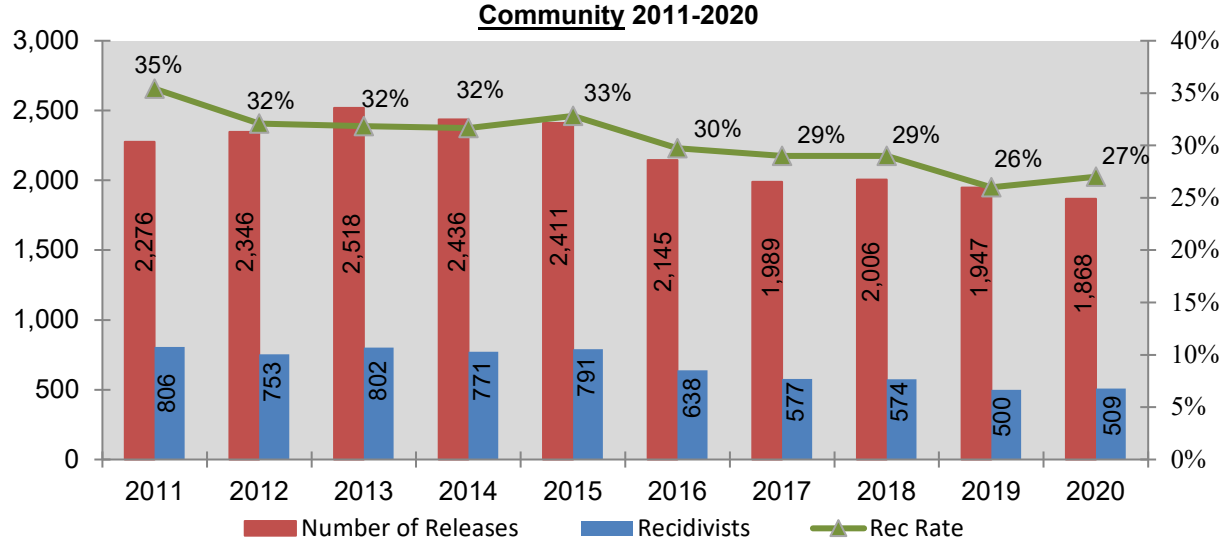
- Females represented 6% of the total releases in 2025 (n = 61).
- Average days for female parole and expiration of sentences usually fluctuate more than their male counterpart year to year. This is likely caused by the smaller cohort size where the average days can become skewed from the larger and smaller outliers.
- On average, time served for females released via parole served 4.7 years in 2025, this was a decrease of .4 years in time served compared to the 5.1 years for 2024.
- Those females who released via expiration of sentence served an average of 2.2 years in 2025, which resulted in a .4-year decrease in time served compared to 2024.

Massachusetts DOC 2025 Recidivism Trends and 2020 Recidivism Rates

Recidivism Trends and 2020 Recidivism Rates

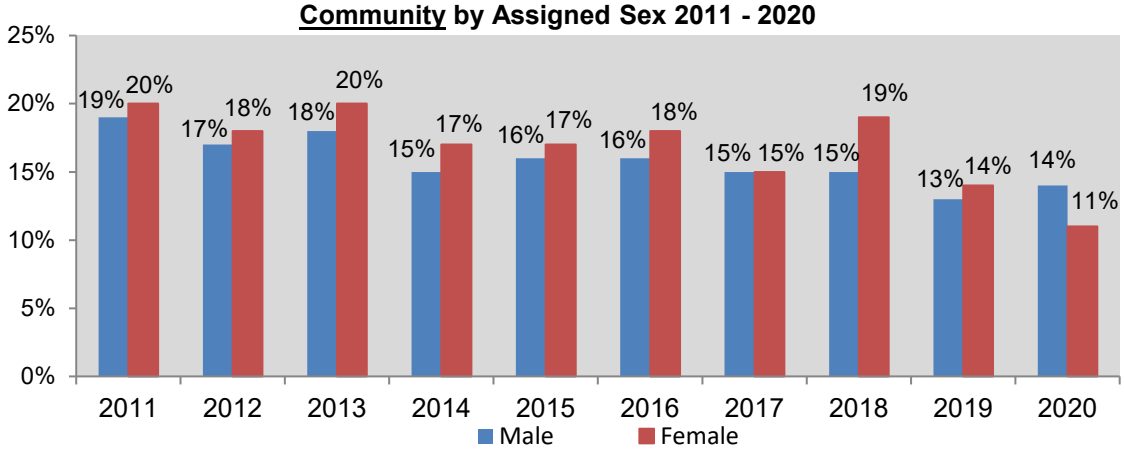
A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced incarcerated individual released to the community via expiration of sentence/ parole[7] from MA DOC jurisdiction during 2020 who is re-incarcerated for a new sentence or violation of parole or probation to a Massachusetts state or county facility or 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.

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate (Re- incarceration) for Releases to the Community 2011-2020



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 8 percentage points compared to the high experienced in 2011.

Massachusetts DOC One-Year Recidivism Rate for Releases to the Community by Assigned Sex 2011 - 2020



The male one-year recidivism rate has stayed consistent from 2014 – 2020, ranging between 13% and 16%, hitting a low of 13% in 2019. The female rate declined in 2020 to 11%, 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 2020 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2020 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	300	44%	n/a	n/a	300	44%
Medium	804	28%	80	26%	884	27%
Minimum and Pre-Release	622	21%	62	11%	684	20%
Total	**1,726**	**28%**	**142**	**20%**	**1,868**	**27%**

- Recidivism rates for incarcerated persons released during 2020 were positively correlated with the security level of their releasing facility. The recidivism rate for both male and female releases increased as the security level of the releasing institution increased.

- Males released from lower[8] security had the lowest recidivism rate, with 21% of them 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 44%, the highest of all security levels.

- The recidivism rate for females released from a lower security facility was 11%, whereas females who were released from a medium security facility had a recidivism rate of 26%.

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for Female 2020 Releases to the Community by Sentence Type[9]

Sentence Type	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
County Sentence[10]	57	30%
State Sentence	85	13%
Total	**142**	**20%**

- Historically, females released from a county sentence have had a higher recidivism rate than those released from a state sentence. This was the case for the 2020 release cohort, the recidivism rate for county sentenced incarcerated persons was more than double that of state sentenced, 30% and 13%, respectively.

[8] Lower security includes electronic monitoring, minimum, and minimum pre-release.
[9] Some of the females released during 2020 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 2020 Recidivism Rates

Individuals released to the community with parole conditions are supervised for a period of time upon release to the community. Paroled individuals who do not adhere to the conditions of their release can violate their parole and be re-incarcerated. A parole revocation can result from technical violation of the terms of release, or can result from the commission of a crime. By virtue of being under supervision in the community, an individual may have a higher likelihood of re-incarceration.

The following tables provide a comparison of the recidivism rates[11] of the population released during 2020, including and excluding re-incarcerations for technical violations.

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rate for 2020 Including and Excluding Re-incarcerations for Technical Violations: Type of Release by Assigned Sex

Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex Excluding Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
	Males			Females			Total		
Release Type	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community	802	118	15%	66	5	8%	868	123	14%
Expiration of Sentence	924	233	25%	76	12	16%	1,000	245	25%
Total Releases	**1,726**	**351**	**20%**	**142**	**17**	**12%**	**1,868**	**368**	**20%**
Recidivism Rates by Release Type and Assigned Sex Including Technical Violations of Parole or Probation									
	Males			Females			Total		
Release Type	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate	Number Releases	Rec	Rate
Parole to Community*	802	248	31%	66	16	24%	868	264	30%
Expiration of Sentence	924	233	25%	76	12	16%	1,000	245	25%
Total Releases	**1,726**	**481**	**28%**	**142**	**28**	**20%**	**1,868**	**509**	**27%**

*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 1,868 incarcerated persons released to the community during 2020, 46% (n = 868) were paroled to the community, while 54% (n = 1,000) were released via expiration of sentence. When using the definition excluding technical violations, those released via expiration of sentence had a higher recidivism rate (25%) than the recidivism rate of those paroled to the community (14%). 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 2020 Recidivism Rates

- Of the 509 who were a recidivist using the definition including technical violations of parole or probation, 163 recidivated due to a technical violation of their parole conditions and 1 for a technical probation violation.

- Of the 164 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 seven percentage points, from 27% to 20% when excluding technical violations, with paroles to the community experiencing the largest decrease, from 30% to 14%. The recidivism rate for males decreased from 28% to 20%, while females decreased from 20% to a rate of 12% when excluding technical violations.

MA DOC Three-Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding and Including Technical Violators for 2020 Releases to the Community

Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Excluding Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Assigned Sex	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	142	4	3%	5	4%	8	6%	17	12%
Male	1,726	113	7%	142	8%	96	6%	351	20%
Total	**1,868**	**117**	**6%**	**147**	**8%**	**104**	**6%**	**368**	**20%**
Three Year Re-incarceration Recidivism Rates Including Technical Violations									
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		Total	
Assigned Sex	Number of Releases	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate	Rec	Rate
Female	142	15	11%	6	4%	7	5%	28	20%
Male	1,726	246	14%	144	8%	91	5%	481	28%
Total	**1,868**	**261**	**14%**	**150**	**8%**	**98**	**5%**	**509**	**27%**

- Both male and female releases experienced a lower first year recidivism rate when excluding technical violators, resulting in a decrease of eight percentage points in the recidivism rate for the first year.

- There was no difference in the second year whether it included or excluding technical violations. During the third year, there was a slight increase from 5% to 6% when excluding technical violations.

Recidivism Trends and 2020 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rates for 2020 Releases to the Community by Offense Category and Assigned Sex

	Males		Females		Total	
Offense Category	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**
Property	201	35%	24	25%	225	34%
Person	747	30%	63	22%	810	29%
Other	236	30%	29	10%	265	28%
Drug	411	23%	23	13%	434	23%
Sex	131	15%	3	n/a	134	16%
Total	**1,726**	**28%**	**142**	**20%**	**1,868**	**27%**

- Those who had been serving governing property offenses had the highest recidivism rate for male releases (35%), followed by person offenses (30%) and 'other' offenses who recidivated at 30%.
- Females serving governing property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (25%), followed by person offenses (22%) and drug offenses (13%).
- Incarcerated individuals serving a governing sex offense had the lowest overall recidivism rate (16%).

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rates for 2020 Releases to the Community by Offense Type and Assigned Sex

	Males		Females		Total	
Offense Type	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**
Violent	878	28%	66	24%	944	28%
Non-Violent	848	28%	76	16%	924	27%
Total	**1,726**	**28%**	**142**	**20%**	**1,868**	**27%**

- Incarcerated individuals released from a governing violent offense and non-violent offense in 2020 had nearly equal recidivism rates of 28% and 27%, respectively.

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rates for 2020 Releases to the Community by Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentence and Assigned Sex

	Males		Females		Total	
Drug Offense Type	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**	**Number Releases**	**Recidivism Rate**
Non-Mandatory Drug Offense	217	26%	18	n/a	235	26%
Mandatory Drug Offense	194	20%	5	n/a	199	19%
Total	**411**	**23%**	**23**	**13%**	**434**	**23%**

- Of those released who had been serving a governing drug offense, the recidivism rate for those with a non-mandatory drug offense was 26%, while those serving a mandatory drug offense was 19%.

Recidivism Trends and 2020 Recidivism Rates

MA DOC Three-Year Recidivism Rates for 2020 Releases to the Community by Race/Ethnicity* and Assigned Sex[13]

Race/Ethnicity	Males		Females		Total	
	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate	Number Releases	Recidivism Rate
Black or African American	479	33%	23	17%	502	32%
White	713	27%	99	22%	812	26%
Hispanic	511	25%	11	n/a	522	24%
Unknown	5	n/a	9	n/a	14	n/a
Asian	13	n/a	0	n/a	13	n/a
Amer. Indian or Alaska Native	5	n/a	0	n/a	5	n/a
Total	**1,726**	**28%**	**142**	**20%**	**1,868**	**27%**

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

- The three-year recidivism rate was highest for Black or African American male releases (33%), followed by White male releases (27%).
- For female releases, White female releases had the highest recidivism rate (22%), followed by Black or African American (17%).
- Overall, Black or African Americans recidivated at the highest rate (32%), followed by those who reported a race of White (26%), and Hispanic (24%). A small number of individuals had an unknown race/ethnicity.

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

Massachusetts DOC 2025 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 2025 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	Individuals who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following: parole to out of state sentence parole to federal authority parole to immigration parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence parole to warrant parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence expiration release to out of state sentence expiration release to federal authority expiration release to immigration expiration release to from and after House of Correction sentence expiration release to warrant expiration release to from and after/concurrent at Department of Correction expiration to civil commitment parole to civil commitment release from civil commitment to warrant
Parole to Community	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=24).
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."