

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

# BIANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINARY UNIT HOUSING

*2nd Biannual 2020*



**Carol A. Mici, Commissioner**

**Use of Department Disciplinary Unit July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Public Safety, Homeland Security and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means**

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## Methodology

Department Disciplinary Unit (DDU) in the MADOC is considered a status. Inmates on DDU statuses are inmates who are serving a sanction in the DDU for committing a severe violation of institutional rules. The DDU is located at MCI-Cedar Junction. Idnt

The data used for this report comes from the MADOC's Inmate Management System (IMS), and the MADOC Health Services Division (ERMA).

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The data represents 35 DDU statuses based on 35 male inmates with a discharge date from the DDU within the reporting time frame (July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020). The following data tables describe this cohort.<sup>1</sup>

### Length of Stay in DDU<sup>2</sup>

Average length of stay = 6.8 months  
Median length of stay = 5.5 months

Table 1

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	32	91%
12 months or Greater	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Length of Stay in DDU of Inmates with Open Mental Health<sup>3</sup>

Average length of stay = 5.3 months  
Median length of stay = 3.3 months

Table 2

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	8	89%
12 months or Greater	1	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, percentage totals may not add up to 100 percent in all tables.

<sup>2</sup> Data is based on 35 inmates with a discharge date within the reporting time frame. Inmates who remained active during the reporting time frame and inmates who have a discharge date after the reporting time frame were excluded from this report as these inmates will be included in subsequent reports. Inmates with less than a full month length of stay were counted as one month. The length of stay is based on the length of the DDU sanction which is tracked in months. The disciplinary offenses that led to a DDU status are listed in the appendix.

<sup>3</sup> An OMH inmate is diagnosed with a mental illness or determined to be in need of mental health intervention on an ongoing basis. See Appendix III for a full definition. Data is based on inmates with Open Mental Health (OMH) released from DDU within the reporting time frame. There were 9 OMH inmates who were discharged from DDU during the reporting time frame based on their most recent mental health screening. This field signifies whether or not the inmate was on the institution's OMH caseload prior to entering this status or at any time during their status. Any inmate carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an OMH case. Inmates with Serious Mental Illness are included in the count for OMH for the purposes of this report. See Appendix III for a full definition of Serious Mental Illness.

## Length of Stay in DDU of Inmates 21 Years of Age or Younger<sup>4</sup>

Average length of stay = 5.6 months  
Median length of stay = 5.6 months

Table 3

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	2	100%
12 months or Greater	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Criminally Sentenced Releases to the Community within 30 Days of DDU Discharge Date<sup>5</sup>

Table 4

Release Breakdown	Count
Inmates Released to Community within 30 Days	1

## One Year Recidivism Rate of Inmates who were placed in DDU <sup>6</sup>

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced inmate released to the community, via expiration of sentence or parole, from the MADOC during 2018 who was re-incarcerated for a new sentence or violation of parole or probation to a Massachusetts state, county, or federal facility within one year of release.

### 2018 Male Releases to the Community

One year recidivism rates for inmates who were placed in the DDU from CY16 to CY18.

Table 5

Status in DDU	Count	Recidivist	Percent
Inmates with DDU Status	62	7	11%
Inmates without DDU Status	1,540	202	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>13%</b>

<sup>4</sup> Data is based on inmates aged 21 years or younger on their date of discharge from DDU within the reporting time frame. There were 2 inmates who were 21 years of age or younger when discharged from RH during the reporting time frame.

<sup>5</sup> Data is based on criminally sentenced inmates who were discharged from DDU and released to the community within 30 days of their RH discharge date. The inmate's release may have occurred during the following biannual. See Appendix III for a full definition.

<sup>6</sup> Data is based on criminally sentenced inmates who were placed in RH between CY16 and CY18 and then released to the community in 2018. Due to a change in the recidivism collection methodology, the release cohort does not include inmates paroled to the Transitional Treatment Program at Boston Pre-Release Center.

## Department Disciplinary Unit Admissions

Data is based on inmates who had one or more DDU admission dates during this time frame regardless of their release date. The admission counts and percentages are based on 18 inmates. These counts include inmates with a single DDU admission (labeled as “First DDU Admission”) as well as inmates who have been admitted to the DDU at any time prior to this admission (labeled as “DDU Status with Admission”). Of these 18 inmates, 9 inmates (50%) were admitted for the first time during the reporting period.

Table 6

Single Versus Multiple DDU Admissions			
Admission Types	Inmate Count	Admission Count	Percent
First DDU Admission	9	9	50%
DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission	9	9	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix I: Open Mental Health Delineated by Diagnosis<sup>7</sup>

Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis	Count of Diagnoses
F10.20.1	Alcohol use disorder, Moderate (Acute)	3
F11.20.1	Opioid use disorder, Moderate (Acute)	1
F11.20.2	Opioid use disorder, Severe (Acute)	1
F12.10	Cannabis abuse, uncomplicated (Chronic)	1
F12.10.1	Cannabis use disorder, Mild (Acute)	1
F12.20.1	Cannabis use disorder, Moderate (Acute)	1
F12.20.2	Cannabis use disorder, Severe (Acute)	2
F13.20.2	Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic use disorder, Severe (Acute)	1
F16.20.1	Other hallucinogen use disorder, Moderate (Acute)	1
F32.8.1	Other specified depressive disorder (Acute)	1
F34.1.1	Persistent depressive disorder (dysthymia) (Acute)	2
F41.9.1	Unspecified anxiety disorder (Acute)	1
F43.8.1	Other specified trauma- and stressor-related disorder (Acute)	1
F43.9.1	Unspecified trauma- and stressor-related disorder (Acute)	1
F60.2	Antisocial personality disorder (Chronic)	2
F60.2.1	Antisocial personality disorder (Acute)	5
F60.81.1	Narcissistic personality disorder (Acute)	1
F90.2.1	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, Combined presentation (Acute)	1
F99.1	Other specified mental disorder (Acute)	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

<sup>7</sup> Inmate commitment numbers were utilized to calculate the diagnoses counts and a commitment number may be counted in one or more diagnoses.

## Appendix II: Disciplinary Offenses

### All DDU Statuses

Disciplinary Offense	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-02	Aggravated assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	1
1-03	Aggravated assault on another inmate or parolee	29
1-08	Possession, manufacture or introduction of any gun, firearm, weapon, sharpened instrument, knife or poison or any component thereof.	1
1-17	Fighting with, assaulting or threatening another person, due to security threat group activities or gang activities.	1
1-20	Attempting to commit any of the above offenses, making plans to commit any of the above offenses or aiding another person to commit any of the above offenses shall be considered the same as the commission of the offense itself	1
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	2

### Open Mental Health Statuses

Disciplinary Offense	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-03	Aggravated assault on another inmate or parolee	7
1-08	Possession, manufacture or introduction of any gun, firearm, weapon, sharpened instrument, knife or poison or any component thereof.	1
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	1

### Inmates 21 Years of Age or Younger

Disciplinary Offense	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-03	Aggravated assault on another inmate or parolee	2

## Appendix III: Definitions and Acronyms

Acronym	Term	Definition
DDU	Department Disciplinary Unit	(103 CMR 430.05) A restricted area or areas designated by the Commissioner to which an inmate has received a sanction recommended by a Special Hearing Officer.
ERMA	Electronic record management application	
IMS	Inmate Management System	(103 CMR 430.05) The Department's automated information system that provides processing, storage and retrieval of inmate-related information needed by Department personnel and other authorized users within the criminal justice system.
MCI	Massachusetts Correctional Institution	
OMH	Open Mental Health (OMH)	An inmate 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 inmate 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 inmate may also be removed from the active mental health caseload. However, any inmate carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an open mental health case.
	Release to Community	The release of an inmate from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts DOC by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release (see Crime Lab), expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.
SMI	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 5 <sup>th</sup> edition of the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> : (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 inmate 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.
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