

Department of Correction
BIANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINARY
UNIT HOUSING

Calendar Year 2022
2nd Biannual



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
August 2023

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



Use of Department Disciplinary Unit July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

*To the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Public Safety, Homeland Security and the House and Senate
Committees on Ways and Means*

Massachusetts Department of Correction

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

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Methodology

For purposes of this report, the Department Disciplinary Unit (DDU) in the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MADOC) is a Disciplinary Restrictive Housing placement of an incarcerated individual for disciplinary purposes to serve a disciplinary sanction after a finding has been made that the individual has committed a breach of discipline in accordance with 103 CMR 430, Inmate Discipline. The DDU is located at MCI-Cedar Junction, a medium security facility with a maximum component.

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

The data represents 32 DDU placements based on 32 incarcerated individuals with a discharge date from the DDU within the reporting time frame (July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022). The following data tables describe this cohort.¹

Length of Stay in DDU²

Average length of stay = 15.1 months

Median length of stay = 7.9 months

Table 1

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	20	63%
12 months or Greater	12	38%
Total	32	100%

Length of Stay in DDU of Incarcerated Individuals with Open Mental Health³

Average length of stay = 16.6 months

Median length of stay = 12.2 months

Table 2

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	5	45%
12 months or Greater	6	55%
Total	11	100%

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

² Data is based on 32 incarcerated individuals with a discharge date within the reporting time frame. Incarcerated individuals who remained active during the reporting time frame and those who have a discharge date after the reporting time frame were excluded from this report as they will be included in subsequent reports. Incarcerated individuals 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 placement are listed in the appendix.

³ An incarcerated individual with Open Mental Health (OMH) 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 individuals with OMH released from DDU within the reporting time frame. There were 11 OMH individuals 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 individual was on the institution's OMH caseload prior to entering this placement or at any time during their placement. Any incarcerated individual carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an OMH case.

Length of Stay in DDU of Incarcerated Individuals 21 Years of Age or Younger⁴

Average length of stay = 4.5 months

Median length of stay = 4.5 months

Table 3

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	1	100%
12 months or Greater	0	0%
Total	1	100%

Criminally Sentenced Releases to the Community within 30 Days of DDU Discharge Date⁵

Table 4

Release Breakdown	Count
Releases to the Community within 30 Days	0

One Year Recidivism Rate of Incarcerated Individuals who were Placed in DDU⁶

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced individual released to the community, via expiration of sentence or parole, from the MADOC during 2020 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.

2020 Releases to the Community

One year recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals who were placed in the DDU from CY18 to CY20.

Table 5

Placement in DDU	Count	Recidivist	Percent
Incarcerated Individuals with a DDU Placement	46	3	7%
Incarcerated Individuals without a DDU Placement	1,682	201	12%
Total	1,728	204	12%

⁴ Data is based on incarcerated individuals aged 21 years or younger on their date of discharge from DDU within the reporting time frame. There was one (1) individual 21 years of age or younger when discharged from the DDU during the reporting time frame.

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

⁶ Data is based on criminally sentenced individuals who were placed in the DDU between CY18 and CY20 and then released to the community in 2020. Due to a change in the recidivism collection methodology, the release cohort does not include individuals paroled to the Transitional Treatment Program at Boston Pre-Release Center.

Department Disciplinary Unit Admissions

Data is based on incarcerated individuals who had one or more DDU admission date(s) during this time frame regardless of their release date. The admission counts and percentages represent 16 DDU admissions based on 15 individuals.⁷ These counts include incarcerated individuals with a single DDU admission (labeled as “First DDU Admission”) as well as those who have been admitted to the DDU at any time prior to this admission (labeled as “DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission”). Of these 15 individuals, 11 (73%) were admitted for the first time during the reporting period.

Table 6

Single Versus Multiple DDU Admissions			
Admission Types	Incarcerated Individual Count	Admission Count	Percent
First DDU Admission	11	11	69%
DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission	5	5	31%
Total	16	16	100%

Appendix I: Open Mental Health Delineated by Diagnosis⁸

⁷ As is the case in this instance, one incarcerated individual can have multiple DDU stays during the reporting period which results in the incarcerated individual being counted in both categories, incarcerated individuals who have a single DDU admission (labeled as “First DDU Admission”) and incarcerated individuals who have been admitted to the DDU at any time prior to this admission (labeled as “DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission”).

⁸ Commitment numbers of incarcerated individuals were utilized to calculate the diagnoses counts and a commitment number may be counted in one or more diagnoses.

Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis	Count of Diagnoses
F12.10	Cannabis abuse, uncomplicated	7
F17.210	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated	6
F60.2	Antisocial personality disorder	2
	Total	15

Appendix II: Disciplinary Offenses

All DDU Placements

Disciplinary Code	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
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1-02	Aggravated assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	3
1-03	Aggravated assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	21
1-17	Fighting with, assaulting or threatening another person, due to security threat group activities or gang activities.	1
1-19	Fighting with or assaulting any person in an area designated for visiting, while visits are occurring	2
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	4
2-04	Assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	1

Open Mental Health Placements

Disciplinary Code	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 [incarcerated individual] or parolee	6
1-19	Fighting with or assaulting any person in an area designated for visiting, while visits are occurring	1
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	2
2-04	Assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	1

Incarcerated Individuals 21 Years of Age or Younger

Disciplinary Code	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-03	Aggravated assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	1

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 [incarcerated individual] 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 [incarcerated individual]-related information needed by Department personnel and other authorized users within the criminal justice system.
MCI	Massachusetts Correctional Institution	
OMH	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 incarcerated 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 incarcerated 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.
	Release to Community	The release of an incarcerated 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.