

LIFER'S GROUP INC.

A REPORT ON THE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S

INSTITUTIONAL FACT CARDS AS OF JULY 1, 2023

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JULY 1, 2023 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S
INSTITUTIONAL FACT CARDS¹

1. The total number of prisoners under Massachusetts (MA) jurisdiction on July 1, 2023 was 6,120, a decrease of 82 (8%) prisoners from July 1, 2022. MA jurisdiction includes all prisoners housed in MA facilities as well as those housed in institutions outside the Commonwealth. (Table 1)
2. Of the 6,120 prisoners under MA jurisdiction, the number incarcerated in MA facilities was 5,931. Thus 189 MA prisoners were housed in prisons outside the Commonwealth, a decrease of 63 (25%) from July 1, 2022. (Table 1)
3. The total number of prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2023 was 5,931 or 19 below the number housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2022, a decrease of .3%. (Table 8)
4. The number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA facilities on July 1, 2023 was 5,477 or 92.3% of those housed in MA. Of the remaining 454 prisoners confined in MA prisons, civil commitments accounted for 5.9% (351), pre-trial prisoners for .6% (33) and prisoners under observation for 1.2% (70). (Table 1)
5. The number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA facilities on July 1, 2023 was 5,477 or 11 more than the number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2022 (5,466), an increase of .2%. (Table 8)
6. Of the 5,931 prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2023, 1,050 (17.7%) were in maximum security - an increase of 67 (7%) from July 1, 2022; 4,409 were in medium security (74.4%) - decrease of 114 (3%); 453 (7.6%) were in minimum security - an increase of 26 (6.1%); and 19 (.3%) in pre-release - a decrease of 18 (49%) from July 1, 2022. (Table 8)
7. The number of prisoners held in minimum security and pre-release on July 1, 2023 was 472, an increase of 8 over the number housed in minimum security and pre-release facilities on July 1, 2022, an increase of 6.3%. (Tables 7 and 8)
8. The racial breakdown of prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2023 was Caucasian - 2,342 (39.5%), African-American - 1,733 (29.2%), Hispanic - 1,624 (27.7%), Asian - 97 (1.6%), Native American - 38 (.7%), and Other - 97 (1.6%). (Table 2)
- 9) From July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023, the number of Caucasians decreased by 88 (4%), African-Americans increased by 2 (.1%), Hispanics increased by 68 (4%), Asians increased by 1 (1%), Native Americans increased by 4 (12%), and Other decreased by 6 (6%). (Table 8)

10. Governing Offenses for criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2023 totaled 5,477 and broke down as follows: Person Offenses - 3,194 (59%), Sex Offenses - 1,054 (19%), Drug Offenses - 631 (12%), Other Offenses - 410 (7%) and Property Offenses - 186 (3%). Overall, criminally sentenced prisoners accounted for 92.3% of all prisoners housed in MA facilities. (Tables 1 and 4)

11. On July 1, 2023, the total number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA prisons serving 15 years or more, including first and second degree lifers was 2,656, a decrease of 142 or 5% from July 1, 2022. The sentences of these 2,656 prisoners were: 15+ - 915, Second Degree Life - 742, and First Degree Life - 999. (Tables 3 and 8)

12. The number of prisoners serving Second Degree Life in MA prisons on July 1, 2023 (742) was 53 fewer (7%) than on July 1, 2022. The number serving First Degree Life on July 1, 2023 was 3 fewer (.3%) than on July 1, 2022. Overall, the total number of prisoners serving life sentences on July 1, 2023 was 56 fewer than on July 1, 2022, a drop of 3%. (Table 8)

13. The total number of lifers in MA prisons on July 1, 2023 comprised 31.8% of the total criminally sentenced prisoners, a decrease from 33% on July 1, 2022. (Table 3)

14. On July 1, 2023, the number of lifers incarcerated at MCI-Norfolk was 590 or 51% of the total MCI-Norfolk population and 34% of the total number of lifers housed in MA prisons. MCI-Shirley had the next highest number of lifers - 255 or 33% of that institution's total number of prisoners and 15% of the total lifer population housed in MA prisons, followed by OCCC with 229 lifers or 44% of that institution's total population and 13% of the total lifer population housed in MA, and SBCC had 211 lifers or 20% of that institution's population and 12% of the total number of lifers housed in MA prisons. (Table 5)

15. The maximum security institution (SBCC) on July 1, 2023 was at 74% of Operational Capacity; medium security institutions at 68%, and minimum security and pre-release facilities at a combined 43%. Overall, the DOC's institutions on July 1, 2023 operated at 66% of capacity. Due to the closure of MCI-CJ, the total operational capacity on July 1, 2023 of MA prisons was 9,029, a decrease of 691 or 7% from July 1, 2022. The total housed in MA facilities on July 1, 2023 was 5,931. (Table 7)

16. Of the 189 MA prisoners not held in the Commonwealth on July 1, 2023, 62 were serving life sentences - the total number of lifers under MA jurisdiction was 1,802 with 1,740 incarcerated in MA prisons. Of those 62 lifers outside the Commonwealth, 54 were serving first degree and 8 were serving second degree. (Table 1)

17. Institutions with Caucasian prisoners equaling or exceeding 45% of the total institution's population on July 1, 2023 were: MASAC (65%), MCI-F (61%), MTC (59%), NCCI (47%), Pondville and OCCC 45% each. Institutions with 30% or more African-Americans on July 1, 2023 were: SBCC (36%), MCI-C (36%), MCI-N (34%), MCI-S (33%) and OCCC (30%). Institutions with 29% or more Hispanics on July 1, 2023 were: SBCC (38%), BPRC (37%), NECC (33%), Pondville (31%), NCCI (30%), and MCI-C (29%). (Table 9)

18. Overall, on July 1, 2023, 11% of Caucasians were housed in maximum security, 82% were housed in medium security, and 7% were housed in minimum/pre-release. For African-Americans, 22% were housed in maximum, 73% in medium, and 5% in minimum/pre-release. For Hispanics, 24% were housed in maximum security, 69% in medium and 7% in minimum/pre-release. (Table 10)

Note: the calculations for #18 above were made by the author of this report.

1 The Institutional Fact Cards for July 1, 2023 were supplied by the DOC's Director of Communication - Ms. Kate Silvia - pursuant to a public records request. The Lifer's Group Inc. thanks Ms. Silvia for providing this data.

A Breakdown of MA Housed Prisoners By
Status And Security Levels

TABLE 1

Inst.	Crim. Sent.	Civil Com.	Pre- Trial	Obser	Total	Max.	Med.	Min/ Pre.
BPRC	35	0	0	0	35	0	0	35
Bridge.	7	155	0	70	232	0	232	0
MASAC	0	65	0	0	65	0	0	65
MTC*	385	115	0	0	500	0	500	0
MCI-C	369	0	0	0	369	0	369	0
MCI-F	174	12	24	0	210	0	210	0
MCI-N	1166	0	0	0	1166	0	1166	0
MCI-S	777	4	0	0	781	0	781	0
NCCI	710	0	0	0	710	0	710	0
NECC	193	0	0	0	193	0	0	193
OCCC	517	0	0	0	517	0	441	76
Pond.	103	0	0	0	103	0	0	103
SBCC	1041	0	9	0	1050	1050	0	0
Totals	5477	351	33	70	5931	1050	4409	472
%	92.3	5.9	.6	1.2		17.7	74.4	7.9
# Diff. From 7/1/22	+11	+2	-14	-16	-19	+67	-114	+8

* MTC is the Massachusetts Treatment Center

An additional 189 MA prisoners were housed out-of-state for a total of 6120 prisoners under MA jurisdiction, 63 fewer or a drop of 25% from July 1, 2022. Of the 189 prisoners in out-of-state facilities, 62 were serving life sentences (54 were serving first degree and 8 serving second degree.

A Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Prisoners By
Race and Age

TABLE 2

Inst.	Cau.	Afr./ Amer.	Hisp.	Asian	Nat. Amer.	Other	Total	Young/ Oldest (Ave.)
BPRC	14	8	13	0	0	0	35	24/67(40)
Bridge.	98	49	28	4	0	53	232	20/72(38)
MASAC	42	10	7	2	0	4	65	18/69(38)
MTC	294	91	101	6	8	0	500	22/82(50)
MCI-C	117	133	106	10	1	2	369	21/77(41)
MCI-F	129	37	21	5	1	17	210	19/78(41)
MCI-N	416	394	309	33	10	4	1166	19/83(47)
MCI-S	297	258	215	5	5	1	781	20/85(44)
NCCI	331	146	212	9	6	6	710	20/83(49)
NECC	72	54	64	3	0	0	193	24/67(42)
OCCC	232	153	121	5	2	4	517	22/83(47)
Pond.	46	20	32	2	1	2	103	23/72(44)
SBCC	254	380	395	13	4	4	1050	19/77(36)

Totals 2342 1733 1624 97 38 97 5931

% 39.5 29.2 27.4 1.6 .7 1.6

Diff. From
7/1/22 -88 +2 +68 +1 +4 -6

% Diff From
7/1/22 -3.6 +.1 +4.4 +2.0 +11.8 -5.8

The 189 out-of-state prisoners: Cau. - 65 (34.4%), Afr./Amer.- 64 (33.9)
Hisp. - 45 (23.8%), Asians - 9 (4.8%), Nat. Amer. - 4 (2.1%), Unknown -
2 (1.0%). Numbers and % calculated by the author.

A Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Criminally
Sentenced Prisoners By Lengths of Sentences

TABLE 3

Inst.	3-5	5-7	7-10	10-15	15+	2nd	1st	Total	% Life	% Life & 15+
BPRC	6	11	14	2	0	2	0	35	6	6
Bridge	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MTC	28	64	82	83	91	37	0	385	10	33
MCI-C	46	35	48	41	61	55	83	369	37	54
MCI-F	50	72	0	0	0	26	26	174	30	30
MCI-N	90	101	98	119	168	188	402	1166	51	65
MCI-S	136	103	94	84	105	123	132	777	33	46
NCCI	52	36	51	145	226	102	98	710	28	60
NECC	83	47	28	14	7	14	0	193	7	11
OCCG	57	32	38	55	106	99	130	517	44	65
Pond.	22	29	20	14	5	13	0	103	13	17
SBCC	290	155	123	116	146	83	128	1041	20	34
Totals	867	685	596	673	915	742	999	5477		
%	15.8	12.5	10.9	12.3	16.7	13.6	18.2		31.8	48.5
# Diff. From 7/1/22	+150	+90	-68	-19	-86	-53	-3	+11		
% Diff. From 7/1/22	+17	+13	-10	- 3	- 9	- 7	- .3	+.2		

A Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Criminally
Sentenced Prisoners By Governing Offenses

[Personal (Per.), Sexual (Sex), Property (Prop.) Drug, and Other]

TABLE 4

Inst.	Per.	Sex	Prop	Drug	Other	Total	% Per	% Sex	% Prop	% Drug	% Other
BPRC	12	0	3	13	7	35	34	0	9	37	20
Bridge	5	1	1	0	0	7	72	14	14	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MTC	38	342	3	1	1	385	10	89	.8	.1	.1
MCI-C	267	17	17	36	32	369	71	5	5	10	9
MCI-F	110	10	10	32	12	174	63	6	6	18	7
MCI-N	865	103	26	104	68	1166	74	9	2	9	6
MCI-S	539	49	35	86	68	777	69	6	5	11	9
NCCI	269	365	12	43	21	710	38	51	2	6	3
NECC	52	0	7	106	28	193	27	0	4	55	14
OCCC	363	65	15	37	37	517	70	13	3	7	7
Pond.	42	0	13	37	11	103	41	0	12	36	11
SBCC	632	102	46	136	125	1041	61	10	4	13	12
<hr/>											
Totals	3194	1054	188	631	410	5477					
% Tot. Pop.	54	18	3	11	7	92					
% Crim. Sent.	59	19	3	12	7						
# Diff. From 7/1/22	-123	+20	-20	+74	+56	+7					
% Diff. From 7/1/22	-4	+2	-10	+13	+16	+1					

A Breakdown of Lifers Housed in Massachusetts Facilities

TABLE 5

Inst.	1st	2nd	Total Lifer Pop.	Total Crim. Sent. Pop.	%Lifers Crim. Sent. Pop.	Total Inst. Count	%Lifers Total Inst. Count	%Lifers in MA Prisons
BPRC	0	2	2	35	6	35	6	.1
Bridge	0	0	0	7	0	232	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0
MTC	0	37	37	385	10	500	7	2
MCI-C	83	55	138	369	37	369	37	8
MCI-F	26	26	52	174	3	210	25	3
MCI-N	402	188	590	1166	51	1166	51	34
MCI-S	132	123	255	777	33	781	33	15
NCCI	98	102	200	710	28	710	28	12
NECC	0	14	14	193	7	193	7	.8
OSCC	130	99	229	517	44	517	44	13
Pond.	0	13	13	103	13	103	13	.1
SBCC	128	83	211	1041	20	1050	20	12
Totals	999	742	1741	5477		5931		
% Lifer Pop.	57.4	42.6						
% Crim. Sent.	18.2	13.6	31.8					
% Inst. Count	16.8	12.5	29.4					
#Diff. From 7/1/22	-3	-53	-56	+11		-19		
% Diff. From 7/1/22	-3	-7	-3	+.2		-.3		

A Breakdown of Prisoner Populations and Operational Capacities in MA Facilities

TABLE 6

Inst.	Ave. LOS (Days)	Ave. Daily Pop.	Oper. Cap.	Total Count 7/1/23	Diff. Total Count From Oper. Cap.	7/1/23 % of Oper. Cap.	Security Levels
BPRC	189	41	200	35	-165	17	Pre.
Bridge	578	232	372	232	-140	62	Med.
MASAC	25	75	251	65	-186	26	Min.
MTC	1209	536	680	500	-180	74	Med.
MCI-C	1173	401	614	369	-245	60	Med.
MCI-F	1182	191	701	210	-491	30	Med.
MCI-N	2177	1160	1367	1166	-201	85	Med.
MCI-S	1168	795	1129	781	-348	69	Med.
NCCI	1564	688	989	710	-279	72	Med.
NECC	267	186	277	193	-84	70	Min./Pre
OCCC	1665	522	818	517	-301	63	Med./Min.
Pond.	238	97	204	103	-101	50	Min./Pre
SBCC	345	914	1427	1050	-377	74	Max.
Totals			9029*	5931	-3098	66	
# Diff. From 7/1/22			-691	-19	-637		
% Diff. From 7/1/22			-7.1	-.3	-17.9		

LOS = Average Length of Stay for those criminally sentenced.

* Reflects closure of MCI-CJ

A Breakdown of Prisoner Populations and Operational Capacities By Security Levels in MA Facilities

TABLE 7

Inst.	Max. Oper. Cap.	Max. Pop. 7/1/23	Med. Oper. Cap.	Med. Pop. 7/1/23	Min/Pre Oper. Cap.	Min/Pre Pop. 7/1/23*
BPRC					200	35
Bridge			372	232		
MASAC					251	65
MTC			680	500		
MCI-C			614	369		
MCI-F			701	210		
MCI-N			1367	1166		
MCI-S			1129	781		
NCCI			989	710		
NECC					277	193
OCCC			658	441	160	76
Pond.					204	103
SBCC	1427	1050				
Totals	1427	1050	6510	4409	1092	472
% Pop. of Oper. Cap.		74		68		43

Overall % Pop. Cap. - 66% (Total Pop. on 7/1/23(5931) / Total Oper. Cap. (9029)

*
 BPRC - 26 min. / 9 pre-rel.
 MASAC - 65 min.
 NECC - 189 min. / 4 pre-rel.
 Pond. - 97 min. / 6 pre-rel.

Comparisons of July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023

TABLE 8

	7/1/23#	7/1/23%	7/1/22#	7/1/22%	Diff.	% Diff.
Inst. Level						
Maximum	1050	17.7	983	16.6	+67	+7
Medium	4409	74.3	4523	76.0	-114	-3
Minimum	453	7.6	427	6.8	+26	-6.1
Pre-Rel.	19	.3	37	.6	-18	-49.0
Race						
Caucasian	2342	39.5	2430	40.8	-88	-4
Afr. Amer.	1733	29.2	1731	29.1	+ 2	+1
Hisp.	1624	27.4	1556	26.2	+68	+4
Asian	97	1.6	96	1.6	+ 1	+1
Nat. Amer.	38	.7	34	.6	+ 4	+12
Other	97	1.6	103	1.7	- 6	- 6
Lifers/Long Termers						
First Deg.	999	16.8	1002	16.8	- 3	-.35
Sec. Deg.	742	12.5	795	13.4	-53	- 7
Sub Totals	1741	24.4	1797	30.2	-56	- 3
15+ Years	915	15.4	1001	16.8	-86	- 9
Total Lifers + 15+	2656	44.8	2798	47.0	-142	- 5
Governing Offenses						
Person	3194	59.0	3313	61.0	-119	- 4
Sex	1054	19.0	1034	19.0	+ 20	+ 2
Drug	631	12.0	557	10.0	+ 74	+13
Other	410	7.0	354	6.0	+ 56	+16
Property	188	3.0	208	4.0	- 20	-10
Total MA Crim. Sent.	5477		5466		+ 11	+2
Prisoners in MA Jails	6120		6202		-82	-1.35

A Breakdown of MA Housed Prisoners By Race %

TABLE 9

Inst.	Cau.	Afr/Amer	Hisp.	Asian	Nat Amer.	Other
BPRC	40	23	37	0	0	0
Bridge	42	21	12	2	0	23
MASAC	65	15	11	3	0	6
MTC	59	18	20	1	2	0
MCI-C	32	36	29	2.1	.3	.6
MCI-F	61	18	10	2.5	.5	8
MCI-N	36	34	26	3	.8	.2
MCI-S	38	33	27.9	.5	.5	.1
NCCI	47	21	30	1	.5	.5
NECC	37	28	33	2	0	0
OCCC	45	30	23	.8	.4	.8
SBCC	24	36	38	1	.5	.5
Pond.	45	19	31	2	1	2

% Racial Breakdown By Security Level

TABLE 10

	Cau.	Afr. Amer.	Hisp.
Total	2342	1733	1624
% in Max.	11	22	24
% in Med.	82	73	69
% in Min/Pre	7	5	7
% of MA Housed Prisoners	39.5	29.2	27.4

Commentary

1. In 2023, the DOC's minimum and pre-release facilities operated at 43% of their operational capacities, a decrease from 45% in 2022 and a decrease from 53% in 2021. The DOC's failure to use fully minimum and pre-release facilities deprives too many prisoners of completing their sentences in lower security which is less expensive and offers the breath of resources and opportunities which assist prisoners to transition successfully back into the free world.
2. The precipitous drop from 37 prisoners in pre-release on July 1, 2022 to only 19 on July 1, 2023 needs an explanation from the DOC. That is a 49% decline. On July 1, 2023, only 9 prisoners were in BPRC pre-release, in NECC - only 4, and in Pondville - only 6. Thus, of the 472 prisoners in minimum or pre-release on July 1, 2023, 453 or 96% were in minimum and only 4% in pre-release. While the DOC does not provide operational capacity data split for minimum and pre-release, it seems safe to postulate that pre-release facilities are significantly under-utilized than even minimum facilities.
3. There is a controversy regarding racial designations. Some of those who self-identify as Latino (Hispanic is the DOC categorization) have reported to the Lifer's Group Inc. that the DOC has listed them as Caucasian due to mistakes made upon entry into the DOC. The extent of this problem is unknown. But, these discrepancies impact the numbers of Caucasians and Hispanics in the DOC data, i.e., the number of Caucasians is inflated, while the number of Hispanics is artificially low. The DOC needs to reassess its racial designations to correct any inaccuracies.
4. In Table 10, only Caucasians, African-Americans and Hispanics are included as these three racial designations comprise over 96% of all prisoners housed in MA facilities.
5. Lifer's Group reports on DOC Institutional Fact Cards for previous years, on DOC Expenditures and Staffing Levels, including Employee Expenses, Inmate Program Expenses, Inmate Medical Costs and annual average cost per prisoner, as well as on the three Central Office Accounts - Central Inmate Benefit Fund, Central Law Library Fund and Central Program Account are available at: realcostofprisons.org/writing or on Facebook @LifersGroupMCINorfolk.

Closing Notes

1. All totals and percentages in this report were calculated by the author.
2. Where comparisons with July 1, 2022 data were cited, the source for that data was the MA DOC Institutional Fact Cards for July 1, 2022.
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4. DOC Institutional Fact Cards are available online at: www.ma.gov/doc.
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Chairman
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MCI-Norfolk
P.O. Box 43
Norfolk, MA 02056

6. We, the Lifer's Group Inc.'s Board of Directors and membership, continue to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Lois Ahrens, Founding Director of the Real Cost of Prisons Project for her untiring work for prison reform and her posting of our reports on her website: www.realcostofprisons.org/writing.