

LIFER'S GROUP INC.

A Report On The Massachusetts
Department of Correction's
Institutional Fact Cards As Of July 1, 2020

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JULY 1, 2020 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S INSTITUTIONAL FACT CARDS¹

1. The total number of prisoners under Massachusetts (MA) jurisdiction² on July 1, 2020 was 7,312, a decrease of 1,525 prisoners (17%) since July 1, 2019. (Table 8, page 11)
2. Of the 7,312 prisoners under MA jurisdiction, the total actually incarcerated in MA facilities was 7,040. 272 MA prisoners were outside the Commonwealth, a decrease of 115 prisoners (30%) from July 1, 2019. (Table 8, page 11)
3. The total number of prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2020 (7,040) was 1,410 below the number housed on July 1, 2019 or a decrease of 17%. (Table 8, page 11)
4. The total number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2020 was 6,568, a decrease of 1,080 (14%) from July 1, 2019. The number of criminally sentenced prisoners held in MA facilities was 93% of the total housed in MA. Civil Commitments accounted for 5%, Pre-Trial prisoners - 0.9%, and prisoners under observation - 0.7% of the remaining 472 prisoners confined in MA prisons. (Table 1, page 4)
5. Of the 7,040 prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2020, 1,075 (15%) were in Maximum Security - a decrease of 336 (24%) from July 1, 2019; 5,267 (75%) were in Medium Security - a decrease of 695 (12%); 606 (9%) were in Minimum Security - a decrease of 1,277 (68%); and 92 (1%) were in Pre-Release a decrease of 102 (53%). (Table 1, page 4; Table 8, page 11)
6. The racial breakdown of the prisoners housed in MA prisons on July 1, 2020 was: Caucasian - 2,910 (41%), African-American - 2,034 (29%), Hispanic - 1,853 (26%), Asian - 111 (2%), Native American - 42 (1%), and Other - 90 (1%) (Table 2, page 5)
7. From July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2020, the number Caucasians decreased by 712 (20%); African-Americans by 306 (13%); Hispanics by 317 (15%); Asians by 2 (2%); Native Americans by 8 (16%); and Other by 12 (11%). (Table 8, page 11)
8. Governing Offenses for prisoners criminally sentenced and housed in MA on July 1, 2020 broke down as: Person Offenses - 3,790 (54%), Sex Offenses - 1,185 (17%), Drug Offenses - 740 (11%), Property Offenses - 344 (5%) and Other Offenses - 509 (7%). (Table 4, page 7)
9. Of the criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2020, 740 (11%) had a drug conviction as their governing offense. The institution with the highest percentage was BPRC (64%); the institution; SMCC was the second highest (57%). Bridgewater was the lowest (0%). Others were: NCCI - 4%, SBCC - 5%, MCI-N - 6%, and OCCC - 7%. (Table 4, page 7)
10. Of the criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2020, 1,185 (17%) had a sex conviction as their governing offense. MTC had the highest percentage was MTC - 85%; the second highest was NCCI (54%). Minimum and Pre-Release facilities had no prisoners serving a Sex Governing Offense. (Table 4, page 7)
11. Of the criminally sentenced prisoners housed in MA on July 1, 2020, 3,790 (54%) had a person conviction as their governing offense. MCI-F had the highest percentage (75%); the second highest was MCI-N (75%). MTC had the lowest (11%). (Table 4, page 7)

¹ The Institutional Fact Cards for July 1, 2020 were supplied by the DOC pursuant to a public records request.

² MA jurisdiction population includes all prisoners housed in MA facilities as well as under MA jurisdiction being housed in correctional facilities outside of the Commonwealth.

12. The number of prisoners housed in MA with a Governing Offense of a Person Offense decreased by 464 (11%) from July 1, 2019; with a Sex Offense - decreased by 78 (6%); with a Drug Offense - decreased by 253 (25%); with a Property Offense - decreased by 160 (32%); and with an Other Offense - decreased by 125 (20%). (Table 8, page 13)

13. The total number of prisoners housed in MA serving over fifteen years and up and including life without parole (First Degree) on July 1, 2020 was 3,064 - a decrease of 53 or 2% from July 1, 2019: 15+ - 1,141 (16%), Second Degree Life - 903 (13%), and First Degree Life - 1,020 (15%). (Table 3, page 8; Table 8, page 13)

14. The number of criminally sentenced prisoners housed in Ma serving Second Degree Life sentences on July 1, 2020 was 903 (14%) and 1,020 (16%) were serving First Degree, i.e., Life Without Parole for a total of 1,923 (29%) lifers - a decrease of 72 from July 1, 2019. (Table 3, page 8; Table 8, page 13)

15. The number of First Degree Lifers on July 1, 2020 was 26 lifers below those serving First Degree Life on July 1, 2019 - a decrease of 0.2%. The number of Second Degree Lifers on July 1, 2020 was 46 lifers below those serving Second Degree Life on July 1, 2019 - a decrease of 5%. (Table 5, page 10; Table 8, page 13)

16. On July 1, 2020, lifers incarcerated at MCI-Norfolk numbered 691 or 55% of the total MCI-Norfolk population and 36% of the total number of lifers housed in MA. MCI-Shirley had the next highest number of lifers - 274 or 24% of that institution's total number of prisoners, followed by OCCC with 249 or 34% of that institution's total. (Table 3, page 8; Table 5, page 10)

17. Maximum Security institutions on July 1, 2020 operated at 55% of capacity; Medium Security institutions at 78%; Minimum/Pre-Release institutions at 48%. (Table 7, page 12)

18. Of the 272 MA prisoners not held in the Commonwealth on July 1, 2020, 62 were serving life sentences. The difference between the total number of lifers under MA jurisdiction (1,985) and the total number of lifers housed in MA prisons. (Calculation made by the Lifer's Group Inc.)

19. The Operational Capacities of MA prisons on July 1, 2020 totaled 10,180. The number of prisoners actually held in MA on that date was 7,040 - 31% below total Operational Capacity. (Table 6, page 11)

20. The oldest prisoner in MA prisons on July 1, 2020 was age 91 and housed in MCI-Shirley. In four other facilities, the oldest prisoner was 80 years or older (1 at age 80, 1 at age 81, 1 at age 83, and 1 at age 87). (Table 2, page 7)

21. On July 1, 2020, the frequency distribution of the average ages of prisoners housed in MA prisons was: 34 - 39 (3), 40 - 49 (11), and 50 (1). On July 1, 2019, the distribution was: 34 - 39 (3), 40 - 49 (10), and 50 (1). (Table 2, page 7 and the Lifer's Group Inc. report on the DOC Institutional Fact Cards for July 1, 2019)

22. The average age of prisoners held under Massachusetts jurisdiction on July 1, 2020 was 43. (Table 2, page 7)

**Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Prisoners
by Status and Security Levels**

TABLE 1

Inst.	Crim. Sent.	Civil Com.	Pre- Trial	Obser.	Total	Max.	Med.	Min.	Pre- Rel.
BRPC	58	0	0	0	58	0	0	23	35
Bridgewater	0	154	0	51	205	0	205	0	0
MASAC	0	62	0	0	62	0	0	62	0
MTC*	377	141	0	0	518	0	518	0	0
MCI-CJ	432	0	28	0	460	401	59	0	0
MCI-C	554	0	0	0	554	0	554	0	0
MCI-F	156	0	29	0	185	0	185	0	0
MCI-N	1259	0	0	0	1259	0	1259	0	0
MCI-S	1139	2	0	0	1141	0	941	200	0
NCCI	912	2	0	0	914	0	914	0	0
NECC	148	0	0	0	148	0	0	108	40
OCCC	723	0	0	0	723	0	632	91	0
Pondville	102	0	0	0	102	0	0	89	13
SMCC	37	0	0	0	37	0	0	33	4
SBCC	<u>671</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	6568	361	60	51	7040	1075	5267	606	92
%	93.3	5.1	0.9	0.7		15.3	74.8	8.6	1.3

* MTC is the Massachusetts Treatment Center.

**Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Prisoners
by Race and Age**

TABLE 2

Inst.	Cau.	Afro. Amer.	Hisp.	Asian	Nat. Amer.	Other	Total	Ave. Age	Young/ Oldest
BRPC	10	16	31	0	1	0	58	40	22/60
Bridgewater	103	55	19	1	0	27	205	40	19/83
MASAC	43	6	11	0	0	2	62	38	18/72
MTC	315	92	92	5	10	4	518	50	21/80
MCI-CJ	165	138	148	6	2	1	460	38	19/69
MCI-C	165	204	159	23	0	3	554	40	18/76
MCI-F	112	36	16	2	1	18	185	41	20/75
MCI-N	495	419	307	25	9	4	1259	47	19/87
MCI-S	371	370	374	17	3	6	1141	41	20/91
NCCI	452	190	238	17	10	7	914	47	21/82
NECC	50	31	65	1	0	1	148	42	23/72
OCCC	349	199	156	8	4	7	723	44	19/56
Pondville	39	36	26	0	0	1	102	45	20/79
SMCC	19	5	6	0	0	7	37	42	25/64
SBCC	<u>222</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>674</u>	34	19/80
Totals	2910	2034	1853	111	42	90	7040		
%	41.3	28.9	26.3	1.6	0.6	1.3			

**Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Prisoners
by Sentence Length**

TABLE 3

Inst.	Years					2nd Deg.	1st Deg.	Total Sent. Pop.	% Lifers	% 15+ & Lfers
	>3-5	5-7	7- 10	10- 15	15+					
BRPC	19	18	11	8	2	0	0	58	0	0
Bridgewater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MTC	43	67	71	72	83	42	0	378	11	33
MCI-CJ	158	82	48	55	52	16	20	431	8	20
MCI-C	94	76	56	62	103	76	87	554	29	48
MCI-F*	35	15	56	0	0	24	26	156	32	32
MCI-N	77	79	79	118	215	274	417	1259	55	72
MCI-S	235	195	185	105	145	147	127	1139	24	37
NCCI	36	77	120	170	279	130	100	912	25	56
NECC	39	31	18	23	23	14	0	148	9	25
OCCC	83	94	81	97	119	117	132	723	34	51
Pondville	26	30	23	12	7	4	0	102	4	11
SMCC**	29	8	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0
SBCC	<u>84</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>671</u>	25	42
Totals	958	885	838	823	1141	903	1020	6568		
%	14.6	13.5	12.8	12.5	17.4	13.7	15.5			

* MCI-F reports 6 years + for sentences over 6 years until 2nd and 1st degree lifers.

** SMCC reports 6 years + for sentences over 6 years until 2nd and 1st degree lifers.

**Breakdown of Massachusetts Housed Prisoners
by Governing Offense**

TABLE 4

Inst.	Per.	Sex	Prop	Drug	Other	Crim. Sent. Total	% Per	% Sex	% Prop.	% Drug	% Other
BRPC	9	0	2	37	10	58	16	0	3	64	17
Bridgewater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MTC	43	323	6	5	1	378	11	85	2	1	1
MCI-CJ	219	31	44	90	47	431	51	7	10	21	11
MCI-C	359	26	27	86	56	554	64	5	5	16	10
MCI-F	121	5	9	14	7	156	78	3	6	9	4
MCI-N	951	135	46	80	47	1259	75	11	4	6	4
MCI-S	654	54	83	200	148	1139	57	5	7	18	13
NCCI	339	487	22	40	24	912	37	54	2	4	3
NECC	58	0	17	53	20	148	39	0	11	36	14
OCCC	504	79	42	49	49	723	69	11	6	7	7
Pondville	40	0	10	30	22	102	39	0	10	29	22
SMCC	9	0	3	21	4	37	24	0	8	57	11
SBCC	<u>484</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>671</u>	72	7	5	5	11
Totals	3790	1185	344	740	509	6568					
% Total Pop.	54	17	5	11	7	94					
% Crim. Sent.	58	18	5	11	8						

Breakdown of Lifers Housed in Massachusetts Facilities

Table 5

Inst.	1st	2nd	Total Lifer Pop.	Total Crim. Sent. Pop.	Total Inst. Count	% of Lifers Total Inst. Count	% of Lifers In MA Prisons
BRPC	0	0	0	58	58	0	0
Bridgewater	0	0	0	0	205	0	0
MASAC	0	0	0	0	62	0	0
MTC	0	42	42	378	518	8	2
MCI-CJ	20	16	36	431	460	8	2
MCI-C	87	76	163	554	554	29	8
MCI-F	26	24	50	156	185	27	3
MCI-N	417	274	691	1259	1259	55	36
MCI-S	127	147	274	1139	1141	24	14
NCCI	100	130	230	912	914	25	12
NECC	0	14	14	148	148	9	.8
OCCC	132	117	249	723	723	34	13
Pondville	0	4	4	102	102	4	.2
SMCC	0	0	0	37	37	0	0
SBCC	<u>111</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>674</u>	25	9
Totals	1020*	903*	1923	6568	7040		
% Lifer Pop.	53.0	47.0					
% Crim. Sent.	15.5	13.8	29.3				
% Inst. Count	14.5	12.8	27.3				

* There were 40 additional first degree lifers held outside MA

** There were 22 additional second degree lifers held outside MA

Breakdown of Prisoner Populations and Operational Capacities in Massachusetts Facilities

Table 6

Inst.	Ave. LOS* (Days)	Ave. Daily Pop.	Oper. Cap.	Total Count 7/1/20	Diff. Total Count From Oper. Cap.	% Oper. Cap.	Security Levels
BRPC	209	89	175	58	-117	33	Pre.
Bridgewater	764	219	294	205	- 89	70	Med.
MASAC	19	126	251	62	-189	25	Min.
MTC	1337	559	667	518	-149	78	Med.
MCI-CJ	266	576	646	460	-186	71	Max/Med.
MCI-C	936	606	752	554	-198	74	Med.
MCI-F	1431	275	572	185	-387	32	Med.
MCI-N	2030	1289	1473	1259	-214	85	Med.
MCI-S	1011	1398	1505	1141	-364	76	Med/Min.
NCCI	1393	930	1004	914	- 90	91	Med.
NECC	279	181	277	148	-129	53	Min/Pre.
OCCC	1221	732	765	723	- 42	95	Med/Min.
Pondville	258	139	204	102	-102	50	Min/Pre.
SMCC	208	58	185	37	-148	20	Min/Pre.
SBCC	533	727	<u>1410</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>-736</u>	48	Max.
Totals			10,180	7040	-3140	69	

* LOS = Average Length of Stay for those Criminally Sentenced

MCI-CJ: of the 460 prisoners, 401 were housed in Maximum and 59 in Medium.

MCI-S: of the 1141 prisoners, 941 were housed in Medium and 200 in Minimum.

NECC: of the 148 prisoners, 108 were housed in Minimum and 40 in Pre-Rel.

OCCC: of the 723 prisoners, 632 were housed in Medium and 91 in Minimum.

Pondville: of the 102 prisoners, 89 were housed in Minimum and 13 in Pre-Rel.

SMCC: of the 37 prisoners, 33 were housed in Minimum and 4 in Pre-Rel.

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

Table 7

Inst.	Max. Oper. Cap.	Max. Pop. 7/1/20	Med. Oper. Cap.	Med. Pop. 7/1/20	Min/Pre Oper. Cap.	Min/Pre Pop. 7/1/20
BRPC					175	58
Bridgewater			294	205		
MASAC					251	62
MTC			667	518		
MCI-CJ	562	401	84	59		
MCI-C			752	554		
MCI-F			572	185		
MCI-N			1473	1259		
MCI-S**			1234	941	271	200
NCCI			1004	914		
NECC					277	148
OCCC**			666	632	99	91
Pondville					204	102
SMCC					185	37
SBCC	<u>1410</u>	<u>674</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	1972	1075	6746	5267	1462	698
% Oper. Cap.		55		78		48

Overall % Oper. Cap. - 69 [Total Pop. on 7/1/20 (7040) / Total Oper. Cap. (10,180)]

* MCI-CJ houses both maximum (401) and medium (59) security prisoners. The DOC does not break out operational capacities for each security level. The operational capacities were calculated by the Lifer's Group Inc. based on proportional percentages of the prisoner populations in each security level on July 1, 2020 apply to the total operational capacity.

** MCI-S houses both medium (941) and minimum (200) security prisoners. The DOC does not break out operational capacities for each security level. The operational capacities were calculated by the Lifer's Group Inc. based on proportional percentages of the prisoner populations in each security level on July 1, 2020 applied to the total operational capacity.

*** OCCC houses both medium (632) and minimum (91) security prisoners. The DOC does not breakout operational capacities for each security level. The operational capacities were calculated by the Lifer's Group Inc. based on proportional percentages of the prisoner populations in each security level on July 1, 2020 applied to the total operational capacity.

Comparisons of July 1, 2020 and July 1, 2019

Table 8

Inst. Level	7/1/20 #	7/1/20 %	7/1/19 #	7/1/19 %	Diff.	% Diff.
Maximum	1075	15.3	1411	16.7	-336	-24
Medium	5267	74.8	5962	70.6	-695	-12
Minimum	606	8.6	1883	10.4	-1277	-68
Pre-Release	92	1.3	194	2.3	-102	-53
Race						
Caucasian	2910	41.3	3622	43.2	-712	-20
African-Amer.	2034	28.9	2340	27.9	-306	-13
Hispanic	1853	26.3	2170	25.8	-317	-15
Asian	111	1.6	113	1.3	-2	- 2
Native Amer.	42	0.6	50	0.6	-8	-16
Other	90	1.3	102	1.2	-12	-12
Lifers/Long Termers						
First Degree	1020	14.5	1046	13.7	-26	-2
Second Degree	<u>903</u>	12.8	<u>949</u>	12.4	<u>-46</u>	-5
Totals	1923	27.3	1995	26.1	-72	-4
15+ Years	<u>1141</u>	16.2	<u>1122</u>	14.7	+19	+2
Lifers + 15+	3064	43.5	3117	40.8	-53	-2
Governing Offenses						
Person	3790	57.7	4254	55.6	-464	-11
Sex	1185	18.0	1263	16.5	-78	-6
Property	344	5.2	504	6.6	-160	-32
Drug	740	11.3	993	13.0	-253	-25
Other	<u>509</u>	7.8	<u>634</u>	8.3	<u>-125</u>	-20
Totals Crim. Sent. In MA	6568	93.3	7648	90.5	-1080	-14
Prisoners Under MA Jurisdiction	7312		8837		-1525	-17
Prisoners Housed In MA Prisons	<u>7040</u>		<u>8450</u>		<u>-1410</u>	-17

Commentary Notes

1) The precipitous decrease in Pre-Trial numbers [190 on July 1, 2019 (Lifer's Group Inc. report on Institutional Fact Cards as of July 1, 2019) to 29 on July 1, 2020 (Table 1, page 4)] reflects the transfer of Pre-Trial detainees to the Suffolk County jail and not releases to the street.

2) It is notable that two years after the Commonwealth passed the 2018 Criminal Justice Reinvestment statute, the DOC spent more money on prisons last year even though the number of people incarcerated dropped. The ballooning DOC budget is due in no small part to the growing cost of health care necessitated by the Executive Branch's unwillingness to use the tools at its disposal - medical parole and commutations - to lower the growing elderly prisoner population. According to a Lifer's Group Inc. report on the expenditures and staffing levels of the DOC for Fiscal 2020, spending increased by \$40 million (6%), while the number of prisoners decreased by 7% and the number of Full Time Employees decreased by 6%.

3) The state's minimum security and pre-release facilities continue to operate well below their operational capacities. (See Table 7, page 10.) The DOC's failure to use fully (and expand) minimum and pre-release facilities means that far too many people are forced to complete their sentences in higher security that lacks the breadth of resources and opportunities that allow prisoners to successfully transition back into the free world.

4) Massachusetts continues to incarcerate minorities well above their proportion of the population. According to the 2010 US Census, Massachusetts' population was comprised of 10.5% Hispanic, 8.1% African/American, 6.0% Asian, 0.1% Native American; while the DOC racial breakdown on July 1, 2020 was 29% African/American (21% higher than the representative free world number), 26% Hispanic (15.5% higher), and 1% Native American (.9% higher). (See Table 8, page 11.)

5) While there has been a lot of talk of reforming prisons by changing drug laws, it is important to note that only 11% of Massachusetts prisoners have a drug-related governing offense. (See Table 4, page 7.)

6) MCI-Norfolk continues to be the only prison where the majority of the population is serving a life sentence (55%). while 36% of the DOC lifer population is housed at MCI-Norfolk, the Department fails to provide the differentiated programming and assistance this population requires. Instead, the DOC continues to force lifers to compete with non-lifers for access to rehabilitative programming and educational opportunities where access is determined by length of time to parole. (See Table 5, page 8.)

7) This year's report shows a continued decrease in the prisoner population. There has been, however, a quiet push by Governor Baker to build prisons. The governor has access to over \$500 million in bonds that can be used to build or to remodel prisons. This was first publicly reported by Lois Ahrens, Founding Director of The Real Cost of Prisons Project (5 Warfield Place, Northampton, MA 01060), who successfully lobbied to stop Governor Baker from using \$50 million to build a new prison to house women.

Closing Notes

Please note that all totals and percentages were calculated by the authors for the Lifer's Group Inc.

Where comparisons with July 1, 2019 data were cited in this report, the sources for that data were the MA DOC's Institutional Fact Cards for July 1, 2019 or the Lifer's Group Inc. report on those fact cards.

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