

# **RECIDIVISM AMONG INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION**

**FINAL REPORT TO THE MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

NATASHA A. FROST, PH.D.  
CARLOS MONTEIRO  
GARRETT YURSA WARFIELD  
DESMOND RYAN

With additional research assistance from:  
ALISON OLIFF

Report Submitted: Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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## **NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH TEAM**

**NATASHA A. FROST, PH.D.**, is an Assistant Professor at Northeastern University and is the Principal Investigator for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office recidivism study.

**CARLOS MONTEIRO**, a doctoral student in Northeastern University's Criminology and Justice Policy program, is a graduate research assistant for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office recidivism study.

**GARRETT YURSA WARFIELD**, a doctoral student in Northeastern University's Criminology and Justice Policy program, is a graduate research assistant for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office recidivism study.

**DESMOND RYAN**, an undergraduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern University, is an undergraduate research assistant for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office recidivism study.



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In May 2008, the Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research at Northeastern University was awarded a grant from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) to conduct a study of recidivism among inmates released from the Middlesex House of Correction at Billerica. Assistant Professor Natasha A. Frost, Ph.D., served as the Principal Investigator for the project, with research assistance provided by two Northeastern University doctoral students (Carlos Monteiro and Garrett Warfield) and two undergraduate students (Desmond Ryan and Alison Oliff).

The MSO project involved (1) developing profiles of all inmates released from the facility annually between 1994 and 2007 (initially submitted as an interim report in January 2009); (2) conducting a comprehensive recidivism study that would establish recidivism rates for samples of inmates released from the facility in 1994, 2004, and 2007; and (3) delivering a platform for ongoing recidivism research.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office provided electronic records for all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction (BHOC) between 1994 and 2007. An interim report using data for all releases from the BHOC summarized release patterns annually (for every year between 1994 and 2007) and examined release trends over time (between 1994 and 2007). This interim report is included as a part of this final report as well.

Data from calendar-years 1994, 2004, and 2007 were used to conduct a more comprehensive recidivism study. Collection of release data across three points in time allowed for the study of time-to-recidivism using both one-year and three-year windows for recidivism and allowed for the study of changes in recidivism rates across the two release cohorts (spaced ten years apart). These years (1994 and 2004) were selected to allow for a three year time-to-recidivism window. Three-year windows for recidivism are standard and customary for this type of study and are used in national and state studies of inmate recidivism. Although most released inmates who reoffend will do so in the first year following release, it can take some time to process offenders through the criminal justice system and therefore a three-year window for recidivism is more reliable (particularly when recidivism is measured as either reconviction or reincarceration as it is in the present study). Due to some fairly substantial structural and programmatic changes at the facility, we also conducted a one-year recidivism analysis for inmates released more recently in 2007.

This executive summary includes key findings that are described in greater detail in the body of the report.

The report itself is divided into a number of sections and opens with a general introduction to issues related to prisoner reentry and recidivism. In this opening section of the report, we summarize key findings from earlier national recidivism studies conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and state recidivism studies conducted by state agencies and

research organizations. We then describe the Billerica House of Correction (BHOC) including descriptions of: (1) the recent renovation and modernization project, (2) the processes most related to programming and to prisoner reentry, and (3) the programs in place at the BHOC when the study launched. A description of the overall methodology for the study is followed by a description of the sample in terms of demographic and justice system relevant characteristics.

The core findings are then described with an emphasis on four major areas:

- (1) program participation and completion;
- (2) recidivism – measured as both reconviction and reincarceration – at one- and three-year from release;
- (3) program participation, program completion, and recidivism;
- (4) recidivism among specific subsets of released inmates.

A supplemental section describes a smaller project focused on the LS-CMI assessment instrument and program participation/completion. Key findings from each of the four primary results sections are included in this executive summary.

## **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETION**

### **Program Participation**

Generally, only inmates sentenced to at least 90 days are eligible for programming at the House of Correction because the most intensive programs offered at the BHOC are 90 day programs (the SAM program offered in 2004 and the SIR program offered in 2007 were the core programs and both were 90 day programs).

#### **Among inmates sentenced to more than 90 days in 2004:**

- 42% spent at least one day in a program intensive unit
- 38% were classified to treatment
- 28% were both classified to treatment and spent at least one day in a program intensive unit

#### **Among inmates sentenced to more than 90 days in 2007:**

- 54% spent at least one day in a program intensive unit
- 34% were classified to treatment
- 30% were both classified to treatment and spent at least one day in a program intensive unit

***Inmates released in 2007 were much more likely to participate in programs than those released in 2004 (54% in 2007 versus 42% in 2004) suggesting that the 2006 renovation and modernization project at the Billerica House of Correction increased access to programming units.***

## **Program Completion**

The most intensive treatment programs offered at the BHOC are 90 day programs (the SAM program in 2004 and the SIR program in 2007 were both 90 day programs). Therefore, only those sentenced to more than 90 days can realistically complete programming as it has been defined in this study.

### **Among inmates sentenced to more than 90 days in 2004:**

- 29% spent at least ninety days in a program intensive unit
- 38% were classified to treatment
- 19% were both classified to treatment and spent at least ninety days in a program intensive unit

### **Among inmates sentenced to more than 90 days in 2007:**

- 34% spent at least ninety days in a program intensive unit
- 34% were classified to treatment
- 24% were both classified to treatment and spent at least ninety days in a program intensive unit

***Inmates released in 2007 were much more likely to complete programs than those released in 2004 (34% in 2007 versus 29% in 2004) suggesting that the 2006 renovation and modernization project at the Billerica House of Correction not only increased access to programming units, but also increased the likelihood of completion.***

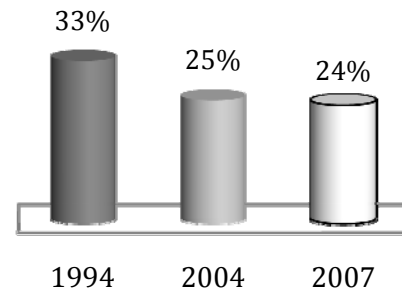
## RECIDIVISM

### Reconviction

#### Reconvictions within One Year of Release

Reconvictions following release from the Billerica House of Correction have been declining over time. Among those released in 1994, 33% were reconvicted within one year of release. By 2004, the percentage of released inmates who had been reconvicted had fallen by 8 percentage points to 25%. The percentage reconvicted fell further between 2004 and 2007 so that by 2007, only 24% of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction had been reconvicted within one year of release.

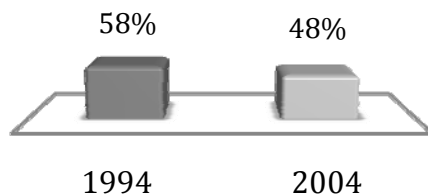
**Reconvicted within One Year of Release**



*Between 1994 and 2007, reconvictions within one year of release fell by almost 10 percentage points from 33% in 1994 to just 24% in 2007.*

#### Reconvictions within Three Years of Release

**Reconvicted within Three Years of Release**



Although the percentage of inmates reconvicted within three years of release was larger than the percent reconvicted within one year of release, as with the one-year recidivism analysis, reconviction rates of inmates released from the BHOC fell quite substantially in the 10 years between 1994 and 2004. While 58% of inmates released in 1994 had been reconvicted within three years of release, by 2004 the percent reconvicted within three years had fallen by ten percentage points to 48%.

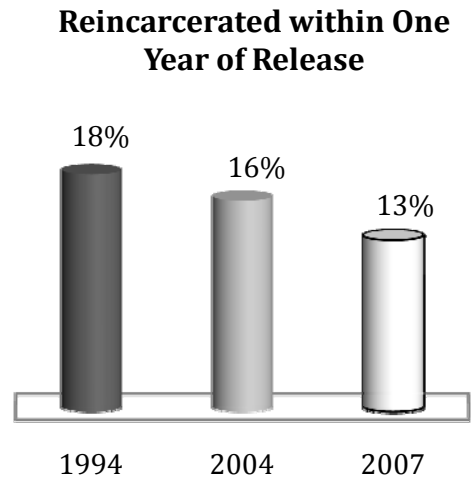
*In the decade between 1994 and 2004, reconvictions within three years of release fell by 10 percentage points.*

*58% of those released in 1994 and 48% of those released in 2007 were reconvicted within three years of release.*

## Reincarceration

### Reincarceration within One Year of Release

Reincarcerations following release from the Billerica House of Correction have been declining over time. Among those released in 1994, 18% were reincarcerated within one year of release. By 2007, only 13% of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction were reincarcerated within one year of release. In other words, just over 1 in 10 inmates released in 2007 were reincarcerated within the first year of release.



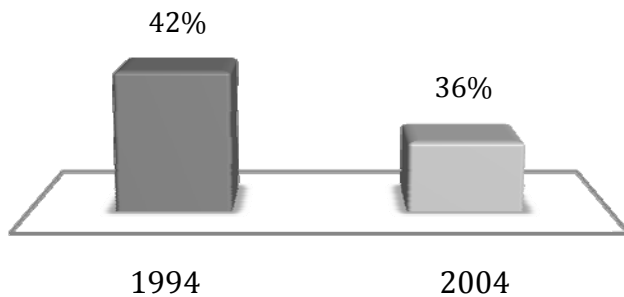
*Between 1994 and 2007, reconvictions within one year of release fell by 5 percentage points from 18% in 1994 to just 13% in 2007.*

### Reconviction and Reincarceration Status One Year from Release

	1994 Releases	2004 Releases	2007 Releases
<b>No Recidivism</b>	67%	75%	76%
<b>Recidivism</b>	33%	25%	24%
<i>Reconvicted, but not Reincarcerated</i>	15%	10%	11%
<i>Reconvicted and Reincarcerated</i>	18%	15%	13%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

## Reincarcerated within Three Years of Release

### Reincarcerated within Three Years of Release



As with the one-year recidivism analysis, reincarceration rates for inmates released from the BHOC fell quite substantially in the 10 years between 1994 and 2004. While 42% of inmates released in 1994 had been reincarcerated within three years of release, by 2004 the percent reincarcerated within three years had fallen by six percentage points to 36%.

*In the decade between 1994 and 2004, reincarcerations within three years of release fell by 6 percentage points. 42% of those released in 1994 and 36% of those released in 2007 were reincarcerated within three years of release.*

## Reconviction and Reincarceration Status Three Years from Release

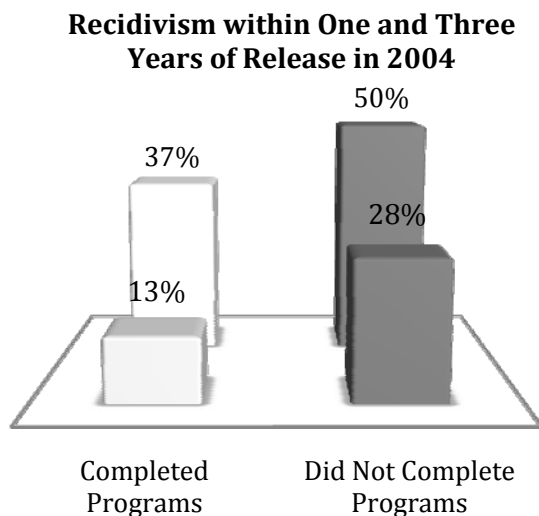
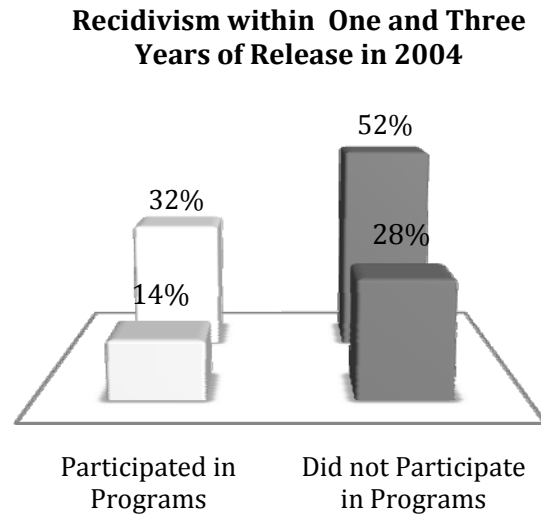
	1994 Releases	2004 Releases
<b>No Recidivism</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Recidivism</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<i>Reconvicted, but not Reincarcerated</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Reconvicted and Reincarcerated</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>36%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, PROGRAM COMPLETION, AND RECIDIVISM

Recidivism rates among those who participated in programming were lower than the recidivism rates among those who did not.

Those who had participated in programs prior to their release in 2004 had a much lower recidivism rate than those who did not participate in programs. 14% of those who participated in programs had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 28% of those who had not). Although the three-year recidivism rates were higher, the gap in recidivism between those who had participated in programs (32% reconvicted) and those who had not (52% reconvicted) remained. The pattern held for 2007 releases, but the differences were not quite as large.



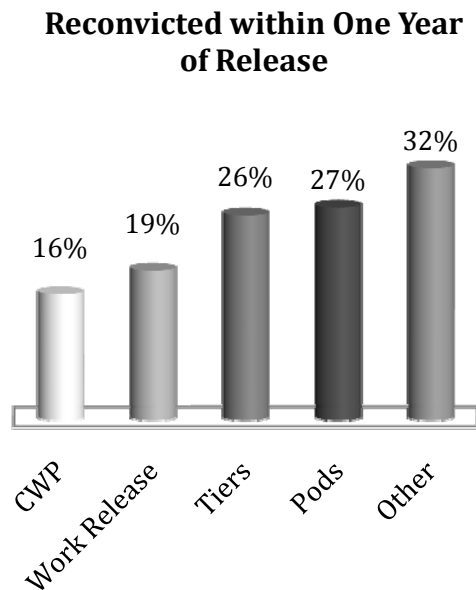
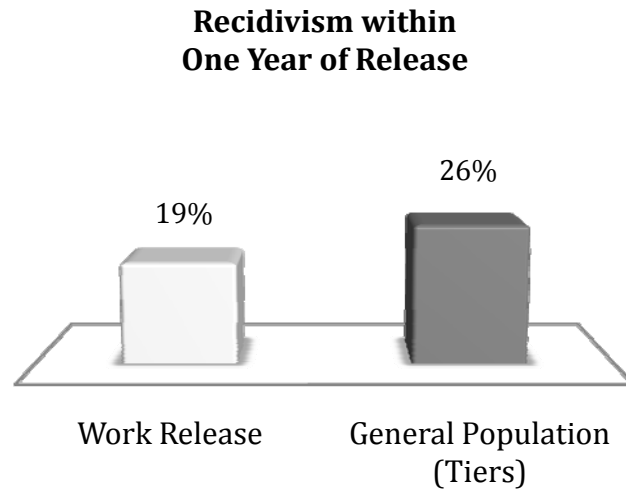
Those who had completed programming prior to their release in 2004 had a much lower recidivism rate than those who had not completed programming. 13% of those who had completed programming had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 28% of those who had not). Although the three-year recidivism rates were higher, the gap in recidivism between those who had completed programming (37% reconvicted) and those who had not (50% reconvicted) remained.

The percentages for program participation and program completion cannot be compared to one another because the base numbers are different... the number participating in programs is much bigger than the number completing programs.

## RECIDIVISM AMONG SUBSETS OF INMATES

### Work Release vs. General Population

Those released from general population areas of the facility (specifically from the tiers) in 2007 had higher rates of recidivism than those released from the work release program (which is the probably the most progressive program at Billerica). 19% of those released from the work release program were reconvicted or reincarcerated within one year of release. By comparison, 26% of those released from the general population tiers were reconvicted or reincarcerated within one year of release.



Generally speaking those released from Billerica's work programs (the community work and work release programs) had lower rates of recidivism than those released from other types of custody. Those released from the pods and the tiers had essentially the same rate of recidivism (note that a release from a pod does not mean that the person participated in programming). Some are released before they can even be classified to other areas of the facility. Those released from other areas (the health services unit and other facilities following transfers) performed notably worse than other populations. The community work program inmates actually had the lowest overall rates of recidivism, followed by those in the work release program.

## **Billerica Recidivism in Context**

A Massachusetts Department of Corrections study assessed three-year recidivism rates in a manner comparable to national studies and to the current study. In the MDOC study, 39% of state prisoners released in 1999 were reincarcerated within three years of release, with 20% of those inmates reincarcerated within one year of release (Hoover, 2005). The 20% reincarceration rate for 1999 MDOC releases was lower than the 24% one year reincarceration rate reported in a similar study of 1994 MDOC releases (Dolan and Matthews, 1998).

The earlier MDOC study of 1994 releases (Dolan and Matthews, 1998) is directly comparable to our study of the 1994 BHOC release cohort. The MDOC one-year reincarceration rate of 24% was substantially higher than the 18% one-year reincarceration rate among Billerica releases in 1994.

**Recidivism among BHOC releases was consistently lower than recidivism found among inmates released from the Massachusetts Department of Corrections.**

The 2005 MDOC study was conducted using 1999 releases – 1999 is obviously right in between the years used in the current study (1994 and 2004) for the three year recidivism analysis (Hoover, 2005). The 36% three-year reincarceration rate for inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004 is lower than the 39% three year rate for those released from MDOC in 1999. The study of 1999 MDOC releases, published in 2005, is unfortunately the most recent publicly available Massachusetts Department of Correction recidivism analysis.

A recent recidivism analysis conducted by Massachusetts State Parole (2008) found that those released from state prisons had lower reincarceration rates than those released from houses of correction. The State Parole study used a follow-up period of 1.7 years for 2006 releases making it difficult to directly compare their findings to this study. Nonetheless, the State Parole study reports an overall reincarceration rate of 35% for inmates released from custody with no parole supervision. When parsed between state and county releases, the reincarceration for state releases (20%) was substantially lower than the reincarceration rate for house of correction releases (37%).

Although it is difficult to draw too many conclusions from a comparison between the State Parole study and the current study due to differences in measures and time-periods, the 37% 1.7 year reincarceration rate for 2006 HOC releases is substantially higher than the 15% Billerica one- year reincarceration rate for 2004 releases, but was also slightly higher than the Billerica three-year reincarceration rate (36%) for 2004 releases.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As the team in charge of the research for this project, most of our recommendations are designed to make future recidivism research less labor intensive and less expensive. Much of the data collected and used over the course of this project had been collected for administrative purposes. Understandably, these data were not always in a format conducive to research. Some fairly simple modifications to the Prison Tracking system would facilitate future research. Recognizing that the MSO and BHOC staff might not be in a position to make all of these changes at once, we have listed them in order of priority so that the changes to the system could be made in increments.

1. ***Modify the release type field to more specifically indicate the type of release.*** A fairly substantial number of those who were coded as “end of sentence” releases were not actually released to the streets, but rather they were released to other authorities or released to another sentence. Because these distinctions were noted in a free-form text field, it was impossible to sample so that only those released to the streets were included. Perhaps the end of sentence option could have more specific indicators such as end of sentence to: streets, another sentence, WMS, authorities, etc... Ideally just one field would allow a person to determine whether an inmate had actually been released.
2. ***Create a programming screen that would allow program participation and completion to be tracked.*** Throughout this report, we used proxies for program participation and completion because there was nothing in the prison tracking data that would allow one to know for sure whether somebody had participated in or completed treatment. We had to assume that an assignment to a particular unit was indicative of program participation and having spent a certain amount of time on the unit was indicative of completion
3. ***More clearly distinguish jail and parole admissions from sentenced admissions.*** Jail is not one of the commitment types in the prison tracking system (jail admissions can only be identified by a ‘J’ at the end of the inmate’s institutional number). Parole commitments (which can be identified by an ‘a, b, or c’ at the end of the inmate’s institutional number) are not consistently identified as such in the MSO Commitment Type field.
4. ***Minimize the use of free-form text fields in the prison tracking system.*** A number of the text fields currently in use could be converted to dropdown menus to minimize confusion and data entry errors. All free-form text fields should be converted except for those that require the person entering data enter substantive notes of some sort. Codes for arresting agencies, offense types, and other fields that currently require text could be converted.

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Middlesex Sheriff's Office Recidivism Study**

In May 2008, the Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research at Northeastern University was awarded a grant from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) to conduct a study of recidivism among inmates released from the Middlesex House of Correction at Billerica. Assistant Professor Natasha Frost served as the Principal Investigator for the project, with research assistance provided by two Northeastern University doctoral students (Carlos Monteiro and Garrett Warfield) and two undergraduate students (Desmond Ryan and Alison Oliff). The MSO project involved (1) developing profiles of all inmates released from the facility annually between 1994 and 2007 (submitted as an interim report in January 2009); (2) conducting a comprehensive recidivism study that would establish recidivism rates for samples of inmates released from the facility in 1994, 2004, and 2007; and (3) delivering a platform for ongoing recidivism research.

The Middlesex House of Correction at Billerica was recently transformed through a major renovation and modernization project (completed in the Fall of 2006). The structural expansion and renovation was accompanied by a substantial change in correctional orientation. The new facility utilizes a modern podular design with two of the four new pods specifically dedicated to providing intensive rehabilitative programming and services. Using the LSI for classification, inmates identified as high-risk for reoffending are targeted for the most intensive intervention. Some of the inmates released in 2007 will have been through the intensive treatment regiment in place at the new House of Correction at Billerica. The research team will provide the Sheriff's Office with some early program outcomes and will offer recommendations based on the findings.

Middlesex Sheriff James V. DiPaola and Assistant Superintendent Sean McAdam worked closely with the research team. Sheriff DiPaola initiated this project with Northeastern University in order to gain a more in depth understanding of the offender population under his care. The Middlesex Sheriff's Office takes a holistic approach to offender management, looking at an offender's attributes and lifestyle in order to change behavior and prevent repeat criminal activity. The recidivism project aimed to assess and compare recidivism rates across cohorts released before and after the major structural and programming changes.

The research team submitted the interim report, *Profile of Inmates Released from the Billerica House of Correction, 1994-2007*, in January 2009 (the interim report is also included at the end of this final report). Results from the comprehensive recidivism study are documented in this report and the database used to collect and analyze the recidivism data reported in this study has been delivered to the MSO to allow for further analysis and future replication.

## THE CONTEXT

The vast majority of all prisoners currently incarcerated across the United States will eventually leave prisons and jails and return to communities (Travis, 2005). Many of these prisoners will return to the very communities from which they came. The term prisoner reentry is generally used to refer to the process of returning home after a prison stay. Those who are thinking about the challenges of prisoner reentry are concerned with making this transition from prison to the community as successful as possible (Frost, 2009).

Ex-offenders represent potential risks to communities upon their return from correctional facilities. The reduction of these risks is typically a core concern of correctional administrators. From the perspective of those charged with running correctional facilities, a successful transition typically means that the offender poses a reduced risk of re-offending. As a result, one of the principal ways in which administrators gauge their success is through comprehensive analyses of inmate recidivism rates.

The national data cited above focus on those offenders who served sentences of more than one year before release from state correctional facilities. Offenders released from state prisons might be quite different from inmates released from county correctional facilities. Inmates housed in county houses of correction, such as the Billerica House of Correction, are typically sentenced to serve no more than two and a half years. Most are in custody for misdemeanors and less serious felony offenses.

Massachusetts operates on a different model than most other states. In Massachusetts, counties operate jail facilities primarily for pretrial detainees and houses of correction for offenders sentenced to up to two and half years of incarceration. The state Department of Corrections operates the state prisons which typically house inmates sentenced to more than two and half years of incarceration.

Reports on prisoner reentry in Massachusetts highlight the importance of studying the reentry of and recidivism among house of correction inmates. A recent Urban Institute report documents that more than 90% of inmates returning to communities in Massachusetts return from a sentence to one of the county houses of correction (Brookes et al., 2005). A recent Massachusetts recidivism study, which defined recidivism as reincarceration, found a rate of approximately 53% among inmates released from the Suffolk County House of Correction - the window for recidivism in that study was 11 months (Massachusetts Sentencing Commission, 2002). Although this rate is comparable to that found in a national study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, according to this study, fewer inmates returned to custody in Massachusetts were returned for technical violations (just 7% of all those reincarcerated).

## **Incarcerated Populations and Reentry**

### ***Prison Inmates***

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' recently published midyear report (West & Sabol, 2009, March) there were 1,525,428 inmates held in custody under the jurisdiction of state (1,327,026) and federal (198,402) prisons on June 30, 2008. This indicated a 15.76% increase in the total prison population since yearend 2000. However, these numbers only reflected a 0.8% increase since yearend 2007, which was actually lower than the average total annual growth (2.0%) since 2000.

### ***Jail Inmates***

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (Minton & Sabol, 2009, March) further reported the total number of inmates confined in jails at midyear 2008 as 785,556. This indicated a 10.4% increase in the total jail population since midyear 2000. However, these numbers only reflected a 0.7% increase since midyear 2007, which was actually lower than the average total annual growth (3.3%) since 2000. There were an additional 72,852 persons supervised outside of jail facilities at midyear 2008, including but not limited to electronic monitoring, home and pretrial detention but excluding parole/probation.

### ***Demographics of Total Populations***

Of the estimated 2,310,984 inmates held in prisons (1,525,428) and jails (785,556) at midyear 2008, 2,103,500 were males. The male incarcerated population was comprised of 712,500 (33.9%) White inmates, 846,000 (40.2%) Black inmates, and 427,000 (20.3%) Hispanic inmates. The remaining 207,700 inmates were female. Among the female inmates, 94,500 (45.5%) were White, 67,800 (32.6%) were Black, and 33,400 (16.1%) were Hispanic. The majority of male offenders (16.9%) were aged 25-29 years old, whereas the majority of female offenders (18.7%) were aged 35-39 years old.

### ***Reentry Trends***

The most recent report conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (Hughes & Wilson, 2003, August) on reentry trends in the United States estimated that at least 95% of all state prisoners would be released from prison at some point with nearly 80% released to parole supervision. Furthermore, where the total prison population increased 5.3% per year from 1990 to 2001, state parole populations only increased 2.4%, suggesting an overall increase in lengths of stay during incarceration and changes in parole release policies. By yearend 2002 there were 670,169 adults under state parole supervision nationwide.

## **Incarcerated Populations and Reentry in Massachusetts**

Inmates under the jurisdiction of state and federal prisons within Massachusetts totaled 11,662 (850 females and 10,812 males) on June 30, 2008, reflecting an 8.8% increase since yearend 2000 (West & Sabol, 2009, March). Considering all incarcerated populations, Massachusetts has an imprisonment rate of 252 prisoners sentenced to more than one year per 100,000 U.S. residents. This rate includes an estimated 6,200 male prisoners sentenced to more than one year but detained in local jails or houses of correction. Furthermore, with

2,990 inmates incarcerated at midyear 2008, Massachusetts' Suffolk County stands as the 43<sup>rd</sup> largest local jail jurisdiction in the United States (Minton & Sabol, 2009, March).

An executive summary from the Boston Crime and Justice Institute (Martin & Roberts, 2004, June) reported that more than 20,000 inmates are released to Massachusetts' towns and cities each year. Of those released in 2002, 72% of state prisoners in high- or medium-security facilities and 83% of maximum security inmates in state prisons went straight to communities without supervision. Furthermore, Martin and Roberts (2004, June) noted that in 2004, it was estimated Massachusetts State spent more money on prisons and jails than on education. Clearly, prisoner reentry is a concern felt keenly nationwide and within local state and municipal districts.

### ***Correctional Practices***

Recent policy recommendations (e.g., Martin & Roberts, 2004, June) highlight the importance of risk assessment, targeted programming and reentry planning in reducing recidivism. It is estimated that the Massachusetts Department of Corrections assesses all inmates upon intake toward creating individual plans based upon risk factors, but only about 60% of inmates actually complete risk plans. Additionally, the current classification often over-classifies inmates to higher-levels of security, which makes them ineligible for programs. With this limitation in mind, it is crucial that correctional agencies statewide adopt and implement the principles of evidence-based correctional practice. Validated risk assessment tools (e.g., the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, LSCMI; Andrews, Bonta, & Wormith, 2004) must be utilized toward identifying the highest-risk offenders at intake, identifying criminogenic needs (e.g., substance abuse, mental illness, lack of education) and learning styles, and targeting these inmates for enrollment in effective programs (e.g., cognitive-behavioral). Adherence to these principles throughout the state of Massachusetts would promote reductions in recidivism and effective prisoner reentry demonstrated nationwide and abroad (Andrews & Bonta, 2006; Vose, Cullen, & Smith, 2008).

Institutional programming may serve to decrease these high recidivism rates witnessed statewide. Unfortunately, the Rappaport Institute released a paper stating that recent statewide trends indicate that fewer Massachusetts inmates are participating in pre-release programs statewide than in previous years (Piehl, 2005, Feb.). However, a more recent study by the Urban Institute sampled 178 Massachusetts Department of Correction inmates and concluded that 96% of respondents participated in some type of in-prison programming and 76% received transitional assistance to prepare them for release (Brooks et al., 2008, April). It is important to note that a majority (77%) of the inmates in this study reported program that participation as Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous (AA or NA). AA and NA are faith-based interventions that do not necessarily adhere to the recommended principles of cognitive-behavioral programming. The statewide prevalence of targeted, principled interventions with demonstrated empirical support remains unclear.



### ***Unique Institutions: Houses of Correction***

Massachusetts' offender management institutions are unique compared to most other states and they deserve further consideration beyond national reports on populations in custody and recidivism, which typically study state prisoners with sentences greater than one year. County-operated jails in Massachusetts typically hold pretrial detainees, while federal and state prisons detain inmates with sentences for more than two-and-a-half years. Houses of correction (HOC) are managed by local sheriff's offices and are intended to hold offenders sentenced to up to two-and-a-half years. HOC inmates are generally serving sentences for nonviolent offenses but substance use problems and extensive criminal histories are quite throughout the inmate population.

The thirteen HOC in Massachusetts are unique institutional environments that often have been overlooked within nationwide statistics. An Urban Institute study that did include Massachusetts HOC inmates reported that these facilities detained 7,801 sentenced offenders and 5,371 pretrial detainees in 2003 (Brooks, et al., 2005). Among all HOC inmates, personal, drug, and property crimes were the most common conviction offenses. More research is needed to investigate the legal and extralegal characteristics of Massachusetts HOC detainees, as well as to track their program participation and rates of recidivism upon release.

### **Research on Recidivism**

Two major Bureau of Justice Statistics studies provide America's best estimates of recidivism rates nationwide. The earliest investigation (Beck & Shipley, 1989, April) followed 16,000 inmates released from prisons in 11 states in 1983.<sup>1</sup> Results from this sample were used to estimate recidivism rates among all 108,580 prisoners (94.1% male; 5.9% female) released from these 11 states in 1983. The total released population was comprised of 54.1% White, 45.1% Black, and 0.8% prisoners of an unspecified racial category. Released state prisoners had a mean of 8.4 prior arrests and 67.1% of the sample had at least one prior incarceration. Within three years, it was estimated that 62.5% of released prisoners were rearrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor, 46.8% were reconvicted, and 41.4% were reincarcerated within prison or jail. Approximately 22.7% of the total sample was rearrested for violent offenses. Rearrest rates grew highest in the first year after release (from 0 to 40%), whereas reconviction (from 23 to 38%) and reincarceration (from 19 to 33%) grew highest from the first to the second year.

In a more recent recidivism study, Langan and Levin (2002) tracked 272,111 inmates (91.3% male; 8.7% female) released from 15 states in 1994.<sup>2</sup> The total released

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<sup>1</sup> The eleven states included in 1983 BJS recidivism study were: California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas (Beck and Shipley, 1989).

<sup>2</sup> The fifteen states included in the 1994 BJS recidivism study were: Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia (Langan and Levin, 2002).

population was comprised of 50.4% White, 48.5% Black, 1.1% of an unspecified racial category, and 24.5% prisoners of an Hispanic origin. Although the released prisoners had a mean sentence length of nearly five years, they had served an average of about 20 months before release. A majority of the population had at least one prior arrest (93.1%), prior conviction (81.4%), or incarceration (43.6%). Within three years, it was estimated that 67.5% of prisoners were rearrested, 46.9% were reconvicted, 25.4% were resentenced to prison, and 51.8% were ultimately reincarcerated (on either a new prison sentence or on a technical violation of the conditions of their release). Released populations with the highest rearrest rates were motor vehicle thieves (78.8%) and purveyors of stolen property (77.4%), whereas the lowest rearrest rates were for homicide (40.7%) and sexual assault (41.4%). Rearrest (from 0 to 44.1%), reconviction (from 0 to 21.5%), and returns (from 0 to 10.4%) to prison for a new sentence all grew highest in the first year after release.

## **Research on Recidivism in Massachusetts**

To date, there are three major published studies that have specifically investigated prisoner reentry or recidivism within Massachusetts that utilized (at least in part) data collected from county houses of correction. In the following sections, these studies' findings are reviewed.

### ***Massachusetts Sentencing Commission (2002, June)***

The Massachusetts Sentencing Commission (2002, June) conducted the first major study of recidivism in the state comparing recidivism across different groups of criminal justice system involved offenders. In this cooperative study, the Commission partnered with criminal justice agencies statewide toward gathering data on 3,751 offenders released between April and June 2000. The Massachusetts Department of Corrections (DOC) contributed 705 (18.8%) releases to the sample; six participating county houses of correction (Franklin, Hampden, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester) provided data on 2,396 (63.9%) releases; the State Parole Board sampled 776 (20.7%) offenders released from state and local institutions; community correction centers provided data on 323 persons (8.6%); and drug courts contributed data on 76 (2%) offenders. Sampled participants were separated into six cohorts based upon the agency from which they were drawn and their type of release (discharge versus parole). Released offenders were followed for one year after release.

The Sentencing Commission operationalized recidivism as either a new arrest (new offense) or a technical violation leading to incarceration up to one year after release from previous incarceration (parole violation). The authors estimated rates of recidivism to be 49.1% (44.5% of the sample had a new arrest and 4.6% of the sample had technical violations).

Among the 1,688 recidivists, there were 784 (20.9%) charged with a felony and 884 (23.6%) charged with a misdemeanor. Overall, rates of recidivism were higher for those inmates released from higher-security facilities (53.1%) than lower-security facilities.

The Massachusetts Sentencing Commission study demonstrated that recidivism rates among inmates released from state prisons are actually substantially lower than recidivism rates among inmates released from houses of corrections. In the Sentencing Commission study, 32% of those released from state prisons were rearrested within one year while 47% of those released from house of correction were rearrested within one year.

Offenders sampled from community corrections centers and drug courts who completed programming recidivated at lower rates than those who ended programs prematurely. However, offenders who were still participating in drug court programs at the end of one-year follow-up recidivated at even lower rates than those who had already completed the program.

Younger offenders recidivated at much higher rates than older offenders. In the Sentencing Commission study, 61.5% of the offenders under age 20 recidivated. By comparison 44.2% of those aged 30 and over recidivated. Lastly, the Commission calculated relative risk levels using released prisoners' criminal histories (based upon number of adjudications and offense types), and found that participants with less severe criminal histories recidivated at lower rates than those with more extensive criminal histories.

### ***Urban Institute (2005, March)***

Following the release of the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission report in 2002, the Urban Institute published a paper on prisoner reentry trends in Massachusetts (Brooks et al., 2005, March). The Urban Institute report used data from Massachusetts' state prisons, Department of Youth Services (DYS), and the Suffolk County HOC.

Among the 2,526 prisoners released from state prisons in 2002 (mean age=34.6 years; 72% male; 54% White), one-third were released to parole supervision and more than 35% were subject to probation supervision. Over one-third of adult prisoners were incarcerated in Suffolk and Worcester counties, and a majority of those released returned to a few Boston neighborhoods characterized by high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Lastly, this study reported on all 2,046 inmates released from the Suffolk County HOC in 2002 (mean age=33.2 years; 90% male; 54% Black). Only about 25% of the inmates were released under conditions of parole supervision, as well as a small number of inmates who were subjected to probation due to split sentences. Upon their return, these former HOC inmates primarily returned to Boston but were more dispersed throughout Suffolk County compared to state prisoners and DYS juveniles.

### ***Urban Institute (2008, April)***

Three years after its initial publication on reentry, the Urban Institute published a second paper reporting on the characteristics of reincarcerated offenders in Massachusetts

(Brooks, et al., 2008, April). The authors were partly motivated by the threefold increase in the state adult prison population and the more than twofold increase in the number of releases to communities since 1980.

The study included 178 offenders (mean age=35; 53% White) sampled who had been released from Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) facilities but returned to the DOC within three years. Data was collected through one-on-one interviews conducted with these released offenders between July 2006 and June 2007. The sample consisted of 83 (46.6%) technical violators, 46 (25.8%) new crime parole violators, and 49 (27.5%) offenders who committed new crimes but were not on parole.

Participation in institutional programming was very common among prisoners (96%) and more than half of all respondents reported that they received their GED during their last incarceration in a DOC facility. Over three-quarters of the sample reported that they had some form of transitional assistance (e.g., workshops or one-on-one counseling) that started three months before release for more than half the sample. Transitional assistance, offered via workshops and one-on-one counseling, included assistance gaining access to healthcare and substance abuse treatment after release and finding housing/employment. On average, it took respondents about one year to return to work with over three-quarters of the sample gaining employment between their release and reincarceration.

Approximately one-third of the respondents were rearrested for property crimes, while another 18% were rearrested for personal and 17% for drug-related crimes. The average time spent in the community before rearrest was one year, but those who committed new crimes, regardless of supervision, spent more time in the community than technical or parole violators. It is important to note that differences in sentencing practices may influence this time disparity between groups. Parole and technical violators are reincarcerated almost immediately, whereas new crime offenders must be tried, convicted and sentenced. Almost all respondents who were paroled from their last incarceration were still under supervision when they were reincarcerated (96%). The two most common triggers of parole revocation were failed drug tests and failure to report to parole officers.

The authors concluded this report with recommendations from offenders on the ways in which they would have been better prepared for reentry. Respondents reported that the most difficult challenges after release were finding employment (20%), staying away from crime (20%), and not relapsing into substance abuse (19%). Almost half (44%) of all participants reported that they did not use any post-release assistance programs, but job training was ranked as the service that would have been most helpful during release. Respondents also reflected on in-prison services and reported that job-related training and lower-security step-down prerelease programs would be most beneficial before their next release. Finally, looking ahead respondents projected that they would need job training as well as substance abuse counseling after their next release.

## THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION

In November 2006, the Billerica House of Correction (BHOC) underwent massive structural changes and substantial programmatic development. After several years of construction and expansion due to population growth, four permanent podular units were added. These podular units were designed for a new program-focused institutional model. Each pod is capable of holding approximately 126 inmates and serves a specific purpose in the programming model:

- Pod D: The intake and orientation unit where inmates are introduced to the facility's rules, regulations, and opportunities for program placement. Inmates are evaluated and classified for programming while in this unit;
- Pod A: This intensive programming unit houses the Stepping Into Recovery (SIR) program, which is run by contracted staff members from an independent Boston-based offender programming initiative<sup>3</sup>;
- Pod B: a supplementary programming unit that includes an array of programs including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, educational and vocational training, and gang intervention programming run by Project Footprints;<sup>4</sup> and
- Pod C: a general population unit. Inmates in this unit have access to the culinary arts program and limited access to programs offered in the supplementary programming pod.

### Orientation & Classification Processes

All inmates with sentences that are longer than 60 days are evaluated and classified. Typically, inmates spend approximately thirty days in the orientation/intake pod. The orientation and classification period allows time for risk evaluation, education and individual needs assessment, individual meetings with case management staff, and classification hearings where inmates are informed as to where they will be serving their sentences. After the orientation period, inmates are assigned to one of the podular units or to an area in the tiered building. The tiered building is usually reserved for general population inmates, special population (segregation, protective custody, etc) inmates, and pretrial detainees.

Inmates sentenced to fewer than 60 days do not complete risk evaluation and classification. These inmates' relatively brief sentences do not allow for the time and resources necessary for full evaluation and classification processes. After orientation, these inmates are sent to either the general population pod or tiered-building.

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<sup>3</sup> STEP Inc.: <http://www.stepboston.org/services.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.projectfootprints.com/about/biography.html>

Those inmates who are classified to the program-intensive pod are expected to complete 90 full days in programming. Inmates who commit a disciplinary infraction during the SIR program are removed from the program for a period of up to ten days and placed in segregation. Inmates removed for disciplinary reasons are sometimes returned to the SIR program, but they lose credit for the days they already completed and must restart the program (at day zero). This ensures that every inmate classified to the program will not miss programming while in segregation and will complete all modules of the full 90-day curriculum.

### **Reentry Process**

Reentry efforts at Billerica House of Correction begin long before time of release. The reentry process begins during assessment and classification, upon which time, inmates are evaluated and assigned accordingly, based on the LSCMI recommendations. Captain Rourke supervises many of these efforts, which includes coordinated support from a host of agencies and resources both inside and outside the facility. The Reintegration office at Billerica House of Correction is responsible for finding goods, resources, and services that caseworkers and managers need when helping inmates prepare for return to the community. The number of services offered to inmates range from things as basic as providing street clothes and transportation to referrals and aid in obtaining housing and employment upon release. Each inmate at the facility is assigned a case manager who is responsible for release preparations, and facilitates the reentry process upon release. Case managers identify agencies in the community (i.e. halfway houses, treatment centers, work centers etc.) and cultivates relationships with these agencies to provide a continued flow of services and supervision for recently released inmates.

## **PROGRAMS AT THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION**

### **Step into Recovery (SIR)**

Step into Recovery (SIR) is an onsite group counseling initiative provided by Step Inc. STEP Inc offers various services targeting the needs of individuals struggling with substance abuse and lifestyle transitions. Although STEP Inc offers a host of services, the SIR Program offered at Billerica House of Correction focuses specifically on recovery and addiction related problems. The program follows a 90 day textbook curriculum, with the goal that each 90 minute session covers different modules dealing with negative behaviors (i.e. compulsive behavior and isolation) and coping mechanisms for such behaviors (i.e. positive thinking and reflection). The 90 day schedule ensures allows for all inmates assigned to programming to pass through all required modules of the SIR program. These modules are offered in cycles such that any inmate assigned to the SIR Program will cover all of the modules in the curriculum during their typical 90-day stay in the programming intensive pod. Sessions are facilitated by onsite STEP Inc trained representatives who work closely with inmates and other staff members (i.e. case managers and other treatment specialists) to ensure successful programming needs.

### **Culinary Arts Program**

The Culinary Arts program is one of the more popular and most selective programs at the Billerica House of Correction. The program, which has been in place since 2006, features small class sizes with only 15 inmates in each class and a number of inmates on a waiting list. Inmates must meet the required classification requirements before being selected for the program. The selected inmates are trained in a full kitchen by a professional chef, who ensures that inmates leave the program with the necessary skills to work in a professional setting. The program is run like a restaurant, with inmates learning skills related to food preparation and service. In coordination with the director of the Culinary Arts program, inmates prepare an assortment of dishes each week that are featured daily in the staff cafeteria. The program has a 98% graduation rate over the past two years, and upon graduation the inmates are awarded a Servsafe certification. The main objective of the program is to provide inmates with the necessary skills and training needed to leave prison and be successful.

### **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) / Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**

The Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous (AA & NA) program at the BHOC follow the standard meeting format based on the traditional 12 steps. AA/NA is most commonly offered program at the facility, with availability for all inmates interested in participating. The meetings operate in the same manner as traditional AA/NA group format, with coordination from community volunteers, some of which are formerly convicted offenders that come into the facility and help inmates address their substance abuse, and discuss strategies for overcoming substance dependency issues. Meetings are held in the programming pods and in the main building (general population) to ensure that inmates in all of the units have access to these services. The timing and frequency of the meetings depend on the unit, but they range from twice a day/every day to once a week. The participating inmates learn and follow the 12 steps in a peer group format.

## **Education**

The education component at the Billerica House of Correction is primarily focused on helping those inmates who have not completed their high school education to earn their GED. The facility has a number of resources and services to ensure that inmates are able to make progress towards the GED. The facility contracts over 13 full time/part time instructors that focus mainly on reading, writing, and mathematics. Moreover, the facility also has special education and ESL instructors for inmates that need such service. There is no formal entry point in the program, instead, inmates are given the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) and the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to assess each inmate's initial grade level and determine the appropriate class. Class sizes range from 10-15 inmates per instructor. The education component caters to each individual inmate, with the hopes of providing each inmate help in the areas where he may need it most. Instructors track inmate progress and help inmates prepare for the GED test, which is offered every 8 weeks. Upon completing the GED, inmates are again given the TABE test. Inmates who have completed their high school education are able to participate in college level certificate programs offered through Middlesex Community College, however, this is a fairly new initiative with only limited types of programs offered.

## **Victim Impact**

The victim impact panel is curriculum-based, and goes over the impact that various crimes have on both the victims and the community at large (the ripple effect). It attempts to show inmates the sweeping impact of crime, and includes videos/guest appearances of actual victims discussing the impact of crime on their lives. The Victim Impact program is offered weekly in the programming pods. The program is offered to about 15 inmates per class and runs for about 90 minutes each class. Program facilitators follow a class format with group discussions and guest lecturers.

## **Houses of Healing**

Houses of Healing is a 10 week program run by Carol Peers, and uses the book "Houses of Healing" by Robin Caserjian as its main resource. Houses of Healing is a book designed to help prisoners deal with many of the issues they are/will be confronted with throughout their stay in prison, as well as the overall rehabilitation process. Houses of Healing sessions are held weekly in Pods A & B.

## **Project Footprints**

Project Footprints is a gang intervention program run by Andre Norman of Footprints, Inc. Although there is a focus on gangs, Andre Norman, who runs the program, placed greater emphasis on helping inmates change their lifestyles upon release. Andre Norman came to BHOC for one week of every month and worked with select inmates within the facility. Many of these inmates were involved in gangs before becoming incarcerated and were selected for the program because of their gang involvement. Although recently discontinued, the Footprints program was formerly offered in Pods B & D and in the Community Work and Work Release Programs.



### **Cognitive Life Skills**

Cognitive Life Skills is a weekly class run that uses several different books for delivering its core curriculum, including the book *Stages of Change*. The cognitive life skills program is offered in Pod B.

### **Living Sober**

Living Sober is a weekly program run by case managers. It follows a manual and runs for 6 weeks at a time. The program deals with the many issues inmates must face when confronted with living life without the dependency on narcotics or alcohol. Inmates meet in group and discuss some of the challenges they have faced as a result of their dependency and discuss strategies for living a sober life. Living sober is offered in Pod B.

### **Relapse Prevention**

Relapse prevention is offered in both a group setting, and in 1-on-1 meetings. It focuses on the difficulties inmates face in preventing relapse both inside and outside of the house of correction. Relapse prevention is offered in Pods B & D

### **Purpose Driven Life**

The Purpose Driven life program is held weekly and runs for 90 minutes. The program places emphasis on changing negative lifestyles and helping inmates establish goals and objectives during and after their period of incarceration. The program is run by case managers with assistance from community volunteers and is offered in Pod B.

### **Smart Recovery**

Smart Recovery is a cognitive program that is taught in all units, with a range of meeting times. It focuses on allowing the inmate to effectively make his recovery and rehabilitate himself. Although following some of the guidelines of AA/NA, Smart Recovery has a broader focus in that it helps inmates recover from all types of addictive behaviors including alcoholism, drug/substance abuse, and gambling. The program teaches inmates about self empowerment, self control, and offers inmates strategies for coping with certain negative behaviors. Inmates also learn how to build a new person, focused on change and positive behaviors.

### **Violence Awareness**

Violence Awareness is an ongoing group run by case managers and case workers. It attempts to raise the inmates' awareness with regards to the negative effects of violence. Violence awareness is occasionally paired with the PTSD program and is offered in Pods C&D and the CWP unit.

### **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

The PTSD program specifically targets military veterans with PTSD, but is open to any inmate who wishes to attend. The goal of the group is to help inmates with PTSD deal with the condition. It is a weekly class offered in Pod C and in Tiers E & F.

### **Spiritual Values**

Spiritual Values is a weekly, curriculum-based program offered in Pod B.

**Parenting**

Parenting is a biweekly class offered in Pods A & B which focuses on the ways inmates can maximize the effectiveness of their parenting while still in prison.

**Suicide Prevention**

Suicide prevention is run by case workers, and it is used to discuss potential signs of suicide risks, what to do if feeling suicidal, what to do if someone is acting suicidal, and how to prevent suicide from occurring. The suicide prevention program is offered in all units.

**Domestic Violence**

The Domestic Violence initiative is a 6-8 week program geared towards offenders who may have some past issues with domestic violence. The program is run by two facilitators who follow a class format led by group discussions and case analysis. Inmates are encouraged to bring in their own real life experience of an incident and urged to discuss with the class why and how violence became a factor. Facilitators then help inmates walk through different strategies for resolving domestic conflicts without a violent resolution.

**Life Boat Program**

About 70 inmates participate in the Life Boat Program. It is run by the New England Prison Ministries Mentoring Program. Volunteers from the community help inmates by regularly visiting them, and corresponding with them by mail frequently. They also usually help inmates get on their feet upon release from BHOC.

## **THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION RECIDIVISM STUDY**

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office provided electronic records for all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction (BHOC) between 1994 and 2007. These data, which are maintained in the prison tracking system, are collected for administrative purposes. Because they are largely collected for administrative purposes, the data are not always organized in a way that facilitates research. Throughout the course of this project, the research team worked with Assistant Superintendent Sean McAdam and in doing so communicated ways in which the prison tracking system might be enhanced to improve its utility for both administration and research. This report concludes with a series of recommendations that would enable more comprehensive and precise measures of recidivism.

An interim report using data for all releases from the BHOC summarized release patterns annually (for every year between 1994 and 2007) and examined release trends over time (between 1994 and 2007).

Data from calendar-years 1994, 2004, and 2007 were used to conduct a more comprehensive recidivism study. Collection of release data across three points in time allowed for the study of time-to-recidivism using both one-year and three-year windows for recidivism and allowed for the study of changes in recidivism rates across the two release cohorts (spaced ten years apart). These years (1994 and 2004) were selected to allow for a three year time-to-recidivism window. Three-year windows for recidivism are standard and customary for this type of study and are used in national and state studies of inmate recidivism. Although most released inmates who reoffend will do so in the first year following release, it can take some time to process offenders through the criminal justice system and therefore a three-year window for recidivism is more reliable (particularly when recidivism is measured as reconviction or reincarceration as it is in the present study).

Due to some fairly substantial structural and programmatic changes at the facility, we also conducted a one-year recidivism analysis for inmates released more recently in 2007.

The recidivism study is intended to provide a more comprehensive assessment of inmate outcomes after release from custody. Although we initially proposed a stratified random sampling strategy, the prison tracking data were not organized in manner that would allow us to stratify and so simple random samples were drawn.

Random samples of 400 subjects were drawn from the population of all inmates released from custody in 1994, 2004, and 2007. Because we have data for the entire population of releases in each of those years, we were able to compare the sample and the population on key variables and thereby assess the representativeness of our sample. As would be expected given it was a simple random sample, the 400 sampled inmates in each of the three release cohorts are highly representative of all inmates released in those same years (see the Table below).

## **SAMPLE SELECTION**

As mentioned above, a total of 1,200 inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction across three years (1994, 2004, and 2007) were sampled for potential inclusion in the recidivism analysis. The released population files included 2,797 releases in 1994, 2,455 releases in 2004 and, 2,325 releases in 2007. From the total number of releases in each of these years we drew three simple random samples of 400 inmates (N=1,200 total across the three cohorts). These samples were found to be highly representative of the larger population. No significant differences on key demographics (e.g. age, race, marital status) and legal variables (e.g., sentence length, offense types) were found between sample and the wider HOC population (see Appendix I for a direct comparison of the samples and populations).

## Descriptives: Full Sample by Year

	1994 Releases (n=400)	2004 Releases (n=400)	2007 Releases (n=400)
	%	%	%
<b>Race</b>			
<i>White</i>	71%	63%	64%
<i>Black</i>	16%	17%	14%
<i>Hispanic</i>	13%	17%	19%
<i>Other</i>	1%	3%	2%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	1%	1%
<b>Age at Release</b>			
<i>Age 25 and Under</i>	27%	32%	26%
<i>26 – 35</i>	44%	28%	30%
<i>36 – 45</i>	24%	29%	27%
<i>Over Age 45</i>	5%	12%	17%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	0%	0%
<b>Substance Abuse</b>			
<i>None</i>	68%	36%	28%
<i>Alcohol</i>	9%	14%	11%
<i>Drugs</i>	2%	12%	12%
<i>Both</i>	20%	39%	49%
<b>Offense Type</b>			
<i>Personal</i>	51%	34%	46%
<i>Property</i>	16%	24%	17%
<i>Drug</i>	32%	23%	29%
<i>Sex</i>	1%	2%	3%
<i>Other</i>	1%	19%	6%
<b>Sentence Length</b>			
<i>0 Days</i>	1%	0%	0%
<i>1 – 30 Days</i>	27%	13%	14%
<i>31 – 60 Days</i>	7%	10%	10%
<i>61 – 90 Days</i>	7%	10%	8%
<i>91 – 180 Days</i>	16%	19%	25%
<i>181 – 365 Days</i>	17%	22%	20%
<i>366 – 730 Days</i>	17%	18%	16%
<i>More than 731 Days</i>	6%	9%	8%

## **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM COMPLETION**

There is no easy way to track participation in treatment programs using the prison tracking data. Indeed, one of our most important recommendations is that the treatment staff at BHOC develops a system to more comprehensively track program participation and completion. It is our understanding that the development of such a system is already underway.

Although there was no way to definitively track program participation in treatment, the research team worked with the BHOC to develop proxy measures for program participation and for program completion. Due to physical and structural changes at the facility, the criteria for program participation and completion were year dependent. The primary criterion was assignment to parts of the facility that involve more intensive programming. To that end, prison tracking assignment data were coded for the number of days spent in various parts of the facility. Classifications were also used.

### **1994 Releases**

In consultation with the BHOC staff, it was decided that we would not distinguish a treatment group for inmates released in 1994. In 1994, programs were not consistently offered and relatively few inmates had any access to programs designed to either rehabilitate or to ease the transition back to the community. Even when offered, programs were not necessarily confined in particular units. The Billerica staff concluded that there were no criteria that could serve as a proxy for program participation or program completion in this cohort of releases.

### **2004 Releases**

For inmates released in 2004, it was agreed that those who had spent at least one day in MOD2 had participated in programming and that those who had spent at least 90 days in MOD2 had likely completed programming. A third measure combining classification status (having an "8" in the classification screen – which signifies assignment to a treatment unit at classification) with time spent in MOD2 was used to create the most stringent criteria for program participation and completion. It was assumed that those who met both criteria had almost certainly participated in or completed treatment. In other words, an inmate who was classified to treatment and had spent at least one day in MOD2 had almost certainly participated in programming. Similarly, an inmate who was classified to treatment and who had spent at least 90 days in MOD2 had almost certainly completed programming. The recidivism analyses that follow include analyses broken down by the more liberal measure of program participation and program completion and then distinguish treatment groups (those who met the more stringent criteria).

## 2007 Releases

Most of the inmates released in 2007 had been admitted after the major renovation had been completed, but some were there for the transition. Therefore, for inmates released in 2007, it was agreed that those who had spent at least one day in either MOD2 or in Pods A & B had participated in programming and that those who had spent at least 90 days in MOD2 or in Pods A & B had likely completed programming. A third measure combining classification status (having an “8” in the classification screen – which signifies assignment to a treatment unit at classification) with time spent in MOD2 or Pods A & B was used to create the most stringent criteria for program participation and completion. It was assumed that those who met both criteria had almost certainly participated in or completed treatment. In other words, an inmate who was classified to treatment and had spent at least one day in MOD2 or in Pods A & B had almost certainly participated in programming. Similarly, an inmate who was classified to treatment and who had spent at least 90 days in MOD2 or in Pods A & B had almost certainly completed programming. The recidivism analyses that follow include analyses broken down by the more liberal measure of program participation and program completion and then distinguish treatment groups (those who met the more stringent criteria).

### PROGRAM PARTICIPATION 2004

The first table below summarizes program participation for the full sample of 400 inmates released in 2004. The second table summarizes program participation for those inmates who were released in 2004 following sentences of more than 90 days (only those inmates who serve at least 90 days can realistically complete treatment).

#### Program Participation – 2004 Full Sample (n = 400)

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2004</b>	29%	25%	19%

Upon analysis of the data, we found that 114 of the 400 released inmates sampled (29%) had ever spent time in MOD2 (defined as having spent at least one day in MOD2). 101 inmates released in 2004 (25%) had an 8 in the treatment area of the classification screen, but only 76 (or 19%) met both of these criteria (in other words there were inmates who

spent time in MOD2 who did not have an “8” in the classification screen and there were inmates with an “8” in the classification screen who never spent a day in MOD2).

**Program Participation – 2004 Releases Sentenced to at least 90 Days  
(n = 269)**

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2004</b>	42%	38%	28%

As might be expected only inmates sentenced to 90 days or more were classified to treatment or spent any time in a treatment unit. Among this relevant subset of the sample, 42% spent at least one day in a treatment unit, 38% were classified to treatment, and just over 28% met both treatment criteria.

**PROGRAM PARTICIPATION 2007**

The first table below summarizes program participation for the full sample of 400 inmates released in 2007. The second table summarizes program participation for those inmates who were released in 2007 following sentences of more than 90 days (only those inmates who serve at least 90 days can realistically complete treatment at BHOC).

**Program Participation – 2007 Full Sample (n = 400)**

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2007</b>	39%	24%	21%

Upon analysis of the 2007 data, we found that 157 of the 400 released inmates sampled (39%) had spent at least one day in MOD2 or in Pods A & B. Ninety-five of the sampled inmates released in 2007 (24%) had an 8 in the treatment area of the classification screen, and 85 inmates (or 21%) met both of these criteria.



**Program Participation – 2007 Releases Sentenced to at least 90 Days  
(n = 272)**

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2007</b>	54%	34%	30%

As might be expected most of those classified to treatment or who spent time in a treatment unit had been sentenced to more than 90 days. Among this relevant subset of the sample, 54% spent at least one day in a treatment unit, 34% were classified to treatment, and 30% met both treatment criteria.

**PROGRAM COMPLETION 2004**

The first table below summarizes program completion statistics for the full sample of 400 inmates released in 2004. The second table summarizes program completion for those inmates who were released in 2004 following sentences of more than 90 days (only those inmates who serve at least 90 days can realistically complete treatment).

**Program Completion – 2004 Full Sample  
(n = 400)**

	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2004</b>	20%	25%	13%

Upon analysis of the data, we found that 79 of the 400 released inmates sampled (20%) had spent at least ninety days in MOD2. 101 inmates released in 2004 (25%) had an 8 in the treatment area of the classification screen, but only 51 (or 13%) met both of these criteria (in other words there were inmates who spent time in MOD2 who did not have an “8” in the classification screen and there were inmates with an “8” in the classification screen who did not spend at least 90 days in MOD2).

**Program Completion – 2004 Releases Sentenced to at least 90 Days  
(n = 269)**

	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2004</b>	29%	38%	19%

As might be expected only inmates sentenced to more than 90 days were classified to treatment or spent at least 90 days in a treatment unit. Among this relevant subset of the sample, 29% spent at least ninety days in a treatment unit, 38% were classified to treatment, and just over 19% met both treatment criteria.

**PROGRAM COMPLETION 2007**

The first table below summarizes program completion statistics for the full sample of 400 inmates released in 2007. The second table summarizes program completion for those inmates who were released in 2007 following sentences of more than 90 days (only those inmates who serve at least 90 days can realistically complete treatment at BHOC).

**Program Completion – 2007 Full Sample (n = 400)**

	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2007</b>	23%	24%	16%

Upon analysis of the 2007 release data, we found that 91 of the 400 released inmates sampled (23%) had spent at least ninety days in MOD2 or in Pods A & B. 95 inmates released in 2007 (24%) had an 8 in the treatment area of the classification screen, and 65 inmates (or 16%) met both of these criteria.

**Program Completion – 2007 Releases Sentenced to at least 90 Days  
(n = 272)**

	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment Group (met both criteria)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2007</b>	34%	34%	24%

As might be expected all of those classified to treatment and all of those who spent at least ninety days in a treatment unit had been sentenced to more than 90 days. Among this relevant subset of the sample, 34% spent at least ninety day in a treatment unit, 34% were classified to treatment, and 24% met both treatment criteria and were therefore assigned to the treatment group.

## THE RECIDIVISM SAMPLE

With the cooperation of the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB), we were able to secure criminal record histories (CORI reports) for those released inmates included in our sample of 1,200 releasees (400 released in each of the three years: 1994, 2004, 2007). Not all of those released the BHOC were actually released to the streets. Some of those coded “end of sentence” were actually released to a warrant, to another sentence, or to higher custody. Prior to coding criminal histories, we examined notes related to release type. Although we were able to ultimately distinguish actual releases from other exits, we were not able to sample on the basis of type of release because the actual nature of a release is most often indicated in a freeform text field (rather than in a categorical field that would allow for pre-sample selection grouping). The research team recommends that clear indicators of release type be added to the prison tracking database.

From the outset, representatives from the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office indicated that while they were interested in overall recidivism rates and patterns over time, they were particularly interested in the recidivism rates among some subsets of inmates. The recidivism analyses therefore include contrasts between first time and repeat offenders and contrasts on the basis of offense type at admission (personal, property, drug, or other). Most importantly, after working closely with the MSO, we developed criteria that would allow us to compare the recidivism rates of offenders participating in and completing various types of programming.

### *First time offenders vs. repeat offenders*

For the purposes of this study, first time offenders are defined as those who reported at intake that they had never been previously incarcerated. Using this definition, first time offenders might have prior arrests or contacts with the criminal justice system, but they have not been subject to a previous term of incarceration. Repeat offenders are those who reported at intake at least one prior incarceration in a correctional facility (in any jurisdiction). Because we were able to secure official criminal history data, the self-reported prior incarceration data is compared with official record data.

### **Measuring Recidivism**

For the purposes of this study, recidivism was measured as either reconviction or reincarceration. New convictions and new incarcerations occurring within 365 days (one year) and 1,095 days (three years) from the date of release were coded as recidivism events.

The CORI criminal history data do not clearly distinguish felony from misdemeanor offenses; therefore, this study includes convictions and incarcerations for any new offense (not just new felony offenses). It is important to keep in mind that the recidivism rates included in this reports are only really comparable to those rates in other studies that also included both misdemeanor and felony convictions and incarcerations. It is also important

to note that the reconviction and reincarceration rates reported here will be higher than in those studies where only felony convictions and incarcerations are counted.

Because we were using criminal history data generated from the courts, our measure of reincarceration is largely a measure of reincarceration for a new offense. Reincarcerations following violations of conditions of parole release (e.g. technical violations) do not generally show up in CORI data unless the violation is triggered by a new offense. That said, probation violations can and do result in incarceration and are indicated in CORI data.

*Time to recidivism*

In addition to reporting on overall and offender/offense specific recidivism rates, we provide a comprehensive account of time to recidivism. The report documents recidivism rates by time after release in one year and three year increments. We also use date of release and date of the first new conviction or incarceration to calculate more precise time to recidivism estimates.

**IDENTIFYING ACTUAL RELEASES FROM CUSTODY FOR THE RECIDIVISM STUDY**

Not all of those randomly selected for the sample were actually released. There were a number of codes used in the ‘release type’ field of the prison tracking database. The most common release codes were: EOS (end of sentence), S/P (parole), and TRF (transfer). Occasionally a release code would indicate RTC (return to custody), FPD (fine paid), or something else (see table below).

**Release Type as Coded in Prison Tracking Database (N=1200, n=400/yr)**

	<b>TOTAL</b> %	<b>1994</b> %	<b>2004</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
<b>EOS</b>	73%	73%	73%	74%
<b>S/P</b>	16%	8%	21%	21%
<b>TRF</b>	6%	15%	3%	0%
<b>Other</b>	2%	0%	3%	3%
<b>F/W</b>	1%	1%	0%	1%
<b>FPD</b>	1%	1%	0%	1%
<b>R&amp;R</b>	1%	1%	0%	0%
<b>RTC</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>RHC</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Upon closer inspection of the population file, it became clear that these release codes were not particularly reliable because they were not always used in a consistent manner. For example, while one might assume end of sentence would be indicative of a release, a closer look at the release comments field made it clear that many of these ‘end of sentence’ releases were releases to another sentence or releases to higher custody (even though RTC was a release type option, it was very infrequently used). Similarly while many releases to parole were coded as S/P releases, some releases to parole were coded as Transfers with S/P indicated in the notes field.

We therefore went with a simple random sample for sample selection and hand-coded release types for the 1200 inmates sampled using the release type field in combination with the release comments field. Our goal was to distinguish actual releases (e.g. releases to the streets – either directly or via parole) from releases to other types of custody. Obviously in a study of recidivism, you only want to include those who have actually been released from custody. The table below distinguishes actual releases from releases that cannot be considered releases because the inmates were released to some other type of custody.

### Release Type Distinguishing Actual Releases to the Streets

	<b>TOTAL</b> %	<b>1994</b> %	<b>2004</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
<b>Actual Release</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<i>To Streets</i>	60%	63%	57%	58%
<i>To Parole</i>	16%	10%	20%	19%
<b>Other (Non) Releases</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<i>Court/WMS</i>	9%	6%	9%	11%
<i>Transfer</i>	6%	13%	4%	2%
<i>Another Sentence</i>	4%	5%	4%	4%
<i>Bail Mittimus</i>	3%	2%	4%	4%
<i>Authorities</i>	2%	2%	2%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

We ended up with just over 900 sampled inmates who were actually released from the House of Correction to the streets (at the end of a sentence or following a parole release). We requested CORIs for all individuals sampled from the Criminal History Systems Board

(CHSB). Of the 908 offenders who had actually been released, 65 had to be excluded from the recidivism analyses because of CORI problems.

A small number of CORIs requested were not returned (47 or 5% of the 908 requested). We assume these CORIS were not returned because the information submitted in the request (name, SS#, and date of birth) did not match any records closely enough for a hit in the CORI system. Some of the CORIs received were impossible to code (usually because the sentence leading to the current incarceration could not be identified). In these instances, all three research assistants attempted to code the CORI and none were successful. Finally, a very small number had to be excluded because the person was selected for study inclusion more than once (a number of offenders at Billerica are incarcerated multiple times in one year) or because the CORI noted the person selected was deceased and had died within the window for recidivism in our study. The table below breaks down CORI status overall and by year.

### Status of CORI

	<b>TOTAL</b> %	<b>1994</b> %	<b>2004</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
<b>CORI Received, Coded</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<i>CORI Missing</i>	5%	7%	6%	3%
<i>CORI Coding Exclusion</i>	1%	2%	2%	0%
<i>Other</i>	1%	0%	1%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Coding Criminal Histories

In keeping with national recidivism studies, only convictions and incarcerations that occurred within 3 years (1,096 days) of the date of release were counted and included. Any reconviction or reincarceration that occurred after 1,096 days from the date of initial release was excluded.

For every released inmate included in our sample, we calculated one and three year from release dates and then hand-coded printed CORIs. The conviction leading to the current BHOC incarceration was first identified, prior and post-release convictions and incarcerations were then counted.

The data provided by the Criminal History System Board (CHSB) is organized by charge at arraignment. A person might be arraigned on multiple charges on one day and every row entry indicates a different charge (so one arraignment might, and often does, consist of

multiple entries for series of charges related to at least one criminal event). The CORI data are hand-entered and therefore there is a notable lack of consistency in the way in which convictions and incarcerations are recorded (particularly in the earlier years where those recording the data tended to each have their own way of entering outcomes). CORIs for the 1994 releases were particularly problematic because there was very little consistency in coding. More recently some standard CORI coding practices have been developed by the CHSB to ensure greater accuracy and consistency across records.

Convictions were identified through isolating all of the codes that the CHSB indicates are presumptive of a new conviction. Incarcerations were similarly identified through isolating codes that the CHSB indicates are presumptive of an incarceration. Suspended sentences and concurrent sentences were generally not counted as separate incarcerations, but it is important to note that these were not always clearly indicated in the CORI data. Moreover, because dates were not always included in the disposition field, a series of convictions arraigned several weeks apart were counted as separate convictions even though they may have actually all been resolved during one court appearance.

It is imperative that we emphasize that, due to the nature of CORI data, it is likely that both conviction and incarceration counts represent overcounts rather than undercounts. Because the Middlesex Sheriff's Office was particularly interested in trends in recidivism rates over time, we were more concerned with consistency in coding across the years included in our recidivism study than we were with finding the most precise way of counting convictions and incarcerations in each of the years.

#### **FINAL SAMPLE FOR RECIDIVISM STUDY**

Of the initial 1,200 inmates sampled from the 1994, 2004, and 2007 released populations, a total of 843 (70%) were ultimately included in the recidivism study (267 released in 1994, 268 released in 2004, and 298 released in 2007).

As indicated in the two tables that follow, a majority of Billerica releases are White (70% overall – 72% in 1994, 70% in 2004, and 69% in 2007); most were aged 35 or under (60% overall – 70% in 1994, 57% in 2004, and 54% in 2007); most had substance abuse issues (58% overall – 30% in 1994, 67% in 2004, and 74% in 2007); personal offenses were the most common (45% overall – 53% in 1994, 34% in 2004, and 48% in 2007), followed by drug, property, and other offenses; a majority had been sentenced to more than 90 days (64% overall - 53% in 1994, 68% in 2004, and 68% in 2007).

The most notable changes over time are the changes in age at release (the released population today is notably older than it was in the mid-1990s) and substance use issues (in 2007 74% of the released inmates had a substance abuse issue compared to just 30% in 1994). This probably reflects a change in the recording of such issues more than it reflects a change in the prevalence of substance abuse issues among inmate populations. There are also less short-term offenders in the more recent samples than there were in 1994. In 1994 almost half of all offenders were serving 90 days or less, but by 2007 just 32% were serving 90 days or less.



**Descriptives: Full Sample and Recidivism Sample**

	<b>Full Sample (n=1200) %</b>	<b>Recidivism Sample (n=843) %</b>
<b>Race</b>		
<i>White</i>	66%	70%
<i>Black</i>	15%	15%
<i>Hispanic</i>	16%	14%
<i>Other</i>	2%	1%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	1%
<b>Age at Release</b>		
<i>Age 25 and Under</i>	28%	28%
<i>26 – 35</i>	34%	32%
<i>36 – 45</i>	27%	27%
<i>Over Age 45</i>	11%	13%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	0%
<b>Substance Abuse</b>		
<i>None</i>	44%	42%
<i>Alcohol</i>	11%	13%
<i>Drugs</i>	8%	9%
<i>Both</i>	36%	36%
<b>Offense Type</b>		
<i>Personal</i>	44%	45%
<i>Property</i>	19%	17%
<i>Drug</i>	28%	29%
<i>Sex</i>	2%	1%
<i>Other</i>	8%	9%
<b>Sentence Length</b>		
<i>0 Days</i>	0%	0%
<i>1 – 30 Days</i>	18%	18%
<i>31 – 60 Days</i>	9%	10%
<i>61 – 90 Days</i>	9%	9%
<i>91 – 180 Days</i>	20%	20%
<i>181 – 365 Days</i>	20%	19%
<i>366 – 730 Days</i>	17%	17%
<i>More than 731 Days</i>	8%	8%

## Descriptives: Recidivism Samples

	1994 Releases (n=267) %	2004 Releases (n=278) %	2007 Releases (n=298) %
<b>Race</b>			
<i>White</i>	72%	70%	69%
<i>Black</i>	15%	16%	13%
<i>Hispanic</i>	12%	13%	16%
<i>Other</i>	1%	1%	2%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	1%	1%
<b>Age at Release</b>			
<i>Age 25 and Under</i>	28%	31%	25%
<i>26 – 35</i>	42%	26%	29%
<i>36 – 45</i>	24%	30%	27%
<i>Over Age 45</i>	6%	13%	20%
<i>Missing</i>	0%	0%	0%
<b>Substance Abuse</b>			
<i>None</i>	69%	35%	26%
<i>Alcohol</i>	10%	16%	13%
<i>Drugs</i>	2%	12%	12%
<i>Both</i>	18%	39%	49%
<b>Offense Type</b>			
<i>Personal</i>	53%	34%	48%
<i>Property</i>	14%	22%	15%
<i>Drug</i>	32%	24%	30%
<i>Sex</i>	0%	0%	2%
<i>Other</i>	1%	20%	5%
<b>Sentence Length</b>			
<i>0 Days</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>1 – 30 Days</i>	29%	13%	13%
<i>31 – 60 Days</i>	9%	10%	9%
<i>61 – 90 Days</i>	9%	9%	8%
<i>91 – 180 Days</i>	16%	20%	23%
<i>181 – 365 Days</i>	17%	21%	20%
<i>366 – 730 Days</i>	15%	18%	16%
<i>More than 731 Days</i>	5%	9%	9%

## Prior Convictions and Prior Incarcerations

Prior conviction and prior incarceration data reported here were collected from criminal history records (CORIs) provided by the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB). These criminal history counts include all adult convictions (both misdemeanor and felony) and all incarcerations following convictions.

The vast majority of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in each of the three years had been previously incarcerated (90% in 1994, 89% in 2004, and 86% in 2007). In other words, 9 out of every 10 inmates had prior convictions – and only about 1 in 10 inmates had no prior convictions before the conviction leading to the current incarceration.

As with previous convictions, a majority of the inmates incarcerated at the Billerica House of Correction had been previously incarcerated on an earlier conviction. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of inmates released in 1994, 2004, and 2007 had been previously incarcerated. Approximately 7 out of every 10 inmates had been previously incarcerated.

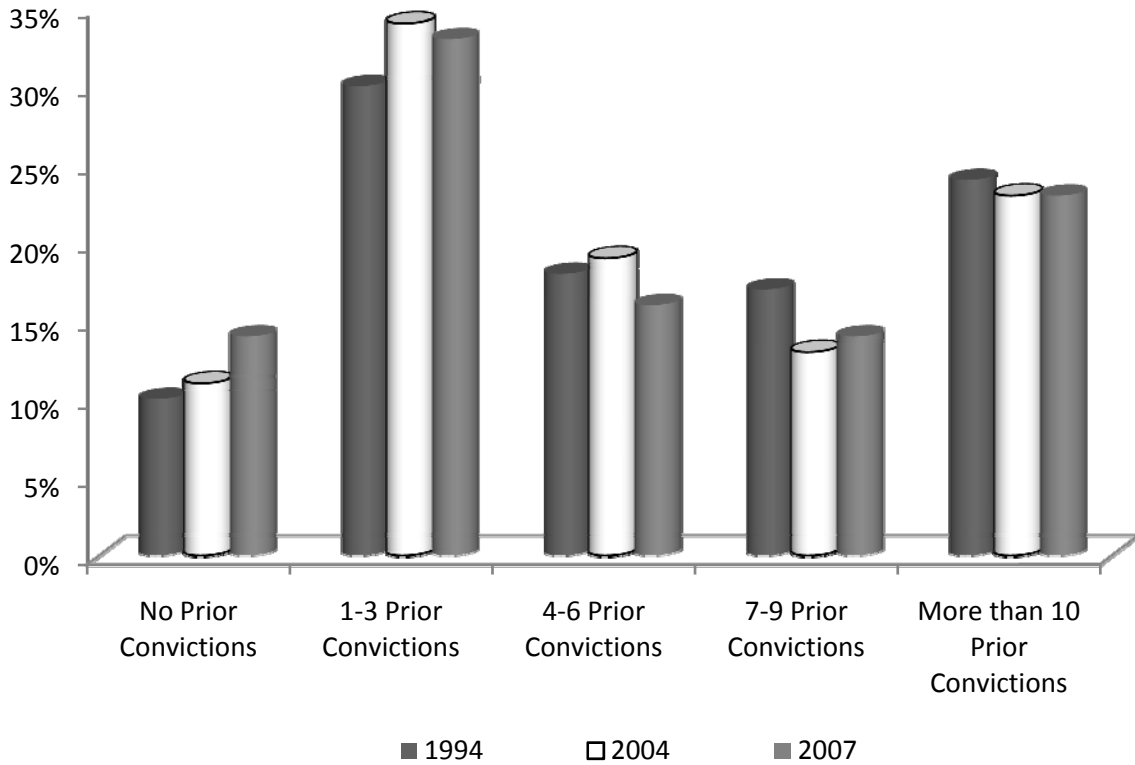
### Prior Convictions and Incarcerations: Full Recidivism Sample

	<b>1994 (n=267)</b>	<b>2004 (n=278)</b>	<b>2007 (n=298)</b>
<b>At Least One Prior Conviction</b>	90%	89%	86%
<b>At Least One Prior Incarceration</b>	69%	73%	66%

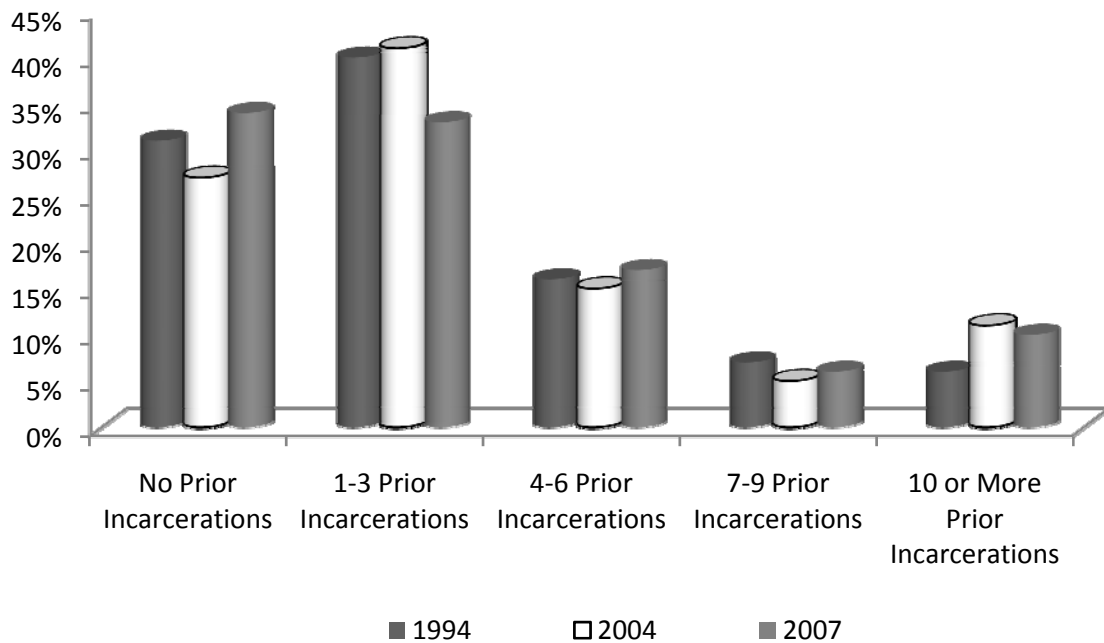
Criminal history data revealed that most inmates incarcerated at the BHOC have prior convictions and a fairly large percentage have been previously incarcerated. Through coding criminal history data we were able to count previous convictions and incarcerations for each of the 843 inmates selected for inclusion in the recidivism analysis.

Not only do most inmates have criminal conviction and incarceration histories, most inmates released from Billerica have multiple prior convictions and incarcerations. 10-15% of those released had just one prior conviction, and 15-20% of those released had just one prior incarceration. 79% of those released in 1994, 80% of those released in 2004, and 71% of those released in 2007 had multiple previous convictions. Although the percentages are lower for previous incarcerations, the pattern remains. 17-20% of those released had just one prior conviction. 52% of those released in 1994, 53% of those released in 2004, and 48% of those released in 2007 had multiple previous incarcerations.

### NUMBER OF PRIOR CONVICTIONS



### NUMBER OF PRIOR INCARCERATIONS



## Program Participation and Completion

Because we are interested in contrasting recidivism rates of those who participated in and completed programming with recidivism rates of those who did not, we identified program participation and program completion among this subset using the same criteria used for the overall sample. According to the criteria, those who spent at least one day in a program intensive unit had participated in treatment, those who spent at least 90 days in a program intensive unit had completed treatment, and those who had been both classified to and participated in/completed treatment (e.g. those who met both criteria) were the treatment group.

### Program Participation and Completion: Full Recidivism Sample

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Met Both Completion Criteria</b>
	%	%	%	%
<b>2004 (n=278)</b>	29%	20%	26%	14%
<b>2007 (n=298)</b>	42%	27%	26%	19%
<b>Total (n=576)</b>	35%	23%	26%	16%

In 2004, just 38 inmates (14%) met both criteria for program completion. In 2007, almost double the number of inmates met both program completion criteria (56 inmates or 19%). In the analysis section we compare the treatment group (e.g. those who met both completion criteria) to the non-treatment group, but we also provide contrasts on the basis of basic program participation (at least one day in programs) and basic program completion (at least ninety days in programs).

**Program Participation and Completion:  
Recidivism Sample Sentenced to At Least 90 Days**

	<b>Program Participation</b>	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>Classified to Treatment</b>	<b>Met Both Completion Criteria</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2004 (n=143)</b>	43%	30%	39%	20%
<b>2007 (n=205)</b>	58%	39%	37%	27%
<b>Total (n=392)</b>	51%	23%	28%	24%

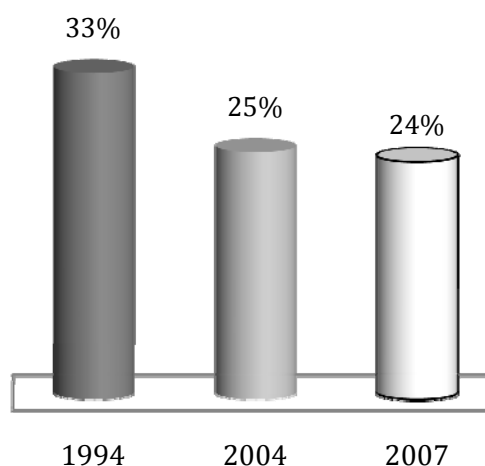
## RECIDIVISM AMONG INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION

### RECIDIVISM OVERALL

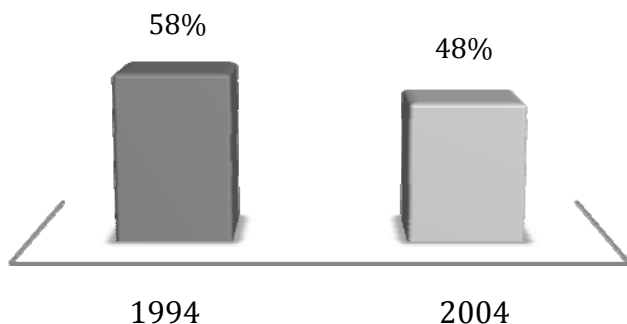
#### Reconvictions

Reconvictions following release from the Billerica House of Correction have been declining over time. Among those released in 1994, 33% were reconvicted within one year of release. By 2004, the percentage of released inmates who had been reconvicted had fallen by 8 percentage points to 25%. The percentage reconvicted fell further between 2004 and 2007 so that by 2007, only 24% of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction were reconvicted within one year of release. In other words, more than 3 out of 4 inmates released in 2007 remained successfully conviction-free in the first year following release.

#### Reconvicted within One Year of Release



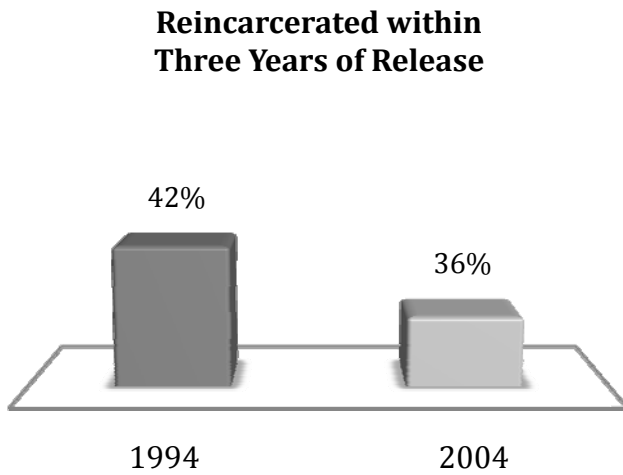
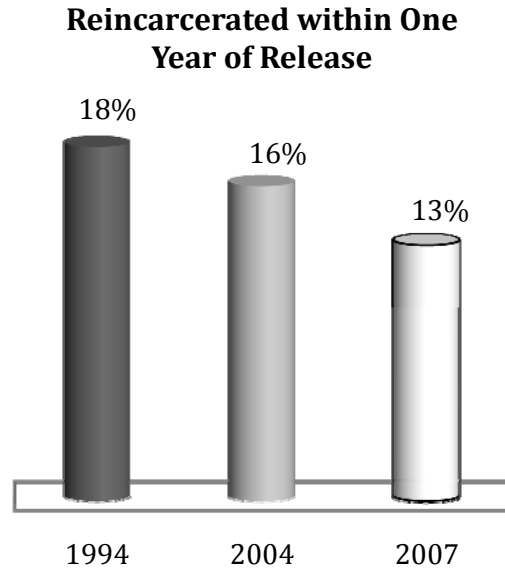
#### Reconvicted within Three Years of Release



For the 1994 and 2004 samples, we were able to track recidivism using a longer 3 year post-release period. As with the one-year recidivism analysis, reconviction rates of inmates released from the BHOC fell quite substantially in the 10 years between 1994 and 2004. While 58% of inmates released in 1994 had been reconvicted within three years of release, by 2004 the percent reconvicted within three years had fallen by ten percentage points to 48%.

## Reincarceration

Reincarcerations following release from the Billerica House of Correction have also been declining over time. 18% of those released in 1994 were reincarcerated within one year of release. By 2004, the percentage of released inmates who had been reincarcerated following release had fallen 2 percentage points to 16%. The percentage reconvicted fell further between 2004 and 2007. Just 13% of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2007 were reincarcerated within one year of release.



For the 1994 and 2004 samples, we were able to track recidivism using a longer 3 year post-release period. As with the one-year recidivism analysis, reincarceration rates for inmates released from the BHOC fell quite substantially in the 10 years between 1994 and 2004. While 42% of inmates released in 1994 had been reincarcerated within three years of release, by 2004 the percent reincarcerated within three years had fallen by six percentage points to 36%.

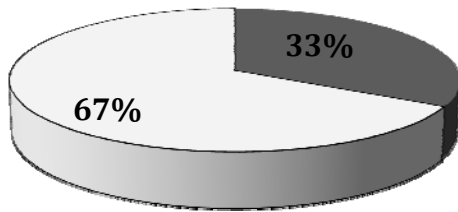


## Reconviction and Reincarceration Status One Year from Release

	1994 Releases	2004 Releases	2007 Releases
<b>No Recidivism</b>	67%	75%	76%
<b>Recidivism</b>	33%	25%	24%
<i>Reconvicted, but not Reincarcerated</i>	15%	10%	11%
<i>Reconvicted and Reincarcerated</i>	18%	15%	13%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

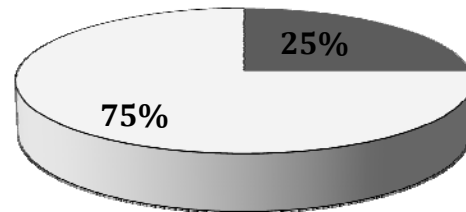
### Recidivism within One Year of Release

1994 Releases



■ Recidivism □ No Recidivism

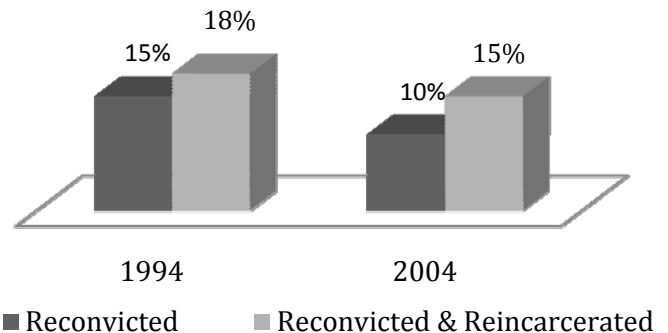
2004 Releases



■ Recidivism □ No Recidivism

The figures on this page depict recidivism among released inmate populations in a couple of different ways. Above overall 1 year recidivism rates for the 1994 and 2004 releases are shown. The figure to the right distinguishes reconvictions only (15% in 1994 and 10% in 2004) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (18% in 1994 and 15% in 2004). As is made evident in the figure, most of those reconvicted are reincarcerated.

Reconviction and Reincarceration Status One Year From Release

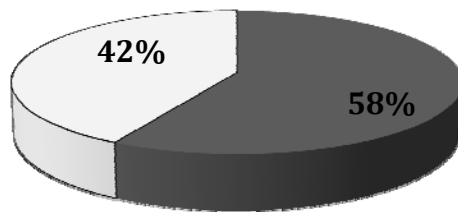


## Reconviction and Reincarceration Status Three Years from Release

	1994 Releases	2004 Releases
<b>No Recidivism</b>	42%	52%
<b>Recidivism</b>	58%	48%
<i>Reconvicted, but not Reincarcerated</i>	16%	12%
<i>Reconvicted and Reincarcerated</i>	42%	36%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%

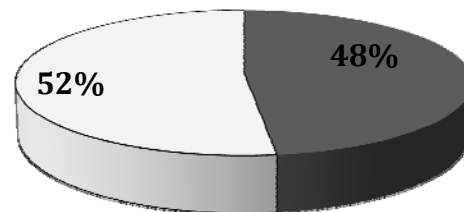
## Recidivism within Three Years of Release

1994 Releases



■ Recidivism □ No Recidivism

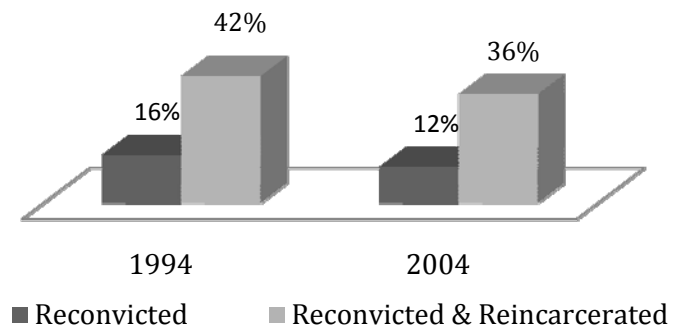
2004 Releases



■ Recidivism □ No Recidivism

The figures on this page depict recidivism among released inmate populations in a couple of different ways. Above overall 3-year recidivism rates for the 1994 and 2004 releases are shown. The figure to the right distinguishes reconvictions only (16% in 1994 and 12% in 2004) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (42% in 1994 and 36% in 2004). As is made evident in the figure, most of those reconvicted are reincarcerated.

Reconviction and Reincarceration Status Three Years From Release



## **Billerica Recidivism in Context**

In a study conducted by the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission, the one-year rearrest rate for inmates released from the participating houses of corrections was reported to be just over 47%. This study is not particularly comparable to the current study because the Sentencing Commission assessed recidivism using one-year re-arrest rates (rearrest was measured as an arraignment for a new offense).

A Massachusetts Department of Corrections study assessed three-year recidivism rates in a way more comparable to national studies and the current study. In the MDOC study, 39% of state prisoners released in 1999 were reincarcerated within three years of release, with 20% of those inmates reincarcerated within one year of release (Hoover, 2005). The 20% reincarceration rate for 1999 MDOC releases was lower than the 24% one year reincarceration rate reported in a similar study of 1994 MDOC releases (Dolan and Matthews, 1998).

The earlier MDOC study of 1994 releases (Dolan and Matthews, 1998) is directly comparable to our study of the 1994 BHOC release cohort. The MDOC one-year reincarceration rate of 24% was substantially higher than the 18% one-year reincarceration rate among Billerica releases, but it should be noted that our analysis could only capture reincarcerations noted on criminal histories – parole recommitments without a new conviction were not captured.

The 2005 MDOC study was conducted using 1999 releases – 1999 is obviously right in between the years used in the current study (1994 and 2004) for the three year recidivism analysis (Hoover, 2005). The 36% three-year reincarceration rate for inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004 is lower than the 39% three year rate for those released from MDOC in 1999. The study of 1999 MDOC releases, published in 2005, is unfortunately the most recent publicly available Massachusetts Department of Correction recidivism analysis.

It is important to also consider these comparisons in the context of the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission study, which demonstrated that recidivism rates among inmates released from state prisons are actually substantially lower than recidivism rates among inmates released from houses of corrections. In the Sentencing Commission study, 32% of those released from state prisons were rearrested within one year while 47% of those released from house of correction were rearrested within one year.

Similarly a recent recidivism analysis conducted by Massachusetts State Parole (2008) found that those released from state prisons had lower reincarceration rates than those released from houses of correction. The State Parole study used a follow-up period of 1.7 years for 2006 releases making it difficult to directly compare their findings to this study. Nonetheless, the State Parole study reports an overall reincarceration rate of 35% for inmates released from custody with no parole supervision. When parsed between state and county releases, the reincarceration for state releases (20%) was substantially lower than the reincarceration rate for house of correction releases (37%).

Although it is difficult to draw too many conclusions from a comparison between the State Parole study and the current study due to differences in measures and time-periods, the 37% 1.7 year reincarceration rate for 2006 HOC releases is substantially higher than the 15% Billerica one- year reincarceration rate for 2004 releases, but was also slightly higher than the Billerica three-year reincarceration rate (36%) for 2004 releases.

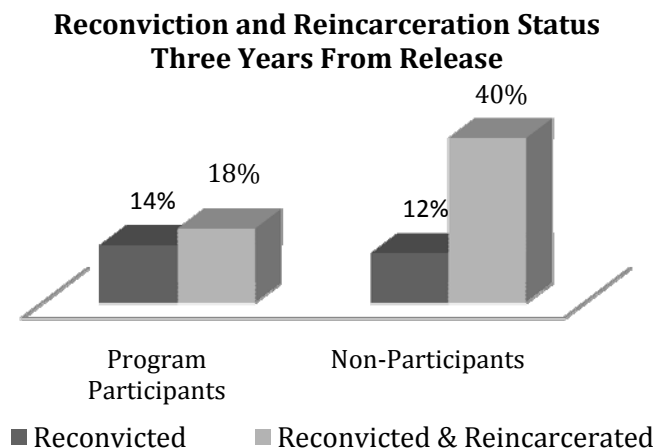
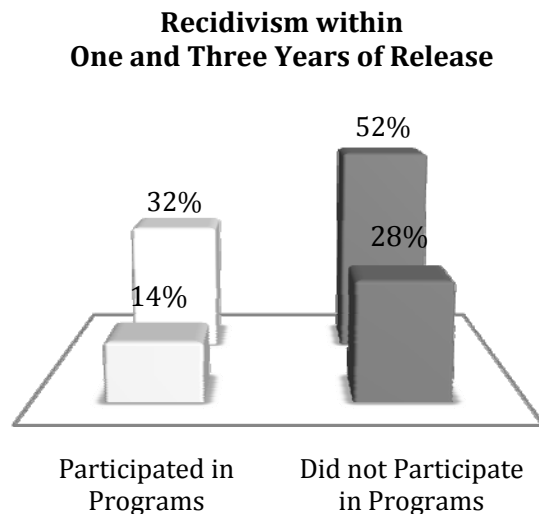
## RECIDIVISM AND PROGRAMMING

As discussed in the section above not all of the inmates included in the recidivism analysis had an opportunity to participate in and complete programs. These analyses are year specific – comparing 2004 and 2007 releases who participated in and completed programs with those released in that same year who did not. It was determined that there was no way to include measures of program participation or completion for the 1994 releases.

### Program Participation and Recidivism: 2004 Releases

Recall that program participation was defined as having spent at least one day in a programming intensive unit. For 2004, program participation also required that the inmate had been assigned to treatment during classification (signified by an “8” in the classification screen). This was important because not all inmates in the program intensive modular units in use in 2004 actually had access to programs.

Those who had participated in programs prior to their release in 2004 had a much lower recidivism rate than those who did not participate in programs. 14% of those who participated in programs had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 28% of those who had not). Although the three-year recidivism rates were higher, the gap in recidivism between those who had participated in programs (32% reconvicted) and those who had not (52% reconvicted) remained.



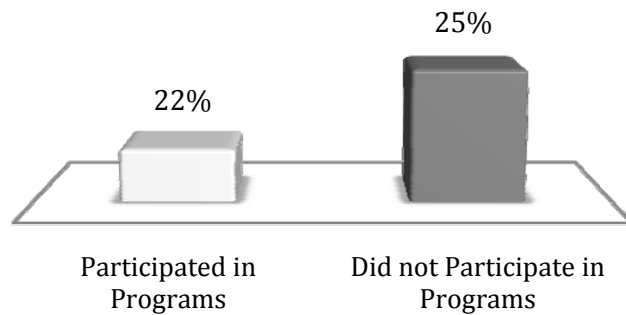
The three-year overall recidivism rates for 2004 releases were 32% for program participants and 52% for non-participants. The figure to the left distinguishes reconvictions only (14% for participants and 12% for non-participants) from reincarcerations (18% for program participants compared to 40% among those who were not able to participate in programs).

## Program Participation and Recidivism: 2007 Releases

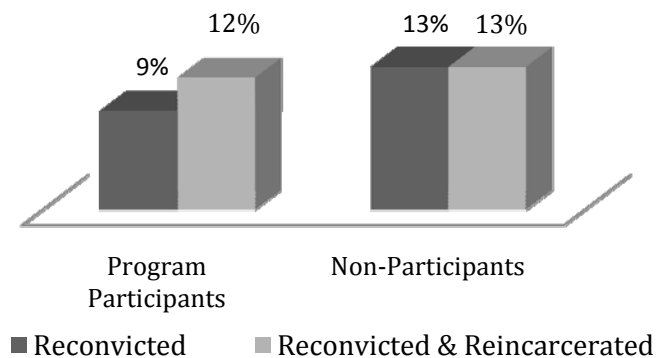
For the 2007 releases program participation was defined as having spent at least one day in a programming intensive unit. By 2007 programming was so unit specific that it was safe to simply use assignment to a particular unit as the measure of program participation. Recall that the prison tracking data does not allow us to determine if someone actually participated in a particular program.

Those who had participated in programs prior to their release in 2007 had a slightly lower recidivism rate than those who did not participate in programs. 22% of those who participated in programs had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 25% of those who had not).

**2007 Releases:  
Recidivism within  
One Year of Release**



**Reconviction and Reincarceration Status  
One Year of Release**

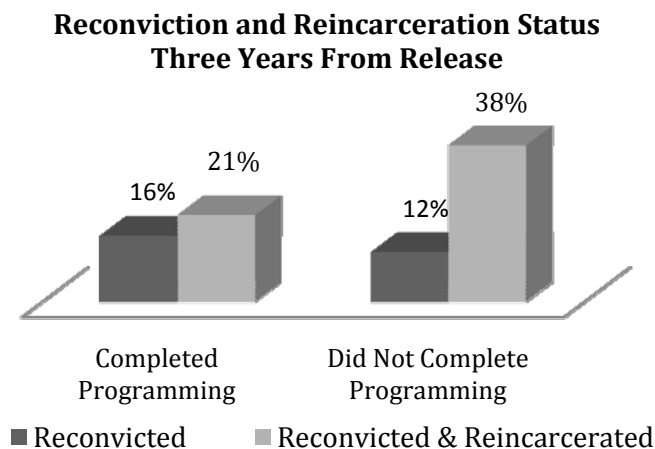
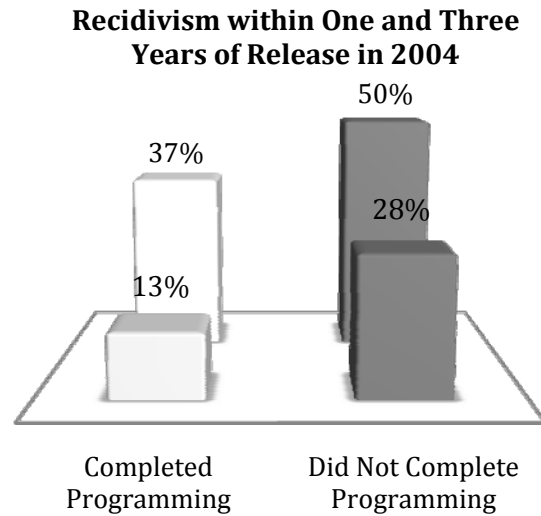


The one-year overall recidivism rates for 2007 releases were 22% for program participants and 25% for non-participants. The figure to the left distinguishes reconvictions only (9% for program participants compared to 12% among those who were not able to participate in programs) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (13% for both groups).

## Program Completion and Recidivism: 2004 Releases

Recall that program completion was defined as having spent at least 90 days in a programming intensive unit. For 2004, program completion also required that the inmate had been assigned to treatment during classification. This was important because not all inmates in the program intensive modular units in use in 2004 had access to programs. Recall that the prison tracking data does not allow us to determine if someone actually completed a particular program.

Those who had completed programming prior to their release in 2004 had a much lower recidivism rate than those who had not completed programming. 13% of those who had completed programming had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 28% of those who had not). Although the three-year recidivism rates were higher, the gap in recidivism between those who had completed programming (37% reconvicted) and those who had not (50% reconvicted) remained.



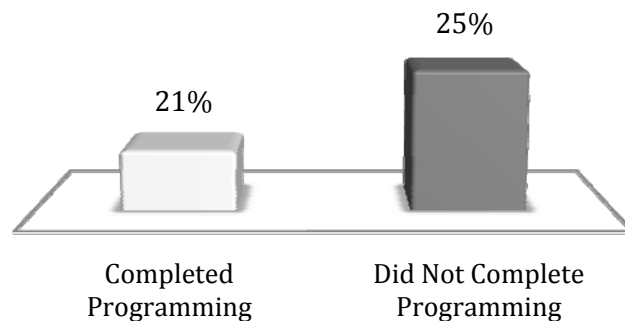
The three-year overall recidivism rates for 2004 releases were 37% for program completers and 50% for non-completers. The figure to the left distinguishes reconvictions only (16% for completers and 12% for non-completers) from reincarcerations (21% for program completers compared to 38% among those who were not able to complete programs).

## Program Completion and Recidivism: 2007 Releases

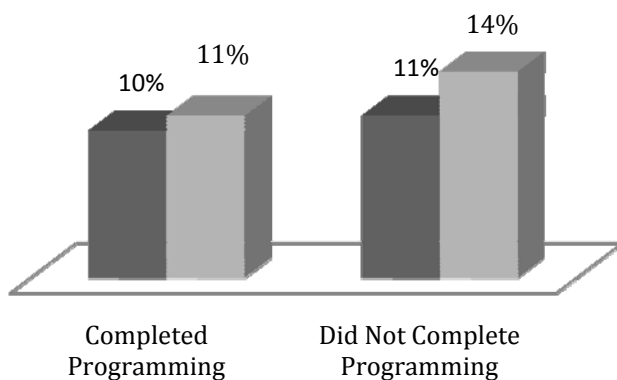
For the 2007 releases program completion was defined as having spent at least 90 days in a programming intensive unit. By 2007 programming was so unit specific that it was safe to simply use assignment to a particular unit as a proxy measure for program completion. Recall that the prison tracking data does not allow us to determine if someone actually completed a particular program.

Those who had completed programming prior to their release in 2007 had a slightly lower recidivism rate than those who did not participate in programs. 21% of those who completed programming had recidivated within one year of release (compared to 25% of those who had not).

**2007 Releases: Recidivism within One Year of Release**



**Reconviction and Reincarceration Status One Year of Release**



■ Reconvicted    ■ Reconvicted & Reincarcerated

The one-year overall recidivism rate for 2007 releases were 21% for program completers and 25% for those who did not complete programming. The figure to the left distinguishes reconvictions only (10% for those who completed programming and 11% among those who did not complete programming) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (11% for program completers compared to 14% among those who did not complete programming).

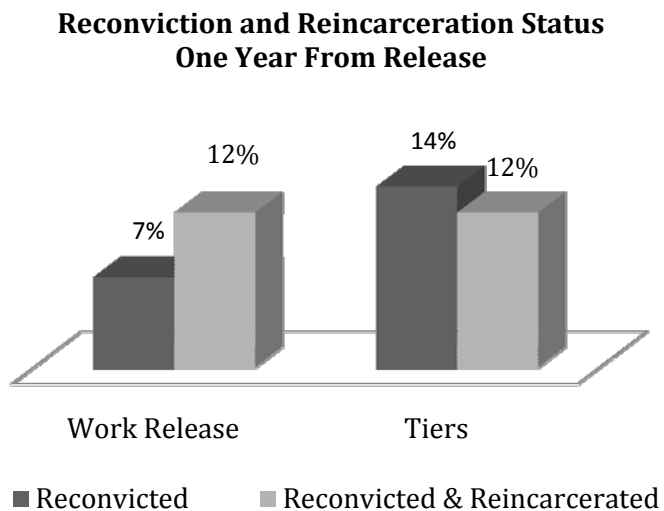
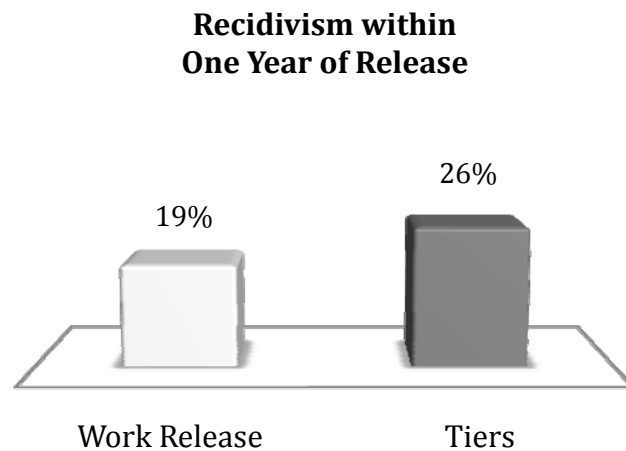


## RECIDIVISM AMONG SUBSETS OF THE INMATE POPULATION

Comparisons of specific populations of releases allow us to begin to identify patterns in recidivism across groups. For the work release vs. general population data, the 2007 data were used.

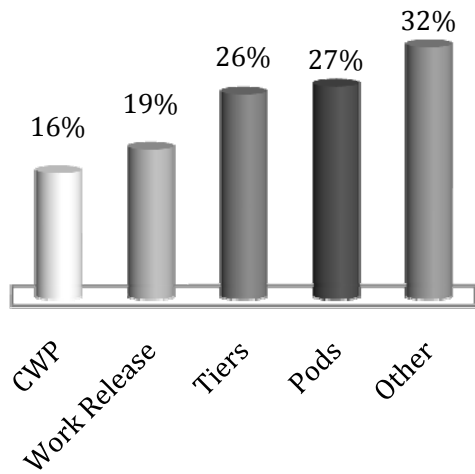
### Work Release vs. General Population

Those released from general population areas of the facility (specifically from the tiers) in 2007 had higher rates of recidivism than those released from the work release program (which is the probably the most progressive program at Billerica). 19% of those released from the work release program were reconvicted or reincarcerated within one year of release. By comparison, 26% of those released from the general population tiers were reconvicted or reincarcerated within one year of release.



The figures on this page depict recidivism among released inmate populations in a couple of different ways. Above overall 3-year recidivism rates for the work release and tier releases are shown. The figure to the right distinguishes reconvictions only (7% for work release and 14% for tiers) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (12% for work release and 12% for tiers).

**Reconvicted within One Year of Release**

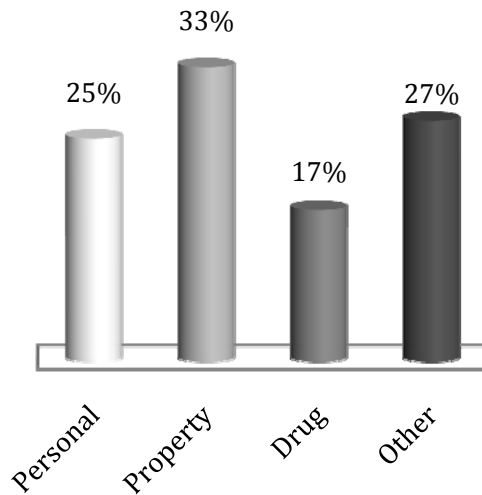


Generally speaking those released from Billerica’s work programs (the community work and work release programs) had lower rates of recidivism than those released from other types of custody. Those released from the pods and the tiers had essentially the same rate of recidivism (note that a release from a pod does not mean that the person participated in programming). Some are released before they can even be classified to other areas of the facility. Those released from other areas (the health services unit and other facilities following transfers) performed notably worse than other populations. The community work program inmates actually had the lowest overall rates of recidivism, followed by those in the work release program.

**RECIDIVISM BY OFFENSE TYPE**

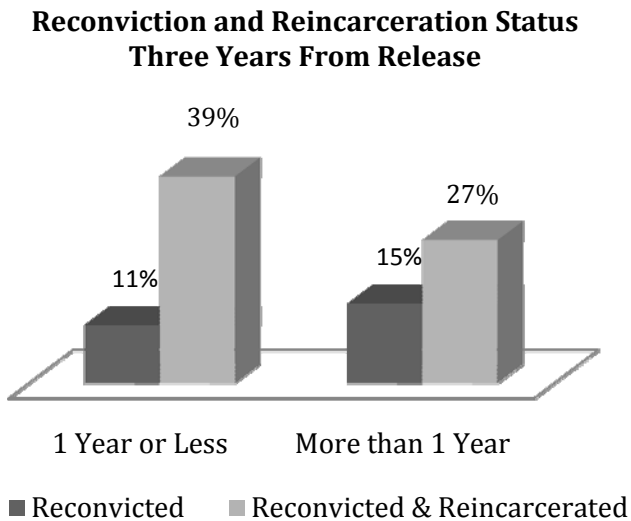
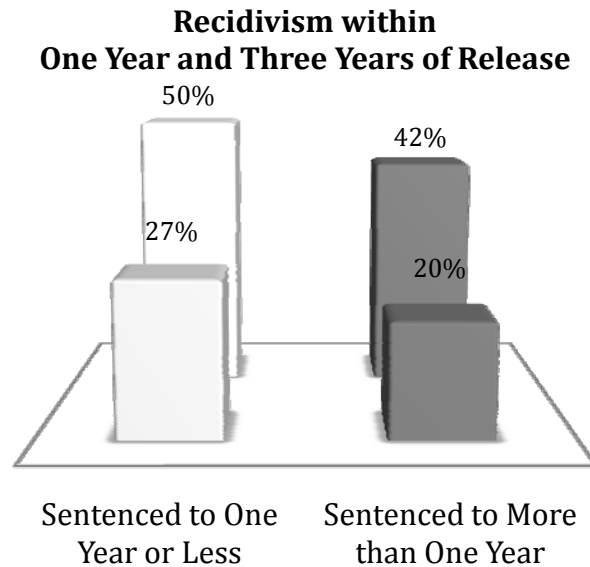
In 2007, those released from Billerica after an admission for a property offense had the highest rate of recidivism and those release after admission for a drug offense had the lowest. 33% of the property offenders released in 2007 were reconvicted within one year of release and just 17% of drug offenders were reconvicted. 25% of personal offenders (which includes the 6 sex offenders who had not been reconvicted post-release) and 26% of ‘other’ offenders were reconvicted within one year of their 2007 release. Although the rates were different, the pattern was exactly the same among 2004 releases (with property offenders having the highest rate and drug offenders the lowest).

**Reconvicted within One Year of Release**



## Recidivism by Length of Sentence

Those who released following sentences to one year or less had higher rates of recidivism than those who were released following sentences of more than one year. 27% of those sentenced to one year or less had been reconvicted within one year and 50% had been reconvicted within three years of release. Among those sentenced to more than one year, 20% had been reconvicted within one year and 42% had been reconvicted within three years of release.



The overall 3-year recidivism rates for those sentenced to one year or less (50%) and for those sentenced to more than one year (42%) are parsed in the figure to the right, which distinguishes reconvictions only (11% for those sentenced to less than one year and 15% for those sentenced to more than one year) from reconvictions and reincarcerations (39% for those sentenced to less than one year and 27% for those sentenced to more than one year)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As the team in charge of the research for this project, most of our recommendations are designed to make future recidivism research less labor intensive and less expensive. Much of the data collected and used over the course of this project had been collected for administrative purposes. Understandably, these data were not always in a format conducive to research. Some fairly simple modifications to the Prison Tracking system would facilitate future research. Recognizing that the MSO and BHOC staff might not be in a position to make all of these changes at once, we have listed them in order of priority so that the changes to the system could be made in increments.

5. ***Modify the release type field to more specifically indicate the type of release.*** A fairly substantial number of those who were coded as “end of sentence” releases were not actually released to the streets, but rather they were released to other authorities or released to another sentence. Because these distinctions were noted in a free-form text field, it was impossible to sample so that only those released to the streets were included. Perhaps the end of sentence option could have more specific indicators such as end of sentence to: streets, another sentence, WMS, authorities, etc... Ideally just one field would allow a person to determine whether an inmate had actually been released.
6. ***Create a programming screen that would allow program participation and completion to be tracked.*** Throughout this report, we used proxies for program participation and completion because there was nothing in the prison tracking data that would allow one to know for sure whether somebody had participated in or completed treatment. We had to assume that an assignment to a particular unit was indicative of program participation and having spent a certain amount of time on the unit was indicative of completion
7. ***More clearly distinguish jail and parole admissions from sentenced admissions.*** Jail is not one of the commitment types in the prison tracking system (jail admissions can only be identified by a ‘J’ at the end of the inmate’s institutional number). Parole commitments (which can be identified by an ‘a, b, or c’ at the end of the inmate’s institutional number) are not consistently identified as such in the MSO Commitment Type field.
8. ***Minimize the use of free-form text fields in the prison tracking system.*** A number of the text fields currently in use could be converted to dropdown menus to minimize confusion and data entry errors. All free-form text fields should be converted except for those that require the person entering data enter substantive notes of some sort. Codes for arresting agencies, offense types, and other fields that currently require text could be converted.

# **PROGRAM PLACEMENT AND COMPLETION: EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEVEL OF SERVICE-CASE MANAGEMENT INVENTORY (LS-CMI)**

## **Introduction**

After thirty years of widespread disenchantment with offender rehabilitation among scholars and practitioners alike, the corrections discipline finds renewed spirit in programming with the burgeoning reentry crisis. A staggering 650,000 offenders are released nationwide from incarceration each year (Sabol, Minton & Harrison, 2007). In hindsight, the effects of this mass exodus likely were not anticipated before the prison boom in the late 1980s and '90s. However, the deleterious effects of a shortsighted punitive turn felt today by returning offenders, their communities, and their families are a poignant reminder that the justice system should be planning ahead with acute foresight. Fortunately, not all was lost for corrections with the post-Martinsonian (Martinson, 1974) rejection of the rehabilitative ideal. Indeed, several scholars have worked to establish a theoretically informed and empirically tested model for correctional intervention that has been adopted by detention facilities throughout the United States, Canada and Europe (Andrews, 1995; Gendreau, 1996; Andrews & Bonta, 1998). From this model there have been derived several valid and reliable risk assessment measures to inform correctional program development. Also following from this vein of research is a renewed interest in institutional programming toward developing principled pathways through incarceration that may maximally reduce recidivism and facilitate reentry (e.g., McGuire & Priestly, 1985; McGuire, 1995; MacKenzie, 2000; Matthews, 2003; Welsh, 2007, June). Yet, beyond reliability and validity tests of risk measures, relatively few papers have examined across a wide array of correctional facilities the adoption, integration, and employment of risk assessment models and their potential effects on program administration and management.

Incarcerated offenders face a barrage of life stressors and have a host of criminogenic needs typified by low educational attainment, a lack of vocational or employable skills, substance abuse and dependency, ties to negative peer networks, and low socioeconomic status (Rose & Clear, 1998; Western & Beckett, 1999; Western, 2002; Travis, 2002; Clear, 2007). Overall, 65% of offenders recidivate within three years after their release, leaving little hope for their effective reintegration into communities and lasting desistance from their criminal pasts (Travis, 2005). If incarceration continues to be the primary method by which the American justice system manages convicted criminals, we must uncover ways to minimize the risk offenders pose upon reentry, ensure public safety, and maximize offenders' success in the community in the face of numerous collateral consequences. To this end, institutional rehabilitative programming may attend to offenders' diverse criminogenic needs and potentially reduce the potential for reoffending. Despite many researchers' and practitioners' best attempts to determine which programs (or combinations thereof) work, there remain mixed results and many unanswered questions. Correctional scholars have responded to this conundrum with several promising models

for program development, management and evaluation. To this end, states and local institutions are exploring new ways to evaluate and classify offenders based upon risk assessments and marked criminogenic needs, as well as methods to gauge offenders' progress throughout their sentences and after release.

Unfortunately, it is not sufficient to simply administer risk evaluations and assign inmates to programming without adhering to the theoretical and empirical principles that justify their application. Indeed, research has demonstrated that programs that do not properly assign offenders to programming matched to criminogenic needs and risk levels may have unexpected deleterious effects on recidivism (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005). Some programs that fail to prioritize high-risk offenders for programming have demonstrated iatrogenic effects that increase recidivism rates after release from incarceration or program completion (Weiner, 1998; Dishion, McCord, & Poulin, 1999; Andrews & Dowden, 1999). As such, it is crucial for those correctional facilities that utilize risk evaluations to determine if they are adhering to principles of effective correctional intervention. We must continually ask, do high-risk classifications predict placement into intensive programming as recommended in the literature (Gendreau, 1989)? The current paper's primary aim is to answer this question by uncovering which factors--including risk assessment scores and substance use variables (analogous measures of risk)--predict program placement and completion within a Massachusetts House of Correction (HOC). Beyond program placement, however, there is research demonstrating that programs' effectiveness at reducing recidivism rests on program integrity and inmates' completion of programming (Lowenkamp, Latessa, & Smith, 2006). In light of these findings, the current paper's second aim is an exploratory analysis purposed to determine which variables, including risk measures, predict program completion.

Ultimately, if risk factors are significant predictors of program placement and completion, it confirms that HOC is adhering to principled intervention strategies. Furthermore, future analyses may be used to test the predictive validity of the risk principle with recidivism outcomes recorded after release. Proper implementation of risk evaluation is vital to program success, as Andrews (2006) explains, "The effective use of the [risk] instruments is dampened when the information is not actually used in program planning and delivery" (p. 596). The most powerful aspect of risk assessment is making differential risk designations among low-, moderate-, and high-risk offenders, and subsequently placing these offenders into appropriate programs (Lowenkamp, 2004; Goggin & Gendreau, 2006). If risk factors do not predict program placement and completion, it calls our attention to the ways in which the HOC is utilizing risk evaluation measures. An institution's departure from principled intervention strategies offers theoretically- and empirically-relevant inquiries crucial to the betterment of that institution's own unique correctional programming.

In the following, the present paper first provides a review of the literature that speaks to how and why principled pathways through programming matter for offenders within institutions and after release. Second, the current literature on the validity, reliability and applicability of the risk principle and a widely adopted risk evaluation measure is highlighted. Third, correctional rehabilitation and program development are framed in the

context of Massachusetts, where houses of correction detain a population of offenders who are often overlooked in research. Lastly, results from binary logit analyses run on a sample of HOC inmates recently released to the community are examined to evaluate the application of risk measures and principled pathways through institutional programming. Several limitations on structured risk assessment and concerns for correctional administrators charged with implementing such assessments are discussed.

## **The Risk Principle**

In the late 1970s, Martinson's (1979) redaction of his earlier published evaluation of offender rehabilitation programs (see Martinson, 1974) served as a catalyst for a debate among Canadian university scholars regarding the effectiveness of sentencing and programming at preventing future crime. Responding to arguments forged by Jean-Paul Brodeur and Anthony Doob throughout the 1980s that suggested recent program evaluations had exaggerated the impact of correctional interventions, Paul Gendreau (1989) published the first edition of a model that would become the principles of effective correctional intervention. Gendreau's argument called attention to a burgeoning "what works in corrections" literature that demonstrated programs that work, require revision, or clearly do not work based upon the available empirical evidence at that time. Additionally, Gendreau called researchers' attention to the importance of programs being matched to offenders' specific needs, learning styles and offense histories. In contrast to many practitioners and scholars assumptions at that time, he further predicted that high-risk offenders would respond better to carefully designed treatments than low-risk offenders. Today, this widely studied phenomenon of correctional intervention is referred to as the risk principle.

Since its inception, Gendreau's original model has been widely investigated and inductively informed by almost twenty years of extensive meta-analyses (for a review, see Hollin, 1999), individual program evaluations (e.g., Bonta, Wallace-Capretta, & Rooney, 2000) and scholarly monographs (Andrews, 1995; Gendreau, 1996; Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Results reflect effect sizes ranging from low to moderate, indicating an average 10-30% decrease in recidivism rates among treatment groups when compared to controls. These findings also have been replicated in residential treatment programs for female offenders (Lovins, Lowenkamp, Latessa, & Smith, 2007). A departure from the many meta-analytic studies that comprise the majority of evidence for the risk principle, Lowenkamp, Latessa and Holsinger (2006) completed an impressive primary study of 97 correctional programs including over 13,000 offenders and concluded that adhering to the risk principle strongly predicts programs' effectiveness at reducing recidivism. Other investigations have highlighted the benefits of the risk principle when employed in programming for sex offenders (Harkins & Beech, 2007) and have demonstrated its effectiveness within substance-abuse treatment (Thanner & Taxman, 2003). If the risk principle is widely acclaimed to be a guiding light in correctional programming, it is crucial that practitioners and scholars employ reliable measures of this construct to be used in practice. One such measure is reviewed in the following section.

## Assessing Risk

Risk assessment has a long history within the disciplines of punishment and corrections. Originally, practitioners utilized semi-structured and open-ended interviews with offenders case-by-case to qualitatively assess an offender's tendency toward criminality. Over time, this qualitative model synthesized key survey questions purposed to uncover specific criminogenic needs (Bonta, 1996). Contemporary risk assessment methods, however, have developed from actuarial justice models of the "new penology," which aim to classify and manage aggregates of offenders identified as posing the greatest risk to offend or re-offend (Feeley and Simon, 1992). To this end, one popular measure of risk, the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R; Andrews & Bonta, 1995), assesses inmates risk across eight major subscales, including criminal history and procriminal attitudes, and gauges inmates' specific learning styles. The various subscales are scored and aggregated to give an overall total risk score, which may be broken into a continuum of diagnostically meaningful risk categories. It is with the categories drawn from the LSI-R that many researchers have operationalized the risk principle discussed above.

The LSI-R is one of the most widely tested and empirically validated measures of risk adopted throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. The inventory has been implemented across a wide variety of correctional populations to assess offenders' risk posed to the community, help build case and individual program plans, and allocate correctional resources to those inmates with the greatest criminogenic need. In two studies, Holsinger and colleagues (2003; 2006) have shown the LSI-R has acceptable levels of validity and reliability for both males and females, as well as for Native American populations. Similar publications have suggested the inventory has acceptable predictive validity across other racial and ethnic groups, including African American and Hispanic populations (Schlager & Simourd, 2007). Additionally, the LSI-R has undergone extensive reviews of its psychometric properties across various offender populations with unique and diverse criminal histories, including long-term incarcerated offenders (Simourd, 2004), substance abusers (Kelly & Welsh, 2008), and sex offenders (Simourd & Malcolm, 1998). To date, the inventory has also been adapted to specific program models for youth offenders (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, YLS/CMI; Hoge, Andrews, & Leschied, 2002) and to accommodate case management plans for adult offenders (Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, LS/CMI; Andrews, Bonta, & Wormith, 2004)--a measure utilized in the current study--both of which have demonstrated acceptable psychometric properties (see Schmidt, Hoge, & Gomes, 2005).

A wealth of empirical support notwithstanding, there is evidence suggesting the psychometric properties of the LSI-R must be tested within each unique institutional environment. In a study of incarcerated offenders in Pennsylvania, Austin and colleagues (2003) concluded that the LSI-R had unsatisfactory inter-rater reliability and test-retest reliability scores. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2003) concluded that the LSI-R, as utilized by the State's Department of Corrections, predicted recidivism moderately well, but the measure did not differentiate among recidivism outcomes at specific risk scores (i.e., there were no obvious "cut-off scores" for risk levels). Contrary to the aforementioned findings reported in Holsinger and colleagues' studies (2003; 2006),



recent research has shown the LSI-R has limited applicability to female offender populations (Holtfreter & Cupp, 2007). Lastly, Dowdy, Lacy and Unnithan (2002) concluded the inventory had no predictive validity when tested on a sample of halfway house clients in the Colorado State correctional system. The authors further suggested that the LSI-R may not validly or reliably differentiate among offender risk levels when the sample under study is comprised of mostly low-risk offenders. This final point is particularly salient when discussing a Massachusetts HOC, which is intended to hold inmates with relatively short sentences relative to federal prison populations. Clearly, under varying conditions and across diverse offender populations, the risk principle and its measures must be interpreted in context.

### **Massachusetts in Context**

Massachusetts' offender management institutions are unique compared to most other states. County-operated jails typically hold pretrial detainees and federal state prisons detain inmates with sentences for more than two and a half years. HOCs are managed by local sheriff's offices and are intended to hold offenders for two and a half years or less. On average, HOC inmates are serving sentences for nonviolent offenses but substance use problems are not uncommon throughout the inmate population. Offense types aside, previous research from the Urban Institute indicates that 2,526 offenders were released to Massachusetts communities in 2002 (Brooks et al., 2005, March). Offender reentry is a concern for contemporary justice systems nationwide, but its effects on communities and offender management services strongly resonate at the state- and county-levels, as well.

In a study of recidivism in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission (2002, June) operationalized recidivism as a new arrest or technical violation leading to incarceration up to one year after release from previous incarceration, or up to one year following entry into a community corrections or drug court program. The authors estimated rates of recidivism to be just below 50% across all samples. Compare Massachusetts' statistics to a widely cited national report on recidivism that indicate 67.5% of offenders were rearrested within three years after release from incarceration in 1994 (Langan & Levin, 2002, June). Clearly high recidivism rates are observed both in aggregated national data and at the state-level, and are of great concern to scholars and practitioners alike.

Institutional programming may serve to decrease these high recidivism rates witnessed statewide. Unfortunately, the Rappaport Institute released a paper stating that recent statewide trends indicate that fewer Massachusetts inmates are participating in pre-release programs statewide than in previous years (Piehl, 2005, Feb.). However, a more recent study by the Urban Institute sampled 178 Massachusetts Department of Correction inmates and concluded that 96% of respondents participated in some type of in-prison programming (it is important to note that a majority (77%) of the inmates in this study reported program participation as Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous) and 76% received transitional assistance to prepare them for release (Brooks et al., 2008, April). The statewide prevalence of targeted, principled interventions with demonstrated empirical support remains unclear.

The thirteen HOC in Massachusetts State are unique institutional environments that often have been overlooked within statewide investigations. One Urban Institute study that did include Massachusetts HOC inmates reported that these facilities detained 7,801 sentenced offenders and 5,371 pretrial detainees in 2003 (Brooks, et al., 2005). Specifically, the largest of the HOC, Suffolk County, accounted for 60% of the total HOC population in the state. Among all HOC inmates, personal, drug, and property crimes were the most common conviction offenses. More research is needed to investigate the legal and extralegal characteristics of Massachusetts HOC detainees, as well as to track their program participation and rates of recidivism upon release.

## **The Current Study**

The recent renovation marks a major transition for the BHOC from a traditional linear-style detainment model that utilized an outdated, three-tiered building, and was characterized by limited programming and a lack of standardized risk evaluation methods. The new podular units and risk evaluation measures encouraged the HOC administrative staff to evaluate their new programs to see if they are accurately identifying high-risk inmates, properly following the risk principle, and effectively reducing recidivism among inmates who have participated in programming. This section of the report presents work from phase one of our study reporting on programming data from the 2007 cohort only.

## **Research Questions and Hypotheses**

In this part of the research, we seek to answer the following questions: What variables predict program placement into a program-intensive pod? More specifically, are HOC evaluation and classification staff adhering to the risk principle by prioritizing higher-risk inmates for programming, as measured by high-risk classifications and indications of substance use? Do these same variables, including high-risk classifications and substance use variables, predict inmates' completion of the 90-day Stepping Into Recovery (SIR) program? In light of the HOC's recent adoption and implementation of a new programming model and risk evaluation measures, and given the importance of the risk principle and its noteworthy predictive validity of recidivism outcomes, it is hypothesized that:

1. High risk classifications derived from total scores on the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI; Andrews, Bonta, & Wormith, 2004) will be significant predictors of program placement and program completion;
2. Analogous indicators of risk that indicate the presence of substance use will be significant predictors of program placement and program completion.

It is important to make clear that we are not seeking to evaluate the effectiveness of the Stepping Into Recovery (SIR) program. As such, we do not adopt a quasi-experimental or fully randomized experimental design in which inmates are assigned to treatment or control groups. Rather, the primary aim of this portion of the study is to determine how well the house of correction staff are adhering to the theoretically informed and empirically tested risk principle in their administration of risk evaluation measures and subsequent

program placement. It is crucial that we emphasize that these LS-CMI findings are based on the early implementation of the LS-CMI. We were working with data from inmates released in 2007 and the house of correction only started using the LS-CMI at the end of 2006. The 162 LS-CMIs administered and included in this analysis therefore represent the very first LS-CMIs ever administered at BHOC. There is likely a fairly large learning curve in administering and using the LS-CMI and so we expect that our results might be different if we were to use a set of LS-CMIs administered after at least one year of implementation.

## **Data and Sample**

As noted earlier in this report, our project focus on three specific populations of inmates released in years 1994 (N=2,797), 2004 (N=2,455), and 2007 (N=2,325). From the total number of releases in each of these years we drew three simple random samples of 400 inmates (N=1,200 total across the three cohorts). These samples were found to be highly representative of the larger prison population, and no significant differences on key demographics (e.g, age, race, marital status) and legal variables (e.g., sentence length, offense types) were found between sample and the wider HOC population (see Appendix I).

The sample for the current LS-CMI subproject was selected from the 2007 release cohort because a number of inmates released that year would have completed risk evaluations and intensive programming that were unavailable to earlier cohorts. In other words, given that the BHOC only implemented new risk evaluation and programming in November 2006, the 1994 and 2004 cohorts were excluded from the analyses. Of the 400 inmates in the 2007 cohort, 162 were selected for the current analysis based upon the following criteria: (1) the inmate must have completed an LS-CMI evaluation (only those sentenced to at least 60 days are given the LS-CMI, those sentenced to less than 60 days complete a much less extensive intake); (2) the inmate sentence length could not exceed three years<sup>5</sup>; and (3) the inmate had at least one prior incarceration (all but one of the inmates in this subset had at least one prior incarceration – the one inmate who had completed risk evaluation but had not prior incarcerations was dropped from the sample).

### **CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION**

Inmate completed an LS-CMI risk evaluation;  
Inmate sentence lengths did not exceed three years; and  
Inmate had at least one prior incarceration.

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<sup>5</sup> By definition, houses of correction in Massachusetts are intended to detain offenders sentenced to two and a half years or less. However, due to concurrent sentences, it is not uncommon for HOC detainees to have sentences total sentences exceeding two and a half years. In our sample, we identified three outliers with sentence lengths exceeding three years, which largely determined the cutoff.

There were no significant differences in means on key variables in the models between the selected sample (N=162) and those not included in the analysis.

## **Variables and Measures**

Demographics and substance use predictor variables were replicated after Lowenkamp & Latessa's (2005) study of correctional programming and risk, and included race/ethnicity (Black, Hispanic/Other, and a White reference category); age (in years); marital status (dichotomized as married or unmarried), employment status at time of incarceration (dichotomized as employed or unemployed), and high school education status (dichotomized as high school graduate or not). All demographics were self-reported to correctional officers at inmates' intake into the HOC. Substance use was also self-reported at intake and was trichotomized: no substance use (reference category), presence of alcohol or drug use (an alternative use variable), and presence of alcohol and drug use (a polysubstance use variable). Relevant legal variables included sentence length (in days) and offense type (drug, property/other, and a personal/sex offense reference category), which were drawn from official court reports at intake.

We utilized total scores from the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI; Andrews, Bonta, & Wormith, 2004) to model our categorical risk, predictor variables. This measure is equivalent to the aforementioned LSI-R, except that it allows for case managers to take case notes on a short-form instrument during evaluation. The inventory assesses risk across eight major subscales including: criminal history, education/employment, family/marital, leisure/recreation, companions, alcohol/drug problems,<sup>6</sup> procriminal attitudes/orientation, and antisocial patterns. Each subscale consists of dichotomous and ordinal questions that are summed into eight separate scores. Subscale scores are then aggregated into a total LS/CMI score that may be broken into five meaningful diagnostic risk categories: very low (0-4); low (5-10); medium (11-19); high (20-29); very high (30-43). According to the risk principle, inmates classified to high- and very high-risk categories should be prioritized for intensive treatment over very low to moderate risk inmates (Gendreau, 1989; Bonta, 1996). For the purpose of this analysis, risk was trichotomized into: 1) an aggregated very low/low/medium-risk reference category;<sup>7</sup> 2) high risk; and 3) very high risk.

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<sup>6</sup> We included separate substance use variables even though the drug/alcohol problem subscale of the LS/CMI is included in the aggregated total risk score utilized in our analysis. Here, we attempted to disaggregate the effects of substance use, a commonly cited risk factor for offenders (Gendreau, 1989; Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Bivariate correlations among all of the predictor variables (not shown) indicated that, despite commonalities in the measures, there was no evidence of multicollinearity.

<sup>7</sup> To aggregate the lower-risk categories was both methodologically and substantively strategic because it increased this category's sample size and served as a diagnostically meaningful reference group for comparison to the high- and very high-risk classifications.

## **LS-CMI RISK CATEGORIES USED IN ANALYSIS**

**Low to Medium Risk:** Total Score of 0 – 19

**High Risk:** Total Score of 20 – 29

**Very High Risk:** Total Score of 30 – 43

The two dichotomous outcome variables modeled were program placement and program completion. Program placement was operationalized as spending at least one day in the program-intensive pod within the HOC, where the SIR program is offered. Program completion was operationalized as spending at least 90 full days in the program-intensive pod, indicating completion of the SIR program.

## **DEFINING PROGRAM PLACEMENT AND PROGRAM COMPLETION**

### **Program Placement:**

Before release in 2007, the inmate spent at least 1 day in the SIR program.

### **Program Completion:**

Before release in 2007, the inmate spent 90 days or more in the SIR program.

## **Analytic Strategy**

Binary logit is a generalized linear model used to predict dichotomous outcomes (Liao, 1994). Two binary logit analyses were run using LIMDEP 8.0 (Greene, 2003). Demographic, substance use, offense type, and risk variables listed above were used to in two separate models to predict the outcome variables: 1) program placement; and 2) program completion. These models determined which variables predict program placement and program completion. Of particular interest to the current study is the significance of parameter estimates for the categorical risk and substance use variables. In accordance with the risk principle, these risk variables would be significant predictors of program placement. The model predicting program completion is largely exploratory and will be elaborated in the discussion section. Results from the binary logit models allowed for the calculation of odds ratios for both dichotomous and continuous predictor variables. Results from these analyses are examined in the following section.

## Results

Table 1 reports demographics, substance use variables, and offense characteristics for the sample. The mean age of participants was approximately 34 years with a mean sentence length of over 250 days. Approximately 65.5% of the participants were White offenders, a majority of whom were employed (69%) before incarceration, high school graduates (74.1%) and unmarried (89%). Over three-quarters of the inmates reported substance use and a majority of offenses were classified as personal or sex (approximately 40%).

**TABLE 1: Demographics, substance use and offense variables**

Variable	%	Mean
Age (years)		34.2 years
Sentence length (days)		256.9 days
Race/Ethnicity: White	65%	
Race/Ethnicity: Black	12%	
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic/Other	23%	
Employed	69%	
Married	11%	
High School Graduate	74%	
No Alcohol or Drug Use	22%	
Alcohol OR Drug Use	26%	
Alcohol AND Drug Use	52%	
Personal/Sex Offense	40%	
Drug Offense	33%	
Property/Other Offense	27%	

### LS-CMI Risk Categories

Before continuing on to the analysis it is worth taking a closer look at the risk distribution among the Billerica inmates included in this particular sample. We were particularly interested in the relationship between risk level and offense type, sentence length, and of course program placement and completion. The next few tables and figures provide a comprehensive overview.

The figure below offers a closer look at inmates falling within each of the LS-CMI risk categories (there were so few very low risk or low risk inmates (n=2) that we decided to exclude them).

As indicated below, the higher risk inmates tended to be sentenced to longer terms of incarceration. Whereas only 10% of the medium risk inmates were sentenced to more than one year, 16% of the high risk inmates and 26% of the very high risk inmates had been sentenced to more than one year. As the risk level increased, so did the percentage of inmates placed in and completing the SIR program. 33% of the medium risk inmates were

placed into the SIR program and 7% of the medium risk inmates completed the SIR program. Among the high risk group, 51% were placed into the SIR program and 17% completed it. Finally, among the very high risk group, 56% were placed into the SIR program and 30% completed it.

### **A CLOSER LOOK AT LS-CMI RISK CATEGORIES**

#### **Medium Risk Inmates (n=30)**

The majority, 46.7%, were convicted for personal offenses  
90% were sentenced to one year or less  
10% were sentenced to more than a year  
33% were placed into the SIR program  
7% completed the SIR program

#### **High Risk (n=69)**

The majority, 40%, were convicted for drug offenses  
84% were sentenced to one year or less  
16% were sentenced to more than a year  
51% were placed into the SIR program  
17% completed the SIR program

#### **Very High Risk (n=61)**

The majority, 39%, were convicted for personal offenses  
74% were sentenced to one year or less  
26% were sentenced to more than a year  
56% were placed into the SIR program  
30% completed the SIR program

The next two tables breakdown LS-CMI risk level by offense type (personal, property, drug, sex offense, or other) and sentence length (less than or equal to a year vs. more than a year). In all of the tables that follow, cell percentages represent the percentage of the total sample.

### LS-CMI Risk Category by Offense Type

		LS-CMI Risk Categories				
		<i>Low</i>	<i>Med.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>V. High</i>	<b><i>Totals</i></b>
<b>Offense Types</b>	Property	1%	3%	9%	9%	<b>21%</b>
	Personal	0%	9%	14%	15%	<b>37%</b>
	Drug	1%	6%	17%	9%	<b>33%</b>
	Sex	0%	1%	1 %	1%	<b>3%</b>
	Other	0%	1%	2%	3%	<b>6%</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### LS-CMI Risk Category by Sentence Length

		LS-CMI Risk Categories				
		<i>Low</i>	<i>Med.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>V. High</i>	<b><i>Totals</i></b>
<b>Sentence Length</b>	≤ 1 year	1%	17%	36%	28%	<b>82%</b>
	> 1 year	0%	2%	7%	10%	<b>18%</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>100%</b>



The next two tables break down program placement and program completion by sentence length – contrasting program placement and completion rates between those whose sentences were less than or equal to one year and those whose sentence lengths were greater than a year. Note that only 18% of the total sample was actually sentenced to more than one year.

### Sentence Length and Program Placement

		Program Placement		
		No	Yes	Totals
Sentence Length	≤ 1 year	44%	38%	<b>82%</b>
	> 1 year	7%	11%	<b>18%</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Sentence Length and Program Completion

		Program Completion		
		No	Yes	Totals
Sentence Length	≤ 1 year	69%	12%	<b>81%</b>
	> 1 year	11%	8%	<b>19%</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The next two tables break program placement and program completion down by LS-CMI risk level – contrasting program placement and completion rates between those who were classified as low, medium, high, or very high risk. Note that only 1% of the total sample was classified as low risk and fully 81% of the sample we classified as high or very high risk.

### LSCMI Risk Category and Program Placement

		LS-CMI Risk Categories				
		Low	Med.	High	V. High	Totals
Placed	No	1%	12%	21%	17%	51%
	Yes	0%	6%	22%	21%	49%
Totals		1%	19%	43%	38%	100%

### LSCMI Risk Category and Program Completion

		Risk Categories				
		Low	Med.	High	V. High	Totals
Completed	No	1%	17%	35%	27%	80%
	Yes	0%	1%	7%	11%	20%
Totals		1%	19%	43%	38%	100%

Only one-fifth (20%) of the total sample completed programming, and just over half (56%) of these inmates were classified as being at very high-risk for reoffense.

## Cross Tabulation of Risk Categories with Program Placement and Completion

LSCMI Risk		Very Low-Med	High	Very High	Totals
		% of total sample			
Program Placement	Yes	6%	22%	21%	<b>49%</b>
	No	14%	21%	17%	<b>51%</b>
Program Completion	Yes	1%	7%	11%	<b>20%</b>
	No	18%	35%	27%	<b>80%</b>

The results from both binary logit analyses are presented in the table below, and include the unstandardized coefficients (b), standard errors (SE), odds ratios (OR), and significance levels (p). Model 1 predicted program placement by demographic, offense and risk variables, and achieved overall significance ( $\alpha = .05$ ) indicated by the results of an omnibus test ( $\chi^2 = 27.434$ ,  $p=.0108$ ) with a Lemeshow pseudo- $R_L^2$  of .1222. The overall model achieved significance, but results from the parameter estimates offer no support for the study hypotheses that predicted high-risk categorical variables and substance use variables would be significant predictors of program placement.

### Binary Logit Analyses

Variable	Program Placement <sup>a</sup>				Program Completion <sup>b</sup>			
	b	SE	OR	p	b	SE	OR	p
Intercept	-.3366	1.033	.7141	.7444	-4.543	1.526	.0106	.0029*
Age (years)	-.0236	.0171	.9767	.1677	-.033	.023	.9672	.1511
Sentence length (days)	.0018	.0009	1.002	.0444*	.004	.001	1.004	.0001*
Race: Black	-.9454	.599	.3885	.1145	-1.083	.907	.3386	.2321
Race: Hispanic/Other	-.2993	.4569	.7413	.5124	.236	.640	1.266	.7122
Employed	.29	.3841	1.336	.4503	-.251	.507	.7781	.6203
Married	-.9781	.611	.3760	.1094	.389	.755	1.475	.6065
High school graduate	-.3721	.4568	.6893	.4153	1.142	.616	3.133	.0640
Alcohol OR drug use	.0016	.5212	1.002	.9976	1.101	.747	3.007	.1406
Alcohol AND drug use	.1166	.4639	1.124	.8016	.171	.715	1.187	.8105
Drug Offense	1.201	.4451	3.322	.0070*	1.410	.612	4.096	.0213*
Prop./Other Offense	.0591	.4397	1.061	.8930	-.201	.649	.818	.7569
LSCMI: High Risk	.4099	.4976	2.426	.4101	1.142	.898	3.133	.2034
LSCMI: Very High Risk	.8862	.5264	1.002	.0922	2.103	.907	8.191	.0205*

\* $p < .05$

<sup>a</sup> Model 1:  $\chi^2 = 27.434$ ,  $p=.0108$ ; pseudo- $R_L^2 = .1222$

<sup>b</sup> Model 2:  $\chi^2 = 39.796$ ,  $p=.0001$ ; pseudo- $R_L^2 = .2472$

There were only two significant predictors of program placement, including sentence length measured in days (OR=1.002, p=.0444) and the drug offense dummy variable (OR=3.322, p=.0070). These results indicate that with a very small increase in sentence length we can expect a 1.002 increase in the odds of being placed into the program-intensive pod. Furthermore, with a one-unit increase in the drug offense dummy variable (i.e., from not having a drug offense conviction to having a drug offense conviction), we can expect a 3.322 increase in the odds of being placed into the program-intensive pod.

Model 2 predicted program completion by demographic, offense and risk variables, and achieved overall significance ( $\alpha = .05$ ) indicated by the results of an omnibus test ( $\chi^2 = 39.796$ , p=.0001) with a Lemeshow pseudo- $R_L^2$  of .2472. The overall model achieved significance, but results from the parameter estimates only offer partial support for the study hypotheses that predicted high-risk categorical variables and substance use variables would be significant predictors of program placement. The only significant predictor relevant to study hypotheses was the very high-risk categorical variable (OR=8.191, p=.0205), indicating that with a one-unit change in this variable (i.e., from not having a very high-risk classification to having one) we can expect an 8.191 increase in the odds of completing the SIR program. Yet again, sentence length (OR=1.004, p=.0001) and the drug offense dummy variable (OR=4.096, p=.0213) were found to be significant predictors, but this time for program completion. These results indicate that with a very small increase in sentence length, we can expect a 1.004 increase in the odds of completing the SIR program (i.e., 90 full days in the program-intensive pod). Furthermore, with a one-unit increase in the drug offense dummy variable (i.e., from not having a drug offense conviction to having a drug offense conviction), we can expect a 4.096 increase in the odds of completing the SIR program.

While the study hypotheses go completely unsupported in Model 1 (program placement) and are only partially supported in Model 2 (program completion), the significant predictor variables (drug offense, sentence length, and very high-risk classification) offer several interesting points of discussion when put into the unique context of this specific HOC.

## **Discussion**

The results of this study demonstrate that high-risk classifications derived from the LS/CMI risk evaluation measure and substance use variables do not predict program placement. With regards to program completion, only one variable relevant to the study hypotheses was found to be significant, the very high-risk classification. This finding from Model 2 suggests that inmates with very high-risk classifications have increased odds of completing the SIR program than inmates with lower risk classifications. Overall, study hypotheses and the risk principle receive only very weak support from the current analyses. That said, those predictor variables that do achieve significance, but were not hypothesized, offer several intriguing points of discussion.

It was not entirely surprising to our research team that the drug offense dummy variable was a significant predictor of program placement and completion. Drug offenses often catch the attention of case managers and are often interpreted as indicators of substance

abuse/dependency problems regardless of the type of drug offense (i.e., drug trafficking may imply transportation and distribution of drugs but does not necessarily require the inmate to be a substance abuser). When drug offenses are encountered in inmates' case files, case managers target and prioritize those inmates for the Stepping into Recovery program with hopes that it will encourage desistance from drug use.

Overall, we observed that case managers' qualitative assessments and subjective justifications for inmates' classification into or out of programming tend to outweigh the standardized LS/CMI risk assessments—the lack of significance among risk variables in our results speaks to this conclusion, as well. A case managers' prior experiences with a particular inmate (or with inmate populations more generally) might influence his/her qualitative assessments during classification hearings and his/her subsequent interpretation of the LS/CMI results.

Case managers' subjective input is not completely unwarranted. As Austin (2004) explains, "There must be an opportunity to depart from scored risk levels based on a system of structured clinical judgment [...] Professional judgment, if properly exercised, can serve to reduce the number of false positives and negatives" (p. 5). Austin speaks to an adjusted actuarial justice model in which qualitative judgments and quantitative risk assessments are considered together when placing inmates into programs. However, it is important to remember that the most powerful aspect of risk assessment is making differential risk designations, and the effectiveness of risk measures relies heavily upon their use in program planning and delivery (Lowenkamp, 2004; Andrews, 2006).

The significance of the sentence length variable was not anticipated in the study hypotheses but it was also not an entirely surprising result. Inmates included in the present sample (2007 releases) only had access to LS/CMI evaluations and intensive programming since November 2006, when the HOC transitioned to its new podular model. At maximum, inmates had thirteen months to be selected for risk evaluation and placed into programming before their release. Those inmates with longer sentences, then, had greater temporal opportunity to be evaluated and placed.

## **Limitations**

The HOC had only been utilizing the LS/CMI and program-intensive pods for a little over a year by the time all of the inmates in our sample were released (December 31, 2007). As such, our sample size was partly limited by number of inmates who were evaluated on risk and placed into programming within that time frame. Such time constraints may explain why only 20% of the sample completed the 90-day SIR program. Such a small categorical sample size for this outcome variable may distort results. Indeed, the binary choice model specificity statistics estimating program completion showed that only 22% of program completers were correctly predicted, whereas 95% of inmates who did not complete programming were correctly predicted. In other words, the small sample size may explain why Model 2 is a robust predictor of failing to complete the SIR program, rather than completing the SIR program. Ultimately, a larger sample may be required to more accurately predict program completion.

These predictive models would benefit from structured quantitative measures of program integrity. There are key programmatic (e.g., risk evaluation) and non-programmatic (e.g., case manager's bias) variables that may be systematically measured using structured interviews (such as the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory, CPAI; Gendreau & Andrews, 2001) or strictly descriptive measures (Welsh & Zajac, 2004). Typically, these measures are adopted when performing a formal program evaluation, which goes beyond the scope of the current project but nonetheless would be a worthwhile pursuit. We do not have adequate standardized measures of case managers' qualitative case-by-case assessments of inmates to statistically model what may be considered an institutional decision-making process and its effects on program placement and completion.

In the empirical literature, the risk principle maintains much empirical support and the LS/CMI is a validated and reliable measure. That said, there is research that suggests risk evaluation measures must be evaluated and tested in each unique correctional context where they are applied to ensure acceptable psychometric properties and to avoid potential iatrogenic effects, including increases in recidivism (Weiner, 1998; Dishion, McCord, & Poulin, 1999; Andrews & Dowden, 1999).

# **PROFILE OF INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1994-2007**

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

NATASHA A. FROST, PH.D.  
CARLOS MONTEIRO  
GARRETT YURSA WARFIELD  
DESMOND RYAN

With additional research assistance from:  
ALISON OLIFF

**Interim Report Submitted: Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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## PROFILE OF INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1994 – 2007

Through a grant to Northeastern University in May 2007, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office commissioned a recidivism study for inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1994, 2004, and 2007. As part of that grant, the research team agreed to provide an interim report that would offer a profile of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in each of the years between 1994 and 2007. Using prison tracking data provided by the MSO, this interim report includes a portrait of released inmate populations that includes demographics, commitments, offenses, sentencing, and length of stay. Arresting agencies and committing courts are also profiled. The first section of the report offers a description of trends from 1994 through 2007, and the sections that follow offer year by year profiles of populations released in each year between 1994 and 2007. It is important to note at the outset that the report describes populations *released* from Billerica in each of the years and therefore does not describe actual annual inmate populations in any given year. Some of the inmates released in one year might have been admitted several years prior.

### HIGHLIGHTS

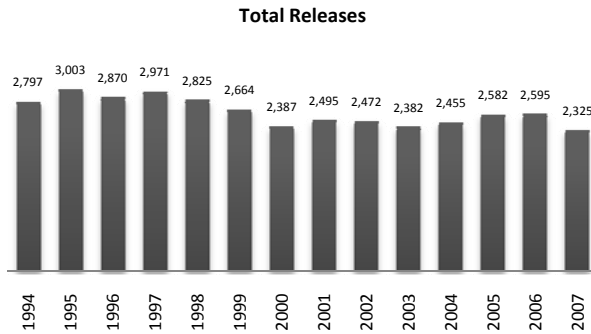
- While released inmate populations remain majority White, the percent of inmates released that are White has been declining (from a high of 70% in the mid-1990s to an average of 63% in more recent years). The percent Black has remained fairly consistent over the period, but the percent Hispanic has been increasing.
- The age at release has generally been increasing. While the average age at release had been 31 in 1994, the average age at release had reached 34 by 2007. The percentage of inmates who were over age 45 at the time of release has also been increasing. Inmates over age 45 at release made up just 5% of the released population in 1994, but 18% of the inmates released in 2007 were over the age of 45.
- Although the released inmate population has been on average getting older, inmates released in the more recent years are less likely to be married than they were in the mid-1990s. More than three-quarter of all inmates released since 2000 reported that they were single, approximately 10% were married, and 15% were divorced or separated.
- Inmate educational attainment levels are not included in this report because the self-report education data were collected via just one question at intake. These data were deemed unreliable and not representative of inmate's actual educational attainment.
- Inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction are increasingly identified as having substance abuse problems. In the mid-1990s, just over one-third of the released population was reported as having any substance abuse problem at all, but by

2007 more than two-thirds of all released inmates were identified as having substance abuse problems (with most of those identified as having *both* drug and alcohol abuse problems).

- The majority of inmates released from Billerica have always been released following a sentence to Billerica, and most of those had been arrested by Middlesex County police departments. Nine courts were responsible for sentencing almost three-quarters of all inmates admitted to Billerica.
- Offense type at admission has fluctuated over the years with personal offenses accounting for more admissions than any other category, followed by admissions for property offenses, drug and alcohol offenses, other offenses, and then sex offenses.
- Among inmates released in each of the years, the majority in every year were coded by HOC staff as having been released following a sentence to the House of Correction. Although most inmates are released following a sentence, the percentage of inmates that are released following a sentence has been declining (from almost 90% in the 1990s to approximately 80% in the since 2002). The percentage released following a parole violation has been increasing (from 3% to closer to 5% in recent years) as has the percentage released following “other commitments”.
- Although jail commitments are not readily distinguished in the prison tracking data, the research team was able to identify jail commitments using the assigned institutional numbers. The annual number of jail commitments has increased quite substantially since the mid-1990s growing from less than 200 per year in the mid-1990s to more than 400 per year since 2004.
- Between 1994 and 2007, the average sentence length (for sentenced inmates) at the Billerica House of Correction has been between 250 and 300 days.
- The average length of stay at Billerica has grown fairly steadily over time. In 1994, the average length of stay among inmates released from the House of Correction was 114 days, but by 2007 that average length of stay had climbed to 162 days. When jail credits were added to the length of stay at the House of Correction, inmates released in 2007 had served 202 days (compared to the 124 days served in 1994).
- Jail commitments have not yet been sentenced. Although they have no sentence length, jail commitments do have a length of stay. The length of stay for jail inmates varies quite dramatically with many inmates staying for just a couple of days and others serving many months and occasionally more than a year before transferring to another facility post-conviction. The House of Correction is increasingly likely to receive jail commitments and those commitments have stayed longer in recent years than they did in the 1990s.

## RELEASE TRENDS, 1994-2007

In addition to providing a comprehensive description of inmate populations released from the Billerica House of Correction in each year, this report also includes a profile of trends in release patterns between 1994 and 2007. Demographic, commitment, offense, sentencing, release, and length of stay trends are each described in turn. It is important to keep in mind that the data described are for released populations (and not current populations) in each of the years.



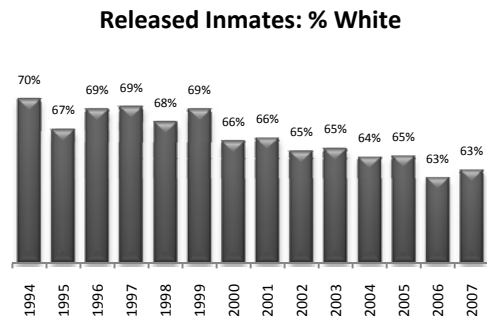
Between 1994 and 2007, the Billerica House of Correction released an average of 2,630 inmates each year. Notably, the total annual releases have been decreasing since the mid-1990s. Since 2000, the average number of inmates released has been 2,461 inmates per year. The total number of releases peaked at 3,003 in 1995 and was at its lowest in 2007 (with 2,325 releases in that year).

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

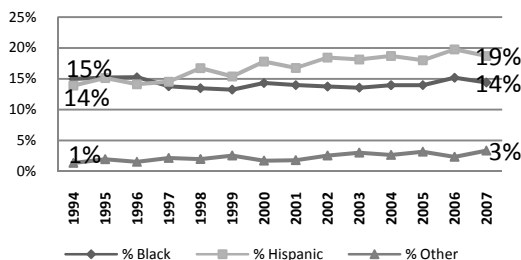
As part of this interim summary report, we have provided a demographic description of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in each year. In this section, we summarize demographic trends over time.

#### RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction are White. Between 1994 and 2007, 63 to 70 percent of all released inmates were reported to be White (presumably non-Hispanic). Although still the majority category, the percentage of White inmates has been decreasing over time (falling from a high of 70% in 1994 to a low of approximately 63% in 2006 and 2007).



**Race/Ethnicity of Non-White Released Inmates**

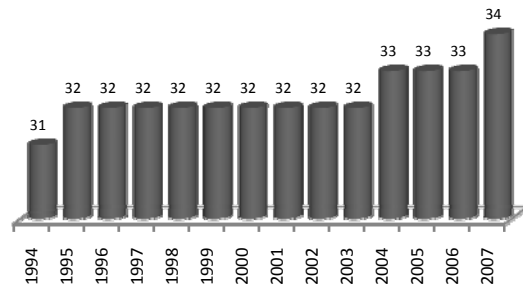


While Blacks have consistently accounted for between 14 and 15 percent of the released inmate population, the percentage of inmates that are Hispanic has been steadily increasing over time. The Hispanic population climbed from 14% in 1994 to just under 20% by 2007. The percentage of inmates for whom race or ethnicity is reported to be “other” has also been increasing (from 1% in 1994 to 3% by 2007).

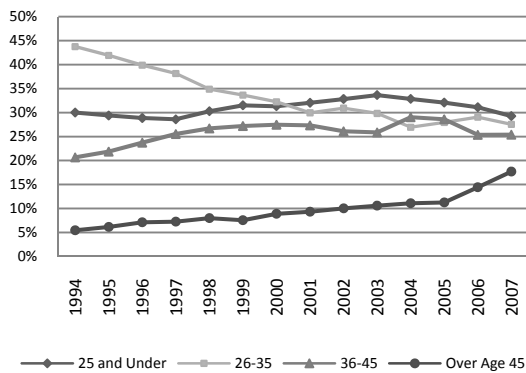
## AGE AT RELEASE

The average age of inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction has been slowly but steadily increasing over time. In 1994, the average inmate was 31 years of age at release. By 2004, the average age had increased to 34 years of age at release. The average age at release masks some notable trends across age at release.

**Average Age at Release**



**Grouped Age at Release**

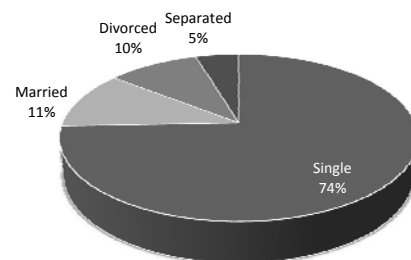


In the figure to the left, the age at release has been grouped into four categories (25 and under, 26-35, 36-45, and over 45 years of age). As depicted in the figure, while the percentage of inmates that are 25 years of age or younger and the percentage of released inmates that are 36-45 have remained fairly stable over the period, the percentage of inmates that are 26-35 years of age has been decreasing (falling from 44% in 1994 to 28% in 2007). At the same time, the percentage of inmates that are over age 45 at release has been steadily increasing. In 1994, just 5% of released inmates were over 45, by 2007 18% of the inmates released were over age 45.

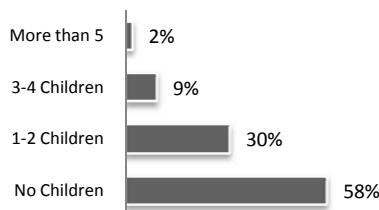
## MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (74%) of all inmates released was single (presumably never married). 11% reported being married at intake and 15% either divorced or separated.

**Marital Status, 1994-2007**



**Number of Children**

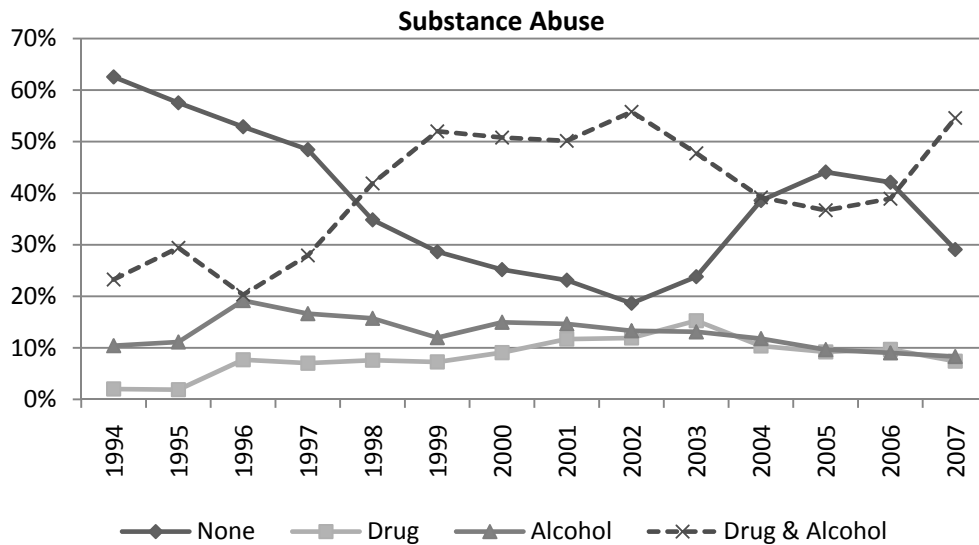


## CHILDREN

Most inmates released from the House of Correction have no children (58%). 30% of all inmates released reported having 1-2 children and just over 10% reported having more than three children.

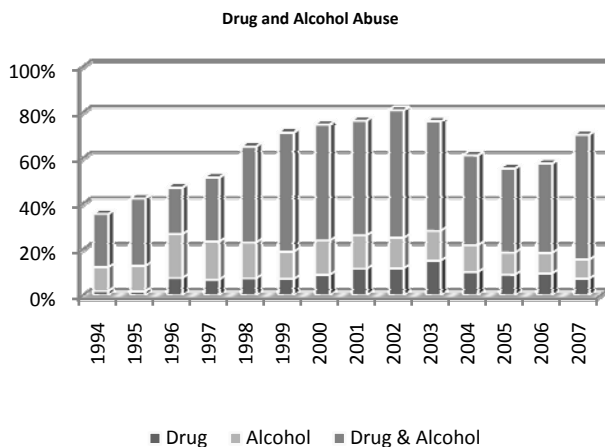
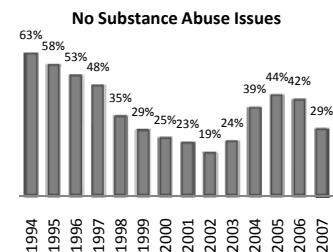
## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Inmates sentenced to Billerica have increasingly been identified as having substance abuse problems. In 1994, almost two-thirds of the inmates (63%) were reported to have no substance abuse problem. By 2007, less than one-third of the inmates were reported to have no substance abuse problem. As is made evident in the figure below, most of the variation has been across those identified as having no substance abuse issues and those identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse issues. For ease of interpretation, substance abuse issues across each of the categories are included below.



### No Substance Abuse Issues

Depending upon the year, as few as 18% to as many as 63% of released inmates were identified as having no substance abuse issues. Substance abuse issues are identified at intake and recorded in the inmate tracking system.

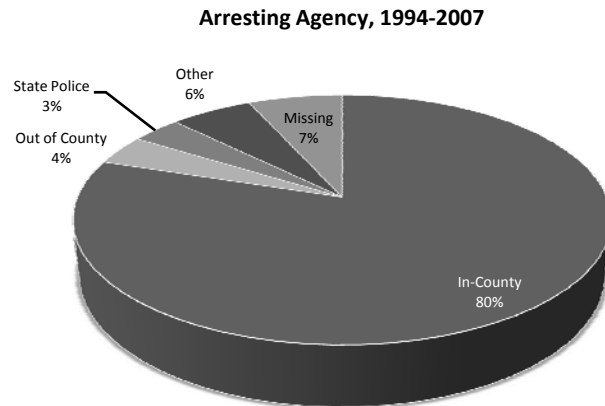


### Substance Abuse Issues

The figure to the left demonstrates the trends indicative of some sort of drug/alcohol abuse issue. Inmates with drug/alcohol abuse problems are identified as having a drug problem, an alcohol problem, or both an alcohol and drug problem. Although the overall totals have fluctuated, the percentage of inmates with drug and alcohol problems has been increasing over time.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

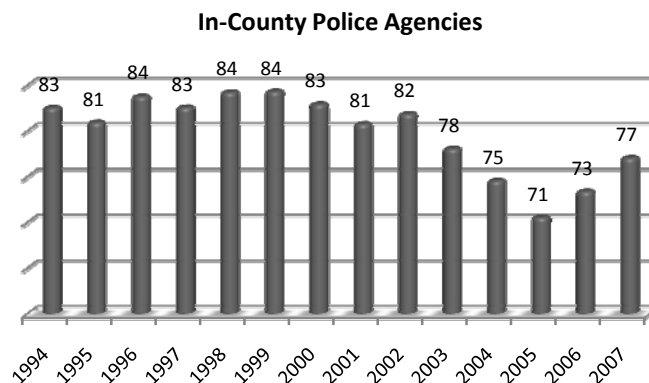
The figure to the right depicts arresting agency over the entire period (1994-2007). The vast majority of inmates (80%) released from the Billerica House of Correction had been arrested by an in-county police department. Only three individual police agencies had been the arresting agency for more than 5% of all inmates released. These agencies were Lowell (16%), Cambridge (almost 8%), and Framingham (just over 7%).



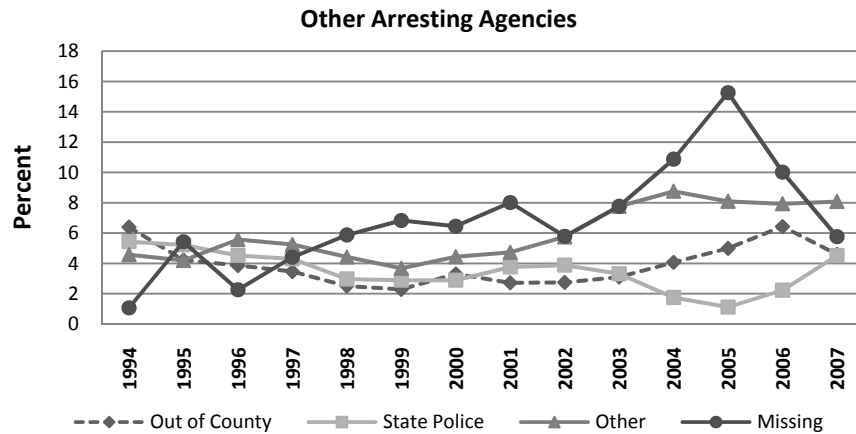
We have provided a complete accounting of arresting agency by year in the annual release reports. Here we have included a table describing the overall arrest percentages for twenty police agencies arresting at least 1% of inmates released from Billerica over the entire period.

AGENCY	PERCENT	AGENCY	PERCENT
Lowell	16.0%	Everett	2.7%
Cambridge	7.7%	Woburn	2.0%
Framingham	7.3%	Medford	1.9%
Somerville	4.6%	Natick	1.9%
Malden	4.5%	Ayer	1.5%
Out of County	3.9%	Newton	1.4%
Marlborough	3.8%	Other	1.3%
Parole/Probation	3.8%	Concord	1.1%
Waltham	3.6%	Watertown	1.1%
Massachusetts State Police	3.5%	Billerica	1.0%

Between 1994 and 2007, seventy to eighty-four percent of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction had been arrested by in-county police agencies. The drop in within county arresting agencies since 2002 is likely accounted for by the increase in missing data.



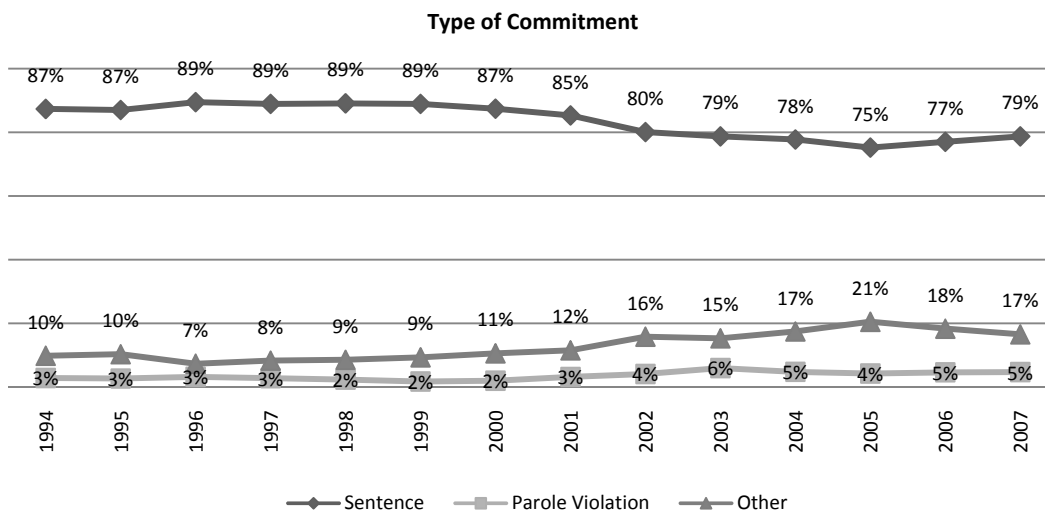
Although in-county police agencies account for the vast majority of admissions to the Billerica House of Correction, the state police, out of county and other police agencies account for one to nine percent of all admissions in any given year.



### RELEASED INMATES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

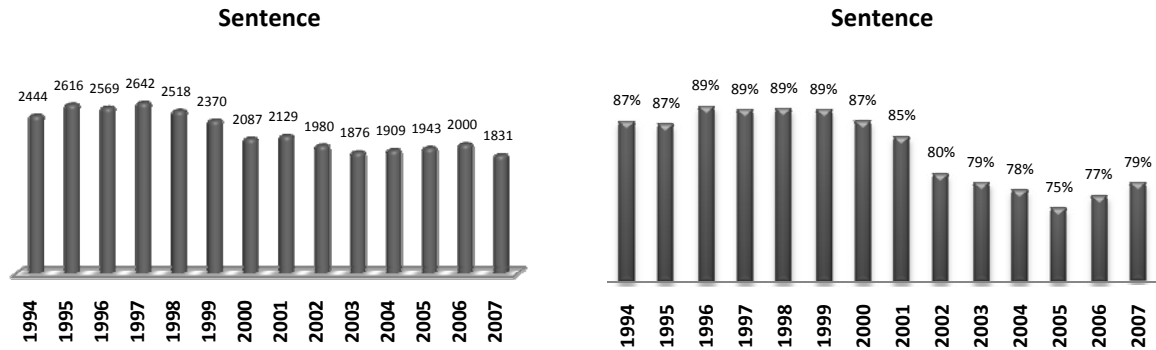
Although the House of Correction data files that we received were files for released inmates, we are able to use the data to describe commitment types for those inmates released in each year. Keep in mind, because they are derived from release data, these commitments were not necessarily commitments in the year of release.

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Commitment type was missing for a very small number of inmates (typically no more than 10 in any given year). In the first figure, the overall trends in sentence, parole, and other commitment types are depicted. In this figure other commitments include returns to custody, transfers, fines, other, and missing data points.



## RELEASED INMATES: SENTENCED COMMITMENTS

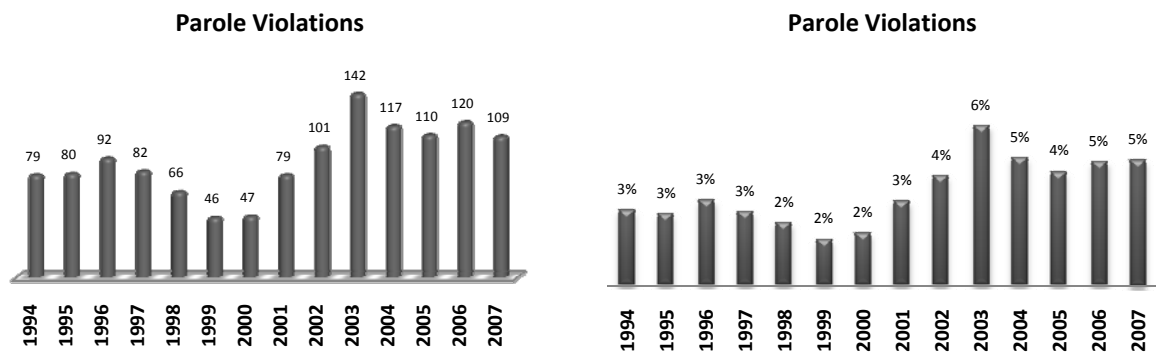
In the graphs that follow, trends in individual commitment types are described. Some of the trends may reflect changes in the way in which commitments types were coded as the MSO tracking system was modified over time.



The figures above demonstrate trends in sentence commitments. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of sentence commitments, while the figure on the right shows sentence commitments as a percentage of all commitments. The number of sentence commitments has ranged from a low of 1,831 in 2007 to a high of 2,642 in 1997. Between 1994 and 2001, sentence commitments accounted for approximately 88% of commitments (ranging from 85%-89%). However, since 2002, sentence commitments have accounted for approximately 78% of all commitments (ranging from 75%-80%). New sentence commitments have generally declined over the period.

## RELEASED INMATES: PAROLE COMMITMENTS

The figures below demonstrate trends in parole violation commitments. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of parole violation commitments, while the figure on the right shows parole violation commitments as a percentage of all commitments.

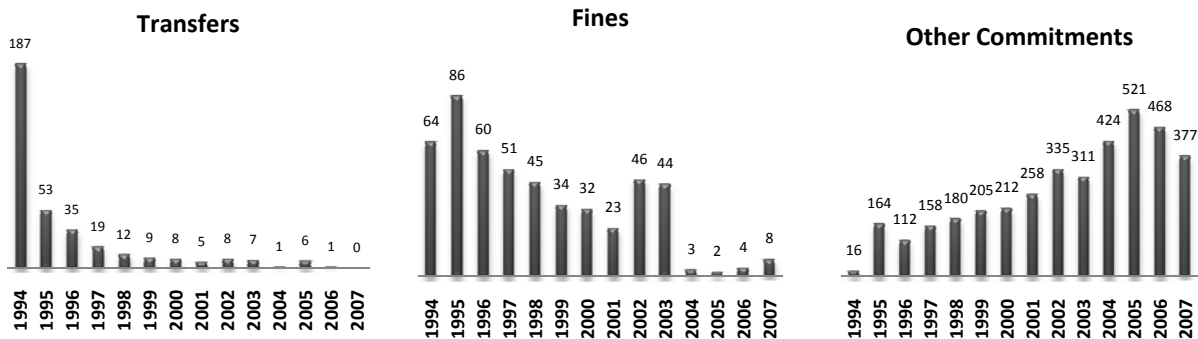


The number of parole violation commitments has ranged from a low of 46 in 1999 to a high of 142 in 2003. Between 1994 and 2001, parole violations accounted for approximately 3% of releases (ranging from 2%-3%). However, since 2002, parole releases have accounted for approximately 5% of all releases (ranging from 4%-6%). Declining sentence commitments have been met with increasing parole violation commitments.



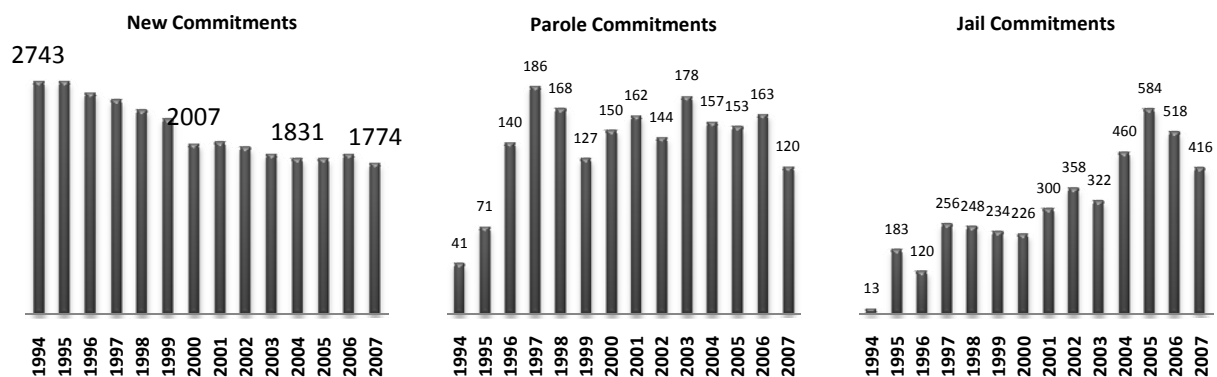
## RELEASED INMATES: OTHER COMMITMENT TYPES

The figure on the left depicts the actual number of transfer commitments in each year; the center figure depicts fine commitments; and the figure on the right depicts other commitments. Although most of the “other” commitments were jail commitments, “other commitments” also include a small number of “return to custody” commitments. As depicted in the figures, transfer and fine commitments have been decreasing while commitments coded as “other” have been increasing. Trends in transfer, fine, and other commitments lead us to believe that transfers (from jail) and fines have increasingly been coded as “other” commitments (this could be due to a change in the way data have been recorded in the tracking system).



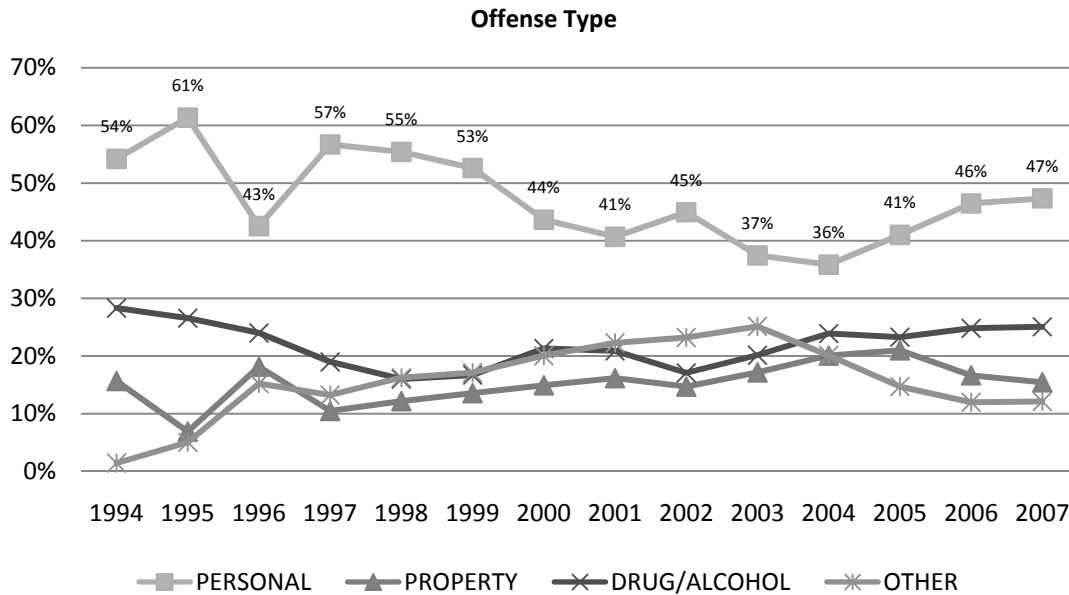
## SENTENCED, JAIL, AND PAROLE COMMITMENTS

Although there is no field that specifically identifies jail commitments, jail commitments (usually coded as “other commitments”) can be identified by the letter J at the end of their institutional number (INSNO). Similarly parole admissions can be identified by the presence of a letter (other than “J”) at the end of the institutional number (INSNO). In the MSO commitment type field, the jail commitments were typically coded as “other” commitments, although sometimes they were coded as either transfers or sentences. The research team hand-coded all admissions to separately identify the sentenced, parole and jail commitments. In the figure below, the total number of sentenced, jail, and parole commitments are distinguished (here sentenced inmates include transfers, fines, and all “other” commitments except for jail commitments). The research team recommends that “jail” be an option for commitment type so that these inmates can be more readily distinguished from the BHOC commitments.



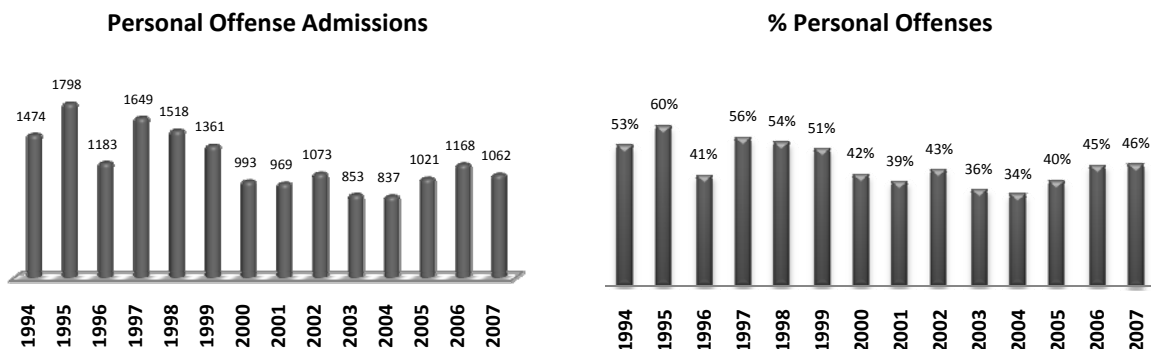
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses. In the figure below, the overall trends in offense type at commitment are depicted (in this summary figure, sex offenses have been included in the personal offenses category; sex offenses are distinguished below).



## PERSONAL OFFENSES

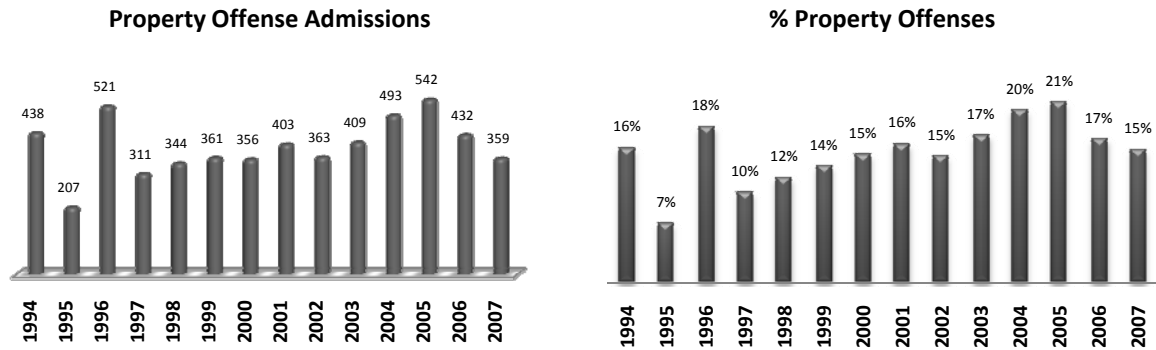
The figures below demonstrate trends in personal offense admissions. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of personal offense admissions, while the figure on the right shows admissions for personal offenses as a percentage of all offenses. Over the period, personal offense admissions accounted for an average of 47% of all admissions.



The number of commitments for personal offenses ranged from a low of 837 in 2004 to a high of 1,798 in 1995. Between 1994 and 2007, the percentage of commitments for personal offenses ranged from a low of 34% in 2004 to a high of 60% in 1995.

## PROPERTY OFFENSES

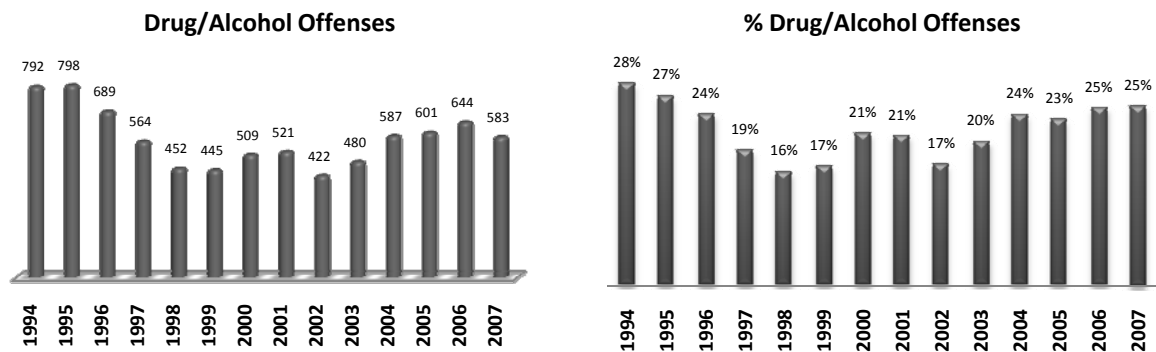
The figures below demonstrate trends in property offense admissions. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of property offense admissions, while the figure on the right shows admissions for property offenses as a percentage of all offenses. Over the period, property offense admissions accounted for an average of 15% of all admissions.



The number of commitments for property offenses ranged from a low of 207 in 1995 to a high of 542 in 2005. Between 1994 and 2007, the percentage of commitments for personal offenses ranged from a low of 7% in 1995 to a high of 21% in 2005.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFENSES

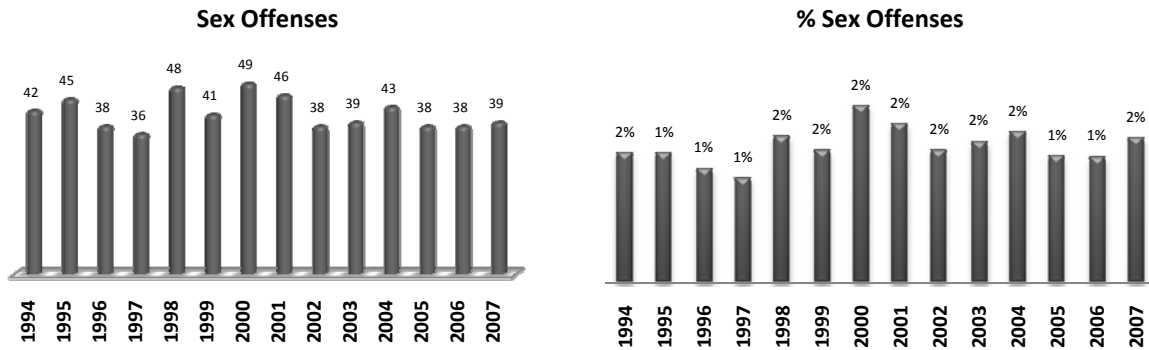
The figures below demonstrate trends in releases following an admission for a drug or alcohol related offenses. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of drug/alcohol admissions, while the figure on the right shows admissions for drug and alcohol offenses as a percentage of all offenses. Over the period, property offense admissions accounted for an average of 22% of all admissions.



The number of commitments for drug and alcohol related offenses ranged from a low of 422 in 2002 to a high of 798 in 1995. Between 1994 and 2007, the percentage of commitments for drug and alcohol related offenses ranged from a low of 16% in 1997 to a high of 28% in 1994. Although drug/alcohol related admissions declined between 1994 and 2000, since 2004 they have remained fairly stable at approximately 25% of all admissions.

## SEX OFFENSES

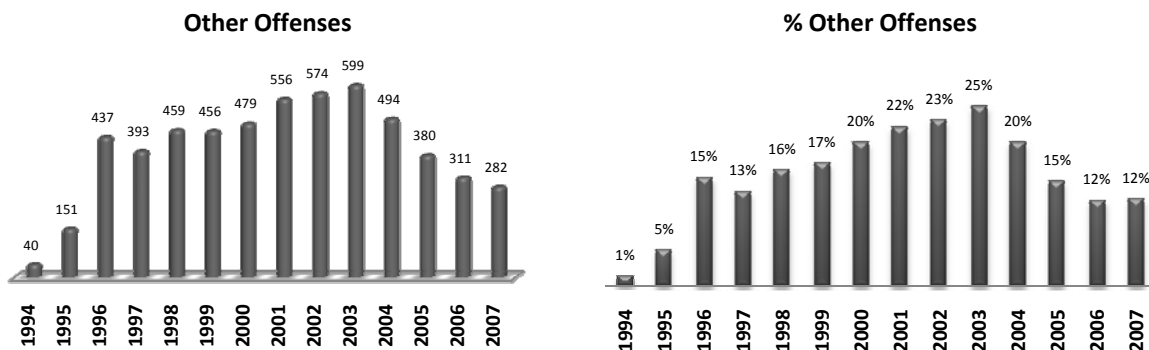
The figures below demonstrate trends in releases following an admission for a sex offense. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of sex offense admissions, while the figure on the right shows admissions for sex offenses as a percentage of all offenses. Over the period, sex offense admissions accounted for an average of 2% of all admissions.



The number of commitments for sex offenses remained fairly constant over the period, ranging from a low of 36 in 1997 to a high of 49 in 2000. Between 1994 and 2007, the percentage of commitments for sex offenses ranged from 1 to 2% of all commitments.

## OTHER OFFENSES

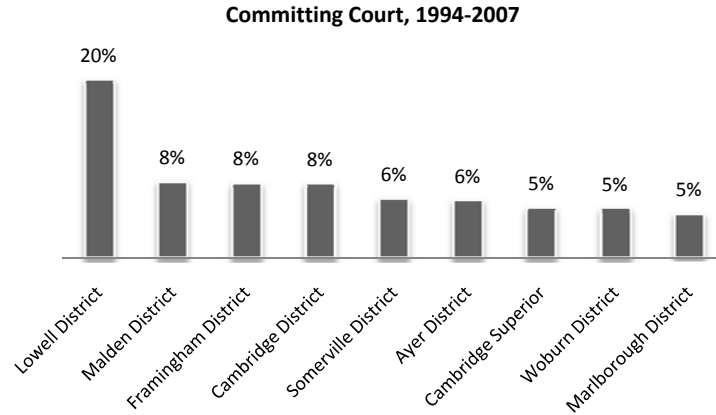
The figures below demonstrate trends in releases following an admission for an 'other' offense. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of other offense admissions, while the figure on the right shows admissions for 'other' offenses as a percentage of all offenses. Over the period, 'other' offense admissions accounted for an average of 16% of all admissions.



The number of commitments for other offenses climbed substantially between 1994 and 1996. Since 1996 between 12% and 26% of all admissions were coded as admissions for other offenses. This trend may reflect a change in the way offense categories were coded and entered in the MSO tracking system.

## COMMITTING COURT

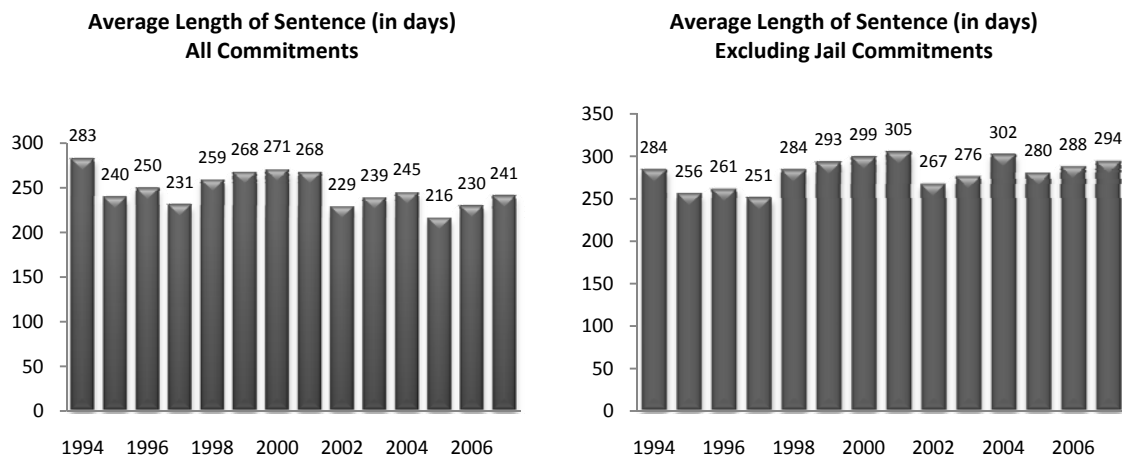
Nine courts committed almost three-quarters of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction. Each of these nine courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released between 1994 and 2007.



Almost 20% of all inmates committed to the Billerica House of Correction between 1994 and 2007 were committed by the Lowell District court. Malden, Framingham and Cambridge District Courts each admitted about 8% of all released inmates. Somerville, Ayer, Cambridge Superior, Woburn and Marlborough each admitted between 5 and 6% of released inmates. We have provided a complete account of court of commitment in each of the annual reports.

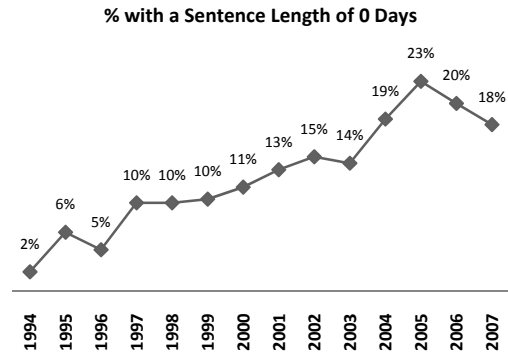
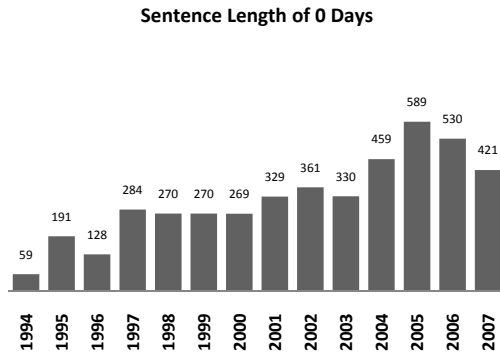
## LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The average length of sentence for inmates released in each of the years between 1994 and 2007 has ranged from a low of 216 days in 2005 to a high of 283 days in 1994. In the figure on the left, the averages include all inmates released in each of the years regardless of their commitment type. In the figure on the right jail commitments are excluded. The overall annual average masks some substantial variation across length of sentence. Therefore, in the figures that follow, we have grouped the length of sentence to illustrate trends across various sentence lengths.



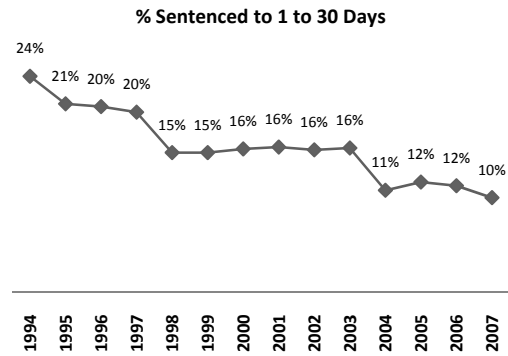
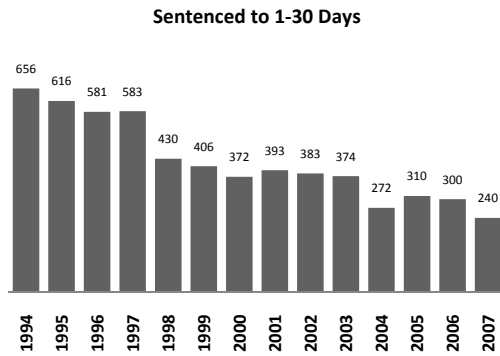
## SENTENCE LENGTH OF 0 DAYS (JAIL COMMITMENTS)

The percentage of inmates released who were identified as having a sentence length of 0 days increased fairly steadily between 1998 and 2005 and has since been declining. Although most of those who had no sentence were jail commitments, some had sentences of 0 days other commitment types.



## SENTENCED TO ONE TO THIRTY DAYS

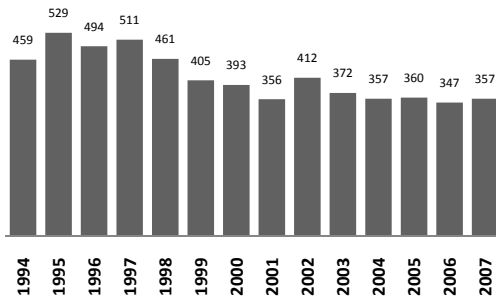
The percentage of inmates released following a sentence of one to thirty days has been steadily decreasing. Although almost a quarter of the population released in 1994 had been sentenced to 1-30 days, by 2007, just 10% of all inmates released had been admitted for 1-30 days. This trend should be considered in conjunction with the trend for those released following a sentence of 0 days. When combined between 25-30% of those released over the period had been sentenced to thirty days or less.



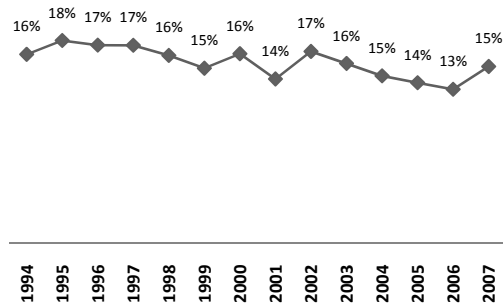
SENTENCED TO ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR

Typically more than half of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction are released following sentences of between one month and one year. Over the period 1994-2007, between 14% and 18% of all inmates were released following sentences of one to three months (31-90 days); between 16% and 19% of all inmates were released following a sentence of three to six months (91-180 days); and between 17% and 19% of all inmates were released following a sentence of six months to one year (181-365 days).

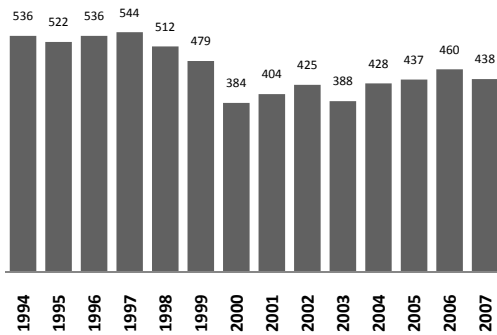
Sentenced to 1-3 Months



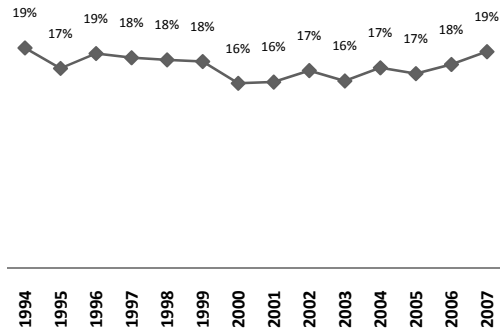
% Sentenced to 1-3 Months



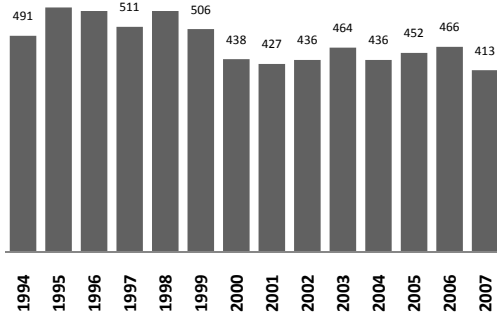
Sentenced to 3-6 Months



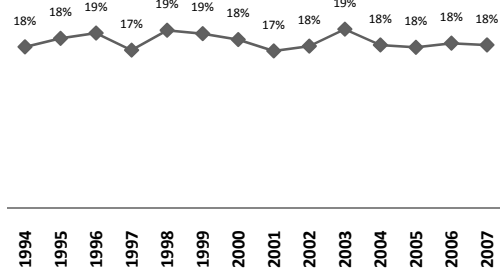
% Sentenced to 3-6 Months



Sentenced to 6-12 Months

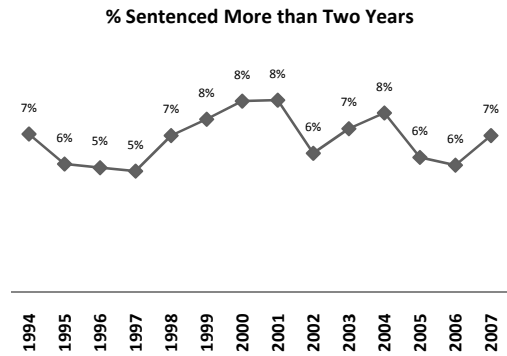
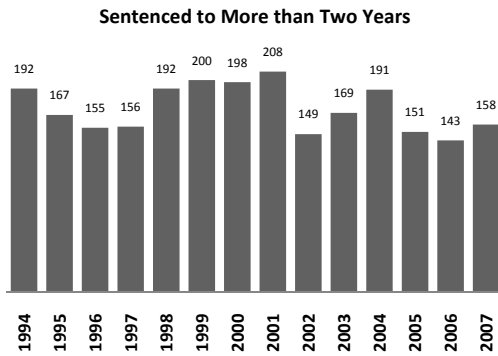
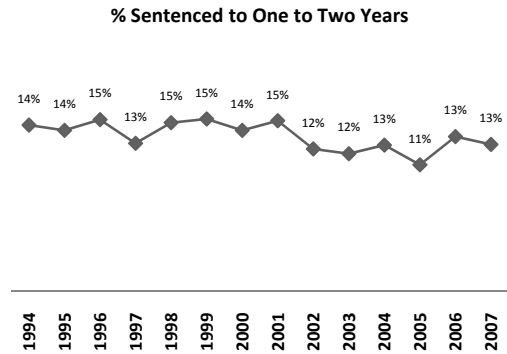
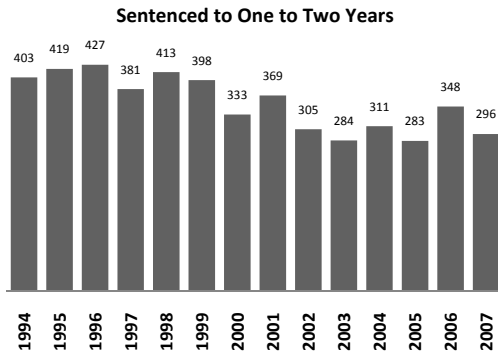


% Sentenced to 6-12 Months



## SENTENCED TO MORE THAN ONE YEAR

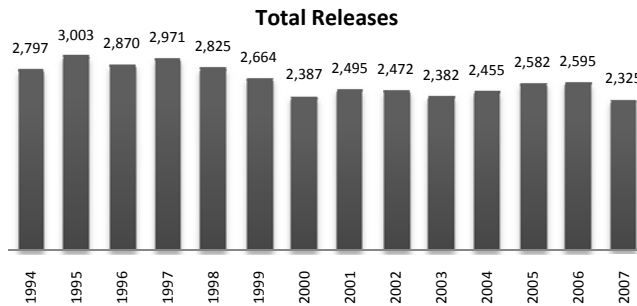
Between 15% and 22% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction are released following sentences of more than one year. Over the period 1994-2007, between 11% and 15% of all inmates were released following sentences of one to two years and from 5% to 8% of all inmates were released following sentences of more than two years.





## TOTAL RELEASES

Between 1994 and 2007, the Billerica House of Correction released an average of 2,630 inmates each year. Notably, the total annual releases have been decreasing since the mid-1990s. Since 2000, the average number of inmates released has been 2,461 inmates per year. The total number of releases peaked at 3,003 and was at its lowest in 2007 (with 2,325 releases in that year).

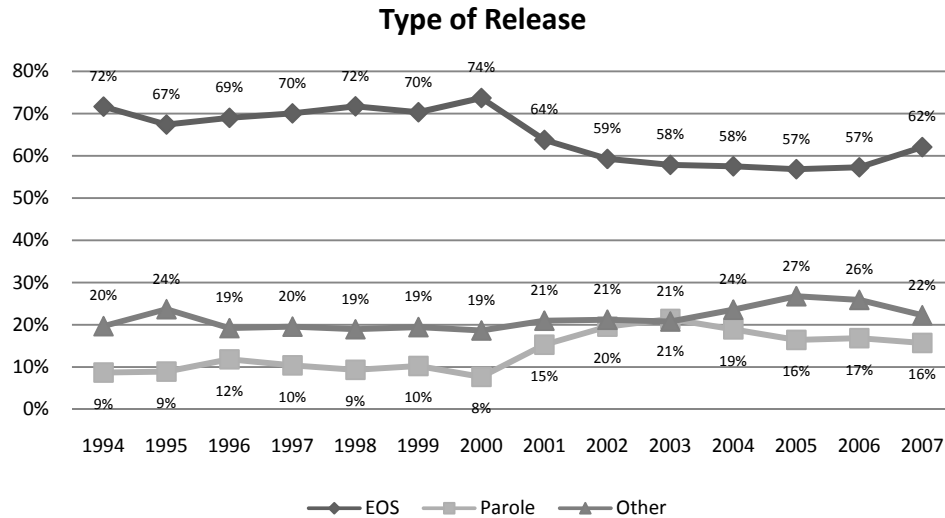


## RELEASE TYPES

The data provided by the House of Correction included eleven different release types:

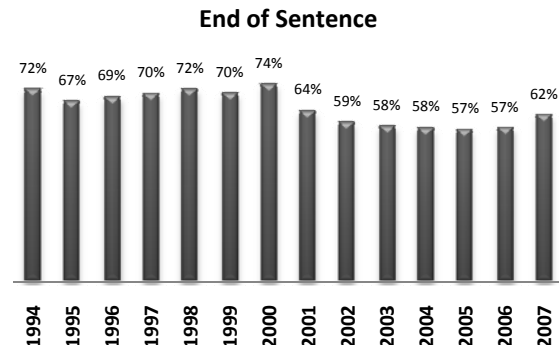
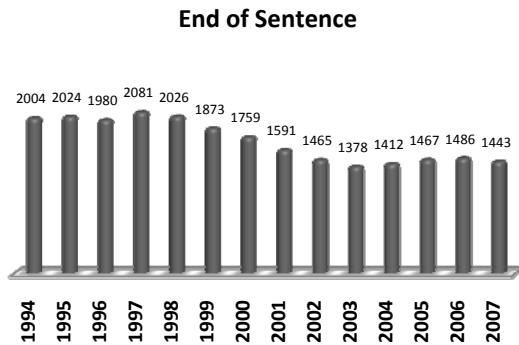
- EOS: End of Sentence
- S/P: Parole
- TRF: Transfer
- R&R: Revised and Revoked
- F/W: Forthwith
- RTC: Return to Custody
- RBC: Release by Court
- RHC: Release to Higher Custody
- FPD: Fine Paid
- DEA: Death
- OTHER: Other

In the first graph, the overall trends in end of sentence, parole, and other releases are depicted. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other. In the graphs that follow the overall trend graph, trends in each of the individual release categories are presented.



#### END OF SENTENCE

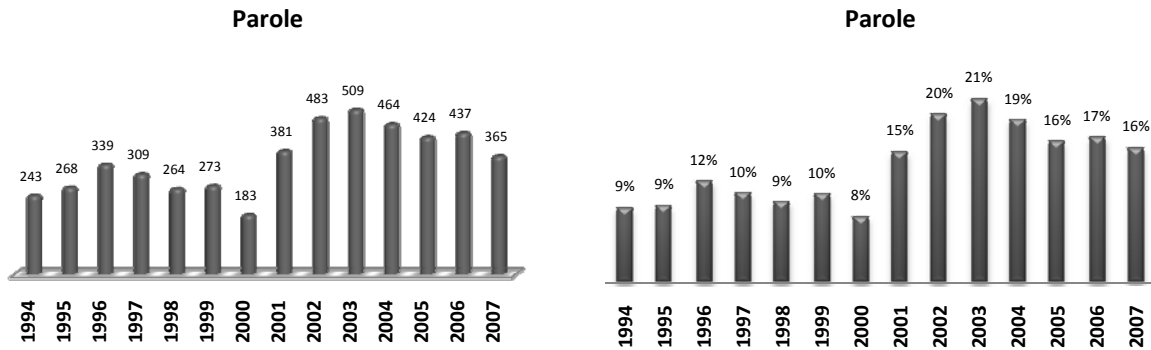
In the graphs that follow, trends in individual release types are described. Some of the trends may reflect changes in the way in which releases were coded as the MSO tracking system was modified over time.



The figures above demonstrate trends in end of sentence releases. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of end of sentence releases, while the figure on the right shows end of sentence releases as a percentage of all releases. The number of end of sentence releases has ranged from a low of 1,378 in 2003 to a high of 2,081 in 1997. Between 1994 and 2000, end of sentence releases accounted for approximately 70% of releases (ranging from 67%-74%). However, since 2001, end of sentence releases have accounted for approximately 60% of all releases (ranging from 57%-64%).

## PAROLE RELEASES

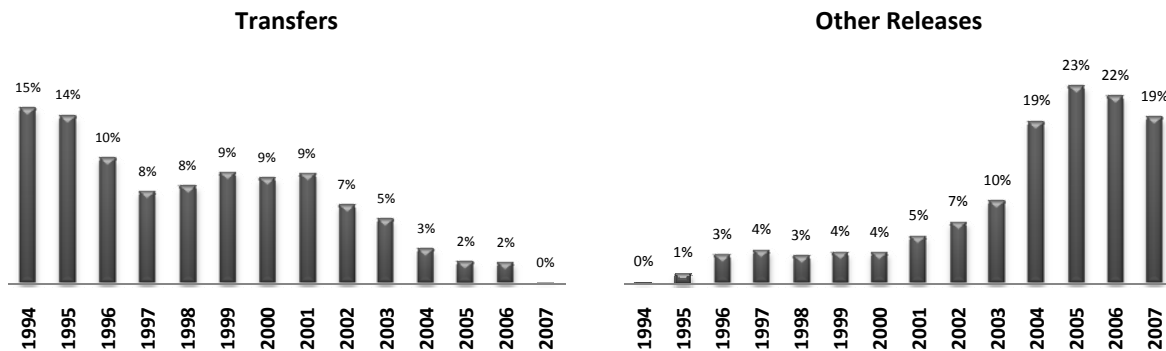
The figures below demonstrate trends in parole releases. The figure on the left shows trends in the actual number of parole releases, while the figure on the right shows parole releases as a percentage of all releases.



The number of parole releases has ranged from a low of 183 in 2000 to a high of 509 in 2003. Between 1994 and 2000, parole releases accounted for approximately 10% of releases (ranging from 8%-12%). However, since 2001, parole releases have accounted for approximately 18% of all releases (ranging from 15%-21%).

## TRANSFERS AND OTHER RELEASES

The figure on the left shows “transfers” as a percent of all releases, while the figure on the right shows “other” releases as a percentage of all releases. Trends in transfers and “other releases” lead us to believe that “transfers” have increasingly been coded as “other” releases (this could be due to a change in the way data have been recorded in the tracking system).

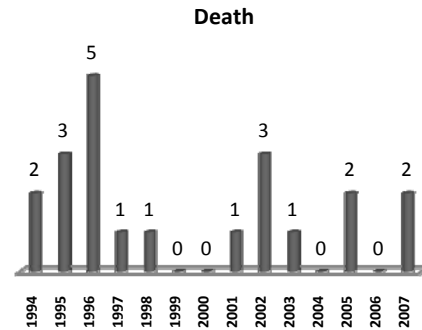


## OTHER RELEASE TYPES

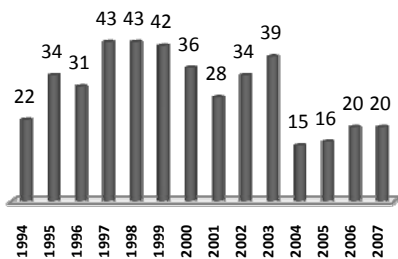
The figures below demonstrate trends in each of the other types of releases. In these figures, the actual numbers of releases for each release type are reported. These types of releases tended to account for at most 3.5% of all releases with most accounting for less than 1% in any given year.

### Death

Very few inmates died while in custody. Less than 2/10<sup>ths</sup> of one percent of all inmates were released due to death. In four years (1999, 2000, 2004, and 2006), no inmates died in custody. In 1996, five inmates died while in custody. In the remaining years between one and three inmates died while in custody.



### R&R



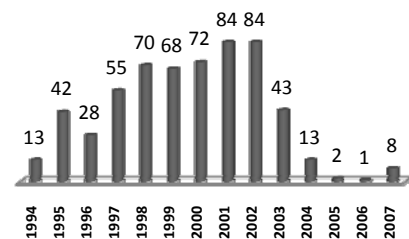
### Revise and Revoke (R&R)

Between 1994 and 2007, between ½ and 1½ percent of all inmates were subject to a revise and revoke release. The number of revise and revoke releases was at its highest in the late 1990s, when approximately 40 inmates per year had their sentences revised and revoked. In recent years, about 20 inmates per year are released due to a revise and revoke order.

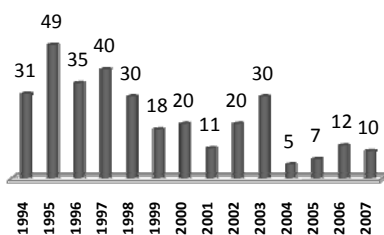
### Released by Court (RBC)

Between 1 and 84 inmates have been released by courts between 1994 and 2007. The use of this type of release peaked in the early 2000s with 84 inmates released by courts in 2001 and 2002. In the most recent years (2005-2007), less than 10 inmates have been released by courts.

### RBC



### Fine Paid

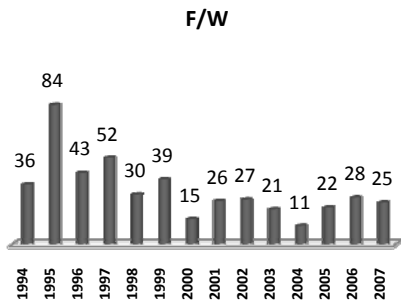


### Fine Paid

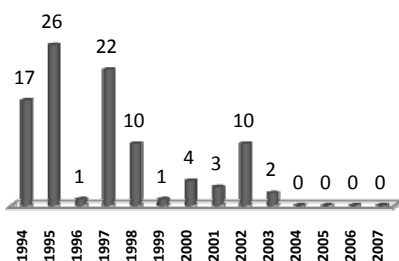
A small number of inmates are released from HOC custody because they have paid their court ordered fine. The number of inmates who are admitted to custody and then released upon payment of a fine has been decreasing since the mid-1990s. In the four most recent years, 12 or less inmates per year have been released upon payment of a fine.

## Forthwith (F/W)

Since 1994, between 11 and 84 inmates per year were identified as forthwith releases from custody. The number of forthwith releases was at its lowest at 11 in the year 2004 and peaked at 84 in 1995. Since 2001, approximately two dozen inmates have been forthwith releases (representing about 1% of all releases in each of those years).



## RHC



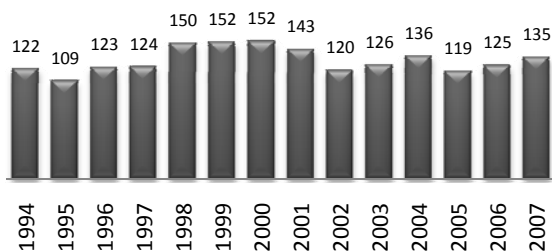
## Released to Higher Custody (RHC)

In most of the years between 1994 and 2007, less than one half of one percent of all inmates released from Billerica has been released to higher custody. In the four most recent years (2004-2007), no inmates have been released to higher custody (this may reflect a change in the recording of release type in the data more than it reflects an actual decline).

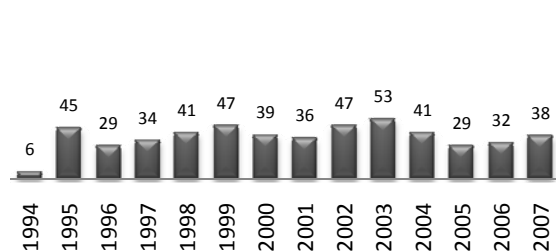
## LENGTH OF STAY

In the figures on this page, the average length of stay for inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction is depicted in several different ways. The figure just below on the left includes all releases (including those who were released following a jail admission, a parole violation admission, a transfer, or a new sentence, etc). The average length of stay in days for inmates released has ranged from a low of 109 days in 1995 to a high of 152 days in 2000 and 2001. The figure on the right includes only jail admissions. Jail admissions stayed an average (mean) of 39 days across the period.

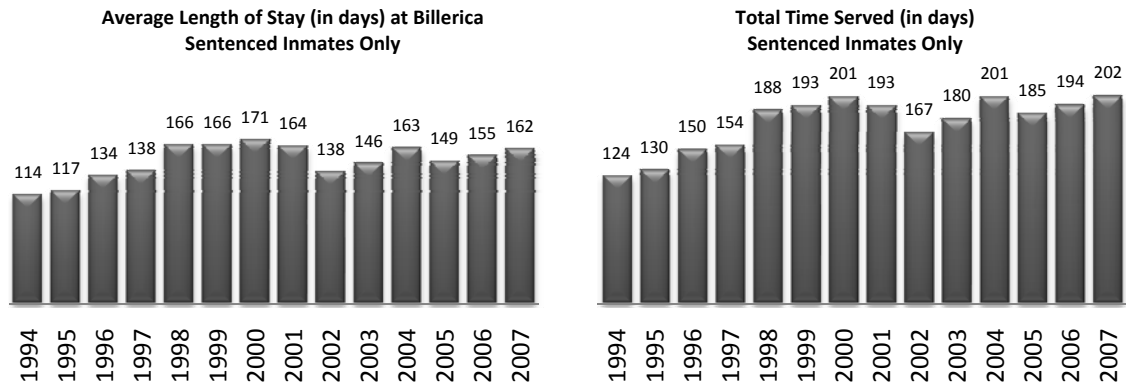
Average Length of Stay (in days) at Billerica  
All Releases



Average Length of Stay (in days) at Billerica  
Jail Admissions Only



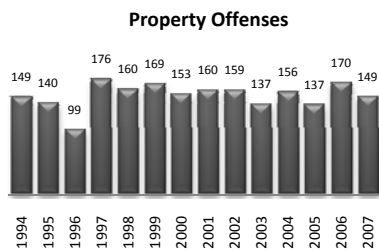
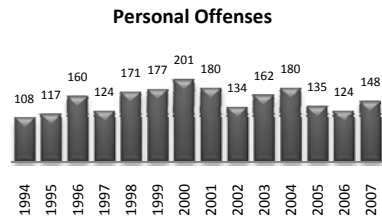
The figures below isolate **sentenced inmates only** (excluding all jail, parole, and transfer admissions) and report both average length of stay at Billerica (left) and total time served (right). The figure on the left includes only time that released inmates served at the Billerica House of Correction. The figure on the right adds jail credits depicting total time served. Overall length of stay has certainly increased since 1994 although the pattern of growth has been somewhat erratic. Much of the initial growth in average time served took place between 1994 and 1998; length of stay then fell in 2001, climbed between 2002 and 2004, fell again in 2005 and has since been slowly climbing. Although the average length of stay at Billerica was at its highest between 1998 and 2001, in terms of total time served, 2007 releases had served more time on average than in any previous year. The peaks in average length of stay and total time served occurred in 2000, 2004, and 2007.



The average length of stay figures above mask some substantial variation across length of stay by type of offense type. Therefore, in the figures that follow, we have grouped the length of stay to illustrate trends across various offense types. In all of the figures below, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction is depicted (these figures do not include any jail credits).

## PERSONAL OFFENSES

Trends in average length of stay for personal offenses closely track trends in overall average length of stay. In 1994, offenders released from Billerica following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 108 days at release. The average length of stay for personal offenses peaked at 201 days in 2000. Among inmates released in 2007, the average length of stay for a personal offense was 148 days.

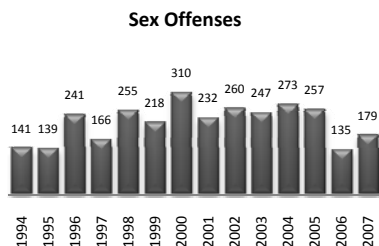
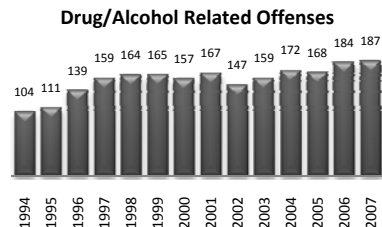


## PROPERTY OFFENSES

In 1994, offenders released from Billerica following an admission for a property offense had served an average of 149 days at release. The average length of stay for personal offenses peaked at 176 days in 1997. Among inmates released in 2007, the average length of stay for a property offense (149 days) was one day longer than the length of stay for a personal offense.

## DRUG & ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

The average length of stay for drug and alcohol offenses shows a general pattern of growth. In 1994, offenders released from Billerica following an admission for a drug/alcohol offense had served an average of 104 days at release. After climbing fairly consistently between 1994 and 2007, by 2007, the average length of stay for a drug or alcohol related offense was at its highest at 187 days.

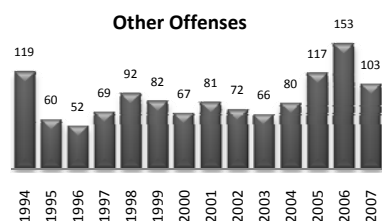


## SEX OFFENSES

The average length of stay for sex offenders released from Billerica has been the most variable (this is largely because of the small number of sex offenders released in each year). The average length of stay for sex offenses peaked at 310 days in 2000. Among inmates released in 2007, the average length of stay for a sex offense was 179 days.

## OTHER OFFENSES

Average length of stay for other offenses was also quite variable over time ranging from a low of 52 days in 1996 to a high of 153 days in 2000. Among inmates released for other offenses in 2007, the average length of stay was 103 days.





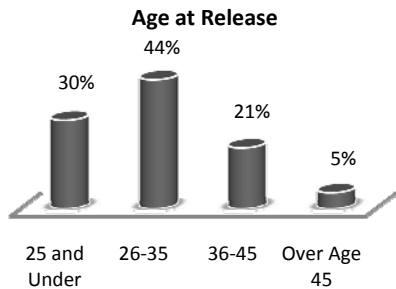
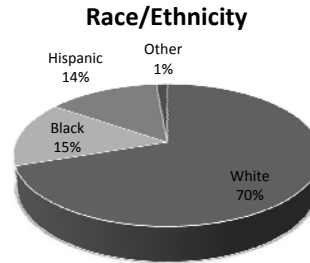


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1994**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

70% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1994 were White, 15% were Black, 14% were Hispanic, and 1% were identified as an other race or ethnicity.

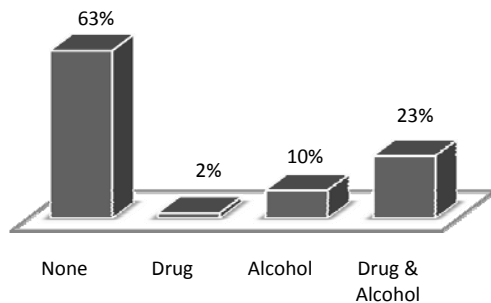
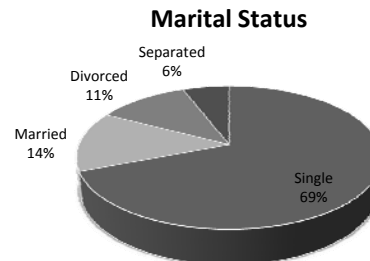


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost three-quarters (74%) of the inmates released in 1994 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 44% of the released population. Very few inmates released in 1994 were over age 45 (only 5%).

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (69%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 14% reported being married at intake and 17% were either divorced or separated.

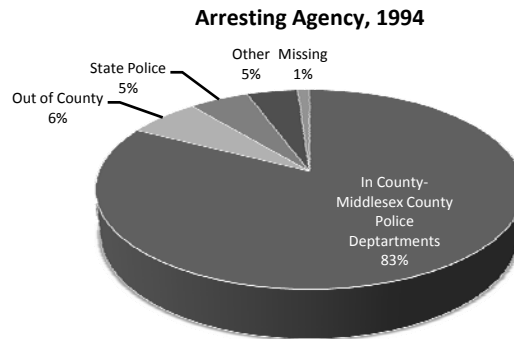


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1994, 63% reported no substance abuse issues at intake. 35% had some sort of substance abuse issue. Almost one quarter (23%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. 10% had alcohol abuse issues and 2% had drug abuse issues. Data were missing for 2% of the inmates.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1994. The vast majority of inmates (83%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1994 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (16%), Cambridge (8%), and Framingham (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the percentage of all 1994 releases that followed an arrest by that agency.

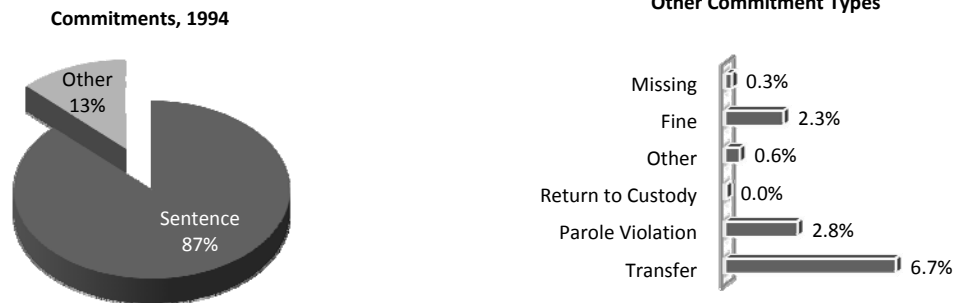


Arresting Agency	Number	%
Lowell	460	16.4%
Cambridge	228	8.2%
Framingham	184	6.6%
Out of County	179	6.4%
Massachusetts State Police	152	5.4%
Somerville	139	5.0%
Malden	115	4.1%
Marlborough	107	3.8%
Waltham	103	3.7%
Parole/Probation	84	3.0%
Everett	79	2.8%
Medford	72	2.6%
Woburn	64	2.3%
Newton	53	1.9%
Ayer	42	1.5%
Concord	42	1.5%
Natick	36	1.3%
Billerica	35	1.3%
Watertown	34	1.2%
Burlington	33	1.2%
Hudson	32	1.1%
Tewksbury	31	1.1%
Other	29	1.0%
Wakefield	27	1.0%
Wilmington	27	1.0%
Reading	25	0.9%
Lexington	23	0.8%
Melrose	23	0.8%
Chelmsford	21	0.8%
Ashland	20	0.7%
Shirley	18	0.6%

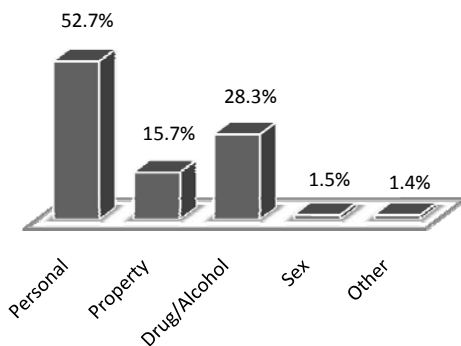
Arresting Agency	Number	%
Maynard	17	0.6%
Pepperell	16	0.6%
Stoneham	15	0.5%
Acton	14	0.5%
Bedford	14	0.5%
Belmont	14	0.5%
North Reading	13	0.5%
Arlington	12	0.4%
Dracut	12	0.4%
Hopkinton	12	0.4%
Westford	12	0.4%
Littleton	9	0.3%
Groton	8	0.3%
Holliston	8	0.3%
Sudbury	8	0.3%
Townsend	8	0.3%
Tyngsborough	6	0.2%
Winchester	6	0.2%
Boxborough	5	0.2%
Stow	5	0.2%
Weston	5	0.2%
DOC	5	0.2%
College Police	5	0.2%
Lincoln	4	0.1%
Wayland	4	0.1%
Out of State	4	0.1%
Ashby	3	0.1%
Carlisle	2	0.1%
Dunstable	2	0.1%
Sherborn	1	0.0%
MSO OR BHC	1	0.0%

## 1994 RELEASES: COMMITMENT TYPE AT ADMISSION

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (87%) released in 1994 were admitted following a sentence. 13% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, transfers were the most common followed by parole violations and fines.



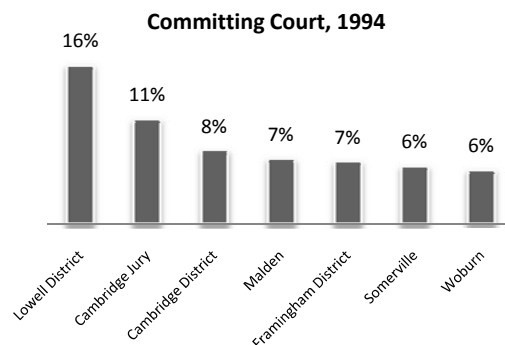
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1994, more than half (52.7%) had been serving time for personal offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 28.3%; Sex offenses for 1.5%; and other offenses for 1.4% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed almost 60% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1994. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 1994.

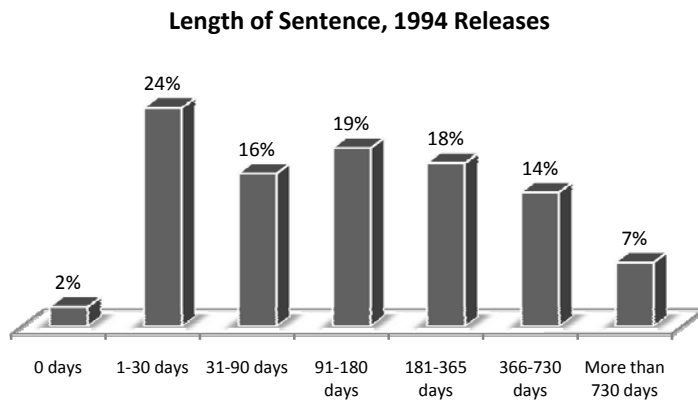


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1994. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	461	16.5%	Framingham Jury	120	4.3%
Cambridge Jury	305	10.9%	Lowell Jury	120	4.3%
Cambridge District	214	7.7%	Waltham	112	4.0%
Malden	190	6.8%	Marlborough	105	3.8%
Framingham District	182	6.5%	Concord	99	3.5%
Somerville	168	6.0%	Lowell Superior	52	1.9%
Other	168	6.0%	Newton	48	1.7%
Woburn	158	5.6%	Natick	24	0.9%
Ayer	121	4.3%	Parole	20	0.7%
Cambridge Superior	121	4.3%	Out of County	7	0.3%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

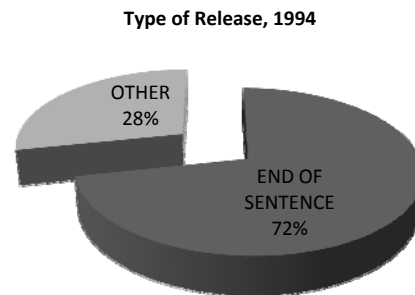
The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1994. In 1994, the average length of sentence for all inmates released was 283 days.



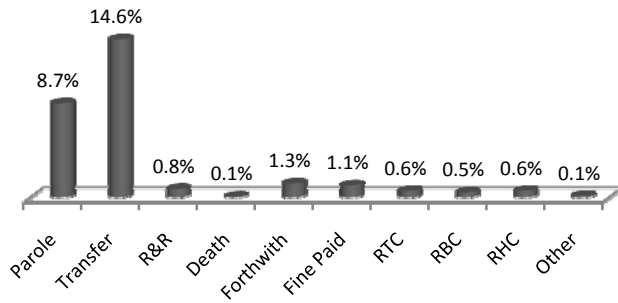
More than one-quarter (26%) of all inmates released in 1994 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 79% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 21% to more than one year (14% were sentenced to one to two years and 7% to more than two years).

### TYPE OF RELEASE

72% of all inmates released in 1994 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 28% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.



**Other Release Types: 1994**

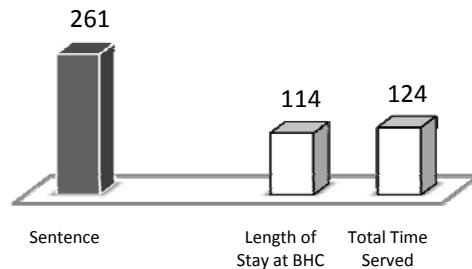


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were transfers (14.6%) followed by parole releases (8.7%).

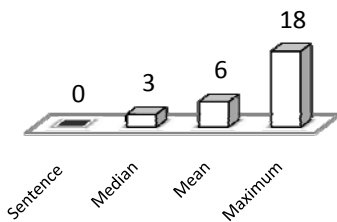
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served: 1994 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

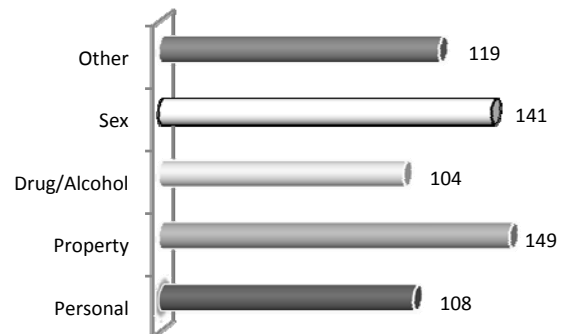


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1994. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1994 was 18 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or aboveabove).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 1994, inmates released following admissions for property offenses had served the most time at release (149 days). Offenders released following an admission for a sex offense had served an average of 141 days. Those released following commitments for personal and drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of just over 100 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**

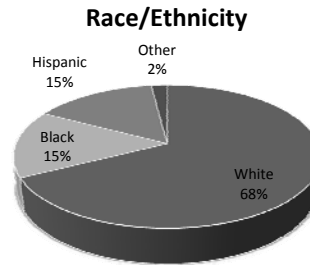


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1995**

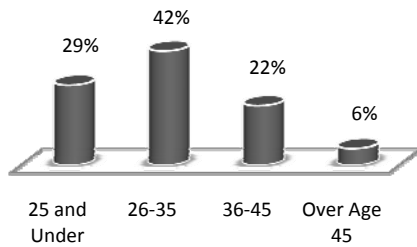
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

68% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1995 were White, 15% were Black, 15% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as an other race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

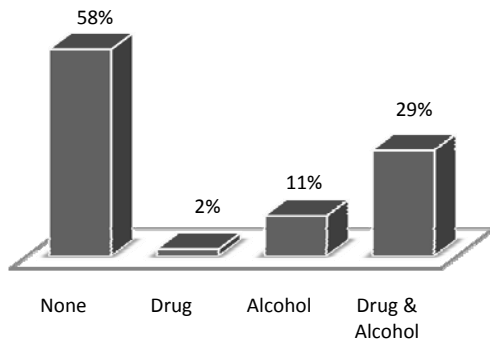
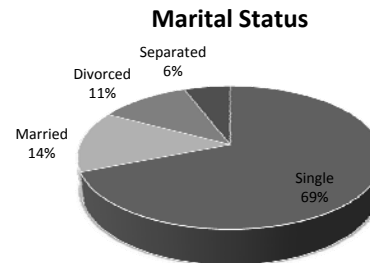


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost three-quarters (71%) of the inmates released in 1995 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 42% of the released population. Very few inmates released in 1995 were over age 45 (only 6%).

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (69%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 14% reported being married at intake and 17% were either divorced or separated.



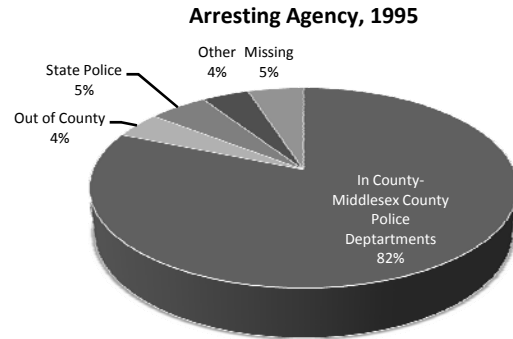
### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1995, 58% reported no substance abuse issues at intake. 42% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than one quarter (29%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. 11% had alcohol abuse issues and 2% had drug abuse issues.



## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1995. The vast majority of inmates (82%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1995 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (14%), Cambridge (9%), and Framingham (8%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 1995 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

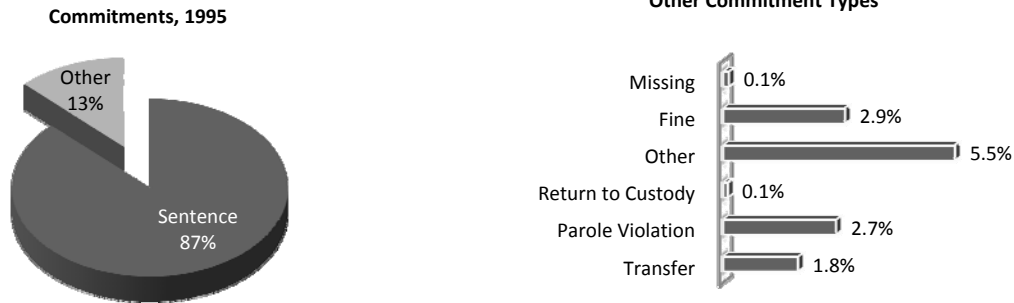


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	430	14.3%
Cambridge	265	8.8%
Framingham	246	8.2%
Massachusetts State Police	157	5.2%
Somerville	141	4.7%
Malden	133	4.4%
Out of County	127	4.2%
Waltham	121	4.0%
Everett	91	3.0%
Marlborough	87	2.9%
Parole/Probation	87	2.9%
Medford	77	2.6%
Ayer	68	2.3%
Woburn	57	1.9%
Newton	51	1.7%
Natick	41	1.4%
Concord	37	1.2%
Watertown	31	1.0%
Wakefield	29	1.0%
Acton	28	0.9%
Billerica	25	0.8%
Melrose	22	0.7%
Tewksbury	22	0.7%
Wilmington	22	0.7%
Other	22	0.7%
Hudson	21	0.7%
Westford	21	0.7%
Burlington	19	0.6%
Pepperell	19	0.6%
Townsend	19	0.6%
Arlington	18	0.6%

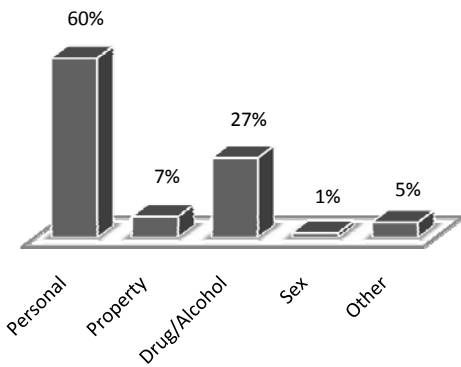
Arresting Agency	#	%
Littleton	18	0.6%
Tyngsborough	18	0.6%
Chelmsford	17	0.6%
Lexington	17	0.6%
North Reading	17	0.6%
Stoneham	17	0.6%
Holliston	15	0.5%
Winchester	15	0.5%
Ashland	14	0.5%
Hopkinton	14	0.5%
Maynard	14	0.5%
Dracut	13	0.4%
Bedford	10	0.3%
Belmont	10	0.3%
Groton	10	0.3%
Sudbury	10	0.3%
DOC	10	0.3%
Reading	9	0.3%
Weston	9	0.3%
Shirley	8	0.3%
Lincoln	6	0.2%
Stow	5	0.2%
Wayland	5	0.2%
University Police	5	0.2%
Boxborough	4	0.1%
Carlisle	4	0.1%
Dunstable	4	0.1%
Ashby	3	0.1%
Sherborn	3	0.1%
MSO OR BHC	1	0.0%
Out of State	1	0.0%

## 1995 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (87%) released in 1995 were admitted following a sentence. 13% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by fines, parole violations, and transfers.



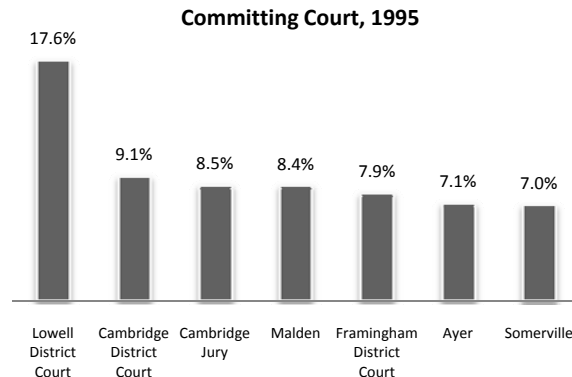
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1995, more than half (60%) had been serving time for personal offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 27%; sex offenses for 1%; and other offenses for 5% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 65% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1995. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 7% of the inmates released in 1995.

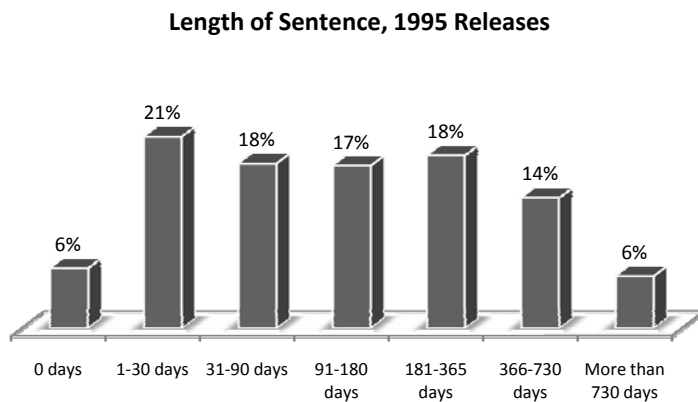


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1995. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	529	17.6%	Woburn	122	4.1%
Cambridge District	273	9.1%	Framingham Jury	121	4.0%
Cambridge Jury	254	8.5%	Marlborough	94	3.1%
Malden	253	8.4%	Other	86	2.9%
Framingham District	236	7.9%	Parole	80	2.7%
Ayer	214	7.1%	Lowell Superior	56	1.9%
Somerville	210	7.0%	Newton	40	1.3%
Cambridge Superior	132	4.4%	Natick	31	1.0%
Concord	127	4.2%	Lowell Jury	14	0.5%
Waltham	127	4.2%			

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

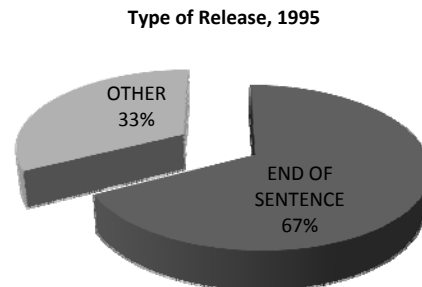
The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1995. In 1995, the average length of sentence was 240 days.



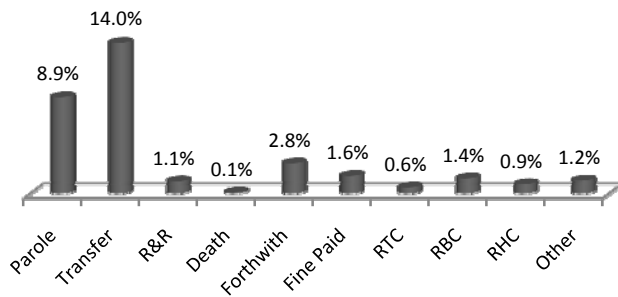
Just over one-quarter (27%) of all inmates released in 1995 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 80% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 20% to more than one year. 14% had been sentenced to one to two years and an additional 6% had been sentenced to more than two years.

### TYPE OF RELEASE

67% of all inmates released in 1994 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 33% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.



**Other Release Types: 1995**

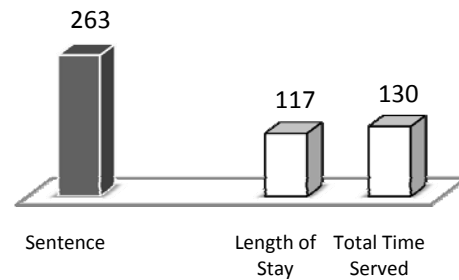


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were transfers (14.0%) followed by parole releases (8.9%).

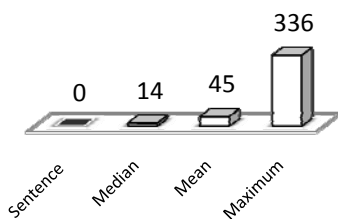
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served:  
1995 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

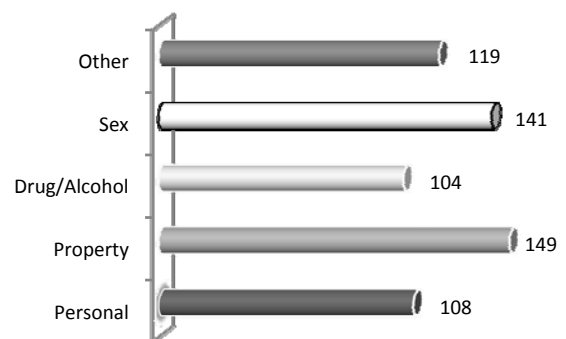


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1995. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1995 was 336 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 1995, inmates released following admissions for property offenses had served the most time at release (140 days). Offenders released following an admission for a sex offense had served an average of 139 days. Those released following commitments for personal and drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of just over 110 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**

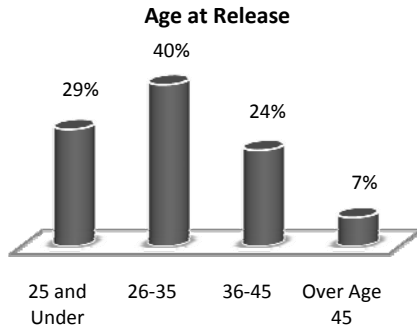
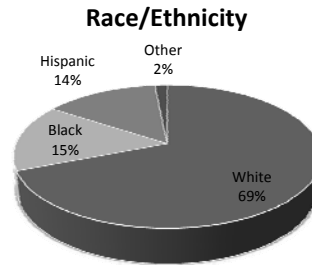


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1996**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

69% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1996 were White, 15% were Black, 14% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.

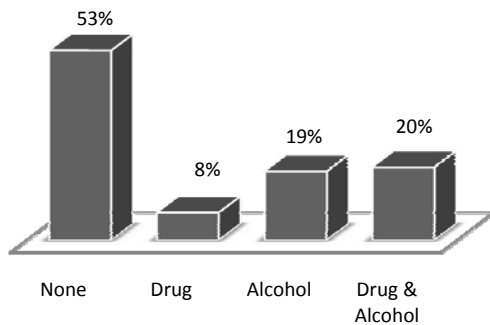
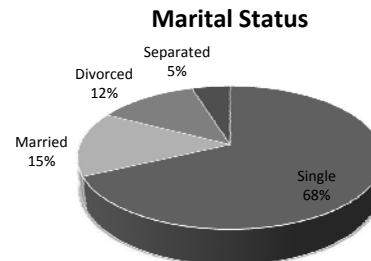


### AGE AT RELEASE

More than two-thirds (69%) of the inmates released in 1996 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 40% of the released population. Only 7% inmates released in 1996 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (68%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 15% reported being married at intake and 17% were either divorced or separated.

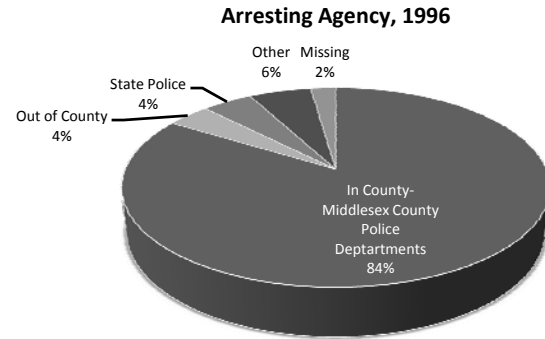


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1996, 53% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 47% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. One fifth (20%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. 19% had alcohol abuse issues and 8% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1996. The vast majority of inmates (84%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1996 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (14%), Cambridge (9%), and Framingham (8%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 1996 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

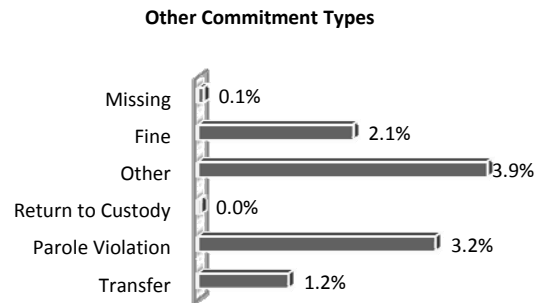
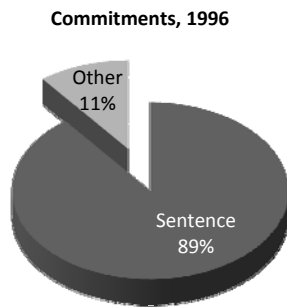


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	397	13.83%
Cambridge	259	9.02%
Framingham	230	8.01%
Malden	165	5.75%
Somerville	165	5.75%
Waltham	130	4.53%
Massachusetts State Police	130	4.53%
Parole/Probation	113	3.94%
Out of County	111	3.87%
Everett	108	3.76%
Marlborough	86	3.00%
Medford	55	1.92%
Watertown	48	1.67%
Woburn	44	1.53%
Ayer	42	1.46%
Wakefield	42	1.46%
Concord	40	1.39%
Maynard	35	1.22%
Tewksbury	33	1.15%
Natick	29	1.01%
Newton	29	1.01%
Chelmsford	28	0.98%
Billerica	26	0.91%
Hudson	25	0.87%
Pepperell	25	0.87%
Melrose	24	0.84%
Arlington	23	0.80%
Other	22	0.77%
North Reading	21	0.73%
Westford	21	0.73%
Hopkinton	19	0.66%

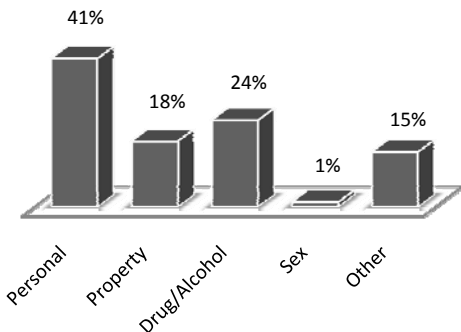
Arresting Agency	#	%
Lexington	19	0.66%
Wilmington	18	0.63%
Reading	16	0.56%
Townsend	16	0.56%
University Police	16	0.56%
Ashland	15	0.52%
Littleton	15	0.52%
Burlington	14	0.49%
Stoneham	12	0.42%
Dracut	11	0.38%
Holliston	11	0.38%
Shirley	11	0.38%
Belmont	10	0.35%
Groton	10	0.35%
Sudbury	10	0.35%
Wayland	10	0.35%
Stow	7	0.24%
Tyngsborough	7	0.24%
Acton	6	0.21%
Bedford	6	0.21%
Lincoln	6	0.21%
Weston	6	0.21%
Ashby	5	0.17%
Winchester	5	0.17%
DOC	5	0.17%
Boxborough	4	0.14%
Dunstable	3	0.10%
MSO OR BHC	3	0.10%
Carlisle	2	0.07%
Out of State	1	0.03%

## 1996 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (89%) released in 1996 were admitted following a sentence. 11% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations, fines, and transfers.



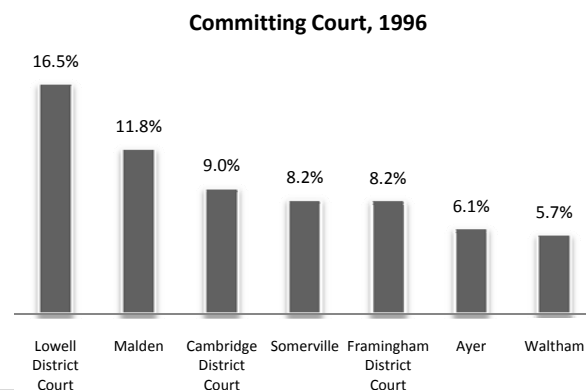
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1996, 41% had been serving time for personal offenses and 18% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 24%; sex offenses for 1%; and other offenses for 15% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 65% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1996. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 1995.



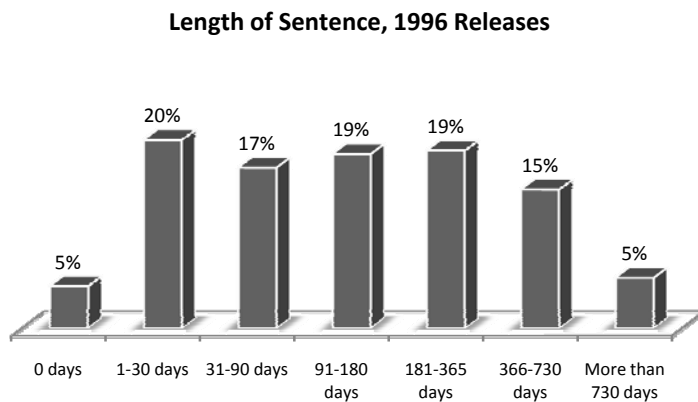


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1996. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	474	16.5%	Cambridge Jury	122	4.3%
Malden	340	11.8%	Parole	112	3.9%
Cambridge District	259	9.0%	Marlborough	106	3.7%
Somerville	236	8.2%	Other	73	2.5%
Framingham District	234	8.2%	Framingham Jury	71	2.5%
Ayer	176	6.1%	Lowell Superior	33	1.1%
Waltham	163	5.7%	Newton	29	1.0%
Cambridge Superior	139	4.8%	Natick	25	0.9%
Woburn	136	4.7%	Lowell Jury	5	0.2%
Concord	135	4.7%			

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

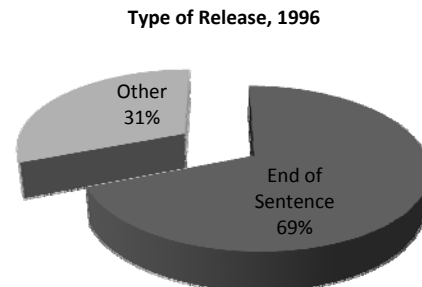
The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1996. In 1996, the average length of sentence was 250 days.



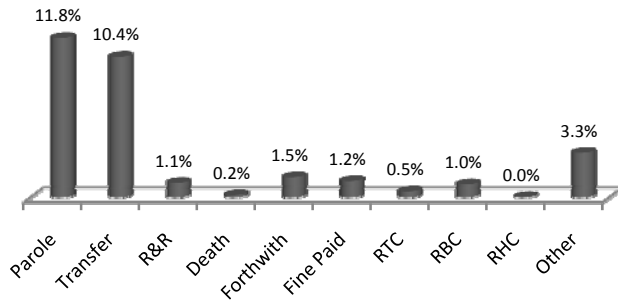
One-quarter (25%) of all inmates released in 1996 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 80% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 20% more than one year. 15% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 5% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

### TYPE OF RELEASE

69% of all inmates released in 1996 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 31% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.



### Other Release Types: 1996

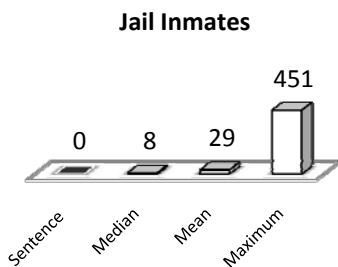
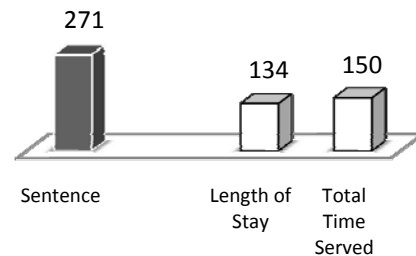


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (11.8%) followed by transfers (10.4%).

### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 1996 Sentenced Releases

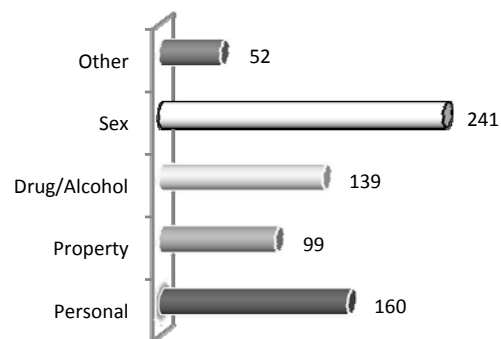


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1996. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1996 was 451 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 1996, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (241 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 160 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 99 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 139 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)

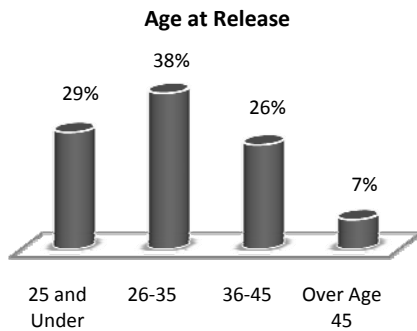
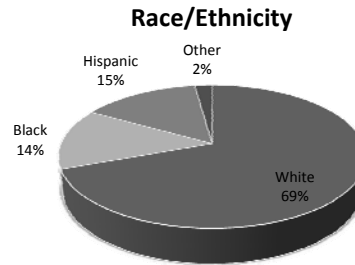


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1997**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

69% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1997 were White, 14% were Black, 15% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.

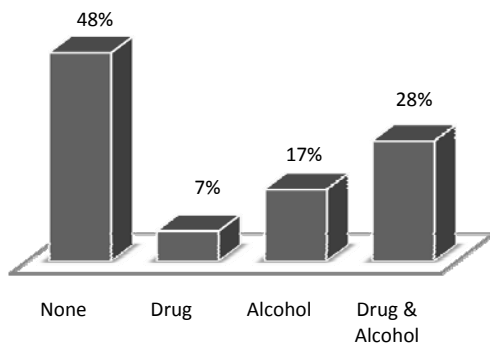
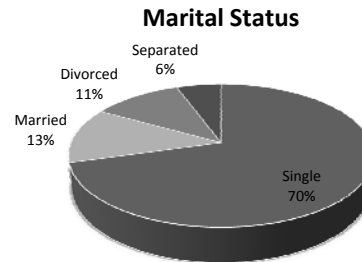


### AGE AT RELEASE

More than two-thirds (67%) of the inmates released in 1997 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 38% of the released population. Very few inmates released in 1997 were over age 45 (only 7%).

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (70%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 13% reported being married at intake and 17% were either divorced or separated.

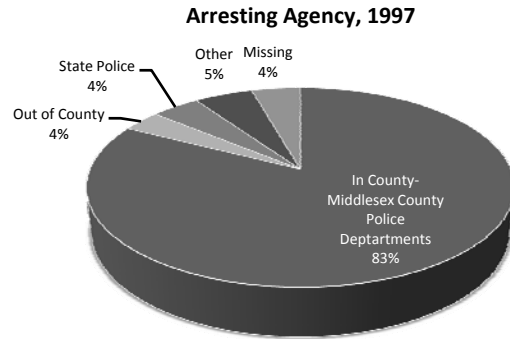


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1997, 48% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 52% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than one quarter (28%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. 17% had alcohol abuse issues and 7% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1997. The vast majority of inmates (83%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1997 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (15%), Cambridge (9%), and Framingham (8%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 1997 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

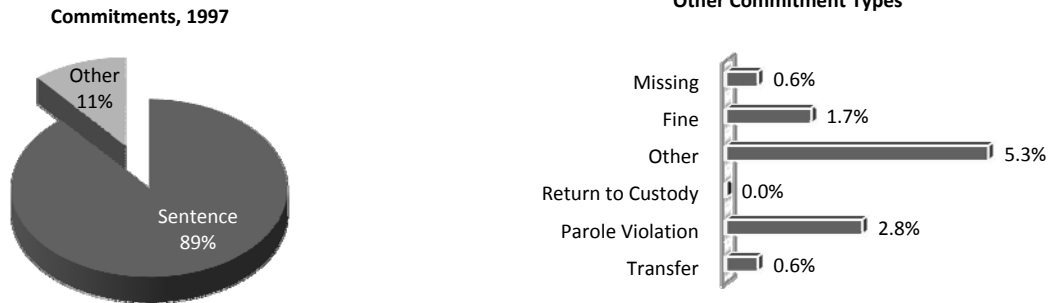


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	453	15.2%
Cambridge	272	9.2%
Framingham	222	7.5%
Somerville	163	5.5%
Massachusetts State Police	128	4.3%
Malden	127	4.3%
Marlborough	122	4.1%
Waltham	117	3.9%
Everett	109	3.7%
Out of County	103	3.5%
Parole/Probation	98	3.3%
Woburn	58	2.0%
Ayer	53	1.8%
Medford	51	1.7%
Newton	47	1.6%
Concord	45	1.5%
Watertown	43	1.4%
Natick	38	1.3%
Other	36	1.2%
Billerica	35	1.2%
Maynard	35	1.2%
Melrose	24	0.8%
Arlington	23	0.8%
Lexington	23	0.8%
Pepperell	23	0.8%
Tewksbury	21	0.7%
Wakefield	21	0.7%
Acton	20	0.7%
Chelmsford	20	0.7%
Hudson	20	0.7%
Dracut	18	0.6%

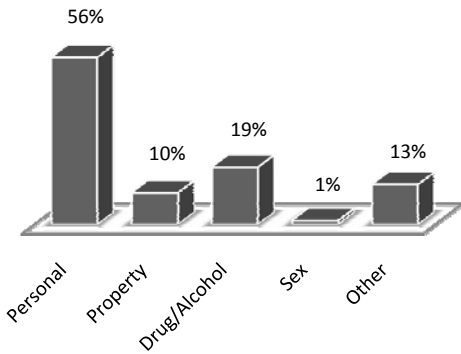
Arresting Agency	#	%
North Reading	18	0.6%
Townsend	18	0.6%
Reading	17	0.6%
Wilmington	17	0.6%
Burlington	14	0.5%
Westford	14	0.5%
Ashland	13	0.4%
Belmont	13	0.4%
Littleton	13	0.4%
Shirley	13	0.4%
Holliston	12	0.4%
Winchester	11	0.4%
University Police	11	0.4%
Bedford	9	0.3%
Boxborough	9	0.3%
Stoneham	9	0.3%
Sudbury	9	0.3%
DOC	8	0.3%
Lincoln	7	0.2%
Tyngsborough	7	0.2%
Groton	6	0.2%
Hopkinton	6	0.2%
Wayland	6	0.2%
Out of State	3	0.1%
Ashby	2	0.1%
Dunstable	2	0.1%
Weston	2	0.1%
Carlisle	1	0.0%
Sherborn	1	0.0%
Stow	1	0.0%

## 1997 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (89%) released in 1997 were admitted following a sentence. 11% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations, fines, and transfers.



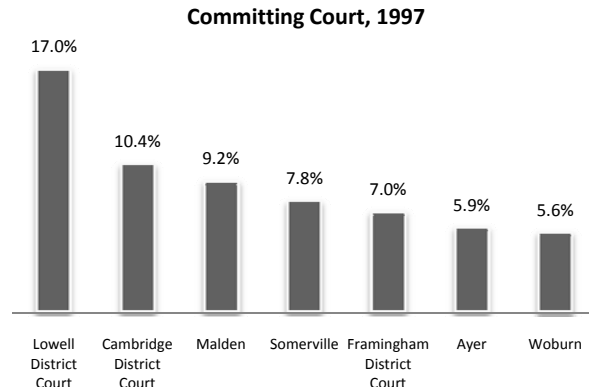
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1997, 56% had been serving time for personal offenses and 10% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 9%; sex offenses for 1%; and other offenses for 13% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 60% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1997. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 1995.

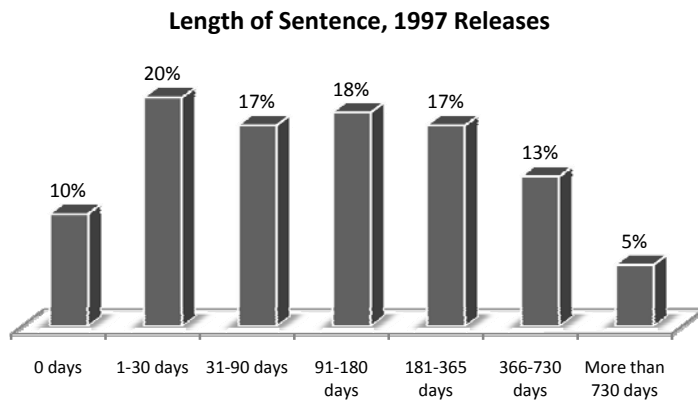


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1997. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	506	17.0%	Cambridge Superior	144	4.8%
Cambridge District	308	10.4%	Cambridge Jury	118	4.0%
Malden	273	9.2%	Parole	90	3.0%
Somerville	231	7.8%	Framingham Jury	84	2.8%
Framingham District	209	7.0%	Other	76	2.6%
Ayer	176	5.9%	Lowell Superior	46	1.5%
Woburn	166	5.6%	Newton	37	1.2%
Concord	165	5.6%	Natick	30	1.0%
Marlborough	154	5.2%	Lowell Jury	2	0.1%
Waltham	146	4.9%			

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1997. In 1997, the average length of sentence was 231 days.

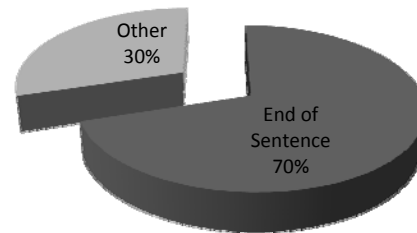


More than a quarter (30%) of all inmates released in 1997 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 82% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 18% more than one year. 13% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 5% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

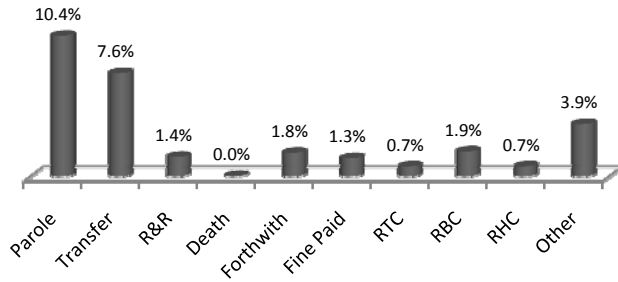
### TYPE OF RELEASE

70% of all inmates released in 1997 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 30% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 1997**



**Other Release Types: 1997**

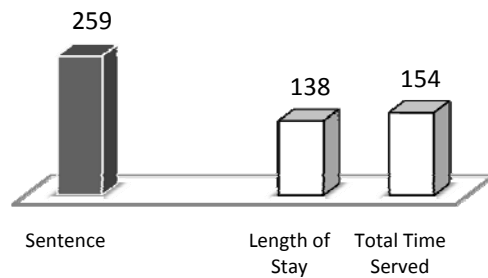


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (10.4%) followed by transfers (7.6%).

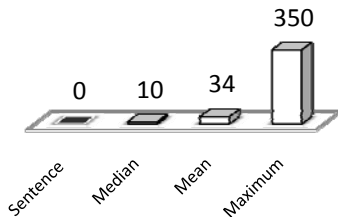
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served: 1997 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

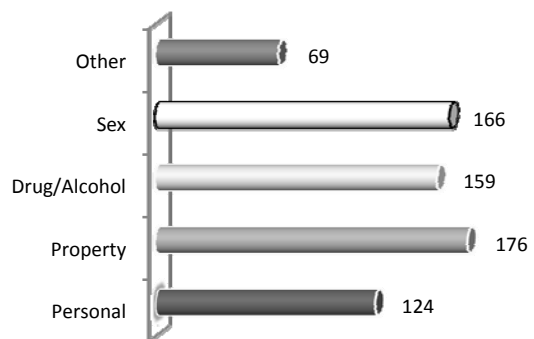


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1997. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1997 was 350 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 1997, inmates released following admissions for property offenses had served the most time at release (176 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 124 days. Those released following commitments for sex offenses had served an average of 166 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 159 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**



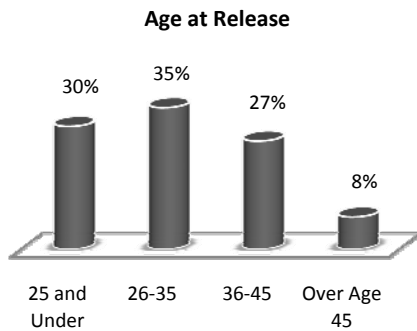
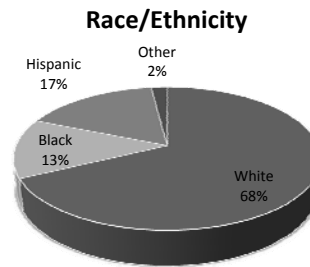


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1998**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

68% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1998 were White, 13% were Black, 17% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.

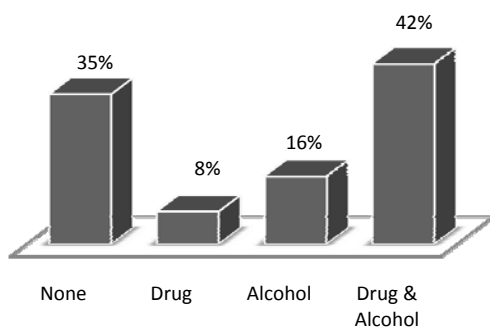
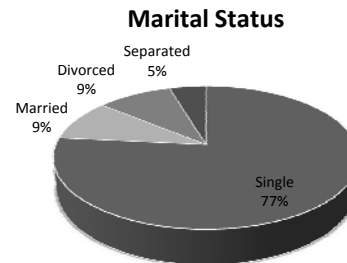


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost two-thirds (65%) of the inmates released in 1998 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 35% of the released population. Very few inmates released in 1998 were over age 45 (only 8%).

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (77%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 9% reported being married at intake and 14% were either divorced or separated.

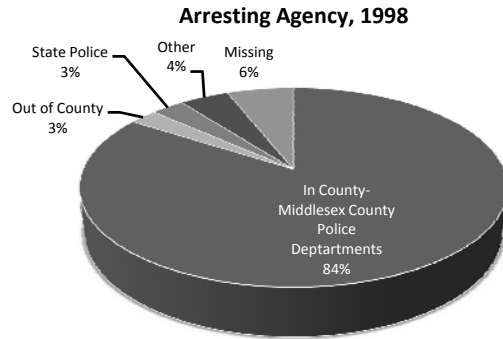


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1998, 35% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 66% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. 42% of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 16% had alcohol abuse issues and 8% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1998. The vast majority of inmates (84%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1998 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (19%), Framingham (8%), and Cambridge (8%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 1998 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

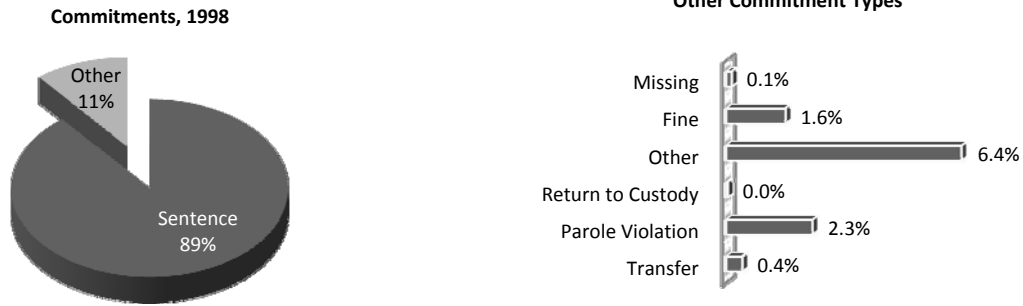


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	524	18.5%
Framingham	226	8.0%
Cambridge	218	7.7%
Malden	171	6.1%
Somerville	143	5.1%
Waltham	116	4.1%
Marlborough	94	3.3%
Massachusetts State Police	84	3.0%
Everett	78	2.8%
Woburn	73	2.6%
Parole/Probation	73	2.6%
Out of County	71	2.5%
Natick	60	2.1%
Medford	50	1.8%
Ayer	40	1.4%
Other	34	1.2%
Concord	31	1.1%
Newton	30	1.1%
Maynard	27	1.0%
Billerica	26	0.9%
Watertown	25	0.9%
Wakefield	24	0.8%
Lexington	23	0.8%
Pepperell	23	0.8%
Tewksbury	22	0.8%
Melrose	21	0.7%
North Reading	20	0.7%
Arlington	18	0.6%
Wilmington	17	0.6%
Chelmsford	16	0.6%
Hopkinton	16	0.6%

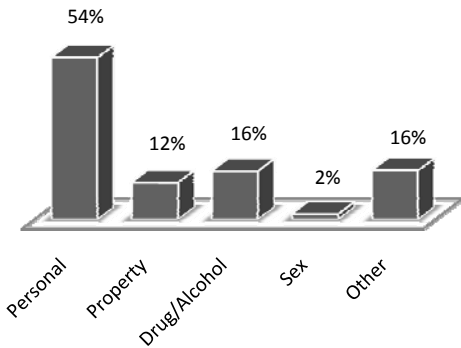
Arresting Agency	#	%
Westford	16	0.6%
Reading	15	0.5%
Stoneham	15	0.5%
Bedford	14	0.5%
Hudson	14	0.5%
Belmont	13	0.5%
Groton	13	0.5%
Acton	12	0.4%
Dracut	12	0.4%
Burlington	11	0.4%
Shirley	11	0.4%
Sudbury	11	0.4%
Tyngsborough	11	0.4%
Ashland	9	0.3%
Holliston	9	0.3%
Littleton	9	0.3%
Townsend	9	0.3%
Boxborough	8	0.3%
Winchester	8	0.3%
DOC	8	0.3%
Lincoln	6	0.2%
MSO OR BHC	5	0.2%
Wayland	4	0.1%
University Police	4	0.1%
Ashby	3	0.1%
Carlisle	3	0.1%
Dunstable	3	0.1%
Stow	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
Sherborn	2	0.1%
Out of State	1	0.0%

## 1998 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (89%) released in 1998 were admitted following a sentence. 11% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by fines and parole violations.



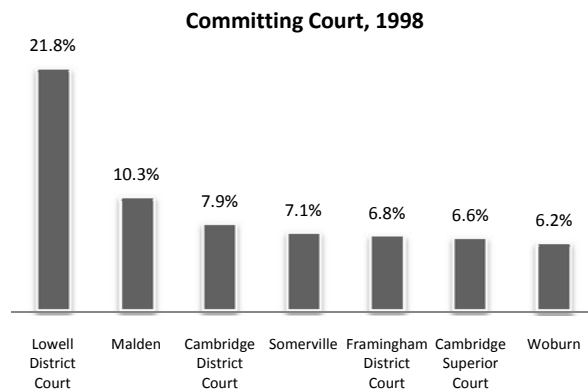
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1998, 54% had been serving time for personal offenses and 12% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 16%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 16% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 66% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1998. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 1998.

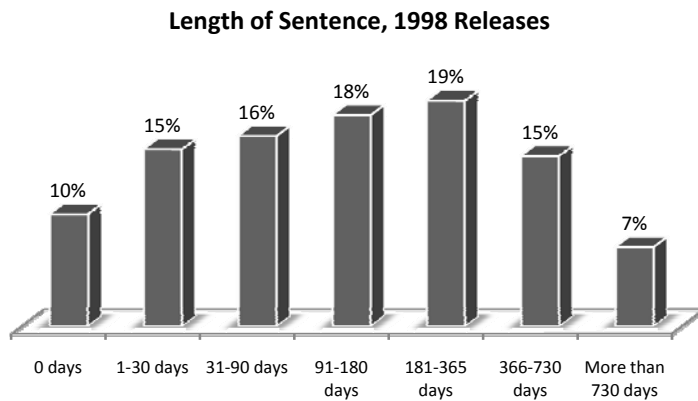


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1998. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	617	21.8%	Marlborough	110	3.9%
Malden	291	10.3%	Cambridge Jury	85	3.0%
Cambridge District	223	7.9%	Framingham Jury	81	2.9%
Somerville	200	7.1%	Parole	71	2.5%
Framingham District	192	6.8%	Natick	56	2.0%
Cambridge Superior	187	6.6%	Other	38	1.3%
Woburn	174	6.2%	Lowell Superior	36	1.3%
Ayer	161	5.7%	Newton	27	1.0%
Concord	145	5.1%	Out of County	4	0.1%
Waltham	121	4.3%	Lynn	2	0.1%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1998. In 1998, the average length of sentence was 259 days.

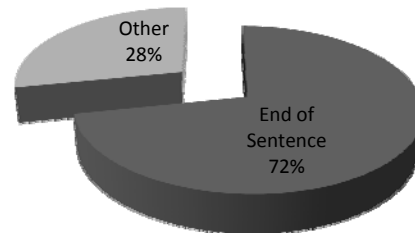


One quarter (25%) of all inmates released in 1998 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 78% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 22% more than one year. 15% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 7% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

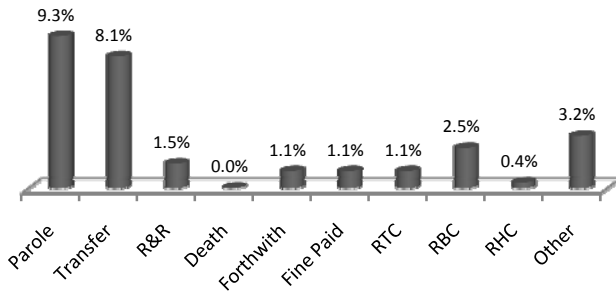
### TYPE OF RELEASE

72% of all inmates released in 1998 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 28% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 1998**



**Other Release Types: 1998**

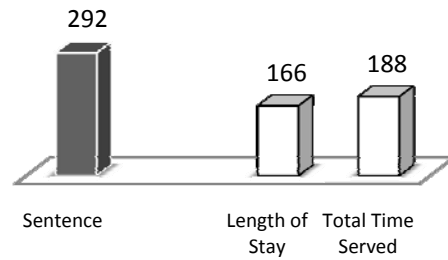


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (9.3%) followed by transfers (8.1%).

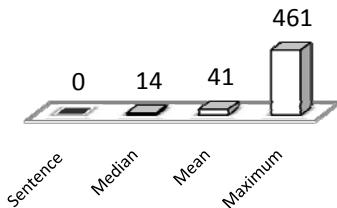
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served: 1998 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

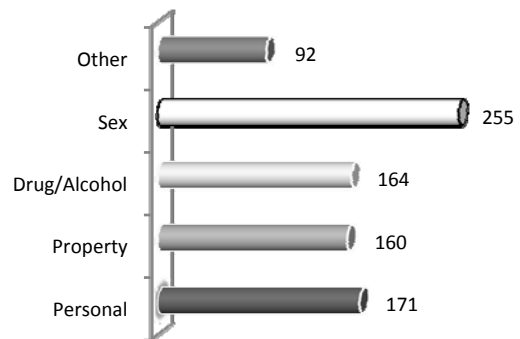


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1998. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1998 was 461 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 1998, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (255 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 171 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 160 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 164 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**

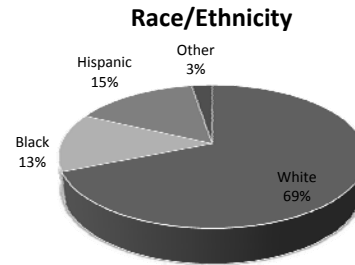


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 1999**

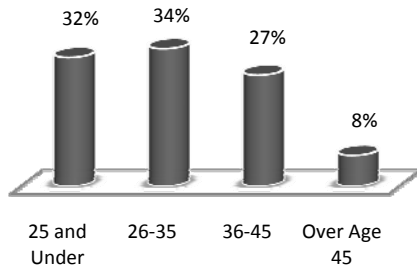
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

69% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1999 were White, 13% were Black, 15% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

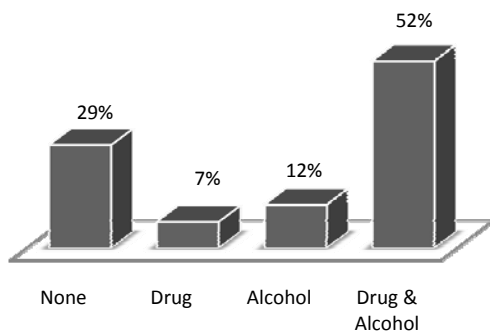
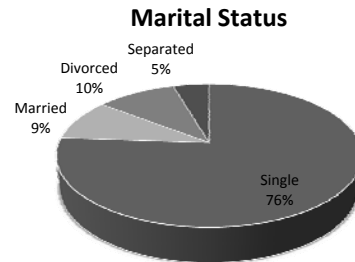


### AGE AT RELEASE

More than two-thirds (66%) of the inmates released in 1999 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 34% of the released population. Only 8% of the inmates released in 1999 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (76%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 9% reported being married at intake and 15% were either divorced or separated.



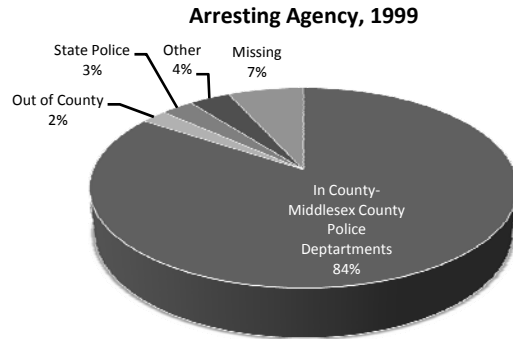
### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 1999, 29% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 71% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. 52% of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 12% had alcohol abuse issues and 7% had drug abuse issues.



## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 1999. The vast majority of inmates (84%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1999 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than 30% of all arrests: Lowell (17%), Cambridge (8%), and Framingham (8%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 1999 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

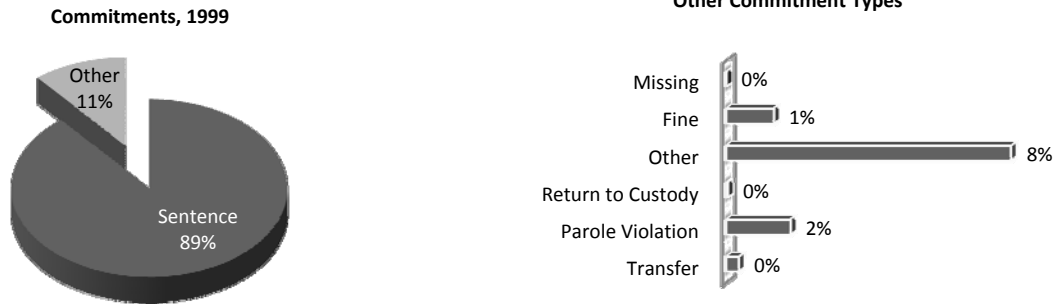


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	454	17.0%
Framingham	207	7.8%
Cambridge	203	7.6%
Malden	185	6.9%
Somerville	132	5.0%
Marlborough	109	4.1%
Waltham	95	3.6%
Everett	84	3.2%
Massachusetts State Police	77	2.9%
Natick	63	2.4%
Woburn	61	2.3%
Out of County	61	2.3%
Medford	51	1.9%
Parole/Probation	49	1.8%
Ayer	45	1.7%
Newton	42	1.6%
Concord	31	1.2%
Maynard	29	1.1%
Other	29	1.1%
Tewksbury	28	1.1%
Townsend	23	0.9%
Wakefield	23	0.9%
Hopkinton	22	0.8%
Melrose	22	0.8%
Burlington	20	0.8%
Westford	20	0.8%
Wilmington	20	0.8%
Pepperell	19	0.7%
Stoneham	18	0.7%
Lexington	17	0.6%
Watertown	17	0.6%

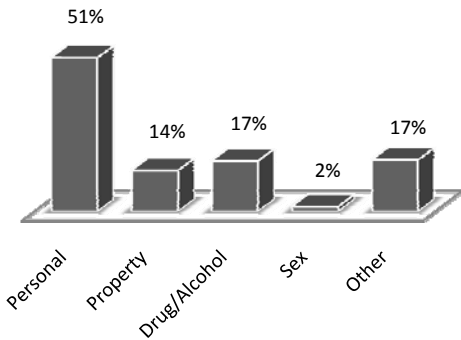
Arresting Agency	#	%
Billerica	15	0.6%
Hudson	14	0.5%
Reading	14	0.5%
Bedford	12	0.5%
Dracut	12	0.5%
Groton	11	0.4%
Chelmsford	10	0.4%
Shirley	10	0.4%
Tyngsborough	10	0.4%
Acton	9	0.3%
Arlington	9	0.3%
University Police	9	0.3%
Ashland	8	0.3%
Holliston	8	0.3%
Belmont	7	0.3%
Boxborough	7	0.3%
North Reading	7	0.3%
Wayland	7	0.3%
Sudbury	6	0.2%
Winchester	6	0.2%
MSO OR BHC	6	0.2%
Carlisle	4	0.2%
Lincoln	4	0.2%
Littleton	4	0.2%
Sherborn	4	0.2%
Ashby	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
DOC	3	0.1%
Stow	2	0.1%
Out of State	2	0.1%

## 1999 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (89%) released in 1999 were admitted following a sentence. 11% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations and fines.



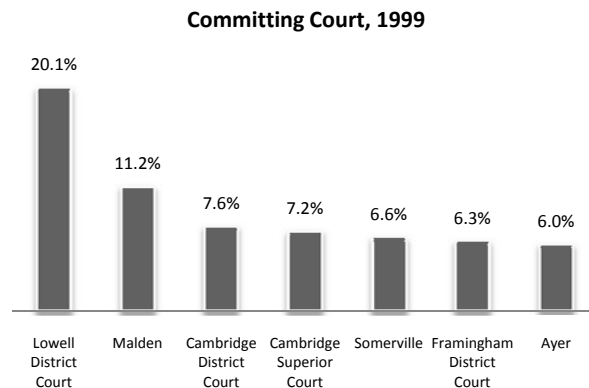
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 1999, 51% had been serving time for personal offenses and 14% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 17%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 17% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 65% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1999. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 1999.

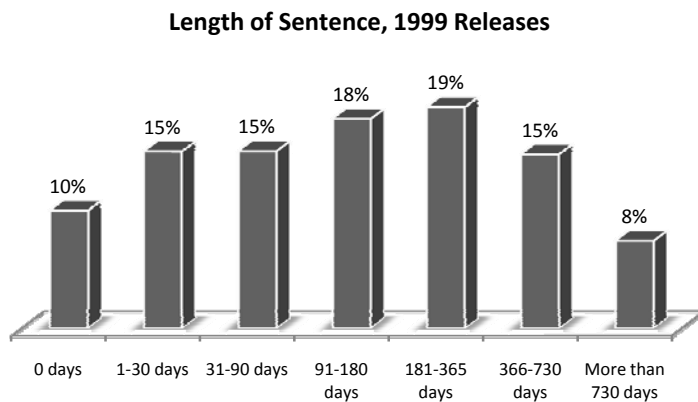


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 1999. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	535	20.1%	Framingham Jury	97	3.6%
Malden	299	11.2%	Cambridge Jury	71	2.7%
Cambridge District	203	7.6%	Natick	57	2.1%
Cambridge Superior	192	7.2%	Parole	50	1.9%
Somerville	177	6.6%	Newton	42	1.6%
Framingham District	168	6.3%	Lowell Superior	41	1.5%
Ayer	160	6.0%	Out of County	36	1.4%
Woburn	147	5.5%	Other	10	0.4%
Concord	138	5.2%	Quincy	4	0.2%
Marlborough	125	4.7%	Lynn	4	0.2%
Waltham	105	3.9%	Lawrence	2	0.1%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

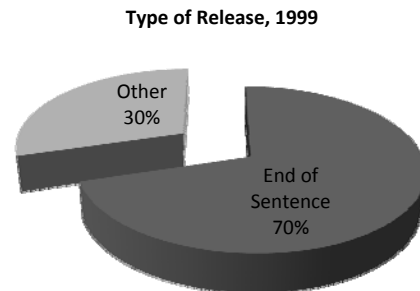
The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 1999. In 1999, the average length of sentence was 268 days.



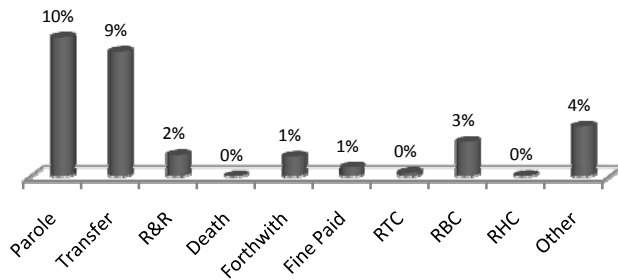
One quarter (25%) of all inmates released in 1999 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 77% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 23% more than one year. 15% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 8% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

### TYPE OF RELEASE

70% of all inmates released in 1999 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 30% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.



### Other Release Types: 1999

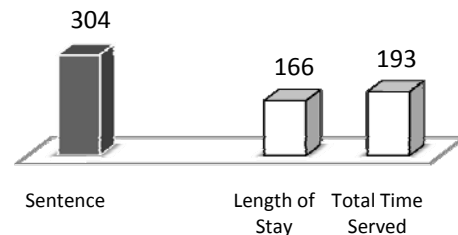


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (10%) followed by transfers (9%).

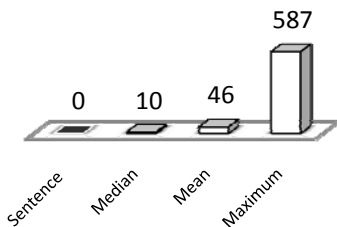
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 1999 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates



In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 1999. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 1999 was 587 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 1999, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (218 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 177 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 169 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 165 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)

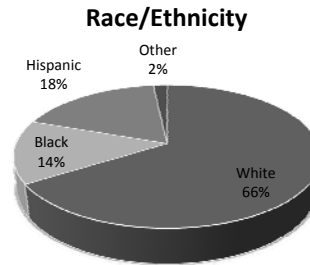


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2000**

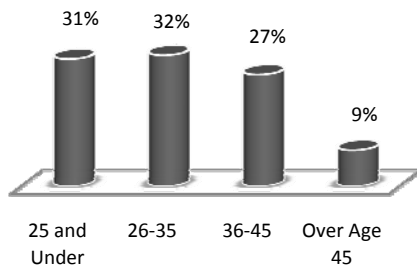
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

66% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2000 were White, 14% were Black, 18% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

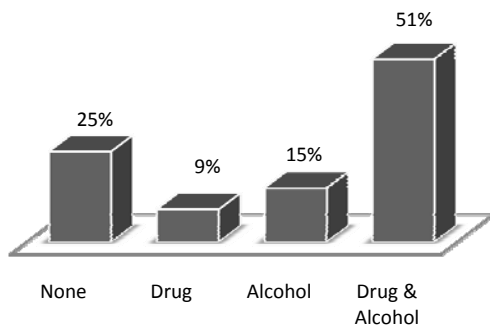
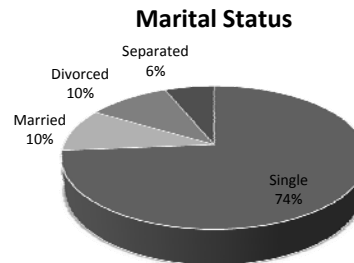


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost two-thirds (63%) of the inmates released in 2000 were aged 35 or younger. Those aged 26-35 accounted for 32% of the released population. Very few inmates released in 2000 were over age 45 (only 9%).

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (74%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 10% reported being married at intake and 16% were either divorced or separated.

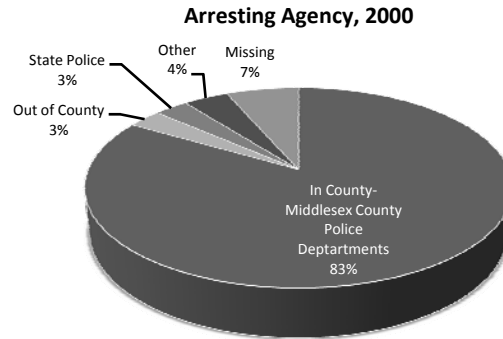


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2000, 25% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 75% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. 51% of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 15% had alcohol abuse issues and 9% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2000. The vast majority of inmates (83%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2000 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than one-third of all arrests: Lowell (17%), Cambridge (8%), and Framingham (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2000 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

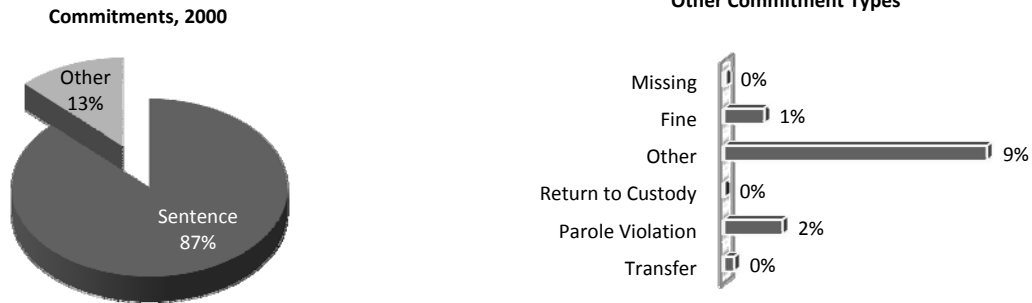


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	408	17.1%
Cambridge	182	7.6%
Framingham	175	7.3%
Somerville	136	5.7%
Malden	112	4.7%
Out of County	79	3.3%
Marlborough	77	3.2%
Everett	72	3.0%
Massachusetts State Police	69	2.9%
Waltham	66	2.8%
Woburn	63	2.6%
Parole/Probation	62	2.6%
Medford	51	2.1%
Natick	45	1.9%
Ayer	30	1.3%
Newton	28	1.2%
Billerica	27	1.1%
Pepperell	27	1.1%
Watertown	24	1.0%
Hudson	23	1.0%
Townsend	21	0.9%
Westford	21	0.9%
Concord	19	0.8%
Maynard	19	0.8%
Tewksbury	19	0.8%
Wilmington	19	0.8%
Other	18	0.8%
Burlington	17	0.7%
Melrose	17	0.7%
Lexington	16	0.7%
Reading	16	0.7%

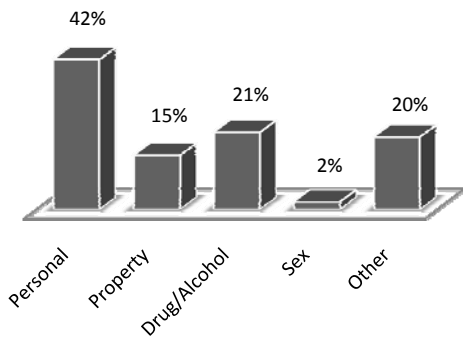
Arresting Agency	#	%
Groton	15	0.6%
Hopkinton	15	0.6%
Ashland	14	0.6%
Chelmsford	14	0.6%
Tyngsborough	14	0.6%
Acton	13	0.5%
Arlington	13	0.5%
Dracut	13	0.5%
North Reading	13	0.5%
Stoneham	13	0.5%
University Police	13	0.5%
Belmont	12	0.5%
Wakefield	12	0.5%
Shirley	11	0.5%
Boxborough	10	0.4%
Holliston	10	0.4%
Littleton	10	0.4%
Sudbury	8	0.3%
Winchester	8	0.3%
Bedford	7	0.3%
DOC	7	0.3%
Ashby	6	0.3%
Wayland	6	0.3%
MSO OR BHC	4	0.2%
Dunstable	3	0.1%
Lincoln	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
Sherborn	2	0.1%
Out of State	2	0.1%
Stow	1	0.0%

## 2000 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (87%) released in 2000 were admitted following a sentence. 13% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations and fines.



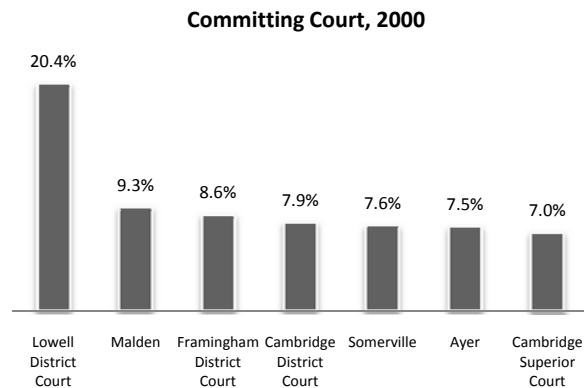
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2000, 42% had been serving time for personal offenses and 15% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 21%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 20% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 68% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2000. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 7% of the inmates released in 2000.



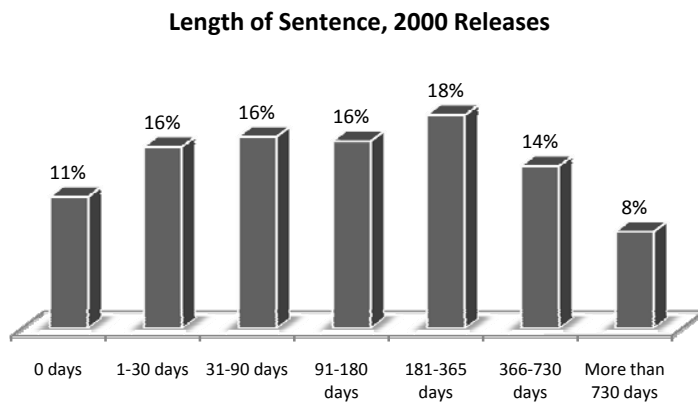


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2000. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	486	20.4%	Cambridge Jury	62	2.6%
Malden	221	9.3%	Parole	58	2.4%
Framingham District	205	8.6%	Lowell Superior	50	2.1%
Cambridge District	189	7.9%	Out of County	37	1.6%
Somerville	181	7.6%	Natick	36	1.5%
Ayer	179	7.5%	Newton	24	1.0%
Cambridge Superior	167	7.0%	Framingham Jury	23	1.0%
Woburn	160	6.7%	Quincy	14	0.6%
Marlborough	95	4.0%	Other	6	0.3%
Concord	94	3.9%	Lynn	5	0.2%
Waltham	89	3.7%	Lawrence	2	0.1%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

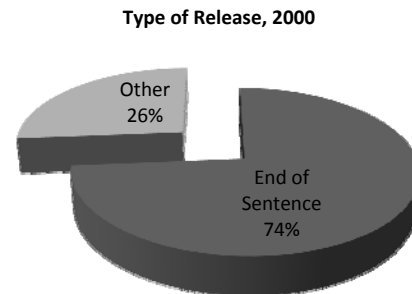
The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2000. In 2000, the average length of sentence was 271 days.



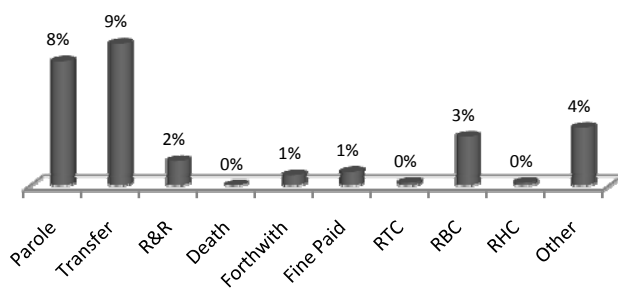
More than one quarter (27%) of all inmates released in 2000 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 78% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 22% more than one year. 14% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 8% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

### TYPE OF RELEASE

74% of all inmates released in 2000 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 26% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.



**Other Release Types: 2000**

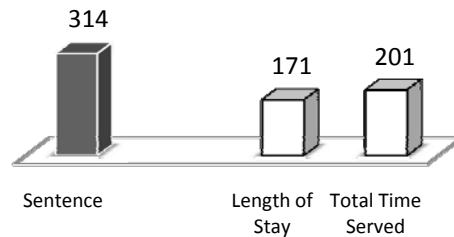


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were transfers (9%) followed by parole releases (8%).

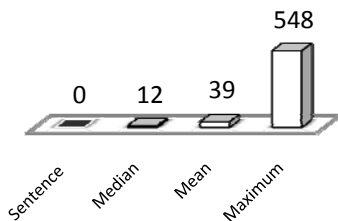
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served: 2000 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

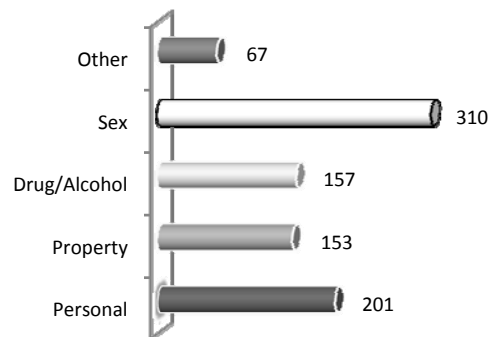


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2000. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2000 was 548 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 2000, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (310 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 201 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 153 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 157 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**

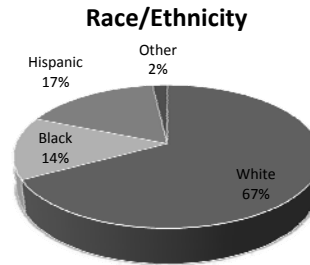


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2001**

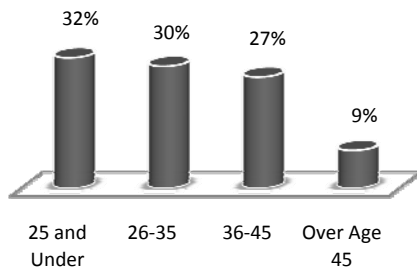
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

67% all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2001 were White, 14% were Black, 17% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

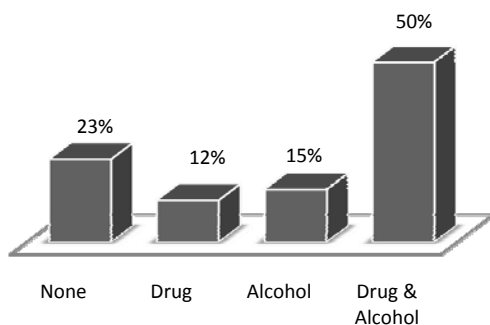
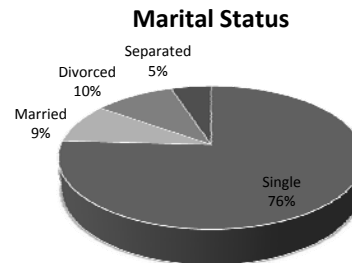


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost two-thirds (62%) of the inmates released in 2001 were aged 35 or younger. 2001 was the first year that those aged 25 and under accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35. Only 9% of inmates released in 2001 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (75%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 9% reported being married at intake and 15% were either divorced or separated.

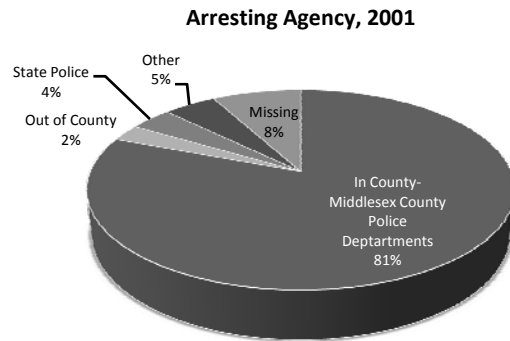


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2001, 23% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 77% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. Half (50%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 15% had alcohol abuse issues and 12% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2001. The vast majority of inmates (81%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2001 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for almost one-third of all arrests: Lowell (16%), Cambridge (8%), and Framingham (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2001 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

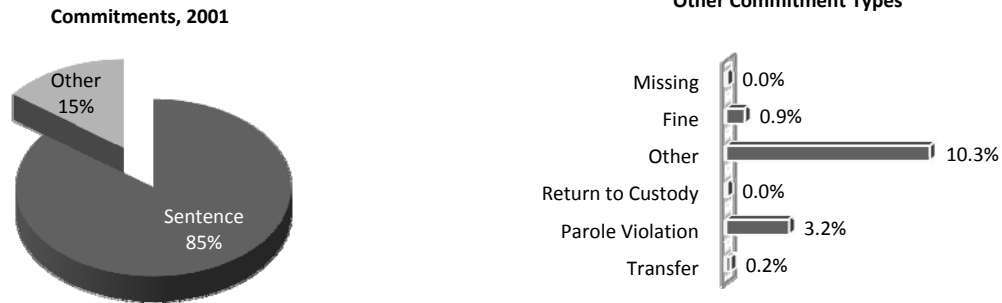


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	390	15.6%
Cambridge	191	7.7%
Framingham	182	7.3%
Marlborough	117	4.7%
Somerville	102	4.1%
Malden	95	3.8%
Massachusetts State Police	94	3.8%
Waltham	87	3.5%
Parole/Probation	86	3.4%
Natick	69	2.8%
Out of County	68	2.7%
Woburn	67	2.7%
Everett	65	2.6%
Medford	48	1.9%
Newton	36	1.4%
Tewksbury	32	1.3%
Hudson	31	1.2%
Pepperell	29	1.2%
Ayer	28	1.1%
Wilmington	28	1.1%
Billerica	23	0.9%
Concord	23	0.9%
Watertown	23	0.9%
Burlington	21	0.8%
Westford	20	0.8%
Melrose	18	0.7%
Maynard	17	0.7%
Dracut	16	0.6%
Groton	16	0.6%
Winchester	16	0.6%
Chelmsford	14	0.6%

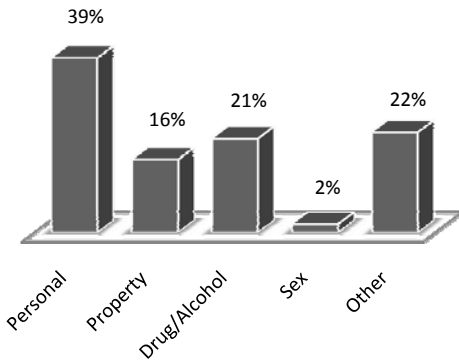
Arresting Agency	#	%
Reading	14	0.6%
Other	14	0.6%
Lexington	13	0.5%
Stoneham	13	0.5%
Littleton	12	0.5%
Townsend	12	0.5%
Wakefield	12	0.5%
Ashland	11	0.4%
Bedford	11	0.4%
North Reading	11	0.4%
Tyngsborough	11	0.4%
Arlington	10	0.4%
Shirley	9	0.4%
Acton	8	0.3%
Hopkinton	8	0.3%
Boxborough	7	0.3%
DOC	7	0.3%
Belmont	6	0.2%
Holliston	6	0.2%
Sudbury	6	0.2%
Wayland	6	0.2%
Weston	6	0.2%
University Police	6	0.2%
Carlisle	5	0.2%
MSO OR BHC	5	0.2%
Ashby	4	0.2%
Sherborn	4	0.2%
Dunstable	3	0.1%
Lincoln	3	0.1%

## 2001 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (85%) released in 2001 were admitted following a sentence. 15% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations and fines.



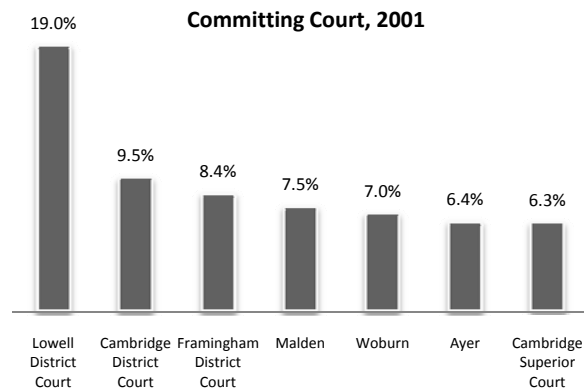
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2001, 39% had been serving time for personal offenses and 16% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 21%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 22% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 64% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2001. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 2001.

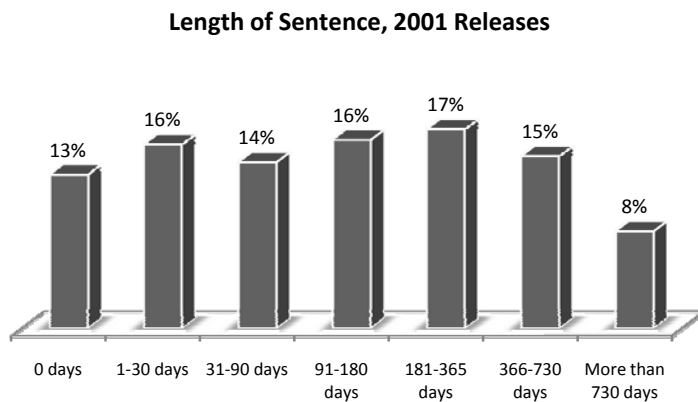


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2001. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	475	19.0%	Cambridge Jury	66	2.6%
Cambridge District	238	9.5%	Natick	62	2.5%
Framingham District	210	8.4%	Lowell Superior	59	2.4%
Malden	186	7.5%	Out of County	52	2.1%
Woburn	174	7.0%	Newton	33	1.3%
Ayer	160	6.4%	Framingham Jury	14	0.6%
Cambridge Superior	158	6.3%	Other	11	0.4%
Marlborough	154	6.2%	Quincy	7	0.3%
Somerville	152	6.1%	Lawrence	5	0.2%
Waltham	96	3.8%	Winchester	1	0.0%
Concord	90	3.6%	Probation	1	0.0%
Parole	89	3.6%	Lynn	1	0.0%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2001. In 2001, the average length of sentence was 268 days.

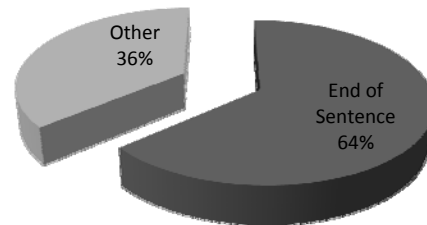


More than one quarter (29%) of all inmates released in 2001 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. Almost 77% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 23% more than one year. 15% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 8% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

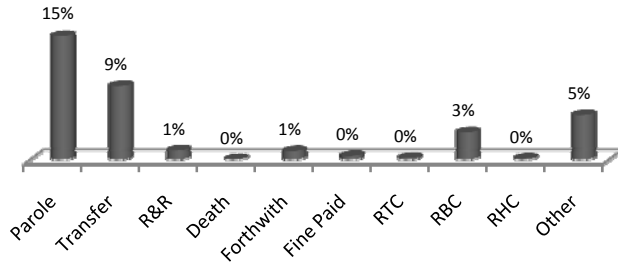
### TYPE OF RELEASE

64% of all inmates released in 2001 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 36% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2001**



### Other Release Types: 2001

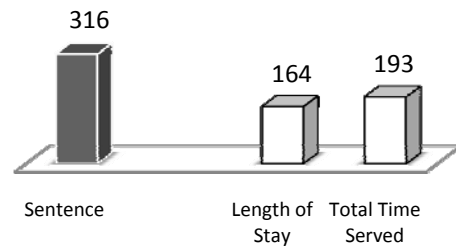


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (15%) followed by transfers (9%).

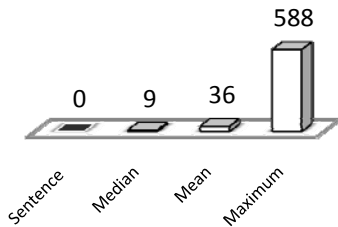
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2001 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates

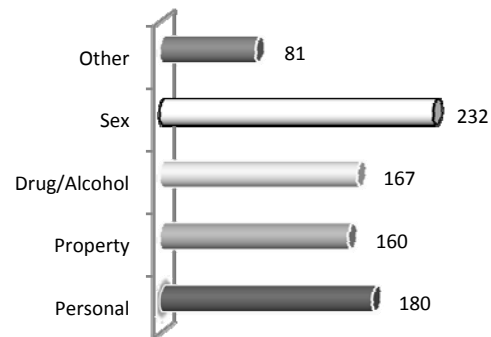


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2001. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2001 was 588 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2001, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (232 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 180 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 160 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 167 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)



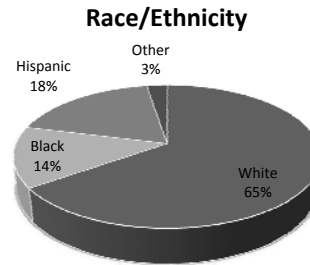


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2002**

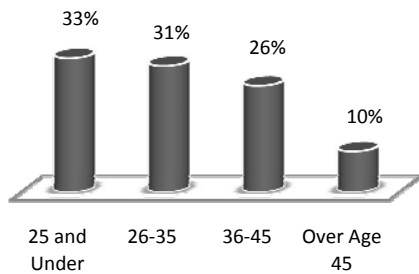
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

65% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2002 were White, 14% were Black, 18% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

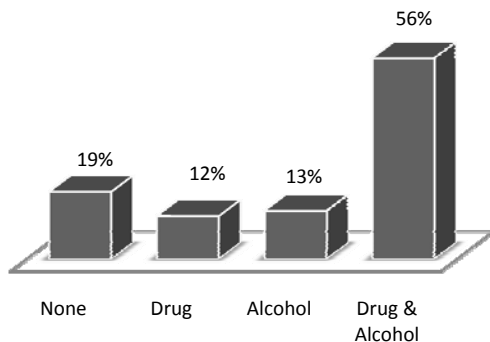
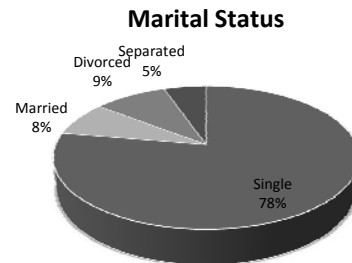


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost two-thirds (64%) of the inmates released in 2002 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous, those aged 25 and under (33%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (31%). Only 10% of inmates released in 2002 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (78%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 8% reported being married at intake and 14% were either divorced or separated.

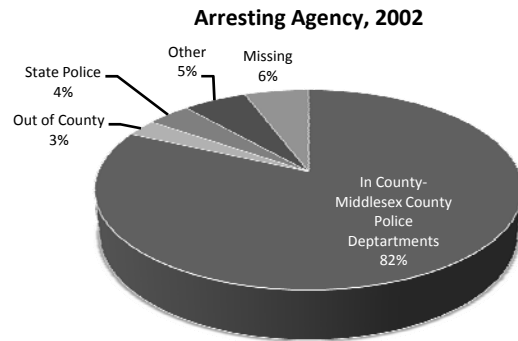


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2002, 19% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 81% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than half (56%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 13% had alcohol abuse issues and 12% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2002. The vast majority of inmates (82%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2002 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than one-third of all arrests: Lowell (17%), Cambridge (8%), and Framingham (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2002 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

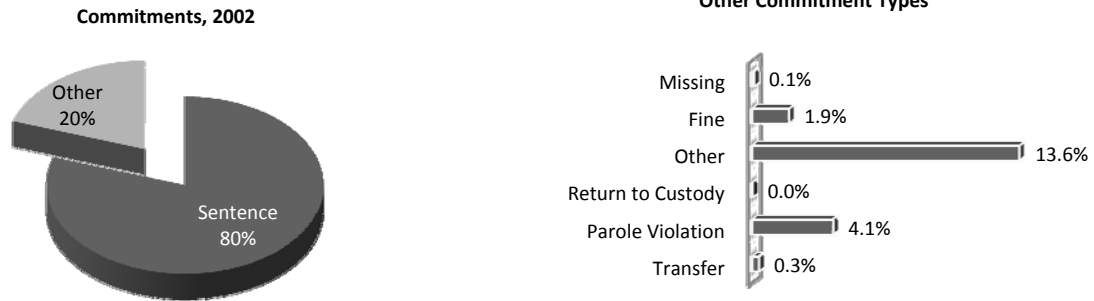


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	422	17.1%
Framingham	193	7.8%
Cambridge	174	7.0%
Malden	107	4.3%
Parole/Probation	107	4.3%
Marlborough	105	4.2%
Massachusetts State Police	96	3.9%
Somerville	95	3.8%
Waltham	94	3.8%
Natick	69	2.8%
Out of County	68	2.8%
Everett	54	2.2%
Medford	51	2.1%
Woburn	46	1.9%
Ayer	42	1.7%
Westford	29	1.2%
Newton	27	1.1%
Pepperell	27	1.1%
Tewksbury	27	1.1%
Concord	26	1.1%
Billerica	24	1.0%
Townsend	22	0.9%
Hudson	21	0.8%
Watertown	20	0.8%
Chelmsford	19	0.8%
Arlington	18	0.7%
Wilmington	18	0.7%
Burlington	17	0.7%
Shirley	17	0.7%
Stoneham	17	0.7%
Ashland	16	0.6%

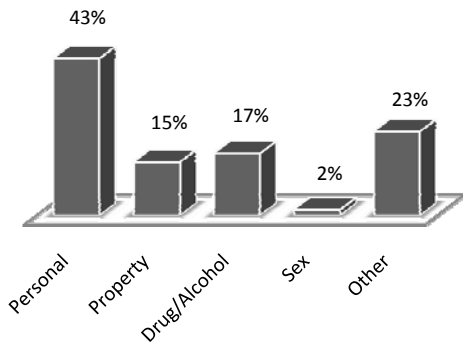
Arresting Agency	#	%
Dracut	16	0.6%
Melrose	16	0.6%
Other	16	0.6%
Maynard	15	0.6%
Littleton	14	0.6%
Bedford	13	0.5%
Boxborough	13	0.5%
Hopkinton	13	0.5%
Groton	12	0.5%
Wakefield	12	0.5%
Belmont	11	0.4%
North Reading	10	0.4%
Winchester	10	0.4%
MSO OR BHC	10	0.4%
Holliston	9	0.4%
Lexington	9	0.4%
Tyngsborough	9	0.4%
Weston	9	0.4%
Reading	7	0.3%
Acton	6	0.2%
Wayland	5	0.2%
University Police	5	0.2%
Lincoln	4	0.2%
Sudbury	4	0.2%
DOC	4	0.2%
Ashby	3	0.1%
Dunstable	2	0.1%
Sherborn	2	0.1%
Carlisle	1	0.0%
Stow	1	0.0%

## 2002 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENTS

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (80%) released in 2002 were admitted following a sentence. 20% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments were the most common followed by parole violations and fines.



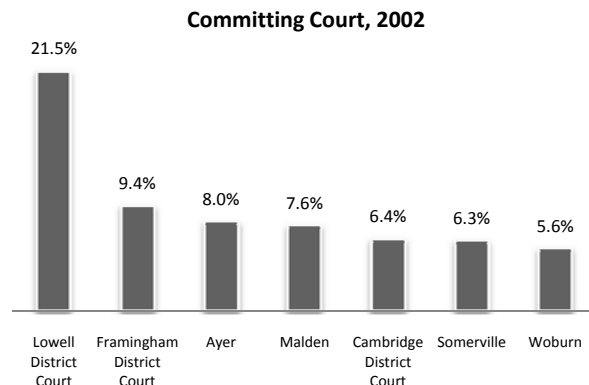
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2002, 43% had been serving time for personal offenses and 15% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 17%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 23% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 64% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2002. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 2002.

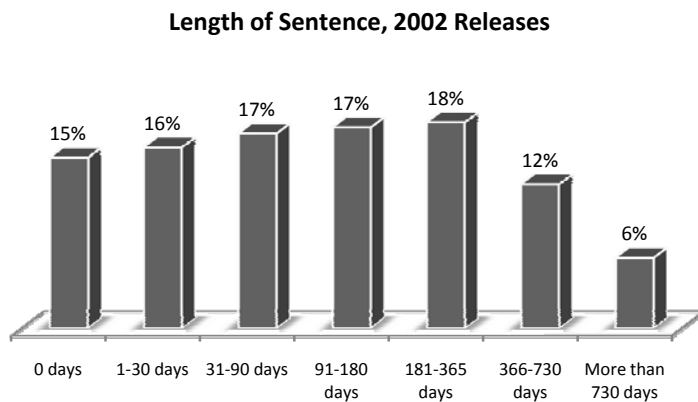


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2002. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	531	21.5%	Cambridge Jury	72	2.9%
Framingham District	233	9.4%	Out of County	67	2.7%
Ayer	198	8.0%	Natick	64	2.6%
Malden	189	7.6%	Lowell Superior	55	2.2%
Cambridge District	159	6.4%	Newton	26	1.1%
Somerville	155	6.3%	Framingham Jury	14	0.6%
Woburn	138	5.6%	Other	11	0.4%
Marlborough	132	5.3%	Quincy	4	0.2%
Waltham	116	4.7%	Lawrence	3	0.1%
Cambridge Superior	111	4.5%	Lynn	3	0.1%
Parole	110	4.4%	Probation	2	0.1%
Concord	77	3.1%			

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2002. In 2002, the average length of sentence was 229 days.

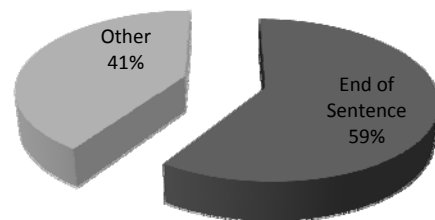


More than one quarter (30%) of all inmates released in 2002 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 82% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 18% more than one year. 12% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 6% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

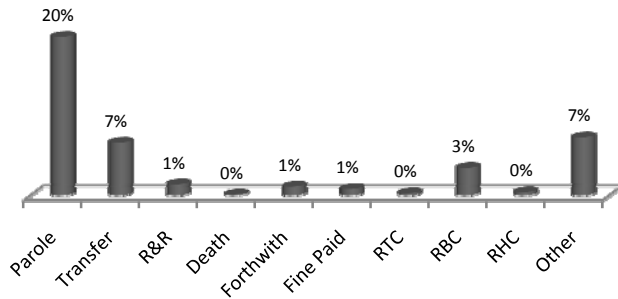
### TYPE OF RELEASE

59% of all inmates released in 2002 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 41% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2002**



**Other Release Types: 2002**

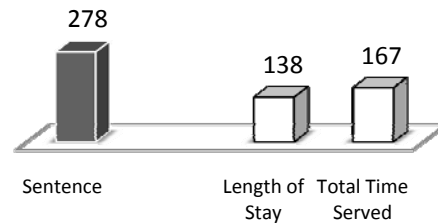


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (20%) followed by transfers (7%) and other releases (7%).

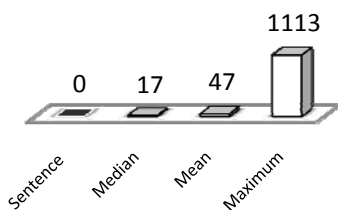
**LENGTH OF STAY**

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

**Average Sentence & Time Served: 2002 Sentenced Releases**



**Jail Inmates**

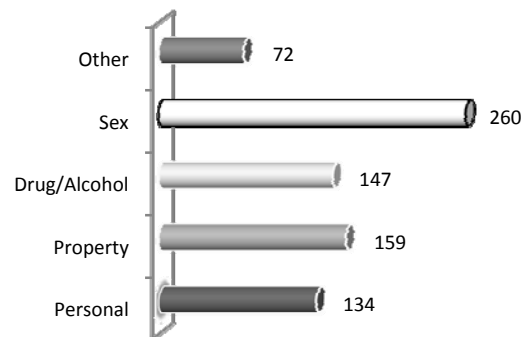


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2002. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2002 was 1113 days. The median represents the person in the middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

**LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE**

Among those inmates released in 2002, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (260 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 134 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 159 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 147 days.

**Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)**

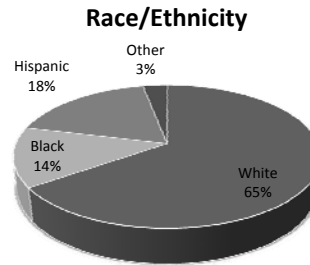


**INMATES RELEASED FROM THE  
BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION  
2003**

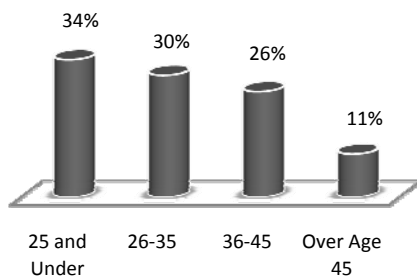
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

65% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2003 were White, 14% were Black, 18% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

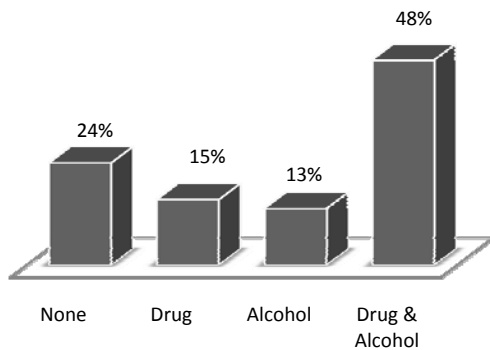
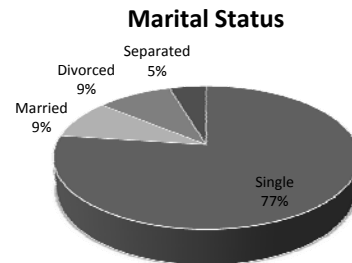


### AGE AT RELEASE

Almost two-thirds (64%) of the inmates released in 2003 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous two years, those aged 25 and under (34%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (30%). 11% of inmates released in 2003 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (77%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 9% reported being married at intake and 14% were either divorced or separated.



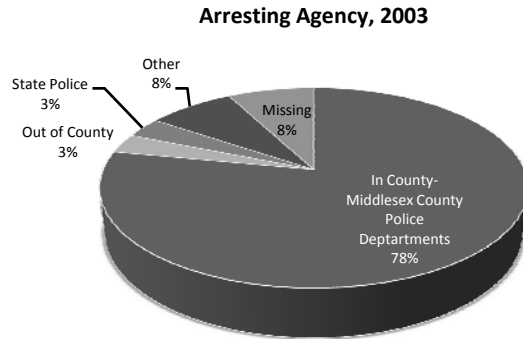
### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2003, 24% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 76% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. Almost half (48%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 13% had alcohol abuse issues and 15% had drug abuse issues.



## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2003. The vast majority of inmates (78%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2003 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for almost one-third of all arrests: Lowell (17%), Cambridge (7%), and Parole/Probation (6%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2003 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

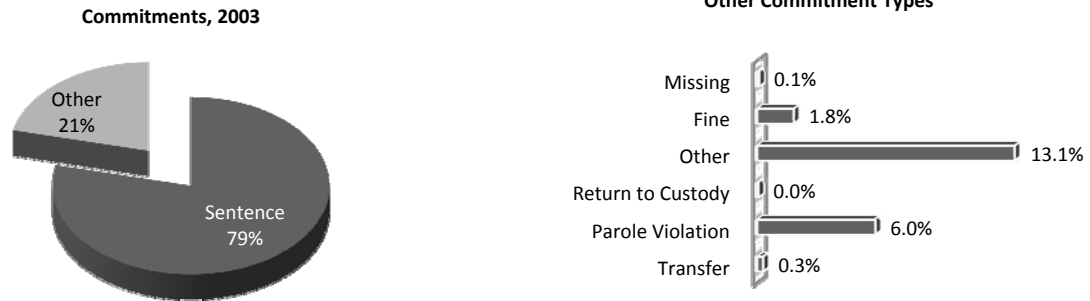


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	410	17.2%
Cambridge	164	6.9%
Parole/Probation	151	6.3%
Framingham	146	6.1%
Somerville	126	5.3%
Marlborough	109	4.6%
Malden	105	4.4%
Waltham	82	3.4%
Massachusetts State Police	79	3.3%
Out of County	74	3.1%
Everett	63	2.6%
Natick	59	2.5%
Woburn	47	2.0%
Medford	43	1.8%
Ayer	29	1.2%
Newton	28	1.2%
Hudson	25	1.0%
Pepperell	24	1.0%
Ashland	23	1.0%
Watertown	22	0.9%
Billerica	21	0.9%
Chelmsford	21	0.9%
Westford	21	0.9%
Tewksbury	19	0.8%
Arlington	18	0.8%
Concord	15	0.6%
Stoneham	15	0.6%
Groton	14	0.6%
Dracut	13	0.5%
Shirley	13	0.5%
Hopkinton	12	0.5%

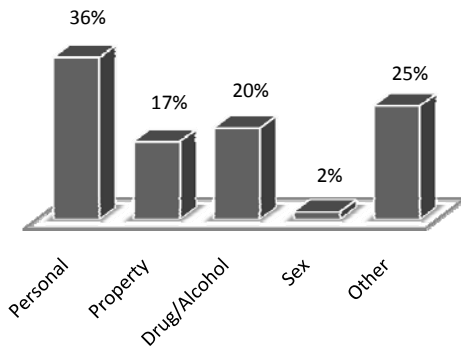
Arresting Agency	#	%
Lexington	12	0.5%
Other	11	0.5%
Acton	10	0.4%
Belmont	10	0.4%
Holliston	10	0.4%
Reading	10	0.4%
Wakefield	10	0.4%
Wilmington	10	0.4%
Burlington	9	0.4%
Melrose	9	0.4%
Winchester	9	0.4%
MSO OR BHC	9	0.4%
Dunstable	8	0.3%
Maynard	8	0.3%
Bedford	7	0.3%
Boxborough	7	0.3%
North Reading	7	0.3%
DOC	7	0.3%
Ashby	6	0.3%
Wayland	6	0.3%
Littleton	5	0.2%
Townsend	5	0.2%
University Police	5	0.2%
Stow	3	0.1%
Tyngsborough	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
Sherborn	2	0.1%
Sudbury	2	0.1%
Out of State	2	0.1%
Lincoln	1	0.0%

## 2003 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (79%) released in 2003 were admitted following a sentence. 21% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments (13%) were the most common followed by parole violations (6%) and fines (2%).



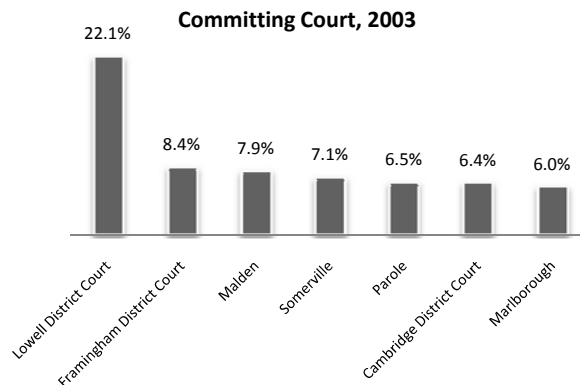
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2003, 36% had been serving time for personal offenses and 17% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 20%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 25% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 64% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2003. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 2003.

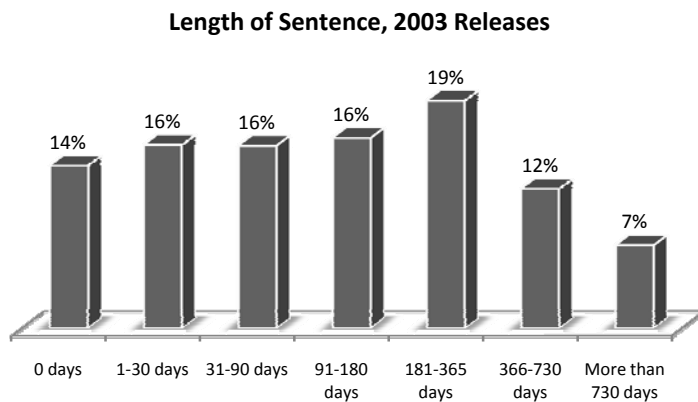


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2003. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	526	22.1%	Concord	68	2.9%
Framingham District	199	8.4%	Cambridge Jury	65	2.7%
Malden	189	7.9%	Natick	56	2.4%
Somerville	169	7.1%	Out of County	50	2.1%
Parole	154	6.5%	Newton	27	1.1%
Cambridge District	153	6.4%	Lawrence	10	0.4%
Marlborough	142	6.0%	Lynn	9	0.4%
Ayer	141	5.9%	Framingham Jury	7	0.3%
Cambridge Superior	116	4.9%	Other	4	0.2%
Woburn	113	4.7%	Quincy	2	0.1%
Waltham	102	4.3%	Lowell Jury	1	0.0%
Lowell Superior	76	3.2%			

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2003. In 2003, the average length of sentence was 239 days.

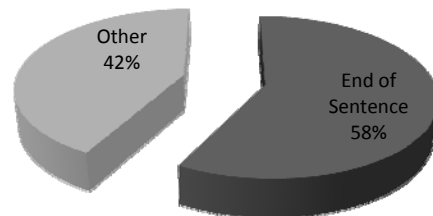


More than one quarter (30%) of all inmates released in 2003 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 81% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 19% more than one year. 12% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 7% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

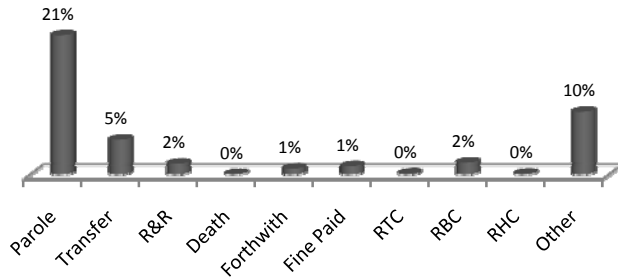
### TYPE OF RELEASE

58% of all inmates released in 2003 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 42% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2003**



### Other Release Types: 2003

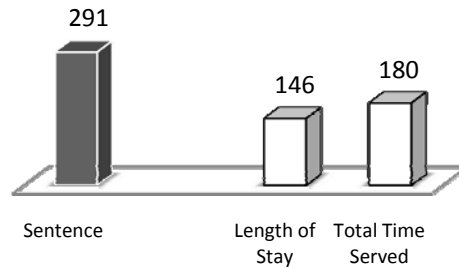


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (21%) followed by other releases (10%) and transfers (5%).

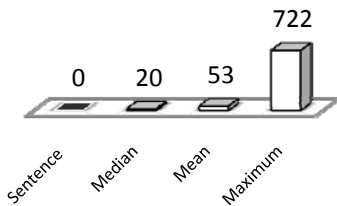
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2003 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates

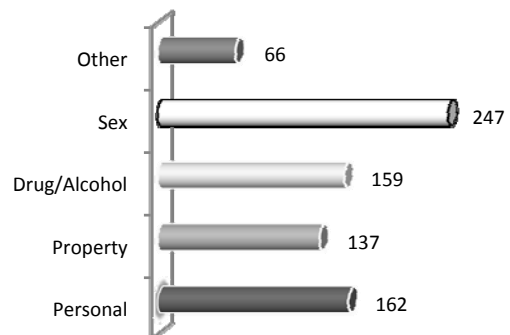


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2003. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2003 was 722 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2003, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (247 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 162 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 137 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 159 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)

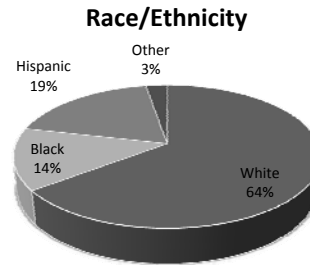


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2004**

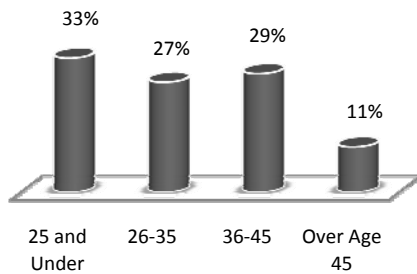
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

64% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004 were White, 14% were Black, 19% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

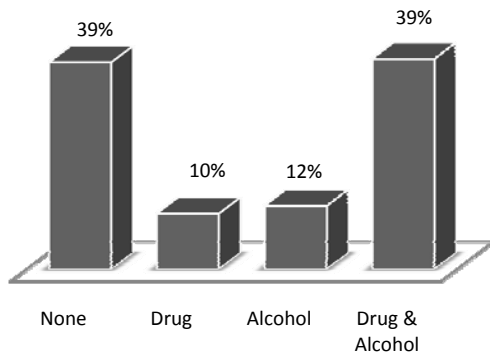
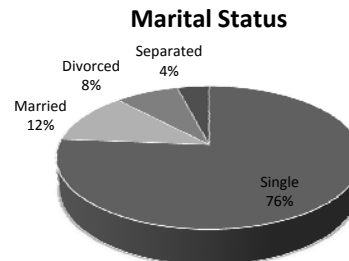


### AGE AT RELEASE

60% of the inmates released in 2004 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous few years, those aged 25 and under (33%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (27%). 29% of inmates released were between 36 and 45 years of age and 11% of inmates released in 2004 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (76%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 12% reported being married at intake and 12% were either divorced or separated.

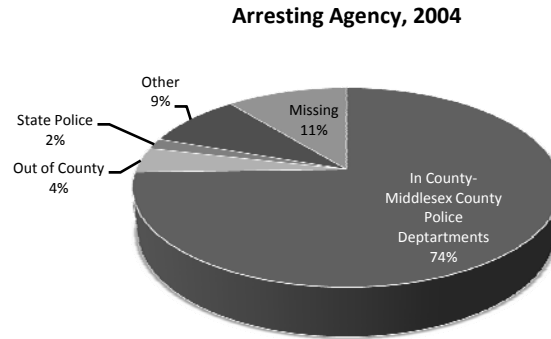


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2004, 39% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 61% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than one-third (39%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 12% had alcohol abuse issues and 10% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2004. The vast majority of inmates (74%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for more than a quarter of all arrests: Lowell (15%), Cambridge (7%), and Framingham (6%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2004 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

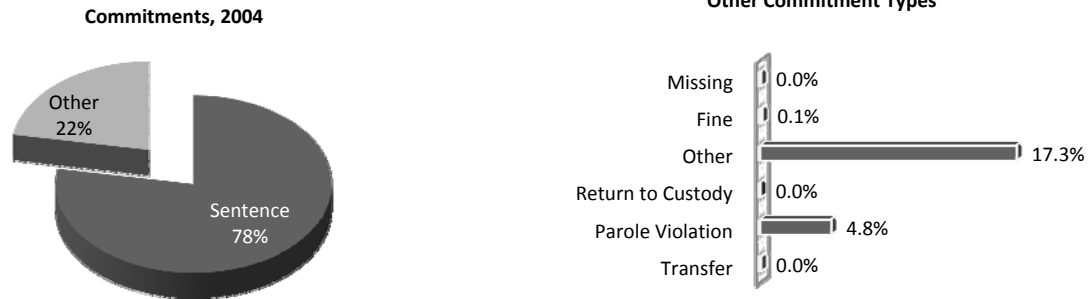


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	372	15.2%
Cambridge	175	7.1%
Framingham	155	6.3%
Parole/Probation	134	5.5%
Somerville	110	4.5%
Marlborough	105	4.3%
Out of County	100	4.1%
Malden	99	4.0%
Waltham	78	3.2%
Other	61	2.5%
Medford	46	1.9%
Natick	45	1.8%
Massachusetts State Police	43	1.8%
Everett	42	1.7%
Woburn	41	1.7%
Ayer	38	1.5%
Tewksbury	33	1.3%
Newton	30	1.2%
Billerica	27	1.1%
Wakefield	22	0.9%
Stoneham	21	0.9%
Hudson	20	0.8%
Watertown	20	0.8%
Westford	19	0.8%
Chelmsford	18	0.7%
Concord	18	0.7%
Burlington	17	0.7%
Dracut	17	0.7%
Townsend	17	0.7%
Ashland	16	0.7%
Pepperell	16	0.7%

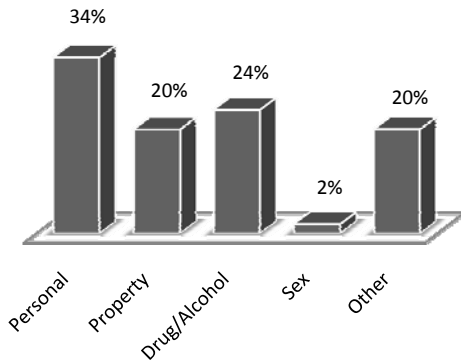
Arresting Agency	#	%
Wilmington	16	0.7%
Belmont	14	0.6%
Arlington	13	0.5%
Hopkinton	13	0.5%
Maynard	13	0.5%
Acton	12	0.5%
Groton	12	0.5%
Littleton	12	0.5%
Melrose	11	0.4%
North Reading	11	0.4%
Bedford	10	0.4%
Holliston	10	0.4%
University Police	10	0.4%
Reading	9	0.4%
Lexington	8	0.3%
Boxborough	7	0.3%
Wayland	7	0.3%
MSO OR BHC	7	0.3%
Lincoln	6	0.2%
Ashby	5	0.2%
Shirley	5	0.2%
Sudbury	5	0.2%
Tyngsborough	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
Winchester	3	0.1%
DOC	3	0.1%
Sherborn	2	0.1%
Stow	2	0.1%
Dunstable	1	0.0%

## 2004 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (78%) released in 2004 were admitted following a sentence. 22% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments (17%) were the most common followed by parole violations (5%).



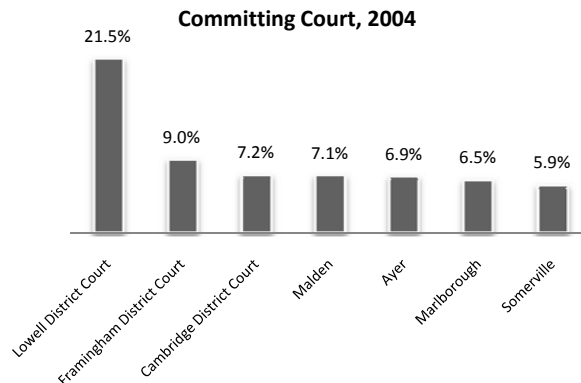
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2004, 34% had been serving time for personal offenses and 20% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 24%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 20% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 64% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 6% of the inmates released in 2004.



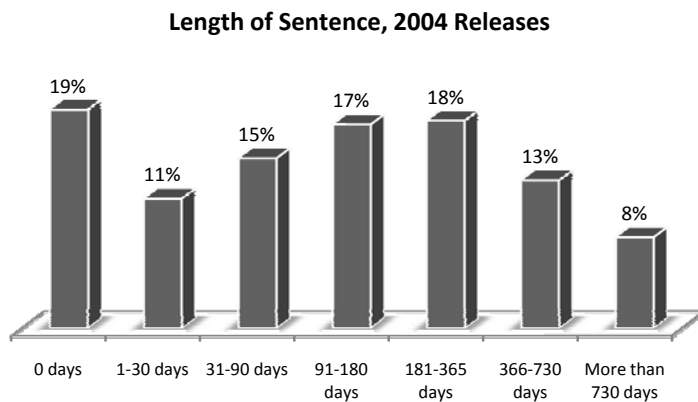


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2004. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	527	21.5%	Cambridge Jury	89	3.6%
Framingham District	222	9.0%	Lowell Superior	76	3.1%
Cambridge District	176	7.2%	Concord	72	2.9%
Malden	174	7.1%	Out of County	57	2.3%
Ayer	170	6.9%	Natick	38	1.5%
Marlborough	160	6.5%	Newton	24	1.0%
Somerville	145	5.9%	Framingham Jury	7	0.3%
Cambridge Superior	142	5.8%	Other	6	0.2%
Parole	134	5.5%	Quincy	5	0.2%
Woburn	125	5.1%	Probation	4	0.2%
Waltham	93	3.8%	Lawrence	4	0.2%
Lowell District	527	21.5%	Lynn	4	0.2%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2004. In 2004, the average length of sentence was 245 days.

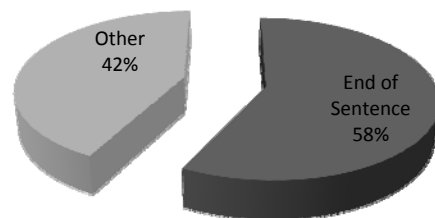


More than one quarter (30%) of all inmates released in 2004 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 79% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 21% more than one year. 13% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 8% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

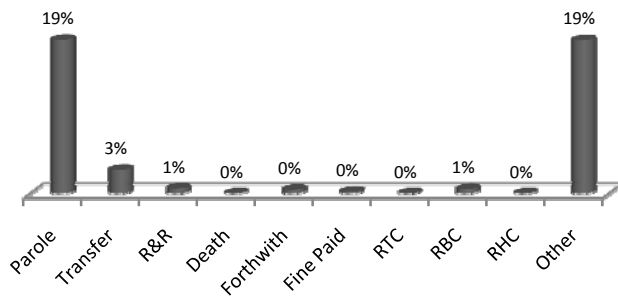
### TYPE OF RELEASE

58% of all inmates released in 2004 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 42% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

Type of Release, 2004



### Other Release Types: 2004

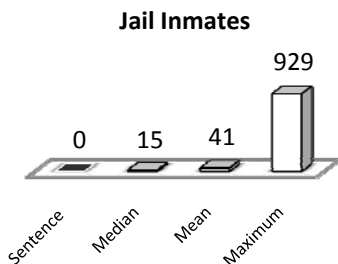
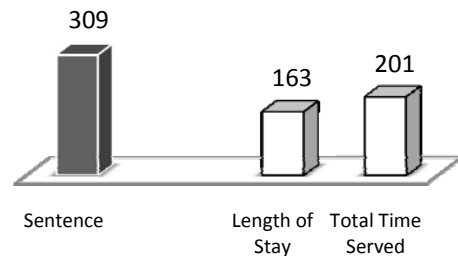


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were parole releases (19%) followed by other releases (19%) and transfers (3%).

### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2004 Sentenced Releases

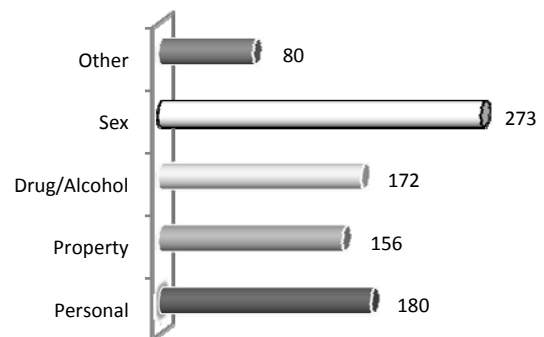


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2004. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2004 was 929 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2004, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (273 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 180 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 156 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 172 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)

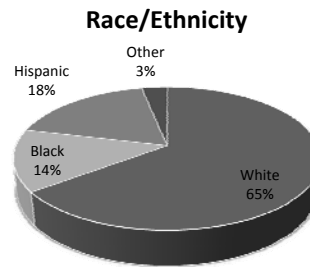


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2005**

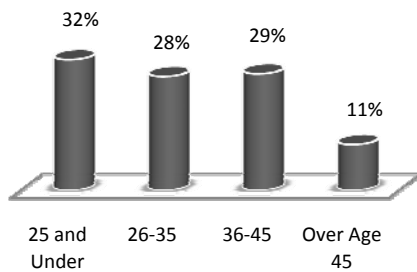
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

65% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2005 were White, 14% were Black, 18% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

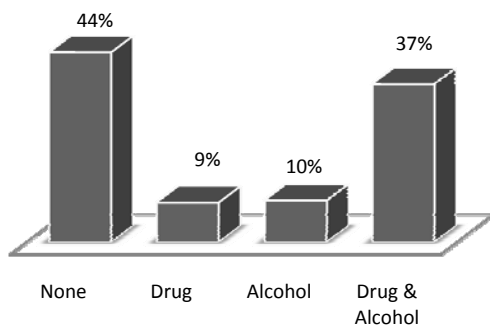
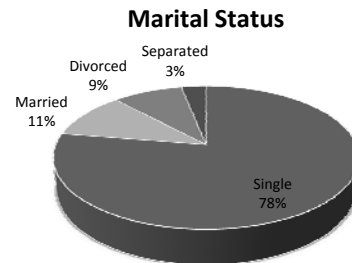


### AGE AT RELEASE

60% of the inmates released in 2005 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous few years, those aged 25 and under (32%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (28%). 29% of inmates released were between 36 and 45 years of age and 11% of inmates released in 2005 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (78%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 10% reported being married at intake and 12% were either divorced or separated.

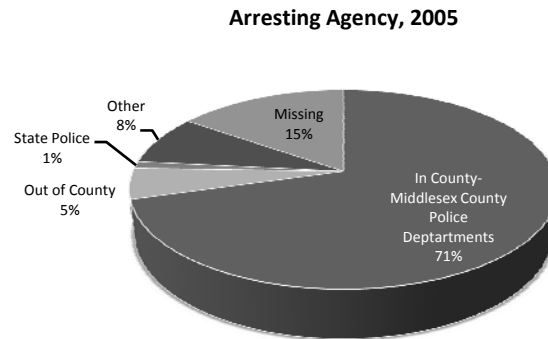


### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2005, 44% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 56% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than one-third (37%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 10% had alcohol abuse issues and 9% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2005. The vast majority of inmates (71%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2005 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for almost one-third of all arrests: Lowell (16%), Framingham (7%), and Cambridge (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2005 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

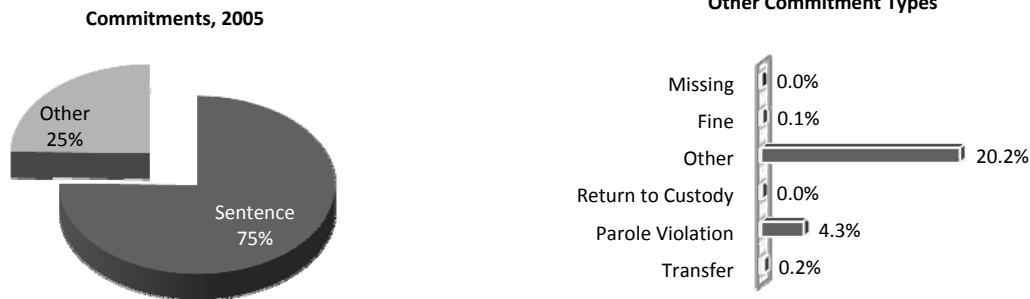


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	413	16.0%
Framingham	177	6.9%
Cambridge	176	6.8%
Out of County	129	5.0%
Parole/Probation	118	4.6%
Marlborough	93	3.6%
Somerville	90	3.5%
Malden	83	3.2%
Waltham	73	2.8%
Other	73	2.8%
Woburn	51	2.0%
Everett	48	1.9%
Ayer	42	1.6%
Natick	38	1.5%
Medford	35	1.4%
Newton	34	1.3%
Tewksbury	34	1.3%
Massachusetts State Police	29	1.1%
Watertown	24	0.9%
Ashland	23	0.9%
Billerica	23	0.9%
Concord	23	0.9%
Hudson	21	0.8%
Burlington	20	0.8%
Wilmington	18	0.7%
Arlington	15	0.6%
Stoneham	15	0.6%
Pepperell	14	0.5%
Chelmsford	13	0.5%
Groton	13	0.5%
Littleton	13	0.5%

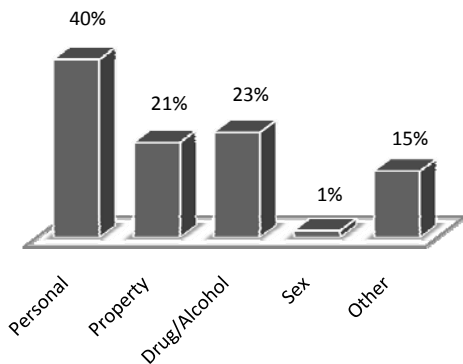
Arresting Agency	#	%
Hopkinton	12	0.5%
Reading	12	0.5%
Shirley	12	0.5%
Townsend	12	0.5%
Wakefield	12	0.5%
Dracut	11	0.4%
Lexington	10	0.4%
Melrose	10	0.4%
Westford	10	0.4%
MSO OR BHC	9	0.3%
Belmont	8	0.3%
Holliston	8	0.3%
North Reading	8	0.3%
Sudbury	8	0.3%
Acton	7	0.3%
Bedford	7	0.3%
Lincoln	7	0.3%
Tyngsborough	7	0.3%
Winchester	7	0.3%
Ashby	6	0.2%
Dunstable	6	0.2%
Maynard	5	0.2%
Wayland	5	0.2%
Boxborough	4	0.2%
DOC	4	0.2%
Out of State	3	0.1%
Stow	2	0.1%
University Police	2	0.1%
Carlisle	1	0.0%
Sherborn	1	0.0%
Weston	1	0.0%

## 2005 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (75%) released in 2005 were admitted following a sentence. 25% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments (20%) were the most common followed by parole violations (4%).



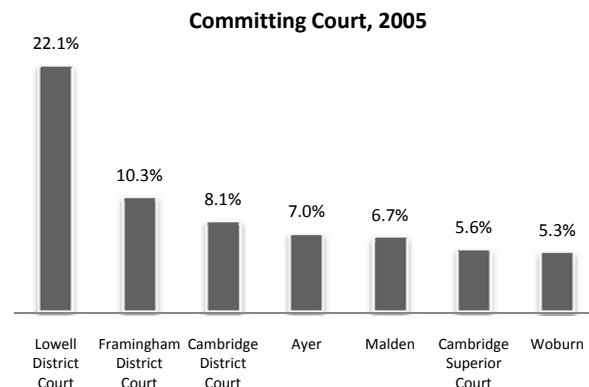
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2005, 40% had been serving time for personal offenses and 21% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 23%; sex offenses for 1%; and other offenses for 15% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 65% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2005. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 2005.

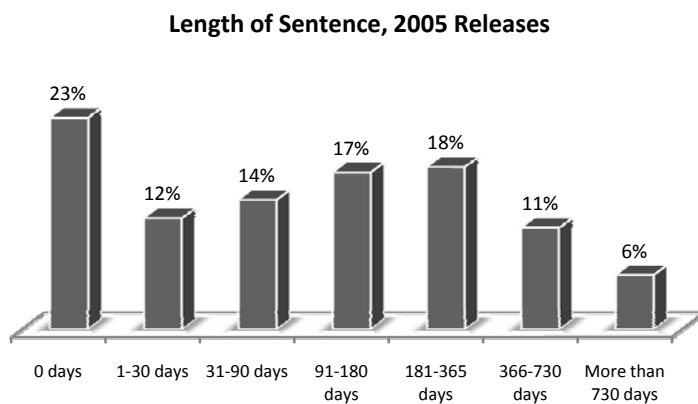


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2005. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	570	22.1%	Cambridge Jury	73	2.8%
Framingham District	266	10.3%	Lowell Superior	59	2.3%
Cambridge District	210	8.1%	Out of County	49	1.9%
Ayer	181	7.0%	Natick	46	1.8%
Malden	173	6.7%	Newton	42	1.6%
Cambridge Superior	144	5.6%	Probation	16	0.6%
Woburn	138	5.3%	Framingham Jury	14	0.5%
Marlborough	136	5.3%	Other	11	0.4%
Somerville	131	5.1%	Quincy	5	0.2%
Parole	123	4.8%	Lawrence	5	0.2%
Waltham	105	4.1%	Lynn	5	0.2%
Concord	78	3.0%	Lowell Jury	2	0.1%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2005. In 2005, the average length of sentence was 216 days.

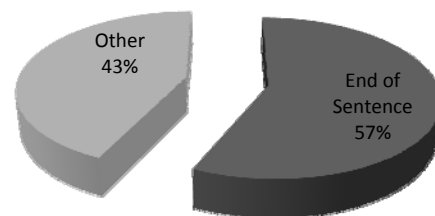


More than a third (35%) of all inmates released in 2005 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 83% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 17% more than one year. 11% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 6% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

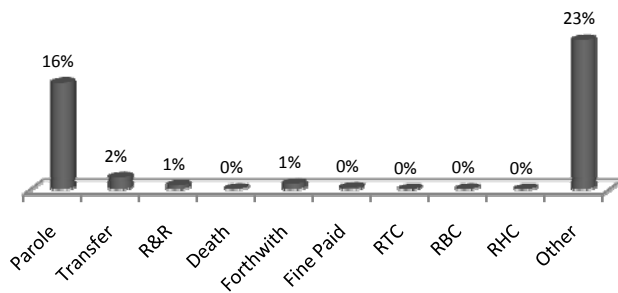
### TYPE OF RELEASE

57% of all inmates released in 2005 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 43% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2005**



### Other Release Types: 2005

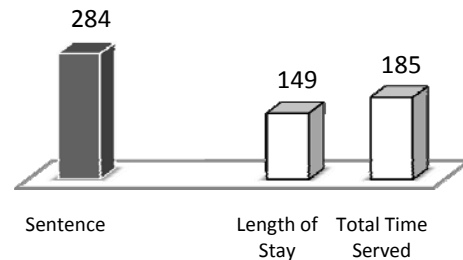


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were other releases (23%) followed by parole releases (16%) and transfers (2%).

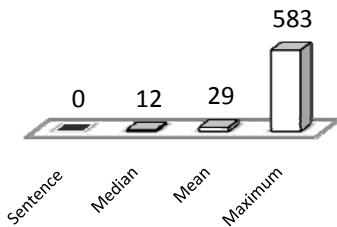
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2005 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates

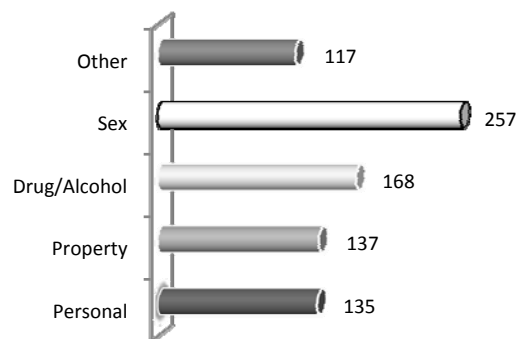


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2005. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2005 was 583 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2005, inmates released following admissions for sex offenses had served the most time at release (257 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 135 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 137 days, while those committed for drug or alcohol offenses had each served an average of 168 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)



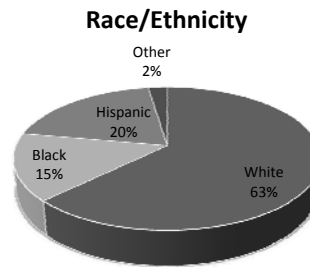


**INMATES RELEASED FROM THE  
BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION  
2006**

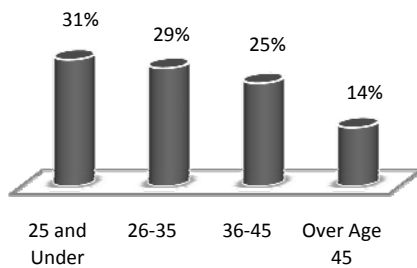
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

63% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2006 were White, 15% were Black, 20% were Hispanic, and 2% were identified as another race or ethnicity.



### Age at Release

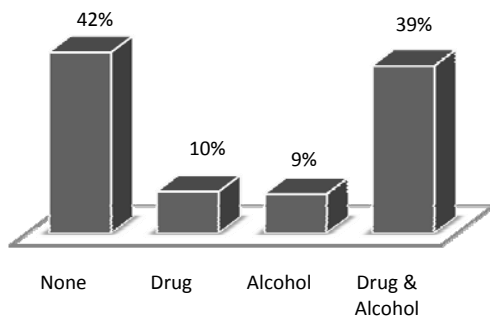
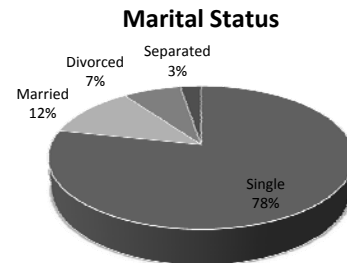


### AGE AT RELEASE

60% of the inmates released in 2006 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous few years, those aged 25 and under (31%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (29%). 25% of inmates released were between 36 and 45 years of age and 14% of inmates released in 2006 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (78%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 12% reported being married at intake and 10% were either divorced or separated.



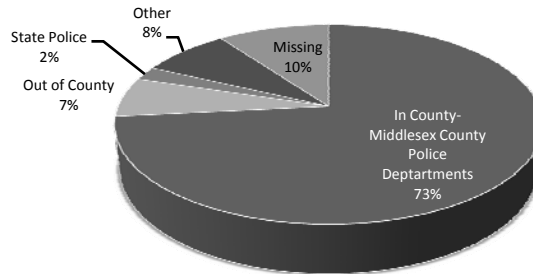
### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2006, 42% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 58% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than one-third (39%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 9% had alcohol abuse issues and 10% had drug abuse issues.

## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2006. The vast majority of inmates (73%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2006 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for almost one-third of all arrests: Lowell (16%), Framingham (7%), and Cambridge (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2006 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

Arresting Agency, 2006

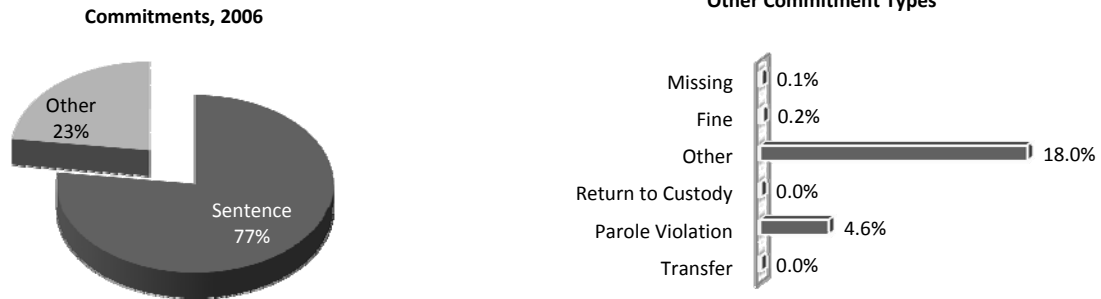


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	412	15.9%
Framingham	179	6.9%
Cambridge	169	6.5%
Out of County	167	6.4%
Marlborough	128	4.9%
Parole/Probation	128	4.9%
Malden	97	3.7%
Somerville	88	3.4%
Waltham	80	3.1%
Massachusetts State Police	58	2.2%
Natick	54	2.1%
Other	48	1.8%
Medford	41	1.6%
Everett	40	1.5%
Woburn	38	1.5%
Newton	36	1.4%
Ayer	35	1.3%
Watertown	34	1.3%
Billerica	30	1.2%
Hudson	23	0.9%
Concord	22	0.8%
Ashland	21	0.8%
Burlington	21	0.8%
Pepperell	21	0.8%
Westford	20	0.8%
Tewksbury	19	0.7%
Wilmington	17	0.7%
Dracut	16	0.6%
Stoneham	16	0.6%
Townsend	16	0.6%
Hopkinton	15	0.6%

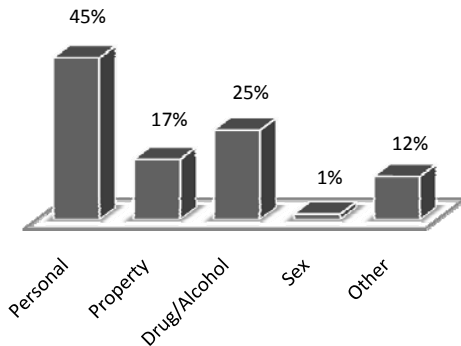
Arresting Agency	#	%
MSO OR BHC	15	0.6%
Reading	14	0.5%
Shirley	14	0.5%
Chelmsford	13	0.5%
Littleton	13	0.5%
Maynard	13	0.5%
Arlington	12	0.5%
Holliston	12	0.5%
Acton	11	0.4%
Belmont	11	0.4%
North Reading	11	0.4%
Lincoln	10	0.4%
Bedford	9	0.3%
Melrose	9	0.3%
Lexington	8	0.3%
Dunstable	7	0.3%
Sudbury	7	0.3%
Out of State	7	0.3%
Stow	6	0.2%
Wakefield	6	0.2%
Wayland	6	0.2%
Weston	6	0.2%
Groton	5	0.2%
University Police	5	0.2%
Ashby	4	0.2%
Boxborough	4	0.2%
Winchester	3	0.1%
DOC	3	0.1%
Carlisle	1	0.0%
Sherborn	1	0.0%

## 2006 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (77%) released in 2006 were admitted following a sentence. 23% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments (18%) were the most common followed by parole violations (5%).



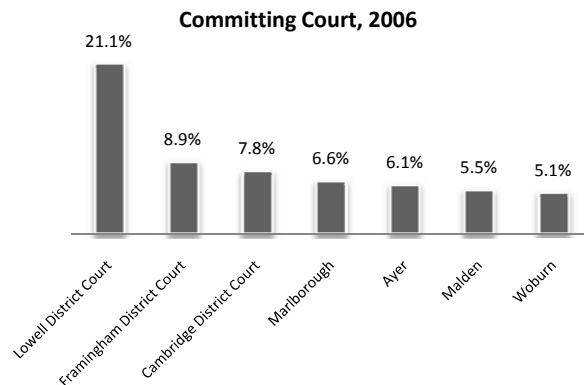
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2006, 45% had been serving time for personal offenses and 17% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 25%; sex offenses for 1%; and other offenses for 12% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 60% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2006. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 2006.

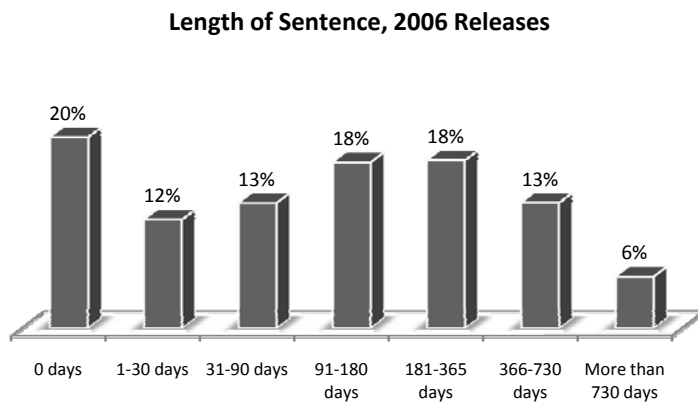


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2006. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	547	21.1%	Lowell Superior	85	3.3%
Framingham District	232	8.9%	Cambridge Jury	76	2.9%
Cambridge District	202	7.8%	Out of County	72	2.8%
Marlborough	171	6.6%	Natick	58	2.2%
Ayer	158	6.1%	Newton	52	2.0%
Malden	142	5.5%	Framingham Jury	18	0.7%
Woburn	133	5.1%	Probation	14	0.5%
Parole	132	5.1%	Other	14	0.5%
Cambridge Superior	126	4.9%	Quincy	11	0.4%
Somerville	117	4.5%	Lawrence	9	0.3%
Waltham	113	4.4%	Lynn	8	0.3%
Concord	102	3.9%	Lowell Jury	1	0.0%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2006. In 2006, the average length of sentence was 230 days.

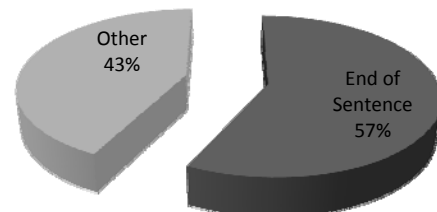


About one-third (32%) of all inmates released in 2006 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 81% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 19% more than one year. 13% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 6% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

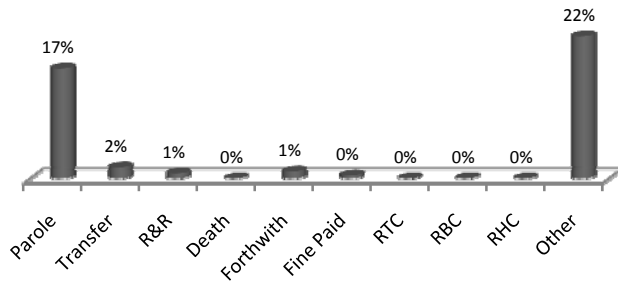
### TYPE OF RELEASE

57% of all inmates released in 2006 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 43% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2006**



### Other Release Types: 2006

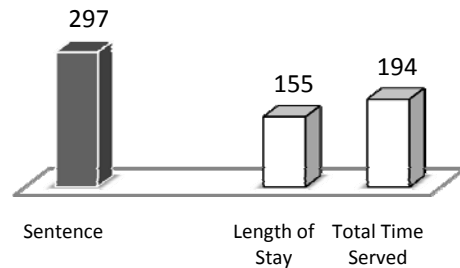


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were other releases (22%) followed by parole releases (17%) and transfers (2%).

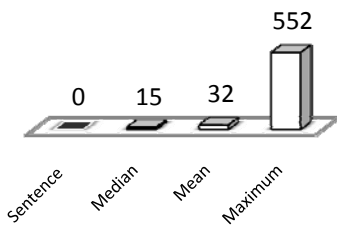
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2006 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates

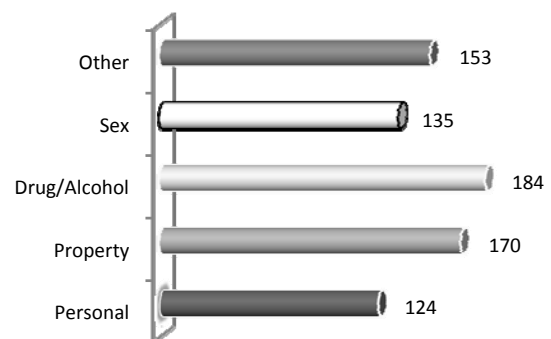


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2006. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2006 was 552 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2006, inmates released following admissions for drug/alcohol offenses had served the most time at release (184 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 124 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 170 days, while those committed for sex offenses had each served an average of 135 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)

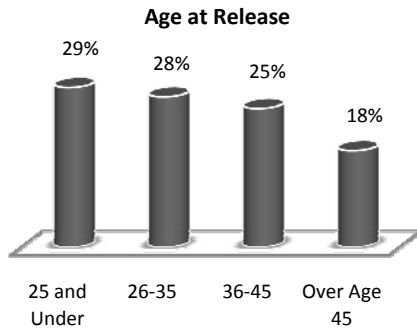
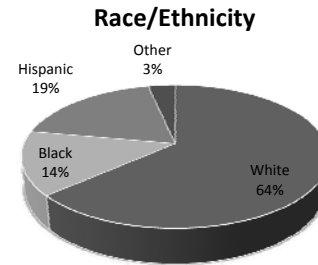


# **INMATES RELEASED FROM THE BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2007**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

63% of all inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2007 were White, 14% were Black, 19% were Hispanic, and 3% were identified as another race or ethnicity.

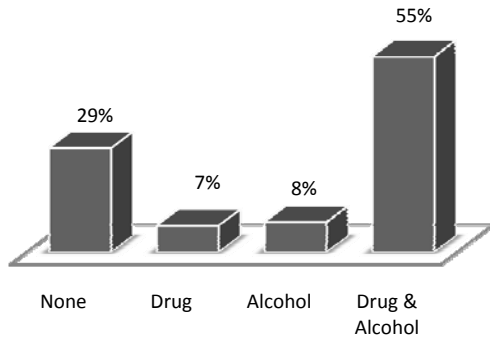
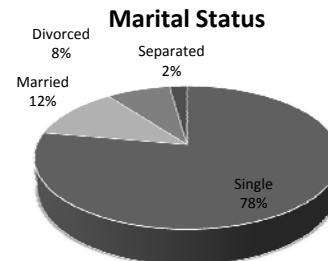


### AGE AT RELEASE

60% of the inmates released in 2007 were aged 35 or younger. As in the previous few years, those aged 25 and under (29%) accounted for more of the released population than those aged 26-35 (28%). 25% of inmates released were between 36 and 45 years of age and 18% of inmates released in 2007 were over age 45.

### MARITAL STATUS

The figure to the right depicts inmate marital status reported at intake. The majority (78%) of all inmates released were single (presumably never married). 12% reported being married at intake and 10% were either divorced or separated.



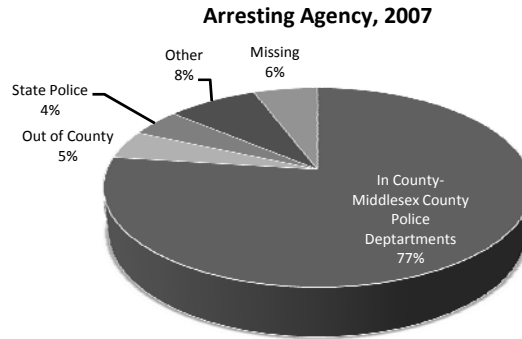
### SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Among inmates released in 2007, 29% were identified as having no substance abuse issues at intake. 70% of released inmates had a substance abuse issue at admission. More than half (55%) of the inmates were identified as having both drug and alcohol abuse problems. An additional 8% had alcohol abuse issues and 7% had drug abuse issues.



## ARRESTING AGENCY

The figure to the right depicts the arresting agency for inmates released in 2007. The vast majority of inmates (77%) released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2007 had been arrested by an in-county police department. Three police agencies were together responsible for almost one-third of all arrests: Lowell (16%), Framingham (7%), and Cambridge (7%). Below we have included a table ranking the police agencies in terms of the number and percent of all 2007 releases that were admitted followed an arrest by that agency.

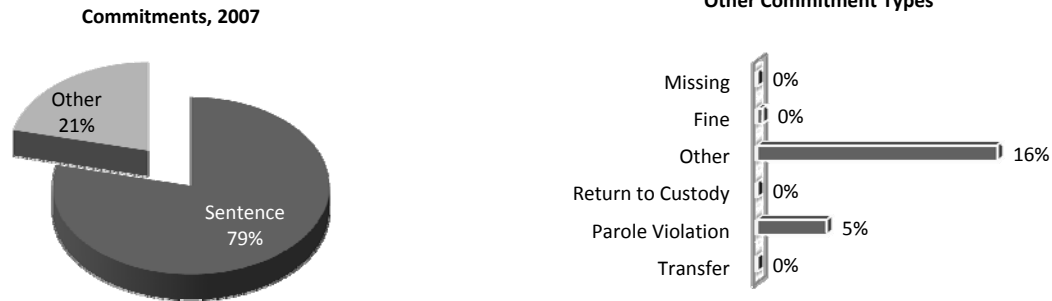


Arresting Agency	#	%
Lowell	361	15.5%
Cambridge	174	7.5%
Framingham	162	7.0%
Parole/Probation	110	4.7%
Out of County	107	4.6%
Massachusetts State Police	105	4.5%
Malden	74	3.2%
Everett	73	3.1%
Marlborough	72	3.1%
Waltham	66	2.8%
Somerville	65	2.8%
Other	60	2.6%
Natick	57	2.5%
Billerica	42	1.8%
Medford	42	1.8%
Newton	42	1.8%
Woburn	41	1.8%
Watertown	29	1.2%
Hudson	26	1.1%
Tewksbury	25	1.1%
Arlington	24	1.0%
Ayer	24	1.0%
Chelmsford	24	1.0%
Ashland	23	1.0%
Concord	23	1.0%
Dracut	18	0.8%
Westford	18	0.8%
Wilmington	18	0.8%
Pepperell	17	0.7%
Melrose	16	0.7%
Hopkinton	15	0.6%

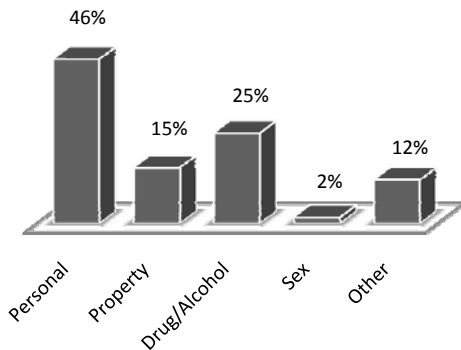
Arresting Agency	#	%
Burlington	14	0.6%
Acton	13	0.6%
Littleton	13	0.6%
Sudbury	13	0.6%
Townsend	13	0.6%
Bedford	12	0.5%
Maynard	12	0.5%
North Reading	12	0.5%
Wakefield	12	0.5%
Shirley	11	0.5%
Wayland	11	0.5%
Winchester	9	0.4%
MSO OR BHC	9	0.4%
Belmont	8	0.3%
Reading	8	0.3%
Stoneham	8	0.3%
Boxborough	7	0.3%
Groton	6	0.3%
Lexington	6	0.3%
University Police	6	0.3%
Dunstable	5	0.2%
Stow	5	0.2%
Ashby	4	0.2%
Sherborn	4	0.2%
Tyngsborough	4	0.2%
Holliston	3	0.1%
Lincoln	3	0.1%
Weston	3	0.1%
DOC	3	0.1%
Carlisle	1	0.0%

## 2007 RELEASES: TYPE OF COMMITMENT

The data provided by the House of Correction included six different commitment types: (1) sentence, (2) parole violation, (3) return to custody, (4) transfer, (5) fine, and (6) other. Jail commitments are not a distinct category in the data. Most Jail admissions were coded as “other” commitments. Data were missing for a small number of inmates.



The majority of all inmates (79%) released in 2007 were admitted following a sentence. 21% were admitted through one of the other commitment types. In the figure to the right (above), the other types of commitments are broken out. After sentences, other commitments (16%) were the most common followed by parole violations (5%).



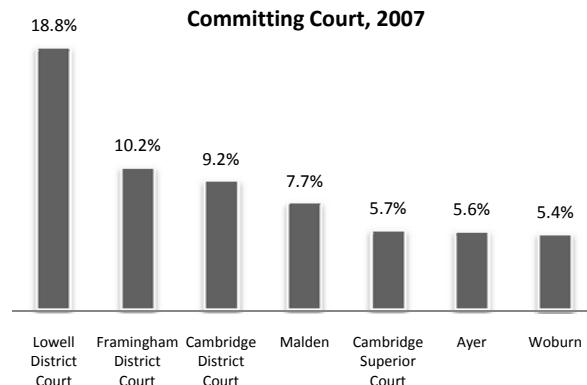
## OFFENSE TYPES

The data provided included five different offense types: (1) Personal offenses, (2) Property offenses, (3) Drug or Alcohol Related Offenses, (4) Sex Offenses, and (5) Other Offenses.

Among inmates released in 2007, 46% had been serving time for personal offenses and 15% for property offenses. Those serving time for drug or alcohol offenses accounted for 25%; sex offenses for 2%; and other offenses for 12% of all releases.

## COMMITTING COURT

Seven courts committed more than 62% of the inmates released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2007. Each of these seven courts admitted at least 5% of the inmates released in 2007.

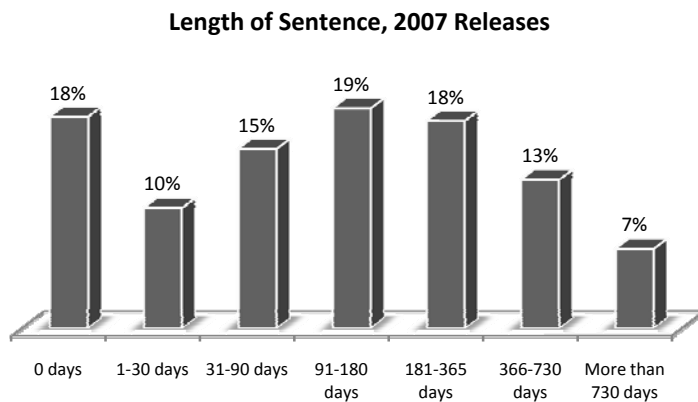


The table below breaks down the court of commitment for inmates released in 2007. The courts are listed in rank-order.

COURT	#	%	COURT	#	%
Lowell District	437	18.8%	Concord	78	3.4%
Framingham District	237	10.2%	Out of County	61	2.6%
Cambridge District	215	9.2%	Natick	51	2.2%
Malden	178	7.7%	Newton	44	1.9%
Cambridge Superior	133	5.7%	Cambridge Jury	43	1.8%
Ayer	130	5.6%	Probation	32	1.4%
Woburn	126	5.4%	Other	16	0.7%
Somerville	112	4.8%	Quincy	15	0.6%
Parole	111	4.8%	Framingham Jury	6	0.3%
Marlborough	103	4.4%	Lynn	4	0.2%
Waltham	97	4.2%	Lawrence	3	0.1%
Lowell Superior	90	3.9%	Lowell Jury	1	0.0%

### LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The figure below depicts the average length of sentence for those released from the Billerica House of Correction in 2007. In 2007, the average length of sentence was 241 days.

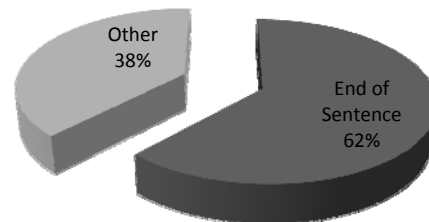


More than one quarter (28%) of all inmates released in 2007 had been sentenced to 30 days or less. 80% of all inmates released had been sentenced to serve one year or less and 20% more than one year. 13% were released after serving sentences of one to two years and an additional 7% after serving sentenced of more than two years.

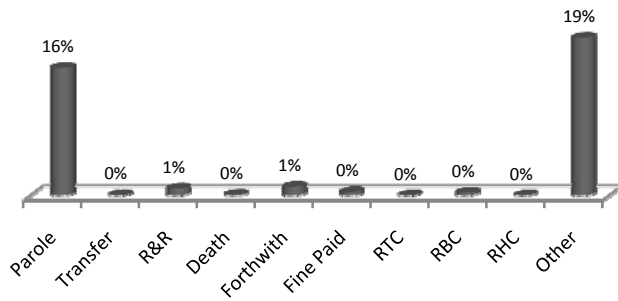
### TYPE OF RELEASE

62% of all inmates released in 2007 were released because their sentence had ended. The remaining 38% were other releases. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody, release by court, release to higher custody, fine paid, death, and other.

**Type of Release, 2007**



### Other Release Types: 2007

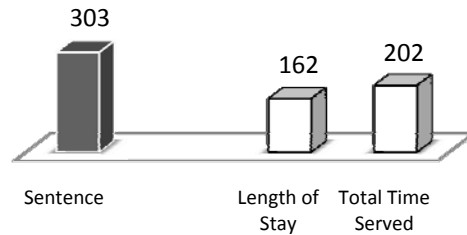


The chart to the left shows the percentage of inmates released via each of the other release types. Other releases includes transfer, revised and revoked, forthwith, return to custody (RTC), release by court (RBC), release to higher custody (RHC), fine paid, death, and other. The majority of other releases were other releases (19%) followed by parole releases (16%).

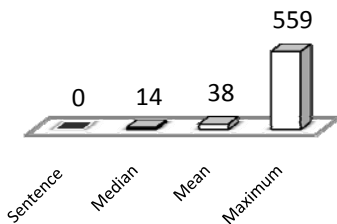
### LENGTH OF STAY

In the figure to the right, the average sentence length, average length of stay at the Billerica House of Correction, and the average total time served (including jail credits) is depicted for those sentenced as new commitments. These averages include sentenced inmates only (jail and other commitment types such as transfers, parole violations, etc. are not included in these averages).

### Average Sentence & Time Served: 2007 Sentenced Releases



### Jail Inmates

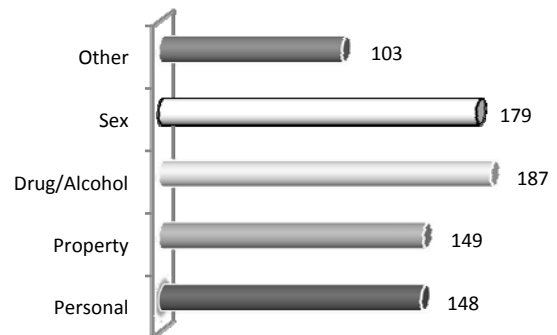


In the figure to the left, the average sentence, the average length of stay, and the maximum length of stay for jail inmates released in 2007. In terms of the average, both the median and the mean length of stay are reported. The mean (or mathematical average) tends to get distorted by extreme cases. The maximum length of stay for an inmate released after a jail admission in 2007 was 559 days. The median represents the person in the precise middle of an ordered list of all releases (exactly half of all releases are at or below this median and exactly half are at or above).

### LENGTH OF STAY BY OFFENSE TYPE

Among those inmates released in 2007, inmates released following admissions for drug/alcohol offenses had served the most time at release (187 days). Offenders released following an admission for a personal offense had served an average of 148 days. Those released following commitments for property offenses had served an average of 149 days, while those committed for sex offenses had each served an average of 179 days.

### Average Length of Stay by Offense Type (in Days)



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**APPENDIX:  
SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVENESS**

**2007 SAMPLE**

*Descriptives*

	<b>2007 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>2007 Population N = 1906</b>
Total Incarcerations at Billerica	2.29	2.38
Total Earned Work Credit	50.20	51.78
Length of Sentence in Days	291	294
Credited Jail Time	41.29	37.92
Age at Commitment	34.08	34.49
Actual Grade Level	11.54	11.58
Total Length of Stay	151.66	159.83

*Grouped Length of Stay*

	<b>2007 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>2007 Population N = 1906</b>
30 Days or Less	20.8%	20.1%
31 to 60 Days	14.2%	14.9%
61 to 90 Days	9.8%	10.5%
More than 90 Days	55.2%	54.4%

**2004 SAMPLE**

*Descriptives*

	<b>2004 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>2004 Population N = 1999</b>
Total Incarcerations at Billerica	2.23	2.19
Total Earned Work Credit	52.52	51.98
Length of Sentence in Days	303.62	301.16
Credited Jail Time	32.29	36.22
Age at Commitment	32.40	32.70
Actual Grade Level	11.37	11.51
Total Length of Stay	159.98	159.11

*Grouped Length of Stay*

	<b>2004 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>2004 Population N = 1999</b>
30 Days or Less	18.5%	19.9%
31 to 60 Days	15.0%	14.5%
61 to 90 Days	11.2%	11.5%
More than 90 Days	55.2%	54.1%

**1994 SAMPLE**

*Descriptives*

	<b>1994 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>1994 Population N = 2783</b>
Total Incarcerations at Billerica	1.12	1.11
Total Earned Work Credit	36.07	35.97
Length of Sentence in Days	277.52	286.04
Credited Jail Time	15.19	14.70
Age at Commitment	31.21	30.49
Actual Grade Level	11.29	11.12
Total Length of Stay	118.52	125.10

*Grouped Length of Stay*

	<b>1994 Sample n = 400</b>	<b>1994 Population N = 2783</b>
30 Days or Less	35.8%	32.7%
31 to 60 Days	11.5%	13.3%
61 to 90 Days	9.5%	11.1%
More than 90 Days	43.2%	42.9%