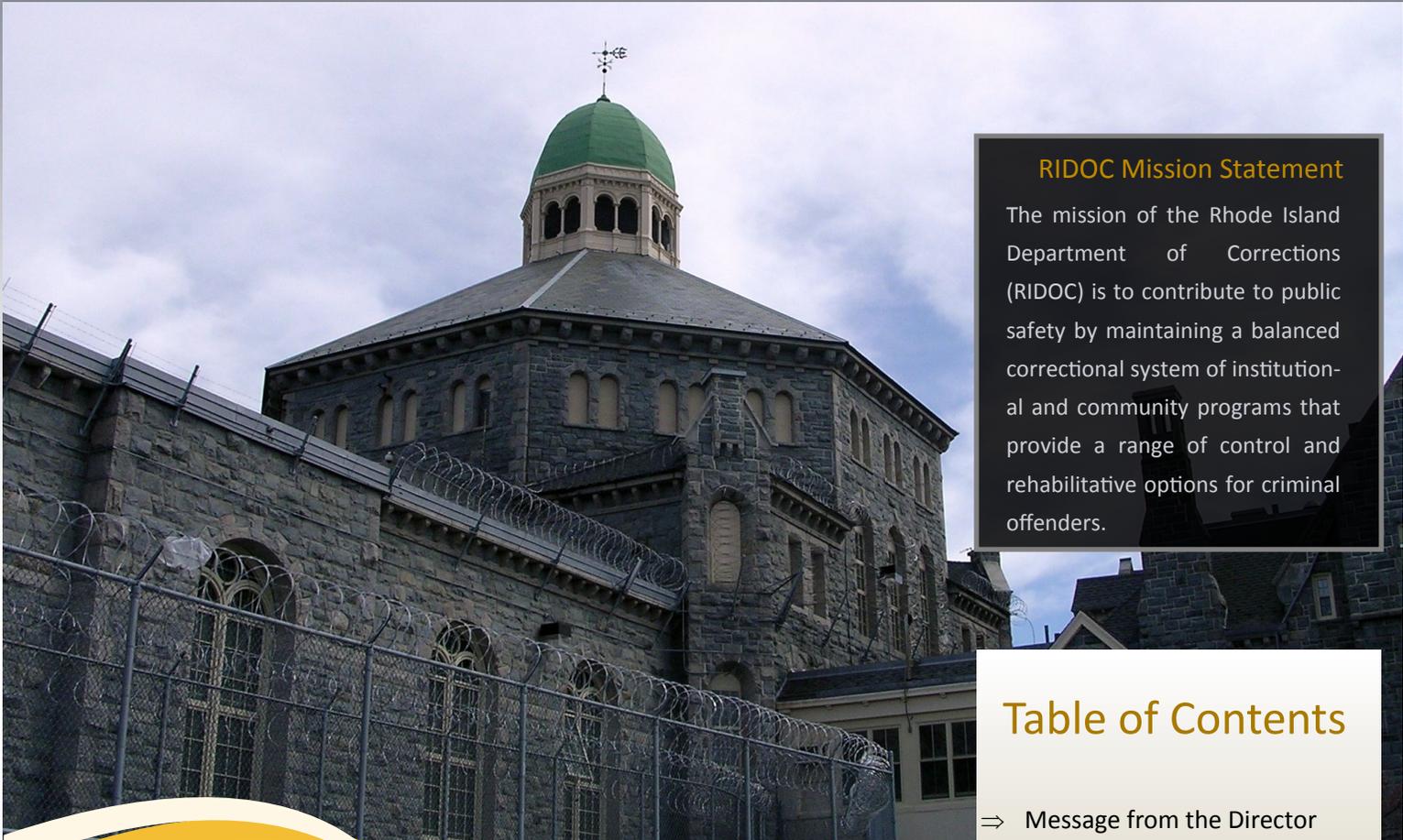


# Rhode Island Department of Corrections

## Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Population Report

October 2015



### RIDOC Mission Statement

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is to contribute to public safety by maintaining a balanced correctional system of institutional and community programs that provide a range of control and rehabilitative options for criminal offenders.

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### RIDOC Goals

- \* To maximize community protection through the institutional confinement of offenders and appropriate levels of supervision in the community.
- \* To recognize and respect the rights and needs of the victims of crime.
- \* To involve community organizations, volunteers, and outside professionals in program development and service delivery.
- \* To foster the best possible relations with the public and all elements of the Criminal Justice System.
- \* To assist offenders in their rehabilitative efforts by affording them the opportunity to participate in essential rehabilitative services in the institutions and community.
- \* To encourage offenders to become accountable for their actions.
- \* To enhance the continuum of community and institutional services in order to provide for appropriate management of criminal offenders.
- \* To employ, explore, and utilize research, technology, equipment, planning, and evaluation in the development of programs and standards.
- \* To provide ongoing staff development in order to increase job performance, abilities, and professional opportunities.
- \* To promote a positive and safe work environment characterized by the mutual respect of all staff.
- \* To act in accordance with the highest ethical, legal, and professional standards.

# Director's Message



## From RIDOC Director Ashbel T. Wall II

I am delighted to present the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Population Report for FY15. It is of the same high quality that readers have come to expect from our talented Planning and Research Unit. The charts, tables, graphs and written material provide an overview of the agency and its activities that is wide-ranging, clear and accessible. I think you will find it well worth your while.

Here are some of the key findings in this year's edition:

- ◆ After an out-of-the-ordinary spike in both institutional admissions and releases during FY14, the traditional pattern has emerged in the most recent fiscal year. They have declined by eight percent from the previous year and appear to be holding at that level.
- ◆ Because of the current reduction in commitments and discharges the average inmate census has also declined slightly (about 1% or 30 inmates).
- ◆ JFA, our Department's population forecaster, has revised its projection to growth of under 10% in the next decade.
- ◆ Due to the 18% decrease in the inmate census over the past five fiscal years, we have generated savings of five million dollars by closing a facility in 2011, also reduced per diem food costs and remained within the inmate capacities at each institution, thus creating a safer environment for staff and inmates alike.
- ◆ Our agency continues our fruitful collaboration with the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Under the leadership of Governor Gina Raimondo, we are working with the Center on a second Justice Reinvestment Initiative. It is focused on pretrial services and community corrections. The goal is to generate cost-effective outcomes that enhance the efficiency of operations and increase public safety.

We here at RIDOC are proud of the work we do and hope that as you peruse this report you will share our pride.

Thank you.

# Facilities

The Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is comprised of 7 inmate facilities (5 male, 2 female), which are all located within 1 square mile in Cranston, RI. The State of Rhode Island operates a unified correctional system, meaning that all offenders (i.e., those awaiting trial, sentenced, and under community supervision) in the state are under the jurisdiction of RIDOC.

## Intake Service Center

Opened: 1982 - Renovated: 1995 - Expanded: 1992

Average Facility Population: 1,026 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 1,118 (FY15)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$42,408

## Minimum Security

Opened: 1978 - Expanded: 1989 & 1992

Average Facility Population: 422 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 710 (FY15)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$54,910

## Medium Security:

### John J. Moran Facility

Opened: 1992

Average Facility Population: 1,062 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 1,126 (FY15)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$41,120



The Intake Service Center (ISC) is a maximum security facility which serves as Rhode Island's jail for male offenders. Rhode Island is one of six states that have unified systems, incorporating the jail and state prison into one department. The south wing of the facility was constructed in 1982, while the north wing was constructed in 1992.

Inmates housed at the ISC fall into several categories: pretrial detainees, newly sentenced inmates who are awaiting classification to other facilities, and sentenced protective custody. The facility processed 12,650 commitments in FY15, approximately 1,050 commitments per month. On average, 120 inmates are sent to court daily and 50 inmates per week are processed and transferred to other facilities within the Department of Corrections. The length of time an inmate remains housed in awaiting trial status at the ISC is approximately 23 days (see graph on p.14 for further details); this translates into a constant turnover of the inmate population.

The Minimum Security facility was opened in 1978 in a converted hospital building on Howard Avenue in Cranston. In 1989, Minimum Security (MIN) expanded to a second building, and in July of 1992, with the construction of a connecting addition, the facility became one large complex, with a 710-bed inmate capacity.

The perimeter is surrounded by a low security fence, consistent with the minimum custody level. All Minimum Security inmates, unless medically certified as unable to work, are employed either within the institution, on public service projects through work release, or are seeking employment.

The John J. Moran Facility was constructed from 1990 to 1992, for a cost of \$65,000,000. The facility covers 29 acres and houses sentenced adult male offenders who are classified as medium custody. Extensive programming is provided with the goal of preparing inmates for successful return to their communities.

# Facilities

## Maximum Security

Opened: 1878

Average Facility Population: 441 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 409 (FY15)



Annual Cost per Offender: \$64,723

The Maximum Security facility is the state's oldest operational prison. The facility was opened during 1878 and is mod-

eled on the Auburn style construction, which consolidates all inmate cells into one main building.

Maximum Security (MAX) once served as the prison for both awaiting trial and sentenced inmates. As the sentenced population grew and the needs of the prison system changed, other facilities were added.

Surrounded by a wall with five observation towers, this facility is broken down into six housing areas with one segregation unit. The population is comprised of inmates serving long sentences for a variety of offenses, along with inmates serving shorter sentences who have been transferred to MAX from other facilities for serious discipline and/or behavioral problems. Inmates are prepared for classification to lesser securities through participation in rehabilitative programs.

## High Security

Opened: 1981

Average Facility Population: 96 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 138 (FY15)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$184,423



The High Security Center (HSC) is a supermax facility, which houses inmates who require close custody and control, including protective custody inmates. All inmates are on restricted status; therefore, there are no

contact visits and limited programming. The inmate population has access to a well stocked legal and recreational library, a classification board room, a classroom, barber shop, and a chapel.

## Women's Facilities

### Gloria McDonald Building

Opened: December, 2010

Average Population: 102 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 173 (FY15)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$133,144 (both women's facilities)



### Bernadette Building

Opened: December, 2011

Average Population: 33 (FY15)

Operational Capacity: 100 (FY15)

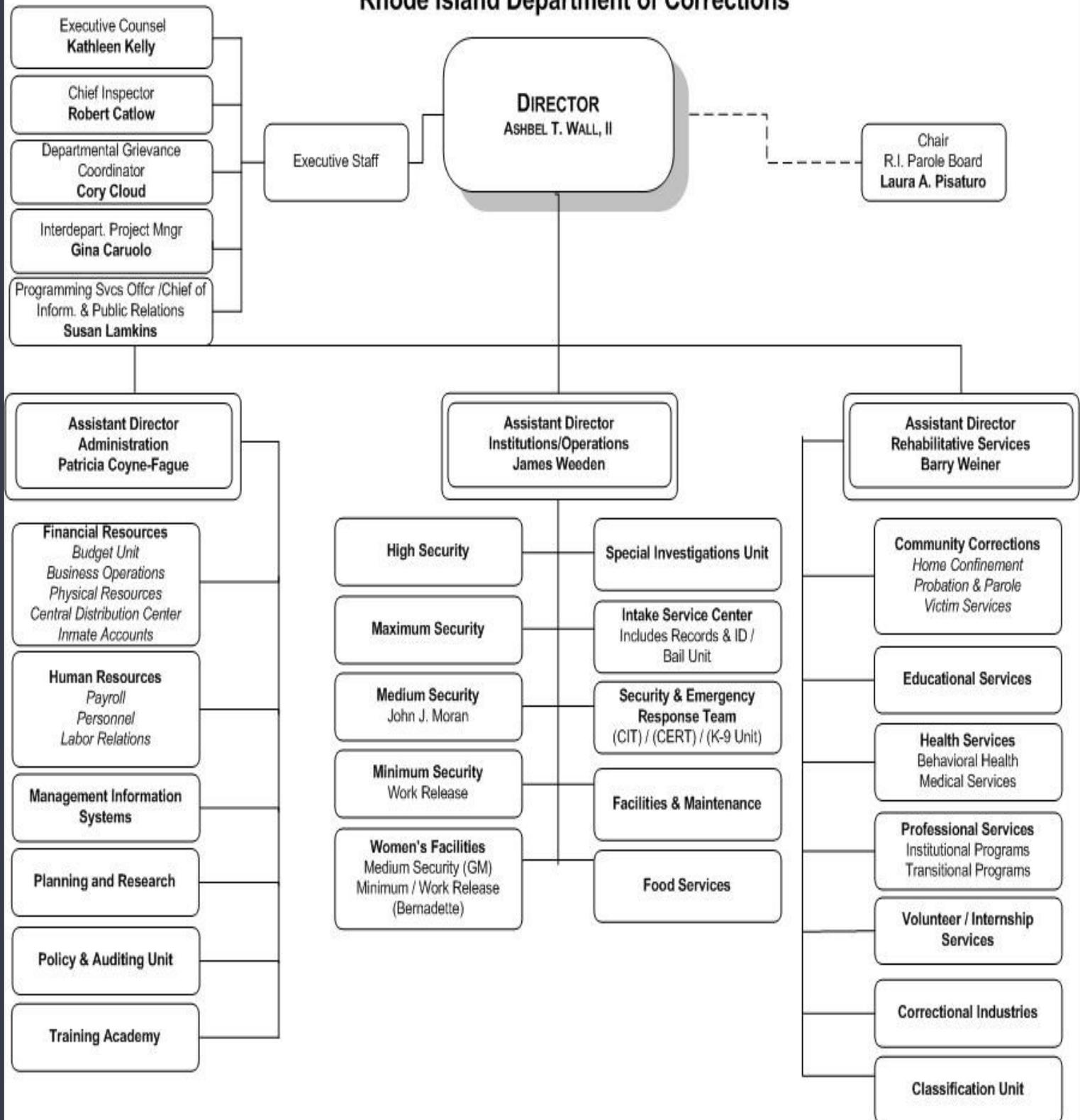


The Women's Facilities (WOM) house awaiting trial offenders and three classification levels (medium, minimum, and work release) in two separate buildings. In late 2010 and 2011,

facilities housing these offenders (referenced in previous reports as the GM and DIX buildings) were closed to the inmate population. The awaiting trial and medium-security women were moved to WFI which was later re-dedicated as the Gloria McDonald Building (GM), while the minimum security/work-release offenders are now housed in Women's Facility II (WFII), also known as the Bernadette Building. GM, is a converted and expanded hospital building and was initially constructed to be a male Reintegration Center. WFII was originally designed to house work release security men and in later years housed Community Corrections and Education offices. Changes were made to both of these buildings to target the specific needs for women prior to their opening. The unique social, cultural, and gender-specific needs of female offenders are supported by staff and incorporated into programming and treatment within the facilities.

# RIDOC Organizational Chart

## Rhode Island Department of Corrections



RIDOC is divided into 3 divisions; Administration, Institutions and Operations, and Rehabilitative Services. Each division plays an imperative role in the Department's operations, activities, processes, services, etc. This organizational chart reflects the breakdown of divisions and illustrates which units fall under each Assistant Director's supervision.

## Administration Division

Assistant Director

Patricia A. Coyne-Fague

The Administration Division is comprised of approximately 90 employees who provide a variety of critical support functions for the Department. While employees in this Division often work “behind the scenes,” their roles are integral to the overall function of the Department. The Administration Division is divided into the following units: *Financial Resources, Human Resources, Management Information Systems, Planning & Research, Policy, and the Training Academy*. Administration Division staff members facilitate new departmental initiatives and also provide continued support and guidance to all on-going functions at the RIDOC. Through a strong spirit of cooperation and dedication, these staff members assist other divisions of the Department in achieving their goals and implementing the Department’s mission.

## Institutions and Operations

Assistant Director

James Weeden

The Institutions & Operations Division is comprised of the Department’s correctional facilities [collectively known as the *Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)*], *Special Investigations Unit (SIU)*, *Facilities and Maintenance Unit, Food Services, and Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT)*. Some responsibilities of Institutions and Operations include gathering intelligence to assure public safety, maintaining facilities to guarantee a healthy, safe and secure environment, and providing nutritionally balanced menus to all offenders. Institutions and Operations is the cornerstone of daily operations at the Department of Corrections.

## Rehabilitative Services

Assistant Director

Barry Weiner

The Division of Rehabilitative Services is committed to realizing the meaningful reintegration of offenders into the community. Program areas within this Division can be categorized into two distinct sections: 1) Institutional or 2) Community Corrections. Institutional corrections includes programming offered to the offender during incarceration, such as *Health Services, Educational Services, Institutional Programs, Classification, Adult Counselors and Volunteer/ Internship Services*. Community Corrections refers to units such as *Probation and Parole, Community Confinement, Reentry Services, Correctional Industries, Furlough, and Victim Services*. Not only does Rehabilitative Services work with offenders to end criminal and anti-social behavior while incarcerated, they also strive to make it possible for ex-offenders to successfully reintegrate back into their communities upon release.

# Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) mandates correctional facilities take steps to ensure the prevention and analysis of the incidence of prison rape. The PREA final rule and standards became effective in August of 2012. Administration, Institutions and Operations and Rehabilitative Services divisions are all working together to ensure the Department's compliance with these national PREA Standards. Some highlights of contributions from each Departmental division are included below.

## Administration Division:

### *Human Resources:*

Amending background check and hiring & promotion procedures

### *Management Information Systems:*

Implementing all departmental information technology changes (eg., screening for risk of victimization)

### *Policy Unit:*

Reviewing, revising and finalizing all PREA-affected policies (eg., Inmate Sexual Violence & Staff Misconduct Towards Inmates Policy). PREA specific policy finalized.

### *Planning & Research Unit:*

Coordinating, in conjunction with the Director's Office and Interdepartmental Manager, all aspects of compliance activities. Facility audits scheduled between August, 2015 and August 2016.

### *Training Academy:*

Developing and administering PREA-related training to full and part time staff members, and volunteers

## Rehabilitative Services Division:

### *Community Corrections:*

Providing safe environment for victims of sexual assault to report allegations and advocate on their behalf; reporting of allegations of sexual assault if brought to the attention of staff

### *Health Services:*

Providing medical and mental health services to victims of sexual assault and acting as victim advocates upon request

## Institutions & Operations Division:

### *Facility Deputy Wardens:*

Deputy Wardens designated as "PREA Compliance Managers" assist with facility-specific compliance

### *Special Investigations Unit:*

Finalized investigations protocol and ensuring staff are trained on PREA-specific investigative protocol

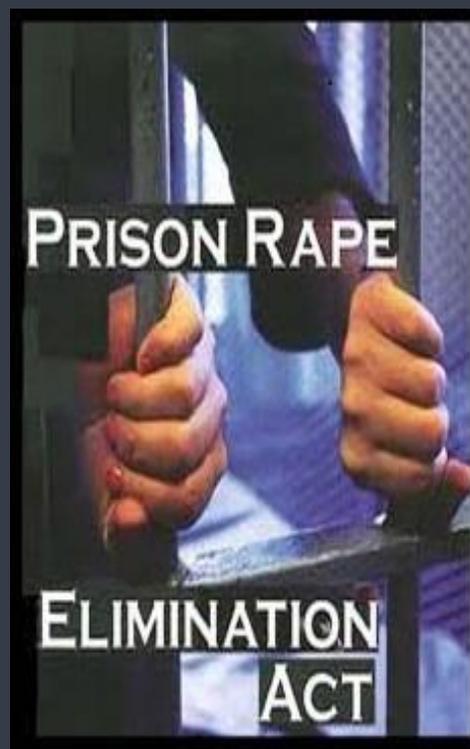
### *Records and Identification Unit:*

Implemented a procedure to screen for risk of sexual victimization.

### *Facility Staff:*

Acting as first-line responders to sexual victimization allegations

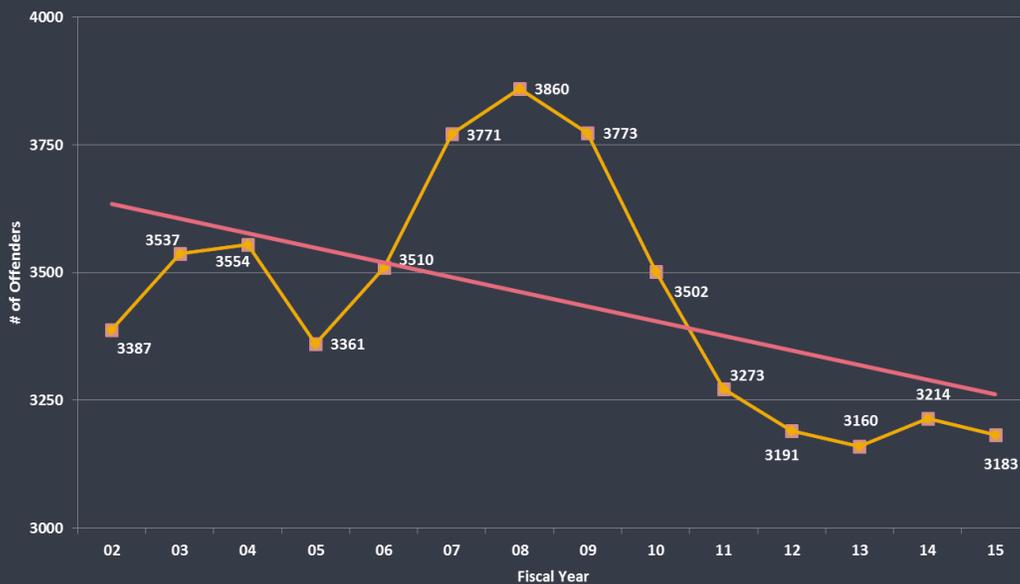
Providing a safe environment where inmates feel comfortable disclosing any sexual victimization



# Population Trends



## Total RIDOC Population FY02 to FY15



As was the trend nationally, Rhode Island experienced marked growth in its total prison population between 2002 and 2008. The most recent sharp increase was between FY05 and FY08, where the population grew 14.8%. However, since FY08 the population has seen a steady decline and fell 18% in the past five years. In RI, 197 out of every 100,000 residents are imprisoned, while nationally 439 out of 100,000 adult US residents are incarcerated (Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoner Statistics 2010 Revised), which makes Rhode Island third lowest in the nation in terms of rate of incarceration.

During the new millennium, corrections professionals around the country began to focus on permanently reducing prison pop-

ulations, the federal government began to fund reentry initiatives aimed at helping offenders succeed in the community post-release, and jurisdictions began to look at incentives for inmates who participate in rehabilitative programs designed to assist them in the community upon their exit from incarceration. All of these initiatives have been shown to impact the prison population levels.

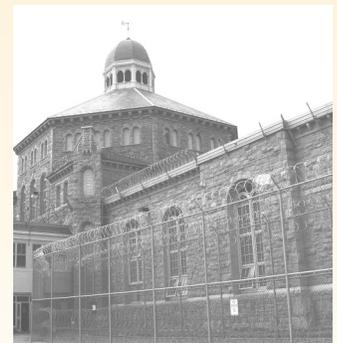
For a historical look at the RIDOC population, please see the Report of the RI Correctional Population FY76 – FY11 which can be found on the RIDOC webpage at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov).

## Effects of the decreased population

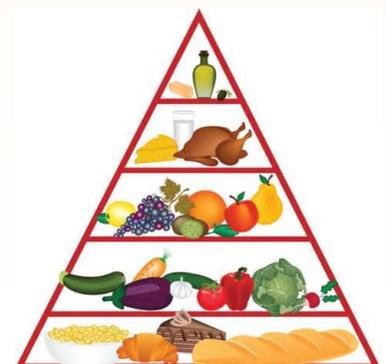
In 2010, the Rhode Island General Assembly ordered the closing of the Donald Price Medium Security Building due the declining population. The official closing in November, 2011 yielded a net of about \$5 million in savings.



Due to low populations, all RIDOC facilities stayed under capacity during FY15. This makes for a safer environment for both staff and inmates.

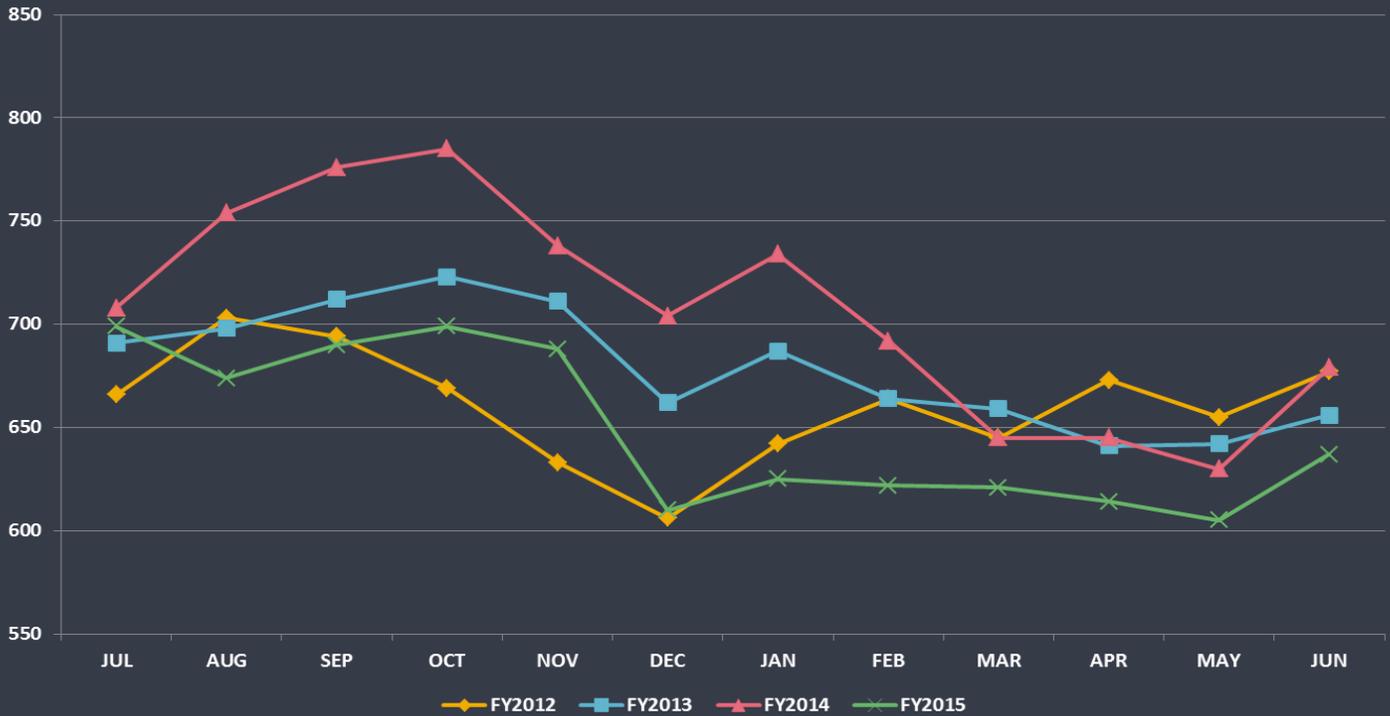


In FY15, RIDOC was able to cut per diem food costs per offender by \$.01.



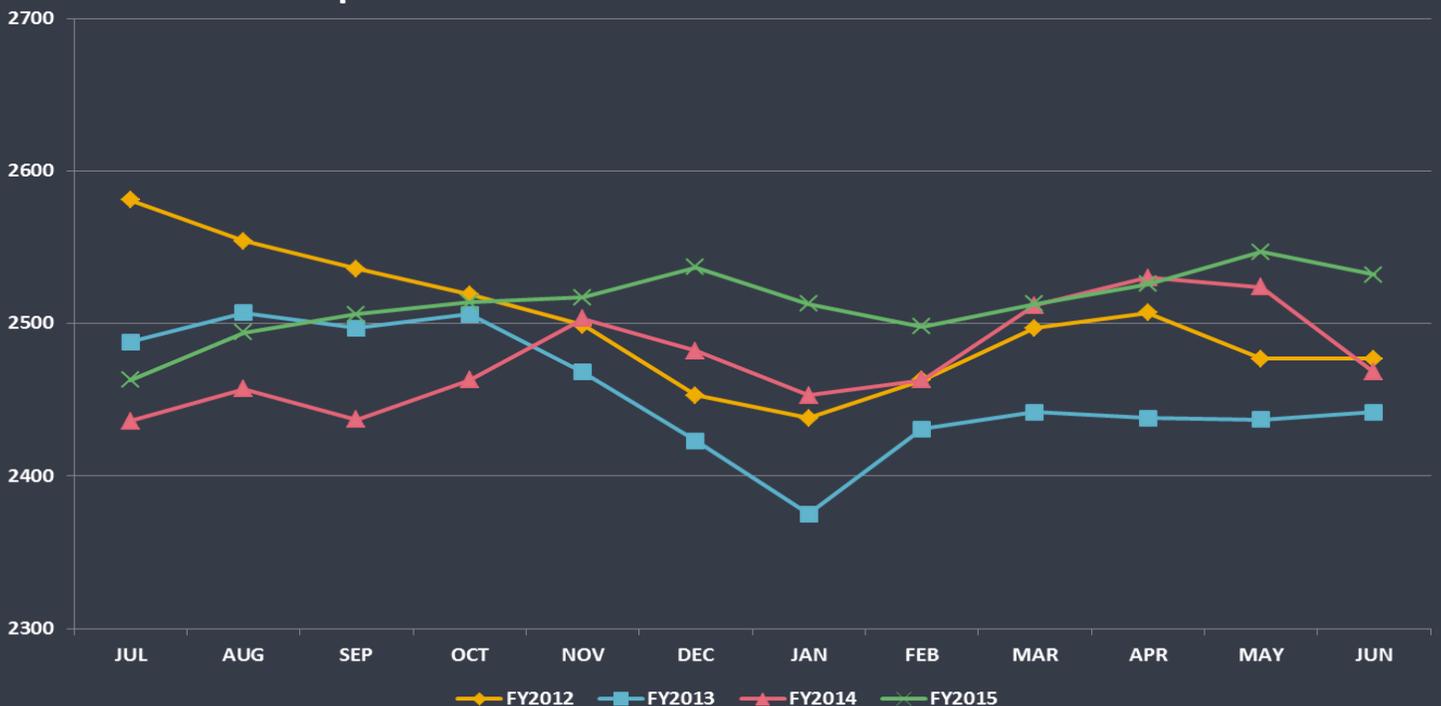
# Fiscal Year Population Trends FY2012-FY2015

## Awaiting Trial Population



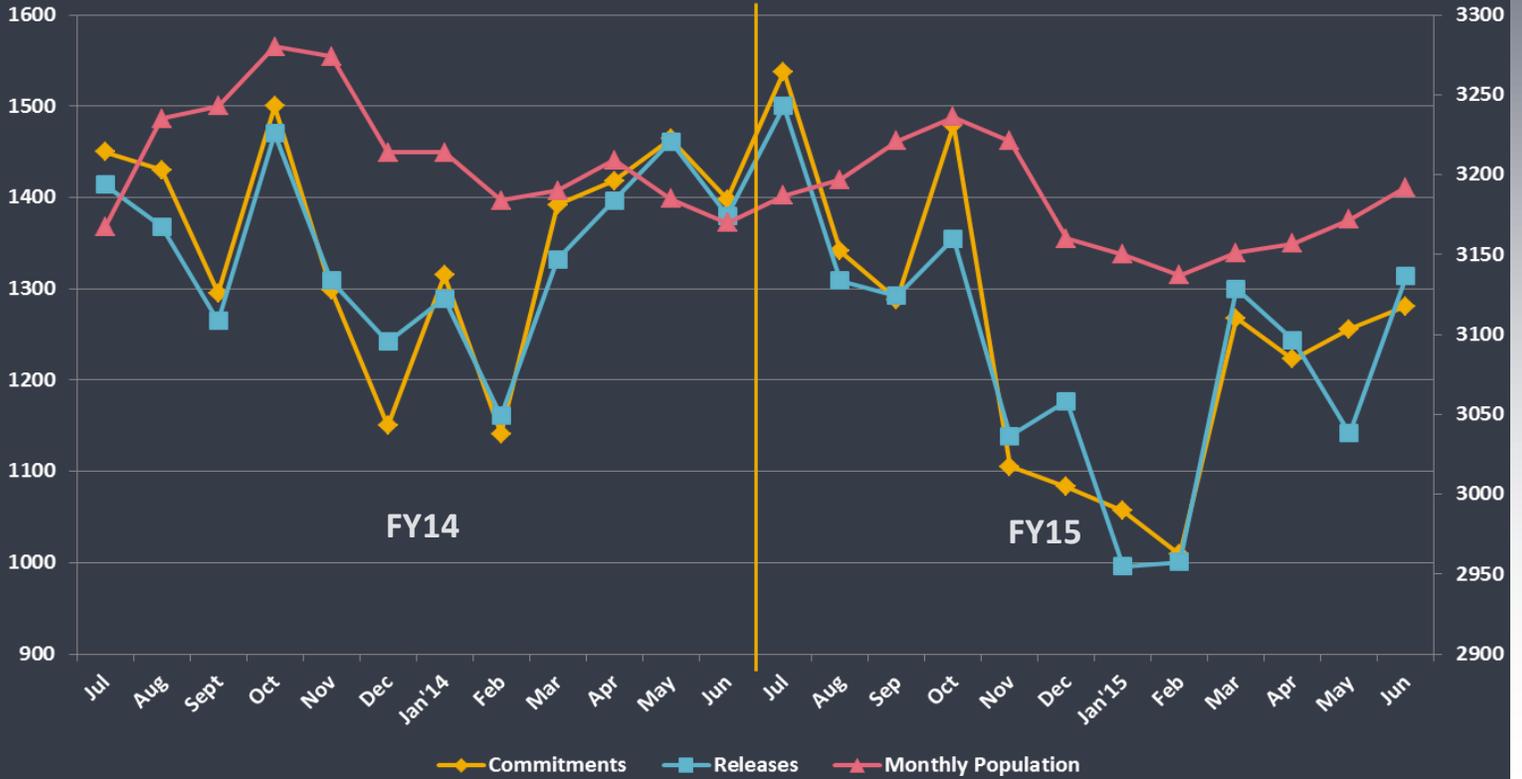
The RIDOC saw a slight increase in the average sentenced (+1.4%) and a decrease in the awaiting trial (-8.2%) populations in FY15 compared to FY14. There was an overall decrease of only 5 inmates (-.16%) from start to close of FY15 (July 2014 until the close in June 2015).

## Sentenced Population



# Commitments & Releases

Effect of Commitments/Releases on Total Population



The prison population is influenced by two factors: the number of new commitments and length of stay. Length of stay is directly affected by the Judiciary, changes in legislation, and the Parole Board (for more information regarding the changes in length of stay, see page 17).

In RI, it is clear that the number of new commitments has a great influence on the population. In months where the number of commitments to RIDOC outpaced the number of releases, there is a corresponding increase in the population. In contrast, in months where the number of releases at the RIDOC outpaced the number of commitments, we would see a decrease in the population. After the rise in the RIDOC's commitments during FY14, FY15 saw a significant decrease of over 8%, steadying out the population.

The graph above demonstrates that the changes in the level of commitments are linked to changes in the total population numbers.

Fiscal Year	# Commitments	+/- Change
1998	16,171	
1999	16,088	-0.5%
2000	16,208	+0.8%
2001	16,730	+3.2%
2002	17,204	+2.8%
2003	17,387	+1.1%
2004	18,375	+5.7%
2005	17,121	-6.8%
2006	18,467	+7.9%
2007	18,885	+2.3%
2008	17,007	-9.9%
2009	16,001	-5.9%
2010	15,328	-4.2%
2011	15,500	+1.1%
2012	14,973	-1.5%
2013	14,701	-1.8%
2014	16,252	+10.6%
2015	14,928	-8.1%

# Offender Characteristics

## Characteristics of a Typical RIDOC Sentenced Offender

### Male

- ◆ Twenty-five percent (25%) entered RIDOC as a probation violator in FY15.
- ◆ Four percent (4%) entered prison as parole violators in FY15.
- ◆ The largest group are white (43%), single (74%), and self-identified as Catholic (34%).
- ◆ About half (51%) have a high school diploma or GED, 38% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 8% have completed some college.
- ◆ Fifty-four percent (54%) are fathers; the average number of children fathered is 2.
- ◆ Fifty-one percent (51%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ Fifty percent (50%) of males were re-sentenced within 36 months of release.

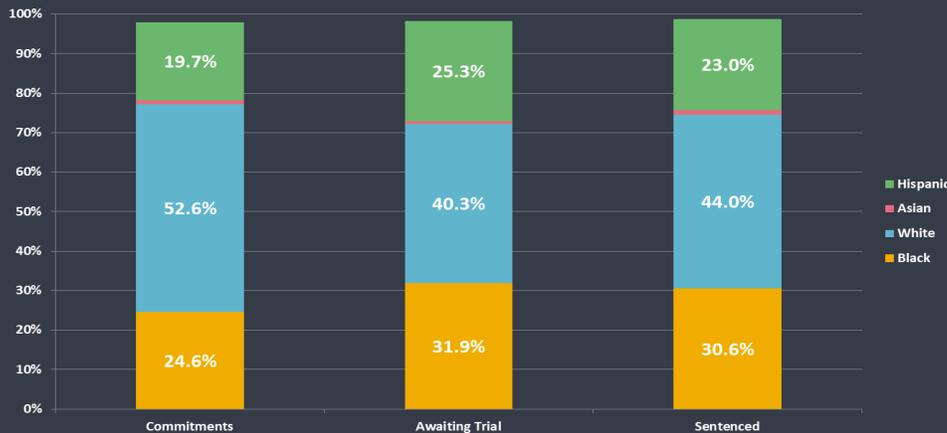
### Female

- ◆ Eighteen percent (18%) entered RIDOC as a probation violator in FY15.
- ◆ Three percent (3%) entered prison as parole violators in FY15.
- ◆ The largest group are white (68%), single (63%), and self-identified as Catholic (39%).
- ◆ Forty-four percent (44%) have a high school diploma or GED, 19% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 27% have completed some college.
- ◆ Sixty-six percent (66%) are mothers; the average number of children is 2 per offender.
- ◆ Sixty-three percent (63%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ Forty-one percent (41%) of females were re-sentenced within 36 months of release.

# Offender Characteristics

The charts on the following pages contain the following categories of offenders; commitments, which include all offenders committed to RIDOC (sentenced & pre-trial) over the last fiscal year; awaiting trial and sentenced represent the stock population on June 30, 2015.

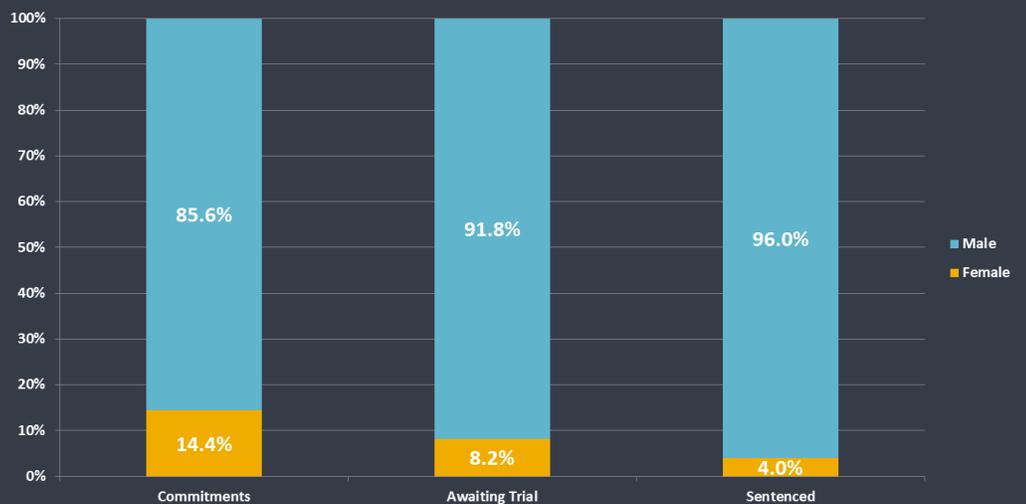
### Inmate Race by Status



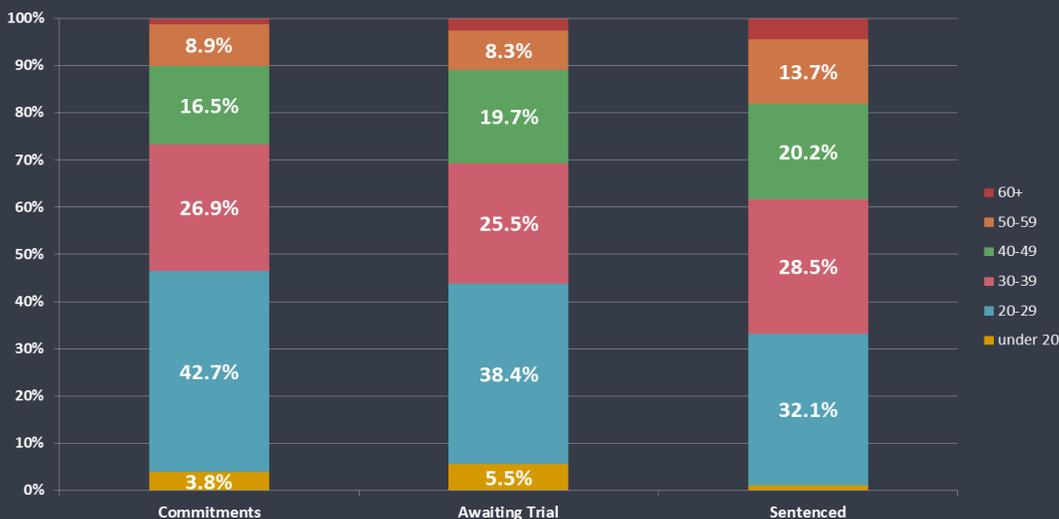
The vast majority of offenders (commitments, awaiting trial, and sentenced) are white, followed by black and Hispanic. Offenders who identify themselves as Asian, Native American, other, or their race is unknown make up less than 2% of the population for each category of offenders.

Males make up most (85.6%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 14.4%.

### Inmate Sex by Status



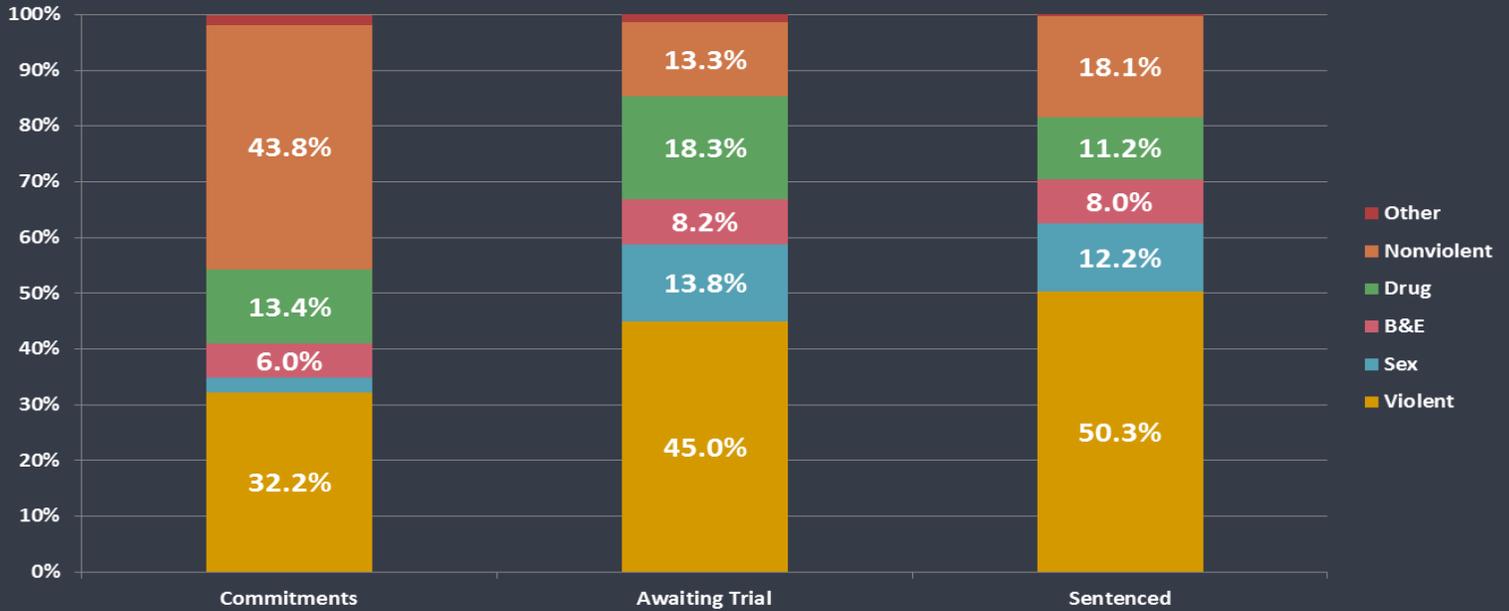
### Inmate Age by Status



Over two thirds of all RIDOC offenders are between the ages of 20-39. The average age of male and female RIDOC sentenced offender is 35. For pre-trial offenders, males average 31 years of age and females 30 years of age.

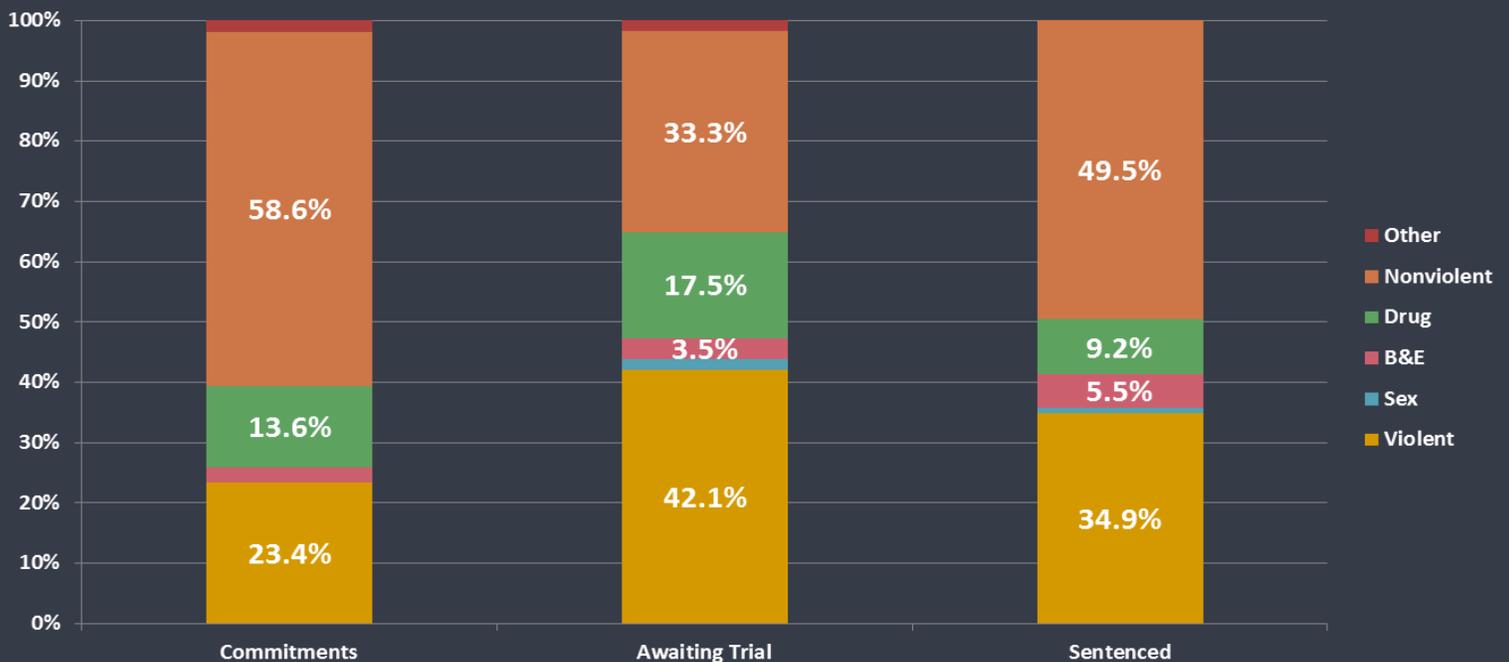
# Offender Characteristics

## Offense Type by Status Male Population



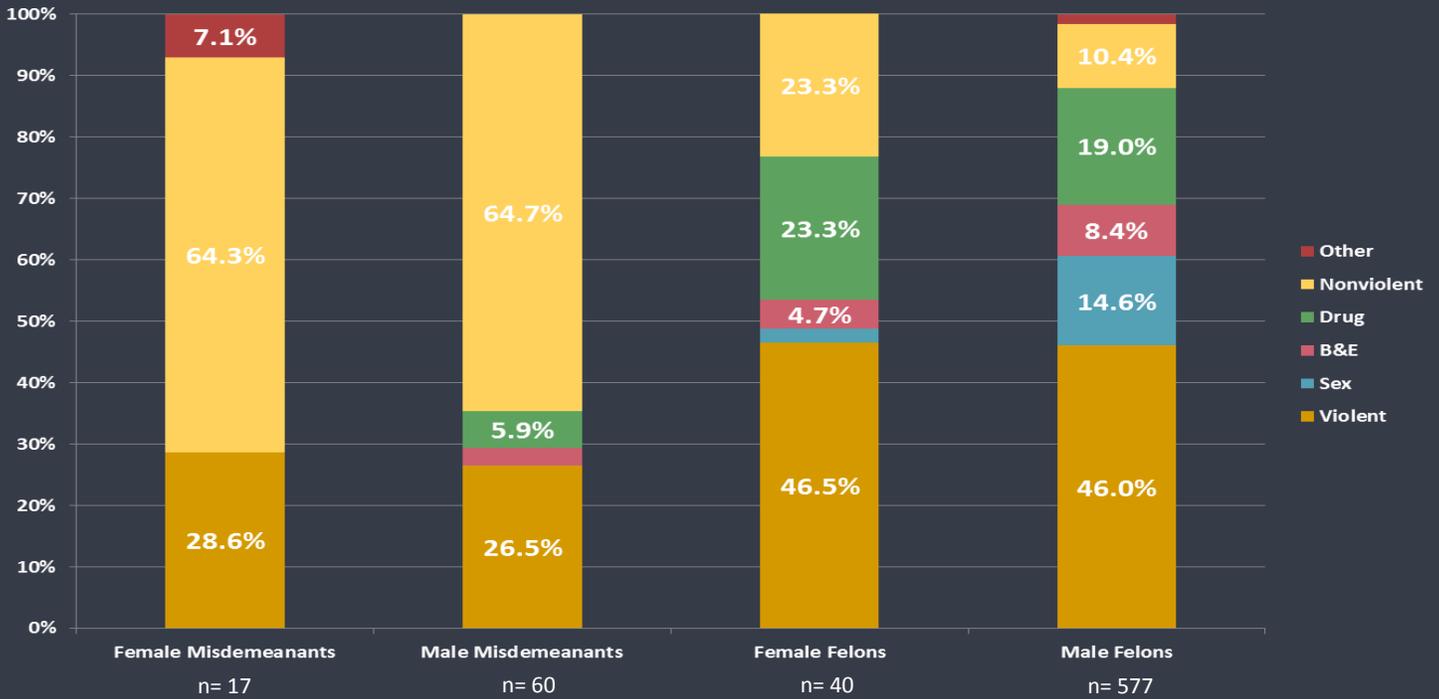
Forty-four percent (44%) of male commitments are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, while over half (58.6%) of the female commitments are incarcerated for similar offenses. Nearly one third of the male population (32.2%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes, yet not even a quarter of females are incarcerated for similar violent crimes. We see the reverse trend in the sentenced stock population, where violent crimes make up half of males (50.3%) and almost 35% for females. Lifers are included in the sentenced population, making the amount of violent sentenced offenders rise drastically.

## Offense Type by Status Female Population



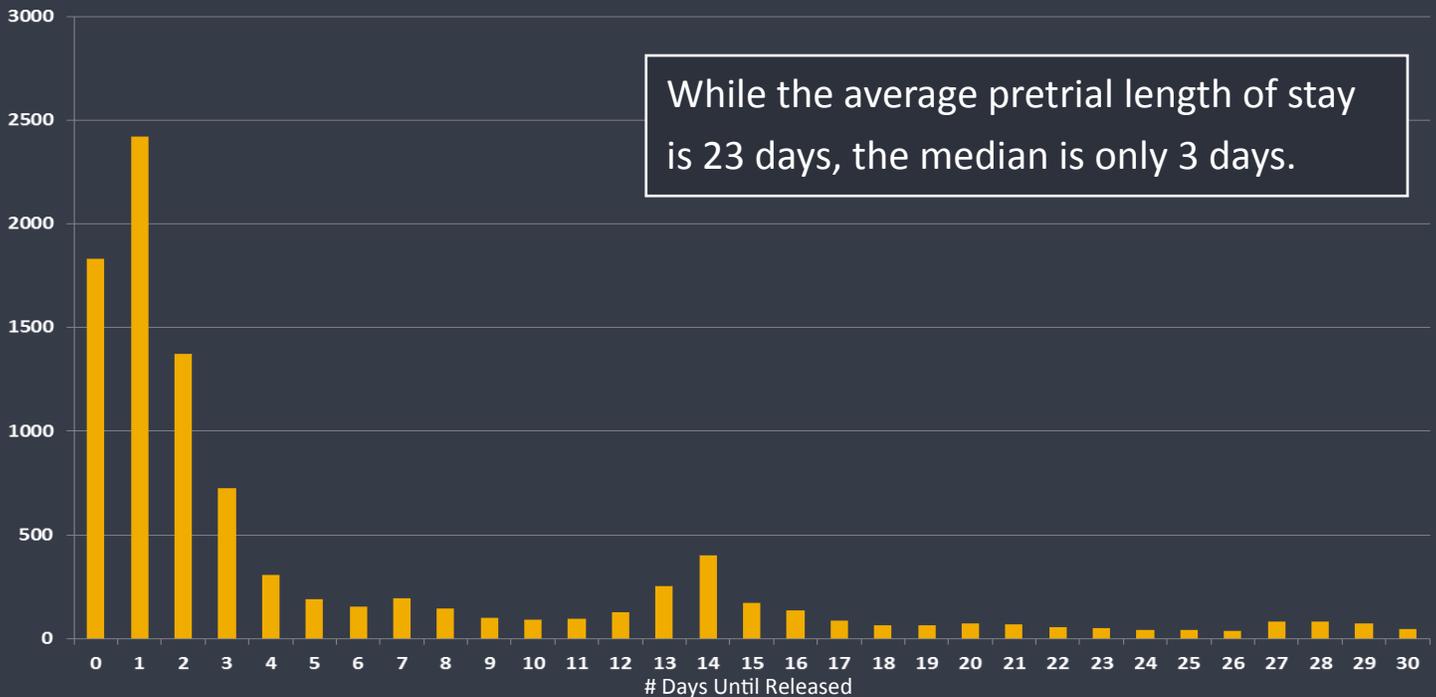
# Pre-trial Statistics

Pre-Trial Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type  
Stock Data - June 30, 2015



The most common offenses for the male misdemeanor awaiting trial population was simple assault; for the female population it was shoplifting. Male and female felons were imprisoned most commonly for violation of a no contact or restraining order.

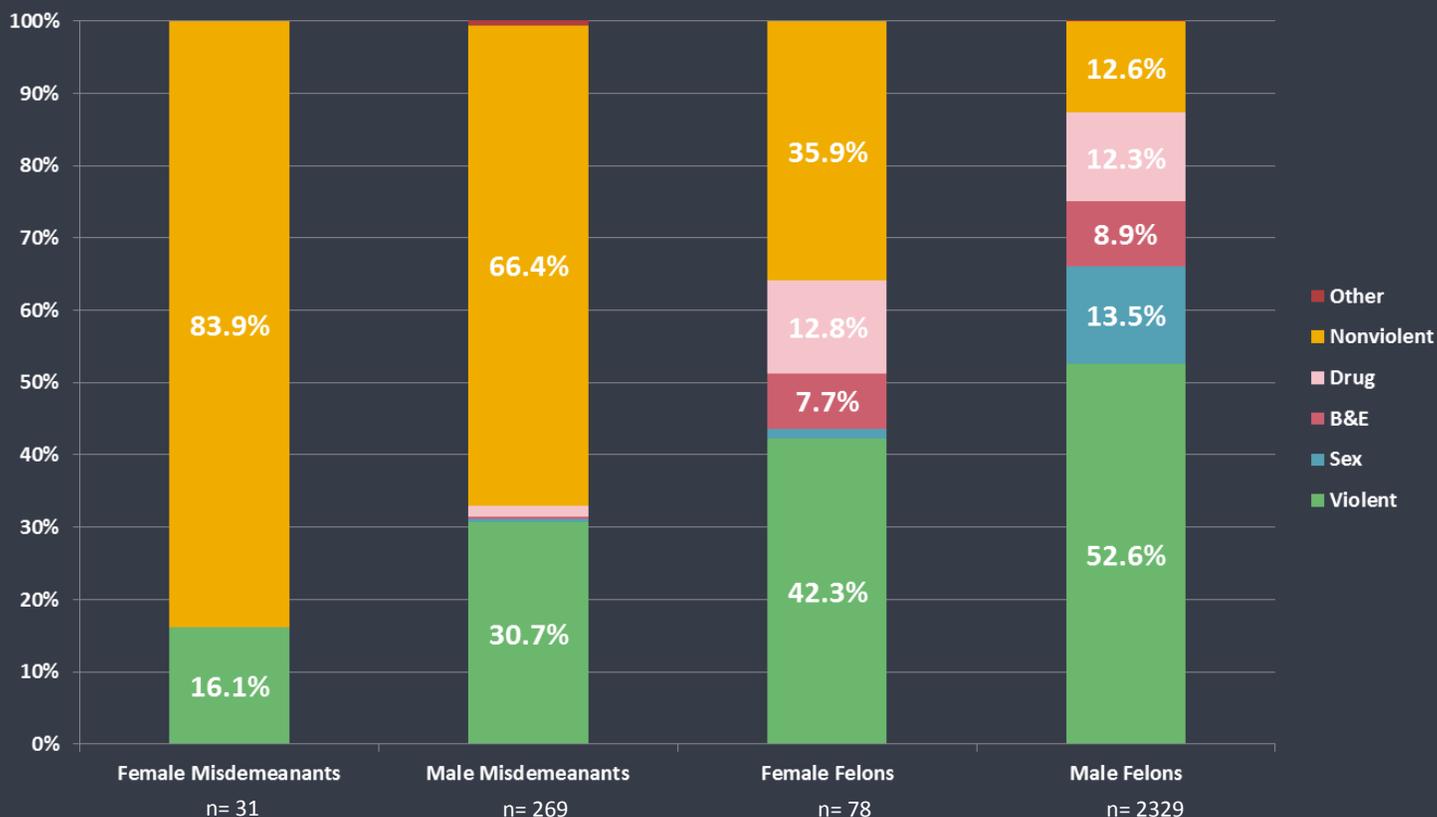
Average Length of Stay for FY15



\*Approximately 15% of offenders remain on pretrial status after 30 days, but are not displayed on the graph.  
0 Indicates a pretrial offender was released on the same day

# Sentenced Statistics

Sentenced Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type  
Stock Data - June 30, 2015



Included in the sentenced stock population are 217 inmates sentenced to life and 33 sentenced to life without parole. Two of those inmates are women. These 250 offenders constitute 9.2% of the total sentenced population. Twenty-one (21) of the lifers are inmates from other states or inmates for which RI shares jurisdiction (i.e., the inmate may have time to serve following the expiration of sentence in RI).

For the female sentenced population, the most common misdemeanor offenses was shoplifting and obstructing a police officer

The most common misdemeanor offense for the male sentenced population was driving with a suspended license and simple assault, while the most common felony offense was breaking and entering into a dwelling and felony assault.

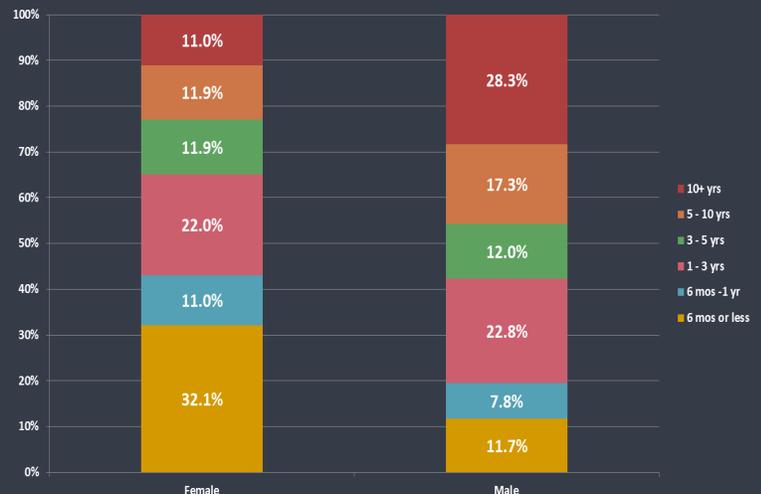
According to the Rhode Island Judiciary's 2014 Annual Report statewide felony filings have increased 1.6% from 2013-2014 (5,417 in 2013 to 5,506 in 2014). [www.court.ri.gov](http://www.court.ri.gov).

# Sentenced Statistics

Sentenced Commitments  
Sentence Length by Sex  
FY2015



Sentenced Stock Population  
Sentence Length by Sex  
June 30, 2015



When examined together, the graphs and table on this page capture the flow of sentenced inmates in and out of the RIDOC. The graph at the top left of the page shows the length of sentence imposed by the Judiciary, while the graph at the right shows the percentage of inmates in prison on June 30, 2015. For example, even though only about 11% of the male population is *committed* to sentences of more than 3 years, over time, this group of offenders represents 58% of the population.

Offense Category	Male		Female		Total	
	Sent < 6 mos	Sent > 6 mos	Sent < 6 mos	Sent > 6 mos	Sent < 6 mos	Sent > 6 mos
Violent	2.7	57.4	2.1	44.2	2.7	57.0
Sex	4.8	90.4			4.8	90.4
B&E	4.0	33.4		70.9	4.0	34.5
Drug	3.9	30.7	4.3	21.2	4.0	30.2
Nonviolent	2.5	21.3	2.2	20.2	2.4	21.2
Subtotal	3.6	46.6	2.9	39.1	3.6	46.7
Average Total Sentence Length = 20.7 months						

The table above displays the average length of sentence imposed on sentenced commitments in FY2015. The actual amount of time offenders stay in prison is almost always shorter than the full sentence imposed, due to factors such as statutory good time (i.e., credit earned for good or industrious behavior) and earned time for program participation and completion (time deducted from sentence).

# Sentenced Statistics

## Effects of Sentence Reductions

Prior to May, 2008, Rhode Island had one of the most conservative state sentence reduction formulas in the country. With the population reaching historically high levels in 2007 and 2008 and threatening to exceed prison capacity, the state’s General Assembly, with overwhelming bipartisan support, enacted legislation designed to increase public safety, curb spending, and reduce recidivism of released inmates.<sup>1</sup> The legislation increased the amount of behavioral good time credit and provided credits for program participation and completion. As a result, we have seen increased program participation and completion and, coupled with increased good behavior time, we have experienced an overall decrease in offenders’ length of stay which has in turn lead to a decreased prison population.

Average Percentage of Time Served by Sentence Length for Offenders Expiring a Sentence									
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	Difference 08-15
3 months or less	99%	91%	91%	90%	92%	91%	92%	93%	-6%
3 - 6 months	97%	81%	80%	79%	80%	80%	80%	80%	-18%
6 - 9 months	96%	82%	79%	76%	77%	79%	79%	78%	-19%
9 months - 1 year	95%	81%	77%	71%	74%	75%	76%	76%	-20%
1 - 3 years	93%	83%	76%	69%	69%	69%	71%	73%	-22%
3 - 5 years	88%	83%	80%	69%	62%	59%	64%	69%	-22%
5 - 7 years	84%	83%	73%	71%	63%	64%	60%	68%	-19%
7 - 10 years	79%	79%	79%	69%	51%	50%	58%	61%	-23%
Greater than 10 years	76%	75%	76%	63%	61%	53%	60%	70%	-8%

The above table depicts the changes in length of stay for those inmates who have left via expiration of sentence, as this group of offenders has the ability to fully benefit from the 2008 sentence reduction changes. As can be seen, there have been significant changes in the percent of time served for all offenders from FY08 to FY13. Most noticeably, offenders serving mid-range sentences (1-7 years) continue to have reductions in the time served.

Despite across the board reductions in percent of time served, recent recidivism studies do not show any increase in return rates for offenders. In fact, only 49% of offenders released in 2010 returned to RIDOC with a new sentence within three years. In comparison, 54% of offenders released in 2004 (prior to the good time changes) returned with a new sentence and 64% as awaiting trial detainees.

Thus far, data does not appear to indicate that a decrease in time served contributes to more crime and re-incarcerations.

For further RIDOC recidivism information on the 2010 cohort, please see page 21.

### Program Participation & Completion:

During FY15, 1,923 offenders participated in and/or completed one or more rehabilitative programs offered at RIDOC and were awarded a total of 75,968 program credits (days off sentence) (an average of 39 program credits per person). Substance Abuse Treatment, High School Equivalency Program (GED), Adult Basic Education Program (ABE), and Cognitive Restructuring/Anger Management programs awarded the most program credits in FY15.

# Sentenced Statistics

## Effects of Drug Offense Sentencing Reform

Two major revisions to our state’s drug laws were approved in 2009 and 2012, resulting in changes to the treatment of certain drug offenses. Prior to 2009, *mandatory minimum* sentences existed for the manufacture, sale or possession of certain amounts of different controlled substances, with offenders receiving 10 and 20 year minimum sentences, and \$10,000 - \$25,000 minimum fines. This law was repealed in 2009, and was replaced with a mechanism that allows judges to use their discretion in sentencing for these types of offenses.

In 2012, Rhode Island became the 15th state in the Union to *decriminalize marijuana*. Prior to this new legislation, possession of up to an ounce of marijuana was treated as a criminal misdemeanor charge with up to 1 year in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine. Under the new law (effective April, 2013), minor possessions of marijuana are now punishable with a maximum \$150 civil fine and no jail time.

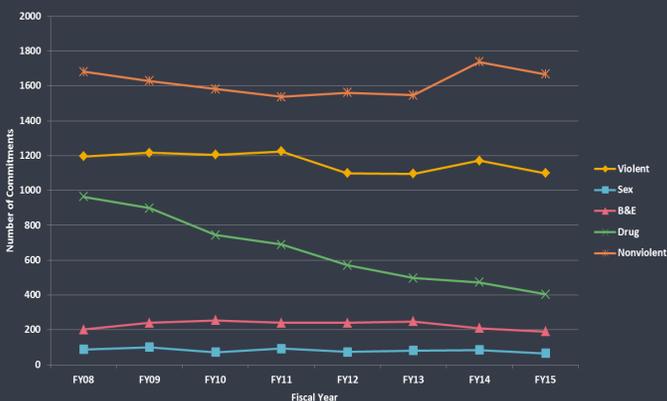
The drug offender population has seen a drastic decline in the past 6 years due partly to the two above changes. Since FY07, commitments to sentenced status declined 17%. Breaking commitments down by the most serious offense types, it is apparent drug crimes (pictured in green below) declined significantly while all other offenses remained relatively steady. In fact, these drug

commitments dropped by 58%.

RIDOC classifies drug offenses into two separate categories: drug possession and all other drug crimes. Drug possession commitments have seen sharper declines than all other drug offenses combined.



Data for specific drug types indicate a drop in marijuana charges of 91 from FY07-FY15, charges related to cocaine or crack saw a 58% decrease, and charges for drugs like LSD, ecstasy, and ketamine declined by close to 40%. Offenders charged with possession of Schedule I substances have virtually disappeared, going from 94 charges in FY07 to 4 in FY15. Heroin involved charges and crimes for other unspecified/unknown drugs remain steady.



# Population Projections



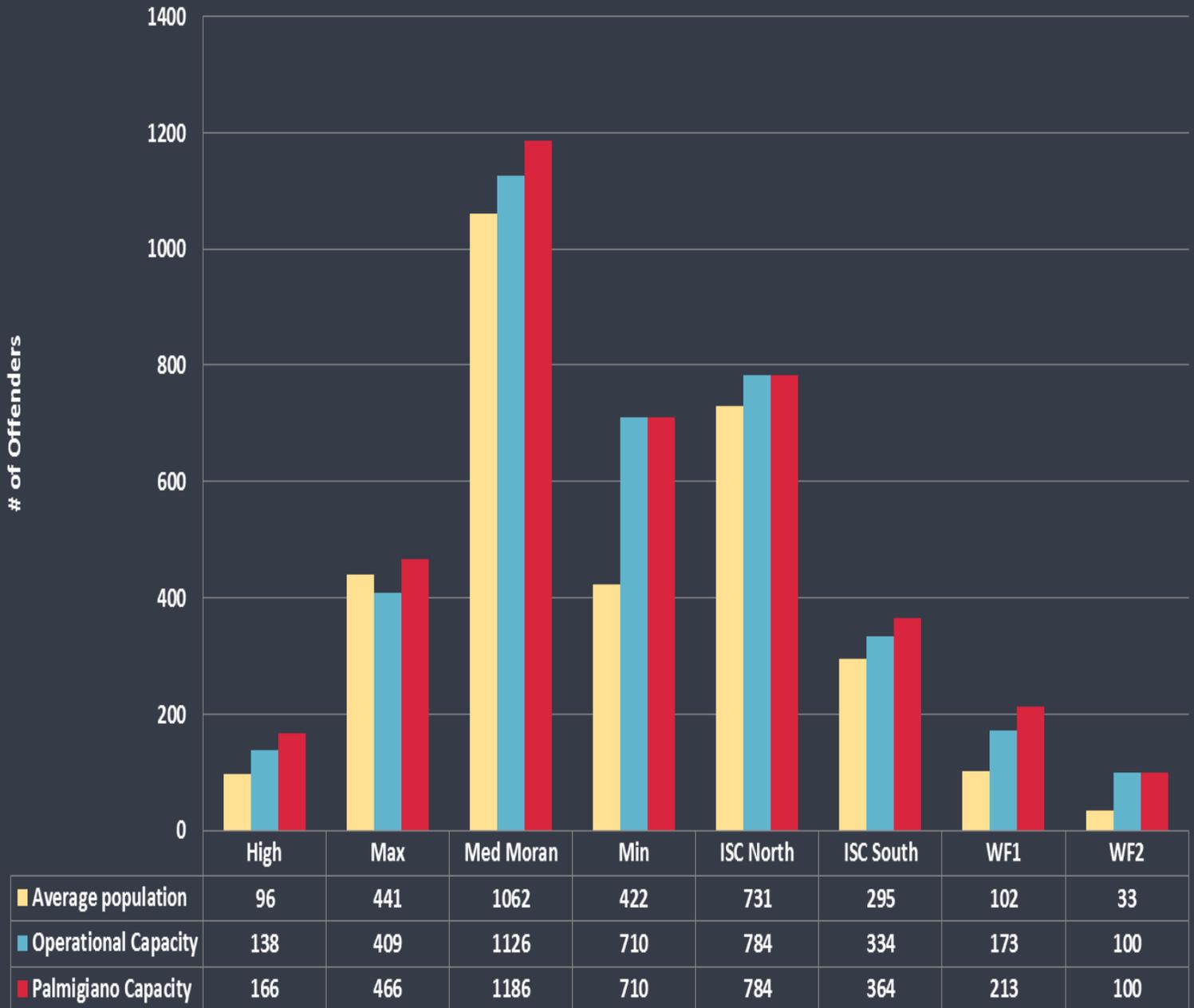
The graph above shows the actual population (orange line) compared to the projected population (blue line). The white line predicts a nearly steady trend in the actual population over the next fiscal year.

As of the FY16 projection, RIDOC was operating below federal capacity in all facilities. The 10-year forecast of RI's prison population, conducted by Wendy Naro-Ware of JFA Associates/The Institute, estimates that the population will see slight growth, 9.2% or 296 inmates. However, this projected growth would allow RI to remain below both the operational (3,774) and federal (3,989) capacities throughout the 10-year forecast.

This projection is based on the current factors, statutes, and practices at RIDOC (e.g. good time awards). These factors may change over time due to legislative or policing changes, rendering the existing prediction null.

# Institutional Capacities

## Average FY15 Population vs. Capacities



\*Operation Capacity = All Beds—(Hospital Beds + 1/3 of Segregation Beds)

\*\*Palmigiano Capacity = Federal Court-Ordered Capacity (All Beds)

Total RIDOC FY 2015

Operational Capacity\* = 3774

Palmigiano Capacity\*\* = 3989

Average FY15 Capacity = 3183



# Release Data

## Recidivism

With the award of the Second Chance Adult Offender Comprehensive Statewide Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Program Grant (Recidivism Reduction Grant) in October 2012, the focus on reducing recidivism has become even more crucial to RIDOC staff.

RIDOC defines recidivism as:

1. An offender who was released from sentence at RIDOC within a specific period of time (cohort), and
2. Who was returned to RIDOC as a sentenced inmate, or
3. Who was returned to RIDOC as an awaiting trial inmate as noted.

## The Cohort

There were 3,297 offenders released in Calendar Year 2010 (CY10), accounting for the 3,593 distinct release events. The majority of offenders were white (56%), male (89%), and averaged 34 years of age. The majority were released from serving for a nonviolent (39%) or violent (31%) offense with an average sentence of 20 months.

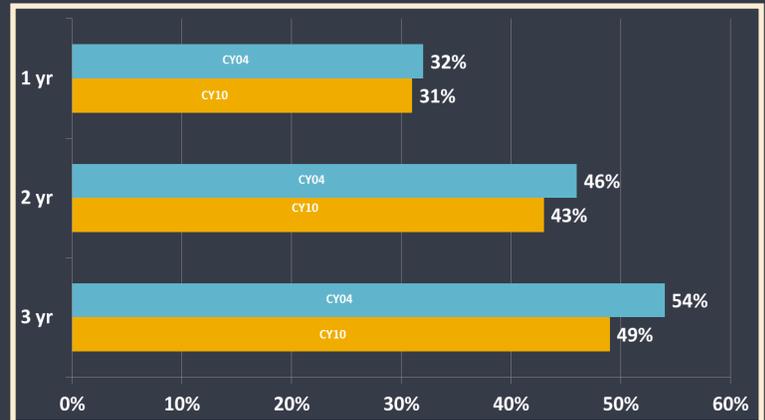
## Sentenced Readmissions

At 3-years post release, 49% of offenders returned to RIDOC with a new sentence, a significant drop from the from the CY04 cohort that reported a 54% 3-year return rate. Half (50%) of males and 41% of females were recommitted as sentenced offenders 36 months post release.

The majority (90%) of released offenders have probation following release. Not surprisingly, almost one third (30.9%) of all sentenced commitments are for probation violations (18% technical, 79% new charge, and 2% undetermined).

Since RIDOC operates a unified correctional system, in order to compare RIDOC'S population to other jurisdictions, "jail" offenders are defined as those serving 1 year or less and "prisoners" are those offenders serving greater than 1 year. Forty-eight percent (48%) of "jail" and 50% of "prison" offenders recidivated within 36 months of release.

Offenders were more likely to recidivate if they left from a medium or maximum security facility compared to a minimum or community-based facility. For example, offenders



*This graph depicts a 5% decrease in 3-year recidivism rates for sentenced readmissions from the CY04 cohort compared to the CY10 cohort.*

released from Home Confinement had the lowest 3-year rate at 28%, while those released from Maximum Security had the highest at 68%.

## Awaiting Trial Readmissions

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of offenders returned as awaiting trial detainees within three years of their release, another significant drop from CY04 which had a 64% 3-year return rate.

For both males and females, 57% returned as awaiting trial detainees 36 months post release.

## Time in the Community

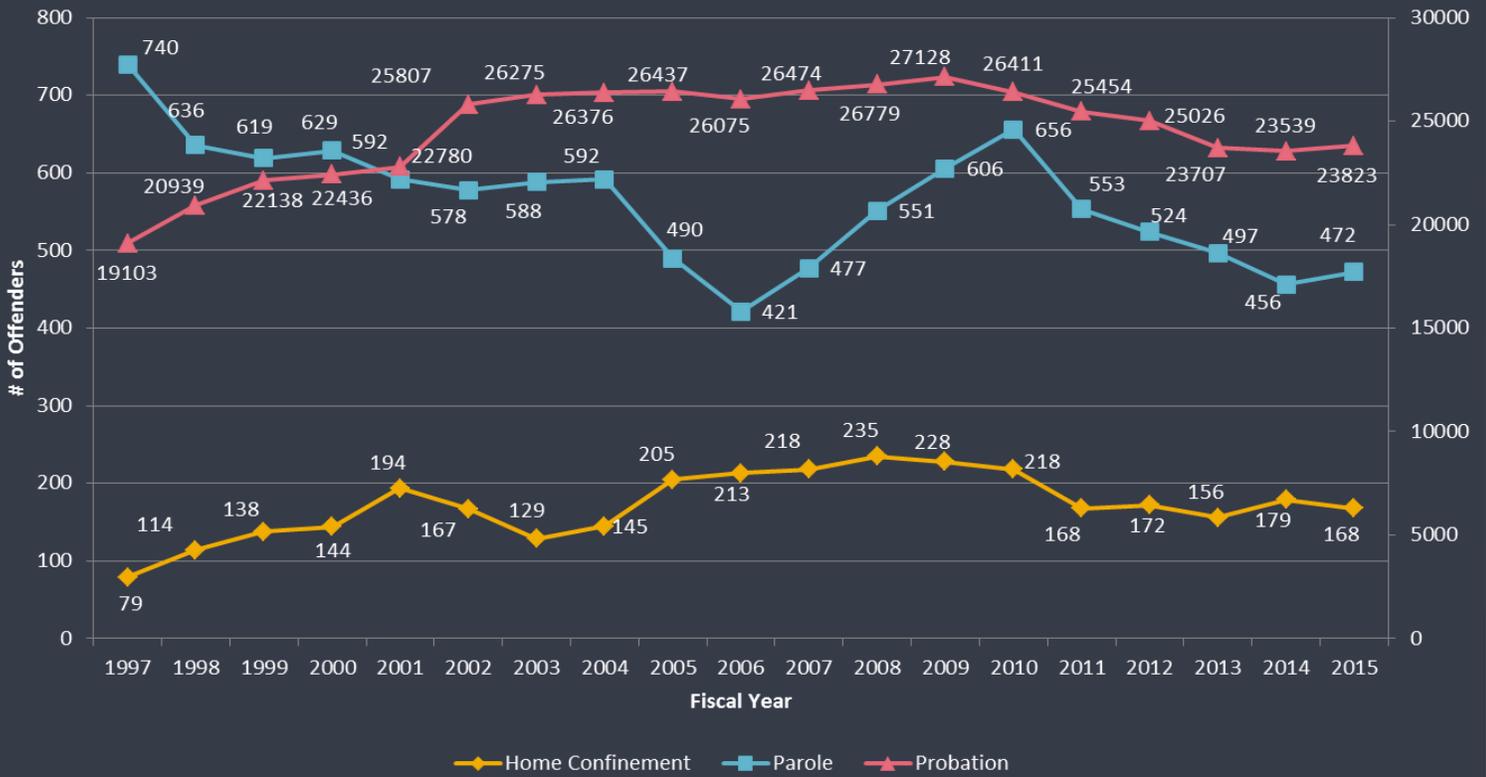
The average time spent in the community was 11 months. Almost 5% of recidivists returned within 30 days of initial release and over half (54%) returned within 9 months. Females tended to spend 30 days less time in the community prior to recidivating than their male counterparts.

## Council of State Governments

The efforts of RIDOC were highlighted in a recent Washington, DC forum by the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG). CSG outlined states whose initiatives in reducing recidivism showed success and delivered results.

[http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ReducingRecidivism\\_StatesDeliverResults.pdf](http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ReducingRecidivism_StatesDeliverResults.pdf)

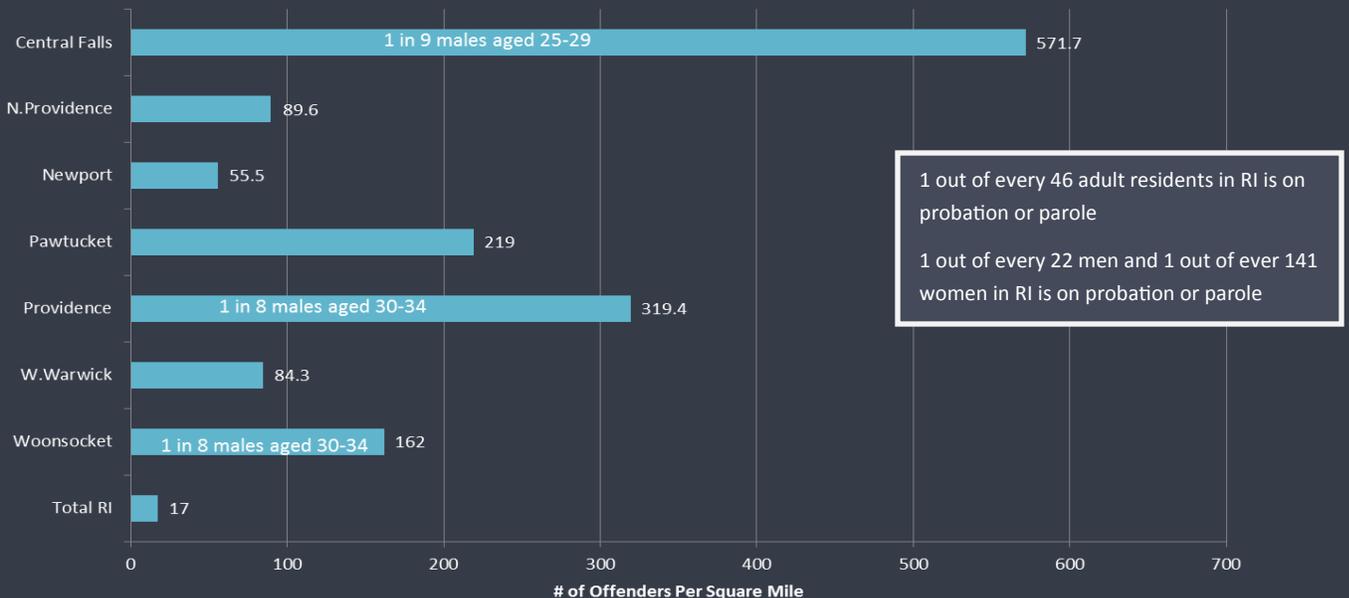
# Community Corrections Population



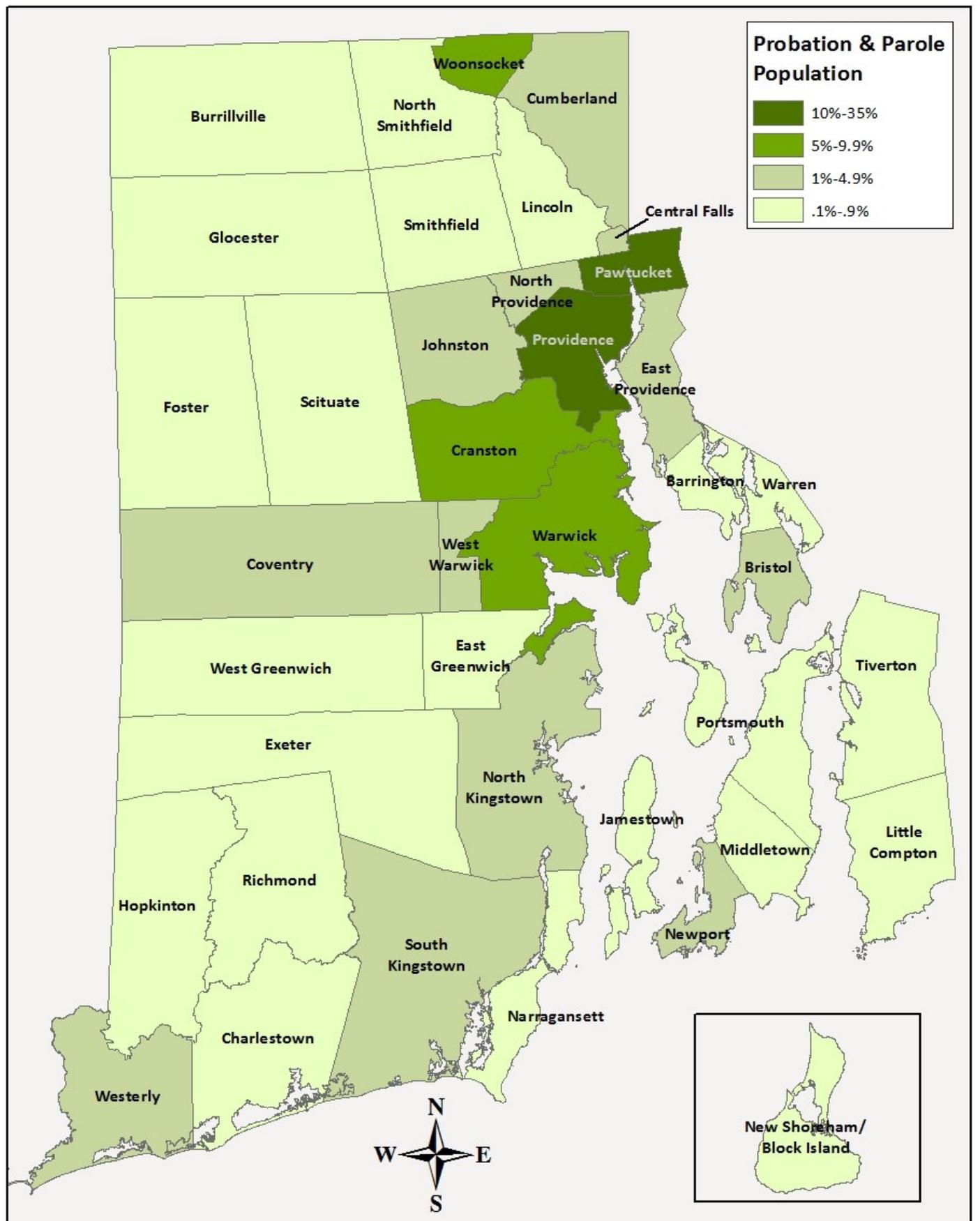
Interpreting the chart: The probation population is plotted on the **secondary axis** to the right, while parole and home confinement are plotted on the primary axis to the left.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2013, Rhode Island has the fourth highest rate of Community Corrections supervision in the nation; 2,791 per 100,000 residents. *BJS Probation and Parole in the United States, 2013.*

## Probationers and Parolees by Square Mile as of June 30, 2015



# Community Corrections Population



# Looking Toward the Future

## Justice Reinvestment

On July 7, 2015, Governor Gina M. Raimondo signed Executive Order 15-11 establishing the Justice Reinvestment Working Group.

The Working Group is comprised of 27 members and two co-chairs: Chief Justice Paul Suttell and Retired Associate Justice Judith Savage. The Governor tasked the group with addressing recent trends including, but not limited to, racial disparities in incarceration rates, the high rates of probation, and lengthy probation terms in Rhode Island.

Also to be addressed is the prevalence of substance abuse disorders and mental illness among the criminal justice population.

The goal of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative is to support a more efficient criminal justice system to protect the public's health and safety through by highlighting data analysis and the usage of evidence-based practices.

For more information please visit:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/jr/ri/>

“We have to make smart investments to break the cycle of crime and incarceration and improve public safety.

**We need to do more, we need to do better, and we need to do it now.”**

-Governor Raimondo





# Data Caveats & Definitions

## RIDOC Description

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) operates a unified correctional system, meaning that all pretrial detainees and all sentenced offenders (regardless of sentence length or crime) are under the jurisdiction of the Department. RIDOC has seven (7) housing facilities on the Pastore Government Center Complex in Cranston, Rhode Island. In addition to institutional corrections, offenders on probation, parole and electronic monitoring also fall under the jurisdiction of the RIDOC.

**Race Categories:** RIDOC records Hispanic as a race rather than ethnicity. As a result, we cannot determine whether inmates identifying themselves as Hispanic are white or black. Those identifying themselves as white or black may also be Hispanic.

**Offense Categories:** Throughout this report, type of offense is determined by the most serious charge for which the offender is sentenced to incarceration or community supervision. As an example, if an offender had both a drug charge and a sex charge, s/he would be captured in the sex category (and not the drug category) for reporting purposes. An additional caveat is that the offense category is based on those charges entered into Infacts, and there are times where multiple counts are condensed into one charge record. At times, offense information is not immediately available to RIDOC; in these instances, the designation “pending court verification” is assigned.

**Stock data:** Refers to data that are a “snapshot” of the population, which provides information about the population on a given day. For this report, the date for the stock data is June 30, 2015.

**Commitments & Releases:** In contrast to stock data, commitment and release information provides data about the movement of offenders into and out of the RIDOC system. For this report, the time period covered is July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

**Cost per Offender:** The cost per offender per annum excludes central RIDOC Administration and Capital costs. For this report, the time period covered is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (FY2015).

**Population Averages:** The Community Corrections Chart on page 23 uses the average population for parole, probation, and home confinement for the fiscal year. Due to technological issues the data for FY12 represents July 2011 through May 2012. June data is not available.

For further information or questions please contact Caitlin O’Connor, Principal Research Technician, at [caitlin.oconnor@doc.ri.gov](mailto:caitlin.oconnor@doc.ri.gov) or 401-462-3925