

Rhode Island Department of Corrections

Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Population Report

September 2019



RIDOC Mission Statement: The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) contributes to public safety by maintaining a balanced correctional system of institutional and community programs that provide a range of custodial options, supervision, and rehabilitative services in order to facilitate successful offender reentry into the community upon release.

RIDOC Goals

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

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Director's Message



From RIDOC Director Patricia A. Coyne-Fague, Esq.

I am pleased to present the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Annual Population Report for Fiscal Year 2019. This report contains a wealth of interesting and useful information related to the mission and work of the Department. In addition to a thorough analysis of population-related data, you will find descriptions of each of the Adult Correctional Institutions' facilities, an organizational chart, and a description of a typical sentenced offender.

This year, the report also highlights some of the educational and vocational programs for offenders behind the walls. These programs provide opportunities for offenders to succeed upon release and are a significant contributing factor to lowering recidivism rates. Our educational partners work hand in hand with RIDOC institutional and rehabilitative staff to ensure offenders have the ability to work toward their goals and effect positive change in their lives.

Other features of this year's report include:

- ⇒ RIDOC's total average population is at the lowest levels seen in at least fifteen years.
- ⇒ RIDOC's long standing commitment of offering courses and programs aimed at enhancing offenders' level of education to improve post-release employment outcomes.
- ⇒ JFA Associates, who have performed population projections for the RIDOC for over twenty-five years, projects that the Rhode Island prison population will decline by just over one percent over the course of the next decade.
- ⇒ The expansion of The Work Release Unit located in RIDOC's Minimum Security Facility.
- ⇒ The recent creation of the Juvenile & Criminal Justice Working Groups will work to provide valuable resources to address offenders' criminogenic risk factors.
- ⇒ Going forward, RIDOC will continue to take innovative steps to enhance protective factors that foster successful offender rehabilitation and community reintegration.

I hope you enjoy this informative report!

Thank you.



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 six (6) 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.

Facilities: The RIDOC Annual Report historically only includes open inmate facilities. The Donald Price Building has been omitted since its closure in November of 2011. The Women’s Facilities (WOM), used to house awaiting trial & sentenced offenders were comprised of the Gloria McDonald Building & the Bernadette Building. The Bernadette Building hasn’t housed offenders since July of 2016.

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 (RIDOC’s inmate database system), 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, 2019.

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, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (FY2019).

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, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (FY2019).

Population Averages: The Community Corrections Chart on page 24 uses the average population for parole, probation, and home confinement for FY19.

Operational Capacity: Refers to the number of offenders that RIDOC can safely accommodate based on a facility’s staff, existing programs, and services (BJS, 2017). RIDOC’s Operational Capacity is calculated utilizing the following formula: All Beds—(Hospital Beds + 1/3 of Segregation Beds).

Palmigiano Capacity: Refers to the capacity established in federal court which mandates the number of offenders that RIDOC can safely detain. RIDOC’s Palmigiano Capacity is calculated with a formula that utilizes the total number of available beds.

Facilities

The Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) are comprised of 6 inmate facilities (5 male, 1 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:

Anthony P. Trivisono Facility

Opened: 1982 - Expanded: 1992 - Renovated: 1995

Average Facility Population: 845 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 1,120 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$65,671

Minimum Security:

Opened: 1978 - Expanded: 1989 & 1992

Average Facility Population: 232 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 708 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$102,512

Medium Security:

John J. Moran Facility

Opened: 1992

Average Facility Population: 964 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 1,126 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$63,298



The Anthony P. Trivisono 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 10,901 commitments in FY19, approximately 908 commitments per month. The ISC has a total inmate bed capacity of 1,148. The length of time an inmate remains housed in awaiting trial status at the ISC is approximately 25 days (see graph on p.15 for further details); this translates into a constant turnover of the inmate population. In comparison to FY18, the average facility population at the ISC has increased by nearly 0.4% through the close of FY19.

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, work release, or are seeking employment. In comparison to FY18, the average facility population in Minimum Security has declined by nearly 17% through the close of FY19.

The John J. Moran Facility was constructed from 1990 to 1992, at a cost of \$65,000,000. The facility covers 29 acres and houses sentenced adult male offenders who are classified as medium custody. The Medium Security facility has the highest inmate bed capacity figure of any RIDOC facility, with 1,186 available beds. Extensive programming is provided with the goal of preparing inmates for successful return to their communities. In comparison to FY18, the average facility population in Medium Security has declined by just under 6% through the close of FY19.

Facilities

Maximum Security:

Opened: 1878

Average Facility Population: 394 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 411 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$82,115



The Maximum Security facility is the state's oldest operational prison. The facility was opened during 1878 and is modeled 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, the Maximum Security facility has an inmate bed capacity of 466. 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. In comparison to FY18, the average facility population in Maximum Security declined by just over 4% through the close of FY19.

High Security:

Opened: 1981

Average Facility Population: 86 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 138 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$195,244



The High Security Center (HSC) is a supermax facility, which houses inmates who require close custody and control, including protective custody

inmates. The facility contains a Rehabilitation Treatment Unit (RTU), which provides inmates with programming, treatment, and structure as an alternative to more restrictive housing units. The inmate population has access to a legal and recreational library, a classification board room, a classroom, barber shop, and a chapel. The HSC has an

inmate bed capacity of 166. In comparison to FY18, the inmate population declined by just over 2% through the close of FY19.

Women's Facilities:

Gloria McDonald Building

Opened: December, 2010

Average Population: 145 (FY19)

Operational Capacity: 173 (FY19)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$120,210

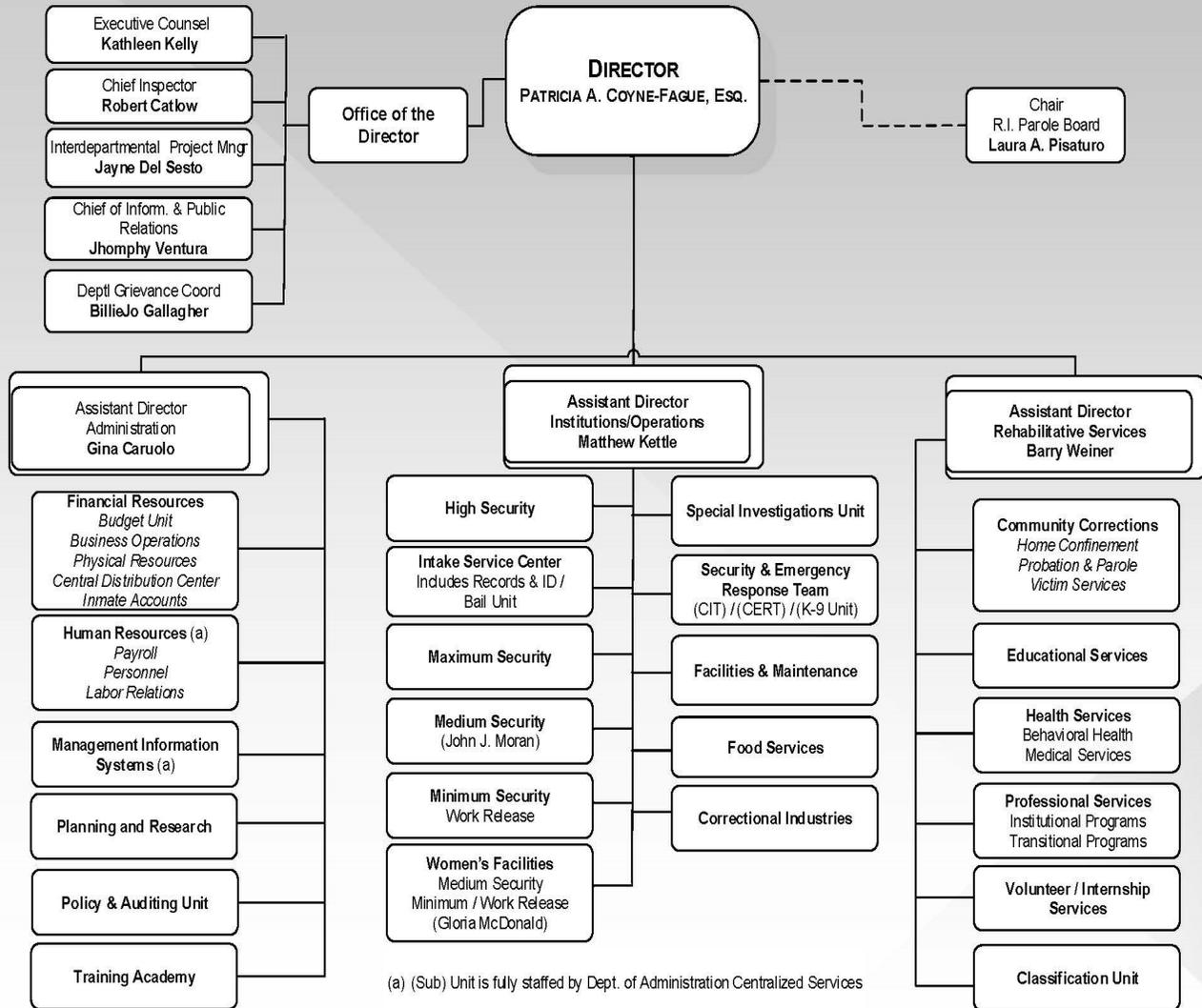


The Women's Facilities (WOM) house awaiting trial offenders and three classification levels (medium, minimum, and work release) used to be housed in two separate buildings. In late 2010 and 2011, facilities housing these offenders (referenced in previous

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 were 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. While WFII was originally designed to hold offenders on work release, in later years it contained Community Corrections and Education offices. In early FY17, RIDOC moved all female offenders to the Gloria McDonald Building (Women's Facility 1). The Bernadette Building has never been officially closed, but hasn't been utilized to house offenders since July of 2016. Women's Facility 1 has an inmate bed capacity of 213. In comparison to FY18, the average facility population in Women's Facility 1 increased by nearly 3% through the close of FY19.

RIDOC Organizational Chart

Rhode Island Department of Corrections



RIDOC is divided into three 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

Gina Caruolo

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. **Sub Unit is fully staffed by Department of Administration Centralized Services*

Institutions and Operations

Assistant Director

Matthew Kettle

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*, *Correctional Industries*, 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

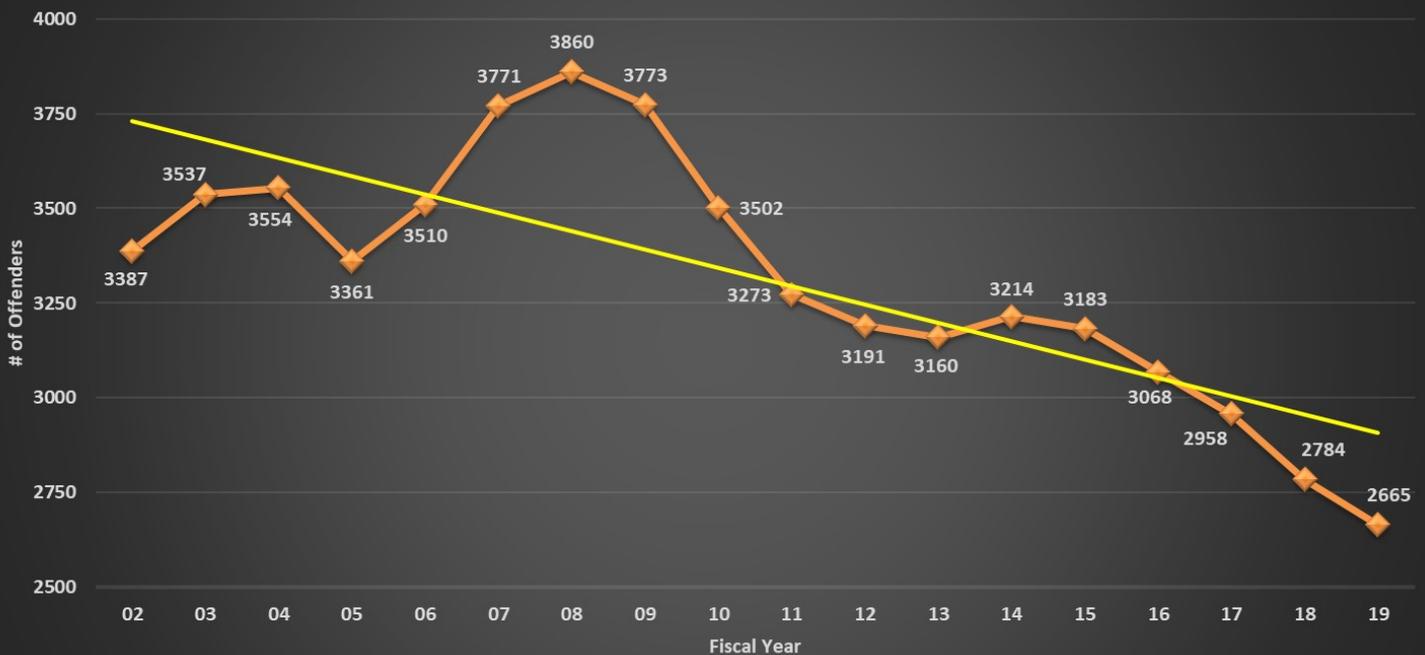
Barry Weiner

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 services offered to the offender during incarceration, such as *Health Services, Educational Services, Institutional Programs, Classification, Adult Counsel, and Volunteer/Internship Services*. Community Corrections refers to units such as *Probation and Parole, Community Confinement, Reentry Services, and Victim Services*. Not only does Rehabilitative Services work with offenders to end criminal and anti-social behavior while incarcerated, but also strives to make it possible for ex-offenders to successfully reintegrate back into the community upon release.

Population Trends



Total RIDOC Population FY02 to FY19

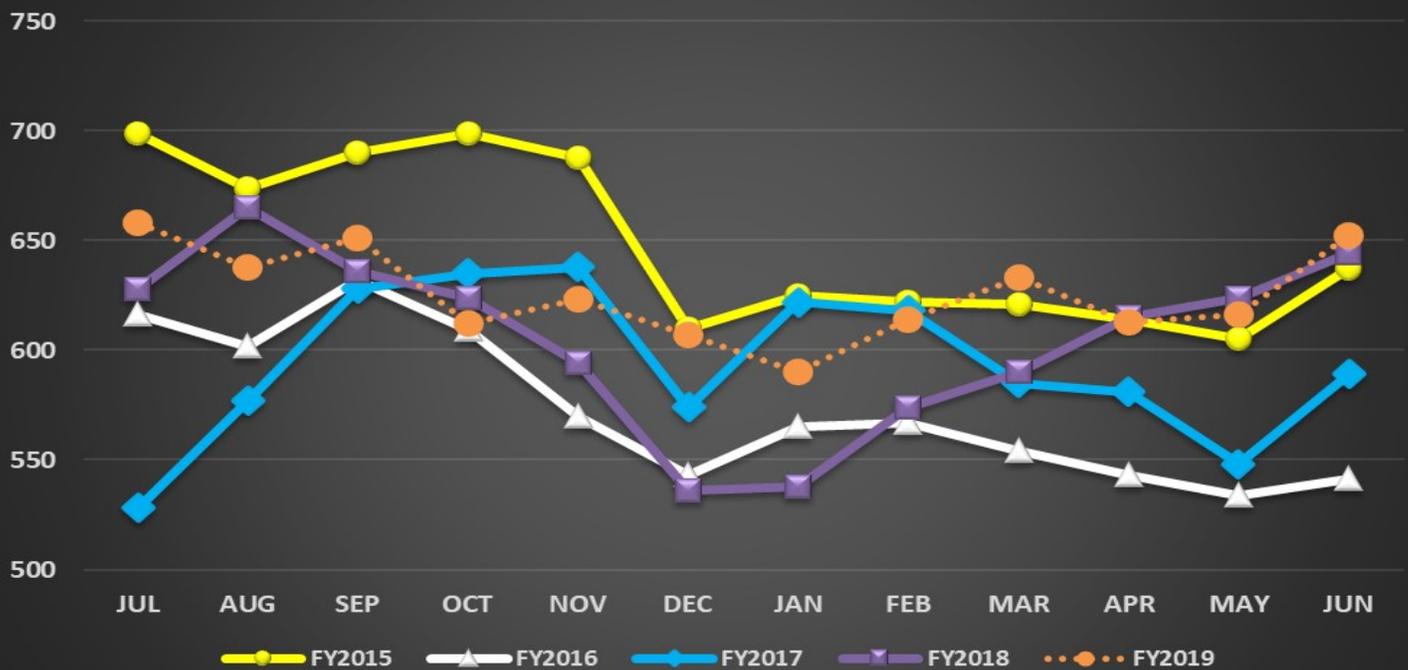


As was the trend nationally, Rhode Island continued marked growth in its total prison population between 2002 and 2008. The most recent sharp increase was between FY05 and FY08, when the population grew 14.8%. However, since FY08, the population has seen a steady decline and fell by nearly 31% through the end of FY19. In RI, 170 out of every 100,000 residents are imprisoned, while nationally 440 out of 100,000 US residents are incarcerated (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2017*), which makes Rhode Island third lowest in the nation in terms of the rate of incarceration.

Starting in the early 2000's, corrections professionals around the country began to focus on permanently reducing prison populations. The federal government also began to fund reentry initiatives aimed at helping offenders succeed in the community post-release. 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.

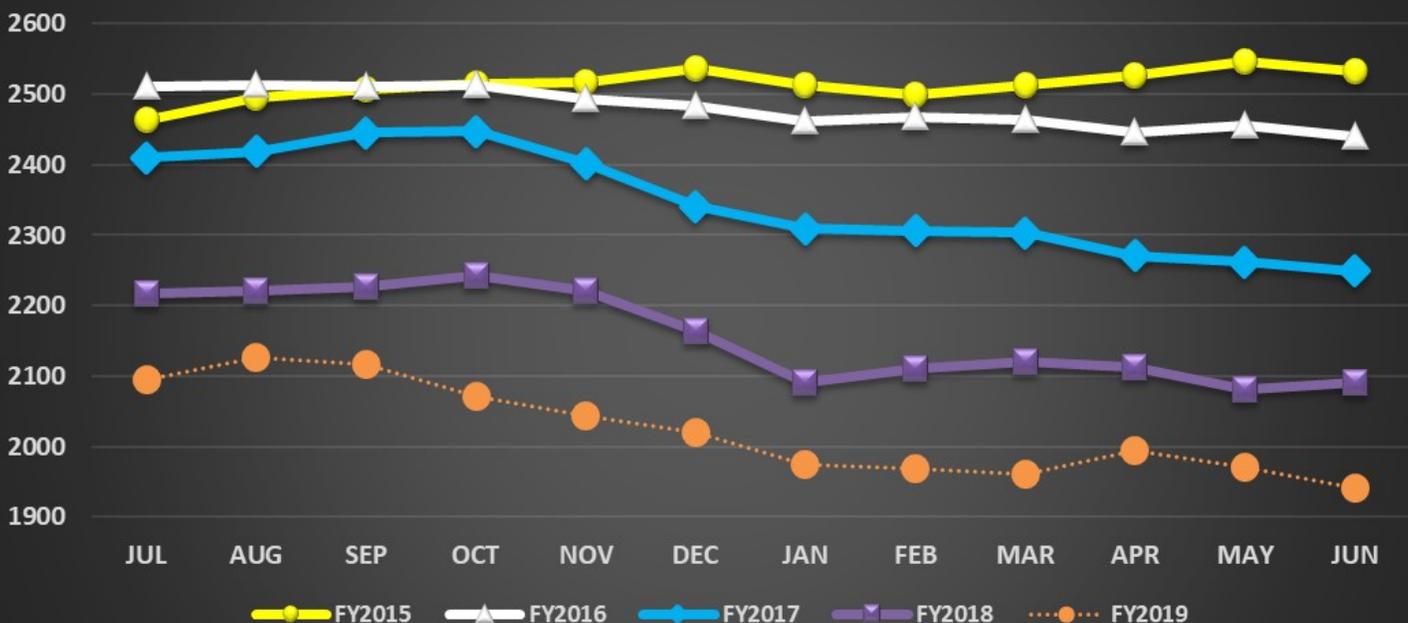
Fiscal Year Population Trends FY2015-FY2019

Awaiting Trial Population



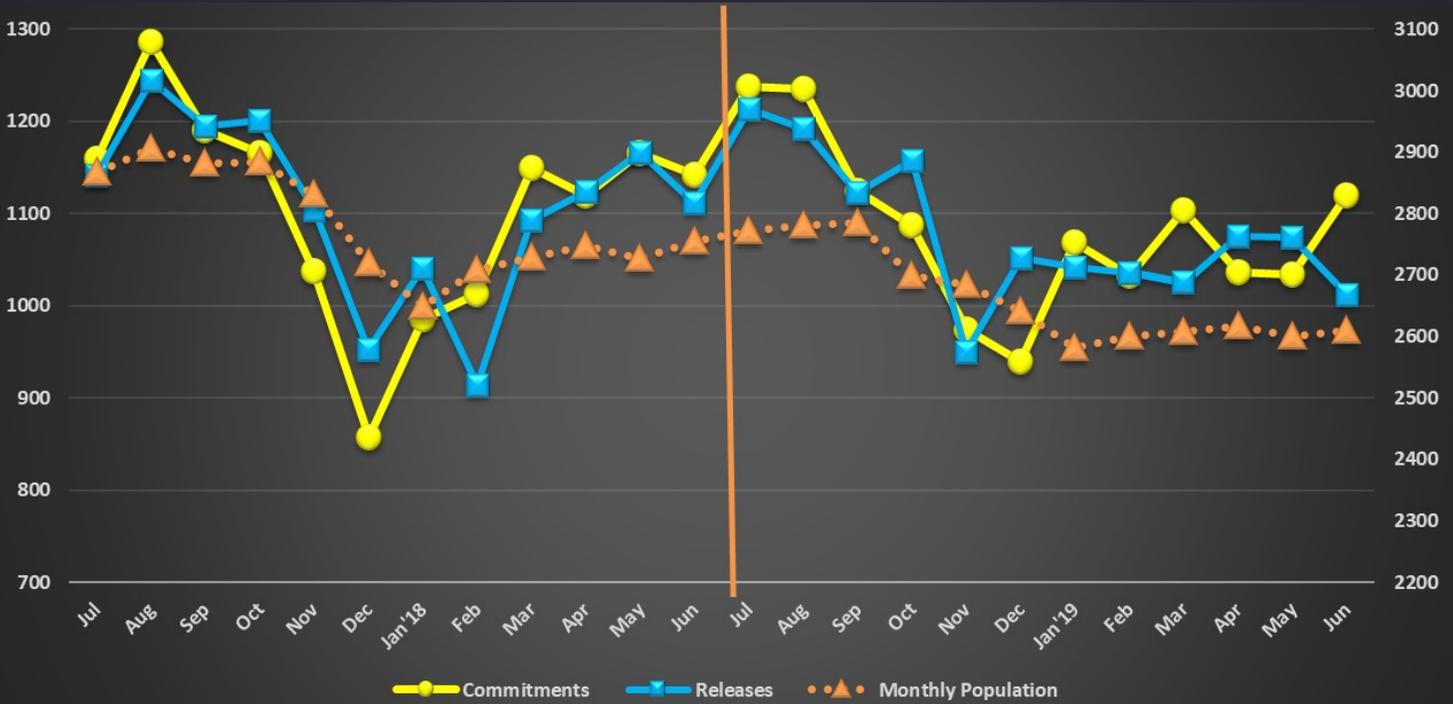
The RIDOC saw a moderate decrease in the average sentenced population (-6.3%) and a marginal increase in the average awaiting trial population (+3.3%) in FY19 compared to FY18. There was an overall decrease of 119 inmates (-4.3%) from start to close of FY19 (July 2018 to June 2019).

Sentenced Population



Commitments & Releases

Effect of Commitments/Releases on Total Population



The graph above demonstrates that the changes in the level of commitments are linked to changes in the total population numbers. 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 14).

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 an anomaly of a high level of commitments in FY14, RIDOC's commitments have decreased by 13% from FY15 through FY19.

Fiscal Year	# Commitments	+/- Change
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	-.15%
2013	14,701	-1.8%
2014	16,252	+10.6%
2015	14,928	-8.1%
2016	13,977	-6.4%
2017	12,927	-7.5%
2018	13,271	+2.7%
2019	12,993	-2.1%

Offender Characteristics

Characteristics of a Typical RIDOC Sentenced Offender as of June 30, 2019

Male Sentenced Offenders

- ◆ Twenty-six percent (26%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY19.
- ◆ Five percent (5%) entered prison as parole violators in FY19.
- ◆ The majority are white (41%) & single (75%).
- ◆ About half (52%) have a high school diploma or GED, 35% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 10% have completed some college.
- ◆ Fifty-six percent (56%) are fathers; the average number of children fathered is 2.
- ◆ Fifty-two percent (52%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ In general, forty-nine percent (49%) of males released were re-sentenced within 36 months of release.

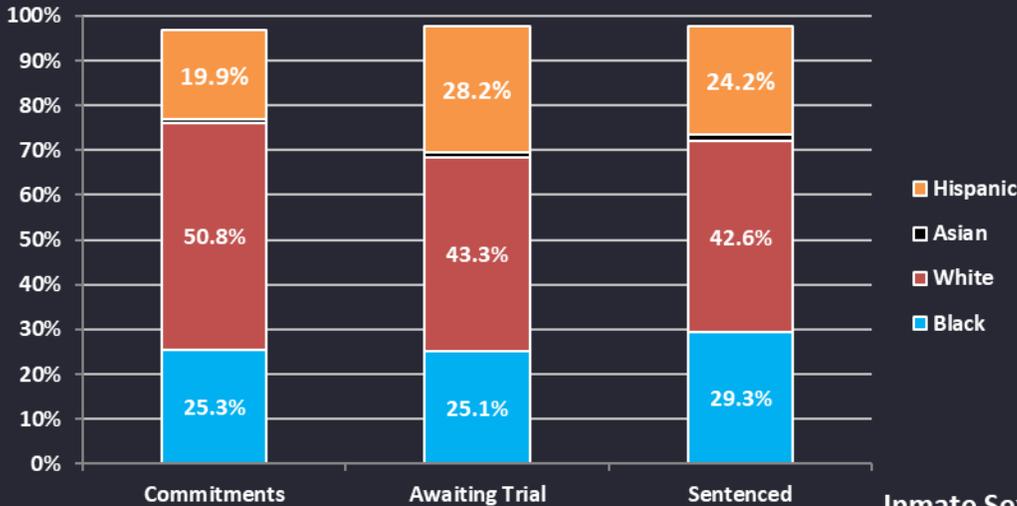
Female Sentenced Offenders

- ◆ Twenty-three percent (23%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY19.
- ◆ Less than one percent (<1%) entered prison as parole violators in FY19.
- ◆ The majority are white (71%) & single (69%).
- ◆ Forty-three percent (43%) have a high school diploma or GED, 28% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 22% have completed some college.
- ◆ Sixty-four (64%) are mothers; the average number of children is 2 per offender.
- ◆ Sixty-four percent (64%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ In general, thirty-six percent (36%) of females released were re-sentenced within 36 months of release.

Offender Characteristics

The charts on the following pages* contain: commitments, who include all offenders committed to RIDOC (sentenced & pre-trial) over FY19; awaiting trial and sentenced offenders represent the stock population on June 30, 2019.

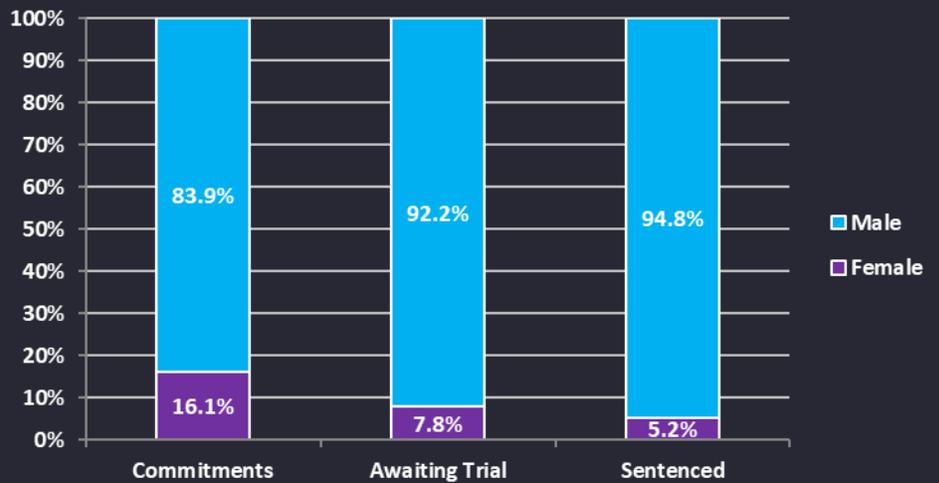
Inmate Race by Status



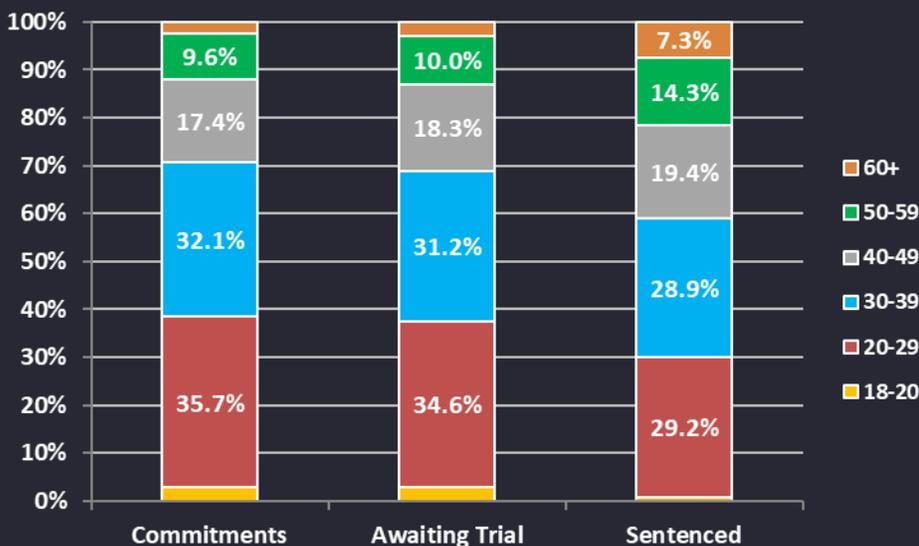
The vast majority of offenders (commitments, awaiting trial, and sentenced) are white, followed by black and Hispanic. Offenders who identify themselves as Asian, Native American, other, or their race is unknown make up less than 4% of the population for each category of offenders.

Males make up most (83.9%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 16.1%. Males also make up the majority (92.2%) of RIDOC's awaiting trial population, while females make up just 7.8%. Males account for 94.8% of RIDOC's sentenced population, while females make up only 5.2%.

Inmate Sex by Status



Inmate Age by Status

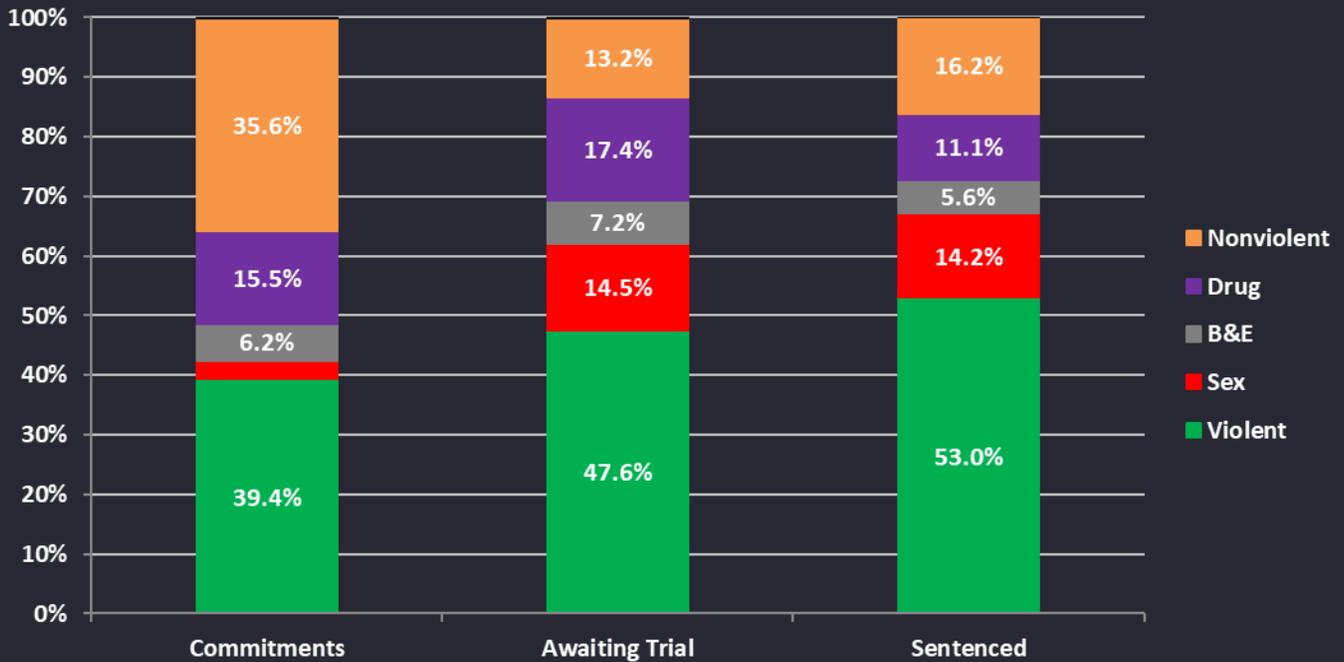


Nearly two thirds of all RIDOC offenders are between the ages of 20-39. The median age of RIDOC sentenced offenders for both males and females is 36. For pre-trial offenders, males have a median age of 33 and females have a median age of 31.

*Please note any value less than 5% will not be labeled in the graphs on pages 12-16.

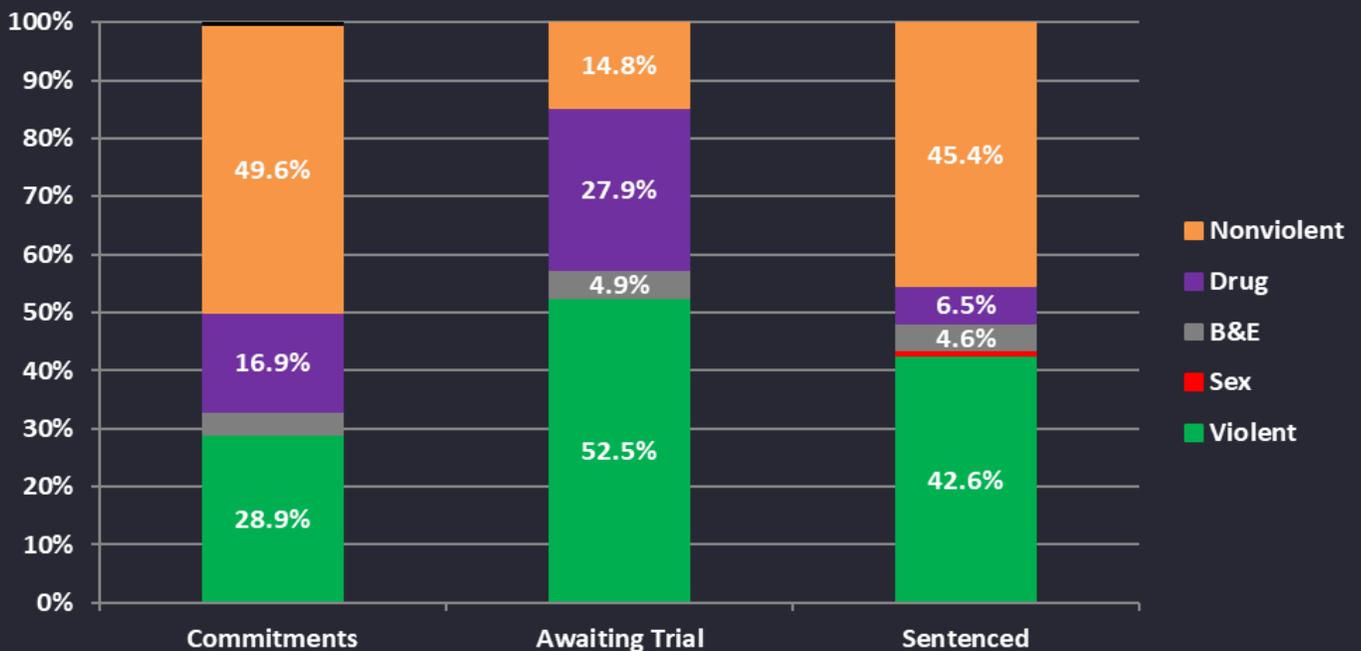
Offender Characteristics

Offense Type by Status - Male Population



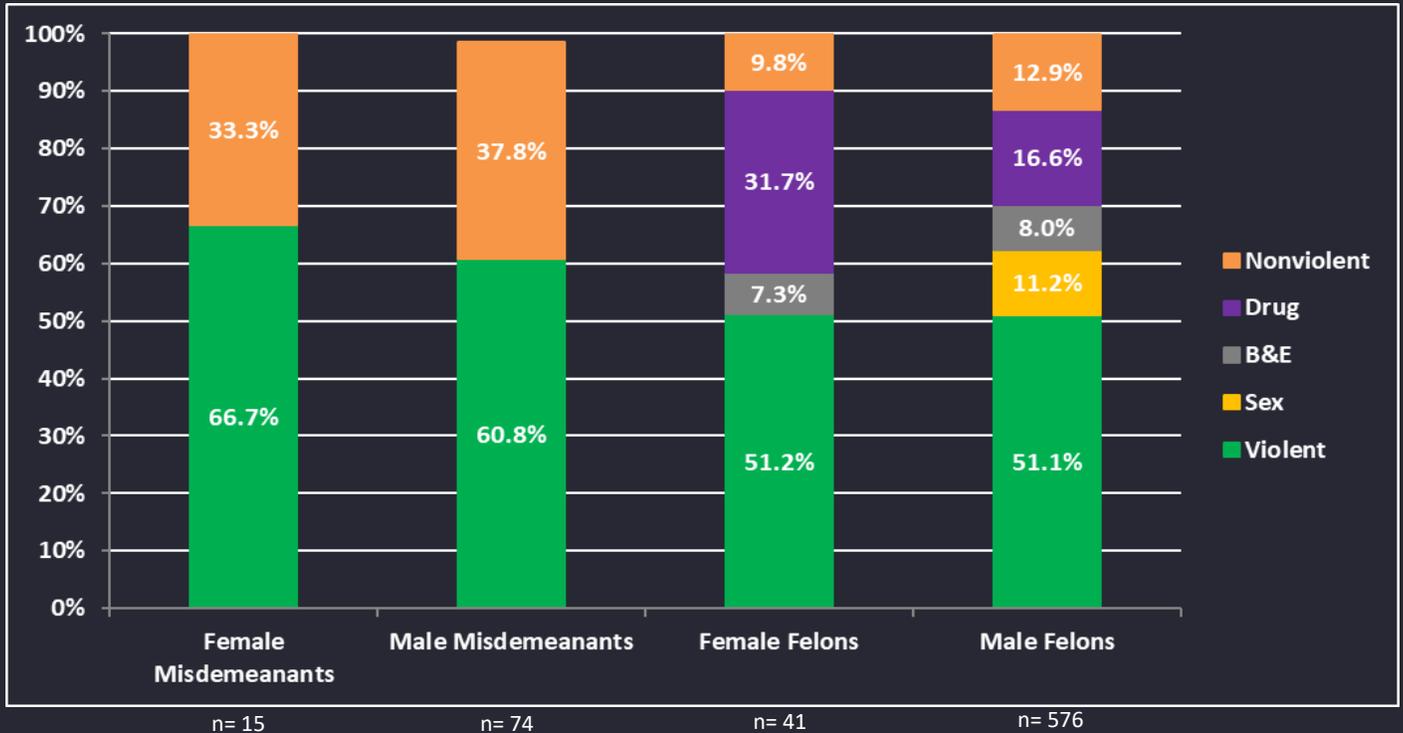
As literature suggests, males and females tend to be involved in different crimes. Thirty-five percent (35.6%) of male commitments are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, while just under half (49.6%) of the female commitments are incarcerated for similar offenses. Just over one third of the male population (39.4%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes, while about 28.9% of females are incarcerated for similar violent crimes. The reverse trend is evident in the sentenced stock population, where violent crimes make up about half of males (53.0%) and 42.6% for females. Lifers are included in the sentenced population, making the amount of violent sentenced offenders rise dramatically.

Offense Type by Status - Female Population



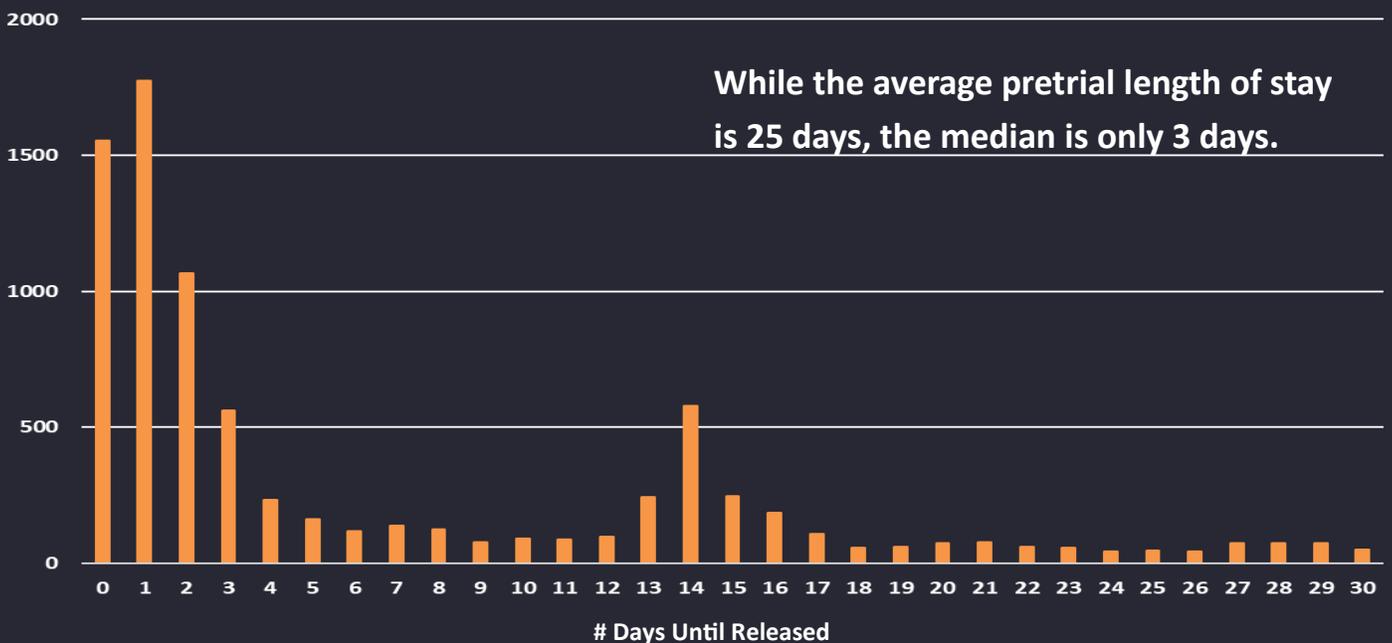
Pre-trial Statistics

Pre-Trial Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type
Stock Data - June 30, 2019 (N=706)



The most common offenses for male and female misdemeanants in the awaiting trial population was domestic assault. Male and female felons were imprisoned most commonly for manual delivery of a controlled substance.

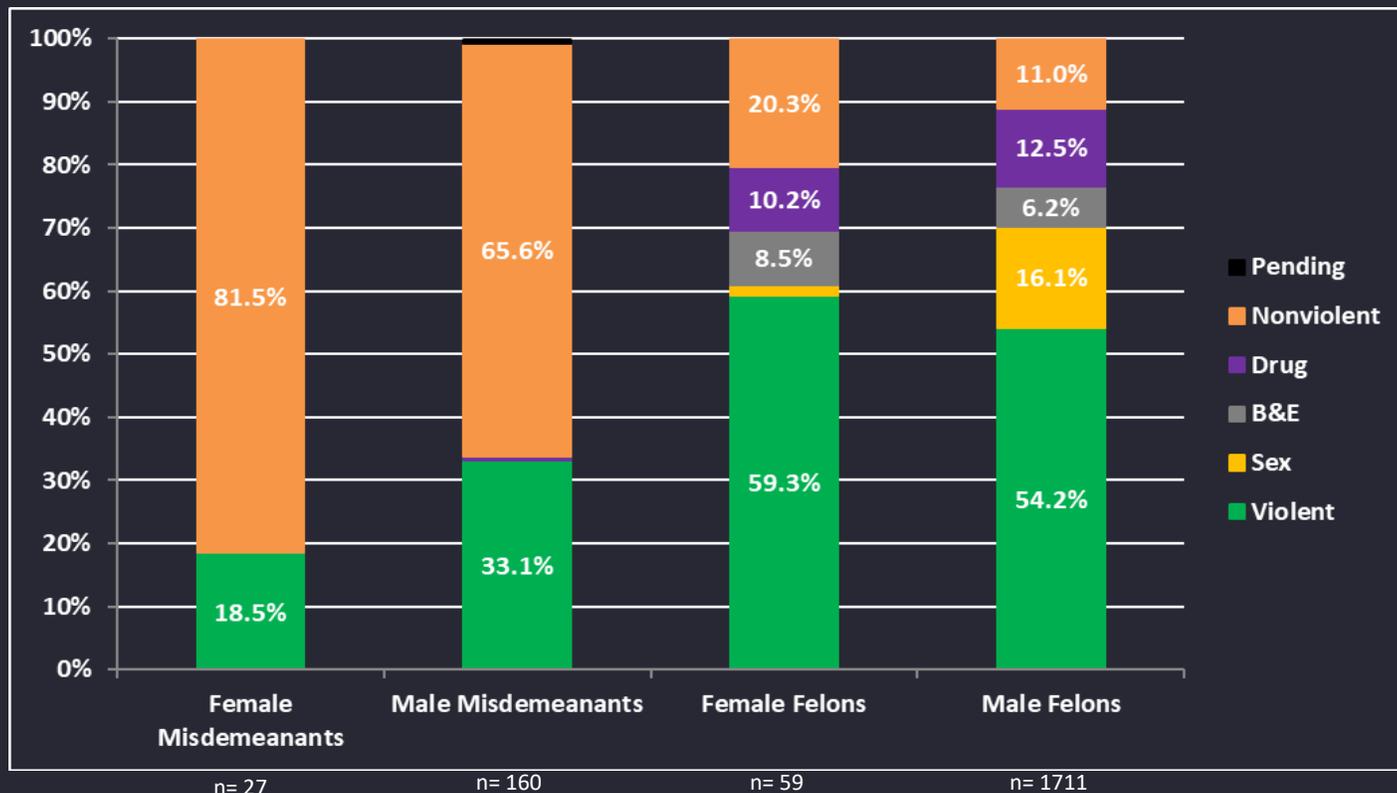
Average Length of Stay for FY19



*Please note that mean & median average length of stay statistics incorporate data beyond the first 30 days that is highlighted in the graph (above). 0 Indicates a pretrial offender was released on the same day. In addition, pre-trial stock data only includes offenders who are held in RIDOC Facilities'.

Sentenced Statistics

Sentenced Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type
Stock Data - June 30, 2019 (N=1,957)



Included in the sentenced stock population are 225 inmates sentenced to life and 32 sentenced to life without parole. Inmates sentenced to life may be eligible for parole at some point in the future depending on a multitude of factors. However, those sentenced to life without parole will spend the rest of their lives in prison. These 257 offenders constitute 12.3% of the total sentenced population. Sixteen (16) 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).

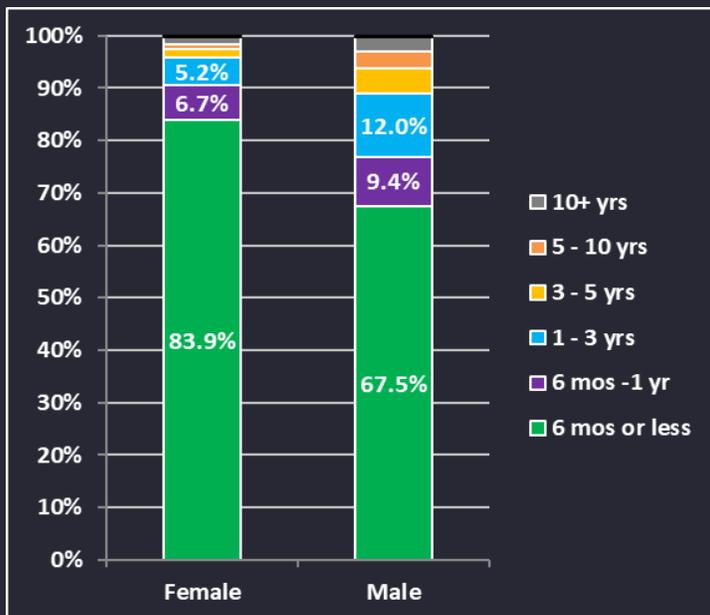
For the female sentenced population, the most common misdemeanor offenses were shoplifting (23.5%) and driving while intoxicated (14.7%). In addition, the most common felony offenses included second degree murder (10.8%), followed by first and second degree robbery (combined offenses yield 9.5%).

The most common misdemeanor offenses for the male sentenced population were domestic assault (12.4%) and simple assault (10.7%). In addition, the most common felony offenses included first degree murder (9.8%) and felony assault (9.3%).

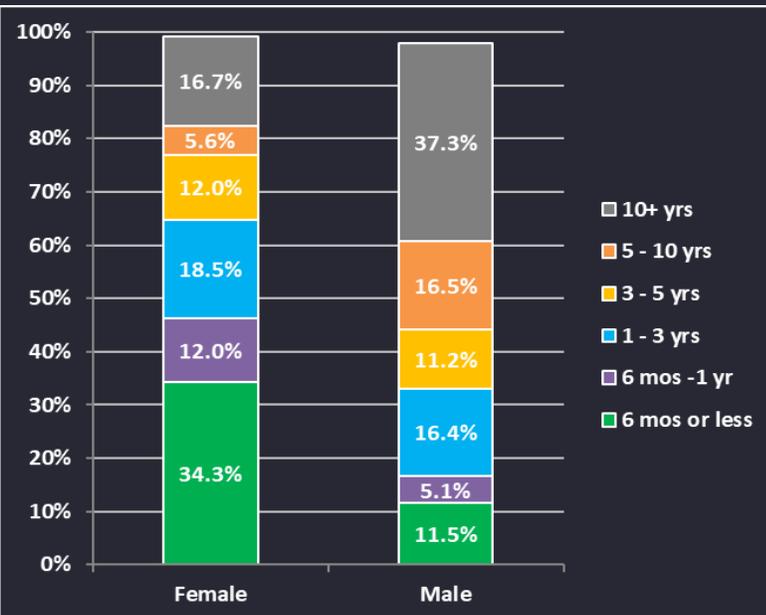
*Please note that sentenced stock data only includes those offenders who are held in RIDOC Facilities'. It excludes those who are serving a R.I. sentence out-of-state according to interstate compact, at the Eleanor Slater Hospital Forensic Unit, or who are on home confinement. In addition, sentenced offender populations of less than two percent are not represented on the above table.

Sentenced Statistics

Sentenced Commitments
Sentence Length by Sex
FY2019



Sentenced Stock Population
Sentence Length by Sex
June 30, 2019



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, 2019.¹ For example, even though only about 88.9% of the male population is *committed* to sentences of 3 years or less, over time, this group of offenders represents 33% 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	2.41	74.06	1.60	106.54	2.33	75.98
Sex	4.60	73.51	5.98	N/A	4.76	73.51
B&E	3.51	32.30	4.48	21.00	3.61	31.67
Drug	3.43	30.16	3.64	17.13	3.45	29.70
Nonviolent	2.24	25.33	1.97	16.91	2.19	24.33
Subtotal	3.24	47.07	3.53	40.40	3.27	47.04
Average Total Sentence Length = 24.1 months						

The above table displays the average length of sentence imposed on sentenced commitments in FY2019. 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).

¹ Please note that "Male" column of the Sentence Stock Population graph doesn't add to 100% because it excludes 2.0% of inmates serving out of state.

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 inmates¹. The legislation increased the amount of behavioral good time credit and provided credits for program participation and completion. Increased levels of program participation, program completion, and good behavior time, we have experienced an overall decrease in prison population and no increase in recidivism.

Average Percentage of Time Served by Sentence Lengths for Offenders Expiring a Sentence²

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	Percent Change FY08– FY19
3 months or less	99%	91%	91%	90%	92%	91%	92%	93%	94%	93%	93%	93%	-6.1%
3 - 6 months	97%	81%	80%	79%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	81%	82%	-15.5%
6 - 9 months	96%	82%	79%	76%	77%	79%	79%	78%	80%	79%	79%	79%	-17.7%
9 months - 1 year	95%	81%	77%	71%	74%	75%	76%	76%	77%	76%	76%	75%	-21.1%
1 - 3 years	93%	83%	76%	69%	69%	69%	71%	73%	72%	74%	69%	69%	-25.8%
3 - 5 years	88%	83%	80%	69%	62%	59%	64%	69%	68%	72%	68%	63%	-28.4%
5 - 7 years	84%	83%	73%	71%	63%	64%	60%	68%	72%	76%	66%	62%	-26.2%
7 - 10 years	79%	79%	79%	69%	51%	50%	58%	61%	69%	69%	60%	61%	-22.8%
Greater than 10 years	76%	75%	76%	63%	61%	53%	60%	70%	65%	67%	64%	56%	-26.3%

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 had fully benefited from the 2008 sentence reduction changes. From FY08 through FY19, there have been significant reductions documented in the amount of time served for offenders serving sentences between 3 to 5 years (28.4%). From FY18 through FY19, those serving sentences of 3 to 5 years saw a moderate decline of 7% in the amount of 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 47% of offenders released in 2015 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 reincarcerations.

For further RIDOC recidivism information on the 2015 cohort, please see page 22.

Program Participation & Completion:

During FY19, 1,670 offenders participated in and/or completed one or more rehabilitative programs offered at RIDOC and were awarded a total of 60,851 program credits (days off sentence; an average of about 36 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 FY19.

¹ (<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText12/SenateText12/S2179A.pdf>).

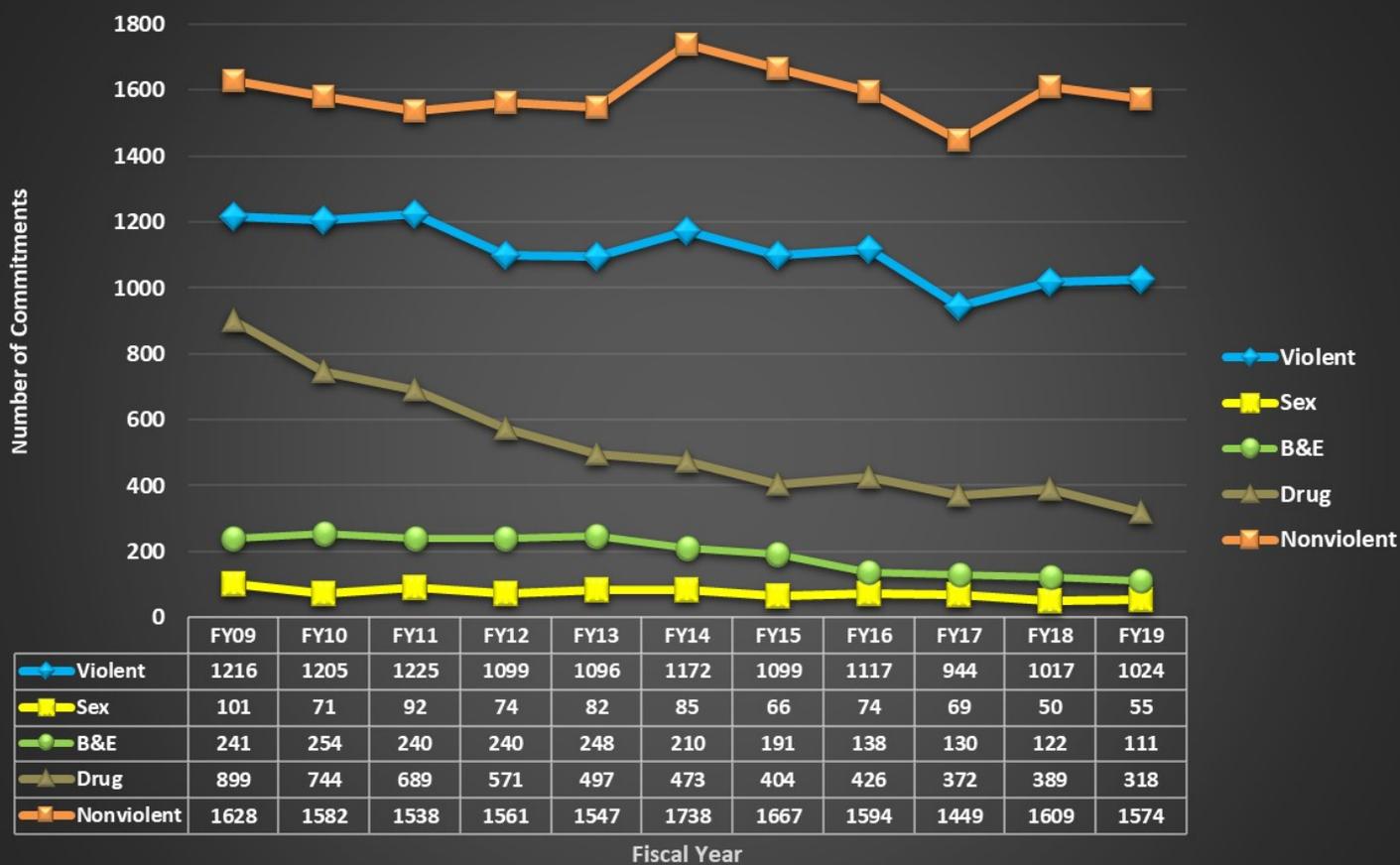
² Expiration of a sentence includes inmates who are released from RIDOC after having served their maximum court sentence (minus any good time & program credits).

Sentenced Statistics

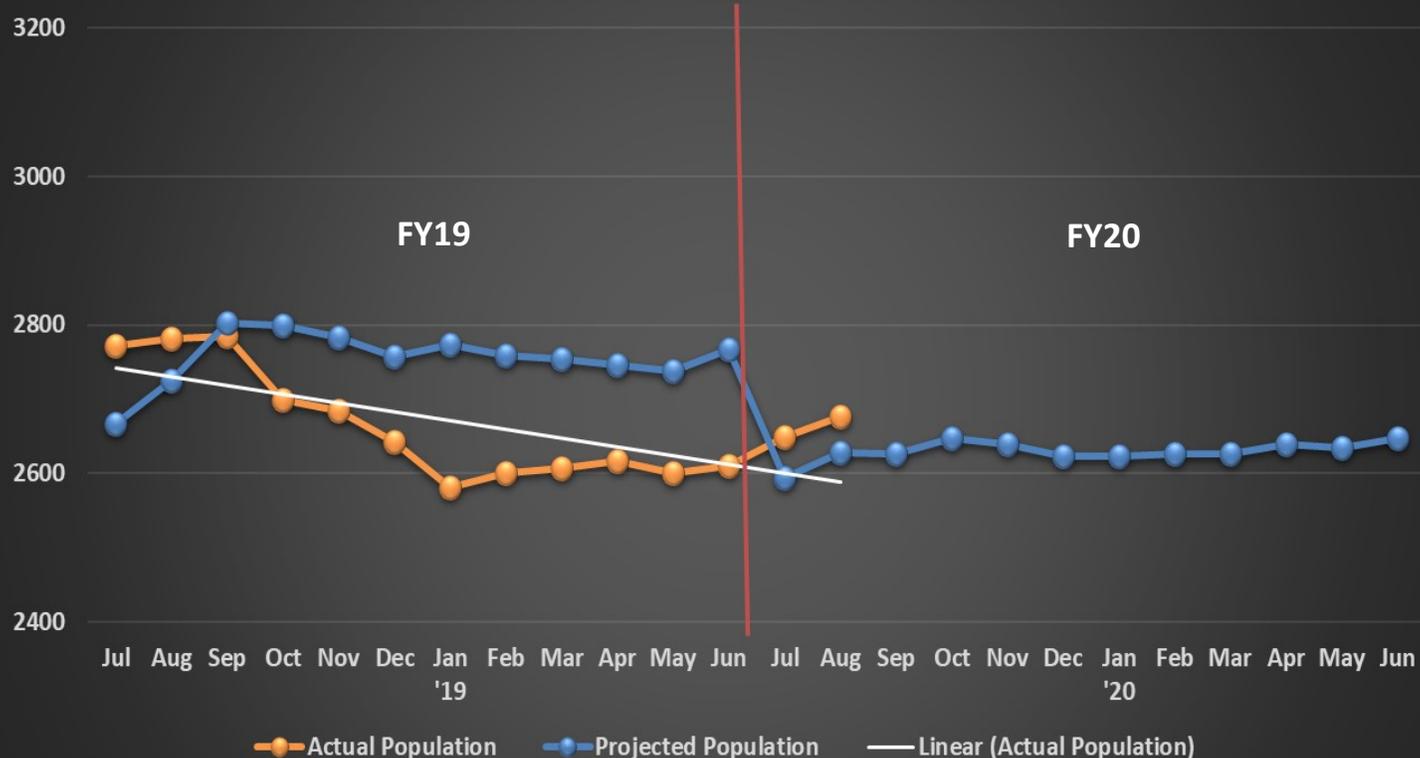
Effects of Drug Offense Sentencing Reform

Two major revisions to Rhode Island’s drug laws were approved in 2009 and 2012, resulting in changes to the punishment 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. New legislation was signed into law in 2013 making possession of small amounts of marijuana punishable with a maximum \$150 civil fine and no jail time.

Overall, the drug offender population has seen a drastic decline in the past 7 years due partly to the above two changes. Since FY10, commitments to sentenced status declined by nearly 22%. Breaking commitments down by the most serious offense types, it is apparent drug crimes (pictured in tan below) declined by about 57%. It’s important to highlight that from FY14 to FY16, sentenced commitments for drug crimes declined by about 10%. In comparison, from FY17 to FY19, sentenced commitments for drug crimes declined by only about 15%. With the current opioid epidemic, it’s imperative that these rates are well documented so that they can be compared with commitment data in fiscal years to come.



Population Projections



The graph above shows the actual population (orange line) compared to the projected population (blue line). Based on this trend, the white line predicts the actual population over the next fiscal year.

As of the FY19 projection, RIDOC was operating below federal capacity in all facilities. The 10-year forecast of RI’s prison population, conducted by Wendy Ware of JFA Associates/The Institute, estimates that the total sentenced inmate population will decrease by nearly 1.1% or 22 inmates, at an average annual rate of about 0.1% between fiscal year-end 2020 and fiscal year-end 2030. This projected decline would allow R.I. to remain below both the *operational (3,776) 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 and program participation awards). These factors may change over time due to legislative or policing changes, rendering the existing prediction null.

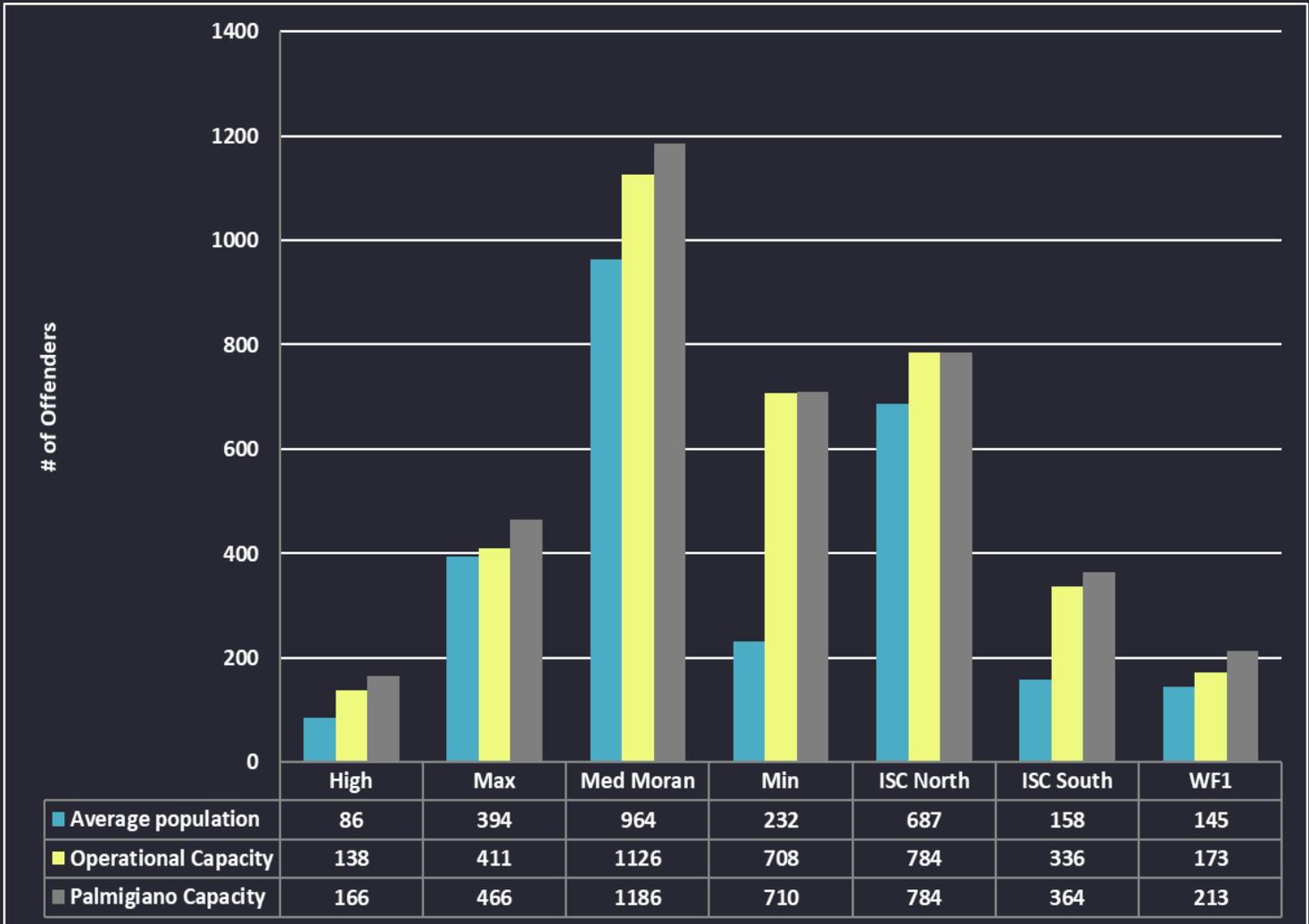
For more information, please see RIDOC’s Ten-Year Prison Population Projections Brief FY2020—2030: <http://www.doc.ri.gov/administration/planning/docs/RIDOC%20Population%20Projection%20FY20-30.pdf>.

***Operational Capacity** = All Beds—(Hospital Beds + 1/3 of Segregation Beds).

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

Institutional Capacities

Average FY19 Population vs. Capacities



***Operational Capacity:** RIDOC's Operational Capacity is calculated utilizing the following formula: All Beds—(Hospital Beds + 1/3 of Segregation Beds).

****Palmigiano Capacity:** RIDOC's Palmigiano Capacity is calculated with a formula that utilizes the total number of available beds.

Total RIDOC FY 2019

*Operational Capacity = 3776

**Palmigiano Capacity = 3989

Average FY19 Population = 2665

Release Data

During FY19 RIDOC processed a total of 3,232 releases, representing 2,783 people, from sentenced status.

About 90% of all releases expired their sentences; 8% were paroled.

About 4% of sentenced releases self-reported that they were homeless or had no permanent address.

About 48% of males were released from Minimum or Medium Security. An additional 41% were released from the Intake Service Center and another 5% were released from Maximum or High Security. Female releases were distributed amongst WF1 and Home Confinement, yielding 89% & 11% respectively.

Of these releases to Rhode Island, 30% reported returning to Providence, with an additional 11% returning to Pawtucket, and 10% returning to Woonsocket.¹ An estimated 18% reported returning to either Cranston, Warwick, or West Warwick.

There were 11 offenders, all males, on active escape status as of 6/30/19. These escapes span from 1979 to 2009.

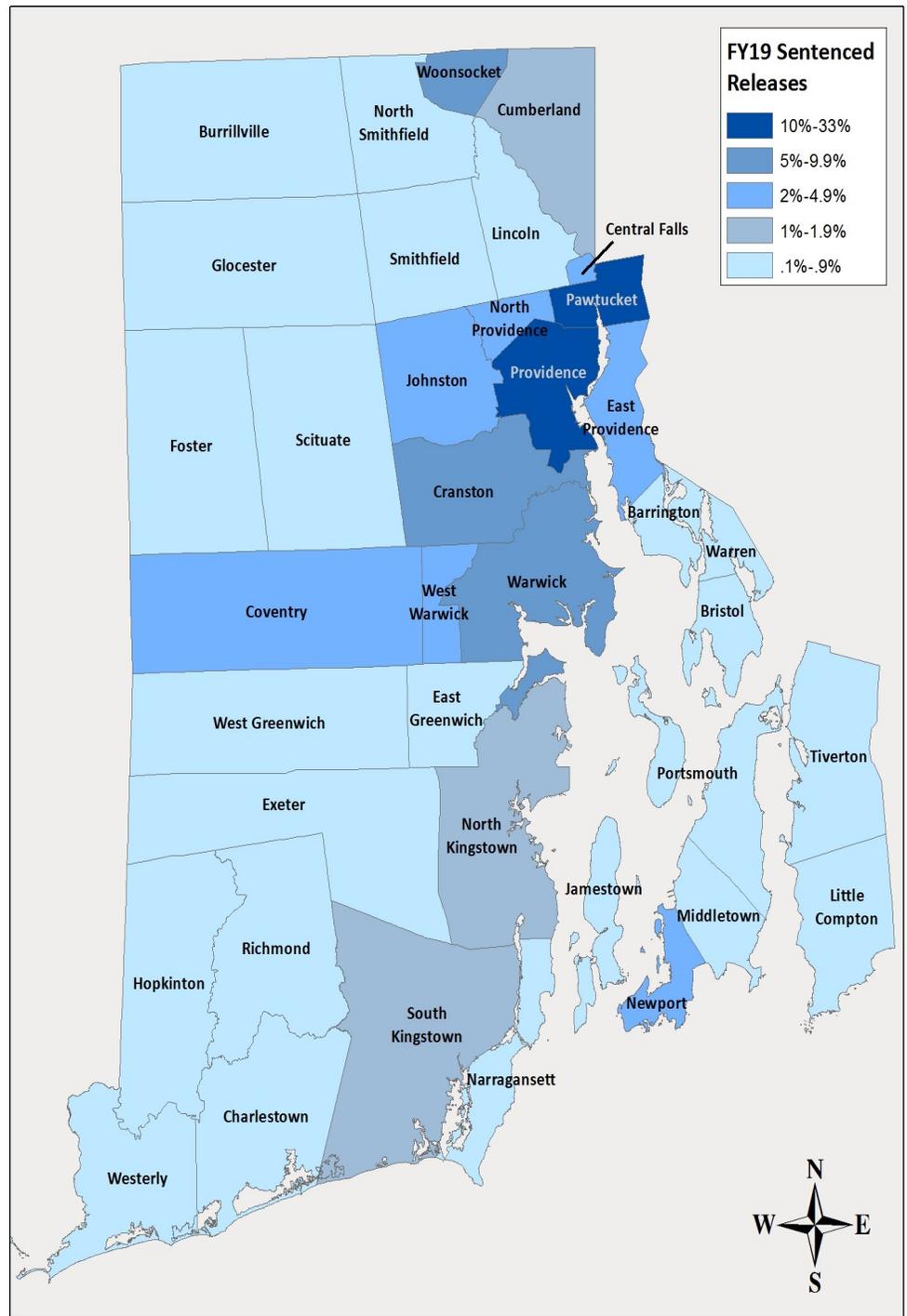
Five (5) of those on active escape status were walkaways from home confinement and six (6) of those on

active escape status were from minimum/work release. In FY19, there was 1 male inmate death.

During FY19 there were a total of 9,721 awaiting trial releases. Just over half were discharged at court (50%) or discharged per court order

(4%), while an additional 22% were bailed and 9% were sentenced to serve time on their charges.

¹Please note that the map above only includes data on offenders who reside in a city/town within Rhode Island (it excludes those who live out-of-state and those who don't have a valid address).



Release Data

Recidivism

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 2,641 offenders released in Calendar Year (CY)2015 (CY15), accounting for the 2,887 distinct release events. The majority of offenders were white (55%), males (89%), between the ages of 20-29 (39%). Over three quarters of those released served a sentence for a nonviolent (48%) or violent (33%) crime.

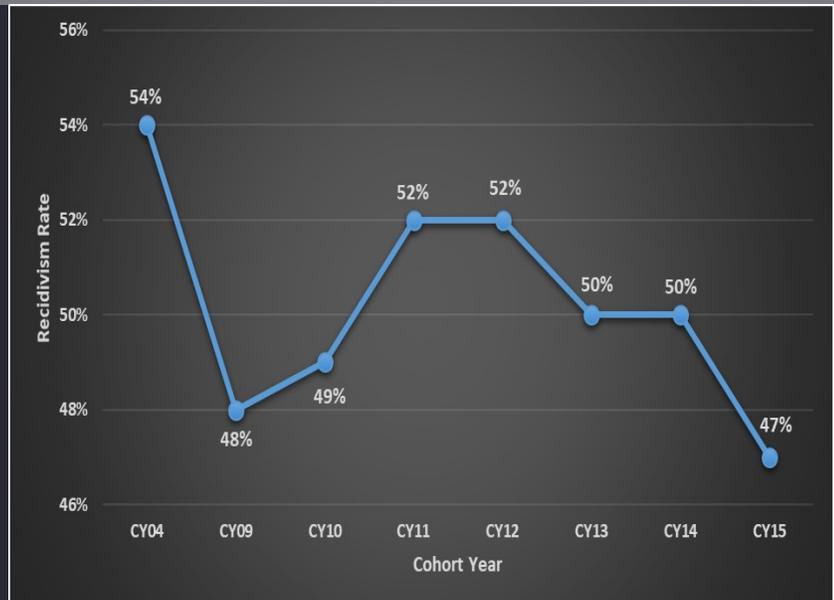
Sentenced Readmissions

At 3-years post release, 47% of offenders returned to RIDOC with a new sentence, resulting in a slight decrease from the from the CY13 & CY14 cohorts; which had both reported a 50% 3-year return rate. This is the lowest reported recidivism rate since the Department began tracking yearly cohorts in 2004. Just under half (49%) of males and 36% of females were recommitted as sentenced offenders 36 months post release.

In addition, virtually all offenders who returned were for a probation violation (25%) or a new sentence (70%). Parole violators accounted for approximately 4% of recidivists.

A significant trend to note is the difference in probation violator commitments between cohorts. Probation violator recidivists dropped by nearly half from 2004 to 2009. Since then, a steady increase is apparent. In 2015, these types of commitments made up a significantly smaller proportion of recidivists than past cohorts.

RIDOC operates a unified correctional system, meaning that all pre-trial detainees and sentenced offenders (regardless of sentence length or crime type) are under the Department's jurisdiction. Unlike most correctional departments, this gives RIDOC the unique opportunity to report rates for those who returned awaiting trial.



This graph depicts a 7% decrease in 3-year recidivism rates for sentenced readmissions from the CY04 cohort compared to the CY15 cohort.

Awaiting Trial Readmissions

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of releases returned as awaiting trial detainees. These rates follow the same trends reported in past cohorts.

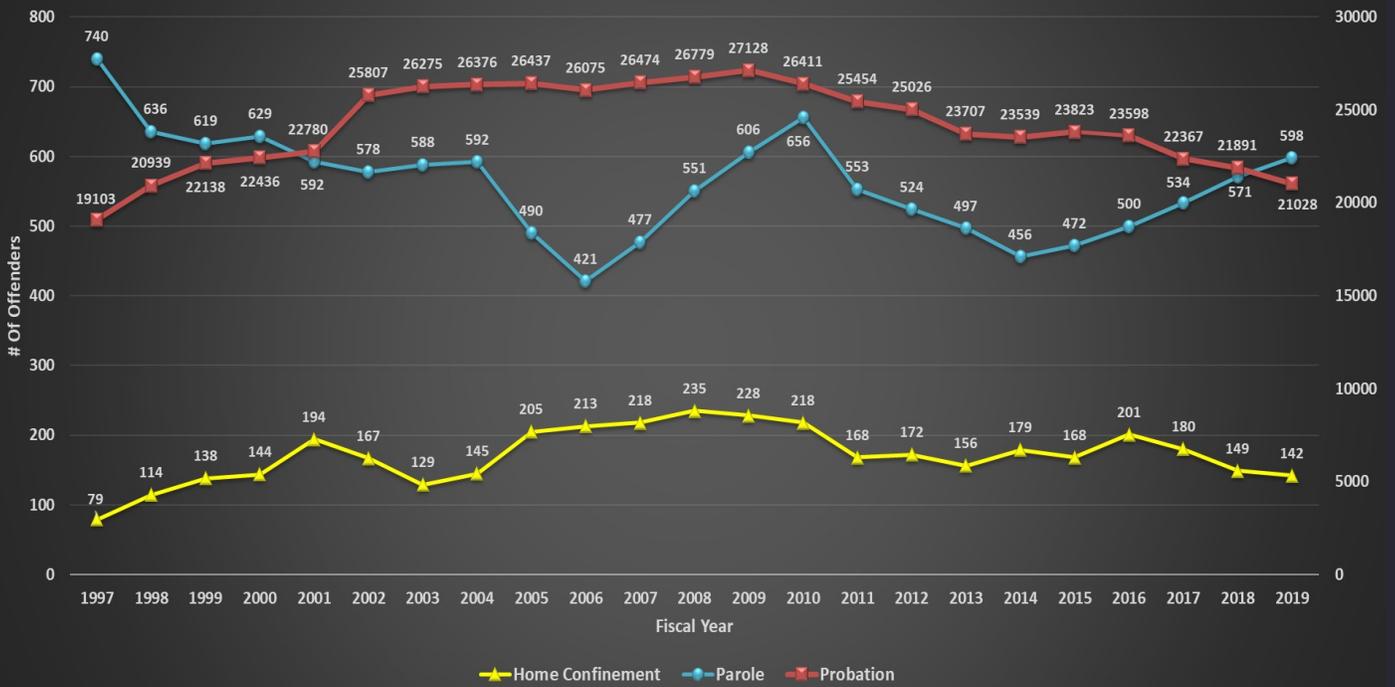
Time in the Community

The average time spent in the community for CY15 was 10.8 months. Almost 5% of recidivists returned within 30 days of release, with an additional 41% returning between 1 and 6 months post release. By 1 year post-release, nearly seventy percent (70%) of recidivists had returned to RIDOC.

Offenders with children spent more time in the community before re-offending. Those released from serving a less serious type of offence (i.e. nonviolent) returned sooner than more serious offenses (i.e. violent). Lower risk assessment scores indicated longer time in the community.

Over the past decade, RIDOC has moved toward using risk assessments to inform case management decisions by implementing the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), a 54-item empirically supported risk/need assessment that quantifies offender's likelihood of reoffending. Analysis indicates a positive correlation to recidivism; the higher the LSI-R score and risk level, the more likely an offender is to recidivate.

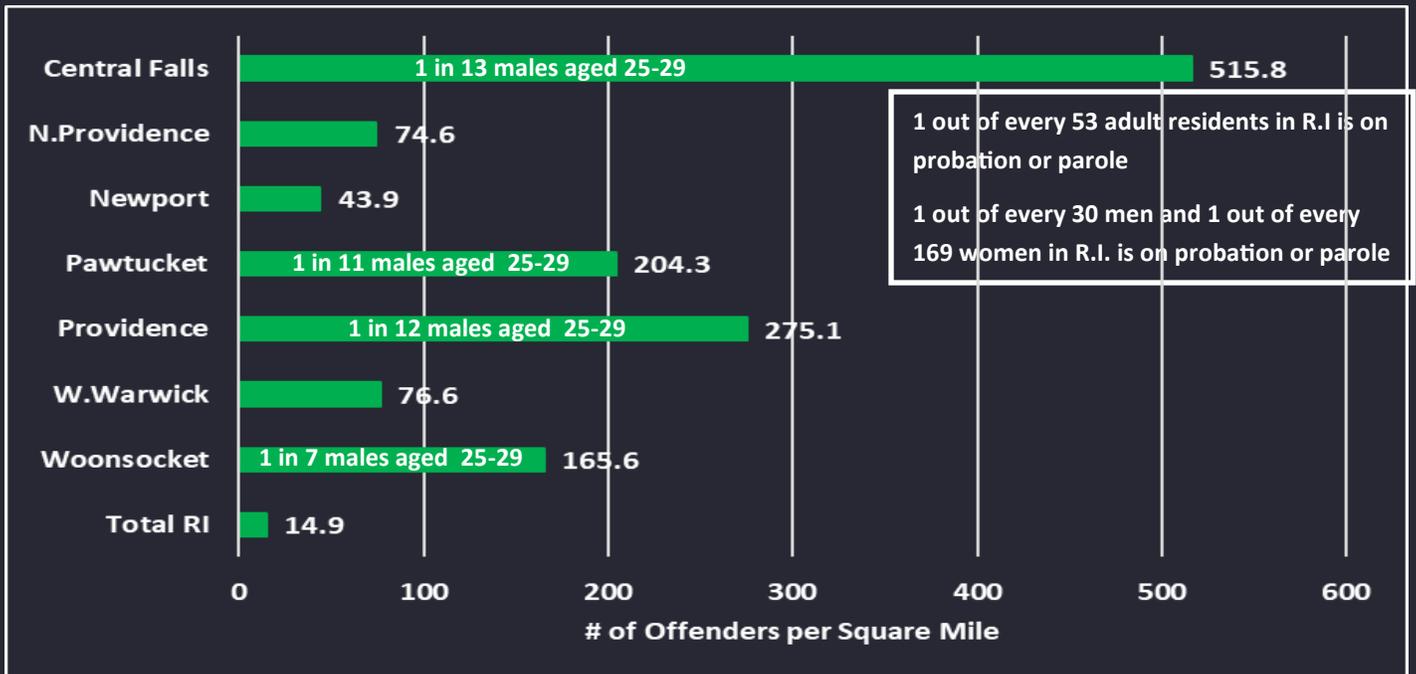
Community Corrections Population



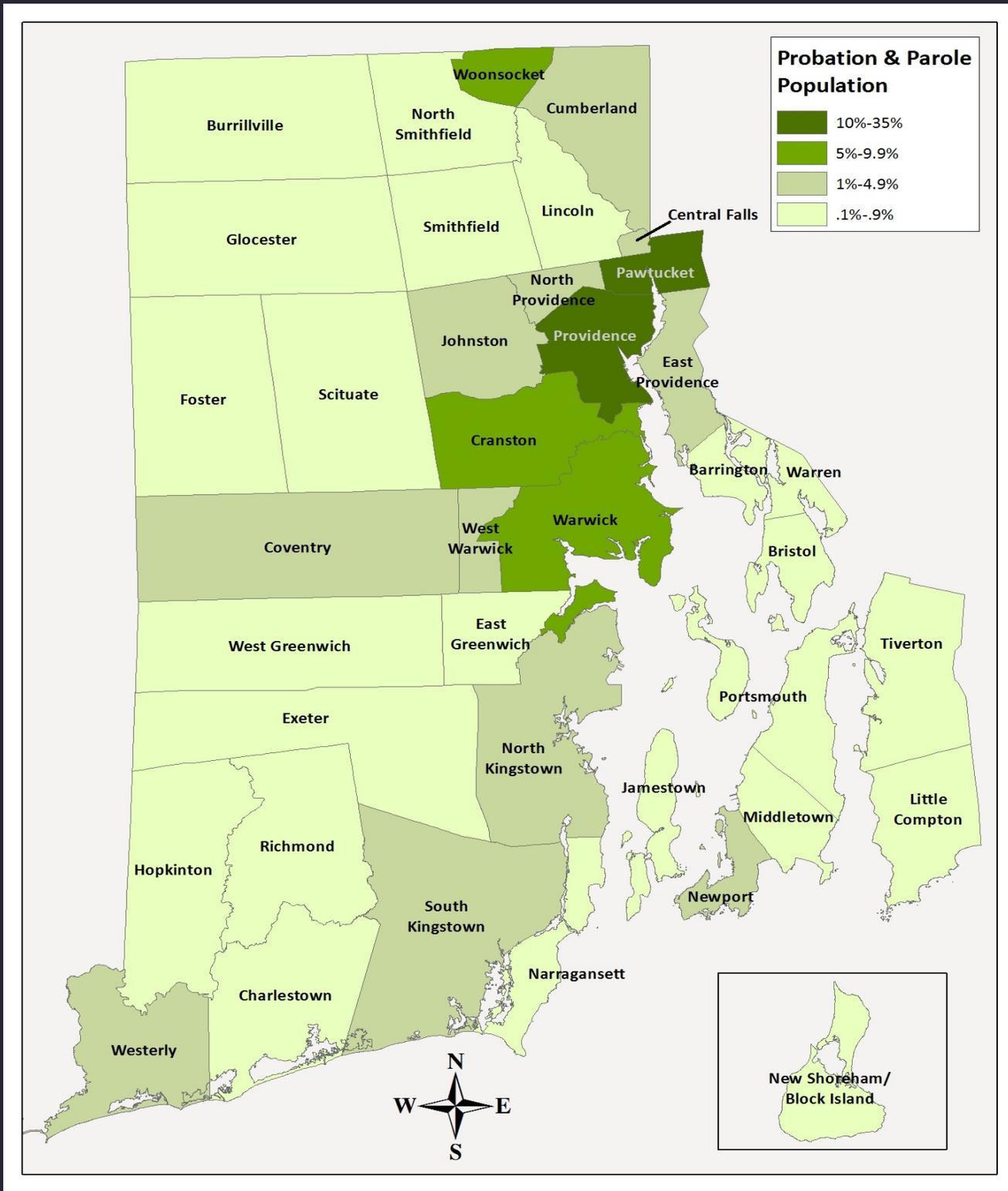
Interpreting the chart: The probation population is plotted on the *secondary axis* to the right, while parole and home confinement are plotted on the *primary axis* to the left.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2016, Rhode Island has the fourth highest rate of Community Corrections supervision in the nation; 2,735 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2016*). In addition, R.I. has the second highest rate of probation supervision in the nation; 2,793 per 100,000 residents (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016*).

Probationers and Parolees by Square Mile as of June 30, 2019



Community Corrections Population



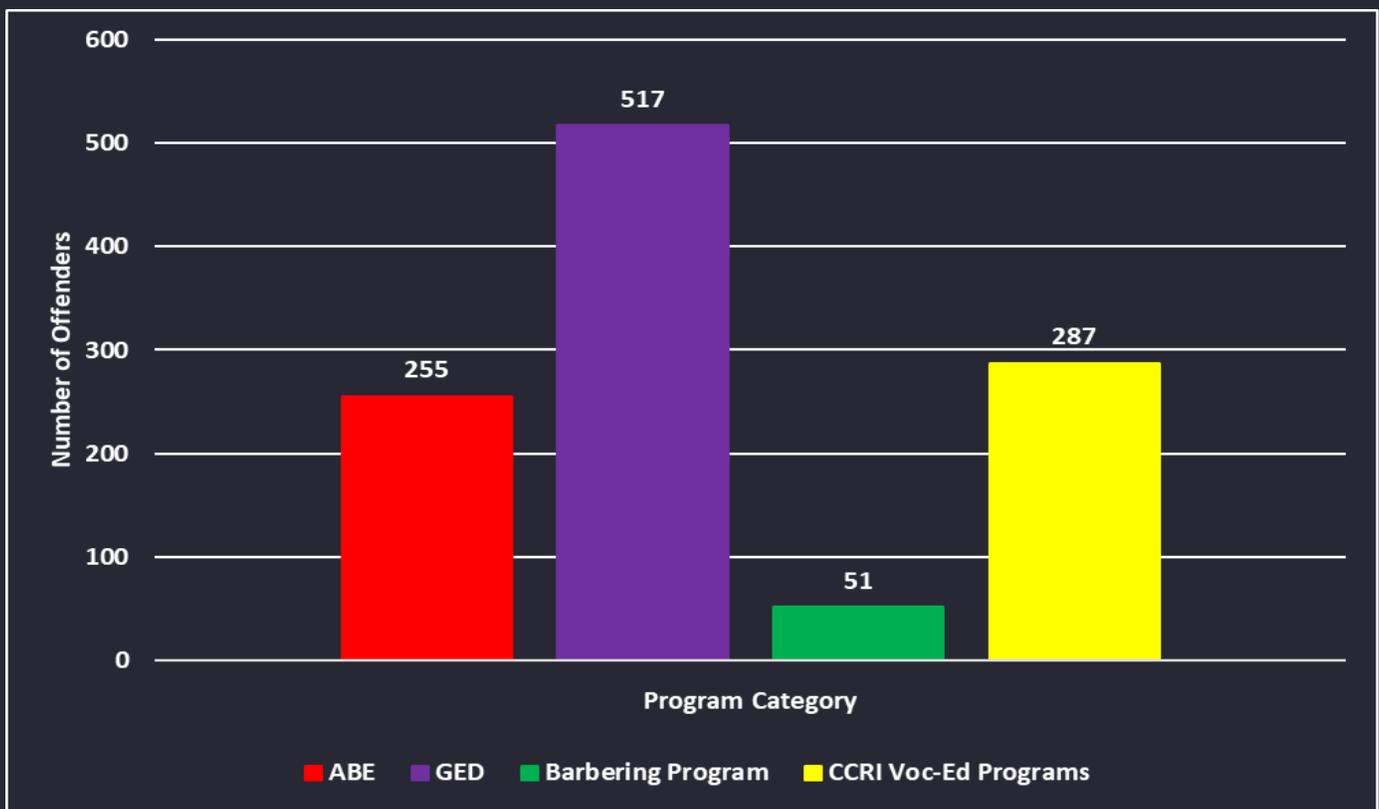
⇒ The vast majority of the adult population supervised by Community Corrections reside in the following cities in Rhode Island: of Providence (32.4%), Pawtucket (11.6%), or Woonsocket (8.2%).¹

¹Please note that the map above only includes data on offenders who reside in a city/town within Rhode Island (it excludes those who live out-of-state and those who have an unknown residence).

Improving Post-Release Employment Outcomes



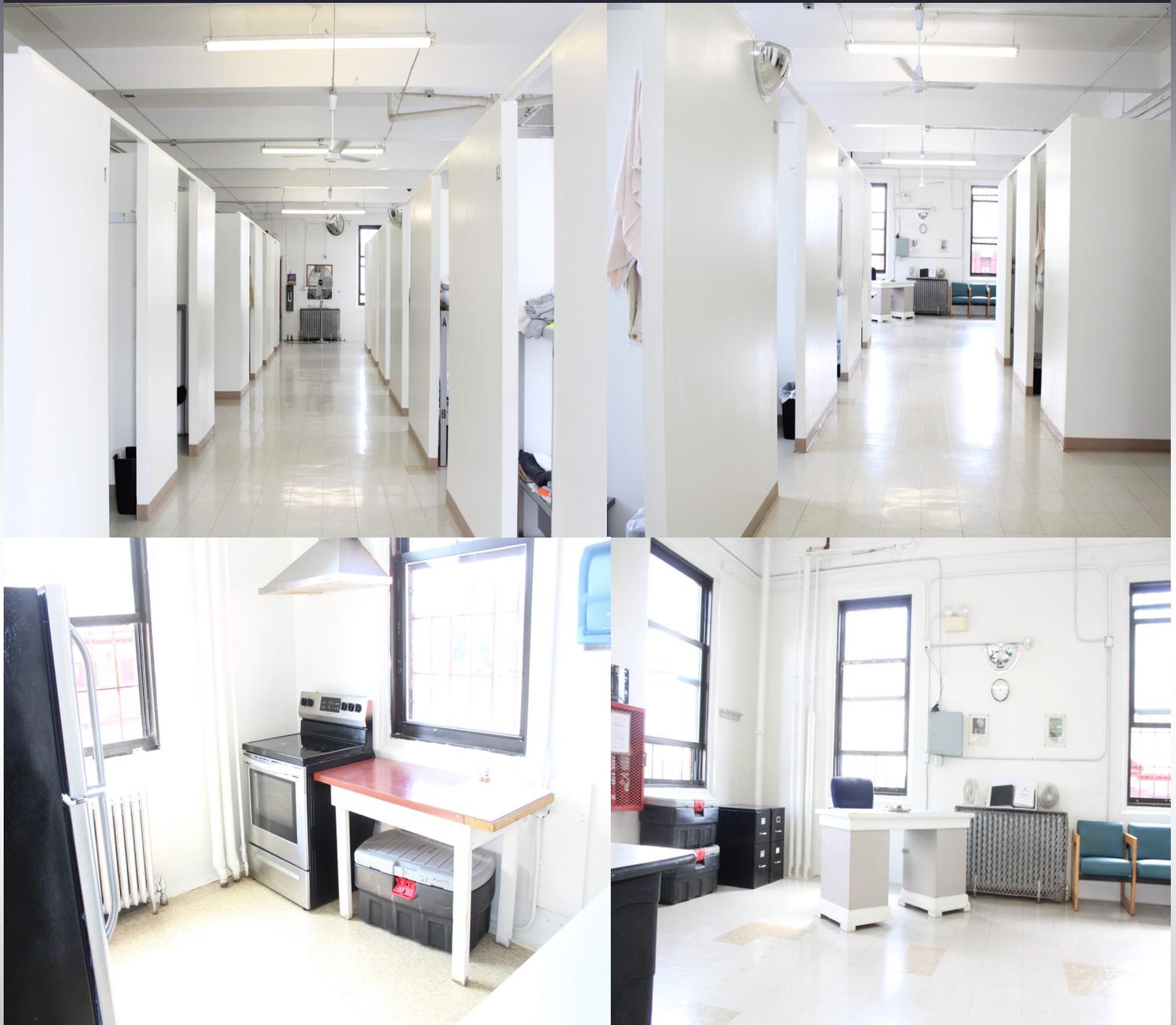
FY19 Program Enrollment Figures



RIDOC continues to work towards offering a wide-range of educational programs which enhance skill sets aimed at improving post-release employment outcomes for our offender population. The bar graph (shown above) provides an excellent illustration of the multitude of offenders that are involved with the following programs: Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), Barbering, and Community College of Rhode Island Vocational Education (CCRI Voc-Education).¹

Offenders are eligible to obtain certificates upon successful completion of ABE, GED, and CCRI Voc-Education programs. The Barbering program is unique in that it gives offenders the opportunity to take the Rhode Island Barbering Licensing Exam. Similarly, certain program offerings found under CCRI Voc-Education category (such as 'Food Safety Handler ServSafe') provide offenders with the opportunity to obtain a valuable certificate which is useful when seeking employment in the restaurant industry. In addition, RIDOC offers Voc-Education programs which provide training in other employment sectors such as Construction & Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

Improving Community Reintegration



In 2018, under Warden Carole Dwyer, RIDOC expanded the Work Release Unit in Minimum Security to include 24 beds. This Unit is unique in that it was constructed by offenders utilizing construction as well as plastering and drywall skills obtained via Community College of Rhode Island's Vocational-Education (CCRI Voc-Education) course offerings. Offenders are afforded the opportunity to work in the community during the day. This unit allows offenders to travel to grocery stores, purchase and cook their own meals, and to wash and dry their own laundry.

Innovations in Training

Core Correctional Practices

Core Correctional Practices introduces RIDOC staff to Motivational Interviewing and Brief Intervention Tools, which are aimed to enhance offender management skills by reducing risk among its population. In 2018, RIDOC received additional training from The Carey Group in Four Core Competencies aimed at facilitating change in offender behavior. The Four Core Competencies are outlined below:

1. Building Professional Alliance

- Enhances effective communication between staff and offenders while improving the overall safety of each facility.

2. Engaging in Skill Practice

- Addresses common skill deficits by working on areas such as problem solving, impulse control, and conflict resolution.

3. Effective Case Planning and Management

- Using assessments to identify criminogenic needs and addressing these areas by utilizing evidence-based practices.

4. Appropriately Using Rewards & Responses to Noncompliance

- Using a system that consistently responds to noncompliance helps offenders understand the connection between their actions and consequences.



Importance of Risk/Needs Assessment

Core stresses the importance of utilizing evidence-based supervision practices to successfully target criminogenic needs. Implementing risk/need screening tools and assessments to identify an offenders' likelihood of reoffending is paramount to successful rehabilitation and community-based reintegration. RIDOC utilizes The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), a 54-item empirically supported instrument that quantifies offender's likelihood of reoffending across 10 domains; criminal history, education/employment, financial, family/marital, accommodation, leisure/recreation, companions, alcohol/drug problem, emotional/personal, and attitudes/orientation. Similar assessments, such as the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA), incorporate specialized criteria to analyze specific subsets of the offender populations. The results of these assessments are incorporated into an offenders' unique case management plan, where trained RIDOC staff work to reduce the probability of recidivism post-release.

Interagency Collaboration

Establishing the Juvenile & Criminal Justice Working Group

RIDOC is proud to highlight that on August 7th, 2019, Governor Gina Raimondo signed Executive Order 19-08, establishing the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Working Group. Building upon Justice Reinvestment Legislation signed under her first term as Governor, this order calls for a review of the state's juvenile and adult criminal justice systems through the creation of two defined sub-committees. The juvenile sub-committee will focus on factors that lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system while the adult sub-committee will focus on reentry and issues offenders face as barriers to successful reintegration following discharge from incarceration or completion of community-based supervision. The review will include looking for innovative ways to enhance housing, employment, and educational opportunities. Both sub-committees will also focus on the impact behavioral and mental health plays in the justice-involved population.

