

# Rhode Island Department of Corrections

## Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Population Report

September 2020



**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.

## Table of Contents

- ⇒ Message from the Director: P. 2
- ⇒ Overview of Facilities: P. 4
- ⇒ Organizational Structure and Units: P. 6
- ⇒ Total Population Trends: P. 8
- ⇒ RIDOC's Response to COVID-19: P. 10
- ⇒ Offender Characteristics: P. 12
- ⇒ Pretrial Population: P. 15
- ⇒ Sentenced Population Statistics: P. 16
- ⇒ Current Population & Future Projections: P. 19
- ⇒ Release Statistics: P. 21
- ⇒ Community Corrections: P. 23
- ⇒ Improving Post-Release Outcomes: P. 24

# 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 2020. 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 by addressing their unique criminogenic risk factors. 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 key highlights of this year's report include:

- ⇒ RIDOC's total average population is at the lowest levels seen in at least sixteen years.
- ⇒ RIDOC's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ⇒ JFA Associates Projection: Rhode Island prison population will increase by about twenty-one percent over the next decade, with a projected FY31 total average population of 2,747.

RIDOC's long standing commitment of offering institutional courses and programs are aimed at enhancing offenders' level of education to improve post-release employment outcomes. 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 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.

**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.

**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 when 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, 2020.

**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, 2019 through June 30, 2020 (FY2020).

**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, 2019 through June 30, 2020 (FY2020).

**Operational Capacity:** Refers to the number of offenders that RIDOC can safely accommodate based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services. RIDOC's Operational Capacity is calculated utilizing the following formula: All beds minus Hospital Beds plus 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 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:

### Anthony P. Trivisono Facility

Opened: 1982 - Expanded: 1992 -  
Renovated: 1995  
Average Facility Population: 824 (FY20)  
Operational Capacity: 1,120 (FY20)  
Annual Cost per Offender: \$69,357

## Minimum Security:

Opened: 1978 - Expanded: 1989 & 1992  
Average Facility Population: 199 (FY20)  
Operational Capacity: 708 (FY20)  
Annual Cost per Offender: \$114,486

## Medium Security:

### John J. Moran Facility

Opened: 1992  
Average Facility Population: 905 (FY20)  
Operational Capacity: 1,126 (FY20)  
Annual Cost per Offender: \$68,006



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 9203 commitments in FY20, approximately 767 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 27 days (see graph on p.15 for further details); this translates into a constant turnover of the inmate population. In comparison to FY19, the average facility population at the ISC has decreased by just over 2% through the close of FY20.

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 FY19, the average facility population in Minimum Security has declined by just over 14% through the close of FY20.

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. The Medium Security facility is currently undergoing a 3-phase addition and renovation project that broke ground in October of 2019. Phase 1 includes the addition of a new kitchen, laundry, warehouse maintenance shop, and a new two-story gate house with a new sally port/crib. Phase 2 includes a total renovation of the facilities administrative area and a new inmate committing area. Phase 3 includes a total renovation of the existing kitchen and dining areas to accommodate 3 new dining rooms for increased capacity. In comparison to FY19, the average facility population in Medium Security has declined by just over 6% through the close of FY20.

# Facilities

## Maximum Security:

Opened: 1878

Average Facility Population: 399 (FY20)

Operational Capacity: 426 (FY20)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$84,626



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 FY19, the average facility population in Maximum Security increased by just over 1% through the close of FY20.

## High Security:

Opened: 1981

Average Facility Population: 87 (FY20)

Operational Capacity: 138 (FY20)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$199,847



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 FY19, the inmate population increased by just over 1% through the close of FY20.

## Women's Division:

### Gloria McDonald Building & Bernadette Building

Average Women's Division Population: 130 (FY20)

Operational Capacity: 187 (FY20: GM); 100 (FY20: Bernadette)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$133,439

The Women's Facilities (WOM) house awaiting trial offenders and three



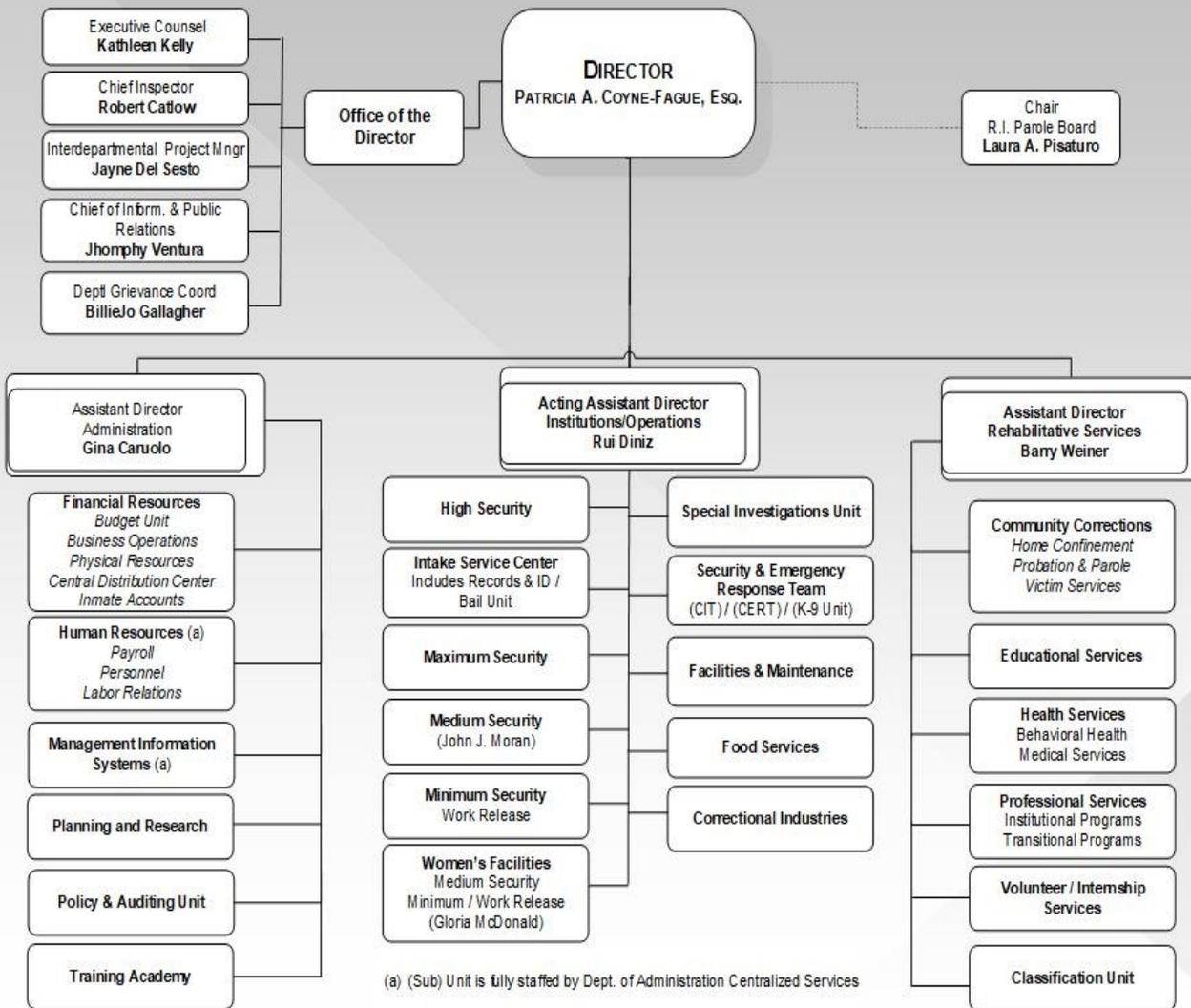
classification levels (medium, minimum, and work release) used to be housed in two separate buildings. In late 2010 and 2011, facilities housing these offenders (referenced in previous reports as the GM and DIX buildings) were closed to the inmate population. The

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 late FY20, RIDOC utilized the Bernadette Building to house sentenced offenders in order to promote social distancing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Women's Facility 1 has an inmate bed capacity of 211 and Women's Facility 2 has an inmate bed capacity of 100. In comparison to FY19, the average facility population in Women's Facility 1 decreased by just over 11% through the close of FY20.



# 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**

**Acting Assistant Director**

**Rui Diniz**

The Assistant Director of Institutions & Operations Division, Matthew Kettle, recently retired from RIDOC after 31 years of service. 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**

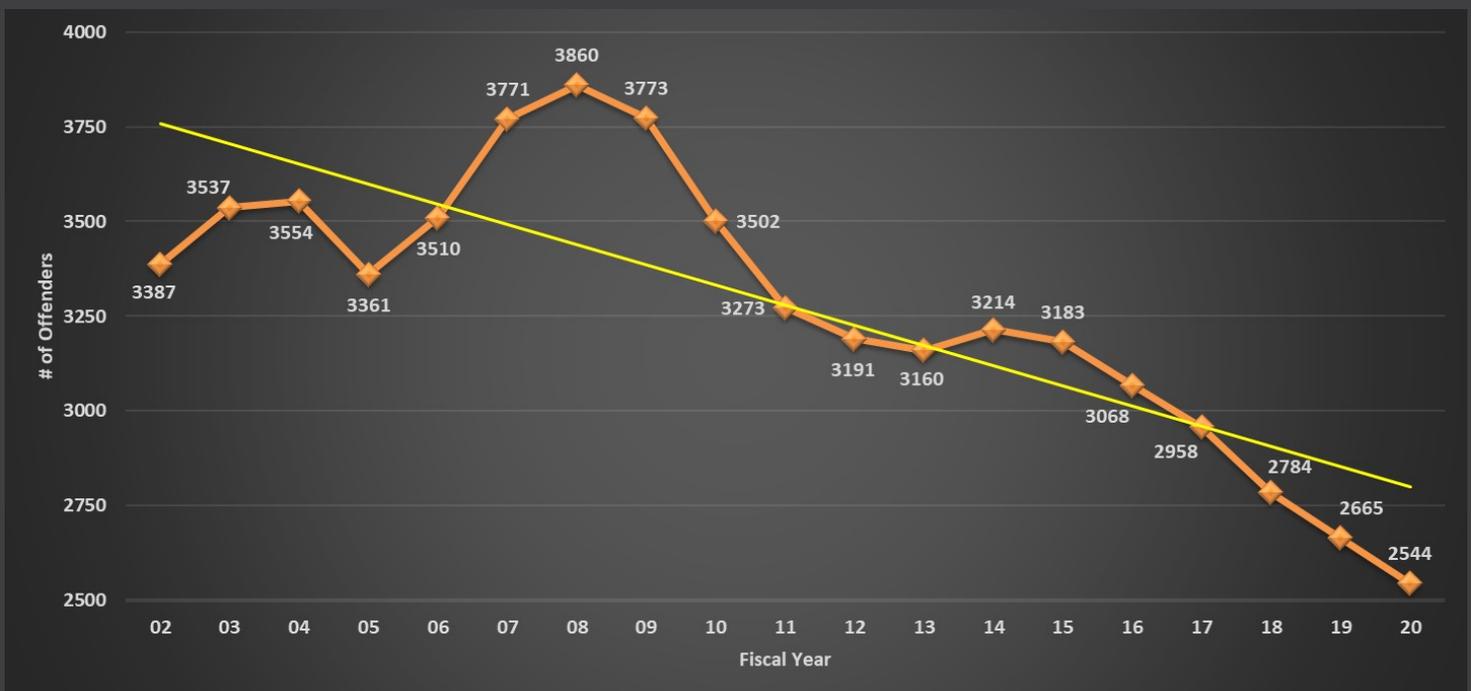
**Barry Weiner**

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 while incarcerated to end criminal and anti-social behavior, 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 FY20



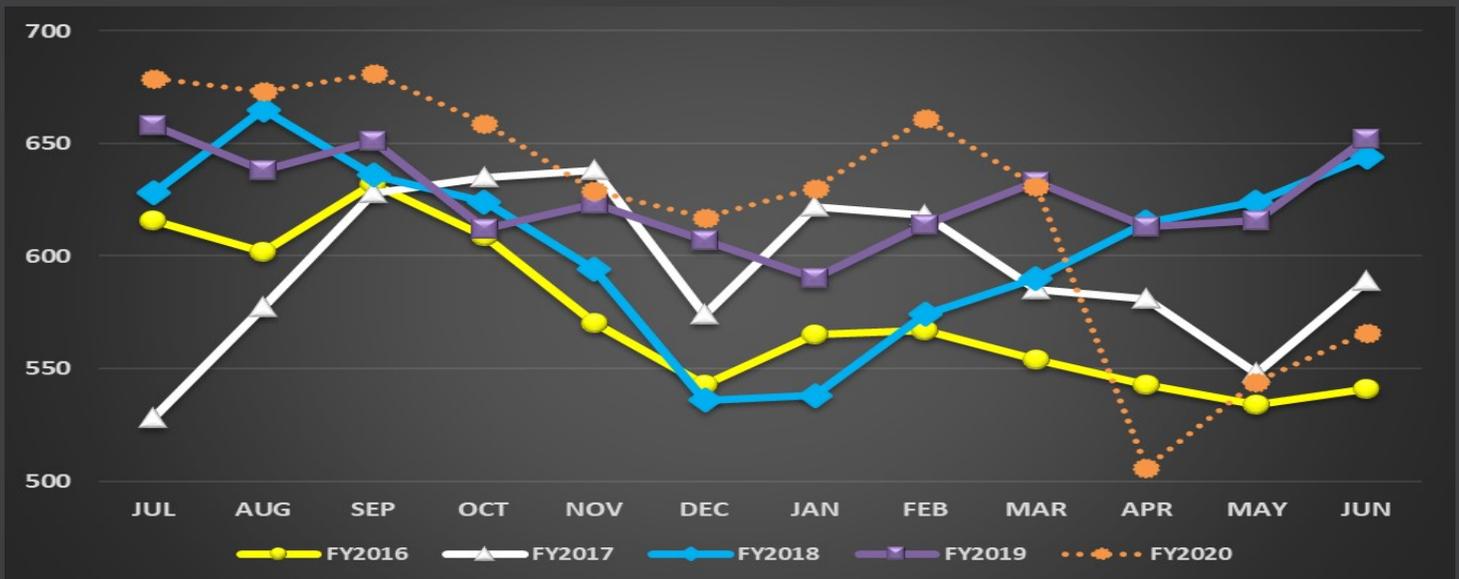
As was the trend nationally, Rhode Island continued marked growth in its total prison population between 2002 and 2008. The sharpest increase was between FY05 and FY08, when the population grew 14.8%. The population has seen a steady decline and fell by nearly 34% from FY08 through the end of FY20. In RI, 158 out of every 100,000 residents are imprisoned, while nationally 431 out of 100,000 US residents are incarcerated (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2018*), which makes Rhode Island third lowest in the nation in terms of the rate of incarceration.

Implementing evidence-based practices aimed at addressing an offenders' unique criminogenic-risk factors pre-release played a critical role in reducing RIDOC's total population. Programs and services are tailored to promote successful offender outcomes by diagnosing and treating offenders with mental illness, serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI), as well as chronic underlying substance/drug abuse. Rehabilitative efforts work seamlessly across the Department to provide a transformative offender experience.

For an historical look at the RIDOC population, please see the Report of the RI Correctional Population FY76-FY16, which is available on RIDOC's website at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov).

# Fiscal Year Population Trends FY2016-FY2020

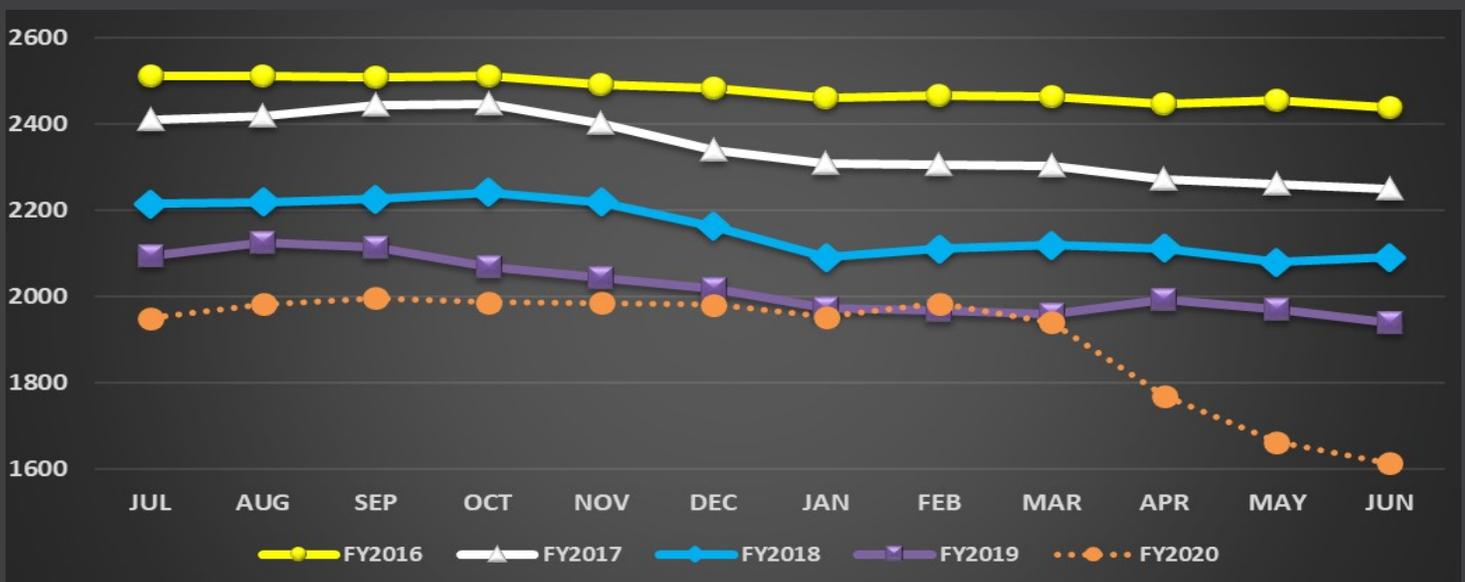
## Awaiting Trial Population



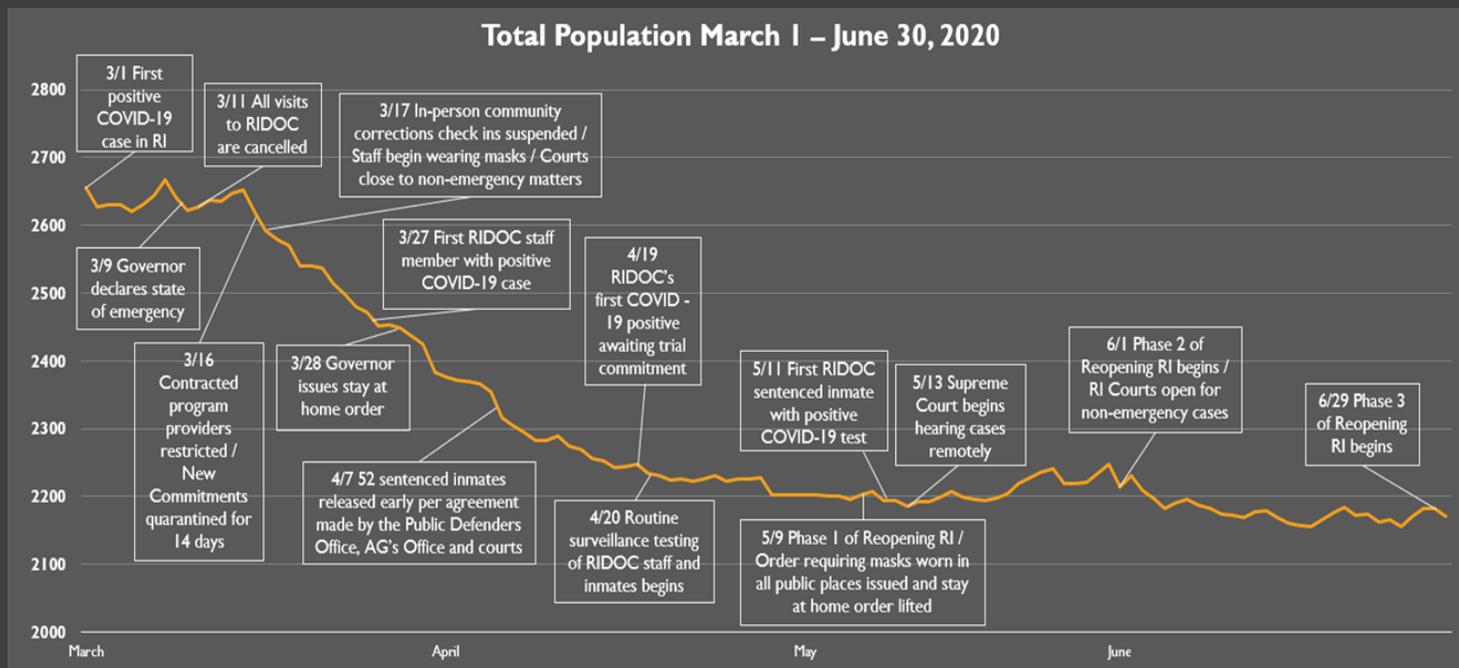
The RIDOC saw a slight decrease in the average sentenced population (-6.0%) and a marginal decrease in the average awaiting trial population (-0.5%) in FY20 compared to FY19. There was an overall decrease of 121 offenders (-4.5%) from start to close of FY20 (July 2019 to June 2020). The impact of COVID-19 on RIDOC's offender population is depicted in the line graphs (shown above and below):

- From February 2020 through April 2020, RIDOC saw a significant decrease of 155 offenders (-23.4%) in the average awaiting trial population.
- From February 2020 through June 2020, RIDOC saw a moderate decrease of 370 offenders (-18.6%) in the average sentenced population.

## Sentenced Population



# RIDOC's Response to COVID-19



Under the leadership of Medical Program Director Dr. Jennifer Clarke, RIDOC is working tirelessly to provide round-the-clock surveillance testing of the offender and staff population. RIDOC's Planning and Research Unit plays an integral role by providing offender rosters to the Health Care Services Unit. Institutions and Operations plays a vital role by ensuring that all established protocols issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are maintained to guarantee the health and safety of all offenders and staff.

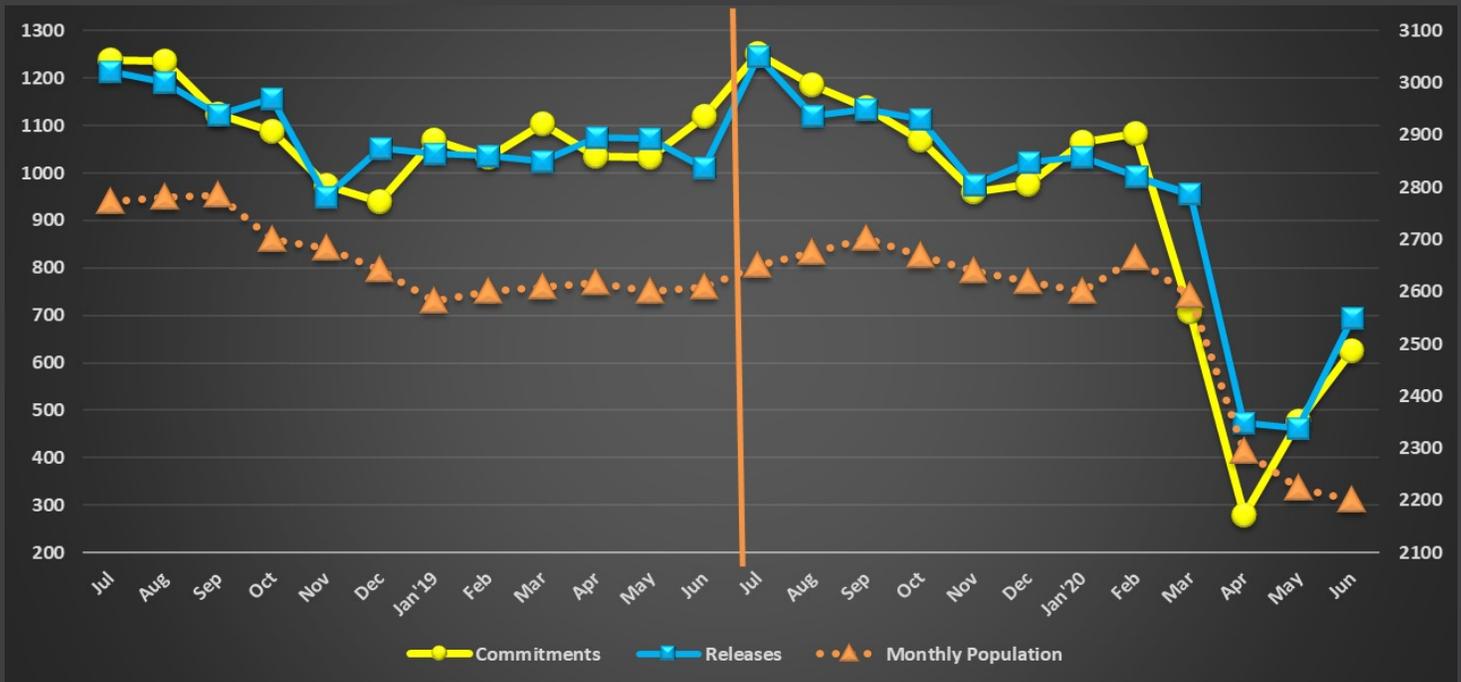
The line graph (shown above) highlights the impact of COVID-19 on RIDOC's total population, with a detailed timeline of events as an overlay:

- From March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, RIDOC's total population declined by 17.9% (479 offenders).
- On March 9, 2020, Governor Gina Raimondo declared a state of emergency in Rhode Island.
- On March 11, 2020, all visits to RIDOC offenders were cancelled.
- On March 16, 2020, all new commitments to RIDOC were quarantined for 14 days and contracted program providers were restricted from entering RIDOC Facilities.
- On March 17, 2020, in-person Community Corrections check-ins were suspended.
- On March 17, 2020, RI Courts closed to all non-emergency matters.
- On March 28, 2020, Governor Gina Raimondo enacted a 'stay at home order'.
- On April 7, 2020, 52 non-violent sentenced offenders were released early from RIDOC<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>RIDOC worked in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office and the Public Defender's Office to secure the court-ordered early release of 52 non-violent sentenced offenders who were within 90 days off of their good time date. The first group of 28 offenders were released on April 7, 2020. In the two weeks that followed, an additional 24 offenders were released.

# 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 the number of new commitments and length of stay.

In RI, commitments were fairly steady from July 2018 through February of 2020, with seasonal fluctuations resulting in an increase in commitments in the summer months and a decrease in the winter months. The steady trend quickly changed as the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in a significant decline in commitments to RIDOC.

From February, 2020 through April, 2020:

- Total commitments to RIDOC declined by 74.3% (805).
- Awaiting trial commitments declined by 72.7% (590).
- Sentenced commitments declined by 76.8% (189).
- Civil purge commitments declined by 96.3% (26).

RIDOC's total commitments have declined by 16.7% (2,174) from FY19 through FY20.

Fiscal Year 2020	# Commitments	+/- Change
July	1251	+11.7%
August	1185	-5.3%
September	1138	-4.0%
October	1070	-6.0%
November	960	-10.3%
December	976	+1.7%
January	1065	+9.1%
February	1084	+1.8%
March	707	-34.8%
April	279	-60.5%
May	478	+71.3%
June	626	+31.0%

# Offender Characteristics

## Characteristics of a Typical RIDOC Sentenced Offender as of June 30, 2020

### Male Sentenced Offenders

- ◆ Twenty-one percent (21%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY20.
- ◆ Five percent (5%) entered prison as parole violators in FY20.
- ◆ The majority are white (39%) & single (74%).
- ◆ About half (52%) have a high school diploma or GED, thirty-five percent (35%) have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional ten percent (10%) have completed some college.
- ◆ Fifty-five percent (55%) are fathers; the average number of children is 2.
- ◆ Fifty-one percent (51%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ The average age was 39 years old, with a range of 18 to 89 years old.

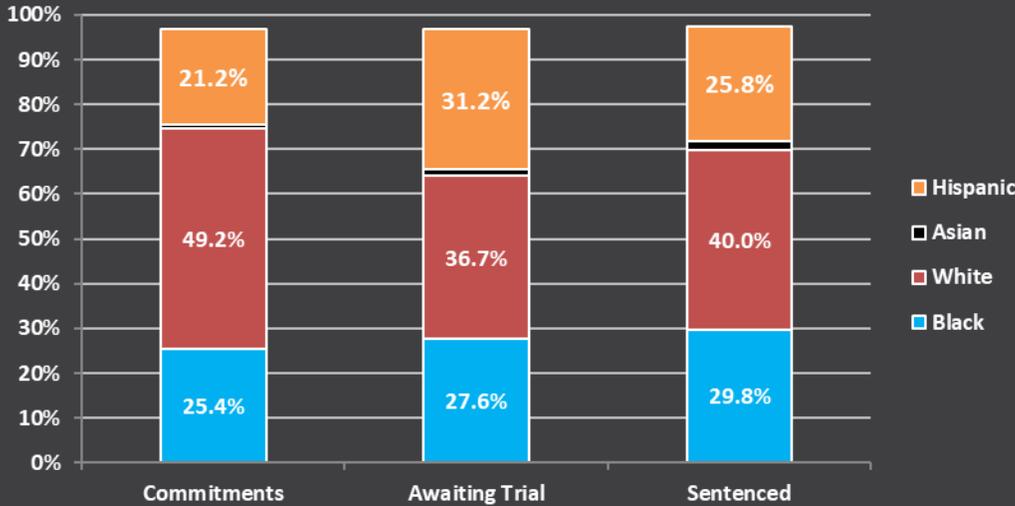
### Female Sentenced Offenders

- ◆ Thirteen percent (13%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY20.
- ◆ Two percent (2%) entered prison as parole violators in FY20.
- ◆ The majority are white (59%) & single (74%).
- ◆ Forty-two percent (42%) have a high school diploma or GED, twenty-three percent (23%) have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional twenty-eight percent (28%) have completed some college.
- ◆ Fifty-five percent (55%) are mothers; the average number of children is 2.
- ◆ Sixty-six percent (66%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ The average age was 37 years old, with a range of 20 to 78 years old.

# Offender Characteristics

The charts on the following pages\* contain all offenders committed to RIDOC (sentenced & pre-trial) over FY20. The stock population on June 30, 2020, was used to represent awaiting trial and sentenced offenders.

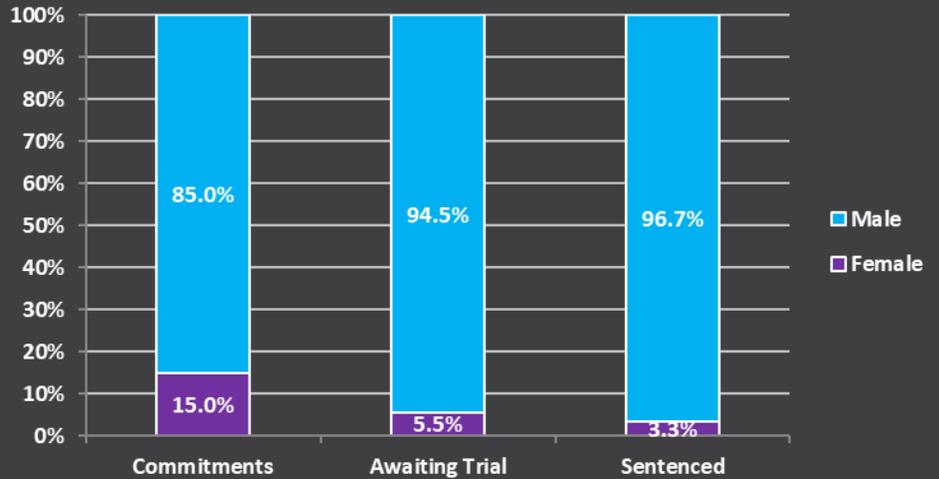
### Inmate Race by Status



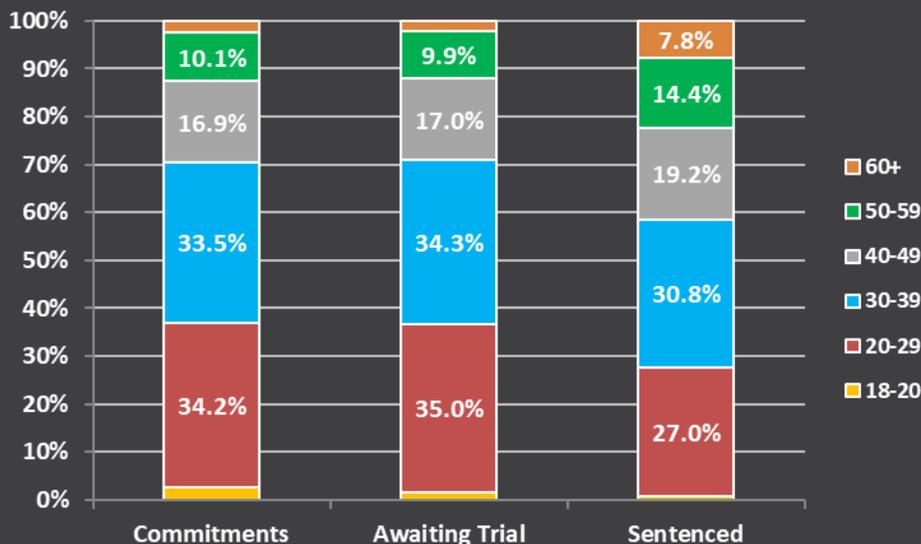
The vast majority of commitments and sentenced offenders are white, followed by black and Hispanic. The vast majority of awaiting trial offenders are white, followed by Hispanic and black. Offenders who identify themselves as Asian, Native American, other, or their race is unknown make up less than 5% of the population for each category of offenders.

Males make up most (85%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 15%. Males also make up the majority (94.5%) of RIDOC's awaiting trial population, while females make up just 5.5%. Males account for 96.7% of RIDOC's sentenced population, while females make up only 3.3%.

### Inmate Sex by Status



### Inmate Age by Status

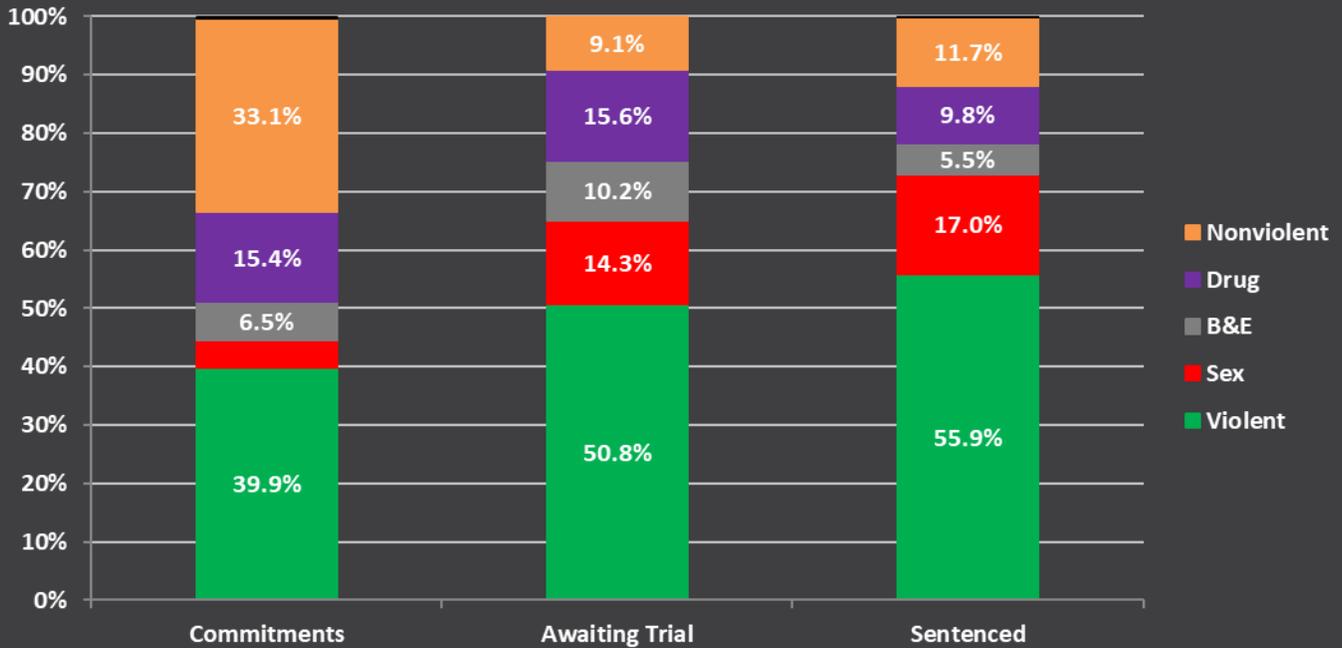


Nearly two-thirds of all RIDOC offenders are between the ages of 20-39. The median age of RIDOC sentenced offenders for both males and females is 36. For pre-trial offenders, males have a median age of 33 and females have a median age of 31.

\*Please note any value less than 5% will not be labeled in the graphs on pages 13-17.

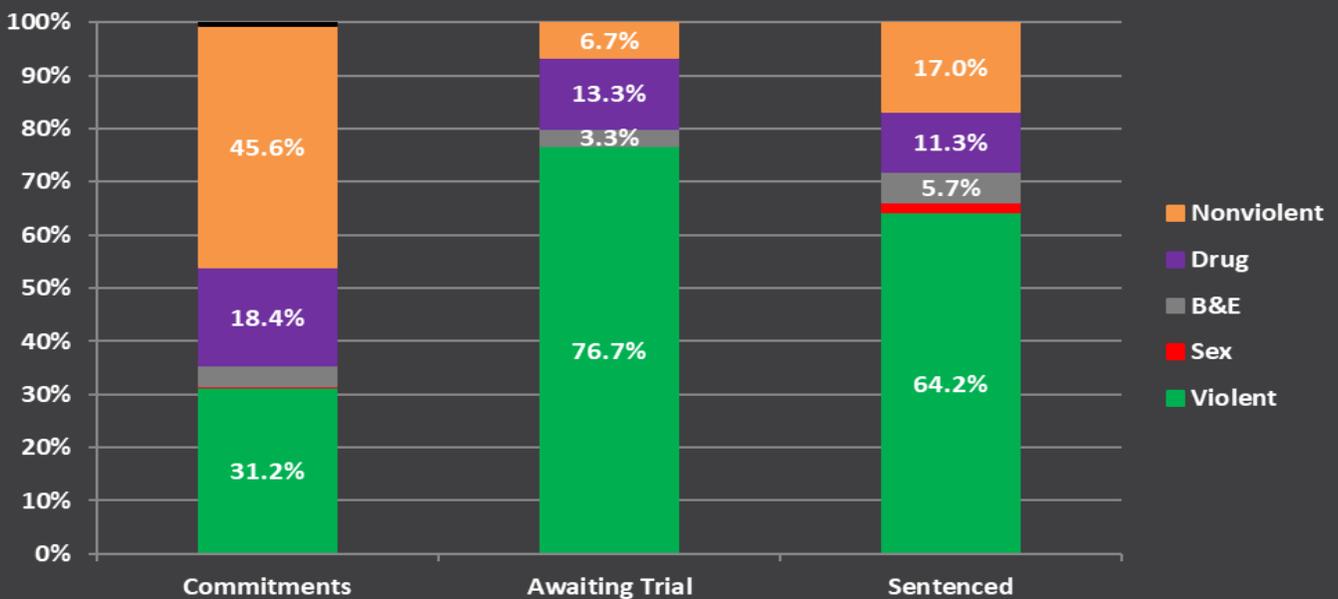
# Offender Characteristics

## Offense Type by Status - Male Population



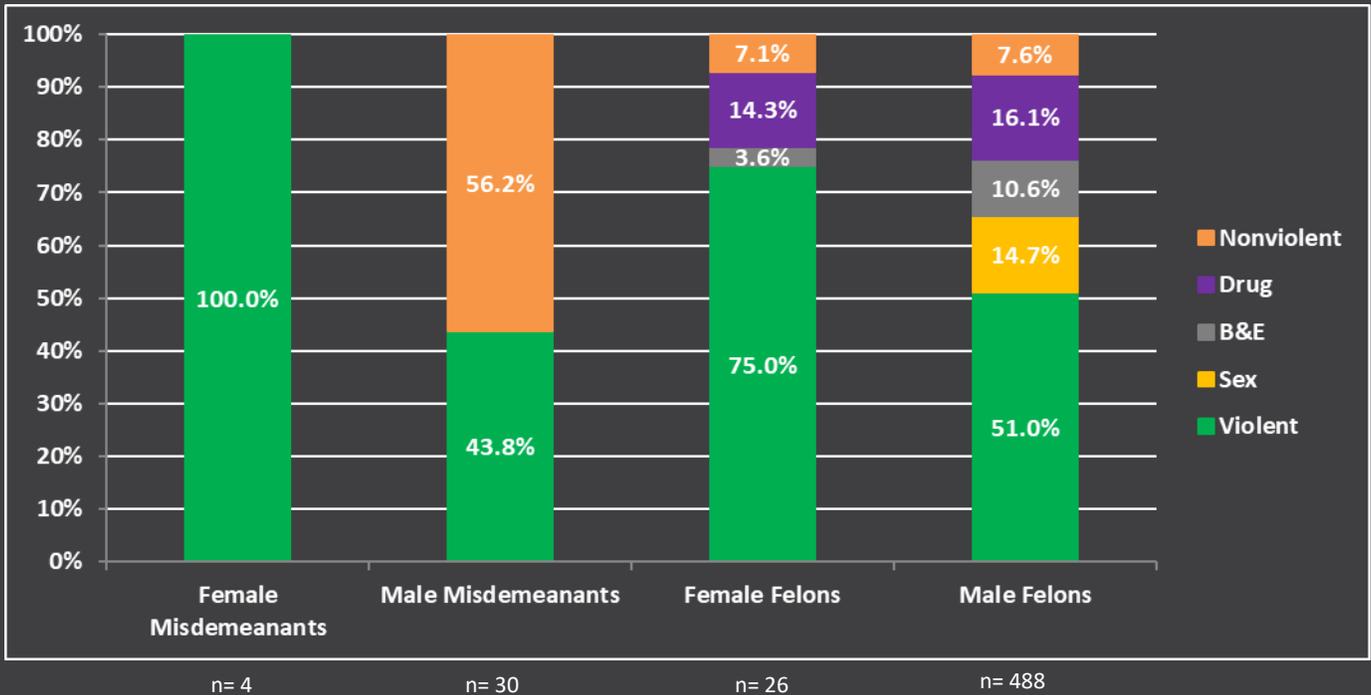
Males and females tend to be involved in different crimes. Thirty-three percent (33.1%) of male commitments are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, while just under forty-six percent (45.6%) of the female commitments are incarcerated for similar offenses. Just over one third of the male population (39.9%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes, while about 31.2% of females are incarcerated for similar violent crimes. The reverse trend is evident in the sentenced stock population, where violent crimes make up more than half of males (55.9%) and 64.2% for females. Of the 243 offenders serving a life sentence in RIDOC’s jurisdictional population, 211 are serving life while 32 are serving life without parole. RIDOC’s sentenced population includes 218 offenders serving a life sentence, of which 189 are serving life and 29 are serving life without parole.

## Offense Type by Status - Female Population



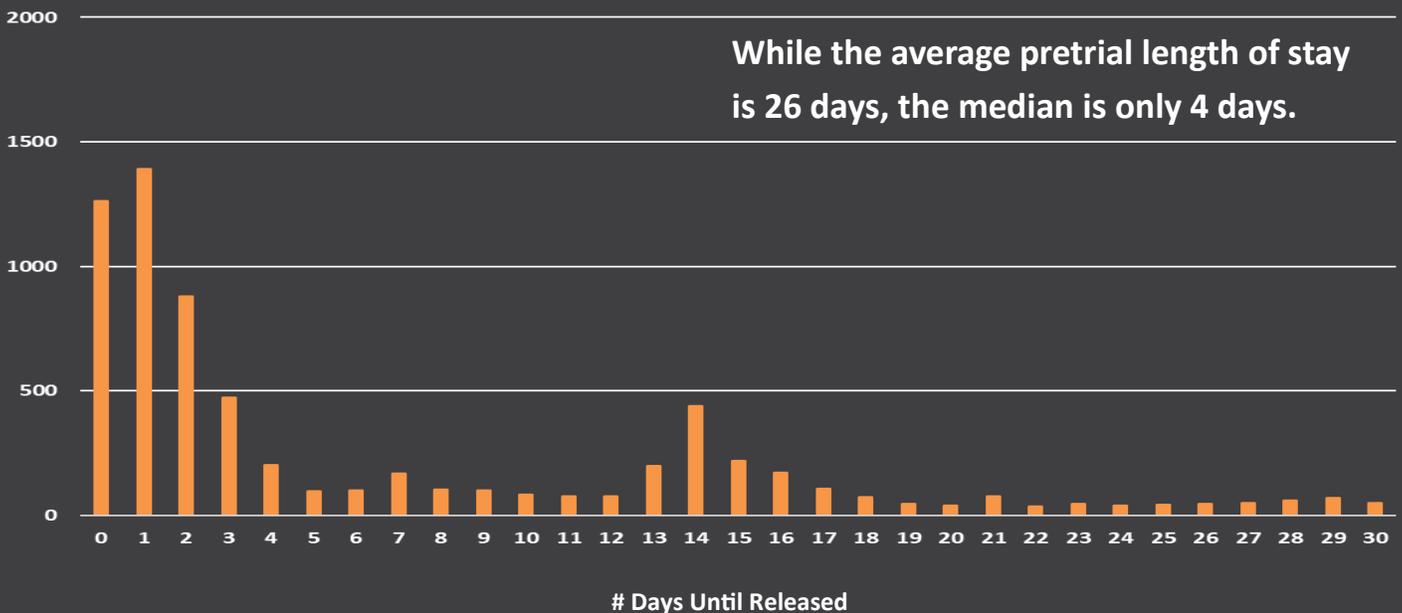
# Pre-trial Statistics

Pre-Trial Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type  
Stock Data - June 30, 2020 (N=548)



The most common offenses for male and female misdemeanants in the awaiting trial population was domestic assault. Males convicted of felonies were most frequently imprisoned for manual delivery of a controlled substance, felony assault, or an offense related to Breaking & Entering (B&E). Females convicted of felonies were most frequently imprisoned for first degree murder, felony assault, or felony domestic assault.

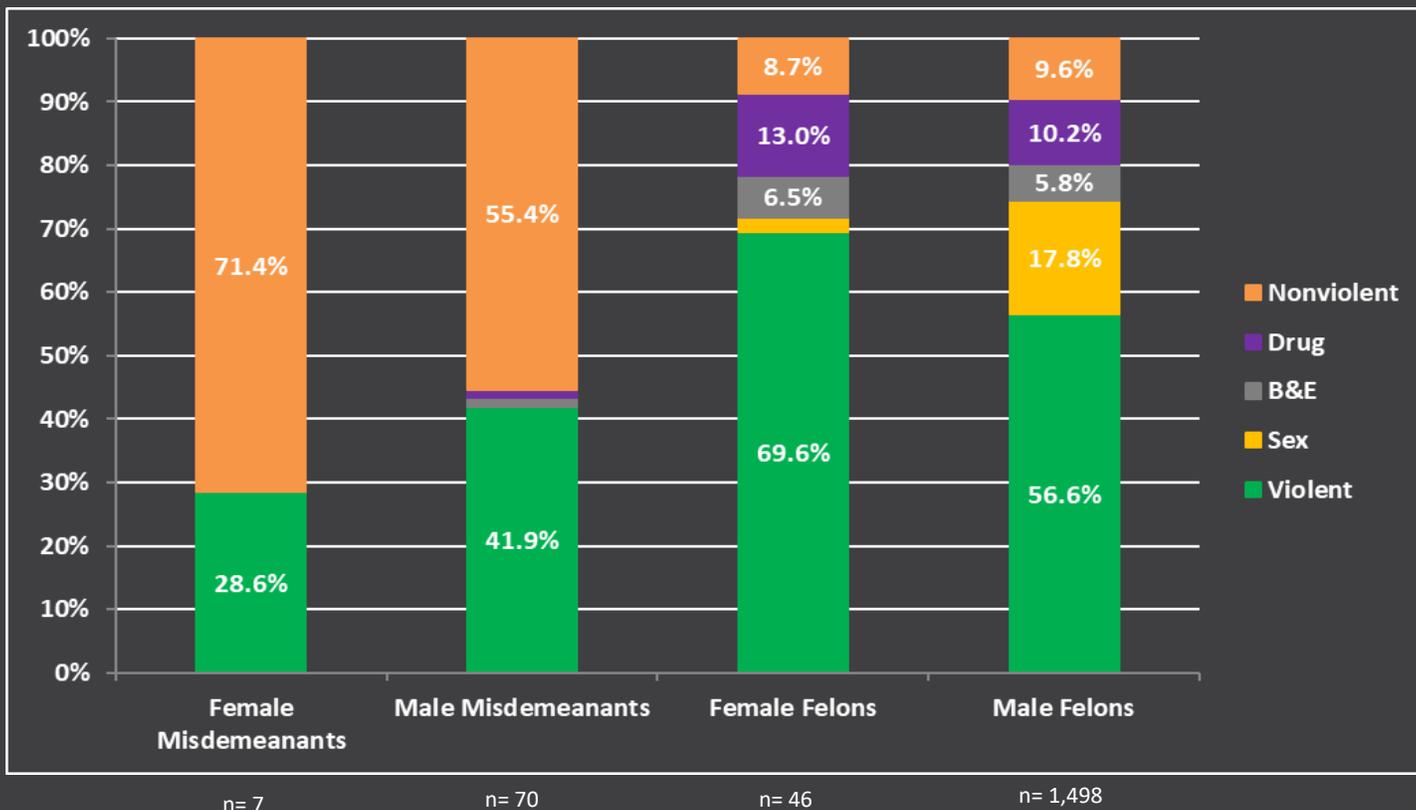
## Average Length of Stay for FY20



\*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, 2020 (N=1,621)



RIDOC's sentenced stock population has declined by nearly 17.2% (336 offenders) from this same time last year (June 30, 2019).

For the female sentenced population, the most common misdemeanor offenses were:

- Domestic assault (28.6%).
- Shoplifting (28.6%).

In addition, the most common felony offenses included:

- Second degree murder (19.6%).
- First degree robbery (10.9%).
- Manslaughter (8.7%).
- Driving under the influence death resulting (8.7%).

For the male sentenced population, the most common misdemeanor offenses were:

- Domestic assault (18.9%).
- Simple assault/battery (10.8%).

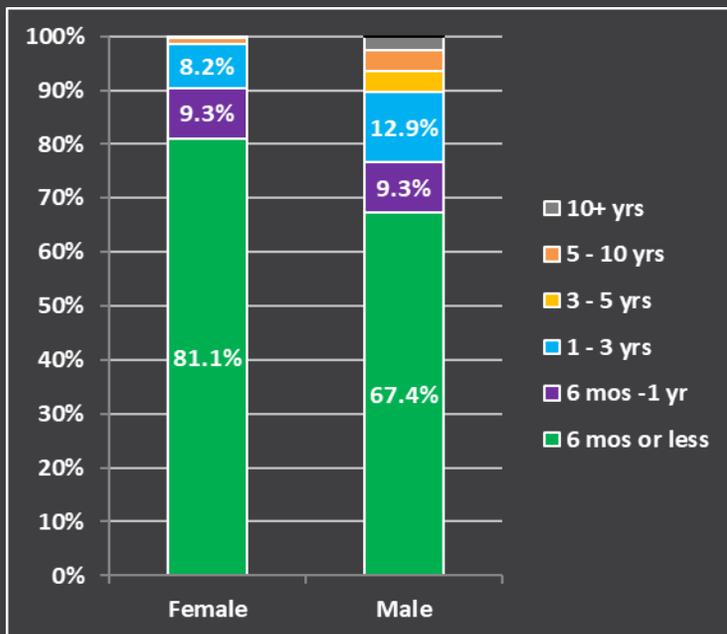
In addition, the most common felony offenses included:

- First degree murder (10.3%).
- First degree child molestation (7.5%).
- Manual delivery of a controlled substance (7.5%).
- Felony assault (7.4%).

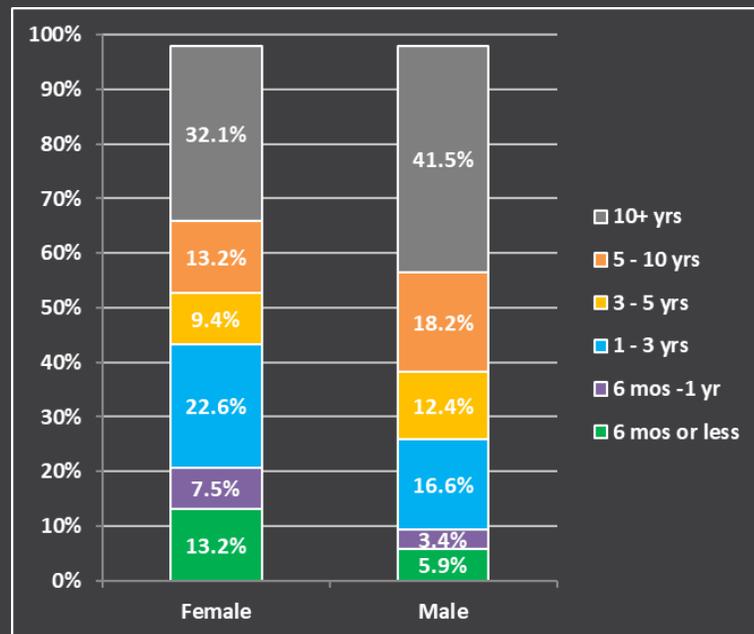
\*Please note that sentenced stock data only includes those offenders who are held in RIDOC Facilities'. It excludes those who are serving a R.I. sentence out-of-state according to interstate compact, at the Eleanor Slater Hospital Forensic Unit, or who are on home confinement. In addition, sentenced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

# Sentenced Statistics

**Sentenced Commitments**  
Sentence Length by Sex  
FY2020



**Sentenced Stock Population**  
Sentence Length by Sex  
June 30, 2020



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, 2020.<sup>1</sup> For example, even though only about 89.6% 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	2.36	70.32	1.6	42.46	2.3	68.57
Sex	4.68	61.82			4.68	61.82
B&E	3.58	34.9		12.27	3.58	33.74
Drug	3.65	33.5	3.93	15.16	3.69	32.63
Nonviolent	2.1	24.78	1.73	14.62	2.04	23.56
Subtotal	3.27	45.06	2.42	21.13	3.26	44.06
<b>Average Total Sentence Length = 23.7 months</b>						

The above table displays the average length of sentence imposed on sentenced commitments in FY2020. 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).

<sup>1</sup> Please note that "Male" & "Female" columns of the Sentence Stock Population graph doesn't add to 100% because it excludes 2.2% of males and 1.9% of females who were out of state inmates.

# 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. 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.

**Average Percentage of Time Served by Sentence Lengths for Offenders Expiring a Sentence<sup>2</sup>**

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	Percent Change FY08- FY20
3 months or less	99%	91%	91%	90%	92%	91%	92%	93%	94%	93%	93%	93%	94%	-5.1%
3 - 6 months	97%	81%	80%	79%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	81%	82%	83%	-14.4%
6 - 9 months	96%	82%	79%	76%	77%	79%	79%	78%	80%	79%	79%	79%	80%	-16.6%
9 months - 1 year	95%	81%	77%	71%	74%	75%	76%	76%	77%	76%	76%	75%	75%	-25.0%
1 - 3 years	93%	83%	76%	69%	69%	69%	71%	73%	72%	74%	69%	69%	70%	-24.7%
3 - 5 years	88%	83%	80%	69%	62%	59%	64%	69%	68%	72%	68%	63%	64%	-27.2%
5 - 7 years	84%	83%	73%	71%	63%	64%	60%	68%	72%	76%	66%	62%	57%	-32.1%
7 - 10 years	79%	79%	79%	69%	51%	50%	58%	61%	69%	69%	60%	61%	57%	-27.8%
Greater than 10 years	76%	75%	76%	63%	61%	53%	60%	70%	65%	67%	64%	56%	60%	-21.0%

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 FY20, there have been significant reductions documented in the amount of time served for offenders serving sentences of:

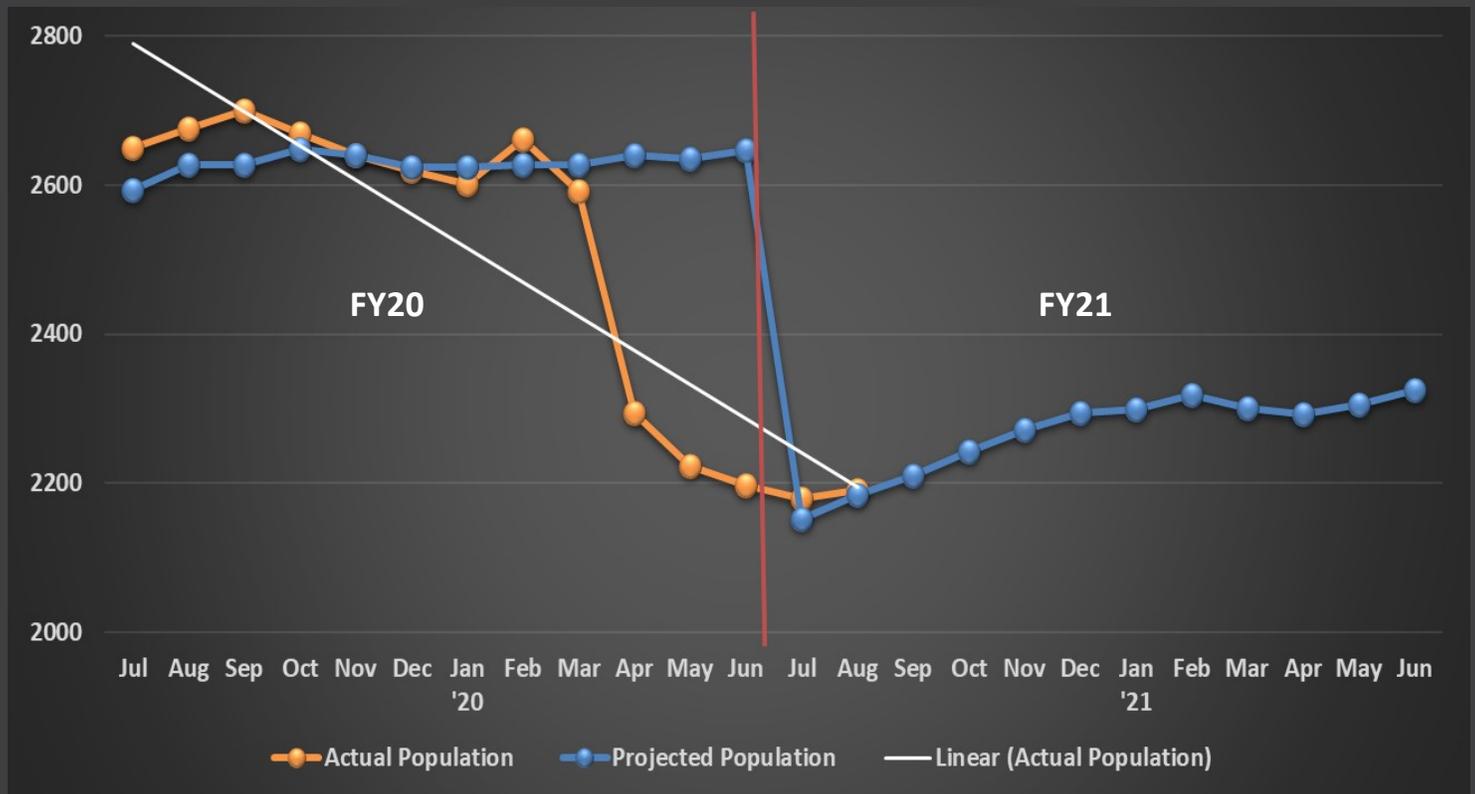
- 9 months to 1 year (-25.0%).
- 1 to 3 years (-24.7%).
- 3 to 5 years (-27.2%).
- 5 to 7 years (-32.1%).

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

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

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

# 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. Please note the sharp deviation depicted above in March 2020 to June 2020's actual versus projected population is due to the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on RIDOC's offender population.

As of the FY21 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 offender population will increase by nearly 22.0% or 366 offenders, at an average annual rate of about 2.0% between fiscal year-end 2021 and fiscal year-end 2031. This projected increase would allow R.I. to remain below both the \*operational (3,805) and \*\*federal (3,989) capacities throughout the 10-year forecast.

Historically, JFA's projection has been very accurate and often predicts the offender population for the following fiscal year within a three to four percent threshold. This projection incorporates the current internal factors, statutes, and practices at RIDOC (e.g., good time and program participation awards) that have an impact on prison admissions and length of stay. These factors may change over time due to legislative or policing changes, rendering the existing prediction void.

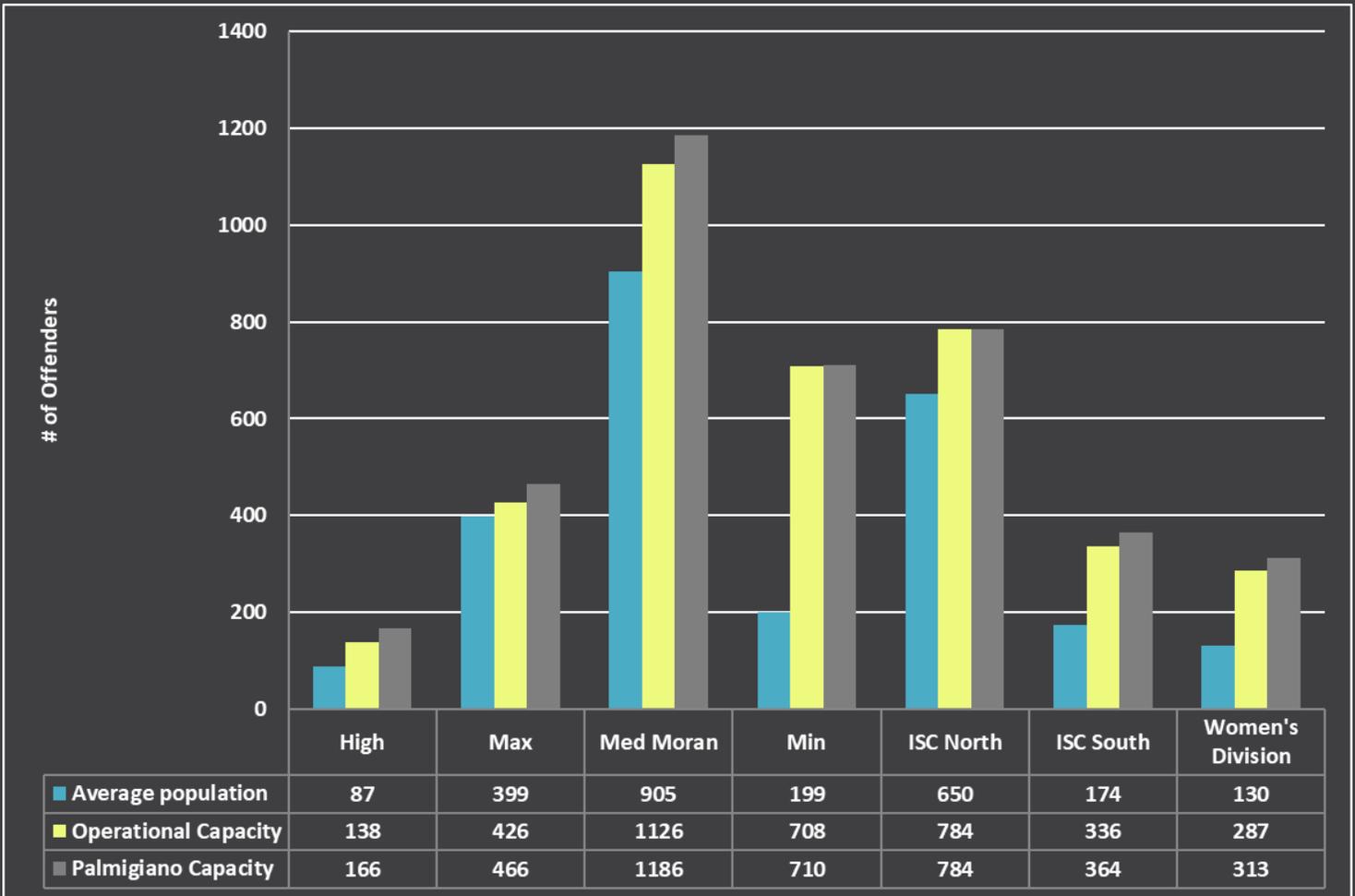
For more information, please see RIDOC's Ten-Year Prison Population Projections Brief FY2021—2031, which will soon be available on RIDOC's website at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov).

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

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

# Institutional Capacities

## Average FY20 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 2020

\*Operational Capacity = 3805

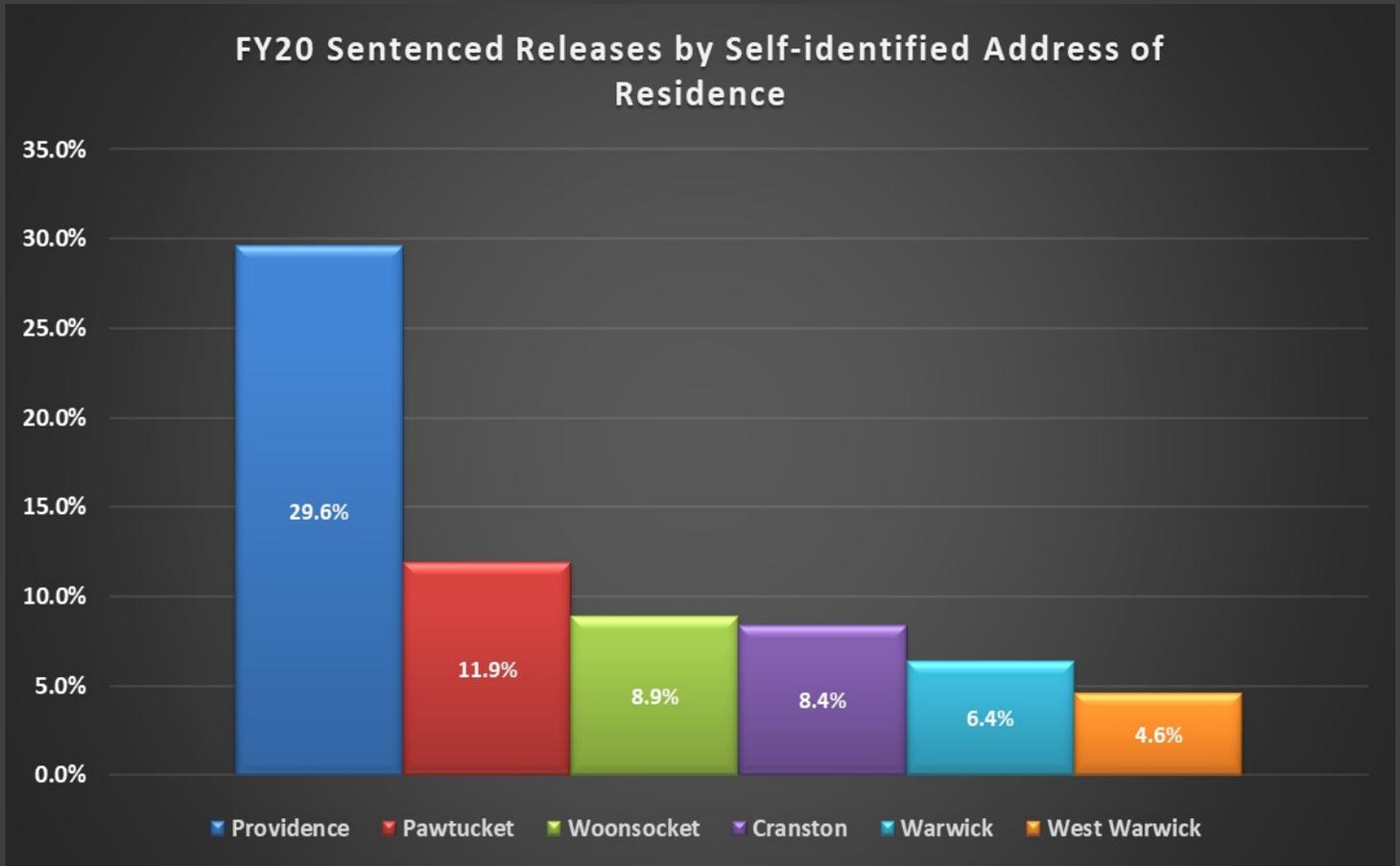
\*\*Palmigiano Capacity = 3989

Average FY20 Population = 2544

# Release Data

**Sentenced Releases:** During FY20 RIDOC processed a total of 2,902 releases. 86% of all releases expired their sentences while 10% were paroled. Nearly 6% of sentenced releases self-reported that they were homeless or had no permanent address.

Of sentenced releases to Rhode Island (shown below) 29.6% reported returning to Providence, with an additional 11.9% returning to Pawtucket, and 8.9% returning to Woonsocket.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 19% reported returning to either Cranston, Warwick, or West Warwick



There were 11 offenders, all males, on active escape status as of 6/30/20. These escapes span from 1979 to 2009.

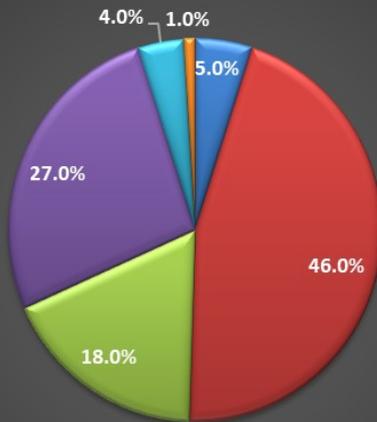
Five (5) of those on active escape status were walkaways from home confinement and six (6) of those on active escape status were from minimum/work release. In FY20, there was 3 male offenders who passed away while in RIDOC custody, of which 2 were sentenced in Medium Security and 1 was held awaiting trial at Intake Service Center.

<sup>1</sup>Please note that the bar chart (shown 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). In addition, sentenced release data on cities/towns that yielded four percent or less have been excluded.

# Release Data

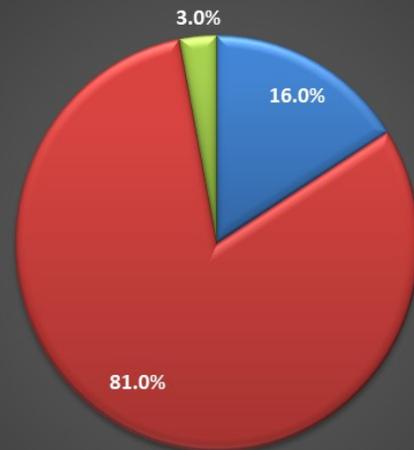
Of all sentenced release events (shown below), about 40% of males were released from Minimum or Medium Security. An additional 41% were released from the Intake Service Center and another 5% were released from Maximum or High Security. Just over 81% of females were released from Women’s Facility 1. An additional 3% of females were released from Women’s Facility 2 & 16% were released from Home Confinement.

### FY20 Male Sentenced Releases



- Home Confinement
- Intake Service Center
- Minimum Security
- Medium Security
- Maximum Security
- High Security

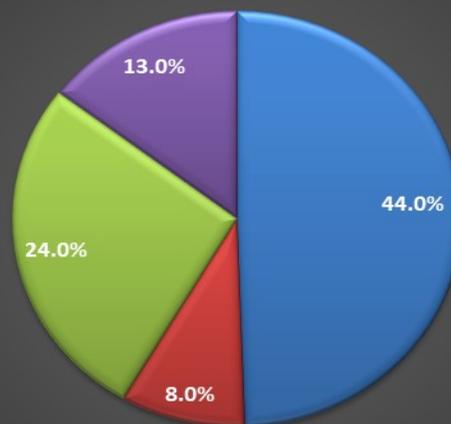
### FY20 Female Sentenced Releases



- Home Confinement
- Women's Facility 1
- Women's Facility 2

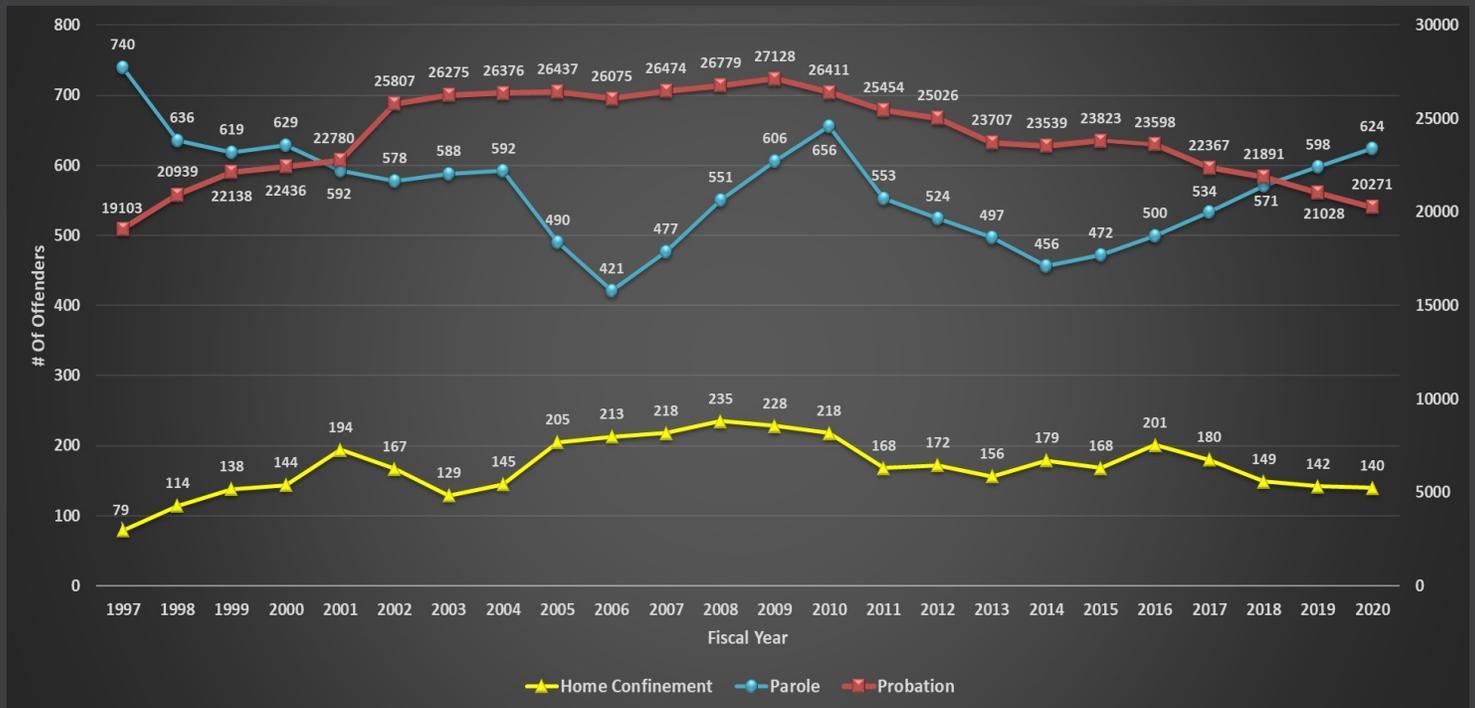
**Awaiting Trial Releases:** During FY20 there were a total of 8,325 awaiting trial releases. The pie chart (shown below) depicts that just over half were discharged at court (44%) or discharged per court order (8%), while an additional 24% were bailed and 13% were sentenced to serve time on their charges.

### FY20 Awaiting Trial Releases



- Discharged at Court
- Discharged per Court Order
- Bailed
- Sentenced (to Serve)

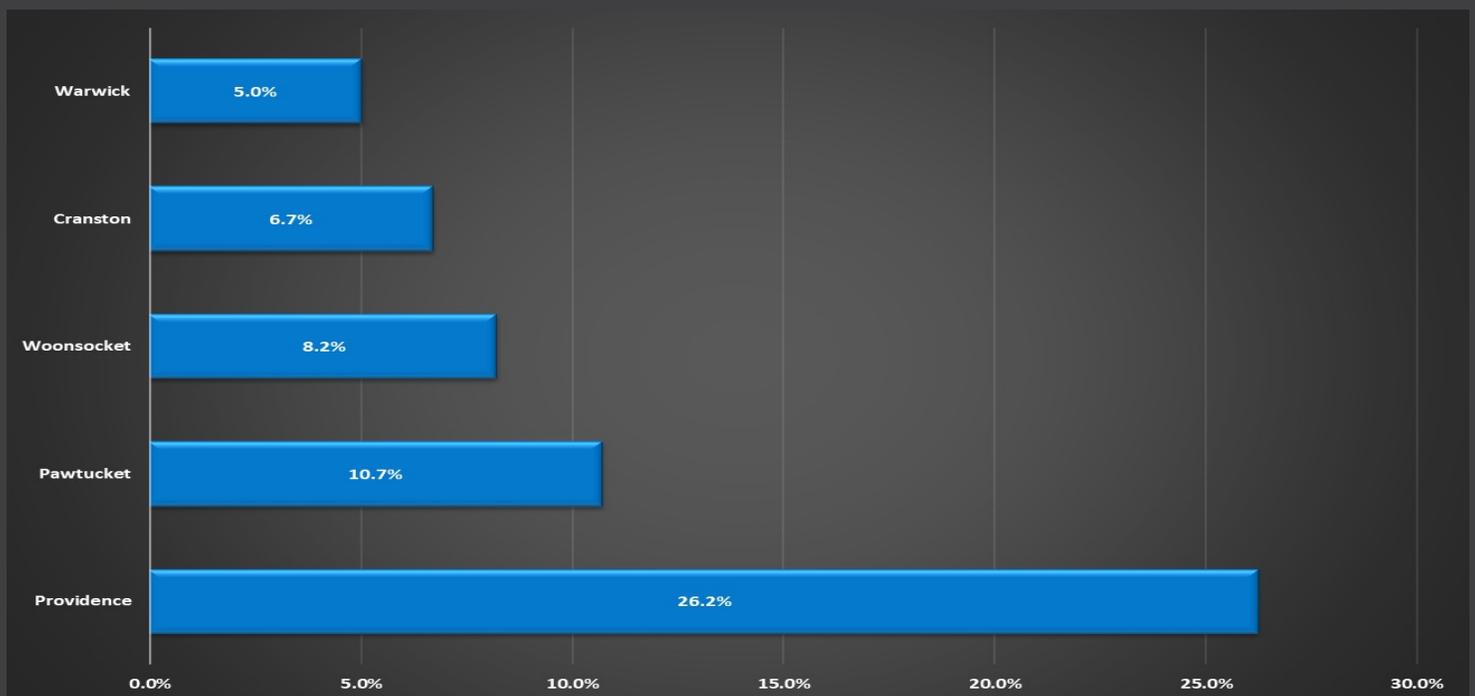
# Community Corrections Population



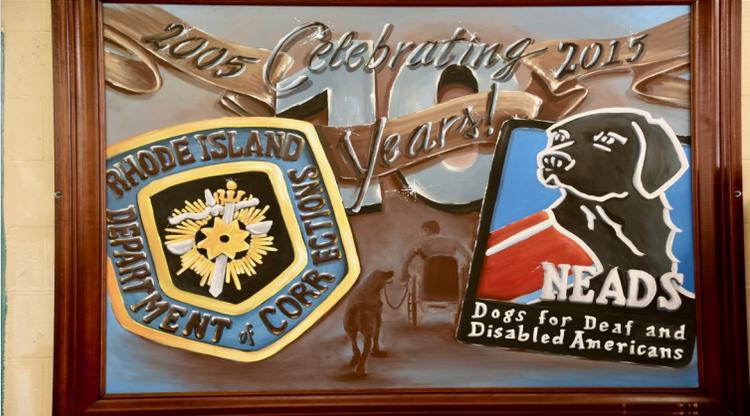
**Interpreting the chart:** The probation population is plotted on the *secondary axis* to the right, while parole and home confinement are plotted on the *primary axis* to the left.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2018, Rhode Island has the sixth highest rate of Community Corrections supervision in the nation; 2,453 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2017-2018*). In addition, R.I. has the fourth highest rate of probation supervision in the nation; 2,390 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2017-2018*).

## Active Probation & Parole Cases by Self-identified Address of Residence: June 30, 2020 (excludes banked cases)



# Improving Post-Release Outcomes



In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, RIDOC continues to provide a wide-range of educational and job training programs aimed at improving post-release employment outcomes for our offender population.

## Programs and Program Earned Time

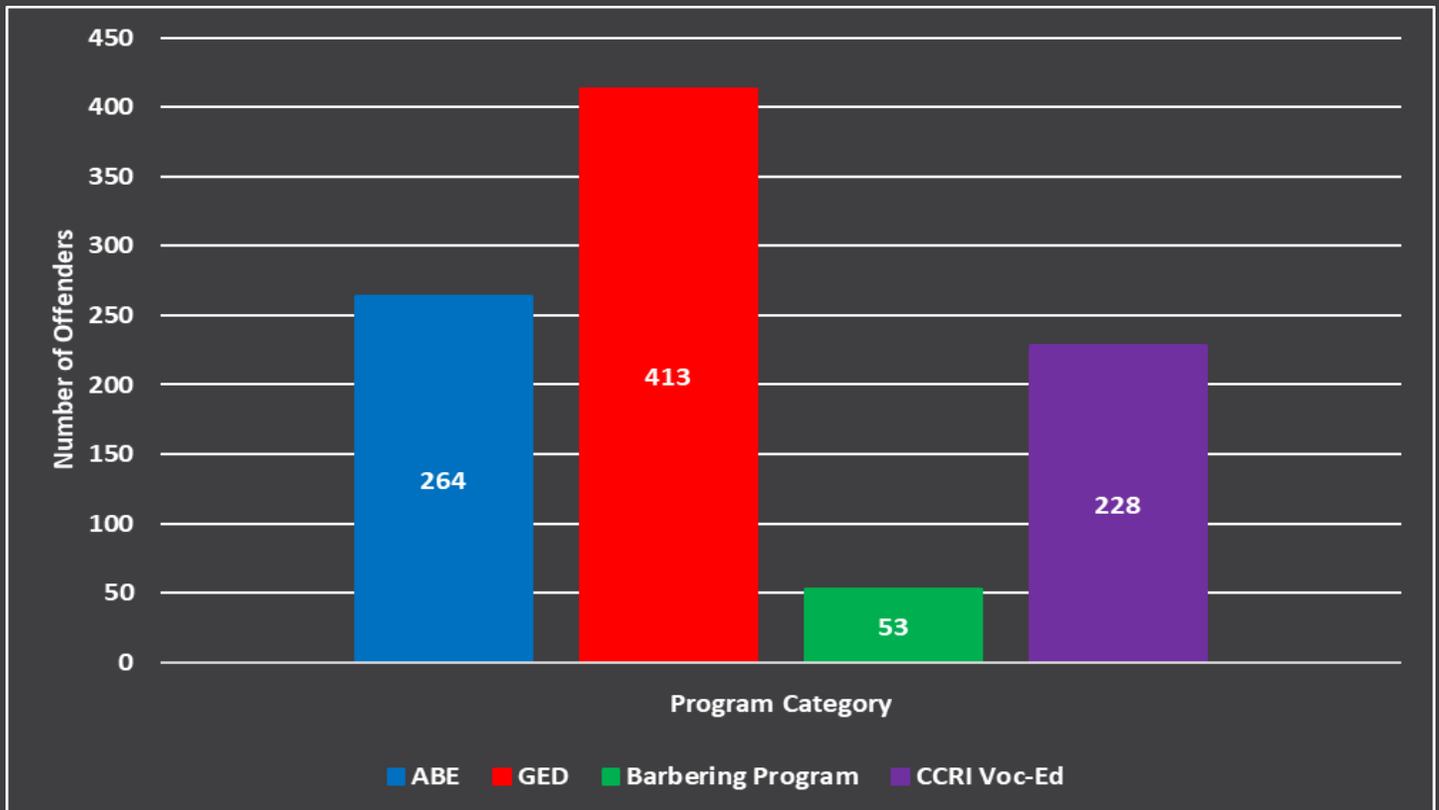
- RIDOC quickly responded to the programming needs of the population by instituting remote programming procedures for all program providers and facilities.
- Offenders continued to earn Program Participation and Completion Time for participating in remote programming.
- 63 groups were conducted via remote programming and 25 groups completed the curriculum.
- Only 2 contracted programs stopped providing services due to the nature of their program.
- For **February 2020**, the month prior to the shut-down, there were **2,028** individual program awards posted. Following the shutdown:
  - March = 1,783 awards posted
  - April = 1,320 awards posted
  - May = 1,261 awards posted
  - June = 915 awards posted<sup>1</sup>
- Parenting/family programming and support services were maintained for priority issues that involved Rhode Island's Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), birth of a child, or the health and well-being of a child.
- Religious services continued to be provided remotely by Institutional Chaplains and volunteer-led programs.

<sup>1</sup>June awards so far pending approval to post on July 24th (summer reductions in programming and awards had been expected).

# Improving Post-Release Outcomes



## FY20 Program Enrollment Figures



The bar graph (shown above) provides an excellent illustration of the large number of offenders that participated in the following programs: Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), Barbering, and Community College of Rhode Island Vocational Education (CCRI Voc-Education).

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).