

Rhode Island Department of Corrections Planning & Research Unit



Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Population Report



Table of Contents

Section	Page
<i>Message from the Director</i>	1
<i>Overview of Facilities</i>	2
Intake Service Center	
Minimum Security	
Medium Security	
Maximum Security	
High Security	
Women's Facilities	
<i>A day in the Life of a Typical RIDOC Inmate</i>	4
<i>Organizational Structure & Units</i>	5
Organizational Chart	
Division Summaries	
Rehabilitative Services	
- 2012 Featured Unit -Education	
Administration	
- 2012 Featured Unit -Training Academy	
Institutions and Operations	
- 2012 Featured Unit - CERT Team	
<i>Total Population Trends</i>	8
<i>Offender Characteristics</i>	11
Race	
Sex	
Age	
Offense Type	
<i>Pretrial Population Statistics</i>	14
<i>Sentenced Population Statistics</i>	15
Effects of Good Time Changes	
<i>Current Population and Future Projections</i>	19
Projected Bed Space Needs	
Capacity	
<i>Release Statistics</i>	21
<i>Community Corrections</i>	23
Probation, Parole, Home Confinement Populations	
<i>The Future of RIDOC</i>	25

Message from RIDOC Director Ashbel T. Wall II



RIDOC MISSION STATEMENT

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

From RIDOC Director Ashbel T. Wall II

Welcome to the **Fiscal Year 2012 Population Report**, created by our top notch Planning & Research staff. You will notice that this year's report includes summaries of our three divisions: Institutions & Operations, Rehabilitative Services, and Administration. A unit within each division is featured with highlights of its accomplishments over the past year. While all of our units are worthy of recognition, those highlighted this year are the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Education Unit, and the Training Academy.

During Fiscal Year '11, the Department received a mandate from the legislature to close the Donald Price Medium Security Facility. A projected reduction in our population following the passage of corrections options legislation in May 2008 has been realized, enabling us to close this institution without compromising safety or security. Additionally, renovations were completed on the Bernadette Building, which now houses women classified to Minimum or Work Release. Population projections for the fiscal year 2012 show no significant increases or decreases. With our population hovering right around 3,200, Rhode Island still has the third lowest incarceration rate for the nation according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

We have seen some significant changes in senior leadership during Fiscal Year '12. Former Chief Legal Counsel Patricia Coyne-Fague has been promoted to Assistant Director for Administration. Longtime employee Robert Catlow has been promoted to Chief Inspector, and I was pleased to appoint Elizabeth Earls to head up Rehabilitative Services. Senior Legal Counsel Kathleen Kelly was promoted to Chief Legal Counsel, and my Confidential Secretary Susan Lamkins was promoted to Programming Services Officer. Though this has been a lot of change, I am confident that our current senior leadership team will ably lead the RIDOC into the future.

I am excited about the year to come as we have received several significant grants which will enable us to take on some major projects related to our mission of lowering recidivism. I also look forward to the results of the Planning and Research Unit's two-year follow-up recidivism study for the 2009 release cohort.

I encourage you to read through the following pages. I am sure you will find helpful and interesting information. Please pass it along to anyone you believe might benefit from it.

Facilities

The Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is comprised of 7 inmate facilities (5 male, 2 female), which are all located within 1 square mile of 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.

Men's Facilities

Intake Service Center

Opened: 1982 - Renovated: 1995 - Expanded: 1992
Average Facility Population: 956 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 1,118 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$39,622



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

Inmates housed at the ISC fall into several categories: pretrial detainees, newly sentenced inmates who are awaiting classification to other facilities, pretrial protective custody, and sentenced protective custody. The facility processed 14,973 commitments in FY12, approximately 1,248 commitments per month. On average, 120 inmates are sent to court daily and 50 inmates per week are processed and transferred to other facilities within the Department of Corrections. The length of time an inmate remains housed in Awaiting Trial status at the ISC is approximately 23 days (see graph on p.14 for further details); this translates into a constant turnover of the inmate population.

Minimum Security

Opened: 1978 - Expanded: 1989 & 1992
Average Facility Population: 478 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 710 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$46,222



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

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

Medium Security John J. Moran Facility

Opened: 1992
Average Facility Population: 1014 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 1,006 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$34,209



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

Facilities

Maximum Security

Opened: 1878
Average Facility Population: 432 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 409 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$55,351



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, this facility is broken down into six housing areas with one segregation unit. The population is comprised of inmates serving long sentences for a variety of offenses along with inmates serving shorter sentences who have been transferred

to MAX from other facilities for serious discipline and/or behavioral problems. Inmates are prepared for classification to lesser securities through participation in rehabilitative programs.

High Security

Opened: 1981
Average Facility Population: 90 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 138 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$172,352



The High Security Center (HSC) is a supermax facility which houses inmates who require close custody and control including protective custody inmates. All inmates are on restricted status; therefore, there are no contact visits and limited programming. The inmate population has access to a well stocked legal and recreational library, a classification board room, a classroom, barber shop, and a chapel.

Women's Facilities

Gloria McDonald Building

Opened: December, 2010
Average Population: 133 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 173 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$83,488



Women's Facility II

Opened: December, 2011
Average Population: 35 (FY12)
Operational Capacity: 100 (FY12)
Annual Cost per Offender: \$83,488



The Women's Facilities (WOM) house awaiting trial offenders and three classification levels (medium, minimum, and work release) in two separate buildings. In late 2010 and 2011 facilities housing these offenders (referenced in previous reports as the GM and DIX buildings) were closed to the inmate population. The awaiting trial and medium-security women were moved to WFI which was later re-dedicated as the Gloria McDonald Building (GM) while the minimum security/work release offenders are now housed in Women's Facility II (WFII) also known as the Bernadette Building. GM, is a converted and expanded hospital building and was initially constructed to be a male Reintegration Center.

WFII was originally designed to house work release security men and in later years housed community corrections and education offices. Changes were made to both of these buildings to target the specific needs for women prior to their opening. The unique social, cultural, and gender-specific needs of female offenders are supported by staff and incorporated into programming and treatment within the facilities.

A Day in the Life of a Typical RIDOC Inmate

Early Morning 6 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast



Medication/Sick Call

Work crews and employed inmates move to the yard for their jobs

Mid Morning 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Yard is open for recreation, phones are turned on, dorm rooms are closed for cleaning, programs & classes are held



Yards are closed and inmates report to dorms for formal count. The count clears at 11:00 and inmates move to the cafeteria for lunch

Afternoon 12 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

After lunch the yard and inside recreation room are opened, programs & classes are held



Yards are closed, work crews return, all inmates report to dorms for formal count

Count clears at 3:45

Late Afternoon & Evening 3:45 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Dinner



First Visiting Period



Programs & classes are held, yard and recreation rooms are opened

Night 7 p.m. - Midnight

Second Visiting Period



Inmates report to dorm room for formal count, phones are turned off and showers close

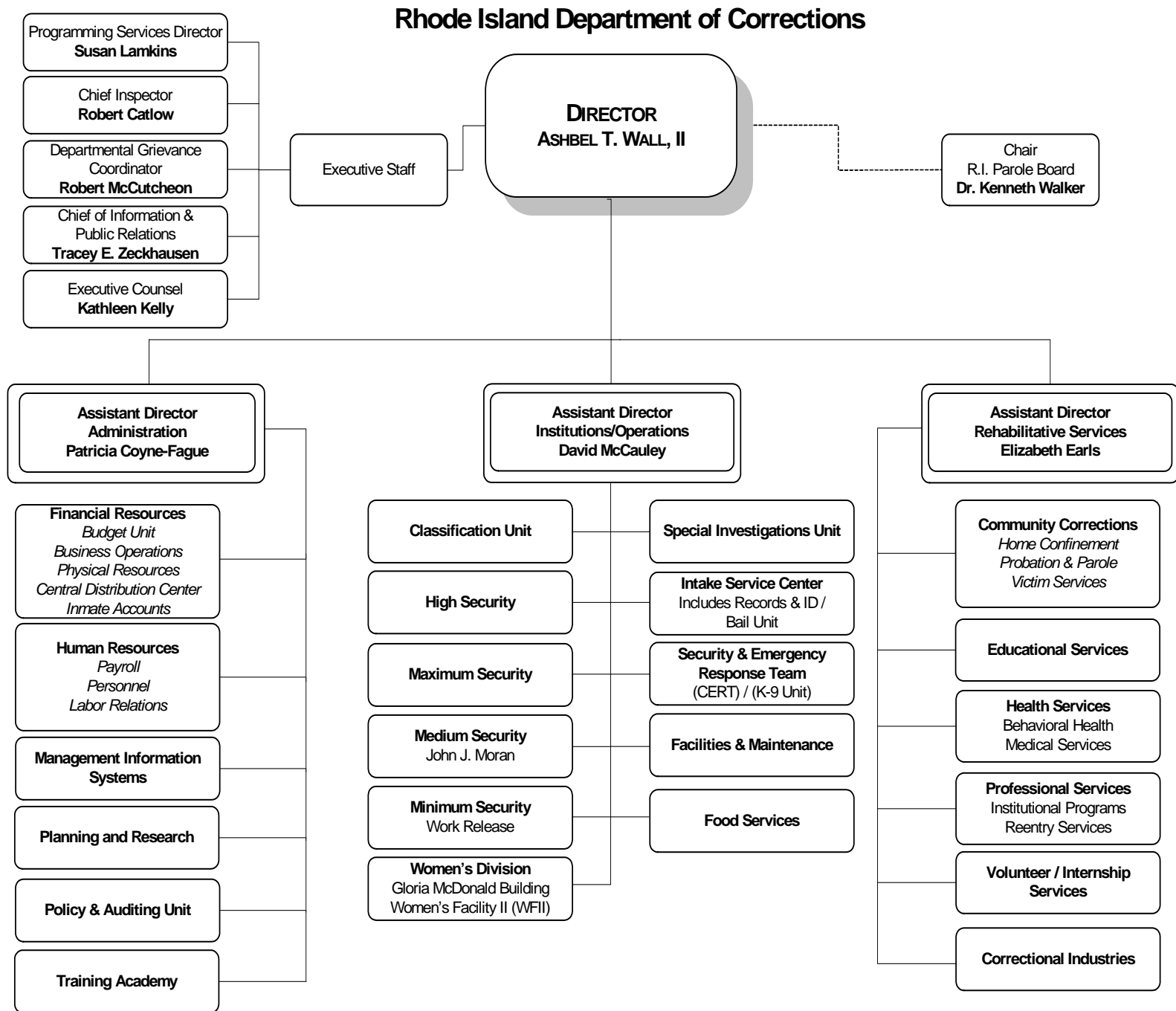
Count clears at 9:30

Recreation room is closed, inmates report to rooms for lights out



At midnight all TV's are off, quiet time, last count

RIDOC Organizational Chart



RIDOC is divided into 3 divisions; Administration, Institutions and Operations, and Rehabilitative Services. Each division plays an imperative role in the Department's running smoothly on a daily basis. This organizational chart shows the breakdown of the divisions and which units fall under each assistant director's supervision.

Though all units are indispensable in running the department, in the following pages one unit from each division will be featured to highlight the impressive work accomplished over the past year. In the coming years a new unit from each division will be recognized for their achievements.

Administrative Division

The Administrative Division is comprised of approximately 90 employees who provide a variety of critical support functions for the Department. While employees in this Division are often “behind the scenes,” their work is integral to the overall function of the Department. The Administrative Division is divided into the following units: *Financial Resources, Human Resources, Management Information Systems,*

Planning & Research, Policy, Correctional Industries and the *Training Academy*. Staff from these units play a key role in facilitating new departmental initiatives as well as providing continued support and guidance to all on-going functions of the RIDOC. Through a strong spirit of cooperation and dedication, these staff assist other divisions of the Department in achieving their goals and implementing the Department’s mission.

FY12 Featured Unit Training Academy

The Training Academy is responsible for the recruitment, selection and training of entry-level Correctional Officers; orientation for all the Department’s new employees and volunteers; and the development and implementation of in-service training for all Correctional staff. In-service training consists of 40 hours per year for all uniformed personnel in order to adhere to standards and assure that staff are kept up to date on current policies and practices. *Training Academy* staff also develop additional training programs for staff, including uniform, civilian, supervisory and contracted, to maintain and upgrade competency levels and ensure that our staff have state-of-the-art training in correctional practices.

Training Academy staff consists of seven full-time instructors, three Training Supervisors and an administrative support team.

On Friday, April 20th, 2012, forty-four men and twelve women graduated from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Correctional Officer Training Academy Class 79. These graduates were selected from nearly 4,000 applications and had to pass a Director's interview panel, a video and written exam, a physical fitness test, a criminal history check, an extensive background check, a medical review, and psychological and drug tests in order to earn a slot in the class. During the arduous nine-week Academy, participants underwent CPR certification, weapons qualification, on-the-job-training in the facilities, defensive tactics instruction, classroom instruction on the law as it relates to Correctional Officers and communications skills, and weekly exams.



Institutions and Operations

The Division of Institutions & Operations, headed by Assistant Director David McCauley, includes the Department's correctional facilities [collectively known as the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)], *Special Investigations Unit (SIU)*, *Facilities and Maintenance Unit*, *Food Services*, and *Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT)*.



Responsibilities of Institutions and Operations include gathering intelligence to assure public safety, maintaining facilities to guarantee a healthy environment, and providing nutritionally balanced menus to all offenders. Institutions and Operations is the cornerstone of daily operations at the Department of Corrections.



FY12 Featured Unit Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a voluntary unit made up of correctional staff whose mission is to neutralize disturbances and assist with other incidents which may arise at any of the RIDOC facilities, and to assist outside law enforcement agencies. The CERT Unit is specially trained in using the minimum force necessary to maintain order and discipline.

The CERT consists of the following specialized units; Tactical (TAC), Weapons, Less Lethal, Chemical Munitions (CMU), Breaching, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), & K-9.



In May 2012 the RIDOC lost *Frankie*, a 9 year veteran of the DOC. During his tenure *Frankie* is credited with numerous drug seizures as well as aiding in the confiscation of \$100,000 in cash. He will be missed by all, especially his handler, Correctional Officer Anthony Lucca.

Since 2007, the RIDOC has executed seven emergency exercises in ACI facilities to test the response of the department as a whole in the case of a critical incident. There is an eighth exercise scheduled for the fall of 2012. The CERT plays an integral part in these controlled drills. Through these exercises, CERT has had the opportunity to practice all types of situations they may have to respond to in the future: hostage situations, inmate disturbances, explosions, barricaded doors, etc. These exercises allow CERT, as well as the rest of the department, to identify any deficiencies in the readiness, preparation, and action during emergency situations.



Rehabilitative Services

The Division of Rehabilitative Services is committed to the meaningful reintegration of offenders into the community. Program areas within this Division can be categorized into two distinct sections: institutional or community corrections. Institutional corrections includes programming offered to the offender during incarceration, such as health services, substance abuse counseling, sex offender treatment, and education. Community corrections refers to units such as *Probation and Parole, Community Confinement, Reentry Services, Furlough* and *Victim Services*.

Not only does Rehabilitative Services work with offenders to end criminal and anti-social behavior while incarcerated, they also strive to make it possible for ex-offenders to succeed upon release to their communities.



FY12 Featured Unit Education Unit

The Education Unit provides a variety of educational and vocational training programs and services to offenders housed in RIDOC facilities. These include secondary education programs and services such as Adult Basic Education, Special Education, Title I services for neglected and delinquent youth, GED preparation, and English as a Second Language. Post secondary offerings include various college level academic courses and vocational training programs in areas such as culinary arts and construction. Institutional library services provide inmates with required access to legal materials and recreational reading materials throughout the facilities. One inmate student recently wrote to the unit indicating, "Thank you isn't enough. You helped me get back a piece of my life and words can't express what that means to me."

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2012 include:

- 92 inmates received their GED.
- 5 inmates received an AA degree from the Community College of Rhode Island.
- 760 secondary education enrollments and nearly 1000 CCRI course enrollments.
- Average monthly enrollment of approximately 680 inmates.
- Approximately 800 inmates participated in annual education recognition ceremonies.
- Private foundation grant received to fund and establish a cohort of 20 inmates to receive an AA degree.
- Tracked 1456 inmate movements between facilities to maintain enrollment.
- Processed over 3000 recreational reading books.
- Filled over 3000 legal requests.



A History of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections

1792

Rhode Island developed a county court system. Each of the three counties; Providence, Washington, and Newport were required to have their own courthouse and jail.

Washington County jail is built and to this day stands in North Kingstown.



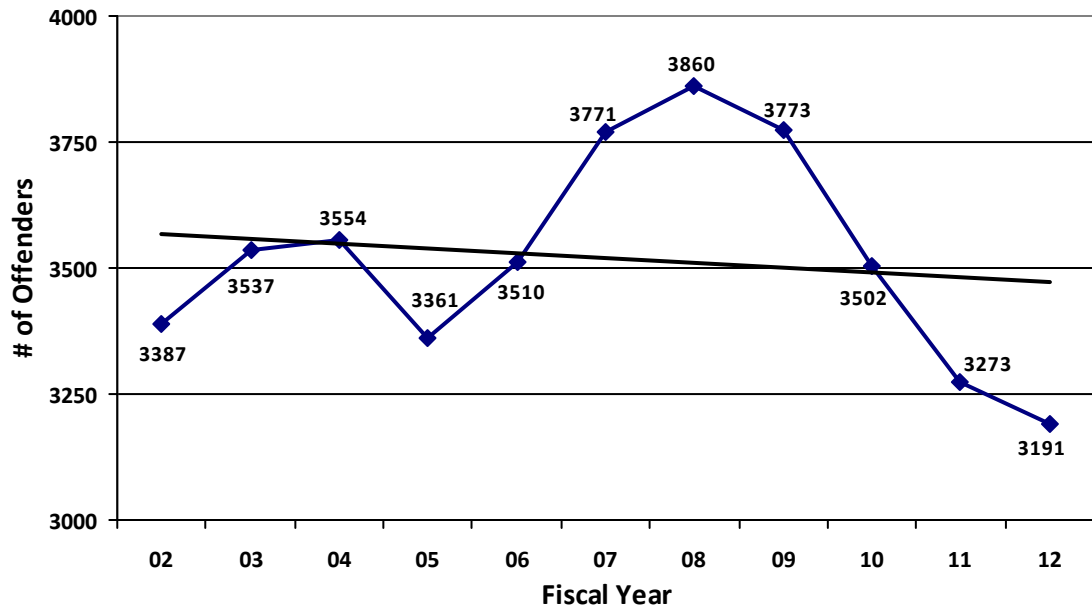
1845

The last execution in Rhode Island took place. John Gordon was executed by hanging for the murder of Amasa Sprague, the governor's brother. In 2011, RI Governor Lincoln Chaffee pardoned Gordon for the murder.



Population Trends

Total RIDOC Population FY02 to FY12



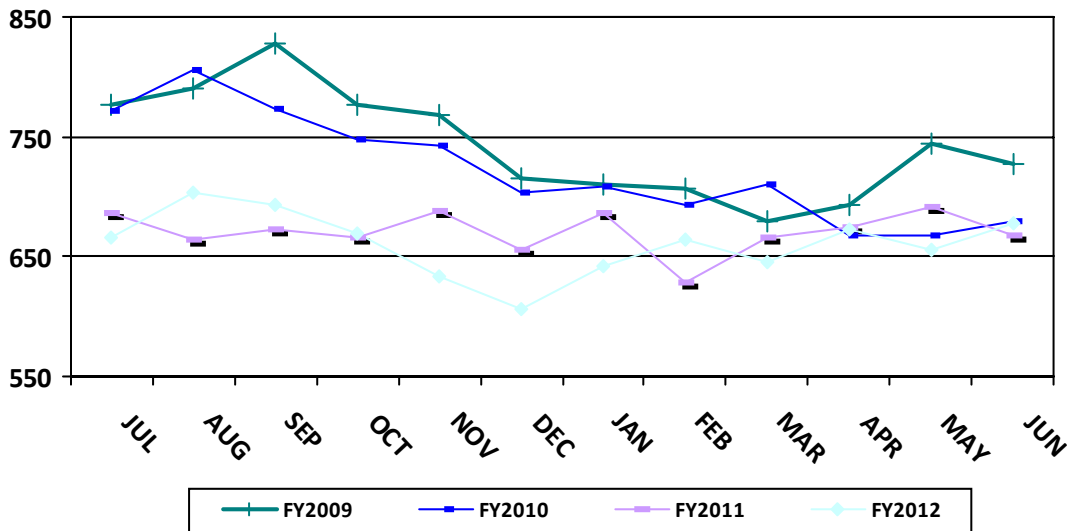
As was the trend nationally, Rhode Island experienced marked growth in its total prison population between 2002 and 2008. The most recent sharpest increase was between FY05 and FY08 where the population grew 14.8%. However since FY08 the population has seen a steady decline and fell 17.3% in the past four years. In RI, 197 out of every 100,000 residents are imprisoned, while nationally 439 out of 100,000 adult US residents are incarcerated (Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoner Statistics 2010 Revised*) which makes Rhode Island third lowest in the nation in terms of rate of incarceration.

During the new millennium corrections professionals around the country began to focus on permanently reducing prison populations, the federal government began to fund re-entry initiatives aimed at helping offenders succeed in the community post-release and jurisdictions began to look at incentives for inmates who participate in rehabilitative programs designed to assist them in the community upon their exit from incarceration. All of these initiatives have been shown to impact the prison population levels.

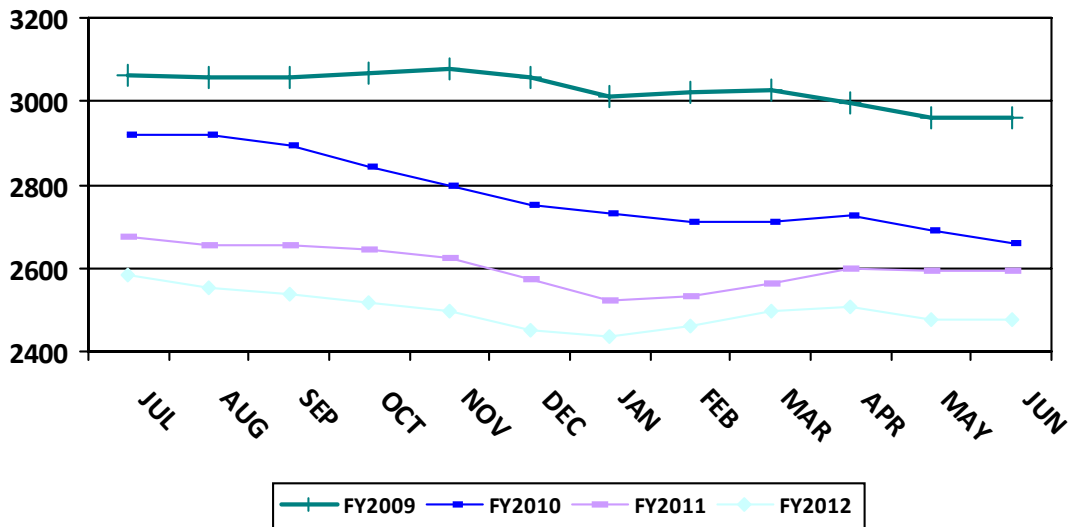
For a historical look at the RIDOC population, please see the Report of the RI Correctional Population FY76 – FY11 which can be found on the RIDOC webpage at www.doc.ri.gov.

Fiscal Year Population Trends FY2009-FY2012

Awaiting Trial Population



Sentenced Population



Overall, the RIDOC saw a decrease in the sentenced population in FY12 (-4%) and a slight increase in the awaiting trial population (+1.7%). In May and June 2012, the sentenced population reached the lowest monthly average since July 2005 and in December 2011, the awaiting trial population reached the lowest monthly average since January 2008. There was a 2.4% decrease (80 inmates) in the total institutional population in FY12.

1878

The state's oldest operational prison, Maximum Security, opens with original designs to hold 252 inmates



1930

On April 25 Correctional Officer Harry McVay is shot during an attempted prison escape. The prisoners use weapons that had been smuggled into visiting areas.

1956

The Washington county jail closes. The structure still stands and is now a museum, home to the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society.



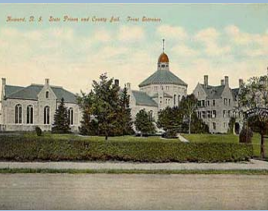
1957

Harold Langlois is named warden. He advocates strongly for a rehabilitative approach to corrections which can be seen in many changes in the years to come.

The education/recreation building is completed in Old Max. The education program is expanded to include grade school and high school level classes.

1958

A reporter invited to tour Old Max describes the yard as "looking like a public park on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon."



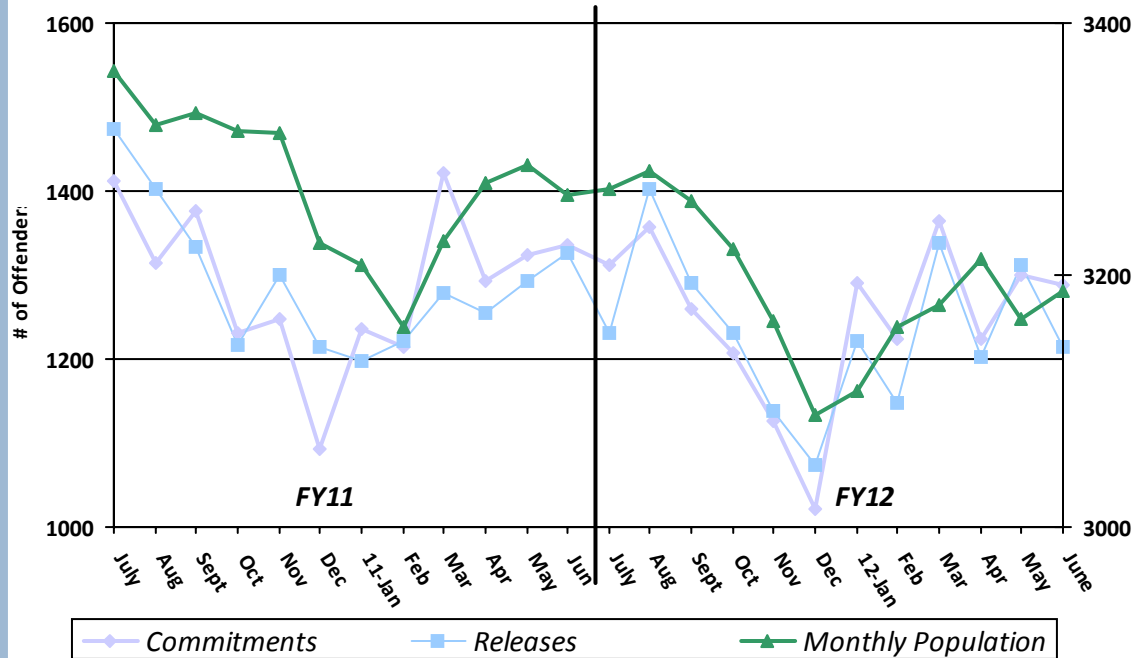
1959

According to an Associated Press bulletin, on July 1, three inmates used homemade keys to let themselves out of their cells in segregation and escaped over the wall of the prison using grappling hooks. They were captured one week later after the largest manhunt in RI history.



Commitments and Releases

Effects of Commitments/Releases on Total Population



The prison population is influenced by two factors: the number of new commitments and length of stay. Length of stay is directly affected by the Judiciary, changes in legislation, and the Parole Board (for more information regarding the changes in length of stay, see page 15).


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, months where the number of releases to RIDOC outpaced the number of commitments, we would see a decrease in the population. The decrease in the RIDOC population is partially linked to the decrease in the number of commitments, which has averaged -3.8% over the past five fiscal years, as seen in the table to the right.


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

Fiscal Year	# Commitments	+/- Change
1998	16,171	
1999	16,088	-.5%
2000	16,208	+.8%
2001	16,730	+3.2%
2002	17,204	+2.8%
2003	17,387	+1.1%
2004	18,375	+5.7%
2005	17,121	-6.8%
2006	18,467	+7.9%
2007	18,885	+2.3%
2008	17,007	-9.9%
2009	16,001	-5.9%
2010	15,328	-4.2%
2011	15,500	+1.1%
2012	14,973	-1.5%

Offender Characteristics

Characteristics of a Typical RIDOC Sentenced Offender

- 
- Twenty-two percent (22%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY12.
 - Five percent (5%) entered prison as parole violators in FY12.
 - The majority are white (48%), single (73%), and self-identified as Catholic (39%).
 - About half (46%) have less than a 12th grade education; 38% have a high school diploma or GED and an additional 9% have completed some college.
 - Forty-nine percent (49%) are fathers; the average number of children fathered is 2.
 - Fifty-one percent (51%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
 - Twenty-eight percent (28%) of males were re-sentenced and 34% were readmitted as pretrial detainees within 12 months of release.

- 
- Twelve percent (12%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY12.
 - Five percent (5%) entered prison as parole violators in FY12.
 - The majority are white (70%), single (72%), and self-identify as Catholic (45%).
 - Forty-three percent (43%) have less than a 12th grade education; 34% have a high school diploma or GED and an additional 15% have completed some college.
 - Fifty-six percent (56%) are mothers; average number of children is 2 per offender.
 - Sixty-seven percent (67%) were unemployed at the time of incarceration.
 - Twenty-Three percent (23%) of females were re-sentenced and 30% were readmitted as pretrial detainees within 12 months of release.

1961

Two medium security inmates use 18 inch needles to overtake guards. They escape with handguns and ammunition.

An escape plot from Maximum security is foiled when guards find window bars sawed.

1966

The work release bill is enacted forming a work release program for inmates who have completed one sixth of their sentence.

1969

A racially fueled riot breaks out at the ACI led by the group known as Bag of Solid Souls (BOSS).



1970

The Junior Chamber of Commerce (JayCees), a group formed to involve inmates in activities to benefit their communities, sponsor the first family day at the ACI in the yard of Maximum Security.

Three inmates escape from Maximum Security using tools from the machine shop. They were involved in a string of robberies over the next several days. One inmate was found executed, 1 was wounded during a stand off with police, and the third was captured one week later after murdering a prominent physician.

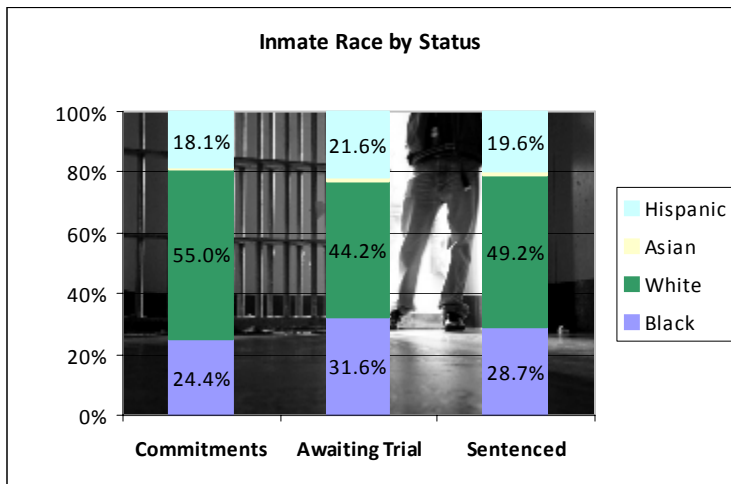
1971

The Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers (RIBCO) is established.



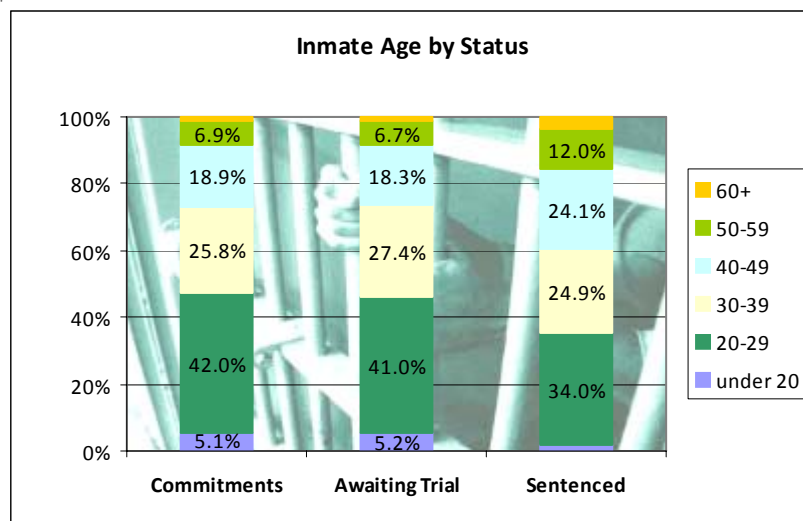
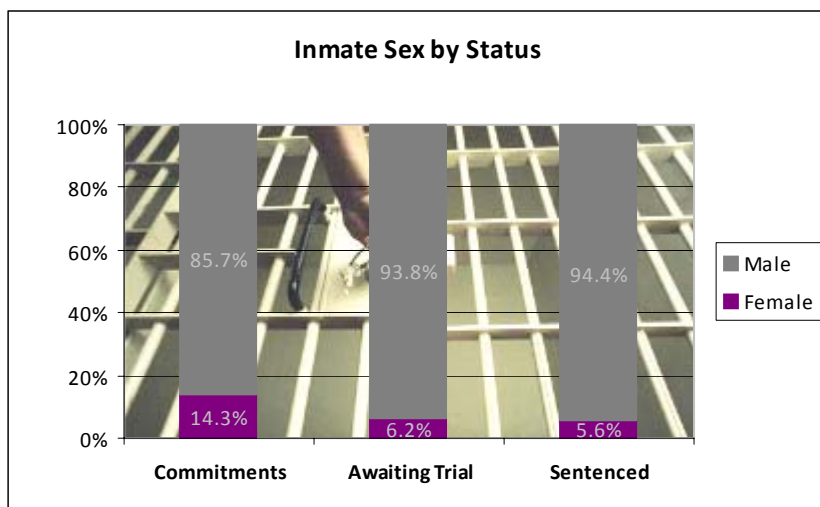
Offender Characteristics

The charts on the following pages contain the following categories of offenders; commitments, which include all offenders committed to RIDOC (sentenced & pre-trial) over the last Fiscal Year; awaiting trial and sentenced represent the stock population on June 30, 2012.



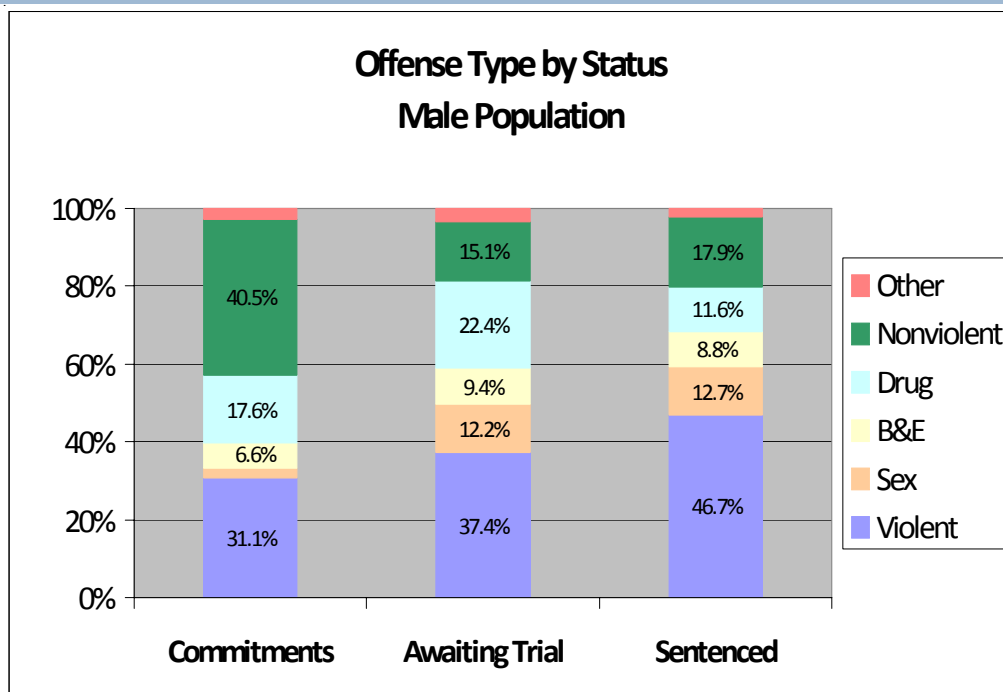
As you can see the vast majority of offenders (commitments, awaiting trial, and sentenced) are white, followed by black and Hispanic. Offenders who identify themselves as Asian, Native American, other, or their race is unknown make up less than 2% of the population for each category of offenders.

Males make up most (85.7%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 14.3%.

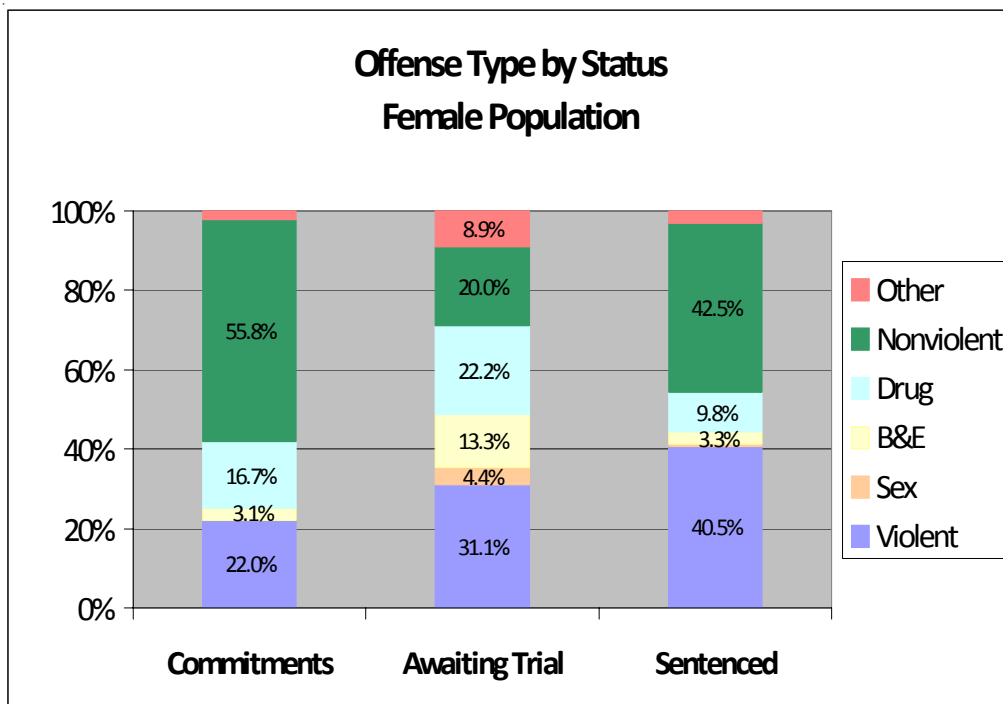


Almost two thirds of all RIDOC offenders are between the ages of 20-39. The average age of a male RIDOC sentenced offender is 37 while the average female age is 36. For pre-trial offenders males average 34 years of age and females 30 years of age.

Offender Characteristics



Forty-one percent (41%) of male commitments are incarcerated for non-violent crimes while over half (54%) of the female commitments are incarcerated for similar offenses. Nearly one third of the male population (31.1%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes yet not even a quarter of females are incarcerated for similar violent crimes. We see the reverse trend in the sentenced stock population where violent crimes make up over forty percent for both males and females. Lifers are included in the sentenced population making the amount of violent sentenced offenders drastically rise.



1972

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is created by statute with formal jurisdiction over the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) and Probation & Parole.



In April the "Morris Rules" of classification are imposed. They define four categories of privileges and restrictions for inmates.

1973

On April 2, 150-200 inmates riot in Maximum taking six guards hostage and causing over \$1 million in damages.

On June 22, Correctional Officer Donald Price, who had only been on the job for three weeks, is stabbed and killed in the line of duty. Two inmates were convicted of his murder; the first was sentenced to life in prison and the second to 20 years.

Pretrial Statistics

1973

The education division grows with the aid of grant money and the first college level program begins at the ACI.



1974

The case of *Palmigiano v Garrahy* is filed accusing RIDOC of violating inmates' 8th and 14th amendment rights denying them adequate medical care. This case has a long lasting effect on the ACI and State of Rhode Island.

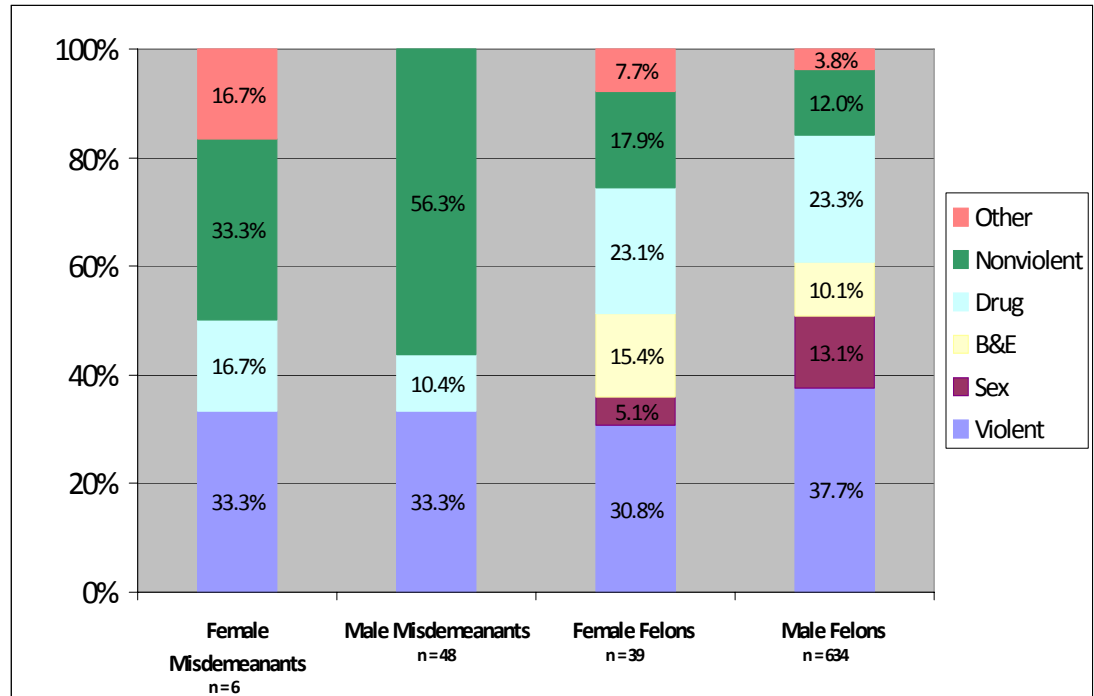
1976

A capital development plan is established to build a supermax prison to "house the incorrigables" and relieve tension at the ACI.

Pretrial Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type

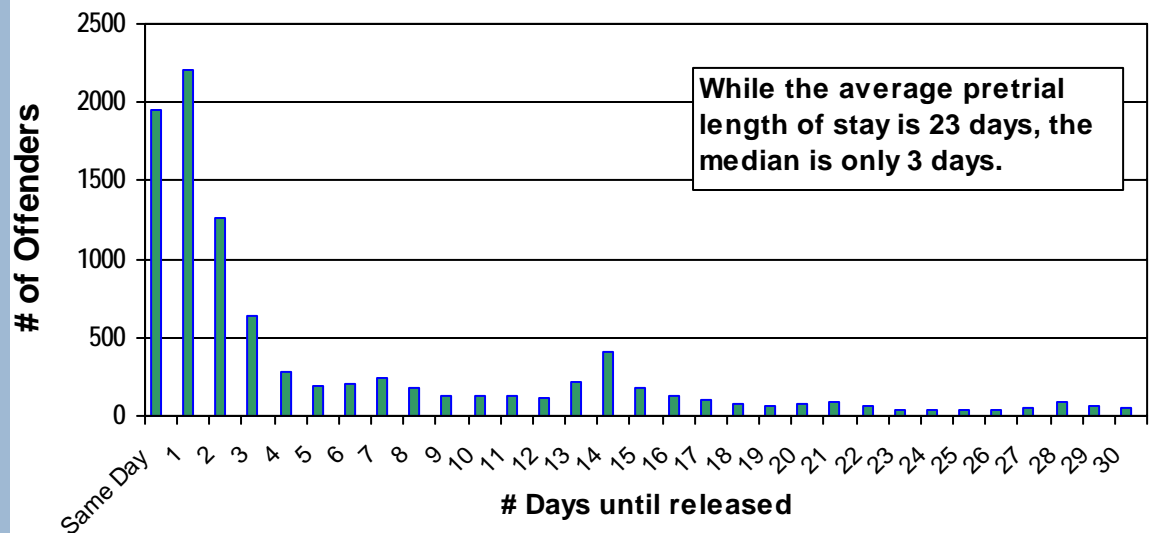
Stock Data-June 30, 2012

N=727



The most common offenses for the male misdemeanor awaiting trial population was domestic assault while for the female population it was disorderly conduct. Male and female felony offenders were most commonly jailed for breaking and entering.

Average Length of Stay for FY12



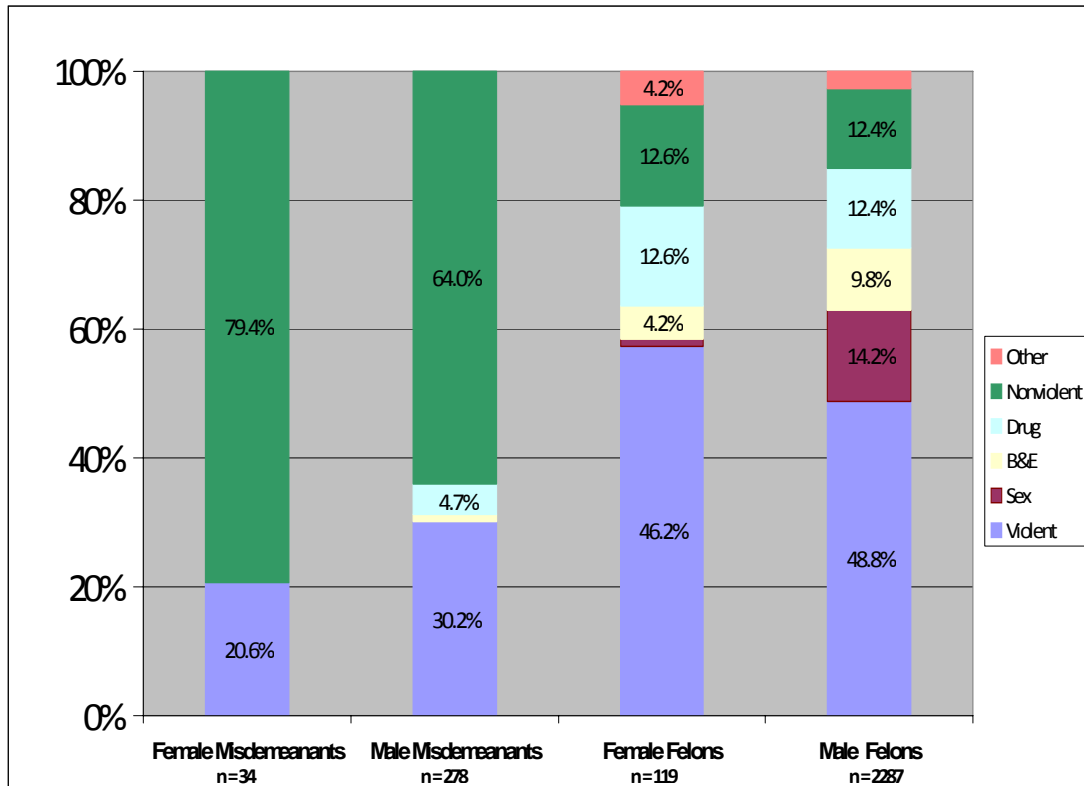
*Approximately 15% of offenders remain on pretrial status after 30 days, but are not displayed on the graph

Sentenced Statistics

Sentenced Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type

Stock Data-June 30, 2012

N=2718



Included in the sentenced stock population are 190 inmates sentenced to life and 32 sentenced to life without parole. Two of those inmates are women. These 222 offenders constitute 8.1% of the total sentenced population. Eighteen (18) 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 simple assault and shoplifting,

while the most common felony offense was possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. Schedule IV substances are mostly prescription medications.

The most common misdemeanor offense for the male sentenced population was domestic assault, while the most common felony offense was robbery.

According to the Rhode Island Judiciary's Quarterly Caseflow Report felony filings have risen 7% during the first quarter of calendar year 2012 while misdemeanor filings have risen 23%.

1977

The Palmigiano case causes a federal court order for conditions of confinement to be imposed on RIDOC.

The Drug Unit, a treatment program, begins operating with three male inmates.

1978

There is a riot at the ACI.

1981

High Security Center, the first supermax facility in Rhode Island, is opened. The opening helps decline the rising violence in Maximum Security.



The department limits sex-specific posts. Bids by both male and female officers are mostly handled in a uniform manner.

1984

The death penalty is abolished in Rhode Island.

1985

There is a riot at the ACI.

1987

The number of felony drug offenses rises 217% in three years.

1988

There is a riot at the ACI.

1989

Outside consultants estimate over 80% of the inmate population have histories of drug abuse.

1991

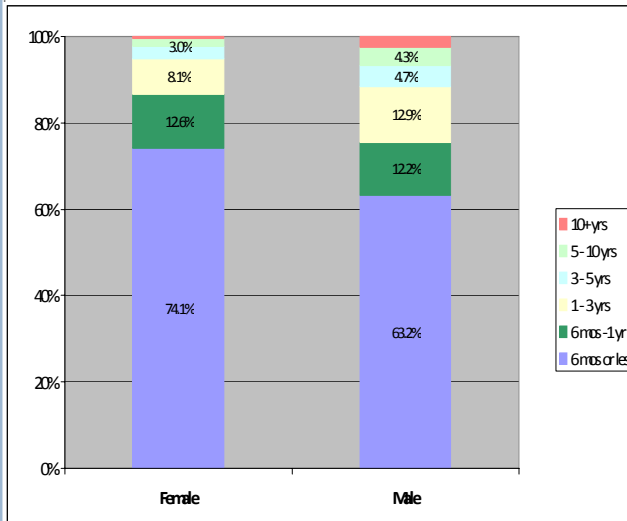
Three hundred inmates in Maximum Security riot and cause a 5 hour siege.



Sentenced Statistics

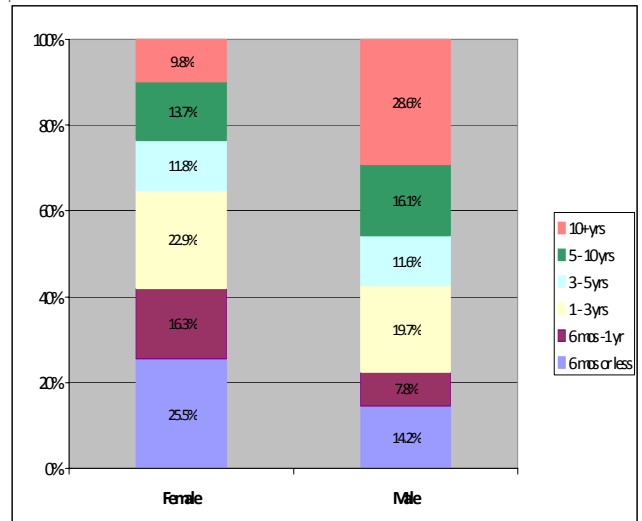
**Sentenced Commitments
Sentence Length by Sex**

FY2012



**Sentenced Stock Population
Sentence Length by Sex**

June 30, 2012



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, 2012. For example, even though only about 11% of the male population is *committed* to sentences of more than 3 years, over time, this group of offenders represents 56% of the population.

Offense Category	Male		Female		Total	
	Sent <6mos	Sent >6mos	Sent <6mos	Sent >6mos	Sent <6mos	Sent >6mos
Violent	2.9	60.2	2.5	51.63	2.9	59.7
Sex	2.8	94.1	N/A	N/A	2.8	94.1
B&E	3.9	36.0	4.3	22.7	3.9	35.3
Drug	3.6	25.5	3.5	15.4	3.6	24.6
Nonviolent	2.6	23.4	2.3	20.3	2.5	23.0
SUBTOTAL	3.1	47.8	3.1	27.5	3.1	47.3
Average Total Sentence Length = 21.9 months						

The table above displays the average length of sentence imposed on sentenced commitments in FY2012. The actual amount of time offenders stay in prison is almost always shorter than the full sentence imposed due to factors such as statutory good time (i.e., credit earned for good or industrious behavior) and earned time for program participation and completion (time deducted from sentence).

Sentenced Statistics

Effects of Sentence Reductions

Prior to May, 2008, Rhode Island had one of the most conservative state sentence reduction formulas in the country. With the population reaching historically high levels in 2007 and 2008 and threatening to exceed prison capacity, the state's General Assembly, with overwhelming bipartisan support, enacted legislation designed to increase public safety, curb spending, and reduce recidivism of released inmates¹. The legislation increased the amount of behavioral good time credit and provided credits for program participation and completion. As a result, we have seen increased program participation and completion and, coupled with increased good behavior time, we have experienced an overall decrease in offenders' length of stay which has in turn lead to a decreased prison population (see chart on page 8).

Average Percentage of Time Served by Sentence Length for Offenders Expiring a Sentence						
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Difference 08-12
3 months or less	99%	91%	91%	90%	92%	-7%
3 - 6 months	97%	81%	80%	79%	80%	-18%
6 - 9 months	96%	82%	79%	76%	77%	-20%
9 months - 1 year	95%	81%	77%	71%	74%	-24%
1 - 3 years	93%	83%	76%	69%	69%	-30%
3 - 5 years	88%	83%	80%	69%	62%	-30%
5 - 7 years	84%	83%	73%	71%	63%	-25%
7 - 10 years	79%	79%	79%	69%	51%	-35%
greater than 10 years	76%	75%	76%	63%	61%	-20%

The above table depicts the changes in length of stay for those inmates who have left via expiration of sentence, as this group of offenders has the ability to fully benefit from the 2008 sentence reduction changes. As you can be seen there have been significant changes is the percent of time served for all offenders from FY08 to FY12. Most noticeably offenders serving mid-range sentences (1-7 years) continue to have reductions in the time served.

Despite across the board reductions in percent of time served, recent recidivism studies do not show any increase in return rates for offenders. In fact, only 28% of offender released in 2009 returned to RIDOC with a new sentence within one year and 34% returned as awaiting trial detainees. In comparison, 32% of offenders released in 2004 (prior to the good time changes)

returned with a new sentence and 44% as awaiting trial detainees. Thus far, data does not appear to indicate that a decrease in time served contributes to more crime and re-incarcerations.

For further RIDOC recidivism information, please see the 2009 Recidivism Study: One Year Follow Up (Preliminary Report).

Program Participation & Completion:

During FY12, 2,141 offenders participated in and/or completed one or more rehabilitative programs offered at RIDOC and were awarded a total of 74,551 program credits (days off sentence) (an average of 35 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 FY12.

1994

The first women's residential drug treatment program begins.

1995

The federal court order for conditions of confinement, which was spawned from the Palmigiano case, is terminated.

1999

Ashbel T. Wall becomes the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, a position he holds to this day.



2008

With a rising population threatening to put RIDOC over capacity, legislation is passed to give Rhode Island inmates "good time" that rewards good behavior, attending programs, having a job, etc. to aid in the early release of an offender.

¹ To view the good behavior and program participation/completion sentence reduction statute, see RI General Laws § 42-56-24 and § 42-56-26. These statutes reflect the 2008 enacted changes as well as additional changes made in 2012 directed at decreasing and/or eliminating sentence reductions for specific serious crimes (i.e. murder, assault with intent murder, kidnapping of a minor, child molestations and sexual assault).

Population Projections

2010

The early release of a 1984 child murderer sparks controversy in the "good time" statutes.

2011

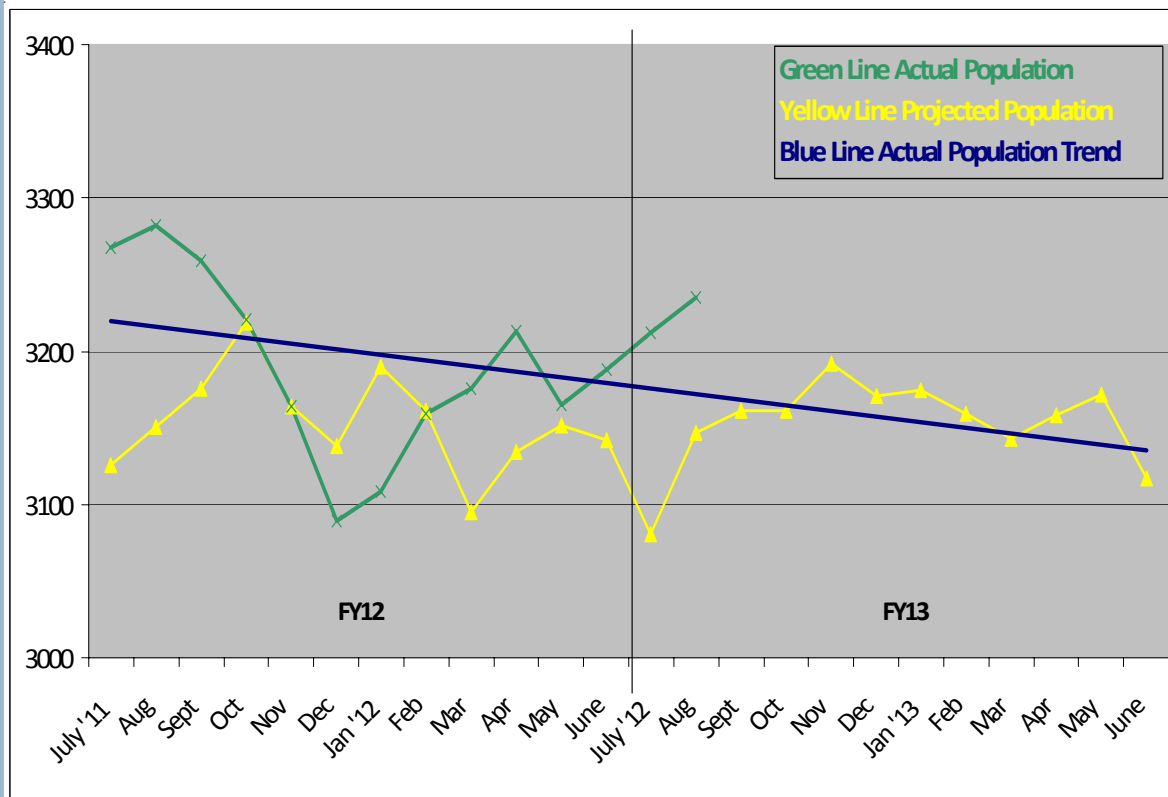
With a declining population, RIDOC is able to close the Donald Price Medium Security Building as ordered by the RI General Assembly.

2012

Legislation is passed changing good time policies which takes away good time credits for the most severe crimes.



Population Projections vs. Actual Population



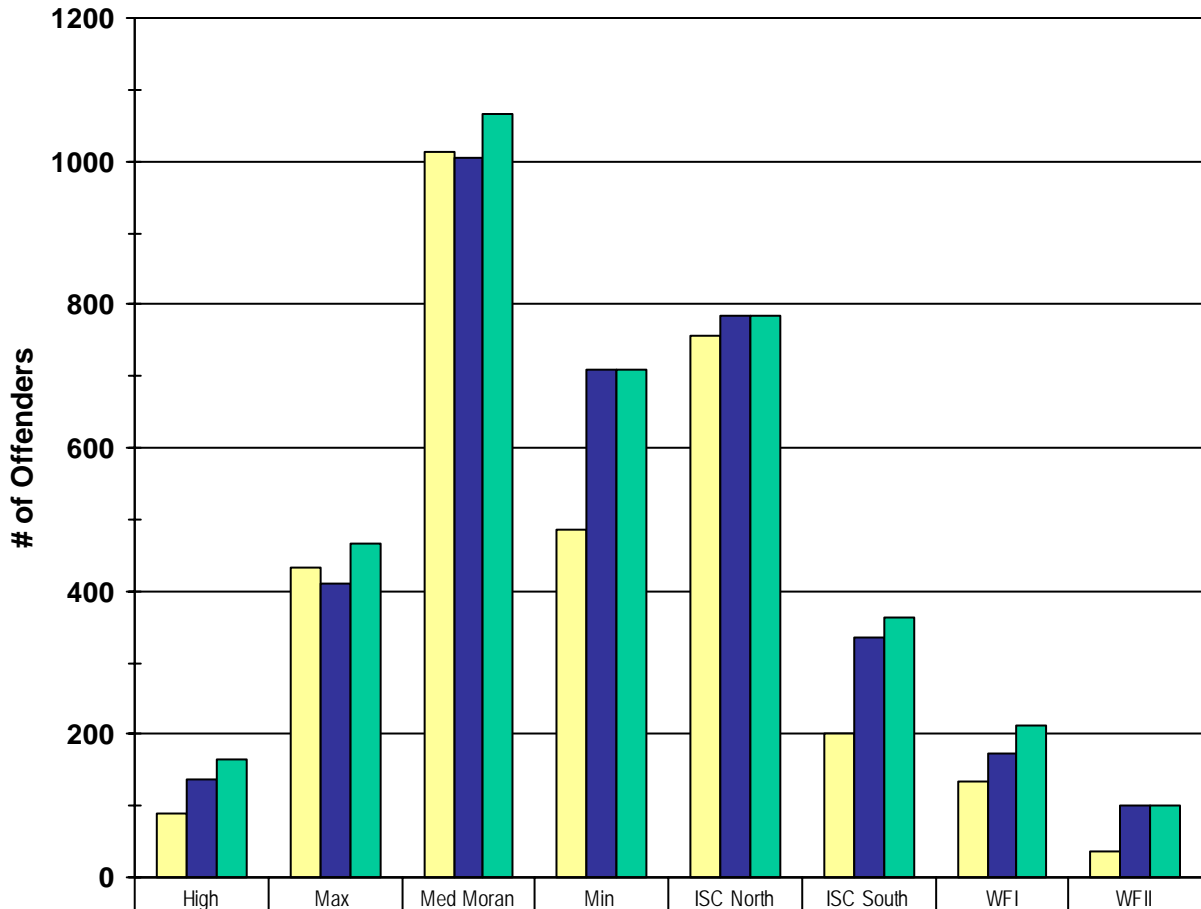
The graph above shows the actual population (green line) compared to the projected population (yellow line). The blue line predicts a slight downward trend in the actual population over the next fiscal year.

As of the FY12 projection, RIDOC was operating below federal capacity in all facilities. The 10-year forecast of RI's prison population, conducted by Wendy Naro-Ware of JFA Associates/The Institute, estimates that the population will see little growth, 0.4% or 13 inmates. This projected growth would allow RI to remain below both the operational (3,654) and federal (3,869) capacities throughout the 10-year forecast.

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

Institutional Capacity

Average FY12 Population vs. Capacities



Average Population	90	432	1014	486	755	201	133	35
Operational Capacity*	138	409	1006	710	784	334	173	100
Palmigiano Capacity**	166	466	1066	710	784	364	213	100

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

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

Total RIDOC FY 2012
Operational Capacity* = 3654
Palmigiano Capacity = 3869**
Average FY12 Population = 3191

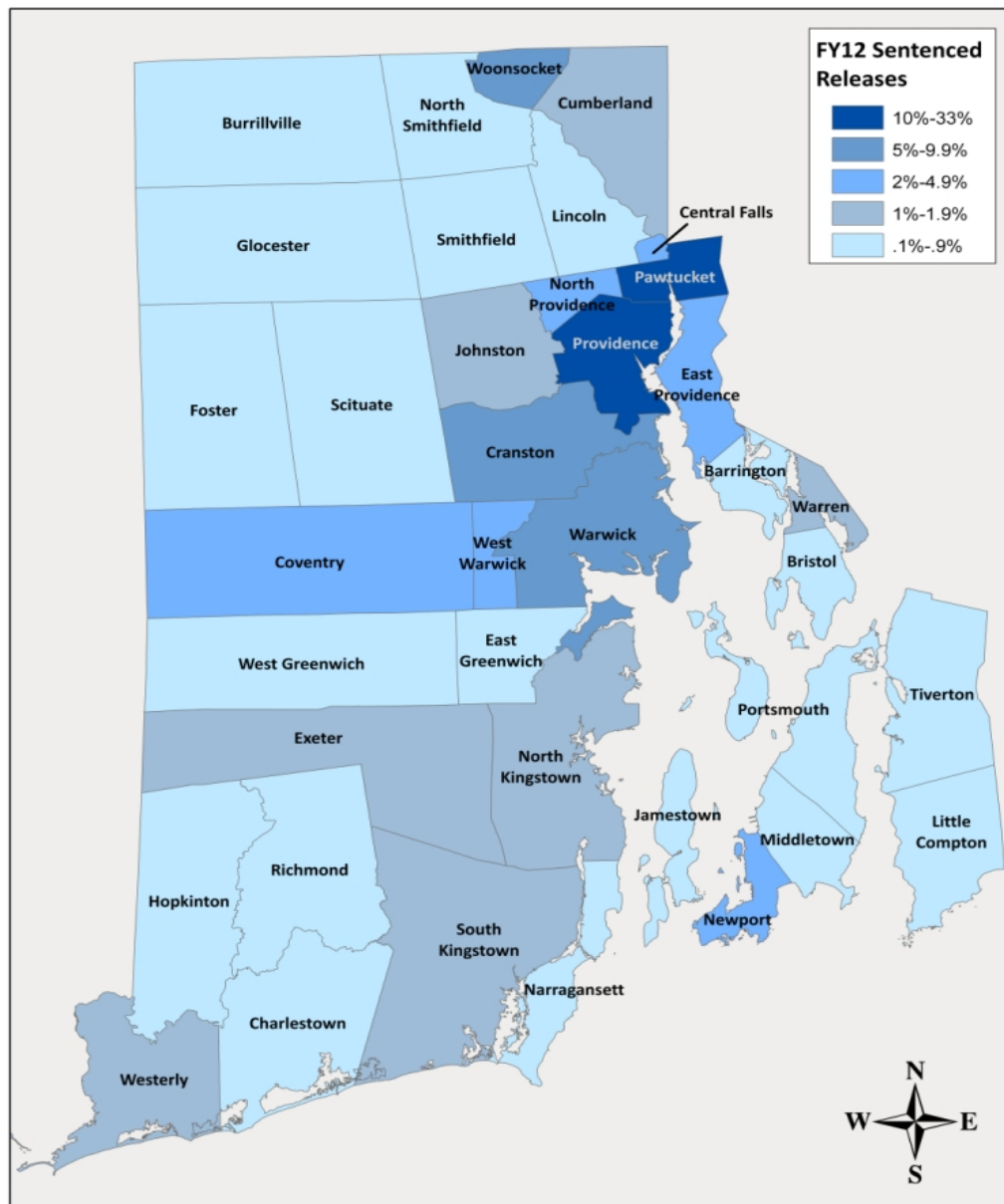
Release Data

During FY12 RIDOC processed a total of 3,706 releases, representing 3,306 people, from sentenced status. Virtually all releases expired their sentences (86%); 11% were paroled.

Almost 32% of males were released from being housed in Minimum Security, an additional 25% were released from the Intake Service Center, and 5% were released from Maximum or High Security. Female releases were almost equally distributed amongst WF1 and WF2 (56% and 44% respectively).

Of these releases to Rhode Island almost half (43%) reported returning to either Providence or Pawtucket. An additional 19% returned to Cranston, Warwick, and West Warwick.

There were 12 offenders, all males, on active escape status as of 6/30/12. These escapes span from 1979 to 2009.



Six (6) 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 FY12, there were three (3) inmate deaths. All were males, two white and one

black. One (1) death was a confirmed suicide.

During FY12 there were a total of 11,092 awaiting trial releases. Half (51%) were discharged at court while 20% were bailed and another 20% were sentenced to serve time on their charges.

Release Data

Recidivism

In 2007, RIDOC conducted a recidivism study analyzing a release cohort from calendar year 2004 and tracked them for three years in the community to see if they returned to the ACI as a sentenced inmate.

In CY04, of the 3,105 offenders who were released 32% returned under sentence within 1 year, 46% by 2 years, and 54% within 3 years of their initial release.

In 2010 RIDOC's Planning & Research unit headed a new recidivism study analyzing a release cohort from 2009.

Three thousand three hundred eighty-seven (3,387) offenders were released in calendar year

2009. Within 1 year of release 28% of offenders returned to RIDOC with a new sentence. This is lower than CY04 cohort which had a return rate of 32%.

Correlations were found between offenders who were released from higher security

levels and the likeliness of recidivating. Non-violent offenders had the greatest likelihood of recidivating and spent the least amount of time in the community, while educated offenders were more likely to spend a longer time in the community.

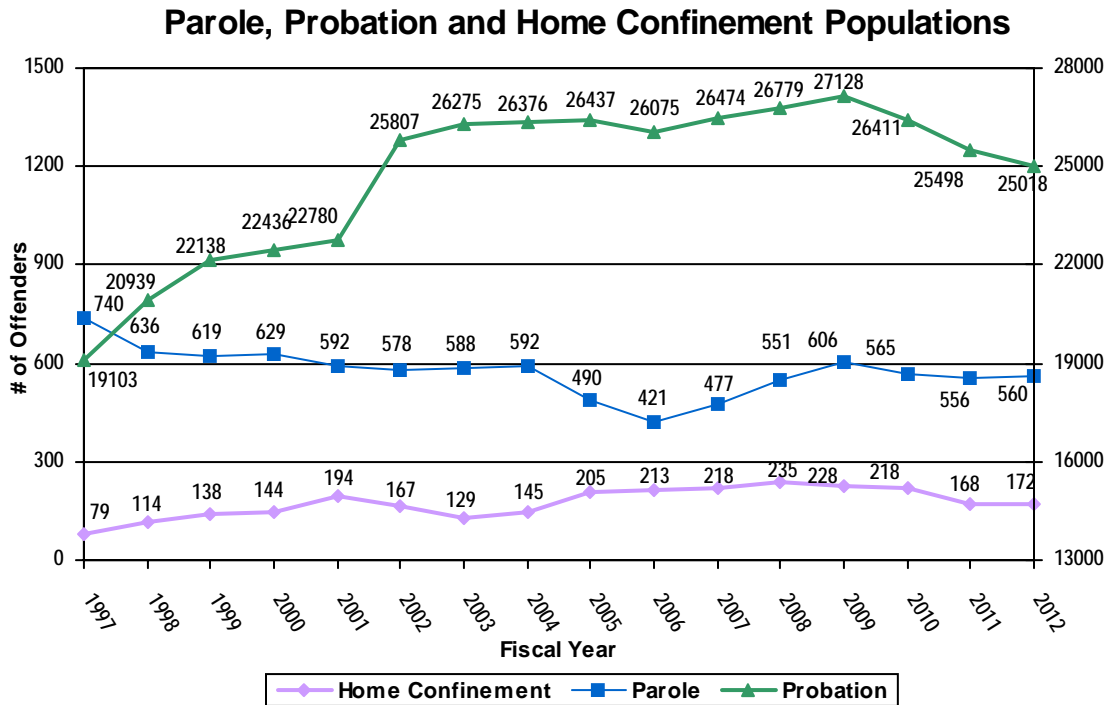


Reentry Councils

There are nine reentry councils in the State of Rhode Island; Providence, Pawtucket, Westerly, Woonsocket, Newport, Cranston, West Warwick and two in Warwick. These councils are part of an inmate's transition into the community. The councils are part of a state-wide initiative to ease the transition and help released inmates in being successful when returning to their communities. Probation and parole staff, RIDOC reentry personnel, police, local housing specialists, and clergy among many others come together to strategize six months before an inmate is released.



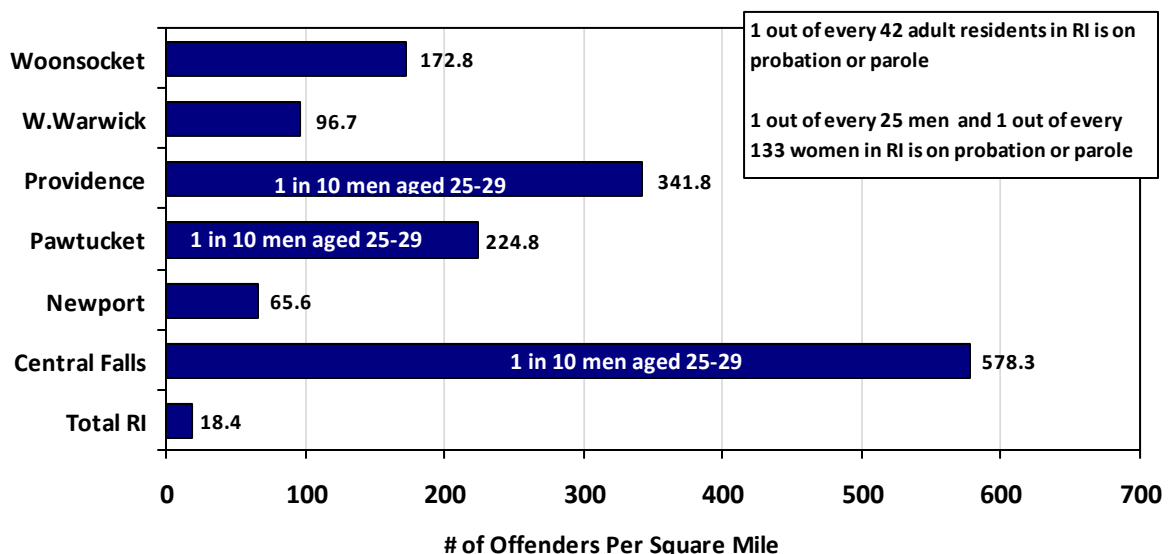
Community Corrections Population



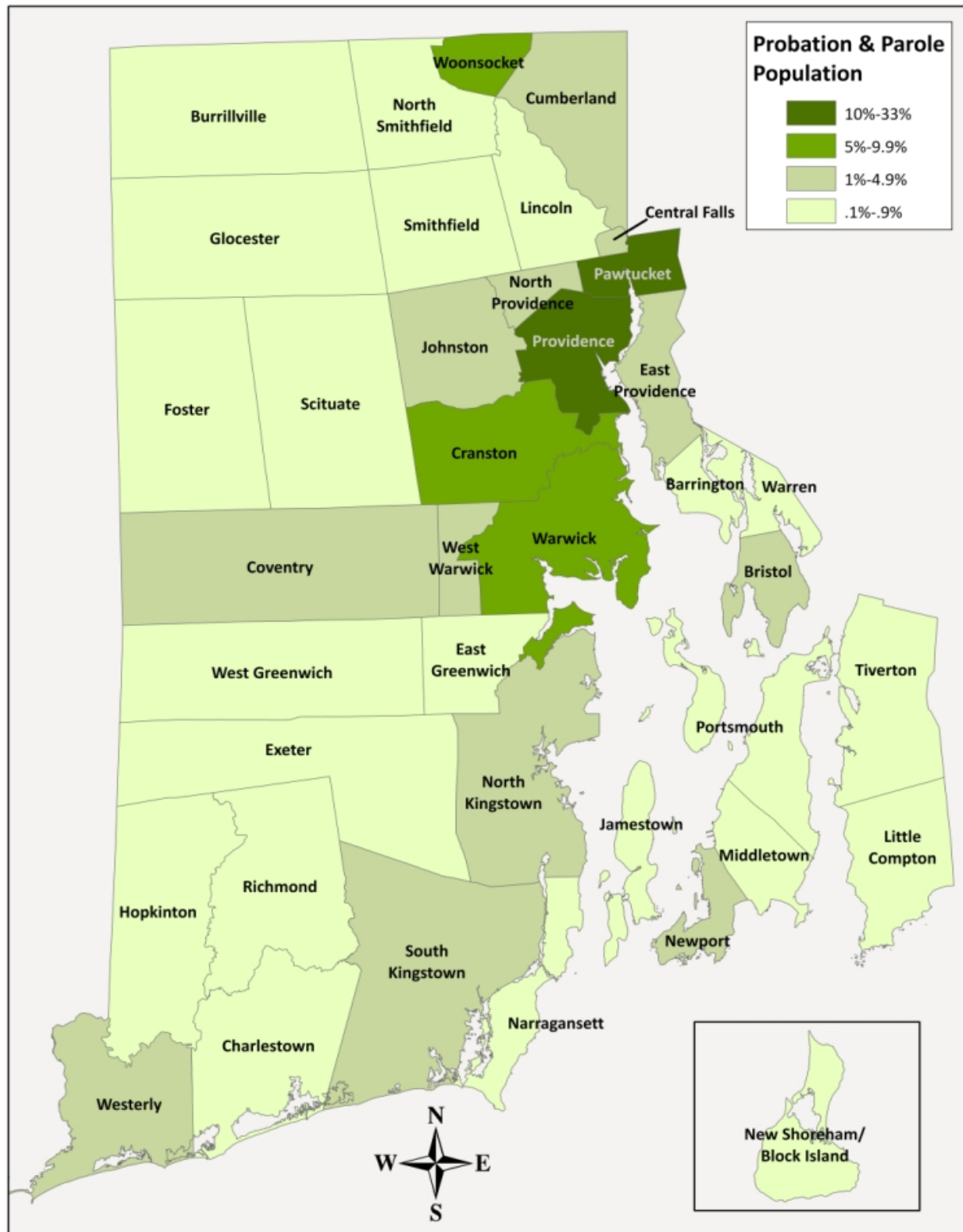
Interpreting the chart: The probation **population** is plotted on the **secondary axis** to the right, while parole and home confinement are plotted on the primary axis to the left.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2010, Rhode Island has the third highest rate of Probation supervision in the nation; 3,010 per 100,000 residents. *BJS Probation and Parole in the United States, 2010.*

Probationers and Parolees by Square Mile as of December 31, 2011



Community Corrections Population



The map above illustrates the Probation and Parole population on the streets of Rhode Island on June 30, 2012. As you can see almost half (43%) of the population live in Providence or Pawtucket.

Looking Toward the Future

Changes around the RIDOC

In the past few years the RIDOC population has seen a steady decline. This has enabled the department to close the Donald Price Medium Security building, saving the state of Rhode Island substantial costs.

The Women's Facilities have seen drastic changes since 2010. The population of both women's facilities were moved to two newly renovated buildings, the Reintegration Building recently renamed the Gloria McDonald Building and the Bernadette Building now known as Women's Facility II. One of the former women's facilities is being renovated into new office space for Probation, Parole, the Training Academy, among others and the other is being turned into a homeless shelter scheduled to be open in 2013.



Pictured: Elizabeth Earls
Assistant Director Rehabilitative Services

Staffing

We have seen many veterans of the DOC depart us over the past year; Ellen Evans Alexander, former Assistant Director of Administration, Roberta Richman, former Assistant Director of Rehabilitation, Aaron Aldrich, former Chief Inspector, among others. Now we look to the future with exciting additions to the executive staff. Patricia Coyne-Fague now heads the Administration division while Elizabeth Earls, a new employee to RIDOC, takes over Rehabilitative Services, and Robert Catlow has replaced Aaron Aldrich as the new Chief Inspector.

Grants

The RIDOC is committed to expanding its services through the use of federal or private foundation funding opportunities when possible. Currently we have a number of grant funded initiatives at the ACI; the Family Focus Initiative funded by the 2nd Chance Act as well as Prison Based Family Substance Abuse Treatment grant. Byrne/ARRA funds two grants from the Office of Public Safety, the Family Reunification and Employment for Transitioning Offenders. The Justice & Mental Health Collaboration project, funded by BJA, supports research, pilot testing, and purchasing validated screening and assessment tools to identify offenders with co-occurring disorders. Finally the National Resource Center for Justice Involved Women provided a technical assistance grant to support the Women's Facilities Steering Committee to revise policies and procedures so they are reflective of gender responsive correctional practices.

Appendix I: Data Caveats & Definitions

RIDOC Description

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

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

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

Stock data: Refers to data that are a “snapshot” of the population, which provides information about the population on a given day. For this report, the date for the stock data is June 30, 2012.

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, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

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, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (FY2012).

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

Timeline- Much of the timeline information can be found in **Lawful Order: A Case Study of Correctional Crisis and Reform** by Leo Carroll.

For further information or questions please contact Caitlin O’Connor, Principal Research Technician, at caitlin.o’connor@doc.ri.gov or 401-462-3925