

**A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
ON JANUARY 1, 1992**

Prepared By

**Michael A. White
Research Analyst**

Massachusetts Department of Correction

**Larry E. DuBois
Commissioner**

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Abstract

This report presents a statistical description of 9,075 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1992. The report contains information on their present offense and sentence, personal background characteristics, and criminal history. The information is presented for the DOC population as a whole and for each facility separately. Changes in the population over the last five years are also given. Highlights from this report include

- On January 1, 1992, the DOC inmate population was 9,075. This is a 10 percent increase in the population from the prior year (N=8,265) and a 61 percent increase over the population for 1987 (N=5636).
- Over the past five years, the proportion of Hispanic offenders in the population increased from 12% in 1987 (N=656) to 19% in 1992 (N=1,733).
- The median age of the population was 31 years; during the five year period, the proportion of offenders age 30 or over in the population increased from 52% in 1987 (N=2,907) to 56% in 1992 (N=5,113).
- During the five year period, the proportion of drug offenders in the population increased from 11% in 1987 (N=623) to 21% in 1992 (N=1,938).
- In 1992, 8 percent of the population were in maximum security facilities, 68 percent in medium security, 3 percent in minimum security, 17 percent in minimum/pre-release security, and 3 percent in pre-release security.
- In 1992, 46 percent of the population were incarcerated for offenses against the person, 15 percent for sex offenses, 13 percent for property offenses, 21 percent for drug offenses, and 4 percent for other offenses.
- In 1992, there were 917 lifers in the DOC, including 385 first-degree lifers and 532 second-degree lifers.
- In 1992, 53 percent of the inmate population were serving their first adult incarceration; and 47 percent had a previous incarceration as an adult.

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Introduction

This report presents a statistical profile of the 9,075 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1992. The report presents information about their present offense, personal background, and criminal history. The information is presented in this report for the DOC population at each facility as well as for the total DOC population.

Population. The population described in this report is inmates incarcerated as a result of a criminal commitment who are in DOC custody on January 1, 1992. The 9,075 cases in the report include all individuals in the custody of the DOC, except those at Bridgewater State Hospital, those on a detention status, or individuals received as civil commitments. Thus, the report excludes those individuals at the Bridgewater State Hospital (N=301), the Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons (N=233), the Addiction Center (N=301), DOC inmates in custody at a federal prison (N=41), out-of-state prison (N=57), or county facility in Massachusetts (N=822) on January 1, 1992, women in the Awaiting Trial Unit (ATU) at MCI-Framingham (N=64), individuals on 15 day Parole Board detainers; and individuals received at MCI-Framingham as civil commitments. This report includes information on county, federal and out of state inmates in the custody of the DOC on January 1, 1992 (N=186).

Facilities. This report contains information on individuals at all DOC facilities including one maximum security facility, MCI-Cedar Junction; eight medium security facilities, Old Colony Correctional Center, MCI-Concord, MCI-Framingham, MCI-Norfolk, North Central Correctional Institution, Southeastern Correctional Center,

The author would like to acknowledge the technical and artistic contributions of Betty Chow and Ramon Raagas in the preparation of this report.

Bay State Correctional Center and MCI-Shirley Medium; one minimum security facility, Northeastern Correctional Center; six minimum/pre-release facilities, MCI-Plymouth, MCI-Warwick, MCI-Shirley, MCI-Lancaster, Pondville Correctional Center, South Middlesex Pre-Release Center, and Longwood Treatment Center; two state pre-release facilities, Park Drive Pre-Release Center and Boston State Pre-Release Center; and seven contract pre-release facilities, Brooke House, Charlotte House, Faith House, Hillside Pre-Release Center, Houston House, Metropolitan Day Reporting Center, and Sargent House.

Southeastern Correctional Center and MCI-Shirley house both medium security inmates and lower security inmates. Information on individuals at the seven contract facilities are presented together under the "CRS" category. Individuals at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital on January 1, 1992 are considered to be at the facility from which they were transferred.

Table Interpretation. In reading the tables beginning at page 17 in this report, the reader should note the following: 1) the population on January 1, 1992 is divided according to the facility in which the individual was located; 2) the first number in each cell represents the number of individuals who fall into the corresponding category in the table; and 3) the second number in each cell represents the percentage in a particular category to the total number of individuals in that facility (column percent). For example, upon referring to the table on pages 29 and 30, the following information on present offense can be obtained: 1) there were 9,075 individuals in the DOC; 2) of these, 1,402 (15 percent) had a sex offense as their primary offense; 3) there were 734 individuals at MCI-Cedar Junction; and 4) of these, 86 (12 percent) had a sex offense as their primary offense. Cases with missing information are included in the percentages contained in the statistical tables but are excluded from the percentages in the narrative description of the population.

The data for this report were obtained from the DOC inmate data base and the statistical tables were produced using SPSS on the Department of Correction VAX 8530.

**Residents of Massachusetts Correctional Institutions,
January 1, 1987 to January 1, 1992:
A Trend Analysis**

This section of the report presents characteristics of the population in DOC facilities and an analysis of changes in the inmate population over the period 1987 to 1992. This information is presented in Table 1, and in Figures 1, 2 and 3, on pages 6 through 11.

During the five year period from January 1, 1987 to January 1, 1992, the population in the DOC increased by 3,439 or 61 percent, from 5,636 in 1987 to 9,075 in 1992. During the past year, the population increased by 810 or 10 percent, from 8,265 in 1991 to 9,075 in 1992.

Sex. In 1992, the DOC population was 94 percent male and 6 percent female. The proportion of females was the same as in 1987.

Race. In 1992, the population in the DOC was 50 percent Caucasian, 30 percent African American, and 19 percent Hispanic. This represents a decrease in the proportion of Caucasians and an increase the proportion of Hispanics since the beginning of the period when the population was 60 percent Caucasian and 12 percent Hispanic. The proportion of African Americans remained fairly stable throughout the period. The number of Native American inmates increased from 12 in 1987 to 14 in 1992, and the number of Asian inmates increased from 9 to 53 during this period.

Age. The age distribution of the population has shifted upward during the last five years. In 1992, 44 percent of the population were under 30 years old and 56 percent were 30 years or older. In contrast, at the beginning of the period, 48 percent of the population were under 30 years of age and 52 percent were 30 years or older.

Offense. In 1992, 46 percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against the person, 15 percent for a sex offense, 13 percent for a property offense, 21 percent for a drug offense, and 4 percent for an other offense. The most substantial changes since the beginning of the period occurred for person and drug offenders. There was a decrease in the proportion of person offenders from 54 percent in 1987 to 46 percent in 1992, and an increase in the proportion of drug offenders from 11 percent in 1987 to 21 percent in 1992. There was little change in the proportions of property, sex, and other offenders in the population since the beginning of the period when the population comprised 15 percent sex offenders, 15 percent property offenders, and 5 percent other offenders. The number of inmates incarcerated for drug offenses increased by 1,315 or 211 percent over the five year period, representing the largest change of the five offense categories.

Committing Institution. Seventy-six percent of the population in 1992 were originally committed to Cedar Junction, 16 percent to Concord, 6 percent to Framingham, and 2 percent to other jurisdictions. This represents an increase in the proportion of individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, a decrease in the proportion serving Concord sentences and sentences from other jurisdictions, and a small increase in the proportion of the population serving Framingham sentences.

Sentence. In 1992, 21 percent of the population were serving sentences with no minimum and 79 percent were serving sentences with a minimum. Of those with a minimum sentence, twenty-three percent had a minimum of less than 5 years, 38 percent had a minimum of 5 to 9 years, 24 percent had a minimum of 10 to 19 years, 3 percent had a minimum of 20 years or more, and 13 percent had a minimum term of life. Compared with the beginning of the period, a smaller proportion of inmates were serving sentences with no minimum (21 percent vs. 27 percent), and a larger proportion were serving sentences with a minimum term of less than 5 years (23 percent vs. 22 percent), 5 to 9 years (38 percent vs. 35 percent), and 10 to 19 years (24 percent vs. 22 percent). The proportion of lifers in the population decreased from 13 percent in 1987 to 10 percent in 1992.

Criminal History. In 1992, 80 percent of the population had a criminal history including one or more charges for an offense against the person, 25 percent for a sex offense, 73 percent for a property offense, 54 percent for a drug offense, 23 percent for an alcohol offense, and 10 percent for an escape offense. Compared with the beginning of the period, the proportion of those with prior charges for one or more person offenses declined from 86 percent to 80 percent, those with prior charges for property offenses decreased from 80 percent to 73 percent, those with prior alcohol offense charges decreased from 26 percent to 23 percent, and those with prior charges for escape offenses decreased from 13 percent to 10 percent. The proportion of inmates with prior charges for drug offenses increased, from 46 percent in 1987 to 54 percent in 1992. The proportion of inmates with prior charges for sex offenses increased from 24 percent in 1987 to 25 percent in 1992.

In 1992, 42 percent had served one or more prior county incarcerations, and 17 percent had served one or more prior state or federal incarcerations. In total, 47 percent had served one or more prior adult incarcerations. Compared with the beginning of the period, the proportion of inmates with one or more prior adult incarcerations decreased from 53 percent in 1987 to 47 percent in 1992.

Table 1

Selected Characteristics of Offenders
in DOC Facilities on January 1,
1987 to 1992

Offender Characteristic	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex												
Male	5310	(94)	5856	(93)	6310	(93)	7042	(93)	7737	(94)	8506	(94)
Female	326	(6)	409	(7)	447	(7)	511	(7)	528	(6)	569	(6)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)
Race												
Caucasian	3353	(60)	3619	(58)	3773	(56)	3980	(53)	4254	(51)	4513	(50)
African American	1606	(28)	1738	(28)	1893	(28)	2161	(29)	2351	(28)	2762	(30)
Hispanic	656	(12)	877	(14)	1056	(16)	1361	(18)	1602	(19)	1733	(19)
Native American	12	(0)	12	(0)	12	(0)	12	(0)	12	(0)	14	(0)
Asian	9	(0)	19	(0)	23	(0)	39	(0)	46	(1)	53	(1)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)
Age on January 1st												
19 and Younger	140	(3)	141	(2)	128	(2)	159	(2)	203	(2)	211	(2)
20 to 24	1101	(20)	1195	(19)	1188	(18)	1348	(18)	1471	(18)	1608	(18)
25 to 29	1488	(26)	1621	(26)	1718	(25)	1905	(25)	2036	(25)	2143	(24)
30 to 39	1971	(35)	2225	(36)	2528	(38)	2776	(37)	2986	(36)	3307	(36)
40 to 64	911	(16)	1054	(17)	1167	(17)	1327	(18)	1529	(18)	1756	(19)
65 and Older	25	(0)	29	(0)	28	(0)	38	(0)	40	(0)	50	(1)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)

Table 1
(continued)

Offender Characteristic	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Offense												
Person	3063	(54)	3252	(52)	3360	(50)	3520	(47)	3764	(46)	4214	(46)
Sex	828	(15)	896	(14)	966	(14)	1131	(15)	1229	(15)	1402	(15)
Property	838	(15)	932	(15)	1022	(15)	1076	(14)	1097	(13)	1168	(13)
Drug	623	(11)	883	(14)	1103	(16)	1502	(20)	1816	(22)	1939	(21)
Other	284	(5)	302	(5)	306	(5)	324	(4)	359	(4)	352	(4)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)
Committing Institution												
Cedar Junction	3982	(71)	4394	(70)	4817	(71)	5539	(73)	6278	(76)	6870	(76)
Concord	1116	(20)	1244	(20)	1266	(19)	1302	(17)	1267	(15)	1452	(16)
Framingham	317	(5)	402	(6)	442	(7)	509	(7)	526	(6)	567	(6)
Other Jurisdiction	221	(4)	225	(4)	232	(3)	203	(3)	194	(2)	186	(2)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)
Minimum Sentence												
No Minimum	1517	(27)	1706	(27)	1812	(27)	1827	(24)	1742	(21)	1915	(21)
Less than 5 Years	893	(16)	982	(16)	1121	(17)	1405	(19)	1546	(19)	1648	(18)
5 to 9 Years	1461	(26)	1674	(27)	1798	(27)	2044	(27)	2424	(29)	2714	(30)
10 to 19 Years	925	(16)	1033	(16)	1100	(16)	1287	(17)	1513	(18)	1684	(19)
20 Years or More	127	(2)	140	(2)	155	(2)	172	(2)	186	(2)	197	(2)
Life	713	(13)	730	(12)	771	(11)	818	(11)	854	(10)	917	(10)
Total	5636	(100)	6265	(100)	6757	(100)	7553	(100)	8265	(100)	9075	(100)

Table 1
(continued)

Offender Characteristic	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Criminal History												
One or More Charges For:												
Person Offenses	4519	(86)	4833	(85)	5169	(84)	5290	(83)	5414	(80)	5783	(80)
Sex Offenses	1271	(24)	1369	(24)	1494	(24)	1562	(24)	1647	(24)	1806	(25)
Property Offenses	4210	(80)	4488	(79)	4805	(78)	4772	(75)	4918	(73)	5278	(73)
Drug Offenses	2425	(46)	2694	(47)	3079	(50)	3297	(52)	3610	(54)	3857	(54)
Alcohol Offenses	1387	(26)	1369	(24)	1536	(25)	1523	(24)	1516	(22)	1671	(23)
Escape Offenses	695	(13)	669	(12)	725	(12)	668	(10)	668	(10)	737	(10)
One or More Prior Incarcerations:												
County	2323	(44)	2514	(44)	2737	(45)	2665	(42)	2810	(42)	3027	(42)
State or Federal	1262	(24)	1216	(21)	1253	(20)	1131	(18)	1116	(16)	1221	(17)
Adult	2792	(53)	2920	(51)	3153	(51)	3037	(48)	3156	(47)	3385	(47)

Figure 1.
Racial Distribution
January 1, 1987 to 1992

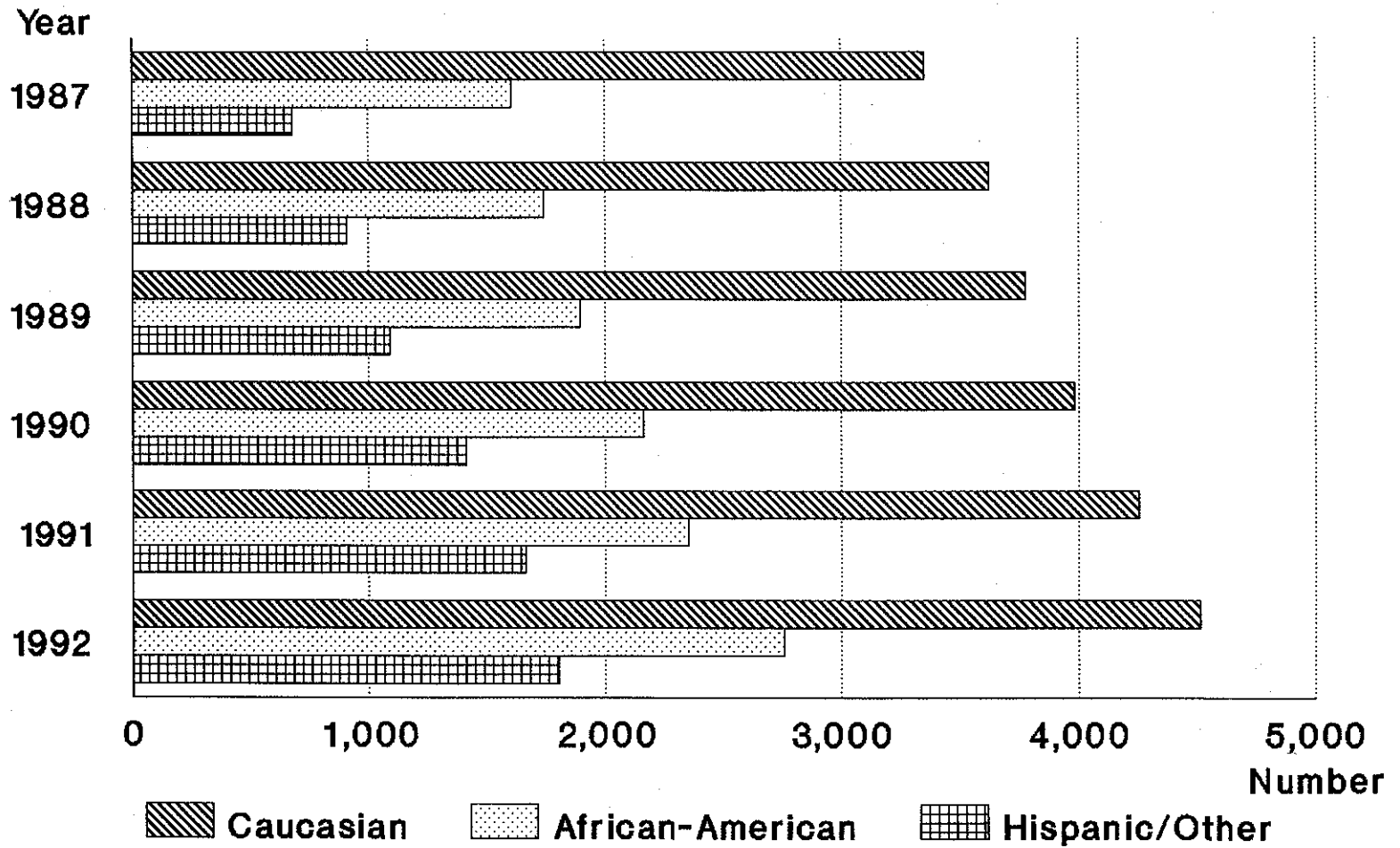


Figure 2.
Present Offense Distribution
January 1, 1987 to 1992

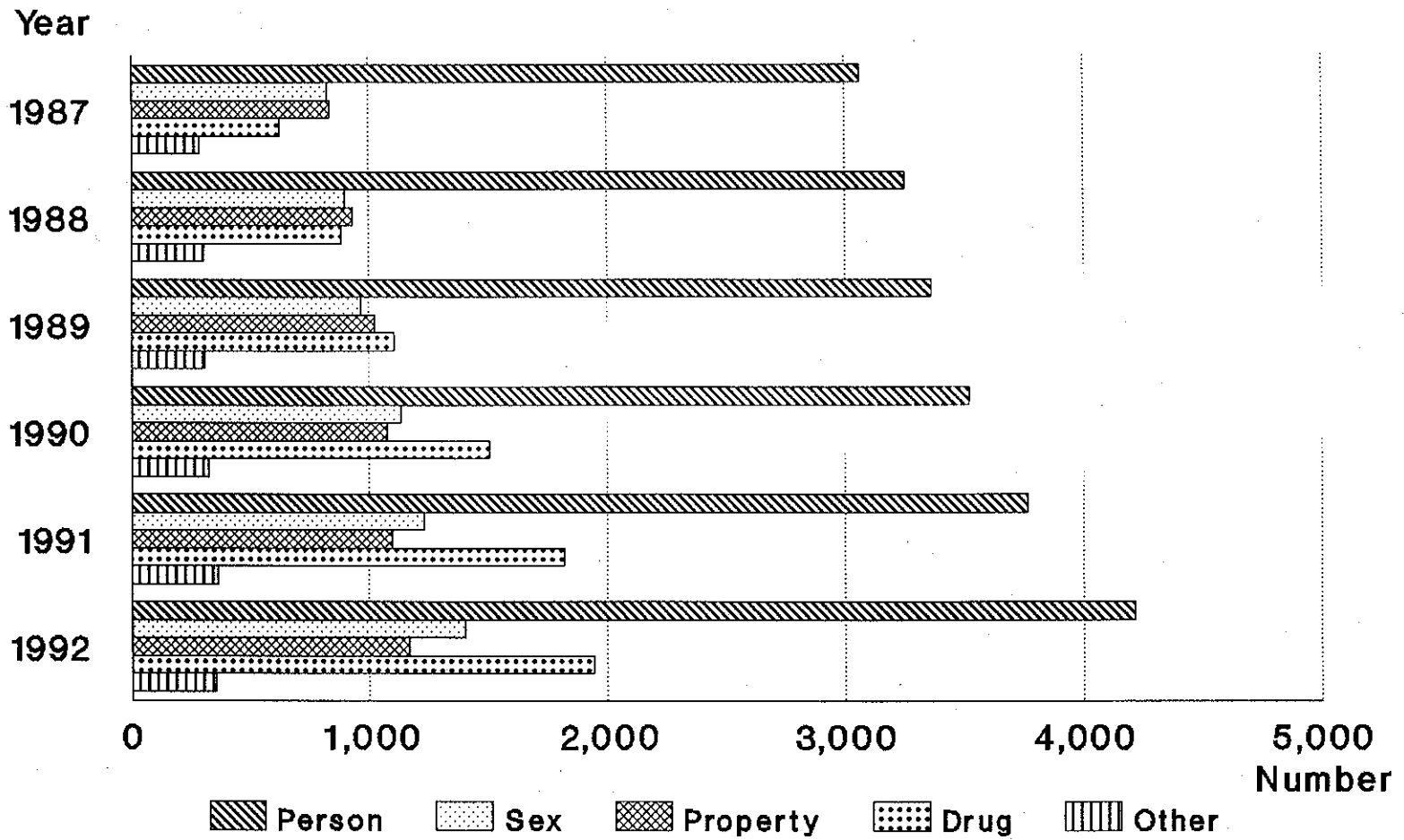
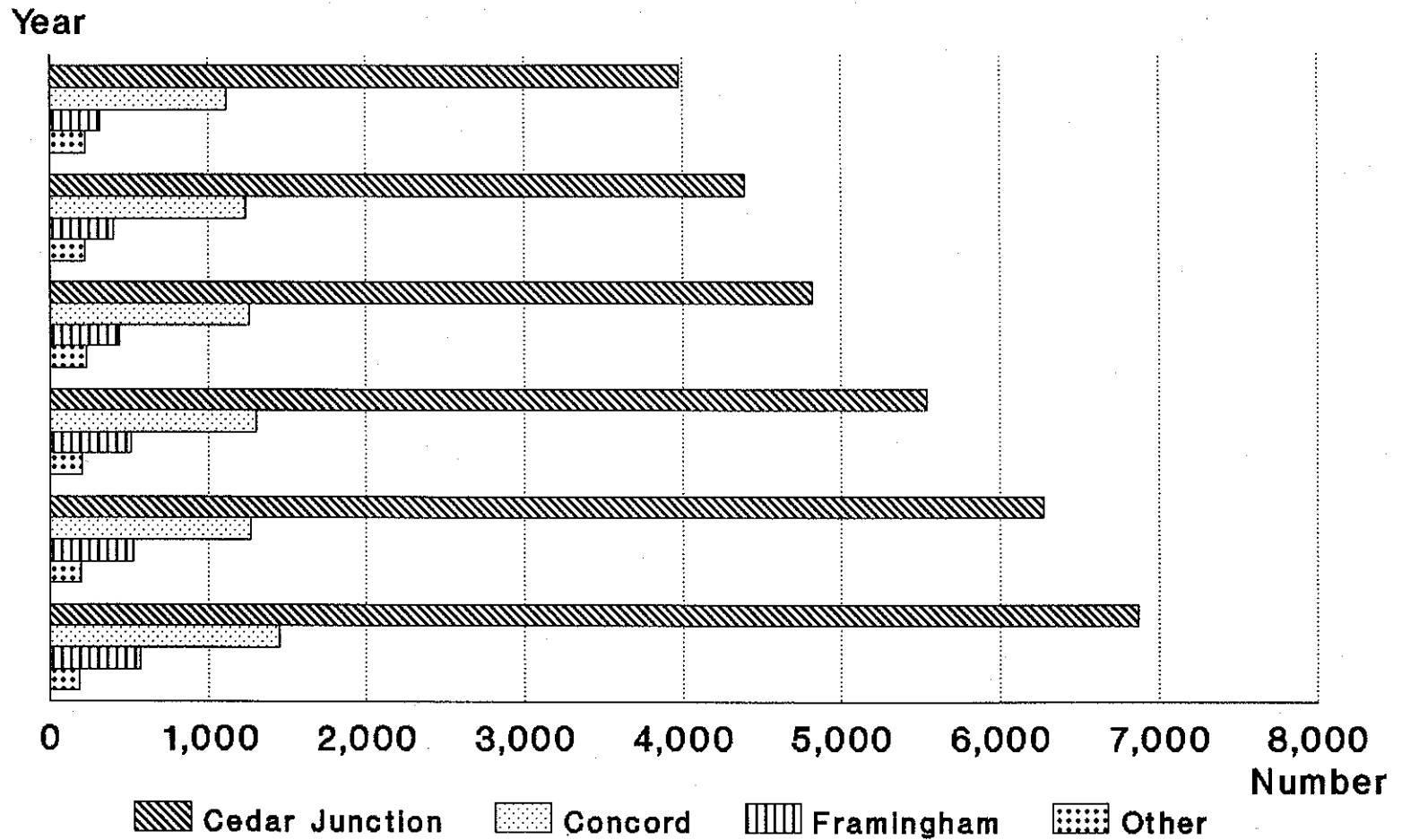


Figure 3.
 DOC Population Distribution by
 Committing Inst. Jan. 1, 1987 to 1992



Residents of Massachusetts Correctional
Institutions on January 1, 1992:
Summary of Statistics

In this section the 9,075 residents of DOC facilities on January 1, 1992 are described in terms of their institutional placement, present offense, personal background characteristics, and criminal history.

Institutional Placement

On January 1, 1992 there were 9,075 inmates in DOC facilities. There were 8 percent (N=734) in maximum security facilities; 68 percent (N=6,198) in medium security facilities; 3 percent (N=271) in minimum security facilities; 17 percent (N=1,572) in minimum/pre-release security facilities;¹ and, 3 percent (N=300) in pre-release security facilities.

Nature of Present Offense

Court From Which Committed. Ninety-two percent (N=8,311) of the DOC population were originally committed from a Superior Court; 5 percent (N=454) were originally committed from a lower court; and 3 percent (N=310) were from another jurisdiction or were serving a second sentence (e.g. from & after or B sentence, a sentence for a crime committed on parole). There are four Superior Courts which have committed 66 percent of the inmates in the DOC on January 1, 1992: Suffolk (N=2,371), Middlesex (N=1333), Hampden (N=1330), and Worcester (N=967).

Jail Credits. Seventy-five percent (N=6,803) of the population received one or more days of jail credits; representing time credited to the individual for awaiting trial on their sentence.

Sentence. Seventy-six percent (N=6,870) of the population were serving State Prison (Cedar Junction)

¹ The 964 inmates at MCI-Shirley include 512 housed in the medium security facility and 452 housed in the minimum/pre-release facility.

sentences with a median minimum sentence of eight years; 16 percent (N=1,452) were serving Reformatory (Concord) sentences with a median maximum sentence of ten years; 6 percent (N=567) were women committed to Framingham; and 2 percent (N=186) were from other jurisdictions: counties (N=117), other states (N=62), or federal (N=7). Of the women committed to Framingham, 48 percent (N=270) were serving State Prison sentences, 14 percent (N=78) were serving Reformatory sentences, and 39 percent (N=219) were serving county sentences.

Offense. Forty-six percent (N=4,214) of the population were incarcerated for offenses against the person, 15 percent (N=1,402) for sex offenses, 13 percent (N=1,168) for property offenses, 21 percent (N=1,939) for drug offenses and 4 percent (N=352) for other offenses. The ten most common offenses for which individuals were committed are Class B drug offenses (N=1,424), armed robbery (N=1,285), armed assault (N=688), burglary (N=635), rape of a minor (N=563), second degree murder (N=493), unarmed robbery (N=481), manslaughter (N=429), first degree murder (N=392), and rape (N=311).

There were 917 (10 percent) lifers in the DOC, an increase of seven percent from 1991. Of the 917 lifers in the DOC; there were 385 first degree lifers for the offense of murder-1; and 532 second degree lifers for various offenses including murder-2, armed robbery, rape, aggravated rape, and rape of a child. There were seven inmates incarcerated for murder-1 with sentences other than life, four from out of state and three whose sentences were commuted from life to a term of years prior to 1/1/92.

Age at Incarceration. The age at incarceration ranged from 15 to 76 years. The median age at incarceration was 27 years.

Personal Background Characteristics

Sex. The population was 94 percent male (N=8,506) and 6 percent female (N=569).

Race/Ethnicity. The population was 50 percent Caucasian (N=4,513), 30 percent African American (N=2,762), 19 percent Hispanic (N=1,733), and one percent other races or ethnic groups (N=67).

Citizenship. Ninety-four percent (N=8,515) of the inmates were U.S. citizens (including 58 percent born in Massachusetts, 22 percent born in other states, 10 percent born in U.S. territories, 3 percent born in other countries). Six percent (N=560) were not U.S. citizens.

Marital Status. Sixty-seven percent (N=6,121) of the inmates were single, 19 percent (N=1,753) were married or common-law, and 13 percent (N=1,201) were divorced, separated or widowed.

Military Service. Fifteen percent (N=1,231) of the population were self-reported veterans and 85 percent (N=6,874) reported no history of military service. Of the known veterans, 68 percent were honorably discharged, 18 percent received a dishonorable, bad conduct or medical discharge, and for 14 percent the type of discharge was unknown.

Home Area. Ninety-four percent (N=8,492) of the population were living in Massachusetts prior to incarceration and 6 percent were living out of state. The communities from which inmates most often came were: Boston (N=2,521), Springfield (N=898), Worcester (N=492), Lowell (N=294), Lynn (N=231), Brockton (N=215), Holyoke (N=186), Lawrence (N=179), New Bedford (N=167), Fall River (N=166), Cambridge (N=146), and Somerville (N=133).

Occupation. Fifty-four percent (N=3,510) of the population were previously employed in manual labor positions and 31 percent (N=2,015) were employed in service jobs.

Education. The median educational level of the population was 11th grade. Fifteen percent (N=1,183) reported having a grammar school education (eighth grade or less), 38 percent (N=3,053) reported some high school education (grades 9 through 11), 25 percent (N=1,992) were high school graduates with no post-secondary education, 15 percent (N=1,222) had a GED and no post-secondary education, 5 percent (N=387) had some college education, and 2 percent (N=172) had graduated from college.

Current Age. The median age of the population on January 1, 1992 was 31 years, ranging in age from 17 years to 76 years. There were 211 inmates (2 percent) 19 years or younger and 50 inmates (less than one percent) 65 years or older.

Criminal History

Court Appearances. The median age at first court appearance was eighteen years old. Fifty percent (N=3,595) of the population had nine or more prior court appearances. Of those that had appearances, 80 percent (N=5,783) had charges for offenses against the person; 25 percent (N=1,806) had charges for sex offenses; 73 percent (N=5,278) had charges for property offenses; 10 percent (N=737) had charges for escapes; 23 percent (N=1,671) had charges for alcohol offenses; and, 54 percent (N=3,857) had charges for narcotics offenses.

Prior Incarcerations. Forty-two percent (N=3,027) had one or more prior incarcerations in a county facility; and 17 percent (N=1,221) had one or more prior incarcerations in a state or federal facility. Overall, 47 percent (N=3,385) had at least one prior incarceration as an adult.