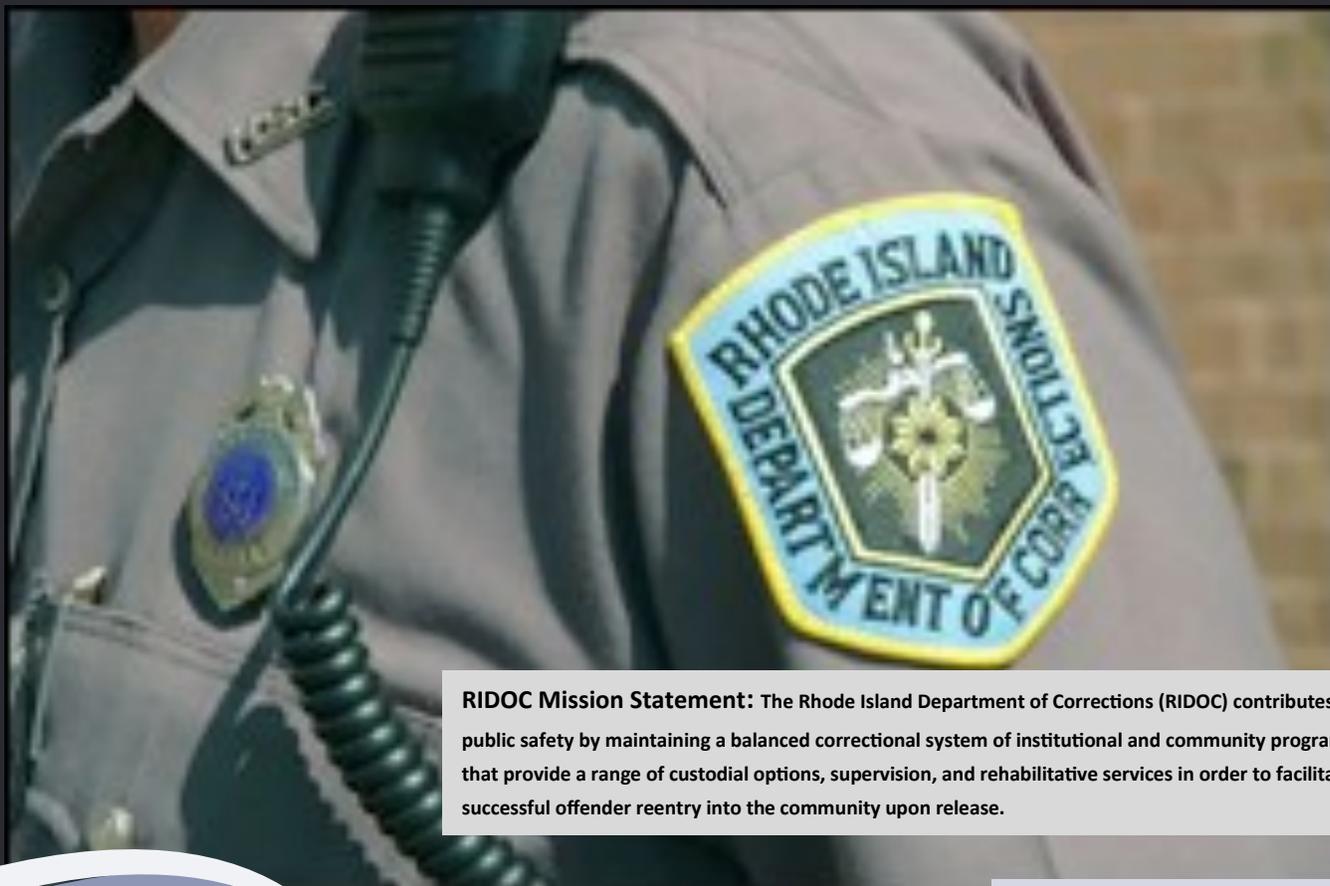


# Rhode Island Department of Corrections

## Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Population Report

September 2021



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

## RIDOC Goals

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

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# Director's Message



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

I am pleased to present the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Annual Population Report for Fiscal Year 2021. 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.

### Other features of this year's report include:

- ▷ RIDOC's long-standing commitment of offering institutional courses and programs aimed at enhancing offenders' level of education to improve post-release employment outcomes.
- ▷ RIDOC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccination efforts.
- ▷ RIDOC's total average population is at the lowest levels seen in at least seventeen years.
- ▷ According to JFA Associates, RIDOC's prison population is projected to increase by approximately 24% over the next 10 years.
- ▷ Going forward, RIDOC will continue to take innovative steps to foster successful offender rehabilitation and community reintegration.

This year, the report also highlights the Department's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the efforts of Health Services and all RIDOC staff and volunteers, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections boasts the highest rate of incarcerated offenders vaccinated in the nation. Despite pandemic restrictions, the Department continued to deliver rehabilitative services for offenders, which provide opportunities for offenders to succeed upon release. 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.

I hope you enjoy this informative report!

Thank you.

# Data Caveats & Definitions

**RIDOC Description:** The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) operates a unified correctional system, meaning that all pretrial detainees and all sentenced offenders (regardless of sentence length or crime) are under the jurisdiction of the Department. RIDOC has six (6) housing facilities on the Pastore Government Center Complex in Cranston, Rhode Island. In addition to institutional corrections, offenders on probation, parole and electronic monitoring also fall under the jurisdiction of the RIDOC.

**Facilities:** The RIDOC Annual Report historically only includes open inmate facilities. The Donald Price Building has been omitted since its closure in November of 2011. The Women’s Facilities houses awaiting trial & sentenced offenders. This Facilities are 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, they 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 INFACIS (RIDOC’s inmate database system), and there are times where multiple counts are condensed into one charge record. At times, offense information is not immediately available to RIDOC; in these instances, the designation “pending court verification” is assigned.

**Stock Data:** Refers to data that are a “snapshot” of the population, which provides information about the population on a given day. For this report, the date for the stock data is June 30, 2021.

**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, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (FY2021).

**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, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (FY2021).

**Operational Capacity:** Refers to the number of offenders that RIDOC can safely accommodate based on a facility’s staff, existing programs, and services (BJS, 2020). RIDOC’s Operational Capacity is calculated utilizing the following formula:

$$\text{All Beds} = (\text{Hospital Beds} + 1/3 \text{ of Segregation Beds}).$$

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

# Facilities

The Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) are comprised of 6 inmate facilities (5 male, 1 female), which are all located within 1 square mile in Cranston, RI. The State of Rhode Island operates a unified correctional system, meaning that all offenders (i.e. those awaiting trial, sentenced, and under community supervision) in the state are under the jurisdiction of RIDOC.

## Intake Service Center:

### Anthony P. Trivisono Facility

Opened: 1982 -Expanded: 1992

Renovated: 1995

Average Facility Population: 763 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 1,120 (FY21)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$79,482

## Minimum Security:

Opened: 1978 - Expanded: 1989 & 1992

Average Facility Population: 106 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 692 (FY21)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$178,808

## Medium Security:

### John J. Moran Facility

Opened: 1992

Average Facility Population: 746 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 1,126 (FY21)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$81,221



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 7,912 commitments in FY21, approximately 659 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 30 days (see graph on p.15 for further details); this translates into a constant turnover of the inmate population. In comparison to FY20, the average facility population at the ISC has decreased by just over 7% through the close of FY21.

The Minimum Security facility (MIN) was opened in 1978 in a converted hospital building on Howard Avenue in Cranston. In 1989, Minimum Security 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 FY20, the average facility population in Minimum Security has declined by just over 46% through the close of FY21.

The John J. Moran Facility was constructed from 1990 to 1992, at a cost of \$65,000,000. The facility covers 29 acres and houses sentenced adult male offenders who are classified as medium custody. The Medium Security facility has the highest inmate bed capacity figure of any RIDOC facility, with 1,186 available beds. Extensive programming is provided with the goal of preparing inmates for successful return to their communities. In comparison to FY20, the average facility population in Medium Security has declined by over 17% through the close of FY21.

# Facilities

## Maximum Security:

Opened: 1878

Average Facility Population: 359 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 422 (FY21)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$94,487



The Maximum Security facility (MAX) 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 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 FY20, the average facility population in Maximum Security decreased by over 9% through the close of FY21.

## High Security:

Opened: 1981

Average Facility Population: 84 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 96 (FY21)

Annual Cost per Offender: \$215,753



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 FY20, the inmate population decreased by just over 3% through the close of FY21.

## Women's Facilities:

### Gloria McDonald Building

Average Women's Facilities Population: 86 (FY21)

Operational Capacity: 187

Annual Cost per Offender: \$186,943

The Women's Facilities houses awaiting trial offenders and three



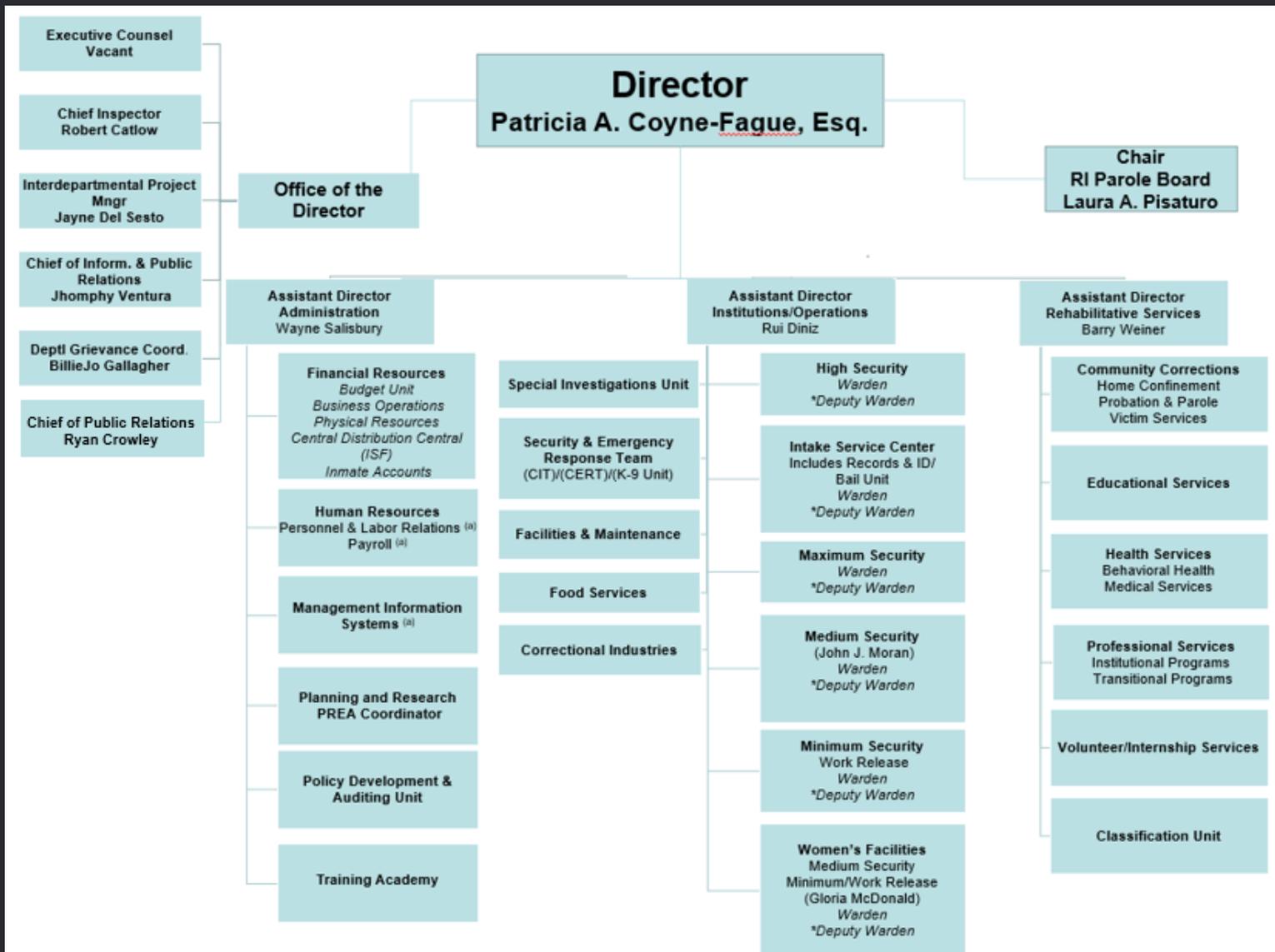
classification levels (medium, minimum, and work release) that used to be housed in two separate buildings. In late 2010 and 2011, facilities housing these offenders (referenced in previous reports as the GM and DIX buildings) were closed to the inmate population. The

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 mid FY20, RIDOC utilized the Bernadette Building to house sentenced offenders. The Gloria McDonald Building is now the main female facility and has an inmate bed capacity of 213. In comparison to FY20, the average facility population in the Women's Facilities decreased by

just over 34% through the close of FY21.



# RIDOC Organizational Chart



<sup>(a)</sup>(Sub) Unit is fully staffed by Dept. of Administration Centralized Services

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**

**Wayne T. Salisbury**

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

## **Institutions and Operations**

**Assistant Director**

**Rui A. Diniz**

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**

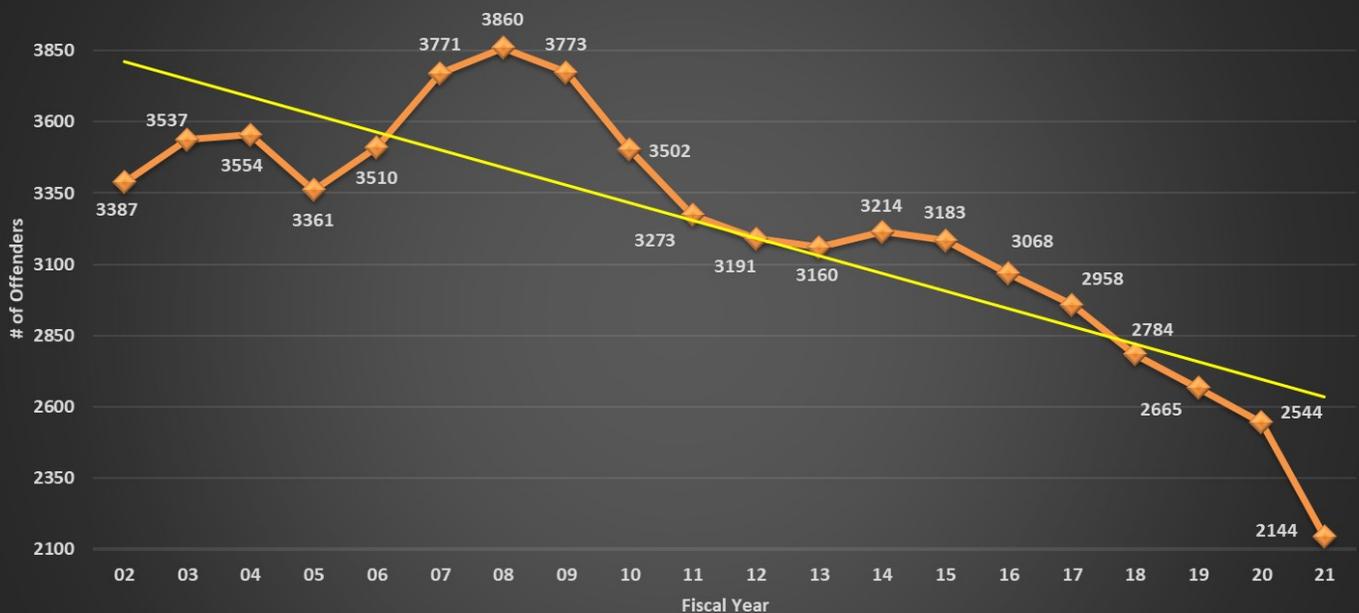
**Barry J. Weiner**

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 Counseling, and Volunteer/Internship Services*. Community Corrections refers to units such as *Probation and Parole, Community Confinement, Reentry Services, and Victim Services*. Not only does Rehabilitative Services work with offenders to end criminal and anti-social behavior while incarcerated, but it 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 FY21



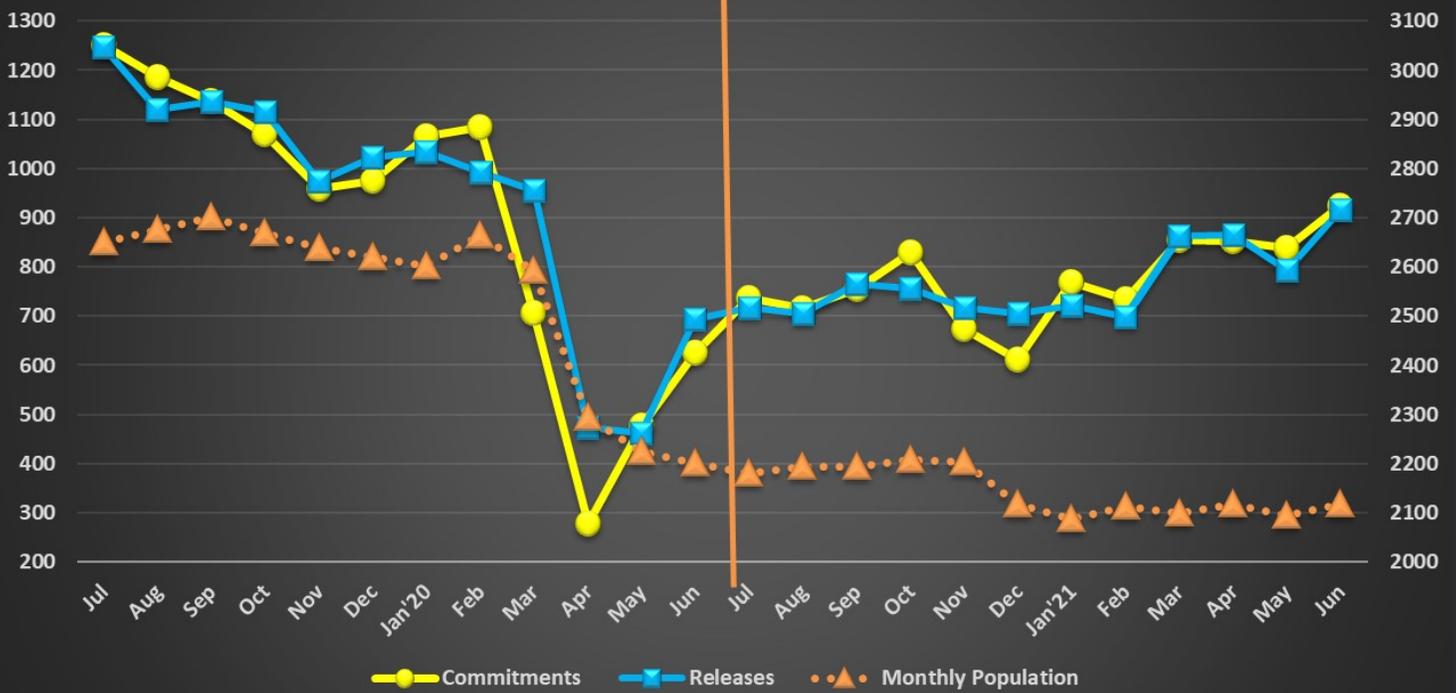
As was the trend nationally, Rhode Island continued marked growth in its total prison population between 2002 and 2008. The most recent sharp increase was between FY05 and FY08, when the population grew 14.8%. However, since FY08, the population has seen a steady decline and fell by nearly 44% through the end of FY21. In RI, 156 out of every 100,000 residents are imprisoned, while nationally 419 out of 100,000 US residents are incarcerated (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2019*), which makes Rhode Island third lowest in the nation in terms of the rate of incarceration.

Implementing evidence-based practices aimed at addressing an offender's 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-FY20, which will soon be available on RIDOC's website at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov).

# 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 COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in a significant decline in commitments to RIDOC, reaching an historic low of 279 in April 2020. Since then, commitments to RIDOC have been steadily climbing.

- From July 2020 to June 2021, commitments increased by 25.5%.
- From February 2020 to June 2021, commitments declined by 14.8%.

RIDOC's commitments have decreased by 26% from FY20 through FY21.

Fiscal Year 2021	# Commitments	+/- Change
July	736	17.57%
August	716	-2.72%
September	756	5.59%
October	830	9.79%
November	673	-18.92%
December	612	-9.06%
January	769	25.65%
February	734	-4.55%
March	855	16.49%
April	852	-0.35%
May	839	-1.53%
June	924	10.13%

# Offender Characteristics

## Characteristics of a Typical RIDOC Sentenced Offender as of June 30, 2021

### Male Sentenced Offenders

- ◆ Sixteen percent (16%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY21.
- ◆ Five percent (5%) entered prison as parole violators in FY21.
- ◆ The majority are white (37%) & single (76%).
- ◆ About half (54%) have a high school diploma or GED, 34% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 9% have completed some college.
- ◆ Fifty-six percent (56%) are fathers; the average number of children fathered is 2.
- ◆ Fifty-one percent (51%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ The average age was 37 years old, with a range of 19 to 85 years old.

### Female Sentenced Offenders

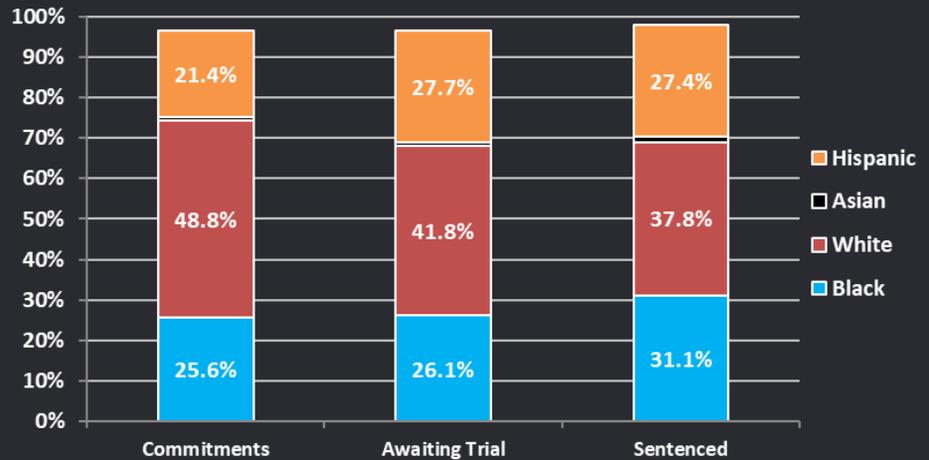
- ◆ Six percent (6%) entered RIDOC as probation violators in FY21.
- ◆ Two percent (2%) entered prison as parole violators in FY21.
- ◆ The majority are white (62%) & single (70%).
- ◆ Fifty-one percent (51%) have a high school diploma or GED, 15% have less than a 12th grade education; and an additional 26% have completed some college.
- ◆ Sixty-six (66%) are mothers; the average number of children is 2 per offender.
- ◆ Sixty percent (60%) were unemployed at the time they became incarcerated.
- ◆ The average age was 37 years old, with a range of 20 to 66 years old.

# Offender Characteristics

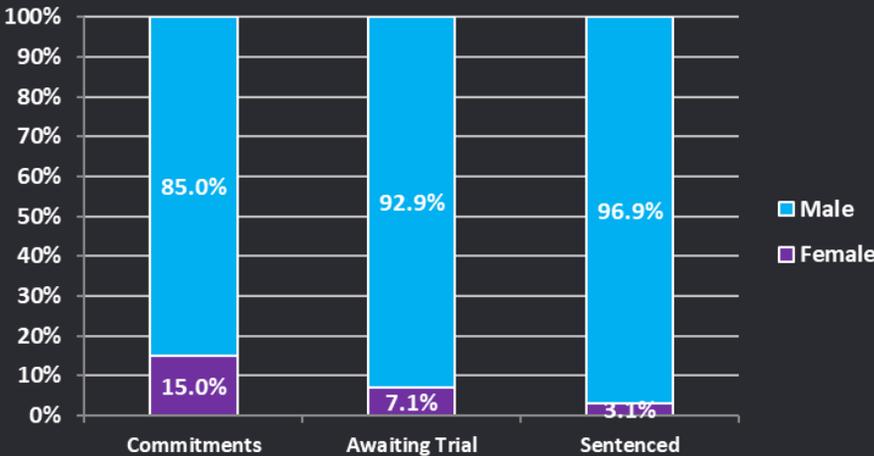
The charts on the following pages\* contain: commitments, who include all offenders committed to RIDOC (sentenced & pre-trial) over FY21; awaiting trial and sentenced offenders represent the stock population on June 30, 2021.

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.

**Inmate Race by Status**



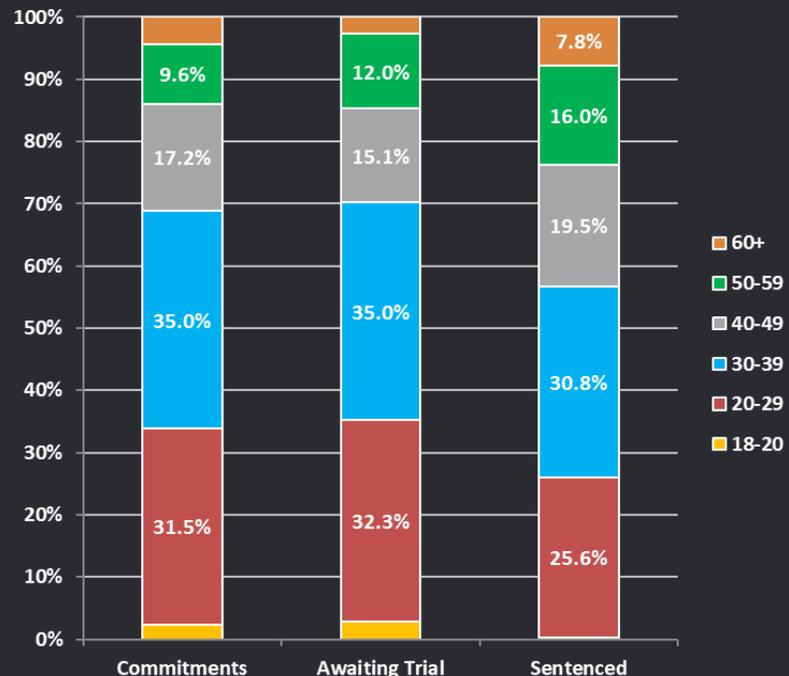
**Inmate Sex by Status**



Males make up most (85%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 15%. Males also make up the majority (92.9%) of RIDOC's awaiting trial population, while females make up just 7.1%. Males account for 96.9% of RIDOC's sentenced population, while females make up only 3.1%.

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 37. For pre-trial offenders, males have a median age of 33 and females have a median age of 33.5.

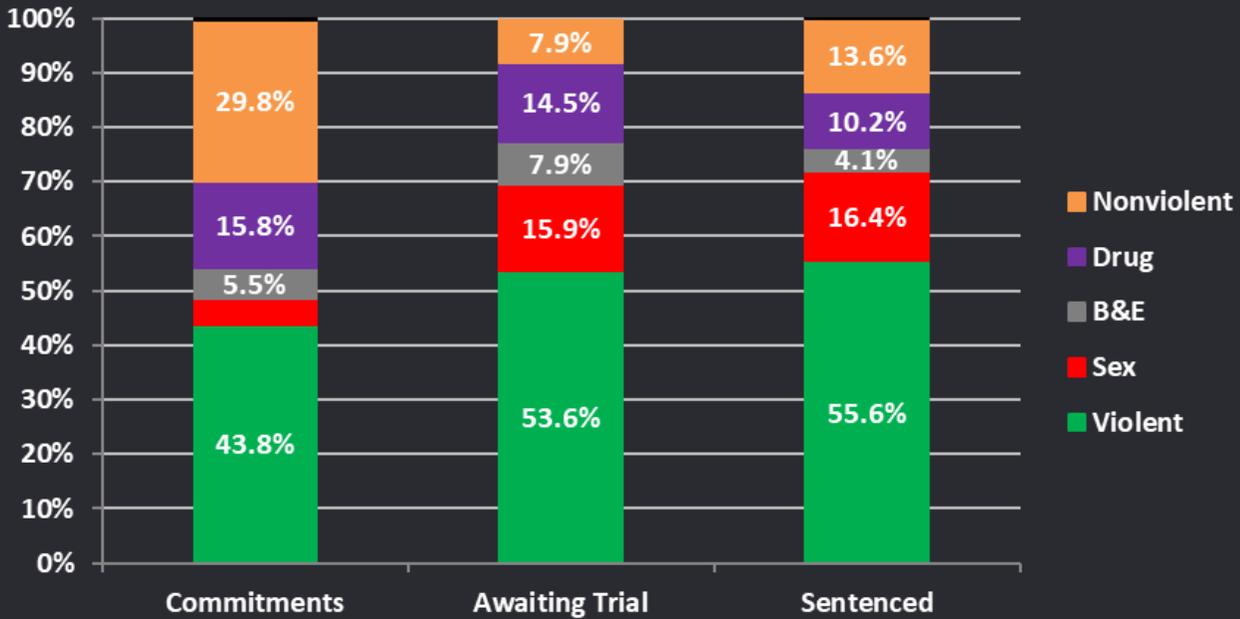
**Inmate Age by Status**



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

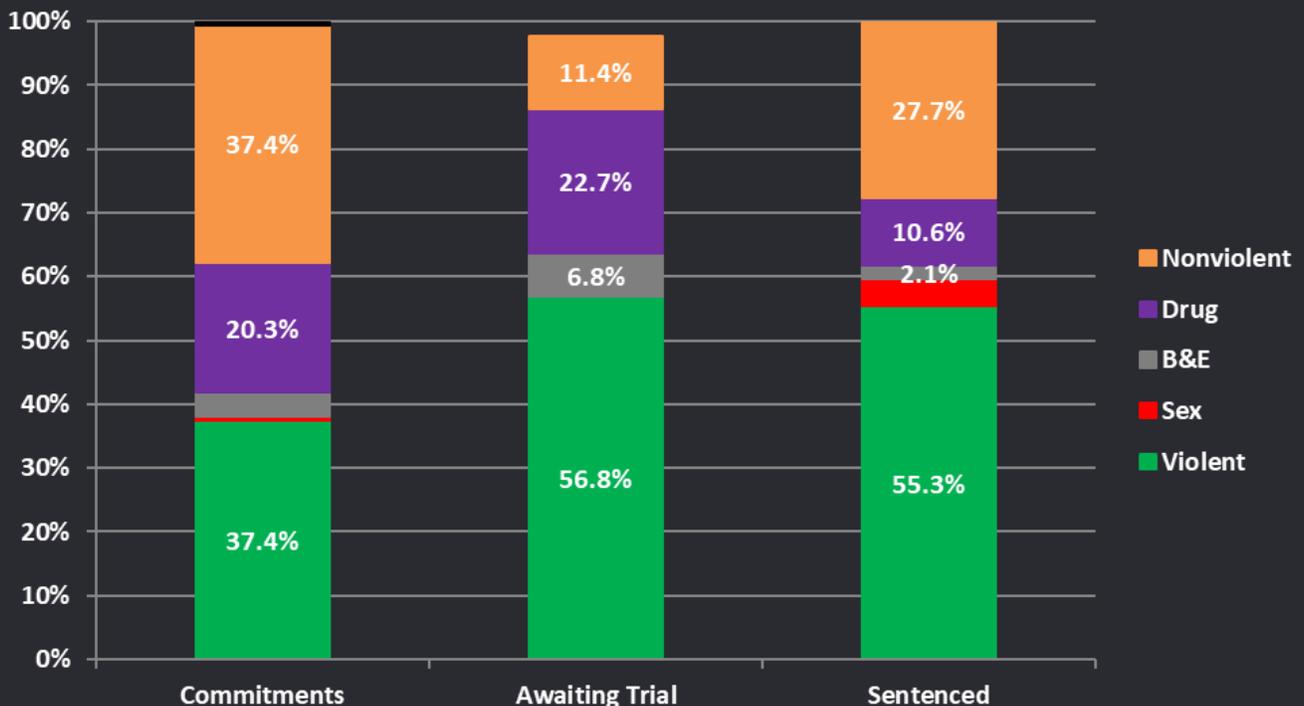
# Offender Characteristics

## Offense Type by Status - Male Population



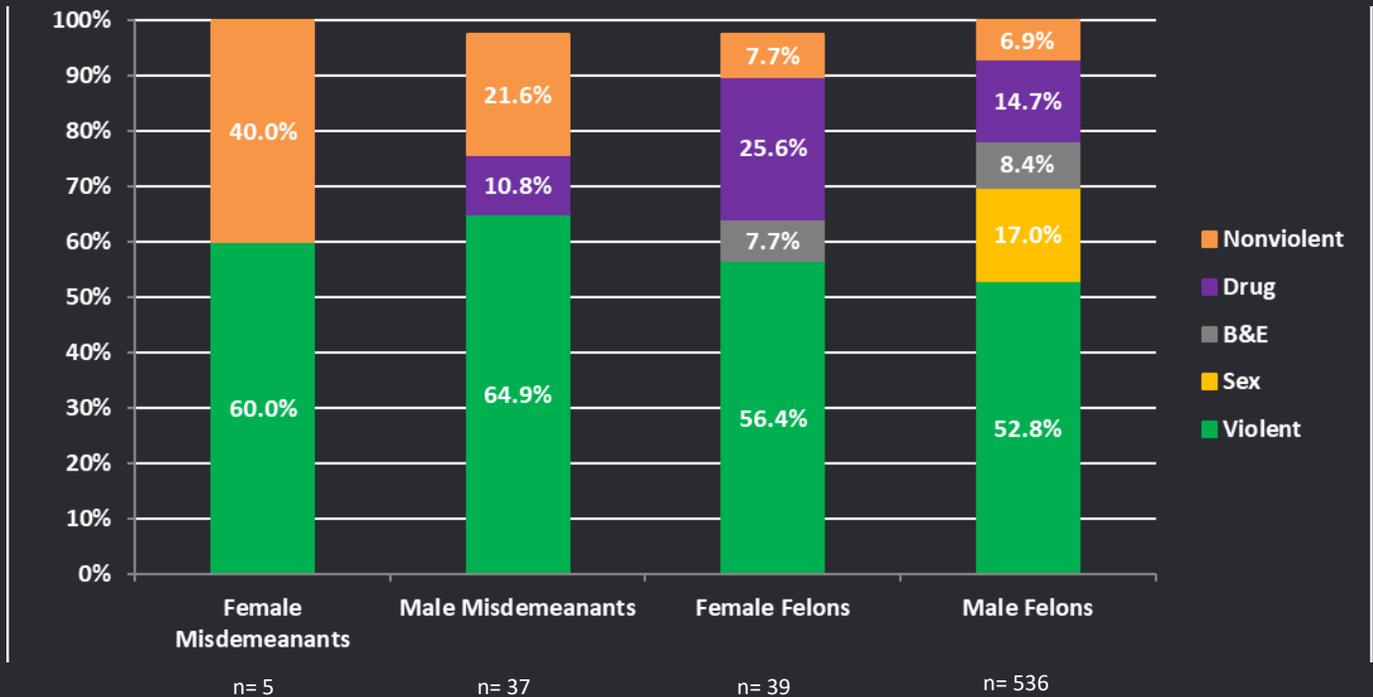
As literature suggests, males and females tend to be involved in different crimes. Nearly thirty percent (29.8%) of male commitments are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, while just over thirty seven percent (37.4%) of the female commitments are incarcerated for similar offenses. Around half of the Awaiting Trial male population (53.6%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes, while about 56.8% of females are incarcerated for similar violent crimes. The reverse trend is evident in the sentenced population, where more than half of males (55.6%) and females (55.3%) have been imprisoned for violent crimes. Lifers are included in the sentenced population, making the amount of violent sentenced offenders rise dramatically.

## Offense Type by Status - Female Population



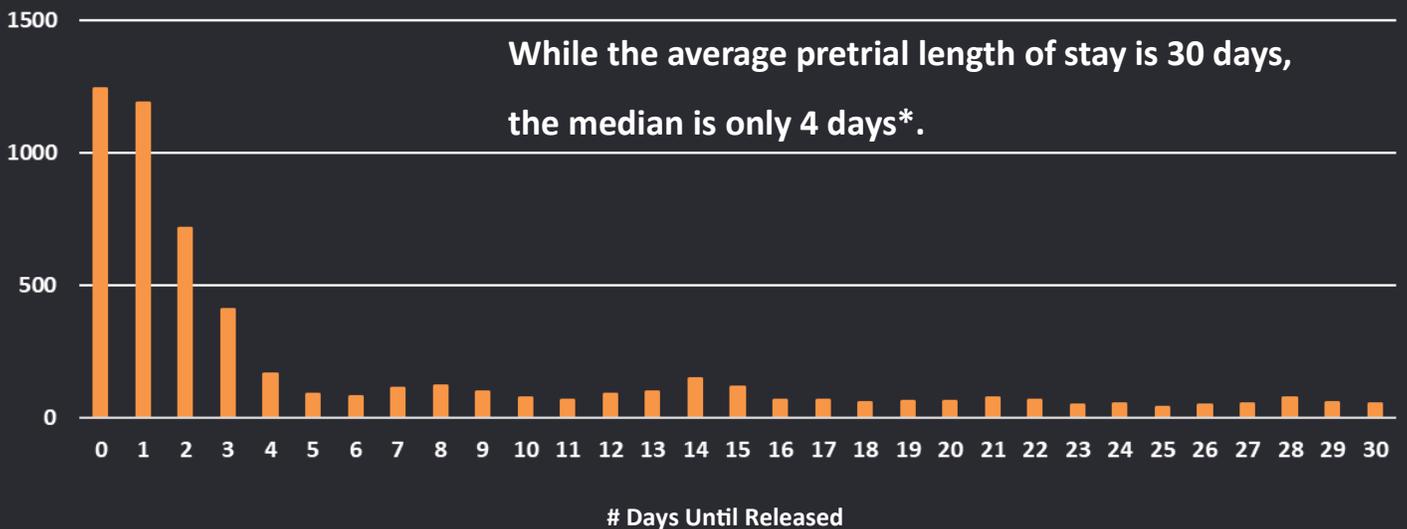
# Pre-trial Statistics

## Pre-Trial Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type Stock Data - June 30, 2021 (N=617)



The most common offenses for male misdemeanants in the awaiting trial population were domestic assault, and domestic disorderly conduct for females. Male felons were imprisoned most commonly for manual delivery of a controlled substance, felony assault, or first degree murder. Female felons were imprisoned most commonly for manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance or second degree murder.

## Average Length of Stay for FY21

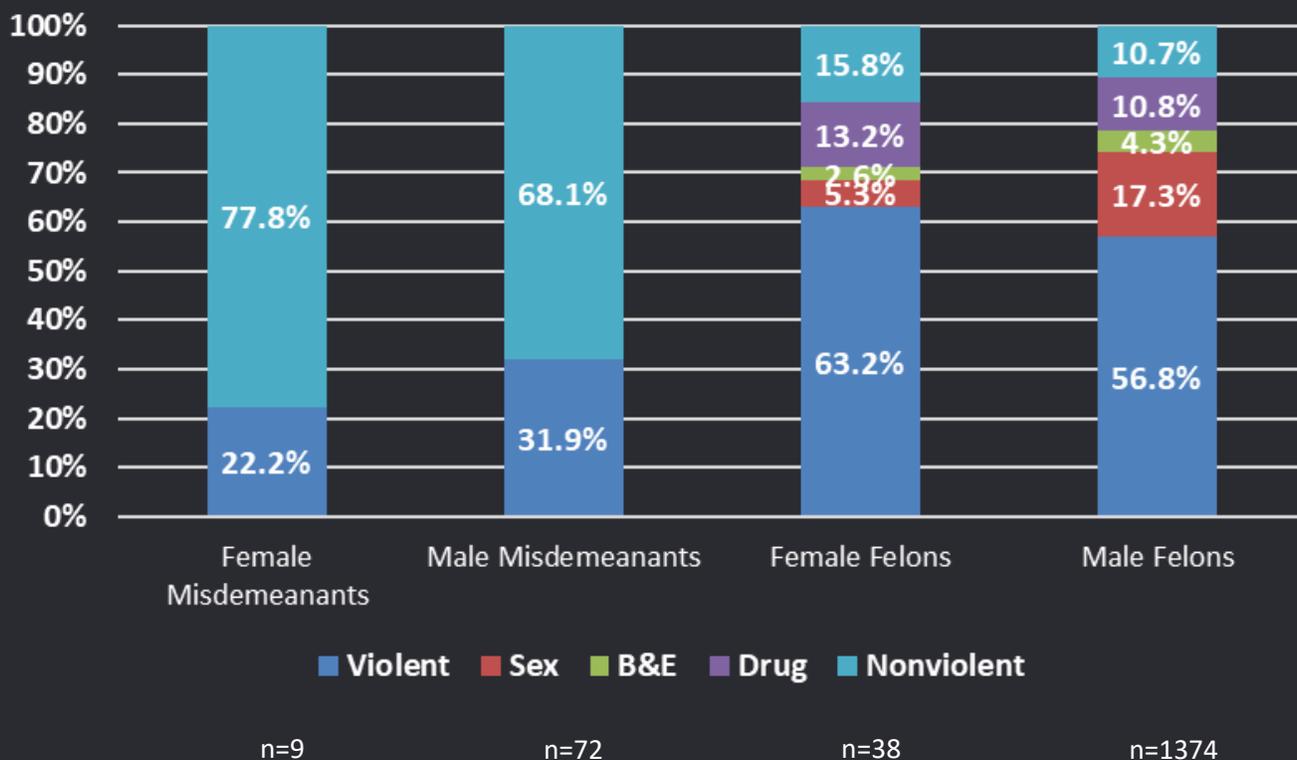


\*Please note that mean & median average length of stay statistics incorporate data beyond the first 30 days that is highlighted in the graph (above). 0 Indicates a pretrial offender was released on the same day. In addition, pre-trial stock data only includes offenders who are held in RIDOC Facilities.

\*Caveat: The average pretrial length of stay may have been altered by higher than normal case values. The median is not impacted by extreme case values.

# Sentenced Statistics

**Sentenced Offenders: Crime Type by Offense Type**  
**Stock Data - June 30, 2021 (N=1,493)**



RIDOC’s sentenced stock population has declined by nearly 7.9% (128 offenders) from this same time last year (June 30, 2020).

The most common offenses for female misdemeanants were:

- Domestic disorderly conduct (22.2%)
- Driving with a suspended license (22.2%)

The most common offenses for female felons were:

- Second degree murder (15.8%)
- Manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance (10.5%)
- Felony assault (7.9%)

The most common offenses for male misdemeanants were:

- Domestic assault (14.3%)
- Violation of a no contact order (11.7%)

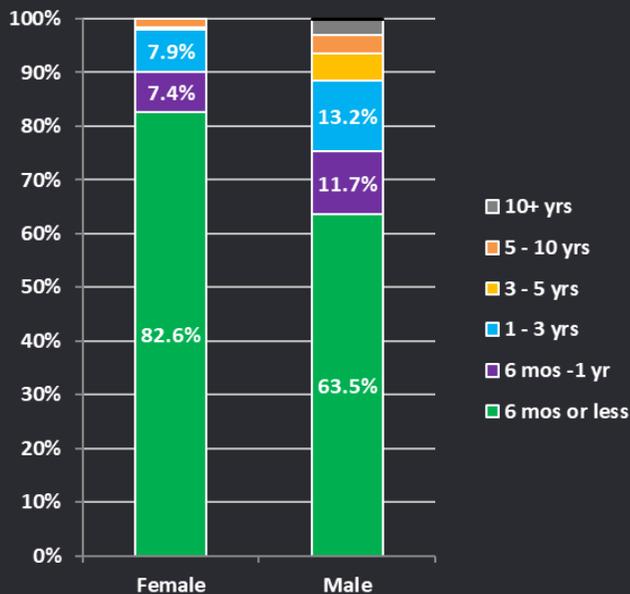
The most common offenses for male felons were:

- First degree murder (11.0%),
- Felony assault (10.6%)
- First degree child molestation (7.6%)

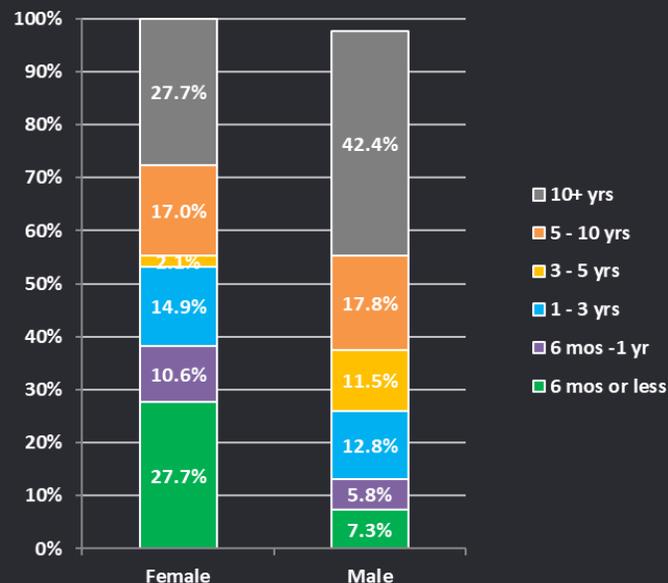
\*Please note that sentenced stock data only includes those offenders who are held in RIDOC Facilities. It excludes those who are serving a R.I. sentence out-of-state according to interstate compact, at the Eleanor Slater Hospital Forensic Unit, or who are on home confinement. In addition, sentenced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

# Sentenced Statistics

**Sentenced Commitments**  
Sentence Length by Sex  
June 30, 2021



**Sentenced Stock Population**  
Sentence Length by Sex  
June 30, 2021



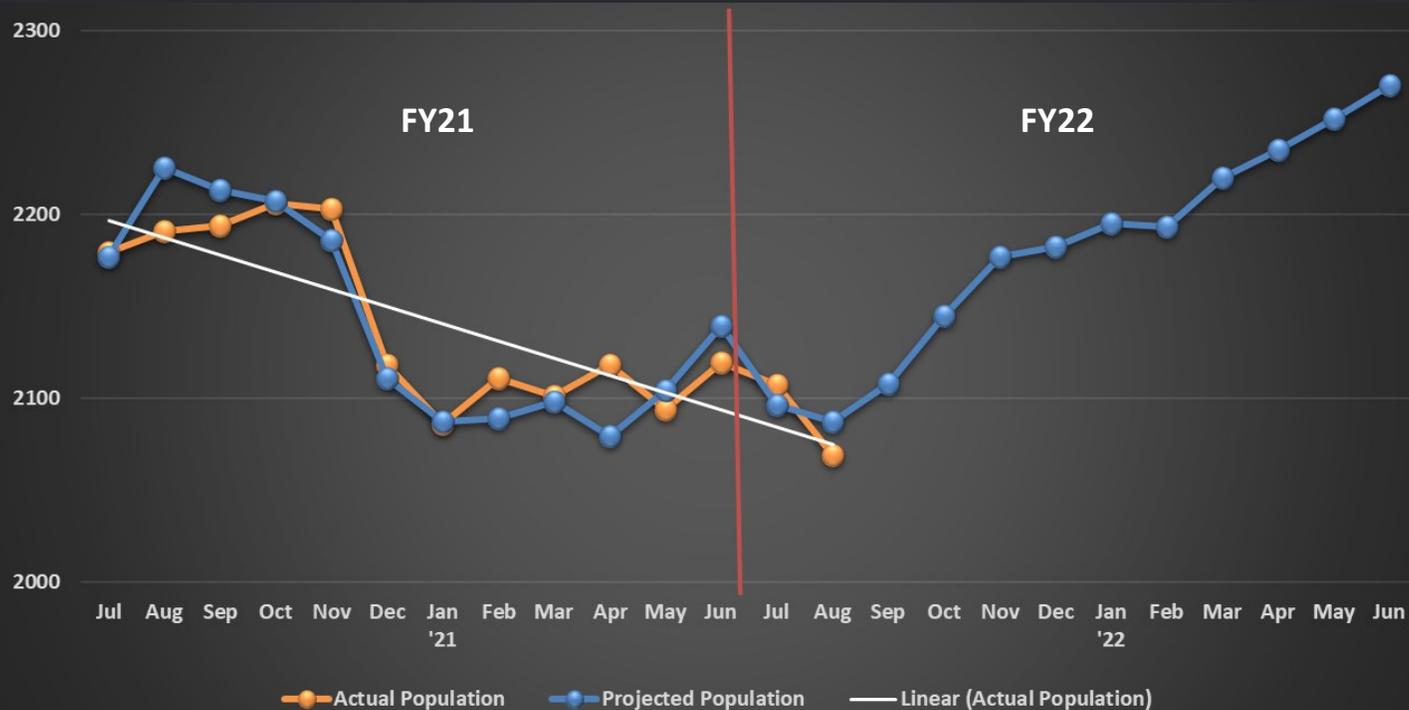
When examined together, the graphs and table on this page capture the flow of sentenced inmates in and out of the RIDOC. The graph at the top left of the page shows the length of sentence imposed by the Judiciary, while the graph at the right shows the percentage of inmates in prison on June 30, 2021.<sup>1</sup> For example, even though only about 88.4% of the male population is *committed* to sentences of 3 years or less, over time, this group of offenders represents 26% 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	1.80	68.68	1.91	35.17	1.81	67.07
Sex	2.68	96.10	0.00	11.99	2.68	94.31
B&E	2.09	42.13	0.99	0.00	2.09	42.13
Drug	2.45	33.35	2.19	21.53	2.42	32.63
Nonviolent	1.86	24.07	1.93	17.89	1.87	23.68
Subtotal	2.18	52.87	1.40	17.32	2.17	51.96
<b>Median Total Sentence Length = 3 months</b>						

The above table displays the median length of sentence imposed on sentenced commitments in FY2021. 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" column of the Sentence Stock Population graph does not add to 100% because it excludes 2.4% of males who were out of state inmates.

# Population Projections



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

As of the FY22 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 24.2%, approximately 512 inmates, at an average annual rate of about 2.2% between fiscal year-end 2022 and fiscal year-end 2032. This projected increase would continue to 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 current internal factors, statutes, and practices at RIDOC (e.g., good time and program participation awards) 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 null.

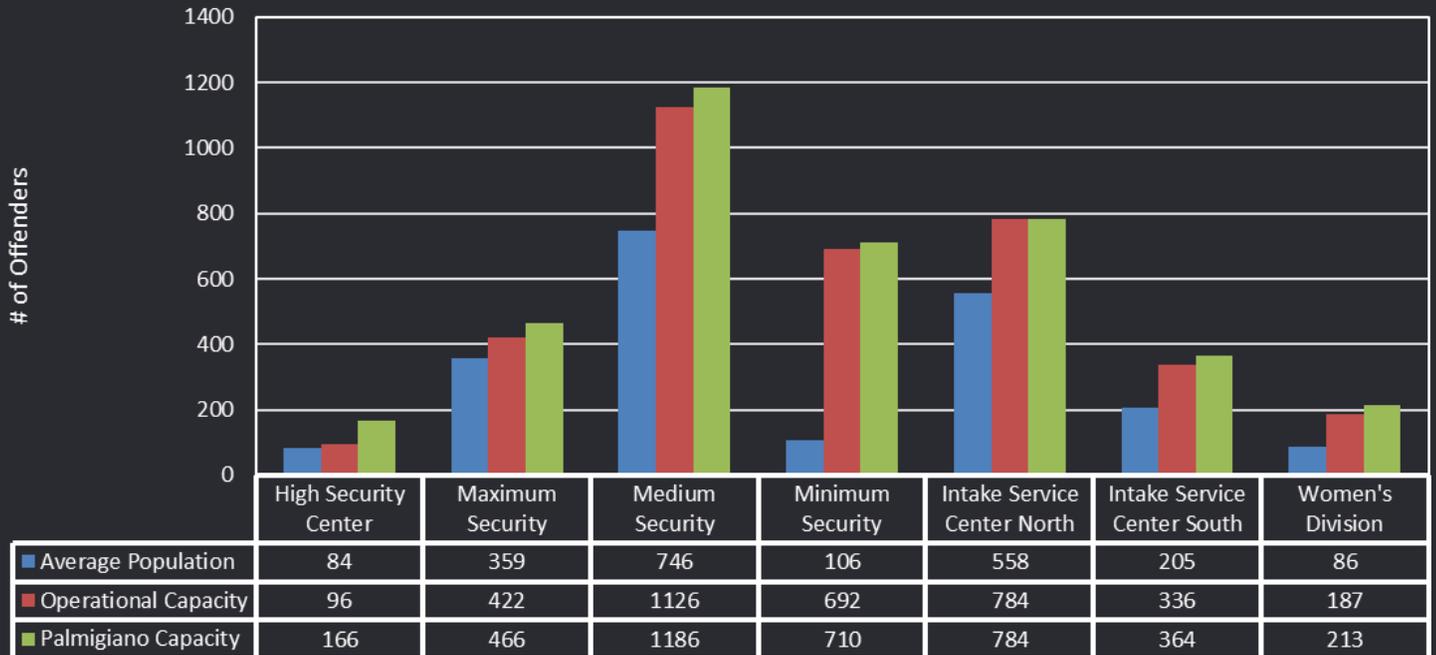
For more information, please see RIDOC’s Ten-Year Prison Population Projections Brief FY2022—2032, which will soon be available on RIDOC’s website at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov).

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

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

# Institutional Capacities

Average FY21 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 2021

\*Operational Capacity = 3743

\*\*Palmigiano Capacity = 3989

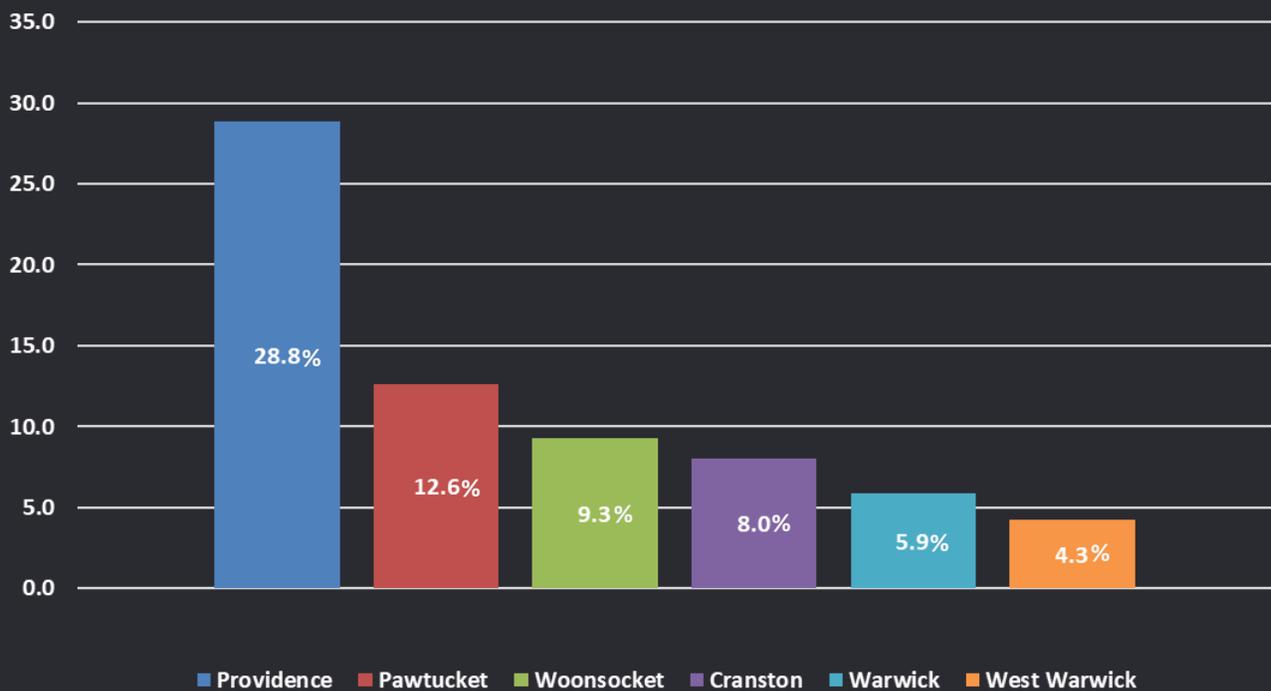
Average FY21 Population = 2144

# Release Data

**Sentenced Releases:** During FY21 RIDOC processed a total of 2,044 releases. 85% of all releases expired their sentences while 13% were paroled. Nearly 7% of sentenced releases self-reported that they were homeless or had no permanent address.

About 36% of males were released from Minimum or Medium Security. An additional 54% were released from the Intake Service Center and another 4% were released from Maximum or High Security. 81% of females were released from the Women’s Division. An additional 19% were released from Home Confinement.

**FY21 Sentenced Releases by Self-identified Address of Residence**



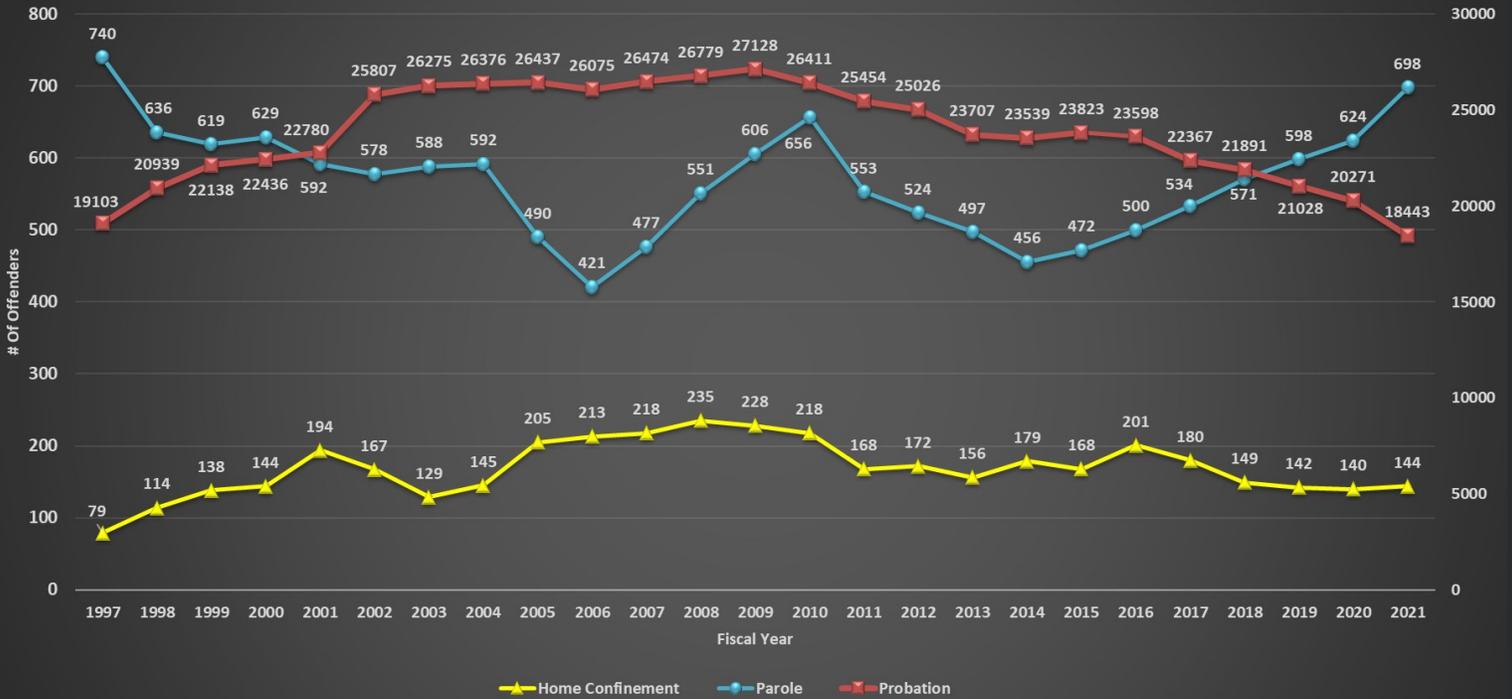
Of sentenced releases to Rhode Island (shown above) 28.8% reported returning to Providence, with an additional 12.6% returning to Pawtucket, and 9.3% returning to Woonsocket.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 18% reported returning to either Cranston, Warwick, or West Warwick.

There were 11 offenders, all males, on active escape status as of 6/30/21. 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.

**Awaiting Trial Releases:** During FY21 there were a total of 7,181 awaiting trial releases. Nearly a third of offenders were discharged at court (28%) or bailed (30%), while an additional 20% were discharged per court order and 16% were sentenced to serve time on their charges.

<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 do not have a valid address). In addition, sentenced release data on cities/towns that yielded four percent or less have been excluded.

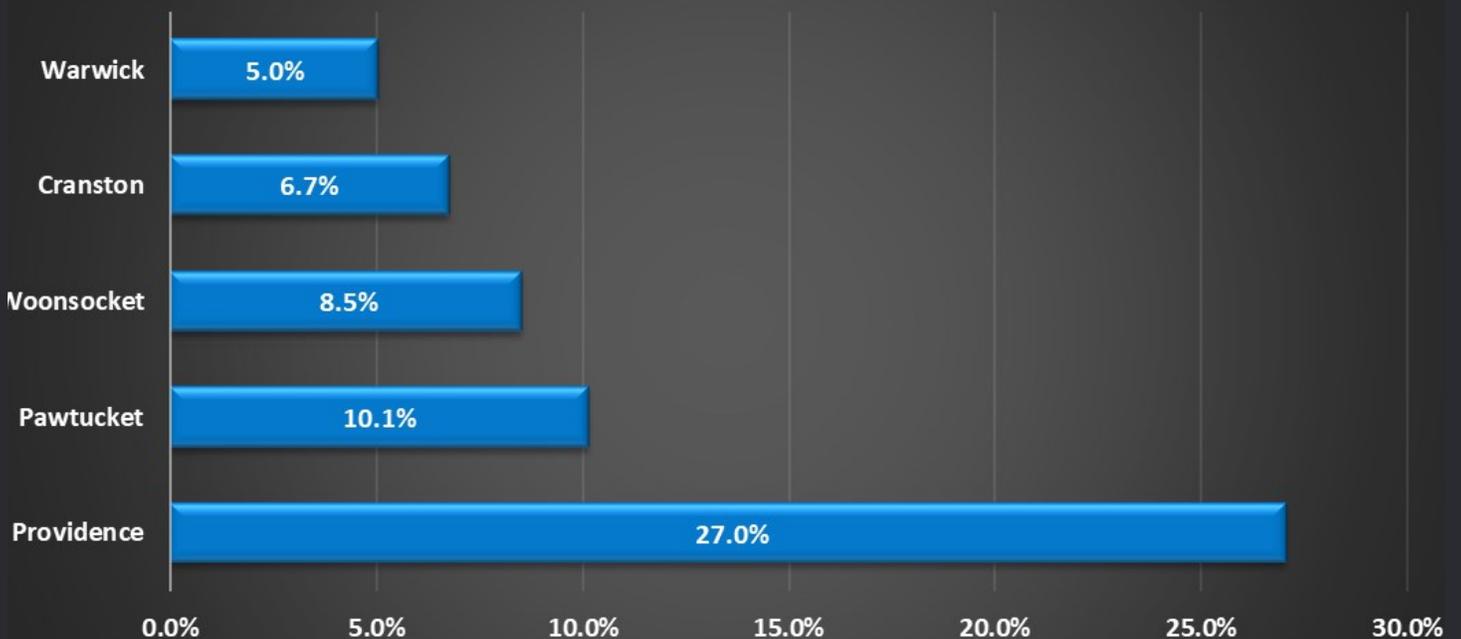
# Community Corrections Population



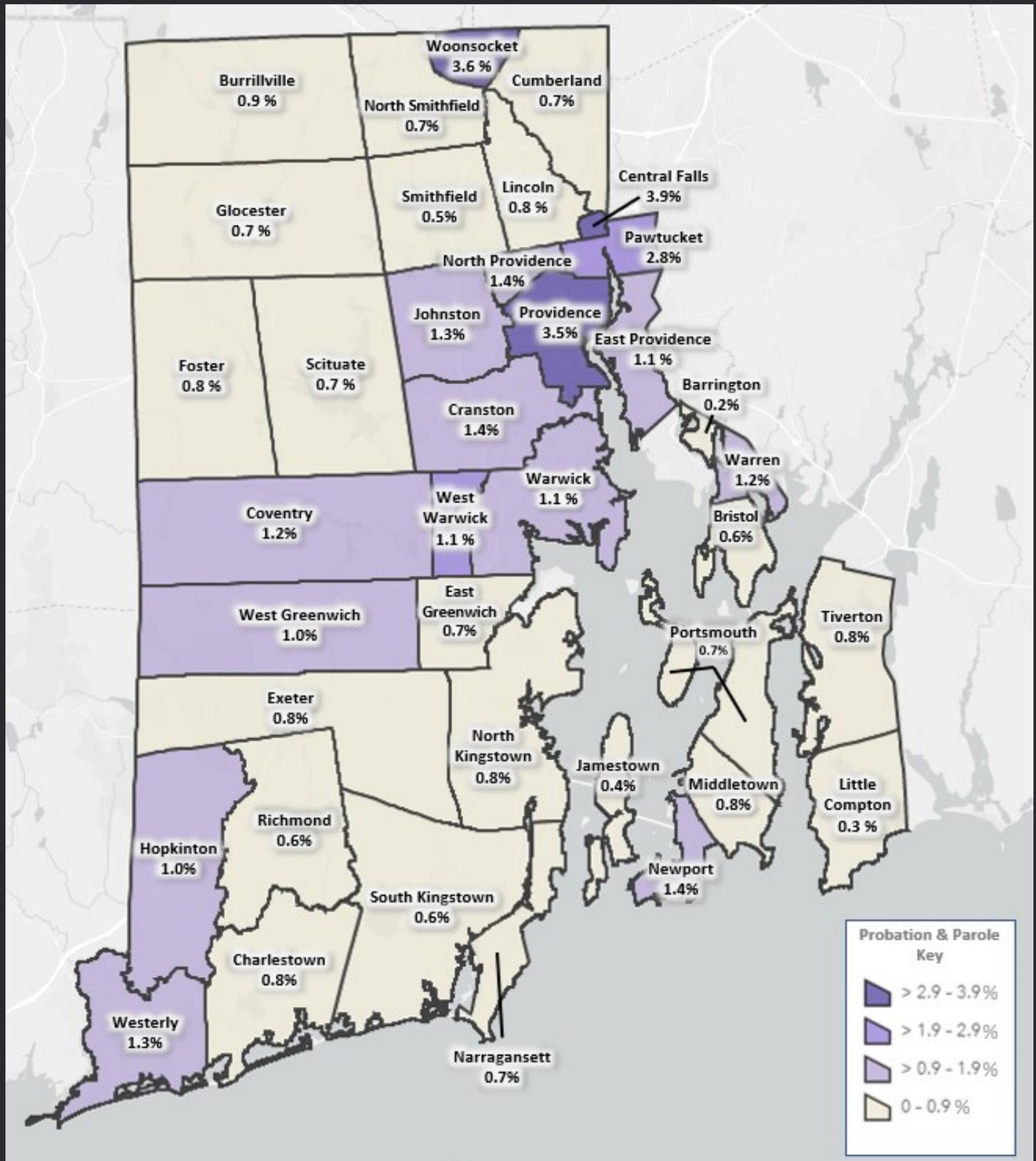
**Interpreting the chart:** The probation population is plotted on the *secondary axis* to the right, while parole and home confinement are plotted on the *primary axis* to the left.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2019, Rhode Island has the seventh highest rate of Community Corrections supervision in the nation; 2,388 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2019*). In addition, R.I. has the fourth highest rate of probation supervision in the nation; 2,323 per 100,000 residents (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2019*).

## Active Probation & Parole Cases by Self-identified Address of Residence: June 30, 2021



# Percent of Probation & Parole Offenders in RI



This map represents the percentage of Probation & Parole Offenders based on the population each Rhode Island City/Town as of June 30th, 2021. Please note that municipalities with smaller populations can appear to have a higher percentage of offenders. The overall percentage of P&P offenders in RI is 1.7%, or 1 in 58 people.

# RIDOC'S Response to COVID-19

In March of 2020, Rhode Island reported its first COVID-19 case, and RIDOC began implementing new safety procedures to mitigate the spread. The Rhode Island Department of Corrections has become a leader in COVID-19 prevention and treatment. The Department boasts some of the lowest infection and death rates in the country, while also having the highest vaccination rates<sup>1</sup>. As of June 28th, 2021, 58% of offenders are fully vaccinated and 5% are partially vaccinated. 70% of RIDOC staff are fully vaccinated, with 1% being partially vaccinated.

## Covid Deaths

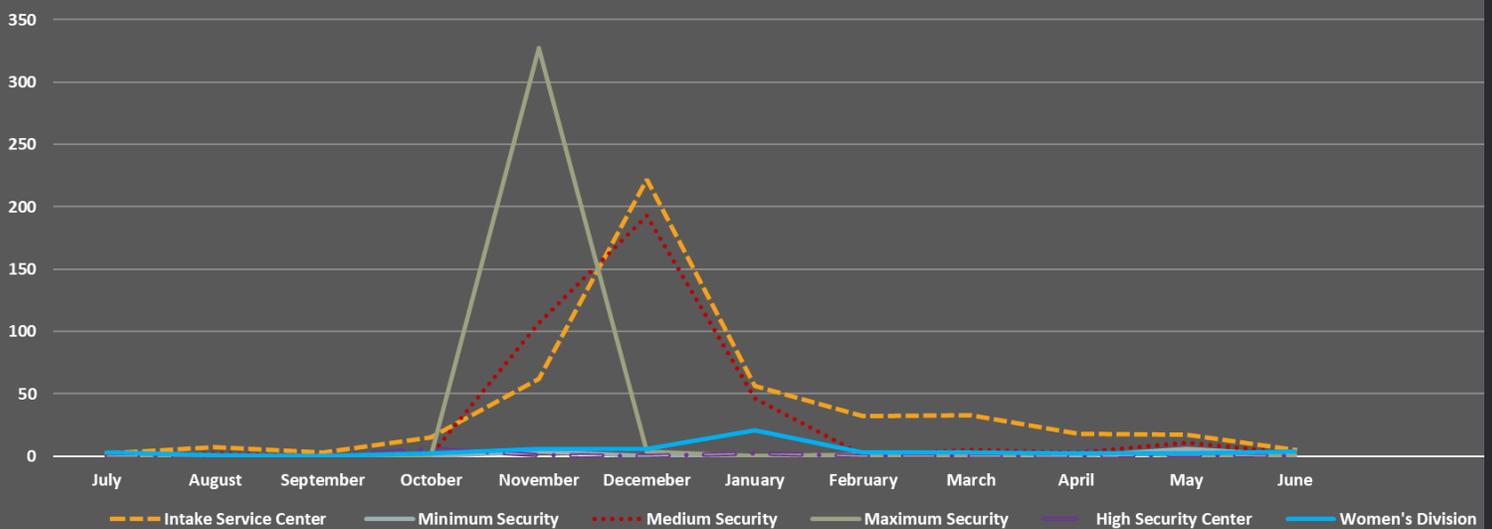
### Inmates

Facility	Inmate Deaths
Medium Security	1
Maximum Security	1
<b>Total Inmate Deaths</b>	<b>2</b>

### Staff

Facility	Staff Deaths
Women's Facility	1
<b>Total Staff Deaths</b>	<b>1</b>

## FY21 COVID-19 Cases & Deaths by Facility

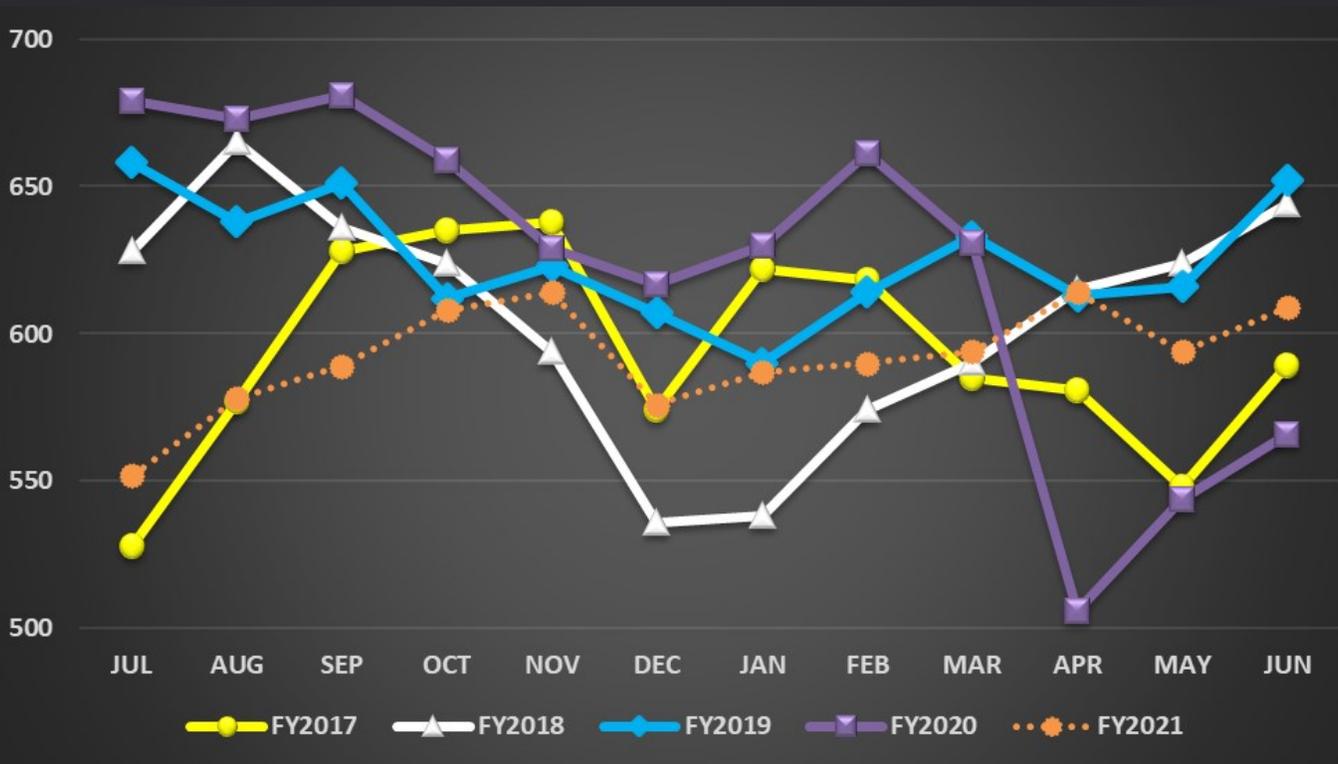


Covid Cases	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Intake Service Center	2	7	3	15	62	222	56	32	33	18	17	5	472
Minimum Security	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	6	1	14
Medium Security	0	2	0	1	107	193	46	1	5	3	11	2	371
Maximum Security	0	0	0	0	327	4	0	1	0	2	1	0	335
High Security Center	0	0	0	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	10
Women's Division	3	1	0	2	6	6	21	3	3	2	2	4	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1255</b>

<sup>1</sup>National overview. COVID Prison Project. (2021, May 19). Retrieved September 14, 2021, from <https://covidprisonproject.com/data/national-overview/>.

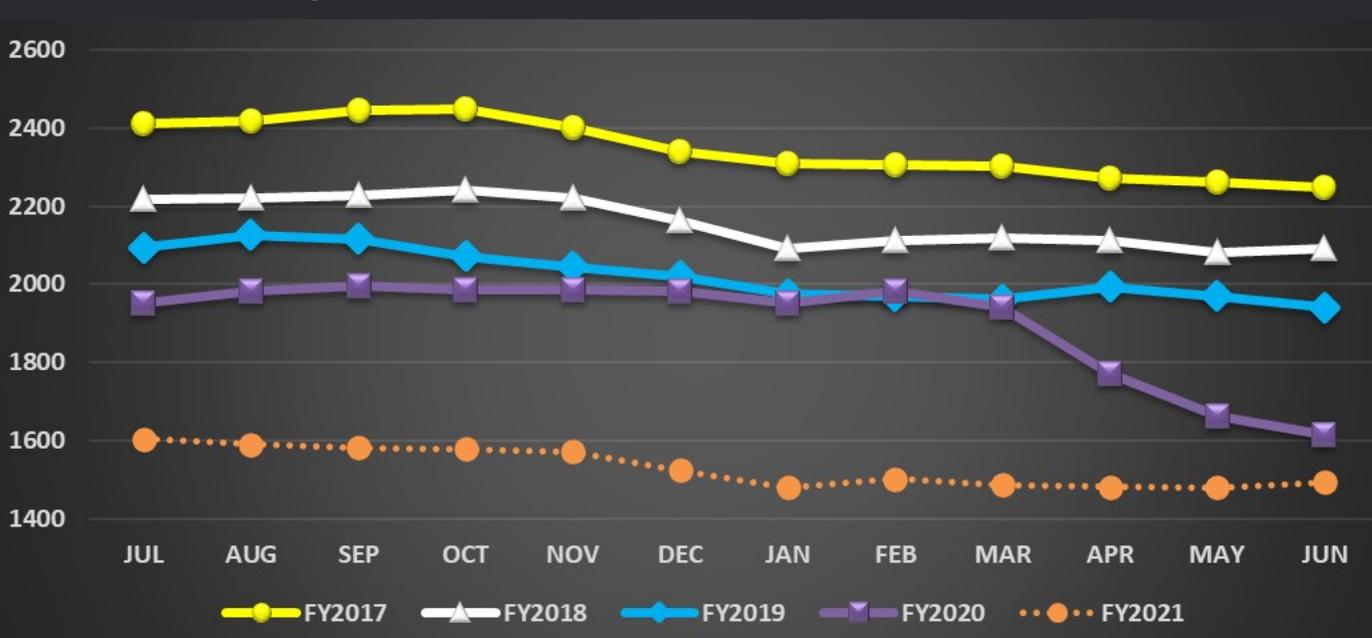
# Fiscal Year Population Trends FY2017-FY2021

## Awaiting Trial Population



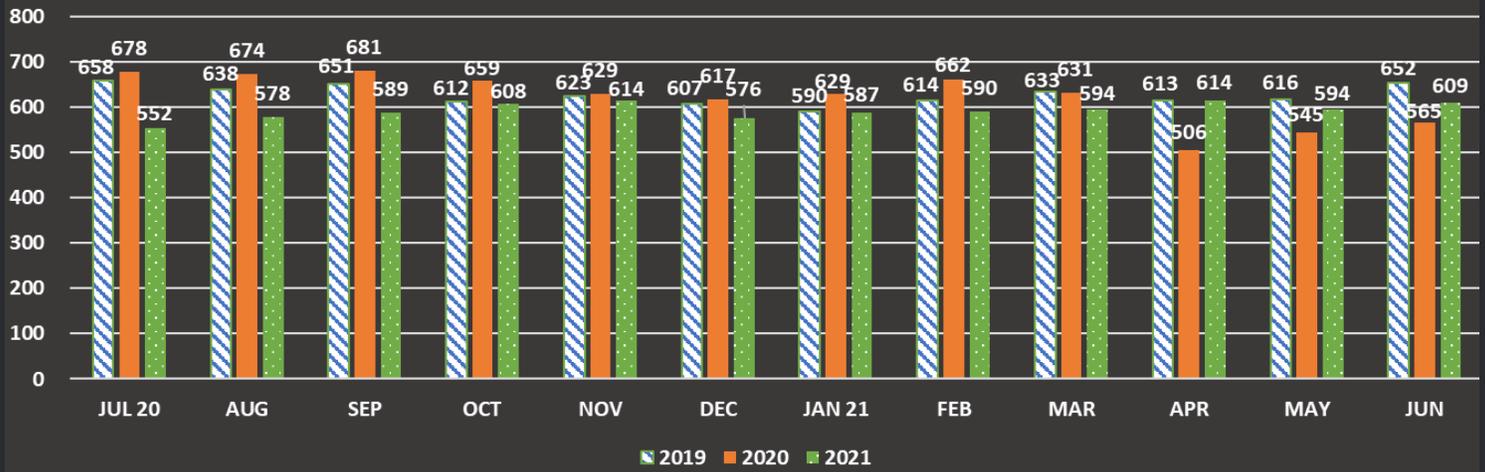
The RIDOC saw a moderate decrease in the average sentenced population (-19.0%) and a marginal decrease in the average awaiting trial population (-5.0%) in FY21 compared to FY20. There was an overall decrease of 62 inmates (-2.8%) from start to close of FY21 (July 2020 to June 2021).

## Sentenced Population



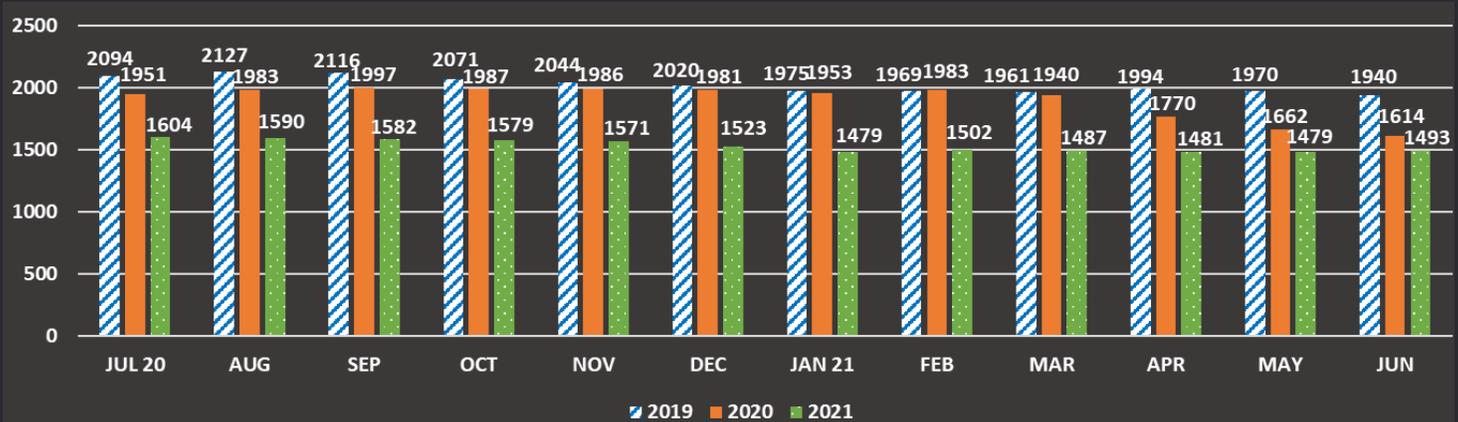
# Pre-Covid to Current Population Comparison

## Awaiting Trial FY19-FY21 Comparison



RIDOC's pre-pandemic to current Awaiting Trial Population has dropped by 5.4% (FY19 to FY21). The Awaiting Trial Population has decreased by less than 1% between FY19 and FY20, and 4.9% between FY20 and FY21.

## Sentenced FY19-FY21 Comparison



RIDOC's pre-pandemic to current Sentenced Population has dropped by 24.3% from (FY19 to FY21). The Sentenced Population has decreased by 6% between FY19 and FY20, and 19.5% between FY20 and FY21.

# COVID Q&A with RIDOC Medical Director Dr. Berk

*In response to inquiries on how RIDOC has been handling COVID-19, Medical Program Director Dr. Berk sat down with Planning and Research Unit staff to answer frequently asked questions.*



## **1. What are the current safety protocols in place for new commitments/transferring reclassified inmates between facilities?**

Upon commitment, vaccination status is confirmed through a state database. If a patient is unvaccinated, they will receive a rapid COVID-19 test as well as a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test before being initially quarantined with other new commitments from that day. They receive a second PCR test on day 12 before they are cleared from quarantine and enter the general population. All quarantine and isolation protocols are based on CDC recommendations for COVID-19 prevention in correctional facilities and are made in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Any patient testing positive is medically isolated, with nurses checking in for symptoms twice a day and offering any treatment indicated (including on-site monoclonal antibody infusion if needed). Quarantined individuals have medications and meals delivered to the cell.

Patients who are transferred between sentenced facilities do not need to quarantine given the very low rates of Covid at these facilities, though policies can become more stringent as needed if cases were to increase again. Any individuals being transferred from the Intake facility (where the vaccine rates are lowest due to the transient nature of the population) to undergo a 14 day quarantine upon transfer to a sentenced facility.

All individuals at all facilities, regardless of quarantine or isolation status, have access to surgical masks, adequate ventilation, maximized social distancing, antibacterial hand gel, and access to healthcare services.

## **2. Are offenders being tested before release? If so, what are the protocols if the test comes back positive?**

For certain populations (e.g., transfer to residential treatment), individuals are tested before release and remain in the ACI facility if they need to be isolated for safety. Unvaccinated individuals are tested regularly (either every week or every other week) regardless of scheduled release date. Vaccinated individuals are not routinely tested unless they are symptomatic.

# Covid Q&A Continued

### **3. What safety measures are still in place from the beginning of the pandemic, and what restrictions have you been able to lift?**

Safety measures have been fluid and always based on CDC and RIDOH guidance. These have included small cohort size of individuals for recreation time, optimizing single cells when possible, decreased dining cohort size or “fed-in” meals and medication delivery. Access to health care and Personal Protective Equipment have been provided throughout the pandemic.

As cases have decreased, changes are made each week to return to normal operations. Increased recreation time, larger cohorts, re-initiation of programming have all been gradual efforts to slowly lift COVID-19 prevention measures.

### **4. Do you anticipate re-instituting any restrictions if we see a rise in cases due to the emergence of the Delta or other variants?**

Our COVID-19 policies are constantly being re-evaluated to balance prevention of COVID-19 transmission while working to minimize the burden to staff and incarcerated individuals. These restrictions are based on community rates which have been steadily decreasing due to vaccination efforts. As many of our facilities have vaccination rates greater than 70%, we are encouraged that a successful vaccine campaign has made enormous steps to ensuring protection of the ACI community. As the Delta variant (or other variants) become more prevalent, we can reinstitute stricter COVID-19 prevention policies as needed to prevent any future outbreaks at the ACI.

### **5. How has RIDOC been handling vaccine distribution among new commitments? Is vaccine status self-reported, or is a form of documentation required for confirmation?**

All new commitments are asked their vaccine status which can be confirmed in the state PrepMod database. Those who have not been vaccinated are offered vaccine options including Johnson & Johnson and messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine that can often be provided within 1 week.

### **6. According to The Marshall Project, RIDOC has the highest rate of Inmates vaccinated for COVID-19, with 79% receiving at least 1 dose (as of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021). Why do you think RIDOC has been so successful, and how do you think other correctional systems can follow suit?**

We were aggressive in educational campaigns early on with flyers and videos, but a lot of the success is likely attributed to two public health educators who went to each facility, cell by cell, to encourage vaccination, answer questions, and address concerns. The campaign was a success because of these types of champions and close collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health who have offered enormous support for our vaccination campaign and had the foresight to target areas of high transmission like correctional facilities.

### **7. What incentives have offenders/staff been given to encourage them to get vaccinated (if any)?**

We have not provided any incentives as we want to support individual autonomy and not coerce vaccination against an otherwise vulnerable population.

# Programming and Volunteer Services

In mid-March of 2020, in-person programs were abruptly halted as COVID-19 precautions were instituted to protect the staff and inmate population from the spread of the virus. Without delay the Department quickly moved to establish protocols in order to continue to fulfill the RIDOC mission of providing rehabilitative programming to the inmate population. Effective April 6, 2020 **COVID-19 Temporary Remote Inmate Program Procedures** were enacted that established guidelines for providing the safest and most efficient methods for the distribution and collection of inmate rehabilitative program materials during the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Facility managers, Correctional Officers, Rehabilitative Services staff including contracted and volunteer program providers, and Central Mail Services personnel all worked together to ensure that the flow of program materials between the inmate population and program providers occurred. Implementation of the remote programming procedures not only allowed the continuation of rehabilitation programming but also allowed the program participants to continue to earn Program Earned Time for participating in and completing their programs.

## Volunteers

While every program and service previously offered could not be provided as it once was pre-Covid, the impact of the loss of these services was not ignored. Individual volunteers, faith-based groups, churches and other organizations quickly responded with offers to assist and support the staff and population. The following is a list of some of the assistance and resources provided to the Department:



- Hundreds of books, games, puzzles, etc., were donated for distribution to the facilities.
- Volunteer led program providers not only continued to offer remote programming but expanded program enrollments to allow more inmates to participate in programs such as Houses of Healing, Infinite Possibilities, and Financial Literacy.
- Funds were provided to initiate the Children's Desk Project, where inmates from Medium and Minimum Security built desks for children who, due to COVID-19, were forced to attend school remotely. Completed desks were distributed through the RIDOC's parenting program.
- 6000 handmade masks were donated by eShakti through the International Association for Human Values/Prison Smart Program for use within the facilities.
- Inmates were provided with information and support to file their 2020 tax returns.



# Volunteer & Program Staff Testimonials

The following are testimonials from program volunteers and staff on how COVID-19 has affected their work in FY21.

## **Volunteer Monica:**

*"When the lockdowns first began last March, I was in the middle of a 12-week Houses of Healing course. I began sending lessons through the Deputy Warden, thinking that we would eventually be allowed back in and I would be able to collect all assignments. In Houses of Healing, participants are asked to look within themselves and write about very personal events. As this course came to an end, I selected the "easiest" writing assignments, and asked participants to return only those assignments to me. At the time, I didn't think that a course like this could be taught by asking inmates to write such personal things, knowing those assignments would pass through multiple hands to get to me. After some serious thought and discussion, I started the first "remote" class. I have now taught five remote sessions across three buildings (Women's, Minimum, and High Security). In the beginning, I gave participants the option of not turning in the most personal essays. Surprisingly, almost all of them turned them in. I have learned that there is no reason to expect any less of the inmates, whether remote or in-person. Although it was a loss for me not being able to get to know the participants, and it was a loss for them not being able to benefit from the group discussions, the participants' end-of-course essays demonstrated growth that would not otherwise have been possible.*

## **Volunteer Brenda:**

*"Changing Infinite Possibilities and Infinite Possibilities Advanced during Covid from an in class program to a remote program was a blessing in disguise. I could have never succeeded without the support of Ken Findlay and his team. The blessing was the ability to reach more students from many sections - men and women as the classrooms did not define the numbers. When teaching remotely EVERYONE had to turn in homework. To a program such as this - the answers and reflections from all the students were reasons enough to continue this program. Many reached deep and their honesty was just WOW! As I responded to their answers and reminded them for their gratitude statements, I would receive such comments in return such as - Thank you for reading my homework; and thank you for the opportunity to share my dreams for when I leave, I will never return; and of course the ever curious questions - Did I answer the questions right? As I shift now to a hybrid - teaching in Minimum and remotely to Medium and the Women - I am able to receive feedback from the current IP Advance students as to how the remote program can improve and how the in class program provides a different atmosphere complete with videos and conversations. Thank you for this opportunity."*

## **Pastor Joy Johnson, Institutional Chaplain - Gloria McDonald Women's Facility**

*"During Covid, even though I was unable to be in the facility, I produced a Christian Service Page (similar to the one I hand out in my Christian Service every Sunday) that I dropped off to the facility to be distributed every week. I provided the ability for the women to purchase Yarn. Working with the program officer (CO Tate if it is appropriate to mention names) we were able to modify the procedure and the women were able to purchase yarn through the Covid shutdown. There were a couple Christian DVD's that were shown at my request at Easter time. I was on call to provide death notifications. I only had one in the very early days..."*

## **Pastor Tony Mancuso, Institutional Chaplain – John J. Moran Medium Security Facility and Men's Minimum Security/ Work Release Facility**

*"During the unique circumstances of the pandemic, the Protestant Chaplaincy at Medium and Minimum sought to meet the spiritual needs of inmates in safe ways. Early on in the times of distancing and quarantines, the Chaplain recorded videos with Scripture, teaching, and music to be played on televisions during the regular Sunday morning service times. Over time these videos were also provided to Intake and Maximum along with an additional Bible study video to be used mid-week as desired. The consistency of spiritual instruction and encouragement was noticed and appreciated as evidenced by comments and letters from inmates. They expressed gratitude, voiced emotions, and the Chaplain heard from inmates who hadn't previously reached out or attended services. Additionally, the staff and Chaplain worked together to arrange person to person visits for inmates seeking additional spiritual and emotional support."*