

Department of Correction
BIENNIAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINARY
UNIT HOUSING

Calendar Year 2023
1st Biennial



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
June 2024

Maura T. Healey, Governor
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary of Public Safety and Security



Use of Department Disciplinary Unit January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

*To the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Public Safety, Homeland Security and the House and Senate
Committees on Ways and Means*

Massachusetts Department of Correction

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Methodology

For purposes of this report, the Department Disciplinary Unit (DDU) in the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MADOC) is a Disciplinary Restrictive Housing placement¹ of an incarcerated individual for disciplinary purposes to serve a disciplinary sanction after a finding has been made that the individual has committed a breach of discipline in accordance with 103 CMR 430, Inmate Discipline. The DDU is located at MCI-Cedar Junction, a medium security facility with a maximum component.

The data used for this report comes from the MADOC's Inmate Management System (IMS), and the MADOC Health Services Division (ERMA).

The data represents 28 DDU placements based on 28 incarcerated individuals with a discharge date from the DDU within the reporting time frame (January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023). The following data tables describe this cohort.²

Length of Stay in DDU³

Average length of stay = 13.4 months

Median length of stay = 7.9 months

Table 1

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	19	68%
12 months or Greater	9	32%
Total	28	100%

Length of Stay in DDU of Incarcerated Individuals with Open Mental Health⁴

Average length of stay = 17.3 months

Median length of stay = 6.7 months

Table 2

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	7	70%
12 months or Greater	3	30%
Total	10	100%

¹ With the dissolving of the DDU on June 16, 2023, the MADOC no longer utilizes restrictive housing at any facility.

² Due to rounding, percentage totals may not add up to 100 percent in all tables.

³ Data is based on 28 incarcerated individuals with a discharge date within the reporting time frame. These 28 individuals were discharged from the DDU during the reporting time frame as a result of the dissolving of the DDU. Incarcerated individuals with less than a full month length of stay were counted as one month. The length of stay is based on the length of the DDU sanction which is tracked in months. The disciplinary offenses that led to a DDU placement are listed in the appendix.

⁴ An incarcerated individual with Open Mental Health (OMH) is diagnosed with a mental illness or determined to be in need of mental health intervention on an ongoing basis. See Appendix III for a full definition. Data is based on individuals with OMH released from DDU within the reporting time frame. There were 10 OMH individuals who were discharged from DDU during the reporting time frame based on their most recent mental health screening. This field signifies whether or not the individual was on the institution's OMH caseload prior to entering this placement or at any time during their placement. Any incarcerated individual carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an OMH case.

Length of Stay in DDU of Incarcerated Individuals 21 Years of Age or Younger⁵

Average length of stay = 3.0 months
Median length of stay = 3.0 months

Table 3

Length of Stay	DDU Count	Percent
0 to 12 Months	1	100%
12 months or Greater	0	0%
Total	1	100%

Criminally Sentenced Releases to the Community within 30 Days of DDU Discharge Date⁶

Table 4

Release Breakdown	Count
Releases to the Community within 30 Days	0

One Year Recidivism Rate of Incarcerated Individuals who were Placed in DDU⁷

A recidivist is defined as any criminally sentenced individual released to the community, via expiration of sentence or parole, from the MADOC during 2020 who was re-incarcerated for a new sentence or violation of parole or probation to a Massachusetts state, county, or federal facility within one year of release.

2020 Releases to the Community

One year recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals who were placed in the DDU from CY18 to CY20.

Table 5

Placement in DDU	Count	Recidivist	Percent
Incarcerated Individuals with a DDU Placement	46	3	7%
Incarcerated Individuals without a DDU Placement	1,682	201	12%
Total	1,728	204	12%

⁵ Data is based on incarcerated individuals aged 21 years or younger on their date of discharge from DDU within the reporting time frame. There was one (1) individual 21 years of age or younger when discharged from the DDU during the reporting time frame.

⁶ Data is based on criminally sentenced individuals who were discharged from DDU and released to the community within 30 days of their DDU discharge date. The individual's release may have occurred during the following biannual. See Appendix III for a full definition.

⁷ Data is based on criminally sentenced individuals who were placed in the DDU between CY18 and CY20 and then released to the community in 2020. Due to a change in the recidivism collection methodology, the release cohort does not include individuals paroled to the Transitional Treatment Program at Boston Pre-Release Center.

Department Disciplinary Unit Admissions

Data is based on incarcerated individuals who had one or more DDU admission date(s) during this time frame regardless of their release date. The admission counts and percentages represent 5 DDU admissions based on 5 individuals. These counts include incarcerated individuals with a single DDU admission (labeled as “First DDU Admission”) as well as those who have been admitted to the DDU at any time prior to this admission (labeled as “DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission”). Of these 5 individuals, 4 (80%) were admitted for the first time during the reporting period.

Single Versus Multiple DDU Admissions

Table 6

Admission Types	Incarcerated Individual Count	Admission Count	Percent
First DDU Admission	4	4	80%
DDU Admission with a Prior DDU Admission	1	1	20%
Total	5	5	100%

Appendix I: Open Mental Health Delineated by Diagnosis⁸

Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis	Count of Diagnoses
F12.10	Cannabis abuse, uncomplicated	3
F17.210	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated	2
F60.2	Antisocial personality disorder	1
	Total	6

⁸ Commitment numbers of incarcerated individuals were utilized to calculate the diagnoses counts and a commitment number may be counted in one or more diagnoses.

Appendix II: Disciplinary Offenses

All DDU Placements

Disciplinary Code	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-02	Aggravated assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	6
1-03	Aggravated assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	17
1-17	Fighting with, assaulting or threatening another person, due to security threat group activities or gang activities.	1
1-20	Attempting to commit any of the above offenses, making plans to commit any of the above offenses or aiding another person to commit any of the above offenses shall be considered the same as the commission of the offense itself	2
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	2

Open Mental Health Placements

Disciplinary Code	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-02	Aggravated assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	3
1-03	Aggravated assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	5
2-03	Assault on a staff member, contract employee, member of the public, volunteer, or animal	2

Incarcerated Individuals 21 Years of Age or Younger

Disciplinary Code	Disciplinary Offense Description	Count
1-03	Aggravated assault on another [incarcerated individual] or parolee	1

Appendix III: Definitions and Acronyms

Acronym	Term	Definition
DDU	Department Disciplinary Unit	(103 CMR 430.05) A restricted area or areas designated by the Commissioner to which an [incarcerated individual] has received a sanction recommended by a Special Hearing Officer.
ERMA	Electronic Record Management Application	
IMS	Inmate Management System	(103 CMR 430.05) The Department's automated information system that provides processing, storage and retrieval of [incarcerated individual]-related information needed by Department personnel and other authorized users within the criminal justice system.
MCI	Massachusetts Correctional Institution	
OMH	Open Mental Health	An incarcerated individual who is diagnosed with a mental illness or determined to be in need of mental health intervention on an ongoing basis. At any time during his or her incarceration, an incarcerated individual may become an open mental health case (OMH) based on a mental health crisis, including suicidal threats or self-injurious behavior and/or the display of signs and/or symptoms of mental illness or emotional distress. Based upon clinical indications and within the discretion of the Primary Care Clinician (PCC), in consultation with the site Psychiatrist (if on medication) and/or Site Mental Health Director, an incarcerated individual may also be removed from the active mental health caseload. However, any incarcerated individual carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an open mental health case.
	Release to Community	The release of an incarcerated individual from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts DOC by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release (see Crime Lab), expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.