

Berkshire County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Thomas Bowler



Berkshire County consists of 32 cities and towns encompassing 946 square miles with roughly 130,000 residents

Berkshire County is one of two Massachusetts counties that borders three neighboring states (Vermont, New York and Connecticut); the other is Worcester County



Berkshire County



The primary mission of the Berkshire County Sheriffs Office is to “Protect the public from criminal offenders by operating a safe, secure and progressive correctional facility while committing to crime prevention awareness in the community”

MISSION STATEMENT GOALS

- A. Maintaining a safe and secure direct supervision correctional facility in compliance with national standards, laws, judicial decisions, and best practice
- B. Exploring innovative and cost effective alternatives to incarceration, including re-entry, and aftercare programs that reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and improve the effectiveness of the Berkshire County Sheriffs Office
- C. Pursuing the fair and equitable treatment of inmates while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons (i.e., CORI, Victim/Witness Program, ADA, PREA, and LGBTQI).
- D. Creating a just and fair environment that encourages positive behavior from offender (i.e., Direct Supervision Management, Treatment Environment).
- E. Promoting education, treatment and social responsibility in an effort to successfully re-integrate criminal offenders to society (i.e., High School Equivalency Certificate, Substance Abuse, Job Training, Life Skills, and Parenting Programs).
- F. Developing public safety initiatives, volunteer and support programs for the prevention of criminal activity and providing the community with pertinent information (i.e., DARE, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, Public Information Initiatives and TRIAD).
- G. Seeking the highest level of professionalism, through support, motivation and training for all employees with accountability to the public we serve.
- H. Safeguarding the assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allocated to Berkshire County Sheriffs Office.
- I. Where feasible, improve energy efficiency throughout physical plant.

Accreditations and Awards

American Correctional Association

Accredited since 2008

National Commission on
Correctional Healthcare

Accredited since 1989

Prison Rape Elimination Act

Accredited since 2016



Words from the ACA during
their most recent audit:

“The key ingredients for a successful correctional facility are its management, training, work opportunities, safety, health care, food service and its staff. The facility excels in all these areas. It was noted that the staff are enthusiastic and compassionate about their jobs and the accomplishments they have made and are making now and, in the future, and their ability to help the inmate population.”



Facility opened in 2001

Facility capacity: 541

Current average daily population: 199

Number of Employees: 229

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Staff: 9 FTE's

- Maintains 160,000 sq. foot facility (i.e. Warehouse, Aquaponics building, Storage building and Salt Shed, and Sewage Ejection pit)

Yearly Averages:

- **260** Preventative Maintenance Tasks are performed
- **1,142** Corrective Maintenance Tasks are completed
- **12-16** Projects

Energy Projects

- 2015 Installation of Solar panels for electricity savings. Cost: \$3.2 M
- We have produced 3,333 MHW of power which translates in to 3,333,000 KWH. At the KWH rate of .21 we have saved \$699,930.00 over 10 years.
- It has saved 2,000 tons of CO2 emission from being produced
- Projected annual cost savings \$65,991

2023 Shower Project (Phase #1)

- \$1.4 M
- Installed New Stainless Steel Shower Unit In two of our Housing Units
- Recirculation pump upgrade in both units.

2025 Security Project (on-going)

- Estimated \$7.9 M
- Installing New PLC
- Installing all new door access controls
- Installing all New Avigilon Camera inside and Outside the Facility
- Installing an intrusion Access Road Intrusion Gate
- Remodeling the Front Lobby with Bullet Resistant Glass Enclosure

Decarbonization and Energy Saving

- Executive Order 594: decarbonization, replaced equipment containing environmentally hazardous refrigerants. Two main refrigerant systems have been replaced in 2025.
- Energy saving endeavors by replacing existing exhaust fans on roof with energy efficient direct drive unit, motion detection lighting, and hands-free flush o meters and hand free faucets.



1 FIRST FLOOR

- 1. NOT GENERAL NOTES SEE SHEET 0101
- 2. FOR GENERAL CONTRACTOR SEE SHEET 0102
- 3. SEE SHEET 0103 FOR GENERAL CONTRACTOR
- 4. SEE SHEET 0104 FOR GENERAL CONTRACTOR

"AS-BUILT DRAWING"
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION



BERKSHIRE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE
487 CHESHIRE ROAD
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
413-485-2222
www.bco.ma.gov

Project Name:
Berkshire House of Corrections
Shower Enclosures
Phase 1
Massachusetts State Project
Number J115730-2

Project Location:
487 Cheshire Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Project Address:
487 Cheshire Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Project Consultant:
LHM Consultants, Inc.
100 State St., 2nd Floor
Pittsfield, MA 01201
www.lhmconsultants.com



Site Number: 00000
Contract Number: N/A
Building Number: 1110200000
Secretary: Administrator of Finance

Original Issue Date: 02-23-2022
CD Documents:

Revisions	No.	Description	Date

Sheet Title:
FIRST FLOOR

Sheet Number:
S1.01

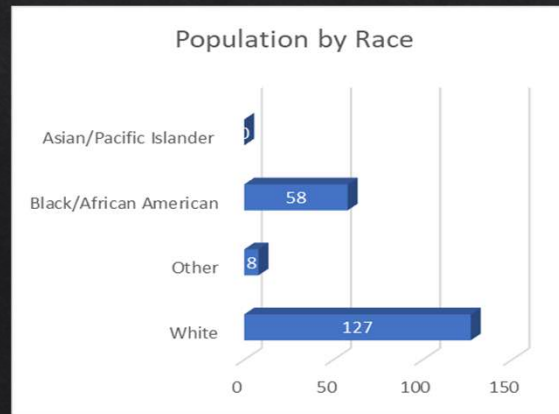
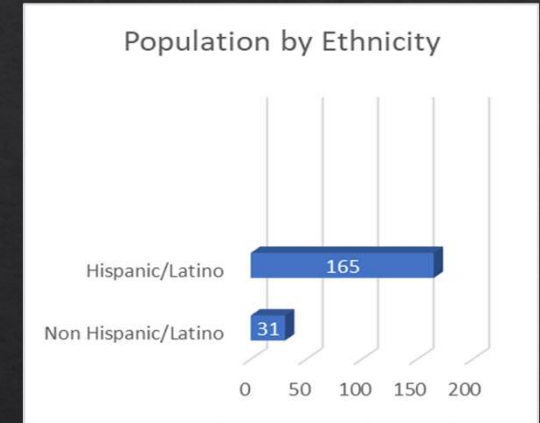
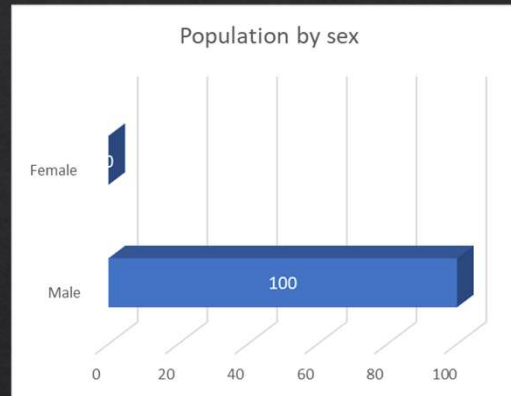
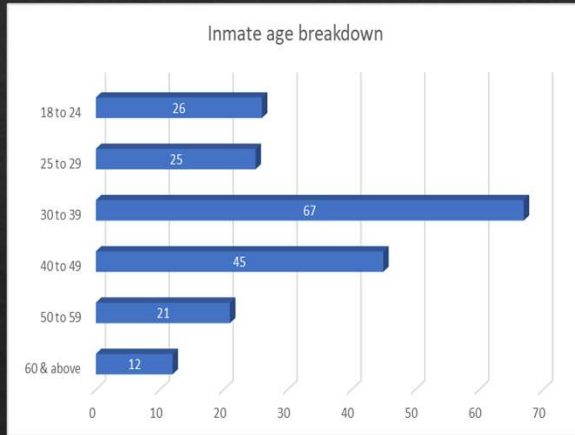
Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association - Operational Capacity Report (July 1 - December 31, 2025)

Berkshire County Sheriff's Office

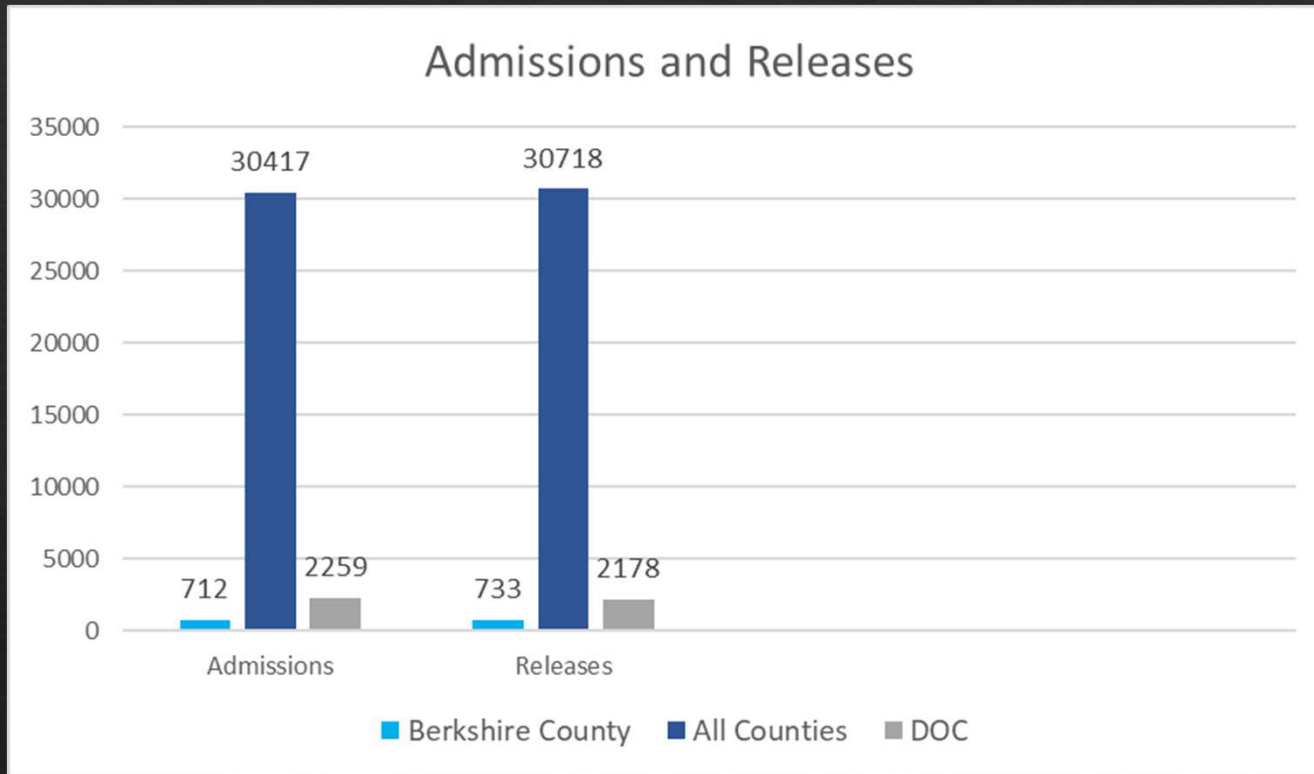
Housing Unit or Cell / Room Type	1) Housed Inmates During This Time Period?	2) Use or Purpose Change Since Last Report?	3) Housing Unit Design Capacity	4a) Number of Cells / Rooms	4b) Number of Beds in Cell / Room	4c) Number of Beds in Unit	5a) Custody Level	5b) Function	5c) Any Other Notation	6) Average Time out of Cell / Room (hours)	7) Average Inmate Count	8) Inventory Description (ALL Buildings) Description + Not habitable / Occupied / Available potentially / or / No longer habitable	9) Last Date Inmates Housed, if ever
Main Building Pod A (2 beds)	Y	N	6	3	2	6	Maximum	Security	None	2	3	Housing unit for SHU & Discipline. Unit designed to house both pre-trial & sentenced inmates.	
Main Building Pod A (1 Bed)	Y	N	32	32	1	32	Maximum	Security	Handicap / Active	2	21	Housing unit for SHU & Discipline. Unit designed to house both pre-trial & sentenced inmates.	
Main Building Pod B (2 beds)	Y	N	70	35	2	70	Maximum	Security	None	14	47	Housing unit for pre-trial inmates	
Main Building Pod B (1 bed)	Y	N	1	1	1	1	Maximum	Security	Handicap	14	1	Housing unit for pre-trial inmates	
Main Building Pod C (2beds)	Y	N	70	35	2	70	Maximum	Security	None	14	54	Housing unit for pre-trial inmates	
Main Building Pod C (1 bed)	Y	N	1	1	1	1	Maximum	Security	Handicap	14	1	Housing unit for pre-trial inmates	
Main Building Pod D (2 beds)	N	N	70	35	2	70	N/A	MAT Program	None	N/A	0	Used for MAT Program	10/28/24
Main Building Pod D (1 bed)	N	N	0	1	1	0	N/A	MAT Program	Handicap	N/A	0	Used for MAT Program	10/28/24
Main Building Pod E (2 beds)	Y	N	70	35	2	70	Maximum Medium	Orientation	None	14	38	Housing unit for orientation sentenced inmates	
Main Building Pod E (1 bed)	Y	N	1	1	1	1	Maximum Medium	Orientation	Handicap	14	1	Housing unit for orientation sentenced inmates	
Main Building Pod F (2 beds)	Y	N	70	35	2	70	Minimum OGO	RSAT Workers	None	N/A	27	Housing unit for RSAT program sentenced inmates	
Main Building Pod F (1 bed)	Y	N	1	1	1	1	Minimum OGO	RSAT Workers	Handicap	N/A	1	Housing unit for RSAT program sentenced inmates	
Main Building Pod G (2 beds)	N	N	70	35	2	70	N/A	Security project staging	None	14	0	Housing unit has been shut down for maintenance	10/31/24
Main Building Pod G (1 bed)	N	N	1	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	Handicap	14	0	Housing unit has been shut down for maintenance	10/31/24
Main Building Pod H (2 beds)	N	N	70	35	2	70	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	0	Housing unit has been shut down for maintenance	08/18/22
Main Building Pod H (1 bed)	N	N	1	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	Handicap	N/A	0	Housing unit has been shut down for maintenance	08/18/22
Main Building Pod J (1 bed)	N	N	4	4	1	4	N/A	Medical / Mental Health	None	Varies	0	Medical housing unit	06/20/25
Main Building Intake (1 bed)	N	N	3	3	1	3	N/A	Intake	None	Varies	0	Intake holding cells	



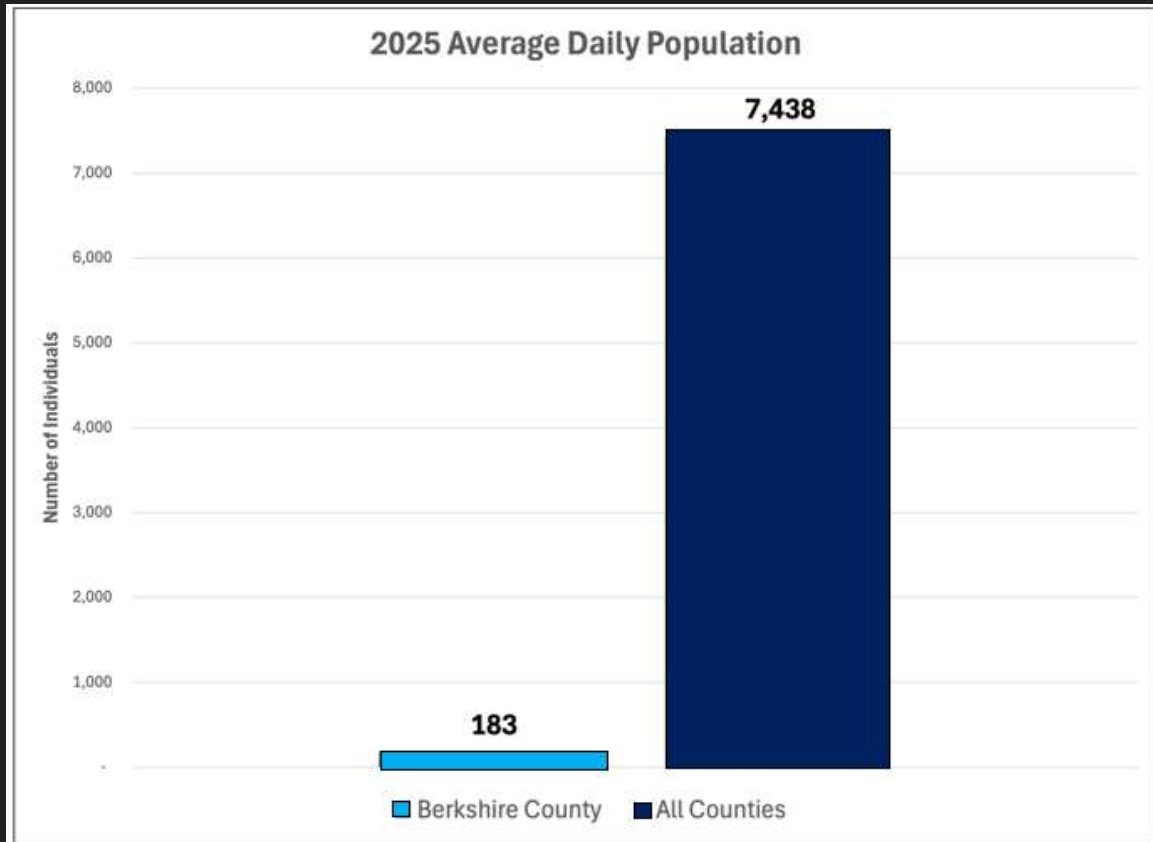
Population Statistics



2025 Admissions and Releases



2025 Average Daily Population



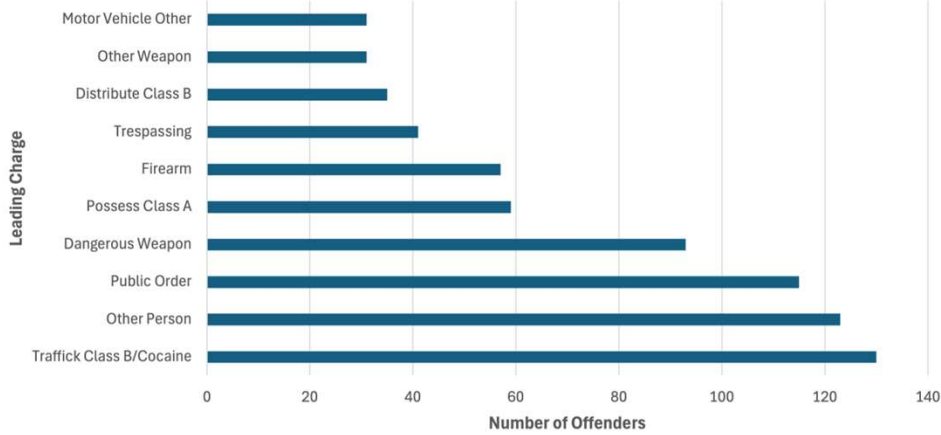
Berkshire County Population Breakdown	
Pre- trial males	110
Sentenced males	72
Section 35 males	1

Average Length of Stay	
Pre- trial	51 days
Sentenced	117 days

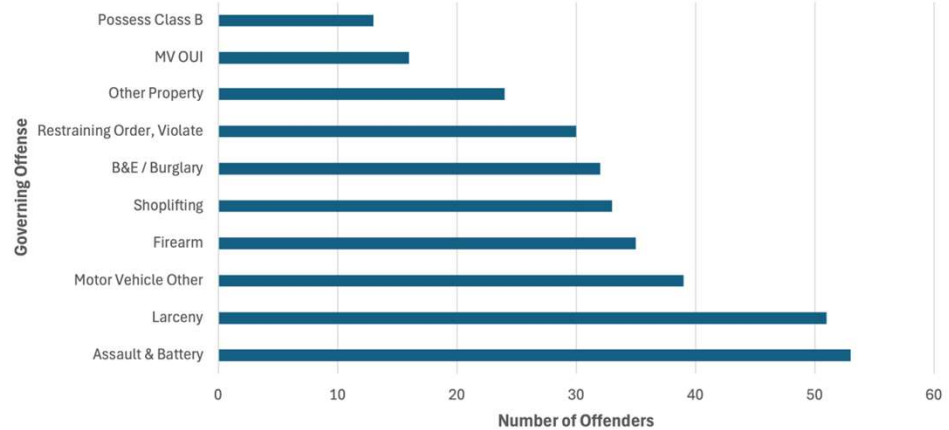


2025 Pre Trial Leading Charges

Pre-Trial Charges 2025
Berkshire County



Sentenced Charges 2025
Berkshire County

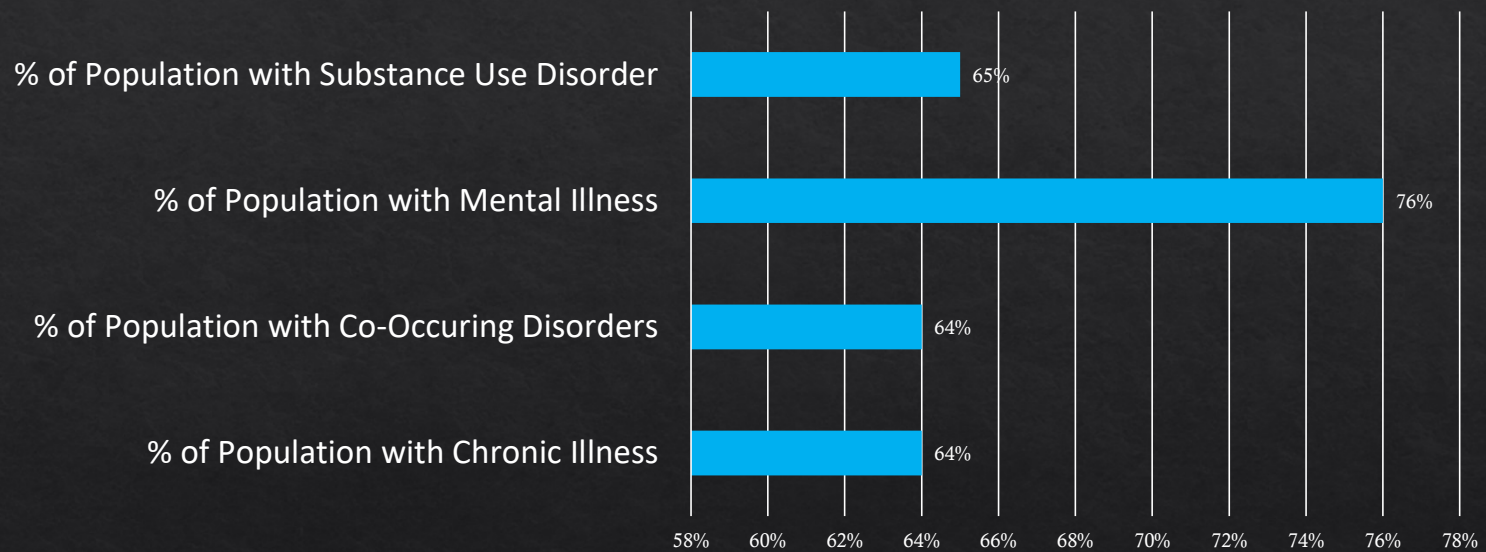


2025 Sentenced Governing Offenses



BCSO Population Health

BCSO FY25





Medical



- ◆ Staff of 24
 - ◆ 16 nurses
 - ◆ 5 med passers
 - ◆ 1 MD, 1 DNP
 - ◆ 1 Admin Support

Medication needs:

93% of the population are prescribed at least 1 medication

52% are prescribed a psychotropic medication

Chronic Care Conditions	Average Number of Inmates Treated Per month with listed condition
Asthma/pulmonary condition	28
Cardiac Conditions	8
Diabetes	12
Disabilities (hearing loss, blindness, condition requiring DME)	7
General medical (including cancer)	8
Hepatitis/liver disease	32
HIV	1
Hyperlipidemia	41
Hypertension	25
Psychotic disorder	37
Bipolar disorder	24
Seizure disorder	12
Tuberculosis (not active)	4

Emergency Care:
55 ER trips to Berkshire Medical Center in 2025

Specialists:
353 outside specialist appointments completed in 2025

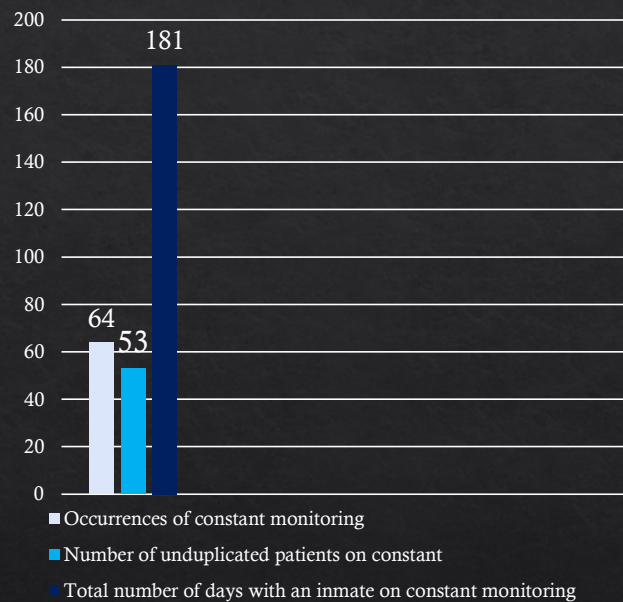
Facility covered by medical staff onsite 24/7

Mental Health

Staff of 4 masters level clinicians providing onsite coverage 7 days a week with 24/7 on call support

Clinician dedicated to SUD team to follow inmates throughout the facility

Constant Monitoring Status Data for 2025



1,964 documented inmate contact case notes for individuals in Special Management

1,743 documented inmate contact case notes for individuals in General Population

Classification Collaboration



Bidirectional communication a minimum of 3 times per week:

Orientation
Team Meetings
60 Day Reviews

Identify needs for every inmate from each department
Formulate goals and action plan
Continuously assess and evaluate

Case Management

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CASE MANAGERS

Intakes and Assessments

TCU – Texas Christian University substance
use assessment

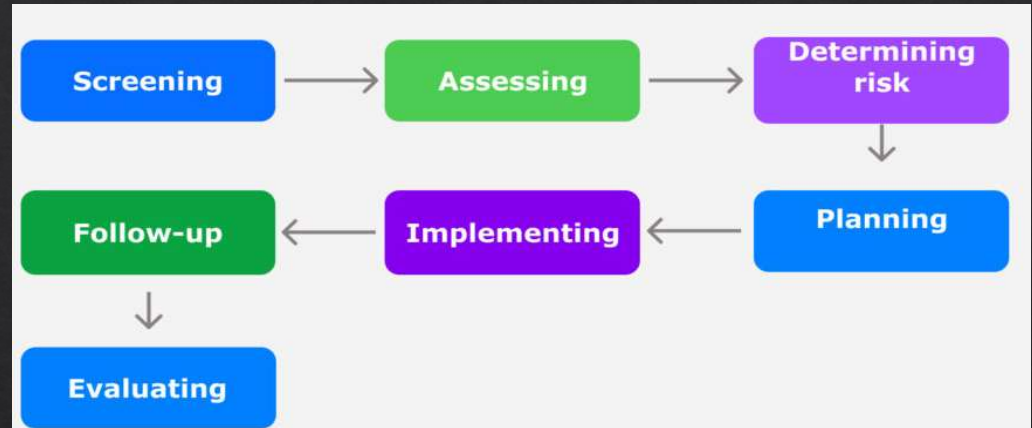
LSCMI – Level Service/Case Management

Inventory – Risk Assessment Tool

Individual Service Plan (ISP)

Program Coordination

Documentation and Data Tracking



GOALS:

Improve inmate behavior and safety

Address criminogenic needs

Support Rehabilitation

Prepare individuals for reentry

Reduce Recidivism

Documents Obtained in 2025

52 Mass IDs obtained

78 MassHealth applications
submitted

67 birth certificates obtained

44 Social Security cards obtained

Education

Berkshire Community College Collaboration:
Work force development
Manufacturing & Welding
Internships



7 HiSETS earned

11 ServSafe certifications earned

English, Math (pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, statistics etc.), Science, and Social Studies are offered year-round in all levels.

Williams College Collaboration-Williams
College faculty and students

Inside Out Program

Tutoring provided by students/faculty

Book Club



Education Collaboration Recognition



Voices From Inside - And Beyond

The Importance of a Strong Connection Between Security Staff and Education

By Yvonne Gittelson, Corrections Education Specialist

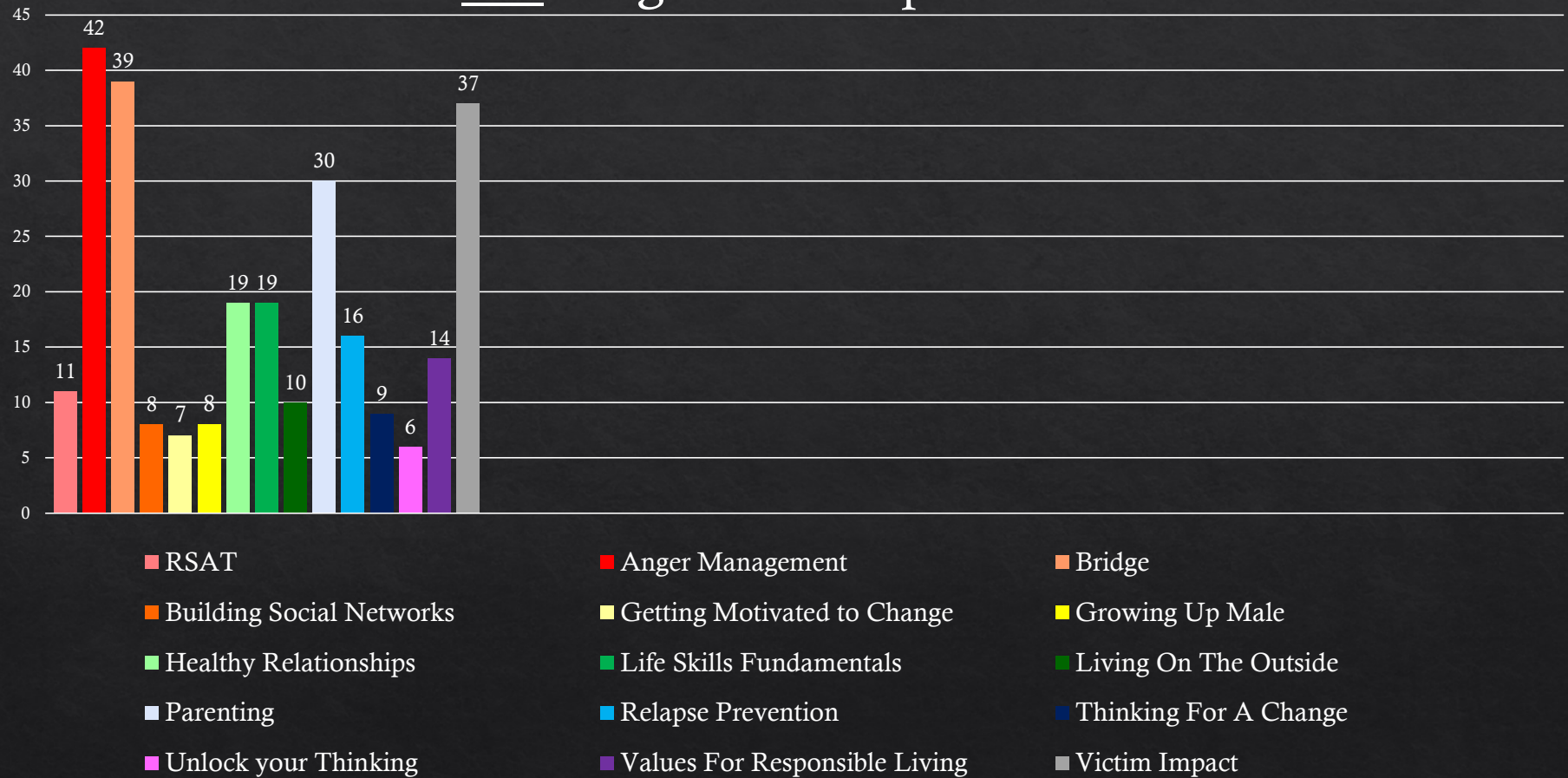
The case cannot be made strongly enough for the importance of a robust collaboration between the security and the education staff in our correctional facilities. I recently saw evidence of this relationship directly contributing to student success at the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) where there are two officers directly supporting the adult education program, an officer specifically designated for the education department, and a captain who runs the classification board who pays close attention to the educational progress or lack thereof, of the students who come before him. This doesn't happen everywhere.

At Berkshire, there is a dedicated officer assigned to the education area there every day. Not only does he know the teachers, he knows the students and can play the role of "truant officer." If he notices that a student is missing, he calls back or goes back to the housing unit to find out why, and he has a conversation with the student as needed. Sometimes it's a simple matter of a conflicting medical appointment or an attorney's visit. If it's a personal matter, a supportive conversation may be all that is needed to get the student back on track. These students, like many adult education students, struggle with self-esteem when it comes to academic performance, and they also have the added label of a conviction which weighs heavily. They don't believe much in themselves, so sometimes having an encouraging authority figure can have a significant positive impact.

In addition to the security officer, the captain who oversees BCSO's classification board is similarly supportive and engaged in inmate education. The students understand that the board considers education when determining whether they are to step down to lower levels of security and supervision, a highly prized achievement because it brings more autonomy and freedom. This captain personally monitors the educational progress of the students who come before him. Massachusetts requires classification boards to consider safety and security when determining levels of custody. BCSO students are fortunate that the board values educational progress when classifying inmates. For an officer with this much power to prioritize education is a real asset to the education department, and the teachers in this program have remarked on what a positive difference this has made. Student persistence is better. Students know that what they do in one part of the facility matters elsewhere. And this leads to greater success overall.

There is a shortage of correctional officers in Massachusetts so it's a challenge for many facilities to dedicate this level of personnel to the education program. Kudos to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office for committing the support of the security staff to the educators and students of this program.

275 Programs Completed in 2025



Aquaponics Program

13 individuals worked in the greenhouse learning vocational training in agriculture involving raising fish with soilless plant growth.

Over 300,000 heads of lettuce were donated to local food banks.

9 local food pantries/organizations received weekly produce donations.

9 fruit trees were added to our gardening endeavors, bringing the total to 29.

1,600 lbs. of tilapia were raised and sold to Adirondack Aquaculture, an aquaponics greenhouse in Hadley, NY.



Re Entry Planning & After Care

Pre Release:

89 referrals to BHJI-CHD
(Behavioral Health for
Justice Involved Individuals)

40 housing referrals

67 referrals to long-term
residential programs with
34 placements

19 referrals to homeless
shelters

68 sober housing referrals
with 26 placements



Post Release:

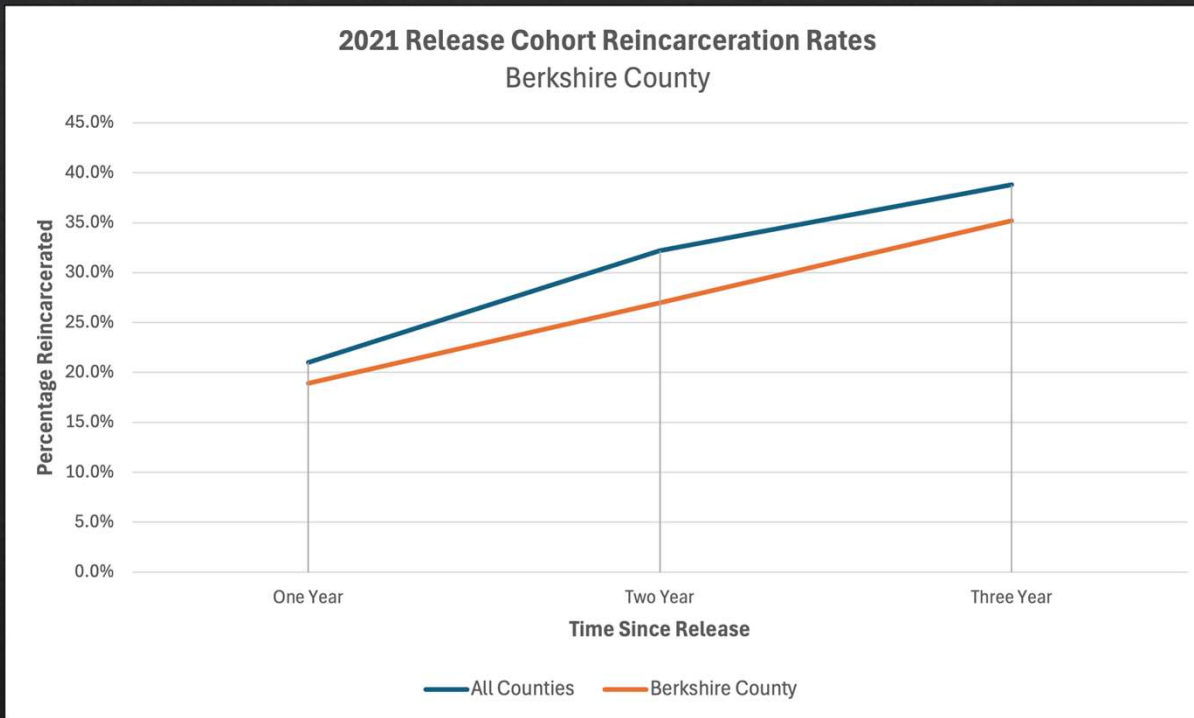
476 post-release supportive
contacts

441 duplicated individuals were
provided transportation

572 documented contacts with
previously incarcerated individuals
(male)

All discharges are
referred to the 2nd
Street Program

Berkshire County Recidivism: 2021 Release Cohort



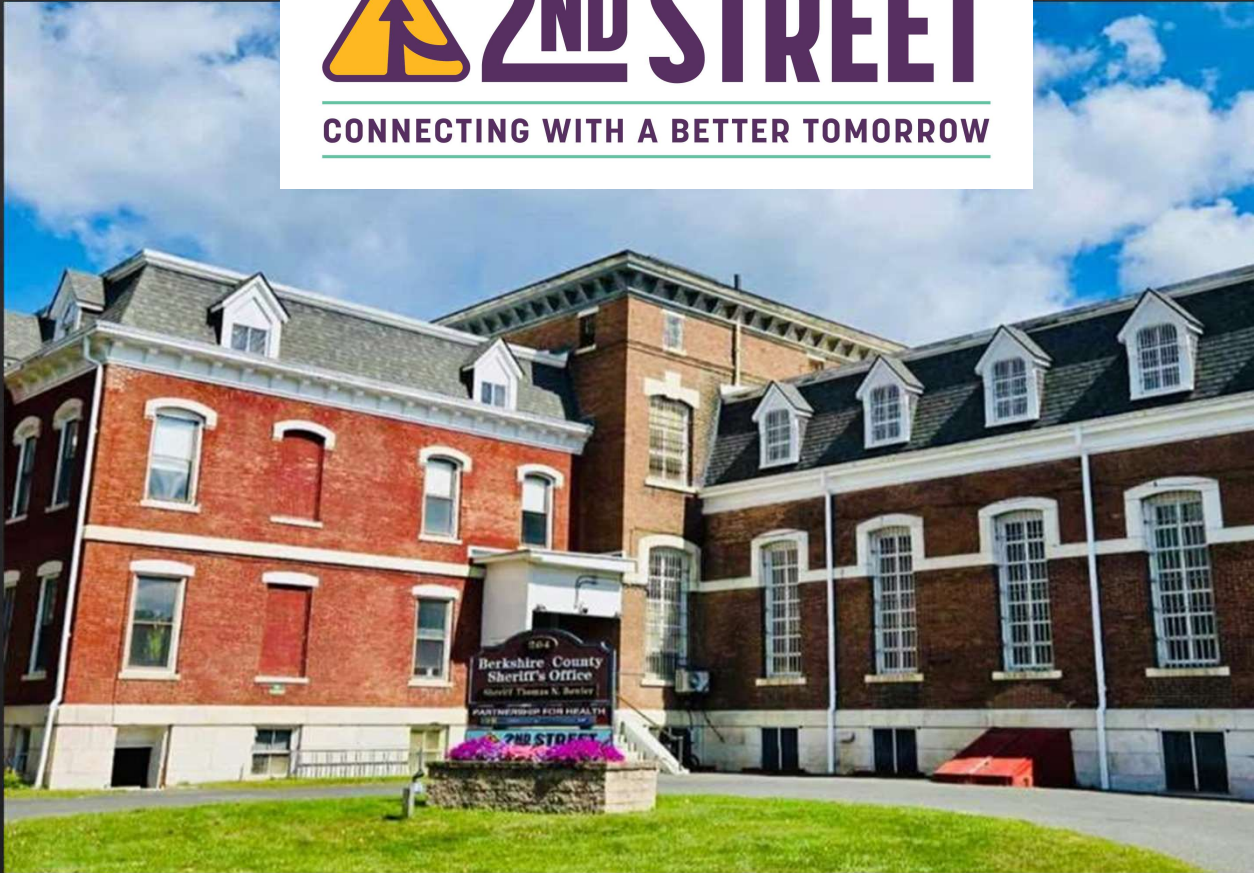
Reincarceration Rates	One Year	Two Year	Three Year
All Counties	21.0%	32.2%	38.8%
Berkshire County	18.9%	27.0%	35.2%
<i>Difference</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>3.6%</i>

For individuals released from custody in 2021, Berkshire County averages 3.6% fewer reincarcerations across a three-year span than all counties combined in Massachusetts





CONNECTING WITH A BETTER TOMORROW



Mission Statement

To provide a central point of access where formerly incarcerated people of Berkshire County connect with the tools, programs, and support to encourage a successful reentry into a more welcoming community with dignity and sustainable opportunities to thrive.



Program Overview

- Inception in 2022
- 501c3 Non-Profit—Second Street Second Chances, Inc.
- ARPA funds from City of Pittsfield and CERP funds from the state
- Goal was to create a central HUB to support formerly incarcerated individuals without duplicating already existing services
- Close partnership with Berkshire County Service Providers
- Voluntary Program
- Public/Private partnership with the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
- All staff are Sheriff's Department employees

Community Navigators

- Meet with inmates inside prior to release for re-entry planning
- BCHC and Women's Correctional Center
- Support individuals during reentry transition
- Continue working with clients post-release to keep them safe, supported, and out of custody
- Support formerly incarcerated individuals with navigating community resources

Program Growth and Impact

- Originally projected to serve 100 clients in year one
- Served 453 clients in the first year
- Started with 1 community navigator and quickly hired 3 additional navigators to meet the needs of the community we serve
- 1,727 total unduplicated clients served since inception
- \$332,000 of revenue came from local donors, fundraising, and philanthropy

Locations & Hours of Operation

- Pittsfield: Monday–Friday 8AM – 4PM
- North Adams: Tuesdays 1PM – 2:30PM
- North Adams: Thursdays 10AM – 12PM
- Great Barrington: Mondays 9AM – 11AM

Programming/Partnerships



- Advanced Manufacturing & Welding Training Program—Made possible by the MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and CommCorp
- Noontime Recovery Meeting (Monday – Friday)
- Tuesday Night Recovery Meeting
- Women’s Aftercare Group & Men’s Aftercare Group
- Weekly Housing Office Hours with Upside413
- Weekly Community Legal Aid hours (seal & expunge records)
- Bi-weekly clinical group with LICSW



Pathways to Freedom Mentorship Program

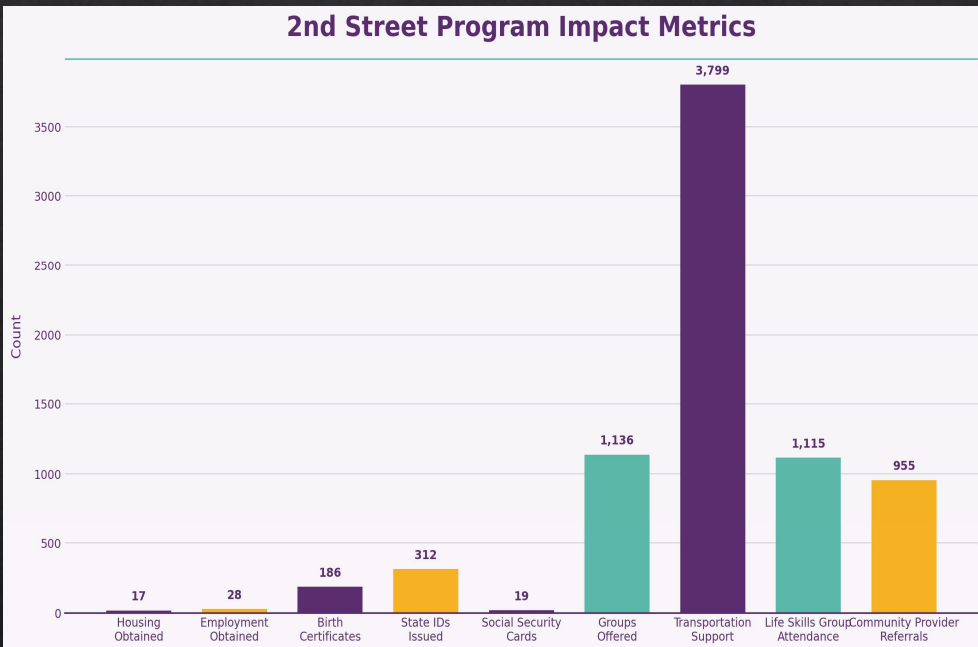
- Paid mentorship program supporting high-risk clients
- 4 mentors (2 male / 2 female)
- Partnership with Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Supporting individuals ages 18-25 aging out of services
- Engaged 15 mentees to date- 10 currently active





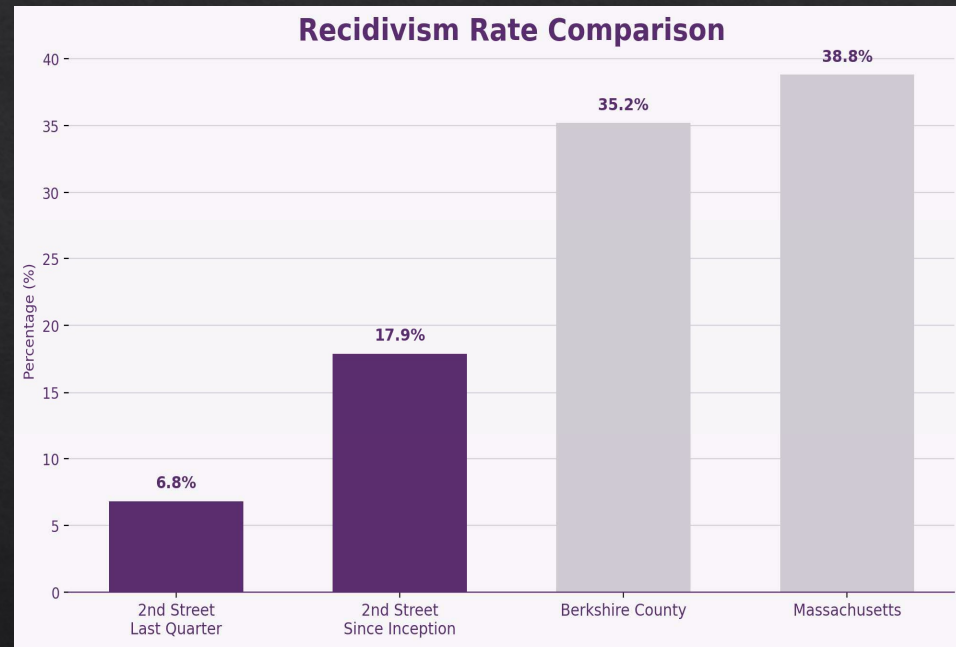
Statistics Since July 2022

2nd Street Program Impact Metrics



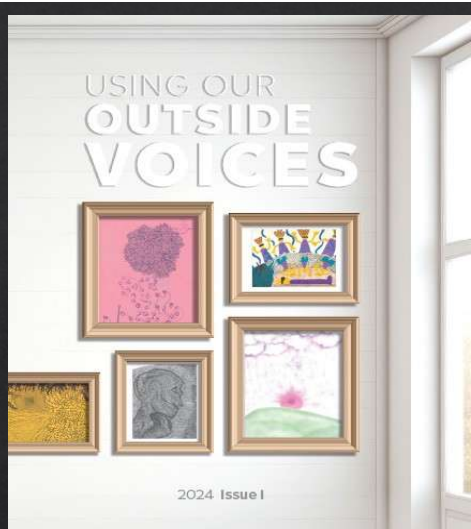
Recidivism Data

Recidivism Rate Comparison






Special Projects



2023



RELEASE


Original Theater Inspired By the Stories of Formerly Incarcerated Women From Berkshire County

Directed & Facilitated by [Name]

The Performance Company

Monday, September [Date]
Tuesday, September [Date]
and [Date]

Berkshire Community College



2024



RECLAIM

Directed & Created by Amy Brentano and Sara Katzoff

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 7 PM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2PM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 7PM



Original theater inspired by the stories of relatives and/or close friends of the Second Street Sec...

2025



REPAIR

Original Theater Inspired by the Stories of Formerly Incarcerated Men

Directed & Facilitated by [Name]

The Performance Company

Monday, August 12, 7 PM
Tuesday, August 13, 7 PM
Tuesday, August 13, 2 PM

Berkshire Community College

Robert Kous...
1350...
Pitts...



Pittsfield Hub Model

Facilitated by 2nd Street and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office

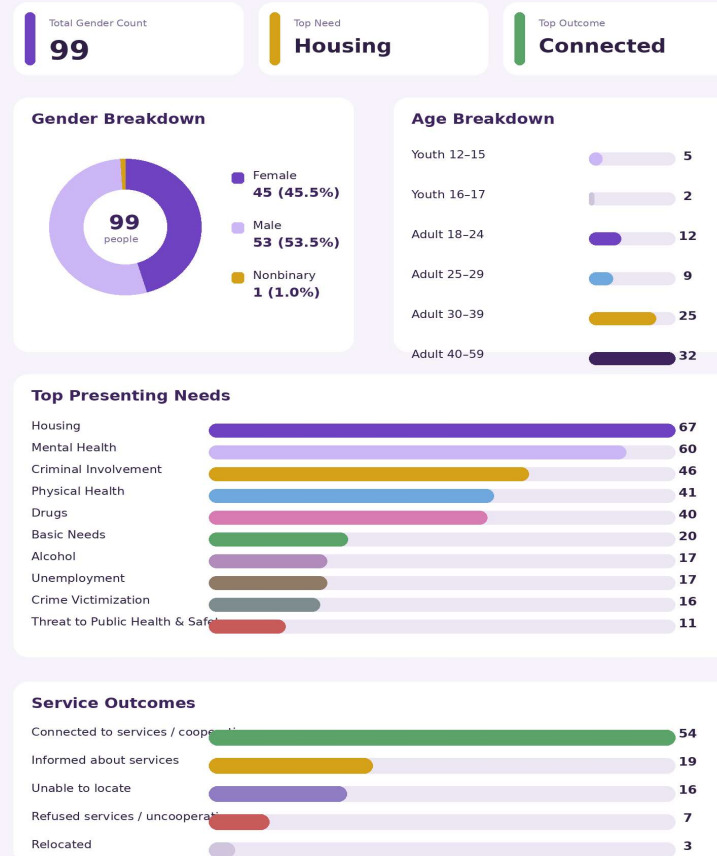


About the Pittsfield Hub: The Hub is a team of designated staff from community and government agencies that meet weekly to address specific situations regarding clients facing elevated levels of risk, and develop immediate, coordinated and integrated responses through the mobilization of resources. The Hub does not perform case management. Its purpose is to mitigate risk within 24-48 hours and connect individuals and families to services.

The Hub works with families and individuals that are facing complex challenges and may need services from more than one community agency. We work together to ensure families and individuals are safe, healthy and have the opportunity to thrive.

Community Data Snapshot

Visual representation of gender, age, presenting needs, and service outcomes



Note: Age categories with zero counts (Infant 0-5, Child 6-9, Child 10-11, and NA) were omitted from the chart for readability.

Who is part of the Pittsfield Hub?

- Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
- 2nd Street
- The Brien Center
- UpSide 413
- Department of Children & Families
- Department of Youth Services
- Elizabeth Freeman Center
- 18 Degrees
- Berkshire County Adult & Juvenile Probation
- Department of Mental Health
- Pittsfield Community Justice Program
- Berkshire Health Systems
- County Ambulance
- Pittsfield Police Department
- Pittsfield Department of Public Health
- Service Net
- Savida Health
- Pittsfield Public Schools,
- Clean Slate
- RFK Community Alliance
- Alternative Living Center

Recognition



Massachusetts
Sheriff's Association
2024
Program of The Year Award



provided photo

Upcoming Initiatives

- Community Advisory Board (CAB) led by formerly incarcerated individuals
- RHAPSODI Grant with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission—Family and Social support program for loved ones of individuals returning from incarceration or recently released from incarceration
- Nurturing Families--17-week parenting program for women in recovery, in Partnership with 18 Degrees--Referrals from 2nd Street and DCF
- Fourth annual 2nd Chances Job Fair in collaboration with The Berkshire District Attorney's Office, Berkshire Community College, MassHire Berkshire Career Center, MassAbility, the Berkshire Innovation Center, and Old Colony YMCA. on April 29th—CORI friendly hiring

Community Involvement



Community Involvement



Read Across America



Toys for Tots



Thanksgiving and Christmas meal prep and delivery for the Christian Center



Trunk or Treat



Touch a Truck events



Special Olympics



Community park maintenance

