

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – September 2023

Report Date: October 16, 2023

Prepared for Bernalillo County by the Institute for Social Research, Center for Applied Research and Analysis
by: E. M. Ferguson & D. A. Goldberg

Criminal Justice Reforms and the Jail Population

Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

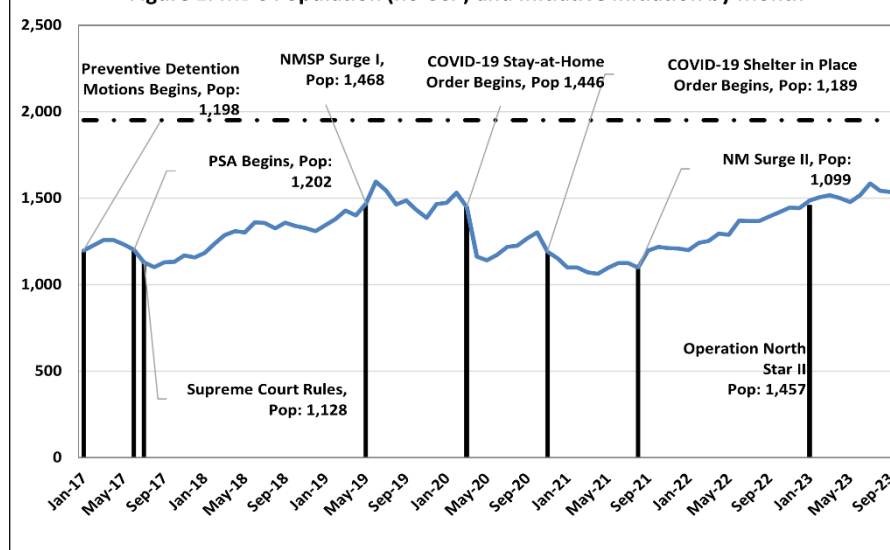
Quick Population Figures ¹	Sep 22	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	↗ 1,404	1,506	↘ 1,483	↗ 1,520	↗ 1,537	↘ 1,495	↘ 1,488
Average Community Custody Program	= 50	49	↘ 46	↗ 48	↗ 49	↘ 47	↗ 50
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↗ 1,454	1,555	↘ 1,529	↗ 1,568	↗ 1,586	↘ 1,542	↘ 1,538
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,365	1,404	↗ 1,513	↘ 1,476	↘ 1,465	↘ 1,428	↗ 1,584
Bookings Ages 18-24	↘ 205	222	↘ 206	↘ 179	↗ 215	↘ 135	↗ 193
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,343	1,363	↗ 1,512	↘ 1,476	↘ 1,426	↗ 1,495	↗ 1,530
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↗ 26.3	35.1	↘ 36.2	↗ 36.2	↘ 35.6	↗ 38.3	↘ 31.5
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,245 (>8 ½ years)						

*Arrows show increase or decrease in counts from prior month, with the exception of 2022, which indicates if the equivalent month of the following year is an increase or decrease.

Report Highlights

- The MDC population (on-site) in September 2023 was 1,489, a decrease of 0.5% from August 2023.
- The MDC population has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Bookings increased by 10.9% from August 2023 to September 2023 and releases increased 2.3% over the same period.
- The LOS in September 2023 decreased 17.8% from August 2023 (38.3 and 31.5).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In September 2023, 39.7% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 54.2% were granted.

Figure 1. MDC Population (no CCP) and Initiative Initiation by Month



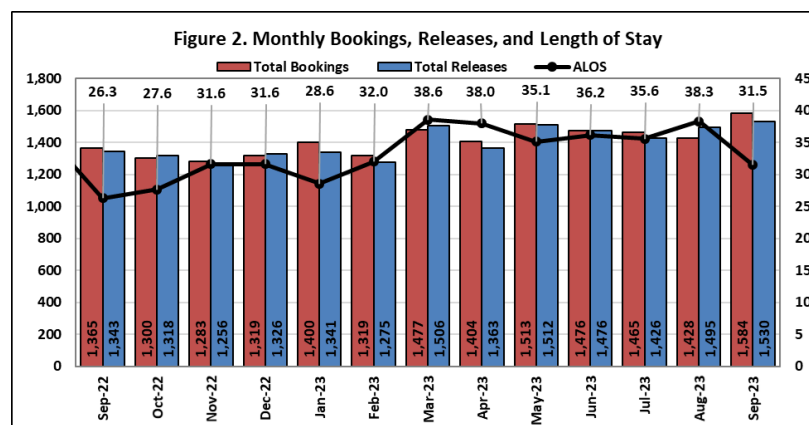
The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low starting in March 2020 and then increasing in October 2021. In September 2023, the average monthly population was 1,488, a less than one percent decrease in the population from August 2023.

As of September 2022, the MDC population increased back to pre-COVID numbers. Since September 2022, the population has increased 6.0%.

¹ Jail headcounts have been modified accordingly due to MDC's migration to a new jail management system starting in December 2020.

Bookings, Releases, and Length of Stay

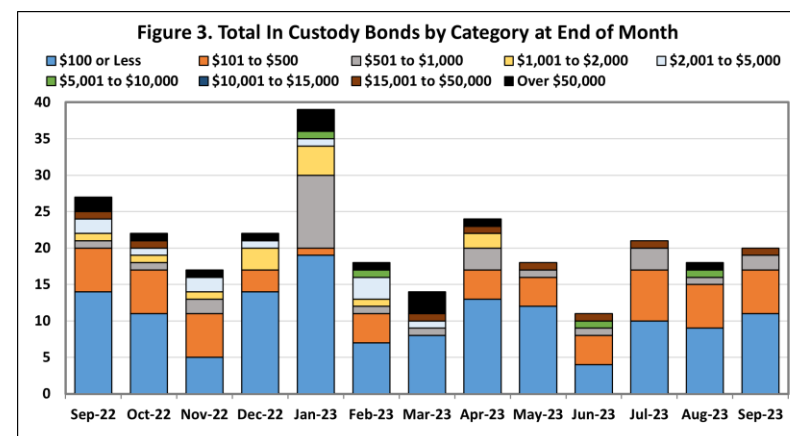
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From August 2023 to September 2023 the number of bookings increased (10.9%) from 1,428 to 1,584 and releases increased (2.3%) from 1,495 to 1530 (see Figure 2).
- There were 220 more bookings in September 2023 than in September 2022 (16.0%), and there were 187 more releases in September 2023 than in September 2022 (13.9%).
- The LOS in September 2023 was 31.5 days, (17.8%) 6.8 days more than August 2023.
- The LOS in September 2023 was 31.5, (19.8%) 5.2 days more than September 2023.



In Custody Bonds

- At the end of the day on September 30, 2023, there were 1,519 inmates in custody.
- Of these, 20 inmates (1.3%) could have been released if all bonds were paid (see Figure 3).

Of the 20 inmates with a bond, 11 had a bond totaling \$100 or less (55.0%), 6 had a bond between \$101 and \$500 (30.0%), 2 had a bond between \$501 and \$1,000 (10.0%), and 1 had a bond between \$15,001 and \$50,000 (5.0%). There were an average of 21 persons in custody on a bond at the end of the month during the past 12 months.



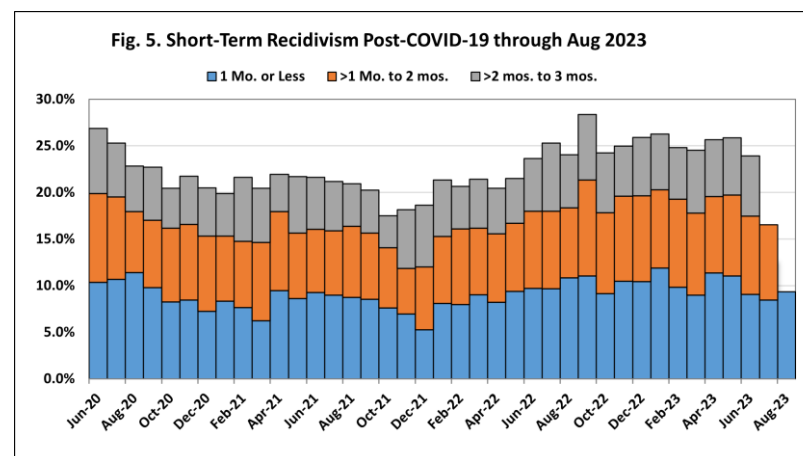
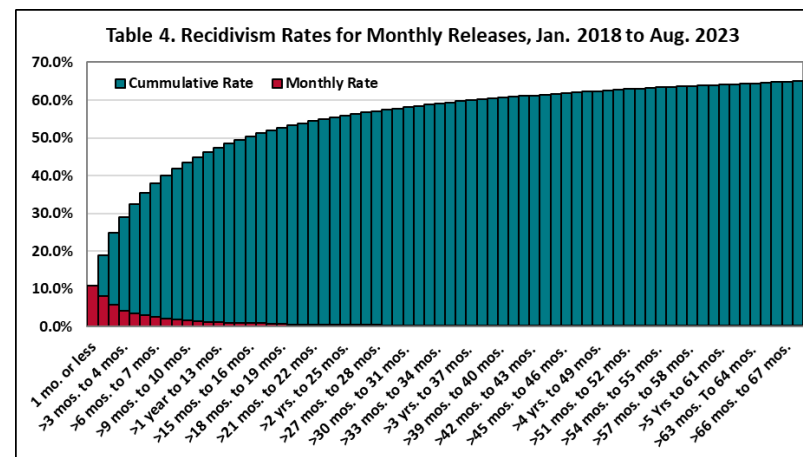
Recidivism

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a recidivism measure requires three items: a starting event, such as a release from a facility; a measure of failure, such as a booking; and a follow-up time period from the starting event. Compared to prisons, jails have a much higher rate of turnover. A preliminary recidivism rate was calculated for the MDC using the following:

- Unique monthly releases beginning in January 2018 through August 2023. The releases end the month prior to reporting to allow the same follow-up time-period for each month.
- Bookings in subsequent months within approximate one-month intervals (365/12).
- The measure of failure is any new booking into the MDC.

During the first three months following release from the MDC, 24.7% of inmates return to custody (see Figure 4), increasing to 35.4% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time and 65.1% inmates returned to custody for any booking within 68 months. Recidivism occurs with decreasing frequency over time, so inmates typically return to custody within a shorter time frame rather than years after release.

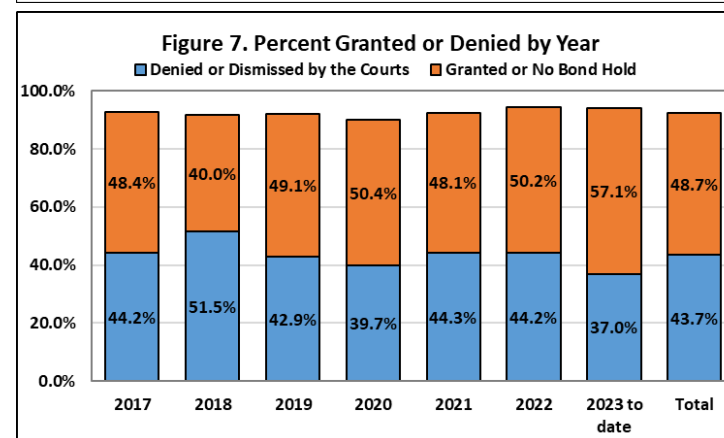
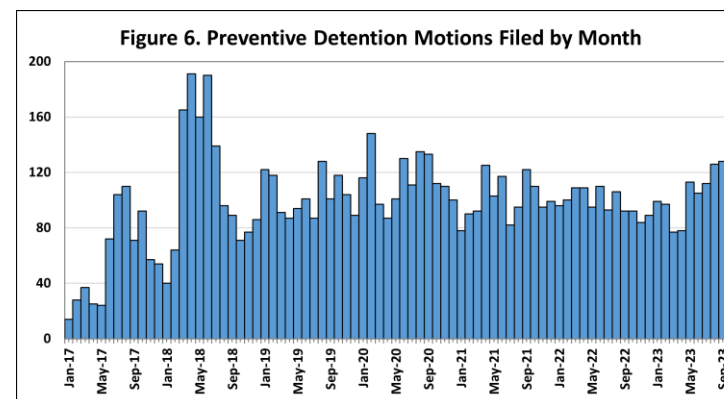
Short-term returns to custody decreased from 12.7% between January 2018 and February 2020 to 9.1% from March 2020 to August 2023 (see Figure 5). From March 2020 to July 2023, 9.1% of inmates returned to custody in the first month, 7.9% returned to custody in the second month, and 5.6% returned to custody in the third month.



Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to August 2023, there were approximately 7,994 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 7,491 bookings² for 6,346 individuals. This includes motions filed in both Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court and Second Judicial District Court. The preventive detention motions were filed for a variety of charge types, included shoplifting, burglary, auto theft, assault, and murder. In the last 12 months, the number of PTD motions filed per month ranged from 77 to 128, with an average of 100 per month (see Figure 6). There were 128 motions filed in September 2023, 36 (39.1%) more than in September 2022.

In September 2023, 39.7% of motions were denied or dismissed and 54.2% were granted³. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied (see Figure 7). Between January and September 2023, 57.1% of motions were granted and 37.0% were denied or dismissed. Since 2017, 48.7% of motions have been granted and 43.7% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.3%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequied, dismissed, or sentenced (3.4%).



The UNM - Institute for Social Research (ISR) is a leading provider of program evaluations and policy research in New Mexico. ISR staff members and faculty affiliates also have expertise in the fields of criminal justice, education, economics, substance abuse treatment programs, poverty and homelessness, domestic violence, employee workloads and staffing levels. For more information on the ISR, please visit <http://isr.unm.edu/> or call (505) 277-4257.



² Approximately 100 of these motions occurred when an inmate was not booked into the MDC, but this is generally uncommon.

³ At the end of July 2023, there were approximately 48 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis.