

## Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – May 2023

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Prepared for Bernalillo County by the Institute for Social Research, Center for Applied Research and Analysis  
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### Criminal Justice Reforms and the Jail Population

Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

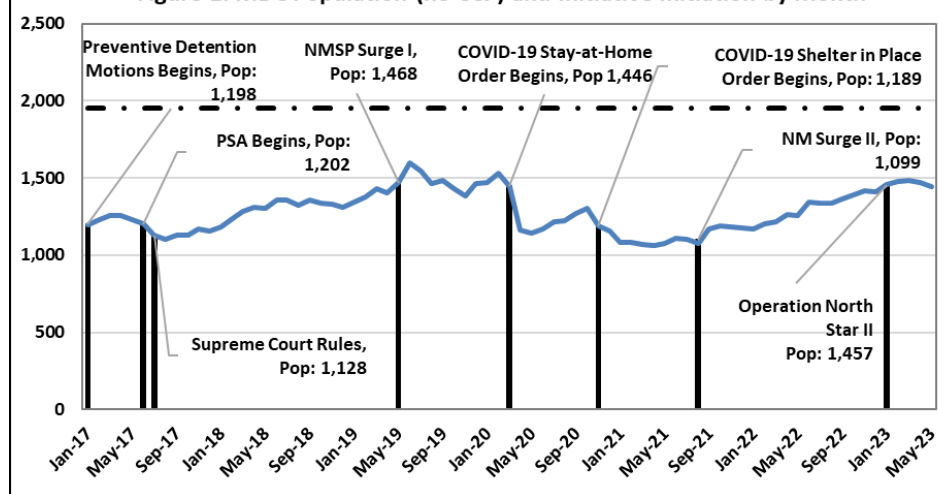
Quick Population Figures <sup>1</sup>	May 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	↗ 1,294	1,455	↗ 1,498	↗ 1,515	↗ 1,524	↘ 1,506	↘ 1,483
Average Community Custody Program	↘ 53	42	↘ 35	↗ 39	↗ 41	↗ 49	↘ 46
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↗ 1,347	1,497	↗ 1,533	↗ 1,554	↗ 1,565	↘ 1,555	↘ 1,529
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,240	1,319	↗ 1,400	↘ 1,319	↗ 1,476	↘ 1,404	↗ 1,512
Bookings Ages 18-24	↗ 200	166	↗ 209	= 209	↘ 207	↗ 222	↘ 206
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,203	1,327	↘ 1,342	↘ 1,276	↗ 1,507	↘ 1,363	↗ 1,534
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↗ 31.7	31.7	↘ 28.5	↗ 31.6	↗ 38.2	↘ 38.1	↘ 34.2
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,123 (over 8 years)						

\*Arrows show increase or decrease in counts from prior month, with the exception of 2021, which indicates if the equivalent month of the following year is an increase or decrease.

#### Report Highlights

- The MDC population (on-site) in May 2023 was 1,483, a decrease of 1.5% from April 2023.
- The MDC population has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Bookings increased by 7.7% from April 2023 to May 2023 and releases increased 12.5% over the same period.
- The LOS in May 2023 decreased 10.2% from March 2023 (38.1 days to 34.2 day).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In May 2023, 35.5% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 60.7% were granted.

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



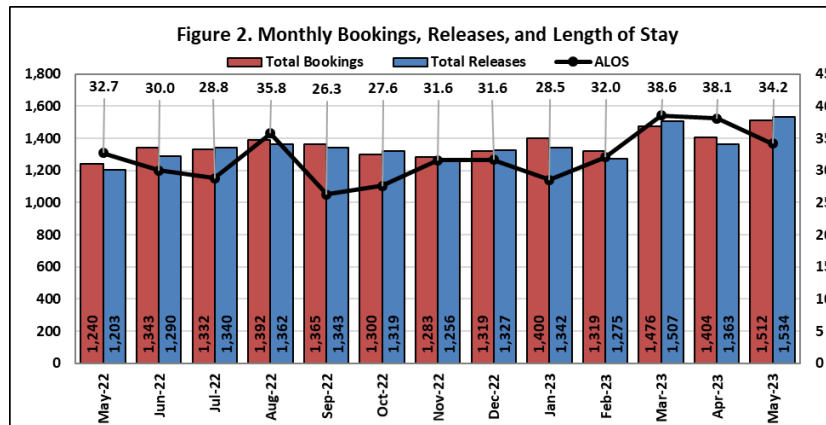
The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low starting in March 2020 and the increasing in October 2021. In May 2023, the average monthly population was 1,483, 14.6% higher than May 2022.

As of September 2022, the MDC population increased back to pre-COVID numbers. Since September 2022, the population has increased 5.6%.

<sup>1</sup> 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

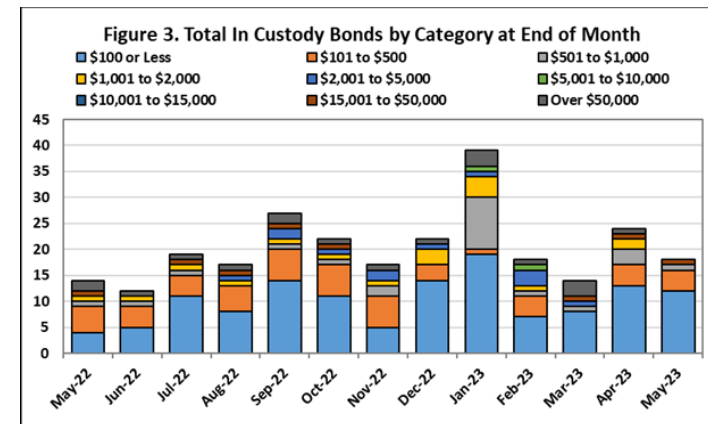
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From April 2023 to May 2023 the number of bookings increased (7.7%) from 1,404 to 1,512 and releases increased (12.5%) from 1,363 to 1,534 (see Figure 2).
- There were 272 more bookings in May 2023 than in May 2022 (21.9%), and there were 331 more releases in May 2023 than in May 2022 (27.5%).
- The LOS in May 2023 was 34.2 days, 3.9 days (10.2%) higher than April 2023.
- The LOS in May 2023 was higher than the LOS in May 2022 by 1.5 days or 4.6%.



## In Custody Bonds

- At the end of the day on May 31, 2023, there were 1,467 inmates in custody.
- Of these, 18 inmates (1.2 %) could have been released if all bonds were paid (see Figure 3).

Of the 18 inmates with a bond, 12 had a bonds totaling \$100 or less (66.7%). 4 had a bond between \$101 and \$500 (22.2%), 1 had a bond between \$501 and \$1,000 (5.6%), and 1 had a bond between \$15,001 and \$50,000 (5.6%). There were an average of 21 persons in custody on a bond at the end of the month each 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 March 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, 24.8% of inmates return to custody (see Figure 4), increasing to 35.4% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time to 66.0% inmates returning to custody for any booking within five years. 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 after March 2020 from 12.7% from January 2018 to February 2020 and 9.1% from March 2020 to March 2023 (see Figure 5). From March 2020 to March 2023: 9.1% of inmates returned to custody in the first month, 7.8% returned to custody in the second month, and 5.5% returned to custody in the third month.

Table 4. Recidivism Rates for Monthly Releases, Jan. 2018 to Apr. 2023

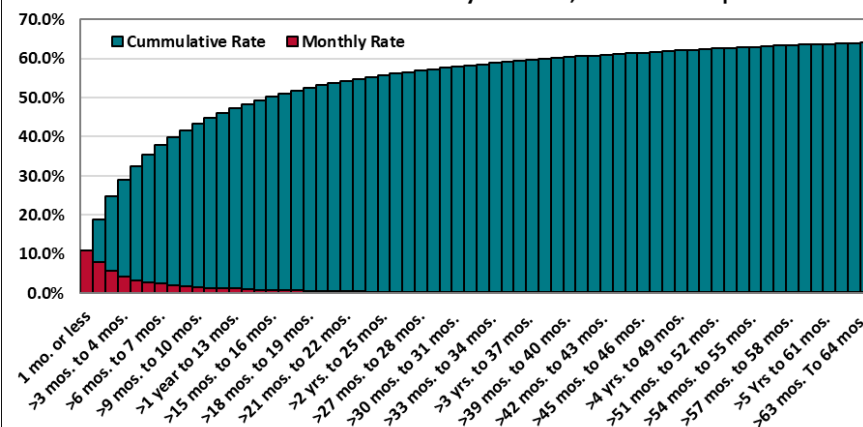
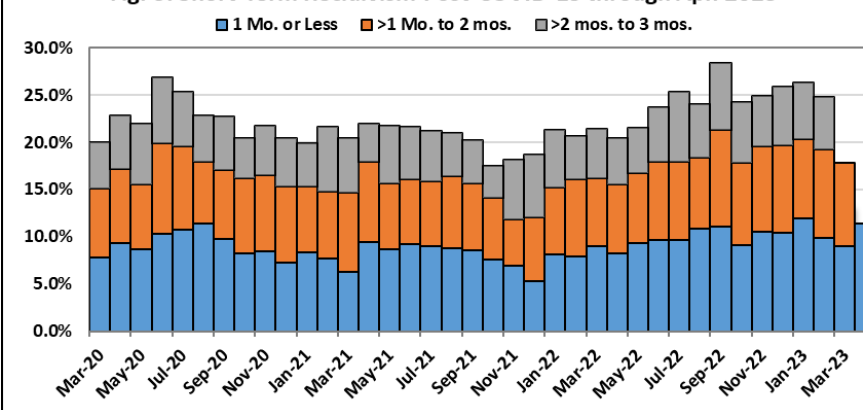


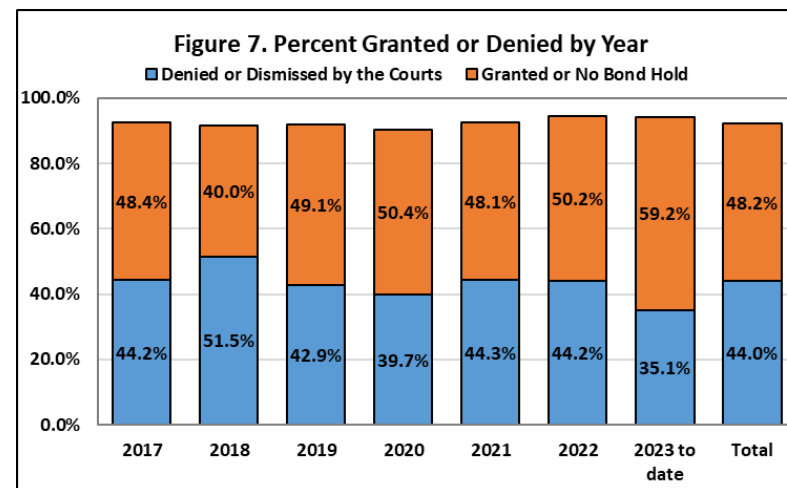
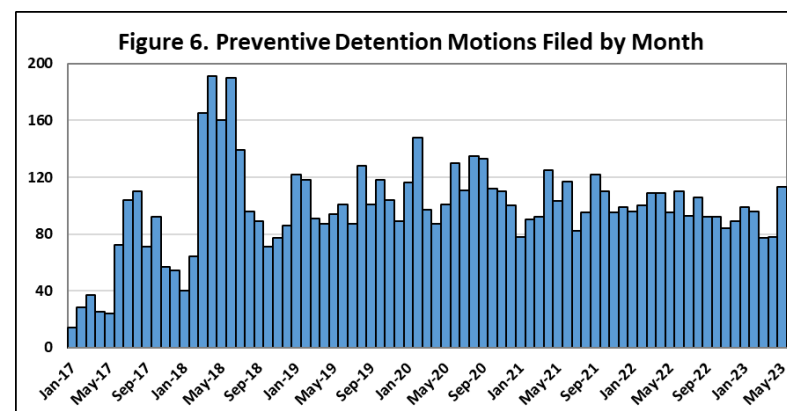
Fig. 5. Short-Term Recidivism Post-COVID-19 through Apr. 2023



## Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to May 2023, there were approximately 7,522 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 7,052 bookings<sup>2</sup> for 5,991 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 113, with an average of 94 per month (see Figure 4). There were 113 motions filed in May 2023, 18 (18.9%) higher than in May 2022.

In May 2023, 35.5% of motions were denied or dismissed and 60.7% were granted<sup>3</sup>. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied. Between January and May 2023 59.2% of motions were granted. Since 2017, 48.2% of motions have been granted and 44.0% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.4%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequied, dismissed, or sentenced (3.4%).



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

<sup>3</sup> At the end of April 2023, there were approximately 37 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis.