



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – February 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

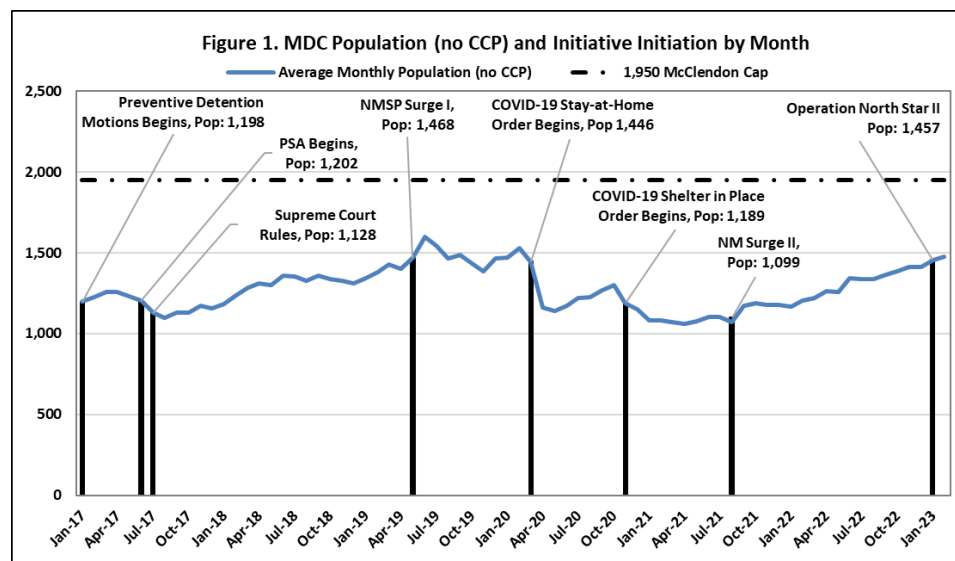
Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

Quick Population Figures ¹	Feb 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	1,251 (↗)	1,404	↗ 1,430	↗ 1,458	↘ 1,455	↗ 1,498	↗ 1,515
Average Community Custody Program	38 (↗)	50	↘ 49	↘ 44	↘ 42	↘ 35	↗ 39
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	1,289 (↗)	1,454	↗ 1,479	↗ 1,502	↘ 1,497	↗ 1,533	↗ 1,554
Monthly Bookings	1,138	1,365	↘ 1,300	↘ 1,283	↗ 1,319	↗ 1,400	↘ 1,319
Bookings Ages 18-24	194	205	↘ 167	↗ 197	↘ 166	↘ 209	= 209
Monthly Releases	1,132	1,343	↘ 1,330	↘ 1,257	↗ 1,327	↗ 1,342	↘ 1,276
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	27.4	26.3	↗ 27.7	↗ 31.6	= 31.6	↘ 28.5	↗ 32.0
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,031 (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 in February 2023 was 1,515, an increase of 1.1% from January 2023.
- The MDC population has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Bookings decreased 5.8% from January 2023 to February 2023 and releases decreased 4.9% over the same period.
- The LOS in February 2023 increased 12.4% from January 2023 (28.5 days to 32.0 days).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In February 2023, 27.7% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 63.4% were granted.

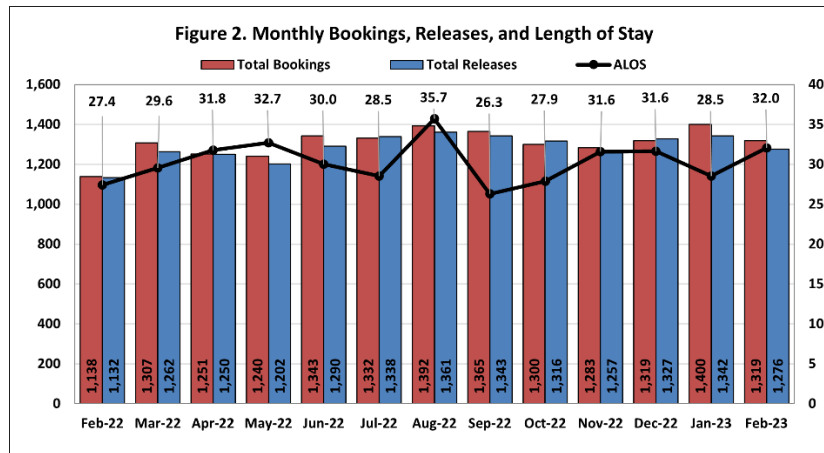


MDC's jail population decreased to an historic low starting in March 2020, then began increasing in October 2021. In February 2023, the MDC population reached 1,515, 21.1% higher than February 2022. **As of September 2022, the MDC population rose to pre-COVID numbers. Since September 2022, the population has increased an additional 7.9%.** Some of the increase in January and February 2023 is due to Operation North Star 2, a multi-state operation involving the U.S. Marshall's office and focusing on fugitive arrests.

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

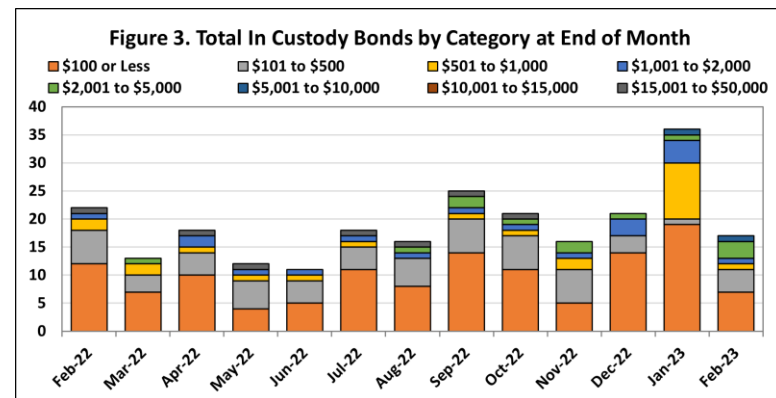
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From January 2023 to February 2023 the number of bookings decreased (5.7%) from 1,400 to 1,319 and releases decreased (4.9%) from 1,342 to 1,276 (see Figure 2).
- There were 181 more bookings in February 2023 than in February 2022 (15.9%), and there were 144 more releases in February 2023 than in February 2022 (12.7%).
- The LOS in February 2023 was 32.04 days, 4.6 days lower than February 2022, but 3.5 days higher than January 2023's LOS.



In Custody Bonds

- At the end of the day on February 28, 2023, there were approximately 1,502 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, 7 had bonds totaling \$100 or less (38.8%) 4 had a bond between \$101 and \$500 (22.2%), 1 had bonds between \$501 and \$1,000 (5.5%), 1 had a bond between \$1,001 and \$2,000 (5.5%), one had a bond between \$2,001 and \$5,000 (5.5%), three had a bond between \$5,001 and \$10,000 (16.6%) and one person had a bond greater than \$50,000 (5.5%). There were an average of 20 persons in custody on a bond at the end of the month each month during the past 12 months.

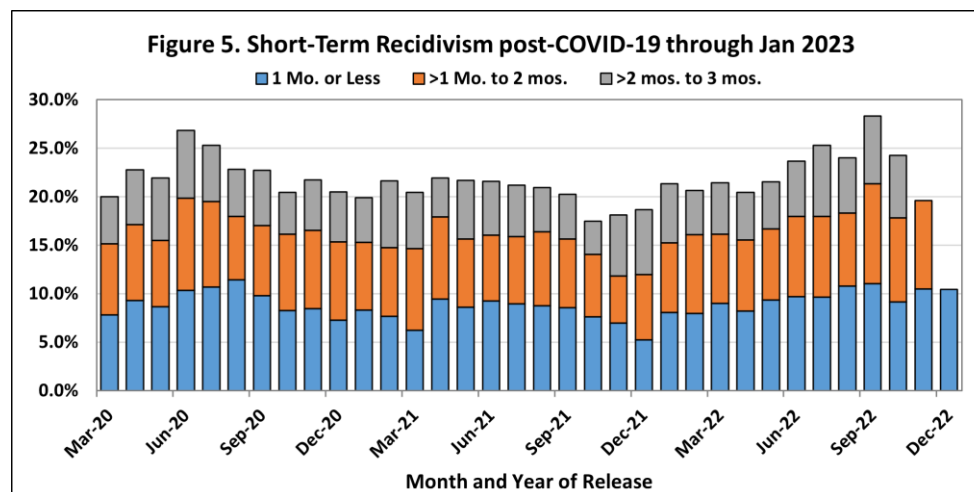
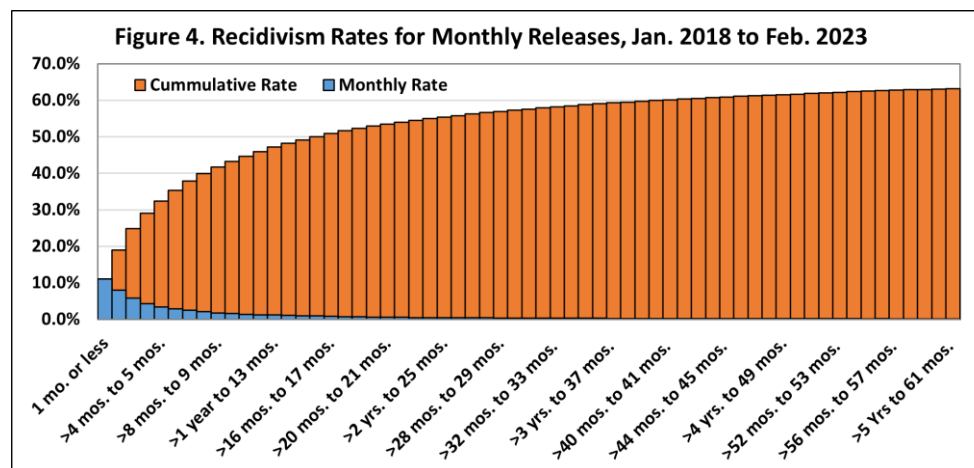


Recidivism

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 January 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 MDC.

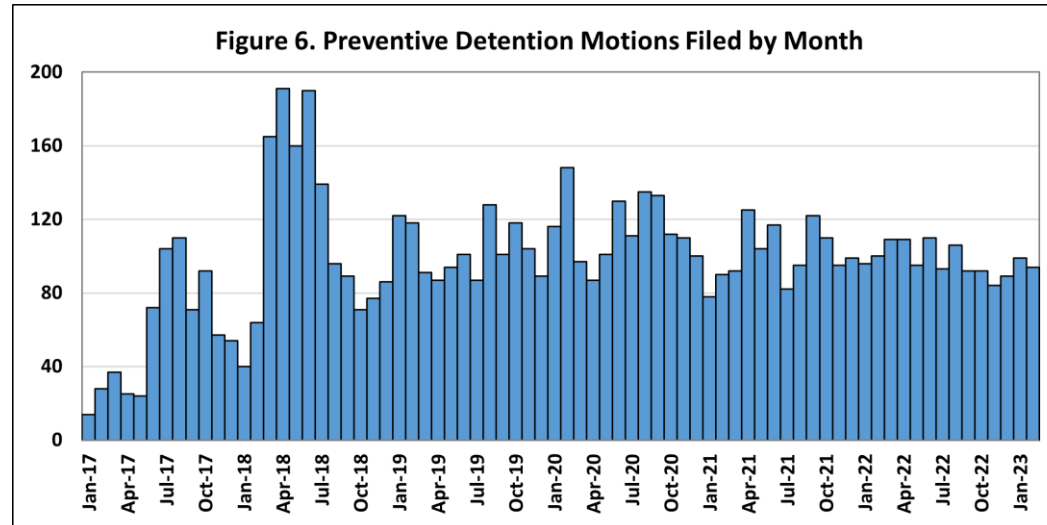
During the first three months following release from MDC, approximately 24.8% of inmates return to custody (**see Figure 4**), increasing to 35.3% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time to 62.8% of inmates returning to custody for any booking within 57 months, and overall in the last five years, the cumulative recidivism rate was 63.1%. The increase in recidivism rates over time decreases as the inmates return to custody at a decreasing rate over time.



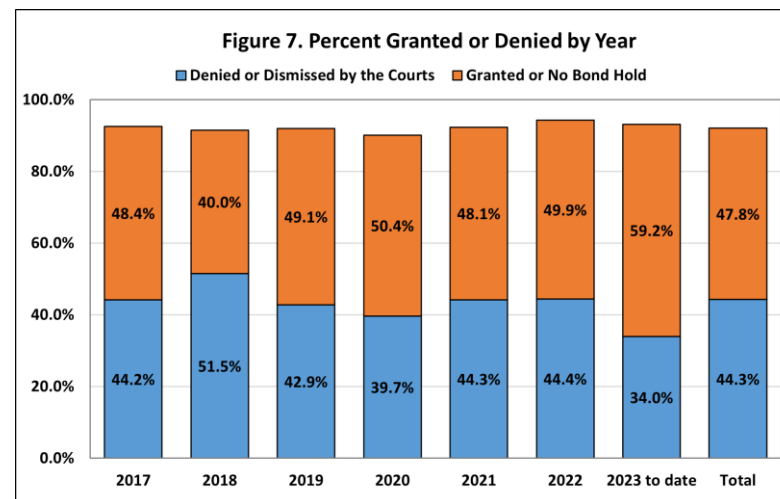
Short-term returns to custody decreased after March 2020 from 12.7% from January 2018 to February 2020 and 9.0% from March 2020 to January 2023 (**see Figure 5**). From March 2020 to January 2023: 9.0% of inmates returning to custody in the first month, 7.7% return to custody in the second month, and 5.5% will return to custody in the third month.

Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to February 2023, there were approximately 7,253 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 6,843 bookings² for 5,799 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, including shoplifting, burglary, auto theft, assault, and murder. During the last 12 months, the number of PTD motions filed per month ranged from 84 to 106, with an average of 98 per month (see Figure 6). There were 94 motions filed in February 2023, 6 fewer motions than were filed in February 2022.



At the end of February 2023, there were approximately 34 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis. In February 2023, 27.7% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 63.4% were granted (see Figure 7). By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied. Since the implementation of preventive detention motions in 2017, 47.8% of motions have been granted and 44.3% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.5%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequi, dismissed, or sentenced (3.4%).



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