



## Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – Feb 2024

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

Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

Quick Population Figures	Feb 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24
In Custody Average Daily Population	↘ 1,515	1,488	↗ 1,498	↘ 1,406	↘ 1,396	↗ 1,438	↗ 1,485
Average Community Custody Program	↗ 39	50	↘ 49	↘ 47	↘ 46	↗ 47	↘ 44
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↘ 1,554	1,538	↗ 1,547	↘ 1,453	↘ 1,442	↗ 1,485	↗ 1,529
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,319	1,600	↘ 1,498	↗ 1,533	↘ 1,446	↗ 1,683	↘ 1,639
Bookings Ages 18-24	↘ 318	237	↘ 207	↗ 236	↘ 172	↗ 243	↘ 226
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,275	1,530	↗ 1,630	↘ 1,515	↘ 1,432	↗ 1,631	↗ 1,636
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↗ 32.0	31.5	↗ 34.6	↗ 35.6	↘ 29.3	↗ 29.5	↗ 29.9
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,397 (>9 years)						

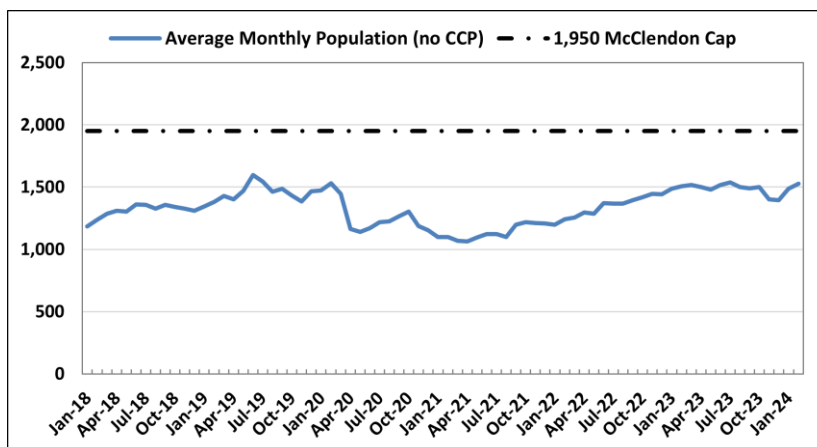
\*Arrows show increase or decrease in counts from prior month, except for 2023, which indicates if the equivalent month of the following year is an increase or decrease.

#### Report Highlights

- The MDC population has been below the 1,950 cap for more than nine consecutive years.
- The MDC population (on-site) in February 2024 was 1,485, an increase of 3.3% from January 2024.
- Bookings decreased by 2.6% from January 2024 to February 2024 and releases increased by 0.3% over the same period.
- The LOS in February 2024 increased 1.4% from January 2024 (29.5 to 29.9).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In January 2024, 36.5% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 61.7% were granted.

The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low in March 2020 and then increasing in October 2021. In February 2024, the average monthly population was 1,485, an increase of 3.3% from January 2024.

Figure 1. MDC Population (no CCP) by Month



## In Custody Demographics

The In Custody Demographics displays basic information regarding the jail's racial, gender, and age demographics. The mean age of the jail remains approximately static at ~35 years of age. The largest age group within the jail was the 27-39 age group. Male inmates were a larger population than female inmates. Over time, racial demographics remained approximately static.

**Table 2. In Custody Population Figures**

In Custody Population Figures	Feb 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24
IC Population	1,538	1,578	1,396	1,415	1,422	1,460	1,464
Male	1,294	1,306	1,152	1,177	1,181	1,230	1,230
Female	244	272	244	238	241	230	234
Mean Age	35.3	35.6	35.6	35.8	35.8	35.7	35.9
18-26	295	295	256	258	269	254	264
27-39	780	804	730	722	701	780	742
40+	463	479	410	435	452	426	458
Hispanic	787	807	709	726	720	714	730
White	442	438	398	401	412	428	419
Native American	117	116	99	95	96	106	118
African American	146	168	136	143	132	146	139
Other/Unknown	46	49	54	50	62	66	58

\*As of the last day of the month at 23:59. Excludes CCP.

## Psychiatric Services Unit (PSU)

From the medical contractor we receive a list of everyone who is a PSU client every Friday. Using this list, we report the following information. On the first Friday of February 2024 (February 2, 2024), the PSU list included 636 people and comprised 44.2% of the jail population of 1,440. According to the medical contractor 168 (26.4%) individuals were listed as having a serious mental illness (SMI). Individuals had between 1 and 8 diagnoses with an average of 2.6 diagnoses per person in the PSU.

Table 3 reports four diagnoses that are typically considered serious mental illnesses. Fifty-five individuals had one of these diagnoses. The remaining clients with SMI had one or more diagnoses of: Substance Induced Psychotic Disorder (SIPD), Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED), Sedative uses Disorder, Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (NOS), Depression, Benzodiazepine Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder (ETOH), Opiate Use Disorder, Polysubstance Abuse, PTSD, Methamphetamine Use Disorder, Anxiety, Adjustment Disorder, Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder (DMDD), Personality Disorder NOS, and Psychosis NOS.

**Table 3: PSU SMI Diagnosis Count and Percentages**

Diagnosis	Count in PSU	Percent in PSU	Percent in Jail
Major Depressive Disorder	13	2.0%	0.9%
Bipolar	3	0.5%	0.2%
Schizoaffective Disorder	12	1.9%	0.8%
Schizophrenia	38	6.0%	2.6%

Table 4 reports the count and percent of diagnoses in the PSU and the jail population. As reported earlier, clients had an average of 2.6 diagnoses. This table duplicates individuals because they often have more than one diagnosis. For example, a patient with diagnoses of Sedative Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, Opiates, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Methamphetamine Use Disorder, and Anxiety would be listed in the table for each diagnosis. The largest percentage of diagnoses is Methamphetamine Use Disorder at 9.7%, followed by Opiate Use Disorder (6.4%), and PTSD (5.8%). Substance abuse diagnoses account for 22.0% of all diagnoses in the PSU and 9.7% in the MDC.

**Table 4: Diagnoses**

Diagnosis	Percent in PSU	Percent in Jail
Substance Induced Psychotic Disorder	1.7%	0.8%
Intermittent Explosive Disorder	0.6%	0.3%
Sedative Use Disorder	0.2%	0.1%
Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified	2.7%	1.2%
Depression	2.0%	0.9%
Benzodiazepine Use Disorder	0.2%	0.1%
Alcohol Use Disorder	4.2%	1.9%
Opiate Use Disorder	6.4%	2.8%
Polysubstance Abuse	1.3%	0.6%
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	5.8%	2.6%
Methamphetamine Use Disorder	9.7%	4.3%
Anxiety	3.9%	1.7%
Adjustment Disorder	1.1%	0.5%
Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder	0.8%	0.3%
Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified	2.7%	1.2%
Psychosis Not Otherwise Specified	1.9%	0.8%
No Diagnosis	3.3%	1.5%

## Criminal Justice Initiatives

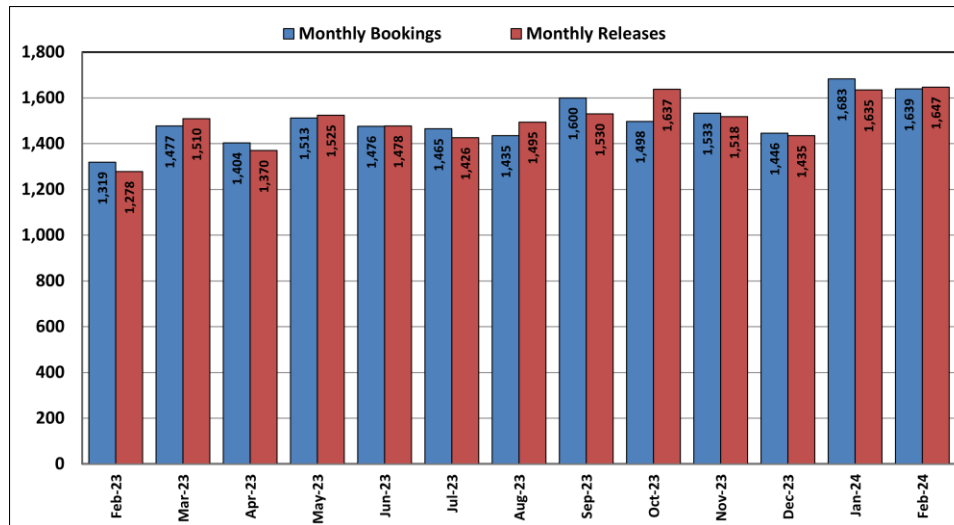
Criminal justice initiatives in Bernalillo County impact arrests and bookings into the MDC, potentially changing the size of the jail population. These initiatives may include, but are not limited to, operations conducted by, or in joint operation with state, local, or federal law enforcement and/or courtroom actors. This list is not comprehensive and is generally sourced from official agency press releases:

- *New Mexico State Police Three Day Operation* – The New Mexico State Police enacted a three day operation from February 15 – February 17<sup>th</sup>. This operation was focused in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, and yielded 23 arrests, 120+ traffic citations and three stolen vehicles.
- *APD/Attorney General Joint Shoplifting Operation* – The APD, in a joint operation with the Attorney General, held a three-day shoplifting operation which yielded 18 arrests or citations, this includes seven felony arrests, and the value of the items added up to more than \$6,000.
- *BCSO DWI Checkpoints and Saturation Patrols*– Throughout the month of February, the BCSO conducted sobriety checkpoints and DWI-directed patrols throughout the county. While the number of arrests related to this operation were not available at the time of writing, this operation likely had an impact on the number of inmates in the ja

## Bookings, Releases, and Length of Stay

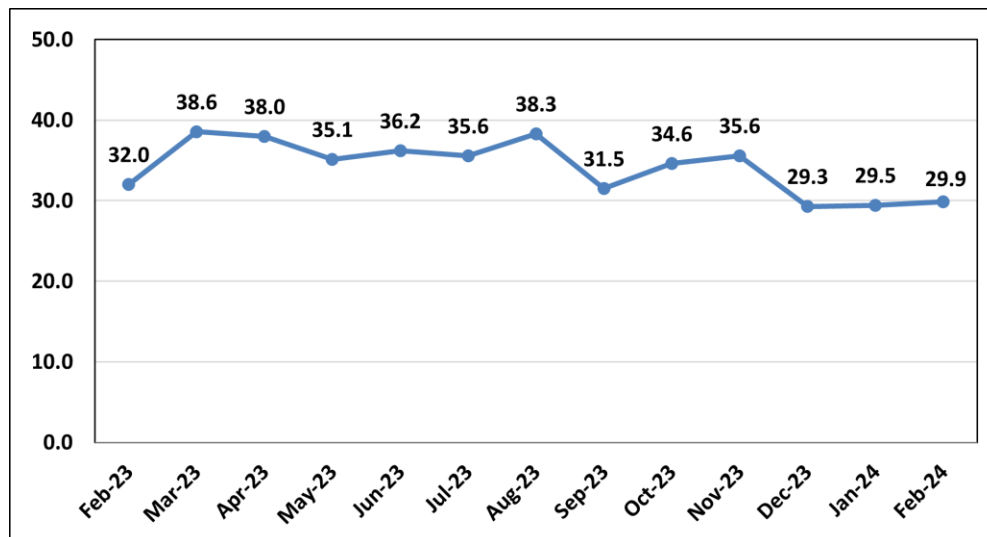
The jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody. From January 2024 to February 2024, the number of bookings decreased (2.6%) from 1,683 to 1,639 and releases increased (0.1%) from 1,635 to 1,647 (see Figure 2). There were 320 fewer bookings in February 2024 than in February 2023 (19.5%), and there were 369 more releases in February 2024 than in February 2023 (22.4%).

**Figure 2. Monthly Bookings and Releases**



- The LOS in February 2024 (see Figure 3) was 29.5 days, (1.4%) 0.4 days longer than January 2024, and 2.1 days (9.3%) longer than February 2023.

**Figure 3. Monthly Length of Stay of Releases**

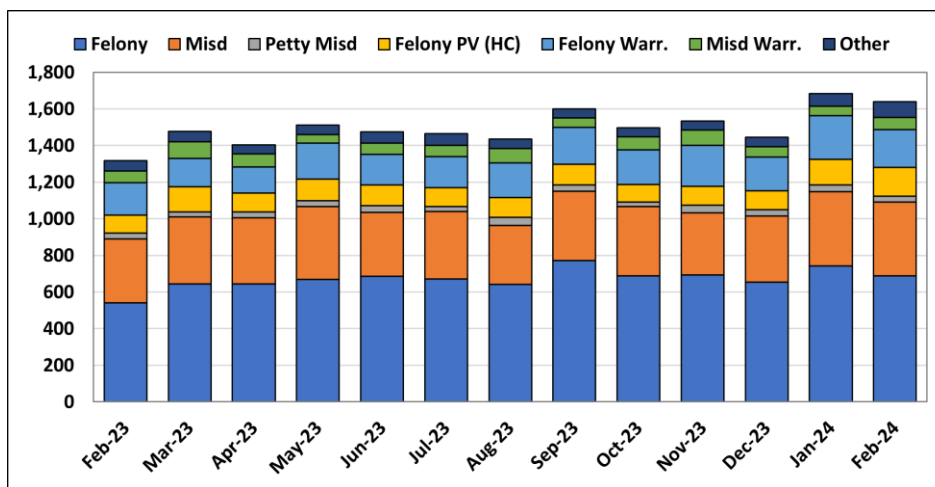


## Bookings by Highest Charge

For the inmates booked into the MDC, the highest charge was assigned based upon charges for which the individual was in custody. Over time, the composition of the jail by highest charge has shifted, with larger portions of inmates in custody on a felony charge and fewer in custody on felony warrants and remands (see Figure 4).

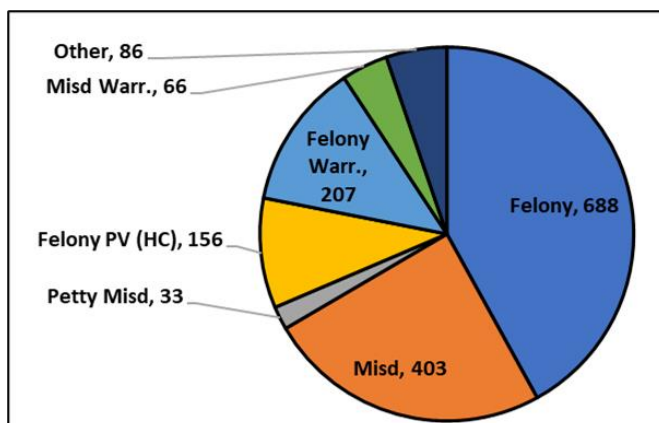
Compared to February 2023, the number of bookings with a felony increased 27.2% and decreased 7.4% from January 2024 to February 2024. Misdemeanor and Petty Misdemeanor bookings were 14.7% higher than this time last year and increased 1.1% from January 2024. Felony Warrants increased by 22.2% from February 2023 to February 2024, and decreased 0.3% from January 2024 to February 2024.

**Figure 4. Monthly Bookings by Highest Charge**



During the month of February 2024, there were 688 felony bookings into the MDC (see Figure 5). This accounted for 45.3% of all bookings. These were primarily 3<sup>rd</sup> (6.2 %) and 4<sup>th</sup> (30.8%) degree felonies. Approximately 1/4 bookings were for a misdemeanor (24.6%) Felony probation violations (9.5%), felony warrants (12.6%) and misdemeanor warrants (4.0%) accounted for most of the remaining booking charges.

**Figure 5. Bookings by Highest Charge – February 2024**



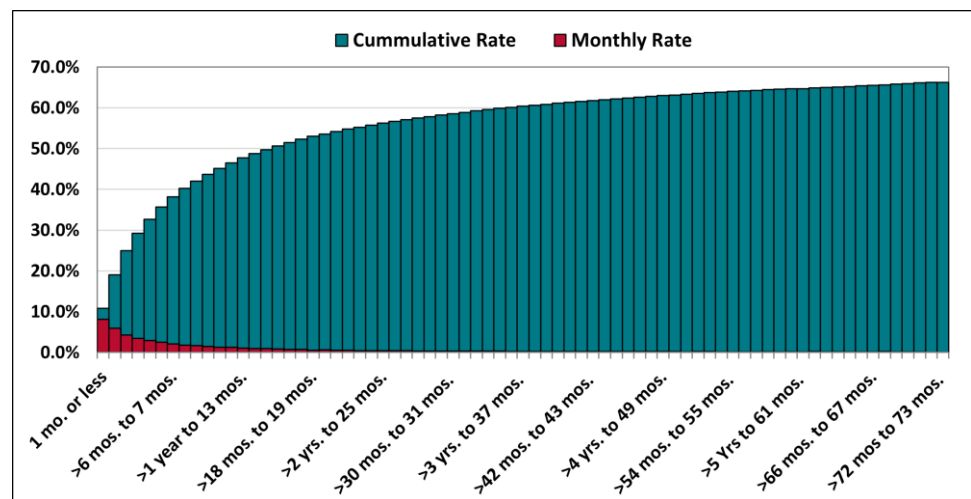
## Recidivism

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 2024. 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.

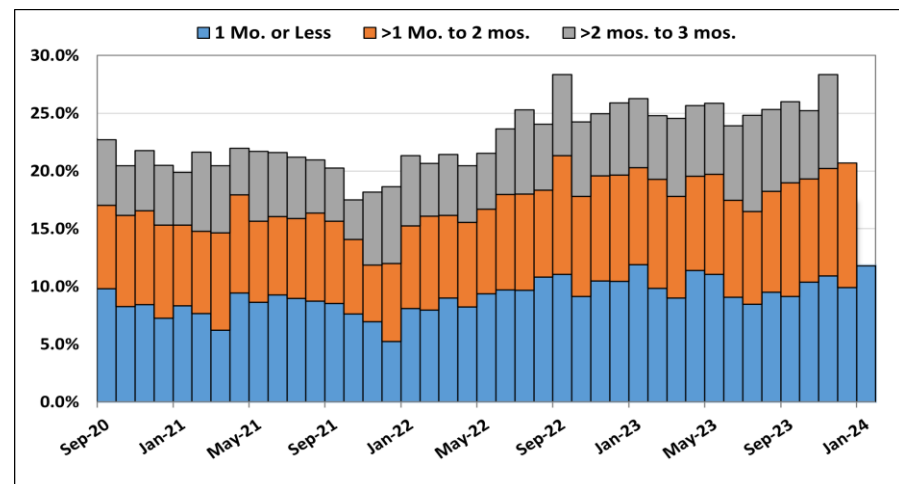
During the first three months following release from the MDC, 24.9% of inmates return to custody (see Figure 6), increasing to 35.6% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time and 66.2% inmates returned to custody for any booking within 73 months. Recidivism occurs with decreasing frequency over time, so inmates typically return to custody within a shorter time frame rather than years after release. Phrased another way, if a person is going to recidivate, he or she is at the highest risk to do so within a short amount of time.

**Figure 6. Long Term Recidivism – January 2024**



Short-term returns to custody decreased from 12.7% between January 2018 and February 2020 to 9.3% from March 2020 to January 2024 (see Figure 7). From March 2020 to January 2024, 9.3% of inmates returned to custody in the first month, 8.1% returned to custody in the second month, and 5.8% returned to custody in the third month.

**Figure 7. Short-Term Recidivism – Through January 2024**

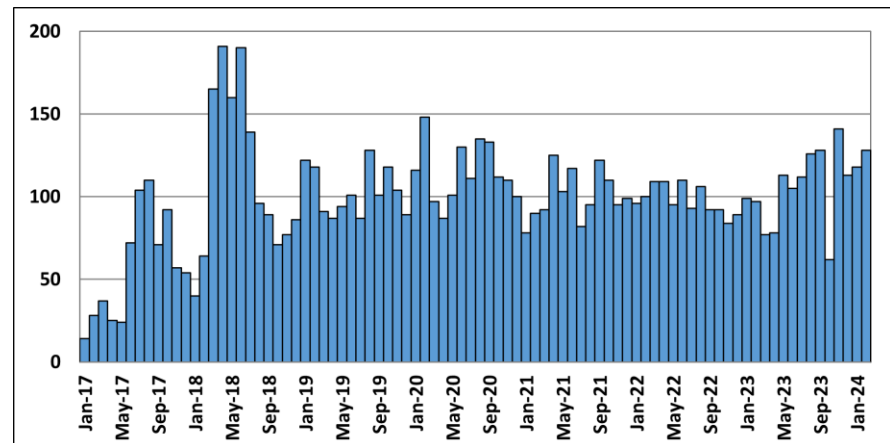


## Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to February 2024, there were 8,556 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 7,998 bookings for 6,758 individuals<sup>1</sup>. 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.

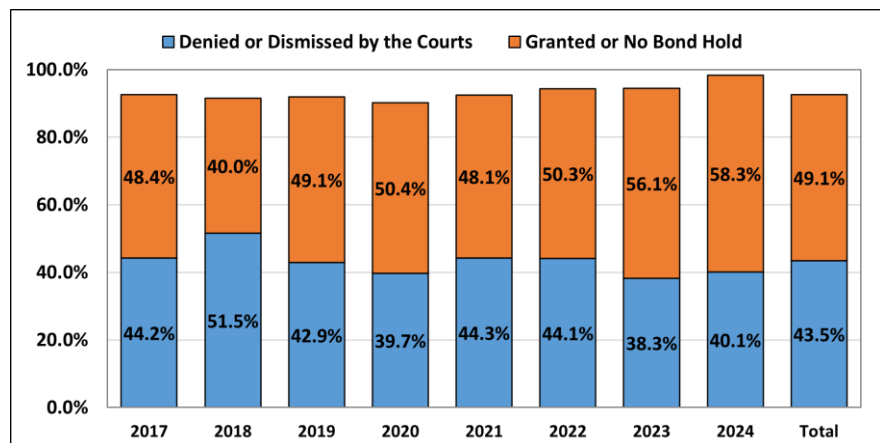
In the last 12 months, between February 2023 and February 2024, the number of PTD motions filed per month ranged from 62 to 141, with an average of 108 per month (see Figure 8). There were 128 motions filed in February 2024, 31 more (31.2%) than 2023 and 10 more (8.4%) than in January 2024.

**Figure 8. PTD Motions Files by Month**



In February 2024, excluding a small number of pending motions, 36.5% of motions were denied or dismissed and 61.7% were granted. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied (see Figure 9). In 2024, 58.3% of motions were granted and 40.1% were denied or dismissed. Since 2017, 49.1% of motions have been granted and 43.5% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.1%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequied, dismissed, or sentenced (3.3%).

**Figure 9. Percent Granted or Denied by Year**



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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 100 of these motions occurred when an inmate was not booked into the MDC, but this is generally uncommon.