



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – March 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	Mar 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24
In Custody Average Daily Population	↘ 1,524	1,498	↘ 1,406	↘ 1,396	↗ 1,438	↗ 1,485	↘ 1,484
Average Community Custody Program	↗ 41	49	↘ 47	↘ 46	↗ 47	↘ 44	↗ 45
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↘ 1,565	1,547	↘ 1,453	↘ 1,442	↗ 1,485	↗ 1,529	= 1,529
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,477	1,498	↗ 1,533	↘ 1,446	↗ 1,683	↘ 1,639	↗ 1,703
Bookings Ages 18-24	↗ 209	207	↗ 236	↘ 172	↗ 243	↘ 226	↗ 274
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,510	1,635	↘ 1,517	↘ 1,435	↗ 1,635	↗ 1,647	↗ 1,677
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↘ 39.6	35.7	↘ 35.5	↘ 30.2	= 30.2	↗ 32.7	↘ 30.7
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,459 (>9 years)						

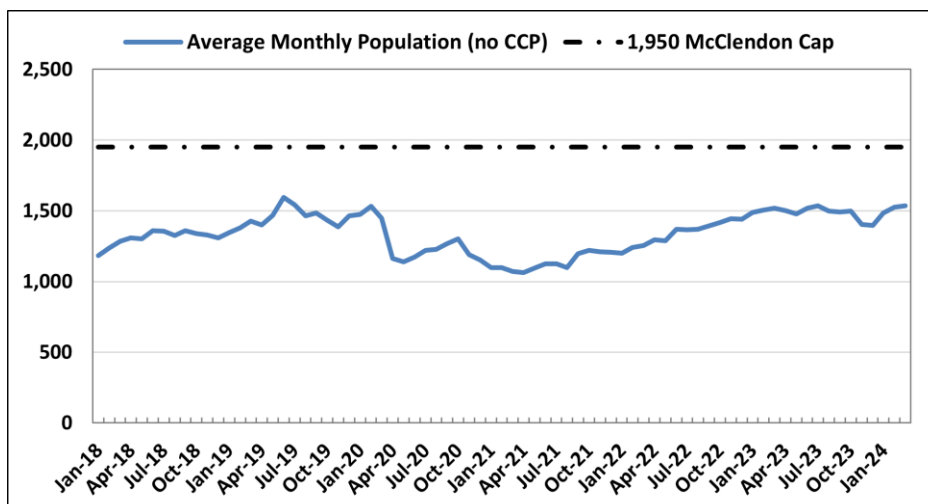
*Arrows show increase or decrease in counts from prior month, except for 2023, which indicates if the equivalent month of the following year is an increase or decrease.

Report Highlights

- The MDC population has been below the 1,950 cap for more than nine consecutive years.
- The MDC population (on-site) in March 2024 decreased by one (<0.1%) from February 2024.
- Bookings increased by 3.9% from February 2024 to March 2024 and releases increased by 1.8% over the same period.
- The LOS in March 2024 decreased by 2.0 days (6.1%) February 2024 to March 2024 (32.7 to 30.7).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In March 2024, 33.3% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 62.9% were granted.

The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low in March 2020 and then began increasing in October 2021. In March 2024, the average monthly population was 1,529, equal to February 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 (see Table 2). The mean age of the jail fluctuated between approximately 35-36 years of age. The largest age group within the jail was the 27-39 (50.2%) age group, the smallest group was 18-26 (18.2%) and the remaining group consisted of inmates who were age 40+ (31.6%). Male inmates (83.66%) were a larger population than female inmates (16.4%). Over time, racial demographics remained approximately static. Hispanic inmates (49.4%) remained the largest demographic, followed by White (28.8%), Black (9.1%), Native-American (7.6%), and other (5.1%).

Table 2. In Custody Population Figures

In Custody Population Figures	Mar 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24
IC Population	1,488	1,396	1,415	1,422	1,460	1,464	1,552
Male	1,269	1,152	1,177	1,181	1,230	1,230	1,298
Female	219	244	238	241	230	234	254
Mean Age	35.1	35.6	35.8	35.8	35.7	35.9	36.0
18-26	289	256	258	269	254	264	282
27-39	772	730	722	701	780	742	779
40+	427	410	435	452	426	458	491
Hispanic	762	709	726	720	714	730	766
White	420	398	401	412	428	419	447
Native American	115	99	95	96	106	118	118
African American	149	136	143	132	146	139	142
Other/Unknown	42	54	50	62	66	58	79

*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 March 2024 (March 8, 2024), the PSU list included 644 people and comprised 41.7% of the jail population of 1,544. According to the medical contractor 172 (11.1%) individuals were listed as having a serious mental illness (SMI). Individuals had between 1 and 8 diagnoses with an average of 2.4 diagnoses per person in the PSU.

Table 3 reports four diagnoses that are typically considered serious mental illnesses. 63 individuals had one of these diagnoses. Of the four diagnoses the highest percentage was schizophrenia at 5.4% (35 patients) and the lowest percentage was bipolar at 0.6% (4 patients).

Table 3: PSU SMI Diagnosis Count and Percentages

Diagnosis	Count in PSU	Percent in PSU	Percent in Jail
Major Depressive Disorder	13	2.0%	0.8%
Bipolar	4	0.6%	0.3%
Schizoaffective Disorder	11	1.7%	0.7%
Schizophrenia	35	5.4%	2.3%

The remaining 109 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 4 reports the count and percent of diagnoses in the PSU and the jail population. Of clients with SMI there is an average of 1.8 diagnoses. This table duplicates individuals because they often have comorbid diagnoses, or more than one diagnosis. For example, a patient with diagnoses of Sedative Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, Opiate Use Disorder, 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 7.8%, followed by Opiate Use Disorder (6.1%), and PTSD (4.8%). Substance abuse diagnoses account for 19.1% of all diagnoses in the PSU and 8.0% in the MDC. These have decreased since the first Friday in February.

Table 4: Diagnoses

Diagnosis	Percent in PSU	Percent in Jail
Substance Induced Psychotic Disorder	1.2%	0.5%
Intermittent Explosive Disorder	0.2%	0.1%
Sedative Use Disorder	0.8%	0.3%
Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified	0.2%	0.1%
Depression	1.7%	0.7%
Benzodiazepine Use Disorder	2.2%	0.9%
Alcohol Use Disorder	0.0%	0.0%
Opiate Use Disorder	3.4%	1.4%
Polysubstance Abuse	6.1%	2.5%
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	1.7%	0.7%
Methamphetamine Use Disorder	4.8%	2.0%
Anxiety	7.8%	3.2%
Adjustment Disorder	3.4%	1.4%
Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder	0.6%	0.3%
Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified	0.8%	0.3%
Psychosis Not Otherwise Specified	2.5%	1.0%
No Diagnosis	6.5%	2.7%

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:

- APD/BSCO/NMSP and District Attorney's Office Joint Operation Spring Break – This joint operation resulted in the arrest of 41 individuals with warrants, including 32 felony warrants, 24 misdemeanor warrants, and even the safe return of a missing person (Source: KRQE).
- APD Relaunches Duke City Case Files – This APD produced web series focuses on cold case homicides, and has led to the solving of 57.1% of featured cases. The newest episode, which has

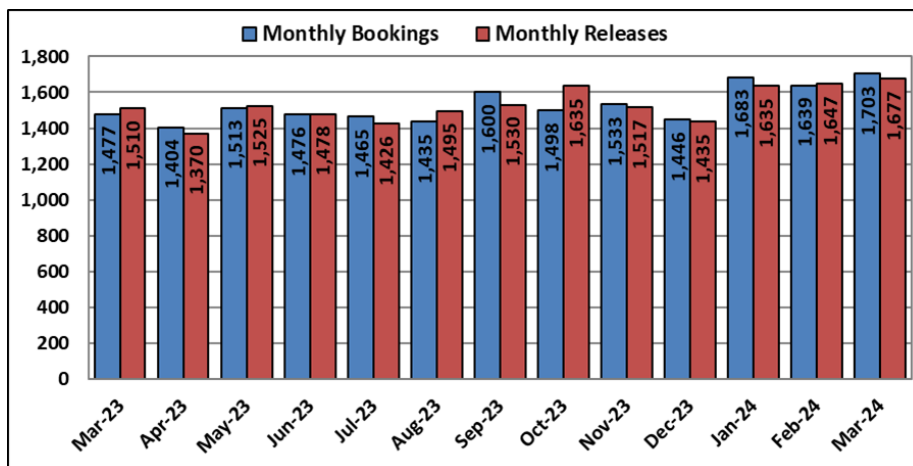
garnered >4,500 views, is likely to lead to additional arrests in the future. While the actual number of arrests may be low, homicide suspects have longer LOS, and may create future outliers.

- **NMSP Operation Takeback** – This operation, which involves the State NMSP Uniform Bureau, has led to approximately 80 arrests, including 71 DWI arrests, six felony arrests, and five misdemeanor arrests. This operation, which has been ongoing since January 2024, has resulted in more than 240 total DWI arrests.

Bookings, Releases, and Length of Stay

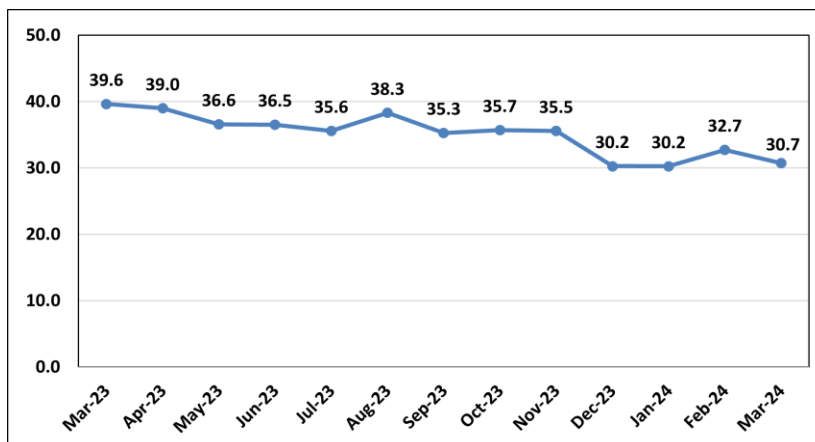
The jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody. February 2024 to March 2024, the number of bookings increased (3.9%) from 1,639 to 1,703 and releases increased (1.8%) from 1,647 to 1,677 (see Figure 2). There were 226 more bookings in March 2024 than in March 2023 (15.3%), and there were 167 more releases in March 2024 than in March 2023 (11.1%).

Figure 2. Monthly Bookings and Releases



The LOS in March 2024 (see Figure 3) was 30.7 days, 2.0 (4.2%) days fewer than February 2024, and 8.9 days (29.0%) fewer than March 2023.

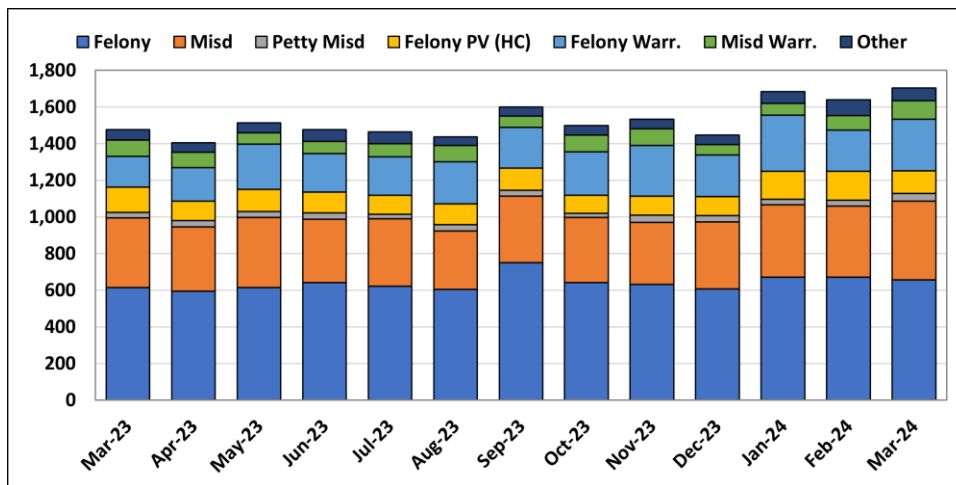
Figure 3. Monthly Length of Stay of Releases



Bookings by Highest Charge

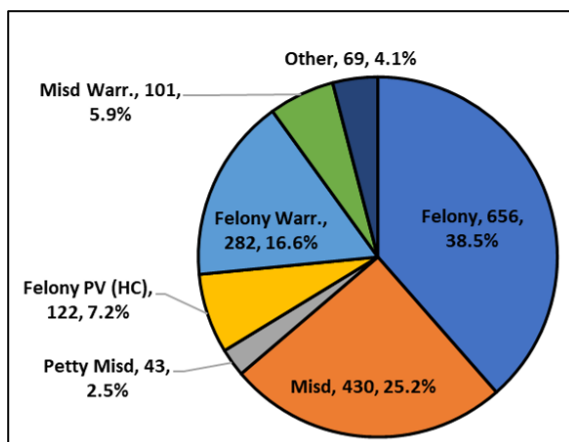
For the inmates booked into the MDC, the highest charge was assigned based upon charges for which the individual was in custody. Over time, the composition of the jail by highest charge has shifted, with larger portions of inmates in custody on a felony charge and fewer in custody on felony warrants and remands (see Figure 4). Compared to March 2023, the number of bookings with a felony increased 7.0% and decreased 2.4% from February 2024 to March 2024. Misdemeanor bookings were 12.9% higher when comparing March 2024 to March 2023 and petty misdemeanor bookings were 48.3% higher during the same time period. Felony probation violations decreased from February to March 2024 by 22.8%. Felony warrants increased by 67.9% from March 2023 to March 2024, and increased 24.8% from February 2024 to March 2024.

Figure 4. Monthly Bookings by Highest Charge



During the month of March 2024, there were 656 felony bookings into the MDC (see Figure 5). This accounted for 38.5% of all bookings. These were primarily 3rd (6.9%) and 4th (27.1%) degree felonies. Approximately 1/4 bookings were for a misdemeanor (25.2%). Felony probation violations (7.2%), felony warrants (16.6%) and misdemeanor warrants (5.9%) accounted for most of the remaining booking charges.

Figure 5. Bookings by Highest Charge – March 2024



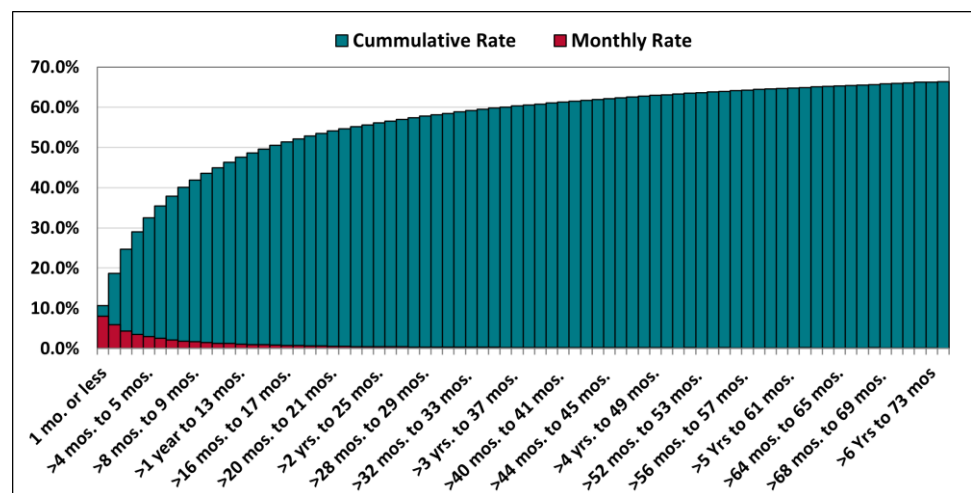
Recidivism

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 February 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.

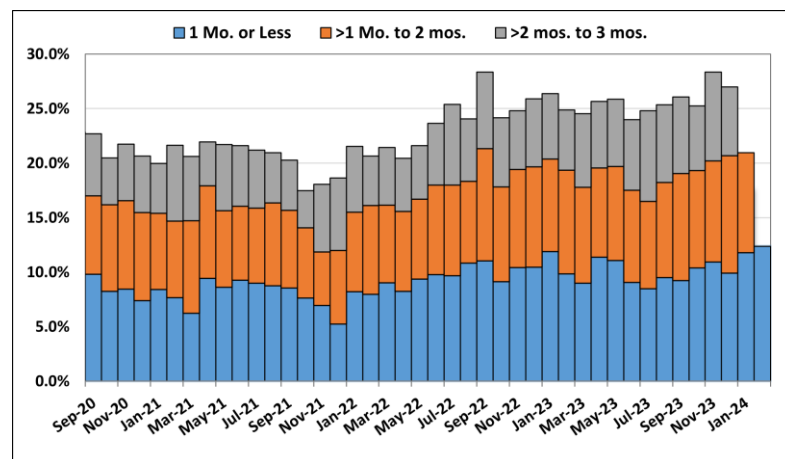
During the first three months following release from the MDC, 24.7% of inmates return to custody (see Figure 6), increasing to 35.4% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time and 66.3% inmates returned to custody for any booking within 74 months. Recidivism occurs with decreasing 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 – February 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 February 2024, 9.4% 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 February 2024

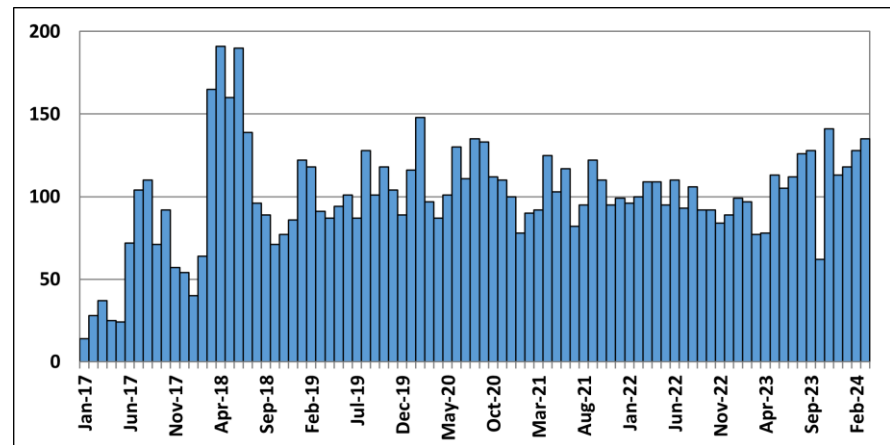


Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to March 2024, there were 8,691 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 8,126 bookings for 6,862 individuals¹. 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.

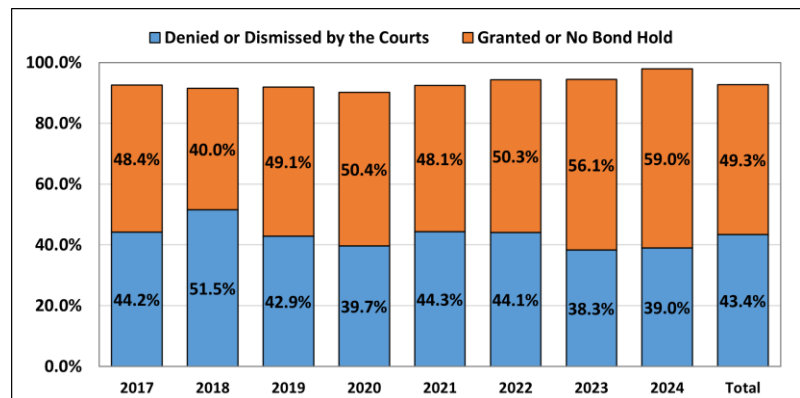
Over the last 12 months, the number of PTD motions filed per month ranged from 62 to 141, with an average of 113 per month (see Figure 8). There were 135 motions filed in March 2024, 58 more (75.3%) than March 2023 and seven more (5.5%) than in February 2024.

Figure 8. PTD Motions Files by Month



In March 2024, excluding a small number of pending motions, 33.3% of motions were denied or dismissed and 62.9% were granted. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied (see Figure 9). In 2024, 59.0% of motions were granted and 39.0% were denied or dismissed. Since 2017, 49.3% of motions have been granted and 43.4% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.1%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequed, dismissed, or sentenced (3.2%).

Figure 9. Percent Granted or Denied by Year



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