



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – Dec 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	Dec 22	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	↘ 1,455	1,537	↘ 1,495	↘ 1,488	↗ 1,498	↘ 1,406	↘ 1,396
Average Community Custody Program	↗ 42	49	↘ 47	↗ 50	↘ 49	↘ 47	↘ 46
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↘ 1,497	1,586	↘ 1,542	↘ 1,538	↗ 1,547	↘ 1,453	↘ 1,442
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,319	1,465	↘ 1,435	↗ 1,600	↘ 1,498	↗ 1,533	↘ 1,446
Bookings Ages 18-24	↗ 166	215	↘ 188	↗ 237	↘ 207	↗ 236	↘ 172
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,326	1,426	↗ 1,495	↗ 1,530	↗ 1,630	↘ 1,515	↘ 1,432
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↘ 31.6	35.6	↗ 38.3	↘ 31.5	↗ 34.6	↗ 35.6	↘ 29.3
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,337 (>9 years)						

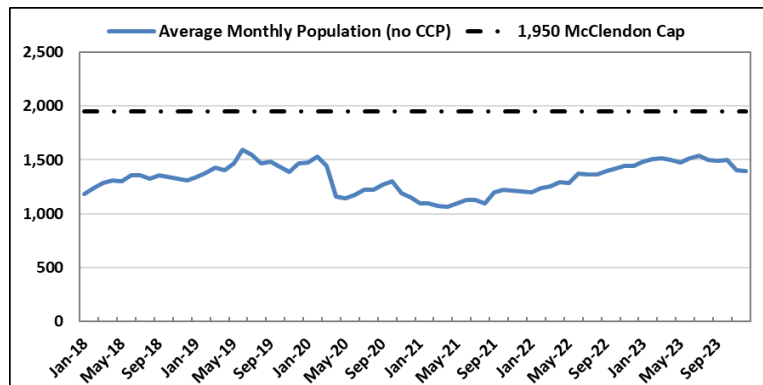
*Arrows show increase or decrease in counts from prior month, with the exception of 2022, which indicates if the equivalent month of the following year is an increase or decrease.

Report Highlights

- The MDC population has been below the 1,950 cap for over nine consecutive years.
- The MDC population (on-site) in December 2023 was 1,396, a decrease of 0.1% from November 2023.
- Bookings decreased by 5.7% from November 2023 to December 2023 and releases decreased 5.5% over the same period.
- The LOS in December 2023 decreased 17.7% from November 2023 (35.6 to 29.3).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In December 2023, 45.6% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 51.5% were granted.
- In December 2023, the MDC population dipped below pre-covid numbers.

The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low starting in March 2020 and then increasing in October 2021. In December 2023, the average monthly population was 1,396, a decrease of <0.1% from November 2023. As of September 2022, the MDC population increased back to pre-COVID numbers (1,404). In December 2023, the population decreased slightly.

Figure 1. MDC Population (no CCP) by Month



Criminal Justice Initiatives

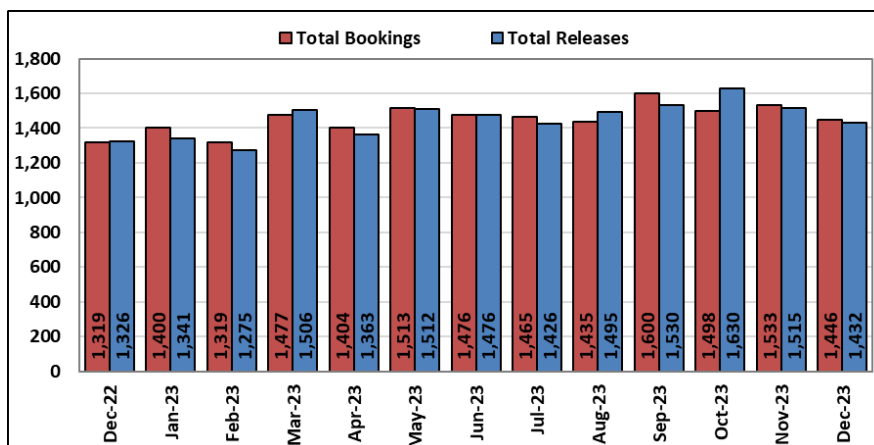
Criminal justice initiatives in Bernalillo County impact arrests and bookings into the MDC, potentially changing the size of the jail population. These initiatives may include, but are not limited to, operations conducted by, or in joint operation with state, local, or federal law enforcement and/or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

- DWI Checkpoints and Saturation Patrols – The Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office conducted proactive measures to reduce DWIs on Bernalillo County roads in the month of December. While no arrest numbers were reported, this operation likely impacted the number of arrestees with DWI charges.
- Public Health Order on Firearms Violence – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s order on firearms violence was renewed on December 1st, 2023.
- Central Corridor Operation – Albuquerque Police Department and the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office, have continued their operations to reduce crime in the Central Avenue Corridor.
- Warrant Surrender Collaboration – The Bernalillo District Attorney’s Office and the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender jointly announced on their official Facebook page on December 6th that were hosting a warrant surrender workshop to assist those with low level felonies or misdemeanor warrants resolve their warrants.
- Operation Sticky Fingers – The Albuquerque Police Department conducted this operation to combat retail crime. According to the press release, from October 14th to December 31st, APD arrested 322 people, recovered \$60,000 in stolen items, and cleared 110 warrants.

Bookings, Releases, and Length of Stay

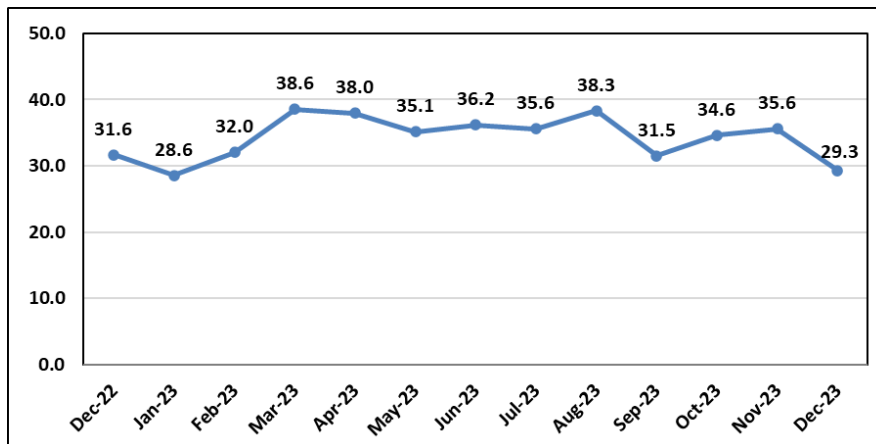
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From November to December 2023, the number of bookings decreased (5.7%) from 1,533 to 1,446 and releases decreased (5.4%) from 1,515 to 1,432 (see Figure 2).
- There were 127 more bookings in December 2023 than in December 2022 (9.6%), and there were 106 more releases in December 2023 than in December 2022 (8.0%).

Figure 2. Monthly Bookings and Releases



- The LOS in December 2023 (see Figure 3) was 35.6 days, (17.7%) 6.3 day longer than November 2023, and 2.3 days (7.3%) longer than December 2022.

Figure 3. Monthly Length of Stay



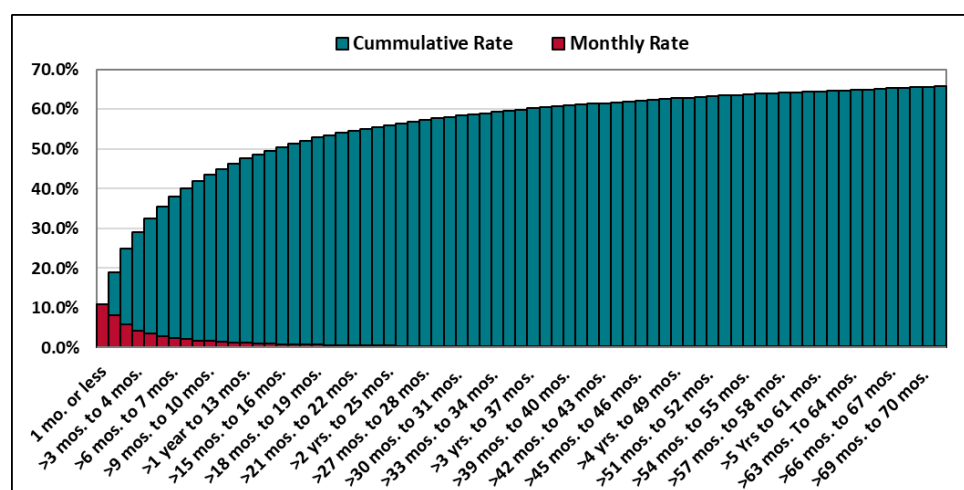
Recidivism

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 November 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 35.5% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time and 65.8% inmates returned to custody for any booking within 71 months. Recidivism

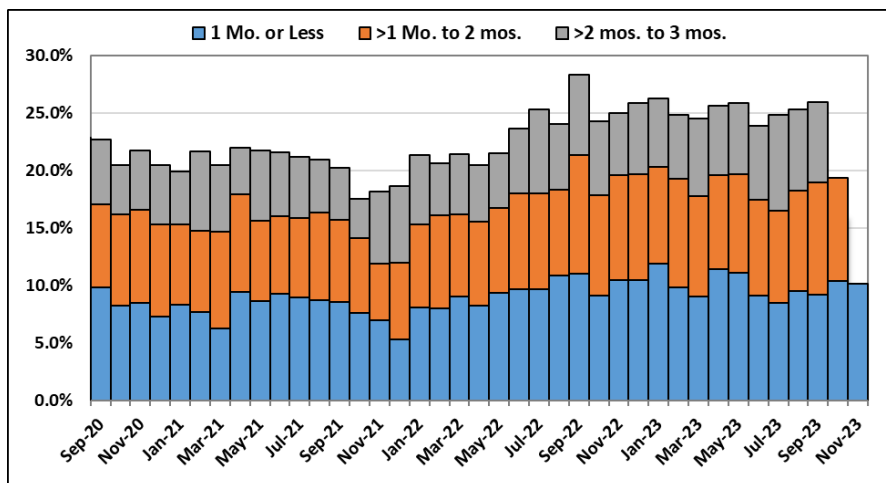
Figure 4. Long Term Recidivism – November 2023



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 9.2% from March 2020 to November 2023 (see Figure 5). From March 2020 to November 2023, 9.2% of inmates returned to custody in the first month, 8.0% returned to custody in the second month, and 5.8% returned to custody in the third month.

Figure 5. Short-Term Recidivism – Through November 2023

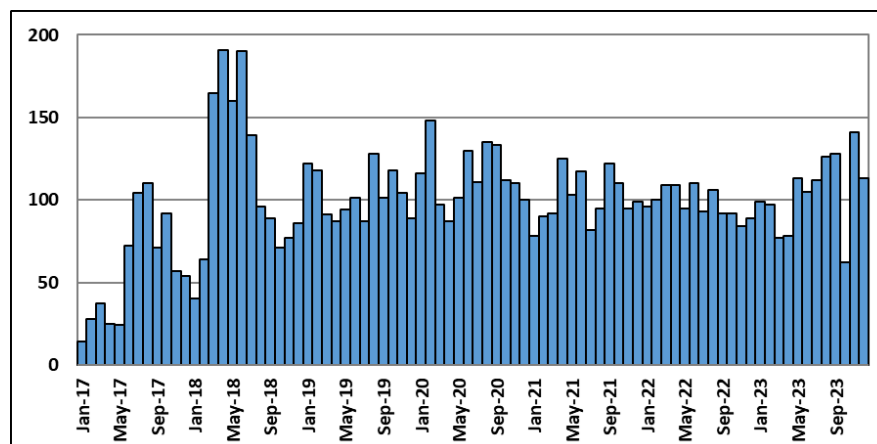


Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to December 2023, there were 8,305 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 7,767 bookings for 6,569 individualsⁱ. 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.

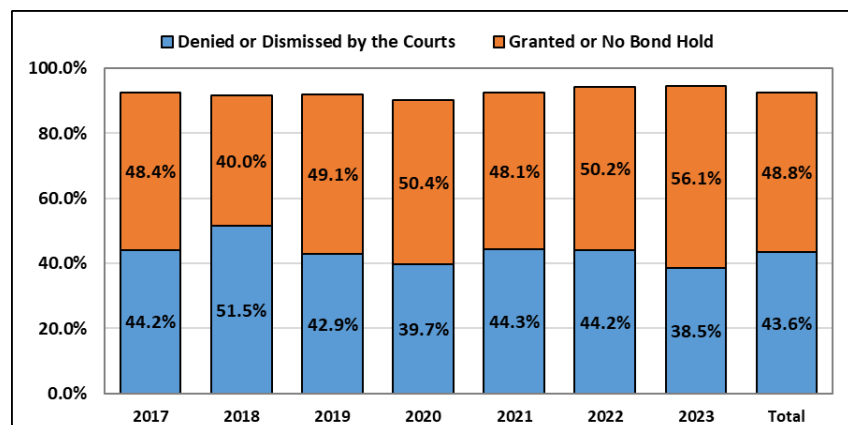
In the last 12 months, between December 2022 and December 2023, the number of PTD motions filed per month ranged from 62 to 141, with an average of 104 per month (see Figure 6). There were 113 motions filed in December 2023, 19 few motions (19.9%) than November 2023 and 24 (27.0%) more than in December 2022.

Figure 6. PTD Motions Files by Month



In December 2023, 45.6% of motions were denied or dismissed and 51.5% were grantedⁱ. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied (see Figure 7). In 2023, 56.1% of motions were granted and 38.5% were denied or dismissed. Since 2017, 48.8% of motions have been granted and 43.6% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.3%) or the underlying case was nolle prosecuted, dismissed, or sentenced (3.3%).

Figure 7. Percent Granted or Denied by Year



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

ⁱⁱ At the end of December 2023, there were approximately 38 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis.