

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – October 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

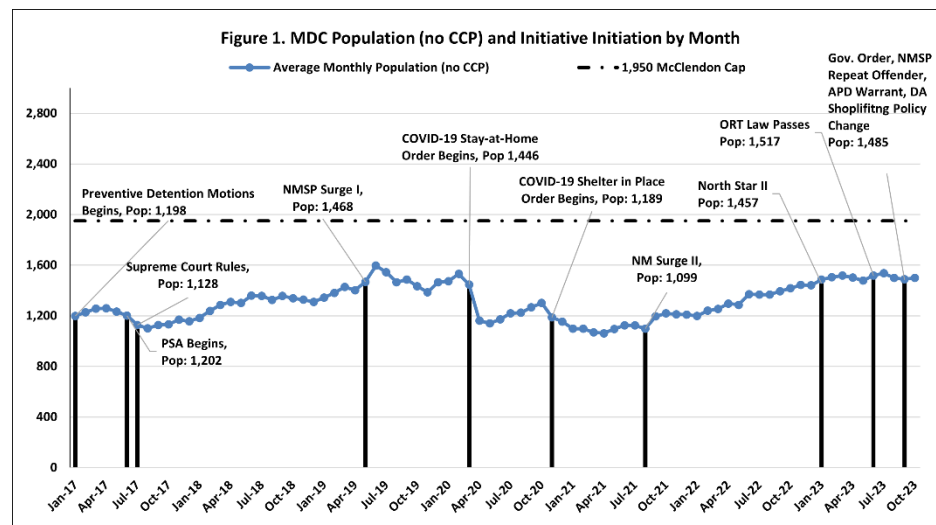
Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

Quick Population Figures ¹	Oct 22	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	↗ 1,430	1,483	↗ 1,520	↗ 1,537	↘ 1,495	↘ 1,488	↗ 1,498
Average Community Custody Program	= 49	46	↗ 48	↗ 49	↘ 47	↗ 50	↘ 49
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	↗ 1,478	1,529	↗ 1,568	↗ 1,586	↘ 1,542	↘ 1,538	↗ 1,547
Monthly Bookings	↗ 1,300	1,513	↘ 1,476	↘ 1,465	↘ 1,435	↗ 1,600	↘ 1,498
Bookings Ages 18-24	↗ 167	206	↘ 179	↗ 215	↘ 188	↗ 237	↘ 207
Monthly Releases	↗ 1,318	1,512	↘ 1,476	↘ 1,426	↗ 1,495	↗ 1,530	↗ 1,630
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	↗ 27.6	35.1	↗ 36.2	↘ 35.6	↗ 38.3	↘ 31.5	↗ 34.6
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,276 (>8 ½ 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 (on-site) in October 2023 was 1,498, a decrease of 0.1% from September 2023.
- The MDC population has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Bookings decreased by 6.4% from September 2023 to October 2023 and releases increased 6.5% over the same period.
- The LOS in October 2023 increased 9.8% from September 2023 (31.5 to 34.6).
- In October 2023, 33.8% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 60.6% were granted.
- In October 2023, there were 61 PTD Motions filed, a 52.3% decrease from September 2023.



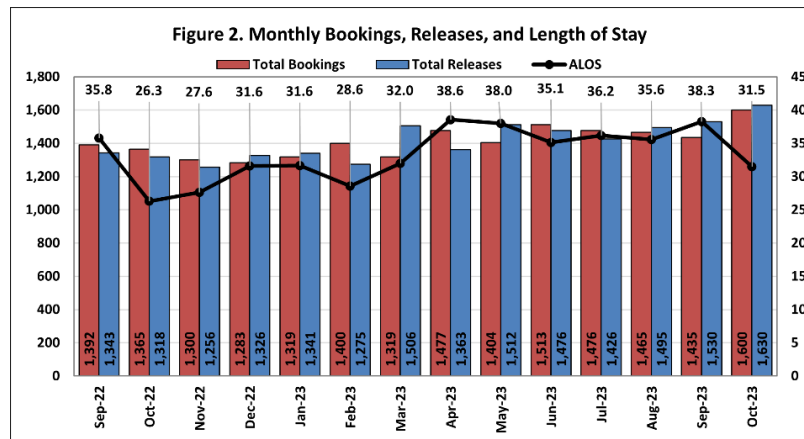
The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low starting in March 2020 and then increasing in October 2021. In October 2023, the average monthly population was 1,498, a less than one percent increase in the population from September 2023.

As of September 2022, the MDC population increased back to pre-COVID numbers. Since September 2022, the population has increased 6.7%.

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

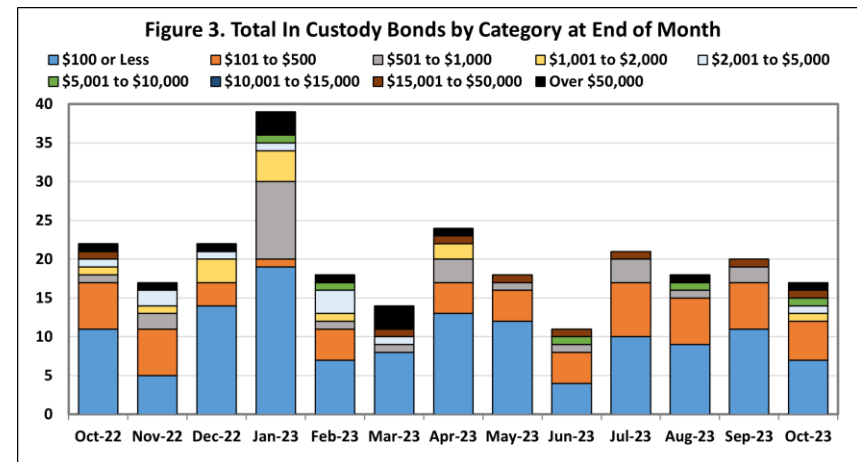
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From September to October 2023, the number of bookings decreased (6.4%) from 1,600 to 1,498 and releases increased (6.5%) from 1,530 to 1,630 (see Figure 2).
- There were 198 more bookings in October 2023 than in October 2022 (15.2%), and there were 312 more releases in October 2023 than in October 2022 (23.7%).
- The LOS in October 2023 was 34.6 days, (9.8%) 3.1 days more than September 2023, (25.3%) 7.0 days more than October 2022.



In Custody Bonds

- At the end of the day on October 31, 2023, there were 1,338 inmates in custody.
- Of these, 17 inmates (1.3%) could have been released if all bonds were paid (see Figure 3).

Of the 17 inmates with a bond, 7 had a bond totaling \$100 or less (41.2%), 5 had a bond between \$101 and \$500 (29.4%), 1 had a bond between \$1,001 and \$2,000 (5.9%), 1 had a bond between \$2,001 and \$5,000 (5.9%), 1 had a bond between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (5.9%), 1 had a bond between \$15,001 and \$50,000 (5.9%), and 1 had a bond over \$50,000 (5.9%). There were an average of 20 persons in custody on a bond at the end of the month during the past 12 months.



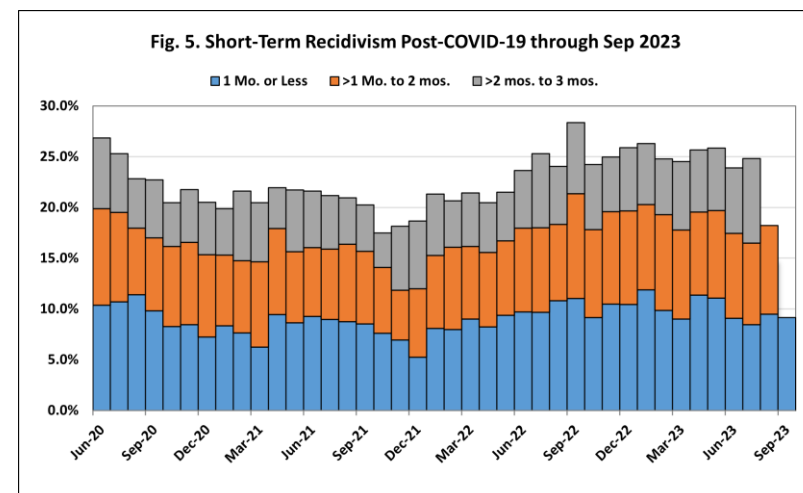
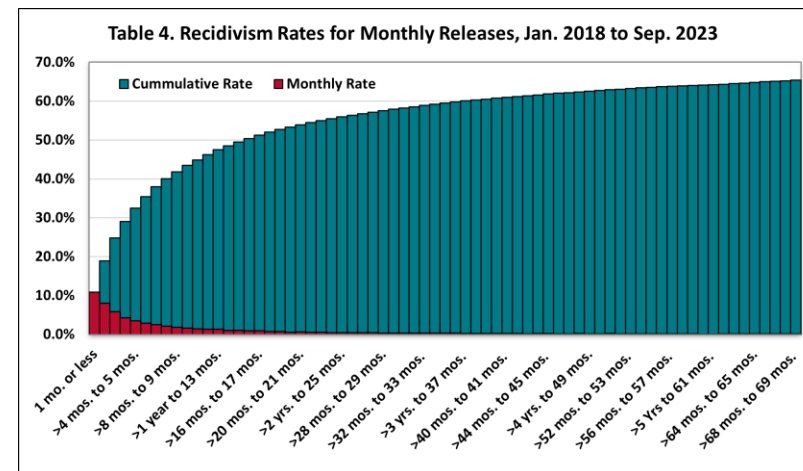
Recidivism

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 September 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 65.4% inmates returned to custody for any booking within 69 months. Recidivism occurs with decreasing frequency over time, so inmates typically return to custody within a shorter time frame rather than years after release.

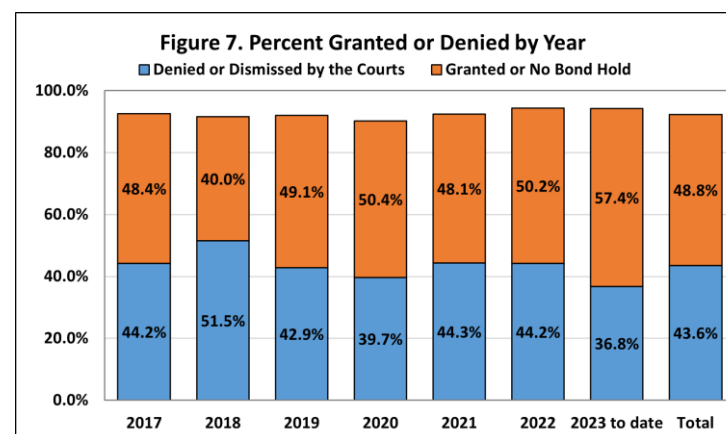
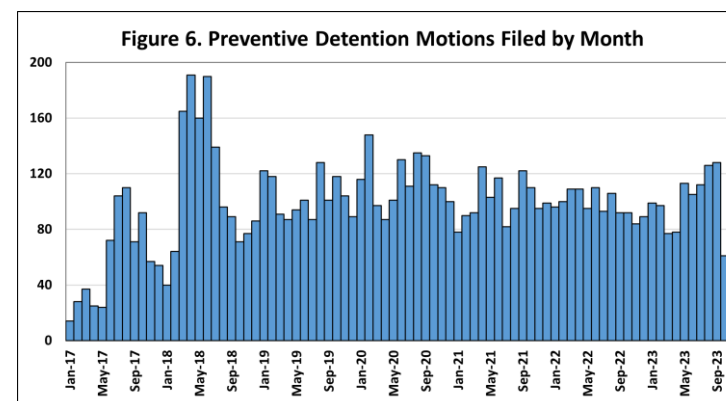
Short-term returns to custody decreased from 12.7% between January 2018 and February 2020 to 9.1% from March 2020 to September 2023 (see Figure 5). From March 2020 to September 2023, 9.1% of inmates returned to custody in the first month, 7.9% returned to custody in the second month, and 5.7% returned to custody in the third month.



Preventive Detention Motions

From January 2017 to October 2023, there were approximately 8,056 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 7,550 bookings² for 6,392 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 61 to 128, with an average of 97 per month (see Figure 6). There were 61 motions filed in October 2023, the fewest PTD Motions filed since January 2018. October 2023 had 67 (52.3%) fewer PTD Motions filed since September 2023, and 31 (33.7%) less than in October 2022.

In October 2023, 33.3% of motions were denied or dismissed and 61.1% were granted³. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied (see Figure 7). Between January and October 2023, 57.4% of motions were granted and 36.8% 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 prosequed, 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.

³ At the end of October 2023, there were approximately 29 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis.