



## Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Monthly Report – March 2023

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Prepared for Bernalillo County by the Institute for Social Research, Center for Applied Research and Analysis  
by: E. M. Ferguson & D. A. Goldberg

### Criminal Justice Reforms and the Jail Population

Table 1. MDC Quick Population Figures by Month

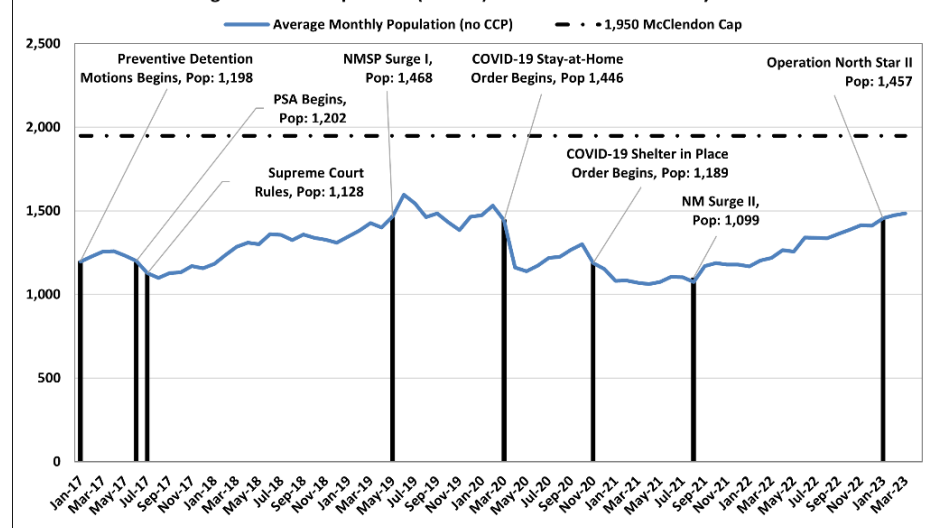
Quick Population Figures <sup>1</sup>	Mar 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
On-Site Average Daily Population	1,219 (↗)	↗ 1,430	↗ 1,458	↘ 1,455	↗ 1,498	↗ 1,515	↗ 1,524
Average Community Custody Program	46	↘ 49	↘ 44	↘ 42	↘ 35	↗ 39	↗ 41
Average Total Jail Population (w/CCP)	1,265	↗ 1,479	↗ 1,502	↘ 1,497	↗ 1,533	↗ 1,554	↗ 1,565
Monthly Bookings	1,307	↘ 1,300	↘ 1,283	↗ 1,319	↗ 1,400	↘ 1,319	↗ 1,476
Bookings Ages 18-24	198	↘ 167	↗ 197	↘ 166	↗ 209	= 209	↘ 207
Monthly Releases	1,084	↘ 1,330	↘ 1,257	↗ 1,327	↗ 1,342	↘ 1,276	↗ 1,505
Average Length of Stay (in Days)	29.6	↗ 27.9	↗ 31.6	↗ 31.7	↘ 28.5	↗ 31.6	↗ 38.2
Total Consecutive Days 1,950 or Less	3,062 (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 March 2023 was 1,524, an increase of 0.6% from February 2023.
- The MDC population has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Bookings increased 11.9% from February 2023 to March 2023 and releases increased 17.9% over the same period.
- The LOS in March 2023 increased 20.9% from February 2023 (31.6 days to 38.2 days).
- Short-term returns to custody (within one month) post-COVID have remained lower than pre-COVID.
- In March 2023, 39.0% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 56.1% were granted.

Figure 1. MDC Population (no CCP) and Initiative Initiation by Month



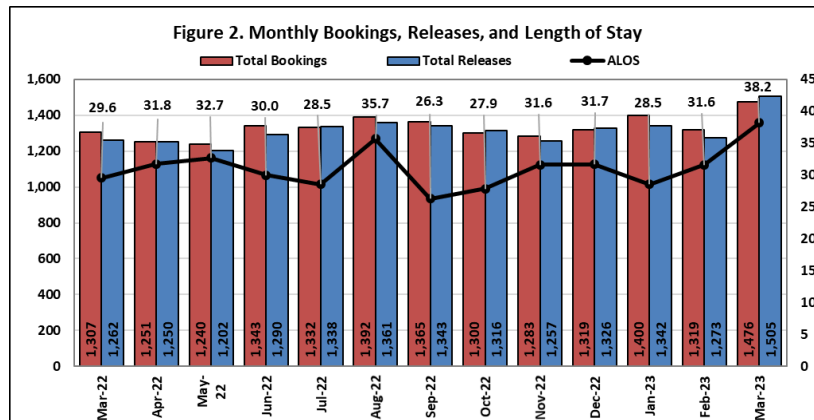
The MDC jail population decreased to a historic low during the starting in March 2020 began increasing October 2021. In March 2023, the MDC population was 1,565. This is 25% higher than March 2022. As of September 2022, the MDC population had reached pre-COVID numbers. Since September 2022, the population has increased an additional 7.6%.

On March 31, 2023, New Mexico ended the COVID State of Emergency.

<sup>1</sup> 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

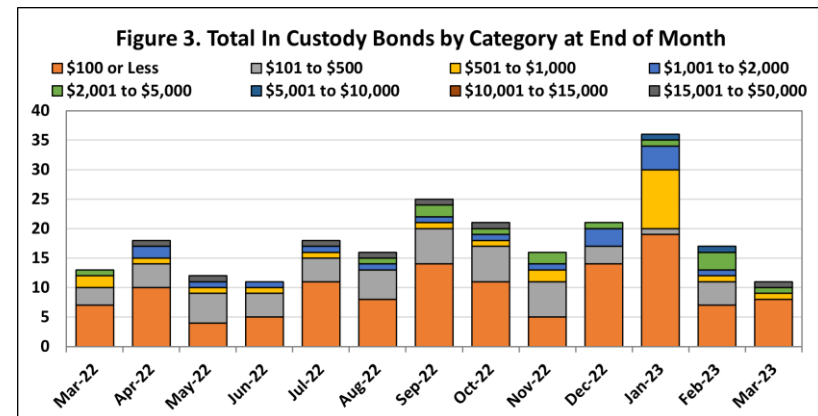
- Jail population is affected by two factors: how many people are booked and how long they are in custody.
- From February 2023 to March 2023 the number of bookings increased (11.9%) from 1,319 to 1,476, releases also increased (18.2%) from 1,273 to 1,505 (see Figure 2).
- There were 169 more bookings in March 2023 than in March 2022 (12.9%), and there were 232 more releases in March 2023 than in March 2022 (18.2%).
- The LOS in March 2023 was higher than the LOS in March 2022 by 8.6 days, a 29.1% increase.
- The LOS in March 2023 was 38.2 days, 6.6 days higher than February 2023, a 20.9% increase.



## In Custody Bonds

- At the end of the day on March 31, 2023, there were approximately 1,459 inmates in custody.
- Of these, 14 inmates (0.9 %) could have been released if all bonds were paid (see Figure 3).

Of the 14 inmates with a bond, eight had a bond totaling \$100 or less (57.1%). None had a bond between \$101 and \$500 (0%), one had a bond between \$501 and \$1,000 (7.1%), none had a bond between \$1,001 and \$2,000 (0%), one had a bond between \$2,001 and \$5,000 (7.1%), one had a bond between \$5,001 and \$10,000 (7.1%) and three people had a bond greater than \$50,000 (21.4%). 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.



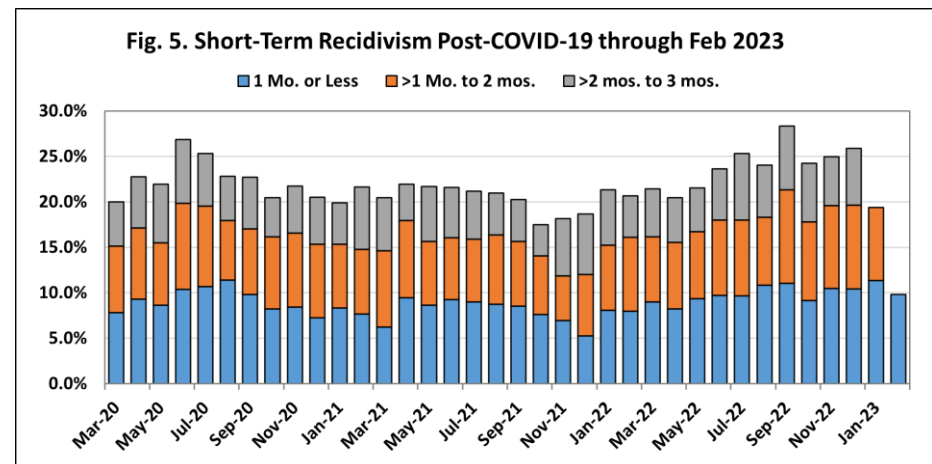
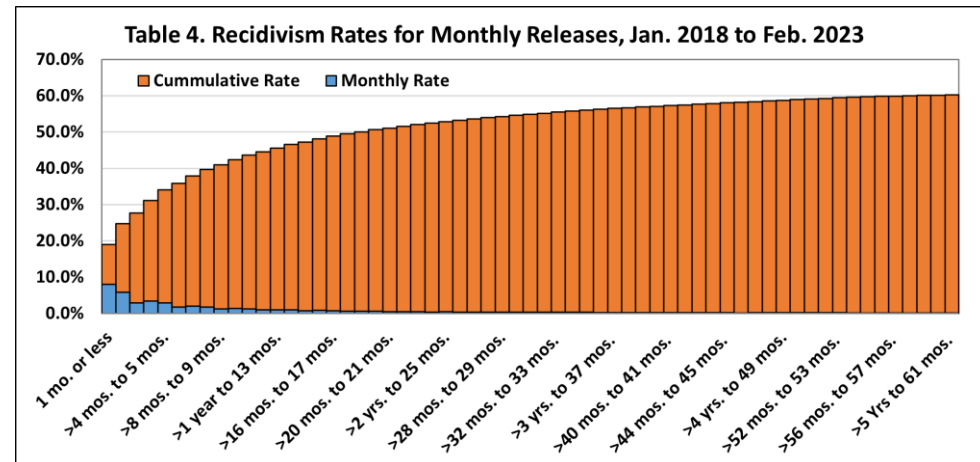
## Recidivism

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 February 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.

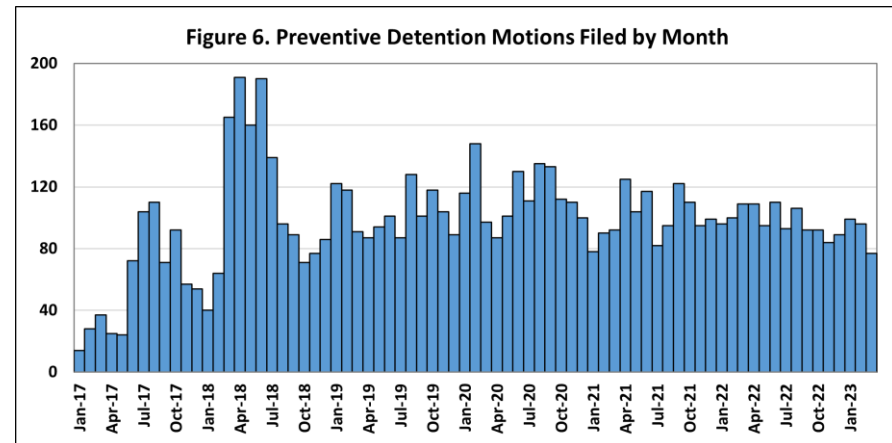
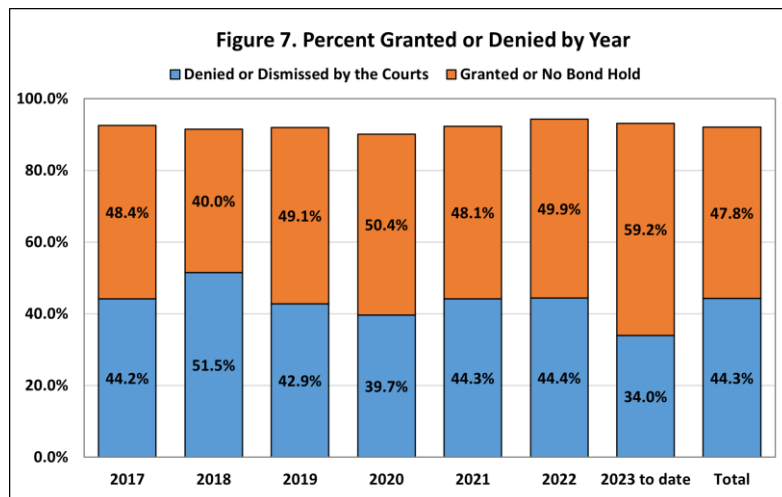
During the first three months following release from the MDC, 24.8% of inmates return to custody (see Figure 4), increasing to 34.0% within six months. The cumulative recidivism rate increased over time to 59.8% of inmates returning to custody for any booking within 57 months and in the last 62 months, the cumulative recidivism rate was 60.2%. 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 February 2023 (see Figure 5). From March 2020 to February 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 March 2023, there were approximately 7,332 motions for preventive detention (PTD) filed across 6,878 bookings<sup>2</sup> for 5,853 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 77 to 110, with an average of 95 per month (see Figure 4). There were 77 motions filed in March 2023, 32 fewer motions than were filed in March 2022.



At the end of March 2023, there were approximately 28 cases that had a PTD motion pending. These cases were removed from the motion outcomes analysis. In March 2023, 39.0% of motions were denied or dismissed by the courts and 56.1% were granted. By year, since 2019, a greater portion of motions have been granted than denied. Since the implementation of preventive detention motions in 2017, 47.9% of motions have been granted and 44.2% have been denied. The remainder were withdrawn (4.4%) or the underlying case was nolle prosequi, dismissed, or sentenced (3.4%).

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 195 of these motions occurred when an inmate was not booked into the MDC, but this is generally uncommon.