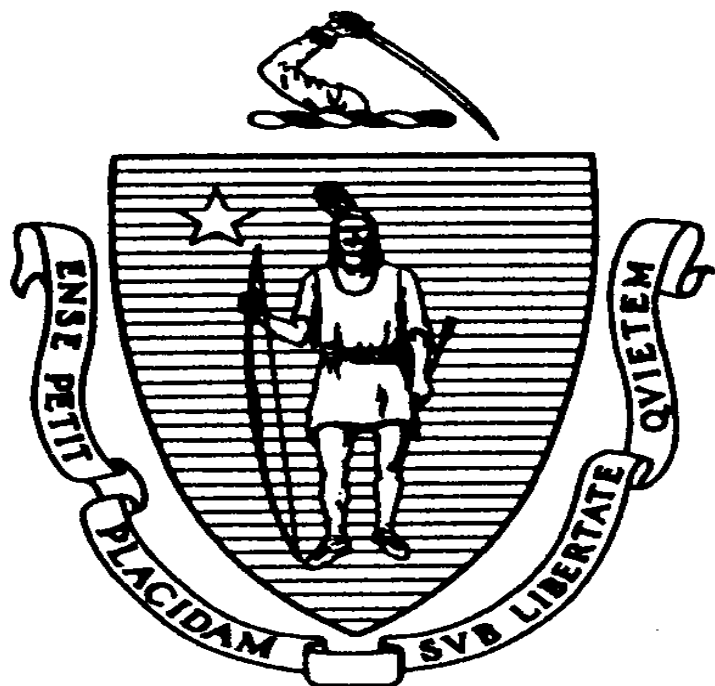


# 1997 Court Commitments to the Massachusetts Department of Correction

Massachusetts Department of Correction



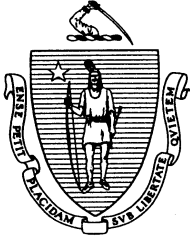
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**Jane Perlov**  
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This report is accessible on the DOC website at [www.state.ma.us/doc/](http://www.state.ma.us/doc/) and is also available at the following libraries: Massachusetts State Library; Library of Congress, Washington D.C.; Boston Public Library; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Springfield City Library; and Worcester Public Library.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact the Research and Planning.

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## **Executive Summary**

The total number of criminally sentenced, new commitments to the Department of Correction during 1997 was 2,977. The breakdown by gender was 2,006 males (67% of total number of commitments) and 971 females (33% of total commitments). The largest racial/ethnic group represented was Caucasian (47%), followed by Hispanic (26%) and African American (25%). Asians accounted for the biggest increase in the racial/ethnic group, 45 in 1997 (96% increase) compared with 23 in 1996. The mean (average) and median age of 1997 commitments was 31 years with a range of 16 to 81 years. The mean and median age for males was 31 and 30 years respectively, while the mean and median age for females was 33 years.

Thirty-one percent of 1997 commitments were incarcerated for a Person offense, 29% for a Drug offense, 18% for a Property offense, eight percent for a Sex offense, and 14% for Other offenses.

## **Highlights**

- The total number of commitments (N=2,977) during 1997 represents the smallest commitment population since 1989. The average population growth rate was approximately four percent from 1988 to 1992 compared with a decline of three percent in the average population growth rate between 1993 and 1997.
- The total number of commitments during 1997 represents a three percent decrease from the previous year and a continued downward trend.
- In 1997, 59 percent of the DOC commitments were between the ages of 25 and 39 years. Twenty-four percent of commitments to the DOC were inmates under 25 years old. The remaining 17 percent were 40 years and older.
- The race and ethnic rate has been fluctuating since 1993. Forty-seven percent of commitments during 1997 were Caucasian, 25 percent were African American and 26 percent were Hispanic.
- The number of commitments to the DOC for violent offenses (Person and Sex) decreased 13% between 1993 and 1997, while commitments to DOC for Drug offenses increased 9% over the same period. The percentage of violent offenses increased slightly, while the percentage of Drug offenses remained constant from 1996 to 1997.
- The number of commitments for Life sentences has fluctuated since 1993. The total number of Lifers represents an average growth rate of approximately seven percent every year since 1993.
- Minimum and maximum sentences for less than 5 years increased 89% (696 to 1,318) and 105% (859 to 1,763) respectively, from 1993 to 1997. Minimum and maximum sentences for 5 to less than 10 years has been fluctuating since 1993 with peaks in 1994.

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## **Introduction**

This report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) during 1997. This year, in an effort to convey information in a timely manner, the DOC opted to present the information more concisely. Therefore, minimal descriptive text is included, mostly data in the form of tables and charts with corresponding numbers, percentages and graphs.

The information in this report is a subset of the inmate population in DOC facilities. All new court commitments and those individuals who began serving new sentences during the year are included in this report. If an individual is committed to the Department more than once during 1997, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately. Some categories of offenders are not included in this report: those who began serving “B” and “C” sentences during 1997 (sentences received for crimes committed on parole).

The tables that follow contain information on personal background characteristics, current offense, and sentencing for these individuals. Information is also reported on trends in the commitment population over the last five years, 1993 to 1997.

The data contained in these tables were derived from the inmate database maintained by the Department of Correction VAX system. Please note that much of the personal background data of the offenders are self-reported. Also, individuals may be incarcerated for multiple offenses. The offense reported is that which is associated with the sentence that governs the inmate’s largest discharge date. Due to rounding percentage totals may not add up to 100 percent.

Please note that the glossary at the back end of this report contains explanations of certain terms used in this report.

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Demographic Characteristics  
Of DOC 1997 Commitment Population

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Figure 1

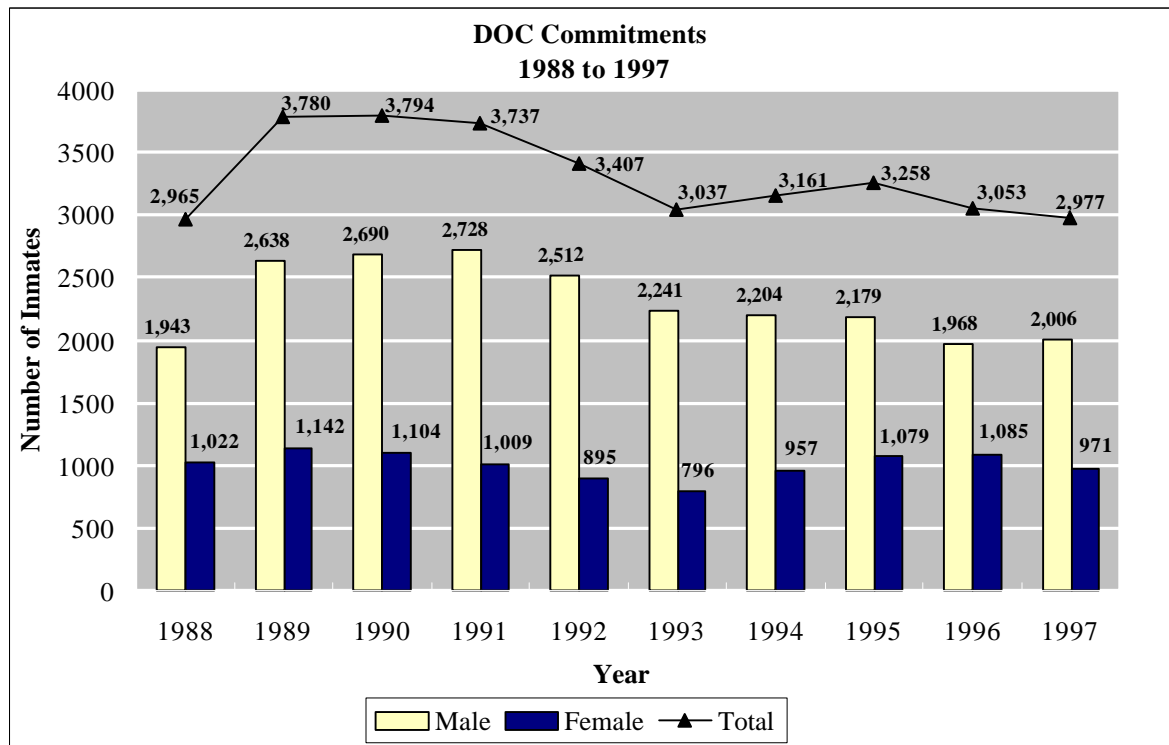


Table 1

**Commitments by Gender, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	2,241	74	2,204	70	2,179	67	1,968	64	2,006	67
Female	796	26	957	30	1,079	33	1,085	36	971	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 2

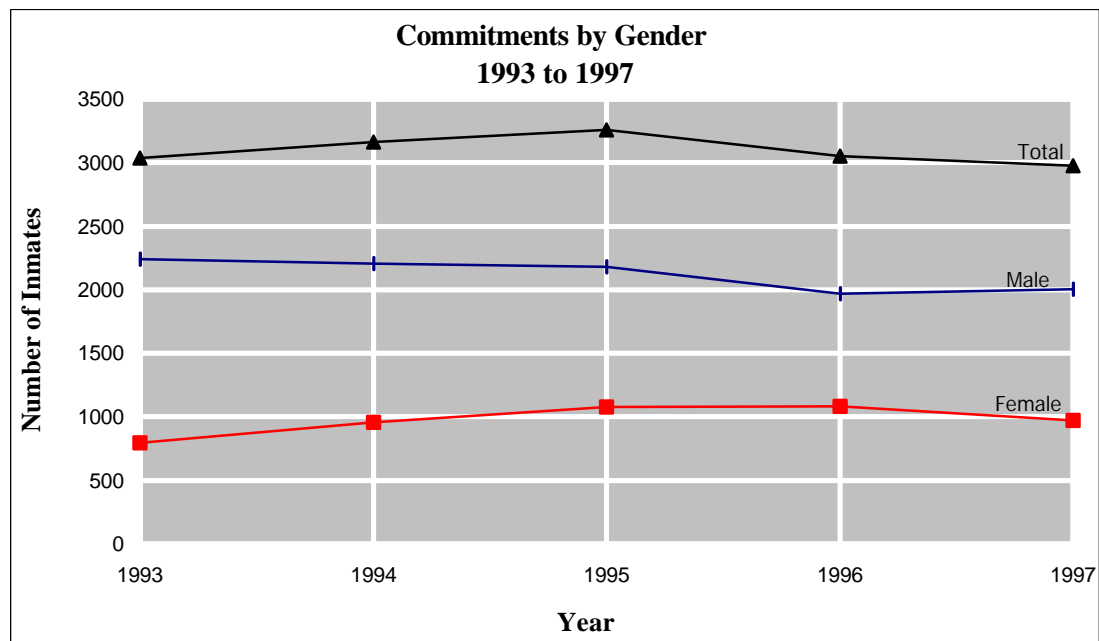


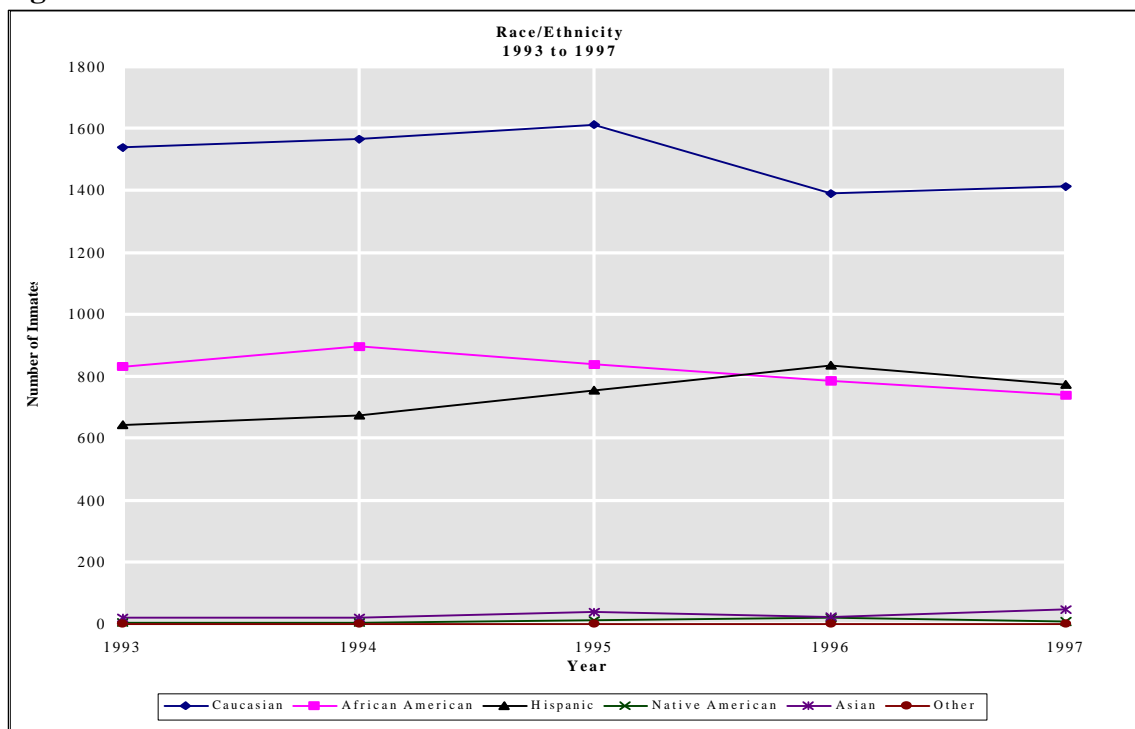


Table 2

**Race/Ethnicity, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	1,541	51	1,567	50	1,614	50	1,391	46	1,412	47
African American	832	27	898	28	838	26	787	26	740	25
Hispanic	642	21	674	21	754	23	834	27	774	26
Native American	3	0	4	0	12	0	18	1	6	0
Asian	18	1	18	1	39	1	23	1	45	2
Other	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 3



**Table 3**

**Race/Ethnicity by Gender**

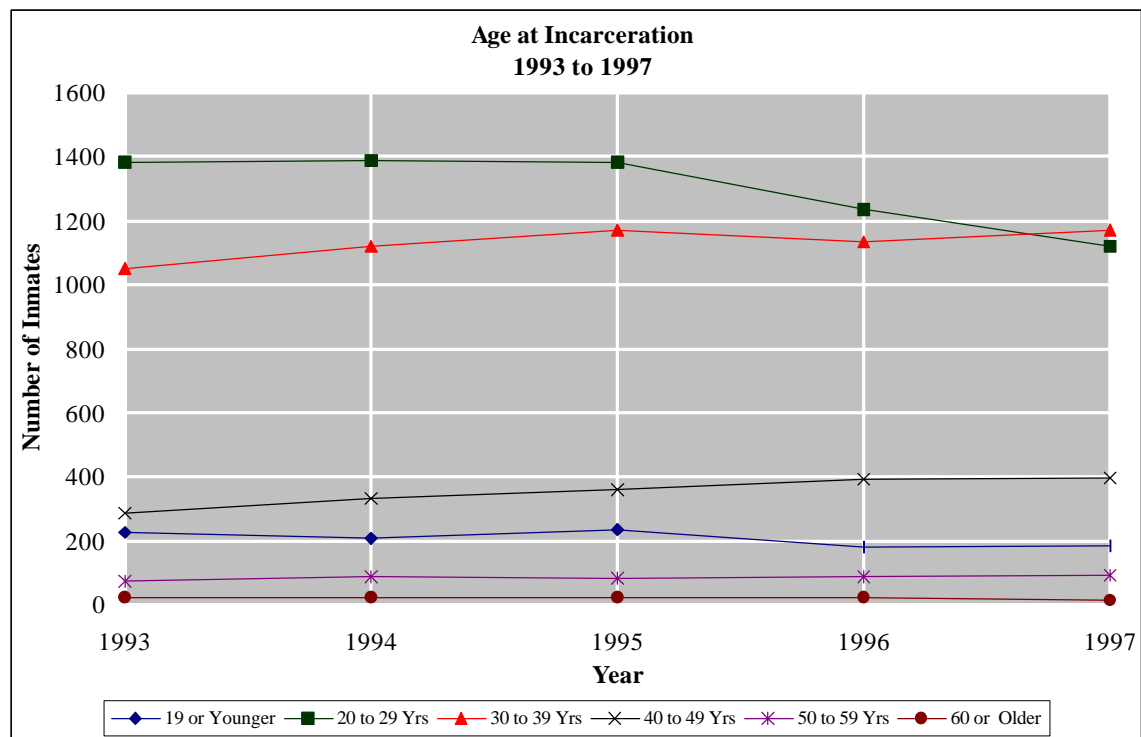
	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Caucasian	663	68	749	37	1,412	47
African American	154	16	586	29	740	25
Hispanic	146	15	628	31	774	26
Asian	8	1	37	2	45	2
Native American	0	0	6	0	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4**

**Age at Incarceration, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
19 Yr or Younger	224	7	207	7	235	7	181	6	185	6
20 to Less Than 29 Yrs	1,381	45	1,388	44	1,384	42	1,235	40	1,119	38
30 to Less Than 39 Yrs	1,051	35	1,122	35	1,171	36	1,136	37	1,172	39
40 to Less Than 49 Yrs	286	9	334	11	361	11	391	13	398	13
50 to Less Than 59 Yrs	72	2	88	3	82	3	86	3	90	3
60 Yrs or Older	23	1	22	1	25	1	24	1	13	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 4**



**Table 5**

**Age at Incarceration by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
16 Yrs	0	0	2	0	2	0
17 Yrs	5	1	24	1	29	1
18 Yrs	11	1	58	3	69	2
19 Yrs	15	2	70	3	85	3
20 Yrs	11	1	98	5	109	4
21 Yrs	19	2	98	5	117	4
22 Yrs	21	2	78	4	99	3
23 Yrs	19	2	73	4	92	3
24 Yrs	29	3	90	4	119	4
25 to 29 Yrs	171	18	412	21	583	20
30 to 34 Yrs	275	28	387	19	662	22
35 to 39 Yrs	223	23	287	14	510	17
40 to 44 Yrs	109	11	179	9	288	10
45 to 49 Yrs	41	4	69	3	110	4
50 to 54 Yrs	15	2	46	2	61	2
55 to 59 Yrs	6	1	23	1	29	1
60 to 64 Yrs	1	0	5	0	6	0
65 to 69 Yrs	0	0	3	0	3	0
70 Yrs or Older	0	0	4	0	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Age at Incarceration

The mean and median age was **31** years (for all commitments).

The mean and median age for males was **31** and **30** years respectively.

The mean and median age for females was **33** years.

Age at Incarceration Ranges:

Females - **17** years to **62** years.

Males - **16** years to **81** years.

**Table 6**

**Marital Status by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Married	116	12	307	15	423	14
Single	580	60	1,383	69	1,963	66
Divorced	154	16	168	8	322	11
Widowed	26	3	6	0	32	1
Partner-Livein	2	0	16	1	18	1
Separated	83	9	67	3	150	5
Not Reported	10	1	59	3	69	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 7**

**Religion by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Christian	887	91	1,488	74	2,375	80
Agnostic	4	0	331	17	335	11
Muslim	1	0	78	4	79	3
Atheist	19	2	13	1	32	1
Buddhist	5	1	26	1	31	1
Judaism	9	1	9	0	18	1
Not Reported	46	5	61	3	107	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

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Current Offense

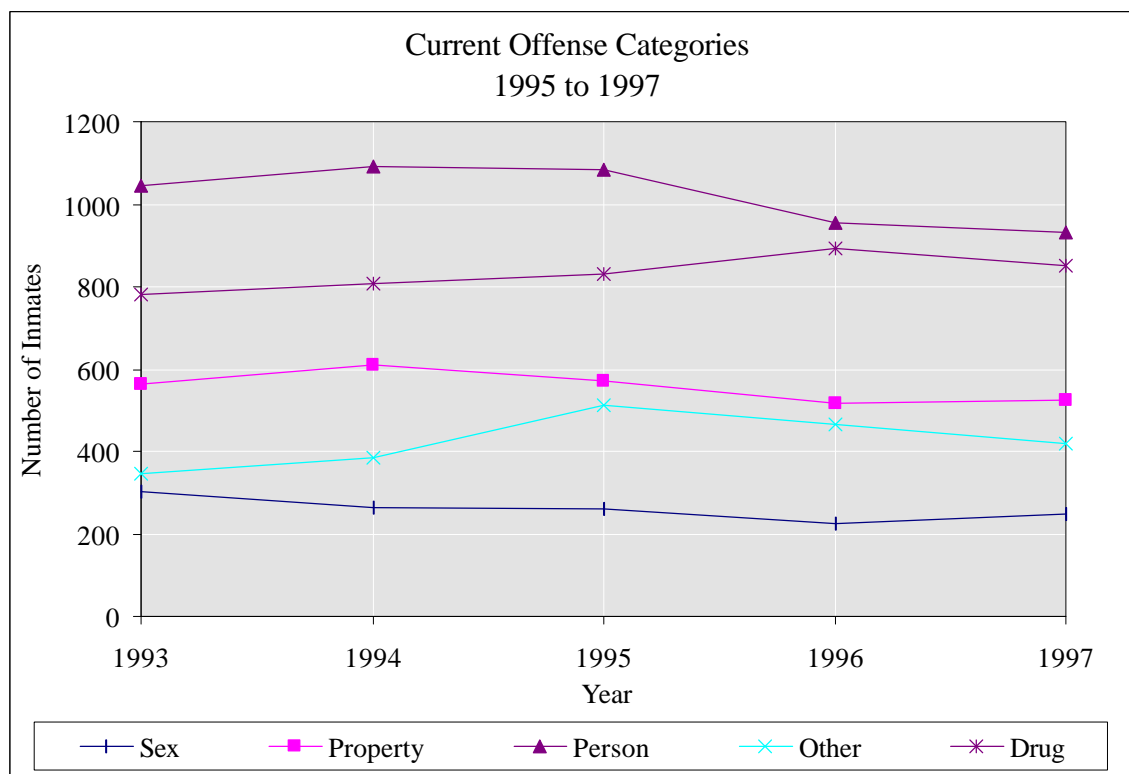
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**Table 8**

**Current Offense Categories, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Person	1,046	34	1,092	35	1,084	33	954	31	932	31
Sex	301	10	265	8	262	8	225	7	247	8
Property	564	19	611	19	570	17	516	17	526	18
Drug	781	26	807	26	831	26	893	29	852	29
Other	345	11	386	12	511	16	465	15	420	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 5**



**Table 9**

**Current Offense Categories by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Person	139	14	793	40	932	31
Sex	10	1	237	12	247	8
Property	248	26	278	14	526	18
Drug	247	25	605	30	852	29
Other	327	34	93	5	420	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 10**

**Person Offenses by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Not a Person Offense	832	86	1,213	60	2,045	69
Armed Robbery	10	1	210	10	220	7
A&B Dangerous Weapon	21	2	118	6	139	5
Unarmed Robbery	3	0	86	4	89	3
Armed Asslt w/Int to Rob/Murder	7	1	82	4	89	3
Assault/ A&B	58	6	8	0	66	2
Murder 1	0	0	53	3	53	2
Manslaughter	7	1	42	2	49	2
Asslt Dangerous Weapon	13	1	29	1	42	1
Murder 2	1	0	37	2	38	1
Kidnapping	0	0	23	1	23	1
Unarmed Robbery, Victim 60+	3	0	14	1	17	1
Other Person Offense	3	0	12	1	15	1
Accessory Before/After the Fact	3	0	10	0	13	0
A&B W/ Injury, Child Under 14	2	0	10	0	12	0
Mayhem	1	0	7	0	8	0
Vehicular Homicide	2	0	6	0	8	0
Conspiracy	1	0	5	0	6	0
Stalking	1	0	5	0	6	0
Armed Assault in Dwelling	1	0	4	0	5	0
Assault With Intent to Murder	0	0	5	0	5	0
Carjacking	0	0	5	0	5	0
Unarmed Assault to Rob	1	0	4	0	5	0
Home Invasion	0	0	3	0	3	0
A&B Dangerous Weapon, Victim 60+	1	0	2	0	3	0
Murder 1 - Juvenile Offender	0	0	2	0	2	0
Murder 2 - Juvenile Offender	0	0	2	0	2	0
Armed Asslt W/Intent to Rob/Murder, Victim 60+	0	0	2	0	2	0
Violation Civil Rights	0	0	2	0	2	0
Asslt Dangerous Weapon, Victim 60+	0	0	2	0	2	0
Stealing by Confining or Putting in Fear	0	0	1	0	1	0
Extortion	0	0	1	0	1	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: the offenses are arranged in descending order by offense total.



**Table 11**

**Sex Offenses by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Not a Sex Offense	961	99	1,769	88	2,730	92
Rape of Child <16, Statutory	3	0	85	4	88	3
Rape of Child <16, W/Force	1	0	43	2	44	1
Rape	0	0	38	2	38	1
Indecent A&B on Child <14	1	0	25	1	26	1
Aggravated Rape	0	0	25	1	25	1
Assault With Intent to Rape	0	0	10	0	10	0
Indecent A&B, Victim 14+	1	0	8	0	9	0
Unnatural Act	4	0	0	0	4	0
Child Pornography	0	0	3	0	3	0
Assault W/Int to Rape, Child <16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent A&B, Mentally Retarded Victim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unnatural Act, Child <16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: the offenses are arranged in descending order by offense total.

**Table 12**

**Property Offenses by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Not a Property Offense	723	74	1,728	86	2,451	82
Unarmed Burglary/Breaking and Entering	14	1	146	7	160	5
Larceny	93	10	21	1	114	4
Shoplifting	41	4	7	0	48	2
Vehicle Theft	16	2	25	1	41	1
Forgery and Uttering	30	3	8	0	38	1
Arson	5	1	32	2	37	1
Receiving Stolen Goods	17	2	10	0	27	1
Larceny From Person	14	1	3	0	17	1
Destruction of Property	6	1	8	0	14	0
Fraud	9	1	1	0	10	0
Armed Burglary	0	0	9	0	9	0
Possession of Burglary Tools	0	0	3	0	3	0
Common Receiver of Stolen Goods	0	0	3	0	3	0
Larceny From Person > 64	2	0	0	0	2	0
Embezzlement	1	0	1	0	2	0
Common and Notorious Thief	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: the offenses are arranged in descending order by offense total.

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**Table 13**

**Drug Offenses by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Not a Drug Offense	724	75	1,401	70	2,125	71
Being Present Where Heroin Kept	6	1	0	0	6	0
Possession of Hypodermic Instrument	18	2	0	0	18	1
Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law	7	1	12	1	19	1
Controlled Substance - No Class Specified	84	9	4	0	88	3
Controlled Substance - Class A	0	0	1	0	1	0
Controlled Substance - Class B	1	0	1	0	2	0
Controlled Substance - Class D	0	0	2	0	2	0
Fraudulent Prescriptions	1	0	0	0	1	0
Class A Poss W/Int to Dist	35	4	89	4	124	4
*Class A Poss W/Int to Dist, Subsequent	1	0	20	1	21	1
Class B Poss W/Int to Dist	43	4	119	6	162	5
*Class B Poss W/Int to Dist, Subsequent	4	0	35	2	39	1
*Class B Poss W/Int to Dist to Minor	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Specific CL B - Poss W/Int to Dist	13	1	59	3	72	2
*Specific CL B - Poss W/Int to Dist, Subsequent	1	0	15	1	16	1
Class C - Poss W/Int to Dist	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Marijuana - Trafficking 50-100 Lbs	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Specific Class B - Trafficking 14-28 Grams	9	1	124	6	133	4
*Specific Class B - Trafficking 28-100 Grams	2	0	46	2	48	2
*Specific Class B - Trafficking 100-200 Grams	3	0	20	1	23	1
*Specific Class B - Trafficking 200+ Grams	0	0	9	0	9	0
*Class A - Trafficking 14-28 Grams	0	0	2	0	2	0
*Class A - Trafficking 28-100 Grams	0	0	2	0	2	0
*Class A - Trafficking 100-200 Grams	0	0	2	0	2	0
*Class A - Trafficking 200+ Grams	0	0	1	0	1	0
Class D - Poss W/Int to Distribute	4	0	0	0	4	0
*Drug Violation, School/Park	14	1	39	2	53	2
Induce Minor in Sale and Distribution of Drugs	0	0	3	0	3	0
Theft of Drugs	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Denotes an offense which carries a mandatory sentence.

**Table 14**

**Other Offenses by Gender**

	Female (%)		Male (%)		Total (%)	
Not an Other Offense	644	66	1,913	95	2,557	86
OUI, Alcohol or Drugs	95	10	17	1	112	4
Other Motor Vehicle Offenses	73	8	2	0	75	3
Prostitution	71	7	0	0	71	2
Decency/Public Peace Crimes	51	5	0	0	51	2
Carry a Firearm W/Out License	0	0	32	2	32	1
Other Weapons Offense	1	0	14	1	15	1
Attempt to Commit Crime	8	1	7	0	15	1
Escape	1	0	8	0	9	0
Violation of Court Order	7	1	2	0	9	0
Operating Under the Influence W/Injury	2	0	4	0	6	0
Deriving Support From Prostitute	1	0	4	0	5	0
Trespassing	5	1	0	0	5	0
Delivering/Receiving Articles for Inmates	3	0	0	0	3	0
Leave Scene of Vehicular Accident	3	0	0	0	3	0
Perjury/Contempt of Court	1	0	1	0	2	0
Resisting Arrest	2	0	0	0	2	0
Habitual Criminal	0	0	1	0	1	0
Obstruction of Justice	1	0	0	0	1	0
Use of a Firearm for Felony	0	0	1	0	1	0
Usury	1	0	0	0	1	0
Violation of Restraining Order	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bribery/Corruption	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: the offenses are arranged in descending order by offense total.

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## Sentencing

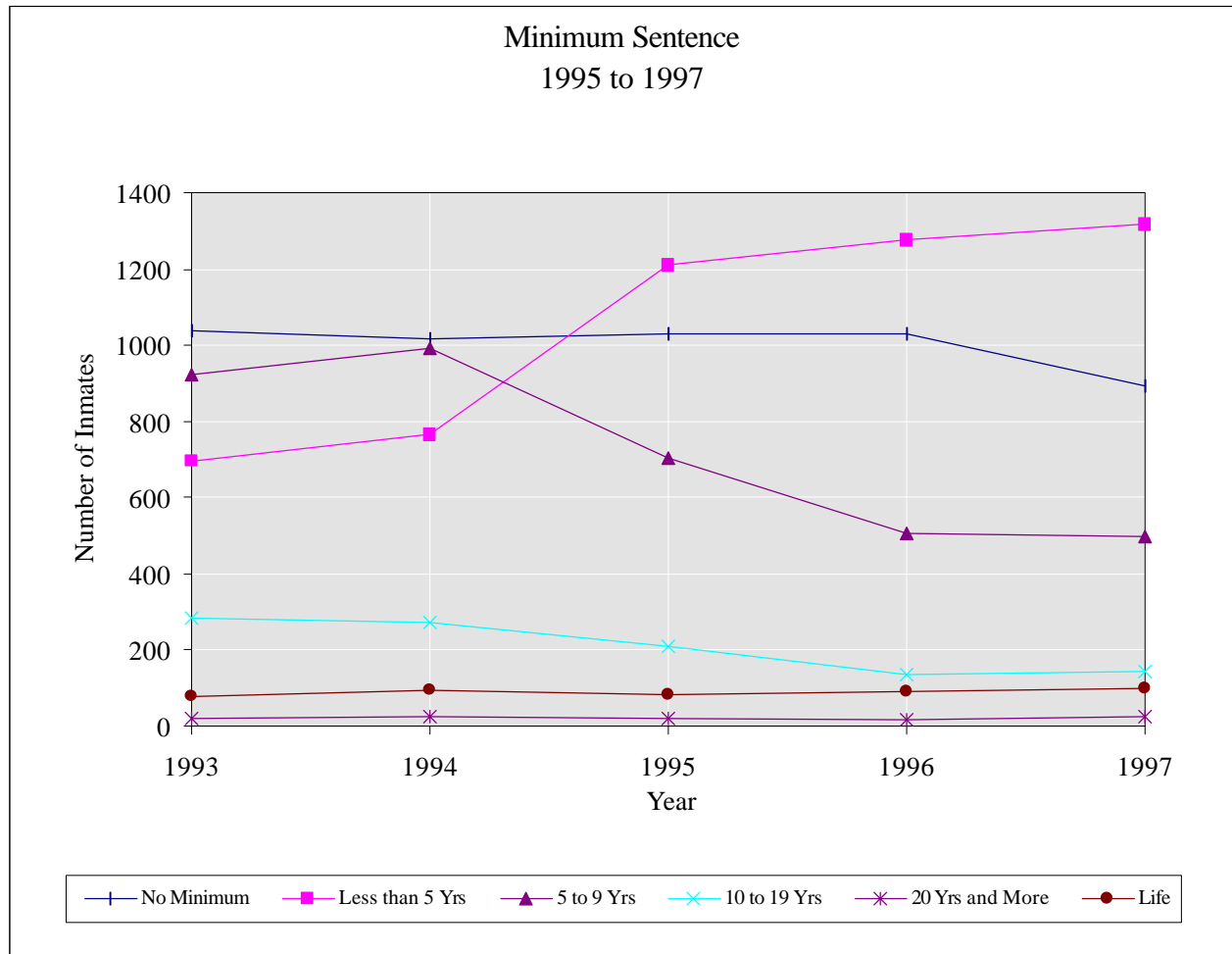
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**Table 15**

**Minimum Sentence, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Minimum	1,036	34	1,016	32	1,031	32	1,031	34	894	30
Less Than 5 Yrs	696	23	765	24	1,209	37	1,275	42	1318	44
5 to Less Than 10 Yrs	922	30	991	31	705	22	507	17	497	17
10 to Less Than 20Yrs	285	9	270	9	209	6	134	4	146	5
20 Yrs or More	20	1	25	1	22	1	16	1	24	1
Life	78	3	94	3	82	3	90	3	98	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 6**



**Table 16**

**Minimum Sentence by Gender**

	<b>Female</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Less Than 1 Yr	1	0	4	0	5	0
1 to Less Than 2 Yrs	20	2	154	8	174	6
2 to Less Than 3 Yrs	22	2	376	19	398	13
3 to Less Than 4 Yrs	28	3	521	26	549	18
4 to Less Than 5 Yrs	6	1	186	9	192	6
5 to Less Than 6 Yrs	8	1	251	13	259	9
6 to Less Than 7 Yrs	4	0	78	4	82	3
7 to Less Than 8 Yrs	4	0	63	3	67	2
8 to Less Than 9 Yrs	2	0	54	3	56	2
9 to Less Than 10 Yrs	2	0	31	2	33	1
10 to Less Than 11 Yrs	6	1	59	3	65	2
11 to Less Than 12 Yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
12 to Less Than 13 Yrs	1	0	28	1	29	1
13 to Less Than 14 Yrs	0	0	4	0	4	0
14 to Less Than 15 Yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
15 to Less Than 16 Yrs	2	0	24	1	26	1
16 to Less Than 17 Yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
17 to Less Than 18 Yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to Less Than 19 Yrs	0	0	14	1	14	0
19 to Less Than 20 Yrs	1	0	4	0	5	0
20 Yrs or More	1	0	23	1	24	1
Life	1	0	97	5	98	3
No Minimum	862	89	32	2	894	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

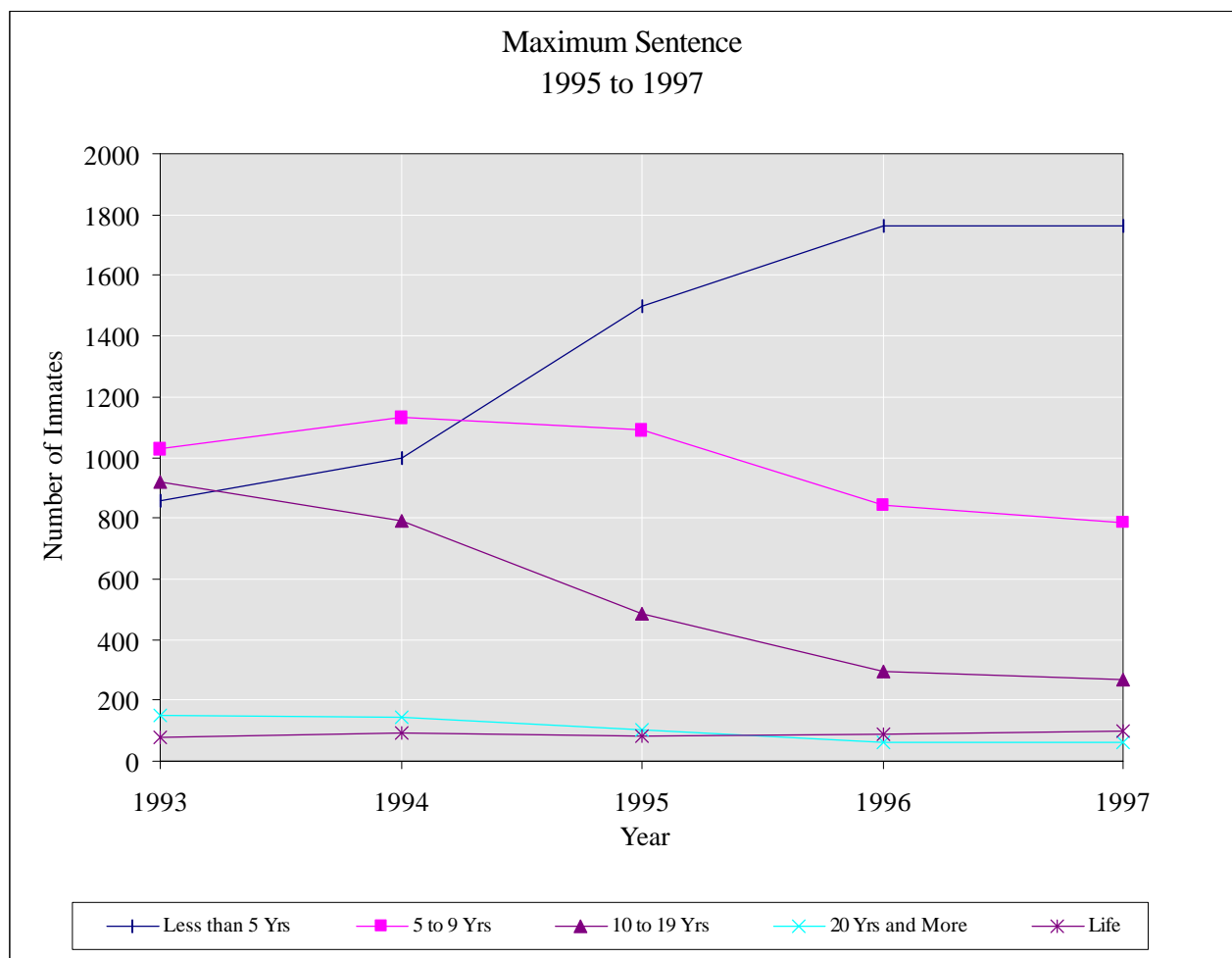
**Table 17**

**Maximum Sentence, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less Than 5 Yrs	859	28	999	32	1,498	46	1,762	58	1763	59
5 to Less Than 10 Yrs	1,030	34	1,134	36	1,090	33	843	28	784	26
10 to Less Than 20 Yrs	921	30	791	25	486	15	296	10	269	9
20 Yrs and More	149	5	143	5	102	3	62	2	63	2
Life	78	3	94	3	82	3	90	3	98	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note less than 5 years may include inmates serving a fine, which has been calculated into days.

**Figure 7**





**Table 18**

**Maximum Sentence by Gender**

	<b>Female</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(%)</b>
*Less Than 1 Yr	599	62	12	1	611	21
1 to Less Than 2 Yrs	177	18	69	3	246	8
2 to Less Than 3 Yrs	105	11	184	9	289	10
3 to Less Than 4 Yrs	29	3	390	19	419	14
4 to Less Than 5 Yrs	10	1	188	9	198	7
5 to Less Than 6 Yrs	16	2	427	21	443	15
6 to Less Than 7 Yrs	2	0	105	5	107	4
7 to Less Than 8 Yrs	8	1	132	7	140	5
8 to Less Than 9 Yrs	0	0	57	3	57	2
9 to Less Than 10 Yrs	2	0	35	2	37	1
10 to Less Than 11 Yrs	13	1	134	7	147	5
11 to Less Than 12 Yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
12 to Less Than 13 Yrs	4	0	52	3	56	2
13 to Less Than 14 Yrs	0	0	6	0	6	0
14 to Less Than 15 Yrs	0	0	4	0	4	0
15 to Less Than 16 Yrs	1	0	43	2	44	1
16 to Less Than 17 Yrs	0	0	4	0	4	0
17 to Less Than 18 Yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
18 to Less Than 19 Yrs	0	0	6	0	6	0
19 to Less Than 20 Yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Yrs or More	4	0	59	3	63	2
Life	1	0	97	5	98	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Includes inmates serving a fine which has been calculated into days.

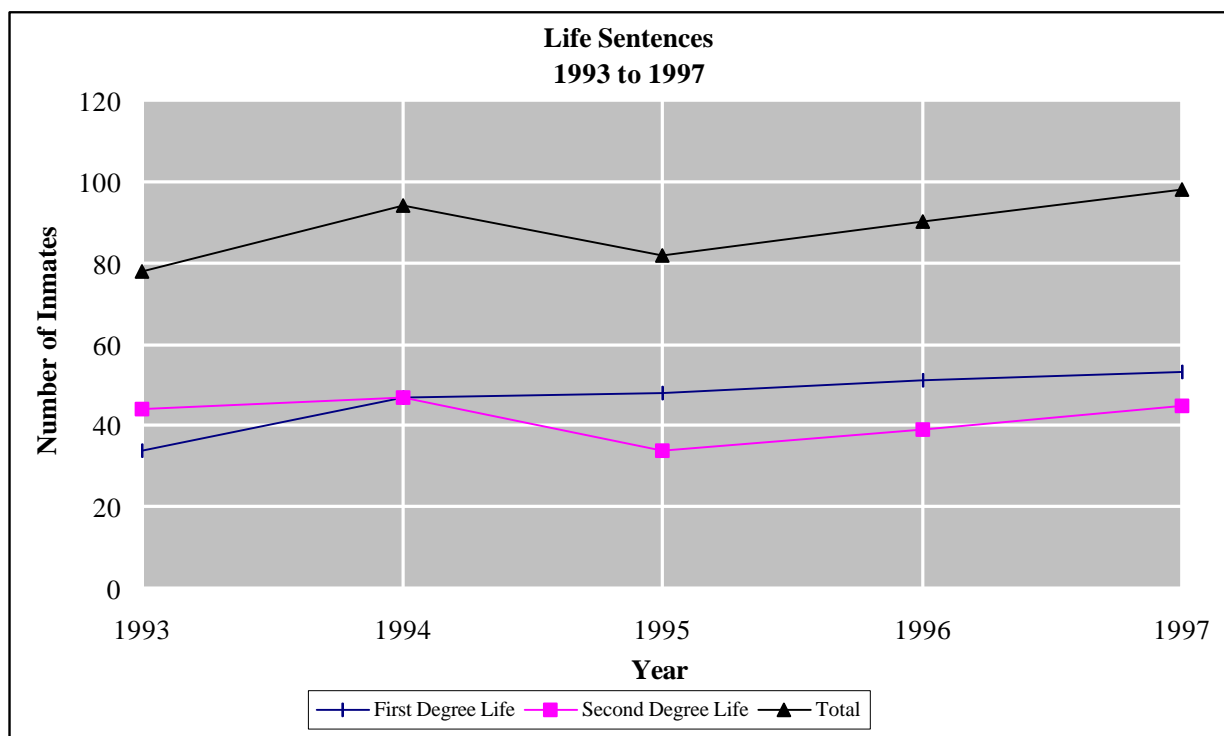
**Table 19**

**Life Sentences, 1993 to 1997**

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
First Degree Life	34	44	47	50	48	59	51	57	53	54
Second Degree Life	44	56	47	50	34	41	39	43	45	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: First Degree Life and Second Degree Life categories include only those inmates serving a sentence with a minimum term of “Life”. This excludes sentences, which have been revised to a minimum term of years via a commutation or court order.

**Figure 8**



**Table 20**

**Court From Which Committed by Gender**

	<b>Female (%)</b>		<b>Male (%)</b>		<b>Total (%)</b>	
District Courts	819	84	4	0	823	28
Suffolk Superior	14	1	427	21	441	15
Middlesex Superior	26	3	293	15	319	11
Hampden Superior	13	1	272	14	285	10
Worcester Superior	23	2	243	12	266	9
Essex Superior	18	2	213	11	231	8
Bristol Superior	6	1	154	8	160	5
Plymouth Superior	10	1	114	6	124	4
Norfolk Superior	5	1	74	4	79	3
Berkshire Superior	10	1	64	3	74	2
Barnstable Superior	5	1	40	2	45	2
Franklin Superior	2	0	29	1	31	1
Hampshire Superior	2	0	20	1	22	1
Nantucket Superior	0	0	3	0	3	0
Juvenile Courts	0	0	2	0	2	0
Dukes Superior	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Available	18	2	54	3	72	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: Not Available denotes From and After sentences where the court which imposed the sentence can not be determined from the data.

**Table 21**

**County of Court From Which Committed by Gender**

	<b>Female (%)</b>		<b>Male (%)</b>		<b>Total (%)</b>	
Middlesex County	236	24	295	15	531	18
Suffolk County	27	3	430	21	457	15
Worcester County	214	22	243	12	457	15
Essex County	235	24	213	11	448	15
Hampden County	15	2	273	14	288	10
Plymouth County	129	13	114	6	243	8
Bristol County	8	1	154	8	162	5
Norfolk County	69	7	74	4	143	5
Berkshire County	10	1	64	3	74	2
Barnstable County	5	1	40	2	45	2
Franklin County	2	0	29	1	31	1
Hampshire County	3	0	20	1	23	1
Nantucket County	0	0	3	0	3	0
Dukes County	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Available	18	2	54	3	72	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>100</b>

Please note: Not Available denotes From and After sentences where the court which imposed the sentence can not be determined from the data.

**Table 22**

**Sentence Type by Gender**

	<b>Female (%)</b>		<b>Male (%)</b>		<b>Total (%)</b>	
House of Correction	860	89	18	1	878	29
Reformatory	2	0	14	1	16	1
State Prison	109	11	1974	98	2083	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2977</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 23**

**Truth In Sentencing Indicator by Gender**

	<b>Female (%)</b>		<b>Male (%)</b>		<b>Total (%)</b>	
Yes	888	91	1697	85	2585	87
No	83	9	306	15	389	13
Not Available	0	0	3	0	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2977</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Glossary**

<b>Age At Incarceration</b>	Jail credits are not included in the calculation of age at incarceration.
<b>Court from Which Committed</b>	Boston Municipal Court is included with the District Court category, as well as other former Municipal courts; District courts are lower courts of all counties.
<b>CRS</b>	Correctional Residential Services.
<b>Current Offense</b>	<p>Inmates may be incarcerated for multiple offenses. The offense reported is that associated with the longest maximum discharge date.</p> <p>Offense labels can be found in the Appendix and are listed in alphabetical order by offense category.</p>
<b>DOC</b>	Massachusetts Department of Correction.
<b>Expiration</b>	Expiration of Sentence.
<b>GCD</b>	Good Conduct Discharge.
<b>HOC</b>	House of Correction - Massachusetts.
<b>Marital Status</b>	The categories “Common Law”, “Cohabitant”, and “Life Partner” are combined into the category labeled “Partner/Live-in” for this report.
<b>Mean</b>	The sum of the values of all the observations in a data set divided by the number of observations.
<b>Median</b>	The point in an array of data which has an equal number of observations above and below it.
<b>Minimum Sentence</b>	Some inmates do not have a minimum sentence, only a maximum sentence. Cases with “No Minimum” term are inmates serving House of Correction (County) or Reformatory sentences and can also be those serving out of state or federal sentences.
<b>MSA</b>	Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Federal Bureau of Census.
<b>Not Available/NA</b>	Information that is unavailable for previous years due to changes to definitions/reporting are noted as

	<p>“Not Available”. Also, missing information is considered “Not Available”.</p>
<b>Not Reported</b>	<p>For self-reported variables such as marital status, education, race, place of birth, and address missing information is noted as “Not Reported”.</p>
<b>PV</b>	<p>Parole Violation.</p>
<b>PPREP</b>	<p>Pre-Parole Residential Environment Program.</p>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<p>Inmates who self-report their race as “White Hispanic” or “Black Hispanic” are combined into the “Hispanic” category for this report.</p>
<b>Religion</b>	<p>Inmates who self-report their religion as “Baptist” or “Catholic” or “Lutheran” or “Mormon” or “Pentecostal” or “Protestant” are combined into Christian category for this report.</p>
<b>Sentence/Sentence Type</b>	
State Prison Sentence	<p>Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an offender is sentenced to the State Prison, except for life or as an habitual criminal, the court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and minimum term for which he/she may be imprisoned. The minimum term shall not be less than two and a half years. All sentences which have a finite maximum term are eligible to have the term reduced by statutory good time, except for most sex offenses, crimes committed while confined and certain “mandatory” sentences.</p> <p>In the “new law”, all state sentences have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an inmate is sentenced for life or as a habitual criminal. The minimum term is used to determine parole eligibility, and the maximum term is used to determine discharge.</p> <p>Under both the “old” and “new” sentencing systems, an inmate is discharged from his/her sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Under the “new” system none of the reduction will be attributable to statutory good time</p>

Reformatory Sentence

Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, males and females can be sentenced to a Reformatory sentence, an indefinite term, indicated by a maximum term.

For MCI- Concord, a male not previously sentenced for felony more than three times, convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in any correctional institution of the Commonwealth or by imprisonment in a jail or House of Correction may be sentenced for an indefinite term. Concord may confine misdemeanor offenders as well as those who commit felonies.

A female convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in a House of Correction, may be sentenced to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Framingham. In addition to those women who commit felonies, MCI-Framingham may confine female misdemeanor offenders.

The “new” law eliminates “Concord” (or Framingham) sentences to the state reformatory.

House of Correction Sentences

Also known as “County Sentences”. Prior to the “Truth in Sentencing” law, if an offender is sentenced to the House of Correction, the term shall be two and a half years or less. Parole eligibility and discharge are based on the maximum term of a sentence.

Under the “new” law, discharge on this sentence will change because of the elimination of statutory good time. There is no change in the parole eligibility date.

Other State, Federal

This category is used for inmates who were received by the DOC from another state correctional agency or the Federal Bureau of Prisons and are not sentenced under Massachusetts General Law.

**Sentence Count**

An inmate is often serving more than one sentence at the same time. This variable is a count of the number of sentences imposed that are entered into the database per inmate. Consecutive sentences that can be identified in the data are subtracted from the count.



**Type of Sentence**

In past reports, this variable has represented the type of sentence received by the court such as Aggregate, Concurrent, Fine, Forthwith, From and After, Simple, or Split. Due to a changes in the database, the Type of Sentence is no longer available in such detail, consequently it is no longer reported. This variable is different from “Sentence Type” which is presented in this report and defined earlier in the Glossary.

**Truth in Sentencing**

On January 12, 1994, the Governor signed into law an Act to Promote the Effective Management of the Criminal Justice System. St. 1993, c. 432, generally known as the “Truth In Sentencing” Law. Sentencing for offenses committed after June 30, 1994 are significantly affected by this law. This field indicates whether the “Current Offense” was committed prior to or after June 30, 1994.

**Violent Offense**

Any offense that falls under the Person or Sex Offense categories.

## **Appendix**

Offenses are listed if they combine more than one offense into the same label or if the label is abbreviated in the offense tables. Bolded labels represent an offense name, which has been shortened to fit in the report table. Arithmetic signs have been used to abbreviate where relevant and represent the following: > (greater than), < (less than), + (and over).

### **Drug Offense**

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 94C  
Offenses.

Class A - Poss W/Int to Distribute	<b>Class A: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (no mandatory minimum term).
Class A - Poss W/Int to Distribute, Subsequent	<b>Class A: Subsequent Offense, Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (mandatory minimum term specified).
Class B - Poss W/Int to Distribute	<b>Class B: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (no mandatory minimum term).
Class B - Poss W/Int to Distribute, Subsequent	<b>Class B: Subsequent Offense, Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (mandatory minimum term specified).
Class B - Poss W/Int to Distribute to Minor	<b>Class B: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute to a Minor</b> (mandatory minimum term specified).
Class C - Poss W/Int to Distribute	<b>Class C: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (no mandatory minimum term).
Class C- Poss W/Int to Distribute, Subsequent	<b>Class D: Subsequent Offense, Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (mandatory minimum term specified).
Class D - Poss W/Int to Distribute	<b>Class D: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (no mandatory minimum term).
Specific Class B - Poss W/Int to Distribute	<b>Specific Class B: Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (mandatory minimum term specified). Specific Class B drugs are PCP, Cocaine, Methamphetamine.
Specific Class B - Poss W/Int to Distribute, Subsequent	<b>Specific Class B: Subsequent Offense, Distribution or Possession with Intent to Distribute</b> (mandatory minimum term specified).

	Specific Class B drugs are PCP, Cocaine, Methamphetamine.
Specific Class B - Trafficking	Trafficking categories are broken out by amount. Specific Class B drugs are PCP, Cocaine, Methamphetamine.
Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law	<b>Conspiracy to Violate Controlled Substance Act.</b>
Controlled Substance	Includes the manufacturing, distribution, dispensing or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance. The following are the controlled substance categories:
Class A	Heroin and morphine;
Class B	Cocaine; opium, amphetamines, barbiturates, and PCP;
Class C	Hallucinogens (LSD, hashish);
Class D	Marijuana;
Class E	Prescription drugs;
No Class Specified	Type of drug is not indicated by the sentence.
Drug Violation, School/Park	Drug violation near a school or park.
Fraudulent Prescriptions	Includes uttering false prescriptions and subsequent offense; drugs obtained by fraud.
Induce Minor in Sale and Distribution of Drugs	Includes drug funds, induce minors to possess, and induce minors to distribute.
Possession of Hypodermic Instrument	Includes possession of hypodermic needle, or any instrument adapted for the administration of narcotic drugs, hypodermic violation.
Theft of Drugs	Includes larceny of drugs.
<u>Person Offense</u>	Crimes Against the Person (primarily Massachusetts General Law Chapter 265 offenses).
Accessory Before/After Fact	Includes accessory after the fact, accessory before the fact, conspiracy to commit murder.
Armed Assault W/Intent to Rob/Murder	Includes assault with intent to rob, murder being armed; assault with a deadly weapon with intent to rob.
Armed Assault in Dwelling	Includes armed assault in dwelling houses; act may be an actual assault or an attempt.

Assault With Intent to Murder	Includes assault with intent to murder, maim, etc.; assault to commit murder; assault with intent to kill.
A&B W/Injury, Child Under 14	<b>Assault and Battery Upon a Child.</b>
Assault/A&B	<b>Assault and Assault and Battery.</b> Includes assault, assault and battery, assault on an officer or a public employee.
Attempted Murder	Includes all attempts to commit murder, other than assaults: attempted murder, attempts to commit murder by poisoning, drowning, or strangling.
Conspiracy	If crime is specified, (i.e., conspiracy to commit larceny), the offense is listed under the specified crime. If crime is not specified, the offense is listed under this category.
Extortion	Includes attempts to extort money, threats, threat to commit crime.
Stealing by Confining or Putting in Fear	<b>Confining or Putting in Fear a Person for the Purpose of Stealing.</b> Includes breaking, burning or blowing up a safe; intimidate to steal from a depository.
Kidnapping	Includes abduction, holding hostage, for extortion, minor by relative, person in custody.
Manslaughter	Includes negligent homicide, voluntary/involuntary manslaughter.
Other Person Offense	Includes assault to intimidate, injury to a firefighter as a result of a criminal offense, assault with intent to commit manslaughter- felony.
Stalking	Includes stalking in violation of a restraining order; stalking as a subsequent offense.
Unarmed Assault to Rob	Includes assault to rob, not being armed, assault to rob, assault with intent to rob, assault with intent to rob by force and violence.
Unarmed Robbery	Includes robbery, robbery not being armed, robbery by force and violence.

Property Offense

Crimes Against Property (primarily Massachusetts General Law Chapter 266 offenses).

Armed Burglary

**Burglary, Armed or an Assault.** Includes armed burglary, breaking and entering with intent to assault with or without dangerous weapon.

Arson

**Arson and Attempted Arson.** Includes using and or possession of explosives, obstruction of fire fighting.

Larceny

Includes stealing in a building, ship, or at a fire.

Receiving Stolen Goods

Includes the receiving and buying of stolen goods.

Shoplifting

Includes shoplifting as a third offense.

Unarmed Burglary/Breaking and Entering

Includes breaking and entering (both night and day), attempt to break and enter, breaking and entering and larceny, burglary, breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny.

Vehicle Theft

**Theft of a Motor Vehicle.** Includes larceny of a motor vehicle, boat.

Other Offense

Miscellaneous offenses that are not clearly categorized into one of the other offense categories of Person, Property, Sex or Drug.

Bribery/Corruption

Includes conflict of interest, corruption of public employee.

Carry a Firearm W/Out License

**Weapons Violation of Bartley-Fox Gun Law** (mandatory 1 year sentence for carrying a firearm without a license.

Decency/Public Peace Crimes

**Other Decency/Public Peace Crimes.** Includes idle and disorderly, affray, annoying phone calls, disturbing the peace, accosting and annoying persons of the opposite sex, lewd and lascivious, indecent exposure, threat to commit crime, common night walker.

Delivering/Receiving Articles for Inmates

Includes drugs or weapons.

Deriving Support from Prostitute

**Deriving Support from Prostitution (pimping).** Includes keeping and maintaining house of ill fame, inducing minor to prostitution, prostitutes deriving support from a child.

Escape	Includes attempts, assisting in, accessory to escape.
Leave Scene of Vehicular Accident	<b>Leaving the Scene;</b> motor vehicle accident, personal injury, damage.
Miscellaneous Other Offense	Includes jumping bail, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, threatening tax collector, tax evasion, violation of a civil ordinance, inhaling toxic vapors, home improvement contractor violation/unlicensed, promoting of anarchy, inciting a riot.
Operating Under the Influence W/Injury	<b>Operating Under the Influence with Injury Resulting;</b> liquor, drugs, negligent or recklessness all with serious injury.
Other Motor Vehicle Offenses	Includes violation of automobile law, violation of motor vehicle law, operation without authority of owner after suspension, operation without authority of owner, use without authority, failure to yield right of way to emergency vehicles.
Other Weapons Offense	Includes selling a firearm without a serial number.
OUI, Alcohol or Drugs	<b>Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs.</b>
Prostitution	Includes sexual conduct for fee, solicit for prostitution.
Use of a Firearm for Felony	<b>Use of a Firearm to Commit a Felony.</b> Includes possession of a defaced firearm in a felony.
Violation of Restraining Order	Violation of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 209A
<u>Sex Offense</u>	Sex Offenses Against the Person. Consist of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 265 (crimes against the person) and Chapter 272 offenses (crimes against chastity, morality, decency and good order).
Assault With Intent to Rape	Includes attempts to rape.
Indecent A&B on Child < 14	<b>Indecent Assault and Battery on Child under 14.</b> Includes indecent assault and battery on a minor.

Indecent A&B, Victim 14+

**Indecent Assault and Battery on Victim, 14 or Older.**

Other Sex Offenses

Includes adultery, fornication, open and gross lewdness, drugging for sex.

Rape

Age of victim not specified, or does not fall under a rape of child category.

Unnatural Act

Includes unnatural acts, lascivious acts, assault to commit unnatural sex acts.

Unnatural Act, Child < 16

**Unnatural Acts with Child Under 16.**