

Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Briefing

July 9, 2021

Sentencing Guidelines Commission

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Restrictive Housing at DOC

- **Administrative Segregation** - temporarily removes an individual from the general population, until a timely and informed decision can be made about appropriate housing.
- The primary objective of administrative segregation is to improve facility wide order and safety by removing dangerous inmates from the general population and more effectively managing them in an isolated setting.

Restrictive Housing at DOC

- An individual may be assigned to administrative segregation for any of the following:
 - ✓ There is a significant risk to the safety and security of employees, contract staff, volunteers, and/or other incarcerated individuals.
 - ✓ Staffed assessed that the individual needs protection or requests protection.
 - ✓ Pending transfer or transit to a more secure facility.
 - ✓ Poses a serious documented escape risk.
 - ✓ Pending investigation for behavior that represents a significant threat.

Restrictive Housing at DOC

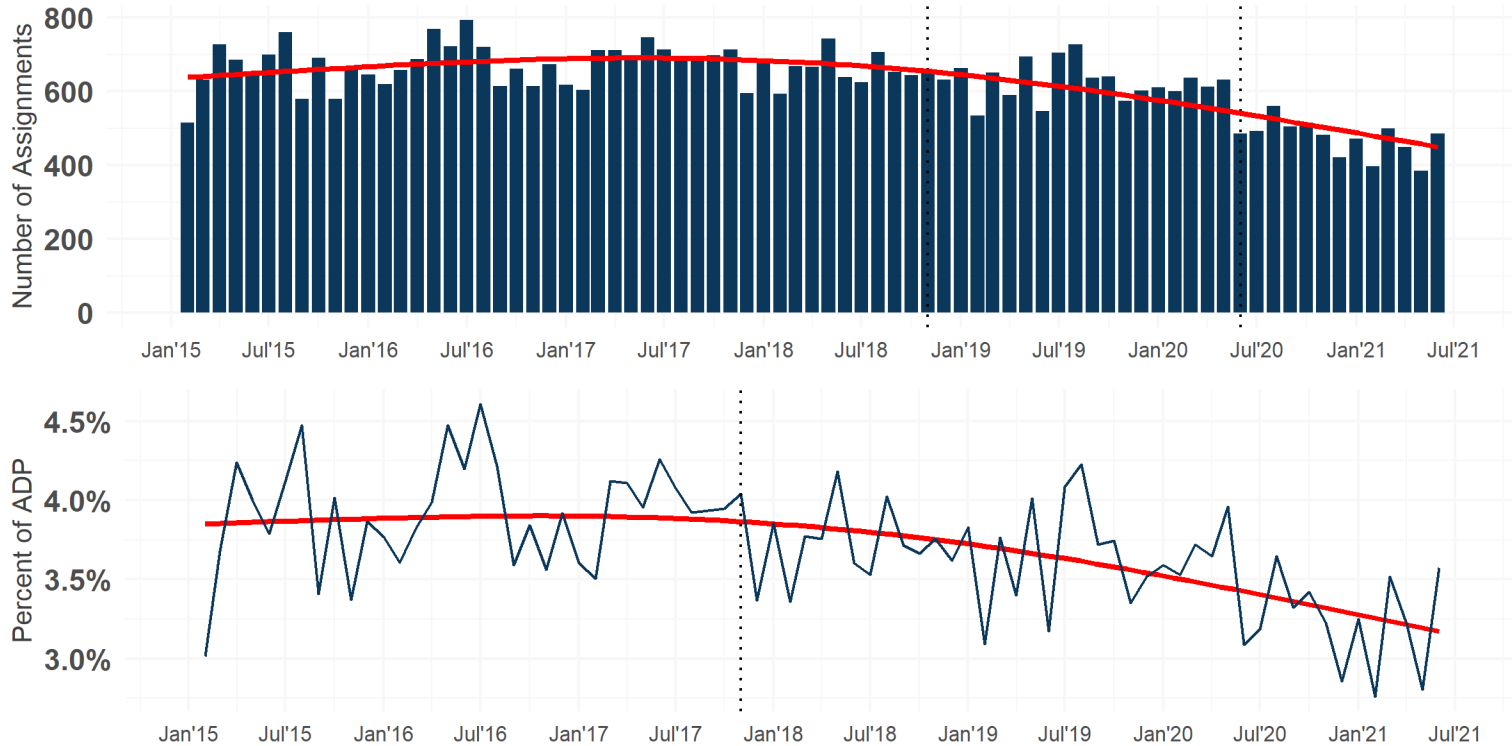
- **Maximum Custody** - There are established guidelines for demotion to, transfer between, and release from Maximum custody for incarcerated individuals who:
 - ✓ Pose a significant risk to the safety and security of employees, contract staff, volunteers, or other individuals.
 - ✓ Have validated protection needs
 - ✓ Designated individuals with serious mental illness, primarily serious mental illness in conjunction with violence, some by individual request.

Restrictive Housing at DOC

- DOC currently houses 13,005 incarcerated individuals.
- Restrictive Housing Capacity:
 - ✓ Administrative Segregation: 518 beds
 - ✓ Maximum Custody: 423 beds
- Since 2012, the maximum custody population has been reduced by more than half. (Over 600 in 2012, 256 June of 2021).
- Since 2012, the administrative segregation population has been reduced by a third (Over 570 in 2012, 420 June of 2021).
- National accepted average for restrictive housing is 5%.

Restrictive Housing Placements, 2015 to present

Monthly assignments to restrictive housing as counts and proportion of ADP, February 2015 to June 2021



Data as of July 5, 2021

- Observed values are represented in blue as bars and time series
- Red lines are trends estimated by Generalized Additive Model smooths.
- Dotted lines indicate estimated change points in time series

Restrictive Housing Population, 2015 to present

	Since January 2015 (Accumulative)			On June 30, 2021 (Snapshot)		
	Incarcerated Population	Administrative Segregation	Max Custody	Incarcerated Population	Administrative Segregation	Max Custody
Total	50,021	21,077	2,046	13,678	409	232
White*	30,189 (60.4%)	12,091 (57.4%)	974 (47.6%)	7,547 (55.2%)	238 (58.1%)	120 (51.7%)
Black*	7,826 (15.6%)	3,614 (17.1%)**	294 (14.4%)	2,413 (17.6%)	77 (18.8%)	32 (13.8%)
Hispanic	7,156 (14.3%)	3,244 (15.4%)**	586 (28.6%)**	2,231 (16.3%)	53 (13.0%)	52 (22.4%)**
American Indian or Alaska Native*	2,601 (5.2%)	1,289 (6.1%)**	114 (5.6%)	727 (5.3%)	24 (5.9%)	11 (4.7%)
Asian or Pacific Islander*	1,866 (3.7%)	707 (3.4%)	66 (3.2%)	617 (4.5%)	14 (3.4%)	13 (5.6%)
Other*	383 (0.8%)	132 (0.6%)	12 (0.6%)	143 (1.1%)	3 (0.7%)	4 (1.7%)

Data as of July 5, 2021

- Incarcerated population is count of distinct individuals under inmate status for at least 30 days at any point between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2021.
- Administrative Segregation and Max Custody counts are distinct individuals with any new placement in restrictive housing between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2021.
- Assignments to Max Custody while in administrative segregation are counted once as Max Custody.
- *Non-Hispanic
- **Bayes factor test of within-group difference in proportions favors hypothesis of group over-representation relative to group share of overall population (BF > 3).



Restrictive Housing Impacts

- Administrative Segregation – Impact on earned time: >20 days/month = loss of 5 days earned time.
- Maximum custody – Pending WAC (137-30) and policy adjustments will allow individuals assigned to receive earned time. Retroactive review back to March 2020 currently occurring.
- Most important Human Impacts – While the intention of restrictive housing is safety and security, the impacts on individuals in these settings can be detrimental and long lasting.

Partnerships with External Stakeholders

- The Office of Correctional Ombuds, and other advocacy groups, along with DOC staff, have identified many opportunities for improving the use and processes for restrictive housing.
- Reforms within restrictive housing began in 2011 when DOC partnered with the VERA Institute of Justice who evaluated policies/procedures
- PRESS RELEASE: Washington Corrections Secretary and Vera Institute to study prison reforms in Norway –October 28, 2019
- University California Irvine conducted a three-year longitudinal study 2016-2020 concerning incarcerated individuals and staff within restrictive housing.

Restrictive Housing Initiatives

- July 2021 - Opening of Transfer Pods – 76 beds
 - Monroe Corrections Center (MCC) IMU
 - Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) IMU
 - Washington Corrections Center (WCC) IMU
- August 2021 - Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC)–Opening of Limited Privilege Pod (LPP) - 20 beds
- September 2021 Complete Repurposing Assessment of Washington State Penitentiary - North
 - Repurposing of Administrative Segregation beds to Transfer and Transition beds

Going Forward – Significant Restrictive Housing Initiatives on the Horizon in 2021

- Policy adjustments to reduce maximum Administrative Segregation days from 30 to 15 days and eliminate the use of disciplinary segregation.
- Increase out of cell time to at least 4 hours a day
- Development of Specialized staffing for programing and to support increased out of cell time.
- Launch a specialized pilot at the Washington Corrections Center for Women to support increased collaboration between mental health and custody in for those with significant symptoms of mental illness.

Contact Information

AUGUST 2021, THE DEPARTMENT IS LAUNCHING A PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE SPECIFIC TO THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE HOUSING
[HTTPS://DOC.WA.GOV/](https://doc.wa.gov/)

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