



## BRISTOL COUNTY CORRECTIONS

A profile of the Sheriff's Department of  
Bristol County, Massachusetts

### Criminal Justice Policy Coalition COUNTY CORRECTIONS PROJECT

www.CJPC.org  
June 2005

**Bristol County**, incorporated June 2, 1685<sup>1</sup>, includes (cities in bold; \* county seat): Acushnet, **Attleboro** (42,068), Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton, Easton, Fairhaven, **Fall River\*** (91,938), Freetown, Mansfield, **New Bedford\*** (93,768), North Attleborough, Norton Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, **Taunton\*** (55,976), Westport

**Bristol County Racial Breakdown:** White Non-Hispanic (89.4%); Hispanic/Latino (3.6%); Other Race (3.1%); Black (2.0%); Asian (1.3%); American Indian (0.2%)

	<b>Bristol County</b>	<b>Massachusetts</b>
Population:	547,008 <sup>2</sup>	453,506 Avg. County
Area (square miles):	556 square miles	560 Avg. County
Unemployment:	7%	5.8% statewide
Median income:	\$44,101	\$51,085 statewide
Persons below poverty	10.0% <sup>3</sup>	9.3%
High school graduates:	73.2%	84.8%
College degrees:	19.9%	33.2%
Other language <sup>4</sup> :	21.1%	18.7%

<sup>1</sup> Bristol is one of seven counties that have not been abolished; all counties remain, but some county governments have been "abolished;" their offices are now under direction of certain state offices; for instance, Registry of Deeds offices are under the direction of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, [www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisctlist/ctlistcounin.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisctlist/ctlistcounin.htm). Abolished counties do not receive "county" revenue to fund corrections; all funding comes through the state budget.

<sup>2</sup> All population, demographic, and economic data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 estimates, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; and 2003, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

<sup>3</sup> 1999, U.S. Census Bureau, Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>.

<sup>4</sup> A language other than English is spoken in the home, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>.

**SHERIFF THOMAS M. HODGSON (REP.)**

**Elected:** 1998 (appointed in 1997)  
**Re-elected:** 2004; approx. 58% of vote<sup>5</sup>  
**Education:** N/A  
**Background:** Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Investigations, Bristol County Sheriff's Office (1994 – 1997); Councilor-at-Large, New Bedford City Council; Police Lieutenant (Ocean City, MD)

**CORRECTIONS POPULATION AND BUDGET**

	<b>Bristol County</b>	<b>Average all Counties</b>
Average daily population:	1,222 <sup>6</sup>	962 <sup>7</sup>
Total design capacity:	610	617
Percent over design capacity:	200% <sup>8</sup>	157%
New commitments annually:	1,787	1,157 <sup>9</sup>
Inmates released annually:	N/A <sup>10</sup>	N/A
FY05 operating budget:	\$40,622,636	\$32,234,015 <sup>11</sup>
Annual per inmate cost:	\$33,243	\$35,821
Women committed:	206	65 <sup>12</sup>
Average sentence length:	N/A <sup>13</sup>	<12 months <sup>14</sup>
Average age county inmates:	N/A <sup>15</sup>	N/A
Inmates <i>without</i> high school diploma:	N/A <sup>16</sup>	N/A
Community Corrections participants:	49/0	62/11 <sup>17</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Unofficial election results from [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com).

<sup>6</sup> Average daily population, Jan., 2004 to Dec. 28, 2004, Mass. Department of Correction (DOC), *Quarterly Report on the Status of Prison Overcrowding, First Quarter, 2005*. During this period, Bristol held 10% of county inmates statewide.

<sup>7</sup> Average daily population of the 13 counties that maintain correctional facilities.

<sup>8</sup> Total design capacity of 610 includes 100 beds at the David R. Nelson Correctional Addiction Center (DRNCAC), which no longer houses inmates; when adjusted to exclude these beds, overcrowding rate increases to 239%, DOC, *Quarterly Report, First Quarter, 2005*.

<sup>9</sup> New commitments 2003, DOC, *New Court Commitments to County Facilities* (2003).

<sup>10</sup> Release numbers are not currently tracked for county corrections; CJPC is gathering this data from sheriff's departments.

<sup>11</sup> From FY05 State Budget and information provided by the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association; Bristol accounted for 9% of statewide spending; approx. \$451,276,205 total statewide spending.

<sup>12</sup> In 2003, female county commitments totaled 909 statewide; seven counties had two or fewer newly committed women; the other seven counties averaged 129 women, DOC, *New Court Commitments* (2003).

<sup>13</sup> Sentence length is not currently reported for county corrections; CJPC is gathering this data from sheriff's departments.

<sup>14</sup> In 2003, 70% of new county commitments received sentences under 12 months, DOC, *New Court Commitments*.

<sup>15</sup> Inmate age is not currently reported for counties; CJPC is gathering this data from sheriff's departments.

<sup>16</sup> Education levels are not currently reported for county corrections; CJPC is gathering this data from sheriff's departments.

<sup>17</sup> First number indicates total participants in the county, the second is the number supervised by the sheriff's departments; approx. 866 offenders supervised statewide (2003); 149 supervised by sheriff's departments, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court Office of Community Corrections, *Utilization of Community Corrections Centers Statistical Report, FY 200*.