



ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONS

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

Criminal Justice Policy Coalition COUNTY CORRECTIONS PROJECT

www.CJPC.org

June 2005

Essex County, incorporated May 10, 1643¹ and abolished July 1, 1999², includes: (cities in **bold**; *indicates county seat): **Amesbury**® (16,450), Andover, **Beverly** (39,862), Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, **Gloucester** (30,273), Groveland, Hamilton, **Haverhill** (58,969), Ipswich, **Lawrence*** (72,043), **Lynn** (89,050), Lynnfield, Manchester By The Sea, Marblehead, Merrimac, **Methuen**® (43,789), Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, **Newburyport*** (17,189), North Andover, **Peabody** (48,129) Rockport, Rowley, **Salem*** (40,407), Salisbury, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield, Wenham, West Newbury

Essex County Racial Breakdown: White Non-Hispanic (83.1%); Hispanic/Latino (11.0%); Other Race (6.2%); Black (2.6%); Asian (0.7%); American Indian (0.5%)

	Essex County	Massachusetts
Population:	723,419 ⁴	453,506 Avg. County
Area (square miles):	500.7	560 Avg. County
Unemployment:	6.8%	5.8%
Median income:	\$49,746	\$51,085
Persons below poverty	8.9% ⁵	9.3%
High school graduates:	83.5%	84.8%
College degrees:	26.9%	33.2%
Other language ⁶ :	19.4%	18.7%

® One of 11 Massachusetts communities granted city form of government, but remain known as "the town of,"
www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisctlist/ctlistcoun.htm

¹ www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisctlist/ctlistcounin.htm

² 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. Abolished counties do not receive "county" revenue to fund corrections; all funding comes through the state budget.

³ All population, demographic, and economic data from U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; and 2003, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

⁴ 1999, U.S. Census Bureau, Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

⁵ A language other than English is spoken in the home, U.S. Census Bureau, Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

SHERIFF FRANK G. COUSINS, JR. (REP.)

Elected: 1998 (appointed in 1996)
Re-elected: 2004; approx. 63% of vote⁷
Education: B.A., Human Services, Springfield College
M.A., Criminal Justice, Springfield College
Background: State Representative 1st Essex District (1992-1996; Chairman, Mass. Black Legislative Caucus); Newburyport City Councilor (1989-1993); auto dealer, retail management, and real estate sales

CORRECTIONS POPULATION AND BUDGET

	Essex County	Average all Counties
Average daily population:	1,444 ⁸	969 ⁹
Total design capacity:	635 ¹⁰	617
Percent over design capacity:	227%	157%
New commitments annually:	1,320	1,157 ¹¹
Inmates released annually:	N/A ¹²	N/A
FY05 operating budget:	\$39,701,005	\$32,234,015 ¹³
Annual per inmate cost:	\$27,494	\$35,821
Women committed:	1	65 ¹⁴
Average sentence length:	10 months ¹⁵	<12 months ¹⁶
Average age county inmates:	22 years	N/A
Inmates <i>without</i> high school diploma:	70%	N/A
Community Corrections participants:	152/44	62/11 ¹⁷

⁷ Unofficial election results from www.boston.com.

⁸ Average daily population, Jan. 5, 2004 to Dec. 28, 2004, Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), *Quarterly Report on the Status of Prison Overcrowding, First Quarter, 2005*. During this period, Essex held 11% of county inmates statewide.

⁹ Average daily population of the 13 counties that maintain correctional facilities.

¹⁰ DOC annual (2003) and quarterly overcrowding reports.

¹¹ New commitments 2003, DOC, *New Court Commitments to County Facilities* (2003).

¹² Release numbers are not currently tracked for county corrections. CJPC is gathering this information from sheriffs.

¹³ From FY05 State Budget and information provided by the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association; Essex accounted for 9% of statewide spending; approx. \$451,276,205 total statewide spending.

¹⁴ The Essex Women in Transition Center serves women nearing the end of their state sentences, they are not considered "county commitments" and are not included here. In 2003, county committed women totaled 909 statewide; seven counties had two or fewer newly committed women; the other seven counties averaged 129, DOC, *New Court Commitments*, (2003).

¹⁵ From the Essex County Sheriff's Department, www.ecsd.com

¹⁶ In 2003, 70% of new county commitments received sentences under 12 months, DOC, *New Court Commitments*.

¹⁷ First number indicates total participants in the county, the second is the number supervised by the sheriff's department.

Approximately 866 offenders supervised statewide (2003), of which 149 are supervised by sheriff's department, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court Office of Community Corrections, *Utilization of Community Corrections Centers Statistical Report, FY 200*.