

## Essex County Sheriff's Department – Fact sheet

The Essex County Sheriff oversees these prisons and programs:

- Middleton house of correction (HOC), for people who have been convicted and sentenced, generally for up to 2½ years;
- Middleton jail, for people who have been arrested but have not yet gone to trial;
- Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center, for sentenced men with addictions;
- Women in Transition (Salisbury), for sentenced women with addictions;
- Community Corrections Centers (Lynn & Lawrence), for people convicted of offenses who report on daily basis for varying levels of supervision;
- Secure Alternative Lockup Program (Lawrence), for juveniles throughout northeastern Massachusetts being held until arraignment.

2015 base salary: \$151,709

2015 budget: \$52,532,000

No. of employees (2015): 625

- Prisoners who have been sentenced:           783 men       43 women
- Prisoners held pre-trial:                       682 men       5 women
  
- Some counties are paid by the state Dept. of Correction to house state prisoners. There are 13 state prisoners at Essex County.
  
- Some counties are paid by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold people being held (“detained”) for immigration violations. There are no ICE detainees at Essex County.
  
- Some county jails/HOC’s are overcrowded. What is the situation in Essex County?
  - Middleton HOC built for 1291; current population 1136 (88% occupancy)
  - Lawrence CAC built for 340; current population 351 (103% occupancy)
  - Women in Transition built for 23; current population 40 (174% occupancy)
  
- HOC’s/jails often hold prisoners in isolation (“solitary confinement”) as punishment for violating the rules. No information is available on the number of prisoners who can be held in solitary at one time; please ask the sheriff.

Classes and programs available to prisoners:

- Middleton HOC: educational, ESL, substance use, vocational (automotive, culinary, graphic arts, HVAC and graphic arts)
- Lawrence CAC: education, substance use, community service, work release
- Women in Transition: education, substance use, parenting, health, work release
- Community Corrections Centers: GED, job readiness, life skills, AIDS prevention

For information about the Ad Hoc Coalition to Stop New Jails in Massachusetts, please contact [lois@realcostofprisons.org](mailto:lois@realcostofprisons.org).