

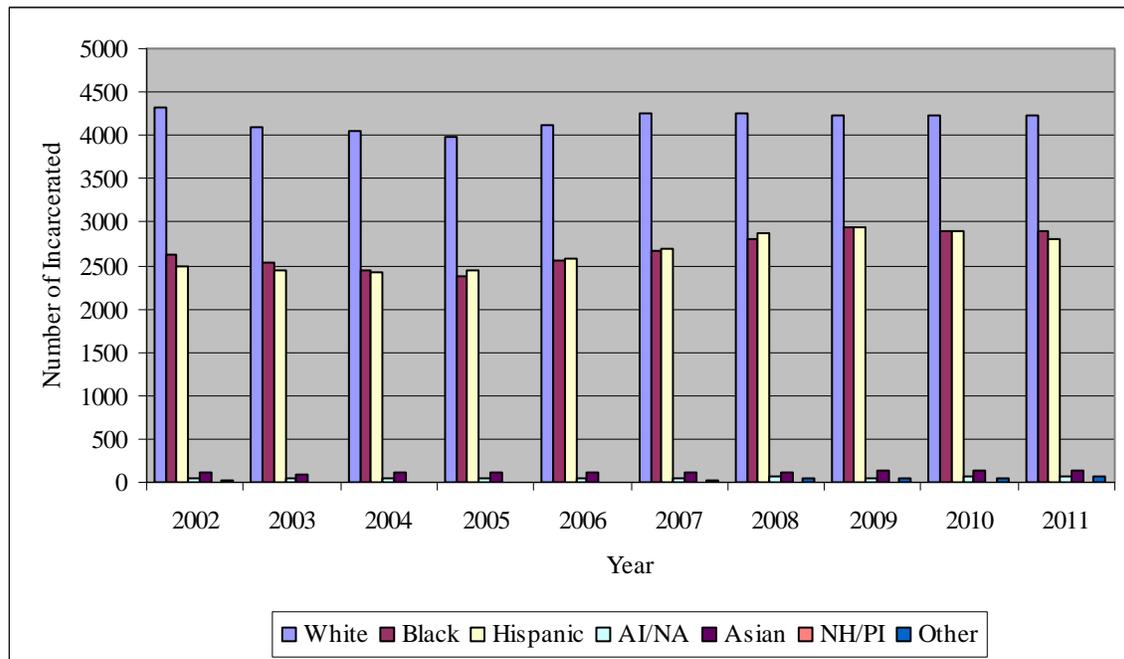
A Ten-Year Trend Analysis of Race/Ethnicity (2002-2011)

Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Research

Prepared by:
Crystal Park, Northeastern University Co-op Research Intern
And
Hollie Matthews, Research Analyst, Research and Planning Division
April 2012

This report presents a ten-year trend analysis of the racial/ethnic demographics among the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC) criminally sentenced offender population. Information is based on the data snapshots taken between January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2011¹. Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by individuals at the time of admission.

[Chart 1] Ten-Year Trend of Race/Ethnicity (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



* AI—American Indian / NA—Native Alaskan

* NH—Native Hawaiian / PI—Pacific Islander

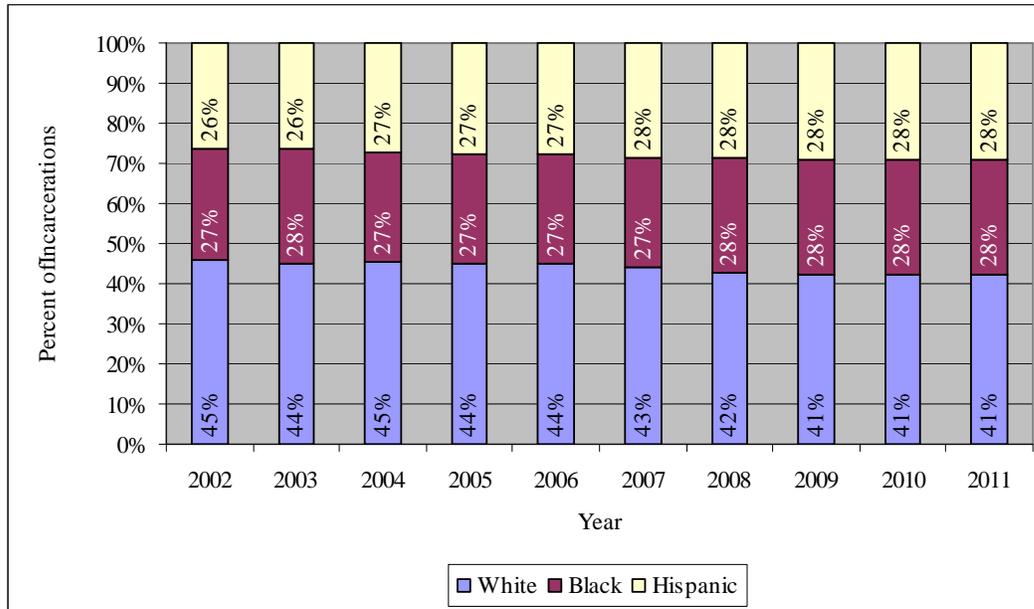
¹ Data snapshots were collected through the MA DOC Inmate Management System database. Each snapshot is taken on the first day of each year, and thus accounts for the total amount of criminally sentenced inmates incarcerated at that time within the MA DOC jurisdiction.

[Table 1] Ten-Year Trend of Race/Ethnicity (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)²

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
White	4,313	4,093	4,043	3,991	4,118	4,249	4,252	4,242	4,230	4,240
%	45%	44%	45%	44%	44%	43%	42%	41%	41%	41%
Black	2,630	2,543	2,449	2,386	2,555	2,665	2,804	2,932	2,894	2,906
%	27%	28%	27%	27%	27%	27%	28%	28%	28%	28%
Hispanic	2,491	2,443	2,411	2,444	2,568	2,689	2,867	2,937	2,887	2,816
%	26%	26%	27%	27%	27%	28%	28%	28%	28%	28%
Asian	110	98	105	104	111	108	116	128	139	133
%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
AI/NA	39	46	52	47	46	53	58	56	57	64
%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other	25	0	0	6	7	13	34	46	52	63
%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
NH/PI	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Total	9,610	9,223	9,060	8,979	9,405	9,778	10,132	10,342	10,259	10,222

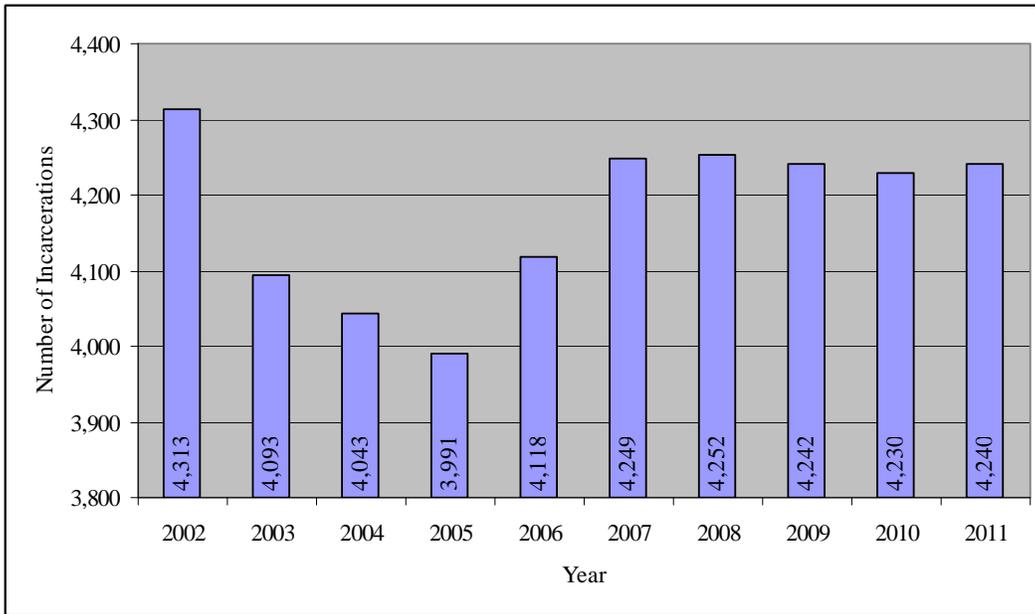
From 2002 to 2011, the majority of criminally sentenced offenders reported their race as White (43%), followed by Black (28%), Hispanic (27%), Asian (1%), AI/NA (<1%), Other (<1%), and NH/PI (<1%). During the ten-year trend, the number of Black and Hispanic offenders in the population was nearly equal, averaging 2,676 and 2,655 offenders respectively.

[Chart 2] Average Percentage of White, Black, and Hispanic Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



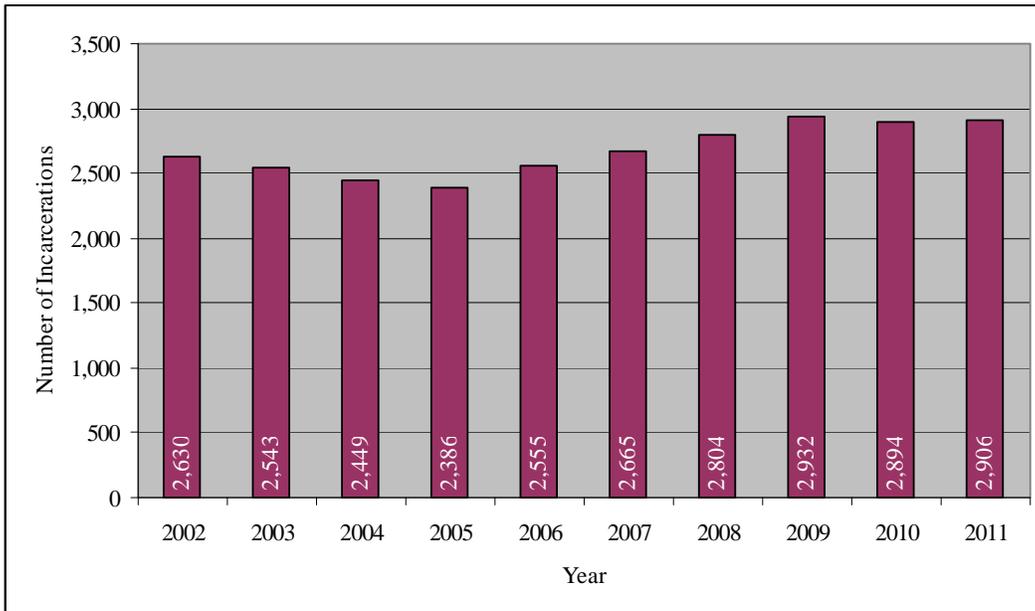
² Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

[Chart 3] Trend of White Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



The number of White individuals incarcerated in the MA DOC dropped from 2002 to 2005 by 7% (4,313 to 3,991), and then generally increased from 2006 to 2011. The highest peak of incarcerations was in 2002 with 4,313 White offenders, which represented 43% of the criminally sentenced population. While the number of White offenders was decreasing from 2002 to 2005, they continued to represent between 44% and 45% of the population during this time period. The proportion of white offenders amongst the criminally sentenced population has ranged from 45% in 2002 to 41% in 2011.

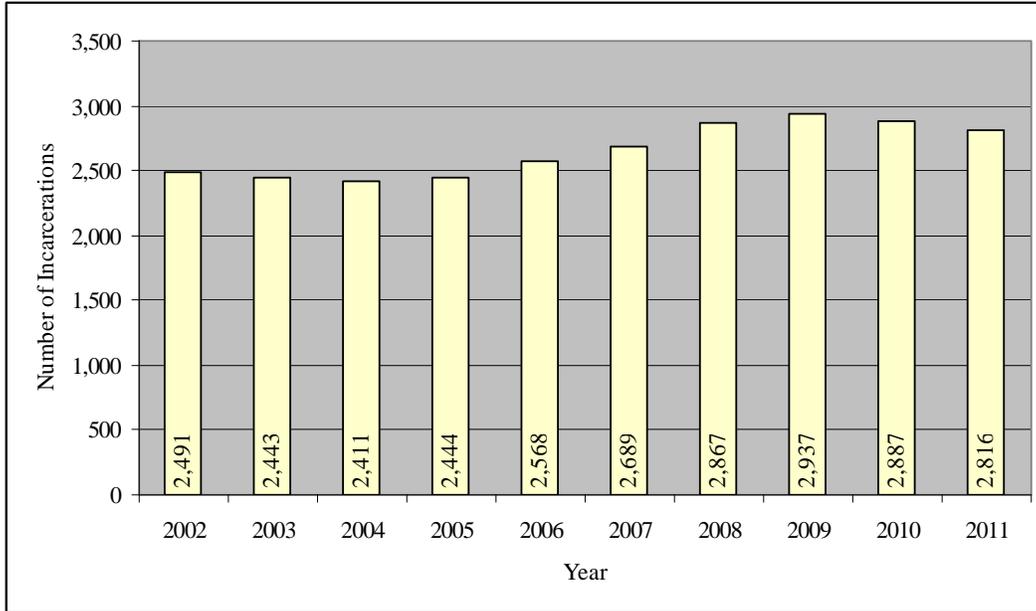
[Chart 4] Trend of Black Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



From 2002 to 2005, the number of Black offenders decreased by 9% from 2,630 in 2002 to 2,386 in 2005. However, the number of incarcerated Black offenders increased from 2005 to 2009

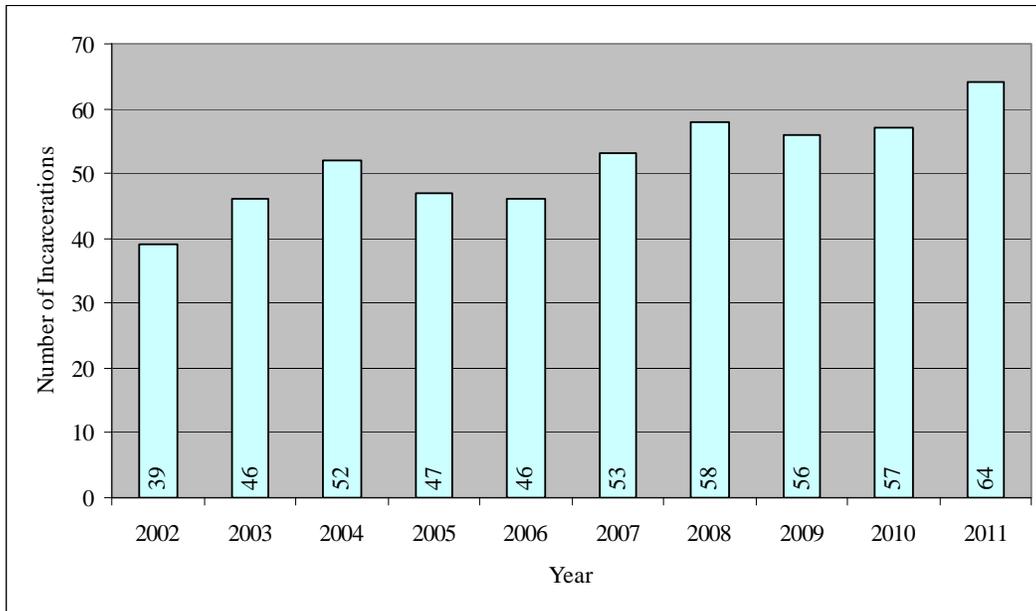
before leveling off. Black offenders as a percentage of the population remained between 27% and 28% throughout the trend period.

[Chart 5] Trend of Hispanic Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



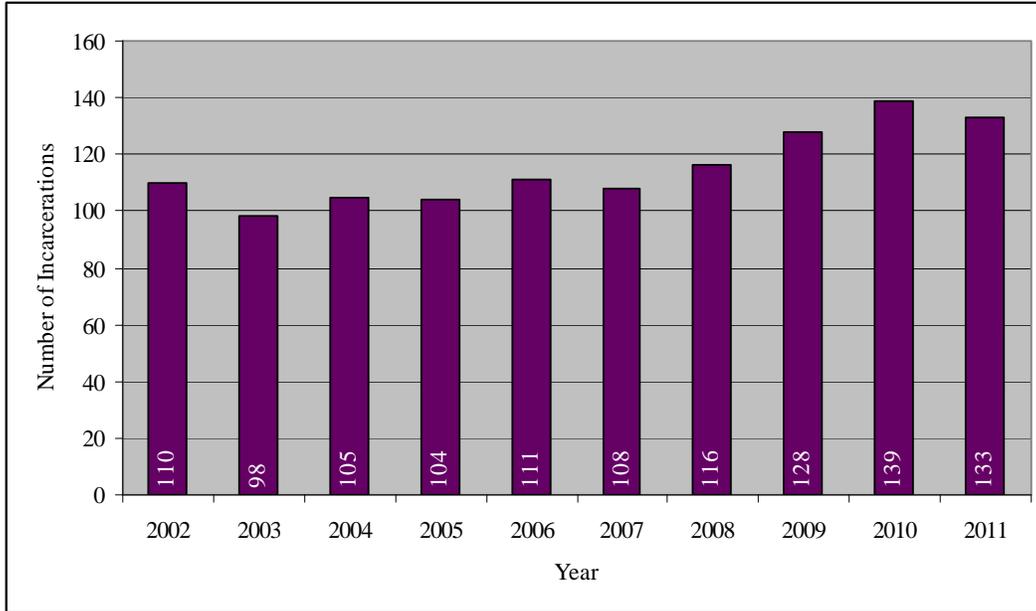
From 2002 to 2005, the number of Hispanic offenders within the MA DOC remained fairly constant, averaging 2,447, fluctuating between 2,411 and 2,491 offenders. The number of Hispanic offenders in the population rose from 2005 until 2009, where it reached its peak (2,937) then slightly fell for the next two years. Hispanic offenders increased from 26% of the population in 2002 to 28% in 2007 and for the duration of the trend period.

[Chart 6] Trend of American Indian/Native Alaskan Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



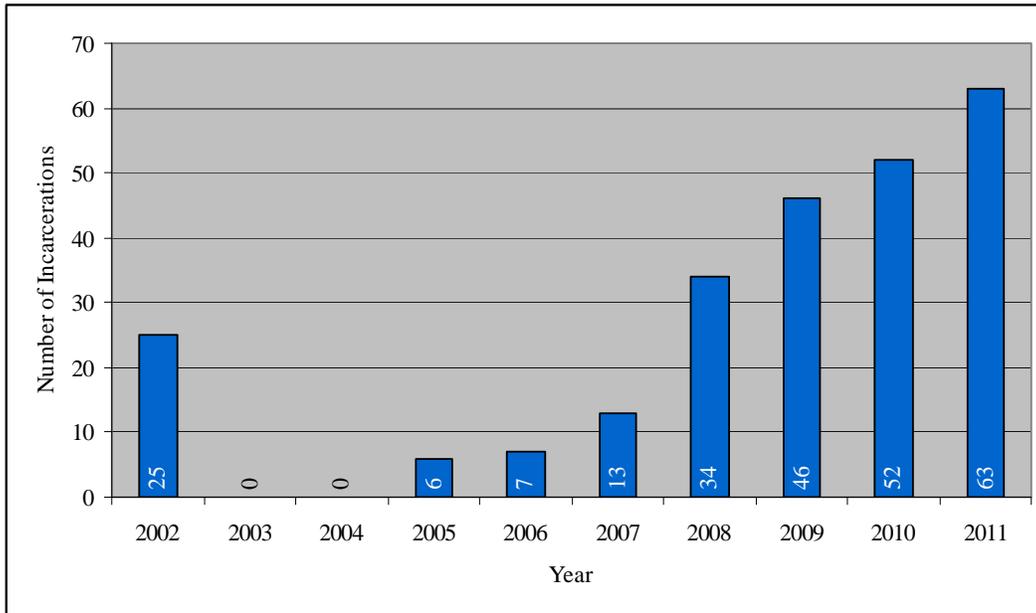
There were slight fluctuations in the ten-year trend of incarcerated American Indians/Native Alaskans (AI/NA). The number of incarcerated AI/NA offenders in the population generally increased throughout the ten years, where it eventually peaked in 2011 with 64 AI/NA offenders.

[Chart 7] Trend of Asian Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



The number of incarcerated Asian offenders averaged 107 between 2002 and 2008, peaking in 2010 with a total of 139 Asian offenders in the population.

[Chart 8] Trend of Other³ Offenders (Jan. 1, 2002 – Jan. 1, 2011)



There was a gradual 54% increase from 2005 to 2007, 6 to 13 incarcerations respectively. Self-reports then spiked 62% in 2008 (34 incarcerated) and rose until 2011 (63), increasing by 46%.

This brief was written and prepared by Crystal Park, Northeastern University Co-op Research Intern and Hollie Matthews, Research Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Correction. Any comments or questions can be addressed by e-mail: research@doc.state.ma.us. Copies of publications from the Office of Strategic Planning & Research can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/doc>.

Publication No. 12-118-DOC-01, 6pgs. - April, 2012
Authorized by: Ellen Bickelman, State Purchasing Agent

³ Other offenders include Individuals who identify themselves other than the six race/ethnicity categories used herein.