

Suffolk County – House of Corrections South Bay

Built to replace its antiquated predecessor on Deer Island, the Suffolk County House of Correction at South Bay opened on Dec. 26, 1991. The seven building facility houses adult male and female inmates convicted of crimes with a sentence of 2½ years or less. This decentralized, direct supervision correctional center is comprised of 27 separate housing units to which inmates are assigned in accordance with a comprehensive classification system. Following the opening of the House of Correction, the population steadily increased from 832 offenders to as high as 1,900 in 2000. On trend with national statistics, the House of Correction, over the last several years, has seen a decline in the number of offenders housed. The average daily population in 2015 was approximately 950.

During their incarceration, sentenced inmates have the opportunity to participate in a number of programs, which include: substance abuse programming, anger management, vocational training, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), educational courses ranging from basic literacy to college prep classes, job skills, parenting skills and reintegration programming. These programs are designed to prepare offenders for a successful reentry back into the community as well as hold them accountable and responsible for their past actions. Comprehensive Medical and mental health services are also provided to the offenders at the House of Correction. The medical and mental health providers ensure that the population at the House of Correction receive proper care as well as discharge planning services for continuity of care upon release.

Fast Facts

- Built in 1990 at a cost of \$115 million.
- 674 cells, 32 housing units, 1892 beds.
- Originally designed to accommodate 900 inmates, but has housed close to 2000 offenders.
- More than 20,000 medical appointments are held each year.
- The top three floors of the Main Tower hold our female population and the program areas dedicated for that population.
- More than 5000 meals are served in the modern kitchen facilities.

Are women and men kept in the same facilities?

Yes. The Suffolk County House of Correction houses both men and women. However, males and females are housed on separate floors and have no contact with one another while in the institution. Because of the decentralized nature of the facility, meals are served in housing units, and visit areas are separated to prevent contact between men and women.

Inmate uniforms:

The different color uniforms indicate the unit inmates are housed in.

How many inmates can be housed at the Suffolk County Jail or the House of Correction?

The Suffolk County Jail at Nashua Street was originally designed for 453 detainees, but today can house 682 detainees. The House of Correction was originally designed for 900 inmates, but its current capacity can house 1892 inmates.

What is the difference between the state prison and the house of correction?

The critical difference between state prison and the house of correction is the maximum sentence allowed for each institution. A sentence to the house of correction can never exceed two-and-one-half-years for a single offense. A sentence to the state prison can be for any term of years up to and including a life sentence. In either case, sentences cannot exceed the maximum penalty permitted for any specific crime in the Massachusetts General Laws.

What is the difference between the Jail and House of Correction?

The Suffolk County Jail houses pretrial male detainees. Males are housed there before their trials. The House of Correction (HOC) confines both pretrial and sentenced females and males who have been found guilty of a crime. Inmates at the HOC are serving sentences of less than two and a half years. The average sentence is 14 months

What's the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor in Massachusetts?

In Massachusetts, a convicted person can be sentenced to serve time either to state prison or in the county house of correction. If the crime you are accused of cannot be punished by a state prison sentence, it is a misdemeanor. If it includes a possible state prison sentence, it is a felony.

What is the difference between parole and probation?

In Massachusetts, as in other states, probation is a criminal sentence that is imposed after a conviction or plea agreement. As long as the convicted person obeys certain conditions, he or she is allowed to live in the community and avoid spending time in prison. Parole is more like a modification of a sentence. In other words, if a person is sentenced to prison and serves part of his sentence, parole allows him to go back into the community before his prison sentence is done. The conditions for parole are usually similar to those for probation: reporting to a probation officer, refraining from using drugs and alcohol, avoiding further criminal activity, etc.

Sources:

<https://www.serpaw.com>

<https://www.malawforum.com/content/parole-vs-probation-0>

<http://www.scsdma.org/faqs/>