



## Corrections Information Council | CIC

### Update on Covid-19 testing and early release data from the BOP

*Monday, March 8, 2021*

Since March 2020, the BOP has shared general information about the number of Covid-19 tests conducted in their institutions. The agency maintains a public dashboard updated daily with the number of tests completed, number of tests pending and the number of positive tests. The BOP also maintains a dashboard with information on the number of inmates and staff with positive tests, number of deaths, and number of inmates and staff who have “recovered” from Covid-19 at each facility. The BOP has recently added another dashboard with information on vaccine doses provided to staff and inmates at BOP facilities. All dashboards with Covid-19 related information are available at <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/>.

The BOP dashboards on Covid-19 do not provide data specific to DC individuals in BOP custody. When the CIC requested DC-specific information on Covid-19 tests and cases, the BOP instructed the CIC to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

On February 24, 2021, the CIC received updated information on tests conducted among DC individuals in the BOP as of September 24, 2020. The information is outdated due to the long processing time for FOIA requests.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Data on Covid Testing**

According to the BOP, as of September 24, 2020, 2,375 Covid-19 tests had been conducted for 1,066 DC individuals. 291 tests were pending, and 123 individuals received positive Covid-19 tests. The BOP stated that none of the Covid-19 related deaths in custody were DC individuals.

According to the most recent roster provided by the BOP, there are currently 3,184 DC individuals in BOP custody (including 139 individuals in halfway houses or on home confinement.) This suggests that more than half of the DC population in BOP custody had not been tested for Covid-19 as of late September 2020.

#### **Data on Releases from BOP Custody**

In late March 2020, the Attorney General instructed the BOP to prioritize granting home confinement to individuals as one tool in managing the Covid-19 pandemic. The CIC requested information on the

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<sup>1</sup> In April 2020, the CIC asked the BOP to provide information about completed tests, pending tests, and positive tests for DC residents specifically, as well as any deaths among DC residents in BOP custody. The request was forwarded to the BOP Office of Public Information.

In late May 2020 CIC representatives met with BOP leadership and asked if this information could be provided. Shortly after that meeting, BOP leadership shared some information on active Covid-19 cases and positive tests among the DC population.

The CIC continued to request updated information on the number of DC individuals impacted by Covid-19 during the summer of 2020. In September the CIC was informed that the Office of Public Information would not share these numbers and that the CIC should file a FOIA request for this information. The CIC did so, and an expedited processing request was granted on September 24, 2020.

number of individuals released to home confinement between March 2020 and September 2020. In response, the BOP provided two sets of data. The chart on the left reflects the number of individuals released from BOP to either a halfway house or home confinement. The chart on the right reflects the total number of individuals on home confinement during each month.

Potential overlap exists between the charts, since individuals approved for home confinement are released to a halfway house first and then transferred to home confinement over a period of days or weeks. Therefore, those individuals could be counted on both charts in the same month. Some individuals released to halfway houses that do not qualify for home confinement would only be reflected in the chart on the left. Also, the data on home confinement includes some individuals who were on home confinement prior to March 2020 and would only appear in the chart on the right. Periods of home confinement vary, and some individuals also could have finished their sentence of home confinement during this period.

The home confinement numbers do reflect a significant increase from 2019, when the number of individuals on home confinement ranged from three to eleven individuals between March and September.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of DC individuals released to community</b>
Mar-20	52
Apr-20	18
May-20	31
Jun-20	52
Jul-20	41
Aug-20	38

<b>Month</b>	<b>DC individuals on home confinement</b>
Mar-20	15
Apr-20	47
May-20	86
Jun-20	79
Jul-20	65
Aug-20	62
Sep-20	58

The CIC will continue to request updated information from the BOP about the number of DC individuals impacted by Covid-19, both in terms of testing, treatment, and vaccination, and the use of early release measures to reduce the overall prison population and allow for safer conditions for those who remain. The CIC also continues to survey DC residents in BOP custody about their personal experiences during the pandemic, including testing and treatment for Covid-19.