

BOC Findings: Young Adult Commingling & Summer Heat Conditions

September 14, 2020

BOC FINDINGS RE YOUNG ADULT COMMINGLING

- The proportion of young adults housed in young adult housing areas or in medical or specialized mental health housing areas fell by 11% between January 1st and August 1st, 2020, from 71% to 60%.
- 361 young adults were placed in comingled housing between January and June 2020. The Department's Comingling Determination reports included documentation for 94 young adults comingled during this period. Most comingling requests submitted to the Board cited violence as the reason for the request.
- The proportion of young adults housed in RNDC—DOC's young adult jail—increased in early 2020 and then fell sharply during the onset of the COVID-19 emergency in the jails. As of August 1st, 57% of young adults were housed in RNDC.
- Between January and July 2020:
 - The average daily population of young adults in DOC custody fell by 26%,
 - The average daily population of comingled young adults increased by 10%, and
 - The average daily population of young adults in restrictive housing units fell by 35% between January and July 2020.
- Between January 1st and April 10th, 18 programs were available to young adults housed across DOC's jails. Between May 1st and July 7th, only six in-person programs were available to young adults in DOC custody. Two of these in-person programs are workforce development programs which are only offered in GRVC, RMSC, and RNDC.

BOC FINDINGS RE SUMMER HEAT CONDITIONS

- The total population in DOC custody has decreased by 46%, from 7,342 to 3,944.
- In June 2020, there was an additional 137 beds in open, air-conditioned housing units compared to last summer.
- The total population held in non-air-conditioned housing has decreased by 64%, from 3,947 people in non-air-conditioned housing to 1,433.
- The total number of heat sensitive people in DOC custody has decreased by 47% from 1,929 heat sensitive people in custody to 1,013 .
- The total number of heat sensitive individuals housed in non-air-conditioned units has decreased by 73%, from 804 to 219.
- According to DOC, some heat-sensitive people cannot be moved to air-conditioned housing for security reasons (a “heat-sensitive override”), while others voluntarily refuse to move (a “refusal”). Refusals must be made to a Correctional Health physician.
 - Of the 219 heat-sensitive people not housed in air-conditioned housing units on June 30, 2020 specifically, 36 had a security override and 162 had a refusal. Twenty-two heat-sensitive people who were not in air-conditioned housing did not have an override request or refusal paperwork; of these individuals 15 were housed in cell units and 7 in dorm units.

BOC RECOMMENDATIONS RE SUMMER HEAT CONDITIONS

- **Increase out of-cell-time during high heat days;**
- **Move heat sensitive people to air-conditioned housing unless they refuse to move;**
- **Provide ice and water to DOC staff on post;**
- **Collect temperatures in non-air conditioned housing areas;**
- **Standardize the documentation necessary for a security override; and**
- **Begin planning to move all restrictive housing (including ESH) to air-conditioned housing by next summer.**