

Restrictive Housing Data Report

Fourth Quarter 2023



This brief report describes 1) characteristics of the population assigned to restrictive housing on December 31, 2023, and 2) trends in the average daily population and length of stay in restrictive housing from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2023.

Data Source(s). OMNI as of February 18, 2024

Population Snapshot

Individuals assigned to restrictive housing on December 31, 2023, are described by race and ethnicity, Security Threat Group (STG) status, and STG affiliation.

Race and ethnicity. Based on self-reported race and ethnicity data, there were no significant differences amongst racial and ethnic groups placed in administrative segregation or assigned maximum custody compared to their portion of the general population (Table 1).

Table 1. Composition of incarcerated populations by race & ethnicity on December 31, 2023.

Race and ethnicity	ADSEG		MAX		General	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
White	191	2.5%	122	1.6%	7,312	95.9%
Black	75	3.1%	34	1.4%	2,319	95.5%
Hispanic	71	3.3%	45	2.1%	2,058	94.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	38	3.9%	26	2.7%	902	93.4%
Asian	19	4.1%	1	0.2%	440	95.7%
Other	7	4.3%	3	1.9%	151	93.8%
Pacific Islander	5	2.3%	6	2.7%	210	95.0%
Total	406	2.9%	237	1.7%	13,392	95.4%

Security Threat Group (STG) status. STG members, affiliates, and suspects were nearly twice as likely to be placed in administrative segregation (4.3% vs 2.4%) and more than three times as likely to be assigned maximum custody (3.5% vs 1.0%) than people without an STG association.

Table 2. Composition of incarcerated populations by STG status on December 31, 2023.

STG member, suspect, or affiliate	ADSEG		MAX		General	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
No	240	2.4%	103	1.0%	9,840	96.6%
Yes*	166	4.3%	134	3.5%	3,552	92.2%
Total	406	2.9%	237	1.7%	13,392	95.4%

*<1% of the estimate's posterior distribution in the region of practical equivalence.

Security Threat Group affiliation. Table 3 describes the probabilities of major STG affiliations placed in administrative segregation, assigned to maximum custody, and the general population. Our analysis found that the White Supremacist group had a high probability of assignment to maximum custody (7.1%, i.e., 34 of 481).

Table 3. Composition of incarcerated populations by STG affiliation on December 31, 2023.

STG affiliation	ADSEG		MAX		General	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Sureño	42	4.9%	30	3.5%	786	91.6%
Crip	41	5.6%	13	1.8%	677	92.6%
White Supremacist	13	2.7%	34*	7.1%	434	90.2%
Blood	18	5.1%	14	4.0%	320	90.9%
Norteño	15	3.2%	15	3.2%	442	93.6%
Gangster Disciple	13	3.5%	7	1.9%	356	94.7%
Other	24	4.1%	21	3.6%	537	92.3%
Total	166	4.3%	134	3.5%	3,552	92.2%

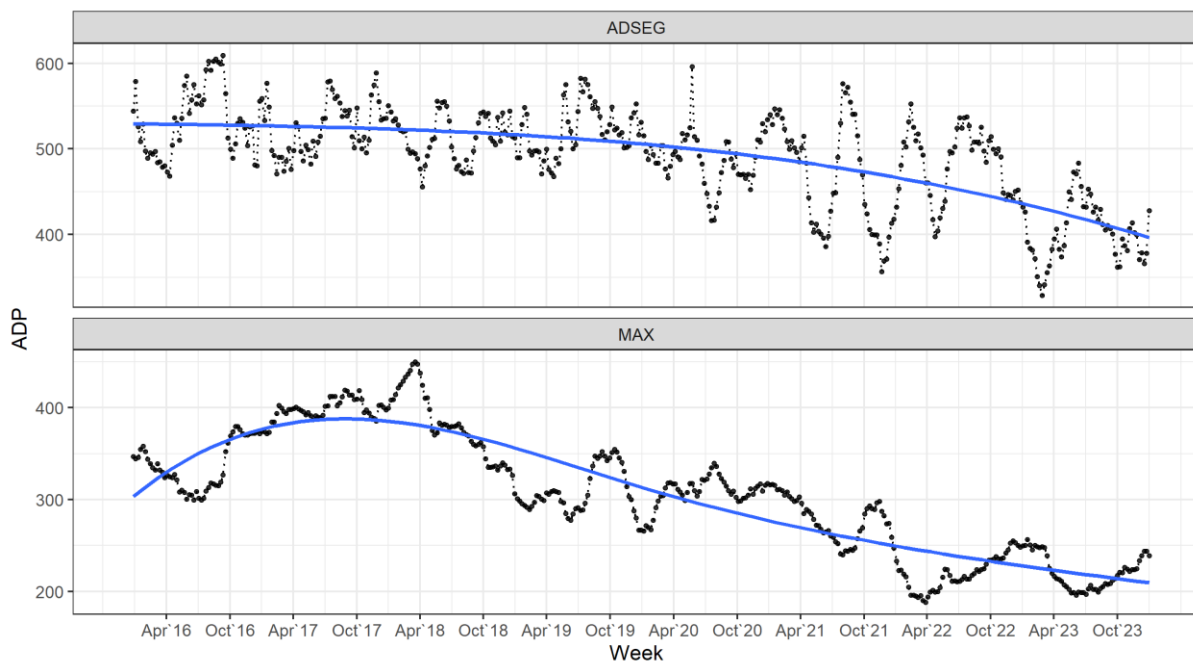
*A Bayes factor > 3 favors the hypothesis that group probability is greater than expected, given the overall probability for STGs.

Population Trends

Population trends are described for the average daily population over weekly periods (“weekly ADP”) and the average time spent in restrictive housing for the population exiting each month.

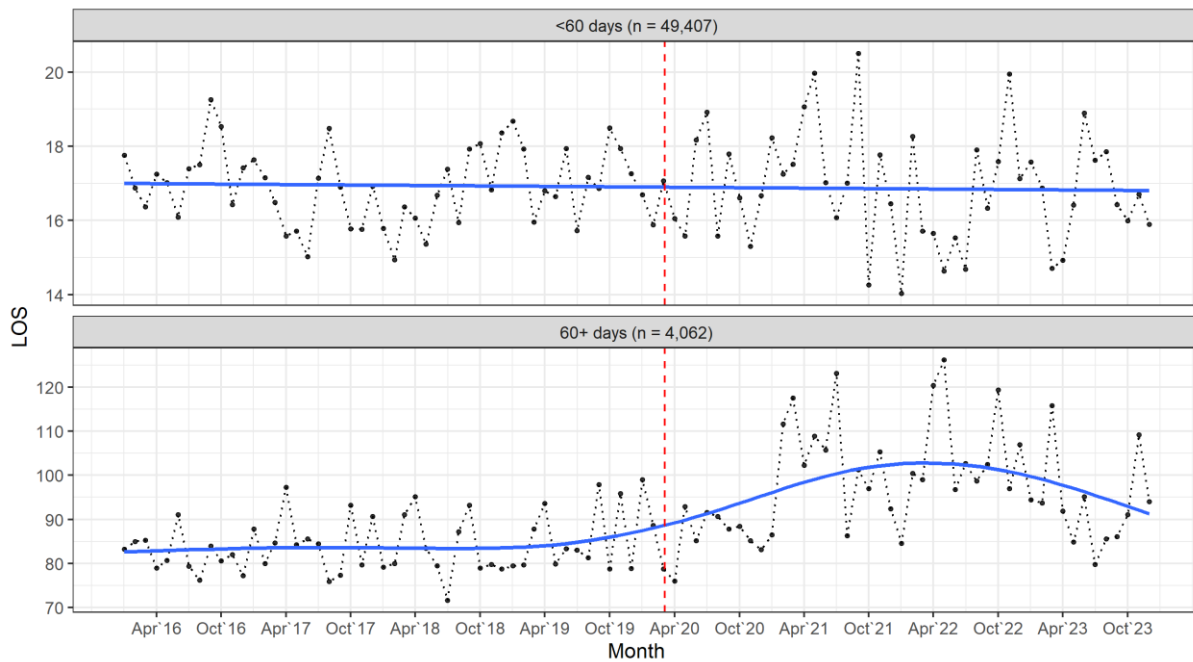
Weekly ADP. Figure 1 shows downward trends in overall weekly ADP since January 2016. In the Fourth quarter of 2023, administrative segregation ADP decreased to 385 compared to 467 in Q4 2022 (-18%), while weekly ADP in maximum custody decreased to 228 compared to 243 in Q4 2022 (-6%).

Figure 1. Trends in weekly ADP between 1/1/2016 and 12/31/2023.



Average time in restrictive housing. Figure 2 shows exits from administrative segregation after less than 60 days ($n = 49,407$) and after 60 days or more ($n = 4,062$). During the Fourth quarter of 2023, the average length of stay for people exiting after 60 days or more in administrative segregation increased to 98 days compared to pre-COVID levels of 83 days in Q4 2019 (+18%).

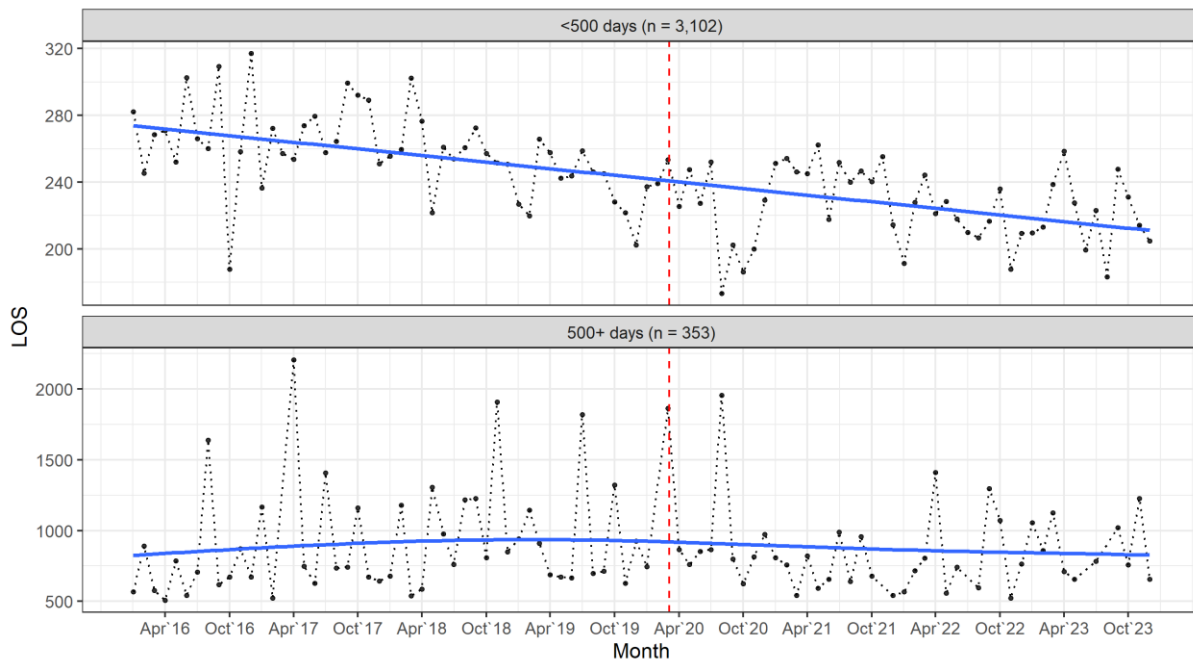
Figure 2. Administrative segregation average length of stay between 1/1/2016 and 12/31/2023.



NOTE: The red line indicates the opening of the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center on March 2, 2020.

Figure 3 shows maximum custody exits within 500 days of assignment ($n = 3,102$) and after 500 days or more ($n = 353$). In Q4 2023, the average length of stay among those exiting within 500 days was effectively unchanged from the previous year.

Figure 3. Maximum custody average length of stay between 1/1/2016 and 12/31/2023.



NOTE: The red line indicates the opening of the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center on March 2, 2020.

Table 4 shows the average days and number of individuals exiting administrative segregation in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity. Given the data, there was no indication of an association between length of stay in administrative segregation and race and ethnicity.

Table 4. Administrative segregation exits in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity	< 60 days				60+ days			
	N	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	n	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)
White	740	50.9%	16.6	13	29	52.7%	99.3	82
Black	267	18.4%	15.9	13	13	23.6%	98.5	79
Hispanic	232	15.9%	15.1	12.5	7	12.7%	100.1	84
American Indian or Alaska Native	125	8.6%	17.2	14	2	3.6%	112.5	112.5
Asian	44	3.0%	14.2	11	2	3.6%	71.0	71
Pacific Islander	35	2.4%	16.0	11	2	3.6%	81.0	81
Other	12	0.8%	17.3	11.5	-	0.0%	-	-
Total	1,455	100%	16.2	13	55	100%	98.0	80.0

Table 5 shows the average days and number of individuals exiting maximum custody in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity. Given the data, there was no indication of an association between length of stay in maximum custody and race and ethnicity.

Table 5. Maximum custody exits in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity	< 500 days				500+ days			
	N	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	n	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)
White	26	34.7%	203	187	7	58.3%	932	608
Hispanic	21	28.0%	226	187	1	8.3%	543	543
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	17.3%	187	169	2	16.7%	822	822
Black	10	13.3%	243	215	-	0.0%	-	-
Pacific Islander	3	4.0%	250	272	2	16.7%	1,032	1,032
Asian	2	2.7%	237	237	-	0.0%	-	-
Total	75	100%	215	190	12	100%	898	676

Methodology

This report uses data compiled from the Washington State Department of Corrections Offender Management Network Information (OMNI) system to analyze the characteristics and trends of the restrictive housing population.

In Tables 1 and 3, Bayesian inference of proportions was used to evaluate compositional differences in the administrative segregation and maximum custody populations relative to the general population. Significance was tested using a Bayes factor threshold of greater than 3.

Bayesian regression analysis was used to evaluate any associations between STG status and placement in administrative segregation or assignment to maximum custody, as shown in Table 2. Significance testing was based on a probability of direction greater than 95% and a percent in the range of practical equivalence of less than 1%. Using similar methods, Tables 4 and 5 evaluated any associations between race and ethnicity and length of stay in administrative segregation or maximum custody. Significance testing for Tables 4 and 5 needed to meet the same probability of direction requirement as Table 2 (>95%), but the threshold requirement for percent in the range of practical equivalence was less than 2.5%. The regression analysis used a logarithmic transformation of the length of stay variable.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 include a blue line that illustrates trends in the average daily population and the average length of stay for the administrative segregation and maximum custody populations. A generalized additive model was used to estimate the best-fit line representing changes in the average daily population and the average length of stay measures with respect to time.

Appendix A

Race and Ethnicity

Table A1. Composition of incarcerated populations by race & ethnicity on December 31, 2023.

Race and ethnicity	ADSEG			MAX			General		
	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %
White	191	2.5%	47.0%	122	1.6%	51.5%	7,312	95.9%	54.6%
Black	75	3.1%	18.5%	34	1.4%	14.3%	2,319	95.5%	17.3%
Hispanic	71	3.3%	17.5%	45	2.1%	19.0%	2,058	94.7%	15.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	38	3.9%	9.4%	26	2.7%	11.0%	902	93.4%	6.7%
Asian	19	4.1%	4.7%	1	0.2%	0.4%	440	95.7%	3.3%
Other	7	4.3%	1.7%	3	1.9%	1.3%	151	93.8%	1.1%
Pacific Islander	5	2.3%	1.2%	6	2.7%	2.5%	210	95.0%	1.6%
Total	406	2.9%	100%	237	1.7%	100%	13,392	95.4%	100%

Appendix B

Security Threat Group

Table B1. Composition of incarcerated populations by STG status on December 31, 2023.

STG member, suspect, or affiliate	ADSEG			MAX			General		
	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %
No	240	2.4%	59.1%	103	1.0%	43.5%	9,840	96.6%	73.5%
Yes*	166	4.3%	40.9%	134	3.5%	56.5%	3,552	92.2%	26.5%
Total	406	2.9%	100%	237	1.7%	100%	13,392	95.4%	100%

*<1% of the estimate's posterior distribution in the region of practical equivalence.

Table B2. Composition of incarcerated populations by STG affiliation on December 31, 2023.

STG affiliation	ADSEG			MAX			General		
	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %	<i>n</i>	Row %	Col %
Sureño	42	4.9%	25.3%	30	3.5%	22.4%	786	91.6%	22.1%
Crip	41	5.6%	24.7%	13	1.8%	9.7%	677	92.6%	19.1%
White Supremacist	13	2.7%	7.8%	34*	7.1%	25.4%	434	90.2%	12.2%
Blood	18	5.1%	10.8%	14	4.0%	10.4%	320	90.9%	9.0%
Norteño	15	3.2%	9.0%	15	3.2%	11.2%	442	93.6%	12.4%
Gangster Disciple	13	3.5%	7.8%	7	1.9%	5.2%	356	94.7%	10.0%
Other	24	4.1%	14.5%	21	3.6%	15.7%	537	92.3%	15.1%
Total	166	4.3%	100%	134	3.5%	100%	3,552	92.2%	100%

*A Bayes factor > 3 favors the hypothesis that group probability is greater than expected, given the overall probability for STGs.

Appendix C
Length of Stay

Table C1. Administrative segregation exits in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity	< 60 days				60+ days				Combined			
	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)
White	740	50.9%	16.6	13.0	29	52.7%	99.3	82.0	769	50.9%	19.7	13.0
Black	267	18.4%	15.9	13.0	13	23.6%	98.5	79.0	280	18.5%	19.7	14.0
Hispanic	232	15.9%	15.1	12.5	7	12.7%	100.1	84.0	239	15.8%	17.6	13.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	125	8.6%	17.2	14.0	2	3.6%	112.5	112.5	127	8.4%	18.7	14.0
Asian	44	3.0%	14.2	11.0	2	3.6%	71.0	71.0	46	3.0%	16.7	12.5
Pacific Islander	35	2.4%	16.0	11.0	2	3.6%	81.0	81.0	37	2.5%	19.5	14.0
Other	12	0.8%	17.3	11.5	-	0.0%	-	-	12	0.8%	17.3	11.5
Total	1,455	100%	16.2	13.0	55	100%	98.0	80.0	1,510	100%	19.2	13.0

Table C2. Maximum custody exits in the Fourth quarter of 2023 by race and ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity	< 500 days				500+ days				Combined			
	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)	<i>n</i>	%	Days (Avg)	Days (Mdn)
White	26	34.7%	203	187	7	58.3%	932	608	33	37.9%	358	227
Hispanic	21	28.0%	226	187	1	8.3%	543	543	22	25.3%	241	199
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	17.3%	187	169	2	16.7%	822	822	15	17.2%	272	181
Black	10	13.3%	243	215	-	0.0%	-	-	10	11.5%	243	215
Pacific Islander	3	4.0%	250	272	2	16.7%	1,032	1,032	5	5.7%	563	317
Asian	2	2.7%	237	237	-	0.0%	-	-	2	2.3%	237	237
Total	75	100%	215	190	12	100%	898	676	87	100%	309	219