

June 5, 2020

Analysis of COVID-19 Infection Rate in NYC Jails

Coronavirus Infection Rates as of June 5, 2020

Table 1¹

Locations:	COVID-19 Cases*	Population	Infection Rate	Infections/ 1,000 people
People in DOC Custody**	340	3,992	8.52%	85.17
DOC Staff	1,408	10,977	12.83%	128.27
DOC Total	1,748	14,969	11.68%	116.77
New York City	208,672	8,175,133	2.55%	25.53
New York State	376,208	19,440,469	1.94%	19.35
United States	1,837,803	331,002,651	0.56%	5.55
*last updated	June 10, 2020 (data as of June 5, 2020)			
** This is not the cumulative number of cases of people who have contracted COVID-19 while detained in NYC jails. See our daily analysis report for more information on the limitations of the data provided by the Department of Correction.				

The rate of infection among people who work for and who are incarcerated by the NYC DOC remains much higher than New York City, New York State, and the United States.

Table 2

NYC DOC Comparisons	
People in DOC Custody and DOC Staff have an infection rate X times higher than:	
	X
New York City	4.57
New York State	6.03
United States	21.03

¹ This number does not reflect the total number of people who have contracted COVID-19 while in DOC custody, as it does not include those who have been released, transferred, or who have died in DOC custody. The population of people in DOC custody changes daily, with an average of 46 people released per day and 24 people admitted per day since April 1, 2020. See Table 5. The Legal Aid Society has repeatedly requested the cumulative total of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 while in DOC custody. DOC and CHS have ignored this request.

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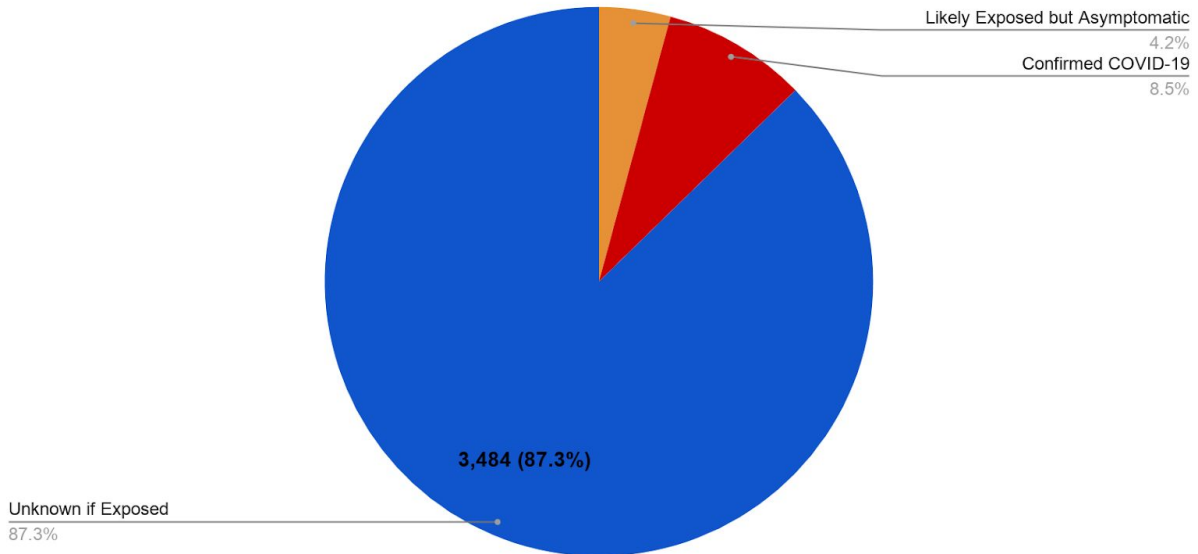
COVID-19 Exposure of Current Population in DOC Custody

Table 3

People in DOC Custody	
Likely Exposed but Asymptomatic	168
Confirmed COVID-19	340
Unknown if Exposed	3,484
Percent of Incarcerated Population Likely Exposed or Confirmed COVID-19	12.73%

Table 4

COVID-19 Exposure of Current Population in DOC Custody



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Turnover in NYC Jails

Table 5

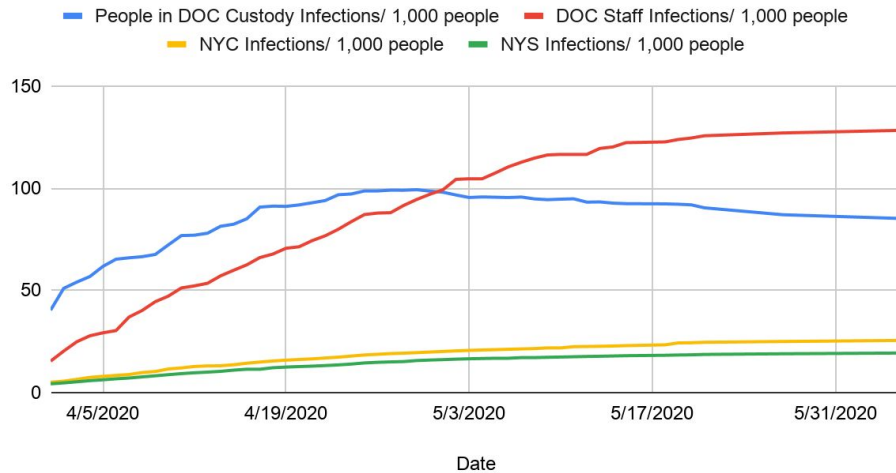
	Total	Average/ Day	Likely and Confirmed Exposed
Individuals Released from DOC custody since 4/1	2,323	40	1,042
Individuals Admitted to DOC custody since 4/1	1,690	28	758
Total Number of People in DOC Custody since 4/1/2020	6,315	4,014	2,833

More than 3,000 people were likely exposed to the virus while in DOC custody since April 1, 2020. This does not include DOC staff or community spread of people likely exposed when coming into contact with DOC staff or people released from DOC custody.

NYC DOC Infections Since April 1, 2020, Compared

Table 6

NYC DOC Infections Compared with NYC and New York State



The curve for people incarcerated by DOC may look like it is “flattening”, but this reflects the fact that the City is only reporting the number of COVID-19 positive people who are still in custody that day. As people with COVID-19 are released from DOC custody, new COVID-19 diagnoses are replacing those who have been released. On the other hand, the number of infections in the comparator populations - DOC staff, NYC, and New York State - are cumulative. Absent cumulative data from DOC, the rate of infections among DOC staff is likely a better proxy of the true rate of infections among those in DOC custody, as both populations are in frequent contact.

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Citations:

	Cases*	Population
NYC Jails (Rikers)	Board of Correction, Daily Covid-19 Update, Friday, June 5, 2020, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/News/covid-19/Public_Reports/Board%20of%20Correction%20Daily%20Public%20Report_6_05_2020.pdf	Board of Correction, Daily Covid-19 Update, Friday, June 5, 2020, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/News/covid-19/Public_Reports/Board%20of%20Correction%20Daily%20Public%20Report_6_05_2020.pdf
DOC Staff	Board of Correction, Daily Covid-19 Update, Friday, June 5, 2020, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/News/covid-19/Public_Reports/Board%20of%20Correction%20Daily%20Public%20Report_6_05_2020.pdf	Financial Plan Summary, Committee Report - Department of Correction (March 16, 2020), https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4325588&GUID=9749109F-57F3-4533-8F4E-1F377564D711&Options=&Search=
New York City	New York Coronavirus Map and Case Count, N.Y. Times (June 10, 2020 3:28 PM), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/new-york-coronavirus-cases.html	Worldometer, Main Cities by Population in the U.S.A., https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/us-population/ (last visited March 25, 2020).
New York State	New York Coronavirus Map and Case Count, N.Y. Times (June 10, 2020 3:28 PM), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/new-york-coronavirus-cases.html	World Population Review, New York Population 2020, https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/new-york-population/ (last visited March 25, 2020).
United States	Worldometer, Confirmed Cases and Deaths by Country, Territory, or Conveyance, https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries (last visited June 10, 2020, 3:28 PM).	Worldometer, Countries in the world by population (2020), https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/ (last visited March 25, 2020).

All data on COVID-19 among people in DOC custody and DOC staff is from the NYC Board of Correction and COVID-19 page, available online at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/boc/covid-19.page>.



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Data and updates available at: <https://legalaidnyc.org/covid-19-infection-tracking-in-nyc-jails/>