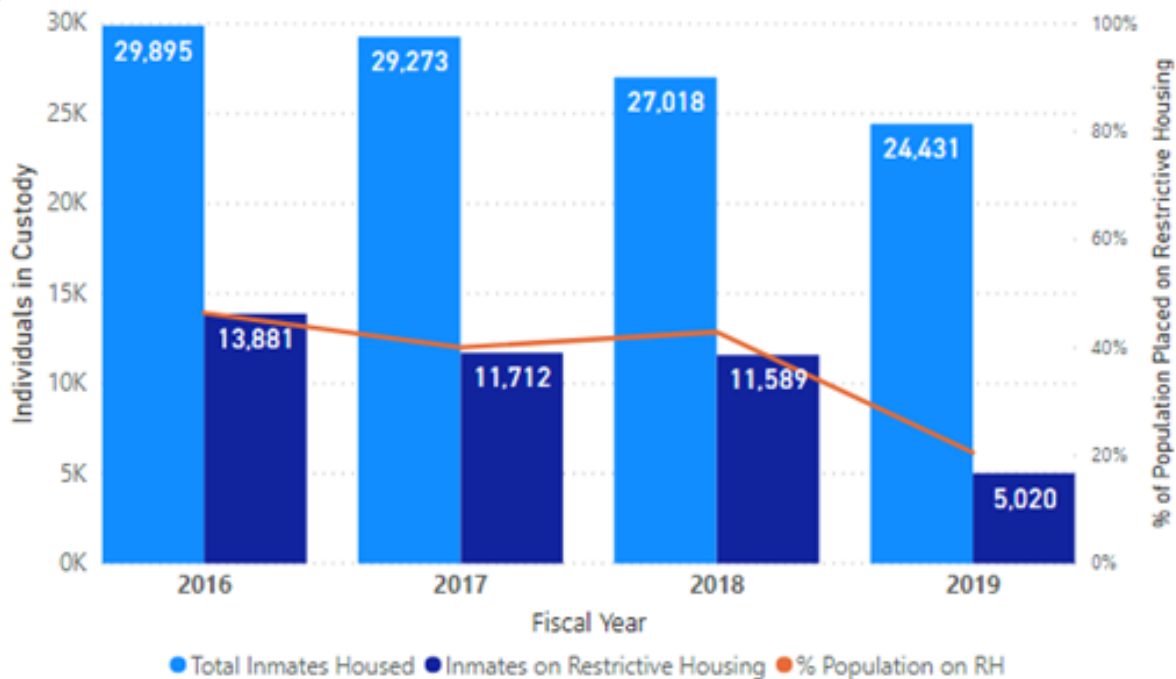




Restrictive Housing

Inmates on Restrictive Housing Since 2016



Restrictive housing placements fell in fiscal year 2019, including significant decreases in disciplinary housing.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) oversees an average daily statewide prison population of ~18,800, which has steadily decreased. The Department’s use of restrictive housing has decreased significantly in 2019, despite an increase in the proportion of individuals with a history of violence.

Maryland’s use of restrictive housing is moving toward national standards

Recent revisions to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) guiding restrictive housing were aligned with best practices in other states. Latest comparative figures from 2018 show that the percentage of Maryland’s incarcerated population in restrictive housing is within 2% of the national average. Planned ACA accreditation of all facilities within the Department’s control will bring all facilities into compliance with new performance-based outcomes that specifically target reducing extended restrictive housing.

Department-led reforms are decreasing restrictive housing

14%
decrease
in length

In fiscal year 2019, revisions to the inmate disciplinary matrix went into effect that lowered recommended duration length and eliminating consecutive placements. Since then, average restrictive housing placements are now 6 days shorter. This represents the largest single year decrease in length of placement, coinciding with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) revisions.

First-year impacts of COMAR reforms in 2019:

- Disciplinary segregation decreased for the **first time** since 2016
- **35% decrease** in individuals released to the community from restrictive housing
- **6.8% decrease** in disciplinary segregation
- 801 placements were for **<1 day** under the new guidelines
- Significantly lower suicides and suicidal gestures
- Overall decrease in placements of nearly 4%.

Fewer people are placed on restrictive housing than estimated

Improved data reporting identified that the actual number of inmates placed on restrictive housing is **less than half** of what was previously estimated. Fiscal year (FY) 2019 identified 5,020 individuals placed on restrictive housing, which is an impact on 20% of the individuals in the Department's custody over a year-long period. At its peak, less than 8% of the population was on restrictive housing at any point in time.

