# MEMORANDUM

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| **Date:** | November 11, 2026 |
| **To:** | Sotun Krouch and Alisha Gopaul, Roca Inc. |
| **From:** | Shelby Hickman, Chris Cutler, Kalani Johnson, and Cristina Layana Abt Global LLC |
| **Re:** | Incarceration and reincarceration among Roca Massachusetts Young Men's Program participants |

This report describes the rates of incarceration and reincarceration for young men participating in Roca Massachusetts sites at one, two, and three years after joining Roca.

## Key Takeaways

- **Less than one-third (27%) of young men joining Roca are incarcerated during the three-year program.**
- **Despite participants' significant histories of violence, incarceration for a violent offense after joining Roca remained low: among participants previously arraigned for a violent offense, 9% were incarcerated for a violent offense within one year and 19% within three years.**

## Data Analyzed

We analyzed data on young men participating in Roca Massachusetts from 2013-2025, and data on young men across the state involved in the criminal justice system. Our analysis drew on Roca's programmatic outcomes data and on state criminal history data sources provided by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services.

### *Data Sample for Incarceration Analysis*

For our analyses examining the incarceration rate among Roca participants, we began with a sample of young men who joined Roca between 2013 and 2024 for the Massachusetts sites.[1] We chose that sample to capture Roca participants for whom we would have at least one year of follow-up data. The median age in our sample was 21 years, and the total sample size was 2,115 young men (Table 1). The two- and three-year follow-ups have smaller sample sizes primarily because some of the young men in the sample had not been in Roca long enough to have two or three years of data.

**Table 1. Sample size of Roca participants for incarceration rate by follow-up**

| Follow-up time point | Sample size |
|---|---|
| One year | 2,115 |
| Two years | 1,971 |
| Three years | 1,804 |

[1] For purposes of these analyses, we use registration date as the date a young man "joins" Roca, becoming a "participant."

### *Data Sample for Reincarceration Analysis*

For our analyses comparing reincarceration rates, we began with a sample of Roca participants who had been released from incarceration in the past and a sample of all young men in Roca over the same periods. Table 2 shows all Roca participants by cohort (col b), and the number of Roca participants with a history of incarceration (col c).

**Table 2. Sample sizes of study participants with a history of incarceration by annual cohort**

| A<br>Cohort year [a] | B<br>All Roca participants | C<br>Roca participants with a history of incarceration |
|---|---|---|
| **2013** | 44 | 8 |
| **2014** | 178 | 87 |
| **2015** | 157 | 78 |
| **2016** | 230 | 106 |
| **2017** | 244 | 120 |
| **2018** | 275 | 115 |
| **2019** | 139 | 54 |
| **2020** | 131 | 56 |
| **2021** | 202 | 89 |
| **2022** | 204 | 65 |
| **2023** | 167 | 55 |
| **2024** | 144 | 46 |

## Findings in Detail

### *Incarceration Rates*

Among Roca's young men participants in Massachusetts, 13% (n=271) are incarcerated within one year of their registration date, 21% (n=417) within two years, and 27% (n=487) within three years (Table 3).

**Table 3. Incarceration for any offense among Roca participants after joining the program**

| Follow-up time point | Total sample | Incarcerated for any offense | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | N | N | % |
| **One year** | 2,115 | 271 | 12.8% |
| **Two years** | 1,971 | 417 | 21.2% |
| **Three years** | 1,804 | 487 | 27.0% |

Next, we examined incarceration for violent offenses, since reducing violence is a major focus of Roca's model and many Roca participants have a history of behavior involving violence. As shown in Table 4, among all Roca participants in Massachusetts, 6% (n=120) are incarcerated for a violent offense in their first year in the program, 10% (n=198) within two years, and 13% (n=241) within three years.

**Table 4. Incarceration for a violent offense among Roca Participants after joining the program**

| Follow-up time point | Total sample | Incarcerated for a violent offense | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | N | N | % |
| **One year** | 2,115 | 120 | 5.7% |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Two years** | 1,971 | 198 | 10.0% |
| **Three years** | 1,804 | 241 | 13.4% |

Figure 1 shows the proportion of Roca participants incarcerated for violent and non-violent crimes at each follow-up point. Most participants who were incarcerated after joining Roca were incarcerated for non-violent offenses. This is true at all three follow-up points.

**Figure 1. Proportion of Roca participants incarcerated for violent and non-violent offenses one, two, and three years after joining the program**




### *Incarceration Rates among Roca Participants with a History of Violent Behavior*

Prior arraignment for a violent crime is a significant predictor of future incarceration and future violent behavior. Prior to joining Roca, 77 percent of participants were arraigned for a violent offense. When we look at just those Roca participants for whom we have at least one-year of follow up data, 62 percent were arraigned for a violent offense. Of Roca participants who were previously arraigned for a violent offense, 18 percent are incarcerated for any offense in their first year in the program, 30 percent within two years, and 37 percent within three years, as shown in Table 5.

Again, even looking at those who do get incarcerated after joining Roca, most are not for a violent offense. Among all Roca participants who were previously arraigned for a violent offense, only nine percent are incarcerated for a violent offense in their first year in the program, 15 percent within two years, and 19 percent within three years.

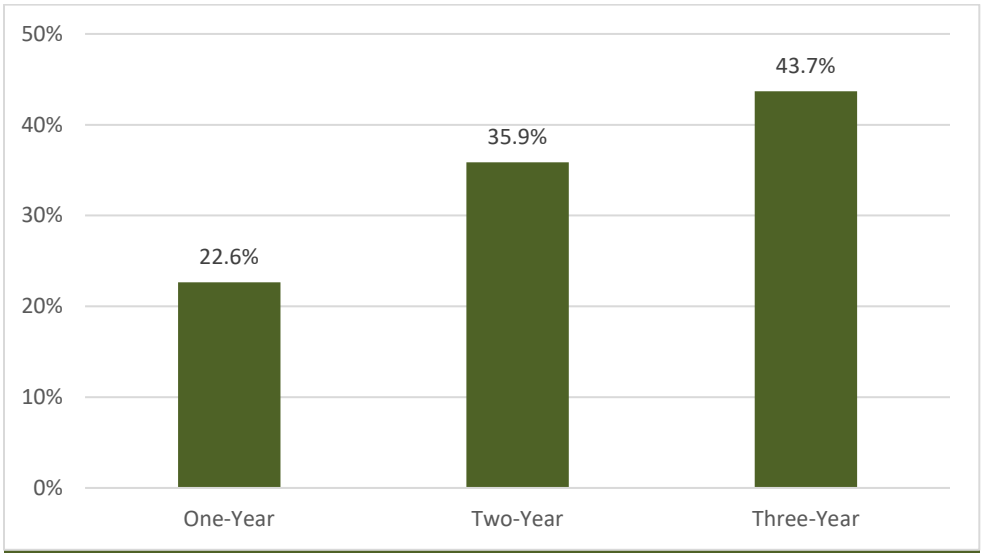
**Table 5. Incarceration among Roca participants arraigned for a violent crime prior to joining the program**

| Follow-up time point | Total sample | Incarcerated for any offense | | Incarcerated for violent offense | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | N | % | N | % |
| **One year** | 1,312 | 241 | 18.4% | 112 | 8.5% |
| **Two years** | 1,226 | 362 | 29.5% | 181 | 14.8% |
| **Three years** | 1,134 | 422 | 37.2% | 218 | 19.2% |

### *Reincarceration Rates*

We calculated reincarceration rates for the young men who had a history of incarceration prior to joining Roca. We limit our analyses to young men in the 2017-2022 cohorts, because this provides a recent sample for which we have three years of complete data. As shown in Figure 2, about 23 percent of participants recidivate in the first year, 36 percent within the first two years, and just under 44 percent by the third year of the program.

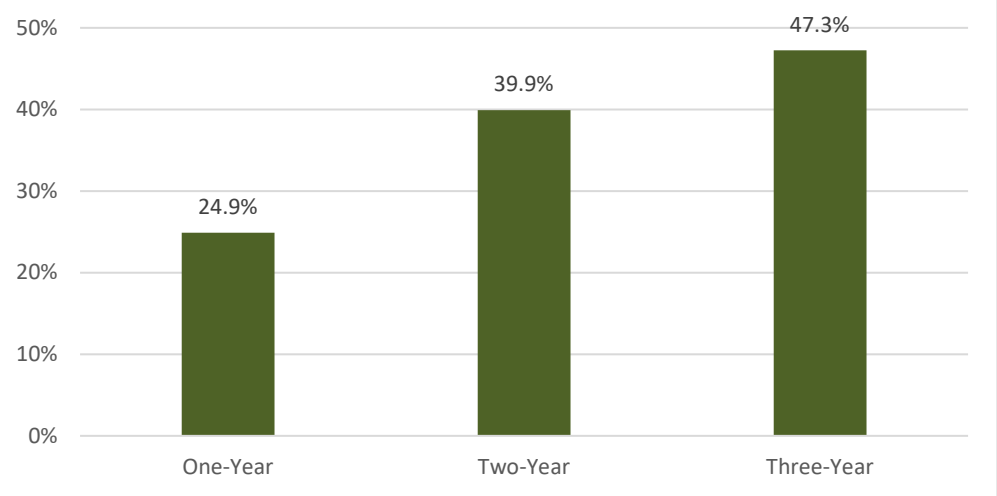
**Figure 2. One-, Two-, and Three- Year Reincarceration Rates, 2017-2022 Cohorts (N= 499)**



### *Reincarceration Rates among Roca Participants With a Prior Incarceration for a Violent Crime*

We also examined reincarceration for any offense among a subset of young men with a history of incarceration for a violent offense prior to joining Roca. As shown in Figure 3, there is a similar pattern as for the full sample, with about one-quarter reincarcerated in the first year and just under half reincarcerated by the third year.

**Figure 3. One-, Two-, and Three-year Reincarceration Rates for Participants with Prior Incarceration for a Violent Offense, 2017-2022 Cohorts (N=273)**




### *Reincarceration Rates by Year*

Table 6, below, summarizes reincarceration rates and violent reincarceration rates for Roca participants for each annual cohort 2013-2023. Roca reincarceration rates vary by cohort. Excluding the 2013 cohort which was small, for Roca participants who have been incarcerated for a violent offense prior to joining Roca (col D), reincarceration rates for another violent offense (col F) range from Four precent (2020 cohort) to 16.7% (2016, 2017 cohorts) in their first year in the program, from 11.0% (2014 cohort) to 29.2% within two years (2021 cohort), and from 18.5% (2014 cohort) to 43.8% (2021 cohort) within three years.

**Table 6. Reincarceration rates at one, two, and three years for Roca participants, 2013-2023 cohorts**

| Follow-up time point | Cohort | A Roca, Any prior inc. (N) | B Roca, any reinc. (N) | C Roca, any reinc. (%) | D Roca, prior inc. for violent offense (N) | E Roca, reinc. for violent offense (N) | F Roca, reinc. for violent offense (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| One year | 2013 | 8 | 0 | 0.0% | 4 | 0 | 0.0% |
| | 2014 | 87 | 14 | 16.1% | 54 | 4 | 7.4% |
| | 2015 | 78 | 18 | 23.1% | 48 | 7 | 14.6% |
| | 2016 | 106 | 34 | 32.1% | 66 | 11 | 16.7% |
| | 2017 | 120 | 28 | 23.3% | 72 | 12 | 16.7% |
| | 2018 | 115 | 29 | 25.2% | 60 | 8 | 13.3% |
| | 2019 | 54 | 14 | 25.9% | 33 | 5 | 15.2% |
| | 2020 | 56 | 9 | 16.1% | 25 | 1 | 4.0% |
| | 2021 | 89 | 21 | 23.6% | 48 | 7 | 14.6% |
| | 2022 | 65 | 12 | 18.5% | 35 | 4 | 11.4% |
| | 2023 | 55 | 10 | 18.2% | 31 | 3 | 9.7% |
| | 2024 | 46 | 10 | 21.7% | 21 | 1 | 4.8% |
| Two years | 2013 | 8 | 3 | 37.5% | 4 | 0 | 0.0% |
| | 2014 | 87 | 25 | 28.7% | 54 | 6 | 11.1% |
| | 2015 | 78 | 29 | 37.2% | 48 | 11 | 22.9% |
| | 2016 | 106 | 48 | 45.3% | 66 | 16 | 24.2% |
| | 2017 | 120 | 42 | 35.0% | 72 | 17 | 23.6% |
| | 2018 | 115 | 41 | 35.7% | 60 | 13 | 21.7% |
| | 2019 | 54 | 24 | 44.4% | 33 | 7 | 21.2% |
| | 2020 | 56 | 15 | 26.8% | 25 | 3 | 12.0% |
| | 2021 | 89 | 36 | 40.4% | 48 | 14 | 29.2% |
| | 2022 | 65 | 21 | 32.3% | 35 | 5 | 14.3% |
| | 2023 | 55 | 14 | 25.5% | 31 | 7 | 22.6% |
| Three years | 2013 | 8 | 4 | 50.% | 4 | 1 | 25.0% |
| | 2014 | 87 | 34 | 39.1% | 54 | 10 | 18.5% |
| | 2015 | 78 | 34 | 43.6% | 48 | 12 | 25.0% |
| | 2016 | 106 | 61 | 57.5% | 66 | 19 | 28.8% |
| | 2017 | 120 | 47 | 39.2% | 72 | 20 | 27.8% |
| | 2018 | 115 | 50 | 43.5% | 60 | 16 | 26.7% |
| | 2019 | 54 | 29 | 53.7% | 33 | 10 | 30.3% |
| | 2020 | 56 | 19 | 33.9% | 25 | 4 | 16.0% |
| | 2021 | 89 | 49 | 55.1% | 48 | 21 | 43.8% |
| | 2022 | 65 | 24 | 36.9% | 35 | 5 | 14.3% |

# Analytic Methods

### Incarceration Rates

We calculated the proportion of Roca participants who were incarcerated at one, two, and three years after joining Roca. We used program registration date as the Roca "join" date for eligible young men. In addition, we examined rates of incarceration for violent offenses among all Roca participants in our sample and among a subgroup of Roca participants in our sample who were arraigned for a violent offense (but not incarcerated) prior to joining Roca.

### Reincarceration Rates

We first calculated the proportion of Roca participants with a history of incarceration in Massachusetts prior to joining Roca who were reincarcerated after joining the program. Then, we calculated the proportion of Roca participants with a history of incarceration for a violent offense who were reincarcerated for any offense after joining the program.