



NEW MEXICO PRISON POPULATION FORECAST: FY 2022—FY 2032

Prepared by NMSC Staff

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In New Mexico and in the nation, prison populations began dropping several years ago, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further pushed down populations. From New Mexico's first positive case in March 2020 to present, the total population has continued to decline significantly. It is unclear whether the population will continue to decline as the pandemic subsides. Given such uncertainty, we will review our forecast on a regular basis.

New Mexico Trends

Males: High counts for male prison populations have been sharply decreasing since August 2018, the high point in the FY2019 population. To date in FY2022, the high count for the New Mexico male inmate population is anticipated to be 5,314 inmates.

The high counts for males in the past 5 years are:

FY2021 high count: 5,708 male inmates;
FY2020 high count: 6,331 male inmates;
FY2019 high count: 6,634 male inmates;
FY2018 high count: 6,616 male inmates;
FY2017 high count: 6,639 male inmates.

Females: The New Mexico female inmate population entered a period of decline beginning in 2019 following several years of steady growth. As of May 2022, female inmates comprise approximately 9% of the total prison population in the state. To date in FY2022, the high count for the female inmate population is 538 inmates, a significant drop compared to recent high counts. It should be noted, however, that projections for the next two fiscal years show a slight increase in the female inmate population, unlike with male inmates.

The high counts for females in the past 5 years are:

FY2021 high count: 607 female inmates;
FY2020 high count: 742 female inmates;
FY2019 high count: 794 female inmates;
FY2018 high count: 797 female inmates;
FY2017 high count: 764 female inmates.

Short-Term Forecast

Males:

- In FY 2023, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,058.
- In FY 2024, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 4,868.

Females:

- In FY 2023, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 550.
- In FY 2024, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 561.

National Trends

- The total U.S. sentenced prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,182,166 at the end of 2020, a decrease of over 14% from the previous year. The number of sentenced prisoners under federal jurisdiction fell 10% to 142,028 individuals; the number of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction fell almost 15% to 1,040,138 individuals.
- At the end of the year 2020, there were 315 incarcerated individuals sentenced under state jurisdiction per 100,000 residents nationwide. New Mexico's rate was lower at 258 individuals per 100,000 residents in the state.
- Imprisonment rates have fallen over the past decade (December 2010 to December 2020) for males, females, and all racial and ethnic groups. The imprisonment rates for Black, Hispanic, and Asian populations have dropped the most, each by more than 30%.

INTRODUCTION

This prison population forecast was prepared by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC). The forecast is designed to assist the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) in assessing immediate and future inmate populations and includes information that may be of interest to policy makers who are involved with the correctional system.

This report applies historical observations of prison population data to generate the figures included in the forecasts. The Sentencing Commission maintains a dataset of daily totals for male and female prisoners in New Mexico. Monthly high counts are extracted from those data to produce a complete sample spanning January 2001 to May 2022.

Many factors drive prison populations, including demographic trends, arrest rates, the number of criminal cases filed in district courts, conviction rates, the availability of diversion programs, sentence lengths, the availability of earned meritorious deductions, and inmates' readiness for release to parole. As new laws or policies may significantly affect the prison population, we recommend that long-term forecasts be produced regularly to reflect such changes.

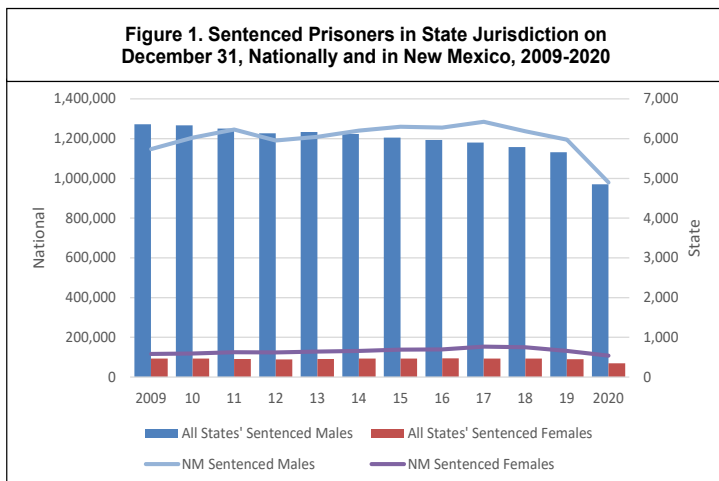
Time series forecasting examines historical prison population data by testing various model specifications and identifying the ones that fit the descriptive statistics of existing data most closely. We perform diagnostic checks to ensure that the selected models adequately explain trends in the data. We also understand trends through conversations with New Mexico Department of Corrections leadership and staff. These individuals check that projections

align with their experience on the ground, and they help interpret trends with their knowledge of the factors mentioned above, for example the Department’s practices regarding earned meritorious deductions or assessing and preparing inmates for release.

For males, we forecast deeper drops in the prison population into the 2030s compared to our recent reports. For females, we forecast a more moderate rise in the prison population. Declines spurred by releases during the COVID-19 pandemic could be temporary, but ongoing criminal justice reform, sentencing changes, and the expansion of diversion programs suggest that the prison population may continue to drop among males over the next decade. It is also unclear what effect the legalization of cannabis sales might have on the prison population going forward. We will continue to follow the changes in the prison population and update projections when necessary.

NATIONAL TRENDS

The United States Department of Justice annually publishes the “Prisoner” series which details trends in the U.S. prison population based on snapshot prisoner counts collected each December pursuant to the National Prisoner Statistics Program. Most information in the report refers to ‘Sentenced prisoners,’ or ‘Persons sentenced to more than one year under state or federal correctional authorities, usually felons’ (Carson 2021, p.4). The most recent report, Prisoners in 2020, reveals that there were 1,040,138 sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction at the end of 2020, a 15% decrease since 2019, the largest one-year drop since the Department began collecting data in 1926.¹ By gender, the number of male sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction has declined steadily from its peak of about 1,270,000 in 2009 to 970,000 in 2022, as seen in Figure 1. The number of female sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction has similarly dropped in recent years, from its recent peak of about 94,000 in 2016 to just under 70,000 in 2020.



NEW MEXICO TRENDS

Figure 1 also shows the number of sentenced prisoners on December 31 in New Mexico in state jurisdiction, with similar declines over time. In New Mexico, however, the

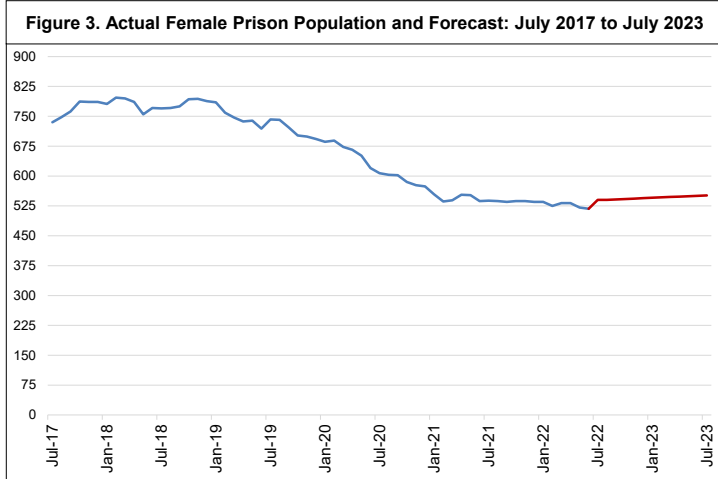
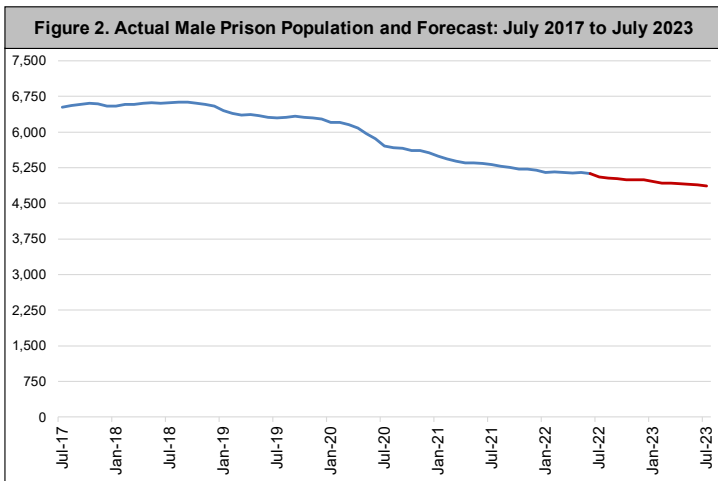
decline in the number of sentenced prisoners began later than in the nation as a whole. The recent peak for male sentenced prisoners was about 6,400 in 2017; that figure dropped to under 5,000 by 2020. Female sentenced prisoners also peaked in 2017 at almost 770, dropping to fewer than 540 by 2020. For both genders combined, in 2020 the New Mexico imprisonment rate was 258 sentenced state prisoners per 100,000 population, compared to 315 nationally (Carson 2020, 2021).

Looking at New Mexico prison populations in a different way, Table 1 reports male and female prison populations including those in both state and federal jurisdiction at the highest level within each fiscal year² since 2011. While the values and peak years are somewhat different, like Figure 1 we see a drop in prison populations for both men and women beginning in the later part of the 2010 decade, with especially large drops between FY2020 and FY2021. Table 1 also shows our projections through FY2032. We project the male prison population will continue to drop, although more gradually. On the other hand, we project the female prison population will rise at a gradual pace. Figures 2 and 3 show these data by monthly high counts for the truncated period between July 2017 and July 2023.

Table 1. Actual and Projected Prisoner Population High Counts in New Mexico, FY2011 to FY2032

Fiscal Year	Males		Females	
	High Count	Change	High Count	Change
2011	6,175	-0.0%	629	2.4%
2012	6,157	-0.3%	652	3.7%
2013	6,188	0.5%	660	1.2%
2014	6,344	2.5%	704	6.7%
2015	6,558	3.4%	782	11.1%
2016	6,727	2.6%	791	1.2%
2017	6,639	-1.3%	764	-3.4%
2018	6,616	-0.3%	797	4.3%
2019	6,634	0.3%	794	0.3%
2020	6,331	-4.6%	742	-6.5%
2021	5,708	-9.8%	607	-18.2%
2022	5,314	-6.9%	538	-11.4%
2023	5,058	-4.8%	550	2.2%
2024	4,868	-3.8%	561	2.0%
2025	4,722	-3.0%	571	1.8%
2026	4,600	-2.6%	580	1.6%
2027	4,495	-2.3%	587	1.2%
2028	4,412	-1.8%	594	1.2%
2029	4,344	-1.5%	600	1.0%
2030	4,291	-1.2%	605	0.8%
2031	4,247	-1.0%	610	0.8%
2032	4,208	-0.9%	614	0.7%

Note: Projections begin in FY23. However, the value for FY22 occurred before the end of FY22, and may therefore change in subsequent reports.



Male:

The high count for imprisoned males in FY2022³ occurred in July 2021 with 5,314 inmates, the first month of the fiscal year. The prior fiscal year, the high count was 5,708 individuals, also in July. Figure 2 indicates a consistently downward trend since August 2018, a trend that was particularly pronounced during the first part of the pandemic. Between FY2019 and FY2021, male inmate high counts decreased 14%.

An important consideration for prison population is operational or rated capacity, the total number of beds the New Mexico Department of Corrections can reasonably maintain given limitations such as staffing and maintenance. Currently, the capacity for male inmates is 6,994 beds,⁴ well above the FY2022 highest count of 5,314. The projected high counts for the coming fiscal years show continued decline, with 5,058 for FY2023 and 4,868 for FY2024.

Looking further ahead, the FY2032 projected high count for the male prison population is 4,208, just 60% of New Mexico’s current operational capacity for men. While it is not difficult to imagine that statutes, policies and practices upon which our current projections are based will have changed over the next ten years, long-term forecasts can contribute to discussions among policy makers and criminal justice professionals.

Female:

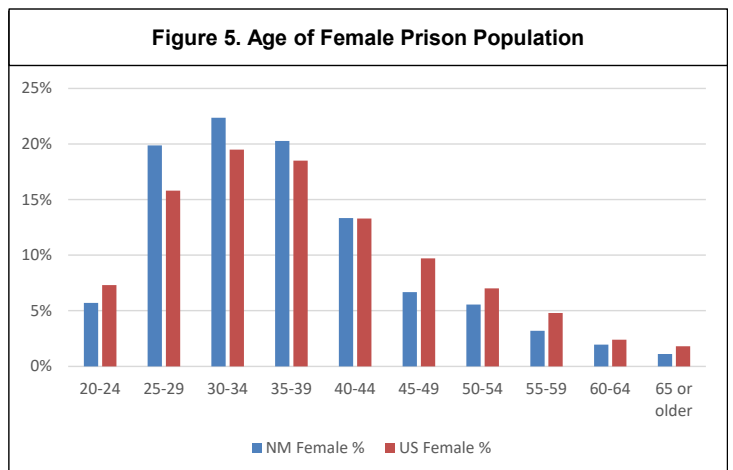
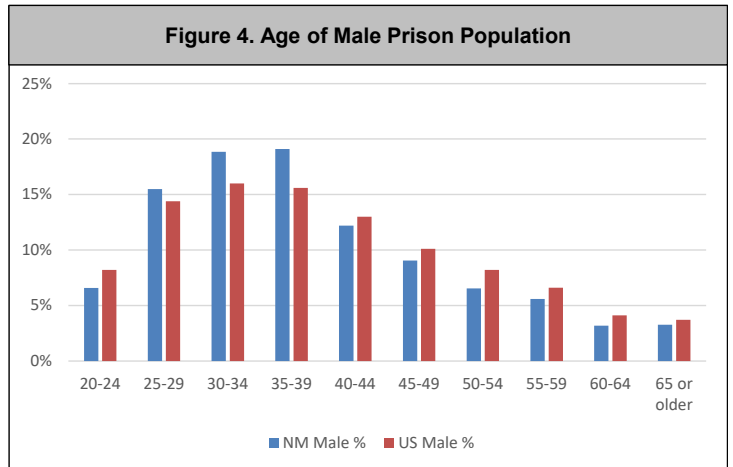
As seen in Table 1 and Figure 3, the female prison population has been trending downward since November 2018. As of the publication of this report, the high count for FY2022 is 538. This is a significant decrease from the maximum of 797 for FY2018 (in February 2018); the decline has been steady across this timespan. Between FY2018 and FY2022, female inmate high counts decreased 34%. It should be noted, however, that both the near-term and long-term forecasts for the female prison population shows a small increase.

The operational capacity for female inmates is currently 651 beds,⁵ above the FY2022 high count of 538 and expected high counts in FY2023 (550) and FY2024 (561).

In the long term, the ten-year projection out to FY2032, the projected female prison population is 614, 93% of the current operational capacity for the female population.⁶ As noted with the male long-term projection above, a projection over this time span is a guideline that should be used with caution.

PRISON POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Age



Figures 4 and 5 compare the national prisoner age demographics against those for institutions in New Mexico (Carson, 2021).⁷ The male prison population in New Mexico

is slightly younger than in the United States as a whole, with about 41% of male inmates being under 35 in New Mexico, compared to 39% nationally; and 19% of male inmates in New Mexico being 50 or older, compared to 23% nationally.

Both nationally and in the New Mexico, female inmates are generally younger than male inmates. In New Mexico, 48% of female inmates are under 35 compared to 41% of male inmates. Similarly, about 12% of female inmates in New Mexico are 50 or older, compared to 16% nationally.

Race and Ethnicity

Figure 6. New Admissions in FY2021 by Race/Ethnicity

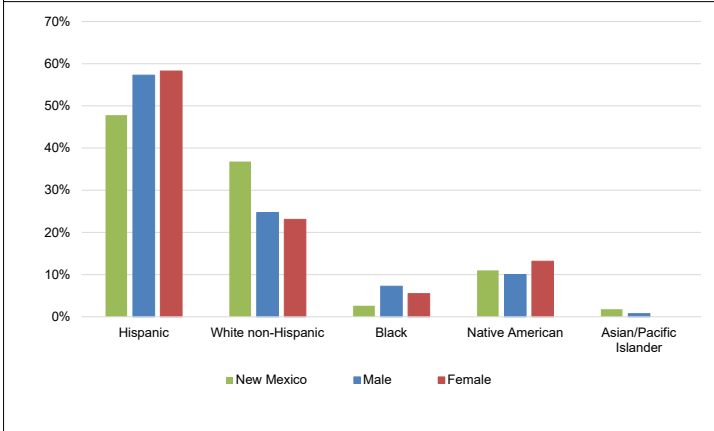


Figure 6 shows the percentage of new prison admissions in New Mexico in FY2022 by race and ethnicity.⁸ We use the categories Hispanic, White non-Hispanic, Black, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander. Across genders, the percentages of Hispanic and Black inmates are higher than in the state overall, while the percentages of White non-Hispanic detainees are lower. The percentage of Native American female inmates is higher than in the state, while the percentage of Native American male inmates is about the same as the overall state percentage. New Mexicans that are of Asian or Pacific Islander descent comprise less than 2% of the state population and less than 1% of prison inmates.⁹

ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Figure 7. Monthly Male Net Change (Admissions-Releases)

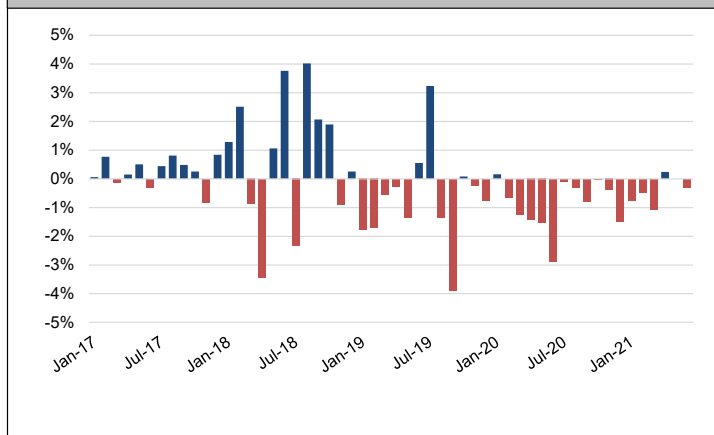


Figure 8. Monthly Female Net Change (Admissions-Releases)

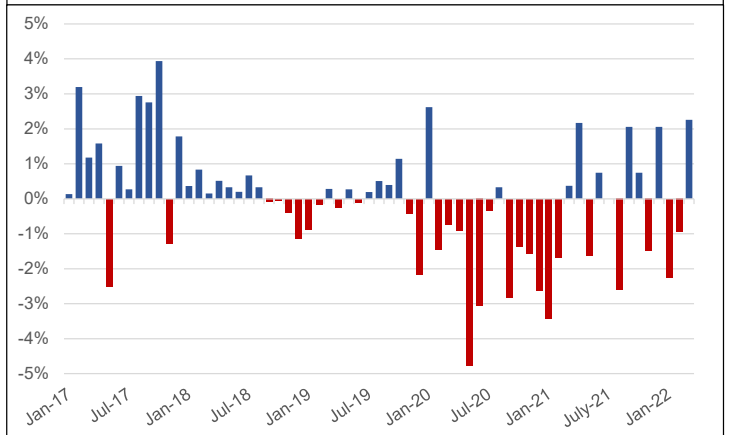


Figure 7 shows the relationship between admissions and releases for male inmates relative to the monthly high population for each month from January 2017 to March 2022. Positive percentages, represented in blue and above the centerline, indicate that there were more admissions than releases during the month. Negative percentages, in red and below the centerline, indicate that releases outpaced admissions during the month.

Historically, male admissions surpassed releases most of the time, but in recent years the opposite has been true. Since November 2018, New Mexico prisons has experienced a net loss in its male population nearly every month.

In Figure 8, the picture is more nuanced for the female prison population. Similar to males, from January 2017 through December 2018, female admissions outpaced releases most of the time. In the following year, there were moderate gains and losses in about equal number. In 2020, there was a net loss nearly every month. In 2021 and continuing in 2022, there are alternatively net losses and net gains; the overall tendency is hard to discern.¹⁰

New Admissions and Parole Admissions

Figure 9. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Males: FY2017 - FY2022

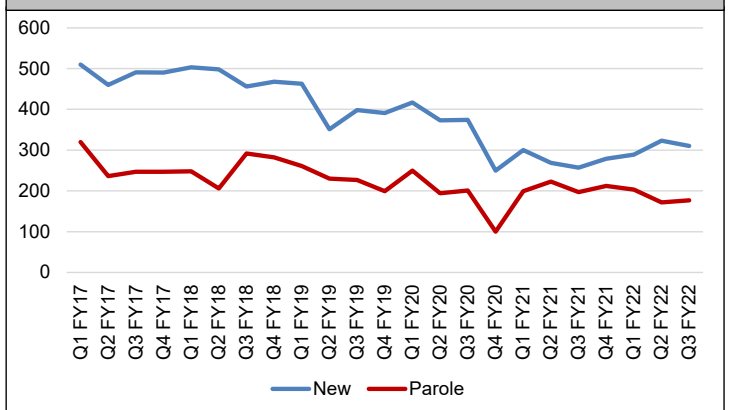
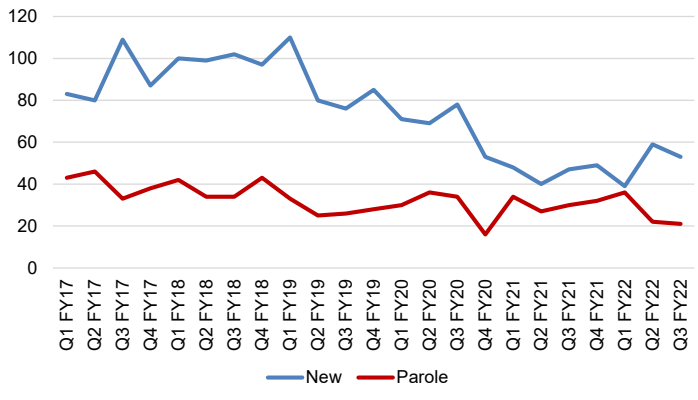


Figure 10. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Females: FY2017 - FY2022



Figures 9 and 10 identify trends between new and parole-related admissions for male and female inmates quarterly from FY2017 through most of FY2022. Admissions for new offenses outpace parole admissions throughout the time period for both sexes. In addition, the number of parolees admitted has dropped gently over the time period, while the drop among admissions for new offenses has been steeper.

New Admissions by Charge Type

Figure 11. Males New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY 2017-2021)

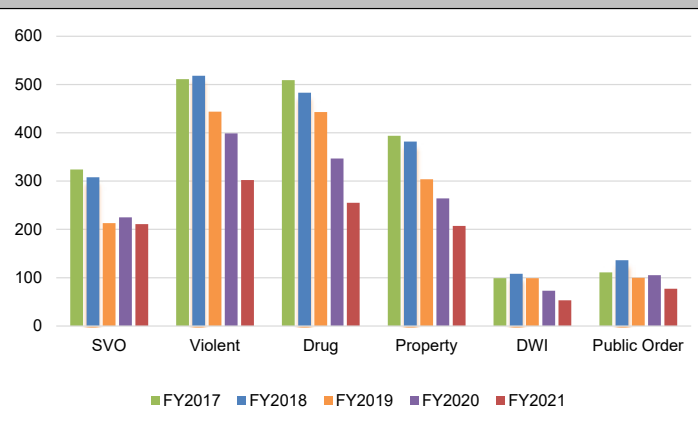


Figure 12. Females New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY2017-FY2021)

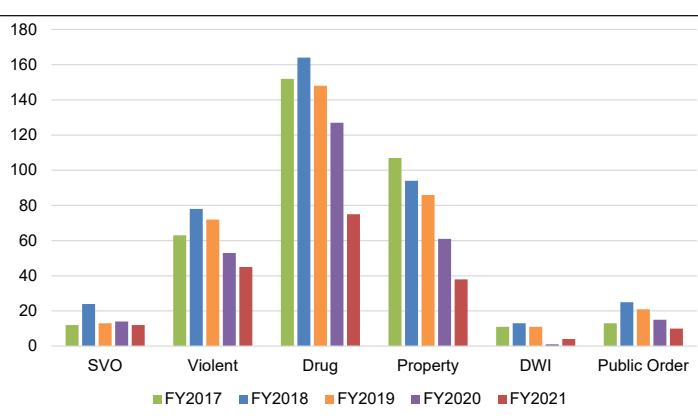


Figure 11 illustrates the number of new male admissions by charge type for FY2017 through FY2021.¹¹ Among males, the number of admissions due to drug, property, and DWI offenses have dropped nearly 50% in that time. Admissions due to public order offenses have dropped over 30%; those due to violent crime dropped over 40%. Admissions due to serious violent crime has similarly dropped 35%. Instead of a steady decrease over time as with the other charge types, admissions due to serious violent crime dropped heavily in FY2019 and has remained at about the same level since then.

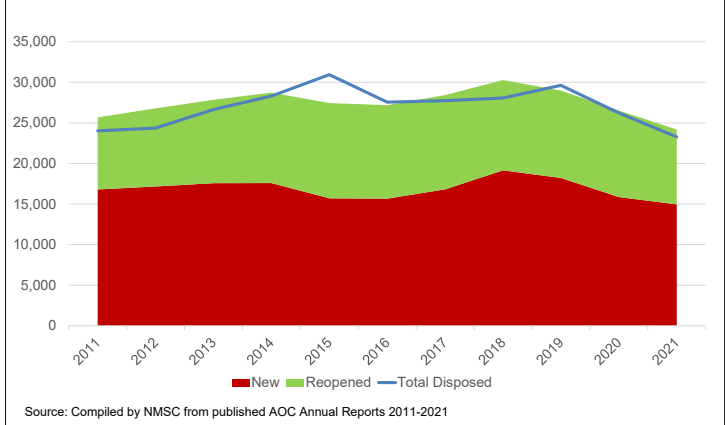
Among female detainees, admissions follow a similar pattern, with the number of admissions due to drug, property, and DWI offenses dropping over 50% in the five-year period. As depicted in Figure 12, admissions due to violent offences and public order offenses have each dropped almost 25%. Admissions due to serious violent crimes among women are rare and have not changed over the five-year period other than a one-time increase in FY2018.¹²

FACTORS INFLUENCING PRISON POPULATION

The continued downward trend in male and female prison populations nationally and in New Mexico is not completely understood. There are several possible factors in New Mexico that might be contributing to our state's decreasing prison population (with the caution that projections show a small uptick in the female population in coming years).

As seen in Figure 13 and Table 2, the state has experienced a recent decline in new filings for criminal cases, although it is unclear whether this decrease represents a continuing trend or normal variation. New filings have dropped from a high of over 19,000 in FY2018 to just under 15,000 in FY2021.¹³ COVID-19 likely played a role in part because jury trials were suspended during the height of the pandemic. It is unclear whether a reduction in filings represents a real reduction in crime.

Figure 13. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY2011-FY2021



Source: Compiled by NMSC from published AOC Annual Reports 2011-2021

Table 2. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2020

Fiscal Year	New	Reopened	Total New and Reopened	Total Disposed
2011	16,796	8,888	25,684	24,018
2012	17,169	9,616	26,785	24,365
2013	17,572	10,285	27,857	26,649
2014	17,591	11,140	28,731	28,304
2015	15,701	11,749	27,450	30,952
2016	15,665	11,519	27,184	27,549
2017	16,813	11,614	28,427	27,741
2018	19,152	11,125	30,277	28,069
2019	18,215	10,761	28,976	29,629
2020	15,859	10,667	26,526	26,224
2021	14,961	9,219	24,180	23,272

Other changes might be affecting prison populations. The number of law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) and other diversion programs around the state is growing. Felony drug court programs and other specialty courts established throughout New Mexico are not a direct diversion from prison in most cases, but successful participation in them may break the cycle of contact with the criminal justice system, preventing eventual imprisonment. Similarly, the state is working to enhance health outcomes for justice-involved individuals at risk for using opioids and reduce recidivism, as a member of the Texas Christian University hub funded through the National Institutes of Health Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on prison populations. The New Mexico Corrections Department has emphasized finding individuals eligible for early release, especially those over 60 who have pre-existing medical conditions. Additionally, the Probation and Parole Division is making efforts to avoid carceral solutions for technical violations.

Possible changes in prison programming and treatment programs during incarceration and in the handling of probation and parole violations may be decreasing the number of offenders returning to prison. For example, female prisoners who participated in educational programming are less likely to re-offend (Denman, 2015). The Corrections Department is working with the Pew-MacArthur Foundation and the Criminal Justice Institute to develop better programming for inmates and those on supervision. The department is also working to reduce the number of individuals serving parole while in prison. Additionally, the state passed legislation in 2019 (House Bill 342) that reduced the number of felony offenses that result in parole.

In 2019, possession of small amounts of marijuana and drug

paraphernalia was decriminalized in New Mexico. This effort was followed by the legalization of marijuana in 2021 (House Bill 2, Special Session). These changes may be starting to lessen convictions as well as the number of people returning to prison from violations of probation or parole.

Finally, as a state whose prison population and jail population are nearly equivalent, it may be that our criminal justice system increasingly favors incarceration in jails (which generally results in shorter length of stays) versus incarceration in prison.

Several research projects may help us understand fluctuations in prison populations, including the New Mexico Sentencing Commission's study of earned meritorious deductions; the Pew-MacArthur Foundation's Results First Initiative, a study of the cost effectiveness of programs that aim to reduce recidivism; the Correction Department's study of community supervision using COMPAS assessments; and better tracking of individuals through state criminal justice systems using the state identification number assigned to all offenders.

APPENDIX A

Appendix A contains tables and figures to supplement the Prison Population Forecast, as follows:

Table 3. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2022

Table 4. Male Population Projections, July 2022 to June 2032

Table 5. Female Population Projections, July 2022 to June 2032

Table 6. Male New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2017-2021

Table 7. Female New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2017-2021

Table 8. Male Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2017-2021

Table 9. Female Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2017-2021

Table 3. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2022						
Month/Year	Males			Females		
	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy
July-21	5,314	5,353	0.7%	538	549	2.1%
August-21	5,282	5,358	1.4%	537	549	2.3%
September-21	5,255	5,358	2.0%	535	550	2.8%
October-21	5,226	5,358	2.5%	537	547	1.9%
November-21	5,215	5,360	2.8%	537	546	1.6%
December-21	5,191	5,361	3.3%	535	547	2.3%
January-22	5,152	5,363	4.1%	535	551	3.1%
February-22	5,162	5,367	4.0%	525	552	5.2%
March-22	5,151	5,371	4.3%	532	553	4.0%
April-22	5,137	5,374	4.6%	532	554	4.1%
May-22	5,144	5,378	4.5%	521	555	6.5%
June-22	5,128	5,382	4.9%	518	556	7.2%

Table 4. Male Population Projections, July 2022 to June 2032											
Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
January	-	4,963	4,798	4,656	4,543	4,450	4,375	4,315	4,268	4,227	4,190
February	-	4,926	4,769	4,639	4,534	4,449	4,377	4,314	4,262	4,219	4,184
March	-	4,921	4,757	4,626	4,520	4,435	4,369	4,314	4,264	4,219	4,180
April	-	4,910	4,747	4,622	4,518	4,430	4,359	4,303	4,258	4,218	4,181
May	-	4,899	4,731	4,605	4,510	4,430	4,360	4,300	4,250	4,210	4,176
June	5,092	4,893	4,730	4,596	4,494	4,417	4,355	4,300	4,252	4,209	4,171
July	5,058	4,868	4,722	4,600	4,495	4,410	4,343	4,291	4,247	4,208	4,172
August	5,036	4,844	4,695	4,583	4,491	4,412	4,344	4,287	4,239	4,201	4,168
September	5,023	4,842	4,688	4,567	4,475	4,402	4,340	4,288	4,241	4,199	4,163
October	4,995	4,824	4,686	4,567	4,470	4,392	4,330	4,279	4,237	4,199	4,164
November	4,994	4,802	4,665	4,557	4,468	4,393	4,329	4,274	4,229	4,192	4,160
December	4,999	4,805	4,655	4,542	4,454	4,384	4,326	4,276	4,230	4,189	4,155

Table 5. Female Population Projections, July 2022 to June 2032											
Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
January	-	545	557	567	576	584	591	598	603	608	612
February	-	546	558	568	577	585	592	598	604	608	613
March	-	547	559	569	578	585	592	599	604	609	613
April	-	548	560	570	578	586	593	599	604	609	613
May	-	549	561	570	579	587	593	599	605	610	614
June	540	550	561	571	580	587	594	600	605	610	614
July	540	551	562	572	580	588	594	600	606	610	614
August	540	552	563	573	581	588	595	601	606	611	615
September	541	553	564	573	582	589	596	601	606	611	615
October	542	554	565	574	582	590	596	602	607	611	615
November	543	555	566	575	583	590	597	602	607	612	616
December	544	556	566	575	584	591	597	603	608	612	616

Table 6. Male New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2017-2021					
DA District	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
1	5.4%	3.9%	3.7%	5.2%	4.3%
2	29.8%	27.9%	21.7%	22.9%	20.9%
3	11.3%	13.1%	11.6%	10.5%	5.3%
4	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%
5	14.0%	14.6%	14.5%	12.9%	13.0%
6	3.9%	2.9%	3.9%	4.3%	5.2%
7	3.8%	3.2%	3.8%	3.7%	2.7%
8	1.7%	1.5%	1.8%	3.3%	3.8%
9	7.1%	8.5%	9.0%	7.8%	11.9%
10	0.9%	1.6%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
11 Division I	6.7%	6.8%	8.1%	7.5%	8.9%
11 Division II	1.1%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.3%
12	8.8%	8.4%	10.3%	11.0%	11.0%
13	3.0%	4.6%	5.6%	5.8%	6.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7. Female New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2017-2021					
DA District	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
1	3.0%	2.5%	2.6%	4.1%	3.8%
2	28.9%	21.6%	12.8%	19.6%	9.2%
3	11.9%	17.1%	14.2%	10.7%	10.3%
4	2.7%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%
5	17.3%	19.6%	18.8%	12.2%	12.5%
6	4.2%	1.3%	5.4%	3.0%	3.8%
7	2.4%	3.8%	4.6%	5.9%	6.5%
8	0.9%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	5.4%
9	7.4%	9.8%	9.7%	9.2%	12.5%
10	0.6%	2.8%	2.3%	2.2%	1.6%
11 Division I	6.8%	3.0%	5.4%	5.5%	10.9%
11 Division II	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%
12	10.4%	12.3%	16.0%	17.7%	15.2%
13	3.6%	2.8%	4.8%	6.6%	7.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8. Male Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2017-2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Violent Crimes					
SVO	324	308	213	225	211
Sex Crime	48	43	46	51	36
Assault and Battery	234	256	192	179	130
Other Violent*	228	219	206	169	136
Property Crimes					
Burglary	164	145	118	96	78
Other Property*	228	237	186	168	129
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	209	186	176	110	99
Drug Possession	300	297	267	237	156
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	99	108	99	73	53
Other Public Order*	110	136	100	105	77
Other					
Parole	1,050	1,028	917	745	831
Other Admissions*	323	237	201	157	93
Total	3,317	3,200	2,721	2,315	2,029
*These categories include, but are not limited to the following: Other Violent: kidnapping, robbery, and child abuse Other Property: larceny, arson, and fraud Other Public Order: possession of weapon by felon, bribery of witness, and escape from custody Other Admission Types: probation, diagnostic					

Table 9. Female Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2017-2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Violent Crimes					
SVO	12	24	13	14	12
Sex Crime	1	1	1	1	-
Assault and Battery	17	26	22	14	11
Other Violent*	45	51	49	38	34
Property Crimes					
Burglary	29	22	26	19	10
Other Property*	77	72	59	42	28
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	65	65	51	46	26
Drug Possession	87	99	97	81	49
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	11	13	11	1	4
Other Public Order*	12	25	22	14	10
Other					
Parole	160	153	112	116	123
Other Admissions*	78	71	60	35	19
Total	594	622	523	421	326
*These categories include, but are not limited to the following: Other Violent: kidnapping, robbery, and child abuse Other Property: larceny, arson, and fraud Other Public Order: possession of weapon by felon, bribery of witness, and escape from custody Other Admission Types: probation, diagnostic					

APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY

This report applies historical observations of prison population data to generate the figures included in the forecasts. The New Mexico Sentencing Commission maintains a dataset of daily totals for male and female prisoners in New Mexico. Monthly high counts are extracted from those data to produce a complete sample spanning January 2001 to the current month.

For these forecasts, we compared various Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) model projections to historical prison population data, selecting the specifications that fit our data best in terms of its descriptive statistics. Historical observations in male and female datasets are differenced once to induce stationarity (in other words, to eliminate seasonal trends). Male and female forecasts are modeled separately. Autocorrelation functions are applied to determine autoregressive (AR) and moving average (MA) terms.

Among males, the current forecast captures that trend with a historical sample that begins in August 2017 and ends in May 2022. The AR and MA terms were specified as AR(1) and MA(1, 9). The female forecast sample begins in January 2011 and ends in May 2022. The AR and MA terms were specified as AR(1) and a MA(8).

ENDNOTES

1. Our local data below, beginning with Table 1, include all detainees in New Mexico prisons, including those in federal jurisdiction. The Prisoner series includes information about detainees in federal jurisdiction in the nation overall; but such detainees are not included in state-level counts. For the sake of comparison, then, we include only detainees in state jurisdiction in the text above and in Figure 1, which rely on information in the Prisoner series. On December 31, 2020, the number of sentenced prisoners in state and federal jurisdictions combined nationwide was 1,182,166, a drop from 1,379,786 in 2019 (-14%). Nationally in 2020, there were about seven sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction for every one sentenced prisoner in federal jurisdiction.

2. Fiscal years for State of New Mexico entities begin July 1 of the previous calendar year.

3. At time of print, our data are available only through May 2022; the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2022.

4. Across the facilities the capacities for male inmates are as follows: 1,293 beds at the Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs (Private); 1,231 at Central New Mexico Correctional Facility (Los Lunas); 864 at the Penitentiary of New Mexico (Santa Fe); 768 at Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility (Las Cruces); 673 at Northwestern New Mexico Prison Facility in Grants (Private); 628 at Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility in Clayton; 607 at Otero County Prison Facility (Chaparral, Private); 590 at Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (Santa Rosa, Private); and 340 at the Roswell Correctional Center.

5. The capacity for female inmates is 353 beds at Western New Mexico Correctional Facility (Grants) and 298 in Springer Correctional Center.

6. See Tables 3-5 in Appendix A for more detailed information regarding FY2022 high counts and future projections.

7. Figures 4 and 5 represent detained individuals at a single point in time. For New Mexico, the individuals represented are prison detainees on June 30, 2020. For the United States, the individuals are prison detainees on December 31, 2020.

8. FY2021 is the most recent year for which we have inmate race and ethnicity information.

9. These racial and ethnic discrepancies are similar to those in the nation as a whole, at least among males. The imprisonment rates of Black, American Indian, and Hispanic males is much higher than that of non-Hispanic White and especially Asian males. Nationally, the imprisonment rate of Native American females is much higher than that of any other racial or ethnic group. The imprisonment rate of Black females is somewhat higher than that of Hispanic and non-Hispanic White females; the rates for Hispanic and non-Hispanic White females are similar. The imprisonment rate of Asian females is extremely low (Carson, 2021).

10. See Tables 6 and 7 in Appendix A for more detailed information regarding prison admissions by judicial district.

11. FY2021 is the most recent year for which we have charge type information.

12. See Tables 8 and 9 in Appendix A for more detailed information regarding prison admissions by judicial district.

13. FY2021 is the most recent year for which we have information regarding filings.

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