NEW MEXICO PRISON POPULATION FORECAST:
FY 2023—FY 2033

Prepared by NMSC Staff

August 2023

In New Mexico and in the nation, prison populations began to decline several years ago. However, it was the COVID-19 pandemic that was largely responsible for the significant decline in total population, from 2020 to present. The prison population is expected to continue to drop for a few years and grow thereafter, but is not likely to reach its pre-pandemic population even a decade from now.

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 FY2023, the high count for the New Mexico male inmate population is anticipated to be 5,166 inmates.

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

FY2022 high count: 5,314 male inmates.
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.

Females: The New Mexico female inmate population entered a period of decline beginning in 2019 following several years of steady growth. As of May 2023, female inmates comprise approximately 9% of the total prison population in the state, unchanged from the previous year. To date in FY2023, the high count for the female inmate population is 523 inmates, a significant drop compared to recent high counts. The female population will continue to decline, but is expected to begin rising within a few years at a modest rate.

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

FY2022 high count: 538 female inmates;
FY2021 high count: 607 female inmates;
FY2020 high count: 742 female inmates;
FY2019 high count: 794 female inmates;
FY2018 high count: 797 female inmates.

Short-Term Forecast

Males:
- In FY 2024, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 4,957.
- In FY 2025, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 4,815.

Females:
- In FY 2024, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 512.
- In FY 2025, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 514.

National Trends

- The total U.S. sentenced prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,163,665 at the end of 2021, a decrease of under 2% from the previous year, but a decrease of almost 16% from two years ago. The number of sentenced prisoners under federal jurisdiction rose 2% to 144,448 individuals; the number of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction fell 2% to 1,019,217 individuals.
- At the end of the calendar year 2021, there were 307 incarcerated individuals per 100,000 residents nationwide sentenced under state jurisdiction, a drop from 315 the year before. New Mexico's incarceration rate also dropped over the period from 258 per 100,000 residents in the state to 240.
- At the national level, incarceration rates have fallen over the past decade for males, females, and all racial and ethnic groups. The incarceration rate among the Black population dropped 40% in the time period, while the Hispanic, and Asian incarceration rates dropped 35%.

INTRODUCTION

This prison population forecast was prepared by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) and the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER). 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. The Sentencing Commission has produced this report annually almost every year in the past decade.

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. From these data, monthly high counts are used to create a time series population estimates spanning January 2001 to June 2023.

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 external forces (such as COVID-19 pandemic) as well as changes in laws and policy may significantly affect the prison population, NMSC will continue updating data and examining trends to reflect those 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 NMCD 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.

In June 2023, new forecast models were created. For the 22-month period between July 2021 and April 2023, the model's estimated high populations differ from actual monthly high counts by less than 2% for females, usually less than 1%. For males, estimates differ from monthly high counts by more than 2% in only three of the 22 months, never exceeding a difference of more than 2.5%. The new models outperform last year's projections substantially. Our current model for males predicts that the prison population will continue to drop for about half of the next decade, then trend up modestly. We predict the female prison population will begin to rise within a couple of years at a gradual pace. (See Table 1.)

NATIONAL TRENDS

The United States Department of Justice annually publishes the Prisoner series. This report 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 those convicted of a felony' (Carson 2022, p.3). The most recent report, Prisoners in 2021, reveals that there were 1,019,217 sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction at the end of 2021, a 2% decrease from 1,043,705[1] in 2020, following a much sharper decrease of almost 15% the previous year.[2] 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.
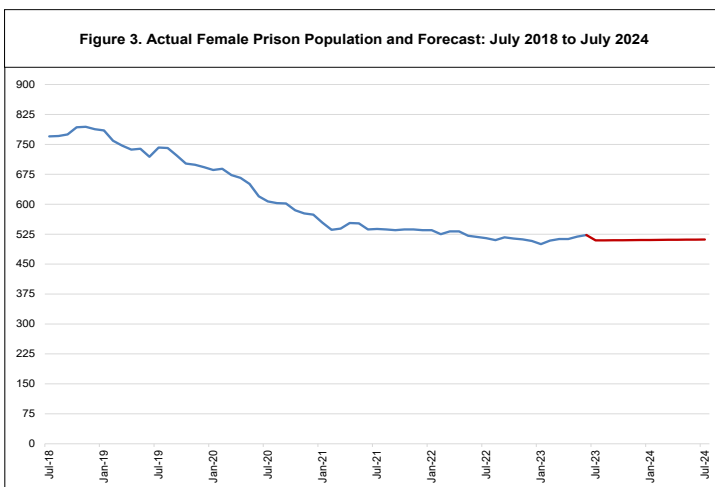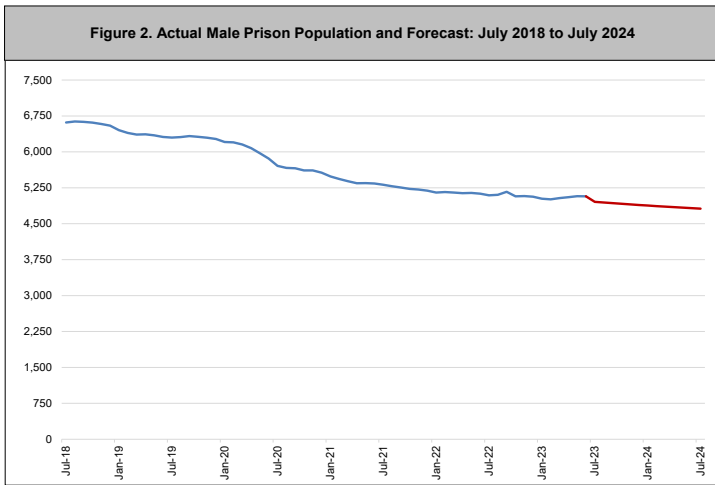

Figure 1. Sentenced Prisoners in State Jurisdiction on December 31, Nationally and in New Mexico, 2009-2021
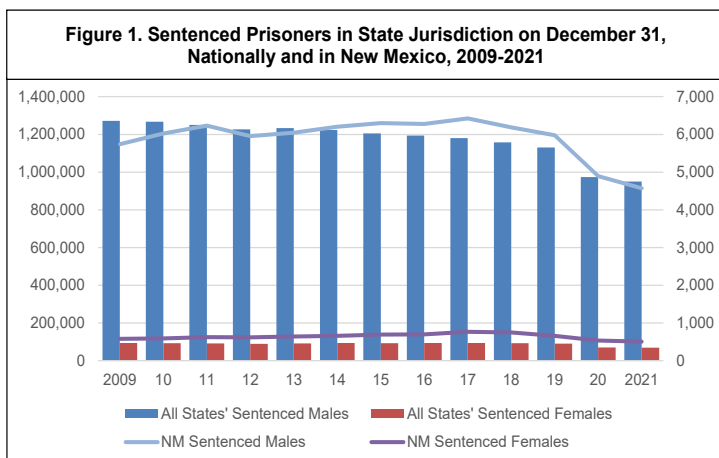
NEW MEXICO TRENDS

Figure 1 also shows the number of sentenced prisoners each year 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 4,572 by 2021. Female sentenced prisoners also peaked in 2017 at almost 770, dropping to 507 by 2021. For both genders combined, in 2021 the New Mexico imprisonment rate was 240 sentenced state prisoners per 100,000 population, compared to 307 nationally (Carson, 2021).

Looking at New Mexico prison populations in a time series, Table 1 reports male and female prison populations, including those in both state and federal jurisdiction, at the highest level within each fiscal year[3] since 2013. As in Figure 1, we see a drop-in prison population for both males and females especially in FY2020 and FY2021. As mentioned, Table 1 also shows our projections through FY2033. We expect the female prison population to maintain slow groth across the decade reaching 546 by the end of FY2033. For males, we predict the prison population to decline for about half the decade, then rise to 5,539 by the end of FY33. Thus, we do not expect either prison population to approach the highs we saw between FY2015 and FY2019. Figures 2 and 3 show these data by monthly high counts for the truncated period between July 2018 and July 2024.

Table 1. Actual and Projected Prisoner Population High Counts in New Mexico, FY2013 to FY2033				
Fiscal Year	**Males**		**Females**	
	High Count	**Change**	**High Count**	**Change**
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	5,166	-2.8%	523	-2.8%
2024	4,957	-4.0%	512	-2.1%
2025	4,815	-2.9%	514	0.4%
2026	4,719	-2.0%	517	0.6%
2027	4,667	-1.1%	520	0.6%
2028	4,687	0.4%	524	0.8%
2029	4,759	1.5%	528	0.8%
2030	4,876	2.5%	532	0.8%
2031	5,042	3.4%	536	0.8%
2032	5,261	4.3%	541	0.9%
2033	5,539	5.3%	546	0.9%

Note: Projections begin in FY2024.

New Mexico Sentencing Commission

Figure 2. Actual Male Prison Population and Forecast: July 2018 to July 2024

Figure 3. Actual Female Prison Population and Forecast: July 2018 to July 2024

Male:

Figure 2 indicates a consistently downward trend in the count of imprisoned males since 2018, a trend that was particularly pronounced during the first part of the COVID-19 pandemic. The high count for imprisoned males in FY2023 occurred in September 2022 with 5,166 inmates. Between FY2018 and FY2023, male inmate high counts have decreased by 24%.

An important consideration for prison population is operational or rated capacity, the total number of beds the NMCD can reasonably maintain given limitations such as staffing and maintenance. Currently, the capacity for male inmates is 7,018 beds,[4] well above the FY2023 highest count of 5,166. The projected high counts for the coming fiscal years show continued decline, with 4,957 for FY2024 and 4,815 for FY2025.

Looking further ahead, the FY2033 projected high count for the male prison population is 5,539, 79% of New Mexico's current operational capacity for men.
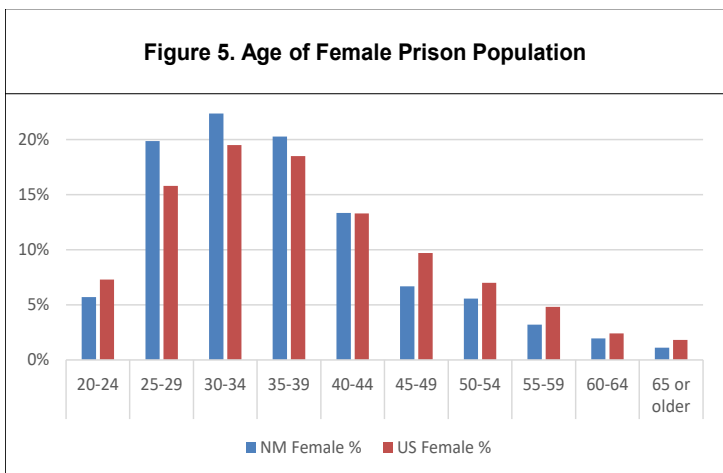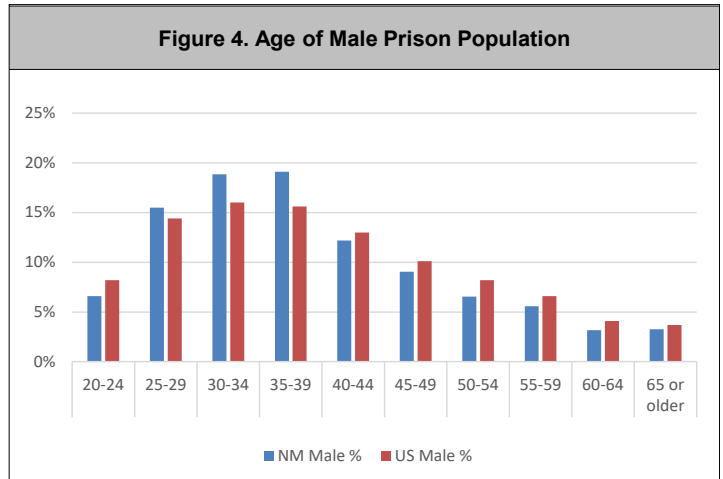
Female:

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 FY2023 was 523 female inmates for June 2023. 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 FY2023, female inmate high counts decreased 35%.

The operational capacity for female inmates is currently 651 beds,[5] above the FY2023 high count of 523 and expected high counts in FY2024 (512) and FY2025 (514). The ten-year projection for FY2033 is 546, 84% of the current operational capacity.[6]

PRISON POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

Figure 4. Age of Male Prison Population

Figure 5. Age of Female Prison Population

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%. Similarly, 40% of the New Mexico male prison population is between 39 and 50, compared to 39% nationally.

Both nationally and in New Mexico, female inmates are generally younger than male inmates. Additionally, New Mexico female inmates tend to be younger than female inmates in the United States overall. Nearly half (48%) of female inmates in New Mexico are under the age of 35 compared to 43% nationally. Similarly, about 40% of female

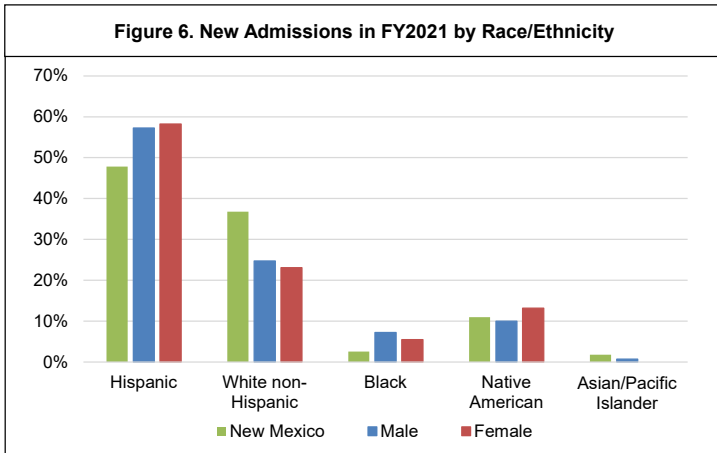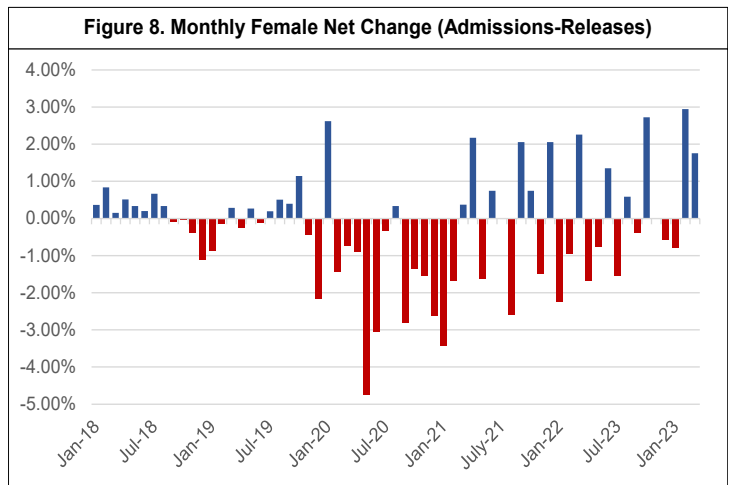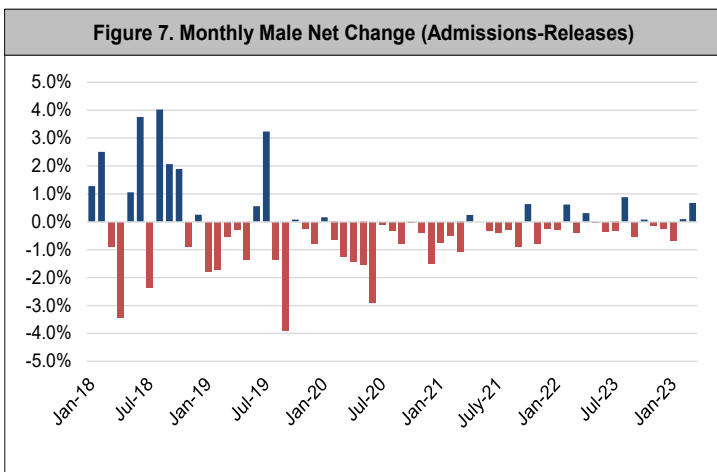inmates in New Mexico are between 39 and 50, compared to 42% nationally.

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 FY2021[8] by race and ethnicity. 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 demographic composition of the state, while the percentages of White non-Hispanic detainees are lower. The percentage of Native American female inmates is higher than the state average, while the percentage of Native American male inmates is lower than the state average. 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)**

Figures 7 and 8 show the relationship between admissions and releases for male and female inmates relative to the monthly high population for each month from January 2018 to March 2023. 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 not in recent years. From January 2019 through March 2023, New Mexico prisons experienced a net loss in its male population nearly every month. (See Figure 7.)

In contrast, the female prison population is currently experiencing consistent growth, with admissions surpassing releases each month since March 2022 (Figure 8). This follows a two-year period of consistent loss in the female prison population. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the female prison population changed little month to month.[10]

New Admissions and Parole Admissions

Figure 9. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Males: FY2018 - FY2023
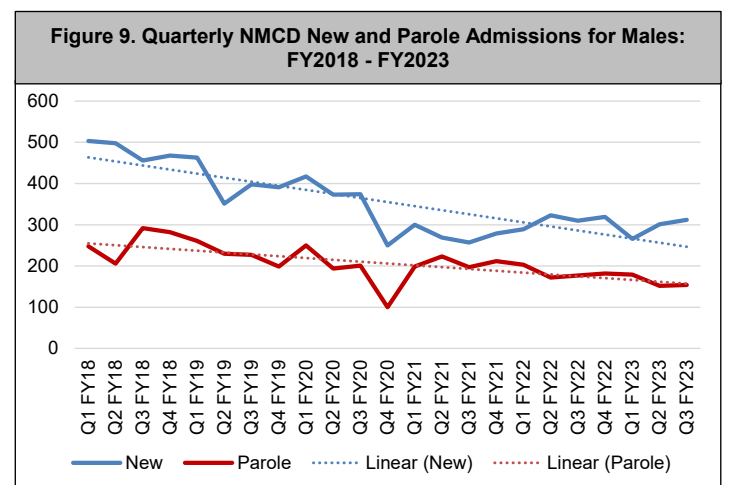
Figure 10. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Females: FY2018 - FY2023
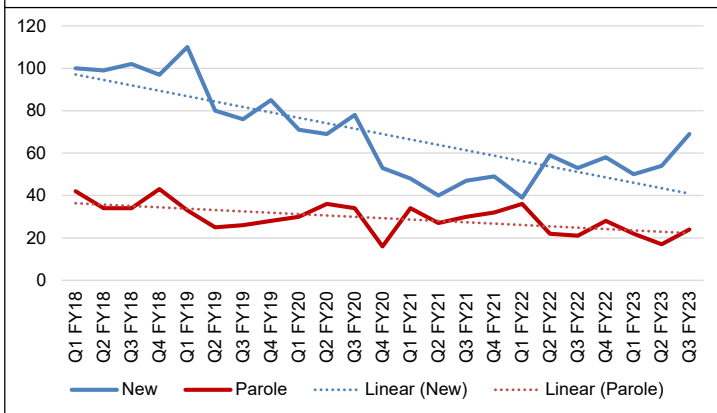
Figures 9 and 10 identify trends between new and parole-related admissions for male and female inmates quarterly from FY2018 through most of FY2023. Admissions for new offenses outpace parole admissions through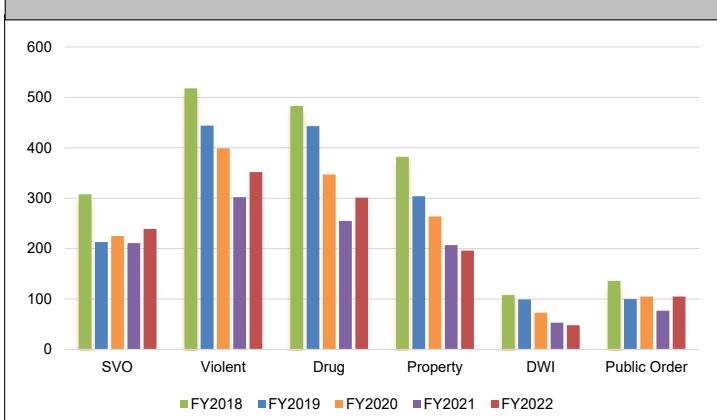out the time period for both sexes. For both genders, values for both admission types have been decreasing over the 5-year period. However, there has been a notable increase in new offense admissions for females beginning in FY2022, as evidenced in Figure 8.

New Admissions by Charge Type

Figure 11. Males New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY2018-FY2022)

Figure 12. Females New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY2018-FY2022)
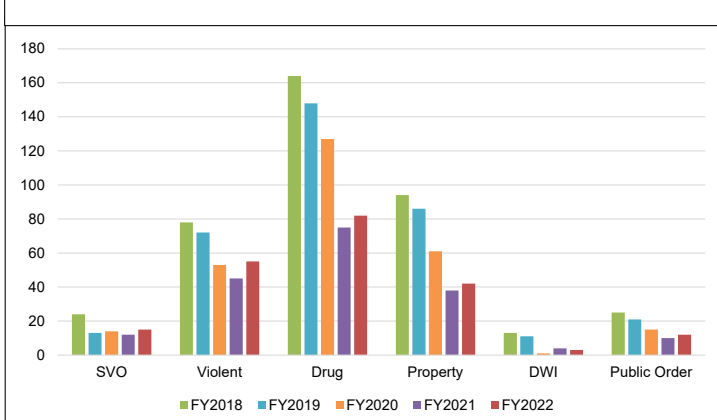
Figure 11 illustrates the number of new male admissions by charge type for FY2018 through FY2022.[11] Among males, there has been a steady drop in admissions in nearly every category except serious violent offenses (SVO), which has remained relatively steady. Admissions due to drug and violent crime have dropped a little over one third in the five-year period. Admissions for property and DWI offenses have dropped nearly 50% in that time. Admissions for public order and serious violent crime have dropped slightly over 20% since FY2019. Admissions due to drug and violent crime have dropped a little over one third in the five-year period. Admissions for property and DWI offenses continue to decrease and have dropped nearly 50% in that time. Admissions for public order and serious violent crime have dropped slightly over 20% since their initial drop in FY2019. While public order has remained at about the same level, admissions due to serious violent crime was over 10% higher than previous years.

Patterns are similar for female admissions, depicted in Figure 12. Admissions have been steadily dropping over the period in all categories except serious violent offenses, rare among females.[12] In FY2022, admissions for violent, drug, and property crime increased slightly compared to previous year, while other categories remained the same.

FACTORS INFLUENCING PRISON POPULATION

Prison populations nationally and in New Mexico continue their downward trend, for reasons that are not completely understood. The NMSC had identified certain factors in New Mexico that might contribute to the state's decreasing prison population.

Figure 13. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New and Reopened from FY2012-FY2022
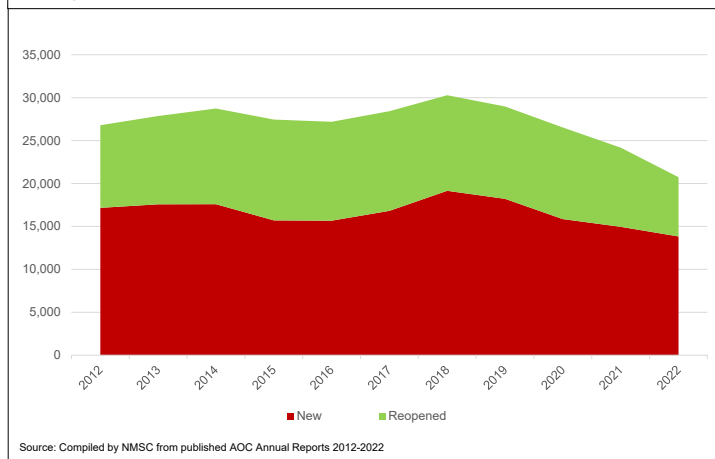
Source: Compiled by NMSC from published AOC Annual Reports 2012-2022

Table 2. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2012 to FY 2022			
Fiscal Year	New	Reopened	Total New and Reopened
2012	17,169	9,616	26,785
2013	17,572	10,285	27,857
2014	17,591	11,140	28,731
2015	15,701	11,749	27,450
2016	15,665	11,519	27,184
2017	16,813	11,614	28,427
2018	19,152	11,125	30,277
2019	18,215	10,761	28,976
2020	15,859	10,667	26,526
2021	14,961	9,219	24,180
2022	13,837	6,903	20,740

NMCD has made a sustained effort to reduce recidivism. The department reports that there have been six consecutive quarters of improvement in the three-year recidivism rate of offenders released from NMCD's custody; while recidivism rates for new offenses have been stable, those for technical parole violations have fallen. The Probation and Parole Division of the department has been making efforts to avoid carceral solutions for technical violations. Additionally, 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. NMCD is also working to reduce the number of individuals serving parole while in prison.

NMCD has put tremendous efforts into helping those incarcerated to receive their High School Equivalency (HSE) credential. In FY23, the department had 191 people attain their HSE, the largest number of HSE completions of all agencies in the state, with an above average success rate.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) submitted a letter of interest to the US Department of Education and was invited to participate in Second Chance Pell in 2023-2024 under the Experimental Sites Initiative. The university is partnering with the branch Campus UNM Valencia and will start in year 1 with in-person classes at Central New Mexico Correctional Facility. UNM's participation in Pell will expand scholarships for educational opportunities for students in New Mexico's prisons which should help reduce recidivism.

Changes in state law could also explain some of the reductions in prison population. 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.

An additional factor could be that, as a state whose prison population and jail population are nearly equivalent, our criminal justice system may increasingly favor incarceration in jails, which generally results in shorter length of stay, over incarceration in prison.

In addition, the state has experienced a recent decline in new filings for criminal cases, as seen in Figure 13 and Table 2, 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 14,000 in FY2022. COVID-19 likely played a role as jury trials were suspended during the height of the pandemic. It is unclear whether a reduction in filings represents a real reduction in crime, or whether the reduction in filings will return to pre-COVID levels as the peak of the pandemic recedes in time.

APPENDIX A

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

Table 3a. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY2023 (Old Forecast)						
Month/Year	**Males**			**Females**		
	Actuals	**Forecasts**	**Discrepancy**	**Actuals**	**Forecasts**	**Discrepancy**
July-22	5,092	5,058	-0.7%	515	540	4.9%
August-22	5,104	5,036	-1.3%	510	540	6.0%
September-22	5,166	5,023	-2.8%	517	541	4.7%
October-22	5,071	4,995	-1.5%	514	543	5.6%
November-22	5,078	4,994	-1.6%	512	544	6.2%
December-22	5,064	4,999	-1.3%	508	545	7.2%
January-23	5,023	4,963	-1.2%	500	546	9.1%
February-23	5,010	4,926	-1.7%	509	547	7.4%
March-23	5,036	4,921	-2.3%	513	548	6.8%
April-23	5,055	4,910	-2.9%	513	549	7.0%
May-23	5,076	4,899	-3.5%	519	550	5.9%
June-23	5,073	4,893	-3.5%	523	551	5.3%

Table 3b. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY2023 (New Forecast)						
Month/Year	**Males**			**Females**		
	Actuals	**Forecasts**	**Discrepancy**	**Actuals**	**Forecasts**	**Discrepancy**
July-22	5,092	5,150	1.1%	515	515	0.0%
August-22	5,104	5,132	0.5%	510	510	0.0%
September-22	5,166	5,114	-1.0%	517	517	0.0%
October-22	5,071	5,097	0.5%	514	514	0.0%
November-22	5,078	5,080	0.0%	512	512	0.0%
December-22	5,064	5,063	0.0%	508	508	0.0%
January-23	5,023	5,047	0.5%	500	508	1.6%
February-23	5,010	5,031	0.4%	509	508	-0.2%
March-23	5,036	5,016	-0.4%	513	509	-0.8%
April-23	5,055	5,000	-1.1%	513	509	-0.8%
May-23	5,076	4,986	-1.8%	519	509	-1.9%
June-23	5,073	4,971	-2.0%	523	509	-2.7%

Table 4. Male Population Projections, July 2023 to December 2033											
Month	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
January	-	4,880	4,761	4,688	4,657	4,669	4,723	4,822	4,967	5,163	5,415
February	-	4,868	4,754	4,684	4,657	4,672	4,730	4,832	4,981	5,181	5,439
March	-	4,857	4,746	4,680	4,656	4,675	4,737	4,843	4,996	5,201	5,463
April	-	4,846	4,739	4,676	4,656	4,679	4,744	4,853	5,011	5,220	5,488
May	-	4,835	4,732	4,673	4,657	4,682	4,751	4,865	5,026	5,240	5,513
June	-	4,825	4,725	4,670	4,657	4,687	4,759	4,876	5,042	5,261	5,539
July	4,957	4,815	4,719	4,667	4,658	4,691	4,767	4,888	5,058	5,281	5,565
August	4,943	4,805	4,713	4,665	4,659	4,696	4,775	4,900	5,075	5,303	5,591
September	4,930	4,796	4,707	4,663	4,661	4,701	4,784	4,913	5,091	5,324	5,618
October	4,917	4,787	4,702	4,661	4,662	4,706	4,793	4,926	5,109	5,346	5,646
November	4,904	4,778	4,697	4,660	4,664	4,711	4,802	4,939	5,126	5,369	5,674
December	4,892	4,769	4,692	4,658	4,667	4,717	4,812	4,953	5,144	5,392	5,702

Table 5. Female Population Projections, July 2023 to December 2033											
Month	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
January	-	511	513	516	519	522	526	530	534	539	544
February	-	511	513	516	519	523	526	530	535	539	544
March	-	511	514	516	520	523	527	531	535	540	545
April	-	511	514	517	520	523	527	531	536	540	545
May	-	511	514	517	520	524	527	532	536	541	546
June	-	512	514	517	520	524	528	532	536	541	546
July	509	512	514	517	521	524	528	532	537	541	547
August	510	512	515	518	521	525	528	533	537	542	547
September	510	512	515	518	521	525	529	533	537	542	547
October	510	512	515	518	521	525	529	533	538	543	548
November	510	513	515	518	522	525	529	534	538	543	548
December	510	513	516	519	522	526	530	534	539	544	549

Table 6. Male New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY2018-FY2022					
DA District	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**
1	3.9%	3.7%	5.2%	4.3%	3.9%
2	27.9%	21.7%	22.9%	20.9%	16.7%
3	13.1%	11.6%	10.5%	5.3%	7.3%
4	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%	3.3%
5	14.6%	14.5%	12.9%	13.0%	13.0%
6	2.9%	3.9%	4.3%	5.2%	5.0%
7	3.2%	3.8%	3.7%	2.7%	2.9%
8	1.5%	1.8%	3.3%	3.8%	2.0%
9	8.5%	9.0%	7.8%	11.9%	11.1%
10	1.6%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%	2.3%
11 Division I	6.8%	8.1%	7.5%	8.9%	12.2%
11 Division II	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.3%	1.4%
12	8.4%	10.3%	11.0%	11.0%	13.2%
13	4.6%	5.6%	5.8%	6.7%	5.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7. Female New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY2018-FY2022					
DA District	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**
1	2.5%	2.6%	4.1%	3.8%	3.8%
2	21.6%	12.8%	19.6%	9.2%	12.4%
3	17.1%	14.2%	10.7%	10.3%	7.2%
4	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%	2.4%
5	19.6%	18.8%	12.2%	12.5%	13.9%
6	1.3%	5.4%	3.0%	3.8%	4.8%
7	3.8%	4.6%	5.9%	6.5%	4.8%
8	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	5.4%	1.4%
9	9.8%	9.7%	9.2%	12.5%	11.0%
10	2.8%	2.3%	2.2%	1.6%	1.4%
11 Division I	3.0%	5.4%	5.5%	10.9%	9.6%
11 Division II	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	2.4%
12	12.3%	16.0%	17.7%	15.2%	17.2%
13	2.8%	4.8%	6.6%	7.1%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8. Male Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Violent Crimes					
SVO	308	213	225	211	239
Sex Crime	43	46	51	36	32
Assault and Battery	256	192	179	130	153
Other Violent*	219	206	169	136	167
Property Crimes					
Burglary	145	118	96	78	71
Other Property*	237	186	168	129	125
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	186	176	110	99	130
Drug Possession	297	267	237	156	171
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	108	99	73	53	48
Other Public Order*	136	100	105	77	105
Other					
Parole	1,028	917	745	831	734
Other Admissions*	237	201	157	93	101
Total	3,200	2,721	2,315	2,029	2,076

*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 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Violent Crimes					
SVO	24	13	14	12	15
Sex Crime	1	1	1	-	-
Assault and Battery	26	22	14	11	18
Other Violent*	51	49	38	34	37
Property Crimes					
Burglary	22	26	19	10	8
Other Property*	72	59	42	28	34
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	65	51	46	26	34
Drug Possession	99	97	81	49	48
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	13	11	1	4	3
Other Public Order*	25	22	14	10	12
Other					
Parole	153	112	116	123	107
Other Admissions*	71	60	35	19	17
Total	622	523	421	326	333

*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.

As for forecasts, female prisoner population maximums are forecast on an average of five models. In all models, the regressor (monthly maximums) is differenced twice to induce stationarity. A correlogram of the regressor is consulted to specify initial autoregressive (AR) and moving average (MA) terms. Other regressors are specified through a series of residuals' correlograms and differing Akaike information criterion (AIC) output. Theil inequality coefficients and associated proportions further aid in forming an appropriate model.

A least squares averaging method is employed using the following ARIMA models:

- (1,2,3)
  - Model specification: July 2008 – January 2019
  - Forecast specification: July 2021 – June 2034
- (3,2,3)
  - Model specification: June 2008 – June 2018
  - Forecast specification: July 2021 – June 2034
- (0,2,1)
  - Model specification: June 2008 – June 2018
  - Forecast specification: July 2021 – June 2034
- (3,2,1)
  - Model specification: June 2008 – June 2018
  - Forecast specification: July 2021 – June 2034
- (0,2,1)
  - Model specification: January 2001 – June 2018
  - Forecast specification: January 2023 – June 2034

In each model, forecast precision is assessed against historical data recorded in overlapping dates between model specification and forecast specification. Except for a single instance, the least squares averaging method produces a forecast between July 2021 and April 2023 which differs from observed maximums by less than ±1% or less.

Male prisoners' forecasts do not employ averaging methods. Instead, population trends are captured through a sample specification ranging from January 2001 to April 2023. Data are, again, differenced twice for stationarity. Correlograms, AIC values, and Theil coefficients are referenced to specify the model. Here, a logged regressor records better output than the linear alternative.

The male prisoner population maximum model is specified as ARIMA(3,2,0). Against a near 2-year benchmark ranging from January 2021 to April 2023, forecasts are within ±2% of observed figures, aside from three instance where the difference is under ±3%.

ENDNOTES

1. *Prisoners* in 2020 (2021) had reported the number of sentenced prisoners in state jurisdiction at the end of 2020 as 1,040,138, as indicated in the previous edition of this report. We, too, revise the value in this edition.

2. 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.

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

4. Across the facilities the capacities for male inmates are as follows: 1,293 beds at the Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs (Private); 1,233 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); 632 at Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility in Clayton; 607 at Otero County Prison Facility (Chaparral, Private); 608 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 FY2023 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. (United States Census Bureau, 2021).

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, Native American, 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.

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