



# Profile of New Mexico Prison Population FY25

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April 2026

## INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico Sentencing Commission monitors the current prison population as part of its work projecting the state prison population for the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD), policymakers, state residents, and other interested parties. This report will review demographic factors and other characteristics of the confined population.

On the last day of fiscal year 2025, there were 5,672 individuals confined in New Mexico prisons. This report excludes 60 pre-adjudicated defendants held on behalf of county detention facilities as well as 64 people whose original conviction was in another state but are being held in New Mexico through a compact agreement. This report focuses on the remaining 5,548 individuals convicted of state crimes and confined on June 30, 2025.

## Demography of Prison Population (Gender, Age, Race, Geographic Location)

### Gender

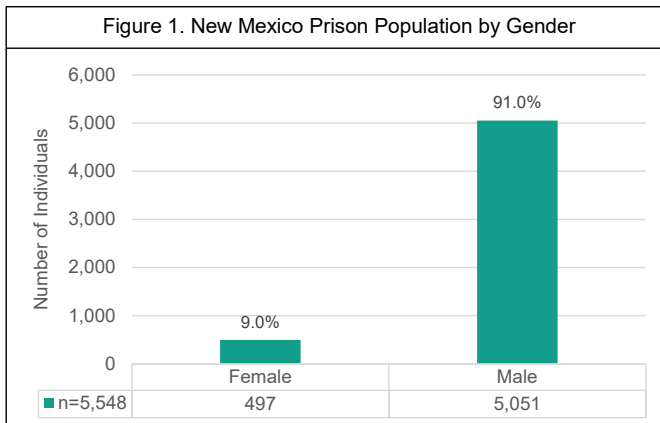
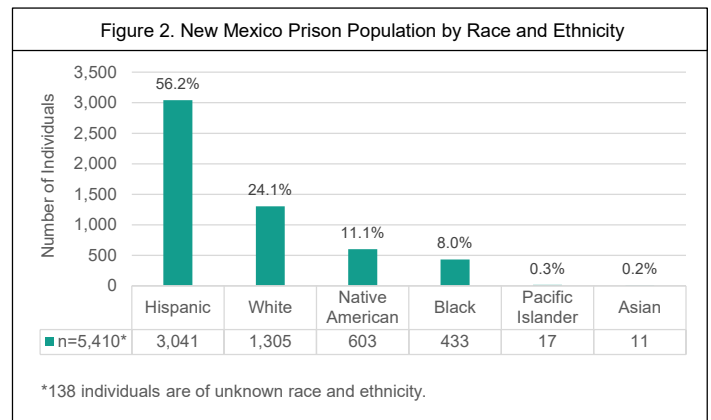


Figure 1 shows that males comprise 91.0% of incarcerated individuals in New Mexico prisons, while they represent 49.1% of the adult population in the state as a whole (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024, Table S0101); females comprise 9.0% of incarcerated individuals in New Mexico prisons. Among confined individuals in the United States, females comprise 7.0% of all states' prison populations (Mueller and Kluckow, 2025, Table 11), making New Mexico's proportion of incarcerated females slightly higher than the national average.

## Race and Ethnicity

Figure 2 shows the proportion of the New Mexico prison population by race and ethnicity. There are notable differences in racial composition of the prison populations in New Mexico and the United States as a whole. In New Mexico, well over half of the prison population is Hispanic, a significantly higher proportion compared to the national average of 21.9% (Mueller and Kluckow, 2025, Table 11). Conversely, the non-Hispanic white prison population in New Mexico is 24.1%, slightly lower than the national figure of 31.5%. Native American representation in New Mexico's prisons surpasses the national rate, with 11.1% compared to 1.5% nationally. The Black prison population in New Mexico is much lower than the national figures, at 8.0% compared to a national rate of 32.6%. Finally, Asian and Pacific Islander individuals collectively make up less than 1.0% of the total incarcerated population in New Mexico, slightly lower than the national population of about 1.2%.



**Table 1. Race and Ethnicity of Overall and Confined Populations**

	New Mexico	Confined Males	Confined Females
	1,638,989	4,929	481
<b>Hispanic</b>	44.3%	56.8%	50.5%
<b>White</b>	40.5%	23.5%	30.1%
<b>Native American</b>	9.4%	10.9%	13.5%
<b>Black/African American</b>	2.4%	8.3%	5.4%
<b>Asian</b>	2.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
<b>Other</b>	1.1%		

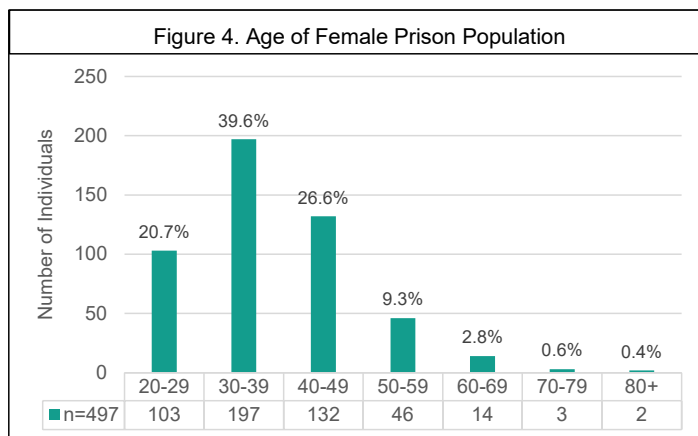
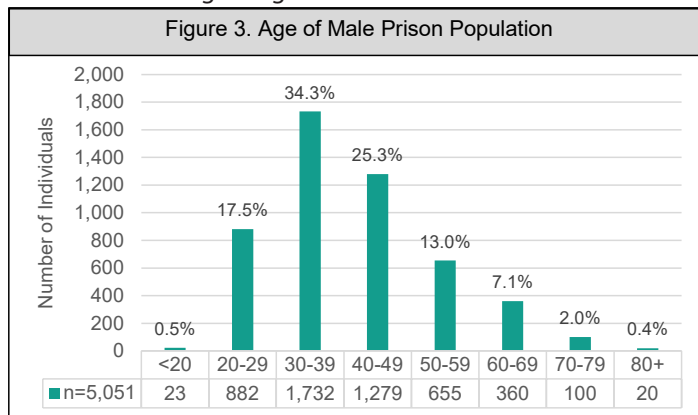
\*Race and ethnicity information is missing for 122 confined males and 16 confined females.  
Note: New Mexico race and ethnicity data are drawn from table P11 of the Decennial Census, titled "Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over," by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2020.

Table 1 compares the composition of race and ethnicity among adults in New Mexico with the confined population. Hispanic and Black people are over-represented in the prison population, especially among males, (U.S. Census, 2020, Table P11). To a lesser extent, both Native Americans and Pacific Islanders are also over-represented in the prison population, whereas Asian and White people are underrepresented.

### Age

The age distribution of people in New Mexico prisons is similar to the age distribution for incarcerated people nationally for males. The New Mexico male prison population is dominated by people in the 20-49 age group, shown in Figure 3, representing 77.1% of incarcerated males, similar to 74.7% nationally (Mueller and Kluckow, 2025, Table 10). Among incarcerated New Mexico females, 86.9% are between the ages of 20 and 49, as shown in Figure 4, somewhat higher than the national figure of 82.1%.

Incarcerated individuals are much younger than the New Mexican adult population overall, with 77.1% of incarcerated males between the ages of 20 and 40 compared to 50.6% of adult males in that age range in the state (U.S. Census, 2023, Table S0101). Differences are even more extreme for females. The percentage of incarcerated females between the ages of 20 and 49, 86.9%, is nearly double the 46.8% of adult females in the state in that age range.



### Districts and Counties

Table 2 indicates the number of incarcerated people by the Judicial District and the county in which the incarcerated person was convicted. Convictions in the Second Judicial District comprise about 29% of incarcerated individuals, followed by the Fifth and Eleventh Judicial Districts (12% and 11% respectively).

Table 2. Incarcerated Individuals per County and Judicial District			
Location	Incarcerated Individuals	Percentage of All incarcerated Individuals	Population
<b>Statewide</b>	5,424*		2,130,256
<b>First Judicial District</b>	261	5%	217,395
Los Alamos County	15	<1%	19,675
Rio Arriba County	48	1%	39,955
Santa Fe County	198	4%	157,765
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	1,631	29%	671,747
Bernalillo County	1,631	29%	671,747
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	369	8%	229,366
Doña Ana County	369	8%	229,366
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	161	3%	34,909
Guadalupe County	14	<1%	4,385
Mora County	26	<1%	4,096
San Miguel County	121	2%	26,428
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	683	12%	200,284
Chaves County	277	6%	63,697
Eddy County	214	4%	61,436
Lea County	192	3%	75,151
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	190	3%	57,385
Grant County	68	1%	27,541
Hidalgo County	14	<1%	3,966
Luna County	108	2%	25,878
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	142	3%	47,137
Catron County	7	<1%	3,795
Sierra County	56	1%	11,389
Socorro County	42	1%	15,967
Torrance County	37	1%	15,986
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	156	3%	50,715
Colfax County	74	1%	12,307
Taos County	71	1%	34,482
Union County	11	<1%	3,926
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	328	6%	65,869
Curry County	251	5%	47,156
Roosevelt County	77	1%	18,713
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>	79	1%	10,695
De Baca County	10	<1%	1,657
Harding County	2	<1%	635
Quay County	67	1%	8,403
<b>Eleventh Judicial District</b>	620	11%	189,762
McKinley County	150	3%	68,945
San Juan County	470	8%	120,817
<b>Twelfth Judicial District</b>	412	7%	89,736
Lincoln County	92	2%	20,025
Otero County	320	6%	69,711
<b>Thirteenth Judicial District</b>	390	7%	265,256
Cibola County	90	2%	26,686
Valencia County	143	3%	80,813
Sandoval County	157	3%	157,757

\*County and District data is unavailable for 124 individuals  
 Note: County population estimates are from the "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in New Mexico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024 (CO-EST2024-POP-35)," by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2025.

# Admissions

## Methodology Change: Admission Typologies

Beginning in this year’s report, NMSC now categorizes admissions into five major types of admissions: (1) Basic Sentences (Assumed), (2) Probation Violations (Assumed), (3) Parole Violations, (4) Diagnostic Assessments and (5) Unknown/Other. Basic Sentences (Assumed) refer to prison admissions for new convictions; Probation Violations (Assumed) refer to prison admissions after probation was revoked; Parole Violations refer to prison admissions after offenders violated conditions of parole. When competency must be assessed pretrial, alleged offenders are admitted for Diagnostic Assessments. Rare cases with undetermined cause for admission comprise the Unknown/Other Admissions category.

In prior years, we used the three categories: (1) New Admissions, (2) Parole Violations, and (3) Diagnostic and Other, including known probation violations. New Admissions included both basic sentences and undetected probation violations. Findings may have been misleading, suggesting courts commonly assign prison incarceration for drug offenses and other lesser crimes, as well as including inappropriately short prison sentences among New Admissions. Results also lumped together known probation violations (the majority) and diagnostic admissions, resulting in a hard-to-interpret though small Diagnostic and Other category.

The NMSC is now attempting to clarify differences in basic sentences and probation violations. While Corrections Department electronic records do not reliably distinguish basic sentences and probation violations, NMSC designed an algorithm to assume that the more severe the offense and the shorter the time period between the case filing and sentencing, the greater the likelihood the case is a basic sentence. The less severe the offense and the longer the time period between the case filing date and sentencing, the greater the likelihood the case is a probation violation. The algorithm combines known probation violations (this year, 67 admissions) with 447 cases assumed by the algorithm to be probation violations. The latter were included in the New Admission category in the previous typology. Please see Appendix A: Admission Type Algorithm for detailed information about the algorithm.

## Admission Type

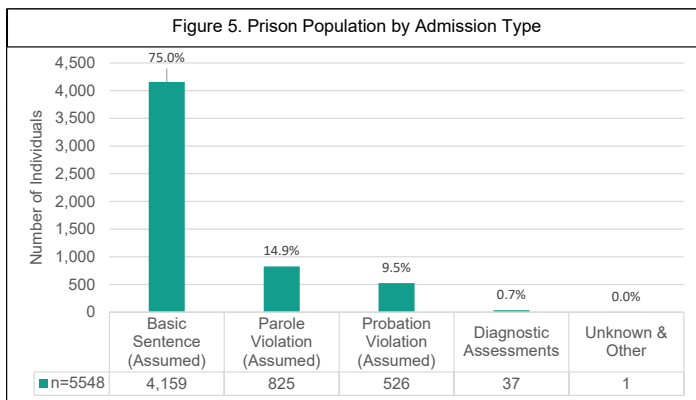
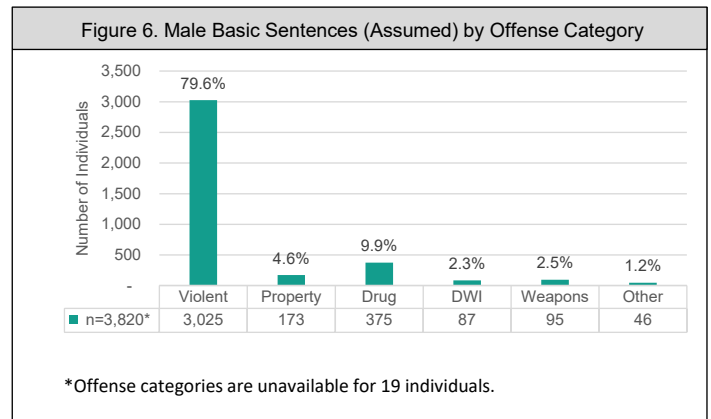


Figure 5 shows the proportion of the prison population by admission type, combining the male and female populations. The most common admission type is, by far, Basic Sentences

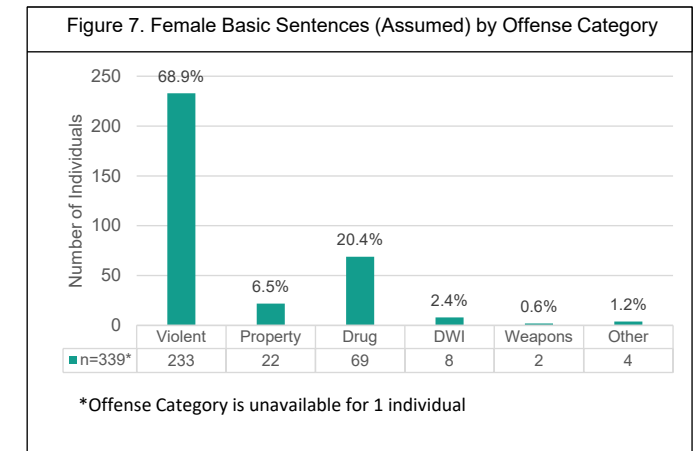
(Assumed), meaning individuals serving time on a new conviction, representing 75.0% of incarcerated individuals. Parole Violation is the next most common category at 14.9% of admissions. Probation Violations (Assumed) comprise 9.5% of admissions, and the Diagnostic Assessment category comprises less than 1.0% of the population. The single unknown admission type was an individual with missing information about his case.

## Most Serious Offense Assumed Basic Sentences

The basic sentence analysis focuses on the cohort of 4,159 individuals assumed to be incarcerated for a basic sentence. We categorize the cases by the most serious conviction, as determined by the Corrections Department. This section reports the percentage of incarcerated people whose offenses fall into each offense category for both males and females.



As shown in Figure 6, more than three-quarters of male individuals incarcerated on a basic sentence, 79.6%, are convicted of a violent offense. The three most common violent offenses for basic sentence males are murder (26.5%), child sex crimes (13.4%), and assault (11.7%). Additionally, adult sex crimes make up 6.4% of male basic sentence offenses. Drug offenses are just under 10% of offenses for males, especially drug trafficking (6.6%), followed by possession (2.8%). Property crimes comprise about 4.6% of offenses among incarcerated males, most commonly theft without force (2.6%).

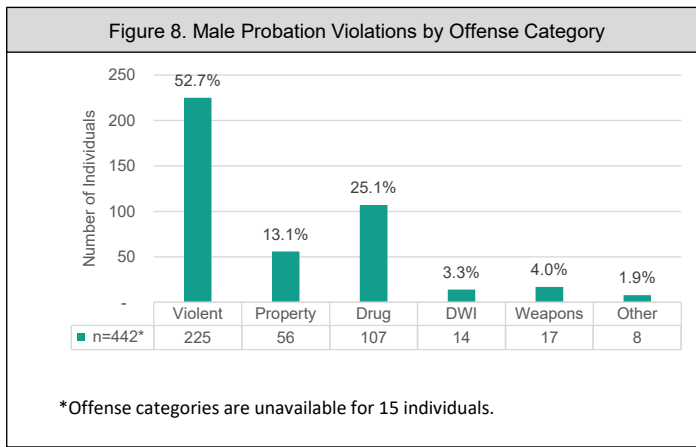


For females—remembering they comprise just 9.0% of the prison population—the picture is somewhat different. As seen in Figure 7, violent offenses comprise a lower percentage of the total for the female (68.9%) compared to the male population (79.6%). Like males, common violent offenses are

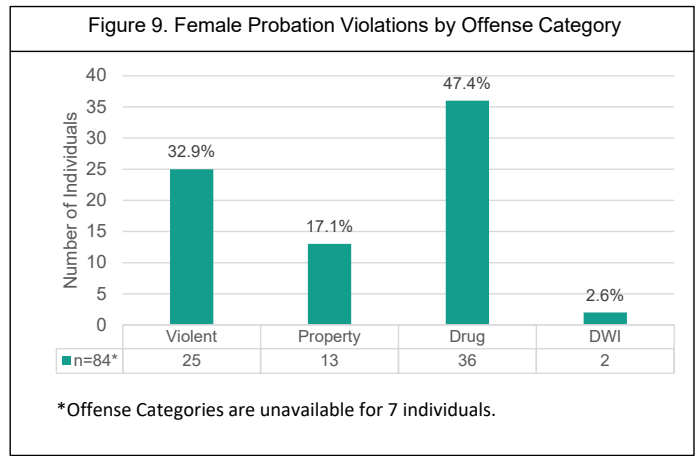
murder (19.2%) and assault (9.4%), but unlike males, child and adult sexual offenses are uncommon (together, 1.4%). The second most common violent offense for females with assumed basic sentences is child abuse (15.9%). Overall, drug offenses comprise 20.4% of basic sentence crimes for females, with trafficking (13.6%) and possession (5.3%) making up the two most common crimes in this category. Property offenses are a larger component of crime for women (6.5%) compared to males (4.6%). As with men, the most common property crime for women is theft without force (3.5%). The percentage of incarcerations for DWI (2.4%) is about the same for women as men, while weapons offenses comprise a lower percentage (<1.0%).

### Probation Violation Analysis

The probation violation analysis focuses on the cohort of 526 individuals assumed to be incarcerated for a probation violation. Overall, probation violations are less likely to be for violent offenses compared to assumed basic sentences.



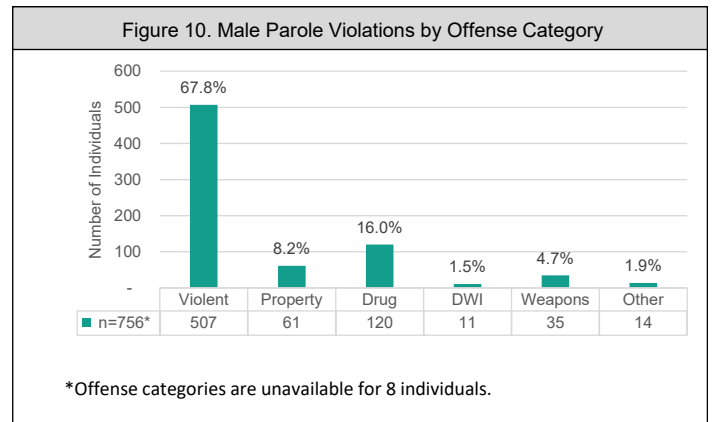
As shown in Figure 8, a little over half of men incarcerated on a probation violation are convicted of a violent offense. While still a majority, this is a drop of 27 percentage points from the basic sentence cohort. The three most common violent offenses for probation violations are assault (13.8%), theft with force (10.4%), and child sex crimes (5.4%). Additionally, domestic violence makes up 4.0% of male probation violation offenses. Drug offenses make up just over 25.0% of probation violation offenses, a larger portion compared to basic sentences, most commonly trafficking (12.6%) and possession (9.2%). Property crimes comprise 13.1% of offenses among men incarcerated for probation violations, again, a much larger proportion compared to basic sentences. The most common property crime offenses for probation violations are theft without force (8.8%) and auto theft (1.1%). DWI and weapons offenses each comprise around 3.4% and 4.3% respectively of the total offenses.



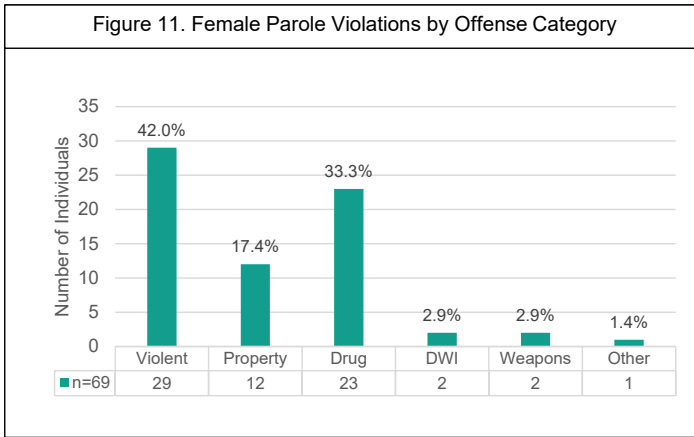
For females, as seen in Figure 9, violent offenses comprise a lower percentage of the total percentage for female probation violators (32.9%) compared to the male population of probation violators (52.7%), whereas drug offenses for female probation violators (47.4%) comprise a much higher proportion of the total compared to men (25.1%). The most common offense for female probation violators is drug trafficking, sitting at just under a quarter (23.8%) of all probation violations, followed by possession (17.8%). For property crimes, theft without force (8.3%) is most common and for violent crimes the most common offense is child abuse (7.1%).

### Parole Violation Analysis

The parole violation analysis focuses on the cohort of 825 individuals incarcerated for a parole violation on June 30, 2025.



Consistent with previous categories, violent crimes comprise the majority of male parole violations (67.8%) as shown in Figure 10. The most common violent crimes for parole violators are child sex crimes (17.0%) followed by assault (13.2%) and theft with force (11.1%). Drug crimes comprise 16% of male parole violations, the most common of which was trafficking (9.2%) followed by possession (5.9%). Property offenses fall at third among male parole violators, at 8.2%, the most common of which was theft without force (5.0%).



In Figure 11, we can see that female violent offenses, as with other admission categories, comprise a much lower percentage of parole violation offenses at 42.0%. The most common violent offense among female parole violators was child abuse (14.4%) followed by theft with force (11.5%) and assault (7.2%). Next, drug offenses comprise the second most common category of parole violation offenses among women at 33.3%. It is worth noting that the most common offense overall among women in this cohort is drug possession (18.8%), however when grouped into broad categories, violent crimes comprise a higher proportion of female parole violations. Third and proportionately higher than in the male cohort, property crimes comprise 17.4%, most commonly theft without force (8.6%).

### Releases Breakdown by Estimated Release Date for Assumed Basic Sentences

**Table 3. Projected Assumed Basic Sentence Releases Through 2035**

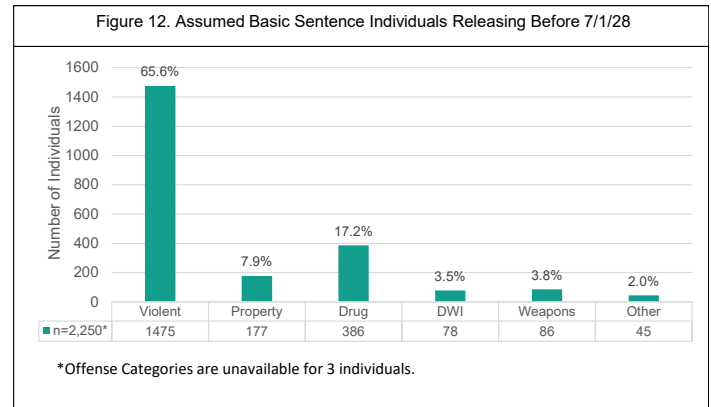
Projected Release Year	Males	Females	Total
Planned release date prior to FY26	13	3	16
2025	402	57	459
2026	785	92	877
2027	491	51	542
2028	328	28	356
2029	228	22	250
2030	172	13	185
2031	130	13	143
2032	136	11	147
2033	90	6	96
2034	98	6	104
2035	77	6	83
<b>10-Year Total</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>3,269</b>
Planned release date after 2035	860	31	891
All Basic Sentences*	3,810	339	4,159

\*Unavailable release year for 10 basic sentence males.

Table 3 examines the year individuals are expected to leave prison based on their planned release date. An individual's planned release date is calculated by the Corrections Department by subtracting the assumed meritorious time from prison sentences. Eligibility for meritorious time is

defined by state statute and depends on the severity of one's crime(s); it is either approximately 15% or 50% of sentences. Looking just at those serving time on an assumed basic sentence, 2,950 or 77.2% of assumed basic sentence males and 308 or 90.8% of assumed basic sentence females have a projected release date in the next 10 years (Table 3).

### Analysis of Individuals Expected to be Released



As of June 30, 2025, as shown in Figure 12 there are 2,250 individuals (combining males and females) who are assumed to have been admitted for a basic sentence and are set for release within three years, before July 1, 2028 (including those with projected release dates before June 30, 2025). Of those expected to be released, 65.6% are serving sentences for crimes classified as violent. The most common violent offenses in the three-year cohort are assault (17.8%), followed by murder (9.6%) and theft with force (9.0%). Drug offenses and property crime are the next most common offense categories among soon-to-release individuals. Approximately 94% are working-age individuals under 55.

**Table 4. Projected Assumed Basic Sentence Releases Through 2035**

District of Origin	Assumed Probation	Parole	Assumed Basic Sentences	District Total
First JD	21	25	102	149
Second JD	177	125	582	887
Third JD	31	24	132	187
Fourth JD	27	14	68	109
Fifth JD	71	74	287	433
Sixth JD	33	17	92	143
Seventh JD	14	18	55	88
Eighth JD	14	16	64	94
Ninth JD	37	29	155	221
Tenth JD	13	13	37	63
Eleventh JD	60	58	317	436
Twelfth JD	52	39	190	281
Thirteenth JD	50	28	163	243
<b>Total</b>	<b>600*</b>	<b>480*</b>	<b>2,244*</b>	<b>3,334*</b>

\*34 releases lack district data: 6 assumed basic sentences, 6 assumed parole, and 22 assumed probation.

Table 4 looks at recent and upcoming releases for the three major admission categories and breaks this information down by judicial district. In total, there are 3,334 individuals, both

male and female, who will be released into the general populace within the next three years. The majority of this cohort (52.6%) will be released in the 2nd (26.6%), 5th (12.9%) and 11th (13.0%) judicial districts.

### LOS Parole Releases

There are 825 individuals in prison for parole violations, making up 14.9% of all admissions. Parole sentences are typically one or two years in length, and may be revoked for absconding, pending charges for a new crime, or committing a technical parole violation (non-compliance with a condition of parole).

In fiscal year 2025, the median length of stay for a parole revocation was 344 days for males and 245 days for females.

### Report Methodology

The data is constructed from a population snapshot of incarcerated people in all NMCD facilities on June 30, 2025. NMCD provides the information on which this report is based to the NMSC quarterly, including projected release dates for most individuals. The projected release date is used to generate the different expected release tables and the 2025 release cohort.

The most serious offense in a case is provided by NMCD. In general, violent crimes are considered the most serious. NMSC categorizes offenses according to common classifications.

NMSC calculated the length of stay for parole revocations. If an individual was released on more than one parole revocation in the fiscal year, NMSC selected the longest length of stay.

### About the Commission

The overarching vision of the New Mexico Sentencing Commission is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all New Mexicans. Its specific mission is to provide impartial information, analysis, recommendations, and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective, with an emphasis on maintaining public safety and making the best use of New Mexico's criminal and juvenile justice resources.

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## APPENDIX A: Admission Type Algorithm

Unless expressly indicated as a probation violation, parole violation, or diagnostic admission, previous methodology assumed all state-level admissions were ‘new admissions’ and treated them as basic sentences.

The NMSC algorithm adopted this year to distinguish basic sentences from probation violations is:

1. *If the lead offense is a serious violent offense (SVO) by statute as defined in Section 33-2-34(N)(4)(a) through (n) NMSA 1978 (Eligibility for Earned Meritorious Deductions) and the admission date is five years or less from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a basic sentence. If the admission date is six or more years from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a probation violation.*
2. *If the lead offense is an SVO by judicial discretion as defined in Section 33-2-34(N)(4)(o) NMSA 1978 and the admission date is three years or less from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a basic sentence. If the admission date is four or more years from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a probation violation.*
3. *If the lead offense is a nonviolent offense as defined in Section 33-2-34(N)(3) NMSA 1978 and the admission date is two years or less from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a basic sentence. If the admission date is three or more years from the case year of filing, the admission is coded as a probation violation.*

Figure 13 shows the impact of this change in methodology demonstrating the difference in category for the 5,548 individuals covered in this year’s report.

We assessed the accuracy of the algorithm by verifying admission type using court records with a test sample of Corrections Department data. Based on the results, we calculate that with the sample in this report, the algorithm likely correctly categorizes about 72% of the new admissions as either basic sentences or probation violations based on the distribution of cases representing statutory SVOs, judicially discretionary SVOs, and non-SVOs. Specifically, in our test sample, the algorithm correctly categorized 76% of new admissions for statutory SVOs as basic sentences or probation violations. Coincidentally, in our test sample, 76% of cases were basic sentences. This means that among statutory SVOs, the algorithm did as well, but no better, than the prior methodology of assuming all new admissions were basic sentences. In our test sample, the algorithm correctly categorized 60% of new admissions for judicially discretionary SVOs as basic sentences or probation violations. Since only 36% of judicially discretionary SVOs in the test sample were actually basic sentences, this means the algorithm improved accuracy from 24 percentage points above the prior methodology. Finally, in our test sample, the algorithm correctly categorized 71% of new admissions for non-SVOs as basic sentences or probation violations. Since only 35% of non-SVOs in the test sample were actually basic sentences, this means the algorithm improved accuracy from 36 percentage points above the prior methodology.

Figure 13. Comparison of Old and New Admission types

