

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Probation and Parole Statistics

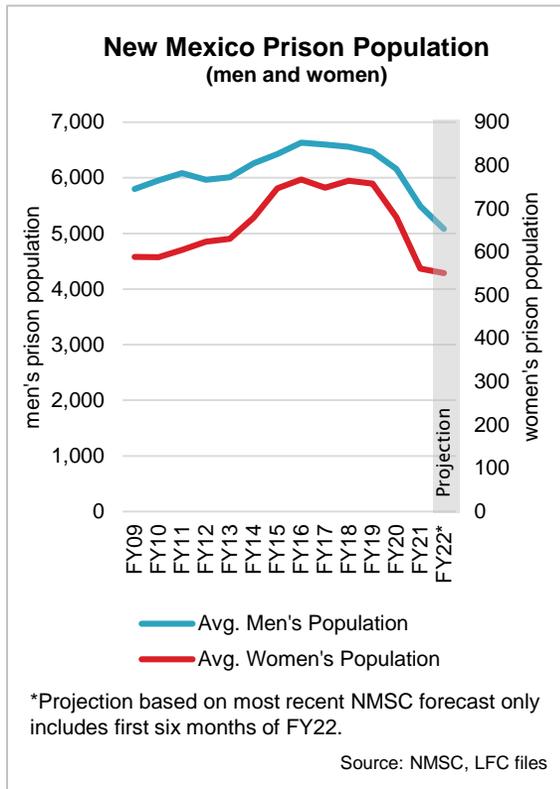
Ellen Rabin, Senior Fiscal Analyst, LFC
Presentation for the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee
August 9, 2021

Questions

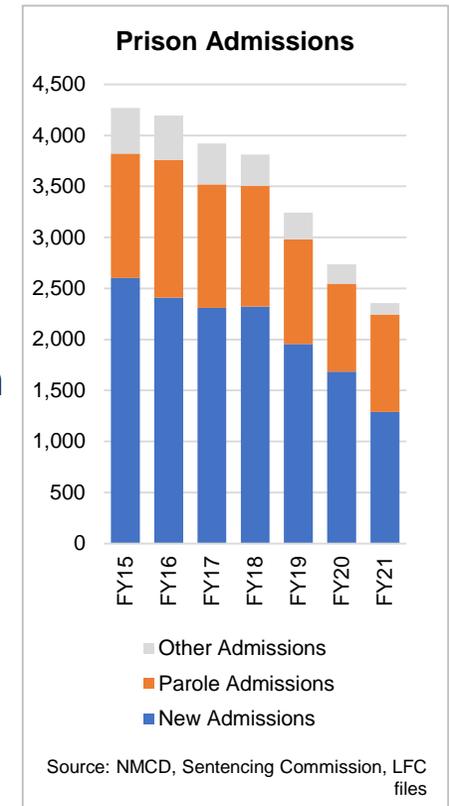
- How have prison population and admissions changed?
- What leads to parole revocations, especially technical parole revocations?
- How do technical parole violations impact prison admissions and population?
- What role do technical parole violations play in recidivism?
- How much do technical parole violations cost the state?



Prison Population and Admissions



- **Average FY21 prison population: 6,051**
 - 12 percent lower than FY20 average
 - 18 percent lower than 10-year high of 7,400 in FY16
 - Both men's and women's populations have fallen
- **Total FY21 prison admissions: 2,355**
 - 14 percent lower than FY20
 - 45 percent lower than 10-year high of 4,313 in FY15



Technical Parole Violations

Technical parole violations: violations of a probation or parole condition or conditions that do not constitute new criminal offenses, such as failed drug tests or missed appointments.

2018 LFC program evaluation of NMCD's recidivism reduction programs reviewed a random sample of 100 parolee files closed in 2016 and found:

- 67 percent of parolees violated conditions at least once
 - 75 percent of violations were for substance use or absconding
 - 15 percent of violations were for new charges (all of which were for drug possession)
 - 50 percent of drug-related violations were tied to methamphetamines
- 43 percent of parolees had their parole revoked after an average of 2.7 violations



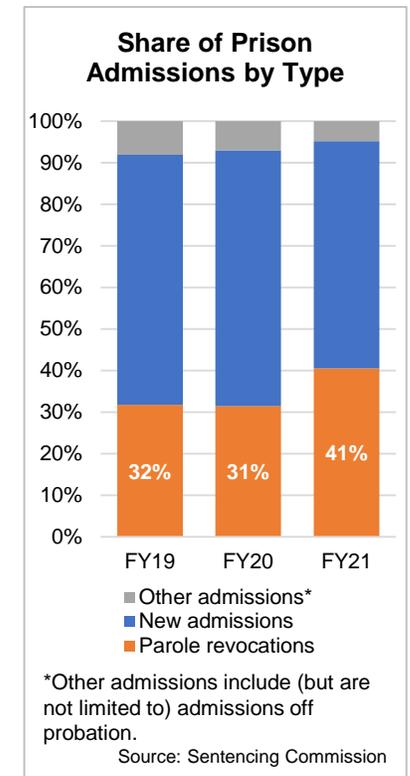
Impact of Violations on Admissions

Parole revocations made up an average of 30 percent of overall prison admissions over the past ten years and 31 percent of FY20 admissions – but rose to 41 percent in FY21.

- Overall prison admissions fell 14 percent in FY21, but the number of parolees returning to prison increased 11 percent.

Recidivism rate due to technical parole violations had been falling since FY17, but in FY21 it more than doubled compared to FY20 – from 13 percent to 30 percent.

- Revocations for technical violations drove almost half (49 percent) of recidivism in FY19, fell to 32 percent in FY20, then rose to 70 percent in FY21.
- The number of individuals who had their parole revoked due to technical violations within three years of release increased by 70 percent between FY20 and FY21.



Cost of Technical Parole Revocations

| | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Offenders recidivated due to technical parole revocations | 966 | 619 | 1,053 |
| Average length of stay after revocation | 344 days ¹ | 344 days | 344 days ¹ |
| Marginal annual cost per inmate ² | \$21,609 | \$23,287 | \$23,287 ² |
| Estimated total incarceration cost | \$19.7 million | \$13.6 million | \$23.1 million |

1. 344 day data is from FY20; assume similar lengths of stay in FY19 and FY21.

2. NMCD does not report cost-per-inmate or supervisee data until December; assume FY21 costs same as FY20.

Source: NMCD, NMSC

NMCD spent approximately \$9.5 million in FY21 than FY20 due to increased technical parole revocations.

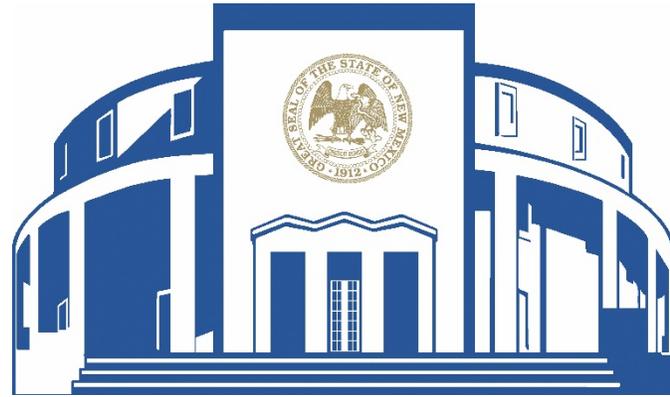
Alternatives to reincarceration, such as continued supervision or additional treatment in the community, are significantly more cost effective.



Conclusions

- Prison population and admissions have significantly decreased
- More people are being admitted to prison due to technical parole violations
- Technical violation revocations drove recidivism in FY21
- High levels of technical violation revocations cost the state an estimated \$23.1 million in FY21, \$9.5 million higher than FY20





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- <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lfc/lfcdefault.aspx>
 - Session Publications – Budgets
 - Performance Report Cards
 - Program Evaluations

Ellen Rabin, Senior Fiscal Analyst, LFC
Ellen.Rabin@nmlegis.gov
325 Don Gaspar – Suite 101
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-986-4335