

NEW MEXICO PRISON POPULATION FORECAST: *FY 2020—FY 2029*

National Trends

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,489,400 at yearend 2017. This was a decrease of approximately 18,800 prisoners over yearend 2016.
- The federal prison population decreased in size for the fifth year in a row. There were 6,100 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal prisons in 2017 than 2016. At yearend 2017, the number of inmates held in federal prisons was 183,100.
- The aggregate state prison population decreased again in 2017. There were 12,600 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of state prisons in 2017 than 2016. At yearend 2017, the number of inmates held in state prisons was 1,306,300.
- For sentenced prisoners, the imprisonment rate at yearend 2017 was the lowest since 1997, with 440 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages and 568 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- The national female prison population decreased by about 500 individuals, overall.
- On December 31, 2017, female inmates comprised 7.6% of the population in all state or federal prisons.

New Mexico Trends

Females: The New Mexico female inmate population has steadily increased over the past seven years. In 2017, females comprised approximately 10.8% of the total inmate population in the state. In the U.S. as a whole, female inmates under state supervision accounted for only 7.6% of the total.

To date in FY 2019, the high count for the female inmate population is 794 inmates.

FY 2018 high count: 797 female inmates;
FY 2017 high count: 764 female inmates;
FY 2016 high count: 791 female inmates;
FY 2015 high count: 782 female inmates;
FY 2014 high count: 704 female inmates.

Males: To date in FY 2019, the high count for the New Mexico male inmate population is 6,634 inmates.

FY 2018 high count: 6,616 male inmates;
FY 2017 high count: 6,639 male inmates;
FY 2016 high count: 6,727 male inmates;
FY 2015 high count: 6,558 male inmates.
FY 2014 high count: 6,344 male inmates.

Short-Term Forecast

Males:

In FY 2020, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 6,509.

In FY 2021, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 6,569.

Females:

In FY 2020, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 785.

In FY 2021, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 833.

While the growth of the prison population in New Mexico has slowed, male high counts for FY 2019 were above those recorded in FY 2018. Female high counts decreased slightly in FY 2019, however, reflecting contemporary shifts in national prison population trends.

INTRODUCTION

This prison population forecast was prepared by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UNM for 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. This report also includes information that may be of interest to policy makers who are involved with the correctional system. In FY 2019, Sentencing Commission staff met with NMCD on November 2 and May 17 to review inmate population trends and discuss factors that may affect the forecast.

The prison population time series forecasts used to produce this report are based on historical prison population data. It is understood that there are many factors driving prison populations, including arrest rates, the number of criminal cases filed in district courts, conviction rates, the availability of diversion programs, sentence lengths, admission and release rates, earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. Historical prison populations result from those factors and more.

This report includes updates for State of New Mexico and national prison population trends, factors influencing those populations, and prison admissions and releases. Additionally, inmate population forecasts are revised and formatted to represent recent movements in historical populations. Short- and long-term projections are generated for males and females, spanning the period between FY 2020 to FY 2029. The Sentencing Commission strives to produce inmate population estimates that fall within 3% of the actual population.

As of May 31, 2019, FY 2019 (July 2018 to June 2019) male and female forecasts have been within the 3% range for 7 of 11 months. Forecast estimates begin to deviate from the

3% margin beginning in February 2019, when prisoner populations began an unusual period of decline. On average, FY 2019 saw a decrease of 23 male prisoners per month. Between July 2018 and May 2019, the male prison inmate population has decreased by 267 persons. In FY 2018, the average number of male prisoners grew by 4 every month. Furthermore, the male inmate population increased by 79 throughout that fiscal year.

Female inmate population trends have been similarly disparate, compared to the previous fiscal year. Month-to-month, average female prison populations contracted by 3 individuals in FY 2019. In FY 2018, the female population expanded by an average of 2. Moreover, there has been a decrease of 31 prisoners between July 2018 and May 2019. In FY 2018, the number of female inmates experienced a net gain of 36.

Sentencing Commission staff will brief legislators and other policy makers on forecast updates. Results will also be presented to the Sentencing Commission, whose members include law enforcement representatives, the judiciary, the District Attorney’s Association, the criminal defense bar, and NMCD.

NATIONAL TRENDS

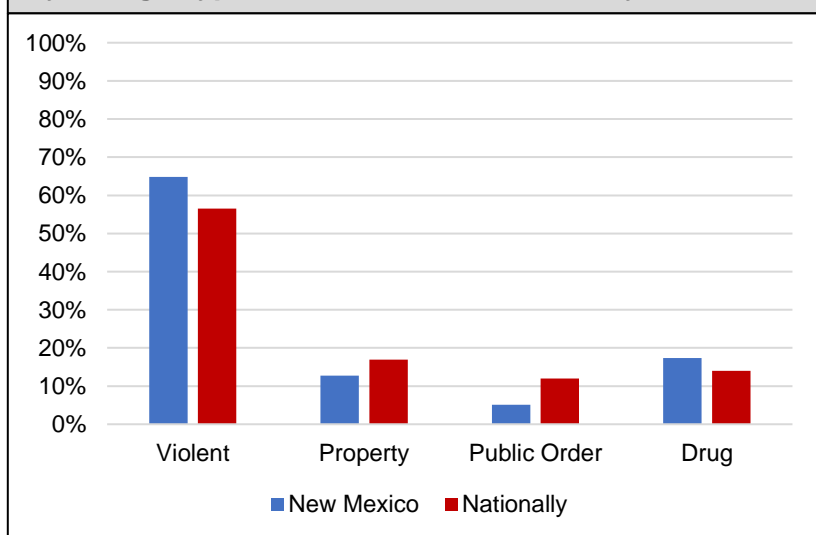
The U.S. Department of Justice publishes several annual reports that detail trends in the U.S. prison population. Those reports are based on data collected pursuant to the National Prisoner Statistics Program. Data has been collected on an annual basis since 1926. The most recent full-year report, titled *Prisoners in 2017*, was released in April 2019. It provides data on prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal and state correctional authorities from yearend 2016 to yearend 2017. Another annual publication is *Correctional Populations in the United States*, but the 2019 edition is still pending release. The following are included in those reports:

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled nearly 1,489,400 at yearend 2017. This was a decrease of 18,800 prisoners from yearend 2016.
- The federal prison population decreased in size for the fifth year in a row; this trend was first

identified in 2013. There were approximately 6,100 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal prisons in 2017 than in 2016. At yearend 2017, the number of inmates held in federal prisons was about 183,100.

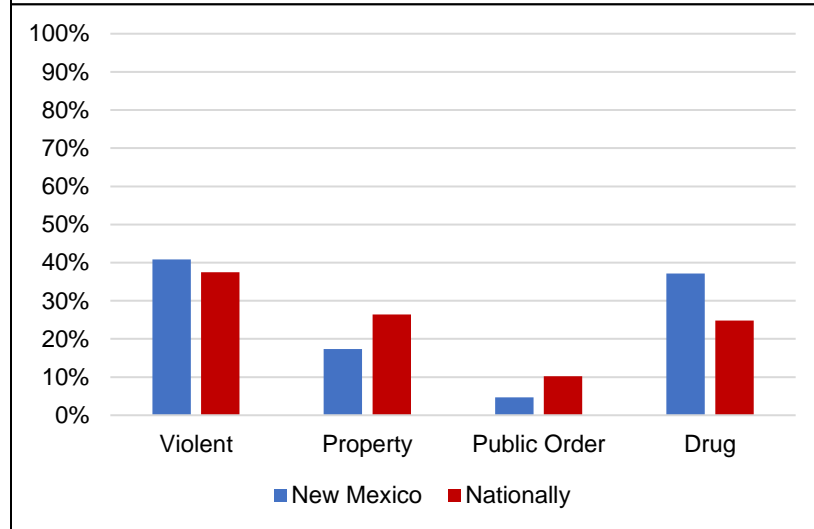
- The aggregate state prison population also decreased in 2017 (the current decline in state populations began in 2014). There were 12,600 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of state prisons in 2017 than in 2016. At yearend 2017, the number of inmates held in state prisons was 1,306,300.
- Adult correctional systems in the United States supervised an estimated 6,613,500 persons at yearend 2016.
- The imprisonment rate for sentenced prisoners saw another reduction from 2016 to 2017. At yearend 2017 it was the lowest since 1997, with 440 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages and 568 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- Compared to other state prisons, New Mexico houses a higher percentage of inmates convicted of violent offenses. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, on December 31, 2016, the percentage of male inmates confined in all 50 state prisons convicted of a violent offense was 56.5%. In New Mexico on June 30, 2018, 65% of male inmates were convicted of a violent offense (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Male State Prison Population by Charge Type, New Mexico and Nationally



- The percentage of confined women in New Mexico convicted of a violent offense is also larger than the national percentage (Figure 2). In New Mexico on June 30, 2018, 41% of female inmates were convicted of a violent offense. On December 31, 2016, the percentage of female inmates confined in all state prisons convicted of a violent offense was 37.5%.

Figure 2. Percentage of Female State Prison Population by Charge Type, New Mexico and Nationally



NEW MEXICO TRENDS

MALES:

The male high count for FY 2019 occurred in August 2018; it is currently at 6,634. Though male prisoner populations in New Mexico have been trending downward since then, the current high count is a 0.3% increase over the FY 2018 high. Male high counts are more volatile than female counts, with marked fluctuations between population losses and gains throughout the years.

High counts for male prison populations within the most recent 5 fiscal years are listed below. Table 1 provides these data since FY 2004. Between FY 2014 and FY 2018; male inmate high counts have grown by about 4.3%.

FY 2018 high count: 6,616 male inmates;
 FY 2017 high count: 6,639 male inmates;
 FY 2016 high count: 6,727 male inmates;
 FY 2015 high count: 6,558 male inmates;
 FY 2014 high count: 6,344 male inmates.

FEMALES:

In FY 2019, females comprise approximately 10.7% of the total inmate population for New Mexico. The most notable trend in the state is the increase in female totals since FY 2010, except for an instance in FY 2017, where the female inmate population decreased by about 3% relative to that in FY 2016. At 794, the current FY 2019 high count for female inmates is slightly under the FY 2018 high count of

797. Female population totals have also experienced a steady downtrend since recording the current high count, in November 2018.

Historical female totals for the last 5 fiscal years are presented below (see Table 1 for complete female and male inmate high counts, beginning FY 2004). Yearly high counts have increased by approximately 13.2% percent between FY 2014 and FY 2018.

FY 2018 high count: 797 female inmates;
 FY 2017 high count: 764 female inmates;
 FY 2016 high count: 791 female inmates;
 FY 2015 high count: 782 female

inmates;

FY 2014 high count: 704 female inmates.

Additionally, the percentage of females incarcerated in New Mexico continues to grow. From 2010 to 2018, the percentage of female inmates incarcerated in county jails in New Mexico has increased from 12.9% to 19.2 % of the total jail census. In 2017, female jail incarceration was at 18.1%.

FACTORS INFLUENCING PRISON POPULATION

In 2015, the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center/Institute for Social Research published a study entitled, [Prison Program Utilization and Recidivism Among Female Inmates in New Mexico](#) (Kristine Denman, April 2015). Findings set forth in the report include the following:

- Women who participated in educational programming were less likely to re-offend.
- Matching, recommending and promoting programming appropriate to criminogenic needs may decrease future offending.

- Post-release supervision was associated with decreased adjudications and incarcerations for new offenses.

Secondary to changes in the organizational structures of the Sentencing Commission, the current downtrend in male and female prison populations is not presently well understood. The relative stability of long-term trends in New Mexico, however, are a consequence of several factors, including:

- The total number of new filings in district courts for criminal cases decreased from FY 2014 to FY 2016 (17,600 and 15,700, respectively). FY 2017 saw an increase of approximately 1,100 new filings above the FY 2016 figure. In FY 2018, new filings for criminal cases increased again, totaling almost 19,200—the largest number of new filings in the time period spanning FY 2000 to FY 2018 (See Appendix C).
- Felony drug court programs and other specialty courts are established throughout New Mexico. Drug courts and other specialty courts are not a direct diversion from prison in most cases, but successful participation in specialty court programs may break the cycle of contact with the criminal justice system and eventual imprisonment.
- New Mexico is among a small number of states where the size of jail populations is comparable to prison populations. On June 30, 2018, the jail census in New Mexico was 6,260 while approximately 7,161 inmates were held in state prisons. Until recently, jail populations outweighed totals in state prisons. Reductions of inmate populations in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center (BCMDC) are largely responsible for declines identified in the total jail population across New Mexico.
- The adult parole board may impose sanctions other than a return to prison for parole violators whose infractions are technical in nature.

Every year, NMSC issues reports to describe current trends in earned meritorious deductions (EMD) and controlled release eligible inmates. These briefs provide additional detail that may inform legislation and policy:

- The [EMD](#) report provides information on the average proportion of time an individual serves

in both their prison and total sentences. This information is presented by gender and the EMD type of the individual.

- The [Controlled Release](#) report provides information on inmates who might be eligible for controlled release. This report details controlled release by gender, final custody level assignment, and type of offense.

NMSC staff meet regularly with NMCD staff to review inmate population trends and discuss factors that may affect current forecasts. Discussions have included the following subjects, which may impact future prison populations:

- NMCD continues to work with the Pew-MacArthur Foundation, the Legislative Finance Committee and NMSC on implementation of the Results First Initiative. The initiative employs an evaluation model to identify cost effective programs that reduce recidivism. Also, NMCD is working directly with Pew staff on an inventory of inmate programming in facilities and offender programming in communities.
- In 2017, NMCD implemented the use of the COMPAS assessment throughout Adult Prisons Division and Probation Parole Division.
- In 2018, the Legislature convened the Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee of the interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee. This subcommittee was tasked with analyzing the state's criminal justice system with an eye towards implementing criminal justice reforms across the system. This subcommittee's work will extend at least through the 2019 interim, and will include proposals to overhaul probation, parole and sentences for various crimes. NMSC staff will remain apprised of these developments, some of which could significantly impact future prison populations.
- From FY 2014 to FY 2019, the annual high count of release eligible inmates (REI) has dropped by 49% (FY 2014 REI high count was 392 while FY 2019 REI high count thru 6/12/19 was 200).
- In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 267 (Laws 2019, Chapter 127), a package of criminal justice reform efforts that grew out of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Task Force formed by House Joint Memorial 16 in the 2018 Legislative

Session. Much of this bill concerned data-sharing initiatives across criminal justice systems in the state, but it also included the Crime Reduction Grant Act, which provides a vehicle for funding reform initiatives in each judicial district. The NMSC has a coordinating role under the Act, and thus will be aware of any initiatives that could impact future prison populations.

- Also in 2019, the Legislature passed HB 342 (Laws 2019, Chapter 211), a second package of criminal justice reform initiatives. Among these reforms were changes to when parole shall be imposed for felony offenses, and changes in the conduct and use of eyewitness identifications.
- The Legislature passed SB 323 (Laws 2019, Chapter 217) in 2019, which decreased penalties for the possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

CURRENT OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Operational capacity is defined as the total number of beds available in a prison. In New Mexico, the current operational capacity equals the rated capacity, which measures the number of beds by prisoner classification a prison can reasonably maintain, given limitations like staffing and maintenance.

On June 14, 2019, the capacity for male inmates in NMCD is 7,099 beds. Correctional facilities for male inmates and their respective operational capacities are as follows:

- Penitentiary of New Mexico, Santa Fe (864)
- Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility, Las Cruces (768)
- Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, Los Lunas (1,221)
- Roswell Correctional Center, Roswell (340)
- Lea County Correctional Facility, Hobbs (1,293)
- Guadalupe County Correctional Facility, Santa Rosa (590)
- Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility, located in Clayton (628)
- Otero County Prison Facility, located in Chaparral (647)

- Northwestern NM Correctional Facility, Grants (748)

On the same date, the operational capacity for female inmates is 860 beds:

- Springer Correctional Center, Springer (437)
- Western NM Correctional Facility, Grants (423)

SHORT-TERM FORECAST

The short-term forecast estimates male and female inmate populations for the next two fiscal years (FY 2020 and FY 2021).

MALES:

In **FY 2020**, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 6,509.

In **FY 2021**, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 6,569.

The FY 2021 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for male inmates of 7,099 beds.

FEMALES:

In **FY 2020**, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 785.

In **FY 2021**, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 833.

The FY 2021 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for female inmates of 860 beds.

LONG-TERM FORECAST

Long-term forecasts are based upon current sentencing statutes and current NMCD policies and practices. It is not difficult to imagine that statutes, policies and practices may be different ten years from the publication of this report. Nevertheless, the long-term forecasts may contribute to useful discussions among policy makers and criminal justice professionals.

MALES:

In **FY 2029**, the projected high count for the male prison population is 6,946. This expected high count is within the current operational capacity for the male prison population of 7,099.

FEMALES:

In **FY 2029**, the projected high count for the female prison population is 941. This expected high count

exceeds the current operational capacity for the female population of 860.

NEW TOPICS:

NMSC seeks to constantly improve the state’s understanding of prison population trends. This report builds upon the previous two editions, which investigate the age of our prison population as it has transformed over the years.

PRISON POPULATION AGE

Prisons in the U.S. are constitutionally required to provide health care for prisoners. As the confined population ages, the cost to maintain the health of that population will increase. If inmate health needs are not adequately addressed in prisons, there can be greater burdens upon communities to care for those released (Ahalt et al., 2014).

In 2014, the Pew Charitable Trusts counted 144,500 state and federal prisoners with ages 55 years or older. In 2018, a follow-up report indicates that the inmate population within that age group had increased to 164,400. An increase in the prevalence of older prisoners is important to policy makers because older populations incur substantially larger health care costs (Kim and Peterson, 2014). Specifically, some estimates determine that the health care costs of inmates 55 years or older are two to three times larger than that for inmates of average age (Luallen and Kling, 2014). To appropriately fund NMCD, the issue of an aging prison population in New Mexico may require further study.

In the next section, Figures 3 and 4 compare national prisoner age demographics against those for

institutions within New Mexico. Figures 5 and 6 expand on those data, illustrating the change in age demographics for prisoners in New Mexico across the last three fiscal years.

CONFINED AGE: NATIONAL COMPARISON

The most recent national prisoner age data is from *Prisoners in 2017*, published by the U.S. Department of Justice, in 2019. New Mexico data is a year ahead—the most recent data is from June 30, 2018. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate differences in prisoner age between New Mexico and the nation for those years.

Compared to the national level, the percent of confined males in New Mexico is greater for the age groups 25-29 through 35-39 (Figure 3). For age groups 18-19, 20-24, 45-49, 50-54, and 55-59, national percentages are larger. Otherwise, confinement percentages are equal.

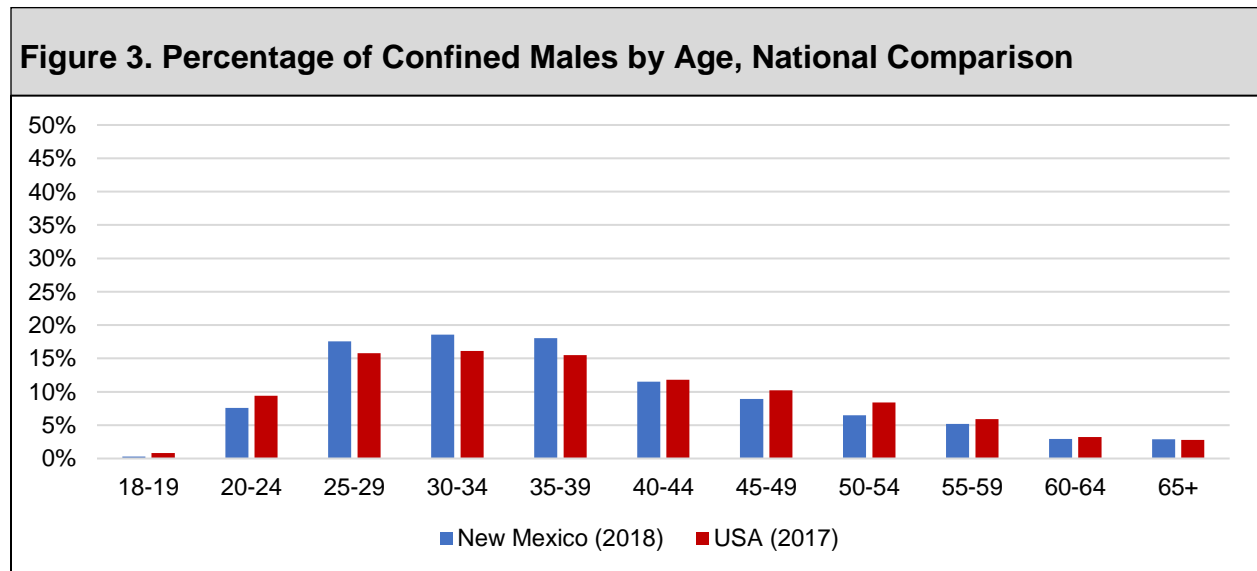
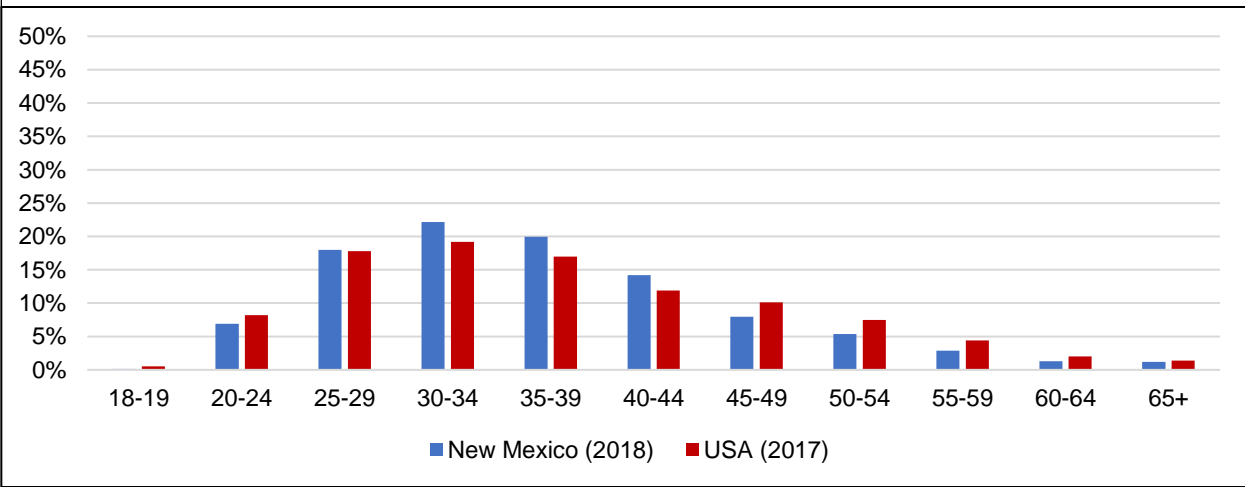


Figure 4. Percentage of Confined Females by Age, National Comparison



Confined female percentages (Figure 4) are like those in Figure 3, with the largest percentage of inmates resting in the 30-34 age group. From the 30-34 to 40-44 age groups, New Mexico confined female percentages outpace national levels. Other than for 25-29 and 65+, when values are equal, the remaining age groups show national percentages that are larger than those for New Mexico.

For confinement percentages by age and gender see Appendix A, Table 7.

CONFINED AGE: NEW MEXICO OVER TIME

Figures 5 and 6 show age trends in New Mexico confined populations, as measured on June 30 for the fiscal years 2016-2018. With the greatest concentration in the age group 30-34, the male confined population is younger compared to FY 2017 (Figure 5). Along with 65+, the age group 30-34 has remained relatively stable throughout the FY 2016-FY 2018 time period. Confined percentages for 20-24 and 25-29 years of age have increased while the age groups, 35-39 through 60-64 have decreased steadily in size, relative to the total population.

Figure 5. Percentage of New Mexico Males Confined by Age FY 2016 - FY 2018

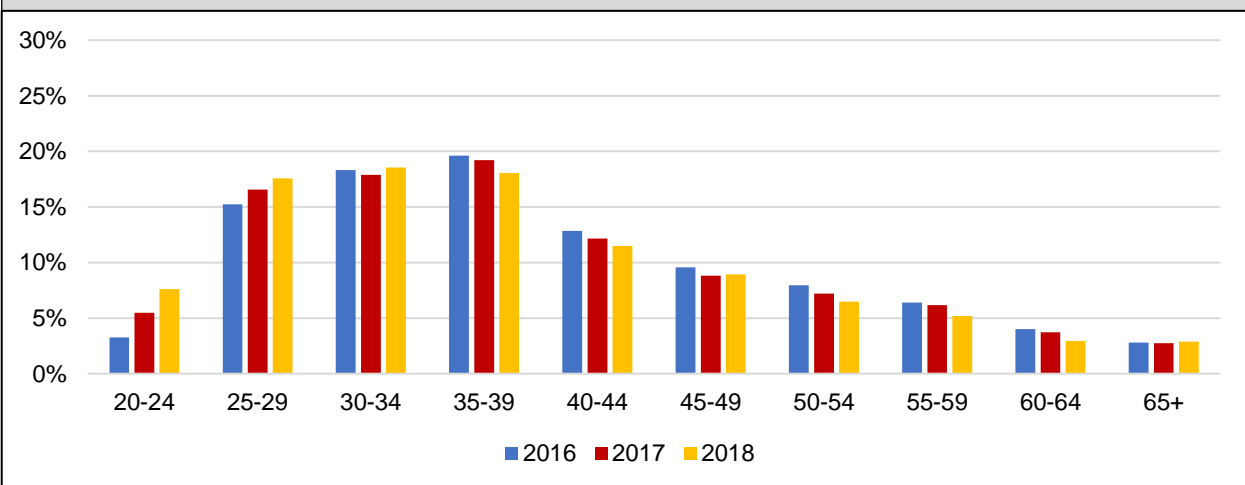


Figure 6. Percentage of New Mexico Females Confined by Age FY 2016 - FY 2018

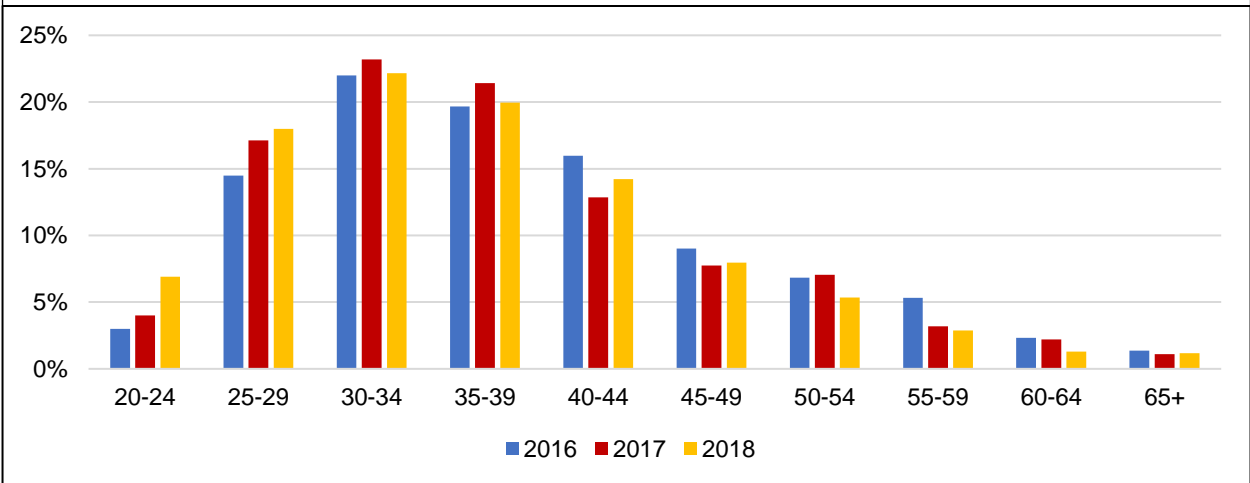


Figure 6 charts the same data for confined females. As with male populations, the largest percentage of female prisoners in FY 2018 are in the 30-34 age group, though group percentages are below those recorded in FY 2017. Female age groups 20-24, 25-29, 40-44 and 45-49, saw a percent increase from FY 2017, relative to the total population. The percent of

females in the 65+ group has remained relatively stable for the past three fiscal years.

Confinement percentages by age and gender across the three fiscal years are in Appendix A, Table 8.

Table 1. Actual and Projected Prisoner Population High Counts in New Mexico, FY 2004 to FY 2029

Fiscal Year	Males		Females	
	High Count	Change	High Count	Change
2004	5,811	3.0%	600	5.6%
2005	6,001	3.3%	636	6.0%
2006	6,134	2.2%	696	9.4%
2007	6,174	0.7%	713	2.4%
2008	6,012	-2.6%	629	-11.8%
2009	5,879	-2.2%	619	-1.6%
2010	6,177	5.1%	614	-0.8%
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%	799	0.3%
2020	6,509	-1.9%	785	-1.8%
2021	6,569	0.9%	833	6.1%
2022	6,625	0.8%	841	1.0%
2023	6,673	0.7%	840	-0.2%
2024	6,717	0.7%	873	3.9%
2025	6,761	0.7%	886	1.5%
2026	6,806	0.7%	892	0.7%
2027	6,853	0.7%	916	2.7%
2028	6,899	0.7%	931	1.6%
2029	6,946	0.7%	941	1.1%

Note: Projections begin in FY 2020.

ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Figure 7 shows the relationship between admissions and releases for male inmates relative to the monthly high population for each month from April 2013 to December 2018. Positive percentages indicate that admissions overtook releases during that month. Historically, male admissions have outpaced releases, but there is an increase in months with net greater releases beginning around April 2016. From April 2016 to November 2017, fluctuations between admissions and releases remained minimal. Since then, however, variations have greatly increased.

Figure 8 illustrates the same relationship between admissions and releases for female inmates. Differences between admissions and releases are large until the Fall of 2017, when releases become rare and admissions begin to dwindle. In contrast to trends identified in the male population, fluctuations between admissions and releases enter a tempering phase in November 2017. Releases outweigh admissions during the final four months of 2018.

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

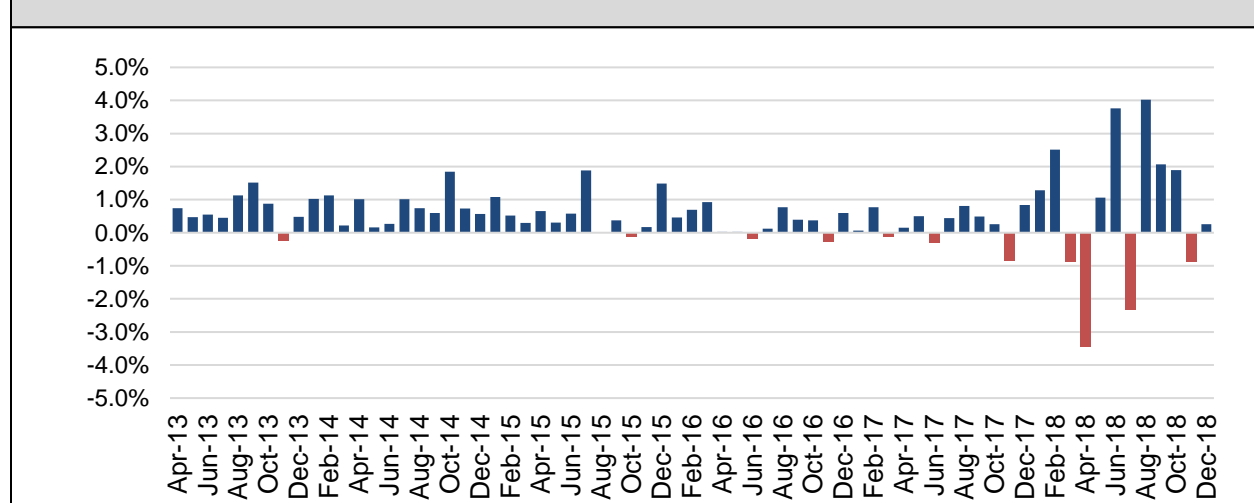
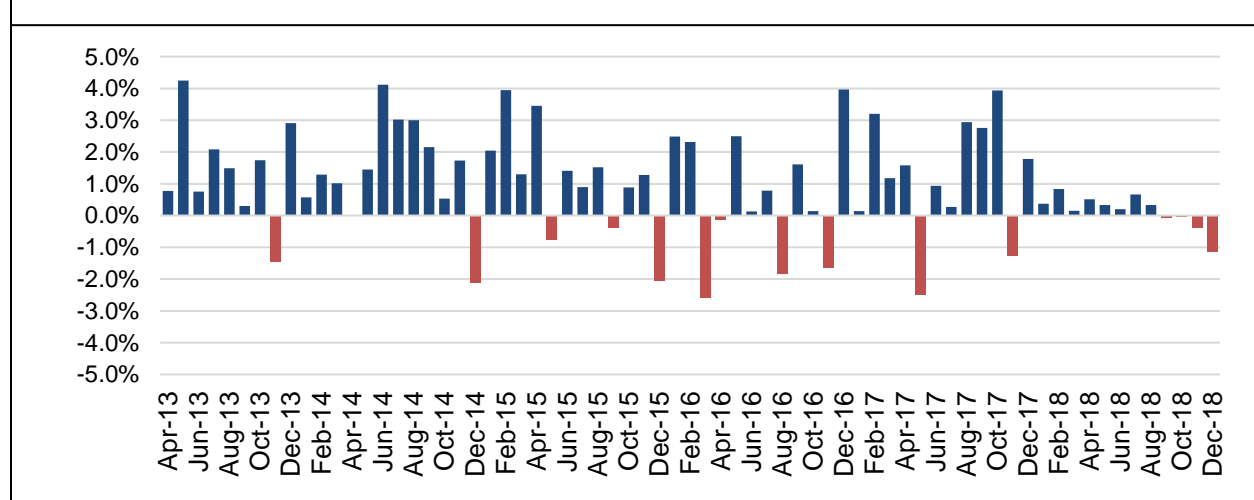


Figure 8. Monthly Female Net Change (Admissions-Releases)



NEW ADMISSIONS AND PAROLE ADMISSIONS

Figures 9 and 10 identify trends between new and parole-related admissions for male and female inmates. Admissions for new offenses outpace parole

admissions throughout the time period, for both sexes. However irregular at the start, variations between male new and parole admissions begin to mirror one another in Q3 FY 2015. A similar trend is present in Figure 10 beginning Q1 FY 2015.

Figure 9. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Males, July 2013 to December 2018

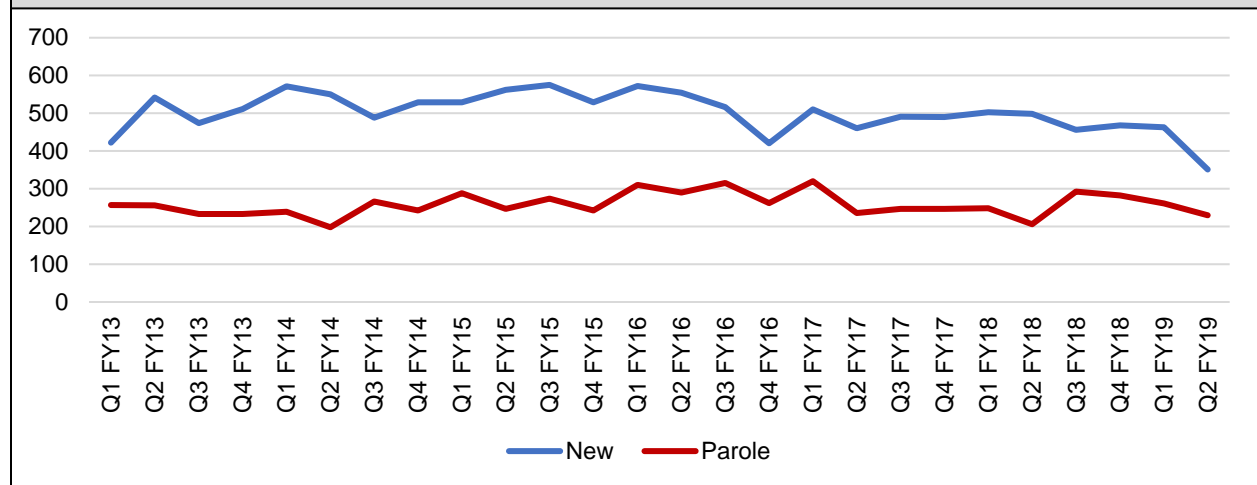
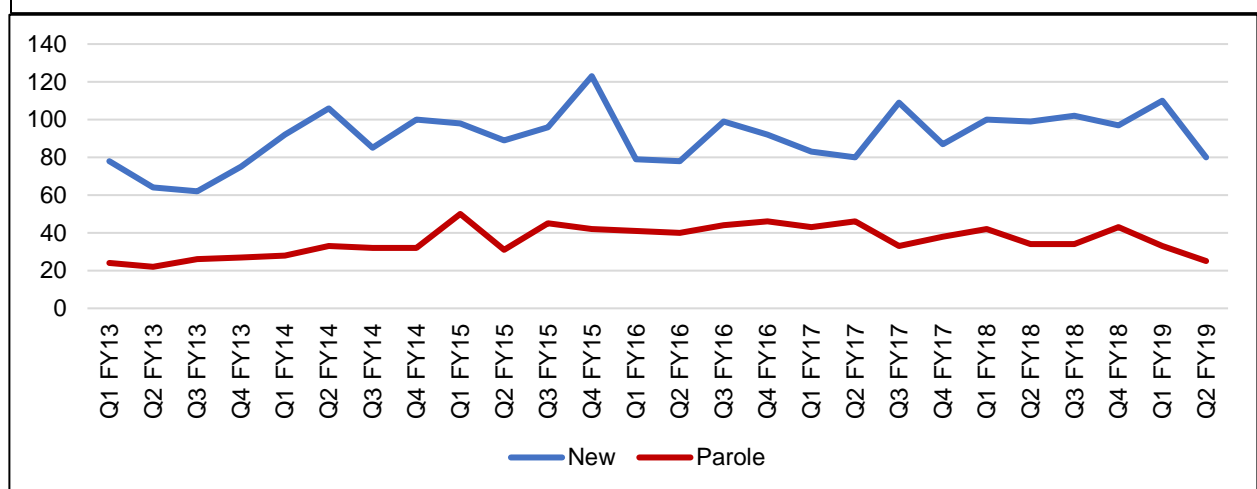


Figure 10. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Females, July 2013 to December 2018



NEW ADMISSIONS BY CHARGE TYPE

Figure 11 illustrates new male admissions by charge type for fiscal years 2014 through 2018. That information is presented for female new admissions in Figure 12. Tables 2 and 3, on the following page, provide additional details on charge types for both genders.

The bulk of male new admissions result from violent, drug, and property crimes. Though admissions resulting from drug and property crimes are at 5-year lows in FY 2018, admissions due to violent crimes have increased by 7 persons since FY 2017. Still, admissions for serious violent offenses (SVO) have been decreasing steadily throughout the time period. Following a 3-year period of decline, charges for

DWI experienced a slight bump in FY 2018. Conversely, male public order charges are at their highest point in FY 2018.

Female new admissions are also largely due to charges for drug and property crimes. In FY 2018, charges for drug crimes are at record highs for the 5-year period, while those for property crimes are at their lowest. Violent crime charges amongst female new admissions have been trending upwards since FY 2016. Likewise, FY 2018 female new admissions for SVO have grown after a period of decline and are now at levels near the high recorded in FY 2015. As with male DWI charges, female numbers are on the rebound from a previous low point. The same pattern exists for new admissions resulting from public order offenses.

Figure 11. Males New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY 2014 to FY 2018)

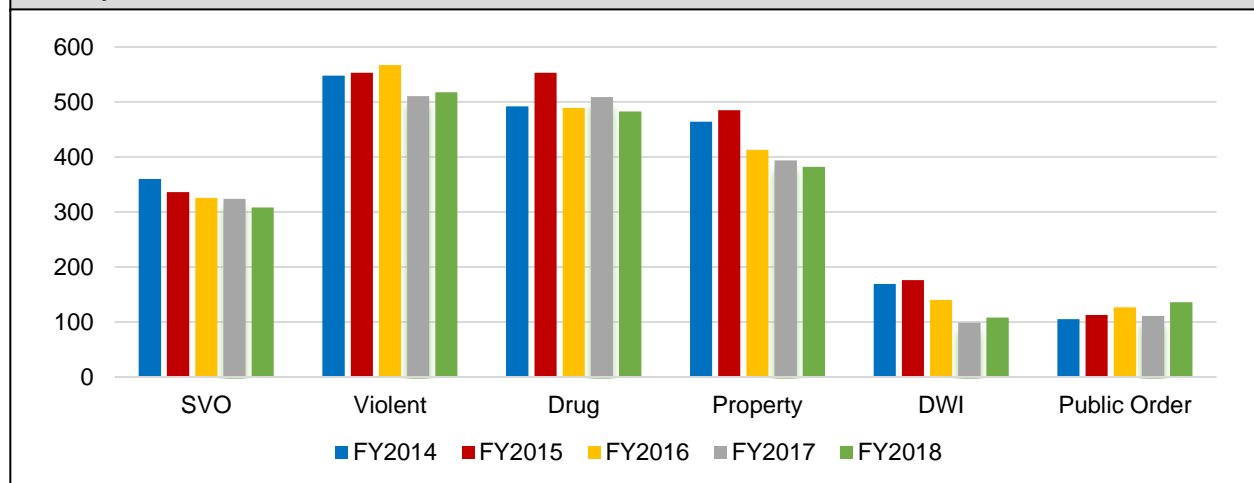


Figure 12. Females New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY 2014 to FY 2018)

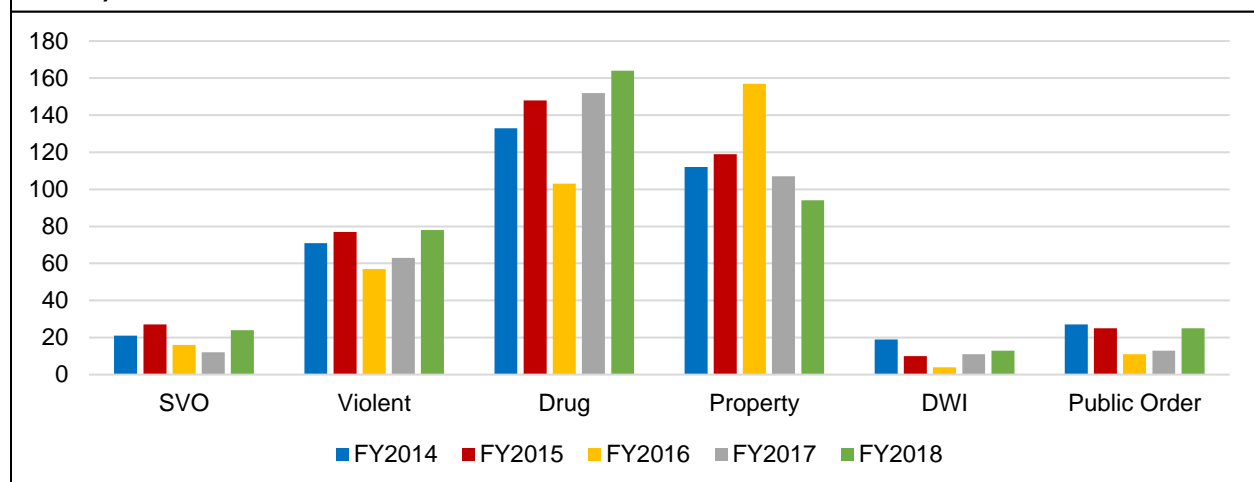


Table 2. Male Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violent					
SVO	360	336	326	324	308
Sex Crime	57	59	63	48	43
Assault and Battery	234	256	243	234	256
Other Violent*	257	238	261	228	219
Property					
Burglary	238	232	175	164	145
Other Property*	226	253	238	228	237
Drug					
Drug Trafficking	235	268	204	209	186
Drug Possession	257	285	285	300	297
Public Order					
DWI	169	176	140	99	108
Other Public Order*	105	113	127	110	136
Other					
Parole	945	1074	1177	1050	1028
Other Admissions*	443	367	352	323	237
Total	3526	3657	3591	3317	3200

*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 Admissions: probation, diagnostic

Table 3. Female Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violent					
SVO	21	27	16	12	24
Sex Crime	2	4	0	1	1
Assault and Battery	15	22	22	17	26
Other Violent*	54	51	35	45	51
Property					
Burglary	34	30	25	29	22
Other Property*	78	89	132	77	72
Drug					
Drug Trafficking	62	74	51	65	65
Drug Possession	71	74	52	87	99
Public Order					
DWI	19	10	4	11	13
Other Public Order*	27	25	11	12	25
Other					
Parole	125	168	171	160	153
Other Admissions*	81	82	84	78	71
Total	589	656	603	594	622

*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 Admissions: probation, diagnostic

APPENDIX A

Table 4. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2019

Month	Males			Females		
	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy
18-Jul	6,613	6,458	-2.34%	770	757	-1.70%
18-Aug	6,634	6,465	-2.54%	771	778	0.96%
18-Sep	6,626	6,472	-2.33%	775	784	1.21%
18-Oct	6,610	6,469	-2.14%	793	799	0.77%
18-Nov	6,582	6,465	-1.78%	794	796	0.20%
18-Dec	6,547	6,446	-1.55%	788	773	-1.86%
19-Jan	6,454	6,429	-0.39%	785	768	-2.21%
19-Feb	6,397	6,441	0.69%	759	756	-0.36%
19-Mar	6,362	6,448	1.36%	747	757	1.34%
19-Apr	6,368	6,461	1.46%	737	751	1.93%
19-May	6,346	6,463	1.85%	739	727	-1.56%
19-Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 13. Actual Male Prison Population and Forecast: July 2015 to July 2021

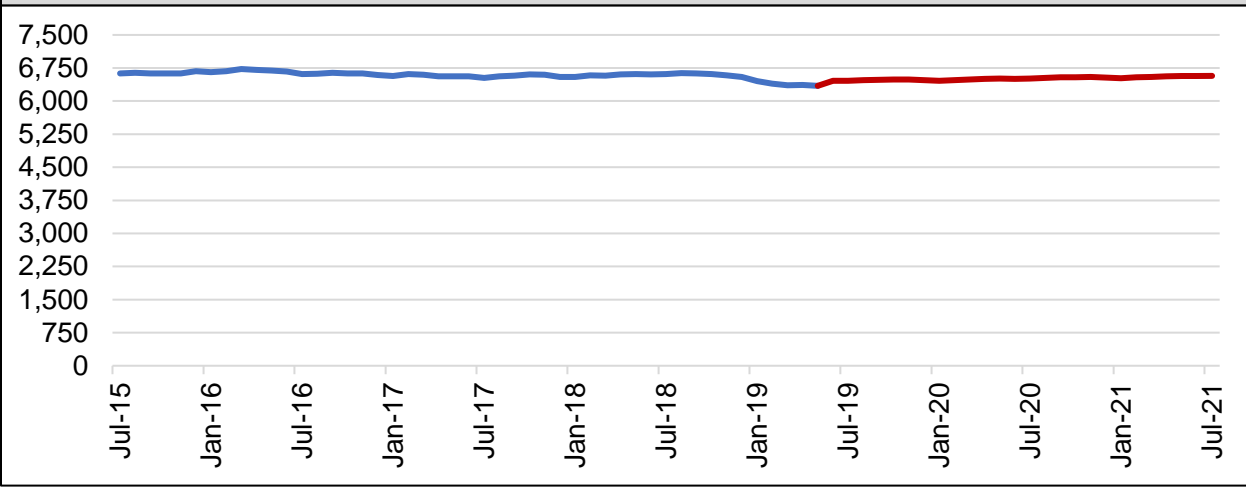


Table 5. Male Prison Population Projections, June 2019 to June 2029

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
January	-	6,461	6,519	6,577	6,627	6,672	6,716	6,760	6,806	6,852	6,899
February	-	6,477	6,537	6,594	6,643	6,688	6,732	6,777	6,823	6,869	6,916
March	-	6,488	6,548	6,604	6,653	6,698	6,742	6,787	6,833	6,879	6,926
April	-	6,504	6,564	6,620	6,669	6,713	6,757	6,802	6,848	6,895	6,942
May	-	6,509	6,569	6,625	6,673	6,717	6,761	6,806	6,853	6,899	6,946
June	6,459	6,507	6,567	6,622	6,669	6,713	6,758	6,803	6,849	6,896	6,943
July	6,461	6,511	6,571	6,625	6,672	6,717	6,761	6,806	6,852	6,899	-
August	6,473	6,526	6,586	6,640	6,686	6,730	6,775	6,820	6,867	6,913	-
September	6,485	6,539	6,599	6,652	6,699	6,743	6,787	6,833	6,879	6,926	-
October	6,487	6,543	6,603	6,655	6,701	6,745	6,790	6,835	6,882	6,929	-
November	6,488	6,545	6,605	6,656	6,702	6,746	6,790	6,836	6,883	6,930	-
December	6,474	6,532	6,590	6,641	6,686	6,730	6,775	6,820	6,867	6,913	-

Figure 14. Actual Female Prison Population and Forecast: July 2015 to July 2021

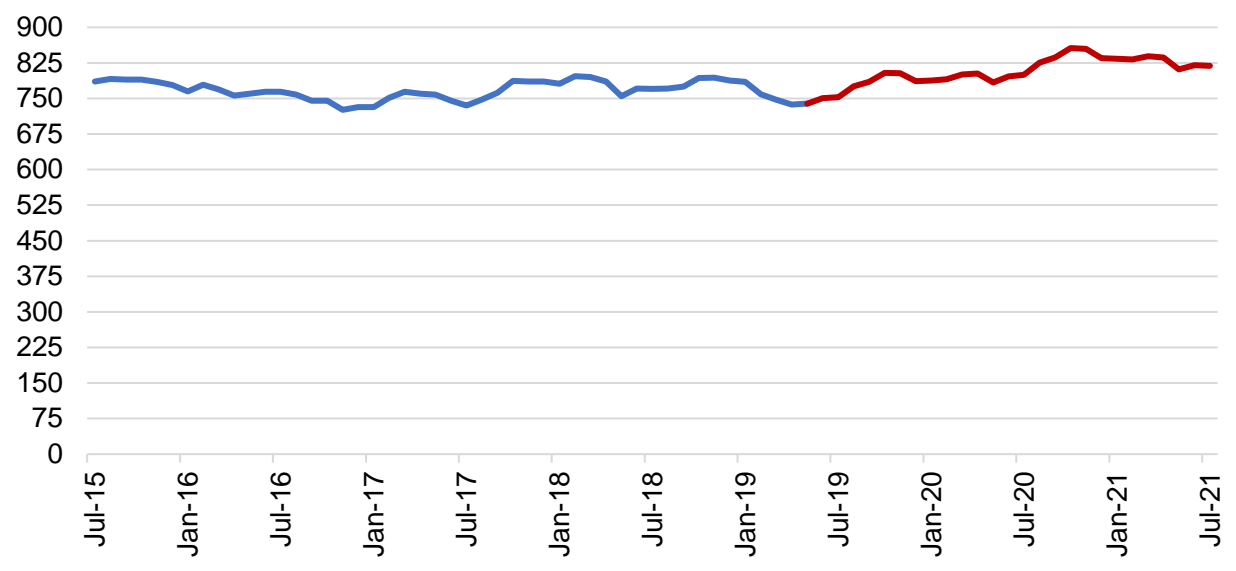


Table 6. Female Prison Population Projections, June 2019 to June 2029

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
January	-	769	817	815	823	855	862	873	898	909	922
February	-	768	813	808	820	851	856	869	894	904	917
March	-	777	818	811	827	857	861	876	899	909	924
April	-	778	816	807	827	855	858	874	897	906	922
May	-	759	793	784	806	832	835	853	875	884	900
June	736	772	801	792	817	841	843	864	884	892	910
July	736	776	800	792	820	841	844	865	884	893	-
August	758	801	820	814	844	862	866	889	906	915	-
September	767	812	826	822	854	869	874	898	914	923	-
October	785	832	841	840	873	886	892	916	931	941	-
November	785	833	838	840	873	884	891	916	929	940	-
December	769	817	819	824	857	865	874	899	911	923	-

Table 7. Percentage of Confined Population by Age: New Mexico (FY 2018) and Nationally (2017)

Age Group	Males			Females		
	New Mexico	Nationally	Difference	New Mexico	Nationally	Difference
18-24	8%	10%	-2%	7%	9%	-2%
25-29	18%	16%	2%	18%	18%	0%
30-34	19%	16%	3%	22%	19%	3%
35-39	18%	16%	3%	20%	17%	3%
40-44	12%	12%	0%	14%	12%	2%
45-49	9%	10%	-1%	8%	10%	-2%
50-54	6%	8%	-2%	5%	8%	-3%
55-59	5%	6%	-1%	3%	4%	-1%
60-64	3%	3%	0%	1%	2%	-1%
65+	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Table 8. Percentage of Confined Population in New Mexico Across Time, FY 2016 to FY 2018

Age Group	Males				Females			
	2016	2017	2018	2018-2016	2016	2017	2018	2018-2016
18-24	3%	5%	8%	5%	3%	4%	7%	4%
25-29	15%	17%	18%	3%	14%	17%	18%	4%
30-34	18%	18%	19%	1%	22%	23%	22%	0%
35-39	20%	19%	18%	-2%	20%	21%	20%	0%
40-44	13%	12%	12%	-1%	16%	13%	14%	-2%
45-49	10%	9%	9%	-1%	9%	8%	8%	-1%
50-54	8%	7%	6%	-2%	7%	7%	5%	-2%
55-59	6%	6%	5%	-1%	5%	3%	3%	-2%
60-64	4%	4%	3%	-1%	2%	2%	1%	-1%
65+	3%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%

APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY

As in previous reports, this report applies historical observations of prison population data to generate the figures included in the forecasts. NMSC maintains a dataset of daily totals for males and females in New Mexico. Monthly high counts are extracted from those data to produce a complete sample that spans from January 2001 to the current month. This is time series data.

It is understood that many factors drive prison populations. Historical observations result from those factors, which include changes in an area's demographics, arrest rates, total criminal cases filed in district court, conviction rates, diversion program availability, sentence lengths, admission and release rates, availability of earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. Whenever new laws or policies are enacted that may significantly affect the prison population, it is recommended that any long-term forecasts be re-evaluated to incorporate contemporary trends in the data.

Time series forecasting consists of examining historical prison population data, identifying potential methodologies, fitting the data, and testing the model. Testing includes a comparison of descriptive statistics for each model to establish the best-fitting specification. Then, projections are evaluated against actual observations to determine the accuracy of each model. Diagnostic checks are applied to the differences between forecast estimates and observed values to ensure that a model adequately explains trends in the data.

It is possible for historical trends to be well-represented by more than one model. Though diagnostic checks are imperative for selecting the most precise specification, the present methodology requires augmentations at various steps to incorporate details from conversations with Sentencing Commission staff which detail upcoming issues that may influence prison populations/patterns. Male and female forecasts are modeled separately with Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) models specified through Box-Jenkins techniques. Seasonal differences are applied to each series. Autocorrelation functions are then utilized to specify autoregressive and moving average terms.

MALES

High counts for male prison populations have been decreasing sharply since August 2018. The smoothness of the current decline is not typical, though a similar event occurred between August 2006 and March 2007. To capture that effect, along

with more contemporary patterns, the sample period for the male forecast extends from January 2004 to May 2019. These data are transformed into their natural logs, as forecast accuracy is improved relative to those completed with untransformed data.

Male population forecasts are estimated for the period spanning January 2016 to June 2029 through a model specified with AR terms at 1, 2, and 12 and an MA term at 12. Between January 2016 and May 2019, all forecast prisoner population highs are within 3% of actual observations.

FEMALES

Recently, female prisoner populations also entered an unusual period of decline, beginning in November 2018. There are, however, similar patterns of increase/decrease that have been ongoing since August 2015, where population highs reach near-800 female prisoners before quickly dropping to near-750. Prior to that, a section of stable growth begins at the start of 2010.

To represent historical growth trends and recent fluctuations, the female forecast sample begins on January 2010 and terminates on April 2019. A model with AR terms at 1 and 12 and MA terms at 7 and 9 is used to forecast for populations in the period between June 2018 and June 2029. Again, all forecast values between June 2018 and May 2019 are at least 3% of the observed value.

APPENDIX C: NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY DATA

Figure 15. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY2000 to FY2018

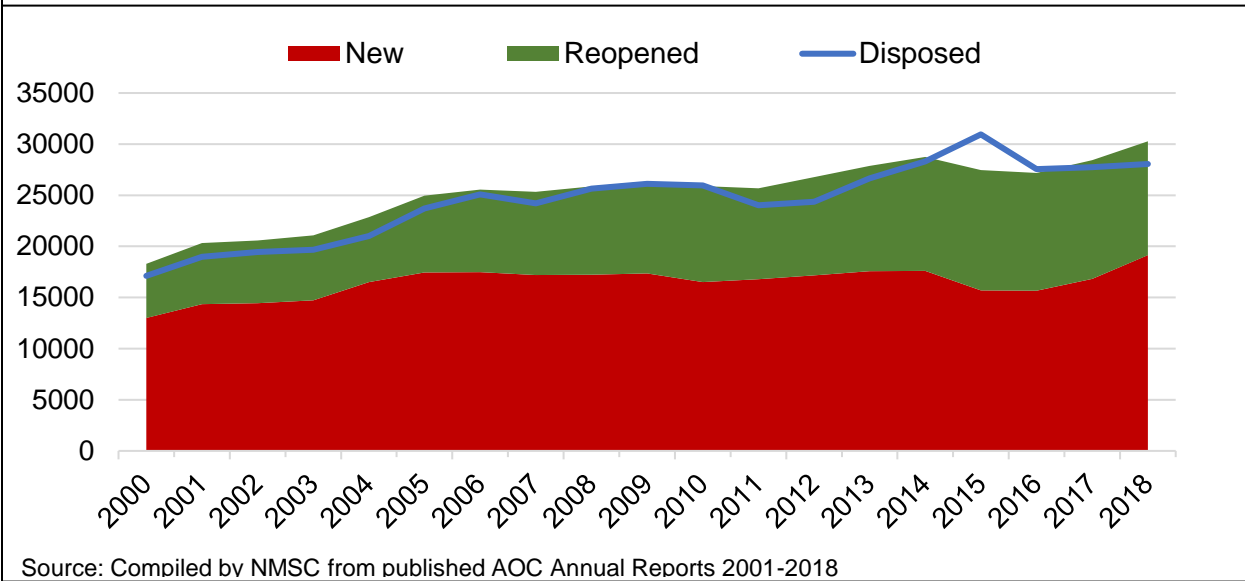


Table 9. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2018

Fiscal Year	New	Reopened	Total New and Reopened	Total Disposed
2000	12,995	5,300	18,295	17,119
2001	14,349	5,991	20,340	18,972
2002	14,449	6,141	20,590	19,453
2003	14,718	6,372	21,090	19,660
2004	16,522	6,349	22,871	21,007
2005	17,439	7,530	24,969	23,708
2006	17,482	8,071	25,553	25,083
2007	17,206	8,139	25,345	24,224
2008	17,226	8,657	25,883	25,648
2009	17,359	8,983	26,342	26,111
2010	16,509	9,396	25,905	25,963
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	11,164	27,977	27,741
2018	19,152	11,125	30,277	28,069

REFERENCES

- Denman, K. (2015). Prison Program Utilization and Recidivism Among Female Inmates in New Mexico.
- U.S. Department of Justice. (2019). Prisoners in 2017 (Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin NCJ251149). Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.
- U.S. Department of Justice. (2018). Correctional Populations in the United States, 2016 (Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin NCJ 251211). Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.
- Ahalt, Cyrus, et al. (2013) "Paying the price: the pressing need for quality, cost, and outcomes data to improve correctional health care for older prisoners." *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 61.11.
- Luallen, Jeremy, and Ryan Kling. (2014) "A method for analyzing changing prison populations: explaining the growth of the elderly in prison." *Evaluation review* 38.6: 459-486.
- Kim, KiDeuk, and Bryce Peterson. (2014). "Aging behind bars: trends and implications of graying prisoners in the federal prison system. Urban Institute.
- Pew Charitable Trusts. 2014. Prison Population Continues to Age. Oct. 3. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2014/10/03/prison-population-continues-to-age>.
- Pew Charitable Trusts. 2018. Aging Populations Drive Up Costs. Feb. 20. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/02/20/aging-prison-populations-drive-up-costs>.