

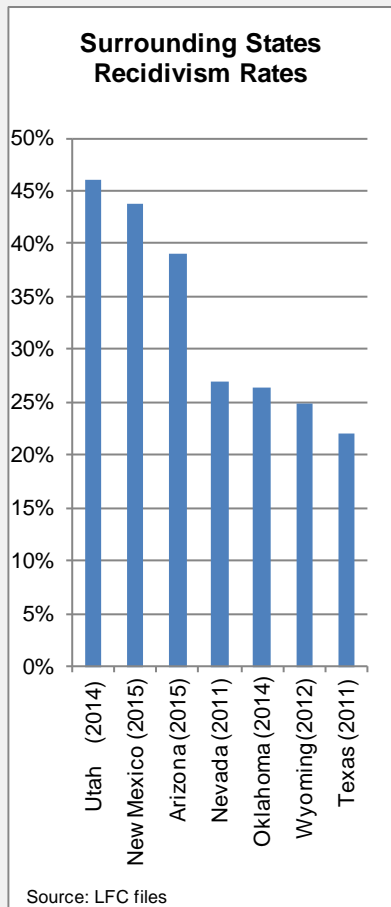
PERFORMANCE: New Mexico Corrections Department

KEY ISSUES

The New Mexico Corrections Department fell short on some performance targets including overall recidivism, timely releases, sex offender recidivism, and parole officer caseloads, but does have a plan to close these gaps such as providing evidence-based recidivism reduction programming. However, inmate and staff safety as well as absconder apprehension target levels were all achieved.

AGENCY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Submitted by agency? Yes
 Timeline assigned by agency? No
 Responsibility assigned by agency? Yes

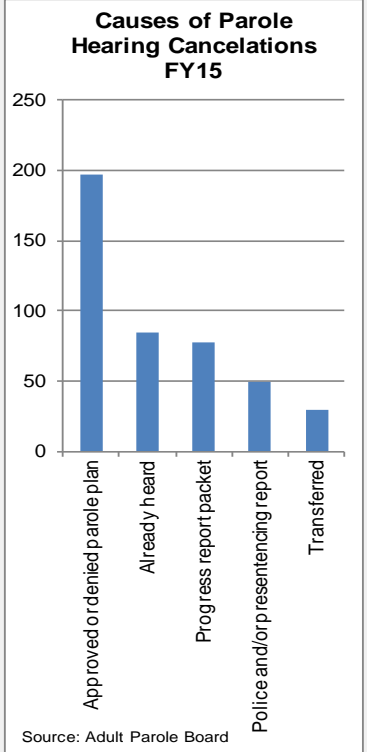
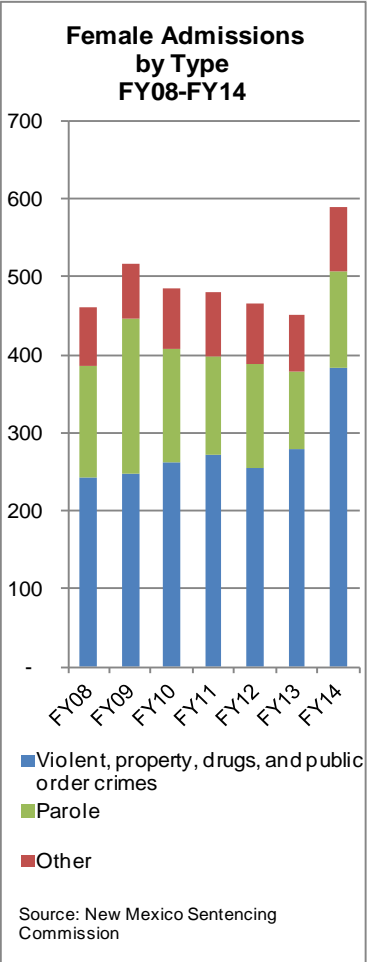


The New Mexico Department of Corrections (NMCD) reported relatively high recidivism rates amid growing prison populations and crime rates in New Mexico. New Mexico has the second highest recidivism rate, the highest rate of violent crime among surrounding states, the second lowest incarceration rate per 100 thousand residents, and the highest rate of aggravated assault among states. The department received a \$7 million special appropriation during the 2015 legislative session to cover costs associated with growing populations in FY15 as well as a 3.8 percent FY16 base general fund increase.

A recent study by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission suggests female prison population growth is driven by the length of stay more than new admissions. However, female rates of violent crime have grown over time as well as admissions for new crimes, leading to a growing female recidivism rate. In a study by the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center, 67 percent of females recidivated within four years of release. The department should enhance educational programming to reduce recidivism and continue efforts to expand transitional living facilities statewide.

Inmate Management and Control. The leading causes of inmates serving time in prison rather than on parole are a lack of community resources for parolees, administrative issues causing parole hearings to be canceled, and inmates not participating in the parole process. NMCD is working to reduce inmate refusal to participate in the parole process by implementing disciplinary measures, including a loss of accrued good time. Additionally, some inmates serving parole sentences in prison, once their sentences have run out, are released without community supervision – posing a public safety risk. The 2015 legislative session added \$500 thousand for a transitional living pilot program and \$400 thousand to expand transitional living services for women. The funding should reduce the number of inmates and improve recidivism rates in future years.

Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	Rating
Thirty-six month recidivism rate	47%	47%	44%	47%	R
Number of inmate-on-inmate assaults with serious injury	21	9	15	12	G
Number of inmate-on-staff assaults with serious injury	5	5	4	2	G
Percent of inmates testing positive for drug use or refusing to be tested in random monthly drug tests	2.2%	2.0%	≤2.0%	2.6%	R
Percent of female offenders successfully released in accordance with their scheduled release dates	77%	78%	90%	87%	Y
Percent of male offenders successfully released in accordance with their scheduled release dates	81%	78%	90%	90%	G



Percent of sex offenders re-incarcerated within thirty-six months	28%	41%	25%	35%	R
Recidivism rate of offenders due to new charges or pending charges	24%	26%	20%	23%	Y
Recidivism rate of offenders due to technical parole violations	new	22%	20%	17%	G
Program Rating					Y

Community Offender Management. The department maintained turnover rates well below targeted levels for probation and parole officers as well as correctional officers in public facilities. A 6 percent salary increase as well as a focus on the timely promotion of officers contributed to the decrease. The percent of inmates testing positive for drug use, or refusing the tests, increased over the year. The department noticed an increase in the use of suboxone, a drug prohibited in the prison system. The department increased use of intelligence information and is studying visiting policies to prevent illicit substances from entering the facilities.

Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	Rating
Average standard caseload per probation and parole officer	108	105	90	99	R
Percent of absconders apprehended	13%	12%	26%	28%	G
Program Rating					Y

