



NEW MEXICO PRISON POPULATION FORECAST: FY 2022—FY 2031

Prepared by NMSC Staff

Updated on August 31, 2021

While we tried to simulate the downward trend in prison population that started in FY 2018 in our forecast, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact the prison population. From the time of New Mexico's first positive case in March 2020 to present, the total population continues to drastically decline. Given these dramatic population changes, we will review our forecast on a quarterly basis.

New Mexico Trends

Females: The New Mexico female inmate population has entered an unusual period of decline beginning in Nov 2018, although patterns of increase/decrease have been ongoing since 2015. Prior to that, stable growth in the female population began at the start of 2010. As of June 28, 2021, females comprised approximately 10% of the total inmate population in the state.

To date in FY 2021, the high count for the female inmate population is 607 inmates

FY 2020 high count: 742 female inmates;
FY 2019 high count: 799 female inmates;
FY 2018 high count: 797 female inmates;
FY 2017 high count: 764 female inmates;
FY 2016 high count: 791 female inmates.

Males: High counts for male prison populations have been sharply decreasing since August 2018, the high point in the FY 2019 population.

To date in FY 2021, the high count for the New Mexico male inmate population is 5,708 inmates.

FY 2020 high count: 6,331 male inmates;
FY 2019 high count: 6,634 male 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;

Short-Term Forecast

Males:

- In FY 2022, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,402.
- In FY 2023, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,442.

Females:

- In FY 2022, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 556.
- In FY 2023, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 565.

National Trends

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,430,805 at yearend 2019. This was a decrease of approximately 33,850 prisoners over yearend 2018.
- In 2019, the federal population fell 2.7% to 175,416 individuals from the 2018 population. The highest population of the decade was in 2012 at 217,815. State systems have seen similar decrease in population to a population of 1,255,689 in 2019.
- As of 2019, 556 per 100,000 individuals over 18 are incarcerated in the United States. New Mexico is lower at 429 per 100,000 individuals over 18.
- For sentenced prisoners, the imprisonment rate at yearend 2018 was the lowest since 1996, with 431 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages and 555 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- According to a Vera Institute report, nation jail populations experienced an extreme dip in 2020 to 575,500 individuals, gaining back some, but not all, of the decrease by the end of the year, which was 633,300 individuals.
- According to a Vera Institute report, 2020 nationwide prison populations hit a low point of 1.3 million individual's mid-year 2020; however, the Department of Justice data for this period has not been released.

INTRODUCTION

This prison population forecast was prepared by 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, and includes information that may be of interest to policy makers who are involved with the correctional system.

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 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.

It is understood that 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, admission and release rates, the availability of earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. The observed prison population is a result of all those factors and others. When new laws or policies come to bear which significantly affect the prison population, it is recommended that a new long-term forecast be produced to incorporate new data that reflects those changes.

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.

As a whole, the last fiscal year saw a continuation of the prison population decline identified in past reports. Due in part to efforts to combat COVID-19, the prison population declined even more dramatically than in past years. For example, the highest point in the FY 2021 female population dropped by 18% compared to the previous fiscal year. These dramatic declines spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic could be seen as a temporary decline, but ongoing advocacy around criminal justice reform, sentencing changes, and expansion of diversion programs suggests that the prison population will stay down. NMSC will continue to update the projection to reflect any changes.

NATIONAL TRENDS

The U.S. Department of Justice publishes 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 2019, was released in October 2020. It provides data on prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal and state correctional authorities. Additionally, research from the Vera Institute of Justice in their report; People in Jail and Prison in 2020 provides a more up to date look at selected national prison populations through 2020.

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,430,805 individuals at the end of 2019, a decrease of 33,580 from the 2018 figure.
- In 2019 the federal prison population fell 2.7% to 175,416 individuals from 2018. The highest population of the decade was in 2012 at 217,815.
- State systems have seen a similar decrease in population (about 2%) to a population of 1,255,689 in 2019.
- As of 2019, 556 per 100,000 individuals over 18 are incarcerated in the United States. New Mexico is lower at 429 per 100,000 individuals over 18.
- According to a Vera Institute report, national jail populations experienced an extreme dip in 2020 to 575,500 individuals, gaining back some, but not all, of the decrease by the end of the year (633,300). National jail populations have a complicated relationship with the prison populations, but such a large fluctuation could have implications in future analysis of the prison population.

• According to a Vera Institute report, 2020 nationwide prison populations hit a low point mid-year 2020 at 1.3 million individuals. Department of Justice data for this period have not been released.

NEW MEXICO TRENDS

MALES:

The male high count for FY 2021 occurred in July 2020 at 5,708 individuals. Total prisoner populations in New Mexico have been trending downward since 2018, and the current male populations have seen a 9.8% decrease since the FY2020 high. Male high counts have traditionally been more volatile than female counts, with marked fluctuations between population losses and gains throughout the years. However, since August 2018, the overall trend has been consistently downward.

High counts for male and female prison populations within the most recent fiscal years are listed below. Table 1 provides these data since FY 2011. Between FY 2017 and FY 2021 male inmate high counts decreased 14%.

Fiscal Year	Males		Females	
	High Count	Change	High Count	Change
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	6,331	-4.3%	742	-6.9%
2021	5,708	-9.8%	607	-18.2%
2022	5,382	-5.7%	556	-8.5%
2023	5,422	0.7%	565	1.6%
2024	5,460	0.7%	572	1.4%
2025	5,495	0.6%	579	1.2%
2026	5,528	0.6%	585	1.0%
2027	5,558	0.5%	591	0.9%
2028	5,587	0.5%	595	0.8%
2029	5,613	0.5%	599	0.7%
2030	5,637	0.4%	603	0.6%
2031	5,660	0.4%	606	0.5%

Note: Projections begin in FY 2022.

FEMALES:

At the high count for the fiscal year of 2021, females made up 10% of the total prison population. The most notable trend in the state is the mirrored decrease in overall prison populations. At 607, the FY 2021 high count for female inmates is an 18% decrease from the FY 2020 high count of 742. The downtrend in female prison populations has been ongoing since November 2018.

Historical female totals for the most recent fiscal years are also presented in Table 1 (see Table 1 for complete female and male inmate high counts, beginning FY 2011). The FY2021 high count 607 is a 23% decrease from the high in FY2018.

FACTORS INFLUENCING PRISON POPULATION

In 2015, the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center/Institute for Social Research published the study *Prison Program Utilization and Recidivism Among Female Inmates in New Mexico* (Denman, 2015). While prison program utilization has not been revisited since the report, it is worth examining the findings. 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.

The continued downtrend in male and female prison populations is not presently well understood. However, it is likely due to several factors, including:

- In FY 2018, new filings for criminal cases in the state's district courts increased to almost 19,200—the largest number of new filings in the time period spanning FY 2000 to FY 2020. In fiscal year 2019, however, new filings decreased to 18,215, a drop of 5%. Cases continued to fall in FY2020 to 15,859, a 12% drop from FY2019. COVID-19 likely played a role as jury trials were suspended during the pandemic (see Appendix A, Figure 15 and Tables 9-11).
- 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, 2020, the jail census in New Mexico was 4,155 while approximately 5,904 inmates were held in state prisons.
- 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 a report to describe current trends in earned meritorious deductions, (EMD) providing 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.

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. The agency is also working with the Criminal Justice Institute to develop a risk reduction programming plan to aid in the development of a more in-depth individualized plan for those on supervision.
- In 2017, NMCD implemented the use of the COMPAS assessment throughout the Adult Prisons Division and the Probation Parole Division. NMCD has now completed enough assessments in the field that a validation study is underway concerning community supervision.
- On June 30, 2021 there were 88 in-house paroles.
- In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 342 (Laws 2019, Chapter 211), a 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.
- In 2020, New Mexico became a site for a program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network, (JCOIN) a consortium of investigators examining approaches that can improve the justice system's response to the opioid epidemic. The Texas Christian University hub is working to enhance local community public health and safety outcomes for reentering justice-involved individuals who use or are at risk for using opioids. The study aims to improve the reentry process by forming and working with interagency workgroups consisting of members of probation and parole and substance use service providers to identify facilitators and barriers to treatment and implementing evidence-based practices to improve treatment. NMCD's participation is likely to lead to the adoption of interagency collaborations and practices that create public health benefits and reduce recidivism.

- In 2020, NMSC began implementing responsibilities pursuant to the Crime Reduction Grant Act. Grants were made to 11 local Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. NMSC also partnered with New Mexico Technical Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA) to begin work on implementing the usage of a state identification number. Both of these initiatives aim to improve the quality and timeliness of data sharing among criminal justice agencies, which will improve our ability to understand prison population trends.
- In 2021, the NMSC was given \$500,000 over FY21 and FY22 to lead an update and revision to the state's Criminal Code and related statutes. This work is just beginning, so as of the writing of this report it is unclear how much of an impact the update to the state's criminal laws might have on future prison populations.
- In a special session in spring 2021, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, a bill legalizing marijuana possession and creating a regulated cannabis industry in New Mexico (Laws 2021, S.S. 1, Chapter 4), and a bill relating to expungement of past convictions for marijuana-related offenses (Laws 2021, S.S. 1, Chapter 3). These bills are going into effect as this report is published; it is not clear what impact they may have on the prison population in the state going forward.
- Impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant effect on prison populations. NMCD has emphasized finding individuals eligible for early release, especially those over 60 and with pre-existing conditions. Additionally, the Probation and Parole Division is making efforts to avoid carceral solutions for technical violations.

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 25, 2021, the capacity for male inmates in NMCD was 6,984 beds. Across the facilities the capacities are as follows:

The state operated facility capacity is 3,821 beds for the same date.

- Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility, located in Clayton (628)
- Penitentiary of New Mexico, located in Santa Fe (864)
- Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility, located in Las Cruces (768)
- Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, located in Los Lunas (1,221)
- Roswell Correctional Center, located in Roswell (340)

The private operated facility capacity is 3,163 beds for the same date.

- Lea County Correctional Facility, located in Hobbs (1,293)
- Guadalupe County Correctional Facility, located in Santa Rosa (590)
- Otero County Prison Facility, located in Chaparral (607)
- North Western New Mexico Prison Facility, located in Grants (673)

The operational capacity for female inmates is 661 beds:

- Springer Correctional Center, Springer (308)
- Western NM Correctional Facility, Grants (353)

SHORT TERM FORECAST

The short-term forecast estimates for male and female inmate populations for the next two fiscal years (FY 2021 and FY 2022).

MALES:

In FY 2022, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,382.

In FY 2023, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,422.

The FY 2022 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for male inmates of 6,984 beds.

FEMALES:

In FY 2022, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 556.

In FY 2023, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 565.

The FY 2022 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for female inmates of 661 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 2031, the projected high count for the male prison population is 5,660. This expected high count is within the current operational capacity for the male prison population of 6,984.

FEMALES:

In FY 2031, the projected high count for the female prison population is 606. This expected high count is within the current operational capacity for the female population of

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).

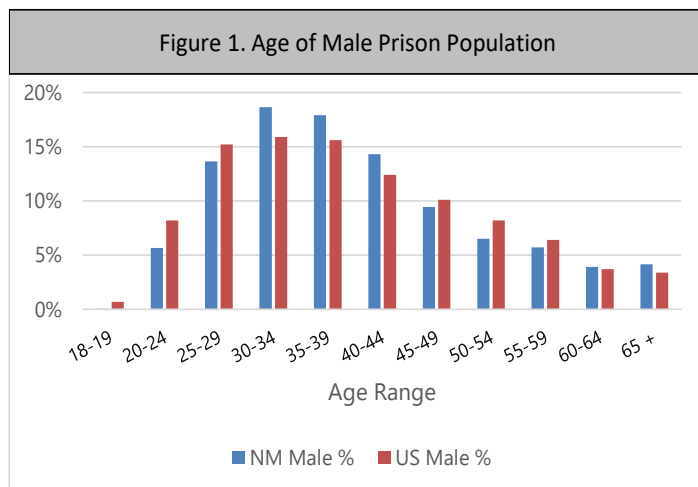
In the Prisoners in 2019 report, DOJ counted nearly 180,000 individuals state and federal prisoners with ages 55 years or older. An increase in the prevalence of older prisoners is important to policy makers because older populations incur substantially larger health care costs (Kim and Peterson, 2014). 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 1 and 2 compare the national prisoner age demographics against those for institutions in New Mexico. Figures 3 and 4 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

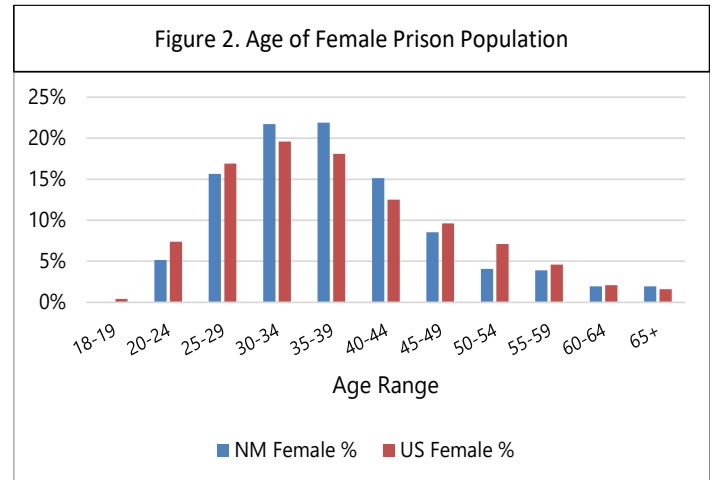
The most recent national prisoner age data is from the Prisoners in 2019 report from DOJ. New Mexico figures on age were collected December 31, 2020. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate differences in prisoner age between New Mexico and the nation for those years.

In the male population, the percentage of individuals from 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, and 60 and up are all greater than the national average. New Mexico holds a slightly higher proportion of males over 65 compared to national figures.



Confined female percentages (Figure 2) show that the female population mirrors the male population. Females from age groups 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, and 65 and up are all

greater than the national average.



For confinement percentages by age and gender see Appendix A, Tables 8 and 9.

CONFINED AGE: NEW MEXICO

Figures 3 and 4 show age trends in New Mexico confined populations, as measured on December 31, 2020 for men and women. As shown in figure 3, for males the greatest concentration of inmates is in the age group 30-34 and 35-39, both with 19% of male inmates. The confined male populations from 45-49 through 65+ years has remained relatively stable throughout the FY 2017-FY 2019 time period. Confined percentages for 20-24 and 25-29 years of age have varied over the last three fiscal years.

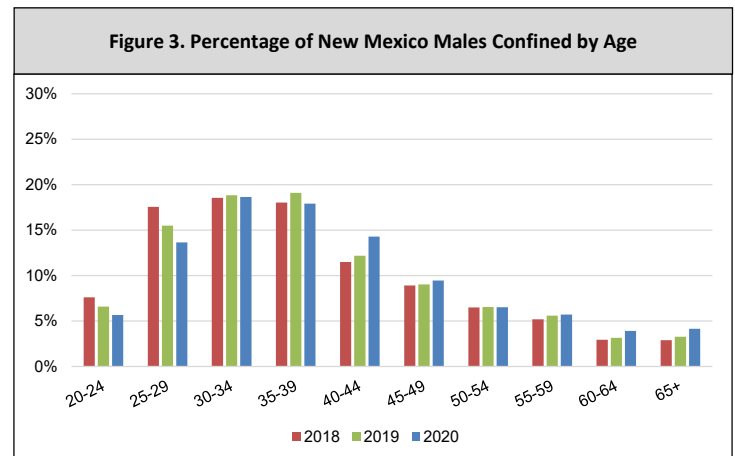
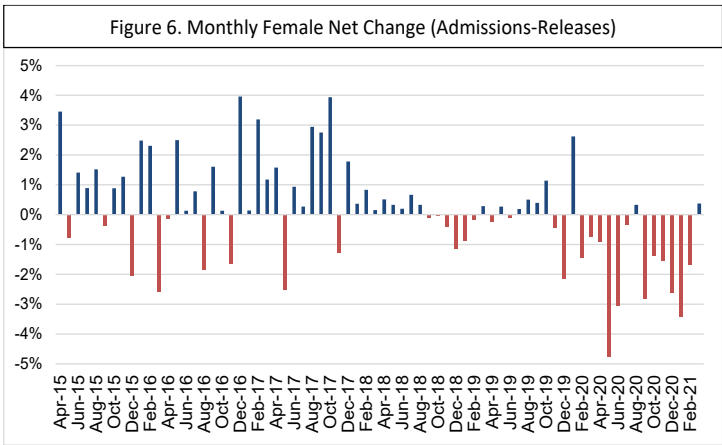
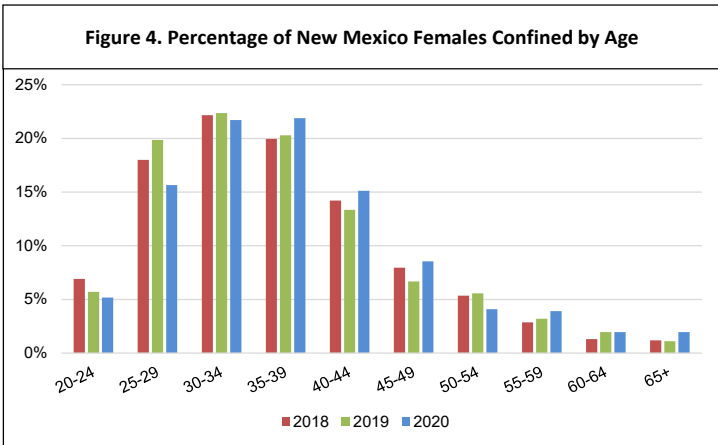


Figure 4 charts the same data for confined females. The largest percentage of female prisoners in FY 2019 are in the 30-34 age group, though group percentages are below those recorded in FY 2017. Female age groups 20-24, 25-29, and 40-44 saw an increase from FY 2017, relative to the total population. The percent of females in the 65+ group has remained relatively stable for the past three fiscal years.



ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Figure 5 shows the relationship between admissions and releases for male inmates relative to the monthly high population for each month from April 2015 to March 2021. Positive percentages indicate that admissions overtook releases during that month. Negative percentages indicate that releases outpaced admissions 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 March 2018 and continuing to present, the months showing greater net releases became the majority over months with greater net intake. Through most of 2020 releases outpaced admissions.

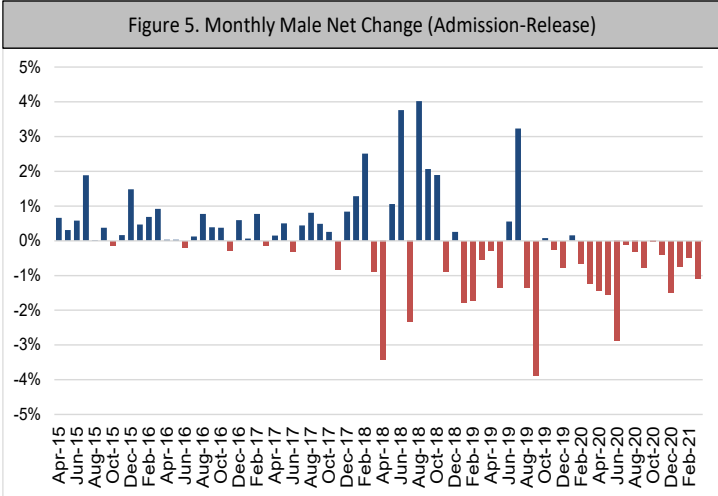


Figure 6 illustrates the same relationship between admissions and releases for female inmates. Net admissions are the majority for female populations up to about June 2018, although we do see more months in the female population where net releases are higher compared to the male population. Due to the smaller female population, the admission release relationship is much more volatile. The balance has swung from 4% towards both admissions and releases since April 2015. However, over the calendar year 2020, the prison population saw an average towards net releases at about 1%. Only August 2020 saw a slight shift towards admissions. The trend appears to be holding through March 2021.

NEW ADMISSIONS AND PAROLE ADMISSIONS

Figures 7 and 8 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. Falling new admissions through 2020 and 2021 have increased the share of parole admissions.

Figure 7. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Males: July 2015 - March 2021

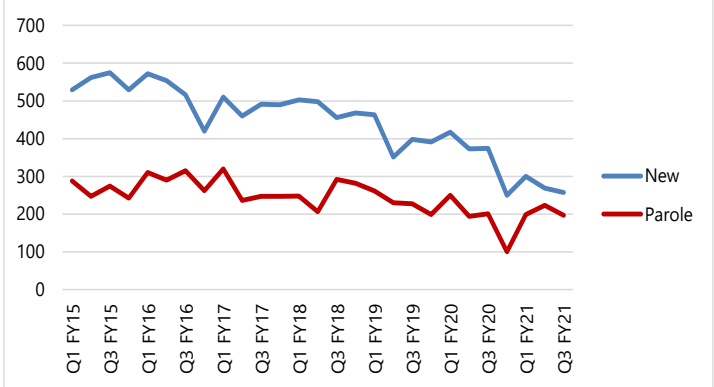
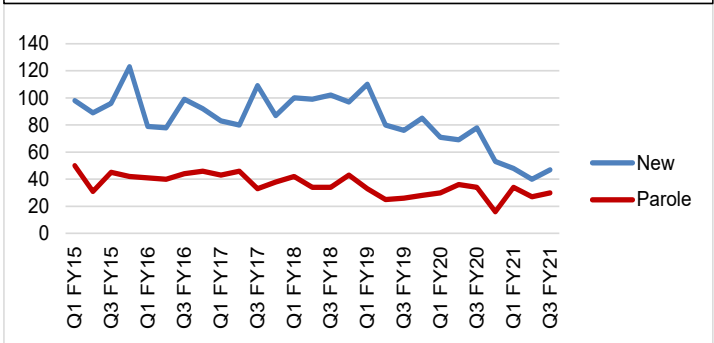


Figure 8. Quarterly NMCD New and Parole Admissions for Females: July 2015 - March 2021

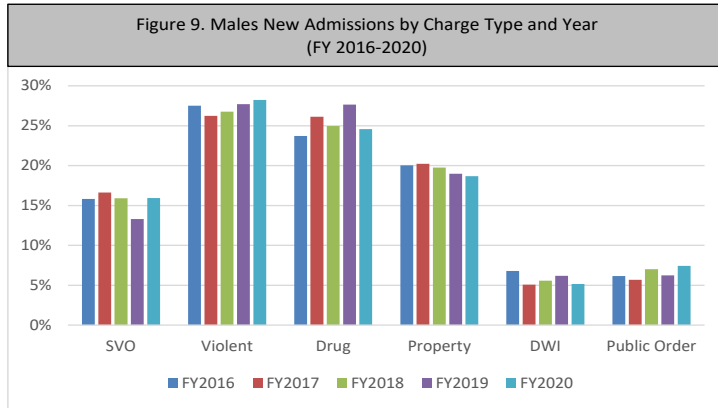


NEW ADMISSIONS BY CHARGE TYPE

Figure 9 illustrates new male admissions by charge type for fiscal years 2016 through 2020; information is presented for

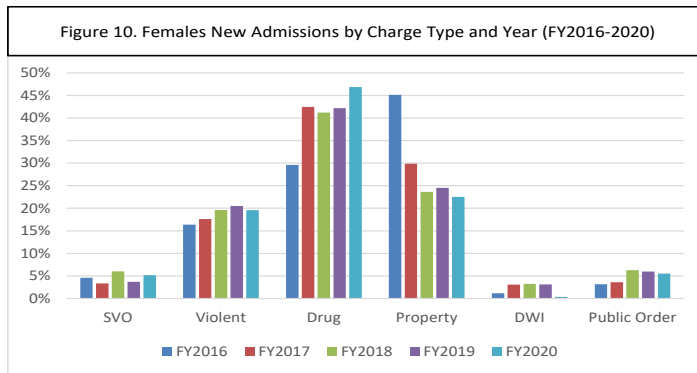
female new admissions in Figure 10.

The bulk of male new admissions result from violent, drug, and property crimes. In 2020 admissions have continued to fall in all categories except for non-DWI Public Order and SVO, which both saw slight increases. In 2020, about 55% of individuals were admitted for non-violent offenses. The vast majority of those are either for property or drug offenses. Generally, the composition of the admissions has not changed more than a few percentage points from year to year.



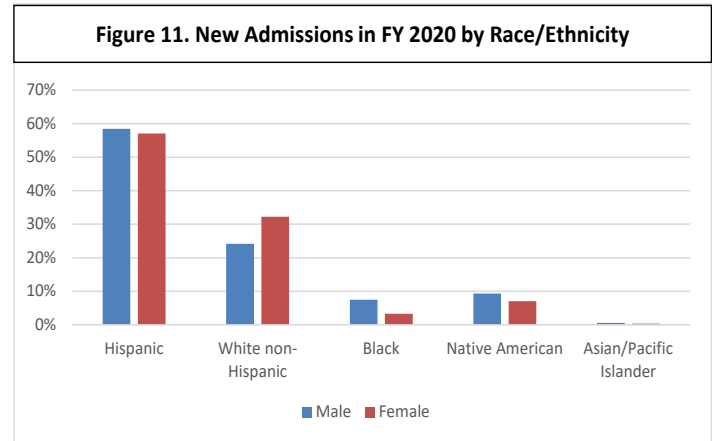
In FY2020, female new admissions are reduced from 2019 in all categories except for SVO, which saw a slight increase. Since 2018, all categories have seen decreased admissions. Especially notable is the DWI, which has reached an all time low of one admission.

New admissions by gender and charge type available for five fiscal years are in Appendix A, Tables 3 and 4.



NEW ADMISSIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 11 shows the percentage of new admissions in FY2021 by race/ethnicity. The majority of new admissions in FY 2021 were Hispanic. There were proportionately more female White (non-Hispanic) individuals admitted than males, 23% and 32% respectively. Black and Native American new admissions were below 10% for both males and females. Fewer than 1% of new admissions for both male and female inmates are Asian/Pacific Islander.



APPENDIX A

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

Table 3. Male Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2016-2020

Table 4. Female Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2016-2020

Table 5. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2021

Figure 13. Actual Male Prison Population and Forecast: July 2017-July 2023

Table 6. Male Population Projections, July 2021 to June 2031

Figure 14. Actual Female Prison Population and Forecast: July 2017-July 2023

Table 7. Female Population Projections, July 2021 to June 2031

Table 8. Ages of Prisoners Nationally and Prisoners in NM

Table 9. Age of Confined Population Over Time

Figure 16. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY 2000 to FY 2020

Table 10. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2020

Table 11. Male New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2016-2020

Table 12. Female New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2016-2020

Table 3. Male Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2016-2020					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violent Crimes					
SVO	326	324	308	213	225
Sex Crime	63	48	43	46	51
Assault and Battery	243	234	256	192	179
Other Violent*	261	228	219	206	169
Property Crimes					
Burglary	175	164	145	118	96
Other Property*	238	228	237	186	168
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	204	209	186	176	110
Drug Possession	285	300	297	267	237
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	140	99	108	99	73
Other Public Order*	127	110	136	100	105
Other					
Parole	1,177	1,050	1,028	917	745
Other Admissions*	352	323	237	201	157
Total	3,591	3,317	3,200	2,721	2,315
<p>*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</p>					

Table 4. Female Admissions Over Time, Fiscal Years 2016-2020					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violent Crimes					
SVO	16	12	24	13	14
Sex Crime	-	1	1	1	1
Assault and Battery	22	17	26	22	14
Other Violent*	35	45	51	49	38
Property Crimes					
Burglary	25	29	22	26	19
Other Property*	132	77	72	59	42
Drug Crimes					
Drug Trafficking	51	65	65	51	46
Drug Possession	52	87	99	97	81
Public Order Crimes					
DWI	4	11	13	11	1
Other Public Order*	11	12	25	22	14
Other					
Parole	171	160	153	112	116
Other Admissions*	84	78	71	60	35
Total	603	594	622	523	421
<p>*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</p>					

Table 5. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2021						
Month/Year	Males			Females		
	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy
July-20	5,708	5,976	4.7%	607	657	8.2%
August-20	5,667	5,973	5.4%	603	656	8.7%
September-20	5,658	5,969	5.5%	602	656	8.9%
October-20	5,613	5,966	6.3%	585	649	11.0%
November-20	5,614	5,963	6.2%	577	647	12.2%
December-20	5,567	5,960	7.1%	574	642	11.9%
January-21	5,488	5,359	-2.4%	554	583	5.2%
February-21	5,434	5,326	-2.0%	536	580	8.2%
March-21	5,387	5,293	-1.7%	539	576	6.9%
April-21	5,346	5,260	-1.6%	553	572	3.4%
May-21	5,347	5,227	-2.2%	552	568	2.9%
June-21	-	-	-	-	-	-

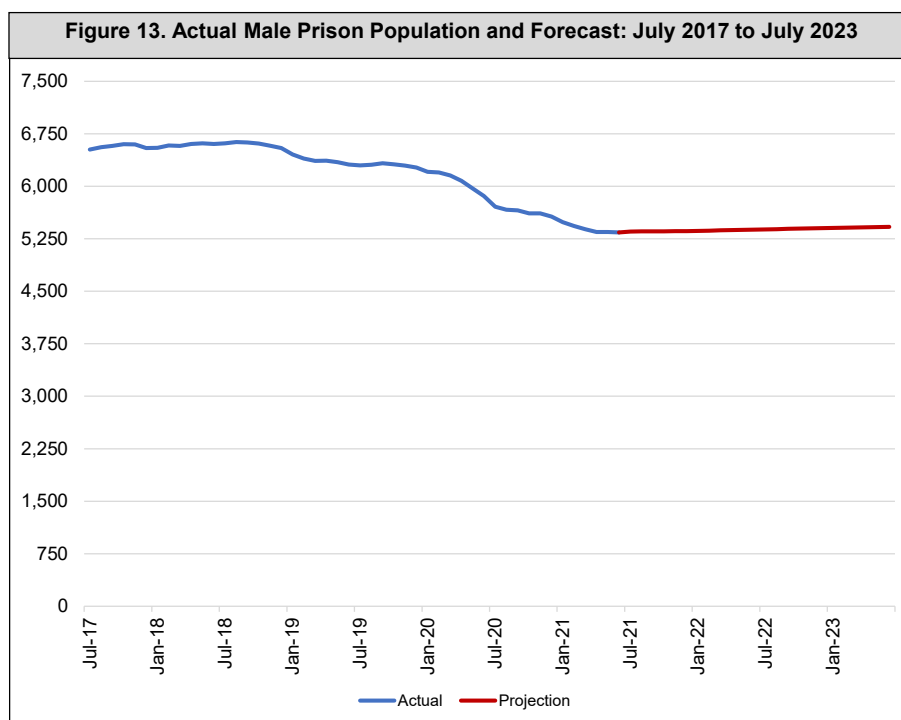


Table 6. Male Population Projections, July 2021 to June 2031

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
January	-	5363	5406	5445	5481	5515	5546	5575	5602	5627	5650
February	-	5367	5409	5448	5484	5517	5549	5577	5604	5629	5652
March	-	5371	5412	5451	5487	5520	5551	5580	5606	5631	5654
April	-	5374	5416	5454	5490	5523	5554	5582	5609	5633	5656
May	-	5378	5419	5457	5493	5525	5556	5584	5611	5635	5658
June	5352	5382	5422	5460	5495	5528	5558	5587	5613	5637	5660
July	5353	5385	5426	5463	5498	5531	5561	5589	5615	5639	-
August	5358	5389	5429	5466	5501	5533	5563	5591	5617	5641	-
September	5358	5392	5432	5469	5504	5536	5566	5593	5619	5643	-
October	5358	5395	5435	5472	5507	5538	5568	5596	5621	5645	-
November	5360	5399	5438	5475	5509	5541	5570	5598	5623	5647	-
December	5361	5402	5442	5478	5512	5544	5573	5600	5625	5649	-

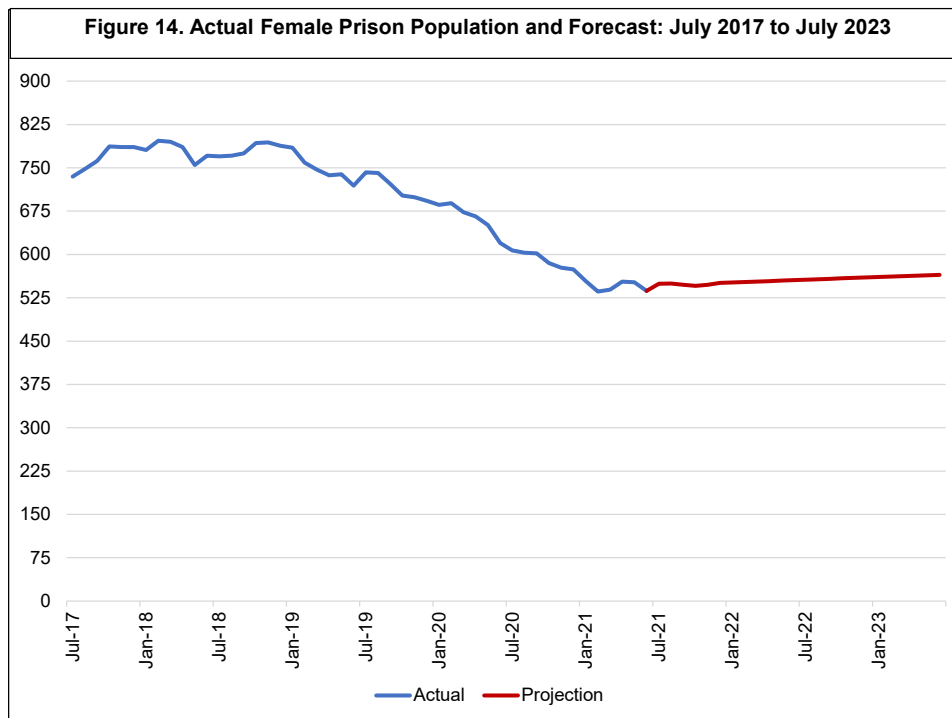


Table 7. Female Population Projections, July 2021 to June 2031

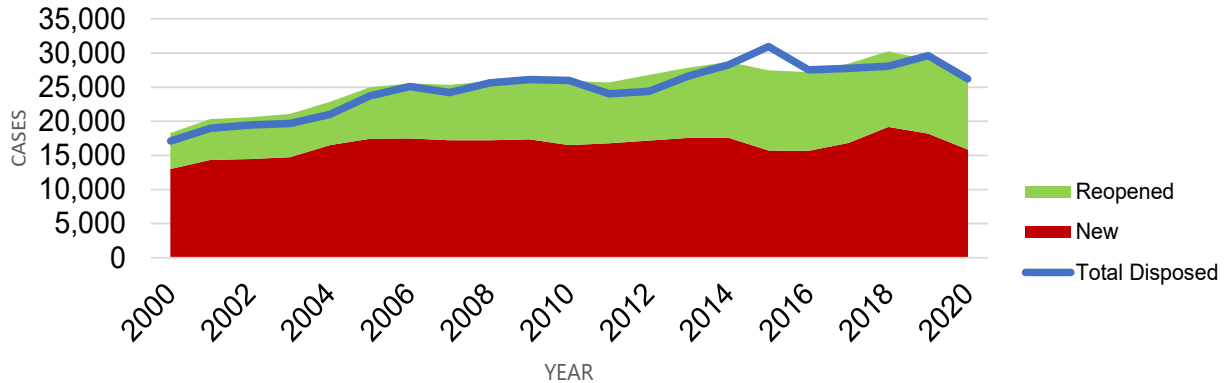
Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
January	-	551	561	569	577	583	589	594	598	602	605
February	-	552	562	570	577	584	589	594	598	602	605
March	-	553	562	571	578	584	590	594	598	602	605
April	-	554	563	571	578	585	590	595	599	602	606
May	-	555	564	572	579	585	590	595	599	603	606
June	549	556	565	572	579	585	591	595	599	603	606
July	549	556	565	573	580	586	591	596	600	603	-
August	550	557	566	574	580	586	592	596	600	604	-
September	547	558	567	574	581	587	592	596	600	604	-
October	546	559	567	575	582	587	592	597	601	604	-
November	547	559	568	575	582	588	593	597	601	604	-
December	551	560	569	576	583	588	593	597	601	605	-

Age	NM Female %	US Female %	NM Male %	US Male %
18-19	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.7%
20-24	5.2%	7.4%	5.7%	8.2%
25-29	15.7%	16.9%	13.7%	15.2%
30-34	21.7%	19.6%	18.6%	15.9%
35-39	21.9%	18.1%	17.9%	15.6%
40-44	15.1%	12.5%	14.3%	12.4%
45-49	8.5%	9.6%	9.5%	10.1%
50-54	4.1%	7.1%	6.5%	8.2%
55-59	3.9%	4.6%	5.7%	6.4%
60-64	2.0%	2.1%	3.9%	3.7%
65+	2.0%	1.6%	4.2%	3.4%

Age	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
18-19	1	3	1	18	0	9	0	3
20-24	29	347	53	486	41	403	29	303
25-29	124	1048	138	1122	143	948	88	729
30-34	168	1132	170	1186	161	1153	122	996
35-39	155	1214	153	1153	146	1169	123	957
40-44	93	769	109	735	96	746	85	764
45-49	56	557	61	570	48	553	48	505
50-54	51	456	41	415	40	400	23	348
55-59	23	390	22	332	23	342	22	306
60-64	16	235	10	188	14	194	11	209
65+	8	174	9	185	8	200	11	222

NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY DATA

Figure 16. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY2000 - 2020



SOURCE: COMPILED BY NMSC FROM PUBLISHED AOC ANNUAL REPORTS 2000-2020

Table 10. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2020

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	11,614	28,427	27,741
2018	19,152	11,125	30,277	28,069
2019	18,215	10,761	28,976	29,629
2020	15,859	10,667	26,526	26,224

Table 11. Male New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2016-2020					
DA District	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1	6.3%	5.4%	3.9%	3.7%	5.2%
2	35.9%	29.8%	27.9%	21.7%	22.9%
3	10.0%	11.3%	13.1%	11.6%	10.5%
4	2.7%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%
5	14.2%	14.0%	14.6%	14.5%	12.9%
6	2.8%	3.9%	2.9%	3.9%	4.3%
7	3.1%	3.8%	3.2%	3.8%	3.7%
8	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.8%	3.3%
9	5.7%	7.1%	8.5%	9.0%	7.8%
10	0.6%	0.9%	1.6%	2.4%	1.8%
11 Division I	6.3%	6.7%	6.8%	8.1%	7.5%
11 Division II	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%
12	6.9%	8.8%	8.4%	10.3%	11.0%
13	2.7%	3.0%	4.6%	5.6%	5.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 12. Female New Prison Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2016-2020					
DA District	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1	3.6%	3.0%	2.5%	2.6%	4.1%
2	33.9%	28.9%	21.6%	12.8%	19.6%
3	8.7%	11.9%	17.1%	14.2%	10.7%
4	4.3%	2.7%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%
5	17.7%	17.3%	19.6%	18.8%	12.2%
6	1.8%	4.2%	1.3%	5.4%	3.0%
7	2.2%	2.4%	3.8%	4.6%	5.9%
8	1.4%	0.9%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%
9	6.1%	7.4%	9.8%	9.7%	9.2%
10	0.4%	0.6%	2.8%	2.3%	2.2%
11 Division I	6.1%	6.8%	3.0%	5.4%	5.5%
11 Division II	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%
12	10.5%	10.4%	12.3%	16.0%	17.7%
13	2.5%	3.6%	2.8%	4.8%	6.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY

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 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.

It is understood that 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, admission and release rates, the availability of earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. The observed prison population is a result of all those factors and others. When new laws or policies come to bear which significantly affect the prison population, it is recommended that a new long-term forecast be produced to incorporate new data that reflects those changes.

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.

Historical observations in male and female datasets are differenced once to induce stationarity. Male and female forecasts are then

modeled separately. Autocorrelation functions are applied to determine autoregressive (AR) and moving average (MA) terms.

MALES

High counts for male prison populations have been decreasing sharply since August 2018. The current forecast captures that trend with a historical sample that begins in August 2017 and ends in May 2021. The AR and MA terms were specified as AR(1) and MA(1, 9).

FEMALES

Female prison populations have 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 reached near-800 female prisoners before quickly dropping to near-750.

To represent historical growth trends and recent fluctuations, the female forecast sample begins in January 2011 and terminates in May 2021. The AR and MA terms were specified as AR(1) and a MA(8).

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