

PRISON POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Introduction

After several years of fairly rapid growth, the prison population is still increasing but at a slightly slower rate. From FY02-04, the prison population grew by an average of 635 offenders per year. During FY05, the population increased by 375 inmates, whereas the size of the increase dropped to 302 during the most recent fiscal year (see Figure 1).

The receding growth in the prison population is due to the fact that, although the total number of admissions continues to increase, offenders are staying, on average, for shorter periods of time. Shorter lengths of stay are due to a slight decrease in new commitment admissions (i.e., generally longer sentences with longer lengths of stay), coupled with a growing influx of offenders admitted as probation and supervised release violators (i.e., generally shorter lengths of stay).

Actual Population vs. Projections

During the most recent 12-month period, projections have underestimated the actual prison population by an average of 0.7 percent, or 66 offenders per month.

FY07 Forecast

The prison population is projected to increase by 168 inmates (1.9%) during FY07 and by 2,549 (29%) during the ten-year forecast period.

The number of male inmates is expected to grow by 1.3 percent (111) during FY07, compared to 11.3 percent (57) for females. By the end of FY16, the projected growth rate is 28 percent for males (2,351) and 39 percent for females (198).

New commitments are expected to account for 57 percent (95) of the FY07 increase and 73 percent (1,870) of the growth over the next ten years. Offenders violating conditions of probation or supervised release are estimated to account for the remaining short- and long-term growth.

Methamphetamine offenders have figured prominently in the recent increase in the prison population. Male projections indicate, however,

that the methamphetamine inmate population will drop by 50 offenders during FY07. Over the next ten fiscal years, the forecast suggests the male methamphetamine population will grow by 184 offenders (20%).

Female projections show that methamphetamine offenders will account for the largest increases over both the short- and long-term. The number of female methamphetamine offenders is projected to increase by 15 (14%) during FY07 and 176 (60%) over the ten-year forecast period.

The forecast suggests that person offenders will not only have the largest numerical increase (66) for males in FY07, but will also have the

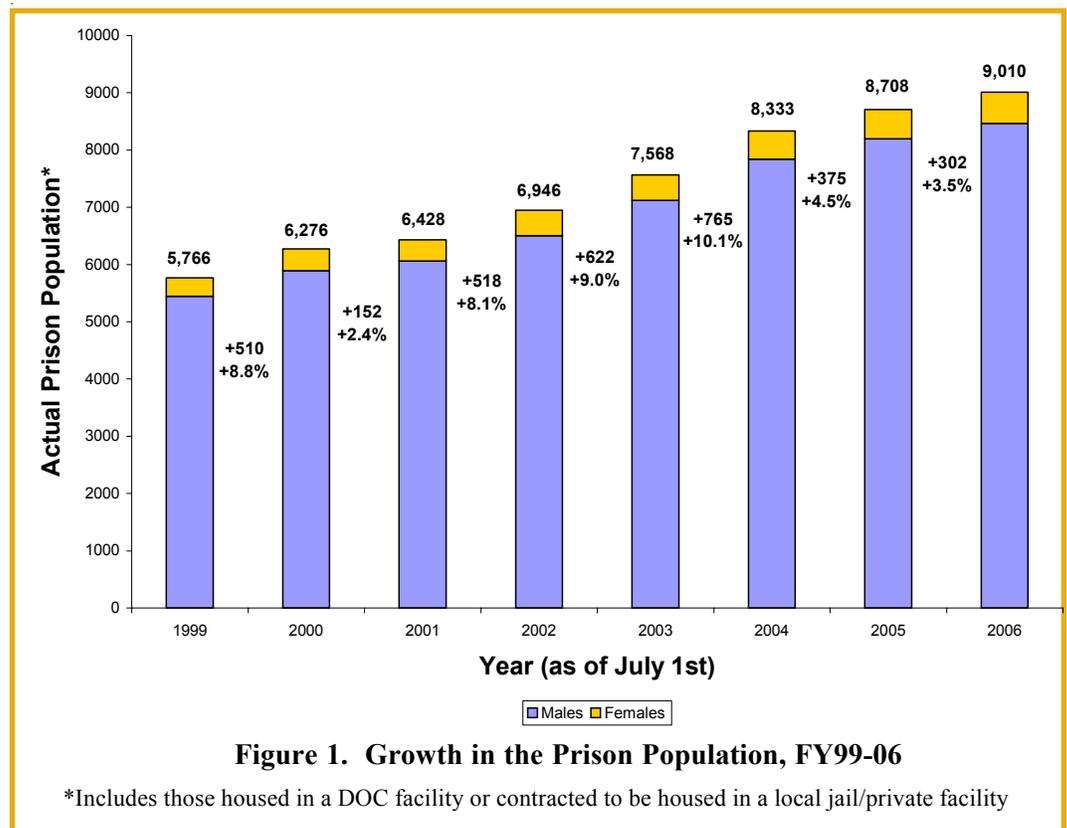


Figure 1. Growth in the Prison Population, FY99-06

greatest numerical increase over the next ten years (787).

With a projected increase of 611 male inmates, sex offenders are expected to have the second-highest numerical growth by FY16. At 38.4 percent, this group has the greatest projected growth rate over the entire forecast period.

DWI offenders are projected to have the highest growth rate for males during FY07 (10%) and the second-highest rate over the ten-year period (36%). In contrast, DWI offenders are estimated to have one of the lowest long-term growth rates for female inmates.

Similarly, at 18 percent, the forecast indicates that other drug (i.e., non-methamphetamine) offenders will have the slowest growth rate for male inmates over the entire forecast period.

Full Report Available

Minnesota Prison Population Projections - Fiscal Year 2007 examines recent trends in Minnesota’s prison population, analyzes accuracy of projections since 2000, and presents the prison population forecast over the next ten years. It is available online <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/FY07PrisonPopulationProjectionsReport.pdf>.

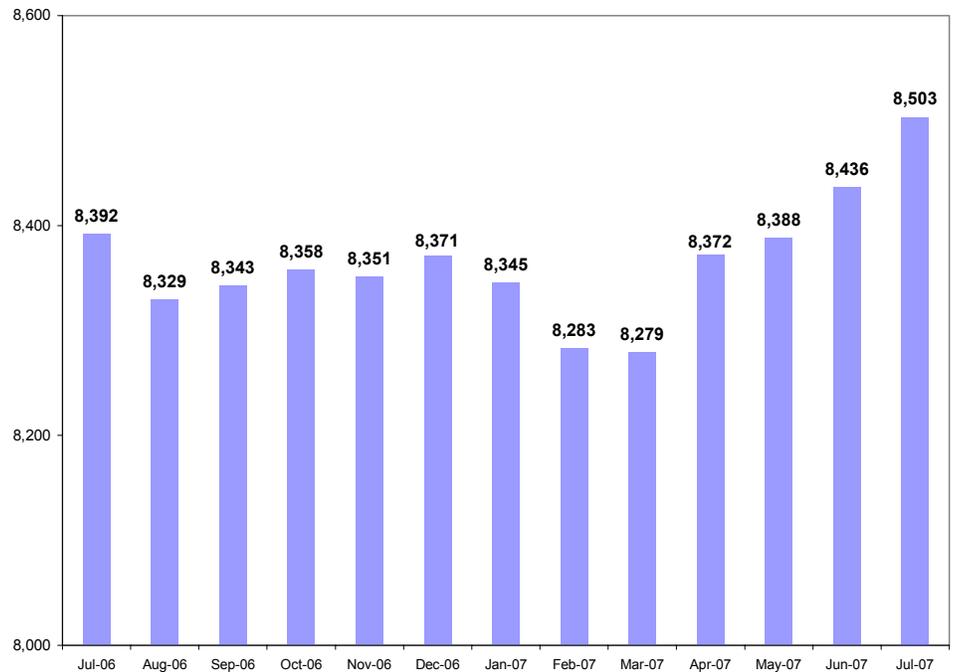


Figure 2. Projected Male Total Prison Population, FY07*

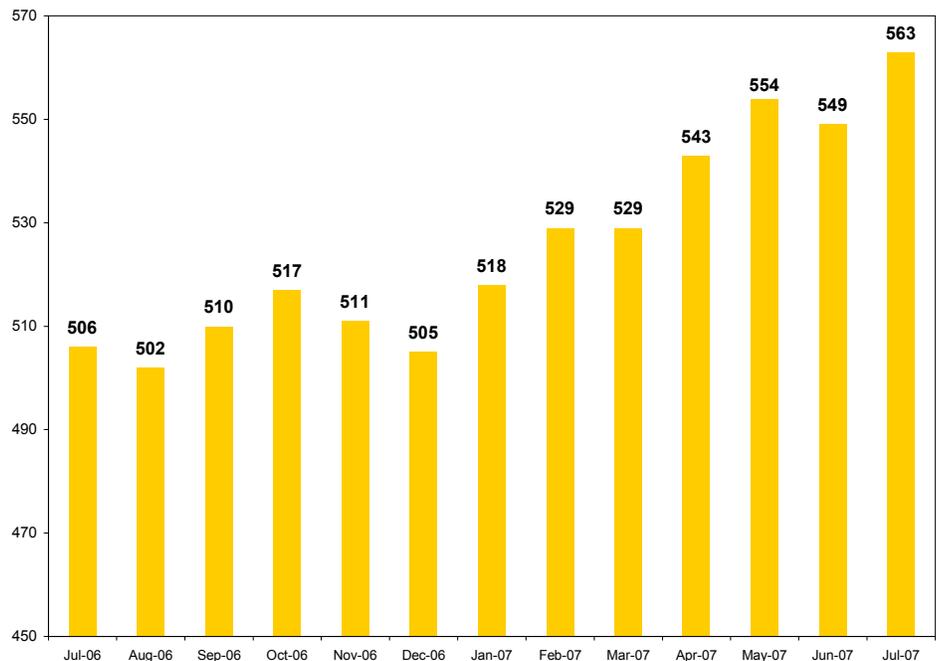


Figure 3. Projected Female Total Prison Population, FY07*

*Includes those housed in a DOC facility or contracted to be housed in a local jail/private facility

