



# Colorado Department of Corrections



Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

## OFFENDERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES

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Statistical Bulletin

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### Office of Planning and Analysis

The Office of Planning and Analysis exists within the Department of Corrections to provide research, information and data analysis services. The office also monitors population projections, analyzes legislative impact studies, oversees the administrative regulations, and conducts program and system evaluations as directed by statute or executive priority.

### General Statistics and Reporting

The General Statistics and Reporting within the Office of Planning and Analysis analyzes data, and conducts research for internal management and external criminal justice use. This unit gathers, compiles and analyzes data for a multitude of agencies and purposes.

### About this Bulletin

This publication is intended to provide an overview of statistical information and findings generated by this unit. Dissemination of this information to staff and other interested individuals will be provided through this periodical publication.

➤➤ **9.7% (2,234 inmates) of the CDOC incarcerated population as of 12/31/2008 is serving a life sentence** ◀◀

➤➤ **Two offender remains under a sentence of death and are not included.** ◀◀

### ◆◆ LIFE SENTENCES ◆◆

Offenses eligible for life sentences include class one felonies of first degree murder and first degree kidnapping, and offenses with special habitual enhancements. Life sentencing provisions are as follows:

- Life without parole eligibility – Class 1 felonies committed on or after Sept. 20, 1991 (CRS 17-22.5-104) are sentenced to life in prison without parole eligibility.
- Life with parole eligibility – (CRS 17-22.5-104)
  - Parole eligibility after 40 years – class one felonies committed on or after July 1, 1985, but before Sept. 20, 1991 and certain habitual enhancements.
  - Parole eligibility after 20 years – class one felonies and big habitual enhancements committed on or after July 1, 1977 but before July 1, 1985.
  - Parole eligibility after 10 years – class one felonies and big habitual enhancements committed before July 1, 1977.
- Indeterminate Sentences – Maximum sentence is life.
  - Sex Offenses
    - Lifetime Supervision – Crimes committed on or after November 1, 1998 (CRS 18-1.3-1001) with a minimum sentence in the presumptive range.
    - One day to life Colorado Sex Offenders Act – Offenders sentenced to a minimum sentence of 1 day. (CRS 18-1.3-904)
  - Pre-1979 - Offenders sentenced for crimes committed before July 1, 1979 with a fixed minimum sentence.

### ◆◆ INMATE POPULATION ◆◆

| Sentence:                              | Number Of Offenders |              |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
|  | 12/31/07            | 12/31/08     |
| Life - without parole eligibility      | 459                 | 491          |
| Life - with 40 year parole eligibility | 234                 | 231          |
| Life - with 20 year parole eligibility | 136                 | 130          |
| Life - with 10 year parole eligibility | 40                  | 39           |
| Subtotal                               | 869                 | 891          |
| <b>Indeterminate Sentence:</b>         |                     |              |
| Sex Offenders                          |                     |              |
| Lifetime Supervision                   | 1,192               | 1,308        |
| 1 day to Life                          | 29                  | 30           |
| Pre-1979                               | 6                   | 5            |
| <b>TOTAL - Life Maximum Sentence</b>   | <b>2,096</b>        | <b>2,234</b> |

### Conviction as of December 31, 2008:

|                                   |   |       |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder     | → | 757   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> degree kidnapping | → | 16    |
| Habitual offender                 | → | 118   |
| Sex offenders                     | → | 1,338 |
| Pre-1979 (various offenses)       | → | 5     |

**❖ INMATE POPULATION SERVING LIFE SENTENCES ❖**  
**❖ AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008 ❖**

| FACILITY                                | Life w/o<br>Parole<br>Eligibility | Life w/<br>Parole<br>Eligibility | Sex Offenders |                  | Indeter-<br>minate<br>Pre-1979 | TOTAL        |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|   |                                   |                                  | Lifetime      | 1 Day to<br>Life |                                |              |
| <b>CDOC FACILITIES:</b>                 |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                |              |
| Colorado State Penitentiary             | 55                                | 27                               | 29            | 2                |                                | 113          |
| Centennial Correctional Facility        | 20                                | 13                               | 16            | 2                |                                | 51           |
| Sterling Correctional Facility          | 136                               | 50                               | 123           | 1                | 1                              | 311          |
| Limon Correctional Facility             | 124                               | 66                               | 52            | 2                |                                | 244          |
| Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility   | 67                                | 45                               | 81            | 1                |                                | 194          |
| Buena Vista Correctional Facility       | 13                                | 9                                | 40            |                  |                                | 62           |
| Buena Vista Minimum Center              |                                   | 1                                |               |                  |                                | 1            |
| Colorado Terr Correctional Facility     | 19                                | 35                               | 70            | 7                |                                | 131          |
| Fremont Correctional Facility           | 12                                | 18                               | 426           | 2                | 1                              | 459          |
| Fort Lyon Correctional Facility         | 2                                 | 18                               | 14            |                  |                                | 34           |
| Arrowhead Correctional Center           |                                   | 3                                | 67            | 1                |                                | 71           |
| Four Mile Correctional Center           |                                   | 12                               |               |                  |                                | 12           |
| La Vista Correctional Facility          |                                   | 1                                | 1             |                  |                                | 2            |
| Adult Males at Y.O.S.                   |                                   |                                  | 1             |                  |                                | 1            |
| Trinidad Correctional Facility          |                                   | 3                                |               |                  | 1                              | 4            |
| Skyline Correctional Center             |                                   | 7                                |               |                  |                                | 7            |
| Colorado Correctional Center            |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| Delta Correctional Center               |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| Rifle Correctional Center               |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| Colorado Correctional Alt Program       |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| Colorado Women's Corr Facility          | 11                                | 3                                | 6             |                  |                                | 20           |
| Denver Women's Correctional Facility    | 11                                | 4                                | 6             |                  |                                | 21           |
| Denver Reception Diagnostic Center      | 4                                 | 5                                | 11            |                  |                                | 20           |
| San Carlos Correctional Facility        | 6                                 | 8                                | 13            | 1                | 1                              | 29           |
| <b>CONTRACT FACILITIES:</b>             |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                |              |
| Bent County Correctional Center         |                                   | 17                               | 83            | 5                | 1                              | 106          |
| Huerfano County Correctional Center     |                                   | 7                                | 44            | 2                |                                | 53           |
| Crowley County Correctional Facility    |                                   | 8                                | 93            | 3                |                                | 104          |
| Kit Carson County Correctional Facility |                                   | 9                                | 125           | 1                |                                | 135          |
| Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center        |                                   | 2                                |               |                  |                                | 2            |
| High Plains Correctional Facility       |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| <b>OTHER:</b>                           |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                |              |
| Community Corrections                   |                                   | 1                                | 1             |                  |                                | 2            |
| Community ISP                           |                                   | 19                               | 4             |                  |                                | 23           |
| Jail Backlog / Contracts                |                                   |                                  |               |                  |                                | 0            |
| Other*                                  | 11                                | 9                                | 2             |                  |                                | 22           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>491</b>                        | <b>400</b>                       | <b>1,308</b>  | <b>30</b>        | <b>5</b>                       | <b>2,234</b> |

\* Other includes non-custody populations: (20) interstate compact, (1) federal transfer and (1) fugitive.