

COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



MOSES "ANDRE" STANCIL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FY 2024 STATISTICAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The MISSION of the Colorado Department of Corrections is “To protect the citizens of Colorado by holding inmates accountable and engaging them in opportunities to make positive behavioral changes and become law-abiding productive citizens.”

Our VISION is “Building a safer Colorado for today and tomorrow.”

As always, our greatest resource is, of course, our staff: correctional professionals who honor and respect the rights of victims and who engage inmates with effective correctional practices and humane treatment. We believe inmates should be directly involved in their own rehabilitation as the department advances research and data-driven correctional practices. Data, while critically important, is backed up with dedicated staff. This was more evident by our staffs' response to these challenging times.

This statistical report provides an overview of the average daily jurisdictional population of 26,732 inmates (17,362 inmates and 9,370 parolees) during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The information contained within this statistical report will provide both the public and private sectors an appreciation of the tremendous effort demonstrated by our staff members who work within a framework of available resources to provide public safety while meeting and addressing the needs of our inmate population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. A. Stancil", with a stylized circular flourish at the end.

Moses "Andre" Stancil
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Corrections

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	OVERVIEW
1	Introduction
1	Population Growth
2	Crime, Prison Sentence, & Incarceration Rates
3	Legislative Changes
4	Population Projections
5	Prison Facilities
7	Facility Capacities
8	Annual Inmate Costs
9	Full-time Employees
11	ADMISSIONS
12	Demographic Characteristics
13	Offense Data
14	County of Commitment
15	Gender Comparison
15	Length of Stay
16	Habitual Offender Sentences
16	Lifetime Supervision Sex Offenders
17	Risk & Need Assessments
19	RELEASES
20	Releases by Type
22	Time Served in Prison
23	Profile of Inmate Releases

25	INMATE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS
25	Inmate Population
26	Custody Classification & Status
27	Most Serious Offense
28	Inmate Profile
30	Aging Trends
31	Needs Levels
32	Risk Assessment
32	Reportable Incidents
33	Assaults & Use of Force
34	Deaths in Custody
35	Escapes
36	Program Participation
37	PAROLE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS
37	Parole Population
37	Parole Caseload
38	Parolee Profile
40	Needs Levels
41	Parole Supervision Outcomes
43	RECIDIVISM RATES
47	APPENDIX

FIGURES

1	Figure 1. Average Daily Jurisdictional Population
1	Figure 2. Average Daily Jurisdictional Population Percentage Change
2	Figure 3. Average Offender Jurisdictional Population by Location
2	Figure 4. Average Offender Jurisdictional Population
2	Figure 5. Colorado Ten-Year Crime, Prison Sentence, & Incarceration Rates
3	Figure 6. 2022 Incarceration Rates
4	Figure 7. DCJ & LCS Inmate Projections v. Actual CDOC Inmate Population
5	Figure 8. DCJ & LCS Parole Projections v. Actual CDOC Parole Population
6	Figure 9. CDOC State & Private Facilities
9	Figure 10. Employee Demographics
9	Figure 11. Correctional Officers by Rank
9	Figure 12. Community Parole Officers by Position
9	Figure 13. Employees Per Facility
11	Figure 14. Admissions & Releases
12	Figure 15. Admission Trends Over Time
12	Figure 16. Admission Type Demographics
13	Figure 17. Most Serious Offense by Admission Type
14	Figure 18. Percentage of Court Commitments & Technical Returns by County of Conviction
15	Figure 19. Admissions: Most Serious Offense by Gender
16	Figure 20. Habitual Offender Commitments
17	Figure 21. Admissions: Inmate Needs Levels
17	Figure 22. Admissions: LSI-R Risk Distribution by Score Ranges
20	Figure 23. Inmate Release Types
20	Figure 24. Parole Release Types
21	Figure 25. Governing Law by Release Type
21	Figure 26. Release Type by Release Location
22	Figure 27. Court Commitment Releases: Governing Sentence & Time Served in Prison
23	Figure 28. Profile of Releases
24	Figure 29. Mandatory v. Discretionary Parole Releases

25	Figure 30. Jurisdictional Inmate Population by Location on June 30, 2024
26	Figure 31. End of Year Classification Levels FY 2023-2024
26	Figure 32. Incarcerated Inmate Population Status
27	Figure 33. Restrictive Housing Population Over Time
27	Figure 34. Most Serious Offense
28	Figure 35. Percentage of Inmate Population Serving Life/Lifetime Supervision Sentences
28	Figure 36. Jurisdictional Inmate Population: Characteristics
29	Figure 37. Jurisdictional Inmate Population: Gender Comparison
30	Figure 38. Community-Based Inmate Population: Characteristics
31	Figure 39. Aging Population Trends
31	Figure 40. Inmate Needs Levels
32	Figure 41. Mental Health Needs (Levels 3-5)
32	Figure 42. LSI-R Risk Distributions by Gender
33	Figure 43. Number of Incidents
34	Figure 44. Use of Force by Type
34	Figure 45. Deaths in Custody
35	Figure 46. Cause of Death
35	Figure 47. Inmate Escapes
36	Figure 48. Program Completions
36	Figure 49. Participation in Programs, End of Month
37	Figure 50. Average Daily Parole Caseload
38	Figure 51. Parole Office Caseload as of June 30, 2024
38	Figure 52. Total Parole Population as of June 30, 2024
39	Figure 53. Domestic Parole Population: Characteristics
39	Figure 54. Domestic Parole Population: Gender Comparison
40	Figure 55. Domestic Parole Supervision: Type Comparison
40	Figure 56. Domestic Parolee Needs Levels
41	Figure 57. Parole Supervision Outcomes
44	Figure 58. Three-Year Recidivism Rate Over Time
45	Figure 59. Recidivism/Return Rates by Type
45	Figure 60. Recidivists' Time Out of Prison Before Return, CY 2021 Release Cohort
46	Figure 61. Three-Year Recidivist Inmate Characteristics

TABLES

7	Table 1. Facility Populations & Capacities
8	Table 2. Cost Per Offender by Facility
11	Table 3. Adult Admissions
15	Table 4. Estimated Average Length of Stay (Months)
16	Table 5. Habitual Offender Sentences (Years)
16	Table 6. Lifetime Supervision Sentences (Years)
20	Table 7. Offender Release Types by Gender
48	Table 8. Presumptive Sentencing Ranges & Parole Periods
48	Table 9. Habitual Sentencing Law Changes

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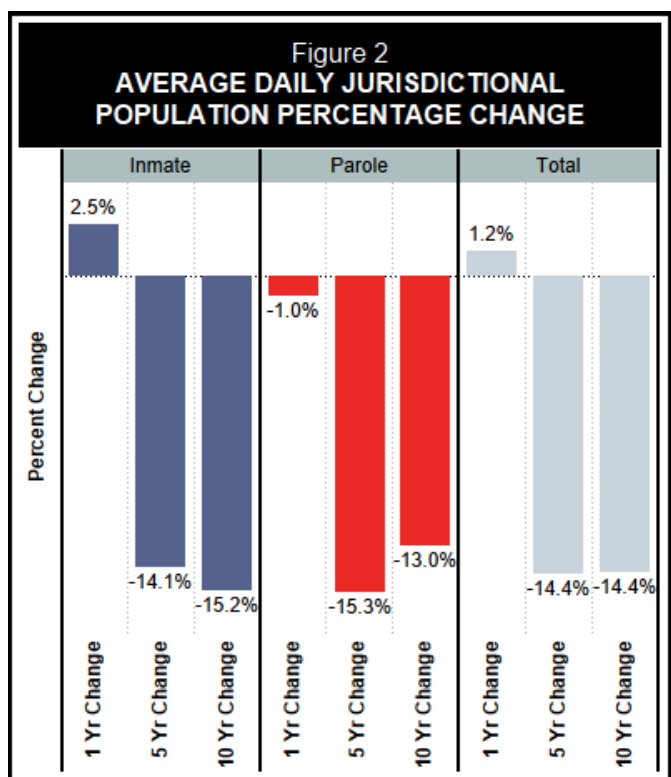
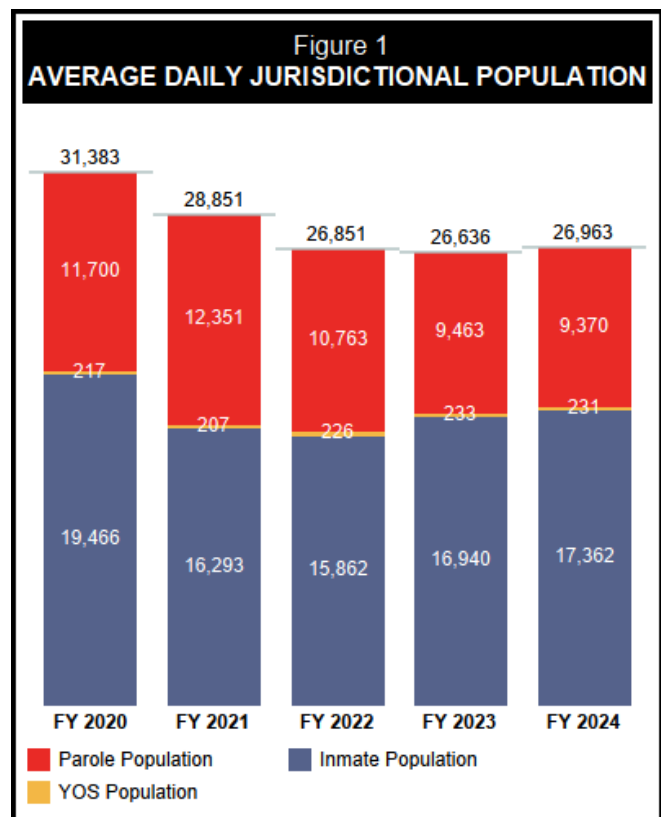
OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

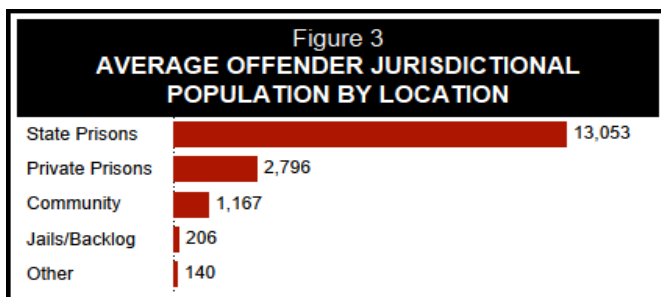
The Colorado Department of Corrections' (CDOC) statistical report provides a descriptive and visual overview of Colorado's correctional system. Topics covered in the overview include growth trends, population projections, facilities, costs, and staff data. Subsequent sections focus on admissions, releases, inmate and parolee characteristics, and recidivism. Both adult inmate and parole populations are represented in this report. A separate annual report is produced for the Youthful Offender System (YOS). Please note that not all data values in the graphics will total 100% due to rounding.

POPULATION GROWTH

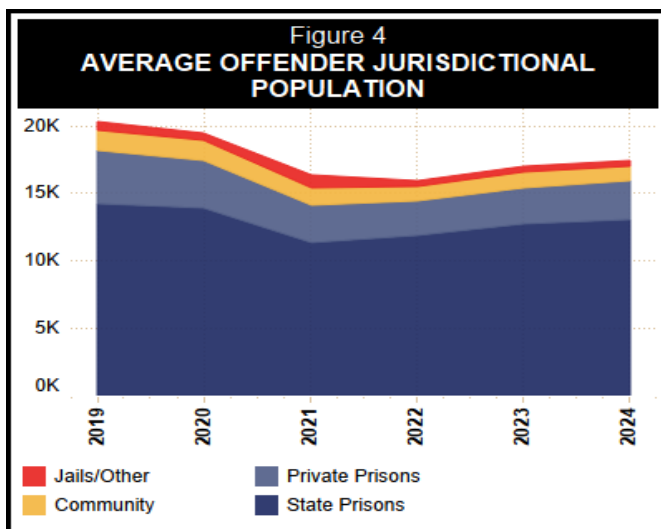
The average daily population (ADP) is used to track trends in the CDOC population. **Figure 1** shows the ADP of the inmate, parole (including absconders and interstate parolees), YOS, and total populations over the past five fiscal years (FY). There was a 14.4% decrease in CDOC's jurisdictional population from FY 2020 to FY 2024. **Figure 2** details the 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year growth rates of the jurisdictional population. Though the inmate population



increased over the last year, both the inmate and parole population have experienced an overall decrease over the last decade. **Figures 3 and 4** convey the ADP breakdown for state and private prisons, community corrections, jail backlog, and others. Private prisons in use during FY 2024 included Bent County Correctional Facility and Crowley County Correctional Facility; Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center (CMRC) was closed in February 2020. In FY 2024, 16.1% of the inmate population was housed in private prisons. The actual number of inmates managed by both private and state-run prisons increased from 15,381 to 15,849 (3.0%) between FY 2023 and FY 2024.



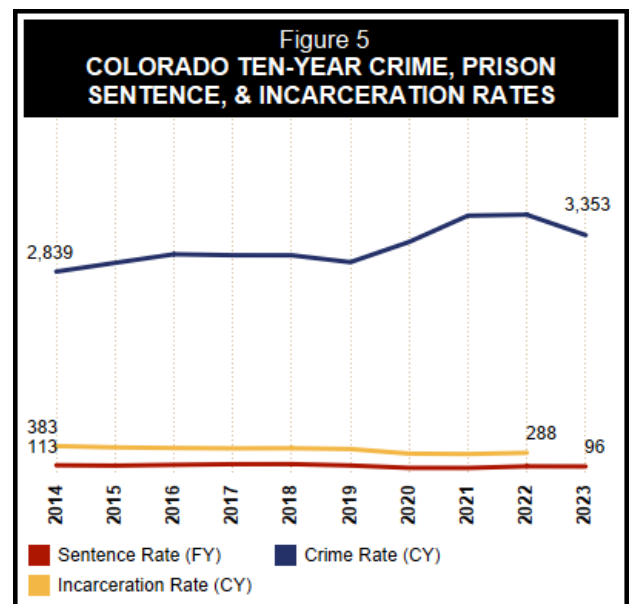
Note: Other includes fugitives, revocations in jail, awaiting transfer and external placements.



Note: Other includes fugitives, revocations in jail, awaiting transfer and external placements.

CRIME, PRISON SENTENCE, & INCARCERATION RATES

Figure 5 displays sentence, incarceration, and crime rates since 2013. Crime rates¹ are calculated per calendar year (CY) and are available to the public on a one-year delay. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports incarceration rates² each December for the previous year; therefore, 2022 data is the most current for sentence rates. The 2022 incarceration rates and were not available at the time this report; therefore, 2021 data is the most current for incarceration rates. Prison sentence and incarceration rates are indicators of change in the prison population relative to the state populace, as estimated annually by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.



1. *Annual Crime in the United States reports, 2010-2024.* Washington, D.C.: FBI.

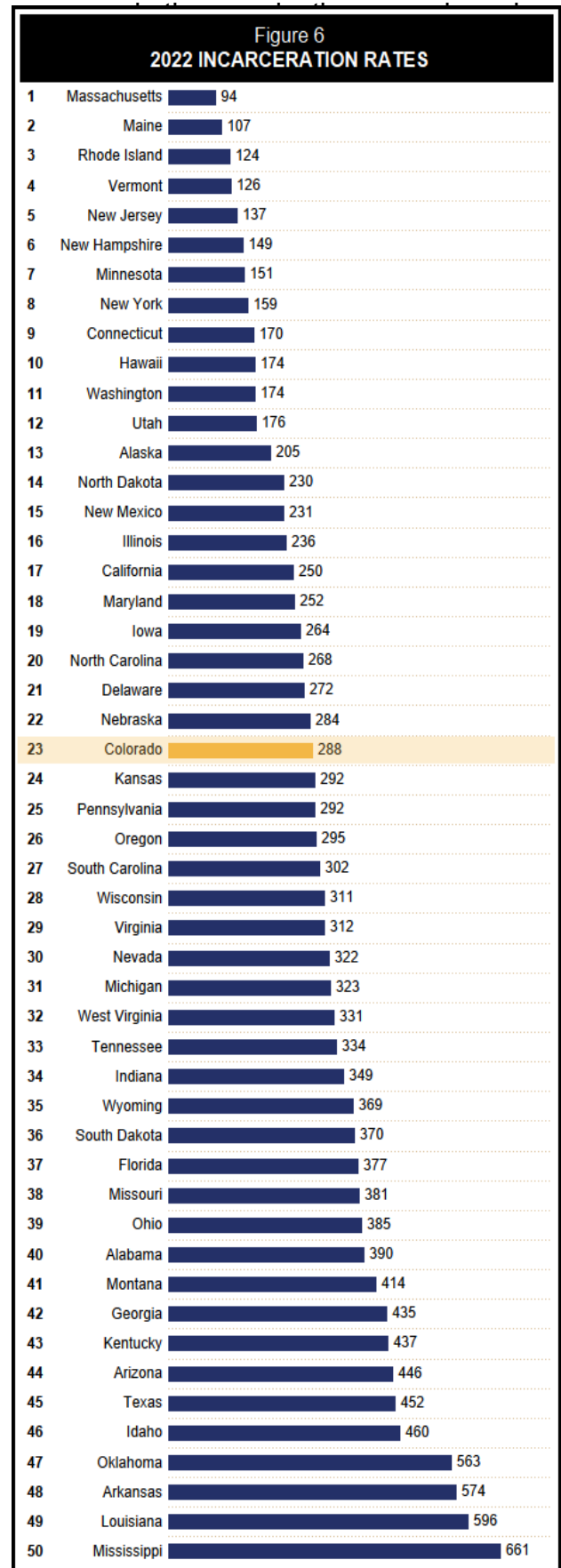
2. *Prisoners in 2022.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Prison sentence rate is the proportion of new court commitments per 100,000 Colorado residents during a fiscal year. Incarceration and crime rates are computed per 100,000 Colorado residents in a calendar year. The overall crime rate has increased from 2,839 per 100,000 Colorado residents to 3,353 since CY 2014, which equates to a 18.1% increase. This includes a decrease from 3,640 to 3,353 (7.9%) between CY 2022 and CY 2023. The sentence rate decreased from 98 to 96 (2.0%) between FY 2022 and FY 2023, and showed an overall decrease of 15.0% since FY 2014. The incarceration rate decreased from 383 to 288 (24.8%) between CY2014 and CY 2022, but it includes an 6.3% increase (271 to 288) between CY 2021 and CY 2022 (Figure 5). The CY 2022 incarceration rates for all 50 states are shown in Figure 6. Colorado's rate of incarceration ranked 23rd lowest among all 50 states.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Several key pieces of legislation since 1979 have influenced the size of the CDOC prison population. This document's Appendix lists the historical legislative bills. To follow is a summary of recent House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) that have impacted felony sentencing and the CDOC in FY 2024:

- **Proposition 128** increases the amount of prison time a person convicted of certain crimes of violence must serve before becoming eligible for discretionary parole or



convicted of a third crime of violence ineligible for discretionary parole or earned time reductions. The measure is expected to increase the prison population after the current forecast period.

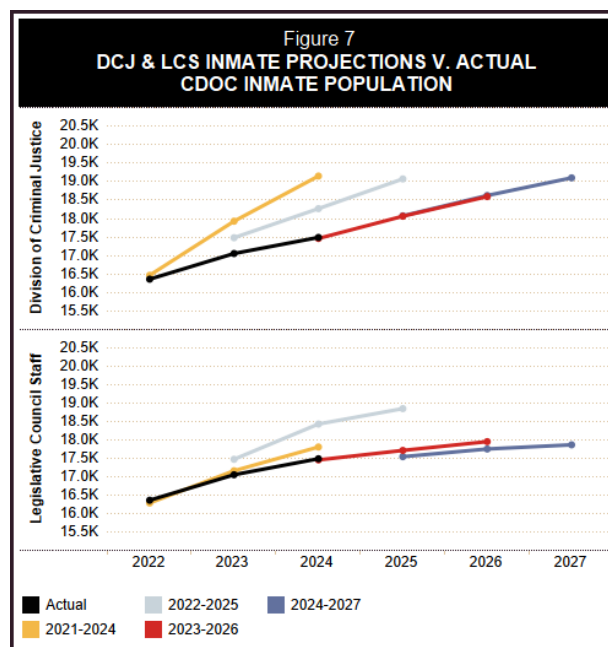
- **Senate Bill 24-035** adds human trafficking for involuntary servitude and human trafficking for sexual servitude to the list of crimes of violence, which include certain additional criminal acts and are subject to enhanced sentencing guidelines, and increases the statute of limitations for prosecuting these offenses to 20 years. The bill may minimally increase the prison population.
- **Senate Bill 24-131** prohibits the carrying of firearms in certain government buildings, schools, and polling places, and reclassifies some existing felony offenses as misdemeanors. The bill is expected to minimally decrease the prison and parole populations.
- **House Bill 24-1074** modifies the class 4 felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals to include knowingly or recklessly killing or harming a law enforcement animal. The bill may minimally increase the prison population
- **House Bill 24-1355** creates the Bridges Wraparound Care Program to refer eligible individuals from the criminal justice system to mental health services. The bill may

reduce the prison and parole populations by diverting offenders from DOC.

- **House Bill 24-1461** exempts earned time received from an inmate completing a higher education degree from the statutory limit of total earned time an inmate can receive. The bill may reduce the prison population and increase the parole population if more inmates receive additional earned time.

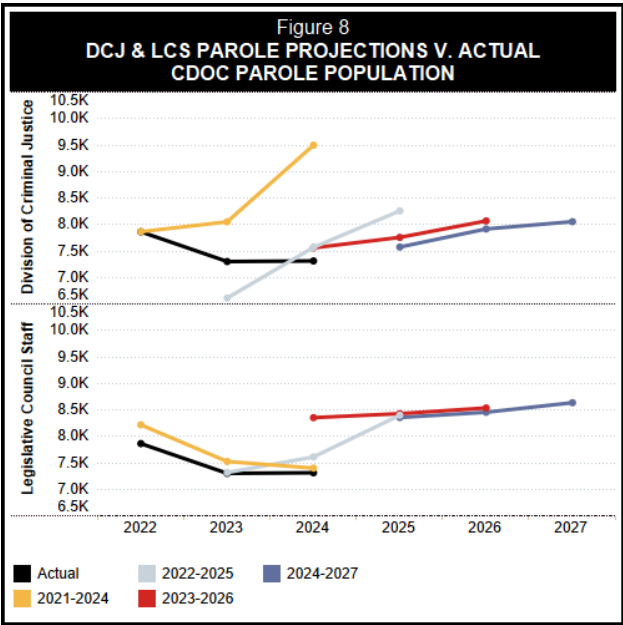
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Two sets of population projections are prepared by outside agencies for budgeting and planning purposes. The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), within the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), and the Legislative Council Staff (LCS) are statutorily mandated to develop forecasts



for the adult and juvenile populations within the criminal justice system. DCJ updates these projections twice a year to reflect the most recent sentencing revisions and trends; LCS completes these projections annually. **Figure 7** (previous page) compares the actual population of the CDOC to the last four years of inmate population projections developed by DCJ and LCS. The most recent inmate population projections were released in December 2024.

The comparison shows the variations in year-to-year projections. Parole population projections are similarly compared in **Figure 8**. Both population projections are affected by several factors, including the number and sentence length of new commitments, parole board release determinations, revocation rates for parolees, and new legislation.



PRISON FACILITIES

Figure 9 (next page) maps the locations and levels of the 21 prisons throughout Colorado. Twenty are owned and operated by the state of Colorado, and two are private-contract facilities. The security levels identified are defined in Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 17-1-104.3 as follows:

LEVEL I facilities shall have designated boundaries, but need not have perimeter fencing. Inmates classified as minimum may be incarcerated in level I facilities, but generally inmates of higher classifications shall not be incarcerated in level I facilities.

LEVEL II facilities shall have designated boundaries with single or double perimeter fencing. The perimeter of level II facilities shall be patrolled periodically. Inmates who are classified as minimum restrictive and minimum may be incarcerated in level II facilities, but generally, inmates of higher classifications shall not be incarcerated in level II facilities.

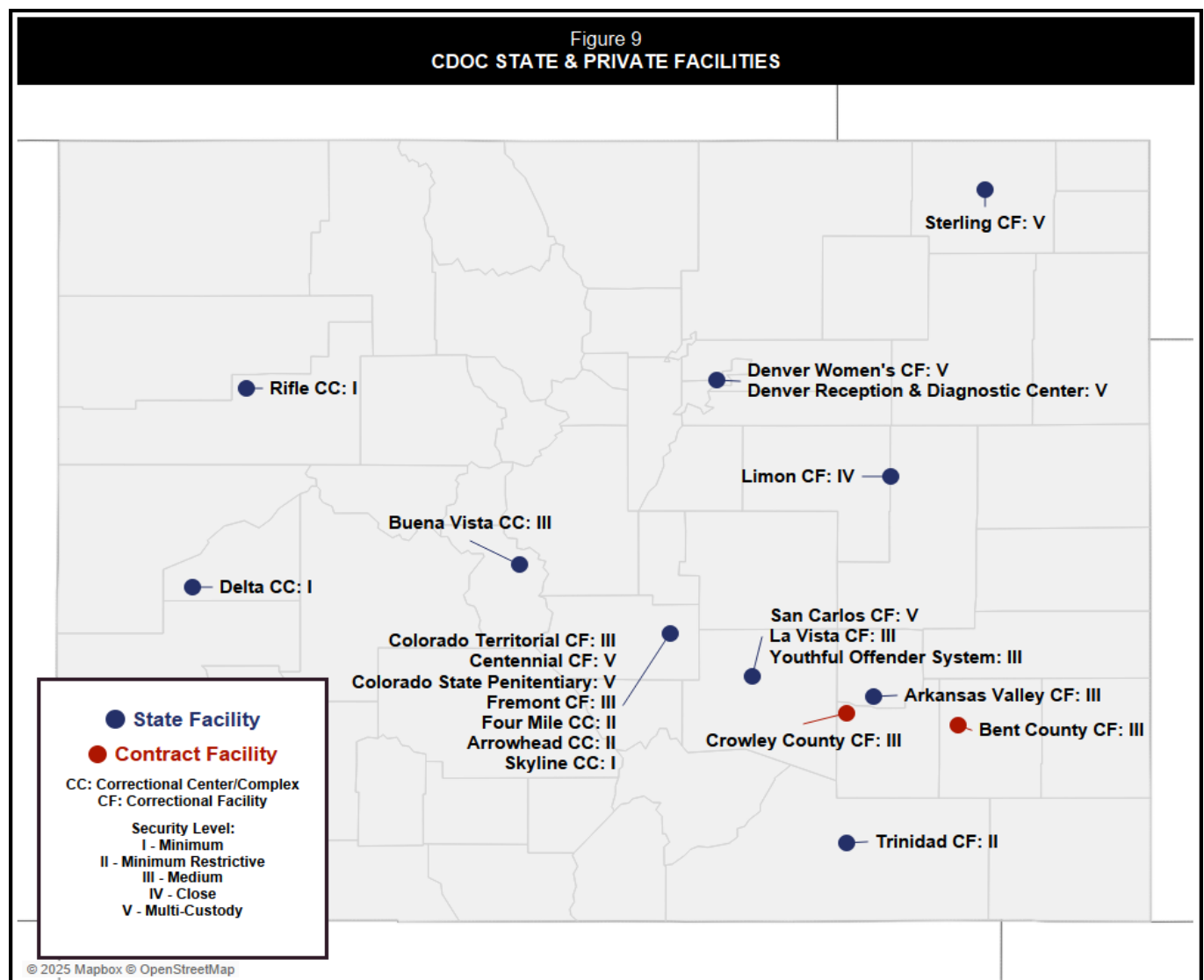
LEVEL III facilities generally shall have towers, a wall or double perimeter fencing with razor wire, and detection devices. The perimeter of level III facilities shall be continuously patrolled. Appropriately, designated close classified inmates, medium classified inmates, and inmates of lower

classification levels may be incarcerated in level III facilities, but generally, inmates of higher classifications shall not be incarcerated in level III facilities.

LEVEL IV facilities shall generally have towers, a wall or double perimeter fencing with razor wire, and detection devices. The perimeter of level IV facilities shall be continuously patrolled. Close classified inmates and inmates of lower classification levels may be incarcerated in level IV facilities, but generally, those of higher classifications shall not be

incarcerated in level IV facilities on a long-term basis.

LEVEL V facilities comprise the highest security level and are capable of incarcerating all classification levels. The facilities shall have double perimeter fencing with razor wire and detection devices or equivalent security architecture. These facilities generally shall use towers or stun-lethal fencing, as well as controlled sally ports. The perimeter of level V facilities shall be continuously patrolled.



FACILITY CAPACITIES

Capacity refers to the number of facility beds available to house inmates. Three capacity terms are used by the CDOC to describe prison bed space:

- **Design capacity:** The number of housing spaces a facility originally provided, or the number of beds it provides after remodeling, redesign, or expansion. Management control, Residential Treatment Program (RTP), special use, and reception beds are included in the design capacity for all facilities.

- **Expanded capacity:** The number of housing spaces in a facility beyond the design capacity.

- **Operational capacity:** The design capacity plus expanded capacity.

State facility capacities and on-grounds population on June 30, 2024 are shown in **Table 1**. The percent of operational capacity used, calculated as the on-grounds population divided by the operational capacity, is also listed. Therefore, percentages greater than 100% indicate prison housing in excess of the

STATE FACILITIES	ON-GROUNDS POPULATION	DESIGN CAPACITY	EXPANDED CAPACITY	OPERATIONAL CAPACITY	% OPERATIONAL CAPACITY
Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility	1,077	1,007	82	1,089	99%
Arrowhead Correctional Center	517	484	36	520	99%
Buena Vista Correctional Complex	894	1,107	-97	1,010	89%
Centennial Correctional Facility	879	1,284	-348	936	94%
Colorado State Penitentiary	696	756	-31	725	96%
Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility*	877	694	227	921	95%
Delta Correctional Center**	322	480	-99	381	85%
Denver Reception & Diagnostic Center*	512	496	74	570	90%
Denver Women's Correctional Facility	717	900	-132	768	93%
Four Mile Correctional Center	517	484	37	521	99%
Fremont Correctional Facility	1,493	1,448	153	1,601	93%
La Vista Correctional Facility	510	549	-19	530	96%
Limon Correctional Facility	909	500	438	938	97%
Rifle Correctional Center	159	192	0	192	83%
San Carlos Correctional Facility	225	250	5	255	88%
Skyline Correctional Center	123	249	-123	126	98%
Sterling Correctional Facility	2,078	2,445	-357	2,088	100%
Trinidad Correctional Facility	486	404	96	500	97%
Youthful Offender System/YOS Transfers	182	241	30	271	67%
TOTAL STATE CAPACITY	13,173	13,970	-28	13,942	94%

*Infirmary beds at Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility & Denver Reception & Diagnostic Center are not included.

**Delta Correctional Center was evacuated in May, 2023 due to flooding.

operational capacity of the facility. The capacities of contract beds and community placements are not specified due to their variability based on need and contract terms.

ANNUAL INMATE COSTS

The annual cost per offender by facility is shown in **Table 2**. Cost were not produced for FY 2024 due to programming changes; therefore, FY 2023 is the most current data available. Costs generally increase with the security level of the facility, although variations occur by facility due to construction, inmate needs, and services available. The average annual cost per adult inmate in FY 2023 was \$56,766. The FY 2023 yearly cost for adult inmates was \$27,028 for private prison, and \$24,310 for local jails. Table 2 also displays cost data for community programs and YOS. Supervising community-based inmates incurs much lower costs compared to prison expenses, as the funding for the residential stay is provided by the Division of Criminal Justice. CDOC funds Community Parole Officers (CPOs) to supervise inmates transitioning to a community-based status. CPOs provide case management and release planning services in order to transition community inmates to the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), parole, or sentence discharge. Youthful Offender System costs are higher than that of adult facilities due to

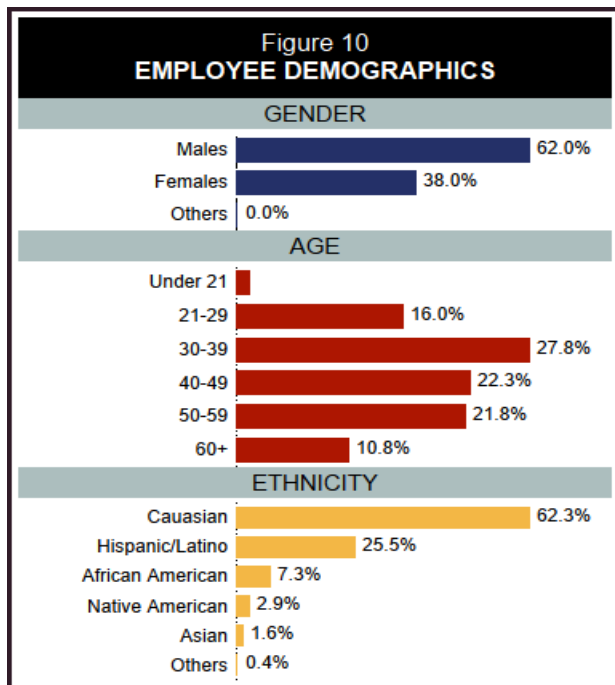
the intensive education and treatment services provided to the YOS population.

Table 2 COST PER OFFENDER BY FACILITY*		
FACILITY	ANNUAL	DAILY
LEVEL I SECURITY		
Delta Correctional Center	\$54,162	\$148.39
Rifle Correctional Center	\$47,705	\$130.70
Skyline Correctional Center	\$70,030	\$191.86
LEVEL II SECURITY		
Arrowhead Correctional Center	\$38,842	\$106.42
Four Mile Correctional Center	\$37,606	\$103.03
Trinidad Correctional Facility	\$56,319	\$154.30
LEVEL III SECURITY		
Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility	\$46,873	\$128.42
Buena Vista Correctional Complex	\$45,882	\$125.70
CO Territorial Correctional Facility	\$59,492	\$162.99
Fremont Correctional Facility	\$46,565	\$127.58
La Vista Correctional Facility	\$60,704	\$166.31
LEVEL IV SECURITY		
Limon Correctional Facility	\$56,694	\$155.33
LEVEL V SECURITY		
Centennial Correctional Facility	\$113,007	\$309.61
Centennial Correctional Facility South	\$53,408	\$146.32
Colorado State Penitentiary	\$69,950	\$191.64
Denver Reception & Diagnostic Center	\$98,145	\$268.89
Denver Women's Correctional Facility	\$64,000	\$175.34
San Carlos Correctional Facility	\$123,475	\$338.29
Sterling Correctional Facility	\$50,065	\$137.16
Average Cost Grand Total	\$56,972	\$156.09
EXTERNAL CAPACITY		
Private Prisons	\$27,028	\$74.06
County Jails	\$24,310	\$66.60
COMM. & PAROLE SUPERVISION		
Parole	\$8,387	\$22.98
Fugitive Apprehension	\$2,920	\$8.00
Community	\$8,731	\$23.92
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SYSTEM		
YOS Pueblo Facility	\$31,273	\$85.68
YOS Aftercare	\$105,398	\$288.76
YOS Backlog	\$22,123	\$60.61

*Colorado Department of Corrections Finance and Administration.

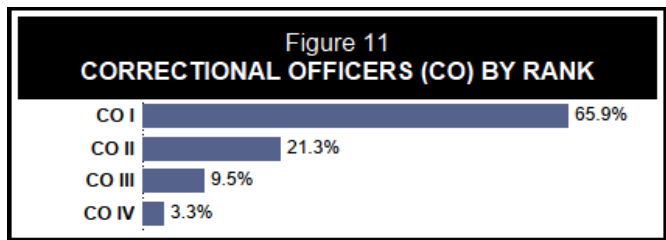
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

The CDOC had 5,920 full-time employees at the end of FY 2024. The predominant demographic consisted of Caucasian males from 30 to 59 years of age (**Figure 10**). The ethnic composition of CDOC staff is similar to that of Colorado citizens (62.3% of CDOC staff members identify as Caucasian, while 66.1% of Colorado citizens identify as Caucasian³).



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 11 delineates the rank of the CO series. The majority (65.9%) of officers are at the first level of rank (I); while a small percentage (3.3%) have promoted to the highest level (IV). Correctional officers (CO) comprise 55.0% of CDOC staff.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 12 shows the percentage of Community Parole Officer assignment designations. The types and distribution of parole employees varies depending on the caseload of each office.

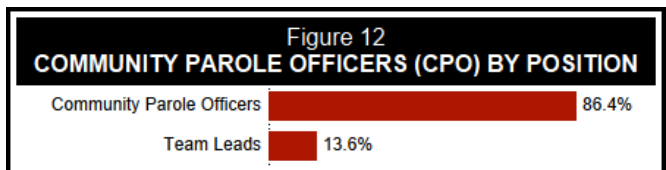
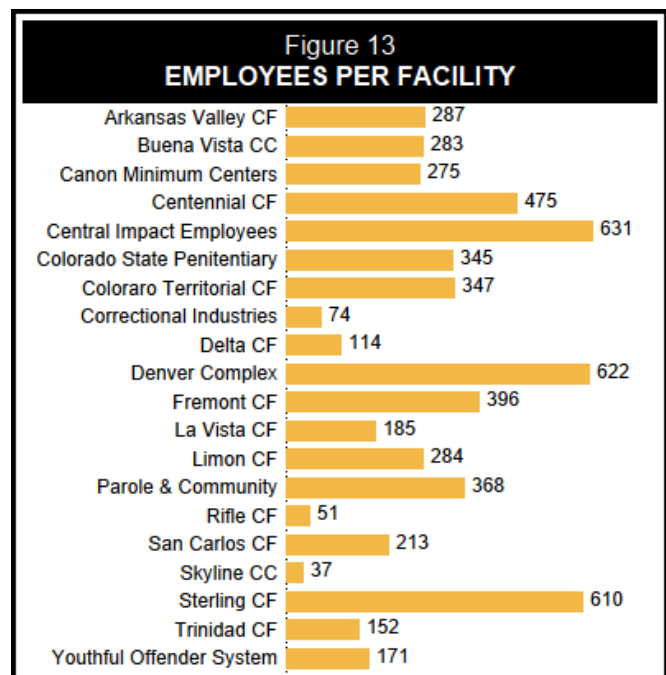


Figure 13 shows the number of employees by location. During the course of the fiscal year, 1,139 employees left DOC employment, resulting in a turnover rate of 20.1%.



3. 2023-2024 United States Census Bureau Colorado.

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ADMISSIONS

Admissions to the CDOC adult prison system increased to 6,657 from 6,571 in FY 2024 (**Figure 14**). This increase (1.3%) is attributed to legislative changes affecting sentencing, as well as normalization after the COVID-19 pandemic. Releases increased from 5,888 to 6,217 (5.6%) in FY 2024 for similar reasons.

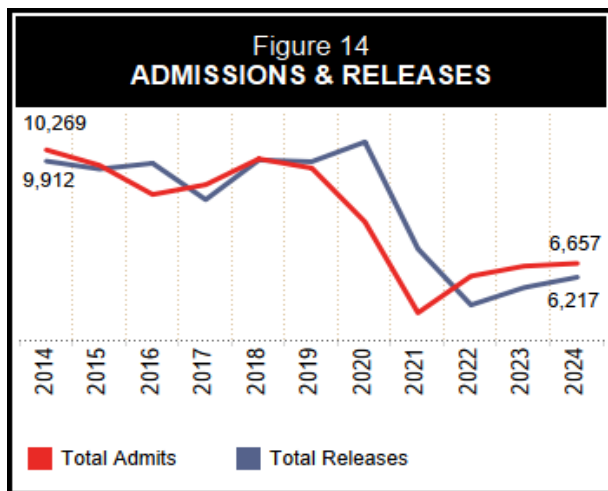
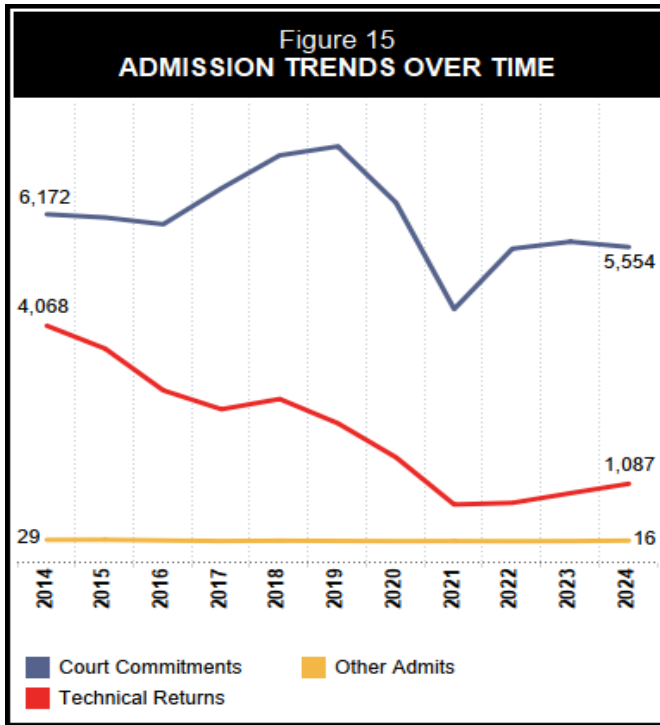


Table 3 shows totals by admission type and gender in FY 2024. Compared to FY 2023, male admissions increased by 0.7%, and female admissions increased by 5.4%, for a total increase of 1.3%. Court commitments are individuals receiving new incarceration sentences. Technical returns are inmates who were previously incarcerated and released to parole or probation, or were discharged by court order and returned without a new felony conviction.

Table 3 ADULT ADMISSIONS			
	Male	Female	Total
COURT COMMITMENTS/NEW CONVICTION			
New Commitments	4,062	679	4,741
Parole Return	729	84	813
Court-Ordered Return	0	0	0
Probation	0	0	0
YOS Failure	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	4,791	763	5,554
TECHNICAL RETURNS			
Parole Return	937	150	1,087
Court-Ordered Discharge	0	0	0
Probation	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	937	150	1,087
OTHER			
Bond Return/Audit Return	3	0	3
Interstate Compact	9	4	13
SUBTOTAL	12	4	16
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	5,740	917	6,657

Technical returns may also have new misdemeanor convictions, traffic convictions, or other violations of conditions specified in the parole agreement or order. Other admissions consist of transfers related to interstate compact agreements, bond returns under the consecutive sentence audit, and dual commitments. **Figure 15** (next page) shows 10-year admission trends by type. Court commitments decreased while technical returns increased. Since FY 2023, court commitments decreased by 1.8%

(from 5,655 to 5,554) and technical returns increased by 19.5% (from 910 to 1,087) between FY 2023 and FY 2024.

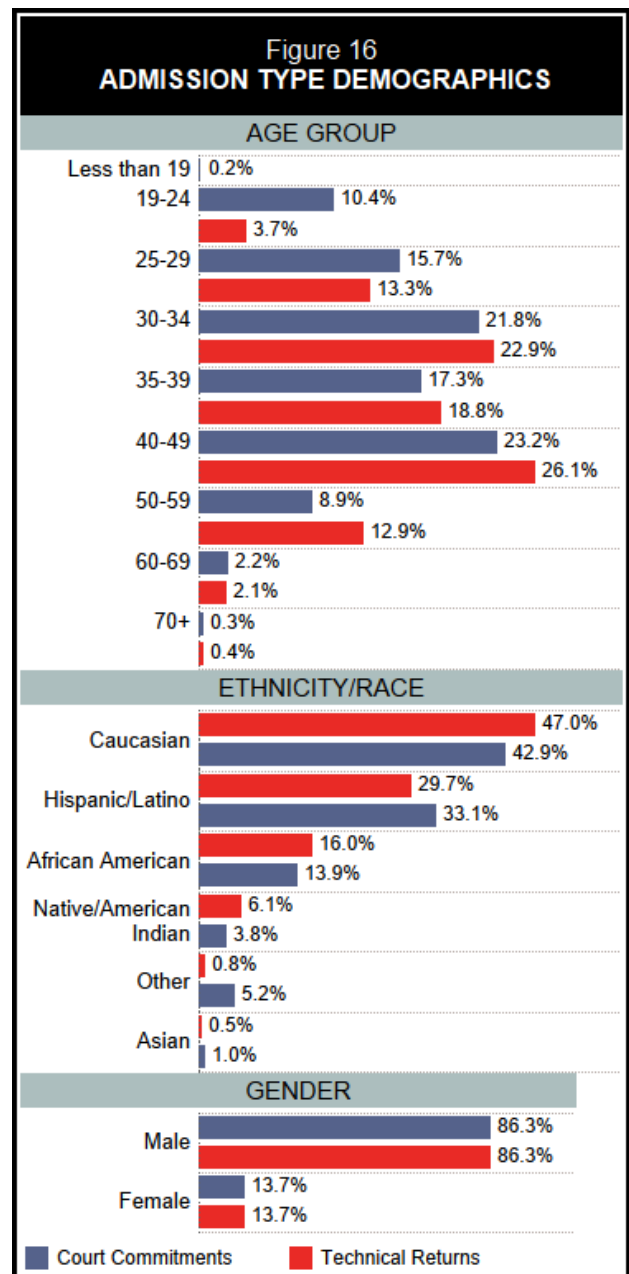


*Other includes Audit, Dual Commitment, and Interstate Compact In.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In FY 2024, 37 inmates had multiple admissions. To most accurately portray admission characteristics, each inmate with multiple admissions was included in the profile only once, using only their first admission for the fiscal year. First admissions included a total of 6,604 admissions (5,515 court commitments and 1,089 technical returns). The demographic characteristics of each admission type for FY 2024 are provided in **Figure 16**. The majority of admissions were

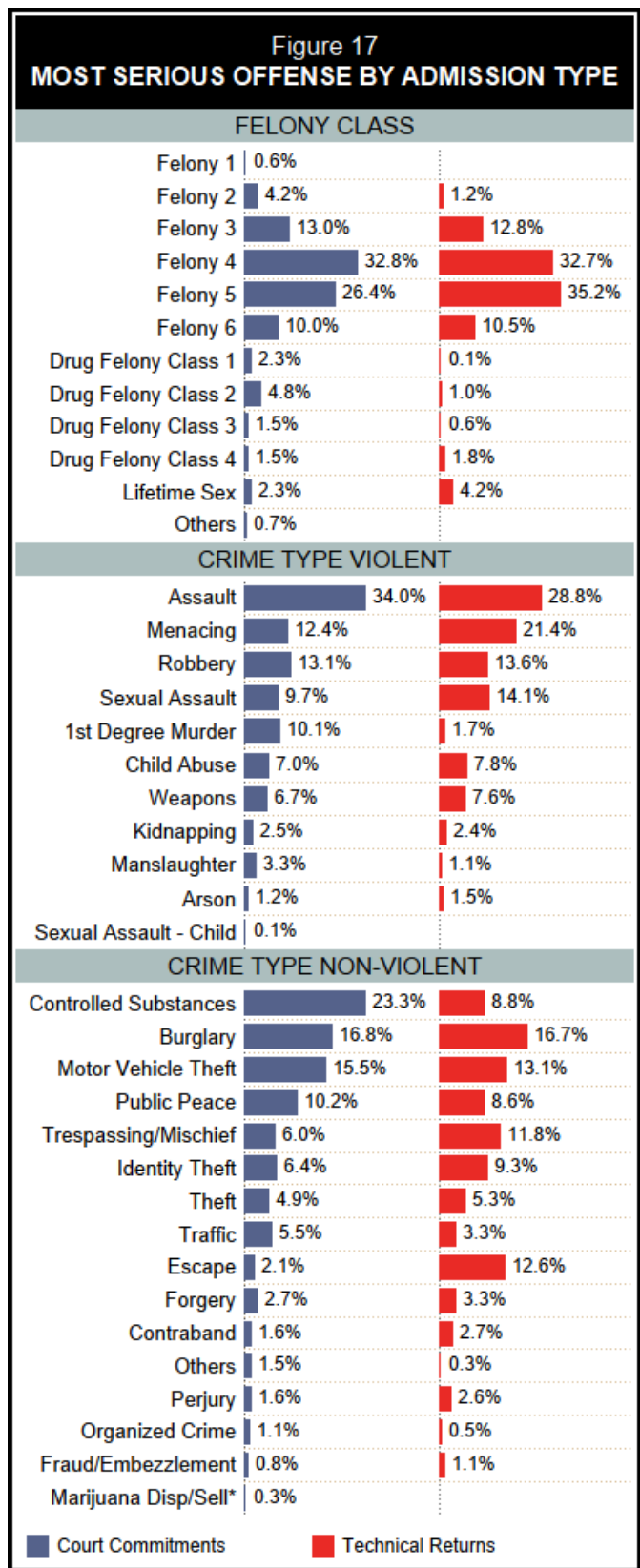
ages 25 to 49. Less than 1% of court commitments were under the age of 19, and only 11.5% over age 50. The *Youthful Offender System Annual Report* details the population of young adult inmates who, despite receiving an adult sentence, were eligible for the Youthful Offender System (YOS).



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

OFFENSE DATA

To assess the seriousness of inmate sentences, the class of felony for the most serious offense conviction is used. The most serious offense designation is defined by a number of factors, including sentence length, class of felony, enhancements (e.g., habitual, lifetime supervision), and type of crime. As with demographics, individuals with more than one admission in the same year were included only once. Felony-class distributions of both court commitments and technical returns (Figure 17) show that Class 4 felonies were the most common, followed by Class 5, Class 3, and Class 6 felonies. Figure 17 also shows the most serious offense and violence category by admission type. Offenses are categorized as "violent" or "non-violent" using a broad definition of the offense rather than the statutory definition in CRS. 18-1.3-406. This is because the statutory definition does not include every crime which might be considered violent by other statutes. In FY 2024, 44.2% (2,932) of admissions were for violent crimes and 55.8% (3,672) were for non-violent crimes. In FY 2024, admissions based on violent offenses were higher for new court commitments (44.5%) than for technical returns (42.4%). As in most previous years, new commitments tend to involve more violent offenses than technical returns.



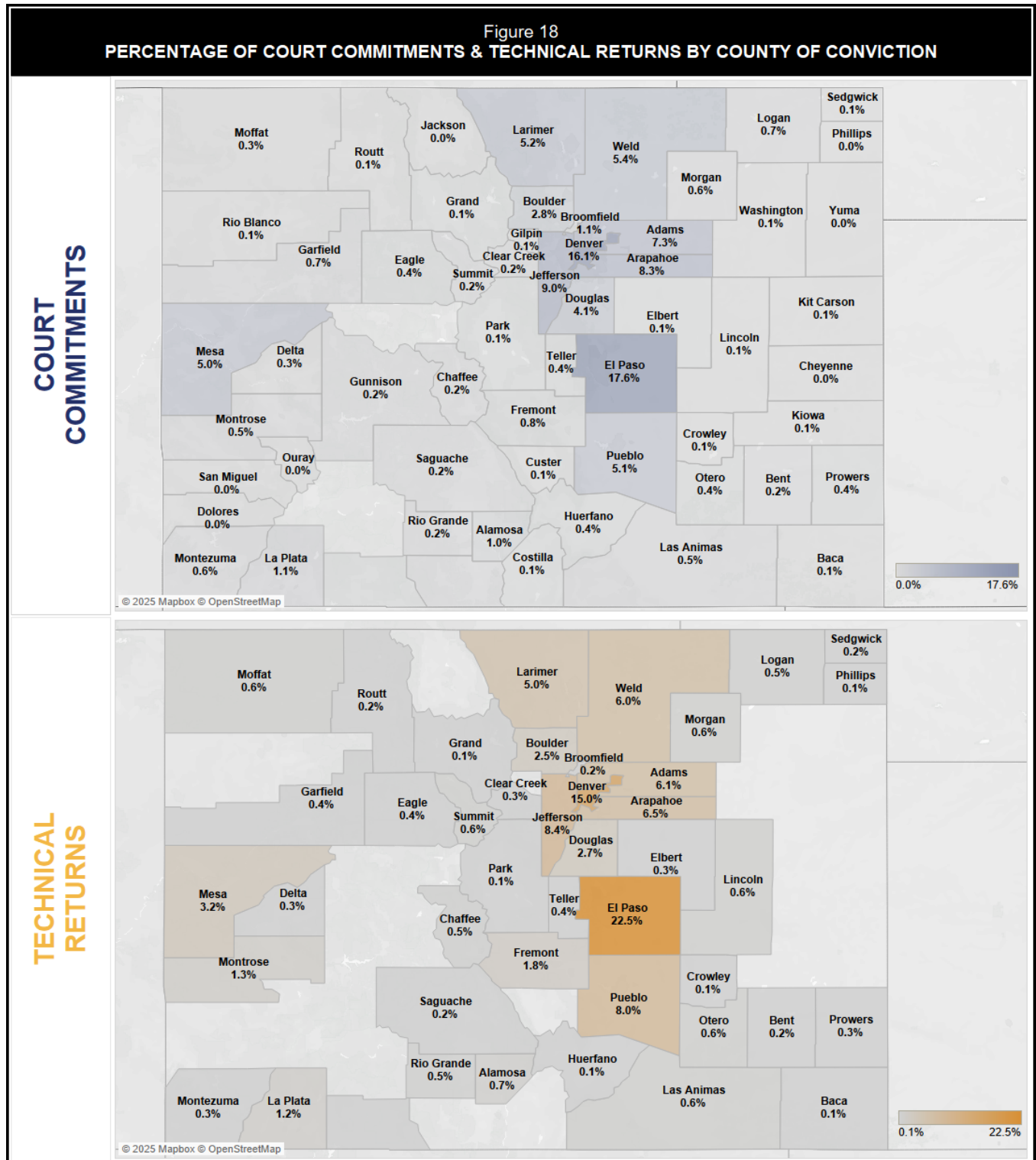
*Includes illegal dispensing/manufacturing/distribution/sale, illegal extraction of marijuana concentrate, and possessions of concentrate over 4 ounces.

**Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

Figure 18 displays the percentage of court commitments and technical returns from each county in the state. El Paso County demonstrated the largest percentage (17.6%)

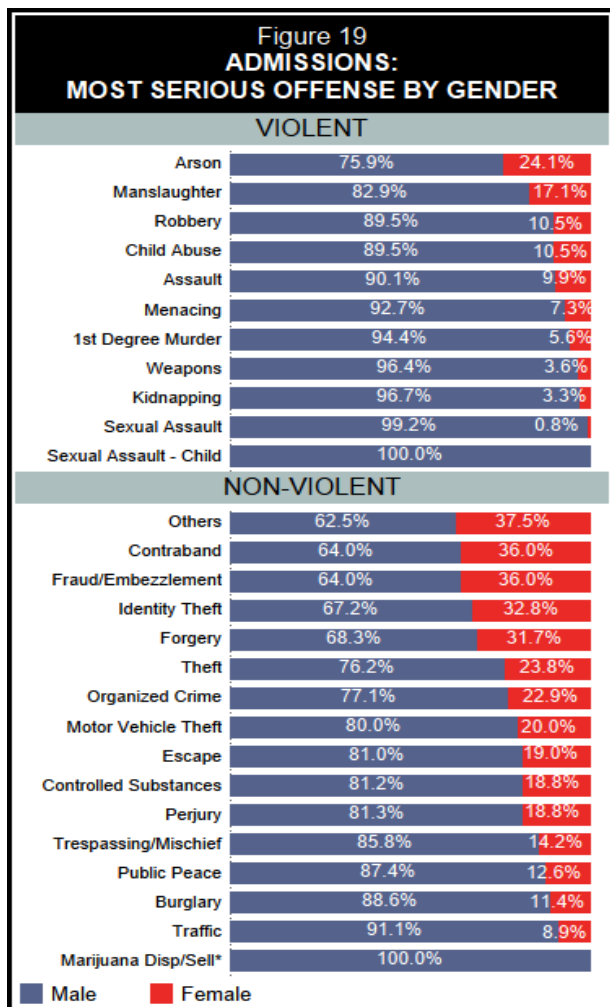
of court commitment admissions. El Paso County also remained the county with largest percentage (22.5%) of technical return admissions in FY 2024.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

GENDER COMPARISON

Figure 19 shows gender distribution by crime category. Males are shown to have been convicted of more violent crimes than females. A majority of female incarcerations are due to theft-related crimes.



*Includes illegal dispensing/sale/distribution, cultivation/processing of over 30 plants, and possessions of over 12 ounces.

LENGTH OF STAY

The Correctional Population Forecast⁴ is issued annually by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). It estimates the average length of stay for new court commitments

and parole returns with a new crime. Average lengths of stay are estimates of the amount of time new admissions are expected to serve. These calculations are based on sentence length and actual time served for inmates released during the same year. **Table 4** displays projected lengths of stay by felony class, type of crime, extraordinary risk (offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses"), sex offenses, and other. "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary risk crimes.

Table 4 ESTIMATED AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (MONTHS)				
FELONY/TYPE	NEW COMMITMENTS		PAROLE RETURNS	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
F1	Life	Life	Life	-
F2 Extraordinary	191.51	199.66	100.38	-
F2 Sex	-	-	-	-
F2 Other	66.85	69.55	61.52	105.82
F3 Extraordinary	108.44	104.50	68.35	26.57
F3 Sex	74.95	58.90	37.11	-
F3 Other	55.96	53.85	48.09	26.81
F4 Extraordinary	40.88	31.20	44.29	46.69
F4 Sex	35.43	-	46.41	-
F4 Other	27.00	21.11	35.51	31.25
F5 Extraordinary	17.54	15.13	23.45	28.63
F5 Sex	24.19	-	23.88	-
F5 Other	15.50	11.95	25.11	21.33
F6 Extraordinary	11.88	8.28	15.29	-
F6 Sex	8.58	8.10	18.23	-
F6 Other	7.62	8.73	12.48	10.76
DF1 Extraordinary	56.95	78.12	51.86	34.57
Drug Felony 1	68.27	74.87	29.66	-
DF2 Extraordinary	36.07	38.61	32.95	52.80
Drug Felony 2	27.23	-	-	-
DF3 Extraordinary	23.53	24.20	29.97	-
Drug Felony 3	18.61	-	-	-
DF4 Extraordinary	8.70	10.33	-	-
Drug Felony 4	4.32	3.32	-	-
Habitual	188.68	-	54.09	-
Sex Offender Act	249.94	177.43	164.67	-

*Felony (F), Drug Felony (DF)

4. Harrison, L. Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Correctional Population Forecasts, December 2021.

HABITUAL OFFENDER SENTENCES

Figure 20 summarizes court commitments for habitual offenders (see **Table 9** on page 48 for habitual definitions). In FY 2024, 17 inmates were sentenced under habitual offender provisions for their most serious offense. The reported numbers exclude a minority of instances in which an inmate’s most serious offense fell in a different category than those constituting their habitual sentence. Inmates sentenced after HB 93-1302 was passed received a sentence at three times the maximum presumptive range if they had two previous convictions and four times the maximum presumptive range if they had three previous convictions.

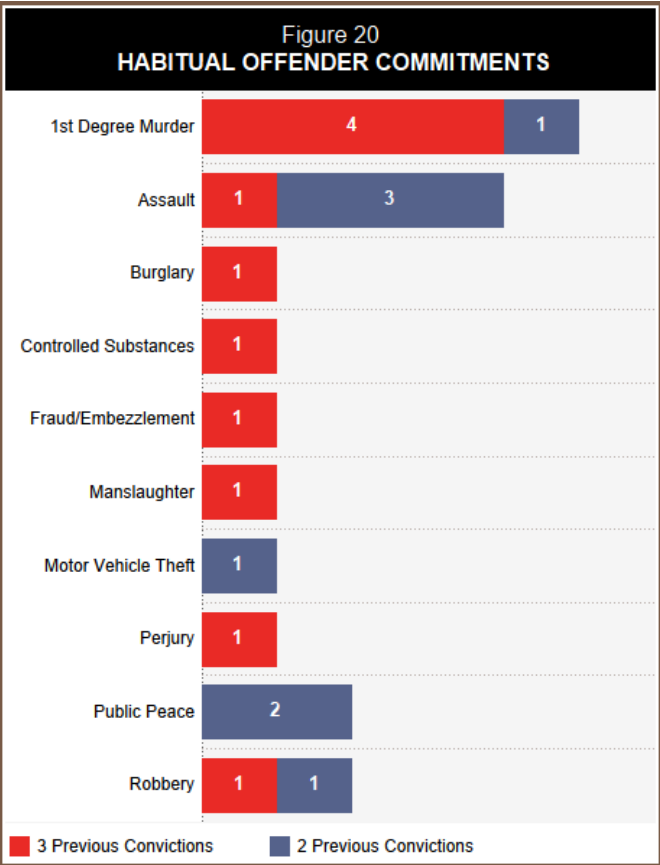


Table 5 shows the average, maximum, and minimum sentences for inmates with two or three previous convictions.

Table 5 HABITUAL OFFENDER SENTENCES (YEARS)		
	2 Previous Convictions	3 Previous Convictions
Average Governing Years	29.9	49.4
Maximum Governing Years	96.0	160.0
Minimum Governing Years	1.5	5.0

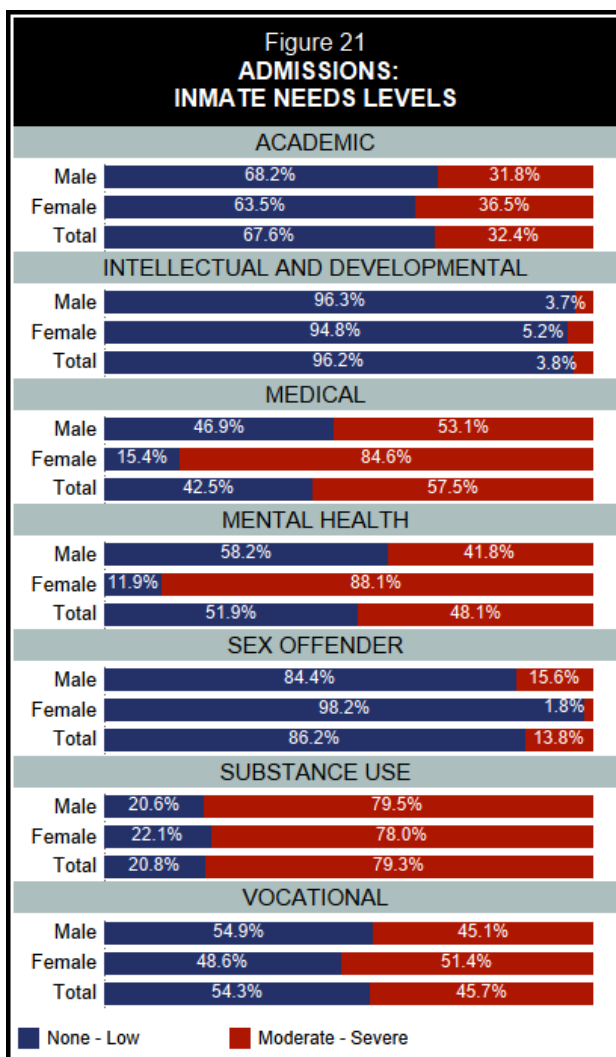
LIFETIME SUPERVISION SEX OFFENDERS

The Lifetime Supervision Sex Offender Act, enacted in 1998, placed a set of requirements on the length of sentences for inmates convicted of Class 2, 3, or 4 sex-offense felonies. It required set minimum and maximum terms of life in prison. **Table 6** details the class of felony and average minimum sentences for 127 inmates sentenced to prison under the act in FY 2024. The data shown in Table 6 may not represent all commitments sentenced under the act, as this analysis uses only the most serious crime. In some cases, the most serious crime is a non-sexual offense, and the lesser qualifying sex-offense carries the lifetime supervision sentence.

Table 6 LIFETIME SUPERVISION SENTENCES (YEARS)		
	Average Minimum Sentence	Number of Offenders
Felony Class 2	45.0	3
Felony Class 3	26.5	74
Felony Class 4	16.4	50
TOTAL AVERAGE	29.3	127

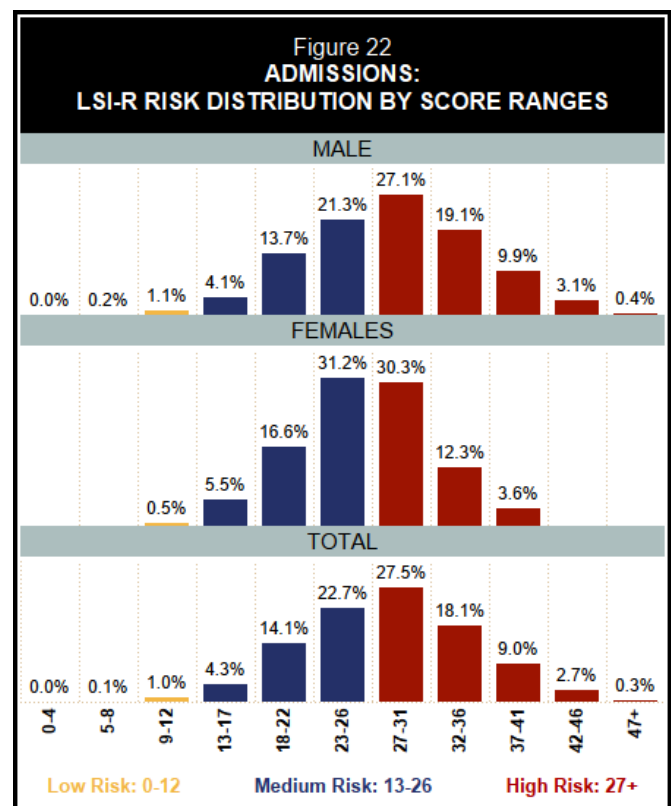
RISK & NEED ASSESSMENTS

Initial needs levels are calculated during the diagnostic process for court commitments and are used to identify inmates for placement in services. Needs levels are assessed through a combination of methods including observation, interviewing, self-reporting, standardized testing, and review of criminal justice records. Each needs level is rated on a scale of 1-5, with higher scores representing greater needs. **Figure 21** shows the ratios of court commitments involving moderate-to-severe needs (Levels



3-5) to none-to-low needs (Levels 1-2). Inmates with moderate-to-severe needs are targeted for services. The three most prevalent areas of moderate-to-severe needs were found to be academic, substance abuse, and mental health needs. Compared to males, females showed higher moderate-to-severe academic, medical, mental health, substance abuse, and vocational needs, but lower sex offender treatment needs. Intellectual and developmental needs were similar for both genders.

Figure 22 shows court commitments by Level of Supervision Inventory - Revised (LSI-R) risk score ranges and gender. The most common score range was 27–31 for males and 23–26 for females in FY 2024.



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RELEASES

This section reflects releases from inmate status, which include releases from prison, community corrections, and jail settings. These releases may differ from those reported by the parole board, which reflect when releases are granted (i.e. not enacted), and may not occur in the same fiscal year as the actual release.

Three main release categories are used by the CDOC are parole release, sentence discharge, and other releases. Parole releases include the following: inmates who are granted discretionary parole by the parole board; inmates who serve their maximum sentence and release on their mandatory release date; and inmates who re-parole after having their parole revoked. Inmates with certain Class 4 through Class 6 felonies who do not receive discretionary parole may release 30 to 60 days before their mandatory release date, if they are eligible per the provisions of HB 09-1351.

Sentence discharges include Martin/Cooper discharge types and discharges to pending charges or to pending detainers. These discharges resulted in the release of 98 inmates in FY 2024. Martin/Cooper

discharges apply to inmates convicted of sex offenses between July 1, 1993, and June 30, 2002. The Colorado State Supreme Court (People v. Martin, Case 99SC602) and the Colorado Court of Appeals (People v. Cooper, Case 98CA1614) ruled these sex offenders were subject to a period of discretionary parole which could not be longer than the remainder of the imposed maximum sentence of incarceration. These cases were finalized in July 2001, and as a result, sex offenders convicted of offenses between 1993 and 2002 are not subject to the mandatory parole provisions.

An appellate court decision in People v. Falls, Case 00CA2169, ruled that habitual inmates with dates of offense between July 1, 1993, and June 30, 2003, fell into the same category as Martin/Cooper and were not required to serve a mandatory period of parole. Of the 98 sentence discharges, zero (0) inmates fell under Martin/Cooper discharges in FY 2024.

Other types of releases are rare. These can include deaths in custody, releases to probation, court ordered discharges, Colorado State hospital transfers, and appeal bonds. These other release types constituted only 1.5% of the total releases in FY 2024.

RELEASES BY TYPE

Inmate releases increased from 5,888 in FY 2023 to 6,217 in FY 2024, a 5.6% increase. This significant change can be attributed to legislative changes affecting sentencing and parole, as well as normalization after the COVID-19 pandemic (**Figure 23**).

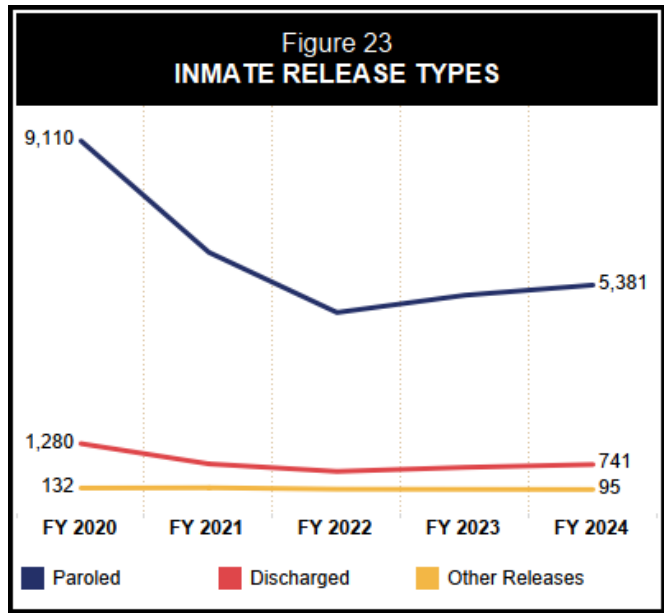


Figure 24 shows parole releases by fiscal year. The parole release increase in FY 2024 is most attributable to the increase in both discretionary parole releases, which increased by 991 (31.8%) from FY 2023.

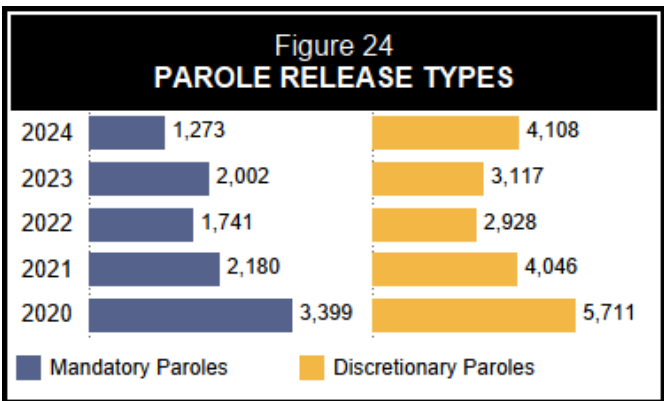
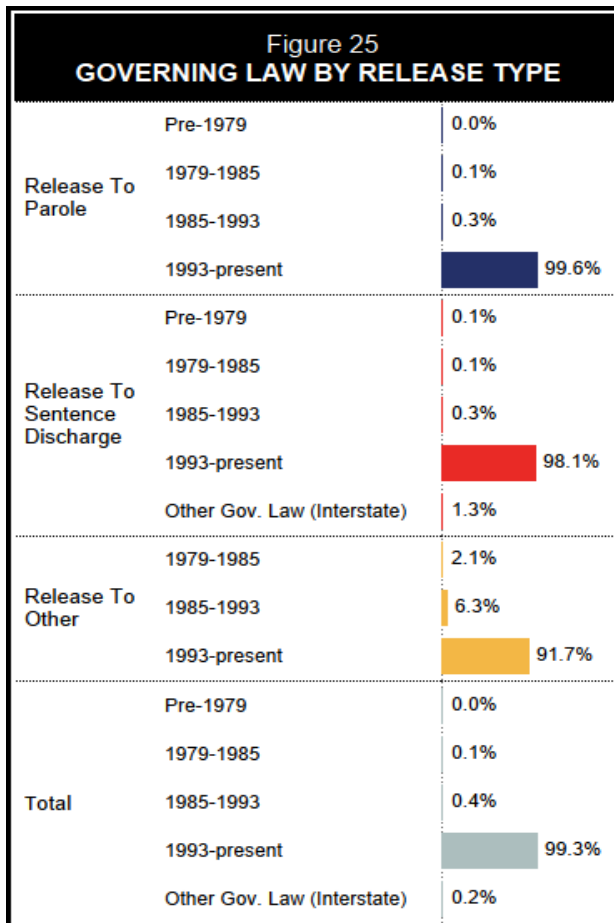


Table 7 provides details of releases by type and gender for FY 2024. Approximately 11.9% of these annual releases were sentence discharges while 86.5% were parole releases.

Table 7 OFFENDER RELEASE TYPES BY GENDER			
	Male	Female	Total
PAROLE			
Discretionary	3,515	593	4,108
Mandatory	1,013	135	1,148
Mandatory Re-parole	40	4	44
HB 1351 Mandatory	67	14	81
SUBTOTAL	4,635	746	5,381
SENTENCE DISCHARGE			
Discharge	605	74	679
Discharge to Pending Charges	38	9	47
Discharge to Detainer	13	2	15
Martin/Cooper Discharges	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	656	85	741
OTHER			
Court Ordered Discharge	28	8	36
Deceased	49	4	53
Probation	4	2	6
Colorado State Hospital Transfer	0	0	0
Appeal Bond	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	81	14	95
TOTAL RELEASES	5,372	845	6,217

The majority of released inmates were governed by current law (1993–present), which requires a period of parole supervision (**Figure 25** – next page). Only 14 of the 741 inmates who released to sentence discharge were not required to serve a period of parole.

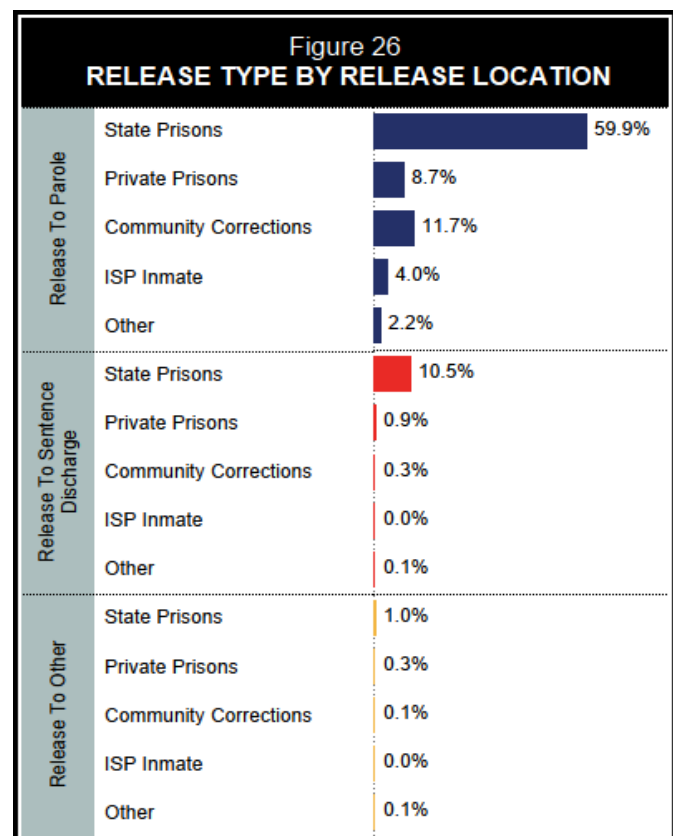
The remaining 727 inmates who discharged their sentence were those who had returned to a prison facility after a parole violation. These inmates then discharged from inmate status by reaching their sentence discharge date before they could re-parole, and while they were still housed in a prison facility.



Note: Other includes Probation, Court-Ordered Discharge, Deceased, Dual Commitment and Appeal Bond.
*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 26 illustrates the percentage of release types by location. Releases are not shown by specific prison facilities because inmates often release from a transport hub. In FY 2024, the majority of inmates

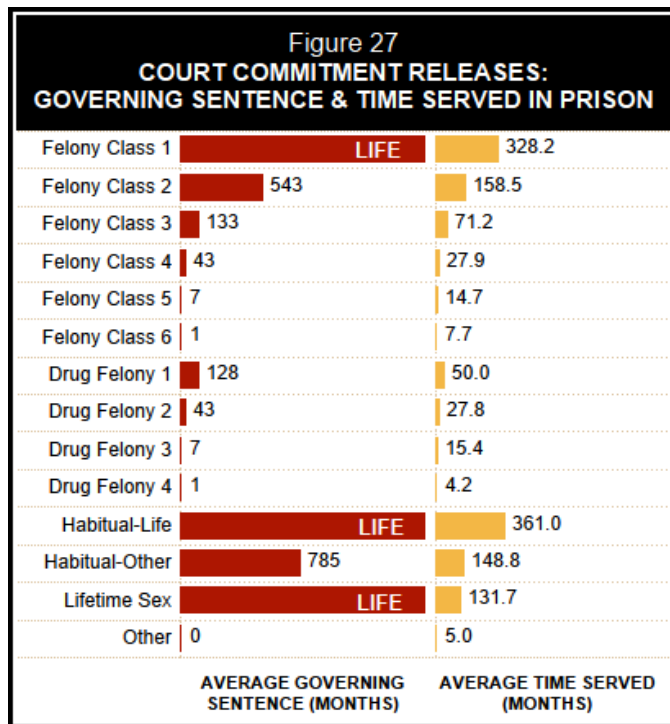
released from state prisons to parole. Approximately 11.8% of inmates successfully transitioned from prison to parole via community corrections and/or Intensive Supervision Parole status. Approximately the same number of inmates released from private prisons in FY 2024 as did in FY 2023. This is attributable to operations normalizing post COVID-19, increasing overall releases in FY 2023 and FY 2024. Inmates under the supervision of other jurisdictions, yet sentenced to the CDOC, are categorized as "other." Those jurisdictions include the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHIP), other state facilities, dual commitments to Colorado and interstate compact, and the federal system.



Note: Other includes Probation, Court-Ordered Discharge, Deceased, Dual Commitment and Appeal Bond.
*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

TIME SERVED IN PRISON

The time served in prison in relation to inmates' governing sentences is represented in **Figure 27**. The governing sentence determines the Mandatory Release Date (MRD) or Statutory Discharge Date (SDD).



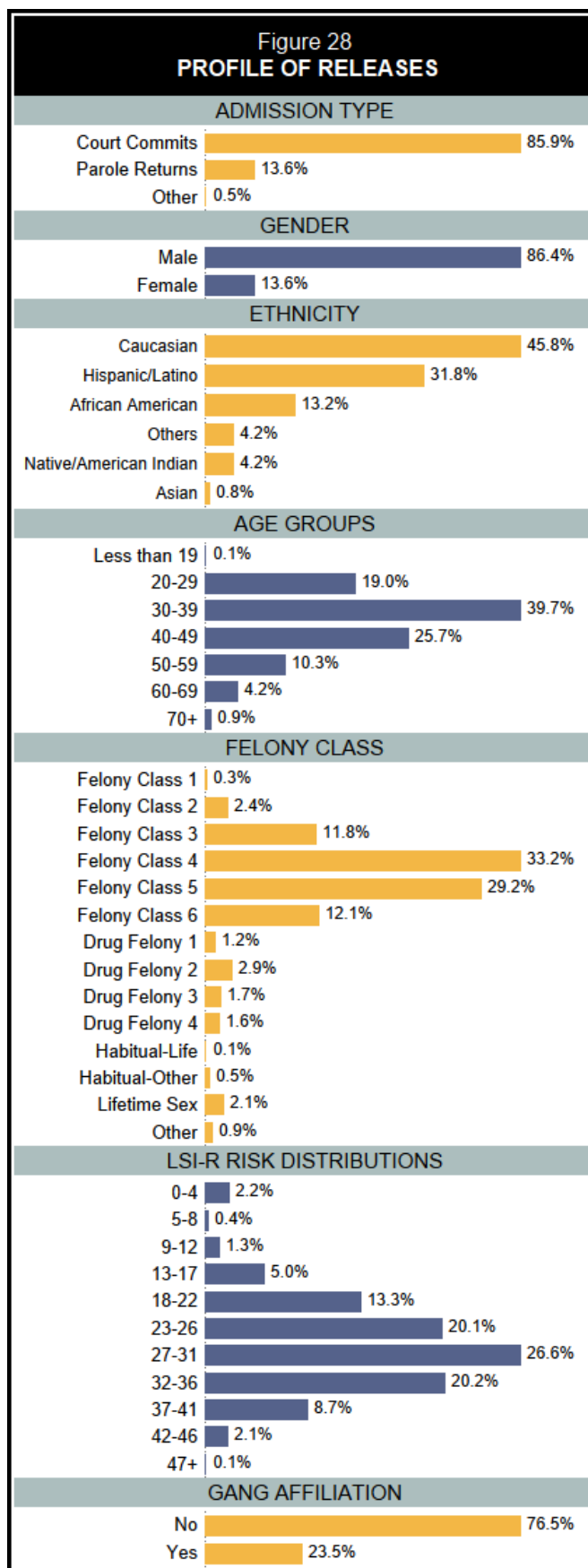
The statutorily mandated parole period governs the parole period once an inmate paroled. If the inmate's parole is revoked for a technical violation, the parole period continues to govern. If an inmate is revoked due to a new conviction, the governing sentence can be either the new conviction or the existing parole period. The sentence resulting in the latest mandatory release or statutory discharge date will govern. If the new conviction is ordered to run consecutively with the existing parole

sentence, both sentences will be part of the governing structure. The broad presumptive sentencing ranges, combined with enhanced sentencing and concurrent or consecutive sentencing provisions, create vast differences within each crime category and felony class. Time served in prison does not include time served for previous incarcerations, time credits awarded for probation or diversionary programs, jail credits, or pre-sentence confinement awards. However, time spent in a county jail (backlog) waiting for prison bed space after sentencing is included. A limited definition was used to represent the amount of time newly sentenced inmates might spend in prison. Only court commitments released to parole, or those who discharged a sentence, were included in the comparison. Governing sentences and imprisonment time increase with felony class. Habitual offenders and lifetime-supervision sex offenders also serve extended sentences. Habitual offenders typically serve an amount of time comparable to that of Class 1 felons. Lifetime sex offenders serve an average total time comparable to that of Class 2 felons. Many inmates within the lower felony classes (Classes 5 and 6) often receive initial sentences of probation or diversion, but may subsequently be re-sentenced to imprisonment due to technical violations or new crimes.

PROFILE OF INMATE RELEASES

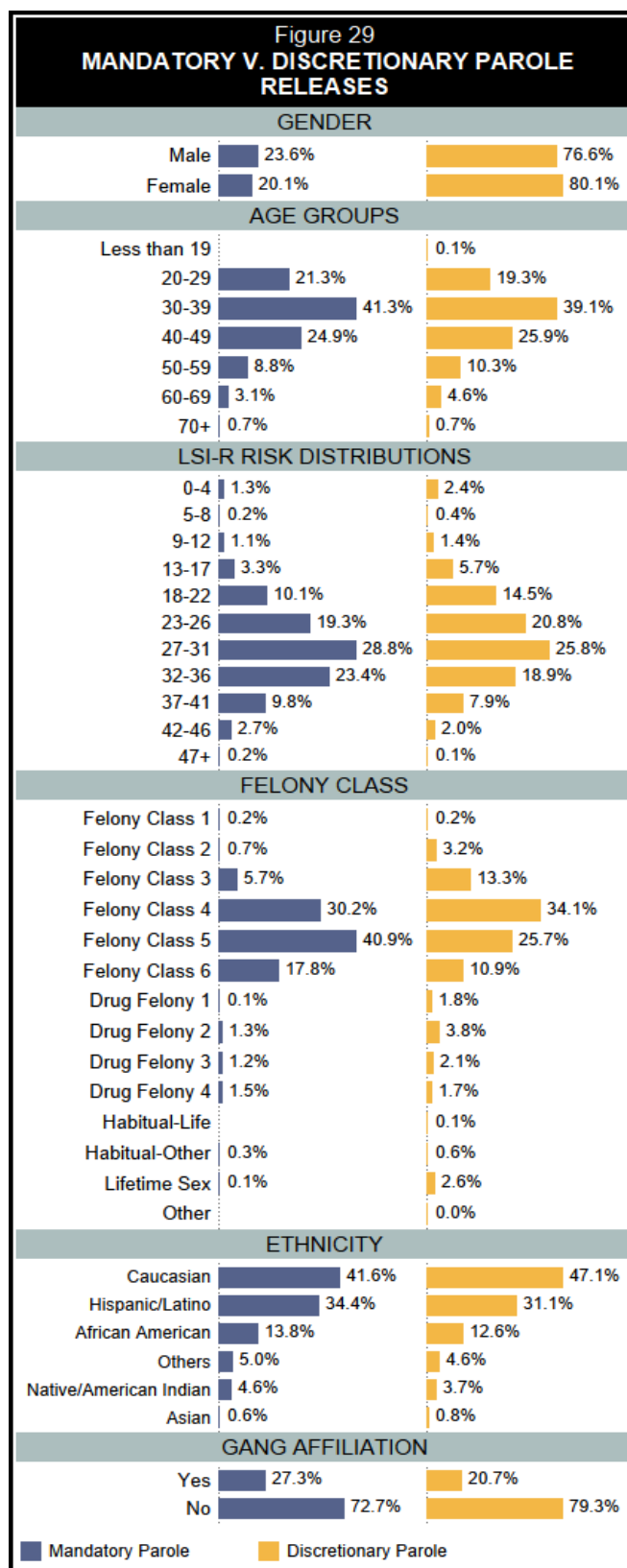
Demographic and sentencing data was examined for the FY 2024 release cohort (**Figure 28**). Certain offenders may release more than once during a given year, particularly those who violate the conditions of parole. To most accurately represent the characteristics of individuals who release from offender status, each offender was included in the release profile only once using their first release. Consequently, the profile cohort included 5,332 males and 843 females, totaling 6,175 first releases. An exploration of the profile data by release type revealed few meaningful differences; therefore, that data is not displayed here.

In **Figure 29** (next page), various differences between inmates who release on discretionary parole and inmates who release on mandatory parole are contrasted. As in previous comparisons, only the first release was counted, and only releases to discretionary parole and mandatory parole (including HB 09-1351) were included. Re-paroles are not included in the mandatory parole releases. The final sample included 4,098 first-time discretionary parole releases and 1,228 first-time mandatory parole releases, totaling 5,326 first-time releases. Inmates who



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

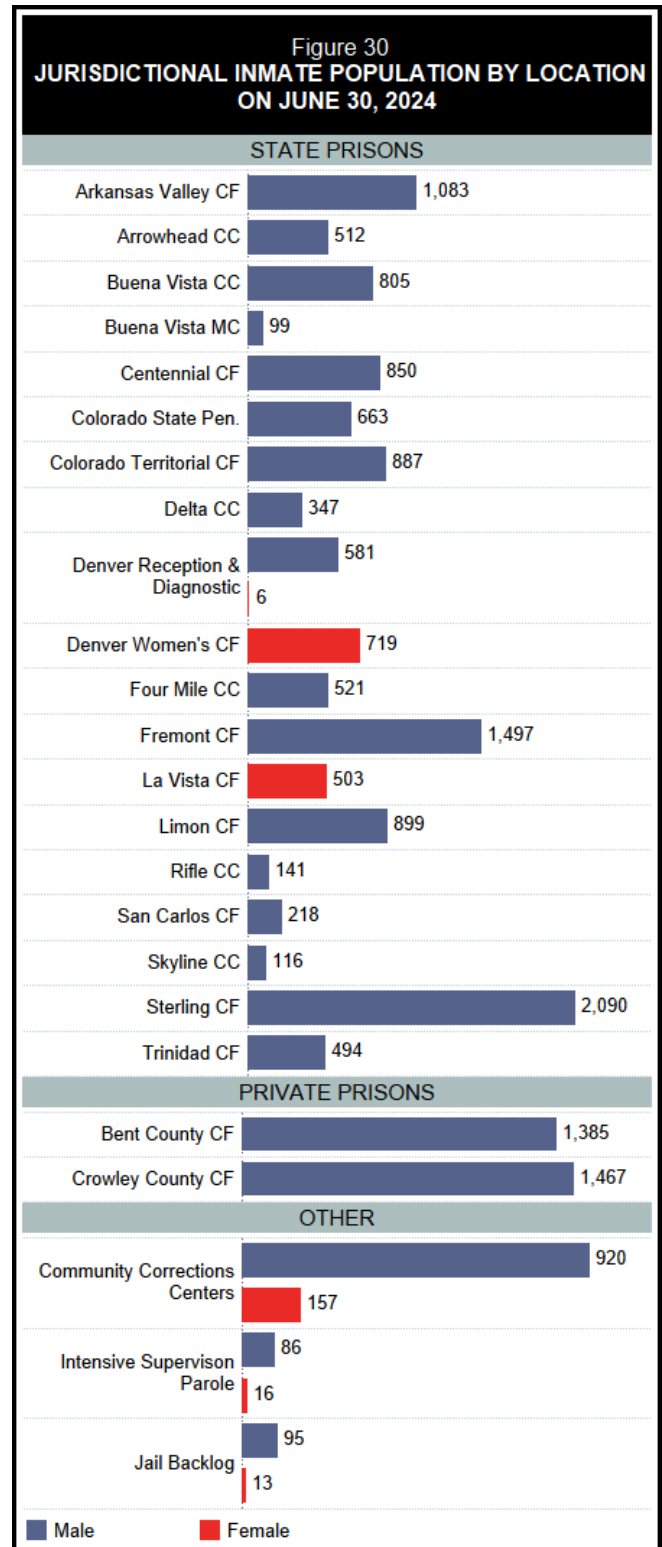
released on discretionary parole during FY 2024 were more likely to have Class 3 or 4 felonies, have lower LSI-R risk scores, and have no gang affiliation compared to offenders on mandatory parole. Inmates with more serious felonies were more likely to receive discretionary parole. However, for inmates convicted of Class 1 felonies or were sentenced to lifetime supervision for sex offenses, release can only be granted by the Parole Board. Inmates with higher LSI-R risk scores are less likely to be granted discretionary parole.



INMATE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

INMATE POPULATION

This section explores and summarizes the adult jurisdictional inmate population. **Figure 30** shows the number of inmates by location on the last day of the fiscal year (excluding 65 fugitives). The majority of inmates (75.9%) were in state prisons, 16.6% were in private prisons, and 7.5% were in the community, on Intensive Supervision Parole (ISP), or in jail backlog. Jail backlog includes inmates awaiting placement into the CDOC as a court commitment, parole return for a new crime or technical violation, or regression from a community placement. The two private prisons used in FY 2024 house male inmates only. Denver Women's Correctional Facility and La Vista Correctional Facility exclusively house female inmates. However, female inmates may be placed in the infirmary at the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center or Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility on a temporary basis for medical treatment or evaluation. Qualifying women may also volunteer to be placed in a specialized program (per SB 16-180) located at YOS (YOS Transfers).

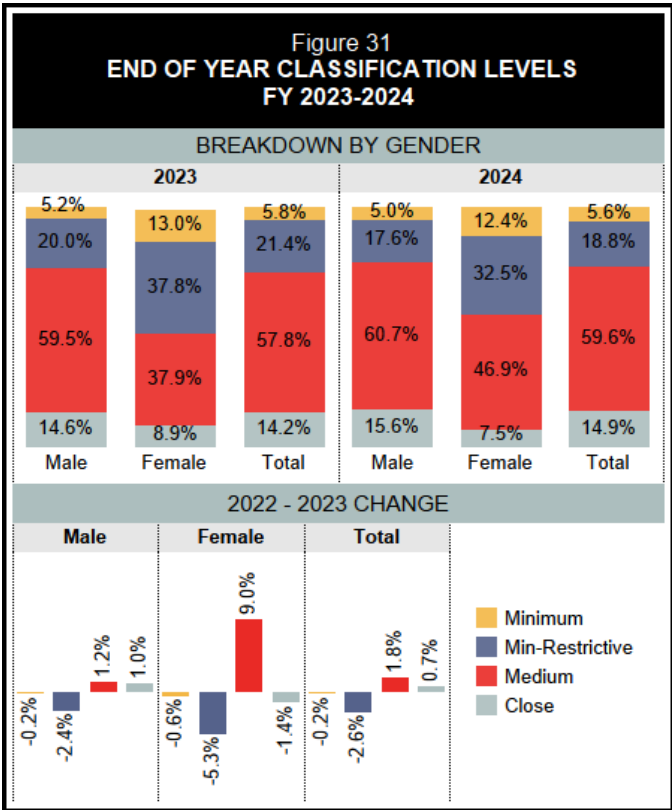


CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION & STATUS

All inmates are assessed upon intake into the CDOC and reassessed at different intervals during their incarceration. These assessments are completed to help determine appropriate housing placement. Initial and reclassification assessments include gender-specific criteria.

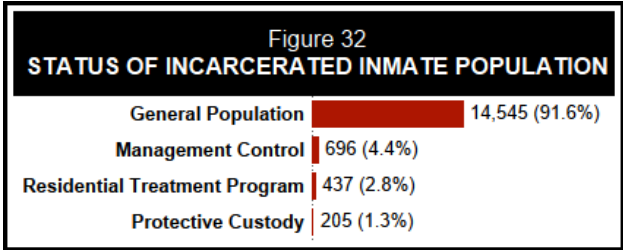
Figure 31 provides a comparison of inmate classification levels at the end of FY 2023 and FY 2024. In recent years, significant changes in custody designations have occurred. This has included the elimination of administrative segregation and restrictive housing followed

by the implementation of Management Control (MC) status. Management Control status is designed for inmates who have demonstrated (through behavior) that they pose a risk to the safety and security of a general prison population. Protective Custody (PC) was added in 2013 to provide a non-punitive housing option for inmates who would be at substantial risk of harm if placed in general population housing. The Residential Treatment Program (RTP) is designated for inmates with mental illness or intellectual disabilities who are participating in specialized programs designed to promote pro-social behavior.



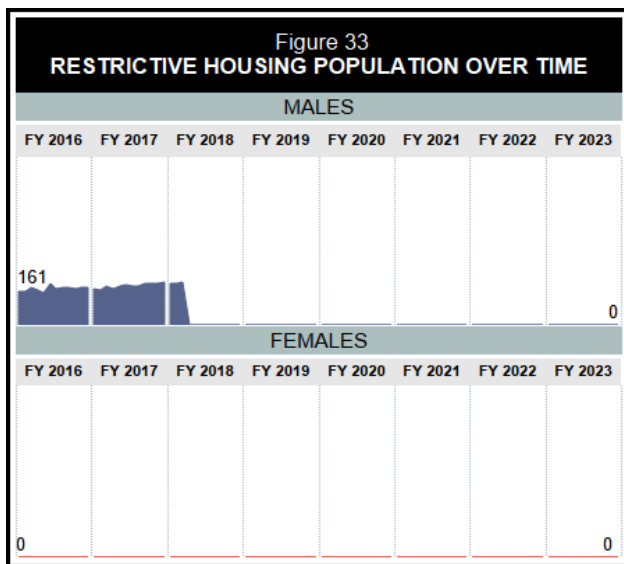
*Values may not total 100% because "Unclassified Inmates" are excluded and rounding of percentages.

Figure 32 shows 91.6% of the inmates in prison facilities are in general population and 8.4% have special designations. The effort to remove all inmates housed in administrative segregation and restrictive housing has been successful. As of August 2017, MC is the most restrictive status designation, though punitive segregation is still used to house inmates serving disciplinary sanctions.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 33 shows changes which have occurred in the restrictive housing population since FY 2015. This population peaked in September 2011 with 1,505 (7.4%) inmates in restrictive housing. No inmates were housed in Extended Restrictive Housing in FY 2024 due to the full elimination of the status in August 2017.

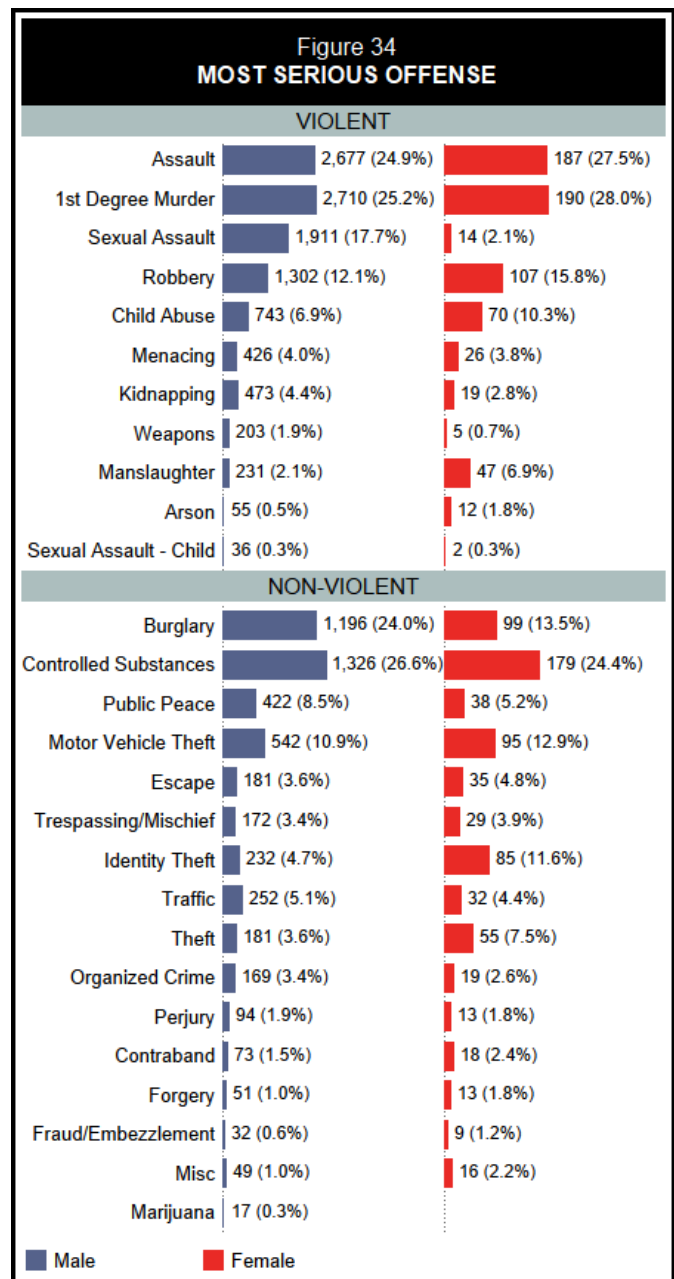


*Restrictive Housing includes the historical statuses Administrative Segregation, Restrictive Housing - Maximum Security (RH-Max), Extended Restrictive Housing (ERH), and Special Housing.

MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE

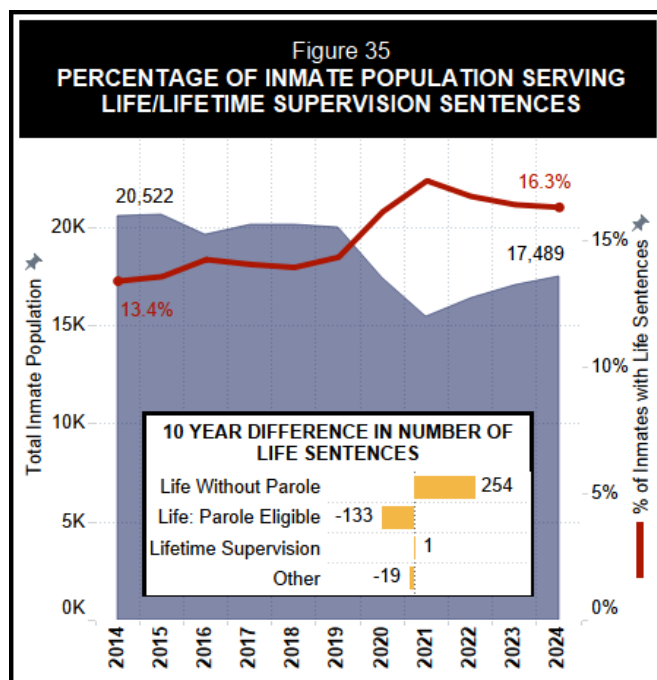
Figure 34 contains the most serious offense distribution for the adult inmate population as of June 30, 2024. Of the currently incarcerated inmate population, 66.5% have a violent offense while only 44.2% (**Figure 17** – page 13) of new court commitments have a violent offense. Since 2010, numerous legislative bills have been passed in an effort to reduce the inmate population

(Overview and Appendix sections). These bills target less-serious inmates for alternatives to incarceration, shorter sentences, increased earned time, and increased preference for discretionary parole. As a result, the inmate population now includes a higher proportion of inmates with more serious crimes and longer sentences.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

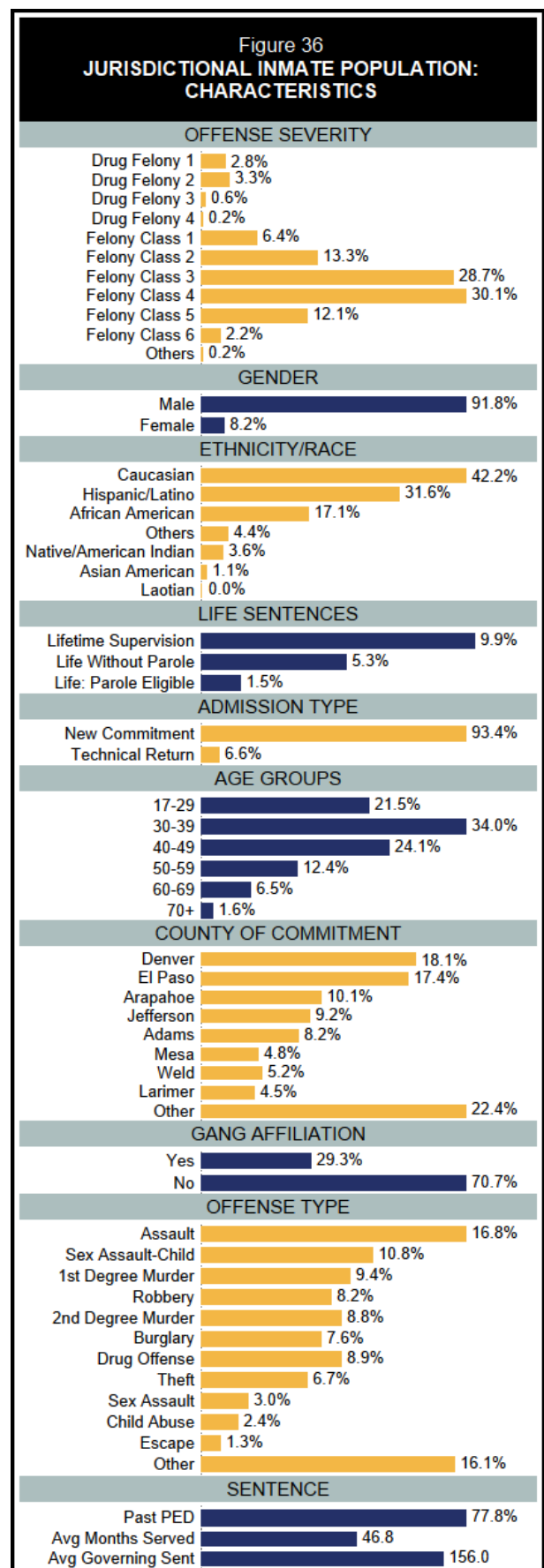
Figure 35 shows a 10-year history of the total inmate population and the percent serving life or lifetime supervision sentences. During periods of population decline, inmates serving life and lifetime supervision sentences continued to account for a greater percentage of the population. The portion of inmates serving life without parole sentences have risen by 2.9% while the overall inmate population decreased by 14.8% between 2014 and 2024. A large proportion of the increase is due to more inmates being sentenced to lifetime supervision.



Note: Includes Fugitives

INMATE PROFILE

Figure 36 shows the profile of the total inmate jurisdictional population on June 30, 2024. This population includes inmates in jail, prison, and the community, but excludes

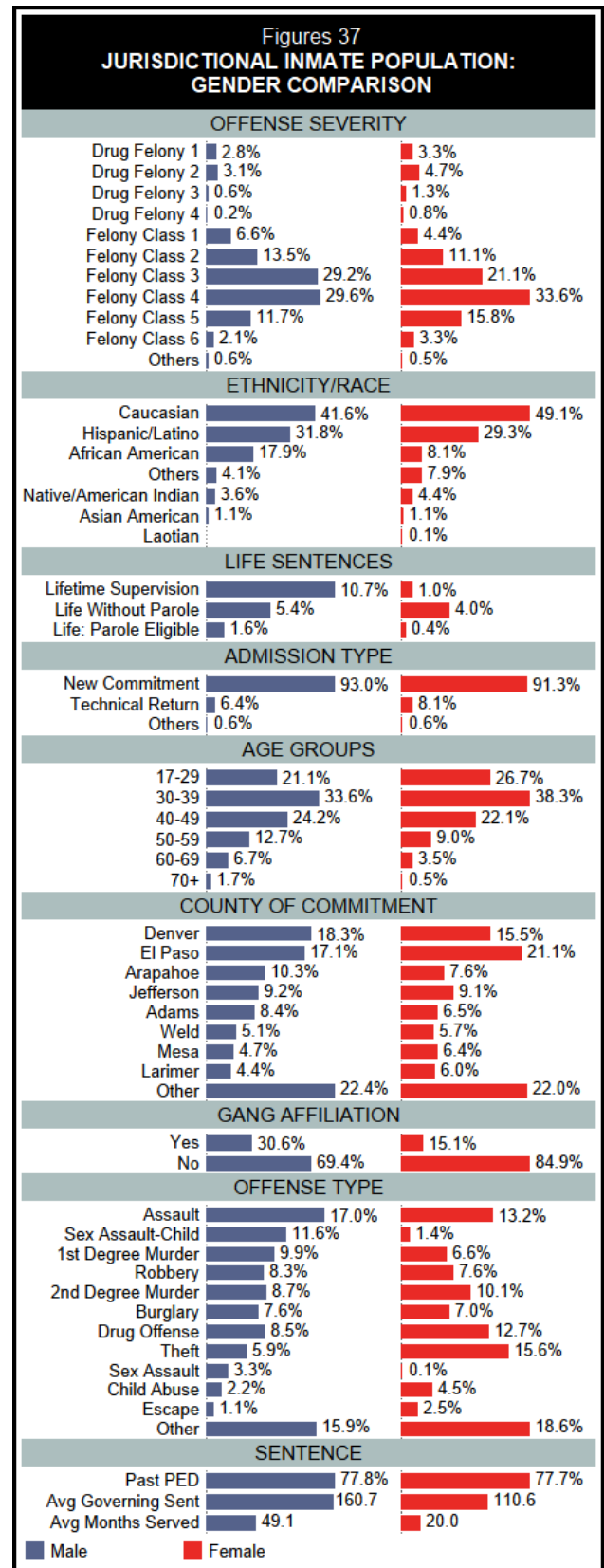


*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

fugitives. Inmates were mostly male (91.8%), Caucasian or Latino (73.8%), and between the ages of 17– 49 (79.6%). Within this inmate population, 16.7% (2,865) were serving sentences with a maximum term of life; 8.8% (253) of those serving life sentences will be parole eligible. This group's average maximum governing sentence was 156.0 months, or 13.0 years. However, they have served an average of 46.8 months (3.9 years).

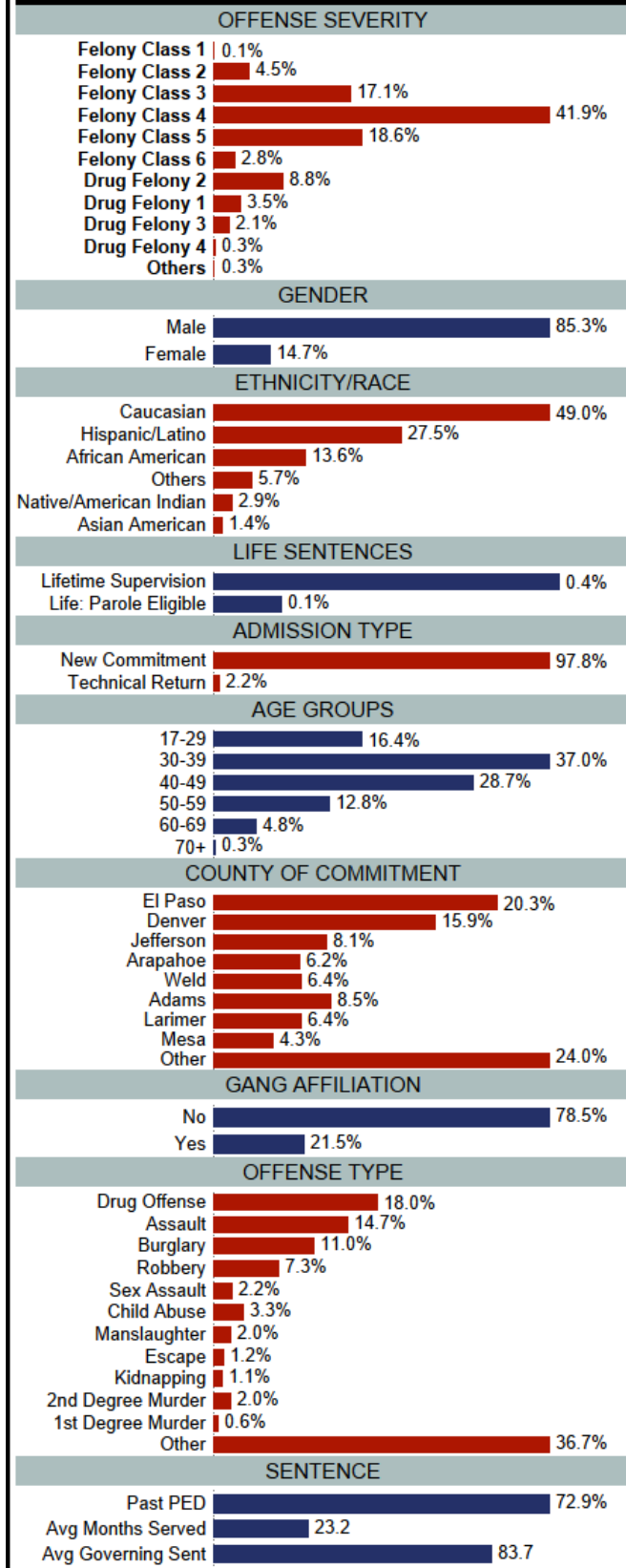
Parole Eligibility Date (PED) is calculated as 50% of the maximum governing sentence length minus credit for pre-sentence confinement awarded by the court. Mandatory Release Date (MRD) is calculated as 100% of the maximum governing sentence length minus any pre-sentence confinement awarded by the court. Various types of earned time awards can be applied to both PEDs and MRDs to reduce the actual amount of time spent incarcerated.

Figure 37 highlights the gender differences across the jurisdictional population. In observed differences, males demonstrated higher rates of violent offenses, greater gang affiliation, and more life sentences. On average, females had shorter governing sentences and time served. Females also showed higher rates of theft, escape, and drug convictions as their most serious offense.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 38
COMMUNITY-BASED INMATE POPULATION:
CHARACTERISTICS



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

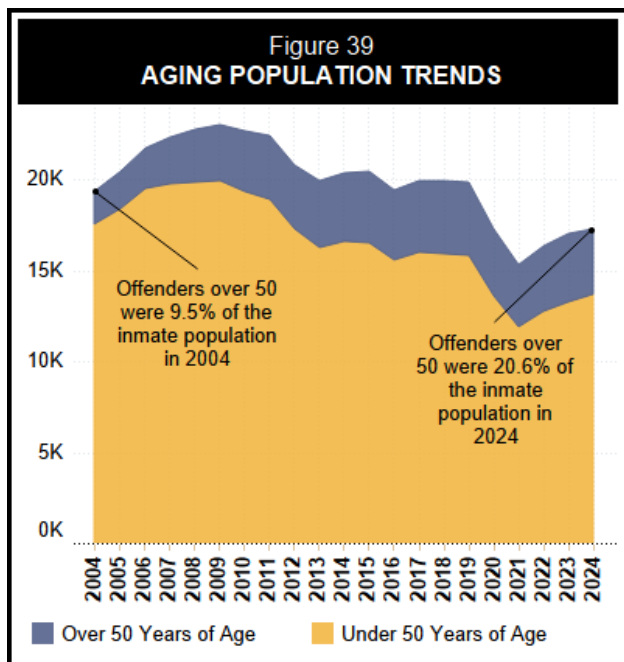
The profile of community inmates is shown in **Figure 38**. This population differs in various ways from the total jurisdictional population. Inmates serving sentences in the community were more likely to have been convicted of a lower felony class. Very few community inmates were serving life or lifetime supervision sentences. All community inmates have met community eligibility requirements and 72.9% were past PED.

AGING TRENDS

Inmates over the age of 50 remain one of the fastest-growing prison populations. Between 2004 and 2024, the number of inmates over the age of 50 has grown at a significantly higher rate (92.8% increase) than the general population (10.9% decrease). In the past 10 years, the general population has decreased by 15.1% while the population over the age of 50 has decreased by 4.0% (**Figure 39** - next page). As a result, offenders over the age of 50 now represent 20.6% of the inmate population in 2024. This growth in the percentage of inmates over the age of 50 is due to a number of factors: aging “baby boomers” presenting a larger percentage of the US population; increased life expectancy among adults; and tougher sentencing laws.⁶ The aging population creates unique challenges for the criminal justice

6. Anno, B. J., Graham, C., Lawrence, J. E., Shansky, R., Bisbee, J., & Blackmore, J. (2004). *Correctional health care: Addressing the needs of elderly, chronically ill, and terminally ill inmates*. Middletown, CT: Criminal Justice Institute.

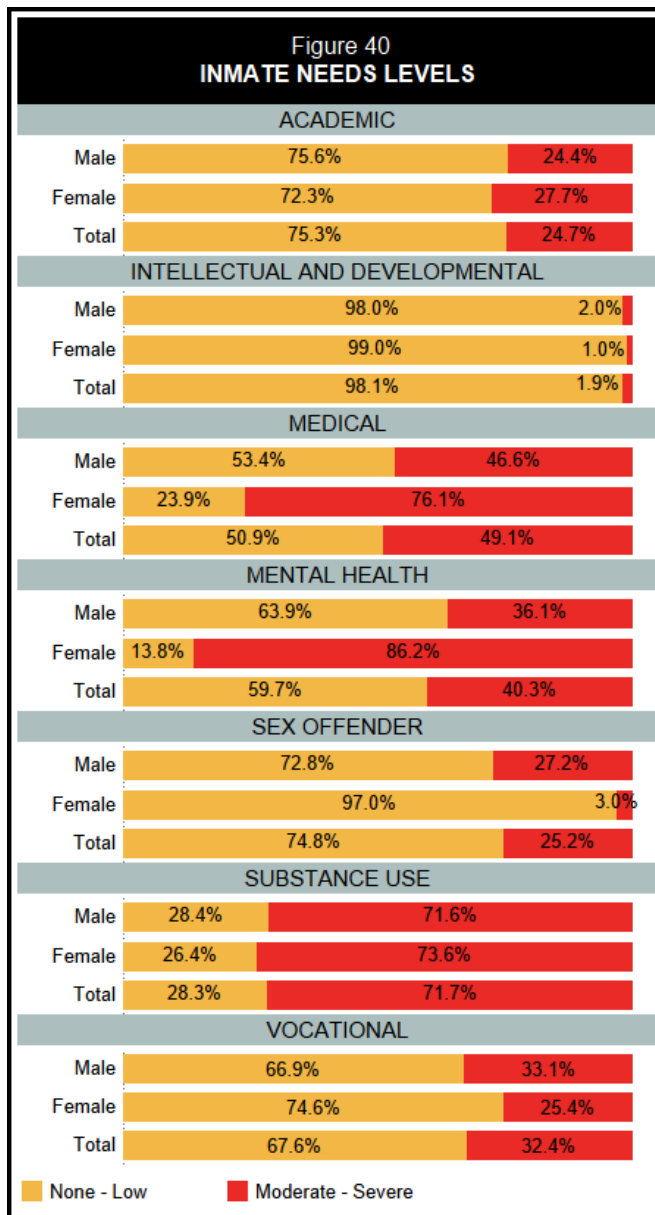
system, including higher medical costs, the need for special housing and programming, and a higher risk of victimization.



NEEDS LEVELS

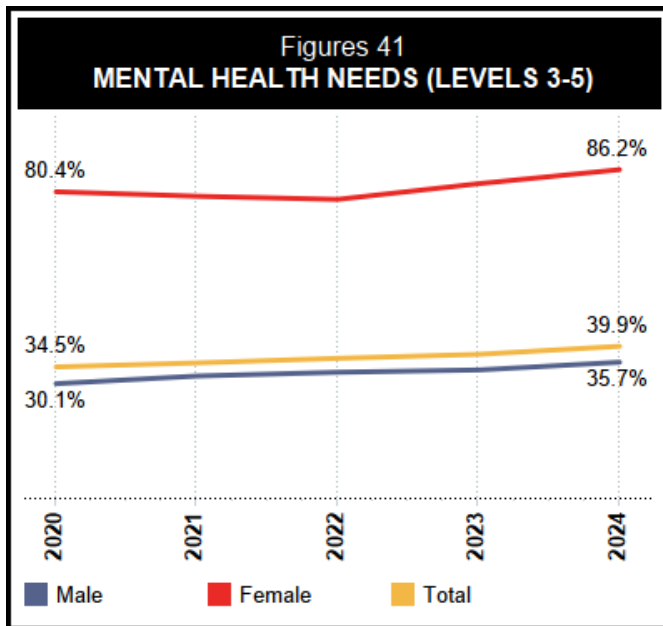
Figure 40 displays the current needs levels of the jurisdictional inmate population. Needs are grouped as moderate-to-severe needs (Levels 3-5) and none-to-low needs (Levels 1-2). Need levels are examined by gender across multiple need categories. The data shows females have a greater frequency of moderate-to-severe needs levels in academic, medical, mental health, and substance use needs categories than males. Males have higher moderate-to-severe needs prevalence in the sex offender

treatment and vocational training categories than females. Both gender groups showed similar need levels in the intellectual and developmental needs area.



A disproportionately large number of individuals with mental illness exist within the criminal justice system. National data suggests that inmates are nearly three times more likely to

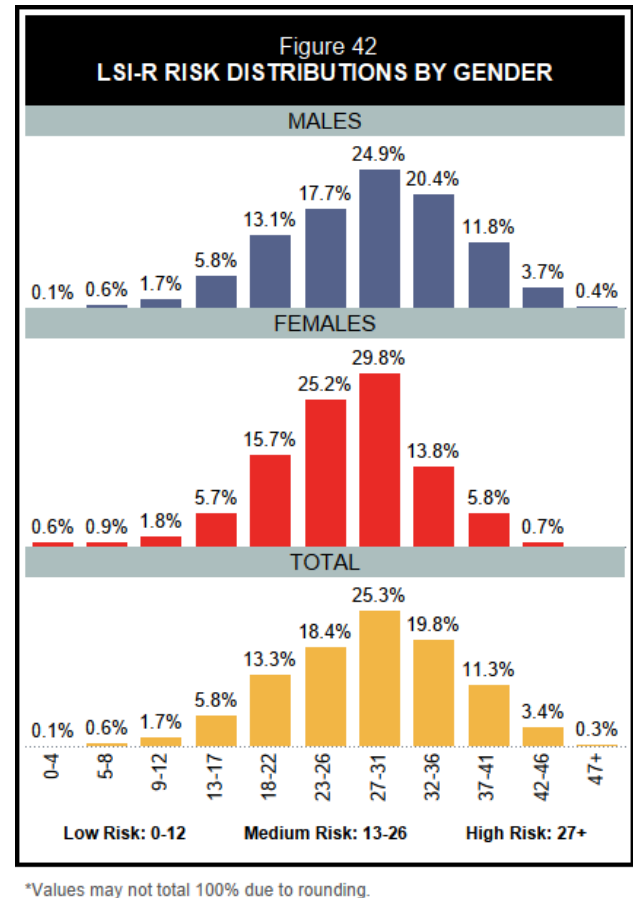
have a diagnosed mental illness as members of the general population⁷. **Figure 41** shows the percent of inmates with significant mental health needs (Levels 3–5) since FY 2020. Female inmates have demonstrated moderate-to-severe needs much more frequently than males, although males also exhibit moderate-to-severe needs to a significant extent.



RISK ASSESSMENT

The LSI-R is used to assess risk of inmate recidivism. **Figure 42** displays LSI-R score distributions as of June 30, 2024 for both genders in the inmate population. Over 50% of CDOC inmates score in the high-risk range of the LSI-R scale. Female and male inmates had

similar LSI-R scores for all ranges at the end of FY 2024.



REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

The reportable incidents described here include inmate assaults on staff, inmate assaults on other inmates, fighting, uses of force, inmate deaths, and escapes. The CDOC also tracks sexual assaults in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Signed into federal law in 2003, PREA addresses incidents of prison sexual abuse through a zero-tolerance policy.

7. Fazel, S., Hayes, A. J., Bartellas, K., Clerici, M., & Trestman, R. (2016). Mental health of prisoners: prevalence, adverse outcomes, and interventions. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 3(9), 871-881.

PREA incidents in the CDOC are investigated by the CDOC Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to determine whether a factual basis for any report exists and whether reports meet PREA criteria. The CDOC is mandated to report this data annually to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). PREA data is not included in this report, but can be found on the CDOC's website.

ASSAULTS & USE OF FORCE

Prison-based incidents are tracked electronically through the Reportable Incident System (RIS). The RIS became operational on January 1, 2008 and has since been used to report incidents for the entire department. Assaults against inmates and staff include any uses of physical force, intentional transfers of hazardous substances (i.e., feces, urine, or chemicals), or use of any object for the purpose of threatening or causing harm, regardless of whether injury occurs. Beginning in July 2013, assaults against staff have been tracked by type (e.g., with serious injury, without serious injury, hazardous liquid, or spitting). The use-of-force category includes incidents involving the following: soft and hard empty-hand control; soft and hard intermediate control; a forced cell entry; a cell extraction with oleoresin capsicum

(OC); use of a restraint chair; four- or five-point restraints; warning shots; or use of lethal force. **Figure 43** shows a five-year history of assaults and use-of-force incidents. Assaults and fighting are counted by unique incident rather than by the number of inmates involved. Use-of-force incidents are counted by the number of inmates involved in each incident. In FY 2024, increases can be seen in most categories. The total staff assaults shown do not include incidental contacts or attempted assaults which did not result in staff injury.

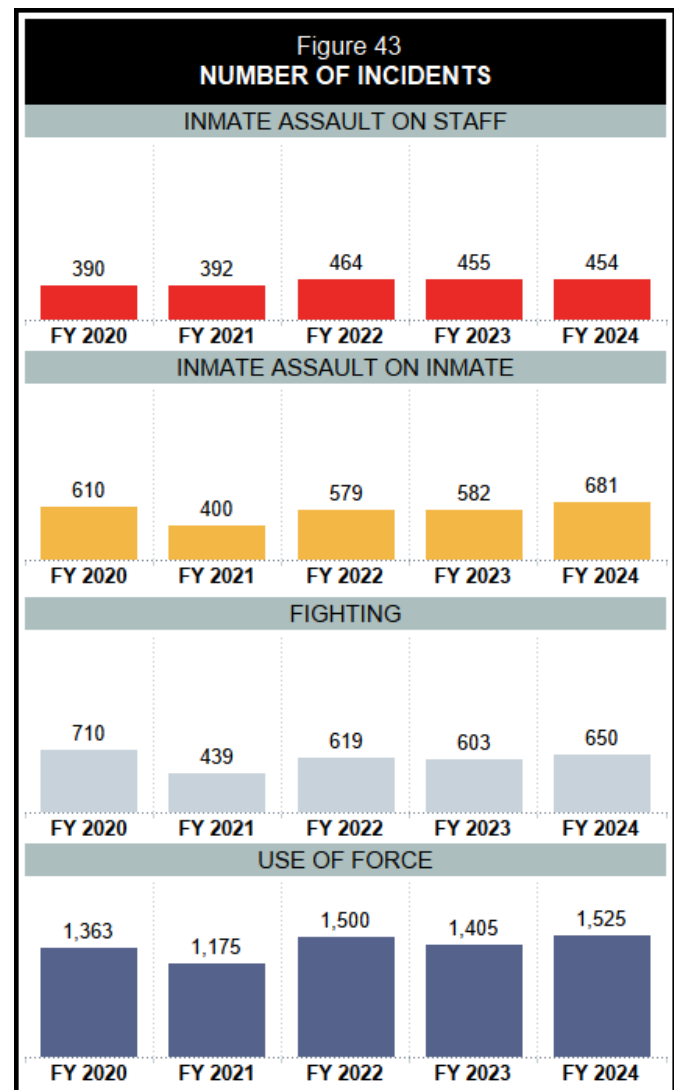
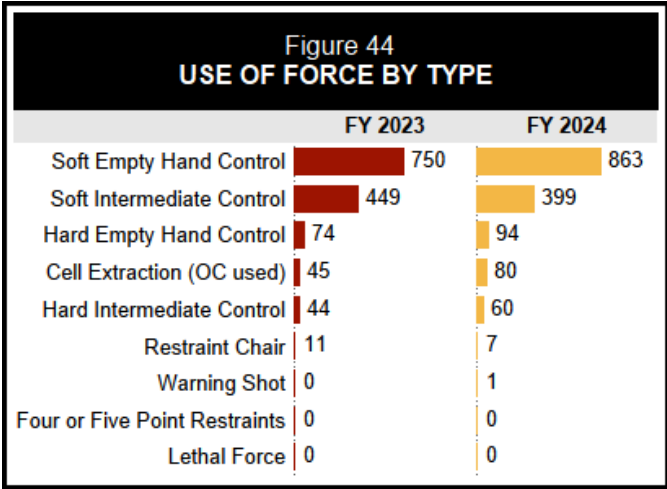


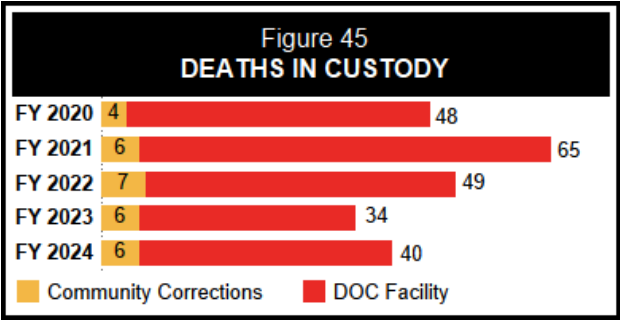
Figure 44 shows how often different types of force was used during FY 2024. There was an increase for a majority of force types in FY 2024. However, the utilization of four- and five-point restraints, warning shots, and lethal force remained consistent in FY 2023 and FY 2024, with both years recording zero (0) incidents.



DEATHS IN CUSTODY

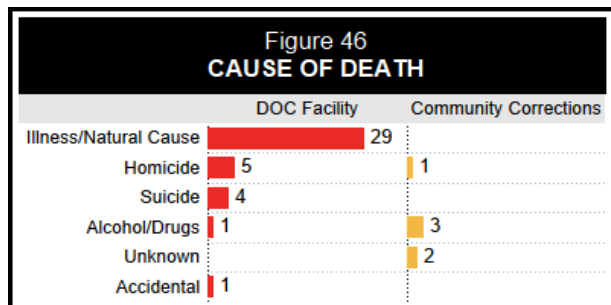
The CDOC participates annually in the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) program which collects national, state and incident level data on persons who died while in the physical custody of the 50 state departments of corrections and several local adult jail jurisdictions. DCRA records decedent characteristics, information on whether an autopsy was conducted, and the circumstances surrounding deaths. Deaths in custody, as defined by DCRA, apply to inmates confined in

CDOC facilities, whether housed under CDOC jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of another state (i.e. interstate compact), private facilities, special facilities (medical, treatment, or release center, halfway house, police or court lockup, and work farm), and inmates in transit under CDOC jurisdiction. They do not include deaths by execution, deaths in a state-operated facility in another state, deaths of individuals on ISP inmate status, or deaths of those under probation or parole supervision. During FY 2024, there were 46 deaths in custody, 6 of which occurred in community corrections (**Figure 45**). Cause of death is always determined by a coroner or medical examiner external to the CDOC.



More than half (63.0%) of inmates who died in FY 2024 did so due to an illness or natural cause (**Figure 46-** next page). Of the 46 deaths in FY 2024, 43 were males and only three were female. The average age at the time of death was 57.1 years when including illness/natural cause related deaths. When excluding all deaths due to illness or natural

causes, the average age at the time of death was 42.5 years.



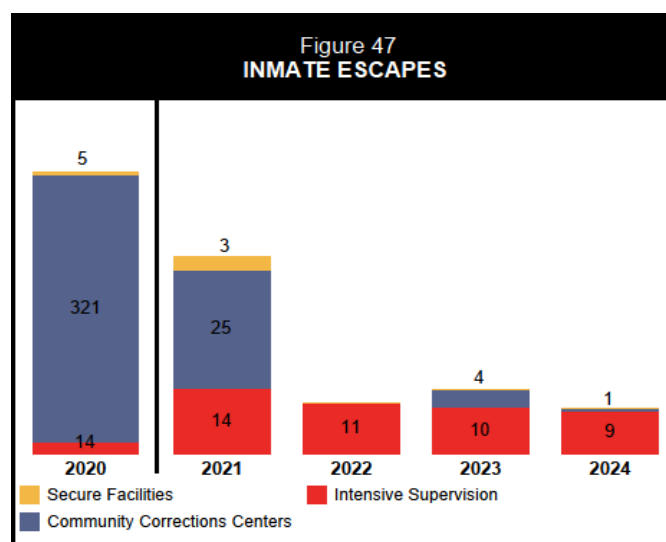
ESCAPES

The CDOC defines escape as an act whereby an inmate, without any authorization, leaves the confines of the last barrier of a secured facility, leaves the imaginary barrier of an unsecured facility (camp) or work crew, leaves an escorted trip outside a facility without permission, or fails to return to official custody following temporary leave granted for a specific purpose and for a specified period of time. Escapes can result in a court or a code of penal discipline conviction. In the context of community supervision (community corrections or ISP placement), an unauthorized absence for 24 hours or more constitutes an escape.

Figure 47 provides a five-year history of escapes from secure facilities (state and private prisons), community corrections centers, ISP status, and community return-to-custody facilities. In 2017, HB 17-1326 revoked the CDOCs' authority to operate

community return-to-custody facilities; therefore, escapes are not reported for these facilities between FY 2020 and FY 2024. In 2020, HB 20-1019 changed the type of conduct for which a defendant could be charged with escape. This contributed to the significant drop in Community Corrections escapes since FY 2021. During the last five fiscal years, 8 escapes have occurred from CDOC facilities:

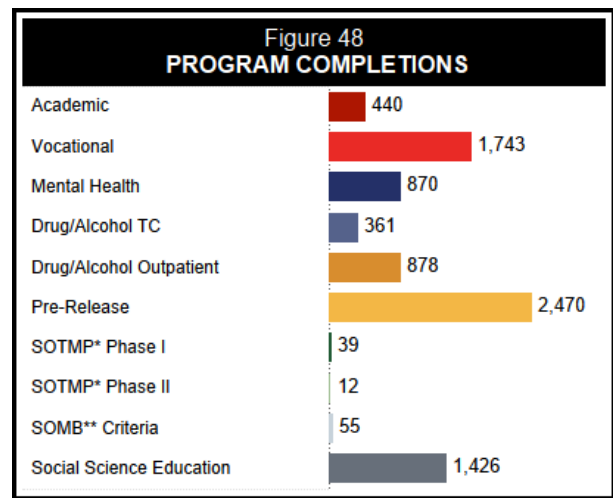
- FY 2020: Colorado Correctional Center (one), Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility (one), Four Mile Correctional Center (two), Skyline Correctional Center (one)
- FY 2021: Colorado Correctional Center (one), Four Mile Correctional Center (two)
- FY 2022: No facility escapes
- FY 2023: No facility escapes
- FY 2024: No facility escapes



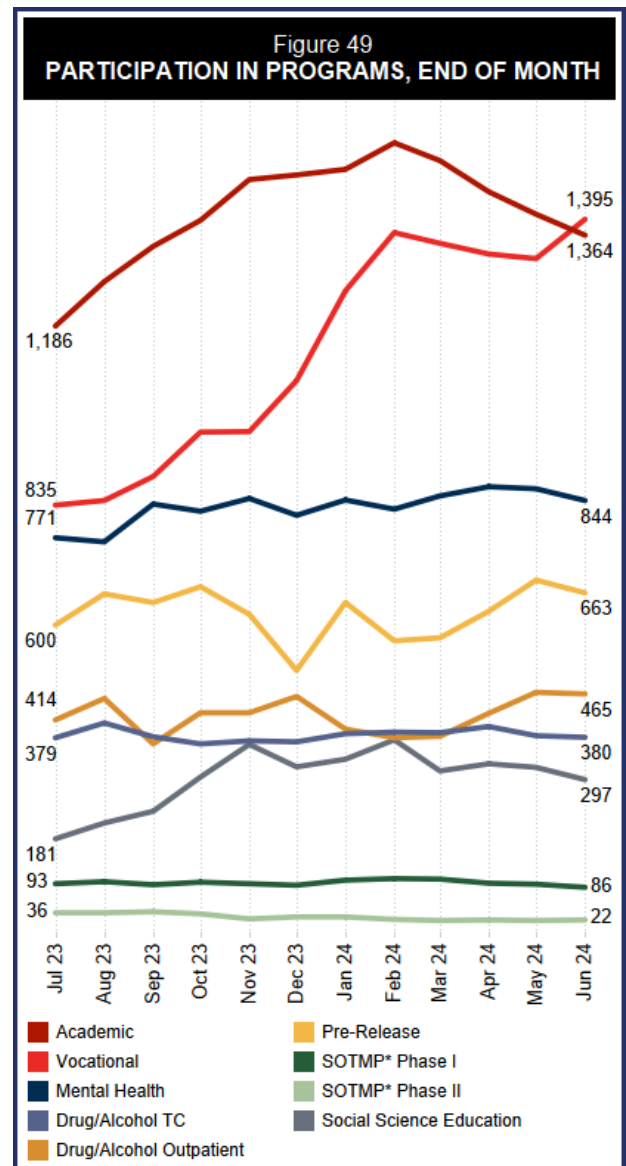
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

To improve the chances of success upon re-entry, inmates have the opportunity to participate in educational, behavioral health, and pre-release programs during their incarceration.

Figure 48 shows completions by program area across all state and private prisons as determined by earned time awarded. In August 2012, the CDOC implemented achievement earned time awards per HB 12-1223 for program completions or milestone achievements and compliance. **Figure 49** shows the participation levels at the end of each of 12 consecutive months, for funded programs. Participation in other elective programs such as *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *7 Habits on the Inside*, or *Thinking for a Change*, may also take place; however, they are not included in this figure.



*Sex Offender Treatment and Management Program
**Sex Offender Management Board



*Sex Offender Treatment and Management Program

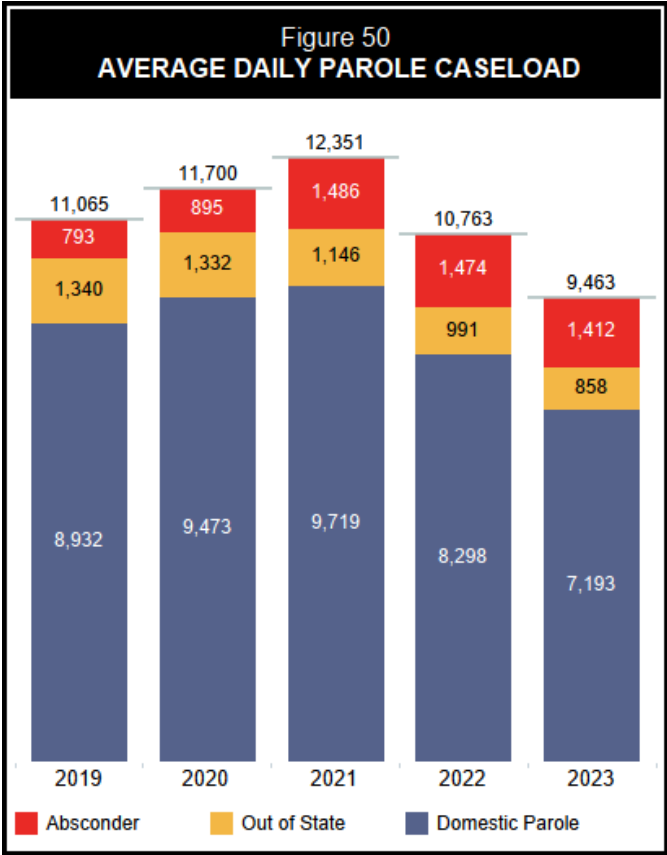
PAROLE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

PAROLE POPULATION

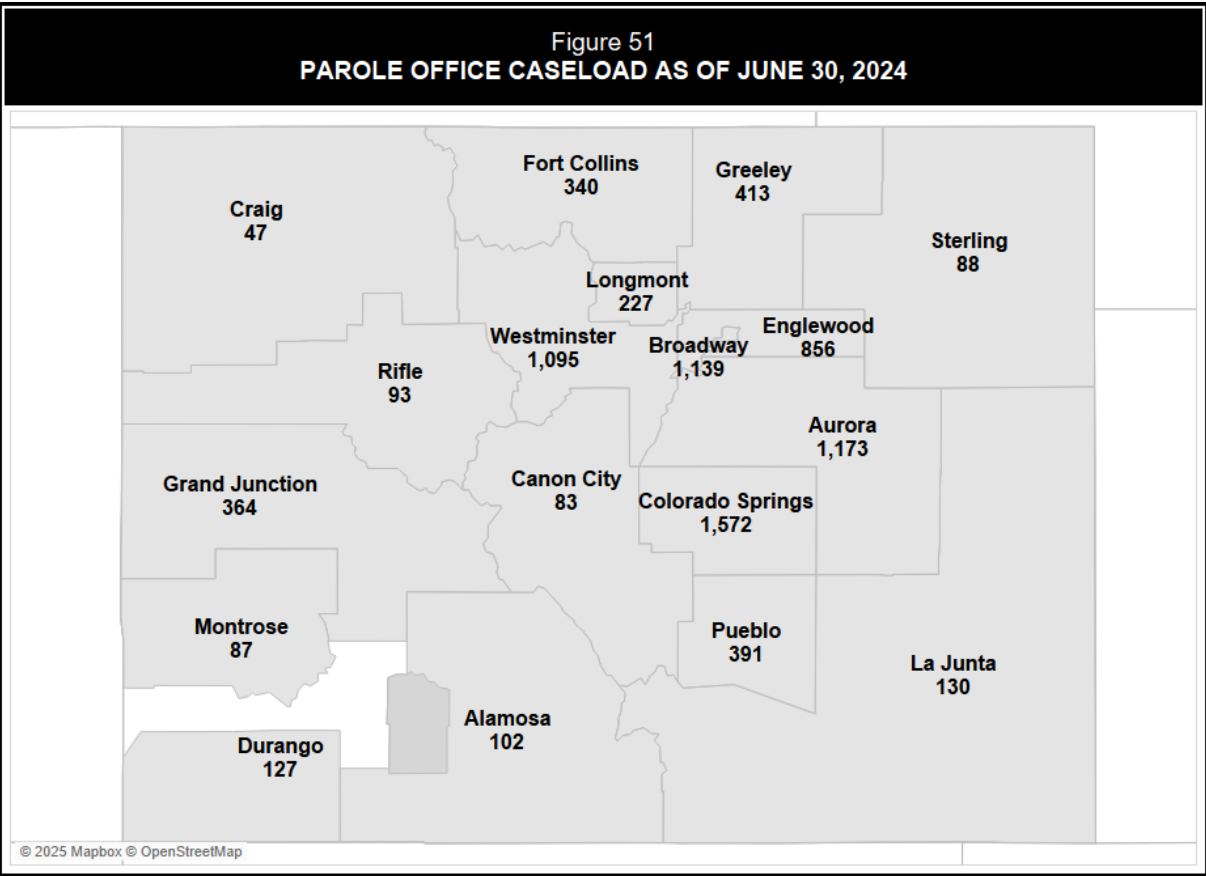
Colorado has a blended parole system. The Parole Board has the authority to grant parole to inmates who have reached parole eligibility, but have yet to complete their full sentence. However, all inmates sentenced for a crime committed after 1993 are required to serve a period of parole unless they were sentenced to life in prison or death. Those who release before serving the full term of their sentence receive discretionary parole. Those who serve the maximum term of their sentence release on mandatory parole. Upon release, both discretionary and mandatory parolees complete their prison sentences and begin serving their parole sentence. If parole is revoked, they will continue to serve their parole sentence and may discharge that sentence during reincarceration or re-parole.

PAROLE CASELOAD

The average daily parole caseload is shown in **Figure 50**. Using the daily average caseload is the best way to reflect the total workload staff maintained throughout the year. The average daily parole caseload



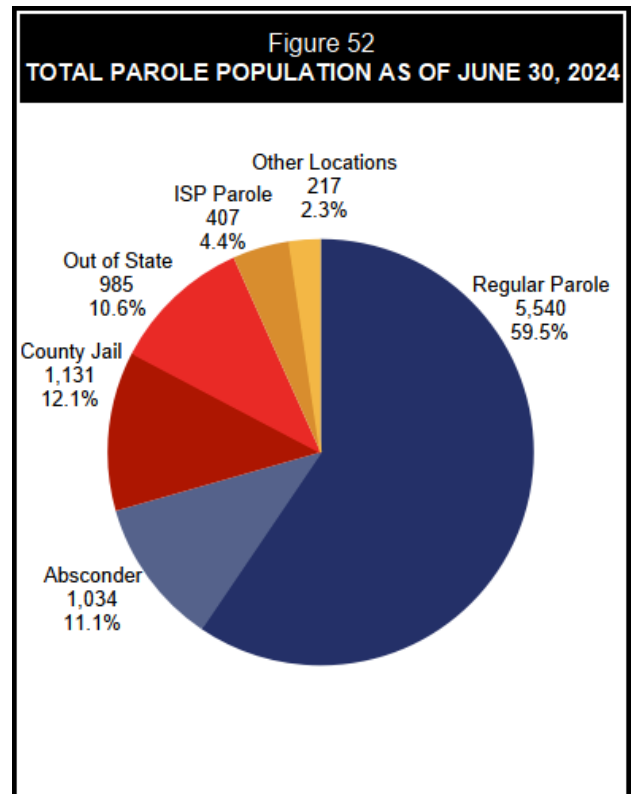
in FY 2024 totaled 9,370, a decrease of 1.0% from FY 2023. **Figure 51** displays the number of parolees by each servicing parole office. The highest concentrations were found in the vicinities of Denver and Colorado Springs. This can be attributed to the higher populations and the increased access to needed programs located in these areas. The highest percentage of parolees (16.9%) is assigned to the Colorado Springs office followed by the Aurora office (12.6%).



*Excludes 987 out of state parolees.

PAROLEE PROFILE

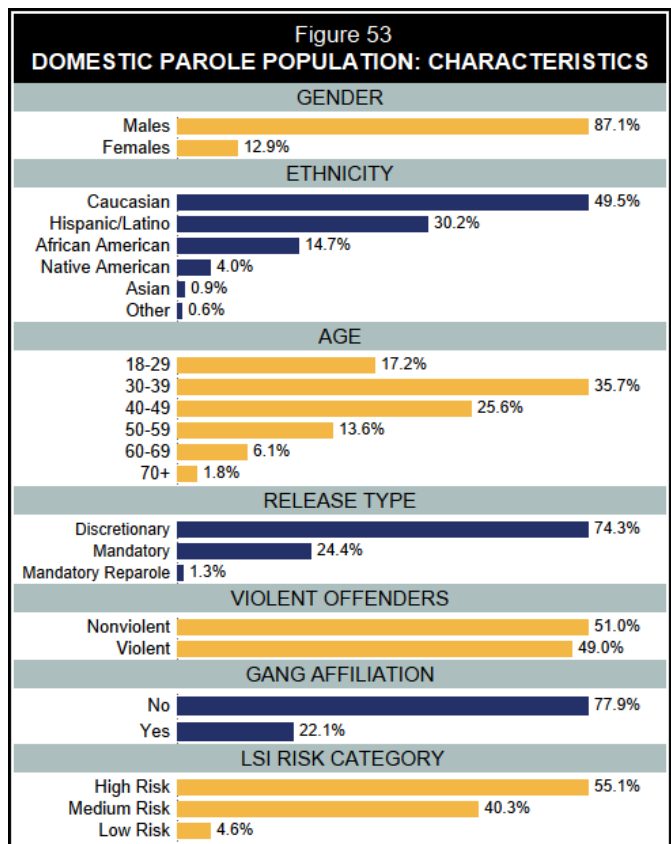
Figure 52 shows the parole population by supervision type. Over half (59.5%) of the population is active on regular parole supervision. Parolees assigned to the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) totaled 4.4%. This program was launched in 1991 to provide additional supervision and program participation for especially high-risk parolees. Out-of-state, absconders, county jail, and parolees in other locations account for 36.1% of the population. The out-of-state category includes inmates who were paroled to a felony detainer, deported by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and those who are



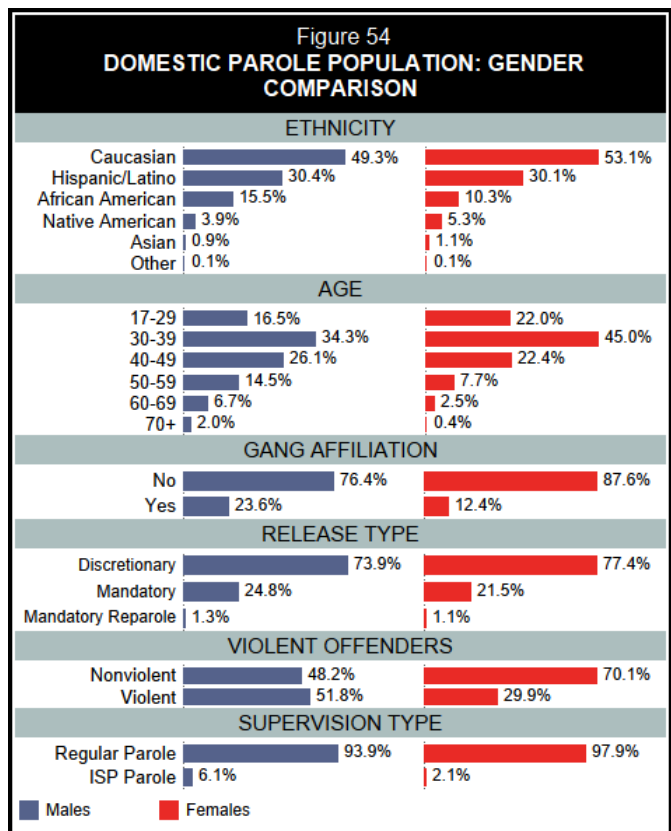
supervised on parole in other states. Parolees in county jail are likely awaiting a revocation hearing by the Parole Board due to a technical parole violation or pending a new criminal conviction.

Absconders are parolees who fail to report to their parole officer or whose whereabouts and activities are unknown due to their failure to report as required. The parolees in other locations encompass those who are in residential programs (e.g. community corrections or inpatient substance abuse program) as a condition of parole.

The demographic characteristics of parolees displayed in **Figure 53** are comparable to those of the jurisdictional inmate population profile (**Figure 36, page 28**). Over half (51.0%) of the parole population have non-violent charges, whereas only 33.5% of the incarcerated inmate population have been sentenced for non-violent crimes. The majority of parolees can be defined as male, Caucasian, aged 30 to 49, having a discretionary release types, being classified as non-violent, and having a medium-to-high LSI-R risk range. When compared to males (**Figure 54**), females have lower rates of violent crimes, are typically younger, and are more likely to receive discretionary parole.

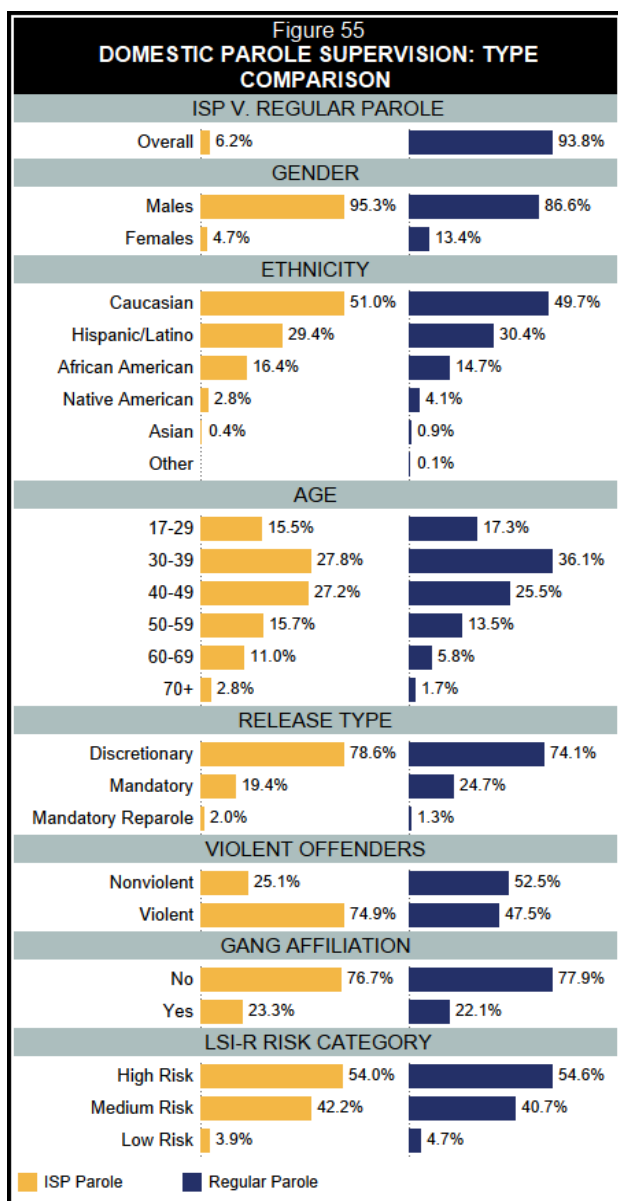


*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

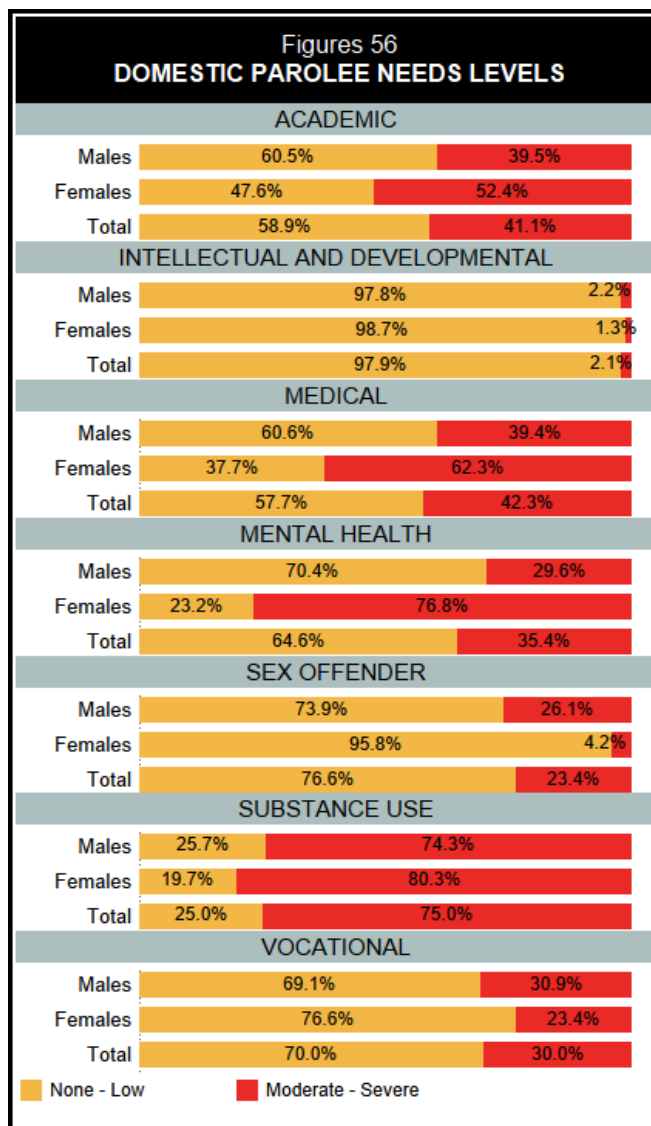
Figure 55 illustrates that compared to regular parolees, ISP parolees are substantially less prevalent, tend to be older, more often receive discretionary release, are more frequently released on mandatory re-parole, have more violent crimes, more often have a gang affiliation, and frequently score in the medium-to-high risk range of the LSI-R.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

NEEDS LEVELS

The needs levels for parolees are shown in **Figure 56**. It contrasts individuals with non-to-low needs to those with moderate-to-severe needs, and delineates by gender. Parolees show the greatest moderate-to-severe needs in the areas of substance abuse, academic, and medical needs. Female parolees also show higher levels of need in the areas of medical and mental health. When comparing the needs



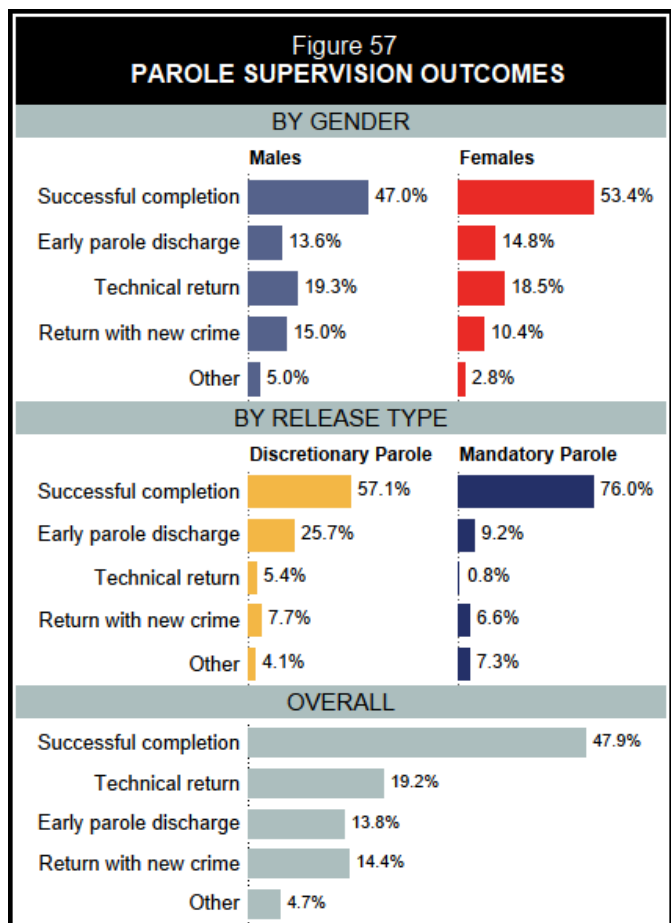
*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

levels of parolees to needs levels of the jurisdictional inmate population (**Figure 40 – page 31**), the profiles of the two groups are similar; however, a few minor to moderate differences appear. Compared to the total jurisdictional population, female parolees show moderate-to-severe academic, sex offender, and substance abuse needs more often. Compared to the total jurisdictional population, male parolees show more severe needs in academic, sex offender, and vocational needs more often. Differences between male and female parolees are similar to the differences previously highlighted for the total jurisdictional population.

PAROLE SUPERVISION OUTCOMES

Half of parolees (50.3%) leaving parole supervision completed their parole sentence, either by way of successful completion or discharge (**Figure 57**). Early parole discharge was granted to 13.8% of parolees in FY 2024. Parolees may be eligible for early discharge if they have been under supervision for at least six months, have served at least half of their parole sentence, and are compliant with the conditions of their parole. Final decision authority rests with the Parole Board. As indicated in the chart, female parolees achieved successful completion of parole

more often than males. Those with mandatory parole experienced higher rates of technical violation returns. They also received early parole discharges at a much lower rate. The commission of new crime, regardless of parolee gender, represents the most prevalent obstacle to successful parole completion.



Note: Other includes audit review return, deceased, deportation, dual commitment, interstate absconder, transfer out of state, and release to probation.

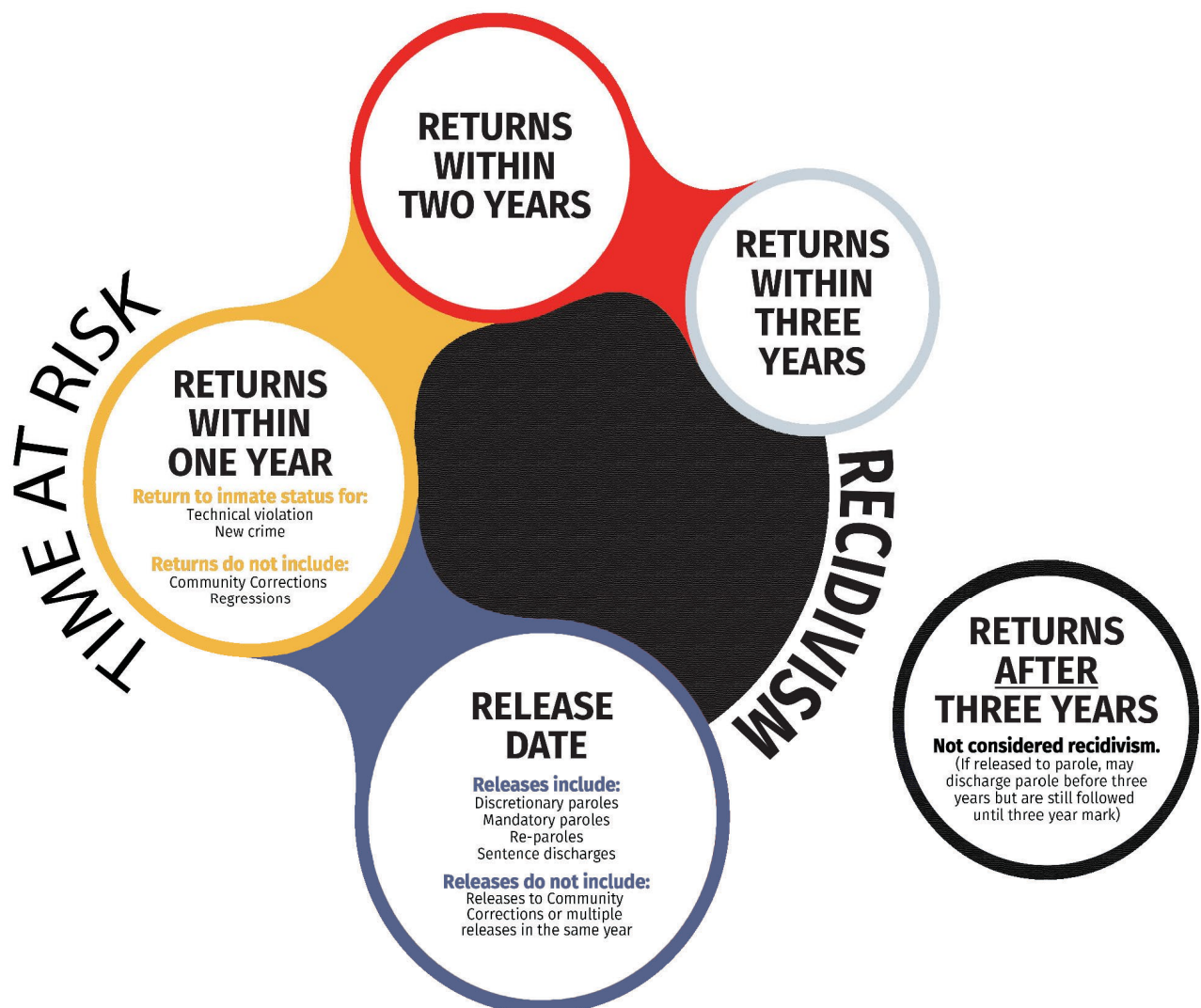
*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

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RECIDIVISM RATES

The CDOC defines recidivism as a return to prison or inmate status in Colorado within three years of release for new criminal activity or a technical violation of parole, probation, or non-departmental community placement. This definition is common across state correctional departments, but the methodology for computing recidivism is often not reported. After a review of other correctional recidivism rate calculation methods and national standards, the CDOC

developed a new approach in 2008. This new practice did not change the historical standard definition of recidivism used in Colorado. However, explicit counting rules were confirmed and additional recidivism (or return-rate) definitions were made available for optional use (e.g., one-year and two-year definitions). The new methodology is based on processes developed by the Correctional Leaders Association (CLA), formerly the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA).



The CLA established a performance-based measurement system with specific criteria and counting rules for calculating recidivism rates. The following summarizes this new procedure:

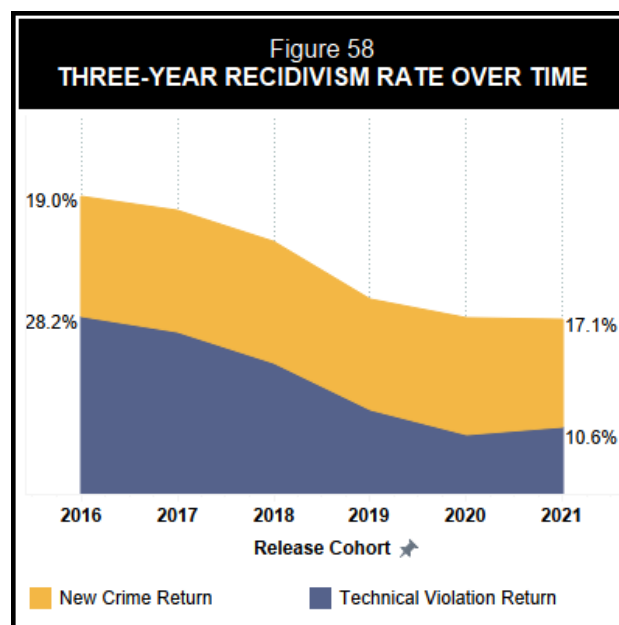
- **Recidivism:** Return to inmate status calculated by combining new convictions plus technical violations to equal overall returns at one-year post-release intervals.

- **Cohort:** Includes the number of inmates released, not the number of times an inmate released. Even if an inmate released multiple times within a year, that individual is counted only once per release cohort. Therefore, only one inmate failure can be counted per cohort.

- **Release types:** Includes inmates who released to the community, including releases to parole, completion of sentence, court-ordered discharge, and release to probation. To be counted, inmates must release from inmate status. Those who died while incarcerated, escaped, or had a sentence vacated or inactivated are not to be included in the recidivism cohort. Additionally, inmates who release to a detainer or pending charges are to be excluded.

- **Calendar year (CY):** Although the CDOC statistical report is based on fiscal year, reporting recidivism on a calendar year basis ensures data is consistent with CLA standards and other national prison surveys.

The overall three-year recidivism rate (including returns for new crimes and technical violations) is 27.7% for the CY 2021 release cohort (**Figure 58**). The overall recidivism rate decreased 19.5% between 2016 releases and 2021 releases. As in FY 2022 and FY 2023, more returns are for new crime convictions rather than technical violations convictions in FY 2023.



To further explore recidivism rates by return type, **Figure 59** (next page) displays cumulative return-to-prison rates across the past ten release cohorts, at one-year, two-year, and three-year post release intervals. Technical returns have seen a significant decrease (79.3%) over the last decade, with a notable decline beginning in 2015. New crime returns, by comparison, have remained steadier, but have seen an overall decrease of 22.4% since 2011.

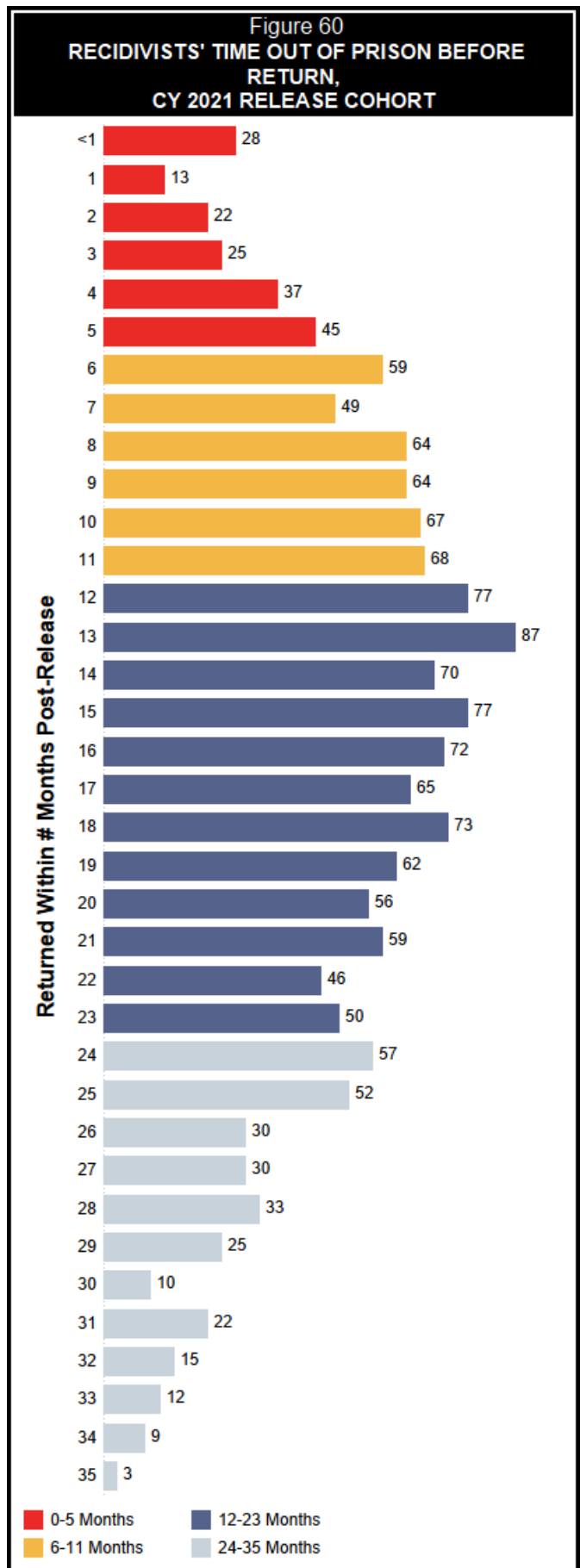
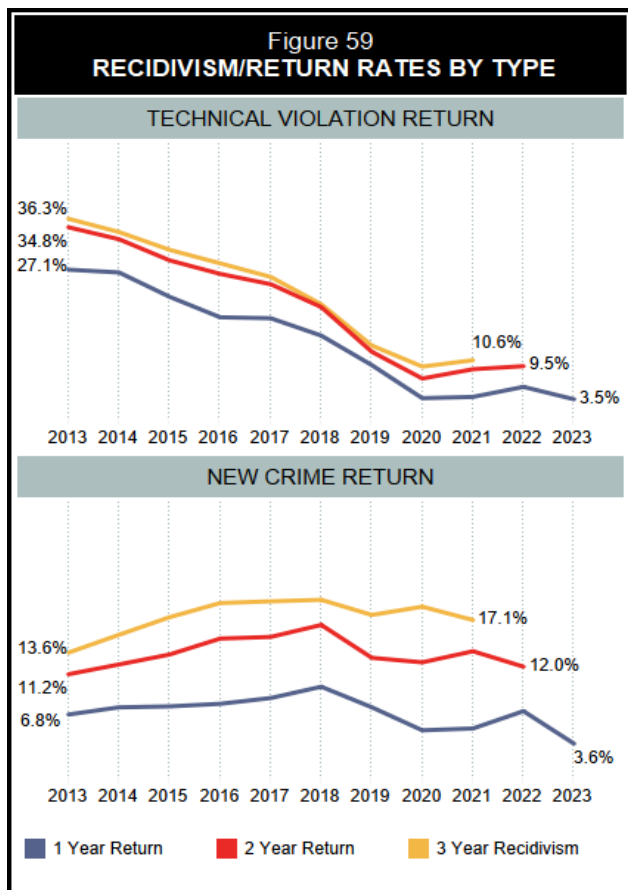
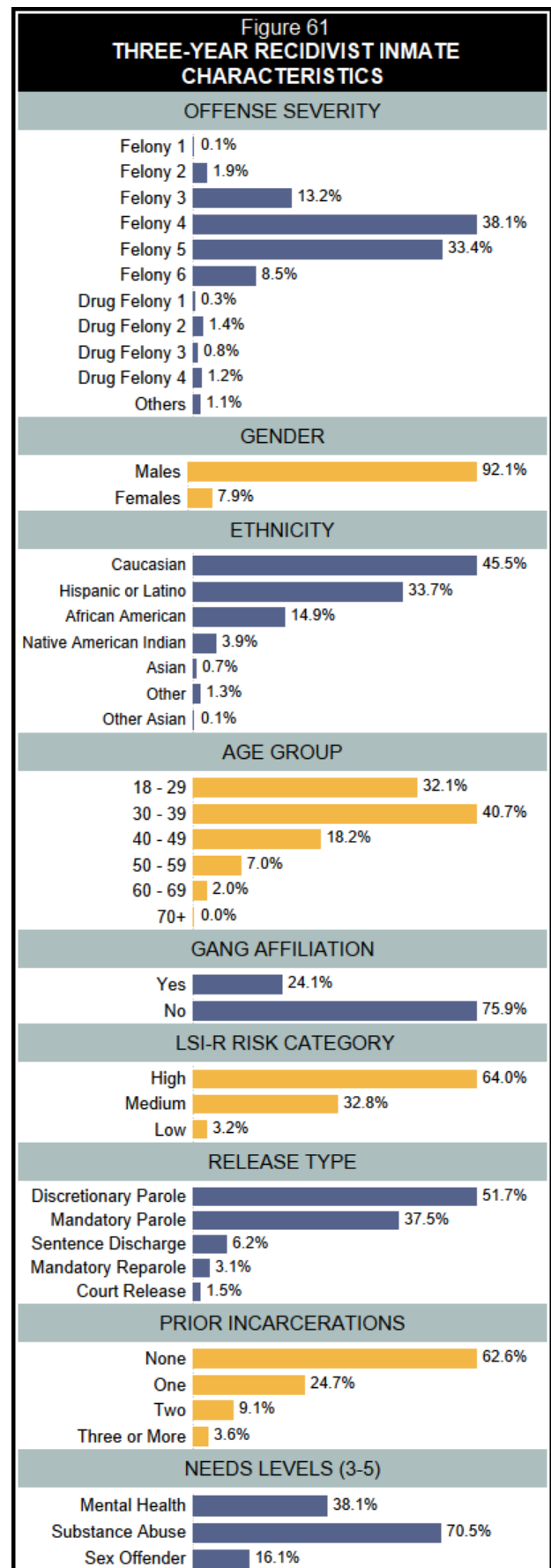


Figure 60 illustrates the 2021 release cohort, detailing the amount of time it took an inmate to return to inmate status. The largest proportion of inmates failed within the second year (13.5%) compared to other post-release spans of time. Within the first year, 2.9% of inmates returned within 5 months, while 6.3% returned within 6 to 11 months post release. This pattern is similar to 2020 cohort, but different from others years were the highest risk to return was within the first six months post-release. During the first-year post-release, a total of 9.2% returned, followed by 5.1% between two- and three-years' post-release. A total of 72.3% of inmates from the 2021 cohort did not return within three years.

Recidivism rates vary by inmate characteristics (Figure 61). Higher rates of recidivism are associated most with the following characteristics: having a Class 3 through Class 6 felony conviction; being male; being ages 18 to 39; having no gang affiliation; having a high LSI-R Risk score; having been discretionary or mandatory paroled; and having no past incarcerations. Although rates were not distinctively elevated, certain moderate-to-high needs areas, including mental health, substance abuse, and sex offender may figure into any inmate's risk for recidivating.



*Values may not total 100% due to rounding.

APPENDIX

HB 79-1589 changed sentences from indeterminate to determinate terms and made parole mandatory at 50% of an inmate's sentence.

HB 81-1156 required sentences to be above the maximum of the presumptive range for offenses defined as "crimes of violence" and crimes with aggravating circumstances.

HB 85-1320 doubled the maximum penalties of the presumptive ranges for all felony classes and made parole discretionary.

SB 88-148 lowered sentencing ranges for crimes of violence and crimes with aggravating circumstances to at least the midpoint of the presumptive range.

SB 89-246 lowered several Class 5 felonies to a newly created felony Class 6 with a presumptive range of one to two years.

HB 90-1327 raised the amount of earned time from 5 to 10 days per month for inmates, and allowed parolees to earn 10 days per month to reduce parole time served.

SB 90-117 raised life sentences from parole eligibility after 40 years to life without parole for Class 1 felonies committed on or after September 20, 1991.

HB 93-1302 lowered the presumptive ranges for certain non-violent Class 3-6 felonies and added a split sentence, mandating a period of parole for all crimes following a prison sentence.

Habitual inmate sentencing was improved for felony offenses Classes 2-5. For those with two previous convictions, sentences were mandated to three times the maximum of the presumptive range; for three previous convictions, sentences were mandated to four times the maximum of the presumptive range. This bill also eliminated earned time awards while on parole. **Table 8** (next page) summarizes presumptive ranges by felony class prior to, and subsequent to, HB 93-1302. **Table 9** summarizes habitual sentencing law changes.

Special Fall Session SB 93-09 created a new judicial sentencing provision for inmates between the ages of 14 and 18 for certain crimes and established YOS.

SB 94-196 added a new habitual sentencing provision of life (40 years to parole eligibility) if a new crime conviction is for a Class 1 or 2 felony, or for a Class 3 felony crime of violence with two previous felony convictions within 10 years of commission of the new crime.

HB 95-1087 reinstated the ability of certain non-violent parolees to accumulate earned time while on parole.

HB 96-1005 lowered the YOS age limit from 14 to 12 years and broadened the offenses eligible for YOS sentencing.

HB 98-1156 is the Colorado Sex Offender Lifetime Supervision Act of 1998. Under it, all offenders convicted of a felony sex offense

**Table 8
PRESUMPTIVE SENTENCING RANGES & PAROLE PERIODS**

Felony Class	1985 – 1993 Presumptive Range		1993 – 2018 Presumptive Range		2018 – Present Presumptive Range*		Mandatory Parole Period**
	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	
F1	Life	Death	Life	Death	Life	Death	N/A
DF1	-	-	8 yr	32 yr	8 yr	32 yr	3 yr
F2	8 yr	24 yr	8 yr	24 yr	8 yr	24 yr	3 yr
DF2	-	-	4 yr	8 yr	4 yr	8 yr	2 yr
3 Ext	-	-	4 yr	16 yr	4 yr	16 yr	3 yr
F3	4 yr	16 yr	4 yr	12 yr	4 yr	12 yr	3 yr
DF3	-	-	2 yr	4 yr	2 yr	4 yr	1 yr
4 Ext	-	-	2 yr	8 yr	2 yr	8 yr	3 yr
F4	2 yr	8 yr	2 yr	6 yr	2 yr	6 yr	3 yr
DF4	-	-	0.5 yr	1 yr	0.5 yr	1 yr	1 yr
5 Ext	-	-	1 yr	4 yr	1 yr	4 yr	2 yr
F5	1 yr	4 yr	1 yr	3 yr	1 yr	3 yr	2 yr
6 Ext	-	-	1 yr	2 yr	1 yr	2 yr	1 yr
6	1 yr	2 yr	1 yr	1.5 yr	1 yr	1.5 yr	1 yr
2 Ext	-	-	-	-	8 yr	24 yr	5 yr

Note: Ext = extraordinary risk crimes, F = Felony, DF = Drug Felony

*Except as otherwise provided in section 18-1.3-401.5 for offenses contained in article 18 of this title 18 committed on or after October 1, 2013, as to any person sentenced for a felony committed on or after July 1, 1993, and before July 1, 2018.

**The mandatory parole period for unlawful sexual behavior and incest was five years for crimes committed before Nov. 1, 1998. However, the final ruling of the Colorado Supreme Court in July 2001 determined these offenses were not subject to mandatory parole. Most sexual offenses committed on or after Nov. 1, 1998, are subject to lifetime on parole.

**Table 9
HABITUAL SENTENCING LAW CHANGES**

Legislation	Previous Convictions		Crime of Violence OR Previous Habitual*	Class 1 or 2 or Class 3 Crime of Violence
	<i>Two Previous</i>	<i>Three Previous</i>		OR 2 Previous Class 1 or 2 or 3 Crimes of Violence**
Pre HB93-1302	25-50 years	Life (40-year PED)***	-	-
Post HB93-1302	3x maximum of presumptive range of felony	4x maximum of presumptive range of felony	Life (40-year PED)	-
Post SB94-196	3x maximum of presumptive range of felony	4x maximum of presumptive range of felony	Life (40-year PED)	Life (40-year PED)

Note: A felony constitutes any felony in this state or another state in the United States or any territory subject to U.S. jurisdiction, or a crime that would be a felony if committed in this state.

*Any person who is convicted and sentenced for habitual (three previous convictions) and is thereafter convicted of a felony that is a crime of violence.

**Any person who is convicted of a Class 1 or 2 felony, or a Class 3 felony that is a crime of violence, and previously has been convicted twice of a Class 1, 2 or 3 crime of violence, excluding first- and second-degree burglary.

***PED = Parole Eligibility Date

committed on or after Nov. 1, 1998, receive an indeterminate sentence of at least the minimum of the presumptive range for the level of offense committed and a maximum of natural life. All inmates sentenced under this law must undergo evaluation and treatment to qualify for parole. The Colorado State Board of Parole determines when these inmates are supervised in the community.

HB 98-1160 applied to Class 2, 3, 4, and 5, or second or subsequent Class 6, felonies occurring on or after July 1, 1998. It mandated that every inmate complete a period of 12 continuous months of parole supervision after incarceration.

SB 03-252 removed the 12 continuous months of parole supervision after incarceration, allowing the Parole Board to return a parolee who paroled on a non-violent Class 5 or 6 felony (except menacing or unlawful sexual behavior) to a community corrections program or pre-parole release- and-revocation center for up to 180 days. This bill limited the time a parolee may be returned to prison for a technical violation for non-violent offenses to 180 days.

HB 04-1189 increased time served before parole eligibility for certain violent offenses. Under this bill, first-time inmates convicted of these violent offenses must serve 75% of their sentence (less earned time awarded). If convicted of a second or subsequent violent offense, they must serve 75% of their sentence and are not eligible for earned time.

HB 06-1315 reduced sentences for juveniles convicted of Class 1 felonies from a term of life in prison without parole eligibility, to life with parole eligibility after 40 years.

HB 09-1122 expanded YOS sentencing eligibility to include inmates who were 18 or 19 years old at the time of their offense and sentenced prior to their 21st birthday.

HB 09-1351 increased the amount of earned time from 10 days to 12 days for those serving a sentence for certain Class 4, 5 or 6 felonies who are program-compliant and have never been convicted of specified offenses.

HB 09-1263 enabled those confined pending a parole revocation hearing to receive credit for the entire period of such confinement.

HB 10-1338 allowed a person who had been twice convicted of a felony upon charges separately brought — charges that had arisen out of separate and distinct criminal episodes — to be eligible for probation unless their current or a prior conviction was for first- or second-degree murder, manslaughter, first or second degree assault, first or second degree kidnapping, sexual offenses, first degree arson, first or second degree burglary, robbery, aggravated robbery, theft from the person of another, a felony committed against a child, or any criminal attempt or conspiracy to commit the aforementioned offenses, if convicted on or after the effective date of the act.

HB 10-1352 lowered the penalty for unlawful use of a controlled substance; separated the crime of possession of a controlled substance from the crime of manufacturing, dispensing, selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute a controlled substance, and changed the penalties for such crimes; and made distributing a controlled substance to a minor a Class 3 felony subject to enhanced

sentencing. In addition, the bill increased the amount of a Schedule I or II controlled substance necessary to designate a special inmate and lowered the penalty for fraud and deceit in connection with controlled substances from a Class 5 to a Class 6 felony.

HB 10-1360 made inmates with Class 4 felonies eligible for the Community Return-to-Custody Program and limited the amount of time a technical parole violator can return to prison to 90 or 180 days based on an inmate's risk level.

HB 10-1373 reduced the penalty for escape from a Class 4 felony to a Class 5 felony and abolished the mandate that a sentence be served consecutively to any other sentence if the escape was from a sentence to a community corrections facility or intensive-supervised parole.

HB 10-1374 determined that the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board would develop a sex offender release guideline instrument for the Parole Board to use when determining whether to release a sex offender on parole or revoke parole status. This bill required CDOC to work with the Parole Board to develop guidelines for the Parole Board to use in determining when to release a parolee or revoke parole. It also removed the statutory provision that required a parole officer to arrest a parolee as a parole violator if the parolee is located in a place without lawful consent. This bill redefined the criteria set forth in HB 09-1351 and made certain inmates serving sentences for lower Class, non-violent felonies eligible for more earned time awards per month than other inmates did.

HB 10-1413 changed the minimum age for being tried as an adult from 14 to 16 years of age, except in the case of first- and second- degree murder or certain sex offenses, and allowed Class 2 felonies (excluding sex offenses) to be sentenced to YOS except in the case of a second or subsequent sentence to CDOC or YOS.

SB 11-176 allowed inmates housed in administrative segregation the opportunity to accrue earned time to be deducted from their sentences.

SB 11-241 expanded the eligibility of inmates who meet criteria for special- needs parole and created presumptions in favor of parole for non-violent inmates with immigration detainees.

HB 11-1064 built upon HB 10-1352 by creating a pilot program of presumption in favor of granting parole to an inmate who is parole-eligible and serving a sentence for a drug-use or drug-possession crime that was committed prior to Aug. 11, 2011. The inmate must meet other criteria related to previous criminal and institutional behavior to be eligible for the presumption.

HB 12-1223 allowed inmates sentenced and paroled for a felony offense committed after July 1, 1993, to receive earned time while re-incarcerated after a parole revocation. It also allowed inmates who successfully complete a milestone or phase of an educational, vocational, therapeutic, or re-entry program, and/or who demonstrate exceptional conduct that promotes the safety of correctional staff, volunteers, contractors, or other persons, to be awarded as many as 60 days of earned time per accomplishment, up to 120 days per

incarceration.

HB 12-1271 limited the offenses for which a juvenile may be subject to direct file to Class 1 felonies, Class 2 felonies, and crime-of-violence felonies or sex offenses if the juvenile has previous felony adjudication or violent sex offenses. It also limited instances in which juveniles were subject to certain previous district court proceedings. The act also limited direct file to juveniles 16 and older.

SB 13-216 reinstated certain provisions of HB 09-1122 that were repealed on Oct. 1, 2012, relating to the sentencing of young adult inmates to YOS. Provisions of this bill allowed certain young adult inmates to be sentenced to YOS if they were 18 or 19 years old at the time a crime was committed and under 21 years old at the time of sentencing.

SB 13-250 created a new sentencing grid for drug crimes. This bill primarily decreased the seriousness of drug crimes and reduced penalties for those crimes.

HB 13-1160 modified theft-conviction penalties, basing them on the value of the goods or property stolen.

HB 14-1260 required mandatory minimum sentences for certain sexual offenses involving a child.

HB 14-1266 modified value-based offenses, basing them on the value of the loss.

HB 14-1355 directed DOC to develop and implement initiatives to decrease recidivism, enhance public safety, and increase each inmate's chances of achieving success upon

his or her release. Subject to available appropriations, on and after July 1, 2014, these initiatives are to include programs to assist inmates in a correctional facility to prepare for release to the community; efforts to assist each inmate's transition from a correctional facility into the community; and operational enhancements, including equipment, training, and programs to supervise inmates in the community.

HB 15-1043 created a felony penalty for repeat convictions of driving under the influence (DUI), DUI per se, or driving while ability impaired (DWAI), and reduced the felony penalty for aggravated driving with a revoked license to a misdemeanor. The bill is expected to increase court commitments to prison beginning in FY 2015-16 and continuing at increased rates through the forecast period.

HB 15-1122 stipulated that an inmate is ineligible for parole if they have been convicted of certain penal discipline violations or failed to participate in programs related to the original crime. This bill could result in a minimal prison population increase and parole caseload decrease through the forecast period.

SB 15-124 required parole officers to use intermediate sanctions to address noncompliance by parolees unless the nature of the violation mandates arrest or revocation. The bill narrowed the scope of behavior that warrants arresting a parolee for a technical violation. It is expected to decrease re-admissions to prison and increase parole caseload beginning in FY 2015-16 and continuing through the forecast period.

SB 16-180 created a specialized program in

CDOC for juveniles convicted as adults. The bill required CDOC to develop and implement a program for inmates who were sentenced to an adult prison for a felony offense committed while the inmate was less than 18 years of age and who are determined to be appropriate for placement in the program. An inmate who successfully completes the program may apply to the governor for early parole.

SB 16-181 affected sentencing of individuals convicted of Class 1 felonies while the individual was a juvenile. This bill allows for a juvenile sentenced for a Class 1 felony committed on or after July 1, 1990, and before July 1, 2006, to be re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole.

HB 17-1308 removed the mandatory imposition of certain parole conditions, including the manner of restitution, regular urinalysis, other drug testing, and solicitation of a parole officer's permission to change residences or contact another person with a prior criminal history. The bill will result in fewer revocations for technical parole violations to the same extent that it will increase parole caseload and reduce the inmate population.

HB 17-1326 lowered the period of time for which a parolee who commits a technical parole violation may be revoked to DOC custody. The bill directs the Parole Board to conduct a parole release review in lieu of a hearing if the parolee is assessed to be a "low" or "very low" risk and victim notification is not required by law. This provision is expected to expedite discretionary parole releases, reducing the inmate population while increasing parole caseload.

HB 18-1029 lowers mandatory parole periods from five years to three years for Class 3 felony

crimes committed on and after July 1, 2018, and for Class 2 felony crimes that are not crimes of violence. This will affect the size of the parole caseload, but not for approximately 8 years from implementation.

HB 18-1109 expands the existing eligibility requirements for special needs parole, and adds a third eligibility category for special needs parole consideration. The bill lowers the age requirement for one of the existing special needs inmate categories from 60 to 55 years and older, and adds a category of special needs inmates to include those determined to be incompetent to complete any sentence and not likely to pose a risk to public safety.

HB 18-1410 requires that DOC track the prison bed vacancy rate in DOC facilities and funded private prisons. If the vacancy rate falls below 2 percent for 30 consecutive days, DOC is required to notify other state government agencies and may request that other agencies take action to increase the vacancy rate.

HB 19-1030 creates the crime of unlawful sexual communication with a minor by an adult in a position of trust, which is a Class 6 felony or a Class 5 felony if committed with the intent of engaging in sexual exploitation or sexual contact. To the extent that inmates are convicted and sentenced to prison for the new crime, and would not have otherwise been sentenced to prison, the bill could increase admissions from new court commitments.

HB 19-1155 expands the definition of sexual contact for the purpose of the preexisting crimes of unlawful sexual contact or sexual assault on a child. To the extent that inmates are convicted and sentenced to prison as a result of the expanded definition, and would not have

otherwise been sentenced to prison, increasing admissions from new court commitments.

HB 19-1250 creates the criminal offense of unlawful sexual conduct by a peace officer. The bill is expected to increase new court commitment admissions to the DOC.

SB 19-043 increases the number of district court judges. To the extent that the additional judges expedite the pace at which criminal cases are tried and sentenced, the bill could accelerate admissions to the DOC, which would increase the prison population.

HB 19-1263 reclassifies several existing drug felonies as drug misdemeanors, reduces the fine penalties and jail terms for drug misdemeanors, and makes several other changes to sentencing for drug offenses. The bill is expected to substantially reduce felony filings for drug offenses, and to reduce the prison and parole population. Impacts on the prison population will be less significant than the impact on felony filings, because offenders previously convicted for low-level drug felonies often did not receive prison sentences, and because those who were sentenced to CDOC remained incarcerated for an average of four to five months.

SB 19-143 makes a number of changes to parole. The bill broadens the circumstances in which the CDOC can refer inmates to the Parole Board for application hearings, requires a majority vote of the Parole Board to deny the parole application of certain very low or low risk inmates, narrows the circumstances in which a parolee may be revoked for a technical parole violation, requires that revoked parolees be returned to the CDOC for the duration of their

sentence, lengthens the allowable jail confinement period for intermediate sanctions, and expands eligibility for participation in a parolee work training program. The impact of the bill on the prison and parole population is bidirectional because it is expected to increase discretionary releases to parole, decrease revocations to the DOC, and lengthen the prison length of stay for revoked parolees. On net, the bill is expected to decrease the prison population and increase the parole population.

SB 19-165 increases the number of Parole Board members from seven to nine. It is expected to accelerate the pace at which parole application hearings can be conducted, which will decrease the prison population and increase the parole population correspondingly.

SB 19-172 creates offenses for unlawful abandonment or false imprisonment of an at-risk person. This offense is usually a Class 1 misdemeanor; however, false imprisonment of an at-risk person can become a Class 6 felony depending on the circumstances of the crime. The bill is expected to increase new court commitment admissions to the CDOC.

SB 19-211 extends a preexisting Mental Health Criminal Justice Diversion Grant Program in four judicial districts. To the extent that the bill allows for continued diversion of inmates who would otherwise be sentenced to the CDOC, the bill decreases admissions from new court commitments.

SB 19-259 allows for the temporary use of the south campus of the Centennial Correctional Facility when the state male inmate vacant bed rate falls below 1 percent for two consecutive months. The bill is not expected to affect the

prison population. If the male inmate vacant bed rate were to fall below 1 percent for two consecutive months, the bill could increase the share of jurisdictional inmates located at state-operated prisons and decrease the share located at private prisons, the jail backlog, or other locations.

HB 20-1019 contains several provisions with potential impact on the prison population. Specifically, the bill reopened the south campus of the Centennial Correctional Facility, allowed for a wider range of circumstances for which an inmate may be awarded earned time, removed the requirement that earned time be awarded in accordance with statutory categories, and allowed the application of performance standards established by the CDOC, and created a new crime of an unauthorized absence for an inmate on an intensive supervision program, in a community corrections program, or participating in a work release program.

SB 20-100 repealed the death penalty in the state of Colorado. Because of the small number of death row inmates in Colorado (three at the time the bill was signed into law) and death penalty cases tried each year (zero to three), this bill is expected to have minimal impact on the prison population.

SB 2021-271 reclassifies various criminal offenses from felony charges to misdemeanors which will lead to a slight reduction in new commitments. In addition, the reduction from felony charges to misdemeanors will reduce the length of stay. However, certain provisions of the bill (reclassification of class 3 misdemeanors to class 2 misdemeanors) may increase lengths of stay slightly. Thus, this bill

provides some downward pressure on the population in the short term and some upward pressure in the longer term.

SB 2021-146 targets improving prison release outcomes. This bill is expected to reduce the population by expanding special needs parole, which will result in an equal increase in the parole caseload. Additionally, the bill requires the Parole Board to schedule a hearing for an inmate serving a sentence for an escape crime that would now constitute the misdemeanor offense of unauthorized absence, within 60 days. This may result in an increase in releases in early FY 2022. Given the recency of this bill's enactment, any impact will not be evident until FY 2022.

SB 2021-064 creates a new crime of retaliation against an elected official, which is expected to have little to no impact on prison admissions.

SB 2021-124 reclassifies certain first-degree murder offenses to a class 2 felony, which reduces a life sentence to a 16- to 48-year sentence with the possibility of parole. Reducing the length of stay from an estimated 40 years for a felony 1 offense to an estimated 16.8 years for a felony 2 offense will have no measurable impact on the prison population until FY 2038.

SB 21-146 modifies the eligibility criteria for parole for senior and special needs inmates, and it requires the DOC and the Parole Board to develop policies and procedures to improve the special needs parole process. The bill, by potentially increasing releases to special needs parole, is anticipated to marginally decrease the prison population while concurrently elevating the parole population.

SB 21-271 reclassifies the level for several felonies. The bill is expected to have offsetting impacts on the prison population so the overall impact is expected to be minimal.

HB 23-1037 provides earned time to inmates sentenced for a nonviolent felony offense who complete a higher education degree or certificate. The bill is expected to reduce the DOC prison population and increase the parole population if more inmates receive additional earned time.

HB 23-1293 increases several felony offenses, including second degree kidnapping, impersonating a police officer, false reporting of explosives, and aggravated cruelty to animals; decreases several felony offenses, notably criminal possession of stolen financial devices; modifies some offenses; removes certain offenses; adds the new crime of aggravated retaliation against a witness or victim; and removes mandatory sentences for certain felony offenses. The bill is expected to decrease the prison and parole populations on net in future years.

SB 23-097 reclassifies and modifies motor vehicle theft offenses. The bill is expected to increase the amount of time certain offenders are sentenced to the DOC, thereby increasing the prison and decreasing the parole population within the forecast period

Proposition 128, approved by voters in November 2024, increases the amount of prison time a person convicted of certain crimes of violence starting in January 2025, must serve before becoming eligible for discretionary parole or earned time reductions; and makes a person convicted of a third crime of violence ineligible for discretionary parole or

earned time reductions. The measure is expected to increase the prison population, but not until beyond the current forecast period.

SB 24-035 adds human trafficking for involuntary servitude and human trafficking for sexual servitude to the list of crimes of violence, which include certain additional criminal acts and are subject to enhanced sentencing guidelines, and increases the statute of limitations for prosecuting these offenses to 20 years. The bill may minimally increase the prison population.

SB 24-131 prohibits the carrying of firearms in certain government buildings, schools, and polling places, and reclassifies some existing felony offenses as misdemeanors. The bill is expected to minimally decrease the prison and parole populations.

HB 24-1074 modifies the class 4 felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals to include knowingly or recklessly killing or harming a law enforcement animal. The bill may minimally increase the prison population.

House Bill 24-1355 creates the Bridges Wraparound Care Program to refer eligible individuals from the criminal justice system to mental health services. The bill may reduce the prison and parole populations by diverting offenders from DOC.

HB 24-1461 exempts earned time received from an inmate completing a higher education degree from the statutory limit of total earned time an inmate can receive. The bill may reduce the prison population and increase the parole population if more inmates receive additional earned time.

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FY 2024 STATISTICAL REPORT



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