

# Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Correctional Population Forecasts

Pursuant to 24-33.5-503 (m), C.R.S.

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# INTRODUCTION

## **Background**

The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), pursuant to 24-33.5-503(m), C.R.S., is mandated to prepare correctional population projections for the Director of the Legislative Council and the General Assembly. Per statute, DCJ has prepared projections of these populations since the mid-1980s. This report presents the December 2011 forecasts for the Colorado adult incarcerated and parole populations and for the Colorado juvenile commitment and parole populations.

These annual population forecasts are used to estimate the size of adult prison and parole populations across the upcoming seven years. Additionally, they are utilized to simulate alternative future populations based on specific changes in laws, policies, or practices. Also included are estimates regarding average length of stay for future populations, which are used to calculate cost savings resulting from proposed legislation and policy changes.

Projections for future juvenile commitment and parole populations are also calculated. For the December 2011 DCJ projections, these populations were estimated for the five-year period between FY 2012 and FY 2016.

## **Organization of This Report**

The first section of this report describes the Colorado Justice Forecasting Model (CJFM) and the assumptions applied to the current year's projections. Following this discussion, the adult prison and parole population projections for fiscal years (FY) 2012 through 2018 are presented, including quarterly inmate population projections and annual admission and release projections. These are followed by annual projections for domestic parole, out-of-state and absconder populations. Also included are estimates of the average lengths of stay by offender category for the FY 2011 cohort of prison admissions.

The last section of the report presents the juvenile commitment and parole projections. The juvenile population estimates include year-end and quarterly average daily population (ADP) forecasts for the committed population statewide and for the four DYC management regions. These are followed by the projected numbers of new juvenile commitments statewide. Finally, the year-end average daily caseload (ADC) forecasts for the juvenile parole population statewide and by DYC management region are presented.

# THE COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE FORECASTING MODEL

## Justice and Demographic Information

Data from multiple sources are incorporated into the forecasting model to simulate the flow of individuals into the system, as well as the movement of those already in the system. These data include information concerning admissions to and releases from DOC and from DYC, as well as the adult and juvenile populations currently incarcerated. Colorado population forecasts are provided by the Demographer's office of the Department of Local Affairs. Criminal and juvenile case prosecution, conviction, and sentencing trend data are obtained from the Colorado Judicial Department via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and from the annual reports issued by the Judicial Department.<sup>1;2</sup> Trends in probation revocation rates are also examined.<sup>3</sup>

## Adult Prison Population Forecasting Methodology

Future prison populations are modeled in terms of three cohorts: new court commitments to prison, parole returns to prison, and the population currently incarcerated. The future admissions cohort estimates the composition and number of future admissions, including offenders who fail probation or community corrections and are subsequently incarcerated due to a technical violation of probation. Projected future admissions are based on historical prison admission trends, taking into account crime trends, observed criminal case filings, conviction rates and sentencing practices. Trends in probation placements and probation revocation rates are also examined.

A variety of statistical models are generated to develop the future admissions projections, incorporating recent changes in laws or policy. This projected future admissions cohort is disaggregated into approximately 70 offender profile groups according to governing offense type, felony class and sentence length.

Parole revocations are estimated using a cohort propagation method, which tracks cohorts of individuals paroled each year and calculates the rate of reduction in the size of each cohort according to assumptions regarding length of stay on parole and revocation rates. The estimated number of future parole revocations is then included in the future admissions cohort.

While the number of offenders admitted to prison each month of the projection period is tracked, the duration of their stay in prison is estimated and the point at which they are released from prison is also tracked. The length of stay in prison is estimated using data concerning the length of stay for offenders with

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<sup>1</sup> Filing data are extracted from the Judicial Department's information management system (ICON) via CICJIS/CJASS and analyzed by DCJ's Office of Research and Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> *Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Statistical Reports*, available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm/Unit/annrep>.

<sup>3</sup> *Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Recidivism Reports*, available at [www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Custom.cfm/Unit/eval/Page\\_ID/189](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Custom.cfm/Unit/eval/Page_ID/189).



similar profiles released in prior years, adjusted to reflect recent changes in law or policy. Cumulative survival distributions are developed and applied to each of the offender profile/sentence length groups to estimate a rate of release and the remaining population on a monthly basis.

The cohort of offenders that are currently incarcerated is treated in a similar manner. This cohort is also disaggregated into approximately 70 offender profile and sentence length groups, with cumulative survival distributions calculated to estimate their rate of release. These survival distributions are adjusted to reflect changes in law or policy that may impact those currently incarcerated, which may differ from those impacting the future admissions cohort. The release of offenders currently in prison (the stock population), the estimates of future admissions, and the anticipated release of those admissions are combined to forecast the size of incarcerated populations in the future.

A different approach is used to forecast parole populations. The number of releases to parole each year is estimated in the process of developing the prison population forecast. An average length of stay is applied to determine the number that will remain on parole at the end of each year and the number that will carry over into the following year. These figures are summed to estimate the number of parolees at the end of each fiscal year.

#### **Juvenile Commitment Population Forecasting Methodology**

A variety of methods have been employed in the development of the juvenile commitment population forecasts. In the past, an approach similar to that described above was used to develop the juvenile commitment and parole population projections. More recently, time series models<sup>4</sup> have been applied to develop these forecasts.

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<sup>4</sup> Box, G. E. P., G. M. Jenkins, and G. C. Reinsel. 1994. *Time series analysis: Forecasting and control*, 3rd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

**Assumptions Affecting the Accuracy of the DCJ Projections**

The projection figures for the Colorado Department of Correction's incarcerated and parole populations and for the Division of Youth Correction's commitment and parole populations are based on the multiple assumptions outlined below.

- ❑ The Colorado General Assembly will not pass new legislation beyond that already in place and accounted for that impacts the length of time offenders are incarcerated or the number of individuals receiving such a sentence.
- ❑ The General Assembly will not expand or reduce community supervision programs in ways that affect commitments.
- ❑ Decision makers in the justice system will not change the way they use their discretion, except in explicitly stated ways that are accounted for in the model.
- ❑ The data provided by the Colorado Departments of Corrections and Human Services accurately describe the number and characteristics of offenders committed to, released from, and retained in DOC and DYC facilities.
- ❑ Incarceration times and sentencing data provided are accurate.
- ❑ Admission, release and sentencing patterns will not change dramatically from the prior year through the upcoming 7 years, except in ways that are accounted for in the current year's projection model.
- ❑ Seasonal variations observed in the past will continue into the future.
- ❑ The forecasts of the Colorado population size, gender and age distributions provided by the Colorado Demographer's Office are accurate.
- ❑ District court filings, probation placements and revocations are accurately reported in annual reports provided by the Judicial Department.
- ❑ No catastrophic event such as war, disease or economic collapse will occur during the projection period.

# Colorado Adult Prison Population and Parole Caseload Projections

*The Colorado prison population is expected to decline by 15.8 percent between the end of FY 2011 and June 2018, from an actual population of 22,610 to a projected population of 19,041 inmates. The number of men in prison is expected to decrease 15.6 percent during this time frame, from 20,512 to 17,309, while the number of women in prison is expected to decrease 17.4 percent, from 2,098 to 1,732.*

*The domestic parole caseload is projected to increase by 1.3 percent by the end of FY 2012, followed by a decline averaging 2.9 percent per year over the next six years. Overall, the parole caseload is expected to decrease from 8,181 to 6,941, or 15.2 percent, by the end of FY 2018.*

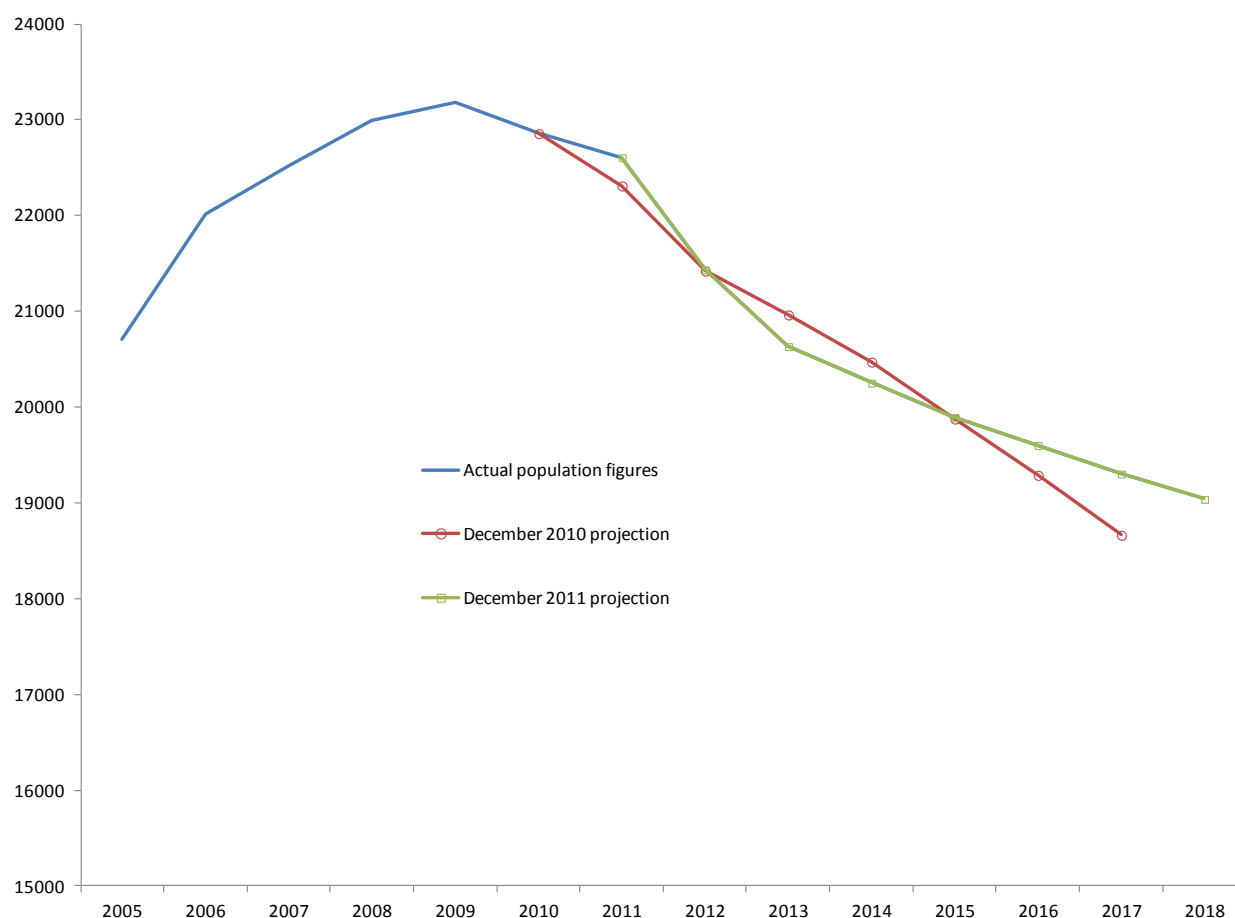
## ADULT INMATE POPULATION FORECAST

The Colorado prison population is expected to decline by 15.8 percent between the end of FY 2011 and June 2018, from an actual population of 22,610 to a projected population of 19,041 inmates. The number of men in prison is expected to decrease 15.6 percent during this time frame, from 20,512 to 17,309, while the number of women in prison is expected to decrease 17.4 percent, from 2,098 to 1,732.

Figure 1 compares the adult inmate prison population to the current projections and to the DCJ December 2010 projection figures. As shown, after decades of continuous growth, the population began to decrease in FY 2010 and is expected to continue to decline throughout the projection period. While the decrease forecast in December 2010 was not attained, the rate of decline is expected to accelerate during the current fiscal year and continue through the next. This projection is based on the slowing and negative growth observed in the size of the prison population during recent years, the significant legislation passed in the 2010 legislative session, and the multiple additional factors discussed in the next section.

*The rate of growth for the Colorado prison population began to slow in FY 2007, culminating in negative growth beginning in FY 2010 which has continued through mid-FY 2012.*

**Figure 1: Actual and Projected Total Prison Population FY 2011 through FY 2018: Comparison of DCJ December 2010 and December 2011 Prison Population Projections**



Data source: Actual population figures FY 2011 through December 2011: DOC Monthly Capacity and Population Reports.

Table 1 displays the historical total and gender-specific growth in the prison population by fiscal year for FY 1995 through FY 2011, as well as the projected population through the end of fiscal year 2018 (June 30, 2018). Table 2 displays total and gender-specific projected growth in the prison population by quarter for fiscal years 2011 through 2018. Annual projected numbers of admissions by type are given in Table 3, followed by the projected number of releases in Table 4.

Historical and projected trends in admission types for fiscal years 1998 through 2018 are graphically displayed in Figure 2. Release trends for the same time frame can be found in Figures 3 and 4.

**Table 1: DCJ December 2011 Adult Prison Population Projections, Actual and Projected Populations  
FY 1995 through FY 2018**

Fiscal Year End	Total Prison		Male Population		Female Population	
	Population	Annual Growth	Population	Annual Growth	Population	Annual Growth
<b>1995*</b>	10669	-	10000	-	669	-
<b>1996*</b>	11019	3.28%	10250	2.50%	769	14.95%
<b>1997*</b>	12590	14.26%	11681	13.96%	909	18.21%
<b>1998*</b>	13663	8.52%	12647	8.27%	1016	11.77%
<b>1999*</b>	14726	7.78%	13547	7.12%	1179	16.04%
<b>2000*</b>	15999	8.64%	14733	8.75%	1266	7.38%
<b>2001*</b>	16833	5.21%	15498	5.19%	1340	5.85%
<b>2002*</b>	18045	7.20%	16539	6.72%	1506	12.39%
<b>2003*</b>	18846	4.44%	17226	4.15%	1620	7.57%
<b>2004*</b>	19569	3.84%	17814	3.41%	1755	8.33%
<b>2005*</b>	20704	5.80%	18631	4.59%	2073	18.12%
<b>2006*</b>	22012	6.32%	19792	6.23%	2220	7.09%
<b>2007*</b>	22519	2.30%	20178	1.95%	2341	5.45%
<b>2008*</b>	22989	2.09%	20684	2.51%	2305	-1.54%
<b>2009*</b>	23186	0.86%	20896	1.02%	2290	-0.65%
<b>2010*</b>	22860	-1.41%	20766	-0.62%	2094	-8.56%
<b>2011*</b>	22610	-1.09%	20512	-1.22%	2098	0.19%
<b>2012</b>	21438	-5.19%	19405	-5.40%	2033	-3.11%
<b>2013</b>	20637	-3.73%	18671	-3.78%	1966	-3.26%
<b>2014</b>	20256	-1.85%	18347	-1.73%	1909	-2.91%
<b>2015</b>	19896	-1.78%	18020	-1.78%	1876	-1.72%
<b>2016</b>	19604	-1.47%	17778	-1.34%	1826	-2.68%
<b>2017</b>	19306	-1.52%	17532	-1.38%	1774	-2.85%
<b>2018</b>	19041	-1.37%	17309	-1.27%	1732	-2.37%

\*Actual population, source: FY 1995 through FY 2010: DOC Annual Statistical Reports. FY 2011: DOC Monthly Capacity and Population Reports.

**Table 2: DCJ December 2011 Quarterly Adult Prison Population Projections June 2011 through June 2018**

Fiscal Year	End of Month	Total Prison		Male Population		Female Population	
		Population	Growth	Population	Growth	Population	Growth
<b>2011</b>	<i>June*</i>	22610	-0.19%	20512	-0.26%	2098	0.48%
	<i>September*</i>	22508	-0.45%	20391	-0.59%	2117	0.91%
	December	22023	-2.15%	19947	-2.18%	2076	-1.92%
	March	21801	-1.01%	19743	-1.02%	2058	-0.88%
<b>2012</b>	June	21438	-1.67%	19405	-1.71%	2033	-1.24%
	September	21098	-1.59%	19104	-1.55%	1994	-1.93%
	December	20862	-1.12%	18903	-1.05%	1959	-1.75%
	March	20818	-0.21%	18857	-0.24%	1961	0.14%
<b>2013</b>	June	20637	-0.87%	18671	-0.99%	1966	0.25%
	September	20483	-0.74%	18534	-0.73%	1950	-0.85%
	December	20395	-0.43%	18471	-0.34%	1924	-1.34%
	March	20343	-0.26%	18435	-0.19%	1907	-0.84%
<b>2014</b>	June	20256	-0.42%	18347	-0.48%	1909	0.10%
	September	20155	-0.50%	18270	-0.42%	1886	-1.24%
	December	20063	-0.46%	18177	-0.51%	1886	0.04%
	March	20054	-0.05%	18184	0.04%	1869	-0.90%
<b>2015</b>	June	19896	-0.79%	18020	-0.90%	1876	0.37%
	September	19799	-0.49%	17944	-0.42%	1855	-1.13%
	December	19759	-0.20%	17922	-0.12%	1837	-0.98%
	March	19709	-0.25%	17884	-0.21%	1825	-0.65%
<b>2016</b>	June	19604	-0.53%	17778	-0.59%	1826	0.05%
	September	19475	-0.66%	17662	-0.65%	1813	-0.71%
	December	19419	-0.29%	17628	-0.19%	1791	-1.21%
	March	19398	-0.11%	17616	-0.07%	1782	-0.50%
<b>2017</b>	June	19306	-0.47%	17532	-0.48%	1774	-0.45%
	September	19186	-0.62%	17426	-0.60%	1760	-0.79%
	December	19115	-0.37%	17380	-0.26%	1735	-1.42%
	March	19118	0.02%	17394	0.08%	1724	-0.63%
<b>2018</b>	June	19041	-0.40%	17309	-0.49%	1732	0.46%

\*Actual prison population, source: DOC Monthly Capacity and Population Reports.

Note: All projections are rounded to the next whole number.

**Table 3: DCJ December 2011 Adult Prison Population Projections, Actual and Projected Prison Admissions by Type, FY 2005 through FY 2018**

Fiscal Year End	Prison Admissions				Total Admissions
	New Court Commitments	Parole Returns with a New Crime	Technical Parole Violations	Other Admits	
<b>2005*</b>	5789	835	2649	160	9433
<b>2006*</b>	6149	1034	2792	193	10168
<b>2007*</b>	6380	1014	3047	188	10629
<b>2008*</b>	6296	1221	3353	168	11038
<b>2009*</b>	5922	1131	3776	163	10992
<b>2010*</b>	5345	1039	4164	156	10704
<b>2011*</b>	5153	962	3678	142	9935
<b>2012</b>	5136	839	3207	124	9306
<b>2013</b>	5059	714	3122	121	9016
<b>2014</b>	4972	673	2949	121	8715
<b>2015</b>	4873	626	2778	117	8394
<b>2016</b>	4776	601	2666	114	8157
<b>2017</b>	4704	579	2569	113	7965
<b>2018</b>	4633	566	2476	112	7787

\*Actual prison admissions. Source: DOC Annual Statistical Reports; Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins.

**Table 4: DCJ December 2011 Adult Prison Population Projections, Actual and Projected Prison Releases by Type, FY 2005 through FY 2018**

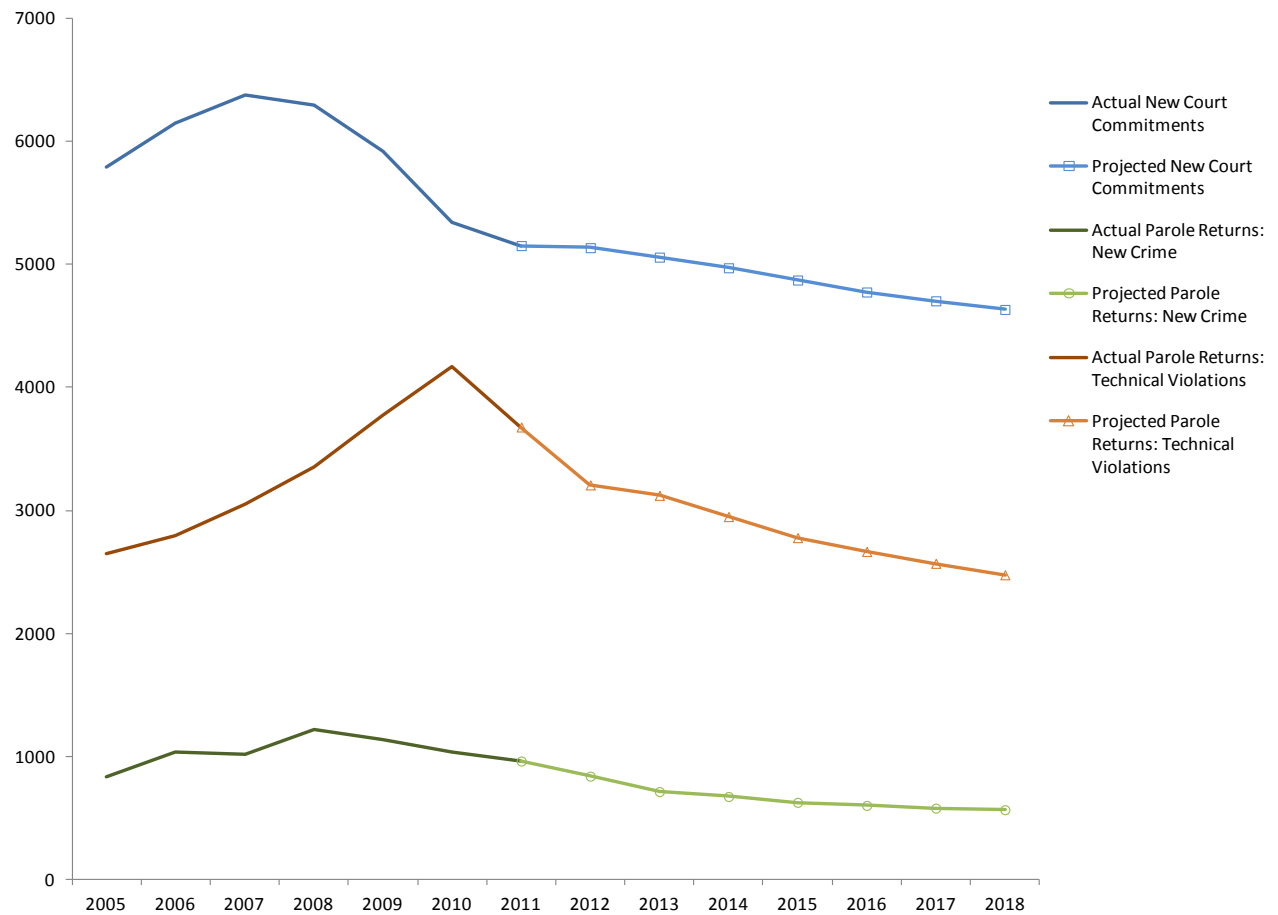
Fiscal Year End	Releases to Parole			Sentence Discharge	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total Discharges
	Mandatory	Discretionary <sup>1</sup>	Total			
<b>2005*</b>	4688	1598	6286	1576	387	8249
<b>2006*</b>	4370	2813	7183	1397	374	8954
<b>2007*</b>	3439	5069	8508	1283	319	10110
<b>2008*</b>	3279	5596	8875	1367	323	10565
<b>2009*</b>	4918	4118	9036	1452	315	10803
<b>2010*</b>	6466	2868	9334	1415	284	11033
<b>2011*</b>	6413	2095	8508	1427	225	10160
<b>2012</b>	5788	3133	8920	1329	169	10419
<b>2013</b>	5267	3160	8427	1170	156	9754
<b>2014</b>	4891	2935	7826	1087	145	9058
<b>2015</b>	4693	2816	7509	1043	139	8691
<b>2016</b>	4524	2714	7238	1005	134	8377
<b>2017</b>	4422	2653	7075	983	131	8188
<b>2018</b>	4302	2581	6883	1084	127	8094

1. Due to a decrease in community transportation resources in 2005, inmates to be released on their mandatory release date were classified as discretionary releases. A change in the electronic coding of these inmates enabled them to be correctly classified as mandatory parole releases in 2008. The increase in discretionary releases between 2005 and 2008, and the decrease between 2008 and 2010 is an artifact of this change in coding.

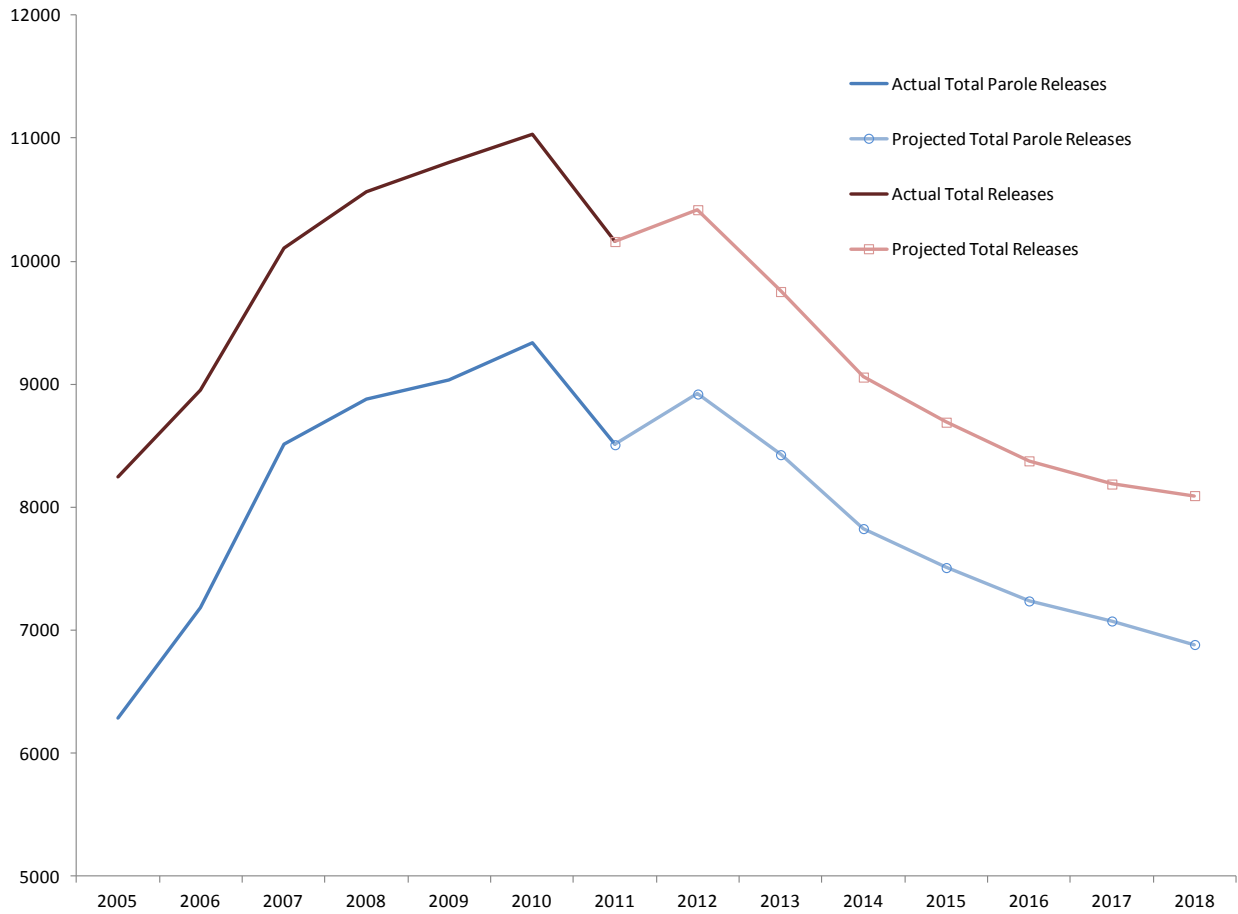
2. This category includes, among other things death, releases on appeal, bond release, and court ordered discharges.

\*Actual prison discharges. Source: DOC Annual Statistical Reports; Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins.

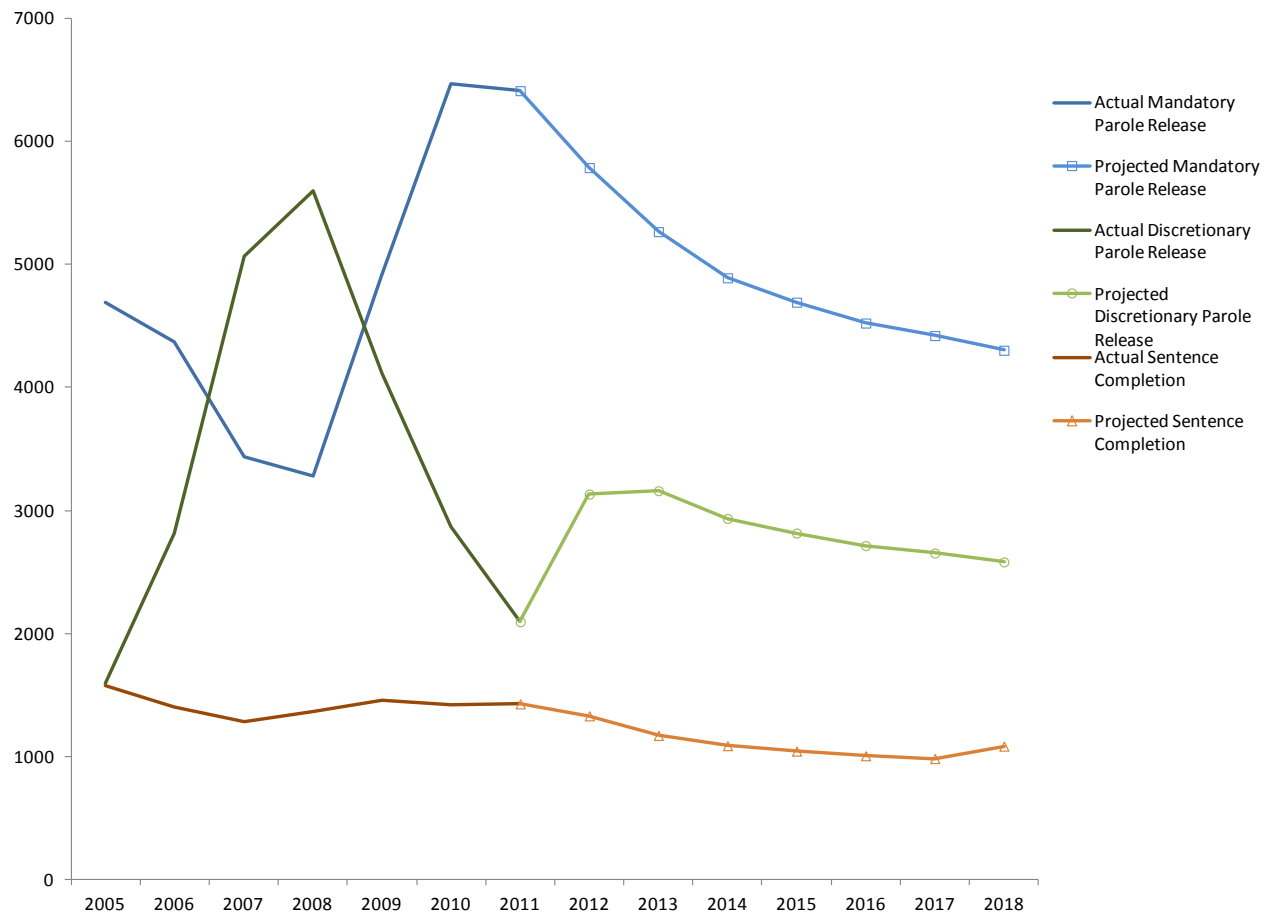


**Figure 2: Colorado Prison Admissions by Type: Actual and Projected FY 2005 through FY 2018**

Data Source: Historical data obtained from the Colorado Department of Corrections Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins and data provided by DOC.

**Figure 3: Colorado Prison Releases: Actual and Projected FY 2005 through FY 2018**

Data Source: Historical data obtained from the Colorado Department of Corrections Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins and data provided by DOC.

**Figure 4: Colorado Prison Release Detail: Actual and Projected FY 2005 through FY 2018**

Data Source: Historical data obtained from Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins and data provided by DOC.

Note: Due to a decrease in community transportation resources in 2005, inmates to be released on their mandatory release date were classified as discretionary releases. A change in the electronic coding of these inmates enabled them to be correctly classified as mandatory parole releases in 2008. The increase in discretionary releases between 2005 and 2008, and the decrease between 2008 and 2011 is an artifact of this change in coding.

## Factors Affecting the Adult Prison Population Projections

The size of the Colorado state prison population has decreased over the past two years. The population fell by 1.4 percent in FY 2010, and by 1.1 percent in FY 2011. These decreases represent 576 fewer inmates between June 30, 2009 and July 1, 2011.<sup>5</sup> In the first five months of FY 2012 alone, the population has decreased by another 546 inmates. The current reduction in growth is explained by a variety of factors, some of which are summarized in the following bullets.

- ❑ **Growth of the Colorado population between the ages of 24 and 44<sup>6</sup> is expected to be lower than that previously forecast.** Estimates of Colorado population growth during the upcoming four years have been adjusted downward based on the most recent census results. Between 2012 and 2015, growth in the 24 to 44 year-old population is expected to remain below 1 percent per year. After 2015, however, growth in both this cohort and in the overall adult population is expected to increase.<sup>7</sup> These trends serve to influence the downward movement in prison growth projected during the early years, but moderate the decline beginning in FY 2016.
- ❑ Following a six year period of growth, **felony filings in district courts statewide have declined over the past five years.** Between the end of FY 2006 and FY 2011, there has been a 22.7 percent reduction in the number of filings.<sup>8</sup>
- ❑ **The state incarceration rate decreased by 2.5 percent in FY 2010,** after a period of stability between FY 2007 and FY 2009. Over the prior 4 years, the incarceration rate increased by an average of 2.6 percent per year.<sup>9</sup>
- ❑ The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that **2010 marks the fourth consecutive year of declining growth** in the number of prisoners under state authority. Half of state departments of corrections reported decreases in their prison populations during 2010.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Historical data obtained from the Colorado Department of Corrections Monthly Population and Capacity Reports. Available at: [https://exdoc.state.co.us/secure/combo2.0.0/ajax/ajax\\_frontend.php?id=5027](https://exdoc.state.co.us/secure/combo2.0.0/ajax/ajax_frontend.php?id=5027).

<sup>6</sup> The 24 to 44 age group is representative of the majority of admissions to prison. Data provided by the Colorado Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis.

<sup>7</sup> Data source: Colorado State Demographer's Office, Department of Labor and Employment. Population forecasts based on the 2010 national census. Available at: [http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/demog/pop\\_colo\\_forecasts.html](http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/demog/pop_colo_forecasts.html).

<sup>8</sup> Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Statistical Reports, FY 2005 – FY 2010. Available at: <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm/Unit/annrep>

<sup>9</sup> Barr, B. and O'Keefe, M. (2010). *Statistical Report Fiscal Year 2010*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis.

<sup>10</sup> Geurino, P., Harrison, P.M., Sabol, W.J. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

❑ **Significant legislation** was passed in recent years that will affect the numbers of new commitments in the future. Prisoners in Colorado are subject to many different sentencing laws that have affected the size of the prison population. A summary of this legislation is provided in Appendix B. In addition to legislation specifically impacting sentencing laws and parole requirements, new laws may be introduced which result in an increase or a decrease in the number of individuals sentenced to DOC, or the length of their prison sentences. Several key pieces of legislation were passed in 2010 which are expected to have a significant impact on the size of both the prison and the parole populations.

- House Bill 09-1351 increased the maximum monthly earned time from 10 days to 12 days per month for certain inmates convicted of class 4, 5, or 6 felonies and changed the maximum earned time reduction from 25 percent to 30 percent of an offender's total sentence. In addition, the bill created 'earned release time' for inmates meeting certain qualifications. Inmates convicted of class 4 or class 5 felonies who meet these qualifications may earn their release 60 days prior to their mandatory release date, while eligible class 6 felons may earn release 30 days prior to their mandatory release date.
- In 2010, H.B. 1374 clarified eligibility criteria for the enhanced earned time that was created the prior year in H.B. 09-1351 and made substantial changes to the statutory parole guidelines.
- Also in 2010, H.B. 1360 allows the Colorado State Board of Parole to modify the conditions of parole and require the parolee to participate in a treatment program in lieu of a parole revocation. A parolee who commits a technical parole violation and was not on parole for a crime of violence may have his or her parole revoked for a period of no more than 90 days if assessed as below high risk to reoffend, or up to 180 days if assessed as high risk. Additionally, placement in a community return to custody facility for a technical parole violation was expanded to include people convicted of a non-violent class 4 felony.
- House Bill 10-1338 allows individuals with two or more prior felony convictions to receive probation rather than a mandatory prison sentence. This legislation is expected to divert approximately 90 offenders per year from prison into probation.
- House Bill 10-1352 greatly modified penalties for crimes involving controlled substances and reduced several former felony crimes to misdemeanors. Almost 200 individuals per year could be diverted from prison due to this legislation. Additionally, sentence lengths for those still sentenced to prison may be significantly reduced.
- House Bill 10-1413 modified the eligibility criteria for the direct filing of juvenile offenders in criminal court. This is expected to divert a small number of youth from prison into the Youthful Offender System (YOS).
- House Bill 10-1373 removed the requirement that a consecutive sentence be imposed for an escape conviction for certain offenders. This will shorten the length of stay in prison for offenders convicted of an escape crime.

- ❑ **Admissions to prison decreased over the past three years. In FY 2009, admissions fell by 0.4 percent. This decline accelerated to 2.6 percent in FY 2010, and to 7.2 percent in FY 2011.** Prior to FY 2009, the number of admissions to prison increased every year, though the *rate* of this increase declined each year since FY 2005. In FY 2005, admissions increased by 15.5 percent. This growth rate was halved the following year, and fell to 4.5 percent in FY 2007. In FY 2008, admissions increased by only 3.8 percent.<sup>11</sup> Admissions to prison have also declined on a national scale. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of admissions to state prisons nationwide fell by 2.4 percent.<sup>12</sup> In 2010, these admissions decreased by an additional 3.8 percent.<sup>13</sup>
- ❑ **Prison admissions of all types declined in FY 2011.** The number of new court commitments fell for the fourth consecutive year. Parole returns with a new crime have declined for the past three years. However, FY 2011 marks the first year that returns to prison due to technical parole violations decreased since 2003.<sup>14</sup>
- ❑ **The decline in new court commitments is partially due to decreases in probation revocations to prison.** The number of probationers revoked to DOC dropped from 2,338 in FY 2006 to 1,784 in FY 2010, a 23.7 percent drop.<sup>15</sup> Given the efforts on the part of the Division of Probation Services to reduce technical probation violations and implement evidence-based practices,<sup>16</sup> this trend is expected to continue into upcoming years.
- ❑ **The types of offenders sentenced to prison have changed across time.** For example, the proportion of all new court commitments that were sentenced to prison for a violent crime increased by 19.9% between FY 2007 and FY 2011. During the same frame, the proportion of those sentenced to prison with an escape conviction fell by 14.7%, and the proportion of those sentenced with a drug crime as their most serious offense declined by 22.0 percent.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Colorado Department of Corrections. (2006 – 2011). *Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado Department of Corrections.

<sup>12</sup> West, H.C. and Sabol, W.J. (2010). *Prisoners in 2009*. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>13</sup> Geurino, P., Harrison, P.M., Sabol, W.J. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>14</sup> Colorado Department of Corrections. (2006 – 2011). *Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado Department of Corrections.

<sup>15</sup> Colorado State Judicial Branch. (2007-2011). *Pre-Release Termination and Post-Release Recidivism Rates of Colorado's Probationers*. Denver, CO: Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services.

<sup>16</sup> For further information regarding evidence-based practices, see: Aos, S., Miller, M., & Drake, E. (2006). *Evidence-based adult corrections programs: What works and what does not*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.; Crime and Justice Institute. (2004). *Implementing evidence-based practice in community corrections: The principles of effective intervention*. Department of Justice: National Institute of Corrections; Office of Research and Statistics (2007). *Evidence based correctional practices*. Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics.

<sup>17</sup> Data provided by the Office of Planning and Analysis, Colorado Department of Corrections.

- ❑ **The proportion of total admissions attributable to parole returns due to technical violations increased** from 28.1 percent in FY 2006 to 37.0 percent in FY 2011. This population has a much shorter LOS than new court commitments or parole returns with a new crime. Shorter lengths of stay in prison contribute to an overall reduction in the size of the population.<sup>18</sup>
- ❑ **Releases from prison exceeded admissions to prison in both FY 2009 and FY 2010.** This reversal in the prison admission-to-release ratio was also observed on a national scale in 2010, for the first time since jurisdictional data began to be collected in 1977.<sup>19</sup>
- ❑ **Discretionary parole releases have exhibited an increasing trend** after a period of decline over the first half of FY 2011. The proportion of parole releases made on a discretionary basis began an upward trend during the second half of FY 2011, which has accelerated through the first half of FY 2012.<sup>20</sup> This acceleration coincides with the appointment of four new members to the Colorado Parole Board.

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<sup>18</sup> Colorado Department of Corrections. (2005 – 2011). *Admission and Release Trends Statistical Bulletins*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado Department of Corrections.

<sup>19</sup> Geurino, P., Harrison, P.M., Sabol, W.J. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>20</sup> DOC monthly Population and Capacity Reports.

## ESTIMATED LENGTH OF STAY IN PRISON

Tables 5 through 12 display the estimated average length of stay (ALOS), by crime type and class, for new commitments to prison and for parole returns with a new crime during FY 2011. This information is presented by gender and for combined populations, with category totals presented in Table 12. The average time that these new admissions are expected to actually serve in prison is estimated using data provided by DOC regarding conviction crimes, sentence length and time served for inmates released during the same year.<sup>21</sup>

Several modifications to the production of these estimates were made last year, affecting the overall length of stay estimates presented in the DCJ January 2011 Correctional Population Forecasts report and in the current report. These modifications include the addition of habitual offender and lifetime supervision sexual offender categories, as well as changes in the categorization of certain drug crimes, which were re-classified as extraordinary risk crimes. As a result of these changes, the length of stay estimates presented in these two documents are not comparable to those contained in prior reports.

Any changes in the decision-making process of criminal justice professionals will impact the accuracy of these estimates. For the purposes of these calculations, indeterminate, life, and death sentences are capped at forty years. Interstate compact inmates serving time in Colorado are excluded from this analysis as no sentencing data are available for these offenders.

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<sup>21</sup> In instances where an inadequate number of releases occurred during the year to provide a representative average sentence and length of stay, information concerning releases occurring during prior years may be applied.



**Table 5: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Male New Commitments**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	31	0.51%	2.43
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	202.53	63	1.03%	2.08
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	77.07	3	0.05%	0.04
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	71.75	16	0.26%	0.19
<b>F3 Ext</b>	82.59	469	7.65%	6.32
<b>F3 Sex</b>	100.95	37	0.60%	0.61
<b>F3 Drug</b>	54.56	20	0.33%	0.18
<b>F3 Other</b>	60.10	135	2.20%	1.32
<b>F4 Ext</b>	46.47	564	9.20%	4.28
<b>F4 Sex</b>	57.44	23	0.38%	0.22
<b>F4 Drug</b>	31.10	246	4.01%	1.25
<b>F4 Other</b>	36.68	756	12.34%	4.52
<b>F5 Ext</b>	18.88	187	3.05%	0.58
<b>F5 Sex</b>	27.28	175	2.86%	0.78
<b>F5 Drug</b>	17.61	54	0.88%	0.16
<b>F5 Other</b>	20.80	793	12.94%	2.69
<b>F6 Ext</b>	14.76	72	1.17%	0.17
<b>F6 Sex</b>	12.96	77	1.26%	0.16
<b>F6 Drug</b>	12.06	187	3.05%	0.37
<b>F6 Other</b>	11.50	425	6.94%	0.80
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	232.20	25	0.41%	0.95
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	105	1.71%	8.22
<b>Total Male New Court Commitments</b>	52.60	4463	72.83%	38.31

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the 'EXT' category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 6: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Female New Commitments**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	1	0.02%	0.08
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	186.16	8	0.13%	0.24
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	100.51	7	0.11%	0.11
<b>F3 Ext</b>	61.92	70	1.14%	0.71
<b>F3 Sex</b>	170.40	2	0.03%	0.06
<b>F3 Drug</b>	53.19	8	0.13%	0.07
<b>F3 Other</b>	55.34	26	0.42%	0.23
<b>F4 Ext</b>	36.78	68	1.11%	0.41
<b>F4 Sex</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F4 Drug</b>	27.46	44	0.72%	0.20
<b>F4 Other</b>	32.06	156	2.55%	0.82
<b>F5 Ext</b>	12.38	38	0.62%	0.08
<b>F5 Sex</b>	29.87	2	0.03%	0.01
<b>F5 Drug</b>	17.31	15	0.24%	0.04
<b>F5 Other</b>	19.65	103	1.68%	0.33
<b>F6 Ext</b>	12.46	4	0.07%	0.01
<b>F6 Sex</b>	9.87	1	0.02%	0.00
<b>F6 Drug</b>	11.92	59	0.96%	0.11
<b>F6 Other</b>	11.66	47	0.77%	0.09
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	360.00	1	0.02%	0.06
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	3	0.05%	0.23
<b>Total Female New Court Commitments</b>	35.97	663	10.82%	3.89

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the "EXT" category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 7: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Total New Commitments**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	32	0.52%	2.51
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	200.68	71	1.16%	2.33
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	77.07	3	0.05%	0.04
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	80.50	23	0.38%	0.30
<b>F3 Ext</b>	79.90	539	8.80%	7.03
<b>F3 Sex</b>	104.51	39	0.64%	0.67
<b>F3 Drug</b>	54.17	28	0.46%	0.25
<b>F3 Other</b>	59.33	161	2.63%	1.56
<b>F4 Ext</b>	45.43	632	10.31%	4.69
<b>F4 Sex</b>	57.44	23	0.38%	0.22
<b>F4 Drug</b>	30.55	290	4.73%	1.45
<b>F4 Other</b>	35.89	912	14.88%	5.34
<b>F5 Ext</b>	17.78	225	3.67%	0.65
<b>F5 Sex</b>	27.31	177	2.89%	0.79
<b>F5 Drug</b>	17.54	69	1.13%	0.20
<b>F5 Other</b>	20.67	896	14.62%	3.02
<b>F6 Ext</b>	14.64	76	1.24%	0.18
<b>F6 Sex</b>	12.92	78	1.27%	0.16
<b>F6 Drug</b>	12.02	246	4.01%	0.48
<b>F6 Other</b>	11.52	472	7.70%	0.89
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	237.12	26	0.42%	1.01
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	108	1.76%	8.46
<b>Total New Court Commitments</b>	50.45	5126	83.65%	42.20

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the 'EXT' category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 8: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Male Parole Returns with a New Crime**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	4	0.07%	0.31
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	239.66	9	0.15%	0.35
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	34.20	1	0.02%	0.01
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	95.69	3	0.05%	0.05
<b>F3 Ext</b>	61.06	134	2.19%	1.34
<b>F3 Sex</b>	151.67	1	0.02%	0.02
<b>F3 Drug</b>	43.23	5	0.08%	0.04
<b>F3 Other</b>	48.87	41	0.67%	0.33
<b>F4 Ext</b>	32.08	195	3.18%	1.02
<b>F4 Sex</b>	14.94	3	0.05%	0.01
<b>F4 Drug</b>	33.70	61	1.00%	0.34
<b>F4 Other</b>	38.57	183	2.99%	1.15
<b>F5 Ext</b>	11.37	98	1.60%	0.18
<b>F5 Sex</b>	23.02	17	0.28%	0.06
<b>F5 Drug</b>	20.00	5	0.08%	0.02
<b>F5 Other</b>	21.86	85	1.39%	0.30
<b>F6 Ext</b>	17.20	2	0.03%	0.01
<b>F6 Sex</b>	10.58	2	0.03%	0.00
<b>F6 Drug</b>	16.04	4	0.07%	0.01
<b>F6 Other</b>	13.16	12	0.20%	0.03
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	264.60	10	0.16%	0.43
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	7	0.11%	0.55
<b>Male Parole Returns with a New Crime</b>	45.48	882	14.39%	6.55

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the 'EXT' category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 9: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Female Parole Returns with a New Crime**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	56.63	2	0.03%	0.02
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	103.67	1	0.02%	0.02
<b>F3 Ext</b>	49.68	15	0.24%	0.12
<b>F3 Sex</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F3 Drug</b>	76.80	1	0.02%	0.01
<b>F3 Other</b>	70.20	6	0.10%	0.07
<b>F4 Ext</b>	25.86	30	0.49%	0.13
<b>F4 Sex</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F4 Drug</b>	23.83	9	0.15%	0.03
<b>F4 Other</b>	21.86	24	0.39%	0.09
<b>F5 Ext</b>	9.33	20	0.33%	0.03
<b>F5 Sex</b>	11.87	1	0.02%	0.00
<b>F5 Drug</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F5 Other</b>	17.56	8	0.13%	0.02
<b>F6 Ext</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F6 Sex</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F6 Drug</b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F6 Other</b>	11.97	2	0.03%	0.00
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	81.00	1	0.02%	0.01
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>Female Parole Returns with a New Crime</b>	28.49	120	1.96%	0.56

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the 'EXT' category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 10: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Total Parole Returns With a New Crime**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	4	0.07%	0.31
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	239.66	9	0.15%	0.35
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	49.16	3	0.05%	0.02
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	97.68	4	0.07%	0.06
<b>F3 Ext</b>	59.91	149	2.43%	1.46
<b>F3 Sex</b>	151.67	1	0.02%	0.02
<b>F3 Drug</b>	48.82	6	0.10%	0.05
<b>F3 Other</b>	51.59	47	0.77%	0.40
<b>F4 Ext</b>	31.25	225	3.67%	1.15
<b>F4 Sex</b>	14.94	3	0.05%	0.01
<b>F4 Drug</b>	32.43	70	1.14%	0.37
<b>F4 Other</b>	36.63	207	3.38%	1.24
<b>F5 Ext</b>	11.02	118	1.93%	0.21
<b>F5 Sex</b>	22.40	18	0.29%	0.07
<b>F5 Drug</b>	20.00	5	0.08%	0.02
<b>F5 Other</b>	21.49	93	1.52%	0.33
<b>F6 Ext</b>	17.20	2	0.03%	0.01
<b>F6 Sex</b>	10.58	2	0.03%	0.00
<b>F6 Drug</b>	16.04	4	0.07%	0.01
<b>F6 Other</b>	12.99	14	0.23%	0.03
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	247.91	11	0.18%	0.45
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	7	0.11%	0.55
<b>Total Parole Returns with a New Crime</b>	43.44	1002	16.35%	7.10

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the "EXT" category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 11: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Combined New Court Commitments and Parole Returns With a New Crime**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>F1</b>	480.00	36	0.59%	2.82
<b>F2 Ext<sup>3</sup></b>	205.07	80	1.31%	2.68
<b>F2 Sex<sup>4</sup></b>	-	-	0.00%	0.00
<b>F2 Drug<sup>5</sup></b>	63.11	6	0.10%	0.06
<b>F2 Other<sup>6</sup></b>	83.05	27	0.44%	0.37
<b>F3 Ext</b>	75.57	688	11.23%	8.48
<b>F3 Sex</b>	105.69	40	0.65%	0.69
<b>F3 Drug</b>	53.23	34	0.55%	0.30
<b>F3 Other</b>	57.59	208	3.39%	1.95
<b>F4 Ext</b>	41.71	857	13.98%	5.83
<b>F4 Sex</b>	52.54	26	0.42%	0.22
<b>F4 Drug</b>	30.91	360	5.87%	1.82
<b>F4 Other</b>	36.02	1119	18.26%	6.58
<b>F5 Ext</b>	15.45	343	5.60%	0.87
<b>F5 Sex</b>	26.86	195	3.18%	0.85
<b>F5 Drug</b>	17.71	74	1.21%	0.21
<b>F5 Other</b>	20.75	989	16.14%	3.35
<b>F6 Ext</b>	14.70	78	1.27%	0.19
<b>F6 Sex</b>	12.86	80	1.31%	0.17
<b>F6 Drug</b>	12.09	250	4.08%	0.49
<b>F6 Other</b>	11.56	486	7.93%	0.92
<b>Habitual Offender<sup>7</sup></b>	240.32	37	0.60%	1.45
<b>Sex Offender Act<sup>8</sup></b>	480.00	115	1.88%	9.01
<b>New Court Commitments and Parole Returns With a New Crime Combined</b>	49.31	6128	100.00%	49.31

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> The "EXT" category refers to violent offenses defined by statute as "extraordinary risk of harm offenses."

<sup>4</sup> Convicted sexual offenders typically serve more time, though some sexual crimes are considered extraordinary risk crimes. Therefore, this group is identified separately.

<sup>5</sup> Drug crimes identified under statutes 18-18-405 and 18-18-412.7, with the exception of simple possession, are considered extraordinary risk crimes. These crimes are included in the 'EXT' category and are excluded from the drug category.

<sup>6</sup> "Other" includes all crimes except sex, drug, and extraordinary crimes. Examples include theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and fraud.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all admissions with habitual criminal sentence enhancers.

<sup>8</sup> Includes indeterminate sentences and lifetime supervision.

**Table 12: Estimated Average Length of Stay for FY 2011 Prison Admissions, Category Totals\***

	<b>Average Length of Stay (Months)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Commitments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Percent of all Commitments</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay Effect (Months)</b>
<b>Total Females</b>	34.82	783	12.78%	4.45
<b>Total Males</b>	51.43	5345	87.22%	44.86
<b>Total New Commits</b>	50.45	5126	83.65%	42.20
<b>Total Parole Returns With A New Crime</b>	43.44	1002	16.35%	7.10
<b>Grand Total</b>	49.31	6128	100.00%	49.31

\*Parole returns on a technical violation are excluded.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of calculating these estimates, length of stay is capped at 40 years.

<sup>2</sup> The number of new sentences indicated may differ from those reported elsewhere, as cases missing critical data elements such as offense, felony class, or sentence length are excluded.



## ADULT PAROLE CASELOAD FORECAST

The two components in forecasting future parole caseloads are the number of releases to parole, and the length of stay on parole. These may vary according to a number of factors, such as offender typology, community resources and parole success or failure rates.

Table 13 displays the DCJ projections for the total domestic and interstate parole caseload, the out of state parole caseload, and the absconder population at the end of fiscal years 2011 through 2018.

**Table 13: DCJ December 2011 Adult Domestic Parole, Out of State Parole and Absconder Population Projections FY 2011 through FY 2018**

Fiscal Year End	Domestic Parole Caseload	Annual Growth	Out of State Parole Caseload	Annual Growth	Absconder Population	Annual Growth
<b>2011*</b>	8181	-4.1%	1922	-8.5%	593	-14.4%
<b>2012</b>	8288	1.3%	1989	3.5%	646	9.0%
<b>2013</b>	8076	-2.6%	1938	-2.6%	630	-2.6%
<b>2014</b>	7695	-4.7%	1847	-4.7%	600	-4.7%
<b>2015</b>	7446	-3.2%	1787	-3.2%	581	-3.2%
<b>2016</b>	7207	-3.2%	1730	-3.2%	562	-3.2%
<b>2017</b>	7016	-2.7%	1684	-2.7%	547	-2.7%
<b>2018</b>	6941	-1.1%	1666	-1.1%	541	-1.1%

\*Actual parole caseload. Source: DOC monthly Population and Capacity Reports.

Figure 5 displays the historical and projected parole caseloads for fiscal years 2005 through 2018. The size of the parole caseload grew 107.8 percent over the seven years between FY 2003 and FY 2009. However, across FY 2010 and FY 2011 combined, the caseload declined by 9.3 percent.

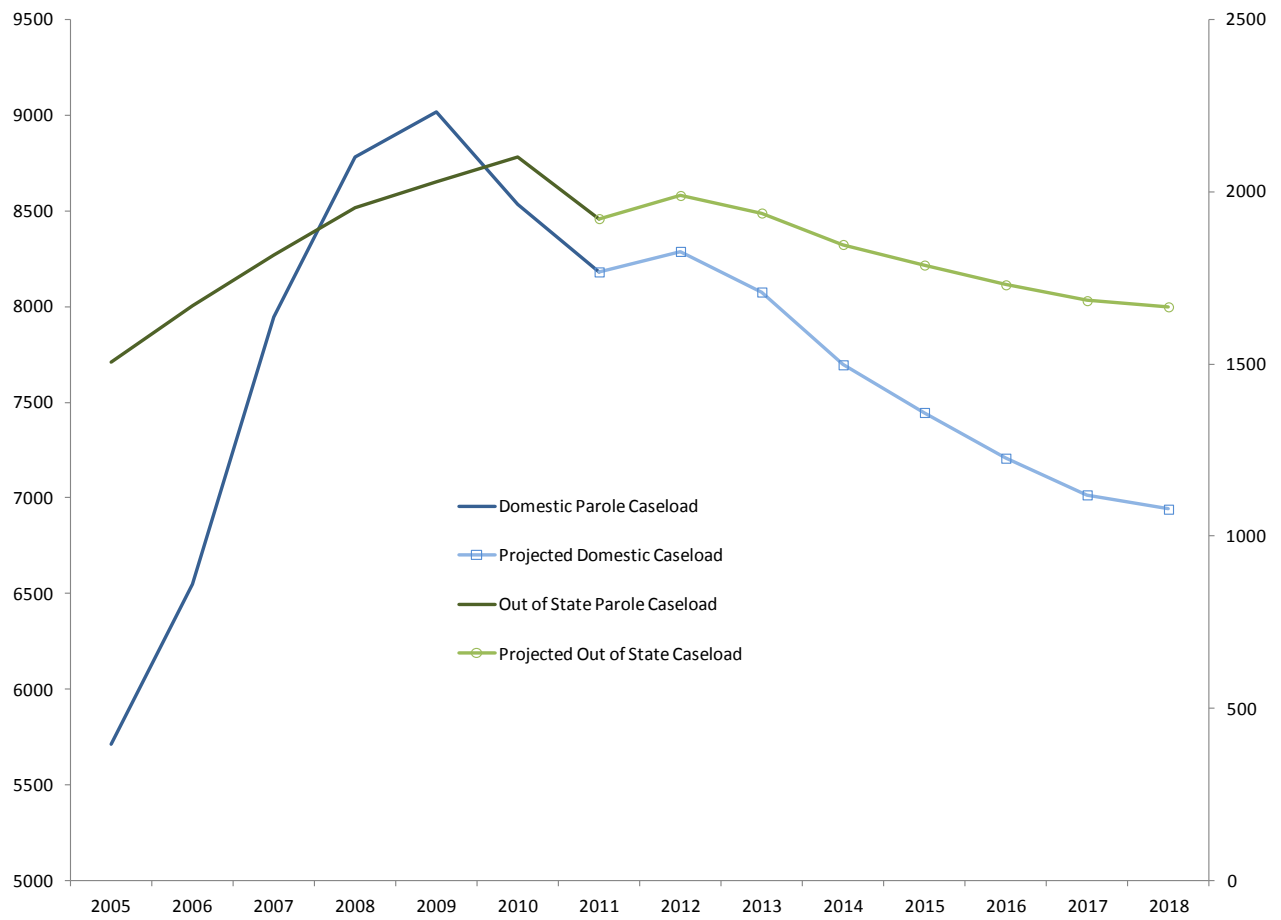
This declining trend is expected to continue, yet will be somewhat offset by the accelerating impact of House Bills 09-1351 and H.B. 10-1374. These two bills are expected to increase the movement of inmates out of prison onto parole, along with the implementation of Colorado Violations Decision Making Process (CVDMP). The CVDMP was initiated in an effort to improve consistency among parole officers in responding to violations and as a method of supporting an officer's ability to use intermediate sanctions in lieu of seeking regression or revocation.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, the domestic parole caseload is projected to increase very slightly, by 1.3 percent, by the end of FY 2012.

<sup>22</sup> For further information concerning the Colorado Violation Decision Making Process, see: Hochevar, K.E. et al. (2011). *Colorado Violation Decision Making Process (CBDMP) Pilot Study*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado Department of Corrections.

During the ensuing years, the projected decline in the prison population will lead to a corresponding reduction in the number of releases from prison, including releases to parole. Beginning in FY 2013, the parole caseload is expected to decrease by an average of 2.9 percent per year to 6,941 by the end of FY 2018.

The out of state parole caseload is also expected to increase, by 3.5 percent by the end of FY 2012, but steadily fall through FY 2018. Overall, the out of state parole caseload is expected to decline by 13.3 percent by the end of FY 2018.

The size of the absconder population has consistently declined since the end of FY 2007, and is expected to continue to do so. While a 9.0 percent increase is projected for FY 2012, this most likely represents a rebound from the 14.4 percent fall observed in FY 2011. The FY 2012 projection of 646 still represents a 6.7 percent decrease over the FY 2010 population figure. Between FY 2013 and FY 2018, this population is expected to decrease by an average of 2.9 percent per year.

**Figure 5: Historical and Projected End of Fiscal Year Parole Caseloads FY 2005 Through FY 2018**

Data Source: Historical data obtained from the Colorado Department of Corrections Monthly Population and Capacity Reports.

# Division of Youth Corrections Juvenile Commitment and Parole Projections

*The Division of Youth Corrections average daily population (ADP) is projected to decrease through FY 2016, though not as markedly as indicated by the DCJ 2010 projections. The ADP is expected to decrease 3.0 percent by the end of FY 2012, and 14.6 percent by the end of FY 2016. Corresponding to the decline in the commitment ADP, the parole average daily caseload is also expected to fall throughout the projection period.*

## Organization of this Section

The DCJ December 2011 Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) juvenile commitment population and parole caseload projections are addressed in this section. In the past, these projections covered a seven-year period. In the case of the current year's projections, estimates of populations for only a five year period are presented as forecast results beyond that point were not reliable or useful.

Projections of the juvenile commitment average daily population (ADP) and new commitments are discussed first, followed by projections of the juvenile parole average daily caseload (ADC). Finally, projections of the ADP, ADC, and new commitments are provided for each of the four DYC management regions.

## DYC AVERAGE DAILY COMMITMENT POPULATION FORECAST

Factors contributing to the DCJ 2011 juvenile commitment forecast include:

- ❑ The DYC ADP has consistently declined over the past six fiscal years, coinciding with the implementation of the Continuum of Care Initiative and the Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment (CJRA).<sup>23</sup> The year-to-date ADP dropped by an average of 4.6 percent per year between FY 2007 and FY 2010. This decline accelerated to 11.3 percent by the end of FY 2011.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Further information regarding the evaluation findings for the Continuum of Care Initiative and the Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment can be found in the following document: TriWest Group. (2010). *Continuum of Care Youth Transitions and Non-Residential Services Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2009-2010*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections.

<sup>24</sup> Colorado Department of Human Services. (2007-2011). *Management Reference Manuals*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections.; Colorado Department of Human Services. (2011). *Monthly Population*

- ❑ During the first 5 months of FY 2012 the year-to-date ADP has decreased by 3.1 percent, compared to 9.4 percent during the first five months of FY 2011. This recent trend may be indicative of a slowing in the rate of the commitment population decline.<sup>25</sup>
- ❑ The number of juvenile delinquency filings has fallen consistently over the past eight years. In FY 2010 alone, delinquency filings decreased by 14.8 percent. However, delinquency filings decreased by only 3.0% in FY 2011. This also moderates the projected decline in the commitment population.<sup>26</sup>
- ❑ Juvenile probation revocations declined by 4.4 percent in FY 2010 and by 14.3 percent in FY 2011. While very slight increases in the numbers of such revocations were observed in FY 2008 and FY 2009, there has been an overall decrease of 29.0 percent over the past six years.<sup>27</sup> Since many NYC admissions are the result of a probation revocation, this exerts a downward influence on the forecast.
- ❑ New commitments to NYC began to fall in FY 2006. The most significant drop was observed in FY 2011, at 13.2 percent. However, the number of new commitments during the first five months of FY 2012 exceeds new commitments during the same time frame during the previous year by 3.7 percent. This statistic also moderates the projected decline in the commitment population.<sup>28</sup>
- ❑ H.B. 10-1413, which increased the minimum age for direct filing from 14 to 16, will lead to a small increase in juveniles diverted from the Youthful Offender System to NYC.
- ❑ H.B. 10-1352, which greatly modified penalties for crimes involving controlled substances and reduced several former felony crimes to misdemeanors, will lead to a reduction in juvenile offenders eligible for commitment to NYC.

Based on these factors, the NYC ADP is projected to continue to decrease through FY 2016, though not at the same rate as observed in recent years. The ADP is expected to decrease 3.0 percent by the end of FY 2012, and by 14.6 percent by the end of FY 2016. Table 14 summarizes the year-end ADP and new commitment forecasts, while Table 15 presents the projected quarterly YTD ADP. The historical YTD ADP from FY 2000 through FY 2010, and the projected ADP through 2016 are graphically depicted in Figure 6.

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*Reports.* Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>.

<sup>25</sup> *Monthly Population Reports.* Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>.

<sup>26</sup> Colorado State Judicial Branch. (2007-2011). *Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Reports.* Denver, CO: Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Colorado Department of Human Services. (2006-2010). *Management Reference Manuals.* Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections.; Colorado Department of Human Services. (2010). *Monthly Population Reports.* Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>.

Figure 7 displays historical new commitments since FY 2000, and projected new commitments through FY 2016.

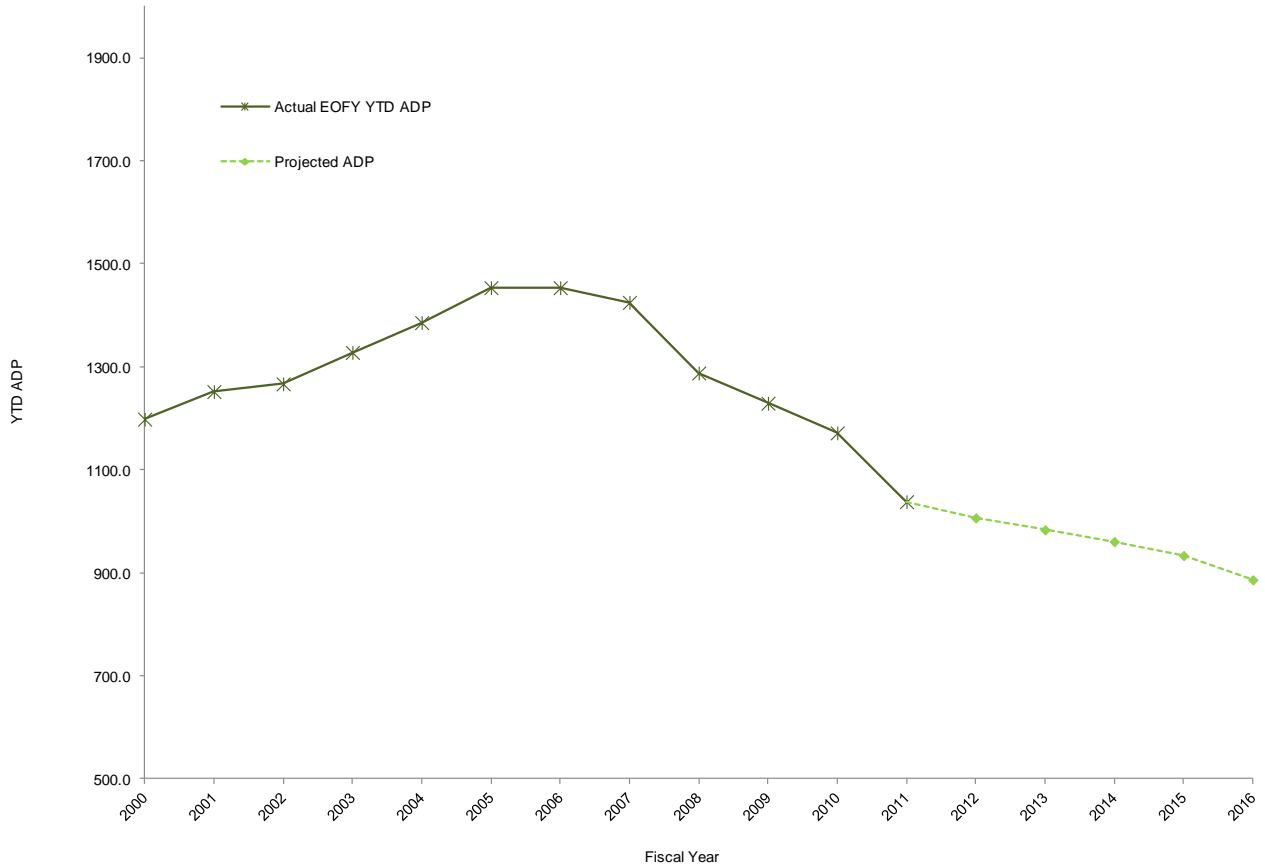
**Table 14: DCJ December 2011 Juvenile Commitment Fiscal Year-End Average  
Daily Population and New Admissions Forecast, FY 2011 through FY 2016**

<b>Fiscal Year End</b>	<b>YTD ADP<sup>1</sup> Forecast</b>	<b>Annual Growth</b>	<b>Annual NYC Admissions</b>	<b>Annual Growth</b>
<b>2011*</b>	1038.1	-11.2%	645	-13.2%
<b>2012</b>	1006.5	-3.0%	630	-2.3%
<b>2013</b>	983.3	-2.3%	618	-1.8%
<b>2014</b>	960.6	-2.3%	612	-1.1%
<b>2015</b>	933.4	-2.8%	606	-0.8%
<b>2016</b>	886.4	-5.0%	606	0.0%

\*Actual data: source CDHS NYC Monthly Population Report, June 2011.

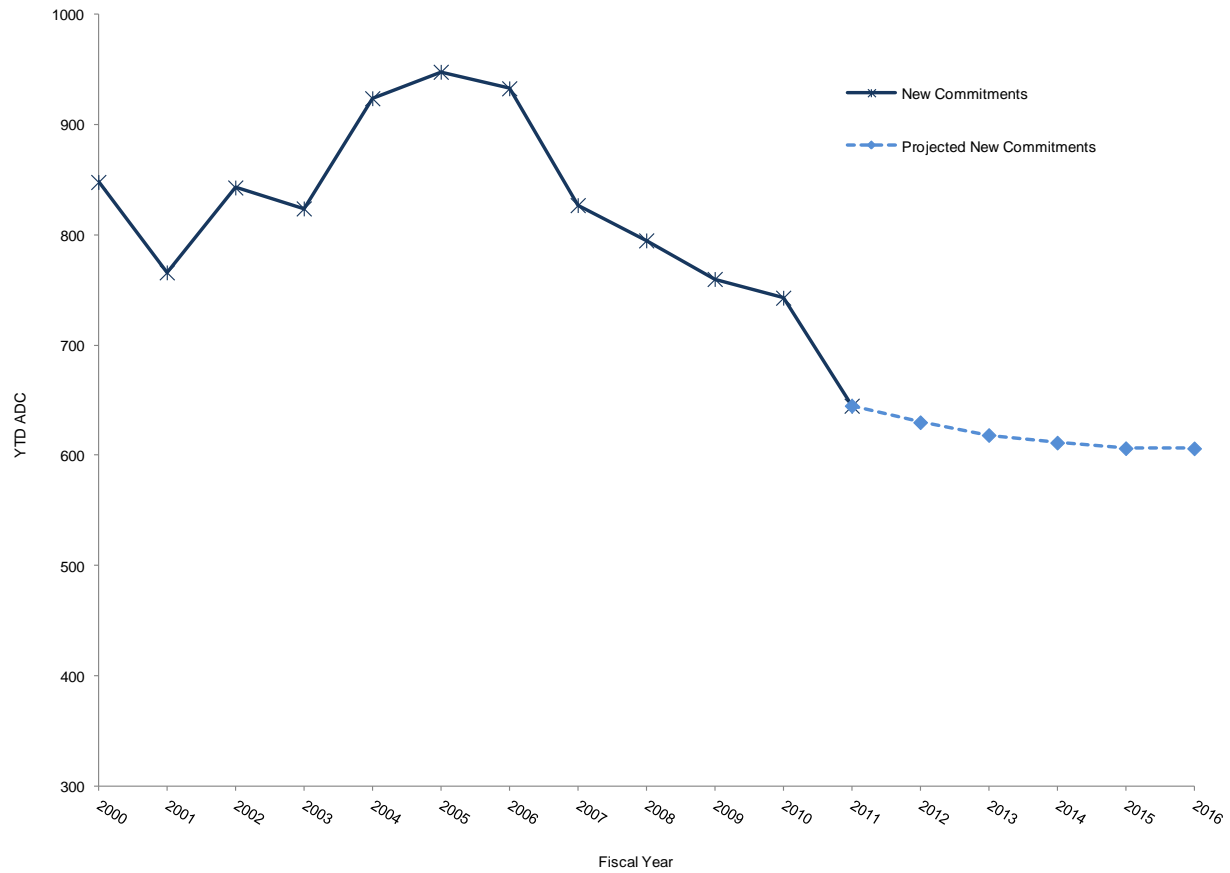
<sup>1</sup> Year to Date Average Daily Population

**Figure 6: Fiscal Year-End Year to Date Juvenile Commitment Average Daily Population FY 2000 through FY 2011 and DCJ Forecast through FY 2016**



Note: FY 2000-2011 figures reflect actual year-end average daily populations.

Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>

**Figure 7: Annual New Juvenile Commitments FY 2000 through FY 2011 and DCJ Forecast through FY 2016**

Note: FY 2000-2011 figures reflect actual year-end average daily populations.

Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>



**Table 15: Quarterly Juvenile Commitment Average Daily Population Forecast,  
FY 2011 through FY 2016**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Quarter Ending</b>	<b>YTD ADP<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Quarterly Growth</b>
2011	<i>June*</i>	1038.1	-0.4%
	<i>September*</i>	1001.3	-3.5%
	December	1006.4	0.5%
	March	1004.5	-0.2%
2012	June	1006.5	0.2%
	September	976.9	-2.9%
	December	983.2	0.6%
	March	981.4	-0.2%
2013	June	983.3	0.2%
	September	954.3	-3.0%
	December	960.5	0.6%
	March	958.7	-0.2%
2014	June	960.6	0.2%
	September	932.3	-3.0%
	December	937.1	0.5%
	March	934.0	-0.3%
2015	June	933.4	-0.1%
	September	901.2	-3.4%
	December	896.7	-0.5%
	March	889.2	-0.8%
2016	June	886.4	-0.3%

\*Actual average daily population.

<sup>1</sup>Year to Date Average Daily Population

## AVERAGE DAILY JUVENILE PAROLE CASELOAD FORECAST

The juvenile parole population experienced widely varied growth over the past fifteen years due to multiple factors, including the following:

- ❑ In 1997, mandatory one-year parole terms were implemented. Subsequently, the ADC grew sharply through July 2001.
- ❑ In 2001 the mandatory parole term was lowered to nine months,<sup>29</sup> after which the ADC fell rapidly. However, beginning in FY 2003, steep growth resumed.
- ❑ In 2003 the mandatory parole term was further lowered to six months,<sup>30</sup> resulting in a significant decline in the ADC for a period of time. The ADC dropped significantly until April of 2004, at which point it began to grow again at a significant rate before leveling off in mid-FY 2005.
- ❑ The parole population remained relatively stable through mid-FY 2008, with short-term increases corresponding with decreases in the commitment population.
- ❑ Beginning in January 2008, the parole population began a period of significant decline corresponding with the overall decline in the commitment population. A short-lived increase was observed in FY 2010, followed by a 6.2 percent decrease in FY 2011.<sup>31</sup>

The parole YTD ADC is expected to continue to fall throughout the projection period, corresponding to the expected reduction in the commitment ADP. While short-term fluctuations in the ADC are inversely correlated with fluctuations in ADP, the long-term trend is positively correlated. The parole ADC is expected to decrease by 4.0 percent over the course of FY 2012 and by 14.6 percent between FY 2011 and FY 2016. Table 16 summarizes these estimates, while Figure 8 depicts the historical fluctuations in parole ADC between FY 2000 and FY 2011, along with the projected ADC through FY 2016.

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<sup>29</sup> Senate Bill 2001-77, effective July 1, 2001.

<sup>30</sup> Senate Bill 2003-284, effective May 1, 2003.

<sup>31</sup> Colorado Department of Human Services. (2006-2011). *Management Reference Manuals*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections.; Colorado Department of Human Services. (2011). *Monthly Population Reports*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>.

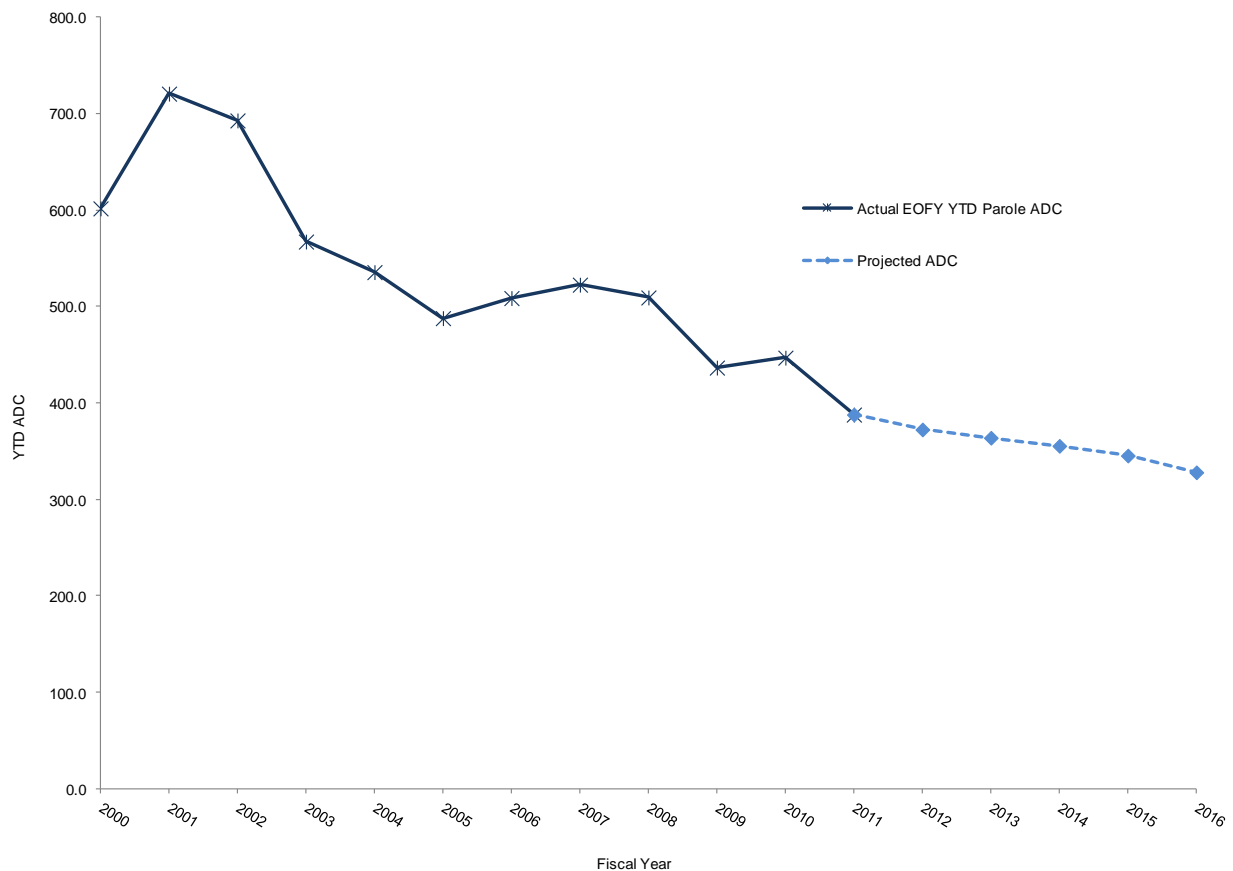
**Table 16: Juvenile Parole Year-End Average Daily Caseload  
Forecast, FY 2011 through FY 2016**

Fiscal Year End	YTD ADC <sup>1</sup> Forecast	Annual Growth
<b>2011*</b>	387.9	-6.2%
<b>2012</b>	372.4	-4.0%
<b>2013</b>	363.8	-2.3%
<b>2014</b>	355.4	-2.3%
<b>2015</b>	345.4	-2.8%
<b>2016</b>	328.0	-5.0%

\*Actual average daily caseload.

<sup>1</sup>Year-to-Date Average Daily Caseload

**Figure 8: Historical and Projected Juvenile Parole Year-End Average Daily Caseload  
FY 2000 through FY 2016**



Note: FY 2000-FY 2011 figures represent actual average daily caseload.

Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>

## REGIONAL FORECASTS

The YTD commitment ADP forecasts by DYC management region are presented in Table 17, below. Projected new commitments by region are given in Table 18, followed by regional parole YTD ADC projections in Table 19.

**Table 17: Juvenile Commitment Year-End Average Daily Population Forecast by Region  
FY 2011 through FY 2016**

Fiscal Year	REGION							
	Central		Northeast		Southern		Western	
	ADP	Growth	ADP	Growth	ADP	Growth	ADP	Growth
<b>2011*</b>	450.6	-14.7%	273.6	-9.8%	211.6	-6.2%	102.3	-9.6%
<b>2012</b>	443.4	-1.6%	263.4	-3.7%	197.9	-6.4%	101.8	-0.5%
<b>2013</b>	428.3	-3.4%	261.7	-0.6%	188.5	-4.8%	104.8	3.0%
<b>2014</b>	418.4	-2.3%	255.7	-2.3%	184.1	-2.3%	102.4	-2.3%
<b>2015</b>	406.5	-2.8%	248.4	-2.8%	178.9	-2.8%	99.5	-2.8%
<b>2016</b>	386.1	-5.0%	235.9	-5.0%	169.9	-5.0%	94.5	-5.0%

\*Actual year-end average daily population. Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>

**Table 18: Projected New DYC Commitments Statewide and by Region FY 2011 Through FY 2016**

Fiscal Year	REGION							
	Central		Northeast		Southern		Western	
	New Commits	Growth	New Commits	Growth	New Commits	Growth	New Commits	Growth
<b>2011*</b>	276	-19.7%	176	-11.6%	124	-0.1%	69	-8.6%
<b>2012</b>	267	-3.5%	175	-0.7%	118	-4.9%	71	2.7%
<b>2013</b>	259	-3.1%	174	-0.3%	112	-4.6%	73	2.7%
<b>2014</b>	253	-2.2%	175	0.6%	108	-3.7%	76	3.7%
<b>2015</b>	248	-2.1%	176	0.6%	104	-3.8%	79	3.4%
<b>2016</b>	244	-1.2%	179	1.5%	101	-2.9%	82	4.2%

\*Actual new commitments. Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>

**Table 19: Juvenile Parole Year-End Average Daily Caseload Forecast by Region**  
**FY 2011 through FY 2016**

Fiscal Year	REGION							
	Central		Northeast		Southern		Western	
	ADC	Growth	ADC	Growth	ADC	Growth	ADC	Growth
<b>2011*</b>	163.2	-14.5%	108.4	-12.6%	78.8	-8.3%	37.5	-18.4%
<b>2012</b>	156.7	-4.0%	104.3	-3.8%	75.6	-4.0%	36.2	-3.5%
<b>2013</b>	153.1	-2.3%	101.7	-2.5%	73.9	-2.3%	35.1	-2.8%
<b>2014</b>	147.8	-3.5%	101.0	-0.7%	70.4	-4.7%	36.3	3.3%
<b>2015</b>	143.6	-2.8%	98.1	-2.8%	68.4	-2.8%	35.3	-2.8%
<b>2016</b>	136.4	-5.0%	93.2	-5.0%	65.0	-5.0%	33.5	-5.0%

\*Actual average daily caseload. Data Source: CDHS DYC Monthly Population Report, June 2009. Data Source: CDHS DYC Management Reference Manuals. Available at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>



## **Appendix A**

### **Legislation Affecting Prison Population Growth**

## LEGISLATION AFFECTING PRISON POPULATION GROWTH

Prisoners in Colorado are subject to many different sentencing laws, the most significant of which dates back to 1979 with H.B. 1589. Many of the ensuing changes in legislation have affected the size of the prison population, particularly House Bill 1320, passed in 1985. Changes to parole laws in the 1990s significantly affected the size of the parole population and the associated number of individuals subject to revocation decisions. Several pieces of legislation were passed in 2010 which are expected to have a significant impact on the size of both the prison and the parole populations. These sentencing laws are outlined below.<sup>32</sup>

- ❑ In 1979, H.B. 1589 changed sentences from indeterminate to determinate terms and made parole mandatory at one-half (the mid-point) the sentence served.
- ❑ In 1981, H.B. 1156 required that the courts sentence offenders above the maximum of the presumptive range for “crimes of violence” as well as for crimes committed with aggravating circumstances.
- ❑ In 1985, H.B. 1320 doubled the maximum penalties of the presumptive ranges for all felony classes and mandated that parole be granted at the discretion of the Parole Board. As a result of this legislation, the average length of stay projected for new commitments nearly tripled from 20 months in 1980 to 57 months in 1989. In addition, parole became discretionary which contributed to increased lengths of stay. After the enactment of H.B. 1320, the inmate population more than doubled over the next five years.
- ❑ In 1988, Senate Bill 148 changed the previous requirement of the courts to sentence above the maximum of the presumptive range to sentencing at a minimum the mid-point of the presumptive range for “crimes of violence” and crimes associated with aggravating circumstances.
- ❑ In 1989, several class five felonies were lowered to a newly created felony class six with a presumptive penalty range of one to two years through the passage of S.B. 246.
- ❑ In 1990, H.B. 1327 doubled the maximum amount of earned time that an offender is allowed to earn while in prison from five to ten days per month. In addition, parolees were allowed to accumulate earned time while on parole. This legislation reduced time spent on parole as well as reduced the length of stay for offenders who discharged their sentence.

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<sup>32</sup> Portions of this section were excerpted from: Rosten, K. (2003) *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2002*. (pp. 4 – 22). Colorado Springs, CO: Department of Corrections.



- ❑ In 1990, S.B. 117 modified life sentences for first-degree felony convictions to “life without parole.” The previous parole eligibility occurred after 40 calendar years were served. This affected sentences for crimes committed after September 20, 1991.
- ❑ In 1993, H.B. 1302 reduced the presumptive ranges for certain non-violent class 3 through class 6 felonies and added a split sentence mandating a period of parole for all crimes following a prison sentence. This legislation also eliminated earned time awards while on parole.
- ❑ Sentencing for habitual offenders was also changed in 1993 with H.B. 1302. This bill revised the sentence for repeat offenders convicted of class 1 through class 5 felonies. Offenders who have twice been convicted of a previous felony are subject to a term of three times the maximum of the presumptive range of the current felony conviction. Those who have received three prior felony convictions are sentenced to four times the maximum of the presumptive range of the current felony conviction. Additionally, any offender previously sentenced as a habitual offender with three prior convictions, and thereafter convicted of a crime of violence, is subject to a life sentence with parole eligibility after 40 calendar years.<sup>33</sup>
- ❑ In 1993, S.B. 9 created the provision for certain juvenile offenders to be prosecuted and sentenced as adults, and established the Youthful Offender System (YOS) within the Department of Corrections (DOC). Initially, 96 beds were authorized, with the construction of a YOS facility with a capacity of 480 beds approved.
- ❑ In 1994, S.B. 196 created a new provision for habitual offenders with a current conviction of any class one or two felony, or any class three felony that is defined as a crime of violence, and who have been previously convicted of these same offenses twice. This “three strikes” legislation requires that these offenders be sentenced to a term of life imprisonment with parole eligibility in forty calendar years.
- ❑ In 1995, H.B. 1087 reinstated earned time provisions for certain non-violent offenders while on parole. This legislation was enacted in part as a response to the projected parole population growth resulting from the mandatory parole periods established by H.B. 93-1302.
- ❑ In 1996, H.B. 1005 broadened the criminal charges eligible for direct filings of juveniles in adult court and possible sentencing to the YOS. This legislation also lowered the age limit of juveniles eligible for direct filing and sentencing to YOS from 14 to 12 years of age.

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<sup>33</sup> Affects convictions for crimes of violence defined by CRS 18-1.3-406.

- ❑ House Bill 98-1160 applied to offenses occurring on or after July 1, 1998, mandating that every offender must complete a period of parole supervision after incarceration. A summary of the major provisions that apply to mandatory parole follows:
  - Offenders committing class 2, 3, 4 or 5 felonies or second or subsequent class 6 felonies, and who are revoked during the period of their mandatory parole, may serve a period up to the end of the mandatory parole period while incarcerated. In such a case, one year of parole supervision must follow.
  - If revoked during the last six months of mandatory parole, intermediate sanctions including community corrections, home detention, community service or restitution programs are permitted, as is a re-incarceration period of up to twelve months.
  - If revoked during the one year of parole supervision, the offender may be re-incarcerated for a period not to exceed one year.
- ❑ House Bill 98-1156 concerned the lifetime supervision of certain sex offenders, and is referred to as the 'Colorado Sex Offender Lifetime Supervision Act of 1998'. A number of provisions in the bill addressing sentencing, parole terms, and parole conditions are summarized below:
  - For certain crimes,<sup>34</sup> a sex offender shall receive an indeterminate term of at least the minimum of the presumptive range specified in 18-1-105, C.R.S. for the level of offense committed and a maximum of the sex offender's natural life.
  - For crimes of violence,<sup>35</sup> a sex offender shall receive an indeterminate term of at least the midpoint in the presumptive range for the level of offense committed and a maximum of the sex offender's natural life.

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<sup>34</sup> Such crimes are defined in CRS 18-1.3-10, and include the following: Sexual assault, as described in section 18-3-402; sexual assault in the first degree, as described in section 18-3-402 as it existed prior to July 1, 2000; Sexual assault in the second degree, as described in section 18-3-403 as it existed prior to July 1, 2000; Felony unlawful sexual contact as described in section 18-3-404; Felony sexual assault in the third degree, as described in section 18-3-404 (2) as it existed prior to July 1, 2000; Sexual assault on a child, as described in section 18-3-405; Sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust, as described in section 18-3-405.3; Aggravated sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist, as described in section 18-3-405.5(1); Enticement of a child, as described in section 18-3-305; Incest, as described in section 18-6-301; Aggravated incest, as described in 18-6-302; Patronizing a prostituted child, as described in section 18-7-406; Class 4 felony internet luring of a child, in violation of section 18-3-306(3); Internet sexual exploitation of a child in violation of section 18-3-405/4/; Attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of these offenses if such attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation would constitute a class 2, 3, or 4 felony.

<sup>35</sup> Defined by CRS 18-1.3-406.

- o For sex offenders eligible for sentencing as a habitual sex offender against children (pursuant to 18-3-412, C.R.S.), the sex offender shall receive an indeterminate term of at least the upper limit of the presumptive range for the level of offense committed and a maximum of the sex offender's natural life.
  - o The period of parole for any sex offender convicted of a class 4 felony shall be an indeterminate term of at least 10 years and a maximum of the remainder of the sex offender's natural life.
  - o The period of parole for any sex offender convicted of a class 2 or 3 felony shall be an indeterminate term of at least 20 years and a maximum of the sex offender's natural life.
- In 2003, S.B. 252 allowed the Parole Board to revoke an individual who was on parole for a nonviolent class 5 or class 6 felony, except in cases of menacing and unlawful sexual behavior, to a community corrections program or to a pre-parole release and revocation center for up to 180 days. This bill also allowed DOC to contract with community corrections programs for the placement of such parolees. Additionally, the bill limited the time a parolee can be revoked to the DOC to 180 days for a technical revocation, provided that the parolee was serving parole for a nonviolent offense. Finally, this bill repealed the requirement of an additional year of parole if a parolee is revoked to prison for the remainder of the parole period (originally effected by H.B. 98-1160).
  - H.B. 04-1189 lengthened the amount of time that must be served prior to parole eligibility for violent offenders.<sup>36</sup> First time offenders convicted of a violent offense must serve 75 percent of their sentence less any earn time awarded. If convicted of a second or subsequent violent offense, the full 75 percent of their sentence must be served.
  - Also in 2004, S.B. 04-123 recognized the YOS as a permanent program by eliminating the repeal date.
  - In 2008, H.B. 1352 modified the revocation placement options available to the Parole Board for offenders whose parole has been revoked based on a technical violation, who have no active felony warrants, and who were on parole for a class 5 or class 6 nonviolent felony offense other than menacing or unlawful sexual behavior by precluding such offenders from being placed in community return-to-custody facilities.

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<sup>36</sup> As defined by CRS 18-1.3-406.

- ❑ Also in 2008, H.B. 1382 modified the law regarding offenders for whom the Department of Corrections can mandate sex offender treatment, and also expanded the population of offenders who are eligible for earned time by allowing earned time eligibility while on parole or after reparole following a parole revocation.
- ❑ House Bill 09-1351 increased the maximum monthly earned time from 10 days to 12 days per month for certain inmates convicted of class 4, 5, or 6 felonies and changed the maximum earned time reduction from 25 percent to 30 percent of an offender's total sentence. In addition, the bill created 'earned release time' for inmates meeting certain qualifications. Inmates convicted of class 4 or class 5 felonies who meet these qualifications may earn their release 60 days prior to their mandatory release date, while eligible class 6 felons may earn release 30 days prior to their mandatory release date.
- ❑ In 2010, H.B. 1374 clarified eligibility criteria for the enhanced earned time that was created the prior year in H.B. 09-1351 and made substantial changes to the statutory parole guidelines in C.R.S. 17-22.5-404. A statement of legislative intent was added, with the requirement that the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) develop a risk assessment scale for use by the Parole Board that includes criteria shown to be predictors of recidivism risk. The DCJ, DOC, and the Parole Board were also required to develop the Parole Board Action Form, to document the rationale for decisions made by the Board. The Parole Board is required to use the risk assessment scale and the administrative guidelines for both release and revocation decision making.
- ❑ Also in 2010, H.B. 1360 allows the Parole Board to modify the conditions of parole and require the parolee to participate in a treatment program in lieu of a parole revocation. A parolee who commits a technical parole violation, and was not on parole for a crime of violence, may have his or her parole revoked for a period of no more than 90 days if assessed as below high risk to reoffend, or up to 180 days if assessed as high risk. Additionally, placement in a community return to custody facility for a technical parole violation was expanded to include people convicted of a non-violent class 4 felony. The bill also specified that the Division of Adult Parole provide the judiciary committees of the House and Senate with a status report regarding parole outcomes and the use of money allocated pursuant to the bill. A portion of the savings are required to be allocated for re-entry support services for parolees including obtaining employment, housing, transportation, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and other services.
- ❑ H.B. 11-1064 created a presumption favoring the granting of parole to certain qualifying inmates serving sentences for drug possession or drug use offenses.
- ❑ S.B. 11-241 expands the definition of special needs offenders, and permits the inclusion of offenders convicted of certain felony 1 and felony 2 crimes qualifying for a special needs parole consideration. Additionally, the bill creates a presumption in favor of granting parole for certain

inmates with a detainer from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE).

In addition to legislation specifically impacting sentencing laws and parole requirements, new laws affecting prison admissions and sentence lengths are introduced every year. Many of these may result in an increase or a decrease in the number of individuals sentenced to DOC, or the length of their prison sentences. Collectively they may have a significant impact on the size of future prison populations. These changes in legislation are taken into account in the development of prison population forecasts.