



# NEW MEXICO PRISON POPULATION FORECAST: FY 2021—FY 2030

Prepared by NMSC Staff

\*Updated July 2020 with Q4 data

*While we tried to simulate the downward trend in prison population that started in FY 2018 in our forecast, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact prison population. From the time of New Mexico's first positive case in March 2020 to June 21, 2020, the men's total population has decreased 6.1% and the female total population has decreased 7.8%. Given these dramatic population changes, we will review our forecast on a quarterly basis.*

### New Mexico Trends

**Females:** The New Mexico female inmate population has entered an unusual period of decline beginning in Nov 2018, although patterns of increase/decrease have been ongoing since 2015. Prior to that, stable growth in the female population began at the start of 2010. As of June 28, 2020, females comprised approximately 9.7% of the total inmate population in the state.

To date in FY 2020, the high count for the female inmate population is 742 inmates

FY 2019 high count: 794 female inmates;  
FY 2018 high count: 797 female inmates;  
FY 2017 high count: 764 female inmates;  
FY 2016 high count: 791 female inmates;  
FY 2015 high count: 782 female inmates.

**Males:** High counts for male prison populations have been sharply decreasing since August 2018.

To date in FY 2020, the high count for the New Mexico male inmate population is 6,331 inmates.

FY 2019 high count: 6,634 male inmates;  
FY 2018 high count: 6,616 male inmates;  
FY 2017 high count: 6,639 male inmates;  
FY 2016 high count: 6,727 male inmates;  
FY 2015 high count: 6,558 male inmates.

### Short-Term Forecast

Males:

- In FY 2021, the projected high count for

the male inmate population is 5,976.

- In FY 2022, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,937.

Females:

- In FY 2021, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 656.
- In FY 2022, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 623.

### National Trends

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled 1,465,200 at yearend 2018. This was a decrease of approximately 24,000 prisoners over yearend 2017.
- The federal prison population decreased in size for the sixth year in a row. There were 3,160 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal prisons in 2018 than 2017. At yearend 2017, the number of inmates held in federal prisons was 179,900.
- The aggregate state prison population decreased again in 2018. There were 20,870 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of state prisons in 2018 than 2017. At yearend 2018, the number of inmates held in state prisons was 1,285,260.
- For sentenced prisoners, the imprisonment rate at yearend 2018 was the lowest since 1996, with 431 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages and 555 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- In 2018, the imprisonment rate of Black residents (1,134 sentenced Black prisoners per 100,000 Black residents) was the lowest since 1989 (1,050 per 100,000).
- On December 31, 2018, female inmates comprised 7.6% of the population in all state or federal prisons.

### INTRODUCTION

This prison population forecast was prepared by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico for the New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC). The forecast is designed to assist the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) in assessing immediate and future inmate populations. This report also includes information that may be of interest to policy makers who are involved with the correctional system.

This report applies historical observations of prison population data to generate the figures included in the forecasts. NMSC maintains a dataset of daily totals for male and female prisoners in New Mexico. Monthly high counts are extracted from those data to produce a complete sample spanning January 2001 to the current month.

It is understood that many factors drive prison populations, including demographic trends, arrest rates, the number of criminal cases filed in district courts, conviction rates, the availability of diversion programs, sentence lengths, admission and release rates, the availability of earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. The observed prison population is a result of all those factors and others. When new laws or policies come to bear which significantly affect the prison population, it is recommended that a new long-term forecast be produced to incorporate new data that reflects those changes.

Time series forecasting consists of examining historical prison population data, identifying potential methodologies, fitting the data, and testing the model. Testing includes a

comparison of descriptive statistics for each model to establish the best-fitting specification. Then, projections are evaluated against actual observations to determine the accuracy of each model. Diagnostic checks are applied to the differences between forecast estimates and observed values to ensure that a model adequately explains trends in the data.

It is possible for historical trends to be well-represented by more than one model. Though diagnostic checks are imperative for selecting the most precise specification, the present methodology requires augmentations at various steps to incorporate details from conversations with Sentencing Commission staff which detail upcoming issues that may influence prison populations/patterns.

As of June 25, 2020, the male forecast has been within the 3% range for 4 of 12 months. The female forecast was within the 3% range for 2 of 12 months. In fall of 2019, as the population continued to drop, NMSC and BBER decided to redo the projection. In late January 2020, the projection was redone. As we were writing up the new report, the population continued to decline. Declines continued in the third quarter of FY20 leading up to first confirmed COVID-19 case in New Mexico. On March 11, 2020, the total male prison population was 6,121 and the total female prison population was 667. On June 21, 2020, the male total population had dropped 6.1% and the female total population dropped 7.8% from pre-COVID-19 levels (376 and 51 respectively).

In June 2020, new forecasts were created that took into account the decline in the male population since September 2019 and the decline in the female population since July 2019.

While we tried to simulate the downward trend in prison population that started in FY 2018 in our forecast, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact prison population. Given these dramatic population changes, we will review our forecast on a quarterly basis.

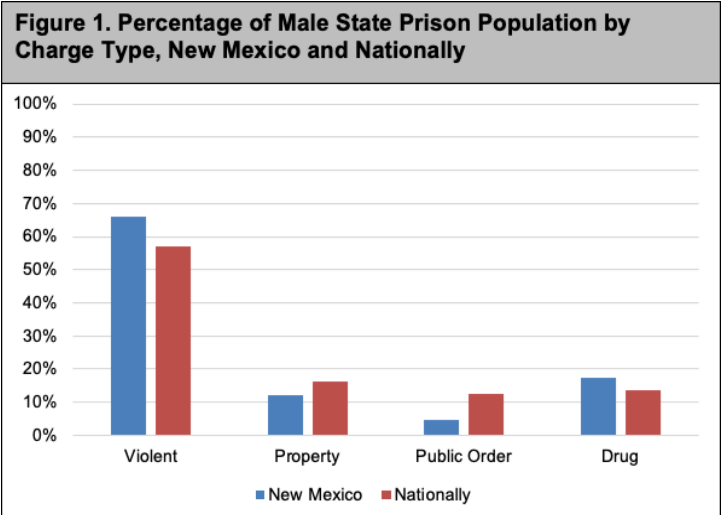
## NATIONAL TRENDS

The U.S. Department of Justice publishes several annual reports that detail trends in the U.S. prison population. Those reports are based on data collected pursuant to the National Prisoner Statistics Program. Data has been collected on an annual basis since 1926. The most recent full-year report, titled Prisoners in 2018, was released in April 2020. It provides data on prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal and state correctional authorities from yearend 2017 to yearend 2018. Another annual publication is Correctional Populations in the United States, but the 2019 edition is still pending release. The following are included in those reports:

- The total U.S. prison population (state and federal) totaled nearly 1,465,200 at yearend 2018. This was a decrease of 24,000 prisoners from yearend 2017.
- The federal prison population decreased in size for the sixth year in a row; this trend was first identified in 2013.

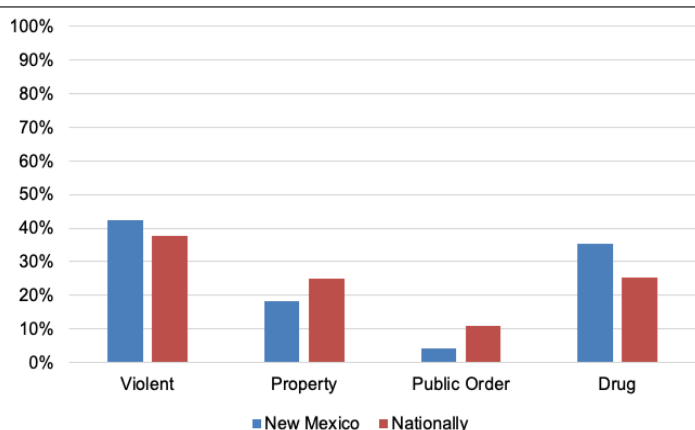
There were approximately 3,160 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal prisons in 2018 than in 2017. At yearend 2018, the number of inmates held in federal prisons was about 179,900.

- The aggregate state prison population also decreased in 2018 (the current decline in state populations began in 2014). There were 20,870 fewer prisoners under the jurisdiction of state prisons in 2018 than in 2017. At yearend 2018, the number of inmates held in state prisons was 1,285,260.
- Adult correctional systems in the United States supervised an estimated 6,613,500 persons at yearend 2016.
- The imprisonment rate for sentenced prisoners saw another reduction from 2017 to 2018. At yearend 2018 it was the lowest since 1996, with 431 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages and 555 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- Compared to other state prisons, New Mexico houses a higher percentage of male inmates convicted of violent offenses and drug offenses. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, on December 31, 2018, the percentage of male inmates confined in all 50 state prisons convicted of a violent offense was 57.1%. In New Mexico on June 30, 2019, 66% of male inmates were convicted of a violent offense (Figure 1). Likewise, the percentage of New Mexico males convicted of a drug offense was 17% compared to the national average of 13.6% (Figure 1).



- The percentage of confined women in New Mexico convicted of a violent offense is also larger than the national percentage (Figure 2). In New Mexico on June 30, 2019, 42% of female inmates were convicted of a violent offense. On December 31, 2018, the percentage of female inmates confined in all state prisons convicted of a violent offense was 37.8%. As with the male inmates in New Mexico, female inmates also had a higher conviction rate for drug offenses than the national average, with New Mexico female inmates at 35% compared to 25% nationally.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Female State Prison Population by Charge Type, New Mexico and Nationally**



## NEW MEXICO TRENDS

### MALES:

The male high count for FY 2020 occurred in September 2019 at 6,331; it is currently at 5,861 as of June 2020. Total prisoner populations in New Mexico have been trending downward since 2018, and the current male populations have seen a -4.6% decrease from the FY 2019 high. Male high counts have traditionally been more volatile than female counts, with marked fluctuations between population losses and gains throughout the years. However, since August 2018, the overall trend has been consistently

downward.

High counts for male prison populations within the most recent five fiscal years are listed below. Table 1 provides these data since FY 2004. Between FY 2016 and FY 2020 male inmate high counts decreased 6.1%.

FY 2020 high count: 6,331 male inmates;  
 FY 2019 high count: 6,634 male inmates;  
 FY 2018 high count: 6,616 male inmates;  
 FY 2017 high count: 6,639 male inmates;  
 FY 2016 high count: 6,727 male inmates.

### FEMALES:

In FY 2020, females comprise approximately 9.7% of the total inmate population for New Mexico. The most notable trend in the state is the mirrored decrease in overall prison populations. At 742, the current FY 2020 high count for female inmates is 6.5% under the FY 2019 high count of 794. The downtrend in female prison populations has been ongoing since November 2018.

Historical female totals for the last five fiscal years are presented below (see Table 1 for complete female and male inmate high counts, beginning FY 2010). Yearly high counts increased between FY 2017 through FY 2019, but have decreased since the peak high count in November 2018,

FY 2020 high count: 742 female inmates;  
 FY 2019 high count: 794 female inmates;  
 FY 2018 high count: 797 female inmates;  
 FY 2017 high count: 764 female inmates;

**Table 1. Actual and Projected Prisoner Population High Counts in New Mexico, FY 2010 to FY 2030**

Fiscal Year	Males		Females	
	High Count	Change	High Count	Change
2010	6,177	5.1%	614	-0.8%
2011	6,175	0.0%	629	2.4%
2012	6,157	-0.3%	652	3.7%
2013	6,188	0.5%	660	1.2%
2014	6,344	2.5%	704	6.7%
2015	6,558	3.4%	782	11.1%
2016	6,727	2.6%	791	1.2%
2017	6,639	-1.3%	764	-3.4%
2018	6,616	-0.3%	797	4.3%
2019	6,634	0.3%	799	0.3%
2020	6,331	-4.6%	742	-7.1%
2021	5,976	-5.6%	656	-17.4%
2022	5,937	-0.7%	623	-5.0%
2023	5,898	-0.7%	601	-3.5%
2024	5,860	-0.7%	593	-1.3%
2025	5,821	-0.7%	581	-2.0%
2026	5,782	-0.7%	565	-2.8%
2027	5,743	-0.7%	558	-1.2%
2028	5,704	-0.7%	531	-4.8%
2029	5,665	-0.7%	532	0.2%
2030	5,627	-0.7%	560	5.3%

Note: Projections begin in FY 2021.

FY 2016 high count: 791 female inmates.

## FACTORS INFLUENCING PRISON POPULATION

In 2015, the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center/Institute for Social Research published the study *Prison Program Utilization and Recidivism Among Female Inmates in New Mexico* (Kristine Denman, April 2015). Findings set forth in the report include the following:

- Women who participated in educational programming were less likely to re-offend.
- Matching, recommending, and promoting programming appropriate to criminogenic needs may decrease future offending.
- Post-release supervision was associated with decreased adjudications and incarcerations for new offenses.

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

- In FY 2018, new filings for criminal cases in the state's district courts increased to almost 19,200—the largest number of new filings in the time period spanning FY 2000 to FY 2020. In fiscal year 2019, however, decreased to 18,215, a drop of 5% (see Appendix A, Figure 15 and Tables 9-11).
- Felony drug court programs and other specialty courts are established throughout New Mexico. Drug courts and other specialty courts are not a direct diversion from prison in most cases, but successful participation in specialty court programs may break the cycle of contact with the criminal justice system and eventual imprisonment.
- New Mexico is among a small number of states where the size of jail populations is comparable to prison populations. On June 30, 2019, the jail census in New Mexico was 6,078 while approximately 6,840 inmates were held in state prisons.
- The adult parole board may impose sanctions other than a return to prison for parole violators whose infractions are technical in nature.

Every year, NMSC issues reports to describe current trends in earned meritorious deductions (EMD) and controlled release eligible inmates. These briefs provide additional detail that may inform legislation and policy:

- The EMD report provides information on the average proportion of time an individual serves in both their prison and total sentences. This information is presented by gender and the EMD type of the individual.
- The Controlled Release report provides information on inmates who might be eligible for controlled release. This report details controlled release by gender, final custody level assignment, and type of offense.

NMSC staff meet regularly with NMCD staff to review inmate

population trends and discuss factors that may affect current forecasts. Discussions have included the following subjects, which may impact future prison populations:

- NMCD continues to work with the Pew-MacArthur Foundation, the Legislative Finance Committee, and NMSC on implementation of the Results First Initiative. The initiative employs an evaluation model to identify cost effective programs that reduce recidivism. Also, NMCD is working directly with Pew staff on an inventory of inmate programming in facilities and offender programming in communities.
- In 2017, NMCD implemented the use of the COMPAS assessment throughout Adult Prisons Division and Probation Parole Division. NMCD has now completed enough assessments that a validation study is underway.
- In 2018-2019, the Legislature convened the Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee of the interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee. This subcommittee was tasked with analyzing the state's criminal justice system with an eye towards implementing criminal justice reforms across the system.
- From FY 2019 to FY 2020, the annual high count of release eligible inmates (REI) has dropped by 11% (FY 2019 REI high count was 200 while FY 2020 REI high count was 178). On June 30, 2020 the REI count was 95.
- In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 342 (Laws 2019, Chapter 211), a package of criminal justice reform initiatives. Among these reforms were changes to when parole shall be imposed for felony offenses, and changes in the conduct and use of eyewitness identifications.
- In 2020, NMSC began implementing responsibilities pursuant to the Crime Reduction Grant Act. Grants were made to 11 local Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. NMSC also partnered with New Mexico Technical Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA) to begin work on implementing the usage of a state identification number. Both of these initiatives aim to improve the quality and timeliness of data sharing among criminal justice agencies, which will improve our ability to understand prison population trends.
- The Legislature passed SB 323 (Laws 2019, Chapter 217) in 2019, which decreased penalties for the possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

## CURRENT OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Operational capacity is defined as the total number of beds available in a prison. In New Mexico, the current operational capacity equals the rated capacity, which measures the number of beds by prisoner classification a prison can reasonably maintain, given limitations like staffing and maintenance.

On June 22, 2020, the capacity for male inmates in NMCD is 7,059 beds. Correctional facilities for male inmates and their respective operational capacities are as follows:

- Penitentiary of New Mexico, Santa Fe (864)
- Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility, Las Cruces (768)
- Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, Los Lunas (1,221)
- Roswell Correctional Center, Roswell (340)
- Lea County Correctional Facility, Hobbs (1,293)
- Guadalupe County Correctional Facility, Santa Rosa (590)
- Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility (628)
- Otero County Prison Facility (647)
- Northwestern NM Correctional Facility, Grants (708)

On the same date, the operational capacity for female inmates is 879 beds:

- Springer Correctional Center, Springer (437)
- Western NM Correctional Facility, Grants (442)

## SHORT TERM FORECAST

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

### MALES:

In **FY 2021**, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,976.

In **FY 2022**, the projected high count for the male inmate population is 5,937.

The FY 2022 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for male inmates of 7,099 beds.

### FEMALES:

In **FY 2021**, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 656.

In **FY 2022**, the projected high count for the female inmate population is 623.

The FY 2022 estimate is lower than the current operational capacity for female inmates of 860 beds.

## LONG-TERM FORECAST

Long-term forecasts are based upon current sentencing statutes and current NMCD policies and practices. It is not difficult to imagine that statutes, policies and practices may be different ten years from the publication of this report. Nevertheless, the long-term forecasts may contribute to useful discussions among policy makers and criminal justice professionals.

### MALES:

In **FY 2030**, the projected high count for the male prison population is 5,627. This expected high count is within the current operational capacity for the male prison population of 7,099.

### FEMALES:

In **FY 2030**, the projected high count for the female prison population is 560. This expected high count is within the current operational capacity for the female population of 860.

## PRISON POPULATION AGE

Prisons in the U.S. are constitutionally required to provide health care for prisoners. As the confined population ages, the cost to maintain the health of that population will increase. If inmate health needs are not adequately addressed in prisons, there can be greater burdens upon communities to care for those released (Ahalt et al., 2014).

In 2014, the Pew Charitable Trusts counted 144,500 state and federal prisoners with ages 55 years or older. In 2018, a follow-up report indicates that the inmate population within that age group had increased to 164,400. An increase in the prevalence of older prisoners is important to policy makers because older populations incur substantially larger health care costs (Kim and Peterson, 2014). Specifically, some estimates determine that the health care costs of inmates 55 years or older are two to three times larger than that for inmates of average age (Luallen and Kling, 2014). To appropriately fund NMCD, the issue of an aging prison population in New Mexico may require further study.

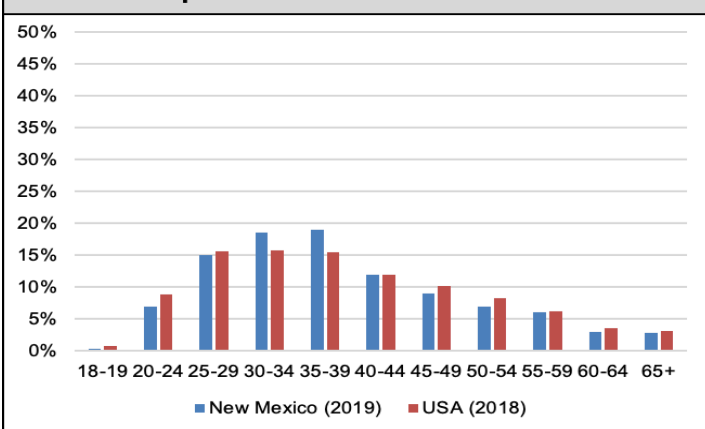
In the next section, Figures 3 and 4 compare the national prisoner age demographics against those for institutions within New Mexico. Figures 5 and 6 expand on those data, illustrating the change in age demographics for prisoners in New Mexico across the last three fiscal years.

## CONFINED AGE: NATIONAL COMPARISON

The most recent national prisoner age data is from Prisoners in 2018, published by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2020. New Mexico data is now almost two years ahead—the most recent data is from June 30, 2019. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate differences in prisoner age between New Mexico and the nation for those years.

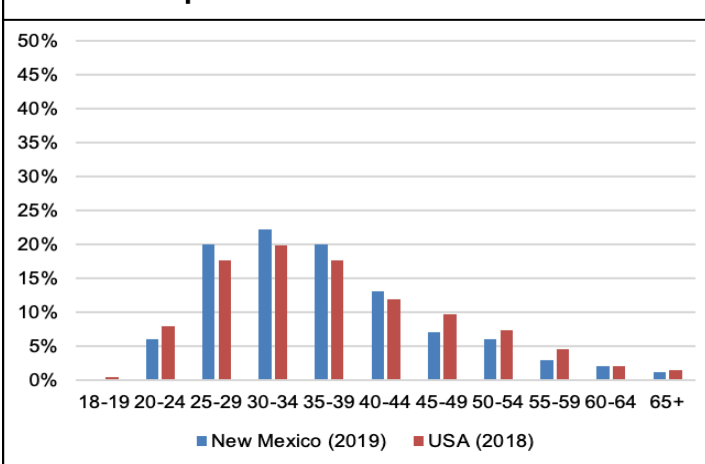
Compared to the national level, the percent of confined males in New Mexico is greater for the age groups 30-34 and 35-39 (Figure 3). For age groups 18-19 through 25-29, 45-49, 50-54, 60-64, and 65+, national percentages are larger. For age groups 40-44 and 55-59, confinement percentages are similar.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Confined Males by Age, National Comparison**



Confined female percentages (Figure 4) show that for females, the largest percentage of inmates rest in the 30-34 age group. From the 25-29 through 40-44 age groups, New Mexico confined female percentages outpace national levels. For age groups 18-19 and for 60-64 and 65+, New Mexico and national values are similar. The remaining age groups, 20-24 and 45-49 through 55-59, show national percentages that are larger than those for New Mexico.

**Figure 4. Percentage of Confined Females by Age, National Comparison**



For confinement percentages by age and gender see Appendix A, Tables 7 and 8.

**CONFINED AGE: NEW MEXICO**

Figures 5 and 6 show age trends in New Mexico confined populations, as measured on June 30 for the fiscal years 2017-2019. The greatest concentration of inmates is in the age group 30-34 and 35-39, both with 19% of male inmates. The confined male populations from 45-49 through 65+ years has remained relatively stable throughout the FY 2017-FY 2019 time period. Confined percentages for 20-24 and 25-29 years of age have varied over the last three fiscal years.

**Figure 5. Percentage of New Mexico Males Confined by Age FY2017 - FY2019**

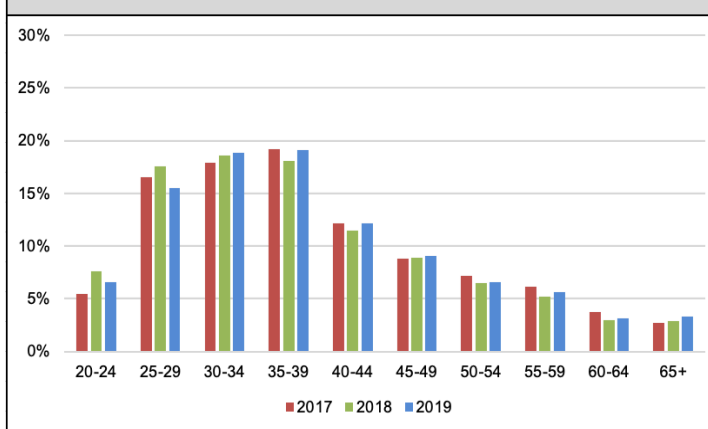
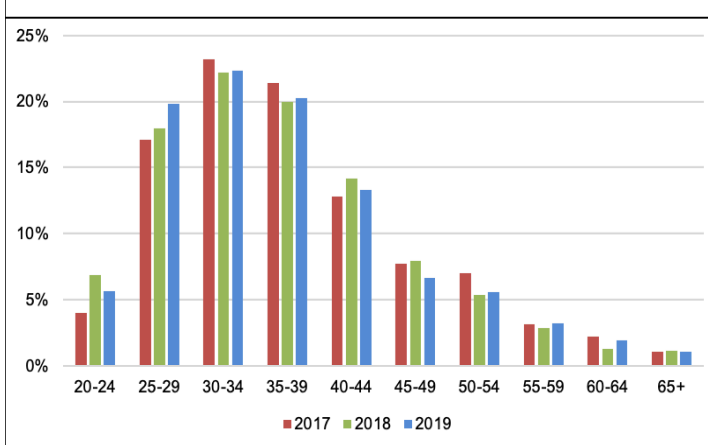


Figure 6 charts the same data for confined females. The largest percentage of female prisoners in FY 2019 are in the 30-34 age group, though group percentages are below those recorded in FY 2017. Female age groups 20-24, 25-29, and 40-44 saw an increase from FY 2017, relative to the total population. The percent of females in the 65+ group has remained relatively stable for the past three fiscal years.

Confinement percentages by age and gender across the three fiscal years are in Appendix A, Table 8.

**Figure 6. Percentage of New Mexico Females Confined by Age FY2017 - FY2019**



**ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES**

Figure 7 shows the relationship between admissions and releases for male inmates relative to the monthly high population for each month from April 2014 to March 2020. Positive percentages indicate that admissions overtook releases during that month. Negative percentages indicate that released outpaced admissions during that month. Historically, male admissions have outpaced releases, but there is an increase in months with net greater releases beginning around April 2016. From March 2018 and continuing to present, the months showing greater net releases became the majority over months with greater net intake.

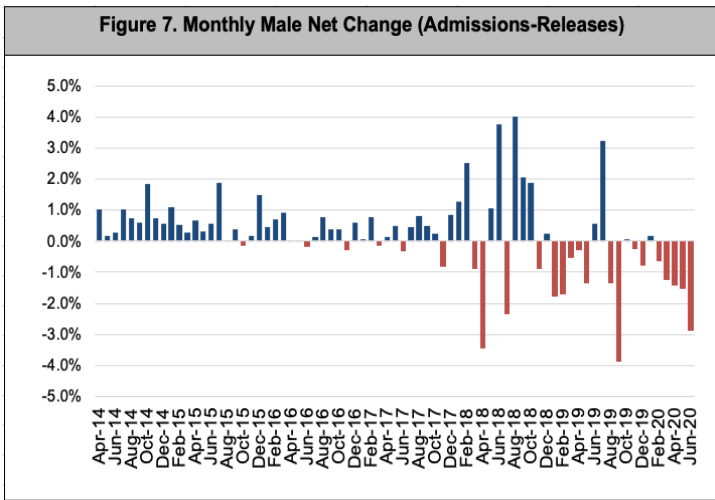
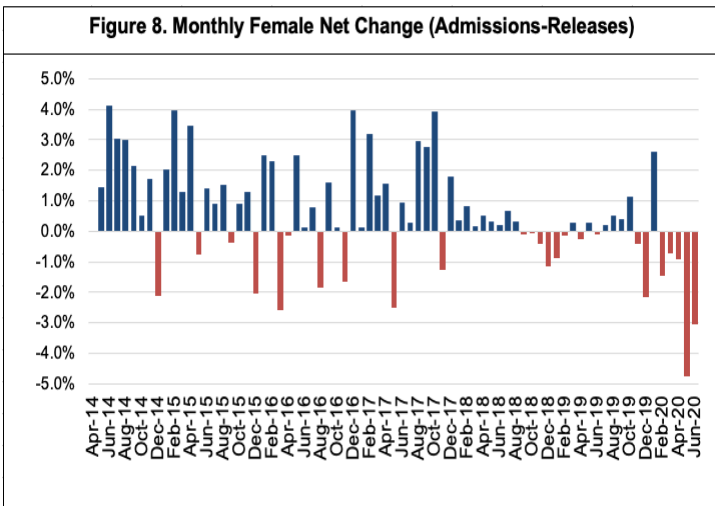
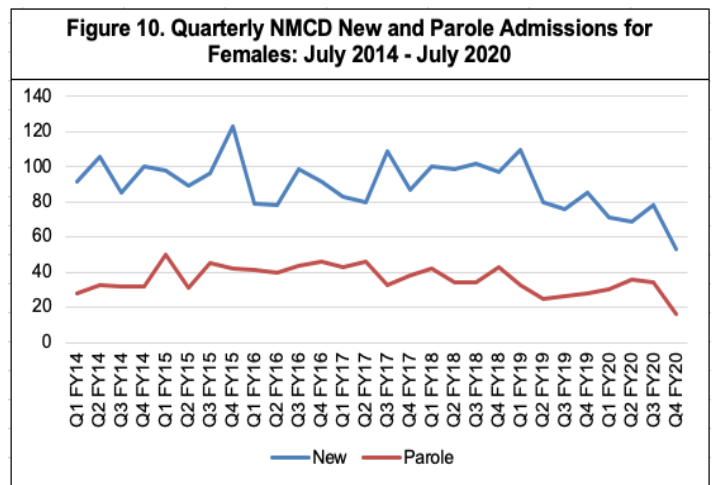
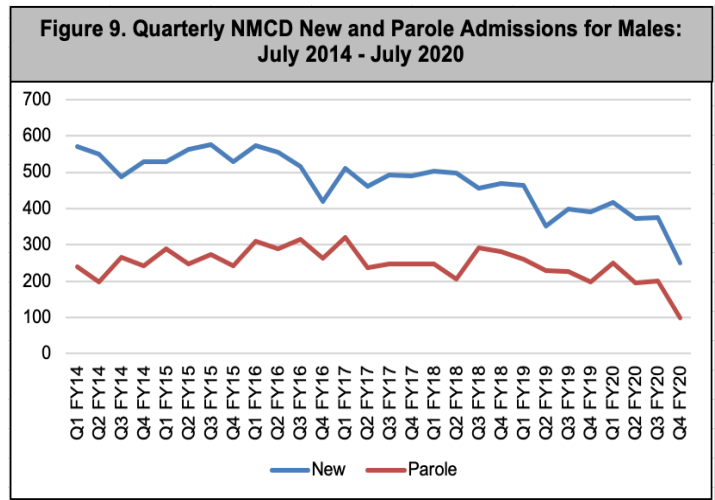


Figure 8 illustrates the same relationship between admissions and releases for female inmates. Net admissions are the majority for female populations up to about June 2018, although we do see more months in the female population where net releases are higher compared to the male population. Net releases overtake admissions during the final four months of 2018. Admissions and releases occur at similar rates for most of 2019. Despite an influx of admissions in January 2020, net releases remained the norm through most of 2019 and 2020.



### NEW ADMISSIONS AND PAROLE ADMISSIONS

Figures 9 and 10 identify trends between new and parole-related admissions for male and female inmates. Admissions for new offenses outpace parole admissions throughout the time period, for both sexes. However irregular at the start, variations between male new and parole admissions begin to mirror one another in Q3 FY 2015. A similar trend is present in Figure 10 beginning Q1 FY 2015.

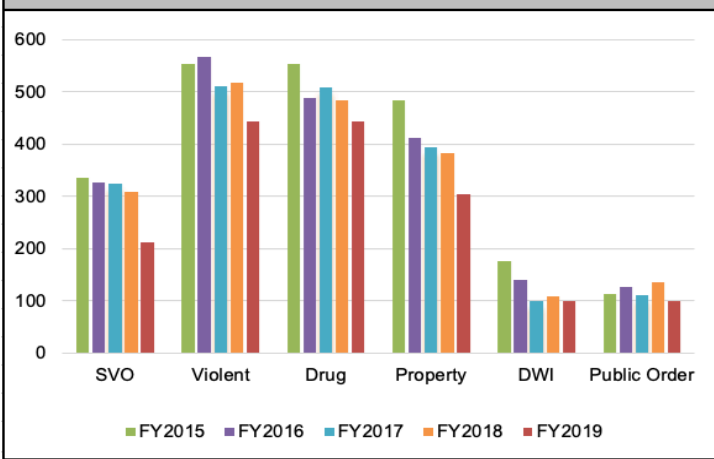


### NEW ADMISSIONS BY CHARGE TYPE

Figure 11 illustrates new male admissions by charge type for fiscal years 2015 through 2019. That information is presented for female new admissions in Figure 12. Tables 2 and 3, in Appendix A, provide additional details on charge types for both genders.

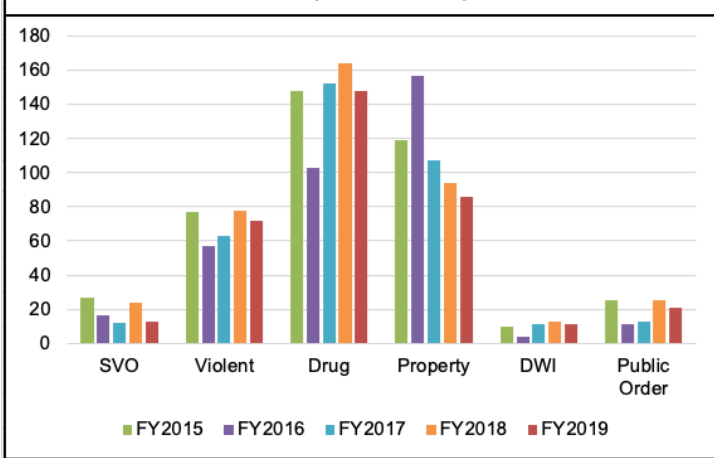
The bulk of male new admissions result from violent, drug, and property crimes. Admissions resulting from drug and property crimes are at 5-year lows in FY 2019 across all categories. Admissions for serious violent offenses (SVO) have been decreasing steadily throughout the time period. After a high point in male public order charges in FY 2018, they have also reached a low point in FY 2019. Following a 3-year period of decline, charges for DWI experienced a slight bump in FY 2018, but have declined to the same level as FY 2017, a 5-year low, in FY 2019.

**Figure 11. Males New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY 2015-2019)**



Female new admissions are reduced in drug and property crimes. In FY 2019, new admissions across all categories are down from their levels in FY 2018. Charges for property crimes are at their lowest after a downward trend over the past five years. Violent crime charges amongst female new admissions and SVO charges had been trending upwards since FY 2016, but have declined, though not to new records.

**Figure 12. Females New Admissions by Charge Type and Year (FY2015-2019)**

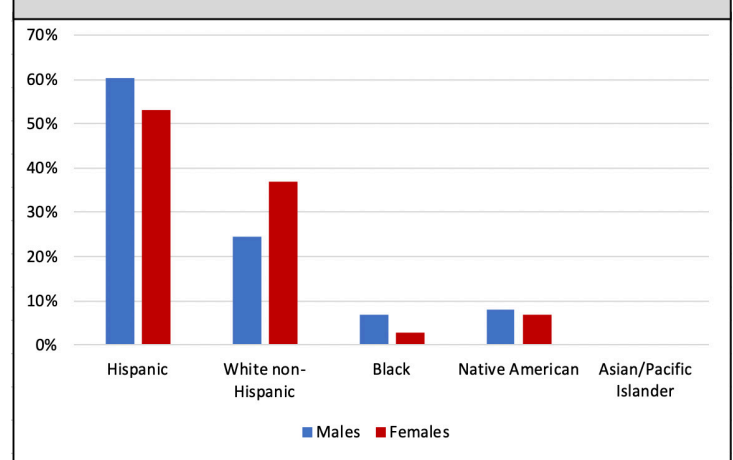


New admissions by gender and charge type available for five fiscal years are in Appendix A, Table 2 and 3.

**NEW ADMISSIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

Figure 13 shows the percentage of new admissions in FY 2019 by race/ethnicity. The majority of new admissions in FY 2019 were Hispanic. There were proportionately more female than male new admissions reported as White non-Hispanic at 37% and 24% respectively. Black and Native American new admissions were below 10% for both males and females. Less than 1% of new admissions for both male and female inmates are Asian/Pacific Islander.

**Figure 13. New Admissions in FY2019 by Race/Ethnicity**





## APPENDIX A

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

Table 2. Male Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2015-2019

Table 3. Female Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2015-2019

Table 4. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2020

Figure 14. Actual Male Prison Population and Forecast, July 2016 to July 2022

Table 5. Male Prison Population Projections, June 2020 to June 2030

Figure 15. Actual Female Prison Population and Forecast, July 2016 to July 2022

Table 6. Female Prison Population Projections, June 2020 to June 2030

Table 7. Percentage of Confined Population by Age: New Mexico (FY 2019) and Nationally (2018)

Table 8. Percentage of Confined Population by Age in New Mexico Across Time, FY 2017 to FY 2019

Figure 16. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY 2001 to FY 2019

Table 9. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2019

Table 10. Male New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2015-2019

Table 11. Female New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2015-2019

<b>Table 2. Male Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2015-2019</b>					
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Violent</b>					
SVO	336	326	324	308	213
Sex Crime	59	63	48	43	46
Assault and Battery	256	243	234	256	192
Other Violent*	238	261	228	219	206
<b>Property</b>					
Burglary	232	175	164	145	118
Other Property*	253	238	228	237	186
<b>Drug</b>					
Drug Trafficking	268	204	209	186	176
Drug Possession	285	285	300	297	267
<b>Public Order</b>					
DWI	176	140	99	108	99
Other Public Order*	113	127	110	136	100
<b>Other</b>					
Parole	1074	1177	1050	1028	917
Other Admissions*	367	352	323	237	201
<b>Total</b>	<b>3657</b>	<b>3591</b>	<b>3317</b>	<b>3200</b>	<b>2721</b>
<p>*These categories include, but are not limited to the following:            Other Violent: kidnapping, robbery, and child abuse            Other Property: larceny, arson, and fraud            Other Public Order: possession of weapon by felon, bribery of witness, and escape from custody            Other Admissions: probation, diagnostic</p>					

**Table 3. Female Admissions by Crime, Fiscal Years 2015-2019**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Violent</b>					
SVO	27	16	12	24	13
Sex Crime	4	0	1	1	1
Assault and Battery	22	22	17	26	22
Other Violent*	51	35	45	51	49
<b>Property</b>					
Burglary	30	25	29	22	26
Other Property*	89	132	77	72	59
<b>Drug</b>					
Drug Trafficking	74	51	65	65	51
Drug Possession	74	52	87	99	97
<b>Public Order</b>					
DWI	10	4	11	13	11
Other Public Order*	25	11	12	25	22
<b>Other</b>					
Parole	168	171	160	153	112
Other Admissions*	82	84	78	71	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>523</b>

\*These categories include, but are not limited to the following:

Other Violent: kidnapping, robbery, and child abuse

Other Property: larceny, arson, and fraud

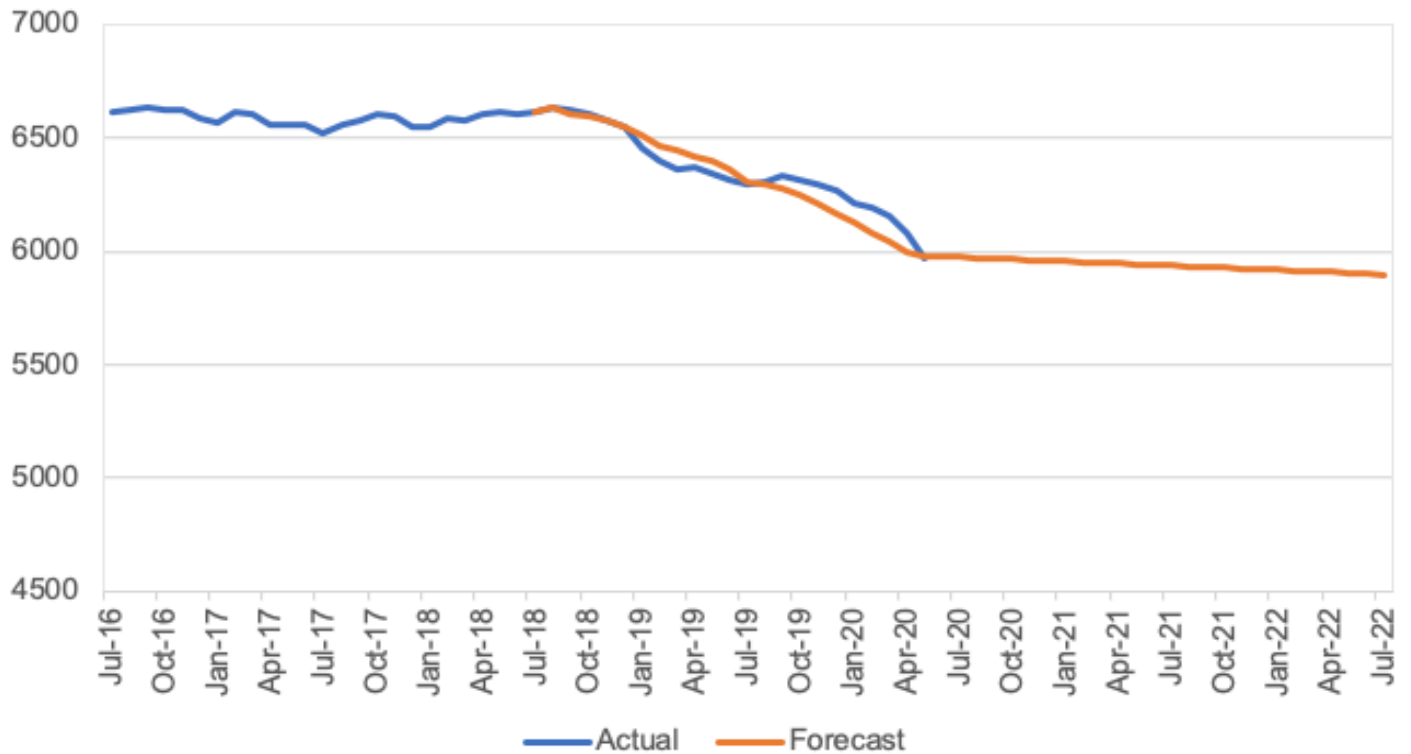
Other Public Order: possession of weapon by felon, bribery of witness, and escape from custody

Other Admissions: probation, diagnostic

**Table 4. High Counts: Actuals, Forecasts, and Discrepancies for FY 2020**

Month	Males			Females		
	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy	Actuals	Forecasts	Discrepancy
19-Jul	6,298	6,461	2.59%	742	736	-0.82%
19-Aug	6,309	6,473	2.60%	741	758	2.35%
19-Sep	6,331	6,485	2.43%	722	767	6.18%
19-Oct	6,315	6,487	2.72%	702	785	11.79%
19-Nov	6,295	6,488	3.07%	699	785	12.27%
19-Dec	6,270	6,474	3.25%	693	769	10.98%
20-Jan	6,208	6,461	4.08%	686	769	12.15%
20-Feb	6,198	6,477	4.50%	689	768	11.40%
20-Mar	6,155	6,488	5.41%	673	777	15.39%
20-Apr	6,079	6,504	6.99%	666	778	16.79%
20-May	5,970	6,509	9.03%	651	759	16.65%
20-Jun	5,861	6,507	11.02%	620	772	24.52%

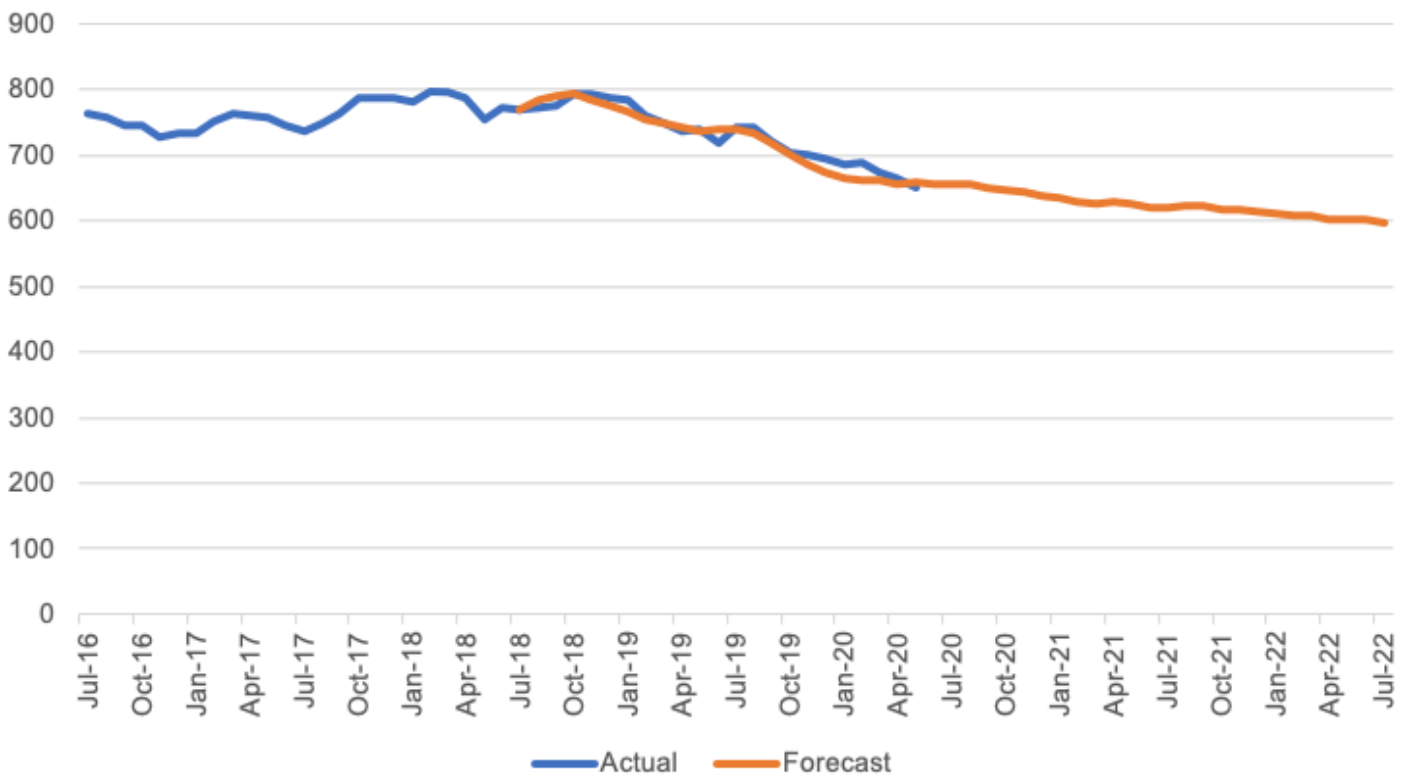
**Figure 14. Actual Male Prison Population and Forecast: July 2016 to July 2022**



**Table 5. Male Prison Population Projections, June 2020 to June 2030**

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
January	-	5,957	5,918	5,879	5,840	5,801	5,762	5,724	5,685	5,646	5,607
February	-	5,953	5,914	5,876	5,837	5,798	5,759	5,720	5,682	5,643	5,604
March	-	5,950	5,911	5,872	5,834	5,795	5,756	5,717	5,678	5,640	5,601
April	-	5,947	5,908	5,869	5,830	5,792	5,753	5,714	5,675	5,636	5,598
May	-	5,944	5,905	5,866	5,827	5,788	5,750	5,711	5,672	5,633	5,594
June	5,979	5,940	5,902	5,863	5,824	5,785	5,746	5,708	5,669	5,630	5,591
July	5,976	5,937	5,898	5,860	5,821	5,782	5,743	5,704	5,665	5,627	-
August	5,973	5,934	5,895	5,856	5,817	5,779	5,740	5,701	5,662	5,623	-
September	5,969	5,931	5,892	5,853	5,814	5,775	5,737	5,698	5,659	5,620	-
October	5,966	5,927	5,889	5,850	5,811	5,772	5,733	5,695	5,656	5,617	-
November	5,963	5,924	5,885	5,847	5,808	5,769	5,730	5,691	5,653	5,614	-
December	5,960	5,921	5,882	5,843	5,805	5,766	5,727	5,688	5,649	5,610	-

**Figure 15. Actual Female Prison Population and Forecast, July 2016 to July 2022**



**Table 6. Female Prison Population Projections, June 2020 to June 2030**

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
January	-	635	610	596	587	566	564	544	522	525	543
February	-	628	609	591	586	561	561	540	522	526	542
March	-	627	607	593	588	562	558	538	517	527	547
April	-	629	603	590	590	561	561	535	514	526	548
May	-	624	602	588	588	565	558	535	513	528	560
June	657	620	603	589	583	568	555	532	515	532	559
July	656	620	597	589	581	564	558	531	511	533	-
August	656	623	596	593	578	561	558	528	513	537	-
September	649	621	599	590	577	562	558	531	515	538	-
October	647	617	600	591	572	565	555	529	515	540	-
November	642	615	601	589	572	563	553	526	524	542	-
December	639	614	598	588	569	562	549	524	521	541	-

**Table 7. Percentage of Confined Population by Age: New Mexico (FY 2019) and Nationally (2018)**

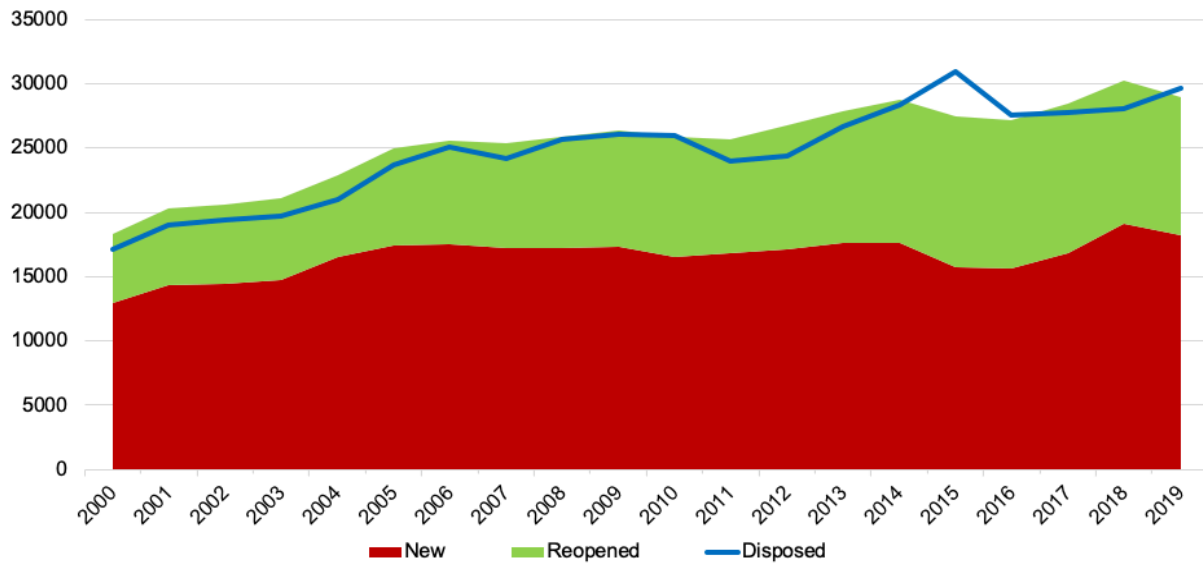
Age Group	Males			Females		
	New Mexico	Nationally	Difference	New Mexico	Nationally	Difference
18-24	7%	10%	-3%	6%	8%	-2%
25-29	15%	16%	-1%	20%	18%	2%
30-34	19%	16%	3%	22%	20%	2%
35-39	19%	16%	4%	20%	18%	2%
40-44	12%	12%	0%	13%	12%	1%
45-49	9%	10%	-1%	7%	10%	-3%
50-54	7%	8%	-1%	6%	7%	-1%
55-59	6%	6%	0%	3%	5%	-2%
60-64	3%	4%	-1%	2%	2%	0%
65+	3%	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%

**Table 8. Percentage of Confined Population by Age in New Mexico Across Time, FY 2017 to FY 2019**

Age Group	Males				Females			
	2017	2018	2019	2019-2017	2017	2018	2019	2019-2017
18-24	5%	8%	7%	2%	4%	7%	6%	2%
25-29	17%	18%	15%	-2%	17%	18%	20%	3%
30-34	18%	19%	19%	1%	23%	22%	22%	-1%
35-39	19%	18%	19%	0%	21%	20%	20%	-1%
40-44	12%	12%	12%	0%	13%	14%	13%	0%
45-49	9%	9%	9%	0%	8%	8%	7%	-1%
50-54	7%	6%	7%	0%	7%	5%	6%	-1%
55-59	6%	5%	6%	0%	3%	3%	3%	0%
60-64	4%	3%	3%	-1%	2%	1%	2%	0%
65+	3%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%

## NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY DATA

**Figure 16. Total NM District Court Criminal Cases: New, Reopened, and Disposed from FY2001 to FY2019**



Source: Compiled by NMSC from published AOC Annual Reports 2001-2019

**Table 9. New Mexico District Court Criminal Cases, FY 2000 to FY 2019**

Fiscal Year	New	Reopened	Total New and Reopened	Total Disposed
2000	12,995	5,300	18,295	17,119
2001	14,349	5,991	20,340	18,972
2002	14,449	6,141	20,590	19,453
2003	14,718	6,372	21,090	19,660
2004	16,522	6,349	22,871	21,007
2005	17,439	7,530	24,969	23,708
2006	17,482	8,071	25,553	25,083
2007	17,206	8,139	25,345	24,224
2008	17,226	8,657	25,883	25,648
2009	17,359	8,983	26,342	26,111
2010	16,509	9,396	25,905	25,963
2011	16,796	8,888	25,684	24,018
2012	17,169	9,616	26,785	24,365
2013	17,572	10,285	27,857	26,649
2014	17,591	11,140	28,731	28,304
2015	15,701	11,749	27,450	30,952
2016	15,665	11,519	27,184	27,549
2017	16,813	11,164	27,977	27,741
2018	19,152	11,125	30,277	28,069
2019	18,215	10,761	28,976	29,629

**Table 10. Male New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2015-2019**

DA Districts	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>1</b>	5.0%	6.3%	5.4%	3.9%	3.7%
<b>2</b>	37.9%	35.9%	29.8%	27.9%	21.7%
<b>3</b>	10.1%	10.0%	11.3%	13.1%	11.6%
<b>4</b>	2.1%	2.7%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
<b>5</b>	14.5%	14.2%	14.0%	14.6%	14.5%
<b>6</b>	3.9%	2.8%	3.9%	2.9%	3.9%
<b>7</b>	3.9%	3.1%	3.8%	3.2%	3.8%
<b>8</b>	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.8%
<b>9</b>	5.1%	5.7%	7.1%	8.5%	9.0%
<b>10</b>	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.6%	2.4%
<b>11 Division I</b>	4.6%	6.3%	6.7%	6.8%	8.1%
<b>11 Division II</b>	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%	1.2%
<b>12</b>	7.0%	6.9%	8.8%	8.4%	10.3%
<b>13</b>	2.5%	2.7%	3.0%	4.6%	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 11. Female New Admissions by District Attorney Districts, FY 2015-2019**

DA Districts	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>1</b>	2.7%	3.6%	3.0%	2.5%	2.6%
<b>2</b>	33.6%	33.9%	28.9%	21.6%	12.8%
<b>3</b>	11.9%	8.7%	11.9%	17.1%	14.2%
<b>4</b>	1.7%	4.3%	2.7%	1.3%	0.9%
<b>5</b>	17.4%	17.7%	17.3%	19.6%	18.8%
<b>6</b>	3.2%	1.8%	4.2%	1.3%	5.4%
<b>7</b>	4.7%	2.2%	2.4%	3.8%	4.6%
<b>8</b>	1.7%	1.4%	0.9%	2.0%	1.7%
<b>9</b>	5.7%	6.1%	7.4%	9.8%	9.7%
<b>10</b>	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	2.8%	2.3%
<b>11 Division I</b>	4.2%	6.1%	6.8%	3.0%	5.4%
<b>11 Division II</b>	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%
<b>12</b>	12.2%	10.5%	10.4%	12.3%	16.0%
<b>13</b>	0.5%	2.5%	3.6%	2.8%	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY

This report applies historical observations of prison population data to generate the figures included in the forecasts. NMSC maintains a dataset of daily totals for male and female prisoners in New Mexico. Monthly high counts are extracted from those data to produce a complete sample spanning January 2001 to the current month.

It is understood that many factors drive prison populations, including demographic trends, arrest rates, the number of criminal cases filed in district courts, conviction rates, the availability of diversion programs, sentence lengths, admission and release rates, the availability of earned meritorious deductions, and parole readiness. The observed prison population is a result of all those factors and others. When new laws or policies come to bear which significantly affect the prison population, it is recommended that a new long-term forecast be produced to incorporate new data that reflects those changes.

Time series forecasting consists of examining historical prison population data, identifying potential methodologies, fitting the data, and testing the model. Testing includes a comparison of descriptive statistics for each model to establish the best-fitting specification. Then, projections are evaluated against actual observations to determine the accuracy of each model. Diagnostic checks are applied to the differences between forecast estimates and observed values to ensure that a model adequately explains trends in the data.

It is possible for historical trends to be well-represented by more than one model. Though diagnostic checks are imperative for selecting the most precise specification, the present methodology requires augmentations at various steps to incorporate details from conversations with Sentencing Commission staff which detail upcoming issues that may influence prison populations/patterns.

Historical observations in male and female datasets are differenced once to induce stationarity. Male and female forecasts are then modeled separately using linear transfer functions employing new admissions, parole-related admissions, and median sentence lengths as regressors. Cross-correlation functions between dependent and independent variables are generated to help specify lag structures. Autocorrelation functions are then applied to determine autoregressive (AR) and moving average (MA) terms.

New admissions, parole-related admissions, and median sentence lengths are forecast to June 2030 to complete total prison population projections up to that date. Historical data for new and parole-related admissions begins in July 2004 and terminates in March 2020. Median sentence length observations span from January 2014 to March 2020. As stationary series, averages from each regressor's entire data set are applied as the forecast value ranging from April 2020 to June 2030.

### MALES

High counts for male prison populations have been decreasing sharply since August 2018. The current forecast captures that trend with a historical sample that begins in July 2016 and ends in May 2020. Forecasts are generated through a model specified with a two-month lag in new admissions, one- and zero-month lags of parole-related admissions, and an AR(3) term. Between July 2018 and May 2020, all prisoner population forecasts are within 3% of actual observations.

### FEMALES

Female prison populations have also entered an unusual period of decline, beginning in November 2018. There are, however, similar patterns of increase/decrease that have been ongoing since August 2015, where population highs reach near-800 female prisoners before quickly dropping to near-750. Prior to that, a section of stable growth begins at the start of 2010.

To represent historical growth trends and recent fluctuations, the female forecast sample begins in January 2014 and terminates in May 2020. This model applies one- and zero-month lags of new admissions, one- and two-month lags of parole-related admissions, a contemporary (zero-month lag) median sentence length term, AR terms at 1, 2, and 3, and a MA(5) term. Furthermore, a dummy variable was included to capture the trend marked by an increase of prisoners, beginning in June 2014, and the decline that has followed. Between July 2018 and May 2020, forecast populations are within 3% of observed figures in all but three instances.



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