

ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	Yes
Responsibility assigned?	Yes

Corrections Department

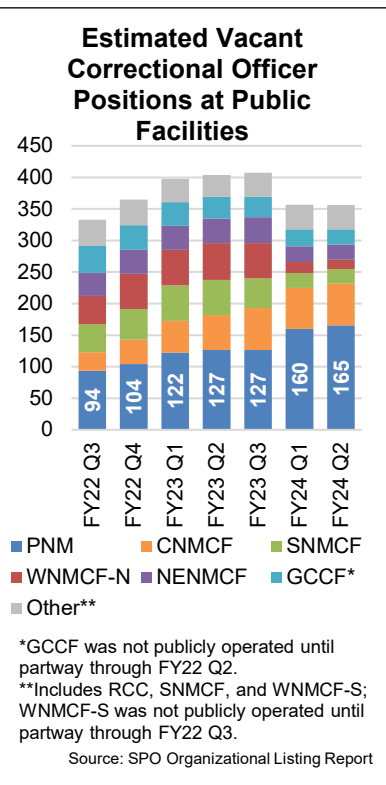
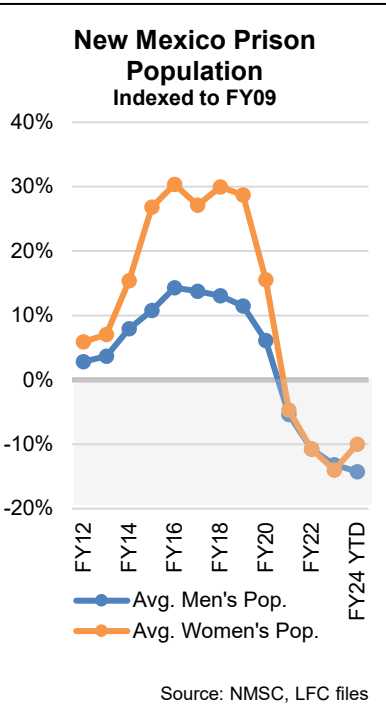
The Corrections Department (NMCD) demonstrated mixed results in the second quarter of FY24. The agency successfully reduced vacancy rates and turnover among correctional officers but saw an increase in recidivism for participants in some of the drug abuse programming. The agency continued the trend of improving the percentage of people in prison participating in education programming; however, varying rates of completion in other programming signal need for improvement. NMCD had relatively stable vacancy rates among probation and parole officers but saw the average number of cases per officer rise. Prison populations continued to fall but appear to be leveling off after several years of consistent decline.

Inmate Management and Control

The state's inmate population has plunged since 2018, falling more than 23 percent between FY19 and FY24. Recent increases in admissions for new offenses suggest the population is likely to stabilize in the near future. The New Mexico Sentencing Commission's August 2023 prison population projection anticipates total prison populations will average 5,398 over the course of FY24, a 2 percent drop from FY23's average population of 5,513. This reduction is projected due to falling male inmate populations, which the commission estimates will fall 2.9 percent between FY24 and FY25; female populations are projected to fall an average of 2.1 percent between FY24 and FY25, but the commission anticipates female prison populations will rise during FY25 as more individuals are charged in the 2nd Judicial District and these cases resolve.

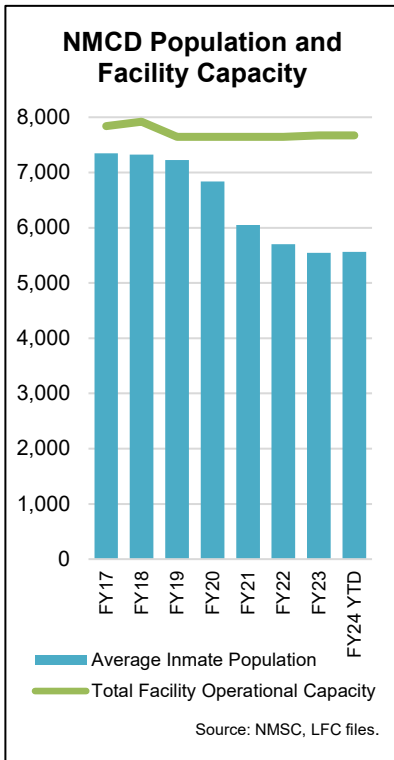
Staffing. High vacancy rates pose safety concerns, but low populations have enabled NMCD to adjust facility occupancy to align with staffing levels. However, this has not been possible at all facilities. About 26.5 percent of the agency's total positions were unfilled as of March 1, and public and private correctional officer vacancies remained high, at 30.5 percent and 31 percent, respectively, for FY24. Vacancy rates have declined notably at several facilities, with vacancies at the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility decreasing 5 percent between July and March 2023 and vacancy rates at the Northeast New Mexico Correctional Facility decreasing 5 percent in the same period. The most notable reduction occurred at Springer Correctional Facility, with a 19 percent decrease in vacancies since July.

Budget: \$292,538.7	FTE: 1,857	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Q1	FY24 Q2	Rating
Staffing							
Vacancy rate of correctional officers in public facilities.		29.2%	32.3%	20%	30.5%	30.5%	R
Vacancy rate of correctional officers in private facilities		31.6%	33.8%	20%	34.8%	33.7%	R
Percent turnover of correctional officers in public facilities*		15.8%	12.2%	N/A	5.8%	2.3%	
In-House Parole							
Average number of male inmates on in-house parole		66.9	59.6	65	40.3	30.3	G
Average number of female inmates on in-house parole		6.4	3.9	5	3	1	G
Prison Violence							



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Number of inmate-on-inmate assaults resulting in injury requiring off-site medical treatment	4	7	12	4	5	R
Number of inmate-on-staff assaults resulting in injury requiring off-site medical treatment	4	4	3	1	0	G
Health						
Percent of random monthly drug tests administered to at least 10 percent of the inmate population that test positive for drug use*	3.2%	1.4%	N/A	1.3%	2.4%	
Percent of standard healthcare requirements met by medical contract vendor	95%	99%	98%	99%	99%	G
Percent of inmates treated for hepatitis C with undetectable viral loads 12 weeks post-treatment	90%	85%	95%	78%	82%	R
Percent of HIV positive inmates with undetectable viral loads	81%	100%	95%	100%	100%	G
Prison Operations						
Percent of inmate grievances resolved informally*	82.7%	72.7%	N/A	85.3%	75%	
Number of escapes*	1	0	N/A	0	0	
Program Rating	R	Y		Y		Y

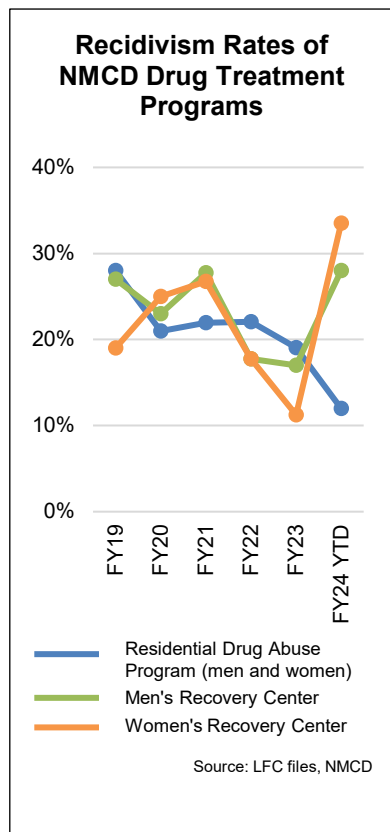
*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.

Reentry

Recidivism. The three-year recidivism rate of offenders released from NMCD's custody increased from 36 percent in FY23 to an average of approximately 40 percent in FY24. Recidivism due to new offenses rose from 17 percent in FY23 to 18 percent in FY24. Recidivism rates during FY23-FY26 are expected to reflect lower recovery center populations due to COVID, potentially leading to higher recidivism numbers. However, recovery center populations are gradually returning to full capacity, with both the women's and men's recovery centers nearing capacity. The numbers in programs only began to increase in the past year following the resumption of normal court operations and the lifting of COVID restrictions.

Programming. Education programs continue to show positive trends. NMCD had success in maintaining the number of eligible students who have completed adult basic education and who have earned high school equivalency credential. Recidivism rates for individuals who participate in the residential drug abuse program declined compared to previous fiscal years. However, recidivism rates for graduates from the men's and women's recovery centers continued to climb in the second quarter of FY24.

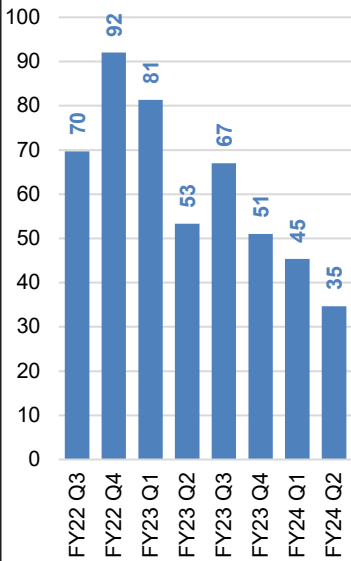
NMCD continues to ramp up its reentry initiatives through its coordination of care model with increased partnerships with community providers to help ensure sustainability for offenders. The agency significantly increased the number of programs reported on its annual program inventory, reporting 34 programs for at the end of FY23 up from 22 in FY22, or an increase in programming of about 54 percent. NMCD has continued to increase the proportion of funding it directs to evidence- and research-based programs in FY24.



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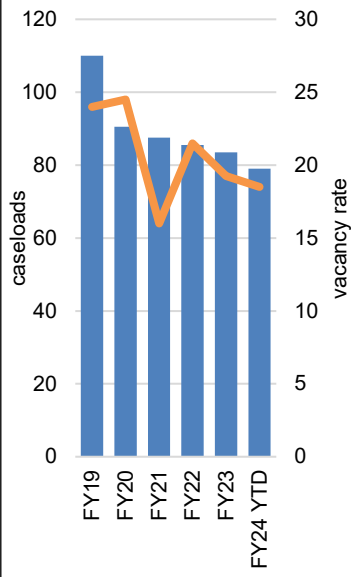
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Estimated Number of Release-Eligible Inmates Incarcerated Past Release Date by Quarter



Source: NMCD, LFC files

Probation and Parole Vacancies and Caseloads



Source: NMCD

A noted challenge over the last year from community partners has continued to be their struggle in hiring qualified behavioral health employees. A lack of behavioral health staff in the community has created some treatment shortages across the state. Community Corrections expanded the options for telehealth services to offenders, which has allowed providers in major metropolitan areas to have sufficient staffing to serve more offenders in rural areas through telehealth services.

Budget: \$22,970.2 FTE: 130	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Q1	FY24 Q2	Rating
Recidivism						
Prisoners reincarcerated within 36 months	37%	36%	35%	41%	38%	Y
Prisoners reincarcerated within 36 months due to new charges or pending charges	16%	17%	14%	20%	18%	Y
Prisoners reincarcerated within 36 months due to technical parole violations	22%	19%	20%	22%	20%	G
Percent of sex offenders reincarcerated on a new sex offense conviction within 36 months of release on the previous sex offense conviction	0%	4%	3%	4%	0%	G
Graduates from the residential drug abuse program who are reincarcerated within 36 months of release*	22%	19%	N/A	13%	11%	
Graduates from the men's recovery center who are reincarcerated within 36 months*	18%	11%	20%	23%	33%	R
Graduates from the women's recovery center who are reincarcerated within 36 months*	18%	11%	20%	27%	40%	R
Education						
Percent of eligible inmates enrolled in educational, cognitive, vocational, and college programs	45%	51%	60%	46%	53%	Y
Percent of eligible inmates who have completed adult basic education*	10%	15%	N/A	48%	56%	
Number of inmates who earn a high school equivalency credential	82	184	145	60	55	G
Percent of eligible students who earn a high school equivalency credential	8%	16%	80%	48%	56%	Y
Program Rating	Y	G		Y		Y

*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.

Community Offender Management

Vacancy rates among probation and parole officers increased to 19 percent this quarter, consistent with vacancy rates in FY23, while the average standard caseload per officer decreased from 83 to 72. NMCD reports 24 percent of absconders were apprehended in the first and second quarters, which represented a slight decrease from the 25 percent apprehended in FY23. Research suggests offenders with unstable employment or housing, and those struggling with substance use disorder are more likely to abscond. Efforts to improve coordination of services prior to release will likely take time to reduce the number of absconders.

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Corrections Department
Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2024

Budget: \$37,748.5 FTE: 359	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Q1	FY24 Q2	Rating
Average standard caseload per probation and parole officer	86	83	88	86	72	G
Percent of contacts made per month with high-risk offenders in the community	96%	97%	95%	97%	97%	G
Vacancy rate of probation and parole officers	21%	19%	15%	18%	19%	R
Percent of absconders apprehended	24%	25%	30%	24%	24%	R
Program Rating	R	Y		Y		Y