



**KEY ISSUES**

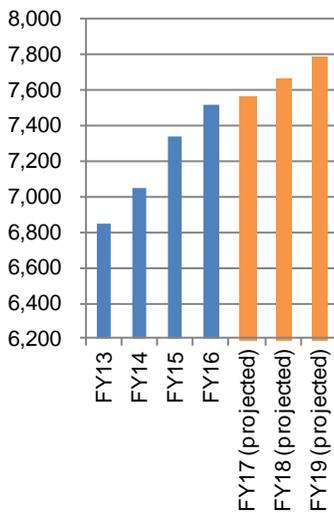
The New Mexico Corrections Department met the majority of its performance targets, but continues to struggle with high probation and parole officer caseloads and prison violence. The agency maintained good recidivism measure performance and instituted an internal policy mandating that the majority of programming be evidence-based. NMCD also invested significant resources into transitional living services.

**AGENCY IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Submitted by agency? Yes  
Timeline assigned by agency? No  
Responsibility assigned by agency? Yes

In response to the growing population within NMCD, the General Services Department and legislative and executive staff began preliminary discussions to determine the feasibility of replacing units at current prison facilities with modern buildings designed to be less staff intensive and expensive to run, and safer for inmates.

**Projected Inmate Highest Population FY13-FY16**



Source: New Mexico Sentencing Commission

In FY16, the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) had an average of 590 unoccupied beds system-wide including an average 402 empty beds at publicly run facilities. The state’s inmate population is projected to grow 1 percent in FY17 and 2 percent in the out years, straining the agency’s resources. Rising populations have driven NMCD to evaluate the best methods to reduce recidivism and slow population growth, including development of new, more efficient prisons. NMCD has improved on timely release of eligible inmates, Medicaid eligibility determination pre-release, recidivism rates, and education. The department also adopted an internal policy requiring no less than 70 percent of total programming be evidence-based as defined by the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.

Prison Facility Average Population for FY16			
Facility	Average Daily Population	Capacity	Percent of Beds Filled
Penitentiary of NM	790	906	87%
Springer Correctional Facility	272	296	92%
Central NM Correctional Facility	1,208	1,328	91%
Southern NM Correctional Facility	731	810	90%
Western NM Correctional Facility	323	376	86%
Roswell Correctional Center	331	340	97%
<b>Public Prison Subtotal</b>	<b>3,654</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>91%</b>
Northeastern NM Correctional Facility	555	626	89%
Otero County Prison Facility	574	630	91%
Lea County Correctional Facility	1,253	1,284	98%
Guadalupe County Correctional Facility	598	601	99%
<b>Male Private Prison Subtotal</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>94%</b>
NM Women's Correctional Facility	766	792	97%
<b>Private Prison Subtotal</b>	<b>3,745</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,399</b>	<b>7,989</b>	<b>94%</b>

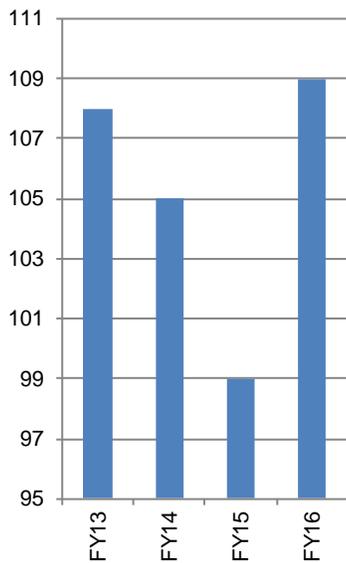
Source: New Mexico Sentencing Commission

**Inmate Management and Control.** Many of the targets for NMCD’s largest program were met. However, FY16 proved to be a violent year within the state’s prisons. Some of the violence can be attributed to the department moving from a security and containment incarceration model to a rehabilitation model. The change allows for more congregate movement among inmates which can lead to violent clashes. The department has established the Predatory Behavior Management Program to help decrease violent occurrences and is working towards alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders to reduce overcrowding.

Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 Actual	Rating
Thirty-six month recidivism rate	47%	47%	44%	46%	R
Inmate-on-inmate assaults with serious injury (cumulative)	9	13	10	21	R

Factors driving inmate population growth vary; however, the New Mexico Sentencing Commission shows male admissions for violent crimes have grown an average 3 percent over the last four years while admissions for drug crimes have risen 7 percent. Female admissions have increased in every category of crime in the last four years: 28 percent in violent crime, 14 percent in property crime, 18 percent in drug crimes, and 36 percent in public order crimes.

**Average Standard Caseload Per Probation and Parole Officer FY13 - FY16**

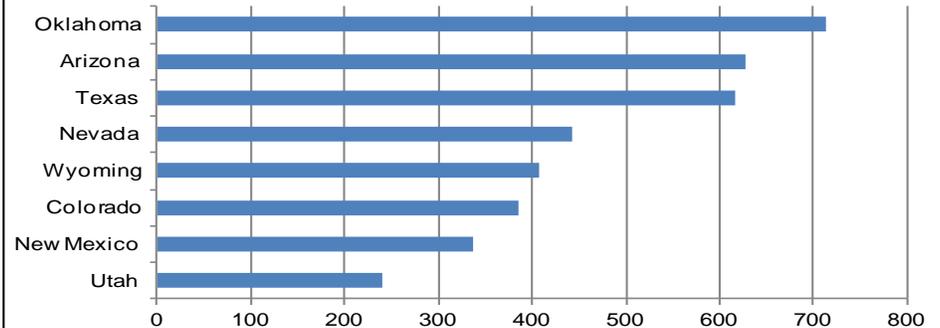


Inmate-on-staff assaults with serious injury (cumulative)	5	2	4	9	<b>R</b>
Inmates testing positive for drug use or refusing to be tested in random monthly drug tests	New	New	≤1.5%	1.8%	<b>Y</b>
Release eligible female inmates still incarcerated past their scheduled release date	New	New	10%	9%	<b>G</b>
Release eligible male inmates still incarcerated past their scheduled release date	New	New	10%	9%	<b>G</b>
Inmates pre-enrolled in Medicaid at time of release	New	New	95%	83%	<b>Y</b>
Recidivism rate of offenders due to new charges or pending charges	25%	23%	20%	22%	<b>Y</b>
Recidivism rate of offenders due to technical parole violations	22%	17%	20%	17%	<b>G</b>
Eligible inmates who earn a general equivalency diploma	54%	64%	75%	76%	<b>G</b>
<b>Program Rating</b>					<b>G</b>

**Community Offender Management.** Average standard caseloads peaked in FY16 with probation and parole officers carrying an average of 109 cases over the year, well above the target of 95 and much higher than the 99 caseload average last year. The reduction of release eligible inmates may partially contribute to higher probation and parole caseloads. The agency maintains an open recruitment agreement with the State Personnel Office allowing for efficient hiring practices that should help reduce caseloads. The agency's twelve person security threat intelligence unit exceeded the target for absconder apprehension; there are currently around 1,700 absconders from New Mexico prisons.

Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 Actual	Rating
Average standard caseload per probation and parole officer	105	99	95	109	<b>R</b>
Absconders apprehended	12%	28%	26%	30%	<b>G</b>
<b>Program Rating</b>					<b>Y</b>

**2014 Incarceration Rate per 100,000 Residents**



SOURCE: Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT)

