

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Population Projections, December 2002

In compliance with ORC section 5120.51, the attached table presents the second set of Calendar Year 2002 Ohio prison population projections, forecasting population totals for the period July 2003 – July 2011. These projections are based only on revised intake estimates and violation rates. A comprehensive revision is planned for release in February 2003, with a later update in May 2003 based on detailed analysis of new population and intake data.

The current projections forecast a July 1, 2003 population of 45,170, a July 1, 2004 population of 45,831 and a July 1, 2005 of 46,647. The population is then projected to increase by roughly 1.3% annually, on average, rising to 50,340 by July 1, 2011. This forecast represents a moderate upward revision of the February 2002 projections. Compared to those numbers, they suggest population levels that are **1,000 higher at the end of the current fiscal year, and 1,600-2,000 higher over the course of FY 2004-2005**. The difference is due largely to the recent surge in admissions during CY 2002 and the incorporation of new information on revocation patterns.

New admissions from court for CY 2002 are estimated to be about 22,400, setting a new record for ODRC intake and yielding a growth rate of slightly more than eight percent over last year. This is also 750 admissions higher than anticipated in our last set of projections and follows relatively strong growth of 4.8% over CY 2000-01. New court intake has increased five percent annually, on average, since 1997. Accordingly, the current revision is based on expected intake growth of 3.5% annually in CY 2003-04, followed by more modest growth of 2.5% and one percent for Calendar Years 2005 and 2006, respectively. The following factors were considered in making these assumptions:

- Revised statistical models based on linear extrapolation from long-term admission patterns suggest growth rates of 3.3% in CY 2003 and 3.9% in CY 2004. Demographic analysis of crime-prone age groups and their rates of incarceration suggest more moderate increases in the two percent range, but also in an upward direction.
- Overall crime rates in Ohio in CY 2001 are up over three percent and even higher for violent crimes, as reported in the most recent UCR data. Although state-wide data are unavailable, criminal case filings in Franklin County (the second largest source of DRC commitments) also increased three percent in 2001, but are stable so far in CY 2002. Both patterns are only loosely tied to prison admissions, but are reflective of overall system load.

The current projections also rely on the most recently available three-year recidivism data to estimate re-offending rates among parolees and releases onto PRC. The recidivism numbers indicate overall increases in rates of return among supervised releases, which are now represented predominantly by PRC offenders who have higher technical revocation and felony recommitment rates. The current model is based on these revised rates, but otherwise retains the same parameters used in the previous model, including information about population composition, length of stay and parole release rates and hearing patterns.

As is customary in projecting prison populations, the current forecast assumes that present policies and statutory context remain unchanged, including no new significant legislation affecting prison admissions, no dramatic changes in crime rates or changes affecting the composition and/or rate of admissions, no changes in parole/PRC release policy, and no significant changes in APA field supervision practices.

If you have any questions about these projections, please contact Brian Martin at 728-1191.

ODRC Prison Population Projections, by Sex, for July 1, 2003 - July 1, 2011

Date	Male	Female	Total
12/2/02*	42142	2881	45023
7/1/2003	42325	2845	45170
7/1/2004	42888	2943	45831
7/1/2005	43642	3005	46647
7/1/2006	44301	3103	47404
7/1/2007	44645	3167	47812
7/1/2008	45158	3258	48416
7/1/2009	46044	3336	49380
7/1/2010	46665	3309	49974
7/1/2011	47031	3309	50340

*Actual population from December 2, 2002 Weekly Population Count

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