

# elements of change

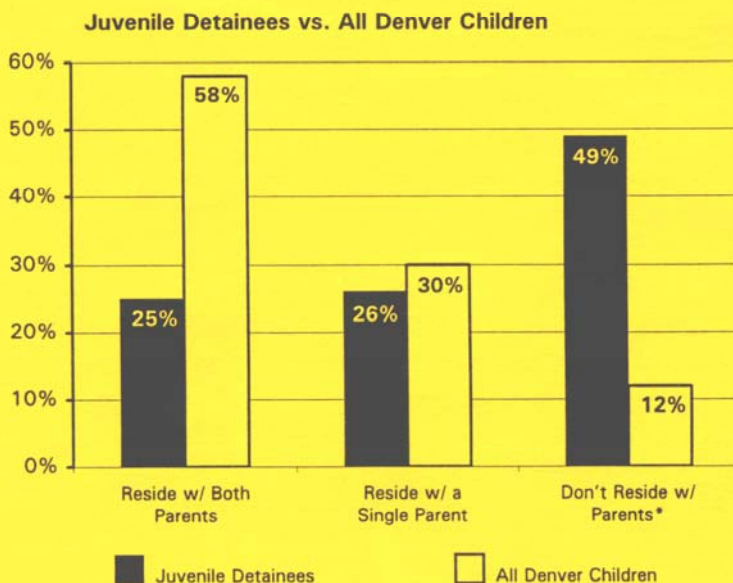
highlighting trends and issues in the criminal justice system

vol. 1 / no. 2

## Most Troubled Youth Live Outside the Traditional Two-Parent Nuclear Family

Since February of 1990, DCJ has collected data for the federally funded Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) project. The DUF project monitors drug use among adult and juvenile jail detainees in 22 sites nationwide, including Denver. Recently, the Piton Foundation began analysis of these extensive Denver data sets to address issues of interest to policy makers and community groups.

The following table from the Piton Foundation analysis compares DUF self-report data obtained from juvenile detainees to U. S. Census data for all Denver juveniles. The data reflect the percentage of youth in each group living with married parents, single parents, or in some other setting (relatives, friends, shelters, on the street, etc.). The analysis of the two groups reveals DUF detainees to be less likely than all Denver children to reside with both parents and four times more likely to live in a setting without either parent.



Sources: *Juvenile Detainee* demographic data from Denver Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Project, 1994.  
*All Denver Children* demographic data from the Piton Foundation's Community Database, 1990.

\* *Don't Reside with Parents* indicates children living with relatives, friends, in shelters, or on the street.

### In This Issue:

- 1) Juvenile Detainees
- 2) Crime Funnel
- 3) Plea Practices
- 4) Adult Incarceration
- 5) Internet Workshop



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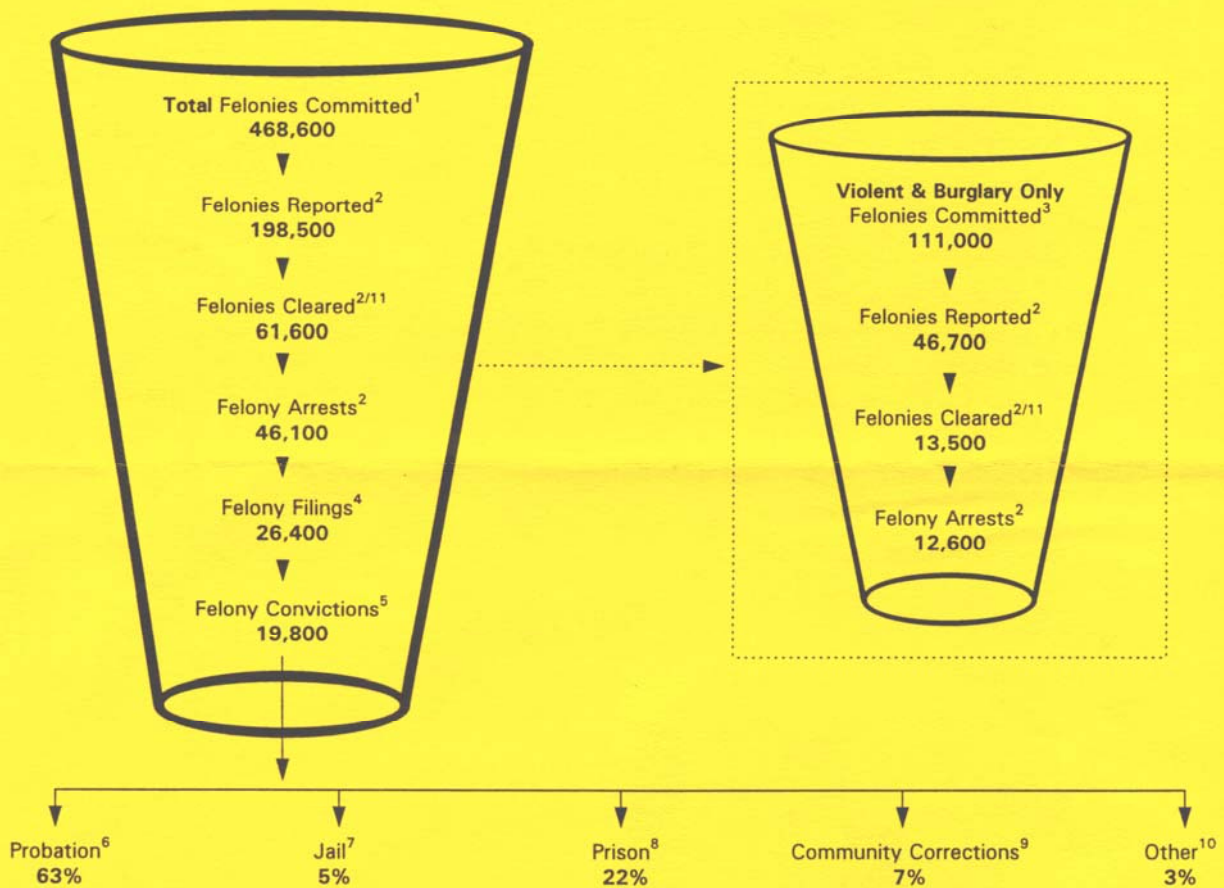
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[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/cdps/dcjinfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/cdps/dcjinfo.htm)

## 1994 CRIME FUNNEL: Felony Convictions Represent Four Percent of Total Felony Crimes Committed

The crime funnel graphically illustrates the difference in Colorado between the annual number of felonies *committed* and the number of felony *convictions*. The funnel also shows the resulting correctional sanctions. Approximately 40% of crimes committed are reported to the police (198,500 reports vs. 468,600 committed) and, of those reported, approximately one-third are cleared by a felony arrest (see footnote 11 for a definition of cleared). Nearly 43% of felony arrests result in a felony conviction (46,100 vs. 19,800). All numbers are estimated from CY 1994 unless otherwise noted.



1 Based on estimates from the April 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey, Criminal Victimization 1994, NCJ-158022.

2 Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Annual Report, 1994, UCR data.

3 Violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, and assault [does not include simple assault]) plus burglary. Based on estimates from the April 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey, Criminal Victimization 1994, NCJ-158022.

4 Estimate based on Colorado Judicial FY 1994 Report. Average between FY 1994 and FY 1995.

5 Estimate based on DCJ court database, 1994.

6 Includes probation only, probation with jail sentence, probation concurrent with prior sentence, adult diversion (DA office), and intensive supervision probation.

Probation does not include the category of community corrections as a condition of probation. Estimate from DCJ 1994 court database.

7 Includes jail only, jail with work release, and jail with fine. Estimate from DCJ 1994 court database.

8 Includes new commitments. Estimate from DCJ 1994 court database.

9 Includes community corrections as a condition of probation, direct sentence to community corrections, other sentence to community corrections. Estimate from DCJ 1994 court database.

10 Includes suspended sentence only, fine only, prison as a result of community corrections revocation, and useful public service. Estimate from DCJ 1994 court database.

11 Crimes cleared are crimes in which a perpetrator is identified and the case is closed.



67.3% \*  
of Violent  
Offenses  
Charged in  
1994 Resulted  
in a Violent  
Conviction \* \*

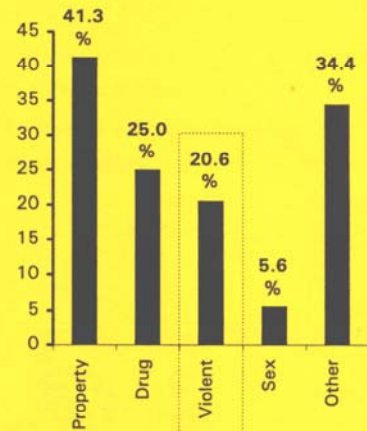
## Violent Crimes Make Up One-Fifth of Charges Filed in Colorado -- Two-Thirds of Those Are Convicted of a Violent Offense

The Division of Criminal Justice's court database records the three most serious offense charges filed for each offender in a sample of all Colorado offenders (see Source to the right for a description of the sample). Seriousness is determined first by felony class and second by offense type -- violent offenses being considered more serious than property offenses, for example, when the felony class is the same.

The graph to the right represents by offense category the three most serious offense charges filed for each offender in the 1994 court sample. Because we record the three most serious offenses, each offense category in the graph is not mutually exclusive. For example, an offender charged with both a violent crime and a drug crime would be represented twice.

The illustration to the left and below shows, for offenders in the sample charged with violent offenses, what proportion were convicted of a violent offense, and what proportion were not. For those not convicted of a violent offense, a more detailed description of the case charges and disposition is provided.

Charges Filed in Colorado, 1994 (Offense categories not mutually exclusive)



Source: DCJ's 1994 court database. Annually, DCJ collects data on-site from a 20% sample of court cases filed in nine of the state's 22 judicial districts. The nine judicial districts represented in the court database are: 1st (Jefferson County), 2nd (Denver County), 4th (El Paso County), 8th (Larimer County), 10th (Pueblo County), 17th (Adams County), 18th (Arapahoe County), 19th (Weld County), and the 21st (Mesa County). These jurisdictions represent 80% of Colorado's population.

Note: *Violent* = assault, vehicular assault, menacing, extortion, reckless endangerment, homicide, kidnapping, robbery. *Property* = burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, forgery, fraud.

For more information: Contact Susan Colling at the Division of Criminal Justice, 303-239-4664.

\* NOTE!!!: ALL percentages in this illustration (the illustration to the left) refer back to the TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLENT OFFENSES CHARGED IN 1994 (the combined total of violent charges resulting in a violent conviction and violent charges not resulting in a violent conviction).

\* \* For the group *Violent Offenses Charged Resulting in a Violent Conviction*: (Remember, as stated above, the following percentages refer back to the TOTAL number of violent offenses charged in 1994 -- not just those resulting in a violent conviction) 42.7% were charged with a violent offense only, 23.1% were charged with a violent and nonviolent offense, and 1.5% were charged with a violent and sex offense.



Charge Description



Case Disposition

32.7%  
of Violent  
Offenses  
Charged in  
1994 Did Not  
Result in a  
Violent  
Conviction

13.2% Charged w/ Violent Offense Only	1.9% Convicted of Nonviolent Offense
	11.3% Case Dismissed / Acquitted
17.8% Charged w/ Violent & Other Nonviolent Offense	12.4% Convicted of Nonviolent Offense
	5.4% Case Dismissed / Acquitted
1.7% Charged w/ Violent & Sex Offense	0.3% Convicted of Nonviolent Offense
	0.6% Convicted of Sex Offense
	0.8% Case Dismissed / Acquitted



## Colorado's Prison Population Expected to Increase 40% by 2002

The Division of Criminal Justice's 1996 interim\* prison population projections indicate expected prison growth of 4,504 between July 1, 1996 and July 1, 2002. These mid-year projections show prison growth occurring more rapidly in the next two years than the Fall 1995 projections, but beginning in 1999, prison growth is expected to occur more slowly than DCJ's Fall projections indicated.



### Factors Impacting Prison Population Since Fall, 1995 Forecast:

*Recent increase in prison commitments.* The Department of Corrections has received an average of 500 offenders per month for the past three months (February, March, and April, 1996) compared to an average of 396 offenders per month for the 12 months prior. This number of commitments is unprecedented in Colorado's history, and is contributing to the recent "spike" in the prison population. Releases from prison remain steady. However, the increased commitments lead to quicker prison population growth.

*Temporary decrease in funding for diversion community corrections programs.*

Funding decreases beginning March 1996 may have contributed to some of the spike in prison commitments. It is possible that offenders who might have been placed in community corrections were instead sentenced to prison when diversion bed space was not available in some communities. Beginning July, 1996, 100 transition community corrections beds will be transferred to diversion status. It is not known how this will impact judicial sentencing practices, but DCJ will monitor this situation.

*Increase in law enforcement officers on the street.* Since 1994, nine different federal grant programs have provided money to municipalities and counties

### DCJ Interim 1996 Prison Population Projections: July 1996 Through July 2002

Month/ Year	Total Male	Total Female	TOTAL
JUL 1996	10816	771	11587
OCT 96	11023	784	11807
JAN 97	11223	798	12021
APR 97	11387	810	12197
JUL 1997	11531	853	12384
OCT 97	11737	866	12603
JAN 98	11937	882	12819
APR 98	12100	894	12994
JUL 1998	12193	924	13117
OCT 98	12339	934	13273
JAN 99	12524	948	13472
APR 99	12709	962	13671
JUL 1999	12723	1001	13724
OCT 99	12928	1015	13943
JAN 00	13128	1031	14159
APR 00	13290	1045	14335
JUL 2000	13469	1087	14556
OCT 00	13674	1101	14775
JAN 01	13872	1118	14990
APR 01	14035	1131	15166
JUL 2001	14252	1169	15421
OCT 01	14456	1184	15640
JAN 02	14656	1200	15856
APR 02	14817	1214	16031
JUL 2002	15013	1261	16274

Source: The Division of Criminal Justice's 1996 Interim Prison Population Projections, prepared by the Office of Research and Statistics.

For more information on the prison population projections: Contact Suzanne Pullen at the Division of Criminal Justice, 303-239-4492.

\* DCJ projects the Colorado prison population twice per year.



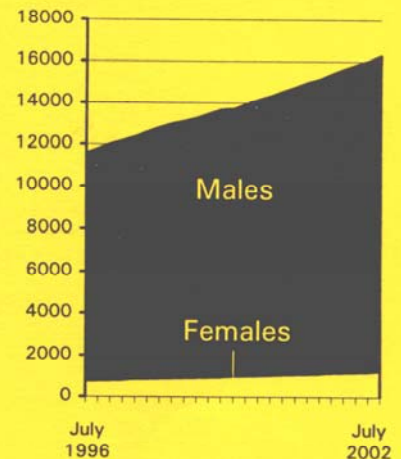
to increase the number of law enforcement officers across the country. In Colorado, a total of \$23,358,201 was awarded to 133 local law enforcement agencies, allowing for 300 new officers to be hired, and 200 law enforcement officers to be redeployed. The five largest grants were awarded to the following agencies: Denver Police Department (\$3,321,019), Aurora Police Department (\$1,950,000), Colorado Springs Sheriff's Office (\$825,000), Boulder Police Department (\$680,000), and the Fort Collins Police Department (\$675,000). The amount of local law enforcement block program funds awarded to the state for fiscal year 1996 is \$4,248,372. This money will be awarded through 1998. The presence of additional law enforcement officers in the state has quite likely increased the number of arrests, which likely led to an increase in felony filings.

*Increase in felony filings.* Between FY 1994 and FY 1995, statewide felony filings increased by 14.4% (according to Judicial Branch annual statistical reports). This follows an increase the previous year of 6.4% (between FY 1993 and FY 1994). These additional filings increase the pool of offenders sentenced to all correctional options. The increased felony filings are likely related to the increased number of law enforcement officers in Colorado, discussed above.

*Change in the state's demographic profile since the Fall, 1995 forecast.* The number of offenders admitted to prison depends more on the number of persons in certain subgroups of the state's population than on the size of the population as a whole. Most adult offenders sentenced to prison are males, in their mid to late twenties, and persons within minority ethnic groups are over-represented. It is the sizes of these populations that are of greatest concern in forecasting prison populations, and these demographic groups are currently growing.

*Increase in overall state population.* Recent state population estimates by the Demographic Section of the Department of Local Affairs indicate that the overall state population increased 2.3% over their 1994 estimate. The largest proportion of this growth has occurred in the metropolitan front range area – the area that also contributes the largest proportion (84.5% of admissions in FY95) of offenders to the state's prison population. Much of this growth has been a result of in-migration, or people moving to the area. Long range (25-year) state population projections indicate that the state's Anglo population will decline by 5.4%, while the total minority population is expected to increase by that amount. Specifically, the state's Hispanic population is expected to increase most quickly.

- i The Male Prison Population Is Expected to Increase 39%**
- i The Female Prison Population Is Expected to Increase 64%**



Note: Please see chart on previous page for actual prison population numbers.

Source: The Division of Criminal Justice's 1996 Interim Prison Population Projections, prepared by the Office of Research and Statistics.



**The Division of Criminal Justice's 1996 Interim Prison Population Projections**

This report summarizes DCJ's most current projections of Colorado's prison population -- July 1996 through July 2002. For more information, contact Suzanne Pullen at 303-239-4492.

# Internet Workshop! ➤

On August 13, 1996, 8:30-Noon, the Division of Criminal Justice will host a workshop on using the Internet to access criminal justice information. The workshop will cost \$10. Contact Chris Webster at 303-239-4455 for more information.

This training will be a basic introduction to the internet. We will explain and demonstrate the amazing resources available via the Internet. The following topics will be covered:

- > What Is the Internet?
- > How to Get Connected
- > Hardware / Software Requirements
- > File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- > Searching the Net for Criminal Justice Info
- > World Wide Web

After the three hour workshop you will have the necessary information and software that will enable you to connect to the Internet and explore this vast new world.

Workshop limited to 65 people. Sign up early!

*Elements of Change prepared and distributed by:  
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## Sign-Up FoRM

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

**Chris Webster  
Division of Criminal Justice  
700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000  
Denver, CO 80215**



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