

elements of change

Highlighting Trends and Issues in the Criminal Justice System

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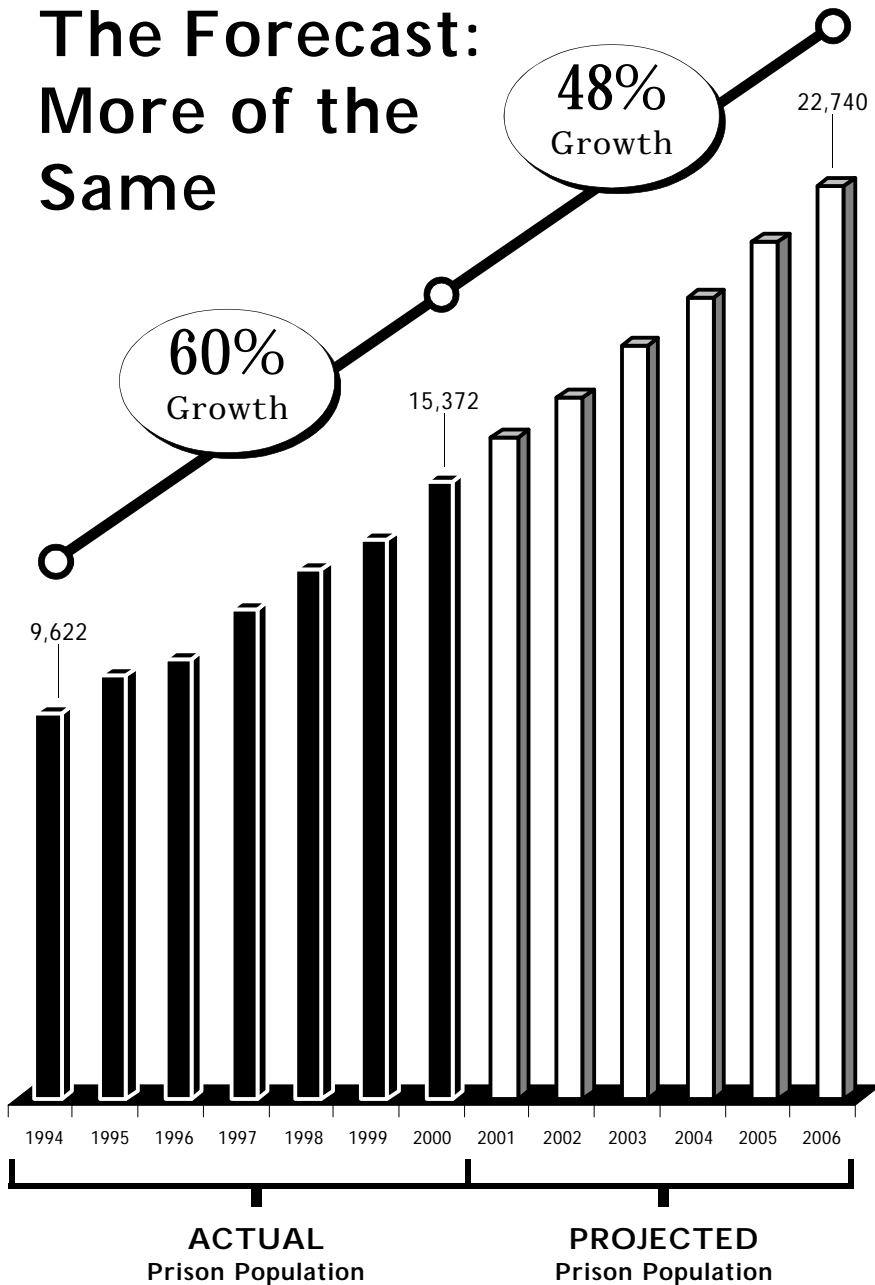
OFFICE OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS

Division of Criminal Justice

Colorado Department of Public Safety

Fall 1999 Division of Criminal Justice Adult (Male and Female) PRISON POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Forecast: More of the Same



IN THIS ISSUE:

The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is mandated pursuant to 24-33.5-503 C.R.S. to prepare Department of Corrections population projections for the Colorado General Assembly. This issue of *Elements of Change* presents significant findings from the Fall 1999 adult projections.

Coming Next

The next issue of *Elements of Change* will present findings from the Fall 1999 Division of Criminal Justice juvenile detention, commitment, and parole population projections.

Source for all data in this newsletter (unless otherwise noted): *Division of Criminal Justice Fall 1999 Adult Prison and Parole Population Projections*. The full report is available online at www.cdpsweb.state.co.us/ors.

Fall 1999 Division of Criminal Justice Adult Prison Population Projections

THE NUMBERS: Fall 1999 DCJ Adult Prison Population Projections

GENERAL FINDINGS

The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) forecasts that the adult prison population will reach **22,740** inmates (male and female) by January 2006. This represents a **48%** increase over the actual inmate population of **15,372** for January 2000.

	Men*	Women*	Total
JAN 1994	9,064	558	9,622
JAN 1995	9,898	666	10,564
JAN 1996	10,211	722	10,933
JAN 1997	11,338	867	12,205
JAN 1998	12,219	976	13,195
JAN 1999	12,891	1,075	13,966
JAN 2000	14,157	1,215	15,372

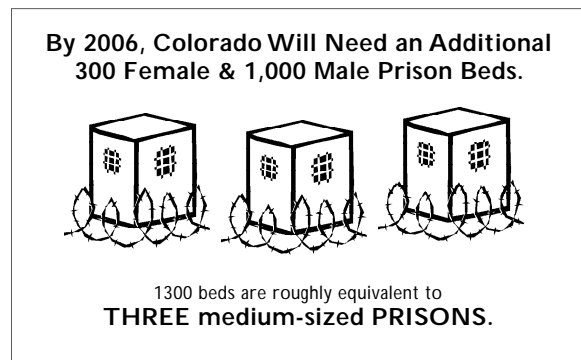
(Actual Numbers)

(Projected Numbers)

JAN 2001	15,083	1,388	16,472
JAN 2002	15,947	1,522	17,469
JAN 2003	17,118	1,645	18,762
JAN 2004	18,182	1,770	19,952
JAN 2005	19,471	1,903	21,374
JAN 2006	20,696	2,044	22,740

	Men	Women	Total
Projected Growth Between 2000 & 2006	46%	68%	48%

Note: MEN plus WOMEN does not always precisely add up to TOTAL due to rounding.



Between 2000 and 2006, DCJ projects that on average male and female inmate populations will grow annually at a rate of **8%** and **11%**, respectively.

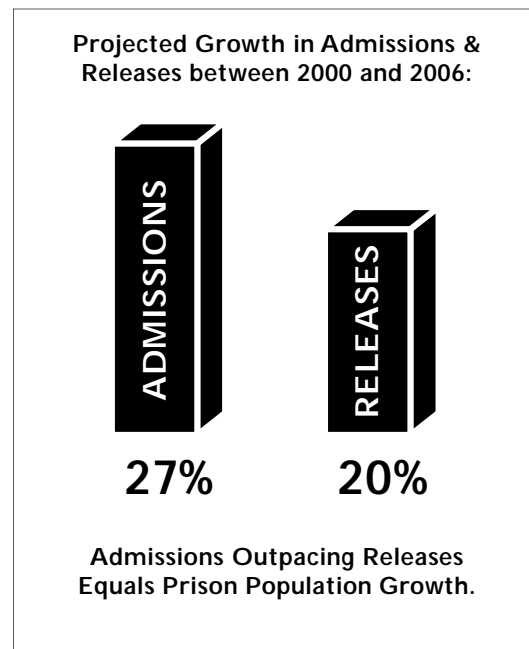
ADMISSIONS

The DCJ prison population projection (PPP) model predicts that overall admissions will increase **27%** between 2000 and 2006 (from **6,953** in 2000 to **8,859** in 2006). During the same period, male admissions and female admissions are expected to increase **26%** and **44%**, respectively.

The projected growth in admissions is attributed to two factors: 1) the criminal justice system becoming increasingly more efficient in converting felony arrests to Department of Corrections placements, and 2) the anticipated growth in Colorado's population (an estimated 3.8 million people by 2006).

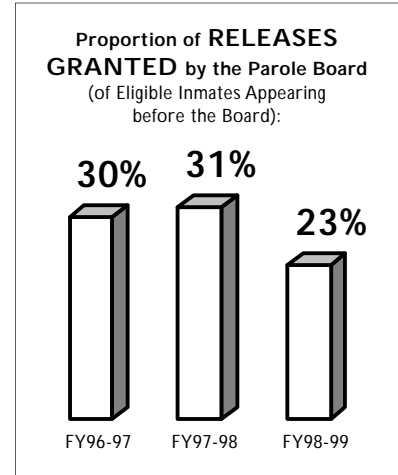
RELEASES

The DCJ PPP model indicates that overall releases will increase **20%** between 2000 and 2006 (from **6,258** in 2000 to **7,493** in 2006). During the same period, male releases and female releases are expected to increase **17%** and **43%**, respectively.

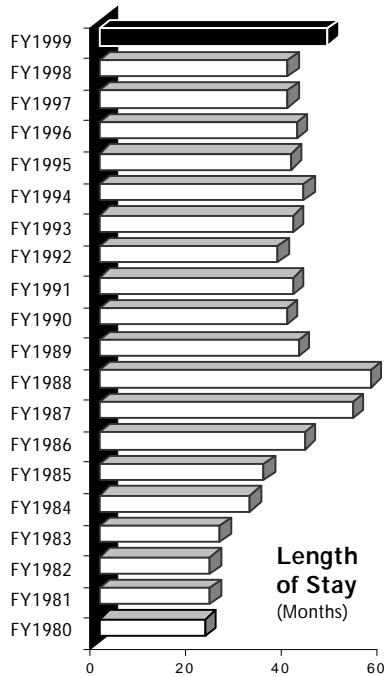


* MEN and WOMEN totals for January 1994 through January 1999 estimated from Colorado Department of Corrections population figures from June 30 of each year.

Department of Corrections releases decreased significantly in FY1998-99. The major contributing factor to this reduction was a decrease in the proportion of paroles granted by the Parole Board. The Parole Board granted releases to 23% of inmates that appeared before the Board in FY1998-99, representing a significant decline from previous years (31% in FY1997-98 and 30% in FY1996-97). The Office of Research and Statistics predicts that this reduction in the *rate* of releases will persist, while the *number* of releases will continue to climb.



Source: Division of Criminal Justice Parole Guidelines Database.



LENGTH OF STAY

In 1999, the length of stay (LOS) increased by 21% compared to the previous year (from 39.6 months in 1998 to 48.1 months in 1999), yielding a 9.5 month increase in LOS for each inmate.

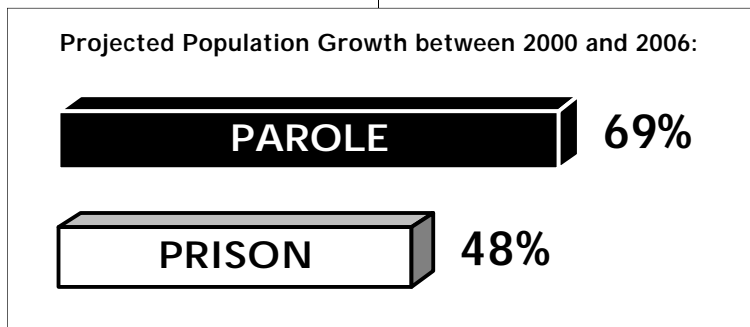
The data suggest that parolees who fail under community supervision and are readmitted to prison are required by the Parole Board to serve the remainder of their sentence in the institution. That is, in the absence of statutory changes, the majority of the increase in LOS can be attributed to the significant reduction in discretionary releases from prison.



PAROLE POPULATION

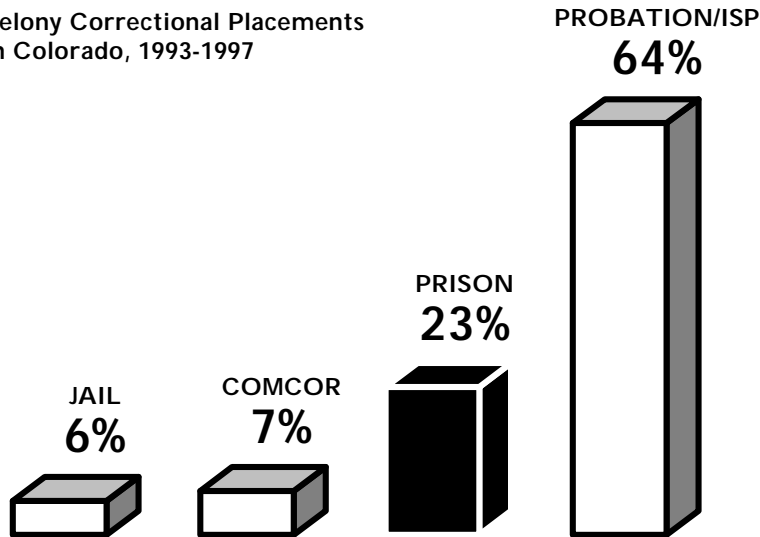
The Colorado parole population is projected to increase 69% between 2000 and 2006 (from 5,274 in 2000 to 8,901 in 2006).

The increasing parole population is primarily due to a larger proportion of inmates being released under mandatory parole per HB-93-1302 and HB-98-1160. This legislation mandates that any offender sentenced to prison must also serve a mandatory period on parole. The proportion of inmates incarcerated under the mandatory parole statute increased from 19% in FY1997-98 to 24% in FY1998-99.



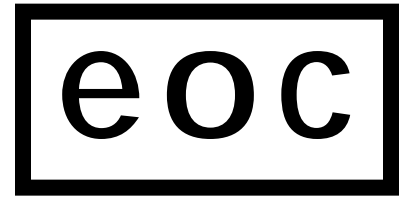
Parting Glance:

Felony Correctional Placements
in Colorado, 1993-1997



Source: Division of Criminal Justice Criminal Justice Database, 1993-1997.

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