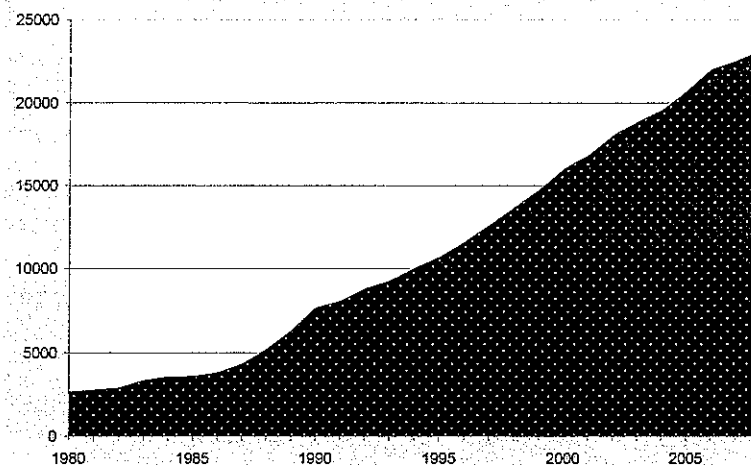


## COLORADO QUICK FACTS

2009



### Prison Population Growth

- The Department of Corrections (DOC) jurisdictional population is 23,144. Another 8,844 people are on parole.
- Since 1980, the population of the state increased 59% while the prison population increased 604 %.
- The prison population is projected to grow by 2,569 prisoners between June 2008-June 2012 (11.2% increase).
- From 1992-2004, the national average annual prison population growth rate was 4.3%. Colorado's rate of growth during this same time period was much higher at 7%.

Sources: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, "Monthly Population Report," (December 31, 2008); Census Data; FY 2009-2010 Joint Budget Committee, Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, (12/23/08)

### Incarceration Rate

- In 1980, Colorado's adult incarceration rate was 92. By 2007, that number grew to 469. (The incarceration rate is a calculation of the number of adults in prison per 100,000 adult residents in the state.)
- In comparison, countries around the world have adult incarceration rates that are far lower: South Africa (344), Israel (209), Mexico (191), England and Wales (145), Australia (120), China (118), Canada (116), Germany (97), France (88), Sweden (81) and Japan (60).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pubalp2.htm#prisoners>); DOC Annual Statistical Report 2006 (2007)

### Prison Construction

- The state currently operates 24 prisons. DOC also contracts for six private prisons in Colorado.
- Since 1985, the state spent over \$700 million building prisons.
- One 956 bed state prison (CSP II) is under construction at a cost of over \$100 million.
- A 750 bed private prison is currently under construction in Hudson, CO.
- The average cost of constructing each prison bed is \$83,360.
- The DOC's five-year capital construction plan calls for \$849.6 million through FY 2012-13.

Sources: DOC Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (2008); Joint Budget Committee, FY 2008-09 Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, (12/20/07).

### Cost of Corrections

- It costs an average of \$28,758 a year to house someone in prison.
- In 1985, the DOC received \$57 million from the state's General Fund. It is projected that the DOC will receive \$825 million in 2008, (\$64 million more than last year.).

- If the DOC budget had been held to the 6% annual growth rate cap since its enactment in 1993, its budget would be more than \$290 million less.
  - In 1984, the DOC budget was 2.8% of the state general fund budget. In 2009, it will 8.8% of the state budget.
- Source: Joint Budget Committee, FY2009-10 Staff Budget Briefing, DOC (12/23/08).

## **Women in Prison**

- Between 1993 and 2003, the women's prison population grew by 233.3 %—over twice the growth of men in prison.
- The US imprisons 10 times more women than Western Europe countries combined, despite similar female populations.
- 76.2% of women sent to Colorado's prisons in 2006 were convicted of a non-violent offense.
- 27.6% of women in prison were convicted of a drug offense, the most prevalent crime of conviction.
- 42.1% of women in prison have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- 91% of women in prison have been assessed to be in need of substance abuse treatment.

Sources: Colorado Legislative Council, *An Overview of the Adult Criminal Justice System*, Research Publication 538 (January 2005), Amnesty International, *Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody* (Washington, DC: 1999) Colorado Dept. of Corrections, *Statistical Report for 2007* (2008).

## **Impact on Children**

It is estimated that over 20,000 children in Colorado currently have a parent in prison. Studies show these children are greatly affected (academically, behaviorally, socially and financially) by the incarceration of a parent, and these children face a much higher likelihood of being incarcerated at some point in their lives.

- 70-80% of women in prison are mothers who had an average of 2.5 children under the age of 18 living with them prior to their arrest. Of these children, 85% are under the age of 10. Another 6% enter prison pregnant.
- 55% of men in prison are fathers of children under the age of 18.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children," by Christopher Mumola (2000). Toni Locy. "Like Mother Like Daughter." U.S. News and World Report. October 1998.

## **Racial Disparity in Prison**

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a male born in 2001 faces the following odds of going to prison during his lifetime: 1 in 3 for African-Americans; 1 in 6 for Latinos; 1 in 17 for Caucasians.

- Latinos/as account for 17.1% of the population in Colorado, but 31% of the state prison population.
- African-Americans make up 3.8% of Colorado's population, but represent 19.4% of people in state prison.
- Anglos are 74.5% of the state's population, but only 46% of the prison population.

Sources: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, *Statistical Report for 2006* (2007). Census Data, [www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/state/08000.html](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/state/08000.html), U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001," by Thomas Bonczar, NCJ 197976 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003).

## **Mental Illness in Prison**

- In 2007, 21% of people in prison in Colorado had a serious mental illness, a five percent increase from the mental illness rate reported in 2003.
- In 1995, 230 people in prison were diagnosed with mental illness which was 2% of the prison population.

Sources: Colorado Department of Corrections, *Budget Request FY2009-10*; p.29

## **Drug Offenses Drive Prison Growth**

- Over the past decade, the number of people sent to prison in Colorado for a drug offense increased by 476%.
- As of 2007, 18.9% of the prison population are people sent to prison for drug offenses
- The U.S incarcerates more people for drug offenses than the European Union does for all offenses combined, even though the EU has 100 million more citizens than the United States.
- A 2001 study by the National Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse found that Colorado has the lowest per capita spending on substance abuse prevention, treatment, and research out of the 46 reporting states.

Sources: Colorado Legislative Council. *An Overview of the Adult Criminal Justice System*. Research Pub No.452.9-10. Phillip Beatty, Barry Holman, and Vincent Schiraldi, *Poor Prescription: The Costs of Imprisoning Drug Offenders in the United States*, (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2000) , Columbia University, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, *Shovelling up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets* (2001)

## **Parole**

- 30% of people who were sent to prison were revoked for a technical parole violation - this means that a procedural violation occurred, but no new crime was committed.
- 51.1% of people in prison (nearly 12,000 people) are past their parole eligibility date.
- 64% of people on mandatory parole will be returned to prison within 3 years.

Sources: Colorado Legislative Council, *Study on the State Parole System*, Research Publication No. 439 (1998); Colorado Dept. of Corrections, *Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2007* (2008).