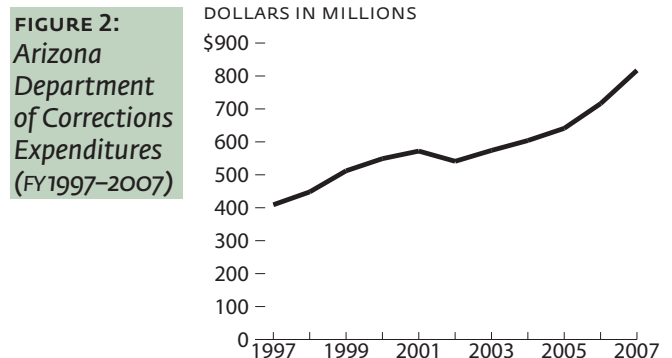
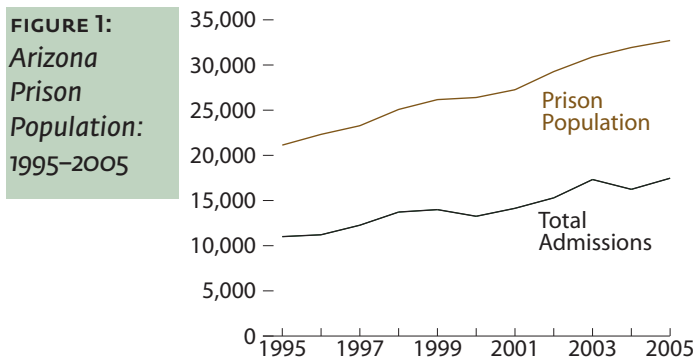


# Recent and Projected Growth of the Arizona Prison Population



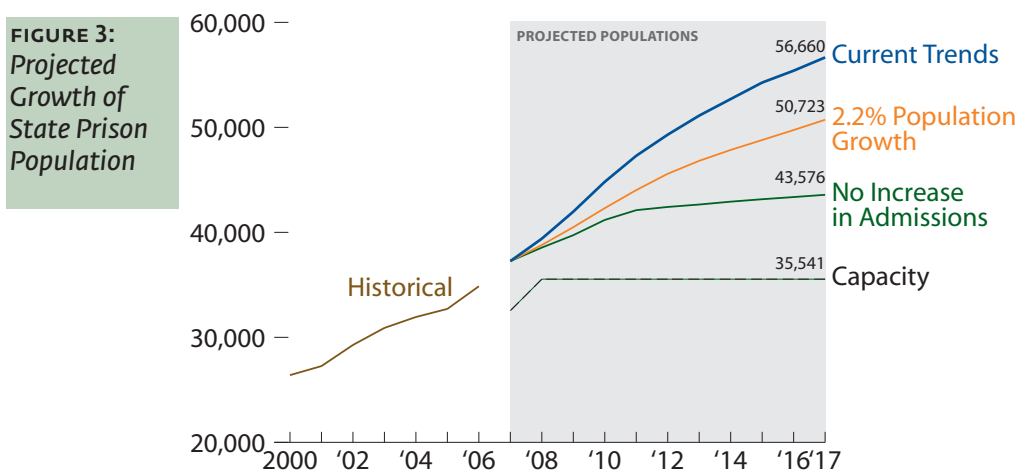
## Arizona's prison population has increased significantly in recent years.

- The prison population increased 52 percent over the last 10 years.
- Arizona's spending on corrections has increased by 100 percent, from \$409 million in FY1997 to \$817 million in FY2007. By FY2005, corrections spending accounted for 10 percent of state general fund expenditures, one of the highest proportions in the nation.



## The growth of the state's prison population is projected to accelerate.

- The state's prison population is projected to increase by 52 percent over the next ten years if current trends continue.<sup>1</sup> The graph below reflects this growth scenario, as well as two additional scenarios.
- The growth projected for the state's prison population is twice the rate of increase projected for state's resident population (26 percent from 2005-2015).



**Explanation**

- **Current Trends:** Forecast assumes the increase in new sentences will continue and match the overall five-year trend.
- **2.2 Percent Population Growth:** Forecast assumes the number of new sentences will stabilize at FY2006 levels and grow steadily from that point by the 2.2 percent growth expected in the at-risk demographic population.
- **No Increase in Admissions:** Forecast assumes the number of admissions per year will remain at FY2006 levels.

## The Department of Corrections is currently short beds; current construction plans fall well short of the growth projected for the state's prison population.

- The Department of Corrections has been authorized and funded to add 3,000 beds to its prison system.
- To accommodate the growth projected for the prison population, the state will need to build an additional 20,000 beds within 10 years.
- Costs associated with the construction and operation of the additional beds needed will rise to an additional \$3 billion in expenditures over 10 years.

## High rates of failure among particular segments of the population under supervision of the criminal justice system are contributing significantly to an increase in the prison population.

- 42 percent of those released from prison in Arizona from 1990–1999 were reincarcerated within three years.
- 18,017 people were released from prison to the community in FY2006. Prison releases increased by 10 percent in FY2006, and admissions to prison increased by 15 percent.
- 60 percent of people admitted to prison in Arizona live in the Phoenix-Mesa area.
- People who have violated conditions of probation account for one-third of all prison admissions. These probation violators receive, on average, a two-year sentence for failing probation.
- The number of women admitted to Arizona state prisons has increased 60 percent in the last 6 years, twice the rate of increase of male admissions.
- About one-half of all female admissions are probation violators.
- Parole revocations account for an additional 17 percent of prison admissions.
- The average length of stay for all released prisoners in FY2006 was 25 months.

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1. This projection assumes that current trends will continue, but factors currently driving the growth in the prison population **are unstable**. The number of people admitted to prison for new sentences from the courts grew by an unprecedented number in FY2006. At this time, it remains to be seen whether this increased rate of admissions will persist or whether it will level off and return to levels seen before 2006.

### Methodology

This prison population forecast was generated by the JFA Institute, a Washington DC-based consulting firm. Under the direction of Dr. James Austin, JFA Associates utilized the Wizard 2000 model, a computerized simulation model which mimics the admissions and releases of people in prison over a ten-year period based on the current state sentencing structure, recent inmate population trends, and computer-extracted files provided by the Arizona Department of Corrections. To produce the projections, the Wizard 2000 model takes into account external (demographic, socio-economic, and crime trends) and internal factors (the criminal justice system's authority to release, recommit, give, and restore a wide array of good time credits, and offer programs that may reduce recidivism).

### About this Report

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities. The Justice Center contracted with Dr. Austin and JFA Institute staff to assist Republican and Democratic leaders in the executive and legislative branches of Arizona state government.

Research and analysis described in this report has been funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Through its Public Safety Performance Project, which assists select states that want better results from their sentencing and corrections systems, Pew's project provides nonpartisan research, analysis, and expertise to help states identify data-driven, fiscally responsible options for protecting public safety, holding offenders accountable, and controlling corrections costs.

**Justice Center**  
**Council of State Governments**  
100 Wall Street, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

PROJECT CONTACT:  
**Marshall Clement**  
(646) 383-5719  
mcclement@csg.org