

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Criminal Justice Estimating Conference

July 23, 2019

The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference convened July 23, 2019, to revise the forecast of prison admissions and populations. During the five months monitored since the February conference, admissions totaled 12,246 or 263 below the estimate. The prison population at the end of June 2019 was 95,613 or 416 below the estimate, whereas at the end of September, it was 95,626 or 649 below the estimate.

A review of the just released or newly revised data on criminal justice system measures showed that:

- Total index crimes decreased by -7.4% while total arrests increased by 0.7 percent in CY 2018 over 2017.
- Felony filings increased by 2.5 percent and the number of guilty dispositions increased by 0.4% in CY 2018 over 2017.
- New commitments increased by 3.0 percent in FY 2018-19 over the prior fiscal year.
- Year-and-a-day sentences increased by 15.4 percent in FY 2018-19 relative to the previous fiscal year.
- In June 2019, the average sentence length of new commitments was 60.2 months (5.0 years).
- Within each of the trends described above, drugs and/or weapons offenses have shown consistent growth that has contributed to the eventual rise in new commitments.

Taking the new information into account and considering the recent trends collectively, the conferees adopted a population forecast which assumes a 1.5 percent increase in total admissions in FY 2019-20 and a -1.5 percent decrease in FY 2020-21. Total admissions then decrease by -0.8 percent in FY 2021-22 and decrease by -0.5 percent in FY 2022-23, followed by an increase of 0.1 percent in FY 2023-24 and an increase of 0.2 percent in FY 2024-25.

The June 30 projected prison population is expected to remain flat in FY 2019-20. Change in population is then expected to decrease by -0.1 percent in FY 2020-21, followed by a 0.2 percent increase in FY 2021-22, a 0.4 percent increase in FY 2022-23, a 0.3 percent increase in FY 2023-24, and a 0.6 percent increase in FY 2024-25. Collectively, these changes show declines and increases in the prison population that are well less than 1 percent each year, leading to a total change over the entire forecast horizon of 1.4 percent.

Year	Admissions	Releases	End of year pop	End of year over (under) February 2019 CJEC	End of year percent change
FY 19-20	29,615	29,635	95,606	-669	-0.02%
FY 20-21	29,161	29,243	95,524	-1,001	-0.09%
FY 21-22	28,930	28,765	95,689	-896	0.17%
FY 22-23	28,789	28,381	96,097	-458	0.43%
FY 23-24	28,815	28,533	96,379	-101	0.29%
FY 24-25	28,882	28,321	96,940	n/a	0.58%