

## PRISON POPULATION PROJECTION REPORT

Revision Date: February 2004

Review of full-year intake and release trends in 2003 compared to 2002 shows that investments in administrative and statutory measures to control prison population growth are continuing to pay dividends. Prison population finished calendar year 2003 down by 572 total inmates for a decline of 1.2%. This was the first decline in prison population for a year as a whole since 1983 and the largest since 1973. In contrast, 2002 saw prison population grow by 2,142.

The Community Residential Program (CRP) prisoner population also fell in 2003 -- by 662 or 58% to a year-end total of 470 -- due to the Truth in Sentencing law's prohibition on housing affected State prisoners anywhere other than in secure institutions and camps until at least their full minimum sentences are served.

Official prison population projections issued in August of 2003 concluded the year 114 higher than actual population (+0.2%), so only a relatively small adjustment will be made at this time, and the forecast will be extended for another year. The first two phases of the *Five Year Plan to Control Prison Growth* have continued to hold prison population in check, and these benefits are now expected to enable the Department to hold male prison beds in reserve until August of 2005 -- about 7 months longer than expected last summer. Female prison beds are expected to last until at least March of 2006 because of the new *Female In Transition* Half Way House program.

### Key Corrections Trends

The key trends that led to reduced prison population in 2003 and somewhat improved future expectations are outlined below, along with assumptions about future patterns.

#### Prison Intake

The all-time highest single year for prison intake was 2002, with over 11,000 new prison admissions. In 2003, prison intake fell by more than 6% to 10,312. It is only prudent to assume that prison admissions will gradually move back higher over time until they again approach the 2002 peak in a couple of years, unless and until additional measures are implemented, such as revisions to Michigan's *Sentencing Guidelines*.

#### Community Residential Program (CRP) Population

The CRP population is expected to rebound a little from the decline described above for a short time because of the newly expanded post-ERD (Earliest Release Date) component of the program. But then, current estimates anticipate that the decline will resume after the post-ERD component's impact stabilizes and the pre-Truth in Sentencing population gradually falls to zero.

#### Parole

Moves to parole increased by nearly 10% in 2003 over the previous high set in 2002, partly because of more parole decisions and partly because of a 3% increase in the parole approval rate (mostly for drug and other nonviolent offenders). Over time, it is assumed that the annual number of paroles will stabilize, until and unless additional initiatives can positively impact the parole approval rate without jeopardizing public safety.

#### Parole Violator Technical Returns to Prison

By sending clear communication to parole agents to use other sanctions besides prison to respond to non-criminal, negative behavior by parolees, the Department managed to reduce parole violator (PV) technical returns to prison by 34% in 2003 (down by 1,115 to a total of 2,174). The largest decreases in PV technical returns were early in the year, and as the parole population climbed 12% to a new record high (17,449), the average number of violators returned to prison slowly rebounded. Thus, the revised projections assume a gradual continued climb to an average of about 3,000 PV technical returns each year.

### **Prison Population Projections and Bedspace**

Chart 1 summarizes the revised prison population projections through 2008, and shows the tremendous gains in prison population stability achieved in 2003 compared to 2002. Table 1 (quarterly figures) and Table 2 (monthly figures) show the specific revised projection details.

In conclusion, continued benefits of the first two phases of the *Five Year Plan* have reduced prison population to the point where planned male prison capacity should now keep up with population until August of 2005. The new *Female In Transition* program should keep female prison population within capacity through March of 2006. Initiatives called for in the third phase of the *Five Year Plan* have the potential to extend available prison capacity for both male and female prisoners through 2006 and beyond.

Chart 1

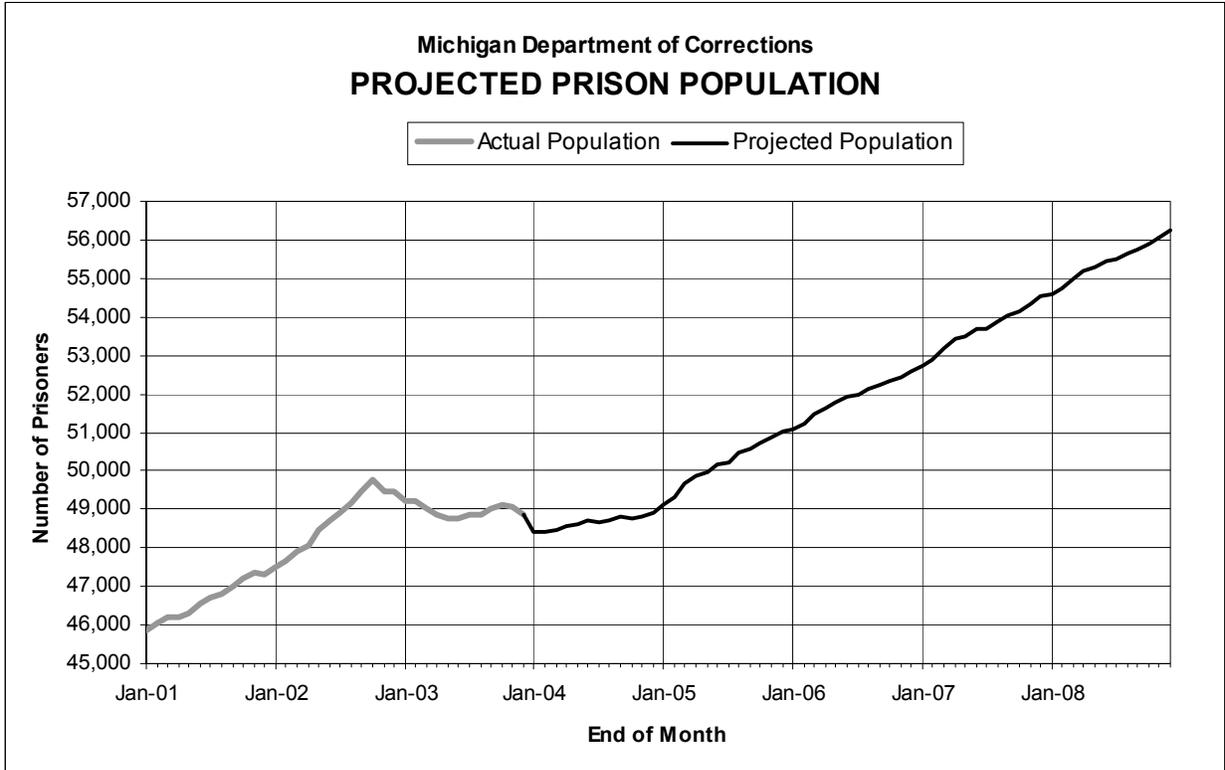


Table 1

<b>Projected Prison Population February, 2004</b>				
<u>End of Month</u>	<u>Total Prisoner Population Projection</u>	<u>Subtract Estimated CRP</u>	<u>Projected Prison/Camp Population</u>	<u>Yearly Growth</u>
Mar-04	49,010	525	48,485	
Jun-04	49,201	500	48,701	
Sep-04	49,309	475	48,834	
Dec-04	49,393	475	48,918	31
Mar-05	50,125	475	49,650	
Jun-05	50,625	450	50,175	
Sep-05	51,015	425	50,590	
Dec-05	51,468	425	51,043	2,125
Mar-06	51,927	425	51,502	
Jun-06	52,352	400	51,952	
Sep-06	52,584	375	52,209	
Dec-06	52,953	350	52,603	1,560
Mar-07	53,558	350	53,208	
Jun-07	54,006	325	53,681	
Sep-07	54,346	300	54,046	
Dec-07	54,799	275	54,524	1,921
Mar-08	55,273	275	54,998	
Jun-08	55,701	275	55,426	
Sep-08	56,004	275	55,729	
Dec-08	56,517	275	56,242	1,718

Table 2

**Projected Prison Population  
February, 2004**

<u>End of Month</u>	<u>Total Prisoner Population Projection</u>	<u>Subtract Estimated CRP</u>	<u>Projected Prison/Camp Population</u>	<u>Yearly Growth</u>
Jan-04	48,915	525	48,390	
Feb-04	48,918	525	48,393	
Mar-04	49,010	525	48,485	
Apr-04	49,078	500	48,578	
May-04	49,099	500	48,599	
Jun-04	49,201	500	48,701	
Jul-04	49,157	500	48,657	
Aug-04	49,214	475	48,739	
Sep-04	49,309	475	48,834	
Oct-04	49,225	475	48,750	
Nov-04	49,292	475	48,817	
Dec-04	49,393	475	48,918	31
Jan-05	49,568	475	49,093	
Feb-05	49,814	475	49,339	
Mar-05	50,125	475	49,650	
Apr-05	50,340	450	49,890	
May-05	50,442	450	49,992	
Jun-05	50,625	450	50,175	
Jul-05	50,664	450	50,214	
Aug-05	50,889	425	50,464	
Sep-05	51,015	425	50,590	
Oct-05	51,164	425	50,739	
Nov-05	51,306	425	50,881	
Dec-05	51,468	425	51,043	2,125
Jan-06	51,488	425	51,063	
Feb-06	51,649	425	51,224	
Mar-06	51,927	425	51,502	
Apr-06	52,049	400	51,649	
May-06	52,191	400	51,791	
Jun-06	52,352	400	51,952	
Jul-06	52,398	400	51,998	
Aug-06	52,490	375	52,115	
Sep-06	52,584	375	52,209	
Oct-06	52,681	375	52,306	
Nov-06	52,820	375	52,445	
Dec-06	52,953	350	52,603	1,560
Jan-07	53,082	350	52,732	
Feb-07	53,236	350	52,886	
Mar-07	53,558	350	53,208	
Apr-07	53,740	325	53,415	
May-07	53,824	325	53,499	
Jun-07	54,006	325	53,681	
Jul-07	54,003	325	53,678	
Aug-07	54,170	300	53,870	
Sep-07	54,346	300	54,046	
Oct-07	54,442	300	54,142	
Nov-07	54,638	300	54,338	
Dec-07	54,799	275	54,524	1,921
Jan-08	54,878	275	54,603	
Feb-08	54,999	275	54,724	
Mar-08	55,273	275	54,998	
Apr-08	55,445	275	55,170	
May-08	55,571	275	55,296	
Jun-08	55,701	275	55,426	
Jul-08	55,745	275	55,470	
Aug-08	55,895	275	55,620	
Sep-08	56,004	275	55,729	
Oct-08	56,172	275	55,897	
Nov-08	56,334	275	56,059	
Dec-08	56,517	275	56,242	1,718

