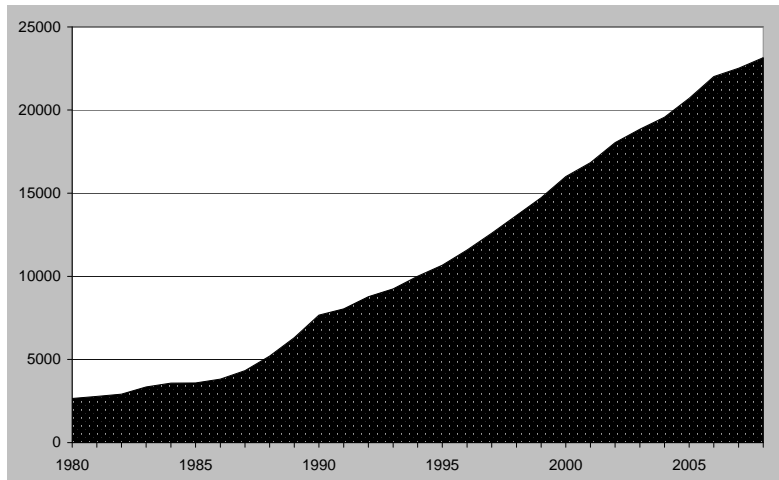


## **2010 COLORADO QUICK FACTS**



### **Prison Population Growth**

- As of 12/31/08, the Department of Corrections (DOC) jurisdictional population was 23,144. Another 8,844 people were on parole.
- The size of Colorado's prison population has increased four-fold in the past 20 years and is expected to grow to over 27,000 people by 2013.
- However, there has been a significant slowing in the growth of the prison population in Colorado. In 2007, the prison population grew by an average of over 100 people per month. In 2008, this had slowed to 39 people a month, and is currently averaging a growth of 26 people per month.

Sources: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, "Monthly Population Report," (December 31, 2008); Annual Report, Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (Dec. 2008); FY 2009-2010 Joint Budget Committee, Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, (12/23/08)

### **Incarceration Rate**

- Colorado's incarceration rate of 506 per 100,000 is much greater than the 50-state average (462) and the average of the Western states (458.) The incarceration rate is a calculation of the number of adults in prison per 100,000 adult state residents.
- 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). (need citation)

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pubalp2.htm#prisoners>); Annual Report, Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (Dec. 2008)

### **Prison Construction**

- Colorado currently operates 23 state prisons and contracts with 6 private prisons in Colorado. Currently, over 24% of all prisoners in Colorado are housed in a private prison, the 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation.
- A 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 DOC submitted a capital construction request of over \$400 million for prison expansion, not including the \$100 million expansion of CSP II which is being financed using certificates of participation.

Sources: DOC Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (2008); OSPB Submissions for Unprioritized FY 2009-10 Capital Requests (August 29, 2008); Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing (January 6, 2009)

### **Cost of Corrections**

- It costs an average of \$28,759 a year to house someone in prison.
- In 1985, the DOC received \$57 million from the state's General Fund. For FY 2009/10, the DOC submitted a budget request of \$825 million, an 8.3% increase (\$52 million) over last year's appropriation.

- The DOC's current general fund budget is 57.4% higher (and \$246.9 million more) than it would have been had appropriations to the DOC been limited to 6% annual compound growth since passage of the 6% limit in 1993.
- In 1985, the DOC budget was 2.8% of the state general fund budget. In 2009, it is 8.8% of the state budget.

Source: Joint Budget Committee, FY2009-10 Staff Budget Briefing, DOC (12/23/08); DOC Statistical Report FY 2007 (2008)

## Women in Prison

- The US imprisons 10 times more women than Western Europe countries combined, despite similar female populations.
- 85% of women sent to Colorado's prisons last year were convicted of a non-violent offense.
- 28% of women sent to prison in Colorado last year were convicted of a drug offense, the most prevalent crime of conviction.
- 48% of women in prison have been diagnosed as needing mental health treatment.
- 82% of women in prison have been assessed to be in need of substance abuse treatment.

Sources: 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; *Parenting from Prison*, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (2001).

## 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 2007* (2008). 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

- Demands for mental health services in all general population facilities have increased dramatically since 1995 when 2% of the prison population had been identified as having a serious mental illness.
- In 2008, 21% of people in prison (4,186) in Colorado had been diagnosed with having a serious mental illness.

Sources: Colorado Department of Corrections, *Budget Hearing*, (January 6, 2009)

## Drug Offenses Drive Prison Growth

- 22% of all people sent to prison in Colorado were convicted of a drug offense, the most prevalent crime of all commitments.
- 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: Department of Corrections Statistical Report FY 2007 (2008); 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, *Shoveling up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets* (2001)

## Parole and Technical Violations

- Last year, 29% of all people sent to prison (3,047) in Colorado were being returned to prison for a technical violation of parole, meaning that no new crime was committed but rather a violation of a condition of supervision. Similarly, over 1,300 people on probation were revoked and sentenced to prison for a technical violation of supervision. Technical violations of parole and probation account for 41% of ALL prison admissions.
- For those released on mandatory parole in Colorado, 65% will be returned to prison within three years.
- 51% of people in prison (nearly 12,000 people) are past their parole eligibility date and only 13% of those that went before the Parole Board last year were granted discretionary parole.

Sources: Department of Corrections Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (2008), *Annual Report*, Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (Dec 2008); *Performance Audit, Discretionary Parole and State Board of Parole*, Report of the State Auditor (November 2008)