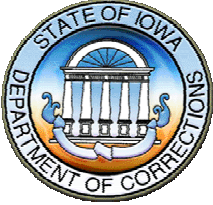
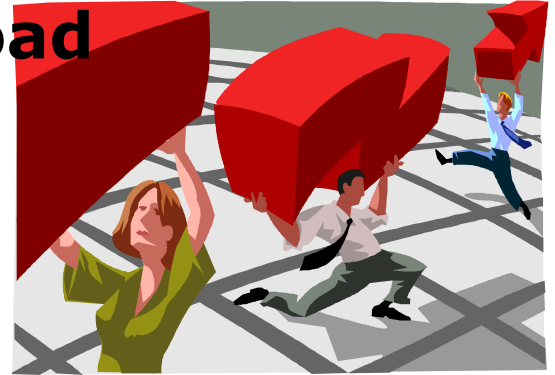


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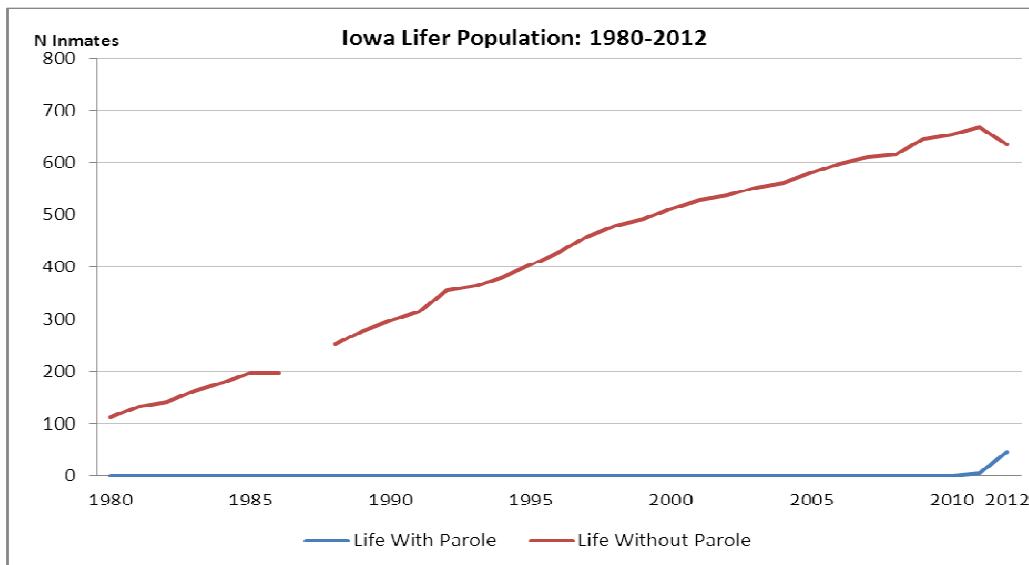
Data Download



Number of Inmates with Life Sentences Leveling Off

For over three decades, the number of Iowa inmates with life sentences has shown a steady increase. As the chart below shows, that number has risen from 111 in 1980 to 680 in 2012 (data for 1987 is unavailable due to transitioning to new data systems).

That long-term increase is now changing. First, as projected by the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, the number of “lifers” dying each year is beginning to approach the number of new admissions. Second, recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have led to resentencings, commutations and law changes to provide for life with the possibility of parole for offenders who were juveniles at the time of their crimes. As a result, the number of inmates serving life without parole sentences dropped to 635 in 2012, while those serving life with the possibility of parole numbered 45 in 2012.



While offenders serving life sentences may no longer be a factor in potential Iowa prison population growth, the continued aging of this population necessitates continued planning and resources to provide appropriate services and level of care.