

Iowa Prison Population Forecast FY2002-2012

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Richard G. Moore, Administrator

Primary Author:
Lettie Prell, Justice Systems Analyst

Statistical Modeling:
Laura Roeder-Grubb, Research Analyst

Data Support:
Bonnie Wilson, Research Analyst

February 2003



SUMMARY

Total Inmates Projected to Increase

If current offender behaviors and justice system trends, policies and practices continue, Iowa's prison population may be expected to increase from 8,141 inmates on June 30, 2002 to about 12,127 inmates on June 30, 2012, or by about 49% over the ten-year period (Table 1).

Male & Female Inmate Populations Projected to Increase

The female inmate population is projected to increase from 670 inmates on June 30, 2002 to about 994 inmates by mid-year 2012, or by about 48% over the ten-year period (Table 2). The male inmate population is expected to increase by about 49% during this same period (Table 3). When compared with official Department of Corrections prison population capacity¹, the female inmate population is projected to exceed capacity by about 74%, and the male inmate population is projected to exceed capacity by about 69% by mid-year 2012.

Inmates With Special Needs Projected to Increase

The total number of inmates with special needs of mental illness, mental disorder, mental retardation, borderline intellectual functioning and socially inadequate is expected to increase from 1,894 inmates at mid-year 2002 to about 2,826 inmates on June 30, 2012, or by about 49% over the ten-year period (Table 4).² The number of inmates with special needs who may require placement in special housing is estimated to reach 872 inmates by mid-year 2012. The projected special needs population requiring special housing is expected to exceed special needs housing capacity by about 25% by mid-year 2012.

Current Forecast vs. Last Year's Projections for FY2002:

Lower for Males, Similar for Females, Higher for Inmates With Special Needs

CJJP's annual prison population forecast is based on offender behaviors, and justice system trends, policies and practices observed at the time that the forecast is completed. When the actual inmate population differs from the projected population, it is an indication that trends, policies and practices have changed.

The male inmate population grew by less than 1% between FY2001 and FY2002, compared with CJJP's forecast of 5% growth. The primary factors contributing to this lower rate of growth include a decrease in average length of stay for certain felonies and misdemeanors (Table 6), and an increase in paroles. A lower than expected growth in new prison admissions also slightly affected the mid-year 2002 prison population.

The reduction in average length of stay resulted in a decline in inmates expiring their sentences and being released to the community with no supervision. As shown in Table 7, releases due to expiration of sentence declined from 927 exits in FY2001, to 794 exits in FY2002, or by about

¹ Includes future capacity that will be made available as a result of currently authorized prison construction projects.

² Table 4 contains projected counts by each special needs category.

14%; the table also documents the increase in paroles. Regarding new prison admissions, CJJP had forecast that new prison admissions would number 3,440 during FY2002; however, actual admissions numbered 3,376, or 64 fewer than expected. (Table 8).

In contrast, the female inmate population grew as expected. Last year, CJJP estimated 676 female inmates at mid-year 2002; actual population was 670.

Regarding inmates with special needs, CJJP had forecast 1,644 such inmates at mid-year 2002; however, the actual population was 1,894. This apparent increase is likely due to improved identification and documentation of such offenders in the Adult Corrections Information System.

Long-Term Projection For Total Inmates Consistent With Last Year's Projections

Last year, CJJP projected that about 12,318 inmates would be incarcerated within Iowa's prison system by mid-year 2011, if trends, policies and practices continued. This year's forecast for mid-year 2011 is 11,846 inmates, which is lower than the previous year's estimate by 472 inmates, or by about 4%. Therefore, although there was a slower than expected growth in male inmates during the past fiscal year, current trends indicate that this low rate of growth will not continue long-term. Rather, factors cited in last year's prison population forecast continue to contribute to the projected increase in inmates, including:

- An increase in prison admissions (Table 9)
- An increase in admissions of drug offenders (Table 10)
- Housing federal prisoners
- The long-term effect of abolishing parole for certain crimes

Opportunities for Change

Just as policies and practices have affected the rate of Iowa's prison population growth, changes in policies and practices may have an impact on the projected prison populations contained in this report. Last year's forecast report contained a discussion of new initiatives now underway that may have an impact on the future prison population, including:

- Expanding the violator program to reduce revocations to prison and/or the average length of stay of new prison admissions
- Providing a substance abuse treatment facility for probationers as an alternative to revocation to prison due to substance abuse issues
- Increasing paroles (which was a major factor in the lower than expected increase in male inmates during FY2002)
- Implementing intermediate criminal sanctions plans to reduce probation revocations to prison through the use of incremental, community-based sanctions for probation violations.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1. Mid-Year Prison Populations and Capacities: Total					
Year	Total Inmates June 30th	Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Total Prison Capacity	Population as % of Capacity
1990	3,842	---	---	3,003	127.9%
1991	4,077	235	6.1%	3,045	133.9%
1992	4,485	408	10.0%	3,165	141.7%
1993	4,695	210	4.7%	3,603	130.3%
1994	5,090	395	8.4%	3,603	141.3%
1995	5,692	602	11.8%	3,603	158.0%
1996	6,176	484	8.5%	4,201	147.0%
1997	6,636	460	7.4%	4,951	134.0%
1998	7,431	795	12.0%	5,701	130.3%
1999	7,230	(201)	-2.7%	5,801	124.6%
2000	7,635	405	5.6%	6,772	112.7%
2001	8,083	448	5.9%	6,772	119.4%
2002	8,141	58	0.7%	6,772	120.2%
Forecast:					
2003	8,592	451	5.5%	6,972	123.2%
2004	9,025	433	5.0%	6,972	129.4%
2005	9,475	450	5.0%	6,972	135.9%
2006	9,945	470	5.0%	7,142	139.2%
2007	10,496	551	5.5%	7,142	147.0%
2008	10,885	389	3.7%	7,142	152.4%
2009	11,235	350	3.2%	7,142	157.3%
2010	11,530	295	2.6%	7,142	161.4%
2011	11,846	611	5.4%	7,142	165.9%
2012	12,127	597	5.2%	7,142	169.8%

Source: E-1 Reports, Iowa Department of Corrections; forecast by CJJP

Note: Mid-year populations exclude civilly committed sex offenders residing in a Department of Human Services unit located on the campus of the Iowa Medical and Classification Center.

Table 2. Mid-Year Prison Populations and Capacities: Females					
Year	# Women June 30th	Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Capacity for Women	Population as % of Capacity
1990	204	---	---	150	136.0%
1991	221	17	8.3%	150	147.3%
1992	217	(4)	-1.8%	150	144.7%
1993	262	45	20.7%	260	100.8%
1994	307	45	17.2%	260	118.1%
1995	395	88	28.7%	260	151.9%
1996	447	52	13.2%	260	171.9%
1997	521	74	16.6%	260	200.4%
1998	616	95	18.2%	260	236.9%
1999	541	(75)	-12.2%	460	117.6%
2000	604	63	11.6%	573	105.4%
2001	641	37	6.1%	573	111.9%
2002	670	29	4.5%	573	116.9%
Forecast:					
2003	705	35	5.2%	573	123.0%
2004	737	32	4.5%	573	128.6%
2005	769	32	4.3%	573	134.2%
2006	801	32	4.2%	573	139.8%
2007	833	32	4.0%	573	145.4%
2008	865	32	3.8%	573	151.0%
2009	898	33	3.8%	573	156.7%
2010	930	32	3.6%	573	162.3%
2011	962	64	7.1%	573	167.9%
2012	994	64	6.9%	573	173.5%

Source: E-1 Reports, Iowa Department of Corrections; forecast by CJJP

Note: Mid-year 1999 population and capacity include Iowa inmates temporarily housed out-of-state, and the beds utilized in the prison out of state.

Table 3. Mid-Year Prison Populations and Capacities: Males

Year	# Men June 30th	Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Capacity for Men	Population as % of Capacity
1990	3,638	---	---	2,853	127.5%
1991	3,856	218	6.0%	2,895	133.2%
1992	4,268	412	10.7%	3,015	141.6%
1993	4,433	165	3.9%	3,343	132.6%
1994	4,783	350	7.9%	3,343	143.1%
1995	5,297	514	10.7%	3,343	158.5%
1996	5,729	432	8.2%	3,941	145.4%
1997	6,115	386	6.7%	4,691	130.4%
1998	6,815	700	11.4%	5,441	125.3%
1999	6,689	(126)	-1.8%	5,341	125.2%
2000	7,031	342	5.1%	6,199	113.4%
2001	7,442	411	5.8%	6,199	120.1%
2002	7,471	29	0.4%	6,199	120.5%
Forecast:					
2003	7,887	416	5.6%	6,399	123.3%
2004	8,288	401	5.1%	6,399	129.5%
2005	8,706	418	5.0%	6,399	136.1%
2006	9,144	438	5.0%	6,569	139.2%
2007	9,663	519	5.7%	6,569	147.1%
2008	10,020	357	3.7%	6,569	152.5%
2009	10,337	317	3.2%	6,569	157.4%
2010	10,600	263	2.5%	6,569	161.4%
2011	10,884	547	5.3%	6,569	165.7%
2012	11,133	533	5.0%	6,569	169.5%

Source: E-1 Reports, Iowa Department of Corrections; forecast by CJJP

Note: Mid-year populations exclude civilly committed sex offenders residing in a Department of Human Services unit located on the campus of the Iowa Medical and Classification Center.

Year	Total	%	Total Populations By Specific Category:						
	June 30th	Change	MI/MR	MD/MR	MR	MI	MD	BI	SI
2000	1,424	---	19	5	49	761	323	175	92
2001	1,564	9.8%	14	7	46	841	386	184	86
2002	1,894	21.1%	21	10	37	1,123	470	167	66
Forecast:									
2003	2,002	5.7%	22	10	40	1,187	496	176	70
2004	2,103	5.0%	23	11	42	1,247	522	185	74
2005	2,208	5.0%	24	11	44	1,309	548	194	77
2006	2,317	4.9%	25	12	46	1,374	575	204	81
2007	2,446	5.6%	27	12	49	1,450	607	215	86
2008	2,536	3.7%	28	13	51	1,504	629	223	89
2009	2,618	3.2%	29	13	52	1,552	649	230	92
2010	2,686	2.6%	30	13	54	1,593	666	236	94
2011	2,760	2.8%	30	14	55	1,637	684	243	97
2,012	2,826	2.4%	31	14	57	1,676	701	249	99

Source: Special Needs Reports S473L289 and S473L292 dated June 29, 2001; forecast by CJJP
 Note: For an explanation of special needs categories, please refer to the section, *Forecasting the Prison Population*.

Year	Totals:			Estimates for Females:			Estimates for Males:		
	# Needing Special Housing	Special Needs Capacity	Population as % of Capacity	#	Capacity	# as % of Capacity	#	Capacity	# as % of Capacity
2000	440	310	141.9%	94	96	97.9%	346	214	161.7%
2001	483	330	146.4%	103	116	88.8%	380	214	177.6%
2002	585	330	177.3%	121	116	104.3%	464	214	216.8%
Forecast:									
2003	618	530	116.6%	127	116	109.5%	491	414	118.6%
2004	649	530	122.5%	134	116	115.5%	515	414	124.4%
2005	682	530	128.7%	141	116	121.6%	541	414	130.7%
2006	716	700	102.3%	148	145	102.1%	568	555	102.3%
2007	755	700	107.9%	156	145	107.6%	599	555	107.9%
2008	782	700	111.7%	161	145	111.0%	621	555	111.9%
2009	808	700	115.4%	167	145	115.2%	641	555	115.5%
2010	829	700	118.4%	171	145	117.9%	658	555	118.6%
2011	852	700	121.7%	176	145	121.4%	676	555	121.8%
2012	872	700	124.6%	180	145	124.1%	692	555	124.7%

Source: Special Needs Reports S473L289 and S473L292 dated June 28, 2002; forecast by CJJP
 Note: Populations and numbers of inmates as percent of capacity reflect only those inmates who require placement in special needs housing. The 170 special needs beds to be constructed at the Oakdale prison may hold either men or women. For purposes of illustrating that crowding in special needs units may be distributed evenly between male and female inmates, 29 of these beds have been assigned to female inmates in the above chart. However, in the other

forecast charts, all 170 of these beds are designated to hold men, as per the Department of Corrections.

Table 6. Inmate Average Length Of Stay (In Months)

	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	% Change 1991-2002	% Change 2001-2002
<i>New Admissions:</i>										
*No Parole - Murder-2nd	136	190	510	510	510	510	510	510	275%	0%
*No Parole - Other Class B	67	85	255	255	255	255	255	255	281%	0%
*No Parole - Class C	31	37	102	102	102	102	102	102	229%	0%
*No Parole - Habitual Class C	33	47	153	153	153	153	153	153	364%	0%
*No Parole - Sex Predators	21	26	150	150	150	150	150	150	614%	0%
B Felony Persons	67	94	116	113	135	96	112	111	66%	-1%
B Felony Non-Persons	--	40	35	39	17	41	44	32	NA	-27%
C Felony Persons	31	37	41	45	46	50	51	52	68%	2%
C Felony Non-Persons	17	25	25	24	24	24	24	22	29%	-8%
D Felony Persons	17	22	22	20	22	24	25	23	35%	-8%
D Felony Non-Persons	10	14	14	16	16	16	15	15	50%	0%
Other Felony	33	47	43	52	57	47	44	41	24%	-7%
Agg Misd Persons	9	9	11	10	11	11	10	9	0%	-10%
Agg Misd Non-Persons	7	9	8	9	9	9	9	8	14%	-11%
Serious Misd	6	9	8	9	6	8	8	7	17%	-13%
Drunk Driving Initial Stay	2	2	3	3	4	3	2	5	150%	150%
<i>Readmissions:</i>										
B Felony	25	24	28	36	63	30	27	16	-36%	-41%
C Felony	17	18	21	22	22	19	18	14	-18%	-22%
D Felony	9	11	12	12	12	13	11	10	11%	-9%
Other Felony	24	32	35	38	33	24	20	21	-13%	5%
All Misdemeanors	7	7	9	6	9	9	7	8	14%	14%
Violator Placement	--	2	2	2	2	4	5	5	NA	0%

Note: Please refer to the section, *Forecasting the Prison Population*, for information about this chart.

Source: Adult Corrections Information System, compiled by CJJP

Table 7. Prison Releases by Release Reason: FY1997-2002

	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	% Change, FY97-02	% Change, FY01-02
To Work Release	848	920	972	1,197	1,120	1,209	43%	8%
To OWI Facility	252	244	310	319	264	215	-15%	-19%
To Parole	1,325	1,333	1,599	1,311	1,367	2,204	66%	61%
To Shock Probation	259	225	262	225	273	252	-3%	-8%
Other Violator Rel.	450	497	457	300	251	276	-39%	10%
Escapes	5	3	3	5	3	1	-80%	-67%
Expiration of Sentence	493	578	781	904	927	794	61%	-14%
Other Final Discharges	21	6	13	16	11	11	-48%	0%
Other Releases	137	134	259	228	609	633	362%	4%
<i>Total Releases</i>	3,790	3,940	4,656	4,505	4,825	5,595	48%	16%

Notes: Parole and work release exits include returns to those placements after successful completion of the Violator Program. "Other Violator Releases" include returns to probation after successful completion, and those who complete unsuccessfully, who were from any placement (probation, parole or work release). Of the increases in parole releases in

FY2002, about 200 such exits were due to the administrative release and readmission of Polk County inmates held within the prison system pending their parole revocation hearings, and subsequently revoked.
 Source: E-1 Reports

Table 8. Prison Admissions: Actual and Projected

	New Admissions:		Readmissions:	
	#	% Change	#	% Change
Actual:				
FY1991	1,788	---	1,000	---
FY1992	2,045	14%	1,100	10%
FY1993	2,116	3%	1,220	11%
FY1994	2,236	6%	1,527	25%
FY1995	2,320	4%	1,652	8%
FY1996	2,545	10%	1,460	-12%
FY1997	2,697	6%	1,429	-2%
FY1998	3,180	18%	1,436	0%
FY1999	3,025	-5%	1,299	-10%
FY2000	3,211	6%	1,235	-5%
FY2001	3,271	2%	1,347	9%
FY2002	3,376	3%	1,650	22%
Forecast:				
FY2003	3,431	2%	1,755	6%
FY2004	3,589	5%	1,797	2%
FY2005	3,744	4%	1,827	2%
FY2006	3,905	4%	1,850	1%
FY2007	4,032	3%	1,878	2%
FY2008	4,101	2%	1,906	1%
FY2009	4,177	2%	1,935	2%
FY2010	4,247	2%	1,961	1%
FY2011	4,321	2%	1,979	1%
FY2012	4,391	2%	1,992	1%

Notes: For an explanation of forecast categories, please refer to the section, *Forecasting the Prison Population*. Of the increases in readmissions in FY2002, about 200 such admits were due to the administrative release and readmission of Polk County inmates held within the prison system pending their parole revocation hearings, and subsequently revoked.

Source: CJJP, based on data obtained from the Adult Corrections Information System

Table 9. Prison Admissions by Admission Reason: FY1997-2002

	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	% Change, FY97-02	% Change, FY01-02
New Court Commitments	1,767	1,994	2,052	2,203	2,121	2,064	17%	-3%
New/Probation Revocations	929	1,182	947	984	1,142	1,310	41%	15%
<i>Sub-Total, New Admits</i>	2,696	3,176	2,999	3,187	3,263	3,374	25%	3%
Parole Returns	347	321	333	411	525	660	33%*	-12%*
Parole - Violator Program	160	105	124	75	42	70	-56%	67%
Shock Probation Returns	102	110	83	86	76	136	33%	79%
Probation - Violator Program	423	492	446	278	256	313	-26%	22%
Escape Returns	206	188	129	185	194	214	4%	10%
Work Release Returns	113	139	96	138	183	167	48%	-9%
Work Release - Viol. Program	24	16	7	17	13	8	-67%	-38%
OWI Facility Returns	58	65	81	50	53	68	17%	28%
<i>Sub-Total, Re-Admits</i>	1,433	1,436	1,299	1,240	1,342	1,636	0%*	7%*
Other Admissions	121	123	158	493	675	656	442%	-3%
<i>Total Admissions</i>	4,250	4,735	4,456	4,920	5,280	5,666	29%*	4%*

* Percent change for these categories have been adjusted to account for about 200 administrative releases and immediate readmissions of Polk County inmates held within the prison system pending their parole revocation hearings, and subsequently revoked. Each of these offenders was counted twice in the E-1 Reports.

Note: "Other admissions" include admissions of court-ordered safekeepers as well as MHI/DHS safekeepers, Federal prisoners, and those returning from appeal bond, prisons in other states or other miscellaneous placements.

Source: E-1 Reports

Table 10. New Prison Admissions by Offense Type: FY1997-2002

Offense Type	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	% Change, FY97-02	% Change, FY01-02
Property Offenses	1,086	1,218	1,042	1,067	1,065	1,056	-3%	-1%
Drug Offenses	523	653	654	841	891	959	83%	8%
Violent Offenses	650	721	673	727	752	768	18%	2%
OWI/Traffic Offenses	280	392	457	408	364	358	28%	-2%
Other Offenses	158	196	173	168	199	235	49%	18%
<i>Total New Admissions</i>	2,697	3,180	2,999	3,211	3,271	3,376	25%	3%

Notes: New admissions consist of court-ordered commitments and probation revocations. Figures in this chart may differ slightly from those shown in the E-1 Reports due to different times in which the database was accessed for reporting purposes.

Source: Adult Corrections Information System, compiled by CJJP

FORECASTING THE PRISON POPULATION

Benefits of Forecasting

- To make some determination of the number of inmates that may be incarcerated at some point in the future, if current justice system trends, policies and practices continue.
- To simulate alternative corrections futures based on specific changes in laws, policies and/or practices.

Iowa's Forecasting Model

The statewide prison population forecast and policy simulation model used by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) is a matrix that distributes Iowa's prison population over the projection period by quarter. There are three basic components of the model, as follows:

- **Projected Prison Admissions.** This is accomplished through analysis of historical prison admissions data, obtained from the Adult Corrections Information System (ACIS). Projected admissions are made for various offense classes and types of offenses (for example, Class C Violent Offenders, Class C Non-Violent Offenders, etc.) in two separate categories described below. Projections are accomplished through ARIMA modeling, a statistical time series technique, with adjustments based on knowledge of justice system policies.
- **Projected Average Length of Stay.** This is accomplished through an annual data collection effort conducted by CJJP, utilizing ACIS information. Projected average lengths of stay are made for various offense classes and types of offenses in two separate categories described below.
- **Projected Releases of Offenders Who Are Incarcerated At the Onset of the Projection period.** This is accomplished through analysis of the prison population at the beginning of the projection period.

Prison admissions and average length of stay data are analyzed within two broad categories based on the type of prison admission, as follows:

- **New Admissions** are new court-ordered commitments and probation revocations. Length of stay for this category is defined as time served in prison prior to first release (which may be parole, work release, expiration of sentence, etc.).
- **Readmissions** are all other violators, including the following: a) offenders who had one or more prior unsuccessful conditional releases on their current commitments; b) those revoked from OWI facility placement; and c) those selected for violator facility placement. Length of stay for this category is defined as time served in prison from the last admission (or readmission) to release (which may be parole, work release, expiration of sentence, etc.). Please note that, while this category is labeled "readmissions", it includes some offenders who were not previously incarcerated; examples include OWI offenders who were directly placed in community-based OWI treatment facilities but were later revoked, and probationers admitted to prison to participate in the short-term violator's program.

New admissions are further categorized by whether or not the crime was against persons. Crimes against persons are those offenses involving death, injury, attempted injury, abuse, threats, coercion, intimidation or duress. Examples of crimes against persons include all forms of homicide, assault, robbery, terrorism, child endangerment, sex offenses, first degree burglary and first degree arson. Examples of crimes not against persons include burglary and arson offenses other than first degree, drug offenses, forgery, theft and weapons possession (as opposed to use).

Regarding length of stay figures as contained in this report:

- **“No parole” groups** marked with an asterisk (*) in Table 6 denote the *expected* length of stay of prisoners sentenced under Section 902.12 or Chapter 901A, effective for persons committing certain violent crimes after July 1, 1996.
- **Expected average length of stay for sexual predators** sentenced under Chapter 901A was computed based on those committed to prison for a Chapter 901A offense thus far. Average length of stay prior to passage of this law was accomplished by examining the average length of stay by year for the offense class that admitted sexual predators would have otherwise received.
- **Other length of stay data** are based on samples of released prisoners. These data differ from statistics on average time served generated by the Board of Parole, because: a) the data contained in this report include *all* types of releases, not just parole releases; b) the data contained in this report distinguish between first releases and re-releases; and c) the data contained in this report exclude jail credit and other time not spent within the prison system.
- **“Drunk Driving Initial Stay”** describes drunken drivers sentenced to prison who are awaiting placement at community-based treatment facilities.

Iowa’s prison population forecast is updated annually in order to take into consideration the most recent trends in prison admissions and average length of stay.

In addition to the statewide prison population forecast, CJJP completes projections for the female inmate population, utilizing basic trend line analysis techniques. The inmate population of males was determined by subtracting the forecast for females from total projected inmates.

Forecasting Assumptions

- It is assumed that certain historical phenomena such as trends in population growth, prison admissions rates, and length of stay of prisoners will continue in the same direction or will change in explicitly stated ways (see below). It is further assumed that the data provided as measurements of these phenomena accurately reflect actual conditions.
- It is assumed that no catastrophic social or economic disruptions such as war or major depressions will occur during the projection period.
- It is assumed there will be no major legislative changes in the state criminal code or criminal procedures during the projection period.

- It is assumed there will be no major changes in judicial sentencing, parole board release policies, or probation/parole revocation policies and practices during the projection period.
- It is assumed that under the new earned time law, inmates will have an opportunity to earn up to thirteen days more off of their maximum sentences per year than under the previous system; it is also assumed that the earned time law will apply retroactively to all prisoners.
- It is assumed that new prison admissions will increase by about 30% between FY2002 and FY2012.
- It is assumed that readmissions to prison will increase by about 21% between FY2002 and FY2012.
- It is assumed that each sub-group of special needs inmates will represent the same percentage of the total inmate population during the projection period.
- It is assumed that about 40% of female inmates, and 29% of male inmates with the particular special needs studied are not appropriately integrated in the general population, and require special needs housing.

Forecasting Special Needs Populations

Projections of special needs populations encompassed the following categories: mental illness (MI); mental disorder (MD); mental retardation (MR); borderline intellectual functioning (BI); socially inadequate (SI). The following definitions of these categories are according to the Department of Corrections:

- Mentally Ill inmates are those offenders with a clinical diagnosis of Organic Mental Disorders, Schizophrenia, Delusional Disorders, Mood Disorders, or other Psychotic Disorders not elsewhere classified in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The diagnosis is made by a psychiatrist.
- Mentally Disordered inmates includes those in the Mentally Ill category, as well as others who are being monitored by a psychologist because of concerns about the mental health status of the inmate in the absence of a clinical diagnosis. For purposes of this forecast, the mentally disordered category will only include those mentally disordered inmates who are not also identified as being mentally ill.
- Mentally Retarded inmates generally have an IQ of 70 or below, or have been evaluated as mentally retarded on the initial psychological report at intake.
- Borderline Intellectual Functioning inmates generally have an IQ between 71 and 84 – but have also been noted as having limited intellectual capabilities on the initial psychological report.
- Socially Inadequate inmates are those who have impaired social functioning and therefore often experience difficulty functioning in the general population. These inmates may be immature or rebellious.

These special needs categories may be ranked from high to low, based on the likelihood of the group to require placement in special needs housing. For example, most inmates who are socially inadequate may be appropriately integrated within an institution's general population, just as they are within society.

Additionally, it is acknowledged that a portion of special needs inmates have multiple needs – and that inmates with certain combinations of special needs will be more likely than other groups to require placement in special needs housing. Based on input from corrections officials, the following hierarchy of special needs populations was identified, ranked from the highest need group to the group least likely to require special needs housing:

- Inmates identified as having both a mental illness and mental retardation (MI/MR)
- Inmates identified as having both a mental disorder and mental retardation (MD/MR)
- Inmates with mental retardation (MR)
- Inmates with a mental illness (MI)
- Inmates with a mental disorder (MD)
- Inmates with borderline intellectual functioning (BI)
- Inmates who are socially inadequate (SI)

In developing projections for each of these groups, it was found that historical counts of these populations had limited use because corrections officials have greatly improved identification and documentation of these offenders in recent years. In other words, the past trend in special needs counts would suggest that the proportion of inmates with special needs is increasing within the Iowa prison system. That is highly unlikely, however, given previous studies on the topic (e.g., CGA Consulting Services, Inc., *Iowa Department of Corrections Special Needs Study*, January 1998). The surge in incarceration of mentally disabled persons after the closing of community mental health facilities in the 1970's has tapered off, and there are no trends to indicate that the current proportion of special needs inmates will drastically change within the next ten years.

The current projection of special needs populations is based on special needs reports generated on June 28, 2002 by the Department of Human Services for the Department of Corrections. The population at mid-year 2002 determined to require placement in special needs units was determined by adding the number of inmates already housed in special needs units, and the number of offenders housed in the general population who were determined to be in need of such placement as per Department of Corrections officials.

Other notes regarding the special needs forecast are as follows:

- A small portion of special needs housing capacity as shown in this report may be interchangeable with other types of offenders, depending on the needs of the institution.
- A number of inmates counted as being housed in special needs units were actually temporarily housed in administrative segregation due to violations of institutional rules.
- From time to time a number of inmates housed in special needs units may be placed in general population to see if they are able to adjust in that setting. Until they satisfactorily make that adjustment, they are considered in need of placement in special needs housing.

Acknowledgments

CJJP would like to thank the following agencies and individuals for contributing to this year's forecast report (CJJP remains solely responsible for the report's contents):

- For providing information on current and planned prison population capacities: John Baldwin, Deputy Director, Department of Corrections.
- For providing technical assistance in the development of the special needs forecast: Lowell Brandt, Assistant Director for Offender Services, Department of Corrections.
- For developing the original methodologies of our prison population forecasting and policy simulation tool: Mary Mande, former director of the Colorado Statistical Analysis Center and corrections research consultant.
- For establishing a methodology to project special needs populations in Iowa: CGA Consulting Services, Inc., in association with The DLR Group.