U. S. Department of Justice,  
Office of Justice Programs,  
Bureau of Justice Assistance

The Future of Jails and Jail Funding Initiatives

Working Groups:

May 7 – 8, 2007  
Las Vegas, Nevada

June 4 – 5, 2007  
Orlando, Florida

Center for Innovative Public Policies, Inc.
This report was supported by Grant No. 2006-MU-MU-K005 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
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NOTES:
Demographic Trends and the “New America”

The America that we know today will not be the same country where our children and grandchildren will live. In part, that is because the demographic makeup of the U.S. population is projected to change significantly in the coming years. Today, those who describe themselves as white, non-Hispanic are a sizeable majority of the population (69%). However, that figure is projected to decrease to 65% by 2010, and to further decline over the coming decades, representing just half (50%) of the population by 2050.¹

This demographic shift translates into a sizeable growth among those currently considered “minority” populations. Because U.S. birthrates have not been high enough to replace the population for the past thirty years, much of the increase in the U.S. population is due to the arrival of new immigrants.² A rapid rise in the level of immigration during the 1990’s occurred largely because millions of people legalized in 1987 and 1988 under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 were becoming U.S. citizens in increasing numbers. As they become citizens, they can sponsor the legal immigration of immediate relatives without being subject to numerical limits.³ Undocumented immigration from Mexico and Central America, on the other hand, is primarily a reflection of America’s effectiveness in controlling its southwest border.⁴

Along with the influx of incoming groups, it is also necessary to consider who is leaving the country. For example, expanding the overseas assignment of military personnel and their dependents reduces the number of young people in the U.S., who are at highest risk for crime—as illustrated during World War II, when the homicide rate plummeted, (only to escalate again by the mid-1970s as the baby boom offspring of
returning veterans reached their crime-prone years).\textsuperscript{5} Thus, both foreign policy and immigration policy, along with related variables ranging from world events to birthrates, are significant considerations in projecting demographic trends and their related impact on crime.

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In recent years, with birthrates low and people living longer, the percentage of elderly in the U.S. has been rising. The proportion of people age 65 or older is expected to increase from 12\% (35 million) in 2000 to nearly 20\% (71 million) in 2030.\textsuperscript{6} Given their low rate of offending, that sounds like good news for jails that are already staggering under the weight of growing demands and stagnant resources. The bad news is that the elderly are especially vulnerable to victimization, and their increased percentage in the population may be offset by growing numbers of young people in the immediate future.

Youth have always been involved in crime far out of proportion to their representation in the population, and during the decade between 2004 and 2014, the at-risk population of males and females between the ages of 16-24 will grow by nearly 3\%.\textsuperscript{7} While that is not an alarming figure, even when taking into account such crime-related factors as race, sex, and economic status, young people account for proportionately more crime than older persons.

Of immediate concern today is the forecast that the national arrest rate for 15-16 year-olds is projected to increase some 30\% by 2010.\textsuperscript{8} Many of these juvenile suspects will not be confined in adult jails. But there is an increasing tendency to transfer cases from juvenile to criminal court,\textsuperscript{9} and the “separation by sight and sound” provisions governing their confinement in adult facilities, (along with increased risk of victimization and special programming needs), make them especially difficult to accommodate in jails that are already overcrowded and understaffed.

It has been speculated that increases in juvenile crime over the past two decades reflect economic shifts, a decline in the extended family, increase in single parenthood, access to more lethal weapons, and the growing role of gangs.\textsuperscript{10} To the extent that these precipitating factors remain unaddressed, disproportionate juvenile involvement in crime can be expected to continue. Moreover, more than 1 out of 4 American children
live below the poverty line, and welfare reforms may add another million to their ranks.\textsuperscript{11} Childhood poverty is related to greater risk of victimization, and those who are victimized as children are subsequently more likely to become offenders themselves, thereby perpetuating the cycle of violence. Evidence of that cycle, and the family dysfunction underlying it, is already apparent in the profile of today's jail inmates, among whom:

- Over half (56\%) grew up in a single-parent household or with a guardian. About 1 in 9 lived in a foster home or institution.\textsuperscript{12}

- Nearly one-third (31\%) grew up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs, and 46\% have a family member who has been incarcerated.\textsuperscript{13}

- Over half of the women in jail said they have been physically or sexually abused in the past, compared to just over a tenth of the men.\textsuperscript{14}

Even this brief sketch of the family background and childhood experiences of jail inmates reveals a landmine of instability, social disorder, substance abuse, and violent victimization that they have not been able to evade--and to the contrary, appear condemned to repeat.

\textbf{Overview of the Jail Population}

Regardless of whether the underlying reasons are more closely related to family chaos or free choice, in the decade from 1995 to 2005, the number of jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents rose from 193 to 252, reflecting an annual increase at a rate of approximately 4\%.\textsuperscript{15} Of the current jail population:

- Almost 9 of 10 are adult males. However, the number of adult females in jail has been increasing faster than males.\textsuperscript{16}

- More than 6 in 10 are racial or ethnic minorities. Blacks were almost three times more likely than Hispanics and five times more likely than whites to be in jail.\textsuperscript{17} (See Figure 1).
On average, they were slightly older in 2002 than 1996 (38% were 35 or older, up from 32%).

Among those convicted, 33% reported alcohol use and 29% drug use at the time of the offense. Their drug use has been estimated at approximately twice the rate of the general population.

Their rate of mental illness is also about double that of the general population, which has largely been attributed to the deinstitutionalization of mental health services without provision of alternative placements.

Nearly half (44%) had an educational level less than high school or equivalent.

In terms of the educational level of jail inmates, it is noteworthy that Hispanics, (a growing segment of the U.S. population), have the highest dropout rate from U.S. high schools. Moreover, among black males, (who are statistically most likely to be in jail), only 5% who had attended some college were incarcerated in 2000. Among white males with some college, only 1% were behind bars.

With regard to their offense, black adults were most often arrested for drug abuse violations. Since police make more arrests for drug abuse than for any other offense, and since drug offenders represent over one-third of felons convicted in state courts, it is not surprising to find this population reflecting a high percentage of jail inmates. Thus, both drug enforcement and educational policies can be added to the list of variables affecting local jails.
Despite the fact that virtually all measures of serious violent crime indicate that it has been decreasing since 1993, (see Figure 2), such statistical trends do not appear to have had an overly positive impact on the jail population. Nor are they likely to last. The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) has been monitoring violent crime in 56 jurisdictions across the nation for the past two years in order to identify the latest trends sooner than is possible through the FBI’s crime data base. PERF findings point toward a “nationwide surge in violence between 2004 and 2006,” with many cities experiencing “double-digit or even triple-digit” increases. Since violent offenders are the most likely to be denied pretrial release, (and since pretrial clients are the jail’s fastest-growing population), such predictions sound ominous alarms for jails.

In the meantime, however, the question is why declining rates of violent crime in recent years have not translated into declining jail populations. In part, this is a result of the fact that nationwide, only about 25% of jail inmates are behind bars for violent crimes, with the remaining 3 out of 4 incarcerated for property (24%), drug (25%), and public order offenses (25%). But even more importantly, jail populations are intimately related to local policies concerning what happens to offenders after they are arrested, raising such questions as:

- Will suspects be released or detained prior to trial?

In each year between 1986 and 1993, the conviction status of jail inmates split almost equally--half pretrial, half convicted. By 1995, however, the balance
began to shift in favor of pretrial status, and by 2002, the majority of those in jail (60%) were awaiting trial, a trend that has continued through 2005, when only 38% of jail inmates were convicted. This rise in non-adjudicated inmates accounts for 71% of the jail population growth in recent years.

- **How long can suspects be expected to spend in jail prior to final disposition of their cases?**

  The median time between arrest and sentencing in 2002 was about five months.

- **Do suspects tend to be convicted or acquitted at trial? If convicted, are they likely to serve time?**

  The number of adults convicted of a felony in state courts has been increasing, (see Figure 3), and over two-thirds of felons convicted in state courts are sentenced to prison or jail, (see Figure 4).

- **Upon conviction, how long can an offender expect to spend in jail?**

  The average state court sentence to local jail was six months.

- **Beyond pretrial detainees and new convictions, what other types of offenders contribute to the jail population?**

  Almost half of all jail inmates were on either probation or parole when they were admitted to jail. Parole and probation violators awaiting hearings (or transfer to state institutions after revocation) are a significant portion of crowded jail populations—as well as a source of friction between local and state governments. This reflects a trend toward increasing numbers of offenders on community supervision who are returning to jail, as well as increasing numbers of offenders being held in jail for other authorities, (from 12.2% in 1988 to 18.7% in 2002).

- **What does all of this mean for jails?**

  When combined, all of these contributing facts have produced an escalating jail population (see Figure 5). But what may be even more troublesome for jails is the skyrocketing probation population displayed in Figure 5, since more people on probation potentially translates into more violations and revocations, and therefore, more people in jail. As one researcher phrased it, “If jails are filled with offenders who are merely noncompliant, there will be no room for dangerous offenders.” In essence, the increased number of people in jail is a consequence of changes in justice policies and practices, which can be detected at key points in the decision-making process—starting with the decision to place an arrestee in detention. Collectively, they “operate the
levers and controls that regulate the size of the jail population.”

Figure 3

Number of felons convicted in State court

1,250,000
1,000,000
750,000
500,000
250,000
0

Figure 4

Percent of felons convicted in State court sentenced to prison, jail, or probation

60
40
20
0

Figure 5

Adult correctional populations, 1980-2005

4,000,000
3,000,000
2,000,000
1,000,000
0

Probation

Prison

Parole

Jail
Speculation about the Jail Population

Whether the number of inmates in jail will continue its upward climb is, of course, a matter of speculation. Among those who link future growth with demographic trends and arrest rates, there are three models used to project jail population by 2010:

Model 1: Assumes that the rate of increase will be the same as the past 5 years, projecting an increase of 200,000 by 2010.\(^\text{43}\)

Model 2: Assumes slower growth, similar to the past 2 years, projecting an increase of 100,000 by 2010.

Model 3: Looks only at demographic trends, projecting a growth of less than 100,000 by 2010.\(^\text{44}\)

However, others counter that there is only a weak relationship between population growth and crime rates or arrest trends--maintaining instead, that jail populations are largely the result of how we respond to crime. From this perspective, “small changes in public policy and practice can result in large effects on population.”\(^\text{45}\)

Examples might include reducing the jail population for non-adjudicated inmates through more aggressive pretrial release options; establishing judicially-sanctioned time frames for case disposition; expediting probation/parole revocation hearings; and similar strategies throughout the criminal justice system directed toward alleviating jail crowding.\(^\text{46}\)

In support of such strategic initiatives, it is notable that while changes in a county’s resident population can affect the jail population, it is considerably more likely that changes in its criminal justice practices will produce a substantially larger impact. Forecasting changes in a county’s resident population is easier than forecasting changes in criminal justice policies or discretionary decision-making. For jails throughout the country, however, it is not as meaningful. The fact that America will not look the same in another generation may not be nearly as significant as what changes local communities make in the upcoming years with regard to everything from social policies to justice practices. On the one hand, that makes forecasting the jail population more challenging, but on the other hand, it gives communities more leverage in terms of influencing it.
Think about everyone you interacted with at work yesterday. Who among them will be able to retire in the next 5-10 years? The answer will probably be “just about everybody.” If it is, the next question should be “who will take their place?” The answer to that question will shape the future of the entire organization.

Remember the days when there were dozens of applicants for every opening? That was then. This is now. Consider the following:

• In contrast to the stability of past employees, the typical young worker today “averages nearly nine jobs between the ages of 18 and 32”. 47

• Across the nation, 58% of organizations are finding it difficult to keep employees. 48

• A recent survey of police academy recruits reveals that 40% plan to leave their current agency within three years. 49

• Two thirds of law enforcement officers who leave smaller agencies have 5 years or less on the job. 50

• Turnover rates among corrections officers range from 3.8% in New York to 41% in Louisiana. 51

• The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that an average of nearly 20,000 correctional officers would be needed annually in the decade between 2002 and 2012 to meet both growth (10,337) and net replacements of those leaving (8,861). 52

What all of this means is that there is a war raging throughout the country—a war for talent. Every organization is in it, but only those that fully embrace change dictated by this new world will be successful competitors. Moreover, America’s changing demographic profile presents a significant challenge for recruiting and retaining employees. By 2020, nearly one-third of the American workforce will be composed of ethnic and racial minorities, compared to less than one-quarter just 10 years ago. 53
the majority of today’s Baby Boomers retire, workplaces will fill with the newer
generations, each with their own unique attitudes, expectations, and work-related
values. What is the key to meeting these major challenges? Essentially, it is to meet
change with change—we cannot continue doing in the future what we have done in the
past.

There are many external factors that will determine the caliber of the future
workforce—from the quality of our educational system to the willingness of taxpayers to
support local jails. Internally, however, there are three issues that are paramount—
organizational culture, recruitment techniques, and retention capability.

### Organizational Culture: Making the Workplace a Place Where People Want to Work

An organization’s culture is the composite of assumptions, perceptions, and
values held by its employees. More specifically, it reflects the perceptions that
employees hold about what is valued by the organization and its leadership. Culture
therefore sets the boundaries of what is acceptable and unacceptable. As such, it can
be either a positive or a negative influence. But most importantly, culture is the force
within the organization that primarily influences the success or failure of efforts to recruit
and retain the best employees.

Analyzing an organization’s culture requires an honest and thorough examination
of “how business is done,” which includes everything from how employees treat each
other to the language they use, the way they dress, the informal rules they abide by,
and how they interact with co-workers, supervisors, managers, and clients. Particularly
in light of the results of a recent study which reported that 61% of all new hires in 2004
were attributed to two sources—the Internet and employee referrals—it is apparent that
the impact of organizational culture extends well beyond organizational boundaries. In
terms of attracting and retaining quality personnel, the bottom line is that “culture
counts.”
An unhealthy organization culture will not attract or retain quality employees. In these organizations, there will be three types of employees:

1. Those who are competent and leave to work somewhere more challenging, engaging, and upbeat;
2. Those who are not committed to the organization, but are unable to leave for a variety of reasons; and worse,
3. Those who stay because no one else wants them.

Recruitment: Getting the Right People on Board

Even if the organization is one with a positive culture, where people want to work, many additional factors influence recruiting top-notch staff. Demographics alone indicate that the labor market will be very different. The prevalence of ethnic and racial minorities in the population will influence how and where organizations recruit. But equally influential will be the need to recruit across the great generational divide.

Each generation is shaped by their collective experiences. For example, the Baby Boomer (see Figure 1) generation was strongly influenced by the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Generation X’ers have been shaped by their role as the “latchkey” kids of workaholic Baby Boomers. Millennials represent the digital generation, using technology in every aspect of life.

Figure 1 - Percentage of each in the workforce

As a result of their experiential background, each generation has unique attitudes, values, and expectations about life in general and the workplace in particular.

In a recent discussion of the multi-generational issue among correctional administrators, one manager asked “Why is it that those of us who have been working here and dedicating our lives to the organization,…… those of us with experience and knowledge,…… why are we the ones who have to change for the new people?” A legitimate question. But the answer is probably not what this person wanted to hear—i.e., the population is changing, and
thus, the labor market is changing. If organizations refuse to adapt to those changes, they will be defeated in the war for talented employees.

**Retention: Keeping the Right People in the Right Places**

Even the best and most successful recruiting practices do not guarantee that people will stay. Some turnover is healthy, bringing fresh ideas into the organization. But the costs of unproductive turnover are tremendous. It has been estimated that turnover costs approximately 25% of the departing employee’s annual salary,\(^{55}\) and the costs could be even higher for law enforcement and correctional personnel. But direct replacement costs are just part of the picture. Turnover is also expensive in terms of less tangible factors, such as:

- Loss of investment in terms of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of departing employees;
- Organizationally-induced stress resulting from understaffing;
- Overtime expenditures;
- Lack of consistency in the delivery of services;
- Agency reputation.

How does an organization keep its best employees? Along with a healthy organizational culture, leaders must determine why people are leaving, (as well as why others are staying). To many managers, it is surprising that people generally do not leave because of their salary. In fact, most employees leave because of a negative relationship with their supervisor, inadequate supervision, lack of training, or lack of opportunity for growth.\(^{56}\) When employees resign, exit interviews are one way to find out why. But exit interviews are only as valuable as the questions that are asked, the credibility of the person asking, and what is done with the information obtained. Effective exit interviews can provide valuable insights into the organization and its culture. Once leaders have the benefit of those insights, the next step is to implement necessary organizational changes designed to prevent competent employees from departing prematurely.

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of managers truly believe it's [turnover] largely about the money... But if you are a manager, you actually have more power than anyone else to keep your best employees. Why? Because the factors that drive employee satisfaction and commitment are largely within your control... meaningful, challenging work, a chance to learn and grow, fair compensation, a good work environment, recognition, and respect.

Determining why people leave, however, presents only half of the picture. The other half is determining why those remaining stay. Although it is equally important information, organizations tend to take this part for granted. The key is to not assume why people stay, but rather, to ask them. Regular “staying interviews” will provide essential information targeting where organizational improvements can be made. They can also help employees with career planning and professional development. If staff members see that someone is interested in their future, they will be more committed to and engaged in the organization.

**Succession Planning: Preparing for the Future**

If the most frequent reason that employees leave is because of their supervisor, it stands to reason that maintaining high quality supervisors is a critical ingredient in successful retention. Law enforcement and correctional agencies historically have avoided lateral entry, electing instead to promote from within the organization. As a result, the pool of potential supervisory candidates is quite limited, requiring organizations to find methods for “marketing” promotional opportunities internally.

Marketing advancement options may sound too “corporate” for local government public safety agencies. But even the armed forces have significantly changed the way they recruit and advertise, gearing their contemporary campaigns to the newer generations with ads that would probably not appeal to the Baby Boomers or Veterans. With a new workforce comprised of new values on the horizon, traditional thinking about promotion and retention has become outdated and ineffective.

Organizations often find that many of their employees seem to avoid promotions. Management’s perception of this reluctance to move up is likely to be that employees are unmotivated, self-centered, or unwilling to accept new challenges outside of their “comfort zone.” However, employees who shy away from promotions may do so for quite different reasons. The table below illustrates the resulting gap.  

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<th>Managerial Perceptions about Promotion</th>
<th>Employee Concerns about Promotions</th>
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<td>Higher pay</td>
<td>Yes, but less opportunity for overtime</td>
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<tr>
<td>More administrative responsibility</td>
<td>Yes, but little administrative support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher professional status</td>
<td>Yes, but less personal satisfaction and greater responsibility for the actions of others.</td>
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Retention of employees and succession planning are clearly inter-related. If employees are not challenged, supported, and provided with opportunities to grow and develop, they are not likely to be satisfied with or committed to their work – especially true of Millennial workers. Dissatisfied and disengaged workers are not only unlikely to seek promotion, but are among those most likely to seek employment elsewhere.

Career planning used to be considered an employee’s own responsibility, requiring considerable personal initiative. That was then. Now, the succession planning designed to fill the anticipated vacancies of retiring managers has become an organizational priority—at least in any agency that is proactively anticipating future workforce challenges. Thus, individual career planning and organizational succession planning are now considered managerial concerns, with the future of both the employee and the employing agency integrally linked together in a manner that will determine the future destiny of each.
Inmate management and related security concerns have always been a costly drain on the facilities’ human and fiscal resources. That is not expected to change. From 1977 to 2003, state and local expenditures for corrections increased by 1,173%, skyrocketing past spending growth in education, health care, and public welfare.\(^5\) In 2003, local government spent just under $20 billion for corrections, reflecting 39% of total correctional expenditures in the U.S.\(^6\) Primarily, that price tag is a feature of the fact that the number of jail inmates tripled between 1982 and 2003 (to 691,000),\(^7\) and the average daily population rose 222% in the same period.\(^8\)

In addition to these static population counts, however, jails are also responsible for a dynamic population of arrestees who cycle into and out of local jails each year. That number is considerably higher, (although not necessarily an unduplicated count, since the same arrestee could account for multiple jail intakes in a given year). While this dynamic population count is difficult to identify precisely, it has been estimated to be in the millions.\(^9\)

Moreover, the average length of stay in jails is increasing, as arrestees with serious charges are increasingly denied bond or other forms of pretrial release. At the same time, court backlogs have slowed judicial processing, probation and parole violators face zero tolerance policies, more punitive determinate sentencing laws have been enacted, further delaying the transfer of inmates to equally crowded state correctional systems. The results: longer local jail stays. All of these factors are beyond the immediate control of the jail, yet often combine to produce a higher average length of stay for jail inmates, with figures ranging from 17 days in Multnomah County, Oregon\(^0\) to 24 days in California jails\(^1\) and 64.5 days in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.\(^2\)
Impact of Community Reentry

The political dimensions of crime-related public policy generate conflict between advocates of incapacitation and those supporting more preventive and rehabilitative community-based strategies. Regardless of the underlying ideology, however, nearly everyone incarcerated will eventually be released. Moreover, there are nearly five million offenders under supervision on probation and parole caseloads. While probationers and parolees are not presently jail clients, they have the potential of entering the jail system, as a result of revocations and/or new criminal charges. In fact, the re-entry issue has recently emerged as a priority on many public policy agendas.

Nearly 650,000 people are being released from state and federal prisons annually, arriving on the doorsteps of communities throughout the country.

A far greater number reenter the community from confinement in local jails, (and for many, this may occur multiple times within a year). With over 60% of those released from incarceration involved in some form of legal trouble within three years, (see Figure 1), the re-entry crisis is sparking efforts throughout the country to improve the success of inmate reintegration, and safeguard the public in the process.

Competition for Resources

Society has never been well-informed about jails or appreciative of their role in the community, and if lack of public support continues in this fashion, jails can likewise be expected to continue to struggle to compete for scarce resources. While the National Association of Counties reports that its membership is more upbeat about their
budgets than in previous years, local budgets so closely track national trends that potential volatility is quickly reflected in local spending decisions.\textsuperscript{69}

Even if local economies recover from the devastating impact of 9/11 and the redirection of resources to homeland security, the future is considered tenuous, with the potential of one terrorist incident creating fiscal havoc. Moreover, shifting public attention to homeland security has further distanced support for jails, and increased hiring by federal and state agencies for newly-created security positions depletes the hiring pool.

Nevertheless, proportionately, it is apparent that the justice system is taking an ever-larger slice of the fiscal pie, (as, for example, in Broward County, Florida, where \$0.25 of every tax dollar is spent on the local jail system).\textsuperscript{70} As in many other aspects of government, it is likely that citizens will begin to demand greater accountability of jails for the expenditure of such public funds. In the meantime, local jurisdictions caught between rising costs, public rhetoric to avoid new or increased taxes, and declining or stagnant revenues are left with few alternatives beyond reducing budget authorizations. As a result, jails are already facing difficulties in terms of managing more challenging inmate populations with fewer resources to reduce idleness, link clients with community services, or address underlying social problems--and at some point, even basic services are threatened.

\textbf{Crowding and Classification}

Obviously, escalating resource concerns are intimately related to rising numbers of clients. In the past two decades, jail populations have more than doubled throughout the country,\textsuperscript{71} and there is no indication that such trends will diminish. Thus, crowding is expected to continue to be a serious operational issue for local jails.

Generally, the initial response to jail crowding is to expand jail capacity through new construction and/or renovation. But the reality is that local officials often find that they cannot build themselves out of a crowding crisis. Rather, it is essential to engage in a deliberative, system-wide assessment, involving all stakeholders in the local justice system, to identify what is contributing to jail crowding (e.g., court backlogs, revocation hearing delays, case disposition problems, etc.) and address those issues directly, as well as identify alternatives to confinement, particularly in terms of pretrial detention.
(e.g., day reporting, electronic monitoring, etc.). When such alternatives are employed, however, it is often as a last-resort, short-term strategy rather than as part of a comprehensive, long-term system-wide approach to crowding.

In the meantime, jails continue to grapple with the managerial impact of crowding, which inevitably compromises inmate classification and housing. Yet the need for serious attention to classification has never been greater, in light of the growth of such special populations as females, juveniles, transgendered, gangs, mentally disordered, and physically disabled, as well as those who are dangerous, predatory, vulnerable, or geriatric—all of whom strain both the jail’s physical facilities and its separation capabilities.

Juveniles in Jail

Juvenile offenders represent one of the growing categories of special populations that present significant management challenges for jails, especially in light of contemporary trends toward lower ages for prosecution of juveniles as adults, more violent offenses being committed by young offenders, and mounting recidivist records among today’s youth. “Estimates range on the number of youth prosecuted in adult court nationally. Some researchers believe that as many as 200,000 youth are prosecuted every year.”

In that regard, many jurisdictions are implementing restorative/community justice approaches to bring offenders, victims, and community representatives together to repair the harm caused by young offenders in a manner that holds them accountable for their actions through avenues that generate more benefit to the community than simply placing them behind bars. In fact, efforts are also underway to apply to adult offenders the lessons learned from implementing this approach with juveniles. Applying restorative practices to adults holds the potential for reducing the jail population. But it will require both the community and the judiciary accepting negotiated alternatives to incarceration, as well as developing an infrastructure of support throughout the jurisdiction.

Jail Security Issues

Inside even the smallest jails, security can be expected to become an even more significant concern. More dangerous offenders, who have spent more time in state or
federal prisons, will be challenging to confine in older physical plants with less sophisticated security hardware. The average lifespan of a well-maintained jail’s physical plant is estimated to be approximately 30-35 years. The aging of jail facilities, along with declining resources for preventive maintenance, negatively influences the ability to safely and securely confine inmates. With the cost of jail construction as high as $100,000 per bed (in 2006), it is unlikely that widespread new construction will be an economically-sound long term solution.

At the same time, in terms of specific security threat groups, traditional gangs may be joined by such newcomers as MS-13, jihadists, and religious extremists. Lack of knowledge about foreign (or domestic) extremists, along with the inability to translate mail, monitor telephone calls, or provide information in the arrestee’s dominant language may well impact inmate management and jail operations.

As more divergent groups enter the population, cultural clashes can be expected to contribute to jail disorder. More “experienced” inmates are likely to pose increased threat of escape, especially if facility human resources are not managed effectively and maintenance/security systems are not upgraded and maintained. Additionally, inmates will have access to more information through the Internet about employees, the physical plant, etc. that can aid in defeating facility security. Moreover, arrestees now are able to communicate with one another, as well as the outside world, from behind bars. While contraband of the past was largely focused on weapons and drugs, an equally problematic concern in the future involves small electronics such as cell phones, personal digital assistant, etc., which can be concealed and used by inmates with relative ease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inmate Needs and Jail Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Given the many individual problems that arrestees bring with them to jail, it is not surprising to find that local correctional officials are confronted with demands to treat everything from educational and vocational shortcomings to alcohol and drug abuse, AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis, personality disorders, mental disorders, and any number of additional physical and psychological maladies. For example, consider the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nearly half of those confined behind bars (46%) report not having a high school diploma, and even more are functioning well below twelfth-grade level on measures of reading, writing, and/or math.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Almost 70% of jail inmates admit to regular drug use, (up from 64% in 1996), with 29% reporting use at the time of the offense.  

• Sixty-six percent (66%) of jail inmates admit that they drink alcohol regularly, with 34.5% reporting alcohol use at the time of the offense.

At the same time that jails are being confronted with a more problematic inmate population, fewer fiscal resources are available to respond to their needs through such initiatives as vocational training, work release, life skills training, anger management classes, substance abuse programs, mental health treatment, parenting classes, re-entry assistance, faith-based initiatives, etc.

Even providing fundamental medical and dental services can be expected to continue to be a significant part of the jail’s budget as health care costs escalate at the same time that health of jail inmates deteriorates. For the general population in free society, health care costs are estimated to rise more than 100% between 2004 and 2015, and there is no reason to expect that similar increases will not occur for those behind bars. Moreover, heath care for aging populations with chronic, untreated medical conditions, (magnified by years of substance abuse and inadequate health care), presents both staffing and financial issues. In many jurisdictions, jails will continue to be the only public facility offering crisis stabilization, treatment, medication, and referral for medical and mental health problems.

Technological Limitations

While technology may continue to assist with inmate management and enhance officer safety, in many respects it is not as highly adaptable to a jail setting as to a prison. For example, given the jail’s more limited knowledge of the routine behaviors and underlying risks of its inmate population, there are fewer opportunities to use technology to replace or supplement staff. Thus, while some prisons can operate on the basis of locking-down dangerous, high-risk inmates with little human interaction 23/7, most jail settings do not have such options as a result of the legal status of their inmates, (especially the large pretrial population), and/or the facility’s lack of technological capabilities. Additionally, the levels of intrusiveness of some technologies may also generate privacy considerations for inmate management, especially with regard to women arrestees.
Evidence-based Practices and Tomorrow’s Challenges

Competition for increasingly scarce resources, combined with greater demands for accountability, raises the need for data-based decision-making and incorporating the principles of evidence-based practices. Moving in this direction will require improved accountability through management information systems, thereby enabling more timely and accurate evidence-based decisions to be made concerning security, operations, and inmate management.

In many respects, the ability to meet the challenges facing tomorrow’s jails will ultimately be dependent on community values, priorities, resources, and commitment to improving the local justice system. With operational costs continuing to escalate as aging physical plants are replaced or renovated, more mentally ill are confined, and health care expenditures steadily climb, collaboration with the community, as well as officials throughout the local justice system, will be an essential survival strategy, especially if there is any hope for more proactively addressing such fundamental concerns as crowding, crime prevention, reintegration, and related public safety issues.
Some of the greatest challenges facing jail operations in the next decade is the unique needs of the growing number of inmates who constitute “special populations.” These inmates require considerations that extend beyond the ordinary policies and procedures designed for the more conventional population. These special populations are: women, persons with mental illness, geriatric offenders, substance abusers, sex offenders, and gang members. Their confinement in local jails affects everything from health care services to staff training, physical facilities, and treatment opportunities. Thus, they will have a significant impact on future jail operations.

Women Offenders

Women comprise an escalating proportion of jail inmates, climbing to 12.7% of the population in 2005.85 While that may not sound alarming, between 1995 and 2002, the number of female inmates in America’s jails increased nearly 50%.86 Moreover, the number of women under supervision by a criminal justice agency is rising faster than arrest rates.87

Primarily, women are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, (particularly less serious drug-related offenses). In fact, FBI statistics indicate that between 1992 and 2001, arrests of women for drug-related offenses increased more than 50%.88 In the past, these non-violent crimes were typically punished by non-custodial sentences. That is not the case in the climate of contemporary public policy today, with its emphasis on waging war against drugs. As a result, more female offenders are now behind bars.

Typically, these are women of color who are undereducated, and unskilled, with below-average income and a sporadic employment background. Often they come from fragmented families, have other family members who are involved in the criminal justice system, are survivors of physical and/or sexual abuse, have significant histories of
substance abuse, suffer from multiple physical as well as mental health problems, and, in addition to everything else, are generally unmarried mothers, (accounting for almost 250,000 children whose mothers are in jail).89

Moreover, women pose serious operational issues for jails, including special hygiene needs, accommodations for pregnant or nursing mothers, protection from sexual assault by other inmates (and/or staff), emotional distress resulting from being separated from their children, and so on.

Traditionally, most institutions classify female inmates by using procedures that were designed for males and are based largely on behaviors and risk factors that have primary relevance for men. But when jails adopted a single, gender-neutral system without conducting the research necessary to examine its validity for women, the physical security imposed on female inmates may well be excessive, sending an inappropriate message to visitors, (particularly family and children).90

Mentally-disordered Offenders

The term “mentally disordered” offenders embraces a wide range of behaviors, from the mildly disoriented (or neurotic) to those who are severely psychotic and completely out of touch with reality.91 More than half of all prison and jail inmates suffer from mental illnesses which includes 479,900 people in local jails—representing 64% of all jail inmates.92 In addition:

- Nearly a quarter of jail inmates with mental illness have been incarcerated three or more times;

- Female inmates have higher rates of mental illness than male inmates (representing 75% of the females in local jails);

- Seventy-six percent (76%) of jail inmates with mental illness met the medical criteria for substance dependence or abuse; and

- Jail inmates who have mental illness are three times as likely as other inmates to report being physically or sexually abused in the past.93

According to Human Rights Watch, the staggering rate of incarceration of persons with mental illness is a consequence of under-funded, disorganized, and fragmented community mental health services.94 When public policy in the 1960s and
1970s led to the closing of “state” hospitals which held person diagnosed with mental illness – deinstitutionalization -- the plan was to replace institutional confinement with community-based treatment. But somewhere along the way, “society ran out of money or interest or both.” As a result, many people with mental disorders--particularly those who are poor, homeless, or struggling with substance abuse–are not able to obtain treatment. Moreover, persons with mental illness appear to have difficulty accessing crucial resources in their communities, even where referrals and guidance are provided prior to release from incarceration.

Essentially, when society cannot or will not provide effective care for special populations, they often become correctional clients. Thus, in many jurisdictions, jails are now the primary resource for dealing with community mental health issues, essentially becoming “an asylum of last resort.”

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**Geriatric Inmates**

The issue of aging inmates in correctional systems has not received attention commensurate with its projected impact. Nevertheless, the cost of housing older inmates is enormous, largely because of the long-term medical expenses associated with aging and the lack of adequate medical and dental care in the early lives of these offenders. It has been estimated that the average cost of medical care and maintenance for inmates over fifty-five years of age is about three times that of the younger population. For example, the average annual health care cost for older inmates in Pennsylvania is $11,427, compared to $3,809 for younger prisoners. Today, one of every 23 inmates in prison is fifty-five or older, an 85% increase since 1995. In fact, the number of inmates past the age of fifty-five is increasing at twice the rate of the total prison population.

While the nature of determinate sentencing--with its three-strikes laws and mandatory minimum guidelines--makes this a more significant issue for prisons, jails are also affected as the U.S. population in general ages, and as increasing numbers of parole violators are subject to jail confinement while awaiting revocation hearings. These elderly inmates generate needs for everything from physical therapy and cardiac medication to ADA accessible facilities, including wider cell doors and Braille signs on doors. Inmates may be required to drop to the floor for alarms, stand for long periods...
of time, walk to meals or other activities, clearly hear instructions, and climb onto a top bunk—all of which are difficult activities for this population.\textsuperscript{103} These inmates are also less likely to be able to physically participate in institutional programs or eat the same foods as other inmates. Moreover, they are especially vulnerable to being victimized by younger inmates. In essence, “meeting the housing, recreational, rehabilitative, and dietary needs of geriatric inmates presents issues that corrections will be directly confronting in the years ahead.”\textsuperscript{104}

**Substance Abusers**

Another population of inmates that has been increasing significantly in recent years is represented by those with substance abuse problems. In that regard, consider the following statistics:

- Over two-thirds of jail inmates are dependent on (or abusing) alcohol or drugs—a problem which affects females at higher rates than their male counterparts.\textsuperscript{105}

- Half of all convicted jail inmates were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their offense, and 16% said they committed their offense to get money for drugs.\textsuperscript{106}

- Jail inmates who meet the medical criteria for substance abuse (as specified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*), are twice as likely as other inmates to have three or more prior probation terms or incarceration sentences.\textsuperscript{107}

- Alcohol abuse is more common among older offenders. Forty percent (40%) of inmates age 35 or above had used alcohol at the time of the offense, as compared to 24% of inmates 25-34 or younger than 25.\textsuperscript{108}

- In contrast to their older counterparts, younger inmates are more likely to have used drugs.\textsuperscript{109}

- Regular drug use among jail inmates rose from 64% in 1996 to 69% in 2002, although there was little change in the types of drugs used. Marijuana and cocaine/crack were the most common drugs, followed by heroin/other opiates, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens and inhalants.\textsuperscript{110}

One stimulant drug that has become of great concern in recent years is methamphetamine (meth). Chemically, it is related to amphetamine but, at comparable doses, the effects are much more potent, longer lasting, and more harmful to the central nervous system.\textsuperscript{111}
The current meth epidemic presents a challenge to local law enforcement and corrections. In a 2006 report by the National Association of Counties (NACO), for example, meth was cited as continuing to maintain its ranking as the number one drug problem throughout the country. Forty-eight percent (48%) of counties responding to the NACO study report that meth is their primary drug problem – more than cocaine (22%), marijuana (22%), and heroin (35%).112 Chronic meth abusers can display serious psychological symptoms, including anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mood disturbances, and violent behavior. Users are also vulnerable to a number of psychotic symptoms, (such as paranoia, hallucinations, and delusions), that can last for months, or even years, after use of the drug has ended.113

For jails, a significant concern regarding meth users is that, as more end up behind bars, facilities are forced to devote a growing portion of their health care budget to emergency dental care as a result of the condition known as “meth mouth” (i.e., the hydrochloric acid, used in production of the drug erodes tooth enamel, resulting in pain, abscesses, and teeth that resemble small black stubs).114

Sex Offenders

On any given day, there are about a quarter-million offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault under the custody or control of corrections agencies.115 Communities are becoming increasingly concerned about sexual predators, and legislators are responding, often with laws that react more to public fears than to statistical facts.

These laws, now enacted in nineteen states, call for civil commitment of sex offenders and mandate that they remain in secure custody, (essentially, for crimes that they may commit). Presently, about 2,700 men are civilly committed throughout the U.S. Such commitment procedures are costing, on average, four times more per inmate than incarceration, and likewise present a number of due process and social policy issues.116

Often jails must provide protective custody to inmates accused of sex crimes, especially crimes involving children. Without specific efforts to protect them, these inmates are vulnerable to becoming victimized, and therefore need special consideration as potential targets.
Members of Gangs (Security Threat Groups)

As the gang phenomenon has grown and spread across America, there has been a parallel growth and spread of gangs behind bars.\textsuperscript{117} While the long-term nature of confinement makes gangs a more serious issue for prisons than for jails, nevertheless, gang members threaten institutional security, therefore requiring special considerations. For example, gang affiliations need to be documented, conflicts within and between gangs must be controlled, their movements need to be monitored, and particularly in gang-infested jurisdictions, caution is necessary when making housing assignments, moving inmates, serving meals, providing recreation, and so on. Additionally, since gangs dominate the drug business, they are responsible for considerable violence. Overall, because they constitute such a disruptive force in correctional facilities, security threat groups interfere with operational practices and programs, threaten the safety of inmates and staff, and erode the quality of institutional life.\textsuperscript{118}
Everyone has heard the old adage that the only two things that we can count on are death and taxes. But a third ingredient could be added to this list, which is crime. Crime has plagued society as far back as recorded history, and in the early days of corrections, punishment revolved around confinement, silent reflection, and hard work. Upon release, the offender was often shunned by the community, and life on the outside was sometimes as hard as life on the inside. Over time, such attitudes have changed, although in recent years we have witnessed a renewed emphasis on punishment, with more and more people being confined. The result has begun to place a fiscal strain on communities as they debate whether to spend limited tax dollars on building new schools to invest in the future or building new jails to avoid facing lawsuits over conditions of confinement in out-of-date, overcrowded facilities. Even after making the hard choice of building a new jail or improving an old one, administrators face difficult decisions with regard to staffing levels, treatment programs, etc.—all of which put an even greater burden on the taxpayer. At least part of the solution to these dilemmas lies in the field of technology.

Is technology the “silver bullet” for corrections? Will technology replace people, with robots doing all of the work that humans do now? No, but technology can help jails function more smoothly and efficiently. From initial design to intake and release, technology can be of valuable assistance—let’s look at some of the ways.

**Microwave and Video Systems**

Ask the average person to describe a jail, and they will probably tell you about cement and steel, high walls or fences with roll after roll of razor wire, and “guards” stationed in posts on the perimeter with weapons in hand. But the reality is something quite different, both inside and outside. Jails currently being built do not employ the
same concept of bars as in the past. Architectural design changes have made jails less imposing and more in line with other structures, such as office buildings. Fences with row after row of razor wire are being replaced with electronic devices. The days of officers walking perimeter posts with weapons have been replaced by fence sensors, microwave and camera systems. Soon, so-called “intelligent video” systems will become more and more common in the jail environment. These systems will be able to detect changes in the jail environment, such as a sudden grouping of inmates possibly signaling a fight, or a person passing through an area where no one has access, or objects being removed from, (or placed in), a specified area. The days of officers having to pat down all inmates and visitors may likewise come to an end. Millimeter microwave or, MMI, systems are being developed that will show anything being concealed on, (or possibly in), a person that is not supposed to be there. These are all technologies that are either on the market now, or soon will be—and that is only the beginning.

**Shared Data Bases**

Presently, when a prisoner is admitted to jail, an individual record must be compiled. This involves the gathering of information such as personal data, family history, health questions, risk factors, prior arrest history, etc., which in most jurisdictions is done manually. In some cases, the jail has had the prisoner previously on a prior charge, so they do not have to gather all of the information anew. Now under development are systems that will extend that benefit by enabling information to be shared between agencies. Databases such as Justice Data Extendable Machine Language are being developed that will allow agencies to get information from another jurisdiction that is already in the proper format and to pass the additional information that they gather along so the next agency (prison, parole, etc.) doesn’t have to waste the time and the resources to perform the same functions again. This will reduce the cost of record management systems and enable the automatic cross-indexing of information, making the records clerk’s job considerably easier.

**Inmate Tracking**

Inmates (as well as staff) will be able to be tracked through the use of a radio frequency identification system. These systems, which are available on the market today, will become more and more sophisticated and will allow control rooms to ensure
that inmates are where they are supposed to be at all times. This, in turn, will help to reduce the need for counts, make it easier to solve assault cases, and make it more difficult for inmates to escape undetected.

**Biometric Advancements**

Biometrics will play a larger and larger role in jails of the future. Devices will allow staff and inmates to go from one area to another unescorted, but will limit access only to the specified areas. Biometric devices will be in place that will indicate if an inmate has been fed, received their medications, or gone to court. They will check to ensure that the right individual is put in the right bed assignment and that the right inmate has been released.

**Telemedicine**

The use of telemedicine is likely to increase dramatically over the next several years as diagnostic tools become more and more automated. In the not-too-distant future, inmates will be able to speak with physicians located hundreds of miles away, and the doctor will be able to make a diagnosis based on real time data that is being streamed to them over a virtual private network (VPN). Devices are also in development that will allow jail staff to put an inmate on suicide watch without having to personally monitor behavior. These devices will detect changes in breathing patterns or heart rate, alerting correctional staff to take appropriate action.

**Computer-assisted Functions**

Inmate visitation in facilities of the future will be able to take place over video screens that are located in cites throughout the country. It will look similar to video visitation now, except that there will be no reason for the visitor to come to the jail. They will be able to simply sit in front of a computer screen at home or some other location and visit with the inmate. More and more, courts will begin to rely on video on a routine basis for hearings, and possibly in the not-too-distant future, even trials.

**Search Devices**

Devices are now coming onto the market that will aid the correctional officer in searching for contraband, such as cell phones, drugs and guns. These devices will be able to “hear, “sniff”, and “see” contraband through the use of techniques like spectral analysis, wave frequency analysis, lasers and microwaves. In the future, these devices
will get better as well as cheaper and will become more readily available to jails of all sizes. Also in development are devices that will allow officers to note increases in the anger and/or stress level of inmates, enabling the officer to take preventive action before a situation becomes violent.

### Non-lethal Weapons

Non-lethal weapons that are available to the correctional officer will become more plentiful. These devices will be able to control a single person or a group of inmates using sound or light as well as the already available chemicals or electrical stimulation. Calmative chemical agents will become prevalent, along with devices that combine several technologies into one.

### Tip of the Iceberg

The advancements described herein are only the tip of the iceberg. In the next ten to twenty years, new technologies will be entering the marketplace at a rapid pace, thereby continuing to reduce demands on jail administrators and operational staff. But although these improvements will help to make jobs easier, technological advancements will never replace human interactions.
APPENDIX

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN:
FACTS, FIGURES, AND TRENDS RELATED TO
ISSUES FACING LOCAL JAILS

Bureau of Justice Assistance Cooperative Agreement

Submitted to:
Center for Innovative Public Policies, Inc.

Submitted by:
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Date:
April 6, 2007

1. Demographics

- Census Bureau projections of the ethnic breakdown of the U.S. population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (of any race)</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other races</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- U.S. birthrates have not been high enough to replace the population since 1971. The U.S. population has not declined, however, as a result of high levels of migration into the country.


- During the 1990s, 40% of the increase in the U.S. population was due to the arrival of new immigrants.
A rapid increase in the level of migration during the 1990’s occurred largely because millions of people legalized in 1987 and 1988 under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 were becoming U.S. citizens in increasing numbers. As they become citizens, they could sponsor the legal immigration of immediate relatives without being subject to numerical limits. Migration from this source is projected to reach a peak early in the decade of 2000 to 2010.

Undocumented migration of people born in Mexico and Central America is primarily a function of the degree of success in controlling the southwest border.

The overseas population of military personnel and dependents is a function of the future course of world events (e.g., less military involvement might mean a spike in crime committed by youth).

With birthrates low and people living longer, the percentage of older people in the U.S. is increasing. The proportion of people age 65 or older is expected to increase from 12.4% (35 million) in 2000 to 19.6% (71 million) in 2030.

Consequences of the aging population include:
- Growing pressure on health care costs;
- Workforce shortages in some sectors of the economy;
- Problems for pension and retirement programs

Almost 9 out of every 10 jail inmates are adult males. However, the number of adult females in jail has been increasing faster than males.

The number of juveniles held in adult facilities declined from 1999 to 2005.

More than 6 in 10 jail inmates are racial or ethnic minorities. (Blacks were almost three times more likely than hispanics and five times more likely than whites to be in jail).
Women represented 12% of the jail population in 2002, up from 10% in 1996.

Jail inmates were older on average in 2002 than 1996 (38% were 35 or older, up from 32%).

In 2002, 44% of the jail population had an educational level less than high school (or equivalent).

Of black males who graduated from high school and went on to attend some college, only 5% were incarcerated in 2000. Of white males who graduated from high school and went on to attend some college, only 1% were incarcerated in 2000.

The at-risk population of males and females between the ages of 16-24 will grow 2.9% from 2004-2014.

The national arrest rate for 15-16 year-olds is projected to increase by 30% in 2010

Increases in juvenile crime since the mid-1980s reflect economic shifts, decline in the extended family, increase in single parenthood, access to more lethal weapons, and the growing role of gangs.

Projected trends likely to affect juvenile crime in the future include population growth, increased immigration, broader cultural diversity, welfare reform that may lead to increased childhood poverty, and more transfers from juvenile to criminal courts.

26% of American children live below the poverty line, and recent welfare reforms are expected to add another million children to their ranks. Childhood poverty correlates with increased risk of victimization, and offenders who victimize often have histories of earlier victimization. Between 1985 and 1994, reports of child abuse and neglect increased more than 50 percent. If this trend continues, it will reinforce the cycle of violence.

Youth are committing delinquent acts at younger ages. Problems posed by very young offenders in detention include increased risk of victimization, different school and program service requirements, and greater needs for emotional support.

2. **Crime trends**

- All measures of serious violent crime indicate that it has been decreasing since 1993.

  ![Four measures of serious violent crime](image)


- From 2004 to 2005, the rate of violent crime increased 1.3%, but the rate of property offenses decreased 2.4%.

- The 5-year trend indicates that violent crime decreased 3.4%. For the 10-year trend (1996 to 2005), violent crime declined 17.6%. The 10-year trend for property crime indicates a decline of 13.9%.

- Law enforcement officers made more arrests for drug abuse violations in 2005 (an estimated 1.8 million arrests, or 13% of the total) than for any other offense.

- In 2005, 76% of all persons arrested were male, 70% white, and 15.5% juveniles.

- Between 1996 and 2005, the number of juveniles arrested declined by 25%, while the number of females arrested increased by 7.4%.

- Black adults were most often arrested for drug abuse violations.


- The number of adults convicted of a felony in state courts has been increasing, and over two-thirds of felons convicted in state courts are sentenced to prison or jail. As a result, the number of adults in the correctional population has been increasing.
• The median time between arrest and sentencing in 2002 was about 5 months.

• The average state court sentence to local jail was 6 months.

• Drug offenders were 35% of felons convicted in state courts in 2000.


• The estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations among adults has been increasing, while the number for juveniles has stabilized.


• The percentage of convicted inmates in the jail population decreased from 48.5% in 1990 to 38% in 2005.


• The rise in unconvicted inmates accounts for 71.4% of jail population growth. Approximately 60% of all jail inmates on a single day are awaiting trial.


• National data indicate that the average length of stay in jail is 15-16 days.


• Almost half (49.6%) of jail inmates were being held for either drug or public order offenses in 2002.

• The average sentence length of jail inmates in 2002 was 24 months; time expected to be served was 9 months.

• Among convicted jail inmates, 33% reported alcohol use and 29% drug use at the time of the offense.

• Over half (56%) of jail inmates said they grew up in a single-parent household or with a guardian. About 1 in 9 had lived in a foster home or institution.

• Nearly one-third (31%) of jail inmates grew up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs, and 46% had a family member who had been incarcerated.

• Over half of the women in jail said they had been physically or sexually abused in the past, compared to over a tenth of the men.

• The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse estimate that 60-83% of the corrections population has used drugs, approximately twice the rate of the general population.


• The correctional population has twice the rate of mental illness as the general population. Among prison and jail inmates, 16% report either a mental condition or an overnight stay in a mental hospital, and were identified as mentally ill.


• Almost half of jail inmates were on either probation or parole when they were admitted to jail. Parole and probation violators awaiting hearings or transfer to state institutions after revocation are a significant portion of crowded jail populations—as well as a source of friction between local and state governments. If jails are filled with offenders who are merely noncompliant, there will be no room for dangerous offenders.


• Increasing numbers of offenders on community supervision are returning to jail. The number of probationers revoked and incarcerated rose from 268,000 in 1990 to 479,800 in 2001. The number of parolees revoked and incarcerated was 215,000 in 2002, up from 133,900 in 1990.

• Increasing numbers of offenders are being held in jail for other authorities, (from 12.2% in 1988 to 18.7% in 2002).


• Disadvantaged communities with high proportions of young people and single-parent families experience the greatest difficulty in protecting youth from victimization.


• There is only a weak relationship between population growth and crime rates or arrest trends. Jail populations are actually the result of how we respond to crime; small changes in policy and practice can result in large impacts on population. For example, pretrial release rates have declined for those charged with violent crimes, resulting in increased jail populations, and (independent of arrest rates).

• Future growth of the jail population is linked to demographic trends and arrest rates. There are three models being used to project jail population by 2010:

1. Assumes that the rate of increase will be the same as the past 5 years, projecting an increase of 200,000 by 2010.
2. Assumes slower growth, similar to the past 2 years, projecting an increase of 100,000 by 2010.
3. Looks only at demographic trends, projecting a growth of less than 100,000 by 2010.


• Changes in a county’s resident population can affect the jail population, but changes in criminal justice practices can have an even larger impact. Forecasting changes in a county’s resident population is easier, however, than forecasting changes in criminal justice policies or discretionary decision-making.

• The increased number of people in jail is a consequence of changes in justice policies and practices. They can be detected at key justice system decision points — e.g., the decision to arrest, the decision to place an arrestee in detention, case filing, or sentencing. Collectively, they operate the levers and controls that regulate the size of the jail population. The jail administrator has little control over who goes into jail, how long people stay there, or how they get out.


• The number of jails housing fewer than 50 inmates has been declining, while mega jails confining a thousand or more inmates are rapidly increasing.

3. **Inmate management**

- A survey of large jail administrators in 2005 indicated the following issues as “strong” or “critical” needs, (according to one-third or more of the respondents):
  - Facility capacity to handle offender population;
  - Managing high-cost functional areas (e.g., offender medical care, employee health insurance);
  - Adequacy of facilities for safe offender management and supervision;
  - Facility planning and development process;
  - Strategic planning;
  - Adequacy of facilities to support mission;
  - Age and condition of facilities;
  - Staff retention/turnover.


- A study in Ohio indicates that, in comparison to 1999, offenders in custody in 2004 are more likely to be unemployed, undereducated, and afflicted with drug problems, as well as more likely to spend time in confinement.


- Suicide accounts for more than one-third of inmate deaths in jails. In contrast, it is the cause of only 5-9% of the deaths in state and federal prisons. (Statistics do not reflect the many additional but unsuccessful suicide attempts).


- Correctional systems can have a direct effect on the health of urban populations by offering health care and health promotion in jails, by linking inmates to community services after release, and by assisting in the process of community reintegration.


- As sound research has emerged in recent years, the capability now exists to use a more objective, evidence-based decision-making process in program and policy development. Whether corrections will move forward in this direction or remain trapped in the shifting sands of politically-based policy-making remains to be seen, but the use of evaluation results has been a missing link in correctional decision-making.

• An important part of shifting in the direction of evidence-based practices is communicating the agency’s vision to staff.


• Correctional facilities house 8 times more people with mental illness than state psychiatric facilities.

• In 1998, 21 states were under certified class action suits involving the provision of adequate mental health service for inmates.

• 12,000 children are in juvenile detention facilities because their parents cannot access mental health services.

• There is a cycle of discharge without support and rearrest.

• Funding is needed to promote mental illness awareness training for the judiciary, jail staff, and others in the criminal justice system.


• Types of mental health programs available should include crisis intervention and management, psychotherapy, psycho-educational programs, specialized treatment programs, and substance abuse initiatives.


• The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (S.1194) was passed in October, 2004. It authorizes federal funds for diversion, mental health treatment for inmates with mental illnesses, community re-entry services, and training.


• The Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project is a national effort among policy-makers, criminal justice practitioners, and mental health advocates to identify measures that will improve the response to people with mental illness who are in contact with (or at high risk of involvement with) the criminal justice system. The report provides 46 policy statements that can serve as a guide or prompt an initiative to improve the justice system’s response to the mentally ill. Following each policy statement is a series of more specific recommendations that highlight the practical steps needed to implement the policy. Discussion of each recommendation includes examples of programs, policies, or statutes that illustrate one or more jurisdiction’s implementation efforts.

• The intent is for government officials and community leaders to use these policy statements, recommendations, and examples to move beyond discussing the issue and to begin developing initiatives that will address the problem. However, this report could overwhelm a community, as in the case of reform efforts that have been derailed before getting underway because those involved could not decide where to begin.
• The single most significant common denominator shared by communities that have successfully improved the response to people with mental illness is that each started with cooperation between at least two key stakeholders—one from the criminal justice system and the other from the mental health system. Indeed, the Consensus Project report reflects, on a national level, the value of substantive, bipartisan, cross-system dialogue regarding mental health issues as they relate to the criminal justice system.


• A good classification system identifies inmates who are eligible and will benefit from early release into community-based programs. This will also minimize public risk and help reduce over-crowding.

• Many jails over-build the number of high-security cells. Consistent collection and analysis of classification data will aid in avoiding this.


• The most dramatic impact of objective classification systems has been the economic benefits reaped from our ability to place larger proportions of the inmate population in lower custody levels without jeopardizing inmate, staff, or public safety.

• Many of the classification systems used today were developed more than a decade ago on an inmate population that may be significantly different from today’s larger and more diverse population.

• Classification systems should generally be re-evaluated and tested at least every 5 years to ensure that they are valid and operating properly.


• Better integration of the institutional and community risk, needs assessment, and case management processes and planning is needed to maximize resources, ensure safety and security, better prepare inmates for release, and support communities to which prisoners are released.


• Most institutions classify female inmates by using procedures that were designed for males and are based largely on behaviors and risk factors that have primary relevance for males. Most jails adopted a single gender-neutral system without conducting the research to examine its validity for female samples. As a result, the physical security imposed on many female inmates is often excessive, and sends an inappropriate message to visitors, particularly family and children.


• Typical jail problems have been greatly reduced or virtually eliminated when staff members continuously and actively supervise inmates, set and clearly communicate expectations for their
behavior, provide incentives for positive behavior, and hold inmates individually accountable for violations of standards.

- When crowding diminishes the jail’s ability to house and manage inmates effectively, the funding authority can provide leadership by supporting efforts to develop alternative programs or community sanctions for certain types of inmates who may not necessarily have to be detained in the jail. This will require the coordinated efforts of all key players in the local criminal justice system.

4. **Workforce**

- The minority portion of the workforce is expected to increase to 36% by 2020.

- Baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) comprise about one-third of the workforce, and will be retiring in large numbers by 2010.

- By 2010, the number of workers in the 35-44 age group, (who typically are moving into upper management), will decline by 19%. Numbers of workers in the 45-54 age group will increase by 21%, and the 55-64 age group will increase by 52%.


- The number of women in the labor force will grow at a faster rate than the number of men.

- The primary working age group, (between 25 and 54 years old), is projected to decline to 65.2% of the labor force by 2014. Workers 55 and older, on the other hand, are projected to increase to 21.2% of the labor force.


- In an effort to retain older employees and meet workforce needs, some businesses are providing more choices for work schedules, number of hours worked, and other options such as unpaid leaves, alternative work locations, and differing job assignments.

  **Source**: Businesses: How Are They Preparing for the Aging Workforce?, The Center on Aging and Work, Boston College, Boston, 2005.

- In 2003, a National Institute of Corrections report indicated that 18% of supervisors, 31% of managers, and 62% of executives in local jails will be eligible to retire in five years.

- When jail administrators were asked whether their agency has adequate capacity to train and develop staff, 41% responded negatively for the executive level, 27% for the managerial level, and 16% for the supervisory level.


- Overall, the top ten issues identified by jail executives as needing attention or a change in approach during a 2005 NIC survey were as follows. (Note: 6 relate to workforce issues):
  1. Employee motivation;
  2. Planning for staffing needs; *(Note: Listed twice in original report)*;
  3. (tie) New employee recruitment, screening, and selection;
  3. (tie) Facility capacity to handle offender population;
  4. Adequacy of offender mental health care;
  5. Training and developing managers/supervisors;
  6. Ability to evaluate program impact;
7. Training and developing executives/leaders;
8. Influencing justice system policies that affect costs;
9. Evaluation of training impact;
10. (tie) Numeric sufficiency of staff to manage offenders;
10. (tie) Managing high-cost functional areas (e.g., offender medical care, employee health insurance)
10. (tie) Planning for staffing needs. (Note: Listed twice in original report).


- The combination of an increasingly younger, better-educated workforce composed of a more diverse population reflecting the often-conflicting values of new generations of employees presents management challenges. Today's employees are considerably less likely than their predecessors to quietly endure an autocratic management style.

- Lack of recognition and problems with administrators are major contributors to correctional officer stress. Autonomy on the job and participatory decision-making are associated with stronger organizational commitment and less job-related stress.

- Research confirms that the difficulty of work in correctional institutions is related more to problems involving staff relationships than to problems dealing with inmates.

- Staff cannot be expected to maintain peak performance in an organizational culture that is plagued with contradiction, ambiguity, inequity, inconsistency, unethical behavior, or autocratic management. In a number of agencies, the leadership challenge is to move from a politically-based to a professionally-based culture.


- Offering flexible work schedules and shifts (and other non-traditional approaches) will make the job and work more appealing.

- Keeping employees interested, challenged, and successful will lead to retention.


- The factors driving motivation and job satisfaction have shifted dramatically in today's workplace. In the past, people were motivated primarily by fear. The fear was rooted in the protection against the loss of economic stability; people did not want to lose the security they had worked hard to acquire. Today, employees are motivated not by fear but by gain. The overall attitude is "What do I get from my job? Are my needs being met? Is my value being raised?"


- An organization's culture is closely tied to its ability to recruit and retain employees. With an upbeat culture that attracts applicants and inspires employees, agencies can compete more effectively in today's marketplace.

- Immediate supervisors are a key factor in employee turnover.
• Job satisfaction and employee retention go hand-in-hand with career development and succession planning, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that employees are continually growing, learning, and being challenged.

• With the diversity of today’s workforce, one size no longer fits all when it comes to techniques for enhancing job satisfaction.

• A comprehensive workforce development effort involves an ongoing process to build a staff that is continually growing, developing and proactively addressing new demands.


• Leadership is more than simply coordinating and influencing the work of an organization. It is developing, maintaining, or changing the culture of the organization.


• In studying nine selected private sector organizations known for innovative or effective human capital management, we found that they focused on nurturing organizational cultures that involved employees and rewarded them for performance, empowering employees by making them stakeholders in the development of solutions and new methods.

• Hierarchical management approaches will need to yield to partnerial approaches. Process-oriented ways of doing business will need to yield to results-oriented ones. And siloed organizations with a steep hierarchy will need to become integrated organizations if they expect to make the most of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of their people.

About the Authors

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Fallon was the Director of Family Life Education for Child and Family Services, Newport, Rhode Island and for Boston Family Services, Boston, Massachusetts. She edited the manual, Developing and Leading Family Life Education Programs, co authored the article, Preparing a Community for Family Life Education, in the Journal of Child Welfare, and taught Child Development and Human Growth and Development at Salve Regina University. Fallon holds a B. S. from Hood College and an M.S. in Child Development from the University of Rhode Island.

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Mr. Donlin holds a BA degree in Psychology, Masters’ Degrees in Criminal Justice and Public Administration.
ENDNOTES:


13 James, 2004.

14 James, 2004.


16 "Jail Statistics: Summary Findings."


19 Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Correctional Surveys.”


26 Crime in the United States, 2005, (an estimated 1.8 million arrests, or 13% of the total).
30 James, 2004: 1.
32 Stinchcomb, 2005: 130.
42 Figure 3: Number of Felons Convicted in State Court; Figure 4 Percent of Felons Convicted in State Court Sentenced to Prison, Jail or Probation; Figure 5: Adult Correctional Populations 1980 – 2005. Source: Key Crime and Justice Facts, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, D. C., http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm#Crime
43 In this regard, it is also notable that a recent analysis by Pew Charitable Trusts projects a 13% rise in the U.S. prison population during the next five years. See K. Johnson, “Study Predicts Rise in Inmate Populations,” USA Today, February 14, 2007, p. 4A.
50 Ibid. p. 36.
52 Ibid. p. 57.


57 Stinchcomb, McCampbell and Layman, 2006, p. 74.


59 Ibid.


62 If, for example, the average length of stay is 35 days, (a midpoint between the three jurisdictions cited in the next paragraph), the number of potential arrestees cycling through the system could be as high as 24 million. B. Cushman, Preventing Jail Crowding: A Practical Guide, undated, http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2001/016720.pdf, referenced March 6, 2007. (Number of admissions x average length of stay = number of jail bed days required; divided by 365 days per year = average daily jail population).


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Evidence-based practice as discussed in a community corrections setting “implies that there 1) is a definable outcome(s): 2) it is measurable; and 3) it is defined according to practical realities (recidivism, victim satisfaction, etc.).” B. Bogue, et. al., Implementing Evidence-Based practice in Community Corrections: The Principles of Effective Intervention, April, 2004, p. 2, http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2004/019342.pdf referenced March 5, 2007.


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