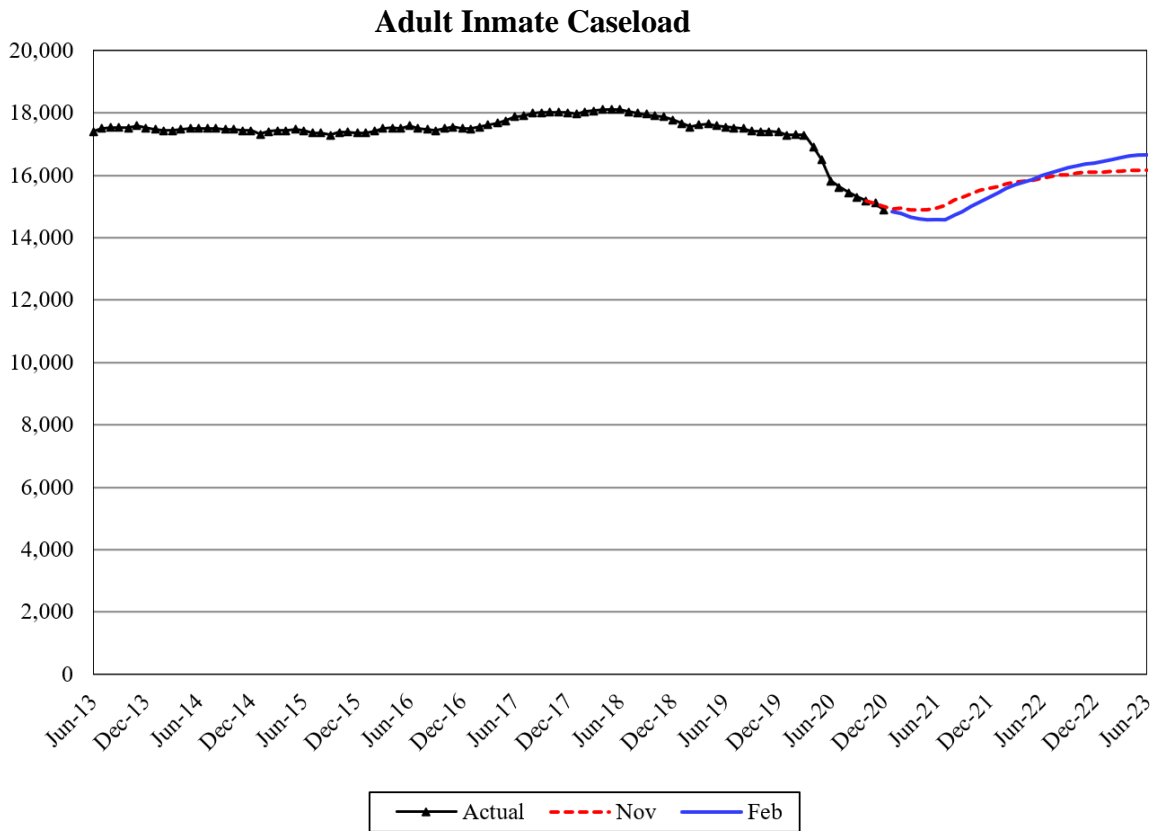


Corrections

Adult Inmate Caseload

Caseload Forecast Council
February 12, 2021



The Adult Inmate forecast includes adult offender caseloads under the state’s jurisdiction and housed in prisons and work release facilities. The forecast includes the effects of changing demographics, offense types, prison usage, and policy changes (new legislation or initiatives).

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Nov-20 Forecast	Feb-21 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2021	15,099	14,970	-129	-0.9%
2022	15,565	15,330	-235	-1.5%
2023	16,091	16,411	320	2.0%

The February 2021 forecast is 129 cases or 0.9 percent lower than the November 2020 forecast for FY 2021 and, on average, 43 cases or 0.3 percent higher for the 2021-23 Biennium.

Actuals have been tracking, on average, 40 cases or 0.3 percent below the November 2020 forecast. The caseload has continued to decline during the COVID-19 period as inmate

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Tracking the Current Forecast

	Nov-20 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Oct-20	15,190	15,185	-5	0.0%
Nov-20	15,103	15,093	-10	-0.1%
Dec-20	15,005	14,900	-105	-0.7%

admissions remained lower due to a reduction and delay of prosecution and sentencing of criminal cases. Inmate admissions were suspended for two-weeks in mid-December by the Governor's Proclamation 20-80 to alleviate capacity challenges at DOC reception facilities resulting from compounding impacts of COVID-19 protocols. The suspended admissions augmented the impact of expected admissions in January.

Inmate admissions continue to experience a larger proportional reduction during the COVID-19 period than adult criminal case filings, indicating the case backlog is continuing to grow. Therefore, the assumption for the size of the backlog was increased for the February forecast. The forecast assumes that there will be no significant change in the reopening status of the criminal justice system through FY 2021 and therefore the inmate caseload will continue to decline slightly during this period. It is expected that the courts will clear any backlog over the next 24 months and the inmate caseload will recover approximately half of the recent decrease by the end of FY 2023.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2014	17,502		
	2015	17,447	-54	-0.3%
	2016	17,415	-33	-0.2%
	2017	17,580	166	1.0%
	2018	18,035	454	2.6%
	2019	17,766	-269	-1.5%
	2020	17,149	-617	-3.5%
Forecast	2021	14,970	-2,179	-12.7%
	2022	15,330	360	2.4%
	2023	16,411	1,081	7.1%

Risks to the Forecast

Risk to this forecast is high due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The criminal justice system's ability to reopen may not be realized on this timeline. The assumption regarding the volume of the criminal case backlog and how long it will take for the courts to clear may be off by a wide margin.

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