



# CORRECTIONS MARA MODULE UPDATE

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WALKER HOPKINS & KATELYN FLAVIN

# THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## The Purpose of the DOC

The DOC acts as the responsible party to supervise, treat/rehabilitate, and reintegrate convicted offenders into society.

## Main Drivers for Cost Increases:

- Larger populations of convicted offenders in male, female, and community supervision settings
- Changes to sentencing or laws can have an impact on the populations
- General inflationary increases to costs
- Additional costs to build or expand capacity

# METHODS

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Predicting future offender populations allows one to analyze the capacity needs and the potential costs to house these offenders in future years. To complete this, the following process was utilized.

## **METHODS:**

- Exponential Smoothing used to predict overall bed capacity needs by gender (male or female)
  - Exponentially decreases the weight of observations the further back in time you go (weighted more heavily in recent years)
  - Smooths out the linear trend within the data and carries it forward
  - Assumes that what has happened in the recent past would continue to be the trend

# THE CURRENT SITUATION

Montana is currently at or near full capacity within nearly all aspects of the correctional system. The population has mainly increased year over year, except for the time spanning Covid. The following is the current capacity within secure facilities.

Current Secure Facilities in Montana			
Facility	Operational Capacity	FY 2024 ADP*	Current % of Total Capacity
Montana State Prison	1526	1576	103.3%
Riverside Special Needs Unit	25	28	112.0%
Crossroads Correctional Center	753	757	100.5%
Saguaro Correctional Center	120	120	100.0%
Dawson County Correctional Facility	141	142	100.7%
Male Secure Jail Holds	0	66	
<b>Male Total</b>	<b>2565</b>	<b>2689</b>	<b>104.8%</b>
Montana Woman's Prison	240	247	102.9%
Female Secure Jail Holds	0	26	
<b>Female Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>113.8%</b>
* ADP numbers for FY 2024 are calculated off first quarter (July 1 - September 30) data			

# THE CURRENT SITUATION

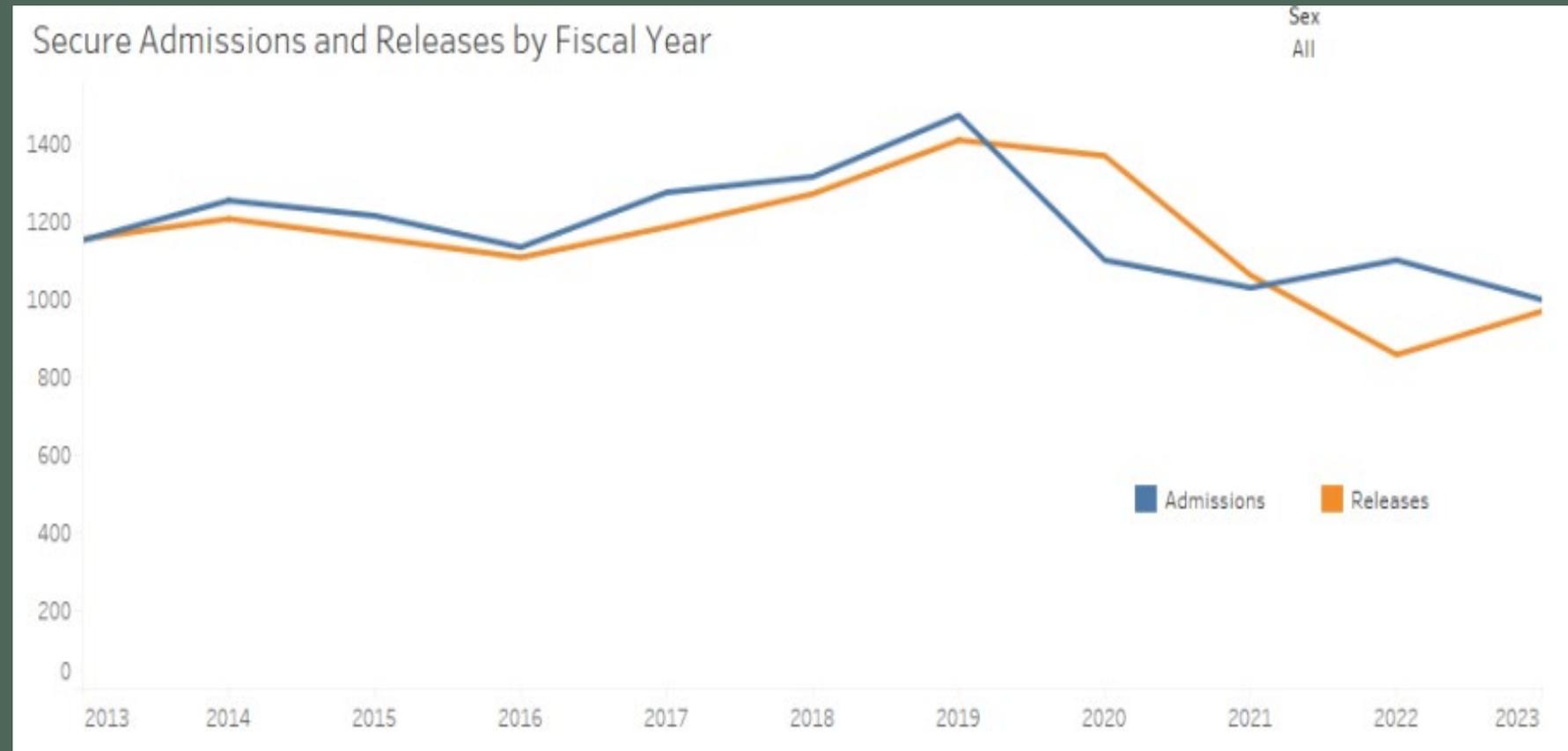
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The situation is quite similar within treatment, assessment, and pre-release centers.

Currently Utilized Contracted Community Corrections Beds			
Facility Type	Operational Capacity	2024 ADP*	
Treatment		417	434
Assessment/Sanction		456	409
Pre-release		894	888
* Data Taken on 6/1/2024			

# THE CURRENT SITUATION

Since the Covid period, the DOC has seen lower admissions into secure facilities than it had prior. Fewer people have been coming into the system in more recent years, yet the population has continued to grow.



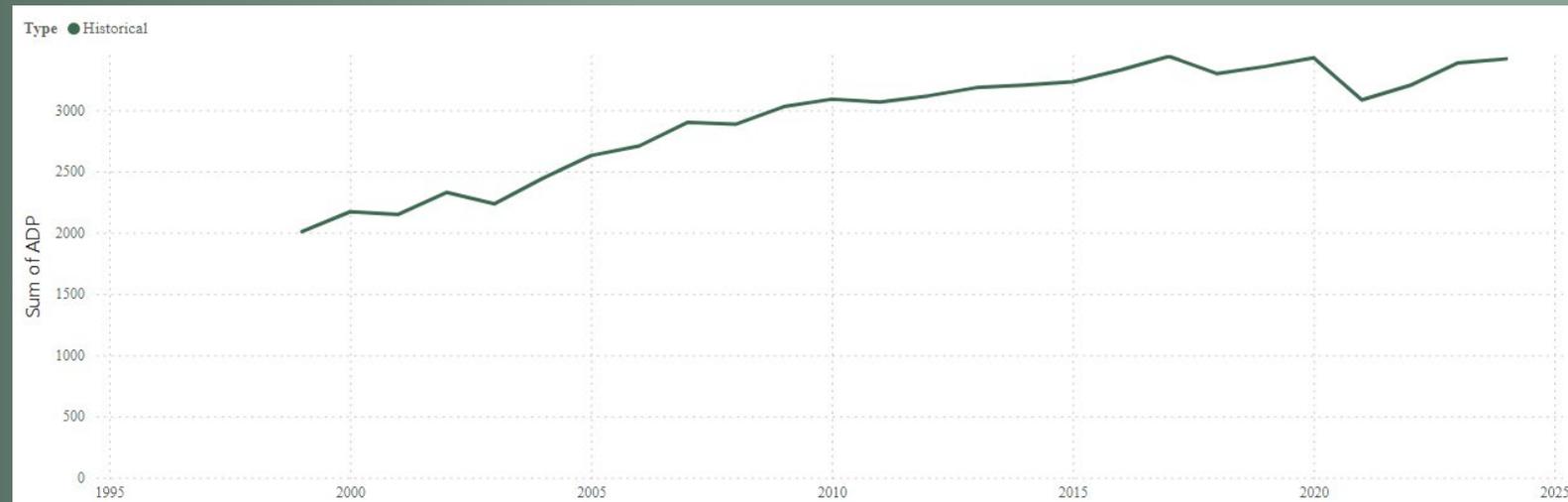
# THE CURRENT SITUATION

Since the Covid period, the DOC has seen lower admissions into secure facilities than it had prior. Fewer people have been coming into the system in more recent years, yet the population has continued to grow.

Female



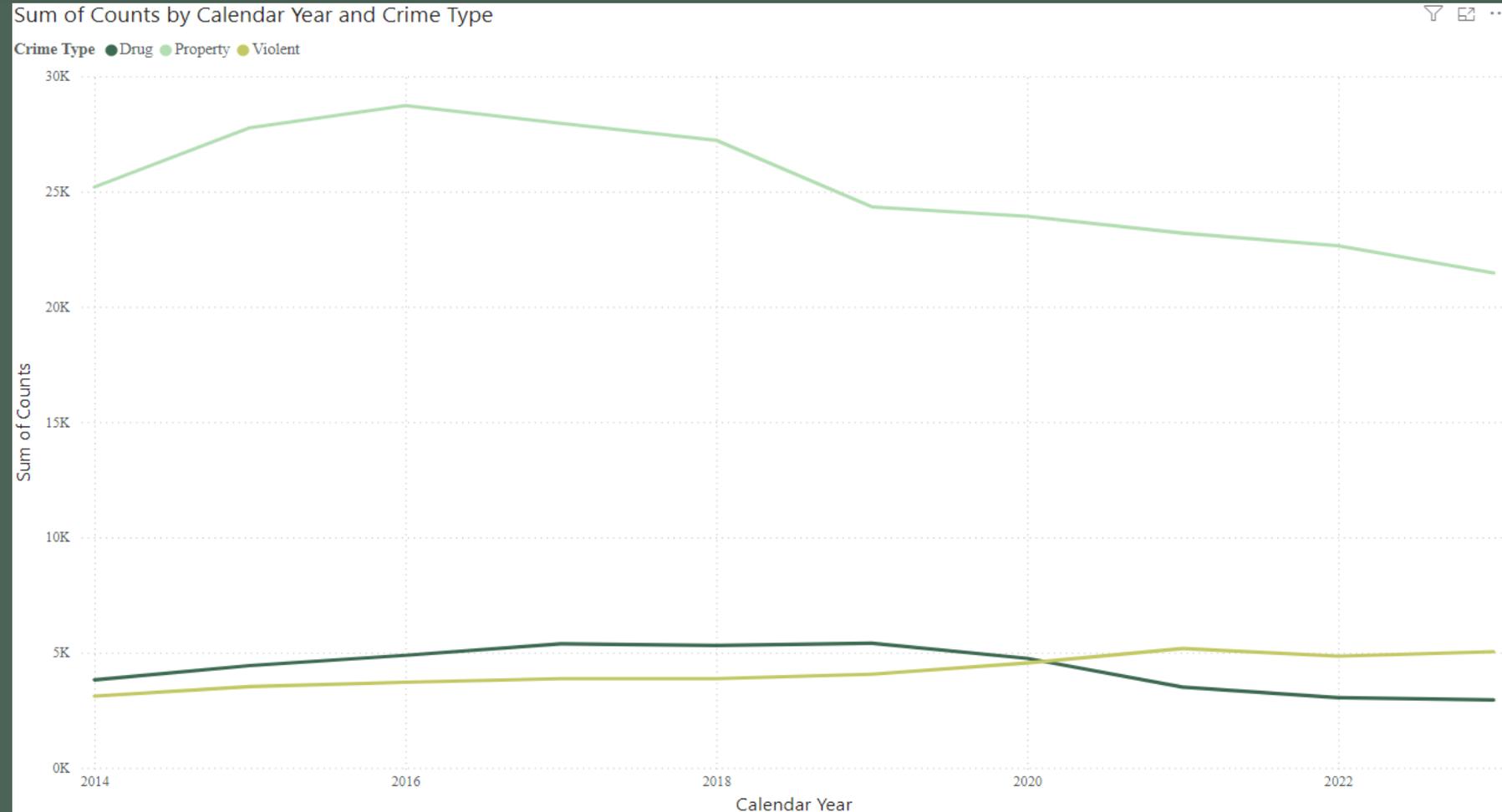
Male



# THE CURRENT SITUATION

With admissions to prison reflecting lower amounts and overall reported crime being down, what is causing the rise in offender populations?

One possibility is that the population receiving longer sentences for more violent offenses than in historical years.

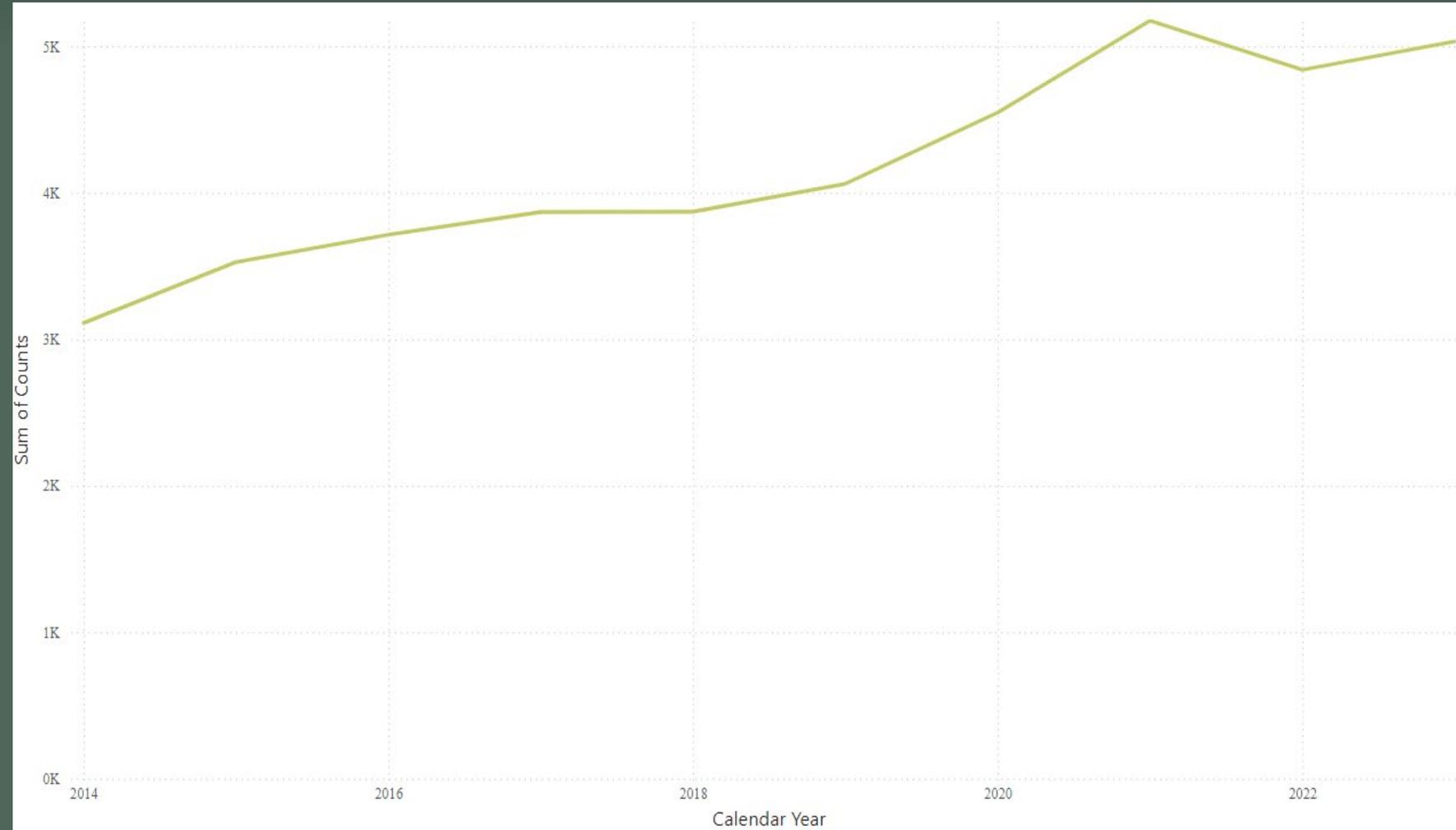


# THE CURRENT SITUATION

Proportion sitting in for violent crime (64.0%) has increased since 2018 (54.0%)

The rate of violent crime per capita in Montana has increased by nearly 50.0% since 2013

Typically have longer lengths of stay creating a stacking effect



# TYING BACK TO SABHRS

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Projecting future costs requires determining areas of the DOC budget to grow in connection to projected offender populations.

- Factors of growth to consider are Male, Female, Both, Both lagged, Other (beige), and no growth
- Within each growth factor sits a key to identify expenditures as they relate to certain types of facilities (state secure, contracted secure, and different treatment types)
- Crosswalk as much historical data as possible for detail breakout (starting with FY 2023-2024)
- Include CPI projections to look at the component dedicated directly to costs

# TOGGLES & SLIDERS

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Another purpose of this tool is to present options or “choices” which reflect the ability to answer more specific questions. Current metrics being produced are the following:

## **VIOLENT CRIME SLIDER**

- A quick analysis was done and found that for the historical data, a one unit increase in violent crime rate (per 100,000 MT residents) is associated with an increase of roughly two offenders in the DOC population
- Creating a slider (-200, 200) that shows how a potential increase or decrease in violent crime may affect the populations. Metric =  $1.8 \times \text{value}(\text{slider})$ .

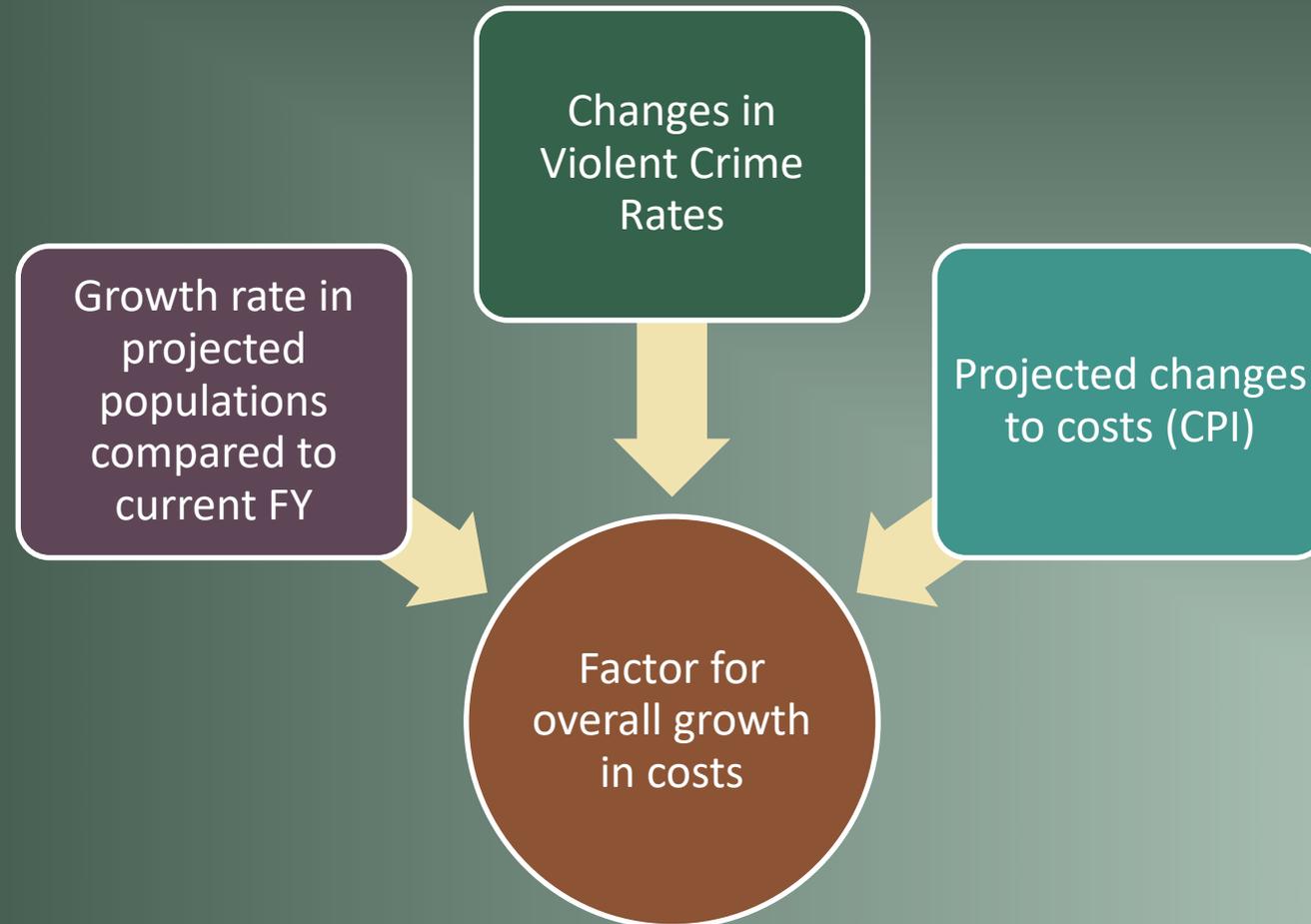
## **POLICY “X” TOGGLE**

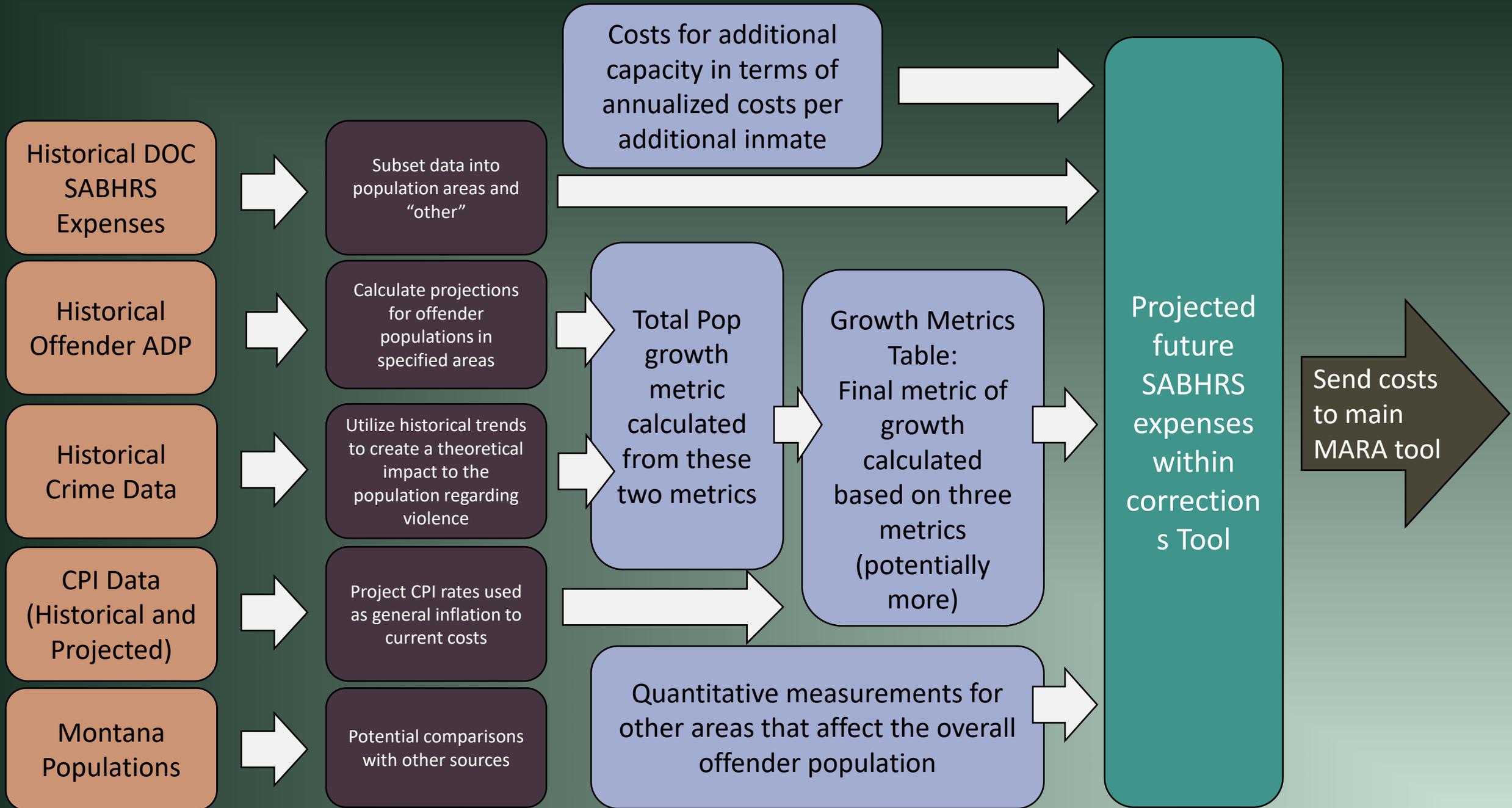
- Through research at the national level, these toggles would be act as “on-off” switches to show the potential implications
- For each area of interest, show the theoretical impacts of a piece of legislation on the offender populations and costs

Costs needed for additional capacity will be calculated by comparing the future growth in populations to current capacity based off national research

# METRICS USED FOR PROJECTIONS

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Questions?

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