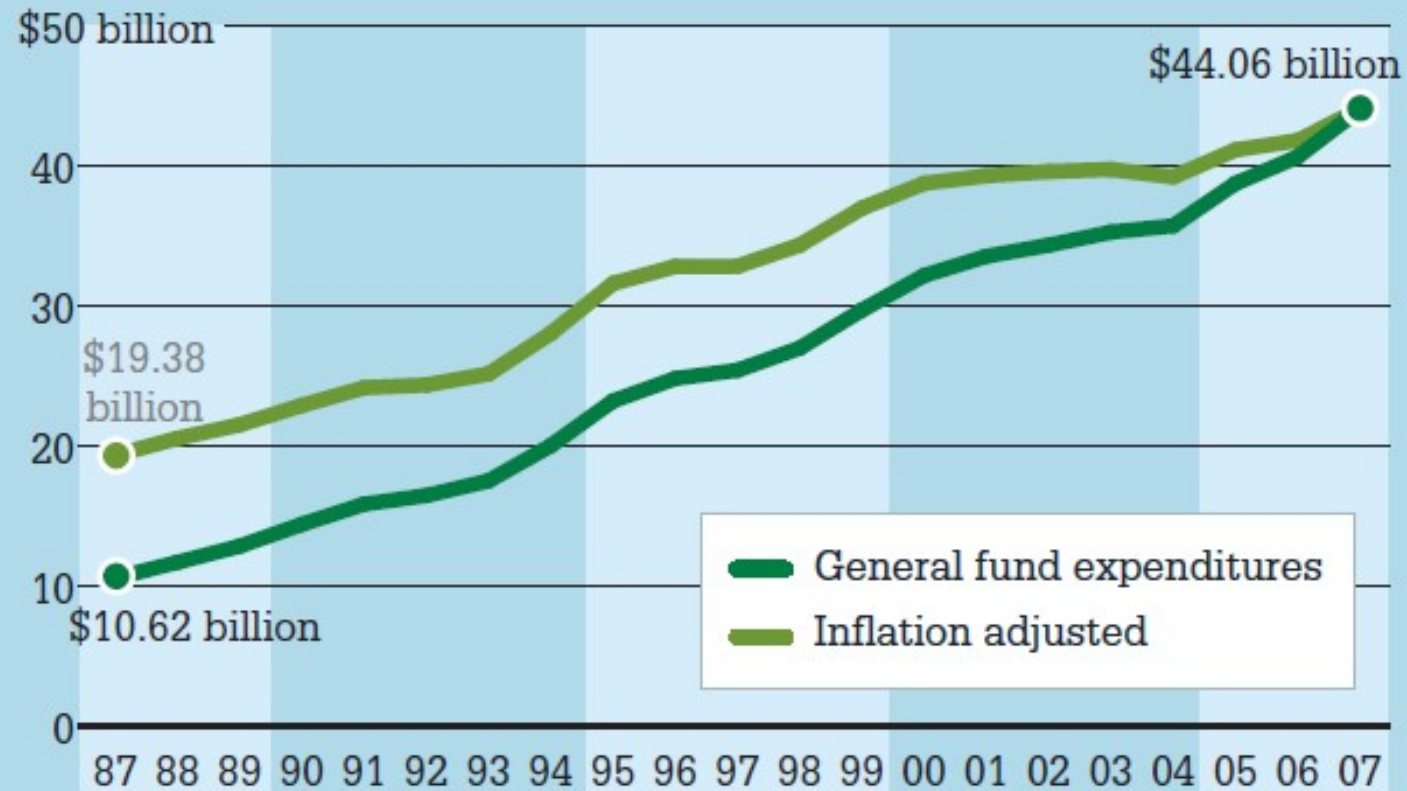


Correctional Costs

A Primer for Law and Budget Writers

TWENTY YEARS OF RISING COSTS

Between fiscal years 1987 and 2007, total state general fund expenditures on corrections rose 315 percent.



Correctional
population



Cost per
capita



Correctional
cost

Correctional population

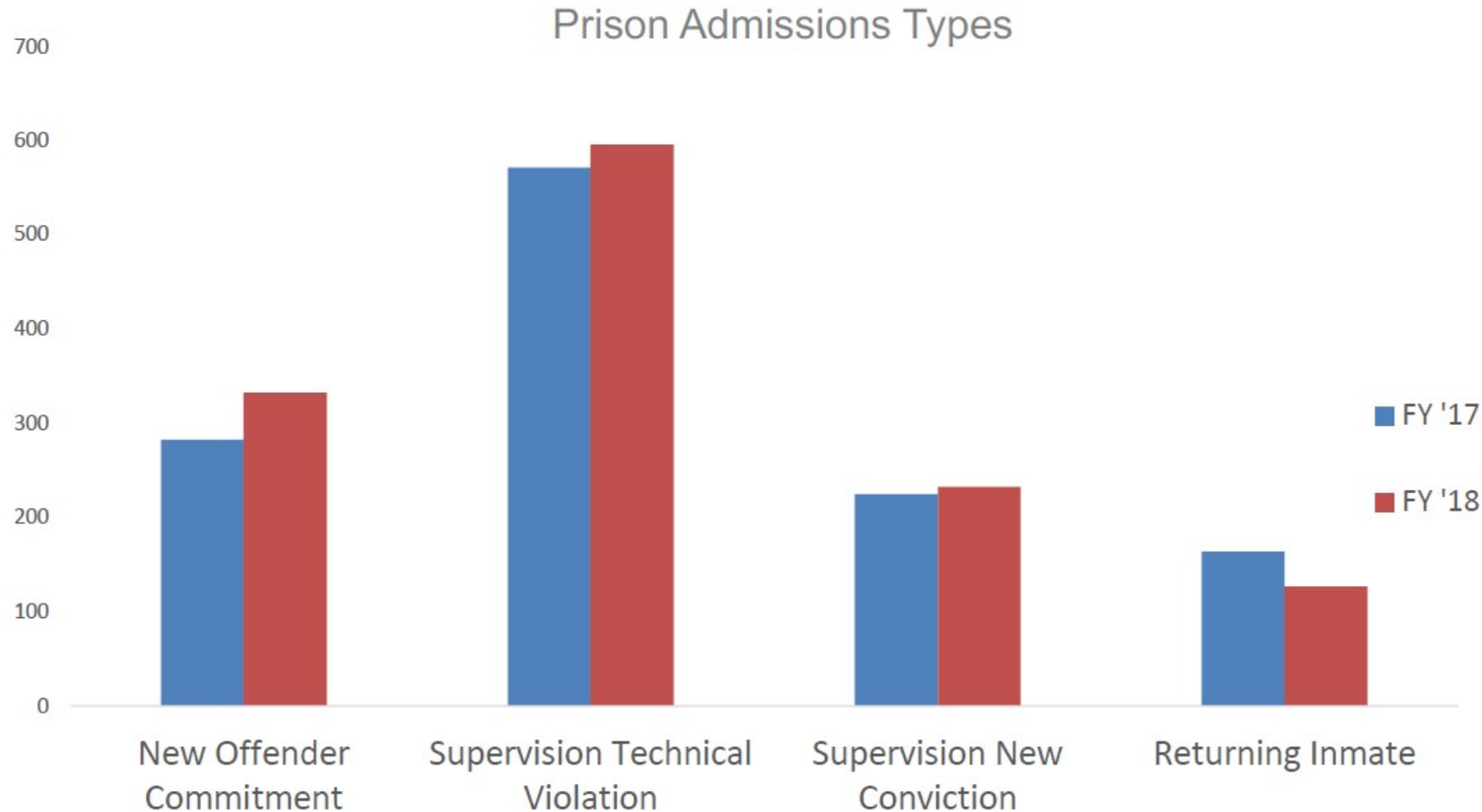


- Not driven by
 - Crime
 - Resident population trends
- Driven by
 - Policies that affect admissions and time served
 - Both can be influenced by lawmakers

“...changes in crime trends or in... arrests per crime contributed virtually nothing to the increase in incarceration rates [from 1980-2010]. Rather, the growth can be attributed about equally to the two policy factors of prison commitments per arrest and increases in time served.”

National Academies of Science

The largest increase in prison admissions from FY17 to FY18 was new commitments followed by people entering prison due to community supervision technical violations.



17.7% increase
in new offender commitments from FY17 to FY18 (50 additional admissions)

4.2% increase
in supervision technical violation admissions (24 additional admissions)

Source: Montana Department of Corrections Monthly JR Tracking spreadsheet, 8-8-2018

State

Montana

Based on Montana data from 2019

Implementation period
9 months

Projections
5 years

Change in revocations

+100%

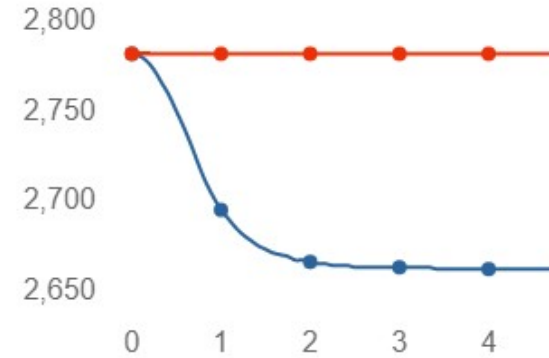


-31%

266 violations
resulting in
incarceration

-100%

Total people in prison projected in years



Outcomes

▼ **120**

Fewer people in prison

▼ **\$505K**

Reduced costs

Cost per Capita

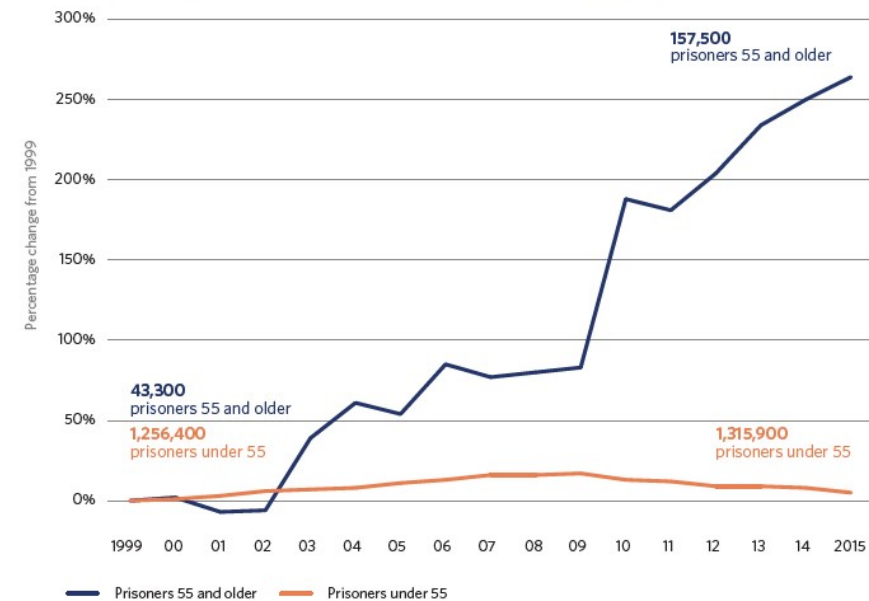


- Labor
 - CO recruitment/retention
 - Pay and work environment
- Physical plant
 - Aging facilities
 - Delayed maintenance...
 - ...to fiberoptics
- Health care
 - Aging population
 - Shortages of MH and nursing staff
 - COVID

Figure 5

The Number of Older Prisoners Grew by 264%, 1999-2015

Percentage change in sentenced prison populations by age group



Note: The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates the age distribution of prisoners using data from the Federal Justice Statistics Program and statistics that states voluntarily submit to the National Corrections Reporting Program. State participation in this program has varied, which may have caused year-to-year fluctuations in the bureau's national estimates, but this does not affect long-term trend comparisons. From 2009-10, the number of states submitting data increased substantially, which might have contributed to the year-over-year increase in the national estimate between those years.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

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What Can Be Done?



Population

- If populations haven't moved with crime, what policies or practices are responsible?
- Regional variation?
- Who keeps an eye on this, and are their policy recommendations valued?

Cost per capita

- Short-term hiring and referral incentives
- Long-term impact of staffing shortages?
- Facilities: retrofit, repurpose, build?
- Healthcare via external contract or brought in-house?

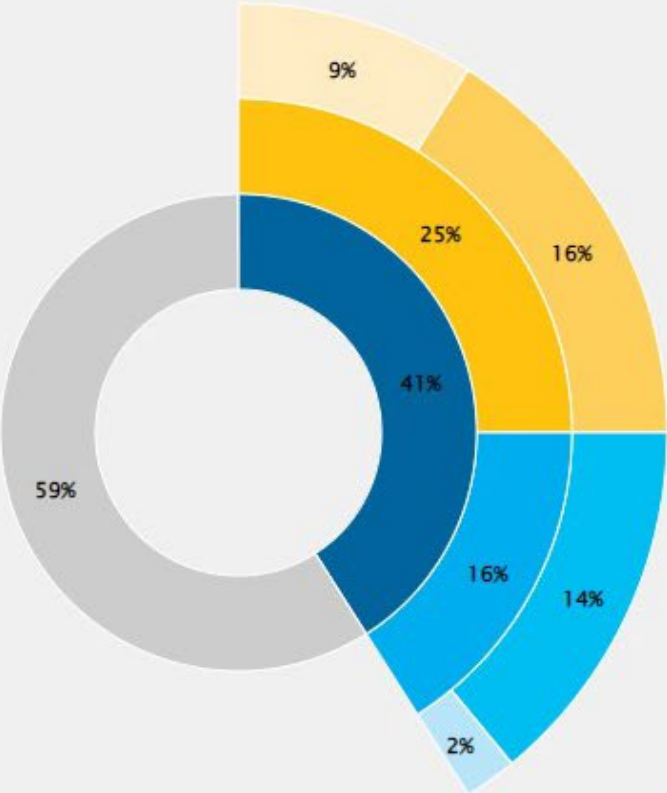
Discussion



41% OF PRISON ADMISSIONS are for supervision violations

2017 Prison Admissions

30% technical total*

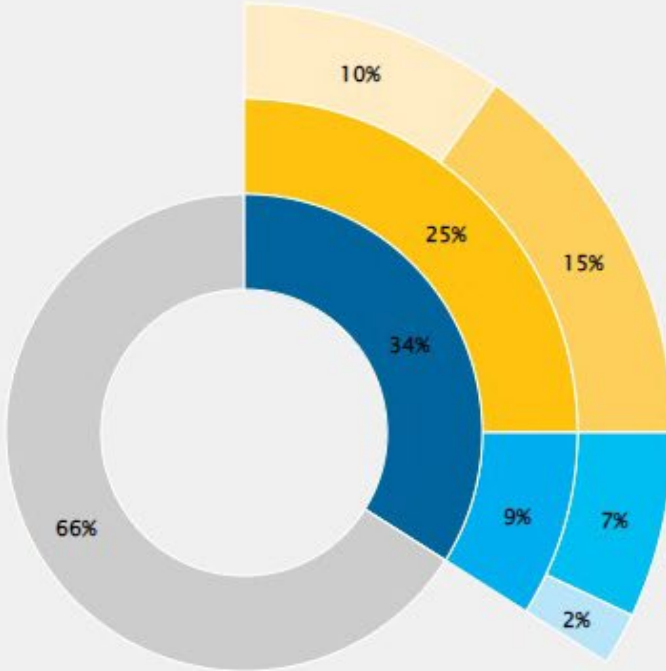


- Violation total
- Probation total
- Probation new offense
- Probation technical
- Non-violation total
- Parole total
- Parole new offense
- Parole technical

34% OF PEOPLE IN PRISON are incarcerated for supervision violations

2017 Prison Population

22% technical total*



- Violation total
- Probation total
- Probation new offense
- Probation technical
- Non-violation total
- Parole total
- Parole new offense
- Parole technical