

# Statewide Master Plan

## Future Bedspace Capacity Needs Update

South Dakota Department of Corrections

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OSE# C1221—17X



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### 3. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES

- a. UNCHANGED
- b. FUTURE BEDSPACE CAPACITY NEEDS (Revised August 2022)

Adult correctional population projections form the foundation for establishing the number of beds required in the South Dakota prison system now and over the long term. The baseline projections represent current system practices and key factors impacting the use of facilities throughout the system. Projections degrade over time: the further out the projections are made, the less reliable they become.

#### Updated Data – August 2022

The initial projections were created using data from 2010 to 2021 that did not include all potential inmates the State might hold. These inmates include some community supervision and federal classifications. After working closely with SD DOC leadership, updated forecasts now include those classifications as well as 2022 population data.

Multiple statistical models were run to understand the impact of the 2022 population data. The main overarching approach was to analyze data from 2010 to 2019 (exclude pandemic data) and data from 2010 to 2022. In all, 24 statistical models were created. The selected models

#### Population Projections and Bedspace Requirements

Estimating the future size of any corrections system is part science and part judgment. Criminal Justice policy is a dynamic phenomenon and is difficult to predict with a high degree of certainty. To the end, there is no single statistical method of forecasting populations that is considered to be correct or preferred, and forecasters often use multiple methodological approaches to determine which forecast is most appropriate in a given instance. This is also the consultants' chosen approach.

#### Approach and Methodology

The task of estimating future bedspace requirements consisted of three sets of sequential tasks:

- Review and analyze available data on factors typically known to affect secure bedspace demand,
- Generating a baseline forecast of the Average Daily Population (ADP) in the system, and
- Converting projected ADP into the number of beds that may be needed.

Many factors may affect the number of people who are being incarcerated by the State. The most influential factor in forecasting any correctional population is typically the impact of recently enacted laws, judicial decisions, and policy choices, as these

largely determine the use of detention and long-term secure beds. At this point in time, the forecasting exercise assumes that prison system policies and practices in South Dakota pre-COVID will generally remain the same throughout the forecast period.

Forecasting future ADP required projecting the most relevant indicators of incarceration activity into the future. To develop accurate forecasting models of average daily population, the following data elements known to have potential influence on ADP were included in the analysis:

- External factors – population growth, demographic shifts, crime rates, and arrest trends.
- Internal factors - re-entry programming, length of stay and average daily population.

The review of data trends relevant to the forecast, as described previously in this section, assisted in providing valuable background information used for projecting future needs and guided the exploration of several projection models for use in this study to generate baseline ADP forecast ranges.

**Forecasted Population**

	2022		2026		2031		2036		2041	
Total Inmates	3,322	- 3,492	3,842	- 4,039	3,954	- 4,157	4,069	- 4,278	4,188	- 4,403
Male Inmates	2,831	- 2,977	3,258	- 3,425	3,353	- 3,525	3,451	- 3,628	3,552	- 3,734
Female Inmates	490	- 516	584	- 614	601	- 632	618	- 650	636	- 669

The baseline population projections were then converted into actual bed space requirements by incorporating a utilization factor to the estimates to account for operational considerations, such as separation requirements, daily population fluctuations and “peaking” during high volume periods. For purposes of this study the utilization factor was set at 5% for males, giving the State bedspace margin over and above the average daily count. This is within the range of planning norms for state facilities that tend to have more stable population numbers compared with local detention centers. The female population has been inconsistent historically and for this reason, a 20% factor has been added to the population projections to mitigate this shifting population.

The resulting bedspace forecast ranges are presented below.

**Forecasted Bed Need**

	2022		2026		2031		2036		2041	
Total Beds	3,561	- 3,744	4,121	- 4,333	4,242	- 4,459	4,366	- 4,589	4,493	- 4,723
Male Beds	2,973	- 3,125	3,421	- 3,596	3,521	- 3,701	3,624	- 3,809	3,729	- 3,921
Female Beds	589	- 619	701	- 736	721	- 758	742	- 780	764	- 803

Projections are presented in five-year planning increments through year 2041. It should be noted that the farther out the projection goes, the less confidence there is in the numbers. Anticipating future demand is a difficult endeavor when attempting to plan several years in advance, let alone several decades, as unanticipated changes in society and its various components may occur. As such, it is critical that these projections are reviewed every 5 years and/or before embarking on any future facility planning project.

Based on these models, by year 2041 the ADP for both men and women are expected to grow from the current population figures, as follows: the South Dakota prison system may need to house between 3,552 and 3,734 men, and between 636 and 669 women. This results in the State needing to provide between 4,493 and 4,723 total beds systemwide.