

# Increasing Public Safety and Generating Savings: Options for Nevada Policymakers



## I. Background

Legislative leaders from the Nevada State Senate and Assembly have requested technical assistance from the Council of State Governments Justice Center (“Justice Center”) to determine why the Nevada prison population is growing. They have also asked the Justice Center to provide them with policy options, which, if implemented correctly, would increase public safety, reduce spending on corrections, and improve conditions in “high stakes” neighborhoods to which offenders released from prison return.

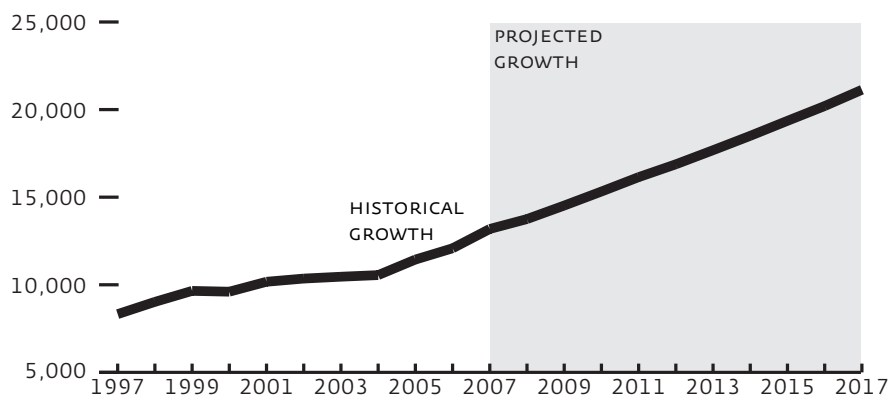
This policy brief summarizes increases in the Nevada prison population (and corresponding increases in spending on the corrections system) over the past several years, reviews the most recent prison population projections for the state, and explains factors that have contributed to recent and projected growth of the prison population.

## II. Recent and Projected Growth of the Prison Population

Nevada’s prison population has been among the fastest growing in the nation, and it is projected to grow faster still over the next 10 years.

- Between 1996 and 2006<sup>1</sup>, the prison population increased 58 percent, from 8,325 total inmates in 1996 to 13,186 by 2006.<sup>2</sup>
- The 2005 incarceration rate in Nevada (500.9 per 100,000 residents) exceeded the national average (424.9 per 100,000).<sup>3</sup>
- The state’s prison population is projected to grow 61 percent by 2017, to 22,141 prisoners.<sup>4</sup>
- The female population is projected to grow faster than the male population during the next ten years: 72 percent compared to 60 percent.<sup>5</sup>

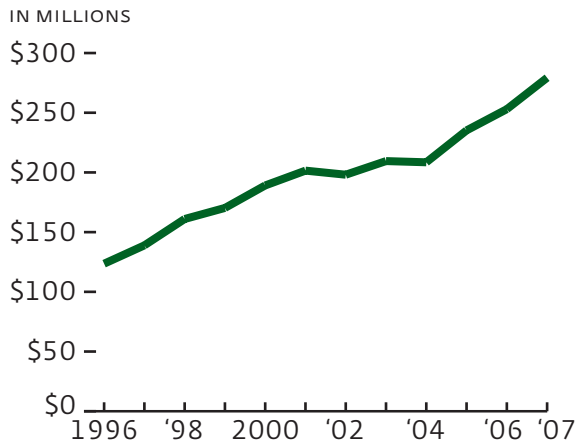
**Figure 1. Nevada Department of Corrections Inmate Population: Historical Growth (FY 1997–2007) and Projected Growth (FY 2007–2017)**



Spending on corrections in Nevada is outpacing the state's spending on education and human services.

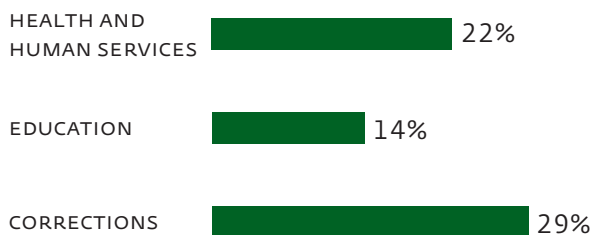
- As the prison population has increased in recent years, the Department of Corrections' ("NDOC") budget has also grown: expenditures increased 129 percent between 1996 and 2007, from \$121 million in FY1996 to \$277 million in FY2007.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 2. Nevada Department of Corrections Expenditures (FY 1996–2007)**



- The FY2007–09 corrections budget request represents a 29 percent increase over the 2005–07 budget.<sup>7</sup> Comparatively, the 2007–09 budget request reflects a 14 percent increase for education and a 22 percent increase for human services.<sup>8</sup>
- The 2007–09 biennium budget request includes an additional \$259 million for ongoing prison construction.<sup>9</sup> The Department of Corrections proposes to open 2,672 new beds during the 2007–09 biennium, and to plan for an additional 3,490 beds that will be constructed in future biennia.

**Figure 3. FY2007–09 Percentage Increase in Corrections, Education, and Human Services Budget Request over 2005–07 Budget**



The state plans to construct four new prisons, five new conservation camps, and nine housing units by 2015 at a cost of **\$1.9 billion.**

### III. Factors Driving the Increase in the Prison Population

As the state's resident population has increased, so has the state's prison population.

- Nevada was the fastest growing state in the nation in 2005, a distinction it has held for 19 consecutive years.<sup>10</sup>
- Between 1996 and 2006, the state's resident population increased 56 percent.<sup>11</sup> The growth of the prison population over this period was 58 percent.<sup>12</sup>

High failure rates among people under probation supervision are contributing significantly to an increase in prison admissions.

- 46 percent of people sentenced to probation are subsequently incarcerated for violating conditions of their supervision or for committing new crimes.<sup>13</sup>
- When a person violates a condition of release, such as failing to report or testing positive for use of an illegal substance, the state has few options available to sanction the probationer, other than returning the person to prison.
- People on probation have few incentives to comply with the conditions of their supervision other than the threat of possible revocation.<sup>14</sup>
- When a person on probation or parole violates a condition of release (i.e., a "technical violation", such as testing positive for use of an illegal substance), the Probation and Parole Division does not use guidelines that factor an offender's risk, severity of offense, or program needs to inform its decision whether to reincarcerate someone.
- Probation officers do not have access to the latest training on effective probation interventions, such as motivational interviewing techniques, which have shown to increase participation in substance abuse treatment programs.

**Community-based treatment for substance abuse, mental illness, or co-occurring disorders is often not available or accessible for people who are on probation, incarcerated, or recently released from prison.**

- The majority of people incarcerated or under community supervision in Nevada have substance abuse problems, **and a significant percentage of those with a substance abuse problem have** co-occurring mental illnesses. Treatment for these disorders is routinely mandated as a condition of release, but people are often unable to comply with this condition.<sup>15</sup>
  - Per capita alcohol consumption in Nevada is second highest in the U.S. Rates of alcohol consumption are particularly high among young adults in Nevada, who are between the ages of 18 and 25.<sup>16</sup>
  - Rates of admissions to treatment for methamphetamine/amphetamine use in Nevada are three times the national average.<sup>17</sup>
  - The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (“SAPTA”) estimates that approximately 80 percent of substance abusing adults in Nevada do not receive any treatment.<sup>18</sup>
  - During calendar year 2003, 8,513 adults were arrested for drug related crimes in Nevada and 14,393 were arrested for alcohol related crimes.<sup>19</sup>
  - In a random survey of people on probation or parole in March 2007, 43 percent reported significant drug addiction and 20 percent had significant alcohol use problems.<sup>20</sup>
- Rates of mental illness among Nevada residents and its correction populations are high.
  - In a 2003 report of the Kaiser Family Foundation, Nevada ranked 1st (worst) in the nation with 42 percent of the population reporting poor mental health in the prior 30 days.
  - Nevada ranks 41st in the nation in mental health actual dollars and per capita expenditures.
  - As of March 26, 2007, 29 percent (3504) of male and female NDOC inmates were reported to have mental illnesses.<sup>21</sup> This is almost twice the national average.

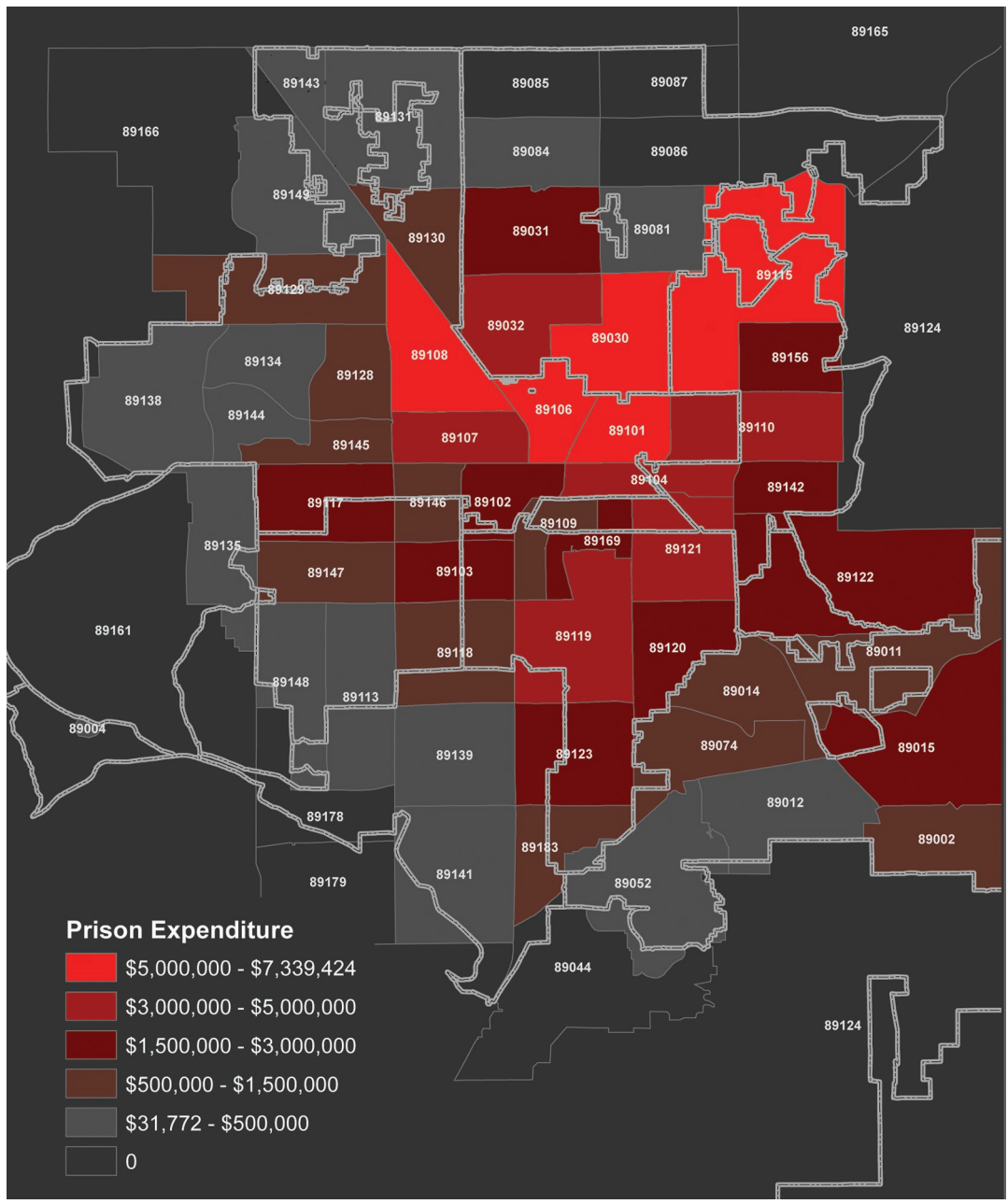
- The majority of people on probation are required to pay for court-ordered assessments and treatment, but, frequently, these people do not have the resources to pay for such services.<sup>22</sup>
- The number of people under the supervision of the criminal justice system who are required to participate in treatment for a drug or alcohol addiction vastly exceeds community-based service providers’ capacity.
  - Between 2004 and 2006, the number of residential substance abuse treatment beds in Nevada has declined ten percent.<sup>23</sup>
  - 70 percent of people on probation or parole referred to community-based substance abuse treatment programs wait an average of one month before starting an outpatient treatment program, during which time they are especially likely to relapse, violate conditions of release and return to prison.<sup>24</sup>
- While progress has been made since the last biennium, few opportunities exist for people with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders to receive integrated treatment while they are incarcerated or after they are released to the community.<sup>25</sup>

#### **IV. Opportunities for Neighborhood-based Strategies**

**Any strategy to reduce crime and manage the growth of the prison population should focus on improving conditions in the neighborhoods to which a disproportionate number of offenders will likely return.**

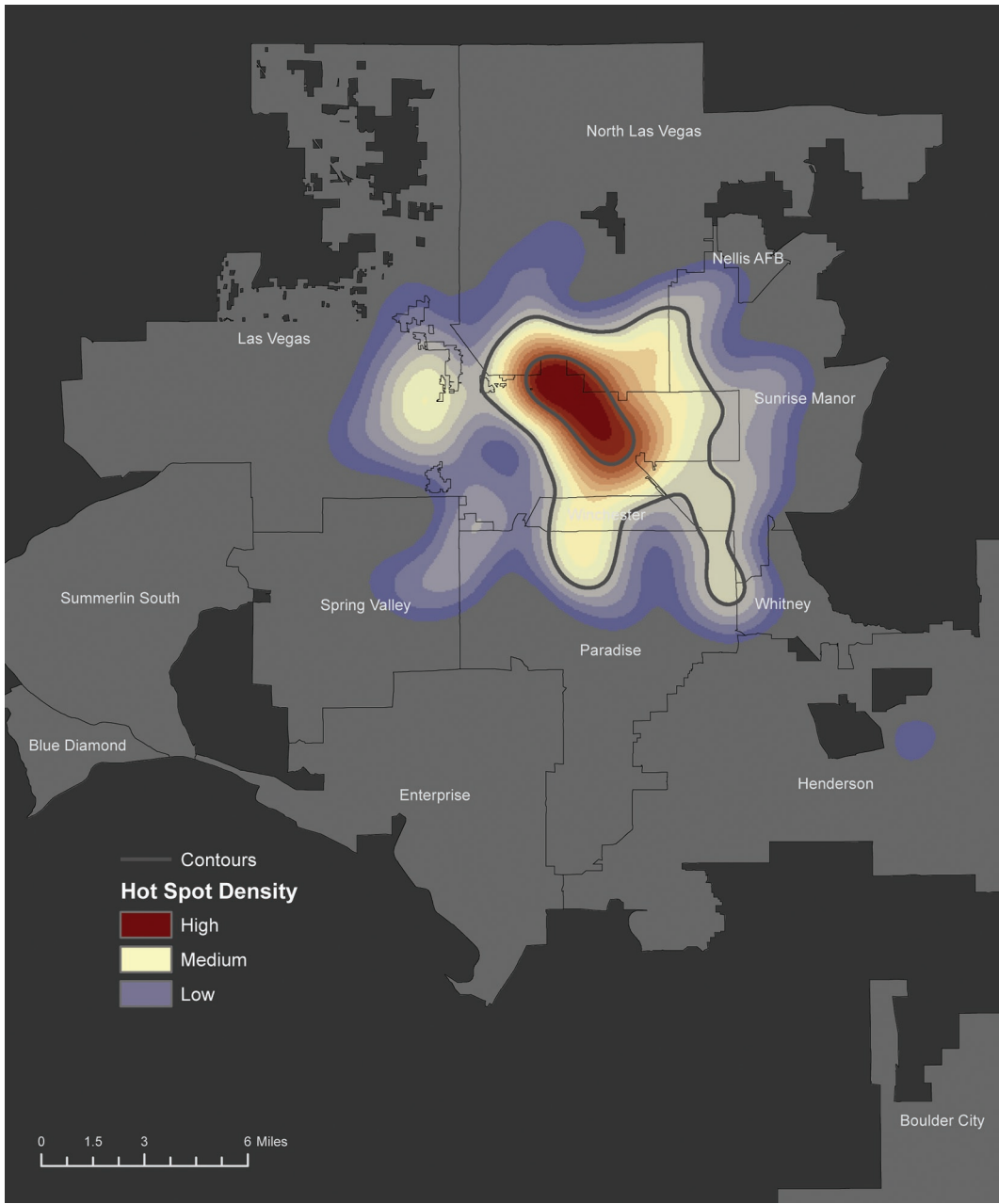
- The majority of people admitted to prison in Nevada come from two cities: Las Vegas and Reno.
  - 78 percent of those admitted to prison in 2006 come from Las Vegas or Reno.
  - 81 percent of people on parole or probation supervision live in Las Vegas or Reno.
- State spending on corrections for people admitted to prison from Las Vegas is approximately \$38 million per year. For some areas within Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, the state spends over \$5 million per year, per zip code.<sup>26</sup>

**Figure 4. Prison Expenditures (2006) Metro Clark County Cities and Towns by Zip Codes**  
 (Based on average length of stay of 22 months.)



Zip Code	Expenditure in Millions
89101	\$7.3
89106	\$7.0
89030	\$5.9
89108	\$5.6
89115	\$5.1

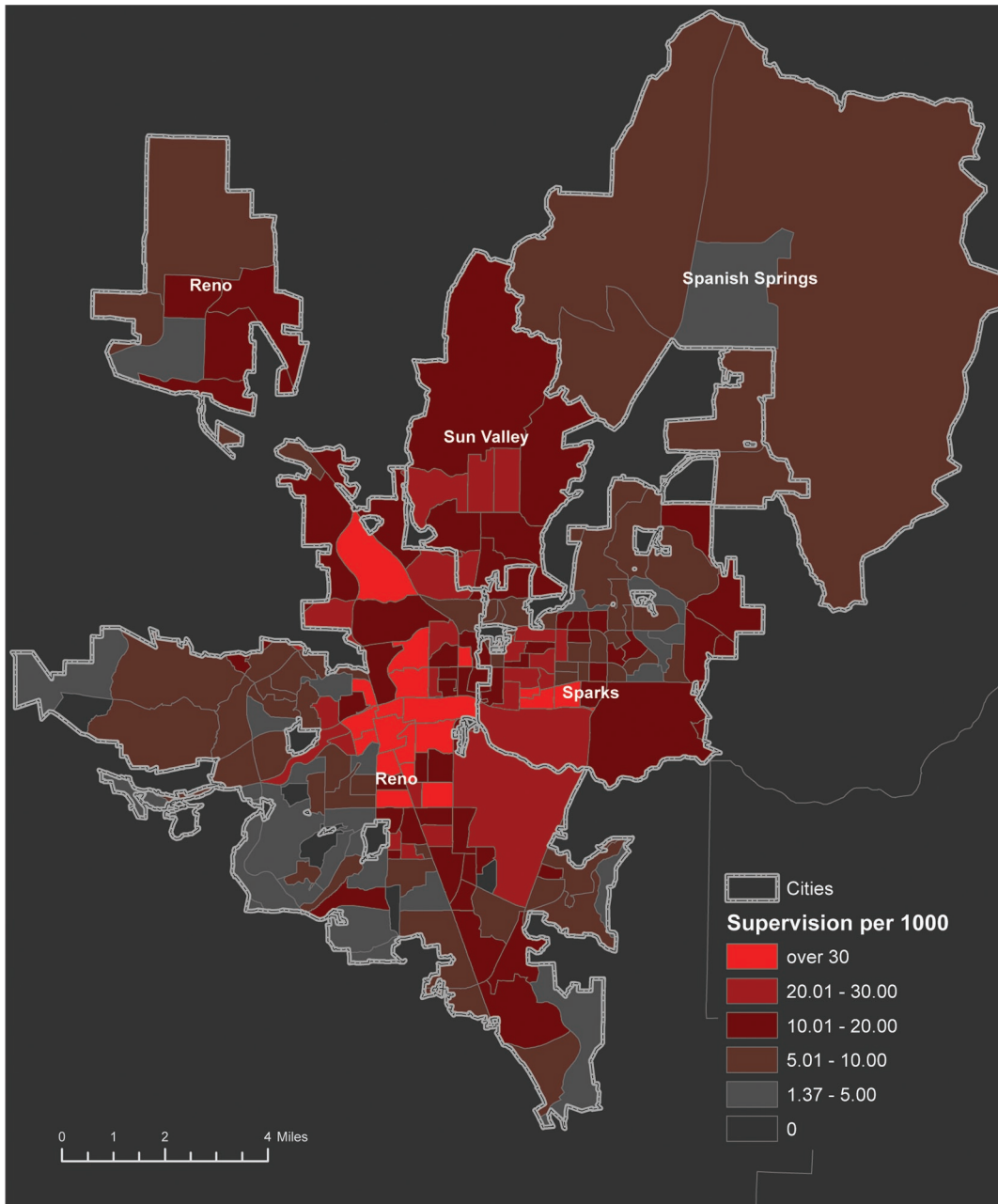
**Figure 5. Prison Admissions (Density, 2006) Metropolitan Clark County Cities and Towns**



	<b>Outer Contour Ring</b>	<b>Inner Contour Ring</b>
Square Miles	36.9	5.4
Prison Admissions	1196	331
Population	284227	36067
Prison Admissions Per Sq Mile	32.4	61.8
Prison Admissions Per 1000 Pop	4.2	9.2



**Figure 6. Probation & Parole Snapshot (Per 1000 Adults, 2006)**  
 Metro Washoe County Cities and Towns by Block Groups



City	% of County Population	Under Supervision	% of County Supervision
Reno	64.87%	1942	63.07%
Sparks	22.92%	552	17.93%
Sun Valley	6.36%	204	6.63%
Spanish Springs	3.23%	36	1.17%

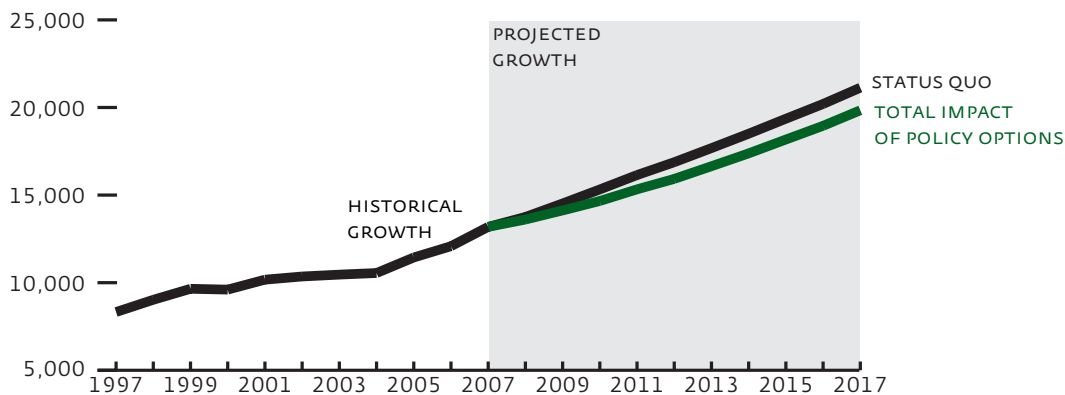
The 12 contiguous block-group areas which represent the highest per 1000 adult rate of probation and parole account for 5.8% of the adult population, but are home to **21.9%** of parolees and probationers.

## V. Options for Policymakers

The options listed below include projections of the impact that each policy would have on the prison population, and estimates the averted prison construction and operating cost. The estimates provided are based upon the JFA Associates' analysis of the Nevada Department of Corrections data.

Policy Option	Policy Elements	FY2008– 09 Bed Savings	FY2017 Bed Savings
<b>1. Increase the percentage of people in prison who successfully complete vocational, educational, and substance abuse treatment programs prior to release.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an incentive for people in prison to successfully complete vocational, educational, and substance abuse treatment programs by increasing the credit of time that can be earned.</li> <li>Expand the capacity of programs available to people in prison with a portion of the savings generated by this policy.</li> <li>Allow these credits to apply to both an offender's minimum and maximum sentence.</li> <li>Standardize the credit of time that people in prison can earn for successfully completing a substance abuse, vocational, and educational program at 90 days.<sup>27</sup></li> </ul> <p>ASSUMPTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation July 1, 2007 for all cases in the system</li> <li>20% of all male and female admissions (except Safekeepers) will receive an additional 45 days lump sum credit</li> <li>Credits will reduce flat discharge date, discretionary parole eligibility date and mandatory parole eligibility date</li> </ul>	51	92
<b>2. Reserve prison space for serious and violent offenders by placing low-level offenders with Category E sentences on probation.<sup>28</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate that Category E offenders serve probation in lieu of incarceration.</li> <li>Expand the availability of substance abuse treatment and other community-based services and sanctions for people sentenced to probation for Category E offenses. Increase funding for Probation and Parole Division to create new probation officer positions to supervise people convicted of Category E offenses.</li> </ul> <p>ASSUMPTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation July 1, 2007</li> <li>100% of New Court Commitments will be diverted and 25% of probation violators</li> <li>Cases diverted will grow at the forecast admissions assumption rate of 4.7% for males and 5.9% for females per year through 2017</li> </ul>	208	529
<b>3. Reduce the number of people on probation who fail to meet the conditions of supervision and return to prison by 30%.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the goal of probation as the reduction of an offender's risk to public safety, rather the just enforcement of the conditions of supervision.</li> <li>Provide training to probation officers on evidence-based principles of effective probation supervision, as well as cross-training with community-based behavioral health care providers.<sup>29</sup></li> <li>Create an incentive for people on probation to comply with the conditions of supervision, by providing a 10 day reduction in probation terms for every 30 days a person does not violate their conditions.<sup>30</sup></li> <li>Create an Intensive Technical Violator Unit in the Probation and Parole Division to manage a caseload of people at risk for revocation to provide intensive case management for those who would otherwise be revoked on supervision</li> <li>Develop a set of intermediate sanctions centers (e.g. day reporting centers) to respond to offenders at risk of being revoked.</li> <li>Provide funds to pay for substance abuse assessments and treatment for offenders without the ability to pay for these services.</li> <li>Support the establishment of community task forces comprised of drug treatment and mental health providers, probation officers, law enforcement, housing providers, and public officials to develop strategies to reduce revocations through coordinated community planning.</li> </ul> <p>ASSUMPTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% of cases admitted for "probation violation" are technical probation violators (FY 2006 = 866)</li> <li>10% of these cases will be diverted during the first year of implementation, 20% the second year and 30% the third and subsequent years</li> </ul>	140	667
<b>Combined Impact</b>		<b>399</b>	<b>1288</b>
<b>Averted Operational Costs<sup>31</sup></b> (The cost of implementing the policy options is not included.)		<b>\$9.6 million</b>	<b>\$155 million</b>

**Figure 7. Nevada Department of Corrections Inmate Population: Historical Growth (FY 1997–2007), Projected Growth (FY 2007–2017), and Total Impact of Policy Options (FY 2007–2017)**



The options listed below, if implemented, have the potential to avert some growth in the prison population. However, the impact cannot be estimated.

1. Reorganize the Probation and Parole Division so that it is no longer part of the Department of Public Safety and is instead a stand-alone agency or under the umbrella of an agency with a similar mission.

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2. Improve coordination between the Board of Parole Commissioners and the Department of Corrections with regard to the use of risk assessments and case planning to reduce continuances for program completion.

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3. Standardize valid and reliable screening and assessment procedures used in prison and community corrections.

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4. Require the Probation and Parole Division to work with national experts to design and implement a policy that clearly guides probation and parole officers on how to effectively and appropriately respond to an offender's positive and negative behavior with an appropriate response that can reduce the person's risk to public safety.

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5. Establish a sentencing commission with the mandate to review criminal justice and sentencing policies and laws of the state and submit a comprehensive report with its findings and recommendations to revise sentencing policies as deemed necessary to the Nevada Assembly and Senate. The sentencing commission would also review the Probation and Parole Division's caseload levels and make recommendations on target caseloads, staffing levels, and support services to improve the effectiveness of probation and parole supervision.

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6. Require the Department of Corrections and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services to coordinate prisoner release to assure access to the appropriate level of mental health and addiction services upon release.



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7. Require the Probation and Parole Division to contract with an independent consultant to conduct an interim study on the application of the Probation and Parole Division's risk and needs assessment instruments with the mandate that all probationers and parolees be properly assessed no later than January 1, 2008.
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8. Ensure that restitution, fees, and fines are collected from offenders who have the ability to pay.
    - Provide a range of incentives for payment of restitution, such as the case sealing, expungement, and travel permits—where appropriate—for people who are making good faith efforts to pay, and sanctions, such as travel restrictions and increased supervision for people who are able to make restitution payments but fail to do so.
    - Automatically discharge offenders from probation or parole supervision in cases where an offender has fulfilled his or her restitution requirements and has otherwise successfully completed the conditions of his or her supervision, unless public safety requires continued supervision (*e.g.*, of sex offenders).

1. Calendar years.
2. JFA Associates, "Nevada Department of Corrections Ten-Year Prison Population Projections 2007–2017," March 2007 Report, page 45.
3. JFA Associates, "Nevada Department of Corrections Ten-Year Prison Population Projections 2007–2017," March 2007 Report, page 7.
4. JFA Associates, "Nevada Department of Corrections Ten-Year Prison Population Projections 2007–2017," March 2007 Report, page 36.
5. JFA Associates, "Nevada Department of Corrections Ten-Year Prison Population Projections 2007–2017," March 2007 Report, page 36.
6. All funding sources are considered. See Nevada Department of Administration, Budget and Planning, "State of Nevada, Executive Budget in Brief 2007–2009"; Nevada Department of Administration, Budget and Planning, "State of Nevada, Executive Budget in Brief 2005–2007"; Nevada Department of Administration, Budget and Planning, "State of Nevada, Executive Budget in Brief 2003–2005"; Nevada Department of Administration, Budget and Planning, "State of Nevada, Executive Budget 1999–2001"; Nevada Legislature, Division of Fiscal Analysis spreadsheet April 5, 1007; Nevada Legislature, Division of Fiscal Analysis spreadsheet April 6, 2007.
7. This is considering the General Fund only. The corrections budget request represents an increase of 23 percent if all funding sources are counted. See 2007–2009 Executive Budget in Brief, page 47.
8. The education budget includes funding for K–12 and higher education. The percentage increase for education and human services is based on the General Fund approved by the Nevada Legislature. For FY2006–07, the legislature approved \$1,641,600,821 for education (K–12 and Higher Ed), and \$865,983,787 for human services. See Nevada Legislature, Division of Fiscal Analysis spreadsheet, April 5, 2006.
9. This funding will be used to support the expansion and construction of existing and new facilities, including a 100 bed transition center, a reunification center, and a 300-bed facility at the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Center; two housing units at the High Desert State Prison; a remodeled 168-bed unit as well as a 384-bed facility at the Indian Springs Conservation Camp; and a 384-bed unit at the Stewart Conservation Camp. Nevada Legislature, Division of Fiscal Analysis spreadsheet, April 2006.
10. U.S. Census Bureau News, "Nevada Edges Out Arizona as the Fastest Growing State," December 22, 2005, <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/006142.html>.
11. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Population estimates for July 1, 2006.
12. From 1996 to 2006, the prison population grew 58 percent, a rate that exceeds the 56 percent of the resident population during that same time period. See JFA Associates, "Nevada Department of Corrections Ten-Year Prison Population Projections 2007–2017," March 2007 Report.
13. Dr. James Austin, Presentation before the Senate Judiciary Committee, "Justice Reinvestment: A Framework to Improve Effectiveness of Justice Policies in Nevada," the Justice Center, February 22, 2007.
14. Unlike parolees who receive a 10-day reduction for every 30 days of compliance, probationers do not have such a standard for applying credits to their terms of supervision.
15. 89 percent of offenders admitted to prison have a history of substance abuse. During calendar year 2003, 8,513 adults were arrested for drug related crimes in Nevada and 14,393 were arrested for alcohol related crimes. Methamphetamine-related arrests have escalated in recent years, and 30 percent of admissions to state-funded treatment facilities were related to methamphetamine usage in 2004. See Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Annual Report, December 2004, pages 15–16. According to the Bureau's Client Data System, of the five most prevalent drugs for which the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (now known as the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency or "SAPTA") funded treatment admissions, in fiscal year 2004, amphetamine/methamphetamine comprised 29.2%, second to alcohol which made up 40% of admissions. See Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, 2006 Mental Health Needs Assessment, page 93. Further, one Las Vegas community substance abuse treatment center reported that 90% of its clients do not have the means to pay for treatment. See WestCare Nevada, Memorandum on Programs, Services and Capacity, April 4, 2007.
16. 15.54 percent of the state's residents ages 18–25 are in need of, but not receiving, treatment for alcohol use. See Office of National Drug Control Policy. *Inventory of State Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Activities and Expenditures*. Washington, D.C.: Executive Office of the President (Publication No. NCJ 216918), page 467.
17. Drug and Alcohol Services Information System, "The DASIS Report: Trends in Methamphetamine/Amphetamine Admissions to Treatment: 1993–2003", page 3.
18. Out of 180,000, only 33,983 received treatment. See Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) Biennial Report, Jan. 07, pg. 18).
19. Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Annual Report, December 2004, pages 15–16.
20. JFA Associates' analysis of probationers and parolees, March 2007.
21. NDOC review of inmates on mental health restrictions and/or receiving psychotropic medications. See Department of Corrections, Mental Health Diagnosis Spreadsheet, April 9, 2007.
22. Justice Center focus group meetings of community-based substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, Las Vegas, March 27, 2007.
23. Due to the relocation of Bristlecone Family Resources in Reno and the closure of Economic Opportunity Board in Las Vegas, Nevada lost 69 substance abuse treatment beds. See Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA), "Substance Abuse Treatment Beds", February 8, 2007.
24. WestCare Nevada, Memorandum on Programs, Services and Capacity, April 4, 2007.
25. To address this, in the last biennial session, the Nevada legislature placed SAPTA within the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.
26. Cadora, E. and Swartz, C., *Prison Expenditures 2006: Metro Clark County Cities and Towns by Zip Code*, Justice Mapping, April 2007.
27. Apply this policy to all people currently in prison or under supervision, but do not increase credits for those offenders currently incarcerated who already received a program credit. According to existing statutes, credits are awarded based on the following criteria:

**NRS 209.4465 Credits for offender sentenced for crime committed on or after July 17, 1997:**

1. An offender who is sentenced to prison for a crime committed on or after July 17, 1997, who has no serious infraction of the regulations of the Department, the terms and conditions of his residential confinement or the laws of the State recorded against him, and who performs in a faithful, orderly and peaceable manner the duties assigned to him, must be allowed:
  - (a) For the period he is actually incarcerated pursuant to his sentence;
  - (b) For the period he is in residential confinement; and
  - (c) For the period he is in the custody of the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to NRS 209.4886 or 209.4888, a deduction of 10 days from his sentence for each month he serves.
2. In addition to the credits allowed pursuant to subsection 1, the Director may allow not more than 10 days of credit each month for an offender whose diligence in labor and study merits such credits. In addition to the credits allowed pursuant to this subsection, an offender is entitled to the following credits for educational achievement:
  - (a) For earning a general educational development certificate, 30 days.
  - (b) For earning a high school diploma, 60 days.
  - (c) For earning his first associate degree, 90 days.
3. The Director may, in his discretion, authorize an offender to receive a maximum of 90 days of credit for each additional degree of higher education earned by the offender.
4. The Director may allow not more than 10 days of credit each month for an offender who participates in a diligent and responsible manner in a center for the purpose of making restitution, conservation camp, program of work release or another program conducted outside of the prison. An offender who earns credit pursuant to this subsection is eligible to earn the entire 20 days of credit each month that is allowed pursuant to subsections 1 and 2.
5. The Director may allow not more than 90 days of credit each year for an offender who engages in exceptional meritorious service.
6. The Board shall adopt regulations governing the award, forfeiture and restoration of credits pursuant to this section.
7. Credits earned pursuant to this section:
  - (a) Must be deducted from the maximum term imposed by the sentence; and
  - (b) Apply to eligibility for parole unless the offender was sentenced pursuant to a statute which specifies a minimum sentence that must be served before a person becomes eligible for parole.

**NRS 209.448 Credits for completion of program of treatment for abuse of alcohol or drugs:**

1. An offender who has no serious infraction of the regulations of the Department or the laws of the State recorded against him must be allowed, in addition to the credits provided pursuant to NRS 209.433, 209.443, 209.446 or 209.4465, a deduction of not more than 30 days from the maximum term of his sentence for the successful completion of a program of treatment for the abuse of alcohol or drugs which is conducted jointly by the Department and a person who is licensed or certified as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor or certified as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor intern pursuant to chapter 641C of NRS.

2. The provisions of this section apply to any offender who is sentenced on or after October 1, 1991.

**28. NRS 193.130 Categories and punishment of felonies:**

e) A category E felony is a felony for which a court shall sentence a convicted person to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 4 years. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 176A.100, upon sentencing a person who is found guilty of a category E felony, the court shall suspend the execution of the sentence and grant probation to the person upon such conditions as the court deems appropriate. Such conditions of probation may include, but are not limited to, requiring the person to serve a term of confinement of not more than 1 year in the county jail. In addition to any other penalty, the court may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000, unless a greater penalty is authorized or required by statute. See the below chart for the type of Category E offenses considered in this analysis.

**E Felon Offenses**

Offense Type	Female	Male	Total
Att. Forgery	14	12	26
Att. Uttering forged instrument	1	4	5
Poss controlled substance, sch 5, 1st off	1	1	2
Att. Poss false prescription	1	0	1
Att. Insufficient fund checks	2	2	4
Att possession stolen credit card	4	10	14
Poss contr, syb, sch 1-4, 1st off	76	283	359
Att. Poss contr, syb, sch 1-4, 1st off	5	41	46
Att. Poss contr sub for sale, sch 1&2, 1st off	2	8	10
Under Infl of cont subst	23	42	65
Possession false prescription	2	1	3
Att. open, gross lewdness	0	1	1
Att. Fraudulent use of credit card	0	1	1
Att arson 3	0	1	1
Att carry concealed weapon	0	5	5
contractor w/o license	0	1	1
Att falt to change address/sex off	0	9	9
Att. fraud/altered public records	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>554</b>

**29.** Cross training of probation officers and their supervisors includes motivational interviewing, cognitive-behavioral approaches, and other evidence-based approaches to reducing crime through effective probation supervision that connects people to the treatment and other programs that address their criminogenic needs. Community behavioral health providers should receive training in evidence based practices for offender populations and co-occurring mental and addictive disorders.

**30.** Apply this policy to all offenders sentenced after the date the legislation is enacted.

**31.** Fully loaded, due to new facilities required.

## Methodology

The prison population forecast used in this brief was generated by the JFA Associates, a Washington DC-based consulting firm. Under the direction of Dr. James Austin, JFA Associates utilized the Wizard 2000 model, a computerized simulation model which mimics the admissions and releases of people in prison over a ten-year period based on the current state sentencing structure, recent inmate population trends, and computer-extracted files provided by the Nevada Department of Corrections. To produce the projections, the Wizard 2000 model takes into account external (demographic, socio-economic, and crime trends) and internal factors (the criminal justice system's authority to release, recommit, give, and restore a wide array of good time credits, and offer programs that may reduce recidivism).

## About this Report

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities. The Justice Center contracted with Dr. James Austin and the JFA Associates staff to assist Republican and Democratic leaders in the executive and legislative branches of Nevada's state government. Research and analysis described in this report has been funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view, recommendations, or findings stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, Council of State Governments Justice Center, or the Council of State Governments' members. © 2007

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