Simulation of Impact:
Projected Prison Population to Deplete Jail Backlog,
FY 1992 - 1998

Special Report

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Note From the Director

This report presents two simulations projecting the prison population if the jail backlog between fiscal years 1992 and 1998 is to be depleted. The projection simulates the impact of two policies directed at depleting the jail backlog. The simulations were conducted using the JUSTICE model developed by the Criminal Justice Policy Council. The projection was requested by Representative John Culberson, Vice Chairman of the House Corrections Committee.

One simulation assumes the admission to prison of all offenders projected to be in the backlog and the diversion from prison of offenders that under present policies are released from jails on parole (Diversion Model). The second simulation assumes that all offenders in the backlog and those that would have been released on parole from jails will be admitted to prison and will serve longer than under present policies (Increase Time Served Model). This is a result of assuming a prison release/admission rate of 138 a day. The simulation also assumes that the above policies would have been implemented beginning in May 1992. This assumption is necessary to make comparisons with the baseline projection. (The most recent baseline projection is presented in Appendix 2.)
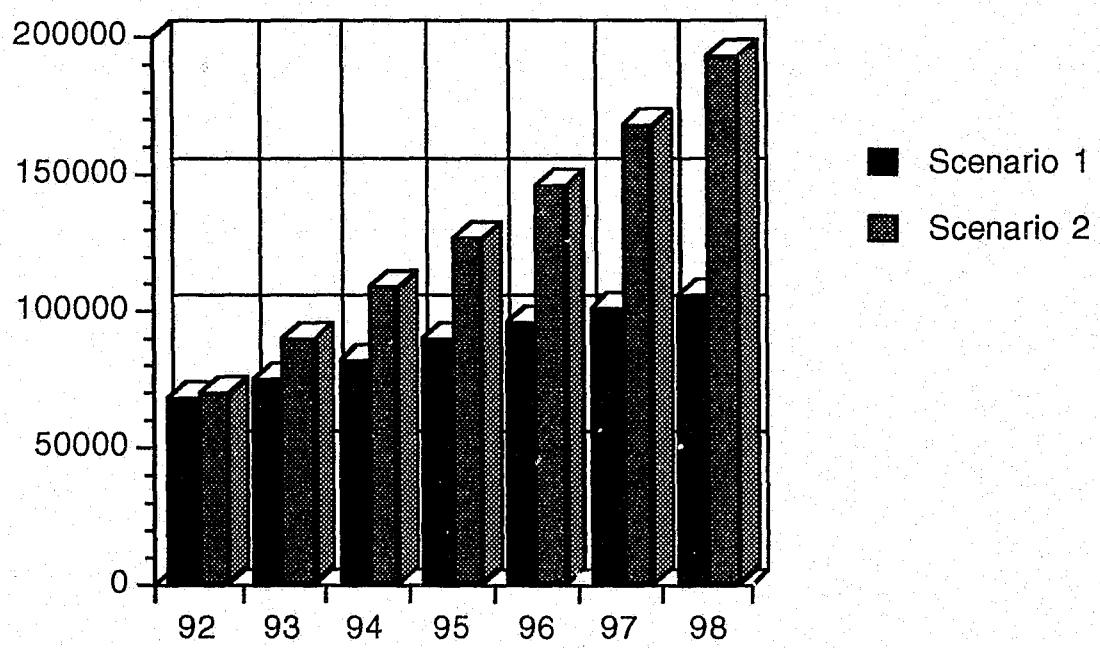
The prison capacity necessary to exhaust the backlog under the Diversion Model will range from an equivalent of 124% of capacity in fiscal year 1992 to 130% in fiscal year 1998. Average time served in prison will increase from the present 20 months to 37 months by August 1998. This is an increase from the projected increase in time served in the baseline projection. Under the Increase Time Served Model, on the other hand, average time served will increase to 48 months by August 1998. This is a result of admitting and keeping in prison longer offenders that under present policies or under the Diversion Model would not have gone to prison. The prison capacity necessary to exhaust the backlog under this scenario, however, will range from an equivalent of 127% of capacity in fiscal year 1992 to 238% in fiscal year 1998. The total inmate population will increase to 192,834 under the Increase Time Served Model compared to 105,765 under the Diversion Model.

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Executive Director

Projected Prison Population if Jail Backlog is to Be Depleted, FY 1992 - 1998

- **Assumptions of the simulations are the same as baseline except as listed below for each specific simulation**
    - √ The baseline projection of May 21, 1992 is in Appendix 2
- **Simulation 1: Diversion Model**
    - √ Parole-in-Absentia eligible inmates that were projected to be released from jails will be diverted from prison through other mechanisms
- **Simulation 2: Increased Time Served Model**
    - √ Parole-in-Absentia eligible inmates that were projected to be released from jails will be admitted to prison
- **Both simulations of policy changes are assumed to start at the beginning of the projection (May 1992)**
- **Appendix 1 shows detailed data for each simulation**

Chart 1: Projected Prison Population, FY 92 - 98


	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Simulation 1:	68,190	75,009	82,052	90,094	96,193	101,366	105,765
Simulation 2:	70,370	89,516	108,904	127,130	145,721	168,216	192,834

Simulations (cont.)

- **Chart 2 shows the percent over projected prison capacity necessary if the prison system is to accommodate the projected population to deplete the jail backlog under both simulations**
  - √ The Increased Time Served Model (Simulation 2) will require the prisons to operate at 238% over projected capacity by fiscal year 1998 compared to 130% capacity for the Diversion Model (Simulation 1)
  - √ In the Increased Time Served Model a substantial number of offenders that under present policies would have been released from jails on Parole-in-Absentia are assumed to be admitted to prison

Chart 2: Percent Over Projected Prison Capacity Necessary to Deplete the Jail Backlog, FY 1992 - 1998
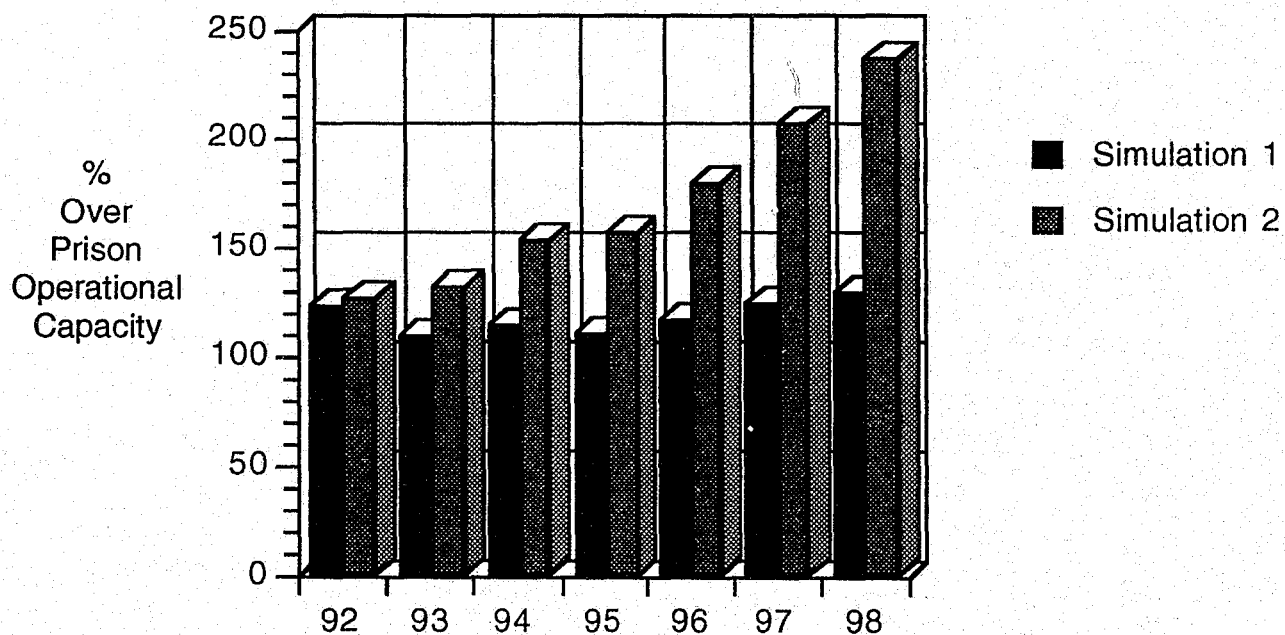

	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Simulation 1:	124%	110%	115%	111%	118%	125%	130%
Simulation 2:	127%	132%	154%	157%	180%	208%	238%

Simulations (cont.)

- **Chart 3 depicts the projected average time served in months during each year of the projection for each scenario**
  - √ The Diversion Model (Simulation 1) will allow for a slight increase in time served over that projected under the baseline projection
    - This increase is the result of a decrease in parole rate associated with a policy assumption of a constant number of releases per day (138) in a system with a larger prison population that would be eligible for parole in the future
  - √ The Increased Time Served Model (Simulation 2) will allow for more than doubling of the present average time served in prison
    - This increase is mainly a result of the policy of admitting and maintaining in prison longer offenders that under the present policies would be released from jails on Parole-in-Absentia at the minimum parole eligibility point
    - Average percent of sentence served will almost reach 45% by 1998 compared to 30% under the baseline projection

Chart 3: Projected Average Time Served in Months, FY 1992 - 1998
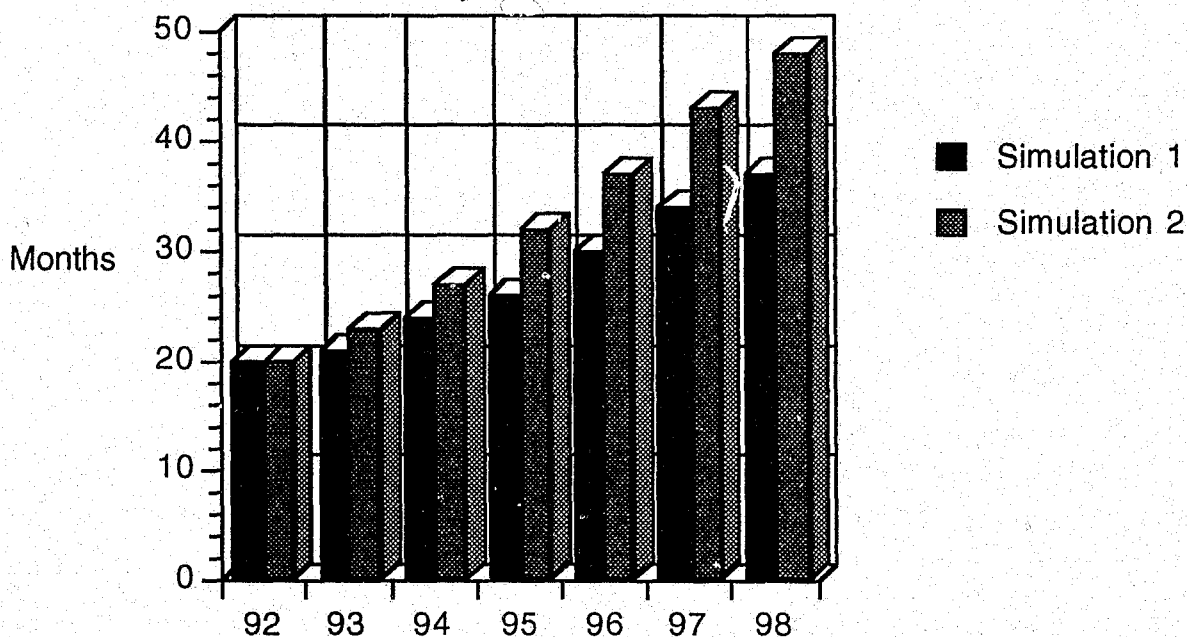
	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Simulation 1:	20	21	24	26	30	34	37
Simulation 2:	20	23	27	32	37	43	48

Appendix 1: Detailed Yearly Data for Simulations

SIMULATION 1

PRISON CAPACITY - DIVERSION MODEL

[1] FY	[2] Substance Abuse Operational Capacity	[3] Prison Capacity	[4] Prison Operational Capacity	[5] Projected Jail Backlog	[6] Inmate Population	[7] % of Prison Capacity If No Backlog	[8] PIA Equivalent Diversions Per Day	[9] Prison Releases Per Day	[10] Total Diversions/ Releases Per Day	[11] Average Time Served In Months
92	0	55,212	52,600	15,590	68,190	124	56	138	194	20
93	2,970	67,762	64,550	10,459	75,009	110	61	138	199	21
94	5,940	70,762	67,400	14,652	82,052	115	70	138	208	24
95	11,880	81,062	77,213	12,881	90,094	111	70	138	208	26
96	11,880	81,062	77,213	18,980	96,193	118	83	138	221	30
97	11,880	81,062	77,213	24,153	101,366	125	111	138	249	34
98	11,880	81,062	77,213	28,552	105,765	130	132	138	270	37

SIMULATION 2

PRISON CAPACITY - INCREASED TIME SERVED

[1] FY	[2] Substance Abuse Operational Capacity	[3] Prison Capacity	[4] Prison Operational Capacity	[5] Projected Jail Backlog	[6] Inmate Population	[7] % of Prison Capacity If No Backlog	[8] PIA Equivalent Diversions Per Day	[9] Prison Releases Per Day	[10] Total Diversions/ Releases Per Day	[11] Average Time Served In Months
92	0	55,212	52,600	0	70,370	127	0	138	138	20
93	2,970	67,762	64,550	0	89,516	132	0	138	138	23
94	5,940	70,762	67,400	0	108,904	154	0	138	138	27
95	11,880	81,062	77,213	0	127,130	157	0	138	138	32
96	11,880	81,062	77,213	0	145,721	180	0	138	138	37
97	11,880	81,062	77,213	0	168,216	208	0	138	138	43
98	11,880	81,062	77,213	0	192,834	238	0	138	138	48

Appendix 2: Baseline Projection Report