

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Criminal Justice Estimating Conference

#### December 17, 2019

The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference convened December 17, 2019, to revise the forecast of prison admissions and populations. During the five months monitored since the July conference, admissions totaled 11,646 or 619 below the estimate. The prison population at the end of November 2019 was 94,701 or 836 below the estimate.

A review of the new data on criminal justice system measures showed that:

- Total index crimes decreased by -6.1% while total arrests decreased by -3.3 percent in the first six months of CY 2019 over 2018.
- Felony filings decreased by -3.0 percent and the number of guilty dispositions decreased by -2.9% in the first eight months of CY 2019 over 2018.
- New commitments decreased by -5.5 percent in the first five months of FY 2019-20 over the same time period in the prior fiscal year.
- Year-and-a-day sentences decreased by -10.8 percent in the first five months of FY 2019-20 relative to the previous fiscal year.
- In November 2019, the average sentence length of new commitments was 62.7 months (5.2 years).

Taking the new information into account and considering the recent trends collectively, the conferees adopted a population forecast which assumes a -1.2 percent decrease in total admissions in FY 2019-20 and a -0.9 percent decrease in FY 2020-21. Total admissions then decrease by -0.3 percent in FY 2021-22 and increase by 0.1 percent in FY 2022-23, followed by an increase of 0.2 percent in FY 2023-24 and an increase of 0.2 percent in FY 2024-25.

The June 30 projected prison population is expected to decrease by -0.9 percent in FY 2019-20. Change in population is then expected to decrease by -0.7 percent in FY 2020-21, followed by a -0.2 percent decrease in FY 2021-22, a 0.6 percent increase in FY 2022-23, a 0.5 percent increase in FY 2023-24, and a 0.4 percent increase in FY 2024-25.

Year	Admissions	Releases	End of year pop	End of year over (under) July 2019 CJEC	End of year percent change
FY 19-20	28,869	29,753	94,742	-864	-0.9%
FY 20-21	28,596	29,220	94,118	-1,406	-0.7%
FY 21-22	28,504	28,675	93,947	-1,742	-0.2%
FY 22-23	28,527	28,006	94,468	-1,629	0.6%
FY 23-24	28,572	28,102	94,938	-1,441	0.5%
FY 24-25	28,630	28,274	95,294	-1,646	0.4%