



Jail Population Trend Report

April - June 2017

Prepared by Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Research and Planning

This report identifies and tracks emerging trends that may influence the operation of the detention facilities. The data below captures activity during the fourth quarter of FY 2017 and compares the observations to those of the previous quarter and year.

I. Average Jail Population by Facility

Table 1 details the average daily population (ADP) for both Jail Central and Jail North for the current quarter, previous quarter, and the fourth quarter of the previous year.

Table 1: Quarterly ADP

Location	Apr – Jun 2017 ADP	Jan – Mar 2017 ADP	Apr – Jun 2016 ADP	Percent Change From	
				Jan – Mar 2017	Apr – Jun 2016
Jail Central	1,339	1,365	1,351	-2%	-1%
Jail North	253	228	85	11%	197%
All Facilities	1,592	1,593	1,436	0%	11%

Table 2 details the ADP as a percentage of both the design and functional capacities of each location. Design capacity is defined as the total number of beds available in each facility. Functional capacity is considered the maximum number that can be housed while still permitting the proper segregation and movement of inmates by gender, security risk, and related factors and is defined as 85 percent of design capacity¹.

Table 2: ADP as a Percentage of Design and Functional Capacity

Location	Apr – Jun 2017 D/F %	Jan – Mar 2017 D/F %	Apr – Jun 2016 D/F %	Facility Capacity	
				Design	Functional
Jail Central	70 / 83	72 / 84	71 / 83	1,904	1,618
Jail North	35 / 41	32 / 37	12 / 14	721	613
All Facilities	61 / 71	61 / 71	55 / 64	2,625	2,231

Observations:

- Total ADP increased 0% and 11% from the previous quarter and the fourth quarter of the previous year respectively.
- Jail North ADP increased 197 percent from the previous quarter. In the third quarter of FY 2017, female inmates were relocated to Jail North due to the MCSO security project.
- Total ADP was 29 percent below functional capacity during the fourth quarter of FY 2017.

¹ Actual staffing capacity of both Jail Central and Jail North at a given time may be less than functional capacity due to varying staffing levels and operational needs.

II. Characteristics of the Jail Population

Table 3 details various characteristics of the jail population such as gender, race/ethnicity, and custody type. As with tables 1 and 2, these characteristics are presented for the current quarter, previous quarter, and the fourth quarter of the previous year.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Jail Population

	Apr – Jun 2017	Jan – Mar 2017	Apr – Jun 2016
Gender			
Adult Male	1,368 (86%)	1,378 (87%)	1285 (88%)
Female ²	163 (10%)	152 (10%)	118 (8%)
Youthful Offender (Male)	61 (4%)	63 (4%)	51 (4%)
Race / Ethnicity			
African-American	1,038 (65%)	1,071 (67%)	968 (67%)
Caucasian	349 (22%)	320 (20%)	253 (18%)
Hispanic	177 (11%)	179 (11%)	204 (14%)
Others	18 (1%)	21 (1%)	11 (1%)
Custody Type			
Pretrial ³	1,084 (68%)	1,139 (72%)	959 (65%)
Sentenced	90 (6%)	86 (5%)	90 (6%)
Federal- U.S Marshals	301 (19%)	288 (18%)	353 (24%)
Federal- Immigration	3 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Federal- 287(g)	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Federal- BOP	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
State Misdemeanant	114 (7%)	77 (5%)	67 (5%)
Probation Quick Dip/Dunk	3 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	4 (<1%)

Observations:

- Gender and race proportions within the jail population were unchanged compared to the previous quarter and previous year. Males (86 percent) and African-Americans (65 percent) remain the largest population groups.
- Pretrial offenders comprised 68 percent of the jail's population in the fourth quarter of FY 2017, a decrease of 4 percent from the previous quarter and an increase of 3 percent from the fourth quarter of the previous year.

² Due to the small number of occurrences, all youthful female offenders are included in the female grouping.

³ In October 2016 a calculation error was discovered and corrected within the MCSO detention report which is the source of these pretrial figures. The two historical values have been updated to their correct values to allow for direct comparison with the current value.

III. Booking and Release Composition⁴

Table 4 details the average monthly composition and average length of stay for all jail intake types as well as the average monthly composition of jail releases by type. This table compares the current quarter to the fourth quarter of the previous year.

Table 4: Intake and Release Characteristics

	Apr – Jun 2017		Apr – Jun 2016	
	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Intakes				
State	2,025	19	2,121	16
State Misdemeanant Program	32	52	14	21
Federal – U.S. Marshals	82	60	95	79
Federal – Immigration	10	0	19	0
Federal – 287(g)	13	1	3	1
Released				
State	2,174	-	2,235	-
State Misdemeanant Program	32	-	24	-
Federal – U.S. Marshals	217	-	251	-
Federal – Immigration	12	-	22	-
Federal – 287(g)	36	-	9	-

Observations:

- Average monthly intakes for State inmates decreased by 5 percent from the previous year while the average monthly intakes for the State Misdemeanant Program increased 129 percent from the previous year.
- The average monthly releases for the State Misdemeanant Program increased by 35 percent and the average monthly releases of Federal 287(g) inmates increased by 300 percent from the previous year.

⁴ Average length of stay is determined by averaging the reported ALOS for each group in the FY 2017 MCSO Detention Report. The Detention Report calculates ALOS as (Total Bed Days / Number of Jail Intakes). "Bed days" is calculated as the sum of the reported average daily population. An "intake" is defined as an individual receiving a housing assignment (those who bond out or are otherwise released prior to a housing assignment are not considered intakes).

IV. Average Length of Stay and Jail Bed Days by Release Type⁵

Table 5 examines total number of releases, total number of bed days, and the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) based on the release reason. This table compares the current quarter to the previous year.

Table 5: Characteristics By Selected Release Type

Type of Release ⁶	Apr – Jun 2017			Apr – Jun 2016		
	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)
Secured	2,234 (36%)	15,163 (10%)	7	2,386 (37%)	10,512 (8%)	4
Time Served	515 (8%)	23,897 (15%)	46	510 (8%)	15,944 (12%)	31
Unsecured	1,348 (22%)	7,599 (5%)	6	1,548 (24%)	9,117 (7%)	6
Dismissed	328 (5%)	7,208 (5%)	22	299 (5%)	6,640 (5%)	22
Probation/Parole	104 (2%)	3,952 (2%)	38	134 (2%)	7,958 (6%)	59
Other Jurisdiction	1,379 (22%)	99,079 (63%)	72	1,204 (19%)	84,898 (62%)	71
Release to Pretrial Services	316 (5%)	1,301 (1%)	4	313 (5%)	1,103 (1%)	4
Total	6,224 (100%)	158,199 (100%)	25	6,394 (100%)	136,172 (100%)	21

Observations:

- The selected release types decreased by 3 percent from the previous year.
- Total jail bed days associated with Probation/Parole releases decreased by 50 percent from the previous year, while jail bed days associated with Time Served releases increased by 50 percent from the previous year.
- Total jail bed days for the selected release types increased by 16 percent from the previous year.

⁵ Bed Days is calculated as the total number of days between the commit date and release date as found in the OMS Release Report (OIRRELDT). The Average Length of Stay is calculated as the total number of bed days divided by the total number of releases.

⁶ This list only includes the most common release types and should not be construed as an exhaustive list.

V. Assessed Risk Level (PSA)

Table 6 represents the total number and distribution of pretrial risk assessments completed by Criminal Justice Services staff. Assessments are categorized based on the date on which they were completed. Risk levels are defined as per the Mecklenburg County Decision Making Framework.

While risk assessments are conducted for all individuals incarcerated at the time of their first appearance hearing at the Mecklenburg County courthouse, the table below should not be interpreted as representing the risk levels of the average jail population.

Table 6: Assessed Risk Level

Assessed Risk Level	Apr – Jun 2017 Assessments	Jan – Mar 2017 Assessments	Apr – Jun 2016 Assessments	Percent Change From	
				Jan - Mar 2017	Apr – Jun 2016
Low Risk	614 (19%)	603 (19%)	649 (19%)	2%	-5%
Medium-Low Risk	256 (8%)	235 (7%)	285 (8%)	9%	-10%
Medium Risk	663 (21%)	726 (23%)	662 (20%)	-9%	0%
Medium-High Risk	438 (14%)	430 (13%)	465 (14%)	2%	-6%
High Risk	1,184 (38%)	1,231 (38%)	1,293 (39%)	-4%	-8%
Total Assessments	3,155 (100%)	3,225 (100%)	3,354 (100%)	-2%	-6%

Observations:

- The total number of PSA assessments has decrease by 2 percent from the previous quarter and 6 percent from the fourth quarter of the previous year.
- Percent distribution across the risk levels has remained relatively consistent across all three time periods examined.

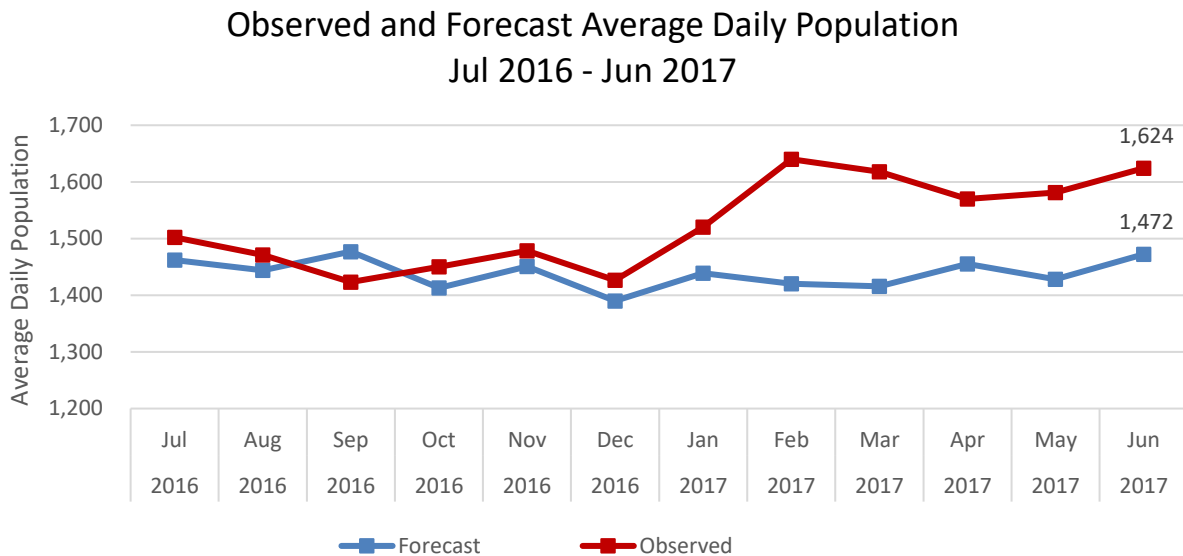
VI. Trends and Forecasting

In 2017, Criminal Justice Services (CJS) and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) implemented a new jail population simulation methodology which allows CJS and MCSO to forecast the projected jail population at specific intervals given various assumptions about the local justice system. All forecasts, by their very nature, are imperfect and therefore the actual ADP will likely differ from the predicted value in this section; however, this section can be used as an indicator for likely future trends.

Fiscal Year 2017 Forecast Review

The Mecklenburg County Jail Population increased in the fourth quarter of FY 2017, ending June with an ADP of 1,624. While the observed ADP in June was higher than the forecast, overall the forecast had a margin of error of only 6 percent for all of FY 2017⁷.

Figure 1: Observed and Forecast Average Daily Population (July 2016 - June 2017)



Fiscal Year 2018 Forecast

The FY 2018 jail population forecast was developed in July 2017. While the forecasting process remained unchanged from 2017, several improvements were made to the model which should improve performance in FY 2018. First, the FY 2018 model was designed to incorporate the seasonality that is observed in bookings into the Mecklenburg County jail. This change is most apparent when comparing the FY 2017 forecast in figure 1 which is relatively flat throughout the year to the FY 2018 forecast in figure 2 which anticipates an increase in ADP during the summer months and a corresponding decrease during the winter months. Secondly, the model was tuned to minimize the variance with the FY 2017 observed ADP, which resulted in a higher FY 2018 forecast than would have otherwise been the case. This model tuning allows for the indirect incorporation of various justice system factors such as policy changes, increases in arrests, etc.

Overall, the FY 2018 ADP is forecast to be 1,536 with a September ADP of 1,584.

⁷ The average monthly margin of error was 6.1% and the overall FY ADP margin of error was 6.0% (1,525 observed; 1,439 forecast)

Figure 2: Observed and Forecast Average Daily Population (July 2017 - June 2018)

