



Jail Population Trend Report

October - December 2016

Prepared by Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Planning

This report identifies and tracks emerging trends that may influence the operation of the detention facilities. The data below captures activity during the second 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 previous year.

Table 1: Quarterly ADP

Location	Oct - Dec 2016 ADP	Jul - Sep 2016 ADP	Oct - Dec 2015 ADP	Percent Change From	
				Jul - Sep 2016	Oct - Dec 2015
Jail Central	1,373	1,391	1,118	-1%	23%
Jail North	78	75	317	5%	-75%
All Facilities	1,452	1,466	1,435	-1%	1%

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 according to gender, security risk, and related factors and is defined as 85 percent of design capacity.

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

Location	Oct - Dec 2016 D/F %	Jul - Sep 2016 D/F %	Oct - Dec 2015 D/F %	Facility Capacity	
				Design	Functional
Jail Central	72 / 85	73 / 86	59 / 69	1,904	1,618
Jail North	11 / 13	10 / 12	44 / 52	721	613
All Facilities	55 / 65	56 / 66	55 / 64	2,625	2,231

Observations:

- Total ADP was relatively unchanged from the previous quarter and the previous year.
- Jail North ADP increased 5 percent from the previous quarter and decreased 75 percent from the previous year. As of April 2016, all inmates except for youthful offenders and kitchen workers are now housed in Jail Central.
- Total ADP was 35 percent below functional capacity during the second quarter of FY 2017.

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 previous year.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Jail Population

	Oct – Dec 2016	Jul – Sep 2016	Oct – Dec 2015
Gender			
Adult Male	1,268 (87%)	1,272 (87%)	1,269 (87%)
Female ¹	131 (9%)	141 (10%)	107 (7%)
Youthful Offender (Male)	52 (4%)	53 (4%)	58 (4%)
Race / Ethnicity			
African-American	991 (68%)	982 (67%)	952 (67%)
Caucasian	278 (19%)	277 (19%)	257 (18%)
Hispanic	167 (12%)	184 (13%)	199 (14%)
Others	13 (<1%)	12 (<1%)	14 (1%)
Custody Type			
Pretrial ²	1,006 (69%)	999 (68%)	948 (65%)
Sentenced	68 (5%)	70 (5%)	74 (5%)
Federal- U.S Marshals	303 (21%)	336 (23%)	356 (25%)
Federal- Immigration	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Federal- 287(g)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Federal- BOP	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
State Misdemeanant	70 (5%)	56 (4%)	56 (4%)
Probation Quick Dip/Dunk	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	4 (<1%)

Observations:

- Gender and race characteristics within the jail population were unchanged compared to the previous quarter and same period last year. Males (87 percent) and African-Americans (68 percent) remain the largest population groups.
- Pretrial offenders comprised 69 percent of the jail's population in the second quarter of FY 2017, an increase of 1 percent from the previous quarter and a 4 percent increase from the previous year.

¹ Due to the small number of occurrences, all youthful female offenders are included in the female grouping.

² 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 Composition³

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 previous year.

Table 4: Intake and Release Characteristics

	Oct - Dec 2016		Oct - Dec 2015	
	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Intakes				
State	1,756	20	1,904	17
State Misdemeanant Program	18	51	8	101
Federal – U.S. Marshals	59	88	61	143
Federal – Immigration	7	<1	8	<1
Federal – 287(g)	8	1	4	1
Released				
State	1,859	-	2,078	-
State Misdemeanant Program	25	-	18	-
Federal – U.S. Marshals	59	-	62	-
Federal – Immigration	9	-	13	-
Federal – 287(g)	26	-	16	-

Observations:

- Average monthly intakes for State inmates decreased nearly 8 percent from the previous year.
- The average number of State inmates released decreased by nearly 11 percent and the average number of Federal USM inmates released decreased by 5 percent from the previous year.

³ 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 Type⁴

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 ⁵	Oct - Dec 2016			Oct - Dec 2015		
	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)
Secured	1,967 (37%)	11,469 (9%)	6	2,428 (42%)	13,211 (9%)	5
Time Served	481 (9%)	16,383 (12%)	34	577 (10%)	20,895 (15%)	36
Unsecured	1,216 (23%)	8,681 (7%)	7	1,172 (20%)	8,559 (6%)	7
Dismissed	227 (4%)	7,619 (6%)	34	239 (4%)	8,077 (6%)	34
Probation/Parole	116 (2%)	6,354 (5%)	55	106 (2%)	5,481 (4%)	52
Other Jurisdiction	1,026 (19%)	81,878 (61%)	80	982 (17%)	82,596 (59%)	84
Release to Pretrial Services	283 (5%)	1,102 (1%)	4	301 (5%)	1,574 (1%)	5
Total	5,316 (100%)	133,486 (100%)	25	5,805 (100%)	140,393 (100%)	24

Observations:

- Secured bond releases accounted for 37 percent of the above releases during the second quarter of FY 2017. This represents a 5 percent decrease from the previous year.
- Unsecured bond releases accounted for 23 percent of the above releases during the second quarter of FY 2017. This represents a 3 percent increase from the previous year.
- Total jail bed days for the selected release types decreased by 5 percent from the previous year.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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	Oct - Dec 2016 Assessments	Jul - Sep 2016 Assessments	Oct - Dec 2015 Assessments	Percent Change From	
				Jul - Sep 2016	Oct - Dec 2015
Low Risk	551 (19%)	584 (18%)	590 (20%)	-6%	-7%
Medium-Low Risk	238 (8%)	254 (8%)	213 (7%)	-6%	12%
Medium Risk	625 (22%)	727 (23%)	610 (21%)	-14%	2%
Medium-High Risk	392 (14%)	431 (13%)	393 (14%)	-9%	0%
High Risk	1,068 (37%)	1,219 (38%)	1,078 (37%)	-12%	-1%
Total Assessments	2,874 (100%)	3,215 (100%)	2,884 (100%)	-11%	0%

Observations:

- The total number of PSA assessments has decreased nearly 11 percent from the previous quarter but is almost identical to the number of assessments from the previous year. This sharp decrease from the first to second quarter of FY 2017 corresponds with the traditionally observed seasonal decrease in jail bookings.
- Percent distribution across the risk levels has remained relatively consistent across all three time periods examined.

VI. Trends and Forecasting

This section attempts to forecast the average daily population (ADP) of the Mecklenburg County Jail for March 2017. In December 2016, Criminal Justice Services (CJS) and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) implemented a new jail population simulation software. This software will allow CJS and MCSO to forecast the projected jail population at one, three, and five year 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.

Given no changes within the local criminal justice system, the average daily population of the Mecklenburg County Jail is projected to be 1,416 for the month of March 2017. Additionally, the average observed margin of error for the simulation model from January 2016 through December 2016 was found to be 1.8 percent; indicating that the simulation model is a good fit for the Mecklenburg County jail.

Figure 1: Observed and Forecast Average Daily Population (Jan 2016 - Mar 2017)

