



Jail Population Trend Report

January - March 2017

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 third 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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 1: Quarterly ADP

Location	Jan – Mar 2017 ADP	Oct - Dec 2016 ADP	Jan – Mar 2016 ADP	Percent Change From	
				Oct - Dec 2016	Jan – Mar 2016
Jail Central	1,365	1,373	1,154	-1%	18%
Jail North	228	78	249	192%	-8%
All Facilities	1,593	1,452	1,403	10%	14%

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 capacity¹.

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

Location	Jan – Mar 2017 D/F %	Oct - Dec 2016 D/F %	Jan – Mar 2016 D/F %	Facility Capacity	
				Design	Functional
Jail Central	72 / 84	72 / 85	61 / 71	1,904	1,618
Jail North	32 / 37	11 / 13	35 / 41	721	613
All Facilities	61 / 71	55 / 65	53 / 63	2,625	2,231

Observations:

- Total ADP increased 10% and 14% from the previous quarter and the third quarter of the previous year respectively.
- Jail North ADP increased 192 percent from the previous quarter. In the third quarter, female inmates were relocated to Jail North due to the MCSO security project.
- Total ADP was 29 percent below functional capacity during the third 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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Jail Population

	Jan – Mar 2017	Oct – Dec 2016	Jan – Mar 2016
Gender			
Adult Male	1,378 (87%)	1,268 (87%)	1,227 (87%)
Female ²	152 (10%)	131 (9%)	115 (8%)
Youthful Offender (Male)	63 (4%)	52 (4%)	62 (4%)
Race / Ethnicity			
African-American	1,071 (67%)	991 (68%)	934 (67%)
Caucasian	320 (20%)	278 (19%)	251 (18%)
Hispanic	179 (11%)	167 (12%)	190 (14%)
Others	21 (1%)	13 (<1%)	17 (1%)
Custody Type			
Pretrial ³	1,139 (72%)	1,006 (69%)	926 (66%)
Sentenced	86 (5%)	68 (5%)	57 (4%)
Federal- U.S Marshals	288 (18%)	303 (21%)	367 (26%)
Federal- Immigration	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Federal- 287(g)	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Federal- BOP	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
State Misdemeanant	77 (5%)	70 (5%)	46 (3%)
Probation Quick Dip/Dunk	4 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)

Observations:

- Gender and race proportions within the jail population were unchanged compared to the previous quarter and previous year. Males (87 percent) and African-Americans (67 percent) remain the largest population groups.
- Pretrial offenders comprised 72 percent of the jail's population in the third quarter of FY 2017, an increase of 3 percent from the previous quarter and 6 percent from the third 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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 4: Intake and Release Characteristics

	Jan – Mar 2017		Jan – Mar 2016	
	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Intakes				
State	2,069	19	2,033	15
State Misdemeanant Program	23	71	12	83
Federal – U.S. Marshals	44	77	74	147
Federal – Immigration	14	0	16	0
Federal – 287(g)	10	1	4	1
Released				
State	2,131	-	2,124	-
State Misdemeanant Program	25	-	11	-
Federal – U.S. Marshals	59	-	79	-
Federal – Immigration	16	-	17	-
Federal – 287(g)	35	-	14	-

Observations:

- Average monthly intakes for State inmates remained consistent with the previous year; however, the average monthly intakes for the State Misdemeanant Program increased 92% from the previous year.
- The average monthly releases for the State Misdemeanant Program increased by nearly 127 percent and the average monthly releases of Federal 287(g) inmates increased by 150 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	Jan – Mar 2017			Jan – Mar 2016		
	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)
Secured	2,316 (38%)	14,694 (10%)	6	2,545 (42%)	14,166 (9%)	6
Time Served	457 (7%)	16,787 (12%)	37	455 (8%)	23,654 (16%)	52
Unsecured	1,332 (22%)	8,827 (6%)	7	1,304 (22%)	7,327 (5%)	6
Dismissed	343 (6%)	9,087 (6%)	26	285 (5%)	8,618 (6%)	30
Probation/Parole	132 (2%)	7,389 (5%)	56	115 (2%)	5,809 (4%)	51
Other Jurisdiction	1,240 (20%)	86,532 (60%)	70	1,012 (17%)	88,832 (59%)	88
Release to Pretrial Services	281 (5%)	1,148 (1%)	4	348 (6%)	1,400 (1%)	4
Total	6,101 (100%)	144,464 (100%)	24	6,064 (100%)	149,806 (100%)	25

Observations:

- Secured bond releases accounted for 38 percent of the above releases during the third quarter of FY 2017. This represents a 4 percent decrease from the previous year.
- Unsecured bond releases accounted for 22 percent of the above releases during the third quarter of FY 2017. This is consistent with the previous year.
- Total jail bed days for the selected release types decreased by 4 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	Jan – Mar 2017 Assessments	Oct – Dec 2016 Assessments	Jan – Mar 2016 Assessments	Percent Change From	
				Oct - Dec 2016	Jan – Mar 2016
Low Risk	603 (19%)	551 (19%)	611 (20%)	9%	-1%
Medium-Low Risk	235 (7%)	238 (8%)	233 (8%)	-1%	1%
Medium Risk	726 (23%)	625 (22%)	634 (21%)	16%	15%
Medium-High Risk	430 (13%)	392 (14%)	429 (14%)	10%	0%
High Risk	1,231 (38%)	1,068 (37%)	1,076 (36%)	15%	14%
Total Assessments	3,225 (100%)	2,874 (100%)	2,983 (100%)	12%	8%

Observations:

- The total number of PSA assessments has increased 12 percent from the previous quarter and 8 percent from the third 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

This section attempts to forecast the average daily population (ADP) of the Mecklenburg County Jail for June 2017.

In December 2016, Criminal Justice Services (CJS) and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) implemented a new jail population simulation methodology. This methodology 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.

The Mecklenburg County Jail Population increased in the third quarter of fiscal year 2017, ending March with an ADP of 1,618. The original jail population forecast projected an ADP in June 2017 of 1,472; however, given the ADP increase in the third quarter, it is likely that the population will be higher than this initial projection.

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

