



Jail Population Trend Report

July - September 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 first quarter of FY 2018 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 first quarter of the previous year.

Table 1: Quarterly ADP

Location	Jul – Sep 2017 ADP	Apr – Jun 2017 ADP	Jul – Sep 2016 ADP	Percent Change From	
				Apr – Jun 2017	Jul – Sep 2016
Jail Central	1,383	1,339	1,391	3%	-1%
Jail North	276	253	75	9%	270%
All Facilities	1,658	1,592	1,466	4%	13%

Table 2 details the ADP as a percentage of design, operational, and functional capacities of each location. Design capacity is defined as the total number of beds available in each facility. Operational capacity is defined as the number of beds currently available based on staffing and/or budget. 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 operational capacity.

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

Location	Jul – Sep 2017 D / O / F %	Apr – Jun 2017 D / O / F %	Jul – Sep 2016 D / O / F %	Facility Capacity		
				Design	Operational	Functional
Jail Central	73 / 85 / 100	70 / 82 / 97	73 / 85 / 100	1,904	1,629	1,385
Jail North	38 / 72 / 84	35 / 66 / 77	10 / 19 / 23	721	385	327
All Facilities	56 / 82 / 97	54 / 79 / 93	50 / 73 / 86	2,945 ¹	2,014	1,712

Observations:

- Total ADP increased 4% and 13% from the previous quarter and the same quarter of the previous year respectively.
- Jail North ADP increased 270 percent from the previous year. In the third quarter of FY 2017, female inmates were relocated to Jail North due to the MCSO security project.
- Total ADP was 18 percent below operational capacity during the first quarter of FY 2018.

¹ Includes 320 bed capacity from the Annex

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 first quarter of the previous year.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Jail Population

	Jul – Sep 2017	Apr – Jun 2017	Jul – Sep 2016
Gender			
Adult Male	1,447 (87%)	1,368 (86%)	1,272 (87%)
Female ²	156 (9%)	163 (10%)	141 (10%)
Youthful Offender (Male)	55 (3%)	61 (4%)	53 (4%)
Race / Ethnicity			
African-American	1,106 (67%)	1,038 (65%)	982 (67%)
Caucasian	347 (21%)	349 (22%)	277 (19%)
Hispanic	187 (11%)	177 (11%)	184 (13%)
Others	13 (<1%)	18 (1%)	12 (<1%)
Custody Type			
Pretrial	1,142 (69%)	1,084 (68%)	999 (68%)
Sentenced	69 (4%)	90 (6%)	70 (5%)
Federal- U.S Marshals	325 (20%)	301 (19%)	336 (23%)
Federal- Immigration	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Federal- 287(g)	3 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Federal- BOP	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)
State Misdemeanant	197 (12%)	114 (7%)	56 (4%)
Probation Quick Dip/Dunk	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
Bed Type			
Federal Contract	328 (20%)	303 (19%)	338 (23%)
State Contract	197 (12%)	114 (7%)	56 (4%)
Local ³	1,133 (68%)	1,175 (74%)	1,071 (73%)

Observations:

- While total ADP increased from the fourth quarter of FY 2017 to the first quarter of FY 2018, the local ADP decreased as both a total number and as a proportion of the total ADP. This signals that the observed increase in ADP is due to an increase in State and Federal contract beds.

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

³ Local ADP is defined as Total ADP minus both Federal and State Contract beds.

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 first quarter of the previous year.

Table 4: Intake and Release Characteristics

	Jul – Sep 2017		Jul – Sep 2016	
	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Intakes				
State	1,972	21	1,964	18
State Misdemeanant Program	35	47	17	79
Federal – U.S. Marshals	56	99	70	66
Federal – Immigration	15	1	7	0
Federal – 287(g)	11	1	5	1
Released				
State	2,221	-	2,123	-
State Misdemeanant Program	39	-	18	-
Federal – U.S. Marshals	55	-	103	-
Federal – Immigration	17	-	10	-
Federal – 287(g)	46	-	19	-

Observations:

- Average monthly intakes for the State Misdemeanant Program increased 106 percent from the previous year while the average monthly intakes for the Federal U.S. Marshals decreased by 21 percent from the previous year.
- The average monthly releases for the State Misdemeanant Program increased by 119 percent and the average monthly releases of Federal 287(g) inmates increased by 136 percent from the previous year.

⁴ Average length of stay is determined by averaging the reported ALOS for each group in the FY 2018 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	Jul – Sep 2017			Jul – Sep 2016		
	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)
Secured	2,072 (34%)	14,647 (9%)	7	2,143 (35%)	13,107 (8%)	6
Time Served	473 (8%)	20,958 (13%)	48	526 (9%)	19,734 (12%)	38
Unsecured	1,234 (20%)	9,893 (6%)	8	1,543 (25%)	10,204 (6%)	7
Dismissed	469 (8%)	11,761 (7%)	25	290 (5%)	9,107 (6%)	31
Probation/Parole	129 (2%)	5,158 (3%)	61	116 (2%)	6,459 (4%)	56
Other Jurisdiction	1,320 (22%)	93,917 (59%)	71	1,199 (20%)	100,863 (63%)	84
Release to Pretrial Services	371 (6%)	1,970 (1%)	14	301 (5%)	1,176 (1%)	4
Total	6,068 (100%)	158,304 (100%)	27	6,118 (100%)	160,650 (100%)	26

Observations:

- The selected release types decreased by 1 percent from the previous year.
- Total jail bed days associated with Releases to Pretrial Services increased by 68 percent despite an increase of only 23 percent in the total number of Releases to Pretrial Services.
- Total jail bed days for the Other Jurisdiction release type decreased by 7 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 (OIRRELDLT). 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	Jul – Sep 2017 Assessments	Apr – Jun 2017 Assessments	Jul – Sep 2016 Assessments	Percent Change From	
				Jul – Sep 2017	Jul – Sep 2016
Low Risk	642 (19%)	614 (19%)	584 (18%)	5%	10%
Medium-Low Risk	268 (8%)	256 (8%)	254 (8%)	5%	6%
Medium Risk	732 (22%)	663 (21%)	727 (23%)	10%	1%
Medium-High Risk	441 (13%)	438 (14%)	431 (13%)	1%	2%
High Risk	1,211 (37%)	1,184 (38%)	1,219 (38%)	2%	-1%
Total Assessments	3,294 (100%)	3,155 (100%)	3,215 (100%)	4%	2%

Observations:

- The total number of PSA assessments has increased by 4 percent from the previous quarter and 2 percent from the same quarter of the previous year.
- The number of PSA assessments with a 'Low Risk' score has increased by 5 percent from the previous quarter and 10 percent from the same 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 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. Second, 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 December ADP of 1,433.

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

