



Jail Population Trend Report

January - March 2018

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 third 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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 1: Quarterly ADP

Location	Jan – Mar 2018 ADP	Oct – Dec 2017 ADP	Jan – Mar 2017 ADP	Percent Change From	
				Oct – Dec 2017	Jan – Mar 2017
Jail Central	1,253	1,288	1,365	-3%	-8%
Jail North	238	253	228	-6%	4%
All Facilities	1,492	1,540	1,593	-3%	-6%

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	Jan – Mar 2018 D / O / F %	Oct – Dec 2017 D / O / F %	Jan – Mar 2017 D / O / F %	Facility Capacity		
				Design	Operational	Functional
Jail Central	66 / 77 / 90	68 / 79 / 93	72 / 84 / 99	1,904	1,629	1,385
Jail North	33 / 62 / 73	35 / 66 / 77	32 / 59 / 70	721	385	327
All Facilities	51 / 74 / 87	52 / 76 / 90	54 / 79 / 93	2,945 ¹	2,014	1,712

Observations:

- Total ADP decreased 3 percent from the previous quarter and 6 percent from the same quarter of the previous year.
- Total ADP was 26 percent below operational capacity during the third 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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Jail Population

	Jan – Mar 2018	Oct – Dec 2017	Jan – Mar 2017
Gender			
Adult Male	1,329 (89%)	1,360 (88%)	1,378 (87%)
Female ²	116 (8%)	132 (9%)	152 (10%)
Youthful Offender (Male)	47 (3%)	48 (3%)	63 (4%)
Race / Ethnicity			
African-American	1,003 (67%)	1,049 (68%)	1,071 (67%)
Caucasian	314 (21%)	309 (20%)	320 (20%)
Hispanic	163 (11%)	173 (11%)	179 (11%)
Others	10 (<1%)	9 (<1%)	21 (1%)
Custody Type			
Pretrial	953 (64%)	1,018 (66%)	1,139 (72%)
Sentenced	68 (5%)	60 (4%)	86 (5%)
Federal- U.S Marshals	340 (23%)	328 (21%)	288 (18%)
Federal- Immigration	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Federal- 287(g)	3 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Federal- BOP	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
State Misdemeanant	124 (8%)	127 (8%)	77 (5%)
Probation Quick Dip/Dunk	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
Bed Type			
Federal Contract	345 (23%)	335 (22%)	290 (18%)
State Contract	124 (8%)	127 (8%)	76 (5%)
Local ³	1,023 (69%)	1,078 (70%)	1,227 (77%)

Observations:

- Local ADP continued to decrease as both a total number and as a proportion of the total ADP. This signals that an increase in State and Federal contract beds is maintaining the overall ADP while the locally controlled population continues to decrease.

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 third quarter of the previous year.

Table 4: Intake and Release Characteristics

	Jan – Mar 2018		Jan – Mar 2017	
	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)	Avg. Monthly Composition	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Intakes				
State	1,594	22	2,069	19
State Misdemeanant Program	39	53	23	71
Federal – U.S. Marshals	63	103	44	77
Federal – Immigration	21	1	14	0
Federal – 287(g)	13	1	10	1
Releases				
State	1,740	-	2,131	-
State Misdemeanant Program	38	-	25	-
Federal – U.S. Marshals	47	-	59	-
Federal – Immigration	23	-	16	-
Federal – 287(g)	42	-	35	-

Observations:

- Average monthly State intakes decreased 23 percent from the previous year while the average monthly State Misdemeanant Program intakes increased by 70 percent from the previous year.
- The average monthly releases for the State Misdemeanant Program increased by 56 percent and the average monthly releases of Federal Immigration inmates increased by 44 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 quarter and year.

Table 5: Characteristics By Selected Release Type

Type of Release ⁶	Jan – Mar 2018			Oct – Dec 2017			Jan – Mar 2017		
	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)	Released	Bed Days	ALOS (days)
Secured	1,695 (34%)	11,892 (9%)	7	1,708 (33%)	11,838 (8%)	7	2,316 (38%)	14,694 (10%)	6
Time Served	467 (9%)	20,136 (15%)	43	415 (7%)	20,715 (14%)	50	457 (7%)	16,787 (12%)	37
Unsecured	862 (17%)	5,867 (4%)	7	998 (19%)	6,969 (5%)	7	1,332 (22%)	8,827 (6%)	7
Dismissed	325 (7%)	9,373 (7%)	29	342 (7%)	9,728 (7%)	28	343 (6%)	9,087 (6%)	26
Probation /Parole	95 (2%)	5,368 (4%)	57	101 (2%)	5,185 (4%)	51	132 (2%)	7,389 (5%)	56
Other Jurisdiction	1,168 (24%)	82,571 (60%)	71	1,285 (25%)	89,671 (62%)	70	1,240 (20%)	86,532 (60%)	70
Release to Pretrial Services	315 (6%)	2,024 (1%)	6	292 (6%)	1,446 (1%)	5	281 (5%)	1,148 (1%)	4
Total	4,927 (100%)	137,231 (100%)	28	5,141 (100%)	145,552 (100%)	28	6,101 (100%)	144,464 (100%)	24

Observations:

- The selected release types decreased by 4 percent from the previous quarter and 19 percent from the previous year. The proportions for each release type remained consistent over both time periods.
- Releases to Pretrial Services have increased 8 percent from the previous quarter and 12 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 2018 Assessments	Oct – Dec 2017 Assessments	Jan – Mar 2017 Assessments	Percent Change From	
				Oct – Dec 2017	Jan – Mar 2017
Low Risk	516 (19%)	617 (23%)	603 (19%)	-16%	-14%
Medium-Low Risk	219 (8%)	220 (8%)	235 (7%)	0%	-7%
Medium Risk	595 (22%)	623 (23%)	726 (23%)	-4%	-18%
Medium-High Risk	364 (14%)	324 (12%)	430 (13%)	12%	-15%
High Risk	968 (36%)	938 (34%)	1,231 (38%)	3%	-21%
Total Assessments	2,662 (100%)	2,722 (100%)	3,225 (100%)	-2%	-17%

Observations:

- The total number of PSA assessments has decreased by 2 percent from the previous quarter and 17 percent from the same quarter of the previous year.
- The proportion of PSA assessments with a score falling in the “Low Risk” category decreased by 16 percent from the previous quarter, while the “Medium-High Risk” category increased by 12 percent.

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, variance in arrests, etc.

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

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

