

**POPULATION MANAGEMENT  
AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN  
2001-2006**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **Introduction**

This document, the Population Management and Facilities Master Plan 2002-2007, is respectfully submitted to the California State Legislature pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 905, Statutes of 1994. As required by the statute, this annual plan presents the projected population and housing of wards for the five-year planning period from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2007. This plan updates earlier annual plans dating back to an initial legislative request in the Supplemental Report to the 1985-1986 Budget Act.

## **California Department of the Youth Authority - An Overview**

The California Department of the Youth Authority (CYA) was created by law in 1941. It is the largest youthful offender agency in the nation. The CYA's offender population is housed in eleven youth correctional facilities, four rural conservation camps, and two institution-based camps. Limited housing is also provided at a contract facility and a converted military installation. Females committed to the CYA are housed at the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF) located in southern California, and are fully segregated from male wards.

Each of the youth correctional sites operated by the CYA varies in size, topography, and configuration of ward living units. A core program of education and counseling is offered at every institution, camp and parole office. Several institutions focus on remedial and academic education through the community college level; others provide job training, work experience, and specialized treatment and counseling programs.

Offenders released to the community are supervised by parole staff who assist parolees with their adjustment to the community by providing intensive re-entry services, residential placement, family counseling, job development and placement, and school enrollment. The CYA operates 16 parole offices that are located strategically throughout the State. In addition, two short-term drug treatment facilities provide a placement option for parolees who would otherwise be reinstitutionalized for violating the substance abuse provisions of their parole.

## **Mission of the California Department of the Youth Authority**

The mission of the CYA is to protect the public from criminal activity by providing education, training, and treatment services for wards committed by the courts, assisting local justice agencies with their efforts to control crime and delinquency, and encouraging the development of state and local programs to prevent crime and delinquency. The Department's mission was amended during the 1999 legislative session to include services to victims and community restoration.

## **Population Projections and Institution Capacity**

During the period covered by this Population Management and Facilities Master Plan 2002-2007, the CYA will not require additional capacity based upon the anticipated number of offenders committed by the courts as of June 30, 2000. CYA projects that the institution population will be 7,685 wards by June 30, 2007, an increase of 305 above the June 30, 2000 population of 7,380. The anticipated design capacity of the CYA facilities in place or currently under construction will remain constant, 6,821 through June 30, 2007. The target capacity – 130 percent of design still allows effective programming and will remain at 8,433 by the end of this planning period (748 beds over the projected population as of June 30, 2007). The 130 percent figure is not applied to the entire design capacity as specialized programming beds and camp beds are not conducive to overcrowding.

Population projections prepared by the Department indicate that institution population will “bottom out” at 6,975 wards in the year 2002 and will begin to gradually rise to 7,925 wards by June 30, 2010. The average length of institutional stay is expected to increase during this period for youthful offenders committed for violent offenses.

## **Summary of the Department’s Needs**

Based on the most recent projections, the Department will not need additional bed capacity during the five-year planning period; population projections may justify an increase in design bed capacity for years beyond this Plan. The Department will focus on the following during the term of this Plan:

- Evaluate perimeter security and internal security facilities in a systematic manner, develop standards, and identify proposed projects to insure that each institution provides the maximum level security needed to keep wards confined within a safe environment for staff, wards and the general public.
- Evaluate facilities used for medical, mental health and sex offender programs. The Department needs to standardize the health screening process, mental health and sex offender evaluations, and provide improved and timely mental health crisis care, as well as ongoing mental health outpatient treatment.
- Evaluate facilities used for education programs. Because of the number and types of facilities needed to facilitate education programs, and the uniqueness of individual facilities, a special planning effort is needed in this area.
- An interior fence to physically separate male and female wards has recently been completed at the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. An evaluation of the operational success of the ward separation project (female wards from male wards) will determine if other capital outlay projects are needed to meet the specific needs of the segregated populations.

- Evaluate the condition of modular buildings that house permanent programs. Using its architectural and engineering staff, the Department has performed a visual inspection of each of its modular buildings. The remaining useful life of each modular structure was approximated along with current and estimated future repair costs. A five-year plan for the replacement of these modular buildings is currently being developed from the information collected.
- Evaluate the conversion of dry rooms to wet rooms (rooms containing toilet/sinks) to address ward profile changes in order to insure the safety of staff and other wards.
- The Department is evaluating the operation of its Specialized Management Units (detention units). This evaluation exercise may generate physical plant alterations to meet programmatic changes.

# SECTION I

## DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The California Department of the Youth Authority (CYA) institution population is projected to be 7,685 wards on June 30, 2007, an increase of 305 above the June 30, 2000 population of 7,380. The CYA supervised parole population is expected to decrease from 4,642 wards to 4,430 wards between June 30, 2000 and June 30, 2007. The Department projects that in the next seven years:

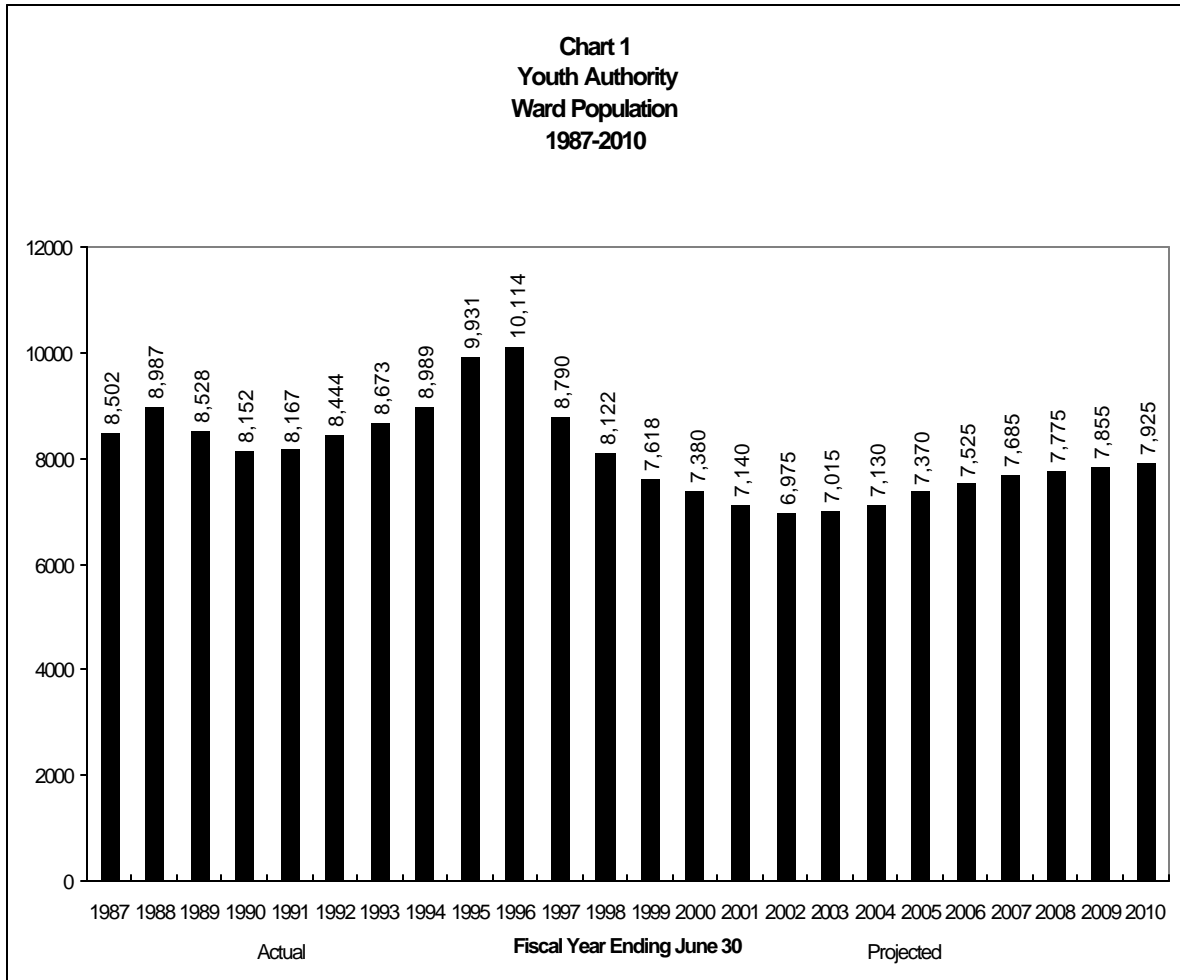
- (1) first admissions from juvenile court will rise slowly;
- (2) average length of institutional stay will stabilize at 26.6 months;
- (3) annual parole violator admissions will drop from 1,052 to 835; and
- (4) average parole length-of-stay will increase gradually from 20.5 months to 21.8 months.

Future population increases will result from the growth in the number of first admissions from juvenile court directly resulting from increases in the at-risk population ages 12 through 17 years. According to the Department of Finance, the number of persons between the ages of 12 and 17, the primary at-risk group for commitment to the CYA will increase from 2.6 million in 1995, to 3.7 million by the year 2007. This increase of 42 percent is a higher rate of increase than the general population growth of 20 percent for all ages over this same period.

### Population Projections

#### A. Institution Population Projection

Chart 1 illustrates the Department's fluctuating institution population since 1987 and the anticipated increase in population beginning in 2003, which is projected to climb to 7,925 wards by 2010.



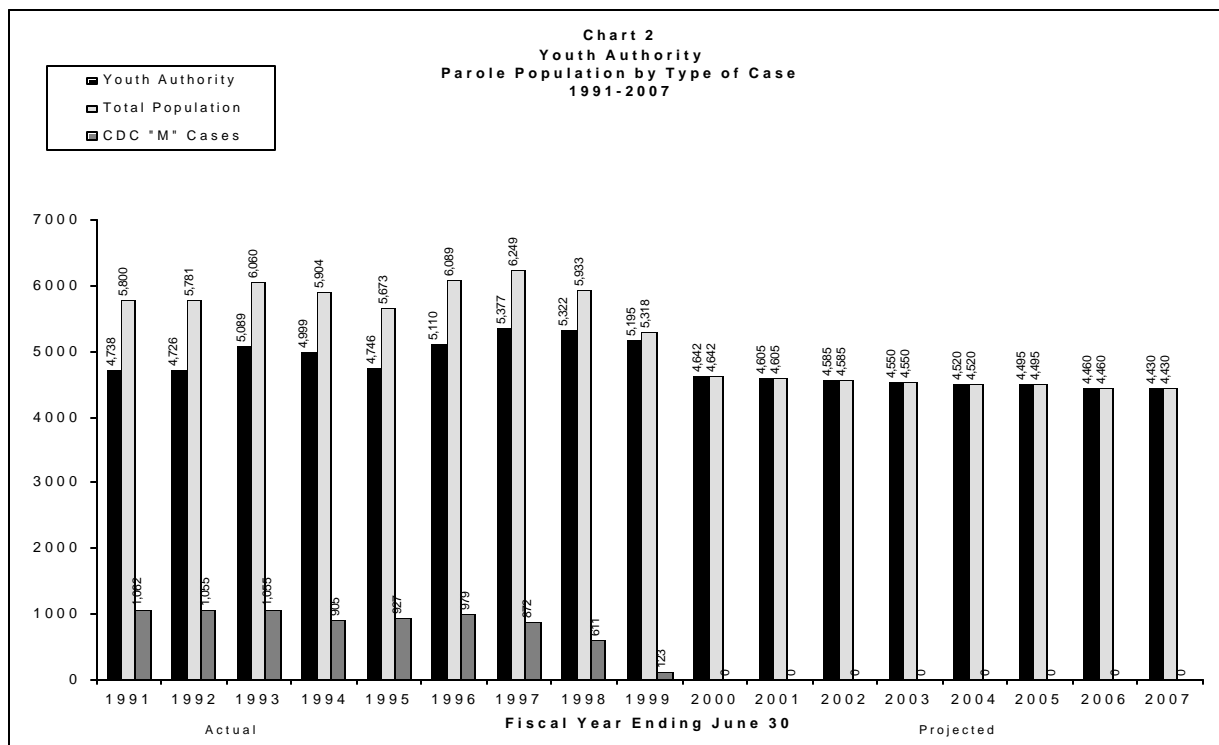
During the period from June 30, 1987 to June 30, 1988, the CYA institution population grew from 8,502 to 8,987, an increase of nearly 6 percent. Following that period programs, policies, and procedures were implemented which reduced institution population. By 1996 however, the population had increased to 10,114 wards. It is anticipated that although the overall institution population will decrease during the next two years, it will gradually increase once again to 7,925 wards in 2010, due to trends in juvenile court admissions, increases in the number of youth in the at-risk group, and longer institution lengths of stay for offenders committed for violent crimes.

**B. Parole Population Projection**

Chart 2 displays the actual and projected parole population for the CYA cases and the California Department of Corrections' (CDC) "M" cases<sup>i</sup>. The number of CYA cases on parole in California is expected to decrease slowly from 4,642 on June 30, 2000, to 4,430 wards by June 30, 2007. No CDC "M" cases are currently, or projected to be, on CYA parole due to legislation enacted in 1996, which eliminates the CYA parole supervision of "M" cases.

<sup>i</sup> Refer to page 7 regarding AB 3369 which changed the law pertaining to "M" cases.





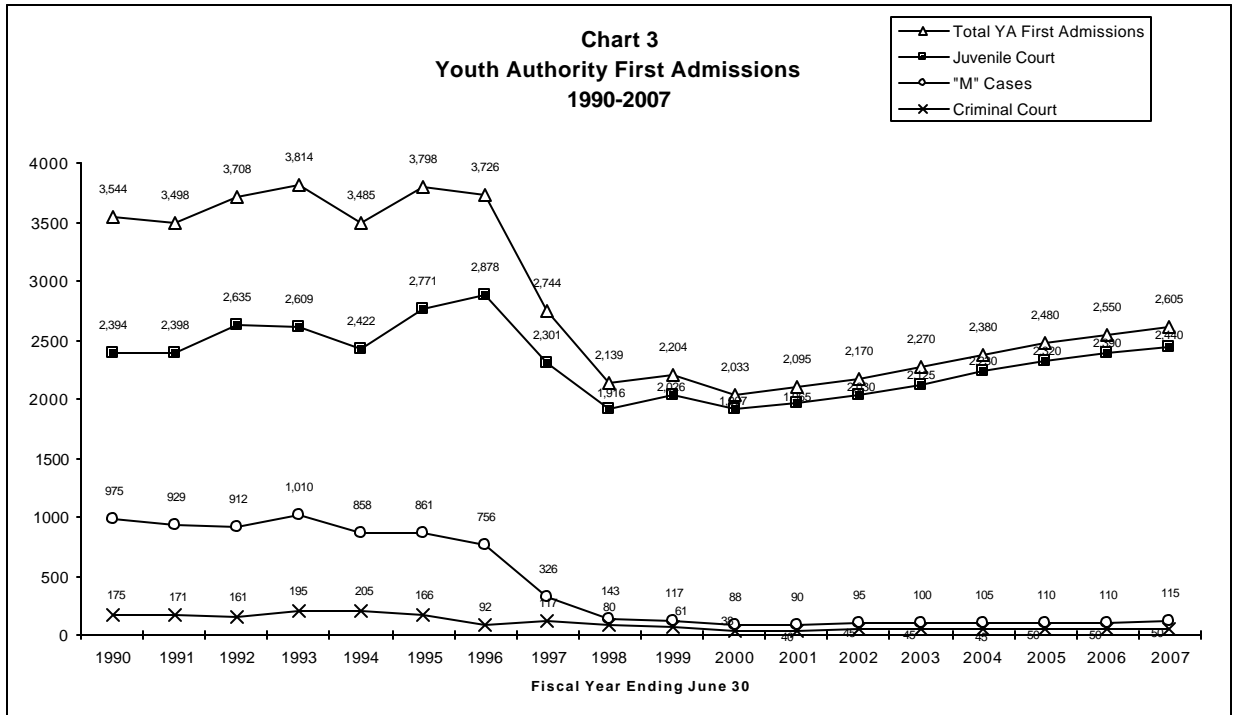
## Population Projection Determinants

### (1) First Admissions

The projections shown in Chart 3 are based on the 1990 Census projections of at-risk youth in California prepared by the Department of Finance. Information used to compile these figures show that the number of Hispanic youth ages 15-19 is growing at a faster rate than other ethnic groups. CYA is watching the projected at-risk youth population to determine additional educational resources needed to provide instruction in English language acquisition, individualized learning programs, as well as special programs for all eligible students.

As shown in this chart, total first admissions dropped from 3,726 in 1996 to 2,139 during 1998, while admissions during 1999 increased to 2,204. Annual admissions are projected to slowly increase, reaching 2,605 by 2007. Currently, approximately 94 percent of all first admissions are from juvenile court and 6 percent are from criminal court. Of the current number of criminal court commitments, approximately 70 percent are "M" cases.

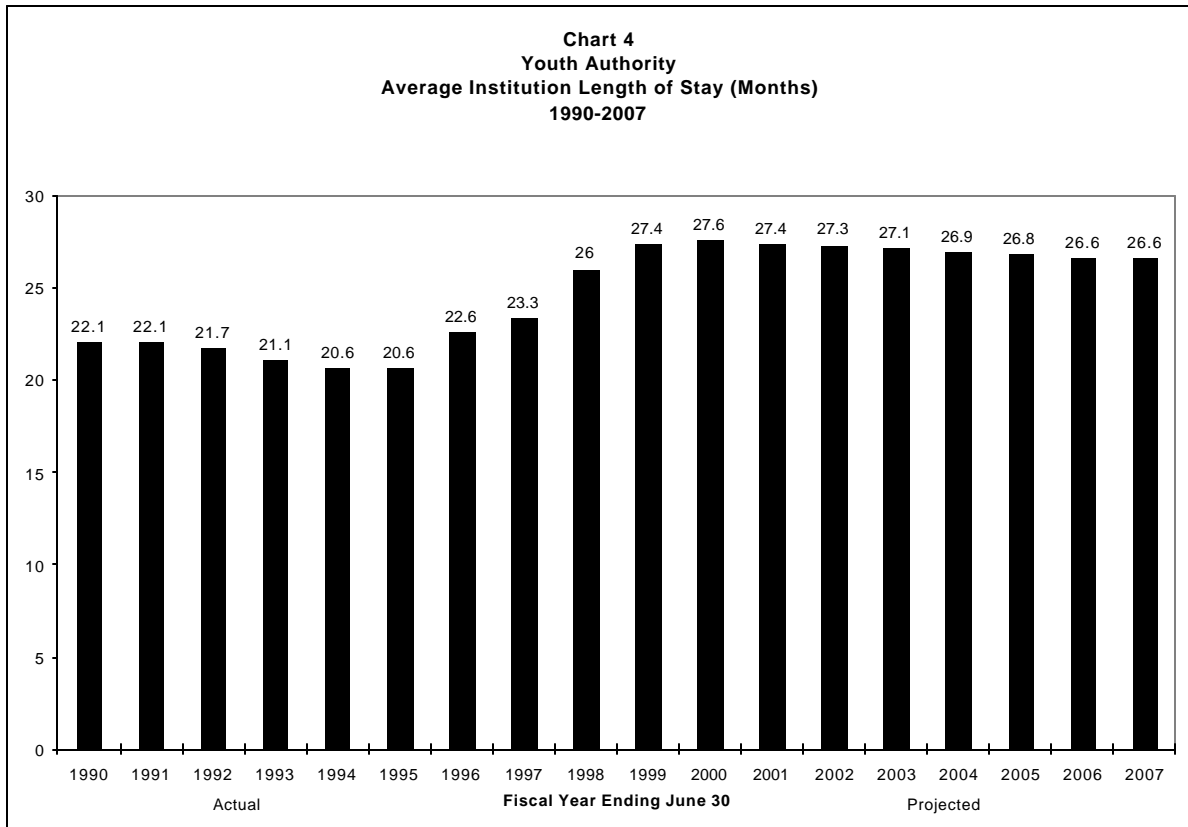
Juvenile court first admissions are projected to increase by 28 percent, from 1,907 in 2000, to 2,440 in 2007, as a result of projected increases in statewide youth population. CDC's "M" case admissions are also projected to increase, from 88 in 2000, to 115 in 2007. Other criminal court admissions are anticipated to increase from 38 to 50 between 2000 and 2007. These increases are based on the anticipated increase in the number of individuals in the age group only. The impact from Proposition 21 (see page 8) is not reflected at this time due to uncertainty over the impact on the juvenile population.



**(2) Institution Length of Stay**

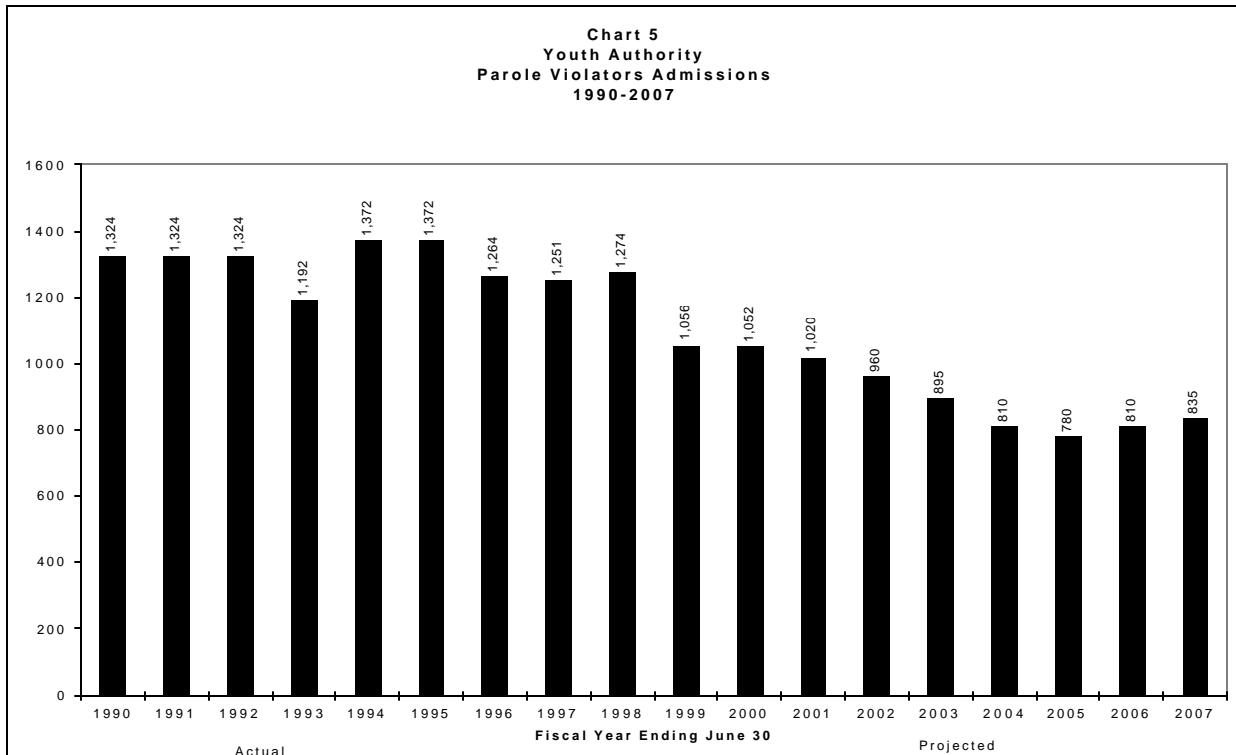
A CYA ward's total length of stay is determined by the initial Parole Consideration Date (PCD) given by the Youthful Offender Parole Board (YOPB). This is based primarily on the commitment offense, the net of time adds and program audit reductions resulting from program performance, and the impact of any policy changes.

Chart 4 shows that the average institution length of stay for the CYA cases gradually decreased from 22.1 months in Fiscal Year 1989/1990 to 20.6 months for 1994/1995 and then gradually increased to 27.6 months in 1999/2000. Since 1999/2000, the average length of stay is projected to slowly decrease, stabilizing at 26.6 months by 2005/2006. Length of stay continues to remain high due primarily to a higher proportion of commitments for violent offenses.



**(3) Parole Violators Admissions**

Chart 5 displays parole violators admissions for the period from July 1, 1990 through June 30, 2007. The Department projects that the number of parole violator admissions will drop from 960 to 835 over the planning period. The projections assume that within four years, 40 percent of all releases to parole will return to the CYA custody due to violations committed while on parole.



**(4) Parole Length of Stay**

During Fiscal Year 1999/2000, the average parole length of stay was 20.5 months. The parole length of stay is expected to increase to an average of 21.8 months by June 30, 2007, due primarily to more serious cases with more jurisdiction/confinement time available.

**Other Factors Impacting Future CYA Population**

While the Department’s population projections are based on a number of factors including the number of first admissions, the institutional length of stay, the number of parole violators, and the length of stay on parole, there are a number of other factors that can impact population projections. They include changes in the existing criminal justice system, changes in the State’s demographics, and new legislation.

Future changes in sentencing laws or in juvenile justice policies can result in an increase or decrease in CYA commitments and length of stay. The development of local corrections options and changes in state or local funding levels for corrections can impact CYA commitment rates in the long term.

Changes in California's demographics will have a direct impact on future CYA commitments and the Department’s population. For example, changes in statewide migration patterns, age composition of the statewide population, economic trends, the unemployment rate, youth gang involvement, and the use of drugs by the youth population in California can all affect the Department’s population.

**Legislation**

Two pieces of legislation have significantly impacted the Department's population trends. They are as follows:

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- Senate Bill (SB) 681 by Senator Hurtt (Chapter 6, Statutes of 1996) became effective January 1, 1997. This legislation requires counties to pay the State for each juvenile court commitment to the CYA. The cost for wards with more serious commitment offenses (YOPB Hearing Categories I – IV) is \$150 per month. The cost for wards with less serious offenses is based on a sliding scale percentage of the CYA per capita cost: 50 percent for Board Hearing Category V commitments, 75 percent for Category VI, and 100 percent for Category VII. The per capita cost to house a ward in the CYA has been capped by subsequent legislation, SB 2055 by Senator Costa (Chapter 632, Statutes of 1998) at the 1996/1997 level of \$31,200. Prior to SB 681, counties paid \$25 per month for all juvenile court commitments.

The number of juvenile court first admissions dropped from 2,878 in 1995/1996 to 2,301 in 1996/1997, and to 1,916 in 1997/1998, primarily as a result of the implementation of the sliding scale fees on January 1, 1997. Admissions during 1998/1999 totaled 2,026. Juvenile court first admissions are expected to remain low (1,907 to 2,440 per year) through 2006/2007, but will rise as the at-risk population in the State grows. The high cost of committing less serious offenders to the CYA is expected to change its population toward a higher percentage of serious, violent offenders. This in turn will have an impact on the average length of stay for wards that remain within a CYA institution. It is estimated that the average length of stay in CYA institutions will stabilize at approximately 26.6 months during the planning period.

<u>YOPB Category</u>	<u>95-96</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>97-98</u>	<u>98-99</u>	<u>99-00</u>
I-IV(serious offenses)	43.8%	46.0%	49.5%	47.4%	42.2%
V	23.5	25.2	26.7	26.2	28.9
VI	30.4	26.6	22.3	25.0	27.0
VII (least serious offenses)	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.9

- Assembly Bill (AB) 3369 by Assembly Member Bordonaro (Chapter 195, Statutes of 1996) became effective July 22, 1996 and significantly impacted the Department's population by placing further limitations on the number of CDC inmates, or "M" cases, who can be housed within CYA facilities. This statute limits the housing option for remanded minors to those offenders who are less than 18 years of age at their time of sentencing and who can complete the imposed sentence by or before age 21. In addition to those cases impacted by AB 3369, the Department reviewed the existing "M" case population and adopted plans for transferring those cases with an Earliest Possible Release Date (EPRD) of age 21 or older to CDC. The

Department transferred 822 wards during the Fiscal Year 1996/1997 to CDC. In addition, CYA's population projections continue to reflect a reduction of approximately 700 wards per year in the admission of "M" cases.

**Legislation Enacted in 2000:**

- Proposition 21, the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act of 1998, was passed by the voters in March 2000. The initiative was a compilation of various measures impacting criminal conduct by juveniles. The following are excerpts from the proposition that could have an impact on the Department's population.

Proposition 21 requires prosecution in adult court of any individual 14 years or older for violation of one of the following offenses:

1. Murder with special circumstances if the minor personally killed the victim.
2. The following sex offenses, if the minor is alleged to have personally committed the offense and if the prosecutor alleges special circumstances as applied in Penal Code (PC) §667.61:
  - a. Rape PC §261(a)(2)
  - b. Spousal rape PC §262(a)(1)
  - c. Forcible sex offense in concert PC §264.1
  - d. Forcible lewd and lascivious act on a child under 14 PC §288(b)
  - e. Forcible penetration by foreign object PC §289(a)
  - f. Sodomy or oral copulation by force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury PC §286 or §288(a)
  - g. Lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 14, unless the defendant qualifies for probation PC §288(a)

This section of the initiative would likely result in little impact to Department referrals. Current law allows prosecutors to file motions for remand for many of these offenses. Because of the severity of these offenses, most individuals would currently face fitness hearings and would likely be found unfit. Individuals who are 14 or 15 years of age, and are sentenced in criminal court will continue to be placed in the Department because of the state law restriction prohibiting housing individuals under the age of 16 in state prisons.

Proposition 21 lowers the age from 16 to 14 years for presumption of "unfitness" of individuals to remain under the jurisdiction of juvenile court when alleged to have committed an offense listed in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §707(b). This initiative also increases the list of offenses in WIC §707(b) to include robbery (without any enhancements) and voluntary manslaughter. The presumption of "unfitness" would be assumed for individuals 16 or 17 years old, if they had been found to have committed two or more previous felony offenses after reaching 14 years of age.

Under Proposition 21, a "fitness hearing" is held in which a decision is made by the juvenile court after reviewing five specific criteria. Those individuals that are found unfit for juvenile court would be tried in criminal court, which would likely result in a commitment to state prison

or a state prison commitment with "housing" in CYA. Because this initiative also prohibits certain criminal court commitments from being sentenced to CYA (see page 10), many individuals currently coming to CYA for these offenses would receive prison commitments instead. Some would probably be ordered "housed" at CYA, but most of those, because of typical terms for these offenses, would be transferred to CDC at age 18. This initiative's modification to remand, direct filing in criminal court and criminal court commitment criteria could have a significant impact on the CYA population. The impact would likely result in the movement of wards to state prison.

Proposition 21 allows the District Attorney to file cases directly in criminal court for an individual 14 years or older, if either:

1. The minor is alleged to have committed an offense, which, if committed by an adult, would be punishable by death or imprisonment in the state prison for life.
2. The minor is alleged to have personally used a firearm during the commission or attempted commission of a felony.
3. The minor is alleged to have committed an offense listed in WIC §707(b) and any one of the following circumstances apply:
  - a. The minor has previously been found to have committed an offense listed within WIC §707(b).
  - b. The offense was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of or in association with any criminal street gang pursuant to PC §186.22, with the specific intent to promote further, or assist in any criminal conduct by gang members.
  - c. The offense was committed for the purpose of intimidating or interfering with any other person's free exercise or enjoyment of any right secured to him or her by the Constitution of laws of this state or by the Constitution or laws of the United States and because of the other person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, or because the minor perceives that the other person has one or more of those characteristics described in Title 11.6 of the Penal Code, commencing with PC §422.6 (hate crimes).
  - d. The victim of the offense was 65 years of age or older, blind, deaf, quadriplegic, paraplegic, developmentally disabled, or confined to a wheelchair, and that disability was known or reasonably should have been known to the minor at the time of commission of the offense.

Proposition 21 allows the District Attorney to file cases directly in criminal court for an individual 16 or 17 years old, if they have previously been found to be in violation of any felony offense (under WIC §602), committed after the age of 14 or older, as listed below:

1. A felony offense in which it is alleged that the victim of the offense was 65 years of age or older, blind, deaf, quadriplegic, paraplegic, developmentally disabled, or confined to a

wheelchair and that disability was known or reasonably should have been known to the minor at the time of commission of the offense.

2. A felony offense was committed for the purpose of intimidating or interfering with any other person's free exercise or enjoyment of any right secured to him or her by the Constitution or laws of this state or by the Constitution or laws of the United States and because of the other person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, or because the minor perceives that the other person has one or more of those characteristics described in Title 11.6 of the Penal Code, commencing with PC §422.6 (hate crimes).
3. The offense was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with, any criminal street gang as prohibited by PC §186.22, with the specific intent to promote further, or assist in any criminal conduct by gang members.

It is unclear what impact the changes proposed will have on the likelihood of a case being filed in criminal court, but it can be presumed that enabling the District Attorney to file a case directly in criminal court will likely result in a significant increase in cases actually tried in adult court. A phone query of some deputy district attorneys indicates that there is likelihood that many cases that are currently filed for fitness hearings, will, instead, go directly to criminal court. Currently, many of those cases are negotiated to CYA commitments from juvenile court. With direct filings, those negotiations (plea bargains) will not occur. Coupled with the proposed reduction of eligibility for commitment from criminal court, as previously mentioned, there will likely be a significant movement of individuals to CDC who currently would come to CYA from either juvenile or criminal court.

Proposition 21 requires the court to commit a minor to placement in a juvenile hall, ranch, camp, forestry camp, boot camp, secure juvenile home pursuant to WIC §730, or in any institution operated by the Department, if either:

1. The minor is found to be a fit and proper subject to be dealt with under the juvenile court law pursuant to WIC §707(a)(2); or
2. For any offense for which the prosecutor may file the accusatory pleading in criminal court pursuant to WIC §707(a)(2).

The proposition states that, in specified cases where an individual 16 or 17 years of age was found fit for juvenile court, or if the district attorney could have filed the case directly in criminal court, that the disposition options for the juvenile court would be limited to secure local detention facilities or CYA. Currently, courts also have many other options available that include non-secure, privately operated placements, in addition to non-secure county programs or probation supervision. The decision for the appropriate placement has traditionally been left to the juvenile court. Because the placement restrictions proposed by this bill will likely place additional burden on local detention facilities, it would also likely result in many individuals being committed to CYA that, prior to this bill, would have received local detention.

Proposition 21 prohibits the commitment of individuals to the Youth Authority if he or she is convicted in criminal court for the commission of:



1. An offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 602 (murders if personally killed the victim and specified sex offenses).
2. An offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707, if the minor was 16 years of age or older.
3. A felony offense committed against a victim age 65 or older, or blind, deaf, quadriplegic, paraplegic, developmentally disabled, or confined to a wheelchair; or a felony offense committed because of the person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.

The impact on CYA commitments from this provision would be minimal, as the Department currently receives few direct commitments from criminal court. Individuals who are ordered housed, because of the increased terms, may not be able to finish their term by age 21 and would then be transferred to state prison at age 18. The impact from adult court, therefore, would probably result in a small reduction of these cases.

Proposition 36 the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, was passed by the voters in November 2000. This initiative requires drug treatment services in lieu of incarceration for persons convicted of drug possession or use crimes. *This provision applies only to Superior (adult) court commitment, or convictions of a drug offense.* A review of the Department's current population has determined that there are presently no juveniles under Youth Authority jurisdiction that were convicted of a drug possession or use offense.

The initiative also prohibits revocation of persons on parole for a drug-related offense or drug-related condition of parole. Again, this provision does not impact the Department of the Youth Authority since the language and construction of this provision is applicable only to the Department of Corrections and the Board of Prison Terms.

# SECTION II

## FIVE-YEAR POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN 2002-2007

Pursuant to Chapter 905, Statutes of 1994, the CYA is required to submit to the Legislature an annual Five-Year Population and Facilities Master Plan. The purpose of this Plan is to review the projected population, ward-behavioral characteristics and treatment needs, and to set forth a plan to provide the necessary bed space and programming appropriate for those needs. This document, the 2002-2007 Plan, presents population projections for the planning period, and assesses the adequacy of available institution housing capacity to meet these needs.

As demonstrated in Section I, while the projected population of CYA does not justify added design bed capacity, the majority of existing living units and program spaces were designed for the youth population served in the 1960s and earlier. Of the total 6,821-design bed capacity in place at the end of the planning period, 2,142 or nearly 31 percent are in open dormitory housing units. Table 2 provides a summary of the composition of design bed capacity at the CYA.

Dormitory space	2,142
Single dry rooms (rooms w/o lavatory sink and toilet)	483
Single wet rooms (rooms with lavatory sink and toilet)	4,117 <sup>ii</sup>
El Centro (contracted) pre-parole program	18
Camp Roberts (former military base) CCC program	40
Transitional Residential Program	<u>21</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,821*</b>

\* CYA is in the process of reviewing and revising its Design Bed Capacity figures based upon institutional changes that occurred in the past three years, since the last revision.

During 2000, 49 percent of all first admissions were committed to CYA for violent offenses. During the five-year period from 1996 through 2000, commitments for violent offenses averaged 54 percent of all first admissions. While current population trends reflect a flattening and reduction in violent commitments, because these offenders serve longer lengths of stay than offenders committed for less serious offenses, the proportion of violent offenders within youth correctional facilities will remain high.

<sup>ii</sup> Includes 50 beds recently completed at SYCRCC

The number of wards with mental health problems, special education needs and the number of violent commitments has caused the Department to review the adequacy of its physical plant resources. Areas of particular emphasis are discussed below.

### **Mental Health Treatment Needs**

The California Department of Corrections (CDC) and most other state correctional systems have been successfully sued for lack of adequate mental health services. The Youth Authority is not immune to this type of litigation (e.g., Youth Law Center's suit against CYA concerning Correctional Treatment Centers) and is increasingly under scrutiny by outside advocacy organizations that cite CYA's deficiencies in this area. CYA is mandated under the Federal constitution to provide adequate and timely mental health care to all wards who need these services. "Deliberate indifference" to mental health needs has been held to be a violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. There is now a body of case law resulting from litigation against states that have not provided adequate services to its wards. These precedential cases have determined that "deliberate indifference" is shown when correctional officials knowingly allow to exist untimely access to staffing, and inadequate facilities, equipment or procedures to diagnose and treat medical and mental health problems.

Medical and mental health programs currently available at CYA evolved over the last fifty years on a decentralized basis in regards to program development, allocation, and service delivery. Medical services at CYA have also been subject to erosion brought on by statewide budgetary constraints that occurred between 1982 and 1996. The mental health programs that exist today at CYA are a patchwork of specialized programs that are unique to their respective institutions with substantial gaps in necessary staffing, operating resources and physical space requirements.

CYA currently has fewer than desired number of treatment facilities to address the medical and mental health needs of the ward population. Currently CYA operates a total of 275 Intensive Treatment Program, 248 Specialized Counseling Program, 140 Sex Offender Program and 77 infirmary beds. With the exception of a newly constructed ITP at its Southern Reception Youth Correctional Center, the Department operates these programs out of regular living units, most of which are old and outdated, and utilizes miscellaneous space throughout the institution or modular units for the needed program support and treatment space. The support space represents converted or shared spaces throughout each institution, such as storage rooms, conference rooms and meeting rooms, which space has been commandeered at the expense of other institutional programs and functions.

The lack of more appropriate office and treatment space has been detrimental to the recruitment and retention of qualified mental health professionals, who are directly responsible for the implementation of the Mental Health Service Delivery System (MHSDS).

### **Secured Facilities Needs**

The population mix of wards has greatly changed since the majority of the department's facilities were constructed in the 1950's and 1960's. The current ward population is older, more violent and a growing

number diagnosed as mentally ill. This changing population has caused CYA to review security in the following areas:

- Adequacy of institutional perimeter security systems
  - Adequacy of internal security systems
  - The existence of single occupancy dry rooms (rooms without sanitary facilities)
1. The CYA has conducted a survey of all institution security perimeter systems, perimeter buildings and sallyports. As a result, the facility master plan includes projects to improve perimeter security, including fence construction, detection systems, cameras, lighting and the addition or improvement of selected existing entrances and sallyports.
  2. The CYA is reviewing the design of certain aspects of sensitive security areas within its institutions. A team has recently completed preliminary drawings for a prototype-housing unit to replace the lockup facility for Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility's (FCNYCF) Taft Unit located in Whittier, California. Completion of construction of the lockup unit is scheduled for November 2002. A second team will review control rooms, surveillance, security stations, tactical team location (equipment and weapons storage), and cell doors and walls at selected institutions, for security deficiencies and operating inefficiencies.
  3. Dry ward rooms, i.e., individual ward rooms without toilets or sinks, were part of the original dormitory setting. The rooms were unlocked and were used as means to reward well behaved wards with additional privacy. These rooms have long since been converted to locked ward rooms; however, the lack of plumbing has serious implications for wards and staff. Staff have to open the door and escort the ward to the restroom area each time a ward demands toilet access. Each escort allows an opportunity for the ward to act out or to induce an encounter with staff, which at times becomes violent. With the current population of older, sophisticated and more violent wards, the dry room scenario has created a situation where wards can manipulate staff by continually requesting toilet access, or charging staff with cruelty if denied access. CYA is exploring the option converting all dry rooms to wet.

### **Educational Program Needs Assessment**

In May of 1998, the Department adopted a "No Diploma, No Parole" policy for wards committed to the CYA. Under this policy, an individual educational plan is developed for each ward with the goal of attaining a high school diploma prior to release on parole. In October 1999, the Governor signed into law a requirement that the Department provide a course of study for all non-graduates. The Department has conducted a comprehensive review of its educational facilities and is developing a five-year facilities plan to meet the programmatic needs of its educational programs.

Education issues that need to be addressed are: the housing of education programs in deteriorating modular units, the lack of a proper climate control in educational classrooms and additional projects that may result from current litigation. The Department remains under Federal consent decree at three institutions due to the issue of inadequate educational facilities for wards in detention. Detention units now need to be remodeled to assure that appropriate educational facilities are located as an adjunct to the housing unit. While the newer facility, N.A. Chaderjian, was built with this feature, the older facilities

are unable to provide secured educational settings. CYA is exploring options to establish secured areas in its older facilities.

### **Replacement of Modular Buildings with Permanent Structures**

The CYA has more than 36 temporary modular buildings in which permanent institution programs are operated (including 28 modular units for education programs). The condition of the units ranges from fair to extremely poor. A survey coupled with an inspection of all modular units by the Department's architectural and engineering staff has resulted in a comprehensive five-year plan to recommend repair and/or replacement, based upon maximizing the economic remaining useful life of each existing modular unit.

### **Separation of Male and Female Wards**

The operation of the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF) as a segregated institution (male and female wards) will continue to be evaluated to determine if additional capital outlay projects may be required to ensure that each segment of the divided population has full access to educational and treatment resources. By revising the schedules of the wards, the male and female populations are now separated for all treatment and education services, as well as their daily activities, including feeding and recreational programming.

Recent assessment of female ward's mental health treatment needs indicate a higher need for services as compared to the male population. The general characteristics of female wards indicate that they exhibit greater emotional concerns, have substantial history of physical and substance abuse, and are in need of more mental health services than their male counterparts.

### **Five-Year Capitol Infrastructure Plan**

Assembly Bill 1473, (Chapter 606, Statutes of 1999) requires the Governor, in conjunction with the Governor's Budget, to submit annually to the Legislature a five-year infrastructure plan containing specified information concerning infrastructure needs of state agencies, schools, and postsecondary institutions and a proposal for funding the needed infrastructure.

The Department's upcoming 2002-2007 five-year plan, under development, will address in detail the areas noted above in a comprehensive manner, as well as, provide an overall capital outlay needs model for the Department.