

Budget Basics

Prepared by the North Dakota Legislative Council
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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) is responsible for the direction and general administrative supervision, guidance, and planning of adult and juvenile correctional facilities and programs within the state. The department's statutory authority is in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 54-23.3.

ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

The State Penitentiary in Bismarck houses maximum and medium security male inmates. The James River Correctional Center (JRCC) in Jamestown is classified as a medium security housing facility. The Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC) is south of Bismarck and has no fences or barriers to contain the inmates. The Missouri River Correctional Center houses minimum security male inmates whose sentences are not less than 30 days or more than 1 year. The adult services division offers addiction treatment services, a sex offender treatment program, and mental health programs through its treatment department. The division's education program offers a variety of education programs, skills training, and vocational programs. In addition, the division offers work experience through Roughrider Industries.

PAROLE AND PROBATION DIVISION

The department has 17 offices across the state staffed by parole and probation officers who manage offenders on parole or supervised probation and complete presentence investigations ordered by courts. The officers supervise offender compliance with the supervision conditions and provide cognitive, behavioral, and other forms of counseling services. The division operates or participates in drug court programs, GPS monitoring of offenders, drug and alcohol testing of offenders, monitoring of sex offenders, and contracts for services with halfway houses and the Bismarck Transition Center to provide transition services. In calendar year 2023, DOCR supervised an average of 6,808 individuals on parole and probation, including 1,843 females and 4,965 males.

DAKOTA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

During the 2003-05 biennium, DOCR began to contract with the Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (DWCRC) in New England to house its female inmates. The center is owned and operated by the Southwest Multi-County Correction Center Board. The prison at the DWCRC consists of a 70-bed minimum security unit, a 40-bed medium security unit, and a 16-bed orientation unit. In May 2006, a 5-bed high security unit was added to the facility.

HEART RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

The Heart River Correctional Center (HRCC) was opened on the Youth Correctional Center (YCC) campus in 2021. The Heart River Correctional Center houses minimum security female inmates. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation can house 56 women in the Hickory Cottage and Maple Cottage at HRCC. The 2023 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$131.2 million for a new 304-bed HRCC facility that is estimated to be completed in the fall of 2027.

DIVISION OF JUVENILE SERVICES

The Division of Juvenile Services has eight regional offices serving the eight human service regions across the state and is staffed to provide supervision to juveniles committed by the courts. The division also oversees YCC, which is located west of Mandan and is the state's secure juvenile correctional institution. The Youth Correctional Center serves as a secure detention and rehabilitation facility for adjudicated juveniles who require the most restrictive placement and maximum staff supervision and provides appropriate programming to address delinquent behavior. As of October 2024, YCC had 28 residents, all were boys.

Juvenile programming at YCC includes drug and alcohol programming; child psychiatric and psychological services; sex offender programming; a pretreatment program for juveniles who are difficult to manage; and a security intervention group program to inform, educate, and provide juveniles with alternatives to gang activity and gang affiliation. The Youth Correctional Center provides adjudicated adolescents an opportunity to complete or progress toward completing their education coursework while in residence through an accredited junior high and high school.

JAMES RIVER MINIMUM UNIT

The James River Minimum Unit, formerly known as the Tompkins Rehabilitation and Corrections Center, is located on the State Hospital campus. The unit provides a cognitive behavioral treatment approach utilizing cognitive restructuring groups to reduce risks to reoffend and consists of two wards (60 beds) for males.

FREE THROUGH RECOVERY PROGRAM

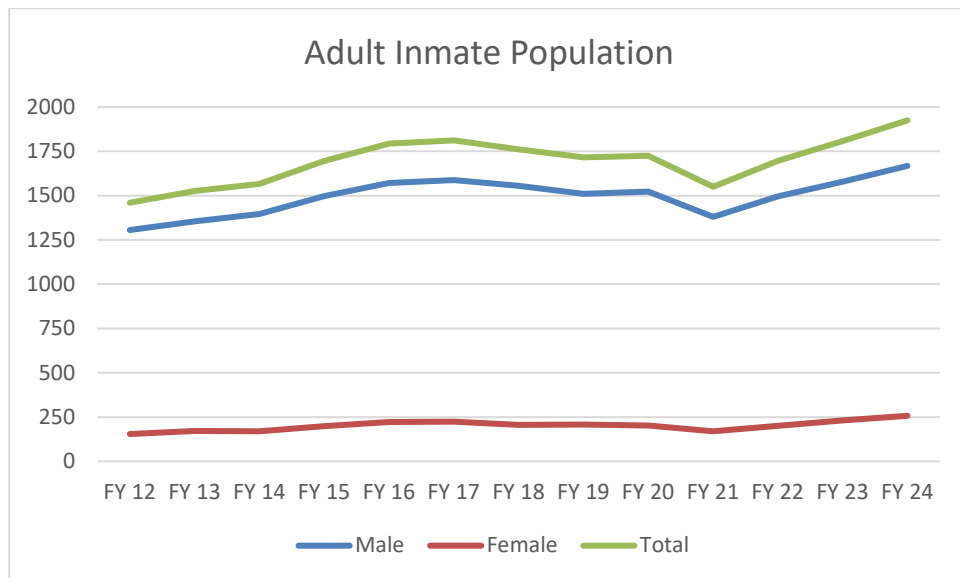
The 2017 Legislative Assembly provided for the establishment of a community behavioral health program as a term of parole or an alternative to incarceration. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, developed and implemented the free through recovery program. The 2023 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$15.5 million from the general fund for the 2023-25 biennium for the program. The funding is provided directly to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services reported in November 2023, the program had served just under 5,000 people over 5 years and has reduced recidivism for those at higher criminogenic risk.

ADULT INMATE POPULATION

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation had an adult inmate average population of 1,981 in June 2024, as follows:

	State Penitentiary	JRCC	MRCC	DWCRC	HRCC	Other Facilities ¹	Total
Male	811	480	193			234	1,718
Female				124	51	88	263
Total	811	480	193	124	51	322	1,981

¹Other contract facilities population includes individuals sentenced to DOCR and placed in interstate compact facilities, transition centers, treatment centers, community placement, and county and regional facilities.



**SUMMARY OF THE 2023-25 BIENNIUM
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION BUDGET**

As approved by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the 2023-25 biennium DOCR budget totals \$445.8 million. Of this amount, \$255.5 million is from the general fund, \$170.2 million is from special funds, and \$20.1 million is from federal funds. A summary of the approved DOCR budget for the 2015-17 biennium through the 2023-25 biennium is shown below.

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General fund	\$204,510,187	\$214,336,704	\$229,678,076	\$218,165,809	\$255,467,963
Other funds	38,362,706	39,264,160	96,814,143	83,500,199	\$190,317,124
Total	\$242,872,893	\$253,600,864	\$326,492,219	\$301,666,008	\$445,785,087
Full-time equivalent positions	836.29	845.29	899.79	907.79	929.79

The next and final topic in the *Budget Basics* series will review the Department of Transportation.