This report summarizes the JFA Institute’s report on the RIDOC’s ten-year prison population projections for FY2017-2027. JFA created a model of the RI prison system by analyzing past trends, RI’s sentencing structure and the flow of prisoners to and from the RIDOC to create the projections in this summary. This allows us to have a glimpse into what may be expected from the RIDOC population in the next ten years.

**Changes in Crimes Reported in Rhode Island**

- Reported crime has decreased by an average of 1.6% each year.
- In 2014 RI had significantly lower violent crime rates than the nation.
- Total crime rates decreased in RI by 10.8% between 2013 and 2014.
- Violent crime fell by 10.4% and property crime dropped 11% in RI in 2014.

**Trends in Awaiting Trial & Sentenced Populations**

- From FY2006 through FY2016 awaiting trial admissions have decreased by an average of 2.6% per annum.
- FY2014 saw a reversal in recent years of decreasing awaiting trial admissions with an increase of 12.3% but awaiting trial admissions returned to the overall trend of declining in 2015 and 2016, falling 9.6% and 6.4% respectively.
- Between FY2006 and FY2016 the female sentenced population has decreased by an average of 5.9% while the male sentenced population fell by an average of 1% per year.
- Total persons held by the RIDOC decreased between FY 2015 and 2016 from 3,169 to 2,980, a decrease of 6%. This is the largest decrease in the year end population since 2010.
The key three “drivers” of the RIDOC sentenced prison population will be the number of prisoners sentenced by the courts, the types of crimes they have been sentenced for, and the length of the confinement times imposed by the type of crime. For the awaiting trial populations, the key factors are the number of persons committed and the length of stay before release to prison or the community. Currently, the number of new admissions per year are decreasing in Rhode Island.

The JFA simulation model projects the total inmate population to increase 3.2% at an average annual rate of 0.3% between fiscal year-end 2017 and fiscal year-end 2027.

The JFA simulation model projects the total awaiting trial population to decrease by an average annual rate of 0.6% between fiscal year-end 2017 and fiscal year-end 2027.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Leann Anderson, Planner in the Planning and Research Unit at the RIDOC at leann.anderson@doc.ri.gov or 462-3623.