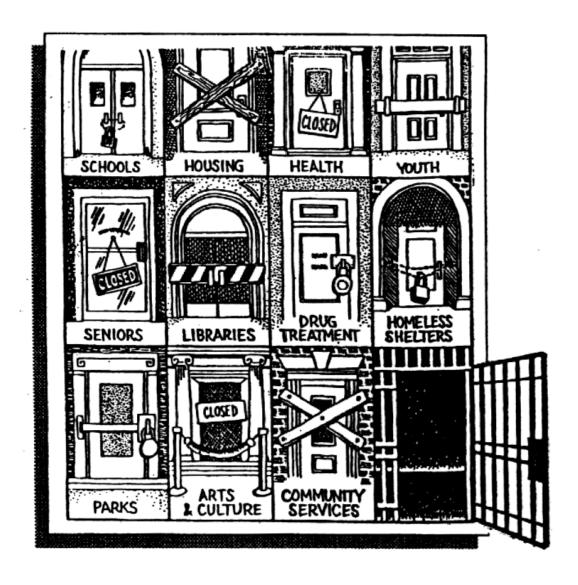
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Colorado Prison Facts 2006



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Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition Organizational Endorsers

Alexandria Temple of Universal Metaphysics	Denver	Left Hand Book Collective	Boulder
ACLU of Colorado	Denver	Libertarian Party of Colorado	Arvada
American Friends Service Committee	Denver	Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry	Denver
Amnesty International	Denver	Mighty Muse Writing Project	Colorado Springs
Arapahoe House	Thornton	Mountain Forum for Peace	Nederland
Bayaud Industries, Inc.	Denver	NAACP Region IV Prison Project	Denver
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church	Denver	National Alliance for the Mentally III	Littleton
Boulder Green Alliance	Boulder	National Lawyers' Guild	Denver
Boulder Unity Church	Boulder	Neighborhood Rites of Passage	Denver
Brother Jeffs Cultural Center & Cafe	Denver	New Foundations Nonviolence Center	Denver
Carbondale Clay Center	Carbondale	Northern Colorado CURE	Fort Collins
Catholic Charities	Denver	Northern Colorado Social Legislation Network	Fort Collins
Cell Door Magazine	Mancos	Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives	Denver
Center for Justice, Peace and Environment	Fort Collins	Padres Unidos	Denver
CHARG Resource Center	Denver	PeaceJam Foundation	Arvada
Charity's House Ministries	Centennial	Peacemaker Institute	Boulder
Christian Men's Resource Center	Denver	Pendulum Foundation	Colorado Springs
Coloradans Against the Death Penalty	Denver	Physicians for Social Responsibility	Denver
Colorado Anti-Violence Program	Denver	Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission	Colorado Springs
Colorado Black Women for Political Action	Denver		
		Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church Poudre Valley Greens	Colorado Springs Fort Collins
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Denver	Prison Dharma Network	Boulder
Colorado Coamilor for the Homeless Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Association	Denver	Reclaim Democracy	Boulder
Colorado Cuba Information Project	Denver	Rocky Mountain Mennonite Conference	Pueblo
Colorado Cuba information i Toject	Denver	Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center	Boulder
Colorado Corce Colorado New Jewish Agenda	Denver	Saint Mary's Cathedral	Colorado Springs
Colorado NOW	Denver	Saint Thomas of Acquinas Univ. Parish (Social	Colorado oprings
Colorado Progressive Coalition	Denver	Concerns Committee)	Boulder
Colorado Vincentian Volunteers	Denver	San Luis Valley Christian Comm. Services	Alamosa
Colorado West Regional Mental Health	Glenwood	San Luis Valley Welfare Advocates	Alamosa
Colorado West Regional Mental Fleatin	Denver	School Mediation Center	Boulder
Compassionate Use Respects Everyone	Boulder	Second Chance Program	Denver
Conflict Center	Denver	Sopris Greens	Carbondale
Cynergetics Institute	Colorado	Southern Colorado CURE	Peyton
Denver Harm Reduction Project	Denver	Summit Greens	i Cyton
Denver Inner City Parish	Denver	Under the Umbrella	Aurora
Denver Justice & Peace Commission	Denver	Urban League of Denver	Denver
Denver Women's Commission	Denver	Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region	Colorado Springs
EAGR Project	Denver	Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	Boulder
End the Politics of Cruelty	Denver	Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	Denver
Fatherhood Coalition of Metro Denver	Denver	Vincentian Center for Spirituality & Work	Denver
First Congregational Church, UCC	Delivei	Volunteers of America	Denver
(Justice & Peace Committee)	Colorado	Washington Park UCC	Denver
Fort Collins Mennonite Conference	Fort Collins	Weld County Partners	Greeley
Free Speech TV	Boulder	Women United for Justice Community and	Boulder
Gray Panthers of Colorado	Denver	Women's Empowerment Program	Denver
Harm Reduction Project	Salt Lake City,	Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom	Boulder
High Desert Greens	Glade Park	Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom	Greeley
It Takes A Village	Aurora	Women's Lobby	Denver
Jobs with Justice	Englewood	Word is Out Women's Bookstore	Boulder
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COLORADO'S PERPETUAL PRISON CRISIS

In January 2006, the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) submitted a \$644 million budget request to the state Legislature, a \$53 million increase over the current budget. The DOC also stated that it will run out of prison bed space both for men and women this year. The total prison population is projected to grow from 21,000 to over 29,000 by 2011, a 41% increase. The women's prison population is projected to grow 71% during that same time. Similarly, the DOC parole population is also projected to increase dramatically to over 8,000 by 2011.

In its briefing before the Joint Budget Committee, the DOC outlined possible state and private prison expansion plans to increase capacity by 8,000 new prison beds including:

- requesting proposals from private prison companies for 3,000 more private prison beds (2,250 more prison beds for men and 750 more prison beds for women)
- increasing double bunking to add 540 more beds statewide
- adding 263 more prison beds for women by switching facilities at the Pueblo Minimum Center with the Youth Offender System
- expanding the recently opened Cheyenne Mountain private prison in Colorado Springs
- converting Camp George West to a women's facility
- completing construction of a new private prison in Pueblo
- and possible expansions at the state run facilities including Trinidad Correctional Facility, San Carlos Correctional Facility, Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility, Colorado Women's Correctional Facility, Centennial Correctional Facility, Colorado State Penitentiary and the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center.

The DOC has estimated that it will need over \$387 million in capital construction funding in the next five years, which does not include the construction costs borne by the private prison providers. Although there are no immediate plans, the DOC mentioned that another possibility was to send prisoners to facilities out of state.

Even if all of these prison expansion projects were completed, in 2011, the State will be in the same position as it is today because the construction expansion plans will only pace prison population growth, not exceed it. Between 1992-2004, Colorado's average annual prison population growth rate of 7% far exceeds the national average of 4.3%. Between this time period, Colorado also has the highest annual growth rate in our immediate region, including Kansas (3.4%), Oklahoma (3.8%), Wyoming (5.3%), New Mexico (5.7%), Arizona (5.8%), and Utah (6.9%).

Sources:

FY 2006-07 Joint Budget Committee, Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, (January 3, 2006); Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing, (January 9, 2006).

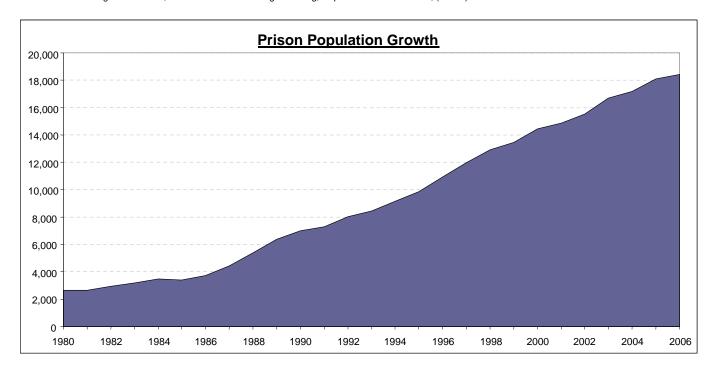
Prison Growth

❖ As of January 31, 2006, there were 28.243 people under the jurisdiction of the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC): 18,429 in state and private prisons, 2,407 in community corrections, 496 in jail awaiting transfer to DOC, 267 escapes/walkaway and 6,644 on parole. The prison population has increased 604% since 1980. During the same time, the population of the state increased 59%.

Sources: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, "Monthly Population Report," as of January 31, 2006; Census Data

- The prison population is currently growing by just under 100 people per month.
 Source: Colorado Department of Corrections. "Adult Inmate Jurisdictional Population" as of February 7, 2006
- The state currently operates 24 prisons and contracts with private prison operators for 6 more prisons. Since 1990, the state has built 12 new state prisons. All 6 private prisons used by the DOC were constructed since 1993. One new state prison (Colorado State Penitentiary II) and one new private prison (Pueblo) are currently under construction. Additionally, the state will need to add an additional 8,000 prison beds by 2011 to keep pace with the population growth.

Sources: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005); Joint Budget Committee, FY 2006-2007 Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, (1/3/06)



Why are so many people in prison?

The explosive growth in the prison population has been a nationwide trend during the 1980s and '90s. Colorado is no exception. Three primary factors have increased the number of people in prison in our state:

- 1. Increasing sentence length and mandatory sentencing
- 2. The war on drugs
- 3. The declining use of discretionary parole following the passage of legislation requiring mandatory parole and increasing revocation rates on parole.

Sentencing Laws

In 1985, the legislature passed House Bill 85-1320 (The Mielke-Arnold Bill) which doubled the maximum sentence for all felonies. As a result, the *minimum* sentence for crimes of violence was also substantially increased. The Mielke Bill has been widely acknowledged as the birth of Colorado's prison explosion. In a 1998 report on Colorado's adult criminal justice system, the Legislative Council remarked that within three years of the passage of the Mielke Bill, the average sentence length had increased by two-thirds, while the average length of stay (in prison) has increased by 40%.

Source: Colorado Legislative Council Staff, An Overview of the Colorado Adult Criminal Justice System, Research Publication 487 (January 2001), 32, 62-63.

Colorado's incarceration rate

The incarceration rate is a calculation of the number of adults in prison per 100,000 adult residents in the state. In 1980, Colorado's adult incarceration rate was 92. By 2004, that had grown to 438 per 100,000 adult residents. This exceeds South Africa (344), Israel (209), Mexico (191), England and Wales (145), Australia (120), China (118), Canada (116), Germany (97), France (88), Sweden (81) and Japan (60).

Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics, "Adult Prison and Parole Population Projections" (December 2005), 47.

Total Prison Population Projected Growth

Fiscal Year	Total Projected Inmate Population	Total Inmate Population Growth Per Year	Total Inmate Population Growth Average per month	% Change
2007	23,159	1,231	103	5.6%
2008	24,529	1,379	114	5.9%
2009	26,014	1,485	124	6.1%
2010	27,592	1,578	132	6.1%
2011	29,314	1,722	144	6.2%
Total	_	7,386		

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2006, 3.

Incarceration and crime rate:

Criminologists have studied the relationship between crime rates and incarceration rates and have consistently found only a small correlation between the two. In large part, the lack of correlation between the crime rate and the incarceration rate is because only about 3% of crime ever leads to incarceration. The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences found that tripling the time served per violent crime from 1975 to 1989 had no clear impact on violent crime. In that study, the Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior of the National Research Council found that while violent crime rates did decline during the early eighties, they generally rose after 1985 and this increase continued until 1993.

Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics, "Adult Prison and Parole Population Projections" (December 2005), 48.

COST OF INCARCERATION

❖ From fiscal year 1985-86 to fiscal year 2005-06, the state General Fund appropriation to the Department of Corrections grew from \$57 million to \$533.1 million, an increase of 476.1 million. This growth rate represents a compound annual growth rate of 11.8 % over the 20 year period. For fiscal year 2006-07, the Department of Corrections has requested a total budget (all funding sources) in excess of \$644 million.

Source: Joint Budget Committee, FY 2006-2007 Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, pg 2 (1/3/06)

- ❖ In fiscal year 1984-85, General Fund appropriations to the Department of Corrections comprised 2.8% of the state operating budget. By FY 2005-06, DOC General Fund appropriations have increased to 8.6% of the state operating budget. By FY 2005-06, DOC General Fund appropriations have increased to 8.6% of the state operating budget.
 Source: Colorado General Assembly, Joint Budget Committee, Staff Budget Briefing Department of Corrections (January 3, 2006), 4.
- ❖ In 1991, the Legislature limited annual growth of the General Fund budget to 6%. The FY 2005-06 General Fund appropriation is \$172.1 million (44.7%) higher than it would have been had appropriations to the Department of Corrections been limited to 6.0 percent annual compound growth during this time period.

 Source: Joint Budget Committee, FY 2006-2007 Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections, pg 3 (1/3/06)
- ❖ The average FY 2005 annual operating cost per state prison bed is \$27,840. To stay even with the population growth thru 2011, the State will have to invest an additional \$168,159,770 (\$129,136,954 for state and \$39,022,816 for private) for operating costs thru 2011. The average cost of construction is \$83,360 per prison bed. The average construction cost for special needs and high custody beds is \$125,000 and the cost for low security beds would be approximately \$65,000. The state will need to invest approximately \$386,668,694 in construction costs to accommodate inmates in state beds. This does not include any inflationary increases.

Cost of Incarcerated State Inmate Projected Growth

Fiscal Year	Total Inmate Population	Total State Prison Growth	Avg. Monthly Inmate Growth	Avg Cost Per Inmate 2005	Additional Operating Appropriation needed	Avgerage construction cost per bed	Capital construction funding needed
2007	23,159	1096	91	\$27,840	\$30,501,226	\$83,360	\$91,328,382
2008	24,529	515	43		\$14,345,952		\$42,955,408
2009	26,014	526	44		\$14,634,096		\$43,818,184
2010	27,592	1404	117		\$39,099,053		\$117,072,451
2011	29,319	1098	91		\$30,556,627		\$91,494,269
				Total	\$129,136,954		\$386,668,694

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2006, 3,11.

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Prison Bed Expansion-Capital Construction Projects since 1985

Facility	# of Beds	Yr approved	Appropriation
Arkansas Valley- Phase I and Phase II	725	1985	\$42,275,202
Reception & Diagnostic Center-initial	408	1988	\$41,915,500
construction			
Various	282	1987	\$782,600
Limon-Phase I and Phase II construction	953	1988	\$52,290,550
Various-Double bunking	108	1988	\$3,577,829
Colorado Women's Correctional Facility-	48	1989	\$1,324,880
expansion			
Arrowhead Correctional Center	288	1989	\$10,826,040
Delta Correctional Facility	144	1989	\$5,243,210
Colorado State Penitentiary (Phase I)	500	1990	\$48,636,600
San Carlos Correctional Facility	250	1990	\$21,310,000
Boot Camp	100	1990	\$4,690,000
Colorado State Penitentiary (Phase II)	256	1994	\$19,546,250
Delta Correctional Facility	180	1994	\$7,482,200
Denver Women's Correctional Facility	248	1994	\$17,599,816
Denver Women's Correctional Facility	652	1998	\$67,065,770
Youth Offender System	180	1994	\$25,249,500
Sterling-Phase I	1,357	1994	\$77,927,119
Sterling-Phase II	1,088	1998	\$63,138,688
Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility	94	1995	\$4,584,300
Fremont Correctional Facility – Expansion &	267	1995	\$23,198,800
Double			
Four Mile Correctional Facility	192	1997	\$7,922,967
Pueblo Minimum (women)	28	1995	\$641,088
Rifle Correctional Facility	192	1995	\$6,800,000
Trinidad Correctional Facility	480	1997	\$29,950,000
Buena Vista Correctional Facility	292	1997	\$14,078,764
Sub-total Beds constructed	9,312		\$598,057,673
Beds Under Construction			
Colorado State Penitentiary II	948	2003	\$102,800,000**
YOS/Pueblo Minimum swap ("La Vista")	263	Fed funds	\$1,764,267
Total Beds – Including beds under construction	10,523		\$702,621,940

^{*}This list reflects only those projects that added beds. It does not include the cost for renovation, planning prison facilities, life safety projects, or other projects that did not add to the capacity of prison beds.

Source: Colorado General Assembly, Joint Budget Committee, Staff Budget Briefing Department of Corrections (January 3, 2006), Appendix C-2

^{**}CSP II will be built using borrowed money. This total does not reflect the total repayment cost to the state for interest and fees.

WOMEN IN PRISON

❖ In Colorado, the incarceration rate of women has <u>grown faster</u> than the incarceration rate for men. Between 1993 and 2003, the women's prison population grew by 233.3% while the male prison population grew by 106%. The women's prison population is projected to grow another 71% by 2011 from just over 2,100 to over 3,500. The men's prison population is projected to grow by 41% by 2011.

Source: Colorado Legislative Council, An Overview of the Adult Criminal Justice System, Research Publication 538, 16 (January 2005), Colorado General Assembly, Joint Budget Committee, FY 2006-07 Staff Budget Briefing, Department of Corrections (January 3, 2006), Appendix 1A.

The United States incarcerates nearly <u>10 times more</u> women than the countries Western Europe, despite the fact that the overall female population of the two regions is approximately the same.

Source: Amnesty International, Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody (Washington, DC: 1999), 15.

In the last ten years, the Colorado Department of Corrections <u>has built 900 new beds</u> <u>for women</u> prisoners at a cost of <u>\$93.8 million</u>. In 2004, the first private prison for women opened, Brush Correctional Facility.

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2002, by Kristi Rosten (2003), 10; Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 15.

- ❖ To accommodate the growth in the women's prison population, the <u>DOC has developed</u> the following five-year prison expansion plan (2006-2011) for women:
 - contracting with private (for-profit) prison operators for 750 more private prison beds for women
 - adding 263 more prison beds for women by switching facilities at the Pueblo Minimum Center with the Youth Offender System
 - converting Camp George West to a women's facility
 - adding 35 more community corrections/ISP slots for women a year
 - possible expansion at the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility in Canon City Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2006, 14.
- ★ <u>Eighty-six percent</u> of women sent to Colorado's prisons in 2004 were convicted of a <u>non-violent offense</u>. The five most frequent crimes were:
 - drugs 31%
 - theft 15%
 - attempt/conspiracy/accessory to a nonviolent crime 14%
 - escape/contraband 8%
 - forgery 6%

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 36.

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A majority of women prisoners (65%) are mothers of children under 18 years old. Studies have shown that children are greatly affected (academically, behaviorally, and socially) by the incarceration of their mother. A multi-generational impact has also been observed. National data show that foster care for a prisoner's child costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per year. Children with an incarcerated mother are 5 to 6 times more likely to become incarcerated than other children who live in poverty, but whose mothers have never been in prison. A 1998 U.S. News and World Report article found that 51% of girls and 24% of boys in juvenile detention in Colorado had a mother who had been or was currently incarcerated.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children," by Christopher Mumola (2000). Toni Locy. "Like Mother Like Daughter." *U.S. News and World Report.* October 1998, Gregory Hungerford. "The Children of Inmate Mothers in Ohio." West Virginia University. 1993.

Mothers in prison risk having their parental rights terminated during their incarceration. Under Colorado state law, a prisoner's parental rights can be terminated solely on the basis that they won't be parole eligible for 6 years or, in cases involving children under the age of sic, the parent is not eligible for parole for 3 years. Also, according to state law, the Department of Social Services can file to terminate a prisoner's parental rights if their children are in our of home placement for 15 of the last 22 months. Meanwhile, the average sentence for a women incarcerated in Colorado is 4 years.

Sources: Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 19-3-604(1); Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 38.

❖ Women prisoners are three times more likely than men to be seriously mentally ill. In 2002, 42.7% of female inmates had a diagnosis of serious mental illness (compared to 13.9% of male prisoners).

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Budget Request for FY 2004-05,625.

- ❖ 90% of women in prison were assessed to be in need of substance abuse treatment. Two-thirds were assessed to be in moderate severe to severe need.

 Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 47
- **❖** The eithnicity of women in prison is:
- 52.3% Anglo
- 23.2% Latina
- 21% African American
- 2.7% Native American
- .8% Asian

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 80.

The rate of imprisonment for black women is more than eight time the rate of imprisonment of white women; the rate of imprisonment of Latina women is nearly four times the rate of imprisonment of white women. Regardless of similar or equal levels of illicit drug use during pregnant, black women are 10 times more likely than white women to be reported to child welfare agencies for prenatal drug use.

Source: Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999), p. 19; Neuspiel, D.R. "Racism and Perinatal Addiction, "Ethnicity and Disease, 6: 47-55 (1996); Chasnoff,m I.J., Landress, J.F., & Barrett, M.E. "The Prevalence of Illicit Drug or Alcohol Use during Pregnancy and Discrepancies in Mandatory Reporting in Pinellas County, Florida," New England Journal of Medicine, 322: 1202-1206 (1990).

RACIAL DISPARITY

❖ <u>Latino/as</u> account for <u>17.1 %</u> of the population in Colorado, but make up <u>29.9%</u> of the prison population.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 80. Census Data, www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/state/08000.html

❖ Similarly, <u>African-Americans</u> make up <u>3.8%</u> of Colorado's population, but represent <u>20.7%</u> of the state's prison population.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 80. Census Data, www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/state/08000.html

Anglos. however, are 74.5% of the state's population, but only 46.4% of the prison population.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 80. Census Data, www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/state/08000.html

❖ Throughout the country, disproportionate minority incarceration can largely be attributed to drug laws. According to the leading federal survey on drug use, most current illicit drug users are white. The survey identifies 69% of all users as Anglo, 12% as African-American, and 14% as Latino/a. Yet, nationwide, African Americans constitute 35% of those arrested on drug charges, over 45% of federal prisoners serving drug sentences, and 58% of state prisoners serving felony drug sentences.

Sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 1999), 13; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000 (Albany, NY: State Univ. of New York, 2001), 366,526; ---, ---, "Prisoners in 2001," by Allen Beck (Washington, DC: GPO, 2002), 14.

Among persons convicted of drug felonies in state courts, <u>Anglos were less likely</u> than <u>African-Americans to be sent to prison</u>. Thirty percent of convicted whites were sent to prison, whereas 48% of convicted black defendants received prison sentences.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000," by Matthew Durose and Patrick Langan, NCJ 198822 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003), table 2.5.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a male born in 2001 faces the following odds of going to prison during his lifetime:

1 in 3 for African-Americans

1 in 6 for Latinos

1 in 17 for Caucasians

Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001," by Thomas Bonczar, NCJ 197976 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003), 8.

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PEOPLE IN PRISON WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

According to the Department of Corrections (DOC), in 2003, 16% of people in prison in Colorado had a serious mental illness. This is more than five times the rate of mental illness reported in 1991. The DOC also found that there are an insufficient number of community based mental health programs to treat people before they end up in prison.

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Request 9FY2002-03), 106; Offenders with Serious Mental Illness, executive summary 1998, 1-6.

❖ The DOC projects that <u>by 2008</u>, <u>one out of every five people in prison</u> in Colorado will suffer from a serious mental illness.

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Request, 2004-05, 625.

❖ In 1995, the DOC built the <u>San Carlos Correctional Facility in Pueblo</u> to provide psychiatric and psychological services to people in prison with a serious mental illness. Since San Carlos combines intensive psychiatric care with the security functions of a prison, it has the highest operating cost (\$165.18 a day) or \$60,292 a year.

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 28.

ColoradoCriminal Justice Reform Coalition

Prevention, treatment, and alternatives work

Prison should be the last resort

DRUG POLICY

The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition believes current drug laws and policies are overly-punitive, ineffective, inhumane, racially-biased, expensive, and one of the the driving forces behind the largest expansion of the prison population in Colorado history.

Incarceration

❖ Over the past decade, the number of people sent to prison in Colorado for a drug offense has increased 476%, making drug offenders the fastest growing and largest category of felons in prison. Between fiscal years 1987 and 2001, the percentage of prisoners whose most serious offense is a non-violent drug charge quadrupled from 5% to 20%.

Sources: Colorado Legislative Council. An Overview of the Adult Criminal Justice System. Research Pub No.452.9-10. Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Reports (FY 1989 through FY 2004).

❖ As of June 30, 2004, there were 3,932 people in prison for a drug offense. This costs taxpayers over \$106 million dollars per year. In 2001, the DOC profiled people in prison for a drug offense and reported that 50% were convicted of simple possession.

Sources: Colorado Department of Corrections. Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2004 by Kristi Rosten (2005), 70. Colorado Department of Corrections. 2001, "Profile of Drug Offenders in Colorado Department of Corrections."

❖ Nationwide, the United States incarcerates more people for drug offenses (458, 13 1), than the European Union does for <u>all offenses combined</u> (356,626), even though the EU has 100 million more citizens than the U.S.

Source: Phillip Beatty, Barry Holman, and Vincent Schiraldi, *Poor Prescription: The Costs of Imprisoning Drug Offenders in the United States*, (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2000), 3.

Arrest Patterns

❖ In 1999, there were 16,761 adult drug arrests in Colorado. Eighty-eight percent of arrests were for drug possession - 50% for possession of marijuana, 22% for possession of cocaine, 11% for possession of other controlled substances. Only 11.5% of drug arrests were for drug distribution. The adult arrest rate for a drug crime increased from a rate of 222. 1 per 100,000 adult residents (in 1980) to 598.1 per 100,000 adult residents (in 1999).

Sources: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 1999 State Adult Drug Arrests; Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, 1980-1999 Offense/Arrest Data by Crime 2002.

Substance Abuse

❖ According to the latest national survey of substance abuse patterns, Colorado has the <u>fifth highest rate of drug dependence and abuse</u> of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Colorado also has the <u>sixth worst treatment gap</u> (i.e., number of people in need of, but not receiving, treatment) of the fifty states and DC. With the current economic crisis in Colorado, the treatment gap will only widen.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Estimates of Substance Abuse from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, v. 1 (October 2002), 134-35; ---, National and State Estimates of the Drug Abuse Treatment Gap: 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (July 2002), 20.

❖ A 2001 study by the National Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse found that Colorado has the **lowest per capita spending** on substance abuse prevention, treatment, and research out of the 46 reporting states.

Source: Columbia University, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Shoveling up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets (2001), 25.

- Substance abuse in Denver is considerably more severe than in the nation as a whole. A 2002 study of substance abuse patterns in Denver revealed that:
 - Rates of binge drinking and chronic drinking are about 40% higher than national rates
 - Denver residents are hospitalized for alcohol-related illnesses at nearly twice the
 national average ~ Denver arrests and incarcerates drug offenders at more than twice
 the national rate ~ Substance abuse costs Denver residents, businesses and
 government at least \$1.5 billion a year

Source: Drug Strategies, Denver: On the Horizon, Reducing Substance Abuse and Addiction (2002), 2.

According to the Department of Corrections, 90% of men and women in prison are in need of substance abuse treatment. Over two-thirds of women were assessed to be in moderately severe to severe need of substance abuse treatment.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 47.

Substance Abuse Treatment

- ❖ <u>Treatment is effective</u>. In 1998, the Colorado Drug and Alcohol Abuse Division conducted a survey of people who had completed community-based substance abuse treatment programs. The findings showed:
 - Within one year of completing treatment, 78% of patients reported no substance abuse
 - Of those patients who had been arrested prior to treatment, 80% had no re-arrest after treatment
 - Unemployment among the patients surveyed dropped 41% after completion of treatment

Source: Colorado Dept. of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Problems in Colorado: Charecteristics & Trends.

❖ Treatment is cost effective. A 2001 report on Colorado substance abuse treatment found that community-based treatment ranges from \$400 (for education-based programs) to \$20,075 (residential therapeutic community) per patient per year --contrasted with \$28,000 to incarcerate someone in prison.

Sources: Interagency Advisory Committee on Adult and Juvenile Correctional Treatment, "Statewide Bulletin: Analysis of Offender Substance Abuse Treatment Needs and the Availability of Treatment Services" (December 2001). Colorado Dept. of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, The Costs and Effectiveness of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs in the State of Colorado, Report to the Colorado General Assembly (October, 2002).

Racial Disparity

❖ People of color are dramatically over-represented in our prisons. <u>Sixty-nine percent of people in Colorado prisons for drug possession or use are people of color.</u>

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for FY 2002, by Kristi Rosten (2003), 73.

❖ African-Americans (who represent 3.7% of the total state population) constitute 22.4% of the state prison population and 43% of people in prison for drug possession or use.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, "Criminal History Profile of Incarcerated Drug Offenders" (Aug. 17,2001) ---, Statistical Report for FY 2002, by Kristi Rosten (2003), 73; Census data.

Drug Courts

~ In recent years, drug courts have become popular and rapidly expanding tool used in processing drug cases. However, Colorado District Judge Morris B. Hoffman (Second Judicial District) has written, "[a]lthough many studies and many kinds of studies have examined drug courts, none has demonstrated with any degree of reliability that drug courts work." Judge Hoffman goes on to say "[r]eductions in recidivism are so small that if they exist at all they are statistically meaningless. Net-widending is so large, that even if drug courts truly were effective in reducing recidivism, more drug defendants would continue to jam our prisons than ever before." Furthermore, according to Hoffman,

By existing simply to appease two so diametric and irreconcilable sets of principles, drug courts are fundamentally unprincipled. By simultaneously treating drug use as a crime and as a disease, without coming to grips with the inherent contradictions of those two approaches, drug courts are not satisfying either the legitimate and compassionate interests of the treatment community or the legitimate and rational interests of the law enforcement community. They are, instead, simply enabling our continued national schizophrenia about drugs.

Source: Morris B. Hoffman, "The Drug Court Scandal," North Carolina Law Review 78(1437), Chapel Hill, NC: N.C. Law Rev.Assoc. 2000. 1477. 1480. 1496.

Public Opinion

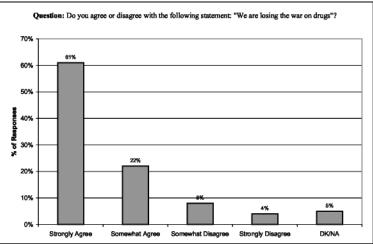
❖ In 2001, CCJRC commissioned an opinion poll of Colorado voters' attitudes toward drugs and drug policy. The poll revealed that Coloradans believe the war on drugs is a failure. Seventy-three percent of those polled want to see decreased penal-ties for drug possession in order to redirect funds to prevention, education and treatment.

Complete results available at www.ccjrc.org

Background on Drug Policy in Colorado

In 2000, Colorado voters approved Amendment 20, which authorizes the medical use of

marijuana to alleviate certain debilitating medical conditions. In 2002, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1404, which radically reformed asset forfeiture laws by requiring a criminal conviction prior to forfeiture and raising the burden of proof in civil forfeiture actions to "clear and convincing evidence." HB 1404 also ends the practice of law enforcement and district attorneys keeping proceeds from forfeiture--instead. after reimbursing victims and lienholders proceeds are split equally between substance abuse treatment and the local government for allocation for public safety. In 2003, Senate Bill 3 18 became law, lowering felony classifications for possession of one gram or



less of a controlled substance. SB 3 18 also provides that cost-savings from the prison system be allocated to expanding substance abuse treatment, however, to date, no additional funding for treatment has been allocated. If this doesn't happen by 2007, the sentencing reform will be repealed.

PAROLE

Trends in Parole

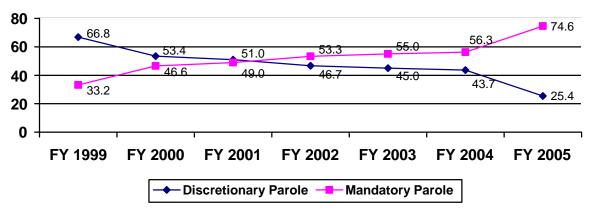
In 1993, the Colorado Legislature passed a law requiring all felons who are sentenced on or after July 1, 1993 to serve a period of **mandatory parole** when they are released from prison (even if they serve every day of their sentence). The length of the mandatory parole period is determined by the class of the felony and ranges from 1-5 years. For inmates released in 2001, <u>recidivism</u> rates (defined as a return to prison for a new crime or a technical violation) over the following three years was <u>65.6% for those released on mandatory parole</u> and <u>52.4% for those released on discretionary parole</u> (i.e., an early release).

As a result, more offenders are on parole, and more get revoked and returned to prison (primarily for technical violations, not new crimes). The idea behind mandatory parole (to provide supervision while an offender is transitioning back into society) is well-intentioned; however, the way in which it is carried out presents many problems. The implementation of mandatory parole has increased the number of parolees, however, the number of *discretionary* (i.e., early) parole releases has sharply declined in recent years.

28% of people who were sent to prison were revoked for a technical parole violations, - this means that a procedural violation occurred, but no new crime was committed. In response to this trend, the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 03-252 which limits the amount of time a person can serve in prison on a technical parole violation to 180 days.

Sources: Colorado Legislative Council, Study on the State Parole System, Research Publication No. 439 (n.p.: 1998) 23-24, 36, 40-41, 73-784, 76, 86; Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 31, 65.

Type of Parole as Percent All Paroles



Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Bulletins OPA 06-3, 05-3, 04-3, 03-2, 02-3, 00-2, 99-1.

Inmate Releases to Parole Fiscal Years 1997 through 2005

Fiscal year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Discretionary Parole	2,639	2,714	2,744	2,091	2,216	1,999	2,122	2,345	1,598
Annual % Increase (over prior year)		2.8%	1.1%	-23.8%	6.0%	-9.8%	6.2%	10.5%	-31.9%
Mandatory Parole	623	962	1363	1824	2127	2280	2630	3019	4688
Annual % Increase		54.4%	41.7%	33.8%	16.6%	7.2%	15.4%	14.8%	55.3%
Total Releases to	3,262	3,676	4,107	3,915	4,343	4,279	4,752	5,364	6,286
Parole		12.7%	11.7%	-4.7%	10.9%	1.5%	11.1%	12.9%	17.2%
Annual % Increase		72.770	70	70	70.070		7 7 7 7 0	,2.070	77.270

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2006, 37.

Parole Caseload Projected Growth

Fiscal	Total	Parole	Total	% change	Ave Cost	Additional
Year	Projected Parole Caseload	Inmate Caseload Growth	Parole population Growth Avg per month	ŭ	per parole including ISP FY 2005	Appropriation Needed
2007	8,740	412	34	5.0%	\$3,693	\$1,521,581
2008	9,108	368	31	4.2%		\$1,359,082
2009	9,583	475	40	5.2%		\$1,754,250
2010	10,090	507	42	5.3%		\$1,872,431
2011	10,761	671	56	6.6%		\$2,478,109
					Total	\$8,985,452

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2006, 5.

❖ In 2004, 49.4% of the prison population was past their Parole Eligibility Date (PED), meaning that they have been seen and denied discretionary release by the Parole Board one or more times. The PED represents the earliest date a person in prison may be released by discretion of the Parole Board. PED is set at one-half of the sentence for most people in prison and is reduced further by earn time credits. If a person in prison is awarded all possible earned-time, the PED may be as early as 37.5%. The exception is for people convicted of a specific offense that requires they serve 75% of their sentence before being parole eligible. There are currently 188 people in prison are sentenced under enhanced provisions and must serve at least 75% of the sentence before being eligible for parole.

Source: Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2004, by Kristi Rosten (2005), 77.

PRIVATE PRISONS (FOR-PROFIT)

A <u>private prison</u> is a correctional facility operated by a for-profit corporation. Many private prison companies are publicly traded, including the industry leaders: Corrections Corporation of America (NYSE: CXW) and GEO Group (formerly Wackenhut Corrections Corporation) (Nyse:GGI).

❖ As of January 2006, <u>4.010 Colorado prisoners</u> were housed in private, for-profit facilities (15% of the prisoner population).

Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report for Monthly Populations, January 2006

In 2004, Colorado ranked eighth in number of state prisoners housed in private facilities (2,819),

And eleventh in the percentage of state inmates housed in for-profit prisons (14%). There were 1100 more prisoners in private prisons at the end of 2005 (4,010).

Source: U.S. Dept of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2004, by Paige Harrison and Allen Beck (October 2005)

- Colorado has <u>seven for-profit prisons</u>—one which exclusively houses federal inmates and six which house state prisoners.
- ❖ The six private prisons housing state inmates in Colorado:
 - Bent County Correctional Facility (capacity 724) Operated by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA).
 - 2. Crowley County Correctional Facility (capacity 1,754) Operated by CCA
 - 3. Huerfano County Correctional Facility (capacity 774) Operated by CCA
 - 4. Kit Carson Correctional Center (capacity 824) Operated by CCA
 - 5. Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center (capacity 500) Operated by Corrections Education Center (CEC)
 - 6. Brush Correctional Facility for Women (capacity 270) Operated by GRW, Inc.
- ❖ In addition to these six private prisons, GEO (formerly Wackenhut Corrections Corporation) is in the planning process to build a 750 bed private prison in Pueblo and the Colorado Department of Corrections has recently issued a Request for Proposal for another 2,250 beds for men and 750 beds for women.

Background on Private Prisons

While privately-owned prisons first came to the U.S. after the Civil War, the contemporary for-profit prison industry was born in the mid-1980's, when **Corrections Corporation of America (CCA)** began operation. The other industry leader, the **GEO Group (formerly Wackenhut Corrections)** built its first prison in Aurora, CO, to house immigrants for the Immigration and Naturalization Service¹ (INS, now know as the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of the Department of Homeland Security). With the number of prisoners in the U.S. rising so rapidly during the 1990's state and federal agencies began to turn to private operators to house prisoners. As a result, the percentage of prisoners in private facilities has rapidly increased. In 1987, approximately one-half of one percent of state and federal prisoners were housed in private facilities.ⁱⁱ by 2004 the number had risen to 6.6%.ⁱⁱⁱ

Financial Information

Recent figures give **Corrections Corporation of America (CCA)** the leading market share in the U.S. (at 52%) with the GEO Group (formerly Wackenhut Corrections Corporation) coming in second (22% of the market share, although Geo has the largest international market share). Stock prices for CCA and Wackenhut plummeted in 2000, due largely to CCA's 1-for 10 reverse stock split and numerous lucrative contracts from the federal government), the industry is still on shaky ground.

Ethical Problems

The concept of profiting from incarceration is one that rightly bothers many people. Put simply:

For-profit private prison, jails and detention centers have no place in a democratic Society. Profiteering form the imprisonment of human being compromises public Safety and corrupts justice.

Once the profit motive is introduced to prison operations, the priorities of prison operators changes. In order to improve their profit margin, many corners are cut including both staffing levels and pay rates and services and programs for people in prison. Prioritizing profit jeopardizes both the safety and well-being of both people in prison and staff.

Risks to Public Safety

Many for-profit prisons throughout the country have made the news due to practices which have endangered public safety, according to the American federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME),"corrections is an inherently dangerous profession. The best way to deal with the dangers inside the walls of a prison is to have an experienced corrections staff that I properly trained and paid decent wages and benefits." However, data shows that one method for private prison corporations to turn a profit is to pay employees low wages. Thus, in 1999 the average turnover rate for correctional officers in government-run prisons was 16% to 53% in for-profit. The record in Colorado supports the allegations of AFSCME and indicates that public law enforcement officials are often left to deal with incidents once they have reached crisis proportions in private facilities.

There have been two disturbances in Correctional Service Corporation's (CSC) **Crowley County Correctional Facility (CCCF).** In 1999 a riot began when a non-Colorado prisoner (from Washington state) started a riot over inadequate foodservice. Colorado emergency response teams were needed to regain control over the facility. A follow-up investigation (conducted by state DOC employees) determined that CSC employees were not properly trained to detect possible problems, handle disturbances, or even properly use their radios. In July of 2004 another riot occurred due to many of the same problems in 1999. CCA was cited for refusing to hear inmates' grievances, inadequate food-service and a skeleton crew of poorly trained employees. Inmates who were not involved in the riot have filed a lawsuit against CCA for excessive force used against them in retaliation for the riot.

In retrospect, these problems at CCCF should not have come as too much of a surprise, since the prison's warden, Mark McKinna (a 23-year veteran of the Colorado DOC), admitted that the facility faced management problems since compensation and benefits are lower than at state prisons, resulting in approximately 70 percent of correctional officers at CCCF having no prior correctional experience. Sure enough, in the first month of operation, CCCF experience a two-day lockdown, fired three employees and accepted three employee resignations.^{ix}

The **Huerfano County Correctional Center**, once held up as a national model for CCA's network of prisons was in the news when a federal lawsuit resulted in two former correctional officers pleading guilty to beating an inmate on several occasions.^x The two CCA

employees who were later named in the lawsuit declined a trial and agreed to serve at least two years in prison. There is evidence that other correctional officers were present for the assaults.xi

In late 2004 reports came out from the **Brush Correctional Facility** for women that guards had been sexually assaulting women and a lawsuit has been filed against the warden and several of the staff and is currently pending.^{xii} The warden resigned soon after the charges were filed

CCA's prison in Burlington has also received plenty of media attention. Among the more serious problems at **Kit Carson Correctional Center** include:

- A riot in 1999 which started due to petty issues concerning a vending machine but which
 quickly escalated due to staff actions. In fact, charges against the rioting prisoners were
 dropped due to the judge's strong concerns about improper staff response to the incident.xiii
- Chronic staffing shortages resulted in a memorable incident where a supervisor who was confronted about having too few officers on duty "flew into a rage," destroying a metal detector and abruptly leaving the facility. He was later arrested on his way out of town. He cited too much overtime worked and forgetting to take his bi-polar medication as the reasons for his outburst.xiv
- Inadequate staff screening has resulted in an ex-felon and a relative of an inmate working at the prison.xv
- During the first year of operation, more than half of the correctional officers quit or were fired.^{xvi} And the warden, doctor, kitchen manager, and internal investigator were all fired as well. Ther former warden and investigator both allege that their firings were in retaliation for reporting problems with CCA management.^{xvii}

Two things stand out as particularly troublesome in regards to KCCC. First, the State of Colorado renewed the contract for KCCC (at a 2% increase per prisoner per day) despite the fact that the legislature and CDOC both had expressed concerns about the prisons performance. Second, CCA (always focusing on profits) has put their energy into bringing federal inmates into the KCCC in order to stop losses at the ill-performing prison. While state and local agencies have put much effort into dealing with problems at KCCC, apparently CCA has been focusing on the bottom line.

State Private Prison Audit

The state Auditor's office conducted a review of the private prisons following the 2004 riot at Crowley County Correctional Facility. The audit said DOC's inability to properly manage the five private facilities operating in the state led to numerous inmate problems, and could ignite many more. The audit also said that the DOC knew about specific problems with how the private prisons were operated but did little to nothing to correct them. And when the DOC did point out violations to private facilities it failed to ensure that they were corrected. For instance, the audit found that the private prison monitor filed reports that were actually copies of old documents and had merely changed the date. Additionally, not all the people assigned to monitor the prisons were doing that. They were often assigned other duties and many of the positions just remained unfilled. Fifteen employees were allocated to that unit, but four were assigned to other duties and the key unit manager job was left vacant for three years. Some key findings from the legislative audit include:

None of the medical clinics at the private prison were licensed, in violation of state law. Nine deaths at private prisons were not reported to the Colorado Department of Health so none of them were investigated. Auditors, though, said they should have been reported. The auditors said seven of the deaths were from natural causes, but two men died from medical complications after prison operators changed their prescription drugs without examining either of them.

- Inmates with serious mental illnesses were not seen by mental health staff in a timely
- Private prison were serving meals that did not meet state's dietary standards
- The DOC doesn't review staffing patterns at private prisons as part of their contracts
- ❖ Some private prison employees have questionable backgrounds, including some who have been convicted of violent crimes.
- Private prisons were not properly deducting court-ordered inmate restitution and child support.
- Dangerous inmates were sent to some private prison even though state law stipulates private prison should only house medium security prisoners and lower. xx

Since then the Department of Corrections issued a statement in their budget hearing that they agreed with the 16 audit findings by the State Auditor's April 2005 audit and are working to fix those problems.xxi

Douglas Mc Donald, et al, Private Prisons in the United States: An Assessment of Current Practice. Commissioned by U.S. Attorney General (Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates. 1998).4-5

Ibid 7; Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1999, edited by Ann

Pastore and Kathleen Maquire (Washington, DC: GPO, 2000), 503 iii Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Prisoners in 2002," by Paige Harrison and Allen Beck (Washington, DC:GPO, 2003), 6.

^{iv} Charles W. Thomas, "Private Adult Correctional Facility Census," (n.p.: University of Florida, 2000).

v Statement of Principles of the Public Safety and Justice Campaign (Charlotte, NC).

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vi Camille and George Camp, The 2000 Corrections Yearbook (Middletown, CT: Criminal Justice Institute, 2000) vii Carla Crowder, "To quell riot, state help was called in," *Denver Rocky Mtn. News* March 17, 1999

viii "Crowley Prison adapting to state-ordered changes," AP State & Local Wire October 27, 2000

Kit Miniclier, "Prison seeks way to stem losses," Denver Post November 24, 1998

x "Ex-prison supervisors told they will be jailed for beating inmate," AP State & Local Wire October 27, 2000

^{xi} Carla Crowder, "Abuse cases raise questions about prison staffs in state," *Denver Rocky Mtn. News* Nov. 12, 2000.

Kevin Dayton, "Five felons worked at Brush prison" *Honolulu Advertiser* March 25, 2005 xiii Carla Crowder, "Trouble behind bars," *Denver Rocky Mountain News* July 3, 2000

xiv Carla Crowder, "Senior officer at Burlington prison is jailed," *Denver Rocky Mtn. News* April 29,2000 Carla Crowder, "Private prison hired felon as guard," *Denver Rocky Mtn. News* Sept. 30, 1999 Xiv Carla Crowder, "Prison in Burlington understaffed," *Denver Rocky Mtn. News* Oct. 22, 1999

^{xviii} "Kit Carson prison goes through turnultuous first year," *AP State & Local Wire* Nov. 29, 1999

xviii Crowder 7/3/2000

xix "Federal inmates may come to Burlington," AP State & Local Wire May 5, 2000.

^{**} Report of the State Auditor on Private Prisons, Department of Corrections, Performance Audit 2005 (Colorado)

xxi Colorado Department of Corrections, Budget Hearing January 9, 2005, 19.