



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Adult and Juvenile Correctional Population Projections

Fiscal Years 2022 to 2027

**SUBMITTED TO THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH TEXAS LEGISLATURE
PREPARED BY LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF**

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JULY 2022

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July 2022

One responsibility of Legislative Budget Board (LBB) staff is to conduct periodic, long-term adult and juvenile correctional population projections to serve as a basis for biennial funding determinations. This report is provided to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for these agencies to incorporate the relevant information into their Legislative Appropriations Requests for the 2024–25 biennium.

On March 13, 2020, the Governor issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in Texas. On March 19, 2020, the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 81.082(d), declared a public health disaster for the entire state, and the Governor, pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, issued an Executive Order to mitigate the spread of the virus.

In April 2020, TDCJ and TJJD temporarily suspended the transfer of individuals into state custody as part of their efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. Transfers resumed in July 2020, and many courts and county jails are managing backlogs that have not been resolved entirely at the time of this report. Although the report contains year-to-date data, the long-term effects of the pandemic on the criminal and juvenile justice systems and their populations are not fully known.

As of June 29, 2022, TJJD temporarily halted intakes to its secure facilities, reporting an inability to maintain compliance with required staff ratios to meet basic supervision needs, and set no anticipated date to resume normal practices. It is unclear what effects these measures may have on juvenile state residential, parole supervision, or probation supervision populations throughout the projection period, and projections do not take these measures into account.

In January 2023, the LBB will publish updated projections in preparation for the Eighty-eighth Legislature. The LBB will enhance the projections report with data gathered from focus groups and interviews with practitioners and officials in various parts of the criminal and juvenile justice systems to obtain a deeper understanding of factors affecting these populations. Additionally, the LBB will analyze and incorporate into the updated population projections comprehensive data through fiscal year 2022.

Jerry McGinty
Director
Legislative Budget Board

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Texas Government Code, Section 322.019, authorizes the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) staff to provide certain criminal justice policy analyses. One of the LBB staff's responsibilities is to conduct periodic, long-term adult and juvenile correctional population projections to inform biennial funding determinations. The July 2022 *Adult and Juvenile Correctional Population Projections* report provides correctional population projections for fiscal years 2022 to 2027 in preparation for the Eighty-eighth Legislature, 2023.

WHY ARE CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS PRODUCED?

Correctional population projections serve as a basis for biennial funding determinations. The July 2022 projections will inform state correctional agencies' Legislative Appropriations Requests and both legislative chambers' General Appropriations Bills, as introduced. The LBB will update these projections in the January 2023 *Adult and Juvenile Correctional Population Projections* report, which will inform budgeting and policy decisions during the Eighty-eighth Legislature, 2023.

CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS OVERVIEW

The July 2022 correctional population projections indicate that the adult state incarceration population will increase

slightly and remain within the internal capacity of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) through fiscal year 2027. The juvenile state residential population also is projected to increase but remain within budgeted operating capacity of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) through fiscal year 2027.

The adult felony community supervision and adult parole supervision populations are expected to increase slightly but remain stable during the projection period. Misdemeanor placements onto community supervision are projected to decrease. The juvenile probation population is expected to increase and then remain stable, and the juvenile parole population is expected to decrease slightly. **Figure 1** shows projected growth trends in the adult and juvenile correctional populations from fiscal years 2022 to 2027, and whether incarcerated populations are expected to remain above or below institutional capacity during the projection period.

Figure 2 shows adult and juvenile correctional population projections from fiscal years 2022 to 2025. Population projections are the yearly average of the end-of-month population counts for the adult incarceration, parole, and felony community supervision populations, the total yearly counts for placements onto adult misdemeanor community supervision, and the average daily juvenile correctional populations.

FIGURE 1
TEXAS CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTION GROWTH TRENDS, FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2027

SYSTEM	POPULATION TYPE	PROJECTED GROWTH TREND	ABOVE/BELOW INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY
Adult	Incarceration	Increase slightly	Below
Adult	Parole	Increase slightly	Not applicable
Adult	Felony Direct Community Supervision	Increase slightly	Not applicable
Adult	Misdemeanor Community Supervision Placements	Decrease	Not applicable
Juvenile	State Residential	Increase	Below
Juvenile	Parole	Decrease slightly	Not applicable
Juvenile	Juvenile Probation	Increase	Not applicable

NOTE: Adult incarceration populations include adults in prisons, state jails, and substance abuse felony punishment facilities. Juvenile state residential populations include youths in state residential facilities, halfway houses, and those placed in contract residential facilities.
SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

**FIGURE 2
TEXAS CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS OVERVIEW, FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2025**

SYSTEM	POPULATION	2022	2023	2024	2025	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR PERIOD
Adult	Incarceration	121,081	130,131	132,040	132,875	9.7%
Adult	Parole	80,919	82,899	83,405	84,225	4.1%
Adult	Felony Direct Community Supervision	134,018	132,668	137,499	141,136	5.3%
Adult	Misdemeanor Community Supervision Placements	63,647	60,856	59,395	57,864	(9.1%)
Juvenile	State Residential Facilities	764	876	961	927	21.3%
Juvenile	Parole	256	260	256	239	(6.6%)
Juvenile	Juvenile Probation	13,993	18,339	18,272	17,916	28.0%

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

METHODOLOGY AT A GLANCE

LBB staff produce correctional population projections using a discrete event simulation model that incorporates updated correctional data. The model simulates movement through the adult criminal and juvenile justice systems to produce aggregate population estimates for the next six fiscal years. An individual’s projected movement is governed by the state laws in place at the time of offense. Population projections assume all current policies, procedures, and laws remain constant throughout the projection period; however, some assumptions were made to account for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT CORRECTIONAL POPULATIONS AT A GLANCE

Figure 3 shows adult and juvenile correctional populations as of April 30, 2022.

CRIME IN TEXAS

In addition to correctional population projections, this report includes recent adult and juvenile crime statistics.

**FIGURE 3
TEXAS CORRECTIONAL POPULATIONS AS OF APRIL 30, 2022**

SYSTEM	POPULATION	COUNT
Adult	Incarceration	118,081
Adult	Parole (1)	78,677
Adult	Felony Direct Community Supervision (1)	137,312
Juvenile	State Residential Facilities	687
Juvenile	Parole (1)	215
Juvenile	Juvenile Probation (1)	15,986

NOTES:

- (1) Adult felony community supervision, juvenile probation, and adult and juvenile parole counts are preliminary and subject to revision.
- (2) Misdemeanor community supervision placements are not included in this data because they are measured cumulatively each fiscal year.

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Figure 4 shows adult and juvenile arrests for fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

**FIGURE 4
TEXAS ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**

POPULATION	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2017 TO 2021
Adult (1)	771,958	755,496	690,367	546,871	511,321	(33.8%)
Juvenile (2)	43,584	41,211	39,816	30,704	20,006	(54.1%)

NOTES:

- (1) Adults in Texas are defined as individuals age 17 and older.
- (2) Juvenile arrests refer to individuals ages 10 to 16, the age range specified by the Texas Family Code.

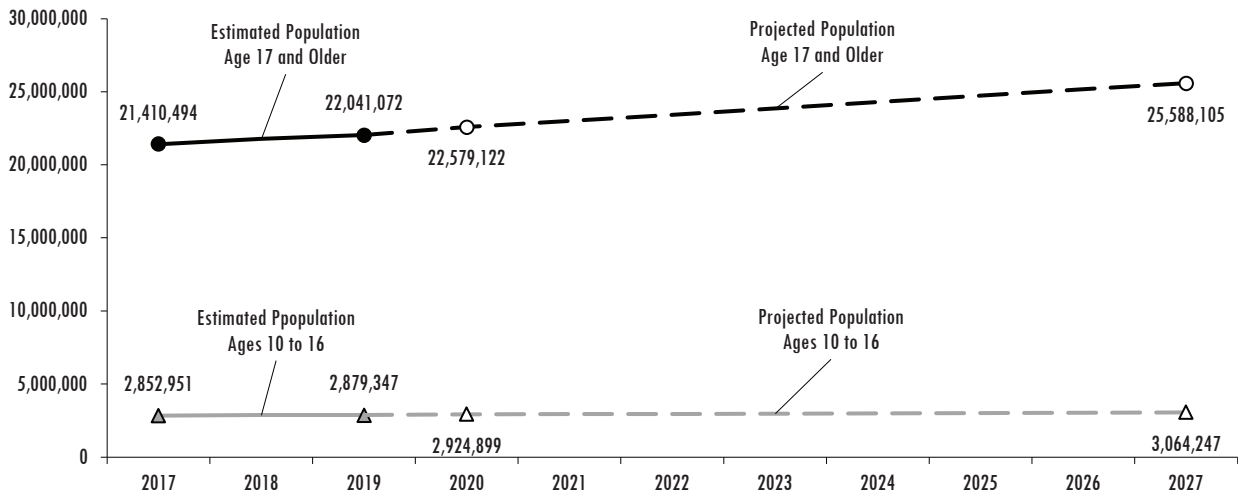
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Public Safety, txucr.nibrs.com, data retrieved May 24, 2022.

TEXAS ADULT AND YOUTH POPULATION

Figure 5 shows estimates and projections of the state’s total adult and youth (ages 10 to 16) populations from calendar years 2017 to 2027. From calendar years 2017 to 2019, the Texas Demographic Center estimates the state’s adult population of individuals ages 17 or older increased 2.9 percent, from 21.4 million to 22.0 million. The agency also projects that the adult population will increase from 22.6 million to 25.6 million, or 13.3 percent, from calendar

years 2020 to 2027. For youths ages 10 to 16, the agency estimates that the population from calendar years 2017 to 2019 increased 0.9 percent from 2.85 million to 2.88 million, respectively. The agency projects that the state’s juvenile population will increase 4.8 percent from 2.9 million in 2020 to 3.1 million in 2027. Historically, correctional populations have decreased despite the state’s population increase.

FIGURE 5
ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED TOTAL TEXAS ADULT AND YOUTH (AGES 10 TO 16) POPULATIONS
CALENDAR YEARS 2017 TO 2027



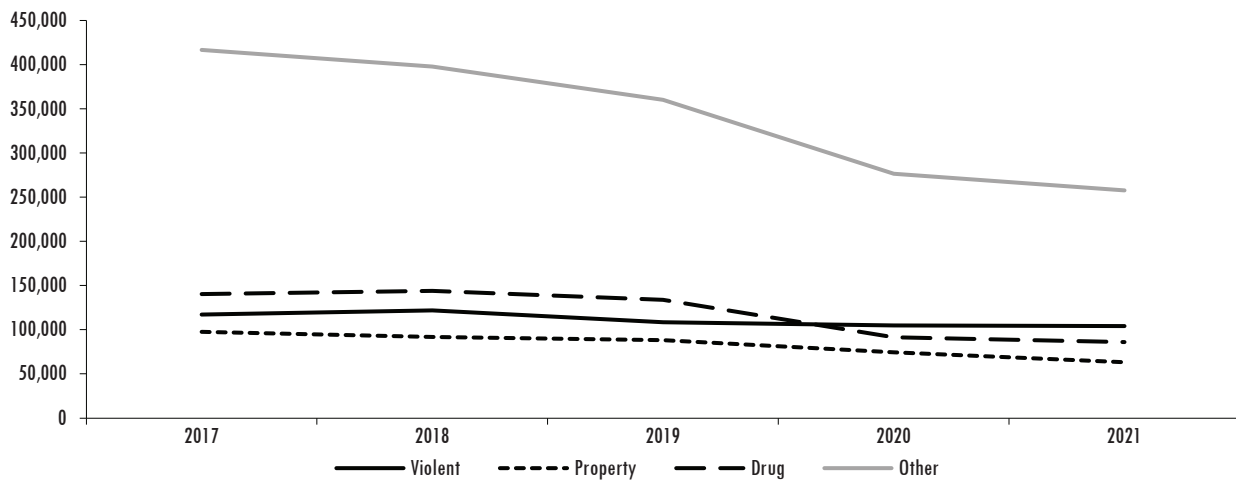
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Demographic Center.

ADULT ARRESTS

The number of adult arrests can be a driver of intakes into the criminal justice system. **Figure 6** shows the number of adult arrests by offense type from fiscal years 2017 to 2021, during which total adult arrests decreased by 33.8 percent. During that period, adult arrests decreased 11.2 percent for violent offenses, 35.4 percent for property offenses, 38.4 percent for drug offenses, and 38.2 percent for other offenses.

The number of adult arrests decreased during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the long-term effects of the pandemic on law enforcement practices and subsequent effects on the criminal justice system still are unknown. Modifications to operations in response to the pandemic vary among jurisdictions. **Figure 7** shows the percentage change in arrests from fiscal years 2018 to 2019 and from fiscal years 2020 to 2021 to compare pre-pandemic arrest rates with rates affected by modified practices during the pandemic.

FIGURE 6
TEXAS ADULT ARRESTS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021

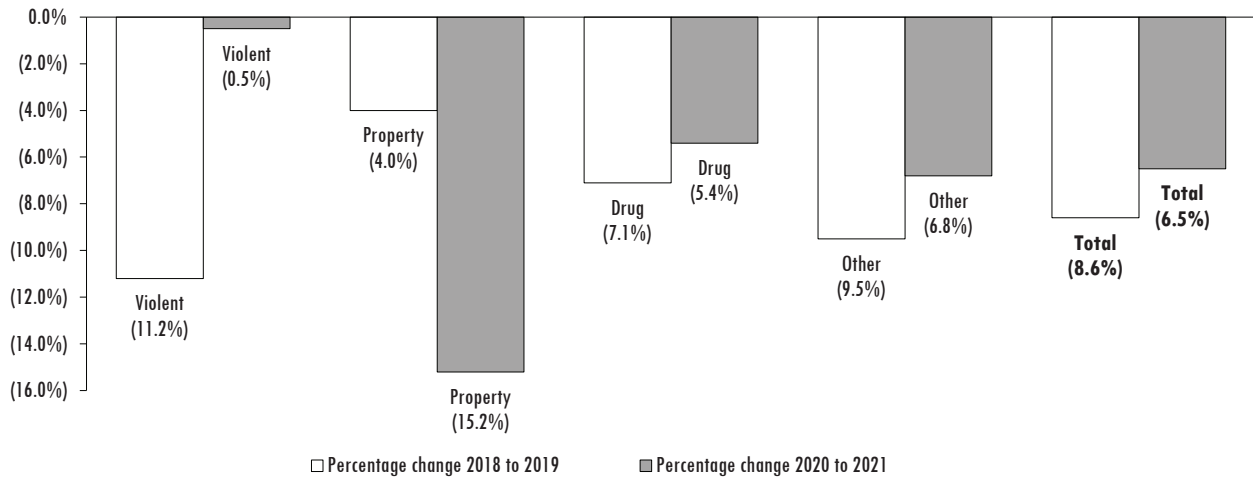


OFFENSE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2017 TO 2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2020 TO 2021
Violent	117,197	122,019	108,386	104,633	104,102	(11.2%)	(0.5%)
Property	97,839	91,790	88,157	74,488	63,199	(35.4%)	(15.2%)
Drug	140,066	144,000	133,724	91,208	86,246	(38.4%)	(5.4%)
Other	416,856	397,687	360,100	276,542	257,774	(38.2%)	(6.8%)
Total	771,958	755,496	690,367	546,871	511,321	(33.8%)	(6.5%)

NOTE: Adults in Texas are defined as individuals age 17 and older.

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Public Safety, txucr.nibrs.com, data retrieved May 24, 2022.

FIGURE 7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TEXAS ADULT ARRESTS BY OFFENSE TYPE, FISCAL YEARS 2018 TO 2019 AND 2020 TO 2021



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Public Safety, txucr.nibrs.com, data retrieved May 24, 2022.

ADULT CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

METHODOLOGY

LBB staff produce adult incarceration, parole supervision, and direct felony community supervision population projections using a discrete event simulation model that incorporates updated demographic and correctional data. The model simulates an individual’s movement through the adult criminal justice system to produce aggregate population projections for the next six fiscal years. Each individual’s movement is governed by state laws in place at the time of offense and is based on offense type, sentence length, and time credited to a current sentence. Misdemeanor placements are projected using an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model. Population projections assume all current policies, procedures, and laws remain constant during the projection period.

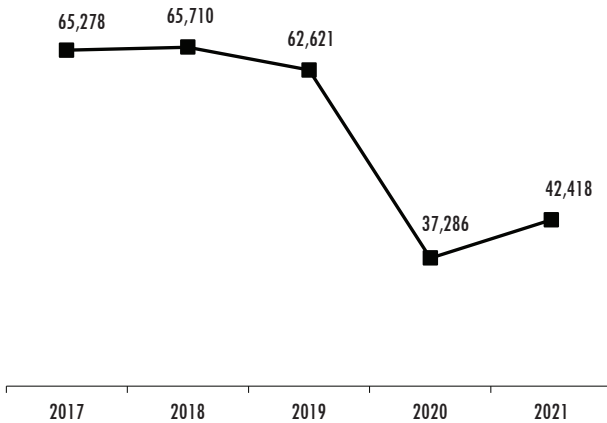
The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted all segments of the criminal justice system to reassess and, in many cases, modify existing practices and policies. Entities that modified practices and policies included law enforcement, jails, courts, and state correctional institutions. Throughout the pandemic, jury trials have been suspended and delayed across the state, resulting in a backlog of criminal cases. As of May 2022, courts in some counties have returned to pre-pandemic caseload clearance rates with the help of visiting judges and videoconferencing technology, while others still have reported backlogs. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) temporarily suspended the transfer of individuals from county jails in April 2020 and resumed transfers in July 2020. LBB staff will continue to monitor the pandemic’s effects on the adult criminal justice system and its populations.

ADULT INCARCERATION ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

The adult incarceration population is projected to increase slightly from fiscal years 2022 to 2027. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., admissions or admission rates, parole approval practices, amended statute) may affect future populations.

The adult incarceration population consists of individuals within prisons, state jails, and substance abuse felony

FIGURE 8
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INCARCERATION ADMISSIONS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

punishment facilities. The incarceration population includes individuals whose offenses are categorized by severity as state jail felonies or greater. The status of the actual and projected correctional populations has been affected by a decade-long effort by multiple Legislatures to support rehabilitation, treatment, and sanction initiatives throughout the criminal justice system. The primary factors affecting correctional population projections are the number of individuals entering the system and their lengths of stay.

ADMISSIONS TO STATE CORRECTION INSTITUTIONS

Figure 8 shows that TDCJ’s annual incarceration admissions rate has decreased 35.0 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, TDCJ temporarily suspended transfers from county jails to state correctional institutions. In addition, changes to court practices in response to the pandemic included a temporary suspension of jury trials and adjustments to grand jury schedules. At the time of this projections report, court activity and county jail transfers are trending toward pre-pandemic capacity, which is evident in the 13.8 percent increase in admissions from fiscal years 2020 to 2021. Although the long-term effects of the pandemic on admissions still are unknown, admissions to incarceration are

expected to continue increasing through fiscal year 2022 and then remain stable through fiscal year 2027.

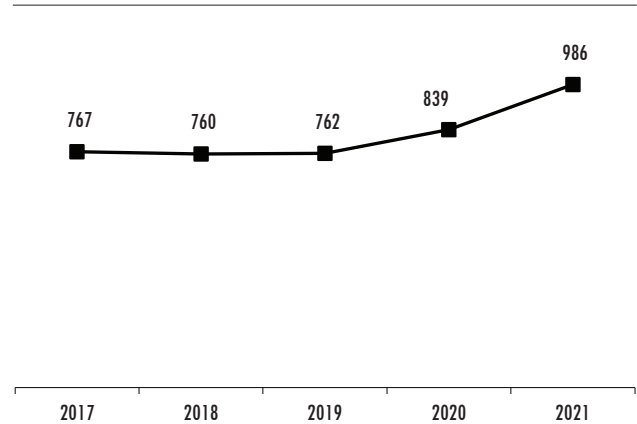
LENGTH OF STAY WITHIN STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Longer sentences can increase the correctional institutions population by slowing releases. Primary factors affecting lengths of stay are sentence lengths, time served prior to TDCJ incarceration (such as time served in county jails), minimum lengths of stay set by statute, time credits for good behavior, and release decisions made by the Board of Pardons and Parole. The average length of stay for adults released from TDCJ has increased as shown in **Figure 9**. This increase is due primarily to a decrease in the number of individuals admitted with shorter sentence lengths and an increase in the average lengths of stay of those released in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

ADULT INCARCERATION PROJECTED POPULATION

LBB staff project the adult incarceration population will increase slightly through fiscal year 2027. The population will remain below the current internal capacity during the projection period. **Figure 10** shows TDCJ's actual incarceration population and internal capacity from fiscal years 2017 to 2021 and projected incarceration population and current internal capacity for fiscal years 2022 to 2027. Internal capacity

**FIGURE 9
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN DAYS OF ADULTS RELEASED FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**

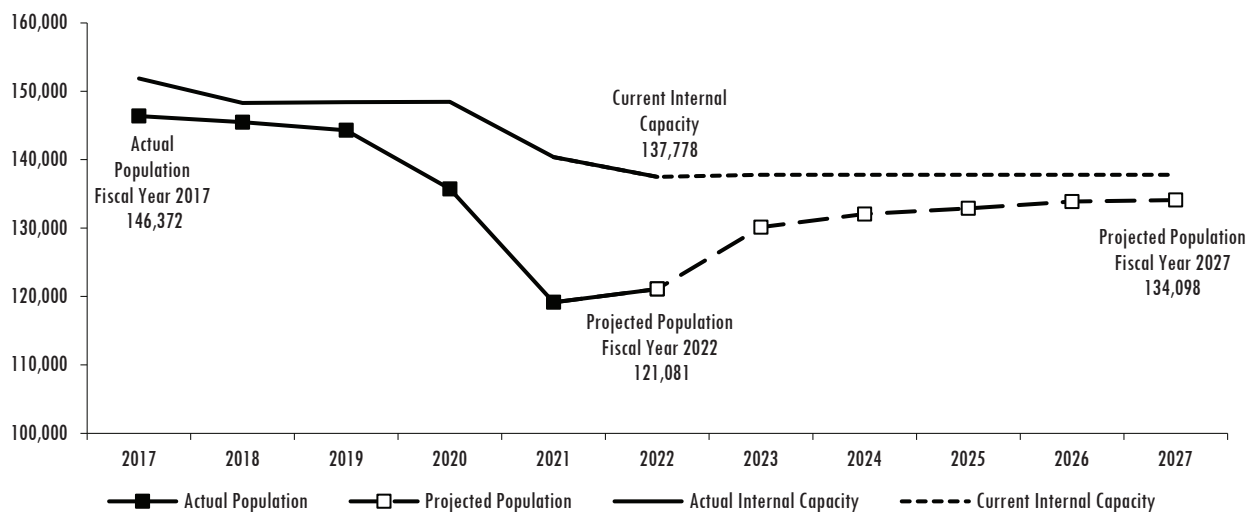


SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

is the sum of: (1) 96.0 percent of total unit capacity (i.e., the number of beds available to house individuals); plus (2) the number of beds that are offline temporarily.

Figure 11 shows the end-of-month yearly average of projected populations from fiscal years 2022 to 2027 relative to TDCJ's current internal capacity.

**FIGURE 10
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INCARCERATION POPULATION AND INTERNAL CAPACITY, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027**



NOTE: During calendar year 2020, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) closed and idled certain units due to the decrease in the incarceration population and staff shortages. During calendar years 2021 and 2022, TDCJ modified capacity further to accommodate capacity reductions due to Operation Lone Star, staffing shortages, and population changes. Internal capacity includes temporarily offline beds.
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**FIGURE 11
PROJECTED INCARCERATION POPULATION AND INTERNAL CAPACITY, FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2027**

YEAR	INCARCERATION POPULATION (END-OF-MONTH YEARLY AVERAGE)	INTERNAL CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CAPACITY
2022	121,081	137,778	16,697	12.1%
2023	130,131	137,778	7,647	5.6%
2024	132,040	137,778	5,738	4.2%
2025	132,875	137,778	4,903	3.6%
2026	133,871	137,778	3,907	2.8%
2027	134,098	137,778	3,680	2.7%

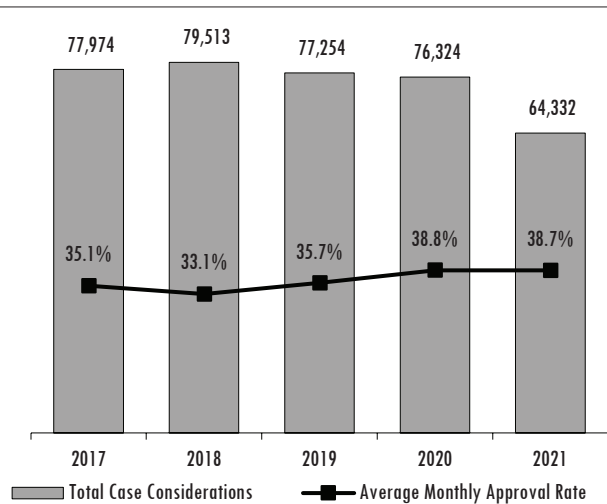
NOTES: Internal capacity is the sum of: (1) 96.0 percent of the beds available for permanent assignment; plus (2) temporarily offline beds.
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**ACTIVE ADULT PAROLE SUPERVISION
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS,
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027**

The active adult parole supervision population is projected to increase slightly from fiscal years 2022 to 2027. The primary factors affecting parole supervision population projections are the number of individuals placed onto parole supervision and the length of time they spend on supervision. Any significant change in factors affecting projections (e.g., parole approval and consideration practices) may affect future populations.

Individuals that are sentenced to a term of incarceration for a third-degree felony or greater are received into prisons. The majority of individuals sentenced to a term of incarceration within prisons are eligible for consideration and subsequent release to parole supervision. The Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) considers and approves individuals for release onto parole supervision through a parole or discretionary mandatory supervision (DMS) process. Statutory requirements determine an individual’s eligibility for parole or DMS, and these requirements commonly are based on offense dates and offense committed. Individuals typically are eligible for parole release before DMS release. Parole is discretionary and always requires a decision from BPP. However, in accordance with state law in effect until August 31, 1996, release to mandatory supervision was automatic. If an incarcerated individual is serving time for an offense committed before that date and is eligible for mandatory supervision, the individual must be released on the date at which the sum of calendar time and time credited for good behavior equals the sentence length. Therefore, a relatively small number of individuals that committed offenses before September 1, 1996, automatically are placed onto parole supervision through a mandatory supervision release process. For offenses committed on or after September 1, 1996, BPP may review scheduled mandatory supervision releases by case.

**FIGURE 12
PAROLE CASE CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROVAL RATE
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

ADULT PAROLE SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS

Individuals placed on parole include those approved for release from prisons by BPP, those released from prisons through the mandatory supervision release process, those who committed an offense in another state and whose term of parole supervision was transferred to Texas, and those whose supervision was transferred from the juvenile justice system.

Placements onto parole have varied from fiscal years 2017 to 2021. As shown in **Figure 12**, case considerations remained relatively stable from fiscal years 2017 to 2020, decreasing by 2.1 percent, but decreased 15.7 percent from fiscal years 2020 to 2021. Despite the decrease in considerations, the average monthly approval rate from fiscal years 2017 to 2021 remained stable at an average of 36.3 percent.

As shown in **Figure 13**, DMS case considerations decreased 26.3 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2021, while DMS approval rates remained steady at an average annual rate of 48.3 percent.

As shown in **Figure 14**, placements onto parole supervision remained relatively steady from fiscal years 2017 to 2019 and decreased 4.7 percent from fiscal years 2019 to 2020 and a further 9.6 percent from fiscal years 2020 to 2021. At the time of this projections report, parole placements have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

LENGTH OF SUPERVISION

Parole length of supervision is driven primarily by the individual’s sentence length, compliance with supervision conditions, and the BPP’s parole revocation practices. The projection model simulates an individual’s movement through parole based on these and other factors.

From fiscal years 2017 to 2021, the average length of supervision for individuals that were removed from parole supervision has remained stable overall, at an average of 1,075 days. **Figure 15** shows the trend in supervision length from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

ADULT PAROLE SUPERVISION PROJECTED POPULATION

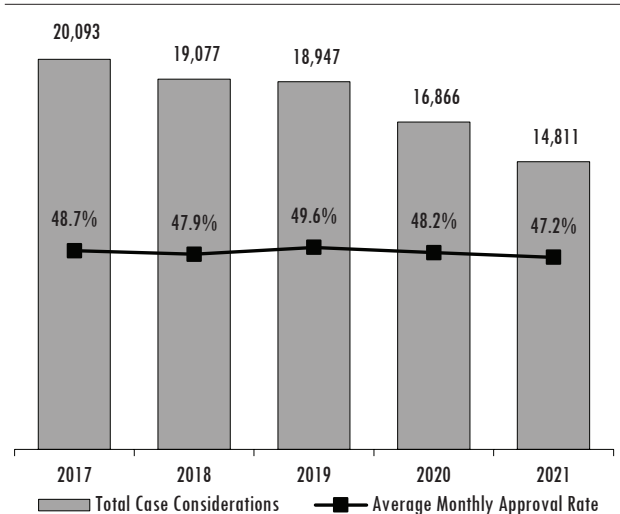
Although transfers from counties to TDCJ were suspended temporarily during calendar year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals continued to be reviewed, approved, and subsequently released to parole supervision. The parole supervision population is expected to continue decreasing through fiscal year 2022 due to the decreases in prison intakes and prison population resulting from modified practices during the pandemic. This trend decreased the number of parole-eligible individuals from fiscal years 2020 to 2022. LBB staff project that the parole population will increase slightly from fiscal years 2022 to 2027 as the incarceration population increases. Subsequent projections will incorporate any additional data regarding the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 16 shows the actual and projected parole population from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

ADULT FELONY DIRECT COMMUNITY SUPERVISION ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

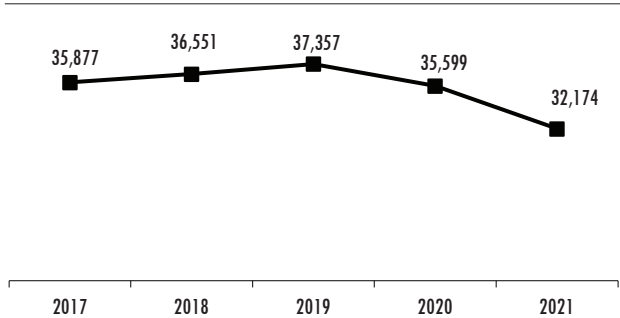
The adult felony direct community supervision population is expected to increase slightly from fiscal years 2022 to

**FIGURE 13
DISCRETIONARY MANDATORY SUPERVISION CASE CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROVAL RATE
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



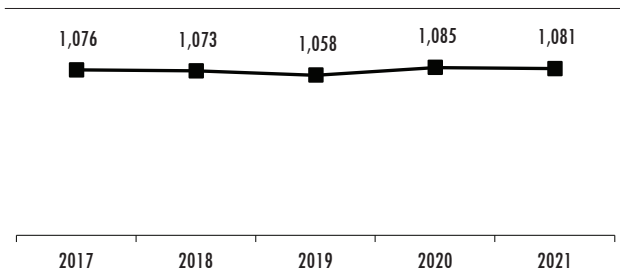
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**FIGURE 14
PAROLE PLACEMENTS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



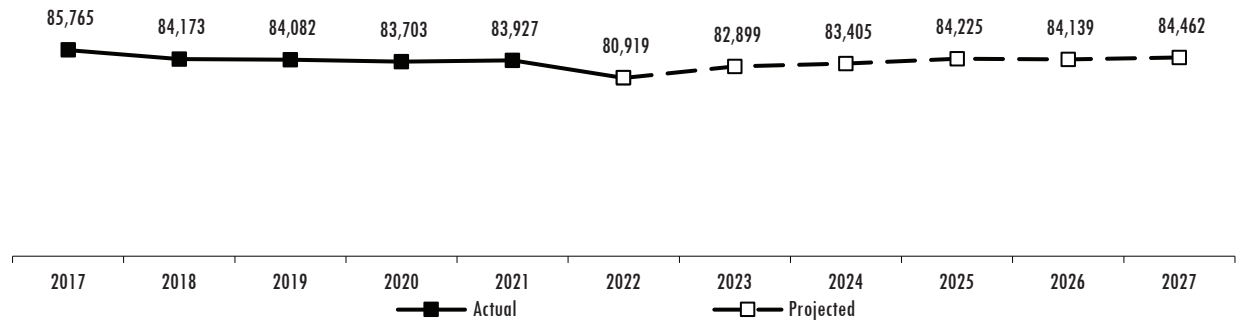
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**FIGURE 15
AVERAGE LENGTH OF SUPERVISION IN DAYS FOR RELEASES FROM PAROLE SUPERVISION
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

FIGURE 16
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED ACTIVE ADULT PAROLE SUPERVISION POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027



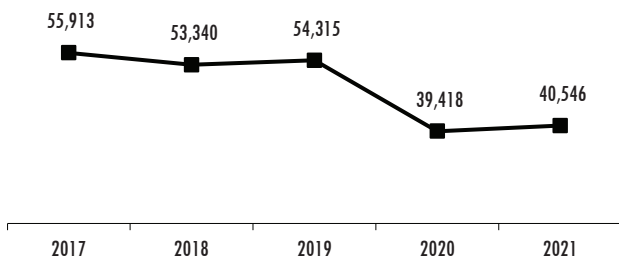
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

2027. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., placements, revocations, or length of supervision) may affect future populations.

Certain individuals who commit felony offenses and receive sentences of 10 years or fewer are eligible to serve their sentences in the community rather than in state jails or prisons. Eligible individuals must adhere to basic conditions of supervision issued by a judge (e.g., commit no new offense, avoid injurious habits, report regularly, and pay fines) and may be required to complete residential or nonresidential programs. Failure to comply with these conditions can result in a revocation of community supervision and a sentence of incarceration within state jails or prisons. Individuals that work or reside in the jurisdiction in which they are supervised and receive at least one in-person contact with a community supervision officer every three months are considered under direct supervision. During the COVID-19 pandemic, local community supervision and corrections departments were authorized to use alternative methods, such as video or telephone contacts, to supervise individuals under direct supervision in certain circumstances. Indirect supervision can include individuals that have absconded, receive supervision in other jurisdictions, or submit reports but are ineligible for supervision in another jurisdiction. Total felony community supervision includes indirect and direct supervisions. Currently, the Legislature funds only direct supervision, and the LBB projects only the direct felony supervision population.

The main factors affecting community supervision population projections are the number of individuals placed onto community supervision and the lengths of time they spend on supervision.

FIGURE 17
FELONY COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

ADULT FELONY COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS

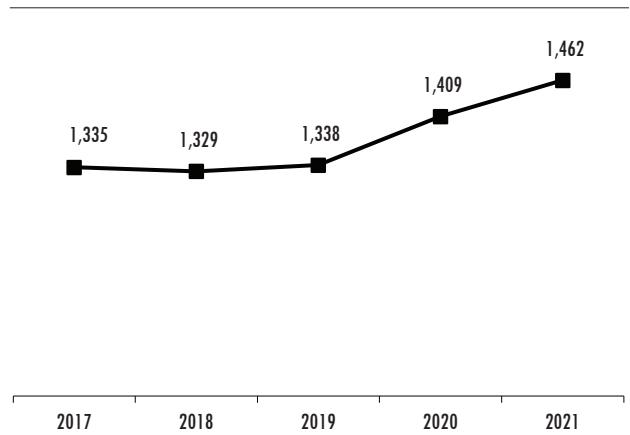
The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required courts to reduce their caseloads during much of calendar years 2020 and 2021. Modified court practices prevented placing some individuals on felony direct community supervision who otherwise may have been placed. Concurrently, terminations of supervision continued, although revocations, a type of termination, have decreased. At the time of this projections report, court activity is trending toward pre-pandemic capacity, but long-term effects of the pandemic still are unknown. Subsequent projections will incorporate any additional data regarding the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Placements onto felony community supervision were relatively stable before the pandemic but decreased 27.4 percent from fiscal years 2019 to 2020. From fiscal years 2020 to 2021, placements have increased by 2.9 percent, and preliminary 2022 data suggests that placements will continue trending toward pre-pandemic levels. **Figure 17** shows felony community supervision placement trends from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

LENGTH OF SUPERVISION FOR ADULT FELONY COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

The length of community supervision is affected primarily by the individual’s probation length, compliance with supervision conditions, and community supervision revocation practices in local judicial districts. The projection model simulates an individual’s progression through community supervision based on these and other factors. The average length of supervision for individuals that were terminated from felony community supervision has remained relatively stable from fiscal years 2012 to 2019, averaging 1,341 days. The average length of supervision increased annually during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 by 5.3 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively. The increase may be due to several factors, such as fewer revocations and fewer individuals with shorter lengths of supervision being placed on felony probation due to the ongoing pandemic. **Figure 18** shows lengths of supervision for all terminations from felony community supervision from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

**FIGURE 18
AVERAGE LENGTH OF SUPERVISION IN DAYS AT
TERMINATION OF FELONY COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

ADULT FELONY DIRECT COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROJECTED POPULATION

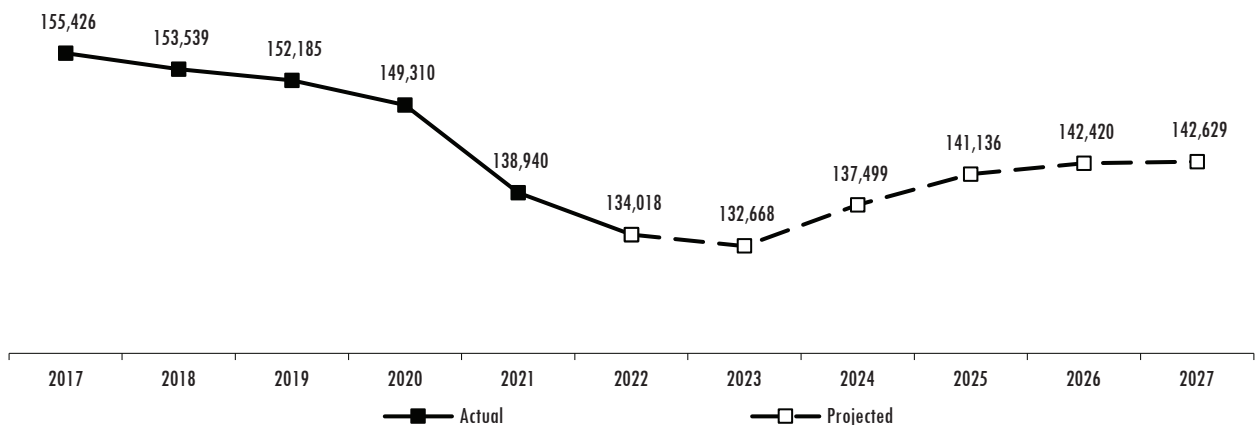
The number of individuals on direct felony community supervision has decreased steadily during the last decade. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the population decreased approximately 9.7 percent from fiscal years 2012 to 2019. During the pandemic, the population decreased further by approximately 8.7 percent from fiscal years 2019 to 2021. The population is expected to increase slightly through fiscal year 2027 as placements continue trending toward pre-pandemic levels. **Figure 19** shows the actual and

projected average end-of-month direct felony community supervision population from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

ADULT MISDEMEANOR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION ACTUAL AND PROJECTED PLACEMENTS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

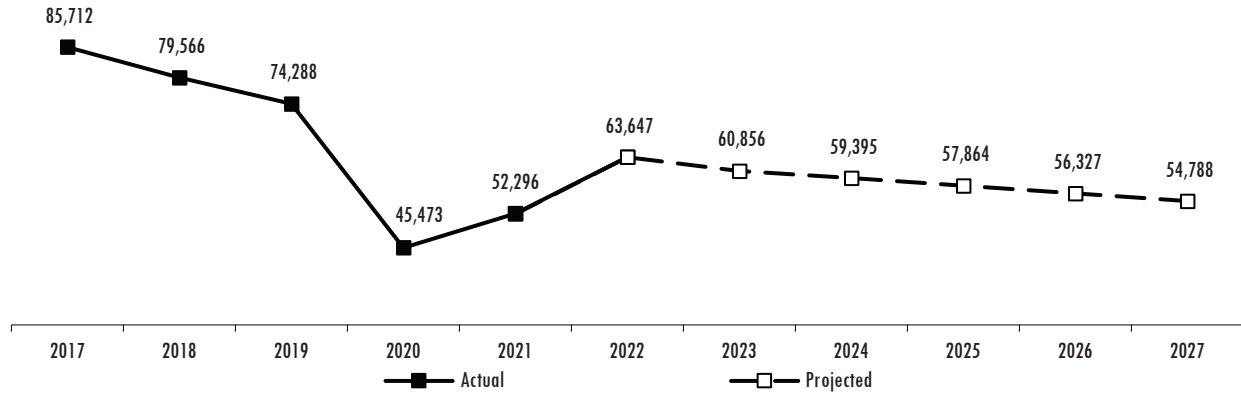
Misdemeanor community supervision placements are projected to decrease 13.9 percent from fiscal years 2022 to 2027. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., pretrial diversion program options) may affect future populations.

**FIGURE 19
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED ADULT FELONY DIRECT COMMUNITY SUPERVISION POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027**



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

FIGURE 20
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED ADULT MISDEMEANOR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Certain individuals who commit class A or B misdemeanor offenses are eligible to serve their sentences in the community rather than in county jail. Eligible individuals must adhere to basic conditions of supervision issued by a judge (e.g., commit no new offense, avoid injurious habits, report regularly, and pay fines) and may be required to complete residential or nonresidential programs. Failure to comply with these conditions can result in a revocation of community supervision and a sentence of incarceration within county jail.

Misdemeanor community supervision placements have decreased each year since fiscal year 2012, except during fiscal years 2013 and 2021. Placements decreased by 4.6 percent on average each year from 2012 to 2019 and decreased further by 38.8 percent in 2020. In fiscal year 2021, misdemeanor community supervision placements increased 15.0 percent. Misdemeanor community supervision placements have been decreasing steadily due to several factors, including that some county attorney offices offer pretrial diversion in lieu of placement onto misdemeanor community supervision. Pretrial diversion programs are offered as a way for defendants to avoid prosecution if they meet and maintain certain eligibility requirements. Program requirements may include completing community service, submitting to periodic drug-testing, and attending educational or counseling sessions. Other factors affecting the number of individuals placed on misdemeanor community supervision include modifications in arrest and sentencing practices for misdemeanor drug offenses. For most of calendar years 2020 and 2021, courts were not able

to hear cases at pre-pandemic rates. Some individuals that otherwise may have been placed on misdemeanor community supervision were not due to the modifications in arrest activity and court practices. As of this projections report, court activity is trending toward pre-pandemic levels in many counties, as indicated by the increase in placements from fiscal years 2020 to 2021.

**ADULT MISDEMEANOR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
 PROJECTED PLACEMENTS**

Misdemeanor community supervision placements are projected to decrease 13.9 percent from fiscal years 2022 to 2027. Any significant change in projection drivers may affect future populations. **Figure 20** shows actual and projected numbers of misdemeanor community supervision placements from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

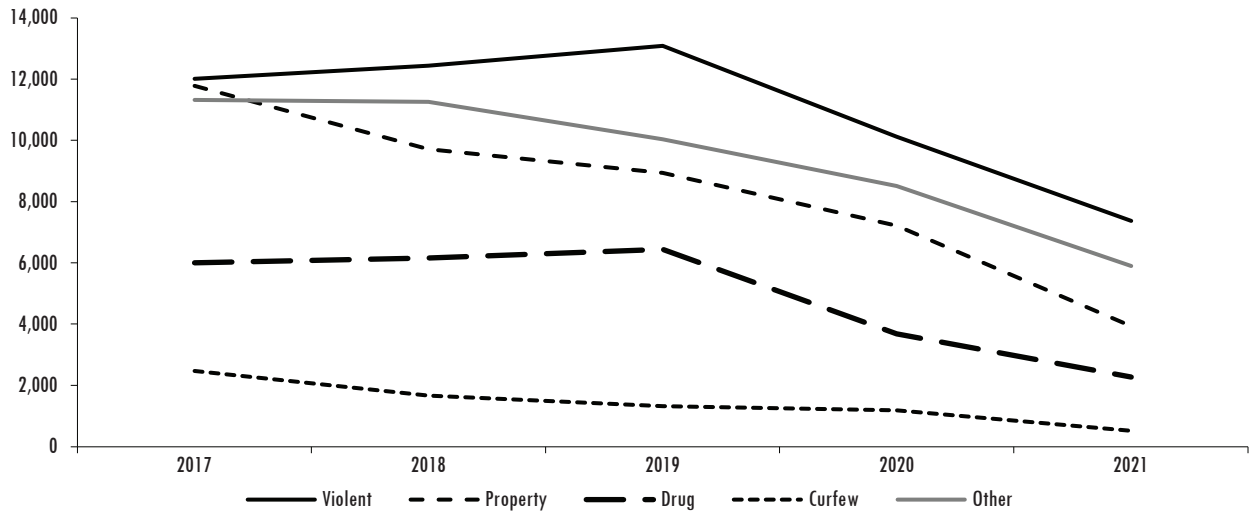
JUVENILE ARRESTS

Figure 21 shows juvenile arrests by offense type. The number of juvenile arrests decreased 34.5 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2021. During that period, arrests for all offense categories decreased.

The number of juvenile arrests decreased during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 due to modified practices during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the long-term effects

of the pandemic on law enforcement practices and subsequent effects on the criminal justice system still are unknown. Modifications to operations in response to the pandemic vary among jurisdictions. **Figure 22** shows the percentage change in arrests from fiscal years 2018 to 2019 and from fiscal years 2020 to 2021 to compare pre-pandemic arrest rates with rates affected by modified practices during the pandemic.

FIGURE 21
TEXAS JUVENILE ARRESTS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021

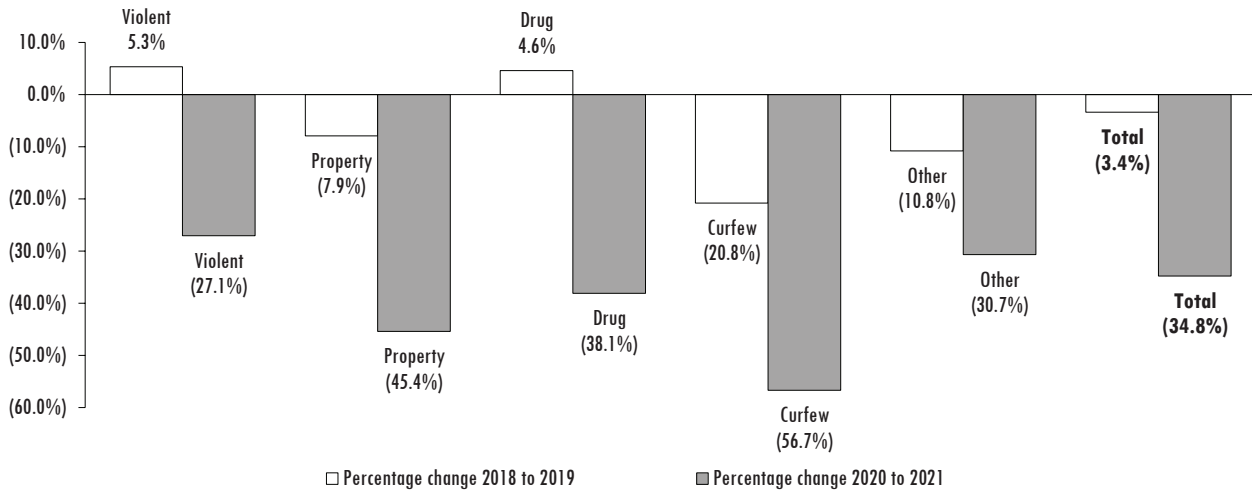


OFFENSE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2017 TO 2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2020 TO 2021
Violent	12,007	12,430	13,085	10,121	7,377	(38.6%)	(27.1%)
Property	11,783	9,705	8,937	7,210	3,940	(66.6%)	(45.4%)
Drug	5,997	6,157	6,438	3,682	2,279	(62.0%)	(38.1%)
Curfew	2,470	1,667	1,321	1,188	514	(79.2%)	(56.7%)
Other	11,327	11,252	10,035	8,503	5,896	(47.9%)	(30.7%)
Total	43,584	41,211	39,816	30,704	20,006	(54.1%)	(34.8%)

NOTE: Youths are defined as individuals ages 10 to 16, which is the age range the Texas Family Code specifies for entry into the Texas juvenile justice system.

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Public Safety, txucr.nibrs.com, data retrieved May 24, 2022.

FIGURE 22
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TEXAS JUVENILE ARRESTS BY OFFENSE TYPE, FISCAL YEARS 2018 TO 2019 AND 2020 TO 2021



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Public Safety, txucr.nibrs.com, data retrieved May 24, 2022.

JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

METHODOLOGY

LBB staff produce juvenile state residential, parole supervision, and probation supervision population projections by using a discrete event simulation model that incorporates updated demographic and correctional information. The model simulates an individual's movement through the juvenile justice system to produce aggregate population estimates for the next five fiscal years. Each youth's projected movement is governed by the state laws in place at the time of the offense. Population projections assume all current policies, procedures, and laws remain constant throughout the projection period.

The juvenile justice system responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with an approach similar to that of the adult criminal justice system, wherein law enforcement, courts, local juvenile probation departments, and state residential institutions reassessed and modified practices and policies. Throughout the pandemic, juvenile hearings have been suspended and delayed across the state, resulting in a backlog of cases. As of May 2022, courts in some counties have returned to pre-pandemic caseload rates with the help of visiting judges and videoconferencing technology, while others still have backlogs. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) suspended the transfer of youth from county jails and juvenile detention facilities several times due to active outbreaks and staffing shortages.

The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires a minimum ratio at TJJD of one adult staff member to eight youths, a task made difficult by persistently high and increasing staff turnover. The turnover rate among juvenile correctional officers was 72.4 percent, the highest turnover rate among all job classification series with 100 or more employees across all state agencies, according to the State Auditor's Office Annual Report on Classified Employee Turnover for Fiscal Year 2021. As of June 29, 2022, TJJD temporarily halted intakes to its secure facilities, reporting an inability to maintain compliance with PREA staff ratios to meet basic supervision needs, and set no anticipated date to resume normal practices. As of July 8, 2022, 147 youths committed to TJJD were waiting in local detention facilities for intake into a secure state facility. TJJD has taken other actions in response to the staff shortage, including transferring youth to facilities that have more staff available, relocating

resources and programming, reviewing youth for earlier release to parole supervision, and implementing a 15.0 percent salary increase for direct-care staff. It is unclear what effects these measures may have on juvenile state residential, parole supervision, or probation supervision populations throughout the projection period, and this projections report does not take these measures into account. LBB staff will continue to monitor the effects of the pandemic and staffing issues on the juvenile justice system and its populations.

JUVENILE STATE RESIDENTIAL ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

Juvenile state residential populations are projected to increase by 25.8 percent from fiscal years 2022 to 2024 as courts continue to process backlogged cases and TJJD accepts youths who are waiting for intake into a secure state facility. Following the increase, the population is expected to return to its previous trend, decreasing by 13.2 percent through fiscal year 2027 as new admissions begin to decrease. The state residential population is expected to remain below budgeted operating capacity during the entire projection period. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., commitment and parole revocation practices) may affect populations. The primary factors affecting state residential population projections are the number of individuals entering the system and their lengths of stay.

The juvenile state residential population consists of youths within TJJD secure facilities and halfway houses, and private residential facilities contracted for placements from TJJD. This population includes youths found to have engaged in delinquent conduct involving a felony offense. The Eighty-second Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, established TJJD with a mandate to prioritize the use of community-based or family-based programs and services for youths over the placement or commitment of youths to secure facilities, contributing to a decade-long decrease in the state residential population. The Eighty-fourth Legislature, 2015, directed TJJD to adopt a regionalization plan for keeping children closer to home in lieu of commitment to its secure facilities. TJJD then established the Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA) grant program, through which probation departments that otherwise would recommend

a youth for commitment to TJJD may apply for funding to provide local interventions for that youth in an effort to keep more youths out of state residential facilities.

As shown in **Figure 23**, the RDA program has diverted an average of 236 youths per year from the state residential population since fiscal year 2017; however, the number of youths diverted through the program decreased for the first time in fiscal year 2021.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions to state residential facilities decreased by an average of 7.2 percent per year from fiscal years 2017 to 2019. In fiscal year 2020, admissions decreased by 33.8 percent due to the hold on intakes at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, then increased by 17.3 percent in fiscal year 2021 as intakes began returning to the pre-pandemic trend. Although the long-term effects of the pandemic and staffing shortage are unknown, admissions to state residential facilities are expected to increase through fiscal year 2023 as courts resolve pending cases and TJJD accepts youths who are waiting for intake into secure state facilities. However, admissions are projected to decrease gradually from fiscal years 2023 to 2027.

Figure 24 shows juvenile state residential admissions from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

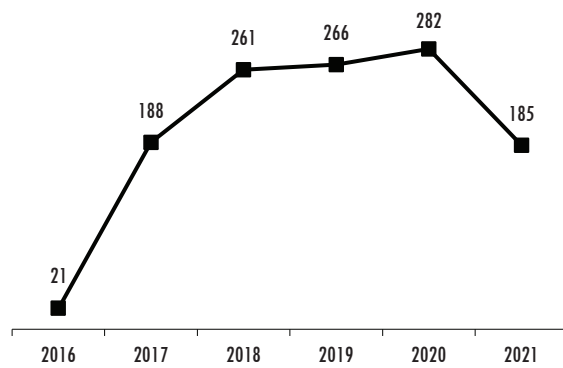
LENGTH OF STAY

Projected releases are determined by estimating length of stay, which is guided primarily by a TJJD-determined minimum length of stay, the youth’s age, and release approval decisions. Other factors that multivariate regression modeling show to be statistically significant predictors of length of stay include offense severity, adverse childhood experience scores, and home evaluation recommendations.

The average length of stay for youths exiting state residential facilities decreased by an average of 31 days from fiscal years 2017 to 2019 before increasing by 12 days during fiscal year 2020 and 70 days during fiscal year 2021. During the projection period, length of stay is expected to average 494 days, which would be a slight increase from the fiscal year 2020 level. Average lengths of stay are expected to remain elevated due to staffing challenges and the resulting availability and delivery of programming that must be completed during a youth’s stay.

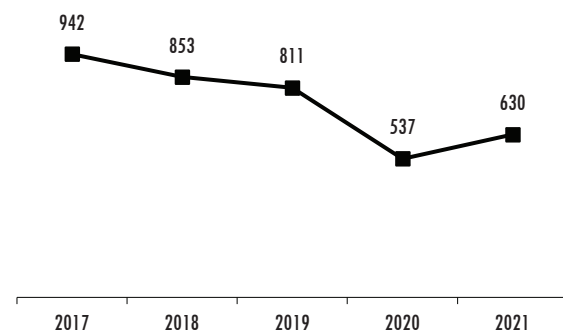
Figure 25 shows the average length of stay of youths exiting state residential facilities from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

FIGURE 23
YOUTHS DIVERTED THROUGH THE REGIONAL DIVERSION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEARS 2016 TO 2021



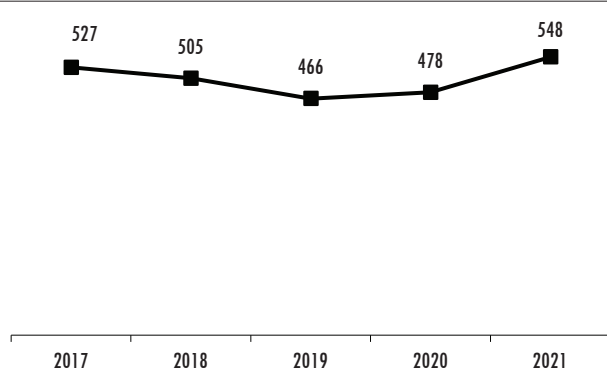
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

FIGURE 24
JUVENILE STATE RESIDENTIAL ADMISSIONS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



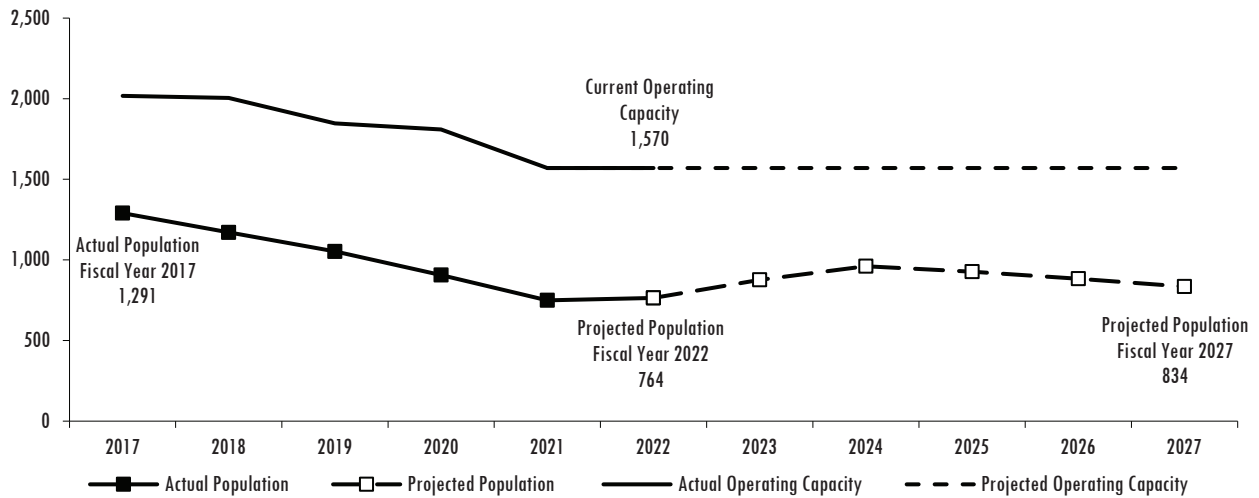
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

FIGURE 25
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN DAYS OF YOUTHS RELEASED FROM THE TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

FIGURE 26
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STATE RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AND BUDGETED OPERATING CAPACITY, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027



NOTES:

- (1) The Texas Juvenile Justice Department’s (TJJD) budgeted operating capacity decreased during fiscal year 2018 because the agency transferred ownership of the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center to the City of Corsicana on May 31, 2018.
- (2) TJJD’s budgeted operating capacity decreased substantially during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 because several beds originally designated for permanent assignment were set aside for medical quarantine to accommodate youths exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Additionally, the agency placed several dormitories offline.

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

JUVENILE STATE RESIDENTIAL PROJECTED POPULATION

The average daily population in juvenile state residential facilities has decreased during recent years, and modified practices since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend. The juvenile state residential population is projected to increase through fiscal year 2024 as courts resolve pending cases and TJJD accepts youths that are waiting for intake into a secure state facility. However, the population is projected to decrease gradually from fiscal years 2024 to 2027. The population is expected to remain below the current budgeted operating capacity during the projection period. Budgeted operating capacity is the sum of the following

counts: (1) beds in secure state facilities and halfway houses that are online and available for permanent placement; (2) beds in secure state facilities and halfway houses that are offline but otherwise would be available for permanent placement; and (3) beds in contract residential facilities that are occupied.

Figure 26 shows the actual and projected average daily state residential population and budgeted operating capacity for TJJD from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

Figure 27 shows the average daily projected population from fiscal years 2022 to 2027 and the population relative to TJJD’s budgeted operating capacity.

FIGURE 27
PROJECTED TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STATE RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AND BUDGETED OPERATING CAPACITY, FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2027

YEAR	AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION	BUDGETED OPERATING CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CAPACITY
2022	764	1,570	806	51.3%
2023	876	1,570	694	44.2%
2024	961	1,570	609	38.8%
2025	927	1,570	643	41.0%
2026	883	1,570	687	43.8%
2027	834	1,570	736	46.9%

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

JUVENILE PAROLE SUPERVISION ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

The parole supervision population is projected to decrease an average of 2.2 percent per year during the projection period, with an average daily population of 224 by the end of fiscal year 2027. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., commitment and parole approval or revocation practices) may affect actual populations.

Parole supervision is a verification of the youth’s location, daily schedule, and required activities after release from a TJJD residential facility. Most youths admitted to parole supervision initially are assigned to an intensive level of supervision. Youths who have earned parole credit in other programs can be assigned to moderate supervision or minimum supervision levels. While youths are on parole, the level of supervision is reduced based on their risk to reoffend and demonstrated compliance with their individualized case plans. Discharge from parole for youths typically depends on completing program objectives.

PLACEMENTS

Admissions to parole increased from fiscal years 2017 to 2019, with an average annual increase of 4.2 percent, then decreased during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 by 28.8 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively. From fiscal years 2017 to 2021, the percentage of all youths released from state residential facilities to parole supervision fluctuated, with an average of 69.3 percent. Assuming a similar percentage are admitted to parole during subsequent fiscal years, it is expected that the number of youths admitted to parole supervision will increase in fiscal year 2022 before gradually decreasing through fiscal year 2027.

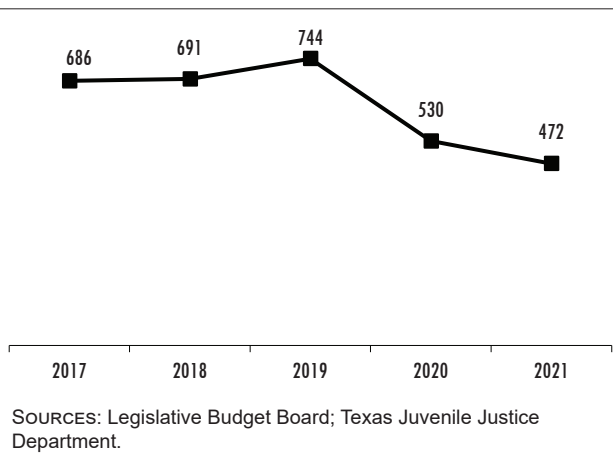
Figure 28 shows juvenile parole supervision placements from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

LENGTH OF SUPERVISION

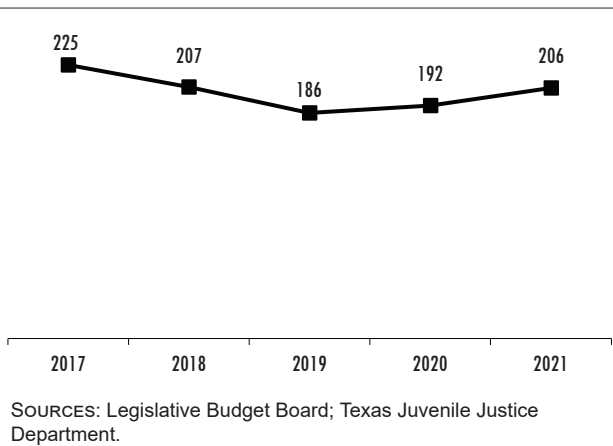
The average length of supervision for youths released from parole has decreased steadily for several years. From fiscal years 2017 to 2019, the average length of parole supervision decreased by 39 days before increasing by 20 days from fiscal years 2019 to 2021 as the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic affected the juvenile justice system. It is expected that, as the effects of the pandemic wane, average lengths of supervision will resume a steady decrease.

Figure 29 shows average lengths of supervision for juvenile parole releases from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

**FIGURE 28
JUVENILE PAROLE SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**



**FIGURE 29
AVERAGE LENGTH OF SUPERVISION IN DAYS FOR
JUVENILE PAROLE RELEASES
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021**

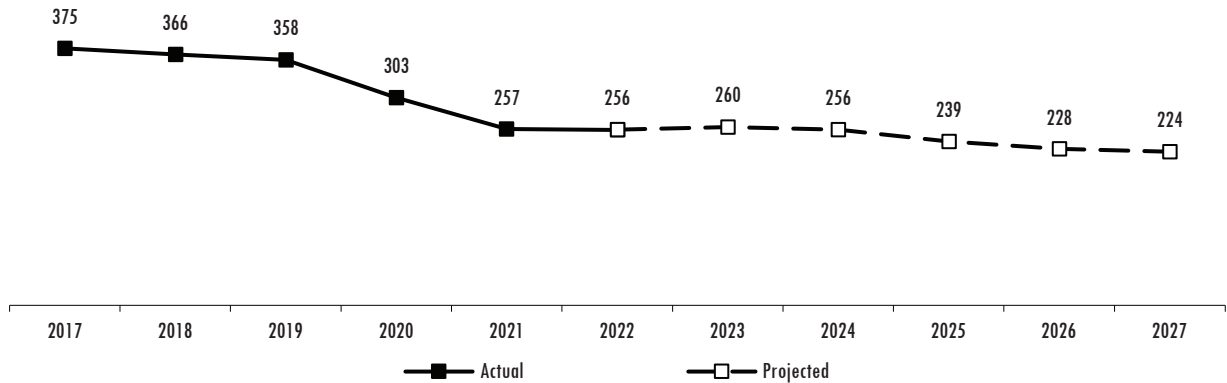


JUVENILE PAROLE SUPERVISION PROJECTED POPULATION

Like other correctional populations, the average daily population on juvenile parole supervision decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. From fiscal years 2017 to 2019, the parole supervision population decreased by 17 youths, and from 2019 and 2021 it decreased by 101 youths. The population is projected to remain stable through fiscal year 2024 as TJJD returns to pre-pandemic functionality, before the population begins decreasing gradually through fiscal year 2027 as a result of expected decreases in the juvenile state residential population.

Figure 30 shows the actual and projected average daily juvenile parole supervision populations for TJJD from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

FIGURE 30
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED JUVENILE PAROLE SUPERVISION AVERAGE DAILY POPULATIONS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027



SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISION ACTUAL AND PROJECTED POPULATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027

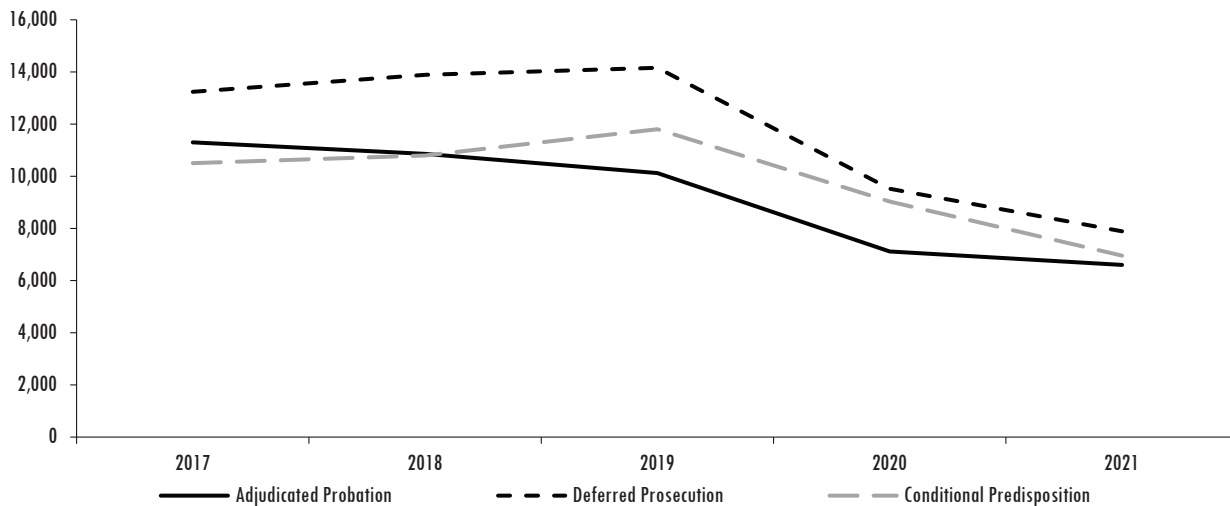
Juvenile probation supervision populations are projected to increase by 31.1 percent from fiscal years 2022 to 2023 as courts continue to process backlogged cases. The population is projected to decrease by 6.0 percent from fiscal years 2023 to 2027 as new placements decrease. Any significant change in projection drivers (e.g., diversion and probation approval or revocation practices) may affect actual populations.

The juvenile probation supervision population consists of three subpopulations supervised by local probation departments: (1) adjudicated probation, (2) deferred prosecution, and (3) conditional predisposition. Adjudicated probation is established in the Texas Family Code, Section 54.04, and may be ordered only by a judge after determining during an adjudication hearing that the youth committed an offense. The judge specifies the supervision length of probation and the conditions of supervision, which may take place at home or in a secure or non-secure residential facility. As part of this supervision, the youth is required to follow certain requirements, participate in programs, and fulfill other obligations determined by the judge. If the youth violates these conditions, probation terms may be modified or, if the youth and violation meet certain conditions, probation may be revoked, and the youth may be committed to TJJD custody.

Deferred prosecution, as established in the Texas Family Code, Section 53.03, enables youths who have less severe offense histories to avoid adjudication. If an intake officer, probation officer, or other court representative determines that proceedings against a youth would be authorized, that officer may recommend deferred prosecution. Participation requires consent from the youth and their parent, guardian, or custodian, who at any time may terminate the supervision and request an adjudication hearing. Supervision may last up to six months unless extended by the judge for up to six additional months. Like adjudicated probation, deferred prosecution includes supervision conditions. If the youth violates any of the conditions during the supervision period, the probation department may request formal adjudication of the case. Youths who complete deferred prosecution successfully are released from supervision, and the cases are dismissed.

Conditional predisposition, formerly known as conditional release, is established in the Texas Family Code, Section 53.02. After youths are referred to juvenile court, they must be released unless detention is required by law. The probation department may decide to release a youth on specific conditions of release, which must be related to ensuring that the youth will appear in court. These conditions of release must be in writing and filed with the office or official designated by the court, and a copy must be provided to the youth. Youths who violate the written and court-approved conditions of release may be taken into custody for probable cause of the violations.

FIGURE 31
JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISION PLACEMENTS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



YEAR	ADJUDICATED PROBATION	DEFERRED PROSECUTION	CONDITIONAL PREDISPOSITION	TOTAL
2017	11,307	13,236	10,494	35,037
2018	10,854	13,882	10,789	35,525
2019	10,119	14,162	11,805	36,086
2020	7,113	9,519	9,026	25,658
2021	6,598	7,895	6,965	21,458

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

PLACEMENTS

Placements into juvenile probation supervision increased by an annual average of 1.5 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2019, driven by increasing placements into deferred prosecution and conditional predisposition supervision. Adjudicated probation placements decreased during the same period. During fiscal years 2020 and 2021, modified system practices in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic caused an average annual decrease of 22.6 percent as all three subpopulations decreased. Placements into all three subpopulations are projected to increase through fiscal year 2023. Total probation supervision placements are projected to remain stable through fiscal year 2027 as deferred prosecution and conditional predisposition placements increase slightly and adjudicated probation placements decrease. Changes to prevention and intervention policies may affect these projections by altering the number of youths who officially enter the juvenile justice system.

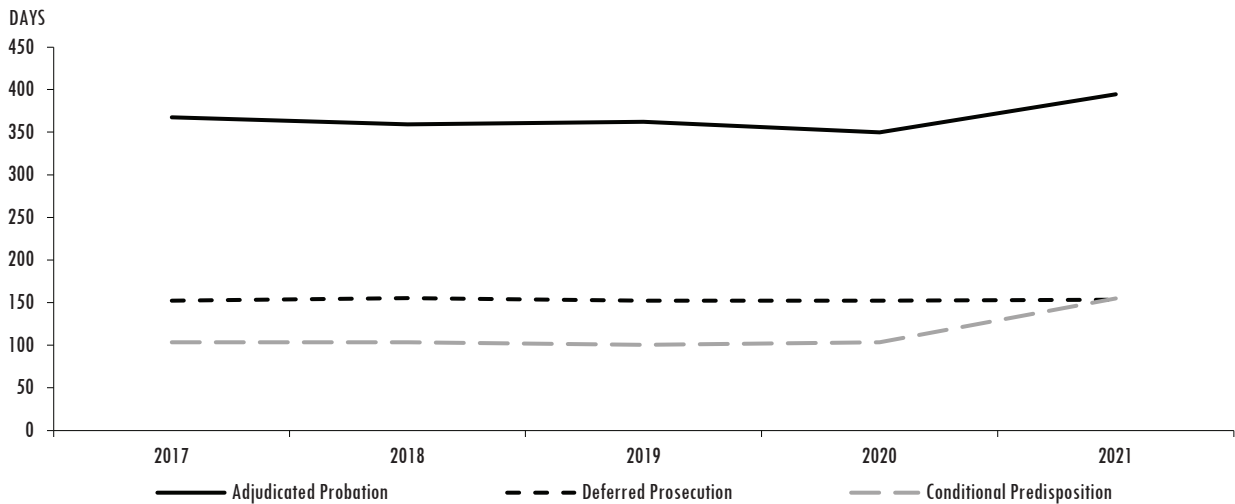
Figure 31 shows juvenile probation supervision placements from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

LENGTH OF SUPERVISION

Lengths of supervision for all three subpopulations remained stable from fiscal years 2017 to 2020, averaging 364 days for adjudicated probation, 153 days for deferred prosecution, and 106 days for conditional predisposition. As the proportion of adjudicated probation placements decreased during the same period, the weighted average length of stay across all three subpopulations decreased by 17 days. During fiscal year 2021, the average length of supervision for youths on deferred prosecution remained stable, while average lengths of supervision for youth on adjudicated probation and conditional predisposition increased by 45 days and 50 days, respectively, causing an increase of 38 days in the overall weighted average. Lengths of supervision for all three subpopulations are projected to remain stable through fiscal year 2027.

Figure 32 shows the average length of supervision in days for juvenile probation releases from fiscal years 2017 to 2021.

FIGURE 32
AVERAGE LENGTH OF SUPERVISION IN DAYS FOR JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISION RELEASES
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2021



YEAR	ADJUDICATED PROBATION	DEFERRED PROSECUTION	CONDITIONAL PREDISPOSITION	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
2017	367	152	103	207
2018	359	155	103	202
2019	362	152	100	194
2020	350	152	103	190
2021	395	153	155	228

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

**JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISION
 PROJECTED POPULATION**

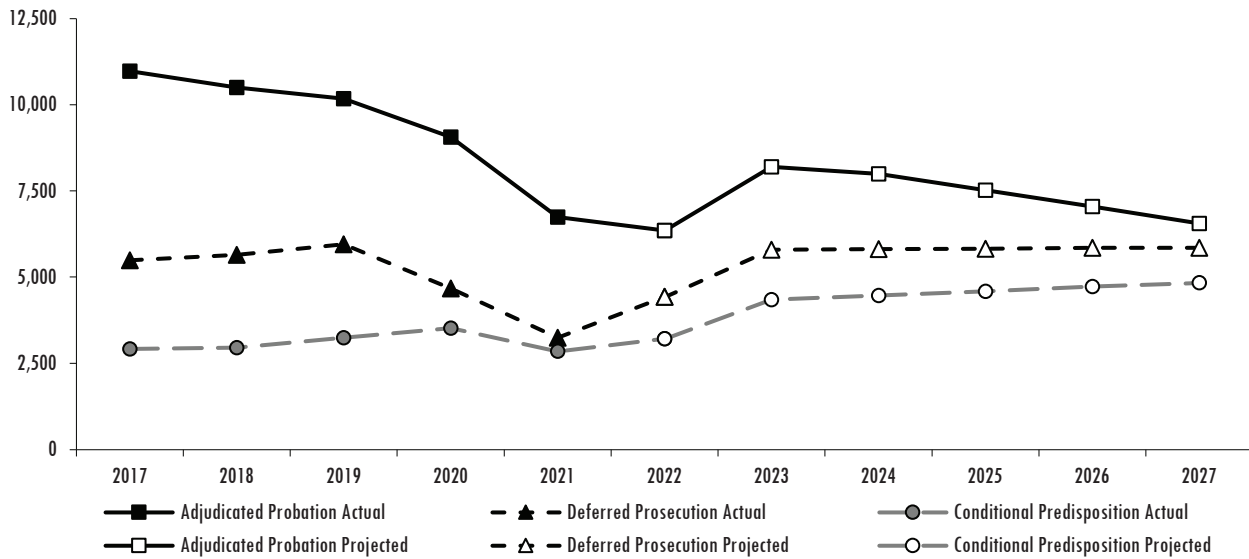
Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the average daily population of youths on adjudicated probation was decreasing steadily, with an annual average decrease of 3.7 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2019 before decreasing by 10.9 percent in fiscal year 2020 and a further 25.6 percent in fiscal year 2021. Meanwhile, the average daily population of youths on deferred prosecution increased by an annual average of 4.2 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2019, then decreased by an annual average of 26.0 percent in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The average daily population of youths on conditional predisposition increased by an annual average of 6.5 percent from fiscal years 2017 to 2020, decreasing by 19.0 percent in fiscal year 2021. Overall, the entire probation supervision population remained stable, with 0.0 percent average annual change from fiscal years 2017 to 2019 before it decreased by 10.9 percent in fiscal year 2020 and 25.6 percent in fiscal year 2021.

Although the average daily population of youths on adjudicated probation is expected to decrease further by 5.7

percent in fiscal year 2022, all three subpopulations are expected to increase through fiscal year 2023 as courts return to normal operation. At that point, the average daily population of youths on adjudicated probation is projected to decrease steadily through fiscal year 2027, and the average daily populations of youths on deferred prosecution and conditional predisposition are projected to increase gradually. Overall, the average daily population of all youths on probation supervision is projected to increase through fiscal year 2023 and to then remain stable through fiscal year 2027.

Figure 33 shows the actual and projected juvenile probation supervision populations from fiscal years 2017 to 2027.

FIGURE 33
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISION AVERAGE DAILY POPULATIONS
FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2027



YEAR	ADJUDICATED PROBATION	DEFERRED PROSECUTION	CONDITIONAL PREDISPOSITION	TOTAL
2022	6,353	4,429	3,211	13,993
2023	8,197	5,796	4,346	18,339
2024	7,990	5,816	4,466	18,272
2025	7,516	5,818	4,582	17,916
2026	7,044	5,850	4,725	17,619
2027	6,556	5,848	4,835	17,239

SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Juvenile Justice Department.