Office of Economic Analysis[1] – Youth Corrections Forecast Tracking Summary

November 2023

The latest forecast for the Oregon Youth Authority close custody population (October 2023 release) on November 1 was 388 youth, a projected 10-bed increase from the September 1 actual population level. The actual population was 383, a five-bed increase. The actual population fell below the forecast by five beds[2].

Table 1:

Youth Corrections Forecast - Latest Forecast Tracking

	Males				Females				Total
	DOC	PSR	DBA-New	DBA-Rev	DOC	PSR	DBA-New	DBA-Rev	
September 1 Actual	45	67	155	68	3	5	30	5	378
November 1 Actual	47	67	161	63	3	5	33	4	383
November 1 Forecast	46	71	155	72	3	3	31	7	388
Actual Change	2	0	6	-5	0	0	3	-1	5
Forecast Change	1	4	0	4	0	-2	1	2	10
Forecast Error	1	-4	6	-9	0	2	2	-3	-5

The close custody forecast is delineated by gender and bed type (Department of Corrections, Public Safety Reserve, and Discretionary Bed Allocation)[3]. For the Discretionary Bed Allocation, the forecast further delineates between youth in on a new crime versus those in on a revocation.

The largest negative error occurred in the Male DBA-Revocation cohort, with additional compounding errors in the Male PSR and Female DBA-Revocation populations. The Male DBA-New Crime cohort grew modestly. Minor errors were observed otherwise.

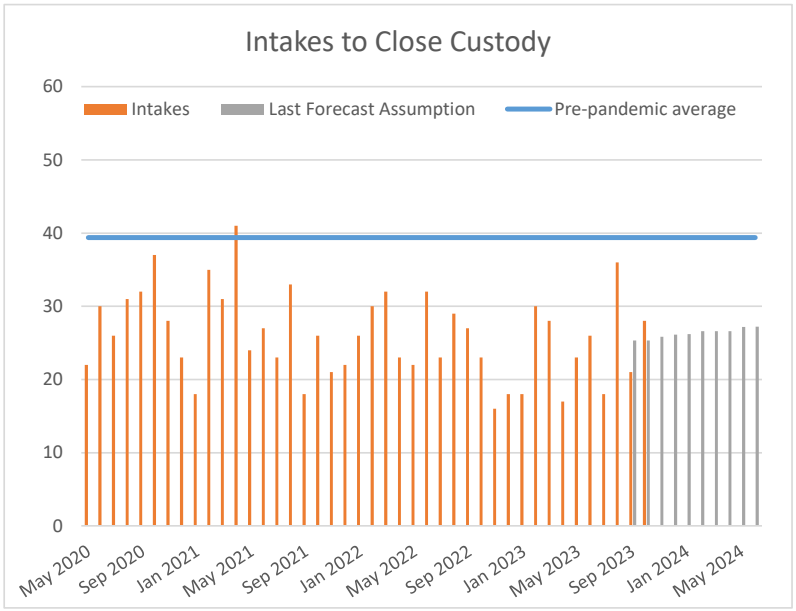
[1] For questions about the youth corrections forecast, please contact Michael Kennedy at michael.kennedy@oregon.gov or (971) 678-5595.

[2] Note that this report tracks actual and projected changes in the close custody population from the last actual on which the forecast was based.

[3] Note that individual values may not sum up to the totals due to rounding.

In the near term, errors in the youth corrections forecast are primarily driven by deviations from assumptions about intakes to close custody. Chart 1 illustrates intakes since the onset of the pandemic, as well as the forecast for intakes assumed in the October 2023 forecast. The blue bar represents the pre-pandemic average, roughly 40 intakes per month. Fore the last two months, intakes have roughly equaled forecast assumptions. The modest error in the forecast observed for November is primarily due to unexpected releases in the month of October.

Chart 1



Finally, point-in-time errors give an indication of how the forecast is tracking in real time. The recent history of the error rate also provides information about how the forecast is performing. The following chart presents the forecast errors since the publication of the forecast.

Chart 2: Forecast Errors Since Publication