Office of Economic Analysis¹ – Youth Corrections Forecast Tracking Summary

September 2023

The latest forecast for the Oregon Youth Authority close custody population (April 2023 release) on September 1 was 386 youth, a projected eight-bed increase from the March 1 actual population level. The actual population was 378, equal to the March population level. The actual population fell below the forecast by eight beds².

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| Youth Corrections Forecast - Latest Forecast Tracking | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|---------|---------|-----|-----|---------|---------|-----|--|
| | Males | | | Females | | | | Total | | |
| | DOC | PSR | DBA-New | DBA-Rev | DOC | PSR | DBA-New | DBA-Rev | | |
| March 1 Actual | 43 | 61 | 158 | 68 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 10 | 378 | |
| September 1 Actual | 45 | 67 | 155 | 68 | 3 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 378 | |
| September 1 Forecast | 43 | 77 | 147 | 71 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 13 | 386 | |
| Actual Change | 2 | 6 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -1 | -5 | С | |
| Forecast Change | 0 | 16 | -11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -2 | 3 | 8 | |
| Forecast Error | 2 | -10 | 8 | -3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -8 | -8 | |

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.

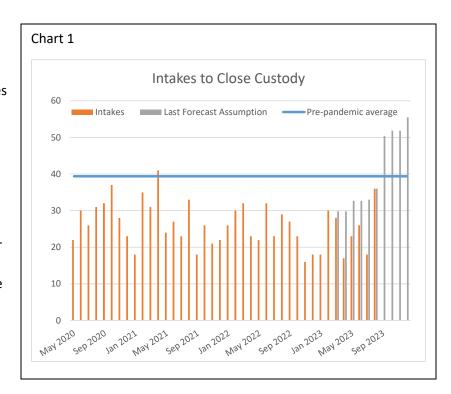
The monthly error was primarily observed in two cohorts, the male Public Safety Reserve and the Female Discretionary Bed Allocation – revocation populations. By way of contrast, the Male DBA – new crime population exceeded the forecast by eight beds. Marginal and offsetting errors occurred in the remaining cohorts.

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 April 2023 forecast. The blue bar represents the pre-pandemic average, roughly 40 intakes per month. For four out of the six months since the release of the forecast, intakes have fallen well short of forecast assumptions. This explains the modest error observed for September 1 for the most part.



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.

