

# Idaho's Research Plan

ICRN Virtual Meeting 06/12/2020

Idaho Department of Correction

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Idaho Department of Correction has approximately:

- 2,200 staff
- 8,800 inmates (incarceration rate of 5.0 per 1,000 Idahoans)
- 17,400 felony probationers/parolees (9.6 per 1,000 Idahoans)
- 9 State Prisons
  - Total capacity = 7,262
  - 2 are female, plus one combined male/female facility
  - 650 in out of state prison
  - 1 maximum security, 2 medium, 2 combined custody
- One in-state private prison
  - Capacity = 432
- 4 Community Reentry Centers
  - 1 is female
- 7 P&P district offices plus multiple satellite offices
- Have received funding for additional CRCs and have requested funding for day reporting centers.

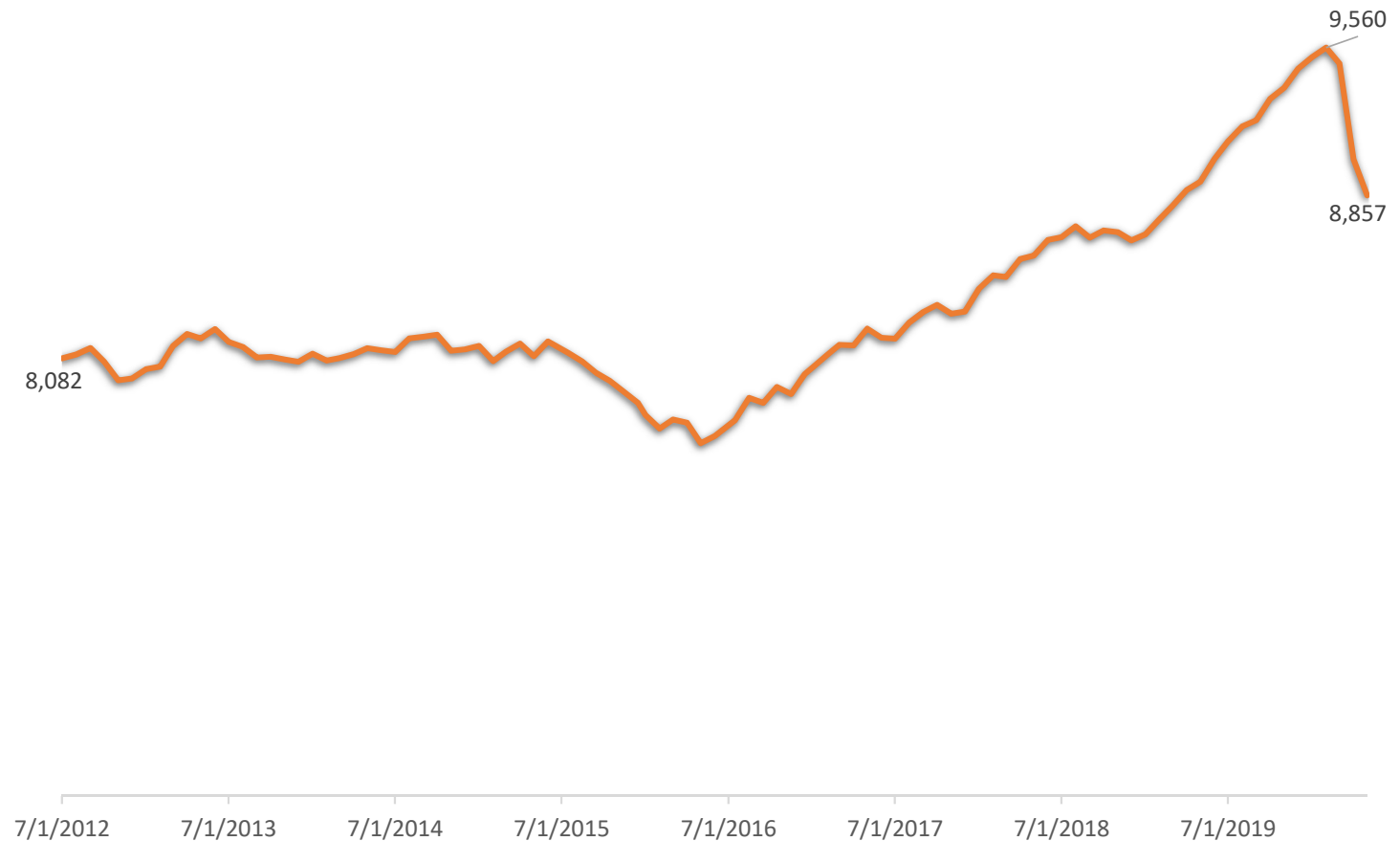


***Idaho population 1.8 million***



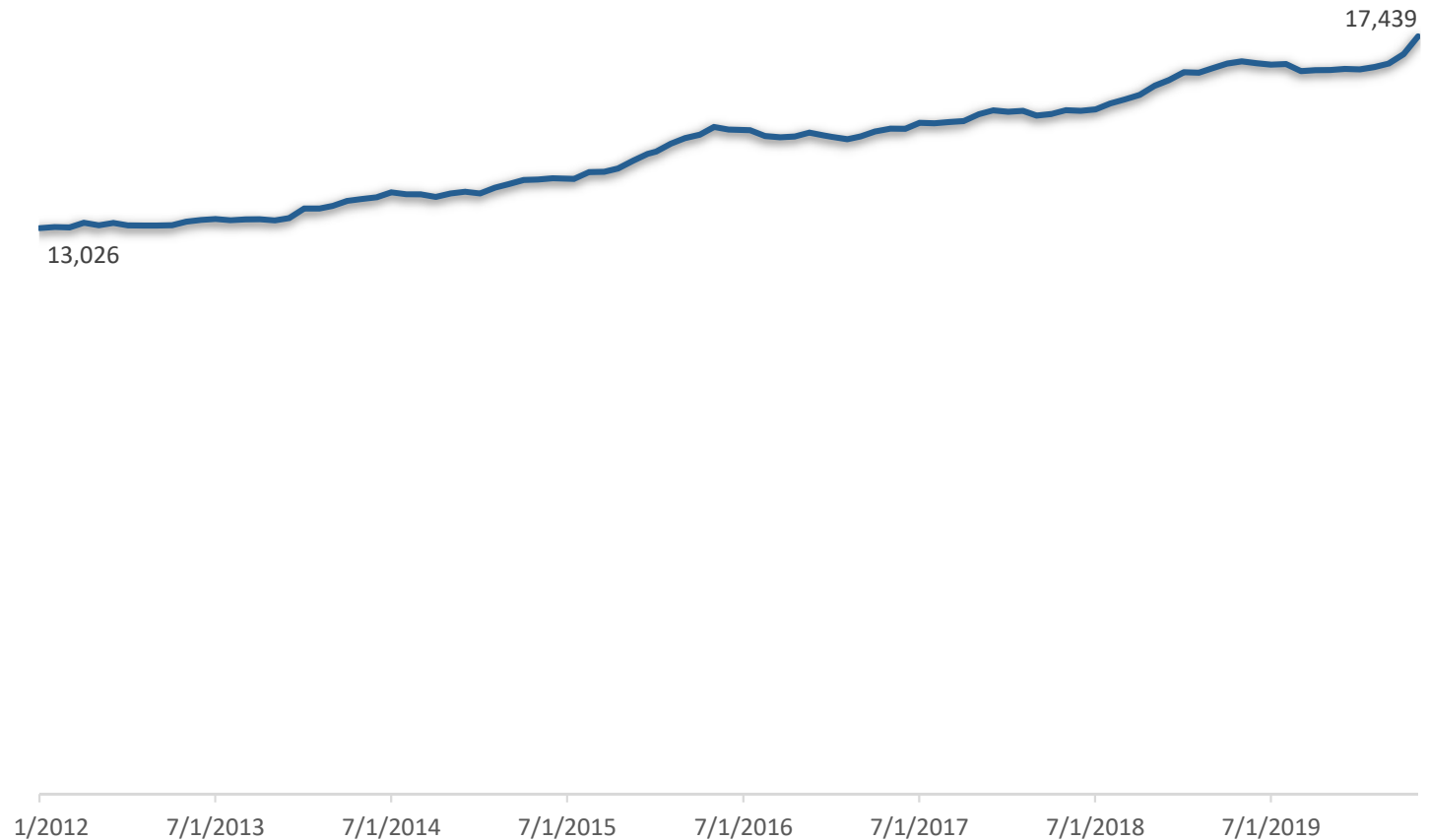
## Agency Overview

After experiencing record growth up through 2019, IDOCs incarcerated population dropped significantly between March through May 2020, by 700. This is the lowest point since April 2019.



## Trend in incarcerated population

The community population is currently increasing at 3.4%. The parole population is up 12% from last year, probation is up 1%.



## Trend in community population

Since Covid-19:

- As of mid-March, team is working from home for next foreseeable future, as long as able.
  - Becoming more efficient, using cloud more, taking more online trainings, sharing resources and collaborating as a team through Skype and Zoom.
- Created reports to help identify individuals parole eligible provided with tentative parole dates whose release could be pushed up, as well as those who are more vulnerable from exposure to Covid.
- Tracking individuals re-reviewed for parole and released for outcomes.
- Recidiviz Covid-19 model – free for state agencies. Helps predict the likely spread of Covid-10 within facilities.
  - Idaho is one of three states left with no Covid cases in prisons.
- Continuing to provide information for agency projects, population updates, etc.



## Research Plan

## Gender Responsive Committee

- Understanding women have different needs that can affect their growth and healing while in prison.
- Helping to provide data to inform as well as indicate need for changes in practices.
- Team consists of wardens of female prisons, district managers in probation and parole, several case managers, security staff, plus medical staff.
- Going through practices and policies around prison classification, disciplinary, mental health.
- Will be conducting assessment of practices in July.
- Have been conducting climate surveys
  - Ask questions about how safe do they feel in room they sleep in, staff use of force, readiness for release to parole, trust between staff and inmates, praise, etc.

## Climate Surveys

- Has been a challenge as have left as voluntary so getting different response rates per facility.
- Strongest predictors for feeling safe:
  - I feel staff care about me.
  - My healthcare needs are met.
  - Staff stop fights when they happen.
  - I receive praise for the good things I do.
  - Staff treat inmates with respect.
  - There is a sense of trust between COs and inmates.
- Highest dissatisfaction is with not receiving praise or rewards, not feeling respected by staff.
  - Provides targets for growth over time.
- Comments are leading to ideas for change.
  - Concern for safety of personal belongings because can't afford a lock.
  - Fear of catching Covid- don't want to die in prison. Prison is overcrowded.
  - Feel uncomfortable in shower area – floor is slippery, shower curtains not long enough, etc.



## Restoring Promise

**Restoring Promise**

Vera INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE MILFA

- Vera Institute and MILFA
  - Values: Restorative Justice, Cultural Healing, Family and Community Partnerships, Racial Equity
- Will create unit in one of prisons to house a group/tier comprised of 18-25 year old males housed with older incarcerated mentors.
- Will change many things we do re-examining the role of families, discipline, to hopefully reduce gang affiliations and violence.
- Covid has halted the process but we have been creative about how things are going forward.
  - Implementation team meets every two weeks through Zoom.
  - As Vera and MILFA will most likely not be able to visit in the coming future, we are considering they create online trainings. We are also creating online messages targeting staff and inmates to help communicate what the new unit will be.
  - IDOC is currently not allowing visitation or volunteers so will continue to need to be creative about this.
- With recent events due to the death of George Floyd, group has heightened awareness to look at policies/practices that may have disproportionate outcomes to our minority, poor, and youthful population.



## Recidiviz

- Nonprofit technology agency
- Has been provided with data feeds from IDOC
- Creating a case triage tool for probation and parole to help see who's due for certain supervision meetings, UA's etc.
- Will also help staff understand the success rate of their caseload.

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- We are continuing to tackle projects despite Covid-19 and are becoming more efficient because of it.
  - We are becoming more technologically sound and have increased collaboration between the field and central office.
  - Stay healthy and safe.

Questions/comments:

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## Conclusion