



CORRECTIONS MARA MODULE UPDATE

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August 27, 2025

What Drives Offender Population Changes?

- A larger resident population
- Changes in crime rates
- Increasing or decreasing existing sentencing lengths
- Establishing jail time or removing jail time as a possible sentence
- The practices/strategies by the Board of Pardons and Parole in terms of releasing inmates eligible for parole

Where We Left Off in FY 2024?

- Convicted Offender average daily population (ADP) dipped during COVID(FY 2020 – FY 2021) but rebounded in FY 2023 and FY 2024.
- Total counts of reported crime through calendar year 2023 had been steadily declining since CY 2016, but reported violent incidents had been increasing during the same time-period
- This increase in violent crime incidents appeared to correlate with an increased number of offenders serving sentences more serious offenses (violent and sexual)

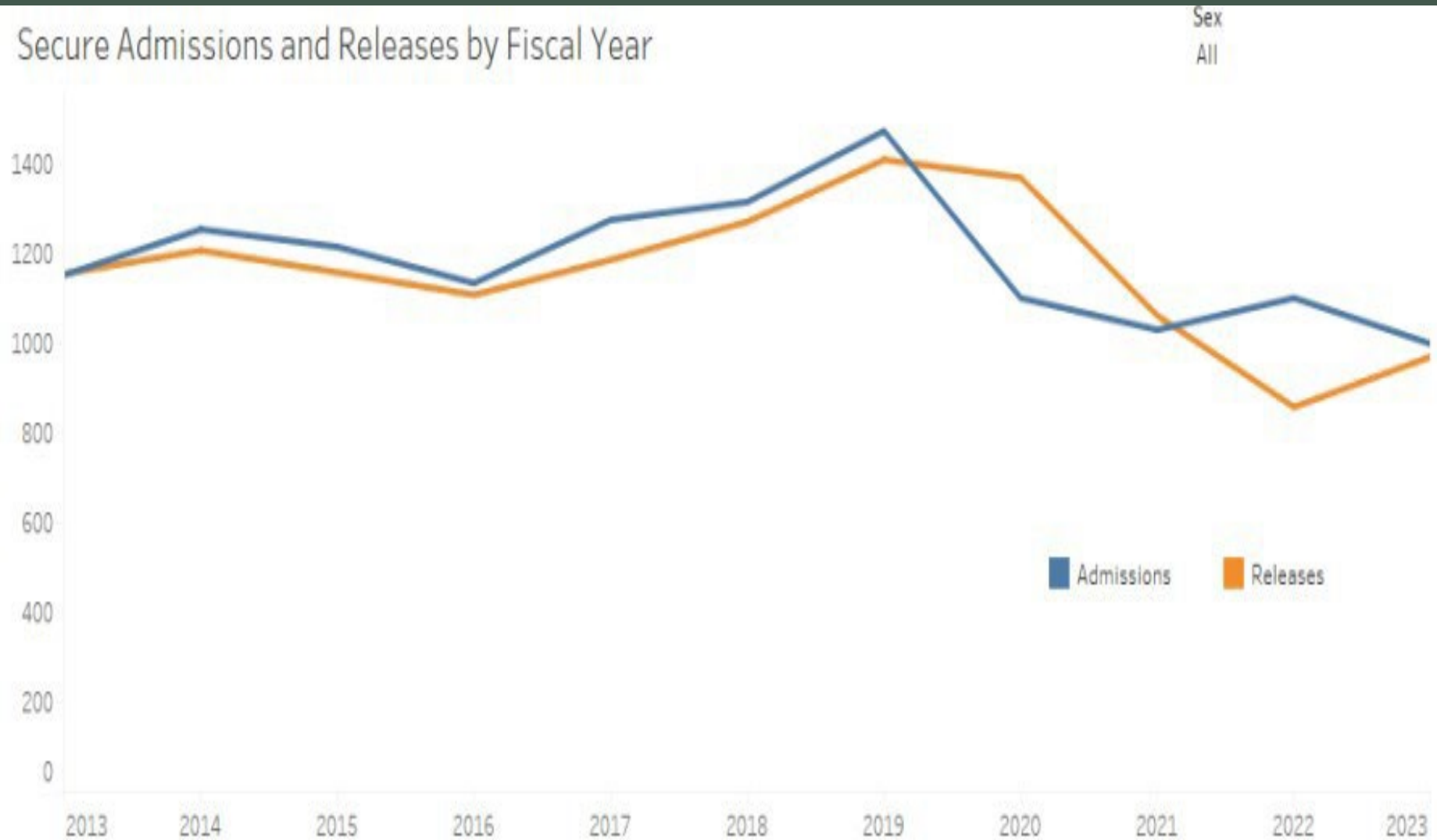
Data Changes

- Gather new ADP data through FYE 2025 – estimates
- Gather new Crime data through calendar year 2024
- Gather new offense data through FY 2024
- Attempt to include pre-release (FY 2020 – FY 2025). This data was not reflected in prior modeling due to older data - estimates

Historical Admission & Releases

Since the Covid period and through FY 2023, the DOC had seen fewer admissions and releases into secure facilities than it had prior.

New Data Coming



Experienced Growth from
FY 1999

- Male = 70.3%
- Female = 246.1%

Experienced Growth from
FY 2021 (COVID dip)

- Male = 10.9%
- Female = 23.7%

Estimated Growth through
FY 2044

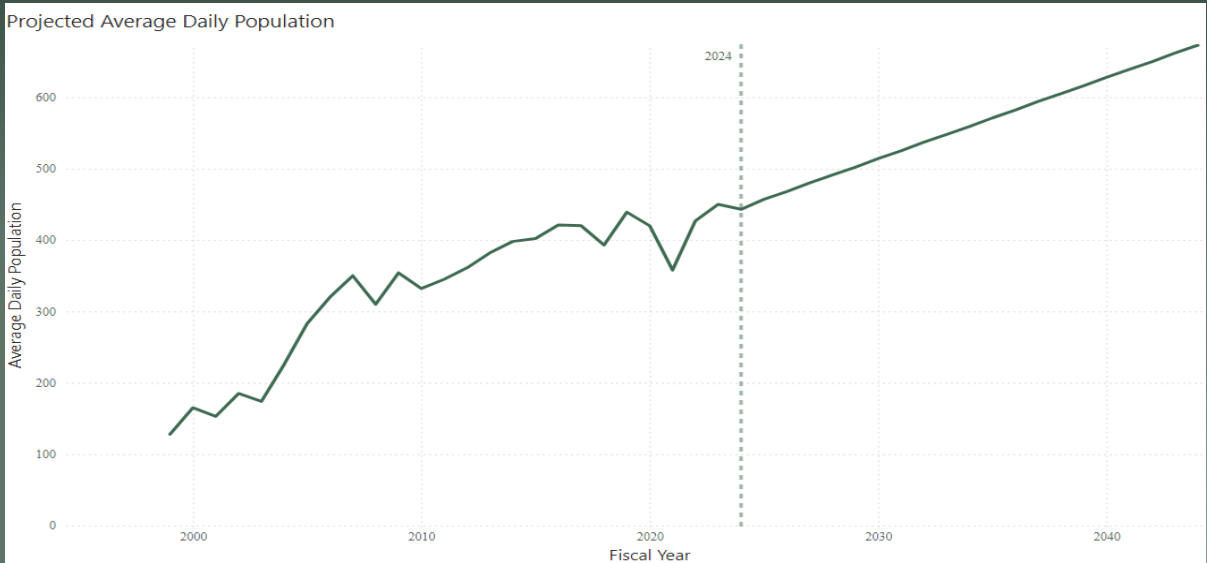
- Male = 37.6%
- Female = 51.9%

Estimated Capacity Need
through FY 2044

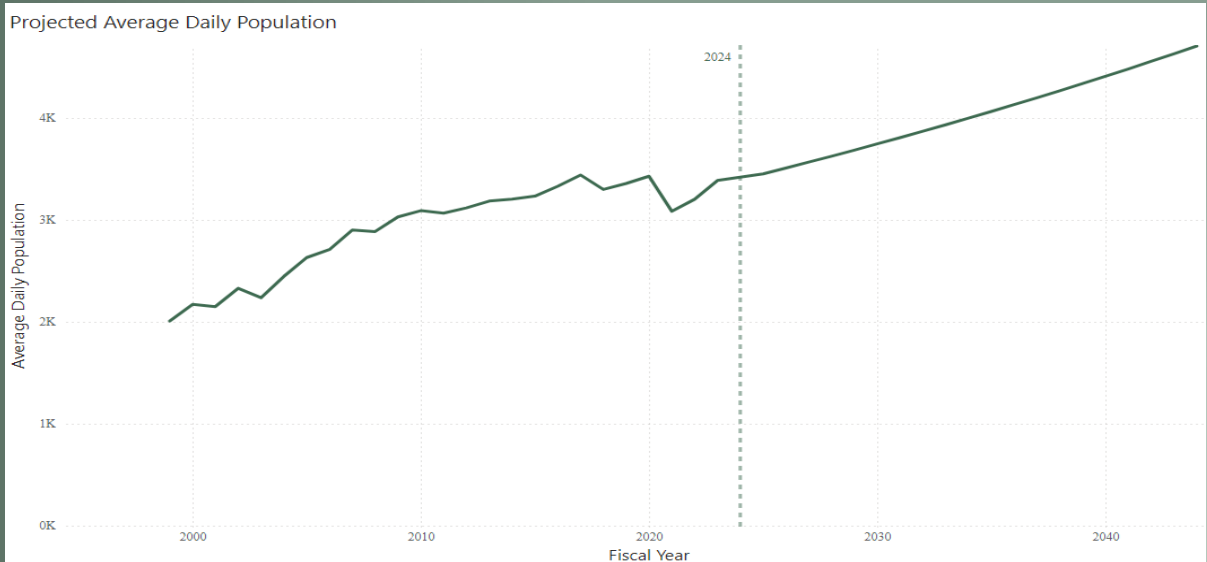
- Male – 1200
- Female – 230

Offender ADP & Prior Projections

Female



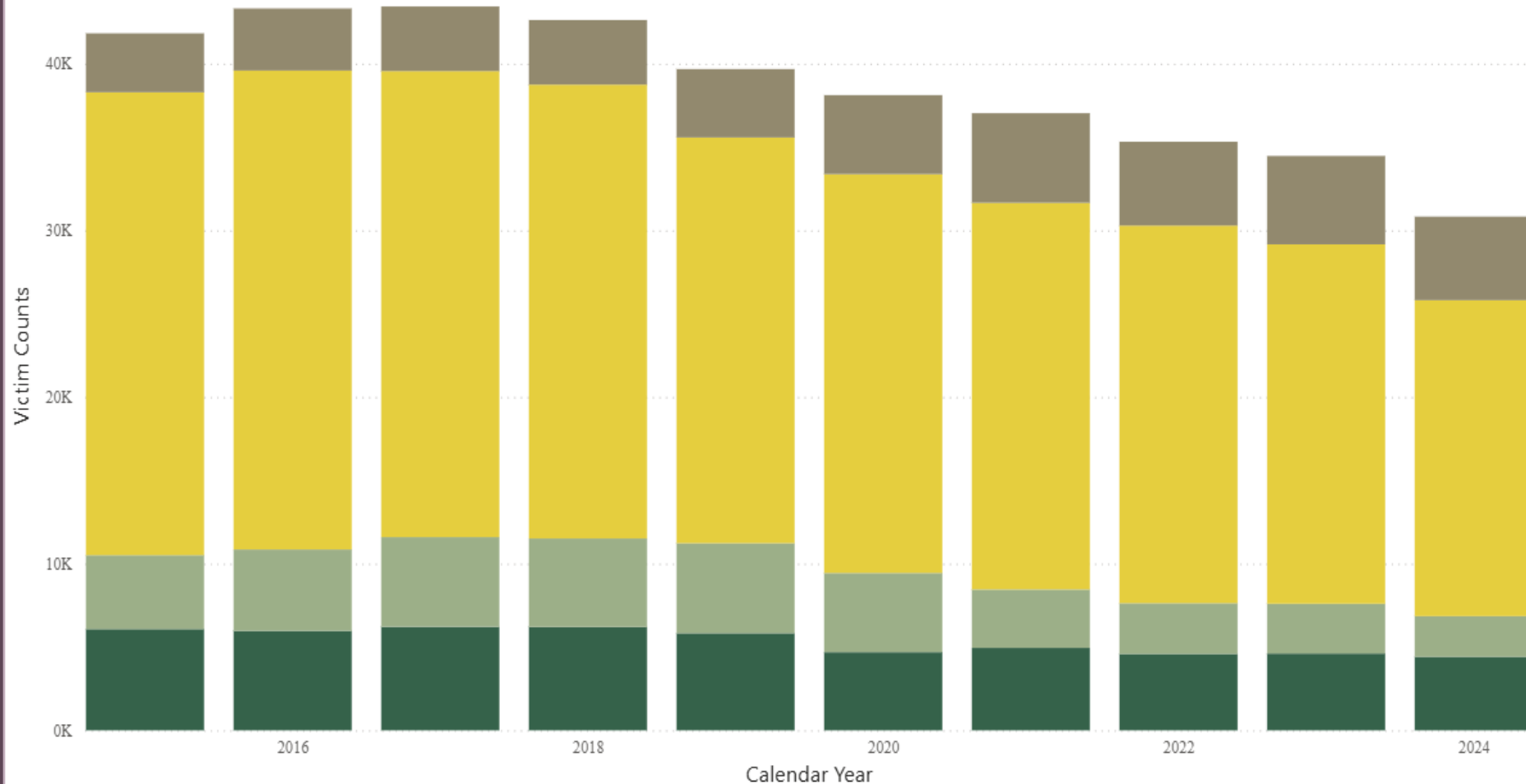
Male



Changes in Reported Crime

Reported Crime Trends

Crime Category ● Domestic Violence ● Drug Seizure ● Property Crime ● Violent Crime



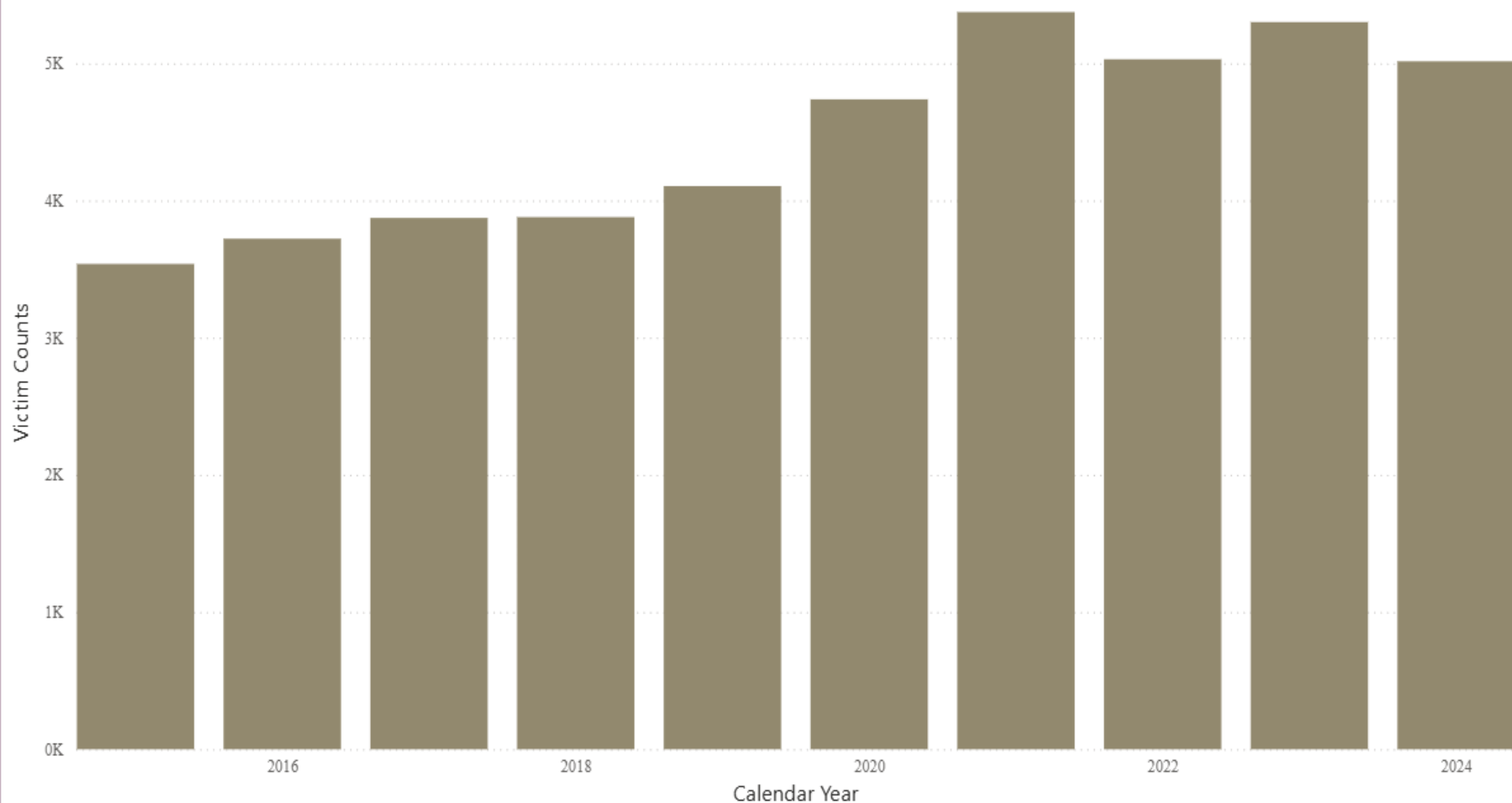
Through calendar year 2024, numbers of reported crime continued to decline.

Counts can increase as more crime is reported – even in prior calendar years

Changes in Reported Violent Crime

Reported Crime Trends

Crime Category ● Violent Crime



Reported numbers of violent crime decreased slightly from calendar year 2023 but are still higher than more historical years.

Data reflects an increase of approximately 42.0% from 2015

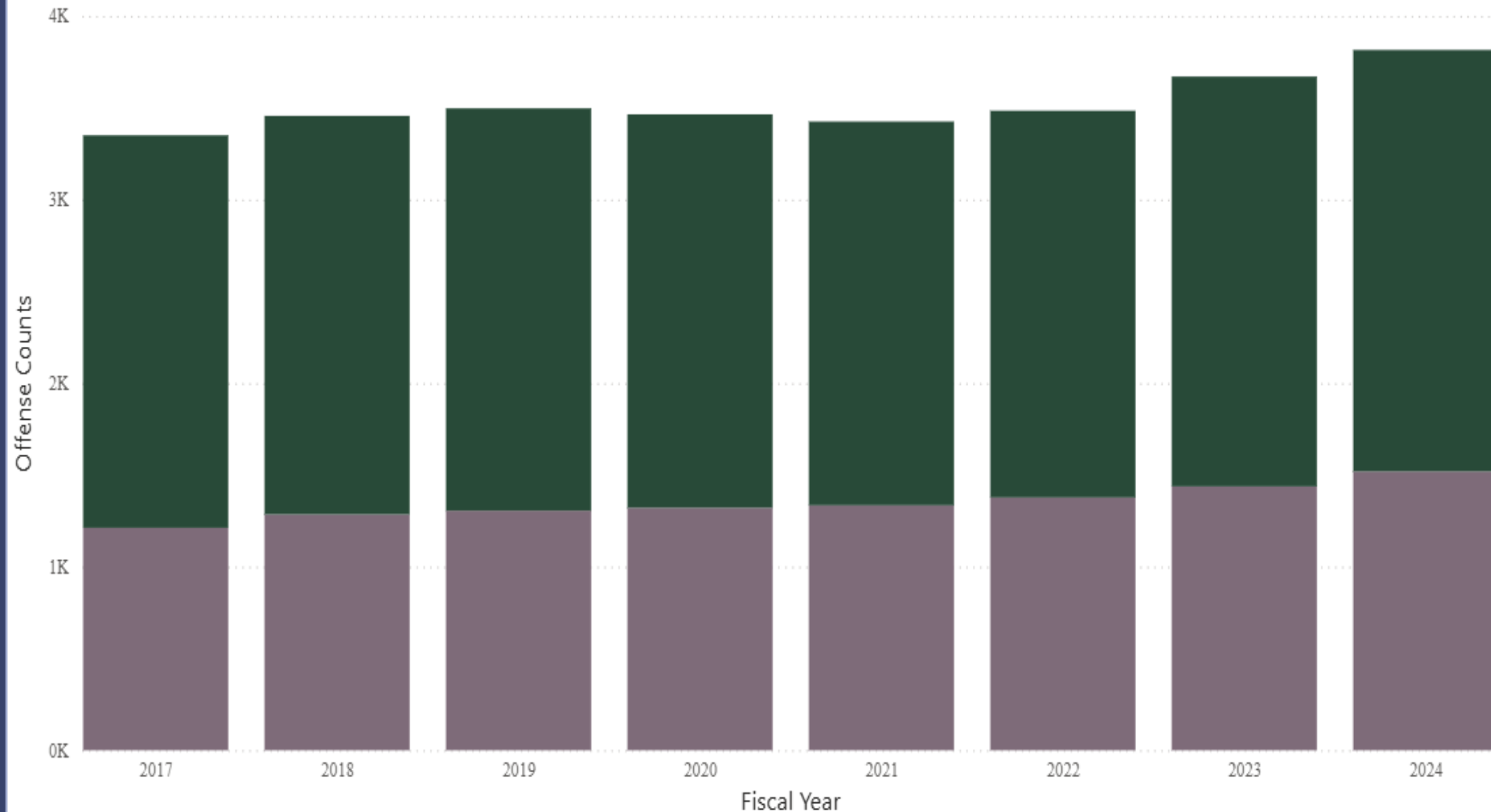
Sexual & Violent Offenses

The number of violent and sexual offenses under DOC supervision has increased from 3,350 in FY 2017 to 3,815 in FY 2024

One offender may account for multiple offenses.

Sexual and Violent Offenses

Offense Classification ● Sexual Crime ● Violent

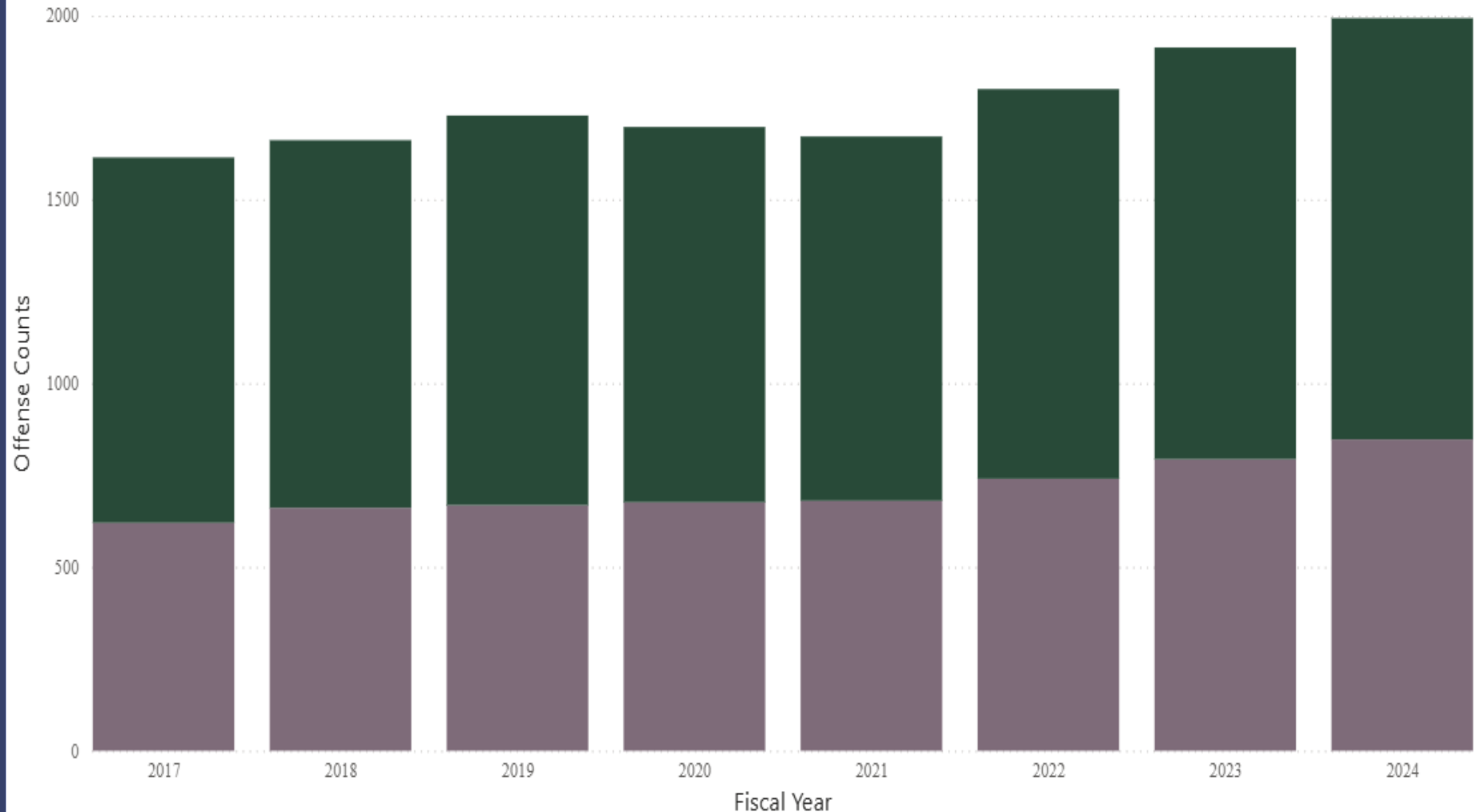


The number of violent and sexual offenses for offenders within secure facilities, alternative facilities, and those waiting administrative review (1,993) has increased since 2017 (1614)

Sexual & Violent Offenses in Facilities

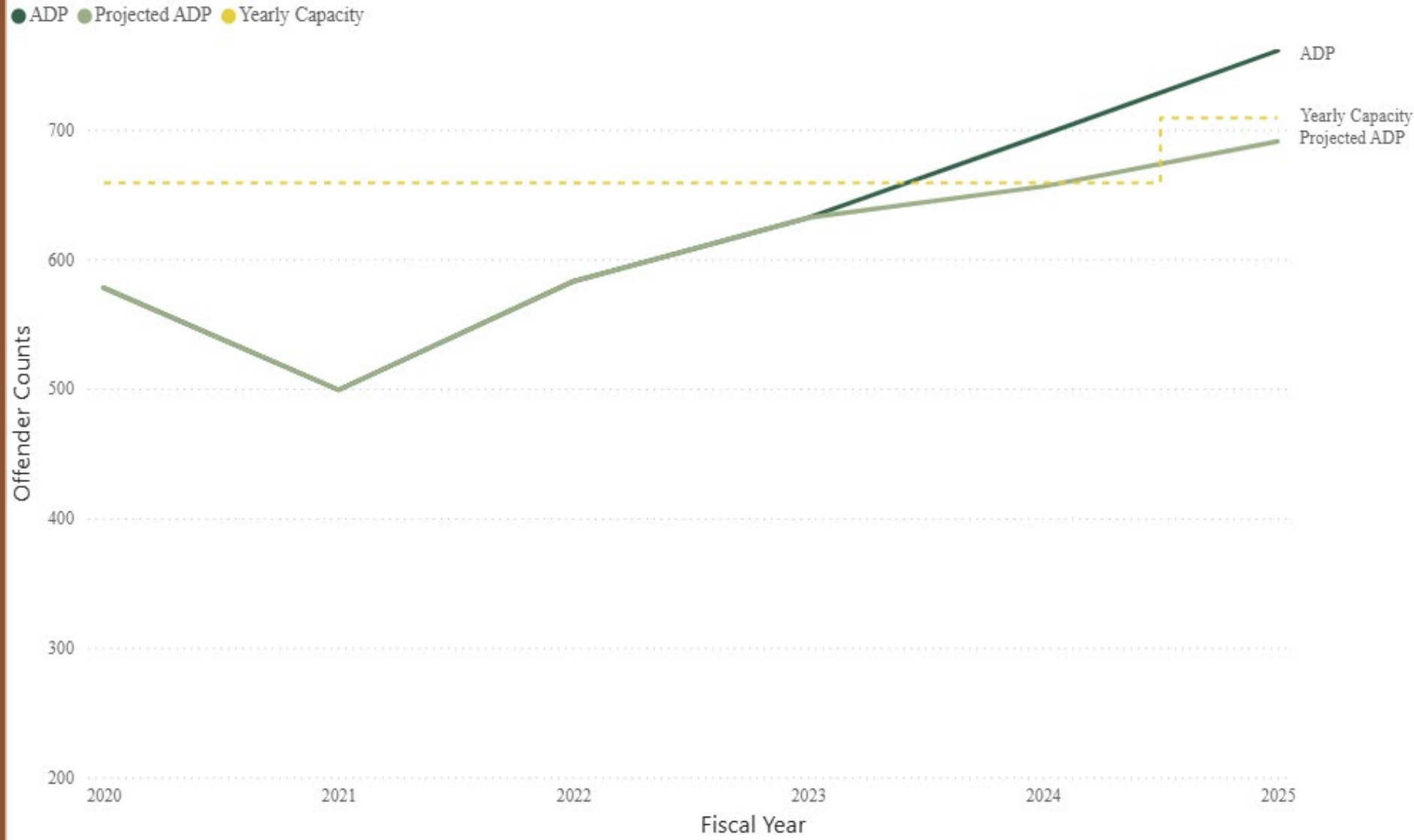
Sexual and Violent Offenses

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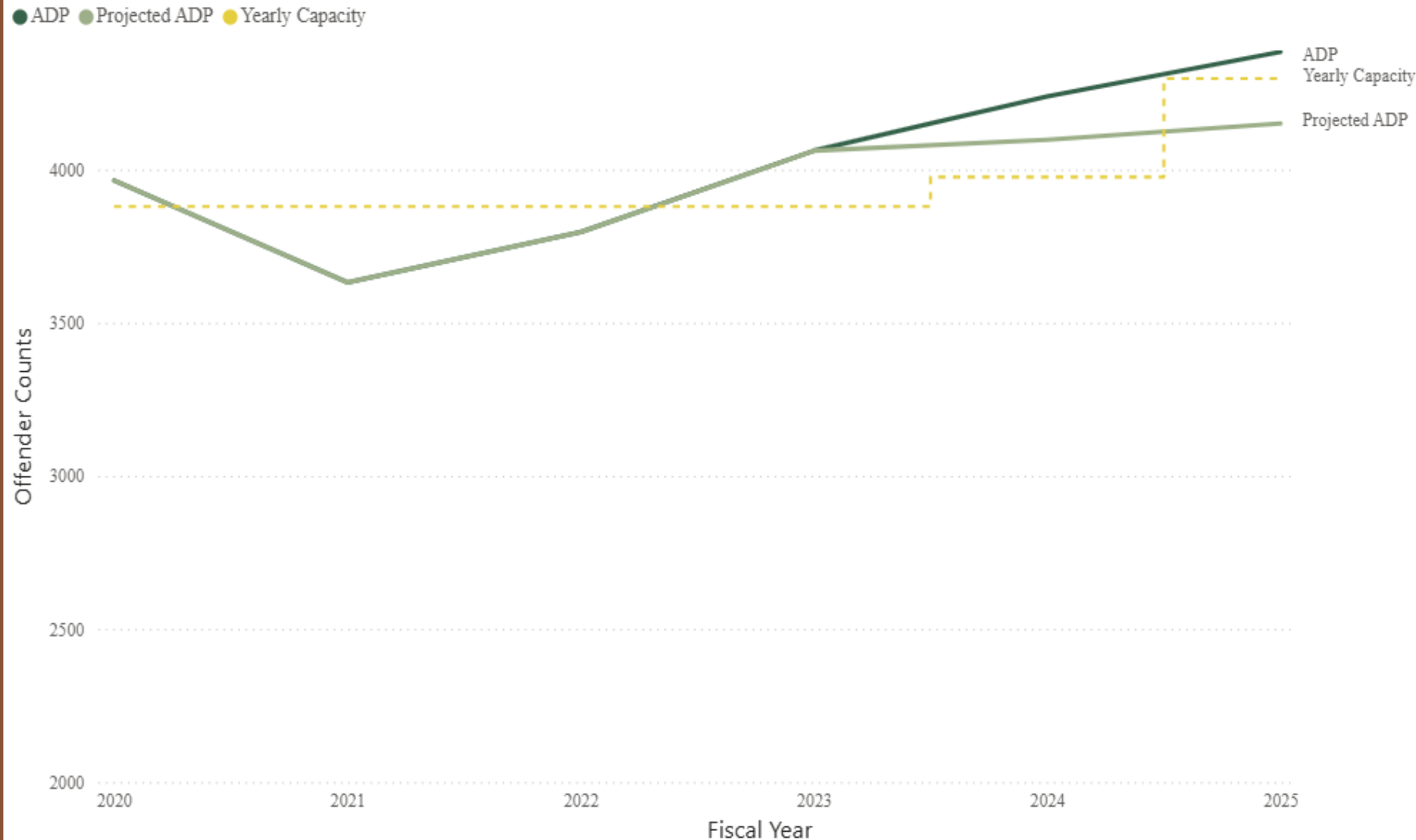
What Happened to ADP in the 2025 Biennium?

The chart to the right compares prior ADP projections for FY 2024 and FY 2025 with actual ADP calculations and yearly capacity for the female offender population



What Happened to ADP in the 2025 Biennium?

The chart to the right compares prior ADP projections for FY 2024 and FY 2025 with actual ADP calculations and yearly capacity for the male offender population



What is the Very Current Situation?

The Table Below Reflects ADP by Gender & Facility Type.
Data Reflects August 20, 2025, Counts.

Department of Corrections Offender ADP - 8/21/2025				
Facility Type	Gender	Operational Capacity	8/21/2025 ADP	% of Operational Capacity
Secure Facilities	Male	3,055	3,313	108.4%
	Female	300	373	124.3%
	Total	3,355	3,686	109.9%
Treatment/Assessment Facilities	Male	488	475	97.3%
	Female	200	168	84.0%
	Total	688	643	93.5%
Pre-release Centers	Male	754	735	97.5%
	Female	209	235	112.4%
	Total	963	970	100.7%
Other treatment			33	
Total Facility Capacity		5,006	5,332	106.5%

Changes in Capacity (2025 Biennium)

Male Offender Capacity:

- Lost capacity at the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC) – 144 beds
- Began the biennium with 120 out-of-state contracted secure beds. This number was increased to 610 in FY 2025

Female Offender Capacity:

- Gained 50-bed capacity by repurposing the Riverside treatment facility in Boulder which housed geriatric male offenders needing more serious care. These male offenders were moved back to the Montana State Prison

Funded Future Male Capacity

Up to a potential of 1030 beds

- START sexual offender treatment facility: 68 beds at a cost of a little over \$7.0 million each year (2023 Session – HB 5)
- Flathead County Pre-release: 60-90 beds at a cost of nearly \$3.5 million a year (2023 Session – HB 5)
- Low-side housing replacement at MSP: roughly 117 beds after all renovations and construction is completed (2023 Session - HB 5, \$245.6 million)
- Low-side housing expansion at MSP: 512 beds after construction is complete (2025 Session – HB 5, \$185.0 million)
- Potential repurposing of current Montana Women's Prison – see next slide

Funded Future Female Capacity

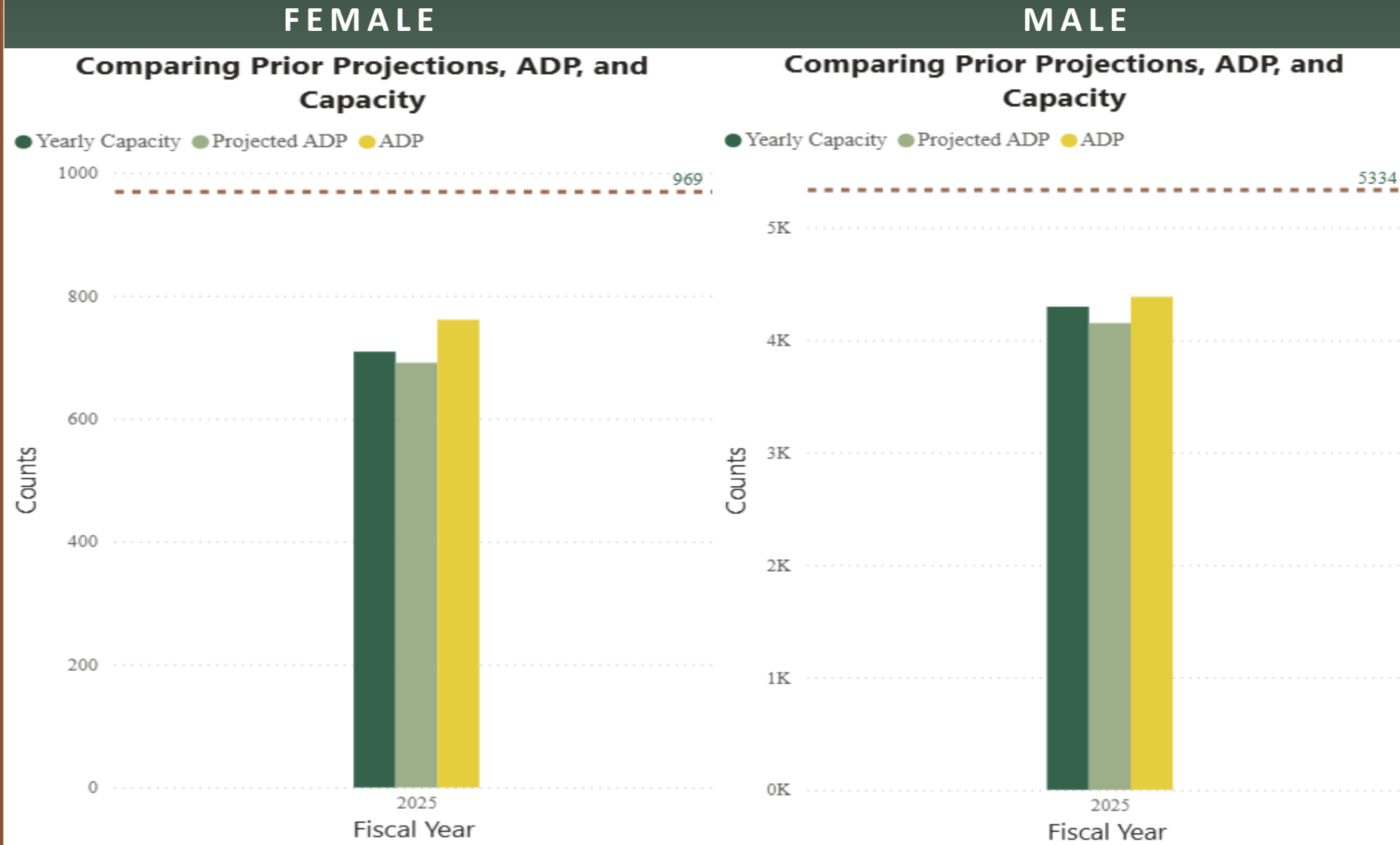
Up to a potential of 250 beds

- Construction of a new facility was appropriated for in HB 833 (2025 Session)
- The bill contains appropriations of \$250.0 million which is estimated to correspond to a facility of 400-500 beds
- The legislation does not dedicate this as specific to a new women's prison
- This facility could be state owned (constructed) or contracted out to a for-profit prison entity
- Upon completion, the existing Montana Women's Prison could be available for additional male capacity (or perhaps additional female or specific treatment capacity) of 250 beds

What This looks like with Future Capacity

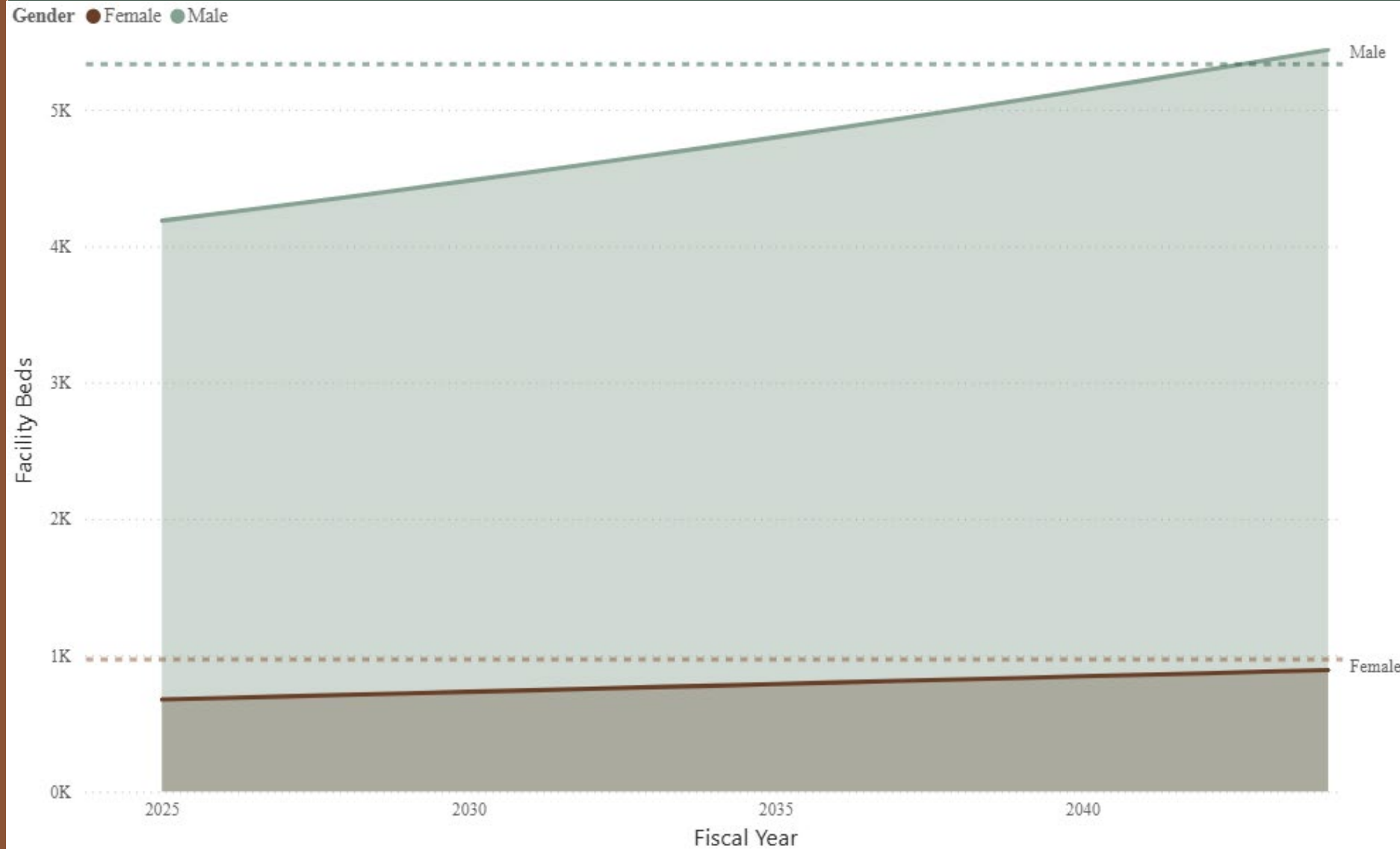
The charts to the right reflect current capacity, prior projected ADP, estimated “actual” ADP, and funded future capacity.

Female data is on the left, and male data is on the right



Looking Forward

Prior projections, despite being underestimated and dated, show that future capacity may not be sufficient if growth continues along current trends.



What's Next?

Establish data-sharing agreements with the Department of Corrections to receive most recent and accurate data to tune population projections

Research and add additional data to answer more specific questions. Examples:

- “Has the state invested in enough capacity to sustain future populations”?
- “What would be the effect on future populations by enacting Policy X”?
- “Does the state need to alter the structure of facility capacity to meet the needs of future populations”? (i.e., more specific treatment capacity)

Questions?
