

NC

Department of
Adult Correction

PROTECTION • INNOVATION
REHABILITATION

NCDAC: Supporting Safer Communities

Secretary Leslie Cooley Dismukes
October 22, 2025

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The Atlantic

My Account

Give a Gift

AMERICA'S INCARCERATION RATE IS ABOUT TO FALL OFF A CLIFF

Long sentences and recidivism kept prison populations high for decades, but prisons are now starting to empty.

By Keith Humphreys

Figure 1. US⁵ and North Carolina⁶ Prison Population, 2001-2023

US Year-End Population

NC Year-End Population

Year

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Prison Population Trends

Figure 1 NCDAC Facility Admissions and Releases by Month
June 2022 to June 2025

Number of Admissions/Releases

Year-Month

Admissions
Releases
Admissions Trend
Releases Trend

Counts Rollout to Counties

Track 1 - Harrell, Johnston, Lenoir, Wayne

Track 2 - Hendersonburg

Track 3 - Beaufort, Currituck, Dare, Jones, Hyde, Martin, Pamlico, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington

Track 4 - Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Guilford, Guilford, Orange, Person, Vance, Warren

Track 5 - Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Johnston, Jones, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania

Track 6 - Anson, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, Scotland, Shelby, Union

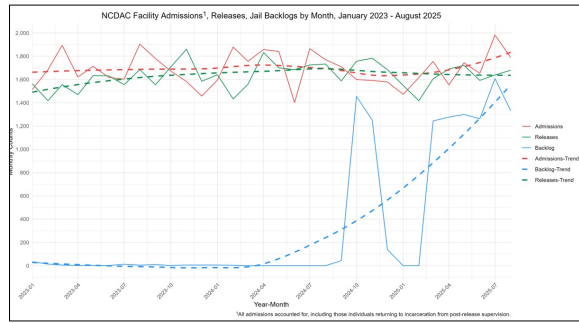
Track 7 - Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Columbus, Craven, Dupont, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pataula, Perdue, Robeson, Sampson

Track 8 - Bertie, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, Wilson

prison of correction
by section
by month

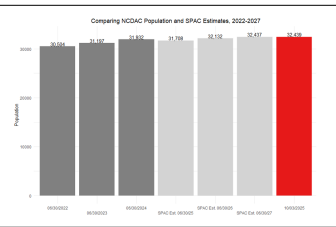
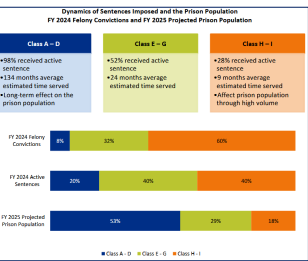
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Prison Population Trends



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Prison Population Trends



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Prison Population Trends

Table 1. Monthly Total and Average New and Re-Admissions, January 2019 – August 2025				
Crime Type	Total	Monthly Average	Total	Monthly Average
Drugs - Non-Trafficking	16,608	233	1,986	248
Larceny	8,938	112	869	109
Assault	7,762	97	897	112
Weapons Offenses	6,760	85	818	102
Drugs - Trafficking	6,047	76	782	98
Breaking, Entering	7,538	94	574	72
Fraud	4,923	62	452	57

Table 2. Monthly Total and Average Change in New and Re-Admissions, January 2025 – August 2025		
Crime Type	Total	Average Monthly Change
Drugs - Non-Trafficking	1,986	9.63
Weapons Offenses	818	3.63
Driving While Impaired	373	3.13
Other Public Order	231	2.38
Other Sexual Offense	297	2.25
Fraud	452	1.75
Violation of Sex Offense Conditions	167	1.50



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Prison Population Trends

Table 3. Monthly Total and Average Admissions by County, January 2019 – August 2025

County	January 2019 – August 2025		January 2025 – August 2025	
	Total	Monthly Average	Total	Monthly Average
Wake	8,230	103	921	115
Mecklenburg	4,433	55	530	66
Guilford	5,204	65	523	65
Forsyth	4,303	54	434	54
Easton	4,105	51	432	54
Cumberland	4,106	52	402	50
New Hanover	3,836	48	366	45
Davidson	2,892	36	326	41
Pitt	3,285	41	215	27
Rockingham	2,883	36	322	40

Table 4. Monthly Total and Average Change in Admissions by County, January 2025 – August 2025

Crime Type	Total	Average Monthly Change
Guilford	523	4.5
Wake	921	3.75
Alamance	309	3.5
Cleveland	300	3.5
Lenoir	241	2.5
Haywood	101	2.38
Burke	95	2.25
Pitt	325	1.75
Rockingham	282	1.63
Catawba	309	1.5

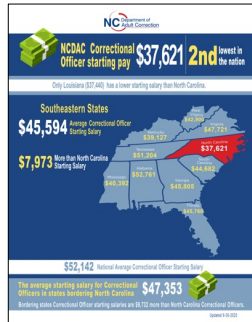
Table 5. Crime Types with Increasing Monthly Admissions by County, January 2025 – August 2025

Crime Type	Counties
Assault	New Hanover
Breaking, Entering	Lenoir; New Hanover
Driving While Impaired	Alamance; Davidson; Mecklenburg; New Hanover; Wake
Drugs - Non-Trafficking	Alamance; Burke; Cleveland; Haywood; Lenoir; Rockingham
Drugs - Trafficking	Burke; Haywood; New Hanover
Violation of Sex Offense Conditions	Cumtland; New Hanover; Pitt; Rockingham
Weapons Offenses	Cumtland; Guilford; Mecklenburg



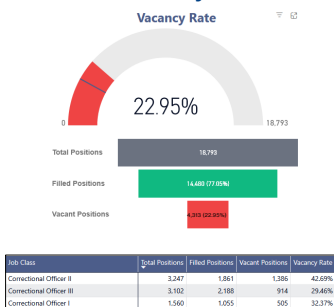
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Salaries Continue to be a Challenge



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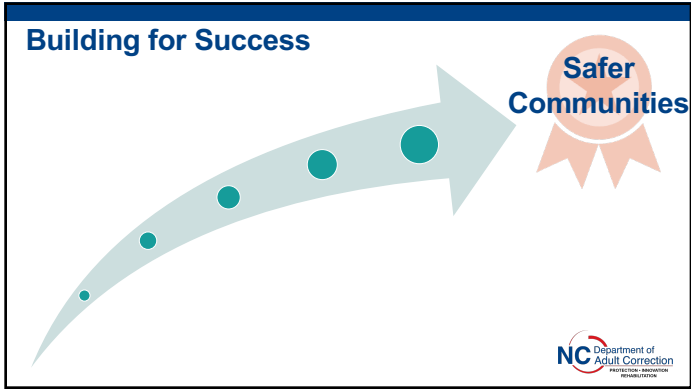
Staff Vacancy Rates



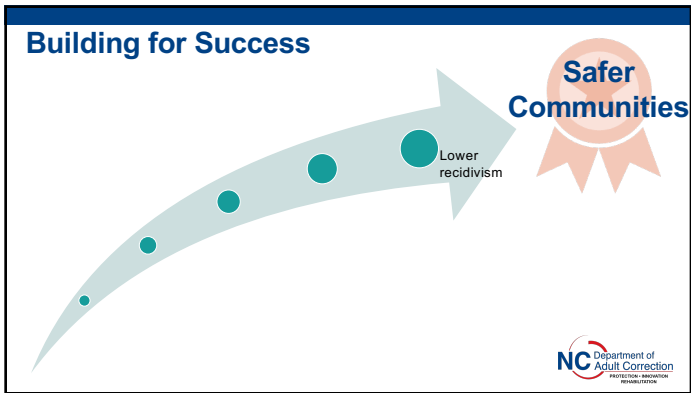
Correctional Officer Vacancy Report

Facility/Work Location	Total Positions	Filled Positions	Vacant Positions	Vacancy Rate
Craggy Correctional Center	77	25	52	67.53%
Alway-Hill/Elm Correctional Institution	139	47	92	66.19%
Granville Correctional Institution	197	72	125	63.45%
Bertie Correctional Institution	236	89	147	62.29%
Pender Correctional Institution	135	57	78	57.78%
Sampson Correctional Center	108	47	61	56.48%
Franklin Correctional Center	99	44	55	55.56%
Hyde Correctional Institution	83	37	46	55.42%
Western Correctional Center for Women	56	26	30	53.57%
Dan River Prison Work Farm	85	40	45	52.94%
Tyrrell Prison Work Farm	59	28	31	52.54%
Roanoke River Correctional Institution	200	97	103	51.50%
Piedmont Correctional Institution	218	107	111	50.92%
Navas Correctional Institution	144	71	73	50.69%
Warren Correctional Center	164	81	83	50.61%
Southern Correctional Institution	140	73	67	47.86%
Harnett Correctional Institution	180	96	84	46.67%
Wake Correctional Center	55	30	25	45.45%
Brown Creek Correctional Institution	71	39	32	45.07%
New Hanover CC	67	37	30	44.78%
Marion Correctional Institution	247	144	103	41.70%
Cassell Correctional Center	92	54	38	41.30%
Richmond Correctional Institution	155	95	60	38.71%
Mountain View Correctional Institution	127	81	46	36.22%
Catawba County	345	220	125	36.23%

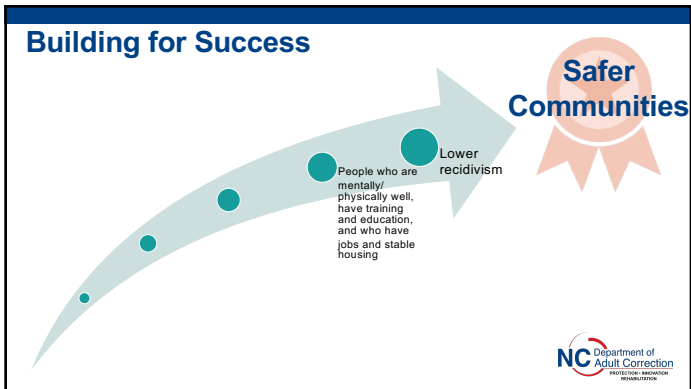
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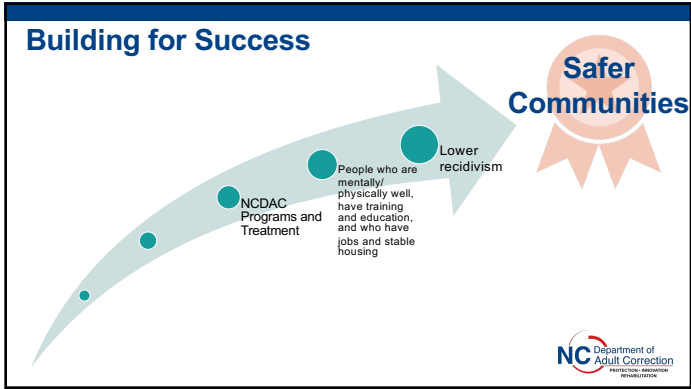
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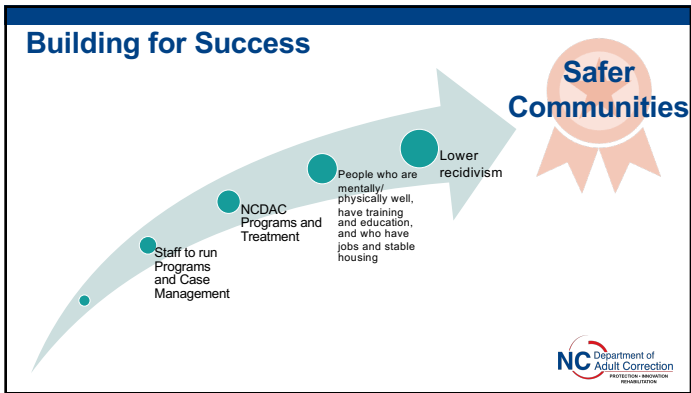
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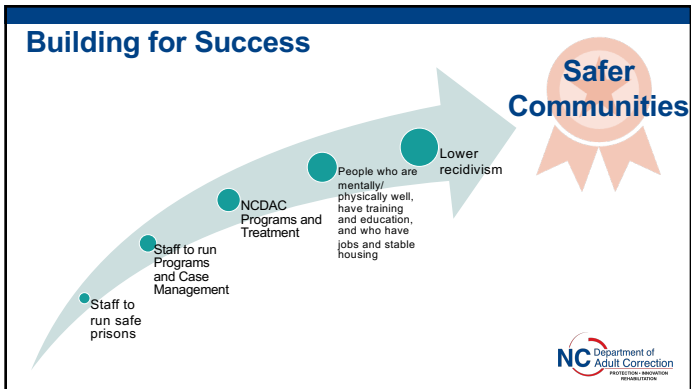
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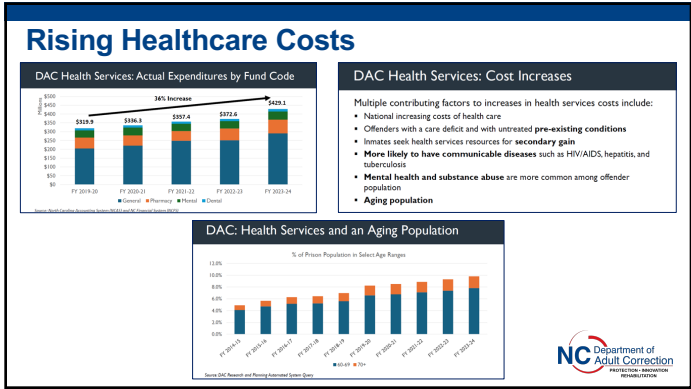
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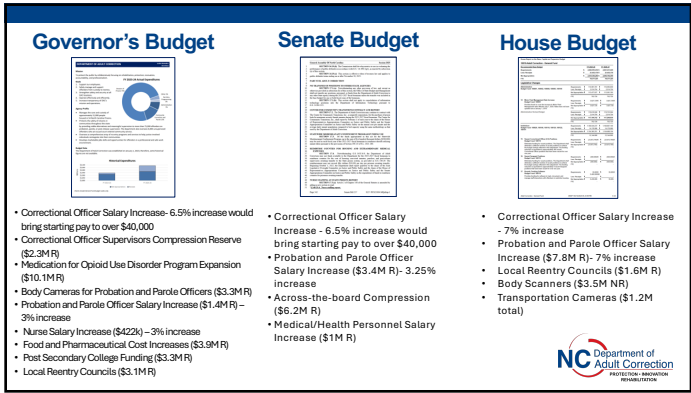
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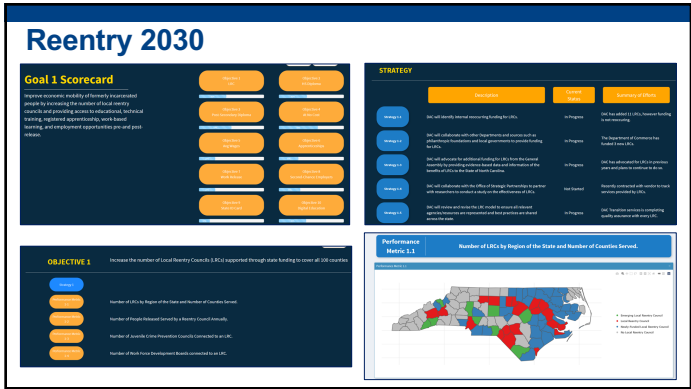
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Guardianship

- Referrals for guardianship come from various sources, including members of the Health Services team (medical/mental health) as well as case managers, custody, and family/ friends of the incarcerated person.
- Screening/ Evaluation is primarily through our Mental Health team in consultation with the incarcerated person's primary care provider, with the determination of "incapacity" as the threshold.
- Considerations such as lesser interventions then guardianship appointment to ensure the incarcerated person's care must be made.
 - These include powers of attorney and advanced directives ("Living Will")
- Initial Case consultation: Formal multi-disciplinary committee meeting to review the case and reach a recommendation.
- Second Case Consultation is completed. The initial participants are included and also includes the warden, AWP, and others.
- Petitioning the court is initiated through the clinical social worker assigned to the case
 - Court appoints a Guardian ad Litem who will represent the incarcerated person during the petitioning process. DAC coordinates for a visit by the guardian ad litem with the incarcerated person
- Guardianship Hearing - petitioner (Social worker or other appointee) must appear in court
- If guardian is appointed, a HERO alert (red flag) is placed in the incarcerated person's medical record under "Adjudicated Incompetent"
- Guardian provided access to the incarcerated person's medical records and is permitted to visit the incarcerated person and is consulted for all future health services interventions



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Safekeepers (NCGS § 162-39)

- Safety/Security Safekeepers (Subsection b):
 - Ordered when necessary for safety, security, or facility limitations.
 - No statutory time limit; judge may set an expiration or leave it open-ended.
 - Can be used for escape risks, violent behavior, protective custody needs, inadequate housing, or emergencies (e.g., fire).
- Medical/Mental Health Safekeepers (Subsection d):
 - Initial order limited to 30 days.
 - Before 30 days expire:
 - DAC conducts an assessment via attending medical/mental health professional.
 - Assessment determines if the prisoner should remain with DAC or return to the county.
 - If extension is sought:
 - Sheriff submits assessment to the court.
 - Judge may extend the order and must set a specific review date.
 - DAC must reassess before each review; sheriff submits reassessment to the court.
 - If continued custody is not justified, the prisoner is returned to the county with discharge instructions.
- Capacity Limit:
 - Total number of safekeepers may not exceed 200 unless authorized by the DAC Secretary (§ 162-39(e)).
 - Secretary may refuse or return safekeepers if capacity is reached.
 - This is the only statutory reason for refusal.
- County Responsibilities:
 - Must retrieve the prisoner within 10 days of DAC's request or incur additional costs (§ 162-39(f)).
 - Responsible for:
 - Transport to and from DAC.
 - Per diem and medical costs while in DAC custody.
 - Additional costs if they fail to act on expired orders.
- DAC Responsibilities:
 - Must receive a valid court order before accepting a safekeeper.
 - Conduct initial and ongoing assessments for medical/mental health safekeepers.
 - Should initiate return to county if no valid extension is in place.
- Secretary Discretion:
 - May accept safekeepers even if capacity is exceeded.



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