

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE CORRECTIONAL CAPACITY & POPULATION FISCAL YEAR 2012

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

Prisons incarcerate individuals convicted of third-degree felonies or higher. State jails house individuals convicted of state jail felonies. Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities provide an intensive therapeutic community program as a condition of community supervision or as a modification of parole or community supervision.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ Between fiscal years 2003 and 2011, the TDCJ inmate population increased 5.7 percent and capacity increased 7.0 percent.
- ◆ Between fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the inmate population decreased 2.8 percent and TDCJ took 696 beds temporarily off line due to staffing shortages.
- ◆ At the end of fiscal year 2012, nearly all (90.1 percent) of TDCJ beds were prison beds.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Government Code, Chapter 491

This issue brief summarizes the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) historical bed capacity and population counts. The data encompass prison, state jail, and substance abuse felony punishment facilities. The data do not include Intermediate Sanction Facilities, which are short-term detention facilities that primarily house parole violators. The data are based on aggregate data provided by TDCJ.

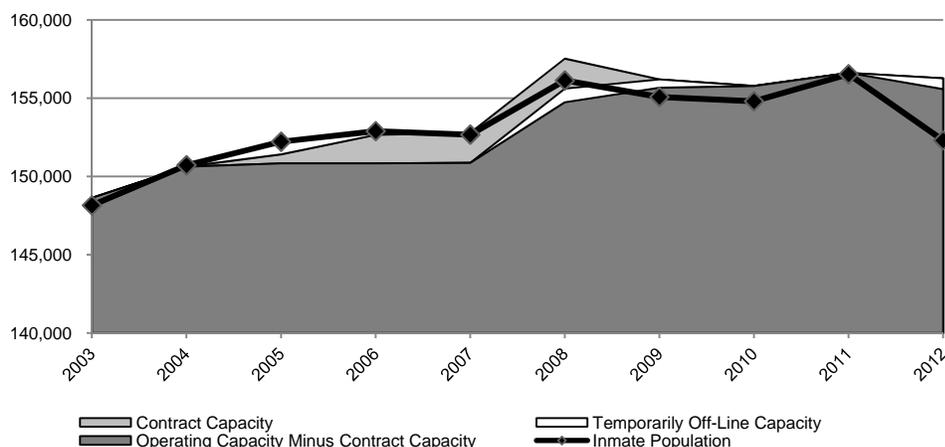
In this brief, TDCJ capacity includes operating capacity and temporarily off-line capacity. Operating capacity is 96.0 percent of TDCJ's total on-line capacity and its temporary contract capacity. TDCJ is accustomed to going beyond its operating capacity for short periods of time. However, use of an operating capacity provides the flexibility necessary to house certain populations separate from other populations, such as housing females apart from males and offenders of different custody levels separately.

TDCJ CAPACITY AND POPULATION

Fig. 1 shows the TDCJ's end-of-fiscal-year inmate population and capacity for fiscal years 2003 through 2012. From fiscal years 2003 to 2011, the TDCJ inmate population increased 5.7 percent (from 148,153 to 156,526) and capacity increased 7.0 percent (from 152,442 to 163,144). From fiscal years 2011 to 2012, the inmate population decreased 2.8 percent (from 156,526 to 152,302) and capacity decreased 0.7 percent (from 163,144 to 162,057). This capacity decrease resulted from TDCJ taking 696 beds temporarily off line due to staffing shortages.

TDCJ utilized temporary contract beds four of the ten fiscal years between 2003 and 2012. The agency has not employed temporary contract beds during the last four fiscal years.

FIG. 1
TDCJ END-OF-FISCAL-YEAR POPULATION AND CAPACITY, FISCAL YEARS 2003–2012



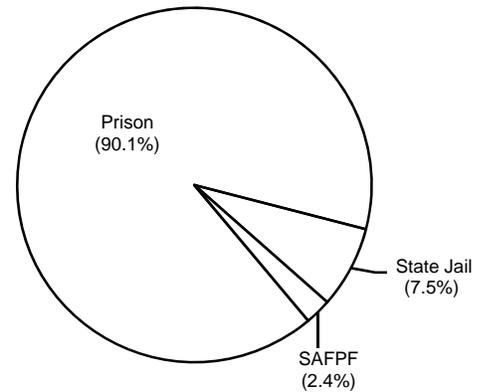
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

CAPACITY BY FACILITY TYPE

TDCJ inmates may be incarcerated in three types of facilities: prison, state jail, and substance abuse felony punishment facilities. Prisons incarcerate individuals convicted of third-degree felonies or higher. Prison sentences range from two-year incarceration periods to death. Offenders may be housed in either private or state-run facilities. State jails house individuals convicted of state jail felonies. State jail sentences range from 180 days to two years. A Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF) is a facility that provides an intensive therapeutic community treatment program for individuals sentenced by a judge as a condition of community supervision or as a modification of parole or community supervision. When assigned as a supervision condition, SAFPf sentences are six months for regular needs offenders and nine months for special needs offenders. When assigned as a supervision modification, SAFPf sentences range from several days to nine months.

As Fig. 2 shows, at the end of fiscal year 2012, prison beds comprised 90.1 percent of TDCJ capacity, state jail beds comprised 7.5 percent, and substance abuse facility beds comprised 2.4 percent. Please note that additional substance abuse treatment programs are available in other prisons and state jails.

**FIG. 2
PERCENTAGE OF TDCJ BEDS BY BED TYPE
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**



SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

BEDS USED FOR CERTAIN OFFENDER CUSTODY LEVELS

Although TDCJ has three types of facilities, TDCJ employs many different types of beds to house offenders of different custody levels. TDCJ houses inmates in different types of beds depending on the inmate’s programmatic needs, job assignment, security risk, and medical status. Certain long-term beds house offenders considered the highest risk or the most vulnerable, as shown in Fig. 3. Following are descriptions of these bed types.

- Administrative segregation separates inmates from the general population for safety and security reasons rather than for disciplinary reasons (for example, an inmate is a known gang member). These inmates are held in their cells at least 23 hours a day and some participate in in-cell, video- or computer-administered programs.
- Safekeeping houses vulnerable inmates apart from the general population for that inmate’s protection from other inmates. Safekeeping inmates may still participate in programs and work opportunities.

**FIG. 3
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF SELECT BED TYPES
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**

	NUMBER OF PRISON BEDS	PERCENTAGE OF SYSTEM CAPACITY	NUMBER OF INMATES	PERCENTAGE OF BEDS UTILIZED
Administrative Segregation	9,465	5.8	8,065	85.2
Safekeeping	2,406	1.5	1,912	79.5
Other Beds	150,186	92.7	142,325	94.8

SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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