



Iowa DOC Cuts & Understaffing Dangerous to Safety

Fact Sheet Prepared by AFSCME

Since 2009: More Prisoners, Fewer Staff

- Prior to the pandemic, Iowa's prison population for Fiscal Year 2019 was 8,475ⁱ with 1,371ⁱⁱ Department-budgeted Correctional Officer Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) positions.
- Ten years earlier, the prison population was 8,461ⁱⁱⁱ with 1,594^{iv} actually paid for CO FTEs (not just budgeted and possibly not filled).
- That's over 200 fewer Officers overseeing more inmates. The 2009 levels were dangerously understaffed, and we've only cut since then.
- In FY09, there was only 1 serious staff injury^v reported in IDOC's Annual Report. In FY19, there were 7.^{vi}
- The Department usually counts as a 'serious injury' to staff when someone needs to go to the hospital.
- IDOC will claim that staffing levels are fine because the prison population for FY2020 was the lowest it's been in 20 years ^{vii} while ignoring that in FY20 there were 13 serious staff injuries.^{viii} An over 85% increase from FY19.

Prison Population Decrease Hides Reality at Anamosa – Over Population, Understaffing

- What the overall prison population decline hides is that Anamosa has not been operationally impacted in a significant way.
- Most prison releases were non-violent offenders. The big drop in the overall number is primarily from there. In FY19, the overall violent prison population was 48%.^{ix} In FY2020 it was 38%.^x
- Anamosa's violent prison population is around 70%^{xi} and routinely tracks 25-30% higher than the overall state average.
- Plus, systemwide prison capacity is down. In FY10, the Department's total capacity was 7,414.^{xii} On the department's website today, it's reported at 6,933. ^{xiii}
- Anamosa's prison capacity is 911. On March 24, 2021, one day after the failed prison escape that left two murdered and two seriously injured, there were 945 mostly violent offenders.^{xiv}
- In FY16, it was 936, ^{xv} including 218 lifers.
- In FY16 Anamosa had 328 authorized positions which importantly included:
 - 233 Correctional Security staff and;
 - 41 Iowa Prison Industries staff
- By FY19, there was 996 mostly violent offenders, including 225 lifers, but now only 311 authorized positions with 215 Correctional Security Staff and 35 Prison Industries staff.

- It's our understanding that murders might have accessed their hammers from the Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) operation which has also seen cuts over the years.
- The constant cuts to staffing and security, plus, the silencing of front-line workers by taking bargaining over health and safety issues on the job has now taken its ultimate toll.

Increasing Escape Attempts: The Inmates Know That Staffing is Short

- If you go over the Department's annual reports from the last 10 years, there have been more prison escapes in the last five (5) years than in the previous five (5).^{xvi}
- Inmates know better than anyone the department is critically short-staffed. It should not come as a surprise that some offenders are seeing soft targets of opportunity to try to escape.

Stand Up for These Heroes

- Everyday brave Iowans go into these correctional facilities to keep the public and the inmates safe.
- These courageous heroes not only work to provide security and safety, but also include the health and support staff trying to help many of these individuals rebuild their lives. They all deserve better.

ⁱIowa Department of Corrections FY19 Annual Report (pg. 20) Prison Population End of Fiscal Year Graph

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/11/fy2019_doc_annual_report.pdf

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (pg. 26) Financial Status Reports—Institutions Totals FY2019, Department Revised Budget, Correctional Officer FTE.

ⁱⁱⁱIowa Department of Corrections FY09 Annual Report (pg. 31) "8,461 offenders at fiscal year end 2009."

<http://publications.iowa.gov/9268/1/2009AnnualReport.pdf>

^{iv} Ibid. (pg. 52) FY09 Financial Status Reports—Institutions, ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

<http://publications.iowa.gov/9268/1/2009AnnualReport.pdf>

^v Ibid (pg. 119) Number of serious injuries caused to staff

^{vi} Iowa Department of Corrections FY19 Annual Report (pg. 21) 49-006 Number of Serious Injuries Caused to Staff (Prison)

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/11/fy2019_doc_annual_report.pdf

^{vii} Iowa Department of Corrections website: Date: 09/14/2020: 'Iowa prison population drops to 20-year low' <https://doc.iowa.gov/news/iowa-prison-population-drops-20-year-low>

^{viii} Iowa Department of Corrections FY 20 Annual Report (pg.21) 49-006 Number of Serious Injuries Caused to Staff (Prison)

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021/01/fy2020_iowa_doc_annual_report.pdf

^{ix} Iowa Department of Corrections FY19 Annual Report (pg. 20) Offense Type FY19 Prison Offenders Served.

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/11/fy2019_doc_annual_report.pdf

^xIowa Department of Corrections FY20 Annual Report (pg. 20) Offense Type FY19 Prison Offenders Served.

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021/01/fy2020_iowa_doc_annual_report.pdf

^{xi} ANAMOSA STATE PENITENTIARY ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2020/06/2019_asp_annual_report.pdf

^{xii}Iowa Department of Corrections FY10 Annual Report (pg. 93) Populations by Mental Illness Diagnosis

<http://publications.iowa.gov/13028/2/fy10annualreport.pdf>

^{xiii} Iowa Department of Corrections website. Daily Statistics 3/24/2021. [Accessed 3/30/2021]. <https://doc.iowa.gov/daily-statistics>

^{xiv} Ibid. <https://doc.iowa.gov/daily-statistics>

^{xv} ANAMOSA STATE PENITENTIARY ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

https://doc.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/05/aspannualreport-fy16_1.pdf

^{xvi} Comparison of IDOC's FY Annual Reports 2015-2020 to FY Annual Reports 2010-2014. In the 2011 & 2012 reports, no reports of escapes were reported and assumed to be zero.