



December 2025 | Legislative Council Staff
Corrections Populations Forecasts

Presentation to the Joint Judiciary Committee
January 22, 2026

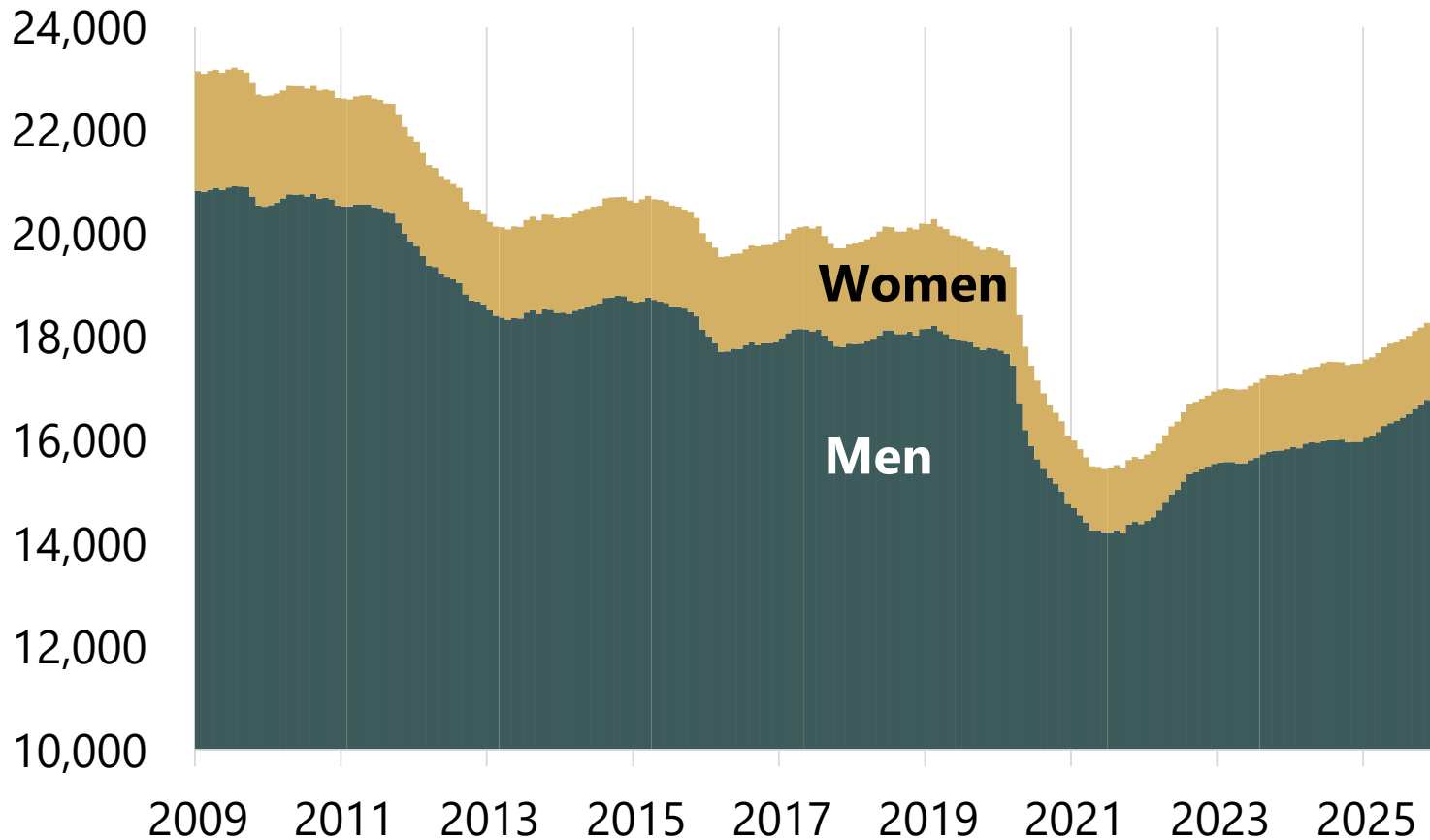


Adult Corrections Populations



Prison population growth was 2.3 percent in FY 2024-25, and has accelerated in 2025

Prison Population by Sex



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Monthly data through December 2025.

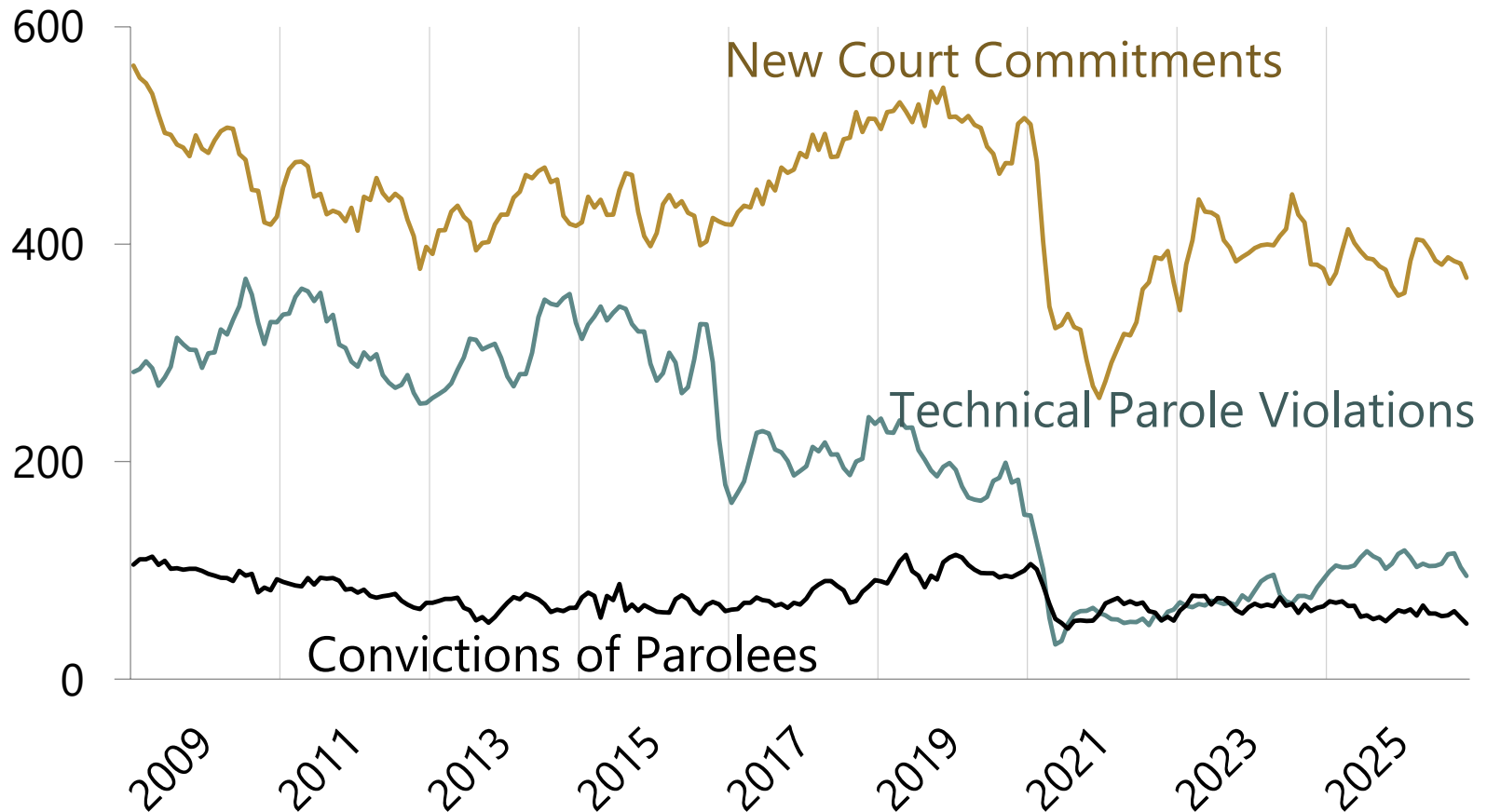
Growth in the prison population is high by historical standards

Fiscal Year	Males	Percent Change	Females	Percent Change	Total	Percent Change
FY 2010-11	20,512	-1.2%	2,098	0.2%	22,610	-1.1%
FY 2011-12	19,152	-6.6%	1,885	-10.2%	21,037	-7.0%
FY 2012-13	18,355	-4.2%	1,780	-5.6%	20,135	-4.3%
FY 2013-14	18,619	1.4%	1,903	6.9%	20,522	1.9%
FY 2014-15	18,655	0.2%	1,968	3.4%	20,623	0.5%
FY 2015-16	17,768	-4.8%	1,851	-5.9%	19,619	-4.9%
FY 2016-17	18,108	1.9%	1,993	7.7%	20,101	2.5%
FY 2017-18	18,125	0.1%	2,011	0.9%	20,136	0.2%
FY 2018-19	17,935	-1.0%	2,016	0.2%	19,951	-0.9%
FY 2019-20	15,886	-11.4%	1,553	-23.0%	17,439	-12.6%
FY 2020-21	14,218	-10.5%	1,216	-21.7%	15,434	-11.5%
FY 2021-22	15,033	5.7%	1,328	9.2%	16,361	6.0%
FY 2022-23	15,618	3.9%	1,436	8.1%	17,054	4.2%
FY 2023-24	15,984	2.3%	1,505	4.8%	17,489	2.6%
FY 2024-25	16,375	2.4%	1,515	0.7%	17,890	2.3%
FY 2025-26*	17,037	4.0%	1,514	-0.1%	18,551	3.7%
FY 2026-27*	17,510	2.8%	1,510	-0.3%	19,020	2.5%
FY 2027-28*	17,893	2.2%	1,533	1.5%	19,425	2.1%

Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

New court commitments declined in FY 2024-25, offset by technical parole violations

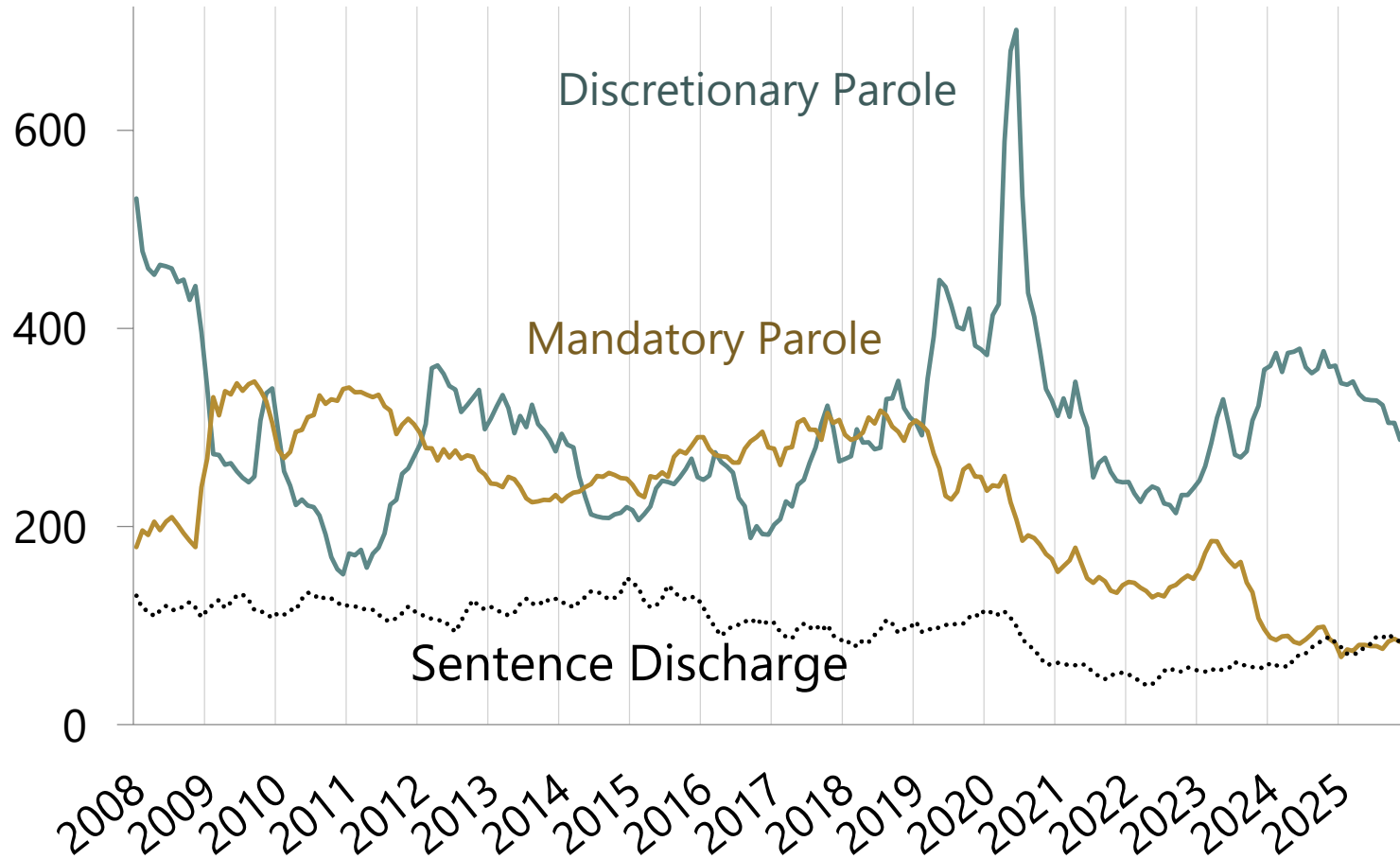
Monthly Prison Admissions by Type



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Monthly data through December 2025.

Discretionary releases are declining, only partially offset with an uptick in sentence discharges

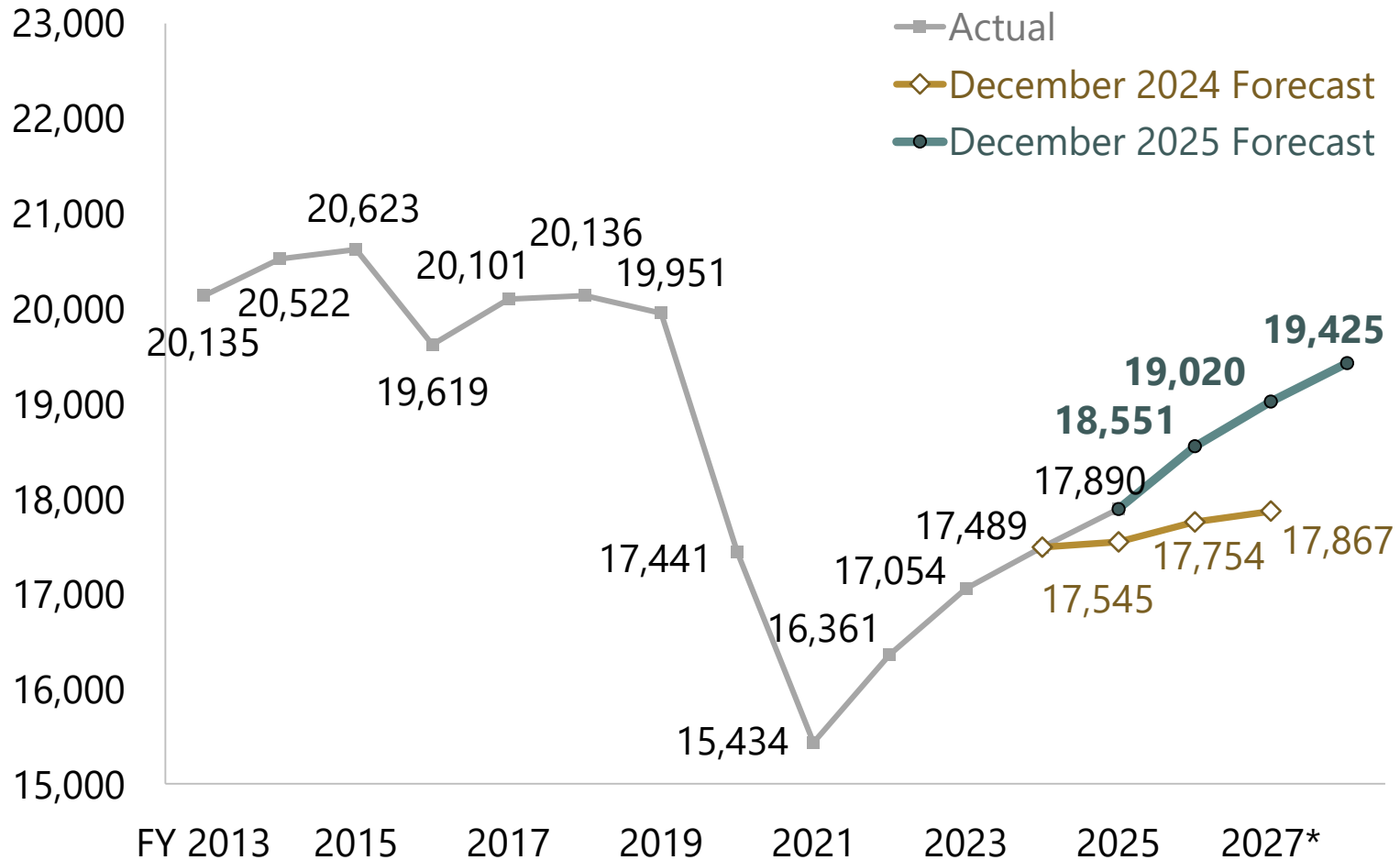
Monthly Prison Releases by Type



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Data through November 2025.

Prison population expected to rise

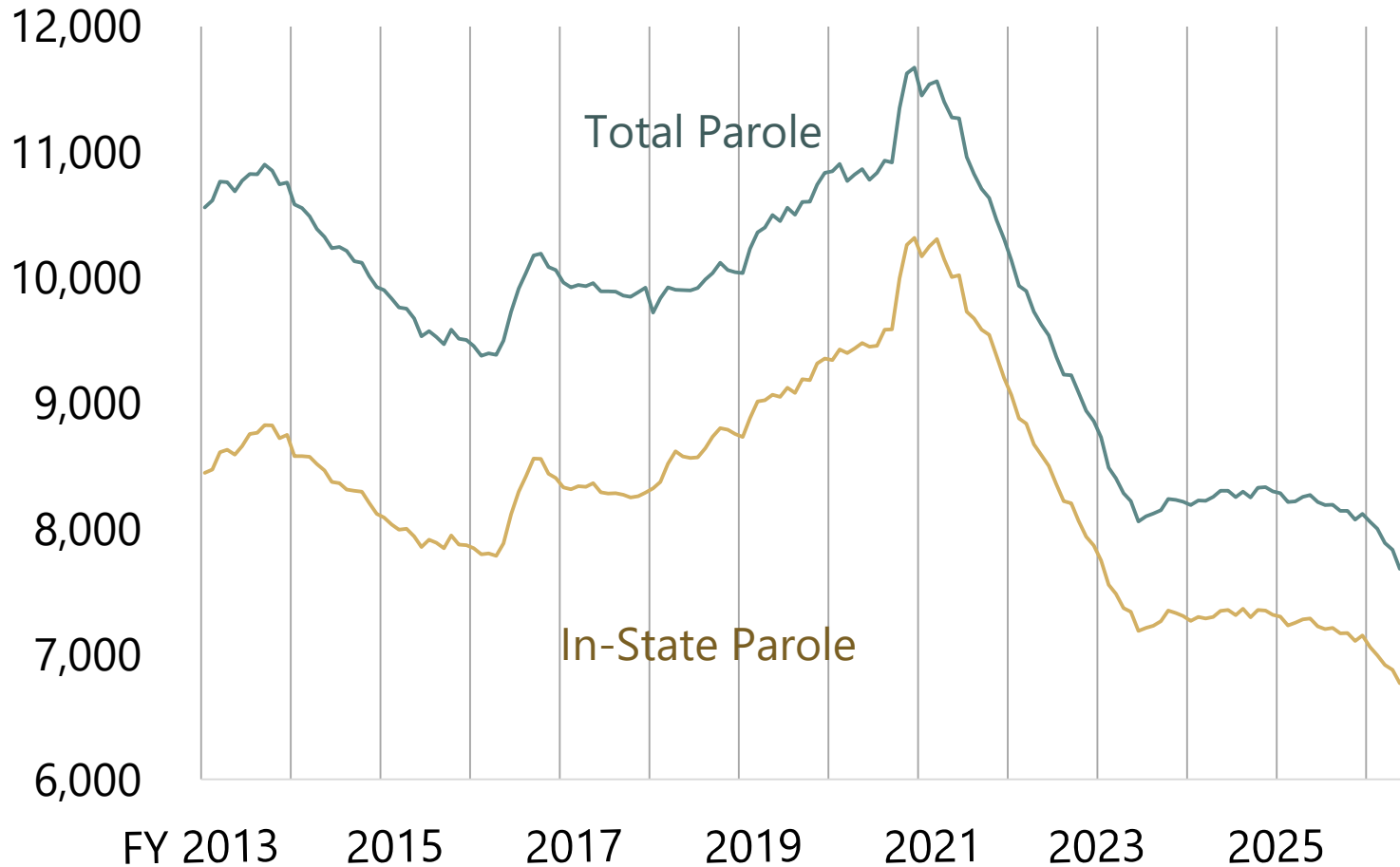
Adult Inmate Population Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis and *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

Parole population resumes decline

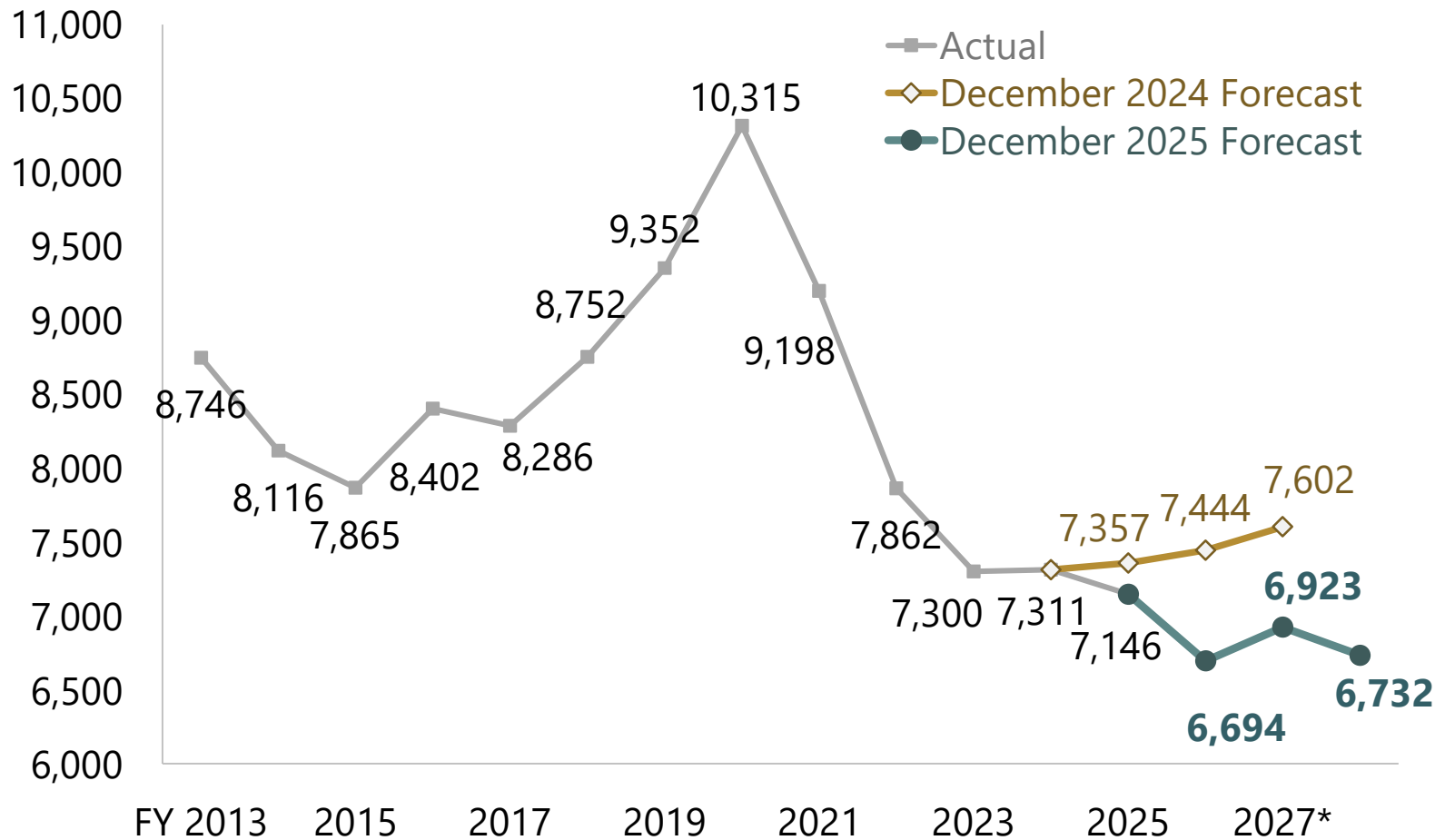
Colorado Monthly Parole Caseload



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Data through December 2025.

Parole caseload expected to fluctuate

Adult Parole Caseload Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis and *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

Forecast expects current patterns to persist

- **This forecast always contains (bidirectional) error**

- Before 2020, current year forecast error averaged about 1.7 percent, or 328 inmates
- Forecast error from the 2024 forecast was 1.9 percent, or 345 inmates on June 30

- **Prison and parole populations have shifted to a new trajectory, raising risks to the forecast**

- The forecast assumes that current patterns will persist
- The possibility of unforeseen disruptors raises risk
- Small deviations in the timing and extent of assumed adjustments can contribute to large population changes

Youth Corrections Population Forecast



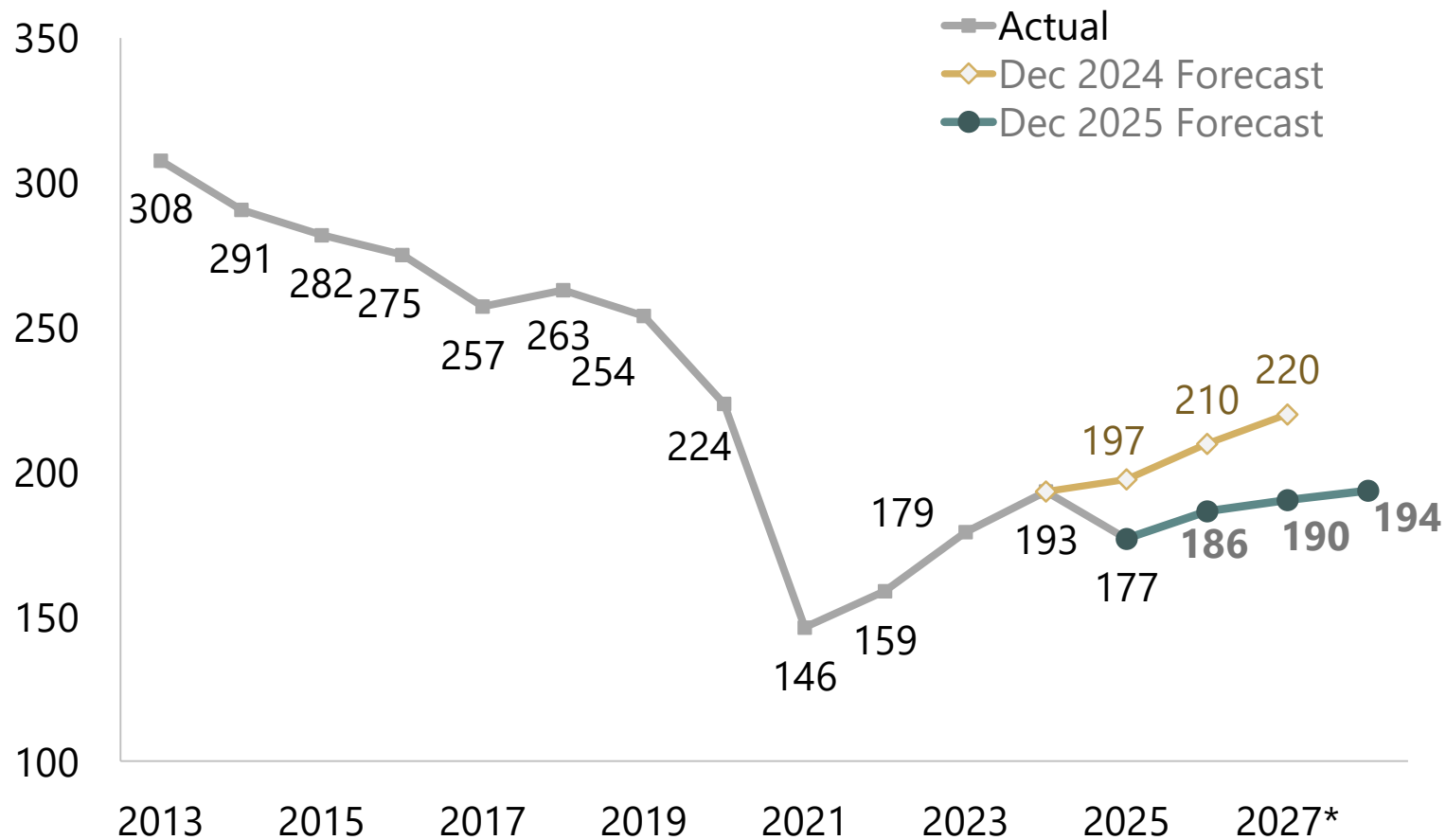
DYS detention and commitment populations fluctuate

Fiscal Year	Detention	Percent Change	Commitment	Percent Change	Parole	Percent Change
FY 2012-13	307.6	-2.8%	851.0	-13.4%	331.6	-8.7%
FY 2013-14	290.6	-5.5%	797.4	-6.3%	281.3	-15.2%
FY 2014-15	281.8	-3.0%	740.0	-7.2%	245.6	-12.7%
FY 2015-16	275.0	-2.4%	692.6	-6.4%	246.6	0.4%
FY 2016-17	257.1	-6.5%	651.1	-6.0%	220.4	-10.6%
FY 2017-18	262.8	2.2%	646.8	-0.7%	210.1	-4.7%
FY 2018-19	253.9	-3.4%	577.6	-10.7%	213.9	1.8%
FY 2019-20	223.5	-12.0%	454.8	-21.3%	207.0	-3.2%
FY 2020-21	146.2	-34.6%	341.2	-25.0%	163.5	-21.0%
FY 2021-22	158.8	8.6%	283.0	-17.1%	110.5	-32.4%
FY 2022-23	179.2	12.8%	257.5	-9.0%	106.1	-4.0%
FY 2023-24	193.2	7.8%	264.8	2.8%	95.7	-9.8%
FY 2024-25	176.9	-8.4%	262.2	-1.0%	107.6	12.4%
FY 2025-26*	186.4	5.4%	242.4	-7.6%	97.1	-9.8%
FY 2026-27*	190.2	2.1%	246.1	1.5%	100.5	3.6%
FY 2027-28*	193.5	1.7%	244.3	-0.7%	100.3	-0.2%

Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

After decline, growth expected in DYS detention population

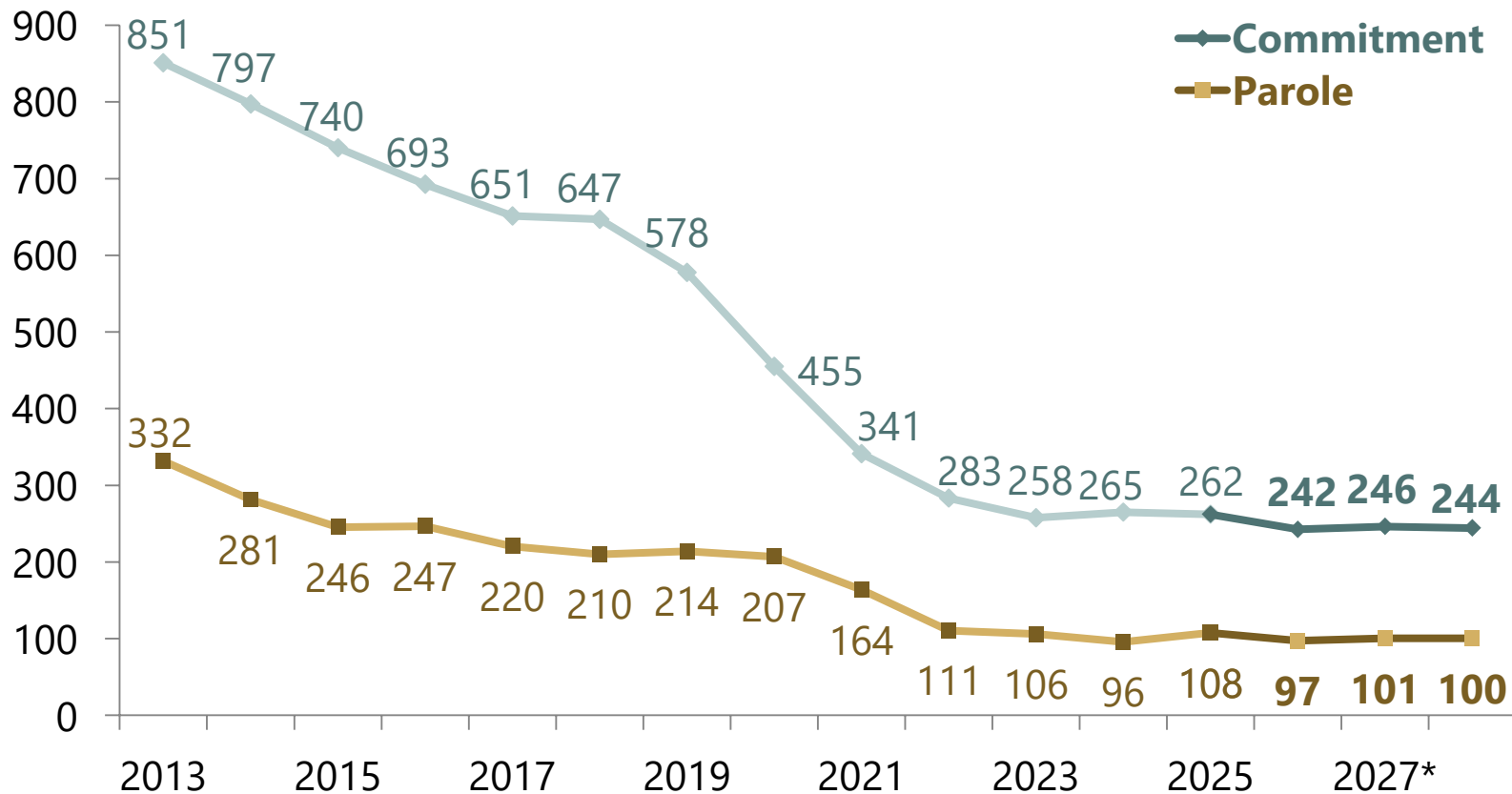
Detention Forecast Fiscal Year Average Daily Population



Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

DYS commitment and parole populations expected to increase, reversing long term trends

Commitment and Parole Forecasts Fiscal Year Average Daily Populations



Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2025 forecast.

Questions?

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