

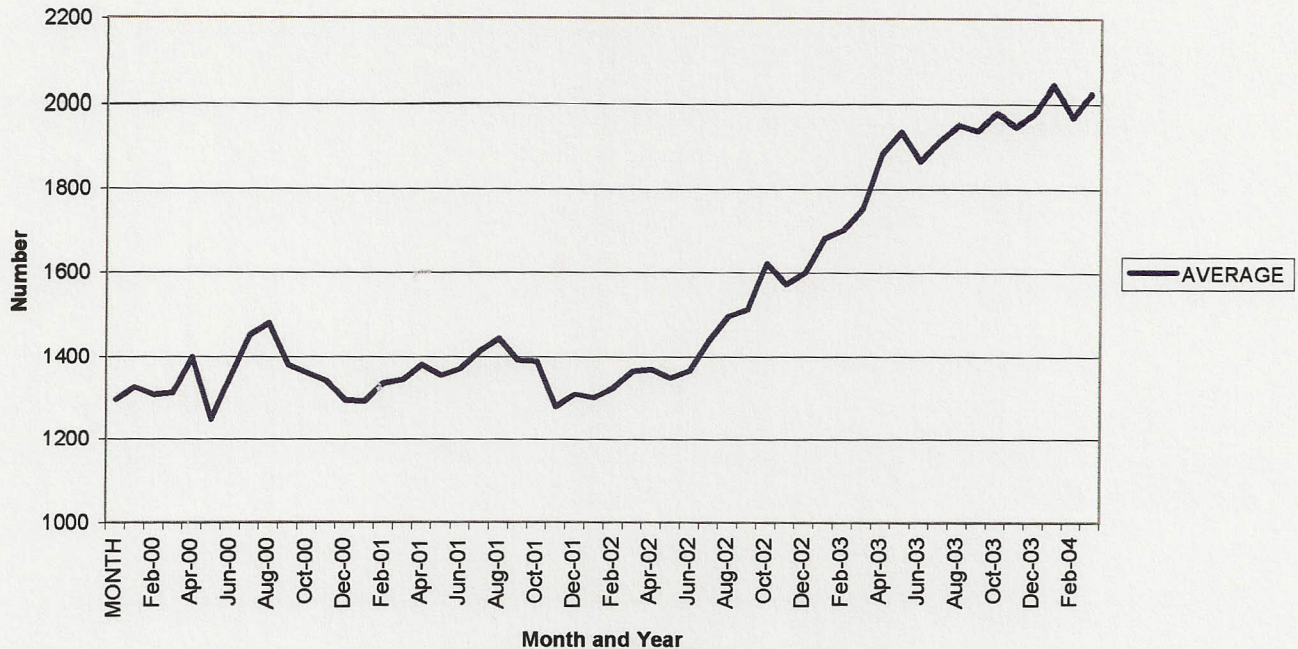
## **Average Daily Population in the Jail**

Prepared for:  
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MONTHLY AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

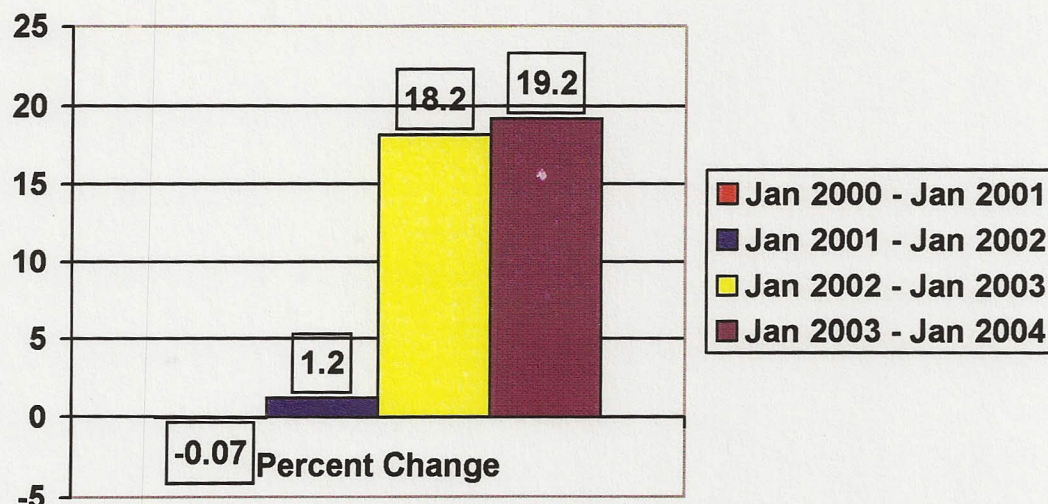


This figure documents the monthly average daily population in the Jail from January 2000 through April 2004. Between January 2000 and July 2002 the average daily Jail population varied between approximately 1250 and 1450 individuals. Since approximately August 2002 the average daily population in the Jail has steadily increased. In October 2002 for the first time the average daily population went above 1500 individuals. Beginning in December 2002 the Jail experienced an increase in the average daily population every month. In September 2004 the average daily population was 2023 persons. The new Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention (MDC) became fully operational in June 2003 with an operational capacity of approximately 2000 and design capacity of 2100. Currently the Jail is at or above its operational capacity. Because Jail populations spike during the summer months we anticipate the Jail population will continue to increase through the summer months. Further, the average daily population under-reports the population crowding because it only takes into account the total population and it does not report the population by pod or unit. Some pods within the Jail are more crowded than others because of the type of classified inmates they house. At the current rate of increase using the last 8 months of data (September 2003 – April 2004) the Jail population could continue to increase at an average monthly rate of 1.6%. This could add another 32 individuals to the average daily population in May 2004 for a total of 2055 individuals.

The Second Chance Program can positively affect this trend by taking Jail inmates into it's program thereby reducing the Jail's population and increasing



the overall operational capacity of the Jail by the number of beds added by the Second Chance Program. The program by design will take inmates that take up the most bed days and this may further affect the population.



This figure reports the annual daily population change for the listed time periods. Between January 2000 and January 2001 the average daily Jail population decreased slightly (-0.7%) and from January 2001 to January 2002 the average daily Jail population increased by 1.2%. The average daily Jail population saw large increases from January 2002 to January 2003 and January 2003 to January 2004. This figure dramatically shows the increased average daily population. Between January 2002 and January 2004 the jail's average daily population increased 37.4%.

The MDC currently does not have adequate capacity (bed space) to house the number and type of persons arrested and incarcerated by the local criminal justice system. In the near future the Jail will consistently exceed its operational capacity. This will impact the criminal justice system and may require the system to modify its current policies regarding how the Jail is used. Judicial officials might be discouraged from placing persons in the Jail and law enforcement agencies might adapt current policies regarding whether to arrest certain types of offenders.

The MDC, like other Jails across the country, may face certain management problems as a result of crowding. In crowded jails staff cannot adequately house and manage inmates based upon the risks and needs they present to the facility. Crowded situations often mean security is threatened because too few staff are available to monitor the number of inmates. This is further exacerbated in the MDC because of the current staffing shortage. Crowding also overloads



available programs and services, which could lead to increased tension among inmates. Very importantly for the MDC the increasing crowding could lead to further involvement by the federal court via the McClendon lawsuit and/or it could lead to further lawsuits and oversight.

Various alternatives exist to reduce the crowding at the MDC. The Jail can look to neighboring counties and contract for bed space. This could possibly be done at a cost that is less than the Jail's current daily cost. While this is possible costs may also increase because of the need to transport inmates back and forth and the unintended consequence of disrupting institutional operations. A decision could also be made to expand the current facility to meet the current and future demand. Diversion and community type programs (e.g. Community Custody Program) for non-violent offenders could also be expanded. The criminal justice system, using the MCJCC, could be proactive and develop a plan for future bed-space needs through the development of a more encompassing criminal justice system master plan.

The Second Chance Program has the potential benefit of expanding the facility without new construction and meeting a short term need for bed space. Further, the program has the potential benefit of filling a long-term need of providing services geared towards incarcerated felons who take up a large number of beds and days and reducing the recidivism rate of these individuals. The Second Chance Program could fill a niche and be part of a criminal justice system master plan.