



House Corrections & Institutions

February 15, 2024



H.326



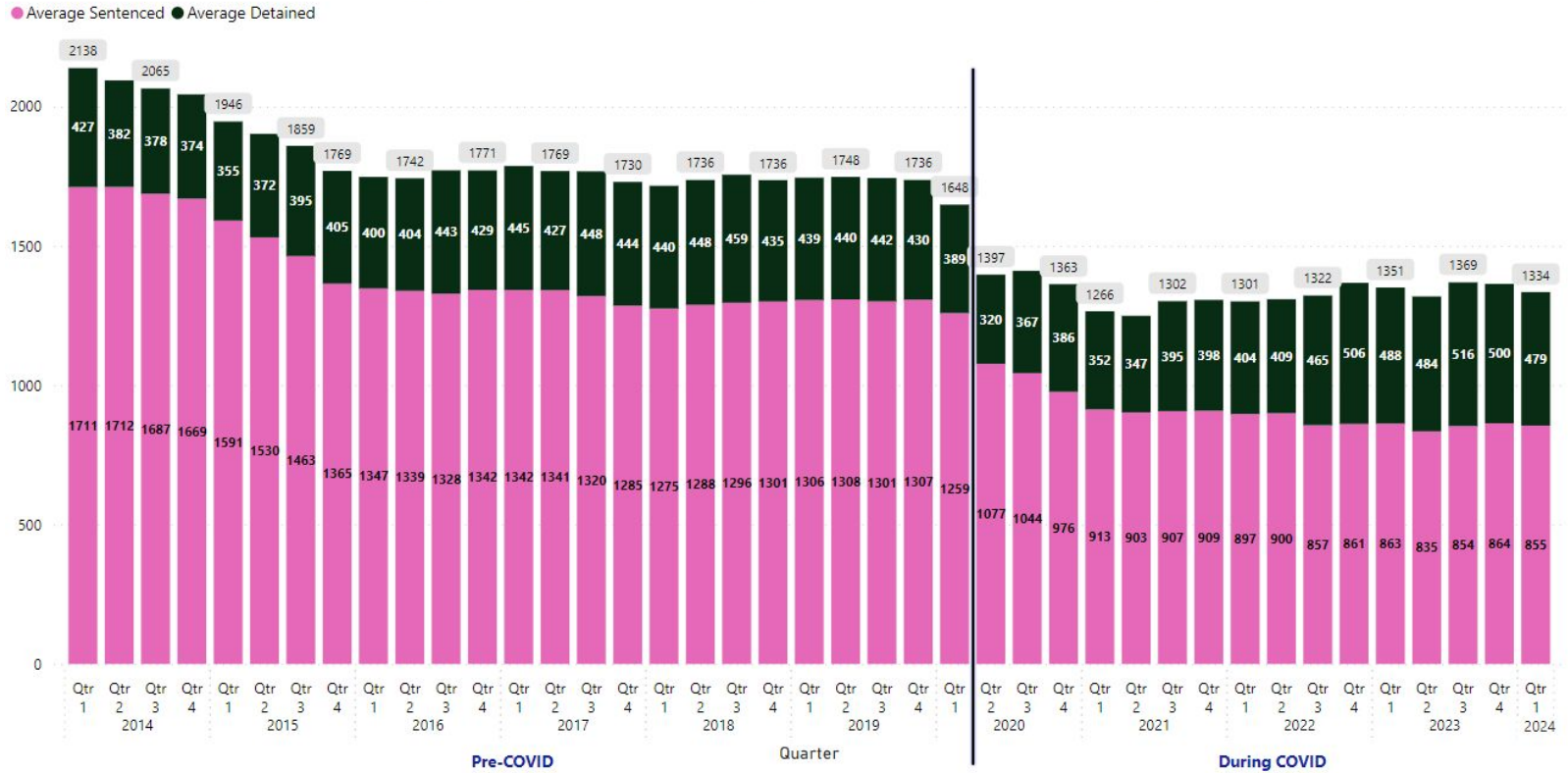


The New York Times:
“10 Guards, 900
Inmates and the Dire
Results of Warnings
Ignored” February 2,
2024

***10 Guards, 900 Inmates and the
Dire Results of Warnings Ignored***

An extreme shortage of guards at Wisconsin’s prisons has slowed basic operations to a crawl. Inmates escaped, prisons locked down and conditions deteriorated.

Total Vermont Incarcerated Population: 10 Years



Total Sentenced = all individuals incarcerated by VTDOC who were sentenced for crime(s); **Total Detained** = all individuals incarcerated by VTDOC who are detained for crime(s).



Current Landscape

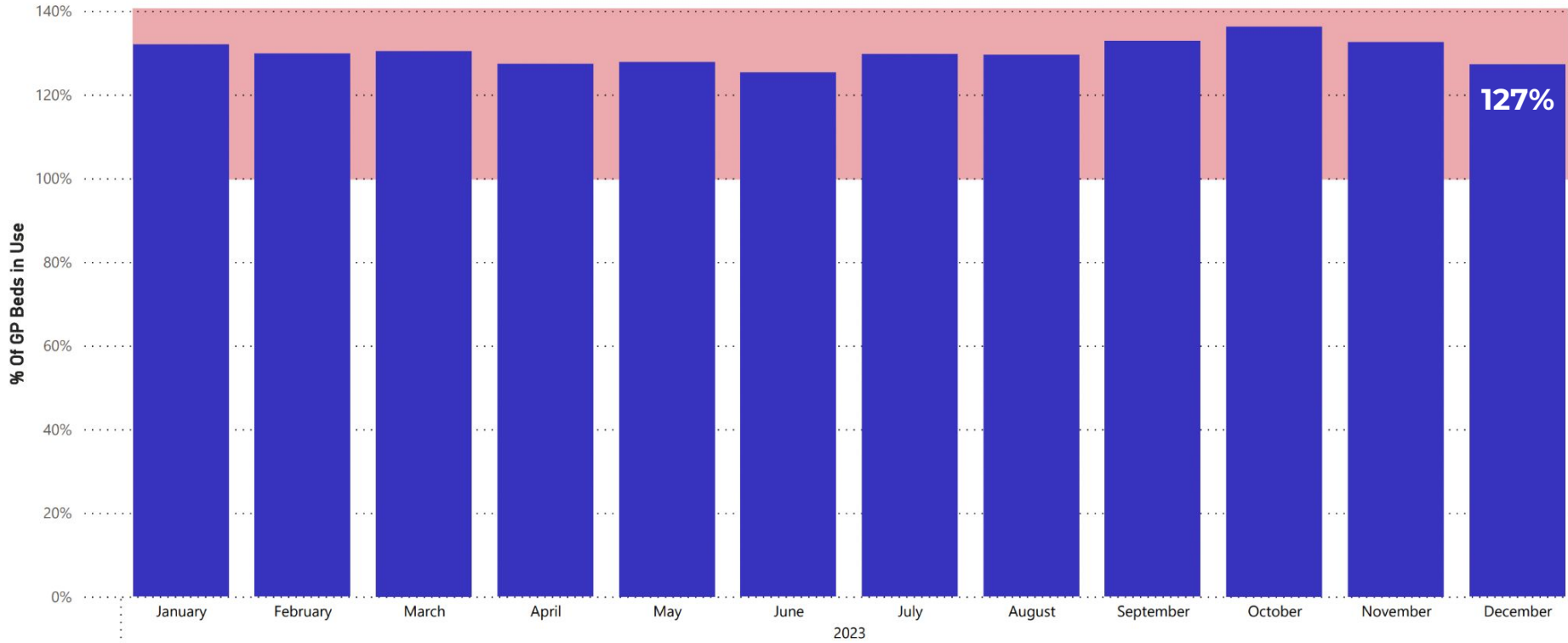
- Types of housing in Vermont correctional facilities:
 - Long-term housing: residential beds (general population or “GP”)
 - Temporary housing: special housing (mental health, infirmary, booking), restrictive housing
- Average total male-identifying population (including out of state): **1232**
 - Vermont average male residential bed capacity: **950**
- American Correctional Association (ACA) recommends states **not exceed 85%** of total capacity.
- Vermont currently at **127% capacity** of residential beds.

Current Landscape (cont.)



- In prior years, Vermont has relied on temporary measures for additional capacity (i.e., housing in gymnasiums) that do not comport with best correctional practices, Vermont standards, or DOC values.
- Vermont contracts with out of state correctional facilities to house a small portion of the sentenced population.
 - Contract partners must adhere to DOC Mission, Vision, and Values and policy.
- Historically, **more than 700** individuals were housed out of state.
- Reduction in total incarcerated population by **nearly 30% since 2015**.
- Currently, 126 sentenced male individuals housed at Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility (TCCF).

Vermont Residential Bed (GP) Capacity: 2023





Challenges

- Aged, inflexible, outdated infrastructure requiring frequent maintenance
- Six facilities scattered across state creates inefficiencies and high staffing needs
- Beds offline for unit maintenance, staffing vacancies, deferred maintenance, etc.
- Lack of additional capacity in event of emergencies/natural disasters (e.g., flooding)
- Housing gender-diverse individuals within a system designed and built for only two sexes
- Housing juveniles (PREA-mandated sight and sound separation)
- Not all beds residential/general population beds (i.e., booking, mental health, infirmary, restrictive housing/segregation)
- Housing special populations:
 - SFI, mental health, geriatric, medical needs, honors unit, etc.
- Housing mixed populations:
 - Sentenced, detained, federal holds

DOC daily population figures at: <https://doc.vermont.gov/content/research-and-data>



Current Custody Counts by Type

Sentences and/or obligations solely in the State of Vermont:

- *Interstate Corrections Compact (ICC): 3*
- *Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA): 3*

Sentences and/or obligations in other jurisdictions in addition to the State of Vermont:

- *BOP: 9*
- *Concurrent: 7*
- *Consecutive: 1*
- *Federal Writ: 9*
- *Interstate Agreement on Detainers (IAD): 2*
- *Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE): 2*
- *United States Marshals Service (USMS): 5*



Discussion



Appendix

Bed Counts by Type



	A/C	Infirmary	Medical / Geriatric	High Acuity MH	MH	Work Camp / North Unit	Sex Offender Programming	Close Custody	High Security	GP
CRCF	7	5	0	8	12	0	0	24*	7	101
MVRCF	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	98
NECC	8	0	0	0	0	106	0	0	12	98
NSCF	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	402
NWCF	7	0	0	0	0	0	51	20	20	149
SSCF	7	9	28	10	26	0	0	32	16	250**
Total F/M	7/40	5/12	0/28	8/10	12/26	106	51	0/62	24/68	101/997

**This significantly exceeds the amount of close custody beds needed for the female population. This unit is therefore used for other purposes depending on need, including new admissions (especially those who may be experiencing detox symptoms) or other cases where an individual may require temporary separation from population.*

***One unit currently closed for construction, actual available as of 1/10/24 is 947*

The New York Times

Short on Staff, Prisons Enlist Teachers and Case Managers as Guards

The patchwork system that has evolved to address the situation has drained morale among staff members and placed additional strains on prisoners.

NEWSLETTER

HOW FLORIDA'S DIRE PRISON STAFF SHORTAGE HURTS PEOPLE INSIDE

Ron DeSantis called in the National Guard to staff Florida prisons. The staffing shortage is hurting incarcerated people.

Bureau of Prisons understaffing leads to 'unprecedented exodus' of employees, union warns

NEWS

New Data Shows How Dire the Prison Staffing Shortage Really Is

The stubborn staffing crisis affects almost every aspect of life in prison, for employees and the incarcerated alike.

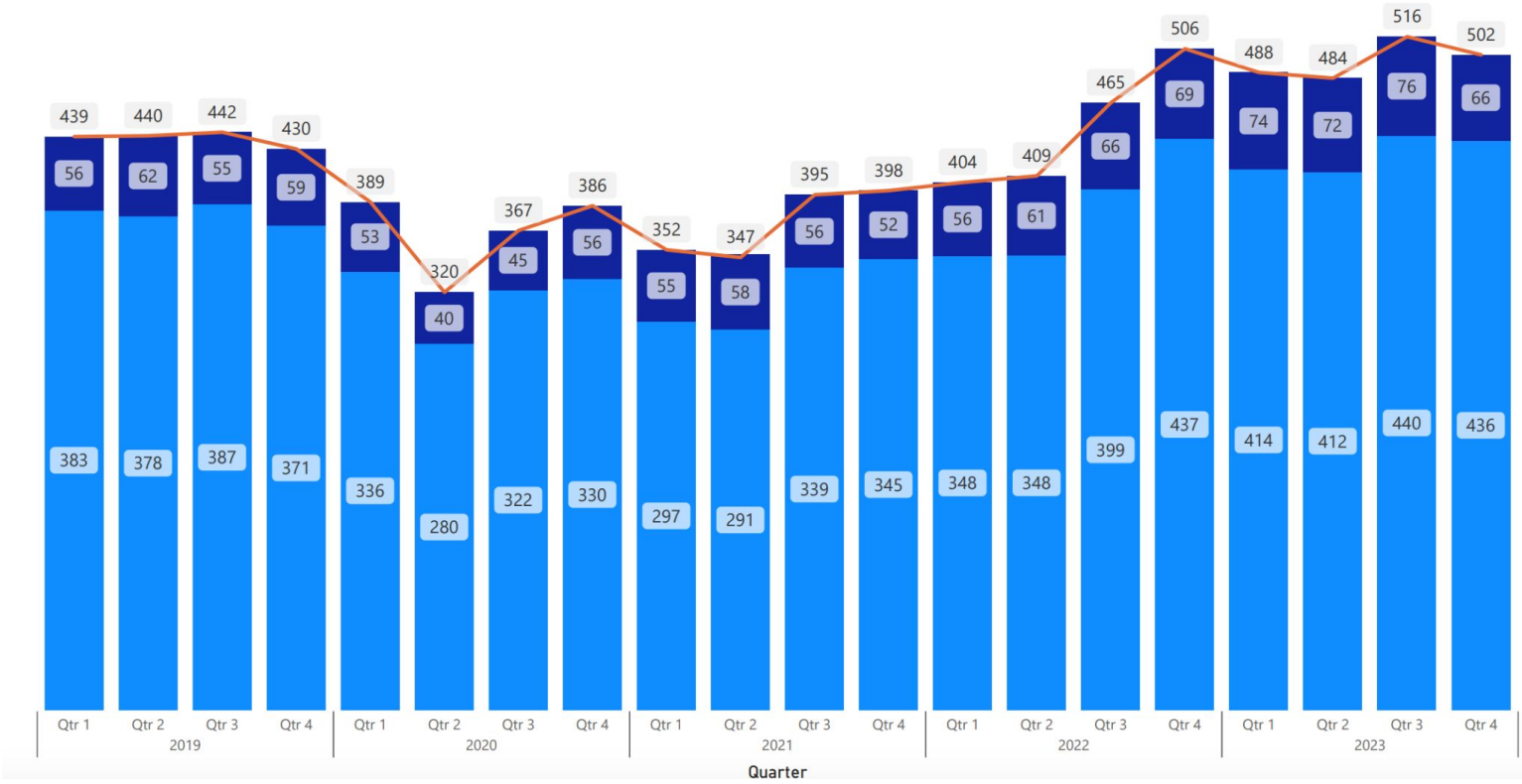
Inside a 'Nightmare' Lockdown at a Wisconsin Prison

Inmates who have been confined mostly to their cells for more than four months describe unsanitary conditions and a dearth of medical care. Experts say dire staffing shortages are likely to blame and are leading to lockdowns across the country.

Detainee Population

Average Monthly Count of Detainees: 2019-2023

● State Detainees Only ● Federal Detainees Only ● State and Federal Detainees Combined



Definitions



- *Bail: Bail is imposed by a Vermont Court while the defendant is detained in another jurisdiction.*
- *BOP: An incarcerated individual in the primary custody of the Federal Government serving both a Federal and Vermont State sentence.*
- *Concurrent: An incarcerated individual in the primary custody of another state serving sentences for the incarcerating jurisdiction and the State of Vermont.*
- *Consecutive: An incarcerated individual in the primary custody of another state in which a Vermont state sentence has been imposed to run consecutively once released from the primary jurisdiction.*
- *Federal Writ: An incarcerated individual, sentenced, detained or both for the State of Vermont, who is temporarily in the custody of the Federal Government on a Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Prosequendum (an order commanding the presence of a defendant to appear in court to answer charges on pending case) or disposition of Federal charges.*
- *Interstate Agreement on Detainers (IAD): An incarcerated individual who has invoked their right to a speedy trial under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers and temporarily transferred to the custody of the wanting jurisdiction for disposition of charges.*
- *Interstate Corrections Compact (ICC): An incarcerated individual's need-based custody designation to another state correctional system based on risk, classification, safety or at the request of the incarcerated individual.*
- *Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE): A convicted individual who has been deported to their home country but has not maxed out their imposed Vermont sentence.*
- *Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA): Need-based designation of an incarcerated Individual's custody to a Federal correctional system based on risk, classification, safety, or at the request of the incarcerated individual.*
- *United States Marshals Service (USMS): An incarcerated individual who is in the primary custody of the USMS detained on Federal charges, but is either on parole or furlough for Vermont DOC, or is detained on Vermont charges.*
- *Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility (TCCF): Out-of-state contracted facility for those sentenced in State of Vermont custody.*