



Utah Prison Projection Project (UPPP)

March, 2025 - Update

A CCJJ & UDOC Collaboration



<https://justice.utah.gov/>

UPPP Project Plan

Review of project plan

A Four-Phased Approach

Sept-Dec 2024

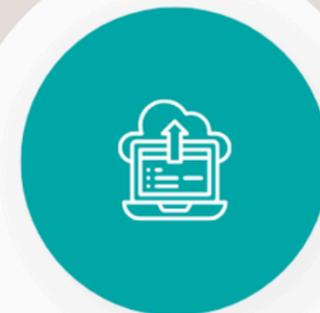
1. Continued Exploration

- Revisit best practices in the forecasting literature
- Establish internal infrastructure
- Integrate data & start building the forecasting tool.



2. Deployment

- Finalize technical work
- Implement a quality assurance process &
- Share the tool for feedback and make available to use.



May-Nov/Dec 2025

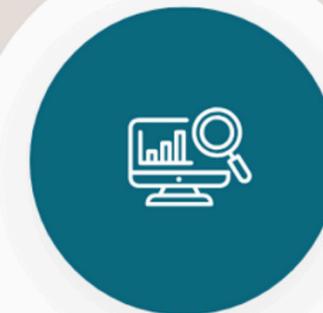
3. Expansion

- Expand work to subsets of the prison population (eg, the mentally ill and the aging population) &
- Create forecasting models to aid in planning for inmates with unique housing needs.



4. Maintenance

- Update models with new data as it becomes available to ensure projections are using the most up-to-date information.



Jan 2026-Ongoing



Jan-April 2025

TEAM PROGRESS

Work done to date and next steps



1 - Review & Meeting w. States

Reviewed best practices and met with 3 states and local data teams.

Sept - Dec 2024

2 - Forecasting & Tool Development

Development of a forecasting technical workbook and data tool.

Jan - March 2025

3 - Beginnings of Scenario Building

Began work on building in sub-populations and scenarios for phase 3.

Jan - March 2025

4 - Next Steps: Review & Feedback

Review with UDOC & GOPB (tbs) and assessing impact of new bills.

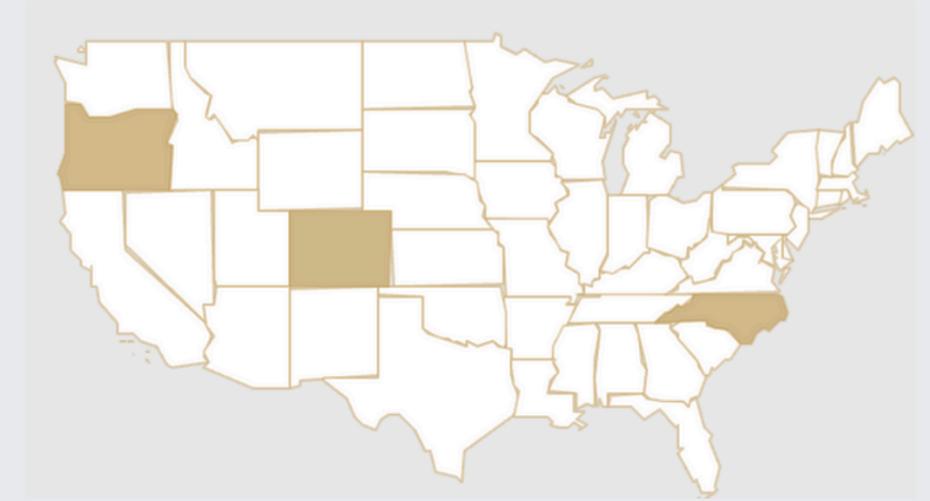
March - April 2025

5 - Next steps: Phase 3

Implement scenario based projections and a more sophisticated tool.

May - Nov/Dec 2025

1. Lessons from States



- **“The Gold Standard:”** Individual based *simulation* models
 - Used by e.g., Oregon, Colorado & North Carolina
 - Also used in 2016 jri projections and by other prominent CJ organizations
 - Takes time to build and need local adaptations. For a review, please visit this [link](#).
- **Time Series Methods:** Other commonly used methods include time series forecasting methods applied to aggregate prison population data

2. Forecasting & Tool Development

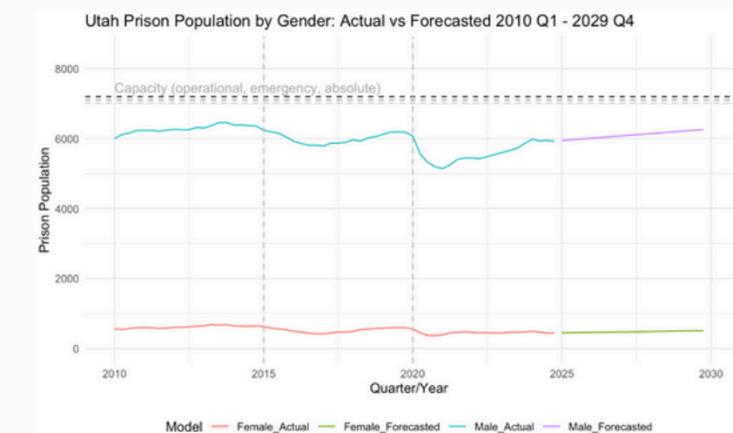
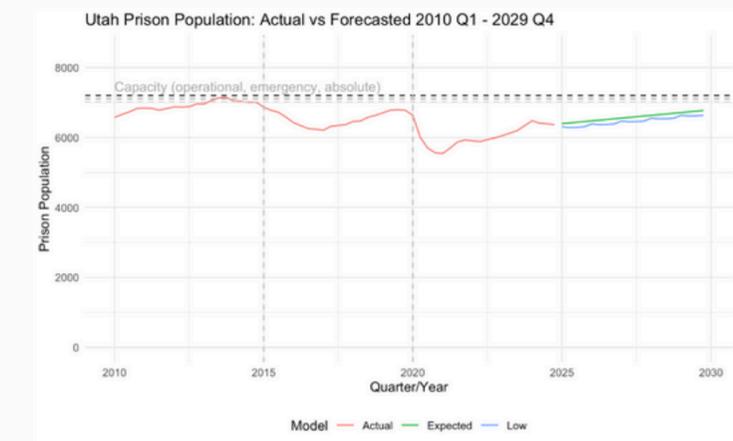
- **Technical Workbook:** Created a technical workbook comparing different projection models.
 - Adjustments for jri & covid-19
 - Assessed impact of general population growth and violent crime
 - **Selected work will populate the data tool.**
- **Prison Drivers:** Visualizations of factors affecting prison populations (e.g., admissions by entry type/offense and gender).
- **Challenges:** Similar to other states, uncertainty after Covid-19 and new bills remains.

Projecting Utah's Prison Population: Technical Workbook

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Trends in Utah's Prison Population
- Model Exploration
- Sensitivity Analysis
- Final Forecast**
- Prison Drivers
- References

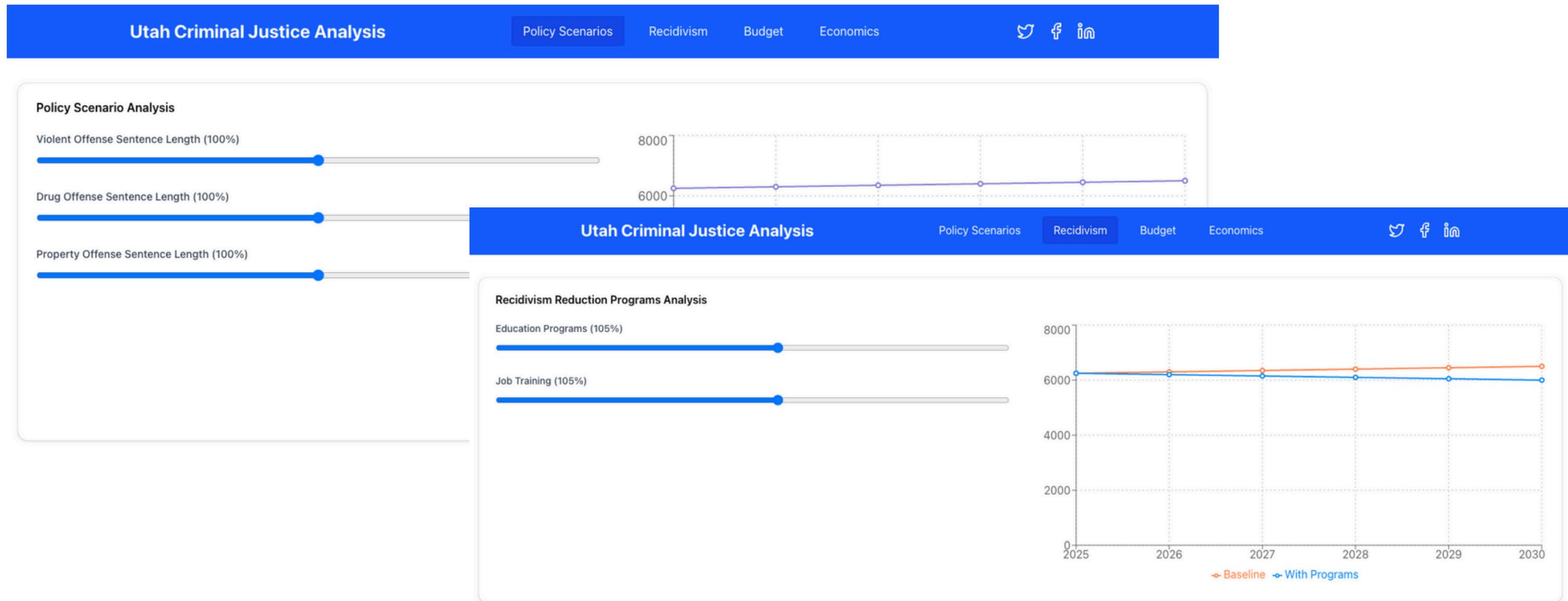
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Below is a plot and table of the final 5-year quarterly forecasted values for the selected models:



~May not represent final forecasts~

3. Beginnings of Scenario Building



4. Next Steps: Review & Feedback

- UDOC feedback (to be scheduled)
- New bills (most prominently HB207) initial impact review
- GOPB feedback
 - E.g., use of calendar vs fiscal year data
 - Frequency of updates (e.g., quarterly, vs annually)
 - Overall feedback



5. Next Steps: Phase 3

- Develop simulation models (e.g., stock-flow models) working with UDOC and BOPP data teams
- Implement scenario based projections based on sub-populations &
- Development of a more sophisticated data tool (due November/December 2025) - examples seen on previous slides



Thank You



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