



December 2021 | Legislative Council Staff

Corrections Populations Forecasts

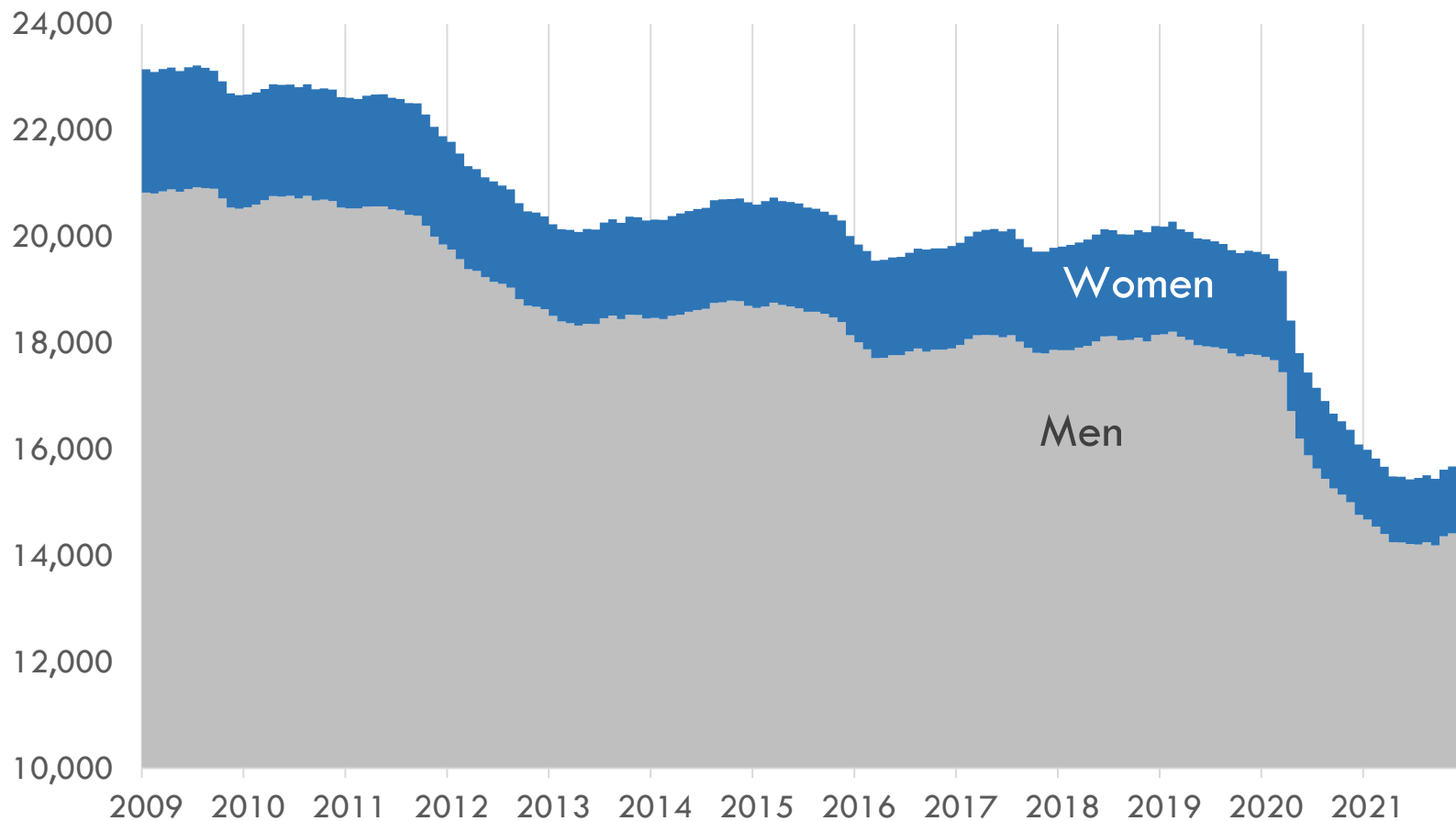
Presentation to the Joint Judiciary Committee

January 25, 2022

Adult Corrections Population Forecast

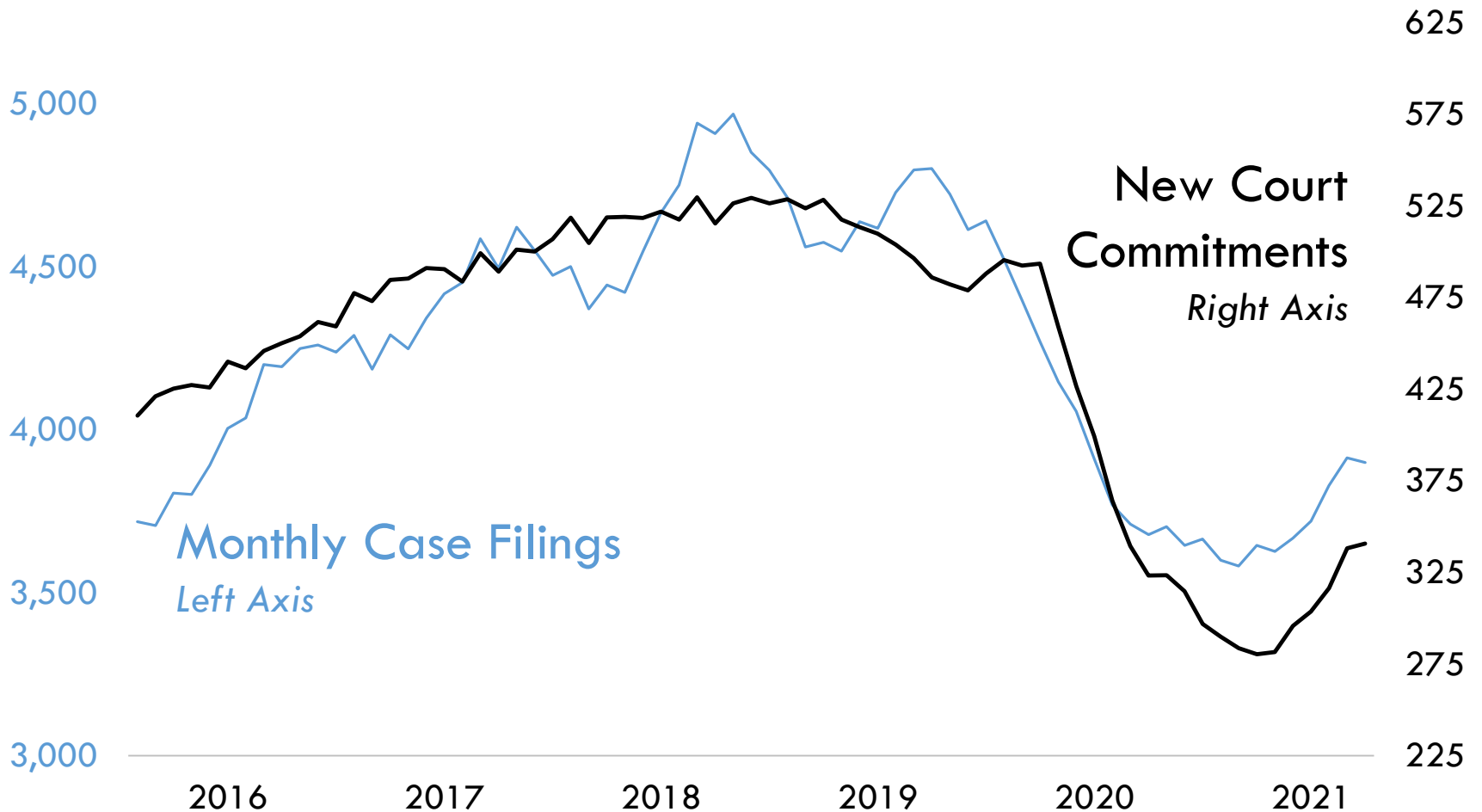


The prison population declined by 21 between February 2020 and June 2021



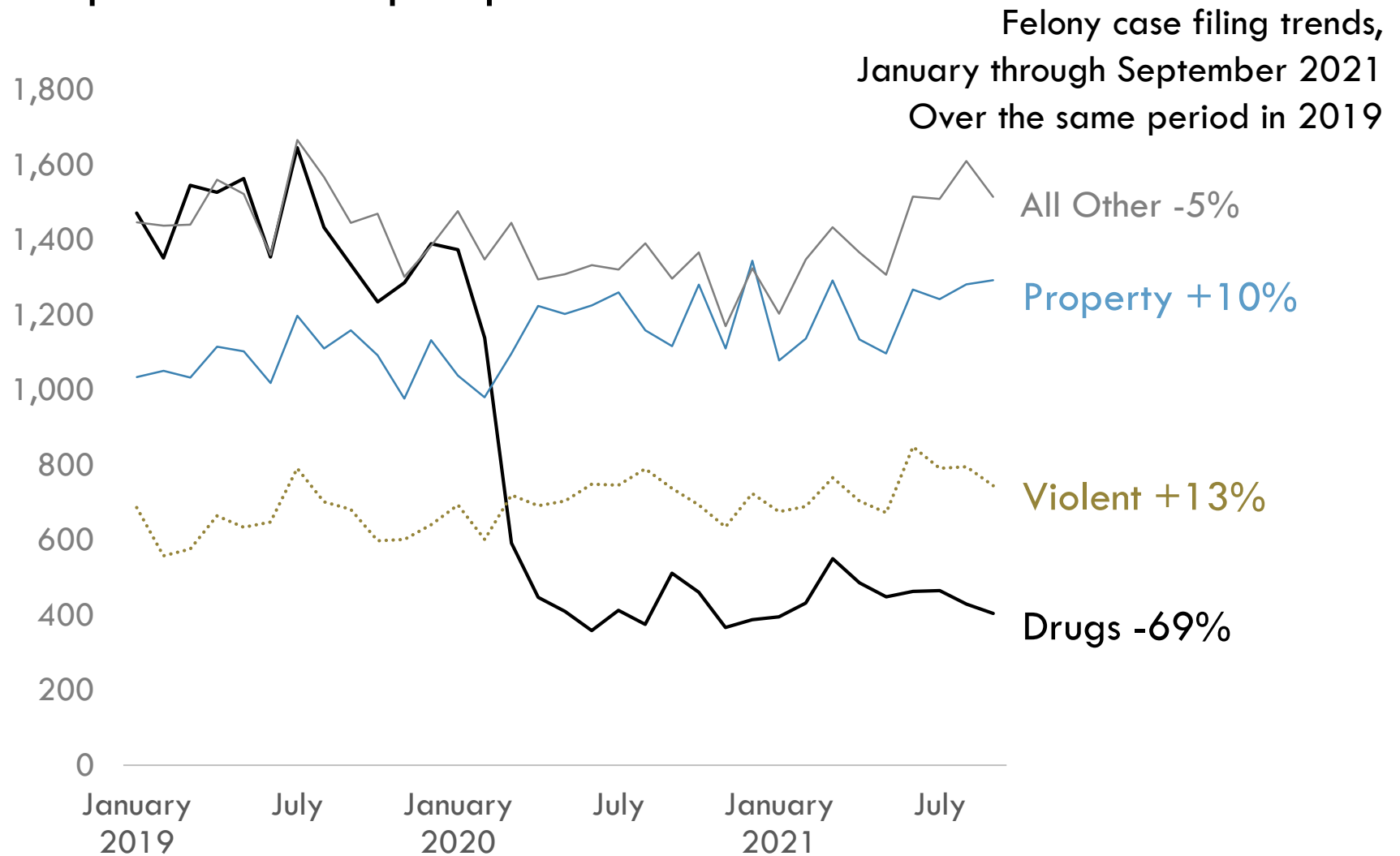
Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Monthly data through December 2021.

Case filings and commitments are recovering from pandemic lows

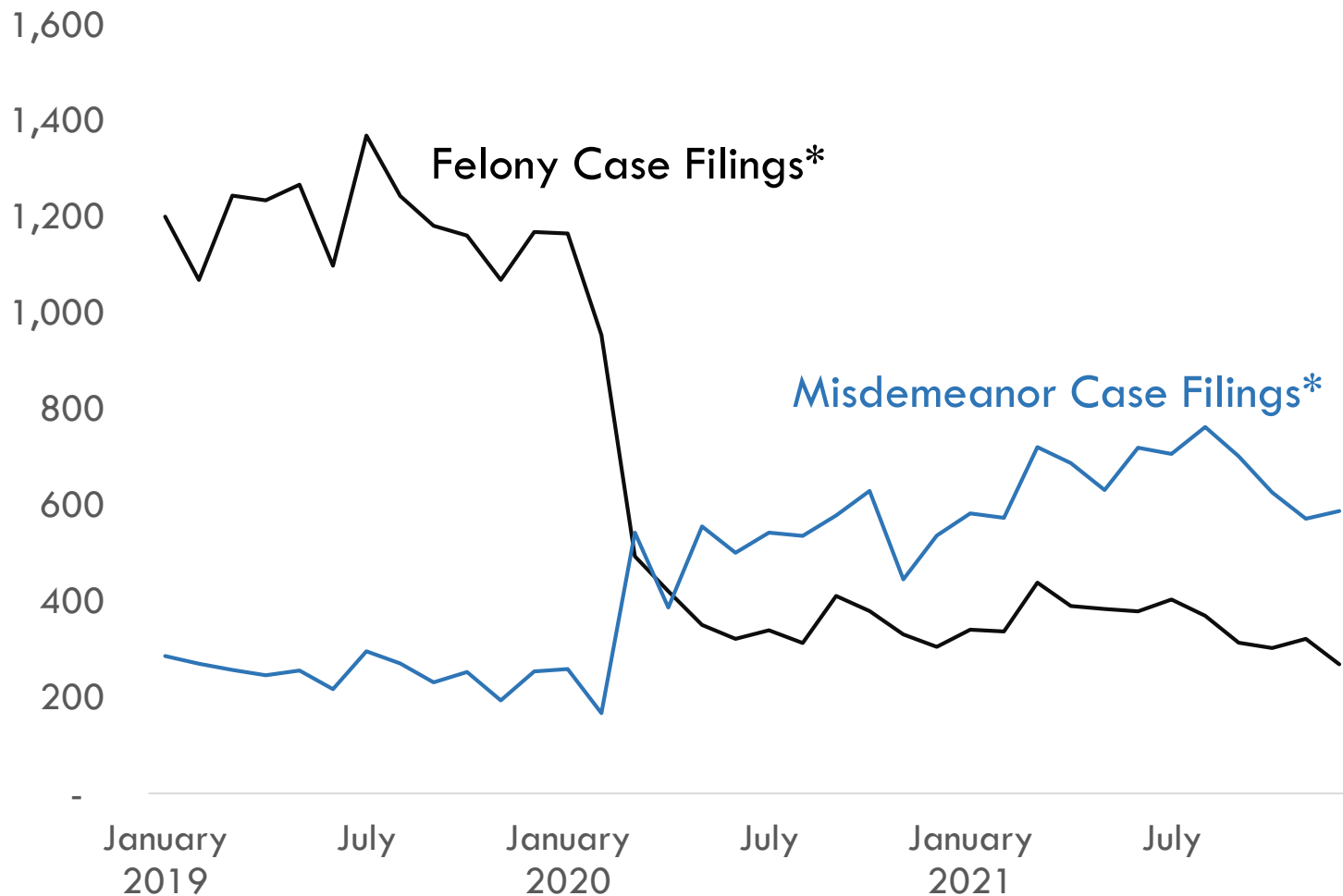


Source: Office of the State Court Administrator (case filings) and Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis (new court commitments). Monthly data; both series shown as six-month moving averages through September 2021.

State district court drug felony case filings are down 69 percent from pre-pandemic levels



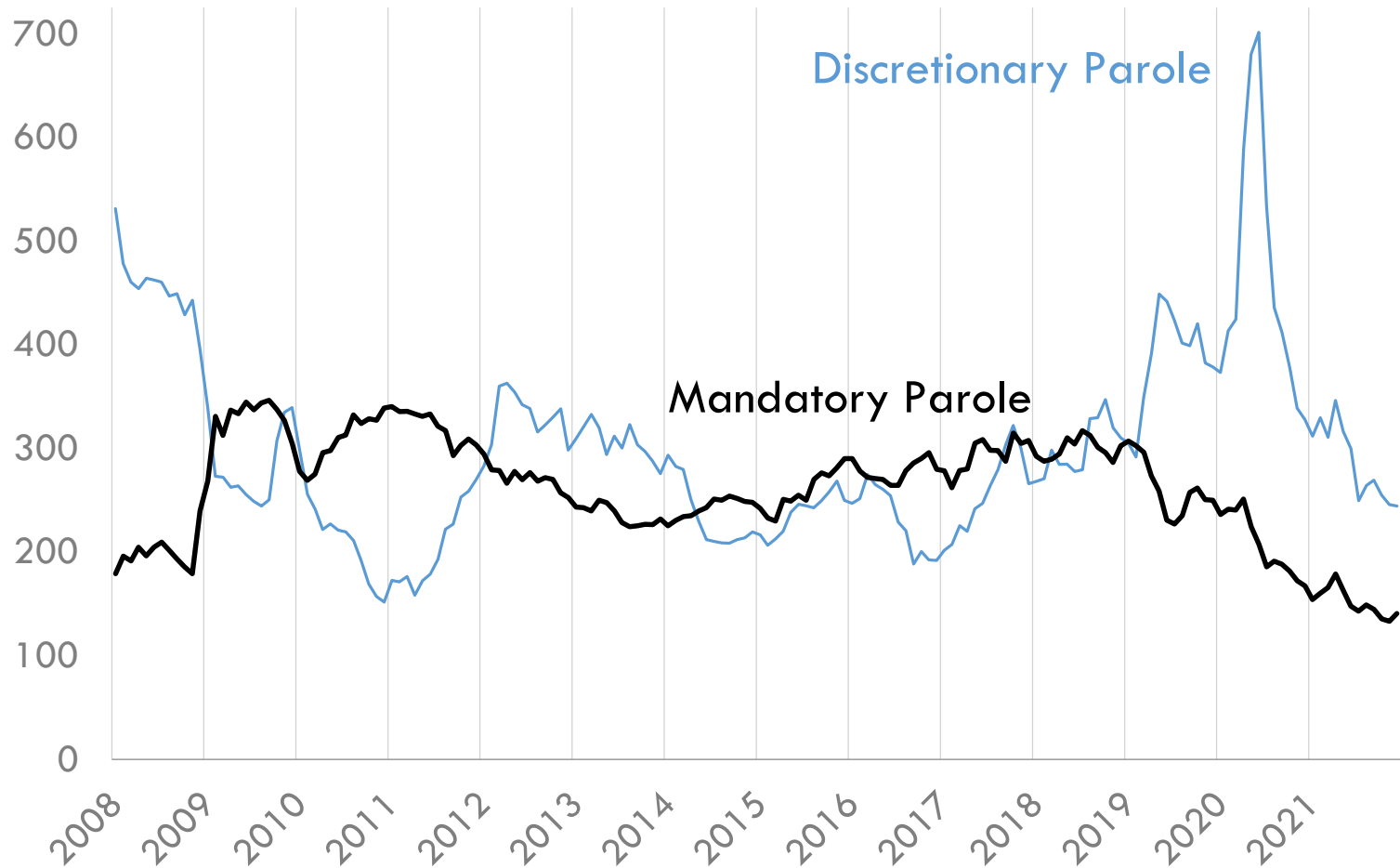
Increased misdemeanor drug case filings have partially offset the decline in drug felony case filings



Source: Judicial Branch, State Court Administrator's Office. Data through December 2021.

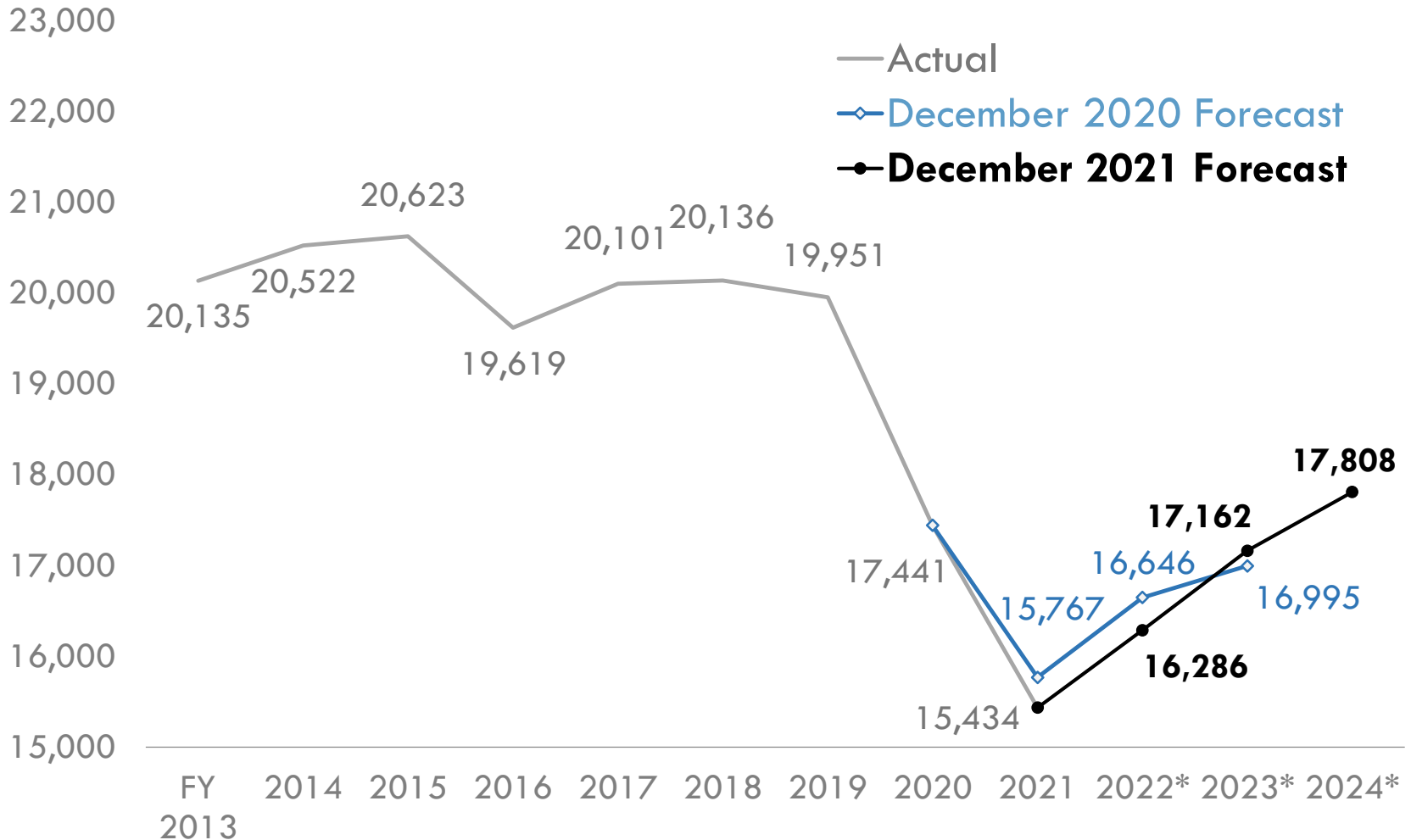
* Excludes Denver County.

After spiking in 2020, discretionary parole is down



The prison population will increase in 2022

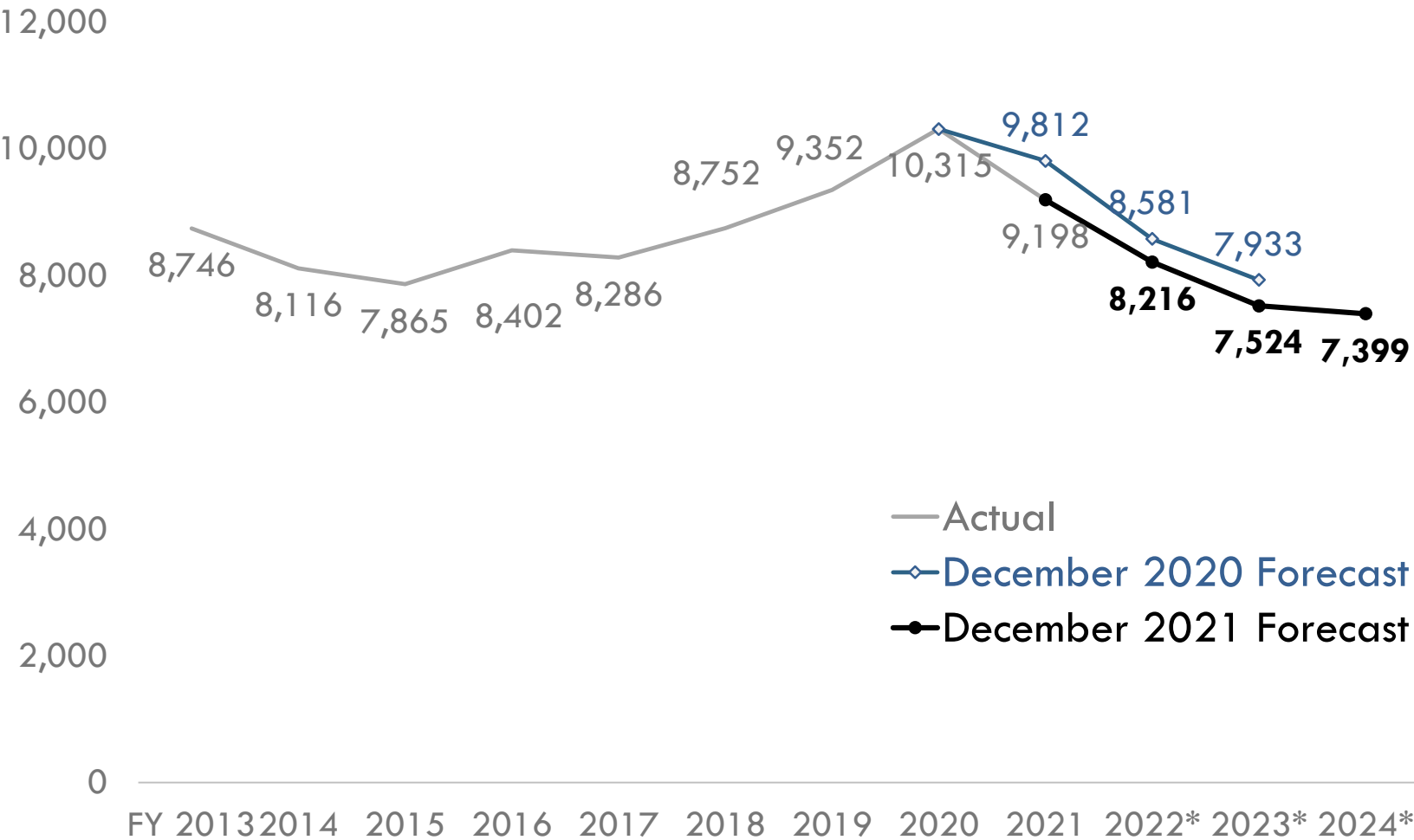
Adult Inmate Population Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections and *Legislative Council Staff December 2021 forecast.

Parole caseload peaked in June 2020 and will continue to decline

Adult Parole Caseload Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections and *Legislative Council Staff December 2021 forecast.

Forecast uncertainty remains elevated

- This forecast always contains (bidirectional) error
 - Before 2020, current year forecast error averaged about 1.7 percent, or 328 inmates
 - Current year forecast error from the December 2020 forecast is 2.2 percent, or 333 inmates
- Relative to last year, risks are lower, but remain elevated
- Trajectory of COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to contain it remain the most important risks to the forecast
- Conflating permanent impacts from behavioral or policy changes from temporary impacts from the pandemic raises the possibility of forecast error

Youth Corrections Population Forecast



All DYS populations have fallen

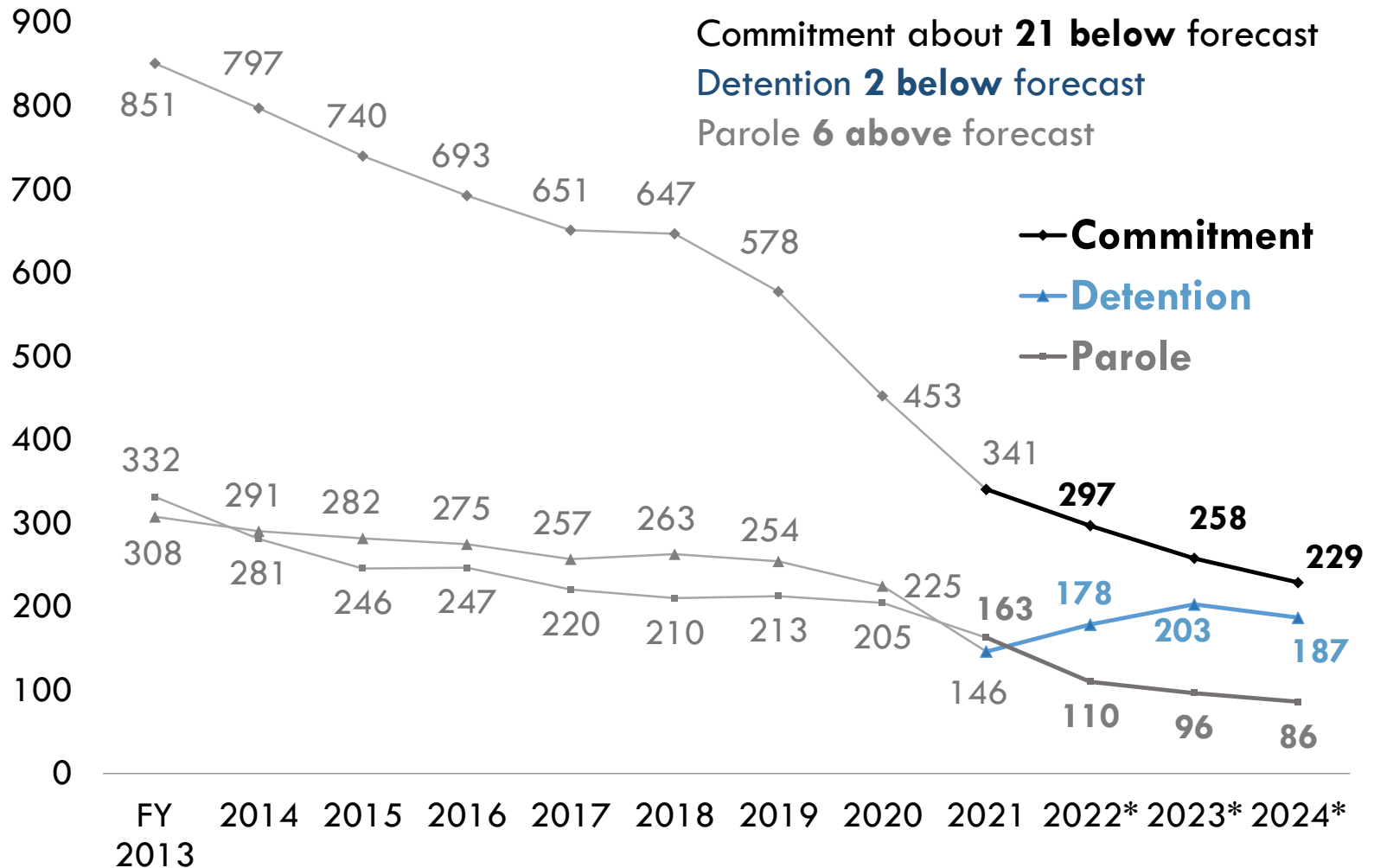
Average Daily Populations

As of December 31:

Commitment about **21 below** forecast

Detention **2 below** forecast

Parole **6 above** forecast



Corrections Population Forecast

Questions?

Elizabeth Ramey

Principal Economist • Legislative Council Staff
elizabeth.ramey@state.co.us • 303-866-3522
www.leg.colorado.gov/lcs

