

SEX OFFENSES: PROJECTED GROWTH & IMPACT OF LONGER TIME SERVED

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Issue Brief: Individuals serving time for a sex offense make up the largest share of Utah's prison population. This brief examines 10-year growth projections for this population, highlighting newly passed legislation and its expected impact on prison beds and taxpayer costs.

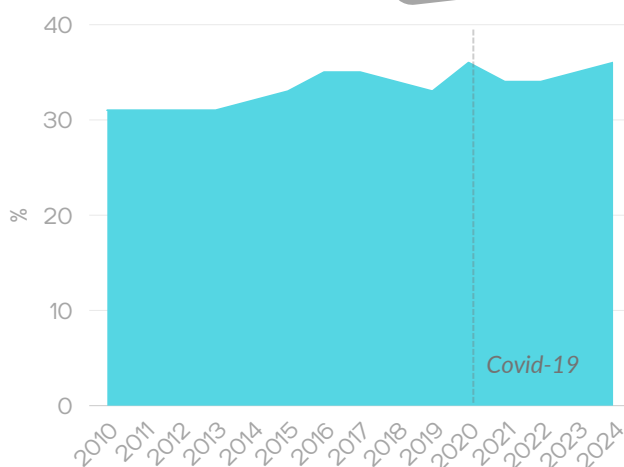
At a Glance

Sex offenses make up the largest share of Utah's prison population with its share growing in the past decade. In 2024, around 2,300 individuals in Utah's state prison served time for a sex offense, comprising over 35% of the inmate population. The majority of these individuals are male (~98%).

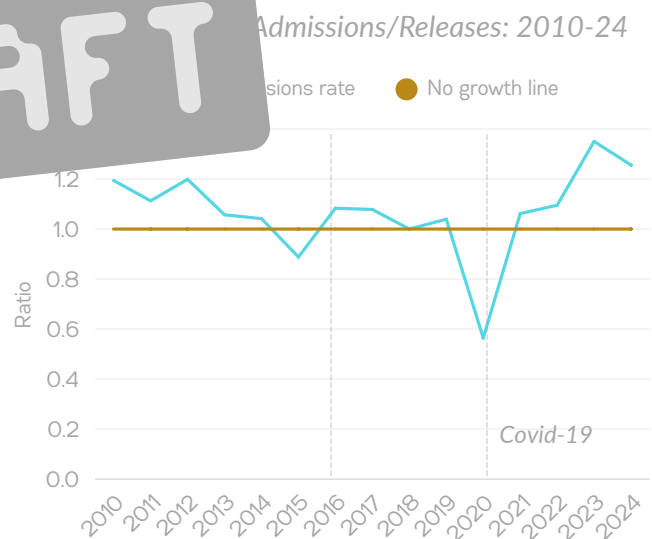
Admissions & Releases

Between 2019 and 2024, 1.1 sex offenders were admitted for every person released, leading to population growth. As seen in Figure 2, the population has generally stayed above the "no growth line", with temporary declines during justice reform (2016) and COVID-19.

Figure 1: Percent of Utah's Prison Population Serving Time for a Sex Offense



Part of the UPPP Policy Brief Series



Admissions of sex offenders have traditionally exceeded releases, resulting in population growth.