

## Summary

### Judicial sanctions capacity forecast

Since 1998 the WODC has been responsible for the methodological development, as well as a yearly update, of forecasts of the capacity needed for various judicial sanctions. This report presents forecasts over the period 1999-2003. The sanctions involve partly compulsory services to the community or to victims (extramural), partly imprisonment or compulsory psychiatric treatment (intramural). Extramural sanctions for juveniles in case of minor crimes can be handled by the police (so-called Halt-settlements); in more serious cases the courts are involved and they can impose community service, a compulsory task to be fulfilled by the convicted juvenile (a so-called task-sanction). This last type of sanctions is also possible for adults.

Intramural sanctions for juveniles involve placement in judicial homes for juveniles. These placements can occur according to penal law (convictions for crimes) or by civil law (absence of sufficient parental care). Intramural sanctions for adults are executed in prisons or in institutions for compulsory psychiatric treatment. A special group in prisons consists of illegal foreigners, who are kept in custody awaiting their expulsion.

Last year's forecast of the prison capacity needed clearly overestimated the capacity needed in 1998. This is partly due to the lack at that time of reliable and up-to-date data on prison sentences given by the courts. This stresses the importance of sound up-to-date quantitative information to improve forecast accuracy. In this report revised and new data have been used.

Traditionally there is some variation in forecasting methodology over the various types of sanctions. The WODC tries to enhance the uniformity and consistency of the forecasting methodology. In addition it tries to improve transparency of the backgrounds of the forecasts' results. So the Jukebox-1 model, which is used in part of the forecasts, relates the trends in capacity needed for prisons and task-sanctions for adults to trends in crime and law enforcement activities. Trends in crime are in turn related to demographic and socio-economic factors and law enforcement performance indicators (solution rates, conviction rates, et cetera).

Forecast methodology in other areas of judicial sanctions is roughly based on relevant demographic developments and trends in the last 10 years. The background of these trends is not elaborated.

Table 1 shows the forecasts for the sanctions involved. Growth is expected in all areas. According to the forecasts, the sanctions for juveniles increase faster than

**Table 1: Forecasts of various sanctions (annual average of capacity need), 1998-2003**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1998-2003 increase
Halt-settlements	21,000	22,500	24,100	26,000	27,900	30,100	43%
task-sanctions juveniles	10,800	11,600	12,500	13,400	14,500	15,700	45%
judicial homes for juveniles	1,590	1,780	2,000	2,200	2,380	2,540	59%
task-sanctions adults	16,800	17,800	18,900	19,800	20,600	21,300	27%
prisons (excluding custody of illegal foreigners)	11,600	11,800	12,100	12,300	12,500	12,700	10%
custody of illegal foreigners	1,120	1,210	1,300	1,390	1,480	1,570	40%
institutions for compulsory psychiatric treatment	1,130	1,180	1,240	1,300	1,340	1,390	23%

those for adults. The expected increase of the number of juveniles in the relevant age group (12-17 years) is a main cause here. In addition, the numbers of juvenile suspects per capita as well as the intensity of sanctions per juvenile suspect continue to grow.

The intensity of sanctions regarding adult suspects is also growing, but there are partially countervailing tendencies: the number of property crimes is not increasing any longer. In addition the rise in the severity of sanctions, which took place in the early nineties, may have come to a halt.

Compared to the growth of the actual capacity needed in the last five years the anticipated growth is less for prisons, task-sanctions (both for juveniles and for adults) and to a lesser extent, for institutions for compulsory psychiatric treatment and for Halt-settlements. The increase of the capacity need of judicial homes for juveniles and custody of illegal foreigners is higher in the forecasts than in the previous five-year period.

As was shown in the past, there will always be forecasting errors. Therefore the forecasts in this report are presented in combination with a sketch of the uncertainties related to the forecasts.

The WODC tries to improve forecast methodology and information. Two independent research centres evaluated the Jukebox-1 model. The conclusion is that the model is suited for forecasting and policy advice, but that it leaves room for improvement.

The improvement of available data and the frequent up-date of these data, as well as the use of results of external analyses are important fields of attention. In addition, the WODC plans to extend the areas in which explanatory models like Jukebox-1 can be used.