

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 2000-2005. 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 into 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 homes for compulsory psychiatric treatment. A special group in prisons consists of illegal foreigners, who are kept in custody awaiting their expulsion.

There is traditionally 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 results of the forecasts. 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.

The table shows the forecasts for the sanctions involved.

Table: Forecasts of capacity need for various sanctions (annual average; 1999 is realization)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1999-2005 increase
Halt settlements	21,700	22,900	24,100	25,400	26,700	27,900	28,800	33%
Task sanctions juveniles	11,600	12,700	13,900	15,300	16,700	18,200	19,500	68%
Judicial homes for juveniles	1,810	1,960	2,170	2,400	2,620	2,830	3,040	68%
Task sanctions adults	18,100	19,900	20,700	20,900	21,400	21,800	22,100	22%
Prisons (excluding custody of illegal foreigners)	11,400	11,400	11,700	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,700	2%
Custody of illegal foreigners	1,150	1,220	1,300	1,390	1,470	1,550	1,630	42%
Institutions for compulsory psychiatric treatment	1,200	1,240	1,300	1,360	1,360	1,350	1,350	12%

Growth is expected in all areas. According to the forecasts, the sanctions for juveniles grow faster than those for adults. The expected growth 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 of the severity of sanctions, which took place in the early nineties, may have come to a halt.

Compared to the forecasts of growth of capacity needed made in 1999, the anticipated growth is higher for task sanctions for juveniles and less for Halt settlements, prisons and institutions for compulsory psychiatric treatment.

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. An indication of possible forecast errors is presented by estimating a confidence interval around the forecasts. The results suggest that the intervals are relatively large with Halt settlements and custody of illegal foreigners. In these cases forecast errors up to 25 per cent in the year 2005 are possible. In other cases forecast errors up to 10 percent may occur.