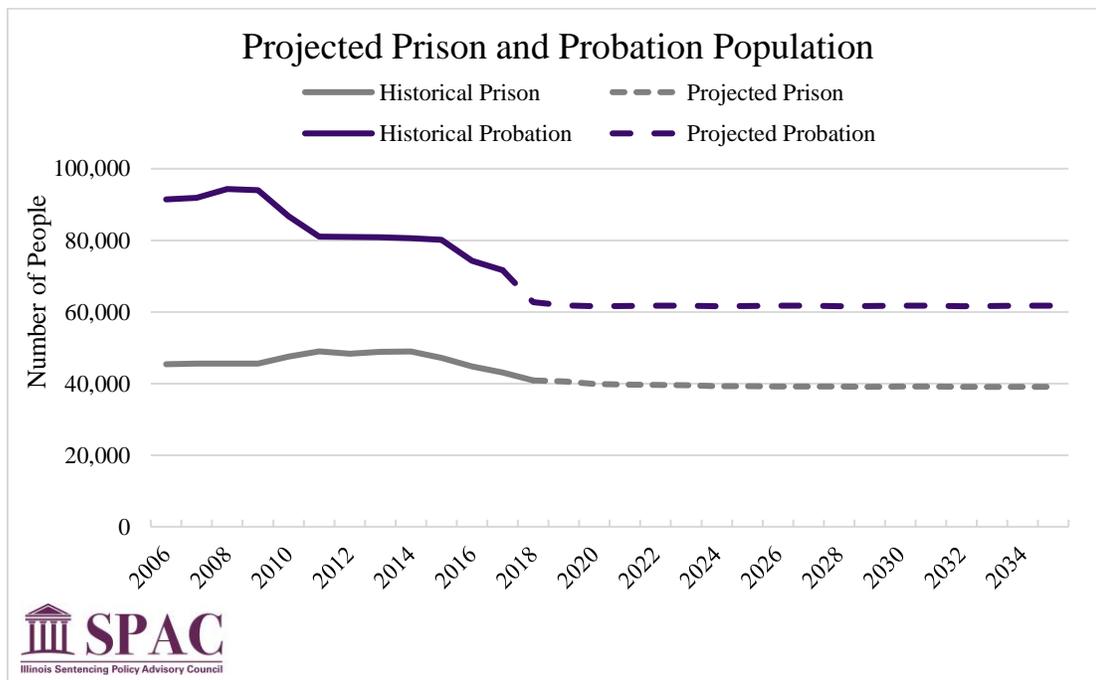


## 2019 Baseline Prison and Probation Projections

SPAC is mandated to produce annual projections of the sentenced population, which includes both prison and probation. This projection is the baseline, or starting point, for projecting the impact of legislation. These population projections take the two key policy levers, the number of people sentenced (admissions) and the time actually served (length of stay), to calculate a reasonable estimate of the state's future prison and probation populations if policies and practices do not change. Both admissions and length of stay are held constant from the past year. This approach gives a reasonable baseline to compare to population simulations for proposed policy changes.

The implicit assumptions are also familiar to system stakeholders. For example, if a reader believes prison sentences were abnormally low for the past year, s/he can read the model's output as a conservative underestimate of the future prison population. Likewise, a reader who believes probation sentences will continue to fall as arrests continue to fall can read the probation output as an overestimate of the future probation caseloads. The projections in both scenarios draw on recent past experiences.

Using the latest data for both populations, SPAC projects the prison population for 2019-2035 using the average prison admissions, sentences, and sentence credit policies of FY2018. SPAC projects the probation population for 2018-2035 using probation sentences and sentence lengths. The model projects that the prison population will decrease to around 39,100 and then stay relatively flat. The probation population is projected to remain relatively flat at 61,700.



The assumption that sentences will be constant results in a flat projection after a small initial decline. In the short term, the higher admissions of early in the prior year cause the projection to overestimate the current population. Similarly, probation sentences have dropped substantially in recent years and the probation projection may also be an overestimate. However, the use of historical admissions presents a realistic estimate of future populations if the downward trend of admissions slows and then stabilizes.