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**NCCD Analysis Finds Significant Errors in Projections of Bed
Space Needs for Proposed Baltimore Juvenile Jail**

No Justification for Huge Expenditure on New Juvenile Jail Construction

[Oakland, CA]—A new, analysis entitled, *Critique of Maryland's Population Forecast: No Call for a New Youth Detention Facility*, from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency—a nationally recognized, independent research organization—shows that the projection of how many beds Baltimore needs to house youth charged as adults is based on inaccurate or incorrect assumptions. The questionable forecast could lead to a commitment of resources that will lock the city and state into years of unnecessary expenditures, both in building and maintenance. A more accurate assessment of needs would lead to a different set of numbers, which in turn would support a different solution to the problem of how to deal with youth offenders.

NCCD questions the validity of the youth detention bed forecast for the following reasons:

- The forecast combines youth and women. These should be analyzed separately, due to their widely differing profiles and needs.
- The population data include inappropriate segments of the general population (adult men, adult women, all youth).
- The arrest data include irrelevant adult and youth offense types.
- The data are three years old.
- The forecast was performed by the same department and staff that would be operating the facility.

An appropriate analysis would consider only the segments of the population in question—only juvenile arrests that may lead to transfer to the adult court. Using better methods of projecting would almost certainly lead to a more accurate and reliable forecast.

“At the very least, the forecast needs to be updated, preferably using a better method. We can already see that the numbers are off. General youth population numbers, arrests, and ADP (average daily population of the detention facility) are all trending down since the forecast was performed, three years ago,” says NCCD researcher, Chris Hartney.

NCCD provided key information and analysis in the California county where its headquarters is located—Alameda County—when plans to build a “superjail” for youth offenders were questioned in 2001, spearheaded by a broad community coalition. The County eventually determined that the facility was indeed unnecessary, and it was not built.

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, founded in 1907, is a nonprofit organization which promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems. NCCD conducts research, promotes reform initiatives, and seeks to work with individuals, public and private organizations, and the media to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

The report is available on the NCCD website: www.nccd-crc.org or click [here](#) to go directly to the report.

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