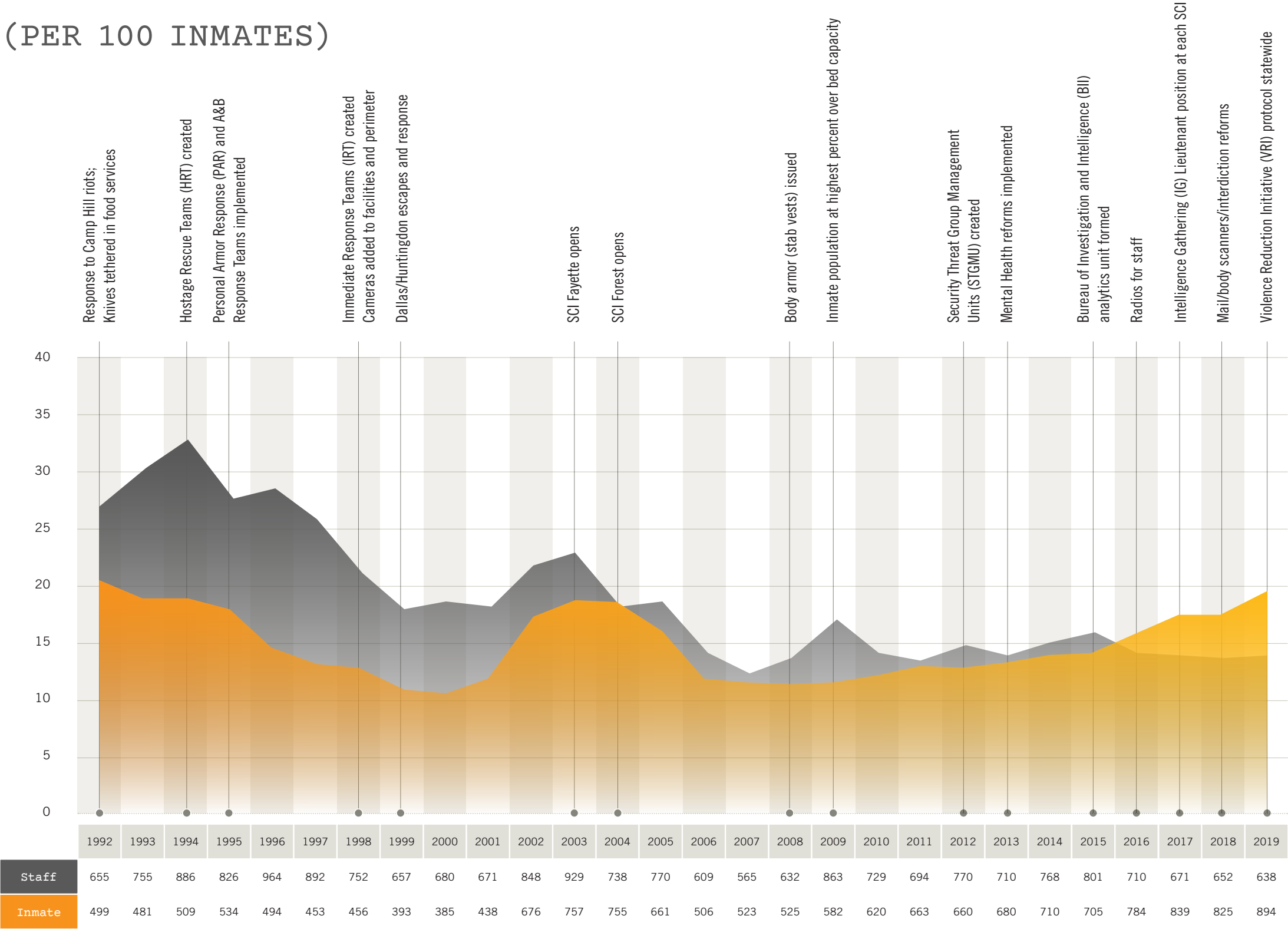


PRISON VIOLENCE

THREE DECADES OF DATA

ASSAULT RATES

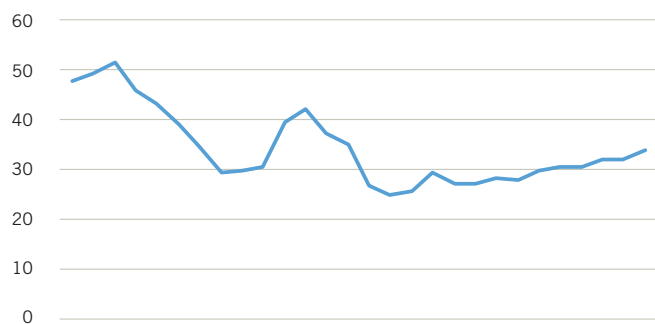
(PER 100 INMATES)



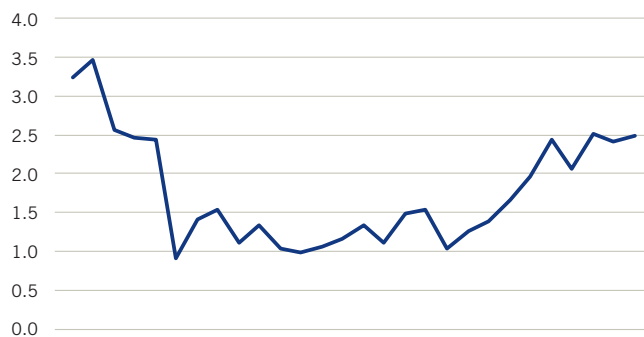
Assault rates of various types in Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) prisons are lower today than they were nearly 30 years ago. This means that both staff and inmates in PA DOC prisons are safer today than they were nearly three decades ago. The PA DOC began collecting uniform statistics on assaults starting in 1992. These statistics distinguish between assaults of inmates on staff (inmate-on-staff) and assaults of inmates on other inmates (inmate-on-inmate). Further, a subset of assaults are classified as “major assaults.” A major assault is any assault where the victim(s) require medical treatment outside of the prison facility. The most accurate way to report these assault numbers is as a rate per inmate population, since the number of inmates has changed dramatically over the past 30 years (in 1992 there were 24,990 inmates; in 2019 there were 45,875 inmates). The total assault rate in 2019 was 30 percent lower than in 1992. The PA DOC has especially made strides in reducing assaults on staff over the past 30 years. The inmate-on-staff assault rate in 2019 was 48 percent lower than in 1992. Inmate-on-inmate assaults have been rising in recent years but are still lower than then were nearly 30 years ago. The inmate-on-inmate assault rate in 2019 was 5 percent lower than in 1992. Major assaults have fluctuated over the years but have generally been increasing in recent years. This has mostly been driven by an increase in major inmate-on-inmate assaults. The major inmate-on-staff assault rate in 2019 was 29 percent lower than in 1992, and decreased 23 percent from 2018 to 2019 alone. The major inmate-on-inmate assault rate in 2019 was 17 percent lower than in 1992, but has increased 67 percent in the last four years. The context of these numbers is a more challenging prison environment than 30 years ago (with a higher risk inmate population), and concerted efforts to improve anticipation, prevention, and response to violent incidents as is illustrated on the timeline in this report.

SOURCE: The data in this report comes from two sources. The assault data comes from the PA DOC’s Misconduct Tracking System. The prison population comes from the PA DOC’s Inmate Management System.

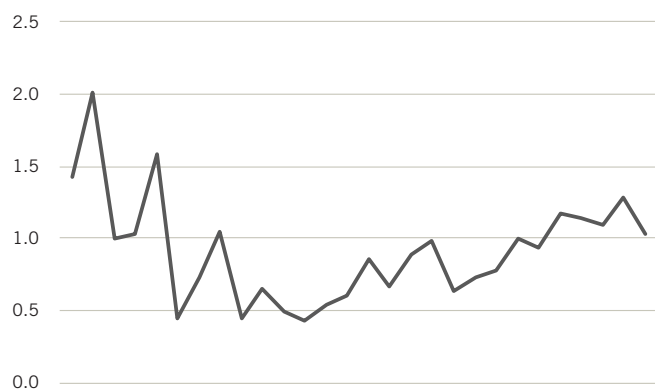
TOTAL ASSAULT RATE



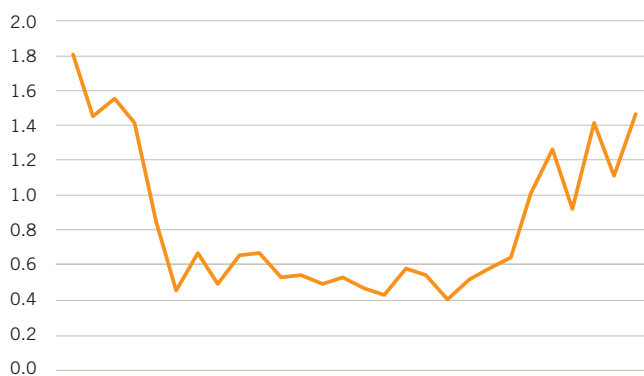
MAJOR ASSAULT RATE



MAJOR STAFF ASSAULT RATE



MAJOR INMATE ASSAULT RATE



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS