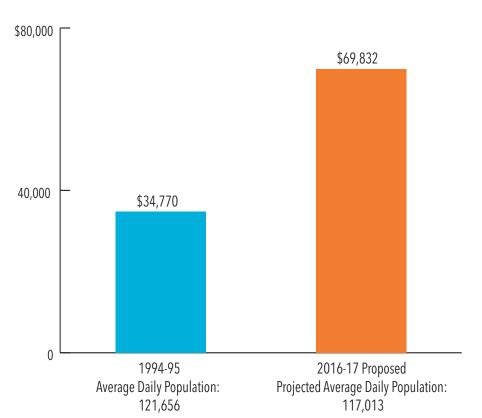
## **Data Hit**



MARCH 2016 | BY SCOTT GRAVES

## Spending Per Incarcerated Adult Would Be Twice the 1994-95 Level Under the Governor's Proposed Budget

Per Capita Cost for Adults Housed in State Prisons and Fire Camps, Inflation-Adjusted



Note: 1994-95 per capita cost reflects 2016-17 dollars.

Source: Department of Finance

- Due largely to various reforms, the number of people incarcerated in state prisons and fire camps has declined and is now lower than in the mid-1990s. The Governor projects an average daily population (ADP) of 117,013 in 2016-17, down from 165,406 a decade ago. This would be the third consecutive year with an ADP below the 1994-95 level (121,656).
- Yet, the state's cost per incarcerated adult has doubled.

California is projected to spend nearly \$70,000 per adult housed in a state prison or a fire camp in 2016-17. This is twice the 1994-95 level, when the state spent less than \$35,000 per capita.

adult is up for several reasons. These include higher staffing levels, salary increases that have outpaced inflation, and a significant jump in spending on prison health care. In addition, California operates several more prisons today than it did in 1994-95, thereby boosting spending for utilities, leases, maintenance, and other fixed costs.

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