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### Prison overcrowding in Alaska

By Andrea Gusty, CBS 11 News Reporter  
Article Last Updated: 05/15/2008 08:12:41 PM AKDT

As more criminals are put away, our jails are becoming more crowded. Currently, Alaska's corrections system is at 100 percent capacity. But officials say it is still manageable.

Over the last six months, the Anchorage Correctional Complex has been 130 people over its capacity. Officials there have even converted the complex's gym into a room with 40 extra beds.

While the system is strained, corrections officials say the ratio of officers to inmates is acceptable. The national average is one officer to 6.7 inmates. Alaska is at one officer for every 4.7 inmates. The department says, compared with the rest of the nation, Alaska's jails aren't that overcrowded.



"We are not putting officers at risk. Our staffing ratio compares

nationally with other systems of our size," said deputy director of DOC, the Bryan Brandenburg.



The corrections officers' union says the ratio is unacceptable. In fact, their claims of overcrowding and not enough officers was one of the major factors behind their recent *No Confidence* vote for the Department of Correction's commissioner. DOC officials say they plan to add more officers within the next year.

To contact Andrea, call 907-273-3186.

**News Tips!** 24-Hour News Line: (907) 274-1111

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