

January 2021

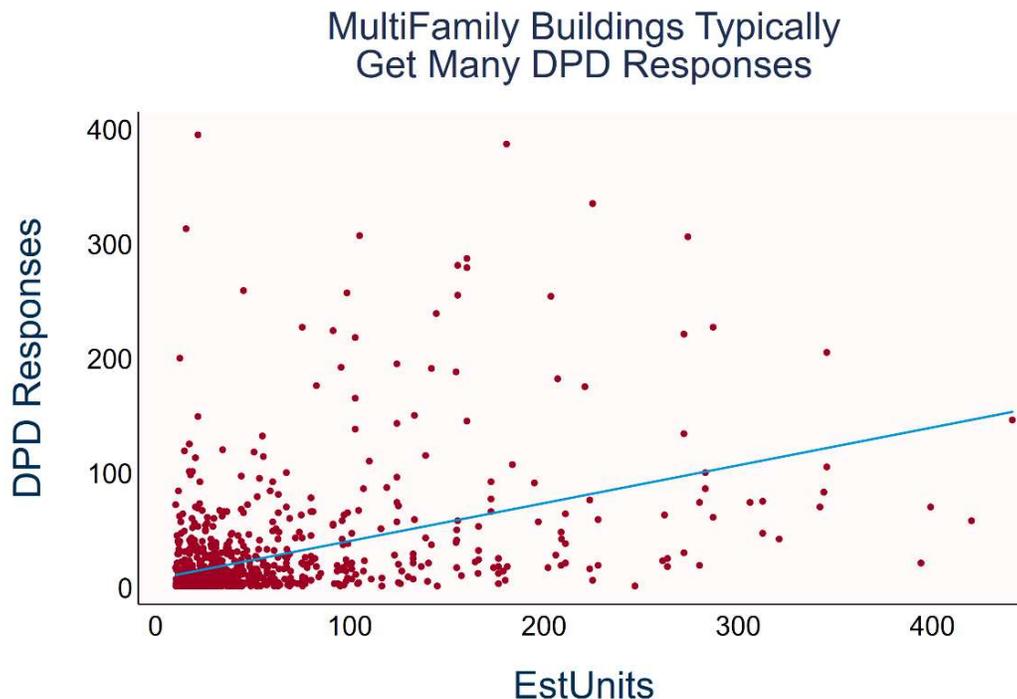
Executive Summary

Some have expressed concern that Community Corrections (CC) facilities bring elevated crime levels to their neighborhoods. The available data do not support this concern. While there are certainly Denver Police Department (DPD) responses to those locations each year, DPD responds to nearly every building in the city that houses many people (i.e., apartment complexes). Further, the context around DPD responses to CC facilities shows that most of those responses are not related to public safety concerns.

DPD Activity in Denver

The CC facilities can be thought of as analogous (not identical) to multi-family apartment buildings. CC facilities each house dozens of people; apartment buildings similarly house dozens of households, many of them households of size one. It is simply the nature of DPD work that buildings with multiple households will have DPD responses each year. (Note: this is not about the nature of people who live in apartments. One could form random groups of single-family homes and each group would also have multiple DPD responses. For context, DPD responded to nearly 600,000 incidents in 2020; by comparison, there were about 320,000 households in Denver in 2020.)

Among apartment buildings with an estimated number of units greater than 20, the median building had 86 DPD responses in 2020. The average building had 179 DPD responses (see chart, below). By comparison, the average CC building had 31 responses in 2020.



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The Business of Community Corrections

Because the residents of CC facilities remain under supervision, there are activities required of DPD and the Sheriff’s department to manage the daily needs of those facilities. Though those activities get recorded into DPD’s data systems of record, they are matters of routine and do not represent threats to public safety. In 2020, such activity accounted for 35 percent of all DPD responses to CC facilities. Occasionally, DPD will manage those or similar routine activities instead of the Sheriff’s department. Those account for six percent. In 2020, 41 percent of all DPD activity last year was routine CC business.

Additionally, another 23 percent of all DPD activity at CC locations was to accompany paramedics on emergency medical responses. Such DPD accompaniment is routine across the city and happens on average 17 times each day. Therefore, almost two out of every three DPD “responses” were not directly related to public safety concerns last year. Simple math shows that the remaining one third of DPD responses works out to just under one per month per facility. That is lower than the typical apartment building of similar size (see summary table, below).

2020 DPD Responses	
Location	DPD Average Responses
Apartments	86
CC Facilities	31
CC Facilities (non-CC business)	12

Source: 2020 CAD records

Finally, it is DPD incidents that result in an arrest that ought to present the most concern to the community. Across all 10 facilities last year, there were only 9 arrests made. Five of those nine were likely related the routine business of CC: they were the result of DPD making contact rather than the Sheriff’s department. In other words, evidence suggests that across the 10 facilities last year there were just four DPD public safety responses that resulted in an arrest.

Conclusions

Though the numbers for 2020 are slightly lower than previous years, likely due to the pandemic, the general story they tell has not changed. Community Corrections facilities have not historically presented threats to public safety. There is therefore no reason to believe that opening additional facilities would threaten the nature or character of the communities in which they are located. At the same time, opening additional facilities serves the goals of getting more people out of jail and back into their communities, families, and places of work.