



FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Inmate Participation in Drug Treatment
Programs vs. Staffing Levels

August 2025

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Including the total number of inmates in all drug treatment programs and the following individual programs: Drug Education Program, Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP), Non-Residential Drug Abuse Program (NRDAP), Community Treatment Program, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program.

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Including the total number of inmates in all drug treatment programs and the following individual programs: Drug Education Program, RDAP, NRDAP, Community Treatment Program, and MAT Program.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

This analysis, conducted in response to GAO Priority Recommendation 2*, examines the correlation between inmate participation in drug treatment programs and staffing levels from FY2021 to FY2024. This analysis examines (1) the correlation between inmate participation in drug treatment programs and the total number of BOP employees, and (2) the correlation between inmate participation in drug treatment programs and the number of filled FSA positions. **Findings reflect correlation only and do not imply causation.**

Key Insights

Total Number of BOP Employees

- **No correlation** between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in all drug treatment programs.
- **No correlation** between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in individual drug treatment programs.**

There is no trend indicating that changes in the number of BOP employees affect inmate participation in drug treatment programs.

Number of Filled FSA Positions

- **No correlation** between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in the Drug Education Program, RDAP, or Community Treatment programs.
- **Moderate correlation** between the number of filled FSA positions and the total number of inmates participating in all drug treatment programs.
- **Moderate correlation** between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in NRDAP.
- **Strong correlation** between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in the MAT Program.

This indicates that increases in filled FSA positions are generally associated with higher inmate participation in certain drug treatment programs, though other factors may also play a role.

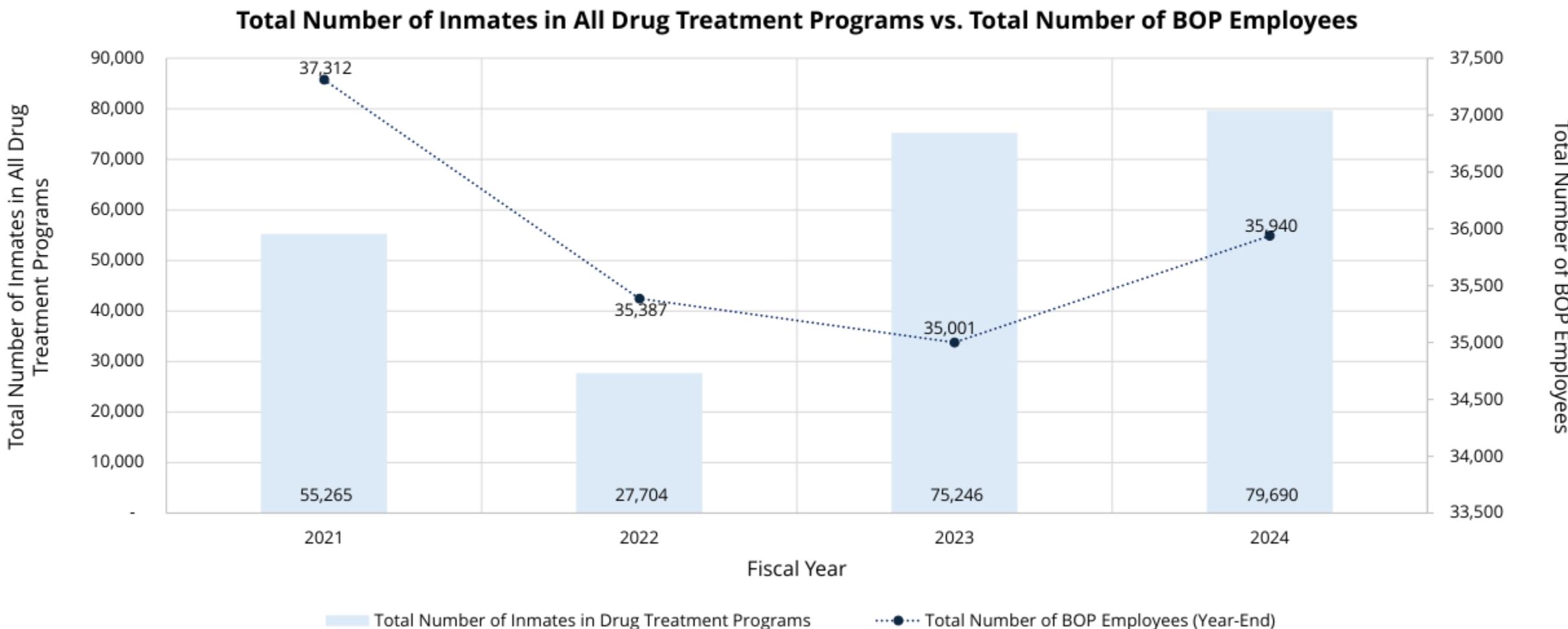
*[GAO Priority Recommendation 2](#): "The Director of BOP should develop and implement a plan for analyzing data to help identify and address the causes and potential impacts of staffing challenges on staff and inmates"

**Individual drug treatment programs include the following: Drug Education Program, RDAP, NRDAP, Community Treatment Program, and MAT Program.

Inmate Participation in Drug Treatment Programs vs. Total Number of BOP Employees

Total Inmates in All Drug Treatment Programs vs. Total BOP Employees

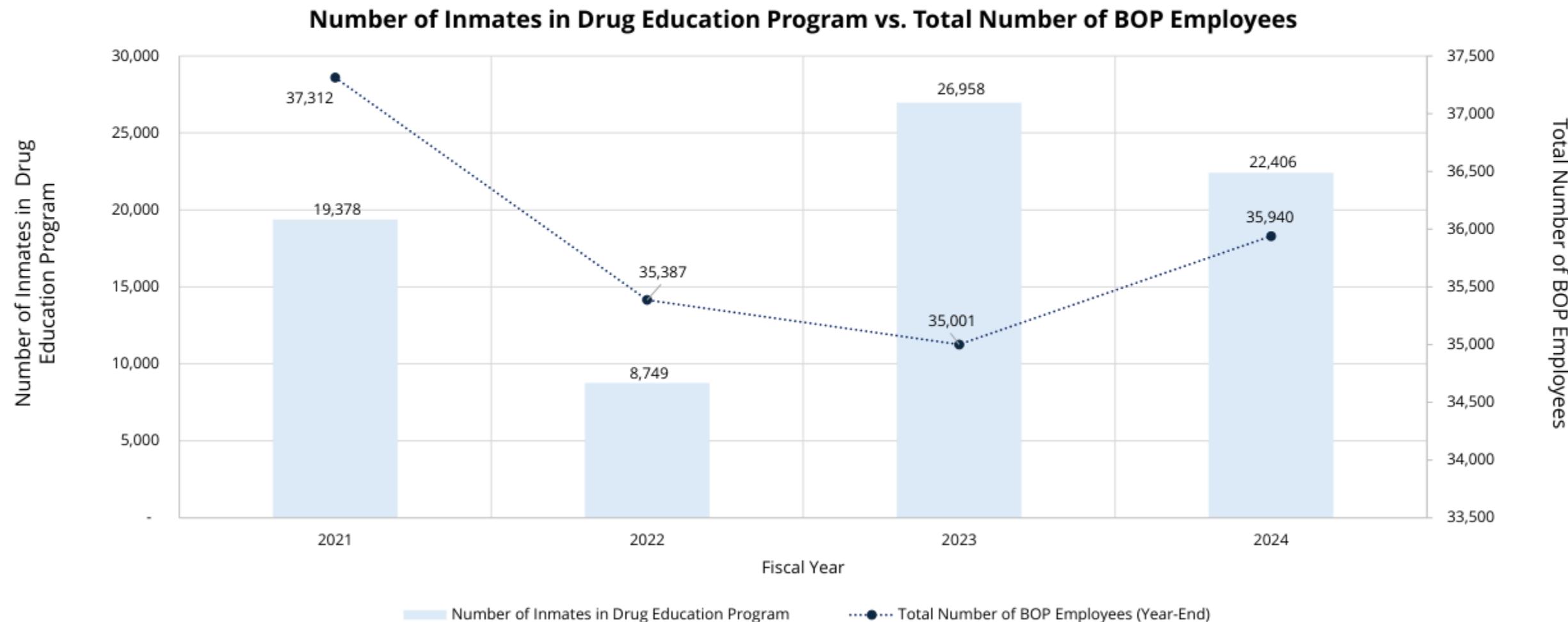
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number BOP employees and the total number of inmates participating in all drug treatment programs. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the total number of inmates participating in drug treatment programs.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.002 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in drug treatment programs. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in Drug Education Program vs. Total BOP Employees

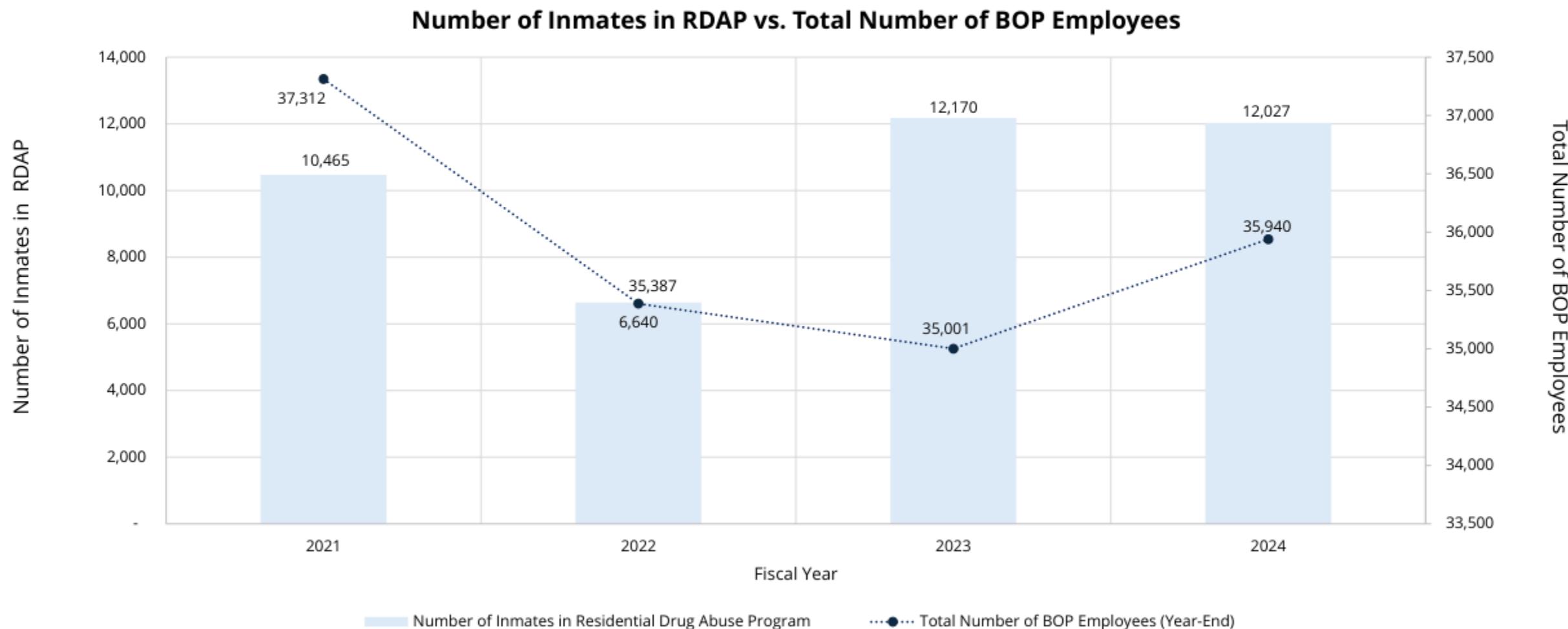
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number of BOP employees and the total number of inmates participating in the Drug Education Program. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the number of inmates participating in the Drug Education Program.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.003 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in the Drug Education Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in RDAP vs. Total BOP Employees

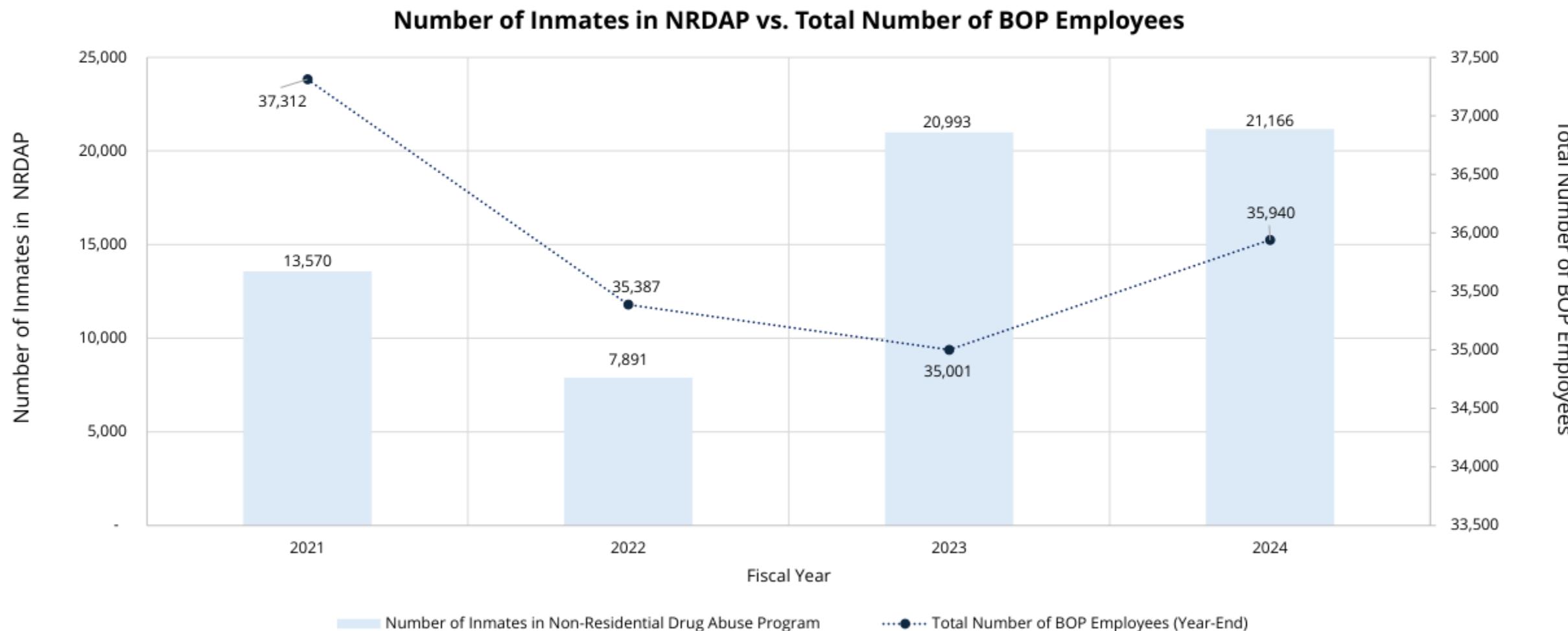
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in RDAP. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the number of inmates participating in RDAP.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.004 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in RDAP. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in NRDAP vs. Total BOP Employees

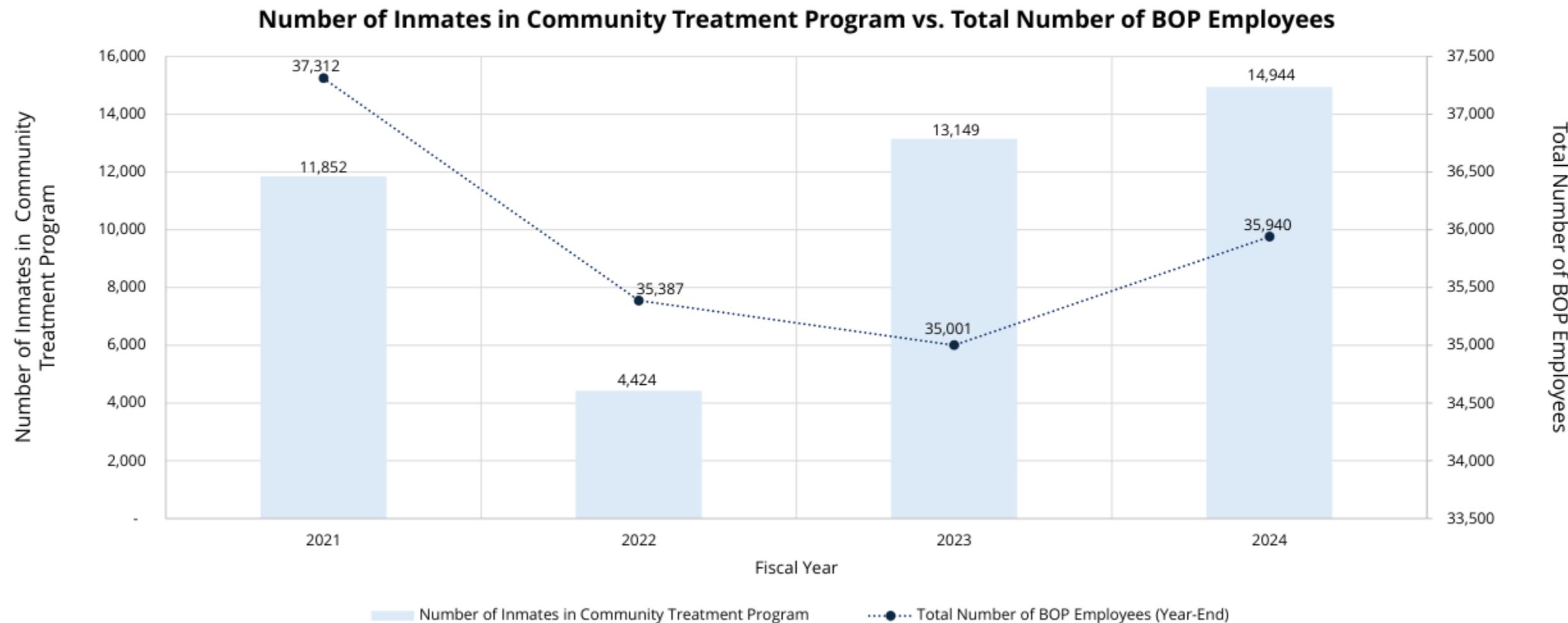
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in NRDAP. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the number of inmates participating in NRDAP.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.03 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in the NRDAP. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in Community Treatment Program vs. Total BOP Employees

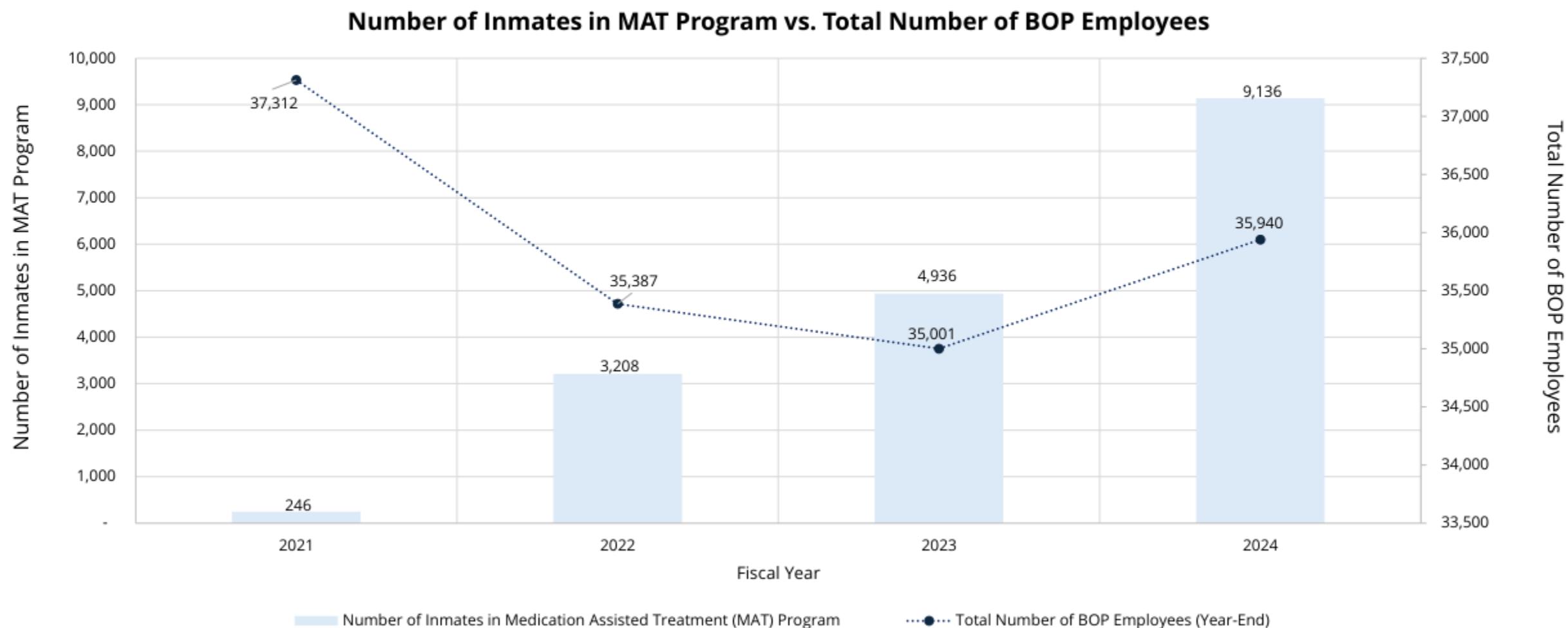
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in the Community Treatment Program. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the number of inmates participating in the Community Treatment Program.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.02 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in the Community Treatment Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in MAT Program vs. Total BOP Employees

The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the total number of BOP employees and the number of inmates participating in the MAT Program. There is no trend indicating that changes in the total number of BOP employees affect the number of inmates participating in the MAT Program.

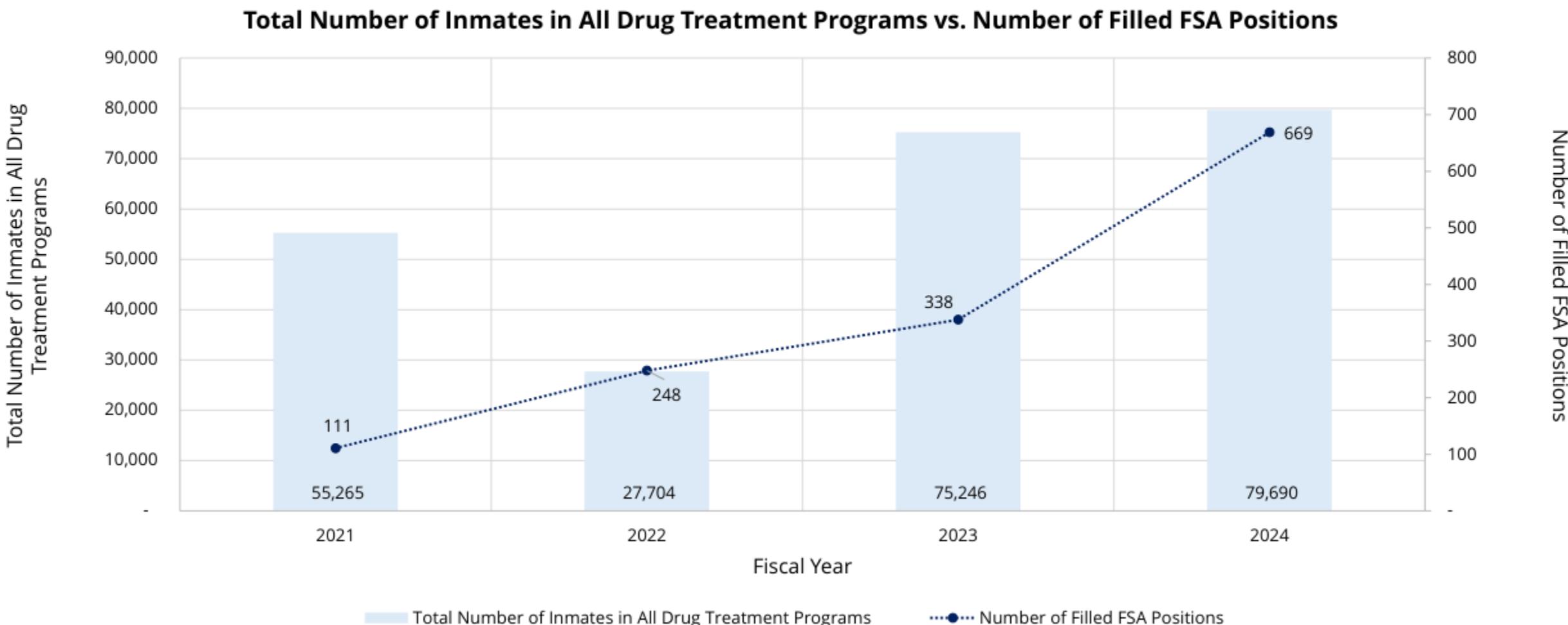


*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.21 indicating that the total number of BOP employees has no impact on the number of inmates in the MAT Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmate Participation in Drug Treatment Programs vs. Filled FSA Positions

Total Inmates in All Drug Treatment Programs vs. Filled FSA Positions

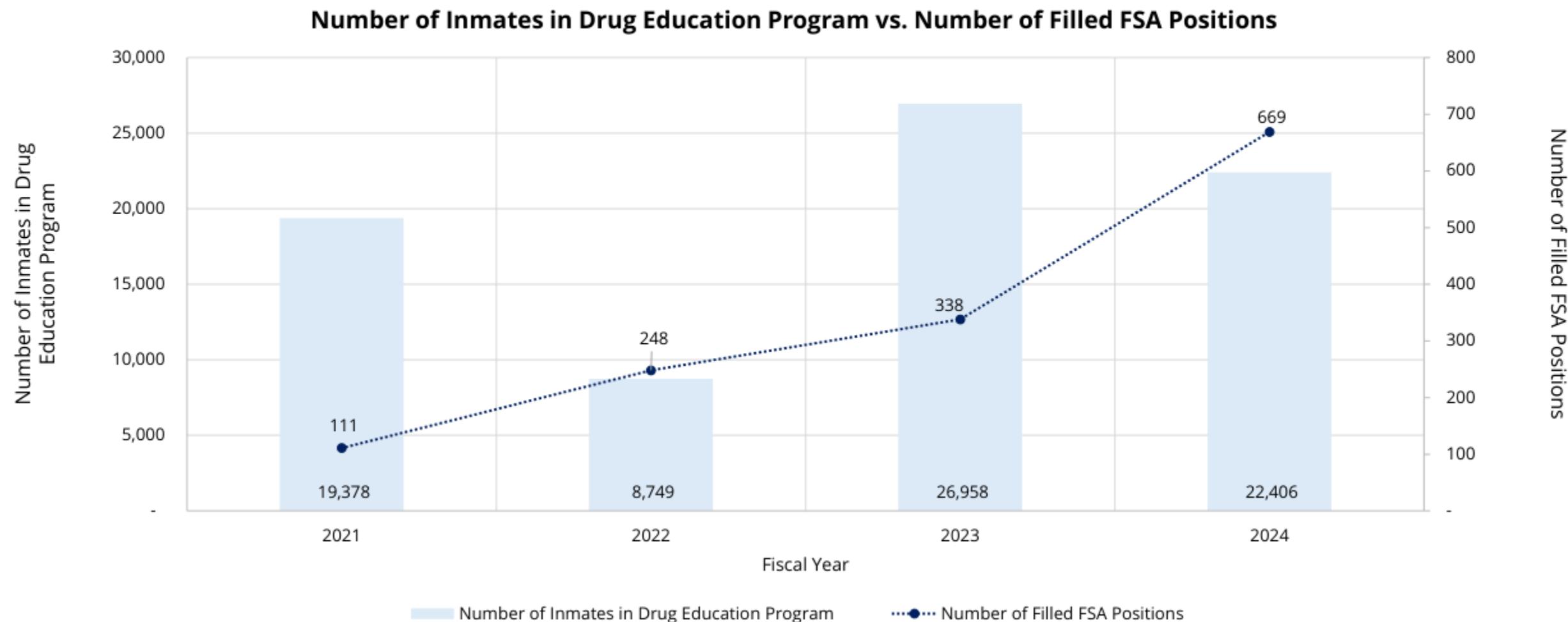
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows a moderate correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the total number of inmates participating in all drug treatment programs. As the number of filled FSA positions increases, the total number of inmates participating in all drug treatment programs tends to increase but may be influenced by additional factors.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.39 indicating that the number of filled FSA positions has a moderate impact on the total number of inmates in all drug treatment programs. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$. 13

Inmates in Drug Education Program vs. Filled FSA Positions

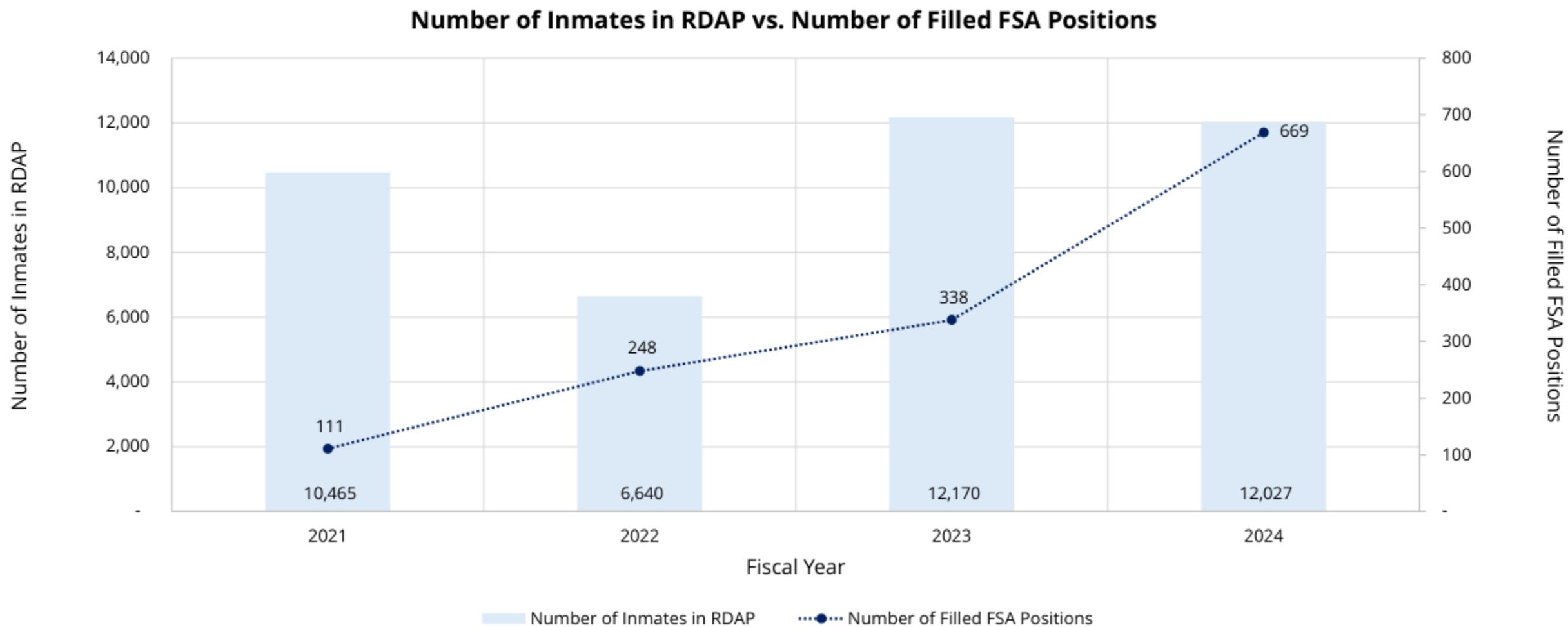
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in the Drug Education Program. There is no trend indicating that changes in the number of filled FSA positions affect the number of inmates participating in the Drug Education Program.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.13 that the total number of filled FSA positions has no impact on the number of inmates in the Drug Education Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in RDAP vs. Filled FSA Positions

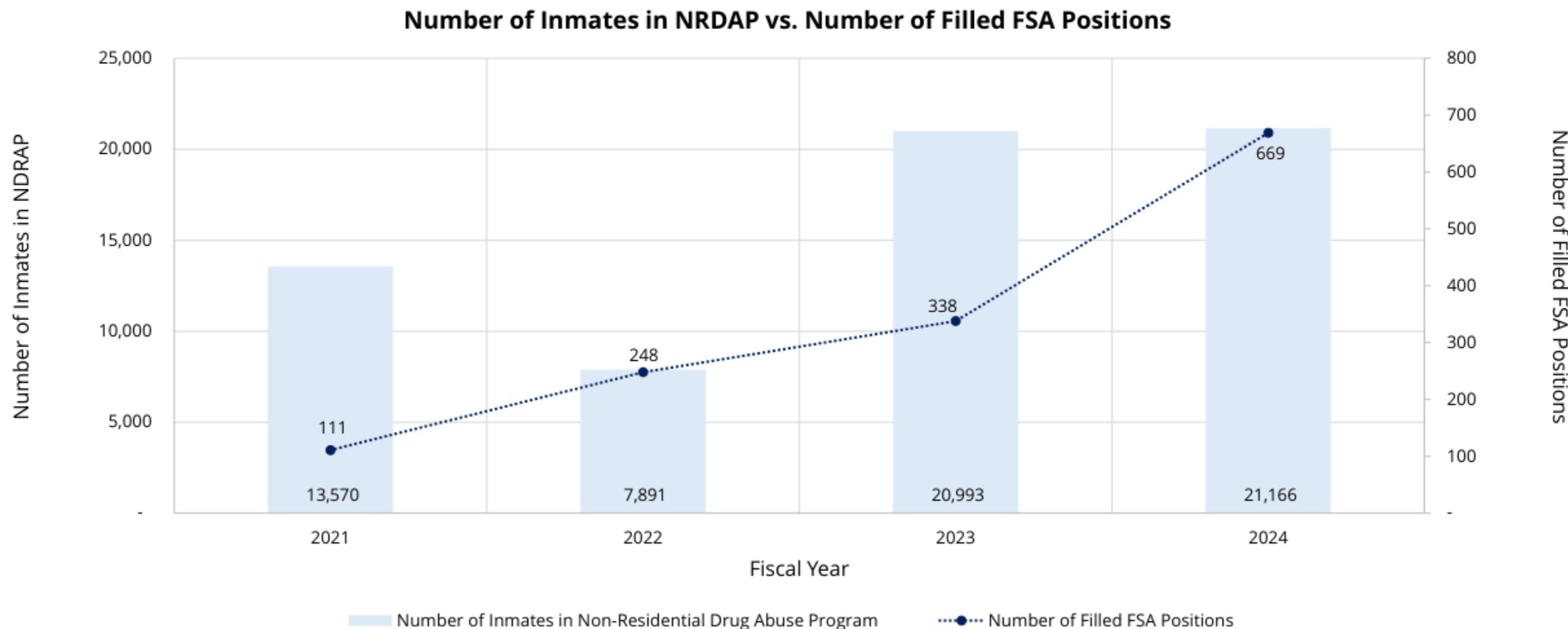
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in RDAP. There is no trend indicating that changes in the number of filled FSA positions affect the number of inmates participating in RDAP.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.22 indicating that the number of filled FSA positions has no impact on the number of inmates in RDAP. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in NRDAP vs. Filled FSA Positions

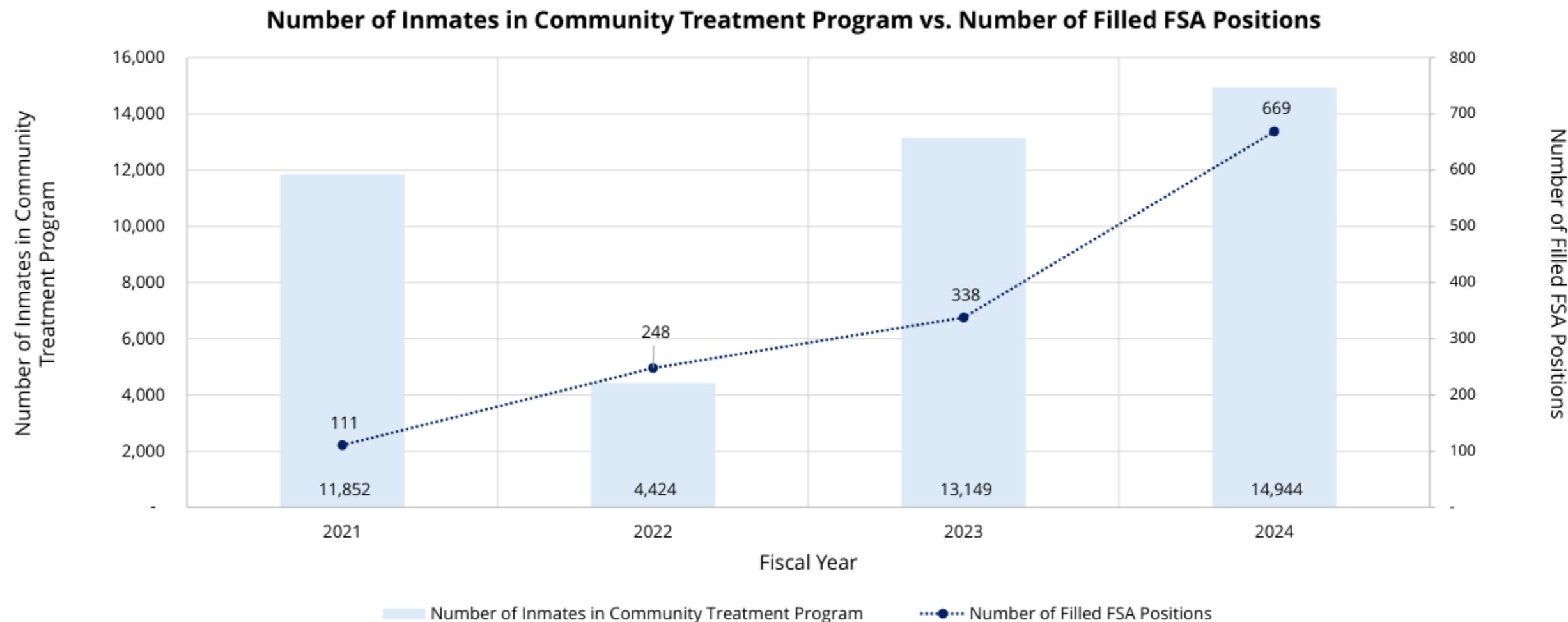
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows a moderate correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the total number of inmates participating in NRDAP. As the number of filled FSA positions increases, the number of inmates participating in NRDAP tends to increase but may be influenced by additional factors.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.43 indicating that the number of filled FSA positions has a moderate impact on the number of inmates in NRDAP. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in Community Treatment Program vs. Filled FSA Positions

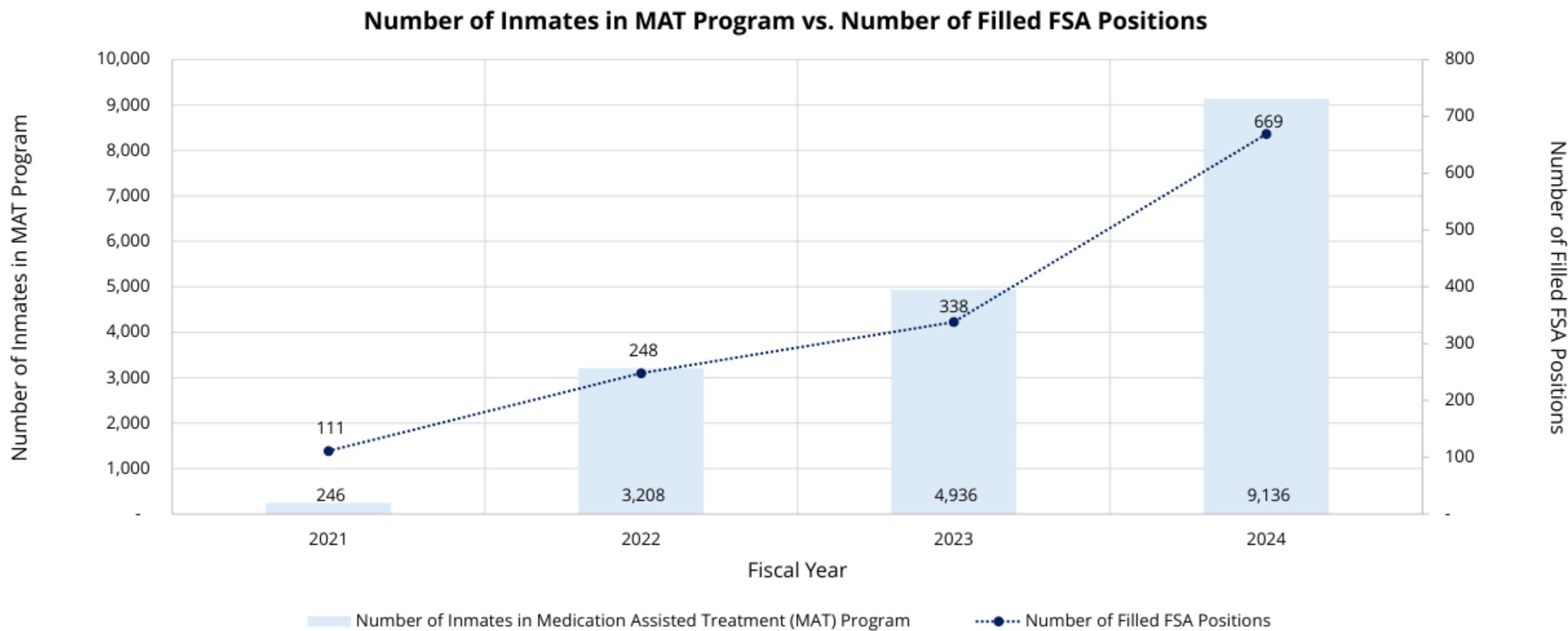
The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows no correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in the Community Treatment Program. There is no trend indicating that changes in the number of filled FSA positions affect the number of inmates participating in the Community Treatment Program.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.27 indicating that the number of filled FSA positions has no impact on the number of inmates in the Community Treatment Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.

Inmates in Medication Assisted Treatment Program vs. Filled FSA Positions

The chart below shows data from FY2021 to FY2024. It shows a strong correlation* between the number of filled FSA positions and the number of inmates participating in the MAT Program. As the number of filled FSA positions increases, the number of inmates participating in the MAT Program tends to increase.



*The correlation has an R^2 value of 0.98 indicating that the number of filled FSA positions has a strong impact on the number of inmates in the MAT Program. To show a strong impact, data standards require $R^2 > 0.50$.