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Census of Jails: Population Changes, 1999–2013

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The nation's local jail authorities supervised an estimated 731,570 confined inmates at yearend 2013 ([table 1](#)). The number of confined inmates includes those who were unconvicted and awaiting court action on a current charge, convicted offenders awaiting sentencing, and sentenced offenders. Jail authorities also supervised about 9,670 persons who were serving a weekend-only sentence on the weekend prior to December 31, 2013. In addition, jail authorities supervised about 46,770 persons under community supervision through programs such as electronic monitoring, house arrest, community service, day reporting, and work programs at yearend 2013. The population excludes persons supervised by a probation or parole agency.

Based on a complete enumeration of all locally operated jails, the 2013 Census of Jails, which was collected through the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program's Annual Summary on Inmates Under Jail Jurisdiction, gathered facility-level information on the

number of confined and nonconfined jail inmates. Previous censuses were conducted in 1970, 1972, 1978, 1983, 1999, 2005, and 2006. In years between census collections, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collected data from a sample of local jails to estimate the number and composition of inmates in local jails nationwide. This report uses the jail information from the 1999, 2006, and 2013 censuses to provide state and national level estimates and to examine changes in the number of inmates held, characteristics of jail inmates, the number of admissions, jail capacity to hold inmates, and jail staffing.

By combining data from the census and annual surveys in noncensus years, BJS tracked the size and composition of local jails in the United States. After a surge from 1999 to 2008, the confined inmate population declined in local jails from midyear 2008 to yearend 2013 ([table 2](#)). The number of inmates confined in local jails increased 23% between 1999 (605,943) and 2006 (748,197). Since 2006, the inmate population declined by 2.2% ([table 3](#)).

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 1999 to 2013, the number of inmates in local jails increased by 21%, from 605,943 to 731,570. During this period, the growth in the jail population was not steady, as the jail confined population peaked in 2008 at 785,533 then declined to its 2013 level.
- The adult jail incarceration rates changed slightly between midyear 1999 (304) and yearend 2013 (310).
- Nearly half (46%) of all local jail inmates were confined in jurisdictions holding 1,000 or more inmates in 2013, down slightly from 50% in 2006.
- Between 1999 and yearend 2013, the female inmate population increased by 48%, from approximately 68,100 to 100,940. The male inmate population increased by 17%, from approximately 537,800 to 630,620.
- The juvenile population (persons age 17 or younger) held in adult jail facilities in 2013 (4,420) decreased by more than half from its peak in 1999 (9,458).
- Jails admitted nearly 12 million persons during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2013, down from a peak of 13.6 million in 1998.
- Among jail inmates, the expected length of inmate stay was 23 days in 2013.
- The rated capacity of local jails increased an estimated 39% (252,550 beds) between 1999 and 2013, which was nearly twice the rate of the inmate population (up 21% or 125,630 inmates).
- From 1999 to 2013, the number of correctional officers increased by 16% from 149,600 to 173,900. Jails in the South employed the largest share (47%) of all correctional offices in 2013, up from 44% in 1999.

TABLE 6
Confined local jail inmates, by age group and sex, December 31, 2013

Region and jurisdiction	Facility response rate	Adult			Juvenile ^a		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
U.S. total							
Estimated ^b	100%	727,150	626,560	100,580	4,420	4,060	360
Reported	92.4	653,058	562,939	90,119	4,056	3,730	358
Northeast	93.2%	83,931	74,909	9,022	887	833	59
Maine	84.6	1,048	893	155	0	0	0
Massachusetts	80.0	9,219	8,747	472	17	16	1
New Hampshire	100	1,828	1,541	287	9	8	1
New Jersey	100	15,229	13,796	1,433	6	6	0
New York	95.8	24,713	22,338	2,375	735	686	52
Pennsylvania	92.9	31,894	27,594	4,300	120	117	6
Midwest	96.0%	102,102	87,113	14,989	620	547	79
Illinois	97.8	10,679	9,537	1,142	45	41	4
Indiana	93.5	14,668	12,217	2,451	73	70	3
Iowa	95.8	3,845	3,330	515	14	13	1
Kansas	98.0	6,795	5,721	1,074	6	3	3
Michigan	92.0	13,593	11,684	1,909	188	166	26
Minnesota	98.8	6,388	5,584	804	7	7	0
Missouri	93.2	10,807	9,267	1,540	143	120	24
Nebraska	96.8	3,363	2,913	450	21	16	5
North Dakota	95.7	1,006	837	169	0	0	0
Ohio	98.2	17,985	14,942	3,043	13	13	0
South Dakota	100	1,675	1,322	353	7	5	2
Wisconsin	94.6	11,298	9,759	1,539	103	93	11
South	89.1%	323,463	278,197	45,266	2,314	2,134	196
Alabama	90.8	13,500	11,626	1,874	257	245	14
Arkansas	83.8	6,992	6,010	982	28	27	1
District of Columbia	100	2,429	2,252	177	19	19	0
Florida	94.3	48,899	41,775	7,124	446	427	20
Georgia	87.8	35,085	28,683	6,402	285	260	28
Kentucky	89.7	17,183	14,350	2,833	0	0	0
Louisiana	78.3	26,000	23,550	2,450	217	187	35
Maryland	93.1	11,190	10,015	1,175	79	76	3
Mississippi	73.7	10,421	9,600	821	41	40	2
North Carolina	94.9	17,389	15,342	2,047	400	349	53
Oklahoma	86.8	8,066	6,830	1,236	30	29	2
South Carolina	96.1	10,635	9,298	1,337	168	154	14
Tennessee	91.1	23,885	19,968	3,917	47	47	0
Texas	92.9	60,765	51,961	8,804	281	258	24
Virginia	95.9	26,997	23,733	3,264	16	16	0
West Virginia	100	4,027	3,204	823	0	0	0
West	95.3%	143,562	122,720	20,842	235	216	23
Alaska	100	64	51	13	0	0	0
Arizona	94.1	13,644	11,708	1,936	129	124	5
California	95.8	75,842	65,743	10,099	5	5	0
Colorado	92.1	10,957	9,324	1,633	0	0	0
Idaho	100	3,349	2,577	772	0	0	0
Montana	94.9	2,848	2,510	338	3	2	1
Nevada	90.5	6,739	5,529	1,210	16	16	0
New Mexico	90.9	6,095	5,189	906	50	41	13
Oregon	97.3	5,561	4,638	923	4	4	0
Utah	88.9	6,313	5,213	1,100	8	8	0
Washington	98.3	10,699	9,060	1,639	8	6	2
Wyoming	100	1,451	1,178	273	12	10	2

Note: Excludes the federal jurisdiction and combined jail and prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska. State-level counts are based on reported data. Data were not estimated for region and jurisdiction. Counts are based on reported data only.

^aInmates age 17 or younger.

^bData are adjusted for survey and item nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. See *Methodology* for nonresponse estimation procedures.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Deaths in Custody—2013 Annual Summary on Inmates Under Jail Jurisdiction.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. William J. Sabol is director.

The report was written by Todd D. Minton, BJS Statistician, and Scott Ginder, Susan M. Brumbaugh, Hope Smiley-McDonald, and Harley Rohloff, RTI International. Todd D. Minton and Scott Ginder analyzed the data. Zhen Zeng, Margaret E. Noonan, E. Ann Carson, and Danielle Kaebler verified the report.

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Prisoners in 2015

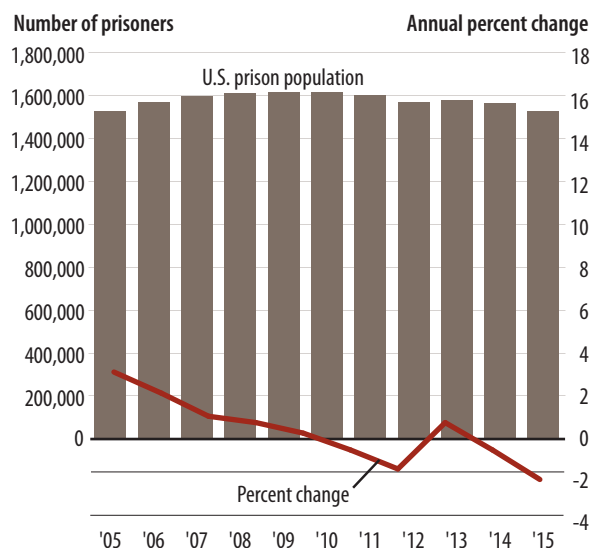
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At yearend 2015, the United States had an estimated 1,526,800 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities. This was the smallest U.S. prison population since 2005 (1,525,900 prisoners). The prison population decreased by more than 2% from the number of prisoners held in December 2014 (**figure 1**). This was the largest decline in the number of persons under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities since 1978 (**figure 2**).

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) had jurisdiction over 196,500 prisoners at yearend 2015, a decrease of 14,100 prisoners from yearend 2014. This was the third consecutive year that the federal prison population declined and the lowest number of federal prisoners since 2006 (193,000). This decrease in federal prisoners accounted for 40% of the total change in the U.S. prison population.

The statistics in this report are based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program, which collects annual data from state departments of corrections (DOCs) and the BOP on

FIGURE 1
Prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, December 31, 2005–2015



Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Federal data include prisoners held in nonsecure, privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics, 2005–2015.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities on December 31, 2015 (1,526,800) decreased by 35,500 (down more than 2%) from yearend 2014.
- The federal prison population decreased by 14,100 prisoners from 2014 to 2015 (down almost 7%), accounting for 40% of the total change in the U.S. prison population.
- After increasing during the previous 2 years, the number of state and federal female prisoners decreased by 1% in 2015.
- State and federal prisons had jurisdiction over 1,476,800 persons sentenced to more than 1 year on December 31, 2015.
- The imprisonment rate in the United States decreased 3%, from 471 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages in 2014 to 458 prisoners per 100,000 in 2015.
- State and federal prisons admitted 17,800 fewer prisoners in 2015 and released 4,700 more than in 2014.
- More than half of prisoners in state prisons (53%) at yearend 2014 were serving sentences for violent offenses, the most recent year for which data are available.
- Nearly half of federal prisoners incarcerated on September 30, 2015 had been sentenced for drug offenses, the most recent date for which federal offense data were available.

APPENDIX TABLE 9

Noncitizen prisoners and prisoners age 17 or younger under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by sex, December 31, 2015

Jurisdiction	Noncitizen prisoners ^a			Prisoners age 17 or younger		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
U.S. total ^{b,c}	65,107	62,162	2,945	993	960	33
Federal ^{c,d}	21,479	19,799	1,680	0	0	0
State ^b	43,628	42,363	1,265	993	960	33
Alabama	169	165	4	14	14	0
Alaska ^{e,f}	/	/	/	/	/	/
Arizona	4,570	4,446	124	81	79	2
Arkansas	287	279	8	15	15	0
California	/	/	/	0	0	0
Colorado ^g	1,458	1,403	55	2	2	0
Connecticut ^e	485	472	13	84	84	0
Delaware ^e	317	311	6	8	8	0
Florida	7,193	6,961	232	131	128	3
Georgia	2,395	2,291	104	80	75	5
Hawaii ^{e,h}	84	79	5	0	0	0
Idaho	233	223	10	1	1	0
Illinois	1,681	1,638	43	20	20	0
Indiana	586	576	10	34	33	1
Iowa	186	183	3	5	5	0
Kansas	330	323	7	0	0	0
Kentucky	145	141	4	0	0	0
Louisiana	128	126	2	11	11	0
Maine	46	42	4	0	0	0
Maryland	620	603	17	4	4	0
Massachusetts ^h	619	600	19	0	0	0
Michigan	555	540	15	88	87	1
Minnesota	472	458	14	10	10	0
Mississippi	23	23	0	27	27	0
Missouri ^{g,h}	474	448	26	10	10	0
Montana	18	17	1	0	0	0
Nebraska	235	234	1	10	10	0
Nevada ⁱ	/	/	/	/	/	/
New Hampshire	133	125	8	0	0	0
New Jersey	1,270	1,246	24	5	5	0
New Mexico	156	151	5	0	0	0
New York ^g	4,132	4,026	106	89	87	2
North Carolina	1,351	1,323	28	72	67	5
North Dakota	23	22	1	0	0	0
Ohio	477	461	16	29	28	1
Oklahoma ^g	0	0	0	9	8	1
Oregon ⁱ	/	/	/	/	/	/
Pennsylvania	1,089	1,036	53	17	16	1
Rhode Island ^e	52	51	1	0	0	0
South Carolina	461	443	18	29	28	1
South Dakota	86	82	4	0	0	0
Tennessee ^g	264	253	11	7	7	0
Texas	8,448	8,240	208	48	41	7
Utah	349	342	7	1	1	0
Vermont ^{e,i}	18	17	1	0	0	0
Virginia	696	680	16	6	6	0
Washington	769	753	16	0	0	0
West Virginia	18	17	1	0	0	0
Wisconsin	472	459	13	37	34	3
Wyoming	55	54	1	0	0	0

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. The definition of non-U.S. citizen varies across jurisdictions. Interpret data with caution. See *Methodology*.

/Not reported.

^aUnless otherwise noted, noncitizens are identified by individual jurisdictions as persons with current citizenship of a country other than the United States as of December 31, 2015.

^bTotal U.S. and state counts of noncitizen prisoners for 2015 will be lower than expected due to the exclusion of California data. California was unable to report the number of noncitizen prisoners in 2015.

^cThe Federal Bureau of Prisons holds prisoners age 17 or younger in private contract facilities; 64 such prisoners were housed in contract facilities in 2015.

^dFederal counts include only those persons held in Bureau of Prisons facilities and do not include persons held in detention facilities specific to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

^ePrisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison populations.

^fAlaska has not submitted 2015 data to National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) for noncitizens or persons age 17 or younger since 2012.

^gNon-U.S. citizens are defined as foreign-born.

^hCitizenship based on prisoner self-report.

ⁱState did not submit 2015 NPS data for noncitizens or persons age 17 or younger. Data are from 2014.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics, 2015.



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This report was written by E. Ann Carson. Joshua Markman, Danielle Kaeble, Laura Maruschak, and Mariel Alper verified the report.

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