

The number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)* inmates held in local jails nearly doubled from midyear 1999 (5,500) to midyear 2014 (10,400). At midyear 2014, 1.4% of all (744,600) local jail inmates were AIAN, a percentage that was stable from 2006 and up from 0.9% in 1999.

Number of AIAN inmates and incarceration rates

Although AIAN inmates made up less than 2% of the total U.S. jail population in 2014, the number of AIAN jail inmates increased nearly 90% from 1999 to 2014. In comparison, the percentage of non-Hispanic white jail inmates increased about 41% during the same period, and the percentage of non-Hispanic black jail inmates increased about 4%. The Hispanic jail inmates population increased 21% from 1999 to 2014.

The AIAN jail incarceration rate increased between 2005 and 2013 (from 359 to 398 AIAN inmates per 100,000 AIAN U.S. residents), while the overall jail incarceration rate decreased during the same period (from 259 to 237 persons per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages, races, and Hispanic origin at yearend 2013). AIAN incarceration rates varied depending on a jail's location. Jails in the Midwest (618 per 100,000 AIAN Midwest residents) and West (506) had the highest rates, and jails in the South (185) and Northeast (178) had the lowest rates at yearend 2013.

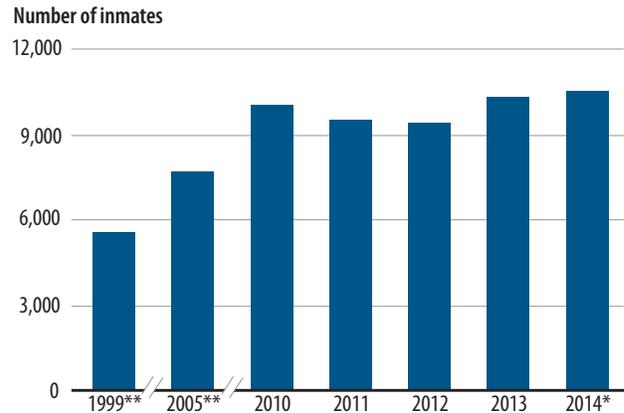
AIAN inmate demographics

Males made up about 80% of adult AIAN jail inmates in 2011, and females accounted for 20% of adult AIAN inmates. This was lower than the percentage of male (87%) and female (13%) inmates for all other races and Hispanic origin. The age distribution of AIAN inmates was not significantly different from all other races and Hispanic origin, except for inmates ages 18 to 24. About 20% of AIAN inmates were young adults (ages 18 to 24), which was lower than the percentage for all other inmates (26%). The majority of both AIAN inmates (71%) and all other inmates (72%) were age 39 or younger.

A similar percentage of AIAN inmates and inmates of all other races and Hispanic origin were in jail for violent offenses in 2011. Nearly a quarter (24%) of AIAN jail

*AIAN refers to single race, not of Hispanic or Latino origin.

American Indian and Alaska Natives in local jails, 1999, 2005, and 2010–2014



*Comparison year.

**Difference with comparison year in the number of inmates is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, midyear 2010–2014; Census of Jails, midyear 1999; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

inmates and more than a fifth (22%) of all other inmates were held for a violent offense. Drug offenders accounted for 12% of the adult AIAN jail population, which was significantly less than the percentage for all other inmates (24%). However, AIAN jail inmates (14%) were more than twice as likely as all other inmates (6%) to be held for a DWI/DUI of alcohol or drugs.

Sentences for AIAN inmates

Although AIAN inmates were more likely than inmates of all other races and Hispanic origin to be sentenced for their crimes, sentences for AIAN inmates tended to be shorter than those for all other inmates. Fifty-three percent of AIAN jail inmates were sentenced for their crime, and 47% of all other inmates were sentenced. However, AIAN jail inmates (6%) were less likely than all other inmates (9%) to be sentenced for 5 years or longer. Additionally, more AIAN (16%) inmates than all other inmates (10%) were serving sentences of 30 days to 6 months. AIANs were also more likely than all other inmates to return to jail. In 2011, about 8 in 10 adult AIAN jail inmates had been previously incarcerated in jail, prison, or another correctional facility, which was higher than the rate for all other adult inmates (7 in 10).

The full report ([American Indian and Alaska Natives in Local Jails, 1999-2014, NCJ 250652](#)), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.