

Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

July 1996, NCJ-161559

Correctional Populations in the United States, 1994

An estimated 5.1 million adults were under some form of correctional supervision in 1994. Nearly three-quarters of these people were on probation or parole. About 2.7% of the U.S. adult resident population were under correctional care or supervision in 1994, up from 1.1% in 1980.

Jails

Local jails are facilities that hold inmates beyond arraignment, usually for more than 72 hours but less than a year. Local jails are administered by city or county officials.

Local jails held an estimated 484,000 adults, or about 1 in every 398 adult U.S. residents, on June 30, 1994. Men made up 90% of adult jail inmates. White non-Hispanic inmates accounted for 39% of the total jail population; black non-Hispanics, 44%; and Hispanics, 15%.

The total number of adults in jail increased by an estimated 28,200 inmates during the year ending June 30, 1994, or 6.2%. The overall increase of 301,400 adult inmates between 1980 and 1994 represents an average annual increase of 7.2%.

Probation

Nearly 3 million adults were on probation on December 31, 1994. Probationers made up 58% of all adults under correctional supervision in 1994.

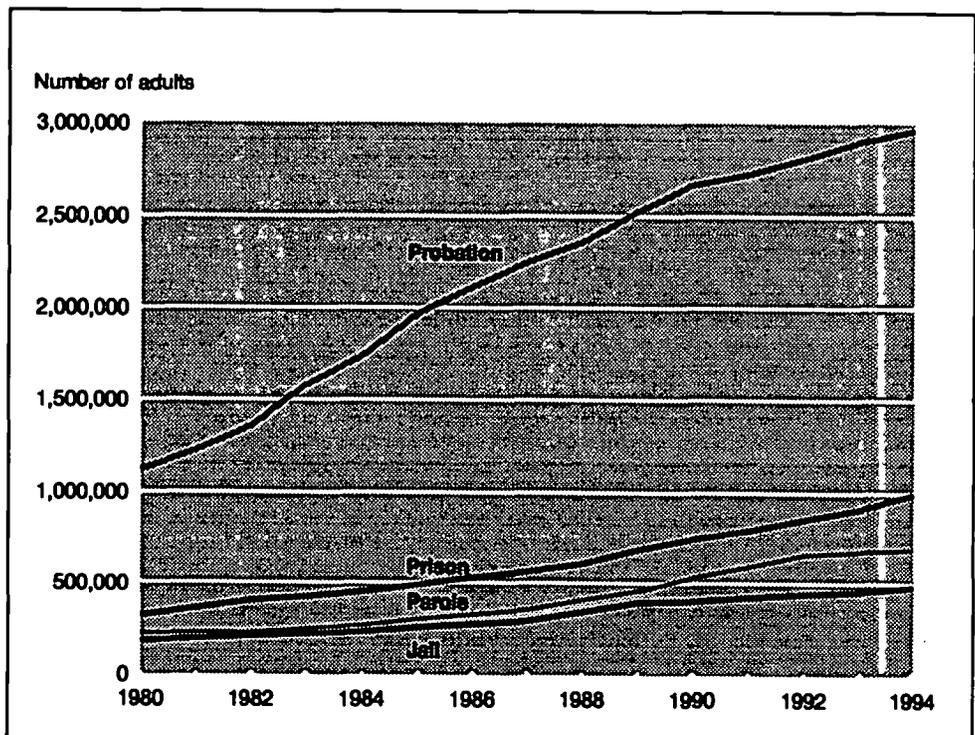
Approximately 20% of the probationers were women, a larger proportion than for any other correctional popu-

lation. About 66% of adults on probation were white, and 32%, black. Six in ten persons discharged from probation had successfully completed their sentences.

The number of adults on probation in the United States increased by 61,100 (2.1%) between yearend 1993 and 1994. From 1980 to 1994 the probation population grew by more than 1.8 million, an average of 7.2% annually.

Prisons

An estimated 992,000 men and women were in the custody of State and Federal prisons at yearend 1994. About 94% of all prisoners were men; 47% were white, and 51%, black.



Two-thirds of sentenced prisoners entering prison in 1994 were new court commitments, and nearly a third were parole or other conditional release violators. Among persons released from prison in 1994, 77% were placed on probation, parole, or some other type of conditional release.

The number of prisoners rose by 9% during 1994, the equivalent of 82,200 inmates. This brought the total increase in prisoners between 1980 and 1994 to 672,014, which translates to an average growth rate of 8.4% each year.

Parole

An estimated 690,000 adults were on parole at yearend 1994, an increase of 2.1% from 1993. Nine of every ten parolees were men. An estimated 53% of persons on parole were white; 46%, black; and 1%, of other races.

About half of all entries to parole were based on a parole board decision. Nearly half of all exits from parole were categorized as successful completions. Most of the remainder were returned to incarceration, but only a tenth of parolees were returned to incarceration with a new sentence.

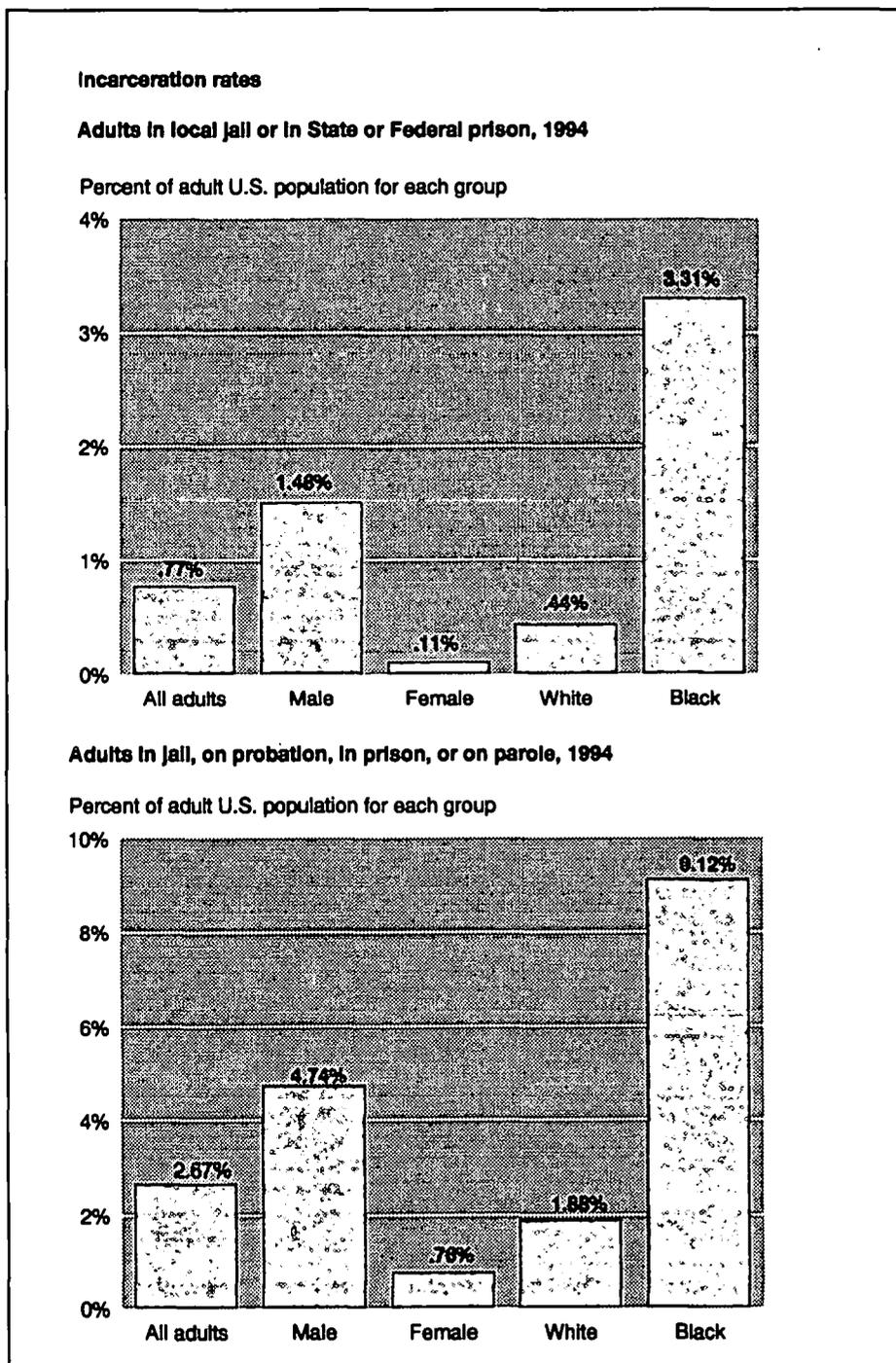
While the parole population increased by only 2% during the year, the average annual rate of increase from 1980 to 1994 was 8.5%, more than that of any other correctional population. The number of adults on parole tripled during the 14-year period (from 220,438).

Capital punishment

During 1994, 306 inmates were received under sentence of death by State and Federal prisons, and 112 had their death sentences removed by means other than execution. State and Federal prisons held a total of 2,890 prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 1994.

An estimated 57% of those under sentence of death at yearend were white and 41% were black. Half of the inmates had been under sentence of death for at least 6 years.

Thirteen States executed 31 male prisoners during 1994. The total number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States from 1977 to 1994 was 257.



Military confinement

In 1994 the U.S. Department of Defense Correctional Council established an annual military confinement report. The council, comprised of representatives from each branch of military service adopted a standardized questionnaire and a common set of definitions. With the Correctional Council, the Bureau of Justice Statistics has produced a series of tables, which provide a unified profile of persons in the custody of U.S. military authorities.

Summary of U.S. military confinement, December 31, 1994

	Number of prisoners		Number of facilities	Design capacity	Percent of capacity occupied
	Branch of service holding prisoners	Branch of service to which prisoners belonged			
All services	2,782	2,782	33	5,910	47%
Air Force	—	453	—	—	—
Army	1,779	1,311	12	3,358	53
Marine Corps	405	485	5	1,180	34
Navy	598	528	16	1,372	44
Coast Guard	...	7

—Data for Air Force confinement facilities were not reported.

...Not applicable. The Coast Guard does not operate confinement facilities.

On December 31, 1994, the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy held a total of 2,782 prisoners in 33 facilities, including 324 persons in pretrial detention and 2,458 in post trial confinement. The Coast Guard did not operate confinement facilities. Prisoner data from the Air Force were not reported; however, a total of 453 Air Force personnel were held by other branches of service. Slightly less than half of military prisoners reported at yearend 1994 (47%) belonged to the Army. The remainder were nearly equally divided among members of the Navy (19%), the Marine Corps (17%), and the Air Force (16%). Less than 1% belonged to the Coast Guard.

Approximately 98% of military detainees were men and 2% were women. Half were non-Hispanic whites; 39%, non-Hispanic blacks; 7%, Hispanics; and 4%, other races.

About 89% of prisoners held by the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy at yearend 1994 were convicted inmates; and 11% were unconvicted persons whose cases had not been tried.

A third of convicted military prisoners were confined for rape (17%), or sexual assault offenses (15%); and nearly a fifth (19%) were confined for military infractions, such as desertion, AWOL, insubordination, or failure to obey a lawful order.

Prisoners convicted of murder or nonnegligent manslaughter accounted for 11%, as did those convicted of larceny/theft. Drug law violators made up 9%, and assaulters, 8%. Each of the remaining categories of offenders accounted for 3% or less.

Approximately 90% of the 3,657 admissions to military confinement during 1994 were new commitments from a military court. The remainder were transfers from other military confinement, and parolees and escapees returned.

More than three-fifths of the 5,181 persons released from military confinement in 1994 were released through expiration of sentence or other form of unconditional release. About a fifth left on parole or other conditional release, and nearly a fifth were transferred, either within the same confinement branch or to another branch of service.

The Army, Marine Corps, and Navy operated a total of 33 confinement facilities, as of December 31, 1994. These included 11 local and 10 regional facilities, 1 long-term facility inside the continental United States, and 11 facilities outside the continental United States. The number of Air Force facilities was not reported.

The Navy maintained 16 facilities, and the Marine Corps, 5. The Army operated 12 facilities, including the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, which is the only U.S. military confinement facility holding prisoners with sentences of more than 5 years.

The design capacity of the 33 U.S. military confinement facilities was 5,910. At yearend 1994, these facilities were operating at 47% of their design capacity.

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