



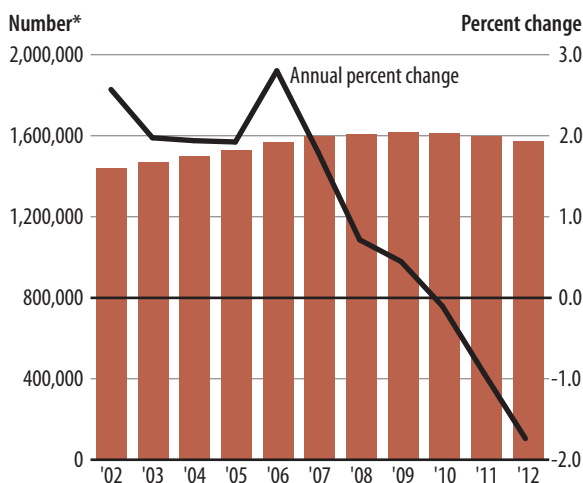
# Prisoners in 2012 - Advance Counts

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The U.S. prison population declined for the third consecutive year, falling to an estimated 1,571,013 prisoners at yearend 2012 (**figure 1**). This was down 27,770 prisoners (1.7%) from yearend 2011. California had the greatest population decline, with 15,035 fewer prisoners than in 2011 in part due to the state's Public Safety Realignment policy. In 2012, the overall state prison population decreased 2.1% (down 29,223 inmates), while the federal prison population grew 0.7% (up 1,453 prisoners). Overall imprisonment rates fell for both males and females, from 932 male prisoners per 100,000 U.S. male residents in 2011 to 910 in 2012, and from 65 female prisoners per 100,000 U.S. female residents in 2011 to 63 in 2012. In 2012, the number of female prisoners (108,866 inmates) fell to the lowest level since 2005—a 2.3% decrease from 2011. The total imprisonment rate in 2012 was 480 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents, or 626 per 100,000 U.S. adult residents.

The statistics in this report are based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program, which collects annual data from all 50 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on prisoner counts, characteristics, admissions, and releases, as well as prison capacity. The 2012 NPS collection is number 88 in a series that began in 1926.

**FIGURE 1**  
Prisoners under state and federal jurisdiction at yearend, 2002–2012



Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held.

\*Total and state estimates in 2012 include imputed counts for jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2002–2012.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The U.S. prison population declined for the third consecutive year in 2012, from a high of 1,615,487 inmates in 2009 to 1,571,013 at yearend 2012.
- The U.S. imprisoned 27,770 fewer prisoners (down 1.7%) at yearend 2012 than at yearend 2011.
- The federal prison population increased by 1,453 prisoners in 2012 (up 0.7%), while the state prison population declined by 29,223 prisoners (down 2.1%).
- California accounted for 51% of the decrease in the total state prison population.
- Nine states had a decrease of over 1,000 prisoners in 2012: California, Texas, North Carolina, Colorado, Arkansas, New York, Florida, Virginia, and Maryland.
- Louisiana and the federal prison system had increases of more than 1,000 prisoners in 2012.
- The total imprisonment rate for prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year in state or federal prison decreased by 2.4%, from 492 per 100,000 U.S. residents in 2011 to 480 in 2012.
- The imprisonment rate for females decreased by 2.9% from 2011 to 2012, from 65 female prisoners per 100,000 U.S. female residents to 63 per 100,000.

This report is based on data submitted by 47 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Data for the three states that had not yet submitted NPS data at the time of publication have been estimated (see *Methodology*). In late 2013, BJS will publish a more extensive report, *Prisoners in 2012*, which will include 2011 and 2012 updates from states that had not reported in time to be incorporated in this advance report, and information on prison admissions, releases, capacity, and the age distribution of sentenced inmates.

### States drove the third consecutive decline in the U.S. prison population

After reaching a peak of 1,407,369 inmates in 2009, the state prison population declined during the next 3 years (**table 1**). The total state prison population decreased by 2.1% in 2012, following a 1.5% decrease in 2011. The federal prison population grew by 0.7% in 2012, continuing a trend that began in 1998.

In 2012, the prison population declined in 28 states, and 9 states reported decreases of more than 1,000 inmates (**table 2**). California observed the largest decline and accounted for more than half of the drop in the overall U.S. prison population, with about 10% (15,035) fewer inmates at yearend 2012 than in 2011. (See text box on California Public Safety Realignment on page 4.) Texas reported the second largest decline in prison population in 2012 (down 5,852), followed by North Carolina (down 2,304). Colorado, Arkansas, New York, Florida, Virginia, and Maryland also reported at least 1,000 fewer inmates during the same period.

Louisiana (up 1,538 prisoners or 3.9%) and the federal prison system (up 1,453 prisoners or 0.7%) reported an increase of at least 1,000 inmates. The prison population in Mississippi, Michigan, and Kentucky each increased by more than 500 inmates in 2012.

**TABLE 1**  
Prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, December 31, 2002–2012

Year	Total	Federal*	State	Male	Female
2002	1,440,144	163,528	1,276,616	1,342,513	97,631
2003	1,468,601	173,059	1,295,542	1,367,755	100,846
2004	1,497,100	180,328	1,316,772	1,392,278	104,822
2005	1,525,910	187,618	1,338,292	1,418,392	107,518
2006	1,568,674	193,046	1,375,628	1,456,366	112,308
2007	1,596,835	199,618	1,397,217	1,482,524	114,311
2008	1,608,282	201,280	1,407,002	1,493,670	114,612
2009	1,615,487	208,118	1,407,369	1,502,002	113,485
2010	1,613,803	209,771	1,404,032	1,500,936	112,867
2011	1,598,783	216,362	1,382,421	1,487,397	111,386
2012—advance <sup>a</sup>	1,571,013	217,815	1,353,198	1,462,147	108,866
<b>Percent change</b>					
Average annual, 2002–2011	1.1%	3.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.4%
2011–2012	-1.7	0.7	-2.1	-1.7	-2.3

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held.

\*Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>a</sup>Total and state estimates include imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2002–2012.

**TABLE 2****Prisoners under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by jurisdiction and sex, December 31, 2011 and 2012**

Jurisdiction	2011			2012			Percent change, 2011–2012		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
U.S. total <sup>a</sup>	1,598,783	1,487,397	111,386	1,571,013	1,462,147	108,866	-1.7%	-1.7%	-2.3%
Federal <sup>b</sup>	216,362	202,462	13,900	217,815	203,766	14,049	0.7%	0.6%	1.1%
State <sup>a</sup>	1,382,421	1,284,935	97,486	1,353,198	1,258,381	94,817	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.7%
Alabama	32,270	29,696	2,574	32,431	29,782	2,649	0.5	0.3	2.9
Alaska <sup>c</sup>	5,412	4,768	644	5,533	4,855	678	2.2	1.8	5.3
Arizona	40,020	36,470	3,550	40,013	36,382	3,631	0.0	-0.2	2.3
Arkansas	16,108	14,995	1,113	14,654	13,594	1,060	-9.0	-9.3	-4.8
California	149,569	141,382	8,187	134,534	128,436	6,098	-10.1	-9.2	-25.5
Colorado	21,978	19,957	2,021	20,462	18,739	1,723	-6.9	-6.1	-14.7
Connecticut <sup>c</sup>	18,324	17,090	1,234	17,530	16,312	1,218	-4.3	-4.6	-1.3
Delaware <sup>c</sup>	6,739	6,202	537	6,914	6,348	566	2.6	2.4	5.4
Florida	103,055	95,913	7,142	101,930	94,945	6,985	-1.1	-1.0	-2.2
Georgia	55,944	52,027	3,917	55,457	51,868	3,589	-0.9	-0.3	-8.4
Hawaii <sup>c</sup>	6,037	5,304	733	5,831	5,143	688	-3.4	-3.0	-6.1
Idaho	7,739	6,854	885	7,985	6,977	1,008	3.2	1.8	13.9
Illinois <sup>d</sup>	48,427	45,562	2,865	/	/	/	/	/	/
Indiana	28,906	26,406	2,500	28,831	26,265	2,566	-0.3	-0.5	2.6
Iowa	9,116	8,378	738	8,733	7,949	784	-4.2	-5.1	6.2
Kansas	9,327	8,647	680	9,682	8,952	730	3.8	3.5	7.4
Kentucky	21,545	19,091	2,454	22,110	19,425	2,685	2.6	1.7	9.4
Louisiana	39,710	37,326	2,384	41,248	38,859	2,389	3.9	4.1	0.2
Maine	2,145	1,981	164	2,108	1,944	164	-1.7	-1.9	0.0
Maryland	22,558	21,576	982	21,522	20,646	876	-4.6	-4.3	-10.8
Massachusetts	11,623	10,832	791	11,308	10,549	759	-2.7	-2.6	-4.0
Michigan	42,940	41,031	1,909	43,636	41,647	1,989	1.6	1.5	4.2
Minnesota	9,800	9,156	644	9,938	9,228	710	1.4	0.8	10.2
Mississippi	21,386	19,808	1,578	22,319	20,652	1,667	4.4	4.3	5.6
Missouri	30,833	28,258	2,575	31,247	28,544	2,703	1.3	1.0	5.0
Montana	3,678	3,274	404	3,609	3,210	399	-1.9	-2.0	-1.2
Nebraska	4,616	4,247	369	4,705	4,352	353	1.9	2.5	-4.3
Nevada <sup>d</sup>	12,778	11,811	967	/	/	/	/	/	/
New Hampshire	2,614	2,444	170	2,790	2,583	207	6.7	5.7	21.8
New Jersey	23,834	22,762	1,072	23,225	22,164	1,061	-2.6	-2.6	-1.0
New Mexico	6,998	6,366	632	6,640	6,010	630	-5.1	-5.6	-0.3
New York	55,436	53,124	2,312	54,210	51,963	2,247	-2.2	-2.2	-2.8
North Carolina	39,440	36,800	2,640	37,136	34,675	2,461	-5.8	-5.8	-6.8
North Dakota	1,423	1,276	147	1,512	1,341	171	6.3	5.1	16.3
Ohio	50,964	47,061	3,903	50,876	47,008	3,868	-0.2	-0.1	-0.9
Oklahoma <sup>e</sup>	25,977	23,558	2,419	25,225	22,728	2,497	-2.9	-3.5	3.2
Oregon	14,510	13,387	1,123	14,840	13,609	1,231	2.3	1.7	9.6
Pennsylvania	51,578	48,795	2,783	51,125	48,380	2,745	-0.9	-0.9	-1.4
Rhode Island <sup>c</sup>	3,337	3,158	179	3,229	3,043	186	-3.2	-3.6	3.9
South Carolina	22,914	21,528	1,386	22,388	21,051	1,337	-2.3	-2.2	-3.5
South Dakota	3,535	3,094	441	3,650	3,227	423	3.3	4.3	-4.1
Tennessee	28,479	26,070	2,409	28,411	26,048	2,363	-0.2	-0.1	-1.9
Texas	172,224	158,036	14,188	166,372	152,823	13,549	-3.4	-3.3	-4.5
Utah	6,879	6,266	613	6,962	6,323	639	1.2	0.9	4.2
Vermont <sup>c</sup>	2,053	1,905	148	2,034	1,907	127	-0.9	0.1	-14.2
Virginia	38,130	35,321	2,809	37,044	34,150	2,894	-2.8	-3.3	3.0
Washington <sup>d</sup>	17,847	16,452	1,395	/	/	/	/	/	/
West Virginia	6,826	6,074	752	7,070	6,265	805	3.6	3.1	7.0
Wisconsin	22,657	21,472	1,185	22,600	21,375	1,225	-0.3	-0.5	3.4
Wyoming	2,183	1,944	239	2,204	1,966	238	1.0	1.1	-0.4

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia are the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

/Not reported.

<sup>a</sup>Includes imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Prisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison populations.

<sup>d</sup>State did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program data in time for inclusion in this report.

<sup>e</sup>Data reported for 2011 include sentenced inmates not yet in custody, or out to court, and escapees temporarily in custody of local jails. The 2012 data do not include these groups of inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011–2012.

## California prison populations continued to decline during the second year of Public Safety Realignment

In 2012, California continued to reduce the number of inmates housed in state prisons, as mandated by laws enacted on October 1, 2011, to alleviate overcrowding. While some decrease was observed during the last 3 months of 2011, 2012 marked the first full year of implementation of the California Public Safety Realignment (PSR) program. (See *Prisoners in 2011*, NCJ 239808, BJS Web, December 2012.) By December 31, 2011, the state's prison population decreased by 15,188 sentenced inmates from the 2010 yearend total (**table 3**). California imprisoned 14,814 fewer sentenced inmates at yearend 2012 than in 2011, a decline of 9.9%. The female population decreased by 25% over the same period, from 8,053 sentenced female inmates in 2011 to 6,031 in 2012. The total imprisonment rate for sentenced prisoners in California decreased from 393 prisoners per 100,000 residents of California in 2011 to 351 in 2012.

**TABLE 3**  
Sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of California state correctional authorities, by sex, December 31, 2002–2012

Year	Total	Male	Female
2002	159,984	150,374	9,610
2003	162,678	152,385	10,293
2004	164,933	154,051	10,882
2005	168,982	157,704	11,278
2006	173,942	162,361	11,581
2007	172,856	161,551	11,305
2008	172,583	161,220	11,363
2009	170,131	159,396	10,735
2010	164,213	154,450	9,763
2011	149,025	140,972	8,053
2012	134,211	128,180	6,031
<b>Percent change</b>			
Average annual, 2002–2010	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
2010–2011	-9.2	-8.7	-17.5
2011–2012	-9.9	-9.1	-25.1

Note: Counts are based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2002–2012.

*Continued on next page*

## California prison populations continued to decline during the second year of Public Safety Realignment (continued)

PSR was written to divert new admissions of “nonviolent, nonserious, and nonsex”<sup>1</sup> offenders to local jail facilities after October 1, 2011, while still admitting individuals convicted of violent, sex, or serious offenses to prison. While the California prison system had a decrease in the absolute number of prisoners between 2010 and 2012, the redistribution of inmates by offense type shows the effect of the PSR policy. Of all males sentenced to at least 1 year in California prison, 70% were serving time for violent offenses

<sup>1</sup>Offenses as specified in the Public Safety Realignment Act.

on December 31, 2012—11% more than in 2010 (table 4). About 62% of the female population was imprisoned for violent crimes in 2012, up 41% from 2010.

The proportion of offenders serving sentences for drug or property crimes in the California prison population decreased in 2012, particularly among women. A total of 26,570 fewer inmates served time for “nonviolent, nonserious, and nonsex offenses” in 2012 than in 2010, while the number of violent offenders decreased by 2,709 over the same period.

**TABLE 4**  
Most serious offense committed by sentenced inmates in California state prisons, by sex and offense type, December 31, 2010 and 2012

Offense	2010			2012		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	162,164	152,405	9,759	132,885	126,893	5,992
<b>Violent</b>	58.8%	60.0%	40.9%	69.8%	70.1%	62.4%
Murder <sup>b</sup>	17.4	17.6	14.7	22.4	22.3	24.6
Manslaughter	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.7	2.0
Rape	2.0	2.1	0.1	2.2	2.3	0.2
Other sexual assault	7.2	7.6	0.8	8.1	8.5	1.2
Robbery	13.6	13.8	9.9	16.2	16.3	14.5
Aggravated or simple assault	14.3	14.6	9.6	15.9	16.0	13.4
Other violent	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.2	6.6
<b>Property</b>	18.9%	17.9%	33.3%	14.5%	14.2%	22.3%
Burglary	8.4	8.2	11.2	8.1	8.0	10.9
Larceny-theft	3.8	3.4	9.9	2.1	2.0	4.8
Motor vehicle theft	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.1	2.1	1.7
Fraud	1.4	1.1	6.3	0.7	0.6	3.0
Other property	1.9	1.9	2.6	1.4	1.4	2.0
<b>Drug<sup>c</sup></b>	15.0%	14.6%	21.1%	9.1%	9.0%	10.9%
<b>Public order<sup>d</sup></b>	7.2%	7.4%	4.3%	6.5%	6.6%	4.1%
<b>Other/unspecified<sup>e</sup></b>	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%

Note: Counts are based on prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year.

<sup>a</sup>Analysis based on National Corrections Reporting Program administrative data, which may vary slightly from National Prisoner Statistics Program data due to differences in data collection.

<sup>b</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>c</sup>Includes trafficking, possession, and other drug offenses.

<sup>d</sup>Includes weapons, drunk driving, and court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; and liquor law violations and other public-order offenses.

<sup>e</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offense categories.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program and National Corrections Reporting Program, 2010 and 2012.

### The growth in federal prisons was driven by unsentenced inmates

The number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year in federal or state prison, representing 96% of the overall prison population, decreased by 1.7% in 2012 (table 5). The number of sentenced federal prisoners declined slightly (down 0.2%) in 2012, while the total federal population increased. The increase was driven primarily by population increases among inmates without sentences or with sentences of 1 year or less (1,929, not shown in table). The number of sentenced state prisoners also declined, with 25,987 (down 1.9%) fewer sentenced inmates in 2012 than in 2011. California accounted for 57% of this

decline. Overall, the number of sentenced male inmates in state or federal prison declined by 1.7% (down 24,109) from 2011 to 2012, and the number of sentenced female inmates decreased by 2.3% (down 2,354) during the same period.

Among the reporting jurisdictions, 25 out of the 47 states and the federal prison system showed declines in their sentenced prison population (table 6). Five states had decreases of more than 10% in their sentenced female prison population, while five others showed increases among females of more than 10% from 2011 to 2012. However, the majority of these states had a small overall prison population.

**TABLE 5**  
Sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, December 31, 2002–2012

Year	Total	Federal*	State	Male	Female
2002	1,380,516	143,040	1,237,476	1,291,450	89,066
2003	1,408,361	151,919	1,256,442	1,315,790	92,571
2004	1,433,728	159,137	1,274,591	1,337,730	95,998
2005	1,462,866	166,173	1,296,693	1,364,178	98,688
2006	1,504,598	173,533	1,331,065	1,401,261	103,337
2007	1,532,851	179,204	1,353,647	1,427,088	105,763
2008	1,547,742	182,333	1,365,409	1,441,384	106,358
2009	1,553,574	187,886	1,365,688	1,448,239	105,335
2010	1,552,669	190,641	1,362,028	1,447,766	104,903
2011	1,538,854	197,050	1,341,804	1,435,115	103,739
2012—advance <sup>a</sup>	1,512,391	196,574	1,315,817	1,411,006	101,385
<b>Percent change</b>					
Average annual, 2002–2011	1.1%	3.8%	0.8%	1.1%	1.6%
2011–2012	-1.7	-0.2	-1.9	-1.7	-2.3

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Counts are based on prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional officials.

\*Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>a</sup>Total and state estimates include imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2002–2012.

**TABLE 6**
**Sentenced prisoners under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by jurisdiction and sex, December 31, 2011 and 2012**

Jurisdiction	2011			2012			Percent change, 2011–2012		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
U.S. total <sup>a</sup>	1,538,854	1,435,115	103,739	1,512,391	1,411,006	101,385	-1.7%	-1.7%	-2.3%
Federal <sup>b</sup>	197,050	184,901	12,149	196,574	184,258	12,316	-0.2%	-0.3%	1.4%
State <sup>a</sup>	1,341,804	1,250,214	91,590	1,315,817	1,226,748	89,069	-1.9%	-1.9%	-2.8%
Alabama	31,271	28,823	2,448	31,437	28,915	2,522	0.5	0.3	3.0
Alaska <sup>c</sup>	2,901	2,590	311	2,940	2,662	278	1.3	2.8	-10.6
Arizona	38,370	35,098	3,272	38,402	35,065	3,337	0.1	-0.1	2.0
Arkansas	16,037	14,938	1,099	14,615	13,567	1,048	-8.9	-9.2	-4.6
California	149,025	140,972	8,053	134,211	128,180	6,031	-9.9	-9.1	-25.1
Colorado	21,978	19,957	2,021	20,462	18,739	1,723	-6.9	-6.1	-14.7
Connecticut <sup>c</sup>	12,549	11,865	684	11,961	11,314	647	-4.7	-4.6	-5.4
Delaware <sup>c</sup>	4,003	3,815	188	4,129	3,913	216	3.1	2.6	14.9
Florida	103,055	95,913	7,142	101,930	94,945	6,985	-1.1	-1.0	-2.2
Georgia	53,955	50,211	3,744	53,990	50,510	3,480	0.1	0.6	-7.1
Hawaii <sup>c</sup>	3,910	3,527	383	3,819	3,439	380	-2.3	-2.5	-0.8
Idaho	7,739	6,854	885	7,985	6,977	1,008	3.2	1.8	13.9
Illinois <sup>d</sup>	48,427	45,562	2,865	/	/	/	/	/	/
Indiana	28,890	26,391	2,499	28,822	26,256	2,566	-0.2	-0.5	2.7
Iowa	9,057	8,336	721	8,686	7,917	769	-4.1	-5.0	-6.7
Kansas <sup>e</sup>	9,327	8,647	680	9,398	8,724	674	--	--	--
Kentucky	20,952	18,575	2,377	21,466	18,919	2,547	2.5	1.9	7.2
Louisiana	39,709	37,325	2,384	41,246	38,857	2,389	3.9	4.1	0.2
Maine	1,952	1,810	142	1,932	1,797	135	-1.0	-0.7	-4.9
Maryland	22,252	21,301	951	21,281	20,410	871	-4.4	-4.2	-8.4
Massachusetts	10,316	9,822	494	9,999	9,567	432	-3.1	-2.6	-12.6
Michigan	42,904	40,995	1,909	43,594	41,605	1,989	1.6	1.5	4.2
Minnesota	9,800	9,156	644	9,938	9,228	710	1.4	0.8	10.2
Mississippi	20,585	19,115	1,470	21,426	19,884	1,542	4.1	4.0	4.9
Missouri	30,829	28,254	2,575	31,244	28,541	2,703	1.3	1.0	5.0
Montana	3,678	3,274	404	3,609	3,210	399	-1.9	-2.0	-1.2
Nebraska	4,511	4,159	352	4,594	4,255	339	1.8	2.3	-3.7
Nevada <sup>d</sup>	12,639	11,672	967	/	/	/	/	/	/
New Hampshire	2,614	2,444	170	2,790	2,583	207	6.7	5.7	21.8
New Jersey	23,834	22,762	1,072	23,225	22,164	1,061	-2.6	-2.6	-1.0
New Mexico	6,855	6,230	625	6,574	5,954	620	-4.1	-4.4	-0.8
New York	55,262	52,973	2,289	54,073	51,846	2,227	-2.2	-2.1	-2.7
North Carolina	35,102	33,030	2,072	34,983	32,846	2,137	-0.3	-0.6	3.1
North Dakota	1,423	1,276	147	1,512	1,341	171	6.3	5.1	16.3
Ohio	50,964	47,061	3,903	50,876	47,008	3,868	-0.2	-0.1	-0.9
Oklahoma <sup>e</sup>	24,024	21,693	2,331	24,830	22,369	2,461	--	--	--
Oregon	14,459	13,343	1,116	14,801	13,574	1,227	2.4	1.7	9.9
Pennsylvania	51,390	48,657	2,733	50,918	48,219	2,699	-0.9	-0.9	-1.2
Rhode Island <sup>c</sup>	2,065	1,984	81	1,999	1,916	83	-3.2	-3.4	2.5
South Carolina	22,233	20,940	1,293	21,725	20,485	1,240	-2.3	-2.2	-4.1
South Dakota	3,530	3,092	438	3,644	3,221	423	3.2	4.2	-3.4
Tennessee	28,479	26,070	2,409	28,411	26,048	2,363	-0.2	-0.1	-1.9
Texas	163,552	151,343	12,209	157,900	146,292	11,608	-3.5	-3.3	-4.9
Utah	6,877	6,264	613	6,960	6,321	639	1.2	0.9	4.2
Vermont <sup>c</sup>	1,598	1,496	102	1,516	1,443	73	-5.1	-3.5	-28.4
Virginia	38,130	35,321	2,809	37,044	34,150	2,894	-2.8	-3.3	3.0
Washington <sup>d</sup>	17,808	16,420	1,388	/	/	/	/	/	/
West Virginia	6,803	6,056	747	7,027	6,235	792	3.3	3.0	6.0
Wisconsin	21,998	20,858	1,140	20,474	19,379	1,095	-6.9	-7.1	-3.9
Wyoming	2,183	1,944	239	2,204	1,966	238	1.0	1.1	-0.4

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Counts are based on prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional officials. As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia are the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

--Not calculated.

/Not reported.

<sup>a</sup>Includes imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Prisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison populations.

<sup>d</sup>State did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program data in time for inclusion in this report.

<sup>e</sup>Change in reporting methods. See *National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011–2012.

## Both state and federal imprisonment rates declined from 2011 to 2012

Driven by an overall decrease in the number of sentenced inmates, imprisonment rates declined from 2011 to 2012 for both state and federal prison systems (table 7). In addition to the total imprisonment rate for the U.S. resident population, this report includes adult imprisonment rates (based on the U.S. resident population age 18 or older) for all prisoners by sex for the first time. Adult imprisonment rates allow the rate of persons in prison to be compared to BJS's published rates of incarceration in local jails and community corrections programs.

The total imprisonment rate (480 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages) in 2012 was 2.4% lower than in 2011. In 2012, males were imprisoned at the lowest rate since 2002 (910 male prisoners per 100,000 U.S. male residents of all ages in 2012, or 1,202 male inmates per 100,000 U.S. male residents age 18 or older). State prisons reported the lowest overall imprisonment rate in over a decade (418 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages).

With the exception of the federal prison system, which increased an average of 2.7% each year between 2002 and 2011, the average annual percentage decrease in imprisonment rates among the total U.S. prison population and among male and female prisoners was less than 1% between 2002 and 2011. From 2011 to 2012, rates for the total U.S. prison population, male and female prisoners, and the federal prison population declined by at least 1%. Among the reporting jurisdictions, 29 of the 47 states that reported data had a decrease in their total imprisonment rate during this period (table 8). California reported the largest imprisonment rate decline from 2011 to 2012 (down 11%), from 393 inmates per 100,000 state residents to 351 in 2012.

In 2012, states with the highest imprisonment rates included Louisiana (893 per 100,000 state residents), Mississippi (717 per 100,000 state residents), Alabama (650 per 100,000 state residents), Oklahoma (648 per 100,000 state residents), and Texas (601 per 100,000 state residents). The federal prison system reported the lowest imprisonment rate in 2012 (62 per 100,000 U.S. residents), followed by Maine (145 per 100,000 state residents), Minnesota (184 per 100,000 state residents), and Rhode Island (190 per 100,000 state residents).

**TABLE 7**  
**Imprisonment rate of sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities,**  
**December 31, 2002–2012**

Year	Per 100,000 U.S. residents all ages					Per 100,000 adult U.S. residents		
	Total <sup>a</sup>	Federal <sup>b</sup>	State <sup>a</sup>	Male <sup>a</sup>	Female <sup>a</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>	Male <sup>c</sup>	Female <sup>c</sup>
2002	477	49	428	909	61	639	1,234	80
2003	483	52	431	917	62	645	1,242	82
2004	487	54	433	923	64	649	1,248	84
2005	492	56	436	932	65	655	1,257	86
2006	501	58	443	948	68	666	1,275	89
2007	506	59	447	955	69	670	1,282	90
2008	506	60	447	956	69	669	1,279	90
2009	504	61	443	952	67	665	1,271	88
2010	500	61	439	948	66	656	1,260	86
2011	492	63	429	932	65	644	1,235	84
2012—advance <sup>d</sup>	480	62	418	910	63	626	1,202	82
<b>Percent change</b>								
Average annual, 2002–2011	0.3%	2.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.6%
2011–2012	-2.4	-1.0	-2.6	-2.4	-2.9	-2.7	-2.7	-3.2

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Counts are based on prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional officials.

<sup>a</sup>Imprisonment rate per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages. These rates are comparable to those in previously published BJS reports.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Imprisonment rate per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older. Since this is the first year BJS is publishing adult imprisonment rates, they are not comparable to rates that included all U.S. residents in previously published BJS reports.

<sup>d</sup>Total and state estimates include imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2002–2012.



**TABLE 8****Imprisonment rate of sentenced prisoners under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by jurisdiction and sex, December 31, 2011 and 2012**

Jurisdiction	2011				2012			
	Total <sup>a</sup>	Male <sup>a</sup>	Female <sup>a</sup>	Total adult <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>a</sup>	Male <sup>a</sup>	Female <sup>a</sup>	Total adult <sup>b</sup>
U.S. total <sup>c</sup>	492	932	65	644	480	910	63	626
Federal <sup>d</sup>	63	120	8	82	62	119	8	81
State <sup>c</sup>	429	812	58	561	418	791	56	545
Alabama	650	1,234	99	848	650	1,234	101	847
Alaska <sup>e</sup>	399	684	89	537	401	695	79	537
Arizona	589	1,084	100	784	583	1,070	101	773
Arkansas	545	1,033	73	718	494	934	70	651
California	393	749	42	521	351	674	31	463
Colorado	427	772	79	560	392	715	66	514
Connecticut <sup>e</sup>	350	678	37	450	333	645	35	426
Delaware <sup>e</sup>	439	862	40	566	448	877	46	577
Florida	537	1,021	73	678	524	999	70	661
Georgia	547	1,040	74	731	542	1,037	68	723
Hawaii <sup>e</sup>	282	506	56	361	273	487	55	349
Idaho	487	861	111	666	499	871	126	680
Illinois <sup>f</sup>	376	721	44	495	/	/	/	/
Indiana	443	821	75	586	440	814	77	581
Iowa	295	548	47	386	282	518	49	368
Kansas <sup>g</sup>	324	604	47	433	325	606	46	433
Kentucky	479	862	107	625	489	875	114	637
Louisiana	865	1,662	102	1,144	893	1,720	101	1,179
Maine	147	278	21	184	145	276	20	181
Maryland	380	750	31	493	360	713	29	466
Massachusetts	205	405	17	260	199	395	15	252
Michigan	434	845	38	565	441	857	39	571
Minnesota	183	344	24	240	184	344	26	241
Mississippi	690	1,320	96	921	717	1,370	100	954
Missouri	512	958	84	669	518	965	88	674
Montana	367	651	81	472	358	633	80	459
Nebraska	244	453	38	325	247	459	36	328
Nevada <sup>f</sup>	461	844	71	608	/	/	/	/
New Hampshire	198	375	25	251	211	396	31	266
New Jersey	269	527	24	350	261	511	23	338
New Mexico	329	604	59	437	315	576	59	417
New York	283	559	23	362	276	545	22	352
North Carolina	362	699	42	473	357	688	43	466
North Dakota	206	363	43	264	213	372	49	274
Ohio	441	834	66	575	440	832	65	572
Oklahoma <sup>g</sup>	632	1,152	122	838	648	1,178	127	858
Oregon	372	694	57	478	378	700	62	485
Pennsylvania	403	782	42	514	398	772	41	506
Rhode Island <sup>e</sup>	197	390	15	248	190	376	15	239
South Carolina	473	916	54	614	458	888	51	593
South Dakota	426	744	106	565	434	765	101	575
Tennessee	443	832	73	577	438	824	71	570
Texas	633	1,179	94	866	601	1,121	88	820
Utah	243	440	43	353	242	437	45	351
Vermont <sup>e</sup>	255	484	32	319	242	468	23	302
Virginia	468	883	68	606	451	845	69	582
Washington <sup>f</sup>	260	480	40	337	/	/	/	/
West Virginia	367	662	79	463	378	681	84	477
Wisconsin	385	735	40	500	357	680	38	463
Wyoming	382	666	85	500	379	663	84	496

Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Counts are based on prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional officials.

/Not reported.

<sup>a</sup>Imprisonment rate per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages. These rates are comparable to those in previously published BJS reports.

<sup>b</sup>Imprisonment rate per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older. Since this is the first year BJS is publishing adult imprisonment rates, they are not comparable to rates that included all U.S. residents in previously published BJS reports.

<sup>c</sup>Includes imputed counts for the three jurisdictions that did not submit National Prisoner Statistics data in time to be included in this report. See *Methodology* for discussion of imputation strategy.

<sup>d</sup>Includes inmates held in nonsecure privately operated community corrections facilities and juveniles held in contract facilities.

<sup>e</sup>Prisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison populations.

<sup>f</sup>State did not submit National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program data in time for inclusion in this report.

<sup>g</sup>Change in reporting methods. See *National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011–2012.

**Violent offenders comprised the majority of the state prison population in 2011**

Inmates sentenced to more than 1 year of imprisonment for violent offenses continued to account for the majority (53%) of the state prison population in 2011, the latest year for which the most complete state offense data are available (table 9).

The distribution of offense categories was more evenly divided among female inmates than male inmates, with 37% of females imprisoned for violent offenses, 28% for property offenses, and 25% for drug crimes. Among male inmates, 54% were incarcerated for violent crimes, 18% for property offenses, and 16% for drug offenses.

**TABLE 9**  
**Estimated percent of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction, by offense, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, December 31, 2011**

Offense	All inmates <sup>a</sup>	Male	Female	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic
<b>Total</b>	1,341,804	1,250,214	91,590	465,180	509,677	282,353
<b>Violent</b>	53.0%	54.3%	36.8%	49.2%	55.8%	57.5%
Murder <sup>c</sup>	12.2	12.3	10.7	9.8	12.9	13.4
Manslaughter	1.6	1.5	2.8	1.7	1.5	1.2
Rape/sexual assault	12.3	13.1	2.2	17.0	7.8	12.7
Robbery	13.5	13.9	8.9	8.2	19.4	13.0
Aggravated or simple assault	10.3	10.5	8.5	9.1	11.0	13.5
Other violent	3.0	3.0	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.6
<b>Property</b>	18.3%	17.7%	27.8%	23.3%	15.3%	13.6%
Burglary	9.6	9.8	6.9	11.5	9.2	7.8
Larceny-theft	3.1	2.8	7.7	4.2	2.5	2.0
Motor vehicle theft	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.5
Fraud	2.3	1.8	9.3	3.2	1.6	0.9
Other property	2.2	2.2	2.9	3.0	1.4	1.3
<b>Drug<sup>d</sup></b>	16.8%	16.2%	25.1%	14.5%	18.0%	16.8%
<b>Public order<sup>e</sup></b>	10.6%	10.7%	8.7%	11.8%	9.9%	11.4%
<b>Other/unspecified<sup>f</sup></b>	1.4%	1.1%	1.6%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%

Note: Counts are based on state prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state correctional officials. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding and missing offense data.

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin and persons of two or more races.

<sup>c</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>d</sup>Includes trafficking, possession, and other drug offenses.

<sup>e</sup>Includes weapons, drunk driving, and court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; and liquor law violations and other public-order offenses.

<sup>f</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offense categories.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program and National Corrections Reporting Program, 2011.

The percentage of Hispanic inmates sentenced for violent offenses (58%) exceeded that of non-Hispanic black (56%) and non-Hispanic white (49%) inmates (table 10).<sup>2</sup> The number of black inmates imprisoned for violent crimes (284,631) surpassed that of white (228,782) or Hispanic (162,489) inmates. Among black inmates sentenced for violent crimes, the leading cause of incarceration was robbery (19% of the total black prison population), followed by murder and nonnegligent manslaughter (13%). Black and Hispanic inmates were incarcerated at similar percentages for violent offenses, with 13% of the Hispanic prison population held for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, 13% for robbery, and 14% for

aggravated or simple assault. Among white inmates convicted of violent crimes, the leading cause for incarceration was rape or sexual assault (17% or 79,282 prisoners). When combined with rape or sexual assault convictions, the overall number of white inmates imprisoned for rape or sexual assault exceeded the number of black and Hispanic inmates sentenced for rape or sexual assault combined (75,838). The number of white inmates sentenced for property crime (108,560) was larger than the number of black (78,197) and Hispanic (38,264) inmates sentenced for property crime, while more black inmates were sentenced for drug offenses than inmates of other races or Hispanic origin.

<sup>2</sup>For distribution of prisoners by race categories, see *Prisoners in 2011*, NCJ 239808, BJS Web, December 2012.

**TABLE 10**  
**Estimated number of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction, by offense, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, December 31, 2011**

Offense	All inmates <sup>a</sup>	Male	Female	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic
<b>Total</b>	1,341,804	1,250,214	91,590	465,180	509,677	282,353
<b>Violent</b>	710,875	678,786	33,695	228,782	284,631	162,489
Murder <sup>c</sup>	163,762	154,359	9,821	45,369	65,568	37,956
Manslaughter	21,051	18,544	2,587	8,107	7,408	3,456
Rape/sexual assault	165,656	163,863	2,032	79,282	39,975	35,863
Robbery	181,415	173,640	8,177	38,312	99,096	36,694
Aggravated or simple assault	138,574	131,100	7,816	42,375	56,281	38,252
Other violent	40,416	37,281	3,262	15,336	16,304	10,270
<b>Property</b>	245,351	220,753	25,486	108,560	78,197	38,264
Burglary	128,823	122,837	6,298	53,547	46,795	22,038
Larceny-theft	42,029	35,195	7,046	19,617	12,679	5,679
Motor vehicle theft	14,703	13,782	963	6,596	3,330	4,132
Fraud	30,333	22,000	8,559	14,738	8,256	2,628
Other property	29,463	26,940	2,621	14,063	7,137	3,786
<b>Drug<sup>d</sup></b>	225,242	203,081	22,971	67,271	91,775	47,479
<b>Public order<sup>e</sup></b>	141,803	134,203	7,954	54,834	50,489	32,275
<b>Other/unspecified<sup>f</sup></b>	18,534	13,391	1,484	5,733	4,585	1,846

Note: Counts are based on state prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of state correctional officials. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding and missing offense data.

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin and persons of two or more races.

<sup>c</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>d</sup>Includes trafficking, possession, and other drug offenses.

<sup>e</sup>Includes weapons, drunk driving, and court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; and liquor law violations and other public-order offenses.

<sup>f</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offense categories.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program and National Corrections Reporting Program, 2011.

## National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes

**Alaska**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations housed in-state and out-of-state. Jurisdictional totals include individuals in electronic and special monitoring programs who are under the jurisdiction of the state of Alaska.

**Arizona**—Jurisdiction counts are based on custody data and inmates in contracted beds.

**California**—Population counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence(s) include felons who are temporarily absent, such as in court, jail, hospital, etc. The majority of temporarily absent inmates are absent for fewer than 30 days. Population counts for unsentenced inmates include civil addicts who are enrolled for treatment and are not serving a criminal conviction sentence, but are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. California is unable to differentiate between inmates held in federal facilities and in other states' facilities.

**Colorado**—Population counts include a small undetermined number of inmates with a maximum sentence of 1 year or less.

**Connecticut**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

**Delaware**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

**Federal Bureau of Prisons**—Jurisdiction counts include inmates housed in secure private facilities through private contracts and subcontracts, and inmates housed in jail or short-term detention and others held in state-operated secure facilities. Counts also include 8,932 inmates held in nonsecure privately operated residential reentry centers and 2,659 offenders on home confinement. The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not house inmates age 17 or younger in federal facilities.

**Georgia**—Females are not housed in privately operated correctional facilities in Georgia. Subtotals of race, sex, and sentence length for jurisdiction and custody counts were adjusted by the Georgia Department of Corrections using interpolation to match the overall totals.

**Hawaii**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. In custody and jurisdiction counts, sentenced felon probationers and probation violators are included with the counts of a total maximum sentence of 1 year or less. Jurisdiction counts include dual jurisdiction (state of Hawaii or federal) inmates currently housed in federal facilities and in contracted beds.

**Iowa**—As of 2009, the Iowa Department of Corrections began including offenders on work release, the Operating

While Intoxicated population, and Iowa inmates housed in out-of-state prisons and jurisdiction counts. Iowa data included in BJS reports prior to 2009 were custody counts only. Jurisdiction counts include Iowa offenders housed in prisons in other jurisdictions who are under Iowa's jurisdiction. Data quality and collection methodology have been updated in 2012, so changes from previous years' counts may reflect these changes.

**Kansas**—Jurisdiction counts of inmates with sentences of less than 1 year are available in 2012, but were not in 2011.

**Louisiana**—Jurisdiction and capacity counts were as of December 27, 2012.

**Massachusetts**—By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2.5 years in locally operated jails and correctional institutions. This population is excluded from the state count, but is included in published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions. Jurisdiction counts exclude approximately 3,271 inmates in the county system (local jails and houses of correction) serving a sentence of over 1 year, but these inmates are included in imprisonment rate calculations at the request of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections. Jurisdiction and custody counts may include a small but undetermined number of inmates who were remanded to court; transferred to the custody of another state, federal, or locally operated system; or subsequently released.

**Maryland**—The number of inmates with maximum sentences of more than 1 year is estimated by taking the percentages for these prisoners from the automated totals and applying them to the manual totals submitted for NPS. The number of male inmates included in the jurisdiction count of prisoners held in other state facilities may include a small number of female inmates.

**Minnesota**—Jurisdiction counts include inmates temporarily housed in local jails, on work release, or on community work crew programs.

**Mississippi**—Custody counts exclude county regional facilities, while jurisdiction counts include these facilities. Local jails and county regional facilities were included in the jurisdiction count of inmates housed at local facilities.

**Nebraska**—By statute, inmates are housed where they are sentenced by the judge and are never housed in local jails or by another state to ease prison crowding.

**New Hampshire**—The new offender database management system reports the number of inmates under New Hampshire's jurisdiction but housed in other state facilities in a different manner from NPS submissions prior to 2010.

**New Jersey**—Population counts for inmates with a maximum sentence of more than 1 year include inmates with sentences of 1 year. The New Jersey Department of Corrections has no jurisdiction over inmates with sentences of less than 1 year or over unsentenced inmates.

**New Mexico**—Jurisdiction counts do not include inmates from other states housed in New Mexico under the interstate compact agreement.

**North Carolina**—As of December 1, 2011, North Carolina prisons no longer housed misdemeanor offenders with sentences of less than 180 days.

**Ohio**—Population counts for inmates with a maximum sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less. Counts of inmates under Ohio's jurisdiction but housed in federal or other state facilities are estimates.

**Oklahoma**—Jurisdiction counts exclude inmates from other states who were serving time in Oklahoma prisons under the interstate compact. Most of the inmates with sentences of less than 1 year were part of the Oklahoma Delayed Sentencing Program for Young Adults. Counts of prison release by escape reflect inmates escaping state-run prisons only. Because these inmates were included in the 2011 jurisdiction counts, the 2012 jurisdiction is not comparable to 2011.

**Oregon**—Most offenders with a maximum sentence of less than 1 year remain under the custody of local counties rather than the Oregon Department of Corrections.

**Pennsylvania**—All Pennsylvania inmates housed in Virginia were brought back to serve time in Pennsylvania in March 2012.

**Rhode Island**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. Jurisdiction counts include inmates who have dual jurisdiction, or those serving Rhode Island sentences out of state while serving that state's sentence as well.

**South Carolina**—The December 31, 2012, custody count of unsentenced individuals includes Interstate Compact Commission (ICC) inmates. As of July 1, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) began releasing inmates due for release and housed in SCDC institutions on the first day of each month. Since January 1, 2012, was a holiday, inmates eligible for release on January 1 were released on December 31, 2011. Therefore, the inmate count was at its lowest point for the month on December 31, 2012. All inmates in private facilities in South Carolina were housed in private medical facilities.

**South Dakota**—Custody and jurisdiction counts of inmates serving a maximum sentence of 1 year or less included those under the sentence of probation who, as a condition of probation, must serve up to 180 days in state prison. The custody count of unsentenced inmates included all holds for the U.S. Marshals Service (sentenced and unsentenced).

**Texas**—Offenders in custody were all offenders serving time in a facility owned and operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at the time of data collection. Jurisdiction counts include offenders in custody and offenders held in privately operated prisons, intermediate sanction facilities, substance abuse felony punishment facilities, pre-parole transfer facilities, and halfway houses; offenders temporarily released to a county for less than 30 days; and offenders awaiting paperwork for transfer to state-funded custody.

**Vermont**—Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

**Virginia**—Jurisdiction counts were for December 31, 2012. As of September 1, 1998, the state is responsible for inmates with a sentence of 1 year or more, or a sentence of 12 months and 1 day. The state was responsible for a 1-year sentence, while local authorities were responsible for a 12-month sentence. Inmates with a sentence of 12 months or less were not the responsibility of the state.

**Wisconsin**—Custody and jurisdiction counts include 722 temporary probation and parole placements.

## Terms and definitions

**Adult imprisonment rate**—The number of prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.

**Average annual change**—Average (mean) annual change across a specific period.

**Custody**—Prisoners held in the physical custody of state or federal prisons or local jails, regardless of sentence length or authority having jurisdiction.

**Imprisonment rate**—The number of prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 U.S. residents of all ages.

**Inmate**—A person incarcerated in a local jail, state, or federal prison or a private facility under contract to federal, state, or local authorities.

**Jail**—A confinement facility usually administered by a local law enforcement agency that is intended for adults, but sometimes holds juveniles, for confinement before and after adjudication. Such facilities include jails and city or county correctional centers; special jail facilities, such as medical treatment or release centers; halfway houses; work

farms; and temporary holding or lockup facilities that are part of the jail's combined function. Inmates sentenced to jail facilities usually have a sentence of 1 year or less. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, Alaska, and Hawaii operate integrated systems, which combine prisons and jails.

**Jurisdiction**—The legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held.

**Prison**—A long-term confinement facility run by a state or the federal government that typically holds felons and offenders with sentences of more than 1 year. However, sentence length may vary by state. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, Alaska, and Hawaii operate integrated systems, which combine prisons and jails.

**Prisoner**—An individual confined in a correctional facility under the legal authority (jurisdiction) of state or federal correctional officials.

**Sentenced prisoner**—A prisoner sentenced to more than 1 year.

## Methodology

Begun in 1926 under a mandate from Congress, the National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program collects annual data on prisoners at yearend. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) sponsors the survey, and the U.S. Census Bureau serves as the data collection agent. BJS depends entirely on voluntary participation by state departments of corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons for NPS data.

The NPS distinguishes between inmates in custody and prisoners under jurisdiction. To have custody of a prisoner, a state or the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) must hold that inmate in one of its facilities. To have jurisdiction over a prisoner, the state or BOP must have legal authority over that prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is incarcerated or supervised. Some states were unable to provide counts that distinguish between custody and jurisdiction. (See NPS jurisdiction notes to determine which states did not distinguish between custody and jurisdiction counts.)

The NPS jurisdiction counts include persons held in prisons, penitentiaries, correctional facilities, halfway houses, boot camps, farms, training or treatment centers, and hospitals. Counts also include prisoners who were—

- temporarily absent (less than 30 days), out to court, or on work release
- housed in privately operated facilities, local jails, or other state or federal facilities
- serving concurrent sentences for more than one correctional authority.

The NPS custody counts include all inmates held within a respondent's facilities, including inmates housed for other correctional facilities. The custody counts exclude inmates held in local jails and in other jurisdictions. With a few exceptions, the NPS custody counts include inmates held in privately operated facilities.

Respondents to NPS surveys are permitted to update the prior counts of prisoners held in custody and under jurisdiction. Some statistics on jurisdiction and sentenced prison populations for prior years have been updated in this report. All tables showing data based on jurisdiction counts—including tables of imprisonment rates—were based on the updated and most recently available data provided by respondents.

The NPS has historically included counts of inmates in the combined jail–prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The District of Columbia (D.C.) has not operated a prison system since yearend 2001. Felons sentenced under the D.C. criminal code are housed in federal facilities. Jail inmates in D.C. are included in the Annual Survey of Jails. Some previously published prisoner counts and the percentage change in population include D.C. jail inmates for 2001, the last year of collection.

Additional information about the NPS, including the data collection instrument, is available on the BJS website at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

### Nonreporting states

As of June 12, 2013, three states had not yet reported 2012 total and sex-specific jurisdiction or custody counts to the NPS. BJS compared data submitted to NPS by these states from past years to all jurisdiction or custody counts from past years available on each states' departments of corrections website (between 3 and 12 years' worth of data were available across the states). Within each year, BJS calculated the ratio of the reported NPS count to the count published on the website. The average of these ratios was applied to the count reported on each states' website that was closest to the count on December 31, 2012, to obtain the total imputed jurisdiction count for each state. This was repeated for total male and female jurisdiction counts. In the case of Washington, sex-specific counts were not available for 2012 on the DOC website, so BJS used the average ratio of males to females to impute the number of females. Finally, the within-state ratio of those sentenced to total jurisdiction by sex was applied to the imputed total jurisdiction values to obtain imputed counts for males and females sentenced to more than 1 year.

The imputed counts were used to calculate overall state and national totals of prisoners, but are not reported on the individual state level. BJS will publish the final total estimated and state-specific reported counts in the annual *Prisoners in 2012* report in late 2013.

### Estimating offense distribution in the state prison population by race or Hispanic origin

National-level estimates of the number of state prisoners by race were based on adjusting NPS counts to comport with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of race and Hispanic origin. OMB defines persons of Hispanic or Latino origin as a separate category. Race categories are

defined exclusive of Hispanic origin. Not all NPS providers' information systems categorize race and Hispanic origin in this way. BJS adjusts the NPS data on race and Hispanic origin by the ratio of the relative distribution of prisoners by race and Hispanic origin in self-report inmate surveys that use OMB categories for race to the relative distribution of prisoners by race and Hispanic origin in the NPS data. This ratio was calculated for the year(s) in which BJS had an inmate survey and NPS data. For this report, the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities was used to calculate this ratio. The ratio obtained by comparing the within-year relative distributions by race and Hispanic origin was then multiplied by the NPS distribution in a year to generate the estimate of persons by race and Hispanic origin.

BJS employed a ratio adjustment method to weight the individual-level race or sex-specific offense data from the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) to the state control totals for sex and the estimated race or ethnicity control totals from NPS, thereby yielding a national offense distribution for state prisoners. Because data submission for NCRP typically lags behind that of NPS, offense distribution estimates are published for the previous calendar year.





The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. William J. Sabol is the acting director.

This report was written by E. Ann Carson and Daniela Golinelli. Margaret Noonan, Todd Minton, and Sheri Simmons verified the report.

Morgan Young and Jill Thomas edited the report, and Barbara Quinn produced the report under the supervision of Doris J. James.

July 2013, NCJ 242467



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