

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Prisoners in 1987

NCJRS

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ACQUISITION

The number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal and State correctional authorities at yearend 1987 reached a record 581,609. The States and the District of Columbia added 32,584 prisoners; the Federal system, 3,892. The increase for 1987 brings total growth in the prison population since 1980 to nearly 252,000 inmates--an increase of about 76% in the 7-year period (table 1).

The 1987 growth rate (6.7%) was less than the percentage increase recorded during 1986 (8.5%), and the number of new prisoners added during 1987, 36,476, was about 6,000 less than the number added during the preceding year (42,626). Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") accounted for nearly 96% of the total prison population at the end of 1987, growing by 6.7% during the year (table 2). The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced (those, for example, awaiting trial in States with combined prison-jail systems).

The number of sentenced Federal prisoners continued to grow at a faster rate than sentenced prisoners in the States during the year (8.2% vs. 6.5%). Among the 8,777 Federal prisoners with no sentences or sentences of 1 year or less were 2,384 under the jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an increase of 26 over the number held at the end of 1986 (2,358). Nearly 77% of the total Federal increase occurred among those with sentences greater than 1 year; however, those with sentences less than 1 year or who were unsentenced grew by 11.4%, compared to 8.2% growth for sentenced prisoners during the year.

In four States total prison populations decreased during 1987; however, in two of these States the decreases were small (a total of 50 inmates). The number of prisoners in Washington continued to decline for the second year in a row, and North Carolina reported a 2.5% decline after an increase in 1986.

Total prison populations rose most rapidly during 1987 in Colorado (26.4%), Arizona (16%), Arkansas (15.8%), Michigan (15.1%), and Oregon (14.9%). Twelve States reported total prisoner increases of 10% or more, compared to the end of 1986. California's increase of nearly 7,500 additional prisoners was the largest single gain among the reporting jurisdictions and accounted for nearly 21% of the increase in the Nation (at the end of 1986, 10.9% of all prisoners in the Nation were in California). During 1987 Michigan's prison population continued a period of rapid expansion--the annual increase in 1984 was less than 1%, compared to annual increases of 21.6% in 1985, 16.8% in 1986, and 15.1% in 1987.

April 1988

This bulletin presents population counts for the Nation's prisons on December 31, 1987. The number of prisoners increased by more than 34,000 during the year, well below the record increases of 43,000 in 1982 and 1986. The number of prisoners present at yearend, however, again set a new record for the 13th consecutive time.

During the next several months, BJS will be releasing a compilation of historical prisoner counts for each State, the District of Columbia, and the Federal prison system covering each year since 1925. This collection will also be made available in machine-readable format through the Criminal Justice Archive at the University of Michigan.

I want to offer my deepest appreciation to the departments of corrections in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and the Federal Prison System, who make it possible for BJS to continue to gather and report data on the Nation's prisoners.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

Rates of incarceration increase

On December 31, 1987, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents was 228, also setting a new record. Twelve of the 19 jurisdictions equal to or greater than the rate for the Nation were located in the South, 4 in the West, 2 in the Midwest, and 1 in the Northeast.

Table 1. Change in the State and Federal prison populations, 1980-87

Year	Number of inmates	Annual percent change	Total percent change since 1980
1980	329,821		
1981	369,930	12.2%	12.2%
1982	413,806	11.9	25.5
1983	437,248	5.7	32.6
1984	464,567	6.2	40.9
1985	502,507	8.2	52.4
1986	545,133	8.5	65.3
1987	581,609	6.7	76.3

Note: All counts are for December 31 of each year and may differ from previously reported numbers because of revision.

Since 1980 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen 64%, from 139 to 228. During this period, per capita incarceration rates have

grown most rapidly in the West, increasing by 104%, compared to 94% in the Northeast, 70% in the Midwest, and 35% in the South.

Western States grow faster than other regions

During 1987 the growth in the sentenced prisoner population in Western States (10.9%) was higher than in the other regions of the Nation: the Midwest increased 7.9%, the Northeast 7.8%, and the South 3.3%. Since 1980 sentenced prison populations in Western States have more than doubled (up nearly 139%), compared to growth of 98% in the Northeast, 72% in the Midwest, and 50% in the South (table 3). Over the same period, the number of sentenced Federal prisoners grew by 92%.

Since 1980, 14 States have more than doubled the number of sentenced prisoners, and 1 State, Alaska, has experienced a threefold increase. Eight of these States are located in the West: Alaska (210%), California (179%), Hawaii (146%), Arizona (142%), Nevada (141%), Washington (139%), New Mexico (114%), and Utah (102%).

California's increase of more than 41,000 sentenced prisoners since 1980 accounts for 66% of the increase for the West and 19% of the increase among the States over the period. In 1980, 7.9% of the Nation's sentenced State prisoners were in California; in 1987, 12.5%. (For additional State comparisons see table 4.)

Female prisoner population growth outpaces males

Women inmates numbered 28,839, increasing at a faster rate during 1987 (8.2%) than males (6.6%) (table 5). The rate of incarceration for sentenced males (445 per 100,000 males in the resident population), however, was about 21 times higher than for sentenced females.

The female prison population has grown at a faster rate than the male population in each year since 1981. The higher growth rates for women over the 1981-87 period have raised the female percentage of the Nation's prison population from 4.2% in 1981 to 5% in 1987 (table 6).

In 1987, 16 States and the Federal system had more than 500 female inmates. Among these States, 8 had increases of at least 10% led by Arizona (25.3%), Missouri (19.2%), Alabama (18.8%), California (16.5%), and Michigan (16.2%). California's increase of 588 during the year accounted for more than one-quarter of the growth nationwide.

Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities, by region and State, yearend 1986 and 1987

	Total			Sentenced to more than 1 year			Incarceration rate 1987 ^a
	Advance 1987	Final 1986	Percent change 1986-87	Advance 1987	Final 1986	Percent change 1986-87	
U.S. total	581,609	545,133	6.7%	557,256	522,485	6.7%	228
Federal State	48,300	44,408	8.8	39,523	36,531	8.2	16
	533,309	500,725	6.5	517,733	485,954	6.5	212
Northeast	88,903	82,364	7.9%	85,256	79,066	7.8%	169
Connecticut	7,511	6,905	8.8	4,637	4,326	7.2	144
Maine	1,328	1,316	.9	1,267	1,242	2.0	106
Massachusetts	6,238	5,636	10.7	6,238	5,636	10.7	106
New Hampshire	867	782	10.9	867	782	10.9	81
New Jersey	13,662	12,020	13.7	13,662	12,020	13.7	177
New York	40,842	38,449	6.2	40,842	38,449	6.2	229
Pennsylvania	16,267	15,201	7.0	16,246	15,165	7.1	136
Rhode Island	1,429	1,358	5.2	992	1,007	-1.5	100
Vermont	759	697	8.9	505	439	15.0	91
Midwest	111,095	102,964	7.9%	110,671	102,552	7.9%	185
Illinois	19,850	19,456	2.0	19,850	19,456	2.0	171
Indiana	10,827	10,175	6.4	10,634	9,963	6.7	192
Iowa	2,863	2,777	3.1	2,863	2,777	3.1	101
Kansas	5,881	5,345	10.0	5,881	5,345	10.0	237
Michigan	23,879	20,742	15.1	23,879	20,742	15.1	259
Minnesota	2,546	2,462	3.4	2,546	2,462	3.4	60
Missouri	11,357	10,309	10.2	11,357	10,309	10.2	222
Nebraska	2,086	1,953	6.8	1,963	1,863	5.4	123
North Dakota	430	421	2.1	380	361	5.3	57
Ohio	24,240	22,463	7.9	24,240	22,463	7.9	224
South Dakota	1,135	1,164	-2.5	1,096	1,133	-3.3	154
Wisconsin	6,001	5,697	5.3	5,982	5,678	5.4	124
South	221,592	214,620	3.2%	214,236	207,308	3.3%	254
Alabama	12,827	11,710	9.5	12,602	11,504	9.5	307
Arkansas	5,443	4,701	15.8	5,443	4,701	15.8	227
Delaware	2,931	2,823	3.8	2,120	1,946	8.9	327
District of Columbia ^b	7,448	6,618	12.5	5,585	4,787	16.7	901
Florida	32,445	32,237	.6	32,360	32,228	.4	265
Georgia	18,575	17,363	7.0	17,210	16,291	5.6	274
Kentucky	5,471	5,288	3.5	5,471	5,288	3.5	147
Louisiana	15,375	14,300	7.5	15,375	14,300	7.5	346
Maryland	13,467	13,326	1.1	12,912	12,559	2.8	282
Mississippi	6,831	6,747	1.2	6,669	6,561	1.6	254
North Carolina	17,249	17,698	-2.5	16,151	16,373	-1.4	250
Oklahoma	9,639	9,596	.4	9,639	9,596	.4	296
South Carolina	12,664	11,676	8.5	11,862	11,022	7.6	344
Tennessee	7,624	7,591	.4	7,624	7,591	.4	156
Texas	38,821	38,534	.7	38,821	38,534	.7	231
Virginia	13,321	12,930	3.0	12,931	12,545	3.1	217
West Virginia	1,461	1,482	-1.4	1,461	1,482	-1.4	77
West	111,719	100,777	10.9%	107,570	97,028	10.9%	214
Alaska	2,528	2,460	2.8	1,767	1,666	6.1	339
Arizona	10,948	9,434	16.0	10,558	9,038	16.8	307
California	66,975	59,484	12.6	64,812	57,725	12.3	231
Colorado	4,808	3,804	26.4	4,808	3,804	26.4	145
Hawaii	2,268	2,180	4.0	1,536	1,521	1.0	141
Idaho	1,482	1,448	2.3	1,482	1,448	2.3	149
Montana	1,187	1,111	6.8	1,187	1,111	6.8	147
Nevada	4,434	4,367	1.5	4,434	4,367	1.5	432
New Mexico	2,648	2,416	9.6	2,561	2,306	11.1	169
Oregon	5,482	4,770	14.9	5,482	4,770	14.9	200
Utah	1,888	1,845	2.3	1,872	1,814	3.2	111
Washington	6,131	6,603	-7.1	6,131	6,603	-7.1	134
Wyoming	940	855	9.9	940	855	9.9	195

Note: Prison admissions refer to the number of prisoners received from courts with sentences of more than 1 year. Selected offenses are murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Adults are the resident population age 18 and over.

^aOffense figures for Illinois for 1986 may not be comparable to previous years. Sources: National Prisoner Statistics; Uniform Crime Reports; Bureau of the Census estimates of population.

Region	Percent increase					
	0-19%	20-39%	40-59%	60-79%	80-99%	100% or more
Northeast			Vermont 47.7	Rhode Island 62.4 Connecticut 68.6	New York 88.7 Maine 88.8 Massachusetts 98.0	Pennsylvania 100.3 New Jersey 145.5 New Hampshire 166.0
Midwest	Iowa 15.5	Minnesota 27.8	Nebraska 40.0 Wisconsin 50.3 Michigan 57.9	Indiana 69.3 Ohio 79.7	S. Dakota 80.0 Illinois 85.1 Missouri 98.3	N. Dakota 105.4 Kansas 135.8
South	Tennessee 8.6 N. Carolina 11.7 W. Virginia 16.2	Texas 29.9	Georgia 44.4 Virginia 50.7 Kentucky 52.5 S. Carolina 59.7	Florida 60.1 Maryland 67.0 Mississippi 75.3 Louisiana 73.0	Arkansas 87.0 Delaware 95.0 Alabama 97.9	Oklahoma 101.0 District of Columbia 105.4
West				Montana 60.8 Oregon 72.8 Wyoming 76.0	Colorado 84.3 Idaho 81.4	Utah 101.7 New Mexico 113.6 Washington 139.4 Nevada 141.1 Arizona 142.2 Hawaii 146.6 California 178.6 Alaska 209.5
Regional totals			South 50.2	Midwest 71.6	Northeast 97.5	West 138.8
U.S. summary				States 75.4 Total 76.5	Federal 91.8	

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with sentences of more than 1 year.

10 States with the largest 1987 prison populations	Number of inmates	10 States with the highest incarceration rates, 1987*	Prisoners per 100,000 residents	10 States with the largest percent increases in prison population			
				1986-87	Percent increase	1980-87*	Percent increase
California	66,975	Nevada	432	Colorado	26.4%	Alaska	209.5%
New York	40,842	Louisiana	346	Arizona	16.0	California	178.6
Texas	38,821	South Carolina	344	Arkansas	15.8	New Hampshire	166.0
Florida	32,445	Alaska	339	Michigan	15.1	Hawaii	146.2
Ohio	24,240	Delaware	327	Oregon	14.9	New Jersey	145.5
Michigan	23,879	Alabama	307	New Jersey	13.7	Arizona	142.2
Illinois	19,850	Arizona	307	California	12.6	Nevada	141.1
Georgia	18,575	Oklahoma	296	New Hampshire	10.9	Washington	139.4
North Carolina	17,249	Maryland	282	Massachusetts	10.7	Kansas	135.8
Pennsylvania	16,267	Georgia	274	Missouri	10.2	New Mexico	113.6

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded.
*Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

	Male	Female
Total		
Advance 1987	552,770	28,839
Final 1986	518,478	26,655
Percent change 1986-87	6.6%	8.2%
Sentenced to more than 1 year		
Advance 1987	530,559	26,697
Final 1986	497,682	24,803
Percent change 1986-87	6.6%	7.6%
Incarceration rate 1987*	445	21

*The number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 residents of each sex on December 31, 1987.

Jurisdiction	Number of women inmates	Percent of all inmates	Percent change in women inmate population, 1986-87
U.S. total	28,839	5.0%	8.2%
Federal	3,027	6.3	6.8
State	25,812	4.8	8.4
States with at least 500 women inmates			
California	4,152	6.2%	16.5%
Florida	1,681	5.2	2.8
Texas	1,555	4.0	-10.9
New York	1,487	3.6	12.1
Ohio	1,295	5.3	6.8
Michigan	1,183	5.0	16.2
Georgia	928	5.0	-2.0
North Carolina	812	4.7	-2.2
Illinois	779	3.9	2.0
Alabama	732	5.7	18.8
Oklahoma	694	7.2	2.2
Pennsylvania	674	4.1	14.0
Louisiana	673	4.4	7.3
South Carolina	661	5.2	10.0
Arizona	609	5.6	25.3
Missouri	540	4.8	19.2

More than 12,000 in local jails because of State prison crowding

At the end of 1987, 16 States reported a total of 12,220 State prisoners held in local jails because of crowding in State facilities (table 7). This number changed little from the preceding year. Two States--Louisiana and New Jersey--accounted for half of the State-sentenced prisoners held locally. Five States--Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Tennessee--held more than 12% of their State-sentenced prisoners in local jails because of State facility crowding. Overall, 2.3% of the State prison population was confined in local jails on December 31, 1987, because of prison crowding.

Estimating prison capacity

The extent of crowding in the Nation's prisons is difficult to determine precisely because of the absence of uniform measures for defining capacity. A wide variety of capacity measures are in use among the 52 reporting jurisdictions because capacity may reflect both available space to house inmates and the ability to staff and operate an institution. To estimate the capacity of the Nation's prisons, States were asked to supply up to three measures for yearend 1987--rated, operational, and design capacities. These measures were defined as follows:

• Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to institutions within the State.

• Operational capacity is the number of inmates that can be accommodated based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services.

• Design capacity is the number of inmates that planners or architects intended for the facility.

Of the 52 reporting jurisdictions, 34 supplied rated capacities, 45 provided operational capacities, and 36 submitted design capacities (table 8). As a result, estimates of total capacity and measures of the relationship to population are based on the highest and lowest capacity figures provided. (Nineteen States reported one capacity measure or gave the same figure for each capacity measure they reported.)

Most jurisdictions are operating above reported capacity

Generally, prisons require reserve capacity in order to operate efficiently. Prison dormitories and cells need to be maintained and repaired periodically, special housing space is needed to accommodate protective custody and disciplinary cases, and space may be needed to cope with emergencies. At the end of 1987, six States reported they were operating below 95% of their highest capacity. Forty-two jurisdictions and the Federal Prison System reported operating at approximately 100% or more of their lowest capacity; 32 of these held populations that met or exceeded their highest reported capacities.

Overall, State prisons were estimated to be operating at approximately 105% of their highest reported capacities and at 120% of their lowest reported capacities (table 9). The Federal system was estimated to be operating between 37% and 73% above capacity.

Between 1986 and 1987, State and Federal prison capacities were estimated to have increased by approximately 30,000-38,000 beds (based on the lowest and highest capacities in table 9). At the end of 1987, estimated capacities were:

	Highest reported capacity	Lowest reported capacity
U.S. total	535,809	463,661
Federal	35,276	27,854
State	500,533	435,807

The net decline in Federal design capacity between 1986 and 1987 (84 beds) was attributed to disturbances that occurred at the Oakdale Detention Center (Louisiana) and the Atlanta Penitentiary (Georgia) that resulted in an aggregate loss of approximately 1,300 beds. Capacity expansion in other facilities during the year largely offset this loss, though the gains in prison population resulted in an increased imbalance between population and capacity compared to prior years. Approximately 6% of the available capacity nationwide at the end of 1987 was maintained by the Federal Government, while more than 8% of the Nation's inmates were subject to the jurisdiction of Federal prison authorities.

Table 7. Number of State prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding, by State, yearend 1986 and 1987

States housing prisoners in local jails	Prisoners held in local jails			
	Number		As percent of all prisoners	
	1986	1987	1986	1987
Total	12,025	12,220	2.4%	2.3%
Alabama	514	763	4.4	5.9
Arkansas ^a	458	50	8.9	.9
Colorado ^a	343	208	8.3	4.1
Idaho ^a	0	43	0	2.8
Illinois	48	0	.2	0
Kentucky ^a	886	965	14.4	15.0
Louisiana	3,169	3,784	22.2	24.6
Maine	36	23	2.7	1.7
Massachusetts ^a	102	142	1.8	2.2
Mississippi	1,169	874	17.3	12.8
New Jersey ^b	2,244	2,283	16.2	14.7
South Carolina	451	468	3.9	3.7
Tennessee ^a	1,201	1,610	13.7	17.4
Utah	77	103	4.2	5.5
Vermont ^c	8	10	1.1	1.3
Virginia	1,257	848	9.7	6.4
Washington	62	46	.9	.8

^aFor States not including jail backups in their jurisdiction counts, the percentage of jurisdiction population was calculated on the combined total of jail and prison.

^bFor 1986, 1,825 prisoners in local jails were added to the jurisdiction count. For 1987, 1,847 prisoners in local jails were added to the jurisdiction count.

^cVermont reported 8 inmates in local lockups in 1986 and 10 inmates in 1987 due to prison crowding.

Crime and prison population growth

There is some evidence that during the 1980-86 period changes have occurred in criminal justice policies that have increased a criminal's probability of being incarcerated from levels existing during the previous decade. Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary are among the most serious crimes, and they account for more than half of prison commitments from the courts. In 1960 there were 62 prison commitments for every 1,000 of these crimes reported to the police (table 10). During the rest of the decade this ratio steadily declined, reaching 23 in 1970, and was relatively stable during the 1970's. Between 1980 and 1986 the ratio increased about 72%, from 25 commitments per 1,000 reported crimes to 43.

Similarly, between 1960 and 1970 the ratio of prison commitments to adult arrests for these selected crimes declined from 299 per 1,000 to 170. This ratio was relatively stable during the rest of the 1970's, but it increased by 37% between 1980 and 1986, from 196 commitments per 1,000 adult arrests to 268. (See "Methodological note" for more detail on these data.)

Table 10. Court commitments to State prisons relative to offenses and arrests, 1960-86

Year	Commitments to prison per 1,000	
	selected serious offenses	adult arrests for same offenses
1960	62	299
1965	45	261
1970	23	170
1975	26	185
1980	25	196
1981	29	214
1982	35	219
1983	39	247
1984	39	246
1985	42	266
1986	43	268

Note: Selected offenses include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Data for crimes reported to the police and adult arrests are from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1978-86* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office). Commitments to prison are inmates admitted from sentencing courts. The data on which this table is based are presented in the appendix table.

Table 8. Reported Federal and State prison capacities at yearend, 1987

Jurisdiction	Rated capacity	Operational capacity	Design capacity	Population as a percentage of: ^a	
				Highest capacity	Lowest capacity
Federal	27,854	35,276	27,854	137%	173%
Northeast					
Connecticut	6,072	4,968	3,781	124%	199%
Maine	934	1,237	934	105	140
Massachusetts	...	...	3,790	165	165
New Hampshire ^b	689	689	539	123	158
New Jersey	11,571	12,693	10,877	103	121
New York	...	41,242	36,482	99	112
Pennsylvania	...	...	12,447	131	131
Rhode Island	1,456	1,489	1,359	96	105
Vermont	597	597	547	127	139
Midwest					
Illinois	19,911	19,911	16,303	100%	122%
Indiana	9,802	...	...	110	110
Iowa	2,918	2,858	2,918	98	100
Kansas	3,786	3,786	...	155	155
Michigan	...	20,076	...	119	119
Minnesota	2,605	2,605	2,717	94	98
Missouri	...	11,357	...	100	100
Nebraska	1,562	1,513	1,542	134	138
North Dakota	...	494	494	87	87
Ohio	...	...	17,782	136	136
South Dakota	1,189	1,090	1,189	95	104
Wisconsin	4,680	4,680	...	128	128
South					
Alabama	11,107	11,107	11,107	109%	169%
Arkansas	...	5,400	...	101	101
Delaware	...	2,763	2,604	106	113
District of Columbia	7,032	7,341	...	101	106
Florida	36,363	33,140	25,700	89	126
Georgia	...	17,098	...	109	109
Kentucky	5,170	5,576	...	98	106
Louisiana	11,738	11,738	11,738	99	99
Maryland	...	13,874	10,958	97	123
Mississippi	6,375	...	...	93	93
North Carolina	16,694	18,000	...	96	103
Oklahoma	7,643	7,261	...	126	133
South Carolina	10,202	10,202	9,035	120	135
Tennessee	...	7,744	...	98	98
Texas ^c	40,506	38,481	40,506	94	99
Virginia	10,746	10,746	9,816	116	127
West Virginia ^b	1,547	1,640	1,547	85	90
West					
Alaska	...	2,356	...	107%	107%
Arizona	...	10,958	...	100	100
California	...	67,424	41,094	99	163
Colorado	4,597	...	3,560	109	141
Hawaii	1,670	...	1,670	136	136
Idaho	1,149	1,470	1,149	98	125
Montana	956	1,190	956	100	124
Nevada	...	4,132	3,283	107	135
New Mexico	2,459	2,689	2,459	98	108
Oregon	4,201	4,309	2,815	127	195
Utah	...	2,182	1,877	82	95
Washington	5,838	5,870	5,838	104	104
Wyoming	...	950	...	99	99

...Data not available.
^aExcludes State-sentenced inmates held in local jails due to crowding where they have been included in the total prisoner count.
^bCapacity figures available for males only. West Virginia reports an additional capacity to house 82 female prisoners.
^cExcludes 698 inmates in pre-parole facilities.

Table 9. Population as a percentage of reported capacity for State and Federal prisons, 1985-87

	Population as a percent of: [*]						1986-87 net change in:	
	Highest capacity			Lowest capacity			Highest capacity	Lowest capacity
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987		
U.S. total	106%	108%	107%	121%	126%	124%	38,270	29,961
Federal prisons	123	127	137	154	159	173	386	-84
State prisons	105	106	105	119	124	120	37,884	30,045

Note: States were asked to report their rated, operational, and design capacities. Tabulations reflect the highest and lowest of the three capacities reported for 1985, 1986, and 1987.
^{*}Excludes State-sentenced inmates held in local jails due to crowding where they have been included in the total prisoner count.

Admissions-to-crime ratios for individual States provide an alternative measure of prison use to population-based rates. Population-based incarceration rates take into account the number of sentenced prisoners and the size of the resident population in a jurisdiction. The crime-based rate measures entry into prison relative to the magnitude of the crime problem during a year.

Between 1980 and 1986, commitments to State prisons grew by 43% relative to population but by 72% relative to reported crime (table 11).

Methodological note

This bulletin is based upon an advance count of prisoners conducted immediately after a calendar year ends. A detailed, final count of prisoners and prisoner movements is published at a later time.

The data used to compute the rates in table 10 are presented in the accompanying appendix table.

Table 11. State prison admissions relative to selected serious offenses and the adult population, by State, 1980 and 1986

Region and State	Admissions per 1,000 selected offenses			Admissions per 100,000 adults		
	1980	1986	Percent change 1980-86	1980	1986	Percent change 1980-86
U. S. total	25	43	72%	80	114	43%
Northeast	15	34	127%	48	76	58%
Connecticut	37	46	24	105	97	-8
Maine	28	46	64	54	59	9
Massachusetts	8	19	138	26	40	54
New Hampshire	14	35	150	30	41	37
New Jersey	14	33	136	49	72	47
New York	13	38	192	56	111	98
Pennsylvania	17	31	82	33	45	36
Rhode Island	12	22	83	35	46	31
Vermont	32	55	72	77	81	5
Midwest	28	41	46%	71	89	25%
Illinois	32	34	*	78	91	17
Indiana	37	65	76	88	106	20
Iowa	28	41	46	50	67	34
Kansas	26	40	54	69	84	22
Michigan	20	27	35	67	85	27
Minnesota	12	24	100	25	41	64
Missouri	24	45	88	74	104	41
Nebraska	35	42	20	56	58	4
North Dakota	47	82	74	36	50	39
Ohio	45	81	36	97	117	21
South Dakota	61	134	120	71	126	77
Wisconsin	26	42	62	46	60	30
South	38	53	39%	116	156	34%
Alabama	49	48	-2	138	114	-17
Arkansas	50	51	2	104	100	-4
Delaware	30	76	153	88	150	70
District of Columbia	36	74	106	213	308	45
Florida	24	49	104	109	207	90
Georgia	49	68	39	156	192	23
Kentucky	47	48	2	86	77	-10
Louisiana	31	40	29	100	126	26
Maryland	30	43	43	107	119	11
Mississippi	43	66	53	97	128	32
North Carolina	61	81	33	158	184	18
Oklahoma	38	58	53	111	178	61
South Carolina	47	63	34	153	175	14
Tennessee	33	34	3	89	85	-4
Texas	38	49	29	129	188	46
Virginia	36	76	111	75	113	51
West Virginia	30	38	37	38	40	5
West	17	35	106%	66	115	74%
Alaska	42	110	162	115	280	143
Arizona	24	44	83	97	154	59
California	15	34	127	66	122	85
Colorado	16	28	75	55	88	60
Hawaii	9	30	233	28	64	129
Idaho	34	50	47	78	89	14
Montana	34	55	62	55	73	33
Nevada	26	77	196	136	237	74
New Mexico	17	36	112	53	132	149
Oregon	27	37	37	83	125	51
Utah	15	32	113	39	60	54
Washington	14	19	36	46	59	28
Wyoming	38	56	147	71	90	27

Note: Explanatory notes for each jurisdiction are reported in the appendix. Prisoner counts for 1986 may differ from those reported in previous publications and are subject to revision as updated figures become available.
^aThe number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 resident population on

December 31, 1987.

^bFigures for 1986 are not comparable to previous years because of the inclusion of additional jail inmates. Counts and incarceration rates of those sentenced to more than 1 year are comparable to figures reported in previous years.

Explanatory notes

Alabama. Capacity in residential community programs is not included in the reported capacity figures.

Alaska. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Arkansas. Population counts for male inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less. The male population counts exclude 50 male inmates housed in local jails due to crowding. The Arkansas Department of Corrections has only one type of capacity, which is set by the Board of Corrections. This capacity is reported in operational capacity.

California. Population counts are based on custody data.

Colorado. Population counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less. Population counts exclude 208 male inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup. Capacity figures include 350 spaces in community centers.

Connecticut. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Delaware. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

District of Columbia. Population counts are based on custody data. Those inmates housed in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities, as a result of crowding, are not included. In the District of Columbia, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Federal. Population counts for unsentenced inmates include 2,365 males and 19 females who come under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Capacity figures apply to Bureau of Prisons institutions only and do not include capacity provided by contract facilities.

Florida. Population counts are based on custody data.

Georgia. Inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup are not included in the jurisdiction population until they enter

Appendix table. Data used to compute the rates in table 10

Year	Number of court commitments to prison for any offense	Number of selected serious offenses reported to the police	Estimated number of adult arrests for same offenses
1960	74,852	1,200,560	250,466
1965	74,724	1,669,890	286,685
1970	67,304	2,943,820	395,678
1975	112,803	4,278,380	609,764
1980	130,323	5,139,720	666,063
1981	149,186	5,141,520	697,409
1982	164,648	4,769,490	752,873
1983	173,289	4,387,990	702,652
1984	166,927	4,257,680	677,275
1985	183,131	4,400,740	688,864
1986	203,315	4,729,540	757,797

Note: The number of court commitments to prison is based upon the total number of entries from sentencing courts with sentences greater than 1 year. The number of reported offenses is derived from annual publications from the FBI on the number of murders, non-negligent manslaughters, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries reported to police agencies. The estimated number of adult arrests for these crimes is derived by multiplying the estimated total number of arrests by the percentage of known arrests age 18 and older, as reported annually by the FBI. For 1960 and 1965, estimates of adult arrests were based on FBI data for total known arrests for those years and were weighted for reporting coverage (see Crime in the United States, 1970, tables 24-25). By year, the percentage of adult arrests among all arrests for these crimes was:

1960 - 65.7%	1982 - 71.5%
1965 - 61.4%	1983 - 72.1%
1970 - 61.5%	1984 - 73.0%
1975 - 60.8%	1985 - 73.2%
1980 - 67.4%	1986 - 75.4%
1981 - 69.1%	

a State prison, according to department policy. Georgia has 1,053 sentenced males and 66 sentenced females for whom sentence length has not been recorded in the data system. Georgia estimates that 402 of these males and 18 of these females have maximum sentences greater than 1 year, and 651 of these males and 48 of these females have sentences of 1 year or less.

Hawaii. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Idaho. Population counts are based on custody data taken as of February 9, 1988.

Indiana. Population counts are based on custody data.

Iowa. Population counts are based on custody data.

Kentucky. Population counts are based on custody data. Population counts exclude 898 male and 67 female inmates housed in local jails due to crowding.

Maine. Operational capacity figures include temporary housing.

Maryland. While population totals are actual manual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates extracted from the actual sentence length breakdowns of the automated data system applied to the manual data.

Massachusetts. Population counts are based on custody data. Population counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less. Population totals are actual counts; however, the male/female breakdown is an estimate believed to be within .1% of the actual disaggregation. By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2 1/2 years in locally-operated jails and correctional institutions. Such populations are excluded from the State count but are included in the published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions.

Michigan. Population counts only include inmates in Michigan's custody and inmates in the Community Residential Program. Capacity figures exclude the capacities of the Community Residential Program.

New Hampshire. New Hampshire has no facility to house female inmates. Thus, all females are housed in county, Federal, or other States' facilities.

New Jersey. Population counts exclude 1,744 of the 2,180 male and 103 female inmates housed in local jails due to crowding. Capacity figures include 480 bedspaces in county facilities under County Contract and County Assistance Programs.

North Carolina. While population totals are actual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates believed to be accurate within 1% of the actual counts.

Ohio. Population counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Oklahoma. Population counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence may include a small undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year.

Oregon. Population counts are for all inmates in Oregon's jurisdiction including those out to hospitals, out to court, and out on furlough. For operational capacity Oregon reported figures for actual bed occupancy count as of December 31, 1987.

Rhode Island. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Tennessee. Population counts are based on custody data. Population counts exclude 1,610 inmates housed in local jails due to crowding.

Texas. Population counts are based on custody data.

Vermont. Population counts are as of December 11, 1987. In this State, pris-

ons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations. The counts for jail crowding include 10 male inmates housed in local lockups.

Washington. Capacity figures exclude space in work-release facilities, which housed 569 male and 37 female inmates on December 31, 1987.

West Virginia. The female population counts are based on custody data. The male jurisdiction count excludes an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup.

Wyoming. Population counts are estimates believed to be within 3% of the actual counts. The operational capacity figure is total bedspace, and it includes 60 bedspaces in community centers.

New from BJS

- BJS data report, 1987, NCJ-110643, 5/88
- International crime rates (BJS Special Report), NCJ-110776, 5/88
- Prisoners in 1987 (BJS Bulletin), NCJ-110331, 4/88
- Bureau of Justice Statistics annual report, fiscal 1987, NCJ-109928, 4/88
- Motor vehicle theft (BJS Special Report), NCJ-109978, 3/88
- National Crime Survey preliminary data for 1987 (press release), 3/88
- Motor vehicle theft (BJS Special Report), NCJ-109978, 3/88
- Drunk driving (BJS Special Report), NCJ-109945, 2/88
- Felony laws of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, 1988, \$14.70 postpaid, NCJ-105066, 2/88, 354 pp.
- Correctional populations in the United States, 1985, NCJ-103957, 2/88

- Data center & clearinghouse for drugs & crime (brochure), BC-000092, 2/88
- Drugs and crime: A guide to BJS data, NCJ-109956, 2/88
- Pretrial release and detention: The Bail Reform Act of 1984 (BJS Special Report), NCJ-109929, 2/88
- Profile of State prison inmates, 1986 (BJS Special Report), NCJ 109926, 1/88
- Tracking offenders, 1984 (BJS Bulletin), NCJ-109686, 1/88

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by BJS staff. This bulletin was written by Lawrence A. Greenfeld, corrections unit chief, and was edited by Frank D. Balog. Statistical assistance was provided by Sophie Bowen. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered production, assisted by Betty Sherman, Jeanne Harris, Yvonne Shields, and Christina Roberts. Collection and processing of these data were conducted under the general supervision of Lawrence A. McGinn and Gertrude B. Odom of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, assisted by Carol Spivey and Gregory Wells.

April 1988, NCJ-110331

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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