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Bureau of Justice Statistics
Special Report

Prison Admissions and Releases, 1981

By Lawrence A. Greenfeld
and Stephanie Minor-Harper
BJS Statisticians

This report is the first in a regular series describing the characteristics of persons admitted to and released from State prisons in the United States. These characteristics are important for assessing the use of prisons throughout the Nation. Traditional yearend counts are used for describing inmate populations on a given day. Such information, however, is greatly affected by those prisoners serving longer than average terms. By contrast, data on admissions and releases during a given year provide information on annual dispositions to imprisonment and the duration of sentences to incarceration. Such data further an understanding of sanctioning decisions across jurisdictions and over time.

During 1981, there were an estimated 183,000 admissions from courts and admissions of conditional release violators. Nationally, there were an estimated 142,000 conditional and unconditional releases that year. The data on which this report was based were obtained from 33 States and the District of Columbia and covered 121,211 prison admissions (about two-thirds of the estimated admissions nationwide) and 101,943 prison releases (72% of the estimated releases nationwide).

Details on the numbers and types of prisoner movements in each jurisdiction are available from Prisoners in State

and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1981, NCJ-86485.

Offender-specific data on those persons entering and leaving the Nation's prisons form an important complement to existing yearend information on prison populations and incarceration rates. Such data increase our understanding and ability to respond to fundamental questions about imprisonment posed by the public, legislators, corrections administrators, and researchers such as: Who enters prison? What kinds of sentences are imposed for different crimes? How long do offenders typically stay in prison for a given crime and sentence? Is punishment more severe now than in the past?

This report reveals both continuities and variations over time and among jurisdictions in the use of prison. Sentence length and time served were found to vary little over time for the Nation as a whole. By contrast, compared to earlier periods, imprisonment was found to be more prevalent among the adult

and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1981, NCJ-86485.

ADMISSIONS, 1981

Demography

Sex (table 1). Of every 100 inmates

population, the entering population was more likely to be convicted of violent crimes, and those leaving prison were less likely to exit by a discretionary parole board decision.

Future data on admissions and releases will encompass the entire spectrum of imprisonment and its use beginning with admission to prison and continuing through final exit from the justice system. This effort, known as the **National Corrections Reporting Program**, will make available, for the first time, public-access data on this important part of the sanctioning process.

The analyses contained in this special report were made possible by the generous cooperation of 33 States and the District of Columbia reporting offender-specific data on admissions and releases for 1981 and prior years. Given the value of this information for an informed public debate on correctional policy, it is our hope that all States will soon join in providing such annual data.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

admitted during 1981, 94.5 were male. This disproportion of males has been quite stable since 1926, when such data were collected for the first time (in 1926, 93.2% of prison admissions were male). The only period since that time in which the proportion of males admitted was relatively low was during World

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little in the way of definitive gradients of harshness or leniency across jurisdictions. Sentences reflect an interaction of values, objectives, and crime problems unique to each jurisdiction.

RELEASES, 1981

Demography

Sex (table 1). As with admissions, the population exiting prisons was principally male (94.5% of admissions and 94.4% of releases). Male disproportionality has been evidenced by the release population since 1926 (when releases were 94% male). The only period since 1926 in which the proportion of males among releases declined occurred, as with admissions, during World War II and shortly thereafter (males were 93% of releases in 1943, 92% in 1944, 91% in 1945, and 91% in 1946). Of the reporting jurisdictions in 1981, Massachusetts reported the highest proportion of female releases (16.1%) and North Dakota the lowest (approximately 0.6%).

Race (table 1). Releases in 1981 reflected the same racial mix as admissions that year. Nationally, 55.2% of releases were white, 43.8% were black and 1% were classified as other. From 1926 to 1981, the proportion of releases in each of the three race groups has mirrored the pattern described in the section on admissions.

Of the jurisdictions reporting in 1981, there was considerable variation in the racial composition of those released. Louisiana reported that 64.3% of their releases were black; North Dakota was the only jurisdiction in the Nation that did not release a black offender from prison that year.⁵ As with admissions, Hawaii reported the largest fraction of releases classified as other (70.8%). Other jurisdictions with large proportions of releases in the other category were: South Dakota (27.4%), Montana (18.6%), North Dakota (14.4%), Minnesota (8.6%), and Nebraska (4.7%).

Age. The median age of prison releases during 1981 was 28 years old (table 1). Historical data on trends in the ages of prison releases are not available.

Among the reporting jurisdictions, Maine (30), California (29), and New Mexico (29) reported the oldest median age for releases; West Virginia reported the youngest (25). As noted in the section on admissions, the California Youth Authority has jurisdiction over many young adult offenders (18 to 24) who, in other States, would typically be

⁵North Dakota reported only two black inmates admitted during 1981.

Table 10. Offense distribution for all releases, releases reporting time served, and first releases, 1981

Offense	All releases		Releases reporting time served		First releases reporting time served ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	85,803	100.0%	69,692	100.0%	55,579	100.0%
Murder	2,699	3.1	2,235	3.2	1,644	3.0
Manslaughter	2,620	3.1	2,051	2.9	2,038	3.7
Rape	1,714	2.0	1,405	2.0	1,129	2.0
Robbery	15,245	17.8	11,582	16.6	9,793	17.6
Aggravated assault	6,021	7.0	4,915	7.1	4,393	7.9
Other violent	1,961	2.3	1,589	2.3	1,538	2.8
Burglary	23,944	27.9	19,966	28.6	14,781	26.6
Larceny	8,386	9.8	6,648	9.5	4,855	8.7
Auto theft	1,580	1.8	1,310	1.9	676	1.2
Forgery, fraud, embezzlement	5,675	6.6	4,798	6.9	3,739	6.7
Other property	3,786	4.4	2,947	4.2	2,771	5.0
Drugs	7,195	8.4	6,066	8.7	4,768	8.6
Public order	4,086	4.8	3,400	4.9	2,683	4.8
Other	891	1.0	780	1.1	771	1.4

Note: Of 101,943 releases reported, 85,803 cases provided data on most serious offense; 69,692 cases provided data on most serious offense and time served; and 55,579 cases were

reported to be first releases with data on most serious offense and time served.

¹ First release defined in Time Served, p. 6.

imprisoned; this accounts for the older median age of California releases.

Though those under 18 years old accounted for 1.3% of admissions during 1981, offenders less than 18 accounted for only 0.3% of all releases (table 2). Conversely, those aged 65 or older represented about 0.2% of admissions but 3.7% of releases. More than three-fourths of all releases were between 18 and 34 years old.

Offenses and time served

Offenses. Of the 85,803 prison releases for whom the most serious commitment offense was known (101,943 releases were reported by the jurisdictions), 45.7% had been incarcerated for either burglary or robbery (table 10). Overall, just over 35% of those released had been incarcerated for a violent crime (compared to 39% for admissions).

Table 5 shows that jurisdictions differ considerably in the proportion of releases classified as violent. Massachusetts releases tended to have the highest concentration of violent offenders (72%); North Dakota releases were the least likely to have been in prison for a violent offense (14%).

Time served. Time served before first release represents the most important component of the entire program in admissions and releases (first releases are defined as those offenders experiencing their first exit from prison on a sentence as opposed to those who may have served prior prison time on the same sentence). That is, data on the actual period of confinement permits comparisons over time and across jurisdictions and for similar groups of offenders that are not possible by

looking only at sentence length.

States were able to provide data on offense and time served for 69,692 offenders or 69% of all those released. Of these, 55,579 (nearly 80%) were reported to be first releases.⁶ Table 11 shows that the median time served for first releases was 17 months for all offenses. Approximately two of five first releases (39.4%) served 12 months or less, and 1.1% served more than 10 years.

● First release murderers served a median of 63 months. About two-thirds (67.1%) of the murderers released served 7 years or less. Approximately one of every seven murderers (15.1%) served more than 10 years.

● Manslaughter offenders served a median term of 25 months. About one in five served 12 months or less, two-thirds served 3 years or less, and 1% served more than 10 years.

● Rapists served a median term of 33 months or about a third longer than manslaughter offenders and about half as long as murderers. Approximately 1 of every 28 rapists served more than 10 years, and 7 of 10 served 4 years or less.

⁶The remainder of the section on time served will focus only on first releases, because States could not systematically report prior time served on earlier imprisonments for the same sentence. In addition, available historical data have generally used the first release as the unit of analysis for comparative purposes. In the interests of insuring the equivalence of historical comparisons and minimize the effect of missing data on prior prison time, first releases have been selected for analysis. The amount of time served by all releases would be somewhat higher than the figure reported for first releases.

Table 11. Percentage distribution of time served, in months, by offense: 1981 first release¹

Offense	Number	Median (months)	Number of months served								
			1-6	7-12	13-24	25-36	37-48	49-60	61-84	85-120	Over 120
All offenses	55,579²	17	16.4%	23.0%	29.4%	14.2%	6.9%	3.8%	3.5%	1.7%	1.1%
Murder	1,644	63	2.3	3.3	7.1	9.2	12.8	12.4	20.0	17.6	15.1
Manslaughter	2,038	25	7.6	13.4	27.0	18.6	11.7	8.6	9.0	3.0	1.0
Rape	1,129	33	6.5	6.8	21.1	21.3	15.5	9.7	9.7	5.7	3.6
Robbery	9,793	25	5.0	11.1	32.0	21.4	12.5	6.8	6.7	3.1	1.2
Aggravated assault	4,393	17	13.2	23.3	32.2	16.3	7.3	3.1	2.8	1.3	0.6
Burglary	14,781	13	17.6	28.7	33.2	11.6	4.4	2.1	1.6	0.4	0.4
Larceny	4,855	11	24.4	33.4	29.7	7.6	2.3	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.5
Auto theft	676	12	17.5	32.2	33.3	10.9	3.3	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.3
Forgery, fraud, embezzlement	3,739	11	24.2	31.1	30.7	8.6	2.8	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.3
Drugs	4,768	13	18.0	28.9	31.4	13.3	4.3	2.2	1.4	0.4	0.1
Public order	2,683	10	29.4	28.7	27.1	7.9	3.3	1.6	1.3	0.4	0.3
Other ³	5,080	14	20.3	27.5	29.5	10.9	4.8	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.0

¹ First release defined in Time Served, p. 6.

² Of 101,943 releases reported, 55,579 were first releases for whom offense and time served data were provided.

³ Other offenses include other sexual assault, other violent, other property, and other miscellaneous offenses.

● Robbers served approximately the same amount of time in prison as manslaughter offenders (a median of 25 months). Approximately one in six robbers served 12 months or less, nearly 70% served 3 years or less, and about 1 of every 100 served more than 10 years.

● Offenders convicted of aggravated assault served a median prison term of 17 months, the same as the median for all offenders. More than two-thirds served 24 months or less, and 1 of every 167 served more than 10 years.

● The median time served for burglary was 13 months or about half the time served for robbery and manslaughter and 20% of the time served for murder. Nearly four of every five burglars were confined for 2 years or less prior to release, and fewer than 0.5% served more than 10 years.

● Larceny releases had a median time served in prison, prior to first release, of 11 months. Nearly 88% of the larcenists served 2 years or less, and about 1 in 200 served more than 10 years.

● Auto thieves, who constituted 1.2% of first releases, served a median term in prison of 12 months. Four of five (83%) served 2 years or less, and 1 of every 333 served more than 10 years.

● Those first releases convicted of forgery, fraud, or embezzlement served median terms equal to that of larcenists (11 months). The distributions of these two offenses are quite similar, suggesting approximately equal severity in their punishment.

● Drug offenders served a median incarceration equal to that of burglars (13 months). More than three-fourths

of the drug releases served 24 months or less, and about 1 in 1,000 releases served more than 10 years.

Table 12. Release trends for selected years, 1926-81¹

Year	Percent released by parole board decision ³	Percent of sentence served	Median time served by first releases ² (months)					
			All offenses	Robbery	Rape	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny
1926	55%	-%	19	31	24	17	20	17
1927	56	-	19	34	26	17	21	18
1928	57	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
1929	56	33	19	38	26	18	20	18
1930	55	32	19	35	27	17	21	18
1931	59	-	18	34	30	17	20	17
1932	57	-	18	32	30	19	19	16
1933	57	37	17	32	32	17	17	16
1934	57	36	17	35	28	16	18	14
1935	55	37	17	39	30	17	19	14
1936	55	38	17	40	27	19	20	14
1937	50	41	20	43	27	19	21	15
1938	49	40	21	46	28	18	22	15
1939	47	41	21	49	28	19	22	16
1940	42	41	21	47	31	19	21	15
1944	55	42	30	52	37	26	30	21
1945	55	41	30	55	38	25	30	21
1946	56	36	25	47	36	20	26	18
1951	56	-	21	-	-	-	-	-
1954	55	-	21	-	-	-	-	-
1957	55	-	21	-	-	-	-	-
1960	59	35	21	34	30	20	20	17
1967	62	-	19	31	34	15	17	13
1968	-	-	18	31	32	15	16	13
1969	-	-	18	31	33	15	16	13
1970	-	-	18	30	35	18	16	13
1974	68	31	18	27	32	16	16	14
1975	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1976	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1977	72	33	18	25	32	19	15	13
1978	70	31	18	25	34	20	15	13
1979	60	37	19	-	-	-	-	-
1980	57	40	19	-	-	-	-	-
1981	55	36	17	25	33	17	13	11

- Data not available or could not be utilized.

¹ Data for 1967 to 1974 obtained from unpublished data about entering parolees gathered under the Uniform Parole Reports Program. Data for 1975 to 1980 obtained from unpublished National Prisoner Statistics information. Data for all other

● Public-order offenders (such as gamblers, weapons violators, etc.) served a median term of 10 months in prison, the shortest of all the offense groups. One of every 3.4 offenders served 6 months or less, and more than 85% served 2 years or less.

Table 5 indicates the median time served for all first releases for reporting jurisdictions and the percentage of releases classified as violent. Generally, the shortest median terms (10 months each) were found for Alabama, Kentucky, and North Dakota. By contrast, the longest median terms were served by prisoners released from the District of Columbia (40 months), Hawaii (33 months), New Mexico (24 months), and Massachusetts and New York (22 months each).

Time served for specific offenses is described in table 8, which shows that for robbery the range was from 14 to 53 months; burglary, 7 to 44 months; and larceny, 5 to 33 months. The seemingly wide ranges for similar offenses may be

years obtained from published National Prisoner Statistics reports.
² First release defined in Time Served, p. 6.
³ The percentage of conditional and unconditional releases exiting prison by a discretionary parole board decision (obtained from National Prisoner Statistics).

accounted for, in part, by differences in the offender composition—jurisdictions with higher proportions of recidivists among their releases would presumably require more time to be served.

Table 12 shows the median time served, for selected years, for first releases between 1926 and 1981. Generally (excluding the years during World War II when the number of offenders declined and sentences and time served increased), median prison terms for all offenses have ranged between 17 and 21 months. The years between 1933 and 1936 reflected the same median time served for all offenses as in 1981.

By offense, time served for robbery is about 6 months shorter in 1981 than in 1926 and about 9 months shorter than in 1960. By contrast, the median prison stay for rape in 1981 was about 9 months longer than in 1926 and 3 months longer than in 1960. Time served for aggravated assault, which had a median of 17 months in 1981, was also 17 months in 1926 and 20 months in 1960. Time served for burglary in 1981, however, was about 7 months less than the 20-month medians reported in 1926 and 1960. Larceny showed median terms of 17 months in 1926 and 1960 and 11 months in 1981.

Table 13 indicates, for selected States, changes in median time served over the 30 years between 1951 and 1981. Some jurisdictions may show rather striking changes from earlier years, perhaps reflecting changes in sentencing and release policies as well as the effects of court orders relating to prison crowding.

Another facet of the time-served discussion is illustrated in tables 3 and 5. The percentage of the maximum sentence served shows how sentence length and time served relate to one another. Overall, offenders released in 1981 served about 36% of their maximum sentences (table 3). The fraction of a sentence served varies by offense, with robbers and rapists serving the highest proportion (44% and 42%, respectively) and murder/manslaughter offenders and auto thieves the lowest (31% and 30%, respectively).

Table 5 shows that two determinate sentencing states, Maine and California, had the highest proportion of maximum sentence served (61% and 59%, respectively), while Massachusetts and Ohio had the lowest (12% and 14%, respectively). Over the years for which

⁷In Georgia, more than 2,800 offenders had their sentences commuted and were released early because of a court order relating to prison overcrowding.

Table 13. Trends in median time served (months) for selected years and for selected States¹

State	1951	1954	1957	1960	1981
U.S. total	21	21	21	21	17
Alabama	19	18	18	17	10
California	30	28	27	27	18
Delaware	10	15	12	15	11
Dist. of Columbia	25	27	31	34	40
Georgia	22	20	19	22	12
Hawaii	-	-	-	32	33
Iowa	24	24	24	24	18
Kentucky	18	18	18	19	10
Louisiana	17	20	18	19	21
Maine	10	11	10	11	21
Massachusetts	30	29	18	17	22
Mississippi	22	30	24	23	12
Missouri	16	16	16	17	15
Montana	12	15	10	11	11
Nebraska	18	17	18	17	15
Nevada	16	17	18	17	15
New Hampshire	16	16	16	12	11
New Jersey	20	19	19	-	11
New Mexico	12	11	18	23	24
New York	31	27	30	29	22
North Carolina	28	25	17	17	14
North Dakota	12	13	16	15	10
Ohio	24	25	24	23	16
Pennsylvania	31	36	30	31	18
Rhode Island	19	21	23	22	18
South Dakota	12	10	10	11	14
Tennessee	24	24	24	20	18
Texas	16	16	20	20	17
Utah	21	29	27	24	18
West Virginia	34	36	28	27	16
Wisconsin	16	15	14	15	20

- Data not available or could not be utilized.

¹Data for 1951 to 1960 obtained from Characteristics of State Prisoners, 1960, published by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

data are available, the percentage of maximum sentence served has generally ranged between 31% and 42% (table 12).

In table 12, it is interesting to note that the rate of parole use (percentage of conditional and unconditional releases exiting prison by a parole board decision) retreated to its historical levels of 55% to 57% of releases during 1980 and 1981 compared to 72% in 1977. Accompanying the decline in parole use was an increase in the percentage of sentence served but relative stability in the median time served. This suggests that the movement toward more fixed sentences has had substantial impact on the use of parole and some impact on the length of sentences, while time served has remained fairly constant.

The effects of these changes have probably been greatest on the probability of entering prison. Table 4 shows that the court commitment rate increased consistently (from 7.2 per 10,000 adults to 9 per 10,000 adults) between 1978 and 1981. By 1981, it appears that the chance of entering prison was increasing, the sentence imposed was slightly shorter (as a result of fixed and mandatory sentences), the

Table 14. Persons admitted under a life sentence,¹ by offense, 1981

Offense	Number	Percent
All offenses	1,996	100.0%
Murder	1,263	63.3
Manslaughter	8	0.4
Rape	102	5.1
Other sex assault	23	1.2
Robbery	189	9.5
Assault	13	0.7
Other violent	61	3.1
Burglary	20	1.0
Forgery, fraud, embezzlement	1	*
Larceny	4	0.2
Other property	2	0.1
Drugs	288	14.4
Public order	19	1.0
Other	3	0.2

¹California excluded because of inability to identify life sentence codes from available data.

* Less than 0.1%.

probability of exiting prison by a parole board decision was decreasing, and actual time served changed little compared to previous years.

Life sentences (tables 14 and 15). Sentences to life imprisonment are interesting to examine because they are generally the most severe sanction available (death sentences are rarely imposed and highly likely to be modified to a life sentence).⁸ In 1981, jurisdictions (excluding California) reported that 1,996 offenders were admitted with a life sentence and 1,165 were released from prison after having served time on a life sentence. Of the 1,165 releases, 844 were first releases (time served data was available for 840 of these).

Table 14 shows that most life sentence admissions were for murder (63.3%); however, a significant proportion were imposed for drug offenses (14.4%). Overall, more than 92% of those admitted with life sentences were convicted of murder, rape, robbery, or drug offenses.

Table 15 indicates that the median term served by first releases with a life sentence was 51 months or about 4.25 years. Although this appears surprising, given the offense composition of those with life sentences and the time typically served by similar offenders without a life sentence, it is not wholly unexpected. Table 11 shows that the median time served for murder is 63 months, for rape 33 months, for robbery 25 months, and for drug offenses 13 months. Given the estimated offense composition of released prisoners

⁸Capital Punishment, 1981 shows that 65% of releases from death row in that year resulted from resentencing or commutation and 1% resulted from executions.

Table 15. Distribution of time served for first releases with life sentences

Number	Time served (months)									
	12 or less	13-24	25-36	37-48	49-60	61-84	85-108	109-120	Over 120	Median
840	57	103	171	72	67	94	89	32	155	51*
Cumulative percent	6.8%	19.1	39.4	48.0	56.0	67.1	77.7	81.5	100.0%	-

*Assuming that those released from prison with a life sentence reflect roughly the same composition as those admitted with life sentences (see table 14), a median time served can be predicted that is quite close to 51 months. That is, more than 92% of those entering prison with a life sentence were sentenced for murder, rape, robbery, or drug offenses. The 840 releases are estimated to distribute approximately as follows:

Murder	576	=	36,288
Rape	46	=	1,518
Robbery	87	=	2,175
Drugs	131	=	1,703
		=	41,684 / 840
		=	50 months

This suggests that time served on a life sentence closely approximates the time served on a typical sentence of years or months for the same offense.

serving life sentences, the estimated median length of stay would be 50 months. Table 11 also shows that two-thirds of those convicted for murder stayed in prison 7 years or less; table 15 indicates that two-thirds of those with life sentences served a prison term of 7 years or less.

These data suggest that there is probably, in reality, little difference between a sentence to life imprisonment and a maximum sentence of years or months. Generally, it can be expected that the time served will be approximately the same, depending upon the offense.

Limitations of the data

States vary enormously in their ability to provide detailed information on prisoner movements. This is partly because the mechanisms by which offenders enter and depart prison, as well as their eligibility to be imprisoned, differ among States. Seven jurisdictions operate combined jail and prison systems.⁹ A number of States do not distinguish those physically held in their custody from those who are subject to their jurisdiction.¹⁰ In addition, States differ on the minimum sentence length for which prison may be imposed. In most States, jails, houses of correction, or other locally operated facilities are principally used when sentences are less than 12 months. Finally, laws and administrative procedures are in constant flux, resulting in year-to-year as well as jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction differences in the offense mix of entering prisoners and the manner in which time

⁹The seven jurisdictions are Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Vermont, Alaska, and Hawaii.

¹⁰States may include or exclude from their data those prisoners held in other States, local jails, or Federal institutions.

served on a particular sentence is determined.

All States and the District of Columbia were asked to provide detailed information on each prisoner received and released during 1981 with a maximum sentence exceeding 1 year. Aggregate information received indicated that there were approximately 183,000 admissions from courts or admissions of conditional release violators from the 51 jurisdictions.¹¹ These jurisdictions also reported more than 142,000 conditional and unconditional releases during 1981.¹² Offender-specific information on admissions was submitted by 33 jurisdictions covering 121,211 admissions or about two-thirds of the estimated admissions nationally. For releases, 33 jurisdictions reported offender-specific information on 101,943 offenders or about 72% of the estimated releases nationally.

In the interest of as much uniformity as possible, only those admissions and releases with sentences greater than 12 months were analyzed. In addition, only those releases originally received as new commitments from courts and experiencing their first prison release on a sentence (referred to as first releases) were analyzed to derive time served data. Finally, each State's offense listing was recoded into 83 uniform categories using, to the maximum extent possible, Federal Bureau of Investigation offense coding procedures for the Uniform Crime Re-

¹¹There were 149,186 admissions from courts and 33,965 admissions of conditional release violators (table 12, Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1981).

¹²There were 117,984 conditional releases and 24,505 unconditional releases (table 12, Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1981).

ports. As a result, those offenses involving an attempt or a conspiracy to commit are categorized as completed offenses (for example, attempted robbery was coded as robbery).

Because of the need to present national data uniformly, the uniqueness of each State's sentencing and releasing processes may be obscured. This may affect the interpretation of a particular State's data. It is impossible to know, as well, how missing jurisdictions and missing cases within reporting jurisdictions might have affected the analyses conducted. For these reasons, readers should exercise extreme caution in comparing States and in using the national estimates. The data do not represent a scientifically derived sample. However, the large number of offenders for whom substantial data are available make this study an important resource for improving understanding of sanctioning.

Bureau of Statistics Special Reports are prepared principally by BJS staff and edited by Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, deputy director for data analysis. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administers their production, assisted by Millie J. Baldea, Betty J. Sherman, and Joyce M. Stanford. This report was written by Lawrence A. Greenfeld and Stephanie Minor-Harper. Data tabulations were provided by Robert Tinari, Susan Schechter-Ryan, Gertrude Odom, and other staff of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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