



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

January 1997, NCJ-162843

# Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1996

By Darrell K. Gilliard and  
Allen J. Beck, Ph.D.  
BJS Statisticians

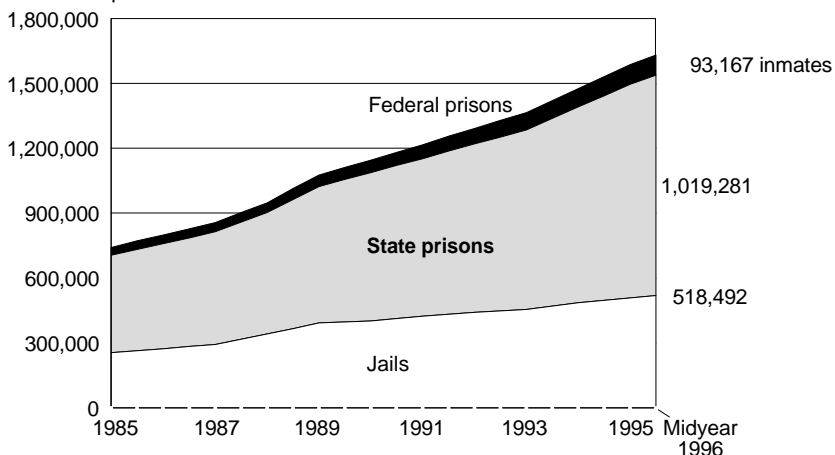
At midyear 1996 an estimated 1,630,940 persons were incarcerated in the Nation's prisons and jails. Federal and State prison authorities and local jail authorities held in their custody 615 persons per 100,000 U.S. residents. Prisoners in the custody of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government accounted for two-thirds of the incarcerated population (1,112,448 inmates). The other third were held in local jails (518,492).

On June 30, 1996, 1,164,356 prisoners were under Federal or State jurisdiction (includes prisoners in custody and persons under the legal authority of a prison system but who are held outside its facilities). The total increased 5.3% from midyear 1995. The States and the District of Columbia added 54,549 prisoners; the Federal system, 4,256.

Local jail authorities held or supervised an estimated 591,469 offenders. Twelve percent of these offenders (72,977) were supervised outside jail facilities in programs such as community service, work release, weekend reporting, electronic monitoring, and other alternative programs.

## Highlights

Number of persons held



### Prisons —

- Between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 1996, the Nation's prison population grew by 5.3%, less than the average annual growth of 7.7% since 1990.

- Four States had 12-month growth rates of more than 14.0% — Nebraska, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon. The District of Columbia (down 6.9%), New Hampshire (-0.7%), and Connecticut (-0.2%) recorded declines.

- At midyear 1996 there were an estimated 420 prison inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents — up from 292 at yearend 1990.

### Jails —

- On June 28, 1996, an estimated 518,492 inmates were held in the Nation's local jails, up from 507,044 at midyear 1995.

- The 12-month increase of 2.3% in the jail population was significantly below the average annual increase of 4.2% since 1990.

- In 1996 jails reported their lowest occupancy rates in 12 years. At midyear, jails were operating at 8% below their rated capacity (562,020).

- Since 1990 the number of jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents has risen from 163 to 196.

**Table 1. Number of persons held in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1985, 1990-96**

Year	Total inmates in custody	Prisoners in custody		Inmates held in local jails	Incarceration rate
		Federal	State		
1985	744,208	35,781	451,812	256,615	313
1990	1,148,702	58,838	684,544	405,320	461
1991	1,219,014	63,930	728,605	426,479	483
1992	1,295,150	72,071	778,495	444,584	508
1993	1,369,185	80,815	828,566	459,804	531
1994	1,476,621	85,500	904,647	486,474	567
1995					
June 30	1,561,836	89,334	965,458	507,044	594
December 31	--	89,538	989,007	--	--
1996					
June 30	1,630,940	93,167	1,019,281	518,492	615
Percent change, 6/30/95 - 6/30/96	4.4%	4.3%	5.6%	2.3%	
Annual average increase, 12/31/85 - 6/30/96	7.8%	9.5%	8.1%	6.9%	
12/31/90 - 6/30/96	6.6%	8.7%	7.5%	4.6%	

Note: Jail counts are for midyear (June 30). Counts for 1994-96 exclude persons who were supervised outside of a jail facility. State and Federal prisoner counts for 1985 and 1990-94 are for December 31.  
 --Not available.  
 \*Total of persons in custody per 100,000 residents on July 1 of each reference year.

**Over 1.6 million inmates were held in the Nation's prisons and local jails**

At midyear 1996 an estimated 1,112,448 inmates were in the custody of State and Federal prison authorities, and 518,492 inmates were in the custody of local jail authorities. These data were collected in the 1996 National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program and the 1996 Annual Survey of Jails.

The total incarcerated population increased 4.4% from 12 months prior (table 1). Since midyear 1995 the number of inmates in State and Federal prisons increased 5.5%, and the number held in local jails increased 2.3%.

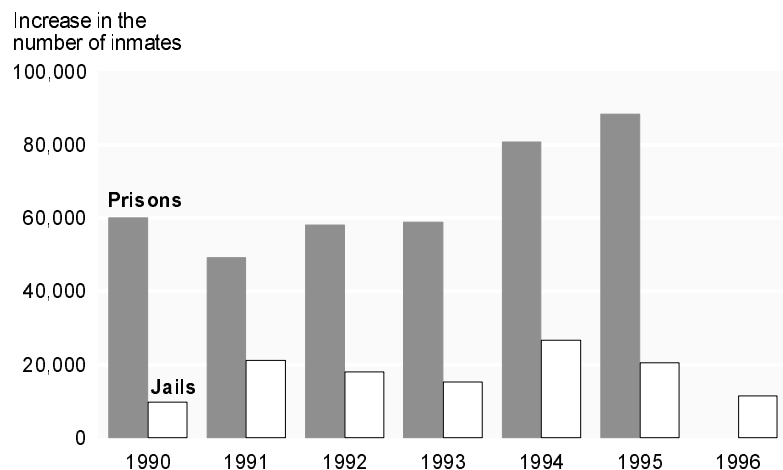
Between yearend 1985 and midyear 1996, the incarcerated population has grown on average 7.8% annually. During this period the Federal and State prison populations and the local jail population have grown at an average annual rate of 9.5%, 8.1%, and 6.9%, respectively.

In the previous 12 months the number of inmates in the Nation's prisons and jails rose an estimated 69,104 inmates or 1,329 inmates per week. Since 1990 the total custody population has risen more than 482,200 inmates, the equivalent of 1,686 inmates per week.

Relative to the number of U.S. residents, the rate of incarceration in 1996 was 615 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents — up from 461 per 100,000 in 1990. At midyear 1996, 1 in every 163 U.S. residents were incarcerated.

In every year since 1990 the State and Federal prison population has grown faster than the local jail population (figure 1). At midyear 1996 the Nation's jails held 32% of all inmates in custody, down from 35% in 1990.

**Growth in the number of inmates held in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1990-96**



Note: Annual increases in prisoners are based on custody counts for each calendar year. Increases in jail inmates are based on the 12-month period ending June 30 of each reference year.

Figure 1

## The number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction rose 5.3%

Between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 1996, the number of inmates under State jurisdiction grew by 5.4% and the number under Federal jurisdiction by 4.3% (table 2). Compared to the previous 12-month period ending June 30, 1995, the growth rates declined, down from 9.2% among State inmates and 6.1% for Federal inmates.

In absolute numbers, the total increase of 58,805 prison inmates between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 1996, was appreciably smaller than the increase of 90,881 recorded in the previous 12-month period and below the annual average growth (66,745) during the previous 5 years.

Annual increase in the number of prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction July 1 - June 30

1995-96	58,805
1994-95	90,881
1993-94	72,854
1992-93	69,525
1991-92	51,020
1990-91	49,446

Average growth, 1990-95	66,745
-------------------------	--------

Thirty-nine percent of the growth in the prison populations during the 12 months ending June 30, 1996, was accounted for by California (10,954), the Federal system (4,256), Pennsylvania (4,095), and North Carolina (3,853). During this 12-month period, the total prison population increased at least 10% in 13 States. Nebraska reported the largest increase (16.0%), followed by Montana (15.2%), North Carolina (14.4%), Oregon (14.1%), Wisconsin (13.9%), and Pennsylvania (13.7%).

Two States and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in their prison population. The District of Columbia had the largest decline, -6.9%; followed by New Hampshire, -0.7%, and Connecticut, -0.2%.

**Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by region and jurisdiction, June 30 and December 31, 1995, and June 30, 1996**

Region and jurisdiction	Total			Percent change from —		Prison incarceration rate, 6/30/96 <sup>a</sup>
	6/30/96	12/31/95	6/30/95	6/30/95 to 6/30/96	12/31/95 to 6/30/96	
<b>U.S. total</b>	1,164,356	1,126,073	1,105,551	5.3%	3.4%	420
Federal	103,722	100,250	99,466	4.3%	3.5%	33
State	1,060,634	1,025,823	1,006,085	5.4	3.4	388
<b>Northeast</b>	165,224	161,837	158,184	4.5%	2.1%	306
Connecticut <sup>b</sup>	14,975	14,801	15,005	(0.2)	1.2	319
Maine	1,468	1,396	1,459	0.6	5.2	112
Massachusetts	11,996	11,687	11,469	4.6	2.6	178
New Hampshire	2,050	2,014	2,065	(0.7)	1.8	177
New Jersey	27,753	27,066	25,626	8.3	2.5	347
New York	68,721	68,489	68,526	0.3	0.3	379
Pennsylvania	33,939	32,410	29,844	13.7	4.7	281
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	3,226	2,902	3,132	3.0	11.2	198
Vermont <sup>b,c</sup>	1,096	1,072	1,058	3.6	2.2	143
<b>Midwest</b>	199,414	193,220	190,573	4.6%	3.2%	318
Illinois <sup>c,d</sup>	38,373	37,658	37,790	1.5	1.9	322
Indiana	16,582	16,125	15,699	5.6	2.8	281
Iowa <sup>e</sup>	6,176	5,906	5,692	8.5	4.6	216
Kansas	7,462	7,054	6,927	7.7	5.8	289
Michigan <sup>c</sup>	41,884	41,112	41,377	1.2	1.9	436
Minnesota	5,040	4,846	4,764	5.8	4.0	108
Missouri	20,541	19,134	18,940	8.5	7.4	383
Nebraska	3,248	3,074	2,801	16.0	5.7	193
North Dakota	640	608	610	4.9	5.3	90
Ohio <sup>d</sup>	45,314	44,663	43,521	4.1	1.5	405
South Dakota	2,049	1,841	1,820	12.6	11.3	279
Wisconsin	12,105	11,199	10,632	13.9	8.1	209
<b>South</b>	467,900	454,182	446,755	4.7%	3.0%	487
Alabama	21,495	20,718	20,082	7.0	3.8	487
Arkansas	9,430	9,411	9,081	3.8	0.2	357
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	5,148	4,802	4,651	10.7	7.2	425
District of Col. <sup>b</sup>	9,763	9,800	10,484	(6.9)	(0.4)	1,444
Florida <sup>c</sup>	64,332	63,879	61,992	3.8	0.7	448
Georgia <sup>c</sup>	34,808	34,266	34,111	2.0	1.6	468
Kentucky	12,652	12,060	11,949	5.9	4.9	325
Louisiana	26,673	25,195	24,840	7.4	5.9	611
Maryland	22,118	21,453	21,441	3.2	3.1	413
Mississippi	13,785	12,684	12,446	10.8	8.7	486
North Carolina	30,671	29,253	26,818	14.4	4.8	397
Oklahoma <sup>d</sup>	19,134	18,151	17,605	8.7	5.4	580
South Carolina	20,814	19,611	19,482	6.8	6.1	540
Tennessee	15,634	15,206	14,933	4.7	2.8	293
Texas	129,937	127,766	127,092	2.2	1.7	659
Virginia	28,827	27,415	27,310	5.6	5.2	421
West Virginia	2,679	2,512	2,438	9.9	6.6	144
<b>West</b>	228,096	216,584	210,573	8.3%	5.3%	375
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	3,583	3,522	3,237	10.7	1.7	355
Arizona <sup>c</sup>	22,143	21,341	20,907	5.9	3.8	481
California	142,814	135,646	131,860	8.3	5.3	438
Colorado <sup>d</sup>	11,742	11,063	10,757	9.2	6.1	306
Hawaii <sup>b</sup>	3,693	3,560	3,583	3.1	3.7	225
Idaho	3,623	3,328	3,240	11.8	8.9	304
Montana	2,182	1,992	1,894	15.2	9.5	247
Nevada	8,064	7,713	7,487	7.7	4.6	493
New Mexico	4,528	4,078	4,121	9.9	11.0	253
Oregon	8,564	7,886	7,505	14.1	8.6	221
Utah	3,643	3,452	3,272	11.3	5.5	182
Washington	12,059	11,608	11,402	5.8	3.9	218
Wyoming	1,458	1,395	1,308	11.5	4.5	301

( ) Indicates a negative percent change.

<sup>a</sup>The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 in the resident population.

<sup>b</sup>Prison and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison population.

<sup>c</sup>Population figures are based on custody counts.

<sup>d</sup>Population counts for inmates sentenced to "more than 1 year" include an undetermined number of inmates sentenced to "1 year or less."

## Rates of prison incarceration rise

The incarceration rate of State and Federal prisoners sentenced to more than a year reached 420 per 100,000 U.S. residents on June 30, 1996. Texas had the highest rate of incarceration (659 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 State residents), followed by Louisiana (611 per 100,000), Oklahoma (580), and South Carolina (540). Three States — North Dakota (90), Minnesota (108), and Maine (112) — had rates that were less than a third of the national rate (table 3). The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, held 1,444 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents at midyear 1996.

Since 1990 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen by more than 40%, increasing from 292 to 420. During this period prison incarceration rates rose the most in the South (from 316 to 487)

and West (from 277 to 375). The rate in the Northeast rose from 232 to 306, and the rate in the Midwest from 239 to 318. The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents increased from 20 to 33 over the same period.

## Female prisoner population grew at faster pace

During the 12 months ending June 30, 1996, the number of women under the jurisdiction of State and Federal prison authorities grew from 69,161 to 73,607, an increase of 6.4% (table 4). The number of men rose 5.2%, from 1,036,390 to 1,090,749. At midyear 1996 women accounted for 6.3% of all prisoners nationwide, up from 4.1% in 1980 and 5.7% in 1990.

Relative to the number of men and women in the U.S. resident population, the incarceration rate was more than 16 times higher for men than for

women. On June 30, 1996, the rate for inmates serving a sentence of more than a year was 809 sentenced males per 100,000 U.S. male residents, compared to 50 females per 100,000 female residents.

**Table 4. Number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by sex of inmate, 6/30/95 and 6/30/96**

	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>		
6/30/96	1,090,749	73,607
6/30/95	1,036,390	69,161
Percent change	5.2%	6.4%
<b>Sentenced to more than 1 year</b>		
6/30/96	1,047,488	67,351
6/30/95	997,666	63,804
Percent change	5.0%	5.6%
<b>Prison incarceration rate, 6/30/96*</b>	809	50

\*The total number of male and female prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year in the United States per 100,000 males and females in the resident population.

**Table 3. The prison situation in the United States, June 30, 1996**

Prison population	Number of inmates	Rates of prison incarceration	Prisoners per 100,000 residents*	12-month growth, 6/30/95 to 6/30/96	Percent change	Female prison population	Number of female inmates
<b>10 highest:</b>							
California	142,814	Texas	659	Nebraska	16.0%	California	9,807
Texas	129,937	Louisiana	611	Montana	15.2	Texas	9,580
Federal system	103,722	Oklahoma	580	North Carolina	14.4	Federal system	7,614
New York	68,721	South Carolina	540	Oregon	14.1	New York	3,668
Florida	64,332	Nevada	493	Wisconsin	13.9	Florida	3,551
Ohio	45,314	Alabama	487	Pennsylvania	13.7	Ohio	2,844
Michigan	41,884	Mississippi	486	South Dakota	12.6	Illinois	2,218
Illinois	38,373	Arizona	481	Idaho	11.8	Georgia	2,191
Georgia	34,808	Georgia	468	Wyoming	11.5	Oklahoma	1,898
Pennsylvania	33,939	Florida	448	Utah	11.3	Michigan	1,897
<b>10 lowest:</b>							
North Dakota	640	North Dakota	90	District of Columbia	(6.9)	North Dakota	33
Vermont	1,096	Minnesota	108	New Hampshire	(0.7)	Vermont	40
Wyoming	1,458	Maine	112	Connecticut	(0.2)	Maine	45
Maine	1,468	Vermont	143	New York	0.3	New Hampshire	97
South Dakota	2,049	West Virginia	144	Maine	0.6	Wyoming	110
New Hampshire	2,050	New Hampshire	177	Michigan	1.2	South Dakota	137
Montana	2,182	Massachusetts	178	Illinois	1.5	Montana	138
West Virginia	2,679	Utah	182	Georgia	2.0	West Virginia	159
Rhode Island	3,226	Nebraska	193	Texas	2.2	Utah	213
Nebraska	3,248	Rhode Island	198	Rhode Island	3.0	Nebraska	219

( ) Indicates a negative percent change.

\*The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 in the resident population.

## At midyear the Nation's jails supervised 591,469 offenders

On June 28, 1996, an estimated 591,469 offenders were held in or supervised by the Nation's local jails (table 5). Jail authorities supervised 12% of these offenders (72,977) in alternative programs outside the jail facilities. An estimated 518,492 offenders were housed in local jails.

As defined in this report, jails are locally-operated correctional facilities that confine persons before or after adjudication. Inmates sentenced to jail usually have a sentence of a year or less, but jails also incarcerate persons

**Table 5. Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status and type of program, midyear 1995-96**

Type of supervision	Number of persons under jail supervision	
	1996	1995
<b>Total</b>	591,469	541,913
Held in jail	518,492	507,044
Supervised outside of a jail facility <sup>a</sup>	72,977	34,869
Electronic monitoring	7,480	6,788
Home detention <sup>b</sup>	907	1,376
Day reporting	3,298	1,283
Community service	17,410	10,253
Weekender program	16,336	1,909
Other pretrial supervision	2,135	3,229
Other work programs <sup>c</sup>	14,469	9,144
Treatment programs <sup>d</sup>	10,425	--
Other	517	887

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons supervised by a probation or parole agency.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only those without electronic monitoring.

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons in work release programs, work gangs/crews, and other work alternative programs administered by the jail jurisdiction.

<sup>d</sup>Includes persons under drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment.

in a wide variety of other categories. (See box below.)

For the first time in 1995 the Annual Survey of Jails obtained counts of the number of offenders under community supervision. Respondents were asked if their jail jurisdiction operated any community-based programs and how many persons participated in them. Offenders under the supervision of a probation, parole, or other correctional agency were excluded from these counts. Because jail authorities reported offenders in treatment pro-

### Jails —

- receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing
- readmit probation, parole, and bail-bond violators and absconders
- temporarily detain juveniles pending transfer to juvenile authorities
- hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate health facilities
- hold individuals for the military, for protective custody, for contempt, and for the courts as witnesses
- release convicted inmates to the community upon completion of sentence
- transfer inmates to Federal, State, or other authorities
- house inmates for Federal, State, or other authorities because of crowding of their facilities
- relinquish custody of temporary detainees to juvenile and medical authorities
- sometimes operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration.
- hold inmates sentenced to short terms (generally under one year)

grams administered by the jail jurisdiction in 1996, it is difficult to compare totals with those in 1995. (See *Methodology*, page 9.)

Among persons under community supervision by jail staff in 1996, slightly less than half were required to perform community service (17,410) or to participate in an alternative work program (14,469). More than a fifth were in a weekend reporting program (16,336). An estimated 10,425 offenders under jail supervision were in a drug, alcohol, mental health, or other medical treatment program. Another 7,480 offenders were under home detention with electronic monitoring.

### Jail population grew 2.3% during 12-month period

Between July 1, 1995, and June 28, 1996, the number of persons held in local jail facilities grew 2.3% — from 507,044 to 518,492. The 12-month increase was much lower than the 4.2% increase in the previous 12-month period ending June 30, 1995, and about a third the annual average since 1985.

12-month period	Percent increase <sup>*</sup>
1995-96	2.3%
1994-95	4.2
1993-94	6.7
1992-93	3.4
1991-92	4.2
1990-91	5.2
1989-90	2.5%
1988-89	15.1
1987-88	16.1
1986-87	7.8
1985-86	6.9
Annual average, 1990-96	4.2%
1985-96	6.6

<sup>\*</sup>Percent increases before 1995 are based on inmate counts that include a small but unknown number of offenders under community supervision.

**Table 6. Average daily population and the number of men, women, and juveniles in local jails, midyear 1985, 1990-96**

	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Average daily population<sup>a</sup></b>	265,010	408,075	422,609	441,889	466,155	479,757	509,828	515,432
<b>Number of inmates, midyear<sup>b</sup></b>	256,615	405,320	426,479	444,584	459,804	486,474	507,044	518,492
Adults	254,986	403,019	424,129	441,780	455,500	479,800	499,300	510,400
Male	235,909	365,821	384,628	401,106	411,500	431,300	448,000	454,700
Female	19,077	37,198	39,501	40,674	44,100	48,500	51,300	55,700
Juveniles <sup>c</sup>	1,629	2,301	2,350	2,804	4,300	6,700	7,800	8,100
Held as adults <sup>d</sup>	--	--	--	--	3,300	5,100	5,900	5,700
Held as juveniles	1,629	2,301	2,350	2,804	1,000	1,600	1,800	2,400

Notes: Data are for June 30 in 1985 and 1992-95; for June 29, 1990; and for June 28 in 1991 and 1996.

Detailed data for 1993-96 were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100. Previously published numbers for 1994 and 1995 have been revised to include only inmates held in jail facilities.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>The average daily population is the sum of the number of inmates in a jail each day for a year, divided by 365.

<sup>b</sup>Inmate counts for 1985 and 1990-93 include an unknown number of persons who were under jail supervision but not confined.

Detailed counts for 1994-96 were estimated based on number of inmates held in jail facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Juveniles are persons defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18, and subject initially to juvenile court authority even if tried as adults in criminal court. In 1994 the definition was changed to include all persons under age 18.

<sup>d</sup>Includes juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

Since 1985 the Nation's jail population has nearly doubled on a per capita basis. During this period the number of jail inmates per 100,000 residents rose from 108 to 196. Including offenders under community supervision by jail authorities, the rate totaled 223 offenders per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 1996.

Year	Jail incarceration rate*
1996	196
1995	193
1994	188
1993	178
1992	174
1991	169
1990	163
1989	160
1988	141
1987	122
1986	114
1985	108

\*Number of jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents on July 1 of each year.

An estimated 8,100 persons under age 18 were housed in adult jails on June 28, 1996 (table 6). Over two-thirds of these young inmates had been convicted or were being held for trial as adults in criminal court. (See *Methodology*, page 9, for changes in the definition of *juvenile*.)

The average daily population for the year ending June 30, 1996, was 515,432, an increase of 1.1% from 1995.

### Characteristics of jail inmates changed little

Male inmates made up 89% of the local jail inmate population at midyear 1996, nearly 3 percentage points lower than at midyear 1985 (table 7). On average, the female jail population has grown 10.2% annually since 1985, while the male inmate population has grown annually by 6.1%. On June 28,

1996, local jails held nearly 1 in every 207 adult men and 1 in 1,828 women.

At midyear 1996 a majority of local jail inmates were black or Hispanic. White non-Hispanics made up 41.6% of the jail population; black non-Hispanics, 41.1%; Hispanics, 15.6%; and other races (Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives), 1.7%.

**Table 7. Sex, race, and Hispanic origin of local jail inmates, midyear 1985, 1990-96**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates							
	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	92.0%	90.8%	90.7%	90.8%	90.4%	90.0%	89.8%	89.2%
Female	8.0	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.2	10.8
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>b</sup></b>								
White, non-Hispanic	--	41.8%	41.1%	40.1%	39.3%	39.1%	40.1%	41.6%
Black, non-Hispanic	--	42.5	43.4	44.1	44.2	43.9	43.5	41.1
Hispanic	--	14.3	14.2	14.5	15.1	15.4	14.7	15.6
Other <sup>c</sup>	--	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.7

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Data for 1996 based on all persons under jail supervision.

<sup>b</sup>Data on race/Hispanic origin were reported for 89.7% of all inmates in 1990, 91.1% in 1991, 97.6% in 1992, 85.1% in 1993, 95.8% in 1994, 97.1% in 1995, and 99.3% in 1996.

<sup>c</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

Relative to their number of U.S. residents, black non-Hispanics were 6 times more likely than white non-Hispanics, over twice as likely as Hispanics, and over 8 times more likely than persons of other races to have been held in a local jail on June 30, 1996.

	Number of jail inmates	
	Estimated count	Per 100,000 residents in each group
Total	518,492	196
White, non-Hispanic	215,700	111
Black, non-Hispanic	213,100	666
Hispanic	80,900	290
Other	8,800	80

Note: Inmate counts were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100.

### About half of all adults under jail supervision were convicted

On June 28, 1996, an estimated 48.8% of all adults under supervision by jail authorities had been convicted on their current charge. An estimated 284,200 of the 582,300 adults under jail supervision were serving a sentence in jail, awaiting sentencing, or serving a sentence in an alternative program outside a jail facility.

	Number of persons under jail supervision at midyear, 1996
Total	582,300
Convicted	284,200
Male	252,800
Female	31,400
Unconvicted	298,100
Male	266,000
Female	32,100

### At midyear 1996, 92% of jail capacity was occupied

At midyear 1996 the rated capacity of the Nation's local jails totaled an estimated 562,020, an increase of 16,257 in 12 months (table 8). Rated capacity

**Table 8. Rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, 1983-96**

Year	Rated capacity <sup>a</sup>	Amount of capacity added <sup>b</sup>	Percent of capacity occupied <sup>c</sup>
1996	562,020	16,257	92%
1995	545,763	41,439	93
1994	504,324	29,100	96%
1993	475,224	26,027	97
1992	449,197	27,960	99
1991	421,237	32,066	101
1990	389,171	21,402	104
1989	367,769	28,136	108%
1988	339,633	38,435	101
1987	301,198	15,472	98
1986	285,726	12,896	96
1985	272,830	11,398	94
1984	261,432	(124)	90%
1983	261,556	--	85

Note: Capacity data for 1984-87, 1989-92, and 1994-96 are survey estimates subject to sampling error. Negative numbers are in parentheses. See the appendix table for sampling errors.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to facilities within each jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup>The number of beds added during the 12 months before June 30 of each year.

<sup>c</sup>The number of inmates divided by the rated capacity times 100. For 1983-93 the ratio may include some inmates under supervision who were not confined in a jail facility. For 1994-96 the ratio includes only those held in jail.

is the maximum number of beds or inmates allocated by State or local rating officials to each jail facility. The growth in jail capacity during the 12-month period ending on June 30, 1996, was smaller than in any previous 12-month period since 1987.

As of June 30, 1996, 92% of the local jail capacity was occupied. As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, the percentage occupied increased considerably after 1983, reaching a record 108% in 1989 and then falling to 92% in 1996. Since 1990 rated capacity has risen nearly 173,000 beds, while the number of inmates held in jail facilities has increased approximately 113,200.

Jail jurisdictions with the largest average daily populations reported the highest occupancy rates. At midyear 1996 occupancy was 96% of rated capacity in jail jurisdictions with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates, compared to 71% in those with fewer than 50 inmates.

Size of jurisdiction*	Percent of capacity occupied
Total	92%
Fewer than 50 inmates	71
50-99	92
100-249	90
250-499	91
500-999	95
1,000 or more	96

\*Based on the average daily population in the year ending June 30, 1996.

**The 25 largest jail jurisdictions housed more than a quarter of all jail inmates**

In 1996 the Nation's 25 largest jail jurisdictions accounted for 27% of all jail inmates. The jurisdictions were in 12 States: 7 in California; 5 in Florida; 4 in Texas; and 1 each in New York, Illinois, Louisiana, Arizona, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, and Wisconsin (table 9).

The 2 jurisdictions with the most inmates, New York City and Los Angeles County, together held more than 38,500 inmates, or 7% of the national total.

Overall, the 25 largest jurisdictions at midyear 1996 held 142,114 inmates — a total virtually unchanged from a year earlier (142,077). A total of 12 jurisdictions reported increases in their populations; 13 reported decreases.

Philadelphia City and Dallas County, Texas, (both up 12%) and New York City (up 10%) reported the largest increases among the 25 largest jail jurisdictions. Three jurisdictions reported declines of more than 10% — Tarrant County, Texas, (down 25%), Harris County, Texas, (-13%), and Baltimore City (-12%).

As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, jails in Orange County, California, had the highest percentage occupied (139%), followed by jails in San Diego County, California, (119%), and Milwaukee (117%). Jail facilities in Tarrant County (69%) and Duval County, Florida, (72%) had the lowest percentage occupied at midyear 1996.

**Table 9. The 25 largest local jail jurisdictions: Number of inmates held, average daily population, and rated capacity, midyear 1994-96**

Jurisdiction	Number of inmates held <sup>a</sup>			Average daily population <sup>b</sup>			Rated capacity <sup>c</sup>			Percent of capacity occupied at midyear <sup>d</sup>		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
New York City, NY	18,171	18,143	19,890	18,091	18,200	18,382	18,696	19,033	20,862	97%	95%	95%
Los Angeles County, CA	20,113	18,236	18,627	19,725	19,896	18,167	13,340	20,049	20,099	151	91	93
Cook County, IL <sup>e</sup>	7,320	8,626	8,713	8,950	10,837	9,169	8,032	9,317	9,617	91	93	91
Harris County, TX	10,716	8,825	7,703	10,282	8,962	7,140	8,698	8,698	8,698	123	101	89
Dade County, FL	6,338	6,653	6,357	6,656	6,728	6,499	6,752	6,604	6,387	94	101	100
Dallas County, TX	9,715	5,721	6,380	9,321	7,151	5,862	6,676	8,629	8,374	146%	66%	76%
Maricopa County, AZ	5,170	5,717	5,679	4,862	5,503	5,542	4,910	4,910	6,252	105	116	91
San Diego County, CA <sup>e</sup>	5,302	6,006	5,549	5,651	5,820	5,522	8,672	5,670	4,653	61	106	119
Orleans Parish, LA	5,351	5,558	5,368	5,231	5,549	5,433	7,174	7,174	7,174	75	77	75
Philadelphia City, PA	4,696	5,076	5,695	4,799	4,968	5,341	5,349	3,750	5,600	88	135	102
Shelby County, TN	5,124	5,247	5,264	4,891	5,091	5,153	6,344	5,512	6,364	81%	95%	83%
Orange County, CA	4,987	5,157	5,326	4,836	5,074	5,143	3,821	3,821	3,821	131	135	139
Santa Clara County, CA	4,303	4,174	4,213	4,103	4,161	4,314	4,088	3,774	3,774	105	111	112
San Bernardino County, CA	3,136	4,025	3,958	3,188	4,100	4,119	3,744	4,930	4,957	84	82	80
Alameda County, CA <sup>e</sup>	3,295	3,838	3,994	3,098	3,903	3,954	3,552	4,063	4,264	93	94	94
Broward County, FL	3,367	3,573	3,528	3,165	3,546	3,470	3,654	3,656	3,656	92%	98%	96%
Orange County, FL <sup>e</sup>	3,355	3,405	3,120	3,162	3,441	3,332	3,329	3,329	3,329	101	102	94
Baltimore City, MD	3,350	3,777	3,309	3,160	3,380	3,300	2,833	2,933	2,933	118	129	113
Sacramento County, CA	2,954	3,125	3,093	2,852	3,094	3,217	2,749	2,749	2,749	107	114	113
Tarrant County, TX	5,317	3,865	2,881	5,167	4,468	2,876	4,996	4,369	4,193	106	88	69
Bexar County, TX	4,301	3,099	3,058	3,882	3,569	2,821	3,640	3,640	3,640	118%	85%	84%
Wayne County, MI	2,499	2,598	2,711	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,545	2,628	2,658	98	99	102
Milwaukee County, WI	2,247	2,491	2,653	2,165	2,501	2,695	1,854	2,274	2,274	121	110	117
Hillsborough County, FL	1,992	2,536	2,661	2,108	2,384	2,679	2,445	2,649	2,757	81	96	97
Duval County, FL <sup>e</sup>	2,744	2,606	2,384	2,383	2,688	2,473	3,300	3,300	3,300	83	79	72

Notes: Jurisdictions are ordered by their average daily population in 1996.

<sup>a</sup>Number of inmates held in jail facilities.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the average daily population for the year ending June 30.

The average daily population is the sum of the number of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

<sup>c</sup>Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to facilities within each jurisdiction.

<sup>d</sup>The number of inmates divided by the rated capacity multiplied by 100.

<sup>e</sup>Previously published numbers for 1994 and 1995 have been revised to include only inmates held in jail facilities.



## Methodology

### National Prisoner Statistics (NPS)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, with the U.S. Bureau of the Census as its collection agent, obtains yearend and midyear counts of prisoners from departments of correction in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In an effort to collect comparable data from all jurisdictions, NPS distinguishes between prisoners in *custody* from those under *jurisdiction*. To have custody of a prisoner, a State must hold that person in one of its facilities. To have jurisdiction, a State has legal authority over the prisoner. Prisoners under a State's jurisdiction may be in the custody of a local jail, another State's prison, or other correctional facility. Some States are unable to provide both custody and jurisdiction counts. (See *National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes*.)

Excluded from NPS counts are persons confined in locally administered confinement facilities who are under the jurisdiction of local authorities. NPS counts include all inmates in State-operated facilities in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have combined jail-prison systems.

### Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ)

In each of the 4 years between the full censuses, a survey of jails is conducted to estimate baseline characteristics of the Nation's jails and the inmates housed in these jails. The 1996 ASJ is the 12th such survey in a series begun in 1982. The reference date for the 1996 survey was June 28.

Based on information from the 1993 Census of Jails, a sample of jail jurisdictions was selected for the 1994-96 surveys. A *jurisdiction* is a county (parish in Louisiana) or municipal government that administers one or more local jails. The sample included all jails in 795 selected jail jurisdictions

and 25 multi-jurisdiction jails. A *multi-jurisdiction jail* is one in which two or more jurisdictions have a formal agreement to operate the facility.

In drawing the sample, jail jurisdictions were first stratified into two groups: single-jurisdiction jails and multi-jurisdiction jails. All of the multi-jurisdiction jails were included in the survey. The remaining jurisdictions were then further stratified into two groups: jurisdictions with jails authorized to hold juveniles and jurisdictions with jails holding adults only. Jurisdictions were then selected based on the average daily population in the 1993 census.

All jails in 204 jurisdictions were automatically included if in 1993 the jurisdiction held juveniles and had an average daily population of 250 or more inmates or if it held only adults and had an average population of 500 or more. The other jurisdictions (591) were then selected based on stratified probability sampling.

Data were obtained by mailed questionnaires. After followup phone calls to nonrespondents, the response rate for the survey was 100%.

### Sampling error

Survey estimates have an associated sampling error because not all jurisdictions were contacted for the survey. Estimates based on the sample survey may differ somewhat from the results of conducting a complete census.

Different samples could yield somewhat different results. *Standard error* is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples, stating the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average of all possible samples. The estimated rela-

tive sampling error for the total number of persons under the *jurisdiction* of jail authorities of 591,469 on June 28, 1996, was 0.80%; for persons held in the *custody* of jail authorities of 518,492, was 0.59%. (See appendix table.)

### Measuring confinement status

For the first time in 1995 the ASJ obtained separate counts of the total number of offenders under jail supervision, those held in jail facilities and those supervised outside jail facilities. Previous surveys and censuses included a small but unknown number of offenders under community supervision. To estimate the percentage change from 1994 to 1995 in the jail population, the 1995 survey included a count of inmates held at midyear 1994.

In the 1996 survey the number of persons supervised outside a jail facility included for the first time persons under drug, alcohol, mental health, or other medical treatment. Comparison with 1995 estimates should exclude these persons.

**Appendix table. Standard error estimates for the Annual Survey of Jails, 1996**

Characteristic	Estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error (percent)
<b>Total number under supervision</b>	591,469	4,740	0.80%
Held in jail	518,492	3,065	0.59
Supervised outside a jail facility	72,977	3,511	4.81
<b>Average daily population</b>	515,432	2,924	0.57%
<b>Rated capacity</b>	562,020	3,932	0.70%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	527,445	4,279	0.81%
Female	64,024	757	1.18
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>			
White non-Hispanic	244,414	4,228	1.73%
Black non-Hispanic	241,252	2,222	0.92
Hispanic	91,662	1,268	1.38
Other <sup>b</sup>	9,749	654	6.71

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of unknown race/Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

## Juveniles

State statutes and judicial practices allow juveniles to be incarcerated in adult jails under a variety of circumstances. Because of the differing statutes and practices, however, accurate and comparable data on juveniles are difficult to collect.

Beginning in 1994 the ASJ provided estimates of the total number of jail inmates under age 18, the number held as adults, and the number held as juveniles. New sampling procedures were also introduced in 1994 to minimize the standard errors of these estimates. By stratifying jurisdictions based on the authority to house juveniles, the precision of the juvenile counts was improved.

### National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes

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

**Arizona** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**California** — Population counts include civil narcotic addict commitments, county diagnostic cases, Federal and other States' inmates, Youth Authority commitments, and safekeepers.

Population counts exclude 1,384 persons held in Youth Authority facilities who are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections.

**Colorado** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an 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 both jail and prison populations.

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

**District of Columbia** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Inmates given partially suspended sentences (part served in prison, part under probation) are included with the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" only if the prison portion of the sentence exceeds 1 year. As a result, the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" populations are understated and the "Inmates with a year or less maximum sentence" are overstated.

**Florida** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Georgia** — Population counts are based on custody data.

Population counts exclude an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails, awaiting pick-up.

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

**Illinois** — 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.

**Iowa** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Maine** — Sentence length classifications are based on the controlling offense. Inmates with multiple sentences are included in the category in which their most serious offense belongs.

**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 totals are actual counts; however, the male/female sentence length breakdowns are estimates believed to be within 0.1% of the actual breakdowns.

By law, offenders may be sentenced to terms of up to 2½ years in locally-operated jails and correctional institutions. Such populations are excluded from the State count but are included in published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions.

Population 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, and subsequently released.

Counts include an estimated 63 inmates housed in Massachusetts Department of Correction facilities on behalf of other States (59) or Federal authorities (4).

The unsentenced inmate custody count includes inmates awaiting trial and civil commitments housed in State facilities.

The unsentenced inmate jurisdiction count includes inmates housed in State facilities awaiting trial and civil commitments and 171 males awaiting trial for the State housed in county facilities.

The unsentenced inmate jurisdiction count includes inmates housed in local jails because of overcrowding. These types of inmates were excluded in 1995.

**Michigan** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Montana** — The jurisdiction count includes 200 males and 3 females being held in county jails because of overcrowding.

**New Jersey** — New Jersey reported no inmates with sentences of less than 1 year because its Department of Corrections has no jurisdiction over these types of inmates. Counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence(s) include inmates with a sentence of exactly 1 year.

**North Carolina** — Inmates given partially suspended sentences (part served in prison, part under probation) are included with the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" only if the prison portion of the sentence exceeds 1 year. As a result, the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" populations are understated and the "Inmates with a year or less maximum sentence" are overstated.

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

**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 or less.

**Oregon** — Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less includes a few inmates whose complete sentence information has not been received from the courts.

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

Inmates given partially suspended sentences (part served in prison, part under probation) are included with the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" only if the prison portion of the sentence exceeds 1 year. As a result, the "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" populations are understated and the "Inmates with a year or less maximum sentence" are overstated.

Included in the counts for unsentenced inmates are 14 males and 1 female who have civil commitments for nonpayment of child support.

**Tennessee** — Population counts exclude 3,281 felons sentenced to serve their time in local jails. The State pays to house these 3,281 felons, but the local court maintains jurisdiction.

**Texas** — Counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence and inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less do not match counts reported on the 1995 NPS-1 because of an inability to separate these populations for inflow and outflow distributions.

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

Population counts are based on custody data.

June 30, 1996, data are estimated using the proportions in the December 31, 1995, data.

The Vermont Department of Corrections has recently undergone an extensive restructuring. They have initiated two types of supervisory units. The first is the "Correctional Reporative Services Unit" (CRSU) that monitors offenders sentenced to a community restitution in lieu of incarceration. This CRSU supervises mostly low risk populations with nonviolent crimes which may be felonies or misdemeanors. The other unit is the "Community Corrections Service Center." This unit supervises offenders who are under "Supervised Community Sentence" or "Pre-approved Furlough."

The numbers presented in these tables represent only offenders who are incarcerated in the Vermont Department of Corrections.

**Virginia** — Inmates with sentences of 1 year or less will increase because of the abolition of parole for crimes committed on January 1, 1995, or more recently and the concurrent imposition of sentencing guidelines. New sentencing guidelines are based on time served previously rather than actual sentence given previously, hence the new law sentences are most likely to be less than old law sentences.

**Wisconsin** — Wisconsin could not determine the sentence length for inmates included in the unsentenced category. It is probable that these inmates have sentences of at least a year and a day. The jurisdiction totals do not include 1,304 men and 229 women under the supervision of the Division of Intensive Sanctions in the community.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as the National Prisoner Statistics Program and the Annual Survey of Jails. State, local, and Federal corrections officials have cooperated in reporting the data presented.

Allen J. Beck, Ph.D., and Darrell K. Gilliard wrote this report. Chris Mumola provided statistical review. Tom Hester edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Yvonne Boston, administered final production.

Data collection and processing for the National Prisoner Statistics program were carried out by Laarni Verdolin under the supervision of Gertrude Odom and Kathleen Creighton, Demographic Surveys Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Data collection and processing for the Annual Survey of Jails were carried out by Lisa McNelis, with assistance from Pamela Butler, Martha Haselbush, Henrietta Herrin, Martha Greene, and Charline Watz, under the supervision of Alan Stevens, Governments Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

January 1997, NCJ-162843

Data from the Annual Survey of Jails 1996 (ICPSR 6856) may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The report and NPS data are available on the Internet:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>