



Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Prisoners at Midyear 1983

During the 6 months ending June 30, 1983, the U.S. prison population grew by 4.2%, reaching a total of 431,829. The increase was the lowest recorded for a 6-month period since quarterly collection began in 1981 (see figure 1). During the second quarter (April through June), the increase slowed to 1.5%, compared to 2.7% in the first quarter (January through March). Both first and second quarter increases were lower than for the comparable periods in 1982 (see table 1).

The aggregate growth pattern masked differing trends at the State and Federal levels. In the Federal system, increases in population have occurred since the end of 1980, following 3 years of decline. The growth was spurred in part by the inclusion in Federal counts of some 2,000 refugees held under the jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. State prison population growth has been high since the mid-1970s, reaching record levels in 1981 and 1982, but it appeared to slow somewhat during the first half of 1983. As a result, the Federal system grew about twice as fast as the combined State systems (8.3% v. 3.9%) so far this year (see table 2).

This midyear report on prison population is the 28th Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin. When the first bulletin was published in 1981, my predecessor invited readers to comment on the bulletins and to suggest topics to be treated. I wish to renew that invitation and add that any other suggestions for improving the usefulness of the bulletins are also welcome.

October 1983

Prison population statistics are collected for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the Bureau of the Census through the National Prisoner Statistics program. This program is made possible by the continuing cooperation of correctional officials in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

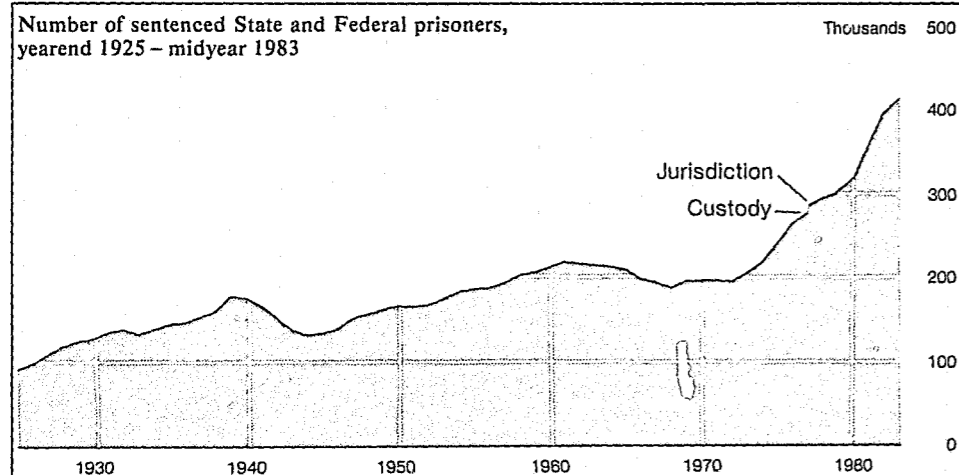
Factors in growth

The U.S. prison population experienced substantial increase in 1975 and 1976, followed by 4 years of somewhat slower growth through 1980 (see table 3). Record high gains of 12% in both 1981 and 1982 pushed the prison population beyond the 400,000 mark.

Among the foremost factors in that growth have been increased crime and stiffened public attitudes toward crime

and criminals. The growth in reported crimes during the past decade has been outpaced by the growth in the number of arrests during that period. At the same time, new developments in the criminal justice system fostering more convictions, more convicted persons sentenced to prison, and harsher penalties have contributed to prison growth. At the Federal level, continuing emphasis on the prosecution of white-collar and drug crimes has led to a larger proportion of inmates with longer sentences.

In some jurisdictions, stricter attitudes toward parolees and greater readiness to return parole violators to prison have also served to compound prison population growth, particularly since the number of persons on parole has increased dramatically in recent years. In addition, some States have stiffened penalties for many



Note: Prior to 1978, NPS reports were based on the jurisdiction population. Both figures are shown for 1977 to facilitate year-to-year comparison.

Table 1. Percent increase in U.S. prison by quarter, January 1, 1982-June 30, 1983

| Quarter | All prisoners | Sentenced to: | |
|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | More than 1 year | 1 year or less or unsentenced |
| 1982 First | 3.4 | 3.1 | 9.9 |
| Second | 3.3 | 3.0 | 9.1 |
| Third | 2.8 | 3.0 | -1.1 |
| Fourth | 2.2 | 2.3 | -2.1 |
| 1983 First | 2.7 | 2.8 | 4.7 |
| Second | 1.5 | 1.7 | -3.4 |

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Table 2. Prisoners under jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities, by region and State, yearend 1982 and first and second quarter, 1983

| Region and State | Total prisoner population | | | Percent change from: | | Number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 population 6/30/83 ^a |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| | 12/31/82 | 3/31/83 | 6/30/83 | 12/31/82 to 6/30/83 | 3/31/83 to 6/30/83 | |
| United States | 414,362 | 425,625 | 431,829 | 4.2 | 1.5 | 177 |
| Male | 396,439 | 407,127 | 412,976 | 4.2 | 1.4 | 349 |
| Female | 17,923 | 18,498 | 18,853 | 5.2 | 1.9 | 14 |
| Federal institutions ^b | 29,673 | 31,537 | 32,142 | 8.3 | 1.9 | 11 |
| State institutions | 384,689 | 394,088 | 399,687 | 3.0 | 1.4 | 166 |
| Northeast | 60,203 | 61,812 | 62,799 | 4.3 | 1.6 | 121 |
| Maine | 999 | 1,019 | 1,041 | 4.2 | 2.2 | 73 |
| New Hampshire | 445 | 448 | 453 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 47 |
| Vermont ^c | 599 | 612 | 596 | -0.5 | -2.6 | 82 |
| Massachusetts ^d | 4,623 | 4,542 | 4,508 ^e | -2.5 | -0.7 | 78 ^f |
| Rhode Island ^c | 1,037 | 1,118 | 1,150 | 10.9 | 2.9 | 89 |
| Connecticut ^c | 5,836 | 5,839 | 5,534 | -5.2 | -5.2 | 107 |
| New York | 27,951 | 28,919 | 29,802 | 6.6 | 3.1 | 168 |
| New Jersey ^d | 8,191 | 8,460 | 8,613 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 113 |
| Pennsylvania | 10,522 | 10,855 | 11,102 | 5.5 | 2.3 | 93 |
| North Central | 78,549 | 79,107 | 79,965 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 134 |
| Ohio | 17,317 | 17,991 | 18,249 | 5.4 | 1.4 | 169 |
| Indiana | 8,790 | 9,159 | 9,304 | 5.8 | 1.6 | 162 |
| Illinois ^g | 14,293 | 13,954 | 13,957 | -2.4 | ... | 120 |
| Michigan | 15,224 | 14,481 | 14,633 | -3.9 | 1.0 | 162 |
| Wisconsin | 4,670 | 4,794 | 4,649 | -0.4 | -3.0 | 96 |
| Minnesota | 2,081 | 2,148 | 2,222 | 6.8 | 3.4 | 53 |
| Iowa ^{g,h} | 2,829 | 2,885 | 2,814 | -0.5 | -2.5 | 92 |
| Missouri | 7,445 | 7,526 | 7,797 | 4.7 | 3.6 | 157 |
| North Dakota | 322 | 387 | 402 | 24.8 | 3.9 | 50 |
| South Dakota | 791 | 815 | 815 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 114 |
| Nebraska ^g | 1,709 | 1,711 | 1,726 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 95 |
| Kansas | 3,078 | 3,256 | 3,397 | 10.4 | 4.3 | 140 |
| South | 180,946 | 185,447 | 187,766 | 3.8 | 1.3 | 229 |
| Delaware ^c | 2,062 | 2,238 | 2,158 | 4.7 | -3.6 | 274 |
| Maryland ^g | 11,012 | 11,288 | 11,702 | 6.3 | 3.7 | 258 |
| District of Columbia ^c | 4,081 | 4,155 | 4,338 | 6.3 | 4.4 | 549 |
| Virginia | 10,079 | 10,195 | 10,320 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 180 |
| West Virginia | 1,729 | 1,436 | 1,570 | -9.2 | 9.3 | 81 |
| North Carolina | 16,578 | 17,323 | 16,418 | -1.0 | -5.2 | 249 |
| South Carolina | 9,137 | 9,654 | 9,729 | 6.5 | 0.8 | 280 |
| Georgia ^d | 14,416 | 14,686 | 15,510 | 7.6 | 5.6 | 263 |
| Florida | 27,830 | 27,604 | 27,830 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 250 |
| Kentucky ^d | 4,077 | 4,046 | 4,136 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 113 |
| Tennessee | 7,869 | 8,750 | 8,986 | 14.2 | 2.7 | 192 |
| Alabama | 9,233 | 9,108 | 9,332 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 229 |
| Mississippi | 5,484 | 5,444 | 5,661 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 215 |
| Arkansas | 3,925 | 3,896 ^d | 3,950 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 171 |
| Louisiana | 10,935 | 11,439 | 11,948 | 9.3 | 4.4 | 270 |
| Oklahoma | 6,350 | 6,815 | 7,215 | 13.6 | 5.9 | 222 |
| Texas ^h | 36,149 | 37,370 | 36,963 | 2.3 | -1.1 | 235 |
| West | 64,991 | 67,722 | 69,157 | 6.4 | 2.1 | 146 |
| Montana | 914 | 948 | 923 | 1.0 | -2.6 | 114 |
| Idaho | 1,047 | 1,121 | 1,136 | 8.5 | 1.3 | 117 |
| Wyoming | 702 | 717 | 722 | 2.8 | 0.7 | 140 |
| Colorado | 3,042 | 3,301 | 3,310 | 8.8 | 0.3 | 106 |
| New Mexico ^g | 1,718 | 1,874 | 1,788 | 4.1 | -4.6 | 121 |
| Arizona | 6,069 | 6,188 | 6,384 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 216 |
| Utah | 1,216 | 1,302 | 1,313 | 8.0 | 0.8 | 82 |
| Nevada | 2,712 | 2,914 | 3,032 | 11.8 | 4.0 | 331 |
| Washington | 6,322 | 6,309 | 6,313 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 147 |
| Oregon | 3,867 | 3,870 | 3,972 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 150 |
| California ⁱ | 34,640 | 36,122 | 37,238 | 7.5 | 3.1 | 143 |
| Alaska ^c | 1,306 | 1,473 | 1,391 | 6.5 | -5.6 | 210 |
| Hawaii ^c | 1,436 | 1,583 | 1,635 | 13.9 | 3.3 | 96 |

NOTE: Prisoner counts may differ from those reported in previous publications and are subject to revision as updated figures become available.

... Less than 0.5 percent.

^aUnpublished Bureau of the Census estimates for the resident population on July 1, 1983, were used to calculate rates of incarceration. Sentenced prisoners are defined as those serving sentences of more than one year.

^bFederal Bureau of Prisons data include the following number of persons held under jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization

Service: 1,203 on 12/31/82; 1,066 on 3/31/83; and 1,062 on 6/30/83.

^cFigures include both jail and prison inmates; jails and prisons are combined in one system.

^dFigures for Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey exclude State prisoners held in local jails. Figures for Kentucky include State prisoners awaiting release in local jails but exclude those awaiting transfer to prison. First quarter figures for Arkansas exclude State prisoners held in local jails.

^eMassachusetts' third quarter figure is for June 29, 1983.

^fMassachusetts cannot distinguish inmates by sentence length; therefore, the incarceration rate is based on the total population.

^gTotal population counts are accurate; however, the number of sentenced prisoners, on which the incarceration rate is based, is estimated.

^hFigures for Iowa and Texas exclude inmates under State jurisdiction but not in State custody.

ⁱFigures exclude adult inmates under the jurisdiction of the California Youth Authority.

crimes or have added prison terms to crimes that formerly earned jail stays.

Changing public attitudes toward crime in the 1970s set in motion actions and reactions that have helped shape prison population trends. Certain mechanisms resulted in rapid growth that in turn engendered countermeasures designed to relieve overcrowding. Some of these latter measures are now themselves coming under attack as public sentiment against early release mounts.

Among the mechanisms that have affected prison growth are a series of laws and guidelines that vary from State to State but have as their goals the reduction of sentence disparities, the reduction of discretion on the part of judges and releasing authorities, and a focus on deterrence and incapacitation as penal objectives. Examples of such measures are determinate and mandatory sentencing laws and sentencing and parole release guidelines.¹

Determinate sentencing laws establish specific sentences or sentence ranges from which a judge must choose once a person is convicted. They preclude release by a parole authority prior to the expiration of sentence. Mandatory sentencing laws require imprisonment, as opposed to probation or other alternatives, for specific offenders or offenses. Sentencing and parole release guidelines provide authorities with a structured set of procedures that allow decisions to be made using specified measurable criteria.

Measures designed to relieve crowding

The record growth since the mid-1970s (see table 3) pushed many State correctional systems beyond their capacities and led to a period of increased court intervention in the prisons. As of January 28, 1983, there were 38 States and the District of Columbia either under court order to remedy prison conditions, especially overcrowding, or with legislation on these issues pending.

Some States are operating prison systems at as much as 30% over capacity. To alleviate crowding, prisoners have been housed in tents, sheds, military stockades, and trailers. In addition, the backlog of State prisoners in local jails has continued to grow, resulting in increased tension between State and local authorities over which system is best able to handle the excess volume.

During the 1980s, efforts have been made in several areas to deal with the influx of prisoners, including building more prisons, double- and triple-celling, and early release and commutation programs. To date, new prison construction, while

¹ See *Setting prison terms*, Bureau of Justice Statistics NCJ-76218, August 1983, NCS-76218.

Table 3. Change in total prison population, 1974-midyear 1983

| Year | Number | Percent change |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1974 | 229,721 | |
| 1975 | 253,816 | 10.5 |
| 1976 | 278,000 | 9.5 |
| 1977 (custody) | 291,667 | 4.9 |
| 1977 (jurisdiction) | 300,024 | NA |
| 1978 | 307,276 | 2.4 |
| 1979 | 314,457 | 2.3 |
| 1980 | 329,821 | 4.9 |
| 1981 | 369,388 | 12.0 |
| 1982 | 414,362 | 12.2 |
| 1983 midyear | 431,829 | 4.2 (6 mos.) |

NOTE: Before 1977, NPS reports were based on the custody population. Beginning in 1977, they were based on the jurisdiction population. Both figures are shown for 1977 to facilitate year-to-year comparison.

NA Not applicable.

adding bedspace, has not kept pace with the increasing demand; however, more prisons are on the way. It is estimated that prison building projects totaling nearly \$2 billion are currently underway in at least 39 States.²

It is yet too early to tell whether the other measures will withstand court scrutiny, as some have already come under attack in higher courts. Multiple-celling has been challenged in numerous court cases, but in the 1981 *Rhodes v. Chapman* case the Supreme Court held that double-celling is not in itself a violation of prisoners' rights, since cell size is not the only factor in determining adequacy of prison conditions. More recently, the U.S. Supreme Court went beyond *Rhodes*. In *Smith v. Fairman*, decided in May of 1983, it rejected an appeal from an Illinois inmate who shared a 6x9-foot cell for periods up to 20 hours a day.

Early release programs typically set in motion a rollback procedure in which some inmates' parole eligibility or release dates

² July 1983 survey by the Prisons Division of the National Institute of Corrections.

Table 4. The prison situation at midyear 1983

| States with 10,000 or more prisoners | States with increases of 10% or more since 1982 | States with increases of 500 or more since 1982 | States with incarceration rates of 200 or more per 100,000 U.S. population |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| California 37,238 | North Dakota 24.8 | California 2,598 | Nevada 331 |
| Texas 36,963 | Tennessee 14.2 | New York 1,851 | South Carolina 280 |
| New York 29,802 | Hawaii 13.9 | Tennessee 1,117 | Delaware 274 |
| Florida 27,830 | Oklahoma 13.6 | Georgia 1,094 | Louisiana 270 |
| Ohio 18,249 | Nevada 11.8 | Louisiana 1,013 | Georgia 263 |
| North Carolina 16,418 | Rhode Island 10.9 | Ohio 932 | Maryland 258 |
| Georgia 15,510 | Kansas 10.4 | Oklahoma 865 | Florida 250 |
| Michigan 14,633 | | Texas 814 | North Carolina 249 |
| Illinois 13,957 | | Maryland 690 | Texas 235 |
| Louisiana 11,948 | | South Carolina 592 | Alabama 229 |
| Maryland 11,702 | | Pennsylvania 580 | Oklahoma 222 |
| Pennsylvania 11,102 | | Indiana 514 | Arizona 216 |
| Virginia 10,320 | | | Mississippi 215 |
| | | | Alaska 210 |

NOTE: The District of Columbia, as a wholly urban area, is excluded from the list of States with high incarceration rates.

are moved forward whenever the prison population exceeds capacity for a certain number of days. Some aspects of early release have also been challenged in court.

In addition, some sentencing guidelines factor in a bedspace count so that, should the prison system be at or near capacity, judges have a means of determining the most appropriate cases for diversion from prison at the sentencing stage.

State patterns

State-by-State growth patterns for the first 6 months of 1983 reveal:

- A total of 10 States reported prison population declines during the first 6 months of 1983; however, in 5 States the decline was less than 1%. One State (Florida) remained at the same level, while the remaining jurisdictions, including the Federal system and the District of Columbia, increased.
- Seven States reported increases of at least 10% during the first 6 months of 1983, compared to 15 States during the first half of 1982 (see table 4).
- Five States added more than 1,000 inmates to their rolls, compared to seven in the same period of 1982.
- Two States (Texas and California) exceeded the Federal prison system in size, the same as in June 1982.
- Thirteen States held more than 10,000 inmates, one more State than in June of 1982.

The four largest State correctional systems (California, 37,238; Texas, 36,963; New York, 29,802; and Florida, 27,830) together accounted for a third of all State prison inmates. Among the four, California and New York continued to have rapid growth, while in Texas and Florida growth abated.

Following increases of 19% in 1981 and 18% in 1982, California's high growth of 8% during the first half of 1983 led it to surpass Texas as the State with the largest prison population. California was one of

the early States to enact determinate sentencing. In addition to existing statutes requiring mandatory prison terms for violent criminals, the legislature recently enacted a similar law on property crimes, including residential burglary. Attempts to address overcrowding through early release programs that are set in motion when prison population exceeds capacity have met with opposition in California. In addition, a January 1983 law did away with automatic good time, specifying that inmates can now earn good time only by participating in educational or work programs; on the other hand, good time can now amount to half the sentence length, up from a third previously.

Texas' slowdown, from an increase of 6% in the first half of 1982 to an increase of 2% in the first half of 1983, is linked in part to an early release program that moves up the supervised mandatory release date of some inmates by 180 days.

In New York, increased court resources (including longer hours for court sessions and more judges) have resulted in higher commitment rates. New York's prison population grew by 7% during the first 6 months of 1983 v. 9% for all of 1982.

Florida's population, which experienced growth rates of 14% in 1981 and 18% in 1982, leveled off during the first half of 1983. Ohio's continued high growth rate (5% for the first half of 1983, following annual rates of 11% in 1981 and 16% in 1982) has been linked to a high crime rate and a correspondingly high number of admissions to prison.

North Carolina's early release program, along with a new sentencing law decreasing the amount of time served, may be linked to a 1% decline in its prison population. In addition, revisions in good-time regulations have made most inmates' sentences shorter.

Georgia's prison population grew at the rate of 8% during the first 6 months of 1983, following a very high percentage growth of 13% in the corresponding period of 1982. Courts in that State have limited the number of State prisoners that can be held in local jails. The State has also increased prison capacity, while at the same time experiencing a slowdown in releases.

Michigan, with the Nation's eighth largest prison population, is perhaps the most frequently cited State in terms of response to prison overcrowding. Michigan experienced severe crowding following a 1978 referendum eliminating good time from the sentences of many prisoners. In response, the State passed a Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act in 1981 that has since been invoked five times. The law provides a mechanism for reducing the prison population to less than 95% of capacity whenever the population exceeds capacity for more than 30 days.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
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As a result, Michigan's prison population has stabilized, with an increase of 0.2% in 1981 and declines of 3% in 1982 and 4% during the first 6 months of 1983.

The Illinois prison population dropped from increases of 11% in 1981 and 5% in 1982 to a decline of 2% in the first half of 1983. Illinois also has an early release program that is triggered when the prison population nears capacity. However, in midyear 1983, the Illinois Supreme Court invalidated the practice of giving any individual prisoner more than one meritorious award consisting of 90 days good time, as had been done previously under the program.

Some States with very large percentage increases had relatively small prison populations that tend to increase much more rapidly than some large prison systems. In all, seven States had 6-month increases of at least 10%. North Dakota, with a 25% increase, held 402 prisoners and had the second lowest incarceration rate of any State, 50 prisoners per 100,000 population. In Tennessee, with a 14% increase, some prisoners who used to serve time in jail are now being sent to prison.

Hawaii's 14% increase is linked to more crime and large numbers held awaiting trial in Hawaii's combined jail/prison system. Rhode Island also has a combined jail/prison system. Its 11% increase reflects a growth in the number of drunk-driving suspects held awaiting trial. In addition, parole guidelines have resulted in longer sentence lengths.

Oklahoma, also with a 14% increase, reports more commitments and longer sentences. Nevada's 12% increase has been linked to a "get tough" attitude, particularly regarding parole releases. Kansas, with a 10% increase, enacted a determinate sentencing law in mid-1982.

The largest decline for the 6-month period was recorded in West Virginia, but it all took place in the first quarter. Connecticut registered a 5% decline, all of which took place in the second quarter. Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, and North Carolina were the only other States with declines of at least 1% for the 6 months ending June 30, 1983. Four other States (Iowa, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin) had declines of less than 1%.

Incarceration rate continues to climb

One measure of the extent to which States are imprisoning offenders is the incarceration rate. It is traditionally presented as the number of people in prison for every 100,000 people living in the State. The two functions of an incarceration rate are 1) it allows comparisons to be made between two or more States as if those States each had the same number of people living in them and 2) it allows comparisons to be made over time for an individual State, or for the Nation as a whole, without distortion from any population changes that may have occurred.

At midyear 1983 incarceration rates ranged from 47 in New Hampshire to 331 in Nevada—a range considerably narrower than that for the prison population in absolute numbers (402 in North Dakota to 37,238 in California). Nothing can be directly inferred from the broad range of incarceration rates except that the differences are not due to differences in population size.

Some of the factors affecting incarceration rates are institutional ones such as the presence of a combined jail/prison system, the extent to which probation is used as an alternative to prison, the dividing line between sentences served in prison and sentences served in jail, different sentencing structures, different parole practices, and the relative efficiency of police and court systems. Other factors include the degree of urbanization in the State, the amount of tourism, the size of the transient and commuter population, and the age and sex composition and other characteristics of the State's population. And, finally, there is the State crime rate. The incarceration rate for the United States as a whole is affected by all of these State variations. Nevertheless it is an important measure of long-term trends in the use of imprisonment.

The rate of incarceration for the United States was 177 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. population, up from 170 per 100,000 at yearend 1982. Since 1974, the rate has increased by 70%, a rise that has been attributed to the related factors of increased crime rates and the maturing of the baby boom generation. Based on the prison-prone age group of 20-29-year-old males, the rate was considerably higher and continues to rise. Moreover, this age group has not yet peaked. Thus, even if the incarceration rate for 20-29-year-olds remained at the same level, their numbers would continue to drive the prison population upward during the 1980s.

Slower growth among short-sentence inmates

The number of prison inmates who were unsentenced or who had sentences of a year or less rose 1% to a total of 18,619 for the 6 months ending in June. Such

inmates are concentrated in a few States, including the seven with combined jail/prison systems, which account for almost a third of the total (see table 5). Other States with large numbers of inmates sentenced to a year or less or with no sentence included North Carolina and California. In North Carolina, where these prisoners account for 8% of all prisoners, adult misdemeanants with a minimum term of 181 days or more serve their time in State facilities; in other States, such prisoners typically go to local jails. California has a relatively large group of unsentenced narcotics users committed to prison under civil (non-criminal) statutes.

In State institutions, the unsentenced group and those with sentences of a year or less increased at a slower rate than those with sentences of more than a year (3% v. 4%). The differential was due in part to the impact of sentencing reduction mechanisms on those with short sentences. The group declined in the Federal system by 3%, as compared to an 11% gain among those sentenced to more than 1

| State | Number | Percent of total |
|----------------------|--------|------------------|
| Hawaii | 674 | 41.2 |
| Connecticut | 2,124 | 38.4 |
| Alaska | 438 | 31.5 |
| Vermont | 170 | 28.5 |
| Rhode Island | 290 | 25.2 |
| Delaware | 500 | 23.2 |
| District of Columbia | 890 | 20.5 |

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| Year | Number | Percent change | Percent of prison population |
|---------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1974 | 8,091 | | 3.5 |
| 1975 | 9,667 | 19.5 | 3.8 |
| 1976 | 11,170 | 15.5 | 4.0 |
| 1977 (custody) | 12,041 | 7.8 | 4.1 |
| 1977 (jurisdiction) | 12,279 | NA | 4.1 |
| 1978 | 12,746 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| 1979 | 12,995 | 2.0 | 4.3 |
| 1980 | 13,420 | 3.3 | 4.1 |
| 1981 | 15,456 | 15.2 | 4.2 |
| 1982 | 17,923 | 16.0 | 4.3 |
| 1983 midyear | 18,853 | 5.2 (6 mos.) | 4.4 |

NOTE: Before 1977, NPS reports were based on the custody population. Beginning in 1977, they were based on the jurisdiction population. Both figures are shown for 1977 to facilitate year-to-year-comparison
NA Not applicable.

year. Federal emphasis on the prosecution of the most serious crimes may be a factor in the decline.

Women's growth rate faster than that of men

The number of women in State and Federal prisons reached 18,853 on June 30, 1983, an increase of 5% over year-end 1982. The rate was slightly higher than the 4% growth rate registered for men. Women still account for only 4% of the total prison population and their incarceration rate was far below that of men—

| State | Number | Percent of all inmates | Percent increase 12/31/82 to 6/30/83 |
|----------------|--------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| California | 1,883 | 5.1 | 13.9 |
| Texas | 1,639 | 4.4 | -2.3 |
| Florida | 1,263 | 4.5 | 1.4 |
| Ohio | 982 | 5.4 | 9.1 |
| New York | 818 | 2.7 | 0.0 |
| Georgia | 764 | 4.9 | 15.2 |
| Michigan | 655 | 4.5 | -1.4 |
| North Carolina | 643 | 3.9 | -7.3 |

14 per 100,000 vs. 349 per 100,000. Women constitute a somewhat higher proportion of Federal prison inmates (6%) than of State prison inmates (4%), largely because of the nature of the crimes (e.g., higher proportions imprisoned for drug crimes and forgery, fraud, and embezzlement) for which Federal prisoners are held.

Since data on the total prison population were first collected in 1974, the number of women has increased by 133%, compared to 86% for men (see table 6). Typically, however, they are held for less serious crimes. Among women, 8% had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced, compared to 4% of the men.

As of June 1983, three States held more than 1,000 women, while five States held between 500 and 1,000 women (see table 7). Despite their slightly higher growth rate, the number of women declined in 17 States, while the number of men declined in 9 States.

Bureau of Justice Statistics reports (revised October 1983)

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National Crime Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.: 1973-82 trends, NCJ-90541, 9/83

1980 (final report), NCJ-84015, 4/83
1979 (final report), NCJ-76710, 12/81

BJS bulletins:

Households touched by crime 1982, NCJ-86671, 6/83
Violent crime by strangers, NCJ-80829, 4/82
Crime and the elderly, NCJ-79614, 1/82
Measuring crime, NCJ-75710, 2/81

The National Crime Survey: Working papers, vol. I: Current and historical perspectives, NCJ-75374, 8/82

Crime against the elderly in 26 cities, NCJ-76706, 1/82

The Hispanic victim, NCJ-69261, 11/81
Issues in the measurement of crime, NCJ-74682, 10/81

Criminal victimization of California residents, 1974-77, NCJ-70944, 6/81
Restitution to victims of personal and household crimes, NCJ-72770, 5/81

Criminal victimization of New York State residents, 1974-77, NCJ-70944, 9/80

The cost of negligence: Losses from preventable household burglaries, NCJ-53527, 12/79

Rape victimization in 26 American cities, NCJ-55878, 8/79

Criminal victimization in urban schools, NCJ-56396, 8/79

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