



# Jails in Indian Country, 2024

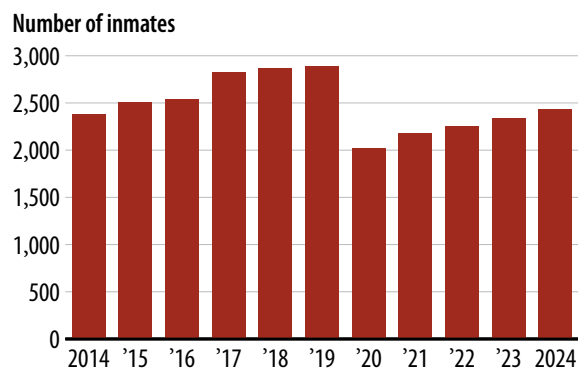
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A total of 2,430 persons were held in 77 Indian country jails at midyear 2024, a 4% increase from the 2,340 persons held in 79 facilities at midyear 2023 ([figure 1](#); [table 1](#)). This marks the fourth consecutive annual increase in the midyear jail population since it declined in 2020 (to 2,020 persons).

The number of available jail beds increased 8% from midyear 2014 to midyear 2024, while the midyear jail population increased 2% during this same period. As a result, the jail occupancy rate decreased from 64% at midyear 2014 to 61% at midyear 2024.

Using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Survey of Jails in Indian Country, this report provides statistics on the demographic characteristics, most serious offense, and conviction status of persons held in Indian country jails. It also describes facility characteristics, including capacity and staffing. The report supports the mandate established by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 that requires BJS to establish and implement

**FIGURE 1**  
Number of persons held in Indian country jails, midyears 2014–2024



Note: Counts are as of the last weekday in June. Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. See *Methodology*. See table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014–2024.

a tribal data collection system, to support tribal participation in national records and information systems, and to annually report to Congress the data collected and analyzed in accordance with the act.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- After declining in 2020 (to 2,020 persons), the midyear Indian country jail population increased in 2024 for the fourth consecutive year (to 2,430 persons).
- Indian country jails admitted 6,120 persons during June 2024, a 12% increase from the 5,450 admissions during June 2023.
- The ratio of jail admissions to average daily population was 2.6 to 1 in June 2024 (6,120 admissions to 2,350 inmates), down from 4.8 to 1 in June 2014 (10,460 admissions to 2,170 inmates).
- Two-thirds (66%) of all individuals incarcerated in Indian country jails at midyear 2024 were held for a nonviolent offense or other holds, up from 62% at midyear 2023.
- One-third (34%) of all individuals were held for violent offenses at midyear 2024, up from 27% at midyear 2014.
- The share of individuals held for a drug offense remained relatively stable from midyear 2023 (12%) to midyear 2024 (11%).
- Indian country jails employed an estimated 1,480 staff at midyear 2024, down from 1,530 staff at midyear 2023 and 1,710 staff at midyear 2014.

**TABLE 1****Persons held, rated capacity, and percent of rated capacity occupied in Indian country jails in June, 2014–2024**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Number of inmates</b>											
Midyear <sup>a</sup>	2,380	2,510	2,540	2,820	2,870	2,890	2,020	2,180	2,250	2,340	2,430
ADP <sup>b</sup>	2,170	2,390	2,470	2,700	2,790	2,820	1,940	2,100	2,170	2,200	2,350
Peak <sup>c</sup>	3,230	3,230	3,400	3,580	3,580	3,630	2,610	2,630	2,680	2,830	2,870
<b>Rated capacity<sup>d</sup></b>	3,720	3,800	4,090	4,200	4,290	4,310	4,230	4,220	4,200	4,070	4,000
<b>Percent of capacity occupied<sup>e</sup></b>											
Midyear <sup>a</sup>	64.1%	65.9%	62.0%	67.1%	67.0%	67.2%	47.8%	51.5%	53.6%	57.6%	60.6%
ADP <sup>b</sup>	58.5	62.9	60.5	64.4	65.1	65.4	45.9	49.7	51.6	54.0	58.7
Peak <sup>c</sup>	87.0	84.8	83.1	85.3	83.6	84.3	61.8	62.3	63.8	69.6	71.7
<b>Number of operating facilities</b>	79	76	80	84	84	83	82	80	80	79	77
<b>Average number of inmates per operating facility<sup>a</sup></b>	30	33	32	34	34	35	25	27	28	30	32

Note: Data on inmate population and rated capacity were imputed for 5 nonresponding facilities in 2014, 7 in 2015, 5 in 2016, 8 in 2017, 9 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 5 in 2020, 3 in 2021, 6 in 2022, 7 in 2023, and 1 in 2024, and rounded to the nearest 10. See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>As of the last weekday in June.

<sup>b</sup>Average daily population (ADP) is the sum of the number of inmates held each day in June, divided by 30.

<sup>c</sup>The number of inmates held on the day in June when the facility's inmate population was largest. Data were imputed for one facility in 2016, 2018, and 2019; two in 2020; and one in 2021 that responded to the survey but did not report peak population.

<sup>d</sup>The maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas. Data were imputed for three facilities in 2013, two in 2014, one in 2019, and two in 2020 that responded to the survey but did not report rated capacity.

<sup>e</sup>The number of inmates in a facility divided by its rated capacity and multiplied by 100.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014–2024.

## Terms and definitions

**Average daily population (ADP)**—The sum of the number of inmates held each day in June, divided by 30.

**Average length of stay**—The ADP divided by the number of June admissions and multiplied by 30.

**Indian country**—The legal term used to describe reservations and other lands set aside for Indian use, such as Indian allotments, and lands held in trust for Indians or Indian tribes (18 U.S.C. § 1151).

**Jail operations staff**—Correctional officers, guards, and other staff who spend more than half of their time supervising inmates.

**Midyear population**—The number of inmates held on the last weekday in June.

**Other holds**—May include unspecified criminal offenses, noncriminal acts, and other holds not reported elsewhere.

**Peak population**—The number of inmates held on the day in June when the facility's inmate population was the largest.

**Percent of capacity occupied**—The number of inmates in a facility divided by its rated capacity and multiplied by 100.

**P.L. 280**—Under P.L. 83–280 (18 U.S.C. § 1162), some states have jurisdiction to prosecute certain crimes committed by or against American Indians and Alaska Natives. State law enforcement and courts may arrest, investigate, prosecute, and punish offenders. With some exceptions, the law affects Indian country in Alaska, California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Pursuant to the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, tribes are authorized to request that federal authorities reassume concurrent federal jurisdiction.

**Rated capacity**—The maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.

**Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA)**—Signed into law in 2010, the act enhanced tribes' authority to prosecute and sentence criminals. It expanded law enforcement resources and tools, increasing staffing, training, and access to databases of shared criminal information. It authorized new guidelines for handling sexual assaults and domestic violence, and it encouraged development of more effective programs to prevent alcohol and drug abuse.

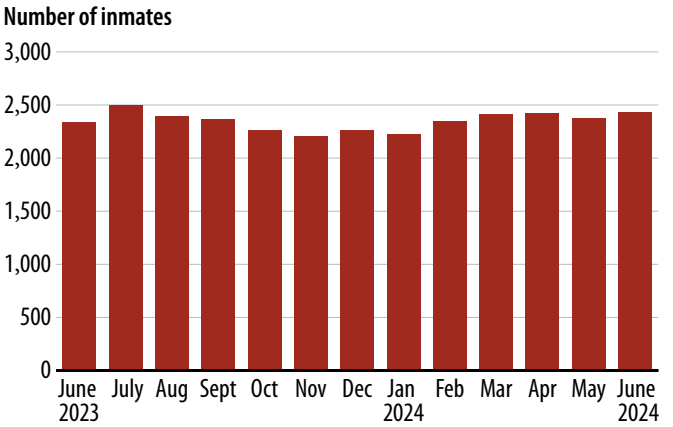
**The monthly jail population fluctuated between June 2023 and June 2024**

During the 12-month period from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the jail population fluctuated between 2,210 and 2,500 on the last weekday of the month (figure 2). The monthly population was higher in summer months and lower in winter months.

**The largest jails accounted for 3 in 10 jails and 7 in 10 incarcerated persons**

Of the 77 jails in Indian country, the 25 jails rated to hold 50 or more individuals accounted for 33% of all jails and 69% of all persons held in Indian country jails at midyear 2024 (table 2). In comparison, the 31 jails rated to hold 25 to 49 individuals accounted for 40% of all jails but held a substantially smaller share of all persons (26%) held in Indian country jails.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Number of persons held in Indian country jails on the last weekday of each month, June 2023–June 2024**



Note: Counts are rounded to the nearest 10. Data were imputed for seven nonresponding facilities in June 2023 and one nonresponding facility in July 2023 to June 2024. Data were imputed for one facility in July 2023 to June 2024 that responded to the survey but did not report all monthly populations. See *Methodology*. See appendix table 1 for estimates.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2023 and 2024.

**TABLE 2**  
**Indian country jails and persons held, by facility size, midyear 2024**

Facility size <sup>a</sup>	Number <sup>b</sup>		Percent	
	Facilities	Inmates	Facilities	Inmates
Total	77	2,430	100%	100%
24 or fewer	21	130	27.3	5.4
25–49	31	620	40.3	25.5
50 or more	25	1,680	32.5	69.0

Note: Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.  
<sup>a</sup>Based on the rated capacity, which is the maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.  
<sup>b</sup>As of the last weekday in June.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2024.

June admissions to Indian country jails increased by 12% from 2023 to 2024

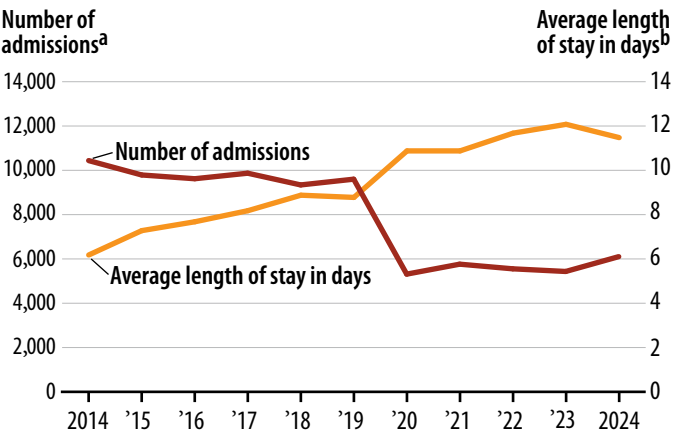
Indian country jails admitted 6,120 persons during June 2024, a 12% increase from the 5,450 admissions in June 2023 (figure 3). The ratio of jail admissions to average daily population (ADP) was 2.6 to 1 in June 2024 (6,120 admissions to 2,350 persons). This ratio was similar to that in June 2023 (2.4 to 1) but is down from 4.8 to 1 in June 2014 (10,460 admissions to 2,170 persons). Due to an 8% increase in ADP and a 41% decrease in admissions from 2014 to 2024, the average length of stay (the time in custody from admission to release) for persons held in Indian country jails increased from 6 days in June 2014 to 12 days in June 2024.

The largest jails accounted for over half of all admissions in June 2024

Jails rated to hold 50 or more persons accounted for 54% (3,330) of all persons admitted to Indian country jails in June 2024, followed by jails rated to hold 25 to 49 persons (2,380 or 39% of all admissions) (table 3). Jails rated to hold 24 or fewer persons accounted for the smallest share (410 or 7%) of all admissions.

The average length of stay for persons held in Indian country jails in June 2024 was 12 days. Average stays were longer in the largest facilities. In June 2024, persons confined in jails rated to hold 50 or more inmates were held for an average of 15 days, compared to 8 days in jails rated to hold 25 to 49 inmates and 9 days in jails rated to hold 24 or fewer inmates.

FIGURE 3  
Number of admissions and average length of stay in Indian country jails, June 2014–2024



Note: See appendix table 2 for estimates.  
<sup>a</sup>Counts are rounded to the nearest 10. Data were imputed for 2 nonresponding facilities in 2013, 5 in 2014, 7 in 2015, 5 in 2016, 8 in 2017, 9 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 5 in 2020, 3 in 2021, 6 in 2022, 7 in 2023, and 1 in 2024. Data were imputed for four facilities in 2017, two in 2018, three in 2019, one in 2020, and one in 2023 that responded to the survey but did not report admissions. See *Methodology*.  
<sup>b</sup>The average daily population in June divided by the number of June admissions and multiplied by 30. See *Methodology*.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014–2024.

TABLE 3  
Average daily population, admissions, and average length of stay in Indian country jails, by facility size, June 2024

Facility size <sup>a</sup>	ADP <sup>b</sup>	June admissions <sup>c</sup>	Average length of stay <sup>d</sup>
Total	2,350	6,120	11.5 days
24 or fewer	120	410	8.8
25–49	610	2,380	7.7
50 or more	1,620	3,330	14.6

Note: Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.  
<sup>a</sup>Based on the rated capacity, which is the maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.  
<sup>b</sup>Average daily population (ADP) is the sum of the number of inmates held each day in June, divided by 30.  
<sup>c</sup>Data were imputed for one nonresponding facility in 2024 (two admissions).  
<sup>d</sup>The ADP divided by the number of June admissions and multiplied by 30. See *Methodology*.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2024.

Nearly 6 in 10 jail beds in Indian country were occupied at midyear 2024

Although the jail population increased from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the rated capacity declined by 70 beds. (See table 1.) As a result, the jail occupancy rate increased from 58% at midyear 2023 to 61% at midyear 2024. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of beds in jails rated to hold 50 or more persons were occupied at midyear 2024, and an estimated 42% were occupied in jails rated to hold 24 or fewer persons (table 4).

Ten facilities were operating above their rated capacity at midyear 2024 (table 5). This was similar to the number of facilities (9) at midyear 2023 (not shown in tables). Fourteen facilities were operating above their rated capacity on the most crowded day in June 2024. This was down from 16 in June 2023 but fewer than the 26 facilities operating above their rated capacity in June 2014 (not shown in tables).

Persons held for violent offenses decreased 6% from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024

The number of persons held for violent offenses decreased 6% from 880 at midyear 2023 to 830 at midyear 2024 (table 6). During that period, the number of persons held for domestic violence increased by 20 (from 380 to 400), and the number held for aggravated or simple assault increased by 10 (from 240 to 250). The number held for rape or sexual assault decreased by 20 (from 50 to 30), and the number held for other unspecified violent offenses decreased by 60 (from 210 to 150).

From midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the number of persons held for nonviolent offenses and other holds increased by 130 (from 1,460 to 1,590). The number held for public intoxication decreased by 80 (from 250 to 170), and the number held for burglary decreased by 20 (from 40 to 20). The number held for DWI/DUI increased by 70 (from 110 to 180), the number held for larceny or theft increased by 30 (from 10 to 40), and the number held for drug offenses increased by 10 (from 270 to 280).

From 2014 to 2024, the number of persons held for violent offenses increased 28% (from 650 to 830). The largest absolute growth was among persons held for domestic violence offenses, a 43% increase from 280 persons at midyear 2014 to 400 persons at midyear 2024.

TABLE 4  
Capacity of Indian country jails, by facility size, midyear 2024

Facility size <sup>a</sup>	Rated capacity <sup>b</sup>	Percent of capacity occupied at midyear <sup>c</sup>
Total	4,000	60.6%
24 or fewer	310	42.4
25–49	1,110	55.6
50 or more	2,580	64.9

Note: Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.  
<sup>a</sup>Based on the rated capacity (see note b).  
<sup>b</sup>The maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.  
<sup>c</sup>The number of inmates in a facility on the last weekday in June, divided by its rated capacity and multiplied by 100.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2024.

TABLE 5  
Percent of rated capacity occupied and number of Indian country jails, by population measures, June 2024

Percent of rated capacity occupied <sup>a</sup>	Midyear <sup>b</sup>	ADP <sup>c</sup>	Peak <sup>d</sup>
24% or less	20	21	11
25–49%	19	21	18
50–74%	18	16	15
75–100%	10	10	19
101% or more	10	9	14

<sup>a</sup>The number of inmates in a facility divided by its rated capacity and multiplied by 100. Rated capacity is the maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.  
<sup>b</sup>As of the last weekday in June.  
<sup>c</sup>Average daily population (ADP) is the sum of the number of inmates held each day in June, divided by 30.  
<sup>d</sup>The number of inmates held on the day in June when the facility’s inmate population was largest.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2024.

From 2014 to 2024, the number of persons held for nonviolent offenses and other holds decreased 8%, from 1,730 to 1,590. The number held for public intoxication decreased 64%, from 470 at midyear 2014 to 170 at midyear 2024. In contrast, the number of persons held for a drug offense more than doubled during that period, from 130 to 280.

**TABLE 6****Persons held in Indian country jails, by criminal justice characteristics, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024**

Characteristic	Number						Percent					
	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total <sup>a</sup>	2,380	2,020	2,180	2,250	2,340	2,430	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Conviction status</b>												
Convicted	1,210	1,070	1,030	1,060	1,100	1,170	51%	53%	47%	47%	47%	48%
Unconvicted	1,170	950	1,150	1,190	1,250	1,250	49	47	53	53	53	52
<b>Most serious charge/ offense/hold</b>												
Violent offense	650	850	900	950	880	830	27%	42%	41%	42%	38%	34%
Domestic violence	280	340	380	400	380	400	12	17	18	18	16	16
Aggravated/ simple assault	220	360	340	330	240	250	9	18	15	15	10	10
Rape/sexual assault	40	40	40	40	50	30	2	2	2	2	2	1
Other violent	110	110	140	190	210	150	5	6	7	8	9	6
Nonviolent and other holds	1,730	1,180	1,280	1,300	1,460	1,590	73	58	59	58	62	66
Burglary	40	30	30	30	40	20	2	2	2	2	2	1
Larceny-theft <sup>b</sup>	20	20	30	30	10	40	1	1	1	1	<1	1
Motor-vehicle theft	...	...	...	...	20	4	...	...	...	...	<1	<1
Malicious destruction of property/vandalism	...	...	...	...	60	80	...	...	...	...	2	3
Public intoxication <sup>c</sup>	470	230	220	170	250	170	20	12	10	8	11	7
DWI/DUI <sup>d</sup>	220	100	150	160	110	180	9	5	7	7	4	7
Drug	130	220	270	240	270	280	5	11	12	11	12	11
Status offense <sup>e</sup>	...	...	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	<1	1
Warrant, offense unspecified	...	...	...	...	480	560	...	...	...	...	20	23
Mental health/civil commitment hold	...	...	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	<1	1
Other unspecified <sup>f</sup>	850	560	570	660	200	220	36	28	26	29	8	9

Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Estimates may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See appendix table 3 for details on imputations.

...Not collected.

<sup>a</sup>Total midyear populations for 2014 and 2020–2024 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes motor vehicle theft.

<sup>c</sup>Includes drunk and disorderly conduct.

<sup>d</sup>Driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

<sup>e</sup>Noncriminal act that is considered a law violation only because of a youth's status as a minor.

<sup>f</sup>BJS began collecting data on motor vehicle theft, malicious destruction of property/vandalism, status offenses, warrants without a specified offense, and mental health/civil commitment holds in 2023. As a result, other unspecified charges/offenses/holds in prior years are not comparable to those for 2023 and 2024. Other unspecified may include criminal offenses, noncriminal acts, and other holds not reported elsewhere.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

## One-third of individuals were held for violent offenses at midyear 2024

The share of persons held for violent offenses accounted for 34% of all persons held in Indian country jails at midyear 2024. (See table 6.) From midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the percentages of inmates held for domestic violence (16% each year) and for aggravated or simple assault (10% each year) remained stable. Other violent offenses (9% and 6%) and rape or sexual assault (2% and 1%) declined slightly during this period. The percentage of persons held for nonviolent offenses and other holds increased from midyear 2023 (62%) to midyear 2024 (66%).

The percentage of persons held for violent offenses (34%) was up at midyear 2024 from midyear 2014 (27%). During that 10-year period, the percentage of persons held for other violent offenses increased from 5% to 6%. The percentages of persons held for domestic violence (12% and 16%) increased slightly while aggravated or simple assault (9% and 10%) remained relatively steady; both offenses were down from a peak of 18% during that 10-year period. The percentage of persons held for rape or sexual assault at midyear was between 1% and 2% each year between 2014 and 2024.

Sixty-six percent of individuals in Indian country jails at midyear 2024 were held for nonviolent offenses and other holds, down from 73% at midyear 2014. During that 10-year period, the share of persons held for a drug offense increased from 5% to 11%, and the share of persons held for public intoxication decreased from 20% to 7%.

In 2023, BJS enhanced the survey questionnaire's charge/offense/hold categories to include motor vehicle theft, malicious destruction of property/vandalism, status offenses, unspecified warrant offenses, and mental health/civil commitment holds. These changes allow for more precise classification of previously unspecified offenses. As a result, other unspecified charges/offenses/holds in prior years are not comparable to those for 2023 and 2024. At midyear 2024, these offenses accounted for a combined 28% of persons confined in Indian country jails: less than 1% for motor vehicle theft, 3% for malicious destruction of property/vandalism, 1% for status offenses, 23% for unspecified warrant offenses, and 1% for mental health/civil commitment holds.

## Persons held in Indian country jails for crimes against vulnerable populations

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has adapted the Survey of Jails in Indian Country data collection form several times over the past 20 years to meet the needs and interests of jail administrators, policymakers, and researchers. Through these changes, BJS has been able to address an interest expressed by Congress, tribal leaders, and federal agencies to improve the criminal justice system in Indian country by determining the seriousness of offenses of persons held in Indian country jails.

A new item added for the 2023–2025 surveys addresses crimes in Indian country committed against vulnerable populations. This item asked if, during the 30-day period from June 1 to June 30, any persons with a new admission to a facility, regardless of conviction status, were held for human trafficking, kidnapping, or elder abuse.

Of the 69 facilities responding (86%) to the survey question about crimes against vulnerable persons in 2023, 20% reported that persons were admitted to their facility for elder abuse during June 2023 and 7% reported that persons were admitted for kidnapping. No facilities reported admitting persons for human trafficking (not shown in tables). Of the 76 facilities responding (99%) to the questions in 2024, 30% reported that persons were admitted to their facility for elder abuse during June 2024, 7% reported that persons were admitted for kidnapping, and 4% reported admitting persons for human trafficking (not shown in tables).

## The share of unconvicted individuals remained stable from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024

The number of convicted individuals held in Indian country jails increased 6% from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, while the unconvicted population remained stable during the same period. (See table 6). The percentage of all individuals at midyear 2024 who were convicted (48%) and unconvicted (52%) remained relatively stable from midyear 2023 (47% and 53%) and changed moderately from midyear 2014 (51% and 49%).

## Females accounted for a quarter of all persons held in Indian country jails

The number of incarcerated males increased 5%, while the number of incarcerated females remained stable from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024 (table 7). During that period, the percentage of males (75%) and females (25%) held in Indian country jails remained stable. The share of males and females has remained stable since midyear 2014.

**TABLE 7**

**Persons held in Indian country jails, by demographic characteristics, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024**

Characteristic	Number						Percent					
	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total <sup>a</sup>	2,380	2,020	2,180	2,250	2,340	2,430	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	1,790	1,540	1,600	1,650	1,730	1,810	75%	76%	74%	73%	74%	75%
Female	590	480	580	600	620	620	25	24	26	27	26	25
<b>Age group</b>												
Juvenile <sup>b</sup>	190	140	140	150	150	130	8%	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%
Male	130	90	90	100	100	90	5	5	4	4	4	4
Female	60	50	50	60	50	40	3	2	2	2	2	1
Adult	2,190	1,880	2,040	2,100	2,190	2,300	92	93	94	93	94	95
Male	1,670	1,450	1,510	1,560	1,630	1,720	70	72	70	69	69	71
Female	530	430	530	540	570	580	22	21	24	24	24	24
18–24	...	:	400	430	430	380	...	:	18	19	18	16
25–34	...	:	850	790	850	830	...	:	39	35	36	34
35–44	...	:	520	620	560	700	...	:	24	27	24	29
45–54	...	:	190	210	260	260	...	:	9	9	11	11
55–64	...	:	70	50	80	110	...	:	3	2	4	5
65 or older	...	:	10	10	20	10	...	:	<1	<1	<1	<1

Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Estimates may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See appendix table 4 for details on imputations.

...Not collected.

: Collected but not calculated in 2020.

<sup>a</sup>Total midyear populations for 2014 and 2020–2024 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10.

<sup>b</sup>Persons age 17 or younger.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

From midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the number of adults held in Indian country jails increased 5%. During that period, the number of adults ages 35 to 44 and ages 55 to 64 increased. In contrast, the number of adults ages 18 to 24, 25 to 34, and 65 and older all decreased. The number of adults ages 45 to 54 remained stable.

Adults accounted for a similar share of the jail population at both midyear 2023 (94%) and midyear 2024 (95%). Nearly 8 in 10 people held in Indian country jails at midyears 2023 and 2024 were ages 18 to 44 (79%). The percentage of adults age 45 or older from midyear 2023 (15%) to midyear 2024 (16%) was also similar.

From midyear 2023 to midyear 2024, the number of juveniles (persons age 17 or younger) held in Indian country jails decreased by 20 (150 to 130) and by 60 from midyear 2014 (190) to midyear 2024 (130). Juveniles comprised 5% to 8% of all inmates each year from midyear 2014 to midyear 2024.

**Indian country jails reported seven deaths in custody during the 12 months ending on June 30, 2024**

Seven persons died (1 by suicide) and 76 persons attempted suicide while under the supervision of Indian country jails during the 12 months ending on June 30, 2024, based on data from about 99% of the facilities

reporting data on deaths and attempted suicides (not shown in tables). From July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2024, Indian country jails reported a total of 36 deaths (11 by suicide) and 422 attempted suicides.<sup>1</sup>

**The number of staff in Indian country jails continued to decline**

The 77 Indian country jails operating at midyear 2024 employed an estimated 1,480 staff, a 3% decrease from the 1,530 staff employed at midyear 2023. This is down 13% from midyear 2020, when 82 facilities employed 1,710 persons (table 8). From midyear 2020 to midyear 2024, the number of jail operations staff decreased 20% (down 250) while the midyear jail population increased about 20%. (See table 1.) Since 2014, jail operations staff (correctional officers, guards, and other staff who spent more than half of their time supervising inmates) accounted for 7 in 10 employees in Indian country jails.

<sup>1</sup>Deaths and attempted suicides were based on reported data each year. BJS did not estimate the number of deaths and attempted suicides for jails that did not respond to the survey or to the questions on inmate deaths and attempted suicides. Deaths include persons who died while confined in the facility, died while under the jail's jurisdiction but out to court or in special facilities (e.g., hospitals, halfway houses, work farms, and medical/treatment/release centers), and died in transit to or from a facility while under jail supervision. Persons who were not admitted into the facility and died during the intake process were excluded.

**TABLE 8**  
**Staff employed in Indian country jails, by job function, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024**

Job functions	Number						Percent					
	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	1,710	1,710	1,580	1,560	1,530	1,480	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Administrative <sup>a</sup>	140	170	200	170	160	150	8.3	9.9	12.8	10.9	10.5	10.4
Jail operations <sup>b</sup>	1,230	1,260	1,100	1,090	1,080	1,010	72.0	73.6	69.3	69.8	71.1	68.4
Educational	30	30	40	30	20	20	1.6	2.0	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.1
Technical/professional	80	40	50	70	70	90	4.8	2.4	3.2	4.3	4.5	6.3
Clerical/maintenance/ food service	210	200	180	200	190	200	12.1	11.8	11.4	12.8	12.3	13.3
Other unspecified	20	10	10	10	3	10	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5

Note: Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10, except for job functions with five or fewer employees. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Estimates may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See appendix table 5 for details on imputations.

<sup>a</sup>Includes jail administrators, assistants, and other personnel who work in an administrative capacity more than half of the time.

<sup>b</sup>Includes correctional officers, guards, and other staff who spend more than half of their time supervising inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

The number of males employed in Indian country jails decreased about 2% from 850 at midyear 2023 to 830 at midyear 2024, while the number of employed females decreased about 3% (from 680 to 660) (table 9). During that same time, the number of male jail operations staff decreased 7% and the number of female jail operations staff decreased nearly 5%. As a result, the share of male jail operations staff declined from 44% at midyear 2023 to 42% at midyear 2024.

**TABLE 9**  
**Staff employed in Indian country jails, by job function and sex, midyears 2023 and 2024**

Job function and sex	Number		Percent	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>All staff</b>	1,530	1,480	100%	100%
Male	850	830	55.5	55.8
Female	680	660	44.5	44.2
<b>Jail operations<sup>a</sup></b>	1,080	1,010	71.1%	68.4%
Male	670	620	44.0	41.9
Female	410	390	27.1	26.4
<b>Other staff<sup>b</sup></b>	440	470	28.9%	31.6%
Male	180	210	11.5	13.8
Female	270	260	17.4	17.8

Note: Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 6 for details on imputations.

<sup>a</sup>Includes correctional officers, guards, and other staff who spend more than half of their time supervising inmates.

<sup>b</sup>Includes administrators, educational staff, technical and professional staff, clerical, maintenance, and food service staff, and other unspecified staff.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2023 and 2024.

# Methodology

The Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC) includes all correctional facilities in Indian country that are operated by tribal authorities or the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has conducted the SJIC annually since 1998, excluding 2005 and 2006, and the survey has been fully web-based since 2022. Through a cooperative agreement with BJS, Westat has conducted the SJIC, which is designed to cover all adult and juvenile jail facilities and detention centers in Indian country, since 2007. The reference dates are the last weekday in June for inmate counts and characteristics; the last weekday of the month for inmate counts from July of the previous year to May of the current year; June 1 to June 30 for the average daily population (ADP), admissions, and releases; and July 1 of the previous year to June 30 of the current year for deaths and attempted suicides of persons in custody.

The survey collects data about the number of persons held and the percentage of capacity occupied in Indian country jails. Capacity occupied is based on the midyear population, ADP, and peak population in facilities in June. The midyear count is the number of inmates held on the last weekday in June. The ADP is the sum of the number of inmates held each day in June, divided by 30. The peak population is the number of inmates held on the day in June when the facility’s custody population was largest.

## Percent of capacity occupied in 2024

Using a rated capacity of 4,003 inmates for all Indian country jails, the percent of capacity occupied was calculated based on the unrounded counts:

Midyear population = 60.6% (2,426 ÷ 4,003)

ADP = 58.7% (2,349 ÷ 4,003)

Peak population = 71.7% (2,869 ÷ 4,003).

## Survey universe, response rates, and nonresponse adjustments

The SJIC survey universe has changed over time. BJS updates its roster of Indian country jails each year by contacting jail administrators to verify facility operational status. Since 2014, some facilities have closed or merged, new facilities have been constructed, existing facilities have become operational and newly eligible for the survey, and some facilities have become non-operational or fallen out of scope. (table 10).<sup>2</sup> In 2019, two facilities that operated separately in 2018 merged into a single facility. One facility in 2021 was reclassified from one mixed adult and juvenile facility into two separate adult and juvenile facilities. One facility in 2023 was removed after being identified as a duplicate.

Survey response rates have also changed over time. A total of 77 out of 78 eligible facilities responded to the 2024 survey, resulting in a 99% response rate.

<sup>2</sup>For details on the SJIC universe and survey participation from 1998 to 2013, see the *Jails in Indian Country* series on the BJS website.

**TABLE 10**  
**Survey universe and response rates of Indian country jails, 2014–2024**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020	2021 <sup>b</sup>	2022	2023	2024
<b>Original roster of facilities<sup>c</sup></b>											
Number of facilities	90	90	90	91	96	96	97	95	96	97	98
<b>Non-operational/ out-of-scope<sup>d</sup></b>											
Pre-survey fielding	7	7	8	7	12	13	10	12	10	14	18
Post-survey fielding	4	7	3	5	0	0	5	4	7	5	3
<b>Added facilities<sup>e</sup></b>	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
<b>Active survey universe<sup>f</sup></b>	79	76	80	84	84	83	82	80	80	79	77
Number of respondents	74	69	75	76	75	70	77	77	74	72	76
Number of nonrespondents	5	7	5	8	9	13	5	3	6	7	1
<b>Response rate</b>	94%	91%	94%	90%	89%	84%	94%	96%	93%	91%	99%

<sup>a</sup>Two facilities merged into one facility, resulting in a final universe of 83 facilities.  
<sup>b</sup>One facility was reclassified from one mixed adult and juvenile facility into two separate adult and juvenile facilities, resulting in a final universe of 80 facilities.  
<sup>c</sup>Includes nonoperational facilities and facilities expected to be surveyed.  
<sup>d</sup>Includes the number of facilities determined to be closed or out of the survey’s scope, either prior to the fielding of the survey or during data collection.  
<sup>e</sup>Includes the number of facilities that were newly constructed, new to the data collection, or reopened after being temporarily closed.  
<sup>f</sup>Includes the final number of facilities in the survey universe after removing nonoperational and out-of-scope facilities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014–2024.

For facilities that did not respond to the survey, BJS used the most recent prior year's data to impute the midyear and peak populations, ADP, and admissions. BJS imputed data on inmate populations for 2 nonresponding facilities in 2013 (which accounted for 2% of all inmates held at midyear), 5 in 2014 (9%), 7 in 2015 (15%), 5 in 2016 (9%), 8 in 2017 (14%), 9 in 2018 (15%), 13 in 2019 (16%), 5 in 2020 (6%), 3 in 2021 (5%), 6 in 2022 (5%), 7 in 2023 (3%), and 1 in 2024 (<1%). Imputation was also used for nonresponding agencies and for facilities that responded to the survey but did not report criminal justice (appendix table 3), demographic characteristics (appendix table 4), staff employed in Indian country jails (appendix table 5), and job function by employee sex (appendix table 6).

For this report, Indian country includes reservations, pueblos, rancherias, and other appropriate areas (18 U.S.C. § 1151). Indian country is a statutory term that includes all lands within an Indian reservation, dependent Indian communities, and Indian trust allotments (18 U.S.C. § 1151). Courts interpret Section 1151 to include all lands held in trust for tribes or their members. (See *United States v. Roberts*, 185 F.3d 1125 (10th Cir. 1999)).

Prior to July 29, 2010, tribal authority to imprison convicted American Indian or Alaska Native offenders had been limited by statute (25 U.S.C. § 1302) to 1 year, a \$5,000 fine, or both per offense. On July 29, 2010, the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 was signed into law, expanding the sentencing authority of tribal courts. As a result, offenders may serve potentially longer sentences (up to 3 years per offense and up to 9 years per multi-offense case) in correctional facilities in Indian country (P.L. 111–211, H.R. 725, 124 Stat. 2258).

Tribal law enforcement agencies respond to both felony and misdemeanor crimes. For most of Indian country, the federal government provides felony law enforcement concerning crimes by or against American Indians and Alaska Natives. Certain areas of Indian country are under P.L. 83–280, as amended (commonly referred to as P.L. 280). P.L. 280 conferred jurisdiction over Indian country to certain states and suspended enforcement of the General Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 1152) and Major Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 1153) in these areas. Tribes retain concurrent jurisdiction to enforce laws in Indian country where P.L. 280 applies.

### Average length of stay for 2024

The stock-to-flow ratio method was used with unrounded counts to measure the average length of stay for persons held in June 2024:

Stock—ADP in June 2024 = 2,349

Flow—inmate admissions in June 2024 = 6,123

Stock-to-flow ratio in June 2024 = 0.3836 (2,349 ÷ 6,123)

Average length of stay (average number of days held in custody from admission to release) = 11.5 days (0.3836 × 30 days).

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**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Estimates for figure 2: Number of persons held in Indian country jails on the last weekday of each month, June 2023–June 2024**

	Number of inmates
June 2023	2,340
July	2,500
Aug	2,400
Sept	2,370
Oct	2,260
Nov	2,210
Dec	2,260
Jan 2024	2,230
Feb	2,350
Mar	2,410
Apr	2,420
May	2,380
June 2024	2,430

Note: Counts are rounded to the nearest 10. Data were imputed for seven nonresponding facilities in June 2023 and one nonresponding facility in July 2023 to June 2024. Data were imputed for one facility in July 2023 to June 2024 that responded to the survey but did not report all monthly populations. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2023 and 2024.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Estimates for figure 3: Number of admissions and average length of stay in Indian country jails, June 2014–2024**

Year	Number of admissions <sup>a</sup>	Average length of stay in days <sup>b</sup>
2014	10,460	6.2
2015	9,810	7.3
2016	9,640	7.7
2017	9,890	8.2
2018	9,360	8.9
2019	9,620	8.8
2020	5,330	10.9
2021	5,780	10.9
2022	5,570	11.7
2023	5,450	12.1
2024	6,120	11.5

<sup>a</sup>Counts are rounded to the nearest 10. Data were imputed for 2 nonresponding facilities in 2013, 5 in 2014, 7 in 2015, 5 in 2016, 8 in 2017, 9 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 5 in 2020, 3 in 2021, 6 in 2022, 7 in 2023, and 1 in 2024. Data were imputed for four facilities in 2017, two in 2018, three in 2019, one in 2020, and one in 2023 that responded to the survey but did not report admissions. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>The average daily population in June divided by the number of June admissions and multiplied by 30. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014–2024.

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## APPENDIX TABLE 3

### Imputation for table 6: Persons held in Indian country jails, by criminal justice characteristics, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024

Characteristic and year	Imputation procedure
<b>Conviction status</b>	
2014	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2013 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2014 to the reported number of inmates by conviction status in 2013. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2020	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2019 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2020 to the reported number of inmates by conviction status in 2020.
2021	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2020 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2022	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2023	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2022 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2024	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
<b>Most serious offense</b>	
2014	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2013 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2014 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2013. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2014 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2011.
2020	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2019 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2011 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2020 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2020. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2020 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2019. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2020 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2018.
2021	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2020 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data. Imputation for 5 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2021 to the reported number of inmates by offense type in 2021.
2022	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2023	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2023 to the reported average 2023 most serious offense breakout for the facility size category. Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2022 data.* Imputation for 2 facilities was based on their 2021 data.* Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data.* Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.*
2024	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.

Note: Imputations were based on the latest data available.

\*BJS began collecting data on motor vehicle theft, malicious destruction of property/vandalism, status offenses, warrants without a specified offense, and mental health/civil commitment holds in 2023. As a result, other unspecified charges/offenses/holds in prior years are not comparable to those for 2023 and 2024. These data were estimated by redistributing other unspecified on the reported average 2023 most serious offense breakout for the facility size category.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Imputation for table 7: Persons held in Indian country jails, by demographic characteristics, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024**

Characteristic and year	Imputation procedure
<b>Sex/age group</b>	
2014	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2013 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2020	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2019 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2021	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2020 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2022	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2023	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2022 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2023 to the reported number of inmates by sex in 2022.
2024	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
<b>Adult age breakout</b>	
2021	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2020 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2021 to the reported average 2021 adult age breakout for the facility size category. Imputation for 3 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2021 to the reported number of inmates by adult age breakout in 2020.
2022	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2023	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on the ratio of the total number of their inmates at midyear 2023 to the reported number of inmates by adult age breakout in 2022. Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2022 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2024	Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of the total number of its inmates at midyear 2024 to the reported number of inmates by adult age breakout in 2023.

Note: Imputations were based on the latest data available.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 5**

**Imputation for table 8: Staff employed in Indian country jails, by job function, midyears 2014 and 2020–2024**

Year	Imputation procedure
2014	Imputation for 8 facilities was based on their 2012 data.
2020	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2019 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data. Imputation for 2 facilities (1 serving adults and 1 serving juveniles) was calculated by adjusting the reported 2020 staff to the 2016 adult-to-juvenile staffing ratio.
2021	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2020 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2022	Imputation for 4 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2023	Imputation for 3 facilities was based on their 2022 data. Imputation for 2 facilities was based on their 2021 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2017 data. Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.
2024	Imputation for 1 facility was based on its 2012 data.

Note: Imputations were based on the latest data available.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2014 and 2020–2024.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6**  
**Imputation for table 9: Staff employed in Indian country jails, by job function and sex, midyears 2023 and 2024**

Year	Imputation Procedure
2023	<p>Imputation for 1 juvenile facility was based on the ratio of staff sex and job function for 1 adult facility in the same jurisdiction to the total number of staff by job function for the juvenile facility.</p> <p>Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of all responding facilities' midyear 2023 all other staff sex data to the total number of the facility's other staff in 2023.</p> <p>Imputation for 11 facilities was based on the ratio of sex by job function of their staff at midyear 2024 to the job function of the total number of staff by job function in 2023.</p>
2024	<p>Imputation for 1 juvenile facility was based on the ratio of staff sex and job function for 1 adult facility in the same jurisdiction to the total number of staff by job function for the juvenile facility.</p> <p>Imputation for 1 facility was based on the ratio of its midyear 2023 all other staff sex data to the total of all other staff in 2024.</p>

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2023 and 2024.

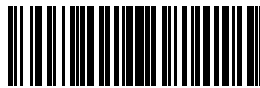


The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Brittany Ripper, JD, PhD, and Todd D. Minton. Carol Ann Sharo, PhD, verified the report.

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