



# Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2025

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The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) of 2010 requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to (1) establish and implement a tribal crime data collection system, (2) consult with Indian tribes to establish and implement this data collection system, and (3) report annually to Congress on the data collected and analyzed in accordance with the act.<sup>1</sup> The act specifies data collection and analysis of crimes committed on federally recognized reservations, in tribal communities, and on identified trust lands, commonly referred to as Indian country. As of the 2020 decennial Census, there were 334 federally and state-recognized American Indian reservations in the United States, with an estimated 5.1 million persons living on these reservations or in Alaska Native villages.<sup>2,3</sup>

Jurisdiction over crimes committed in Indian country varies by the type and seriousness of the crime, whether the offender or victim is a tribal member, and the location of the offense. Due in part to Public Law 83–280, commonly referred to as P.L. 280, federal, state, or local criminal justice agencies have concurrent jurisdiction with tribal agencies over some crimes committed in Indian country involving American Indians.

In the 16 states where P.L. 280 applies, the law permits the federal government to transfer mandatory jurisdiction over major crimes in Indian country to these states, and it permits the states to acquire optional jurisdiction, in whole or in part, over Indian country

## HIGHLIGHTS

- BJS used a tribal-centered approach to develop and implement the tribal crime data collection system mandated by the Tribal Law and Order Act.
- Domestic violence was the most common violent offense for which inmates were held in Indian country jails from 2013 to 2023, and the number of inmates held in Indian country jails for a drug offense increased 170% during that decade.
- In fiscal year (FY) 2023, 54 American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) persons were convicted in U.S. district courts for every 100 arrested.
- In total, more AIAN persons were released from federal prison (19,125) from FY 2013 to FY 2023 than were admitted (18,559).

within their boundaries.<sup>4</sup> Six states have established mandatory jurisdiction over crimes in Indian country, and 10 states have established optional jurisdictions.<sup>5</sup>

More than 300 tribes are in P.L. 280 jurisdictions. In the 19 states with federally recognized tribes where P.L. 280 does not apply, the federal government exercises criminal jurisdiction for major crimes committed in Indian country. In 2022, in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, 597 U.S. 629, the Supreme Court held that the federal government and states have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indian persons against Indian persons in Indian country.

<sup>1</sup>See P.L. 111–211, 124 Stat. 2258 § 251(b).

<sup>2</sup>For more information about federally recognized tribes, reservations, and Alaska Native village statistical areas, see *Tribal Data Collection Activities, 2012* (NCJ 239077, BJS, October 2012).

<sup>3</sup>See U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). Redistricting Data Program. <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2020/dec/2020-census-redistricting-summary-file-dataset.html>.

<sup>4</sup>See P.L. 83–280, August 15, 1953, codified as 18 U.S.C. § 1162, 28 U.S.C. § 1360, and 25 U.S.C. §§ 1321–1326.

<sup>5</sup>Federal jurisdiction in Indian country is established under the General Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 1152), the Major Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 1153), and the Assimilative Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 13).

This report meets the TLOA requirement that BJS report annually to Congress on its tribal data collection activities and statistical findings. It summarizes the tribal data collection activities during 2024 and planned through July 2025, including tribal data collections and reporting, implementation of a tribal-centered data collection system for the Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies (CTLEA) and Census of Tribal Court Systems (CTCS), cognitive and usability testing for the CTLEA and CTCS, and ongoing outreach and engagement with tribes and other stakeholders.

## Development and implementation of the BJS Tribal Justice Statistics Program

Since the passage of TLOA in 2010, this annual report has focused on findings involving American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) persons from various data collections and on findings from other data collections that included tribal agencies. There has been limited focus on the steps or processes needed to develop and implement a Tribal Justice Statistics Program pursuant to TLOA's mandate. During 2024, BJS, in consultation with Indian tribes, focused on the development and implementation of the Tribal Justice Statistics Program, including creating a 10-year strategic plan and consulting with tribal nations and federal partners on the implementation of the CTLEA and CTCS.

BJS is focusing efforts on:

1. modernizing recurring collections
2. improving the reporting and dissemination of tribal crime and justice data, as well as information on AIAN contact with the federal and state justice systems
3. encouraging the use and research of BJS's and the FBI's crime and justice data by tribal justice agencies, tribal justice practitioners, and others.

## Core tribal data collection activities

Three tribal justice agency-specific data collections make up the core of the BJS Tribal Justice Statistics Program: the Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC), the CTLEA,<sup>6</sup> and the CTCS.<sup>7</sup> The current iterations of all three of these studies are in the development and implementation stages.

<sup>6</sup>See CTLEA project webpage for updates and information: <https://www.norc.org/research/projects/census-of-tribal-law-enforcement-agencies.html>.

<sup>7</sup>See CTCS project webpage for updates and information: <https://www.norc.org/research/projects/census-of-tribal-court-systems.html>.

The timing of the tribal-specific collections enabled BJS to continue to concentrate on implementing a process to ensure a tribal-centered statistical approach and program growth over the long term. In addition to tribal-specific data collections, other programs provide tribal crime data. Earlier this year, BJS released 2023 data on federal criminal cases involving AIAN persons through the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). Also, the FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE) includes information on crimes reported by tribal law enforcement agencies for 2023.

The following discussion summarizes findings from the 2023 SJIC; outlines BJS outreach to and engagement with tribes and federal partners in the implementation of a process for tribal-specific data collections; highlights findings from the 2023 FJSP data on AIAN persons and the FJSP data tool interface; and briefly describes the FBI's CDE tool, which disseminates data reported by tribal law enforcement agencies from 2021 to 2023. Findings in this report feature the most recent data available.

## Tribal jails and detention facilities

Since 1998, the SJIC has served as BJS's annual national data collection on confinement facilities, jails, and detention facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The survey collects facility-level data on inmate counts, conviction status, offense types, average daily population, peak population, capacity occupied, and staffing. BJS has adapted the SJIC over the past 20 years to meet the needs and interests expressed by Congress, tribal leaders and jail administrators, and federal agencies to improve the criminal justice system in Indian country. In 2022, the SJIC became the first BJS tribal data collection to be fully automated into a web survey.

The 2023 SJIC featured new items on crimes against vulnerable persons (e.g., human trafficking, kidnapping, and elder abuse), population data beyond a 1-month snapshot, counts of correctional staff by sex, and a broader range of offense categories. Existing items were removed or edited, and the overall estimated burden for completing the survey was reduced by 20 minutes. The 2023 SJIC was administered to the 79 Indian country correctional facilities operating at midyear 2023 and was completed by 72 (91%). Findings from the 2023 SJIC are available in *Jails in Indian Country, 2023* (NCJ 309265, BJS, September 2024).

This summary from the SJIC covers the years 2013 to 2023 and focuses on measures related to the exposure of Indian country juveniles to the justice system and measures related to the 2013 and 2022 reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).<sup>8,9</sup> It covers the most recent SJIC data on adult and juvenile males and females held in Indian country jails and inmates held for a violent offense, including domestic violence and rape or sexual assault. For a comprehensive analysis of Indian country jail inmate trends throughout the decade from 2013 to 2023, refer to *Jails in Indian Country, 2023* (NCJ 309265, BJS, September 2024).

A total of 2,340 persons were held in 79 Indian country jails at midyear 2023, a 4% increase from the 2,250 persons held at midyear 2022 (table 1).

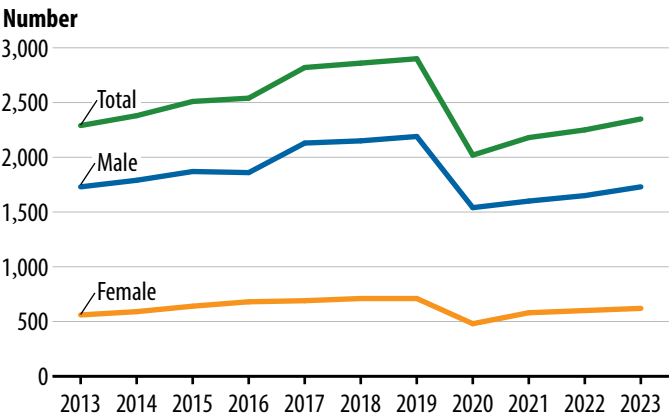
The number of male inmates (up 5%) increased at a faster rate than the number of female inmates (up 3%) from midyear 2022 to midyear 2023 (figure 1). From midyear 2013 to midyear 2023, the number of adult and juvenile (persons age 17 or younger) male inmates remained the same at 1,730, while the number of adult and juvenile female inmates increased 11%, from 560 to 620.

From midyear 2022 to midyear 2023, the number of juveniles held in Indian country jails remained stable at 150 (figure 2). From midyear 2013 to midyear 2023, the number of juveniles held in Indian country jails decreased by 29%. During the same period, the number of male juvenile inmates held in Indian country jails decreased 23% and the number of female juveniles held decreased 38%.

<sup>8</sup>Tribal Law and Order Commission. (2013). *A roadmap for making Native America safer: Report to the President and Congress of the United States*. See <https://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/report/index.html>.

<sup>9</sup>See 2013 and 2022 Reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/2013-and-2022-reauthorizations-violence-against-women-act-vawa>.

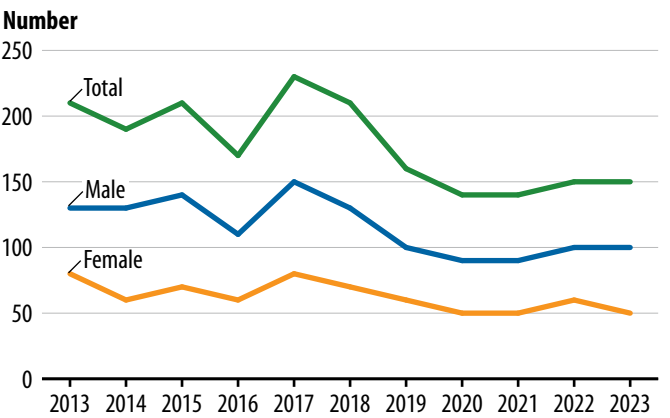
**FIGURE 1**  
**Number of inmates of all ages held in Indian country jails, by sex, midyears 2013–2023**



Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Total midyear populations for 2015 and 2018–2023 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2013–2023.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Number of juvenile inmates held in Indian country jails, by sex, midyears 2013–2023**



Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Juveniles refers to persons age 17 or younger. Total midyear populations for 2015 and 2018–2023 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2013–2023.

**TABLE 1****Number of persons held in Indian country jails, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics, midyears 2013–2023**

Characteristic	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent change, 2022–2023	Percent change, 2013–2023
<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	2,290	2,380	2,510	2,540	2,820	2,870	2,890	2,020	2,180	2,250	2,340	4%	2%
<b>Sex</b>													
Male	1,730	1,790	1,870	1,860	2,130	2,150	2,190	1,540	1,600	1,650	1,730	5%	0%
Female	560	590	640	680	690	710	710	480	580	600	620	3	11
<b>Age group</b>													
Juvenile <sup>b</sup>	210	190	210	170	230	210	160	140	140	150	150	0%	-29%
Male	130	130	140	110	150	130	100	90	90	100	100	0	-23
Female	80	60	70	60	80	70	60	50	50	60	50	-17	-38
Adult	2,080	2,190	2,300	2,370	2,590	2,660	2,740	1,880	2,040	2,100	2,190	4	5
Male	1,600	1,670	1,730	1,750	1,980	2,020	2,090	1,450	1,510	1,560	1,630	4	2
Female	480	530	570	620	610	640	650	430	530	540	570	6	19
18–24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	400	430	430	0	~
25–34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	850	790	850	8	~
35–44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	520	620	560	-10	~
45–54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	190	210	260	24	~
55–64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	70	50	80	60	~
65 or older	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	:	10	10	20	100	~
<b>Conviction status</b>													
Convicted	1,290	1,210	1,380	1,400	1,480	1,570	1,490	1,070	1,030	1,060	1,100	4%	-15%
Unconvicted	1,000	1,170	1,130	1,130	1,340	1,300	1,400	950	1,150	1,190	1,250	5	25
<b>Most serious charge/offense/hold</b>													
Violent offense	720	650	760	760	770	830	800	850	900	950	880	-7%	22%
Domestic violence	350	280	330	350	340	440	360	340	380	400	380	-5	9
Aggravated/simple assault	230	220	240	260	250	250	280	360	340	330	240	-27	4
Rape/sexual assault	50	40	40	30	40	40	40	40	40	40	50	25	0
Other violent	110	110	150	120	140	110	110	110	140	190	210	11	91
Nonviolent and other holds	1,560	1,730	1,750	1,780	2,050	2,040	2,100	1,180	1,280	1,300	1,460	12	-6
Burglary	40	40	50	40	50	60	40	30	30	30	40	33	0
Larceny-theft <sup>c</sup>	30	20	30	50	40	40	60	20	30	30	10	-67	-67
Motor vehicle theft	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	~	~
Malicious destruction of property/vandalism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	~	~
Public intoxication <sup>d</sup>	380	470	440	470	510	470	510	230	220	170	250	47	-34
DWI/DUI <sup>e</sup>	200	220	180	170	190	150	160	100	150	160	110	-31	-45
Drug	100	130	140	210	240	300	280	220	270	240	270	13	170
Status offense <sup>f</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	~	~
Warrant, offense unspecified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	480	~	~
Mental health/civil commitment hold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	~	~
Other unspecified <sup>g</sup>	820	850	920	840	1,020	1,020	1,040	560	570	660	200	..	..

Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Some counts were imputed for nonresponse or rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding.

..Not calculated. See footnote g.

...Not collected.

:Collected but not calculated.

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Total midyear populations for 2015 and 2018–2023 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10.

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>g</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, data on other unspecified charges/offenses/holds in prior years are not comparable to 2023 data. 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, 2013–2023.

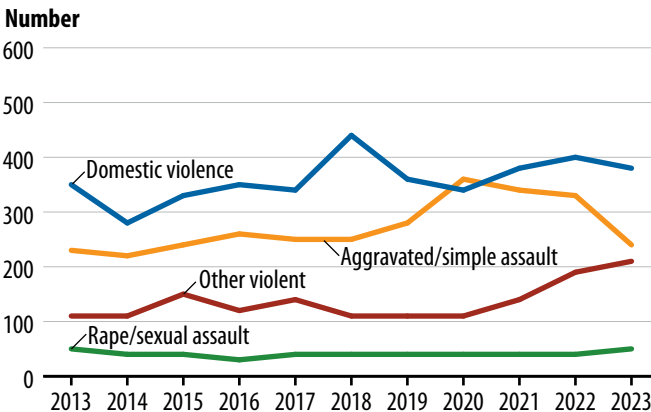
From midyear 2022 to midyear 2023, the number of inmates held in Indian country jails for a violent offense decreased 7%, from 950 to 880. (See table 1.) From 2013 to 2023, the number of persons held for a violent offense increased 22%, from 720 to 880.

From 2013 to 2023, more inmates were held in Indian country jails for domestic violence than for any other violent offense, followed by aggravated or simple assault (figure 3). From midyear 2022 to midyear 2023, the number of persons held for domestic violence decreased by 5% (from 400 to 380) and the number held for aggravated or simple assault decreased by 27% (from 330 to 240).

From midyear 2022 to midyear 2023, the number of inmates held for rape or sexual assault increased by 25%, from 40 to 50. The number of inmates held for other unspecified violent offenses increased from midyear 2022 to midyear 2023 by 11%, from 190 to 210. Over the 10-year period from midyear 2013 to midyear 2023, the number of inmates held for other unspecified violent offenses increased by 91%, from 110 to 210.

The combined number of inmates held in Indian country jails for a nonviolent substance use offense (public intoxication, DWI or DUI, or drugs) increased by 11% from midyear 2022 to midyear 2023, from 570 to 630. (See table 1.) During the same period, the number of inmates held for public intoxication in Indian country jails increased 47%, from 170 to 250; for DWI or DUI decreased 31%, from 160 to 110; and for drug offenses increased 13%, from 240 to 270 (figure 4). From midyear 2013 to midyear 2023, the number of inmates held in Indian country jails for a drug offense increased 170%, from 100 inmates to 270.

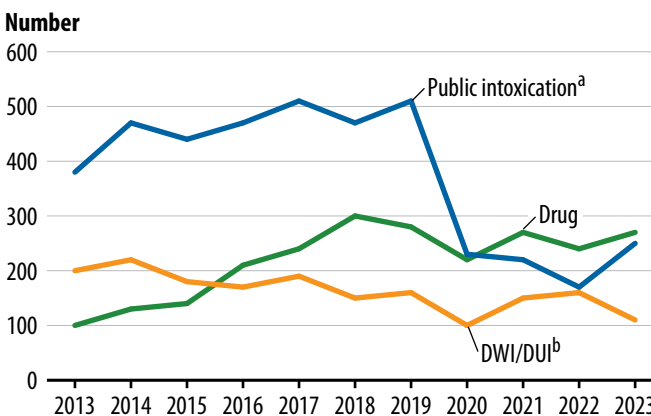
**FIGURE 3**  
Number of inmates held in Indian country jails, by violent offense type, midyears 2020–2023



Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Total midyear populations for 2015 and 2018–2023 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See table 1 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2013–2023.

**FIGURE 4**  
Number of inmates held in Indian country jails, by nonviolent substance use offense type, midyears 2013–2023



Note: Data are as of the last weekday in June. Total midyear populations for 2015 and 2018–2023 were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data may differ from previously published statistics in the *Jails in Indian Country* series due to imputation and rounding. See table 1 for estimates.

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2013–2023.



BJS conducted the 2024 SJIC from July 2024 through January 2025. The 2024 SJIC garnered a 99% response rate, the highest in 12 years. BJS plans to release findings from the SIJC 2024 in the coming months.

The 2025 SJIC data collection activities are planned for July 2025 to October 2025. The data collection will use improved processes to maintain a high response rate, including obtaining survey responses earlier in the data collection cycle and conducting additional data quality checks. The 2025 SJIC survey will contain definitions of key terms to increase clarity for respondents, with the goal of producing higher quality data.

### AIAN persons in the federal criminal justice system, 2013–2023

BJS's FJSP provides annual data on workload, activities, and outcomes associated with federal criminal cases. It acquires information on cases processed in the federal justice system, including arrests, prosecutorial decisions, court dispositions, and sentencing outcomes.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Arrests refer to the most serious offense that suspects were booked for.

The FJSP collects and standardizes data from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2023* (NCJ 309946, BJS, March 2025).) The FJSP includes information on a person's race or ethnicity but not their tribal membership.

Among AIAN persons processed in the federal criminal justice system during fiscal year (FY) 2023:

- 2,908 were arrested and booked by federal law enforcement agencies, a 2% increase from 2,846 in FY 2022 ([table 2](#))
- 1,578 were convicted in U.S. district courts, down 2% from 1,604 in FY 2022
- 1,599 were admitted to federal prison, including 990 from U.S. district court commitments and 609 from other commitments (including violation of community supervision), down 6% from 1,706 in FY 2022
- 1,680 were released from federal prison, up 11% from 1,518 in FY 2022.

**TABLE 2**

### American Indians and Alaska Natives in the federal justice system, fiscal years 2013–2023

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent change, 2022–2023	Percent change, 2013–2023
Arrests <sup>a</sup>	2,882	2,648	2,943	3,189	3,260	3,231	3,372	2,643	2,522	2,846	2,908	2%	1%
Convictions <sup>b</sup>	1,429	1,417	1,367	1,357	1,607	1,469	1,562	1,248	1,392	1,604	1,578	-2%	10%
Prison admissions	1,740	1,715	1,615	1,790	1,939	1,822	1,904	1,245	1,484	1,706	1,599	-6%	-8%
New U.S. district court commitments	1,087	1,071	935	975	1,113	1,002	1,016	704	901	1,105	990	-10	-9
Other commitments <sup>c</sup>	649	640	680	815	826	820	888	541	583	601	609	1	-6
Prison releases	1,737	1,763	1,753	1,839	1,769	1,895	1,982	1,749	1,440	1,518	1,680	11%	-3%
Convictions per 100 arrests <sup>b</sup>	50	54	46	43	49	45	46	47	55	56	54	-4%	8%
Prison admissions with a new U.S. district court commitment per 100 convictions <sup>b</sup>	76	76	68	72	69	68	65	56	65	69	63	-9%	-17%
Prison releases per 100 prison admissions <sup>d</sup>	100	103	109	103	91	104	104	140	97	89	105	10%	5%

<sup>a</sup>Arrests refer to the most serious offense that suspects were booked for.

<sup>b</sup>Based on persons convicted in U.S. district courts only.

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons admitted to prison for violations of community supervision.

<sup>d</sup>Based on all prison admissions (new U.S. district court commitments and other commitments).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE Information System; U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2013–2023, <https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov>.

In FY 2023, 54 AIAN persons were convicted in U.S. district courts for every 100 arrested, up 8% from 50 per 100 in 2013.

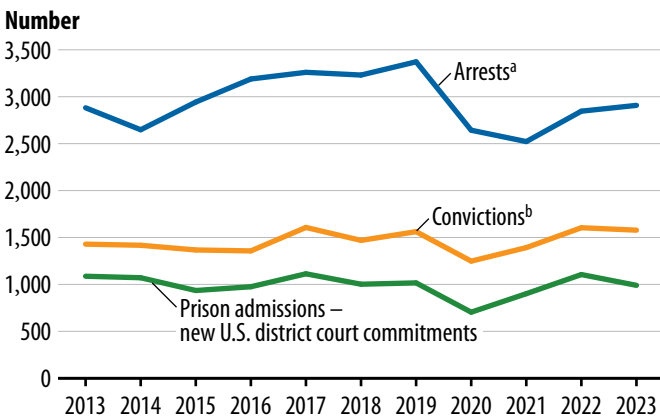
The number of AIAN persons admitted to federal prison on a new court case per 100 convicted decreased from 69 in FY 2022 to 63 in FY 2023. In FY 2023, 105 AIAN persons were released from prison for every 100 admitted. The number of AIAN persons released from federal prison per 100 prison admissions increased by 5% since FY 2013.

From FY 2013 to FY 2023, the number of AIAN persons arrested by a federal law enforcement agency increased by 1%, from 2,882 to 2,908, and the number convicted in federal courts increased 10%, from 1,429 to 1,578 (figure 5).

The number of AIAN persons admitted to federal prison on a new district court commitment decreased by 9% from FY 2013 (1,087) to FY 2023 (990). During the same period, the number admitted for other commitments, including returns to prison for violations of community supervision, decreased 6%, from 649 to 609 (figure 6).

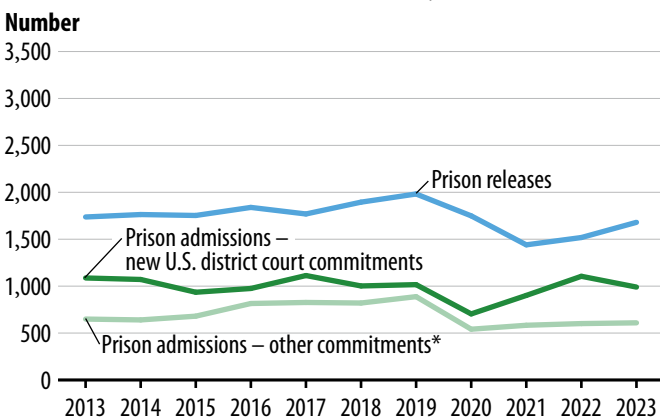
The number of AIAN persons released from federal prison decreased 3%, from 1,737 in FY 2013 to 1,680 in FY 2023.

**FIGURE 5**  
**American Indians and Alaska Natives in the federal justice system, FY 2013–2023**



Note: See table 2 for counts.  
<sup>a</sup>Arrests refer to the most serious offense that suspects were booked for.  
<sup>b</sup>Based on persons convicted in U.S. district courts only.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE Information System; U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2013–2023, <https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov>.

**FIGURE 6**  
**American Indians and Alaska Natives in the federal justice system, by prison admission type and number of prison releases, fiscal years 2013–2023**



Note: See table 2 for counts.  
\*Includes persons admitted to prison for violations of community supervision.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2013–2023, <https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov>.

In total, more AIAN persons were released from federal prison (19,125) from FY 2013 to FY 2023 than were admitted (18,559). The total number of AIAN persons released from federal prison was larger than the number admitted in 6 years from FY 2013 to FY 2023: FY 2014, FY 2016, FY 2018, FY 2019, FY 2020, and FY 2023 (figure 7). In 2020, the 1,749 AIAN persons released from federal prison was 29% more than the 1,245 admitted.

From 1998 to 2023, a total of 65,201 AIAN persons were arrested and booked by federal law enforcement, 32,071 were convicted in U.S. district courts, and 44,319 AIAN persons were admitted to federal prison (not shown in tables). Suspects who had more than one arrest and persons admitted to prison more than once are counted separately for each occurrence.

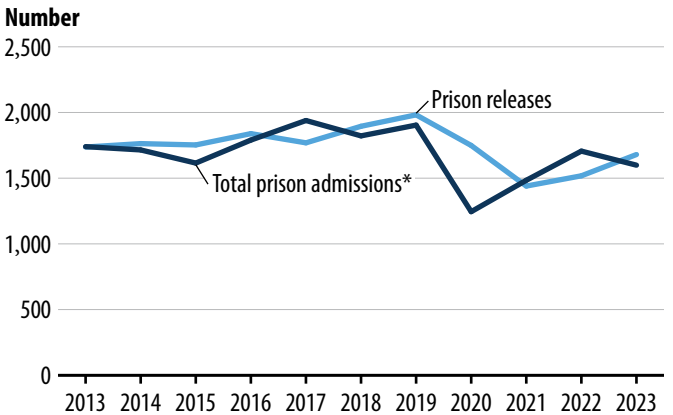
As part of BJS’s continued efforts to modernize its data collections and dissemination of information on crime and justice, in late 2023, BJS updated the Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) tool with a new interface and user guides to assist users.<sup>11,12</sup>

The FCCPS tool is an interactive webtool that allows practitioners, policymakers, academics, and the public to investigate and research various aspects of the federal criminal justice system. AIAN federal case processing data for the federal justice system, including federal law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration for 1998 to 2023 are available via the FCCPS tool.

<sup>11</sup><https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov>

<sup>12</sup>[https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/fccps\\_users\\_guide.pdf](https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/fccps_users_guide.pdf)

**FIGURE 7**  
**American Indians and Alaska Natives in the federal justice system, by total prison admissions and releases, FY 2013–2023**



Note: See table 2 for counts.  
\*Based on all prison admissions (new U.S. district court commitments and other commitments).  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2013–2023, <https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov>.



## FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE)

The FBI's CDE includes data reported by tribal law enforcement agencies. The CDE is part of the FBI's effort to modernize the reporting of national-, state-, and agency-level crime data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which includes the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).<sup>13</sup>

The Arrest Explorer page provides detailed information on the number of persons arrested, as reported monthly to the UCR Program by tribal law enforcement agencies.<sup>14,15</sup> For example, the CDE shows that the Blackfeet Agency on the Blackfeet Nation reservation reported a combined total of 3,957 arrests on tribal lands through NIBRS from January 2021 to December 2023 (figure 8).<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup><https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>

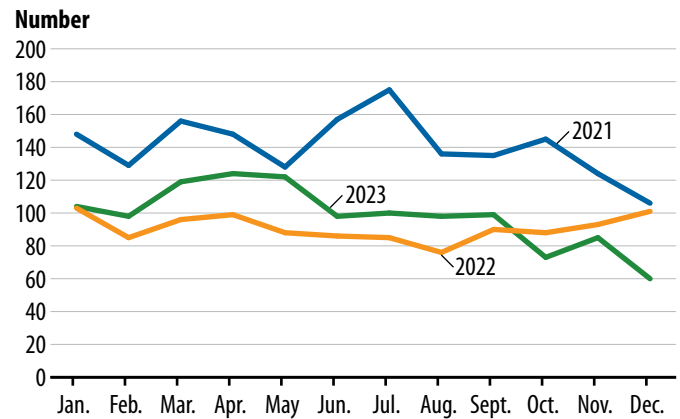
<sup>14</sup>The CDE Arrest Explorer page presents data from the Summary Reporting System and NIBRS. Because a person may be arrested multiple times during a year, the UCR arrest figures do not reflect the total number of individuals arrested but the number of times any persons have been arrested, as reported by law enforcement agencies. See <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/arrest>.

<sup>15</sup>To access data reported by tribal law enforcement agencies, CDE users select a type of crime, location, agency, and timeframe. Once a state is selected under *Location Select*, users can scroll down to *Not Specified* under *Agency Select* to access data reported by tribal law enforcement agencies in that state. For example, to display the total arrests reported by the Blackfeet Nation, use the following criteria: Crimes Select = "All Crimes", Location Select = "Montana", Agency Select="Blackfeet Agency".

<sup>16</sup>The Blackfeet Indian Reservation is home to the 17,321-member Blackfeet Nation, 1 of the 10 largest tribes in the United States. Established by treaty in 1855, the reservation is in northwest Montana. See <https://blackfeetnation.com>.

**FIGURE 8**

**Total arrests reported by the Blackfeet Nation through the FBI's NIBRS Uniform Crime Reporting Program, by month, 2021–2023**



Note: NIBRS denotes the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/arrest>, downloaded February 2, 2025.

### Tribal law enforcement agencies and court systems

From August 2024 to July 2025, BJS and its data collection agent, NORC at the University of Chicago, continued to establish and implement a tribal data collection system with the development of the next versions of the CTLEA and CTCSS questionnaires.<sup>17</sup> The CTLEA will collect data from tribally operated law enforcement agencies in the lower 48 states; BIA police agencies; and the Alaska State Police, which operates the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in Alaska Native villages. The CTCSS will collect data from tribal court systems in the lower 48 states, judicial forums in Alaska Native villages, and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Courts operated by the BIA.

<sup>17</sup>See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bjs-2022-171271>.

The CTLEA and CTCSS development activities are divided into three phases:

- Phase 1: tribal outreach and engagement
- Phase 2: questionnaire development, cognitive testing, updating the universe frames, and fielding the CTLEA and CTCSS
- Phase 3: data processing and dissemination.

BJS staff participated in ongoing phase 1 activities by attending several conferences to continue outreach and engagement with tribal justice practitioners and stakeholders in the past year (table 3).

**TABLE 3**  
**BJS tribal outreach and engagement on the Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies and Census of Tribal Court Systems, by location and month, 2023–2025**

BJS tribal outreach and engagement activities	Location	Date
BIA Tribal Court Assessors in-service meeting, Department of the Interior	Washington, DC	February 2023
United Southeastern Tribes Tribal Justice Committee meeting	Arlington, VA	March 2023
American Society of Criminology conference	Philadelphia, PA	October 2023
National American Indian Court Judges Association Personnel conference	Tulsa, OK	October 2023
Indian Country section meetings, International Association of Chiefs of Police conference	San Diego, CA	October 2023
National Congress of American Indians conference	New Orleans, LA	November 2023
United Southeastern Tribes Tribal Justice Committee meeting	Arlington, VA	March 2024
Indian Country Federal Law Enforcement Coordination Group meeting	Washington, DC	March 2024
Tribal Justice Committee meeting, United Southeastern Tribes	Arlington, VA	March 2024
Department of Justice and Department of the Interior Tribal Justice Safety and Wellness Summit	Washington, DC	July 2024
Indian Country section meetings, International Association of Chiefs of Police conference	Boston, MA	October 2024
National American Indian Court Judges Association Personnel conference	Las Vegas, NV	October 2024
Office on Violence Against Women 19th Annual Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation	Sante Fe, NM	November 2024

The next section of this report focuses on Phase 2 activities completed in the past year that meet the TLOA requirement that BJS consult and coordinate with Indian tribes and key stakeholders to establish and implement the tribal data collection system.

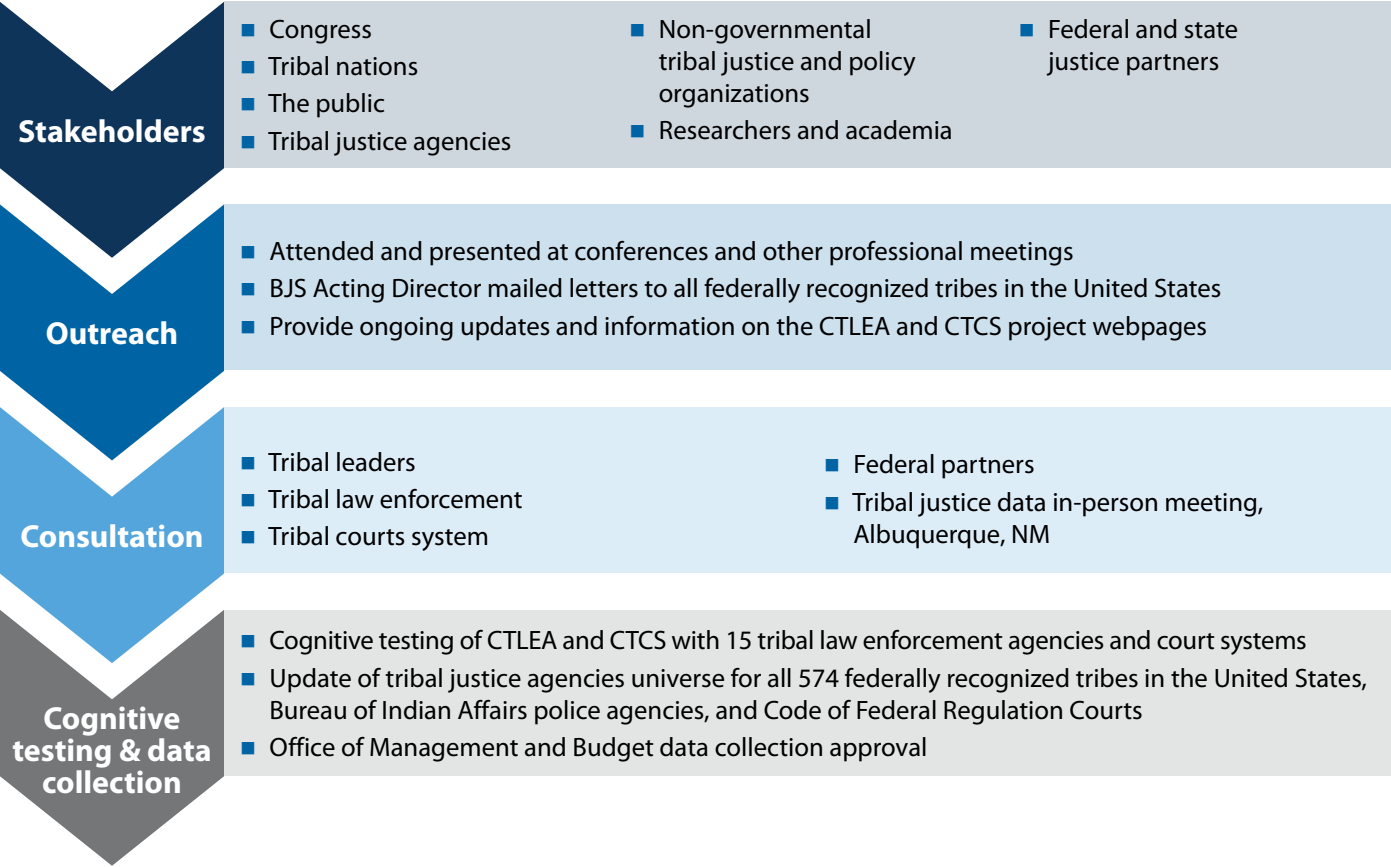
Consultation on tribal crime and justice data

BJS, along with its project team, continued a tribal-centered approach to developing a tribal crime data collection system by conducting extensive outreach and engagement with tribes and tribal leaders, tribal organizations, justice professionals and practitioners, and federal partners (figure 9).<sup>18</sup> These activities included:

<sup>18</sup>The project team includes NORC, the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, the Indian country section membership of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National American Indian Court Judges Association.

- consulting with tribal nations, tribal justice agencies, and tribal organizations to lead the input on questionnaire development
- targeting outreach and engagement with the respondent universe and stakeholders to ensure comprehensive coverage of issues and challenges impacting tribal justice systems and communities
- developing the updated CTLEA and CTCS questionnaires
- preparing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) generic clearance request to conduct cognitive and usability testing on the instruments using the programmed web survey and updating the respondent universe.

**FIGURE 9**  
**BJS tribal-centered approach for the implementation and development of tribal data collection system, 2024–2025**



## CTLEA and CTCS questionnaire development and tribal justice agencies universe update

Since the release of the *Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2024* report in July 2024, BJS began Phase 2 of the CTLEA and CTCS project schedule, focused on questionnaire revision and development, cognitive and usability testing, and updating the universe frames.

### Cognitive testing

In May 2025, OMB approved generic clearance for BJS to conduct cognitive testing of the CTLEA and CTCS survey instruments in summer 2025. The 574 federally recognized tribes often have different cultural norms and speak different languages. Cognition testing of the CTLEA and CTCS questions and items will help identify differences in legal concepts, terms, and definitions used by the varying tribes.

To modernize the CTLEA and CTCS, both will be administered via web surveys as the primary mode of collection, a change from prior collection protocols, further underscoring the need for cognitive and usability testing to ensure the reliability and validity of questions and concepts.

Through cognitive testing, BJS aims to:

- establish an accurate estimate of respondent time burden to complete the CTLEA and CTCS survey instruments
- test the reliability of the questions to avoid response error
- test the content validity of the questions and verify completeness of the response categories
- verify that the instruction materials and supporting job aids are clear and easy to follow
- verify that courts and law enforcement agencies are able to access and use the web survey instruments with minimal difficulty
- document the respondent feedback to help make improvements and revisions to the instruments and data collection protocols.

Fifteen tribal law enforcement agencies will be selected to participate in the cognitive test of the CTLEA survey instrument, and 15 tribal courts will be selected to participate in the cognitive test of the CTCS survey instrument. The sample of tribal law enforcement agencies and court systems will be representative of the various tribes, based on size of the resident population to include remotely rural small tribes.

## Tribal justice agencies universe update

OMB also approved the BJS proposal to contact all 574 federally recognized tribes to ask if they operated any tribal law enforcement agencies or tribal courts or participated in an inter-tribal court system. This updated universe of tribal law enforcement agencies and courts will be used to administer the full data collections to eligible tribal justice agencies.

For this task, BJS will send a letter to the tribal leaders of all the federally recognized tribes, including tribes in Alaska, seeking verification of the existence of tribally operated law enforcement agencies and courts.<sup>19</sup> The letter will provide background information on the CTLEA and CTCS collections, request the tribal leader's support for the upcoming data collections, and ask that the tribal leader complete a short, web-based form by providing the name(s) of tribal law enforcement and/or tribal court agencies that serve the tribe. In addition to the name of the agency or court, the form will collect contact information for the agency or court system that will be responsible for completing the questionnaires. BJS will also coordinate with the BIA's Office of Justice Service to update the universe of BIA police agencies and CFR courts operating on tribal lands.

### Tribal Crime and Justice webpage

BJS's Tribal Crime and Justice webpage presents information on and updates to BJS's tribal data collections.<sup>20</sup> It links to the latest information on victimization, law enforcement, courts, corrections, and funding for criminal justice data improvements.

### Previously released reports

Visit the BJS website for previously published reports in the following series:

- *Tribal Law Enforcement*
- *Tribal Court Systems*
- *Jails in Indian Country*
- *Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities*
- *American Indians and Crime.*

<sup>19</sup>The Alaska State Troopers has law enforcement or criminal jurisdiction in rural areas, and only two Alaska Native tribes operate a police agency. The Alaska State Troopers will participate in the CTLEA as the sponsor of the VPSO program and the agency responsible for investigating crimes in Alaska Native villages.

<sup>20</sup>See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/tribal-crime-and-justice>.

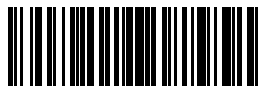


The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, 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 Steven W. Perry. Carol Ann Sharo, PhD; Mark A. Motivans, PhD; and Todd Minton verified the report.

Eric Hendrixson edited the report. Jeffrey Link produced the report.

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