



Jail Inmates in 2018

SUMMARY | NCJ 253044

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The jail incarceration rate in county and city jails across the United States dropped 12% from 2008 to 2018, from 258 to 226 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. Jails held 738,400 inmates nationwide at midyear 2018, a decline of 6% from 785,500 inmates held in 2008.

Demographic characteristics of jail inmates

The jail population in 2018 was 50% white, 33% black, and 15% Hispanic. From 2008 to 2018, the jail incarceration rate rose by 12% for whites and fell by about 30% for blacks (down 28%) and Hispanics (down 33%). The rate fell from 825 to 592 jail inmates per 100,000 black residents, as 2018 marked the first time that the rate for black residents was below 600 since 1990.

At midyear 2018, males accounted for 84% of jail inmates and females accounted for 16%. The male inmate population decreased by 62,500 or 9% from 2008 to 2018, while the female inmate population grew by 15,400 or 15%. The number of juvenile jail inmates fell 56% during this period, from 7,700 to 3,400.

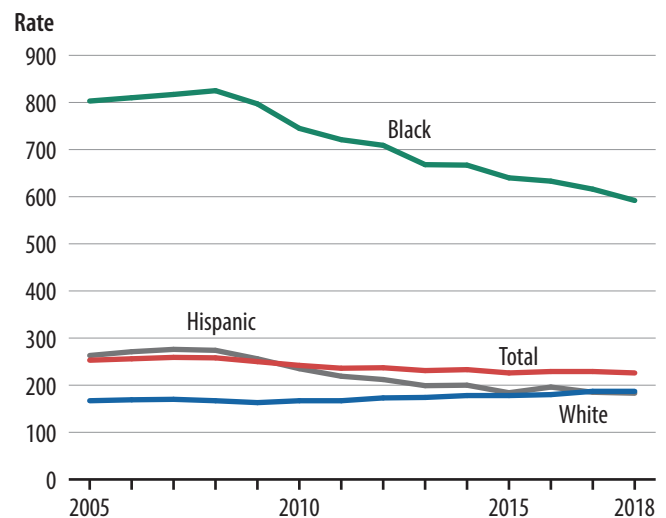
Admissions, capacity, and staff at local jails

In 2018, jails reported 10.7 million admissions, a 21% decline from 2008. An estimated 81% of jail beds were occupied at midyear 2018, down from 95% at midyear 2008. Jails employed an estimated 221,600 full-time workers in 2018, which was not a statistically significant change from 2017. The inmate-to-correctional-officer ratio was 4.2 to 1 at midyear in both 2017 and 2018.

Conviction status, average time in jail, and community supervision

More than two-thirds (68%) of jail inmates were held for felony charges in 2018. About one-third (34%) of jail inmates were sentenced or awaiting sentencing

Jail incarceration rates at midyear, by race or ethnicity, 2005-2018



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2006-2018; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

on a conviction, while about two-thirds (66%) were awaiting court action on a current charge or were held for other reasons. Jail inmates spent an estimated average of 25 days in jail in 2018. On average, jails with an average daily population (ADP) of 2,500 or more inmates held inmates about twice as long (34 days) as jails with an ADP of less than 100 inmates (15 days).

In addition to the 738,400 confined inmates at midyear 2018, jail authorities supervised 57,900 persons in programs outside of jail, including weekend programs, electronic monitoring, home detention, day reporting, community service, alcohol or drug treatment programs, and other pre-trial or work programs. The number of persons supervised outside of jail dropped from 72,900 in 2008 to 57,900 in 2018 (down 21%).

The full report (*Jail Inmates in 2018*, NCJ 253044), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.