

Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014

(NCJ 248629)

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Summary | June 2015

ounty and city jails admitted an estimated 11.4 million persons during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, a decrease from the peak of 13.6 million in 2008. There were an estimated 744,600 inmates at midyear 2014—steady with the 2012 population level and significantly lower than the peak of 785,500 at midyear 2008.

Declining incarceration rate

The jail incarceration rate—the confined population per 100,000 U.S. residents—also decreased, from a peak of 259 inmates per 100,000 at midyear 2007 to 234 per 100,000 at midyear 2014. The adult-only jail incarceration rate also declined, from a high of 340 inmates per 100,000 residents at midyear 2007 to 302 per 100,000 at midyear 2014.

Since 2000, 95% of jail growth (up 123,500 inmates) was because of an increase in the unconvicted population (up 117,700 inmates). At midyear 2014, about 6 in 10 adult inmates were not convicted, but were in jail awaiting court action on a current charge—a rate unchanged since 2005. The remaining inmates were sentenced offenders or convicted offenders awaiting sentencing.

More female inmates

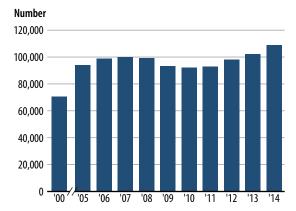
Although males have made up at least 85% of the jail population since 2000, data from the BJS Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ) showed an increase in the female inmate population. Local jails held 109,100 females at midyear 2014, an increase from 99,700 in the peak year of 2008; male inmates in local jails fell from an estimated 685,900 to 635,500 in those 6 years. While the number of females confined in county and city jails increased by 18% between midyear 2010 and 2014, the male population declined about 3% during the period.

ASJ data also unveiled key findings about the race and Hispanic origin of persons in county and city jails. In 2014, the total jail population was 47% white, 35% black, and 15% Hispanic. From midyear 2010 to 2014, the number of white inmates increased by 21,200. During the same period, the number of black (down 19,400) and Hispanic (down 7,500) inmates declined.

Fewer juveniles jailed

While the overall jail population has increased since 2000, the number of juveniles confined in county and city jails has declined. Local jails held 4,200 juveniles age 17 or younger at midyear 2014—significantly less than the peak population of 7,700 in 2008. Juveniles accounted for 0.6% of the confined population at midyear 2014, down from 1.2% at midyear 2000. The number of juveniles not charged as an adult declined from 1,900 at midyear 2010 to 500 at midyear 2014. Nearly 90% of juvenile inmates were tried or awaiting trial in adult court.

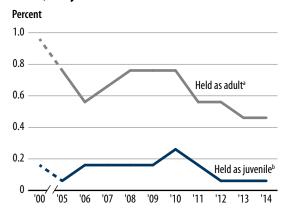
Number of female inmates in local jails, midyear 2000 and 2005–2014



Note: Based on the total number of female inmates held on the last weekday in June. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. See table 2 in the report for significance test. See appendix table 3 in the report for standard error ratios.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, midyear 2000 and midyear 2006–2014; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

Percent of juvenile inmates in local jails, by holding status, midyear 2000 and 2005–2014



Note: Percentages are based on the total number of inmates held on the last weekday in June. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. See table 2 in the report for significance test. See appendix table 4 in the report for standard error ratios.

^aIncludes juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

^bPersons age 17 or younger at midyear.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, midyear 2000 and midyear 2006–2014; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

The full report (*Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014*, NCJ 248629), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.



