

The tribal justice system varies throughout tribal nations and regions of the country. Criminal jurisdiction in Indian country—federally recognized reservations, tribal communities, and identified trust lands—can differ depending on the type of crime committed, whether the offender or victim is a tribal member, and the state in which the offense occurred. During fiscal year 2015, BJS focused on improving its understanding of the role of state, local, and tribal justice agencies serving the tribal lands that house nearly 5 million people, a quarter of whom self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native (AIAN).

Increased data collection

In 2015, BJS released a solicitation to conduct the 2016 National Survey of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies, the first BJS statistical collection targeting Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies and tribal law enforcement agencies in the lower 48 states and Alaska. BJS also convened a panel of justice professionals from state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices to inform the development of two surveys of state and local justice agencies in select jurisdictions that service tribal lands. Additionally, data collection for the National Survey of Tribal Court Systems began in 2015.

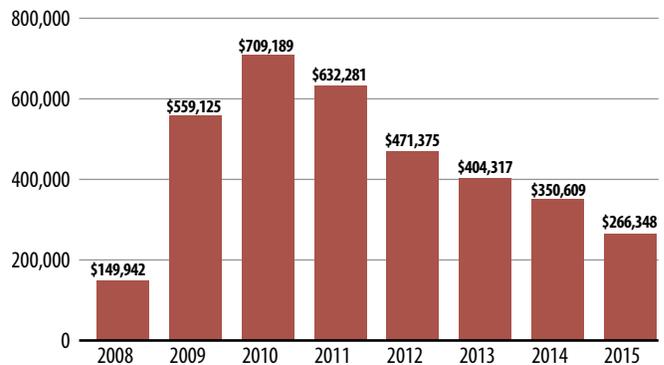
Jails in Indian country

A total of 2,287 inmates were confined in the 79 tribal facilities in operation at midyear 2013—a 3.3% decrease from the 2,364 inmates confined at midyear 2012. Since 2010, about 31% of inmates held in Indian country jails have been confined for a violent offense, a decline from about 39% each year from midyear 2004 to midyear 2009.

Patterns of decline were also observed among inmates held for alcohol- and drug-related offenses. Inmates held for offenses related to driving while intoxicated or driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol declined from 17% of the total inmate population in 2000 to 8% at midyear 2013. Inmates held for a drug law violation (8% in 2000) decreased to 4% at midyear 2013.

Total Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant allocations to American Indian tribes, 2008–2015

Combined total tribal awards



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 2008–2015.

AIAN inmates in custody

Local jails held about 10,400 AIAN inmates (both tribal and nontribal) at midyear 2014, which was less than 2% of the total jail inmate population. Nearly half of all AIAN jail inmates were in western states. During 2012, a total of 2,482 AIAN (both tribal and nontribal) were arrested and booked by federal law enforcement agencies, 1,355 were sentenced in U.S. district courts, 1,735 entered federal prison, and 1,683 exited federal prison.

Reporting Indian country offenses

The number of tribal law enforcement agencies reporting crime data to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program increased from 12 in 2008 to 158 in 2012 and 2013. In 2013, 88% of violent offenses reported by tribal law enforcement agencies could be traced back to the originating tribal reservation, up from 6% in 2008. The proportion of property offenses reported by tribal law enforcement agencies that were traceable to the tribe increased from 13% in 2008 to 83% in 2013.

The full report (*Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2015*, NCJ 248785, BJS web, July 2015), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.

