



Jail Inmates in 2015

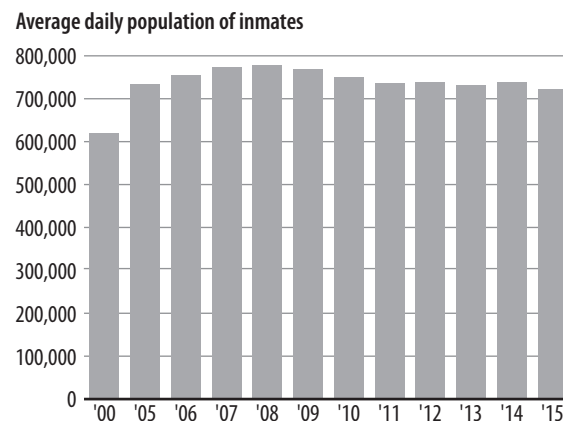
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The average daily population (ADP) of jail inmates in 2015 (721,300) remained stable from 2011 to 2015 after peaking in 2008 (776,600) (figure 1, table 1). The ADP jail population count is a fraction of the number of inmates flowing into jail each year. In 2015, there were 10.9 million admissions to jails (table 2). From 2008 to 2015, the volume of admissions to jails steadily declined. The number of admissions to jail in 2015 was nearly 15 times the size of ADP in 2015.

The jail incarceration rate—the confined population per 100,000 U.S. residents—decreased from a peak in 2006 through 2008 (260 per 100,000) to 230 per 100,000 at midyear 2015. These data are based on midyear counts, which includes the number of inmates held in custody on the last weekday in June. This was the lowest rate since midyear 2000 (220 per 100,000). The adult incarceration rate for persons age 18 or older also declined from a peak of 340 per 100,000 in 2006 through 2008 to about 300 per 100,000 each year since 2013.

In addition to tracking the midyear population and the ADP, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has tracked the confined jail population at yearend since 2000. (See *Terms and definitions* textbox.) The jail population goes through seasonal change, typically

FIGURE 1
Average daily population of inmates confined in local jails, 2000 and 2005–2015



Note: Average daily population is the sum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2005–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear (about 4% lower on average from 2000 to 2015), but the year-to-year changes of midyear and yearend population counts have followed a similar pattern (not shown). The total number of inmates confined in local jails was 693,300 on December 31, 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 721,300 inmates were confined in county and city jails on an average day in 2015, down from the peak of 776,600 inmates on an average day in 2008.
- In 2015, there were 10.9 million admissions to jails, continuing a steady decline since 2008.
- The number of admissions to jail in 2015 was nearly 15 times the size of average daily population in 2015.
- The adult jail incarceration rate declined from a peak of 340 per 100,000 in 2006 through 2008 to about 300 per 100,000 each year since 2013.
- The juvenile population in local jails continued to decline in 2015, to fewer than 4,000—down from a peak of about 7,600 juveniles in 2010.
- About 68% of jail inmates in 2015 were held for a felony offense, and the remaining 32% were held for either misdemeanor (27%) or other offenses (5%).
- The rated capacity in jails reached 904,900 beds at yearend 2015, up by nearly 47,000 beds since 2010.
- Local jail jurisdictions employed an estimated 213,300 full-time staff at yearend 2015 of which most (79%) were correctional officers.

Terms and definitions

- **Adult incarceration rate**—The number of adult inmates held in the custody of local jails, per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older.
- **Admissions**—Persons who are officially booked and housed in jails by formal legal document and the authority of the courts or some other official agency. Jail admissions include persons sentenced to weekend programs and those who are booked into the facility for the first time. Excluded from jail admissions are inmates reentering the facility after an escape, work release, medical appointment or treatment facility appointment, and bail and court appearances.
- **Average daily population**—The average is derived by the sum of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.
- **Average annual change**—The mean average change across a 12-month period.
- **Calculating weekly jail turnover rate**—This rate is calculated by adding average weekly admissions and releases and dividing by the average daily population. See *Calculating weekly turnover rates* section for additional information.
- **Inmates confined at midyear**—The number of inmates held in custody on the last weekday in June.
- **Inmates confined at yearend**—The number of inmates held in custody on December 31. This number is typically smaller than the number of inmates confined at midyear.
- **Jail incarceration rate**—The number of inmates held in the custody of local jails, per 100,000 U.S. residents.
- **Percent of capacity occupied**—This percentage is calculated by taking the number of inmates (e.g. confined inmate population or average daily population) and dividing by the rated capacity.
- **Rated capacity**—The number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.
- **Releases**—Persons released after a period of confinement (e.g., sentence completion, bail or bond releases, other pretrial releases, transfers to other jurisdictions, and deaths). Releases include those persons who have completed their weekend program and who are leaving the facility for the last time. Excluded from jail releases are temporary discharges, including work release, medical appointment or treatment center, court appearance, furlough, day reporting, and transfers to other facilities within the jail's jurisdiction.
- **Under jail supervision but not confined**—This classification includes all persons in community-based programs operated by a jail facility. These programs include electronic monitoring, house arrest, community service, day reporting, and work programs. The classification excludes persons on pretrial release and who are not in a community-based program run by the jail, as well as persons under supervision of probation, parole or other agencies, inmates on weekend programs, and inmates who participate in work release programs and return to the jail at night.

TABLE 1**Inmates confined in local jails, average daily population, and incarceration rates, midyear 2000 and 2005–2015; yearend 2015**

Year	Confined inmates ^a		Average daily population ^b		Jail incarceration rate ^c	
	Total	Year-to-year percent change	Total	Year-to-year percent change	Adults and juveniles	Adults only
2000	621,100**	2.5%***	618,300**	1.7%***	220	290
2005	747,500**	4.7***	733,400	3.9***	250	330
2006	765,800**	2.4***	755,300**	3.0***	260	340
2007	780,200**	1.9***	773,100**	2.4***	260	340
2008	785,500**	0.7	776,600**	0.4	260	340
2009	767,400**	-2.3***	768,100**	-1.1	250	330
2010	748,700**	-2.4***	748,600**	-2.5***	240	320
2011	735,600	-1.8	735,600	-1.7	240	310
2012	744,500	1.2	737,400	0.2	240	310
2013	731,200	-1.8	731,400	-0.8	230	300
2014	744,600	1.8	739,000	1.0	230	300
2015*	728,200	-2.2	:	:	230	...
2015 ^d	693,300!	!	721,300*	-2.4	!	!

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100 for confined inmates and average daily population. See appendix table 1 for standard errors. Starting in 2015, the Annual Survey of Jails collects data on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June (midyear) and on December 31 (yearend).

...Not collected.

: Not calculated.

! Not compared because the jail population goes through seasonal variation, typically with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

*Comparison year on confined inmates and average daily population.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

***Year-to-year change is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aUnless noted for a specific year, data are based on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June.

^bSum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

^cNumber of confined inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. Adults are defined as persons age 18 or older, and juveniles are defined as persons age 17 or younger.

^dData are based on the number of inmates confined on December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

TABLE 2**Number of annual admissions to local jails, 1999 and 2007–2015**

Year	Estimated total number of annual admissions ^a	Year-to-year percent change
1999	11,400,000**	:
2007	13,100,000**	:
2008	13,600,000**	3.8%
2009	12,800,000**	-5.9***
2010	12,900,000**	0.8
2011	11,800,000**	-8.5***
2012	11,600,000**	-1.7
2013	11,700,000	0.9
2014	11,400,000**	-2.6
2015*	10,900,000	-4.4***
Average annual change		
1999–2014	0.0%	
2014–2015	-4.4***	

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100,000. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

: Not calculated.

*Comparison year on annual admissions.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

***Year-to-year change is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aIn 2015, the ASJ collected annual admissions. The 1999 Census of Jails and the 2007–2014 ASJ collected data on weekly admissions during the last week in June.

The number of annual admissions was calculated by multiplying the weekly admissions by 365 days and dividing by 7 days.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails, 1999; and Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2007–2015.

Juvenile population in adult jails continued to decline

The juvenile population (those age 17 or younger) in local jails continued to decline in 2015, to fewer than 4,000 inmates (tables 3 and 4). This was down from a peak of about 7,600 juveniles in 2010. Since 2000, at least 8 in 10 juveniles held in local jails were on trial or awaiting trial in adult court.

While males accounted for at least 85% of the jail population each year since 2000, the female jail population grew from 11% of the total jail population in 2000 to more than 14% in 2013 and 2014. As a result, the female jail incarceration rate increased from about 50 per 100,000 female U.S. residents in 2000 to nearly 70 per 100,000 in 2014. The male incarceration rate remained relatively stable since 2000 (about 400 per 100,000 male U.S. residents) (not shown).

White inmates accounted for at least 47% of the jail population since 2013, up from 42% in 2000. Conversely, the percentage of black inmates held in local jails declined from about 40% in 2005 to 35% in 2014 and 2015. Hispanics represented about

15% of the jail population in 2014, unchanged since 2000. American Indian and Alaska Native inmates represented a small proportion (about 1%) of the jail population, but their number has nearly doubled since 2000.

Nearly 7 in 10 inmates were held in jail for a felony offense

Since 2005, more than 60% of all jail inmates were awaiting court action on a current charge. About 4 in 10 inmates were sentenced offenders or convicted offenders awaiting sentencing. The growth in the overall jail inmate population since 2000 was due to the increase in the unconvicted population. Regardless of conviction status, about 68% of jail inmates in 2015 were held for a felony offense, and the remaining 32% were held for either misdemeanor (27%) or other offenses (5%) (not shown).

TABLE 3
Number of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristics, midyear 2000, 2005, and 2010–2014; yearend 2015

Characteristic	Midyear							Yearend 2015
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	
Total	621,100**	747,500	748,700	735,600	744,500	731,200	744,600	693,300!
Sex								
Male	550,200**	653,000**	656,400**	642,300	645,900	628,900	635,500	594,200!
Female	71,000**	94,600**	92,400**	93,300**	98,600**	102,400**	109,100	99,100!
Adult	613,500**	740,800	741,200	729,700	739,100	726,600	740,400	689,900!
Male	543,100**	646,800**	649,300**	636,900	640,900	624,700	631,600	591,100!
Female	70,400**	94,000**	91,900**	92,800**	98,100**	101,900**	108,800	98,800!
Juvenile^a	7,600**	6,800**	7,600**	5,900**	5,400**	4,600	4,200	3,500!
Held as adult ^b	6,100**	5,800**	5,600**	4,600**	4,600**	3,500	3,700	3,200!
Held as juvenile	1,500**	1,000	1,900**	1,400	900	1,100	500	300!
Race/Hispanic origin^c								
White	260,500**	331,000**	331,600**	329,400**	341,100	344,900	352,800	335,100!
Black/African American	256,300	290,500**	283,200**	276,400**	274,600	261,500	263,800	243,400!
Hispanic/Latino	94,100**	111,900	118,100**	113,900	112,700	107,900	110,600	99,000!
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^d	5,500**	7,600**	9,900	9,400	9,300	10,200	10,400	8,600!
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^d	4,700**	5,400**	5,100**	5,300**	5,400	5,100**	6,000	5,800!
Two or more races	...	1,000	800	1,200	1,500**	1,600**	1,000	1,500!
Conviction status^{d,e}								
Convicted	271,300	284,400	291,300**	289,600**	293,100**	278,000	277,100	258,800!
Unconvicted	349,800**	463,200	457,400	446,000**	451,400**	453,200	467,500	434,600!

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Midyear estimates are based on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June, and yearend estimates are based on the number of inmates confined on December 31. In 2015, the ASJ collected characteristic data at yearend but did not collect details for midyear 2015. See appendix table 3 for standard errors. See *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014* for years 2006–2009.

...Not collected.

! Not compared because the jail population goes through seasonal variation, typically with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

*Comparison year for each characteristic.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aPersons age 17 or younger.

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

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

^dReports prior to 2014 combined American Indians and Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders into an other race category.

^eIncludes juveniles who were on trial or awaiting trial as adults.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2000, 2005, and 2010–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

TABLE 4**Percent of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristics, midyear 2000, 2005, and 2010–2014; yearend 2015**

Characteristic	Midyear							Yearend 2015
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	
Sex								
Male	88.6%**	87.3%**	87.7%**	87.3%**	86.8%**	86.0%**	85.3%	85.7%!
Female	11.4**	12.7**	12.3**	12.7**	13.2**	14.0**	14.7	14.3!
Adult	98.8%**	99.1%**	99.0%**	99.2%**	99.3%**	99.4%	99.4%	99.5%!
Male	87.4**	86.5**	86.7**	86.6**	86.1**	85.4**	84.8	85.2!
Female	11.3**	12.6**	12.3**	12.6**	13.2**	13.9**	14.6	14.3!
Juvenile^a	1.2%**	0.9%**	1.0%**	0.8%**	0.7%**	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%!
Held as adult ^b	1.0**	0.8**	0.8**	0.6**	0.6**	0.5	0.5	0.5!
Held as juvenile	0.2**	0.1**	0.3**	0.2**	0.1**	0.1**	0.1	--
Race/Hispanic origin^c								
White	41.9%**	44.3%**	44.3%**	44.8%**	45.8%**	47.2%	47.4%	48.3%!
Black/African American	41.3**	38.9**	37.8**	37.6**	36.9**	35.8	35.4	35.1!
Hispanic/Latino	15.2	15.0	15.8**	15.5	15.1	14.8	14.9	14.3!
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^d	0.9**	1.0**	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2!
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^d	0.8	0.7**	0.7**	0.7**	0.7	0.7**	0.8	0.8!
Two or more races	...	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2**	0.1	0.2!
Conviction status^e								
Convicted	44.0%**	38.0%	38.9%**	39.4%**	39.4%**	38.0%	37.2%	37.3%!
Unconvicted	56.0**	62.0	61.1**	60.6**	60.6**	62.0	62.8	62.7!

Note: Percentages are based on the total number of confined inmates in table 3. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Midyear estimates are based on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June, and yearend estimates are based on the number of inmates confined on December 31. In 2015, the ASJ collected characteristic data at yearend. See appendix table 4 for standard errors. See *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014* for years 2006–2009.

--Less than 0.05%.

...Not collected.

! Not compared because the jail population goes through seasonal change, typically with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

*Comparison year for each characteristic.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aPersons age 17 or younger.

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

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

^dReports prior to 2014 combined American Indians and Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders into an other race category.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2000, 2005, and 2010–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

Jail jurisdictions with 2,500 or more inmates held 21% of the population in 2015, down from 25% in 2014

Large jail jurisdictions with 2,500 or more inmates held 21% of the population in 2015, down from 25% in 2014 nationwide (table 5). In 2015, 1 in 5 inmates were held in 30 jail jurisdictions with an ADP of 2,500 or more inmates (not shown). Jail jurisdictions with 100–249 average daily population held 14% of inmates in 2015, up from 12% in 2014. In comparison, jail jurisdictions with an ADP of under 100 held less than 10% of the inmate population, but accounted for more than half of all jail jurisdictions in 2014 (57%) and 2015 (56%) (not shown). While the mean ADP of all jail jurisdictions decreased from 269 to 253 inmates between 2014 and 2015, the ADP within jail size categories remained stable.

Bed space increased between 2008 and 2015, while jail population decreased

The rated capacity in jails reached 904,900 beds at yearend 2015, up nearly 47,000 beds since 2010. (figure 2, table 6). Jail capacity grew at an annual rate of nearly 2% between midyear 2000 and yearend 2015. The rated capacity is the maximum number of beds or inmates allocated to each jail facility by a rating official, excluding separate temporary holding areas. While the jail population and rated capacity increased at similar rates from 2000 through 2008, the growth rates have diverged since 2008. The ADP declined by 7% from 2008 to 2015, while the rated capacity increased by 9%.

TABLE 5
Mean and proportion of the average daily jail population, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015

Jurisdiction size ^b	Mean ADP ^a		Percent of total ADP	
	2014	2015*	2014	2015*
Total	269**	253	100%	100%
49 or fewer	20	22	2.8	3.4
50–99	72	72	4.9	4.9
100–249	162	162	11.6**	14.1
250–499	346	354	14.6	14.5
500–999	702	695	18.2	18.2
1,000–2,499	1,444	1,423	23.1	24.1
2,500 or more	5,109	4,942	24.8**	20.8

Note: See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

*Comparison year for jurisdiction size.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

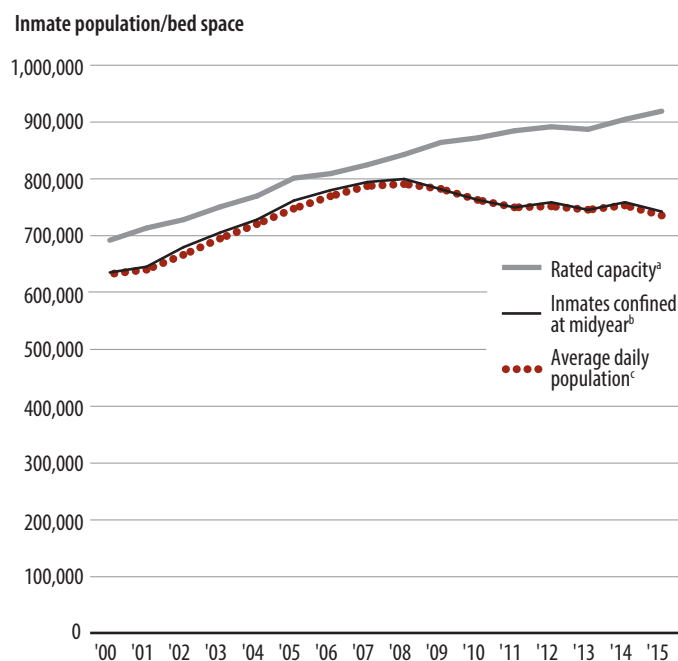
^aSum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

^bFor 2014, the jurisdiction size was based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014. For 2015, the jurisdiction size was based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2014–2015.

Since peaking in 2007 at 95%, the percentage of occupied capacity on an average day (the ratio of ADP in a year to rated capacity) declined to 80% by yearend 2015. Combined, jail jurisdictions holding under 100 inmates reported the lowest occupied capacity (between 55% and 71%) compared to jail jurisdictions holding 100 inmates or more (between 80% and 86%) (table 7). In 2014 and 2015, about 80% of jail jurisdictions were operating at less than 100% of their capacity. The percentage of jail jurisdictions operating at more than 100% of their capacity ranged from 4% of jail jurisdictions with an ADP of 49 or fewer inmates to 24% of jail jurisdictions with an ADP of 1,000 to 2,499 inmates.

FIGURE 2
Midyear custody population, average daily population, and rated capacity in local jails, 2000–2015



^aMaximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.

^bNumber of inmates held on the last weekday in June.

^cSum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000–2004 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

TABLE 6
Rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, 2000 and 2005–2015

Year ^d	Rated capacity ^c	Year-to-year percent change in rated capacity ^a	Percent of capacity occupied based on ^b —	
			Confined 1-day population ^d	Average daily population ^e
2000	677,800**	3.9%***	92.0%**	91.2%**
2005	787,000**	4.1***	95.0**	93.2**
2006	795,000**	1.0	96.3**	95.0**
2007	810,500**	2.0***	96.3**	95.4**
2008	828,700**	2.2***	94.8**	93.7**
2009	849,900**	2.6***	90.3**	90.4**
2010	857,900**	0.9	87.3**	87.3**
2011	870,400	1.5	84.5	84.5
2012	877,400	0.8	84.9	84.0
2013	872,900	-0.5	83.8	83.8
2014*	890,500	2.0	83.6	83.0
2015 ^f	904,900	1.6	76.6!	79.7**
Change in rated capacity				
Average annual change, 2000–2015		1.9%		

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

! Not compared because the jail population goes through seasonal change, typically with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

*Comparison year on rated capacity and percent of capacity occupied.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

***Year-to-year change is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aIncrease or reduction in the number of beds during the 12 months ending midyear of each year. Number and percentage change for 2000 are calculated using the rated capacity of 652,321 for 1999.

^bBased on the inmate population divided by the rated capacity.

^cMaximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.

^dData are based on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June except for 2015 which was based on December 31, 2015.

^eSum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

^fData are based on the rated capacity for December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

TABLE 7
Percent of jail capacity occupied based on average daily population, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015

Jurisdiction size	Percent of capacity occupied		Percent of jail jurisdictions operating over 100% of capacity	
	2014	2015*	2014	2015*
Total	83.0%**	79.7%	12.8%	12.0%
49 or fewer	57.3	55.3	3.8	4.1
50–99	68.0	71.3	11.7	12.3
100–249	78.7**	83.7	20.2	18.9
250–499	83.3	80.1	21.0	17.9
500–999	84.1**	79.2	19.6	17.6
1,000–2,499	88.8**	85.8	28.9**	24.1
2,500 or more	87.0**	79.5	22.9**	17.4

Note: The average daily population (ADP) is divided by the rated capacity. For 2014, the jurisdiction size was based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014. For yearend 2015, the jurisdiction size is based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison year for jurisdiction size.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2014–2015.

The smallest jail jurisdictions turn over inmates three times faster than the largest jails

For the smallest jail jurisdictions (49 or fewer inmates), the number of admissions to their jails was 37 times the size of the ADP in 2015 (table 8). The smallest jails accounted for less than 10% of all jail admission in 2014 and 2015, and large jails (1,000 or more) accounted for more than a third of all admissions. The smallest jails weekly turnover rate (140%) was three times that of the largest jail jurisdictions with an ADP of 2,500 or more inmates (42%). The smallest jails also maintained the lowest capacity occupied at 55%. A higher inmate turnover rate indicates a shorter length of stay in jail and is associated with an increased burden by jurisdictions to process admissions and releases.

Jail staff supervised an additional 57,100 persons in various community programs outside of jail

In addition to the confined jail population at yearend 2015, jail authorities also supervised 57,100 persons in various programs outside of the jail, including electronic monitoring, home detention, day reporting, community service, treatment programs, and other pretrial and work programs. On average, jails supervised an estimated 66,000 nonconfined persons each year between 2000 and 2015 (table 9).

TABLE 8
Average daily jail population, admissions, and turnover rate, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015

Jurisdiction size ^c	ADP ^a		Estimated number of annual admissions		Weekly turnover rate ^b	
	2014	2015*	2014 ^d	2015* ^e	2014	2015*
Total	739,000	721,300	11,400,000**	10,900,000	58.1%	57.0%
49 or fewer	20,600	24,300	653,800**	902,000	119.0	139.6
50–99	36,500	35,000	899,800	694,200	88.0	73.9
100–249	85,400**	101,100	1,588,600	1,820,300	69.9	67.4
250–499	107,700	105,000	1,864,100	1,716,600	65.0	62.2
500–999	134,500	131,600	1,940,100	1,857,600	54.5	53.6
1,000–2,499	170,900	173,900	2,327,800	2,200,800	52.5**	48.6
2,500 or more	183,400**	150,100	2,141,200**	1,661,700	43.7	41.8

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison year for jurisdiction size.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aSum of all inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

^bCalculated by adding weekly admissions and releases, dividing by the average daily population (ADP). To calculate weekly admissions for 2015, the annual number of admissions was divided by the number of weeks in 2015.

^cFor 2014, the jurisdiction size was based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014. For 2015, the jurisdiction size is based on the ADP during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015, the first year in the current ASJ sample.

^dThe 2014 ASJ collected data on weekly admissions during the last week in June. The number of annual admissions was calculated by multiplying the weekly admissions by 365 days and dividing by 7 days. See *Methodology* for more detail on estimation procedures.

^eStarting in 2015, the ASJ collects annual admissions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2014–2015.

Local jail jurisdictions employed an estimated 213,300 full-time staff at yearend 2015 (table 10). Similar to 2013, most (79%) of the facility staff were correctional officers, including deputies, monitors, and other custody staff who spend more than 50% of their time with the incarcerated population. About 21% of the staff consisted of administrators, clerical and maintenance staff, educational staff, professional and technical

staff, and other unspecified staff who spend more than 50% of their time in the facility. In 2013 and 2015, about 65% of the jail staff and 70% of all correctional officers were male. Nationally, the inmate-to-correctional officer ratio was 4.1 in 2015, similar to 2013. For state-level estimates of correctional officers for 2013, see *Census of Jails: Population Changes, 1999–2013* (NCJ 248627, BJS web, December 2015).

TABLE 9
Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status, 2000 and 2006–2015

Year	Total	Held in jail ^a	Supervised outside of a jail facility ^b
2000	687,000**	621,100**	65,900
2006	826,000	765,800**	60,200
2007	848,400**	780,200**	68,200
2008	858,400**	785,500**	72,900**
2009	837,600**	767,400**	70,200**
2010	809,400	748,700	60,600
2011	798,400	735,600	62,800
2012	808,600	744,500	64,100
2013	790,600	731,200	59,400
2014*	808,100	744,600	63,500
2015 ^c	750,500!	693,300!	57,100!

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

! Not compared because the jail population goes through seasonal change, typically with fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

*Comparison year on confined inmates and inmates supervised outside of jail.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aUnless noted for a specific year, data are based on the number of inmates confined on the last weekday in June.

^bUnless noted for a specific year, the number of persons under jail supervision but not confined is based on the last weekday in June. Excludes persons supervised by a probation or parole agency. Includes offenders that served their sentences of confinement on weekends only (i.e., Friday to Sunday), persons under electronic monitoring, persons in work release programs, work gangs, and other alternative work programs, and persons in drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment.

^cData are based on the number of persons under jail supervision on December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015.

TABLE 10
Staff employed in local jails, by sex, December 2013 and 2015

Job function	Number		Percent	
	2013	2015*	2013	2015
Total	220,000**	213,300	100%	100%
Correctional officers^a	173,900**	169,200	79.0%	79.3%
Male	123,400**	117,300	56.1	55.0
Female	50,500	52,000	23.0	24.4
All other staff^b	46,100**	44,000	21.0%	20.6%
Male	20,800	20,000	9.5	9.4
Female	25,200**	24,000	11.5	11.3
Inmate-to-correctional officer ratio^c	4.2	4.1		

Note: Data are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

*Comparison year on staff.

**Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aIncludes deputies, monitors, and other custody staff who spend more than 50% of their time with the incarcerated population.

^bIncludes administrators, clerical and maintenance staff, educational staff, professional and technical staff, and other unspecified staff who spend more than 50% of their time in the facility.

^cNumber of confined inmates per correctional officer.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2015; and Census of Jails, 2013.

Methodology

Annual Survey of Jails sampling design

In years between the complete censuses of jails, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducts the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ). The ASJ is a nationally representative survey of all county or city jail jurisdictions and all regional jails in the country. A jail jurisdiction is a county (parish in Louisiana) or municipal government that administers one or more local jails and represents the entity responsible for managing the jail facilities under its authority. Most jail jurisdictions consist of a single facility, but some contain multiple facilities and/or multiple facility operators, called reporting units. For example, four reporting units in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, represent a single jail jurisdiction.

The ASJ sample is drawn at the jurisdiction level. When a jail jurisdiction with multiple reporting units is sampled, data are collected from all reporting units within that jail jurisdiction. BJS collapses the reporting units into jail jurisdictions and reports statistics at the jurisdiction level.

ASJ uses a stratified probability sample of jail jurisdictions to estimate the number and characteristics of jail inmates nationwide. The 2015 ASJ sample consists of 876 jail jurisdictions, representing 2,851 active jail jurisdictions nationwide.

The 2015 ASJ used 2013 Census of Jails as its sampling frame. All jail jurisdictions were grouped into 10 strata based on their average daily population (ADP) and presence of juveniles in 2013. In 8 of the 10 strata, a random sample of jail jurisdictions was selected. The remaining two strata were certainty strata, where all jurisdictions were selected with probability 1. One stratum consisted of all jails that were operated jointly by two or more jurisdictions (referred to as multijurisdictional jails). The other stratum consisted of all jail jurisdictions that—

- held juvenile inmates at the time of the 2013 Census of Jails and had an ADP of 500 or more inmates during the 12 months ending on December 31, 2013
- held only adult inmates and had an ADP of 750 or more
- were located in California
- were known to be operating in 2015 and not included in the 2013 Census of Jails.

The ASJ sample includes all California jail jurisdictions. This sampling feature was introduced in 2013 in response to the enactment of California AB 109 and AB 117, aimed to reduce the number of inmates housed in state prisons starting on October 1, 2011. After the enactment of these two laws, the jail population in California experienced an unusual increase, which was atypical of the rest of the United States. For this reason, the ASJ sampling design was modified to include all California jail jurisdictions in a certainty (self-representing) stratum (see *Methodology in Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014* (NCJ 248629, BJS web, June 2015)). The inclusion of all California jail jurisdictions resulted in an additional 21 jurisdictions.

The sample also includes in the certainty stratum all six new jail jurisdictions that were known to be operating in 2015 and not represented in the sampling frame (2013 Census of Jails).

Response rate and nonresponse adjustment

Data were collected through a web-based survey. The initial sample consisted of 881 jail jurisdictions. Six jurisdictions were closed or merged with other jurisdictions at the time of the survey and dropped from the sample, resulting in a total of 876 active jail jurisdictions. The response rate was 97%.

Nonresponse weighting adjustment

Nonresponse weighting was implemented to account for unit nonresponse. Jurisdictions were grouped into weighting classes based on sampling stratum and the 2013 inmate population. Using a simple weighting class method, the design weight of nonresponding jail jurisdictions was equally allocated to each of the responding jails within the same weighting class. The nonresponse weighting adjustment factor calculated within each weighting class h as:

$$F_h = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} W_{hi} \times JURISA_{hi}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} W_{hi} \times JURISR_{hi}}$$

where

n_h = number of jurisdictions sampled in weighting class h ,

w_{hi} = sampling weight for jurisdiction i in weighting class h ,

$JURISA_{hi}$ = active status indicator for jurisdiction i in weighting class h (1 = active, 0 = out-of-scope), and

$JURISR_{hi}$ = response indicator of jurisdiction i in weighting class h (1 = respondent, 0 = nonrespondent).

Final weight

The final weight FW_{hi} for each jail jurisdiction is

$$FW_{hi} = W_{hi} \times F_h \times JURISR_{hi}$$

where

$JAILR_{hi}$ set the final weight to 0 for jurisdictions that were out-of-scope or nonrespondents.

Item nonresponse imputation

Item response rates ranged from 92% to 99%. For responding jail jurisdictions that were unable to provide some requested items, a weighted sequential hot-deck/cold-deck imputation procedure was used to impute values. This procedure, implemented using the SUDAAN software package, substitutes current-year respondent and prior-year (2013 Census of Jails, cold-deck) data for missing values. The donor for each missing item was randomly selected from within a set of similar jails, sorted by related previous-year population values. The

resulting imputed values are generally similar to the reported values of the previous year, but are not identical because of differences between each donor and item pairing and the year-to-year fluctuation in donor population values.

Midyear and yearend population difference

Prior to 2015, the ASJ used midyear (last weekday in June) as the reference date in data collection. The 2015 ASJ changed the reference date to December 31. Comparisons of yearend data from 2015 ASJ with previous midyear data need to consider seasonal variations, as jails typically hold fewer inmates at yearend than at midyear.

Calculating weekly turnover rates

Weekly jail turnover rates were modeled after the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. Additional information on turnover rates is available at <http://www.bls.gov/jlt/>. Jail turnover rates were calculated by adding admissions and releases, and then dividing by the ADP. The turnover rate accounts for jail admissions and releases and gives an indication of the fluctuation of the jail population. It is calculated as the sum of average weekly admissions and releases, divided by the average daily population: $(\text{annual admissions} + \text{annual releases}) / \text{ADP} * (7/365)$.

Jurisdiction size categories

In the 2011 through 2014 jail inmate reports, BJS categorized jurisdiction sizes based on the ADP during the 12 months ending midyear 2006 (the first year in the ASJ sample for that period). The jurisdiction size for 2015 was based on the ASJ 2015 sample. The jurisdiction size categories for 2014 were based on average daily population during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, and for 2015 ADP was based on the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015. It assumes a similar fluctuation in the ADP during the two time periods. As a result, not all data in previous reports are comparable with data in this report.

Jail functions

Jails in the ASJ include confinement facilities—usually administered by a local law enforcement agency—that are intended for adults but may hold juveniles before or after they are adjudicated. Facilities include jails and city or county correctional centers, special jail facilities, such as medical or treatment release centers, halfway houses, and work farms, and temporary holding or lockup facilities that are part of the jail's combined function. Inmates sentenced to jail facilities usually have a sentence of 1 year or less.

Within the ASJ, jails—

- receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing
- re-admit probation, parole, and bail bond violators and absconders temporarily detain juveniles pending their transfer to juvenile authorities
- hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate mental health facilities
- hold individuals for the military, for protective custody, for contempt, and for the courts as witnesses
- release convicted inmates to the community upon completion of sentence
- transfer inmates to federal, state, or other authorities
- house inmates for federal, state, or other authorities because of crowding of their facilities
- sometimes operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Standard errors for table 1: Inmates confined in local jails, average daily population, and incarceration rates, midyear 2000 and 2005–2015; yearend 2015

Year	Confined inmates	Average daily population
2000	2,504	2,265
2005	~	~
2006	3,552	3,230
2007	3,720	3,549
2008	4,016	3,883
2009	4,231	4,109
2010	5,430	5,359
2011	6,009	5,879
2012	7,684	7,769
2013	8,042	7,943
2014	8,382	8,430
2015	7,378	:
2015*	7,017	7,312

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

:Not calculated.

*Data are based on the number of persons under jail supervision on December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Standard errors for table 2: Number of annual admissions to local jails, 1999 and 2007–2015

Year	Total
1999	~
2007	169,151
2008	272,916
2009	178,537
2010	233,704
2011	211,335
2012	188,549
2013	688,181
2014	205,287
2015	159,097

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 1999 Census of Jails.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails, 1999; and Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2007–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Standard errors for table 3: Number of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristics, midyear 2000, 2005, and 2010–2014; yearend 2015

Characteristic	Midyear							Yearend 2015
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Total	2,504	~	5,430	6,009	7,684	8,042	8,382	7,017
Sex								
Male	2,235	~	4,832	5,278	6,776	7,088	7,015	6,096
Female	548	~	999	1,179	1,404	1,469	1,532	1,258
Adult	2,492	~	5,400	6,004	7,655	8,049	8,004	7,003
Male	2,223	~	4,794	5,241	6,685	7,025	6,961	6,083
Female	542	~	994	1,177	1,398	1,467	1,531	1,258
Juvenile	211	~	263	172	241	199	164	118
Held as adult	181	~	246	151	230	143	158	114
Held as juvenile	132	~	255	77	84	139	46	42
Race/Hispanic origin								
White	2,676	~	3,589	3,764	4,370	4,574	4,605	3,917
Black/African American	1,853	~	3,194	3,418	4,608	4,860	4,712	3,413
Hispanic/Latino	1,075	~	2,131	2,617	2,958	2,580	2,719	3,080
American Indian/ Alaska Native	363	~	1,031	933	866	932	926	838
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	112	~	130	188	239	125	196	182
Two or more races	...	~	153	149	161	212	180	120
Conviction status								
Convicted	2,258	~	3,292	3,521	3,750	3,619	4,156	4,734
Unconvicted	2,256	~	4,515	4,819	5,918	6,740	5,691	4,668

Note: Standard errors are based on the reported data for 2000 and 2005–2014 in table 3 and were not estimated for survey item nonresponse.

...Not collected.

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2000 and 2010–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Standard errors for table 4: Percent of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristics, midyear 2000, 2005, and 2010–2014; yearend 2015

Characteristic	Midyear							Yearend 2015
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Sex								
Male	0.1%	~	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Female	0.1	~	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Adult	--	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Male	0.1%	~	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Female	0.1	~	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Juvenile	--	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Held as adult	--	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Held as juvenile	--	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Race/Hispanic origin								
White	0.3%	~	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Black/African American	0.3	~	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Hispanic/Latino	0.2	~	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.1	~	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	--	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Two or more races	...	~	--	--	--	--	--	--
Conviction status								
Convicted	0.3%	~	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Unconvicted	0.3	~	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

--Less than 0.05%.

...Not collected.

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), 2000 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Standard errors for table 5: Mean and proportion of the average daily jail population, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015

Jurisdiction size	Mean ADP		Percent of total ADP	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Total	3.1	2.6	~	~
49 or fewer	1.2	1.4	0.2%	0.3%
50–99	1.6	1.7	0.4	0.4
100–249	2.8	3.3	0.6	0.6
250–499	4.7	3.7	0.7	0.4
500–999	4.7	4.3	0.7	0.4
1,000–2,499	10.1	6.9	0.5	0.4
2,500 or more	105.0	160.4	0.8	0.8

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2014–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for table 6: Rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, 2000 and 2005–2015

Year	Rated capacity	Percent of capacity occupied	
		Confined 1-day population	Average daily population
2000	3,425	0.4%	0.4%
2005	~	~	~
2006	4,741	0.4	0.4
2007	5,056	0.4	0.4
2008	5,063	0.4	0.4
2009	6,460	0.5	0.5
2010	11,013	0.9	0.9
2011	11,776	0.9	0.9
2012	10,217	0.5	0.5
2013	13,198	0.5	0.5
2014	11,082	0.4	0.4
2015	9,518	0.4	0.4

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015; and Census of Jail Inmates, 2005.

APPENDIX TABLE 7**Standard errors for table 7: Percent of jail capacity occupied based on average daily population, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015**

Jurisdiction size	Percent		Percent of jail jurisdictions operating over 100% of capacity	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Total	0.42%	0.40%	1.3%	1.3%
49 or fewer	2.47	2.72	2.1	2.2
50–99	2.15	3.00	4.0	4.1
100–249	1.58	1.55	2.7	3.0
250–499	1.43	1.00	2.9	1.9
500–999	0.86	0.44	1.5	1.3
1,000–2,499	0.47	0.32	1.1	0.7
2,500 or more	0.72	0.63	1.3	1.6

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2014–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 8**Standard errors for table 8: Average daily jail population, admissions, and turnover rate, by size of jurisdiction, 2014 and 2015**

Jurisdiction size	ADP		Estimated number of annual admissions		Weekly turnover rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Total	8,430	7,312	205,287	159,097	0.9%	0.7%
49 or fewer	1,655	1,927	76,172	95,276	12.8	10.3
50–99	3,283	3,214	113,967	71,177	8.8	4.4
100–249	4,740	4,567	127,025	104,293	3.8	2.4
250–499	5,082	3,090	129,569	92,134	3.2	2.8
500–999	5,144	3,043	67,870	50,822	1.1	0.6
1,000–2,499	3,649	1,807	58,340	29,450	0.7	0.3
2,500 or more	7,471	7,120	87,695	64,185	0.6	0.9

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2014–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 9**Standard errors for table 9: Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status, 2000 and 2006–2015**

Year	Total	Held in jail	Supervised outside of a jail facility
2000	2,728	2,504	996
2006	3,783	3,552	1,151
2007	4,041	3,720	1,267
2008	4,732	4,016	2,327
2009	4,548	4,231	1,535
2010	5,897	5,430	1,960
2011	6,446	6,009	1,832
2012	8,438	7,684	2,418
2013	8,692	8,042	2,351
2014	9,248	8,382	2,707
2015*	7,398	7,017	1,671

*Data are based on the number of persons under jail supervision on December 31, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 10**Standard errors for table 10: Staff employed in local jails, by sex, December 2013 and 2015**

Job function	2015
Total	2,599
Correctional officers	2,260
Male	1,532
Female	918
All other staff	791
Male	463
Female	428

Note: For 2013, data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2013 Census of Jails.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2015.



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 and valid 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. Jeri M. Mulrow is acting director.

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