Eighty Indian country jails held an estimated 2,540 inmates at midyear 2016, which was up 1.2% from the 2,510 inmates held in 76 facilities at midyear 2015. Jails operating in Indian country increased from 68 facilities in 2004 to 80 in 2016. An estimated 1,280 jail operations employees oversaw inmates at midyear 2016, and the ratio of 1 jail operations employee for every 2 inmates has remained stable since 2010.

Jail facility trends

From midyear 2000 to midyear 2016, the overall rated capacity (up 97%) of Indian country jails grew at twice the rate of the midyear inmate population (up 43%). At midyear 2016, these facilities were rated to hold 4,090 inmates. This was an increase from 2015 (3,800) and nearly double the rated capacity in 2000 (2,076). On the most crowded day in June 2016, 27 Indian country jail facilities (34%) were operating above rated capacity, which was similar to 2015.

On average, each facility held 32 inmates at midyear 2016. This was similar to 2015 (33) but an increase from 2000 (26). At midyear 2016, the number of inmates held at each facility ranged from no inmates to 311, and 12 facilities held half of all inmates. The majority (91%) of Indian country jail inmates were held in 55 facilities rated to hold 25 inmates or more. Sixty-three percent of inmates were held in 23 facilities rated to hold 50 inmates or more.

Indian country jail admissions

An estimated 9,640 persons were admitted to Indian country jails in June 2016, which was down from 9,810 admissions in June 2015. The majority (84%) of admissions in June 2016 were to facilities rated to hold 25 inmates or more, which was down from 87% in June 2015. Jail admissions were nearly four times the size of the average daily population (ADP) in both June 2016 (2,480) and June 2015 (2,390). Overall, admissions declined and ADP increased, resulting in an increase in the expected average length of stay between June 2015 (about 7 days) and June 2016 (nearly 8 days).