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# Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1997

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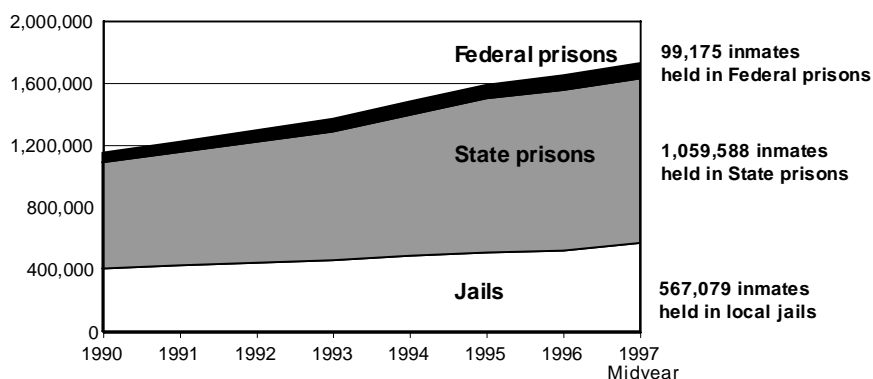
At midyear 1997 an estimated 1,725,842 persons were incarcerated in the Nation's prisons and jails. Federal and State prison authorities and local jail authorities held in their custody 645 persons per 100,000 U.S. residents. Prisoners in the custody of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government accounted for two-thirds of the incarcerated population (1,158,763 inmates). The other third were held in local jails (567,079).

On June 30, 1997, 1,218,256 prisoners were under Federal and State jurisdiction (includes prisoners in custody and persons under the legal authority of a prison system but who are held outside its facilities). The total increased 4.7% from midyear 1996. The States and the District of Columbia added 48,760 prisoners; the Federal system, 6,438 additional prisoners.

At midyear 1997, local jail authorities held or supervised an estimated 637,319 offenders — an increase of 7.8% from midyear 1996. Eleven percent of these offenders (70,239) were supervised outside jail facilities in programs such as community service, work release, weekend reporting, electronic monitoring, and other alternative programs.

## Highlights

Number of inmates in custody



### Prisons —

- Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, the Nation's prison population grew 4.7%, less than the annual average increase of 7.7% since 1990.
- Hawaii (up 21.6%) recorded the largest percent increase in prison population since midyear 1996, followed by North Dakota (up 15.5%) and Wisconsin (up 15.4%). Massachusetts (down 0.7%), Virginia (down 0.5%), and the District of Columbia (down 0.2%) were the only jurisdictions to record declines.
- At midyear 1997, approximately 436 per 100,000 U.S. residents were incarcerated in a State or Federal prison, up from 303 per 100,000 residents in 1990.

### Jails —

- On June 30, 1997, an estimated 567,079 persons were held in local jails; up from 518,492 at midyear 1996.
- From midyear 1996 to midyear 1997, the number of inmates held in jail increased 9.4% — nearly twice the average annual rate (4.9%) since 1990.
- In the year ending June 30, 1997, the capacity of the Nation's jails rose by 19,713 beds. Jails were operating at 97% of their rated capacity, up from 92% at midyear 1996.
- At midyear 1997, 212 of every 100,000 U.S. residents were held in local jails, up from 163 per 100,000 in 1990.

**Table 1. Number of persons held in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1985, 1990-97**

Year	Total inmates in custody	Prisoners in custody		Inmates held in local jails	Incarceration rate*
		Federal	State		
1985	744,208	35,781	451,812	256,615	313
1990	1,148,702	58,838	684,544	405,320	458
1991	1,219,014	63,930	728,605	426,479	481
1992	1,295,150	72,071	778,495	444,584	505
1993	1,369,185	80,815	828,566	459,804	528
1994	1,476,621	85,500	904,647	486,474	564
1995	1,585,586	89,538	989,004	507,044	600
1996					
June 30	1,629,718	93,167	1,018,059	518,492	614
December 31	1,646,020	95,088	1,032,440	--	618
1997					
June 30	1,725,842	99,175	1,059,588	567,079	645
Percent change, 6/30/96 - 6/30/97	5.9%	6.4%	4.1%	9.4%	
Annual average increase, 12/31/90 - 6/30/97	6.5%	8.4%	7.0%	4.9%	

Note: Jail counts are for midyear (June 30). Counts for 1994-97 exclude persons who were supervised outside of a jail facility. State and Federal prisoner counts for 1990-95 are for December 31.  
 --Not available.  
 \*Total of persons in custody per 100,000 residents on July 1 of each reference year.

**Over 1.7 million inmates were held in the Nation's prisons and local jails**

On June 30, 1997, 1,158,763 inmates were in the custody of State and Federal prison authorities, and 567,079 inmates were in the custody of local jail authorities. These data were collected in the 1997 National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program and the 1997 Annual Survey of Jails.

Since midyear 1996, the total incarcerated population increased 5.9% (table 1). The number of inmates in State and Federal prisons increased 4.3%, and the number held in local jails increased 9.4% — the largest percent increase since 1989.

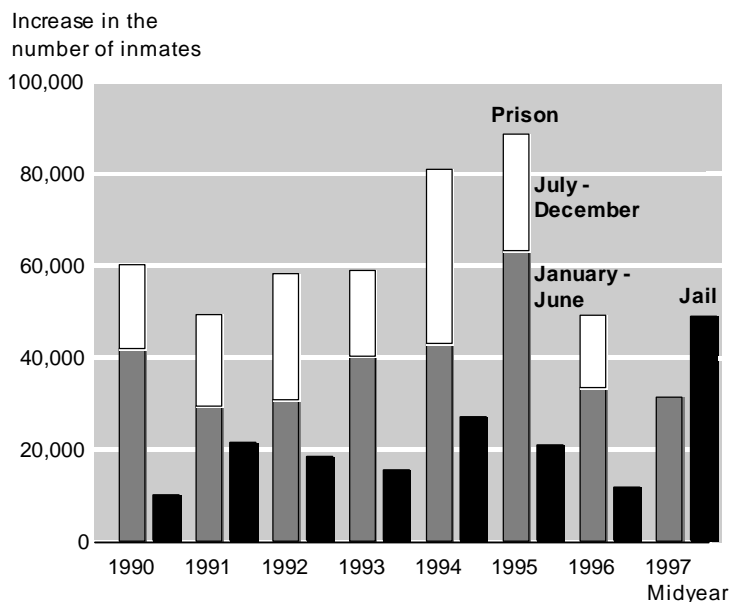
Between yearend 1990 and midyear 1997, the incarcerated population has grown on average 6.5% annually. During this period the Federal and State prison populations and the local jail population have grown at an average annual rate of 8.4%, 7.0%, and 5.3%, respectively.

In the previous 12 months the number of inmates in the Nation's prisons and jails rose an estimated 96,124 inmates or 1,849 inmates per week. Since 1990, the total custody population has risen more than 577,100 inmates, the equivalent of 1,708 inmates per week.

Relative to the number of U.S. residents, the rate of incarceration in 1997 was 645 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents — up from 458 per 100,000 in 1990. At midyear 1997, 1 in every 155 U.S. residents were incarcerated.

In every year between 1990 and 1996 the State and Federal prison population has grown faster than the local jail population (figure 1). However, in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997, the jail population grew by 48,587 while the State and Federal population grew by 47,537. At midyear 1997 the Nation's jails held 33% of all inmates in custody, down from 35% in 1990.

**Growth of the number of inmates held in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1990-97**



Note: Annual increases in State and Federal prisoners are based on custody counts for each calendar year ending December 31. Increase in jail inmates are based on the 12-month period ending June 30 of each reference year.

Figure 1

## The number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction rose 4.7%

Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, the number of inmates under State jurisdiction grew by 4.6% and the number under Federal jurisdiction by 6.2% (table 2). Compared to the previous 12-month period ending June 30, 1996, State prison growth rates declined, down from 5.3%, while the Federal prison growth rate increased, up from 4.3%.

In absolute numbers, the total increase of 55,198 prison inmates between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, was slightly smaller than the increase of 57,507 recorded in the previous 12-month period and below the annual average growth (65,205) during the previous 6 years.

	Annual increase in the number of prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction, July 1 - June 30
1996-97	55,198
1995-96	57,507
1994-95	90,881
1993-94	72,854
1992-93	69,525
1991-92	51,020
1990-91	49,446
Average growth, 1990-96	65,205

Fifty-four percent of the growth in the prison populations during the 12 months ending June 30, 1997, was accounted for by California (11,475 additional inmates), Texas (6,662), the Federal system (6,438), Missouri (3,146), and Illinois (2,052). During this 12-month period, the total prison population increased at least 10% in 7 States. Hawaii reported the largest percent increase in prison inmates (21.6%), followed by North Dakota (15.5%), Wisconsin (15.4%), Missouri (15.3%), Utah (14.0%), and Idaho (13.3%). Two States and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in their prison population. Massachusetts had the largest decline, -0.7%; followed by Virginia, -0.5%, and the District of Columbia, -0.2%.

**Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, December 31 and June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997**

Region and jurisdiction	Total			Percent change from —		Prison incarceration rate 6/30/97 <sup>a</sup>
	6/30/97	12/31/96	6/30/96	6/30/96 to 6/30/97	12/31/96 to 6/30/97	
<b>U.S. total</b>	1,218,256	1,180,520	1,163,058	4.7%	3.2%	436
Federal	110,160	105,544	103,722	6.2%	4.4%	35
State	1,108,096	1,074,976	1,059,336	4.6	3.1	401
<b>Northeast</b>	167,706	166,417	165,224	1.5	.8	310
Connecticut <sup>b</sup>	15,608	15,007	14,975	4.2	4.0	322
Maine	1,559	1,426	1,468	6.2	9.3	118
Massachusetts <sup>c</sup>	11,907	11,796	11,996	-.7	.9	301
New Hampshire	2,153	2,062	2,050	5.0	4.4	183
New Jersey	27,766	27,490	27,753	0	1.0	346
New York	69,530	69,709	68,721	1.2	-.3	383
Pennsylvania	34,703	34,537	33,939	2.3	.5	288
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	3,293	3,271	3,226	2.1	.7	203
Vermont <sup>b,d</sup>	1,187	1,119	1,096	8.3	6.1	152
<b>Midwest</b>	212,779	204,653	199,414	6.7%	4.0%	339
Illinois <sup>d,e</sup>	40,425	38,852	38,373	5.3	4.0	340
Indiana	17,549	16,960	16,582	5.8	3.5	296
Iowa <sup>d</sup>	6,636	6,342	6,176	7.4	4.6	232
Kansas	7,790	7,756	7,462	4.4	.4	302
Michigan <sup>d</sup>	43,784	42,349	41,884	4.5	3.4	454
Minnesota	5,348	5,158	5,040	6.1	3.7	114
Missouri	23,687	22,003	20,541	15.3	7.7	438
Nebraska	3,431	3,287	3,248	5.6	4.4	201
North Dakota	739	722	640	15.5	2.4	104
Ohio <sup>e</sup>	47,248	46,174	45,314	4.3	2.3	422
South Dakota	2,177	2,059	2,049	6.2	5.7	296
Wisconsin	13,965	12,991	12,105	15.4	7.5	256
<b>South</b>	484,391	469,252	467,901	3.5%	3.2%	495
Alabama	22,076	21,760	21,495	2.7	1.5	499
Arkansas	9,539	9,407	9,430	1.2	1.4	368
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	5,313	5,110	5,148	3.2	4.0	442
District of Columbia <sup>b</sup>	9,739	9,376	9,763	-.2	3.9	1,373
Florida <sup>d</sup>	64,713	63,763	64,333	.6	1.5	443
Georgia <sup>d</sup>	36,329	35,139	34,808	4.4	3.4	476
Kentucky	13,858	12,910	12,652	9.5	7.3	355
Louisiana	28,382	26,779	26,673	6.4	6.0	651
Maryland	22,415	22,050	22,118	1.3	1.7	417
Mississippi	14,639	13,859	13,785	6.2	5.6	505
North Carolina	32,334	30,647	30,671	5.4	5.5	385
Oklahoma <sup>e</sup>	19,931	19,593	19,134	4.2	1.7	599
South Carolina	21,021	20,446	20,814	1.0	2.8	542
Tennessee	15,827	15,626	15,634	1.2	1.3	294
Texas	136,599	132,383	129,937	5.1	3.2	677
Virginia	28,673	27,655	28,827	-.5	3.7	412
West Virginia	3,003	2,749	2,679	12.1	9.2	163
<b>West</b>	243,220	234,654	226,797	7.2%	3.7%	397
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	3,741	3,716	3,583	4.4	.7	396
Arizona <sup>d</sup>	23,176	22,493	22,143	4.7	3.0	484
California	153,010	146,049	141,535	8.1	4.8	466
Colorado <sup>e</sup>	12,840	12,438	11,742	9.4	3.2	330
Hawaii <sup>b</sup>	4,491	4,011	3,693	21.6	12.0	258
Idaho	4,105	3,832	3,623	13.3	7.1	339
Montana	2,295	2,293	2,162	6.2	.1	258
Nevada	8,617	8,439	8,064	6.9	2.1	505
New Mexico	4,692	4,724	4,528	3.6	-.7	258
Oregon <sup>f</sup>	7,899	8,661	8,564	--	--	226
Utah	4,154	3,972	3,643	14.0	4.6	202
Washington	12,732	12,527	12,059	5.6	1.6	226
Wyoming	1,468	1,499	1,458	.7	-2.1	304

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 in the resident population.

<sup>b</sup>Prison and jails form an integrated system. Data include total jail and prison population.

<sup>c</sup>The incarceration rate includes an estimated 7,500 inmates sentenced to more than 1 year but held in local jails.

<sup>d</sup>Population figures are based on custody counts.

<sup>e</sup>Population counts for inmates "sentenced to more than 1 year" include an undetermined number of inmates "sentenced to 1 year or less."

<sup>f</sup>Since January 1, 1997, Oregon no longer has jurisdictional responsibility for inmates with sentences of less than 1 year.

## Rates of prison incarceration rise

The incarceration rate of State and Federal prisoners sentenced to more than a year reached 436 per 100,000 U.S. residents on June 30, 1997. Texas had the highest rate of incarceration (677 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 State residents), followed by Louisiana (651 per 100,000), Oklahoma (599), and South Carolina (542). Three States — North Dakota (104), Minnesota (114), and Maine (118) — had rates that were less than a third of the national rate (table 3). The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, held 1,373 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 District residents at mid-year 1997.

Since 1990 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen by nearly 50%, increasing from 292 to 436. During this period prison incarceration rates rose the most in the South (from 316 to 495)

and West (from 277 to 397). The rate in the Midwest rose from 239 to 339 and the rate in the Northeast rose from 232 to 310. The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents increased from 20 to 35 over the same period.

## Female prisoner population grew at faster pace

During the 12 months ending June 30, 1997, the number of women under the jurisdiction of State and Federal prison authorities grew from 73,565 to 78,067, an increase of 6.1% (table 4). The number of men rose 4.7%, from 1,089,493 to 1,140,189. At midyear 1997 women accounted for 6.4% of all prisoners nationwide, up from 4.1% in 1980 and 5.7% in 1990.

Relative to the number of men and women in the U.S. resident population, the incarceration rate was 16 times higher for men than for women. On

June 30, 1997, the rate for inmates serving a sentence of more than a year was 835 males per 100,000 U.S. male residents, compared to 52 females per 100,000 female residents.

**Table 4. Number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by sex of inmate, 6/30/96 and 6/30/97**

	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>		
6/30/97	1,140,189	78,067
6/30/96	1,089,493	73,565
Percent change	4.7%	6.1%
<b>Sentenced to more than 1 year</b>		
6/30/97	1,094,252	71,294
6/30/96	1,046,231	67,309
Percent change	4.6%	5.9%
<b>Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents*</b>	835	52

\*The total number of male and female prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year in the United States per 100,000 males and females in the resident population.

**Table 3. The prison situation in the United States, June 30, 1997**

Prison population	Number of inmates	Incarceration rates, 6/30/97	Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 State residents*	12-month growth, 6/30/96 to 6/30/97	Percent change	Female prison population	Number of female prisoners
<b>10 highest:</b>							
California	153,010	Texas	677	Hawaii	21.6%	California	10,862
Texas	136,599	Louisiana	651	North Dakota	15.5	Texas	10,104
Federal system	110,160	Oklahoma	599	Wisconsin	15.4	Federal system	8,122
New York	69,530	South Carolina	542	Missouri	15.3	New York	3,719
Florida	64,713	Mississippi	505	Utah	14.0	Florida	3,431
Ohio	47,248	Nevada	505	Idaho	13.3	Ohio	2,883
Michigan	43,784	Alabama	499	West Virginia	12.1	Illinois	2,412
Illinois	40,425	Arizona	484	Kentucky	9.5	Georgia	2,238
Georgia	36,329	Georgia	476	Colorado	9.4	North Carolina	2,004
Pennsylvania	34,703	California	466	Vermont	8.3	Michigan	1,993
<b>10 lowest:</b>							
North Dakota	739	North Dakota	104	Massachusetts	-.7%	Vermont	46
Vermont	1,187	Minnesota	114	Virginia	-.5	Maine	48
Wyoming	1,468	Maine	118	District of Columbia	-.2	North Dakota	55
Maine	1,559	Vermont	152	New Jersey	0	Wyoming	115
New Hampshire	2,153	West Virginia	163	Florida	.6	New Hampshire	117
South Dakota	2,177	New Hampshire	183	Wyoming	.7	Montana	148
Montana	2,295	Nebraska	201	South Carolina	1.0	South Dakota	158
West Virginia	3,003	Utah	202	Tennessee	1.2	West Virginia	178
Rhode Island	3,293	Rhode Island	203	Arkansas	1.2	Rhode Island	227
Nebraska	3,431	Oregon	226	New York	1.2	Utah	235

\*The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 persons in the resident population.

## At midyear the Nation's jails supervised 637,319 offenders

On June 30, 1997, an estimated 637,319 offenders were held in or supervised by the Nation's local jails (table 5). Jail authorities supervised 11% of these offenders (70,239) in alternative programs outside the jail facilities. An estimated 567,079 offenders were housed in local jails.

As defined in this report, jails are locally-operated correctional facilities that confine persons before or after adjudication. Inmates sentenced to jail usually have a sentence of a year or less, but jails also incarcerate persons in a wide variety of other categories. (See box below.)

### Jails —

- receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing
- readmit probation, parole, and bail-bond violators and absconders
- temporarily detain juveniles pending transfer to juvenile authorities
- hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate 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
- relinquish custody of temporary detainees to juvenile and medical authorities
- sometimes operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration.
- hold inmates sentenced to short terms (generally under 1 year).

For the first time, in 1995 the Annual Survey of Jails obtained counts of the number of offenders under community supervision. Respondents were asked if their jail jurisdiction operated any community-based programs and how many persons participated in them. Offenders under the supervision of a probation, parole, or other correctional agency were excluded from these counts. Because jail authorities reported offenders in treatment programs administered by the jail jurisdiction in 1997, it is difficult to compare totals with those in 1995. (See *Methodology*, page 9.)

Among persons under community supervision by jail staff in 1997, slightly less than a third were required to perform community service (15,918) or to participate in an alternative work program (6,631). More than a quarter were in a weekend reporting program (17,656). An estimated 6,693 offenders under jail supervision were in a drug, alcohol, mental health, or other type of medical treatment program. Another 8,699 offenders were under home detention with electronic monitoring.

## 12-month growth in jail population largest since 1989

Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, the number of persons held in local jail facilities grew 9.4% — from 518,492 to 567,079. The 12-month increase was the largest growth since 1989 and nearly twice the annual average growth since 1990.

12-month period	Percent increase
1996-97	9.4%
1995-96	2.3%
1994-95	4.2
1993-94	6.7
1992-93	3.4
1991-92	4.2
1990-91	5.2
1989-90	2.5%
1988-89	15.1
1987-88	16.1
1986-87	7.8
1985-86	6.9
Annual average, 1990-97	4.9%
1985-97	6.8

**Table 5. Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status and type of program, midyear 1995-97**

Confinement status and type of program	Number of persons under jail supervision		
	1995	1996	1997
<b>Total</b>	541,913	591,469	637,319
<b>Held in jail</b>	507,044	518,492	567,079
<b>Supervised outside a jail facility<sup>a</sup></b>	34,869	72,977	70,239
Electronic monitoring	6,788	7,480	8,699
Home detention <sup>b</sup>	1,376	907	1,164
Day reporting	1,283	3,298	2,768
Community service	10,253	17,410	15,918
Weekender programs	1,909	16,336	17,656
Other pretrial supervision	3,229	2,135	7,368
Other work programs <sup>c</sup>	9,144	14,469	6,631
Treatment programs <sup>d</sup>	--	10,425	6,693
Other	887	517	3,342

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons supervised by a probation or parole agency.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only those without electronic monitoring.

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons in work release programs, work gangs/crews, and other work alternative programs administered by the jail jurisdiction.

<sup>d</sup>Includes persons under drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment.



**Table 6. Average daily population and the number of men, women, and juveniles in local jails, midyear 1985, 1990-97**

	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Average daily population<sup>a</sup></b>	265,010	408,075	422,609	441,889	466,155	479,757	509,828	515,432	556,586
<b>Number of inmates, midyear<sup>b</sup></b>	256,615	405,320	426,479	444,584	459,804	486,474	507,044	518,492	567,079
Adults	254,986	403,019	424,129	441,780	455,500	479,800	499,300	510,400	557,974
Male	235,909	365,821	384,628	401,106	411,500	431,300	448,000	454,700	498,678
Female	19,077	37,198	39,501	40,674	44,100	48,500	51,300	55,700	59,296
Juveniles <sup>c</sup>	1,629	2,301	2,350	2,804	4,300	6,700	7,800	8,100	9,105
Held as adults <sup>d</sup>	--	--	--	--	3,300	5,100	5,900	5,700	7,007
Held as juveniles	1,629	2,301	2,350	2,804	1,000	1,600	1,800	2,400	2,098

Notes: Data are for June 30 in 1985 and 1992-95, and 1997; for June 29, 1990; and for June 28 in 1991 and 1996.

Detailed data for 1993-96 were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100. Previously published numbers for 1994 and 1995 have been revised to include only inmates held in jail facilities.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>The average daily population is the sum of the number of inmates in a jail each day for a year, divided by 365.

<sup>b</sup>Inmate counts for 1985 and 1990-93 include an unknown number of persons who were under jail supervision but not confined. Detailed counts for 1994-96 were estimated based on number of inmates held in jail facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Juveniles are persons defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18, and subject initially to juvenile court authority even if tried as adults in criminal court. In 1994 the definition was changed to include all persons under age 18.

<sup>d</sup>Includes juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

Since 1985 the Nation's jail population on a per capita basis has nearly doubled. During this period the number of jail inmates per 100,000 residents rose from 108 to 212. Including offenders under community supervision by jail authorities, the rate totaled 238 offenders per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 1997.

Year	Jail incarceration rate*
1997	212
1996	196
1995	193
1994	188
1993	178
1992	174
1991	169
1990	163
1989	160
1988	141
1987	122
1986	114
1985	108

\*Number of jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents on July 1 of each year.

An estimated 9,105 persons under age 18 were housed in adult jails on June 30, 1997 (table 6). Over two-thirds of these young inmates had been convicted or were being held for trial as adults in criminal court. (See *Methodology*, page 9, for changes in the definition of *juvenile*.)

The average daily population for the year ending June 30, 1997, was 556,586, an increase of 8.0% from 1996.

### Characteristics of jail inmates changed little

Male inmates made up 89% of the local jail inmate population at midyear 1997, nearly 3 percentage points lower than at midyear 1985 (table 7). On average, the adult female jail population has grown 9.9% annually since 1985, while the adult male inmate population has grown annually by 6.4%.

On June 30, 1997, local jails held nearly 1 in every 191 adult men and 1 in 1,732 women.

At midyear 1997 a majority of local jail inmates were black or Hispanic. White non-Hispanics made up 40.6% of the jail population; black non-Hispanics, 42.0%; Hispanics, 15.7%; and other races (Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives), 1.8%.

**Table 7. Sex, race, and Hispanic origin of local jail inmates, midyear 1985, 1990-97**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates									
	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997	
<b>Total</b>	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	92.0%	90.8%	90.7%	90.8%	90.4%	90.0%	89.8%	89.2%	89.4%	
Female	8.0	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.2	10.8	10.6	
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>b</sup></b>										
White, non-Hispanic	--	41.8%	41.1%	40.1%	39.3%	39.1%	40.1%	41.6%	40.6%	
Black, non-Hispanic	--	42.5	43.4	44.1	44.2	43.9	43.5	41.1	42.0	
Hispanic	--	14.3	14.2	14.5	15.1	15.4	14.7	15.6	15.7	
Other <sup>c</sup>	--	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Data for 1996 based on all persons under jail supervision.

<sup>b</sup>Data on race/Hispanic origin were reported for 89.7% of all inmates in 1990, 91.1% in 1991, 97.6% in 1992, 85.1% in 1993, 95.8% in 1994, 97.1% in 1995, and 99.3% in 1996 and 1997.

<sup>c</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

Relative to their number of U.S. residents, black non-Hispanics were over 6 times more likely than white non-Hispanics, over twice as likely as Hispanics, and almost 8½ times more likely than persons of other races to have been held in a local jail on June 30, 1997.

	<u>Number of jail inmates</u>	
	<u>Estimated count</u>	<u>Per 100,000 residents in each group</u>
Total	567,079	212
White*	230,300	118
Black*	237,900	737
Hispanic	88,900	304
Other	10,000	87

Note: Inmate counts were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100.  
\*Non-Hispanic only.

### Fewer than half of adult jail inmates were convicted

On June 30, 1997, an estimated 42% of the Nation's adult jail inmates had been convicted on their current charge. An estimated 235,200 of the 558,000 adults held in local jail were serving a sentence in jail, awaiting sentencing, or serving time for a probation or parole violation.

	<u>Number of adult jail inmates at midyear, 1997</u>
Total	558,000
Convicted	235,200
Male	210,600
Female	24,700
Unconvicted	322,700
Male	288,200
Female	34,600

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

### At midyear 1997, 97% of jail capacity was occupied

At midyear 1997 the rated capacity of the Nation's local jails was an estimated 581,733, an increase of 19,713 in 12 months (table 8). Rated capacity

**Table 8. Rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, 1983-97**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rated capacity<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Amount of capacity added<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Percent of capacity occupied<sup>c</sup></u>
1997	581,733	19,713	97
1996	562,020	16,257	92
1995	545,763	41,439	93
1994	504,324	29,100	96
1993	475,224	26,027	97
1992	449,197	27,960	99
1991	421,237	32,066	101
1990	389,171	21,402	104
1989	367,769	28,136	108
1988	339,633	38,435	101
1987	301,198	15,472	98
1986	285,726	12,896	96
1985	272,830	11,398	94
1984	261,432	(124)	90
1983	261,556	--	85

Note: Capacity data for 1984-87, 1989-92, and 1994-97 are survey estimates subject to sampling error. Negative numbers are in parentheses. See the appendix table for sampling errors.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to facilities within each jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup>The number of beds added during the 12 months before June 30 of each year.

<sup>c</sup>The number of inmates divided by the rated capacity times 100. For 1983-93 the ratio may include some inmates under supervision who were not confined in a jail facility. For 1994-97 the ratio includes only those held in jail.

is the maximum number of beds or inmates allocated by State or local rating officials to each jail facility. The growth in jail capacity during the 12-month period ending on June 30, 1997, was larger than the previous 12-month period (16,257), but smaller than the average growth of 26,746 beds every 12 months since 1990.

As of June 30, 1997, 97% of the local jail capacity was occupied. As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, the percentage occupied increased considerably after 1983, reaching a record 108% in 1989 and then falling to 92% in 1996. Since 1990 rated capacity has risen nearly 192,600 beds, while the number of inmates held in jail facilities has increased approximately 161,800.

Jail jurisdictions with the largest average daily populations reported the highest occupancy rates. At midyear 1997 occupancy was 100% of rated capacity in jail jurisdictions with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates, compared to 78% in those with fewer than 50 inmates.

<u>Size of jurisdiction*</u>	<u>Percent of capacity occupied</u>
Total	97%
Fewer than 50 inmates	78
50-99	89
100-249	92
250-499	95
500-999	98
1,000 or more	100

\*Based on the average daily population in the year ending June 30, 1997.

**The 25 largest jail jurisdictions housed more than a quarter of all jail inmates**

In 1997 the Nation's 25 largest jail jurisdictions accounted for 27% of all jail inmates. The jurisdictions were in 13 States: 7 in California; 4 in Florida; 4 in Texas; and 1 each in New York, Illinois, Arizona, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Maryland, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Michigan (table 9).

The 2 jurisdictions with the most inmates, Los Angeles County and New York City, together held approximately 39,500 inmates, or 7% of the national total.

Overall, the 25 largest jurisdictions at midyear 1997 held 153,390 inmates — an increase of 11,171 from a year earlier (142,219). A total of 22 jurisdictions reported increases in their populations; 3 reported decreases.

Fulton County, GA (up 60%), Orleans Parish, LA (up 22%), and Bexar County, TX (up 20%), reported the largest increases among the 25 largest jail jurisdictions. Three jurisdictions reported declines — New York City, NY (down -12%), Philadelphia City, PA (-2%), and Wayne County, MI (-0.1%).

As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, jails in Orange County, CA, had the highest percentage occupied (140%), followed by jails in Fulton County, GA (133%), and Sacramento County, CA (128%).

Jail facilities in Dallas County, TX (79%), Tarrant County, TX (80%), and San Bernardino County, CA (83%), had the lowest percentage occupied at midyear 1997.

**Table 9. The 25 largest local jail jurisdictions: Number of inmates held, average daily population, and rated capacity, midyear 1995-97**

Jurisdiction	Number of inmates held <sup>a</sup>			Average daily population <sup>b</sup>			Rated capacity <sup>c</sup>			Percent of capacity occupied at midyear <sup>d</sup>		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
Los Angeles County, CA	18,236	18,627	21,962	19,896	18,167	19,931	20,049	20,099	21,416	91%	93%	103%
New York City, NY	18,143	19,890	17,528	18,200	18,382	19,205	19,033	20,862	17,643	95	95	99
Cook County, IL	8,626	8,713	9,189	10,837	9,169	9,100	9,317	9,617	9,376	93	91	98
Harris County, TX	8,825	7,703	8,224	8,962	7,140	8,153	8,698	8,698	8,657	101	89	95
Dade County, FL	6,653	6,357	7,320	6,728	6,499	7,157	6,604	6,387	7,519	101	100	97
Dallas County, TX	5,721	6,380	6,439	7,151	5,862	6,528	8,629	8,374	8,182	66%	76%	79%
Maricopa County, AZ	5,717	5,679	6,732	5,503	5,542	6,520	4,910	6,252	6,252	116	91	108
Orleans Parish, LA	5,558	5,368	6,537	5,549	5,433	6,270	7,174	7,174	7,174	77	75	91
Philadelphia City, PA	5,076	5,695	5,563	4,968	5,341	5,600	3,750	5,600	5,600	135	102	99
San Diego County, CA	6,006	5,549	5,709	5,820	5,522	5,588	5,670	4,653	5,539	106	119	103
Shelby County, TN	5,247	5,264	5,568	5,091	5,153	5,297	5,512	6,364	6,532	95%	83%	85%
Orange County, CA	5,157	5,326	5,368	5,074	5,143	5,246	3,821	3,821	3,821	135	139	140
San Bernardino County, CA	4,025	3,958	4,156	4,100	4,119	4,500	4,930	4,957	5,000	82	80	83
Santa Clara County, CA	4,174	4,213	4,588	4,161	4,314	4,317	3,774	3,774	3,774	111	112	122
Broward County, FL	3,573	3,528	4,125	3,546	3,470	4,129	3,656	3,656	3,736	98	96	110
Alameda County, CA	3,838	3,994	4,098	3,903	3,954	4,109	4,063	4,264	4,218	94%	94%	97%
Baltimore City, MD	3,777	3,309	3,598	3,380	3,300	3,636	2,933	2,933	2,933	129	113	123
Bexar County, TX	3,099	3,058	3,683	3,569	2,821	3,491	3,640	3,640	3,670	85	84	100
Fulton County, GA	2,546	2,489	3,982	2,353	2,489	3,401	2,353	2,320	2,987	108	107	133
Sacramento County, CA	3,125	3,093	3,505	3,094	3,093	3,329	2,749	2,749	2,749	114	113	128
Orange County, FL	3,405	3,120	3,411	3,441	3,120	3,321	3,329	3,329	3,234	102%	94%	105%
Tarrant County, TX	3,865	2,881	3,366	4,468	2,881	3,291	4,369	4,193	4,193	88	69	80
Hillsborough County, FL	2,536	2,661	3,155	2,384	2,661	2,973	2,649	2,757	2,877	96	97	110
Milwaukee County, WI	2,491	2,653	2,876	2,501	2,653	2,757	2,274	2,274	2,274	110	117	126
Wayne County, MI	2,598	2,711	2,708	2,600	2,711	2,750	2,628	2,658	2,850	99	102	95

Notes: Jurisdictions are ordered by their average daily population in 1997.

<sup>a</sup>Number of inmates held in jail facilities.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the average daily population for the year ending June 30.

The average daily population is the sum of the number of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.

<sup>c</sup>Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to facilities within each jurisdiction.

<sup>d</sup>The number of inmates divided by the rated capacity multiplied by 100.



## Methodology

### National Prisoner Statistics (NPS)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, with the U.S. Bureau of the Census as its collection agent, obtains yearend and midyear counts of prisoners from departments of correction in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In an effort to collect comparable data from all jurisdictions, NPS distinguishes between prisoners in *custody* from those under *jurisdiction*. To have custody of a prisoner, a State must hold that person in one of its facilities. To have jurisdiction, a State has legal authority over the prisoner. Prisoners under a State's jurisdiction may be in the custody of a local jail, another State's prison, or other correctional facility. Some States are unable to provide both custody and jurisdiction counts. (See *National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes*.)

Excluded from NPS counts are persons confined in locally administered confinement facilities who are under the jurisdiction of local authorities. NPS counts include all inmates in State-operated facilities in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have combined jail-prison systems.

### Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ)

In each of the years between the full censuses, a survey of jails is conducted to estimate baseline characteristics of the Nation's jails and the inmates housed in these jails. The 1997 ASJ is the 13th such survey in a series begun in 1982. The reference date for the 1997 survey was June 30.

Based on information from the 1993 Census of Jails, a sample of jail jurisdictions was selected for the 1994-97 surveys. A *jurisdiction* is a county (parish in Louisiana) or municipal government that administers one or more local jails. The sample included all jails in 795 selected jail jurisdictions

and 25 multi-jurisdiction jails. A *multi-jurisdiction jail* is one in which two or more jurisdictions have a formal agreement to operate the facility.

In drawing the sample, jail jurisdictions were first stratified into two groups: single-jurisdiction jails and multi-jurisdiction jails. All of the multi-jurisdiction jails were included in the survey. The remaining jurisdictions were then further stratified into two groups: jurisdictions with jails authorized to hold juveniles and jurisdictions with jails holding adults only. Jurisdictions were then selected based on the average daily population in the 1993 census.

All jails in 204 jurisdictions were automatically included if in 1993 the jurisdiction held juveniles and had an average daily population of 250 or more inmates or if it held only adults and had an average population of 500 or more. The other jurisdictions (591)

were then selected based on stratified probability sampling.

Data were obtained by mailed questionnaires. After followup phone calls to nonrespondents, the response rate for the survey was 100%.

### Sampling error

Survey estimates have an associated sampling error because not all jurisdictions were contacted for the survey. Estimates based on the sample survey may differ somewhat from the results of conducting a complete census.

Different samples could yield somewhat different results. *Standard error* is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples, stating the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average of all possible samples. The estimated rela-

**Appendix table. Standard error estimates for the Annual Survey of Jails, 1997**

Characteristic	Estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error (percent)
<b>Total number under supervision</b>	637,319	5,508	0.86%
Held in jail	567,079	3,649	0.64
Supervised outside a jail facility	70,239	3,637	5.18
<b>Average daily population</b>	556,586	3,532	0.64%
<b>Rated capacity</b>	581,733	4,428	0.76%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	507,195	3,324	0.66%
Female	59,884	506	0.85
<b>Adults</b>	557,974	3,626	0.65%
<b>Juveniles</b>	9,105	245	2.69%
Held as adults	7,007	193	2.75
Held as juveniles	2,098	133	6.34
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>			
White non-Hispanic	228,143	2,573	1.13%
Black non-Hispanic	235,741	2,350	1.00
Hispanic	88,078	1,437	1.63
Other <sup>b</sup>	9,874	357	3.62
<b>Adult conviction status</b>			
Awaiting trial or in other unconvicted category	321,484	2,784	0.87%
Convicted	234,316	2,392	1.02

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of unknown race/Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

tive sampling error for the total number of persons under the jurisdiction of jail authorities of 637,319 on June 30, 1997, was 0.86%; for persons held in the custody of jail authorities of 567,079, was 0.64%. (See the appendix table on page 9.)

#### *Measuring confinement status*

For the first time in 1995 the ASJ obtained separate counts of the total number of offenders under jail supervision, those held in jail facilities and those supervised outside jail facilities. Previous surveys and censuses included a small but unknown number of offenders under community supervision. To estimate the percentage change from 1994 to 1995 in the jail population, the 1995 survey included a count of inmates held at midyear 1994.

In the 1996 survey the number of persons supervised outside a jail facility included for the first time persons under drug, alcohol, mental health, or other medical treatment. Comparisons with 1995 estimates should exclude these persons.

#### *Juveniles*

State statutes and judicial practices allow juveniles to be incarcerated in adult jails under a variety of circumstances. Because of the differing statutes and practices, however, accurate and comparable data on juveniles are difficult to collect.

Beginning in 1994 the ASJ provided estimates of the total number of jail inmates under age 18, the number held as adults, and the number held as juveniles. New sampling procedures were also introduced in 1994 to minimize the standard errors of these estimates. By stratifying jurisdictions based on the authority to house juveniles, the precision of the juvenile counts was improved.

### **National Prisoner Statistics jurisdiction notes**

**Alaska** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

**Arizona** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Arkansas** — Jurisdiction counts include 143 males and 2 females, sentence length unknown, incarcerated in the county jails awaiting transfer to the Department of Correction.

**California** — Population counts include civil narcotic addict commitments, county diagnostic cases, inmates from other States and the Federal Government, California Youth Authority commitments, and safekeepers.

**Colorado** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a maximum sentence of 1 year or less."

**Connecticut** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

**Delaware** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

**District of Columbia** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Inmates given partially suspended sentences, sentences partly served in prison and partly served on probation, are included with "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" only if the prison portion of the sentence exceeds 1 year. As a result, "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" are understated and "Inmates with a year or less maximum sentence" are overstated.

**Florida** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Georgia** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Hawaii** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

**Illinois** — Population counts are based on custody data.

Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year."

**Iowa** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**Kansas** — The population figures include a small undetermined number of inmates with sentences of less than 1 year (as a result of sentencing under The Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act of 1993).

**Maryland** — Population counts are established through a manual counting procedure. Sentence length categories are estimated based on actual sentence length data extracted from an automated data system applied to population counts.

**Massachusetts** — By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2½ years in locally operated jails and correctional institutions. Such populations are excluded from the State counts, but are included in published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions. There are approximately 7,500 male inmates in the county system (local jails and houses of correction) serving a sentence of over 1 year.

The unsentenced inmate custody and jurisdiction count includes inmates housed in State facilities awaiting trial and civil commitments. The unsentenced inmate jurisdiction count includes 127 males awaiting trial for the State housed in county facilities.

Counts include an estimated 104 inmates housed in Massachusetts Department of Correction facilities on behalf of other States (78 inmates) or Federal authorities (26 inmates), whose sentences, if unknown, are estimated to be over 1 year.

**Michigan** — Population counts are based on custody data.

**New Jersey** — Counts for inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence(s) include inmates with a sentence of exactly 1 year.

**North Carolina** — Although population counts are actual, sentence length categories are estimates believed to be accurate within 1% of the actual numbers.

**Ohio** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less."

**Oklahoma** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" may include a small undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less."

**Oregon** — Jurisdiction counts do not include "Inmates sentenced to 1 year or less." On January 1, 1997, these inmates became the responsibility of county jurisdictions.

**Rhode Island** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Inmates given partially suspended sentences, sentences partly served in prison and partly served on probation, are included with "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" only if the prison portion of the sentence exceeds 1 year. As a result, "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" are understated and "Inmates with a year or less maximum sentence" are overstated.

**Tennessee** — Jurisdiction counts exclude 3,571 felons sentenced to serve their time in local jails. The State pays to house these felons, but the local court maintains jurisdiction.

**Vermont** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Population counts are based on custody data.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as the National Prisoner Statistics Program and the Annual Survey of Jails. State, local, and Federal corrections officials reported and helped to verify the data presented.

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