



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

August 1995, NCJ-151654

# Prisoners in 1994

By Allen J. Beck, Ph.D.  
and Darrell K. Gilliard  
BJS Statisticians

The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State correctional authorities was 1,053,738 at yearend 1994. During the year the States and the District of Columbia added 77,847 prisoners; the Federal system, 5,447. Although the 1994 growth rate (8.6%) nearly equaled the average annual percentage increase

**Table 1. Changes in the State and Federal prison populations, 1980-94**

Year	Number of inmates	Annual increase	
		Number	Percent change
1980	329,821	--	--
1981	369,930	40,109	12.2%
1982	413,806	43,876	11.9
1983	436,855	23,049	5.6
1984	462,002	25,147	5.8
1985	502,507	40,505	8.8
1986	544,972	42,465	8.5
1987	585,084	40,112	7.4
1988	627,600	42,516	7.3
1989	712,364	84,764	13.5
1990	773,919	61,555	8.6
1991	825,619	51,700	6.7
1992	882,500	56,881	6.9
1993*	970,444	64,992	7.4
1994	1,053,738	83,294	8.6
Annual average		50,069	8.7%

Note: All counts are for December 31 of each year and may reflect revisions of previously reported numbers.

--Not applicable.

\*Includes the jurisdiction populations of Massachusetts and Texas for the first time. The final 1993 count (947,492), which excludes the noncustody population in Texas and Massachusetts, may be used for comparisons.

## Highlights

Year	Number of inmates		Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 resident population		Population housed as a percent of highest capacity	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
1980	24,363	305,458	9	130	--	--
1985	40,223	462,284	14	187	123%	105%
1990	65,526	708,393	20	272	151	115
1991	71,608	754,011	22	287	146	116
1992	80,259	802,241	26	305	137	118
1993	89,587	880,857	29	330	136	118
1994	95,034	958,704	30	356	125	117

--Not available.

- California (125,605) and Texas (118,195) together held more than 1 in every 5 inmates in the Nation. Seventeen States, each holding fewer than 5,000 inmates, together held 4% of all prisoners.
- At yearend 1994, State prisons were operating at between 17% and 29% above capacity, while the Federal system was operating at 25% over capacity.
- Since 1980 the Nation's prison population more than doubled on a per capita basis. On December 31, 1994, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents was 387 — up from 139 in 1980.
- States with the highest incarceration rates were Texas (636), Louisiana (530), and Oklahoma (508). North Dakota (78) had the lowest rate, followed by Minnesota (100),

West Virginia (106), and Maine (118).

- In 1993 (the latest available data), the incarceration rate of blacks was 7 times that of whites. At yearend there were 1,471 black inmates per 100,000 black U.S. residents, compared to 207 white inmates per 100,000 white residents.
- The percentage of State prisoners serving a drug sentence more than tripled from 1980 to 1993 (6% to 22%). The percentage of Federal prisoners serving a drug sentence more than doubled, from 25% in 1980 to 60% in 1993.
- In recent years, although the number of drug offenders in the Nation's prisons grew dramatically (55,500 from 1990 to 1993), the number of violent offenders grew the most (up 82,100).

## Number of inmates in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1980-93

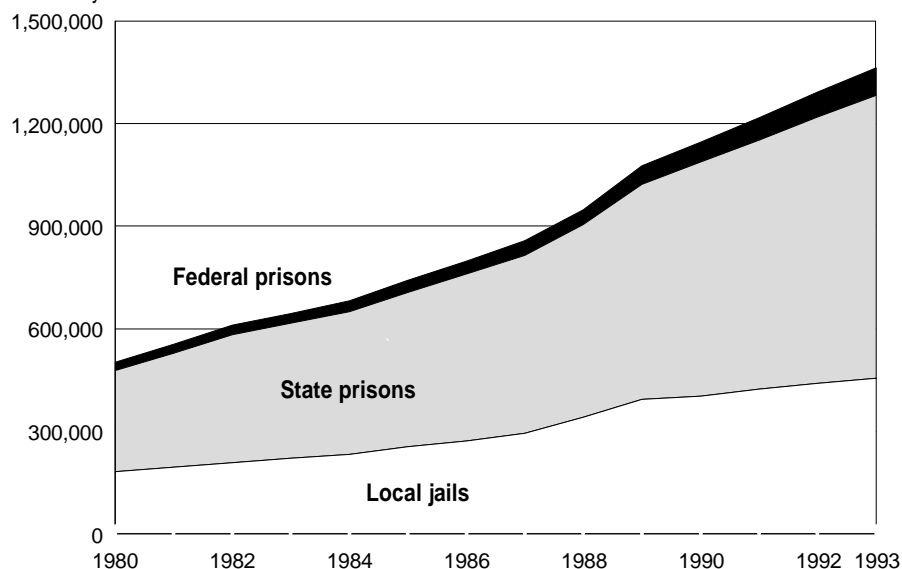
Year	Number of inmates in custody				Total rate <sup>c</sup>
	Total in custody <sup>a</sup>	Federal prisons	State prisons	Local jails <sup>b</sup>	
1980	501,886	23,779	295,819	182,288	221
1985	742,579	35,781	451,812	254,986	312
1990	1,146,401	58,838	684,544	403,019	460
1991	1,216,664	63,930	728,605	424,129	482
1992	1,292,347	72,071	778,495	441,781	507
1993	1,364,686	80,815	828,371	455,500	529
Percent change					
1980-93	171.9%	239.9%	180.0%	149.9%	
1992-93	5.6	12.1	6.4	3.1	

<sup>a</sup>State and Federal inmate counts exclude those under State or Federal jurisdiction who were housed elsewhere (county or local jails). Custody counts for 1994 are not available.

<sup>b</sup>Number of adults held in local jails.

<sup>c</sup>Total of persons in custody of State, Federal, or local jurisdictions per 100,000 U.S. residents.

Number of inmates in custody



- At yearend 1980 1 in every 453 U.S. residents were incarcerated; by yearend 1993 that figure grew to 1 in every 189.

- From 1980 to 1993 the total number of persons held in the custody of State, Federal, and local jail jurisdictions grew by about 863,000 persons. Sixty-two percent of the growth can be attributed to the growth in the number of State prisoners (533,000).

- Between 1980 and 1993 the Federal prison population grew at a faster rate (an average of 9.9% per year) than the combined State populations (8.2%) and the Nation's local jail populations (7.3%). Despite the higher growth rate, only 5.9% of all inmates were held in Federal prisons in 1993, up from 4.7% in 1980.

- On December 31, 1993, almost 4.9 million persons were under some form of correctional supervision, including 2.8 million adults on probation and 671,000 on parole. The percentage distribution of the total corrections population was —

Confinement	28.0%
Federal prisons	1.7
State prisons	17.0
Local jails	9.3
Community supervision	72.0%
Parole	13.7
Probation	58.3

- Between 1980 and 1993 the number of persons under correctional supervision increased by more than 3 million. About 19% of this increase occurred because of the growth in the State and Federal prison populations.

since 1980, the total increase of 83,294 was the second largest yearly increase on record.

State and Federal prisons housed two-thirds of all persons incarcerated in the United States — the other third were in local jails (box on left).

The 1994 growth rate of 8.6% was greater than the percentage increase recorded during 1993 (7.4%). The 1994 increase translates into a nationwide need to confine an additional 1,602 inmates each week.

Prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") accounted for 96% of the total prison population at the end of 1994, growing by 8.6% during the year (table 2). The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced (for example, those awaiting trial in States with combined prison-jail systems).

The number of sentenced Federal prisoners increased less than that of sentenced State prisoners during 1994 (7.3% versus 8.7%). The rate of increase slowed to about half the 1993 growth rate.

During 1994 prison populations increased in 16 States by at least 10%. Texas reported the largest increase (28.5%), followed by Georgia (20.3%), Nevada (16.0%), Virginia (14.6%), and Wisconsin (14.1%). Three States and the District of Columbia experienced less than 2% growth. The District had the smallest percentage growth (0.9%), followed by Oklahoma (1.4%), South Carolina (1.6%), and Massachusetts (1.6%).

Fifty-six percent of the increase during 1994 was accounted for by Texas (26,182), California (5,654), Georgia (5,642), the Federal system (5,447), and Florida (4,091). These jurisdictions incarcerate over 40% of the Nation's prison population.

## Rates of incarceration increase

On December 31, 1994, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents was 387. Of the 14 States with rates greater than the rate for the Nation, 11 were in the South, 2 were in the West, and 1 was in the Midwest. Four States — North Dakota (78), Minnesota (100), West Virginia (106), and Maine (118) — had rates that were less than a third of the national rate. The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, held 1,583 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents at yearend 1994.

Since 1980 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen from 139 to 387. During this period per capita incarceration rates rose the most in the South (from 188 to 451) and West (from 105 to 333). The rate in the Northeast rose from 87 to 285, and the rate in the Midwest from 109 to 297. The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 residents increased from 9 to 30 over the same period.

## Prison populations in Southern States grew the fastest

During 1994 the average growth in the number of sentenced State and Federal prisoners was equal to a demand for 1,542 additional bedspaces per week, about 179 more than the average weekly growth in 1993 (table 3).

Regionally, during 1994 the percentage increase in the number of sentenced prisoners was highest in the Southern States, a gain of 13.1%. The number of sentenced prisoners grew by 6.2% in the West, 5.8% in the Midwest, and 4.1% in the Northeast.

In 29 States the percentage change in the number of sentenced prisoners during 1994 was higher than that during 1993. Among these jurisdictions, 16 had increases of at least 10%. They were led by Texas (28.3%), Georgia (20.1%), Virginia (14.9%), New Hampshire (13.9%), and Idaho (13.7%).

In five States (Delaware, Maine, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Massachusetts) and the District of Columbia, the number of sentenced prisoners

increased by less than 2%. In two States — Alaska and Connecticut — the number of sentenced prisoners declined during 1994.

**Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by region and jurisdiction, yearend 1993 and 1994**

Region and jurisdiction	Total			Sentenced to more than 1 year			
	Advance 1994	Final 1993	Percent change, 1993-94	Advance 1994	Final 1993	Percent change, 1993-94	Incarceration rate, 1994 <sup>a</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	1,053,738	970,444	8.6%	1,012,463	932,266	8.6%	387
Federal	95,034	89,587	6.1%	79,795	74,399	7.3%	30
State	958,704	880,857	8.8	932,668	857,867	8.7	356
<b>Northeast</b>	153,124	146,501	4.5%	146,754	140,941	4.1%	285
Connecticut <sup>b</sup>	14,380	13,691	5.0	10,500	10,508	-.1	321
Maine	1,537	1,469	4.6	1,464	1,446	1.2	118
Massachusetts	11,282	11,100	1.6	10,340	10,145	1.9	171
New Hampshire	2,021	1,775	13.9	2,021	1,775	13.9	177
New Jersey	24,632	23,831	3.4	24,544	23,831	3.0	310
New York	66,750	64,569	3.4	66,750	64,569	3.4	367
Pennsylvania	28,302	26,060	8.6	28,301	26,055	8.6	235
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	2,919	2,783	4.9	1,853	1,719	7.8	186
Vermont <sup>b</sup>	1,301	1,223	6.4	981	893	9.9	168
<b>Midwest</b>	183,436	173,277	5.9%	182,768	172,709	5.8%	297
Illinois <sup>c</sup>	36,531	34,495	5.9	36,531	34,495	5.9	310
Indiana	15,014	14,470	3.8	14,925	14,364	3.9	258
Iowa <sup>c</sup>	5,437	4,898	11.0	5,437	4,898	11.0	192
Kansas	6,373	5,727	11.3	6,373	5,727	11.3	249
Michigan <sup>c</sup>	40,775	39,318	3.7	40,775	39,318	3.7	428
Minnesota	4,572	4,200	8.9	4,572	4,200	8.9	100
Missouri	17,898	16,178	10.6	17,898	16,178	10.6	338
Nebraska	2,633	2,518	4.6	2,590	2,467	5.0	159
North Dakota	536	498	7.6	501	446	12.3	78
Ohio	41,913	40,641	3.1	41,913	40,641	3.1	377
South Dakota	1,734	1,553	11.7	1,734	1,553	11.7	240
Wisconsin	10,020	8,781	14.1	9,519	8,422	13.0	187
<b>South</b>	421,817	372,882	13.1%	412,309	364,551	13.1%	451
Alabama	19,573	18,624	5.1	19,074	18,169	5.0	450
Arkansas	8,836	8,625	2.4	8,711	7,984	9.1	353
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	4,411	4,210	4.8	2,788	2,781	.3	393
Dist. of Col. <sup>b</sup>	10,943	10,845	.9	8,962	8,908	.6	1,583
Florida <sup>c</sup>	57,139	53,048	7.7	57,129	52,883	8.0	406
Georgia <sup>c</sup>	33,425	27,783	20.3	32,523	27,079	20.1	456
Kentucky	11,066	10,440	6.0	11,066	10,440	6.0	288
Louisiana	24,092	22,468	7.2	22,956	22,468	2.2	530
Maryland	20,998	20,264	3.6	19,854	19,121	3.8	395
Mississippi	11,274	10,078	11.9	10,950	9,769	12.1	408
North Carolina	23,639	21,892	8.0	22,983	21,367	7.6	322
Oklahoma	16,631	16,409	1.4	16,631	16,409	1.4	508
South Carolina	18,999	18,704	1.6	18,168	17,896	1.5	494
Tennessee	14,474	12,824	12.9	14,474	12,824	12.9	277
Texas	118,195	92,013	28.5	118,094	92,013	28.3	636
Virginia	26,192	22,850	14.6	26,016	22,635	14.9	395
West Virginia <sup>c</sup>	1,930	1,805	6.9	1,930	1,805	6.9	106
<b>West</b>	200,327	188,197	6.4%	190,837	179,666	6.2%	333
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	3,292	3,068	7.3	1,934	1,954	-1.0	317
Arizona <sup>c</sup>	19,746	17,811	10.9	19,005	17,160	10.8	459
California <sup>c</sup>	125,605	119,951	4.7	121,084	115,573	4.8	384
Colorado	10,717	9,462	13.3	10,717	9,462	13.3	289
Hawaii <sup>b</sup>	3,333	3,129	6.5	2,392	2,330	2.7	202
Idaho	2,964	2,606	13.7	2,964	2,606	13.7	258
Montana	1,680	1,541	9.0	1,680	1,541	9.0	194
Nevada	7,122	6,138	16.0	6,877	6,138	12.0	460
New Mexico	3,866	3,498	10.5	3,679	3,373	9.1	220
Oregon	6,936	6,557	5.8	5,458	5,111	6.8	175
Utah	3,016	2,888	4.4	2,997	2,871	4.4	155
Washington	10,833	10,419	4.0	10,833	10,419	4.0	201
Wyoming	1,217	1,129	7.8	1,217	1,128	7.9	254

Note: The advance count of prisoners is conducted in January and may be revised. Prisoner counts for 1993 may differ from those reported in previous publications.  
<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 one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.  
<sup>c</sup>Population figures are based on custody counts.

**Table 3. Changes in the number of sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by region and jurisdiction, in 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years**

Region and jurisdiction	1993-94		1992-93		1989-94		1984-94	
	Population difference	Percent change	Population difference	Percent change	Population difference	Percent change	Population difference	Percent change
<b>U.S. total</b>	80,197	8.6%	70,878	8.2%	302,006	42.5%	569,975	128.8%
Federal	5,396	7.3%	8,693	13.2%	32,627	69.2%	52,193	189.1%
State	74,801	8.7	62,185	7.8	269,379	40.6	517,782	124.8
<b>Northeast</b>	5,813	4.1%	7,283	5.4%	37,355	34.1%	79,101	116.9%
Connecticut	(8)	-.1	1,714	19.5	4,191	66.4	6,752	180.1
Maine	18	1.2	(46)	-3.1	32	2.2	617	72.8
Massachusetts <sup>a</sup>	195	1.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
New Hampshire	246	13.9	(2)	-.1	855	73.3	1,440	247.8
New Jersey <sup>b</sup>	713	3.0	1,178	5.2	5,105	26.3	--	--
New York	2,181	3.4	2,833	4.6	15,518	30.3	33,641	101.6
Pennsylvania	2,246	8.6	1,089	4.4	7,843	38.3	15,303	117.7
Rhode Island	134	7.8	9	.5	384	26.1	962	108.0
Vermont	88	9.9	28	3.2	355	56.7	603	159.5
<b>Midwest</b>	10,059	5.8%	6,890	4.2%	46,722	34.3%	97,531	114.4%
Illinois	2,036	5.9	2,855	9.0	11,819	47.8	19,417	113.5
Indiana	561	3.9	573	4.2	2,705	22.1	5,862	64.7
Iowa	539	11.0	380	8.4	1,853	51.7	2,601	91.7
Kansas	646	11.3	(301)	-5.0	757	13.5	2,129	50.2
Michigan	1,457	3.7	205	.5	9,136	28.9	26,171	179.2
Minnesota	372	8.9	378	9.9	1,469	47.3	2,405	111.0
Missouri <sup>c</sup>	1,720	10.6	(9)	-.1	3,977	28.6	9,128	104.1
Nebraska	123	5.0	32	1.3	312	13.7	1,023	65.3
North Dakota	55	12.3	18	4.2	97	24.0	126	33.6
Ohio	1,272	3.1	2,263	5.9	11,375	37.2	23,294	125.1
South Dakota	181	11.7	66	4.4	478	38.1	830	91.8
Wisconsin	1,097	13.0	430	5.4	2,744	40.5	4,545	91.4
<b>South</b>	47,758	13.1%	34,778	10.5%	129,990	46.0%	226,338	121.7%
Alabama	905	5.0	1,231	7.3	5,499	40.5	8,828	86.2
Arkansas	727	9.1	(211)	-2.6	2,165	33.1	4,229	94.4
Delaware	7	.3	76	2.8	504	22.1	1,242	80.3
District of Columbia	54	.6	1,380	18.3	2,312	34.8	5,244	141.0
Florida	4,246	8.0	4,598	9.5	17,163	42.9	30,370	113.5
Georgia	5,444	20.1	2,231	9.0	12,904	65.8	17,927	122.8
Kentucky	626	6.0	76	.7	2,777	33.5	6,246	129.6
Louisiana	488	2.2	1,572	7.5	5,699	33.0	9,297	68.1
Maryland	733	3.8	313	1.7	4,476	29.1	7,412	59.6
Mississippi	1,181	12.1	1,051	12.1	3,250	42.2	4,976	83.3
North Carolina	1,616	7.6	1,402	7.0	6,355	38.2	7,764	51.0
Oklahoma	222	1.4	1,588	10.7	5,023	43.3	8,759	111.3
South Carolina	272	1.5	284	1.6	3,360	22.7	8,853	95.0
Tennessee	1,650	12.9	975	8.2	3,844	36.2	7,167	98.1
Texas	26,081	28.3	16,435	21.7	44,522	60.5	82,322	230.1
Virginia	3,381	14.9	1,646	7.8	9,743	59.9	15,351	143.9
West Virginia	125	6.9	131	7.8	394	25.7	351	22.2
<b>West</b>	11,171	6.2%	13,234	8.0%	55,312	40.8%	114,812	151.0%
Alaska	(20)	-1.0	10	.5	26	1.4	641	49.6
Arizona	1,845	10.8	1,310	8.3	6,279	49.3	11,359	148.6
California	5,511	4.8	10,106	9.6	36,746	43.6	79,432	190.7
Colorado	1,255	13.3	465	5.2	3,809	55.1	7,486	231.7
Hawaii	62	2.7	108	4.9	635	36.1	1,062	79.8
Idaho <sup>a</sup>	358	13.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Montana	139	9.0	(7)	-.5	352	26.5	716	74.3
Nevada	739	12.0	89	1.5	1,765	34.5	3,389	97.2
New Mexico	306	9.1	219	6.9	559	17.9	1,771	92.8
Oregon <sup>d</sup>	347	6.8	(125)	-2.4	--	--	--	--
Utah	126	4.4	184	6.8	629	26.6	1,506	101.0
Washington	414	4.0	460	4.6	3,905	56.4	4,012	58.8
Wyoming	89	7.9	65	6.1	191	18.6	493	68.1

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with a sentence of more than 1 year. All year-to-year changes include the updated jurisdictional counts for Texas. ( ) Indicates a decline in the number of sentenced prisoners.

--Not applicable. Counts are included in the respective regional and national totals.

<sup>a</sup>Jurisdiction counts were reported for the first time in 1993.

<sup>b</sup>Since 1987 jurisdiction counts include inmates in local jails because of prison crowding.

<sup>c</sup>Custody counts were reported for the first time in 1993.

<sup>d</sup>Because of sentencing guidelines, only prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year were reported before 1992. Comparisons with counts before 1992 would be inappropriate.

**Table 4. The prison situation among the States, yearend 1994**

10 States with the largest 1994 prison populations	Number of inmates	10 States with the highest incarceration rates, 1994*	Prisoners per 100,000 residents	10 States with the largest percent increases in the prison population			
				1993-94	Percent increase	1989-94	Percent increase
California	125,605	Texas	636	Texas	28.5%	New Hampshire	73.3%
Texas	118,195	Louisiana	530	Georgia	20.3	Connecticut	66.4
New York	66,750	Oklahoma	508	Nevada	16.0	Georgia	65.8
Florida	57,139	South Carolina	494	Virginia	14.6	Texas	60.5
Ohio	41,913	Nevada	460	Wisconsin	14.1	Virginia	59.9
Michigan	40,775	Arizona	459	New Hampshire	13.9	Vermont	56.7
Illinois	36,531	Georgia	456	Idaho	13.7	Washington	56.4
Georgia	33,425	Alabama	450	Colorado	13.3	Colorado	55.1
Pennsylvania	28,302	Michigan	428	Tennessee	12.9	Iowa	51.7
Virginia	26,192	Mississippi	408	Mississippi	11.9	Arizona	49.3

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded. Prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year.

Since 1989 net gains in the number of sentenced prisoners have averaged about 1,162 prisoners per week — a gain of about 1,036 State prisoners and 125 Federal prisoners per week over the period. The largest net gains occurred in the South (500 inmates per week), followed by the West (213 inmates per week), the Midwest (180 inmates per week), and the Northeast (144 inmates per week). Texas accounted for 34% of the total growth in the 16 Southern States and the District of Columbia. California accounted for two-thirds of the growth in the 13 Western States.

In 1994 the 10 States with the largest prison populations held 55% of the total prison population nationwide, with California, Texas, and New York accounting for nearly 30% (table 4). Texas had the highest incarceration rate, with 636 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents, followed by Louisiana (530) and Oklahoma (508).

During 1994 the prison population in Texas grew the fastest, increasing 28.5%. Over the past 5 years, the State prison population of New Hampshire grew the fastest, increasing 73.3%.

At yearend 1994 North Dakota had the lowest rate of incarceration (78 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents), followed by Minnesota (100), West Virginia (106), and Maine (118).

Seventeen States, each holding fewer than 5,000 inmates, together held 4% of all prisoners in 1994.

The number of sentenced inmates has increased in every State since 1989. Alaska (up 1.4% since 1989) and Maine (up 2.2%) had the smallest percentage increases. Four other States had increases of less than 20% in the last 5 years. Kansas had a 5-year rate of growth of 13.5%, followed by Nebraska (13.7%), New Mexico (17.9%), and Wyoming (18.6%).

**Female prisoner population grew at a faster pace**

The number of female inmates (64,403) increased at a faster rate during 1994 (10.6%) than the number of male inmates (989,335 at 8.5%) (table 5).

At the end of 1994 women accounted for 6.1% of all prisoners nationwide (table 6). Relative to the number of women in the resident population in the States in 1994, Oklahoma (with 96 female inmates per 100,000 female residents) and Texas (with 94) led the Nation. North Dakota (5 per 100,000) and Maine (9) had the lowest female incarceration rates.

In 1994, 28 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal system had more than 500 female inmates. Among these jurisdictions 14 had increases of at least 10%, led by the Texas increase of 27.2% (from 6,949 in 1993 to 8,839 in 1994).

Six States held fewer than 100 female inmates at yearend 1994. Women represented less than 4% of all prisoners in North Dakota, Montana, and Vermont. In 1994, 7.5% of inmates in the Federal system were female — higher than all State systems except for Oklahoma (9.7%), Hawaii (7.7%), and Texas (7.5%).

**Table 5. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by sex of inmate, yearend 1993 and 1994**

	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>		
Advance 1994	989,335	64,403
Final 1993	912,194	58,250
Percent change, 1993-94	8.5%	10.6%
<b>Sentenced to more than 1 year</b>		
Advance 1994	952,585	59,878
Final 1993	878,298	53,968
Percent change, 1993-94	8.5%	11.0%
Incarceration rate, 1994*	746	45

\*The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 residents on December 31, 1994.

**Table 6. Women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, yearend 1994**

Region and jurisdiction	Number of female inmates	Percent of all inmates	Percent change in female inmate population, 1993-94	Incarceration rate, 1994*
<b>U.S. total</b>	64,403	6.1%	10.6%	45
Federal	7,140	7.5%	3.6%	4
State	57,263	6.0	11.5	40
<b>Northeast</b>	8,118	5.3%	3.5%	27
Connecticut	999	6.9	.5	37
Maine	65	4.2	30.0	9
Massachusetts	680	6.0	4.1	11
New Hampshire	110	5.4	27.9	19
New Jersey	1,168	4.7	3.1	28
New York	3,575	5.4	1.3	38
Pennsylvania	1,322	4.7	10.7	21
Rhode Island	150	5.1	-3.2	10
Vermont	49	3.8	2.1	11
<b>Midwest</b>	9,919	5.4%	8.0%	31
Illinois	1,813	5.0	7.4	30
Indiana	826	5.5	6.2	27
Iowa	351	6.5	24.9	24
Kansas	344	5.4	25.1	26
Michigan	2,023	5.0	12.5	41
Minnesota	232	5.1	20.8	10
Missouri	1,042	5.8	13.3	38
Nebraska	157	6.0	-7.1	18
North Dakota	16	3.0	-23.8	5
Ohio	2,595	6.2	.4	45
South Dakota	108	6.2	22.7	29
Wisconsin	412	4.1	6.5	15
<b>South</b>	26,370	6.3%	15.6%	54
Alabama	1,214	6.2	7.3	53
Arkansas	597	6.8	20.6	45
Delaware	279	6.3	8.6	37
Dist. of Col.	686	6.3	-.1	159
Florida	3,064	5.4	13.5	42
Georgia	2,012	6.0	14.3	52
Kentucky	637	5.8	16.9	32
Louisiana	1,287	5.3	15.5	54
Maryland	1,039	4.9	6.5	34
Mississippi	686	6.1	16.9	46
North Carolina	1,186	5.0	5.9	30
Oklahoma	1,607	9.7	1.6	96
South Carolina	1,022	5.4	-7.5	48
Tennessee	597	4.1	17.5	22
Texas	8,839	7.5	27.2	94
Virginia	1,527	5.8	25.3	45
West Virginia	91	4.7	15.2	10
<b>West</b>	12,856	6.4%	11.6%	40
Alaska	218	6.6	37.1	37
Arizona	1,273	6.4	22.8	57
California	8,215	6.5	8.4	47
Colorado	670	6.3	23.6	36
Hawaii	257	7.7	24.8	30
Idaho	177	6.0	19.6	31
Montana	55	3.3	-17.9	13
Nevada	478	6.7	24.8	61
New Mexico	225	5.8	9.2	20
Oregon	379	5.5	11.5	12
Utah	129	4.3	4.9	13
Washington	698	6.4	4.8	26
Wyoming	82	6.7	24.2	34

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

\*The number of female prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 female residents on December 31, 1994.

### Local jails held almost 49,000 prisoners because of State prison crowding

At the end of 1994, 23 jurisdictions reported a total of 48,949 State prisoners held in local jails or other facilities because of crowding in State facilities (table 7). Texas accounted for 42% of the prisoners sentenced to prison but incarcerated locally. Eight States — Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Idaho — held more than 10% of their prison population in local jails. Overall, because of prison crowding, 4.6% of the State prisoners were confined in local jails, down from 5.2% in 1993.

**Table 7. State prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding, by State, yearend 1993 and 1994**

States housing prisoners in local jails	Prisoners held in local jails			
	Number		As a percent of all prisoners	
	1994	1993	1994	1993
<b>U.S. total</b>	48,949	50,966	4.6%	5.2%
Texas	20,720	29,546	17.5%	32.1%
Louisiana	8,064	6,390	33.5	28.4
Virginia	4,508	3,610	17.2	15.8
New Jersey	3,344	3,594	13.6	15.1
Tennessee	1,829	1,178	12.6	9.2
Mississippi	1,569	0	13.9	--
Alabama	1,547	1,204	7.9	6.5
North Carolina	1,185	105	5.0	.5
Massachusetts	1,075	871	9.5%	7.8%
Indiana	903	1,005	6.0	6.9
Colorado	815	252	7.6	2.7
Kentucky	632	396	5.7	3.8
Arkansas	565	667	6.4	7.7
West Virginia*	398	262	17.1	12.7
Wisconsin	377	310	3.8	3.5
Oklahoma*	375	380	2.2	2.3
South Carolina	359	416	1.9%	2.2%
Idaho	312	203	10.5	7.8
Utah	169	122	5.6	4.2
Arizona*	118	157	.6	.9
Minnesota	85	134	1.9	3.2
District of Columbia	0	160	--	1.5
Vermont	0	4	--	.3

--Not calculable.

\*For States not including jail backups in their jurisdiction counts, the percent of jurisdiction population was calculated using the total number of State inmates in jail or prison.

**Prison capacity estimates are difficult to compare**

The extent of crowding in the Nation's prisons is difficult to determine because

of the absence of uniform measures for defining capacity. The 52 reporting jurisdictions apply a wide variety of capacity measures to reflect both the available space to house inmates and

the ability to staff and operate an institution. To estimate the capacity of the Nation's prisons, jurisdictions were asked to supply three measures for yearend 1994: rated, operational, and design capacities. These measures were defined as follows:

*Rated capacity* is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to institutions within the jurisdiction.

*Operational capacity* is the number of inmates that can be accommodated based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services.

*Design capacity* is the number of inmates that planners or architects intended for the facility.

Of the 52 reporting jurisdictions, 38 supplied a rated capacity, 43 provided an operational capacity, and 37 submitted a design capacity (table 8).

**Table 9. State prison population as a percent of reported capacity, 1989-94**

	State prisons
Highest capacity	772,751
Lowest capacity	704,004
<b>Net change in capacity, 1993-94</b>	
Highest	63,641
Lowest	54,559
<b>Population housed as a percent of capacity*</b>	
Highest	
1989	107%
1990	115
1991	116
1992	118
1993	118
1994	117
Lowest	
1989	127%
1990	127
1991	131
1992	131
1993	129
1994	129

Note: States were asked to report their rated, operational, and design capacities. Tabulations reflect the highest and lowest of the 3 capacities reported from 1989 to 1994. \*Excludes inmates sentenced to State prison but held in local jails because of crowding.

**Table 8. Reported Federal and State prison capacities, yearend 1994**

Region and jurisdiction	Rated capacity	Operational capacity	Design capacity	Population housed as a percent of capacity <sup>a</sup>	
				Highest capacity	Lowest capacity
Federal <sup>b</sup>	68,221	...	...	125%	125%
<b>Northeast</b>					
Connecticut	13,363	14,699	...	98%	108%
Maine	1,353	1,353	1,353	114	114
Massachusetts	...	...	6,904	148	148
New Hampshire	1,358	1,873	1,716	108	149
New Jersey <sup>b</sup>	...	...	13,869	142	142
New York	64,280	61,195	51,049	104	131
Pennsylvania	20,455	20,455	20,455	138	138
Rhode Island	3,438	3,438	3,438	85	85
Vermont <sup>b</sup>	919	1,020	947	98	108
<b>Midwest</b>					
Illinois	26,385	26,385	22,641	138%	161%
Indiana <sup>b</sup>	12,539	14,711	...	96	113
Iowa	3,265	3,265	3,265	167	167
Kansas	6,655	...	...	96	96
Michigan	27,966	...	...	146	146
Minnesota <sup>b</sup>	4,095	4,095	4,095	110	110
Missouri	...	18,162	...	99	99
Nebraska	...	...	2,013	131	131
North Dakota	600	600	600	89	89
Ohio	...	...	24,526	171	171
South Dakota	1,477	1,418	1,477	117	122
Wisconsin <sup>b</sup>	7,230	7,230	7,230	133	133
<b>South</b>					
Alabama <sup>b</sup>	16,508	16,508	16,508	109%	109%
Arkansas <sup>b</sup>	8,044	8,044	8,044	103	103
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	...	4,206	3,192	105	138
District of Columbia	7,251	11,099	9,419	99	151
Florida	...	57,364	43,536	100	131
Georgia	32,918	32,918	32,918	102	102
Kentucky <sup>b</sup>	10,156	9,483	...	103	110
Louisiana <sup>b</sup>	15,884	15,675	...	97	97
Maryland	...	20,952	12,392	100	169
Mississippi <sup>b</sup>	9,678	9,678	9,678	100	98
North Carolina <sup>b</sup>	21,004	23,500	...	96	107
Oklahoma	9,775	13,642	...	122	170
South Carolina <sup>b</sup>	16,310	16,310	12,673	114	147
Tennessee <sup>b</sup>	12,919	12,654	...	98	100
Texas <sup>b</sup>	98,844	98,844	100,744	97	99
Virginia <sup>b</sup>	14,940	14,940	14,940	145	145
West Virginia	1,900	1,900	1,900	102	102
<b>West</b>					
Alaska	3,044	...	...	108%	108%
Arizona	...	19,651	...	100	100
California	...	...	68,366	184	184
Colorado <sup>b</sup>	...	8,051	6,848	114	134
Hawaii	...	2,608	1,694	128	197
Idaho <sup>b</sup>	2,222	2,519	2,222	105	119
Montana	...	1,344	850	125	198
Nevada	6,457	6,739	5,316	106	134
New Mexico	4,054	4,061	4,074	95	95
Oregon	...	6,517	...	106	106
Utah <sup>b</sup>	3,384	3,213	...	84	89
Washington <sup>b</sup>	6,967	9,588	9,588	103	142
Wyoming	977	1,126	1,035	108	125

Note: States were asked to report their rated, operational, and design capacities. Tabulations reflect the highest and lowest of the 3 capacities reported. ... Data not available.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes inmates sentenced to State prison but in local jails because of crowded State facilities.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes prisoners housed in contract facilities or local jails.

As a result, estimates of total capacity and measures of the relationship to population are based on the highest and lowest capacity figures provided. (Twenty-five jurisdictions reported one capacity measure or gave the same figure for each capacity measure they reported.)

### Most jurisdictions are operating above capacity

Prisons generally require reserve capacity to operate efficiently. Dormitories and cells need to be maintained and repaired periodically, special hous-

ing is needed for protective custody and disciplinary cases, and space may be needed to cope with emergencies. At the end of 1994, 13 States and the District of Columbia reported that they were operating at or below 99% of their highest capacity. Forty-one States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal prison system reported operating at 100% or more of their lowest capacity. By yearend the Federal system was estimated to be operating at 25% over capacity. State prisons were estimated to be operating at 117% of their highest capacity and 129% of their lowest capacity (table 9).

### Changing demographic characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the Nation's prison population are changing (table 10). Since 1980 the number of female inmates in the Nation's prisons has increased at a faster rate (up an average 12.0% per year) than the number of male inmates (up an average 8.5% per year). Despite their faster population growth, females comprised only 6% of all sentenced prisoners at yearend 1994. In 1994 the male incarceration rate, 746 per 100,000 male residents, was more than 16 times higher than the female incarceration rate, 45 per 100,000 female residents (table 11).

**Table 10. Number of sentenced prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction, by sex and race, 1980, 1985, 1990-94**

Year	Number of sentenced prisoners <sup>a</sup>						
	Total	Male			Female		
		All <sup>b</sup>	White	Black	All <sup>b</sup>	White	Black
1980	315,974	303,643	159,500	140,600	12,331	5,900	6,300
1985	480,568	459,223	242,700	210,500	21,345	10,800	10,200
1990	739,980	699,416	346,700	344,300	40,564	20,000	20,100
1991	789,610	745,808	363,600	372,200	43,802	20,900	22,200
1992	846,277	799,776	387,600	401,200	46,501	22,100	23,700
1993	932,266	878,298	418,900	445,400	53,968	25,200	27,900
1994	1,012,463	952,585	--	--	59,878	--	--
Percent change, 1980-94	220%	214%	--	--	386%	--	--

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with a sentence of more than 1 year.

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>The numbers for sex and race were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100.

For men and women the total number of sentenced prisoners was multiplied by the proportion black or white of the total population in each group. The reported racial distribution was used to estimate unreported data.

<sup>b</sup>Includes sentenced prisoners of other races.

**Table 11. Estimated number of sentenced prisoners in State or Federal prisons per 100,000 U.S. residents, by sex and race, 1980, 1985, 1990-94**

Year	Number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents of relevant sex and racial group						
	Total*	Male			Female		
		All	White	Black	All	White	Black
1980	139	275	168	1,111	11	6	45
1985	202	397	246	1,559	17	10	68
1990	297	575	339	2,376	32	19	125
1992	332	643	371	2,675	36	20	142
1993	359	698	398	2,920	41	23	165
1994	387	746	--	--	45	--	--

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with a sentence of more than 1 year.

Rates by sex and race are based on estimates of the U.S. resident population on July 1 of each year.

--Not available.

\*Includes sentenced prisoners of other races. Rates for sentenced prisoners are based on the U.S. resident population on December 31 of each year.



Increasing percentages of State and Federal inmates are from racial or ethnic minority groups. Between 1980 and 1993, the latest available data, the percentage of sentenced inmates who were black rose from 46.5% to 50.8%. Relative to the number of residents in the U.S. population, blacks at yearend 1993 were 7 times more likely than whites to have been incarcerated in a State or Federal prison. An estimated 1,471 blacks per 100,000 black residents and 207 whites per 100,000

white residents were incarcerated in the Nation's prisons on December 31, 1993.

The number of prisoners with sentences of more than a year rose 616,292 between 1980 and 1993 (up 195%). The number of white males grew 163%, the number of black males 217%, the number of white females 327%, and the number of black females 343%. The growth in the number of black male prisoners

(304,800) accounted for nearly half of the total increase during the 13-year period.

Hispanics, who may be of any race, are the fastest growing minority group — increasing from 7.7% of all State and Federal inmates in 1980 to 14.3% in 1993 (table 12). During this period the Hispanic incarceration rate more than tripled — from 163 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 Hispanic residents in 1980 to 529 per 100,000 Hispanic residents in 1993. At yearend 1993 nearly 139,000 Hispanics were in State or Federal prisons.

The total number of Hispanic inmates may actually be somewhat larger. Because of variations in recordkeeping, some States are unable to report data on Hispanic origin, other States report estimates only, and others report only partial counts. Data from past surveys of State inmates, which are based on inmate self-identification during personal interviews, produce higher estimates of the number of Hispanic inmates.

Survey year*	Percent Hispanic	Estimated number
1979	9.9%	28,500
1986	12.6	63,100
1991	16.7	125,900

\*In each survey year, the number of Hispanic inmates was estimated by multiplying the percent of Hispanics by the total number of inmates under State jurisdiction at yearend and then rounding to the nearest 100.

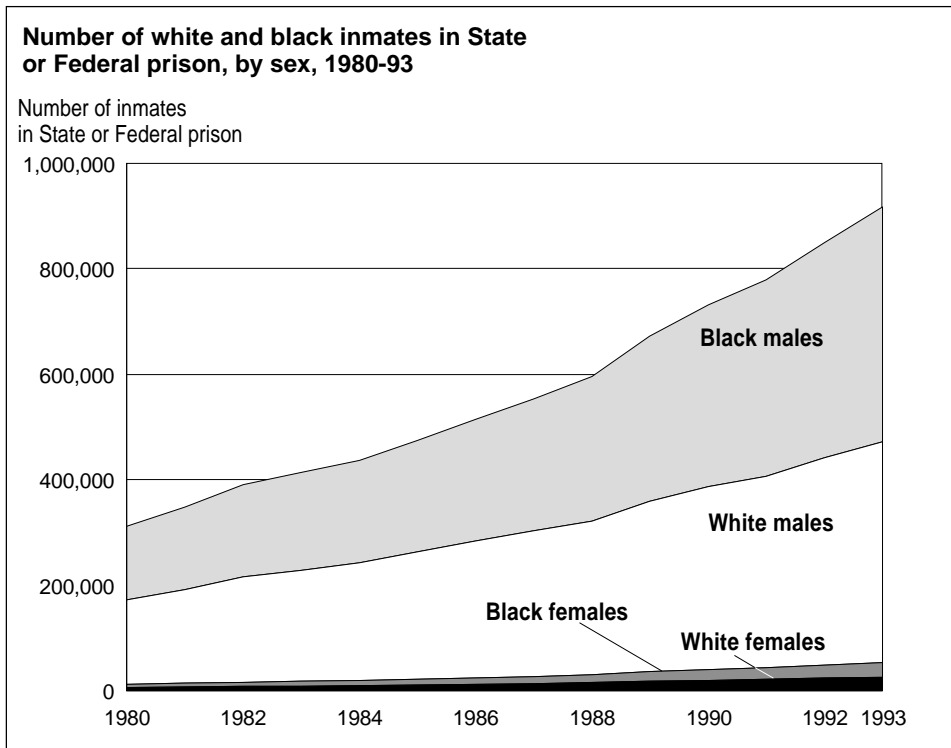


Figure 2

**Table 12. Number of Hispanic prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction, by sex and race, 1980, 1985, 1990-93**

Year	Hispanic prisoners		Sentenced Hispanic prisoners per 100,000 residents of Hispanic origin <sup>a</sup>		
	Number	Percent	Total <sup>b</sup>	Male	Female
1980	25,246	7.7%	163	317	10
1985	54,672	10.9	285	542	22
1990	103,065	13.3	437	817	43
1991	112,520	13.7	461	863	44
1992	125,018	14.1	493	928	45
1993	138,699	14.3	529	994	50

Note: Data are based on incomplete counts. Each year, some States were unable to report data on Hispanic origin, others reported estimates only, and others reported incomplete counts.

<sup>a</sup>Rates are based on estimates of the U.S. resident Hispanic population on July 1 of each year.

<sup>b</sup>Sentenced prisoners are those with a sentence of more than 1 year. The number of Hispanics with a sentence of more than a year was estimated by multiplying the total number of sentenced prisoners by the proportion of Hispanics among all prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction. Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100.

On December 31, 1993, nearly two-thirds of all sentenced prison inmates were black, Asian, Native American, or Hispanic.

Race/Hispanic origin	Sentenced State and Federal inmates, 1993	
	Number	Percent
White non-Hispanics	333,100	35.8%
Black non-Hispanics	410,800	44.1
Hispanics	163,500	17.6
Other*	24,000	2.6

Note: Data were estimated using yearend population counts and the 1991 State and Federal inmate surveys.

\*Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

**Percent of State and Federal prisoners, by their most serious offense, 1980-93**

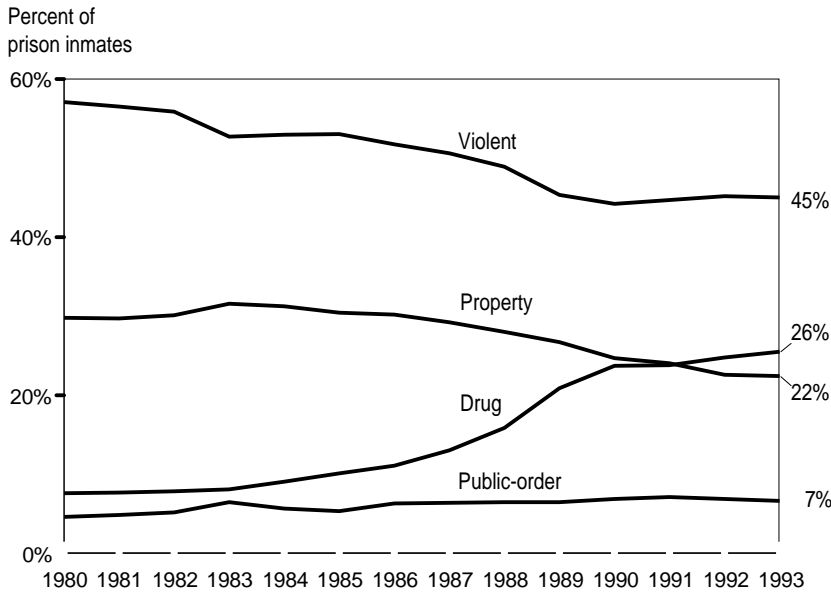


Figure 3

**Growth linked to increasing numbers of inmates in prison for violent and drug offenses**

The distribution of the four major offense categories — violent, property, drug, and public-order offenses — changed dramatically in the Nation's prison population between 1980 and 1993 (figure 3). As a percentage of all State and Federal inmates, violent offenders fell from 57% in 1980 to 45% in 1993, property offenders fell from 30% to 22%, drug offenders rose from 8% to 26%, and public-order offenders rose from 5% to 7%.

The rise in the number of drug offenders was the greatest among Federal inmates. Prisoners sentenced for drug violations were the single largest group of Federal inmates (60%) in 1993, up from 25% in 1980 (table 13). The increase in drug offenders accounted for nearly three-quarters of the total growth in Federal inmates.

**Table 13. Estimated number of sentenced Federal prisoners, by the most serious offense, 1980, 1985, 1990-93**

Most serious offense	Number of inmates in Federal prison <sup>a</sup>					
	1980 <sup>b</sup>	1985 <sup>c</sup>	1990	1991	1992	1993 <sup>d</sup>
<b>Total</b>	19,471	27,607	56,989	65,802	72,851	81,206
<b>Violent offenses</b>	6,572	7,768	9,557	9,852	9,506	10,740
Homicide <sup>e</sup>	703	993	1,233	1,166	917	895
Assault	394	546	1,964	2,101	2,009	2,307
Robbery	4,699	5,417	5,158	5,410	5,409	6,300
Other violent <sup>f</sup>	776	812	1,202	1,175	1,171	1,238
<b>Property offenses</b>	4,651	5,289	7,935	8,518	8,617	8,477
Burglary	239	292	442	384	313	272
Fraud <sup>g</sup>	1,971	2,805	5,113	5,504	5,799	5,944
Larceny/theft/other property <sup>h</sup>	2,441	2,192	2,380	2,630	2,505	2,261
<b>Drug offenses</b>	4,900	9,482	30,470	36,782	42,879	48,554
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	2,040	2,514	8,585	10,011	11,253	12,745
Immigration	907	865	1,728	1,988	1,927	2,102
Weapons	737	926	3,073	3,826	4,996	6,307
Escape/court <sup>i</sup>	149	215	417	441	382	285
Other public-order <sup>j</sup>	247	508	3,367	3,756	3,948	4,051
<b>Other<sup>k</sup></b>	1,308	2,554	442	639	596	690

Note: Data for September 30 of 1980 and 1985 are from table A-9 of *Statistical Report*, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Data for December 31, 1990-93, are from the BJS Federal justice database.

<sup>a</sup>Includes prisoners of any sentence length.

<sup>b</sup>Offenses are known for 89.5% of 21,758 total.

<sup>c</sup>Offenses are known for 88.1% of 31,346 total.

<sup>d</sup>Preliminary data.

<sup>e</sup>Includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

<sup>f</sup>Includes kidnaping, rape, other sexual assault, threats against the President, and other offenses.

<sup>g</sup>Includes embezzlement, counterfeiting, forgery,

bankruptcy, and fraud (excluding tax fraud but including securities fraud).

<sup>h</sup>Includes motor vehicle theft, trespassing, destruction of property, and transport of stolen property.

<sup>i</sup>Includes flight to avoid prosecution, escape, parole and probation violation, and other court offenses.

<sup>j</sup>Includes liquor laws, national security laws, income tax, selective service acts, bribery, gambling, traffic offense, and other public-order offenses.

<sup>k</sup>Includes offenses not classifiable or not a violation of the United States Code.

**Table 14. Estimated number of prisoners in custody of State correctional authorities, by the most serious offense, 1980, 1985, 1990-93**

Most serious offense	Number of inmates in State prison					
	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993
<b>All offenses</b>	295,819	451,812	684,544	728,605	778,495	828,371
<b>Violent offenses</b>	173,300	246,200	313,600	339,500	370,300	394,500
Murder <sup>a</sup>	34,700	50,600	72,000	77,200	85,000	90,200
Manslaughter	11,900	14,500	13,200	13,100	14,100	14,600
Rape	13,200	19,400	24,500	25,500	29,500	32,600
Other sexual assault	7,300	20,300	39,100	43,000	46,400	48,800
Robbery	75,000	94,000	99,200	107,800	113,400	119,100
Assault	23,300	36,100	53,300	59,000	67,900	73,200
Other violent <sup>b</sup>	7,800	11,300	12,400	13,100	15,200	16,000
<b>Property offenses</b>	89,300	140,100	173,700	180,700	182,400	192,200
Burglary	50,300	74,500	87,200	90,300	90,400	95,000
Larceny/theft	14,300	27,100	34,800	35,700	33,900	34,700
Motor vehicle theft	3,500	6,300	14,400	16,000	18,100	20,400
Fraud	11,800	17,200	20,200	20,400	20,100	21,100
Other property <sup>c</sup>	9,400	14,900	17,100	18,200	19,900	21,000
<b>Drug offenses</b>	19,000	38,900	148,600	155,200	172,300	186,000
<b>Public-order offenses<sup>d</sup></b>	12,400	23,000	45,500	49,500	51,100	52,100
<b>Other/unspecified offenses</b>	1,800	3,200	3,100	2,900	3,100	3,500

Note: Offense distributions for yearend 1980, 1985, and 1991 are based on data from the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, conducted in November 1979, March 1986, and August 1991. The offense distribution for other years are estimated using forward and backward stock-flow methods. See *Jurisdiction notes* for further details on the estimations. All estimates are based on the total number of prisoners in physical custody, including those with a sentence of 1 year or less and those who were unsentenced.

<sup>a</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>b</sup>Includes extortion, intimidation, criminal endangerment, and other violent offenses.

<sup>c</sup>Includes possession and selling of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, vandalism, criminal tampering, and other property offenses.

<sup>d</sup>Includes weapons violations, drunk driving, escape, court offenses, obstruction of justice, commercialized vice, morals and decency charges, liquor-law violations, and other public-order offenses.

The percentage of inmates in State prison for a drug crime also rose significantly, from 6% in 1980 to 22% in 1993 (table 14). Nearly 10 times as many inmates were serving time in State prisons for drug offenses in 1993 (186,000) as in 1980 (19,000).

In absolute numbers, however, the growth in State inmates was greatest among violent offenders. Between 1980 and 1993 the number of violent offenders grew by 221,200, while the number of drug offenders grew by 167,000. As a percentage of the total growth in sentenced State inmates during the period, violent offenders accounted for 42% of the total growth, drug offenders 31%, property offenders 19%, and public-order offenders 7%.

**Table 15. State prison admissions and releases: Trends in sentencing and time served, 1985-92**

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>New court commitments<sup>a</sup></b>								
Most serious offense (percent)								
Violent	35.1%	36.3%	31.7%	30.0%	27.7%	27.2%	29.1%	28.6%
Drug	13.2	16.2	20.4	25.4	30.9	32	30.3	30.4
Maximum sentence <sup>b</sup>								
Mean	78 mo	80 mo	77 mo	74 mo	70 mo	70 mo	69 mo	67 mo
Median	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
10 years or more (percent)	19.7%	22.9%	21.4%	20.1%	18.5%	17.9%	18.0%	17.7%
<b>First releases<sup>c</sup></b>								
Most serious offense (percent)								
Violent	31.9%	32.3%	30.2%	29.8%	29.0%	25.3%	24.4%	24.6%
Drug	12.4	13.6	16.1	19.8	23.4	27.5	29.3	30.7
Maximum sentence								
Mean	65 mo	69 mo	66 mo	69 mo	63 mo	65 mo	66 mo	60 mo
Median	36	48	48	48	36	48	48	36
Time served in prison <sup>d</sup>								
Mean	20 mo	24 mo	22 mo	22 mo	22 mo	22 mo	22 mo	22 mo
Median	14	15	14	13	13	13	13	13
10 years or more (percent)	.6%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%

<sup>a</sup>Persons entering prison directly from a sentence by a court. Includes new court admissions, probation revocations, and admissions after the imposition of a suspended sentence.

<sup>b</sup>The maximum sentence for the most serious offense — as determined by the offense with the longest sentence.

<sup>c</sup>Persons released for the first time on the current sentence. Excluded are persons who had previously been conditionally released from

prison for the same offense and then were returned to prison for violating the conditions of that release.

<sup>d</sup>The amount of time spent in prison between the dates of admission and release. Time served excludes time spent in jail and credited to the sentence for the current offense.

Sources: *National Corrections Reporting Program, 1985-92*, BJS reports.

**Table 16. Federal prison admissions and releases:  
Trends in sentencing and time served, 1980, 1986, 1990-92**

	1980	1986	1990	1991	1992
<b>New court commitments<sup>a</sup></b>					
Number admitted	13,766	23,058	28,659	30,555	33,622
Most serious offenses (percent)					
Violent	12.9%	7.9%	7.1%	7.4%	7.8%
Drug	26.7	40.2	49.2	49.1	48.8
Maximum sentence (mean) <sup>b</sup>					
All offenses	44 mo	53 mo	57 mo	62 mo	62 mo
Violent	125	132	89	91	88
Drug	47	62	81	86	82
<b>First releases<sup>c</sup></b>					
Time served in prison (mean)					
All offenses	--	15 mo	19 mo	22 mo	24 mo
Violent	--	50	54	57	56
Drug	--	22	30	31	33

--Not available.

<sup>a</sup>Persons entering prison directly from a sentence by a court. Includes new court admissions, probation revocations, and admissions after the imposition of a suspended sentence.

<sup>b</sup>The maximum sentence for the most serious offense, as determined by the offense with the longest sentence.

<sup>c</sup>Persons released for the first time on the current sentence. Excluded are persons who had previously been conditionally released from prison for the same offense and then were returned to prison for violating the conditions of that release.

Sources: *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1980-90* (September 1992, NCJ-136945) and *1982-91 With Preliminary Data for 1992* (November 1993, NCJ-144526).

### Average sentence length and time served for State inmates relatively unchanged

Data on prison admissions and releases collected annually in the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) suggest that growth in the State prison populations has not been the result of longer sentences.<sup>1</sup> Between 1985 and 1992, years in which comparable data are available, the average (mean) maximum sentences of prisoners actually declined from 78 months to 67 months (table 15).

The median sentence length (the 50th percentile) of prisoners admitted from court remained constant at 48 months. Moreover, despite the increasing use of mandatory minimums and sentencing enhancements during the period, the percentage of inmates who received a maximum sentence of 10

<sup>1</sup>Each year participating States provide information on sentencing and time served for persons entering or leaving prison. In 1993, 38 States and the District of Columbia submitted data, accounting for nearly 93% of all admissions and 85% of all releases nationwide during the year.

years or longer actually declined (from 19.7% in 1985 to 17.7% in 1992).

The NCRP data also reveal no significant changes in the time served by offenders released from State prison during the period. In 1992 State prisoners released for the first time on their current offense (that is, first releases) served an average of 22 months in prison and 5 months in jail.<sup>2</sup> The amount of time served in prison was slightly lower in 1985 (20 months), higher in 1986 (24 months), and about the same since 1987 (22 months).

These data reflect the time served by prisoners actually released. Some prisoners will never be released but will die in prison. Some prisoners with very long sentences do not show up among released prisoners for many years. As a result, measures of time served based on released prisoners tend to understate the actual time to be served by persons entering prison.

<sup>2</sup>Time served in jail is the amount of time an inmate spends in jail prior to entering State prison and is credited toward time served on the total sentence.

### Changing Federal sentencing linked to population growth

The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 introduced "truth in sentencing" to the Federal justice system. The act created a commission that specified sentencing guidelines, which went into effect in late 1987. The guidelines took into account the gravity of the crime and the offender's criminal record. Under the guidelines offenders convicted of Federal offenses are expected to serve a minimum of 85% of the actual sentence.

After 1986 the average Federal sentence to prison for violent crimes decreased, while overall time served increased (table 16). The result is a rapidly growing Federal prison population. After 1986 the average time served by persons released from Federal prison rose from 15 months to 24 months (a 60% increase). For violent offenses, the time served by first releases increased from 50 months to 56 months, and for drug offenses the time served increased from 22 months to 33 months.

The sentencing reforms also increased the likelihood of incarceration for convicted Federal offenders. Between 1980 and 1992 the number of defendants convicted in U.S. district courts rose from 29,943 to 51,936, and the percentage sent to prison increased from 46% to 75%. As a result, the number of offenders sent to Federal prisons rose from 13,766 to 33,622—an increase of 144%.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>*Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1980-90* (September 1992, NCJ-136945), and *1982-91 With Preliminary Data for 1992* (November 1993, NCJ-144526).

## Rise in State prison population the result of an increasing number of arrests and higher probabilities of incarceration

Underlying the growth in the State prison population has been an increase in the number of arrests, from nearly 8.3 million adult arrests in 1980 to 11.6 million in 1993 (table 17). Although the total grew by nearly 41%, for some offenses the percent increase was substantially greater: simple assault (139%), drug abuse violations (116%), and aggravated assault (86%).

Compounding the impact of more adult arrests for selected serious offenses, the rate of sending offenders to prison rose between 1980 and 1992 (the latest year for which data are available). Except for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, the number of admissions to State prison per 1,000 arrests for serious crimes rose significantly (table 18). The likelihood of incarceration upon arrest increased 5-fold for drug violations, increased 4-fold for weapons offenses, and doubled for larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and sexual assault other than rape.

As a result of the compounding nature of these factors, the number of admissions to State prisons from court rose from 131,215 sentenced prisoners in 1980 to 318,069 in 1993, an increase of 142%.

**Table 17. Estimated number of adult arrests for selected offenses, 1980 and 1993**

Offense	Adult arrests				
	1980		1993		Percent change, 1980-93
	Number	Rate per 100,000 adults <sup>a</sup>	Number	Rate per 100,000 adults <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Total</b>	8,261,300	5,052	11,633,100	6,098	40.8%
<b>Violent offenses<sup>b</sup></b>					
Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter	18,200	11	19,600	10	7.8%
Forcible rape	26,700	16	32,200	17	20.4
Robbery	102,200	62	124,600	65	21.9
Aggravated assault	236,600	145	439,200	230	85.6
<b>Property offenses<sup>b</sup></b>					
Burglary	282,800	173	264,600	139	-6.4%
Larceny/theft	745,300	456	1,013,900	531	36.0
Motor vehicle theft	75,600	46	108,500	57	43.5
<b>Other offenses</b>					
Sex offense (except rape and prostitution)	55,600	34	84,600	44	52.2%
Other assaults	401,200	245	959,600	503	139.2
Forgery, fraud, and embezzlement	358,600	219	502,200	263	40.0
Drug abuse violations	471,200	288	1,017,800	534	116.0
Driving under the influence	1,393,900	852	1,511,500	792	8.4
Weapons	141,300	86	201,100	105	42.3

<sup>a</sup>Number of arrests per 100,000 adults in the U.S. population on July 1.

<sup>b</sup>Includes Part I indexed offenses as defined in the Uniform Crime Reports.

Sources: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1980 and 1993*.

**Table 18. Court commitments to State prisons relative to adult arrests for selected offenses, 1980 and 1992**

Most serious offense	Admissions to State prison directly from court				
	Number		Percent change, 1980-92	Number per 1,000 arrests	
	1980	1992		1980	1992
<b>Violent offenses</b>					
Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter	11,300	9,700	-14%	621	504
Rape	4,800	7,700	60	180	235
Other sexual assault	3,300	11,400	245	59	129
Robbery	24,400	33,100	36	239	259
Aggravated assault	10,400	25,100	141	44	58
<b>Property offenses</b>					
Burglary	29,500	44,500	51%	104	159
Larceny/theft	9,800	27,100	176	13	26
Motor vehicle theft	3,000	8,400	180	40	76
Fraud	6,700	12,700	90	19	25
<b>Drug offenses</b>	8,800	101,600	1,155%	19	104
<b>Weapons offenses</b>	1,600	8,000	400%	11	43

Note: Admissions based on prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

Sources: National Prisoner Statistics; National Corrections Reporting Program; and FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1980 and 1992*.

---

## Methodology

### *National Prisoner Statistics*

This Bulletin is based on an advance count of prisoners conducted for the National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program immediately after the end of each calendar year. A detailed, final count containing any revisions to the jurisdictions' advance count will be published later.

Most States provide jurisdiction counts, that is, the number of inmates under their jurisdiction on December 31, regardless of the location of their inmates. These counts exclude inmates housed for other jurisdictions, such as other States' inmates and pretrial detainees who are housed in a jurisdiction's facilities.

Some States provide custody counts, that is, the number of inmates housed in State facilities regardless of jurisdiction. (See *Jurisdiction notes*.) These counts exclude inmates housed outside of each State's prison facilities, such as inmates housed in local jails. Custody counts are used to calculate the total number of inmates in prisons and jails.

### *Estimation procedures*

The offense distributions of State prisoners at yearend were estimated for 1980, 1985, and 1990-93. To obtain estimates of the custody populations by offense, data from inmate surveys conducted in 1979, 1986, and 1991 were combined with counts by offense of annual admissions and releases. The surveys provided the basis for estimating the offense distributions of the other years.

The offense distributions were estimated using forward and backward stock-flow procedures as outlined in *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992* (February 1995, NCJ-146413). Data from the 1979 survey were used for forward estimates for 1980; data from the 1986 survey (conducted in March 1986) were used for 1985 estimates, 1990 forward estimates, and 1980 backward estimates;

and data from the 1991 survey for 1991 estimates and 1992-93 forward estimates.

To obtain flow populations for each year, the offense distributions of admissions and releases were drawn from annual reports of the National Prisoner Statistics program (1980-82) and the National Corrections Reporting Program (1983-92). Data from the 1992 NCRP were used to estimate flows for 1993.

The offense distributions of Federal inmates are for prisoners of any sentence length on September 30 in 1980 and 1985. Data for 1990-93 are taken from the BJS Federal justice database.

### **Jurisdiction notes**

**Federal** — The rated capacity of Federal facilities on December 31, 1994, was 68,221 inmates. This does not include contract bedspaces. The number of contract bedspaces at the end of the year was 9,534.

**Alabama** — The capacity of the community programs is not included in the capacity figures reported.

Population counts include 1,547 inmates housed in local jails as of December 31, 1994, because of crowding.

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

Alaska's capacity is established by the Cleary final settlement agreement with the State court and the Community Residential Centers program.

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

Population counts exclude 118 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding in State facilities.

**Arkansas** — Population counts include 565 inmates housed in local jails as of

December 31, 1994, because of crowding.

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

**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."

Design and operational capacities do not include the Bent County Correctional Facility, owned and operated by the county of Bent (Las Animas, Colorado), and the Minnesota Prairie Correctional Facility (Appleton, Minnesota), which are contracted. The Bent County facility holds 320 prisoners, and the Minnesota facility holds 405 prisoners for the State of Colorado.

Population counts include 815 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding in State facilities.

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

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

Capacity counts include the halfway houses under the Department of Corrections.

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

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

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

Inmates housed in local jails are not considered part of the prison population until they are admitted. Most inmates are awaiting transfer into the prison system. An undetermined number were held because of crowding.

---

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

Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include parole and probation violators. These inmates were previously counted as "Unsentenced inmates."

**Idaho** — Population counts include 312 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding of State facilities.

**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 maximum sentence of 1 year."

Capacity figures include 875 inmates on electronic detention.

**Indiana** — Prison population counts include 903 inmates who were housed in local jails as of December 31, 1994, because of crowding of State facilities.

Another floor was opened in a facility to accommodate a larger number of inmates; as a result, capacity was increased, and some crowding was reduced.

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

**Kansas** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include a small undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of less than 1 year (among those sentenced under the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act of 1993).

**Kentucky** — Population counts include 632 inmates who were housed in local jails as of December 31, 1994, because of crowding of State facilities.

**Louisiana** — The rated and operational capacities do not include contractual work-release facilities. The rated capacity of the contractual work-release facilities is 348 inmates. The

operational capacity of the contractual work-release facilities is 343 inmates.

Population counts include 8,064 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding of State facilities.

**Maine** — Maine has a number of inmates serving concurrent sentences, some of which are 1 year or more and some 1 year or less. These inmates are not included in the prison population counts.

**Maryland** — Population totals are actual manual counts; however, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates.

**Massachusetts** — Population counts are based on jurisdictional data for the first time. For this report custody counts for December 31, 1993, were updated to jurisdictional counts.

Population counts exclude the 963 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding of State facilities.

Population totals are actual counts, however, the male-female breakdown is an estimate believed to be within 0.05% of the actual counts.

Population counts include 336 inmates without sentence information.

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

**Minnesota** — Population counts include 85 inmates housed in local jails as of December 31, 1994, because of crowding of State facilities.

**Mississippi** — Population counts are as of December 30, 1994.

Population counts include 1,569 inmates housed in local jail as of December 30, 1994, because of crowding.

**New Jersey** — "Design capacity" does not include persons held in halfway houses (686) and persons held under the county assistance program (846).

**North Carolina** — While population totals are actual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates.

Because of crowding 248 male inmates were housed in local jails; another 937 male inmates were housed in private prisons out of State on a contractual basis. The total of 1,185 male inmates are included in the population counts.

**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."

Population counts exclude 375 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding.

**Oregon** — An undetermined number of inmates for which sentence length is unknown is included in the count for "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less."

**Pennsylvania** — The design capacity figure increased because several sections in different facilities opened. This State now treats the rated, operational, and design capacity the same.

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

**South Carolina** — Population counts include 359 inmates who were housed in local jails as of December 31, 1994, because of crowding of State facilities.

**Tennessee** — Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year." These counts are based on the Department of Corrections' population report from December 29, 1994.

Population counts include 1,829 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding and exclude an undetermined number of felons sentenced to serve their time in local jails. (The State pays to house these felons, but the local court maintains jurisdiction.) These

---

counts are based on a jail report from December 16, 1994.

**Texas** — Population counts for December 31, 1994, include 20,720 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding.

In Texas the minimum sentence for any offender sentenced to a State prison is 2 years.

**Utah** — Population counts include 169 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding of State facilities.

**Vermont** — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include prison and jail populations. Some county and municipal authorities operate local "lockups." NPS data include the inmates in local "lockups." Population counts for sentenced inmates include 305 who were on long-term furlough. The rated capacity figure decreased because of the closing of one facility for renovations.

**Virginia** — Virginia uses a base capacity method to determine the rated, operational, and design capacity figures. Under this method of determining capacity, only the bunks that touch the floor are counted; top bunks are not counted.

Population counts include 4,508 inmates who were housed in local jails because of crowding of State facilities.

**West Virginia** — Population counts are based on custody data.

Population counts exclude 383 male and 15 female inmates housed in county or regional jails because of crowding of State facilities.

**Washington** — Offenders sentenced to 1 year or less and unsentenced offenders reside in county jails.

Capacities reported exclude State work-release and pre-release facilities which housed 918 inmates on December 31, 1994. These facilities' capacity of 1,102 inmates is not specifically reserved for State prison inmates.

These facilities are for prison inmates, parolees, probationers, and offenders serving partial confinement sentences.

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

BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as National Prisoner Statistics.

Allen J. Beck, Ph.D., and Darrell K. Gilliard wrote this report. Peter M. Brien provided statistical review. Tom Hester edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Jayne Robinson, administered final production. Data collection and processing were carried out by Rhonda Carney under the supervision of Gertrude Odom and N. Gail Hoff, Demographic Surveys Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

August 1995, NCJ-151654