



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

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# Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1995

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Following are highlights from *Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1995*. The full report may be ordered using the form on page 4.

On June 30, 1995, the Bureau of Justice Statistics conducted an enumeration of all State and Federal adult correctional facilities. These facilities included places of confinement like prisons, prison hospitals, prison farms, boot camps, and centers for reception, classification, or alcohol/drug treatment, and facilities based in the community like halfway houses and work release centers. Facilities were included if they housed primarily State or Federal prisoners; were physically, functionally, and administratively separate from other facilities; and were operational on the day of the census.

Jails and other local or regional detention facilities were specifically excluded from the census, as were private facilities not exclusively for State or Federal inmates. Also excluded were facilities for the military, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Marshals Service, and correctional hospital wards not operated by correctional authorities.

## Number of facilities

- The number of State and Federal correctional facilities in operation increased 17%, from 1,287 at midyear 1990, when the last census was conducted, to 1,500 at midyear 1995.

- In 1995 States operated 1,375 facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons operated 125 facilities.

- About 1 in 8 State correctional facilities and 1 in 3 Federal facilities were added during the early 1990's.

## Capacity

- Each year from 1990 to 1995 the rated capacity of State facilities expanded an average 6.9%. In 1995 the capacity was almost 910,000, up from 650,600 in 1990.

### 168 State facilities and 45 Federal facilities were added between 1990 and 1995

Facility characteristic	Community and confinement facilities			
	State		Federal	
	1990	1995	1990	1995
Number	1,207	1,375	80	125
Confinement	957	1,084	80	112
Community-based	250	291	0	13
Rated capacity	650,600	909,908	42,183	65,811
Inmates in custody	658,828	941,642	56,821	81,930
Percent of capacity occupied	101%	103%	135%	124%
Private facilities	67	98	0	12
Average number of inmates held	7,771	15,408	0	1,018
Security level				
Maximum/close/high	223	289	11	9
Medium	368	438	37	25
Minimum/low	616	648	32	91
Court orders/consent decrees*				
For any reason	323	378	0	113
To limit population	264	228	0	1
For specific conditions	242	321	0	112
For the totality of conditions	212	149	0	0

\*Specific reasons add to more than "For any reason" because some facilities were under court order or consent decree for more than one reason.

- The increase in State capacity lagged inmate growth so that percent of capacity occupied rose from 101% to 103%.

- Federal capacity in 1995 was nearly 66,000. After 1990, rated capacity grew annually at an average of 9.3% so that the percent of Federal capacity occupied fell from 135% to 124%.

### Facility types

- In both 1990 and 1995 community-based institutions — those in which half or more of the inmates are permitted to leave the premises, unaccompanied — accounted for about 20% of all facilities. Confinement facilities accounted for 80%.

- The distribution of inmates by type of facility remained virtually unchanged from 1990 to 1995: In 1990 all but 2% of prisoners were housed in confinement facilities, and in 1995 all but 3%.

### Security levels

- More State facilities of all security levels were in operation in 1995 than 5 years earlier. By contrast, the Federal system operated more minimum security facilities and fewer maximum and medium security institutions.

### Court orders

- Fewer facilities were under court orders or consent decrees to limit population and for the totality of

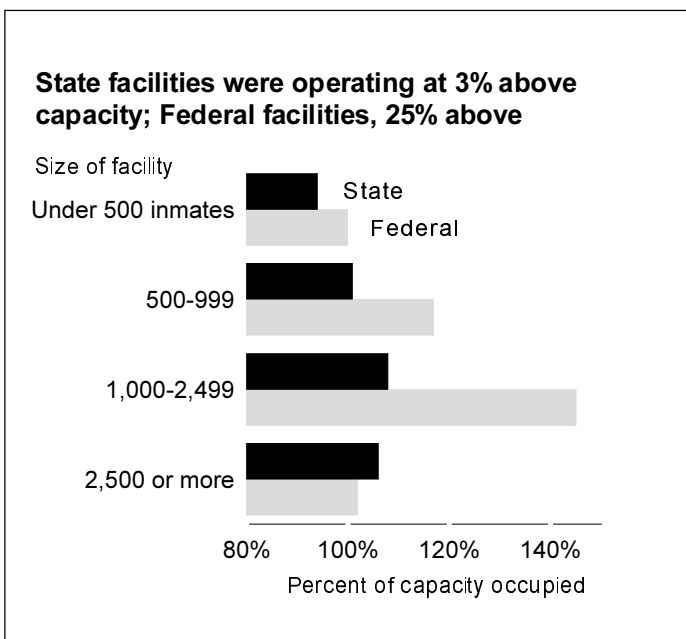


Figure 1

### State and Federal facilities held 1,023,572 inmates in 1995, up from 715,649 in 1990

Inmate characteristic	State and Federal correctional facilities	
	1990	1995
<b>Number of inmates</b>		
Total	715,649	1,023,572
Under age 18	3,600	5,309
Noncitizen inmates <sup>a</sup>	25,250	51,500
<b>Type of facility</b>		
Confinement	698,570	992,333
Community-based	17,079	31,239
<b>Custody level</b>		
Maximum/close/high	150,205	202,174
Medium	292,372	415,688
Minimum/low	219,907	366,227
Not classified	53,165	39,483
<b>Number of assaults<sup>b</sup></b>		
On other inmates	21,590	25,948
On staff	10,731	14,165
<b>Rate of assault per 1,000 inmates</b>		
All confinement facilities	46.8	40.8
Maximum security	60.7	61.5
Medium security	46.5	33.9
Minimum security	18.7	17.8

<sup>a</sup>Data from 1995 were based on reporting from 81% of facilities.

<sup>b</sup>In confinement facilities during the 12 months preceding the census.

conditions in 1995 than in 1990. However, more were being cited for specific conditions of confinement in 1995.

### Number of inmates

- The number of inmates in State and Federal correctional facilities rose 43% from 715,649 in 1990 to 1,023,572 in 1995, an average increase of about 7.4% per year.

- In both 1990 and 1995 about 20% of inmates were classified as maximum security risks, 40% as medium security, and 33% as minimum security. The remainder were not assigned a custody level or were regarded as very low risk.

### Prisoner assaults

- Inmates committed more assaults against staff and other inmates during the annual period ending in 1995 than in 1990.

- When inmate growth is considered, however, the 1995 rate of assault was slightly lower than the 1990 rate. The declining rate of assault occurred in medium and minimum security facilities.

### Number of correctional employees

- The number of employees in correctional facilities totaled 347,320 at midyear 1995, up from 264,201 in 1990.
- Nearly two-thirds of all correctional staff were in custody or security positions. At midyear 1995 nearly 221,000 employees worked in custody or security positions, 56,000 in professional, technical, or educational positions, 27,000 in clerical positions, 24,000 in maintenance or food service, and 9,500 in administration.

### Inmate-to-staff ratio

- Between 1990 and 1995 the number of inmates held grew faster than the correctional staff. In 1990 there were 2.7 inmates per employee, and in 1995, 2.9.
- Relative to the number of custody or security employees, the number of inmates rose from 4.2 to 4.6.

### Female staff

- The female payroll staff rose 60% between 1990 and 1995, while male staff rose by 29%.
- Women made up nearly a third of all correctional staff in 1995. In 5 years their number had grown from 62,833 to 100,659.

### Race of staff

- About 71 in every 100 correctional facility employees in 1995 were white, 20 were black, 6 were Hispanic, and 2 were other races.
- Between 1990 and 1995 the number of white employees rose by 24%, the number blacks by 33%, and the number of Hispanics by 57%.
- More than 86,000 correctional staff in 1995 were black or Hispanic, up from 62,000 in 1990.

#### 347,320 persons were employed in State or Federal correctional facilities in 1995, an increase of 32% in 5 years

Personnel characteristic	State and Federal correctional facilities	
	1990	1995
<b>All facilities</b>		
All staff	264,201	347,320
Custody/security staff	169,587	220,892
<b>Federal</b>		
All staff	18,451	25,379
Custody/security staff	7,055	10,348
<b>State</b>		
All staff	245,750	321,941
Custody/security staff	162,532	210,544
<b>Confinement</b>		
All staff	258,758	339,070
Custody/security staff	166,215	215,824
<b>Community-based</b>		
All staff	5,443	8,250
Custody/security staff	3,372	5,068
<b>Number of inmates per employee</b>		
All staff	2.7	2.9
Custody/security staff only	4.2	4.6
<b>Sex<sup>a</sup></b>		
Male	190,564	246,581
Female	62,833	100,659
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>b</sup></b>		
White	187,093	232,382
Black	49,226	65,513
Hispanic	13,148	20,702
Other	3,930	6,576
Not reported	0	974

<sup>a</sup>Data from 1990 for sex of staff exclude nonpayroll and contract staff, about 4% of employees. Data from 1995 for sex of staff exclude information from 1 private facility with 80 employees.

<sup>b</sup>Both 1990 and 1995 data for race/Hispanic origin of staff exclude nonpayroll and contract employees. The majority of all data on race/Hispanic origin were estimated by the respondents.

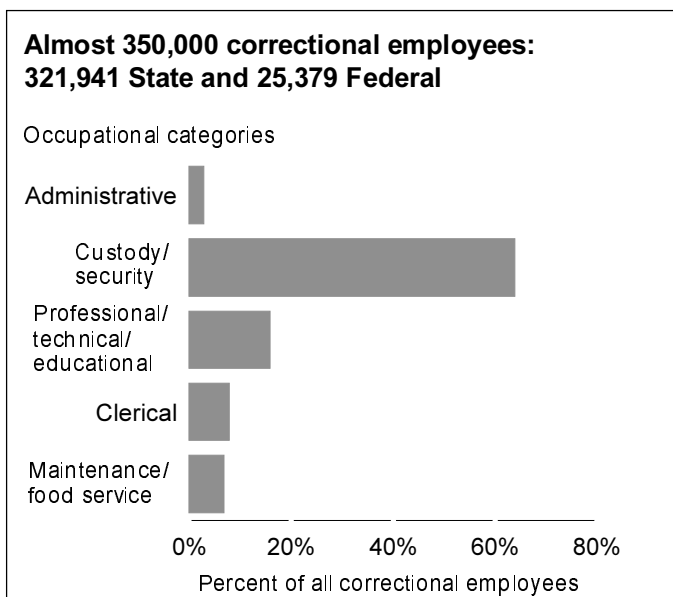


Figure 2