



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

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## Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1998

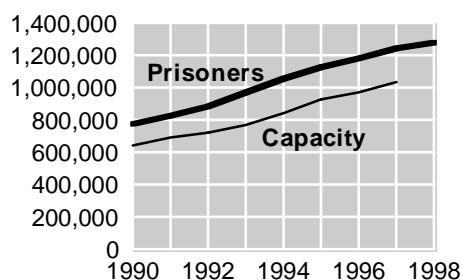
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At midyear 1998 the Nation's prisons and jails incarcerated an estimated 1,802,496 persons. Federal and State prison authorities and local jail authorities held in their custody 668 persons per 100,000 U.S. residents. Prisoners in the custody of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government accounted for two-thirds of the incarcerated population (1,210,034 inmates). The other third were held in local jails (592,462).

On June 30, 1998, 1,277,866 prisoners were under Federal and State jurisdiction, which includes prisoners in custody and persons under the legal authority of a prison system while being held outside its facilities. The total increased 4.8% from midyear 1997. The States and the District of Columbia added 49,342 prisoners; the Federal system, 8,748 additional prisoners.

At midyear 1998 local jail authorities held or supervised an estimated 664,847 offenders — an increase of 4.5% from midyear 1997. Eleven percent of these offenders (72,385) were supervised outside jail facilities in programs such as community service, work release, weekend reporting, electronic monitoring, and other alternative programs.

### Highlights

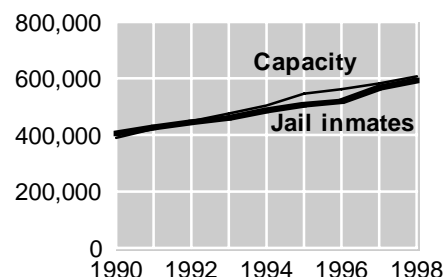


#### State and Federal Prisons

(usually holding persons with a sentence longer than a year)

Prisons —

- Between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, the Nation's prison population grew 4.8%, less than the annual average increase of 6.9% since 1990.
- North Dakota (up 19.5%) recorded the largest percent increase in prison population since midyear 1997, followed by Montana (up 18.3%) and Hawaii (up 13.6%). The District of Columbia (down -10.9%), Idaho (down -3.6%), Wyoming (down -3.0%), and Massachusetts (down -0.3%) were the only jurisdictions to record declines.
- At midyear 1998 approximately 452 per 100,000 U.S. residents were incarcerated in a State or Federal prison, up from 303 per 100,000 residents in 1990.



#### Local jails

(primarily holding unconvicted persons and those with a sentence of a year or less)

Jails —

- On June 30, 1998, an estimated 592,462 persons were held in local jails; up from 567,079 at midyear 1997.
- From midyear 1997 to midyear 1998, the number of inmates held in jail increased 4.5% — less than half the rate experienced 12 months earlier (9.5%) and slightly less than the average annual rate (4.9%) since 1990.
- In the year ending June 30, 1998, the capacity of the Nation's jails rose by 26,216 beds. Jails were operating at 97% of their rated capacity, unchanged from 12 months prior.
- At midyear 1998, 219 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, 1990-98**

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	1,646,020	95,088	1,032,440	518,492	618
1997					
June 30	1,725,785	99,175	1,059,531	567,079	645
December 31	1,743,886	101,755	1,075,052	--	652
1998					
June 30	1,802,496	107,381	1,102,653	592,462	668
Percent change, 6/30/97 - 6/30/98	4.4%	8.3%	4.1%	4.5%	
Annual average increase, 12/31/85 - 6/30/98	7.3%	9.2%	7.4%	6.9%	
12/31/90 - 6/30/98	6.2	8.3	6.6	5.2	

Note: Jail counts are for midyear (June 30). Counts for 1994-98 exclude persons who were supervised outside of a jail facility. State and Federal prisoner counts for 1985 and 1990-97 are for December 31.

--Not available.

\*Total of persons in custody per 100,000 residents on July 1 of each reference year.

### Over 1.8 million inmates were held in the Nation's prisons and local jails

On June 30, 1998, 1,210,034 inmates were in the custody of State and Federal prison authorities, and 592,462 inmates were in the custody of local jail authorities. These data were collected in the 1998 National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program and the 1998 Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ).

Since midyear 1997 the total incarcerated population has increased 4.4% (table 1). The number of inmates in State prisons has increased 4.1%; in Federal prisons, 8.3%; and in local jails, 4.5%.

Between yearend 1990 and midyear 1998, the incarcerated population grew on average 6.2% annually. During this period the Federal and State prison populations and the local jail population grew at the average annual rates of 8.3%, 6.6%, and 5.2%, respectively.

In the 12 months before midyear 1998, the number of inmates in the Nation's prisons and jails rose an estimated 76,711 inmates, or 1,475 inmates per week. Since 1990 the total custody population has risen more than 653,794 inmates, the equivalent of 1,572 inmates per week.

Relative to the number of U.S. residents, the rate of incarceration in 1998 was 668 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents — up from 313 per 100,000 in 1985. At midyear 1998, 1 in every 150 U.S. residents were incarcerated.

Between 1990 and 1998 the State and Federal prison population grew faster than the local jail population (figure 1). However, in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1998, the jail population grew 4.5%, while the State and Federal population grew 4.4%. At midyear 1998 the Nation's jails held 32.9% of all inmates in custody, down from 35.3% in 1990.

**From yearend 1985 to midyear 1998, the number of inmates in the Nation's prisons and jails grew more than 1,058,000, an annual increase of 7.3%**

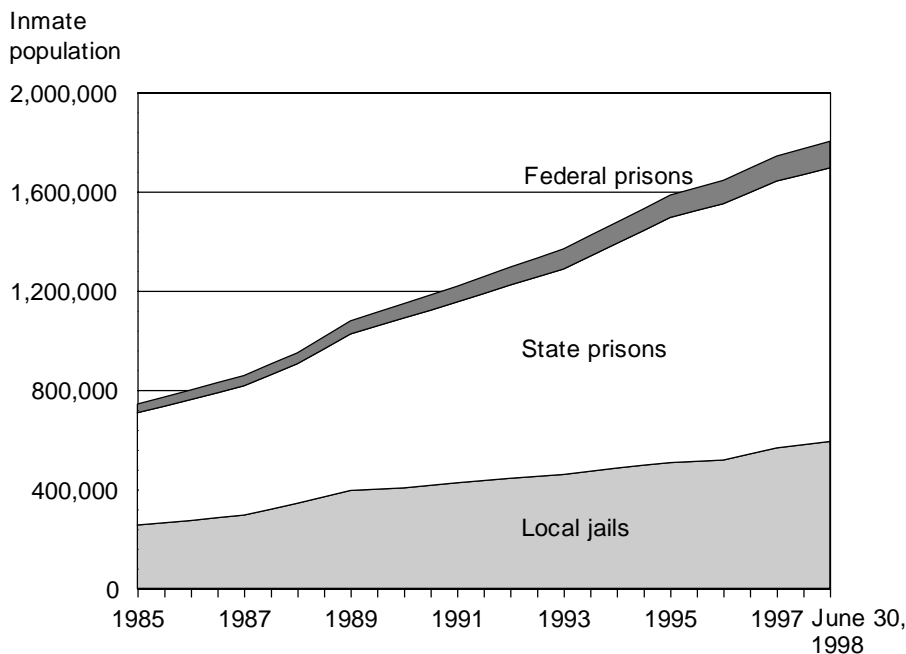


Figure 1

**The number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction rose 4.8%**

Between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, the number of inmates under State jurisdiction grew 4.4%, and the number under Federal jurisdiction, 7.9% (table 2). Jurisdiction counts include prisoners in custody and persons under the legal authority of a prison system while being held outside its facilities. Compared to the previous 12-month period ending June 30, 1997, State prison growth rates declined slightly, down from 4.6%, while the Federal prison growth rate increased, up from 6.2%.

In absolute numbers, the total increase of 58,090 prison inmates between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, was slightly larger than the increase of 56,710 recorded in the previous 12-month period and below the annual average growth (63,992) during the previous 7 years.

Years	Annual increase in the number of prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction, July 1 - June 30
1997-98	58,090
1996-97	56,710
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, 1990-98	63,992

Nearly 45% of the growth in the prison populations during the 12 months ending June 30, 1998, was accounted for by the Federal system (8,748 additional inmates), Texas (6,700), California (5,732), Louisiana (2,525), and Ohio (2,041). During this 12-month period, 10 States experienced growth of at least 10%, led by North Dakota (19.5%), Montana (18.3%), and Hawaii (13.6%). Three States and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in their prison population. The District had the largest decline, -10.9%, followed by Idaho, -3.6%; Wyoming, -3.0%; and Massachusetts, -0.3%.

**Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, June 30 and December 31, 1997, and June 30, 1998**

Region and jurisdiction	Total			Percent change from —		Prison incarceration rate, 6/30/98 <sup>a</sup>
	6/30/98	12/31/97	6/30/97	6/30/97 to 6/30/98	12/31/97 to 6/30/98	
U.S. total	1,277,866	1,240,959	1,219,776	4.8%	3.0%	452
Federal	118,908	112,973	110,160	7.9%	5.3%	37
State	1,158,958	1,127,986	1,109,616	4.4	2.7	415
<b>Northeast</b>	174,163	170,046	169,210	2.9%	2.4%	318
Connecticut <sup>b</sup>	17,437	17,241	17,112	1.9	1.1	363
Maine	1,634	1,620	1,559	4.8	0.9	121
Massachusetts <sup>c</sup>	11,867	11,947	11,907	-0.3	-0.7	277
New Hampshire	2,165	2,164	2,153	0.6	0.0	183
New Jersey	29,724	28,361	27,766	7.1	4.8	367
New York	70,723	69,108	69,530	1.7	2.3	384
Pennsylvania	35,644	34,964	34,703	2.7	1.9	297
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	3,657	3,371	3,293	11.1	8.5	224
Vermont <sup>b</sup>	1,312	1,270	1,187	--	--	170
<b>Midwest</b>	224,650	218,366	212,795	5.6%	2.9%	357
Illinois <sup>d,e</sup>	42,140	40,788	40,425	4.2	3.3	353
Indiana	18,552	17,903	17,549	5.7	3.6	312
Iowa <sup>d</sup>	7,431	6,938	6,636	12.0	7.1	260
Kansas	8,037	7,911	7,790	3.2	1.6	308
Michigan <sup>d</sup>	44,501	44,771	43,784	1.6	-0.6	453
Minnesota	5,504	5,326	5,348	2.9	3.3	117
Missouri	25,118	23,998	23,687	6.0	4.7	462
Nebraska	3,519	3,402	3,431	2.6	3.4	206
North Dakota	883	797	739	19.5	10.8	126
Ohio <sup>e</sup>	49,289	48,016	47,248	4.3	2.7	440
South Dakota	2,360	2,239	2,193	7.6	5.4	320
Wisconsin	17,316	16,277	13,965	--	6.4	321
<b>South</b>	503,975	490,493	484,391	4.0%	2.7%	508
Alabama	22,501	22,290	22,076	1.9	0.9	501
Arkansas	10,334	10,021	9,539	8.3	3.1	404
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	5,477	5,435	5,313	3.1	0.8	416
District of Columbia <sup>b</sup>	8,679	9,353	9,739	-10.9	-7.2	1,329
Florida <sup>d</sup>	66,280	64,626	64,713	2.4	2.6	445
Georgia <sup>d</sup>	38,194	36,505	36,329	5.1	4.6	492
Kentucky	15,107	14,600	13,858	9.0	3.5	384
Louisiana	30,907	29,265	28,382	8.9	5.6	709
Maryland	22,566	22,232	22,415	0.7	1.5	418
Mississippi	15,967	14,296	14,639	9.1	11.7	547
North Carolina	32,407	31,612	32,334	0.2	2.5	367
Oklahoma <sup>e</sup>	20,994	20,542	19,931	5.3	2.2	629
South Carolina	21,530	21,173	21,021	2.4	1.7	543
Tennessee	17,656	16,659	15,827	11.6	6.0	325
Texas	143,299	140,351	136,599	4.9	2.1	700
Virginia	28,681	28,385	28,673	0.0	1.0	401
West Virginia	3,396	3,148	3,003	13.1	7.9	186
<b>West</b>	256,170	249,081	243,220	5.3%	2.8%	411
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	4,216	4,165	3,741	12.7	1.2	421
Arizona <sup>d</sup>	24,879	23,484	23,176	7.3	5.9	504
California	158,742	155,790	153,010	3.7	1.9	477
Colorado <sup>e</sup>	13,960	13,461	12,840	8.7	3.7	352
Hawaii <sup>b</sup>	5,103	4,978	4,491	13.6	2.5	299
Idaho	3,959	3,911	4,105	-3.6	1.2	321
Montana	2,714	2,517	2,295	18.3	7.8	308
Nevada <sup>e</sup>	9,482	9,024	8,617	10.0	5.1	529
New Mexico	4,751	4,688	4,692	1.3	1.3	263
Oregon	8,620	7,999	7,899	9.1	7.8	248
Utah	4,479	4,301	4,154	7.8	4.1	211
Washington	13,841	13,214	12,732	8.7	4.7	243
Wyoming	1,424	1,549	1,468	-3.0	-8.1	297

--Data for 1998 and 1997 are not comparable because of changed counting methods. See *Jurisdiction notes*, page 10.

<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 6,200 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."

### Rates of prison incarceration rise

The incarceration rate of State and Federal prisoners sentenced to more than a year reached 452 per 100,000 U.S. residents on June 30, 1998. Twelve States led by Louisiana (709 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 State residents), Texas (700), Oklahoma (629), and Mississippi (547) exceeded the national rate (table 3). Three States — Minnesota (117), Maine (121), and North Dakota (126) — had rates that were less than a third of the national rate. The District of Columbia, which is an urban jurisdiction that should not be compared to States, held 1,329 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 District residents at midyear 1998.

Since 1990 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen an average of 5.7% annually, increasing from 292 to 452. During this period prison incarceration rates rose the most in the South (from 310 to 508)

and West (from 277 to 411). The rate in the Midwest rose from 239 to 357, and the rate in the Northeast rose from 232 to 318. The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents increased from 20 to 37 over the same period.

### Female prisoner population grew at faster pace

From July 1, 1997, to June 30, 1998, the number of women under the jurisdiction of State and Federal prison authorities grew from 78,363 to 82,716, an increase of 5.6% (table 4). The number of men rose 4.7%, from 1,141,413 to 1,195,150. At midyear 1998 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 about 15 times higher for men than for women.

On June 30, 1998, the rate for inmates serving a sentence of more than a year was 866 males per 100,000 U.S. male residents, compared to 55 females per 100,000 female residents.

**Table 4. Number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by sex of inmate, 6/30/97 and 6/30/98**

	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>		
6/30/98	1,195,150	82,716
6/30/97	1,141,413	78,363
Percent change	4.7%	5.6%
<b>Sentenced to more than 1 year</b>		
6/30/98	1,145,078	75,396
6/30/97	1,095,162	71,488
Percent change	4.6%	5.5%
<b>Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents*</b>	866	55

\*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, 1998**

Prison population	Number of inmates	Incarceration rate, 6/30/98	Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 State residents*	12-month growth, 6/30/97 to 6/30/98	Percent change	Female prison population	Number of female prisoners
<b>10 highest:</b>							
California	158,742	Louisiana	709	North Dakota	19.5%	California	11,242
Texas	143,299	Texas	700	Montana	18.3	Texas	10,704
Federal	118,908	Oklahoma	629	Hawaii	13.6	Federal	8,772
New York	70,723	Mississippi	547	West Virginia	13.1	New York	3,609
Florida	66,280	South Carolina	543	Alaska	12.7	Florida	3,512
Ohio	49,289	Nevada	529	Iowa	12.0	Ohio	2,937
Michigan	44,501	Arizona	504	Tennessee	11.6	Illinois	2,522
Illinois	42,140	Alabama	501	Rhode Island	11.1	Georgia	2,473
Georgia	38,194	Georgia	492	Nevada	10.0	Oklahoma	2,110
Pennsylvania	35,644	California	477	Oregon	9.1	Louisiana	1,965
<b>10 lowest:</b>							
North Dakota	883	Minnesota	117	District of Columbia	-10.9%	Vermont	44
Vermont	1,312	Maine	121	Idaho	-3.6	North Dakota	65
Wyoming	1,424	North Dakota	126	Wyoming	-3.0	Maine	66
Maine	1,634	Vermont	170	Massachusetts	-0.3	New Hampshire	103
New Hampshire	2,165	New Hampshire	183	Virginia	0.0	Wyoming	122
South Dakota	2,360	West Virginia	186	North Carolina	0.2	South Dakota	187
Montana	2,714	Nebraska	206	New Hampshire	0.6	West Virginia	210
West Virginia	3,396	Utah	211	Maryland	0.7	Montana	223
Nebraska	3,519	Rhode Island	224	New Mexico	1.3	Utah	240
Rhode Island	3,657	Washington	243	Michigan	1.6	Nebraska	243

## At midyear the Nation's jails supervised 664,847 persons

On June 30, 1998, an estimated 664,847 persons were held in or supervised by the Nation's local jails (table 5). Jail authorities supervised 11% of these offenders (72,385) in alternative programs outside the jail facilities. An estimated 592,462 persons 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).

In 1995 the Annual Survey of Jails began to obtain counts of the number of offenders under the supervision of jail authorities in the community. 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 1998, it is difficult to compare totals with those in 1995. (See *Methodology*, page 9.)

Among persons under community supervision by jail staff in 1998, nearly half were required to perform community service (17,518) or participate in a weekend reporting program (17,249). Fifteen percent were under electronic monitoring, 10% were in other alternative work programs, 8% were under pretrial supervision, and 8% were in a drug, alcohol, mental health, or other type of medical treatment program.

## 12-month growth in jail population less than half last year's growth

Between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, the number of persons held in local jail facilities grew 4.5% — from 567,079 to 592,462. The 12-month increase was nearly equal the annual average increase in the 1990's but less than half the growth from midyear 1996 to midyear 1997.

12-month period	Percent increase
1997-98	4.5%
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
Annual average, 1990-98	4.9%

**Table 5. Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status and type of program, midyear 1995-98**

Confinement status and type of program	Number of persons under jail supervision			
	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Total</b>	541,913	591,469	637,319	664,847
<b>Held in jail</b>	507,044	518,492	567,079	592,462
<b>Supervised outside a jail facility<sup>a</sup></b>	34,869	72,977	70,239	72,385
Electronic monitoring	6,788	7,480	8,699	10,827
Home detention <sup>b</sup>	1,376	907	1,164	370
Day reporting	1,283	3,298	2,768	3,089
Community service	10,253	17,410	15,918	17,518
Weekender programs	1,909	16,336	17,656	17,249
Other pretrial supervision	3,229	2,135	7,368	6,048
Other work programs <sup>c</sup>	9,144	14,469	6,631	7,089
Treatment programs <sup>d</sup>	--	10,425	6,693	5,702
Other	887	517	3,342	4,493

--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 1990-98**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Average daily population<sup>a</sup></b>	408,075	422,609	441,889	466,155	479,757	509,828	515,432	556,586	593,808
<b>Number of inmates, midyear<sup>b</sup></b>	405,320	426,479	444,584	459,804	486,474	507,044	518,492	567,079	592,462
Adults	403,019	424,129	441,780	455,500	479,800	499,300	510,400	557,974	584,372
Male	365,821	384,628	401,106	411,500	431,300	448,000	454,700	498,678	520,581
Female	37,198	39,501	40,674	44,100	48,500	51,300	55,700	59,296	63,791
Juveniles <sup>c</sup>	2,301	2,350	2,804	4,300	6,700	7,800	8,100	9,105	8,090
Held as adults <sup>d</sup>	--	--	--	3,300	5,100	5,900	5,700	7,007	6,542
Held as juveniles	2,301	2,350	2,804	1,000	1,600	1,800	2,400	2,098	1,548

Notes: Data are for June 30 in 1992-95 and 1998; 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 the total number of days in the year.

<sup>b</sup>Inmate counts for 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 the 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 1990 the Nation's jail population on a per capita basis has increased over a third. During this period the number of jail inmates per 100,000 residents rose from 163 to 219. When offenders under community supervision by jail authorities are included with those in custody, the rate was 246 offenders per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 1998.

Year	Jail incarceration rate*
1998	219
1997	212
1996	196
1995	193
1994	188
1993	178
1992	174
1991	169
1990	163

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

An estimated 8,090 persons under age 18 were housed in adult jails on June 30, 1998 (table 6). Eighty-one percent 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, 1998, was 593,808, an increase of 6.7% from 1997.

### Characteristics of jail inmates changed little

Male inmates made up 89% of the local jail inmate population at midyear 1998, nearly 2 percentage points lower than at midyear 1990 (table 7). On

average the adult female jail population has grown 7.0% annually since 1990, while the adult male inmate population has grown 4.5%. On June 30, 1998, local jails held nearly 1 in every 185 adult men and 1 in 1,626 women.

**Table 7. Sex, race, and Hispanic origin of local jail inmates, midyear 1990-98**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates									
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997	1998	
<b>Total</b>	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	90.8%	90.7%	90.8%	90.4%	90.0%	89.8%	89.2%	89.4%	89.2%	
Female	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.2	10.8	10.6	10.8	
<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%	41.3%	
Black, non-Hispanic	42.5	43.4	44.1	44.2	43.9	43.5	41.1	42.0	41.2	
Hispanic	14.3	14.2	14.5	15.1	15.4	14.7	15.6	15.7	15.5	
Other <sup>c</sup>	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	

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

<sup>a</sup>Data for 1996 were 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, 99.3% in 1996-97, and 99.6% in 1998.

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

At midyear 1998 a majority of local jail inmates were black or Hispanic. White non-Hispanics made up 41.3% of the jail population; black non-Hispanics, 41.2%; Hispanics, 15.5%; and other races (Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives), 2.0%.

Relative to their number of U.S. residents, black non-Hispanics were 6 times more likely than white non-Hispanics, nearly 2½ times as likely as Hispanics, and almost 7½ times more likely than persons of other races to have been held in a local jail on June 30, 1998.

	Estimated count	Per 100,000 residents in each group
Total	592,500	219
White*	244,900	125
Black*	244,000	747
Hispanic	91,800	302
Other	11,800	100

Note: Inmate counts were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100.

\*Non-Hispanic only.

### Over half of adult jail inmates were awaiting trial

On June 30, 1998, an estimated 57% of the Nation's adult jail inmates were awaiting court action on their current charge. An estimated 252,600 of the 584,372 adults held in local jails were serving a sentence in jail, awaiting sentencing, or serving time for a probation or parole violation.

	Number of adult jail inmates, midyear 1998
Total	584,372
Convicted	252,600
Male	224,700
Female	27,900
Unconvicted	331,800
Male	295,900
Female	35,900

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

### At midyear 1998, 97% of jail capacity was occupied

At midyear 1998 the rated capacity of the Nation's local jails was an estimated 612,780, an increase of 26,216 in 12 months (table 8). Rated

**Table 8. Rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, 1990-98**

Year	Rated capacity <sup>a</sup>	Amount of capacity added <sup>b</sup>	Percent of capacity occupied <sup>c</sup>
1998	612,780	26,216	97%
1997	586,564	23,593	97
1996	562,971	17,208	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
Average annual increase, 6/30/90-6/30/98	5.8%	30,626	--

Note: Capacity data for 1990-92 and 1994-98 are survey estimates subject to sampling error. 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 1990-93 the ratio may include some inmates under supervision who were not confined in a jail facility. For 1994-98 the ratio includes only those held in jail.

capacity 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, 1998, was larger than the previous 12-month period (23,593) but smaller than the average growth of 30,626 beds every 12 months since 1990.

As of June 30, 1998, 97% of the local jail capacity was occupied. As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, the percentage occupied decreased by 12 percentage points from 1990 to 1996. At midyear 1990 local jails operated at 4% above their capacity. By midyear 1996 jail jurisdictions added a sufficient number of beds to drop the ratio to 8% below capacity. However, since 1996 the inmate population has outpaced jail capacity growth. From July 1, 1996, to June 30, 1998, the local jail population increased an estimated 73,970, while capacity rose 49,809 beds.

Jail jurisdictions with the largest average daily populations reported the highest rates of occupancy. At midyear 1998 occupancy was 103% of rated capacity in jail jurisdictions with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates, compared to 77% in those with fewer than 50 inmates.

Size of jurisdiction*	Percent of capacity occupied
Total	97%
Fewer than 50 inmates	77%
50-99	86
100-249	93
250-499	99
500-999	94
1,000 or more	103

\*Based on the average daily population in the year ending June 30, 1998

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

In 1998 the Nation's 25 largest jail jurisdictions accounted for 27% of all jail inmates. The jurisdictions were in 12 States: 7 in California; 5 in Florida; 4 in Texas; and 1 each in New York, Illinois, Arizona, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, Maryland, and Wisconsin (table 9).

The 2 jurisdictions with the most inmates, Los Angeles County and New

York City, together held approximately 38,900 inmates, or 7% of the national total.

Overall, the 25 largest jurisdictions at midyear 1998 held 157,098 inmates — an increase of 3,673 from a year earlier (153,425). A total of 18 jurisdictions reported increases in their populations; 7 reported decreases.

San Bernardino County, CA (up 37.5%), Orange County, FL (up 13.3%), and Broward County, FL (up 12.5%), reported the largest increases among the 25 largest jail jurisdictions.

Bexar County, TX (down -8.6%), Harris County, TX (down -7.7%), and Fulton County, GA, and Dade County, FL (each down -3.9%), led all jurisdictions reporting declines.

As a ratio of all inmates housed in jail facilities to total capacity, jails in Orange County, CA, had the highest percentage occupied (145%), followed by jails in Baltimore City (131%), and Fulton County, GA (128%). Jail facilities in Tarrant County, TX (75%), New York City (78%), and Dallas County, TX (85%), had the lowest percentage occupied at midyear 1998.

**Table 9. The 25 largest local jail jurisdictions: Number of inmates held, average daily population, and rated capacity, midyear 1996-98**

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>		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
Los Angeles County, CA	18,627	21,962	21,268	18,167	19,931	21,136	20,099	21,416	21,366	93%	103%	100%
New York City, NY	19,890	17,528	17,680	18,382	19,205	17,524	20,862	22,634	22,584	95	77	78
Cook County, IL	8,713	9,189	9,321	9,169	9,100	9,297	9,617	9,376	9,776	91	98	95
Dade County, FL	6,357	7,320	7,036	6,499	7,157	7,836	6,387	6,237	6,005	100	117	117
Harris County, TX	7,703	8,224	7,587	7,140	8,153	7,781	8,698	8,657	8,657	89	95	88
Dallas County, TX	6,380	6,439	6,941	5,862	6,528	7,000	8,374	8,182	8,182	76%	79%	85%
Maricopa County, AZ	5,679	6,732	7,019	5,542	6,520	6,910	6,252	6,252	6,252	91	108	112
Orleans Parish, LA	5,368	6,537	6,670	5,433	6,270	6,398	7,174	7,174	7,174	75	91	93
Philadelphia County, PA	5,695	5,563	5,990	5,341	5,600	5,753	5,600	5,600	6,179	102	99	97
San Diego County, CA	5,549	5,709	6,040	5,522	5,588	5,745	4,653	5,539	5,815	119	103	104
Shelby County, TN	5,264	5,568	5,808	5,153	5,297	5,627	6,364	6,532	6,583	83%	85%	88%
Orange County, CA	5,326	5,368	5,546	5,143	5,246	5,374	3,821	3,821	3,821	139	140	145
San Bernardino County, CA	3,958	4,156	5,713	4,119	4,500	5,103	4,957	5,000	5,000	80	83	114
Santa Clara County, CA	4,213	4,588	4,658	4,314	4,317	4,722	3,774	3,774	3,774	112	122	123
Broward County, FL	3,528	4,125	4,640	3,470	4,129	4,289	3,656	3,736	3,756	96	110	124
Fulton County, GA	2,489	3,982	3,827	2,395	3,401	4,276	2,320	2,987	2,987	107%	133%	128%
Alameda County, CA	3,994	4,098	4,164	3,954	4,109	3,823	4,264	4,218	4,590	94	97	91
Baltimore City, MD	3,309	3,598	3,881	3,300	3,636	3,791	2,933	2,933	2,966	113	123	131
Orange County, FL	3,120	3,411	3,865	3,332	3,321	3,547	3,329	3,234	3,234	94	105	120
Tarrant County, TX	2,881	3,366	3,572	2,876	3,291	3,529	4,193	4,193	4,739	69	80	75
Sacramento County, CA	3,093	3,505	3,654	3,217	3,329	3,507	3,700	3,871	3,871	84%	91%	94%
Bexar County, TX	3,058	3,683	3,368	2,821	3,491	3,398	3,640	3,670	3,670	84	100	92
Hillsborough County, FL	2,661	3,155	3,101	2,679	2,973	3,062	2,757	2,877	2,909	97	110	107
Milwaukee County, WI	2,653	2,876	2,850	2,695	2,757	2,918	2,274	2,274	2,466	117	126	116
Duval County, FL	2,384	2,743	2,899	2,473	2,687	2,755	3,300	3,100	3,000	72	88	97

Note: Jurisdictions are ordered by their average daily population in 1998.

<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 sample survey of jails is conducted to estimate baseline characteristics of the Nation's jails and the inmates housed in these jails. The 1998 ASJ is the 14th such survey in a series begun in 1982. The reference date for the 1998 survey was June 30.

Based on information from the 1993 Census of Jails, a sample of jail jurisdictions was selected for the 1994-98 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 multijurisdiction 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 relative sampling error for the total

**Appendix table. Standard error estimates for the Annual Survey of Jails, 1998**

Characteristic	Estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error (percent)
<b>Total number under supervision</b>	664,847	5,774	.87%
Held in jail	592,462	3,958	.67
Supervised outside a jail facility	72,385	3,718	5.14
<b>Average daily population</b>	593,808	10,233	1.72%
<b>Rated capacity</b>	612,780	4,891	.80%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	528,157	3,577	.68%
Female	64,306	604	.94
<b>Adults</b>	584,372	3,930	.67%
<b>Juveniles</b>	8,090	232	2.87%
Held as adults	6,542	202	3.09
Held as juveniles	1,548	183	11.82
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>			
White, non-Hispanic	243,798	3,031	1.24%
Black, non-Hispanic	242,927	2,400	.99
Hispanic	91,388	1,312	1.44
Other <sup>b</sup>	11,732	496	4.23
<b>Adult conviction status</b>			
Awaiting trial or in other unconvicted category	331,323	2,662	.80%
Convicted	252,266	2,769	1.10

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

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

number of persons under the jurisdiction of jail authorities of 664,847 on June 30, 1998, was 0.87%; for persons held in the custody of jail authorities of 592,462, 0.67%. (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 jail and prison populations.

Jurisdiction counts exclude inmates held in local jails that are operated by communities.

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

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

Starting in the 1998 report year, Connecticut reports jurisdiction and custody counts. Connecticut revised its June 30, 1997, jurisdiction and custody counts to allow comparisons of 1997 and 1998 data.

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

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

**Florida** — Counts are based on custody data.

**Georgia** — Counts are based on custody data.

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

**Illinois** — Counts are based on custody data.

**Iowa** — Counts are based on custody data.

**Massachusetts** — Jurisdiction counts exclude approximately 6,200 male inmates in the county system (local jails and houses of correction) serving a sentence of over 1 year. These male inmates are included in Massachusetts' incarceration rate. By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2½ years in locally operated jails and correctional institutions.

**Michigan** — Counts are based on custody data.

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

**Tennessee** — Jurisdiction counts exclude 3,543 felons sentenced to serve their time in local jails. Tennessee pays to house these 3,543 felons, but the local court maintains jurisdiction.

**Vermont** — Prisons and jails form an integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. Starting in the 1998 report year, Vermont reports separate jurisdiction and custody counts; therefore, data for 1997 are not comparable to those for 1998.

Jurisdiction counts exclude 424 inmates on extended furlough release.

**Wisconsin** — Data for June 30, 1997, and June 30, 1998, are not comparable because of a change in Wisconsin's reporting method. Beginning in December 1997, Wisconsin provides a more complete jurisdiction count, including prisoners held in county jails, mental health facilities, halfway houses, and out-of-State noncontract facilities.

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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.

Darrell K. Gilliard wrote this report under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. Paula M. Ditton and Christopher J. Mumola provided statistical review. Ida Hines produced the report, which Tom Hester edited. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Yvonne Boston, administered final production.

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Data from the Annual Survey of Jails 1998 (ICPSR 2682) can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive, the report, and NPS data are available on the Internet:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>