

Deaths in Custody Reporting Program



DCRP



Conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and RTI International (RTI)

Over the past decade, BJS has collaborated with local jails and state departments of corrections to collect and disseminate statistics on mortality data.

How do the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program get used?

- BJS occasionally fields questions from local jail administrators who needed to know how the death rates in their jails compare with jails of comparable size or within his or her state.
- BJS provides information to state departments of corrections who need death information from previous years for special or routine reports.
- Over the years, BJS has published several reports on mortality in correctional populations to provide the corrections community with important statistics that can help policy-makers, jail administrators, and the corrections community address key public health issues facing jails and prisons. Some examples of these reports include:
 - *Mortality in Local Jails, 2000-2007:*
<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2197>
 - *HIV in Prisons, 2007-2008:*
<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1747>
 - *Medical Causes of Death in State Prisons, 2001-2004:*
<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=776>
 - *Suicide and Homicide in State Prisons and Local Jails:*
<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1126>

For more information on BJS or the DCRP reporting program, please contact:

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Want to know more about DCRP?

Please take the quiz below—the answers may be found below.

1. What are the top three leading causes of death in prison?
 - a. heart disease, cancer, and liver disease
 - b. cancer, heart disease, and liver disease
 - c. heart disease, cancer, and suicide
2. About what percentage of jails report “zero deaths” each year to the Bureau of Justice Statistics?
 - a. 0%
 - b. 20%
 - c. 40%
 - d. 80%
3. What is the most common cause of death in jail?
 - a. Suicide
 - b. Homicide
 - c. Illness (including AIDS)
4. Between 2000 and 2007, has the rate of inmate suicide deaths in jails *increased* or *decreased*?
5. *True* or *False*: Between 2000 and 2007, the suicide rate was higher in large jails than in small jails.

For more information about the DCRP or data collection:

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(1) A. heart disease, cancer, and liver disease (2) 80%: Deaths in jails are rare; annually, about 80 percent of jails report zero deaths in their custody. NOTE: When the annual count of deaths is zero, respondents need only to submit an annual summary form to RTI at the close of the year. (3) C. Deaths from illness (including AIDS) is the most common cause of death in local jails (53 percent). (4) Decreased: Between 2000 and 2007, the suicide rate declined from 48 to 36 deaths per 100,000 inmates. (5) False: Between 2000 and 2007, the suicide rates were higher in small jails than large jails. In jails holding 50 or fewer inmates, the suicide rate was 167 per 100,000; in the largest jails, the suicide rate was 27 per 100,000 inmates.