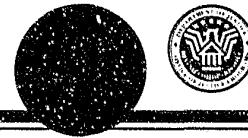


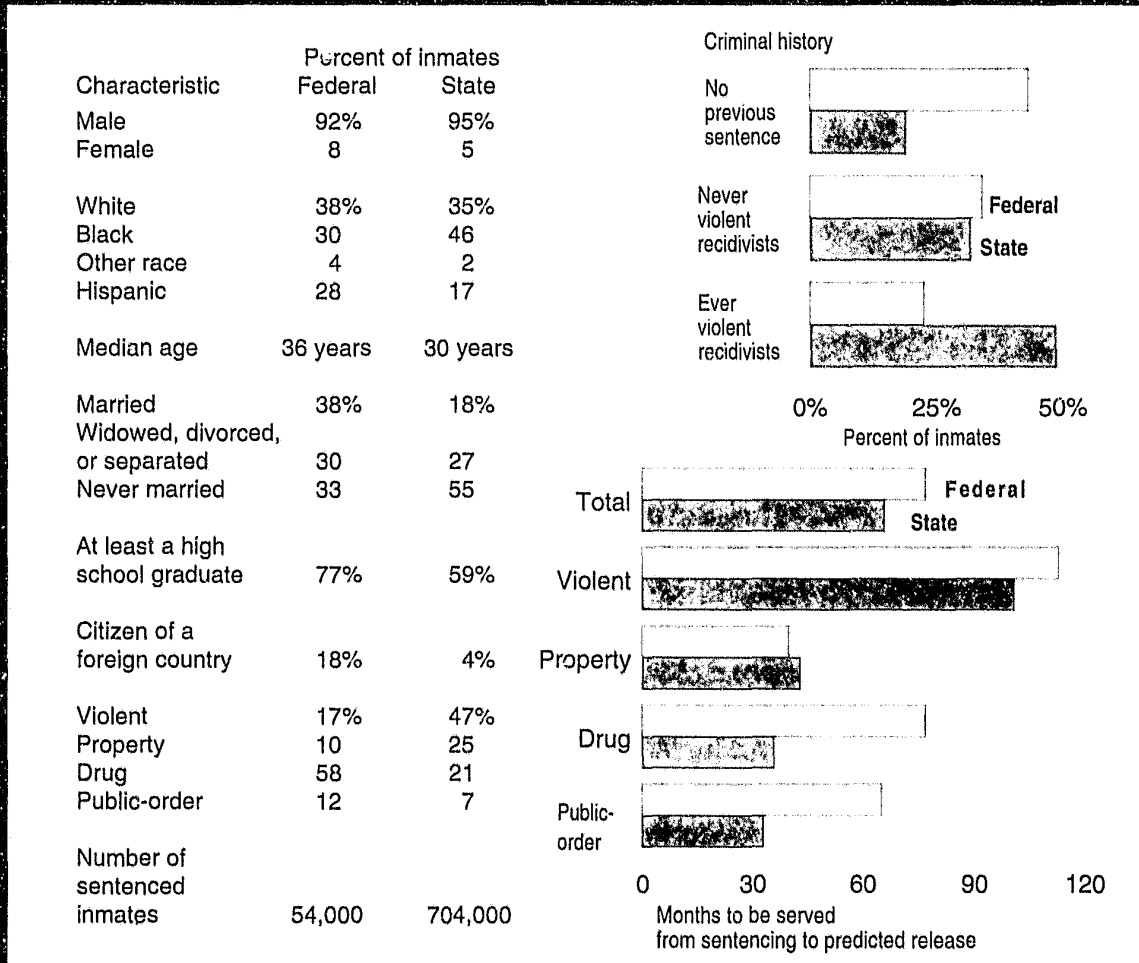
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U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



# Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Comparing Federal and State Prison Inmates, 1991







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By Caroline Wolf Harlow  
*BJS Statistician*

NCJRS

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Allen Beck and Caroline Wolf Harlow developed the survey questionnaire and monitored data collection for the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991. At the Bureau of Prisons Christopher A. Innes and Susan Ann Kline modified the State questionnaire for the Federal population, drew the sample, and monitored data collection of the Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities, 1991.

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## Foreword

In 1991 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) sponsored the first joint survey of prisoners held in State and Federal prisons. Interviews were conducted among inmates housed in 53 Federal prisons and 273 State prisons. A State sample consisting of about 14,000 prisoners and a Federal sample of approximately 6,600 prisoners were queried individually about their social and criminal histories. At the time of the surveys, Federal prisons accounted for about 7% of all sentenced prisoners and State facilities held 93% of all sentenced prisoners. This collaborative effort represented the single largest collection of information on prisoners ever undertaken in the United States.

The Surveys revealed differences and similarities between the two populations of prisoners:

- Federal inmates are generally older, better educated, more likely to be Hispanic, and less likely to be black than State inmates. More likely than State prisoners to be employed prior to arrest, the Federal inmates generally have a less extensive criminal history and less violence in their past.
- Serving a shorter sentence on average, the Federal inmates expect to remain in prison longer than State inmates.
- Compared to State prisoners, Federal inmates are less likely to have tested positive for HIV.
- Federal inmates are more likely than State inmates to have been involved in work or education programs since admission, but among drug users, participation in drug treatment programs is about the same for both populations.
- Federal prisoners are about 3 times as likely as State prisoners to have been convicted of drug trafficking.
- The majority of State prisoners (93%) and Federal prisoners (61%) are in prison for a violent offense or have a prior conviction that resulted in a sentence to incarceration or probation.
- Federal inmates expect to serve almost 50% more of their sentence than do State inmates.
- State prisoners are more likely than their Federal counterparts to have been raised in broken homes and in families where other family members had also served time or had abused alcohol or drugs.
- Noncitizens account for nearly 1 in 5 Federal prisoners but about 1 in 25 State prisoners.
- Federal and State prisoners are not greatly dissimilar with respect to the carrying of firearms during their crimes (12% of Federal prisoners and 16% of State prisoners), but they are substantially different in whether they fired the weapon during the crime.

This report is the second in a series of reports describing the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities. The first, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*, was released in March 1993. The third report in the series, *Profile of Inmates in the United States and in England and Wales, 1991*, will be released in early fall 1994. In addition, other reports detailing the backgrounds and characteristics of women in prison, probation and parole violators in prison, the prevalence of imprisonment, and offenders who commit their crimes against children will be released in the near future.

On behalf of BJS, I would like to express my appreciation to J. Michael Quinlan, the former director of BOP, and to Kathleen Hawk, the current director, for their participation in the surveys of State and Federal prisoners. I would also like to thank Dr. Gerald Gaes, director of research at BOP, and the numerous staff and officials of State and Federal correctional facilities across the country who permitted us this unique opportunity to collect this information. Finally, I want to thank Census Bureau officials generally, and the interviewers from the Field Division of the Bureau particularly, for carrying out these interviews in often difficult situations.

Lawrence A. Greenfield  
Deputy Director

In 1991, 58% of Federal prisoners (an estimated 31,100 inmates) and 21% of State prisoners (149,200) were serving a sentence for a drug offense. Drug traffickers were 43% of Federal offenders and 13% of State prisoners.

A fourth of Federal inmates serving time for a drug offense other than possession belonged to an illegal drug organization. About 9% belonged to an organization with 11 or more members.

These findings about the predominance of drug offenders among Federal inmates come from separate, but similar, surveys of State and Federal inmates. For the first time, in the summer of 1991, inmates were selected in nationally representative samples of both the Federal and State prison populations. They responded to questions about their past and current lives in lengthy personal interviews. The simultaneous surveys document how the two populations differ and are alike.

Other major findings include the following:

### Current offense

- About 17% of Federal inmates and 47% of State inmates were in prison for a violent offense. Murder accounted for 2% of Federal prisoners and almost 11% of State inmates.

### Sentence length and time to be served

- On average, Federal inmates were expected to serve almost 6½ years on a sentence of almost 10½ years, and State inmates, 5½ years on a sentence of 12½ years.

### Criminal history

- About 61% of Federal inmates and 93% of State inmates had been on probation or incarcerated before their current sentence or were serving a sentence for a violent crime.

### Drug and alcohol use

- Federal inmates reported less drug use than State inmates.

42% of Federal inmates and 62% of State inmates had ever used drugs regularly

32% of Federal inmates and 50% of State inmates had used drugs in the month before their current offense

17% of Federal inmates and 31% of State inmates were using drugs when they committed their current offense.

- Federal inmates were half as likely as State inmates to have been under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they committed their current offense (24% versus 49%). Eleven percent of Federal prisoners and 32% of State prisoners were under the influence of alcohol.

- Federal inmates reported slightly lower levels of participation in drug treatment than State inmates. Among those who had used drugs in the month before their current offense, about 43% of Federal inmates and 48% of State inmates had been in a drug treatment program since their admission to prison; 15% of Federal inmates and 20% of State inmates were participating at the time of the survey.

### Weapons

- About 12% of Federal prisoners and 16% of State prisoners were armed when they committed the offense for which they were serving time.
- Among violent offenders 38% in Federal prison and 29% in State prison had carried a firearm when committing their current offense.
- About a quarter of Federal inmates who carried a firearm during the crime discharged the weapon. More than half of State offenders in prison who committed their crime with a gun discharged it.

### Personal and family characteristics

- Federal inmates were more likely than State inmates to be —
  - women (8% versus 5%),
  - Hispanic (28% versus 17%),
  - age 45 or older (22% versus 10%),
  - married (38% versus 18%),
  - with some college education (28% versus 12%),
  - noncitizens (18% versus 4%),
  - employed prior to their arrest (74% versus 67%),
  - and raised in a two-parent home (58% versus 43%).
- Federal inmates were less likely than State inmates to have —
  - lived in a foster home (8% versus 17%),
  - parents who abused alcohol or drugs (16% versus 27%),
  - a relative who had been incarcerated (26% versus 38%),
  - and been physically or sexually abused at some time before entering prison (6% versus 14%).

- An estimated 62% of Federal inmates were parents of 70,300 children under age 18, and 57% of State inmates were parents of 818,000 minor children.

### HIV

- A smaller percentage of Federal inmates (0.8%) than State inmates (2.2%) reported testing positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. These findings are based on 59% of Federal inmates and 51% of State inmates who knew they had been tested for the HIV and could report the test results.

### Activities since admission

- About 58% of Federal inmates and 46% of State inmates had enrolled in a school program since their admission. About 3 in 10 had attended a vocational program.
- An estimated 91% of Federal inmates and 70% of State prisoners had a job while in prison. Of these, about 98% of the Federal prisoners and 88% of the State prisoners received some form of compensation.

## Inmate characteristics

### The data

In 1991 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) interviewed a scientifically selected sample of 13,986 State prison inmates, asking them about their current offense, criminal history, family and employment background, their drug and alcohol use, and their activities in prison in confidential face-to-face interviews. At the same time the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) conducted a similar survey of 6,572 sentenced Federal prisoners, using a version of the BJS questionnaire. These two surveys provide data on over 54,000 inmates in Federal prisons and 711,000 in State prisons.

The BOP survey included only the 78% of inmates who were sentenced. In 1991, excluding contracted custody, BOP confined 65,828 who were either sentenced inmates or detainees awaiting trial, deportation, or other procedures. Therefore, the data presented here also exclude the 1% of unsentenced State inmates, and the results will differ somewhat from those in previous BJS reports. (See *Methodology* on page 25 for more information.)

### Characteristics of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates

In size the Federal sentenced prison population (54,000) was much smaller than the total number (704,000) in State prisons (table 1). Compared to individual States, the Federal prison system held more inmates than every State except California and New York.

The Federal inmate population had higher percentages than the overall State population of women, Hispanics, married persons, older prisoners, the better educated, and noncitizens.

Almost 8% of sentenced Federal prison inmates were women, compared to just over 5% of State inmates.

Black, Asian, Native American, and Hispanic inmates accounted for more than 6 in 10 sentenced prisoners in both Federal and State institutions. However, Federal inmates were more likely than State inmates to be Hispanic (28% versus 17%) and less likely to be black (30% versus 46%).

Federal inmates were older on average than State inmates. Over half of sentenced Federal inmates and less than a third of sentenced State inmates were 35 or older. Federal inmates were about

twice as likely to be married as State inmates. About a third of Federal inmates and over half of State inmates had never married.

Twenty-eight percent of Federal inmates and 12% of State inmates had attended college. Federal inmates were over 3 times as likely as State prisoners to have graduated from college (9% versus 2%).

Over 18% of Federal inmates, compared to about 4% of State inmates, were not citizens. About 10% of Federal inmates came from Mexico or countries in Central or South America; 3% of State inmates were from Latin America.

**Table 1. Characteristics of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Characteristics	Federal	State
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	92.2%	94.6%
Female	7.8	5.4
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>		
White non-Hispanic	38.4%	35.4%
Black non-Hispanic	29.9	45.6
Other*	3.8	2.4
Hispanic	28.0	16.6
<b>Age</b>		
17 or younger	0%	.6%
18-24	9.3	21.3
25-34	36.0	45.7
35-44	32.9	22.7
45-54	15.0	6.5
55-64	5.7	2.4
65 or older	1.1	.7
Median age	36 yr	30 yr
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	37.9%	18.2%
Widowed	1.8	1.9
Separated	6.7	6.2
Divorced	21.0	18.5
Never married	32.6	55.3
<b>Education</b>		
8th grade or less	11.0%	14.2%
Some high school	12.3	28.9
High school graduate	48.5	46.5
Some college	18.8	10.0
College graduate or more	9.3	2.3
Median education	12 yr	12 yr
<b>Military service</b>		
Veteran	19.9%	16.3%
Vietnam era	4.2	2.7
Other	15.7	13.8
Nonveteran	80.1	83.7
<b>Citizenship</b>		
United States	81.6%	95.6%
Other countries	18.4	4.4
Mexico	4.1	2.1
Central or South America	6.3	.6
Other	8.0	1.7
Number of inmates	54,006	704,203

Note: Data were missing for marital status on 1.3% of cases, for education on 0.6%, and for military service on 0.3% for Federal prison inmates. Data were missing for marital status on 1.1% of cases, for education on 0.7%, and for military service on 0.2% for State prison inmates. \*Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

**Table 2. Pre-arrest employment and income for sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

	Federal	State
<b>Pre-arrest employment</b>		
Employed	74.4%	67.4%
Full-time	65.4	55.5
Part-time	9.0	11.9
Not employed	25.6	32.6
Looking for work	10.0	16.3
Not looking	15.6	16.3
<b>Pre-arrest income</b>		
Annual income <sup>a</sup> (Free at least 1 year)		
No income	3.1%	2.9%
Less than \$3,000	11.8	19.0
\$3,000-\$4,999	6.6	9.8
\$5,000-\$9,999	16.2	20.7
\$10,000-\$14,999	16.1	17.1
\$15,000-\$24,999	18.9	15.8
\$25,000 or more	27.3	14.7
Number of inmates	44,436	517,232
<b>Monthly income<sup>b</sup></b> (free less than 1 year)		
No income	8.9%	6.7%
Less than \$300	10.9	15.4
\$300-\$499	7.6	12.9
\$500-\$999	18.9	22.7
\$1,000-\$1,499	17.0	16.1
\$1,500-\$2,499	14.2	9.7
\$2,500 or more	22.6	16.4
Number of inmates	4,030	130,725

Note: Pre-arrest employment data were missing for .8% of Federal inmates and .6% of State inmates. Income data were missing for 10.3% of Federal inmates and for 8% of State inmates. <sup>a</sup>Annual income figures based on inmates who reported being free at least 1 year prior to the offense for which they were sent to prison. <sup>b</sup>Monthly income figures for inmates who were free less than 1 year prior to the offense for which they were sent to prison.

Three-quarters of Federal inmates and two-thirds of State inmates were employed part time or full time before the arrest for their current offense (table 2). About 15% of each group were unemployed and not looking for work.

About 46% of Federal inmates and 30% of State inmates free at least 1 year before their arrest on current charges had a personal annual income of \$15,000

or more, which was above the poverty level for a family of four in 1989. For the U.S. population in 1989, the per capita money income just exceeded \$14,000.

#### Current offenses

Almost 6 in 10 sentenced Federal inmates were in prison for a drug offense, compared to 2 in 10 State inmates (table 3). Almost half of State inmates

were serving a sentence for a violent offense, and a fourth for a property offense. Drug traffickers (43%) were the largest single group of Federal offenders; robbers (15%), the largest category of State offenders. About 2% of Federal prisoners were convicted of murder, the offense of 11% of State inmates.

#### Current offenses of men and women

In both Federal and State prisons, women were more likely than men to be convicted for drug and property offenses and less likely to be incarcerated for violent crimes.

- Drug offenses:
  - Federal prison inmates  
66% of women and 57% of men
  - State prison inmates  
33% of women and 21% of men
- Property offenses:
  - Federal prison inmates  
17% of women and 10% of men
  - State prison inmates  
29% of women and 25% of men
- Violent offenses:
  - Federal prison inmates  
8% of women and 18% of men
  - State prison inmates  
32% of women and 47% of men

**Table 3. Current offenses of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by sex, 1991**

Current offense	Percent of sentenced prison inmates					
	All inmates		Male		Female	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	17.3%	46.6%	18.1%	47.4%	7.7%	32.1%
Murder <sup>a</sup>	1.9	10.6	2.0	10.6	1.1	11.8
Negligent manslaughter	.3	1.8	.3	1.7	.3	3.5
Kidnaping	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	.6	.5
Rape	.3	3.5	.4	3.7	0	.4
Other sexual assault	.4	5.9	.4	6.2	.1	1.3
Robbery	11.2	14.8	11.7	15.2	4.3	7.7
Assault	1.5	8.1	1.6	8.3	1.0	6.1
Other violent <sup>b</sup>	.6	.6	.6	.5	.4	1.0
<b>Property offenses</b>	10.2%	24.8%	9.7%	24.6%	16.5%	28.8%
Burglary	.7	12.4	.8	12.9	.2	4.6
Larceny/theft	.9	4.9	.8	4.5	1.9	11.1
Motor vehicle theft	.5	2.2	.5	2.3	.1	.7
Arson	.3	.7	.3	.7	.2	1.0
Fraud <sup>c</sup>	6.9	2.8	6.3	2.4	13.0	10.3
Stolen property	.8	1.4	.8	1.4	1.1	1.0
Other property <sup>d</sup>	.1	.4	.2	.4	0	.1
<b>Drug offenses</b>	57.9%	21.3%	57.3%	20.7%	65.5%	33.0%
Possession	13.8	7.8	13.8	7.3	14.1	11.8
Trafficking	42.9	13.3	42.4	12.9	49.7	19.8
Other/unspecified	1.4	.5	1.3	.4	1.7	1.3
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	12.4%	6.8%	12.8%	6.9%	8.6%	5.5%
Weapons <sup>e</sup>	5.7	1.8	6.0	1.9	2.3	.5
Other public-order <sup>f</sup>	6.6	5.0	6.8	5.0	6.3	5.0
<b>Other offenses<sup>g</sup></b>	2.2%	.4%	2.2%	.4%	1.8%	.6%
Number of inmates	53,689	699,701	49,472	661,811	4,217	38,090

Note: Current offense data were available for 99.4% of sentenced Federal prison inmates and 98.4% of sentenced State prison inmates. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

<sup>c</sup>Includes Federal offenses of embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting.

<sup>d</sup>Includes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

<sup>e</sup>Includes Federal firearm and explosives violations.

<sup>f</sup>Includes obstruction of justice, traffic, driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, commercialized vice, parole or probation violations, escape, AWOL, flight to avoid prosecution, rioting, abandonment, nonsupport, immigration violations, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, tax evasion, bribery, and Federal regulatory and common criminal enterprise offenses, tax law violations, racketeering, and extortion.

<sup>g</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and unspecified offenses.



**Current offenses of whites, blacks, and Hispanics**

In both Federal and State prisons, black and Hispanic inmates were more likely than whites to be serving a sentence for drug charges (table 4). Among Federal inmates about 80% of the Hispanics, 55% of the blacks, and 46% of the whites were in prison for a drug offense. In State prisons drug offenders accounted for 33% of Hispanic inmates, 25% of black inmates, and 12% of white inmates.

White and black inmates were imprisoned for violent crimes more often than Hispanics.

- Violent offenses:
  - Federal prison inmates
    - 19% of whites
    - 22 of blacks
    - 6 of Hispanics
  - State prison inmates
    - 49% of whites
    - 47 of blacks
    - 39 of Hispanics

**Current offenses of citizens and noncitizens**

Associated with the relatively large percentage of Hispanic inmates serving a sentence for drug offenses, especially Federal offenses, noncitizens were more likely than citizens in both Federal and State prisons to be drug offenders (table 5). In Federal prisons 85% of noncitizen inmates and 52% of citizens were serving a sentence for drug offenses; in State prisons, 45% of noncitizens and 20% of citizens. By contrast, noncitizens were less likely than citizens to be in prison for violent offenses:

In Federal facilities 2% of noncitizens and 21% of citizens and

In State prisons 35% of noncitizens and 47% of citizens.

**Table 4. Current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by race and Hispanic origin, 1991**

Current offense	Percent of sentenced prison inmates							
	White <sup>a</sup>		Black <sup>a</sup>		Other <sup>a,b</sup>		Hispanic <sup>c</sup>	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	18.8%	49.1%	22.4%	47.2%	44.4%	53.4%	6.0%	38.9%
Murder	1.3	11.8	2.7	10.3	9.6	12.1	.9	8.8
Negligent manslaughter	.1	2.0	.4	1.7	4.0	.7	0	2.0
Kidnapping	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.0	3.1	1.8	.4	.9
Rape	.1	4.8	.4	3.1	4.4	6.3	0	1.7
Other sexual assault	.4	10.6	.2	2.9	3.3	5.9	.1	4.3
Robbery	13.7	10.3	15.4	19.2	7.3	12.8	3.7	12.7
Assault	.9	7.4	1.9	8.4	11.6	13.5	.7	8.1
Other violent	1.0	.7	.4	.4	1.1	.4	.3	.4
<b>Property offenses</b>	15.0%	30.2%	11.0%	22.1%	8.0%	28.5%	3.0%	20.5%
Burglary	.5	15.4	1.4	10.5	1.0	12.0	.3	11.5
Larceny/theft	1.1	5.4	1.3	5.0	1.4	4.3	.2	3.5
Motor vehicle theft	.9	2.4	.3	1.9	0	2.3	.1	2.3
Arson	.7	1.1	.1	.4	.5	.9	.1	.5
Fraud	10.4	3.8	6.9	2.5	4.7	5.0	2.2	1.2
Stolen property	1.2	1.5	.8	1.3	.5	3.3	.2	1.0
Other property	.2	.5	.1	.4	0	.6	.1	.4
<b>Drug offenses</b>	46.3%	12.0%	55.0%	25.0%	32.4%	9.8%	80.5%	32.8%
Possession	6.9	4.0	11.4	8.6	6.1	2.0	26.2	13.1
Trafficking	38.2	7.7	42.1	15.7	25.1	7.4	52.8	19.4
Other/unspecified	1.2	.3	1.6	.6	1.2	.3	1.4	.4
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	17.6%	8.3%	10.1%	5.4%	10.2%	8.2%	8.1%	7.5%
Weapons	7.0	1.2	6.7	2.2	8.0	1.1	2.6	2.0
Other public-order	10.6	7.1	3.4	3.2	2.2	7.1	5.5	5.5
<b>Other offenses</b>	2.3%	.5%	1.5%	.4%	5.0%	.1%	2.3%	.3%
Number of inmates	20,629	247,480	16,024	319,351	2,021	16,553	15,015	116,317

Note: Data were available for 99.4% of Federal prison inmates and 99.4% of State prison inmates. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Non-Hispanic inmates only.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American inmates.  
<sup>c</sup>Includes Hispanic inmates of any race.

**Table 5. Current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by citizenship, 1991**

Current offense	Percent of sentenced inmates			
	Citizens		Noncitizens	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	20.7%	47.1%	1.9%	35.2%
Homicide	2.7	12.5	.2	12.1
Sexual assault	.8	9.6	.2	6.0
Robbery	13.5	15.1	.7	8.3
Assault	1.8	8.2	.2	6.9
Other violent	1.9	1.7	.6	1.9
<b>Property offenses</b>	12.0%	25.4%	2.4%	13.0%
Burglary	.9	12.7	.1	8.0
Larceny/theft	1.1	5.0	.2	2.1
Fraud	8.0	2.9	1.6	.2
Other property	2.0	4.8	.5	2.8
<b>Drug offenses</b>	51.8%	20.2%	85.1%	45.2%
Possession	10.3	7.0	28.5	19.7
Trafficking	40.4	12.8	54.3	25.1
Other/unspecified	1.2	.5	2.2	.4
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	13.6%	6.8%	7.4%	6.6%
Weapons	6.5	1.8	2.4	1.4
Other public-order	7.1	5.0	5.1	5.3
Number of inmates	43,773	668,983	9,916	30,718

Note: Data were available for 99.4% of Federal prison inmates and 99.4% of State prison inmates. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Sentence length and time to be served**

Legislative changes in the past 10 years have influenced the length of sentences to Federal prison and the time to be served on those sentences. The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 provided for sentencing guidelines for crimes committed on or after November 1, 1987, abolished parole, and limited good-time credits to 54 days per year. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act, 1986, established mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug offenses. As a result of these changes, for persons convicted of a Federal offense, a higher percentage than previously are sentenced to prison and stay there for longer periods.\*

A smaller percentage of Federal (2%) than State (9%) inmates were sentenced to life. Half of Federal prison inmates had terms of 7 years or less (table 6). Asked when they expected to be released from prison, Federal

inmates provided responses with an average total time served of about 5 years. Half of State prison inmates had sentences of 9 years or less and expected to serve a total of just over 3 years.

Overall, average sentence lengths for Federal prisoners were shorter than those for State inmates, but Federal inmates expected to stay in prison longer. On average, Federal inmates expected to serve 6.4 years on sentences of 10.4 years, and State inmates, 5.5 years on sentences of 12.5 years. Federal inmates (1.2%) were less likely than State inmates (2.1%) to expect never to be released.

At the time of interview half of Federal inmates had served 21 months or less, half of State inmates 17 months or less. On average both prison populations had served just over 2 1/2 years.

Federal sentences were about the same as State sentences for violent crimes, higher for drug offenses, and lower for property crimes.

- Both Federal and State violent offenders had average sentences of over 17 years.

- Federal drug offenders had average sentences of 9 1/2 years while State drug offenders received just under 8 years.

- Property crime violators in Federal prisons had mean sentences of just over 6 years; State offenders had average sentences of 9 1/2 years.

Federal inmates expected to stay longer than State inmates for drug offenses but about the same amount of time for violent and property crimes.

- For drug offenses Federal inmates expected to serve almost 6 1/2 years and State inmates 3 years, on average.

- For violent offenses Federal offenders expected to stay almost 9 1/2 years and State inmates almost 8 1/2 years, on average.

- For property crimes the average time to be served was around 3 1/2 years for both Federal and State prisoners.

\*See *Federal Sentencing in Transition, 1986-90*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-134727, June 1992.

**Table 6. Sentence length, time served to interview, and total time to be served, by current offense for Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Current offense	Sentence length in months				Time from sentencing							
	Median		Mean		To date of interview				To expected date of release*			
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	84 mo	108 mo	124 mo	150 mo	21 mo	17 mo	31 mo	32 mo	57 mo	37 mo	77 mo	66 mo
<b>Violent</b>	180	180	210	216	46	31	62	49	89	70	113	101
Murder	life	life	346	381	95	69	106	81	203	160	216	179
Manslaughter	120	156	124	185	53	26	71	39	74	66	68	81
Sexual assault	168	180	201	211	51	27	56	42	81	66	103	95
Robbery	157	144	203	200	43	27	55	41	87	58	106	82
Assault	83	114	143	158	23	18	33	32	47	43	59	68
Other violent	240	180	264	217	61	24	82	45	103	72	125	97
<b>Property</b>	46	60	74	114	18	12	29	20	29	26	40	43
Burglary	120	96	151	140	30	15	43	24	59	32	68	51
Larceny	32	48	57	72	9	9	21	15	19	18	32	34
Fraud	36	60	61	98	10	10	16	16	27	20	34	31
Other property	60	60	106	98	17	12	28	20	36	24	58	37
<b>Drug</b>	84	60	114	95	20	11	24	16	59	24	77	36
Possession	84	54	107	81	20	9	24	13	59	20	73	28
Trafficking	84	72	116	104	20	12	25	17	59	26	78	40
Other drug	109	48	115	70	18	9	22	16	77	21	82	39
<b>Public-order</b>	60	48	111	83	18	9	25	16	48	20	65	33
Weapons	83	54	97	74	18	12	23	17	53	21	65	32
Other public-order	60	48	123	85	17	9	27	16	41	19	64	33

\*Excludes inmates who did not know a date of release or who did not expect to be released.

## Recidivism

The criminal histories of Federal inmates generally were shorter and contained less serious offenses than those of State inmates.

### Prior sentences to probation and incarceration

Federal inmates (44%) were twice as likely as State inmates (20%) to have never been on probation or in a correctional facility before their current offense (table 7).

Around 4 in 10 Federal inmates, compared to 6 in 10 State inmates, had previously served time in a jail, prison,

**Table 7. Prior sentences to probation or incarceration of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Prior sentence	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
<b>Probation</b>		
None	53.9%	33.1%
Juvenile only	7.3	14.7
Adult only	30.7	33.8
Both	8.2	18.4
Number of times		
0	53.9%	33.1%
1	27.6	34.4
2	10.9	17.2
3-5	6.7	12.3
6-10	.9	2.3
11 or more	.2	.8
<b>Incarceration</b>		
None	61.8%	40.4%
Juvenile only	1.9	4.1
Adult only	29.0	39.6
Both	7.3	15.9
Number of times		
0	61.8%	40.4%
1	17.8	21.1
2	8.5	13.0
3-5	8.0	16.2
6-10	2.6	6.0
11 or more	1.3	3.4
<b>Probation or incarceration</b>		
None	43.9%	20.2%
Juvenile only	4.3	8.1
Adult only	37.4	41.1
Both	14.5	30.6
Number of times		
0	43.9%	20.2%
1	19.4	19.3
2	13.0	16.2
3-5	15.8	25.8
6-10	5.6	12.5
11 or more	2.3	6.0
Number of inmates	53,027	691,671

or other correctional facility. About a third of Federal inmates and over half of State inmates had served time in a correctional facility as an adult. About 9% of Federal inmates and 20% of State inmates had been incarcerated as juveniles.

Inmates in Federal prisons were half as likely as those in State institutions to have served three or more sentences to a correctional facility (12% versus 26%).

Less than half of Federal inmates, compared to two-thirds of State inmates, had been on probation before their current sentence:

Previous adult probation —  
39% of Federal inmates and  
52% of State inmates

Previous juvenile probation —  
16% of Federal inmates and  
33% of State inmates.

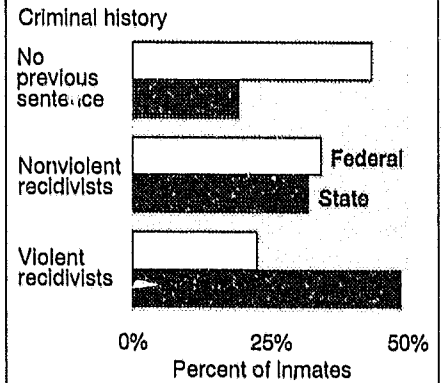
### Criminal histories

While 61% of Federal inmates were serving a sentence for a violent crime or were either on probation or incarcerated in the past, 93% of State inmates were either recidivists or violent offenders (table 8). Twenty-seven percent of Federal inmates and 61% of State inmates had a past or current sentence for a violent offense.

**Table 8. Criminal history of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Criminal history	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%
No previous sentence	43.3	19.3
Current violent offense	4.6	12.7
Current nonviolent offense	38.7	6.5
<b>Violent recidivists</b>		
Current and prior violent	7.4	17.3
Current violent only	6.1	18.8
Prior violent only	9.1	12.7
<b>Nonviolent recidivists</b>		
Prior minor public-order offenses only	2.3	1.2
Other prior offenses	31.8	30.7
Number of inmates	53,164	693,373

43% of Federal inmates had never before served a sentence, and 49% of State inmates were recidivists who were serving or had served a sentence for a violent crime



### Characteristics of prior sentences

The current sentence was the first time in confinement for 61% of Federal inmates and 39% of State inmates; 43% of Federal inmates and 19% of State inmates were serving their first sentences, and 18% of Federal inmates and 19% of State inmates had previously served only sentences to probation (table 9). About 4% of Federal inmates and 8% of State inmates had only been on probation or in a correctional facility as a juvenile. Minor offenses, such as drunkenness, vagrancy, loitering, disorderly conduct, or minor traffic offenses, were the only prior offenses of 1% to 2% of all inmates.

**Table 9. Characteristics of prior sentences of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Characteristic of prior sentences	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%
First sentence	43.3	19.3
Prior sentence	56.7	80.7
<b>To probation/incarceration</b>		
Minor offenses only	2.3	1.3
As a juvenile only	4.1	7.9
<b>To probation only</b>		
As a juvenile only	2.8	4.8
<b>To incarceration</b>		
As a juvenile only	1.4	3.3
Number of inmates	53,164	693,373

**Table 10. Criminal history of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by sex, 1991**

Criminal history	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	Male		Female			
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>No previous sentence</b>	41.7%	18.7%	61.5%	28.3%		
Current violent offense	4.6	12.5	3.6	15.9		
Current nonviolent offense	37.1	6.2	57.9	12.4		
<b>Violent recidivists</b>	23.9	50.1	7.2	25.6		
Current and prior violent	7.9	17.9	1.8	6.8		
Current violent only	6.4	19.3	2.7	10.7		
Prior violent only	9.6	12.9	2.9	8.1		
<b>Nonviolent recidivists</b>	34.4	31.2	31.2	46.1		
Prior minor public-order offenses only	2.4	1.2	2.0	2.0		
Other prior offenses	32.0	30.0	29.2	44.1		
Number of inmates	49,001	655,628	4,163	37,745		

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

current or past violent sentences; 63% of men and 42% of women in State institutions were violent offenders.

*Criminal histories of white, black, and Hispanic inmates*

Hispanic inmates in Federal prisons were less likely than white or black inmates to be recidivists (table 11). Hispanic inmates in both Federal and State prison systems were less likely than other prisoners to have current or past sentences for violent offenses. In Federal, but not State prisons, larger percentages of black inmates than white inmates were recidivists or had been convicted of a violent offense.

	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>Recidivist</b>			
Federal	61%	67%	41%
State	80%	82%	78%
<b>Present/past violence</b>			
Federal	29%	37%	11%
State	62%	64%	51%
<b>Recidivist or present/past violence</b>			
Federal	66%	72%	43%
State	95%	94%	89%

*Criminal histories of men and women*

In both Federal and State prison populations, men were more likely than women to be recidivists and violent offenders (table 10). Among Federal inmates, 37% of the men and 58% of the women were serving their first sentence, which was for a nonviolent offense. Comparable percentages among State inmates

were 6% of the men and 12% of the women.

- An estimated 58% of men compared to 38% of women in Federal prison and 81% of men compared to 72% of women in State prison had previously been on probation or in a correctional facility.
- Twenty-nine percent of men and 11% of women in Federal facilities had

**Table 11. Criminal history of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

Criminal history	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	White <sup>a</sup>		Black <sup>a</sup>		Other <sup>b</sup>		Hispanic <sup>c</sup>	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>No previous sentence</b>	39.0	19.9	33.4	17.5	49.7	21.4	59.1	22.4
Current violent offense	4.9	14.8	5.1	11.3	15.7	15.5	2.1	11.8
Current nonviolent offense	34.1	5.1	28.3	6.2	34.0	5.9	57.0	10.6
<b>Violent recidivists</b>	24.4	47.3	31.5	53.1	36.0	51.4	8.9	39.6
Current and prior violent	7.7	18.0	10.9	19.6	11.1	17.2	2.6	13.4
Current violent only	6.9	21.1	7.5	18.2	17.9	23.0	2.0	15.0
Prior violent only	9.7	10.1	13.1	15.3	7.0	11.2	4.3	11.1
<b>Nonviolent recidivists</b>	36.6	32.8	35.1	29.4	14.3	27.2	32.0	38.0
Prior minor public-order offenses only	2.2	1.4	2.4	1.1	.7	1.4	2.5	1.2
Other prior offenses	34.4	31.4	32.7	28.3	13.6	25.8	29.5	36.8
Number of inmates	20,425	245,794	15,930	316,158	1,976	16,456	14,834	114,965

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

<sup>a</sup>Non-Hispanic inmates only.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native

American inmates.  
<sup>c</sup>Includes inmates of any race.

**Table 12. Current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by criminal history, 1991**

Current offense	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	No previous sentence		Recidivists			
	Federal	State	No prior violent offenses		Prior violent offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Violent offenses	9.9%	64.6%	14.6%	35.0%	43.2%	54.7%
Homicide	1.9	23.4	1.9	9.5	3.8	10.3
Sexual assault	.8	18.1	.5	6.2	.7	9.4
Robbery	4.6	13.2	9.7	11.5	32.4	21.6
Assault	1.0	8.1	1.2	6.2	3.6	11.3
Other violent	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.5	2.7	2.1
Property offenses	7.8%	9.8%	13.4%	32.3%	8.4%	22.1%
Burglary	.1	4.4	1.2	16.4	1.1	11.1
Larceny	.5	1.8	1.1	6.3	1.3	4.3
Fraud	6.5	1.7	8.1	3.8	4.4	1.9
Other property	.6	1.8	2.9	5.8	1.6	4.7
Drug offenses	68.7%	21.6%	57.2%	24.5%	31.1%	15.7%
Possession	17.0	6.5	13.1	9.2	6.1	5.5
Trafficking	50.0	14.6	42.7	14.9	24.7	9.6
Other drug	1.7	.5	1.4	.4	.4	.5
Public-order offenses	11.0%	3.4%	12.6%	7.9%	15.8%	7.3%
Number of inmates	23,005	133,487	21,377	352,296	8,769	207,590

Note: *Other offenses* are omitted. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

likely to be in prison for another violent offense. About 43% of these Federal inmates and 55% of State violent recidivists were in prison for another violent offense. Of violent recidivists, a third of Federal inmates and a fifth of State inmates were in prison for robbery. About 10% of Federal prisoners and 65% of State inmates with no previous sentences were in prison for a violent offense.

### Drug use

Although Federal inmates were much more likely than those in State prisons to be serving a sentence for drug offenses, they were less likely than State inmates to have used drugs (table 13). Asked if they had ever used drugs, had ever used drugs at least once a week for a month (regularly), or had used drugs in the month before their last arrest, Federal inmates reported less use than did State prison inmates. Federal inmates were almost half as likely as State inmates to have been using drugs at the time of the current offense (17% and 31%).

Marijuana was the drug most common for both Federal and State inmates, followed by cocaine-based drugs and heroin and other opiates. A fifth of all Federal inmates and almost a third of State inmates had used cocaine at least once a week for a month or more. Just under 10% of Federal inmates and 15% of State inmates had used heroin or other opiates regularly.

### Criminal history and current offense

Most Federal inmates without prior offenses or with a history of only nonviolent offenses were serving a sentence for a drug offense (table 12). Five in ten first time inmates and over 4 in 10 nonviolent recidivists were drug traffickers. About 7 in 10 Federal inmates with no prior offenses and 2 in 10

State inmates were in prison for drugs. Compared to inmates with no prior offense and to recidivists with no prior violent offense, Federal and State inmates who were convicted in the past of a violent offense were less likely to be in prison for a current drug offense.

In both Federal and State prisons, inmates with prior violent offenses were

**Table 13. Drug use of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Type of drug	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	Ever used drugs		Ever used drugs regularly		Used drugs in the month before offense		Used drugs at the time of the offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Any drug	60.1%	79.4%	42.1%	62.2%	31.8%	49.9%	16.8%	31.0%
Marijuana	52.8	73.8	32.2	51.9	19.2	32.2	5.9	11.4
Cocaine/crack	37.3	49.4	20.6	31.9	15.4	25.2	7.7	14.5
Heroin/opiates	14.1	25.2	9.3	15.3	5.5	9.6	3.7	5.8
Barbiturates	13.1	24.0	5.3	10.8	1.4	3.8	.3	1.0
Stimulants	16.8	29.7	8.3	16.6	3.9	7.4	1.8	2.9
Hallucinogens	14.8	26.9	4.8	11.5	1.2	3.7	.5	1.6

Note: Data are missing on 1% of Federal prison inmates and .5% of State prison inmates.

Table 14. Drug use of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by selected characteristics, 1991

Characteristic	Percent of sentenced inmates									
	Number of inmates		Ever used drugs regularly		Used drugs in month before offense		Committed offense			
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Under the influence of drugs		To get money for drugs	
							Federal	State	Federal	State
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	49,460	664,824	42.7%	62.0%	32.2%	49.7%	16.9%	30.7%	10.0%	16.5%
Female	4,208	38,196	34.7	65.4	27.6	53.9	16.3	36.2	10.3	23.9
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>										
White non-Hispanic	20,582	249,295	49.4%	63.2%	34.9%	49.5%	18.8%	32.5%	9.6%	15.5%
Black non-Hispanic	15,984	320,305	45.9	60.7	35.7	49.0	18.6	28.9	12.5	17.4
Other non-Hispanic <sup>a</sup>	2,031	16,618	35.8	57.6	25.1	48.8	14.0	32.6	5.7	10.7
Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	15,071	116,801	28.9	64.6	24.3	53.5	12.7	33.5	8.4	19.9
<b>Age</b>										
24 or under	4,973	154,231	41.0%	61.6%	32.7%	52.4%	14.4%	30.4%	7.8%	15.7%
25-34	19,308	321,147	49.3	69.6	38.3	55.8	20.8	35.5	11.7	19.4
35-44	17,657	159,584	47.0	61.9	35.3	47.6	18.2	30.5	12.0	17.3
45-54	8,067	45,982	28.2	36.7	18.6	28.3	11.0	15.4	5.8	10.0
55 or older	3,663	22,075	12.2	13.8	8.4	8.6	5.8	6.6	3.3	3.1
<b>Citizenship</b>										
Citizen	43,746	672,251	48.0%	63.0%	35.9%	50.4%	19.3%	31.4%	11.6%	17.2%
Noncitizen	9,922	30,769	15.9	43.5	13.8	38.6	6.2	21.7	2.8	12.3

<sup>a</sup>Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American inmates.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates of any race.

### Drug use of men and women

By most indicators, men in Federal prisons were more likely than their female counterparts to have used drugs (table 14). However, about the same percentage of men and women in Federal prisons reported committing their current offense under the influence of drugs (16%) and with the aim to get money for drugs (10%).

In State prisons men were less likely than women to have used drugs regularly (62% versus 65%), to be under the influence of drugs while committing an offense (31% versus 36%), and to be trying to get money for drugs (17% versus 24%).

### Drug use of white, black, and Hispanic inmates

White and black Federal prisoners reported similar levels of drug use, and to most questions about drug practices, Hispanics indicated less use than either white or black inmates. About 13% of Hispanics and 19% of whites and blacks committed their current Federal offense under the influence of drugs. About 1 in 10 members of each racial or ethnic

group committed the crime to get money for drugs.

In State prisons 65% of Hispanics, 63% of whites, and 61% of blacks reported regular drug use. Hispanic and white inmates were more likely than black inmates to have been under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense (34% of Hispanics, 33% of whites, and 29% of blacks). Between 16% and 20% of each group committed the crime for drug money.

### Drug use of age groups

In both the Federal and State prison populations, inmates under age 45 were more likely than older inmates to be involved with drugs. Under age 45, 47% of Federal inmates and 66% of State inmates had regularly used drugs, compared to 23% of Federal inmates and 29% of State inmates 45 or older.

### Committing the offense

	Federal	State
<b>Under the influence</b>		
Under age 45	19%	33%
45 or older	9	13
<b>To get money for drugs</b>		
Under age 45	11%	18%
45 or older	5	8

### Drug use of citizens and noncitizens

Higher percentages of citizens than noncitizens used drugs in both Federal and State prisons. About 48% of citizens in Federal prisons and 16% of noncitizens used drugs regularly, as well as 63% of citizens in State prisons and 44% of noncitizens.

In Federal prisons 12% of citizens completed their offense to get money for drugs compared to 3% of noncitizens; in State prisons 17% of citizens said their motive was to get money for drugs, compared to 12% of noncitizens.

**Table 15. Drug use of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by current offense, 1991**

Current offense	Number of inmates Federal State		Percent of sentenced inmates							
			Ever used drugs regularly		Used drugs in the month before offense		Committed offense			
			Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Violent offenses	9,217	325,645	54.8%	56.8%	42.8%	45.5%	24.9%	28.3%	18.0%	11.6%
Homicide	1,198	87,057	46.5	53.0	31.7	43.2	18.0	27.7	2.7	5.3
Sexual assault	370	66,238	28.7	43.7	15.5	31.4	10.3	19.8	0	2.4
Robbery	5,963	103,491	61.9	89.0	50.6	58.6	29.3	37.5	26.6	26.7
Assault	811	56,758	44.3	56.0	31.7	42.2	19.8	23.1	2.3	5.6
Other violent	874	12,101	38.7	54.9	27.0	41.7	15.4	23.8	2.6	6.8
Property offenses	5,465	173,437	31.1%	67.8%	21.9%	54.5%	13.4%	35.3%	9.2%	26.5%
Burglary	394	86,966	68.1	72.0	62.2	59.4	52.6	39.8	32.0	29.7
Larceny/theft	484	33,916	52.2	68.1	32.8	53.8	23.6	37.0	13.1	30.8
Fraud	3,678	19,769	24.2	57.4	16.0	43.8	8.6	27.9	6.5	25.4
Other property	909	32,786	31.9	62.9	22.3	48.5	10.6	26.1	7.9	14.2
Drug offenses	30,888	148,880	41.3%	70.8%	31.7%	59.9%	16.2%	36.8%	9.1%	21.9%
Possession	7,249	52,781	33.2	68.9	27.6	60.9	13.5	37.8	7.0	16.1
Trafficking	22,912	92,897	44.2	71.8	33.4	59.2	17.3	36.0	9.8	25.2
Other/unspecified	727	3,202	28.7	71.5	21.1	65.7	11.5	43.4	6.8	20.4
Public-order offenses	6,640	47,746	38.7%	54.5%	27.0%	35.1%	12.4%	18.0%	5.5%	5.1%

**Drug use, by current offense**

Not only was drug use among Federal inmates less overall than among State inmates, the two inmate populations also differed in how drug use varied by current offense. A majority of inmates sentenced for a violent Federal offense reported regular drug use; property offenders (31%) and drug offenders (41%) reported relatively lower rates (table 15). Among inmates in State prisons, about 71% of the drug offenders, 68% of the property offenders, and 57% of the violent offenders used drugs at least once a week for a month or more.

About a fourth of robbers and almost a third of burglars in both Federal and State prison systems reported committing their offense for money for drugs. Among inmates sentenced for a drug offense, about 1 in 10 in Federal prisons and 2 in 10 in State prisons said they did their crime to get money for drugs.

**Drug treatment programs**

About 55% of Federal inmates and 62% of State inmates who used drugs in the month before their current offense had been in a drug treatment program at some time in their lives (table 16). About 3 in 10 Federal and State inmates

who used drugs in the month before their current offense had previously been in drug treatment. Of Federal and State inmates using drugs in the month before their offense, about 6% had been in three or more treatment programs before their admission.

**Table 16. Drug treatment of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by drug use, 1991**

Drug treatment program	Percent of inmates					
	All		Used drugs			
	Federal	State	Ever in the past		In the month before offense	
Participated						
Ever	27.6%	43.3%	46.0%	54.7%	55.0%	62.3%
After admission	21.3	32.9	35.4	41.6	42.9	47.6
Before admission	13.1	20.9	21.9	26.4	27.6	30.9
Number of times						
1	7.9	12.3	13.3	15.6	15.9	17.6
2	2.7	4.6	4.6	5.8	6.0	7.2
3-5	1.9	3.0	3.2	3.8	4.8	4.8
6 or more	.5	.8	.8	1.1	.9	1.3
Participated in the month before the current admission	4.4%	6.5%	7.3%	8.3%	8.8%	9.5%
Most recent participation was while incarcerated	23.0%	35.7%	38.3%	45.1%	46.1%	51.3%
Number of inmates	53,046	691,429	31,595	546,185	16,953	344,822

**Table 17. Drug treatment of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates since incarceration, by drug use, 1991**

Drug treatment program	Percent of sentenced inmates			
	All		Used drugs in the month before offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Inpatient	4.6%	7.3%	11.7%	11.4%
Group counseling	11.9	18.3	24.6	26.8
Individual counseling	1.7	3.1	3.8	5.0
Peer/self-help group	4.5	8.2	10.2	12.6
Education/awareness	3.8	4.7	7.8	7.1
Number of inmates	53,046	691,416	16,953	344,822

Note: These programs are mutually exclusive. The inpatient, group counseling, and individual counseling programs are conducted by trained professionals. Inmates could participate in more than one program.

**Table 18. Status of enrollment in drug treatment programs for sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Current status of drug treatment	Percent of sentenced inmates			
	All		Used drugs in month before offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	21.3%	32.9%	42.9%	47.6%
Completed since admission	11.0%	14.6%	23.8%	21.8%
Currently enrolled	7.2	13.5	15.3	19.9
Did not complete	2.8	4.2	6.2	6.8
Transferred to another program	.3	.7	.6	1.1
Dropped out	.8	1.1	1.9	1.9
Kicked out	.1	.4	.2	.7
No longer required to participate	.4	.4	.6	.6
Other	1.3	1.6	2.9	2.6
Number of inmates	53,046	691,416	16,953	344,822

Note: Detail does not add to totals because inmates could be in more than one category.

An estimated 46% of Federal inmates and 51% of State inmates who had used drugs in the month before their current offense had most recently participated in

a program while in a correctional facility; 43% of Federal inmates and 48% of State inmates had been in a program since their admission to prison.

*Type of drug treatment program*

Of inmates who used drugs in the month prior to their current offense, about 1 in 4 Federal and State inmates had been in group counseling and 1 in 10 had been in an inpatient program since their admission to prison (table 17). About 1 in 20 had seen a psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker individually.

*Status of drug treatment*

The drug treatment profiles of Federal and State inmates who had used drugs during the month before their last arrest were very similar. More than 20% in each population had completed a drug treatment program since admission to prison (table 18). About 15% of these drug users in Federal prisons and 20% in State prisons were in a treatment program at the time of the survey. About 6% in both Federal and State prisons had failed to complete a program.

*Characteristics of drug treatment participants*

Inmates who had used drugs in the month before their offense could be considered to have an active drug problem. Describing who among these inmates had received or were in treatment during their current incarceration helps to account for treatment coverage.

*Expected release:* In both Federal and State prisons, a closer release date increased the chances of drug treatment (table 19). Compared to persons due to

**Table 19. Drug treatment since admission of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who used drugs in the month before their current offense, by inmate characteristics, 1991**

Characteristic	Inmates who used drugs in the month before their current offense			
	Number		Percent treated*	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
<b>Criminal justice characteristics</b>				
Expected release				
1 year or less	4,211	135,129	40.2%	41.3%
More than 1 year	11,216	162,347	33.0	33.8
Offense				
Violent	3,887	145,057	36.4%	32.3%
Property	1,193	92,875	34.4	36.9
Drug	9,737	88,170	34.0	44.4
Public-order	1,784	16,388	33.5	35.1
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>				
Sex				
Male	15,800	324,394	33.4%	36.5%
Female	1,153	20,427	49.1	43.3
Race/Hispanic origin				
White	7,168	120,542	34.8%	36.7%
Black	5,636	155,133	36.3	37.3
Hispanic	3,639	61,097	31.8	35.2
Age				
24 or younger	1,579	79,430	19.3%	32.6%
25-29	3,505	92,412	35.0	38.4
30-34	3,862	83,195	36.1	38.5
35-44	6,209	74,931	36.7	38.7
45-54	1,499	12,953	26.5	30.3
55 or older	299	1,902	39.6	42.4
Citizenship				
Citizen	15,581	333,311	35.3%	37.4%
Noncitizen	1,372	11,511	25.8	22.6

\*Drug treatment includes treatment completed or under way during the current incarceration.



be released after another year, inmates who were to be released in a year or less were more likely to have completed or be in drug treatment.

**Offense:** Among State, but not Federal, inmates, drug offenders (44%) were more likely than persons sentenced for other types of offenses (34%) to have received drug treatment.

**Sex of inmates:** In Federal prisons 49% of the women, and in State prisons 43%, had participated in drug treatment during their current sentence. For men the percentages were 33% (Federal) and 36% (State).

**Citizenship:** In Federal prisons 35% of the citizens, and in State prisons 37%, had received drug treatment. For non-citizens the treatment rates were 26% (Federal) and 23% (State).

**Race and Hispanic origin:** White, black, and Hispanic inmates who used drugs in the month before their current Federal or State offense were about equally likely to have received drug treatment.

### Alcohol and drug use at the time of the offense

Federal inmates were half as likely as State inmates to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they committed their current offense (table 20). A fourth of Federal inmates and half of State inmates reported they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they committed their current offense. About 11% of Federal prisoners and 32% of State prisoners were under the influence of alcohol, and 17% of Federal inmates and 31% of State inmates were under the influence of drugs.

Consumption of alcohol is associated particularly with violent offenses. About 20% of violent offenders in Federal prisons and 38% in State prisons committed their crime under the influence of alcohol. About a quarter of both Federal and State inmates were under the influence of drugs.

For those in prison for homicide or assault, about 4 in 10 Federal and State inmates were using alcohol. Nearly 2 in

10 Federal inmates and 3 in 10 State inmates serving time for homicide were under the influence of drugs at the time of their crime.

### Federal inmates serving time for a drug offense — other than possession only — described their organizations and activities

- Among Federal offenders who had trafficked in, grown, or manufactured illegal drugs or who had managed drug money, a fourth said they were a member of a group or organization that engaged in illegal drug activities.
- About 11% were leaders or middle men in a drug organization. About 9% belonged to organizations with 11 or more members.
- About 5% imported or helped to import illegal drugs, and about 3% illegally manufactured drugs.

	Percent of Inmates sentenced for drug law violation
Member of group or organization engaged in illegal drug activities	24.6%
Role in drug group or organization	
Leader or organizer	4.4
Middle man	6.1
Lower-level person (like a carrier)	11.0
Other	3.0
Size of group or organization	
1-5	8.0%
6-10	4.8
11-25	5.3
26 or more	4.1
Activities of drug law offenders*	
Importing or helping others to import illegal drugs into the United States	4.7%
Illegally manufacturing or helping others to manufacture drugs	3.4
Distributing or helping to distribute drugs for others to sell	16.1
Selling or helping to sell drugs to others for their use	20.8
Nothing other than trafficking	70.0
Number of inmates	21,225

Note: These questions were asked only of Federal inmates in prison for drug offenses other than possession, and 17.8% of them did not respond.  
\*Inmates may have engaged in more than one activity.

**Table 20. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who committed their current offense under the influence of alcohol or drugs, by their current offense, 1991**

Current offense	Percent of inmates under the influence of alcohol or drugs during current offense							
	Federal prison inmates				State prison inmates			
	Total	Alcohol only	Drugs only	Both	Total	Alcohol only	Drugs only	Both
Total	23.5%	6.6%	12.5%	4.4%	49.1%	18.4%	16.8%	13.9%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>
Homicide	43.4	25.1	6.2	12.1	51.7	24.5	10.3	16.9
Sexual assault	34.3	24.0	7.8	2.5	41.1	21.6	5.2	14.3
Robbery	36.3	7.6	22.4	6.3	51.6	14.7	19.0	18.0
Assault	48.0	28.5	9.9	9.6	49.6	26.9	8.0	14.7
Other violent	31.2	16.0	8.3	6.9	50.3	26.7	9.3	14.3
<b>Property offenses</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>52.7%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>
Burglary	57.5	4.9	42.2	10.4	57.7	18.5	23.0	16.2
Larceny/theft	31.6	8.1	16.3	7.3	52.4	15.8	23.1	13.6
Fraud	12.1	3.2	6.8	2.1	39.2	11.6	20.3	7.3
Other property	19.3	8.8	6.6	3.8	47.7	22.0	12.9	12.7
<b>Drug offenses</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
Possession	18.5	5.1	10.1	3.2	45.1	7.8	26.8	10.5
Trafficking	21.8	4.5	13.5	3.8	43.1	7.4	25.6	10.1
Other/unspecified	14.0	2.6	9.4	2.1	48.8	6.5	21.5	15.8
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
<b>Other offenses</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>44.8%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>

**Amount of drugs involved in the current offense, by race/Hispanic origin of sentenced Federal inmates, 1991**

Race/Hispanic origin of inmates and type of current drug offense	Heroin			Crack			Cocaine			Marijuana		
	Number of Inmates	Median Grams	Mean Grams	Number of Inmates	Median Grams	Mean Grams	Number of Inmates	Median Grams	Mean Grams	Number of Inmates	Median Grams	Mean Grams
<b>All Inmates<sup>a</sup></b>												
Total <sup>b</sup>	3,127	240	2,510	2,980	40	940	16,528	1,580	77,690	6,015	100,000	3,028,330
Trafficking Possession	2,436	300	2,770	2,358	40	970	12,515	1,500	82,990	4,420	136,080	3,353,580
	665	170	1,420	535	50	680	3,702	2,000	63,910	1,506	45,360	2,100,560
<b>White non-Hispanic Inmates</b>												
Total <sup>b</sup>	407	600	6,900	106	20	470	4,525	1,000	97,640	2,825	100,000	4,008,790
Trafficking Possession	334	590	8,090	106	20	470	3,832	1,000	97,650	2,321	200,000	4,687,060
	70	2,000	1,480	...	...	...	588	1,970	112,060	454	30,840	581,990
<b>Black non-Hispanic Inmates</b>												
Total <sup>b</sup>	1,156	230	1,960	2,513	30	690	4,439	500	13,860	442	910	491,390
Trafficking Possession	947	400	2,050	1,986	30	650	3,356	500	17,760	263	660	781,040
	189	60	970	463	50	700	992	500	1,720	178	910	93,480
<b>Hispanic Inmates</b>												
Total <sup>b</sup>	1,314	170	1,090	348	250	2,980	7,297	3,000	106,960	2,675	129,730	2,452,230
Trafficking Possession	957	170	880	257	280	3,880	5,111	4,000	118,340	1,773	145,150	2,161,140
	357	150	1,660	...	...	...	2,071	3,000	81,490	864	79,000	3,131,860

... The sampled number of inmates was too small to estimate the number, the median, and the mean.

<sup>a</sup>Includes inmates of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates convicted of drug offenses other than trafficking and possession.

Federal inmates in prison for drugs had committed crimes that usually involved large amounts of illegal drugs and large amounts of money. The amount of drugs involved in a case can serve as one measure of the seriousness of the crimes. For example, at least half of the cocaine traffickers in Federal prisons in 1991 had been convicted in a case which had concerned 3 or more pounds of cocaine (500 grams = 17.5 ounces or a little more than a pound). The average trafficking case involved over 180 pounds.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration estimates for 1991, the ultimate value of 180 pounds of cocaine ranged from \$2.9 million to \$14.5 million. (Other estimates: 1 gram of heroin, \$40-\$450, and 1 pound of marijuana, \$400-\$3,000.)

In estimating the weight of drugs involved in the current offense, the offender may have been charged with all the drugs in the entire operation. An offender who served a sentence for laundering money from illegal drug sales, for example, could have been charged with the total amount sold. Three interviewed prisoners convicted in the same case could also have cited the total amount of drugs.

- Among offenders convicted of heroin offenses, half were involved with at least 240 grams of heroin. The average case concerned 2,510 grams. In Federal crack cases, half of the offenders were involved with at least 40 grams of crack (an average of 940 grams). Half of the cocaine offenders were sentenced for at least 1,580 grams of the drug (an average of 77,690 grams).

- White offenders were sentenced for larger amounts of heroin on average than black or Hispanic inmates. Half of the whites in heroin cases were involved with at least 600 grams of heroin, while half of the blacks were convicted for 230 grams and half of the Hispanics for 170 grams.

- In offenses involving crack, half of the Hispanic inmates were convicted in cases involving at least 250 grams; half of the black inmates were in cases having at least 30 grams; and half of the white inmates, at least 20 grams.

- In cocaine cases, Hispanic and white drug offenders were involved with larger amounts of cocaine than black inmates. Half of the Hispanics in cocaine cases had at least 3,000 grams of cocaine, half of the whites at least 1,000 grams, and half of the blacks at least 500 grams.

**Table 21. Ownership and use of guns by sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Type of firearm	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	Ever armed while committing a crime		Armed during current offense		Fired gun during current offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
<b>All inmates</b>						
Any firearm	16.3%	22.9%	11.8%	16.4%	2.0%	7.8%
Handgun	13.4	19.2	9.5	13.3	1.5	6.1
Rifle or shotgun	2.9	4.8	1.9	2.7	.4	1.6
Automatic/military type	1.3	1.6	.7	.5	.1	.2
<b>Violent inmates</b>						
Any firearm	46.3%	35.1%	38.0%	29.2%	10.0%	15.9%
Handgun	38.4	29.1	31.0	23.6	7.8	12.4
Rifle or shotgun	8.8	7.6	5.6	5.0	1.8	3.2
Automatic/military type	2.8	2.0	1.6	.7	.4	.3
<b>Other inmates</b>						
Any firearm	10.1%	12.5%	6.5%	5.3%	.4%	.8%
Handgun	8.2	10.6	5.1	4.5	.3	.6
Rifle or shotgun	1.7	2.5	1.1	.7	.1	.1
Automatic/military type	.9	1.2	.5	.3	.1	.1

Note: Data were missing for 1.2% of Federal prison inmates and 1.6% of State prison inmates.

### Firearms

Overall, Federal prison inmates carried a firearm less often than State inmates at the time of any past offense and during the crime for which they were currently serving a sentence. Sixteen percent of Federal inmates and 23% of State inmates indicated ever having a firearm during the commission of a crime (table 21). While committing the offense for which they were serving time, 12% of Federal inmates and 16% of State inmates were armed with a gun, and 2% of Federal offenders and 8% of State prisoners fired it.

#### Firearm use by violent and nonviolent offenders

Although a smaller percentage and number of Federal inmates than State inmates were serving a sentence for a violent offense, a higher percentage of the Federal inmates who were violent offenders were armed during their offense — 38% of Federal and 29% of State violent offenders (table 22). About 10% of Federal and 16% of State violent offenders fired a weapon during their current offense.

About 46% of Federal and 35% of State offenders in prison for a violent crime had carried firearms when committing some crime. In contrast, about 1 in 10 Federal and State inmates convicted of crimes other than violent offenses had ever been armed while committing a crime, and about 1 in 20 were armed when committing their current offense.

**Table 22. Gun presence and firing during current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by current offense, 1991**

Current offense	Number of inmates		Percent of sentenced inmates			
	Federal	State	Armed during current offense		Fired gun during current offense	
			Federal	State	Federal	State
<b>Total</b>	52,973	687,949	11.7%	16.3%	2.1%	7.9%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	9,072	320,587	37.7%	29.0%	10.1%	16.0%
Homicide	1,157	84,487	45.4	41.8	39.4	36.1
Sexual assault	370	65,659	8.2	3.2	0	.3
Robbery	5,872	102,232	41.3	34.5	4.4	5.5
Assault	809	56,255	25.4	31.3	14.5	25.2
Other violent	864	11,952	26.5	21.4	9.2	6.6
<b>Property offenses</b>	5,417	170,810	2.0%	3.2%	.2%	.7%
Burglary	385	85,855	16.2	3.8	2.6	.9
Other property	5,032	84,956	.9	2.6	0	.5
<b>Drug offenses</b>	30,760	147,692	3.7%	4.1%	.1%	.3%
Possession	7,233	52,340	4.2	4.5	0	.2
Trafficking	22,798	92,226	3.7	4.0	.1	.3
Other drug	729	3,125	0	2.1	0	0
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	6,558	46,437	22.2%	16.3%	2.2%	2.7%
Weapons	3,011	12,245	42.7	48.5	3.4	7.1
Other public-order	3,547	34,193	4.7	4.8	1.2	1.1

### Type of firearm

Violent offenders using a firearm most often had a handgun. About 31% of Federal and 24% of State violent offenders carried a handgun during their current offense, while about 5% carried a rifle or shotgun and about 1% a military-type weapon.

### Firearm use, by offense

Forty-five percent of inmates in Federal prison for homicide, and 42% of State inmates, carried a firearm at the time of the crime. Smaller percentages of the inmates said they fired the weapon. Among the nearly 6,000 Federal inmates serving time for robbery, 41% committed the crime with a gun, and 4% fired it. Among the 102,000 robbers in State prison, 35% had a gun, and 6% fired it. Among armed robbers 10% of the Federal inmates and about 16% of the State inmates fired their weapon. Of those convicted of assault, 25% of Federal prisoners and 31% of State prisoners carried a firearm, and 15% of Federal offenders and 25% of State offenders fired it.

Less than 5% of Federal and State offenders convicted of property and drug crimes committed their current offense with a firearm, and less than 1% fired their gun.

**Table 23. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who had ever stolen guns or who had used or traded stolen guns, 1991**

	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
<b>All inmates who —</b>		
Had ever stolen a gun	4.6%	10.4%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	2.5	6.1
Sold or traded a stolen gun	4.4	10.9
<b>Violent inmates who —</b>		
Had ever stolen a gun	14.3%	11.7%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	9.5	7.5
Sold or traded a stolen gun	11.9	11.3
<b>Other inmates who —</b>		
Had ever stolen a gun	2.5%	9.3%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	1.0	5.0
Sold or traded a stolen gun	2.9	10.7

Note: Data were missing for 0.8% of Federal prison inmates and 0.5% of State prison inmates.

### Stealing and selling firearms

About 5% of Federal inmates and 10% of State inmates had stolen a gun, and 4% of Federal inmates and 11% of State inmates had sold or traded a stolen gun (table 23). Among violent inmates about the same percentage of Federal and State offenders had stolen firearms (14% and 12%) and sold or traded stolen guns (12% and 11%).

### Family background

A higher percentage of Federal (58%) than State inmates (43%) lived with both their parents most of the time while growing up (table 24). About 28% of Federal prisoners, compared to 39% of State prisoners, lived with their mothers most of the time. About 4% of each group lived primarily with their fathers.

Black Federal or State inmates were less likely than Hispanics, who were less likely than whites, to have lived with both parents. In Federal prisons 41% of black inmates lived with both parents while growing up, compared to 62% of Hispanic inmates, and 69% of white prisoners. In State prisons 32% of black inmates had lived with both parents,

**Table 24. Persons with whom sentenced Federal and State inmates lived most of the time while growing up, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

Person lived with most of the time	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	All inmates		White		Black		Hispanic	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Both parents	58.3%	43.1%	69.0%	56.1%	40.9%	31.9%	62.4%	46.2%
Mother only	28.5	39.1	20.8	27.6	42.6	49.7	24.7	36.0
Father only	3.4	3.9	3.7	4.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	4.0
Grandparent	5.7	7.7	2.8	5.2	8.8	10.0	5.5	6.8
Other*	4.2	3.2	3.7	6.2	4.6	5.4	4.2	6.9
Number of inmates	53,549	700,916	20,576	248,514	15,925	319,234	15,028	116,579

\*Includes other relatives, friends, foster homes, and agencies.

**Table 25. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who lived in a foster home or institution while growing up, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

Inmate race/Hispanic origin	Sentenced prison inmates			
	Number		Percent who had lived in a foster home or childcare institution	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	53,538	700,820	7.8%	17.3%
White	20,573	248,516	9.8	23.1
Black	15,949	319,374	8.2	13.1
Other	2,031	16,533	14.5	34.1
Hispanic	14,986	116,398	3.6	14.2

compared to 46% of Hispanics and 56% of whites. Among black inmates 4 in 10 Federal offenders and 5 in 10 State offenders lived only with their mothers most of the time while growing up.

Federal inmates were half as likely as State inmates to have spent some time in a childcare institution or foster home while growing up (8% versus 17%) (table 25). In Federal prisons just under 1 in 10 white and black prisoners had been under public care as a child. A fourth of white State inmates and an eighth of black inmates had been in foster care. About 15% of Asians and

Native Americans in Federal prisons and 34% in State prisons had been cared for in a public institution while growing up.

### Parental drug and alcohol abuse

A lower percentage of Federal than State inmates reported that their parents or guardians abused alcohol or drugs while they were growing up (16% versus 27%) (table 26). Alcohol was abused by a parent of 16% of Federal prisoners and 26% of State prisoners. About 1% of Federal prisoners and 5% of State prisoners said their parents or guardians abused drugs.

**Table 26. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates with at least one parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

Parental abuse of alcohol or drugs	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	All		White non-Hispanic		Black non-Hispanic		Hispanic	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	16.2%	26.7%	20.7%	36.8%	16.2%	19.9%	9.0%	22.0%
Alcohol	14.6	22.2	18.8	30.5	14.8	16.7	8.2	17.5
Drugs	.3	.8	.2	.7	.4	.7	.3	1.3
Both	1.1	3.7	1.7	5.3	.9	2.4	.3	3.2
Number of inmates	53,551	698,029	20,585	247,764	15,946	318,013	14,998	115,857

**Table 27. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates with an immediate family member who was ever incarcerated, by race and Hispanic origin, 1991**

Family member	Percent of inmates reporting an immediate family member serving time							
	All*		White		Black		Hispanic	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
At least one family member	26.4%	37.5%	23.6%	33.2%	35.5%	41.7%	20.8%	34.6%
Father	3.8	6.4	4.3	8.5	4.0	5.0	2.5	5.3
Mother	.9	1.6	.8	1.9	.9	1.5	.7	1.1
Brother	22.0	31.2	18.7	25.9	31.0	36.0	17.2	29.0
Sister	2.3	4.5	1.4	3.6	3.7	5.1	2.2	4.3
Other	1.1	.5	1.4	.7	.8	.3	1.2	.7
Number of inmates	53,373	698,322	20,503	247,858	15,856	318,011	15,003	115,993

\*Includes inmates of other races, not shown separately.

Higher percentages of white Federal inmates (21%) said a parent or guardian abused alcohol or drugs than did black inmates (16%), and black Federal inmates reported higher use than Hispanic inmates (9%). In State prisons white inmates (37%) reported more parental substance abuse than black prisoners (20%) or Hispanic prisoners (22%).

#### Family members incarcerated

Lower percentages of Federal than State prisoners had immediate family members who had been incarcerated (26% versus 38%) (table 27). Among Federal prisoners 22% reported a brother had served a sentence in a jail or prison, and among State prisoners 31% said a brother had served time.

In both Federal and State prisons higher percentages of black inmates than white or Hispanic inmates reported family members ever incarcerated. Among Federal inmates 36% of black prisoners reported that family members had been incarcerated, compared to 24% of whites and 21% of Hispanics. In State prisons 42% of black inmates said family members had served time, compared to 33% of white inmates and 35% of Hispanic inmates.

#### Physical or sexual abuse

An estimated 6% of Federal prisoners and 14% of State prisoners said they had been physically or sexually abused at some time in their lives before entering prison (table 28).

The percentage of female inmates reporting abuse before prison exceeded by 3 to 4 times that of male inmates reporting abuse. About 22% of women in Federal prisons and 43% in State prisons reported being physically or sexually abused in the past, compared to 5% of men in Federal prisons and 12% in State prisons.

Women in Federal prisons were about half as likely as those in State prisons to

have experienced either physical or sexual abuse. Although men overall had experienced much less abuse than women, the male Federal inmates were about half as likely as those in State prisons to report past abuse.

Violent offenders were more likely than nonviolent offenders to have been abused before entering prison. About 44% of women in Federal prison for a violent offense said they had been physically or sexually abused, compared to 20% convicted of a property, drug, or public-order offense. Among female State inmates, about 56% of those serving a sentence for a violent offense had been physically battered or sexually abused, compared to 37% of women convicted of another type of offense.

**Table 28. Physical or sexual abuse sustained before entering Federal or State prison on current sentence, by sex, 1991**

Abuse	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	All		Male		Female	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
All inmates	6.2%	13.8%	4.8%	12.1%	22.2%	43.1%
Physical	3.7	6.9	3.5	6.8	6.2	9.1
Sexual	1.0	2.4	.6	2.0	6.3	9.4
Both	1.4	4.3	.7	3.2	9.4	24.4
Violent inmates	9.4%	17.3%	8.1%	15.8%	43.8%	55.7%
Physical	5.5	8.2	5.4	8.1	7.3	11.0
Sexual	1.2	3.2	.8	2.9	10.8	10.8
Both	2.6	5.8	1.7	4.7	25.2	33.6
Other inmates	5.5%	10.7%	4.1%	8.8%	20.3%	37.3%
Physical	3.3	5.8	3.1	5.6	6.1	8.1
Sexual	1.0	1.8	.5	1.3	5.9	8.7
Both	1.1	3.1	.5	1.8	8.1	20.2
Number of inmates	52,219	692,201	48,136	654,715	4,083	37,486

**Table 29. Children of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Characteristic of inmates	Percent of inmates					
	All		Male		Female	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Have children						
No	23.8%	35.3%	24.1%	36.1%	19.6%	21.9%
Yes	76.2	64.7	75.9	63.9	80.2	78.1
Any under age 18	61.6	56.7	61.6	56.1	61.4	66.6
Adult only	14.5	7.9	14.2	7.6	18.8	11.5
Number of children under age 18	70,261	818,022	65,014	762,690	5,252	55,332
Number of inmates	53,755	701,098	49,548	662,931	4,207	38,167
Number of children under age 18 <sup>a</sup>						
1	37.7%	42.9%	37.3%	43.3%	42.0%	37.4%
2	32.7	28.9	33.0	28.9	30.0	29.8
3	16.1	15.4	16.1	15.2	16.0	18.2
4	7.7	6.9	7.7	6.7	7.6	8.5
5 or more	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	4.4	6.0
Lived with child(ren) under 18 before entering prison <sup>a</sup>						
No	28.9%	45.9%	30.3%	47.1%	12.6%	28.0%
Yes	71.1	54.1	69.7	52.9	87.4	72.0
Where child(ren) under 18 live(s) now <sup>a, b</sup>						
Other parent	86.4%	85.5%	91.5%	89.6%	25.8%	25.5%
Grandparent	14.0	12.5	11.1	9.9	48.0	50.7
Other relative/friend	6.1	4.6	3.9	3.3	32.4	24.0
Agency/foster home	.9	2.6	.6	2.1	4.5	10.3

<sup>a</sup> Percentages are based on the 32,913 Federal inmates and 396,069 State inmates with children under age 18.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages add to more than 100% because inmates with more than one child may have provided multiple responses.

### Prisoners with children

An estimated 76% of Federal inmates and 65% of State inmates reported they had children (table 29). In both Federal and State prisons, about 8 in 10 women had children.

Federal inmates were parents of 70,300 children under the age of 18, and State inmates, of 818,000. In Federal prisons about 62% of both male and female prisoners had minor children, while in State prisons 56% of male inmates and 67% of female inmates had children.

Of those who had minor children, about 3 in 10 men and women in both Federal and State prisons had 3 or more children under the age of 18.

Federal prisoners were more likely than State prisoners to have lived with their children before their admission to prison. Fully 71% of Federal prisoners and 54% of State prisoners lived with their children before entering prison. About 87% of women in Federal prisons and 72% in State prisons lived with their children, compared to 70% of male prisoners in Federal facilities and 53% in State prisons.

Nine in ten men in either Federal or State prisons reported that their minor children were living with the children's mothers. A quarter of women in prison reported that their children were living with their fathers. About half of women in prison said that grandparents cared for their children. Another 5% of women in Federal prisons and 10% in State prisons said their children were in the custody of an agency or foster home.

## Women in Federal and State prisons, 1991

Characteristic	Percent of female offenders		Characteristic	Percent of female offenders	
	Federal	State		Federal	State
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>			<b>U.S. citizenship</b>	80.1%	97.5%
White non-Hispanic	29.0%	36.1%	<b>At least one family member incarcerated</b>	33.8%	46.7%
Black non-Hispanic	38.6	46.1	Father	4.2	7.9
Other	2.9	3.7	Mother	2.3	4.0
Hispanic	29.5	14.1	Brother	24.5	35.2
			Sister	6.4	9.9
<b>Age</b>			Other	3.9	3.2
24 or younger	11.3%	16.3%	<b>Parents/guardians abused alcohol or drugs</b>	19.5%	33.6%
25-34	40.2	50.3	Alcohol	16.1	26.3
35-44	31.3	25.6	Drugs	.7	1.6
45-54	12.2	6.1	Both	2.6	5.7
55 or older	5.0	1.8	<b>Lived with most of the time while growing up</b>		
<b>Marital status</b>			Both parents	52.6%	42.0%
Married	28.8%	17.4%	Mother only	30.8	38.7
Widowed	5.7	6.0	Father only	2.4	3.4
Divorced	22.5	19.1	Grandparent	9.0	9.4
Separated	10.6	12.5	Other	5.3	6.6
Never married	32.3	45.0	<b>Been in individual/group counselling since admission</b>	20.2%	23.4%
<b>Education</b>			<b>in individual/group counselling at the time of the survey</b>	9.9%	13.5%
8th grade or less	12.0%	12.0%	<b>Gynecological examination after admission</b>	92.5%	91.0%
Some high school	15.3	29.6	Pregnant at admission	4.9	6.1
High school diploma	47.0	43.0			
Some college	17.7	12.8			
College degree or more	8.1	2.7			
<b>Pre-arrest employment</b>			<b>Number of female inmates</b>	4,222	39,277
Employed	63.3%	46.5%			
Full time	53.1	35.8			
Part time	10.2	10.9			
Not employed	36.7	53.5			
Looking for work	10.9	19.2			
Not looking	25.8	34.2			

- 71% of women in Federal prisons and 64% in State prisons were racial or ethnic minority group members. About 30% in Federal prisons and 14% in State prisons were Hispanic.
- About 48% of women in Federal prisons and 34% in State prisons were 35 or older.
- An estimated 29% of women in Federal prisons compared to 17% in State prisons were married.
- Almost 26% of women in Federal prisons and 16% in State facilities had some education at the college level.
- About 20% in Federal prisons and 2% in State institutions were noncitizens.
- Just over 63% of women in Federal facilities, compared to 47% in State institutions, were employed before their offense. A quarter of women in Federal prisons and a third in State prisons were unemployed and not looking for work.

- A smaller percentage of women in Federal prisons (34%) than in State facilities (47%) had at least one family member who had been incarcerated. About 24% of women in Federal prisons and 35% in State facilities had brothers who had served time.
- Fewer female Federal prisoners than State prisoners had parents or guardians who abused drugs or alcohol (20% versus 34%).
- About 5 in 10 women in Federal institutions and 4 in 10 in State prisons lived with both parents most of the time while growing up.
- About 2 in 10 women in both Federal and State prisons had been in individual or group counseling since their admission to prison. About 1 in 10 were involved in counseling at the time of the survey.
- Almost all women in Federal and State prisons had had a gynecological examination since their admission.

## Highlighting women in State and Federal prisons: An index to tables

Information about female inmates is presented throughout this report.

**Criminal history** Women in Federal facilities were twice as likely as women in State institutions to be serving their first sentence to probation or incarceration (62% versus 28%) (table 10).

**Drug offenses** Women in Federal prison were twice as likely as those in State facilities to be serving a sentence for a drug offense (66% versus 33%) (tables 3 and 14).

- Women in Federal prisons were half as likely as those in State prisons to be under the influence of drugs when they committed their current offense (16% versus 36%).

- About 1 in 10 women in Federal prisons and over 2 in 10 in State prisons committed their offense to get money for drugs.

- 49% of women in Federal prisons and 43% in State prisons who had used drugs in the month before their offense had completed or were enrolled in drug treatment (table 19).

**Abuse** Women in Federal facilities were less likely than those in State institutions to have been physically or sexually abused (22% versus 43%) (table 28).

**Children** About 8 in 10 women in both Federal and State facilities were mothers. About 61% of women in Federal prisons and 67% in State prisons had children under the age of 18 (table 29).

**Prison programs** About 59% of women in Federal institutions and 45% in State prisons had been enrolled in educational programs since admission. About 3 in 10 in both types of facilities had received vocational training (table 30).

**AIDS** Women in Federal prisons were less likely than those in State prisons to be infected with the virus that causes AIDS (1.7% versus 3.4%) (tables 35 and 36).

**Table 30. Training, programs, activities, and work assignment of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by sex, 1991**

	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	All		Male		Female	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Any training, programs, activities, or work assignment	97.7%	91.1%	97.7%	91.0%	98.7%	93.0%
<b>Training</b>						
Academic	58.1%	45.8%	58.0%	45.9%	59.1%	44.9%
Basic <9th grade	10.4	5.3	10.7	5.3	7.0	5.1
High school	27.3	27.4	26.6	27.5	35.3	25.6
College	18.9	14.0	19.0	14.0	17.2	13.7
Other	8.4	2.6	8.6	2.5	6.0	4.0
Vocational	29.4	31.4	29.5	31.4	28.8	31.5
<b>Programs/activities</b>						
Religious	38.5%	32.0%	37.2%	31.2%	53.9%	44.5%
Self-improvement	19.8	20.2	17.9	19.5	41.7	32.4
Alcohol/drug support group	9.2	17.1	8.6	17.1	15.5	22.7
Counseling	11.6	17.1	10.8	16.7	20.2	23.4
Pre-release	7.0	8.1	6.4	8.0	13.2	8.9
Arts and crafts	13.1	7.4	11.8	7.1	28.9	12.6
Outside community	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.7	5.8	2.8
Ethnic or racial	6.1	2.5	5.9	2.5	7.8	2.1
<b>Work assignment</b>						
Any	91.2%	70.0%	91.0%	69.7%	93.4%	74.8%
General janitorial	11.7	13.4	11.6	13.3	13.7	16.3
Food preparation	13.1	12.6	13.0	12.5	13.8	16.0
Maintenance, repair, or construction	14.8	8.9	14.7	9.1	12.4	4.9
Grounds and road maintenance	6.4	8.2	6.3	8.2	7.2	8.4
Library, barbershop, office, or other services	14.9	8.0	14.9	7.8	14.3	11.7
Goods production	2.9	4.3	2.8	4.3	3.7	5.2
Farming, forestry, or ranching	.4	3.9	.4	4.0	.4	2.6
Laundry	2.3	3.0	2.4	3.0	1.8	4.0
Hospital or medical	1.7	.5	1.7	.5	1.8	.9
Other*	24.8	12.0	24.7	11.9	26.5	13.8
Number of inmates	53,764	701,775	49,548	663,619	4,216	36,156

\*For Federal prisons *Other* is only UNICOR, the Federal prison Industries.

### Activities in prison

Almost all prison inmates — 98% of Federal inmates and 91% of State inmates — reported they were involved in educational programs, group activities, or work while in prison (table 30).

About 58% of Federal inmates and 46% of State inmates had studied in an academic program since their admission to prison. In both Federal and State facilities, about 3 in 10 had training in a vocational program.

About 39% of Federal inmates and 32% of State inmates had joined a religious group since their admission, by far the most popular of the available programs or activities. About 20% of both Federal and State prisoners participated in such personal improvement groups as parenting, Toastmasters, job searching, and household finance.

About 6% of Federal prisoners and 2% of State prisoners joined ethnic or racial organizations such as the NAACP, African American/Black Culture Group, Hispanic Committee, Aztlan, or Lakota.

Federal prisons, compared to State facilities, employ a larger percentage of their inmates. Nine in ten Federal prisoners and 7 in 10 State prisoners had worked after admission. The most frequent Federal jobs included UNICOR (prison industries) (25%); services such as library, stockroom, store, office help, recreation, barber or beauty shop (15%); maintenance or repair/construction (15%); food preparation (13%); and general janitorial duties (cleaning) (12%). In State prisons cleaning (13%) and food preparation (13%) were the most common inmate duties.



**Table 31. Hours worked by sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Hours worked per week	Percent of sentenced inmates			
	All		With work assignments	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Less than 7 hours	3.3%	6.2%	3.7%	8.9%
7-19	6.1	8.5	6.6	12.3
20-34	15.1	18.9	16.6	27.2
35-44	61.2	27.5	67.1	39.5
45 or more	5.5	8.5	6.0	12.2
Not assigned a job	8.9	30.4		
Number of inmates	53,382	692,498	48,645	481,943

**Table 33. Nonmonetary compensation for working sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Nonmonetary compensation	Percent of inmates with work assignments	
	Federal	State
Any	21.1%	43.5%
Good time	18.9	39.6
Cigarettes, food, or other goods	.2	.7
Extra privileges	.5	2.9
Other	2.4	2.2
Number of inmates	49,084	491,794

Of those who had jobs, three-quarters of Federal inmates and half of State inmates worked 35 hours or more at their assignment (table 31).

For working inmates 98% of Federal inmates and 88% of State inmates received money, nonmonetary compensation, or both (not shown in a table). In Federal prisons 97% of inmates with work assignments received monetary compensation, and in State prisons, 67% (table 32). The average wage in Federal prisons was 46 cents per hour, and in State prisons, 56 cents.

About 21% of Federal inmates and 44% of State inmates who worked received nonmonetary compensation that includes good time, cigarettes, food, and extra privileges (table 33). The most common form of such exchange was good time, which compensated about 19% of working Federal inmates and 40% of working State inmates.

**Furloughs**

About 5% of both Federal and State inmates had been given furloughs since their admission to prison. Of those sentenced for a violent offense, 2% in Federal prison and 4% in State prison reported leaving on a furlough.

	Percent of inmates receiving furloughs	
	Federal	State
	All inmates	4.9%
Violent	2.1	4.4
Nonviolent	5.4	6.3

Of those prisoners with a furlough, 4% of Federal offenders and 32% of State offenders were given six or more furloughs (table 34). Among inmates who had received furloughs, almost three-quarters of the Federal inmates and over half the State inmates visited family or friends. About 17% of inmates with furloughs from either Federal or State prisons attended a funeral.

**Table 34. Number of times furloughed and the reasons, by sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who had been furloughed, 1991**

	Percent of inmates with furloughs	
	Federal	State
Number of times furloughed*		
1	55.3%	41.0%
2	20.5	12.1
3-5	20.4	14.6
6-10	2.2	13.2
11 or more	1.6	19.0
Reasons for furloughs		
To visit family or friends	71.6%	59.1%
To work/find work	7.8	22.2
To attend classes/school	.9	1.3
To attend funeral	17.6	17.3
Other	19.5	14.9
Number of inmates	2,607	38,112

\*Ninety-five percent of both Federal and State inmates had never received a furlough.

**Table 32. Compensation received by sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by type of work assignment, 1991**

Work assignment	Sentenced prison inmates with work assignments							
	Percent							
	Number		Money		Nonmonetary compensation		Average pay per hour	
Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	
All inmates with work assignments	49,085	491,327	97.3%	87.2%	21.1%	43.6%	\$0.46	\$0.56
General janitorial	6,304	94,167	93.7	63.3	17.5	40.1	0.24	0.48
Food preparation	7,017	88,762	97.8	65.7	16.7	44.6	0.23	0.43
Maintenance, repair, or construction	7,823	62,120	98.2	69.5	18.0	43.4	0.31	0.94
Grounds and road maintenance	3,449	57,558	95.2	60.3	14.2	41.9	0.42	0.42
Library, barbershop, office, or other services	7,995	56,125	96.5	73.2	20.2	43.0	0.38	0.39
Goods production	1,559	30,391	98.1	77.1	37.3	49.2	0.76	0.84
Farming, forestry, or ranching	211	27,385	100.0	51.2	15.1	49.1	0.17	0.31
Laundry	1,244	21,287	97.9	58.1	17.4	53.7	0.16	0.43
Hospital or medical	902	3,800	98.4	65.3	26.7	34.1	0.18	0.44
Other*	13,346	83,990	99.4	77.3	27.4	41.7	0.85	0.67

\*For Federal prisons *Other* is only UNICOR, the Federal prison Industries.

**Table 35. Testing for the human immunodeficiency virus and test results, by characteristics of sentenced State and Federal inmates, 1991**

Characteristic	Percent of inmates who were ever tested		Tested inmates who reported results			
			Federal		State	
			Number	Percent who were HIV positive	Number	Percent who were HIV positive
Total	58.9%	51.2%	31,820	.8%	360,402	2.2%
Sex						
Male	57.7%	50.3%	28,748	.7%	334,829	2.1%
Female	72.8	66.8	3,072	1.7	25,574	3.4
Race/Hispanic origin						
White non-Hispanic	61.9%	52.6%	12,841	.5%	131,317	1.1%
Black non-Hispanic	60.4	52.0	9,750	1.0	166,867	2.6
Other	49.9	50.5	1,013	.3	8,425	.9
Hispanic	54.4	46.0	8,217	1.1	53,794	3.8
Age						
24 or younger	56.5%	50.2%	2,832	.3%	77,442	.8%
25-34	59.3	53.0	11,528	.7	170,609	2.1
35-44	60.6	51.0	10,770	.9	81,611	3.8
45-54	59.8	47.1	4,860	1.4	21,636	1.9
55 or older	49.8	41.2	1,829	.5	9,105	.7
Current offense						
Violent	58.3%	47.9%	5,397	1.1%	156,145	1.4%
Property	71.0	56.8	3,887	1.4	98,575	2.7
Drug	57.2	52.3	17,780	.6	78,087	3.2
Public-order	57.3	51.9	3,822	.6	24,832	1.9

**HIV infection**

About 59% of Federal inmates and 51% of State inmates reported the results of a test for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS (table 35). Of tested persons the Federal inmates (.8%) were less than half as likely as State inmates (2.2%) to be HIV positive.

• Federal and State, women had higher positive rates than men —

- In Federal facilities
  - 1.7% for women
  - .7 for men
- In State facilities
  - 3.4% for women
  - 2.1 for men.

• Blacks and Hispanics had higher rates than whites and those in other racial groups —

- In Federal facilities
  - 1.1% for Hispanics
  - 1.0 for blacks
  - .5 for whites
  - .3 for Native Americans or Asians
- In State facilities
  - 3.8% for Hispanics
  - 2.6 for blacks
  - 1.1 for whites
  - .9 for Native Americans or Asians.

• Inmates ages 25-54 had higher reported seropositive rates than both younger and older inmates —

- In Federal facilities
  - .7% - 1.4% for ages 25-54
  - .3% - .5% for younger or older
- In State facilities
  - 1.9% - 3.8% for ages 25-54
  - .7% - .8% for younger or older.

• In Federal prisons property (1.4%) and violent (1.1%) offenders had higher positive rates than drug (0.6%) and public-order (0.6%) offenders. In State prisons, drug (3.2%) and property (2.7%) offenders had higher rates than public-order (1.9%) and violent (1.4%) offenders.

The greater their involvement with drugs, the more likely inmates were to be HIV positive. About 0.3% of tested Federal inmates and 0.8% of tested State inmates who had never used drugs were HIV positive (table 36). An estimated 1.4% of Federal inmates and 2.8% of State inmates who had used drugs in the month before their offense were seropositive. Among those who had shared injection syringes for illegal drugs, 5.5% of Federal inmates and 7.1% of State inmates were positive.

Among prisoners who had never used drugs, men and women in Federal prison had roughly the same rate of HIV infection (0.3% and 0.6%), as had men and women in State facilities (0.8% and 0.9%).

However, among prisoners who had used drugs and had injected drugs, women had higher HIV rates than men in both Federal and State prisons.

- About 3.8% of women in Federal prisons and 4.6% in State prisons who used drugs in the month before their current offense were HIV positive, compared to 1.2% of men in Federal prisons and 2.7% in State prisons.

- Among inmates who had injected drugs, 6.7% of women in Federal prisons and 6.9% in State prisons were HIV positive, compared to 2.8% of men in Federal prisons and 4.7% in State prisons.

Among Federal and State prisoners who injected drugs, whites had lower HIV-positive rates than minorities.

- Whites in Federal prisons who used drugs in the month before the offense had infection rates of 0.6%, compared to 1.5% for blacks and 3% for Hispanics; whites who used needles to inject drugs had 1% HIV rates, compared to 5.4% for blacks and 7.3% for Hispanics.

- In State prisons 1.5% of whites who used drugs in the month before the offense were HIV positive, compared to 3.2% for blacks and 5.3% for Hispanics; 2.5% of whites who used needles to inject drugs were infected with HIV, compared to 7.1% for blacks and 8.3% for Hispanics.

**Table 36. Testing positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, by drug and needle use and by sex, race/Hispanic origin, age, and current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991**

Inmate characteristic	Percent of sentenced inmates who tested positive to HIV and who									
	Never used drugs		Ever used drugs		Used drugs in the month before offense		Used a needle to inject drugs		Shared a needle to inject drugs	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
All inmates	.3%	.8%	1.1%	2.5%	1.4%	2.8%	3.2%	4.9%	5.5%	7.1%
Sex										
Male	.3%	.8%	1.0%	2.4%	1.2%	2.7%	2.8%	4.7%	4.9%	6.8%
Female	.6	.9	2.6	3.9	3.8	4.6	6.7	6.9	10.0	10.2
Race/Hispanic origin										
White non-Hispanic	.8%	.3%	.4%	1.3%	.6%	1.5%	1.0%	2.5%	2.4%	3.7%
Black non-Hispanic	.1	1.2	1.5	2.9	1.5	3.2	5.4	7.1	7.4	11.2
Hispanic	.1	.8	2.1	4.4	3.0	5.3	7.3	8.3	11.6	11.4
Age										
24 or younger	0	0	.6%	1.0%	0	.8%	0	.8%	0	2.0%
25-34	0	1.3	1.0	2.2	1.2	2.6	3.1	4.5	5.1	5.9
35-44	.4	.9	1.1	4.4	1.2	5.3	2.4	7.1	4.1	10.4
45-54	.9	.8	1.9	2.5	4.5	2.7	6.4	4.5	9.9	5.5
55 or older	0	.2	2.5	2.1	0	0	8.6	0	15.3	0
Current offense										
Violent	.9%	.9%	1.1%	1.5%	1.8%	1.4%	2.6%	2.7%	4.9%	3.8%
Property	.4	.9	2.6	3.0	3.9	3.5	6.9	5.2	12.3	5.7
Drug	.1	.2	1.0	3.6	.9	4.6	3.1	8.6	4.2	15.5
Public-order	.6	1.0	.5	2.1	1.1	2.4	2.0	3.9	6.2	9.2

**Table 37. Type of usual housing unit and type of population for sentenced Federal prison inmates, 1991**

Type of usual housing	Total	Percent of sentenced Federal inmates			
		General population	Admission/medical	Segregation/protective custody	Other
Total	100.0%	93.6%	3.9%	.7%	1.8%
An open dorm	7.1	6.6	.4	*	.1
A dorm with cubicles	28.8	27.9	.4	*	.5
One-story unit with cells or rooms	6.5	5.7	.5	.1	.3
Multistory unit with cells or rooms	56.1	52.1	2.6	.5	.9
Area not originally intended for housing	1.1	1.0	*	0	*
Other	.4	.3	*	*	*

\*Less than 0.1%.

**Table 38. Hours spent confined to quarters and in exercise or other recreation and the number sharing living quarters, for sentenced Federal prison inmates, 1991**

	Median	Mean
Hours spent confined to cell, cubicle, room	9 hours	9 hours
Hours spent doing physical exercise	2 hours	2 hours
Hours spent in other kinds of recreation	1 hour	1 hour
Number of people sharing cell, cubicle, room, including inmate	2	5

**Conditions of confinement in Federal prisons**

Most Federal prisoners (94%) lived with the general population; less than 1% lived in segregation or protective custody (table 37). Of those in the general population, about half lived in multi-story units with cells or rooms. Another quarter lived in dorms with cubicles.

On average, Federal prisoners reported spending 9 hours a day in their quarters (table 38). Half said they shared with one other person. They also said they spent an average of 2 hours a day exercising and another hour in other kinds of recreation.

**Table 39. Health conditions of sentenced Federal prison inmates, by sex and race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

	Percent of sentenced Federal inmates					
	Total	Sex		Race/Hispanic origin		
		Male	Female	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Hispanic
Health conditions or injuries needing medical treatment <sup>b</sup>	55.6%	55.2%	60.8%	60.9%	53.0%	52.7%
Accidental injury	18.7	18.8	17.6	19.6	20.6	16.0
Intentional injury	1.1	1.1	.4	1.2	1.0	1.0
Preexisting medical condition	24.3	23.9	29.0	28.5	22.5	21.6
New medical condition	22.0	21.7	25.7	24.0	19.4	22.9
Saw a health care person for condition	52.3	51.8	57.6	58.3	49.5	48.5

<sup>a</sup>Non-Hispanic only.

<sup>b</sup>Inmates may have had more than one medical condition.

Since their admission to prison, 56% of Federal inmates reported having health conditions or injuries that needed medical treatment, primarily pre-existing (24%) or new (22%) medical conditions like colds or the flu (table 39). About 1% of inmates reported injuries from assaults or fights while in prison.

Whites were more likely than minority inmates to report having health conditions or injuries needing medical care—primarily because of pre-existing medical conditions. About 61% of white inmates, 53% of black inmates, and 53% of Hispanic inmates required health care in prison, with 29% of whites, 23% of blacks, and 22% of Hispanics having a pre-existing medical condition.

Half of inmates with pre-existing medical conditions said they were seen at least 4 times by health professionals for their problems (table 40). Half of those with new conditions saw medical personnel at least 3 times, and half injured in assaults or fights saw someone for injuries at least once.

**Table 40. Number of times seen by health professional since admission of sentenced Federal prison inmates, 1991**

Cause of injury	Inmate	Number of times seen since admission	
		Median	Mean
Accident	9,956	2	6
Assault or fight	853	1	5
Medical condition			
Pre-existing	11,872	4	15
New	11,407	3	7

**Table 41. Opinions of Federal prison inmates toward conditions of confinement, by sex and race/Hispanic origin, 1991**

Opinion	Percent of sentenced Federal inmates					
	All	Sex		Race/Hispanic origin		
		Male	Female	White*	Black*	Hispanic
<b>Would you say your (cell/cubicle/room) is</b>						
Not at all crowded	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	22.8%	31.8%	38.0%
Somewhat crowded	33.5	33.8	29.7	38.4	33.7	27.0
Very crowded	36.5	36.2	40.3	38.8	34.5	35.1
<b>Would you say the whole prison is</b>						
Not at all crowded	10.7%	11.0%	7.7%	8.6%	9.6%	15.5%
Somewhat crowded	22.7	23.1	17.6	25.4	21.7	20.4
Very crowded	66.6	65.9	74.7	66.0	68.7	64.2
<b>How likely is it that an inmate would be assaulted in this institution</b>						
Not at all likely	32.0%	32.4%	27.1%	29.3%	24.0%	45.5%
Somewhat likely	29.2	29.5	26.4	31.5	29.9	25.0
Likely	14.4	14.2	16.1	16.5	14.1	11.6
Very likely	24.4	23.9	30.4	22.7	32.1	17.9
<b>How often do you think inmates have had weapons on them or in their quarters</b>						
Never	41.9%	41.4%	46.7%	35.4%	32.8%	60.1%
Rarely	23.1	23.3	20.4	28.0	23.5	16.6
Sometimes	18.9	18.9	18.9	20.0	20.9	14.9
Frequently	16.1	16.3	14.0	16.6	22.8	8.5
<b>How often do you have contact with other inmates you know or suspect are infected with the AIDS virus</b>						
Never	57.8%	59.7%	36.9%	49.5%	55.4%	70.8%
Rarely	14.0	14.1	13.0	16.5	13.9	10.8
Sometimes	12.6	12.2	17.3	15.2	12.7	9.1
Frequently	15.6	14.0	32.8	18.7	17.9	9.3
<b>Would you say the number of inmates who are infected with the AIDS virus bothers you</b>						
Not at all	31.8%	31.3%	37.7%	23.7%	32.0%	43.5%
Very little	10.6	10.4	13.0	10.6	11.0	10.5
Some	18.0	17.8	19.4	22.1	15.7	14.8
A great deal	39.6	40.4	29.8	43.5	41.3	31.2

\*Non-Hispanic only.

### Federal Inmates' opinions of confinement conditions

When asked their opinion, over a third of Federal inmates said their cell, cubicle, or room was very crowded, and two-thirds said the whole prison was very crowded (table 41).

A quarter thought it very likely that an inmate would be assaulted in the institution, and a third thought it not at all likely.

About 4 in 10 said they thought inmates never had weapons on themselves or in their quarters, and between 1 and 2 in 10 said they thought inmates frequently had weapons.

About 58% said they never had contact with inmates they suspected of being infected with AIDS; 16% said they had frequent contact. About 3 in 10 said the number of prisoners with AIDS did not bother them at all, and 4 in 10 said they were bothered a great deal.

The 1991 Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities (SIFCF) was conducted for the Bureau of Prisons and the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities (SISCF) for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

During June, July, and August 1991, inmates in both types of facilities were confidentially interviewed about their current offense and sentence, criminal history, family and personal background, gun possession and use, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, and educational programs and other services provided while in prison. This was the first time the Bureau of Prisons, using a questionnaire developed by BJS, interviewed inmates in their population at the same time that the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities was conducted. Similar prior surveys of State prison inmates were conducted in 1974, 1979, and 1986.

### Sample design

The sample for the SIFCF was selected from a universe of 95 Federal prisons operating in March 1991. The sample for the SISCF was taken from a universe of 1,239 State prisons either enumerated in the 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities or opened between completion of the census and February 29, 1991. The sample design for both surveys was a stratified two-stage selection: selecting prisons and then selecting inmates in those prisons.

In the first stage correctional facilities were separated into two sampling frames: one for prisons with male inmates and one for prisons with female inmates. All Federal prisons held members of only one sex. State prisons holding both sexes were included on both lists.

For the sample of Federal prisons the 26 largest prisons holding men and the 6 largest prisons holding women were selected with certainty. The remaining 55 male facilities were stratified into 19 roughly equal size strata based mainly on security level (high, medium, low, minimum, and administrative). The eight female facilities were stratified into two strata by security level. One facility was selected from each of the 21 strata, with probability proportionate to size.

In the sampling of State facilities the 51 male prisons with 1,950 or more inmates and the 30 female prisons with 380 or more inmates were selected with certainty. The remaining facilities were stratified into eight strata defined by census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) and facility type (confinement and community-based). The remaining prisons in the male frame were grouped into equal size strata of about 2,600 men and then stratified by security level (maximum, medium, minimum, and unclassified). The remaining prisons in the female frame were also grouped into strata of about 574 women. A systematic sample of prisons was then selected within strata on each frame with probabilities proportionate to the size of each prison.

Overall, 45 male facilities and 8 female facilities were selected for the Federal survey, and all participated. For the State survey 273 prisons were selected, 226 male facilities and 51 female facilities, with 4 of the facilities holding both men and women. Of these facilities, one refused to allow interviewing, one closed before the survey could be conducted, and one facility that had housed both men and women moved the women before the survey. Interviews were conducted in all other State facilities.

In the second stage inmates were selected for interviewing. For the Federal facilities a systematic sample of inmates to be interviewed was selected for each facility from the Bureau of Prisons' central list using a random start and a total number of interviews based on the size of the facility and the sex of the inmates held.

For State facilities, interviewers selected the sample systematically in the same manner at the facility site. As a result, about 1 in every 9 men and 1 in every 2 women were selected for the Federal survey and 1 in every 52 men and 1 in every 11 women in the State survey. A total of 6,572 interviews were completed for the Federal survey and 13,986 for the State survey, for overall response rates of 93.4% in the Federal survey and 93.7% in the State survey.

Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These factors were adjusted for variable rates of non-response across strata and inmates' characteristics. The sample from the Federal facilities was weighted to the total known sentenced population at midyear 1991. The sample for the State survey was adjusted to midyear custody counts projected from data obtained in the National Prisoner Statistics series (NPS-1).

### Accuracy of the estimates

The accuracy of the estimates presented in this report depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is the variation that may occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Nonsampling error can be attributed to many sources, such as nonresponses, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, recall difficulties, and processing errors. In any survey the full extent of the nonsampling error is never known. The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population.

Estimates of the standard errors have been calculated for the 1991 surveys. (See appendix tables). For example, the 95-percent confidence interval around the percentage of inmates who were in State prison for a drug offense is approximately 21.4% plus or minus 1.96 times 0.5% (or 20.4% to 22.4%).

These standard errors may also be used to test the significance of the difference between two sample statistics by pooling the standard errors of the two sample estimates. For example, the standard error of the difference between black and white State prison inmates for the percentage in prison for drug offenses would be 1.1% (or the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors for each group). The 95-percent confidence interval around the difference would be 1.96 times 1.1% (or 2.2%). Since the difference of 12.9% (24.9% minus 12%) is greater than 2.2%, the difference would be considered statistically significant.

The same procedure can be used to test the significance of the difference between estimates from the two surveys. For example, the standard error of the difference between Federal and State prison inmates for the percentage in prison for drug offenses would be 1%. The 95-percent confidence interval around the difference would be 1.96 times 1% (or 2%). Since the difference of 36.6% (57.9% minus 21.3%) is greater than 2%, the difference would be considered statistically significant.

All comparisons discussed in this report were statistically significant at the 95-percent confidence level. To test the significance of comparisons not mentioned in this report, use percentages in text or tables and numbers of inmates. The standard errors reported in the two appendix tables should be used only for tests on all inmates. Comparisons of male and female inmates require different standard errors.

**Appendix table 1. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, Federal prison inmates, 1991**

Base of the estimate	Estimated percentages					
	98 or 2	95 or 5	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	50
50	7.0	10.9	14.9	19.9	22.8	24.9
400	2.5	3.8	5.3	7.0	8.1	8.8
800	1.7	2.7	3.7	5.0	5.7	6.2
2,000	1.1	1.7	2.4	3.1	3.6	3.9
4,000	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.8
5,000	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.8	2.0
15,000	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
30,000	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0
45,000	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8
54,006	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8

**Appendix table 2. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, State prison inmates, 1991**

Base of the estimate	Estimated percentages					
	98 or 2	95 or 5	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	50
1,000	4.9	7.7	10.6	14.1	16.2	17.7
5,000	2.2	3.4	4.7	6.3	7.2	7.9
10,000	1.6	2.4	3.4	4.5	5.1	5.6
25,000	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.5
50,000	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.5
100,000	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8
200,000	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2
400,000	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9
600,000	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7
711,643	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7

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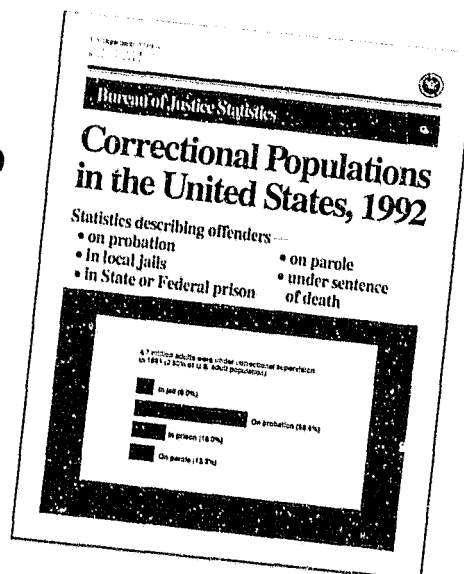
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