



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

May 2007, NCJ 217199

Veterans in State and Federal Prison, 2004

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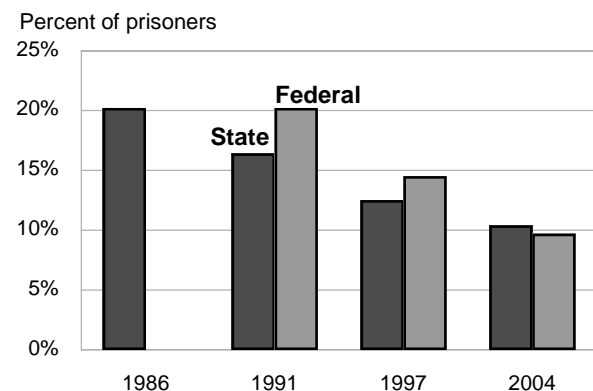
The percentage of veterans among State and Federal prisoners has steadily declined over the past three decades, according to national surveys of prison inmates conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). In 2004, 10% of State prisoners reported prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces, down from 12% in 1997 and 20% in 1986. Since BJS began surveying Federal prisoners in 1991, they have shown the same decline over a shorter period. Overall, an estimated 140,000 veterans were held in the Nation's prisons in 2004, down from 153,100 in 2000.

The majority of veterans in State (54%) and Federal (64%) prison served during a wartime period, but a much lower percentage reported seeing combat duty (20% of State prisoners, 26% of Federal). Vietnam War-era veterans were the most common wartime veterans in both State (36%) and Federal (39%) prison. Veterans of the Iraq-Afghanistan eras comprised 4% of veterans in both State and Federal prison. The average length of military service of veterans in prison was about 4 years. An estimated 62% of veterans received an honorable discharge and 38% received various types of other discharges.

Veterans in State and Federal prison in 2004 were almost exclusively male (99%). When compared to other men in the U.S. resident population, male veterans have had lower incarceration rates. Among adult males, the incarceration rate of veterans (630 prisoners per 100,000) was less than half that of nonveterans (1,390 prisoners per 100,000). This lower rate is due in part to age differences since older men typically have lower incarceration rates. Most male veterans (65%) were at least 55 years old in 2004, compared to 17% of nonveteran men.

More than half (57%) of veterans in State prison were serving time for a violent offense, including 15% for homicide and 23% for sexual assault which included rape. Among nonveterans, less than half (47%) were in State prison for a violent offense; 1 in 5 were held for homicide (12%) or sexual assault (9%).

Percent of prisoners reporting prior military service continues to decline



Veterans had shorter criminal records than nonveterans in State prison, but reported longer prison sentences and expected to serve more time in prison than nonveterans. Nearly a third of veterans and a quarter of nonveterans were first-time offenders. The average maximum sentence reported by veterans in State prison (147 months) was 2 years longer than that of nonveterans (119 months). On average veterans expected to serve 22 months longer than nonveterans (112 months compared to 90 months).

Less than half of veterans in State prison (43%) reported recent drug use, compared to 58% of nonveterans. At the time of the offense, a quarter of veterans and a third of nonveterans reported being under the influence of drugs.

Half of State prisoners reported ever having a mental health problem, regardless of veteran status. However, veterans (30%) were more likely than nonveterans (24%) to report a recent history of mental health services, including an overnight stay in a hospital, use of a prescribed medication, or treatment by a mental health professional.

Detailed information on the characteristics of veterans and nonveterans in State and Federal prison is provided in appendix tables available on the BJS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/vsfp04.htm>.

After rising for two decades, number of veterans dropped since 2000

Between 1985 and 2000, the estimated number of veterans in State and Federal prison rose by more than 50,000, or 53%. During the same period, the overall State and Federal prisoner growth was three times greater. Since 2000, the annual prisoner growth has slowed dramatically, and the number of veterans in prison fell by 13,100 or 9%.

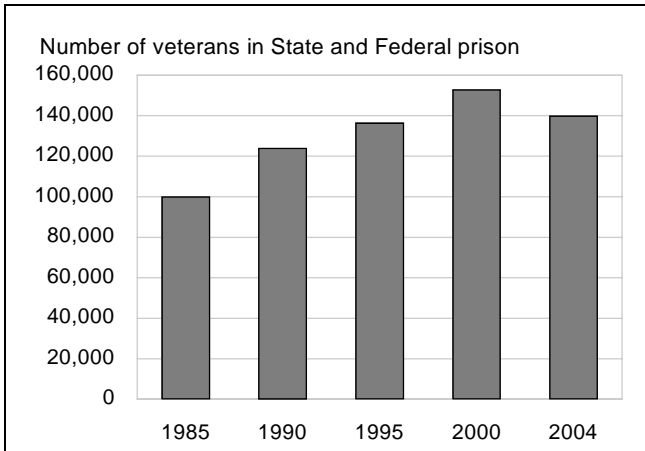


Figure 1

The decline in the percentage and number of veterans in the Nation's prisons reflects in part the declining number of veterans in the U.S. resident population. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), there were an estimated 24,523,300 veterans in the United States resident population in 2004.* Since 1985 the number of veterans living in the U.S. has declined by nearly 3.5 million persons, dropping from 16% of the adult U.S. resident population to 11%. During the same period, active-duty personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces dropped by 34%, a decline of over 700,000 active-duty personnel.

Male veterans were half as likely as other men to be held in prison; the gap increasing since the 1980s

Over 90% of veterans in the U.S. population were men, and veterans in both State and Federal prison in 2004 were almost exclusively male (99%). When compared to other men in the U.S. resident population, veterans have had consistently lower incarceration rates.

*See *Methodology* for veteran population estimates. In this report, veteran refers to any person who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The gap between these groups has grown over time. In 1985 the prison incarceration rate of male veterans (368 prisoners per 100,000 veterans) was just over half that of nonveteran men (646 per 100,000). By 2004 the incarceration rates of each group had risen sharply, but more so among nonveterans (115%) than veterans (71%). Male veterans (630 prisoners per 100,000) were less than half as likely as nonveteran men (1,390 prisoners per 100,000) to be in prison in 2004.

Age	Prison incarceration rate, per 100,000 adult males	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
All adults	630	1,390
18-24	1,391	1,446
25-34	1,232	2,260
35-44	1,861	1,763
45-54	1,314	846
55-64	345	451
65 or older	76	105

The difference in male incarceration rates by veteran status is largely explained by age. Veterans were older than other men in the U.S. population. In 2004 two-thirds of all male veterans were age 55 or older, compared to 17% of nonveteran men. The incarceration rate of these older male veterans (182 per 100,000) was far lower than for those under age 55 (1,483 per 100,000). Veterans also had a much lower incarceration rate among men age 25 to 34, which is the largest age group of State prisoners. If veteran men had the same age distribution as nonveteran men, the incarceration rates would be similar. The age-controlled incarceration rate for veteran men (1,253 prisoners per 100,000) would be 10% lower than that of nonveteran men (1,390 per 100,000).

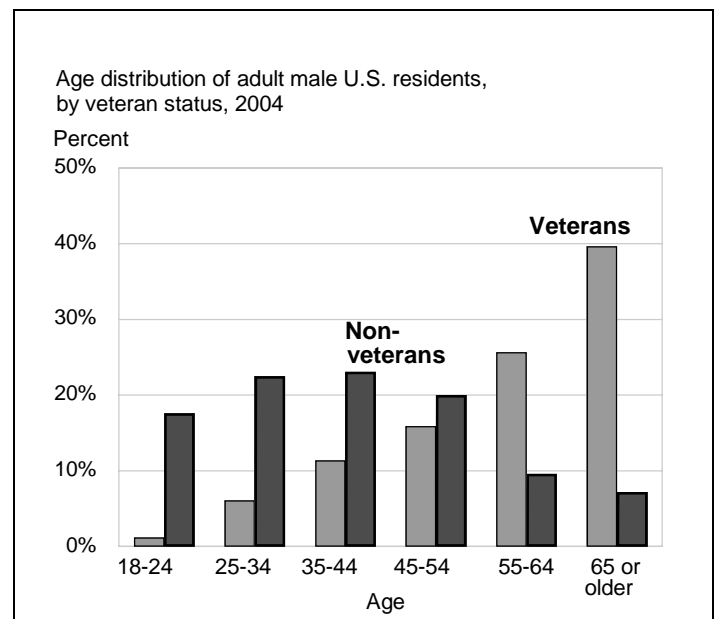


Figure 2

U.S. Army accounted for 46% of veterans living in the U.S., but 56% of veterans in State prison in 2004

While veterans held in State prison in 2004 represented all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, Army veterans were over-represented in prison. The VA estimated that 46% of veterans living in the U.S. during 2004 had served in the Army, but 56% of veterans in State prison were Army veterans. By contrast, Air Force veterans accounted for 18% of all veterans in the U.S., but 9% of veterans in State prison.

Branch of service	Percent of veterans, 2004	
	U.S. residents	State prisoners
Army	46%	56%
Navy	23	22
Air Force	18	9
Marine Corps	10	14
Other*	3	2

Note: State prison estimates sum to more than 100% because some inmates served in more than one branch. See Appendix table 1 for data on Federal prisoners.

*Includes Coast Guard veterans and reservists without active duty service in regular military.

Half of incarcerated veterans performed wartime military service; 1 in 5 reported combat duty

Although a majority of incarcerated veterans served during a wartime period, a much lower percentage reported seeing combat duty. In 2004 most State prison veterans (54%) reported service during a wartime era, while 20% saw combat duty. In Federal prison two-thirds of veterans had served during wartime, and a quarter had seen combat.

Vietnam-era veterans were the largest group of wartime service veterans in both State (36%) and Federal prison (39%). These percentages have been nearly stable since 1997. The percentage of veterans reporting service during the Persian Gulf War-era (1990 to 1991) was stable in State prison (14% in 2004, 12% in 1997), but grew from 13% to 21% of veterans in Federal prison over this period.

Service during either World War II or the Korean conflict was reported by 2% of State and 3% of Federal prison veterans in 2004, compared to 4% and 6%, respectively in 1997. Fewer than 5% of veterans held in either State or Federal prison in 2004 reported service during the Afghanistan and Iraq War-era (2002 to 2004).

Number of active-duty personnel held in military prison declining; sexual assault most common offense

According to data reported by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), the number of active-duty military personnel held in military correctional facilities fell 22% between 1994 and 2004. These facilities hold military personnel whose offenses fell under the Uniform Code of Military Justice rather than civilian jurisdiction. These counts do not include prisoners of war or enemy combatants captured during military operations.

The drop in military prisoners outpaced the decline in the number of active-duty personnel. As a result, the military incarceration rate declined from 174 prisoners per 100,000 active-duty personnel in 1994 to 153 per 100,000 in 2004. The rate of incarceration varied widely by branch of service. The Navy and Air Force had the lowest rates over this period, while the Marine Corps had the highest rate. By 2004 the Marine Corps' incarceration rate had dropped 34% from its 2000 peak, but remained the highest of all the services.

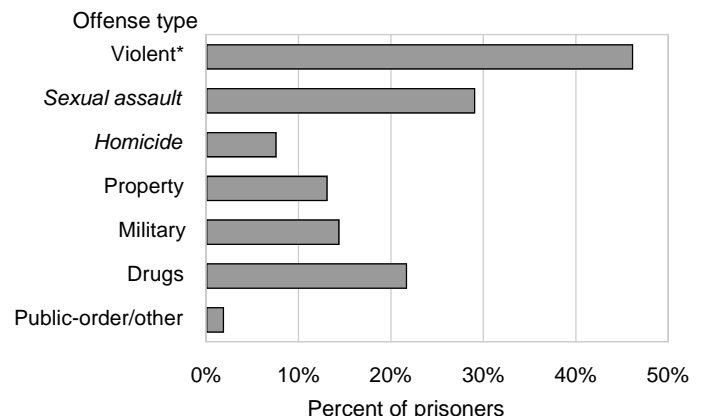
Rape or sexual assault (29%) was the most common offense for which active-duty personnel were held in DoD custody. Violent offenses accounted for half (46%) of all inmates, followed by drug (22%) and military offenses (14%).

Year	Number of prisoners in military custody, at yearend	Incarceration rate, per 100,000 personnel				
		Total	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Air Force
1994	2,800	174	/	/	/	/
1996	2,747	187	225	109	392	125
1998	2,426	172	178	102	394	132
2000	2,420	175	164	127	421	116
2002	2,377	168	177	127	325	122
2004	2,177	153	171	110	279	106

/Not reported.

Source: U.S. Department of Defense. See *Methodology* for details.

Prisoners in military custody, by most serious offense, 2004



*Violent is comprised of sexual assault, homicide, and other categories not shown.

Veterans were older, better educated than other State and Federal prison inmates

Veterans differed from nonveteran prisoners on a variety of measures. Half of veterans in State prison were white non-Hispanics, compared to a third of nonveteran inmates. The median age (45) of veterans in State prison was 12 years older than that of nonveterans (33). Nonveteran inmates (55%) were nearly 4 times more likely than veterans (14%) to be under the age of 35.

Veterans in State prison were more likely to have been married at one time (74%) than nonveterans (40%), although the percentage of currently married inmates was much more similar (22% of veterans, 16% of nonveterans). Veterans (43%) were over twice as likely as other State prisoners (17%) to be divorced.

Veterans were also much better educated than other prisoners. Nearly all veterans in State prison (91%) reported at least a high school diploma or GED. An estimated 40% of nonveterans lacked either. The rate of college attendance among veterans in State prison (1 in 3) was triple that of nonveterans (1 in 10).

Veterans and nonveterans in Federal prison differed on many of the same measures as State prisoners. Veterans in Federal prison were twice as likely as nonveterans to be white non-Hispanics or to have attended college. Nearly 80% of veterans in Federal prison had been married at one time, compared to half of nonveterans.

Selected characteristics	Percent of Federal prisoners, 2004	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
White, non-Hispanic	49%	24%
Divorced	43	18
Attended college	42	20
Median age	46 yrs.	34 yrs.

Note: See Appendix table 3 for more detail.

Nearly 1 in 4 veterans in State prison were sex offenders, compared to 1 in 10 nonveterans

While veterans had lower prison incarceration rates than nonveterans, veterans were more likely than other prisoners to report serving time for a violent offense. A majority of veterans in State prison (57%) were serving time for violent offenses, including over a third who were serving sentences for homicide (15%) or rape/sexual assault (23%). Fewer than half of nonveterans in State prison (47%) were violent offenders, with 1 in 5 held for homicide (12%) or rape/sexual assault (9%). Veterans (15%) were also less likely to be drug offenders than other State prisoners (22%).

A fifth of veterans in Federal prison (19%) were serving time for a violent offense, compared to 14% of nonveterans. The percentage serving time for rape/sexual assault was 3% of veterans and 1% of nonveterans. Most nonveterans in Federal prison (56%) were drug offenders; 46% of veterans in Federal prison were serving drug sentences.

Veterans were more likely than other violent offenders in State prison to have victimized females and minors

Among violent offenders, 60% of veterans reported victimizing only females during their current crime, compared to 41% of nonveterans. Veterans were also more likely than other violent offenders in State prison to report victimizing a minor. A quarter of violent offenders without prior military service said that at least one of their victims was under age 17. Among veterans the percentage was 40%. In particular, veterans (20%) were twice as likely as nonveterans (10%) to report a victim under age 13.

	Percent of violent State prisoners, 2004	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
Only female victim(s)	60%	41%
Minor victim(s)	40	24
Knew victim(s)	71	54
Relative	25	11
Used a weapon	29	38
Estimated number of inmates	73,200	514,200

Note: See Appendix table 6 for more detail.

Over two-thirds of veterans reported that they knew the victim of their violent crime. Among nonveterans, half knew their victim. While veterans were no more likely than other violent offenders in State prison to have victimized an intimate partner, friend or acquaintance, the percentage who said they victimized a relative (25%) was twice that reported by nonveterans (11%).

Veterans had shorter criminal histories than nonveterans in State prison

Veterans in State prison had shorter criminal histories than their nonveteran counterparts. Nearly a third of veterans and a quarter of nonveterans were first-time offenders. At the time of arrest, 33% of veterans were on probation or parole, while 44% of nonveterans had some type of prior criminal justice status. Fewer veterans (35%) than nonveterans (44%) reported at least 3 prior sentences to incarceration or probation.

More than a third of veterans in State prison had maximum sentences of at least 20 years, life, or death

On average veterans reported longer prison sentences and expected to serve more time than nonveterans. The average maximum sentence reported by veterans in State prison (147 months) was at least 2 years longer than that of nonveterans (119 months). A quarter of veterans (24%) in State prison reported a maximum sentence of at least 20 years, and 13% received a life or death sentence. Nonveterans were less likely to report a sentence of at least 20 years (17%) or a life or death sentence (8%).

Veterans in State prison expected to serve an average of 22 months longer than nonveterans (112 months compared to 90 months). On average both veterans and nonveterans expected to serve three-quarters of their maximum sentence in prison.

Veterans reported longer average sentences than nonveterans, regardless of offense type

The longer sentences reported by veterans were not entirely the result of violent offenses. Veterans of all offense types reported longer sentences than nonveterans. The difference was largest among violent offenders (on average, 28 months), but among property and public-order offenders, veterans' sentences averaged nearly 2 years longer than nonveterans.

Most serious offense	Mean maximum sentence length, State prisoners, 2004	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
Violent	232 mos.	204 mos.
Homicide	326	308
Rape/sexual assault	236	208
Robbery	221	198
Assault	164	138
Property	122	100
Drug	100	88
Public-order	96	74

Note: Excludes inmates sentenced to life or death.

Federal inmates reported less variation in sentencing based on veteran status. On average sentences reported by veterans were less than a year longer than nonveterans. The percentage of veterans (22%) who reported a sentence of at least 20 years, life or death was similar to that reported by nonveterans (17%). The average total time expected to be served by veterans and nonveterans differed by 6 months.

	Federal prisoners, 2004	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
Mean maximum sentence	138 mos.	127 mos.
Mean time to be served*	112	106

Note: See Appendix table 8 for more detail.

*Expected time to be served on current sentence.

Veterans were less likely than nonveteran prisoners to have used drugs

Veterans (75%) in State prison reported past drug use less often than nonveterans (84%). Recent drug use showed greater differences — 42% of veterans used drugs in the month before their offense, compared to 58% of nonveterans. At the time of the offense, a quarter of veterans and a third of nonveterans were under the influence of drugs. The types of drugs used most commonly by each group were the same. Marijuana use was reported most often, followed by cocaine (including crack) and stimulants (including meth-amphetamines).

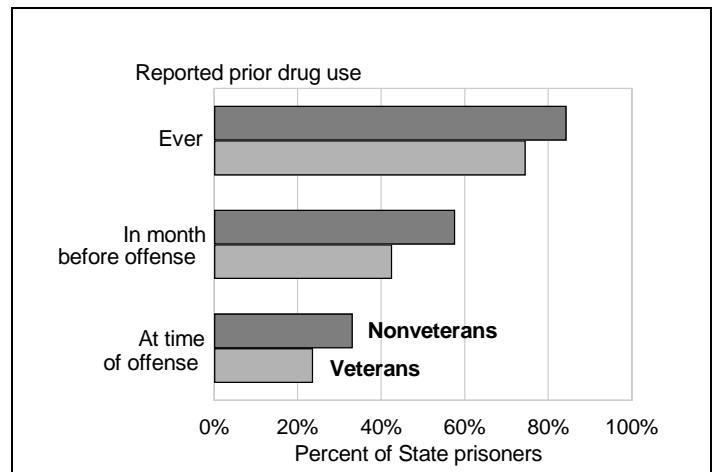


Figure 3

Drug use reported by Federal prisoners showed less variation by veteran status. Forty-three percent of veterans and 51% of nonveterans reported drug use in the month before the offense. A quarter of each group reported using drugs at the time of the offense.

While veterans generally reported lower rates of prior drug use, they were more likely than nonveterans to report having used intravenous (IV) drugs at some time. Among State prisoners, 24% of veterans and 17% of nonveterans reported past IV drug use. In Federal prison, 17% of veterans and 11% of nonveterans reported intravenous drug use.

No relationship between veteran status and alcohol dependence or abuse

The 2004 survey included an alcohol and drug use assessment tool which was based on criteria defined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (DSM-IV). Using this tool, no relationship between veteran status and alcohol dependence or abuse was found. Nearly equal percentages of veterans (43%) and nonveterans (44%) in State prison met the DSM-IV criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse in the 12 months prior to their prison admission. Based on DSM-IV criteria for drug use, veterans (43%) were less likely than other State prisoners (55%) to be dependent on or abusing illicit drugs.

Among Federal prisoners veteran status was unrelated to both alcohol and drug dependence or abuse. Equal percentages of veterans and nonveterans met the DSM-IV criteria for either alcohol or drug abuse or dependence.

	Percent of prisoners meeting criteria for dependence or abuse		
	Alcohol	Drug	Any substance
State prisoners			
Veterans	43%	43%	61%
Nonveterans	44	55	67
Federal prisoners			
Veterans	36%	46%	57%
Nonveterans	36	45	56

Veteran status unrelated to inmate reports of mental health problems

Similar percentages of veteran (54%) and nonveterans (56%) in State prison met one of two criteria for a recent mental health problem — a recent history of mental health services or a report of recently experiencing symptoms of a mental health disorder. The symptoms were measured according to criteria defined in the DSM-IV.

Veterans in State prison (45%) were slightly less likely than nonveterans (50%) to report symptoms of mental health disorders in the last 12 months. These disorders included mania and psychotic disorders, as well as a major depressive episode. Among Federal prisoners, 35% of veterans and 40% of nonveterans reported these symptoms.

Despite experiencing fewer symptoms of mental health disorders, veterans (30%) were more likely than other State prisoners (24%) to report a recent history of mental health services. These services included an overnight hospital stay for a mental health problem, the use of prescribed medications, a diagnosis by a mental health professional, and participation in mental health therapy.

Veterans may be more likely to have received mental health services for a variety of reasons. This difference may be partially explained by veterans' access to VA services in the community which are not available to nonveterans. However, VA services may not be available to those veterans who failed to receive an honorable discharge (38% of veterans in State prison). It may also be that the symptoms reported by veteran inmates were more severe than those experienced by nonveterans. Given that veterans had a median age 12 years older than nonveterans, it is also possible that they have had more opportunities for a diagnosis.

Despite generational differences, Vietnam-era and post-Cold War veterans in prison had similar backgrounds

Despite a median age gap of nearly 20 years, there was little measurable difference between State prisoners who served in the military during the Vietnam-era and those who enlisted after the close of the Cold War (1990 or later).

While Vietnam-era veterans outnumbered post-Cold War veterans by 2-to-1, they were in State prison for the same types of crimes. Nearly equal percentages of Vietnam-era veterans (61%) and post-Cold War veterans (57%) were serving a sentence for a violent offense. The percentage serving sentences for drug crimes were also nearly identical (13% of Vietnam-era veterans, 12% of post-Cold War veterans).

Drug use patterns were also similar for both generations of military veterans. Around 40% of each group reported using drugs in the month before their offense, while a fifth of each group said they committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs. The overall level of substance abuse or dependence (about 60%) was similar among each groups of veterans.

While a majority post-Cold War veterans in State prison (57%) reported indications of a recent mental health problem, compared to 48% of Vietnam-era veterans, this difference was not statistically significant.

Selected characteristics	Percent of veterans in State prison, by service era, 2004	
	Vietnam-era (1964-1973)	Post-Cold War (1990-2004)
Age (median)	53 yrs.	35 yrs.
Current offense		
Violent	60.7%	57.4%
Property	13.0	17.0
Drug	12.6	11.9
Public-order	13.7	13.7
Prior drug use		
Ever used	71.7%	72.0%
Used in the month before the offense	37.1	44.2
Under influence at time of the offense	21.0	19.9
Prior alcohol abuse		
Regularly used	70.4%	66.4%
Under influence at time of the offense	32.6	24.6
Substance dependent or abusing^a	58.7%	62.1%
Any mental health problem^b	47.9%	56.7%
Estimated number of prisoners	43,400	20,200

^aMeasures are shown in detail in *Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sdatji02.htm>>.

^bMeasures are shown in detail in Appendix table 12. Also, see *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mhppji.htm>>.

Combat service not related to prevalence of recent mental health problems

In terms of mental health histories, there was little difference between combat veterans and noncombat veterans in State prison. Just over half of both combat and noncombat veterans reported any history of mental health problems. A third of both groups had a recent history of mental health services, of which therapy was the most common (20% of combat veterans, 22% of other veterans). Reports of recent symptoms of mental health disorders were also similar for both groups (40% of combat veterans, 45% of other veterans). Mania disorder was the most commonly reported disorder among both combat (33%) and noncombat (40%) veterans.

	Percent of veterans in State prison, 2004	
	Combat	Noncombat
Any mental health problem	52%	55%
Recent history of mental health services ^a	31%	30%
Mental health therapy in year before arrest	20	22
Symptoms of mental health disorders ^b	40%	45%
Mania disorder	33	40
Estimated number of inmates	25,400	102,100

Note: See Appendix table 12 for details on these measures.

^aIn 12 months before arrest or at any time since admission.

^bIn 12 months prior to interview.

Methodology

Data in this report were based on personal interviews with prisoners, conducted through the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004. Conducted every 5 or 6 years since 1974 (Federal facilities were added for the first time in 1991), the inmate surveys are the only national source of detailed information on criminal offenders, including special populations such as military veterans.

Detailed descriptions of the methodology and sample design of the surveys can be found in: *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/dudsf04.htm>>, and *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mhppji.htm>>. For generalized standard errors for the survey estimates presented in this report, see Appendix tables 13 and 14, available on the BJS website at <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/vsf04.htm>>.

Estimates of the veteran population in the United States

This report includes incarceration rates for veteran and non-veteran adults in the U.S. population. These rates were calculated based on estimates of the veteran population generated by the VA Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness. To estimate the size of the veteran population in the U.S., the VA uses the Veteran Population Model which incorporates data on military service from the decennial U.S. Census, discharge data from the DoD Defense Manpower Data

Center (DMDC), and projections of separations from active-duty service generated by DoD's Office of the Actuary. Incarceration rates for 1985 include veterans residing in Puerto Rico. (In 1990 VA estimated that 5.5% of veterans lived in Puerto Rico; in 2000 the estimate was 5.4%.) For more information on veteran population estimates and projections, see the VA Office of Policy veteran data web page <<http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/>>.

The U.S. Department of Labor also estimates the number of veterans living in the U.S. based on its Current Population Survey (CPS), which is a monthly household survey of about 60,000 U.S. households. Data on veteran status was collected in a biannual supplement to the August CPS collection, most recently collected in 2005. In August 2005 the CPS produced an estimate of 23,402,000 veterans in the U.S. resident population which was 3% lower than the VA estimate of 24,128,000 for September 2005.

The VA and CPS estimates also differ slightly in their definition of the term veteran. The VA estimates exclude persons who were dishonorably discharged from their military service. CPS estimates of veterans include all persons reporting active-duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of discharge type. Both the VA and CPS estimates only include reservists who were called to active-duty. BJS defines veterans the same way as the CPS, and include all reserve-duty veterans.

Military prison statistics

In 1994 the DoD Corrections Council established an annual military confinement report. The council, comprising representatives from each branch of military service, adopted a standardized questionnaire with a common set of definitions. With the Corrections Council, BJS produced a series of tables that provide a unified profile of U.S. military personnel under the custody of U.S. military authorities. These counts include all U.S. military correctional facilities, including those located outside of the United States. Prisoners of war or enemy combatants held in U.S. military custody are not included in this collection.

Until 1998 these tables were included in *Correctional Populations in the United States*, a discontinued series. For the 1998 edition of this report please see <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cpusst.htm>>. Since 1999 the counts of U.S. military personnel held in military facilities have been presented in the annual *Prisoners* bulletin series. See *Prisoners in 2005* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p05.htm>>.



Washington, DC 20531

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jeffrey L. Sedgwick is director.

This Special Report was written by Margaret E. Noonan and Christopher J. Mumola, under the supervision of William J. Sabol. Laura M. Maruschak, Lauren E. Glaze, Tracy L. Snell and William J. Sabol verified the report. Tina Dorsey and Carolyn C. Williams of BJS produced and edited the report, assisted by Joanna Bradford. Jayne Robinson prepared the report for final printing, under the supervision of Doris J. James.

Tracy L. Snell, under the supervision of Allen J. Beck, was project manager for the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. For a listing of U.S. Census Bureau offices and staff responsible for carrying out the Survey, see *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/dudsfp04.htm>>.

May 2007, NCJ 217199

Appendix table 1. Military service of veterans in State and Federal prison

	Percent of veterans in prison			
	State		Federal	
	2004	1997	2004	1997
In which branch of the U.S. Armed Forces did you serve?^a				
Army	56.1%	58.6%	56.2%	58.4%
Navy	21.9	17.2	17.3	14.0
Marine Corps	14.3	15.6	17.5	16.2
Air Force	8.6	8.9	10.6	11.9
Coast Guard	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5
Other ^b	0.9	1.3	0	1.2
During your service, did you see combat in a combat or line unit?				
Yes	19.9%	20.1%	25.7%	20.2%
No	80.1	79.9	74.3	79.8
Length of military service				
12 months or less	15.4%	14.6%	9.0%	10.3%
13-24 months	21.5	19.2	19.8	19.5
25-36 months	21.5	25.0	20.7	25.7
37-60 months	20.1	21.1	25.1	24.4
61 months or longer	21.5	20.0	25.4	20.0
Mean length of service	46 mos.	45 mos.	53 mos.	48 mos.
Type of discharge				
Honorable	61.6%	59.0%	65.3%	65.4%
General, honorable conditions	16.9	17.0	15.9	15.3
General, without honorable conditions	3.1	7.3	1.9	5.7
Other than honorable ^c	8.8	4.4	6.4	5.6
Bad conduct	3.0	2.9	2.5	1.4
Dishonorable	2.8	2.8	5.6	2.2
Other ^d	3.7	6.6	2.4	4.5
Estimated number of veterans	127,500	134,400	12,500	14,800

^aDetail adds to more than 100% because veterans may have served in more than one branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

^bIncludes National Guard or reserve service in an unspecified branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

^cIncludes discharges listed as "undesirable."

^dIncludes cases where the nature of the discharge was known, such as entry-level and medical separations, but the type of discharge was unknown.

Appendix table 2. Wartime service of veteran inmates

Time of military service	Percent of veterans inmates			
	State		Federal	
	2004	1997	2004	1997
Peacetime	45.8%	50.3%	35.5%	39.0%
Wartime	54.2	49.7	64.5	61.0
World War II (1941-45) or Korean conflict era (1950-53)	2.4	4.2	3.4	5.8
Vietnam War era (1964-1973)	35.6	35.3	39.4	43.3
Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)	14.0	11.7	20.9	12.9
Afghanistan/Iraq (2002-2004)	3.7	~	4.5	~

Note: Veterans may have served during more than one period of wartime.

~Not applicable.

Appendix table 3. Selected characteristics of State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

	Percent of veterans in prison, 2004			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Gender				
Male	99.0%	92.6%	98.8%	92.4%
Female	1.0	7.4	1.2	7.6
Race/Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	54.1%	33.1%	49.0%	23.6%
Black non-Hispanic	32.1	41.5	37.6	44.1
Hispanic	6.2	19.6	5.3	27.3
Other*	7.7	5.8	8.0	5.1
Age				
24 or younger	2.7%	19.0%	1.2%	9.9%
25-34	11.0	35.6	19.1	40.5
35-44	35.0	30.0	24.3	29.4
45-54	33.1	11.9	32.9	15.4
55 or older	18.2	3.5	22.4	4.8
Median	45 yrs.	33 yrs.	46 yrs.	34 yrs.
Marital status				
Married	22.1%	15.8%	25.0%	26.1%
Widowed	3.6	1.8	3.6	0.9
Divorced	42.7	17.0	43.5	17.7
Separated	6.1	5.0	5.5	5.1
Never married	25.5	60.4	22.4	50.2
Education completed				
8th grade or less	2.6%	13.3%	1.9%	11.3%
Some high school	6.3	26.9	4.5	17.6
GED	29.8	34.6	21.6	34.1
High school graduate	28.6	15.6	30.4	17.4
Some college or more	32.6	9.7	41.6	19.6

*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin. Includes Asians, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and inmates who specified more than one race.

Appendix table 4. Current offense of State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

Current offense	Percent of veterans in prison, 2004			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Violent offenses	57.4%	46.8%	19.0%	14.1%
Homicide ^a	14.9	11.8	3.2	2.3
Sexual assault ^b	22.5	9.4	3.3	0.6
Robbery	8.4	13.1	10.3	8.3
Assault	9.0	10.3	2.0	2.0
Other violent	2.6	2.2	0.4	0.8
Property offenses	15.6%	19.1%	10.5%	6.1%
Burglary	6.4	8.4	0	0.5
Larceny	3.9	3.9	0.6	0.4
Motor vehicle theft	1.2	1.8	0	0.4
Fraud	2.7	2.9	9.0	4.2
Other property ^c	1.3	2.2	0.9	0.6
Drug offenses	15.0%	22.1%	46.3%	56.2%
Possession	5.6	6.0	0.9	3.2
Trafficking	9.0	15.5	44.8	51.1
Other drug	0.4	0.6	0.6	2.0
Public-order offenses	12.0%	11.8%	22.9%	20.2%
Weapons	0.9	2.7	12.2	10.8
Other public-order	11.1	9.2	10.7	9.4
Other/unspecified	0.0%	0.2%	1.3%	3.4%

Note: Details may not add to total due to rounding.

^aIncludes murder and manslaughter.

^bIncludes rape and other sexual assault.

^cIncludes stolen property and arson.

Appendix table 5. Offenders in military correctional facilities, 1997 and 2004

Type of offense	Percent of prisoners in military facilities	
	2004	1997
Violent	46.2%	52.2%
Homicide ^a	7.6	11.1
Rape	12.5	15.8
Other sexual assault	16.6	14.8
Robbery	0.9	1.7
Assault	7.2	8.6
Other violent ^b	1.4	0.3
Property	13.1%	17.2%
Drug	21.7	20.2
Public-order	1.6	1.7
Military offenses^c	14.4	7.6
Other	3.0	1.2
Number of prisoners^d	1,916	2,466

^aIncludes negligent and other types of manslaughter.

^bIncludes kidnapping.

^cIncludes desertion, AWOL, disrespect, insubordination, failure to obey, false offense statement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and other infractions.

^dExcludes unconvicted inmates.

Source: U.S. Department of Defense Corrections Council.

Appendix table 6. Victim characteristics and use of weapon, by veteran status of violent State prisoners, 2004

	Percent of violent State prisoners	
	Veterans	Nonveterans
Gender of victim(s)		
Male	33.3%	48.6%
Female	60.4	40.9
Both males and females	6.3	10.5
Age of youngest victim		
12 or younger	19.9%	10.1%
13-17	20.2	14.3
18-24	12.8	20.1
25-34	20.5	25.9
35-54	22.6	24.5
55 or older	4.0	5.2
Victim-offender relationship		
Knew victim ^a	70.9%	54.3%
Relative	25.1	10.9
Intimate ^b	12.0	10.2
Friend/acquaintance	24.9	24.1
Other ^c	5.8	6.1
Knew none of the victims	29.1	45.7
Use of a weapon		
Yes	29.5%	37.8%
No	70.5	62.2

Note: Details may not add to total due to rounding.

^aMore than one victim may have been reported.

^bIncludes (ex-)spouse, (ex-)boyfriend, and (ex-)girlfriend.

^cIncludes those known by sight only.

Appendix table 7. Criminal history of State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

	Percent of veterans in prison, 2004			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Status at time of current arrest				
None	67.2%	55.7%	75.6%	72.8%
Status	32.8	44.3	24.4	27.2
On parole	16.6	18.9	11.4	12.5
On probation	15.8	24.9	12.6	14.3
Escape	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
Criminal history				
None	29.8%	22.8%	40.0%	34.7%
Prior	70.2	77.2	60.0	65.3
Violent recidivists ^a	42.6	44.0	23.1	25.6
Drug recidivists only	2.0	3.6	7.4	8.5
Other recidivists ^b	25.6	29.7	29.5	31.1
Number of prior probation/ incarceration sentences				
0	31.7%	24.8%	41.7%	36.0%
1	16.1	15.4	17.6	15.6
2	17.5	15.7	13.7	15.3
3-5	18.3	25.9	19.6	20.9
6-10	11.2	12.5	6.0	8.6
11 or more	5.4	5.7	1.4	3.7

Note: Details may not add to total due to rounding.

^aRecidivists with at least one current or past violent offense.

^bIncludes recidivists with unknown offense types.

Appendix table 8. Maximum sentence length and time to be served until release, by veteran status, State and Federal prisoners, 2004

	Percent of veterans in prison, 2004			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Maximum sentence length				
Less than 12 months	2.9%	3.5%	0.9%	1.6%
12-35 months	9.8	14.8	16.4	10.5
36-59 months	9.6	14.1	9.3	13.7
60-119 months	20.1	23.2	22.9	26.6
120-179 months	12.1	11.9	18.7	20.2
180-239 months	8.3	7.8	9.6	9.9
240 or longer months	24.0	16.7	19.1	14.7
Life/death	13.2	8.1	3.1	2.8
Mean ^a	147 mos.	119 mos.	138 mos.	127 mos.
Total time to be served on current sentence^b				
Less than 24 months	10.9%	16.7%	9.0%	5.9%
24-47 months	13.8	18.7	9.9	13.7
48-71 months	20.1	18.6	11.5	16.7
72-119 months	15.0	14.0	22.1	18.3
120-179 months	11.7	9.4	14.4	13.5
180-239 months	6.0	5.2	6.7	5.8
240 or longer months	12.0	7.4	6.8	6.6
No release expected	5.4	3.1	2.4	1.6
Don't know	5.2	6.8	17.1	17.9
Mean ^c	112 mos.	90 mos.	112 mos.	106 mos.

^aExcludes sentences to life or death.

^bBased on time served when interviewed, plus time remaining to be served until the expected date of release.

^cExcludes inmates who do not expect to be released.

Appendix table 9. Drug use of State and Federal prisoners, by type of drug and veteran status, 2004

	Percent of inmates who reported					
	Ever using drugs		Using drugs in the month before offense		Using drugs at the time of the offense	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
State prisoners						
Any drug ^a	74.5%	84.3%	42.5%	57.6%	23.6%	33.1%
Marijuana/hashish	69.9	78.5	25.7	42.0	8.3	16.2
Cocaine/crack	46.6	46.9	18.7	21.8	10.9	11.9
Heroin/opiates	25.5	23.2	7.2	8.3	3.4	4.5
Depressants ^b	25.8	20.8	4.8	5.4	1.7	2.1
Stimulants ^c	34.5	27.9	11.9	12.2	6.0	6.8
Methamphetamines	26.6	23.1	10.4	10.9	5.0	6.2
Hallucinogens ^d	32.8	32.9	2.6	6.3	1.1	2.1
Inhalants	14.8	13.5	1.0	1.0	/	/
Federal prisoners						
Any drug ^a	75.5%	79.2%	42.6%	51.1%	24.2%	26.7%
Marijuana/hashish	71.8	71.2	29.0	37.1	9.5	14.4
Cocaine/crack	46.4	43.0	15.8	18.2	6.6	7.5
Heroin/opiates	20.8	17.6	4.8	5.9	4.2	3.1
Depressants ^b	21.0	16.4	1.1	4.8	0.6	1.5
Stimulants ^c	26.5	20.4	13.8	10.5	7.9	7.4
Methamphetamines	20.4	17.6	12.6	9.8	7.9	7.1
Hallucinogens ^d	24.7	26.0	2.3	6.2	0.8	2.0
Inhalants	9.2	7.3	0.8	0.9	/	/

/Not reported.

^aOther unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

^bIncludes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and quaaludes.

^cIncludes amphetamine and methamphetamine.

^dIncludes LSD, PCP, and ecstasy.

Appendix table 10. Alcohol use histories of State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

Self-report of alcohol use	Percent of prisoners, 2004			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Regularly used alcohol	69.7%	63.0%	66.3%	60.9%
Used alcohol at time of offense	31.1	31.1	18.5	17.9
Binge drinking*	38.8	37.2	34.3	30.6

*Binge drinking is defined as having consumed as much as a fifth of liquor in a single day, equivalent to 20 drinks, 3 bottles of wine, or as many as 3 six-packs of beer.

Appendix table 11. Substance abuse treatment history of State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

	Percent of substance abuse treatment in prison			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Ever any treatment or programs	55.3%	57.4%	51.5%	51.7%
Any treatment	30.4	31.1	26.7	24.2
Other alcohol/drug programs	46.3	46.2	40.4	42.3
Participation while under correctional supervision	46.8%	49.9%	43.5%	45.7%
Any treatment	21.6	24.4	19.1	19.5
Other alcohol/drug programs	40.4	41.1	34.0	39.0
Participated since admission	32.4%	34.3%	30.5%	34.2%
Any treatment	10.2	11.2	9.8	10.3
Residential facility or unit	5.8	7.2	5.2	5.7
Counseling by a professional	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.9
Detoxification unit	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.6
Maintenance drug	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2
Other alcohol/drug programs	28.9%	29.9%	24.4%	29.9%
Self-help group/peer counseling	22.6	23.7	12.3	16.1
Education program	14.5	14.1	16.1	21.0

Appendix table 12. Recent history and symptoms of mental health problems among State and Federal prisoners, by veteran status, 2004

Mental health problem	Percent of inmates in prison			
	State		Federal	
	Veterans	Nonveterans	Veterans	Nonveterans
Any mental health problem	54.4%	56.5%	42.9%	45.0%
Recent history of mental health services^a	29.9%	23.6%	20.7%	13.0%
Told had disorder by mental health professional	11.6	9.2	9.6	4.9
Had overnight hospital stay	8.5	5.1	3.6	1.9
Used prescribed medications	23.0	17.4	16.1	9.6
Had professional mental health therapy	21.1	14.4	11.4	8.0
Symptoms of mental health disorders^b	44.7%	49.7%	35.0%	40.2%
Major depressive episode	23.3	23.6	17.0	15.9
Mania disorder	38.1	43.8	31.2	35.5
Psychotic disorder	13.6	15.6	5.7	10.6

Note: Measures of recent mental health problems were based on criteria defined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (DSM-IV). See *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mhppji.htm>>.

^aIn year before arrest or at any time since admission.

^bIn 12 months prior to interview.

Appendix table 13. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, State prison inmates, 2004

Base of the estimate	Estimated percentages					
	98 or 2	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	60 or 40	50
1,000	7.14	15.31	20.41	23.39	25.00	25.52
2,000	5.05	10.83	14.43	16.54	17.68	18.04
2,500	4.52	9.68	12.91	14.79	15.81	16.14
5,000	3.20	6.85	9.13	10.46	11.18	11.41
10,000	2.26	4.84	6.46	7.40	7.91	8.07
20,000	1.60	3.42	4.56	5.23	5.59	5.71
30,000	1.30	2.80	3.73	4.27	4.56	4.66
50,000	1.01	2.17	2.89	3.31	3.54	3.61
100,000	0.71	1.53	2.04	2.34	2.50	2.55
127,522 ^a	0.63	1.36	1.81	2.07	2.21	2.26
200,000	0.51	1.08	1.44	1.65	1.77	1.80
400,000	0.36	0.77	1.02	1.17	1.25	1.28
600,000	0.29	0.63	0.83	0.95	1.02	1.04
800,000	0.25	0.54	0.72	0.83	0.88	0.90
1,098,649 ^b	0.22	0.46	0.62	0.71	0.75	0.77
1,226,200	0.20	0.44	0.58	0.67	0.71	0.73

^aThe total weighted estimate of veteran State prisoners, 2004.

^bThe total weighted estimate of nonveteran State prisoners, 2004.

Appendix table 14. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, Federal prison inmates, 2004

Base of the estimate	Estimated percentages					
	98 or 2	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	60 or 40	50
200	10.01	21.44	28.59	32.75	35.01	35.74
500	6.33	13.56	18.08	20.71	22.14	22.60
1,000	4.47	9.59	12.79	14.65	15.66	15.98
2,000	3.16	6.78	9.04	10.36	11.07	11.30
5,000	2.00	4.29	5.72	6.55	7.00	7.15
7,500	1.63	3.50	4.67	5.35	5.72	5.84
9,063	1.49	3.19	4.25	4.87	5.20	5.31
12,500 ^a	1.27	2.71	3.62	4.14	4.43	4.52
15,000	1.16	2.48	3.30	3.78	4.04	4.13
25,000	0.89	1.92	2.56	2.93	3.13	3.20
40,000	0.71	1.52	2.02	2.32	2.48	2.53
50,000	0.63	1.36	1.81	2.07	2.21	2.26
75,000	0.52	1.11	1.48	1.69	1.81	1.85
100,000	0.45	0.96	1.28	1.46	1.57	1.60
116,796 ^b	0.41	0.89	1.18	1.36	1.45	1.48
129,300	0.39	0.84	1.12	1.29	1.38	1.41

^aThe total weighted estimate of veteran Federal prisoners, 2004.

^bThe total weighted estimate of nonveteran Federal prisoners, 2004.