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HIV in Prisons 1997

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At yearend 1997, 2.1% of all State and Federal prison inmates were known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The infection rate was down from 2.2% in 1996. In 1997 a total of 23,548 prison inmates were HIV positive (1,030 Federal and 22,518 State). HIV-positive inmates made up 1.0% of Federal prison inmates and 2.2% of State prison inmates. Of those known to be HIV positive in all U.S. prisons, 6,184 were confirmed AIDS cases, while the remaining 16,503 either showed symptoms of HIV infection or were asymptomatic.

In 1997 there were 538 AIDS-related deaths in State prisons, down from 907 in 1996. For every 100,000 State prison inmates in 1997, 48 died of AIDS-related causes. Between 1991 and 1996, about 1 in 3 State prison inmate deaths were attributed to AIDS-related causes; in 1997 about 1 in 5.

Data based on personal interviews from the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities show that 75% of State inmates were ever tested for HIV. Of those who were ever tested and reported results, 2.2% were HIV positive — 2.2% of males and 3.4% of females. As level of prior involvement in drug use increased, so did the percentage of HIV-positive inmates: 2.3% of those who said they had ever used drugs, 2.7% of those who used drugs in the month before the current offense, 4.6% of those who injected drugs, and 7.7% of those who ever shared a needle were HIV positive.

Highlights

Year	HIV-positive State and Federal prison inmates	
	Number	Percent of custody population
1991	17,551	2.2%
1992	20,651	2.5
1993	21,475	2.4
1994	22,717	2.4
1995	24,256	2.3
1996	23,881	2.2
1997	23,548	2.1

- Between 1991 and 1997 the number of HIV-positive prisoners grew at a slower rate (34%) than the overall prison population (49%).
- At yearend 1997, 3.5% of all female State prison inmates were HIV positive, compared to 2.2% of male State prisoners.

Jurisdiction	HIV-positive prison inmates	
	Number	Percent of custody population
New York	7,500	10.8%
Florida	2,325	3.6
Texas	2,126	1.5
California	1,328	.9
Federal system	1,030	1.0
New Jersey	867	3.4
Georgia	861	2.4
Connecticut	798	5.1
Maryland	766	3.5

Based on jurisdictions with more than 700 HIV-positive inmates.

- New York held about a third of all inmates (7,500 inmates) known to be HIV positive at yearend 1997.

- Of all HIV-positive prison inmates, 26% were confirmed AIDS cases. In State prisons 26% of HIV-positive inmates had AIDS; in Federal prisons, 36%.

- The overall rate of confirmed AIDS among the Nation's prison population (0.55%) was more than 5 times the rate in the U.S. population (0.10%).

- The number of AIDS-related deaths among prison inmates decreased from 907 in 1996 to 538 in 1997.

- Of all State prison inmates, 2.8% of black inmates and 2.5% of Hispanic inmates, compared to 1.4% of white inmates reported to survey interviewers that they were HIV positive.

	Tested inmates who reported results	
	Number	Percent HIV positive
All inmates	790,128	2.2%
Male	734,327	2.2
Female	55,800	3.4
White	257,919	1.4%
Black	384,870	2.8
Hispanic	123,725	2.5
Age 24 or younger	154,181	.5%
25-34	310,161	2.3
35-44	232,835	3.1
45 or older	92,168	2.7
Ever used drugs	665,977	2.3%
Used in month before offense	460,685	2.7

From the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities.

Table 1. Inmates in custody of State or Federal prison authorities and known to be positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, 1995-97

Jurisdiction	Total known to be HIV positive			HIV/AIDS cases as a percent of total custody population ^a		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
U.S. total^b	24,256	23,881	23,548	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%
Federal	822	947	1,030	0.9	1.0	1.0
State	23,434	22,934	22,518	2.4	2.3	2.2
Northeast	12,262	11,090	10,394	7.8%	6.9%	6.4%
Connecticut	755	690	798	5.1	4.6	5.1
Maine	4	4	--	0.3	0.3	--
Massachusetts	409	393	402	3.9	3.6	3.7
New Hampshire	31	18	17	1.5	0.9	0.8
New Jersey	847	705	867	3.7	3.0	3.4
New York	9,500	8,500	7,500	13.9	12.2	10.8
Pennsylvania	590	652	697	1.8	1.9	2.0
Rhode Island	126	125	107	4.4	3.9	3.2
Vermont	0	3	6	0	0.3	0.5
Midwest	1,667	1,874	1,849	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
Illinois	583	634	655	1.5	1.6	1.6
Indiana	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iowa	20	24	34	0.3	0.4	0.5
Kansas	24	16	4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Michigan	379	528	419	0.9	1.2	0.9
Minnesota	46	24	31	1.0	0.5	0.6
Missouri	173	190	227	0.9	0.9	0.9
Nebraska	19	17	22	0.6	0.5	0.7
North Dakota	2	3	7	0.3	0.4	0.9
Ohio	346	343	365	0.8	0.7	0.8
South Dakota	3	4	1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Wisconsin	72	91	84	0.6	0.7	0.6
South	7,870	8,162	8,291	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%
Alabama	222	234	212	1.1	1.1	1.0
Arkansas	83	77	86	1.0	0.9	1.0
Delaware	122	--	--	2.5	--	--
District of Columbia	--	--	75	--	--	1.1
Florida	2,193	2,152	2,325	3.4	3.4	3.6
Georgia	858	814	861	2.5	2.3	2.4
Kentucky	41	55	55	0.4	0.5	0.5
Louisiana	314	347	397	1.8	2.0	2.1
Maryland	724	832	766	3.4	3.8	3.5
Mississippi	138	135	189	1.4	1.3	1.8
North Carolina	526	589	519	1.9	2.0	1.7
Oklahoma	115	108	107	0.8	0.7	0.7
South Carolina	380	422	432	2.0	2.1	2.1
Tennessee	120	131	131	0.9	1.0	0.9
Texas	1,890	1,876	2,126	1.5	1.4	1.5
Virginia	134	383	--	0.6	1.5	--
West Virginia	10	7	10	0.4	0.3	0.4
West	1,635	1,808	1,984	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Alaska	5	10	10	0.2	0.3	0.3
Arizona	140	205	105	0.7	0.9	0.4
California	1,042	1,136	1,328	0.8	0.8	0.9
Colorado	93	94	110	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hawaii	12	23	16	0.4	0.7	0.4
Idaho	11	17	10	0.4	0.5	0.3
Montana	4	6	8	0.2	0.4	0.4
Nevada	147	133	139	1.9	1.6	1.6
New Mexico	24	11	23	0.6	0.2	0.6
Oregon	29	39	54	0.4	0.5	0.7
Utah	31	31	60	0.8	0.7	1.2
Washington	92	99	119	0.8	0.8	0.9
Wyoming	5	4	2	0.4	0.3	0.1

--Not reported.

^aThe custody population includes only those inmates housed in a jurisdiction's facilities.^bTotals exclude those inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on HIV/AIDS.

Counts may differ from previous reports. Percentages for all years are based on yearend custody counts.

Data based on official records and prisoner interviews

Departments of corrections in 50 States and the District of Columbia as well as the Federal Bureau of Prisons provided data on HIV/AIDS among inmates. Since 1991 respondents have reported their HIV-testing policies and the number of HIV-infected inmates in their custody at yearend. Those inmates are reported to be asymptomatic, symptomatic, or with confirmed AIDS. (See questionnaire items in figure 1, page 10.) Respondents have also reported for each year the number of inmate deaths from HIV-related infections and other causes.

Data on HIV/AIDS and demographics for prison inmates were calculated from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. Through personal interviews, inmates held in prisons were questioned about current offenses, prior drug use and treatment, personal characteristics and other aspects of their life. Questions on whether inmates had ever been tested for HIV and the results of the test were included in the interviews.

States report a small decrease in the number of HIV-infected inmates during 1997

At yearend 1997, 23,548 inmates in State and Federal prisons were known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (table 1). Although the number of reported HIV-positive inmates was down from the total reported at yearend 1996 (23,881), Virginia and Maine (with 383 and 4 cases, respectively, in 1996) did not report data in 1997. The District of Columbia (with 75 cases in 1997) had not reported data in 1996. Based on comparable reporting jurisdictions in both years, the number of HIV-positive inmates decreased slightly in State prisons (down 104) and increased in Federal prisons (up 83).

From 1991, when BJS began collecting data annually on HIV/AIDS, to 1997, the number of inmates reported to be HIV positive increased at about the same rate as the overall prison population. HIV-positive inmates comprised 2.2% of the State prison population in 1997, down from 2.3% in 1991. Infected inmates were 1.0% of Federal prisoners in 1997, unchanged from 1991.

HIV-infected inmates were concentrated in a small number of States. New York and Florida housed the largest number of HIV-positive inmates (7,500 and 2,325, respectively). In 1997 these two States housed more than 40% of all HIV-infected inmates in State prisons.

Year	Percent of custody population known to be HIV positive	
	State	Federal
1991	2.3%	1.0%
1992	2.6	1.2
1993	2.6	1.2
1994	2.5	1.1
1995	2.4	0.9
1996	2.3	1.0
1997	2.2	1.0

Northeast prisons held the largest number of HIV-infected inmates

Nearly half the State prison inmates known to be HIV positive were in the Northeast. Within the Northeast, 6.4% of the prison population were HIV positive, followed by 2.0% in the South, 0.9% in the Midwest, and 0.8% in the West. New York had the highest percentage of inmates known to be HIV positive (10.8%), followed by Connecticut (5.1%) and Massachusetts (3.7%).

Nine States (Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) reported 10 or fewer cases of HIV-positive inmates in their prisons. Of the 46 States that reported information in 1997, each reported having at least one HIV-positive inmate. Nine States reported that fewer than 0.5% of their inmate population were HIV positive.

Table 2. Inmates in custody of State or Federal prison authorities, by type of HIV infection or confirmed AIDS, yearend 1997

Jurisdiction	Cases of HIV or confirmed AIDS				Confirmed AIDS cases as a percent of	
	Total ^a	Asymp-tomatic ^b	Symptom-atic ^c	Confirmed AIDS	Total HIV cases	Custody population
U.S. total	23,548	13,532	2,971	6,184	26.3%	0.5%
Federal	1,030	662	--	368	35.7	0.4
State	22,518	12,870	2,971	5,816	25.8	0.6
Northeast	10,394	7,053	1,122	2,219	21.3%	1.4%
Connecticut	798	171	425	202	25.3	1.3
Maine	--	--	--	--	--	--
Massachusetts	402	51	214	137	34.1	1.3
New Hampshire	17	3	7	7	41.2	0.3
New Jersey	867	565	--	302	34.8	1.2
New York	7,500	5,926	273	1,301	17.3	1.9
Pennsylvania	697	323	153	221	31.7	0.6
Rhode Island	107	11	50	46	43.0	1.4
Vermont	6	3	0	3	**	0.2
Midwest	1,849	910	365	574	31.0%	0.3%
Illinois	655	418	36	201	30.7	0.5
Indiana	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iowa	34	26	--	8	23.5	0.1
Kansas	4	3	--	1	**	‡
Michigan	419	216	--	203	48.4	0.5
Minnesota	31	26	0	5	16.1	0.1
Missouri	227	--	190	37	16.3	0.2
Nebraska	22	18	1	3	13.6	0.1
North Dakota	7	0	6	1	**	0.1
Ohio	365	155	119	91	24.9	0.2
South Dakota	1	0	0	1	**	‡
Wisconsin	84	48	13	23	27.4	0.2
South	8,291	3,669	1,147	2,614	31.5%	0.6%
Alabama	212	58	103	51	24.1	0.2
Arkansas	86	46	26	14	16.3	0.2
Delaware	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	75	--	--	75	100.0	1.1
Florida	2,325	1,499	--	826	35.5	1.3
Georgia	861	--	--	--	--	--
Kentucky	55	27	17	11	20.0	0.1
Louisiana	397	--	290	107	27.0	0.6
Maryland	766	272	220	274	35.8	1.3
Mississippi	189	151	--	38	20.1	0.4
North Carolina	519	349	--	170	32.8	0.5
Oklahoma	107	103	--	4	3.7	‡
South Carolina	432	64	197	171	39.6	0.8
Tennessee	131	--	89	42	32.1	0.3
Texas	2,126	1,092	205	829	39.0	0.6
Virginia	--	--	--	--	--	--
West Virginia	10	8	0	2	**	0.1
West	1,984	1,238	337	409	20.6%	0.2%
Alaska	10	0	10	0	**	0
Arizona	105	59	--	46	43.8	‡
California	1,328	974	197	157	11.8	0.1
Colorado	110	37	42	31	28.2	0.3
Hawaii	16	3	9	4	25.0	0.1
Idaho	10	5	2	3	**	0.1
Montana	8	1	0	7	**	0.4
Nevada	139	67	29	43	30.9	0.5
New Mexico	23	20	0	3	13.0	0.1
Oregon	54	33	14	7	13.0	0.1
Utah	60	10	34	16	26.7	0.3
Washington	119	27	--	92	77.3	0.7
Wyoming	2	2	0	0	**	0

Note: Totals and percentages exclude inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on type of HIV/AIDS infection. The custody population includes only inmates housed at the end of 1997.
 --Not reported.
 **Not calculated for 10 or fewer cases.
 ‡ Less than .05%.
^aGeorgia reported the total of HIV-positive cases but not the type of HIV infection.
^bIncludes all inmates who had tested positive for the HIV antibody but had no HIV-related symptoms.
^cIncludes inmates with symptoms of HIV infection but without a confirmed AIDS diagnosis.

Between 1996 and 1997, 15 States reported a decreased number of HIV-positive inmates. The largest decrease (1,000 cases) was reported in New York — 7,500 in 1997, down from 8,500 in 1996. Michigan (down 109), Arizona (down 100), North Carolina (down 70), and Maryland (down 66) also reported large decreases. Twenty-eight States reported an increased number of HIV cases. Texas reported the largest increase (up 250) during 1997, followed by California (up 192) and Florida (up 173).

Confirmed AIDS cases in prison more than tripled from 1991 to 1997

At the end of 1997, 6,184 inmates had confirmed AIDS: 5,816 were State inmates and 368 were Federal inmates (table 2). Of the remaining HIV-positive inmates, 2,971 showed symptoms of AIDS (symptomatic), while 13,532 were HIV positive but showed no symptoms of AIDS (asymptomatic).

Confirmed AIDS cases made up 0.5% of all inmates in State and Federal prisons. Of those known to be HIV-positive inmates, over a quarter had confirmed AIDS.

Year	HIV-positive State and Federal inmates	
	Confirmed AIDS cases	Other than confirmed AIDS cases
1991	1,682	15,797
1992	2,644	18,087
1993	3,765	17,773
1994	4,849	17,864
1995	5,099	18,165
1996	5,874	16,656
1997	6,184	16,503

Note: Care should be exercised when comparing the number of reported cases over time. In January 1993 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised the HIV classification system and expanded the surveillance case definition for AIDS to include specific CD4+ T-lymphocyte criteria and three additional clinical conditions — pulmonary tuberculosis, recurrent pneumonia, and invasive cervical cancer. This expansion resulted in a substantial increase in the number of reported AIDS cases during 1993. See *Methodology*.

During 1997 the number of confirmed AIDS cases increased by 310. Overall, after 1991 the number of confirmed AIDS cases increased 4,502 — an annual average increase of 24.2%. While the number of confirmed AIDS cases increased, the number of inmates with lesser or no symptoms of HIV infection decreased from 18,165 in 1995 to 16,503 in 1997.

The States with the largest number of confirmed AIDS cases were New York (1,301), Texas (829), and Florida (826). Combined, these States made up 51% of all confirmed AIDS cases in State prisons. Seventeen States reported having fewer than 10 confirmed AIDS cases in their prison.

The highest percentage of the State prison population having confirmed AIDS was in New York (1.9%), followed by Rhode Island (1.4%), Connecticut (1.3%), Florida (1.3%), and Maryland (1.3%). In 17 States, confirmed AIDS cases comprised 0.1% or less of State inmates.

The rate of AIDS in prison at least 5 times the rate in the general population

At the end of 1997, the rate of confirmed AIDS in State and Federal prisons was 5½ times higher than in the total U.S. population. About 55 per 10,000 prison inmates had confirmed AIDS, compared to 10 per 10,000 persons in the U.S. population.

Year	Percent of population with confirmed AIDS	
	U.S. general population	Inmates in State and Federal prisons
1991	0.03%	0.21%
1992	0.03	0.33
1993	0.06	0.50
1994	0.07	0.52
1995	0.08	0.51
1996	0.09	0.54
1997	0.10	0.55

Note: The percent of the general population with confirmed AIDS in each year may be overestimated due to delays in death reports. Care should be exercised when comparing percentages over time, because of changes in the case definition for AIDS. See *Methodology*.

In every year since 1991, the rate of confirmed AIDS has been higher among prison inmates than in the general population. In 1992 the rate of AIDS was 10 times higher for prisoners than the general population. In 1993, following a revision of the HIV classification system and an expansion of the case definition for AIDS, the rate of confirmed AIDS increased 1½ times among prisoners and doubled in the general population. After the adoption of these new measures, the incidence of AIDS grew somewhat faster in the general population.

Table 3. State prison inmates known to be positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, by gender, yearend 1997

Jurisdiction	Male HIV cases		Female HIV cases	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Total	20,153	2.2%	2,185	3.5%
Northeast	9,322	6.0	1,072	12.7
Connecticut	659	4.6	139	13.1
Maine	--	--	--	--
Massachusetts	344	3.4	58	8.2
New Hampshire	15	0.8	2	1.5
New Jersey	796	3.3	71	5.5
New York	6,755	10.3	745	20.7
Pennsylvania	653	1.9	44	3.1
Rhode Island	95	3.1	12	6.1
Vermont	5	0.4	1	1.9
Midwest	1,708	0.9%	141	1.2%
Illinois	591	1.5	64	2.6
Indiana	--	--	--	--
Iowa	27	0.4	7	1.3
Kansas	4	0.1	0	0
Michigan	398	0.9	21	1.0
Minnesota	31	0.6	0	0
Missouri	212	0.9	15	0.9
Nebraska	20	0.6	2	0.9
North Dakota	5	0.7	2	3.0
Ohio	340	0.8	25	0.9
South Dakota	1	0	0	0
Wisconsin	79	0.6	5	0.7
South	7,385	1.9%	831	3.1%
Alabama	197	1.0	15	1.1
Arkansas	81	1.0	5	0.8
Delaware	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	--	--	--	--
Florida	2,082	3.4	243	7.1
Georgia	765	2.2	96	4.2
Kentucky	50	0.5	5	0.8
Louisiana	372	2.1	25	2.7
Maryland	682	3.3	84	7.6
Mississippi	171	1.8	18	2.0
North Carolina	455	1.6	64	3.6
Oklahoma	97	0.7	10	0.8
South Carolina	409	2.1	23	1.8
Tennessee	127	0.9	4	0.7
Texas	1,887	1.5	239	2.3
Virginia	--	--	--	--
West Virginia	10	0.4	0	0
West	1,738	0.9%	141	0.9%
Alaska	6	0.2	4	1.9
Arizona	--	--	--	--
California	1,248	0.9	80	0.7
Colorado	102	1.0	8	1.0
Hawaii	16	0.4	0	0
Idaho	10	0.3	0	0
Montana	7	0.4	1	1.2
Nevada	108	1.4	31	4.9
New Mexico	22	0.7	1	0.3
Oregon	51	0.7	3	0.7
Utah	57	1.2	3	1.1
Washington	109	0.9	10	1.1
Wyoming	2	0.2	0	0

--Not reported.

A greater percent of females than males reported HIV infection

At yearend 1997, 20,153 male inmates and 2,185 female inmates were known to be HIV positive (table 3). Those known to be HIV positive were 2.2% of male inmates and 3.5% of female inmates. In most States and in all regions except the West, female inmates had a higher HIV-positive infection rate than male inmates.

Year	State prison inmates	
	Number of HIV-positive inmates	Percent HIV-positive in custody population of reporting States
Males		
1991	16,150	2.2%
1992	18,266	2.6
1993	18,218	2.5
1994	19,762	2.4
1995	20,690	2.3
1996	21,046	2.2
1997	20,153	2.2
Annual average change, 1991-97*	3.8%	
Females		
1991	1,159	3.0%
1992	1,598	4.0
1993	1,796	4.2
1994	1,953	3.9
1995	2,182	4.0
1996	1,888	3.1
1997	2,185	3.5
Annual average change, 1991-97*	11.1%	

*In 1991 North Carolina, South Dakota, and the District of Columbia did not report data by gender. In 1997 Maine, Delaware, Indiana, Virginia, Arizona, and the District of Columbia did not report data by gender.

Following a decrease in 1996, the number of HIV-infected females increased during 1997 (from 1,888 to 2,185). The number of infected male inmates decreased 4.2% (from 21,046 in 1996 to 20,153 in 1997). On average, from 1991 to 1997 the number of male inmates in State prison infected with HIV increased 3.8%; the number of female infected inmates increased 11.1%.

States in the Northeast reported the largest number of HIV-positive male and female inmates (9,322 and 1,072, respectively). In seven States, more than 5% of all female inmates were known to be HIV positive. In New

York (20.7%) and Connecticut (13.1%) over 10% of female inmates were known to be HIV-positive. New York (10.3%) was the only State in which more than 10% of all male inmates were HIV-positive.

New York also reported the largest number of male and female HIV-positive inmates (6,755 and 745, respectively). The second largest numbers of HIV-positive male and female inmates were in Florida (2,082 and 243, respectively), followed by Texas (1,887 and 239, respectively). Seven States reported no female HIV-positive inmates. Every State reported at least one male inmate as HIV positive.

AIDS-related deaths in State prisons dropped 41% during 1997

The number of State inmates who died of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, Kaposi's sarcoma, or other AIDS-related diseases decreased from 907 in 1996 to 538 in 1997 (table 4). These AIDS deaths accounted for 19% of all deaths among State prisoners, down from 29% in 1996. Even with a sharp decline, AIDS-related illnesses were still the second leading cause of death in State prisons behind natural causes other than AIDS.

In 1997 for every 100,000 inmates, 48 died from AIDS-related causes (table 5). Between 1995 and 1997, the number of AIDS-related deaths in State prisons decreased 47%. This decrease may reflect improvement in the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS care, following the introduction of protease inhibitors and combination antiretroviral therapies.

Table 4. Number of inmate deaths in State prisons, by cause, 1995-97

Cause of death	1995		1996		1997	
	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates
Total	3,133	311	3,095	308	2,872	255
Natural causes other than AIDS	1,569	156	1,715	170	1,859	165
AIDS	1,010	100	907	90	538	48
Suicide	160	16	154	15	159	14
Accident	48	5	43	4	37	3
Execution	56	6	45	4	74	7
By another person	86	9	65	6	75	7
Other/unspecified	204	20	166	16	130	12

Note: To calculate the rate of death, the number of inmates under State jurisdiction on June 30 of each year was used as an approximation of the average population exposed to the risk of death during the year.

AIDS death rate in State prison at least 3 times the rate in the general population

In 1997 the rate of death because of AIDS was over 3 times higher in the prison population than in the total U.S. population age 15-54. About 19% of prisoner deaths were attributable to AIDS-related causes; compared to 6% of deaths in the general population.

Year	AIDS-related deaths as a percent of all deaths	
	U.S. general population age 15-54*	State prison inmates
1991	10.4%	28.0%
1992	11.7	35.2
1993	11.9	33.2
1994	12.7	35.1
1995	13.1	34.2
1996	10.1	29.3
1997	5.8	18.7

*See *Methodology* for source of data.

AIDS-related deaths accounted for more than a third of all inmate deaths in Florida (45%), New Jersey (41%), Connecticut (39%), and South Carolina (35%) (table 5). Prison officials in the South reported the most AIDS-related deaths (309); Florida accounted for 108 of those deaths. Nineteen States reported having no AIDS-related deaths, and 7 States reported 1 AIDS-related death.

Table 5. AIDS-related deaths of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, 1997

Jurisdiction	Deaths from all causes in State prisons		AIDS-related deaths		
	Total	Rate per 100,000 inmates ^a	Total	Rate per 100,000 inmates ^a	As a percent of all deaths ^b
Total	2,872	255	538	48	18.7%
Northeast	501	295	136	80	27.1
Connecticut	33	191	13	75	39.4
Maine	1	62	0	0	**
Massachusetts	24	201	2	17	8.3
New Hampshire	5	231	0	0	**
New Jersey	101	356	41	145	40.6
New York	221	320	60	87	27.1
Pennsylvania	109	312	19	54	17.4
Rhode Island	6	178	1	30	**
Vermont	1	79	0	0	**
Midwest	488	223	50	23	10.2%
Illinois	101	248	16	39	15.8
Indiana	45	251	1	6	2.2
Iowa	9	130	0	0	**
Kansas	24	303	1	13	4.2
Michigan	99	221	18	40	18.2
Minnesota	6	113	1	19	**
Missouri	48	200	6	25	12.5
Nebraska	10	294	0	0	**
North Dakota	1	125	0	0	**
Ohio	117	244	6	12	5.1
South Dakota	6	268	0	0	**
Wisconsin	22	135	1	6	4.5
South	1,415	288	309	64	21.8%
Alabama	91	408	14	63	15.4
Arkansas	31	309	0	0	0
Delaware	12	221	0	0	0
District of Columbia	25	267	--	--	--
Florida	242	374	108	167	44.6
Georgia	114	312	41	112	36.0
Kentucky	28	192	0	0	0
Louisiana	80	273	17	58	21.3
Maryland	54	243	12	54	22.2
Mississippi	47	329	4	28	8.5
North Carolina	56	177	8	25	14.3
Oklahoma	68	331	3	15	4.4
South Carolina	55	260	19	90	34.5
Tennessee	70	420	13	78	18.6
Texas	341	243	56	40	16.4
Virginia	92	324	14	49	15.2
West Virginia	9	286	0	0	**
West	468	188	43	17	9.2%
Alaska	4	96	0	0	**
Arizona	61	260	0	0	0
California	268	172	36	23	13.4
Colorado	34	253	0	0	0
Hawaii	8	161	1	20	**
Idaho	10	256	2	51	20.0
Montana	4	159	0	0	**
Nevada	25	277	3	33	12.0
New Mexico	7	149	0	0	**
Oregon	19	238	0	0	0
Utah	3	70	0	0	**
Washington	23	174	1	8	4.3
Wyoming	2	129	0	0	**

--Not reported.

**Not calculated for 10 or fewer deaths.

^aBased on the number of inmates under State jurisdiction on June 30, 1997, with a sentence of more than 1 year.

^bNational and regional totals exclude inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on cause of death.

Eighteen States tested all inmates for HIV either at admission or while in prison

Prison officials report data on HIV and AIDS in the National Prisoner Statistics series (NPS-1). The quality of the reporting may vary by the nature and extent of testing in each jurisdiction. Testing policies range from testing all inmates to testing only upon inmate request.

In 1997 all States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons tested their inmates for HIV based on certain criteria (table 6). Most jurisdictions (44 out of 52) tested inmates if they had HIV-related symptoms or if the inmates requested a test. Twenty-nine States tested inmates after they were involved in an incident, and 15 States tested inmates who belonged to specific "high-risk groups."

Of the 18 States that tested all entering inmates, 4 States (Alabama, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons tested inmates at release.

Arkansas, Rhode Island, and Virginia tested all inmates currently in custody. New York was the only State that tested inmates selected at random.

Testing policy	Number of jurisdictions
Upon inmate request	40
Upon clinical indication of need	37
Upon involvement in an incident	29
All incoming inmates	18
High-risk groups	15
All inmates at time of release	5
All inmates currently in custody	3
Random sample	1

Note: Detail adds to more than 52 because a jurisdiction may have more than one testing policy.

Table 6. Prison system testing policies for the antibody to the human immunodeficiency virus, by jurisdiction, 1997

	All inmates		At release	High risk group	Upon inmate request	Clinical indication	Involvement in incident	Random sample	Other	
	Entering	In custody								
Federal*			X		X	X				
Northeast										
Connecticut				X	X	X	X			
Maine					X					
Massachusetts					X					
New Hampshire	X									
New Jersey					X	X			X	
New York				X	X	X	X	X		
Pennsylvania					X					
Rhode Island	X	X			X	X	X			
Vermont					X	X	X			
Midwest										
Illinois				X	X	X	X			
Indiana				X	X	X				
Iowa	X									
Kansas					X	X	X			
Michigan	X				X	X	X			
Minnesota				X	X	X	X			
Missouri	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Nebraska	X					X	X			
North Dakota	X									
Ohio				X	X	X	X		X	
South Dakota	X									
Wisconsin					X		X			
South										
Alabama	X		X			X				
Arkansas	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Delaware				X		X	X			
District of Columbia					X					
Florida					X	X	X			
Georgia	X				X	X				
Kentucky				X	X	X	X			
Louisiana					X	X	X			
Maryland					X	X	X			
Mississippi	X									
North Carolina					X	X	X			
Oklahoma	X				X	X	X			
South Carolina				X	X	X	X			
Tennessee				X	X	X	X		X	
Texas				X	X	X	X			
Virginia	X	X	X		X	X	X			
West Virginia					X	X				
West										
Alaska									X	
Arizona				X	X	X	X			
California					X	X	X			
Colorado	X				X	X	X		X	
Hawaii					X	X				
Idaho	X									
Montana				X	X	X	X			
Nevada	X		X		X	X	X			
New Mexico					X				X	
Oregon					X					
Utah	X									
Washington					X	X			X	
Wyoming						X				

*The Bureau of Prisons tests a random sample of inmates on alternate years.

HIV/AIDS reported in personal interviews

Data based on reports from correctional authorities are limited in detail and may understate the number of inmates infected with HIV. Additional information may be obtained through personal interviews of prisoners. Though some inmates may be reluctant to report that they are HIV positive and others may not know, surveys provide a means to track HIV infection among demographic and "high-risk" groups not identified in official records.

The 1997 Surveys of State and Federal Correctional Facilities asked inmates if they had ever been tested, if they had been tested since admission, and whether they were HIV positive. (See *Methodology* for further detail.)

Rate of HIV infection higher among State inmates than Federal inmates

Of inmates who reported being tested since admission, 2.6% in State prison and 0.7% in Federal prison reported being HIV positive (table 7).

Table 7. Inmates ever tested or tested since admission for the human immunodeficiency virus and test results, 1997

Inmate characteristic	Percent of tested inmates who reported results	
	State prisons	Federal prisons
Ever tested	74.6%	79.6%
HIV positive	2.2	0.6
Tested since admission	59.1%	69.7%
HIV positive	2.6	0.7

Note: Data are from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Among State prisoners who were tested for HIV, female inmates (3.4%) were more likely than male inmates (2.2%) to be HIV positive (table 8). Black non-Hispanic inmates (2.8%) were twice as likely as white non-Hispanic inmates (1.4%) to report being HIV positive. Among male inmates, black non-Hispanics (2.7%) were nearly twice as likely as white non-Hispanics (1.4%) to be HIV positive. Because of the small number of inmates interviewed, the rates of HIV infection among female inmates were not significantly different between white non-Hispanics (2.3%), black non-Hispanics (3.9%), and Hispanics (4.2%).

In Federal prisons 0.6% of males and of females reported an HIV infection. HIV-positive rates were lowest for white non-Hispanic inmates (0.3%). In both State and Federal prisons, inmates age 17-24 had the lowest rates (0.5% and 0.1%, respectively). In State prisons, inmates age 35-44 had the highest HIV-positive rate (3.1%). Those inmates age 25 or older were more likely to be HIV positive than those who were 24 or younger. In Federal prisons, inmates age 45 or older had the highest rate of HIV infection (1.2%).

Table 8. Inmates ever tested for the human immunodeficiency virus and results, by selected characteristics, 1997

Characteristic	Tested inmates who reported results			
	State prisons		Federal prisons	
	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive
All inmates	790,128	2.2%	70,902	0.6%
Gender				
Male	734,327	2.2%	65,723	0.6%
Female	55,800	3.4	5,179	0.6
Race/Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	257,919	1.4%	21,128	0.3%
Male	239,687	1.4	19,565	0.3
Female	18,232	2.3	1,563	0.3
Black non-Hispanic	384,870	2.8	28,178	0.8
Male	357,736	2.7	26,387	0.8
Female	27,135	3.9	1,791	1.3
Hispanic	123,725	2.5	18,466	0.7
Male	115,344	2.4	16,892	0.7
Female	8,382	4.2	1,573	0
Age				
17-24	154,181	0.5%	5,528	0.1%
25-34	310,161	2.3	26,262	0.5
35-44	232,835	3.1	22,228	0.4
45 or older	92,168	2.7	16,884	1.2
Marital status				
Married	128,834	1.7%	21,545	0.5%
Widowed/divorced	161,468	2.0	16,331	0.4
Separated	45,435	2.9	3,884	0
Never married	453,664	2.4	29,045	0.8
Education				
Less than high school	302,437	2.7%	17,226	0.8%
GED	231,714	1.4	16,389	0.6
High school or more	254,975	2.4	37,237	0.5

Note: Data are from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Among State prisoners drug offenders reported a higher prevalence of HIV infection

Those inmates held on a drug offense in State prisons had the highest HIV-positive rate (2.9%) (table 9). Of property offenders, 2.4% reported being HIV positive. Rates were slightly lower for violent and public-order offenders (1.9% each). Of Federal prison inmates, 1.0% of violent offenders, property offenders, and public-order offenders reported being HIV positive.

The percentage of State and Federal prison inmates reporting that they were HIV positive varied by level of prior drug use. Of State prison inmates who reported never using drugs, 1.7% were HIV positive. An estimated 2.3% of inmates who had ever used drugs, 2.7% of those who used drugs in the month before their current offense, 4.6% of those who had used a needle to inject drugs, and 7.7% of those who had shared a needle reported being HIV positive. Like State inmates, Federal inmates who used a needle and shared a needle had a higher rate of HIV infection than those inmates who reported ever using drugs or using drugs in the month before their current offense (1.3% and 2.1% compared to 0.7% and 0.3%).

Methodology

Data are based on yearly reports from prison officials in the departments of corrections of the 50 States and the District of Columbia and in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The National Prisoner Statistics series (NPS-1) includes an annual yearend count of prisoners by jurisdiction, gender, race, Hispanic origin, and admissions and releases during the year.

Table 9. Inmates ever tested for the human immunodeficiency virus and results, by offense and prior drug use, 1997

Characteristic	Tested inmates who reported results			
	State prisons		Federal prisons	
	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive
Current offense				
Violent	360,370	1.9%	10,681	1.0%
Property	178,601	2.4	4,660	1.0
Drug	164,256	2.9	43,815	0.4
Public-order	77,049	1.9	10,029	1.0
Prior drug use				
Never	123,049	1.7%	18,917	0.3%
Ever	665,977	2.3	51,847	0.7
In the month before offense	460,685	2.7	32,113	0.3
Used needle to inject drugs	168,446	4.6	9,443	1.3
Ever shared a needle	74,393	7.7	4,022	2.1

Note: Data are from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Key items on HIV/AIDS from National Prisoner Statistics

HIV testing, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1997

During 1997 were any inmates tested for the antibody to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS?

Yes No

Which inmates were tested during 1997? Mark (X) all that apply.

- All incoming inmates
- All inmates currently in custody
- All inmates at time of release
- Certain inmates (*Complete next item*)

Who were the certain inmates tested? Mark (X) all that apply.

- High-risk groups - Specify _____
- Upon inmate request
- Upon clinical indication of need
- Upon involvement in incident
- Random sample
- Other - Specify _____

HIV infection/AIDS cases in custody on Dec. 31, 1997

Inmates who were asymptomatic HIV positive

Total _____ Male _____ Female _____

Inmates with lesser forms of symptomatic HIV disease

Total _____ Male _____ Female _____

Inmates with confirmed AIDS

Total _____ Male _____ Female _____

Total number of inmates who were HIV positive or confirmed AIDS cases

Total _____ Male _____ Female _____

Since 1991 respondents have been asked to indicate their policies for testing for HIV and to provide the number of HIV-infected inmates in their custody on the last day of the calendar year.

To obtain more detailed information on inmates, this report also used data from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. Detailed descriptions of the methodology and sample design of each survey can be found in the following: *Substance Abuse and Treatment of State and Federal Prisoners, 1997* (NCJ 172871).

Accuracy of the survey estimates

The accuracy of the estimates from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is 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 nonresponse, 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 for the percentage of inmates ever tested for HIV and the percentage who tested

HIV positive have been calculated (see appendix table). These standard errors may be used to construct confidence intervals around percentages. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval around the percentage of males in State prisons who were HIV positive is approximately 2.2% plus or minus 1.96 times 0.20 (or 1.8% to 2.6%).

These standard errors may also be used to test the statistical significance of the difference between two sample estimates by pooling the standard errors of the estimates (that is, by taking the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors for each sample estimate). All comparisons discussed in this report were statistically significant at the 95-percent confidence level.

AIDS in the U.S. resident population

The number of persons with confirmed AIDS in the U.S. general population (age 13 and over) was derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, yearend editions 1991-97. For each year the number of active AIDS cases in the United States was calculated by subtracting the number of cumulative AIDS deaths for people age 15 or older at yearend from the cumulative number of total AIDS cases for people age 13 or older at yearend as listed in the *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*.

The data for the U.S. general population, excluding persons under age 13 from 1991 to 1997 were taken from the U.S. Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995, PPL-41, and update for 1996 and 1997.

The rate of confirmed AIDS cases in the U.S. resident population was calculated by dividing the annual totals for individuals with AIDS by the population estimates for the U.S. resident population of individuals 13 or older. The classification system for HIV infection and the case definition for AIDS were expanded in 1993. This expansion

Appendix table. Standard error estimates for Surveys of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1997

Characteristic	Estimated standard error of the percent of reporting inmates who were HIV positive	
	State prisons	Federal prisons
Gender		
Male	0.20	0.19
Female	0.44	0.35
Race/Hispanic origin		
White non-Hispanic	0.29	0.31
Male	0.31	0.33
Female	0.80	0.63
Black non-Hispanic	0.37	0.48
Male	0.38	0.51
Female	0.72	1.15
Hispanic	0.58	0.52
Male	0.61	0.56
Female	1.67	0.00
Age		
Under 24	0.20	0.27
25-34	0.30	0.27
35-44	0.40	0.26
45 or older	0.60	0.52
Marital status		
Married	0.40	0.30
Widowed/divorced	0.39	0.31
Separated	0.88	0.00
Never married	0.25	0.33
Education		
Less than high school	0.33	0.42
GED	0.27	0.38
High school graduate or more	0.34	0.23
Current offense		
Violent	0.25	0.60
Property	0.40	0.91
Drug	0.46	0.19
Public-order	0.55	0.62
Prior drug use		
Never used	0.41	0.25
Ever used	0.21	0.23
Used month before offense	0.27	0.19
Used needle to inject drugs	0.57	0.73
Shared a needle	1.09	1.41

improved estimates of the number and the characteristics of persons with HIV disease, but complicated interpretation of AIDS trends. The increase in reported AIDS cases in 1993 was largely the consequence of the added surveillance criteria. (See CDC, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 43, No. 45, November 18, 1994.)

Further reading

More information about HIV among jail inmates as well as about State and Federal prison programs can be found in Theodore M. Hammett, Patricia Harmon, and Laura M. Maruschak, *1996-1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB in Correctional Facilities*, National Institute of Justice report, NCJ 176344, July 1999. Obtain the report on the Internet at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/176344.htm>

AIDS-related deaths in the United States

The number of AIDS-related deaths for persons age 15-54 was derived from the CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, yearend editions. Deaths in the U.S. population for persons age 15-54 were taken from the CDC, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 42, No. 2(S); Vol. 43, No. 12; Vol. 43, No. 6(S); Vol. 45, No. 3(S); and Vol. 45, No. 11(S); and from the CDC, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 9, and Vol. 47, No. 25.

AIDS-related deaths as a percentage of all deaths in the U.S. population were calculated by dividing the national estimate of AIDS deaths of persons age 15-54 by the national mortality estimates of persons age 15-54 in a given year.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as the National Prisoner Statistics.

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This report and others from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available through the Internet —

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

The data from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities is available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, maintained by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive may also be accessed through the BJS Internet site.

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