

The United States prison population declined from 1,508,129 at the end of 2016 to 1,489,363 at the end of 2017, a decrease of 1.2%. During the same period, the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal correctional authorities decreased by 6,100 (down 3%), and the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of state correctional authorities fell by 12,600 (down 1%).

Imprisonment rates

The imprisonment rate for sentenced prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction decreased 2.1% from 2016 to 2017 (from 450 to 440 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents) and 13% from 2007 to 2017 (from 506 to 440 per 100,000). The imprisonment rate for sentenced prisoners was the lowest since 1997. (Counts of sentenced prisoners include those who have received a sentence of more than one year.)

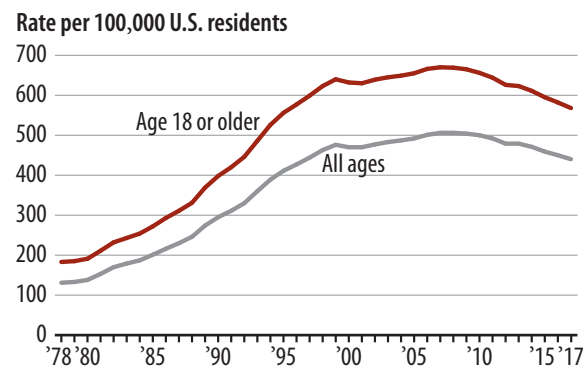
At year-end 2017, more than twice as many white females (49,100 prisoners) were in state and federal prisons as black (19,600) or Hispanic (19,400) females. However, the rate for black females in prison per 100,000 black females in the population was almost double that for white females (92 per 100,000 black female U.S. residents compared to 49 per 100,000 white female U.S. residents). The imprisonment rate was 66 per 100,000 Hispanic females.

Offense and offender characteristics

Non-citizens made up roughly the same portion of the U.S. prison population (7.6%) as of the total U.S. population (7.0%, per the U.S. Census Bureau). Nearly half of federal prisoners were serving a sentence for a drug-trafficking offense at the end of fiscal year 2017. Among state prisoners sentenced to more than one year, more than half (55%) were serving sentences for violent offenses at year-end 2016, the most recent year for which data are available.

At the end of 2016, an estimated 60% of Hispanics and blacks in state prison had been sentenced for a violent offense, compared to 48% of white prisoners. The

Imprisonment rates of sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, per 100,000 U.S. residents, 1978–2017



Note: Jurisdiction refers to the legal authority of state or federal correctional officials over a prisoner, regardless of where the prisoner is held. Counts are based on prisoners with a sentence of more than one year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics, 1978–2017; and U.S. Census Bureau, post-censal resident population estimates for January 1 of the following calendar year.

imprisonment rate of sentenced black adults declined by 4% from 2016 to 2017 and by 31% from 2007 to 2017. However, at year-end 2017, the imprisonment rate for sentenced black males (2,336 per 100,000 black male U.S. residents) was almost six times that of sentenced white males (397 per 100,000 white male U.S. residents).

Prisoners in local jails, private and military facilities

At year-end 2017, a total of 80,900 prisoners were held in the custody of local jails. The U.S. military held 1,000 persons sentenced to more than one year under its correctional authority. At year-end 2017, 8% of state and federal prisoners were held in privately operated facilities that were under the jurisdiction of 27 states or the Bureau of Prisons. The number of federal prisoners held in private facilities decreased by 6,600 from 2016 to 2017.

The full report (*Prisoners in 2017*, NCJ 252156), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.