



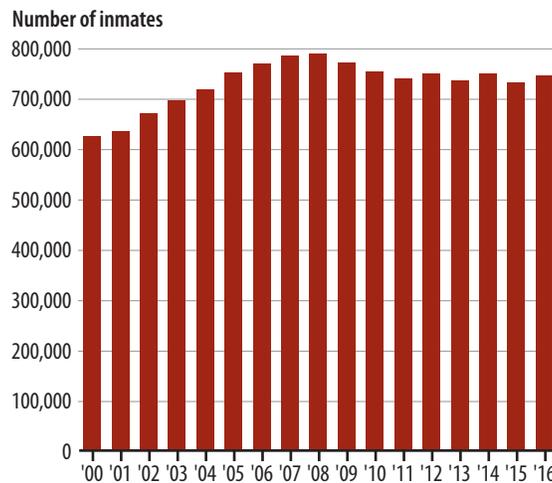
# Jail Inmates in 2016

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At midyear 2016, about 740,700 inmates were confined in county and city jails in the United States (figure 1, table 1). The midyear jail population (i.e., the number of inmates held in custody on the last weekday in June) remained relatively stable from 2011 to 2016 and below a peak of 785,500 in 2008, which was the highest count since 1982. There were 229 jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 2016, down from 259 per 100,000 residents at midyear 2007. Jails reported 10.6 million admissions during 2016, which was 14.5 times the size of the average daily population (ADP) in 2016 (731,300 inmates).

Findings in this report are based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), a nationally representative survey of county or city jail jurisdictions and regional jails in the country. Started in 1982, the ASJ tracks changes in the number and characteristics of local jail inmates nationwide. It also collects annual data on jail inmate turnover, jail capacity and space usage by other authorities.

**FIGURE 1**  
Inmates confined in local jails at midyear, 2000–2016



Note: Based on the number of inmates held on the last weekday in June. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000–2004 and 2006–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- County and city jails held 740,700 inmates at midyear 2016, down from a peak of 785,500 inmates at midyear 2008.
- In 2016, jails reported 10.6 million admissions, continuing a general decline since 2008.
- The jail incarceration rate declined from a peak of 259 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 2007 to 229 per 100,000 at midyear 2016.
- At year-end 2016, non-Hispanic blacks (599 per 100,000 black residents) were incarcerated in jail at a rate 3.5 times that of non-Hispanic whites (171 per 100,000 white residents).
- The total rated capacity of county and city jails reached 915,400 beds at year-end 2016.
- Eighty percent of jail beds were occupied in 2016, down from 95% in 2007.
- Seventeen percent of jails were operating at or above 100% of their rated capacity in 2016.
- On average, the expected length of stay in jail was 25 days in 2016.
- Smaller jails had a higher weekly inmate turnover rate and shorter expected length of stay than larger jails.
- Jails employed 226,300 full-time staff at year-end 2016; the inmate-to-correctional officer ratio was 4 to 1.

**TABLE 1****Inmates confined at midyear, average daily population, annual admissions, and incarceration rates, 2000 and 2005–2016**

Year	Confined inmates <sup>a</sup>	Average daily population <sup>b</sup>	Annual admissions <sup>c</sup>	Jail incarceration rate <sup>d</sup>
2000	621,100**	618,300**	11,200,000**	220**
2005	747,500	733,400	12,100,000**	253**
2006	765,800**	755,300**	12,200,000**	256**
2007	780,200**	773,100**	13,100,000**	259**
2008	785,500**	776,600**	13,600,000**	258**
2009	767,400**	768,100**	12,800,000**	250**
2010	748,700	748,600**	12,900,000**	242**
2011	735,600	735,600	11,800,000**	236**
2012	744,500	737,400	11,600,000**	237**
2013	731,200	731,400	11,700,000	231
2014	744,600	739,000	11,400,000**	234
2015	727,400	719,500	10,700,000	227
2016*	740,700	731,300	10,600,000	229
<b>Average annual change</b>				
2000–2015	1.1%	1.0%	-0.3%	0.2%
2015–2016	1.8%	1.6%	-0.8%	1.1%

Note: Data are rounded to the nearest 100 for confined inmates and average daily population and to the nearest 100,000 for admissions. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Number of inmates held on the last weekday in June.

<sup>b</sup>Sum of all inmates in jail each day for a year divided by the number of days in the year. Prior to 2015, the average daily population was calculated for the 12-month period ending on the last weekday in June. The 2015 and 2016 average daily population were calculated for the calendar year ending on December 31.

<sup>c</sup>Annual admissions in 2005 and 2007 through 2014 were estimated based on admissions during a one week period in June. The 2000, 2006, 2015, and 2016 annual admissions were for the calendar year ending December 31.

<sup>d</sup>Number of confined inmates in local jails per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2016; Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005; and Deaths in Custody Reporting Program, 2000 and 2006 (admissions only).

## Terms and definitions

- **Admissions**—All persons booked into and housed in jail facilities by formal legal document and the authority of the courts or some other official agency, including repeat offenders booked on new charges and persons sentenced to weekend programs and entering the facility for the first time. It excludes inmates reentering the facility after an escape, work release, medical appointment or treatment facility appointment, and bail and court appearances.
- **Average daily population**—The sum of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year.
- **Expected length of stay**—The average daily population multiplied by the number of days in a year divided by the number of annual admissions.
- **Jail incarceration rate**—The number of inmates held in the custody of local jails, per 100,000 total U.S. residents.
- **Midyear population**—The number of inmates held in custody on the last weekday in June.
- **Percent of capacity occupied**—The jail population divided by the rated capacity.
- **Rated capacity**—The number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.
- **Releases**—Persons released after a period of confinement (e.g., sentence completion, bail or bond releases, other pretrial releases, transfers to other jurisdictions, and deaths). Releases include persons who have completed their weekend program and who are leaving the facility for the last time. They exclude temporary discharges, including work release, medical appointment or treatment center, court appearance, furlough, day reporting, and transfers to other facilities within the jail jurisdiction.
- **Under jail supervision but not confined**—All persons in community-based programs operated by a jail facility, which include electronic monitoring, house arrest, community service, day reporting, and work programs. They exclude persons on pretrial release who are not in a community-based program run by the jail and persons under supervision of probation, parole, or other agencies; inmates on weekend programs; and inmates who participate in work release programs and return to the jail at night.
- **Weekly inmate turnover rate**—The sum of weekly admissions and releases divided by the average daily population.
- **Year-end population**—The number of inmates held in custody on December 31. The year-end population is typically smaller than the midyear population.

**Blacks were incarcerated in jail at a rate 3.5 times that of whites**

At year-end 2016, the jail incarceration rate was 217 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, which was similar to the rate of 215 per 100,000 at year-end 2015 (table 2). The incarceration rate for adults age 18 or older was 280 per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older at year-end 2016. Males (377 per 100,000 male U.S. residents) were incarcerated at a rate six times that of females (62 per 100,000 female U.S. residents).

Non-Hispanic blacks (599 per 100,000 black U.S. residents) had the highest jail incarceration rate at year-end 2016, followed by American Indian or Alaska Natives (359 per 100,000 AIAN residents). Non-Hispanic whites (171 per 100,000 white residents) and Hispanics (185 per 100,000 Hispanic residents) were incarcerated at a similar rate at year-end 2016. Among non-Hispanics in 2016, blacks were incarcerated in jail at a rate 3.5 times that of whites, down from 5.6 times the rate in 2000.

**TABLE 2**  
**Jail incarceration rates, by sex and race/Hispanic origin, 2000, 2005, and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear <sup>a</sup>							Year-end <sup>b</sup>	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Total <sup>c</sup>	220	253**	242**	236**	237**	231**	234**	215	217
Adults only <sup>d</sup>	292**	334**	315**	307**	308**	299**	302**	277	280
Sex <sup>c,d</sup>									
Male	397**	449**	432**	419**	418**	404**	405**	375	377
Female	49**	63	59**	59**	62	64	67**	60	62
Race/Hispanic origin <sup>c,e</sup>									
White	133**	167	168	167	173	174	178**	169	171
Black/African American	745**	804**	745**	720**	708**	668**	668**	607	599
Hispanic/Latino	264**	263**	233**	219**	213**	200**	200**	174	185
American Indian or Alaska Native	261**	339	436	411	402	438	442	357	359
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	43**	43**	33**	34**	33	31	35**	32	30
Two or more races	...	25	14**	21	25	26	16**	24	31

Note: Number of confined inmates in local jails per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear or year-end. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

...Not collected.

<sup>a</sup>Based on the inmate population confined on the last weekday in June.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the inmate population confined on December 31. In 2015 and 2016, the Annual Survey of Jails collected demographic data on inmate population at year-end instead of midyear.

<sup>c</sup>Includes both adults and juveniles.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes persons age 17 or younger.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2010–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

### Whites accounted for 48% of the jail population in 2016

At year-end 2016, an estimated 85% of the jail population were male (table 3). Juveniles (those age 17 or younger) made up of 0.5% of the inmates held in local jails, down from 1.2% in 2000.

White non-Hispanic inmates accounted for 48% of the jail population in 2016, up from 42% in 2000. In comparison, the percentage of black non-Hispanic inmates declined from 41% in 2000 to 34% in 2016. Hispanics represented 15% of the

jail population in both 2000 and 2016. American Indian or Alaska Native inmates and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander inmates each represented about 1% of the jail population.

In 2016, an estimated 65% of all jail inmates were awaiting court action on a current charge. The remaining 35% were sentenced offenders or convicted offenders awaiting sentencing. Seventy percent of inmates were held in jail for felony charges.

**TABLE 3**  
**Characteristics of confined inmates in local jails, 2000, 2005, and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear <sup>a</sup>							Year-end <sup>b</sup>	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	88.6%**	87.3%**	87.7%**	87.3%**	86.8%**	86.0%**	85.3%	85.7%	85.5%
Female	11.4**	12.7**	12.3**	12.7**	13.2**	14.0**	14.7	14.3	14.5
<b>Adults</b>	98.8%**	99.1%**	99.0%**	99.2%**	99.3%**	99.4%**	99.4%**	99.5%	99.5%
Male	87.4**	86.5**	86.7**	86.6**	86.1**	85.4**	84.8	85.3	85.0
Female	11.3**	12.6**	12.3**	12.6**	13.2**	13.9**	14.6	14.2	14.5
<b>Juvenile<sup>c</sup></b>	1.2%**	0.9%**	1.0%**	0.8%**	0.7%**	0.6%**	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Held as adult <sup>d</sup>	1.0**	0.8**	0.8**	0.6**	0.6**	0.5**	0.5**	0.4	0.4
Held as juvenile	0.2**	0.1	0.3**	0.2**	0.1	0.1**	0.1**	0.1**	0.1
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>e</sup></b>									
White	41.9%**	44.3%**	44.3%**	44.8%**	45.8%**	47.2%	47.4%	48.3%	48.1%
Black/African American	41.3**	38.9**	37.8**	37.6**	36.9**	35.8**	35.4	35.1	34.4
Hispanic/Latino	15.2	15.0	15.8	15.5	15.1	14.8	14.9	14.3**	15.2
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.9**	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	0.8**	0.7**	0.7**	0.7**	0.7	0.7**	0.8	0.8	0.8
Two or more races	...	0.1**	0.1**	0.2**	0.2**	0.2	0.1**	0.2	0.3
<b>Conviction status</b>									
Convicted	44.0%**	38.0%**	38.9%**	39.4%**	39.4%**	38.0%**	37.2%**	37.5%**	34.9%
Unconvicted	56.0**	62.0**	61.1**	60.6**	60.6**	62.0**	62.8**	62.5**	65.1
<b>Most serious type of offense</b>									
Felony	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67.9%**	69.7%
Misdemeanor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.5**	25.4
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.5**	4.9

Note: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 5 for standard errors. See appendix table 1 for the number of jail inmates by characteristics.

\*Comparison year.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

...Not collected.

<sup>a</sup>Based on the inmate population confined on the last weekday in June.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the inmate population confined on December 31. In 2015 and 2016, the Annual Survey of Jails collected demographic data on inmate population at year-end instead of midyear.

<sup>c</sup>Persons age 17 or younger.

<sup>d</sup>Juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2010–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

## 2 in 5 jail inmates were held in jurisdictions with 1,000 or more inmates in 2016

Thirty jail jurisdictions had an ADP of more than 2,500 inmates in 2016 (table 4). These jurisdictions made up 20% of the total jail inmate population. The next largest jail group, those 118 jail jurisdictions with an ADP of 1,000 to 2,499 inmates, held 23% of the population. In comparison, the 1,550 jail jurisdictions with an ADP of fewer than 100 accounted for 54% of all jail jurisdictions in 2016, but held less than 10% of the total inmate population.

## The rated capacity in jails reached 915,400 beds in 2016

At year-end 2016, the rated capacity in jails reached 915,400 beds (figure 2, table 5). The percentage of occupied capacity (ADP divided by rated capacity) peaked in 2007 at 95% and declined to 80% in 2016, as a result of the diverging trends of jail bed growth and a decline in the inmate population.

**TABLE 4**  
Average daily jail population, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction size	Jail jurisdictions		Total average daily population <sup>a</sup>		Mean average daily population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	2,850	100%	731,300	100%	257
49 or fewer	1,014	35.6	21,400	2.9	21
50–99	536	18.8	36,300	5.0	68
100–249	657	23.1	107,000	14.6	163
250–499	297	10.4	107,100	14.6	360
500–999	197	6.9	138,800	19.0	703
1,000–2,499	118	4.2	171,300	23.4	1,448
2,500 or more	30	1.1	149,500	20.4	4,958

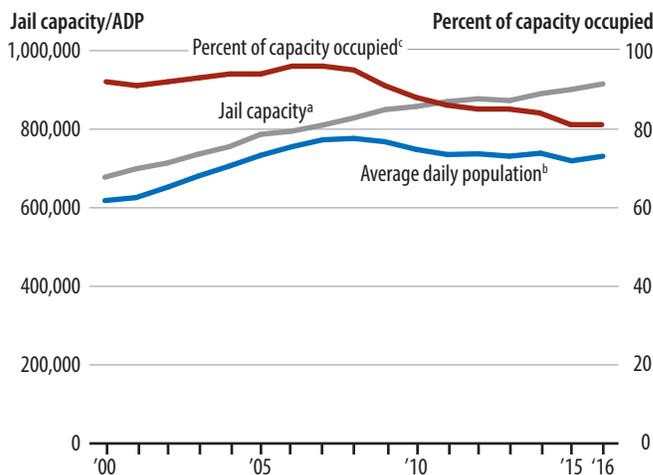
Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>The average daily population is the sum of all inmates in jail each day for the calendar year divided by the number of days in the year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

Jail jurisdictions with an ADP of fewer than 100 inmates had lower occupancy (averaging from 56% to 71%) than larger jail jurisdictions (averaging from 80% to 84%). In 2016, an estimated 17% of all jail jurisdictions were operating at or above 100% of their rated capacity. Jails with an ADP of 100 to 249 inmates were more crowded than both smaller and larger jails. More than a quarter (26%) of jails in this group were operating at or above 100% of their rated capacity in 2016.

**FIGURE 2**  
Jail capacity, average daily population, and percent of capacity occupied in local jails, 2000–2016



Note: Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails.

<sup>a</sup>Maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.

<sup>b</sup>Sum of all inmates in jail each day for a year divided by the number of days in the year. Prior to 2015, the average daily population (ADP) was calculated for the 12-month period ending on the last weekday in June. The 2015 and 2016 ADP were calculated for the calendar year ending on December 31.

<sup>c</sup>The average daily population divided by the rated capacity.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000–2004 and 2006–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

**TABLE 5**  
Percent of jail capacity occupied, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction size	Average daily population <sup>a</sup>	Rated capacity <sup>b</sup>	Percent of capacity occupied <sup>c</sup>	Percent of jail jurisdictions operating at more than 100% of rated capacity
Total	731,300	915,400	79.9%	16.5%
49 or fewer	21,400	38,400	55.6%**	7.0%**
50–99	36,300	51,400	70.7%**	19.0
100–249	107,000	126,700	84.4%**	25.6%**
250–499	107,100	129,900	82.4%**	21.9%**
500–999	138,800	173,100	80.2	20.4**
1,000–2,499	171,300	209,100	81.9**	15.7
2,500 or more*	149,500	186,800	80.0	13.8

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

\*\*Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Sum of all inmates in jail each day for the calendar year divided by the number of days in the year.

<sup>b</sup>Maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to a facility, excluding separate temporary holding areas.

<sup>c</sup>The average daily population divided by the rated capacity.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

### The inmate turnover rate for the smallest jail jurisdictions was three times that of the largest jails

In 2016, the overall weekly inmate turnover rate for all jails was 55%, and the expected length of stay in jail was 25 days (table 6). A higher inmate turnover rate was associated with a shorter length of stay in jail, which indicated an increased burden on jurisdictions to process admissions and releases for a given ADP.

Smaller jails had a higher weekly inmate turnover rate and shorter expected length of stay than larger jails. Jails with an ADP of 49 or fewer had a weekly inmate turnover rate of 123%, compared to inmate turnover rates from 40% to 77% for larger jails. The expected length of stay in 2016 ranged from 11 days for jails with an ADP of 49 or fewer to 34 days for jails with an ADP of 2,500 or more.

In addition to the confined jail population of 704,500, jail authorities also supervised 54,200 persons at year-end 2016 in programs outside of the jail, including electronic monitoring, home detention, day reporting, community service, treatment programs, and other pretrial and work programs. From 2000 to 2016, jails supervised between 54,200 and 72,900 persons outside of the jail at midyear or year-end each year (table 7).

### The ratio of jail inmates to correctional officers was 4 to 1

Local jail jurisdictions employed 226,300 full-time staff at year-end 2016, an increase from 213,000 at year-end 2015 (table 8). Similar to 2015, about 4 in 5 (79%) jail employees were correctional officers, including deputies, monitors, and other custody staff who spend more than half of their time with the incarcerated population. One in 5 (21%) jail employees were administrators, clerical and maintenance staff, educational staff, professional and technical staff, and other

unspecified staff who spend more than half of their time in the facility. In 2016, about 70% of correctional officers and 44% of other staff were male. The inmate-to-correctional officer ratio was 3.9:1 in 2016, down from 4.1:1 in 2015.

**TABLE 7**  
Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status, 2000 and 2006–2016

Year	Total	Held in jail	Supervised outside of a jail facility <sup>a</sup>
<b>Midyear<sup>b</sup></b>			
2000	687,000	621,100	65,900
2006	826,000	765,800	60,200
2007	848,400	780,200	68,200
2008	858,400	785,500	72,900
2009	837,600	767,400	70,200
2010	809,400	748,700	60,600
2011	798,400	735,600	62,800
2012	808,600	744,500	64,100
2013	790,600	731,200	59,400
2014	808,100	744,600	63,500
<b>Year-end<sup>c</sup></b>			
2015	747,400	692,500	54,900
2016*	758,700	704,500	54,200

Note: Data are rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Differences between 2015 and 2016 were not statistically significant. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year. Midyear populations are not compared to year-end populations because the jail population goes through seasonal change, typically with fewer inmates at year-end than at midyear.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons supervised by a probation or parole agency. Includes offenders who serve their sentence of confinement on weekends only (i.e., Friday to Sunday); persons under electronic monitoring; persons in work release programs, work gangs, and other alternative work programs; and persons in drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment.

<sup>b</sup>Based on population confined or supervised on the last weekday in June.

<sup>c</sup>Data are based on the number of persons under jail supervision on December 31. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2016.

**TABLE 6**  
Inmate turnover rate and expected length of stay, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction	Average daily population <sup>a</sup>	Annual admissions	Weekly inmate turnover rate <sup>b</sup>	Expected length of stay in days <sup>c</sup>
Total	731,300	10,629,800	55.0%	25.1
49 or fewer	21,400	696,900	122.8**	11.2**
50–99	36,300	748,700	77.3**	17.7**
100–249	107,000	1,981,300	69.6**	19.7**
250–499	107,100	1,564,100	55.4**	25.0**
500–999	138,800	1,886,000	51.5**	26.9**
1,000–2,499	171,300	2,156,600	48.1**	29.0**
2,500 or more*	149,500	1,596,200	40.4	34.2

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

\*\*Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Sum of all inmates in jail each day for the calendar year divided by the number of days in the year.

<sup>b</sup>The sum of weekly admissions and releases divided by the average daily population. Weekly admissions and releases are calculated as the annual admissions and releases divided by the number of weeks in the year.

<sup>c</sup>The average daily population multiplied by the number of days in a year divided by the number of annual admissions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

**TABLE 8**  
Staff employed in local jails, by sex, year-end 2015 and 2016

Job function	Number		Percent	
	2015	2016*	2015	2016*
<b>Total</b>	213,000**	226,300	100%	100%
<b>Correctional officers<sup>a</sup></b>	169,300**	178,800	79.5%	79.0%
Male	117,300**	124,300	55.1	54.9
Female	51,900	54,500	24.4	24.1
<b>All other staff<sup>b</sup></b>	43,700**	47,500	20.5%	21.0%
Male	19,700	21,000	9.3	9.3
Female	24,000**	26,500	11.3	11.7
<b>Inmate-to-correctional officer ratio<sup>c</sup></b>	4.1**	3.9		

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes deputies, monitors, and other custody staff who spend more than 50% of their time with the incarcerated population.

<sup>b</sup>Includes administrators, clerical and maintenance staff, educational staff, professional and technical staff, and other unspecified staff who spend more than 50% of their time in the facility.

<sup>c</sup>Number of confined inmates per correctional officer.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

## Methodology

### Sampling design

In years between the complete censuses of jails, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducts the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ) to estimate the number and characteristics of the jail population in the United States. The ASJ is a nationally representative survey of all county or city jail jurisdictions and all regional jails in the country. The federal jurisdiction and combined jail and prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont are not covered. These are included in BJS's prison collection. However, Alaska's 15 locally operated jails are covered.

A jail jurisdiction is a county (parish in Louisiana) or municipal government that administers one or more local jails and represents the entity responsible for managing jail facilities under its authority. Most jail jurisdictions consist of a single facility, but some have multiple facilities or multiple facility operators, called reporting units. For example, four reporting units in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, represent a single jail jurisdiction. The ASJ sample is drawn at the jurisdiction level. When a jail jurisdiction with multiple reporting units is sampled, data are collected from all reporting units within that jail jurisdiction. BJS collapses the reporting units into jail jurisdictions and reports statistics at the jurisdiction level.

The ASJ uses a stratified probability sampling design based on jail population data collected through the most recent Census of Jails (2013). Jails in the ASJ sample are surveyed annually until the next sample refresh. The most recent sample refresh occurred in 2015. A sample of 876 jail jurisdictions were selected to represent the approximately 2,851 jail jurisdictions nationwide. In selecting the jails, all jurisdictions were grouped into 10 strata based on their average daily population (ADP) and presence of juveniles measured in the most recent Census of Jails. In 8 of the 10 strata, a random sample of jail jurisdictions was selected. The remaining two strata were certainty strata, where all jurisdictions were selected with a probability of 1. One certainty stratum consisted of all jails that were operated jointly by two or more jurisdictions (referred to as multijurisdictional jails). The other certainty stratum consisted of all jail jurisdictions that—

- held juvenile inmates at the time of the 2013 Census of Jails and had an ADP of 500 or more inmates during the 12 months ending on December 31, 2013
- held only adult inmates and had an ADP of 750 or more
- were located in California
- were known to be operating in 2015 and not included in the 2013 Census of Jails.

The ASJ sample includes all California jail jurisdictions. This sampling feature was introduced in 2013 in response to the enactment of California Assembly Bill (AB) 109 and AB 117, aimed to reduce the number of inmates housed in state prisons starting on October 1, 2011. After the enactment of these two

laws, the jail population in California experienced an unusual increase that the rest of the United States did not experience. For this reason, the ASJ sampling design was modified to include all California jail jurisdictions in a certainty (self-representing) stratum. (See *Methodology in Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014*, NCJ 248629, BJS web, June 2015.) The inclusion of all California jail jurisdictions resulted in an additional 21 jurisdictions (California has 65 jurisdictions in total). The sample also includes in the certainty stratum six new jail jurisdictions that were known to be operating in 2015 and not represented in the sampling frame (2013 Census of Jails).

### Response rate and nonresponse adjustment

The 2016 ASJ data were collected through the web. The sample consisted of 875 active jail jurisdictions. Twenty-nine jurisdictions did not respond to the survey. The response rate was 97%.

### Nonresponse weighting adjustment

Nonresponse weighting was implemented to account for unit nonresponse. Jurisdictions were grouped into weighting classes based on sampling stratum and the 2013 inmate population. Using a simple weighting class method, a nonresponse weighting adjustment factor was calculated within each weighting class  $h$  as:

$$F_h = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} W_{hi} \times JURISA_{hi}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} W_{hi} \times JURISR_{hi}}$$

where

$n_h$  = number of jurisdictions sampled in weighting class  $h$ ,

$W_{hi}$  = sampling weight for jurisdiction  $i$  in weighting class  $h$ ,

$JURISA_{hi}$  = active status indicator for jurisdiction  $i$  in weighting class  $h$  (1 = active, 0 = out-of-scope), and

$JURISR_{hi}$  = response indicator of jurisdiction  $i$  in weighting class  $h$  (1 = respondent, 0 = nonrespondent).

### Final weight

The final weight  $FW_{hi}$  for each jail jurisdiction is calculated as the product of the sampling weight, the weighting class adjustment within each weighting class, and the jurisdiction's response factor.

$$FW_{hi} = W_{hi} \times F_h \times JURISR_{hi}$$

### Item nonresponse imputation

Item response rates ranged from 94% to 100%. For responding jail jurisdictions that were unable to provide some requested items, a weighted sequential hot-deck/cold-deck imputation procedure was used to impute values. This procedure, implemented using the SUDAAN software package, substitutes current-year respondent and prior-year (2015 ASJ, cold-deck)

data for missing values. The donor for each missing item was randomly selected from within a set of similar jails, sorted by related previous year population values. The resulting imputed values are generally similar to the reported values of the previous year, but are not identical because of differences between each donor and item pairing and the year-to-year fluctuation in donor population values.

### Midyear and year-end population difference

Prior to 2015, the ASJ used midyear (last weekday in June) as the reference date in data collection. The 2015 ASJ changed the reference date to December 31. The 2016 ASJ continued to use the year-end reference date. Comparisons of year-end data with previous midyear data need to consider seasonal variations, as jails typically hold fewer inmates at year-end than at midyear.

### Calculating weekly inmate turnover rates

The weekly jail inmate turnover rate is the sum of the average weekly admissions and releases divided by the ADP. The inmate turnover rate is an indicator of the fluctuation of the jail population.

### Jail functions

Jails in the ASJ include confinement facilities operated under the authority of a sheriff, police chief, or city or county administrator. They are intended for adults but may hold juveniles before or after they are adjudicated. Facilities include jails, detention centers, city or county correctional centers, special jail facilities (such as medical or treatment centers and pre-release centers) and temporary holding or lockup facilities that are part of the jail's combined function. Inmates sentenced to jail facilities usually have a sentence of 1 year or less.

Within the ASJ, jails—

- receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing
- re-admit probation, parole, and bail bond violators and absconders temporarily detain juveniles pending their transfer to juvenile authorities
- hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate mental health facilities
- hold individuals for the military, for protective custody, for contempt, and for the courts as witnesses
- release convicted inmates to the community on completion of sentence
- transfer inmates to federal, state, or other authorities
- house inmates for federal, state, or other authorities because of crowding of their facilities
- operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1**
**Number of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristic, 2000, 2005 and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear							Year-end <sup>a</sup>	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
<b>Total</b>	621,100	747,500	748,700	735,600	744,500	731,200	744,600	692,500	704,500
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	550,200	653,000	656,400	642,300	645,900	628,900	635,500	593,700	602,200
Female	71,000	94,600	92,400	93,300	98,600	102,400	109,100	98,800**	102,300
<b>Adults</b>	613,500	740,800	741,200	729,700	739,100	726,600	740,400	689,100	700,800
Male	543,100	646,800	649,300	636,900	640,900	624,700	631,600	590,500	598,900
Female	70,400	94,000	91,900	92,800	98,100	101,900	108,800	98,500**	101,900
<b>Juvenile<sup>b</sup></b>	7,600	6,800	7,600	5,900	5,400	4,600	4,200	3,500	3,700
Held as adult <sup>c</sup>	6,100	5,800	5,600	4,600	4,600	3,500	3,700	3,100	3,000
Held as juvenile	1,500	1,000	1,900	1,400	900	1,100	500	400**	700
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>d</sup></b>									
White	260,500	331,000	331,600	329,400	341,100	344,900	352,800	334,700	338,700
Black/African American	256,300	290,500	283,200	276,400	274,600	261,500	263,800	243,000	242,200
Hispanic/Latino	94,100	111,900	118,100	113,900	112,700	107,900	110,600	98,900**	107,200
American Indian or Alaska Native	5,500	7,600	9,900	9,400	9,300	10,200	10,400	8,500	8,600
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	4,700	5,400	5,100	5,300	5,400	5,100	6,000	5,800	5,600
Two or more races	...	1,000	800	1,200	1,500	1,600	1,000	1,600	2,100
<b>Conviction status<sup>e</sup></b>									
Convicted	271,300	284,400	291,300	289,600	293,100	278,000	277,100	259,900**	245,900
Unconvicted	349,800	463,200	457,400	446,000	451,400	453,200	467,500	432,600**	458,600
<b>Most serious type of offense</b>									
Felony	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470,400**	491,200
Misdemeanor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183,800	178,800
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,300	34,500

Note: Data adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Results may differ from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year. Midyear populations are not compared to year-end populations because the jail population goes through seasonal change, typically with fewer inmates at year-end than at midyear.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

...Not collected.

<sup>a</sup>Data are based on the number of inmates confined on December 31. Starting in 2015, the Annual Survey of Jails collected total counts at midyear and year-end, but characteristic data were collected only at year-end and no longer at midyear.

<sup>b</sup>Persons age 17 or younger at midyear.

<sup>c</sup>Includes juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>e</sup>Includes juveniles who were tried or awaiting trial as adults.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000, and 2010–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2**
**Standard errors for appendix table 1: Number of confined inmates in local jails, by characteristic, 2000, 2005 and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear							Year-end	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total</b>	2,504	~	5,430	6,009	7,684	8,042	8,382	6,853	5,720
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	2,235	~	4,832	5,278	6,776	7,088	7,015	5,943	4,982
Female	548	~	999	1,179	1,404	1,469	1,532	1,244	1,186
<b>Adults</b>	2,492	~	5,400	6,004	7,655	8,049	8,004	6,842	5,680
Male	2,223	~	4,794	5,241	6,685	7,025	6,961	5,932	4,943
Female	542	~	994	1,177	1,398	1,467	1,531	1,244	1,187
<b>Juvenile</b>	211	~	263	172	241	199	164	115	151
Held as adult	181	~	246	151	230	143	158	112	113
Held as juvenile	132	~	255	77	84	139	46	43	93
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>									
White	2,676	~	3,589	3,764	4,370	4,574	4,605	3,991	4,148
Black/African American	1,853	~	3,194	3,418	4,608	4,860	4,712	3,378	3,500
Hispanic/Latino	1,075	~	2,131	2,617	2,958	2,580	2,719	3,139	1,884
American Indian or Alaska Native	363	~	1,031	933	866	932	926	862	811
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	112	~	130	188	239	125	196	185	141
Two or more races	...	~	153	149	161	212	180	122	325
<b>Conviction status</b>									
Convicted	2,258	~	3,292	3,521	3,750	3,619	4,156	4,701	3,289
Unconvicted	2,256	~	4,515	4,819	5,918	6,740	5,691	4,504	5,412
<b>Most serious type of offense</b>									
Felony	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,427	5,214
Misdemeanor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,957	2,757
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,734	1,294

...Not collected.

~Not applicable. Data present a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000–2004 and 2006–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3**
**Standard errors for table 1: Inmates confined at midyear, average daily population, annual admissions, and incarceration rates, 2000 and 2005–2016**

Year	Confined inmates	Average daily population	Annual admissions	Jail incarceration rate
2000	2,504	2,265	~	0.89
2005	~	~	~	0.00
2006	3,552	3,230	~	1.19
2007	3,720	3,549	169,151	1.23
2008	4,016	3,883	272,916	1.32
2009	4,231	4,109	178,537	1.38
2010	5,430	5,359	233,704	1.76
2011	6,009	5,879	211,335	1.93
2012	7,684	7,769	188,549	2.45
2013	8,042	7,943	688,181	2.54
2014	8,382	8,430	205,287	2.63
2015	7,188	7,112	141,792	2.24
2016	5,943	5,788	138,605	1.84

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006–2016; Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005; and Deaths in Custody Reporting Program, 2000, 2006 (for admissions only).

**APPENDIX TABLE 4**
**Standard errors for table 2: Jail incarceration rates, by sex and race/Hispanic origin, 2000, 2005, and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear							Year-end	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total</b>	0.9	~	1.8	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.1	1.8
Adults only	1.2	~	2.3	2.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.8	2.3
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	1.6	~	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6	4.5	3.8	3.1
Female	0.4	~	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>									
White	1.4	~	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.1
Black/African American	5.4	~	8.4	8.9	11.9	12.4	11.9	8.4	8.7
Hispanic/Latino	3.0	~	4.2	5.0	5.6	4.8	4.9	5.5	3.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	17.3	~	45.4	40.8	37.5	40.0	39.4	36.3	33.8
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	1.0	~	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8
Two or more races	...	~	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.4	2.8	1.8	4.7

...Not collected.

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2010–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5**
**Standard errors for table 3: Characteristics of confined inmates in local jails, 2000, 2005, and 2010–2016**

Demographic characteristic	Midyear							Year-end	
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	0.07%	~	0.10%	0.12%	0.13%	0.14%	0.15%	0.11%	0.12%
Female	0.07	~	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.11	0.12
<b>Adults</b>	0.03	~	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Male	0.08%	~	0.10%	0.12%	0.13%	0.14%	0.14%	0.11%	0.12%
Female	0.07	~	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.11	0.12
<b>Juvenile</b>	0.03	~	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Held as adult	0.03	~	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Held as juvenile	0.02	~	0.03	0.01	0.01	--	0.01	0.01	0.01
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>									
White	0.33%	~	0.41%	0.43%	0.52%	0.55%	0.51%	0.46%	0.42%
Black/African American	0.31	~	0.40	0.39	0.47	0.51	0.48	0.37	0.38
Hispanic/Latino	0.19	~	0.30	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.25
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.06	~	0.17	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.11
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	0.02	~	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02
Two or more races	...	~	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
<b>Conviction status</b>									
Convicted	0.29%	~	0.41%	0.42%	0.47%	0.52%	0.48%	0.47%	0.45%
Unconvicted	0.29	~	0.41	0.42	0.47	0.52	0.48	0.47	0.45
<b>Most serious type of offense</b>									
Felony	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.40%	0.39%
Misdemeanor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.36	0.36
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.24	0.18

Note: Results may be different from previous reports in the series due to data updates received from jails.

--Less than 0.005%.

...Not collected.

~Not applicable. Data represent a complete enumeration based on the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2010–2016; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

### APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for table 4: Average daily jail population, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction size	Jail jurisdictions		Total average daily population		Mean average daily population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	--	~	5,788	~	2.0
49 or fewer	46.0	1.62%	1,925	0.27%	1.4
50-99	51.7	1.81	3,377	0.46	1.5
100-249	33.6	1.18	4,821	0.63	3.3
250-499	9.1	0.32	3,102	0.43	3.6
500-999	4.9	0.17	2,984	0.41	4.3
1,000-2,499	1.4	0.05	2,146	0.38	7.9
2,500 or more	1.0	0.04	5,271	0.62	85.4

--Less than 0.05%.

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

### APPENDIX TABLE 7

Standard errors for table 5: Percent of jail capacity occupied, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction size	Average daily population	Rated capacity	Percent of capacity occupied	Percent of jail jurisdictions operating at more than 100% of rated capacity
Total	5,788	8,467	0.43%	1.65%
49 or fewer	1,925	3,532	3.10	2.93
50-99	3,377	5,252	3.18	4.93
100-249	4,821	6,329	1.77	3.53
250-499	3,102	4,277	0.97	1.98
500-999	2,984	3,564	0.56	1.56
1,000-2,499	2,146	2,892	0.41	0.61
2,500 or more	5,271	7,039	0.62	1.28

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

### APPENDIX TABLE 8

Standard errors for table 6: Inmate turnover rate and expected length of stay, by size of jurisdiction, 2016

Jail jurisdiction size	Average daily population	Annual admissions	Weekly inmate turnover rate	Expected length of stay in days
Total	5,788	138,605	0.60	0.28
49 or fewer	1,925	73,768	10.10	0.93
50-99	3,377	81,601	4.65	1.07
100-249	4,821	111,690	2.39	0.69
250-499	3,102	60,652	1.38	0.61
500-999	2,984	47,568	0.82	0.43
1,000-2,499	2,146	33,191	0.43	0.26
2,500 or more	5,271	57,668	0.54	0.47

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.

### APPENDIX TABLE 9

Standard errors for table 7: Persons under jail supervision, by confinement status, 2000 and 2006-2016

Year	Total	Held in jail	Supervised outside of a jail facility
<b>Midyear</b>			
2000	2,728	2,504	996
2006	3,783	3,552	1,151
2007	4,041	3,720	1,267
2008	4,732	4,016	2,327
2009	4,548	4,231	1,535
2010	5,897	5,430	1,960
2011	6,446	6,009	1,832
2012	8,438	7,684	2,418
2013	8,692	8,042	2,351
2014	9,248	8,382	2,707
<b>Year-end</b>			
2015	7,169	6,853	1,548
2016	6,309	5,720	1,868

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2006-2016.

### APPENDIX TABLE 10

Standard errors for table 8: Staff employed in local jails, by sex, year-end 2015 and 2016

Job function	Number		Percent	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
<b>Total</b>	2,407	3,368	~	~
<b>Correctional officers</b>	2,094	2,881	0.31%	0.38%
Male	1,480	1,817	0.32	0.32
Female	850	1,238	0.25	0.30
<b>All other staff</b>	773	1,065	0.31%	0.38%
Male	461	627	0.19	0.23
Female	431	535	0.18	0.21
<b>Inmate-to-correctional officer ratio</b>	0.04	0.05		

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2016.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Jeffrey H. Anderson is director.

This report was written by Zhen Zeng. Todd Minton and Stephanie Mueller verified the report.

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February 2018, NCJ 251210



NCJ251210

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