



Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

June 1997, NCJ-163917

Correctional Populations in the United States, 1995

An estimated 5.4 million adults were under some form of correctional supervision in 1995. Seven in every ten of these people were on probation or parole. About 2.8% of the U.S. adult resident population were under correctional care or supervision in 1995, up from 1.6% in 1985.

Jails

Local jails are facilities that hold inmates beyond arraignment, usually for more than 72 hours but less than a year. Local jails are administered by city or county officials.

Local jails held an estimated 499,300 adults, or about 1 in every 389 adult U.S. residents, on June 30, 1995. Men made up 90% of adult jail inmates. White non-Hispanic inmates accounted for 40% of the total jail population; black non-Hispanics, 43%; and Hispanics, 15%.

The total number of adults in jail increased by an estimated 19,500 inmates during the year ending June 30, 1995, or 4.1%. The overall increase of 255,000 adult inmates between 1985 and 1995 represents an average annual increase of 7%.

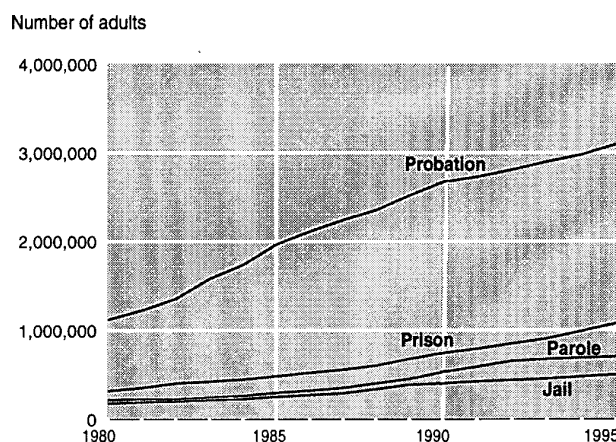
Probation

Nearly 3.1 million adults were on probation on December 31, 1995. Probationers made up 58% of all adults under correctional supervision in 1995.

Approximately 21% of the probationers were women, a larger proportion than for any other correctional population. About 66% of adults on probation were white, and 32%, black. More than 6 in 10 persons discharged from probation had successfully completed their sentences.

The number of adults on probation in the United States increased by 115,500 (3.9%) between yearend 1994 and 1995. From 1985 to 1995 the probation population grew by more than 1.1 million, an average of 4.6% annually.

Adults on probation, in jail or prison, on parole, 1980-95



Prisons

An estimated 1.1 million men and women were in the custody of State and Federal prisons at yearend 1995. About 94% of all prisoners were men; 48% were white, and 50%, black.

Nearly two-thirds of sentenced prisoners entering prison in 1995 were new court commitments, and about a third were parole or other conditional release violators. Among persons released from prison in 1995, 76% were placed on probation, parole, or some other type of conditional release.

The number of prisoners rose by 9% during 1995, the equivalent of 88,400 inmates. This brought the total increase in prisoners between 1985 and 1995 to 590,952, which translates to an average growth rate of 8.3% each year.

Parole

An estimated 700,000 adults were on parole at yearend 1995, an increase of 1.4% from 1994. Nine of every ten parolees were men. An estimated 53% of persons on parole were white; 46%, black; and 1%, of other races.

Half of all entries to parole were based on a parole board decision. Nearly half of all exits from parole were categorized as successful completions. Most of the remainder were returned to incarceration, but only 1 of every 9 parolees were returned to incarceration with a new sentence.

While the parole population increased by only 1% during the year, the average annual rate of increase from 1985 to 1995 was 8.8%, more than that of any other correctional population. The number of adults on parole more than doubled during the 10-year period (from 300,203).

The percentage of prisoners released from prison to supervision in the community has remained relatively unchanged from 1980 (73%) to 1995 (71%). There was a steady decline in the percentage of inmates released by parole boards, down from 55% in 1980 to 32% in 1995. This decrease was offset by dramatic increases in mandatory parole releases (19% in 1980 and 39% in 1995).

Capital punishment

During 1995, 310 inmates were received under sentence of death by State and Federal prisons, and 105 had their death sentences removed by means other than execution. State and Federal prisons held a total of 3,054 prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 1995.

An estimated 57% of those under sentence of death at yearend were white and 42% were black. Half of the inmates had been under sentence of death for at least 6 years and 9 months.

Sixteen States executed 56 male prisoners during 1995. The total number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States from 1977 to 1995 was 313.

Military confinement

On December 31, 1995, the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy held a total of 2,838 prisoners in 28 facilities. The Coast Guard operated no confinement facilities. Data for Air Force confinement facilities were not reported.

About 84% of prisoners held by the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy at yearend 1995 were convicted inmates; 16% were unconvicted persons whose cases had not been tried.

A third of convicted military prisoners were confined for rape (16%) or sexual assault (17%); a fifth were serving a sentence for murder. About 7% were confined for military infractions, such as desertion, AWOL, insubordination, or failure to obey a lawful order.

Characteristics of staff and inmates in State and Federal facilities, midyear 1990 and 1995

	State		Federal	
	1990	1995	1990	1995
Total staff	245,750	321,941	18,451	25,379
Type				
Custody/security	162,532	210,544	7,055	10,348
Professional/technical	29,433	40,687	5,029	4,604
Clerical	18,619	25,117	1,389	2,266
Maintenance/food service	18,857	20,591	3,002	3,014
Educational	9,867	9,856	1,036	1,164
Administrative	6,442	7,980	940	1,529
Other	--	7,166	--	2,454
Sex*				
Male	177,470	227,412	13,094	19,169
Female	59,053	94,449	3,780	6,210
Total inmates held	658,828	941,642	56,821	81,930
Sex				
Male	622,982	884,817	52,642	76,393
Female	35,846	56,825	4,179	5,537
Race				
White non-Hispanic	249,376	327,515	25,553	36,403
Black non-Hispanic	316,283	459,044	15,597	29,178
Hispanic	81,152	132,980	14,346	14,385
Other races	12,017	22,103	1,325	1,964
Inmates under age 18	3,561	5,309	39	0
Number of inmates —				
Per employee	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2
Per correctional officer	4.1	4.5	8.1	7.9

--Not reported.

*1990 data for sex of staff exclude nonpayroll and contract staff (about 4% of total). The data from 1995 for sex of staff exclude information from 1 private facility with 80 employees.

About 98% of military detainees were men. About 52% were non-Hispanic whites; 36%, non-Hispanic blacks; 8%, Hispanics; and 4% other races. More than 98% of persons confined were enlisted; 1.8% were officers.

1995 Census of Correctional Facilities

Every 5 years the Bureau of Justice Statistics conducts a census of the Nation's prisons to obtain detailed information on State and Federal prison inmates, staff, facilities, and programs. Previous censuses were conducted in 1974, 1979, 1984, and 1990.

On June 30, 1995, 1,023,572 persons were incarcerated in the Nation's State and Federal correctional facilities, a 43% increase over the 1990 population. Between 1990 and 1995, the number of inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents rose from 263 to 390.

About 94% of all inmates were men. Nearly 36% were white non-Hispanic; 48%, black non-Hispanic; 14%, Hispanic; and 2%, other races.

The number of prisoners under age 18 in State and Federal correctional facilities increased 47% from 3,600 in 1990 to 5,309 in 1995. Five States accounted for 52% of this increase: Florida (804), Connecticut (736), New York (498), North Carolina (457), and Texas (251).

Between July 1, 1994, and June 30, 1995, 3,311 inmates died while in the custody of State and Federal correctional authorities. The leading cause of death was illness and natural causes (excluding AIDS), accounting for 55% of deaths. AIDS-related illnesses were second (34%), followed by suicide (5%), homicide by other inmates (3%), and other causes (3%).

The number of employees in State and Federal correctional facilities grew by nearly a third between 1990 and 1995, from 264,201 to 347,320.

Between 1990 and 1995 the number of inmates increased at an annual rate of 7.4%, while the number of full-time and part-time employees grew at an annual rate of 5.6%.

In 1995, custody or security staff comprised 6 of every 10 employees. The number of inmates per custody or security employee was 4.6 inmates in 1995, up from 4.2 in 1990.

The States, District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons operated a total of 1,500 correctional facilities at midyear 1995, including 1,196 confinement institutions and 304 community-based facilities. Confinement institutions held 97% of all inmates.

The South maintained 629 correctional facilities (46% of all State facilities); 3 of the 4 States reporting the largest numbers of institutions were also in the South — Florida (98), North Carolina (93), and Texas (92). California operated the most facilities in 1995 — 102.

Between midyear 1990 and 1995, Texas recorded the largest growth in the number of State facilities (49 new facilities), followed by Washington (13) and Georgia (11). Nine States — Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Virginia — reported a decline in the number of correctional facilities. The Federal Bureau of Prisons added 32 confinement facilities and 3 community-based facilities during the 5-year period.

At midyear 1995 the rated capacity of the Nation's State correctional facilities totaled 909,908. Rated capacity is the maximum number of beds or inmates allocated by rating officials to each facility. Between 1990 and 1995 more than 259,000 beds were added.

As of June 30, 1995, State correctional facilities were operating at 103% of rated capacity. Between 1990 and 1995 rated capacity increased by 40%, while the number of inmates increased by 43%.

The total number of State and Federal correctional facilities rose by 17% from midyear 1990 to midyear 1995 (from 1,287 to 1,500). During the same period, facilities holding 2,500 inmates or more increased by 108%, and those holding between 1,000 and 2,499 rose 65%. The number of maximum security facilities rose 27%; numbers of medium and minimum security facilities each grew by 14%.

Characteristics of 1,375 State and 125 Federal correctional facilities, 1995

Facility characteristic	State	Federal
Type		
Confinement	1,084	112
Community-based	291	13
Size		
Fewer than 500 inmates	796	58
500-999 inmates	255	31
1,000-2,499 inmates	271	35
2,500 or more	53	1
Security level		
Maximum, close, or high	289	9
Medium	438	25
Minimum or low	648	91
Age		
Less than 10 years	441	56
10-19 years	254	19
20-49 years	343	23
50-99 years	284	26
100 years or more	45	0
Not reported	8	1
Primary function		
General adult population	864	107
Work release/pre-release	261	10
Reception, diagnosis, or classification	49	0
Alcohol or drug treatment	39	0
Bootcamp	20	2
Youthful offender population	16	0
Medical treatment	10	4
Return to custody	9	0
Number under court order		
For any reason	378	113
To limit population	228	1
For specific reasons	321	112
For totality of conditions	149	0

A third of the country's State and Federal correctional housing stock was less than 10 years old in 1995; nearly a quarter was 50 years old or older, including 3% that had been in existence 100 years or longer. The Midwest had the highest percentage of both facilities less than 10 years old (36%) and 100 years old or older (7%).

The primary function of most correctional facilities was housing general adult populations: 63% of State facilities and 86% of Federal facilities. About 19% of State correctional facilities were used as work release or pre-release centers. While 65 correctional facilities operated bootcamps, only 22 reported this as their primary function.

Among State correctional facilities, 378 were under court order for at least one reason. About 85% of these had been cited for specific conditions; 60% had been ordered to limit population; and 39% had been cited for totality of conditions.

The 112 Federal facilities under court order or consent decree in 1995 resulted from a preliminary injunction arising from a single court case involving the Federal Bureau of Prison's inmate telephone system. One Federal facility was under court order to limit population.

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