

Facts About Prisons and People in Prison

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRISONS

The number of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons increased by 9.7% from 1,391,261 to 1,526,792 between 2000 and 2015.

In addition to the nearly 1.5 million people in state and federal prisons, there were 721,300 people in local jails in 2015, yielding a total incarcerated population of 2.2 million.

Between 2010 and 2015 the number of people in prison decreased by 4.9%.

1 in every 115 adults in America was in prison or jail in 2015.

4.6 million people were on probation or parole in 2015 for a total of 6.7 million people in America under some form of criminal justice supervision.

The 2015 U.S. incarceration rate of 670 people per 100,000 population is the highest in the world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE IN PRISON

93% of people in prison are men and 7 percent are women.

104,968 women were in state or federal prison in 2015.

One in 17 black men aged 30-34 was in prison in 2015, as were 1 in 42 Hispanic males and 1 in 91 white males in the same age group.

Black males born in 2001 had a 32 percent chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males had a 17% change; white males had a 6% chance.

In 2015, the rate of prison incarceration for black women was double the rate for white women; the rate for Hispanic women was 1.2 times higher.

Nearly half (46%) of people incarcerated in state prisons in 2015 were convicted of nonviolent drug, property or public order crimes.

People convicted of drug offenses were 16 percent of state prisoners and 50% of federal prison inmates in 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

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