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Prisoners in 1999

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The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State adult correctional authorities was 1,366,721 at yearend 1999. During the year the States and the District of Columbia added 31,591 prisoners, and the Federal prison system added 12,205 prisoners. Overall, the Nation's prison population grew 3.4%, which was less than the average annual growth of 6.5% since 1990. During 1999 the prison population rose at the lowest rate since 1979 and had the smallest absolute increase since 1988.

The rate of incarceration in prison at yearend 1999 was 476 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents — up from 292 in 1990. About 1 in every 110 men and 1 in every 1,695 women were sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal authorities.

Overall, the United States incarcerated 2,026,596 persons at yearend 1999. This total represents persons held in —

- Federal and State prisons (1,284,894, which excludes State prisoners in local jails)
- territorial prisons (18,394)
- local jails (605,943)
- facilities operated by or exclusively for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (7,675)
- military facilities (2,279)
- jails in Indian country (1,621)
- juvenile facilities (105,790, as of October 29, 1997).

About 1 in every 137 residents in the United States and its Territories were incarcerated.

Highlights

Decem- ber 31	Number of inmates		Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 resident population		Population housed as a percent of highest capacity	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
1990	65,526	708,393	20	272	--	115%
1995	100,250	1,025,624	32	379	126%	114
1998	123,041	1,177,532	38	423	127	113
1999	135,246	1,231,475*	42	434	132	101

--Not available.

*In 1999, 6 States expanded their reporting criteria. For comparisons with previous years, the count 1,209,123 should be used.

- During 1999 the number of female prisoners rose by 4.4%, greater than the increase in male prisoners (3.3%). At yearend 1999, 90,668 women were in State or Federal prisons — 6.6% of all prison inmates.
- On December 31, 1999, State prisons were operating between 1% and 17% above capacity, while Federal prisons were operating at 32% above capacity.
- Texas (163,190), California (163,067), and the Federal system (135,246) together held 1 in every 3 prisoners in the Nation. Thirteen States, each holding fewer than 5,000 inmates, together held less than 3% of the Nation's prisoners.
- Two States — Idaho (up 12.9%) and Wisconsin (10.9%) — had increases of at least 10% in 1999. Nine jurisdictions experienced decreases, led by Rhode Island (down 12.8%) and the District of Columbia (-12.0%).
- At yearend 1999, privately operated facilities housed 71,208 inmates (5.2% of State and Federal inmates); local jails housed 63,635 State inmates (5.2% of State prisoners).
- Factors underlying the growth in the State prison population between 1990 and 1998 included —
 - a 54% rise in the number of parole violators returned to prison and a 7% increase in new court commitments.
 - a drop in annual release rates from 37% in 1990 to 31% in 1998.
 - an increase in the average time served in prison by released inmates (from 22 months in 1990 to 28 months in 1998) and in the time expected to be served by those entering prison (from 38 months to 43 months).
 - an increase in violent offenders (representing 51% of State growth) and drug offenders (19% of State growth).
- Analyses of imprisonment rates from 1990 to 1999 reveal —
 - a 60% increase among males and an 84% increase among females in the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents.
 - large disparities by race and Hispanic origin. In 1999 the rate among black males in their late twenties reached 9,392 prisoners per 100,000 residents compared to 3,126 among Hispanic males and 990 among white males.

Nearly 1.9 million were in prisons and local jails; 135,800 held in other facilities

On December 31, 1999, 1,284,894 inmates were in the custody of State and Federal prison authorities, and 605,943 were in the custody of local jails authorities (table 1). During 1999 the number of inmates in State prisons increased by 2.1%; in Federal prisons, 13.4%; and in local jails, 2.3%. Since 1990 the incarcerated population has grown on average 5.7% annually.

The rate of incarceration in prison and jail in 1999 was 690 inmates per 100,000 residents — up from 458 per 100,000 in 1990.

At yearend 1999 other correctional authorities also held inmates. The U.S. Territories and Commonwealths — American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands — reported 18,394 inmates under the jurisdiction of their prison systems at yearend 1999 — an increase of 3.2% since 1998 (table 2). Puerto Rico, the largest of the

Territories, had the most prisoners (15,465 at yearend 1999), down 6.4% since 1998.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) reported 17,986 detainees on December 31, 1999, up 4.6% from 1998. Though many of these detainees (10,311) were held in Federal and State prisons and local jails, 7,675 were held in INS-operated facilities or other confinement facilities.

U.S. military authorities held 2,279 prisoners in 65 facilities at yearend 1999, down 6.1% since 1998 (table 3). Army facilities held 45% of all inmates under military jurisdiction; Navy facilities, 30%; Marine Corps, 21%; and Air Force, 4%.

Other correctional authorities include 69 Indian country jails and detention centers, which held 1,621 inmates on June 30, 1999. In addition, 105,790 juveniles were held in 1,121 public and 2,310 private residential placement facilities on October 29, 1997 (when the last count was completed). Overall, the U.S. incarcerated 2,026,596 persons at yearend 1999 — the equivalent of 1 in every 137 residents in the U.S. and its Territories.

Table 1. Number of persons held in State or Federal prisons or in local jails, 1990-99

Year	Total inmates in custody	Prisoners in custody on December 31		Inmates in local jails on June 30	Incarceration rate ^b
		Federal	State		
1990	1,148,702	58,838	684,544	405,320	458
1995	1,585,586	89,538	989,004	507,044	601
1996	1,646,020	95,088	1,032,440	518,492	618
1997	1,743,643	101,755	1,074,809	567,079	648
1998	1,816,931	110,793	1,113,676	592,462	669
1999 ^c	1,890,837	125,682	1,159,212	605,943	690
Percent change,					
1998-99 ^b	2.9%	13.4%	2.1%	2.3%	
Average annual increase,					
1990 - 99	5.7%	8.8%	6.0%	4.6%	

Note: Jail counts for 1994-99 exclude persons supervised outside of a jail facility.
^aIncludes prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding.
^bNumber of prison and jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at yearend.
^cIn 1999, 15 States expanded their reporting criteria to include inmates held in privately operated correctional facilities. For comparisons with previous years, the State count 1,137,544 and the total count 1,869,169 should be used.

Table 2. Prisoners in custody of correctional authorities in the U.S. Territories, yearend 1998 and 1999

	Total			Sentenced to more than 1 year			
	Advance 1999	Final 1998	Percent change, 1998-99	Advance 1999	Final 1998	Percent change, 1998-99	Incarceration rate, 1999*
Total	18,394	17,824	3.2%	12,610	13,406	-5.9%	294
American Samoa	108	112	-3.6	94	95	-1.1	147
Guam	970	629	54.2	288	272	5.9	190
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	71	112	-36.6	42	52	-19.2	61
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico	15,465	16,524	-6.4	11,933	12,747	-6.4	307
U.S. Virgin Islands	1,780	447	298.2	253	240	5.4	212

*The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 persons in the resident population. Midyear population estimates were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base.

Table 3. Prisoners under military jurisdiction, by branch of service, yearend 1998 and 1999

Branch of service	Number		Percent change, 1998-99	Percent of prisoners, 1999
	1999	1998		
To which prisoners belonged				
Total	2,279	2,426	-6.1%	100.0%
Air Force	409	484	-15.5	17.9
Army	761	862	-11.7	33.4
Marine Corps	565	682	-17.2	24.8
Navy	523	389	34.4	22.9
Coast Guard	21	9	133.3	0.9
Holding prisoners				
Total	2,279	2,426	-6.1%	100.0%
Air Force	92	128	-28.1	4.0
Army	1,026	1,115	-8.0	45.0
Marine Corps	480	617	-22.2	21.1
Navy	681	526	29.5	29.9

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

U.S. prison population rose 3.4% during 1999 — the smallest annual growth rate since 1979

The 1999 growth in the number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction (3.4%) was slightly smaller than the percentage increase recorded during 1998 (4.7%) (table 4). The population under the jurisdiction of State and Federal authorities increased by 43,796 inmates during 1999, significantly lower than in 1998 (up 58,420). Since yearend 1990 the prison population has grown an average of 65,867 per year, for an increase of 592,802 in 9 years.

Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year ("sentenced prisoners") represented 96% of the total prison population at yearend 1999. During the 12-month period, the sentenced prison population grew 3.2% (table 5). The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were currently unsentenced (that is, awaiting trial in States with combined prison-jail systems).

The sentenced Federal prison population (up 10.2%) grew at over 4 times the rate of the sentenced State prison population during 1999 (up 2.5%). The sentenced Federal population grew faster than in 1998 (9.2%), while growth in the sentenced State population was down from 1998 (3.9%).

Table 4. Change in the State and Federal prison populations, 1990-99

Years	Annual increase in the number of prisoners		Percent change
	Custody	Jurisdiction	
1990	60,000	61,555	8.6%
1991	49,153	51,640	6.7
1992	58,031	56,941	6.9
1993	58,815	64,992	7.4
1994	80,766	84,258	8.7
1995	88,395	71,172	6.7
1996	49,222	57,494	5.1
1997	48,800	58,785	5.0
1998	47,905	58,420	4.7
1999	36,957	43,796	3.4
Average annual increase, 1990-99	60,168	65,867	6.5%

Note: In years in which States changed their reporting methods, counts based on comparable methods were used to calculate the annual increase and percent change. The average annual increases were calculated on the revised counts in 1999. See *Methodology* for changes by State.

Table 5. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by region and jurisdiction, yearend 1998 and 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Total			Sentenced to more than 1 year			Incarceration rate, 1999 ^a
	Advance 1999	1998	Percent change, 1998-99	Advance 1999	1998	Percent change, 1998-99	
U.S. total	1,366,721	1,300,573	3.4%	1,305,393	1,245,402	3.2%	476
Federal	135,246	123,041	9.9	114,275	103,682	10.2	42
State	1,231,475	1,177,532	2.7	1,191,118	1,141,720	2.5	434
Northeast	179,758	175,681	1.5%	171,234	167,376	1.5%	330
Connecticut ^b	18,639	17,605	5.9	13,032	12,193	6.9	397
Maine	1,716	1,691	1.5	1,663	1,641	1.3	133
Massachusetts ^c	11,356	11,799	-3.8	10,282	10,744	-4.3	266
New Hampshire	2,257	2,169	4.1	2,257	2,169	4.1	187
New Jersey ^d	31,493	31,121	1.2	31,493	31,121	1.2	384
New York ^e	73,233	70,001	2.6	72,896	70,001	2.1	400
Pennsylvania	36,525	36,377	0.4	36,525	36,373	0.4	305
Rhode Island ^b	3,003	3,445	-12.8	1,908	2,175	-12.3	193
Vermont ^b	1,536	1,473	4.3	1,178	959	22.8	198
Midwest	232,905	228,116	2.1%	231,961	227,270	2.1%	367
Illinois ^{d,f}	44,660	43,051	3.7	44,660	43,051	3.7	368
Indiana	19,309	19,197	0.6	19,260	19,016	1.3	324
Iowa ^{d,f}	7,232	7,394	-2.2	7,232	7,394	-2.2	252
Kansas ^d	8,567	8,183	4.7	8,567	8,183	4.7	321
Michigan ^f	46,617	45,879	1.6	46,617	45,879	1.6	472
Minnesota	5,969	5,572	7.1	5,955	5,557	7.2	125
Missouri	26,155	24,974	4.7	26,133	24,950	4.7	477
Nebraska	3,688	3,676	0.3	3,632	3,588	1.2	217
North Dakota	943	915	3.1	866	834	3.8	137
Ohio ^d	46,842	48,450	-3.3	46,842	48,450	-3.3	417
South Dakota	2,506	2,422	3.5	2,498	2,417	3.4	339
Wisconsin	20,417	18,403	10.9	19,699	17,951	9.7	375
South	551,284	512,271	3.7%	528,377	493,488	3.4%	543
Alabama	24,658	22,676	8.7	24,109	22,214	8.5	549
Arkansas	11,415	10,638	7.3	11,336	10,561	7.3	443
Delaware ^b	6,983	5,558	--	3,730	3,211	--	493
Dist. of Columbia ^b	8,652	9,829	-12.0	6,730	8,144	-17.4	1,314
Florida ^f	69,596	67,224	3.5	69,594	67,193	3.6	456
Georgia ^f	42,091	39,262	7.2	42,008	38,758	8.4	532
Kentucky	15,317	14,987	2.2	15,317	14,987	2.2	385
Louisiana	34,066	32,228	5.7	34,066	32,228	5.7	776
Maryland	23,095	22,572	2.3	22,184	21,540	3.0	427
Mississippi	18,247	16,678	9.4	17,410	15,855	9.8	626
North Carolina	31,086	31,961	-2.7	26,635	27,244	-2.2	345
Oklahoma ^d	22,393	20,892	7.2	22,393	20,892	7.2	662
South Carolina	22,008	21,764	1.1	21,228	20,910	1.5	543
Tennessee ^{d,e}	22,502	17,738	4.5	22,502	17,738	4.5	408
Texas ^e	163,190	144,510	1.9	154,865	139,863	0.7	762
Virginia	32,453	30,276	7.2	30,738	28,672	7.2	447
West Virginia	3,532	3,478	1.6	3,532	3,478	1.6	196
West	267,528	261,464	1.9%	259,546	253,586	2.0%	421
Alaska ^b	3,949	4,097	-3.6	2,325	2,541	-8.5	374
Arizona ^f	25,986	25,515	1.8	23,944	23,500	1.9	495
California	163,067	161,904	0.7	160,517	159,201	0.8	481
Colorado	15,670	14,312	9.5	15,670	14,312	9.5	383
Hawaii ^b	4,903	4,924	-0.4	3,817	3,670	4.0	320
Idaho ^e	4,842	4,083	12.9	4,842	4,083	12.9	385
Montana	2,954	2,734	8.0	2,954	2,734	8.0	335
Nevada	9,494	9,651	-1.6	9,413	9,651	-2.5	509
New Mexico	5,124	5,078	0.9	4,730	4,825	-2.0	270
Oregon	9,810	8,981	9.2	9,792	8,935	9.6	293
Utah ^e	5,426	4,453	4.2	5,271	4,402	4.3	245
Washington	14,590	14,161	3.0	14,558	14,161	2.8	251
Wyoming	1,713	1,571	9.0	1,713	1,571	9.0	355

--Not calculated.

^aThe number of prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year per 100,000 U.S. residents.

^bPrisons and jails form one integrated system. Data include total jail and prison population.

^cThe incarceration rate includes an estimated 6,200 inmates sentenced to more than 1 year but held in local jails or houses of corrections.

^d"Sentenced to more than 1 year" includes some inmates "sentenced to 1 year or less."

^eReporting changed in 1999; percents calculated on counts adjusted for comparable reporting.

^fPopulation figures are based on custody counts.

Table 6. Change in the number of sentenced prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, 1990-99

Region and jurisdiction	Population difference	Percent change	Average annual percent change
U.S. total	558,285	74.7 %	6.4%
Federal	63,872	126.7 %	9.5%
State	494,413	71.0	6.1
Northeast	52,171	43.8 %	4.1%
Connecticut	5,261	67.7	5.9
Maine	183	12.4	1.3
Massachusetts ^a	2,383	30.2	3.0
New Hampshire	915	68.2	5.9
New Jersey	10,365	49.1	4.5
New York	18,001	32.8	3.2
Pennsylvania	14,244	63.9	5.6
Rhode Island	322	20.3	2.1
Vermont	497	73.0	6.3
Midwest	86,380	59.3 %	5.3%
Illinois	17,144	62.3	5.5
Indiana ^a	6,645	52.7	4.8
Iowa	3,265	82.3	6.9
Kansas	2,792	48.3	4.5
Michigan ^a	12,350	36.0	3.5
Minnesota	2,779	87.5	7.2
Missouri	11,190	74.9	6.4
Nebraska	1,346	58.9	5.3
North Dakota	431	99.1	8.0
Ohio	15,020	47.2	4.4
South Dakota	1,157	86.3	7.2
Wisconsin	12,261	--	--
South	245,796	87.0 %	7.2%
Alabama	8,744	56.9	5.1
Arkansas	4,062	55.8	5.1
Delaware	1,489	--	--
Dist. of Columbia ^a	-68	-1.0	-0.1
Florida	25,214	56.8	5.1
Georgia	20,337	93.8	7.6
Kentucky	6,294	69.8	6.1
Louisiana	15,467	83.2	7.0
Maryland	5,450	32.6	3.2
Mississippi	9,326	115.4	8.9
North Carolina ^a	8,871	49.9	4.6
Oklahoma	10,108	82.3	6.9
South Carolina	5,020	31.0	3.0
Tennessee	12,114	116.6	9.0
Texas ^b	98,081	172.7	11.8
Virginia	13,320	76.5	6.5
West Virginia	1,967	125.7	9.5
West	110,066	73.6 %	6.3%
Alaska	474	25.6	2.6
Arizona	10,163	73.7	6.3
California ^a	66,395	70.5	6.1
Colorado	7,999	104.3	8.3
Hawaii	2,109	123.5	9.3
Idaho	2,881	146.9	10.6
Montana	1,529	107.3	8.4
Nevada	3,590	61.7	5.5
New Mexico	1,663	54.2	4.9
Oregon	3,300	50.8	4.7
Utah	2,797	113.1	8.8
Washington	6,563	82.1	6.9
Wyoming ^a	603	54.3	4.9

--Not calculated because of changes in reporting procedures.

^aGrowth may be slightly overestimated due to a change in reporting from custody to jurisdiction counts.

^bIncludes 6,742 "paper-ready" State inmates held in local jails in 1990.

Prison incarceration rates have risen sharply since 1990

On December 31, 1999, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents was 476. Of the 12 States with rates greater than that for the Nation, 8 were in the South, 3 were in the West, and 1 was in the Midwest. Three States — Minnesota (125), Maine (133), and North Dakota (137) — had rates that were less than a third of the national rate. The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, held 1,314 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents.

Since 1990 the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents has risen from 292 to 476. During this period, incarceration rates rose most in the South (from 316 to 543) and West (from 277 to 421). The rate in the Midwest rose from 239 to 367, and the rate in the Northeast grew from 232 to 330. The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents increased from 20 to 42.

Two States reported increases of at least 10% during 1999; 8 States reported decreases

Between January 1 and December 31, Idaho experienced the largest increase (up 12.9%), followed by Wisconsin (10.9%), Colorado (9.5%), Mississippi (9.4%), Oregon (9.2%), and Wyoming (9.0%). Eight States and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in prison populations. Rhode Island had the largest decline (down 12.8%), followed by the District of Columbia (down 12.0%), Massachusetts (down 3.8%), and Alaska (down 3.6%).

In absolute numbers of inmates, 6 jurisdictions grew by at least 2,000. The Federal system (up 12,205 inmates), experienced the largest growth, followed by Georgia (up 2,829), Texas (up 2,727), Florida (up 2,372), Virginia (up 2,177), and Wisconsin (up 2,014). These six jurisdictions incarcerated 29% of all prisoners but accounted for nearly 56% of the total growth during 1999.

Since 1990 the sentenced inmate population in State prisons has grown 71% (table 6). During this period nine States more than doubled their sentenced inmate populations, led by Texas (up 173%), Idaho (up 147%), and West Virginia (up 126%). Between 1990 and 1999 the Federal system reported an increase of 127% — 63,872 additional inmates with sentences of more than 1 year.

Table 7. The 10 highest and lowest jurisdictions for selected characteristics of the prison population, yearend 1999

Prison population	Number of inmates	Incarceration rates, 1999	Rate per 100,000 State residents ^a	1-year growth, 1998-99	Percent change	Growth since 1990	Average percent change ^b
10 highest:							
Texas	163,190	Louisiana	776	Idaho	12.9%	Texas	11.8%
California	163,067	Texas	762	Wisconsin	10.9	Idaho	10.6
Federal	135,246	Oklahoma	662	Federal	9.9	Federal	9.5
New York	73,233	Mississippi	626	Colorado	9.5	West Virginia	9.5
Florida	69,596	Alabama	549	Mississippi	9.4	Hawaii	9.3
Ohio	46,842	South Carolina	543	Oregon	9.2	Tennessee	9.0
Michigan	46,617	Georgia	532	Wyoming	9.0	Mississippi	8.9
Illinois	44,660	Nevada	509	Alabama	8.7	Utah	8.8
Georgia	42,091	Arizona	495	Montana	8.0	Montana	8.4
Pennsylvania	36,525	Delaware	493	Arkansas	7.3	Colorado	8.3
10 lowest:							
North Dakota	943	Minnesota	125	Rhode Island	-12.8%	Dist. of Columbia	-0.1%
Vermont	1,536	Maine	133	Dist. of Columbia	-12.0	Maine	1.3
Wyoming	1,713	North Dakota	137	Massachusetts	-3.8	Rhode Island	2.1
Maine	1,716	New Hampshire	187	Alaska	-3.6	Alaska	2.6
New Hampshire	2,257	Rhode Island	193	Ohio	-3.3	Massachusetts	3.0
South Dakota	2,506	West Virginia	196	North Carolina	-2.7	South Carolina	3.0
Montana	2,954	Vermont	198	Iowa	-2.2	Maryland	3.2
Rhode Island	3,003	Nebraska	217	Nevada	-1.6	New York	3.2
West Virginia	3,532	Utah	245	Hawaii	-0.4	Michigan	3.5
Nebraska	3,688	Washington	251	Nebraska	0.3	Ohio	4.4

^aThe number of prisoners with a sentence of more than 1 year per 100,000 residents in the State population. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and the District of Columbia are excluded.

^bThe average annual percent change from 1990 to 1999.

Among States, Louisiana had the highest incarceration rate; Minnesota, the lowest

At yearend 1999 the 10 jurisdictions with the largest prison populations had under their jurisdiction 821,067 inmates, or 60% of the Nation's total prison population (table 7). Texas (163,190), California (163,067), and the Federal system (135,246) accounted for a third of the population. The 10 States with the smallest prison populations each held fewer than 4,000 inmates. Collectively, these States held only 1.7% of the Nation's total prison population.

Louisiana had the highest prison incarceration rate (776 sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents), followed by Texas (762), Oklahoma (662), and Mississippi (626). Seven States had prison incarceration rates below 200, led by Minnesota (125), Maine (133), and North Dakota (137).

Since 1990 two States had average annual prison population increases of at least 10%: Texas (11.8%) and Idaho (10.6%). Eight States had average annual growth rates of less

than 4%, led by Maine (1.3%), Rhode Island (2.1%), and Alaska (2.6%).

Female prisoner population more than doubled since 1990

During 1999 the number of women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal prison authorities increased 4.4%, outpacing the rise in the number of men (up 3.3%) for the fourth consecutive year (table 8). At yearend 1999 90,688 women and 1,276,053 men were in State or Federal prisons.

Since 1990 the annual rate of growth of the female inmate population has averaged 8.3%, higher than the 6.4% average increase in the number of male inmates. While the total number of male prisoners has grown 75% since 1990, the number of female prisoners has increased 106%. By yearend 1999 women accounted for 6.6% of all prisoners nationwide, up from 5.7% in 1990.

Relative to their number in the U.S. resident population, men were 15 times more likely than women to be incarcerated in a State or Federal prison. At yearend 1999 there were 59 sentenced

female inmates per 100,000 women in the United States, compared to 913 sentenced male inmates per 100,000 men.

Table 8. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by gender, yearend 1990, 1998, and 1999

	Men	Women
All inmates		
Advance 1999	1,276,053	90,688
Final 1998	1,216,219	84,354
Final 1990	729,840	44,065
Percent change, 1998-99 ^a	3.3%	4.4%
Average annual 1990-99	6.4	8.3
Sentenced to more than 1 year		
Advance 1999	1,222,799	82,594
Final 1998	1,167,802	77,600
Percent change, 1998-99 ^a	3.1%	4.4%
Incarceration rate^b		
1999	913	59
1990	572	32

^aFor comparisons, percents were based on comparable 1999 counts — 1,256,327 males, 88,042 females, 1,204,036 sentenced males, and 81,020 sentenced females.

^bThe number of prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year per 100,000 residents on December 31.

Table 9. Women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, 1990-99

	Number of female inmates		Percent change		Incarceration rate, 1999 ^b
	1999	1990	1998-99	Average, 1990-99 ^a	
U.S. total	90,668	44,065	4.4%	8.3%	59
Federal	9,913	5,011	7.9%	7.9%	6
State	80,755	39,054	3.9	8.4	53
Northeast	9,754	6,293	4.3%	5.0%	32
Connecticut	1,459	683	7.5	8.8	48
Maine	65	44	-7.1	4.4	9
Massachusetts ^c	742	582	-0.5	2.7	13
New Hampshire	117	44	0.9	11.5	19
New Jersey	1,862	1,041	12.6	6.7	44
New York	3,644	2,691	0.9	3.4	38
Pennsylvania	1,618	1,006	6.7	5.4	26
Rhode Island	188	166	-20.0	1.4	11
Vermont	59	36	13.5	5.6	14
Midwest	14,143	7,521	3.4%	7.3%	43
Illinois	2,802	1,183	5.9	10.1	45
Indiana ^c	1,222	681	2.0	6.7	40
Iowa	539	212	9.8	10.9	37
Kansas	570	284	9.0	8.0	42
Michigan ^c	2,027	1,688	-1.2	2.1	40
Minnesota	355	159	23.3	9.3	15
Missouri	1,891	777	0.6	10.4	67
Nebraska	251	145	0.8	6.3	28
North Dakota	70	20	1.4	14.9	20
Ohio	2,841	1,947	-2.4	4.3	49
South Dakota	189	77	-6.9	10.5	51
Wisconsin	1,386	348	18.7	...	51
South	37,525	15,366	5.6%	10.4%	67
Alabama	1,668	955	14.2	6.4	70
Arkansas	788	435	13.2	6.8	59
Delaware	612	226	...	...	56
Dist. of Columbia ^c	276	606	-23.1	-8.4	31
Florida	3,820	2,664	8.3	4.1	49
Georgia	2,607	1,243	5.4	8.6	64
Kentucky	1,097	479	4.9	9.6	54
Louisiana	2,268	775	4.0	12.7	100
Maryland	1,113	877	-2.4	2.7	37
Mississippi	1,405	448	15.8	13.5	89
North Carolina ^c	1,880	945	-3.0	7.9	34
Oklahoma	2,316	1,071	10.8	8.9	134
South Carolina	1,447	1,053	4.6	3.6	65
Tennessee ^{c,d}	1,368	390	11.7	15.0	48
Texas ^d	12,502	2,196	1.1	...	100
Virginia	2,119	927	14.1	10.2	57
West Virginia	239	76	13.3	13.6	26
West	19,333	9,874	1.3%	7.8%	59
Alaska	288	128	-4.6	9.4	45
Arizona	1,855	835	3.2	9.3	64
California ^c	11,368	6,502	-2.8	6.4	65
Colorado	1,213	433	13.4	12.1	59
Hawaii	553	171	28.6	13.9	80
Idaho	399	120	16.8	14.3	63
Montana	262	76	5.6	14.7	59
Nevada	731	406	-1.6	6.8	81
New Mexico	460	193	2.2	10.1	44
Oregon	583	362	11.3	5.4	35
Utah	368	125	9.6	12.7	33
Washington	1,111	435	9.1	11.0	38
Wyoming ^c	142	88	8.4	5.5	59

...Not calculated because of changes in reporting procedures.

^aThe average annual percentage increase from 1990 to 1999.

^bThe number of female prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year per 100,000 U.S. residents.

^cGrowth from 1990 to 1999 may be slightly overestimated due to a change in reporting from custody to jurisdiction counts.

^dExcludes an unknown number of female inmates in 1990 who were "paper-ready" State inmates held in local jails.

Over a third of all female prisoners were held in the 3 largest jurisdictions: Texas (12,502), California (11,368), and the Federal system (9,913) (table 9). Oklahoma (with 134 sentenced female inmates per 100,000 female State residents) and Texas and Louisiana (both with 100) had the highest female incarceration rates. Maine (with 9 sentenced female prisoners per 100,000 female residents) and Rhode Island (11) had the lowest incarceration rates.

Since 1990 the female prisoner population has grown at an annual average rate of at least 10% in 18 States. Tennessee reported the highest average annual increase in female prisoners (15.0%), followed by North Dakota (14.9%), Montana (14.7%), and Idaho (14.3%). The District of Columbia, which is transferring jurisdiction of its prison inmates to the Federal system, was the only jurisdiction to report fewer female prisoners since 1990. In 1999, the District of Columbia recorded a 23% decline in the number of female inmates.

Privately-operated prisons held over 71,000 State and Federal inmates in 1999

At yearend 1999, 31 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal system reported a total of 71,208 prisoners held in privately operated facilities (table 10). These private facilities held 5.5% of all State prisoners and 2.8% of Federal prisoners.

Texas (with 11,653 State inmates housed in private facilities) and Oklahoma (with 6,228) reported the largest number in 1999. Five States — New Mexico (39%), Alaska (35%), Oklahoma (28%), Montana (25%), Hawaii (24%) — had at least 20% of their prison population housed in private facilities.

Except for Wisconsin (with 17% of its State inmates in private facilities) and New Jersey (with 8%), the use of private facilities was concentrated among Southern and Western States. Overall, 8.1% of State inmates in the South and 5.8% in the West were in privately operated facilities at the end of 1999.

Table 10. State and Federal prisoners held in private facilities, local jails, or other States' facilities, by jurisdiction, yearend 1999

	Private facilities		Local jails		In other State or Federal facilities	
	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a
U.S. total	71,208	5.2%	63,635	4.7%	6,952	0.5%
Federal	3,828	2.8	0	0	0	0
State	67,380	5.5	63,635	5.2	6,952	0.6
Northeast	2,539	1.4%	6,300	3.5%	1,301	0.7%
Connecticut	0	0	--	--	321	1.7
Maine	22	1.3	0	0	55	3.2
Massachusetts	0	0	451	4.0	296	2.6
New Hampshire	0	0	34	1.5	69	3.1
New Jersey ^b	2,517	8.0	4,328	13.7	62	0.2
New York	0	0	1,427	1.9	0	0
Pennsylvania	0	0	60	0.2	55	0.2
Rhode Island ^b	0	0	--	--	42	1.4
Vermont ^b	0	0	--	--	401	26.1
Midwest	4,784	2.1%	2,735	1.2%	1,806	0.8%
Illinois	0	0	0	0	33	0.1
Indiana	936	4.8	1,224	6.3	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	99	1.2
Michigan	301	0.6	262	0.6	774	1.7
Minnesota	80	1.3	174	2.9	165	2.8
Missouri	0	0	0	0	56	0.2
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	32	0.9
North Dakota	0	0	24	2.5	18	1.9
Ohio	0	0	0	0	45	0.1
South Dakota	46	1.8	0	0	22	0.9
Wisconsin	3,421	16.8	1,051	5.1	562	2.8
South	44,656	8.1%	46,585	8.5%	2,364	0.4%
Alabama	0	0	1,375	5.6	432	1.8
Arkansas	1,224	10.7	703	6.2	0	0
Delaware	0	0	--	--	290	4.2
Dist. of Columbia	4,024	46.5	--	--	1,287	14.9
Florida	3,773	5.4	0	0	0	0
Georgia	3,001	7.1	3,757	8.9	0	0
Kentucky	1,700	11.1	3,221	21.0	15	0.1
Louisiana	3,080	9.0	14,892	43.7	0	0
Maryland	131	0.6	141	0.6	52	0.2
Mississippi	3,429	18.8	3,349	18.4	...	...
North Carolina	1,395	4.5	47	0.2	0	0
Oklahoma	6,228	27.8	1,056	4.7	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	461	2.1	288	1.3
Tennessee	3,476	15.4	5,716	25.4	0	0
Texas	11,653	7.1	7,131	4.4	0	0
Virginia	1,542	4.8	4,084	12.6	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	652	18.5	0	0
West	15,401	5.8%	8,015	3.0%	1,481	0.6%
Alaska	1,387	35.1	--	--	33	0.8
Arizona	1,392	5.4	17	0.1	91	0.4
California	4,621	2.8	2,826	1.7	640	0.4
Colorado ^c	0	0	2,675	17.1	0	0
Hawaii	1,168	23.8	--	--	31	0.6
Idaho	400	8.3	431	8.9	96	2.0
Montana	726	24.6	831	28.1	...	...
Nevada	561	5.9	157	1.7	206	2.2
New Mexico	1,873	38.6	153	3.0	105	2.0
Oregon	0	0	10	0.1	75	0.8
Utah	248	4.6	879	16.2	112	2.1
Washington ^b	331	2.3	0	0	73	0.5
Wyoming	281	16.4	36	2.1	19	1.1

Note: Some inmates held in private facilities may be in local jails or out of State.
 --Not applicable. Prison and jails form an integrated system

...Not reported.

^aBased on the total number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction.

^bInmates held in other State facilities include interstate compact cases.

^cColorado housed 2,413 inmates in private facilities under contract to local jails.

Local jails held nearly 64,000 State prisoners

At the end of 1999, 34 States reported a total of 63,635 State prisoners held in local jails or other facilities operated by county or local authorities. These inmates held in local jails represented 5.2% of all State prisoners in 1999.

Louisiana had the largest percentage of its State inmate population housed in local jails, 44%. Three other States — Montana (28%), Tennessee (25%), and Kentucky (21%) — had at least 20% of their population housed in local jail facilities.

In addition to housing inmates in privately-operated facilities and local jails (within their own State and elsewhere), 35 States reported placing inmates in Federal facilities and in other State-operated facilities. On December 31, 1999, 6,952 prisoners nationwide were held under such arrangements — representing less than 1% of all State prisoners. Michigan placed the most inmates (774), followed by California (640) and Wisconsin (562). Vermont (26%) and the District of Columbia (15%) had more than 10% of their prison population housed in facilities of other States or the Federal system.

Prison capacity measures vary

Prison capacity and the extent of crowding are difficult to determine because of the absence of uniform measures for defining capacity. Jurisdictions apply a variety of capacity measures to reflect both the available space to house inmates and the ability to staff and operate an institution. To estimate the capacity of their prisons, jurisdictions were asked to supply three measures for yearend 1999: rated, operational, and design capacities. These measures were defined as follows:

Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to institutions within the jurisdiction.

Table 11. Reported Federal and State prison capacities, yearend 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Type of capacity measure			Custody population as a percent of —	
	Rated	Operational	Design	Highest capacity ^a	Lowest capacity ^a
Federal	90,075	...	...	132%	132%
Northeast					
Connecticut ^b	...	...	...	...	...
Maine	1,460	1,639	1,460	100%	112%
Massachusetts	...	...	9,162	116	116
New Hampshire	2,036	2,064	1,944	109	116
New Jersey	...	...	17,282	143	143
New York	61,265	66,384	53,815	108	133
Pennsylvania	25,228	32,384	25,228	113	145
Rhode Island	3,724	3,724	3,862	76	79
Vermont	1,140	1,200	1,023	95	111
Midwest					
Illinois	32,313	32,313	27,529	138%	162%
Indiana	15,383	17,944	...	96	111
Iowa	6,219	6,219	6,219	116	116
Kansas	8,860	...	...	97	97
Michigan	...	47,178	...	98	98
Minnesota	5,664	5,786	5,786	98	100
Missouri	...	27,416	...	95	95
Nebraska	...	2,963	2,371	120	150
North Dakota	1,005	952	1,005	91	96
Ohio	37,245	...	...	125	125
South Dakota	...	2,545	...	96	96
Wisconsin	...	10,951	...	139	139
South					
Alabama	21,800	21,800	21,800	97%	97%
Arkansas ^c	10,426	10,426	10,426	100	100
Delaware	...	4,206	3,192	--	--
District of Columbia	5,424	5,424	...	85	85
Florida	80,491	73,325	52,252	82	121
Georgia	...	43,808	...	89	89
Kentucky	11,947	11,707	7,421	93	150
Louisiana	19,174	19,363	...	83	84
Maryland	...	23,213	...	97	97
Mississippi ^c	...	17,827	...	102	102
North Carolina	27,145	...	27,145	109	109
Oklahoma ^c	...	22,594	...	99	99
South Carolina	...	23,565	22,177	89	95
Tennessee ^c	17,522	17,127	...	96	98
Texas ^{c,d}	155,924	152,805	155,924	97	99
Virginia	31,787	31,787	31,787	91	91
West Virginia	3,059	2,880	2,950	94	100
West					
Alaska	2,603	2,691	2,603	94%	97%
Arizona	...	24,310	24,310	101	101
California	...	154,467	80,272	101	194
Colorado	...	11,230	9,424	116	138
Hawaii	...	3,406	2,481	102	141
Idaho	3,182	3,956	3,182	97	120
Montana	...	1,400	896	100	156
Nevada ^c	9,379	...	6,948	99	134
New Mexico ^c	...	5,592	5,504	92	93
Oregon	...	9,550	...	99	99
Utah	...	4,418	4,584	115	119
Washington	8,862	12,036	12,036	119	161
Wyoming	1,231	1,243	1,047	101	120

... Data not available.

--Not calculated. (See *Jurisdiction notes*.)

^aPopulation counts are based on the number of inmates held in facilities operated by the jurisdiction. Excludes inmates held in local jails, in other States, or in private facilities.

^bConnecticut no longer reports capacity because of a law passed in 1995.

^cIncludes capacity of private and contract facilities and inmates housed in them.

^dExcludes capacity of county facilities and inmates housed in them.

Operational capacity is the number of inmates that can be accommodated, based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services.

Design capacity is the number of inmates that planners or architects intended for the facility.

Of the 51 reporting jurisdictions, 30 supplied a rated capacity; 44, an operational capacity; and 35, a design capacity (table 11). Twenty-one jurisdictions provided only 1 measure or the same figure for each measure they reported. For the 30 jurisdictions with more than 1 reported type of capacity, estimates of population as a percent of capacity are based on the highest and lowest figures provided.

Seven States included private and contract facilities in their capacity counts, and as a result, inmates held in these facilities were added to the populations counts. California also reported operational capacity for the first time. To make valid comparisons with previous years, the highest capacity totals were based on California's design capacity (table 12).

Table 12. State prison population as a percent of capacity, yearend 1999

	State prisons ^a
Highest capacity	1,115,334
Lowest capacity	965,487
Population as a percent of capacity^b	
Highest	
1990	115
1995	114
1998	113
1999 (comparable)	109
1999 (revised)	101
Lowest	
1990	127
1995	125
1998	122
1999	117

Note: Data reflect the highest and lowest of the three capacities reported. In 1999 California reported operational capacity for the first time; for comparisons with previous years, use 1,041,139 as the highest capacity of State prisons.

^aCapacity figures were estimated for Connecticut in 1995, 1998 and 1999.

^bExcludes inmates sentenced to prison but held in local jails and inmates in private facilities (unless included in the reported capacity). See *Jurisdiction notes*.

Twenty-two States and Federal system were operating at or above capacity

Prisons generally require reserve capacity to operate efficiently. Dormitories and cells need to be maintained and repaired periodically, special housing is needed for protective custody and disciplinary cases, and space may be needed to cope with emergencies.

At yearend 1999, 26 States and the District of Columbia reported that they were operating at or below 99% of their highest capacity. Twenty-two States and the Federal prison system reported operating at 100% or more of their highest capacity. Rhode Island, which was operating at 76% of its highest capacity, reported the lowest percent of capacity occupied. California, operating at 94% over its lowest reported capacity, had the highest percent of capacity occupied.

By yearend 1999 the Federal prison system was estimated to be operating at 32% over capacity, increasing since yearend 1998 (27%). Overall, State prisons in 1999 were operating at 1% above their highest capacity and 17% above their lowest capacity.

Black males outnumbered white males among State and Federal inmates at yearend 1999

	Percent of prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction*	
	1990	1999
Total	100.0%	100.0%
White	35.6	33.0
Black	44.5	45.7
Hispanic	17.4	17.9
Other	2.5	3.4

*Based on inmates with sentences of more than 1 year.

At yearend 1999, black inmates represented an estimated 46% of all inmates with sentences of more than 1 year, while white inmates accounted for 33% and Hispanic inmates, 18%.

Although the total number of sentenced inmates rose sharply (up 75% between 1990 and 1999), there were only small changes in the racial and Hispanic composition of the inmate population. At yearend 1999, black males (558,700) outnumbered white males (403,700) and Hispanic males (219,500) among inmates with sentences of more than 1 year (table 13). Nearly 43% of all sentenced inmates were black males.

An estimated 9% of black males in their late twenties were in prison in 1999

When incarceration rates are estimated separately by age group, black males in their twenties and thirties are found to have high rates relative to other groups (table 14).

Expressed in terms of percentages, 9.4% of black non-Hispanic males age 25 to 29 were in prison in 1999, compared to 3.1% of Hispanic males and about 1.0% of white males in the same age group. Although incarceration rates drop with age, the percentage of black males age 45 to 54 in prison in 1999 was still nearly 2.8% — only slightly lower than the highest rate (3.1%) among Hispanic males (age 25 to 29) and more than twice the highest rate (1.1%) among white males (age 30 to 34).

Female incarceration rates, though substantially lower than male incarceration rates at every age, reveal similar racial and ethnic disparities. Black non-Hispanic females (with an incarceration rate of 212 per 100,000) were more than twice as likely as Hispanic females (87 per 100,000)

Table 13. Number of sentenced prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age, 1999

Age	Number of sentenced prisoners							
	Males				Females			
	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic
Total	1,222,799	403,700	558,700	219,500	82,594	27,100	38,300	14,100
18-19	33,200	7,700	16,000	7,600	1,100	500	500	200
20-24	197,900	52,100	95,900	42,300	7,700	2,600	3,100	1,700
25-29	229,500	61,800	115,900	44,100	14,500	4,100	6,800	2,800
30-34	231,300	75,600	106,600	42,400	20,700	6,500	10,200	3,300
35-39	210,300	73,200	99,300	32,000	18,000	5,900	8,800	2,700
40-44	147,300	54,000	63,000	25,700	10,000	3,200	5,000	1,400
45-54	126,700	56,100	47,900	18,500	8,200	3,000	3,200	1,500
55 or older	41,400	22,100	11,000	6,400	1,900	1,000	600	200

Note: Based on custody counts from National Prisoners Statistics (NPS1-A) and updated from jurisdiction counts by gender at yearend. Estimates by age derived from the Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional facilities, 1997. Estimates

were rounded to the nearest 100. ^aIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. ^bExcludes Hispanics.

Table 14. Number of sentenced prisoners under State or Federal jurisdiction per 100,000 residents, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age, 1999

Age	Number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents of each group							
	Males				Females			
	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic
Total	901	417	3,408	1,335	59	27	212	87
18-19	788	280	2,627	1,197	29	18	85	29
20-24	2,075	832	7,326	2,824	84	44	227	127
25-29	2,436	990	9,392	3,126	153	66	492	215
30-34	2,303	1,106	8,406	2,927	205	96	731	248
35-39	1,843	896	7,316	2,315	158	74	587	214
40-44	1,318	652	4,947	2,266	89	39	347	131
45-54	722	411	2,761	1,265	45	22	153	97
55 or older	163	106	534	403	6	4	21	11

Note: Based on estimates of the U.S. resident population on July 1, 1999, and adjusted for the 1990 census undercount.

Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. ^bExcludes Hispanics.

^aIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives,

and nearly 8 times more likely than white non-Hispanic females (27 per 100,000) to be in prison in 1999. These differences among white, black, and Hispanic females were consistent across all age groups.

Growth linked to increasing number of inmates in State prison for violent and drug offenses

Between 1990 and 1998 the distribution of the four major offense categories — violent, property, drug, and public-order offenses — changed slightly among State prisoners. The percent held for property and drug offenses dropped while the percent held for public-order offenses rose.

	Percent of sentenced State inmates	
	1990	1998
Total	100%	100%
Violent	46	48
Property	25	21
Drug	22	21
Public-order	7	10

In absolute numbers, an estimated 545,200 inmates in State prison at yearend 1998 were held for violent offenses, 159,600 for robbery, 134,600 for murder, 109,500 for assault, and 100,800 for rape and other sexual assaults (table 15). In addition, 242,900 inmates were held for property offenses, 236,800 for drug offenses, and 113,900 for public-order offenses.

Overall, the largest growth in State inmates between 1990 and 1998 was among violent offenders. During the 8-year period, the number of violent offenders grew 229,300, while the number of drug offenders grew 87,100 (table 16). As a percentage of the total growth, violent offenders accounted for 51% of the growth; drug offenders 19%; property offenders 15%; and public-order offenders 15%.

Sources of growth differ among men and women and among white, black, and Hispanic inmates

The increasing number of violent offenders accounted for the 53% of the total growth among male inmates and 27% among female inmates. Drug offenders accounted for the largest

source of the total growth among female inmates (36%), compared to 18% among male inmates. The increasing number of property offenses accounted for a slightly higher percent of the growth among female inmates (20%) than male inmates (15%).

Table 15. Estimated number of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense, gender, race, and Hispanic origin, 1998

Offenses	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic
Total	1,141,700	1,071,400	70,300	380,400	531,100	194,000
Violent offenses	545,200	525,100	20,100	180,300	257,700	87,600
Murder ^a	134,600	128,500	6,100	42,400	67,100	21,500
Manslaughter	17,600	15,800	1,800	6,200	7,100	3,400
Rape	29,600	29,300	300	13,500	12,100	2,400
Other sexual assault	71,200	70,500	700	41,400	17,500	9,300
Robbery	159,600	154,600	5,000	33,000	96,700	25,400
Assault	109,500	104,500	5,000	33,800	48,800	22,000
Other violent	23,100	21,800	1,300	10,000	8,400	3,800
Property offenses	242,900	224,500	18,500	104,200	97,700	34,000
Burglary	118,000	114,400	3,600	49,900	48,100	16,600
Larceny	45,500	39,600	5,900	17,200	20,500	6,100
Motor vehicle theft	20,100	19,400	800	8,000	7,300	4,400
Fraud	30,200	23,300	6,900	15,700	11,100	2,800
Other property	29,100	27,800	1,300	13,300	10,700	4,100
Drug offenses	236,800	212,900	23,900	46,300	134,800	51,700
Public-order offenses^b	113,900	106,500	7,500	49,200	39,400	20,100
Other/unspecified^c	2,800	2,500	200	400	1,500	700

Note: Data are for inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year under the jurisdiction of State correctional authorities. The number of inmates by offense were estimated using 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities and rounded to the nearest 100.

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes weapons, drunk driving, court offenses, commercialized vice, morals and decency charges, liquor law violations, and other public-order offenses.

^cIncludes juvenile offenses and unspecified felonies.

Table 16. Partitioning the total growth of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense and gender, 1990-98

	Total		Male		Female	
	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total
Total	452,100	100%	418,600	100%	33,600	100%
Violent	229,300	51	220,300	53	9,000	27
Property	67,900	15	61,200	15	6,800	20
Drug	87,100	19	75,000	18	12,100	36
Public-order	68,100	15	62,600	15	5,600	17

Table 17. Partitioning the total growth of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense, race, and Hispanic origin, 1990-98

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-98	Percent of total
Total	137,000	100%	216,400	100%	78,700	102%
Violent	62,700	45	111,600	52	43,900	56
Property	29,000	21	26,800	12	9,800	12
Drug	16,700	12	55,000	25	13,000	18
Public-order	29,500	21	22,800	11	11,800	15

Although the number of public-order offenders rose sharply, they accounted for only 15% of the total growth among male inmates and 17% of the growth among female inmates.

The sources of population growth also differed among white, black, and Hispanic prisoners. Overall, the increasing number of drug offenses accounted for 25% of the total growth among black inmates, 18% of the total growth among Hispanic inmates, and 12% of the growth among white inmates (table 17). Violent offenders accounted for the largest source of growth for all groups — among white State inmates (45%), black inmates (52%), and Hispanic inmates (56%).

Rise in State prison population linked to increasing numbers of parole violators returned to prison

Underlying the growth in the State prison population between 1990 and 1998 has been a 54% increase in the number of offenders returned to prison for parole violations (table 18). In 1998, 206,751 of the offenders entering State prison had violated the conditions of their release, up from 133,870 in 1990.

These offenders had been released to parole either by decision of a parole board or by provision of the statute under which they were sentenced. The primary reason for their return to prison was an arrest or conviction for a new offense. Based on reports from inmates in State prison in 1997 (the latest data), 60% of the inmates returned after serving time on parole had been arrested or convicted for a new offense. Nineteen percent of the parole violators had absconded or failed to report to a parole officer; 14% had a drug-related violation such as a positive test, possession, or failure to report for testing or treatment; and 14% had other reasons such as possession of a gun or failure to report to counseling, to secure employment, or to pay fines or fees.

Percent of parole violators in State prison, 1997*

Arrest/conviction for new offense	59.5%
Drug-related violations	13.7
Absconded/failed to report	19.0
Other reasons	13.9

*Data are from the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1997. Detail adds to more than 100% because some inmates may have had more than 1 reason.

Between 1990 and 1998 the number of new court commitments to State prison rose from 323,069 to 347,270. Though the number admitted in 1998 was 7.5% larger than the number in 1990, the number of new court commitments has fluctuated during the 9-year period.

Parole violators returned on drug offenses more than doubled since 1990

Drug offenders accounted for more than half of the total increase in parole violators returned to State prison (table 19). The number of drug offenders returned to prison rose from 30,900 in 1990 to 68,600 in 1998 (representing 52% of the total 72,900 increase among returned parolees).

Though fewer in number, public-order offenders (primarily weapons and DWI offenders) had the largest percentage increase among returned parolees (up 123%). The number of parolees returned to State prison on a violent offense also rose (up 51%) but accounted for less than a quarter of the rise among returned parolees.

Table 18. Number of sentenced inmates admitted to State prisons, by type of admission, 1990-98

Year	All admissions	New court	
		commitments	Parole violators
1990	460,739	323,069	133,870
1991	466,286	317,237	142,100
1992	480,676	334,301	141,961
1993	475,100	318,069	146,366
1994	498,919	322,141	168,383
1995	521,970	337,492	175,726
1996	512,618	326,547	172,633
1997	538,375	334,525	186,659
1998	565,291	347,270	206,751
Percent change, 1990-98	22.7%	7.5%	54.4%

Note: Sentenced inmates are those with a sentence of more than 1 year. Admissions exclude returned escapees and AWOL's and transfers from other jurisdictions. Admissions for Alaska were estimated for 1994. Parole violators for Idaho were estimated for 1998.

Table 19. Number of sentenced inmates admitted to State prison, by type of admission and offense, 1990,1995 and 1998

	New court commitments			Percent change, 1990-98	Parole violators			Percent change, 1990-98
	1990	1995	1998		1990	1995	1998	
Total	323,069	337,492	347,270	7.5%	133,870	175,726	206,751	54.4%
Violent	86,600	97,200	104,200	20.3	33,200	42,800	50,000	50.6
Property	104,400	99,400	96,900	-7.2	61,700	65,100	69,300	12.3
Drug	102,400	104,100	107,000	4.5	30,900	53,900	68,600	122.0
Public-order	26,000	34,500	37,500	44.2	7,800	13,600	17,400	123.1

Note: Based on the total number admissions by type (from NPS1-A) and multiplied by the proportion of admissions by most serious offenses (from NCRP) and then rounded to the nearest 100.

In contrast to parole violators, growth in the number of new court commitments to State prisons was largely the result of an increasing number of sentenced violent offenders (up 20%) and public-order offenders (up 44%). Courts sentenced 104,200 violent offenders to prison in 1998, up from 86,600 in 1990. The number of drug offenders entering prison directly from court rose only slightly from 102,400 in 1990 to 107,000 in 1998 (an increase of 4.5%).

State prison growth the result of declining release rates and increasing time served

While the actual number of prisoners released each year grew between 1990 and 1998, the rate of release (or the number released relative to the number of inmates in prison) dropped sharply (table 20). In 1998, 520,172 offenders were released from State prison, up from 405,374 in 1990 (table 20). However, the release rate dropped from 37 per 100 State prisoners in 1990 to 31 per 100 in 1998.

A major source of prison growth is increasing time served. Among inmates released from prison for the first time on their current offense (that is, first releases) the average time served increased from 22 months in 1990 to 28 months in 1998. The percentage of inmates released after serving 6 months or less dropped steadily from a peak in 1993 (29%) to 1998 (15%). At the same time, the percentage of release State prisoners having served at least 10 years in prison edged upward, from 1.3% to 2.0%.

The projected average time to be served by inmates entering prison before their first release also increased from 38 months in 1990 to 43 months in 1998.

	New court commitments to State prison*	
	Mean sentence	Mean minimum time to be served
1990	70 mos.	38 mos.
1995	72	42
1998	65	43

*Based on inmates with sentences of more than 1 year, but less than life or death.

Changing Federal prison population related to drugs, weapons, and immigration violations

Prisoners sentenced for drug offenses constitute the largest group of Federal inmates (58%) in 1998, up from 53% in 1990 (table 21). On September 30, 1998, the date of the latest available data, Federal prisons held 63,011 sentenced drug offenders, compared to 30,470 at yearend 1990.

Between 1990 and 1998, the number of Federal inmates held for immigration offenses increased 330% and the number held for weapons offenses increased 185%. The number of immigration offenders rose from 1,728 in 1990 to 7,430 in 1998; weapons offenders rose from 3,073 to 8,742. By September 30, 1998, weapons offenders represented 8.0% of Federal inmates and immigration violators 6.8%.

Table 20. Trends in State prison releases, release rates, and time served by first releases, 1990-98

Year	Number of releases	Release rate ^b	Time served by first releases ^a		
			Mean	Percent 6 months or less	Percent 10 years or more
1990	405,374	37.0%	22 mos.	26.5%	1.4%
1991	421,687	36.5	22	24.1	1.4
1992	430,198	35.5	22	26.2	1.4
1993	417,838	33.3	21	29.0	1.3
1994	418,372	30.8	22	26.1	1.3
1995	455,140	31.2	23	21.0	1.3
1996	467,193	30.8	25	18.1	1.4
1997	489,914	30.8	27	16.5	1.7
1998	520,172	31.2	28	15.2	2.0

Note: All data are limited to inmates with sentences of more than 1 year and exclude escapees, AWOLs, and transfers.

^aIncludes all inmates released for the first time on the current sentence. Time served is based on prison time only and excludes jail time credits.

^bThe number of releases per 100 sentenced prisoners at the beginning of each year, plus the number admitted during the year.

Table 21. Number of sentenced inmates in Federal prisons, by most serious offense, 1990, 1995, and 1998

Offenses	Number of sentence inmates in Federal prisons			Percent change, 1990-98	Percent of total growth, 1990-98
	1990	1995	1998		
Total	56,989	88,101	108,925	91.1%	100.0%
Violent offenses	9,557	11,321	12,656	32.4%	6.0%
Homicide ^a	1,233	966	1,344	9.0	0.2
Robbery	5,158	6,341	8,773	70.1	7.0
Other violent	3,166	4,014	2,539	-19.8	-1.2
Property offenses	7,935	7,524	8,627	8.7%	1.3%
Burglary	442	164	249	-43.7	-0.4
Fraud	5,113	5,629	6,465	26.4	2.6
Other property	2,380	1,731	1,913	-19.6	-0.9
Drug offenses	30,470	51,737	63,011	106.8%	62.7%
Public-order offenses	8,585	15,762	22,273	159.4%	26.4
Immigration	1,728	3,612	7,430	330.0	11.0
Weapons	3,073	7,519	8,742	184.5	10.9
Other public-order	3,784	4,631	6,101	61.2	5.0
Other/unspecified^p	442	1,757	2,358	433.5%	3.7%

Note: All data are from the BJS Federal justice database. Data for 1990 and 1995 are for December 31. Data for 1998 are for September 30.

Numbers may differ from the Federal Bureau of Prisons' count because the Federal Justice Statistics Program includes prisoners in transit. Data are based on all sentenced inmates, regardless of sentence length.

^aIncludes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.
^pIncludes offenses not classifiable or not a violation of the United States Code.

Although the number of robbers showed an increase of 70% between 1990 and 1998, their increase was offset by a decline of nearly 20% among other violent offenders (such as inmates held for assault and sex offenses). Overall, the percentage of violent Federal inmates declined from 17% to 12%.

While the number of offenders in each major offense category increased, the number incarcerated for a drug offense accounted for the largest percentage of the total growth (63%). Public-order offenders accounted for 26% of the increase; violent offenders, 6%, and property offenders, 1%.

Factors contributing to the rise in the Federal inmate population between 1990 and 1998 include —

- an increase in defendants convicted in U.S. district courts from 47,494 to 60,958
- an increase in the percentage sentenced to prison from 60.3% to 69.6%
- an increase in the average time expected to be served by persons entering Federal prison from about 35 months to 45 months in 1998.*

*For a detailed analysis of the relative importance of each of these factors, by crime type, gender, and race/Hispanic origin, see A. Blumstein and A. Beck, *Prison Growth in U.S. Prisons, 1980-1996*, (in *Crime and Justice, A Review of Research*, University of Chicago Press, 1999) and W. Sabol and J. McGready, *Time Served in Prison by Federal Offenders, 1986-97*, (NCJ 171682).

Methodology

National Prisoner Statistics

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), with the U.S. Bureau of the Census as its collection agent, obtains yearend and midyear counts of prisoners from departments of correction in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In an effort to collect comparable data from all jurisdictions, National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) distinguishes prisoners in custody from those under jurisdiction. To have custody of a prisoner, a State must hold that person in one of its facilities. To have jurisdiction means that a State has legal authority over the prisoner. Prisoners under a State's jurisdiction may be in the custody of a local jail, another State's prison, or other correctional facility. Some States are unable to provide both custody and jurisdiction counts. (See *NPS jurisdiction notes*.)

Excluded from NPS counts are persons confined in locally administered confinement facilities who are under the jurisdiction of local authorities. NPS counts include all inmates in State-operated facilities in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have combined jail-prison systems.

Military Corrections Statistics

BJS obtains yearend counts of prisoners in the custody of U.S. military authorities from the Department of Defense Corrections Council. In 1994 the council, comprised of representatives from each branch of military service, adopted a standardized report (DD Form 2720) with a common set of items and definitions. This report provides information on persons held in U.S. military confinement facilities inside and outside the continental United States, by branch of service, sex, race, Hispanic origin, conviction status, sentence length, and offense. It also includes data on the number of facilities, and their design and rated capacities.

Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities

The Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, which BJS conducts regularly every 5 to 6 years, provide detailed data on individual characteristics of prison inmates. Based on scientifically selected samples of facilities and of inmates held in them, these surveys provide detailed information unavailable from any other source. (See *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, for a description of the 1997 surveys, sample designs, and accuracy.)

For this report, information on sex, race/Hispanic origin, age, offense, and sentence length was drawn from the 1997 surveys.

National Corrections Reporting Program

BJS obtains data on sentence length and minimum time to be served before first release for persons admitted to State prison and time served by those released from State prison in the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP). The data cover persons released from custody regardless of the jurisdiction where the prisoner was sentenced. The number of jurisdictions reporting data varies for year to year. In 1998, 40 States and the District of Columbia reported data on admissions and releases. While NCRP collects individual level data on all offenders, time served calculations in this report were restricted to prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

Estimating age-specific incarceration rates

The number of sentenced prisoners within each age group was estimated for men, women, whites, blacks, and Hispanics. Estimates for 1999 were produced by combining data from NPS and from the State and Federal prison inmate surveys. The following procedures were used:

1. To obtain estimates of the number of sentenced State and Federal inmates by sex, race, and Hispanic origin in each year, NPS midyear 1999 custody counts for men and women were used. These counts of State and Federal inmates were multiplied by the proportion white, black, Hispanic, or other race as estimated from the State and Federal inmate surveys in 1997. The estimates were then adjusted to equal the number of sentenced inmates by sex in State and Federal prisons as reported in NPS for yearend 1999.

2. To obtain estimates by age in each year, age distributions for each demographic group were drawn from the State and Federal prison inmate surveys. These percentages were then multiplied by the number of sentenced inmates for each group defined by sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

3. Estimates of the U.S. resident population for July 1, 1999, were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See *U.S. Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995*, PPL-41, and updates for 1999.) These data were then adjusted for the 1990 decennial census, using the 1990 Post Enumeration Survey.

4. Age-specific rates of incarceration for each demographic group were calculated by dividing the estimated number of sentenced prisoners in each age group by the number of U.S. residents in each age group and then multiplying by 100,000.

NPS jurisdiction notes

Alabama — Capacity figures exclude community programs.

Alaska — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

Arizona — Population counts are based on custody data. Operational capacity excludes temporary beds and double bunks used in situations of crowding.

Arkansas — Only one type of capacity, set by the Board of Corrections and Community Punishment, is reported.

California — Population counts include inmates temporarily out to court.

Colorado — Population counts include 2,413 male inmates in private county contract facilities. Capacity figures exclude county contract facilities.

Connecticut — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. Legislation in 1995 abolished the capacity law so that prisons no longer have a rated or operational capacity.

Delaware — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999 to include home confinement clients in supervised custody facilities. Comparable counts for 1998 were not available.

District of Columbia — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. Counts exclude include jail populations.

Federal — Rated capacity excludes contract beds.

Florida — Population counts are based on custody data. Rated capacity is the maximum safe capacity.

Georgia — Population counts are based on custody data. Counts exclude an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails awaiting transfer to prison.

Hawaii — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

Idaho — Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999. To calculate percent change, the jurisdiction counts of 4,233 males and 375 females in 1999 were used. Operational capacity is the emergency maximum capacity.

Illinois — Population counts are based on custody data. Counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number with a sentence of 1 year or less. Capacity figures include 651 inmates on electronic detention.

Iowa — Population counts are based on custody data. Counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Kansas — Counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Louisiana — Population counts include 13,583 males and 1,309 females housed in local jails as a result of a partnership with the Louisiana Sheriff's Association and local authorities. Operational capacity is based on day-to-day operations. Rated and operational capacities include contractual work release facilities.

Maryland — Sentence length is estimated and applied to manual population counts. Operational capacity was estimated by applying a percentage to the population count.

Massachusetts — Population counts are for January 2, 2000. By law, offenders may be sentenced to terms of up to 2½ years in locally operated jails. Such offenders are included in counts and rates for local jails. About 6,200 inmates with sentences of more than 1 year were held in local jails in 1999.

Michigan — Population counts are based on custody data and include inmates housed in institutions, camps, community correction centers, out of state, and on electronic monitoring. Counts exclude inmates housed in local jails. Operational capacity includes institution and camp net capacities and community programs.

Minnesota — Population counts include 80 male inmates held in a private facility. Capacity is defined as the total beds minus 10% of the segregation beds and 2% of the remaining beds reserved for maintenance.

Mississippi — Operation and design capacities include private prison capacities.

Missouri — Operational capacity is defined as the number of beds, including those temporarily off-line.

Montana — Population counts include a small number of inmates with unknown sentence length.

Nebraska — Operational capacity is defined as stress capacity (or 125% of design capacity), which is ordered by the governor and set by the DOC.

Nevada — Population counts are for January 3, 2000. Rated capacity is defined as emergency capacity. Design capacity is defined as one bed per cell. Capacity figures include 500 beds in a private facility.

New Jersey — Population counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include inmates with sentences of 1 year.

New Mexico — Capacity figures include the number of beds contracted with private facilities.

New York — Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999 to include sentenced inmates who were in local jails for 10 days or longer. To calculate percent change, the jurisdiction counts of 68,276 males and 3,533 females for 1999 were used.

North Carolina — Counts by sentence length are estimates.

North Dakota — Capacity figures include a new facility opened in 1998 and double bunking in the State Penitentiary.

Ohio — Population counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number with a sentence of 1 year or less. Rated capacity is reported for 8/1/99.

Oklahoma — Population counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include an undetermined number with a sentence of 1 year or less. Capacity figures include private prisons and contract jails.

Oregon — Inmates with under a 1 year maximum sentence remain under the control of local counties. Operational capacity includes temporary beds for 348 males and 160 females.

Pennsylvania — Rated and design capacities are single-cell capacities. Operational capacity is based on multiple occupancy.

Rhode Island — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations.

South Carolina — Operational capacity includes triple cell beds, and excludes short term administrative segregation, infirmary/hospital, and mental health beds. Design capacity excludes triple cell beds, infirmary/hospital and mental health beds.

South Dakota — Operational capacity is planned capacity.

Tennessee — Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999 to include sentenced felons housed in local jails. To calculate percent change, the jurisdiction counts of 17,555 males and 990 females for 1999 were used. Counts of inmates with a sentence of more than 1 year include those with sentences of 1 year.

Texas — Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999 to include inmates serving time in a pre-parole transfer (PPT) or intermediate sanctions facility (ISF), a substance abuse felony punishment facility (SAFPF), temporary releases to counties, and “paper ready” inmates in local jails. To calculate percent change, the jurisdiction counts 137,180 males and 11,354 females for 1999 were used. Capacity figures include privately operated and contract facilities.

Utah — Reporting criteria were expanded in 1999 to include inmates on parole awaiting revocation. To calculate percent change, the jurisdiction counts of 4,335 males and 307 females for 199 were used.

Vermont — Prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include jail and prison populations. Counts include inmates housed in other States but exclude inmates on furlough or intermediate sanctions.

Virginia — Rated, operational, and design capacity are calculated using an operational capacity method in which all inmates housed in a cell are counted.

Washington — Population counts include certain inmates with sentences of less than 1 year due to recently revised law.

Wisconsin — Counts exclude temporary probation or parole placements and persons on escape status. Counts include Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs), adult inmates held in contract juvenile facilities, and inmates held in local jails or in out-of-State, private, and Federal prisons due to crowding.

Operational capacity includes a DOC juvenile facility and a non-DOC State-owned facility. Excluded are contracted local jails, Federal, other State, and private facilities.

This report in portable document format and in ASCII, its tables, and related statistical data are available at the BJS World Wide Web Internet site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

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