



Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Prisoners in 1985

The number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal and State correctional authorities at yearend 1985 reached a record 503,601. The States and the District of Columbia added 33,074 prisoners, the Federal system, 5,960. The increase for 1985 brings total growth in the prison population since 1977 to more than 203,000 inmates—an increase of 68% in the 8-year period (table 1).

The 1985 growth rate (8.4%) was higher than the percentage increases recorded in either 1983 or 1984 and represents the third largest increase in the absolute number of additional inmates since prisoner statistics were first collected in 1926. Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") accounted for nearly 96% of the total prison population at the end of 1985, growing by 8.0% during the year (table 2). The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced (those, for example, awaiting trial in States with combined prison-jail systems).

The number of sentenced Federal prisoners grew at more than twice the rate of sentenced prisoners in the States during the year (18.5% vs. 7.3%). Among the 7,528 Federal prisoners with no sentences or sentences of less than 1 year were 1,888 under the

jurisdiction of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. More than 85% of the Federal increase, however, occurred among those with sentences greater than 1 year.

Women inmates composed 4.6% (23,091) of the Nation's prisoners, increasing at a slightly faster rate (10.7%) than males (8.3%). The rate of incarceration for sentenced males (394 per 100,000 males in the resident population), however, was about 23 times higher than for sentenced females (17 per 100,000 females).

Compared to 1984, the number of sentenced prisoners grew more slowly in 23 States, actually declining in 5 of these. Among the five with declines, Tennessee alone had declined in the previous year as well (11% in 1984; 5% in 1985). Conversely, three States with declines in 1984 had increases in 1985: Maine (down 2.4% in 1984, up 22.6% in 1985), Nebraska (down 1.0% in 1984, up 2.7% in 1985), and West Virginia (down 1.5% in 1984, and up 7.9% in 1985).

In three States the sentenced prisoner population increased by more than 20%: Maine (22.6%), Michigan (21.9%), and New Hampshire (21.7%). Three States, all Western, had increases between 15% and 20%: Montana (15.7%), California (15.6%), and

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This bulletin presents the population counts for the Nation's prisons on December 31, 1985. An increase of more than 39,000 during 1985 brought the number of inmates in State and Federal prisons to more than half a million, an all-time record. The prison population has now grown for 11 consecutive years.

This report would not be possible without the assistance of the departments of correction in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and the Federal Prison System. I would like to express my appreciation for their continued support of the National Prisoner Statistics Program.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

Alaska (15.0%). (For additional State comparisons, see table 3.)

Regional variations persist

During 1985 the growth in sentenced prisoner population in Western States (11.6%) and Midwestern States (10.9%) was more than twice the growth in Southern States (3.9%). Since 1980, sentenced prison populations in Western States have increased by nearly 90%, compared to 69% in the Northeast, 47% in the Midwest, and 37% in the South (table 4). Six States more than doubled their sentenced populations since 1980; four are in the West: Alaska (159.9%), Hawaii (128.8%), Nevada (112.6%), and California (107.5%).

California's increase of more than 25,000 sentenced prisoners since 1980 accounts for 62% of the increase for the West and 16% of the entire national increase among the States since 1980. In 1980, 7.9% of the Nation's sentenced

Table 1. Change in the State and Federal prison populations, 1977-85

Year	Number of inmates	Annual percent change	Total percent change since 1977
1977	300,024		
1978	307,276	2.4%	2.4%
1979	314,457	2.3	4.8
1980	329,821	4.9	9.9
1981	368,930	12.2	23.3
1982	413,806	11.9	37.9
1983	437,248	5.7	45.7
1984	464,567	6.2	54.8
1985	503,601	8.4	67.9

Note: All counts are for December 31 of each year and may differ from previously reported numbers because of revision.

State prisoners were in California and in 1985, 10.8%.

Michigan contributed substantially to the 1985 growth in the sentenced prisoner population of the Midwest. Although Michigan accounted for 17% of the region's sentenced prisoners in 1984, it accounted for 34% of the region's increase in 1985. Since 1980, however, the Midwest has grown more than twice as fast as Michigan (46.9% vs. 17.7%).

Female prisoner population grows at faster pace

Although the female prison population has grown at a faster rate than the male population in each year between 1981 and 1985, only about 1 of every 22 prisoners in 1985 was a female. The higher growth rates for women over the period 1981 to 1985 have raised the female percentage of the Nation's prison population from 4.2% in 1981 to 4.6% in 1985. During the 60-year history of the National Prisoners Statistics Program, women were between 4.0% and 4.6% of the Nation's prisoners during the periods 1942 to 1948 and 1977 to 1985. In all other years, women accounted for between 2.9% and 3.9% of the prison population.

In 1983, 10 States and the Federal Prison System reported more than 500 female inmates. By 1985, 14 States and the Federal system had more than 500 female inmates (table 5). California's female inmate population grew by 26% during the year, compared to 15% for males, and at yearend was the largest in the Nation (2,906).

Rates of imprisonment increase

During 1985 the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents surpassed 200, setting a new record (table 2). Thirteen of the 16 jurisdictions exceeding the national average were located in the South; the other 3, in the West. Nevada had the highest incarceration rate (412 per 100,000); North Dakota the lowest (52).

Since 1980, the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen by nearly 45%, from 139 to 201. During this period, per capita incarceration rates have grown most rapidly in the West, increasing by nearly 69%, compared to 68% in the Northeast, 47% in the Midwest, and 27% in the South.

Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities, by sex, region and State, yearend 1984 and 1985

	Total			Sentenced to more than a year			Incarceration rates 1985 ^a
	1985	1984	Percent change 1984-85	1985	1984	Percent change 1984-85	
U.S. total	503,501	464,567	8.4%	481,516	446,108	8.0%	201
Federal	40,223	34,263	17.4	32,695	27,602	18.5	14
State	463,378	430,304	7.7	448,921	418,506	7.3	187
Male	480,510	443,717	8.3	460,210	426,713	7.9	394
Female	23,091	20,850	10.7	21,406	19,395	10.4	17
Northeast	75,743	70,538	7.4%	72,756	67,838	7.2%	146
Connecticut	6,149	5,718	7.5	4,043	3,748	7.9	127
Maine	1,226	1,025	19.6	1,030	840	22.6	88
Massachusetts	5,447	4,990	11.4	5,447	4,990	11.4	93
New Hampshire	683	561	21.7	683	561	21.7	68
New Jersey	11,335	10,363	9.4	11,335	10,363	9.4	149
New York	34,718	33,155	4.7	34,718	33,155	4.7	195
Pennsylvania	14,227	13,990	8.7	14,119	12,998	8.6	119
Rhode Island	1,397	1,221	7.0	964	891	8.2	99
Vermont	651	515	26.4	417	392	6.4	78
Midwest	95,356	85,890	11.0%	94,740	85,460	10.9%	160
Illinois	18,634	17,187	8.4	18,634	17,187	8.4	161
Indiana	9,904	9,328	6.2	9,615	9,063	6.1	175
Iowa	2,607	2,936	-8.1	2,607	2,836	-8.1	90
Kansas	4,748	4,238	12.0	4,748	4,238	12.0	193
Michigan	17,799	14,604	21.9	17,799	14,604	21.9	196
Minnesota	2,343	2,167	8.1	2,343	2,167	8.1	56
Missouri	9,898	8,808	12.4	9,898	8,808	12.4	196
Nebraska	1,689	1,654	2.1	1,608	1,566	2.7	100
North Dakota	407	434	-6.2	355	374	-3.1	52
Ohio	20,864	18,694	11.6	20,864	18,694	11.6	194
South Dakota	1,047	917	14.2	1,006	900	11.8	142
Wisconsin	5,416	5,023	7.9	5,263	5,023	4.8	110
South	203,022	193,971	4.7%	195,984	188,634	3.9%	238
Alabama	11,015	10,482	5.1	10,749	10,246	4.9	267
Arkansas	4,640	4,454	4.2	4,605	4,427	4.0	195
Delaware	2,550	2,200	15.9	1,842	1,615	14.1	295
District of Columbia ^b	6,404	4,934		4,604	4,031	14.2	738
Florida	28,600	27,106	5.5	28,482	26,933	5.9	247
Georgia	16,119	15,731	2.5	15,208	14,944	1.8	252
Kentucky	5,766	5,502	4.8	5,766	5,502	4.8	155
Louisiana	13,900	13,919	-1	13,900	13,919	-1	308
Maryland	13,085	13,124	-9	12,303	12,442	-1.1	279
Mississippi	6,392	6,115	4.5	6,208	5,974	3.9	237
North Carolina	17,344	16,371	5.9	16,007	15,219	5.2	254
Oklahoma	8,477	7,872	7.7	8,477	7,872	7.7	255
South Carolina	10,538	10,011	5.3	9,916	9,434	5.1	294
Tennessee	6,943	7,302	-4.9	6,943	7,302	-4.9	145
Texas	37,532	36,682	2.3	37,532	36,682	2.3	226
Virginia	12,073	10,667	13.2	11,717	10,493	11.7	204
West Virginia	1,725	1,599	7.9	1,725	1,599	7.9	89
West	89,257	79,905	11.7%	85,441	76,574	11.6%	177
Alaska	2,311	1,995	15.0	1,484	1,290	15.0	279
Arizona	8,518	7,945	8.6	8,264	7,638	8.2	256
California	50,111	43,314	15.7	48,280	41,780	15.6	181
Colorado	3,369	3,364	.1	3,369	3,347	.7	103
Hawaii	2,111	1,934	9.2	1,428	1,299	9.9	134
Idaho	1,181	1,282	7.7	1,181	1,282	7.7	137
Montana	1,163	1,005	15.7	1,163	1,005	15.7	140
Nevada	3,910	3,510	11.4	3,910	3,510	11.4	412
New Mexico	2,313	2,129	8.6	2,112	1,908	10.7	144
Oregon	4,933	4,563	5.9	4,933	4,563	5.9	179
Utah	1,570	1,419	10.6	1,550	1,407	10.2	93
Washington	6,909	6,821	1.3	6,909	6,821	1.3	156
Wyoming	758	724	4.7	758	724	4.7	148

Note: Explanatory notes for each State are reported in the Appendix. Prisoner counts for 1984 may differ from those reported in previous publications and are subject to revision as updated figures become available.

^aThe number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 resident population on December 31, 1985.

^bFigures for 1985 are not comparable to previous years because of the inclusion of additional jail inmates. Counts and incarceration rates of those sentenced to more than 1 year are comparable to figures reported in previous years.

10 States with the largest 1985 prison populations	Number of inmates	Increase 1984-85	10 States with the largest percent increases, 1984-85	Percent increase	10 States with the largest percent increases, 1980-85*	Percent increase	10 States with the highest incarceration rates, 1985*	Prisoners per 100,000 residents
California	50,111	6,797	Vermont	26.4%	Alaska	159.9%	Nevada	412
Texas	37,532	850	Michigan	21.9	Hawaii	128.8	Louisiana	308
New York	34,718	1,563	New Hampshire	21.7	Nevada	112.6	Delaware	295
Florida	28,600	1,494	Maine	19.6	New Hampshire	109.5	South Carolina	294
Ohio	20,864	2,170	Delaware	15.9	California	107.5	Alaska	279
Illinois	18,634	1,447	Alaska	15.8	New Jersey	103.7	Maryland	279
Michigan	17,790	3,195	California	15.7	North Dakota	91.9	Alabama	267
North Carolina	17,344	973	Montana	15.7	Kansas	90.4	Arizona	256
Georgia	16,118	387	South Dakota	14.2	Arizona	89.5	Oklahoma	255
Pennsylvania	14,227	1,137	Virginia	13.2	Oklahoma	76.8	North Carolina	254

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded. *Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

Region	Percent decrease	Percent increase					
		0-19%	20-39%	40-59%	60-79%	80-99%	100% or more
Northeast			Vermont 21.9	Rhode Island 57.8 Maine 53.5 Connecticut 47.0	Pennsylvania 74.1 Massachusetts 72.9 New York 60.4		New Hampshire 109.5 New Jersey 103.7
Midwest		Michigan 17.7 Minnesota 17.1 Nebraska 14.7 Iowa 5.2	Wisconsin 32.2	Ohio 54.7 Indiana 53.1	Illinois 73.8 Missouri 72.9 South Dakota 65.2		North Dakota 91.9 Kansas 90.4
South	Tennessee -1.1	North Carolina 10.7	West Virginia 37.2 Virginia 36.5 South Carolina 33.5 Georgia 27.6 Texas 25.6	Maryland 59.1 Arkansas 58.2 Louisiana 56.4 Florida 40.9	Oklahoma 76.8 Delaware 69.5 Dist. of Columbia 69.3 Alabama 68.8 Mississippi 63.7 Kentucky 60.7		
West			Colorado 29.1	Montana 57.6 Washington 57.1 Oregon 52.4 Wyoming 41.9	New Mexico 76.1 Idaho 69.0 Utah 67.0	Arizona 89.5	Alaska 159.9 Hawaii 128.8 Nevada 112.6 California 107.5
Regional totals			South 37.4	Midwest 46.9	Northeast 68.6	West 89.6	
U.S. summary				Federal 58.6 Total 52.4 State 52.0			

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with sentences of more than a year.

Jurisdiction	Number of women inmates	Percent of all inmates	Percent change in women inmate population, 1984-85
United States, total	23,091	4.6%	10.7%
Federal	2,404	6.0	20.4
State	20,687	4.5	9.7
States with at least 500 women inmates:			
California	2,906	5.8%	25.8%
Texas	1,599	4.3	-5.4
Florida	1,304	4.6	11.0
Ohio	1,153	5.5	12.9
New York	1,061	3.1	4.9
Georgia	825	5.1	8.1
Michigan	816	4.6	19.5
North Carolina	747	4.3	6.4
Illinois	673	3.6	5.0
Louisiana	620	4.5	2.0
Alabama	582	5.1	7.9
Oklahoma	524	6.2	11.0
South Carolina	511	4.8	13.6
Pennsylvania	500	3.5	5.3

More than 10,000 in local jails because of State prison crowding

At the end of 1985, 19 States reported a total of 10,143 sentenced State prisoners held in local jails because of crowding in State facilities (table 6). Although the number of States with prisoners held locally increased by 4 from the preceding year, the number of such inmates declined by 1,340. Three States—Louisiana, New Jersey, and California—accounted for 55% of the State-sentenced prisoners in local jails at yearend. Four States—Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, and New Jersey—held more than 10% of their sentenced State prisoners in local jails. Tennessee reduced the number of such prisoners by more than half between 1984 and 1985.

Increased capacity reported

The extent of crowding in the Nation's prisons is difficult to determine precisely because of the absence of uniform measures for defining capacity. A wide variety of capacity measures are in use among the 52 reporting jurisdictions since capacity may reflect both available space to house inmates as well as the ability to staff and operate an institution. To estimate the capacity of the Nation's prisons, States were asked to supply up to three measures for yearend 1985—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 State.
- Operational capacity is the number of inmates that can be accommodated based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services.

Table 6. Number of State prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding, by State, yearend 1984 and 1985

States housing prisoners in local jails	Prisoners held in local jails			
	Number		As percent of all prisoners	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
Total	11,483	10,143	2.7%	2.2%
Alabama	457	398	4.4	3.6
Arkansas	0	115	0	2.5
California	1,513	1,122	3.5	2.2
Colorado ^a	159	245	4.5	6.8
Idaho ^a	0	9	0	.6
Illinois	73	43	.4	.2
Kentucky	709	791	12.9	13.7
Louisiana	2,885	2,923	20.7	21.0
Maine	53	51	5.2	4.2
Massachusetts	0	2	0	—
Mississippi	1,296	933	21.2	14.6
New Jersey ^a	1,536	1,486	12.9	11.6
South Carolina	474	429	4.7	4.1
Tennessee ^a	1,495	628	17.0	8.3
Utah	32	33	2.3	2.1
Vermont ^b	0	11	0	1.7
Virginia	663	786	6.2	6.5
Washington	61	48	.9	.7
Wisconsin	77	89	1.5	1.6

—Less than 0.1%.
^aFor States not including jail back-ups in their jurisdiction counts, the percentage of jurisdiction population was calculated on the combined total of jail and prison.
^bVermont reported 11 inmates in local lockups in 1985.

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

Of the 52 reporting jurisdictions, 39 supplied rated capacities, 45 provided operational capacities, and 35 reported design capacities (table 7). As a result, estimates of total capacity and measures of the relationship to population are based on the highest and lowest capacity figures provided. (Twenty States reported only one capacity measure or gave the same figure for each capacity measure they reported.)

Between 1983 and 1985, State and Federal prison capacities increased to accommodate about 44,000–45,000 additional inmates (based on either the highest or lowest capacities—table 8). During the same period, prison populations grew by nearly 68,000 inmates. At the end of 1985, the capacity of State and Federal prisons was estimated to be between 410,095 inmates and 465,512 inmates. Only 7% of the available capacity at the end of 1985 was maintained by the Federal Government, which accounted for less than 5% of the increase in capacity over the previous 2 years.

Table 7. Reported Federal and State prison capacities at yearend 1985

States	Rated capacity	Operational capacity	Design capacity
Federal	26,131	32,585	26,131
Northeast			
Connecticut	6,072	4,968	3,781
Maine	1,033	1,033	1,033
Massachusetts	3,257	...	...
New Hampshire*	565	565	501
New Jersey	...	11,564	9,287
New York	35,934	35,934	32,714
Pennsylvania	...	...	10,690
Rhode Island	1,456	1,407	1,359
Vermont	586	586	536
Midwest			
Illinois	19,118	19,118	15,356
Indiana	6,628	...	...
Iowa	2,816	2,652	2,572
Kansas	3,410	4,939	...
Michigan	...	14,387	...
Minnesota	2,410	2,410	2,546
Missouri	...	10,191	...
Nebraska	1,562	1,513	1,542
North Dakota	...	471	471
Ohio	...	...	13,282
South Dakota	1,189	1,090	1,189
Wisconsin	4,089	...	...
South			
Alabama	9,787	9,787	9,787
Arkansas	...	4,512	...
Delaware	...	2,207	2,217
District of Columbia	5,711	6,193	...
Florida	29,022	29,022	33,824
Georgia	...	16,021	...
Kentucky	...	5,020	...
Louisiana	11,017	11,017	11,017
Maryland	...	13,328	9,435
Mississippi	5,650	...	...
North Carolina	...	16,633	...
Oklahoma	7,492	7,117	...
South Carolina	7,976	7,976	6,927
Tennessee	7,664	7,664	...
Texas	40,134	38,127	40,134
Virginia	9,617	9,617	9,351
West Virginia*	1,547	1,640	1,567
West			
Alaska	1,968	1,968	1,968
Arizona	6,595	8,452	...
California	29,702	45,237	29,702
Colorado	3,381	3,381	...
Hawaii	...	1,125	1,162
Idaho	1,315	1,315	1,022
Montana	749	1,094	749
Nevada	3,729	3,729	3,000
New Mexico	2,390	...	...
Oregon	2,459	3,688	2,739
Utah	1,457	1,457	1,372
Washington	5,291	7,278	5,291
Wyoming	605	675	605

... Data not available. West Virginia reported an operational capacity including females of 1,716.
 *Capacity figures are for males only.

Table 8. Population as a percentage of reported capacity for State and Federal prisons, 1983-85

	1983		1984		1985		Increase in capacity 1983-85
	Capacity	Population as per- cent of capacity	Capacity	Population as per- cent of capacity	Capacity	Population as per- cent of capacity	
Total							
Highest capacity	421,187	102%	434,371	105%	465,512	106%	44,325
Lowest capacity	365,137	118	388,063	117	410,095	121	44,958
Federal							
Highest capacity	30,291	105	31,161	110	32,585	123	2,294
Lowest capacity	24,309	131	24,922	137	26,131	154	1,732
State							
Highest capacity	390,896	102	403,210	105	432,927	105	42,031
Lowest capacity	340,738	117	363,143	116	383,964	119	43,226

Note: States were asked to report their rated, operational, and design capacities. Tabulations reflect the highest and lowest of the three capacities reported for 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Most jurisdictions are operating above capacity

Generally, prisons require reserve capacity in order to operate efficiently. Confinement units need to be maintained and repaired periodically, housing space is needed to accommodate protective custody and disciplinary cases, and space may be needed to cope with emergencies. At the end of 1985, few States had any reserve capacity (table 9). Only nine States were operating below 95% of their highest capacity. Forty jurisdictions and the Federal prison system reported operating at approximately 100% or more of their lowest capacity; 34 of these held populations that met or exceeded their highest capacities. Three States exceeded their highest capacity by more than 50%.

Overall, State prisons are estimated to be operating at approximately 105% of their highest reported capacities and at 119% of their lowest capacities. The Federal system is estimated to be operating between 23% and 54% above capacity.

States have employed many methods to alleviate crowding. Construction of permanent and temporary facilities, backups in local jails, double-bunking, intensive community supervision programs, early paroles, and sentence rollbacks have all been used to make room for new inmates.

Based on the average of highest and lowest capacities reported, since 1978 State prison systems have added approximately 165,000 beds producing an increase in capacity of nearly two-thirds over the 7-year period.

During 1985, 19 States reported the early release of a total of 18,617 inmates because of prison crowding. About two-thirds of these early releases occurred in three States—Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. Michigan, which reported nearly 4,000 early releases in both 1983 and 1984, reported none in 1985.

No single indicator can determine the exact magnitude of crowding in a particular jurisdiction. Jail backups, early releases, and populations in excess of capacity, taken together, are indicative of the extent of crowding. Twenty-nine of the 52 jurisdictions reported jail backups or early releases because of crowding during the year; 9 of these—Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin—reported using both measures.

Table 9. Profile of prison crowding, 1985

Regions and States	Population as a percentage of:		Because of prison crowding:	
	Highest capacity	Lowest capacity	Percent of prison population held in local jails	Number of early releases
United States, total	106%	121%		
Federal	123	154		
State	105	119	2.2%	18,617
Northeast				
Connecticut ^a	101	163		0
Maine	114	114	4.2	0
Massachusetts	167	167	—	0
New Hampshire ^b	119	133	0	0
New Jersey	98	122	11.6	287
New York	97	106	0	0
Pennsylvania	133	133	0	0
Rhode Island ^a	90	96	0	0
Vermont ^a	111	119	1.7	0
Midwest				
Illinois	97	121	.2	0
Indiana ^c	149	149	0	1,257
Iowa	93	101	0	0
Kansas	96	139	0	0
Michigan	124	124	0	0
Minnesota	92	97	0	0
Missouri	97	97	0	0
Nebraska	108	112	0	0
North Dakota	86	86	0	0
Ohio	157	157	0	0
South Dakota	88	96	0	0
Wisconsin	130	130	1.6	125
South				
Alabama	109	109	3.6	0
Arkansas	100	100	2.5	67
Delaware ^a	115	116		1,277
District of Columbia ^a	103	112		0
Florida	85	99	0	2,501
Georgia	101	101	...	7,865
Kentucky	99	99	13.7	306
Louisiana	100	100	21.0	0
Maryland	98	138	0	0
Mississippi	97	97	14.6	268
North Carolina	104	104	0	871
Oklahoma	113	119	0	429
South Carolina	127	146	4.1	974
Tennessee	91	91	8.3	2,276
Texas	94	98	0	0
Virginia	117	121	6.5	0
West Virginia ^b	102	108	0	0
West				
Alaska ^d	117	117		39
Arizona	101	129	0	105
California	108	165	2.2	0
Colorado	100	100	6.8	0
Hawaii ^a	182	188		0
Idaho	105	135	.6	0
Montana	106	155	0	5
Nevada	105	130	0	0
New Mexico	97	97	0	0
Oregon	102	152	0	0
Utah	106	112	2.1	90
Washington	94	130	.7	180
Wyoming	112	125	0	95

Note: Capacity was defined as the average of the highest and lowest capacities reported in table 8. For some States percentages are the same because they reported only one type of capacity or because they reported the same figure for each capacity type.

...Data not available.

—Less than 0.1%.

^aState has combined jail-prison system.

^bCapacity figures are for males only.

^cIndiana is prohibited by policy from housing State prisoners in local jails.

Explanatory notes

Alabama: Capacity that represents outside community programs is not included in the reported capacity figures.

Alaska: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Arizona: Population and early release counts represent a complete automated enumeration from the Adult Information Management Systems data base. Capacity figures are as of December 9, 1985.

Arkansas: The Arkansas Department of Corrections has only one type of capacity, which is set by the Board of Corrections. This capacity is reported as operational capacity.

California: Population counts are based on custody data. Because of prison crowding, California uses jails and work furlough facilities to house inmates. Inmates in both types of facilities are included in the count of prisoners housed in local jails.

Colorado: Population counts are based on estimated custody data believed to be within 1% of complete enumeration. Female population counts are as of January 3, 1986. Population counts exclude 245 male inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup. Capacity figures include 383 spaces in community centers.

Connecticut: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Delaware: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations. Population counts for females are estimates.

District of Columbia: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations. Population counts are based on custody data. Inmates housed in Federal Bureau of Prison's facilities as a result of crowding are not included.

Federal: Population counts for unsentenced inmates include 1,882 males and 6 females who come under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Florida: Population counts are based on custody data.

Georgia: Population counts exclude an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup.

Hawaii: Since prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations. Population counts for Hawaii are based on estimates believed to be within 1% of a complete enumeration. Operational capacity was as of December 30, 1985.

Idaho: Population counts exclude 7 male and 2 female inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup.

Indiana: By policy, this State cannot use local jails to alleviate prison crowding.

Iowa: Population counts are based on custody data.

Kansas: For rated capacity Kansas reported "Optimum Management Capacity," which is the largest number of inmates that can be accommodated and still maintain a desirable level of management and control. For operational capacity Kansas reported "Maximum Capacity," which is the largest number of inmates that can be physically housed without using non-housing areas such as hallways, recreation areas, infirmary, and segregation space.

Kentucky: Population counts are as of January 3, 1986, and include inmates housed in jails because of prison crowding for both 1984 and 1985.

Maryland: Population totals are actual counts; breakdowns for sentence length are extrapolated estimates. Prisoners with sentences of less than 1 year have been excluded from 1980 data in tables 10 and 11, and data provided since 1983 include Patuxent Institution.

Massachusetts: Population counts for inmates with over 1-year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Michigan: Population counts include only inmates in Michigan's custody and inmates in the Community Residential Program. Capacity figures exclude the capacities of pre-release centers and halfway houses.

New Hampshire: New Hampshire has no facility to house female inmates. Thus, all females are housed in county, Federal, or other States' facilities.

New Jersey: Population counts exclude 1,470 male and 16 female inmates housed in local jails because of overcrowding.

North Carolina: Population totals are actual counts; breakdowns for sentence length are estimates.

Ohio: Population counts for inmates with over 1-year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Oklahoma: Population counts for inmates with over 1-year maximum sentence include an undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less.

Oregon: Population counts are for all inmates in Oregon's jurisdiction including those out to hospitals, out to court, out on furlough, and out on escape. Capacity figures for this State

exclude 275 special-purpose beds for males and 4 for females. For operational capacity Oregon reported figures for actual "bed occupancy count" as of December 31, 1985. Table 9 excludes 379 inmates on escape, 614 inmates on furloughs, and 96 transfers.

Rhode Island: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

Tennessee: Population counts are based on custody data and exclude 628 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding. Tennessee's prison system was barred from accepting inmates in excess of the number released after October 23, 1985, by a Federal court order.

Texas: Population counts are based on custody data.

Utah: Early releases are estimated based on the actual count of "accelerated" parole releases for the first 6 months of 1985.

Vermont: Because prisons and jails form one integrated system, all NPS data include both jail and prison populations. Population counts are as of December 21, 1985. The counts for jail crowding include 11 male inmates housed in local lockups.

Washington: Capacity figures exclude space in work-release facilities, which housed 387 male and 28 female inmates on December 31, 1985.

Wisconsin: Rated capacity figures include space for 160 inmates at the Wisconsin Resource Center (part of the Division of Care and Treatment).

Table 10. Court commitments to State prisons relative to adult arrests for selected serious offenses, 1978 to 1984

Year	Number of court commitments to prison for any offense ^a	Number of selected offenses reported to the police	Commitments to prison per 1,000 selected offenses	Estimated number of adult arrests for selected offenses ^b	Commitments to prison per 1,000 adult arrests for selected offenses
1978	112,874	4,213,850	27	610,114	185
1979	118,428	4,535,730	26	631,772	187
1980	130,323	5,139,720	25	666,063	196
1981	149,186	5,141,520	29	697,409	214
1982	164,548	4,769,490	35	752,873	219
1983	173,289	4,387,990	39	702,662	247
1984	166,927	4,257,680	39	677,275	246

Note: Selected offenses include murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Data for crimes reported to the police and adult arrests are from Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports for the U.S., 1978-84 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office).

^aInmates admitted to prison from sentencing courts.

^bArrests of those aged 18 and older for selected offenses. Arrests are based on total estimated arrests multiplied by the percentage of adult arrests derived from known arrests. By year, the percentage of adult arrestees among all arrestees for selected offenses was:

1978 - 62.2%	1982 - 71.5%
1979 - 65.0%	1983 - 72.1%
1980 - 67.4%	1984 - 73.0%
1981 - 69.1%	

Crime and prison population growth

There is some evidence that changes in criminal justice policies increased a criminal's probability of being incarcerated during the period 1980-84. Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary are among the most serious crimes and account for about 60% of all prison commitments. Between 1980 and 1983 the ratio of the number of persons committed to prison to the number of these crimes reported to the police increased about 56% (from 25 commitments per 1,000 reported crimes to 39, table 10). The ratio was unchanged from 1983 to 1984. Comparing prison commitments to the number of adult arrests for the same crimes, the increase was 26% for 1980 to 1983 before dropping very slightly from 1983 to 1984.

Admissions-to-crime ratios for individual States suggest differences among jurisdictions in their response to crime and provide an alternative to measures of prison use based on population (table 11). Based on the number of murders, nonnegligent manslaughters, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries reported to the police, Southern States in 1984 imposed the highest level of imprisonment with an overall ratio of 54 commitments per 1,000 of these crimes; States in the Northeast imposed the lowest—28 per 1,000. Ten jurisdictions—South Dakota, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Alaska, North Dakota, Mississippi, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia—all had ratios at least 50% higher than the national average of 39 per 1,000 serious crimes.

Comparing prison commitments to the amount of crime rather than to the size of the resident population can significantly affect how a State ranks in prison use. Nevada, for example, was third among the States in 1984 in the number of prison admissions per 100,000 adult residents, but 17th in the number of commitments relative to crime. Similarly, the District of Columbia had a population-based admissions rate three times the National average in 1984 but a crime-based admissions rate more comparable to neighboring jurisdictions (63 per 1,000 offenses in D.C. vs. 57 per 1,000 in Virginia).

Between 1980 and 1984 the ratio of admissions to crime increased in 48 States and the District of Columbia. In 34 jurisdictions the increase was at least 50%; and in 4 of these it was more than 100%—Massachusetts, New Jersey, Utah and Hawaii.

Crime-based admissions rates and population-based admissions rates also show different patterns over time. In six States—Arkansas, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, and South Carolina—the number of commitments to prison per 100,000 adult residents declined between 1980 and 1984. In all six, however, the ratio of prison commitments to reported crimes either remained the same or increased during the period. That is, these States were sending fewer persons to prison per adult resident in 1984 than in 1980 but the same or more persons to prison per reported crime. Overall, between 1980 and 1984 commitments to prison relative to crime increased more than 2 1/2 times as fast as commitments relative to population (56% vs. 18.5%).

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by BJS staff. This bulletin was written by Lawrence A. Greenfeld, corrections unit chief. Carol B. Kalish, chief of data analysis, edits the bulletins. Marianne Zawitz assisted in the editing. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered production, assisted by Betty Sherman, Millie J. Baldea, and Joyce M. Stanford. Statistical assistance was provided by Sophie Bowen of BJS and by Greg Wells of the Bureau of the Census.

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Table 11. State prison admissions relative to selected serious offenses and the adult population, by State, 1980 and 1984

Regions and States	Admissions per 1,000 selected offenses			Admissions per 100,000 adults		
	1980	1984	Percent change 1980-84	1980	1984	Percent change 1980-84
United States, total	25	39	56.0%	80	96	20.0%
Northeast	15	28	86.7%	48	61	27.1%
Connecticut	37	44	18.9	105	88	-16.2
Maine	28	33	17.9	54	47	-13.0
Massachusetts	8	19	137.5	26	40	53.8
New Hampshire	14	27	92.9	30	32	6.7
New Jersey	14	31	121.4	49	66	34.7
New York	13	25	92.3	56	73	30.4
Pennsylvania	17	33	94.1	33	47	42.4
Rhode Island	12	20	66.7	35	40	14.3
Vermont	32	50	56.3	77	78	1.3
Midwest	28	36	28.6%	71	78	9.9%
Illinois	32	31	*	78	81	3.8
Indiana	37	58	56.8	88	98	11.4
Iowa	28	43	53.6	50	62	24.0
Kansas	26	42	61.5	69	80	15.9
Michigan	20	21	5.0	67	71	6.0
Minnesota	12	23	91.7	25	38	52.0
Missouri	24	40	66.7	74	85	14.9
Nebraska	35	38	8.6	56	46	-17.9
North Dakota	47	70	48.9	36	44	22.2
Ohio	45	53	17.8	97	103	6.2
South Dakota	61	111	82.0	71	101	42.3
Wisconsin	26	38	46.2	46	54	17.4
South	38	54	42.1%	116	134	15.5%
Alabama	49	78	59.2	138	154	11.6
Arkansas	50	58	16.0	104	97	-6.7
Delaware	30	50	66.7	88	102	15.9
District of Columbia	36	63	75.0	213	288	35.2
Florida	24	38	58.3	109	132	21.1
Georgia	49	79	61.2	156	185	19.6
Kentucky	47	47	0	86	70	-18.6
Louisiana	31	47	51.6	100	129	29.0
Maryland	30	42	40.0	107	110	2.8
Mississippi	43	70	62.8	97	128	32.0
North Carolina	61	83	36.1	158	172	8.9
Oklahoma	38	64	68.4	111	165	48.6
South Carolina	47	56	19.1	153	146	-4.6
Tennessee	33	54	63.6	89	115	29.2
Texas	38	48	26.3	129	147	14.0
Virginia	36	57	58.3	75	87	16.0
West Virginia	30	50	66.7	39	56	47.4
West	17	30	76.5%	66	93	40.9%
Alaska	42	74	76.2	115	203	76.5
Arizona	24	44	83.3	97	135	39.2
California	15	27	80.0	66	93	40.9
Colorado	16	29	81.3	55	81	47.3
Hawaii	9	24	166.7	28	49	75.0
Idaho	34	58	70.6	78	95	21.8
Montana	34	43	26.5	55	66	20.0
Nevada	26	51	96.2	136	179	31.6
New Mexico	17	33	94.1	53	111	109.4
Oregon	27	34	25.9	83	107	28.9
Utah	15	40	166.7	39	71	82.1
Washington	14	17	21.4	46	49	6.5
Wyoming	38	68	78.9	71	87	22.5

Note: Prison admissions refer to the number of prisoners received from courts with sentences of more than 1 year. Selected offenses are murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Adults are the resident population aged 18 and over.

*Offense figures for Illinois for 1984 may not be comparable to previous years.

Sources: National Prisoner Statistics; Uniform Crime Reports; Census Bureau estimates of population.

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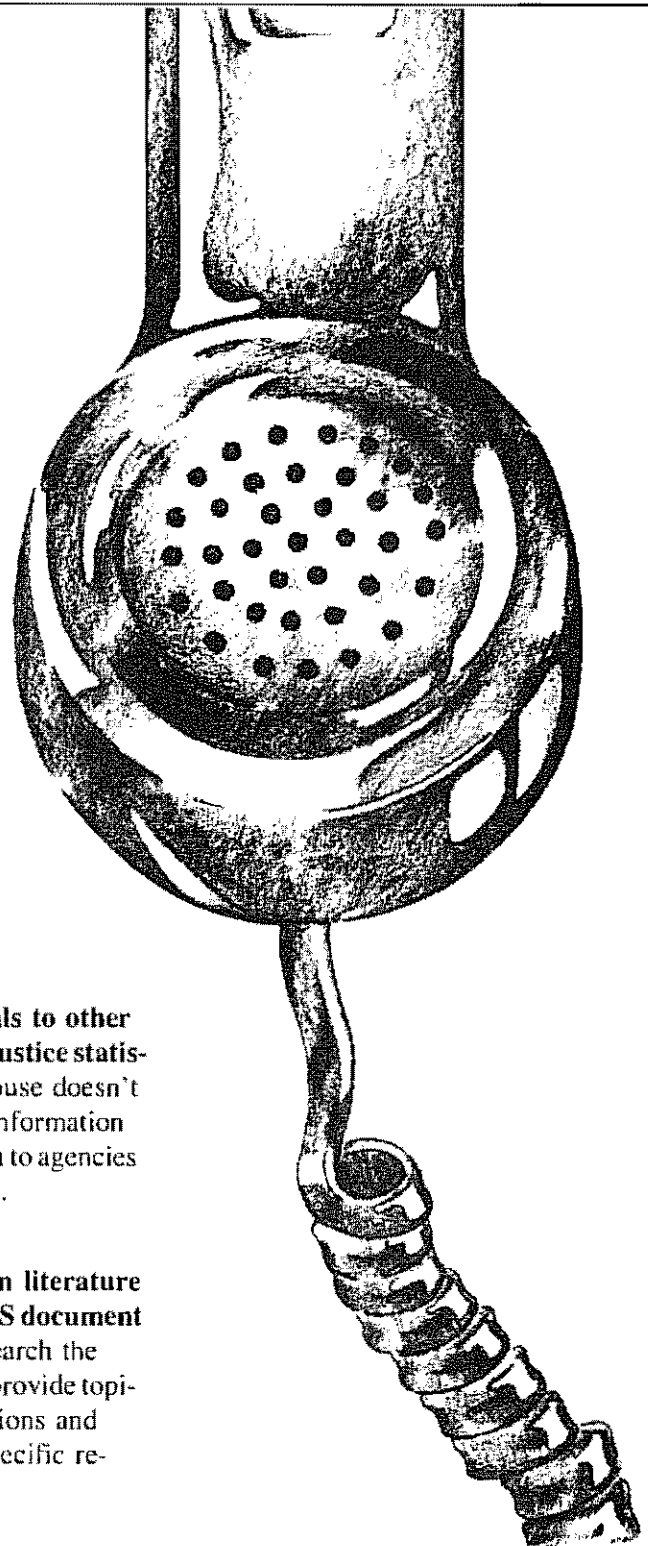
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