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Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

Profile of Jail Inmates, 1989

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Results from the 1989 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails indicate that between 1983 and 1989, while the jail population increased by 76.9%, its composition changed significantly. The percent of inmates, both convicted and unconvicted, in jail for drug violations increased from 9.3% of the population in 1983 to 23.0% in 1989. More than 40% of the total increase in the jail population was the result of the increase in the number of persons held for drug offenses. At the same time, the percentages of black and Hispanic jail inmates increased measurably. With the increase in drug offenders, the jail population was generally older, less likely to have been incarcerated in the past, and less likely to be serving time for a violent offense in 1989 than in 1983.

The 1989 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails was based on personal interviews with a nationally representative sample of 5,675 inmates in 424 local jails. Similar surveys of jail inmates were conducted in 1972, 1978, and 1983.

This report describes characteristics of inmates in local jails including their current detention status, current and past offenses, sentence and time served since admission, prior use of drugs and alcohol, family background, and reported experience of physical or sexual abuse. Results from the 1989 survey are compared to those from 1983 to gain an overview of recent changes.

Specific findings include the following:

- In 1989 nearly 1 in every 4 jail inmates were in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in every 10 in 1983.

April 1991

This report provides the first results from the 1989 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey of inmates in local jails. It describes the population of almost 400,000 persons held in more than 3,000 jails nationwide.

This survey, conducted every 5 to 6 years since 1972, provides nationally representative data on persons held prior to trial and on those convicted offenders serving sentences in local jails or awaiting transfer to State prison. Through personal interviews data were collected on individual characteristics, personal backgrounds, current offenses and sentences, criminal histories, prior drug and alcohol use, and characteristics of victims. By comparing the interview results with those from previous BJS surveys, changes in the inmate population are examined.

Future reports from the 1989 survey, such as a detailed presentation of drug use by jail inmates, will address specific criminal justice issues of vital concern to the public, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous cooperation of the many local officials who have made our surveys possible over the years.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.
Director

- During the month before their offense, more than 4 of every 10 convicted inmates had used a drug and at least 1 of every 4 were current users of a major drug.

- Reported use of drugs of all types declined or remained unchanged between 1983 and 1989, except for cocaine or crack, for which use rose sharply. In 1989, 50.4% of the inmates reported having ever used cocaine or crack, and 23.6% reported use in the month before their arrest.

- More than half of all jail inmates said they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their current offense—12.1% under the influence of both drugs and alcohol, 15.4% under the influence of only drugs, and 29.2% under the influence of only alcohol.

- Nearly 33% of all inmates had been in some substance abuse program in the past—24.0% for drugs and 14.8% for alcohol.

- Since 1983, the female inmate population has increased at a faster rate than the male population; as a result, in 1989, 9.5% of all inmates were women, compared to 7.1% in 1983.

- An estimated 44.4% of the women and 13.1% of the men in jail reported that they had been physically or sexually abused at some time in their lives before their current imprisonment.

- In 1989 about 50% of the inmates in local jails had been sentenced to jail or prison. The remainder were awaiting sentencing (7.3%), awaiting trial (26.2%), or not yet arraigned (16.4%).

- More than a third of all Hispanic inmates and a quarter of black non-Hispanic inmates were in jail for a drug violation, compared to less than a sixth of white non-Hispanic inmates.

- An estimated 46.5% of the jail inmates were on probation, on parole, out on bail, or under some other criminal justice status at the time of their arrest.

- More than three-quarters of the jail inmates had a prior sentence to probation or incarceration. At least a third were in jail for a violent offense or had a prior sentence for a violent offense.

- Among those inmates sentenced to jail, half had received a sentence of 6 months or less. The median time that the inmates sentenced to jail would serve before release was 4.8 months.

- Between 1983 and 1989, the percentage of all jail inmates who were white non-Hispanic decreased from 46.4% to 38.6%, while the percentage who were black non-Hispanic increased from 37.5% to 41.7% and the percentage who were Hispanic increased from 14.3% to 17.4%.

- Approximately 39.1% of all jail inmates had grown up in a single parent household, and an additional 10.5% lived in a household without either parent.

Local Jails

A jail is defined as a locally administered confinement facility that holds persons pending adjudication or persons committed after adjudication, usually for sentences of a year or less. Jails incarcerate a wide variety of sentenced and unsentenced persons:

- Jails receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, and sentencing.
- Jails readmit probation, parole, and bail/bond violators and absconders.
- Jails temporarily detain juveniles pending transfer to juvenile authorities.
- Jails hold inmates awaiting transfer to State, Federal, or other local authorities.
- Jails hold inmates for other correctional authorities because of crowding elsewhere.
- Jails hold individuals for the military, for protective custody, for contempt, and for the courts as witnesses.
- Jails hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate mental health facilities.

At midyear 1989, 3,312 jails nationwide held an estimated 395,553 inmates. Since 1983 the number of inmates in local jails has increased by 76.9%, an increase of more than 172,000 inmates in 6 years.

Detention status

The percentage of jail inmates convicted of an offense declined from 60.2% in 1983 to 57.4% in 1989 (table 1). In 1989 about 50% of jail inmates had been sentenced to jail or prison, and an additional 7.3% were awaiting a sentence.

More than 4 in 10 jail inmates in 1989 were unconvicted. About a quarter of the inmates (26.2%) had been arraigned and were awaiting or standing trial at the time of the interview, and a sixth (16.4%) were awaiting arraignment.

The number of jail inmates being held for other authorities increased from 20,253 in 1983 (9.1% of all inmates) to an estimated 43,886 in 1989 (11.1% of all inmates) (table 2). Approximately 7,111 of these inmates in 1989 were being held for Federal authorities, 22,729 for State authorities, and 13,121 for other (primarily local) authorities.

Table 1. Detention status of jail inmates, 1989 and 1983

Detention status	1989	1983
Convicted	57.4%	60.2%
Sentenced	50.1	52.3
Awaiting sentence	7.3	7.9
Unconvicted	42.6%	39.9%
Arraigned and awaiting trial or on trial	26.2	28.4
Not yet arraigned	16.4	11.5
Number of jail inmates	380,160	220,407

Note: Excludes an estimated 15,393 inmates in 1989 and 3,145 in 1983 whose conviction status or offense was unknown.

Characteristics of jail inmates

The overwhelming majority of both convicted and unconvicted jail inmates in 1989 were men (table 3). Women represented 10.0% of the convicted inmates and 8.5% of the unconvicted. Since 1983, however, the female population has grown at a faster rate; consequently, 9.5% of all inmates in 1989 were women, compared to 7.1% in 1983.

The racial and ethnic composition of local jails changed between 1983 and 1989. The percentage of inmates who were white non-Hispanics decreased from 46.4% to 38.6%. The percentage of black non-Hispanics had a corresponding increase from 37.5% to 41.7% in 1989, as did the percentage of Hispanics of all races (from 14.3% to 17.4%).

Table 2. Inmates held in jails for other authorities, 1989 and 1983

	1989	1983 ^a
Percent of all jail inmates	11.1%	9.1%
Number of inmates held for other authorities	43,886	20,253
Federal	7,111	3,348
Federal Bureau of Prisons	3,491	--
U.S. Marshals Service	1,321	--
Immigration and Naturalization Service	2,299	1,304
State	22,729	13,933
Other local authorities ^b	13,121	2,972
Unknown	925	--

--Not available.

^aBased on data from the National Jail Census, June 30, 1983.

^bData for 1989 may include some inmates held for other Federal authorities.

Inmates were older in 1989. An estimated 34.1% of the inmates were under age 25 in 1989, compared to 41.7% in 1983.

Nearly 60% of the inmates were between age 25 and 44 in 1989, compared to 51% in 1983.

The marital status of jail inmates remained constant across the 6 years. About a fifth were married at the time of the survey; nearly a quarter were either divorced or

separated; and more than half had never been married.

Educational levels remained very low among jail inmates: more than half (53.8%) of the inmates in 1989 had failed to complete high school. Inmates in 1989, however, were slightly better educated than those in 1983. An estimated 46.2% of the inmates in 1989 had completed high school, compared to 41.0% in 1983.

The percentage of jail inmates who were veterans declined from 21.2% in 1983 to 15.5% in 1989. This decline reflected the decreased percentage of Vietnam-era veterans among jail inmates.

About two-thirds of the jail inmates in 1989 were employed at the time of their arrest, compared to slightly more than half in 1983 (table 4). In 1989, 53.1% of the inmates were employed full time; 11.4%, part time; 21.4% were looking for work; and 14.1% were not looking for work.

Approximately 81% of the jail inmates in 1989 had been out of jail or prison for at least 1 year prior to their arrest. More than a quarter of them made less than \$3,000 during that year. Among those who had been free for less than a year, more than a fifth received less than \$300 in monthly income.

Table 3. Selected characteristics of jail inmates, by conviction status, 1989 and 1983

Characteristics	Percent of jail inmates in 1989			1983
	Convicted	Unconvicted	Total	Total
Sex				
Male	90.0%	91.5%	90.5%	92.9%
Female	10.0	8.5	9.5	7.1
Race/Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	42.5%	33.5%	38.6%	46.4%
Black non-Hispanic	37.1	48.2	41.7	37.5
Hispanic	17.5	16.7	17.4	14.3
Other*	2.9	1.6	2.3	1.8
Age				
17 or younger	1.1%	2.0%	1.5%	1.3%
18-24	30.9	35.1	32.6	40.4
25-34	44.0	41.2	42.9	38.6
35-44	17.0	16.5	16.7	12.4
45-54	5.0	4.0	4.6	4.9
55 or older	2.0	1.2	1.7	2.4
Marital status				
Married	20.1%	17.3%	19.0%	21.0%
Widowed	1.2	.7	1.0	1.4
Divorced	15.8	14.2	15.1	15.7
Separated	8.2	8.4	8.2	7.9
Never married	54.8	59.4	56.7	54.1
Education				
8th grade or less	16.0%	15.1%	15.6%	17.7%
Some high school	38.1	39.0	38.2	41.3
High school graduate	32.2	34.3	33.1	29.2
Some college or more	13.7	11.7	13.1	11.8
Military service				
Veterans	15.7%	15.2%	15.5%	21.2%
Vietnam era	3.2	3.3	3.2	9.2
Other	12.5	11.9	12.3	12.0
Non-veterans	84.3	84.8	84.5	78.8
Number of jail inmates	218,797	162,441	395,554	223,552

Note: Total includes jail inmates with an unknown conviction status or no offense. Data were missing for marital status on 0.2% of the inmates; for education, 1.7% of the inmates; and for military service, 1.2%.

*Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, and other racial groups.

Table 4. Pre-arrest employment and income for jail inmates, 1989 and 1983

	Percent of jail inmates	
	1989	1983
Pre-arrest employment	100.0%	100.0%
Employed	64.5%	53.2%
Full time	53.1	40.9
Part time	11.4	12.3
Not employed	35.5%	46.8%
Looking for work	21.4	32.9
Not looking	14.1	13.9
Pre-arrest income		
Annual income ^a		
(Free at least 1 year)	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$3,000 ^b	26.5	33.1
\$3,000-\$4,999	12.2	13.7
\$5,000-\$9,999	23.3	24.2
\$10,000-\$14,999	15.5	13.7
\$15,000 or more	22.4	15.3
Number of jail inmates	285,599	170,393
Monthly income ^c		
(Free less than 1 year)	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$300 ^b	22.4	36.3
\$300-\$499	15.5	17.1
\$500-\$999	25.3	28.0
\$1,000-\$1,449	17.4	8.4
\$1,500 or more	19.4	10.2
Number of jail inmates	65,677	38,566

Note: Pre-arrest employment data were available for approximately 99% of jail inmates in 1989 and 1983. Income data were available for 89% of the inmates in 1989 and 93% in 1983.

^aAnnual income figures based on inmates who reported being free at least 1 year prior to the offense for which they were sent to jail.

^bIncludes inmates reporting no income.

^cMonthly income figures for inmates who were free less than 1 year prior to the offense for which they were sent to jail.

Current offenses

As with other characteristics of the Inmate population, the distribution of offenses changed between 1983 and 1989 (table 5). The number of inmates in jail for drug violations increased dramatically: in 1983 about 1 of every 10 inmates were in jail for a drug offense; in 1989 nearly 1 of every 4 were in jail for drugs. From 1983 to 1989 the increase in the number of persons in jail for drug offenses accounted for more than 40% of the total increase in the jail population. Drug traffickers (12.0% of all inmates) were the largest single group of offenders in local jails in 1989.

The percentage in jail for a violent offense decreased from 30.7% in 1983 to 22.5% in 1989. Among violent offenses the largest decrease was for robbery, from 11.2% to 6.7%. Although violent offenders de-

creased as a percentage of jail inmates, their total number increased from an estimated 67,439 inmates in 1983 to 85,532 in 1989 — an increase of 26.8%.

The percentage in jail for property offenses also declined: from 38.6% in 1983 to 30.0% in 1989. Burglary and larceny/theft, the two most prevalent types of offenses in 1983, decreased from 26.0% of the jail inmates to 18.6% in 1989.

Persons charged with or convicted of public-order offenses, including inmates in jail for driving while intoxicated (DWI) and parole and probation violations, increased slightly from 20.6% in 1983 to 22.8% in 1989.

In 1989 convicted and unconvicted inmates differed greatly in the percentage in jail for violent and public-order offenses. Uncon-

victed inmates were nearly twice as likely as convicted inmates to be in jail for violent offenses. This difference reflects both the greater likelihood of persons charged with violent offenses to be detained until trial (because of denial of bail/bond or the inability to meet higher bail requirements) and the higher chance of convicted violent offenders of being sent to prison.

Among convicted inmates, 30.2% were serving time for a public-order offense compared to 12.9% among unconvicted offenders. The most common type of public-order offense among convicted inmates was DWI (including driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, DUI). An estimated 30,147 inmates (13.8% of all convicted inmates) had been convicted of these offenses, compared to 3,315 (or 2.0%) of the unconvicted inmates.

Men and women differed greatly in the types of offenses that brought them to jail in 1989 (table 6). Women were far more likely than men to be in jail for a drug offense. An estimated 1 of every 3 female inmates were in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 of every 5 male inmates. Women were also more likely than men to be in jail for larceny or fraud (24.5% compared to 10.6%).

Violent offenses were more prevalent among men (23.5%) than among women (13.2%) in the jail population. Men were also more likely than women to be in jail for burglary (11.4% compared to 4.0%) and for DWI (9.3% compared to 3.6%).

Proportionately more blacks and Hispanics than whites were in jail for drug offenses. More than a third of all Hispanic inmates and a quarter of black non-Hispanics, compared to less than a seventh of white non-Hispanics, were in jail for a drug violation in 1989. Among Hispanic and black inmates the most common offense was drug trafficking (18.1% and 14.4%, respectively); however, among white non-Hispanic inmates, DWI was the most common offense (15.4%). Violent offenses were also somewhat more prevalent among black non-Hispanic inmates (25.2%) than among white non-Hispanic inmates (21.2%).

Table 5. Most serious offense of jail inmates by conviction status, 1989 and 1983

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates in 1989			1983 Total
	Convicted	Unconvicted	Total	
Violent offenses	16.6%	30.4%	22.5%	30.7%
Murder ^a	1.2	5.1	2.8	4.1
Negligent manslaughter	.7	.3	.5	.6
Kidnaping	.3	1.5	.8	1.3
Rape	.7	1.0	.8	1.5
Other sexual assault	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.0
Robbery	5.0	9.1	6.7	11.2
Assault	5.1	10.0	7.2	8.6
Other violent ^b	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.3
Property offenses	29.2%	31.2%	30.0%	38.6%
Burglary	9.8	12.0	10.7	14.3
Larceny/theft	8.5	7.1	7.9	11.7
Motor vehicle theft	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.3
Arson	.5	.9	.7	.8
Fraud	4.2	3.6	4.0	5.0
Stolen property	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.5
Other property ^c	1.2	2.1	1.6	1.9
Drug offenses	22.5%	23.8%	23.0%	9.3%
Possession	10.7	8.4	9.7	4.7
Trafficking	10.7	13.7	12.0	4.0
Other/unspecified	1.0	1.6	1.3	.6
Public-order offenses	30.2%	12.9%	22.8%	20.6%
Weapons	2.2	1.5	1.9	2.3
Obstruction of justice	2.4	3.4	2.8	2.0
Traffic	4.1	.9	2.7	2.2
Driving while intoxicated ^d	13.8	2.0	8.8	7.0
Drunkenness/morals ^e	2.0	1.3	1.7	3.4
Violation of parole/probation ^f	3.7	2.1	3.0	2.3
Other public-order ^g	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.6
Other^h	1.4%	1.8%	1.6%	.8%
Number of jail inmates	218,303	161,858	380,160	219,573

Note: Excludes an estimated 15,393 jail inmates whose conviction status or offense was unknown.

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

^cIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^dIncludes driving while intoxicated and driving under

the influence of drugs or alcohol.

^eIncludes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

^fIncludes parole or probation violations, escape, AWOL, and flight to avoid prosecution.

^gIncludes rioting, abandonment, non-support, immigration violations, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, tax evasion, and bribery.

^hIncludes juvenile offenses and unspecified offenses.

Criminal justice status at arrest

At the time of arrest, 46.5% of the jail inmates were already in some criminal justice status (table 7). An estimated 28% of the jail inmates in 1989 were on probation; 9.8% were on parole; and 5.8% were out on bail at the time of their arrest. Jail

inmates in 1983 had a similar distribution of statuses at the time of arrest, except for a slightly lower percentage of persons on probation.

Convicted inmates in 1989 were more likely than unconvicted inmates to have been on probation at the time of the arrest for their

current offense. About a third of the convicted inmates, compared to less than a quarter of the unconvicted inmates, were on probation at the time of the offense.

Prior sentences and criminal histories

More than three-quarters of the jail inmates in 1989 were recidivists — having had a prior sentence to probation or incarceration as a juvenile or adult (table 8). More than half had served time in prison or jail in the past; about a third more than once. An estimated 63% of the inmates in 1989 had been on probation at least once, and 29.0% had been on probation more than once.

Table 6. Most serious offense of jail inmates, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1989

Most serious offense	Sex of jail inmates		Race and Hispanic origin of jail inmates			
	Male	Female	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other*
Violent offenses	23.5%	13.2%	21.2%	25.2%	17.8%	28.5%
Murder	2.9	1.8	2.3	3.8	1.7	3.0
Negligent manslaughter	.5	.4	.6	.4	.3	.9
Kidnaping	.7	1.1	.9	.6	.8	1.1
Rape	.9	0	1.0	.6	.4	3.6
Other sexual assault	2.8	.2	4.3	1.6	1.3	1.8
Robbery	7.0	3.9	3.8	9.8	5.7	9.3
Assault	7.4	5.2	6.5	7.9	7.0	7.8
Other violent	1.1	.6	1.7	.6	.8	.9
Property offenses	29.9%	31.9%	31.8%	31.1%	24.1%	25.8%
Burglary	11.4	4.0	11.4	11.1	8.4	9.2
Larceny/theft	7.4	12.9	7.9	8.8	6.0	4.8
Motor vehicle theft	3.0	.9	2.9	2.2	4.0	2.8
Arson	.7	.6	1.0	.5	.4	0
Fraud	3.2	11.6	5.4	3.9	1.1	3.4
Stolen property	2.5	1.4	1.7	2.7	2.9	3.6
Other property	1.7	.5	1.4	1.8	1.4	2.1
Drug offenses	21.9%	33.6%	14.3%	27.0%	33.9%	16.1%
Possession	9.2	14.9	5.7	11.7	14.5	7.6
Trafficking	11.5	16.9	7.0	14.4	18.1	7.4
Other/unspecified	1.2	1.8	1.7	.9	1.3	1.2
Public-order offenses	23.2%	19.0%	31.0%	14.7%	23.3%	29.4%
Weapons	2.0	1.4	1.6	2.1	2.4	.9
Obstruction of justice	2.8	3.6	3.0	3.2	2.1	.2
Traffic	2.8	1.3	4.1	1.6	2.4	2.8
Driving while intoxicated	9.3	3.6	15.4	1.7	10.1	16.7
Drunkenness/morals	1.3	5.3	2.4	1.2	1.4	3.5
Violation of parole/probation	3.0	3.6	2.8	3.0	3.3	4.3
Other public-order	2.0	.2	1.8	1.9	1.8	.9
Other	1.5%	2.2%	1.6%	2.0%	.8%	.2%
Number of jail inmates	344,535	35,625	147,038	158,993	65,223	8,907

Note: Excludes an estimated 15,393 jail inmates whose conviction status or offense was unknown. See table 5 for definitions of offense categories.

*Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, and other racial groups.

Table 7. Criminal justice status of jail inmates at arrest, by detention status, 1989 and 1983

Criminal justice status at arrest	Percent of jail inmates in 1989			1983
	Convicted	Unconvicted	Total	Total
None	49.7%	54.6%	53.5%	56.2%
Status	50.3%	45.4%	46.5%	43.8%
On probation	33.2	23.5	28.0	24.8
On parole	9.0	11.8	9.8	10.8
On bail/bond	5.3	7.0	5.8	5.8
On pretrial release	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.3
Other release*	1.4	1.0	1.2	...
Escape	.4	.4	.4	1.1

Note: Totals include inmates whose conviction status was unknown or who had no offense.

*Includes inmates on work release, study release, furlough, and other conditional release.

... Not available.

Table 8. Prior sentences to probation or incarceration, for jail inmates, 1989 and 1983

Prior sentence	Percent of jail inmates	
	1989	1983
Probation		
None	37.1%	36.9%
Juvenile only	11.1	13.8
Adult only	36.8	30.4
Both	15.1	18.8
Number of times		
0	37.1%	36.9%
1	33.9	32.5
2	14.9	16.8
3-5	11.4	11.0
6-10	2.2	2.2
11 or more	.5	.6
Incarceration		
None	43.4%	34.4%
Juvenile only	3.6	5.7
Adult only	42.3	40.7
Both	10.8	19.2
Number of times		
0	43.4%	34.4%
1	21.7	21.7
2	11.7	13.7
3-5	13.6	17.2
6-10	6.0	7.5
11 or more	3.7	5.4
Probation or incarceration		
None	23.5%	19.9%
Juvenile only	7.6	8.2
Adult only	46.1	40.3
Both	22.8	31.6
Number of times		
0	23.5%	19.9%
1	20.6	17.0
2	16.5	16.9
3-5	22.5	25.5
6-10	10.7	12.9
11 or more	6.2	7.9
Number of jail inmates	378,353	216,799

Note: Excludes an estimated 17,200 inmates in 1989 and 6,753 inmates in 1983 for whom data on prior sentences to probation or incarceration were unknown.

The records of jail inmates in 1989 were somewhat shorter than those of inmates in 1983. Inmates in 1989 were less likely than those in 1983 to have been incarcerated in the past (56.6% compared to 65.5%). While 43.8% of the inmates in 1983 had been incarcerated two or more times in the past, 35.0% of the inmates in 1989 reported having been incarcerated two or more times.

Jail inmates in 1989 were also less likely than inmates in 1983 to have had a juvenile record: among inmates in 1989, 26.2% had been on probation and 14.4% had been incarcerated as a juvenile; in 1983 32.6% had been on probation and 24.9% had been incarcerated as a juvenile.

More than a third of the inmates in 1989 were in jail for a violent offense or had a

prior sentence for a violent offense. The percentage of inmates who were violent recidivists (29.9%) was somewhat lower in 1989 than in 1983 (36.7%) (table 9). The percentage of nonviolent recidivists increased, however, from 43.2% in 1983 to 47.7% in 1989.

Overall, an estimated 16.0% of the jail inmates in 1989 had been convicted of or charged with a nonviolent offense and had no previous sentences to probation, jail, or prison. An additional 3.5% were recidivists who had previous sentences for only minor public-order offenses, such as drunkenness, vagrancy, loitering, disorderly conduct, and similar offenses.

The extent and nature of the reported criminal histories varied among jail inmates. In 1989 violent recidivists were more prevalent among unconvicted inmates (35.1%) than among the convicted inmates (26.1%). In contrast, 40.0% of the unconvicted jail inmates were nonviolent recidivists, while 53.3% of the convicted inmates were nonviolent recidivists.

Female inmates were more likely than male inmates to have been non-recidivists in jail for a nonviolent offense and were less likely than male inmates to have been recidivists in jail for a violent offense (table 10). More than a quarter of the women and less than a sixth of the men were in jail for nonviolent offense but had no previous sentence.

An estimated 22.4% of the Hispanic inmates were in jail for a nonviolent offense for the first time, compared to 13.1% of the white non-Hispanic inmates and 15.6% of the black non-Hispanic inmates. These differences may be a reflection of the high percentage of drug offenders in the Hispanic inmate population.

Recidivists in jail for violent offenses were more prevalent among black non-Hispanic inmates (33.7%) than among white inmates (27.3%) or Hispanic inmates (25.5%). The percentage of inmates who were recidivists in jail for nonviolent offenses, however, was higher among whites than among blacks or Hispanics.

Table 9. Criminal history of jail inmates, by conviction status, 1989 and 1983

Criminal history	Percent of jail inmates in 1989			1983 Total
	Convicted	Unconvicted	Total	
No previous sentence	19.6%	24.9%	22.4%	20.1%
Current violent offense	5.2	8.6	6.6	7.8
Current nonviolent offense	15.4	16.3	15.8	12.3
Violent recidivists^a	26.1%	35.1%	29.9%	36.7%
Current and prior violent	5.9	9.7	7.5	11.1
Current violent only	8.0	13.8	10.5	12.2
Prior violent only	12.2	11.6	11.9	13.4
Nonviolent recidivists^b	53.3%	40.0%	47.7%	43.2%
Prior minor public-order offense only ^c	3.9	2.8	3.5	4.4
Other prior offenses	49.4	37.2	44.2	38.8
Number of jail inmates	215,009	160,573	375,582	215,349

Note: Excludes an estimated 19,971 inmates in 1989 and 8,203 inmates in 1983 for whom current offense and prior probation/incarceration offenses were unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aViolent recidivists were convicted in the past, and at the least either the current charge or a previous conviction was for a violent offense.

^bNonviolent recidivists were convicted of only nonviolent offenses in the past, and their current charge or conviction was for a nonviolent offense.

^cIncludes drunkenness, vagrancy, loitering, disorderly conduct, minor traffic offenses, commercialized vice, invasion of privacy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, liquor law violations, and juvenile-status offenses.

Table 10. Criminal history of jail inmates, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1989

Criminal history	Sex of jail inmates		Race and Hispanic origin of jail inmates			
	Male	Female	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other ^a
No previous sentence	21.5%	31.3%	19.1%	23.0%	29.2%	19.2%
Current violent offense	6.7	6.2	6.0	7.4	6.3	6.9
Current nonviolent offense	14.8	25.1	13.1	15.6	22.9	12.3
Violent recidivists^b	31.4%	16.2%	27.3%	33.7%	25.5%	35.7%
Current and prior violent	8.1	2.2	6.3	8.9	6.0	13.0
Current violent only	10.9	6.2	11.1	11.0	7.7	10.0
Prior violent only	12.4	7.8	9.9	13.8	11.8	12.7
Nonviolent recidivists^c	47.1%	52.4%	53.6%	43.2%	45.2%	45.1%
Prior minor public-order offenses only ^d	3.4	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.0	3.7
Other prior offenses	43.7	48.3	49.7	40.0	42.2	41.4
Number of jail inmates	340,249	35,333	144,889	157,110	64,676	8,907

Note: Excludes an estimate 19,971 inmates in 1989 and 8,203 inmates in 1983 for whom current offense and prior probation/incarceration offenses were unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aIncludes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, and other racial groups.

^bViolent recidivists were convicted in the past, and at the least either the current charge or a previous conviction was for a violent offense.

tion was for a violent offense.

^cNonviolent recidivists were convicted of only nonviolent offenses in the past, and their current charge or conviction was for a nonviolent offense.

^dIncludes drunkenness, vagrancy, loitering, disorderly conduct, minor traffic offenses, commercialized vice, invasion of privacy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, liquor law violations, and juvenile-status offenses.

Sentence length

About 50% of the jail inmates were convicted and sentenced at the time of the 1989 survey. Among those inmates who would serve their time in jail, half had received a sentence of 6 months or less, the median sentence (table 11). The arithmetic

average (or mean) sentence was substantially longer, 17 months, because of some relatively long sentences received by a small percentage of inmates. Between 1983 and 1989 there was a slight increase in the mean sentence but no change in the median sentence given to local jail inmates.

In 1989 among inmates sentenced to local jails, offenses with the longest median sentences included homicide, sexual assault, and robbery (about 2 years); and burglary, fraud, drug trafficking, and probation or parole violations (1 year) (table 12). The shortest median sentences were 3 months for minor traffic offenses (other than DWI and hit-and-run driving) and obstruction of justice; and 4 months for drunkenness or morals (including vagrancy and commercialized vice).

Table 11. Sentence length and time served since admission, jail inmates 1989 and 1983

	Jail inmates					
	Sentenced to jail ^a		Awaiting transfer to State or Federal prison ^a		Awaiting trial or sentencing ^b	
	1989	1983	1989	1983	1989	1983
Maximum sentence length						
Median	6 mos.	6 mos.	72 mos.	43 mos.		
Mean	17	14	102	75		
Time served since admission						
Median	2.4 mos.	0.3 mos.	4.9 mos.	8.4 mos.	1.5 mos.	1.6 mos.
Mean	5.0	7.0	9.4	13.8	3.4	3.4
Number of inmates	117,960	76,488	17,606	8,093	182,362	102,775

^aIncludes only inmates who were new court commitments with a valid sentence length and valid admission date.
^bIncludes all unsentenced inmates.

Time served

Based on the time elapsed between admission to jail and the interview, sentenced inmates in 1989 had served less time than those in 1983. Since their admission, offenders sentenced to serve time in local jail had served an average of 5 months in 1989, compared to 7 months in 1983; offenders sentenced to State or Federal prisons had served 9.4 months in local jails while awaiting transfer in 1989, compared to 13.8 months in 1983. There was no change between 1983 and 1989 in the mean time served by inmates who were awaiting trial or sentencing — 3.4 months.

Table 12. Sentence length and time served since admission, by offense of inmates sentenced to local jails, 1989

Most serious offense	Number of jail inmates	Sentenced jail inmates			
		Maximum sentence length		Time served since admission	
		Median	Mean	Median	Mean
All offenses	117,960	6 mos.	17 mos.	2.4 mos.	5.0 mos.
Violent offenses	14,714	12 mos.	35 mos.	4.3 mos.	9.2 mos.
Homicide ^a	1,084	23	73	8.9	21.8
Sexual assault ^b	2,530	24	35	3.8	8.4
Robbery	3,030	24	56	6.8	11.4
Assault	6,429	9	23	4.1	7.8
Other violent ^c	1,641	12	18	1.3	3.2
Property offenses	31,366	10 mos.	21 mos.	2.8 mos.	5.7 mos.
Burglary	8,980	12	36	5.2	8.5
Larceny/theft	10,217	6	14	1.8	4.2
Motor vehicle theft	2,563	6	15	2.4	5.4
Fraud	4,872	12	18	3.1	6.2
Stolen property	2,750	8	13	2.6	3.9
Other property ^d	1,983	3	11	1.5	2.4
Drug offenses	23,928	9 mos.	19 mos.	2.8 mos.	5.5 mos.
Possession	12,202	7	15	2.8	5.1
Trafficking	10,758	12	22	3.3	5.5
Other/unspecified	968	--	--	--	--
Public-order offenses	46,236	5 mos.	8 mos.	1.6 mos.	2.9 mos.
Weapons	2,140	6	13	2.5	4.8
Obstruction of justice	3,263	3	5	1.3	3.2
Traffic	6,676	3	4	.9	1.8
Driving while intoxicated	24,465	6	7	1.8	3.0
Drunkenness/morals	3,265	4	6	1.5	2.4
Violation of parole/probation	3,311	12	18	2.5	4.1
Other public-order	3,116	6	6	1.8	2.1
Other offenses	1,717	6 mos.	15 mos.	1.3 mos.	3.1 mos.

Note: Data include only those inmates sentenced to local jails, who were new court commitments with valid sentence lengths and dates of admission.
 --Too few cases to provide a reliable estimate.

^aIncludes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter and negligent manslaughter.
^bIncludes rape and other sexual assault.
^cIncludes kidnapping and other violent offenses.
^dIncludes arson and other property offenses.

Data on time served since admission also provide an estimate of the total time inmates would serve in jail, assuming that factors affecting the average time served by inmates at the time of the interview remained constant. In the aggregate, for inmates serving a sentence to jail without any previous violation of probation or parole, doubling the time since admission provides an estimate of the total time to be served. For all inmates in 1989 the estimated time to be served was 4.8 months (median) and 10.0 months (mean).

Among specific offenses, the median time expected to be served was longest for homicide (17.8 months), robbery (13.6 months), and burglary (10.4 months) and shortest for obstruction of justice (2.6 months) and minor traffic offenses (1.8 months). For DWI, the most common offense type for which persons were sentenced to jail, inmates were expected to serve a median time of 3.6 months on a sentence of 6 months.

Drug and alcohol use

More than three-fourths of all jail inmates in 1989 reported use of an illegal drug at some time in their lives: 55.4% had used

a major drug, including cocaine or crack (50.4%), heroin (18.2%), LSD (18.6%), PCP (13.9%), and methadone outside of a treatment program (4.8%) (table 13). An estimated 72% of all jail inmates reported use of some other type of drug in the past.

About 7 of every 10 inmates had used marijuana or hashish; more than 1 of 5 had used amphetamines; and at least 1 of 6 had used barbiturates or methaqualone in the past.

Except for cocaine or crack, reported use of drugs of all types declined or remained unchanged between 1983 and 1989. Reported use of cocaine and crack, however, rose sharply, from 38.0% in 1983 to 50.4% in 1989.

Only convicted offenders were asked if they had used drugs in the month before or at the time of the offense that had brought them to jail. During the month before their offense, more than 4 of every 10 convicted inmates in 1989 had used a drug — more than 1 of every 4 were users of a major drug. An estimated 24% of the convicted inmates reported using cocaine or crack in the month before the offense in 1989, compared to half that percentage (11.8%) in 1983.

More than half of all convicted jail inmates said they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their current offense (table 14). An estimated 12% were under the influence of both drugs and alcohol, 15.4% under the influence of only drugs, and 29.2% under the influence of only alcohol. Cocaine or crack (13.7%) was the most frequently mentioned drug used at the time of the offense, followed by marijuana (9.1%). Cocaine or crack was also the only drug category for which inmates in 1989 reported higher levels of use at the time of their offense than inmates reported in 1983.

The percentage of inmates reporting that they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol varied considerably across different offense categories. Alcohol use at the time of the offense was more prevalent among violent offenders (46.8%) than property offenders (30.7%). An estimated 63.2% of those serving time for homicide and 54.1% of those for assault reported being under the influence of alcohol. Excluding inmates serving time for drug offenses, drug use at the time of the offense was most common among burglars (37.9%) and robbers (35.0%) and least common among persons serving time for assault (14.3%), minor traffic offenses (11.4%), DWI (11.9%), and other public-order offenses (12.9%).

Table 13. Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 1989 and 1983

Type of drug	Percent of all jail inmates who had ever used drugs		Percent of convicted jail inmates			
	1989	1983	Who had used drugs in the month before the offense		Who were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense	
			1989	1983	1989	1983
Any drug	77.7%	76.1%	43.8%	46.1%	27.0%	29.6%
Major drug	55.4%	46.2%	27.7%	18.6%	18.2%	12.1%
Cocaine or crack	50.4	38.0	23.6	11.8	13.7	5.5
Heroin	18.2	22.4	7.0	7.9	4.6	5.6
LSD	18.6	22.3	1.6	3.0	.4	1.3
PCP	13.9	15.6	1.7	3.0	1.3	1.9
Methadone	4.8	6.9	.6	.8	.5	.6
Other drug	71.9%	74.5%	31.3%	41.8%	12.0%	22.8%
Marijuana or hashish	70.7	73.0	28.1	38.6	9.1	16.9
Amphetamines	22.1	32.8	5.4	9.4	2.2	4.2
Barbiturates	17.2	27.8	3.3	5.9	.9	2.9
Methaqualone	14.7	23.0	.8	3.8	.3	1.7
Other drugs	11.0	10.9	2.4	3.0	.2	1.7

Note: Detail may not add to totals because inmates may have used more than one drug.

Table 14. Convicted jail inmates who committed current offense under the influence of drugs or alcohol, by most serious offense, 1989

Most serious offense	Number convicted	Percent of convicted jail inmates under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense			
		Total	Drugs only	Alcohol only	Both
All offenses	205,254	56.6%	15.4%	29.2%	12.1%
Violent offenses	34,188	55.6%	8.8%	30.7%	16.1%
Homicide	3,912	68.7	5.5	49.5	13.7
Sexual assault	6,888	45.7	3.5	21.1	21.1
Robbery	10,208	53.1	17.7	18.1	17.3
Assault	10,569	58.7	4.5	44.3	9.8
Other violent	2,612	59.2	10.0	21.8	27.3
Property offenses	59,858	48.9%	18.2%	17.9%	12.8%
Burglary	20,172	58.3	20.4	20.4	17.5
Larceny/theft	16,905	44.7	18.4	16.5	9.8
Motor vehicle theft	5,606	42.6	16.4	13.2	13.0
Fraud	8,899	42.5	20.9	11.4	10.2
Stolen property	4,491	38.7	13.7	14.7	10.3
Other property	3,786	53.9	6.8	36.4	10.6
Drug offenses	44,325	48.2%	28.6%	7.3%	12.3%
Possession	21,196	56.1	32.9	6.7	16.5
Trafficking	21,051	40.6	23.9	7.8	8.9
Other/unspecified	2,077	44.7	32.1	7.7	4.8
Public-order offense	64,084	70.1%	6.4%	54.1%	9.6%
Weapons	4,910	46.5	16.3	21.4	8.8
Obstruction of justice	4,931	59.2	7.9	35.0	16.3
Traffic	8,750	40.5	6.8	29.1	4.6
Driving while intoxicated	29,791	94.6	1.8	82.7	10.1
Drunkness/morals	4,197	65.9	17.8	42.1	6.1
Violation of parole/probation	7,433	48.6	11.6	24.7	12.3
Other public-order	4,072	39.4	4.9	26.5	8.0
Other	2,789	61.5%	29.6%	28.3%	3.6%

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. See table 12 for definitions of offense categories.

Inmates in 1989 were asked if they had ever been an alcoholic — 20.9% said they had (table 15). Despite the high levels of alcohol use at the time of the offense, alcohol use among inmates appears to have declined since 1983. For example, the percentage of inmates reporting being under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense declined from 49.5% in 1983 to 41.3% in 1989. In addition, the percentage of inmates who reported drinking for 5 or more hours before the offense and who reported being drunk or very drunk at the time of the offense also declined since 1983.

Table 15. Alcohol use and treatment among jail inmates, 1989 and 1983

Jail inmates	Percent	
	1989	1983
Who had ever been an alcoholic	20.9%	...
Who had ever participated in an alcohol abuse treatment program	14.8%	20.7%
Who were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the current offense*	41.3%	49.5%
Who reported drinking for 5 or more hours before the current offense*	18.2%	21.4%
Who reported being drunk or very drunk at time of the current offense*	19.6%	26.3%

... Data not available.
*Percents based on convicted inmates only.

Treatment for drug and alcohol abuse

About a quarter of all jail inmates in 1989 had participated in a drug treatment program, and nearly a sixth, in an alcohol abuse treatment program (table 16). Overall, 32.8% of all jail inmates had been in some type of substance abuse program in the past.

Nearly a third of the inmates who had ever used drugs and two-fifths of those who had ever used a major drug reported prior treatment for drug abuse. About a sixth of the major drug users had been in more than one treatment program in the past.

For many of the jail inmates, drug treatment had been provided while they were incarcerated in jail or prison. An estimated 11.3% of the inmates who had ever used a major drug received their most recent treatment while incarcerated; 8.1% of the major drug users were receiving treatment in jail at the time of the interview.

Family background

More than half of all jail inmates had grown up in a household without the presence of both parents (table 17). Approximately 39.1% had lived in a single parent household — 35.5% with their mothers and 3.6% with their fathers. An additional 10.5% of the inmates had lived in a household without either parent. An estimated 13.7% of the inmates had lived in a foster home,

agency, or other institution at some time while they were growing up.

Relative to the general population, jail inmates were nearly twice as likely to have grown up in a single-parent household. In 1975, when most of the inmates in 1989 were between ages 10 and 18, 80.3% of the 66.1 million children in the Nation's households were living with both parents.*

More than a quarter of all jail inmates in 1989 reported that while they were growing up one or both of their parents or guardians had abused alcohol or drugs: 25.5% reported parental alcohol abuse and 3.9%, drug abuse.

*Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1978, U.S. Bureau of the Census, table 68, p. 50.

Table 17. Family structure, incarceration of family members, and parental abuse of alcohol or drugs reported by jail inmates, 1989

	Percent of all jail inmates
Person(s) lived with most of time while growing up:	
Both parents	47.7%
Mother only	35.5
Father only	3.6
Grandparents	7.0
Other relatives	3.1
Friends	.4
Foster home	1.4
Agency or institution	.6
Other	.7
Ever lived in a foster home, agency, or institution while growing up	
No	86.3%
Yes	13.7
Family member ever incarcerated	
No	64.6%
Yes*	35.4
Spouse	.3
Mother	1.3
Father	7.6
Brother/sister	28.9
Child	.2
Parent or guardian abused alcohol or drugs while inmate was growing up	
No	73.7%
Yes	26.3
Alcohol	22.4
Drugs	.8
Both alcohol and drugs	3.1

*Detail add to more than total because more than one family member may have been incarcerated.

Table 16. Participation by jail inmates in drug treatment programs, 1989

	Percent of jail inmates		
	Total	Who had ever used drugs	Who had ever used a major drug ^a
Ever participated in drug abuse treatment program ^b	24.0%	30.9%	38.7%
Number of times in treatment ^c			
Once	14.7%	18.9%	23.1%
Twice	4.6	5.9	7.7
3-5 times	3.5	4.5	5.9
6 or more times	1.0	1.3	1.7
In a program in the month before current admission	4.9%	6.3%	7.9%
Most recent treatment was while incarcerated	7.0%	9.1%	11.3%
Currently in treatment	5.0%	6.5%	8.1%
Number of jail inmates ^d	394,808	306,790	218,600

^aMajor drugs include heroin, cocaine, crack, methadone, LSD, and PCP.
^bOverall, 32.8% had participated in some type of substance abuse program, including alcohol and drug abuse.

^cExcludes 1,958 inmates who did not report the number of times in treatment.
^dBased on cases with valid data on whether inmate had ever participated in a drug treatment program.

At least a third of all jail inmates reported that another family member had served time in jail or prison. An estimated 29% of the inmates reported that a brother or sister had been incarcerated at some time in the past; 8.9% reported that a parent had been incarcerated.

Physical and sexual abuse

Sixteen percent of the jail inmates reported that they had been either physically or sexually abused at some time in their lives before their current imprisonment (table 18). More than 4 of every 10 women had been abused: 32.7% physically and 36.5% sexually. An estimated 31.3% of the women had been abused by an adult before age 18, and 29.5% had been abused since age 18.

Male inmates were at least 3 times less likely than female inmates to have been abused before age 18 and 5 times less likely than female inmates to have been abused after age 18.

Mental health problems

Jail inmates in 1989 were also asked if they had ever been sent by a court to a mental hospital or mental health treatment program — 8.2% said they had (table 19). At least 1 of every 8 inmates said they had taken medication prescribed by a psychiatrist or other doctor for an emotional or mental problem. Female inmates were somewhat more likely than male inmates to report having taken medication in the past.

Table 18. Prior physical or sexual abuse of jail inmates, 1989

	Percent of jail inmates		
	Total	Male	Female
Ever physically or sexually abused by an adult before current incarceration			
No	84.0%	86.9%	55.6%
Yes	16.0	13.1	44.4
Before age 18	11.4	9.4	31.3
Since age 18	8.1	5.9	29.5
Physically abused	13.1	11.1	32.7
Sexually abused	7.6	4.6	36.5

Note: Sexual abuse includes fondling, molestation, incest, sodomy, rape, and other types of sexual assault. Detail adds to more than total because some inmates were abused both before and since age 18 or were both sexually and physically abused.

Table 19. Mental health problems among jail inmates, 1989

	Percent of jail inmates		
	Total	Male	Female
Ever sent to mental hospital or mental health treatment program by court			
No	91.8%	92.0%	90.5%
Yes	8.2	8.0	9.5
Ever taken medication prescribed by a psychiatrist or other doctor for an emotional or mental problem			
No	86.9%	87.7%	78.5%
Yes	13.1	12.3	21.5

Methodology

The 1989 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails was conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Through personal interviews during July, August, and September 1989, data were collected on individual characteristics of jail inmates, current offenses and sentences, characteristics of victims, criminal histories, jail activities and programs, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, and health care services provided while in jail. Similar surveys of jail inmates were conducted in 1972, 1978, and 1983.

Sample design

The sample for the 1989 survey was selected from a universe of 3,312 jails that were enumerated in the 1988 National Jail Census. The sample design was a stratified two-stage selection. In the first stage six separate strata were formed based on the size of the male and female populations. In two strata all jails were selected; in the remaining four strata, a systematic sample of jails was selected proportional to the population size of each jail. Overall, a total of 424 local jails were selected. In the second stage interviewers visited each selected facility and systematically selected a sample of male and female inmates using predetermined procedures. As a result, approximately 1 of every 70 males were selected, and depending on the stratum, 1 of every 14, 15, or 70 females were selected. A total of 5,675 interviews were completed, yielding an overall response rate of 92.3%.

Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These factors were adjusted for variable rates of nonresponse across strata and inmate characteristics. Further adjustments were made to control the survey estimates to counts of jail inmates obtained from the 1988 National Jail Census and the 1989 Sample Survey of Jails.

Accuracy of the estimates

The accuracy of the estimates presented in this report depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is variation that may occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Nonsampling error can be

attributed to many sources, such as nonresponse, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, recall difficulties, and processing errors. In any survey the full extent of the nonsampling error is never known.

The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population. Estimates of the standard errors have been calculated for the 1989 and 1983 surveys of jail inmates (see appendix table). These standard errors may be used to construct confidence intervals around percentages in this report. For example, the 95% confidence interval around the percent of jail inmates in 1989 who were in jail for a drug offense is approximately 23.0% plus or minus 1.96 times 0.6% (or 21.8% to 24.2%).

These standard errors may also be used to test the statistical significance of the difference between two sample statistics by

pooling the standard errors of the two sample estimates. For example, the standard error of the difference in the percent in jail for drug offenses in 1989 compared to 1983 would be .72 (or the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors in each year). The 95% confidence interval around the difference would be 1.96 times 0.72% (or 1.4%). Since the observed difference of 13.7% (23.0% minus 9.3%) is greater than 1.4%, the difference would be considered statistically significant.

All comparisons discussed in this report were statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. Because of the sample design, State, local, or other subnational estimates cannot be made.

Self-reported information

Criminal history data are based on self-reported information provided by each respondent. Through a series of questions, inmates were asked to report on past

Appendix table. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, all jail inmates, 1989 and 1983

Base of the estimate and year	Estimated percentages					
	98 or 2	95 or 5	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	50
1,000						
1989	4.4	6.9	9.5	12.7	14.6	15.9
1983	3.1	4.8	6.6	8.7	10.0	10.9
5,000						
1989	2.0	3.1	4.3	5.7	6.5	7.1
1983	1.4	2.1	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.9
10,000						
1989	1.4	2.2	3.0	4.0	4.6	5.0
1983	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.5
25,000						
1989	.9	1.4	1.9	2.5	2.9	3.2
1983	.6	1.0	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.2
50,000						
1989	.6	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.2
1983	.4	.7	.9	1.2	1.4	1.5
100,000						
1989	.4	.7	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.6
1983	.3	.5	.7	.9	1.0	1.1
200,000						
1989	.3	.5	.7	.9	1.0	1.1
1983	.2	.3	.5	.6	.7	.8
223,550*						
1983	.2	.3	.4	.6	.7	.8
395,553*						
1989	.2	.3	.5	.6	.7	.8

Note: The reliability of an estimated percentage depends on the size of the percentage and its base. Each standard error when multiplied by 1.96 provides a 95-percent confidence interval around an estimated percentage. To calculate the standard error of the difference between two estimated percentages, take the square root of the sum of each squared standard error for the percentages being compared.

*The total number of jail inmates in 1983 and 1989.

probation sentences as juveniles and as adults and on past sentences to incarceration up to 10 prior times. For each sentence, the inmates were asked the offenses for which they were sentenced, the type of institution in which they served time, the date of admission, and the length of time actually served. From this information, a criminal history profile was constructed. A recidivist was defined as an inmate who reported a sentence to probation or incarceration at any time in the past.

Drug use and treatment history data are also based on responses from the inmates. Inmates were asked a detailed set of questions about each of 10 types of drugs. These drugs included heroin; methadone used outside of a treatment program; amphetamines and barbiturates (alone and in combination); methaqualone (Quaaludes); cocaine or crack; LSD; PCP; and marijuana and hashish. Drug use histories were developed by examining the responses to questions for each of these drugs. Inmates who were unconvicted (awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial, or on trial) were not asked any questions about drug use during the month before the arrest for which they were currently detained or about drug use in the month before the first offense for which they had served time in the past.

Bureau of Justice Statistics special Reports are written principally by BJS staff. This report was written by Allen J. Beck, Ph.D. Tom Hester edited the report, and Caroline Wolf Harlow, Ph.D., provided statistical review, assisted by Darrell Gilliard. The design of the survey and the collection of the data were directed by Christopher Innes, Ph.D., formerly of BJS. Data collection and processing were carried out at the Demographic Surveys Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, by Linda Ball and Gertrude Odom, under the supervision of Lawrence S. McGinn, and by Christopher Alaura and David L. Watt, under the supervision of Stephen T. Phillips. Sample design and weighting were provided at the Statistical Methods Division, the Bureau of the Census, by Wendy Scholetzky and Deborah Fenstermaker, under the direction of Thomas Moore. Interviews were conducted by Field Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, and coordinated by Craig Pritzl under the supervision of Dave Christopher. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, supervised production, assisted by Betty Sherman, Yvonne Boston, and Jayne Pugh.

April 1991, NCJ-129097

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

Data utilized in this report will be available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The data sets will be archived as the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (ICPSR 9419).

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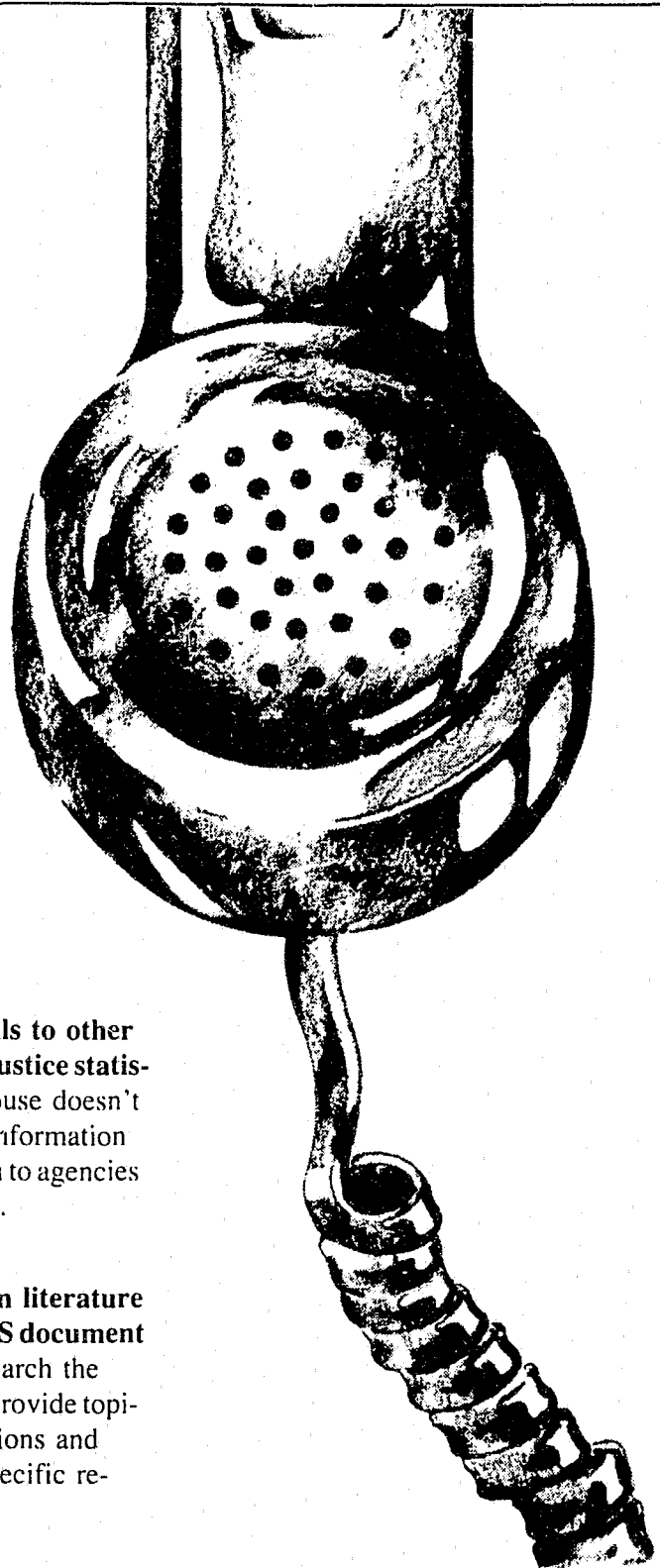
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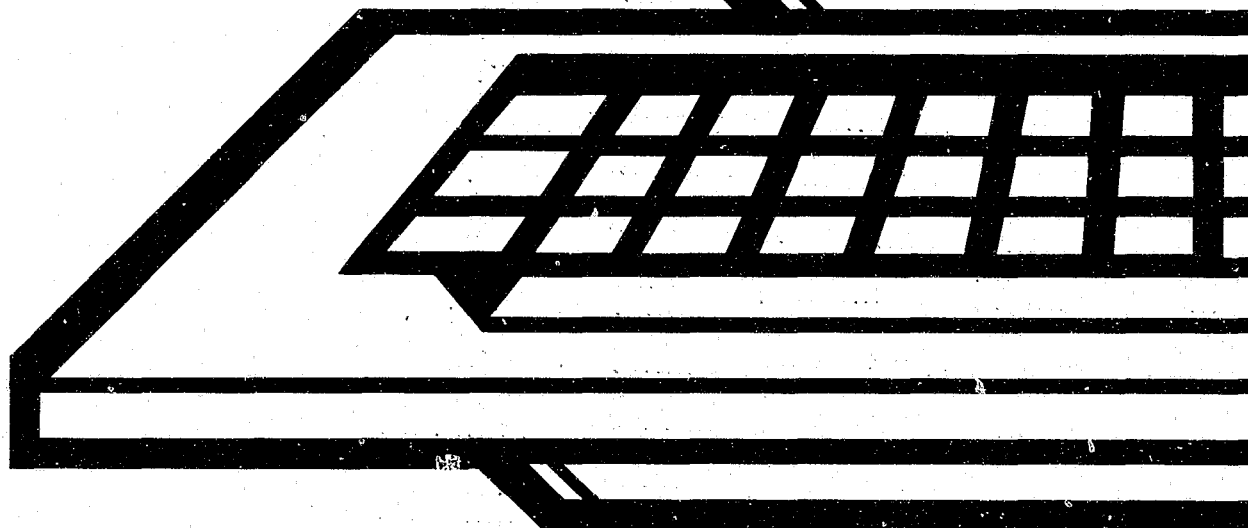
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