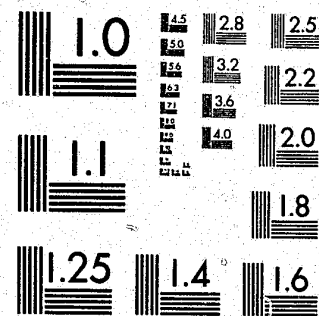


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U.S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

# The 1983 Jail Census

November 1984

A record 223,551 persons were being held in local jails throughout the United States in June, 1983, a 41% increase over the total of the last jail census in February 1978 (table 1). During the same 1978-83 period, the number of local jail facilities nationwide decreased 4% from 3,493 to 3,338. In this report a jail is defined as a locally administered confinement facility, intended primarily for adults but sometimes also detaining juveniles, that holds persons pending adjudication and/or persons committed after adjudication for sentences, usually of a year or less.<sup>1</sup> Relative to the U.S. population, the number of jailed persons rose 29% from 76 per 100,000 residents in 1978 to 98 per 100,000 in 1983 (table 2). The 1978-83 jail population increase was more than three times larger than any prior change between censuses. Growth was higher for women (65%) than for men (40%) (table 4). The number of juvenile jail detainees, however, was relatively unchanged for the Nation as a whole, totaling 1,736 on the day of the census in 1983 vs. 1,611 in 1978.<sup>2</sup>

### Population growth highest in West and Northeast

The West and Northeast reported the fastest growth in jail population, each increasing more than 50% between 1978 and 1983; jail populations in the North Central States and the South increased 39% and 33%, respectively (table 2). The most rapid growth in jail

This bulletin presents findings from the June 30, 1983, National Jail Census, the most recent in a series of periodic local jail enumerations conducted in 1970 and again in 1972 and 1978. Jails are operated by local rather than State governments. They hold persons awaiting trial or arraignment as well as those already convicted of a crime: probation and parole violators and persons awaiting sentencing or serving sentences. The total corrections population includes jail inmates, State and Federal prisoners, and persons on probation or parole. This report excludes five States that operate combined jail and prison systems; their inmates are reported in the annual State and Federal prison count.

Following this bulletin, a summary volume and four regional volumes will be published detailing

State and county-level data from the 1983 census: number of inmates; number held for Federal, State, and other local authorities; admissions and releases; inmate deaths; and facility characteristics such as number of confinement units, beds, building and renovation plans, expenditures, health and safety, and staff.

The findings of this census were made possible by jail administrators and corrections statistics specialists in 45 States and the District of Columbia. Their cooperation and patience produced a questionnaire response rate of virtually 100%. It is hoped that this and subsequent publications will be useful to corrections practitioners and policymakers in dealing with the issues of changing jail populations and facility conditions.

Steven R. Schlesinger  
Director

populations occurred in Maine, Kentucky, the District of Columbia and North Dakota, ranging from 72% to 106%. Alaska, Alabama, and West Virginia were the only jurisdictions to record population declines during the period. With nearly 42,000 persons in local confinement, California had a jail

population 2 1/2 times higher than any other State. New York was second with more than 16,000 persons, followed by Texas (15,200) and Florida (14,700). These same States, together with Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, had the largest jail populations in both 1978 and 1983.

Table 1. Jails and inmates, by region, 1970-83<sup>a</sup>

Region	Number of jails				Number of inmates			
	1970	1972	1978	1983	1970	1972	1978	1983
United States	4,037	3,921	3,493	3,338	160,863	141,588	158,394	223,551
Northeast	235	231	207	223	31,458	27,362	24,228	36,634
North Central	1,178	1,153	1,042	972	29,209	23,516	28,452	39,538
South	1,914	1,865	1,678	1,607	61,655	55,461	67,444	89,479
West	710	672	566	536	38,541	35,249	38,270	57,900

<sup>a</sup> The census dates were March 15, 1970; June 30, 1972; February 15, 1978; and June 30, 1983.

<sup>1</sup>Temporary holding facilities or lockups that do not detain persons after they are formally charged in court are excluded. See Methodological note for further discussion.

<sup>2</sup>A juvenile is a person subject to juvenile court jurisdiction based on age and offense limitations as defined by State law. Statutes and judicial practices allow youths to be incarcerated in adult jails and prisons under a variety of circumstances; however, the great majority of juveniles—some 82,000 in 1983—are housed in either publicly or privately operated juvenile custody facilities.



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Four States with large jail populations also ranked among the Nation's top 10 in rate of jail confinement: Louisiana moved from fourth to first with 192 inmates per 100,000—nearly twice the national rate of 98—while Georgia declined to second (178) and California (166) and Florida (137) rose to third and fourth highest, respectively (table 2). As Figure 1 shows, eight of the States with the ten highest incarceration rates in 1983 were in the South, the same number as in the previous census. Increases in rates of local confinement were not limited to States with relatively high rates, however;

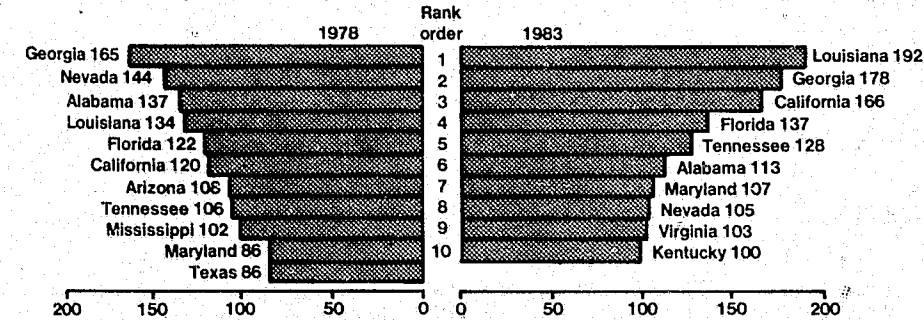
those with the lowest jail confinement rates during 1978-83 also saw gains, including Iowa (where the rate rose from 23 to 29 per 100,000), and North Dakota (where it doubled from 18 to 36 per 100,000).

#### Female component varies significantly by State

Although women accounted for 7% of all jail inmates nationwide in 1983, their proportion varied widely by State (table 3). Massachusetts had the smallest proportion (almost zero), while California had the largest (11%). The

proportion in Massachusetts may be artificially low because women awaiting adjudication in that State are typically detained in State correctional facilities, leaving only a few in local jails pending transfer at the time of the census. One possible reason for the relatively high proportion of females in California jails—whose female inmate population totaled 28% of all jailed women throughout the country—was the availability of a variety of alternative sentencing choices, such as work furloughs and counseling programs, which may have increased the likelihood of accused female law-breakers in that

Figure 1. States with highest jail incarceration rates, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983



Rate per 100,000 population  
Note: Excludes Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, in which there were no locally operated jails. The District of Columbia, a wholly metropolitan jurisdiction, is also excluded from this comparison.

State being assigned to jail custody and participation in such programs.

With the exception of Massachusetts, every jurisdiction had more women in jail in 1983 than in 1978. Gains were highest in the District of Columbia (137%), Virginia (132%), and New Jersey (110%), and lowest in Nevada (2%), New Hampshire (4%), Mississippi (6%) and West Virginia (6%). In each of these jurisdictions, however, the increase accompanied the State's overall growth in jail population, the sharpest gains occurring where total population growth was above the regional average, and the smallest gains taking place where growth lagged behind the regional average.

Table 2. Jails and inmates by region and State, legal status of inmates, and ratio to general population, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983

Region and State	Jails			All inmates			Adults			Juveniles			Number of inmates per 100,000 population		
	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,493</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>158,394</b>	<b>223,551</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>156,783</b>	<b>221,815</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>36,634</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>24,129</b>	<b>36,315</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>52</b>
Maine	13	14	8	325	560	72	319	542	70	6	18	300	30	49	63
Massachusetts	15	17	13	2,317	3,304	43	2,317	3,304	43	0	0	0	40	57	43
New Hampshire	11	11	0	370	475	28	362	469	30	8	6	-25	43	50	16
New Jersey	28	32	14	3,873	5,971	54	3,873	5,956	54	0	15	*	53	80	51
New York	72	72	0	10,936	16,154	48	10,852	15,877	46	84	277	230	61	91	49
Pennsylvania	68	77	13	6,407	10,170	59	6,406	10,167	59	1	3	200	54	85	57
<b>North Central</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>28,452</b>	<b>39,538</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27,937</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>37</b>
Illinois	100	98	-2	5,781	8,849	53	5,758	8,819	53	23	30	30	52	77	48
Indiana	90	93	3	2,453	3,599	47	2,301	3,466	51	152	133	-13	46	66	44
Iowa	91	90	-1	664	839	26	654	828	27	10	11	10	23	29	26
Kansas	86	86	0	998	1,328	33	934	1,305	40	64	23	-64	43	55	28
Michigan	93	87	-7	5,729	7,637	33	5,708	7,627	34	21	10	-52	63	84	33
Minnesota	65	67	3	1,517	1,954	29	1,504	1,941	29	13	13	0	38	47	24
Missouri	137	129	-6	2,849	3,783	33	2,829	3,761	33	20	22	10	60	76	27
Nebraska	77	67	-13	676	844	25	638	817	28	38	27	-29	44	53	21
North Dakota	39	31	-21	118	243	106	117	226	102	1	7	600	18	36	100
Ohio	150	121	-19	5,465	7,116	30	5,377	7,087	32	88	29	-67	51	66	29
South Dakota	44	31	-30	276	316	15	253	310	23	23	6	-74	40	45	13
Wisconsin	70	72	3	1,926	3,030	57	1,864	3,003	61	62	27	-57	41	64	56
<b>South</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>67,444</b>	<b>89,479</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66,775</b>	<b>88,639</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>15</b>
Alabama	108	108	0	5,049	4,464	-12	5,027	4,452	11	22	12	-46	137	113	-18
Arkansas	92	89	-3	1,334	1,602	20	1,277	1,540	21	57	62	9	62	69	11
District of Columbia	2	2	0	1,407	2,843	102	1,407	2,820	100	0	23	*	208	456	119
Florida	112	103	-8	10,305	14,668	42	10,263	14,313	40	42	355	745	122	137	12
Georgia	223	203	-9	8,278	10,214	23	8,269	10,213	24	9	1	-89	165	178	8
Kentucky	111	96	-14	2,149	3,711	73	2,089	3,652	75	60	59	-2	62	100	61
Louisiana	93	94	1	5,232	8,507	63	5,217	8,501	62	15	6	-60	134	192	43
Maryland	25	30	20	3,553	4,608	30	3,553	4,572	29	0	36	*	86	107	24
Mississippi	94	91	-3	2,427	2,498	3	2,359	2,482	6	68	16	-77	102	97	-5
North Carolina	95	99	4	2,798	3,496	25	2,766	3,474	26	32	22	-35	51	57	12
Oklahoma	102	104	2	1,704	2,215	30	1,676	2,164	29	28	51	82	61	87	10
South Carolina	68	58	-15	2,362	2,690	14	2,328	2,674	15	34	16	-53	84	82	-2
Tennessee	111	108	-3	4,553	6,005	40	4,492	5,975	33	61	30	-51	106	128	21
Texas	296	273	-8	10,995	15,224	39	10,931	15,176	39	64	48	-25	86	97	13
Virginia	92	95	3	4,232	5,719	35	4,077	5,616	38	155	103	-34	84	103	23
West Virginia	54	54	0	1,066	1,015	-5	1,044	1,015	3	22	0	-100	57	52	-9
<b>West</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>38,270</b>	<b>57,900</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37,942</b>	<b>57,661</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>29</b>
Alaska	6	5	-17	44	37	-16	43	34	21	1	3	200	11	8	-27
Arizona	39	31	-21	2,501	2,940	18	2,484	2,906	17	17	34	100	108	99	-8
California	135	142	5	26,206	41,720	59	26,093	41,656	60	113	64	-58	120	166	38
Colorado	61	60	-2	1,681	2,747	63	1,658	2,739	65	23	8	-65	65	88	35
Idaho	45	36	-20	539	604	12	498	566	14	41	38	-7	62	61	-2
Montana	58	50	-14	324	405	25	304	394	30	20	11	-45	43	50	16
Nevada	22	23	5	912	940	3	896	928	4	16	12	-25	144	105	-27
New Mexico	38	35	-8	794	1,346	70	755	1,324	75	39	22	-44	67	96	43
Oregon	48	39	-19	1,872	2,304	23	1,855	2,304	24	17	0	-100	78	87	12
Utah	24	24	0	676	906	34	675	906	34	1	0	-100	53	56	6
Washington	59	65	10	2,453	3,610	47	2,437	3,595	48	16	15	-6	68	84	24
Wyoming	31	26	-16	268	341	27	244	309	27	24	32	33	66	66	0

NOTE: Five States—Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island and Vermont—had integrated jail-prison systems and therefore, were

excluded from the report. Alaska, which had five locally operated jails in addition to an integrated jail-prison system, was included.

\* Not definable.

Table 3. Jails and inmates, by region and State, sex of inmates, legal status, and ratio to general population, June 30, 1983

Region and State	Jails	All inmates			Adults			Juveniles			Number of inmates per 100,000 population
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>223,551</b>	<b>207,782</b>	<b>15,769</b>	<b>221,815</b>	<b>206,163</b>	<b>15,652</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>36,634</b>	<b>34,615</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>36,315</b>	<b>34,309</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>82</b>
Maine	14	560	547	13	542	529	13	18	18	0	49
Massachusetts	17	3,304	3,301	3	3,304	3,301	3	0	0	0	57
New Hampshire	11	475	451	24	469	445	24	6	6	0	50
New Jersey	32	5,971	5,956	375	5,956	5,581	375	15	15	0	80
New York	72	16,154	15,100	1,054	15,877	14,836	1,041	277	264	13	91
Pennsylvania	77	10,170	9,620	550	10,167	9,617	550	3	3	0	85
<b>North Central</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>39,538</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>36,689</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>67</b>
Illinois	98	8,849	8,468	381	8,819	8,440	379	30	28	2	77
Indiana	93	3,599	3,359	240	3,466	3,235	231	133	124	9	66
Iowa	90	839	798	41	828	787	41	11	11	0	29
Kansas	86	1,328	1,244	84	1,305	1,222	83	23	22	1	55
Michigan	87	7,637	7,064	573	7,627	7,054	573	10	10	0	84
Minnesota	67	1,954	1,849	105	1,941	1,836	105	13	13	0	47
Missouri	129	3,783	3,523	260	3,761	3,503	258	22	20	2	76
Nebraska	67	844	796	48	817	773	44	27	23	4	53
North Dakota	31	243	222	21	236	215	21	7	7	0	36
Ohio	121	7,116	6,549	567	7,087	6,526	561	29	23	6	66
South Dakota	31	316	289	27	310	283	27	6	6	0	45
Wisconsin	72	3,030	2,839	191	3,003	2,815	188	27	24	3	64
<b>South</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>89,479</b>	<b>83,696</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>88,639</b>	<b>82,916</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>113</b>
Alabama	108	4,464	4,216	248	4,452	4,205	247	12	11	1	113
Arkansas	89	1,602	1,508	94	1,540	1,449	91	62	59	3	69
District of Columbia	2	2,843	2,570	273	2,820	2,547	273	23	23	0	456
Florida	103	14,668	13,489	1,179	14,313	13,157	1,156	355	332	23	137
Georgia	203	10,214	9,659	555	10,213	9,658	555	1	1	0	178
Kentucky	96	3,711	3,471	240	3,652	3,423	229	59	48	11	100
Louisiana	94	8,507	8,046	461	8,501	8,040	461	6	6	0	192
Maryland	30	4,608	4,343	265	4,572	4,310	262	36	33	3	107
Mississippi	91	2,498	2,374	124	2,482	2,358	124	16	16	0	97
North Carolina	99	3,496	3,305	191	3,474	3,286	188	22	19	3	57
Oklahoma	104	2,215	2,034	181	2,164	1,986	178	51	48	3	67
South Carolina	58	2,690	2,572	118	2,674	2,556	118	16	16	0	82
Tennessee	108	6,005	5,614	391	5,975	5,588	387	30	26	4	128
Texas	273	15,224	14,215	1,009	15,176	14,173	1,003	48	42	6	97
Virginia	95	5,719	5,317	402	5,616	5,217	399	103	100	3	103
West Virginia	54	1,015	963	52	1,015	963	52	0	0	0	52
<b>West</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>57,900</b>	<b>52,471</b>	<b>5,429</b>	<b>57,661</b>	<b>52,249</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>129</b>
Alaska	5	37	32	5	34	29	5	3	3	0	8
Arizona	31	2,940	2,756	184	2,906	2,722	184	34	34	0	99
California	142	41,720	37,312	4,408	41,656	37,252	4,404	64	60	4	166
Colorado	60	2,747	2,591	156	2,739	2,584	155	8	7	1	88
Idaho	36	604	563	41	566	532	34	38	31	7	61
Montana	50	405	369	36	394	359	35	11	10	1	50
Nevada	23	940	847	93	928	835	93	12	12	0	105
New Mexico	35	1,346	1,273	73	1,324	1,254	70	22	19	3	96
Oregon	39	2,304	2,163	141	2,304	2,163	141	0	0	0	87
Utah	24	906	862	44	906	862	44	0	0	0	56
Washington	65	3,610	3,390	220	3,595	3,375	220	15	15	0	84
Wyoming	26	341	313	28	309	282	27	32	31	1	66

**Table 4. Jails and inmates by region, sex of inmates, legal status, and ratio to general population, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983**

Region and year	Jails	All inmates			Total	Adults			Total	Juveniles			Number of inmates per 100,000 population <sup>a</sup>
		Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
<b>United States</b>													
1978	3,493	158,394	148,839	9,555	156,783	147,506	9,277	1,611	1,333	278	76		
1983	3,338	223,551	207,782	15,769	221,815	206,183	15,652	1,736	1,619	117	98		
<b>Northeast</b>													
1978	207	24,228	23,039	1,189	24,129	22,984	1,145	99	55	44	54		
1983	223	36,634	34,615	2,019	36,315	34,309	2,006	319	306	13	82		
<b>North Central</b>													
1978	1,042	28,452	26,687	1,765	27,937	26,256	1,681	515	431	84	49		
1983	972	39,538	37,000	2,538	39,200	36,689	2,511	338	311	27	67		
<b>South</b>													
1978	1,678	67,444	63,992	3,452	66,775	63,420	3,355	669	572	97	98		
1983	1,607	89,479	83,696	5,783	88,639	82,916	5,723	840	780	60	113		
<b>West</b>													
1978	566	38,270	35,121	3,149	37,942	34,846	3,096	328	275	53	100		
1983	536	57,900	52,471	5,429	57,661	52,249	5,412	239	222	17	129		

<sup>a</sup> Five States—Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont—had integrated jail-prison systems and, therefore, were excluded in calculating the rate of inmates per 100,000 population at the regional and national levels. Alaska, which had five locally

operated jails in addition to an integrated jail-prison system, was included in the calculation.

#### Number of jailed juveniles lower in most States

Juveniles accounted for slightly less than 1% of the nationwide jail population in 1983, about the same proportion as in 1978 (table 2). Representation was the same in each of the regions except the West, where it amounted to slightly less than half of 1%. In approximately 61% of the States, fewer juveniles were in adult jails in 1983 than in 1978. Particularly notable were California, Mississippi, Virginia, and Kansas, where the collective juvenile jail population decline totaled nearly 200. By contrast, gains were recorded in approximately 28% of the jurisdictions. Florida held the largest number of juveniles in jail at the time of the census (355, or approximately 20% of the National total) following an almost sevenfold increase in that State's juvenile jail population during the previous 5 1/2 years. New York experienced a 230% increase, bringing its juvenile jail population to 277, the Nation's second highest.

#### Average daily jail population slightly higher than on June 30th

The average daily jail population for the annual period July 1, 1982, to June 30, 1983, was approximately 227,500, about 2% higher than at the time of the census (table 6). Similar to the distribution on the one-day count, adult men accounted for 92% of the total, adult women 7% and juveniles 1%. Although the average number of juveniles in jail (1,760) was slightly higher than on the reference date (1,736), both figures were close to the comparable numbers in 1978 (1,740 and

1,611, respectively). The regional distribution of the population in 1983 was virtually the same on an average daily basis as at the time of the census: approximately 40% of all inmates were housed in the South; 25% in the West; 18% in the North Central States; and 17% in the Northeast.

#### High volume of jail admissions

Because of their dual function as detention facilities for the unconvicted and as confinement facilities for persons convicted of offenses, local jails have a far higher volume of admissions and releases than other types of correctional facilities. For example, the 250,000 admissions to the Nation's 900 Federal and State prisons in 1983 produced an average of 278 entries per facility per year,<sup>3</sup> and a total of

625,000 entries to 2,900 public and private juvenile custody facilities in 1982 produced an average admission rate of 216 per facility.<sup>4</sup> By contrast, more than 8 million admissions to 3,300 local jails during the annual period ending June 30, 1983, generated an average of more than 2,400 admissions per facility per year (table 7). When the 7.9 million releases occurring during the period are added to the admissions, the number of inmate transactions between July 1, 1982, and June 30, 1983, totals more than 16 million, or an average of 4,800 transactions per jail per year.

Regional differences were apparent in terms of admissions per 1,000 civil-

<sup>4</sup>Children In Custody: Advance Report on the 1982 Census of Public Juvenile Facilities, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, December 1983, and unpublished data.

**Table 5. The jail situation at midyear 1983**

States with largest inmate populations (5,000 or more)		States with greatest increases (50% or more) in the number of inmates since 1978		States with highest incarceration rates (more than 125 inmates per 100,000 population) <sup>a</sup>		States with the highest proportion of jails (15% or more) under court order for crowding	
California	41,720	North Dakota	106%	Louisiana	192	Louisiana	68%
New York	16,154	Dist. of Columbia	102	Georgia	178	Arizona	29
Texas	15,224	Kentucky	73	California	166	Florida	23
Florida	14,668	Maine	72	Florida	137	Alaska	20
Georgia	10,214	New Mexico	70	Tennessee	128	Mississippi	19
Pennsylvania	10,170	Colorado	63			New Jersey	16
Illinois	8,849	Louisiana	63			Colorado	15
Louisiana	8,507	California	59				
Michigan	7,637	Pennsylvania	59				
Ohio	7,116	Wisconsin	57				
Tennessee	6,005	New Jersey	54				
New Jersey	5,971	Illinois	53				
Virginia	5,719						

<sup>a</sup> The District of Columbia, a wholly metropolitan area, is excluded from the list of States with high incarceration rates.

ians 18-34 years old, the predominant age group among incarcerated persons.<sup>5</sup> The rate in the South (170) was more than 4 times higher than in the Northeast (38), roughly twice as high as in the North Central States (78), and slightly higher than in the West (158).

#### Inmates about evenly divided between convicted and unconvicted

Nearly equal proportions of convicted and unconvicted inmates were being held in local jails at the time of the 1983 census (table 8). Detailed comparison with 1978 data was restricted by classification limitations in that year, but the overall proportions of convicted and unconvicted appear to have changed little during the period.<sup>6</sup> As was the case in 1978, a slightly higher percentage of women (55%) than men (51%) were unconvicted. Regionally, this pattern was most pronounced in the South, where 58% of the women and 53% of the men were unconvicted.

#### Trend toward fewer but larger jails

Continuing the slow but steady consolidation of the previous decade, and coinciding with standard-setting agencies' efforts to promote the merging of municipal and county jails into joint complexes, 4% fewer local confinement facilities were in operation in 1983 than 5 1/2 years earlier (table 2). A total of 3,338 local jails were identified, including 1,607 in the South, 972 in the North Central Region, 536 in the West and 223 in the Northeast. Each region had slightly fewer jails except the predominantly metropolitan Northeast, where 16 more facilities were in use. On a State-by-State basis, net declines were reported in 24

<sup>5</sup>Unpublished data from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails indicated that 124,073 inmates, or 78% of all those incarcerated at the time of that survey, were between 18 and 34 years old.

<sup>6</sup>Unpublished data from the 1978 National Jail Census indicated that because of imprecisely reported information, approximately 2.5% of the jail population was unclassified by conviction status.

**Table 6. Average daily population, by legal status, sex of adults, and region and State, for the annual periods ending February 15, 1978 and June 30, 1983**

Region and State	All inmates		Adults		Juveniles	
	1978	1983	Male	Female	1978	1983
<b>United States</b>	157,930	227,541	146,312	210,451	9,878	15,330
<b>Northeast</b>	24,150	37,498	22,870	35,219	1,185	2,009
Maine	310	557	294	537	8	13
Massachusetts	2,269	3,516	2,234	3,511	35	5
New Hampshire	389	492	363	462	25	28
New Jersey	3,930	6,297	3,659	5,899	270	392
New York	10,926	16,371	10,285	15,062	559	1,057
Pennsylvania	6,326	10,265	6,035	9,748	288	514
<b>North Central</b>	28,767	41,327	26,420	38,398	1,825	2,561
Illinois	5,993	9,262	5,675	8,827	291	409
Indiana	2,552	3,834	2,262	3,423	136	261
Iowa	719	905	652	840	48	19
Kansas	942	1,313	839	1,233	50	67
Michigan	5,815	7,624	5,290	7,082	498	531
Minnesota	1,396	2,208	1,288	2,071	84	119
Missouri	2,870	3,937	2,639	3,677	189	250
Nebraska	545	951	480	872	32	55
North Dakota	146	260	128	239	12	18
Ohio	5,516	7,578	5,078	6,954	370	581
South Dakota	306	337	273	282	19	30
Wisconsin	1,967	3,118	1,816	2,898	96	192
<b>South</b>	66,855	91,946	62,427	85,123	3,676	5,939
Alabama	5,052	4,884	4,840	4,607	195	264
Arkansas	1,217	1,630	1,093	1,494	76	84
District of Columbia	1,360	2,361	1,235	2,126	110	220
Florida	10,317	14,950	9,553	13,489	715	1,126
Georgia	8,070	10,797	7,723	10,243	331	554
Kentucky	2,310	3,833	2,097	3,512	140	254
Louisiana	5,084	8,207	4,834	7,724	234	474
Maryland	3,619	4,629	3,498	4,342	121	267
Mississippi	2,273	2,473	2,102	2,318	107	138
North Carolina	2,623	3,885	2,434	3,639	159	217
Oklahoma	1,735	2,490	1,556	2,285	152	169
South Carolina	2,260	2,840	2,123	2,658	107	149
Tennessee	4,623	6,269	4,320	5,787	217	417
Texas	10,859	15,366	10,052	14,148	727	1,165
Virginia	4,396	6,226	3,982	5,696	228	390
West Virginia	1,057	1,106	985	1,055	57	51
<b>West</b>	38,158	56,770	34,595	51,711	3,192	4,821
Alaska	37	34	31	32	3	2
Arizona	2,408	2,913	2,037	2,725	362	163
California	26,199	40,622	23,892	36,889	2,176	3,667
Colorado	1,632	2,523	1,509	2,164	97	353
Idaho	532	661	458	591	37	34
Montana	398	416	340	388	30	18
Nevada	988	964	879	853	95	102
New Mexico	738	1,308	660	1,201	47	79
Oregon	1,876	2,342	1,713	2,213	126	128
Utah	647	944	609	911	34	33
Washington	2,457	3,660	2,264	3,428	165	225
Wyoming	246	383	203	316	20	17

**Notes:** Data for 1978 was based on average weekday population. Five States—Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont—had integrated jail-prison systems and, therefore, were excluded from the report. Alaska, which had five locally operated jails in addition to an integrated jail-prison system, was included.

jurisdictions, led by Ohio, Texas and Georgia with 29, 23, and 20 fewer jails, respectively (table 2). Net gains occurred in 15 States, most notably

**Table 7. Admissions and releases for the annual period ending June 30, 1983, by legal status, sex and region**

Region	Admissions					Releases <sup>a</sup>				
	Total	Adults		Juveniles		Total	Adults		Juveniles	
		Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>United States</b>	8,084,344	7,270,663	708,315	86,850	18,516	7,941,236	7,145,818	691,338	85,564	18,516
<b>Northeast</b>	489,546	442,005	40,978	5,840	723	471,700	426,171	39,271	5,469	789
<b>North Central</b>	1,366,779	1,223,836	117,678	19,897	5,368	1,349,288	1,207,471	116,752	19,715	5,350
<b>South</b>	4,008,646	3,643,062	315,822	41,792	7,970	3,959,636	3,602,767	307,710	41,224	7,935
<b>West</b>	2,219,373	1,961,760	233,837	19,321	4,455	2,160,612	1,909,409	227,605	19,156	4,442

<sup>a</sup> Releases include expirations of sentence, transfers to probation or parole, transfers to State and Federal correctional facilities, and transfers to other jurisdictions.



**Table 8. Adult inmates by sex, region and conviction status, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983**

Region and conviction status	Total			Male			Female		
	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83	1978	1983	Percent change 1978-83
<b>United States</b>									
Total	156,783	221,815	41%	143,853	206,016	43%	9,038	15,628	73%
Unconvicted	77,453	113,984	47	72,394	105,458	46	5,059	8,525	69
Convicted	75,438	107,660	43	71,459	100,557	41	3,979	7,103	79
<b>Northeast</b>									
Total	23,636	36,270	53	22,523	34,269	52	1,113	2,001	80
Unconvicted	11,872	18,044	52	11,279	16,998	51	593	1,046	76
Convicted	11,764	18,226	55	11,244	17,271	54	520	955	84
<b>North Central</b>									
Total	27,188	39,176	44	25,559	36,668	43	1,629	2,508	54
Unconvicted	14,813	21,215	43	13,938	19,867	43	875	1,348	54
Convicted	12,375	17,961	45	11,621	16,801	45	754	1,160	54
<b>South</b>									
Total	64,654	88,571	37	61,378	82,864	35	3,276	5,707	74
Unconvicted	32,652	46,844	43	30,546	43,517	42	2,106	3,327	58
Convicted	32,002	41,727	30	30,832	39,347	28	1,170	2,380	103
<b>West</b>									
Total	37,413	57,627	54	34,393	52,215	52	3,020	5,412	79
Unconvicted	18,116	27,881	54	16,631	25,077	51	1,485	2,804	89
Convicted	19,297	29,746	54	17,762	27,138	53	1,535	2,608	70

<sup>a</sup> United States totals include inmates not classified by conviction status. Unconvicted inmates were awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial, or currently being tried.

Convicted inmates were awaiting sentence, serving a sentence, technical probation violators, and those returned from parole.

Pennsylvania (9), California (7), and Washington (6).

Approximately 63% of all jails in 1983 were small, having capacity for fewer than 50 persons; 30% were of medium size, holding 50-249; and 7% were large, with space for 250 or more inmates. By comparison, in 1978 the respective proportions were 67%, 28%, and 5%, indicating a slight decline in the relative number of small jails, and a slight increase in medium and large capacity facilities.

The numerical dominance of small facilities stems from the role of counties: as basic units of government in criminal justice, virtually all of these more than 3,100 jurisdictions in 1983 operated local confinement facility systems. Small jails were most common in the North Central Region, where they

<sup>7</sup>Capacity can be measured in a variety of ways, such as rated capacity, or the number of inmates set by State or local correctional authorities; operational capacity, or the number of inmates who can be accommodated given the staffing, programming, and service provision resources of the facility; and design capacity, or the number of inmates intended by the architect to occupy the facility. In this report, facility capacity was determined by multiplying the rated capacity of each confinement unit within an institution by the number of units of each size. Thus, in a facility with 4 single cells, 6 double cells, and 2 cells rated for 3 inmates each, jail capacity was calculated as follows: units with a rated capacity of 1 multiplied by 4 of that type equaled a capacity of 4; units with a rated capacity of 2 multiplied by 6 of that type equaled 12; and units with a rated capacity of 3 multiplied by 2 of that type equaled a capacity of 6. The sum of individual unit capacities, then, 4 + 12 + 6 equaled a total jail capacity of 22.

accounted for more than three-fourths of the total. Medium-size and large institutions were relatively more numerous in the Northeast, where a large proportion of the general population lived in metropolitan areas. All of the country's 10 largest capacity jails were located in large metropolitan areas, including four in the New York City area and three in the Los Angeles area (table 9).

**Table 9. Ten largest jails in the United States, by rated capacity, whether under court order for crowding, and court-ordered capacity, June 30, 1983**

Rank	Jail	Rated capacity	Under court order to reduce crowding	Court ordered capacity
1.	<b>Men's Central Jail</b> Los Angeles, California	5,136	No	
2.	<b>Cook County Jail</b> Chicago, Illinois	4,600	Yes	4,500
3.	<b>Harris County Jail (Houston)</b> Humble, Texas	2,450	No	
4.	<b>New York City Correctional Institution</b> New York, New York	2,096	No	
5.	<b>Anna M. Kross Center</b> New York, New York	2,045	Yes	2,045
6.	<b>Baltimore City Jail</b> Baltimore, Maryland	1,815	Yes	1,057
7.	<b>Hall of Justice Jail</b> Los Angeles, California	1,750	No	
8.	<b>Orange County Jail</b> Santa Ana, California	1,461	No	
9.	<b>New York City House of Detention for Men</b> New York, New York	1,445	Yes	1,445
10.	<b>New York City Adolescent Reception and Detention Center</b> New York, New York	1,431	Yes	1,431

**Note:** See Footnote 7 for definition of rated capacity.

## A majority of inmates detained in medium or large size facilities

Even though small jails far outnumbered medium-size and large facilities, the latter two dominated the system in terms of inmates held, housing almost 9 out of every 10 individuals brought into custody (table 10). Detention in large facilities was most common in the Northeast and West, where two-thirds of all detainees were housed in jails of 250-inmate capacity or more. By contrast, persons arrested in the North Central Region had the greatest likelihood—about 1 in 5—of being confined in small facilities able to house 50 or fewer inmates.

The trend toward use of medium- and high-capacity jails was reflected in differing rates of population growth by size of facility during 1978 to 1983: the number of occupants of large jails rose by about 51%, while medium-size facility populations increased by 34%, and small jail numbers grew by only 22%. Moreover, the populations of large facilities grew by 50% or more in each of the regions except the North Central States where it rose by 45%.

## One of every 10 bed spaces added since 1978

Approximately 28,000 additional beds were added to the Nation's local jail capacity between 1978 and 1983 (table 10). Capacity in large jails increased by about 21% and in medium size facilities by 9%; however, capacity

**Table 10. Inmates and jail capacity, by size of jail and region, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983**

Size of jail <sup>a</sup> and region	Inmates		Jail capacity		Percent of capacity occupied	
	1978	1983	1978	1983	1978	1983
<b>United States</b>	<b>158,394</b>	<b>223,551</b>	<b>247,342</b>	<b>275,378</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Less than 50	20,978	25,615	50,728	48,803	41	52
50-249	57,235	76,722	91,897	100,195	62	77
250 or more	80,181	121,214	104,717	126,380	77	96
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>36,634</b>	<b>31,939</b>	<b>39,123</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>94</b>
Less than 50	1,491	1,543	2,142	2,012	70	77
50-249	7,663	10,907	10,787	12,243	71	89
250 or more	15,074	24,184	19,010	24,868	79	97
<b>North Central</b>	<b>28,452</b>	<b>39,538</b>	<b>50,321</b>	<b>53,424</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>74</b>
Less than 50	5,801	7,799	15,406	15,389	38	51
50-249	9,744	13,080	17,200	18,615	57	70
250 or more	12,907	18,659	17,715	19,420	73	96
<b>South</b>	<b>67,444</b>	<b>89,479</b>	<b>108,575</b>	<b>119,783</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>75</b>
Less than 50	10,943	12,589	25,809	24,035	42	52
50-249	29,573	36,571	48,621	50,859	61	72
250 or more	26,928	40,319	34,145	44,889	79	90
<b>West</b>	<b>38,270</b>	<b>57,900</b>	<b>56,507</b>	<b>63,048</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>92</b>
Less than 50	2,743	3,684	7,371	7,367	37	50
50-249	10,255	16,164	15,289	18,478	67	87
250 or more	25,272	38,052	33,847	37,203	75	102

<sup>a</sup> Jail size is determined by multiplying the rated capacity of one confinement unit of each type, including both general purpose and special purpose, e.g. segregation,

infirmaries, protective custody units, by the number of units of each type, and then summing across all types of units.

declined 4% in small jails. The Northeast led other regions, with 22% more space overall, including 31% greater capacity in large jails. A similar proportion was added to large facilities in the South, but accommodations in small jails declined 7% in this region.

## Occupancy rate increases

The American Correctional Association has suggested that prison populations should not exceed 90% of available capacity in order to retain reserve confinement units for special purposes, such as hospital beds, segregation housing, replacement units for those in repair, etc.<sup>8</sup> The number of jail inmates often varies between weekends and weekdays, and increases sharply after arrest sweeps by police. As a result, jail populations fluctuate more than those of prisons, so that jails typically need more reserve capacity than prisons. Nevertheless, unused bed space decreased between 1978 and 1983 as occupancy (i.e., the percent of capacity occupied) rose from 64% to 81% (table 10). Moreover, among large jails, where the majority of inmates were housed, occupancy increased from 77% in 1978 to 96% in 1983. Among regions in 1983, occupancy in large jails peaked at 102% of capacity in the West, 97% in the Northeast, 96% among the North Central States, and 90% in the South.

<sup>8</sup>Estimate suggested by Anthony Trivisono, Executive Director, American Correctional Association, March 7, 1984.

The majority of unoccupied jail space in 1983 was concentrated among small (less than 50-inmate capacity) facilities. Slightly more than 11% of all inmates were housed in these jails, where occupancy was 52% for the Nation as a whole, ranging from 50% occupancy in the West to 77% in the Northeast. Medium-size facilities held most of the remaining unoccupied space with occupancy ranging from 70% of capacity among the North Central States to 89% in the Northeast.

## Little change in number of inmates held because of crowding elsewhere

Jail administrators reported that

**Table 11. Adult inmates held because of crowding at other facilities, by type of jurisdiction for which held, and region, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983**

Region and year	All inmates	Inmates held because of crowding elsewhere				
		Number	Percent of all inmates	Percent of those held due to crowding for:		
				All authorities	Federal authorities	State authorities
<b>United States</b>						
1978	158,394	9,944	6%	100%	7%	78%
1983	223,551	7,675	3	100	8	76
<b>Northeast</b>						
1978	24,228	673	3	100	10	74
1983	36,634	1,689	5	100	2	77
<b>North Central</b>						
1978	28,452	725	3	100	8	11
1983	39,538	549	1	100	15	28
<b>South</b>						
1978	67,444	7,957	12	100	6	88
1983	89,479	4,727	5	100	7	84
<b>West</b>						
1978	38,270	589	2	100	16	31
1983	57,900	710	1	100	21	63

approximately 7,700 inmates, or 3% of the Nation's jail population at midyear 1983, were being held for other authorities as a direct result of crowding in Federal or State prisons or in other local jails (table 11). Subsequent data from State prison authorities for yearend 1983 indicate that an additional 2,200 persons who were being held in jail for transfer or other reasons were also determined to be in the "crowding" category; this brought the total held either directly or indirectly for reasons of crowding to approximately 9,900, about the same as in 1978.

About 17% of all jails, including facilities in virtually every State, had inmates backed up because of crowding elsewhere at midyear 1983 (table 12). The number of persons was relatively small in most jurisdictions, but constituted 32% of the jail population in Mississippi, 21% in Louisiana, and 19% in Maine. In most States the great majority of such persons were being held for State authorities; but in Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, more than 67% were housed for lack of space in other local confinement facilities.

## Inmate death rate declines

A total of 554 persons died while in local jail custody during the annual period ending June 30, 1983, 9% less than the 611 inmate deaths recorded in the previous census for the 12 months ending February 15, 1978 (table 13). As a proportion of all releases from jail, which totaled more than 7,900,000 in 1983, inmate deaths constituted a very small fraction. About 95% of the in-

<sup>9</sup>See Prisoners in 1983, BJS Bulletin, April 1984, NCJ-92949.

cidents involved adult men, 4% adult women, and 1% juveniles. The incidence of inmate deaths fell slightly over the 5 1/2 year period, from 3.8 per 1,000 inmates in 1978 to 2.5 per 1,000 in 1983. Lower death rates were reported in every region of the country, led by a decrease from 4.3 to 2.3 per 1,000 persons in the North Central States.

Suicide remained the principal cause of death among men, women, and juveniles, alike. Approximately 55% of deaths of adult males, 79% of adult females, and 100% of the juvenile jail deaths in 1983 were suicides; all of the

juvenile suicides were among boys, including 2 each in the Northeast, North Central States, and South, and 1 in the West. The second most common cause of death among men, and the only other cause among women, was illness or other natural cause. Approximately 1 in every 50 male fatalities during 1982-83 resulted from injury by another person, a 50% decrease from the 2 in every 50 rate during 1977-78.

#### Census count of employees on duty June 30, 1983

A total of 64,560 jail employees were at work on the reference date in

1983, including 5,797 on a part-time basis, or slightly fewer than 1 in every 10. (table 14).<sup>10</sup> Approximately 69% of the staff performed direct custody functions as correctional officers, guards, or jailers; about 13% were involved in clerical and maintenance activities such as typing, filing, cooking, and grounds-keeping; and

<sup>10</sup>To obtain a better measure of staff load relative to inmates, employee data in the 1983 census pertained only to personnel who were at work in the facility during the 24-hour period of June 30, 1983. Comparison, therefore, could not be made with previous census data, which counted all employees on the facility rolls, whether or not they were on duty at the time of the census.

**Table 12. Jails holding inmates as a direct result of crowding at other facilities, by type of jurisdiction for which inmates are held and by region and State, February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983**

Region and State	All jails		Jails holding inmates because of crowding elsewhere				Number of jails holding inmates for:					
	1978	1983	1978		1983		Federal authorities <sup>a</sup>		State authorities <sup>a</sup>		Other local authorities <sup>a</sup>	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1978	1983	1978	1983	1978	1983
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,493</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>
Maine	13	14	5	38	10	71	0	1	0	10	5	4
Massachusetts	15	17	11	73	12	71	6	4	11	7	1	5
New Hampshire	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	28	32	14	50	19	59	0	2	14	19	2	0
New York	72	72	5	7	24	33	3	1	1	14	3	10
Pennsylvania	68	77	7	10	16	21	1	1	0	0	6	15
<b>North Central</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>
Illinois	100	98	10	10	3	3	0	1	0	1	10	1
Indiana	90	93	4	4	5	5	3	0	0	3	1	2
Iowa	91	90	8	9	15	17	1	1	0	4	7	11
Kansas	86	86	6	7	4	5	2	0	0	2	4	2
Michigan	93	87	11	12	18	21	0	5	4	1	10	13
Minnesota	65	67	14	22	12	18	2	3	0	2	14	10
Missouri	137	129	15	11	24	19	0	4	0	5	15	18
Nebraska	77	67	6	8	4	6	0	0	0	1	6	4
North Dakota	39	31	2	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ohio	150	121	15	10	9	7	3	1	1	0	14	8
South Dakota	44	31	2	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	2	1
Wisconsin	70	72	5	7	13	18	0	1	0	4	5	9
<b>South</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>70</b>
Alabama	108	108	73	68	46	43	3	3	72	41	12	13
Arkansas	92	89	8	9	23	26	2	1	0	21	7	2
District of Columbia	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	112	103	17	15	11	11	6	5	11	4	8	4
Georgia	223	203	32	14	20	10	3	2	19	13	16	8
Kentucky	111	96	4	4	23	24	0	3	0	17	4	8
Louisiana	93	94	40	43	45	48	4	1	32	42	13	10
Maryland	25	30	17	68	8	20	2	1	17	4	4	2
Mississippi	94	91	66	70	50	55	2	3	64	48	10	5
North Carolina	95	99	14	15	12	12	0	2	13	9	4	1
Oklahoma	102	104	3	3	4	4	1	2	0	2	2	0
South Carolina	68	58	48	71	1	2	2	1	46	0	2	0
Tennessee	111	108	46	41	14	13	1	0	46	12	3	3
Texas	286	273	11	4	16	6	6	11	0	2	5	3
Virginia	92	95	56	61	22	23	2	0	52	16	13	8
West Virginia	54	54	4	7	4	7	1	1	0	1	3	3
<b>West</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>
Alaska	6	5	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	1	0	0
Arizona	39	31	4	10	6	19	1	5	3	0	2	1
California	135	142	12	9	14	10	2	4	0	7	10	7
Colorado	61	60	3	5	21	35	0	5	0	14	3	5
Idaho	45	36	1	2	2	6	0	0	0	1	1	1
Montana	58	50	3	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Nevada	22	23	3	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
New Mexico	38	35	6	16	6	17	2	1	0	3	5	3
Oregon	48	39	6	12	4	10	1	2	0	1	5	2
Utah	24	24	3	13	2	8	1	0	3	2	0	1
Washington	59	65	9	15	8	12	3	1	0	3	8	5
Wyoming	31	26	1	3	2	8	0	0	0	0	1	2

Note: Five States—Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island and Vermont—had integrated jail-prison systems and, therefore, were excluded from the report. Alaska,

which had five locally operated jails in addition to an integrated jail-prison system, was included.

<sup>a</sup> Detail may add to more than total shown because a jail may hold inmates for more than one authority.

**Table 13. Inmate deaths during the annual periods ending February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983, by cause and region.**

Cause of death and region	1978		1983	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
<b>United States</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>554<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>
Natural causes	223	36	200	36
Suicide	297	49	294	53
Injury by another person	24	4	10	2
Other <sup>b</sup>	67	11	50 <sup>a</sup>	9
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100%</b>
Natural causes	21	42	18	28
Suicide	23	46	47	72
Injury by another person	1	2	0	0
Other <sup>b</sup>	5	10	0	0
<b>North Central</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100%</b>
Natural causes	36	29	28	30
Suicide	81	66	57	62
Injury by another person	3	2	0	0
Other <sup>b</sup>	3	3	7	8
<b>South</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>284<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>
Natural causes	131	42	106	37
Suicide	126	40	132	47
Injury by another person	12	4	7	2
Other <sup>b</sup>	43	14	39 <sup>a</sup>	14
<b>West</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100%</b>
Natural causes	35	28	48	42
Suicide	67	53	58	51
Injury by another person	9	7	3	3
Other <sup>b</sup>	16	12	4	4

<sup>a</sup> Includes 29 inmate deaths due to fire that destroyed the jail in Biloxi, Miss., in September 1982.

<sup>b</sup> Includes accidental self-injury.

slightly less than 10% held administrative positions, such as chief jailers, sheriffs, or assistants. Least represented were professional and technical workers, e.g. doctors, nurses, paramedics, counselors, psychiatrists, and related personnel, who accounted for approximately 7%, and academic and vocational teachers, who accounted for about 1%. Part-time workers were most prevalent in the North Central States (14%), where they constituted higher proportions of administrative (22%), clerical, and maintenance (18%)

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared by BJS staff. Carol Kalish, chief of data analysis, edits the bulletins. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administers their production, assisted by Millie J. Baldea and Betty J. Sherman. This report was written by James J. Stephan. Phyllis Jo Baunach directed the jail census. Data collection and processing were conducted by Diana M. Cull, assisted by Arthur Ciampa, Pauline E. Fain, Pamela Butler, and other staff of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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**Table 14. Jail employees, by occupational category, full-time or part-time status, and region, June 30, 1983**

Occupational category and full-time or part-time status	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,560</b>	<b>12,391</b>	<b>13,549</b>	<b>26,116</b>	<b>12,504</b>
Full-time	58,763	11,765	11,615	24,014	11,369
Part-time	5,797	626	1,934	2,102	1,135
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>6,091</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>1,081</b>
Full-time	5,220	828	1,190	2,287	915
Part-time	871	11	332	362	166
<b>Custody</b>	<b>44,454</b>	<b>9,019</b>	<b>9,022</b>	<b>18,309</b>	<b>8,104</b>
Full-time	41,876	8,804	8,116	17,362	7,594
Part-time	2,578	215	906	947	510
<b>Clerical and maintenance</b>	<b>8,415</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>1,896</b>
Full-time	7,573	1,347	1,607	2,891	1,728
Part-time	842	58	342	274	168
<b>Educational</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>156</b>
Full-time	596	141	106	227	122
Part-time	297	94	74	95	34
<b>Professional and technical</b>	<b>4,524</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>1,196</b>
Full-time	3,362	628	574	1,217	943
Part-time	1,162	229	270	410	253
<b>Other</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>71</b>
Full-time	136	17	22	30	67
Part-time	47	19	10	14	4

Note: Excludes employees not on duty during the 24 hours of June 30, 1983, and all community volunteers.

and custody (10%) employees than in other regions.

#### Inmate-to-staff ratio lowest in small jails

There were approximately 3.5 inmates for each jail employee on June 30, 1983 (table 15).<sup>11</sup> The ratio was lowest among less-than-50-inmate jails (2.2 to 1), slightly higher in medium-sized facilities (3.8 to 1), and highest in institutions with capacity for 250 or more (4.1 to 1). Inmate-to-staff ratios were slightly higher in the South than in other regions; but among the States, California's inmate-to-staff ratio was the highest (6.0 to 1) and Alaska's the lowest (1.1 to 1). Nationwide, correctional officers supervised an average of 5.1 inmates, ranging from 9.7 in California to 1.8 in Alaska. Case loads for doctors, nurses, and other technical personnel averaged

about 50 inmates; teachers and other educational employees were outnumbered by prisoners about 255 to 1.

#### Annual spending reaches \$2.7 billion

Local jail expenditures totaled slightly more than \$2.7 billion for the Nation as a whole during the annual period ending June 30, 1983 (table 16). More than \$2 billion, or 79%, was spent on current operating activities, including salaries and wages, employer contributions to employee benefits, purchases of food and supplies, and contractual services. The remaining \$582 million, or 21%, was used for capital outlays such as new building construction, major repairs and improvements, land purchases, and equipment.

The proportion of total spending allocated for capital needs showed no clear relationship to the percent of jail capacity occupied (tables 10 and 16).

**Table 15. Number of inmates per employee, by occupational category and size of facility, June 30, 1983<sup>a</sup>**

Occupational category	Size of facility <sup>b</sup>			
	All facilities	Less than 50 inmates	50-249 inmates	250 or more inmates
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Administrative	37.4	12.3	43.2	89.5
Custody	5.1	3.5	5.4	5.8
Clerical and maintenance	27.0	15.6	31.0	32.4
Educational	254.8	453.5	243.1	228.6
Professional and technical	50.3	80.6	48.0	46.0

<sup>a</sup> The ratio of inmates to staff was obtained by dividing the average daily population by the number

of employees in each occupational category. <sup>b</sup> Based on average daily population.



For example, the highest occupancy in 1983 was found in the Northeast (94%), yet its capital outlays amounted to the smallest proportion of total expenditures for any region (13%). During the same period, the lowest occupancy occurred in the North Central States (74%), where capital costs accounted for 21% of total spending.

Operating expenditures per jail inmate, adjusted for price inflation, rose by about two-thirds from roughly \$5,600 in 1969, the last time data were available, to \$9,400 in 1983.<sup>12</sup> Regionally, the 1983 figure ranged from \$16,700 in the Northeast to \$7,200 in the South (table 16). Among individual jurisdictions, it was more than four times higher in Alaska (\$25,400) and New York (\$24,300) than in Georgia (\$5,400) and South Carolina (\$5,200). When State data for 1969 were expressed in 1983 purchasing power and then compared to data for 1983, every jurisdiction showed higher spending per inmate in the latter year except Massachusetts, where the reported annual operating cost per person was virtually unchanged.

#### Methodological note

The 1983 National Jail Census, the fourth enumeration of local confinement facilities since 1970, was authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3732), to assess the needs of the Nation's jails. The census was conducted for the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Criteria for inclusion in the census were the same as in 1978: local jails that held inmates beyond arraignment, usually more than 48 hours, and that were administered and staffed by local officials, usually city or county employees. Specifically excluded from the count were Federally administered jails, State-administered jails, privately operated facilities, and the combined jail-prison systems in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The facility universe list was developed from information obtained through

<sup>12</sup>Operating expenditures per jail inmate were determined by dividing the amount spent on salaries, wages, supplies, utilities, transportation, contractual services, and other current items paid for during the fiscal year by the inmate population. Amounts for 1969 were adjusted for price inflation by converting to 1983 constant dollars (that is, 1983 purchasing power) as follows: the consumer price index reported average annual price change estimates of 107.0 for 1969 and 297.1 for 1983, using 1967 as the reference base year. The percent change for 1969-83 was 177.7%.

Table 16. Jail expenditures by region and State, for the annual period ending June 30, 1983

Region and State	Expenditures			Capital expenditures as a percent of total expenditures	Operating expenditures per inmate
	Total	Operating	Capital		
	(Thousands of dollars)				(In dollars)
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$2,711,357</b>	<b>\$2,129,748</b>	<b>\$581,609</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>\$ 9,360</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>715,130</b>	<b>624,601</b>	<b>90,529</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16,657</b>
Maine	6,350	4,917	1,433	23	8,828
Massachusetts	42,791	41,780	1,011	2	11,883
New Hampshire	6,165	5,780	385	6	11,749
New Jersey	114,543	70,020	44,523	39	21,120
New York	425,276	397,760	27,515	6	24,297
Pennsylvania	120,006	104,344	15,662	13	10,165
<b>North Central</b>	<b>471,186</b>	<b>372,760</b>	<b>98,426</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9,020</b>
Illinois	63,550	60,474	3,077	5	6,529
Indiana	32,250	27,245	5,005	16	7,106
Iowa	16,738	10,734	6,004	36	11,861
Kansas	14,434	11,398	3,036	21	8,681
Michigan	98,747	83,809	14,938	15	10,993
Minnesota	41,190	28,115	13,075	32	12,733
Missouri	32,180	29,466	2,714	8	7,484
Nebraska	9,525	9,286	239	3	9,765
North Dakota	4,462	3,259	1,202	27	12,535
Ohio	90,850	78,367	12,483	14	10,541
South Dakota	2,730	2,709	22	1	8,038
Wisconsin	64,529	27,898	36,631	57	8,947
<b>South</b>	<b>903,190</b>	<b>660,616</b>	<b>242,574</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7,185</b>
Alabama	62,535	26,695	35,839	57	5,466
Arkansas	13,938	11,972	1,966	14	7,345
District of Columbia	25,854	25,604	250	1	10,845
Florida	196,957	141,714	55,243	28	9,479
Georgia	83,762	58,128	25,634	31	5,384
Kentucky	24,044	23,752	291	1	6,197
Louisiana	56,735	49,569	7,165	13	6,040
Maryland	114,366	46,092	68,274	60	9,957
Mississippi	15,903	14,085	1,818	11	5,696
North Carolina	27,589	23,464	4,124	15	6,040
Oklahoma	25,852	16,572	9,280	36	6,655
South Carolina	14,998	14,820	178	1	5,218
Tennessee	43,313	40,527	2,786	6	4,465
Texas	130,467	104,687	25,780	20	6,813
Virginia	58,023	54,888	3,136	5	8,816
West Virginia	8,856	8,046	809	9	7,275
<b>West</b>	<b>621,850</b>	<b>471,771</b>	<b>150,079</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8,310</b>
Alaska	1,005	865	140	14	25,444
Arizona	44,791	29,881	14,911	33	10,258
California	335,653	308,013	27,641	8	7,582
Colorado	36,779	26,899	9,881	27	10,661
Idaho	5,770	5,234	537	9	7,915
Montana	10,489	4,353	6,136	59	10,464
Nevada	66,096	15,847	50,249	76	16,439
New Mexico	16,513	11,501	5,012	30	8,793
Oregon	23,201	21,628	1,573	7	9,235
Utah	12,979	7,732	5,247	40	8,191
Washington	54,527	36,407	18,120	33	9,947
Wyoming	14,046	3,413	10,633	76	8,912

phone calls to each facility counted in the 1978 Jail Census and data gathered from the American Correctional Association (ACA) Directory, the 1982 Jail Sample Survey, State jail inspection bureaus, and other sources. After pre-testing in January, 1983, the census was conducted during the subsequent summer and fall. Following the initial mailout to 3,588 facilities, 60 jails were added and 290 deleted according to the criteria for inclusion, leaving a total of 3,358. Second requests in August, telegram reminders in September, and telephone followup in November through January yielded a final response rate of 99.4%.

Because the census was a complete enumeration, the results were not subject to sampling error. Nonsampling error, such as respondent misinterpretation, processing, and analysis mistakes were kept at a minimum through repeated manual and computer edit checks.

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