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Bureau of Justice Statistics
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From: Bureau of Justice Statistics
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Subject: Following are 2-page press release and selected pages (1-8) from **Weds., August 30, 2000, at 4:30 p.m. EST.**

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Department of Justice

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BJS
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ALMOST 1.5 MILLION MINOR CHILDREN HAVE A MOTHER OR FATHER IN PRISON

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Of the nation's 72 million minor children (17 years old and younger), an estimated 2 percent had an imprisoned parent in 1999, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today. Last year, an estimated 721,500 federal and state prisoners had minor children.

Almost 1.5 million minor children had a parent in prison--an increase of more than 500,000 children since 1991. A majority of the children with imprisoned parents (58 percent) was younger than 10 years old--the average was eight years old.

According to the BJS report, imprisoned parents were overwhelmingly male (93 percent), as is the general prison population, and predominately held in state prisons, rather than federal facilities (89 percent compared to 11 percent). The number of minor children with an imprisoned father (1,372,700) rose 58 percent from 1991 through 1999, compared to a 98 percent increase during the same period in the number of minors with an imprisoned mother (126,100).

Half of the parents in state prisons were black, about a quarter were white and a fifth were Hispanic. In 1999 an estimated 767,200 black children, 384,500 white children and 301,600 Hispanic children had a parent in prison. The percentage of black children in the U.S. resident population with an imprisoned parent (7.0 percent) was nearly nine times higher than that of white children (0.8 percent). Hispanic children were three times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison (2.6 percent).

State prisoners who were parents were less likely to be violent offenders (44 percent) than inmates without children (51 percent), the report said. Three-quarters of state prisoners who were parents had a prior conviction, and a majority (56 percent) had previously been incarcerated. On average, the imprisoned parents expected to serve more than six-and-a-half years in state prison and eight-and-a-half years in federal prison.

More than 80 percent of all parents in prison reported that their minor children lived with the other parent, but these answers differed sharply by gender. About 90 percent of fathers in state prisons said at least one of their minor children were now living with their mother, while 28 percent of mothers in prison said their child's father was the current care giver. Mothers most often said their children's grandparents were the care givers (53 percent), compared to 13 percent of the fathers who said their children were with grandparents.

Forty-six percent of all parents in state and federal prisons said they were living with their children just prior to their admission to prison. Among parents in state prisons, 44 percent of the

(MORE)

fathers lived with their children prior to their admission, compared to 64 percent of the mothers. As of December 31, 1999, an estimated 336,300 U.S. households with minor children had a resident parent in prison.

Forty percent of the imprisoned fathers and 60 percent of the mothers reported weekly contact with their children by phone, mail or visit. However, a majority of both fathers (57 percent) and mothers (54 percent) reported never having had a personal visit with their children since their admission to state prison. More than 60 percent of the parents in state prisons reported being held more than 100 miles from their last place of residence.

The study also found that almost 60 percent of the parents in state prisons reported having used drugs in the month before their offense, and 25 percent reported a history of alcohol dependence. More than a third of the parents in state prisons committed their offense while under the influence of alcohol.

About 14 percent reported a mental illness, and 70 percent did not have a high school diploma. At the time of their most recent arrest, 27 percent of the fathers and 50 percent of the mothers in state prisons were unemployed. In the month prior to their arrest, 46 percent of the parents said they had incomes of at least \$1,000 a month, and 27 percent said their income derived from illegal activities. Mothers in state prisons were twice as likely as fathers to say they had been homeless in the year before their arrests, 18 percent compared to 8 percent.

About half of the parents in state prison were never married and a quarter were currently married. In the month before their arrest, 20 percent had been living with their children in two-parent households, 18 percent were living with their children as single parents and 62 percent lived apart from their children.

The data are based on personal interviews in state and federal correctional facilities during which the inmates described various aspects of their lives both before and during incarceration.

The special report, "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children" (NCJ-182335), was written by BJS policy analyst Christopher J. Mumola. Single copies may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand system by dialing 301/519-5550, listening to the complete menu and selecting document number 215. Or call the BJS clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders for mail delivery to 410/492-4358. The full report may be obtained from the BJS Internet site at:

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

August 2000, NCJ 182335

Incarcerated Parents and Their Children

By Christopher J. Mumola
BJS Policy Analyst

In 1999 State and Federal prisons held an estimated 721,500 parents of minor children. A majority of State (55%) and Federal (63%) prisoners reported having a child under the age of 18. Forty-six percent of the parents reported living with their children prior to admission. As a result, there were an estimated 336,300 U.S. households with minor children affected by the imprisonment of a resident parent.

Parents held in U.S. prisons had an estimated 1,498,800 minor children in 1999, an increase of over 500,000 since 1991. Of the Nation's 72 million minor children, 2.1% had a parent in State or Federal prison in 1999.

A majority of parents in State prison were violent offenders (44%) or drug traffickers (13%), and 77% had a prior conviction. Nearly 60% of parents in State prison reported using drugs in the month before their offense, and 25% reported a history of alcohol dependence. About 14% of parents reported a mental illness, and 70% did not have a high school diploma.

This report is the latest in a series based on the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. Other BJS Special Reports in this series have addressed substance abuse and treatment, mental health, women and juvenile offenders, and inmates' military service.

Highlights

In 1999 an estimated 721,500 State and Federal prisoners were parents to 1,498,800 children under age 18

Minor children	Percent of prisoners, 1997	
	State	Federal
Any	55.4%	63.0%
1	23.8	24.0
2	15.8	18.5
3 or more	15.8	20.5
None	44.6%	37.0%
Estimated number of minor children, 1999	1,324,900	173,900

- Since 1991 the number of minor children with a parent in State or Federal prison rose by over 500,000; from 936,500 to 1,498,800 in 1999.

- The percentage of State and Federal prisoners with minor children (56%) changed little since 1991 (57%).

- 22% of all minor children with a parent in prison were under 5 years old.

Prior to admission, less than half of the parents in State prison reported living with their children — 44% of fathers, 64% of mothers

	Percent of State inmate parents, 1997	
	Male	Female
Lived with children prior to admission	43.8%	64.3%
Current caregiver*		
Child's other parent	89.6%	28.0%
Child's grandparent	13.3	52.9
Other relative	4.9	25.7
Foster home/agency	1.8	9.6
Friends/other	4.9	10.4

*Some prisoners had children in different homes.

- About 46% of parents in prison lived with their children prior to admission.

- About 90% of fathers in State prison said that at least one of their children now lived with their mother; 28% of mothers said the father was the child's current caregiver.

- 10% of mothers and 2% of fathers in State prison reported a child now living in a foster home or agency.

Nearly 2 In 3 State prisoners reported at least monthly contact with their children by phone, mail, or personal visits

Type of contact	Percent of State inmate parents reporting monthly contact with their children, 1997	
	Male	Female
Any	62.4%	78.4%
Phone	42.0%	53.6%
Mail	49.9	65.8
Visits	21.0	23.8

- 40% of fathers and 60% of mothers in State prison reported weekly contact with their children.

- A majority of both fathers (57%) and mothers (54%) in State prison reported never having a personal visit with their children since admission.

- Over 60% of parents in State prison reported being held over 100 miles from their last place of residence.

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Over half of both State and Federal prisoners reported having a child under age 18

When interviewed during the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, a majority of prisoners said that they were the parent of at least one child under age 18 (table 1). Fifty-five percent of State prisoners and 63% of Federal prisoners reported having a minor child. Among State prisoners, women (65%) were more likely than men (55%) to have minor children. In Federal prisons, similar percentages of men (63%) and women (59%) had a minor child.

Thirty-two percent of all prisoners said that they had multiple minor children. About 24% of both State and Federal prisoners reported one minor child, but Federal inmates (39%) were more likely than State inmates (32%) to report multiple children. Among State prisoners, 45% of women had multiple children compared to 31% of men.

Twenty-two percent of all minor children with a parent in prison were under 5 years old. The majority (58%) of the minor children reported by State and Federal inmates were less than 10 years old, and the average age of these children was 8 years old.

Age	Percent of minor children of parents in State or Federal prison, 1997
Less than 1 year	2.1%
1-4 years	20.4
5-9 years	35.1
10-14 years	28.0
15-17 years	14.5
Mean	8 years

State and Federal prisons held an estimated 721,500 parents of minor children in 1999

At yearend 1999 there were 1,284,894 prisoners in the custody of State and Federal prisons, including an estimated 721,500 parents with minor children (table 2). Imprisoned parents were predominantly male (93%) and held in State prisons (89%). In 1999 State and Federal prisons held an estimated

667,900 fathers and 53,600 mothers of minor children.

Since 1991 the custody population of State and Federal prisons grew by over 490,000 inmates, an increase of 62%. As a result, the number of parents in prison also grew sharply — by over 250,000 — from the 452,500 held in State and Federal prison in 1991.

1.5 million children in the U.S. had a parent in prison in 1999 — up by more than 500,000 since 1991

The number of children with a parent in prison also rose dramatically during the 1990's. In 1991, there were an estimated 936,500 minor children with a parent in State or Federal prison. By yearend 1999, this number had risen by more than a half-million to an estimated 1,498,800 minor children.

Of the Nation's 72.3 million minor children in 1999, 2.1% had a parent in State or Federal prison. Black children (7.0%) were nearly 9 times more likely to have a parent in prison than white children (0.8%). Hispanic children (2.6%) were 3 times as likely as white children to have an inmate parent.

Table 1. Percent of State and Federal prisoners with minor children, by gender, 1997

	Percent of prisoners, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Have minor children (under age 18)						
No	44.6%	45.3%	34.7%	37.0%	36.6%	41.2%
Yes	55.4	54.7	65.3	63.0	63.4	58.8
Number of minor children						
1	23.8%	24.0%	20.5%	24.0%	24.0%	24.5%
2	15.8	15.6	18.7	18.5	18.7	17.1
3	8.7	8.4	13.7	11.1	11.3	9.7
4	4.1	3.9	7.3	5.0	5.1	4.1
5	1.7	1.6	3.6	2.3	2.2	2.7
6 or more	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.2	0.7

Table 2. Estimated number of State and Federal prisoners with minor children, by gender, 1999

	State prisoners			Federal prisoners		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number of parents						
1999	642,300	593,800	48,500	79,200	74,100	5,100
1991	413,100	386,500	26,600	39,400	36,500	2,900
Number of minor children						
1999	1,324,900	1,209,400	115,500	173,900	163,300	10,600
1991	852,300	794,500	57,800	84,200	78,300	5,900

Note: Numbers are estimates based on responses to the 1991 and 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, and custody counts from the National Prisoners Statistics program.

Minor children in the U.S. resident population with a parent in prison, 1999

	Number	Percent
U.S. total*	1,498,800	2.1%
White	384,500	0.8%
Black	767,200	7.0
Hispanic	301,600	2.6

Note: Children were assumed to have the same race/ethnicity as the incarcerated parent.
*Includes children of other races.

At yearend 1999 an estimated 1,372,700 minor children had a father in State or Federal prison, while another 126,100 children had a mother in prison. Since 1990 the number of all female prisoners has grown faster (106%) than that of male prisoners (75%). As a result, the number of children with a mother in prison nearly doubled (up 98%) since 1991, while the number of children with a father in prison grew by 58% during this period.

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Nearly half of all imprisoned parents were black; about a quarter were white

Among both State and Federal prisoners with minor children, blacks comprised the largest racial/ethnic group (table 3). In State prisons, 49% of parents were black, 29% white, and 19% Hispanic. Among nonparent State prisoners, the percentage of blacks (43%) and Hispanics (15%) were slightly lower, but the percentage of whites was higher (39%).

Blacks (44%) were the largest racial/ethnic group among parents in Federal prison, followed by Hispanics (30%) and whites (22%). The racial distribution was almost reversed among Federal prisoners without minor children. Whites made up 43% of nonparent inmates, while blacks accounted for 27% of nonparents. Nonparents in Federal prison were also less likely to be Hispanic (23%).

Parents in State prison were slightly younger than those in Federal prison. Parents in State prison (16%) were about twice as likely as those in Federal prison (8%) to be age 24 or younger. Overall, the median age of parents in State prison was 32 years old, compared to 35 years old among parents in Federal prison. In State prison, the median age of nonparents was similar (33 years) to that of parents. In Federal prison, the median age of nonparents (40 years) was 5 years greater than that of prisoners with minor children.

Half of the parents in State prison were never married

Of the parents in State prison, 23% said that they were currently married, 28% were divorced or separated, and 48% said that they had never been married. In comparison, nonparents in State prison were less than half as likely to be currently married (9%), and 69% said that they had never married.

While parents in Federal prison (36%) were more likely than those in State prison to be married, a similar percentage (25%) were either divorced or separated. Thirty-eight percent of

parents in Federal prison said that they had never been married, compared to 49% of the nonparents.

A majority of parents in both State (70%) and Federal (55%) prison reported that they did not have a high school diploma. Similar percentages of parents in State (16%) and Federal (20%) prison graduated high school,

but college attendance was nearly twice as high among parents in Federal prison (25% compared to 13% in State prisons). About 12% of parents in both State and Federal prison said that they had not been educated past the eighth grade. Overall, nonparents in both State and Federal prison reported similar levels of education as inmate parents.

Table 3. Selected characteristics of State or Federal prisoners, by whether the inmates were parents of minor children, 1997

	Percent of prisoners, 1997			
	State		Federal	
	Parents	Nonparents	Parents	Nonparents
Gender				
Male	92.6%	95.2%	93.2%	91.9%
Female	7.4	4.8	6.8	8.1
Race/Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	28.9%	38.9%	21.9%	43.4%
Black non-Hispanic	49.4	42.8	44.0	27.0
Hispanic	18.9	14.5	30.0	22.9
Other	2.8	3.8	4.0	6.7
Age				
24 or younger	15.8%	25.0%	7.8%	11.3%
25-34	44.9	30.1	41.8	27.9
35-44	32.1	26.0	35.1	23.0
45-54	6.6	13.3	12.8	22.1
55 or older	0.6	5.6	2.5	15.8
Median	32 yr	33 yr	35 yr	40 yr
Marital status				
Married	23.0%	8.7%	35.8%	21.2%
Widowed	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.8
Divorced	20.5	16.1	19.0	22.9
Separated	7.2	3.9	6.0	5.3
Never married	47.7	69.2	37.6	48.8
Education completed				
8th grade or less	12.7%	15.5%	11.5%	11.9%
Some high school	27.1	23.6	16.7	10.7
GED	30.6	32.6	27.0	26.5
High school graduate	16.1	14.9	19.8	20.8
Some college or more	13.4	13.4	25.0	30.1

Table 4. Percent of inmate parents in State or Federal prison who lived with their minor children at time of admission, by gender, 1997

	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Lived with children at time of admission	45.3%	43.8%	64.3%	57.2%	55.2%	84.0%
Child's current caregiver*						
Other parent of child	85.0%	89.6%	28.0%	87.6%	91.7%	30.7%
Grandparent of child	16.3	13.3	52.9	12.2	9.8	44.9
Other relatives	6.4	4.9	25.7	6.2	4.2	33.9
Foster home or agency	2.4	1.8	9.6	1.3	1.1	3.2
Friends, others ^b	5.3	4.9	10.4	6.8	6.4	11.9

*Detail may add to more than 100% because some prisoners had multiple children living with multiple caregivers.

^bIncludes cases where parent reported that the child now lived alone.

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Fewer than half of the parents in State prison lived with their minor children prior to incarceration

Prior to their admission, 46% of all imprisoned parents lived with any of their minor children (table 4). Among parents in State prison, 45% said that they lived with at least one of their minor children compared to 57% of parents in Federal prison.

Mothers were more likely than fathers to report living with their children prior to admission. About 64% of mothers in State prison and 84% of those in Federal prison reported living with their minor children prior to admission, compared to 44% and 55% of fathers, respectively.

Because most inmate parents did not live with their children prior to incarceration, the number of households with children affected by the imprisonment of a resident parent is lower than the total number of parents in prison. At yearend 1999 an estimated 336,300 U.S. households with minor children had a resident parent in State or Federal prison. A total of 300,900 U.S. households with minor children were missing a resident father in prison, and resident mothers were missing from 35,400 households.

Estimated households with minor children affected by the imprisonment of a resident parent, 1999

Total	336,300
State prison	291,000
Fathers	259,900
Mothers	31,100
Federal prison	45,300
Fathers	41,000
Mothers	4,300

Fathers cite child's mother as the current caregiver; mothers cite child's grandparents, other relatives

When asked who is currently caring for their minor children, over 80% of inmate parents said that their child was now living with the child's other parent. About 20% of parents cited grandparents and other relatives as caregivers, and 2% had a child in a foster home, agency, or institution.

Mothers and fathers in prison differed sharply in their responses to questions about their children's current caregivers. Ninety percent of the fathers in State prison reported that at least one of their children was in the care of the child's mother, compared to 28% of mothers who reported that one of their children was in the care of the child's father.

Mothers in State prison most often identified the child's grandparent (53%) or other relatives (26%) as the current caregiver. The percentage of fathers in State prison who said that they had a minor child in the care of either grandparents (13%) or other relatives (5%) was much smaller. Mothers in State prison (10%) were also more likely than fathers (2%) to report that their children were in the care of a foster home, agency, or institution.

Mothers and fathers in Federal prison also provided differing reports about their children's current caregivers. Nearly all fathers in Federal prison (92%) said that they had a minor child in the care of the child's mother, compared to 31% of mothers who reported the child's father as the current caregiver. As with State inmates, a greater share of mothers than fathers in Federal prison said that a child was in the care of grandparents (45% compared to 10%) or other relatives (34% compared to 4%).

One-third of mothers in prison had been living alone with their children in the month before arrest

In the month prior to their current arrest, the households of most parents in prison did not include their children (table 5). Thirty-seven percent of parents in State prison said that they lived with any of their minor children in the month before their arrest. The parents who had lived with their children were split between those who had lived with both a spouse and the child (20%) and those who were the only parent living with the child (18%). Among parents in Federal prison, a higher percentage of parents (49%) reported living with their children in the month before arrest, and a higher percentage (32%) came from two-parent households.

Mothers in both State (58%) and Federal (73%) prisons were more likely than fathers (36% and 47%, respectively) to report living with their children prior to arrest. Mothers (46% of State, 51% of Federal) were also more likely than fathers (15% and 14%, respectively) to have been the only parent living with the children in the month before their arrest. Thirty-one percent of the mothers in prison had been living alone with their children compared to 4% of fathers.

Table 5. Households of inmate parents in State or Federal prison, by gender, 1997

Prisoner's household in the month before arrest	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	Total	State		Federal		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Lived with their children	37.3%	35.6%	58.5%	49.0%	47.2%	73.4%
In two-parent household ^a	19.6%	20.2%	12.5%	32.2%	32.9%	22.1%
Parents and children only	18.2	18.7	11.7	29.4	30.1	19.6
With other relatives ^b	1.2	1.3	0.7	2.0	2.1	1.2
With non-relatives only	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.7	1.3
In single-parent household	17.7%	15.4%	46.0%	16.8%	14.3%	51.3%
Parent and children only	5.9	3.9	30.9	6.3	4.2	34.8
With other relatives ^b	1.3	1.0	4.3	0.7	0.4	4.9
With non-relatives only	10.5	10.5	10.8	9.8	9.7	11.6
Did not live with their children	62.7%	64.4%	41.5%	51.0%	52.8%	26.6%

^aTwo-parent households are those in which the prisoner lived with both their child(ren) and a spouse.

^bIncludes the prisoners' step-parents, stepchildren, stepbrothers, and stepsisters.

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40% of fathers and 60% of mothers in State prison had at least weekly contact with their children

Most parents in both State (80%) and Federal (93%) prison reported having some contact with their children since their admission, either by telephone, mail, or personal visits (table 6). Among State inmates, 69% reported exchanging letters with their children, 58% had spoken with their children over the telephone, and 43% had received a personal visit since admission. Higher percentages of parents in Federal prison reported all types of contact, with telephone calls and letters each reported by 84% of parents and personal visits reported by 56% of parents.

In State prisons, mothers consistently reported more frequent contact with their children than fathers. Mothers (78%) were more likely than fathers (62%) to report some type of monthly contact with their children, and 60% of mothers reported at least weekly contact compared to 40% of fathers. Nearly 40% of mothers in State prison

said that they spoke to their children by telephone at least once a week, and 45% reported weekly mail contact with their children. In comparison, fathers reported weekly contact by telephone (25%) or mail (27%) at lower rates.

However, the frequency of personal visits did not vary by gender. Similar percentages of both mothers (24%) and fathers (21%) in State prison reported at least monthly visits from their children. A majority of both mothers (54%) and fathers (57%) had never been visited by their children since entering prison.

Among Federal inmates, mothers and fathers had more similar levels of contact with their children. About 70% of mothers and 60% of fathers had some type of weekly contact with their children. Among mothers in Federal prison, 56% reported weekly telephone calls and 45% reported weekly mail contact, compared to 49% and 34% of fathers, respectively. Similar percentages of mothers (20%) and fathers (23%) reported monthly visits, and just over 40% of both had never been visited since admission.

Over 60% of parents in State prison were held more than 100 miles from their last place of residence

A majority of parents in both State (62%) and Federal (84%) prison were held more than 100 miles from their last place of residence. However, parents in State prison (17%) were twice as likely as those in Federal prison (7%) to be housed within 50 miles of their last residence. Parents in State facilities (11%) were also less likely than those in Federal prison (43%) to be held over 500 miles from their last household.

Distance of prison from last place of residence	Percent of inmate parents, 1997	
	State	Federal
Less than 50 miles	17.4%	7.5%
50-100 miles	20.7	8.5
101-500 miles	51.2	40.7
More than 500 miles	10.7	43.3

A majority of parents in prison were violent offenders or drug traffickers

In both State (57%) and Federal (61%) prison, a majority of the parents were sentenced for either violent offenses, such as homicide, sexual assault, and robbery, or drug trafficking activities (table 7). Violent offenses (44%) were the most common type of crime for which parents were serving time in State prison, while 67% of the parents in Federal prison were drug offenders.

Among State prisoners, parents (44%) were less likely than nonparents (51%) to be violent offenders. Parents in State prison were more likely to be serving a sentence for drug offenses (24%) than nonparents (17%).

Current offense	Percent of State prisoners, 1997	
	Parents	Nonparents
Violent	43.9%	51.1%
Property	21.6	22.5
Drug	23.9	16.7
Public-order	10.3	9.3

Table 6. Frequency of telephone, mail, and personal contacts with children by parents in State or Federal prison, 1997

Frequency and type of contact with children	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Any type of contact						
Daily or almost daily	10.1%	9.5%	17.8%	15.1%	14.6%	21.1%
At least once a week	31.2	30.3	42.4	43.7	43.4	48.5
At least once a month	22.2	22.6	18.0	23.8	23.9	22.0
Less than once a month	16.1	16.6	9.7	10.0	10.3	5.0
Never	20.4	21.1	12.2	7.5	7.8	3.3
Telephone						
Daily or almost daily	6.6%	6.2%	11.3%	13.0%	12.8%	15.0%
At least once a week	19.8	19.2	27.0	36.3	35.9	41.2
At least once a month	16.5	16.6	15.3	23.2	23.1	24.9
Less than once a month	15.4	15.5	13.8	11.3	11.4	9.2
Never	41.8	42.5	32.6	16.2	16.7	9.7
Mail						
Daily or almost daily	4.8%	4.4%	9.6%	4.3%	3.9%	9.5%
At least once a week	23.2	22.2	35.6	30.4	30.0	35.9
At least once a month	23.1	23.3	20.6	30.4	30.5	27.8
Less than once a month	18.2	18.6	13.2	18.9	19.2	14.5
Never	30.8	31.6	21.0	16.1	16.4	12.3
Personal visits						
Daily or almost daily	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.9%
At least once a week	6.6	6.5	8.0	7.1	7.1	6.6
At least once a month	13.9	13.8	14.7	15.1	15.3	12.0
Less than once a month	22.2	22.2	22.1	33.4	33.0	38.5
Never	56.6	56.8	54.1	44.1	44.2	42.0

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Table 7. Current offense of inmate parents in State or Federal prison, by gender, 1997

Current offense	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Violent offenses	43.9%	45.4%	26.0%	11.9%	12.3%	6.5%
Homicide ^a	10.9	11.1	8.6	1.2	1.2	1.3
Sexual assault ^b	8.3	8.8	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.1
Robbery	13.2	13.8	6.4	7.8	8.1	3.4
Assault	9.7	9.9	7.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other violent	1.8	1.8	2.1	0.9	0.9	0.4
Property offenses	21.6%	21.1%	28.3%	5.3%	4.9%	10.3%
Burglary	10.2	10.6	5.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Larceny	4.6	4.3	8.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Motor vehicle theft	1.5	1.6	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.0
Fraud	2.8	2.1	11.3	3.7	3.3	8.9
Stolen property	1.6	1.7	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.6
Other property	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Drug offenses	23.9%	23.0%	35.1%	67.2%	66.7%	73.9%
Possession	10.1	9.7	14.8	12.9	13.1	9.7
Trafficking	13.1	12.7	19.0	48.9	48.0	61.0
Other drug	0.7	0.6	1.3	5.4	5.6	3.2
Public-order offenses	10.3%	10.3%	10.4%	14.6%	15.1%	7.9%
Weapons	2.7	2.8	0.9	6.9	7.3	1.1
Other public-order	7.6	7.5	9.5	7.8	7.9	6.7
Other/unspecified	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%	1.5%

^aIncludes murder and manslaughter.

^bIncludes rape and other sexual assaults.

Mothers and fathers were serving time in State prison for different types of criminal offenses. Forty-five percent of fathers in State prison were violent offenders, compared to 26% of mothers. Fathers in State prison (14%) were more likely than mothers (6%) to be convicted of robbery. Mothers were more likely to be sentenced for drug offenses (35% compared to 23% of fathers) and fraud (11% and 2%).

The current offenses of mothers and fathers in Federal prison were more similar than those of State inmates. Two-thirds of fathers and three-quarters of mothers in Federal prison were convicted of drug offenses. The percentage of violent offenders among both fathers (12%) and mothers (6%) was much lower than in State prison, while 5% of fathers and 10% of mothers were property offenders.

On average, parents expected to serve 80 months in State prison and 103 months in Federal prison

Table 8. Maximum sentence length and time to be served until release of State and Federal prisoners with minor children, by gender, 1997

	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Maximum sentence length						
Less than 12 months	3.1%	2.8%	7.3%	2.3%	2.1%	5.1%
12-35 months	13.1	12.5	20.3	10.6	9.5	26.3
36-59 months	13.2	12.7	19.9	13.2	13.0	16.2
60-119 months	22.5	22.4	23.2	30.0	30.6	22.4
120-179 months	14.0	14.3	10.7	19.6	19.7	18.1
180-239 months	8.9	9.1	6.3	9.0	9.2	5.2
240+ months	19.1	19.9	9.4	12.2	12.7	5.8
Life/death	6.1	6.3	2.8	3.1	3.3	0.7
Mean ^a	146 mo.	150 mo.	94 mo.	121 mo.	124 mo.	83 mo.
Estimated total time to be served on current sentence^b						
Less than 24 months	19.3%	17.9%	37.5%	8.5%	7.2%	26.2%
24-47 months	23.1	22.9	24.9	15.0	14.5	22.9
48-71 months	15.7	15.9	14.0	18.1	18.1	17.2
72-119 months	16.6	17.2	8.9	25.1	25.6	17.8
120-179 months	8.7	9.1	3.6	14.9	15.4	8.3
180-239 months	4.0	4.2	1.5	7.1	7.4	3.2
240+ months	5.3	5.6	2.1	6.9	7.3	2.2
No release expected	2.1	2.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.5
Do not know	5.1	5.0	6.5	3.2	3.3	1.8
Mean ^c	80 mo.	82 mo.	49 mo.	103 mo.	105 mo.	66 mo.

^aExcludes sentences to life or death.

^bBased on time served when interviewed plus time to be served until the expected date of release.

^cExcludes inmates who do not expect to be released.

Due to the large percentage convicted of violent offenses and drug trafficking, parents reported lengthy average sentences — over 12 years (146 months) in State prison and 10 years (121 months) in Federal prison (table 8). Over 40% of the parents in both State (48%) and Federal (44%) prison reported sentences of at least 10 years, including those sentenced to life in prison or death (6% of State and 3% of Federal).

Given their higher percentage of violent offenders, fathers in State prison (150 months) reported sentences that averaged almost 5 years longer than those of mothers (94 months). Forty-eight percent of the mothers in State prison reported sentences of less than 5 years compared to 15% of fathers. Fathers in Federal facilities also reported a longer average sentence (124 months) than mothers (83 months). Mothers in Federal prison (48%) were also about twice as likely as fathers (25%) to report sentences of less than 5 years.

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On average parents in State prison expected to serve a total of 80 months prior to their release (55% of the mean sentence length). Fathers (82 months) expected to serve nearly 3 years more than mothers (49 months). In State prison 18% of parents said that they expected to serve at least 10 years before release. Two percent of parents never expected to be released; 5% did not know their release date.

Despite reporting shorter sentences than parents in State prison, parents in Federal facilities expected to serve an average total of 103 months (85% of the mean sentence length). Fathers in Federal prison (105 months) expected to serve about 3 years longer than mothers (66 months). About 30% of parents in Federal prison expected to serve at least 10 years. Less than 5% of parents in Federal prison either never expected to be released (1%) or did not know their release date (3%).

Over 75% of parents in State prison reported a prior conviction; 56% had been incarcerated

At the time of their current arrest, 49% of the parents in State prison were on some type of conditional release from custody, such as probation or parole supervision in the community (table 9). Of the parents in State prison, 25% were on parole and 24% were serving a sentence to probation supervision at the time of arrest.

Over three-quarters of parents in State prison reported a prior sentence to incarceration or probation, while the remainder said that they were first-time offenders. Almost half (46%) of parents in State prison were violent recidivists (repeat offenders with either a current or past violent offense). Most parents in State prison (60%) had served multiple prior sentences.

Among State prison inmates the criminal histories of parents and nonparents did not differ appreciably. At arrest for their current offense, about 45% of the nonparents had a criminal justice status and 74% had a prior conviction.

Criminal history	Percent of State prisoners, 1997	
	Parents	Nonparents
Had a criminal justice status at time of arrest	49.1%	45.1%
Had prior sentence to probation or incarceration	77.2%	74.0%

Overall, fathers in State prison reported more serious criminal histories than mothers. Fathers (25%) were more likely than mothers (19%) to have been arrested while on parole release from a prior prison term. First-time offenders made up a smaller share of fathers in State prison (22% compared to 35% of mothers), and fathers (48%) were also twice as likely as mothers (23%) to be violent recidivists. In addition, 44% of fathers reported at least three prior convictions compared to 32% of mothers.

Parents in Federal prison (27%) were almost half as likely as those in State prison (49%) to report a criminal justice status at time of arrest, and less likely to report a prior conviction (62% compared to 77%). As in State prison, fathers in Federal facilities (65%) were more likely to be recidivists than mothers (34%), particularly violent

recidivists (23% of fathers, 6% of mothers). The percentage of fathers (32%) reporting at least three prior sentences was nearly triple that of mothers (11%).

A majority of parents in State prison used drugs in the month before their offense

More than 4 in 5 parents (85%) in State prison reported some type of past drug use, and a majority (58%) said that they were using drugs in the month before their current offense (table 10). Nonparents in State prison reported slightly lower levels of prior drug use.

Prior drug use	Percent of State prisoners, 1997	
	Parents	Nonparents
Ever	85.4%	80.3%
In month before offense	58.1	54.9
At the time of the offense	33.6	31.5

Parents in State prison most commonly reported using marijuana (39%) and cocaine-based drugs (27%), including crack, in the month before their crimes, followed by heroin and other opiates (10%), stimulants (9%), depressants (5%), hallucinogens (3%), and inhalants (1%).

Table 9. Criminal histories of State and Federal prisoners with minor children, by gender, 1997

	Percent of inmate parents, 1997					
	State			Federal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Status at time of current arrest						
None	50.9%	51.5%	44.0%	73.0%	72.2%	83.9%
Status	49.1	48.5	56.0	27.0	27.8	16.1
On parole	24.8	25.2	18.6	12.7	13.4	2.8
On probation	23.7	22.6	37.0	14.2	14.3	12.5
Escaped from custody	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.8
Criminal history						
None	22.8%	21.9%	34.7%	37.5%	35.4%	66.3%
Priors	77.2	78.1	65.3	62.5	64.6	33.7
Violent recidivists*	46.1	48.0	23.2	22.2	23.4	5.6
Drug recidivists only	3.7	3.6	6.1	11.4	11.8	6.6
Other recidivists*	27.3	26.6	36.0	28.8	29.4	21.3
Number of prior probation/incarceration sentences						
0	22.8%	21.9%	34.7%	37.5%	35.4%	66.3%
1	16.8	16.7	18.2	18.1	18.4	14.7
2	16.9	17.0	15.2	13.6	14.0	8.3
3-5	24.8	25.2	19.7	20.9	21.8	8.2
6-10	12.6	13.0	7.6	7.6	8.0	2.1
11 or more	6.1	6.3	4.6	2.2	2.3	0.3

*Recidivists with at least one current or past violent offense.

*Includes recidivists with unknown offense types.

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A third of the parents in State prison reported committing their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Parents were most likely to report the influence of cocaine-based drugs (16%) and marijuana (15%) while committing their crime. About equal percentages of parents in State prison reported the use of opiates (6%) and stimulants (5%) at the time of their offense, while 2% used depressants or hallucinogens.

1 in 3 mothers in State prison committed their crime to get drugs or money for drugs

Mothers in State prison reported more serious drug use histories than fathers. Mothers in State prison (65%) were more likely than fathers (58%) to report drug use in the month before their offense, particularly the use of cocaine or crack (45% of mothers compared to 26% of fathers). Mothers (43%) were also more likely than fathers (33%) to report the influence of drugs in their current offense. Mothers were about twice as likely to have committed their crimes while under the influence of

cocaine-based drugs (28%) or opiates (11%) as fathers (15% and 5%, respectively).

In addition, 32% of mothers in State prison reported committing their crime to get drugs or money for drugs, compared to 19% of fathers. Prior intravenous drug use was also reported more commonly by mothers (29%) than fathers (19%).

	Percent of inmate parents in State prison who reported —	
	Male	Female
Committing offense to get money for drugs	18.5%	32.2%
Ever using intravenous drugs	19.0%	29.2%

While reports of prior drug use were lower among parents in Federal prison, 3 in 4 had used drugs and nearly half used drugs in the month before their offense. Twenty-three percent of parents in Federal prison were under the influence of drugs when committing their offense. Aside from marijuana use (higher among fathers), mothers and fathers in Federal prison reported similar drug use histories.

Over a third of parents in State prison committed their offense while under the influence of alcohol

Parents in State prison were more likely to report being under the influence of alcohol (37%) than drugs (34%) while committing their current offense (table 11). According to the CAGE diagnostic instrument, 25% of the parents in State prison reported experiences that are consistent with a history of alcohol dependence (for details on the CAGE instrument, see *Methodology*). Overall, parents and nonparents in State prison did not differ in their reports of prior alcohol abuse.

	Percent of State prisoners, 1997	
	Parents	Nonparents
Prior alcohol abuse	25.1%	23.7%
Alcohol dependent	36.7%	37.8%

Under influence of alcohol at time of offense

Parents in State prison also reported engaging in troubled behaviors associated with prior alcohol abuse. About 48% of parents said that they had driven drunk in the past, 42% reported arguments with family members and friends while drinking, and 39% had alcohol-related physical fights.

Table 10. Drug use of inmate parents in State or Federal prison, by gender, 1997

	Percent of inmate parents who reported —								
	Ever using drugs			Using drugs in the month before the offense			Using drugs at the time of the offense		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
State prisoners, 1997									
Any drug*	85.4%	85.4%	86.3%	58.1%	57.5%	65.3%	33.6%	32.9%	42.5%
Marijuana/hashish	79.0	79.8	69.4	39.3	40.3	27.5	15.2	15.7	8.8
Cocaine/crack	53.3	52.2	67.2	27.1	25.7	44.6	16.0	15.0	28.3
Heroin/opiates	25.3	24.8	31.3	9.7	9.2	16.0	5.6	5.2	10.7
Depressants ^b	23.9	23.7	25.9	5.1	4.9	7.1	1.8	1.8	2.3
Stimulants ^c	28.6	28.4	30.7	9.2	9.1	10.5	4.6	4.6	5.3
Hallucinogens ^d	28.5	28.6	26.6	3.4	3.5	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.1
Inhalants	14.2	14.2	13.1	0.7	0.7	1.3	--	--	--
Federal prisoners, 1997									
Any drug*	75.2%	75.8%	66.4%	46.0%	46.6%	37.4%	22.6%	23.0%	17.9%
Marijuana/hashish	66.8	67.5	57.2	31.7	32.6	20.1	11.3	11.7	6.0
Cocaine/crack	45.7	46.3	36.9	20.7	21.0	17.1	9.7	10.0	5.8
Heroin/opiates	14.7	14.9	12.2	4.7	4.6	4.7	2.7	2.6	3.4
Depressants ^b	14.8	14.9	13.2	2.9	2.9	3.7	0.9	1.0	0.5
Stimulants ^c	18.3	18.2	18.9	6.7	6.6	8.1	3.4	3.3	5.0
Hallucinogens ^d	17.1	17.4	13.0	1.7	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4
Inhalants	6.7	6.9	4.6	0.5	0.5	0.0	--	--	--

Note: Detail adds to more than total because prisoners may have used more than one type of drug.

-- Not reported.

*Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

^bIncludes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaalude.

^cIncludes amphetamine and methamphetamine.

^dIncludes LSD and PCP.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics
810 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20531



Tuesday, August 08, 2000 4:40:36 PM

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THE NATION'S PRISON POPULATION GROWTH RATE SLOWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – During 1999, the nation's prison population rose at the lowest rate since 1979 and recorded the smallest absolute increase since 1988, according to a bulletin released today by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The prison population growth slowed to 3.4 percent last year--less than the average annual amount of 6.5 percent during the 1990-1999 period. JF

At the end of the year, there were more than 2 million people held in some type of incarceration. The 2,026,596 people behind bars were held as follows:

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

At the end of last year the nation's prisons held 476 inmates sentenced to at least a year's confinement per 100,000 U.S. residents--equivalent to 1 in every 110 men and 1 in every 1,695 women.

About 1 in every 11 black males in their late twenties was serving a sentence of a year or more in a state or federal prison. At the end of last year African-Americans constituted 46 percent of all inmates with sentences of one year or more, white inmates accounted for 33 percent of such inmates and Hispanics 18 percent.

From 1990 to 1999 the rate of imprisonment of those serving a year or more increased by 60 percent among males and 84 percent among females.

The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal authorities reached 1,366,721 by the end of 1999. The states and the District of Columbia added 31,591 prisoners, and the federal system added 12,205.

Since 1990 the prison population has increased by 77 percent--an increase of almost 600,000 inmates. Factors contributing to the 1990-1998 growth in the state prison population included:

- A 54 percent increase in the number of parole violators returning to prison.
- A 7 percent increase in new court commitments.

(MORE)

- 2 -

-An increase in the average time served in prison by released inmates from 22 months in 1990 to 28 months in 1998.

-An increase in the time expected to be served by those entering prison from 38 months to 43 months.

-An increase in violent offenders, who accounted for 51 percent of the state growth, and drug offenders, who made up 19 percent of the state growth.

On December 31, 1999, privately operated facilities held 71,208 prisoners (5.2 percent of state and federal inmates). Local jails held 63,635 state inmates (5.2 percent of state prisoners).

As of the same date, state prisons were operating at between 1 percent and 17 percent over capacity. Federal prisons were operating at 32 percent above capacity.

During 1999 two states—Idaho (up 13 percent) and Wisconsin (up 11 percent)—reported prison population increases of at least 10 percent. Nine jurisdictions experienced a decline, led by Rhode Island (down 13 percent) and the District of Columbia (down 12 percent).

Texas (with 163,190 inmates) operated the largest prison system as of the end of last year, followed by California (163,067) and the federal system (135,246). Louisiana (with 776 prisoners per 100,000 state residents sentenced to at least a year's imprisonment) and Texas (with 762) had the highest incarceration rates. Minnesota (125 per 100,000) and Maine (133) had the lowest.

Between 1990 and 1999 nine states more than doubled their prison populations, led by Texas (up 173 percent), Idaho (up 147 percent) and West Virginia (up 126 percent). During the same period the federal prison system (up 127 percent) added almost 64,000 prisoners serving a year or more.

The bulletin, "Prisoners in 1999" (NCJ-183476), was written by BJS statistician Allen J. Beck. Single copies may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand system by dialing 301/519-5550, listening to the complete menu and selecting document number 211. Or call the BJS clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277. Fax orders for mail delivery to 410/492-4358. The full report may be obtained from the BJS Internet site at:

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Additional criminal justice materials can be obtained from the Office of Justice Programs Website at:

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

August 2000, NCJ 183476

Prisoners in 1999

By Allen J. Beck, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

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

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

Overall, the United States incarcerated 2,026,596 persons at yearend 1999.

This total represents persons held in —

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

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

Highlights

December 31	Number of inmates		Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 resident population		Population housed as a percent of highest capacity	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
1990	65,526	708,393	20	272	—	115%
1995	100,250	1,025,824	32	379	126%	114
1998	123,041	1,177,532	38	423	127	113
1999	135,246	1,231,475*	42	434	132	101

—Not available.

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

- During 1999 the number of female prisoners rose by 4.4%, greater than the increase in male prisoners (3.3%). At yearend 1999, 90,668 women were in State or Federal prisons — 6.6% of all prison inmates.

- On December 31, 1999, State prisons were operating between 1% and 17% above capacity, while Federal prisons were operating at 32% above capacity.

- Texas (163,190), California (163,067), and the Federal system (135,246) together held 1 in every 3 prisoners in the Nation. Thirteen States, each holding fewer than 5,000 inmates, together held less than 3% of the Nation's prisoners.

- Two States — Idaho (up 12.9%) and Wisconsin (10.9%) — had increases of at least 10% in 1999. Nine jurisdictions experienced decreases, led by Rhode Island (down 12.8%) and the District of Columbia (-12.0%).

- At yearend 1999, privately operated facilities housed 71,208 inmates (5.2% of State and Federal inmates); local jails housed 63,635 State inmates (5.2% of State prisoners):

- Factors underlying the growth in the State prison population between 1990 and 1998 included —
 - a 54% rise in the number of parole violators returned to prison and a 7% increase in new court commitments.
 - a drop in annual release rates from 37% in 1990 to 31% in 1998.
 - an increase in the average time served in prison by released inmates (from 22 months in 1990 to 28 months in 1998) and in the time expected to be served by those entering prison (from 38 months to 43 months).
 - an increase in violent offenders (representing 51% of State growth) and drug offenders (19% of State growth).

- Analyses of imprisonment rates from 1990 to 1999 reveal —
 - a 60% increase among males and an 84% increase among females in the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents.
 - large disparities by race and Hispanic origin. In 1999 the rate among black males in their late twenties reached 9,392 prisoners per 100,000 residents compared to 3,126 among Hispanic males and 990 among white males.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year	Total inmates in custody	Prisoners in custody on December 31		Inmates in local jails on June 30	Incarceration rate ^b
		Federal	State		
1990	1,148,702	58,838	684,544	405,320	458
1995	1,585,586	89,538	989,004	507,044	601
1996	1,646,020	95,088	1,032,440	518,492	618
1997	1,743,643	101,755	1,074,809	567,079	648
1998	1,816,931	110,793	1,113,676	592,462	669
1999 ^c	1,890,837	125,882	1,159,212	605,943	690
Percent change,					
1998-99 ^a	2.9%	13.4%	2.1%	2.3%	
Average annual increase,					
1990 - 99	5.7%	8.8%	6.0%	4.6%	

Note: Jail counts for 1994-99 exclude persons supervised outside of a jail facility.

^aIncludes prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding.

^bNumber of prison and jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at yearend.

^cIn 1999, 15 States expanded their reporting criteria to include inmates held in privately operated correctional facilities. For comparisons with previous years, the State count 1,137,544 and the total count 1,869,169 should be used.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Region and jurisdiction	Total		Percent change, 1998-99	Sentenced to more than 1 year		Percent change, 1998-99	Incarceration rate, 1999 ^a
	Advance 1999	1998		Advance 1999	1998		
U.S. total	1,366,721	1,300,573	3.4%	1,305,393	1,245,402	3.2%	476
Federal	135,246	123,041	9.9	114,275	103,682	10.2	42
State	1,231,475	1,177,532	2.7	1,191,118	1,141,720	2.5	434
Northeast	179,758	175,681	1.5%	171,234	167,376	1.5%	330
Connecticut ^b	18,639	17,605	5.9	13,032	12,193	6.9	397
Maine	1,716	1,691	1.5	1,663	1,641	1.3	133
Massachusetts ^c	11,356	11,799	-3.8	10,282	10,744	-4.3	266
New Hampshire	2,257	2,169	4.1	2,257	2,169	4.1	187
New Jersey ^d	31,493	31,121	1.2	31,493	31,121	1.2	384
New York ^e	73,233	70,001	2.6	72,896	70,001	2.1	400
Pennsylvania	36,525	36,377	0.4	36,525	36,373	0.4	305
Rhode Island ^b	3,003	3,445	-12.8	1,908	2,175	-12.3	193
Vermont ^b	1,536	1,473	4.3	1,178	959	22.8	198
Midwest	232,905	228,116	2.1%	231,961	227,270	2.1%	367
Illinois ^{d,f}	44,660	43,051	3.7	44,660	43,051	3.7	368
Indiana	19,309	19,197	0.6	19,260	19,016	1.3	324
Iowa ^{d,f}	7,232	7,394	-2.2	7,232	7,394	-2.2	252
Kansas ^d	8,567	8,183	4.7	8,567	8,183	4.7	321
Michigan ^d	46,617	45,879	1.6	46,617	45,879	1.6	472
Minnesota	5,989	5,572	7.1	5,955	5,557	7.2	125
Missouri	26,155	24,974	4.7	26,133	24,950	4.7	477
Nebraska	3,688	3,676	0.3	3,632	3,588	1.2	217
North Dakota	943	915	3.1	866	834	3.8	137
Ohio ^d	46,842	48,450	-3.3	46,842	48,450	-3.3	417
South Dakota	2,506	2,422	3.5	2,498	2,417	3.4	339
Wisconsin	20,417	18,403	10.9	19,699	17,951	9.7	375
South	551,284	512,271	3.7%	528,377	493,488	3.4%	543
Alabama	24,658	22,676	8.7	24,109	22,214	8.5	549
Arkansas	11,415	10,638	7.3	11,336	10,561	7.3	443
Delaware ^b	6,983	5,558	--	3,730	3,211	--	493
Dist. of Columbia ^b	8,652	9,829	-12.0	6,730	8,144	-17.4	1,314
Florida ^d	69,596	67,224	3.5	69,594	67,193	3.6	456
Georgia ^d	42,091	39,262	7.2	42,008	38,758	8.4	532
Kentucky	15,317	14,987	2.2	15,317	14,987	2.2	385
Louisiana	34,066	32,228	5.7	34,066	32,228	5.7	776
Maryland	23,095	22,572	2.3	22,184	21,540	3.0	427
Mississippi	18,247	16,678	9.4	17,410	15,855	9.8	626
North Carolina	31,086	31,981	-2.7	26,635	27,244	-2.2	345
Oklahoma ^d	22,393	20,892	7.2	22,393	20,892	7.2	662
South Carolina	22,008	21,764	1.1	21,228	20,910	1.5	543
Tennessee ^{d,e}	22,502	17,738	4.5	22,502	17,738	4.5	408
Texas ^e	163,190	144,510	1.9	154,865	139,863	0.7	762
Virginia	32,453	30,276	7.2	30,738	28,672	7.2	447
West Virginia	3,532	3,478	1.6	3,532	3,478	1.6	196
West	267,528	261,464	1.9%	259,546	253,586	2.0%	421
Alaska ^b	3,949	4,097	-3.6	2,325	2,541	-8.5	374
Arizona ^d	25,986	25,515	1.8	23,944	23,500	1.9	495
California	163,067	161,904	0.7	160,517	159,201	0.8	481
Colorado	15,670	14,312	9.5	15,670	14,312	9.5	383
Hawaii ^b	4,903	4,924	-0.4	3,817	3,670	4.0	320
Idaho ^e	4,842	4,083	12.9	4,842	4,083	12.9	385
Montana	2,954	2,734	8.0	2,954	2,734	8.0	335
Nevada	9,494	9,651	-1.6	9,413	9,651	-2.5	509
New Mexico	5,124	5,078	0.9	4,730	4,825	-2.0	270
Oregon	9,810	8,981	9.2	9,792	8,935	9.6	293
Utah ^e	5,426	4,453	4.2	5,271	4,402	4.3	245
Washington	14,590	14,161	3.0	14,558	14,161	2.8	251
Wyoming	1,713	1,571	9.0	1,713	1,571	9.0	355

^aNot calculated.

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

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

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

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

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

^gPopulation figures are based on custody counts.

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

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

—Not calculated because of changes in reporting procedures.

*Growth may be slightly overestimated due to a change in reporting from custody to jurisdiction counts.

*Includes 6,742 "paper-ready" State inmates held in local jails in 1990.

Prison Incarceration rates have risen sharply since 1990

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

^bThe average annual percent change from 1990 to 1999.

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

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

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

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

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

Female prisoner population more than doubled since 1990

During 1999 the number of women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal prison authorities increased 4.4%, outpacing the rise in the number of men (up 3.3%) for the fourth consecutive year (table 8). At yearend 1990, 68,888 women and 1,276,053 men were in State or Federal prisons.

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

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

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

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

	Men	Women
All Inmates		
Advance 1999	1,276,053	90,668
Final 1998	1,216,219	84,354
Final 1990	729,840	44,065
Percent change, 1998-99 ^a	3.3%	4.4%
Average annual 1990-99	6.4	8.3
Sentenced to more than 1 year		
Advance 1999	1,222,799	82,594
Final 1998	1,167,802	77,600
Percent change, 1998-99 ^a	3.1%	4.4%
Incarceration rate^b		
1999	913	59
1990	572	32

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

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

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

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

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

^aThe average annual percentage increase from 1990 to 1999.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Private facilities		Local jails		In other State or Federal facilities	
	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a	Number	Percent of all inmates ^a
U.S. total	71,208	5.2%	63,635	4.7%	6,952	0.5%
Federal	3,828	2.8	0	0	0	0
State	67,380	5.5	63,635	5.2	6,952	0.6
Northeast	2,539	1.4%	6,300	3.5%	1,301	0.7%
Connecticut	0	0	--	--	321	1.7
Maine	22	1.3	0	0	55	3.2
Massachusetts	0	0	451	4.0	296	2.6
New Hampshire	0	0	34	1.5	69	3.1
New Jersey ^b	2,517	8.0	4,328	13.7	62	0.2
New York	0	0	1,427	1.9	0	0
Pennsylvania	0	0	60	0.2	55	0.2
Rhode Island ^b	0	0	--	--	42	1.4
Vermont ^b	0	0	--	--	401	26.1
Midwest	4,784	2.1%	2,735	1.2%	1,806	0.8%
Illinois	0	0	0	0	33	0.1
Indiana	936	4.8	1,224	6.3	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	99	1.2
Michigan	301	0.6	262	0.6	774	1.7
Minnesota	80	1.3	174	2.9	165	2.8
Missouri	0	0	0	0	56	0.2
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	32	0.9
North Dakota	0	0	24	2.5	18	1.9
Ohio	0	0	0	0	45	0.1
South Dakota	46	1.8	0	0	22	0.9
Wisconsin	3,421	16.8	1,051	5.1	562	2.8
South	44,656	8.1%	48,585	8.5%	2,364	0.4%
Alabama	0	0	1,375	5.6	432	1.8
Arkansas	1,224	10.7	703	6.2	0	0
Delaware	0	0	--	--	290	4.2
Dist. of Columbia	4,024	48.5	--	--	1,287	14.9
Florida	3,773	5.4	0	0	0	0
Georgia	3,001	7.1	3,757	8.9	0	0
Kentucky	1,700	11.1	3,221	21.0	15	0.1
Louisiana	3,080	9.0	14,892	43.7	0	0
Maryland	131	0.6	141	0.6	52	0.2
Mississippi	3,429	18.8	3,349	18.4	...	...
North Carolina	1,395	4.5	47	0.2	0	0
Oklahoma	6,228	27.8	1,056	4.7	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	461	2.1	288	1.3
Tennessee	3,476	15.4	5,716	25.4	0	0
Texas	11,653	7.1	7,131	4.4	0	0
Virginia	1,542	4.8	4,084	12.6	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	652	18.5	0	0
West	15,401	5.8%	8,015	3.0%	1,481	0.6%
Alaska	1,387	35.1	--	--	33	0.8
Arizona	1,392	5.4	17	0.1	91	0.4
California	4,621	2.8	2,826	1.7	640	0.4
Colorado ^c	0	0	2,675	17.1	0	0
Hawaii	1,168	23.8	--	--	31	0.6
Idaho	400	8.3	431	8.9	96	2.0
Montana	726	24.6	831	28.1	...	...
Nevada	561	5.9	157	1.7	206	2.2
New Mexico	1,873	38.6	153	3.0	105	2.0
Oregon	0	0	10	0.1	75	0.8
Utah	248	4.6	879	16.2	112	2.1
Washington ^b	331	2.3	0	0	73	0.5
Wyoming	281	16.4	36	2.1	19	1.1

Note: Some inmates held in private facilities may be in local jails or out of State.

--Not applicable. Prison and jails form an integrated system

...Not reported.

^aBased on the total number of inmates under State or Federal jurisdiction.^bInmates held in other State facilities include Interstate compact cases.^cColorado housed 2,413 inmates in private facilities under contract to local jails.**Local jails held nearly 64,000 State prisoners**

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

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

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

Prison capacity measures vary

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

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

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

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

... Data not available.

--Not calculated. (See *Jurisdiction notes*.)^aPopulation counts are based on the number of inmates held in facilities operated by the jurisdiction. Excludes inmates held in local jails, in other States, or in private facilities.^bConnecticut no longer reports capacity because of a law passed in 1995.^cIncludes capacity of private and contract facilities and inmates housed in them.^dExcludes capacity of county facilities and inmates housed in them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

^aCapacity figures were estimated for Connecticut in 1995, 1998 and 1999.^bExcludes inmates sentenced to prison but held in local jails and inmates in private facilities (unless included in the reported capacity). See *Jurisdiction notes*.