



Jail Inmates in 2022 – Statistical Tables

SUMMARY NCJ 307086

DECEMBER 2023

At midyear 2022, local jails held 663,100 persons in custody, 4% more than the year before and 21% more than at midyear 2020. The number of persons in jail custody saw a 25% decline from 2019 to 2020 as local authorities reduced admissions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The increases in the last two years have largely eliminated the decline in the jail population seen early in the pandemic.

At midyear 2022, there were:

- 505,700 inmates held for a felony offense, accounting for 76% of the jail population
- 199 jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, down from 237 per 100,000 at midyear 2012
- 915,900 jail beds in the United States, 72% of which were occupied
- 4.0 jail inmates for every correctional officer, up from 3.6 at midyear 2021 and 3.0 at midyear 2020.

Days spent in jail

From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, persons admitted to jails spent an average of 32 days in custody before release, longer than the 23-day average a decade prior. About 1,300 persons served weekend-only sentences on the weekend before the last weekday in June 2022, down from 10,400 in 2012.

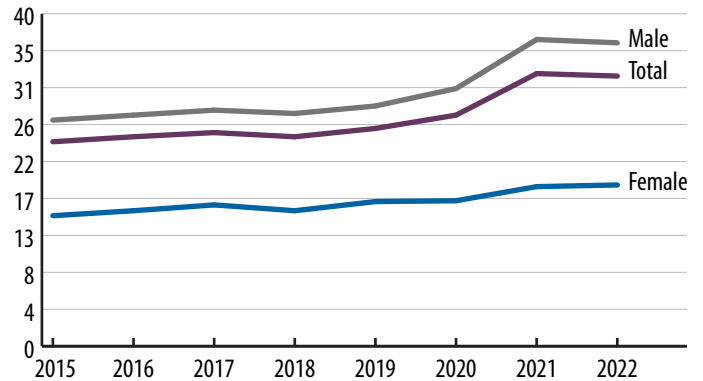
Gender, age, and race/ethnicity of inmates

There were 92,900 females in local jails at midyear 2022, who accounted for 14% of the jail inmate population. From 2021 to 2022, the number of females in jail increased 9%, while the number of males increased 3%. From 2012 to 2022, the number of persons age 17 or younger in jail decreased from 5,400 to 1,900, averaging a 10% decline each year.

The racial and ethnic composition of the jail population remained stable from 2021 to 2022. At midyear 2022, about 48% of all persons held in jail were white, 35% were black and 14% were Hispanic. American Indian or

Estimated average time in jail, by sex, 2015–2022

Estimated average time in jail (days)



Note: Estimated average time in jail is calculated as the sum of the confined population each day for a 12-month period, divided by the number of admissions during the period. The 2015 and 2016 jail times were calculated for the calendar year ending on December 31. The 2017–2022 jail times were for the 12-month period ending on June 30.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2015–2018 and 2020–2022; and Census of Jails, 2019.

Alaska Native persons, Asian persons, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander persons and persons of two or more races together accounted for 3% of the total jail population. From midyear 2012 to midyear 2022, the jail incarceration rate for Hispanic persons decreased at an average annual rate of 3.7%. The rate decreased, on average, at 2.4% a year for black persons and 0.7% a year for white persons.

The conviction status of jail inmates

At midyear 2022, 3 in 10 jail inmates were convicted, either serving a sentence or awaiting sentencing on a conviction, while 7 in 10 inmates were unconvicted, awaiting court action on a current charge or held in jail for other reasons. From 2012 to 2022, local jails saw a 33% decrease in the number of convicted persons, while the number of unconvicted persons increased 3%.

The full report (*Jail Inmates in 2022 – Statistical Tables*, NCJ 307086), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.