



# Department of Justice

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## Four Percent More Prisoners In First Half of 1991

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The nation's state and federal prison population grew by 30,149 inmates--just under 4 percent--during the first half of the year to reach a record 804,524 men and women as of June 30, the Bureau of Justice Statistics announced today. The Bureau, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, said the six-month increase was well below the record 47,000 increase in prisoners recorded during the first half of 1989.

"This year's increase was the equivalent of about 1,160 more inmates every week, compared to 1,642 per week during the first half of 1990 and more than 1,800 additional prisoners per week during the first half of 1989," said Bureau Director Steven D. Dillingham.

"The 12-month growth from June 1990 to June 1991 was 6.5 percent--an increase of just over 49,000 inmates," he said.

"This is the lowest annual percentage increase since 1984."

During the first half of the year, the federal prison population grew by 3.1 percent, compared to an increase of 4 percent among the 50 states.

Prisoners in the Western states increased by 5.1 percent

during the first half of the year, compared to a 4.2 percent increase in the Northeast. Southern and Midwestern prisoner counts each grew by 3.5 percent.

Four states recorded double-digit half-year increases-- Rhode Island by 14.3 percent; New Hampshire, 11.6 percent; Nevada, 10.6 percent; and Colorado, 10 percent. Eight states had prisoner growth of at least 10 percent for the 12 months ending June 30. Five states recorded declines during this one-year period.

During the first half of this year the number of female inmates in state and federal prisons grew 4.5 percent, compared to a 3.9 percent increase for men. As of June 30, women prisoners accounted for 5.7 percent of all prisoners nationwide.

The number of prisoners per capita on June 30, 1991, also reached a record 303 sentenced offenders (inmates sentenced to a year or more in prison) held in state and federal prisons per 100,000 residents. There were 33 sentenced female offenders in prison for every 100,000 females in the population--for males the incarceration rate was almost 18 times higher, 588 sentenced male prisoners for every 100,000 males.

In addition, California's 101,995 prisoners as of June 30 marks the first time that any jurisdiction in the United States has held more than 100,000 offenders.

Information about other Bureau of Justice Statistics publications may be obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The telephone number is 1-301-251-5500. The toll-free number from places other than Maryland and metropolitan Washington, D.C., is 1-800-732-3277.

**Alaska.** Prisons and jails from an integrated system. NPS data include both jail and prison populations.

**Arizona.** Population counts are based on custody data and exclude 41 inmates housed in local jails because of crowding.

**California.** Population counts are based on custody data and include civil narcotic addict commitments, county diagnostic cases, Federal inmates and inmates from other States, and safekeepers.

**Colorado.** Population counts for inmates with maximum sentences greater than 1 year include a small number of inmates with a maximum sentence of 1 year. All counts include inmates held in local jails, awaiting bed space in Department of Corrections facilities.

**Connecticut.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**Delaware.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**District of Columbia.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**Federal.** Population counts include 2,025 inmates whose sentence lengths are unknown and an undetermined number of prisoners held for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Florida.** Population counts are based on custody data.

**Georgia.** Population counts are based on custody data and exclude an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails because of crowding or awaiting pick-up by State authorities.

**Hawaii.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**Idaho.** Population counts are as of June 28, 1991.

**Illinois.** Population counts are based on custody data. Counts of inmates with maximum sentences greater than 1 year include an undetermined number of inmates with sentences of 1 year.

**Indiana.** Population counts are based on custody data and exclude 944 inmates held in local jails because of crowding or awaiting pick-up by State authorities.

**Iowa.** Population counts are based on custody data.

**Louisiana.** Louisiana data for June 30, 1991, include 261 persons with sentences less than 1 year. This is the first time Louisiana has included this population thus affecting the comparability with prior counts.

**Maryland.** While population totals are actual counts, breakdowns for sentence length are estimates.

**Massachusetts.** Population counts are based on custody data as of June 28, 1991. Population counts could not be provided by sentence length. Counts of sentenced prisoners for earlier reporting periods may not be strictly comparable. Population totals are actual counts; however, the male/female breakdown is an estimate believed to be within 0.1% of the actual disaggregation. By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2 1/2 years in locally-operated jails and correctional institutions. Such populations are excluded from the State count but are included in published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions.

**Table 1. Prisoners under jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities June 30, 1991, December 31, 1990, and June 30, 1990, by region and State**

	Total prison population <sup>a</sup>			Percent change from		Number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 population on 6/30/91 <sup>b</sup>
	6/30/91	12/31/90	6/30/90	6/30/90 to 6/30/91	12/31/90 to 6/30/91	
<b>U.S. total</b>	804,524	774,375	755,256	6.5	3.9	303
Federal Institutions	69,504	67,432	63,902	8.8	3.1	21
State Institutions	735,020	706,943	691,354	6.3	4.0	282
<b>Male</b>	758,294	730,141	711,670	6.6	3.9	588
<b>Female</b>	46,230	44,234	43,586	6.1	4.5	33
<b>Northeast</b>	128,588	123,392	21,869	5.5	4.2	243
Connecticut	11,231	10,500	10,190	10.2	7.0	261
Maine	1,614	1,523	1,558	3.6	6.0	126
Massachusetts	8,817	8,273	8,116	8.6	6.6	146
New Hampshire	1,498	1,342	1,288	16.5	11.6	130
New Jersey	22,346	21,128	20,806	7.4	5.8	287
New York	56,530	54,895	54,648	3.4	3.0	313
Pennsylvania	22,710	22,290	21,876	3.8	1.9	187
Rhode Island	2,734	2,392	2,355	16.1	14.3	173
Vermont	1,108	1,049	1,034	7.2	5.6	121
<b>Midwest</b>	150,870	145,791	144,507	4.4	3.5	248
Illinois	28,941	27,516	27,295	6.0	5.2	246
Indiana	12,806	12,736	12,764	.3	.6	224
Iowa	4,077	3,967	3,842	6.1	2.8	142
Kansas	5,607	5,775	5,669	(1.1)	(2.9)	220
Michigan	35,324	34,267	33,234	6.3	3.1	378
Minnesota	3,136	3,176	3,201	(2.0)	(1.3)	70
Missouri	15,252	14,943	15,091	1.1	2.1	293
Nebraska	2,436	2,403	2,509	(2.9)	1.4	144
North Dakota	497	483	491	1.2	2.9	69
Ohio	33,715	31,822	32,148	4.9	6.0	306
South Dakota	1,370	1,341	1,319	3.9	2.2	191
Wisconsin	7,709	7,362	6,944	11.0	4.7	156
<b>South</b>	294,040	284,029	276,200	6.5	3.5	326
Alabama	16,302	15,665	14,742	10.6	4.1	384
Arkansas	7,341	6,766	6,660	10.2	8.5	300
Delaware	3,458	3,471	3,541	(2.3)	(.4)	325
Dist. of Columbia	10,095	9,947	10,569	(4.5)	1.5	1,160
Florida	46,233	44,387	42,733	8.2	4.2	346
Georgia	23,300	22,345	21,608	7.8	4.3	336
Kentucky	9,425	9,023	8,824	6.8	4.5	253
Louisiana	19,095	18,599	18,353	4.0	2.7	434
Maryland	18,308	17,848	17,129	6.9	2.6	358
Mississippi	8,715	8,375	8,161	6.8	4.1	324
North Carolina	18,708	18,411	18,102	3.4	1.6	268
Oklahoma	12,831	12,285	11,889	7.9	4.4	400
South Carolina	18,346	17,319	16,767	9.4	5.9	474
Tennessee	11,280	10,388	10,286	9.7	8.6	224
Texas	50,611	50,042	48,078	5.3	1.1	292
Virginia	18,416	17,593	17,223	6.9	4.7	291
West Virginia	1,576	1,565	1,535	2.7	.7	87
<b>West</b>	161,522	153,731	148,778	8.6	5.1	288
Alaska	2,670	2,622	2,610	2.3	1.8	346
Arizona	14,900	14,261	13,940	6.9	4.5	389
California	101,995	97,309	93,810	8.7	4.8	322
Colorado	7,720	7,018	6,878	12.2	10.0	230
Hawaii	2,616	2,533	2,523	3.7	3.3	152
Idaho	2,138	1,961	1,984	7.8	9.0	206
Montana	1,487	1,425	1,408	5.6	4.4	184
Nevada	5,888	5,322	5,408	8.9	10.6	481
New Mexico	3,156	3,187	2,881	9.6	(1.0)	195
Oregon	6,624	6,492	6,393	3.6	2.0	226
Utah	2,466	2,496	2,447	.8	(1.2)	141
Washington	8,751	7,995	7,403	18.2	9.5	176
Wyoming	1,111	1,110	1,093	1.7	.1	239

( ) Indicates a decreased percent change.

<sup>a</sup>The total prisoner population includes those sentenced to more than 1 year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") and those with sentences of 1 year or less or no sentence. Prisoner counts may differ from those reported in previous publications and are subject to revision as updated figures become available.

<sup>b</sup>The rate per 100,000 residents is based upon the number of prisoners with sentences greater than 1 year.

**Michigan.** Population counts are based on custody data and include inmates in the Community Residential Program.

**North Carolina.** Population counts are based on custody data. While population totals are actual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates believed to be accurate within 1% of the actual numbers.

**Ohio.** Population counts for inmates with maximum sentences greater than 1 year include an undetermined number of inmates with maximum sentences less than 1 year.

**Oklahoma.** Population counts for inmates with maximum sentences greater than 1 year may include a small undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year.

**Rhode Island.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**Tennessee.** Breakdowns of the inmate population by sex were estimated, and the count of inmates with maximum sentences greater than 1 year includes a small undetermined number with sentences of 1 year.

**Texas.** Population counts are based on custody data. Population totals are actual counts; however, the male/female breakdown is an estimate believed to be within 0.1% of the actual numbers.

**Vermont.** Prisons and jails form an integrated system. NPS data include both prison and jail populations.

**West Virginia.** Population counts exclude 143 inmates housed in local jails to ease crowding or awaiting pick-up by State authorities.

**Wyoming.** Population counts are based on custody data.

**Table 2. The prison situation among the States, June 30, 1991**

10 States with the largest total prison populations	Number of Inmates	10 States with highest incarceration rates	Sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents	10 States with highest annual growth 6/30/90 to 6/30/91	Percent change	10 States with the largest number of female prisoners	Number of female prisoners
California	101,995	Nevada	481	Washington	18.2%	California	6,655
New York	56,530	South Carolina	474	New Hampshire	16.5	New York	2,893
Texas	50,611	Louisiana	434	Rhode Island	16.1	Florida	2,687
Florida	46,233	Oklahoma	400	Colorado	12.2	Texas	2,174
Michigan	35,324	Arizona	389	Wisconsin	11.0	Ohio	2,119
Ohio	33,715	Alabama	384	Alabama	10.6	Michigan	1,685
Illinois	28,941	Michigan	378	Arkansas	10.2	Georgia	1,280
Georgia	23,300	Maryland	358	Connecticut	10.2	Illinois	1,280
Pennsylvania	22,710	Alaska	346	Tennessee	9.7	Oklahoma	1,170
New Jersey	22,346	Florida	346	New Mexico	9.5	South Carolina	1,103

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded.  
\*The number of prisoners with sentences greater than 1 year per 100,000 residents.

**Table 3. Average weekly growth in the number of prisoners during the first half of the year, 1989-91**

	Average weekly growth in the number of prisoners		
	January to June, 1991	January to June, 1990	January to June, 1989
U.S. total	1,160	1,642	1,839
Federal	80	182	186
State	1,080	1,460	1,653
Male	1,083	1,529	1,658
Female	77	113	182
Regions			
Northeast	200	304	347
Midwest	195	314	363
South	385	542	560
West	300	300	383

Note: Comparisons are for December 31 and June 30.