

On an average day in 2011–12, up to 4.4% of state and federal inmates and 2.7% of jail inmates were held in administrative segregation or solitary confinement. Nearly 20% of prison inmates and 18% of jail inmates had spent time in restrictive housing, including disciplinary segregation, administrative segregation (largely nonpunitive), or solitary confinement (involving isolation and little out-of-cell time), in the past 12 months or since coming to their current facility, if shorter. Approximately 10% of all prison inmates and 5% of jail inmates had spent 30 days or longer in restrictive housing. Restrictive housing typically involves limited programming opportunities, privileges, and interaction with other inmates.

Inmates in restrictive housing

Young inmates, inmates without a high school diploma, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual inmates were more likely to spend time in segregation or solitary confinement than older inmates, inmates with at least a high school education, and heterosexual inmates. More than 30% of prisoners and 25% of jail inmates ages 18 to 19 were in restrictive housing in the past year. In comparison, restrictive housing rates were 20% or lower for prisoners age 30 or older and 19% or lower for jail inmates age 25 or older.

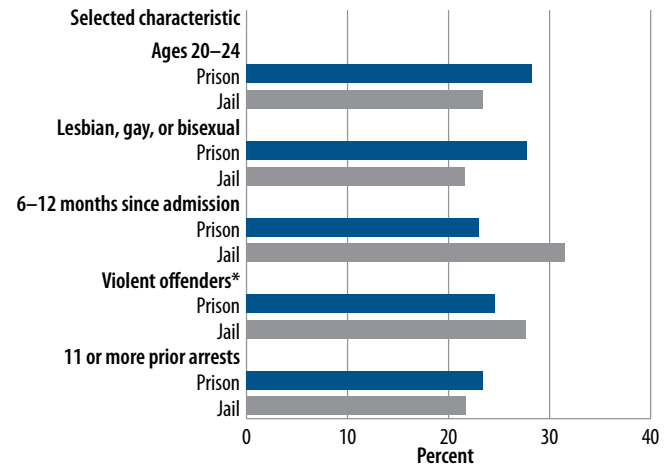
Twenty percent of prison and jail inmates who did not complete high school spent time in restrictive housing in 2011–12, compared to 15% of inmates with a high school diploma or higher education. Nearly 30% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual prisoners were in restrictive housing in 2011–12, compared to 18% of heterosexual prisoners. Similarly, 22% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual jail inmates spent time in segregation or solitary confinement, compared to 17% of heterosexual inmates.

Mental health impact

About a quarter of prisoners and jail inmates who had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder spent time in segregation or solitary confinement. On every measure of past mental health problems, inmates who reported a problem were also more likely than other inmates to report that they had spent time in restrictive housing in the past 12 months or since coming to the facility, if shorter.

Nearly 30% of prisoners and 22% of jail inmates diagnosed with serious psychological distress (SPD) had spent time in restrictive housing units in 2011–12. Rates of SPD did

Inmates who reported any time in restrictive housing in the past 12 months, 2011–12



*Excludes sex offenders.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12.

not increase with the length of time inmates had been in restrictive housing. About a quarter of prison inmates and 35% of jail inmates who had spent 30 days or longer in segregation or solitary confinement had SPD. Nearly identical rates of SPD were reported among inmates who had spent only a day in restrictive housing.

Inmate misconduct and criminal background

More than three-quarters of inmates in prisons and jails who had been written up for assaulting other inmates or facility staff had spent time in restrictive housing. Among inmates who spent 30 or more days in restrictive housing, more than half of those in prisons and nearly 70% of those in jails had been written up for assaulting other inmates or staff.

Prisons with higher rates of restrictive housing had higher levels of facility disorder, lower levels of inmate trust and confidence in staff, and higher concentrations of violent inmates (other than sex offenders) and inmates with longer criminal histories.

The full report (*Use of Restrictive Housing in U.S. Prisons and Jails, 2011–12*, NCJ 249209), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.

