



# Census of Jail Facilities, 2006

**Profile of jails in the United States, by characteristic, 1999 and 2006**

Characteristic	Number in—		Difference	Percent change
	1999	2006		
Jail jurisdictions	3,000	2,860	-140	-5%
Jail facilities	3,376	3,283	-93	-3%
Confined jail inmates	617,152	762,003	144,851	23%
Jail inmates per employee	2.9	3.3	0.4	:%
Confined jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents	232	261	29	:%

See table 1.

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# Introduction

The 2006 Census of Jail Facilities was the ninth in a series of complete enumerations since 1970 collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Through the census, BJS collects jurisdiction and facility-level data on jails in the United States. The data include the number of jurisdictions and facilities, functions, confined inmates, and inmate-to-staff ratios. The data also show the number of jurisdictions by size, incarceration rates, judicial sanctions, jail staff, and the number operated publicly or under contract to county or city governments. Findings from the 2006 census are included in this report together with comparisons from the 1999 Census of Jail Facilities. Additional findings for 1999 are available in *Census of Jails, 1999* (BJS Web. 1 Sept. 2001).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 3,283 jail facilities, including jails in the federal system, were operating in 2006, down 93 from 3,376 in 1999.
- The number of jail jurisdictions in the U.S. decreased from 3,000 in 1999 to 2,860 in 2006.
- Hospitalization or medical treatment confinement was a function of 421 local jail facilities.
- Private and public entities under contract to local governments operated 37 jail facilities in 2006, down from 47 in 1999.
- About 7% of jail jurisdictions were under court order or consent decree to limit the size of the inmate population in 2006, down from about 11% in 1999.
- As the number of confined jail inmates increased faster than the number of jail staff, the number of confined inmates per employee rose from 2.9 in 1999 to 3.3 in 2006.

## Jail Organization

Jails in the United States operate under the authority of local or federal government. Entities such as cities, counties, and towns operate jails under local government authority, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons operates jails under federal government authority.

In this report government authorities are collectively referred to as jail jurisdictions, indicating a legal status which typically corresponds to, but is not the same as a geographic/political jurisdiction.

In recent years authorities governing local political/geographic jurisdictions have discovered the financial benefits and economies of scale associated with operating regional jails and have consolidated their jail detention operations with neighboring

jail jurisdictions. Some authorities have continued to use the physical plants of their former jail jurisdictions for policing and short-term detention. These functions are out-of-scope for the jail censuses and are excluded from the counts.

As the result of consolidations and the development of regional jails, the nationwide trend has been toward fewer jail jurisdictions and jail facilities, even as the local jail population has increased. The number of local political/geographic jurisdictions has been unaffected by these changes.

In earlier BJS jail census reports, jail reporting units were called jail jurisdictions, and jail jurisdictions were not identified.

Jail facilities are confinement facilities, which are usually administered by a local law enforcement agency. These facilities are intended for adults, but sometimes hold juveniles before or after adjudication. Jail facilities perform numerous functions, including receiving individuals pending arraignment and holding individuals who are awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing. Some jail facilities operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration.

In most localities, a city or county government operates a single jail facility. In these jurisdictions, the jail jurisdiction and the jail facility are one in the same. In some urban areas, however, jail jurisdictions operate two, three, four, or more jail facilities and designate one or more jail reporting units to respond to data queries. Contract facilities, such as private jails, are generally designated as separate reporting units within a jail jurisdiction.

**TABLE 1**  
**Profile of jails in the United States, by characteristic, 1999 and 2006**

Characteristic	Number in—		Difference	Percent change
	1999	2006		
<b>Jail jurisdictions<sup>a, b</sup></b>	3,000	2,860	-140	-5%
Federal <sup>c</sup>	1	1	0	0
Local	2,999	2,859	-140	-5
<b>Jail facilities</b>	3,376	3,283	-93	-3%
Federal <sup>c</sup>	11	12	1	9
Local	3,365	3,271	-94	-3
<b>Confined jail inmates</b>	617,152	762,003	144,851	23%
Federal	11,209	13,806	2,597	23
Local	605,943	748,197	142,254	23
<b>Jail inmates per employee<sup>c</sup></b>	2.9	3.3	0.4	:
Federal <sup>c</sup>	3.6	4.6	1.0	:
Local	2.9	3.3	0.4	:
<b>Confined jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents<sup>d</sup></b>	232	261	29	:
Federal	4	5	1	:
Local	228	256	28	:

Note: Based on confined jail populations on June 30, 1999, and March 31, 2006. Excludes combined jail prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska. The number of jail jurisdictions and jail facilities in 2006 are for entities that reported data. See Methodology for further discussion.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Jails in the U.S. are organized into jail jurisdictions administered by local, regional, and federal correctional authorities. Most jurisdictions have authority over a single jail facility; however, metropolitan jurisdictions often have authority over more than one facility.

<sup>b</sup>The number of jail jurisdictions in 1999 has been revised from the originally reported figure of 3,084.

<sup>c</sup>In 1999 the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) reported its 11 detention facilities as a single jurisdiction. In 2006 the BOP classified its 12 detention facilities as separate jurisdictions. To maintain comparability between the 1999 and 2006 censuses, as well as consistency with the BJS definition of a jail jurisdiction, BJS reported the 12 BOP detention facilities in 2006 as a single jurisdiction.

<sup>d</sup>The total number of confined inmates divided by the total number of jail staff.

<sup>e</sup>Based on estimates of the U.S. resident population, U.S. Census Bureau, Series P-25.

### Decline in the number of jails

The growing use of regional jails and the consolidation of jail operations in rural areas contributed to the decline in the number of jails between 1999 and 2006. As towns and counties pooled their resources to create upgraded regional facilities, the number of regional jails increased from 42 in 14 states at the time of the 1999 Jail Census to at least 63 in 17 states in 2006. (See *Methodology*.)

### The number of jail jurisdictions and the number of jail facilities decreased, while the confined jail population increased between 1999 and 2006.

The number of jail jurisdictions in the United States declined by 140, from 3,000 to 2,860 between 1999 and 2006 (table 1). A total of 3,283 jail facilities, including those in the federal system, were operating in 2006, down 3% from 1999.

The number of confined jail inmates rose by 23% between 1999 and 2006 to reach 762,003 inmates. Local jails held about 98% of all confined jail inmates in 1999 and 2006, while the federal jurisdiction held less than 2% in both years. In 2006, 261 jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents were confined in the nation's jails, an increase of 29 jail inmates per 100,000 residents since 1999. The inmate-to-staff ratio also increased from 2.9 to 3.3 inmates per employee during this period.

### The number of jail jurisdictions declined by 5%, and the number of jail facilities decreased by 3% between 1999 and 2006.

- Thirty-one states had decreases in the number of jail jurisdictions between 1999 and 2006 (table 2).
- West Virginia (down 17), Georgia (down 13), Alabama (down 14), and Texas (down 11) accounted for more than a third (39%) of the decline in the number of jail jurisdictions between 1999 and 2006.
- The number of jail jurisdictions in each state either declined or remained the same between 1999 and 2006. No state had an increase in the number of jail jurisdictions during this period.
- Jurisdictions in 21 states operated 93 fewer jails in 2006 than in 1999, accounting for the entire decline in the number of jail facilities during this period.
- Decreases in the number of jails in West Virginia (down 16), California (down 15), and Alabama (down 14) made up nearly half (48%) of the decline in the number of facilities between 1999 and 2006.
- Fifteen states and the District of Columbia had increases in the number of jail facilities between 1999 and 2006. Facilities in Louisiana (up 8), the District of Columbia (up 5), and Wisconsin (up 4) accounted for nearly half of the 35 additional facilities reported in the 2006 census.
- Jails in the federal jurisdiction increased from 11 to 12 between 1999 and 2006.

TABLE 2

## Number of jail jurisdictions and number of jail facilities in the United States, 1999 and 2006

Region and jurisdiction	Jail jurisdictions <sup>a</sup>				Jail facilities			
	1999	2006	Difference	Percentage change	1999	2006	Difference	Percentage change
<b>U.S. total</b>	3,000	2,860	-140	-5%	3,376	3,283	-93	-3%
Federal <sup>b</sup>	1	1	0	0	11	12	1	9
State	2,999	2,859	-140	-5	3,365	3,271	-94	-3
<b>Northeast</b>	180	180	0	0%	227	223	-4	-2%
Maine	15	15	0	0	15	15	0	0
Massachusetts	13	13	0	0	21	22	1	5
New Hampshire	10	10	0	0	10	10	0	0
New Jersey	21	21	0	0	24	25	1	4
New York	58	58	0	0	81	74	-7	-9
Pennsylvania	63	63	0	0	76	77	1	1
<b>Midwest</b>	935	910	-25	-3%	977	969	-8	-1%
Illinois	90	90	0	0	93	94	1	1
Indiana	91	90	-1	-1	93	95	2	2
Iowa	94	93	-1	-1	94	94	0	0
Kansas	95	94	-1	-1	97	98	1	1
Michigan	83	81	-2	-2	93	93	0	0
Minnesota	72	71	-1	-1	78	78	0	0
Missouri	126	118	-8	-6	129	122	-7	-5
Nebraska	63	62	-1	-2	65	63	-2	-3
North Dakota	23	22	-1	-4	23	22	-1	-4
Ohio	98	91	-7	-7	108	104	-4	-4
South Dakota	30	28	-2	-7	31	29	-2	-6
Wisconsin	70	70	0	0	73	77	4	5
<b>South</b>	1,455	1,356	-99	-7%	1,623	1,558	-65	-4%
Alabama	150	136	-14	-9	155	141	-14	-9
Arkansas	86	81	-5	-6	87	83	-4	-5
District of Columbia <sup>c</sup>	1	1	0	0	1	6	5	500
Florida	68	67	-1	-1	108	102	-6	-6
Georgia	177	164	-13	-7	204	193	-11	-5
Kentucky	79	75	-4	-5	82	78	-4	-5
Louisiana	88	83	-5	-6	107	115	8	7
Maryland	24	24	0	0	29	30	1	3
Mississippi	93	85	-8	-9	102	95	-7	-7
North Carolina	96	94	-2	-2	104	104	0	0
Oklahoma	100	93	-7	-7	102	93	-9	-9
South Carolina	46	45	-1	-2	52	52	0	0
Tennessee	97	94	-3	-3	108	109	1	1
Texas	248	237	-11	-4	271	266	-5	-2
Virginia	73	65	-8	-11	82	78	-4	-5
West Virginia <sup>d</sup>	29	12	-17	-59	29	13	-16	-55
<b>West</b>	429	413	-16	-4%	538	521	-17	-3%
Alaska	15	15	0	0	15	15	0	0
Arizona	17	15	-2	-12	28	30	2	7
California	70	65	-5	-7	145	130	-15	-10
Colorado	55	52	-3	-5	61	62	1	2
Idaho	39	38	-1	-3	41	40	-1	-2
Montana	42	40	-2	-5	42	40	-2	-5
Nevada	20	20	0	0	21	22	1	5
New Mexico	34	32	-2	-6	34	32	-2	-6
Oregon	33	32	-1	-3	41	36	-5	-12
Utah	26	26	0	0	26	28	2	8
Washington	56	56	0	0	62	64	2	3
Wyoming	22	22	0	0	22	22	0	0

Note: Data as of June 30, 1999, and March 31, 2006. Excludes combined jail prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska. The number of jail jurisdictions and jail facilities in 2006 are for entities that reported data. See *Methodology* for further discussion.

<sup>a</sup>Jails in the U.S. are organized into jail jurisdictions administered by local, regional, and federal correctional authorities. Most jurisdictions have authority over a single jail facility; however, metropolitan jurisdictions often have authority over more than one facility.

<sup>b</sup>In 1999 the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) reported its 11 detention facilities as a single jurisdiction. In 2006 the BOP classified its 12 detention facilities as separate jurisdictions. To maintain comparability between the 1999 and 2006 censuses, BJS reported the 12 BOP detention facilities in 2006 as a single jurisdiction.

<sup>c</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Some inmates were housed in private facilities under contract to the District of Columbia on March 31, 2006.

<sup>d</sup>West Virginia began developing a system of regional jails in 1990 to augment and replace its county and city jails. Ten regional jails were in operation in 2006 serving a majority of the state's 55 counties.

### General population confinement and return to custody confinement were the most common jail functions.

General population confinement was the predominant jail function provided by 97% of local jail facilities in 2006, followed by returned to custody (table 3). Nearly two-thirds (65%) of all reporting jurisdictions in 2006 provided the return to custody function, which involves holding probationers and parolees who have been returned to jail for technical violations or new charges.

Nearly half (46%) of all jails provided work release or prerelease programs, and about a quarter performed reception, diagnosis, or classification functions. Approximately 12% had a youthful offender confinement function, 10% had a drug or alcohol treatment, and about 1% had a boot camp function.

### The proportion of jails offering work release or prerelease, hospitalization or medical treatment, and alcohol or drug treatment functions varied by state.

- North Dakota (91%), Minnesota (85%), and Pennsylvania (83%) had the largest percentages of jails with work release or prerelease functions (table 4). Montana (15%), New York (11%), and Alaska (0%) had the smallest percentages of jails that provided this function.
- Jails in Mississippi (44%), New Jersey (36%), and Massachusetts (32%) reported the highest percentages with hospitalization or medical treatment functions; Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and West Virginia reported none.
- Massachusetts (45%), Kentucky (37%), and New Jersey (36%) had the largest percentages of jails that offered alcohol or drug treatment functions; Alaska, West Virginia, and Wisconsin reported none.

**TABLE 3**  
**Selected functions provided by local jail facilities, 2006**

Function	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>
General population confinement	3,184	97
Returned to custody	2,142	65
Work release or prerelease	1,496	46
Reception, diagnosis, or classification	805	25
Hospitalization or medical treatment	421	13
Youthful offender confinement	382	12
Alcohol or drug treatment	314	10
Boot camp	19	1
Other <sup>b</sup>	72	2
Not reported	12	^

Note: Data as of March 31, 2006. Excludes the federal jurisdiction and combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

<sup>a</sup>Less than 1%.

<sup>b</sup>Percentages sum to more than 100% because jail jurisdictions may have more than one function.

<sup>b</sup>Includes drug, alcohol, or other treatment; psychiatric care; housing inmates under state jurisdiction for a limited period; jurisdiction maintenance; and law library services.

TABLE 4

## Number of local jail facilities, by function, 2006

Region and state	General population confinement	Return to custody <sup>a</sup>	Work release or prerelease	Reception, diagnosis, or classification	Hospitalization or medical treatment	Youthful offender confinement	Alcohol or drug treatment	Boot camp	Other <sup>b</sup>
<b>Number of jail facilities<sup>c</sup></b>	3,184	2,142	1,496	805	421	382	314	19	72
<b>Northeast</b>	213	175	119	98	52	64	55	1	9
Maine	15	13	10	6	1	0	2	0	0
Massachusetts	21	17	14	12	7	4	10	1	2
New Hampshire	10	6	7	4	2	0	2	0	0
New Jersey	25	22	16	16	9	3	9	0	1
New York	70	52	8	23	11	28	5	0	4
Pennsylvania	72	65	64	37	22	29	27	0	2
<b>Midwest</b>	955	639	579	223	66	89	71	4	7
Illinois	92	56	64	23	11	12	6	0	0
Indiana	93	60	42	10	3	2	5	1	1
Iowa	94	63	59	14	4	21	2	0	0
Kansas	96	73	56	8	6	2	6	1	2
Michigan	92	72	68	44	16	16	22	1	4
Minnesota	76	64	66	42	7	5	4	0	0
Missouri	122	70	40	9	6	2	6	1	0
Nebraska	63	42	44	16	4	8	4	0	0
North Dakota	22	19	20	6	0	4	1	0	0
Ohio	102	52	39	33	8	6	14	0	0
South Dakota	28	15	22	4	0	5	1	0	0
Wisconsin	75	53	59	14	1	6	0	0	0
<b>South</b>	1,521	1,005	574	355	241	173	146	9	38
Alabama	141	71	49	19	21	25	10	1	1
Arkansas	81	53	26	11	5	7	2	0	1
District of Columbia	3	4	4	2	1	2	1	0	0
Florida	95	54	30	30	19	16	13	3	5
Georgia	191	127	45	27	33	6	8	0	4
Kentucky	77	62	65	32	17	0	29	1	9
Louisiana	110	61	35	29	14	6	4	1	2
Maryland	30	16	20	10	4	2	8	0	3
Mississippi	92	76	41	28	42	55	25	1	0
North Carolina	102	65	27	24	22	18	6	1	1
Oklahoma	92	59	19	17	10	16	4	0	0
South Carolina	51	27	15	14	8	2	3	0	5
Tennessee	106	84	48	13	12	5	16	0	4
Texas	259	185	98	83	26	6	11	1	2
Virginia	78	53	44	15	7	7	6	0	1
West Virginia	13	8	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>West</b>	495	323	224	129	62	56	42	5	18
Alaska	15	9	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Arizona	27	15	18	8	4	5	1	0	1
California	119	75	38	37	23	3	10	2	8
Colorado	58	48	52	16	6	10	6	1	5
Idaho	39	33	29	20	6	11	6	0	1
Montana	39	20	6	5	4	4	2	0	0
Nevada	22	13	4	4	2	0	1	0	0
New Mexico	31	25	15	12	5	7	3	0	1
Oregon	35	27	15	10	7	3	4	1	0
Utah	26	13	14	3	0	1	2	0	0
Washington	62	29	24	10	4	6	5	0	2
Wyoming	22	16	9	2	1	5	2	1	0

Note: Data as March 31, 2006. Data may sum to more than the total because some facilities had more than one function. Excludes the federal jurisdiction and combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jail in Alaska.

<sup>a</sup>Probationers and parolees who have been returned to jail.

<sup>b</sup>Includes drug, alcohol, or other treatment; psychiatric care; housing inmates under state jurisdiction for a limited period; jurisdiction maintenance; and law library services.

<sup>c</sup>Includes only facilities that provided these jail functions.

## Sex of inmates authorized to house

### More than 4 in 5 jails were authorized to house both male and female inmates.

Approximately 86% of the nation's jails were authorized to house both male and female inmates in 2006 (table 5). About 13% (425) of all jails housed men only and about 1% (32) of the nation's jails housed women only.

- All local jails in Nevada, West Virginia, and Wyoming and the 15 locally operated facilities in Alaska were authorized to house both sexes.
- Louisiana (43%) and Massachusetts (41%) had the largest proportions of jails that housed men only.
- The 32 jails for women only were located in 16 states and the District of Columbia. Jurisdictions with the largest proportions of jails for women only were the District of Columbia (17%), California (6%), and Massachusetts and Louisiana (5% each).



TABLE 5

## Number of jail facilities, by sex of inmates authorized to house, 2006

Region and jurisdiction	All facilities	Reporting on sex of inmates authorized to house	Authorized to house—		
			Males only	Females only	Both sexes
<b>U.S. total</b>	3,283	3,246	425	32	2,789
Federal	12	12	2	0	10
State	3,271	3,234	423	32	2,779
<b>Northeast</b>	223	222	45	7	170
Maine	15	15	1	0	14
Massachusetts	22	22	9	1	12
New Hampshire	10	10	1	0	9
New Jersey	25	25	3	1	21
New York	74	74	18	2	54
Pennsylvania	77	76	13	3	60
<b>Midwest</b>	969	963	89	1	873
Illinois	94	93	3	0	90
Indiana	95	94	6	0	88
Iowa	94	94	9	0	85
Kansas	98	96	13	0	83
Michigan	93	93	8	0	85
Minnesota	78	78	10	1	67
Missouri	122	122	14	0	108
Nebraska	63	63	9	0	54
North Dakota	22	22	1	0	21
Ohio	104	104	12	0	92
South Dakota	29	29	2	0	27
Wisconsin	77	75	2	0	73
<b>South</b>	1,558	1,536	219	15	1,302
Alabama	141	141	8	0	133
Arkansas	83	82	11	0	71
District of Columbia	6	6	3	1	2
Florida	102	101	13	2	86
Georgia	193	193	39	1	153
Kentucky	78	77	7	0	70
Louisiana	115	111	48	5	58
Maryland	30	30	1	0	29
Mississippi	95	95	16	2	77
North Carolina	104	103	18	1	84
Oklahoma	93	93	1	0	92
South Carolina	52	52	7	0	45
Tennessee	109	103	11	1	91
Texas	266	258	25	1	232
Virginia	78	78	11	1	66
West Virginia	13	13	0	0	13
<b>West</b>	521	513	70	9	434
Alaska	15	15	0	0	15
Arizona	30	30	10	1	19
California	130	127	35	7	85
Colorado	62	62	4	1	57
Idaho	40	39	7	0	32
Montana	40	40	3	0	37
Nevada	22	21	0	0	21
New Mexico	32	31	1	0	30
Oregon	36	36	3	0	33
Utah	28	27	2	0	25
Washington	64	63	5	0	58
Wyoming	22	22	0	0	22

Note: Data as of March 31, 2006. Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

## Contract or Publicly Operated Jail Jurisdictions

### **Public authorities operated nearly all jail facilities in 2006.**

City, county, and federal correctional authorities operated approximately 99% of all jail facilities in 2006. The remaining 1% was operated under contract by private or public entities authorized by city or county governments (table 6). The number of contract-operated jail facilities declined from 47 in 1999 to 37 in 2006.

### **Texas had the largest number of contract-operated jails in 2006.**

- Seven states accounted for most of the contract jail operations in 2006: Texas (8), California (5), Pennsylvania (4), and Florida, Missouri, New Mexico, and Tennessee (3 each).
- Between 1999 and 2006, the number of contract jail facilities increased in Alabama and Missouri; decreased in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Washington; and was unchanged in the remaining states.

**TABLE 6****Number of contract jail facilities, 1999 and 2006**

Region and state	1999	2006	Difference
<b>U.S. total*</b>	47	37	-10
<b>Northeast</b>	5	4	-1
Maine	0	0	0
Massachusetts	0	0	0
New Hampshire	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0
New York	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	5	4	-1
<b>Midwest</b>	7	8	1
Illinois	1	1	0
Indiana	1	1	0
Iowa	0	0	0
Kansas	1	1	0
Michigan	0	0	0
Minnesota	1	1	0
Missouri	1	3	2
Nebraska	0	0	0
North Dakota	0	0	0
Ohio	2	1	-1
South Dakota	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0
<b>South</b>	20	16	-4
Alabama	0	1	1
Arkansas	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0
Florida	5	3	-2
Georgia	1	0	-1
Kentucky	2	0	-2
Louisiana	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0
Mississippi	1	1	0
North Carolina	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0
Tennessee	3	3	0
Texas	8	8	0
Virginia	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0
<b>West</b>	15	9	-6
Alaska	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0
California	8	5	-3
Colorado	2	1	-1
Idaho	0	0	0
Montana	0	0	0
Nevada	0	0	0
New Mexico	4	3	-1
Oregon	0	0	0
Utah	0	0	0
Washington	1	0	-1
Wyoming	0	0	0

Note: Data as of March 31, 2006. Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

\*Administered by private or public entities under contract to city or county governments.

## Judicial Sanctions

### **About 9% of all local jail jurisdictions had one or more jail facilities under court order or consent decree in 2006.**

On March 31, 2006, a total of 254 jail jurisdictions were under one or more court orders or consent decrees either to limit population or for specific conditions of confinement (table 7). About 7% (204) of all jurisdictions were under judicial sanction to limit population, and about 6% (165) were under court order for specific conditions. Specific conditions included crowding, medical facilities, procedures and policies, programming, inmate classification, exercise, staffing, food service, religious practices, and other issues.

### **About 1 in 17 (6%) of jail jurisdictions reported one or more facilities under judicial sanction for specific conditions of confinement in 2006.**

- California had the largest percentage of jail jurisdictions ordered to limit population (28%), followed by Massachusetts (23%), Louisiana (22%), and Mississippi and Oregon (19% each).
- California (34%) and Massachusetts (23%) also reported the highest percentages of jurisdictions under court order for special conditions, followed by Oregon (16%), and Kentucky and Mississippi (12% each).
- No jail jurisdictions in Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, the District of Columbia, and the federal jurisdiction reported that any of their jails were under judicial sanctions at the time of the census.

TABLE 7

## Number of jail jurisdictions under court order or consent decree to limit population or for specific conditions, 2006

Region and jurisdiction	All jail jurisdictions	Under any court order or consent decree	Ordered to limit population	Under court order for specific conditions <sup>a</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	2,860	254	204	165
Federal <sup>b</sup>	1	0	0	0
State	2,859	254	204	165
<b>Northeast</b>	180	16	11	13
Maine	15	2	2	1
Massachusetts	13	3	3	3
New Hampshire	10	0	0	0
New Jersey	21	1	1	1
New York	58	6	4	4
Pennsylvania	63	4	1	4
<b>Midwest</b>	910	57	49	31
Illinois	90	5	5	2
Indiana	90	8	7	6
Iowa	93	16	15	5
Kansas	94	0	0	0
Michigan	81	5	5	3
Minnesota	71	7	7	1
Missouri	118	3	1	3
Nebraska	62	0	0	0
North Dakota	22	1	1	1
Ohio	91	8	5	7
South Dakota	28	1	1	0
Wisconsin	70	3	2	3
<b>South</b>	1,356	136	112	82
Alabama	136	9	5	7
Arkansas	81	9	9	7
District of Columbia	1	0	0	0
Florida	67	3	2	3
Georgia	164	13	11	7
Kentucky	75	11	9	9
Louisiana	83	19	18	9
Maryland	24	1	1	1
Mississippi	85	21	16	10
North Carolina	94	6	5	1
Oklahoma	93	6	6	2
South Carolina	45	4	3	1
Tennessee	94	8	5	7
Texas	237	24	21	16
Virginia	65	1	0	1
West Virginia	12	1	1	1
<b>West</b>	413	45	32	39
Alaska	15	1	0	1
Arizona	15	2	2	1
California	65	22	18	22
Colorado	52	3	2	2
Idaho	38	0	0	0
Montana	40	0	0	0
Nevada	20	0	0	0
New Mexico	32	2	1	1
Oregon	32	7	6	5
Utah	26	1	1	1
Washington	56	5	2	4
Wyoming	22	2	0	2

Note: Data as of March 31, 2006. Excludes 12 jurisdictions that did not report data on judicial sanctions to limit population and 6 jurisdictions that did not report on specific conditions. Some responses recorded as "not under court order or consent decree" may be "data not available." Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

<sup>a</sup>Includes crowding, recreation, exercise, staffing, medical facilities, procedures or policies, food services, religious practices, programming, and inmate classification.

<sup>b</sup>In 1999 the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) reported its 11 detention facilities as a single jail jurisdiction. In 2006 the BOP classified its 12 detention facilities as separate jurisdictions. To maintain comparability between the 1999 and 2006 censuses, BJS reported the 12 BOP detention facilities in 2006 as a single jail jurisdiction.

## Size of Jurisdiction

### Nearly 40% of all jail jurisdictions held fewer than 50 inmates.

Most jail jurisdictions were small with nearly 40% holding fewer than 50 inmates in 2006 (table 8). On the date of the census, nearly three-fifths (59%) of all jail jurisdictions held 99 or fewer inmates, about 20% held 100 to 249 inmates, and 10% held 250 to 499 jail inmates. Jurisdictions holding 500 to 999 inmates accounted for about 6% of all jurisdictions, and those housing 1,000 or more confined inmates accounted for 5%.

- Two-thirds or more of all jail jurisdictions had fewer than 50 inmates in Iowa (82%), Nebraska (81%), Montana (80%), South Dakota (79%), North Dakota (68%), Idaho (66%), and Kansas (67%). All 15 independently operated local jail jurisdictions in Alaska also held fewer than 50 inmates.
- While 43 states had jail jurisdictions that held fewer than 50 inmates, 5 states accounted for 35% of all jurisdictions in this size category: Texas (112), Iowa (76), Alabama (74), Missouri (72), and Kansas (63).
- Maryland and New Jersey had no jail jurisdictions holding fewer than 50 inmates in 2006.
- Each of the 15 locally operated jails in Alaska held fewer than 50 inmates. Alaska housed most jail detainees in a combined jail-prison system. (See *Methodology* for discussion of incarcerated populations in combined jail/prison states.)
- Jurisdictions in Florida and California (20 each) accounted for about a quarter (27%) of all jurisdictions housing 1,000 or more inmates.
- New York and California each had one jail jurisdiction that held 10,000 inmates or more at the time of the census (not shown in table).

TABLE 8

## Number of local jail jurisdictions, by size of jurisdiction, 2006

Region and state	Total	Fewer than 50 inmates	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000 inmates or more
<b>U.S. total</b>	2,859	1,129	552	584	272	173	149
<b>Northeast</b>	180	20	34	46	32	21	27
Maine	15	6	4	4	1	0	0
Massachusetts	13	1	0	1	3	2	6
New Hampshire	10	1	4	2	2	1	0
New Jersey	21	0	1	3	4	6	7
New York	58	7	14	19	9	4	5
Pennsylvania	63	5	11	17	13	8	9
<b>Midwest</b>	910	459	188	160	60	34	9
Illinois	90	48	13	14	10	4	1
Indiana	90	15	29	28	13	5	0
Iowa	93	76	8	5	3	1	0
Kansas	94	63	17	10	2	1	1
Michigan	81	19	26	19	9	4	4
Minnesota	71	36	21	11	1	2	0
Missouri	118	72	18	22	2	4	0
Nebraska	62	50	7	3	1	1	0
North Dakota	22	15	4	3	0	0	0
Ohio	91	24	24	26	10	4	3
South Dakota	28	22	4	0	1	1	0
Wisconsin	70	19	17	19	8	7	0
<b>South</b>	1,356	471	266	310	141	91	77
Alabama	136	74	23	25	6	6	2
Arkansas	81	53	12	11	3	2	0
District of Columbia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Florida	67	5	8	15	8	11	20
Georgia	164	52	40	40	14	12	6
Kentucky	75	11	12	32	14	4	2
Louisiana	83	26	12	14	9	14	8
Maryland	24	0	4	7	7	1	5
Mississippi	85	30	26	11	16	2	0
North Carolina	94	24	21	34	8	5	2
Oklahoma	93	50	23	16	2	0	2
South Carolina	45	6	12	14	6	4	3
Tennessee	94	22	24	32	10	3	3
Texas	237	112	35	44	17	15	14
Virginia	65	5	14	14	13	10	9
West Virginia	12	1	0	1	8	2	0
<b>West</b>	413	179	64	68	39	27	36
Alaska	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	15	1	0	6	4	2	2
California	65	11	8	8	12	6	20
Colorado	52	25	8	9	3	2	5
Idaho	38	25	4	5	2	2	0
Montana	40	32	5	0	3	0	0
Nevada	20	9	5	3	0	1	2
New Mexico	32	9	6	6	5	5	1
Oregon	32	9	6	11	2	3	1
Utah	26	5	9	6	2	2	2
Washington	56	26	8	10	5	4	3
Wyoming	22	12	5	4	1	0	0

Note: Based on the confined jail population on March 31, 2006. Excludes the federal jurisdiction and combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

### **The number of confined jail inmates rose 23% between 1999 and 2006.**

The nation's local and federal jails held a total of 762,003 confined inmates on March 31, 2006, up 23% from 617,152 on June 30, 1999 (table 9). Nearly all states and the federal jurisdiction had increases in the number of confined jail inmates during this period.

Jail inmates confined in California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, and New York accounted for 41% of all inmates held in local jurisdictions in 1999. California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, and New York held 37% of all inmates confined in local jail jurisdictions in 2006. Pennsylvania had a larger combined jail population (35,948) than New York (32,324) in 2006.

### **The size of the jail population declined in two states between 1999 and 2006.**

- Two states had declines in local jail populations between 1999 and 2006: Alaska (down 12%) and New York (down 3%).
- Between 1999 and 2006, the largest relative growth of the jail inmate population occurred in the District of Columbia (128%), followed by West Virginia (75%) and New Mexico (70%).
- New Jersey (9%), Oregon (7%), and California (3%) had the smallest relative growth of jail inmate populations between 1999 and 2006.

### **The proportions of jail inmates confined in facilities operated directly by jail jurisdictions and confined in facilities operated under contract to jail jurisdictions were the same in 1999 and 2006.**

- In both 1999 and 2006, 98% of all jail inmates were confined in jail facilities operated directly by jail jurisdictions, and 2% were confined in facilities operated either by private entities or by other local or state authorities under contract to jail jurisdictions.
- The number of jail inmates confined in contract facilities rose 11% from 13,814 in 1999 to 15,384 in 2006.
- Jail inmates in 15 states were confined in facilities operated under contract in 2009.
- More than two-thirds of inmates in contract facilities in 2006 were located in four states: Texas (3,698), Tennessee (2,475), Pennsylvania (2,339), and Florida (2,157).



TABLE 9

## Number of inmates confined in facilities operated directly by jail jurisdictions or by contractors, 1999 and 2006

Region and jurisdiction	In all jail facilities			In facilities directly operated by jail jurisdictions			In facilities operated by contractors		
	1999	2006	Difference	1999	2006	Difference	1999	2006	Difference
<b>U.S. total</b>	617,152	762,003	144,851	603,338	746,619	143,281	13,814	15,384	1,570
Federal	11,209	13,806	2,597	11,209	13,806	2,597	0	0	0
State	605,943	748,197	142,254	592,129	732,813	140,684	13,814	15,384	1,570
<b>Northeast</b>	90,716	103,544	12,828	89,124	101,205	12,081	1,592	2,339	747
Maine	1,113	1,642	529	1,113	1,642	529	0	0	0
Massachusetts	10,774	13,214	2,440	10,774	13,214	2,440	0	0	0
New Hampshire	1,592	2,036	444	1,592	2,036	444	0	0	0
New Jersey	16,830	18,380	1,550	16,830	18,380	1,550	0	0	0
New York	33,411	32,324	-1,087	33,411	32,324	-1,087	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	26,996	35,948	8,952	25,404	33,609	8,205	1,592	2,339	747
<b>Midwest</b>	97,652	123,146	25,494	96,022	120,332	24,310	1,630	2,814	1,184
Illinois	16,880	19,940	3,060	16,708	19,741	3,033	172	199	27
Indiana	12,787	17,305	4,518	12,054	16,313	4,259	733	992	259
Iowa	2,998	3,798	800	2,998	3,798	800	0	0	0
Kansas	4,378	7,032	2,654	4,097	6,060	1,963	281	972	691
Michigan	15,629	18,164	2,535	15,629	18,164	2,535	0	0	0
Minnesota	5,002	7,167	2,165	4,944	7,099	2,155	58	68	10
Missouri	6,940	9,730	2,790	6,917	9,330	2,413	23	400	377
Nebraska	2,189	2,693	504	2,189	2,693	504	0	0	0
North Dakota	588	937	349	588	937	349	0	0	0
Ohio	16,638	20,196	3,558	16,275	20,013	3,738	363	183	-180
South Dakota	1,064	1,631	567	1,064	1,631	567	0	0	0
Wisconsin	12,559	14,553	1,994	12,559	14,553	1,994	0	0	0
<b>South</b>	284,742	364,001	79,259	276,402	355,479	79,077	8,340	8,522	182
Alabama	11,418	15,122	3,704	11,418	15,056	3,638	0	66	66
Arkansas	4,832	6,164	1,332	4,832	6,164	1,332	0	0	0
District of Columbia	1,653	3,773	2,120	1,653	3,773	2,120	0	0	0
Florida	51,080	62,803	11,723	49,149	60,646	11,497	1,931	2,157	226
Georgia	32,835	43,243	10,408	32,821	43,243	10,422	14	0	-14
Kentucky	10,373	16,541	6,168	9,882	16,541	6,659	491	0	-491
Louisiana	25,631	28,315	2,684	25,631	28,315	2,684	0	0	0
Maryland	10,945	13,097	2,152	10,945	13,097	2,152	0	0	0
Mississippi	8,886	11,539	2,653	8,729	11,413	2,684	157	126	-31
North Carolina	13,279	17,682	4,403	13,279	17,682	4,403	0	0	0
Oklahoma	6,743	9,803	3,060	6,743	9,803	3,060	0	0	0
South Carolina	8,780	12,761	3,981	8,780	12,761	3,981	0	0	0
Tennessee	19,629	24,362	4,733	17,351	21,887	4,536	2,278	2,475	197
Texas	57,930	66,583	8,653	54,461	62,885	8,424	3,469	3,698	229
Virginia	18,235	27,858	9,623	18,235	27,858	9,623	0	0	0
West Virginia	2,493	4,355	1,862	2,493	4,355	1,862	0	0	0
<b>West</b>	132,833	157,506	24,673	130,581	155,797	25,216	2,252	1,709	-543
Alaska*	68	60	-8	68	60	-8	0	0	0
Arizona	10,320	15,309	4,989	10,320	15,309	4,989	0	0	0
California	77,142	79,193	2,051	76,850	79,002	2,152	292	191	-101
Colorado	9,004	14,129	5,125	8,364	13,664	5,300	640	465	-175
Idaho	2,809	3,855	1,046	2,809	3,855	1,046	0	0	0
Montana	1,521	1,957	436	1,521	1,957	436	0	0	0
Nevada	4,898	6,346	1,448	4,898	6,346	1,448	0	0	0
New Mexico	5,217	8,877	3,660	3,939	7,824	3,885	1,278	1,053	-225
Oregon	6,283	6,708	425	6,283	6,708	425	0	0	0
Utah	4,024	6,548	2,524	4,024	6,548	2,524	0	0	0
Washington	10,542	12,939	2,397	10,500	12,939	2,439	42	0	-42
Wyoming	1,005	1,585	580	1,005	1,585	580	0	0	0

Note: Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

\*On December 31, 2006, 1,953 unsentenced prisoners and prisoners sentenced to one year or less were held in the combined jail/prison system in Alaska. See *Methodology* for discussion of similar prisoners in other states with combined jail/prison systems.

## Jail Population by size of jurisdiction

### Nearly half of all local jail inmates were confined in jurisdictions holding 1,000 or more inmates in 2006.

Local jail jurisdictions confined 748,197 nonfederal jail inmates in 2006 (table 10). Jurisdictions in the smallest size categories accounted for the largest share of jurisdictions, but they held the smallest share of the confined jail population. Jail jurisdictions holding fewer than 100 inmates accounted for 59% of all jail jurisdictions and held 8% of the jail population. In contrast, jurisdictions in the largest size category (1,000 or more inmates) accounted for 5% of local jail jurisdictions and held half the nation's jail population.

### The proportion of inmates held in different size jurisdictions varied by region and state.

- Nationwide, about 3% of confined jail inmates were housed in the smallest jail jurisdictions, or those holding less than 50 inmates. The proportion of jail inmates housed in jurisdictions that held fewer than 50 inmates was highest in Iowa and South Dakota, where 25% of confined inmates were held, followed by Nebraska (20%). By contrast, Maryland and New Jersey had no inmates in jail jurisdictions holding fewer than 50 inmates.
- The concentration of confined jail inmates in the largest size jurisdictions (1,000 inmates or more) was highest in California (88%), Massachusetts (79%), Florida (77%), and Arizona (74%). By contrast, 14 states reported no jail jurisdictions housing 1,000 inmates or more: Maine, New Hampshire, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, Mississippi, West Virginia, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

TABLE 10

## Number of confined inmates, by size of local jail jurisdiction, 2006

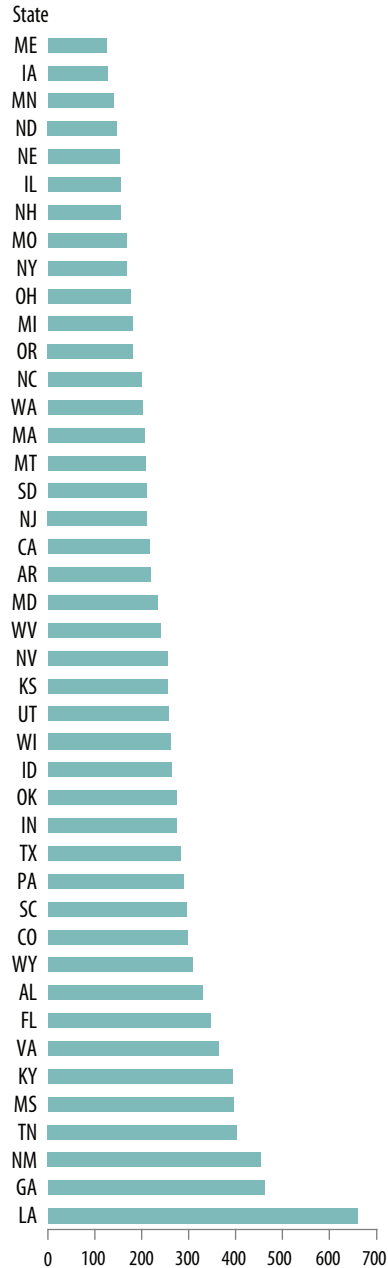
Region and state	Total	Fewer than 50 inmates	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000 inmates or more
<b>U.S. total</b>	748,197	21,664	40,504	90,633	97,965	120,502	376,929
<b>Northeast</b>	103,544	624	2,579	7,479	10,485	16,265	66,112
Maine	1,642	205	245	708	484	0	0
Massachusetts	13,214	21	0	188	1,041	1,575	10,389
New Hampshire	2,036	27	356	399	710	544	0
New Jersey	18,380	0	95	539	1,250	4,633	11,863
New York	32,324	195	1,040	2,898	2,832	3,230	22,129
Pennsylvania	35,948	176	843	2,747	4,168	6,283	21,731
<b>Midwest</b>	123,146	8,054	13,667	24,431	21,018	22,902	33,074
Illinois	19,940	1,063	955	2,128	3,677	2,638	9,479
Indiana	17,305	526	1,996	4,505	3,803	3,783	2,692
Iowa	3,798	948	552	846	900	552	0
Kansas	7,032	746	1,262	1,166	754	555	2,549
Michigan	18,164	493	1,810	3,010	3,203	2,384	7,264
Minnesota	7,167	791	1,561	1,346	796	1,423	1,250
Missouri	9,730	1,334	1,455	3,441	604	2,896	0
Nebraska	2,693	550	448	417	378	900	0
North Dakota	937	157	297	483	0	0	0
Ohio	20,196	449	1,827	4,101	3,795	3,104	6,920
South Dakota	1,631	413	282	0	376	560	0
Wisconsin	14,553	584	1,222	2,988	2,732	4,107	2,920
<b>South</b>	364,001	9,655	19,539	47,809	52,169	64,091	170,738
Alabama	15,122	976	1,638	4,171	1,891	3,974	2,472
Arkansas	6,164	1,145	891	1,763	990	1,375	0
District of Columbia	3,773	0	0	0	0	0	3,773
Florida	62,803	162	664	2,741	2,836	7,791	48,609
Georgia	43,243	1,018	2,836	5,245	4,909	10,539	18,696
Kentucky	16,541	302	977	4,909	4,905	2,332	3,116
Louisiana	28,315	552	877	2,391	3,416	8,972	12,107
Maryland	13,097	0	291	1,009	2,838	607	8,352
Mississippi	11,539	684	1,797	1,441	5,854	1,763	0
North Carolina	17,682	619	1,601	5,903	2,927	3,300	3,332
Oklahoma	9,803	896	1,662	2,503	624	0	4,118
South Carolina	12,761	132	897	2,384	2,664	2,622	4,062
Tennessee	24,362	725	1,704	4,642	3,906	1,350	12,035
Texas	66,583	2,287	2,660	6,675	5,966	10,464	38,531
Virginia	27,858	144	1,044	1,817	5,358	7,960	11,535
West Virginia	4,355	13	0	215	3,085	1,042	0
<b>West</b>	157,506	3,331	4,719	10,914	14,293	17,244	107,005
Alaska	60	60	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	15,309	30	0	896	1,820	1,221	11,342
California	79,193	189	554	1,255	3,910	3,436	69,849
Colorado	14,129	612	598	1,234	1,339	1,864	8,482
Idaho	3,855	544	281	818	767	1,445	0
Montana	1,957	419	354	0	1,184	0	0
Nevada	6,346	136	400	488	0	784	4,538
New Mexico	8,877	144	426	1,086	1,693	3,346	2,182
Oregon	6,708	173	472	1,885	764	1,674	1,740
Utah	6,548	114	751	952	755	1,130	2,846
Washington	12,939	615	526	1,660	1,768	2,344	6,026
Wyoming	1,585	295	357	640	293	0	0

Note: Based on the confined jail population on March 31, 2006. Excludes the federal jurisdiction and combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

## Rate of Confinement

FIGURE 1

Maine had the lowest rate of confinement of jail inmates in 2006; Louisiana had the highest rate



Number of confined jail inmates per 100,000 residents

Note: Based on estimates of the U.S. resident population, U.S. Census Bureau, Series P-25. Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Excludes Alaska because 98% of jail inmates were confined in the state's combined prison-jail system, compared to 2% confined in 15 locally operated jails. The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, was also excluded.

## Jail confinement rates increased in most states between 1999 and 2006.

- The confinement rate of inmates in local jail jurisdictions increased from 228 to 256 per 100,000 U.S. residents between 1999 and 2006 (table 11).
- Louisiana (660), Georgia (462), and New Mexico (454) reported the highest confinement rates of jail inmates among the states. The District of Columbia (649), a wholly urban jurisdiction, also had one of the highest confinement rates of jail inmates in 2006.
- Louisiana's resident population declined from 4,372,035 in 1999 to 4,287,768 in 2006, partly due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina. If the number of residents had stayed the same in both years, Louisiana's jail incarceration rate would have been 648 inmates per 100,000 persons, still the highest of any state by a significant margin.
- Maine (124) and Iowa (127) had the lowest rates of confinement of jail inmates among local jail jurisdictions.
- The lowest rate of confined jail inmates was in the federal jurisdiction with 5 per 100,000 U.S. residents.
- The confinement rate of jail inmates decreased in six states between 1999 and 2006: Nevada and New York (down 17 inmates each), California (down 16), Oregon (down 8), and Texas (down 6).

**TABLE 11****Number of confined jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, 1999 and 2006**

Region and jurisdiction	1999	2006
<b>U.S. total</b>	232	261
Federal	4	5
State	228	256
<b>Northeast</b>	193	209
Maine	89	124
Massachusetts	174	205
New Hampshire	133	155
New Jersey	207	211
New York	184	167
Pennsylvania	225	289
<b>Midwest</b>	154	186
Illinois	139	155
Indiana	215	274
Iowa	104	127
Kansas	165	254
Michigan	158	180
Minnesota	105	139
Missouri	127	167
Nebraska	131	152
North Dakota	93	147
Ohio	148	176
South Dakota	145	209
Wisconsin	239	262
<b>South</b>	297	336
Alabama	261	329
Arkansas	189	219
District of Columbia	318	649
Florida	338	347
Georgia	422	462
Kentucky	262	393
Louisiana	586	660
Maryland	212	233
Mississippi	321	396
North Carolina	174	200
Oklahoma	201	274
South Carolina	226	295
Tennessee	358	403
Texas	289	283
Virginia	265	364
West Virginia	138	239
<b>West</b>	222	231
Arizona	216	248
California	233	217
Colorado	222	297
Idaho	224	263
Montana	172	207
Nevada	271	254
New Mexico	300	454
Oregon	189	181
Utah	189	257
Washington	183	202
Wyoming	210	308

Note: Confined jail inmate populations on June 30, 1999 and March 31, 2006. Based on estimates of the U.S. resident population, U.S. Census Bureau, Series P-25. Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Excludes Alaska because 98% of its jail inmates were confined in the state's combined prison-jail system, compared to 2% confined in 15 locally operated jails.

### **Approximately 234,000 employees worked in the nation's jails.**

An estimated 234,000 employees worked in the nation's jails in 2006 (table 12). (See *Methodology* for estimation discussion.) Employees included full-time and part-time payroll and non-payroll staff working in occupations as correctional officers and administrators, and in clerical, maintenance, education, and professional staff positions. Local jail jurisdictions in the South employed the largest percentage (44%) of staff. Workers in the Northeast (19%), West (18%), and Midwest (17%) together accounted for slightly more than half of all jail employees.

### **The number of employees increased in local jail jurisdictions and declined in the federal jurisdiction between 1999 and 2006.**

- Jail jurisdictions reported a total of 231,515 full-time and part-time payroll and non-payroll staff in the nation's local and federal jails in 2006.
- An estimated 231,000 employees worked in local jail jurisdictions in 2006, up 11% from 207,600 employees in 1999 (not shown in table).
- The number of jail staff in the federal jurisdiction declined 3%, from 3,110 employees in 1999 to 3,031 employees in 2006 (not show in table).

**TABLE 12****Total estimated and reported jail staff, 2006**

Region and jurisdiction	Estimated	Reported
<b>U.S. total</b>	234,000	231,515
Federal	3,031	3,031
State	231,000	228,484
<b>Northeast</b>	45,000	44,258
Maine	886	886
Massachusetts*	6,800	6,461
New Hampshire	699	699
New Jersey	5,492	5,492
New York	21,082	21,082
Pennsylvania*	10,000	9,638
<b>Midwest</b>	40,700	40,297
Illinois	6,962	6,962
Indiana*	4,200	4,221
Iowa	1,875	1,875
Kansas	2,429	2,429
Michigan*	5,200	4,801
Minnesota	3,261	3,261
Missouri	3,435	3,435
Nebraska	1,393	1,393
North Dakota	447	447
Ohio	6,579	6,579
South Dakota	587	587
Wisconsin	4,307	4,307
<b>South</b>	103,000	101,843
Alabama*	3,600	3,645
Arkansas*	2,200	2,090
District of Columbia	864	864
Florida	19,064	19,064
Georgia*	11,900	11,695
Kentucky*	3,700	3,665
Louisiana*	6,300	5,969
Maryland	5,064	5,064
Mississippi	2,736	2,736
North Carolina*	5,800	5,643
Oklahoma*	2,300	2,292
South Carolina	3,070	3,070
Tennessee*	7,500	7,172
Texas	18,938	18,938
Virginia	8,872	8,872
West Virginia	1,064	1,064
<b>West</b>	42,300	42,086
Alaska	111	111
Arizona	4,239	4,239
California	17,403	17,403
Colorado*	4,200	4,086
Idaho	1,134	1,134
Montana	819	819
Nevada	2,610	2,610
New Mexico*	2,300	2,235
Oregon	2,519	2,519
Utah	2,412	2,412
Washington	3,877	3,877
Wyoming	641	641

Note: Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

\*An estimate was calculated for states in which the number of staff was incompletely reported. See *Methodology* for discussion of staff estimation.

## Inmate-to-Staff Ratio

### The number of inmates per jail employee rose between 1999 and 2006.

- The jail inmate-to-staff ratio in the U.S. increased from 2.9 to 1 in 1999 to 3.3 to 1 in 2006 (table 13).
- The largest increases in the number of confined jail inmates per employee occurred in the District of Columbia (up 2.0 inmates per employee), Indiana (up 1.4), and Colorado, West Virginia, and the federal jurisdiction (up 1.0 each).
- Massachusetts and Utah (down 0.4 each) and Washington (down 0.3) had the largest declines in inmate-to-staff ratios between 1999 and 2006.
- Louisiana had the highest inmate-to-staff ratio in 2006 (4.7 inmates per employee), followed by California (4.6) and the federal jurisdiction (4.6).
- Alaska (0.5), Maine (1.4), New York (1.5), and Massachusetts and Nebraska (1.9 each) had the lowest inmate-to-staff ratios in 2006.



**TABLE 13****Number of confined jail inmates per employee, 1999 and 2006**

Region and jurisdiction	1999	2006
<b>U.S. total</b>	2.9	3.3
Federal	3.6	4.6
State	2.9	3.3
<b>Northeast</b>	2.2	2.3
Maine	1.4	1.9
Massachusetts	2.3	1.9
New Hampshire	2.9	2.9
New Jersey	3.0	3.3
New York	1.5	1.5
Pennsylvania	3.2	3.7
<b>Midwest</b>	2.5	3.1
Illinois	2.7	2.9
Indiana	2.7	4.1
Iowa	1.8	2.0
Kansas	2.1	2.9
Michigan	3.2	3.8
Minnesota	1.8	2.2
Missouri	2.1	2.8
Nebraska	1.8	1.9
North Dakota	1.7	2.1
Ohio	2.3	3.1
South Dakota	2.2	2.8
Wisconsin	3.5	3.4
<b>South</b>	3.3	3.6
Alabama	3.7	4.1
Arkansas	2.6	2.9
District of Columbia	2.4	4.4
Florida	3.3	3.3
Georgia	3.9	3.7
Kentucky	3.7	4.4
Louisiana	3.8	4.7
Maryland	2.6	2.6
Mississippi	3.8	4.2
North Carolina	2.9	3.1
Oklahoma	3.3	4.2
South Carolina	3.4	4.2
Tennessee	3.1	3.4
Texas	3.5	3.5
Virginia	2.4	3.1
West Virginia	3.1	4.1
<b>West</b>	3.3	3.7
Alaska	0.6	0.5
Arizona	3.3	3.6
California	3.8	4.6
Colorado	2.4	3.4
Idaho	3.3	3.4
Montana	2.0	2.4
Nevada	2.5	2.4
New Mexico	2.9	3.8
Oregon	2.6	2.7
Utah	3.1	2.7
Washington	3.6	3.3
Wyoming	2.4	2.5

Note: The inmate-to-staff ratio is the number of confined inmates divided by the total number of employees reported on June 30, 1999 and March 31, 2006. Excludes combined prison-jail systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

# Methodology

The 2006 Census of Jail Facilities was the ninth in a series of complete enumerations of jail facilities since 1970 collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). BJS split the jail census into two parts. The Census of Jail Inmates was conducted with a reference date of June 30, 2005. The following spring it was followed by the Census of Jail Facilities, which collected data as of March 31, 2006. The U.S. Census Bureau collected the data for BJS.

The census requested jurisdictional-level information on the number of confined inmates, separate jail facilities, average daily population, renovation and building plans, court orders and consent decrees, staff by occupational category and race/ethnicity, jail programs, and costs of operation. The census also requested facility-level data on rated capacity, number of confined inmates by gender and adult or juvenile status, and jail functions, such as general adult population confinement, work release, and medical treatment.

Because the census was a complete enumeration, the results were not subject to sampling error. The results were affected, however, by significant item nonresponse. Missing data ranged from 20% to 44% for average daily population, employees by full-time and part-time status, gender, race/ethnicity, occupational category, jail programs, costs of incarceration, and individual jail rated capacity. Complete or nearly complete reporting was recorded on the number of jail jurisdictions, number of jail facilities, type of facility operator (public authority or under contract), size of jail jurisdiction, and number of jail staff.

## Included in the census

The 2006 Census of Jail Facilities gathered data from all jail detention facilities holding inmates beyond arraignment, a period normally exceeding 72 hours. Included in the census were 2,859 local jail jurisdictions made up of 3,271 city, county, or privately operated jail facilities intended for adults, but sometimes holding juveniles (defined as persons under age 18), and 12 Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities that functioned as jails.

In 1999 the BOP reported its 11 detention facilities together as a single jurisdiction. In 2006 each of its 12 detention facilities was classified as a separate jurisdiction. To maintain comparability between the two censuses, BJS counted the 12 BOP detention facilities in 2006 as a single jurisdiction.

Tables in this report show a nationwide total number of jail jurisdictions of 2,860, 89 fewer than the 2,949 jurisdiction records produced by the public use data set. This difference results from the reclassification of some jail reporting units to reflect a more accurate count of jail jurisdictions, and corresponds to jail jurisdiction classification procedures followed in the BJS Annual Survey of Jails series.

## Excluded from the census

Excluded from the census were physically separate temporary holding facilities, such as drunk tanks and police lockups that do not hold persons after being formally charged in court. Also excluded were state-operated facilities in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Alaska, which have combined jail-prison systems. Fifteen independently operated jails in Alaska, however, were included in the census.

## Unit non-response

The number of jail jurisdictions and jail facilities in 2006 are for entities that reported data. Comparisons with the number of jail jurisdictions identified in the 2005 Census of Jail Inmates and the 2000, 2006, and 2007 Deaths In Custody (DCRP) data collections indicated that nearly all queried jail jurisdictions in the 2006 Census of Jail Facilities either responded and were included or were excluded according to the scope of the census.

## Regional jails

In addition to the 44 regional jails counted in the 2006 Census of Jail Facilities, two other BJS data sources, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2006* (NCJ 217675) and Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP) unpublished data, identified 19 jails that also met the regional definition (a facility in which two or more jail jurisdictions had a formal agreement to operate), bringing the nationwide total to 63. A study conducted by Luminosity, Inc. in December 2008 reported a total of 80 regional jails operating in 22 states.\*

## Combined jail/prison states

In the 6 states with combined jail/prison systems, unsentenced prisoners and prisoners with sentences of 1 year or less accounted for between 26% (Vermont) and 46% (Rhode Island) of all inmates in 2006.

**TABLE 14**

**Prisoners in states with combined jail/prison systems, 2006**

State	Total number of prisoners	Number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year	Number of unsentenced prisoners and prisoners sentenced to 1 year or less	Number of unsentenced prisoners and prisoners sentenced to 1 year or less as a percentage of all prisoners
Total	45,019	29,213	15,806	35%
Connecticut	20,566	13,746	6,820	33%
Rhode Island	3,996	2,149	1,847	46
Vermont	2,215	1,634	581	26
Delaware	7,206	4,195	3,011	42
Alaska	5,069	3,116	1,953	39
Hawaii	5,967	4,373	1,594	27

## Estimation procedures

1. In the 14 states where the number of staff was incompletely reported, an estimate was calculated as follows: the total number of inmates was divided by the number of inmates in facilities reporting staff. The result was multiplied by the reported number of staff and rounded to the nearest 100. Complete and estimated state totals were then summed to regional totals; regional totals were rounded to the nearest 100 and summed to the total for all states and the U.S. total. Employees included full and part-time payroll and non-payroll staff and excluded community volunteers.
2. Rates, ratios, and percentage distributions were based on reported data.

\*Regional Jail Feasibility Study. Community Resource Services, Inc., in association with Luminosity, Inc., Gettysburg, PA. December, 2008.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. James P. Lynch is director.

The full text of each report is available in PDF and ASCII formats on the BJS website at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov). Tables are also available in PDF and CSV formats. Related datasets are made available on the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data website at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/index.jsp>.

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