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Profile of Jail Inmates, 2002

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At midyear 2002, 665,475 persons were held in local jails: over half had been convicted; a quarter were detained awaiting arraignment or trial; and a sixth were held on a prior sentence but also awaiting arraignment or trial on a new charge. These findings are based on information from personal interviews with a national sample of nearly 7,000 jail inmates, conducted January through April 2002. The survey provides a profile of offenders held in local jails and a comparison to those held in 1996 when the last survey was conducted.

Based on the 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ), the number of inmates held for drug law violations totaled 156,000, up from 114,100 in 1996. The increase in drug offenders accounted for 37% of the growth in the nation's jail population. Overall, at midyear 2002 the distribution of jail inmates by type of offense remained nearly unchanged: a fourth of inmates in each of four major categories — violent, property, drug, or public-order.

Two-thirds of jail inmates in 2002 said they were regular drug users; over half of the convicted inmates reported using drugs in the month before their current offense. An estimated 66% of jail inmates reported using alcohol at least once a week for a month; 35% were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the current offense. Together, 77% of convicted jail inmates were alcohol or drug-involved at the time of their current offense.

Highlights

- Jail inmates were older on average in 2002 than 1996: 38% were age 35 or older, up from 32% in 1996.

- More than 6 in 10 persons in local jails in 2002 were racial or ethnic minorities, unchanged from 1996. An estimated 40% were black; 19%, Hispanic, 1% American Indian; 1% Asian; and 3% of more than one race/ethnicity.

- Half of all jail inmates in 2002 were held for a violent or drug offense, nearly unchanged from 1996.

Offense	2002	1996
Violent	25.4%	26.3%
Property	24.4	26.9
Drug	24.7	22.0
Public-order	24.9	24.4

- 46% of jail inmates were on probation or parole at the time of arrest, a slight increase from 45% in 1996.

Justice status	2002	1996
None	46.8%	46.4%
Any status	53.2	53.6
On probation	33.6	31.7
On parole	12.6	13.1
On bail/bond	6.9	12.7

- 39% of jail inmates in 2002 had served 3 or more prior sentences to incarceration or probation, down from 44% in 1996.

Prior sentence to incarceration or probation	2002	1996
0	26.9%	27.3%
1	17.5	17.4
2	16.8	11.3
3-5	21.9	20.2
6-10	11.0	15.1
11 or more	5.9	8.7

- In 2002, 41% percent of jail inmates had a current or prior violent offense; 46% were nonviolent recidivists; 13% had a current or prior drug offense only.

- The average sentence length of jail inmates increased from 23 months in 1996 to 24 months in 2002; time expected to be served in jail dropped from 10 to 9 months.

- Among convicted inmates, alcohol use at the time of the offense dropped from 41% (1996) to 35% (2002), while drug use dropped from 35% to 29%.

Substance abuse and treatment	2002	1996
All jail inmates		
Regular alcohol use	66.0%	66.3%
Regular drug use	68.7	64.2
Convicted inmates		
Alcohol use at offense	34.5	40.8
Drug use in month before offense	52.6	54.0
Drug use at offense	28.8	34.9
Regular users treated —		
Ever under correctional supervision	43.4	34.3
Since admission to jail	15.1	12.3

- 56% of jail inmates said they grew up in a single-parent household or with a guardian. About 1 in 9 had lived in a foster home or institution.

- 31% of jail inmates grew up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs; 46% had a family member who had been incarcerated.

- Over half of women in jail said they had been physically or sexually abused in the past, compared to over a tenth of men.

More than 6 in 10 jail inmates were racial or ethnic minorities, unchanged since 1996

As defined in this report, jails are locally operated correctional facilities that confine persons before or after adjudication. Inmates sentenced to jail usually have a sentence of a year or less, but jails also incarcerate persons in a wide variety of other categories. (See box below.)

In each year, about 6 in 10 jail inmates were racial or ethnic minorities (table 1). In 2002 blacks made up 40% of the jail inmate population; Hispanics, 19%; and whites, 36%. The decline in American Indian/Alaska Native inmates to 1.4% in 2002 from 2.4% in 1996, may reflect the change in the data collection method in 2002 that allowed inmates to select more than one racial category.

Female inmates made up almost 12% of the local jail inmate population in 2002, up from 10% in 1996.

The jail population was older in 2002 than in 1996. About 38% of jail inmates were age 35 or older, up from 32% in 1996.

An estimated 8% of jail inmates were not U.S. citizens, unchanged from 1996.

Jails —

- receive individuals pending arraignment and hold them awaiting trial, conviction, or sentencing
- readmit probation, parole, and bail-bond violators and absconders
- temporarily detain juveniles pending transfer to juvenile authorities
- hold mentally ill persons pending their movement to appropriate health facilities
- hold individuals for the military, for protective custody, for contempt, and for the courts as witnesses
- release convicted inmates to the community upon completion of sentence
- transfer inmates to Federal, State, or other authorities
- house inmates for Federal, State, or other authorities because of crowding of their facilities
- sometimes operate community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration
- hold inmates sentenced to short terms (generally under 1 year).

Table 1. Selected characteristics of jail inmates, by conviction status, 2002 and 1996

	Percent of jail inmates, 2002				1996
	Total	Convicted	Unconvicted	Both ^a	
Gender					
Male	88.4%	87.7%	89.2%	89.6%	89.8%
Female	11.6	12.3	10.8	10.4	10.2
Race/Hispanic origin^b					
White ^c	36.0%	39.4%	31.0%	33.3%	37.4%
Black ^c	40.1	37.3	43.0	44.1	40.9
Hispanic	18.5	18.5	19.6	16.6	18.5
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	0.9	1.7	0.9	0.9
More than one race ^d	3.0	2.6	3.3	3.6	--
Age					
17 or younger	1.8%	1.2%	2.9%	1.6%	2.3%
18-24	28.1	28.3	28.9	26.4	28.5
25-34	31.9	31.0	31.8	35.4	37.4
35-44	26.0	27.1	24.2	25.2	23.9
45-54	10.0	10.2	9.4	10.4	6.3
55 or older	2.2	2.2	2.8	1.0	1.5
Marital status					
Married	16.2%	15.8%	16.5%	17.3%	15.7%
Widowed	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.4
Divorced	15.7	16.3	14.7	15.5	15.6
Separated	6.7	7.5	5.6	6.3	8.7
Never married	60.1	59.3	61.7	59.8	58.6
Education					
8th grade or less	12.3%	11.8%	14.3%	10.6%	13.1%
Some high school	31.6	30.6	32.7	33.4	33.4
GED	17.1	18.2	14.1	18.6	14.1
High school diploma	25.9	26.1	26.2	24.6	25.9
Some college	10.1	10.5	9.7	9.6	10.3
College graduate or more	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2
U.S. citizenship					
Citizen	92.2%	92.6%	89.5%	95.8%	91.8%
Noncitizen	7.8	7.4	10.5	4.2	8.2
Number of jail inmates^e	631,241	394,039	182,754	100,495	507,026

^aIncludes inmates with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

^bExcludes 0.3% of inmates in 1996 and 2002 who did not specify a race.

^cNon-Hispanic inmates.

^dIncludes 1.6% of jail inmates who specified black and other races; 1.3%, American Indian/Alaskan Native and other races; and 0.1%, Asian and other races.

^eThe survey totals were weighted to midyear estimates from the *Annual Survey of Jails* in 1995 and 2001. (See *Methodology*.)

Table 2. Detention status of jail inmates, 2002 and 1996

Reason held in jail	2002	1996
Unconvicted, new charge^a	28.2%	26.1%
On or awaiting trial	16.9	--
Awaiting arraignment/revocation	11.3	--
Convicted	54.8%	47.9%
New charges	36.7	36.6
Prior charges, on probation or parole	18.2	11.3
Both convicted and unconvicted	16.0	22.1
Convicted prior, with new charges	14.7	12.2
Convicted prior, technical violations	1.3	9.9
Other^b	0.9	3.0
Number of jail inmates	627,288	505,279

Note: Excludes inmates for whom reason held in jail was unknown.

--Not reported.

^aIncludes inmates with a new charge only or inmates who were on community or pretrial release for a prior charge but no conviction.

^bIncludes inmates held as a witness, for safekeeping, or other reasons.

Over half of all jail inmates convicted of current or prior charges only

In 2002 an estimated 37% of all jail inmates were convicted of the offense that led to their most recent admission to jail, unchanged from 1996 (table 2). About 18% in 2002 were convicted of prior charges for which they were on probation or parole, compared to 11% in 1996.

Among unconvicted jail inmates in 2002, 17% were on trial or awaiting trial. Around 11% were awaiting arraignment or a revocation hearing of a prior release status (such as bail/bond, electronic monitoring, house arrest, day/weekend reporting, work/study release, or furlough). An estimated 16% of all inmates were both unconvicted (on current arrest offenses) and convicted (on a prior offense).

About 43% of jail inmates in 2002 reported they were sentenced to serve time in jail or prison or were awaiting sentencing. Just under 10% said they were awaiting sentencing for an offense.

Minor changes in the offenses for which inmates were being held

Overall, the offense composition of the jail population changed slightly between 1996 and 2002 (table 3). The percentage of inmates held for drug offenses increased to 25% in 2002 from 22% in 1996, driven by drug trafficking which rose to 12% from 9%.

The percent of jail inmates held for property offenses declined from 27% in 1996 to 24% in 2002. Violent and public-order offenses were relatively unchanged at around 25% in 1996 and 2002.

Among unconvicted inmates, 34% had a violent offense as the most serious charge, while 23% had drug offenses. About 29% of convicted inmates were public-order offenders; 25% were property offenders; and 24% were drug offenders.

Among jail inmates who were both convicted and unconvicted, 30% had a drug offense as their most serious conviction offense; 27% had a property offense; 22% a violent offense; and 19% a public-order offense.

Drug trafficking (12.1%) was the most common offense among jail inmates, followed by assault (11.7%) and drug possession (10.8%).

Over 6% of jail inmates in 2002 were held for burglary, larceny/theft, or driving while intoxicated.

Although 46% of all jail inmates were on probation or parole at the time of their arrest, about 3% reported a probation or parole violation as their most serious charge.

Table 3. Most serious offense of jail inmates, 2002 and 1996

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates				1996
	2002				
	Total	Convicted	Unconvicted	Both ^a	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Violent offenses	25.4%	21.6%	34.4%	22.3%	26.3%
Murder ^b	2.0	0.9	5.3	/	2.8
Negligent manslaughter	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
Kidnaping	0.7	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.5
Rape	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5
Other sexual assault	2.8	2.7	3.6	1.5	2.7
Robbery	5.6	3.9	8.7	5.5	6.5
Assault	11.7	10.9	12.5	12.7	11.6
Other violent ^c	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.3
Property offenses	24.4%	24.9%	21.5%	27.4%	26.9%
Burglary	6.7	6.4	6.8	8.0	7.6
Larceny/theft	7.0	7.6	5.3	7.6	8.0
Motor vehicle theft	2.0	2.0	1.6	2.6	2.6
Arson	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4
Fraud	4.9	5.3	4.2	4.7	4.6
Stolen property	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.5	2.1
Other property ^d	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.6
Drug offenses	24.7%	24.0%	23.4%	30.2%	22.0
Possession	10.8	10.0	10.4	14.6	11.5
Trafficking	12.1	12.6	10.6	13.5	9.2
Other	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.1	1.3
Public-order offenses	24.9%	29.1%	20.2%	19.2%	24.4%
Weapons	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.3
Obstruction of justice	3.9	3.5	5.4	2.7	4.9
Traffic	3.7	4.7	2.3	2.5	3.2
Driving while intoxicated ^e	6.4	8.9	2.3	5.1	7.4
Drunkenness/morals ^f	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	2.0
Violation of parole/probation ^g	2.9	3.5	1.5	3.3	2.6
Immigration violation	1.8	1.8	2.5	0.3	0.2
Other public-order ^h	2.5	2.8	2.8	1.2	1.8
Otherⁱ	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%
Number of jail inmates	623,492	342,372	178,035	100,348	496,752

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown.

/Not reported.

^aIncludes inmates with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^cIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

^dIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^eIncludes driving while intoxicated and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

^fIncludes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

^gIncludes parole or probation violations, escape, AWOL, and flight to avoid prosecution.

^hIncludes rioting, abandonment, nonsupport, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, and tax evasion.

ⁱIncludes juvenile offenses and unspecified offenses.

In absolute numbers, drug and public-order offenders accounted for most of the growth in the jail population between 1996 and 2002. Drug offenders in local jails rose by 41,800 and public-order offenders by 30,700, accounting for 64% of the increase in the jail population. Violent offenders (up 24,000) accounted for a fifth of the overall growth.

Offense	Number of jail inmates		
	2002	1996	Difference
Total	631,241	518,432	112,800
Violent	160,300	136,300	24,000
Property	154,000	139,500	14,500
Drug	155,900	114,100	41,800
Public-order	157,200	126,500	30,700
Other	3,200	2,600	600

Note: Estimates were based on the total number of jail inmates in 1996 and 2002, and then rounded to the nearest 100.

An increasing percentage of female inmates had violent offenses

An increasing percentage of female inmates had violent offenses as their most serious charge, 17% in 2002, up from 15% in 1996 and 13% in 1989. Still, compared to male inmates (27%) in 2002, female jail inmates were less likely to be violent offenders (table 4).

Female jail inmates were more likely than males to be drug offenders. An estimated 29% of female and 24% of male inmates were drug offenders in 2002. A larger percentage of women were in jail for drug possession (15%) than for trafficking (11%), while the distribution for men was reversed, drug trafficking (12%) and possession (10%).

The most serious offense of jail inmates varied among white, black, and Hispanic inmates. In 2002 black inmates (31%) were more likely to be in jail for drug offenses than white inmates (19%) and Hispanic inmates (28%). Drug trafficking made up a larger percentage of the drug offenses for blacks (16%) and Hispanic (14%) inmates, than for whites (9%).

Black and Hispanic inmates (27%) were also more likely to be violent offenders than white inmates (22%). White inmates (31%) were more likely to be in jail for public-order offenses, particularly DWI, than black (18%) and Hispanic inmates (28%). White (11%) and Hispanic (8%) inmates were over 4 times more likely to be in jail for DWI than black inmates (2%).

Nearly a quarter of jail inmates had been held for 14 days or less at the time of the interview

Nearly a quarter (23%) of all jail inmates had been in jail for 14 days or less at the time of the interview (table 5). Twenty-nine percent had been held from 2 to 6 months, while 7% had been held for a year or more.

Table 4. Most serious offense of jail inmates, by gender, race, and Hispanic origin, in 2002

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates				
	Male	Female	White*	Black*	Hispanic
Violent offenses	26.5%	17.1%	21.8%	26.9%	27.1%
Murder	2.1	1.4	1.2	2.4	2.5
Negligent manslaughter	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6
Rape	0.7	/	0.6	0.5	0.6
Other sexual assault	3.1	0.9	4.0	1.7	2.5
Robbery	5.8	3.6	2.8	7.7	6.0
Assault	12.2	8.0	10.6	11.8	13.0
Other violent	1.3	2.5	1.6	1.3	1.0
Property offenses	23.3%	32.4%	28.1%	24.0%	17.5%
Burglary	7.2	2.9	8.3	6.3	4.8
Larceny/theft	6.5	10.3	8.1	7.3	4.2
Motor vehicle theft	2.0	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.1
Fraud	3.7	14.0	6.2	4.6	2.9
Stolen property	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.1	1.1
Other property	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.9	2.1
Drug offenses	24.1%	29.2%	18.5%	30.6%	27.5%
Possession	10.3	14.5	8.6	12.7	12.4
Trafficking	12.3	10.9	7.7	16.3	13.9
Other	1.5	3.8	2.2	1.6	1.1
Public-order offenses	25.5%	20.8%	31.0%	18.0%	27.5%
Weapons	2.2	0.6	1.8	2.4	1.9
Obstruction of justice	3.8	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.1
Driving while intoxicated	6.6	4.9	10.9	1.8	7.7
Drunkenness/morals	1.5	3.3	1.9	1.5	1.8
Violation of parole/probation	2.9	3.1	3.6	2.6	2.3
Immigration violation	1.9	0.5	/	0.6	6.6
Other public-order	2.7	1.5	3.5	2.3	1.5
Other	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	/
Number of jail inmates	551,186	72,306	223,292	249,304	114,562

Note: The table excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown but includes offenses for which estimates are not shown separately.

/Not shown.

*Non-Hispanic inmates.

Table 5. Time held in jail prior to the interview, 2002 and 1996

Time held	2002				1996
	Total	Convicted	Unconvicted	Both*	
7 days or less	13.4%	10.8%	18.8%	12.7%	11.4%
8 - 14	9.2	8.6	9.6	10.7	7.1
15 - 30	14.9	14.3	16.0	15.3	15.2
31 - 60	16.0	15.7	15.6	18.2	17.9
61 - 180	28.6	30.4	25.3	28.6	28.8
181 - 364	11.3	12.6	10.1	9.6	12.3
1 to 2 years	4.8	5.2	4.6	4.2	4.9
3 to 4	1.4	2.0		0.6	1.7
5 years or more	0.3	0.4		0.2	0.7
Number of jail inmates	615,930	334,901	177,578	98,492	488,910

Note: Excludes inmates for whom conviction status or admission date were unknown.

*Includes inmates with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

An estimated 30% of convicted jail inmates had been in jail from 2 to 6 months, compared to 25% of unconvicted inmates. A larger percentage of convicted inmates (8%) than unconvicted inmates (5%) had been in jail for more than a year.

Regardless of detention status, nonviolent offenders had spent less time in jail than violent offenders. About 40% of nonviolent offenders had been in jail a month or less, compared to 31% of violent offenders. Violent offenders (11%) were twice as likely as nonviolent offenders (5%) to have been in jail for a year or more.

Length of stay	Time held prior to the interview, 2002	
	Violent	Nonviolent
7 days or less	10.8% ^c	14.3%
8 - 14	7.1	9.9
15 - 30	13.0	15.4
31 - 60	13.2	17.1
61 - 180	30.3	28.0
181- 364	14.7	10.3
1 - 2 years	7.1	4.1
3 years or more	3.8	1.0
Number of inmates	153,649	455,741

Note: Excludes inmates with an unknown offense or admission date.

About three-quarters of sentenced inmates to serve time in local jail

Jail inmates who were sentenced to serve time, either for a prior or current offense, were asked if they expected to serve their time in a jail, prison, juvenile facility, or other type of facility. Of the estimated 271,000 sentenced jail inmates, 73% expected to serve their sentence in jail, 24% in State or Federal prison, and 4% elsewhere.

Among inmates who will serve their sentence in jail, a third were public-order offenders. About a fourth were property offenders, and a fifth each were violent or drug offenders.

Offense	Percent of jail inmates, by where sentence will be served, 2002	
	Local jail	State or Federal prison
Violent	20.9%	28.0%
Property	24.9	25.0
Drug	20.9	33.7
Public-order	33.1	12.9
Number of inmates	197,210	64,251

Note: Excludes sentenced inmates with an unknown offense or type of sentence.

Half the inmates sentenced to jail in 2002 had a term of 8 months or less, expecting to serve 5 months or less

The average maximum sentence length for inmates who were to serve their time in jail was an estimated 24 months in 2002, up from 23 months in 1996 (table 6). Though stable overall, the average sentence length for violent offenders dropped from 36 months to 33 months; for property offenders, from 26 to 23 months; and for public-order offenders, from 13 to 10 months.

Offense	1996	
	Mean maximum sentence length	Mean time expected to be served
Total	23 mos.	10 mos.
Violent	36	16
Property	26	11
Drug	24	13
Public-order	13	6

The average sentence for drug offenders was 35 months in 2002, up 11 months from 1996. This change was due to an increase for drug trafficking, from 29 to 50 months.

In 2002 inmates sentenced to serve time in jail expected to serve an average of 9 months before their release, down from 10 months in 1996. Time expected to be served by violent inmates dropped to 14 months in 2002 from 16 months in 1996. Property offenders expected to serve 9 months, down from 11 months, and drug offenders, 11 months, down from 13 months.

Table 6. Length of sentence and time expected to be served of inmates sentenced to jail, by offense, 2002

Most serious offense	Jail inmates, 2002			
	Maximum sentence length ^a		Time expected to be served ^b	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
All offenses	8 mos.	24 mos.	5 mos.	9 mos.
Violent offenses	12 mos.	33 mos.	6 mos.	14 mos.
Sexual assault	23	45	8	26
Robbery	36	69	17	27
Assault	8	18	4	8
Property offenses	9 mos.	23 mos.	5 mos.	9 mos.
Burglary	12	37	8	17
Larceny/theft	9	22	5	10
Motor vehicle theft	7	14	4	7
Fraud	7	18	4	6
Stolen property	6	16	3	5
Drug offenses	12 mos.	35 mos.	6 mos.	11 mos.
Possession	8	21	4	6
Trafficking	19	50	8	16
Public-order offenses	5 mos.	10 mos.	4 mos.	5 mos.
Driving while intoxicated	6	11	4	6

^aBased on the total maximum sentence for all consecutive sentences. Excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown.

^bBased on time served when interviewed plus time to be served until the expected date of release. Excludes inmates for whom admission date or expected release date were unknown.

A third of jail inmates were on probation at the time of arrest

More than half of jail inmates reported having a pre-existing criminal justice status at the time of arrest, unchanged from 1996. The percent of inmates on probation increased from 32% to 34%, while the percent out on bail or bond dropped from 13% to 7% (table 7).

Over half of jail inmates who were on probation or parole at the time of arrest were drug or property offenders. A fifth of each group had a violent offense.

An estimated 26% of those on probation and 31% on parole said their release had been revoked because of an arrest or conviction for a new offense. Approximately 17% reported drug-related violations as the reason for revocation of release.

Revocation status	On probation or parole at arrest	
	Probation	Parole
Not revoked	34.0%	33.4%
Revoked*	66.0%	66.7%
Arrest/conviction for new offense	25.7	30.8
Any drug-related violation	16.8	18.2
Positive drug test or possession	12.7	15.6
Failure to report for testing/treatment	5.7	4.7
Absconded	20.1	20.4
Other reasons	20.8	18.6

*Includes inmates awaiting a revocation hearing. Details may not add to total because more than one response was possible.

Criminal justice status at arrest	Percent of jail inmates in —	
	2002	1996
None	46.8%	46.4%
Any status	53.2%	53.6%
On probation	33.6	31.7
On parole	12.6	13.1
On bail/bond	6.9	12.7
On other pretrial release	2.3	4.4
On alcohol/drug diversion counseling	2.0	2.8
On other release*	2.3	3.5
On escape	0.6	0.9

Note: Percentages add to more than total because inmates may have had more than one status.
*Includes work/study release, electronic monitoring, house arrest, day/weekend reporting, or furlough.

24% of jail inmates had 3 or more prior incarcerations in 2002, down from 32% in 1996

In 1996 and 2002 approximately 27% of jail inmates reported they had no prior sentences to probation or incarceration, and nearly 18% said they had one prior sentence (table 8). During this period, the percent reporting they had served two prior sentences rose (from 11% to 17%), while the percent reporting three or more prior sentences declined (from 44% to 39%).

While 42% of inmates in 1996 and 2002 reported no prior sentence to incarceration, nearly 24% in 2002 responded that they had served one prior sentence to incarceration, compared to 18% among inmates surveyed in 1996. The percentage of jail inmates who had served three or more prior sentences to incarceration dropped to 24% in 2002, down from 32% in 1996.

Prior sentence	Percent of inmates	
	2002	1996
Probation		
0	38.9%	37.0%
1	32.6	34.6
2	14.8	13.9
3-5	11.2	12.2
6-10	2.0	1.7
11 or more	0.6	0.6
Incarceration		
0	42.1%	41.5%
1	23.7	17.5
2	10.3	9.0
3-5	14.3	17.8
6-10	6.8	9.0
11 or more	2.8	5.1
Incarceration or probation		
0	26.9%	27.3%
1	17.5	17.4
2	16.8	11.3
3-5	21.9	20.2
6-10	11.0	15.1
11 or more	5.9	8.7
Number of inmates	605,212	502,140

Note: Excludes inmates for whom current offense or prior probation or incarceration were unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

The number of prior sentences to probation remained stable between 1996 and 2002. Nearly 4 in 10 had no prior sentence to probation. Just over 3 in 10 jail inmates in 2002 had served one prior sentence to probation; just under 3 in 10 had served two or more prior sentences to probation.

Hispanic inmates were less likely to have served a sentence to incarceration or probation than white or black inmates. Forty-nine percent of Hispanic inmates had no prior sentence, compared to 43% of black inmates and 39% of white inmates.

Number of prior sentences	Percent of jail inmates		
	White*	Black*	Hispanic
0	38.5%	42.5%	49.1%
1	24.0	24.0	23.3
2	9.7	11.3	9.2
3-5	15.4	14.3	11.1
6-10	9.0	5.6	5.1
11 or more	3.4	2.3	2.1

* Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

41% of jail inmates had a current or past violent offense; 13% a current or past drug offense only

An estimated 41% of jail inmates in 2002 had a current or prior sentence for a violent offense (table 9). About 46% were nonviolent offenders with property, drug, or public-order as their current and prior offenses. Thirteen percent had only current or past drug offenses.

The prior offense history of jail inmates varied by conviction status, gender, and race. Nearly half of unconvicted jail inmates were current or violent recidivists versus over a third of convicted inmates in 2002.

Male inmates (43%) were more likely than females (27%) to have a current or prior violent offense (table 10). Women (18%) were more likely than men (13%) to have current or past drug offenses in 2002.

Black inmates were more likely to be violent recidivists (30%) than white inmates (27%) or Hispanic inmates (24%) in 2002. Among inmates with no previous conviction, about 15% of Hispanic inmates had a current violent offense, followed by black inmates at 14%, and whites, at 11%. An estimated 9% of white inmates had past or current drug offenses only, compared to 17% of black and 17% of Hispanic inmates.

More than 6 in 10 jail inmates reported regular use of alcohol

Two-thirds of jail inmates reported regular use of alcohol in 2002, unchanged since 1996 (table 11). Regular use was defined as ever drinking alcohol at least once a week for at least a month.*

Only convicted inmates were asked about alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense. Jail inmates who reported using alcohol at the time of the offense dropped from 41% in 1996 to 35% in 2002.

About two-thirds of male inmates in 2002 said they regularly drank alcohol, compared to over half of female inmates. More than a third of convicted male inmates and over a quarter of convicted female inmates had used alcohol at the time of the offense.

An estimated 40% of convicted white inmates reported alcohol use at the time of the offense in 2002, down from 48% in 1996. Among convicted black inmates, alcohol use at the time of offense dropped from 34% to 31%; and for convicted Hispanic inmates, from 38% to 31%.

In 2002 jail inmates with violent (38%) or public-order (32%) offenses were more likely to have used alcohol at the time of the offense than inmates with property (29%) or drug (22%) offenses.

*The definition of regular use includes drinking daily or drinking at least once a week during the year before the offense for which inmates were admitted to jail.

Table 9. Criminal history of jail inmates, by conviction status, 2002 and 1996

Criminal history	2002				1996
	Total	Convicted	Unconvicted	Both*	
No previous sentence	38.1%	35.3%	42.5%	39.5%	29.1%
Current violent offense	12.8	10.2	17.0	14.1	10.1
Current drug offense	10.2	9.4	9.8	13.7	6.7
Current other offense	15.2	15.8	15.8	11.6	12.5
Violent recidivists	28.3%	25.6%	30.7%	33.7%	34.3%
Current and prior violent	8.7	9.2	7.7	8.8	11.8
Current violent only	9.8	7.4	11.4	15.2	8.9
Prior violent only	9.8	9.0	11.5	9.6	13.2
Nonviolent recidivists	33.6%	39.1%	26.9%	26.9%	36.9%
Prior minor public order only	0.1	0.1	0.1	--	2.9
Prior drug offense only	3.2	3.7	2.7	2.3	7.0
Other prior offenses	30.3	35.3	24.1	24.6	27.0
Number of jail inmates	623,492	342,372	178,035	100,348	482,111

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense and prior probation or incarceration was unknown.
*Includes inmates with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

Table 10. Criminal history of jail inmates, by gender, race, and Hispanic origin, 2002

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates				
	Male	Female	White*	Black*	Hispanic
No previous sentence	36.8%	48.7%	33.3%	39.3%	46.7%
Current violent offense	13.0	11.4	10.5	13.9	14.6
Current drug offense	9.5	14.8	7.4	12.0	13.4
Current other offense	14.2	22.4	15.4	13.4	18.7
Violent recidivists	29.9%	16.0%	26.5%	30.4%	24.4%
Current and prior violent	9.3	4.2	7.3	9.7	8.8
Current violent only	10.4	5.2	10.0	9.5	8.6
Prior violent only	10.2	6.6	9.2	11.2	7.0
Nonviolent recidivists	33.3%	35.3%	40.2%	30.3%	29.0%
Prior minor public order only	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Prior drug offense only	3.1	3.6	1.4	4.7	3.7
Other prior offenses	30.1	31.6	38.7	25.5	25.2
Number of jail inmates	551,186	72,306	223,292	249,304	114,562

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense, prior probation, or incarceration were unknown.
*Non-Hispanic inmates.

Table 11. Prior alcohol use of jail inmates, 2002 and 1996

Characteristics	Percent of jail inmates who drank alcohol			
	Regularly ^a		At the time of the offense ^b	
	2002	1996	2002	1996
Total	66.0%	66.3%	34.5%	40.8%
Gender				
Male	67.4%	67.7%	35.7%	41.9%
Female	55.4	54.5	25.5	31.1
Race/Hispanic origin^c				
White ^d	75.3%	76.5	39.5%	48.2%
Black ^d	62.2	61.0	30.5	33.6
Hispanic	56.1	56.9	31.3	38.2
Most serious offense				
Violent	65.7%	67.7%	37.6%	40.7%
Property	65.9	64.3	28.5	33.1
Drug	62.9	59.8	22.4	28.9
Public-order, excluding DWI	65.0	68.6	32.3	32.7

^aIncludes inmates who reported ever drinking at least once a week for a month, as well as drinking daily or at least once a week during the year before the current offense.

^bIncludes all inmates with a current conviction or prior conviction.

^cJail inmates who identified more than one race not shown.

^dNon-Hispanic inmates.

Regular drug use rose slightly between 1996 and 2002

The proportion of jail inmates who reported regular use of drugs increased between 1996 and 2002. An estimated 69% said they used drugs regularly or at least once a week for a month, up from 64% in 1996 (table 12).

Marijuana (76%), cocaine or crack (48%), and hallucinogens (32%) were the drugs reported most commonly ever used by jail inmates in 2002 and in 1996. During the period, regular use

of marijuana rose slightly (from 55% to 58%). Use of hallucinogens also rose (from 11% to 13%), while regular use of other types of drugs remained relatively stable.

In each year over half of convicted jail inmates reported drug use in the month before the offense. In 2002, 38% of jail inmates reported use of marijuana in the month before the offense; 21% reported use of cocaine or crack; 11%, stimulants (including amphetamines and methamphetamines); and 8%, heroin or other opiates.

Overall, there was little change in the type of drugs used in the month before the offense between 1996 and 2002.

An estimated 29% of convicted jail inmates reported using drugs at the time of the offense, down from 35% in 1996. In 2002, 14% of jail inmates said that they had used marijuana at the time of the offense, followed by 11% who said they had used cocaine or crack. In 1996, 18% of inmates reported using marijuana, and 14%, cocaine or crack.

Alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense declined

An estimated 50% of all convicted jail inmates reported that they had used alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense in 2002, down from 59% who reported being under the influence of a substance in 1996 (table 13).

In 2002, 35% of jail inmates said they had used alcohol at the time of the offense, down from 41% in 1996. Over a fourth of jail inmates reported drug use at the time of the offense in 2002, down from a third in 1996.

The percentage of female jail inmates who said they had used alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense dropped substantially from 58% in 1996 to 46% in 2002. Alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense as reported by male inmates also dropped from 59% to 50%.

About 77% of convicted jail inmates could be characterized as alcohol- or drug-involved offenders in 2002, unchanged from 1996.

Table 12. Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 2002 and 1996

Type of drug	Percent of jail inmates who used drugs							
	All inmates				Convicted inmates ^a			
	Ever		Regularly ^b		In the month before the offense		At the time of the offense	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
Any drug	82.2%	82.4%	68.7%	64.2%	52.6%	54.0%	28.8%	34.9%
Marijuana or hashish	75.7%	78.2%	57.6%	54.9	37.5%	36.0%	13.6%	18.0%
Cocaine or crack	48.1	50.4	30.5	31.0	20.7	22.8	10.6	14.3
Heroin/opiates	20.7	23.9	11.9	11.8	7.8	7.9	4.1	5.1
Depressants ^c	21.6	29.9	10.6	10.4	6.1	5.3	2.4	2.2
Stimulants ^d	27.8	33.6	16.8	16.5	11.4	9.6	5.2	5.6
Hallucinogens ^e	32.4	32.2	13.2	10.5	5.9	4.2	1.6	1.4
Inhalants	12.7	16.8	4.1	4.8	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.3

^aIncludes all inmates with a current conviction or with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

^bUsed drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

^cDepressants include barbiturates, tranquilizers, and quaaludes.

^dStimulants include amphetamines and methamphetamines.

^eHallucinogens include LSD, Ecstasy, and PCP.

Table 13. Convicted jail inmates using drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense, by characteristics of inmates, 2002 and 1996

Characteristic	Alcohol or drugs		Alcohol		Drugs	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
Total	49.7%	58.8%	34.5%	40.8%	28.8%	33.4%
Gender						
Male	50.2%	58.9%	35.7%	41.4%	28.0%	32.4%
Female	46.3	58.4	25.5	32.9	34.4	42.5
Race/Hispanic origin						
White*	58.8	67.1%	39.5	46.7	33.2	30.3
Black*	43.2	51.1	30.5	34.2	27.3	39.2
Hispanic	44.2	57.4	31.3	36.4	23.8	30.6
Most serious offense						
Violent	47.2%	52.9%	37.6%	40.9%	21.8%	24.1%
Property	46.8	53.0	28.5	33.7	32.5	37.0
Drug	51.7	63.1	22.4	27.6	43.2	60.3
Public-order, excluding DWI	37.2	45.4	32.3	33.7	19.8	22.7

Note: Includes all inmates with a current conviction or a prior conviction.

*Non-Hispanic inmates.

	Percent of convicted jail inmates	
	2002	1996
Current drug offense*	31.0%	27.8%
Current DWI offense*	9.7	10.7
Alcohol/drug use at time of offense	49.9	58.8
Drug use in month before	50.8	54.0
Daily use of alcohol in year before admission	34.4	36.7
Drug/alcohol involved	77.1%	77.2%

*Includes any current drug or DWI offense.

Substance abuse treatment rose slightly between 1996 and 2002

Participation in substance abuse treatment for jail inmates who reported regular use of drugs or alcohol rose (from 50% to 58%) between 2002 and 1996 (table 14). However, participation among convicted jail inmates who had used drugs or alcohol in the month before their current arrest was unchanged at about 53%.

In 2002 an estimated 15% of regular users in the year before their arrest said they had received treatment since their current admission to jail, a slight increase from 12% in 1996. Self-help (10%) and education awareness (5%) were the most common types of programs inmates said they had participated in since admission to jail.

About 43% of regular drug or alcohol users in 2002 reported past treatment while under correctional supervision (in jail or prison or on probation or parole). About 34% of regular users in 1996 reported past treatment. The increase may be due to reported past treatment while on probation or parole which rose from 23% in 1996 to 31% in 2002. Past treatment in prison or jail had a smaller increase from 25% to 29%.

Nearly a third of convicted jail inmates in 2002 who had used drugs or alcohol in the month before their arrest said they had participated in a treatment program while on probation or parole, up from over a quarter in 1996. Convicted inmates who said they had participated in treatment while in prison or jail remained at 28%.

Over half of all jail inmates grew up in a single-parent household or with a guardian

Over half of jail inmates grew up in either a single-parent household or with a guardian, such as grandparents, another relative, or a nonrelative (table 15). Jail inmates who lived with a mother only dropped from 43% to 39% between 1996 and 2002.

Table 14. Substance abuse treatment of jail inmates who used alcohol or drugs, 2002 and 1996

Type of treatment	All inmates		Convicted inmates	
	Used regularly*		Used drugs or alcohol in the month before arrest	
	2002	1996	2002	1996
Any treatment	58.0%	50.1%	53.8%	53.2%
Ever participated under correctional supervision	43.4%	34.3%	42.9%	39.0%
Prison/jail	28.7	24.7	27.9	27.5
Probation/parole	31.0	23.0	32.2	27.1
Since admission	15.1%	12.3%	16.2%	14.4%
Self-help	9.8	9.1	10.5	10.8
Education/awareness	4.6	3.7	5.1	4.6
Special facility	2.9	1.9	3.0	2.4
Counseling	2.0	1.4	2.4	1.6
Detoxification	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Number of jail inmates	515,646	411,567	338,007	277,787

Note: Excludes inmates for whom treatment and drug or alcohol use information were unknown.

*Used drugs or alcohol at least once a week for a month during the year before the current arrest.

Over half of all jail inmates were employed full time in the month before their arrest

	Percent of jail inmates	
	2002	1996
Pre-arrest employment^a		
Employed	71.0%	64.0%
Full time	57.4	49.3
Part time	10.9	10.4
Occasional	18.4	4.5
Not employed	29.0	35.6
Looking	15.1	19.6
Not looking	13.8	16.2
Pre-arrest personal income		
None	19.3%	14.4%
Less than \$300	10.6	16.7
\$300-599	15.0	18.9
\$600-999	14.2	17.2
\$1,000-1,999	24.4	20.4
\$2,000 or more	16.4	12.4
Sources of income^{a,b}		
Wages or salary	63.2%	74.7%
Family/friends	15.8	16.2
Illegal sources	11.8	15.2
Welfare	6.3	13.8
Compensation ^c	9.1	7.4
Other ^d	4.7	5.6
Homeless in past year	14.3%	19.2%
Number of jail inmates	631,241	507,026

^aExcludes inmates who were not free at least a month.

^bDetails may add to more than 100% because inmates may report multiple sources of income.

^cIncludes Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Worker's Compensation, unemployment insurance, or other compensation payments.

^dIncludes pensions, educational assistance, investments, alimony, and other unspecified types of income.

- 71% of jail inmates in 2002 reported that they were employed in the month before their arrest, up from 64% in 1996.

- About 41% of inmates in 2002 reported monthly income of \$1,000 or more, compared to 33% of inmates in 1996. Wages or salary were the most common sources of income for jail inmates in both years.

- The percentage of jail inmates who had received welfare in the month before arrest dropped from 14% in 1996 to 6% in 2002.

- Male inmates (60%) were more likely than female inmates (40%) to be employed in the month before their arrest.

- Two-thirds of men in jail had income from wages or salary, compared to a quarter of women.

- In 2002, 14% of jail inmates reported being homeless, living in a shelter or on the street in the year before their current admission to jail, down from 19% in 1996.

An estimated 12% of jail inmates in 2002, compared to 14% in 1996, said they had lived in a foster home, agency, or institution while growing up.

In 2002, 31% of jail inmates said they grew up in households where a parent or guardian abused alcohol or drugs, unchanged since 1996. Nearly 9% lived with parents who abused both alcohol and drugs.

An estimated 46% of jail inmates in 2002 had a family member who had been incarcerated in a prison or jail. About 31% had a brother; 19% a father; 9% a sister; and 7% a mother who had been incarcerated.

35% of jail inmates reported ever having been injured in an assault prior to admission to jail

In 2002, for the first time, jail inmates were asked if they had ever suffered an injury from an assault before their

Table 15. Family background of jail inmates, 2002 and 1996

	2002	1996
Person(s) lived with most of the time while growing up:		
Both parents	43.6%	39.7%
Mother only	39.2	43.3
Father only	4.4	4.9
Grandparents	10.3	7.0
Other	2.5	5.2
Ever lived in a foster home, agency, or institution while growing up	11.5%	13.6%
Family member ever incarcerated		
Total*	46.3%	46.1%
Father	18.6	17.1
Mother	7.1	4.4
Brother	31.4	30.3
Sister	8.9	6.2
Spouse	1.8	3.3
Child	3.5	1.3
Parent or guardian ever abused alcohol or drugs while inmate was growing up		
Alcohol	19.9%	23.1%
Drugs	2.1	1.3
Both alcohol and drugs	8.6	6.9

*Details may not add to total because more than one response was possible.

current admission to jail. (See *Methodology* for a description.) More than a third of all jail inmates said they had ever been injured in an assault (table 16). About 17% of jail inmates had been injured after they were adults, age 18 or older, and 8% said they had been injured before age 18.

Around 37% of male jail inmates said they had sustained an injury following an assault, compared to 16% of female inmates. A larger percentage of female inmates (86%) than male inmates (68%) knew the person who caused the injury.

Table 16. Prior injury in an assault of jail inmates, 2002

Age when physically injured	Percent of jail inmates		
	All	Male	Female
Ever	34.9%	37.4%	15.8%
Before age 18	8.0	8.8	2.5
After age 18	16.7	17.5	10.8
Both	10.1	11.1	2.5
Person causing injury	Percent of injured		
	All	Male	Female
Known person	68.6%	67.7%	86.2%
Parent/guardian	3.3	3.1	4.9
Intimate*	22.7	19.9	61.5
Other relatives	5.4	5.3	6.0
Friend/acquaintance	63.1	65.5	29.2
Stranger	31.4%	32.3%	13.8%

Note: Details adds to more than total because more than 1 person may have injured inmates.
*Includes (ex) spouse, (ex) boyfriend, and (ex) girlfriend.

An estimated 62% of female inmates said an intimate partner — such as (ex) spouse, (ex) girlfriend, or (ex) boyfriend — had caused the injury. About 20% of male inmates said they were injured by an intimate partner. Over 5% of female and 3% of male inmates said they had been injured by a parent or guardian.

18% of jail inmates reported physical or sexual abuse prior to admission to jail

In 2002, 18% of all jail inmates said they had been physically or sexually abused before their most recent admission to jail, a slight increase from 16% in 1996 (table 17). The percent of female inmates who said they had been abused rose from 48% to 55%, while the distribution for male inmates was unchanged at 13%.

The overall increase in physical or sexual abuse among female inmates may be attributable to those reporting physical abuse which rose from 37% to 45% between 1996 and 2002.

In 2002, 36% of female inmates reported they had been sexually abused in the past. An estimated 4% of men reported sexual abuse prior to their current jail admission.

Table 17. Prior physical or sexual abuse of jail inmates, 2002 and 1996

	Percent of all jail inmates					
	All		Male		Female	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
Ever physically or sexually abused	18.2%	16.4%	13.4%	12.9%	55.3%	47.5%
Before age 18	10.9	11.6	9.7	10.6	20.3	20.8
After age 18	4.9	2.0	2.3	1.0	25.2	10.9
Both	2.3	2.7	1.4	1.3	9.7	15.8
Physically abused	15.1%	13.3%	11.2%	10.7%	44.9%	37.2%
Sexually abused	7.7	8.7	4.0	5.6	35.9	37.1
Relationship to abuser	Percent of abused inmates					
Knew abuser	92.4%	86.6%	92.5%	87.9%	92.1%	90.3%
Parent/guardian	47.9	53.2	59.7	60.1	25.7	36.3
Intimate*	30.0	16.6	10.5	3.5	66.7	47.7
Other relatives	17.3	24.4	16.4	21.6	18.9	31.3
Friend/acquaintance	20.7	23.1	13.9	21.7	33.5	26.4
Did not know abuser	7.6%	13.4%	7.5%	12.1%	7.9%	17.9%

Note: Details adds to more than total because more than 1 person may have abused inmates; or some inmates were both physically and sexually abused.
*Includes (ex) spouse, (ex) boyfriend, and (ex) girlfriend.

Among jail inmates who had been abused, women (68%) were more likely than men (11%) to have been abused by an intimate partner. Among abused women, 26% said they had been physically or sexually abused by a parent or guardian, and 34% by a friend or acquaintance. Among abused men, 60% had been physically or sexually abused by a parent or guardian, and 14% by a friend or acquaintance.

Nearly a fifth of jail inmates had ever been under a restraining order

In 2002, 19% of jail inmates had at some time been under a restraining order or protection order (table 18). About 5% of all jail inmates had an order in effect when they were admitted to jail. Fewer than 2% had a formal violation charge among their current offenses.

Nearly 5% of jail inmates said they had violated a restraining order in the past. Of jail inmates who had ever been under a restraining order, three-quarters said the order was sought by an intimate. A fifth said a nonrelative had obtained the order.

Table 18. Experience of jail inmates with a restraining order, 2002

Restraining order	Percent of jail inmates		
	All	Violent	Non-violent
Ever under order	18.6%	24.3%	16.7%
At admission	5.1	7.3	4.4
Ever violated	4.4%	5.1%	4.1%
Violation charge at admission	1.5	2.0	1.3
	Percent of inmates ever under a restraining order		
Person who sought order*			
Parent	3.8%	5.1%	3.1%
Intimate*	75.1	73.1	76.4
Other relative	2.3	2.7	2.2
Other nonrelative	20.5	22.1	19.3

Note: Details adds to more than total because more than one persons may have sought restraining order.
 *Includes (ex-) spouse, (ex-) boyfriend, and (ex-) girlfriend.

Methodology

The Survey of Inmates in Local Jails was conducted from January through April, 2002. The sample for the survey was selected from a universe of 3,365 jails that were enumerated in the 1999 Census of Jails. The sample design was a stratified two-stage selection, where jails were selected in the first stage and inmates to be interviewed in the second stage.

In the first stage, six separate strata were formed based on the size of the male, female and juvenile (both male and female) populations. In two strata all jails were selected – those jails housing only females and those with more than 1,000 males or more than 50 females or both. In the remaining four strata a systematic sample of jails was selected. Each jail within a stratum had an equal probability of selection. Overall, 465 jails were selected. Interviews were conducted in 417 jails; 39 refused or were excluded for administrative reasons; and 9 were closed or had no inmates to survey.

In the second sampling stage, interviewers from the Census Bureau visited each selected facility and systematically selected a sample of male and female inmates. The sample used a random start and a total number of interviews based upon the size and sex of the facility. A total of 6,982 inmates were interviewed, and 768 refused to participate, for a second stage nonresponse of 9.9%.

The interviews, about an hour long, used computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). The computers provided questions for the interviewer, including follow-up questions tailored to the preceding answers. Before the interview, inmates were told verbally and in writing that participation was voluntary and that all information provided would be held in confidence.

Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire jail population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These

factors were adjusted for variable rates of nonresponse across strata and inmate characteristics. Further adjustments were made to control the survey estimates to counts of jail inmates obtained from the 1999 Census of Jails and the 2001 Annual Survey of Jails.

The accuracy of the 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails depends on sampling and measurement errors. Sampling errors occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Measurement error can be attributed to many sources, such as nonresponse, recall difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, and data processing errors.

The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population. Estimates of the standard errors for selected characteristics have been calculated for the 2002 Survey.

Standard error tables are available in Appendix tables on the BJS Website <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pji02.htm>.

In this report, the definition of a convicted jail inmate differs from other previously published reports. All available survey data were used to classify inmates as convicted, unconvicted, or both convicted and unconvicted. In the Annual Survey of Jails, administrators report the detention status of the most serious offense and include probation and parole violators with no new sentence among convicted inmates. Trend comparisons between data in this report and reports based on data from previous jail inmate surveys are affected by the revised definition of convicted and unconvicted inmates. Other revisions to the questionnaire will also affect comparisons across surveys.

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Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

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In the questionnaire, physical assault was defined as being pushed, grabbed, slapped, kicked, bit, shoved, hit with a fist, beat up, choked, or having a weapon (such as a gun, knife, rock or other object) used against them. A physical injury was defined as knife wounds, gunshot wounds, broken bone, teeth knocked out or chipped, internal injuries, knocked unconscious, bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling, or welts.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

Doris J. James wrote this report, under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. Jennifer C. Karberg and Christopher J. Mumola verified the report, and Tom Hester edited it.

Doris J. James, under the supervision of Allen J. Beck, designed the survey, developed the questionnaire, and monitored data collection, data processing, and production of weights.

Stephen M. Bittner and Tammy Anderson, Demographic Surveys Division, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, carried out questionnaire design and development, under the supervision of Gertrude Odom. Stephen M. Bittner monitored data collection and processing, under the supervision of

Marilyn M. Monahan. Renee Arion programmed the questionnaire, and Dave Keating programmed the listing instrument, under the supervision of Rob Wallace, Technologies Management Office. Programming assistance in the Demographic Surveys Division was provided by Mildred Ballenger, Ruth Breads, Bach-Loan Nguyen, Scott Raudabaugh, and David Watt under the supervision of Stephen Phillips.

John M. Finamore, Brandi York, and Dave Hornick, Demographic Surveys Methods Division, under the supervision of Thomas Moore, designed the sample and weighting specifications. Sydnee Chattin-Reynolds and Luis Padilla, Field Division, under the supervision of Richard Ning, coordinated the field operations. The affiliations for the Census Bureau date to the time of the survey.

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