

The Footprint: Tracking the Size of America's Criminal Justice System

Methodology and Data Sources

The analysis, entitled, [The Footprint: Tracking the Size of America's Criminal Justice System](#), is a series of interactive charts that summarizes trends in crime, arrests, and correctional control (incarceration and community supervision), comparing current levels with their most recent peaks or valleys.

Depending on data availability, analyses reflect national data from the last few years to the last six decades. Reliable data are not available for all analyses during the same periods. Data were collected across various reports, data tools, and databases; source data are provided below. Data were available in both published reports and online data tools for some analyses. Please consult the source for additional details and updates to methodology, which may result in slightly different values between sources. In all cases, trend data were consistent across sources. Racial and ethnic identity data are presented as measured in the primary source, therefore data on all racial and ethnic identity categories are not available for all analyses. Sex data are presented as binary (male/female) based on how sex was measured over time in the primary source. More recent data sometimes include a transgender category in the primary source; these data are not presented in the current analysis due to the limited number of years for which this information is available.

Reported Crime

Reported Violent Crime and Reported Property Crime

- 1960-1978: The Disaster Center. (2019). *United States crime rates 1960-2019*. <https://www.disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime.htm>
- 1979-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime data explorer: Summary reporting system dataset*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>
 - Note: 2021 and 2022 data were revised with the 2023 Summary Reporting System release in 2024; 2023 data were revised with the 2024 release in 2025. These revised figures may differ from those in Table 1 of the FBI's *Crime in the United States*, which presents weighted estimates that adjust for partial and non-reporting jurisdictions.

Reported Hate Crimes and Bias Categories for Reported Hate Crimes

- 1992-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime data explorer: Hate crime in the United States incident analysis*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hatecrime>

Identity Theft and Fraud

- 2020-2024: Federal Trade Commission. (n.d.). *FTC consumer sentinel network: Time trends*. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/federal.trade.commission/viz/TheBigViewAllSentinelReports/TrendsOverTime>

Criminal Victimization

Violent Crime Victimization and Property Crime Victimization

- 1993-2024: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *National crime victimization survey data dashboard (N-DASH)*. <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home>
 - Note: 2006 data are not comparable to other years due to changes in survey methodology.

Arrests

Total Arrests, Arrests by Offense, Arrests by Sex, Arrests by Sex and Offense, Arrests by Race

- 1980-2012: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (n.d.). *Arrests by offense, age, and gender*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefingbook/crime/faqs/ucr>
- 2013-2019: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime in the United States*. Table 29. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s>
- 2020-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime in the United States*. Table 29. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>
 - Notes: Arrest data for 2016 are excluded because the necessary tables were not available in that year's FBI Crime in the United States release. Data for 2021 are also excluded due to a national reporting transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which resulted in unusually low participation and incomplete national coverage. See here for details: [Methodology and data sources: Arrest trends in America, 1980-2024](#).

Correctional Control, 1980-2022

Probation

Probation

- 1980-1993: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1994-2016: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Probation*. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtuallibrary/abstracts/corrections-statistical-analysis-tool-csat-probation>
 - Note: This source is no longer accessible online.
- 2017-2020: Kluckow, R. & Zeng, Z. (2022). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 303184). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus20st.pdf>
- 2021-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Probation and parole in the United States, YEAR*.
 - Rates were generated using U.S. population counts drawn from: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime data explorer: Summary reporting system dataset*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>

Probation by Race and Probation by Sex

- 2001-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Probation*. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtuallibrary/abstracts/corrections-statistical-analysis-tool-csat-probation>
 - Note: This source is no longer accessible online.
- 2011-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Probation and parole in the United States, YEAR*.

Parole

Parole

- 1980-1993: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1994-2016: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Parole*. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtuallibrary/abstracts/corrections-statistical-analysis-tool-csat-parole>
 - Note: This source is no longer accessible online.
- 2017-2020: Kluckow, R. & Zeng, Z. (2022). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 303184). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/correctional-populations-unitedstates-2020-statistical-tables>

- 2021-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Probation and parole in the United States, YEAR*.
 - Rates were generated using U.S. population counts drawn from: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime data explorer: Summary reporting system dataset*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>

Parole by Race and Parole by Sex

- 2001-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Parole*. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtuallibrary/abstracts/corrections-statistical-analysis-tool-csat-parole>
 - Note: This source is no longer accessible online.
- 2011-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Probation and parole in the United States, YEAR*.

Jails

Incarceration in Jails

- 1980-1982: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1983-2020: Prison Policy Initiative. (n.d.). *State prisons, local jails and federal prisons, incarceration rates and counts, 1925-2020*. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/data/>
- 2021-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates in YEAR*.
 - Notes: Data from 1990-2004 were estimated by multiplying the percentage of each racial group by the total population of adults incarcerated in jails. Rates were generated using U.S. Census Intercensal Population Estimates, <https://www.nber.org/research/data/us-census-intercensalpopulation-estimates>

Jail Incarceration by Conviction Status

- 1982-2023: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates in YEAR*.

Jail Incarceration by Race

- 2011-2014: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates at midyear, statistical tables*.
- 2015: Minton, T. D., & Zeng, Z. (2016). *Jail inmates in 2016* (NCJ 250394). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji15.pdf>
- 2016-2021: Zeng, Z. (2022). *Jail inmates in 2021 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 304888), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/ji21st.pdf>
- 2022: Zeng, Z. (2023). *Jail inmates in 2022 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 307086), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/ji22st.pdf>

- 2023: Zeng, Z. (2025). *Jail inmates in 2023 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 309965), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/web-report/jailinmates-2023-statistical-tables#jail-incarceration-rates-2>
 - Note: The 2013 to 2022 race and ethnicity rate data were revised in the *Jail Inmates in 2023* report.

Jail Incarceration by Sex

- 1983-1991: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates in YEAR*.
- 1992-1993: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1994-1997: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2000). *Correctional populations in the United States, 1997* (NCJ 177613). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus9702.pdf>
- 1998-2006: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Prison and jail inmates at midyear*.
- 2007-2014: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates at midyear, statistical tables*.
- 2015: Minton, T. D., & Zeng, Z. (2016). *Jail inmates in 2016* (NCJ 250394). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji15.pdf>
- 2016-2021: Zeng, Z. (2022). *Jail inmates in 2021 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 304888), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/ji21st.pdf>
- 2022: Zeng, Z. (2023). *Jail inmates in 2022 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 307086), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/ji22st.pdf>
- 2023: Zeng, Z. (2025). *Jail inmates in 2023 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 309965), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/web-report/jailinmates-2023-statistical-tables#jail-incarceration-rates-2>

State Prisons

Incarceration in State Prisons

- 1960-1977: National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. (2005). *Historical statistics on prisoners in state and federal institutions, Yearend 1925-1986: United States*. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR08912.v1>
- 1978-2019: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Quick Tables*. <https://csat.bjs.ojp.gov/quick-tables>
- 2020-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/prisoners-2021-statistical-tables>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>

State Prison Population by Offense Type

- 1990, 1995-2019: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports. *Prisoners in YEAR*.
- 1991-1994: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports. *Correctional populations in the United States, YEAR*.
- 2020: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 16. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>
- 2021: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 17 (state) and Table 20 (federal). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2022: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 16. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>
 - Note: When updated estimates were provided in subsequent annual reports, the newer data were used.

State Imprisonment Rate by Race

- 1990-2020: United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021). *National Prisoner Statistics, 1978-2020* (ICPSR 38249). Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.
<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR38249.v1>

State Prison Population by Sex

- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Female prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov
- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Male prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov
- 2011-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>

Federal Prisons

Incarceration in Federal Prisons

- 1960-1977: National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. (2005). *Historical statistics on prisoners in state and federal institutions, Yearend 1925-1986: United States*. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR08912.v1>
- 1978-2019: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Corrections statistical analysis tool (CSAT): Quick Tables*. <https://csat.bjs.ojp.gov/quick-tables>
- 2020-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/prisoners-2021-statistical-tables>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>

Federal Prison Population by Offense Type

- 1990, 1995-2019: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports. *Prisoners in YEAR*.
- 1991-1994: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports. *Correctional populations in the United States, YEAR*.
- 2020-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 16. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 17 (State) and Table 20 (Federal). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 16. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>
 - Note: When updated estimates were provided in subsequent annual reports, the newer data were used.

Federal Prison Population by Sex

- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Female prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov
- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Male prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov

- 2011-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 2, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>

The Incarceration of Women and Juveniles

Incarcerated Women

Jails

- 1983-1991: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates in YEAR*.
- 1992-1993: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1994-1997: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2000). *Correctional populations in the United States, 1997* (NCJ 177613). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus9702.pdf>
- 1998-2006: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Prison and jail inmates at midyear*.
- 2007-2014: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates at midyear, statistical tables*.
- 2015: Minton, T. D., & Zeng, Z. (2016). *Jail inmates in 2016* (NCJ 250394). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji15.pdf>
- 2016-2021: Zeng, Z. (2022). *Jail inmates in 2021 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 304888), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/ji21st.pdf>
- 2022: Zeng, Z. (2023). *Jail inmates in 2022 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 307086), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/ji22st.pdf>
- 2023: Zeng, Z. (2025). *Jail inmates in 2023 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 309965), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/webreport/jail-inmates-2023-statistical-tables#jail-incarceration-rates-2>

Prisons

- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Female prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov
- 1978-2010: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Male prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, 1978-2010*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov

- 2011-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21_st.pdf
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>

Juveniles in Residential Placement, Juveniles in Residential Placement by Race, and Juveniles in Residential Placement by Sex

- 1997-2023: Puzanchera, C., Sladky, T.J., & Kang, W. (2025). *Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

Juveniles Held in Local Jails, 1982-2023

- 1982-1991: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates in YEAR*.
- 1992-1993: Snell, T. L. (1995). *Correctional populations in the United States* (NCJ 156241). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpop93bk.pdf>
- 1994-1997: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2000). *Correctional populations in the United States, 1997* (NCJ 177613). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus9702.pdf>
- 1998-2006: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Prison and jail inmates at midyear*.
- 2007-2014: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Individual annual reports, *Jail inmates at midyear, statistical tables*.
- 2015: Minton, T. D., & Zeng, Z. (2016). *Jail inmates in 2016* (NCJ 250394). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji15.pdf>
- 2016-2021: Zeng, Z. (2022). *Jail inmates in 2021 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 304888), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/ji21st.pdf>
- 2022: Zeng, Z. (2023). *Jail inmates in 2022 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 307086), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/ji22st.pdf>
- 2023: Zeng, Z. (2025). *Jail inmates in 2023 – Statistical tables* (NCJ 309965), Table 2. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/web-report/jailinmates-2023-statistical-tables#jail-incarceration-rates-2>

Juveniles Held in State and Federal Prisons

- 2000-2019: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *Number of inmates under 18 held at year-end, national, 1980-2019*. Generated using the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov

- 2020-2021: Carson, E. A. (2022). *Prisoners in 2021 – statistical tables* (NCJ 305125), Table 15. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>
- 2022: Carson, E. A. (2023). *Prisoners in 2022 – statistical tables* (NCJ 307149), Table 15. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>
- 2023: Mueller, D., & Kluckow, R. (2025). *Prisoners in 2023 – statistical tables* (NCJ 310197), Table 15. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p23st.pdf>