



PRISONERS IN 2007

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

1970 W. Broad Street, 4th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43223

Toll-Free: (800) 448-4842

Telephone: (614) 466-7782

Fax: (614) 466-0308

www.ocjs.ohio.gov



PRISONERS IN 2007

In December 2008, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin, *Prisoners in 2007*. This annual report highlights characteristics of the nation's prison population. The following summarizes some key findings of the report, with emphasis on Ohio data wherever possible.

Prison population

- The U.S. prison population grew 1.8 percent in 2007. This increase was slower than the average annual growth of 2.0 percent from 2000 through 2006. The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State adult correctional authorities was 1,598,316 at the end of 2007. Nearly 93 percent were males and 7.2 percent were females.
 - Ohio experienced a 3.2 percent increase in the prison population, from 49,166 at the end of 2006 to 50,731 at the end of 2007. Ohio ranked 6th of all states in total prison population.
- The rate of incarceration in prison at the end of 2007 was 506 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, a rate equivalent to about 1 in every 198 U.S. residents serving a prison term of over one year.
 - At the end of 2007, Ohio had a rate of incarceration of 442 inmates per 100,000 residents.
- At the end of 2007, the Federal prison system was operating at 36 percent over capacity. In addition, 19 states, including Ohio, were operating at or above their highest capacity.
 - At the end of 2007, Ohio prisons were operating at 25 percent over capacity.

Prisoner demographics

- By the end of 2007, women accounted for 6.9 percent of all prisoners. The incarceration rate for females in 2007 was 69 per 100,000 population. For males, the incarceration rate was 955 per 100,000 population.
- Nationwide, the number of female prisoners increased 1.7 percent during 2007. The number of male prisoners increased 1.8 percent.
 - In Ohio, the number of female prisoners increased 3.3 percent from 2006 to 2007, while the number of males increased 3.2 percent during this time.
- Nationwide, from 2000-2006, the annual rate of growth of female inmates averaged 3.2 percent, whereas the average rate of increase for male inmates was 1.9 percent.
 - Ohio has averaged a 4.7 percent increase in female inmates from 2000 to 2006, compared to a slight increase of 0.9 percent for male prisoners during the same time period.

- The imprisonment rate for Black inmates (male and female) was higher than that of White or Hispanic/Latino inmates; however, the data indicate an overall declining rate of imprisonment for Black inmates.
 - In 2007, Black males had an imprisonment rate of 3,138 per 100,000 U.S. residents, compared to a rate of 481 for White males and 1,259 for Hispanic or Latino males.
 - Black females had an imprisonment rate of 150 per 100,000 U.S. residents, compared to a rate of 50 per 100,000 for White females and 79 per 100,000 for Hispanic or Latino females.

Table 6. Imprisonment rates for sentenced prisoners, December 31, 2000, 2006, and 2007

	Imprisonment rate per 100,000 U.S. residents			Change 2000-2007
	2000	2006	2007	
Total ^a	478	501	506	28
Male^a	915	943	955	40
White ^b	410	487	481	71
Black ^b	3,188	3,042	3,138	-50
Hispanic or Latino	1,419	1,261	1,259	-160
Female^a	59	68	69	10
White ^b	33	48	50	17
Black ^b	175	148	150	-25
Hispanic or Latino	78	81	79	1

Note: Imprisonment rates are based on U.S. Census Bureau population estimates per 100,000 U.S. residents. Resident population estimates are as of January 1 in each year following the reference year.

^aIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, Prisoners in 2007. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Offenses committed by prisoners

- The latest data available (yearend 2005) indicate that 53 percent of inmates in state prisons were held for violent offenses: murder/manslaughter, robbery, assault, and rape and other sexual assaults, and other violent offenses. In addition,
 - 19.2 percent were held for various property offenses
 - 19.5 percent were held for drug offenses
 - 7.6 percent were held for public order offenses, which includes but is not limited to: weapons, drunk driving, court offenses, commercialized vice, morals/decency charges, and liquor law violations

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' website:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p07.pdf>.