



PRISONERS IN 2006

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In December 2007, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin, *Prisoners in 2006*. 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 rates

- The U.S. prison population grew 2.8 percent in 2006. This represents an increase in annual growth, which has averaged 1.9 percent from 2000 through 2005.
 - The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal or state adult correctional authorities was 1,570,861 at the end of 2006.
 - Ohio experienced a 7.2 percent increase in the prison population, from 45,854 at the end of 2005 to 49,166 at the end of 2006. Among the 10 states with the largest prison populations, Ohio's prison population was second only to Georgia in rate of growth during 2006.

- The rate of incarceration in prison at the end of 2006 was 501 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, a rate equivalent to about one in every 200 U.S. residents serving a prison term of over one year.
 - At the end of 2006, Ohio had a rate of incarceration of 428 inmates per 100,000 residents.

- At the end of 2006, the federal prison system was operating at 37 percent over capacity. In addition, 23 states, including Ohio, were operating at or above their highest capacity.
 - At the end of 2006, Ohio prisons were operating at 23 percent over capacity.

Prisoner demographics

- By the end of 2006, women accounted for 7.2 percent of all prisoners.
 - The incarceration rate for females in 2006 was 68 per 100,000 population. For males, the incarceration rate was 943 per 100,000 population.
 - Nationwide, the number of female prisoners increased 4.5 percent during 2006. The number of male prisoners increased 2.7 percent.
 - In Ohio, the number of female prisoners increased 13.5 percent from 2005 to 2006, while the number of males increased 6.7 percent during this time.
 - Nationwide, from 2000-2005, the annual rate of growth of female inmates averaged 2.9 percent, whereas the average rate of increase for male inmates was 1.8 percent.
 - Ohio has averaged a 3.0 percent increase in female inmates from 2000 to 2005, compared to a slight decrease of 0.2 percent for male prisoners during the same time period.

- A greater estimated percentage of Black inmates than White or Hispanic inmates were incarcerated for sentences of more than one year at the end of 2006, but the data indicate an overall declining percentage of Black prisoners from 2000 to 2006.
 - In 2006, Black males made up 38 percent of all male inmates, while White males made up 34 percent and Hispanic inmates made up 21 percent.
 - Forty-eight percent of females sentenced to one or more years in prison in 2006 were White, 28 percent were Black, and 17 percent were Hispanic.

- About one in every 33 Black men was a sentenced prisoner in 2006, compared to one in every 205 White men and one in 79 Hispanic men.

Offenses committed by prisoners

- The latest data available (year-end 2004) indicate that 52 percent of inmates in state prisons were held for violent offenses: murder, robbery, assault, and rape and other sexual assaults, and other violent offenses. In addition,
 - 21 percent were held for various property offenses
 - 20 percent were held for drug offenses
 - 7 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' web site:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p06.htm>.