



PRISONERS IN 2008

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In December 2009, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin, *Prisoners in 2008*. 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 0.8 percent in 2008. This increase was slower than the average annual growth of 1.8 percent from 2000 through 2008. The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State adult correctional authorities was 1,610,446 at the end of 2008.
 - Ohio experienced a 1.9 percent increase in the prison population, from 50,731 at the end of 2007 to 51,686 at the end of 2008. Ohio ranked 6th of all states in total prison population.
- The rate of imprisonment at the end of 2008 was 504 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 2008, Ohio had a rate of imprisonment of 449 inmates per 100,000 residents.
- At the end of 2008, the Federal prison system was operating at 35 percent over capacity. In addition, 13 states, including Ohio, were operating at or above their highest capacity.
 - At the end of 2008, Ohio prisons were operating at 27 percent over capacity.

Prisoner demographics

- By the end of 2008, women accounted for 6.8 percent of all prisoners. The imprisonment rate for females in 2008 was 68 per 100,000 population. For males, the imprisonment rate was 952 per 100,000 population.
- Nationwide, the number of female prisoners decreased 0.5 percent during 2008. The number of male prisoners increased 0.5 percent.
 - In Ohio, the number of female prisoners increased 2.4 percent from 2007 to 2008, while the number of males increased 1.8 percent during this time.
- Nationwide, from 2000-2007, the annual rate of growth of female inmates averaged 3.2 percent, whereas the average rate of increase for male inmates was 2.0 percent.
 - Ohio has averaged a 4.5 percent increase in female inmates from 2000 to 2007, compared to an increase of 1.2 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 2008, Black males had an imprisonment rate of 3,161 per 100,000 U.S. residents, compared to a rate of 487 for White males and 1,200 for Hispanic or Latino males.
 - Black females had an imprisonment rate of 149 per 100,000 U.S. residents, compared to a rate of 50 per 100,000 for White females and 75 per 100,000 for Hispanic or Latino females.

Offenses committed by prisoners

- The latest data available (yearend 2006) indicate that 50 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,
 - 20.9 percent were held for various property offenses
 - 20.0 percent were held for drug offenses
 - 8.4 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://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/p08.pdf>.