



# Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014

Todd D. Minton and Zhen Zeng, Ph.D., *BJS Statisticians*

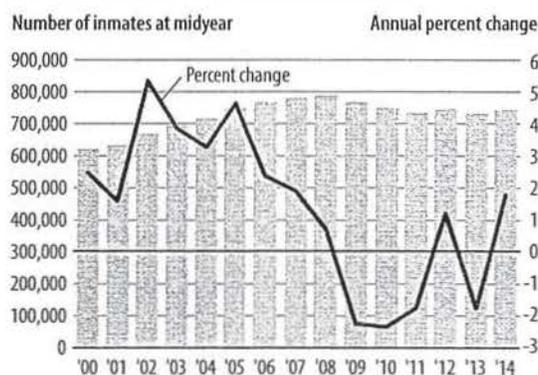
The number of inmates confined in county and city jails was an estimated 744,600 at midyear 2014 (figure 1, table 1). The jail population remained steady at the 2012 level and was significantly lower than the peak of an estimated 785,500 at midyear 2008. Since 2000, the jail inmate population increased about 1% each year.

The jail incarceration rate—the confined jail population per 100,000 U.S. residents—decreased steadily from a peak of 259 inmates per 100,000 at midyear 2007 to 234 per 100,000 at midyear 2014. The adult only jail incarceration rate has also declined from a high of 340 inmates per 100,000 at midyear 2007 to 302 per 100,000 at midyear 2014.

This report summarizes data from the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ) which is conducted in years between the complete census of local jails. ASJ uses a stratified probability sample of jail jurisdictions to estimate the number and characteristics of local inmates nationwide. The 2014 ASJ sample consisted of 891 jail jurisdictions, represented by 942 jail facilities (referred to as reporting units). This sample

represents about 2,750 jail jurisdictions nationwide. Local jail jurisdictions include counties (parishes in Louisiana) or municipal governments that administer one or more local jails.

**FIGURE 1**  
Inmates confined in local jails at midyear and percent change in the jail population, 2000–2014



Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, midyear 2000–2004 and midyear 2006–2014; and Census of Jail Inmates, midyear 2005.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of inmates confined in county and city jails was an estimated 744,600 at midyear 2014, which was significantly lower than the peak of 785,500 inmates at midyear 2008.
- Since 2000, the jail inmate population increased about 1% each year.
- The jail incarceration rate decreased from a peak of 259 per 100,000 in 2007 to 234 per 100,000 at midyear 2014.
- The female inmate population increased 18.1% between midyear 2010 and 2014, while the male population declined 3.2%.
- White inmates accounted for 47% of the total jail population, blacks represented 35%, and Hispanics represented 15%.
- About 4,200 juveniles age 17 or younger were held in local jails at midyear 2014. They accounted for 0.6% of the confined population, down from 1.2% at midyear 2000.
- Nearly 90% or 3,700 juvenile inmates were tried or awaiting trial in adult court. The number of juveniles not charged as an adult declined by 74% between midyear 2010 and 2014.
- Since 2000, 95% of the growth in the overall jail inmate population (123,500) was due to the increase in the unconvicted population (117,700 inmates).
- Local jails admitted about 11.4 million persons during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, which was down from a peak of 13.6 million in 2008.

Local jails admitted 11.4 million persons during the 12-month period ending midyear 2014

Local jails admitted an estimated 11.4 million persons during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, a stable estimate since 2011 (11.8 million), but down from a peak of 13.6 million admissions in 2008. The number of persons admitted in 2014 was 15 times the size of the ADP (an estimated 739,000) during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014. (See *Methodology* for methods used to estimate admissions.)

Nearly 4 in 10 admissions to jail during the last week of June 2014 were to the largest jail jurisdictions (table 7). In comparison, jail jurisdictions holding fewer than 50 inmates accounted for 6% of all jail admissions. For these jurisdictions, the number of inmates admitted was 28 times the size of the ADP between midyear 2013 and 2014. These small jail jurisdictions also experienced the highest turnover rate (104%), measured as the change in admissions and releases by the ADP. (See *Methodology* for detail.) The turnover rate was the smallest in large jail jurisdictions (49%). Higher turnover rates mean larger numbers of admissions and releases relative to the size of the ADP.

**TABLE 7**  
Average daily jail population, admissions, and turnover rate, by size of jurisdiction, week ending June 30, 2013 and 2014

Jurisdiction size <sup>c</sup>	Average daily population <sup>a</sup>			Estimated number of admissions during the last week in June		Weekly turnover rate <sup>b</sup>	
	2013	2014	Difference	2013	2014*	2013	2014*
Total	731,352	738,975	7,623	224,536	218,924	60.2%	58.1%
49 or fewer	23,301	23,490	189	15,296	12,610	121.1	104.2
50–99	38,721	40,554	1,833	16,315	18,763	83.6	87.2
100–249	93,653	96,200	2,547	32,470	32,087	67.9	65.5
250–499	102,045	99,889	-2,156	35,003	33,527	66.3	65.0
500–999	123,220	125,954	2,734	46,806	35,430	75.5	56.1
1,000 or more	350,412	352,888	2,476	78,645**	86,507	44.3**	48.5

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. See *Methodology* for more detail on estimation procedures. All comparisons by average daily population are not significant at the 95%-confidence level. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

\*Comparison year on admissions and weekly turnover rate.

\*\*Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Sum of all inmates in jail each day for a year.

<sup>b</sup>Calculated by adding weekly admissions and releases, dividing by the average daily population (ADP), and multiplying by 100.

<sup>c</sup>Standardized on the ADP for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2006, the first year in the current Annual Survey of Jails sample.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, midyear 2013–2014.