



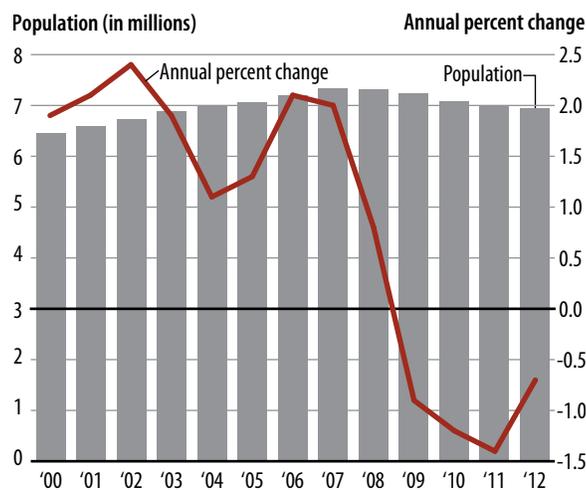
# Correctional Populations in the United States, 2012

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At yearend 2012, the combined U.S. adult correctional systems supervised about 6,937,600 offenders, down by about 51,000 offenders during the year (figure 1). The decrease observed during 2012 marked the fourth consecutive year of decline in the correctional population. However, this was the smallest decrease (down 0.7%) since the correctional population first declined in 2009, reversing a three-year trend of increasing rates of decline that started in 2009 and continued through 2011. About 1 in every 35 adult residents in the United States was under some form of correctional supervision at yearend 2012, the lowest rate observed since 1997.

This report summarizes data from several Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) correctional data collections to provide statistics on the total population supervised by adult correctional systems in the United States. (See *Methodology* for sources.) These systems include offenders living in the community while supervised by probation or parole agencies and those held in the custody of state or federal prisons or local jails.

**FIGURE 1**  
Total population under the supervision of adult correctional systems and annual percent change, 2000–2012



Note: See *Methodology* for information on the methods used to calculate annual change in the correctional population.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000–2012.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- About 6,937,600 offenders were under the supervision of adult correctional systems at yearend 2012, declining by about 51,000 offenders during the year.
- The decrease during 2012 was the fourth consecutive year of decline in the U.S. correctional population.
- Although the correctional population declined by 0.7% during 2012, this was the slowest rate of decline observed since 2009 when the population first decreased.
- In 2012 about 1 in every 35 adults in the United States, or 2.9% of adult residents, was on probation or parole or incarcerated in prison or jail, the same rate observed in 1997.
- An estimated 1 in every 50 adult residents was supervised in the community on probation or parole at yearend 2012, compared to 1 in every 108 adults incarcerated in prison or jail.
- The decrease in the probation (down 38,300) and prison (down 21,100) populations accounted for nearly all of the decline in the total correctional population during 2012.
- More than half (56%) of the decrease in the U.S. correctional population during 2012 was attributed to a drop (28,700 offenders) in California's correctional population, a decline driven by the state's Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011.

**By yearend 2012, the rate of offenders under correctional supervision dropped below the 2000 level**

About 2,870 offenders per 100,000 U.S. adult residents (or about 2.9% of adults) were under some form of correctional supervision at yearend 2012 (table 1). The correctional supervision rate dropped below 2,900 per 100,000 adult residents for the first time since 2000, which was similar to the rate last observed in 1997 (2,860 per 100,000) when about 1.2 million fewer offenders were under correctional supervision (5.7 million).

After peaking in 2007 at 3,210 offenders per 100,000 adult residents, the rate of correctional supervision declined each year. Slightly more than half (52%) of the decrease from 2007 to 2011 was attributed to the decrease in the number of offenders under correctional supervision during the period. Less than half (48%) of the decline was due to the increase in the number of adult residents in the United States (not shown in table).<sup>1</sup> In contrast, from

<sup>1</sup>See *Methodology* for information about the method used to decompose the decline in the correctional supervision rate since 2007.

2011 to 2012 the increase in the adult resident population accounted for most (63%) of the decline in the correctional supervision rate, while 37% was due to the decline in the number of offenders under correctional supervision.

About 1,980 offenders per 100,000 adult residents were supervised in the community on probation or parole in 2012, a drop from 2,010 per 100,000 in 2011. By yearend 2012, the community supervision rate fell below 2,000 per 100,000 adult residents for the first time since 2000, which was similar to the rate last observed in 1997 (1,990 per

**TABLE 1  
U.S. adult residents supervised by adult correctional systems, 2000–2012**

Year	Total population supervised by adult correctional systems <sup>a</sup>		Community supervision population		Incarcerated population <sup>b</sup>	
	Number supervised per 100,000 U.S. adult residents <sup>c</sup>	U.S. adult residents under correctional supervision—	Number on probation or parole per 100,000 U.S. adult residents <sup>c</sup>	U.S. adult residents on probation or parole—	Number incarcerated in prison or jail per 100,000 U.S. adult residents <sup>c</sup>	U.S. adult residents incarcerated in prison or jail—
2000	3,060	1 in 33	2,160	1 in 46	920	1 in 109
2001	3,080	1 in 32	2,180	1 in 46	920	1 in 109
2002	3,120	1 in 32	2,200	1 in 45	940	1 in 106
2003	3,150	1 in 32	2,220	1 in 45	950	1 in 105
2004	3,170	1 in 32	2,230	1 in 45	970	1 in 103
2005	3,160	1 in 32	2,210	1 in 45	980	1 in 102
2006	3,190	1 in 31	2,230	1 in 45	1,000	1 in 100
2007	3,210	1 in 31	2,240	1 in 45	1,000	1 in 100
2008	3,160	1 in 32	2,200	1 in 45	1,000	1 in 100
2009	3,090	1 in 32	2,150	1 in 47	980	1 in 102
2010	2,990	1 in 33	2,070	1 in 48	960	1 in 104
2011	2,920	1 in 34	2,010	1 in 50	940	1 in 107
2012	2,870	1 in 35	1,980	1 in 50	920	1 in 108

Note: Rates were estimated to the nearest 10. Estimates may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports due to updated information or rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenders in the community under the authority of probation or parole agencies and those held in the custody of state or federal prisons or local jails.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates held in the custody of state or federal prisons, local jails, or privately operated facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Rates were computed using the U.S. adult resident population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for January 1 of the following year.

Sources: Adult correctional population estimates are based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000–2012. The adult resident population estimates are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's National Intercensal Estimates, 2000–2011, and unpublished adult resident population estimates on January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013.

**Official BJS measure of the U.S. prison population**

BJS's official measure of the prison population is the count of prisoners under the jurisdiction or legal authority of state or federal adult correctional officials (1,570,400 in 2012), which is reported in *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991–2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013. These prisoners may be held in public and privately operated prison or jail facilities, outside of the state, or in the federal prison system. The prison population reported in table 2 and appendix table 1 is the number held in custody or physically housed in state (1,267,000 in 2012) or federal (216,900 in 2012) adult correctional facilities, regardless of which entity

has legal authority over the prisoners. The custody population includes state or federal prisoners held in privately operated facilities. The difference between the number of prisoners in custody and the number under jurisdiction is the number of state or federal prisoners held in the custody of local jails, inmates held in other states, inmates out to court, and those in transit from one jurisdiction of legal authority to the custody of a confinement facility outside that jurisdiction. BJS uses the count of the number of prisoners held in custody to avoid double counting prisoners held in local jails.

100,000). The incarceration rate also decreased between 2011 (940 inmates per 100,000 adults) and 2012 (920 per 100,000). About 1 in every 108 adults was incarcerated in prison or jail at yearend 2012, compared to about 1 in every 50 under community supervision.

**During 2012, the community supervision and incarcerated populations had the smallest decreases since 2009**

About 4,781,300 offenders were supervised in the community on probation (3,942,800) or parole (851,200) at yearend 2012, representing about 7 in 10 offenders under correctional supervision (table 2).<sup>2</sup> In comparison, about 3 in 10 offenders (or 2,228,400) under correctional supervision were in the custody of state or federal prisons (1,483,900) or local jails (744,500).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The total community supervision population excludes parolees who were also on probation to avoid double counting offenders. See table 7 and *Methodology*.

The decline of about 40,500 offenders under community supervision during 2012 represented the smallest decrease in this population since it first decline in 2009 (down 46,300). From 2009 (down 0.9%) to 2011 (down 1.5%), the rate of decline in the community supervision population increased. However, during 2012, the community supervision population decreased by about half (down 0.8%) of the rate of decline compared to the previous year. Similar changes occurred in the incarcerated population, as the decrease of 12,100 inmates during 2012 was the smallest decline observed since 2009 (down 16,400) when the population first declined. The rate of decline in the incarcerated population slowed to 0.5% during 2012, reversing a trend of increasing rates of decline from 2009 (down 0.7%) to 2011 (down 1.3%).

<sup>3</sup>See text box on *Official BJS measure of the U.S. prison population*, for the difference between the jurisdiction and custody prison population counts. Jurisdiction counts are the official BJS measure of the prison population as reported in *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013.

Most of the decrease in the community supervision population during 2012 was attributed to the decline in the number of probationers. While the probation population declined by 1.0% (down 38,300 probationers) during 2012, the parole population remained relatively stable (down 0.1% or 500 parolees).

During 2012, the decrease in the incarcerated population resulted from the drop in the number of inmates held in the custody of state or federal prisons (down 1.4% or 21,100 prisoners), as the number of inmates held in local jails (up 1.2% or 8,900 inmates) increased. The state prison population (down 1.8% or 23,200 prisoners) decreased during 2012, accounting for the entire decline in the U.S. custody prison population (appendix table 1). The increase in the federal prison population (up 1.0% or 2,100) slightly offset the total decline in the U.S. prison population.

**TABLE 2**  
**Estimated number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems, by correctional status, 2000, 2005, 2010–2012**

Year	Total correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision			Incarcerated <sup>b</sup>		
		Total <sup>b,c</sup>	Probation	Parole	Total	Jail <sup>d</sup>	Prison <sup>e</sup>
2000	6,461,000	4,565,100	3,839,500	725,500	1,938,500	621,100	1,317,300
2005	7,050,400	4,946,800	4,162,500	784,400	2,195,000	747,500	1,447,400
2010	7,079,500	4,887,900	4,055,500	840,700	2,270,100	748,700	1,521,400
2011	6,978,500	4,814,200	3,971,300	853,900	2,240,600	735,600	1,505,000
2012	6,937,600	4,781,300	3,942,800	851,200	2,228,400	744,500	1,483,900
Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%
Percent change, 2011–2012 <sup>f</sup>	-0.7%	-0.8%	-1.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%	1.2%	-1.4%

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100 and may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports due to updated information or rounding. Totals include estimates for nonresponding jurisdictions. See *Methodology*. Total community supervision, probation, parole, and prison custody estimates are for December 31; jail population estimates are for the last weekday in June.

<sup>a</sup>Estimates were adjusted to account for some offenders with multiple correctional statuses. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>Includes local jail inmates and prisoners held in the custody of state or federal prisons or privately operated facilities.

<sup>c</sup>Includes some offenders held in a prison or jail but who remained under the jurisdiction of a probation or parole agency.

<sup>d</sup>Totals are estimates based on the Annual Survey of Jails, except the total for 2005, which is a complete enumeration based on the Census of Jails Inmates. See appendix table 5 for standard errors and *Methodology*.

<sup>e</sup>Includes prisoners held in the custody of state or federal prisons or privately operated facilities. The custody prison population is not comparable to the jurisdiction prison population, which is BJS's official measure of the prison population. See text box on page 2 for a discussion of the differences between the two prison populations.

<sup>f</sup>See *Methodology* for information on the methods used to calculate annual change within each correctional population and the total correctional population.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jail Inmates, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000, 2005, and 2010–2012.

**Decreases in probation and prison populations accounted for nearly all of the decline in the total correctional population during 2012**

At yearend 2012, the probation population represented more than half (57%) of all offenders under the supervision of adult correctional systems (table 3). The number of prisoners held in the custody of state or federal prisons represented the next largest component of the correctional population (21%). Parolees conditionally released to supervision in the community (12%) and local jail inmates (11%) represented the smallest components of the correctional

population. These findings remained relatively unchanged since 2011.

Combined, the probation, parole, and prison populations decreased by 59,900 offenders during 2012. About 38,300 fewer probationers were under supervision at yearend 2012, compared to the beginning of the year, accounting for 64% of the combined total decrease in the correctional population during the year (table 4). Even though the probation population was more than two and half times larger than the custody prison population at yearend 2012, the decline in the prison population (down 21,100) accounted for 35% of the total decrease.

The drop of 500 parolees (down 1.0%) between the beginning and end of 2012 had minimal impact on the total decline in the correctional population. After three consecutive years of decline, the jail population increased (up 8,900) during 2012. It was the only correctional population to increase during the year, partially offsetting the overall decline in the correctional population. Most of the increase in the jail population during 2012 occurred in California jails.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>See *California's Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 and the U.S. correctional populations* in this report, for the size and change in the state's correctional populations and its impact on the U.S. correctional populations.

**TABLE 3**  
**Estimated number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems, by correctional status, 2011-2012**

Correctional populations	2011		2012	
	Population	Percent of total population	Population	Percent of total population
Total <sup>a</sup>	6,978,500	100%	6,937,600	100%
Probation <sup>b</sup>	3,971,300	56.9	3,942,800	56.8
Parole <sup>b</sup>	853,900	12.2	851,200	12.3
Prison <sup>c</sup>	1,505,000	21.6	1,483,900	21.4
Local jail <sup>d</sup>	735,600	10.5	744,500	10.7
Offenders with multiple correctional statuses <sup>e</sup>	87,200	:	84,700	:

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. Details may not sum to total due to rounding and because offenders with multiple correctional statuses were excluded from the total correctional population. Includes estimates for nonresponding jurisdictions. See *Methodology*.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Equals the sum of each correctional population and excludes the number of offenders with multiple correctional statuses.

<sup>b</sup>Population as of December 31.

<sup>c</sup>Custody prison population as of December 31. See the text box on page 2 for a discussion of the differences between the custody and jurisdiction prison populations.

<sup>d</sup>Population as of the last weekday in June.

<sup>e</sup>Some probationers and parolees on December 31 were held in a prison or jail but still remained under the jurisdiction of a probation or parole agency and some parolees were also on probation. They were excluded from the total correctional population to avoid double counting. See table 7 and *Methodology*.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011-2012.

**TABLE 4**  
**Change in the number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems, 2012**

	Change in number	Percent of total
Total change <sup>a</sup>	-51,000	100%
Total increase	8,900	100%
Local jail <sup>b</sup>	8,900	100
Total decrease	-59,900	100%
Probation <sup>c</sup>	-38,300	63.9
Parole <sup>c</sup>	-500	0.8
Prison <sup>d</sup>	-21,100	35.2

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. See *Methodology* for methods used to calculate change.

<sup>a</sup>Change equals the sum of the change for each correctional population.

<sup>b</sup>Change equals the difference between the populations on the last weekday in June for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., last weekday of June of 2011 and 2012).

<sup>c</sup>Change equals the difference between the January 1 and December 31 populations within the year.

<sup>d</sup>Change equals the difference between the December 31 custody prison populations for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., December 31 of 2011 and 2012).

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011-2012.

## California's Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 and the U.S. correctional populations

In October 2011, the state of California and its counties implemented the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011, redirecting nonserious, nonviolent, and nonsex offenders from the state prison and parole systems to sentences in local jails or county-directed post-release community supervision. The legislation was designed to reduce the number of inmates in California's prison system to alleviate crowding and to stop low-level offenders from cycling in and out of prison.

Although all 58 counties in California designated probation agencies as the correctional entities responsible for post-release community supervision, BJS included that population in California's parole population rather than the probation population for counting purposes. This method was used because the post-release community supervision population was conditionally released to the community after a sentence to incarceration, regardless of the entity that had authority over the population while in the community.

About 598,600 offenders were under the supervision of California's adult correctional systems at yearend 2012. Offenders supervised in the community on probation (297,700) represented the largest component of California's correctional population (table 5). An additional 132,900 offenders were held in the custody of state prisons; 89,300 were on parole or post-release community supervision; and 78,700 were incarcerated in local jails.

Fewer offenders (down 28,700) were under correctional supervision in California at yearend 2012 than in 2011. Although California's correctional population represented about 9% of the U.S. correctional population at yearend 2012, more than half of the year's decrease in the U.S. correctional population (down 51,000 offenders) was attributed to the decrease in the state's correctional population. All other states, the federal system, and the District of Columbia accounted for 91% of all offenders under correctional supervision but accounted for less of the decline (44%) in the U.S. correctional population than did California.

(Continued on next page.)

**TABLE 5**  
**Estimated number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems and change in the population, by jurisdiction and correctional status, 2012**

	Population, 2012	Percent of total population	Population change, 2012	
			Number	Percent of total decline
<b>U.S. correctional population<sup>a</sup></b>	6,937,600	100%	-51,000	100%
<b>California<sup>a</sup></b>	598,600	8.6%	-28,700	56.3%
Probation <sup>b</sup>	297,700	4.3	-200	:
Parole <sup>b,c</sup>	89,300	1.3	-22,400	:
State parole	56,300	0.8	-42,400	:
Post-release community supervision	32,900	0.5	20,000	:
Prison <sup>d</sup>	132,900	1.9	-14,600	:
Local jail <sup>e</sup>	78,700	1.1	8,500	:
<b>All other jurisdictions<sup>a</sup></b>	6,339,000	91.4%	-22,200	43.5%
Probation <sup>b</sup>	3,645,000	52.5	-38,100	:
Parole <sup>b</sup>	761,900	11.0	21,900	:
Prison <sup>d</sup>	1,351,000	19.5	-6,400	:
Local jail <sup>e</sup>	665,800	9.6	400	:

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding and because offenders with multiple correctional statuses were excluded from the total correctional population. See *Methodology* for information on methods used to calculate population change.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Total population equals the sum of each correctional population and excludes the number of offenders with multiple correctional statuses. Change equals the sum of the change for each correctional population.

<sup>b</sup>Population as of December 31, 2012. Change equals the difference between the January 1 and December 31 populations during 2012.

<sup>c</sup>Includes offenders on state parole supervision and county-directed post-release community supervision.

<sup>d</sup>Custody prison population as of December 31. Change equals the difference between the December 31 custody prison populations for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., December 31 of 2011 and 2012).

<sup>e</sup>Population as of the last weekday in June. Change equals the difference between the populations on the last weekday in June for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., last weekday in June of 2011 and 2012).

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2011-2012.

## California's Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 and the U.S. correctional populations (*continued*)

Yearend 2012 marked the first full year of the Public Safety Realignment Act, and the impact was reflected in the changes in California's correctional populations during the year. Almost all of the decrease in California's correctional population during 2012 was attributed to declines in the parole (down 22,400 or 20%) and prison (down 14,600 or 10%) populations (**table 6**).

All of the decrease in California's parole population resulted from the significant drop in state parole (down 42,400), as the number of offenders under county-directed post-release community supervision (up 20,000) increased during the year (**table 5**). The percentage of prisoners in the state who were released unconditionally to the community reached 62% of all releases during 2012, up from 12% in 2011, and about 2% in 2010.<sup>5</sup> The significant increase in the number of unconditional releases from prison during 2012 was consistent with the drop in California's state parole population. The 65% decline in the number of admissions to California's prison system during the year, which

was driven by an 87% decline in the number of parole violators admitted to prison, was associated with the decrease observed in the state's prison population.

Although California's total correctional population dropped in 2012, the decrease was partially offset by an increase of about 8,500 inmates incarcerated in local jails (**table 5**). The state's jail population dropped to a record low in 2011 (70,200 inmates), but that population increased by 12.1% during 2012.<sup>6</sup>

The number of probationers supervised in California remained fairly stable during 2012, after decreasing an average of 5.6% annually from 2005 to 2010 and 9.6% in 2011. The relative stability in this population during 2012 was associated with an increase in the number of offenders placed on probation. During 2012, the growth in entries to probation (up 6.7%) was about four and half times larger than in 2011 (up 1.5%), the year in which the largest decrease in California's probation population was observed since 2005.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup>See *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013, for more information about California's prison population.

<sup>6</sup>See *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2012 - Statistical Tables*, BJS web, NCJ 241264, May 2013, for more information about California's jail population.

<sup>7</sup>See *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243826, December 2013, for more information on California's probation and parole populations.

**TABLE 6**  
**Estimated number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems in California, by correctional status, 2005–2012**

Year	Total correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision population		Incarcerated population	
		Probation <sup>b</sup>	Parole <sup>b,c</sup>	Jail <sup>d</sup>	Prison <sup>e</sup>
2005	750,100	388,300	111,700	82,100	168,000
2006	774,700	401,700	118,600	82,300	172,300
2007	733,000	354,000	123,800	84,200	171,400
2008	700,000	325,100	120,800	83,300	171,100
2009	669,700	312,000	106,000	83,200	168,800
2010	633,900	292,900	105,100	73,300	162,800
2011	598,600	269,800	111,100	70,200	147,600
2012 <sup>f</sup>	598,600	297,700	89,300	78,700	132,900
Average annual percent change, 2005–2010	-3.4%	-5.6%	-1.2%	-2.3%	-0.6%
Percent change					
2010–2011	-6.5%	-9.6%	5.6%	-4.2%	-9.4%
2011–2012 <sup>g</sup>	-4.8	-0.1	-20.1	12.1	-9.9

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding and because offenders with multiple correctional statuses were excluded from the total correctional population. See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Total population equals the sum of each correctional population and excludes the number of offenders with multiple correctional statuses.

<sup>b</sup>Population as of December 31. Change equals the difference between the January 1 and December 31 populations.

<sup>c</sup>The 2011 and 2012 counts include offenders on state parole supervision and county-directed post-release community supervision.

<sup>d</sup>Population as of the last weekday in June. Change equals the difference between the populations on the last weekday in June for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., last weekday in June of 2011 and 2012).

<sup>e</sup>Custody prison population as of December 31. Change equals the difference between the December 31 custody prison populations for the prior year and reporting year (e.g., December 31 of 2011 and 2012).

<sup>f</sup>The apparent stability in California's total correctional population between December 31, 2011, and 2012 was due to a change in reporting of their probation population counts. See *Methodology* for more information on this issue and the methods used to calculate annual change.

<sup>g</sup>See table 5 for additional information on change within California's total correctional population during 2012. See *Methodology* for information on the methods used to calculate annual change.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2005–2012.

## Methodology

### Sources of data

The statistics presented in this report include data from five separate BJS data collections, each relying on the voluntary participation of federal, state, and local respondents. For more information about any of the following data collections, go to the Data Collections page on the BJS website at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

**Annual Probation Survey; Annual Parole Survey.** The Annual Probation Survey and Annual Parole Survey began in 1980. They collect data from probation and parole agencies in the United States that supervise adults. Both surveys cover the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal system. In these data, adults are persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of an adult court or correctional agency. Persons younger than age 18 who were prosecuted in criminal court as if they were adults are considered adults, but persons under age 18 who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court or agency are excluded.

**Annual Survey of Jails.** The Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ) has collected data from a nationally representative sample of local jails each year since 1982, except in 1983, 1988, 1993, 1999, and 2005, when a complete census of U.S. local jails was conducted. Jails are confinement facilities, usually administered by a local law enforcement agency, that are intended to hold adults, but they may also hold youth under age 18 before or after they are adjudicated. The data used in this report include inmates under age 18 who were held either before or after they were adjudicated (about 5,400 persons in 2012).

**Census of Jails.** The Census of Jails began in 1970 and was conducted in 1972, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1999, 2002, 2005, and 2006. The census is part of a series of data collection efforts, including the Census of Jail Inmates and the Census of Jail Facilities, aimed at studying the nation's jails and their inmate populations.

**Survey of Jails in Indian Country.** The Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC) has been conducted annually since 1998, except in 2005 and 2006. The SJIC collects detailed information on all adult and juvenile confinement facilities, detention centers, jails, and other facilities operated by tribal authorities or the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The data reflected in this report exclude inmates under age 18 who were confined in facilities that held juveniles only (218 in 2012). The SJIC data are only included in appendix table 2 of this report.

**National Prisoner Statistics Program.** The National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program began in 1926 under a mandate from Congress and has been conducted annually since then. It collects data from the nation's state departments of corrections and the federal Bureau of Prisons.

NPS distinguishes between prisoners in custody and prisoners under jurisdiction of correctional authorities.<sup>8</sup> The prison data in this report reflect the NPS custody counts and include all inmates held within a state's facilities. These counts include inmates housed for other correctional facilities, prisoners held in privately operated facilities, prisoners under age 18 who were serving time in a state or federal correctional facility after being sentenced in criminal court as if they were adults (1,300 persons in 2012), and inmates in the six states in which prisons and jails form one integrated system, including inmates under age 18 who may have been held before or after adjudication.<sup>9</sup>

Through the annual NPS collection, since 1994 BJS has obtained yearend counts of prisoners in the custody of U.S. military authorities from the Department of Defense Corrections Council. In 1994, the council, composed

of representatives from each branch of military service, adopted a standardized report (DD Form 2720) that obtains data on persons held in U.S. military confinement facilities inside and outside of the continental United States. These data are only included in appendix tables 2 and 4 of this report.

In 1995, BJS began collecting yearend counts of inmates from the departments of corrections in the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and U.S. Commonwealths (Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico). These data are only included in appendix tables 2 and 3 of this report and represent all inmates in the physical custody of prison or local jail facilities in the U.S. Territories or Commonwealths.

### Probation and parole populations

Total correctional population counts reflect data reported by probation and parole agencies within the specific reporting year. For example, the 2012 probation and parole totals are the December 31, 2012, population counts.

Some agencies may update their probation and parole data after submitting them or change their reporting methods from one year to the next.<sup>10</sup> BJS does not request updated data for prior years; as a result, probation and parole population counts on January 1 of the current year may differ from population counts on December 31 of the prior reporting year. For these reasons, annual change in the probation and parole populations was calculated within the reporting year. See page 9, Estimating annual change in the total correctional populations, for more information.

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<sup>10</sup>See *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243826, December 2013, for information about the reasons why agencies may update their data.

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<sup>8</sup>See text box on page 2 that explains the difference between the two types of prison populations.

<sup>9</sup>See *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013, for more information about the six states with combined prison and jail systems.

## Local jail and custody prison populations

Respondents to the ASJ report the number of jail inmates confined as of the last weekday in June of each year. The total correctional population counts in each year include jail population counts as of the last weekday in June for all inmates confined in local jails. This is used as an estimate of the number of inmates in local jails at yearend.

Respondents to the NPS submit population counts of the number of prisoners in custody and under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional facilities on December 31 of each year. The total correctional population count in each year reflects the custody prison populations as of December 31, and differs from the jurisdiction population counts (See *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013.)

## Counts adjusted for offenders with multiple correctional statuses

Offenders under correctional supervision may have multiple correctional statuses for several reasons. For example, probation or parole agencies may not always be notified immediately of new arrests, jail admissions, or prison admissions; absconders included in a probation or parole agency's population in one jurisdiction may actually be incarcerated in another jurisdiction; persons may be admitted to jail or prison before formal revocation hearings and potential discharge by a probation or parole agency; and persons may be serving separate probation and parole sentences concurrently.

In 1998, BJS began collecting data on the number of offenders with multiple correctional statuses and has expanded on the information collected since then. Table 6 includes adjustments that were made to the total correctional population estimates presented in this report to exclude offenders with

multiple correctional statuses (table 7).

These estimates are based on data reported by the probation or parole agencies that provided the information within the specific reporting year. Because some probation and parole agencies did not provide these data each year, the numbers may underestimate the total number of offenders who had multiple correctional statuses from 2000 to 2012. Due to these adjustments, the sum of the four correctional populations in tables 2, 3, and 4 will not equal the total correctional population. In addition, the sum of the probation and parole populations from 2008 to 2012 will not yield the total community supervision population because the total was adjusted for parolees who were also on probation.

## Decomposing the decline in the correctional supervision rate

The decline in the correctional supervision rate from 2007 to 2011 was decomposed in four steps:

- (1) The change in the rate was calculated by subtracting the 2011 rate from the 2007 rate.
- (2) An expected rate per 100,000 in 2011 was calculated by dividing the 2007 correctional population by the

2011 U.S. adult resident population and then multiplying by 100,000. This is the expected supervision rate if there had been no change in the correctional population from 2007 to 2011.

(3) The observed 2007 rate minus the expected rate (from step 2) divided by the total change (from step 1) times 100% represents the percentage of total change due to the growth in the U.S. adult resident population.

(4) The percentage of total change due to the decline in the correctional population is the residual difference (100% – percent change in step 3).

The same method was used to decompose the decline in the correctional supervision rate from 2011 to 2012.

## Estimating annual change in the correctional populations

Because probation and parole population counts on January 1 of the current year may differ from population counts on December 31 of the prior reporting year, annual change in the probation and parole populations was calculated within the reporting year. (See page 7, Probation and parole populations, and *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243826, December 2013,

**TABLE 7**  
Number of offenders with multiple correctional statuses at yearend, by correctional status, 2000–2012

Year	Total	Probationers in—		Parolees—		
		Local jails	State or federal prison	In local jails	In state or federal prison	On probation
2000	42,500	20,400	22,100	--	--	--
2001	43,600	23,400	20,200	--	--	--
2002	50,300	29,300	20,900	--	--	--
2003	47,000	25,500	21,500	--	--	--
2004	56,000	34,400	21,600	--	--	--
2005	91,400	32,600	22,100	18,300	18,400	--
2006	92,000	33,900	21,700	20,700	15,700	--
2007	75,800	19,300	23,100	18,800	14,600	--
2008	95,000	23,800	32,400	19,300	15,600	3,900
2009	82,900	21,400	23,100	19,100	14,300	5,000
2010	86,800	21,300	21,500	21,400	14,400	8,300
2011	87,200	21,100	22,300	18,000	14,900	11,000
2012	84,700	21,200	21,600	18,500	10,700	12,700

Note: Estimates were rounded to the nearest 100 and may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports due to updated information. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding.

-- Not collected or excluded from total correctional population.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, and Annual Parole Survey, 2000–2012.

for more information.) For example, annual change in the probation population in 2012 was calculated as the difference between the January 1 and December 31, 2012, probation populations. This same method was used to calculate annual change in the parole population and California's probation and parole populations.

The annual change in the community supervision population was also calculated within the reporting year for the same reasons. For the years from 2008 to 2012, change in the community supervision population was calculated after accounting for offenders with multiple community supervision statuses. (See page 8, Counts adjusted for offenders with multiple correctional statuses.) For these reasons, from 2008 to 2012, the sum of the changes in the probation and parole populations does not equal the total change in the community supervision population. For example, the change in the probation population (down 38,300) during 2012 plus the change in the parole population (down 500) during the year does not equal the total change in the community supervision population (down 40,500). The difference (1,700) is the change in the number of parolees who were also on probation during 2012.

The annual change in the jail and custody prison populations was based on the change from the prior year to the current year because respondents were asked only to report a population count for one reference date. For example, the annual change in the jail population for 2012 is the difference (up 8,900) between the populations on the last weekday in June 2011 and June 2012. The annual change in the custody prison population for 2012 is the difference (down 21,100) between the December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2012, custody prison populations. The change in the total incarcerated population was calculated as the sum of the change in the jail and custody prison populations from the prior to the current year.

The annual change in the total correctional population for each year was calculated as the sum of the annual changes for each correctional population. For example, the annual change in the total correctional population (down 51,000) during 2012 was calculated as the sum of four components: (1) the change in the probation population (down 38,300) during 2012; (2) the change in the parole population (down 500) during 2012; (3) the change in the jail population (up 8,900) between 2011 and 2012; and (4) the change in the custody prison population (down 21,100) between 2011 and 2012. This same method was used to calculate annual change in California's total correctional population. (See table 4 for the change in California's total correctional population and each correctional population during 2012.)

## Adjustments for nonresponse

Probation, parole, jail, and prison population counts were adjusted to account for nonresponse across the data collections. The methods varied and depended on the type of collection, type of respondent, and availability of information. For more information for 2012, see the following reports: *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243826, December 2013; *Prisoners in the United States, 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*, BJS web, NCJ 243920, December 2013; and *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2012 - Statistical Tables*, BJS web, NCJ 241264, May 2013.

The total number of prisoners in the custody of correctional authorities in the U.S. Territories and Commonwealths (see appendix tables 2 and 3) in 2011 and 2012 includes estimates for nonresponse. The U.S. Virgin Islands did not provide any data in 2011 and Guam did not provide any data in 2012. Because of limited information, the U.S. Virgin Islands' prison population in 2012 was used to impute its 2011 population and the estimate was included in the U.S. total for 2011. Guam's prison population for 2011 was used to impute its population for 2012 and the estimate was included in the U.S. total for 2012. American Samoa was unable to provide the number of prisoners sentenced to more than one year in 2012. Ratio estimation was used to impute the data and the estimate was included in the U.S. total for 2012. Specifically, the ratio of the number of prisoners sentenced to more than one year in 2011 divided by American Samoa's total prison population in 2011 was applied to American Samoa's prison population in 2012 to generate the estimate of the number of prisoners sentenced to more than one year in 2012.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1**
**Inmates held in custody in state or federal prisons or in local jails, 2000 and 2011–2012**

Inmates in custody	Number of inmates			Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	Percent change, 2011–2012
	2000	2011	2012		
<b>Total</b>	1,938,500	2,240,600	2,228,400	1.3%	-0.5%
<b>Federal prisoners<sup>a</sup></b>	140,100	214,800	216,900	3.9%	1.0%
Prisons	133,900	206,000	208,000	3.9	1.0
Federal facilities	124,500	176,200	176,500	3.2	0.2
Privately operated facilities	9,400	29,800	31,500	10.5	5.7
Community corrections centers <sup>b</sup>	6,100	8,800	8,900	3.3	1.1
<b>State prisoners</b>	1,177,200	1,290,200	1,267,000	0.8%	-1.8%
State facilities	1,101,100	1,197,800	1,170,200	0.8	-2.3
Privately operated facilities	76,100	92,400	96,800	1.8	4.8
<b>Local jails<sup>c</sup></b>	621,100	735,600	744,500	1.5%	1.2%
<b>Incarceration rate<sup>d</sup></b>	680	720	710	0.5%	-1.4%
Adult incarceration rate <sup>e</sup>	920	940	920	0.2	-2.1

Note: Population counts were rounded to the nearest 100 and include imputed estimates for nonresponding jurisdictions; see *Methodology*. Rates were rounded to the nearest 10. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Estimates may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports due to rounding or updated information. Total includes all inmates held in local jails, state or federal prisons, or privately operated facilities. Excludes inmates held in U.S. Territories (appendix tables 2 and 3), military facilities (appendix tables 2 and 4), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, facilities contracted by the U.S. Marshals Service, jails in Indian country, or juvenile facilities. See *Methodology* for sources of incarceration data and the text box on page 2 for a discussion of the differences between the custody and jurisdiction prison populations.

<sup>a</sup>After 2001, responsibility for sentenced prisoners from the District of Columbia was transferred to the federal Bureau of Prisons.

<sup>b</sup>Nonsecure, privately operated community corrections centers.

<sup>c</sup>Counts for inmates held in local jails are for the last weekday in June of each year. Counts were estimated from the Annual Survey of Jails. See *Methodology*.

<sup>d</sup>The total number of inmates in the custody of local jails, state or federal prisons, or privately operated facilities within the year per 100,000 U.S. residents. Resident population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau for January 1 of the following year.

<sup>e</sup>The total number of inmates in custody within the year per 100,000 U.S. residents age 18 or older. Adult resident population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau for January 1 of the following year.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000 and 2011–2012; the total and adult resident population estimates are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's National Intercensal Estimates, 2001, and unpublished total and adult resident population estimates, January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2**
**Number of inmates incarcerated by other adult correctional systems, 2000, 2005, and 2011–2012**

	Number of inmates				Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	Percent change, 2011–2012
	2000	2005	2011	2012		
Total	20,169	19,678	16,529	16,940	-1.8%	2.5%
Territorial prisons <sup>a</sup>	16,130	15,735	12,990	13,360	-2.0	2.8
Military facilities	2,420	2,322	1,527	1,434	-4.2	-6.1
Jails in Indian country <sup>b</sup>	1,619	1,621	2,012	2,146	2.0	6.7

Note: Population counts are for December 31 of the reporting year. Totals exclude inmates held in local jails, state or federal prisons, privately operated prisons, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, facilities contracted by the U.S. Marshals Service, or juvenile facilities. See appendix table 3 for more information on inmates in territorial prisons and appendix table 4 for inmates in military facilities.

<sup>a</sup>The 2011 and 2012 totals include population counts that were imputed for some territories due to nonresponse. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>Population counts are for the last weekday in June of each year. The 2005 population count is estimated as the 2004 population count because the Survey of Jails in Indian Country was not conducted in 2005 or 2006. Estimates exclude inmates under age 18 who were confined in facilities that held juveniles only. See *Methodology*.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, and Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2000, 2004, 2005, and 2011–2012.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3**
**Prisoners in custody of correctional authorities in the U.S. Territories and Commonwealths, 2000, 2005, and 2011–2012**

	Number of prisoners					
	Total <sup>a</sup>	American Samoa	Guam	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico	U.S. Virgin Islands
<b>Total population</b>						
2000	16,130	140	684	97	14,691	518
2005	15,735	222	505	149	14,263	596
2011	13,010	167	632	162	11,470	/
2012	13,810	192	/	168	12,244	577
Incarceration rate, 2012 <sup>b</sup>	340	349	:	327	332	548
Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	-2.0%	1.6%	-0.7%	4.7%	-2.3%	:
Percent change, 2011–2012	6.1%	15.0%	:	3.7%	6.7%	:
<b>Population sentenced to more than 1 year</b>						
2000	11,916	114	323	51	11,075	353
2005	12,399	174	238	83	11,469	435
2011	9,940	117	240	91	9,210	/
2012	10,550	/	/	109	9,781	281
Incarceration rate, 2012 <sup>b</sup>	260	:	:	212	265	267
Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	-1.6%	0.2%	-2.7%	5.3%	-1.7%	:
Percent change, 2011–2012	6.1%	:	:	19.8%	6.2%	:

Note: Population counts are for December 31 of the reporting year. Estimates were rounded to the nearest 10.

/Not reported.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Includes population counts for the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2011 and Guam and American Samoa in 2012 that were imputed because of nonresponse. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>The number of prisoners with a sentence of more than one year per 100,000 U.S. residents on July 1, 2012.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000, 2005, and 2011–2012; resident population estimates were based on the U.S. Census Bureau's International Database estimates.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4**
**Prisoners under military jurisdiction, by branch of service, 2000, 2005, and 2011–2012**

Branch of service	Number of prisoners				Average annual percent change, 2000–2011	Percent change, 2011–2012
	2000	2005	2011	2012		
<b>Total population</b>	2,420	2,322	1,527	1,434	-4.2%	-6.1%
Prisoners who served in —						
Air Force	413	422	285	262	-3.4%	-8.1%
Army	789	949	702	689	-1.1	-1.9
Marine Corps	730	527	299	264	-8.1	-11.7
Navy	474	406	235	214	-6.4	-8.9
Coast Guard	14	18	6	5	-7.7	-16.7
Prisoners held by —						
Air Force	102	120	54	52	-5.8%	-3.7%
Army	994	1,059	828	809	-1.7	-2.3
Marine Corps	563	470	102	90	-15.5	-11.8
Navy	761	673	543	483	-3.1	-11.0
<b>Population sentenced to more than 1 year</b>	1,346	1,340	1,051	1,014	-2.2%	3.5
Prisoners who served in —						
Air Force	253	258	204	182	-2.0%	-10.8%
Army	585	638	512	531	-1.2	3.7
Marine Corps	280	209	157	126	-5.3	-19.7
Navy	222	223	176	173	-2.1	-1.7
Coast Guard	6	12	2	2	-10.0	--
Prisoners held by —						
Air Force	11	24	5	6	-7.2%	20.0%
Army	831	818	678	685	-1.8	1.0
Marine Corps	134	133	5	2	-29.9	-60.0
Navy	370	365	363	321	-0.2	-11.6

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program, 2000, 2005, and 2011–2012.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5**  
**Estimated standard errors for local jail inmates, 2000 and 2010–2012**

Year	Total	Standard error	Relative standard error (percent)*
2000	621,100	2,550	0.4%
2010	748,700	5,640	0.8
2011	735,600	6,170	0.8
2012	744,500	7,870	1.1

Note: Population estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. Standard errors were rounded to the nearest 10.

\*Calculated by dividing the standard error by the survey estimate and multiplying by 100.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2010–2012.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics, located in the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, collects, analyses, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. William J. Sabol is acting director.

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