

# NATIONAL COMPARISONS OF CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS

## POPULATIONS

- There were 1,540,805 offenders incarcerated nationally on June 30, 2008. This is an increase of 0.8% compared to one year ago. This growth is the same as the average annual increase since 2000.
- The prison incarceration rate is estimated to be 762 inmates per 100,000 residents. This is the same as one year ago. This rate includes all inmates held in federal and state prisons plus local jails, whether or not they were sentenced.
- States experiencing the most growth in the first six months of 2008 are: Minnesota (5.2%), Maine (4.6%), Rhode Island (4.3%), South Carolina (4.3%), and Montana (3.8%).
- Fifteen states experienced prison population decreases, led by New Hampshire (-3.9%), Kentucky (-3.8%), and Vermont (-2.9%).
- The federal system held 201,142 inmates at mid-year 2008, making it the largest penal system in the country.
- California (173,320 inmates), Texas (173,232 inmates), and the federal system (201,142 inmates) together held 34.0% of all prisoners in the country.
- Since 2000, the number of federal prisoners has increased 38.3%, while the number of inmates held for state convictions increased 13.1%.
- Iowa's prison population increased 10.6% between FY 2000 and FY 2009.
- At mid-year 2008, privately-operated facilities held 126,249 inmates, an increase of 6.7% compared to June 30, 2007. Private facilities held 7.8% of all state and federal inmates.
- Imprisonment rates are calculated by the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents. Louisiana had the highest prison imprisonment rate (858 inmates) followed by Mississippi (749 inmates), Texas (668 inmates), Oklahoma (668 inmates), and Alabama (619 inmates).
- Maine (133 inmates) had the lowest imprisonment rate.
- Iowa ranks 39th in the nation in terms of the imprisonment rate, with 291 inmates per 100,000 residents.
- Iowa had 3,469 offenders on parole as of July 1, 2009, a decrease of 7.0% compared to one year ago. Iowa had 117 parolees per 100,000 total residents.
- Iowa had 24,085 offenders on probation as of July 1, 2009, an increase of 0.5% compared to one year ago. Iowa had 803 probationers per 100,000 total residents.

## JAILS

- There were 785,556 people held in local jails across the nation on June 30, 2008, an increase of 5,382 (0.6%) inmates compared to one year ago. This is the smallest annual rate of growth in 27 years.
- The jail incarceration rate was 258 inmates per 100,000 residents at mid-year 2008, an increase of 14.2% compared to 2000.
- Local jurisdictions reported adding 14,911 jail beds during the last year, for a total rated capacity of 828,413 beds.
- Jails were operating at 95.0% of rated capacity on June 30, 2008.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics