

NATIONAL COMPARISONS OF CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS POPULATIONS

- **National Data.** There were an estimated 1,561,500 offenders incarcerated nationally on December 31, 2014. This is a decrease of 15,400 offenders compared to one year ago. The state prison systems' population decreased by approximately 10,126 offenders during Calendar Year (CY) 2014. The federal prison system experienced a decrease in its population of about 5,299 offenders. This is the second year the federal prison population declined since CY 1980. The federal system (210,567 offenders), California (136,088 offenders), Texas (166,043 offenders), and Florida (102,870) together held 39.4% of all prisoners in the country.
- **Federal System.** The federal prison system held 210,567 offenders at year end 2014, making it the largest penal system in the country. The federal prison system decreased by about 5,299 offenders (2.5%) from 2013 to 2014.
- **State Prisoners.** The number of state prisoners decreased in CY 2014, for four straight years of decline. State prison populations grew every year beginning in 1978 (307,276 prisoners held in all state prisons) to a high of 1,615,487 in 2009. The estimated state prison population at year-end 2014 was 1,350,958. This is a 0.7% decrease compared to the December 2013 population. The CY 2014 state prison population remains about 264,500 offenders (16.4%) below the CY 2009 peak.
- **Population Increases.** The number of prisoners sentenced for more than one year grew in 21 states. Prison systems with the largest percentage increases in the population are some of the smallest systems. The states with the largest percentage growth include North Dakota (9.0% with a total of 1,700 offenders), Nebraska (8.0% with a total of 5,400 offenders), and Hawaii (4.2% with a total of 5,866 offenders).
- **Population Decreases.** The prison population decreased in 24 states during CY 2014. Prison systems with the most decline include Mississippi (-15.0% with a total of 18,793 offenders), Vermont (-4.7% with a total of 1,979 offenders), and New Jersey (-3.8% with a total of 21,590 offenders).
- **Largest Prison Systems.** The largest state prison populations remained relatively stable. The Texas prison population decreased by 1.3% or 2,237 offenders. California's prison population increased by 107 offenders, or 0.07%. The Florida prison population decreased by 158 offenders, or 0.2%.
- **Iowa Data.** Iowa's year-end 2014 prison population was 8,838 offenders; this is an increase of 1.6% compared to CY 2013. The male offender population increased by 1.3%, while the female offender population increased by 5.3% during the last year. Iowa's prison population peaked in April 2011 at 9,009 prisoners. The Iowa prison population has been trending downward since that time. The prison population on September 21, 2015, was 8,255 offenders, or 112.7% of capacity.
- **Imprisonment Rates.** Imprisonment rates are calculated by the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents. The national imprisonment rate is 471 sentenced prisoners for all U.S. residents of all ages. The national imprisonment rate is 612 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents age 18 or older. Both imprisonment rate calculations decreased by 1.5% compared to CY 2013. The federal rate was 60 prisoners per U.S. residents of all ages, while the state rate was 412 prisoners. Men (890 prisoners) are incarcerated at a much higher level than women (65).
- **State Imprisonment Rates.** Based on adult residents, Louisiana has the highest imprisonment rate (1,072 offenders) followed by Oklahoma (928 offenders), Alabama (820 offenders), Texas (792 offenders), and Mississippi (788 offenders). Maine (189 offenders) has the lowest imprisonment rate followed by Rhode Island (223 offenders), Massachusetts (237 offenders), and Minnesota (254 offenders). Iowa's imprisonment rate is estimated to be 368 per 100,000 residents age 18 or older. Iowa ranks 38th in the nation in terms of the imprisonment rate.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Prisoners in 2014](#).