



Survey of Prison Inmates

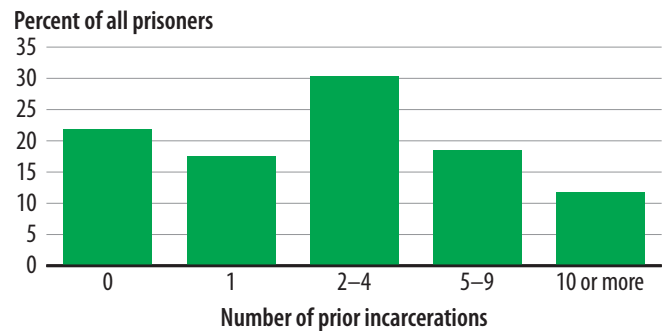
# Profile of Prison Inmates, 2016

Lauren G. Beatty and Tracy L. Snell, *BJS Statisticians*

Thirty percent of state and federal prisoners reported that they had 5 or more incarcerations prior to the offense for which they were being held in 2016, including 12% who had 10 or more prior incarcerations (figure 1). Less than a quarter of prisoners reported no history of prior incarcerations in 2016 (22%). In this report, prior incarcerations includes sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison.

Among state and federal prisoners, males were more likely than females to have extensive incarceration histories prior to the offense for which they were held. About 31% of male prisoners reported 5 to 9 (19%) or 10 or more (12%) prior incarcerations in 2016. In comparison, 24% of female prisoners reported 5 to 9 (14%) or 10 or more (10%) prior incarcerations in 2016.

**FIGURE 1**  
Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by number of prior incarcerations, 2016



Note: All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. Prior incarcerations includes prior sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison. See appendix table 1 for percentages and standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### State prisoners

- The percentage of state prisoners who were incarcerated for a violent offense increased between 2004 (48%) and 2016 (56%).
- Among state prisoners, males had criminal histories that averaged nine arrests during their lifetime and five prior incarcerations, compared to females, who averaged eight lifetime arrests and four prior incarcerations.
- On average, male state prisoners (16 years) were serving longer sentences than female state prisoners (10 years) in 2016.
- State prisoners in 2016 averaged 10.5 years of education prior to admission, and almost two-thirds (62%) had not completed high school.
- While most state prisoners reported living primarily with one (47%) or both (35%) parents while growing up, 18% spent some time living in foster homes or other institutions.

### Federal prisoners

- Almost half of federal prisoners in 2016 were serving a sentence for a drug offense (48%), while about a third were sentenced for a public order offense (31%), including weapons and immigration offenses.
- Male federal prisoners had more arrests during their lifetime (7 on average) than female federal prisoners (5), but they had the same average number of prior incarcerations (about 3 each).
- Male federal prisoners (12 years) in 2016 were serving longer sentences on average than female federal prisoners (8 years).
- Federal prisoners in 2016 averaged 10.6 years of education prior to admission, and more than half (57%) had not completed high school.
- Most federal prisoners reported living primarily with one (42%) or both (40%) parents while growing up, while nearly 10% spent some time living in foster homes or other institutions.

Statistics in this report are primarily based on self-report data collected through face-to-face interviews with a national sample of state and federal prisoners in the 2016 SPI. This report also includes statistics of state prisoners that are based on the 2004 administration of the survey. (See *Methodology*.)

## Demographic characteristics

### Sex and age

In 2016, the majority of all prisoners in the United States (93%) were male, and this finding was consistent among both state (93%) and federal (94%) prisoners (**table 1**). In state prisons, the distribution of male and female prisoners remained unchanged between 2004 and 2016.

The average age of all prisoners in the United States was 39 in 2016. The majority of state prisoners were ages 25 to 44 (58%): about a third were ages 25 to 34 (32%) and a quarter were ages 35 to 44 (26%). Another 19% of state prisoners were ages 45 to 54.

Prisoners held in state prison in 2016 were older than those held in state prison in 2004. The average age of state prisoners was 39 in 2016, compared to 35 in 2004. During that time, the percentage of state prisoners who were age 44 or younger declined from 81% to 69%. The largest decline occurred among state prisoners ages 18 to 24, from 17% in 2004 to 10% in 2016. While prisoners age 65 or older (3%) accounted for the smallest age group in 2016, the percentage was about three times that observed in 2004 (1%).

In 2016, the average age of federal prisoners was 40. More than a third of federal prisoners were ages 35 to 44 (34%), about 5% were ages 18 to 24, and about 3% were age 65 or older.

### Race and ethnicity

In 2016, state prisoners were equally likely to be black (34%) or white (32%). One in 5 state prisoners were Hispanic (21%). About 2% of state prisoners were either American Indian or Alaska Native (1%) or Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (1%). More than 1 in 10 state prisoners identified with two or more races (11%).

Among federal prisoners in 2016, nearly 4 in 10 were Hispanic (37%), while 3 in 10 were black (32%) and 2 in 10 were white (21%). Less than 5% of federal prisoners were either American Indian or Alaska Native (2%) or Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (2%). Nearly 7% of federal prisoners identified as two or more races.

### Sexual orientation and gender identity

The majority of prisoners in the United States (96%) in 2016 identified as straight, which was consistent among state (95%) and federal (97%) prisoners. Among state prisoners, about 1.4% identified as gay or lesbian, and another 2.5% identified as bisexual. Findings among federal prisoners were similar: 1.1% identified as gay or lesbian, and 1.1% identified as bisexual.

Most prisoners in the United States identified as male. More than 9 in 10 state prisoners identified as male (93%), compared to less than 1 in 10 who identified as female (7%). Less than 0.5% of state prisoners identified as transgender (0.3%). About 94% of federal prisoners identified as male, while 6% identified as female. The distributions of gender identity among both state and federal prisoners in 2016 were consistent with the distributions of sex. See *Measurement of sexual orientation and gender identity in the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates* (pp. 4–5) for more information.

**TABLE 1****Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by demographic characteristics, 2004 and 2016**

Characteristic	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Sex<sup>a</sup></b>				
Male*	93.0%	93.8%	92.9%	93.2%
Female	7.0 †	6.2 †	7.1 †	6.8 †
<b>Age</b>				
18–24*	9.6%	4.7%	10.3%	17.2%
25–34	31.6 †	28.2 †	32.1 †	33.1 †
35–44	27.3 †	34.4 †	26.3 †	30.5 †
45–54	18.9 †	21.5 †	18.5 †	14.1 †
55–64	9.5	8.3 †	9.7	4.1 †
65 or older	3.0 †	2.8 †	3.1 †	1.0 †
Mean	39.2 yrs.	40.4 yrs.	39.0 yrs.	35.4 yrs.
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White <sup>b</sup>	30.5%	21.0% †	31.9%	^
Black <sup>b*</sup>	33.6	32.2	33.8	^
Hispanic	22.7 †	37.1	20.7 †	^
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1.5 †	1.7 †	1.4 †	^
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	1.0 †	1.5 †	0.9 †	^
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	10.7 †	6.5 †	11.3 †	^
<b>Gender identity</b>				
Male	92.7%	93.8%	92.6%	...
Female	6.9	6.1	7.0	...
Transgender <sup>c</sup>	0.3	0.1 !	0.3	...
Do not identify as male/female/ transgender	0.1	<0.05 !	0.1	...
<b>Sexual orientation</b>				
Gay/lesbian	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%	...
Straight	95.7	96.9	95.5	...
Bisexual	2.3	1.1	2.5	...
Something else	0.2	0.2	0.2	...
Don't know the answer	0.5	0.5	0.5	...
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,421,700	173,400	1,248,300	1,224,600

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 2% missing responses. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. Estimates for federal prisoners in 2004 are not comparable to 2016. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

...Not available in 2004.

^Not comparable due a change in measurement. See *Methodology*.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>In 2016, the question on sex asked prisoners to report their sex assigned at birth, on their original birth certificate.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes prisoners who reported that they identified as transgender (1,970 weighted cases for all prisoners) or identified with a gender different from their sex assigned at birth (1,894 weighted cases for all prisoners). See *Measurement of sexual orientation and gender identity in the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates* (pp. 4–5) for more information.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## Measurement of sexual orientation and gender identity in the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates

For the first time, the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI) measured sexual orientation and gender identity among a national sample of about 24,850 state and federal prisoners. Given the potentially sensitive nature of these measures, the questions were included in Section 5 of the SPI questionnaire, which asked about physical health, rather than Section I, which asked about demographics. All questions in the SPI were asked through face-to-face interviews using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). In a CAPI survey, interviewers read questions aloud to respondents and enter their responses directly into a laptop computer, allowing skip patterns and other routing criteria to be implemented automatically.

Section 5 in the SPI was administered in the middle of the survey, and by that point, interviewers would have established more of a rapport with respondents compared to the when the questions from Section I (demographics) were administered. The gender identity items followed questions on the height and weight of prisoners and directly preceded the question on sexual orientation. All sampled prisoners were asked the questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The SPI questionnaire was designed over several years prior to the survey administration in 2016. The sexual orientation measure was modeled after the question asked in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the National Health Interview Survey, although the SPI did not tailor the question based on the reported sex of the prisoner. The question and all response options in the SPI were read aloud to respondents by interviewers:

PH5. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

- 1 Lesbian or gay,
- 2 Straight, that is not lesbian or gay,
- 3 Bisexual,
- 4 Something else, or
- 5 You don't know the answer?

(REFUSED CODED BY INTERVIEWER)

A two-step approach, asking about sex assigned at birth and current gender identity, was used in the SPI to measure gender identity, similar to the NCVS and the National Adult Tobacco Survey. At the time the 2016 SPI questionnaire was being developed, a two-step

approach was supported by research over a single-step approach.<sup>1,2</sup> The main advantage of the two-step approach is that it allows for transgender respondents who identify as male or female, but not transgender, to identify as such and still be coded as transgender for analyses.

While the first question in the two-step approach in the SPI was read aloud to respondents by interviewers, the response options were not, but they were coded by interviewers:

PH3. What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: DID THEY TELL YOU THAT THEY WERE BORN MALE OR FEMALE?

- 1 MALE
- 2 FEMALE

(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED CODED BY INTERVIEWER)

This question also included a note to interviewers instructing them to code a response if a prisoner responded to the question by reporting that they were born a male or female.

For the second SPI item, the question and all response options were read aloud to respondents by interviewers, and interviewers were instructed to code one response:

PH4. How do you describe yourself? (SELECT ONE)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female
- 3 Transgender
- 4 Do not identify as male, female or transgender

(DON'T KNOW/REFUSED CODED BY INTERVIEWER)

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<sup>1</sup>Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. (2016). *Evaluations of sexual orientation and gender identity survey measures: What have we learned?* Office of Management and Budget, Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. [https://nces.ed.gov/FCSM/pdf/Evaluations\\_of\\_SOGI\\_Questions\\_20160923.pdf](https://nces.ed.gov/FCSM/pdf/Evaluations_of_SOGI_Questions_20160923.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Truman, J. T., Morgan, R. E., Gilbert, T., & Vaghela, P. (2019). Measuring sexual orientation and gender identity in the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 35(4), 835–858. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jos-2019-0035>

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## Measurement of sexual orientation and gender identity in the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (continued)

After this second question (PH4), the CAPI instrument was programmed to verify the responses. Interviewers were trained to verify that they recorded responses correctly when prisoners' responses to the first question (PH3) in the two-step approach did not agree with their responses to the second question (PH4).

Prisoners' responses to sex assigned at birth (PH3) and current gender identity (PH4) were combined into a measure of gender identity. Prisoners were identified as transgender if their response to sex assigned at birth was different from their current gender identity, unless they reported "Do not identify as male, female, or transgender."

As a result of using the two-step approach to measure gender identity in the 2016 SPI, the estimates of transgender in this report include an estimated 1,970 state and federal prisoners (a weighted count) who identified as transgender and 1,894 state and

federal prisoners (a weighted count) who identified with a gender that was different from their sex assigned at birth.

Prior to administering the sexual orientation and gender identity questions on a national scale in 2016, the questions were tested with a sample of prisoners. The sexual orientation question was tested through a larger pretest (n = 480) in 2013 and a smaller pretest (n = 60) in 2015. The gender identity questions were tested in the 2015 pretest because they were added to the questionnaire after 2013. For both tests, the primary goal was to test the functionality of the SPI instrument. However, prisoners' reactions were closely observed during the administration of the questions, and the results demonstrated that respondents did not react negatively to the questions and provided responses.

Table 1 of this report includes the national estimates of sexual orientation and gender identity from the 2016 SPI.

## Education

Among all prisoners in the United States in 2016, more than 6 in 10 had completed less than a high school degree prior to their admission to prison (table 2). Similarly, state prisoners in 2016 were more likely to report completing eleventh grade or less than to report completing high school or some college. More than 6 in 10 state prisoners had not completed high school (62%), and less than 1 in 4 had obtained a high school degree (23%). Less than 1 in 6 either completed some college (11%) or earned a college degree or more (4%).

The education of state prisoners increased between 2004 and 2016. While the majority of state prisoners in 2016 (62%) did not have a high school degree, this represented a decline from 67% in 2004. The percentage of state prisoners who had completed some college or attained a college degree or more increased from 12% in 2004 to 15% in 2016.

Similar to state prisoners, federal prisoners in 2016 were more likely to report completing eleventh grade or less than to report completing high school or any

college. The majority of federal prisoners reported that they had not completed high school (57%). About a fifth had completed some college (14%) or obtained a college degree or more (8%).

## Marital status, military service, and citizenship

In 2016, the majority of all prisoners in the United States reported that they had never married (58%). State prisoners were more likely to report that they had never married (59%) than to report being divorced (19%), married (14%), separated (5%), or widowed (3%).

State prisoners in 2016 (59%) were slightly more likely than those in 2004 (57%) to have never married. They were slightly less likely to be a veteran in 2016 (8%) than in 2004 (10%). The percentage of state prisoners who were citizens of a country other than the United States remained about the same between 2004 (5%) and 2016 (4%).

Among federal prisoners in 2016, more than half reported that they had never been married (53%). A quarter reported that they were not a U.S. citizen (25%). About 5% reported prior military service.

**TABLE 2**

**Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by selected characteristics, 2004 and 2016**

Characteristic	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Education completed<sup>a</sup></b>				
Less than high school*	61.7%	56.7%	62.3%	66.5%
High school graduate	22.6 †	21.7 †	22.8 †	21.7 †
Some college	11.6 †	13.9 †	11.3 †	8.8 †
College degree or more	4.1 †	7.6 †	3.6 †	3.1 †
Mean	10.6 yrs.	10.6 yrs.	10.5 yrs.	10.4 yrs.
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	14.9% †	21.4% †	14.0% †	16.5% †
Widowed	2.7 †	1.8 †	2.8 †	2.0 †
Separated	4.9 †	5.6 †	4.8 †	5.1 †
Divorced	19.1 †	18.1 †	19.2 †	19.7 †
Never married*	58.4	53.1	59.2	56.7
<b>Military service</b>				
Veteran*	7.6%	5.3%	7.9%	10.4%
Nonveteran	92.4 †	94.7 †	92.1 †	89.6 †
<b>Citizenship</b>				
U.S. citizen*	93.1%	75.1%	95.6%	95.0%
Non-U.S. citizen	6.9 †	24.9 †	4.4 †	5.0 †
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,421,700	173,400	1,248,300	1,224,600

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 3% missing responses. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. Estimates for federal prisoners in 2004 are not comparable to 2016. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Based on the highest level of education completed prior to admission, excluding GED attainment. The 2004 estimates may not be comparable to previous BJS reports, which included GED attainment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## Offense characteristics of state and federal prisoners

In 2016, half of all prisoners in the United States (51%) were incarcerated for a violent offense, with

males (52%) more likely than females (35%) to be held for a violent offense (tables 3 and 4). Similarly, state prisoners in 2016 were more likely to be incarcerated for a violent offense (56%) than a property (15%), drug (15%), or public order (13%) offense. Male state

**TABLE 3**  
Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by controlling offense, 2004 and 2016

Controlling offense <sup>a</sup>	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Violent*</b>	50.9%	12.8%	56.2%	47.9%
Murder <sup>b</sup>	12.7	2.2	14.1	10.4
Negligent manslaughter	1.8	0.2	2.1	1.7
Rape/sexual assault	10.8	1.5	12.1	10.7
Robbery	11.9	6.6	12.6	12.6
Assault	11.2	1.7	12.6	10.2
Other violent <sup>c</sup>	2.5	0.7	2.7	2.2
<b>Property</b>	14.4% †	7.1% †	15.4% †	18.7% †
Burglary	6.4	0.2!	7.3	8.2
Larceny/theft	2.8	0.2	3.1	3.9
Motor vehicle theft	0.9	0.1!	1.1	1.7
Fraud <sup>d</sup>	2.7	6.3	2.2	2.9
Other property <sup>e</sup>	1.5	0.3	1.7	2.1
<b>Drug</b>	19.0% †	47.7% †	15.0% †	21.4% †
Trafficking <sup>f</sup>	14.7	42.8	10.8	14.8
Possession	3.6	2.2	3.8	6.0
Other/unspecified	0.6	2.7	0.4	0.6
<b>Public order</b>	15.3% †	31.3% †	13.1% †	11.9% †
Commercialized vice	1.0	4.5	0.6	0.2
Immigration <sup>g</sup>	1.1	8.9	<0.05!	0.1!
Weapons <sup>h</sup>	4.8	13.1	3.6	2.5
DUI/DWI	2.2	0.2!	2.5	2.6
Violation of probation/parole <sup>i</sup>	2.1	0.7	2.2	3.6
Other public order <sup>j</sup>	4.1	3.9	4.1	2.9
<b>Other/unspecified<sup>k</sup></b>	0.4% †	1.1% †	0.3% †	0.2% †
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,421,700	173,400	1,248,300	1,224,600

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Excludes prisoners for whom offense was unknown (less than 2%). All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. Estimates for federal prisoners in 2004 are not comparable to 2016. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>See *Methodology* for how controlling offense was measured.

<sup>b</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>c</sup>Includes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, criminal endangerment, kidnapping, and other or unspecified violent offenses.

<sup>d</sup>Includes embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting.

<sup>e</sup>Includes arson, destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving with no bodily injury, criminal tampering, trespassing, entering without breaking, possession of burglary tools, stolen property, and other or unspecified property offenses.

<sup>f</sup>Includes possession with intent to distribute.

<sup>g</sup>Includes offenses involving illegal entrance into the United States; illegally reentering after being deported; willfully failing to leave when so ordered; or bringing in, transporting, or harboring any aliens not admitted by an immigration officer.

<sup>h</sup>Includes illegal manufacturing, importing, possessing, receiving, and licensing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other prohibited weapons.

<sup>i</sup>Includes escape, absent without leave (AWOL), and flight to avoid prosecution.

<sup>j</sup>Includes obstruction of justice, traffic offenses, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals and decency offenses, rioting, abandonment, nonsupport of spouse or children, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, tax evasion, bribery, federal regulatory and common criminal enterprise offenses, tax law violations, racketeering, extortion, and other or unspecified public order offenses.

<sup>k</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

prisoners (58%) were more likely to be held for a violent offense than female state prisoners (38%).

Females were more likely than males to be incarcerated for a property offense or any type of drug offense

in 2016. A quarter of female state prisoners were incarcerated for a property (25%) or drug (25%) offense, compared to about a seventh of male state prisoners (15% property and 14% drug).

**TABLE 4**

**Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by controlling offense and sex, 2016**

Controlling offense <sup>a</sup>	All prisoners		Federal prisoners		State prisoners	
	Male*	Female	Male*	Female	Male*	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Violent</b>	52.1%	34.6% †	13.1%	8.0% †	57.6%	37.8% †
Murder <sup>b</sup>	12.8	10.9	2.2	1.9	14.3	12.0
Negligent manslaughter	1.8	2.5	0.1!	0.3!	2.0	2.7
Rape/sexual assault	11.5	2.1 †	1.5	1.2	12.9	2.2 †
Robbery	12.2	7.5 †	6.8	2.8 †	12.9	8.1 †
Assault	11.4	8.7 †	1.8	1.0	12.8	9.6 †
Other violent <sup>c</sup>	2.4	2.9	0.7	0.9!	2.7	3.2
<b>Property</b>	13.6%	24.9% †	6.1%	22.4% †	14.7%	25.2% †
Burglary	6.5	5.1 †	0.2!	0.1!	7.4	5.7 †
Larceny/theft	2.4	7.6 †	0.2!	1.0 †	2.7	8.4 †
Motor vehicle theft	1.0	0.7	0.1!	0.1!	1.1	0.8
Fraud <sup>d</sup>	2.2	9.4 †	5.3	21.0 †	1.8	8.1 †
Other property <sup>e</sup>	1.5	2.0	0.3	0.3!	1.7	2.2
<b>Drug</b>	18.3%	27.8% †	47.4%	52.6%	14.2%	24.8% †
Trafficking <sup>f</sup>	14.4	18.4 †	42.4	49.1 †	10.5	14.7 †
Possession	3.3	7.7 †	2.2	1.9	3.5	8.4 †
Other/unspecified	0.6	1.6 †	2.8	1.6	0.3	1.6 †
<b>Public order</b>	15.6%	12.1% †	32.3%	15.4% †	13.2%	11.7%
Commercialized vice	1.1	0.2 †	4.7	1.4 †	0.6	0.1!
Immigration <sup>g</sup>	1.2	0.5 †	9.3	3.7 †	<0.05!	0.1!
Weapons <sup>h</sup>	5.0	1.3 †	13.8	3.4 †	3.8	1.0 †
DUI/DWI	2.2	2.8	0.2!	0.2!	2.5	3.1
Violation of probation/parole <sup>i</sup>	2.0	2.3	0.7	0.6!	2.2	2.6
Other public order <sup>j</sup>	4.0	5.0 †	3.7	6.2 †	4.1	4.8
<b>Other/unspecified<sup>k</sup></b>	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	1.6%	0.3%	0.4%
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,321,800	99,900	162,700	10,700	1,159,100	89,200

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Excludes prisoners for whom offense was unknown (less than 2%). All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>See *Methodology* for how controlling offense was measured.

<sup>b</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>c</sup>Includes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, criminal endangerment, kidnapping, and other or unspecified violent offenses.

<sup>d</sup>Includes embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting.

<sup>e</sup>Includes arson, destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving with no bodily injury, criminal tampering, trespassing, entering without breaking, possession of burglary tools, stolen property, and other or unspecified property offenses.

<sup>f</sup>Includes possession with intent to distribute.

<sup>g</sup>Includes offenses involving illegal entrance into the United States; illegally reentering after being deported; willfully failing to leave when so ordered; or bringing in, transporting, or harboring any aliens not admitted by an immigration officer.

<sup>h</sup>Includes illegal manufacturing, importing, possessing, receiving, and licensing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other prohibited weapons.

<sup>i</sup>Includes escape, absent without leave (AWOL), and flight to avoid prosecution.

<sup>j</sup>Includes obstruction of justice, traffic offenses, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals and decency offenses, rioting, abandonment, nonsupport of spouse or children, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, tax evasion, bribery, federal regulatory and common criminal enterprise offenses, tax law violations, racketeering, extortion, and other or unspecified public order offenses.

<sup>k</sup>Includes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.



The percentage of state prisoners who were held for a violent offense increased between 2004 (48%) and 2016 (56%). This increase was driven by prisoners incarcerated for murder (14% in 2016, up from 10% in 2004) and assault (13% in 2016, up from 10% in 2004). During that period, the percentage of state prisoners held for a property or drug offense declined. Fifteen percent of state prisoners were incarcerated for a property offense in 2016, down from 19% in 2004. Another 15% were held for a drug offense in 2016, down from 21% in 2004.

In 2016, federal prisoners were more likely to be incarcerated for a drug (48%) or public order (31%) offense than for a violent (13%) or property (7%) offense. Drug trafficking (43%) was the most common offense for which federal prisoners were incarcerated, followed by weapons (13%) and immigration (9%) offenses.

While male (47%) and female (53%) federal prisoners were about equally likely to be incarcerated in 2016 for a drug offense, males (42%) were less likely than females (49%) to be held for drug trafficking. Almost a third of male federal prisoners were incarcerated for a public order offense (32%), primarily for weapons (14%) or immigration (9%) offenses. More than a fifth of female federal prisoners were incarcerated in 2016 for property offenses (22%), primarily fraud (21%).

## Criminal histories of state and federal prisoners

### Criminal justice status

More than a third of all prisoners in the United States in 2016 had a criminal justice status at the time of the arrest for the offense for which they were incarcerated (37%) (table 5). Criminal justice status at arrest includes being on probation, being on parole, or having escaped from custody. While male (37%) and female (39%) prisoners in the United States were equally likely to have a criminal justice status at arrest, male prisoners (15%) were more likely to be on parole than female prisoners (8%). Female prisoners (31%) were more likely to be on probation than male prisoners (22%).

**TABLE 5**  
Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by criminal history and sex, 2016

Criminal history	Percent of all prisoners		
	All	Male*	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense<sup>a</sup></b>			
None	63.2%	63.3%	61.0%
Status	36.8	36.7	39.0
On probation	22.4	21.7	31.0 †
On parole	14.1	14.6	7.8 †
Escaped from custody	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>Number of times ever arrested<sup>b</sup></b>			
1	13.3%	12.8%	19.5% †
2–4	33.7	33.5	35.9 †
5–9	24.6	24.8	21.9 †
10 or more	28.4	28.9	22.7 †
Mean	9.0 arsts.	9.1 arsts.	7.8 arsts. †
<b>Number of prior incarcerations<sup>c</sup></b>			
0	21.9%	21.3%	29.5% †
1	17.6	17.4	19.5 †
2–4	30.3	30.5	27.0 †
5–9	18.5	18.8	14.1 †
10 or more	11.8	11.9	10.0 †
Mean	4.6 incr.	4.7 incr.	3.8 incr. †
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,421,700	1,321,800	99,900

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 5% missing responses. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Prisoners are included in only one type of criminal justice status, regardless of whether they had multiple statuses at the time of their arrest. The survey established parole as the first category, followed by probation, and then escaped.

<sup>b</sup>Includes any time prisoners were arrested during their lifetime, including arrests as a juvenile, arrests for which they did not go to court, and arrests for an offense that did not result in a conviction.

<sup>c</sup>Includes prior sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

In 2016, almost 4 in 10 state prisoners had a criminal justice status at the time of the arrest for the offense for which they were incarcerated (38%) (table 6). Similar to all prisoners in the United States, male (38%) and female (41%) state prisoners were equally likely to have a criminal justice status at arrest. Males in state prison (15%) were more likely than females (8%) to be on parole at the time of the arrest, but males (23%) were less likely than females (33%) to be on probation.

A quarter of federal prisoners (25%) had a criminal justice status at the time of the arrest for the offense for which they were incarcerated in 2016, with males (25%) and females (20%) equally likely to report a status. A larger percentage of male (10%) than female (4%) federal prisoners were on parole at arrest, while a similar percentage of males (15%) and females (17%) were on probation.

**TABLE 6**  
Percent of federal and state prisoners, by criminal history and sex, 2016

Criminal history	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male*	Female	All	Male*	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense<sup>a</sup></b>						
None	74.9%	74.6%	79.6%	61.5%	61.7%	58.7%
Status	25.1	25.4	20.4	38.5	38.3	41.3
On probation	14.7	14.6	16.6	23.4	22.7	32.7 †
On parole	10.0	10.4	3.8 †	14.7	15.2	8.3 †
Escaped from custody	0.4	0.4	0.1 †	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>Number of times ever arrested<sup>b</sup></b>						
1	20.6%	19.4%	38.8% †	12.3%	11.9%	17.2% †
2–4	38.1	38.3	35.4	33.1	32.9	36.0 †
5–9	19.8	20.2	13.4 †	25.3	25.4	22.9 †
10 or more	21.5	22.1	12.4 †	29.4	29.8	23.9 †
Mean	7.1 arsts.	7.3 arsts.	5.1 arsts. †	9.3 arsts.	9.3 arsts.	8.2 arsts. †
<b>Number of prior incarcerations<sup>c</sup></b>						
0	30.0%	28.8%	49.4% †	20.8%	20.3%	27.1% †
1	21.1	21.2	19.8	17.1	16.9	19.5 †
2–4	29.8	30.6	17.8 †	30.3	30.5	28.1 †
5–9	13.6	13.9	7.7 †	19.1	19.5	14.9 †
10 or more	5.5	5.5	5.3	12.7	12.9	10.6 †
Mean	2.9 incr.	2.9 incr.	2.4 incr.	4.9 incr.	4.9 incr.	4.0 incr. †
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	173,400	162,700	10,700	1,248,300	1,159,100	89,200

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 5% missing responses, with the exception of number of arrests (missing for 6.1% of federal prisoners). See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Prisoners are included in only one type of criminal justice status, regardless of whether they had multiple statuses at the time of their arrest. The survey established parole as the first category, followed by probation, and then escaped.

<sup>b</sup>Includes any time prisoners were arrested during their lifetime, including arrests as a juvenile, arrests for which they did not go to court, and arrests for an offense that did not result in a conviction.

<sup>c</sup>Includes prior sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

In 2016, black (40%) and white (38%) state prisoners were equally likely to have a criminal justice status at the time of the arrest, while Hispanic (35%) state prisoners were less likely than black state prisoners to report a criminal justice status (table 7). Black (17%) state prisoners were more likely than Hispanic (14%) or white (13%) state prisoners to be on parole.

Criminal justice status at arrest varied by race and ethnicity among federal prisoners in 2016. Black (35%) federal prisoners were more likely than white (23%) or Hispanic (17%) federal prisoners to have a criminal justice status at the time of the arrest. About 20% of black federal prisoners were on probation at arrest, compared to 13% of white and 11% of Hispanic federal prisoners. Another 15% of black federal prisoners were on parole, compared to 10% of white and 6% of Hispanic federal prisoners.

**TABLE 7**  
**Percent of federal and state prisoners, by criminal history and race or ethnicity, 2016**

Criminal history	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a*</sup>	Hispanic	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a*</sup>	Hispanic
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense<sup>b</sup></b>						
None	77.4% †	64.8%	82.6% †	61.9%	59.6%	64.6% †
Status	22.6 †	35.2	17.4 †	38.1	40.4	35.4 †
On probation	12.9 †	19.6	11.4 †	25.2	22.8	20.8
On parole	9.6 †	15.3	5.6 †	12.6 †	17.4	14.2 †
Escaped from custody	:	0.4!	0.5!	0.4	0.2!	0.4 †
<b>Number of times ever arrested<sup>c</sup></b>						
1	26.5% †	7.6%	28.9% †	14.4% †	8.8%	15.5% †
2–4	34.0	36.0	44.9 †	29.9 †	35.8	34.2
5–9	16.8 †	26.8	15.0 †	23.5 †	28.5	23.3 †
10 or more	22.7 †	29.6	11.2 †	32.3 †	26.9	27.0
Mean	7.7 arsts.	9.0 arsts.	4.4 arsts. †	9.7 arsts.	9.0 arsts.	8.4 arsts.
<b>Number of prior incarcerations<sup>d</sup></b>						
0	38.7% †	19.0%	35.2% †	24.2% †	17.8%	21.9% †
1	17.5	19.1	26.0 †	16.7	17.3	16.9
2–4	24.7 †	37.9	25.5 †	27.4 †	33.9	28.7 †
5–9	11.9 †	17.9	9.8 †	17.9 †	19.9	19.7
10 or more	7.3	6.1	3.4 †	13.7 †	11.0	12.8 †
Mean	3.1 incr.	3.3 incr.	2.2 incr. †	4.8 incr.	4.8 incr.	4.7 incr.
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	35,900	55,000	63,500	391,800	415,500	254,700

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 5% missing responses, with the exception of number of arrests (missing for 6.1% of federal prisoners). See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

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! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>b</sup>Prisoners are included in only one type of criminal justice status, regardless of whether they had multiple statuses at the time of their arrest. The survey established parole as the first category, followed by probation, and then escaped.

<sup>c</sup>Includes any time prisoners were arrested during their lifetime, including arrests as a juvenile, arrests for which they did not go to court, and arrests for an offense that did not result in a conviction.

<sup>d</sup>Includes prior sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## ***Lifetime arrests***

More than a quarter of all prisoners in the United States in 2016 reported that they had been arrested 10 or more times during their lifetime (28%). (See table 5.) Male prisoners in the United States reported more extensive arrest histories than female prisoners. During their lifetime, male prisoners in the United States had an average of nine arrests, with 29% reporting 10 or more arrests. In comparison, female prisoners in the United States had an average of eight arrests, with 23% reporting 10 or more arrests during their lifetime.

Similarly, among state prisoners in 2016, males had an average of nine arrests and females had an average of eight arrests during their lifetime. The majority of male state prisoners (55%) had five or more arrests during their lifetime, while the majority of female state prisoners (53%) had four or fewer arrests.

Among federal prisoners in 2016, nearly 2 in 5 females (39%) had been arrested once during their lifetime, compared to about 1 in 5 males (19%). In federal prison, males averaged seven lifetime arrests, while females averaged five.

In 2016, black (9%) state prisoners were less likely than Hispanic (16%) or white (14%) state prisoners to report they had been arrested once during their lifetime. The same percentage of black and Hispanic state prisoners (27%) reported having 10 or more arrests, which was smaller than the percentage of white state prisoners (32%).

Among federal prisoners in 2016, about 8% of black prisoners reported one arrest during their lifetime, compared to 29% of Hispanic and 27% of white prisoners. A larger portion of black (30%) federal prisoners than white (23%) or Hispanic (11%) federal prisoners reported 10 or more arrests. While the average number of lifetime arrests did not vary between black (9) and white (8) federal prisoners, Hispanic federal prisoners averaged a smaller number of lifetime arrests (4).

## ***Prior incarcerations***

Male prisoners in the United States had more extensive incarceration histories than females, and this finding was consistent among state prisoners. Among state prisoners, females (27%) were more likely than males (20%) to be serving their first sentence to incarceration when interviewed in 2016. While female state prisoners averaged four incarcerations prior to the sentence they were serving in 2016, male state prisoners averaged five. In this report, prior incarcerations includes sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison.

Almost 5 in 10 female federal prisoners (49%) in 2016 were serving their first sentence to incarceration, compared to about 3 in 10 male federal prisoners (29%). Overall, federal prisoners averaged three prior incarcerations.

Among state prisoners, black (18%) prisoners were less likely to be incarcerated for the first time when interviewed in 2016 than white (24%) or Hispanic (22%) prisoners. While white (14%) and Hispanic (13%) state prisoners were more likely to have 10 or more prior incarcerations than black (11%) state prisoners, all three groups averaged five prior incarcerations.

Nineteen percent of black federal prisoners were serving their first sentence to incarceration when interviewed in 2016, compared to 39% of white and 35% of Hispanic federal prisoners. While the average number of prior incarcerations did not vary between black and white federal prisoners (3 each), Hispanic federal prisoners averaged fewer prior incarcerations (2).

## Comparison of self-report data from prisoners to official agency records

The 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI) collected data on various characteristics of the prison population in the United States. The survey consisted of in-person interviews, conducted with representative samples of state and federal prisoners who self-reported information in response to a detailed questionnaire. The SPI complements the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) statistical collections that rely on administrative records collected from official agency data, such as the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) and the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). While some overlap exists between the NCRP, FJSP, and the SPI, the scope of information collected through the SPI allows users to easily examine various topics and conduct more in-depth analyses because the data exist in a single source.

Personal interviews of prisoners are the only means of gathering certain data with a national scope, including some SPI topics such as the incident characteristics of the offense for which prisoners were incarcerated, some socioeconomic characteristics of prisoners, their family background, and detailed histories of mental and physical health and treatment. The standardized approach to collecting the self-report data results in a uniform set of measures and descriptors that can be used to better understand and assess the prison population at a national level. The national data also provide a benchmark against which state and federal prison authorities can compare their own prison populations.

The findings presented in table 8 demonstrate that the responses from prisoners interviewed in the 2016 SPI generally agree with data reported in official agency records that BJS also collected during 2016, with some notable exceptions (**table 8**).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Sex and age were excluded from the results in table 8 because the 2016 SPI sample was weighted up to national totals based on the sex and age distributions obtained through BJS's administrative records collections, including the National Prisoner Statistics Program, the NCRP, and the FJSP.

The aggregate distributions of race and ethnicity in the self-report data (SPI) are different from those in the administrative records (NCRP and FJSP). The way race and ethnicity data are captured in official agency records to describe and distinguish prisoners can vary within and across jurisdictions. In some cases, race and ethnicity data may be self-reported by the prisoners and recorded by agency officials in operational records. In other cases, such data may result from classification by agency officials based on their judgment or observation of prisoners' race or ethnicity. In addition, some agencies' databases do not permit the reporting or coding of multiple races or ethnicities. Therefore, the codes assigned to prisoners in their administrative records may differ from their responses when directly asked to identify their race and ethnicity in a survey.

A comparison of the self-report data (SPI) and administrative records, specifically NCRP records for state prisoners and FJSP records for federal prisoners, on race and ethnicity shows the percentage of state and federal prisoners who self-reported being Hispanic or of two or more races was larger than the percentage recorded in administrative records. In addition, a smaller portion of state and federal prisoners self-identified as non-Hispanic white or non-Hispanic black than were recorded in administrative records.

While the offense distributions for state prisoners from the self-report data (SPI) and the NCRP administrative records are fairly consistent, the results from the self-report data (13%) show a higher percentage of violent offenders in federal prison in 2016 than the FJSP administrative records (8%). In addition, the self-report data (31%) show a smaller percentage of federal prisoners held for a public order offense, including weapons offenses, compared to the FJSP administrative records (39%).

*Continued on next page*

## Comparison of self-report data from prisoners to official agency records (continued)

These variations are likely due to the different methods used to classify the controlling offense of a prisoner. In the self-report data (SPI), the controlling offense of a sentenced prisoner is the offense with the longest sentence. For example, if a prisoner reported multiple offenses, such as a violent and a weapons offense, but received one sentence for both, the SPI survey classified the violent offense as the controlling offense.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>In cases like this, with multiple offenses, the SPI relied on a hierarchy based on severity to classify the controlling offense: violent followed by property, drug, public order, and all other offenses.

The administrative records likely contained additional information that was used to classify the controlling offense in these cases as a weapons offense. For example, a weapons offense of trafficking firearms may be classified as more severe, and result in a longer sentence, than a violent offense of assault.

For both state and federal prisoners, the distributions of sentence length between the self-report data (SPI) and the administrative records (NCRP and FJSP) generally agree.

**TABLE 8**  
Percent of federal and state prisoners, by selected characteristics and data source, 2016

Characteristic	Percent of federal prisoners		Percent of state prisoners	
	Self-report survey <sup>a</sup>	Administrative records collection <sup>b</sup>	Self-report survey <sup>a</sup>	Administrative records collection <sup>c</sup>
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White <sup>d</sup>	21.0%	27.4%	31.9%	40.8%
Black <sup>d</sup>	32.2	36.7	33.8	41.2
Hispanic	37.1	32.6	20.7	16.0
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>d</sup>	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>d</sup>	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.7
Two or more races <sup>d</sup>	6.5	~	11.3	0.1
<b>Controlling offense</b>				
Violent	12.8%	7.8%	56.2%	54.5%
Property	7.1	6.3	15.4	17.6
Drug	47.7	47.0	15.0	15.1
Public order	31.3	38.9	13.1	12.3
Other	0.1	~	0.3	0.6
<b>Total maximum sentence length<sup>e</sup></b>				
2 years or less <sup>f</sup>	8.4%	10.0%	11.3%	9.9%
2.1–5 years	21.8	21.3	19.3	21.8
5.1–10 years	29.1	29.2	20.3	22.1
More than 10 years	36.9	36.7	35.3	35.1
Life/death <sup>g</sup>	3.7	2.8	13.8	11.1
Mean <sup>h</sup>	11.6 yrs.	10.9 yrs.	15.1 yrs.	14.7 yrs.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 5% missing responses. ~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

<sup>b</sup>Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), yearend 2016. These statistics include prisoners held by the Federal Bureau of Prisons for the District of Columbia and may differ from FJSP statistics in other BJS publications.

<sup>c</sup>National Corrections Reporting Program, yearend 2016.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>e</sup>Based on the total maximum sentence for all consecutive sentences. Excludes prisoners for whom offense was unknown and prisoners who were not yet convicted or sentenced.

<sup>f</sup>Includes a small number of prisoners with a maximum sentence length of less than 1 month.

<sup>g</sup>Includes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

<sup>h</sup>Excludes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016; Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2016; and National Corrections Reporting Program, 2016.

## Sentence length and time served

### Sentence length

In 2016, the average total maximum sentence for a prisoner in the United States was about 15 years (table 9). In general, male prisoners received longer sentences, had served more time since admission, and expected to serve more time before being released than female prisoners.

In state prison, males (16 years) had, on average, longer sentences than females (10 years) (table 10). While half of male state prisoners (51%) were sentenced to more than 10 years, half of female state prisoners (51%) were serving sentences of 5 years or less. Males in state prison (14%) were nearly twice as likely as females in state prison (7%) to receive a sentence to life or to death.

Sentencing patterns among federal prisoners were similar to those among state prisoners. In federal prison, males had longer sentences (12 years) than females (8 years). While more than 4 in 10 males in federal prison (42%) were sentenced to more than 10 years, almost half of female federal prisoners (46%) had sentences of 5 years or less.

### Time served since admission

State prisoners were most likely to report that they served 2 years or less in prison since their admission. In state prison, more than half of females (55%) had been incarcerated for 2 years or less, compared to more than a third of males (35%). Male state prisoners (21%) were twice as likely as female state prisoners (10%) to have been held for more than 10 years at the time of the interview.

Females in federal prison were also most likely to have been incarcerated for 2 years or less (47%) since admission, while males were most likely to report being held for 2.1 to 5 years (35%). Males in federal prison (14%) were three and a half times more likely than female federal prisoners (4%) to have served more than 10 years when interviewed in 2016.

**TABLE 9**

**Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by sentence length, time served, and sex, 2016**

Sentence length and time served	Percent of all prisoners		
	All	Male*	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total maximum sentence length<sup>a</sup></b>			
2 years or less	10.9%	10.0%	23.1% †
2.1–5 years	19.6	19.1	27.0 †
5.1–10 years	21.4	21.5	20.2
More than 10 years	35.5	36.4	23.0 †
Life/death <sup>b</sup>	12.5	13.0	6.7 †
Mean <sup>c</sup>	14.7 yrs.	15.1 yrs.	9.4 yrs. †
<b>Time served since admission<sup>d</sup></b>			
2 years or less	35.0%	33.6%	53.8% †
2.1–5 years	27.1	27.2	25.2
5.1–10 years	18.2	18.7	11.6 †
More than 10 years	19.7	20.5	9.4 †
Mean	6.2 yrs.	6.4 yrs.	3.7 yrs. †
<b>Total time expected to serve<sup>e</sup></b>			
Less than 6 months	1.5%	1.4%	2.9%
6–12 months	5.3	4.7	13.3 †
1.1–2 years	11.0	10.4	18.1 †
2.1–3 years	9.2	9.0	12.9 †
3.1–5 years	14.8	14.7	16.2
5.1–10 years	20.9	21.3	16.4 †
10.1–20 years	18.3	18.9	11.2 †
More than 20 years	13.7	14.3	7.0 †
Never expects to be released	5.2	5.4	2.2 †
Mean <sup>f</sup>	10.1 yrs.	10.4 yrs.	6.3 yrs. †
<b>Estimated number of sentenced prisoners</b>	1,421,700	1,321,800	99,900

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Estimates are rounded to the nearest whole month. Percentages exclude missing data. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Based on the total maximum sentence for all consecutive sentences. Excludes prisoners for whom offense was unknown and prisoners who were not yet convicted or sentenced. Excludes 4.1% of state and 1.6% of federal prisoners for whom a maximum sentence could not be calculated.

<sup>b</sup>Includes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

<sup>d</sup>Time served since admission includes time served in jail prior to admission to prison that was credited to the prisoner's sentence. Excludes 4.3% of state and 4.8% of federal prisoners for whom time served since admission could not be calculated.

<sup>e</sup>Total time expected to be served includes time from admission to prison to earliest expected date of release, including time served in jail prior to admission to prison that was credited to the prisoner's sentence. Excludes 10.7% of state prisoners, including those who were unsentenced, and 7.6% of federal prisoners for whom total time expected to serve could not be calculated.

<sup>f</sup>Excludes prisoners who did not expect to be released or did not provide an expected release date.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## Total time expected to serve

In 2016, about 1 in 5 males in state prison expected to spend 5.1 to 10 years in prison prior to their release (20%). Another 1 in 5 expected to spend 10.1 to 20 years in prison (18%). The average expected length of stay for male state prisoners was more than 10 years in 2016. Nearly 1 in 5 female state prisoners expected to serve 1.1 to 2 years before their release (19%), and more than 1 in 7 expected to be incarcerated for 3.1 to

5 years (15%). The average expected length of stay for female state prisoners was more than 6 years.

Among federal prisoners in 2016, about 3 in 10 males (32%) and females (29%) reported that they expected to be incarcerated 5.1 to 10 years by the time they were released. On average, male federal prisoners expected to spend a total of nearly 10 years in prison before their release, while female federal prisoners expected to be held an average of about 6 years.

**TABLE 10**

**Percent of federal and state prisoners, by sentence length, time served, and sex, 2016**

Sentence length and time served	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male*	Female	All	Male*	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total maximum sentence length<sup>a</sup></b>						
2 years or less	8.4%	7.9%	16.1% †	11.3%	10.3%	24.0% †
2.1–5 years	21.8	21.3	29.9 †	19.3	18.8	26.6 †
5.1–10 years	29.1	29.0	30.5	20.3	20.4	18.9
More than 10 years	36.9	37.8	22.5 †	35.3	36.3	23.0 †
Life/death <sup>b</sup>	3.7	3.9	1.0 †	13.8	14.3	7.4 †
Mean <sup>c</sup>	11.6 yrs.	11.8 yrs.	7.8 yrs. †	15.1 yrs.	15.6 yrs.	9.6 yrs. †
<b>Time served since admission<sup>d</sup></b>						
2 years or less	27.5%	26.2%	46.7% †	36.1%	34.6%	54.6% †
2.1–5 years	35.0	35.0	34.6	26.0	26.1	24.1
5.1–10 years	24.6	25.2	15.2 †	17.3	17.8	11.2 †
More than 10 years	12.9	13.5	3.6 †	20.6	21.5	10.1 †
Mean	5.2 yrs.	5.4 yrs.	3.2 yrs. †	6.3 yrs.	6.5 yrs.	3.7 yrs. †
<b>Total time expected to serve<sup>e</sup></b>						
Less than 6 months	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	1.6%	1.5%	3.1%
6–12 months	2.8	2.5	6.4 †	5.7	5.0	14.2 †
1.1–2 years	6.8	6.4	12.0 †	11.6	11.0	18.9 †
2.1–3 years	8.5	8.2	11.7 †	9.3	9.1	13.0 †
3.1–5 years	16.4	16.0	22.1 †	14.6	14.6	15.4
5.1–10 years	31.3	31.5	28.6	19.4	19.8	14.8 †
10.1–20 years	23.7	24.3	15.0 †	17.6	18.1	10.7 †
More than 20 years	8.6	9.0	3.0 †	14.5	15.0	7.5 †
Never expects to be released	1.3	1.4	0.2 †	5.7	6.0	2.4 †
Mean <sup>f</sup>	9.3 yrs.	9.5 yrs.	6.4 yrs. †	10.2 yrs.	10.5 yrs.	6.3 yrs. †
<b>Estimated number of sentenced prisoners</b>	173,400	162,700	10,700	1,248,300	1,159,100	89,200

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Estimates are rounded to the nearest whole month. Percentages exclude missing data. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Based on the total maximum sentence for all consecutive sentences. Excludes prisoners for whom offense was unknown and prisoners who were not yet convicted or sentenced. Excludes 4.1% of state and 1.6% of federal prisoners for whom a maximum sentence could not be calculated.

<sup>b</sup>Includes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes prisoners with sentences to life, life plus additional years, life without parole, and death.

<sup>d</sup>Time served since admission includes time served in jail prior to admission to prison that was credited to the prisoner's sentence. Excludes 4.3% of state and 4.8% of federal prisoners for whom time served since admission could not be calculated.

<sup>e</sup>Total time expected to be served includes time from admission to prison to earliest expected date of release, including time served in jail prior to admission to prison that was credited to the prisoner's sentence. Excludes 10.7% of state prisoners, including those who were unsentenced, and 7.6% of federal prisoners for whom total time expected to serve could not be calculated.

<sup>f</sup>Excludes prisoners who did not expect to be released or did not provide an expected release date.

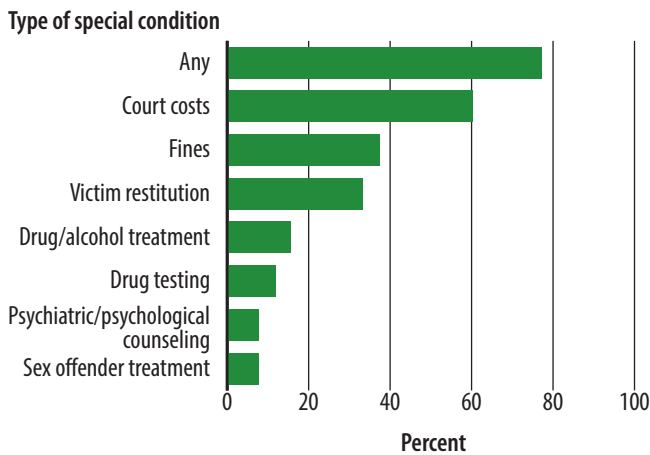
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.



### Special conditions of sentences

In 2016, more than three-quarters of state prisoners had at least one special condition that was required as part of their prison sentence (77%) (figure 2). Courts can order special conditions at the time of sentencing, such as monetary, programmatic, or behavioral requirements. State prisoners in 2016 most commonly reported payment of court costs (60%) as a special condition, followed by fines (37%) and victim restitution (33%). Drug or alcohol treatment (16%) and drug testing (12%) were less commonly reported. Less than 10% of state prisoners were required to participate in sex offender treatment (8%) or psychiatric or psychological counseling (8%) as a special condition.

**FIGURE 2**  
Percent of state prisoners, by type of special condition of sentence, 2016

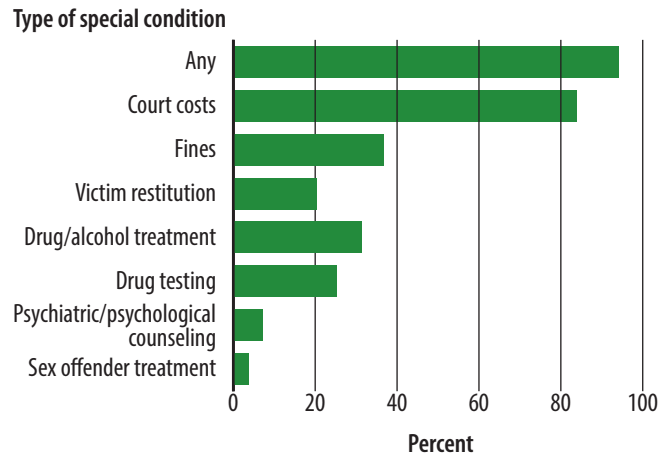


Note: Details do not sum to totals because prisoners could report more than one sentencing condition. Excludes missing data. All variables in the table have less than 4% missing responses. See appendix table 11 for percentages and standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

More than 9 in 10 federal prisoners in 2016 received at least one special condition that was required as part of their prison sentence (94%) (figure 3). As with state prisoners, federal prisoners most commonly reported payment of court costs (84%) as a special condition, followed by fines (37%). Nearly a third of federal prisoners were required to participate in drug or alcohol treatment (32%), and a quarter were required to undergo drug testing (25%). About a fifth were required to pay restitution to their victims (21%) as a special condition of their sentence. Psychiatric or psychological counseling (7%) and sex offender treatment (4%) were less commonly reported conditions.

**FIGURE 3**  
Percent of federal prisoners, by type of special condition of sentence, 2016



Note: Details do not sum to totals because prisoners could report more than one sentencing condition. Excludes missing data. All variables in the table have less than 2% missing responses. See appendix table 12 for percentages and standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

### Time to expected release

On average, state prisoners in 2016 reported at the time of the interview that they expected to be released in about 5 years (table 11). More than half of female state prisoners (51%) indicated that they expected to be released within 1 year, compared to about a third of male state prisoners (34%). About 1 in 20 male state prisoners expected that they would not be released for more than 20 years (5%). Nearly 6% of males and 2% of females did not expect to ever be released from state prison.

Among federal prisoners in 2016, the average time to expected release was about 4 years, with males averaging 4 years, compared to 3 years for females. A similar percentage of male (45%) and female (51%) federal prisoners expected to be released within 2 years or less. About 2% of male federal prisoners expected to remain in prison for more than 20 years prior to being released, and about 1% reported that they expected to never be released.

**TABLE 11**  
Percent of federal and state prisoners, by time left to expected release and sex, 2016

Time left to expected release <sup>a</sup>	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male*	Female	All	Male*	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Less than 6 months	15.6	15.2	21.6 †	19.4	18.4	31.9 †
6–12 months	14.0	13.9	15.1	15.9	15.6	19.4 †
1.1–2 years	15.4	15.5	14.4	15.0	15.0	15.0
2.1–3 years	10.9	10.7	12.9	8.8	8.9	7.5
3.1–5 years	14.9	14.9	14.5	10.8	11.0	8.5 †
5.1–10 years	17.4	17.5	15.8	12.3	12.6	8.2 †
10.1–20 years	8.6	8.9	4.9 †	7.6	7.8	5.0 †
More than 20 years	1.8	1.9	0.7 †	4.7	4.9	2.1 †
Never expects to be released	1.3	1.3	0.2 †	5.5	5.8	2.3 †
Mean <sup>b</sup>	4.3 yrs.	4.3 yrs.	3.2 yrs. †	4.8 yrs.	5.0 yrs.	2.9 yrs. †
Estimated number of prisoners	173,400	162,700	10,700	1,248,300	1,159,100	89,200

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data are rounded to the nearest whole month. Percentages exclude missing data. Excludes 7.7% of state and 3.7% of federal prisoners who were missing time expected to release. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 13 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Time left to serve is from the interview date to the earliest expected date of release. Excludes prisoners for whom an expected release date was unknown and state prisoners who were not yet convicted or sentenced.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes prisoners who did not expect to be released or did not provide an expected release date.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## Housing characteristics prior to arrest

In 2016, prisoners in the United States most commonly reported living in a house or an apartment (94%) during the 30 days prior to the arrest for the offense for which they were incarcerated (table 12). About 6% of all prisoners were living in a rooming house, hotel, or motel, and 6% were homeless at some point during those 30 days. About 14% of all prisoners reported that they were homeless at some point during the year before the arrest.

Similarly, about 14% of state prisoners in 2016 reported that they were homeless at some time during the year preceding the arrest for the offense for which they were incarcerated. Nearly 7% were homeless during the 30 days prior to arrest. Among federal prisoners, 6% reported that they were homeless during the year before arrest, and 3% were homeless during the 30 days prior to arrest.

**TABLE 12**

**Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by housing characteristics prior to arrest, 2016**

Housing characteristic prior to arrest	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Type of housing in 30 days prior to arrest<sup>a</sup></b>			
House/apartment <sup>b</sup>	93.6%	95.8%	93.3%
Rooming house/hotel/motel	6.4	5.4	6.5
Homeless <sup>c</sup>	6.3	3.0	6.8
Correctional facility <sup>d</sup>	3.6	2.6	3.7
Institution/group living <sup>e</sup>	2.8	1.6	2.9
Other <sup>f</sup>	1.8	1.2	1.9
<b>Homelessness in year before arrest<sup>c</sup></b>			
No	86.5%	94.0%	85.5%
Yes	13.5	6.0	14.5
<b>Relationship to persons living in household at time of prisoner's arrest<sup>a</sup></b>			
Spouse/partner <sup>g</sup>	43.2%	51.6%	42.0%
Children of prisoner <sup>h</sup>	29.2	40.0	27.7
Age 17 or younger	25.6	36.0	24.2
Age 18 or older	4.9	6.5	4.7
Other relatives	35.0	27.5	36.1
Parents <sup>i</sup>	20.8	13.8	21.8
Siblings	16.2	11.1	16.9
Grandparents	3.3	2.2	3.4
Other relatives	12.4	12.0	12.5
Nonrelatives	17.7	13.8	18.3
Foster family	0.2	0.2	0.2
Friends	12.0	9.5	12.4
Other nonrelatives	6.2	4.5	6.5
Living alone	13.4	14.3	13.2
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	<b>1,421,700</b>	<b>173,400</b>	<b>1,248,300</b>

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 2% missing responses. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

<sup>a</sup>Details do not sum to totals because prisoners could report more than one type.

<sup>b</sup>Includes houses, apartments, or mobile homes owned or rented by the respondent or someone else.

<sup>c</sup>Includes living on the street, in a vehicle, or in a homeless shelter.

<sup>d</sup>Includes prisons, jails, or other correctional facilities.

<sup>e</sup>Includes transitional housing, halfway houses, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, or other group living situations.

<sup>f</sup>Includes living in unspecified types of housing.

<sup>g</sup>Partner includes boyfriends or girlfriends.

<sup>h</sup>Includes biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren of the prisoner or children of the prisoner's partner.

<sup>i</sup>Includes mothers, fathers, and stepparents.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

At the time of arrest, prisoners in the United States were most likely to report living with a spouse or partner (43%), their minor children (26%), or other relatives (35%). About 13% of all prisoners lived alone. These findings were consistent among state prisoners in 2016: 42% lived with their spouse or partner, 24% with their minor children, 36% with other relatives, and 13% alone at the time of arrest. Similarly, federal prisoners were most likely to report living with a spouse or partner (52%) or their minor children (36%) at the time of the arrest, and 14% lived alone.

### Family background while growing up

In 2016, most prisoners in the United States reported growing up in a home with at least one parent: 35% reported that they primarily lived with both parents, while 47% grew up in a single-parent home, primarily with their mother (41%) (table 13). These findings were consistent among state prisoners in 2016, given that they constituted the majority of all prisoners in the United States.

**TABLE 13**  
**Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by family background while growing up, 2016**

Family background while growing up	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Lived most of the time with—</b>			
Both parents	35.5%	40.4%	34.8%
One parent	46.8	42.4	47.4
Mother	41.1	38.1	41.5
Father	5.2	3.9	5.3
Split time between parents	0.5	0.4	0.5
Grandparents	9.2	8.3	9.3
Other relatives	3.9	5.0	3.7
Foster home/agency/institution	2.9	1.4	3.1
Other	1.8	2.6	1.7
<b>Ever lived in foster home, agency, or institution</b>	17.1%	9.5%	18.1%
Foster home	6.3	3.3	6.7
Agency/institution	8.3	5.0	8.8
Both	2.5	1.2	2.6
<b>Ever lived in public housing</b>	18.6%	15.7%	19.0%
<b>Parents or guardians ever received public assistance<sup>a</sup></b>	41.7%	31.8%	43.0%
<b>Family members ever incarcerated<sup>b</sup></b>			
No	41.2%	49.7%	40.1%
Yes	58.8	50.3	59.9
Father only	21.2	16.5	21.8
Mother only	3.9	3.1	4.0
Both parents	6.4	3.7	6.8
Sibling	37.4	33.9	37.9
Spouse/partner	12.7	10.3	13.1
Children	5.2	4.8	5.3
<b>Estimated number of prisoners</b>	1,421,700	173,400	1,248,300

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Percentages exclude missing data. All variables in the table have less than 6% missing responses. “While growing up” is defined as when prisoners were younger than 18. All prisoners includes both prisoners held in state prison and those serving a sentence to federal prison. See *Methodology* for more information, including information on the estimated number of state and federal prisoners. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>Includes welfare; Aid to Families with Dependent Children; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; food stamps; Medicaid; or Women, Infants, and Children.

<sup>b</sup>Prisoners could report more than one family member who had been incarcerated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

Similar to state prisoners, the majority of federal prisoners grew up in a home with at least one parent. Among federal prisoners in 2016, two-fifths reported that they primarily lived with both parents (40%) while growing up, while another two-fifths had lived in a single-parent home (42%), mostly with their mother (38%).

About 1 in 5 state prisoners had lived in public housing (19%) or in a foster home, an agency, or an institution (18%) at some point while growing up. More than 2 in 5 reported that they had parents or guardians who received public assistance (43%) during that time.

Among federal prisoners, about a tenth spent time in a foster home, an agency, or an institution (9%) while growing up. A sixth had lived in public housing (16%) while growing up, and about a third reported that their parents or guardians received public assistance (32%).

The majority of all prisoners in the United States (59%) in 2016 reported that they had at least one family member who had also ever been incarcerated, and state prisoners had a similar percentage (60%). State prisoners most commonly reported that they had a sibling (38%) who had been incarcerated. A third of state prisoners in 2016 reported that a parent had been incarcerated: 22% reported their father, 4% reported their mother, and 7% reported both parents.

Similar findings were observed among federal prisoners in 2016. Half of federal prisoners reported that a family member had ever been incarcerated (50%), including more than a third who reported a sibling (34%). Less than a quarter reported that a parent (23%) had ever been incarcerated; 17% reported their father, 3% reported their mother, and 4% reported both parents.

## Terms and definitions

**Computer-assisted personal interviewing**—an interviewing technique in which the interviewer reads questions aloud to the respondent from a computer and enters the respondent’s answers directly into the computer.

**Concurrent sentences**—sentences for multiple offenses that are served simultaneously. The total maximum sentence length amounts to the length of the longest sentence.

**Consecutive sentences**—sentences for multiple offenses that are served sequentially. The total maximum sentence length amounts to the sum of all the sentences.

**Controlling offense**—varies by sentence status and number of offenses:

- For sentenced prisoners and prisoners awaiting sentencing with one offense, that offense is the controlling offense.
- For sentenced prisoners with multiple offenses and sentences, the controlling offense is the one with the longest sentence.
- For sentenced prisoners with multiple offenses and one sentence and prisoners awaiting sentencing with multiple offenses, the controlling offense is the most serious offense. For this report, violent offenses are considered most serious, followed by property, drug, public order, and all other offenses.

**Credited prior jail time**—the amount of time an inmate spent in jail before sentencing that the court credited toward the prison sentence(s).

**Criminal justice status at arrest**—a status of on probation, on parole, or on escape from custody at the time of the arrest for the offense(s) for which the prisoner was serving time. Prisoners were able to report only one type of criminal justice status, and the survey established parole as the first category, followed by probation, and then escape from custody.

**Educational attainment**—for the purposes of this report, educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that a prisoner completed prior to admission, excluding GED attainment. This may differ from estimates in previous Bureau of Justice Statistics reports.

**Gender identity**—an individual’s internal sense or perception of gender, which can be the same as or different from their sex assigned at birth.

**Lifetime arrests**—total number of arrests during the lifetime of prisoners, including arrests as a juvenile, arrests for which they did not go to court, and arrests for an offense that did not result in a conviction.

**Prior incarcerations**—number of sentences to serve time in a juvenile correctional facility, a local or county jail, or a state or federal prison given prior to the incarceration for which prisoners were held in 2016.

**Prison**—a correctional facility administered by or for a state or federal government that typically holds felons and prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

**Prisoner**—an individual confined in a state or federal correctional facility.

*Continued on next page*

## Terms and definitions (continued)

**Sex**—an individual’s sex assigned at birth, on their original birth certificate.

**Sexual orientation**— consists of three main components: sexual attraction, sexual behavior, and sexual identity. Sexual attraction or sexual behavior refers to an individual’s attraction to, or engagement in sexual activities with, members of the same sex, the opposite sex, or both sexes. Sexual orientation is defined in the 2016 SPI as sexual identity or the way an individual self-identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or straight.

**Suspended sentence**—a delayed imposition of some portion of a prison sentence that requires the prisoner to meet certain conditions. If the prisoner does not meet those conditions, then the suspended time will be reinstated and the prisoner will have to serve that time in prison.

**Time served since admission**—the amount of time a prisoner spent in prison from the date of admission to the date of the interview. Includes time spent in jail that was credited to the prison sentence for the current offense(s).

**Time to expected release**—the time remaining to be served on the total maximum sentence reported by a prisoner. It is calculated as the time between the date of the interview and the date of their expected release.

**Total maximum sentence length**—the longest time, as stated by the court, that a prisoner could be required to serve for all offenses. For prisoners serving consecutive sentences, this reflects the sum of the sentences imposed. For prisoners serving concurrent sentences, this reflects the longest sentence imposed. Excludes any part of the sentence that was suspended by the court.

**Total time expected to serve**—the amount of time a prisoner will spend in prison from the date of admission to the expected date of release. Includes time spent in jail that was credited to the prison sentence for the current offense(s).

**Transgender**—relating to an individual whose internal sense of gender (e.g., being male or female) or gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth.

# Methodology

## Survey of Prison Inmates

The 2016 findings in this report are based on data collected through the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI). The target population for the 2016 SPI was prisoners age 18 or older who were held in a state prison, either sentenced (99%) or unsentenced (1%), or were serving a sentence to federal prison in the United States during 2016. The primary objective of SPI was to produce national statistics of the state and sentenced federal prison populations across a variety of domains, including—but not limited to—demographic characteristics, current offense and sentence, incident characteristics, firearm possession and sources, criminal history, socioeconomic characteristics, family background, drug and alcohol use and treatment, mental and physical health and treatment, and facility programs and rule violations. The SPI can also be used to track changes in these characteristics over time, describe special populations of prisoners, and identify policy-relevant changes in state and federal prison populations.

RTI International served as the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) data collection agent for the 2016 SPI under a cooperative agreement (award no. 2011-MU-MU-K070). From January through October 2016, data were collected through face-to-face interviews with prisoners, using computer-assisted personal

interviewing. As with prior administrations of the SPI,<sup>5</sup> prisoners were informed verbally and in writing before the interview that their participation was voluntary and that all information provided would be held in confidence. SPI interviews averaged approximately 50 minutes: about 2 minutes for the consent process and 48 minutes to complete the survey. Interviews were conducted in English (94%) and Spanish (6%).

Similar to prior administrations of the survey, the 2016 SPI was a stratified two-stage sample design in which prisons were selected in the first stage and prisoners within sampled facilities were selected in the second stage. The SPI sample was selected from a universe of 2,001 unique prisons (1,808 state and 193 federal) that were either enumerated in the 2012 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities or had opened between the completion of the census and July 2014. A total of 364 prisons (306 state and 58 federal) participated in the 2016 SPI out of 385 selected (324 state and 61 federal) (table 14). The first-stage response rate (i.e., the response rate among selected prisons) was 98.4% (98.1% among state prisons and 100% among federal prisons). A total of 24,848 prisoners participated (20,064 state and 4,784 federal) in the 2016 SPI, based on a sample of 37,058 prisoners (30,348 state and 6,710 federal). The second-stage response rate (i.e., the response rate among selected prisoners) was 70.0% (69.3% among state prisoners and 72.8% among federal prisoners).

<sup>5</sup>Formerly known as the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF), the survey was renamed to the Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI) with the 2016 administration.

**TABLE 14**  
**Number of facilities and prisoners sampled in the Survey of Prison Inmates, by outcome and jurisdiction, 2016**

	Total		State		Federal	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Number of facilities sampled</b>	385	:	324	:	61	:
Ineligible	15	:	12	:	3	:
Eligible	370	100%	312	100%	58	100%
Participated	364	98.4	306	98.1	58	100
Refused	6	1.6	6	1.9	0	0.0
<b>Number of prisoners sampled</b>	37,058	:	30,348	:	6,710	:
Ineligible	1,549	:	1,414	:	135	:
Eligible	35,509	100%	28,934	100%	6,575	100%
Participated	24,848	70.0	20,064	69.3	4,784	72.8
Refused <sup>a</sup>	9,310	26.2	7,755	26.8	1,555	23.7
Other not interviewed <sup>b</sup>	1,351	3.8	1,115	3.9	236	3.6

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Total includes 6,934 state and federal prisoners who refused to participate and 2,376 who the facility would not permit to be interviewed.

<sup>b</sup>Includes prisoners who were unable to be interviewed for various reasons, including those who left the facility after data collection began; were in restrictive housing for non-medical reasons; stopped the interview shortly after it started; were off facility grounds/at another facility; were in the hospital/medical ward; did not speak English or Spanish; or were unavailable because of work assignments, participation in programs, or other reasons.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

Responses from interviewed prisoners in the 2016 SPI were weighted to provide national estimates. Each interviewed prisoner was assigned an initial weight corresponding to the inverse of the probability of selection within each sampled prison. A series of adjustment factors were applied to the initial weight to minimize potential bias due to nonresponse and to provide national estimates. Estimated counts of state prisoners (age 18 or older) in this report include those, regardless of sentence status, who were held in confinement or community-based (public or private) facilities operated by or under contract with state departments of corrections (DOCs) and excludes inmates held in local jails or contract facilities holding primarily for correctional authorities other than DOCs. Estimated counts of federal prisoners in this report represent federal prisoners (age 18 or older) who were serving a sentence in a facility operated by or under exclusive contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and felons sentenced under the District of Columbia criminal code. Counts of federal prisoners exclude persons held in nonsecure, privately operated community corrections facilities; held in federal detention centers; or on home confinement.

For more information on the 2016 SPI methodology, see *Methodology: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016* (NCJ 252210, BJS, July 2019) and the survey documentation that is archived with the 2016 data at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR; study number 37692).

Estimates of state prisoners for 2004 in this report are based on data collected through the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF). Detailed descriptions of the 2004 SISFCF methodology are available in *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004* (NCJ 213530, BJS, October 2006)<sup>6</sup> and in the survey documentation archived at the ICPSR (study number 4572).

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<sup>6</sup><https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/drug-use-and-dependence-state-and-federal-prisoners-2004>

## 2016 SPI and 2004 SISFCF federal sampling frames

In the 2016 SPI, private confinement correctional facilities that were operated exclusively for the BOP were assigned to the federal sampling frame. All other privately operated correctional facilities were assigned to the state sampling frame. In the 2004 SISFCF, private correctional facilities that were holding prisoners exclusively for the BOP, including confinement and community-based facilities, were classified as out of scope for the study, which means those types of facilities were excluded from the 2004 SISFCF. For this reason, this report excludes 2004 estimates of federal prisoners because they may not be comparable to federal estimates resulting from the 2016 SPI.

More information on the difference between the 2016 SPI and 2004 SISFCF federal sampling frames is available in the 2016 SPI documentation archived at the ICPSR (study number 37692).

## Standard errors and tests of significance

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the SPI, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another or when comparing estimates between years. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the size of the estimate, the number of completed interviews, and the intracluster correlation of the outcome within prisons. When the sampling error around an estimate is taken into account, estimates that appear different may not be statistically different.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error may vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors have less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.



For complex sample designs, there are several methods that can be used to generate standard errors around a point estimate (e.g., mean, percentage, or count). In this report, Taylor Series Linearization (TSL) methods were used to estimate the standard errors for percentages and means. The TSL method directly estimates variances through a linearized function by combining variance estimates from stratum and primary sampling units (PSU) used to sample prisoners. In the SPI, the design parameters used for computing TSL variances are V1571 (geography stratum), V1572 (sex stratum), and V1573 (PSU). Readers should note that these design parameters appear on the 2016 SPI restricted-use file only for purposes of confidentiality and disclosure protection. The file is archived at the ICPSR (study number 37692).

Readers may use the estimates and standard errors of the estimates provided in this report to generate a 95% confidence interval around the estimates as a measure of the margin of error. Typically, multiplying the standard error by 1.96 and then adding or subtracting the result from the estimate produces the confidence interval.<sup>7</sup> This interval expresses the range of values with which the true population parameter is expected to fall 95% of the time if the same sampling method is used to select different samples.

For small samples and estimates close to 0%, the use of the standard error to construct the 95% confidence interval may not be reliable. Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting the estimates. Caution should also be used if constructing a 95% confidence interval, which would include zero in these cases, because the estimate may not be distinguishable from zero.

The standard errors have been used to compare selected groups of prisoners that have been defined by demographic characteristics, other selected characteristics, and controlling offense. They have also been used to compare estimates of state prisoners between 2004 and 2016. Differences in the estimates for subgroups and between survey years (for state prisoners) in the relevant figure and tables in this report have been tested and notated for significance at the 95% level of confidence. Readers should reference the tables for testing on specific findings. Unless otherwise noted, findings described in this report as higher, lower, or different passed a test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level).

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<sup>7</sup>The most accurate way to compute confidence intervals, especially for complex sample designs such as the 2016 SPI, is to account for the final SPI weight (V1585) and all design parameters as described above.

## Measurement and reporting of race and ethnicity

In the 2004 SISFCF and the 2016 SPI, prisoners were asked to report their race and ethnicity through two separate questions. Prisoners were asked to report their ethnicity before their race per the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines for federal statistical surveys.<sup>8</sup> In addition, in both survey years, the question about race permitted prisoners to report one or more categories, per the 1997 OMB guidelines. The race categories included American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and white. When reporting race across BJS data collections, BJS has combined race and ethnicity to report them as one construct.

Between the 2004 SISFCF and the 2016 SPI, the administration of the question about race changed, precluding any comparisons in the estimates between the survey years. The 2004 question was designed as a “mark all that apply” question. After the full question was read aloud by the interviewers and a show card that included the list of race categories was presented, respondents were asked to report the categories that best described their race. This design relied on interviewers to probe respondents to report more than one category if applicable. The 2016 question was a “yes/no” question with each race category its own question. Field interviewers were required to read each race category aloud to prisoners, who were asked to report “yes” or “no” to each category. The 2016 design was intended to improve the measurement of race, especially among prisoners who were of two or more races.

For the purposes of this report, if prisoners reported that they were Hispanic or Latino, they were coded as “Hispanic” for the race or ethnicity construct, regardless of what they reported for the race question. The remaining prisoners who were not coded as “Hispanic” were coded as the race they reported, and if they reported more than one race, they were categorized as “two or more races.”

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<sup>8</sup>See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Revisions-to-the-Standards-for-the-Classification-of-Federal-Data-on-Race-and-Ethnicity-October30-1997.pdf>.

## Measurement of controlling offense

The way controlling offense was measured in the 2004 SISFCF and the 2016 SPI, and reflected in this report, varies by sentence status and the number of offenses of prisoners:

- For sentenced prisoners and prisoners awaiting sentencing with one offense, that offense is the controlling offense.
- For sentenced prisoners with multiple offenses and sentences, the controlling offense is the one with the longest sentence.
- For sentenced prisoners with multiple offenses and one sentence and prisoners awaiting sentencing with multiple offenses, the controlling offense is the most serious offense. For this report, violent offenses are considered most serious, followed by property, drug, public order, and all other offenses.

## Comparisons across surveys

In addition to race, other revisions to the 2016 SPI questionnaire will affect comparisons to prior survey years. In this report, changes to the 2016 SPI questionnaire related to criminal history (tables 5 through 7), housing characteristics prior to arrest (table 12), and family background while growing up (table 13) affected how those constructs were measured. For this reason, this report includes only 2016 estimates for those characteristics.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Percentages and standard errors for figure 1: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by number of prior incarcerations, 2016**

Number of prior incarcerations	Percent	Standard error
0	21.9%	0.59%
1	17.6	0.38
2–4	30.3	0.46
5–9	18.5	0.40
10 or more	11.8	0.40

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Standard errors for table 1: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by demographic characteristics, 2004 and 2016**

Characteristic	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	0.38%	0.76%	0.42%	0.99%
Female	0.38	0.76	0.42	0.99
<b>Age</b>				
18–24	0.57%	0.50%	0.64%	0.80%
25–34	0.65	1.23	0.72	0.55
35–44	0.40	0.98	0.42	0.61
45–54	0.48	0.87	0.53	0.44
55–64	0.36	0.91	0.38	0.25
65 or older	0.22	0.46	0.24	0.10
Mean	0.26 yrs.	0.50 yrs.	0.29 yrs.	0.24 yrs.
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White	0.91%	2.12%	0.98%	:
Black	1.09	3.03	1.17	:
Hispanic	0.94	4.19	0.88	:
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.18	0.45	0.20	:
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.12	0.34	0.13	:
Two or more races	0.32	0.65	0.35	:
<b>Gender identity</b>				
Male	0.38%	0.76%	0.43%	...
Female	0.38	0.75	0.42	...
Transgender	0.04	0.03	0.05	...
Do not identify as male/female/ transgender	0.02	0.01	0.02	...
<b>Sexual orientation</b>				
Gay/lesbian	0.11%	0.20%	0.12%	...
Straight	0.19	0.38	0.21	...
Bisexual	0.13	0.19	0.15	...
Something else	0.03	0.08	0.04	...
Don't know the answer	0.05	0.12	0.06	...

:Not calculated.

...Not available in 2004.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Standard errors for table 2: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by selected characteristics, 2004 and 2016**

Characteristic	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
<b>Education completed</b>				
Less than high school	0.62%	2.24%	0.63%	0.58%
High school graduate	0.41	0.67	0.46	0.47
Some college	0.30	1.04	0.31	0.26
College degree or more	0.21	1.13	0.18	0.18
Mean	0.04 yrs.	0.19 yrs.	0.03 yrs.	0.03 yrs.
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	0.37%	1.44%	0.37%	0.42%
Widowed	0.13	0.24	0.15	0.12
Separated	0.20	0.66	0.21	0.22
Divorced	0.56	1.02	0.62	0.53
Never married	0.77	2.05	0.83	0.79
<b>Military service</b>				
Veteran	0.31%	0.69%	0.33%	0.39%
Nonveteran	0.31	0.69	0.33	0.39
<b>Citizenship</b>				
U.S. citizen	0.71%	5.35%	0.29%	0.36%
Non-U.S. citizen	0.71	5.35	0.29	0.36

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 3: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by controlling offense, 2004 and 2016**

Controlling offense	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners	
	2016	2016	2016	2004
<b>Violent</b>	1.31%	1.59%	1.47%	1.37%
Murder	0.74	0.39	0.84	0.68
Negligent manslaughter	0.16	0.06	0.19	0.14
Rape/sexual assault	0.68	0.36	0.77	0.72
Robbery	0.46	0.95	0.50	0.49
Assault	0.38	0.38	0.43	0.33
Other violent	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.16
<b>Property</b>	0.48%	1.12%	0.53%	0.57%
Burglary	0.25	0.07	0.29	0.31
Larceny/theft	0.18	0.09	0.21	0.24
Motor vehicle theft	0.13	0.05	0.14	0.14
Fraud	0.20	1.09	0.18	0.20
Other property	0.11	0.09	0.12	0.15
<b>Drug</b>	0.73%	1.84%	0.77%	0.83%
Trafficking	0.65	1.84	0.67	0.65
Possession	0.24	0.34	0.27	0.37
Other/unspecified	0.07	0.32	0.06	0.07
<b>Public order</b>	0.52%	1.67%	0.54%	0.57%
Commercialized vice	0.17	1.31	0.07	0.04
Immigration	0.27	2.17	0.02	0.05
Weapons	0.28	1.48	0.23	0.17
DUI/DWI	0.32	0.07	0.36	0.41
Violation of probation/parole	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.26
Other public order	0.20	0.43	0.22	0.18
<b>Other/unspecified</b>	0.05%	0.15%	0.05%	0.04%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004; and Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Standard errors for table 4: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by controlling offense and sex, 2016**

Controlling offense	All prisoners		Federal prisoners		State prisoners	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Violent</b>	1.40%	2.65%	1.70%	1.86%	1.56%	2.96%
Murder	0.79	1.14	0.41	0.50	0.90	1.27
Negligent manslaughter	0.17	0.34	0.06	0.20	0.20	0.38
Rape/sexual assault	0.73	0.25	0.38	0.41	0.83	0.28
Robbery	0.49	0.75	1.01	0.68	0.54	0.83
Assault	0.41	1.05	0.41	0.36	0.46	1.17
Other violent	0.16	0.34	0.16	0.54	0.18	0.38
<b>Property</b>	0.51%	1.42%	1.18%	4.25%	0.55%	1.49%
Burglary	0.27	0.48	0.07	0.06	0.31	0.53
Larceny/theft	0.18	0.96	0.10	0.26	0.20	1.08
Motor vehicle theft	0.13	0.17	0.05	0.07	0.15	0.19
Fraud	0.21	0.76	1.13	4.26	0.18	0.73
Other property	0.12	0.32	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.35
<b>Drug</b>	0.78%	1.63%	1.95%	2.60%	0.83%	1.74%
Trafficking	0.69	1.03	1.96	2.59	0.72	0.90
Possession	0.24	1.21	0.36	0.56	0.27	1.35
Other/unspecified	0.07	0.29	0.34	0.60	0.05	0.31
<b>Public order</b>	0.55%	0.65%	1.78%	2.15%	0.58%	0.67%
Commercialized vice	0.19	0.08	1.40	0.55	0.08	0.05
Immigration	0.29	0.20	2.32	1.45	0.02	0.07
Weapons	0.30	0.19	1.58	0.65	0.25	0.19
DUI/DWI	0.35	0.48	0.08	0.16	0.39	0.54
Violation of probation/parole	0.16	0.27	0.16	0.21	0.18	0.30
Other public order	0.22	0.39	0.45	0.77	0.24	0.42
<b>Other/unspecified</b>	0.05%	0.10%	0.16%	0.48%	0.05%	0.10%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Standard errors for table 5: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by criminal history and sex, 2016**

Criminal history	Percent of all prisoners		
	All	Male	Female
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense</b>			
None	0.65%	0.69%	1.44%
Status	0.65	0.69	1.44
On probation	0.65	0.69	1.37
On parole	0.52	0.56	0.65
Escaped from custody	0.05	0.05	0.07
<b>Number of times ever arrested</b>			
1	0.44%	0.46%	0.85%
2–4	0.53	0.57	0.75
5–9	0.42	0.45	0.82
10 or more	0.68	0.72	0.90
Mean	0.23 arsts.	0.25 arsts.	0.30 arsts.
<b>Number of prior incarcerations</b>			
0	0.59%	0.63%	1.17%
1	0.38	0.41	0.64
2–4	0.46	0.49	0.95
5–9	0.40	0.43	0.61
10 or more	0.40	0.43	0.70
Mean	0.17 incr.	0.18 incr.	0.18 incr.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7****Standard errors for table 6: Percent of federal and state prisoners, by criminal history and sex, 2016**

Criminal history	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense</b>						
None	1.90%	2.03%	2.15%	0.69%	0.73%	1.54%
Status	1.90	2.03	2.15	0.69	0.73	1.54
On probation	1.06	1.12	1.52	0.72	0.77	1.48
On parole	1.04	1.11	0.85	0.58	0.62	0.71
Escaped from custody	0.11	1.11	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.08
<b>Number of times ever arrested</b>						
1	2.17%	2.30%	3.56%	0.39%	0.42%	0.83%
2–4	1.46	1.55	2.20	0.57	0.61	0.80
5–9	1.24	1.32	1.94	0.44	0.47	0.86
10 or more	2.26	2.41	2.12	0.70	0.75	0.98
Mean	0.54 arsts.	0.58 arsts.	0.68 arsts.	0.25 arsts.	0.27 arsts.	0.32 arsts.
<b>Number of prior incarcerations</b>						
0	2.37%	2.51%	4.41%	0.59%	0.62%	1.16%
1	1.19	1.27	1.25	0.40	0.43	0.70
2–4	1.37	1.45	2.28	0.49	0.52	1.00
5–9	1.30	1.38	1.65	0.42	0.45	0.65
10 or more	0.66	0.70	1.20	0.45	0.48	0.77
Mean	0.21 incr.	0.22 incr.	0.39 incr.	0.19 incr.	0.21 incr.	0.20 incr.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## APPENDIX TABLE 8

### Standard errors for table 7: Percent of federal and state prisoners, by criminal history and race or ethnicity, 2016

Criminal history	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	White	Black	Hispanic	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>Criminal justice status at time of arrest for controlling offense</b>						
None	2.38%	1.99%	1.86%	1.14%	0.92%	1.17%
Status	2.38	1.99	1.86	1.14	0.92	1.17
On probation	1.68	1.61	1.30	1.24	0.93	0.97
On parole	1.44	1.47	0.93	0.71	0.79	0.85
Escaped from custody	:	0.18	0.20	0.11	0.07	0.12
<b>Number of times ever arrested</b>						
1	2.85%	1.22%	2.47%	0.75%	0.49%	0.82%
2–4	2.38	2.46	1.55	0.88	0.82	1.10
5–9	1.80	1.49	1.56	0.74	0.68	0.85
10 or more	3.28	2.38	1.74	1.03	0.96	1.04
Mean	0.96 arsts.	0.53 arsts.	0.36 arsts.	0.31 arsts.	0.48 arsts.	0.44 arsts.
<b>Number of prior incarcerations</b>						
0	3.86%	1.96%	2.73%	0.93%	0.77%	1.09%
1	1.42	1.21	2.17	0.74	0.57	0.74
2–4	2.14	1.49	1.78	0.79	0.77	0.89
5–9	1.61	1.66	1.23	0.61	0.59	0.98
10 or more	1.32	0.78	0.62	0.75	0.56	0.75
Mean	0.34 incr.	0.19 incr.	0.21 incr.	0.19 incr.	0.44 incr.	0.19 incr.

:Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

## APPENDIX TABLE 9

### Standard errors for table 9: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, by sentence length, time served, and sex, 2016

Sentence length and time served	Percent of all prisoners		
	All	Male	Female
<b>Total maximum sentence length</b>			
2 years or less	0.72%	0.73%	3.23%
2.1–5 years	0.72	0.76	1.56
5.1–10 years	0.65	0.69	1.16
More than 10 years	1.06	1.12	1.97
Life/death	0.85	0.91	0.80
Mean	0.51 yrs.	0.55 yrs.	0.72 yrs.
<b>Time served since admission</b>			
2 years or less	1.45%	1.54%	3.12%
2.1–5 years	0.59	0.62	1.89
5.1–10 years	0.58	0.62	1.04
More than 10 years	0.93	1.00	0.87
Mean	0.20 yrs.	0.22 yrs.	0.23 yrs.
<b>Total time expected to serve</b>			
Less than 6 months	0.38%	0.40%	0.68%
6–12 months	0.42	0.43	1.82
1.1–2 years	0.59	0.63	1.20
2.1–3 years	0.49	0.53	0.88
3.1–5 years	0.46	0.49	0.97
5.1–10 years	0.51	0.54	1.28
10.1–20 years	0.63	0.67	0.93
More than 20 years	0.74	0.79	0.72
Never expects to be released	0.40	0.43	0.36
Mean	0.33 yrs.	0.36 yrs.	0.38 yrs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 10****Standard errors for table 10: Percent of federal and state prisoners, by sentence length, time served, and sex, 2016**

Sentence length and time served	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
<b>Total maximum sentence length</b>						
2 years or less	1.35%	1.44%	1.45%	0.81%	0.81%	3.62%
2.1–5 years	1.75	1.86	2.51	0.78	0.83	1.73
5.1–10 years	0.85	0.90	1.46	0.73	0.78	1.26
More than 10 years	2.33	2.48	2.68	1.16	1.24	2.19
Life/death	0.73	0.78	0.30	0.96	1.03	0.90
Mean	0.59 yrs.	0.64 yrs.	0.54 yrs.	0.59 yrs.	0.63 yrs.	0.82 yrs.
<b>Time served since admission</b>						
2 years or less	2.14%	2.28%	2.29%	1.62%	1.72%	3.48%
2.1–5 years	0.96	1.02	1.94	0.66	0.69	2.09
5.1–10 years	1.32	1.41	1.23	0.63	0.67	1.15
More than 10 years	1.08	1.16	1.10	1.05	1.13	0.96
Mean	0.22 yrs.	0.24 yrs.	0.21 yrs.	0.23 yrs.	0.24 yrs.	0.25 yrs.
<b>Total time expected to serve</b>						
Less than 6 months	0.28%	0.29%	0.37%	0.43%	0.46%	0.76%
6–12 months	0.44	0.47	0.70	0.47	0.48	2.04
1.1–2 years	0.88	0.94	1.77	0.66	0.71	1.32
2.1–3 years	0.85	0.91	0.92	0.55	0.59	0.99
3.1–5 years	1.19	1.27	1.71	0.49	0.53	1.07
5.1–10 years	1.12	1.19	1.69	0.55	0.59	1.40
10.1–20 years	1.79	1.91	2.09	0.67	0.71	1.00
More than 20 years	0.93	0.99	0.90	0.83	0.90	0.80
Never expects to be released	0.28	0.30	0.14	0.45	0.49	0.41
Mean	0.47 yrs.	0.50 yrs.	0.49 yrs.	0.37 yrs.	0.40 yrs.	0.43 yrs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 11****Percentages and standard errors for figure 2: Percent of state prisoners, by type of special condition of sentence, 2016**

Type of special condition	Percent	Standard error
Any	77.1%	1.07%
Court costs	60.3	1.36
Fines	37.4	1.14
Victim restitution	33.2	1.07
Drug/alcohol treatment	15.6	0.87
Drug testing	12.0	0.60
Psychiatric/psychological counseling	7.8	0.36
Sex offender treatment	7.8	0.60

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 12****Percentages and standard errors for figure 3: Percent of federal prisoners, by type of special condition of sentence, 2016**

Type of special condition	Percent	Standard error
Any	94.2%	0.82%
Court costs	83.8	1.40
Fines	36.7	1.54
Victim restitution	20.5	1.26
Drug/alcohol treatment	31.5	1.94
Drug testing	25.4	1.48
Psychiatric/psychological counseling	7.3	0.73
Sex offender treatment	3.8	1.23

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.



**APPENDIX TABLE 13****Standard errors for table 11: Percent of federal and state prisoners, by time left to expected release and sex, 2016**

Time left to expected release	Percent of federal prisoners			Percent of state prisoners		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Less than 6 months	1.36%	1.45%	1.81%	0.90%	0.95%	2.23%
6–12 months	0.96	1.01	2.14	0.60	0.64	1.10
1.1–2 years	0.95	1.01	0.91	0.45	0.48	0.83
2.1–3 years	0.55	0.59	1.15	0.37	0.39	0.62
3.1–5 years	0.75	0.79	1.29	0.35	0.38	0.61
5.1–10 years	1.27	1.35	1.87	0.53	0.57	0.88
10.1–20 years	1.09	1.16	1.36	0.44	0.47	0.60
More than 20 years	0.34	0.37	0.28	0.46	0.49	0.44
Never expects to be released	0.27	0.29	0.14	0.44	0.47	0.40
Mean	0.28 yrs.	0.30 yrs.	0.32 yrs.	0.24 yrs.	0.26 yrs.	0.23 yrs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 14****Standard errors for table 12: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by housing characteristics prior to arrest, 2016**

Housing characteristic prior to arrest	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners
<b>Type of housing in 30 days prior to arrest</b>			
House/apartment	0.29%	0.38%	0.32%
Rooming house/hotel/motel	0.25	0.63	0.27
Homeless	0.27	0.39	0.31
Correctional facility	0.33	0.37	0.37
Institution/group living	0.14	0.21	0.16
Other	0.10	0.18	0.12
<b>Homelessness in year before arrest</b>			
No	0.41%	0.54%	0.45%
Yes	0.41	0.54	0.45
<b>Relationship to persons living in household at time of prisoner's arrest</b>			
Spouse/partner	0.51%	1.19%	0.54%
Children of prisoner	0.44	1.03	0.46
Age 17 or younger	0.43	1.13	0.45
Age 18 or older	0.17	0.59	0.18
Other relatives	0.56	1.08	0.61
Parents	0.46	0.70	0.51
Siblings	0.41	0.73	0.45
Grandparents	0.15	0.27	0.17
Other relatives	0.30	0.75	0.33
Nonrelatives	0.37	0.72	0.41
Foster family	0.03	0.07	0.04
Friends	0.33	0.59	0.36
Other nonrelatives	0.24	0.46	0.27
Living alone	0.31	0.73	0.34

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

**APPENDIX TABLE 15****Standard errors for table 13: Percent of all prisoners in the United States, federal prisoners, and state prisoners, by family background while growing up, 2016**

Family background while growing up	All prisoners	Federal prisoners	State prisoners
<b>Lived most of the time with—</b>			
Both parents	0.62%	2.31%	0.63%
One parent	0.56	2.18	0.56
Mother	0.57	2.08	0.58
Father	0.18	0.28	0.20
Split time between parents	0.06	0.14	0.07
Grandparents	0.22	0.57	0.24
Other relatives	0.17	0.62	0.17
Foster home/agency/institution	0.14	0.24	0.16
Other	0.11	0.32	0.12
<b>Ever lived in foster home, agency, or institution</b>	0.50%	1.30%	0.55%
Foster home	0.23	0.65	0.25
Agency/institution	0.33	0.76	0.36
Both	0.14	0.21	0.15
<b>Ever lived in public housing</b>	0.52%	1.72%	0.54%
<b>Parents or guardians ever received public assistance</b>	0.66%	2.67%	0.66%
<b>Family members ever incarcerated</b>			
No	0.54%	2.39%	0.51%
Yes	0.54	2.39	0.51
Father only	0.40	1.22	0.42
Mother only	0.16	0.36	0.17
Both parents	0.24	0.46	0.27
Sibling	0.44	1.62	0.45
Spouse/partner	0.34	0.76	0.37
Children	0.20	0.43	0.22

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

This report was written by Lauren G. Beatty and Tracy L. Snell. E. Ann Carson provided substantive and statistical input and review. Jennifer L. Truman provided substantive input and review. Mariel Alper, formerly of BJS, conducted statistical analyses and review. Kevin Neary, formerly of Abt Associates Inc.; Melissa Nadel of Abt Associates Inc.; and Marcus Berzofsky and John Bunker of RTI International conducted statistical analyses. Emily Buehler, Stephanie Mueller, and Leonardo Antenangeli verified the report. Lauren G. Beatty was the BJS project manager for the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates.

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