

People in Jail and Prison in 2024: Methodology and Source Notes

Researchers from the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) obtained prison population data from each state corrections agency and the federal Bureau of Prisons. Vera obtained jail population data from U.S. jail jurisdictions from various sources: some population numbers came from statewide sources and others came directly from local agencies, either through direct data requests or from an automated system that collected data from jail websites. Since the last iteration of this report, Vera collected incarceration data for the following timepoints.

- 2022: end-of-year.
- 2023: spring, midyear, fall, and end-of-year.
- 2024: spring.

Jail data: Overall, Vera’s 2023 jail sample included 1,628 jurisdictions from 44 states and the District of Columbia. (Six states do not operate local jails.) Many of the sampled jurisdictions have data for every quarter, but some appear only once. Taking the highest number of people incarcerated in 2023 for each sampled jail jurisdiction, the total sample accounted for 563,800 incarcerated people. The spring 2024 sample included 1,341 jurisdictions from the same set of states and Washington, DC and accounted for 472,700 incarcerated people.

Although there are more than 2,800 jail jurisdictions in the United States, Vera’s samples covered a substantial majority of the people held in jails on any given day. The 1,490 jurisdictions in the midyear 2023 sample accounted for 76 percent of people incarcerated in jails in 2019—the last year that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released data on all jails in the United States—and the spring 2024 sample accounted for 72 percent.¹ A public use datafile with jurisdiction-level data is available on Vera’s website.²

Comprehensive state data: As part of this data collection effort, Vera obtained comprehensive jail data for all county jails from 20 states. Vera obtained information from the 12 states where central agencies collect and publicly share timely data (monthly or weekly) on jails at the local-jurisdiction level: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. These public state-level reports cover more than 883 jurisdictions. Vera researchers also obtained statewide data on local jails from Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Wisconsin from agencies via public records request. Data on jails in New Mexico was provided by the New Mexico Association of Counties. Vera collected data on jails in Louisiana in a variety of ways, but the sample included all jails in the state. These direct request data sources covered around 591 jurisdictions.

Additional data collection: To complete the full sample, Vera researchers obtained data on an additional 154 jail jurisdictions. Vera collected these data directly from local government agencies through phone calls, public records requests, and in an automated way from jail websites. In some cases where key jurisdictions were not reachable by other means, Vera collected data on jail populations from third parties like the New York University Public Safety Lab’s Jail Data Initiative for Pima County, Arizona, and from the MacArthur Foundation’s Justice and Safety Challenge for Las Vegas, Nevada.³

The jail estimates presented in this paper are of the jail *custodial* population, rather than the jurisdictional population. Custodial jail populations and jurisdictional jail populations measure different sets of people.

Because jails rent their space to state and federal authorities, people under the *custody* of a jail system may be under the *jurisdiction* of a state prison system or a federal agency, such as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The custody population counts everyone who is in a local jail, although some of these people are serving a prison sentence or may be facing a civil immigration charge.

To validate recent jail population data, Vera researchers compared estimates gathered from individual jurisdictions to the counts reported in other months of the year, as well as other available sources, to determine their plausibility. In addition, researchers spot-checked counts that differed substantially from those numbers available from BJS for 2013 through 2022.

Vera computed national jail population estimates using a method similar to the sample-weighting technique that BJS uses to estimate the national jail population from the Annual Survey of Jails responses.⁴ Vera divided all U.S. jail jurisdictions into strata based on the average daily population in 2019, as reported on the 2019 Census of Jails.⁵ The BJS sampling method computes sample weights within seven strata; however, because the sampling strategy here was not random, Vera instead computed the population estimate over a range of strata (25 to 75) and subsequently averaged the results. The researchers determined this range via a sensitivity analysis on the number of strata, which substantially increased the stability of the national jail population estimate.

Prison data: Vera derived U.S. prison population estimates from information for all states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

National prison estimates presented in this report are of the jurisdictional population, rather than the custodial population. Jurisdictional prison populations and custodial prison populations measure different sets of people. People under the jurisdiction of a prison system are those whom the correctional authority has the legal responsibility to confine, no matter where they are held. The jurisdiction population is, therefore, the most accurate representation of the scope of incarceration because it includes people held on behalf of the correctional authority in private prisons or facilities other than prisons (jails, hospitals, halfway houses, etc.). The number of people in the custody of a prison system is the number of people actually confined in a facility directly operated by the jurisdiction's correctional authority. This does not include people held on a contract basis in county jail facilities—a substantial part of the prison population in states like Utah and Louisiana. In some states, the number of people in the custody of a prison system includes people held for other jurisdictions (mainly other state prison systems). To avoid problems of over- or under-inclusiveness that come with using custody counts, this report presents jurisdictional counts.

Six states—Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont—operate unified jail and prison systems. This makes them less comparable to states that operate only a state prison system (generally for people convicted of felonies), where local jurisdictions operate jails for pretrial detention and shorter sentences. For these states with unified systems, Vera collected both the larger jurisdictional count, which includes people on pretrial detention, as well as the sentenced prison count.

National combined estimates: Vera researchers derived the total incarcerated population estimate by adding the number of people incarcerated under prison jurisdictions to the number of people in the custody of local jails, with a small reduction to address double counting. Without this reduction, people serving prison sentences in local jails would be counted twice. According to research by BJS, from 2008 to 2018, the average reduction needed to account for people under state prison jurisdiction held in local jails was 3.6 percent, or 82,900 people.⁶ This share has increased as the number of people in prison has decreased: in 2020 it was 6 percent, or 73,300 people, and in 2021 it was 5.4 percent, or 65,400 people.⁷ Vera researchers applied a 5.64 percent adjustment to the prison incarceration jurisdictional count before summing with jails to reach the total incarceration number. This reduced the count by 70,643 people in spring 2024.

A note on seasonality, as this report compares counts within a particular year: Prison populations do not show as much seasonal variation as jail populations and tend to be more stable. Jail populations tend to be lowest toward the end of the year, with populations usually dropping to an annual low in late December—likely due to changes in arrest and bail practices near the holidays and New Year. BJS has long used the end of December to measure prison population counts and the end of June to measure jail populations, based on historical evidence that a June measure is more representative of an average daily population. According to an analysis of seasonality published by BJS, drawing on data from the National Crime Victimization survey, violent victimization rates are highest in the fall and lowest in the winter, with a difference of 4.4 percent between the two.⁸ Property crime victimization rates are highest in the summer and lowest in the spring, with a difference of 8.0 percent.⁹ Property crime victimization declines 3.1 percent from summer to fall on average, and violent crime increases 1.83 percent from summer to fall, on average.

Vera researchers calculated incarceration rates per 100,000 residents in each state, including people of all ages, using resident population data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s annual estimates released in December 2022.¹⁰ The researchers calculated the incarceration rates discussed in the text by dividing each jurisdiction’s incarcerated-population estimate by the total resident population for the appropriate geographic unit (United States or geographical region) and multiplying the result by 100,000.

States and localities rarely publish data on incarceration by race, ethnicity, or gender. As a result, this report focuses on overall incarceration numbers. BJS will continue to release its own jail and prison population estimates, along with estimates of several other jail-related incarceration measures, in the future. BJS, through the Annual Survey of Jails and the Census of Jails data collection programs, releases these figures in its Jail Inmates Series reports, as well as in the Correctional Populations in the United States series.¹¹ Prison statistics collected through the National Prisoner Statistics data collection program are released in the Prisoners Series reports. These prison reports provide detailed breakdowns by race and gender; however, the jail reports only cover gender and race separately. The most recent BJS reports for prisons and jails, which provides 2022 data, were released in November 2023.¹²

Incarceration by Age Group: Starting in 2020, the Bureau of Justice Statistics began counting the number of people in jail by age group in their Annual Survey of Jails. The census bureau collects similar information in its data collections on people living in institutional settings—like dorms, prisons, or nursing homes—which the bureau refers to as “group quarters.” However, when reporting in group quarters summary tables the Census does not distinguish between jails and prisons. BJS does not collect information on age groups for people in prison on a national basis annually but does conduct sporadic surveys of people in prison and collects age information then.¹³ In order to conduct analysis of people in jail and prison by age, Vera matched the national total from the Census Bureau’s group quarters, adult correctional facilities data with data on jails from the 2020-2022 Annual Survey of Jails.

Jail Construction Projects: Vera researchers collected information on jail construction projects and proposals across the United States from 2002 to 2022, including the cost and size of the project and whether it was an expansion or a new jail construction. Vera also tracked whether the proposals failed, passed, or were still pending. The research team validated this data through official documents, media sources, public records requests, and phone calls with local jurisdictions. A complete dataset listing projects is available on Vera’s Incarceration Trends github repository at <https://github.com/vera-institute/incarceration-trends>.

Jail jurisdiction source notes

Twelve states have agencies that produce public reports that detail a set of local jail population statistics for every county in the state, as listed below. Some of these reports include all jails in the state; others are more limited and do not include city jails, work-release jails, or certain county-operated prisons. In an additional two states, individual organizations, rather than a state agency, collect complete information about local jails from each county: Louisiana (Vera Institute of Justice), and New Mexico (New Mexico Association of Counties).

The Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services collects some data on local jails and publishes in a local detention center population statistics dashboard. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction collects midyear jail population data through jail inspections but does not publish this information and does not systematically collect jail population data at any other point in the year. Both Indiana and Wisconsin's Department of Corrections also collect data on jail populations but neither publishes this information publicly. The Oregon Sheriff's Association collects jail data but does not publish this information publicly. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Oklahoma State Department of Health also both collect data on jail populations.

California: For monthly county jail jurisdiction populations, see California's Board of State and Community Corrections, Jail Profile Survey data, https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_fsojailprofilesurvey/.

Colorado: For quarterly county jail population information in Colorado, see the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics, Jail Data Dashboard <https://dcj.colorado.gov/dcj-offices/ors/dashb-jcs-jail>.

Florida: For average daily county jail populations by month, see Florida County Detention Facilities Average Inmate Population reports, prepared by the Florida Department of Corrections Bureau of Research and Data Analysis, <https://www.fdc.myflorida.com/statistics-and-publications/florida-county-detention-facilities-average-inmate-population>.

Georgia: For county jail populations, see Georgia Sheriffs' Association, Jail Report, <https://georgiasheriffs.org/jail-report/>.

Kentucky: For county jail populations, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, Research and Statistics, Weekly Jail reports, <https://corrections.ky.gov/public-information/researchandstats/Pages/WeeklyJail.aspx>.

Maryland: Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, Local Detention Center Population Statistics Dashboard, <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/data-dashboards/local-detention-center-dashboard/>.

Massachusetts: For weekly county house of correction and jail population reports, see Massachusetts Department of Correction, Weekly Inmate Count reports, County/Interstate Correctional Facilities, <https://www.mass.gov/report/department-of-correction-reports>.

New York: For average daily county jail populations, see New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Jail Population in New York State, Average Daily Census by Month, https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/jail_population.pdf.

Tennessee: For end-of-month, one-day snapshots of jail populations, see Tennessee Department of Correction, Decision Support: Research & Planning, Tennessee Jail Summary Report, <https://www.tn.gov/correction/statistics/jail-summary-reports.html>.

Texas: For first-of-month, one-day snapshot jail populations, see Texas Commission on Jail Standards, County Jail Population, Abbreviated Population Report, <https://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/population-reports/>.

Virginia: Virginia jail populations are reported by the Virginia Compensation Board through the Local Inmate Data System, see <https://www.scb.virginia.gov/lids.cfm>.

West Virginia: West Virginia has a regional jail system in which all counties participate. For regional jail population data, see West Virginia Department of Health, COVID-19 Testing, W.Va. Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Correctional-Facilities-report-archive.aspx>.

Prison jurisdiction source notes

Alabama: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional populations data from monthly reports. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see *Alabama Department of Corrections, Monthly Statistical Report for March 2024*, <https://doc.alabama.gov/docs/MonthlyRpts/March%202024.pdf>.

Alaska: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Alaska Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Arizona: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from daily count sheets. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see *Arizona Department of Corrections, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, March 31, 2024*, under “Grand Total” column and row. <https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Daily%20Count/2024/03312024%20daily%20count.pdf>.

Arkansas: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Arkansas Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

California: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Monthly Population Reports. The jurisdictional population numbers include total population in custody/community rehabilitative pre-release programs (CRPP) supervision, as well as the population temporarily released to court and hospital.

For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Monthly Report of Population as of Midnight March 31, 2024*. <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2024/04/Tpop1d2403.pdf>.

Colorado: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from a monthly dashboard. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024 see Colorado Department of Corrections, “End of Month Inmate Population, Inmate Total,” <https://cdoc.colorado.gov/about/data-and-reports/statistics>.

Connecticut: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from the Connecticut Department of Correction Research Unit’s reports. For the most recent, from March 2024, see Connecticut Department of Correction, Average Confined Inmate Population and Legal Status, <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/doc/pdf/monthlystat/stat202404.pdf>.

Delaware: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Delaware Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from archived versions of the BOP website’s population statistics page. For the most recent, from April 4, 2024, see Federal BOP, Population Statistics,

https://web.archive.org/web/20240409062435/https://www.bop.gov/mobile/about/population_statistics.jsp.

Florida: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Florida Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Georgia: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from the Georgia Department of Corrections, *Inmate Statistical Profile*. For the most recent, from April 1, 2024, see Georgia Department of Corrections, *Inmate Statistical Profile: All Active Inmates, April 2024*, page 4 table, “Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups.” <https://gdc.georgia.gov/document/monthly-statistical-reports/profile-all-inmates-2024-03/>.

Hawaii: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Hawaii Department of Public Safety, *End of Month Population Report*. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see *Hawaii Department of Public Safety End of Month Population Report, March 31, 2024*. <https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Pop-Reports-EOM-2024-03-31.pdf>.

Idaho: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Idaho Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Illinois: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Illinois Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Indiana: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Indiana Department of Correction monthly reports. For the most recent, from April 2024, see Indiana Department of Correction, *Offender Population Reports* <https://www.in.gov/idoc/files/policy-and-procedure/total-population-summary-reports/Total-Population-Summary-Report-April-2024.pdf>.

The total jurisdictional population includes the total number of people imprisoned in Department of Correction facilities and people imprisoned in local jails on Department of Correction contract.

Iowa: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Iowa Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Kansas: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Kansas Department of Corrections daily count reports. For the most recent, from April 1, 2024, see Kansas Department of Corrections, *Population Report*, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/pop/POP%2004-01-2024.pdf/view>.

Kentucky: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Kentucky Department of Corrections daily reports. For the most recent, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, *Statewide Population Report for April 1, 2024*, “Grand Total.” <https://corrections.ky.gov/public-information/researchandstats/Documents/Daily%20Population/2024/04/04-01-24.pdf>

Louisiana: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections monthly demographic dashboard. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see Public Dashboard for Website, <https://doc.louisiana.gov/demographic-dashboard/>.

Maine: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from archived versions of the Maine Department of Corrections daily reports. For the most recent, from March 29, 2024, see *In-State Facility Capacity and Population*, “Total MDOC In-State and Out-of-State Population,” <https://web.archive.org/web/20240402203311/https://www.maine.gov/corrections/sites/maine.gov/corrections/files/inline-files/PopReport3-29-2024.pdf>.

Maryland: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

Massachusetts: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Massachusetts Department of Correction weekly reports. For the most recent, from April 1, 2024, see Massachusetts Department of Correction, *Weekly Count Sheet*, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-inmate-count-412024/download>. The total jurisdictional population includes figures reported under the Total Jurisdictional Population minus the Electronic Monitoring Program.

Michigan: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Michigan Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Minnesota: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Mississippi: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Mississippi Department of Corrections, monthly reports. For the most recent, from April 2024, see Mississippi Department of Corrections, Monthly Fact Sheets https://www.mdcc.ms.gov/sites/default/files/Monthly_Fact_Sheets/2024_Monthly%20Fact%20Sheet_April.pdf. The jurisdictional populations include the custody population, other custody count, and off-grounds medical populations.

Missouri: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Missouri Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Montana: Vera collected quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Montana Department of Corrections daily counts. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see Montana Department of Corrections, *Daily Population Report Dashboard*. https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/COR/views/POPReportPublic_15931787918580/SecurePopulation?%3Aiid=2&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y.

Nebraska: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

Nevada: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Nevada Department of Corrections, monthly reports. For the most recent, from March 2024, see Nevada Department of Corrections, *Monthly Factsheet, "Current Count"*, https://doc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/docnv.gov/content/About/Statistics/Monthly_Reports_by_Year/20240331_Monthly_Statistical_Factsheet.pdf.

New Hampshire: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the New Hampshire Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

New Jersey: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the New Jersey Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

New Mexico: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the New Mexico Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

New York: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from New York State Corrections and Community Supervision monthly reports. For the jurisdictional population on April 1, 2024, see *New York State Corrections and Community Supervision Fact Sheet, April 1, 2024*, page 3 table "Staffing and Population Differences." <https://web.archive.org/web/20240403025414/https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/04/doccs-fact-sheet-april-2024.pdf>.

North Carolina: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see *North Carolina Department of Adult Correction Research and Planning, Automated System Query* <https://webapps.doc.state.nc.us/apps/asqExt/ASQ>.

North Dakota: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the North Dakota Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Ohio: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction reports. For the most recent, see *ODRC Monthly Population Count, by Institution, March 2024*, https://drc.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/3cb29907-68cf-4d32-a2ad-027c2b5907a5/ODRC+Monthly+Population+Count+by+Institution_March+2024.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0J000Q09DDDDM3000-3cb29907-68cf-4d32-a2ad-027c2b5907a5-oWq2zMY.

Oklahoma: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from daily count sheets. For the most recent, from April 1, 2024, see *Oklahoma Department of Correction Daily Statewide Population Report*, <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/doc/documents/population/count-sheet/2024/ICON%20COUNT%2004.01.2024.pdf>

Oregon: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Oregon Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Pennsylvania: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from end-of-month reports. For the most recent, see *Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Monthly Population Report As of March 31, 2024*, page 1, table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity.” <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/cor/documents/resources/statistics/monthly-population-reports/Mtpop2403.pdf>.

Rhode Island: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

South Carolina: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the South Carolina Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

South Dakota: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from archived South Dakota Department of Corrections monthly reports. For the most recent, from March 31, 2024, see, *Adult Corrections*, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240501092229/https://doc.sd.gov/documents/AdultPopulationMarch2024.pdf>.

Tennessee: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from monthly reports. For the most recent, from March 2024, see *Tennessee Felon Population Update, March 2024*, page 4, table “Incarcerated Felon Populations, Fiscal Years 2012/13 - 2022/24, as of March 31, 2024.” <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/FelonMarch2024.pdf>.

Texas: Vera estimated quarterly jurisdictional prison counts by combining the “on-hand” populations reported by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) with statistics from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) on the number of people held in local jails on parole violations, people convicted of felonies awaiting transfer, and people with a state jail status. Vera collected TCJS data from monthly jail reports mentioned above, and TDCJ data from the State of Texas Legislative Budget Board’s Incarceration dashboard. <https://www.lbb.texas.gov/CJDA/site/TDCJ.html>.

Utah: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Utah Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Vermont: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from Vermont Department of Correction daily count reports. For the most recent, from March 29, 2024, see Vermont Department of Corrections, table “VT DOC Jail Population as of 03/29/2024 07:58 AM,” <https://doc.vermont.gov/sites/correct/files/documents/March%202024%20Population%20Reports.pdf>

Virginia: Vera calculated quarterly jurisdictional prison counts for March 2024 and prior quarters reported here by combining information from the Virginia Department of Corrections Monthly Population Summary, and the Compensation Board’s records on the number of people held in local jails mentioned above—using the number that the state Department of Corrections is responsible for (SR felons). For the DOC monthly population reports, see <https://vadoc.virginia.gov/general-public/population-reports/>.

Washington: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from monthly population reports. For the most recent, from September 2024, see *Washington Department of Corrections, Average Daily Population of Incarcerated Individuals*. <https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/reports/400-RE002.pdf>.

West Virginia: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from daily West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports. For the most recent, from March 27, 2024, see West Virginia Department of Health, *COVID-19 testing and case information, West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation*, table, “Correctional Centers (prisons).” https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Documents/COVID19_DCR_2024_03_27.pdf.

Wisconsin: Vera took quarterly jurisdictional prison counts from weekly reports. For the jurisdictional population for March 29, 2024, see *Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Persons in Our Care on 03_29_2024*, page 1 table, “Adult Institutions,” and page 2 table “Probation and Parole in Custody.” <https://doc.wi.gov/DataResearch/WeeklyPopulationReports/03292024.pdf>.

Wyoming: Quarterly jurisdictional populations were reported directly by the Wyoming Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Endnotes

- ¹ Vera analysis of Incarceration Trends data incorporating the 2019 Census of Jails source data file. For the most recent summary report based on a jail census, see Zhen Zeng, and Todd D. Minton, *Jail Inmates in 2019*, (Washington, DC: BJS, 2021). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/jail-inmates-2019>.
- ² The full report and accompanying dataset can be found at <https://www.vera.org/publications/people-in-jail-and-prison-in-2024>.
- ³ See New York University Public Safety Lab, “Jail Data Initiative,” <https://jaildatainitiative.org/>; See also Safety and Justice Challenge, “Measuring Progress: Jail Trends in SJC Sites,” <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/measuring-progress-jail-trends-in-sjc-sites/>.
- ⁴ See Zhen Zeng, *Jail Inmates in 2022 – Statistical Tables* (Washington, DC: BJS, 2023), 18-19, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/ji22st.pdf>.
- ⁵ Source data for the Census of Jails is held by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. See *Census of Jails, 2019 (ICPSR 38323)*, published March 30, 2022, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/studies/38323>.
- ⁶ See Laura M. Maruschak and Todd D. Minton, *Correctional Populations in The United States, 2017-2018*, (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2020), 2, table 1: “Number of persons supervised by adult correctional systems in the U.S., by correctional status, 2008-2018,” <https://perma.cc/NC37-ZGHN>.
- ⁷ See E. Ann Carson, *Prisoners in 2021 – Statistical Tables*, (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2022), 28, table 14: “Prisoners held in the custody of private prisons or local jails under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by jurisdiction, 2020 and 2021,” <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>.
- ⁸ See Janet Lauritsen and Nicole White, *Seasonal Patterns in Criminal Victimization Trends*, (Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014), 7, <https://perma.cc/AWX7-4YS5>.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, 3.
- ¹⁰ See “State Population Totals and Components of Change: 2020-2023, Vintage 2023,” U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/pepost/2020s-state-total.html>.

¹¹ See E. Ann Carson, and Ruch Kluckow, *Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical Tables*, (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/prisoners-2022-statistical-tables>; and Zhen Zeng, *Jails Report Series: Preliminary Data Release (2023)*, (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2024), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/jails-report-series-preliminary-data-release-2023>.

¹² See Carson and Kluckow, 2023; Zeng, 2023.

¹³ The Survey of Prison Inmates was most recently conducted in 2016, for more information see Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Survey of Prison Inmates*, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/survey-prison-inmates-spi>.

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