

# People in Jail and Prison in Spring 2021:

## Methodology and Source Notes

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### Methodology

**Jail data:** Researchers from the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) obtained jail population data for midyear 2020, fall 2020, end of 2020, and spring 2021 for U.S. jail jurisdictions from various sources. Some came from statewide sources of jail data, and others came directly from local agencies, either through direct data requests or from an automated system that collected data from jail websites. National 2019 data comparisons were taken from prior Vera reports.

In midyear 2020, Vera sampled 1,596 jurisdictions from 1,561 counties in 44 states and the District of Columbia, accounting for 412,900 people incarcerated. (Six states do not operate local jails.) In September 2020, Vera sampled 1,518 jurisdictions from 1,490 counties in 44 states and the District of Columbia, accounting for 439,000 incarcerated people. At the end of 2020, Vera sampled 1,484 jurisdictions from 1,454 counties in 44 states and the District of Columbia, accounting for 431,900 incarcerated people. In spring 2021, Vera sampled 1,457 jurisdictions from 1,428 counties in 44 states and the District of Columbia, accounting for 440,300 incarcerated people.

The discrepancy between the samples is primarily due to a number of jurisdictions in Ohio that only reported data for June 30, 2020, and decreasing data availability in Michigan as 2020 went on. Further, due to changes in ways that jail jurisdictions present data publicly, automated efforts to collect jail data failed in some places during winter 2020-2021.

The 1,596 jurisdictions in the midyear 2020 sample accounted for 75 percent of people incarcerated in 2013, the last year that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released data on all jails in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The 1,518 jurisdictions in the late 2020 sample accounted for 73 percent of people incarcerated in 2013. The 1,484 jurisdictions in the late 2020 sample accounted

for 72 percent of people incarcerated in 2013. The 1,457 jurisdictions in the late 2020 sample accounted for 72 percent of people incarcerated in 2013. A public use datafile with jurisdiction-level data for 2020 and early 2021 is available on Vera's website.<sup>2</sup>

Vera obtained information from the 10 states where agencies collect and publicly share timely data (monthly or weekly) on jails at the local-jurisdiction level: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. These state-level reports cover over 850 jurisdictions.

Vera researchers obtained data on an additional 758 jail jurisdictions in June 2020, 630 jail jurisdictions in December 2020, and 604 jail jurisdictions in March 2021. Vera collected data from a large number of jails in an automated way from jail websites. New York University Public Safety Lab's Jail Data Initiative supplied data for around 350 jail jurisdictions from 35 states that would not otherwise have been in the sample.

Vera also collected data directly from state and local government agencies through phone calls and public records requests. This was done with assistance from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Colorado, the ACLU of Massachusetts, the ACLU of Ohio, Darby Aono, the Indiana Public Defender Council, Clay Mosher, and the New Mexico Association of Counties. Vera staff who assisted with data collection include Collin Blinder, Christian Henrichson, Oliver Hinds, Sarah Minion, Jack Norton, Michelle Parris, Eital Schattner-Elmaleh, Maurice Smith, and James Wallace-Lee.

In Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, prisons and jails form one unified system operated by the state. Information about those states is not included in jail statistics but is included in the state prison statistics.

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 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 2018.

National jail population estimates were computed 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. Vera divided all U.S. jail jurisdictions into strata based on the average daily population in 2013, as reported on the 2013 Census of Jails (or 2013 Survey of Jails, when a jurisdiction failed to respond to the 2013 Census of Jails). 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.

BJS has begun releasing more timely data on jail populations during 2020, with a special report covering the first six months of 2020 released in March 2021.<sup>3</sup> 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. Prison statistics collected through the National Prisoner Statistics data collection program are released in the Prisoners Series reports.

**Prison data:** Vera derived U.S. prison population estimates from information for all states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Virginia and Wyoming did not provide recent enough information and so were partially estimated using the average rate of change in neighboring states. See notes on specific states below for more information.

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 underinclusiveness that come with using custody counts, this report presents jurisdictional counts. (See "Prison jurisdiction source notes" on page 4 for more information.)

**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.<sup>4</sup> Vera researchers applied the same 3.6 percent adjustment to the total incarceration estimate, reducing the count by 67,873 people at midyear 2020.

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.<sup>5</sup> Property crime victimization rates are highest in the summer and lowest in the spring, with a difference of 8.0 percent.<sup>6</sup>

**Calculating incarceration rates:** Vera used Census Bureau U.S. resident population estimates for July 1, 2000 through 2019, to calculate national and regional (i.e., urban to rural) incarceration rates.<sup>7</sup> Vera estimated midyear 2020 U.S. resident populations using the rate of change between 2019 estimates and the June 30, 2020, national census estimate, available at the census population clock.<sup>8</sup> Vera 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. In a departure from prior reports, in order to present the jail-specific incarceration rates, Vera did not include resident population counts from states that operate a unified jail system in national jail rates

or in rates by urbanicity. State-specific incarceration rates use the updated 2020 congressional apportionment population counts that were released in April 2021.<sup>9</sup>

## Jail jurisdiction source notes

Ten states have agencies that produce 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, complete information about local jails from each county is collected by individual organizations rather than a state agency: Louisiana (Vera Institute of Justice) and New Mexico (New Mexico Association of Counties). In a third state, Ohio, 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. The ACLU of Ohio acquired this information for June 30, 2020, via a public records request and shared it with Vera researchers.

**California:** For weekly county jail jurisdiction populations in December 2020 and March 2021, see California's Board of State and Community Corrections, Supplemental Jail Profile Survey data, <https://perma.cc/RT7X-QKEP>. California maintains regular Jail Profile Survey data as well, <https://perma.cc/JRW5-X327>.

**Colorado:** For county jail population statistics, see Colorado Jail Data Dashboard (HB19-1297), prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics, <https://perma.cc/2HBN-WPK9>.

**Florida:** For average daily county jail populations for December 2020 and March 2021, see Florida County Detention Facilities Average Inmate

Population reports, prepared by the Florida Department of Corrections Bureau of Research and Data Analysis, <https://perma.cc/S8L8-9FPW>.

**Georgia:** For county jail populations on the first Thursday of the month in January 2021 and April 2021, see Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Office of Research, County Jail Inmate Population Report, <https://perma.cc/N67A-9HVN>.

**Kentucky:** For county jail populations, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, Research and Statistics, Weekly Jail reports, <https://perma.cc/88QC-39UX>.

**Massachusetts:** For weekly county house of correction and jail population reports, see Massachusetts Department of Correction, Weekly Inmate Count 2020, County/Interstate Correctional Facilities, <https://perma.cc/MN7H-UEWR>.

**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://perma.cc/F6RJ-WYPV>.

**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://perma.cc/97HR-T2HD>.

**Texas:** For first-of-month, one-day snapshot jail populations, see Texas Commission on Jail Standards, *County Jail Population, Abbreviated Population Report*, <https://perma.cc/Z3GL-J8DL>.

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

## Prison jurisdiction source notes

**Alabama:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Alabama Department of Corrections, Monthly Statistical Report for December 2020, <https://perma.cc/7S4A-988A>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Alabama Department of Corrections, Monthly Statistical Report for March 2021, <https://perma.cc/KSJ7-G3FW>.

**Alaska:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Alaska Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Arizona:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, December 31, 2020, page 3, under "Grand Total" column and row, <https://perma.cc/YS79-MA8R>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, March 31, 2021, page 3, under "Grand Total" column and row, <https://perma.cc/4DAH-TMVN>.

**Arkansas:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Arkansas Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**California:** The jurisdictional population numbers include total population in custody/community rehabilitative prerelease programs (CRPP) supervision, as well as the population temporarily released to court and hospital. For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Monthly Report of Population as of Midnight December 31, 2020, <https://perma.cc/UJ6C-5VP2>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see California

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Weekly Report of Population as of Midnight March 31, 2021, <https://perma.cc/529K-DAXC>.

**Colorado:** For the jurisdictional population on June 30, 2020, see Colorado Department of Corrections, Monthly Population and Capacity Report as of December 31, 2020, <https://perma.cc/6Y3E-EFPJ>. For jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Colorado Department of Corrections, Monthly Population and Capacity Report as of March 31, 2020, <https://perma.cc/5SHX-9LVH>.

**Connecticut:** For the jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, see Connecticut Correctional Facility Population Counts, <https://perma.cc/2DYB-QT7A>.

**Delaware:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and April 12, 2021, were reported directly by the Delaware Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request (March 31, 2021, data was not available).

**Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP):** The jurisdictional populations for the BOP include people held in BOP facilities, private facilities, and other types of facilities. For December 31, 2020, see Federal Bureau of Prisons, Population Statistics, [https://web.archive.org/web/20210103180706/https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population\\_statistics.jsp](https://web.archive.org/web/20210103180706/https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp). For April 1, 2021, see Federal Bureau of Prisons, Population Statistics, [https://web.archive.org/web/20210407143904/https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population\\_statistics.jsp](https://web.archive.org/web/20210407143904/https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp).

**Florida:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2021, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Florida Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Georgia:** For the jurisdictional population on January 1, 2021, see Georgia Department of Corrections, Inmate Statistical Profile: All Active Inmates, January 1, 2021, page 4, table “Current

age, broken out in ten-year age groups,” “Grand Total” row, “Total” column, <https://perma.cc/T2LU-VNRV>. For the jurisdictional population on April 1, 2021, see Georgia Department of Corrections, Inmate Statistical Profile: All Active Inmates, April 1, 2021, page 4, table “Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups,” “Grand Total” row, “Total” column, <https://perma.cc/34DJ-5JDZ>.

**Hawaii:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Hawaii Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, December 31, 2020, “Assigned Count Ending,” <https://perma.cc/4LRE-TSEJ>. For the jurisdictional population on April 5, 2021, see Hawaii Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, April 5, 2021, “Assigned Count Ending,” <https://perma.cc/X6GS-UVSZ> (March 31, 2021, data was not available).

**Idaho:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Idaho Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request.

**Illinois:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Illinois Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Indiana:** For jurisdictional populations on January 1, 2021, see Indiana Department of Correction, January 2021 Offender Population Report, page 6, <https://perma.cc/C4ML-S3LL>. For jurisdictional populations on April 1, 2021, see Indiana Department of Correction, April 2021 Offender Population Report, <https://perma.cc/2V5Q-ADWV>. Vera calculated the jurisdictional numbers for both years by adding the DOC adult population and jail DOC contract population.

**Iowa:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Iowa Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Kansas:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Kansas Department of Corrections, "Population Report", row "Total (KDOC & NON-KDOC FACILITIES)," <https://perma.cc/X76C-C36G>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Kansas Department of Corrections, "Population Report," row "Total (KDOC & NON-KDOC FACILITIES)," <https://perma.cc/8RXG-6HMC>.

**Kentucky:** For the jurisdictional population on December 30, 2020, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, Statewide Population Report December 30, 2020, "Grand Total," <https://perma.cc/P65F-VPRG>. For March 31, 2021, jurisdictional numbers, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, Statewide Population Report March 31, 2021, "Grand Total," <https://perma.cc/5963-CK2U>.

**Louisiana:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Maine:** For the average daily jurisdictional population in December 2020, see December 2020, MDOC Adult Data Report, page 3, table 1.1 "Incarcerated Population," <https://perma.cc/5ER9-7GDP>. For the jurisdictional population on March 29, 2021, see Maine Department of Corrections "In-State Facility Capacity and Population," "Population" column, <https://perma.cc/X246-YC7D>.

**Maryland:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

**Massachusetts:** For the jurisdictional population on December 28, 2020, see Massachusetts Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheet, December 28, 2020, row "Total Jurisdictional Population," <https://perma.cc/6PL5-Z5YW>. For the jurisdictional population on March 29, 2021, see Massachusetts Department of Correction

Weekly Count Sheet, March 29, 2020, row "Total Jurisdictional Population," <https://perma.cc/Y9AE-RWCN>.

**Michigan:** The jurisdictional populations for January 1, 2021, and April 1, 2021, were reported directly by the Michigan Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Minnesota:** For the jurisdictional populations on January 1, 2021, see Minnesota Department of Corrections, Adult Prison Population Summary, Section 1, <https://perma.cc/LZ8G-Q97K>. The populations for April 1, 2021, were reported directly by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Mississippi:** The jurisdictional populations on January 1, 2021, and April 1, 2021, include the custody population, other custody count, and off-grounds medical population. For January 1, 2021, see Mississippi Department of Corrections (MSDOC), Fact Sheet as of January 1, 2021, page 1, table "Active Offender Population" (MSDOC has since removed this fact sheet from its website. A copy is on file with the report's authors.) For April 1, 2021, see Mississippi Department of Corrections, Fact Sheet as of April 1, 2021, page 1, table "Active Offender Population," <https://perma.cc/SV7H-454R>.

**Missouri:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 30, 2021, were reported directly by the Missouri Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Montana:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Montana Department of Corrections, Secure Facility Population as of 12/31/2020, [https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/COR/views/POPReportPublic\\_15931787918580/SecurePopulation?%3Aiid=2&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y#3](https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/COR/views/POPReportPublic_15931787918580/SecurePopulation?%3Aiid=2&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y#3). For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Montana Department of Corrections, Secure Facility Population as of 3/31/2021,

[https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/COR/views/POPRepOrtPublic\\_15931787918580/SecurePopulation?%3Aiid=2&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y#3](https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/COR/views/POPRepOrtPublic_15931787918580/SecurePopulation?%3Aiid=2&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y#3).

**Nebraska:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

**Nevada:** For the jurisdictional population on December 27, 2020, see Nevada Department of Corrections, Stat Facts, December 27, 2020, "In-House Population (estimate)," <https://perma.cc/HE2T-CUTF>. For the jurisdictional population on March 29, 2021, see Nevada Department of Corrections, Stat Facts, March 29, 2021, "In-House Population (estimate)," <https://perma.cc/96K4-ED2X>.

**New Hampshire:** For the jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2020, and April 1, 2021, see New Hampshire Department of Corrections Monthly Facility Population Summary Report All, page 2, row "Total NH Sentenced," <https://perma.cc/U3LH-4MBN>.

**New Jersey:** The jurisdictional populations for January 1, 2021, and April 1, 2021, were reported directly by the New Jersey Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**New Mexico:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the New Mexico Corrections Department in response to a Vera public information request.

**New York:** For the jurisdictional population in December 2020, see New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Fact Sheet January 1, 2021, "DOCCS Security Staff and Inmate Population," [https://web.archive.org/web/20210119032012/https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/doccs-fact-sheet-january-2021\\_o.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20210119032012/https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/doccs-fact-sheet-january-2021_o.pdf). For the jurisdictional population in April 2021, see New York State Department of Corrections

and Community Supervision Fact Sheet April 1, 2021, "Staffing and Population Differences," <https://perma.cc/G9HZ-CTTA>.

**North Carolina:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety in response to a Vera public information request.

**North Dakota:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in response to a Vera public information request.

**Ohio:** For the jurisdictional population on December 29, 2020, see Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Population Count Sheets 2020-12-29, page 2, <https://perma.cc/NM2U-SJDF>. For the jurisdictional population on March 30, 2021, see Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Population Count Sheets 2021-03-30, page 2, <https://perma.cc/J9ZW-MANM>. The jurisdictional numbers for both years were calculated by adding the Total Population number, the Absent Without Leave number (AWL), and the Out to Court (OTC) number.

**Oklahoma:** For the jurisdictional population on December 28, 2020, see OK Department of Corrections Incarcerated Inmates and Community Supervision Offenders Daily Count Sheet, rows "Grand Total" and "County Jail Transfers Pending," <https://perma.cc/B44B-WTRE>. For the jurisdictional population on March 29, 2021, see OK Department of Corrections Incarcerated Inmates and Community Supervision Offenders Daily Count Sheet, rows "Grand Total," and "County Jail Transfers Pending," <https://perma.cc/GKH8-BN6D>.

**Oregon:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Oregon Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Pennsylvania:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Monthly Population Report as of December 31, 2020, page 1, <https://perma.cc/FS95-3DJ6>. The jurisdictional population for March 31, 2021, was reported directly by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Rhode Island:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**South Carolina:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the South Carolina Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**South Dakota:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see Adult Corrections: End of Month State Inmate Prison Population, “State Total” for December 31, 2020, <https://perma.cc/P8FB-G2TA>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see Adult Corrections: End of Month Population, “State Total” for March 31, 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210423181901/https://doc.sd.gov/documents/AdultPopulationMarch2021B.pdf>.

**Tennessee:** For December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, jurisdictional populations, see the “TDOC facilities” and “TDOC back up” numbers in Tennessee Felon Population Update March 2021, page 4, table “Incarcerated Felon Populations, Fiscal Years 2012/13-2020/21, as of March 31, 2020,” <https://perma.cc/9YYK-TVDG>.

**Texas:** As in Vera’s last report, *People in Jail and Prison in 2020*, Texas was not able to report its jurisdiction numbers for December 31, 2020, or March 31, 2021, by time of publication. Instead, Texas was able to report an “on-hand” population number, which is substantially lower because it does not count certain people held in local jails. In order to account for these differences, Vera

researchers estimated jurisdiction numbers for Texas, combining the “on-hand” populations reported by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, with statistics from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for January 1, 2021, and April 1, 2021. Using this method to estimate jurisdiction numbers between the years 2015 and 2018—adding together the on-hand population with the number of people held in local jails on parole violations, convicted of felonies awaiting transfer, and people with a state jail status—produced numbers that are very similar to reported total jurisdiction numbers. They differ by an average of 391 people between 2015 and 2018, or 0.2 percentage points.

**Utah:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2020, and March 31, 2021, were reported directly by the Utah Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Vermont:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see VT DOC Jail Population as of 12/31/2020, <https://perma.cc/XB4S-VBYG>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2021, see VT DOC Jail Population 3/31/2021, <https://perma.cc/P6HA-WVM5>.

**Virginia:** The jurisdictional population for December 31, 2020, was reported directly by the Virginia Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional population for March 31, 2021, was not available from the Virginia Department of Corrections at the time of writing so Vera researchers estimated this figure using the average rate of change in Southern states from December 31, 2020, to March 31, 2021, and using the reported jurisdiction number as baseline.

**Washington:** For the average daily jurisdictional populations for December 2020 and March 2021, see Washington State Department of Corrections, Average Daily Population of Incarcerated Individuals Fiscal Year 2021, “Grand Total,” <https://perma.cc/8UGJ-VWQ8>.



**West Virginia:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2020, see COVID-19 testing, W.Va. Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, “Correctional Centers (prison),” <https://perma.cc/NRG7-YENX>. For the jurisdictional population on March 24, 2021, see COVID-19 testing, W.Va. Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, “Correctional Centers (prison),” <https://perma.cc/D9UB-PNGN>.

**Wisconsin:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2021, see Department of Corrections, Offenders Under Control on 01/01/2021, “Total Inmate Population (DAI),”

<https://perma.cc/P37F-ZQS8>. For the jurisdictional population on April 2, 2021, see Department of Corrections, Offenders Under Control on 04/02/2021, “Total Inmate Population (DAI),” <https://perma.cc/9V3K-REED>.

**Wyoming:** The Wyoming Department of Corrections did not respond to a direct request for information in time for publication. Vera researchers estimated jurisdictional populations using the average rate of change in Western states from September 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020, and from December 31, 2020, to March 31, 2021.

## Credits

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## Endnotes

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- 1 The 2013 Census of Jails produced by the Bureau of Justice Statistics is available online from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at <https://perma.cc/UDT8-JH5M>. While the Bureau of Justice Statistics has published topline information from the 2019 Census of Jails, it had not released a public use data file as of this writing.
- 2 To download the file, visit [www.vera.org/publications/people-in-jail-and-prison-in-spring-2021](http://www.vera.org/publications/people-in-jail-and-prison-in-spring-2021).
- 3 See Todd D. Minton, Zhen Zeng, and Laura M. Maruschak, *Impact of COVID-19 on the Local Jail Population, January-June 2020*, (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2021), <https://perma.cc/AK2J-88XS>.
- 4 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>.
- 5 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>.
- 6 *Ibid.*, 3.
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau, “2019 National and State Population Estimates: Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 (NST-EST2019-01),” <https://perma.cc/6V3P-FL88>; and U.S. Census Bureau, “National Intercensal Datasets: 2000-2010,” [perma.cc/93K9-2M5M](https://perma.cc/93K9-2M5M).
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, “U.S. and World Population Clock,” <https://perma.cc/L3YN-SFTM>.
- 9 U.S. Census Bureau, “2020 Census Apportionment Results,” <https://perma.cc/TCC7-JGB4>.