

# People in Prison in 2019

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## Summary

Effective advocacy and policy making require up-to-date information. Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) researchers collected data on the number of people who were incarcerated in state and federal prisons as of December 31, 2019, to provide timely information on how prison incarceration is changing in the United States. This report fills a gap until the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) releases its next annual report—likely in early 2021—which will include additional data, such as population breakdowns by race and sex. In response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, Vera collected updated data on people in prison at the end of the first quarter of 2020 to reflect any changes that had occurred as a result of the outbreak.

At the end of 2019, there were an estimated 1,435,500 people in state and federal prisons, down 33,000 from year-end 2018 (2.2 percent decline).<sup>1</sup> There were 1,260,400 people under state prison jurisdiction, 28,200 fewer than in 2018 (2.2 percent decline); and 175,100 in the federal prison system, 4,800 fewer than in 2018 (2.7 percent decline).

The prison incarceration rate in the United States was 437 people in prison per 100,000 residents, a 2.6 percent drop from 449 per 100,000 in the previous year. (See Figure 1.) This represents a 17.5 percent decline in the rate of prison incarceration since its peak in 2007.

A decrease in the number of people in federal prisons, along with at least 5 percent declines in incarceration rates in eight states, account for the overall decline in the national prison incarceration rate. Of those eight states, only three—Missouri, New York, and Oklahoma—have relatively large prison populations. Prison incarceration continued to rise in some states, such as Nebraska, Idaho, and West Virginia. See Table 1 for a summary of the jurisdictions with the highest and lowest prison population counts, rates, and percent changes from 2018.

Population data collected for March/April 2020 from 44 states and the federal Bureau of Prisons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic showed negligible declines in numbers (a 1.6 percent decrease) during the first three months of 2020.

Figure 1

U.S. prison incarceration rate per 100,000 U.S. residents, 1960–2019

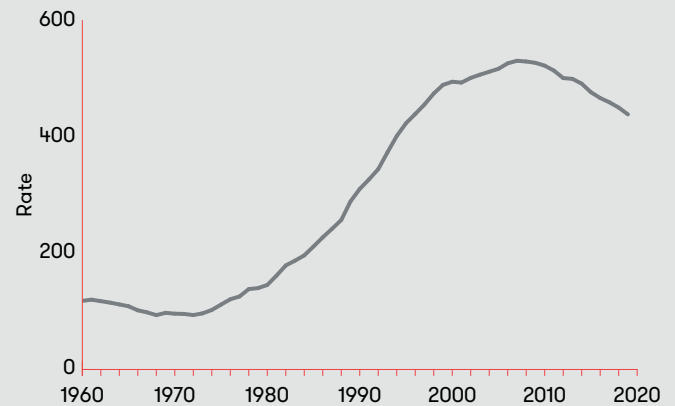


Table 1

Summary of jurisdictions with the highest and lowest incarceration in 2019

Number of people in prison		Prison incarceration rate per 100,000 residents		Rate growth between 2018 and 2019	
<b>Five highest</b>					
Federal	175,116	Louisiana	680	Idaho	6.7
Texas	158,820	Mississippi	654	North Dakota	5.3
California	125,507	Oklahoma	650	Alabama	3.6
Florida	96,009	Arkansas	588	Nebraska	3.1
Georgia	55,556	Arizona	583	Alaska	2.7
<b>Five lowest</b>					
Vermont	1,608	Massachusetts	119	Missouri	-14.5
North Dakota	1,794	Maine	164	Maine	-8.8
Maine	2,205	Minnesota	177	Oklahoma	-7.6
Wyoming	2,479	New Hampshire	193	Nevada	-7.5
New Hampshire	2,622	New Jersey	210	Delaware	-7.0

Note: Alaska and Delaware had prison incarceration rates of 612 and 585 per 100,000, respectively. However, these rates are not comparable to the prison incarceration rates in other states because each of these states has a unified system for both pretrial and sentenced incarceration and the high rate includes people who, in other states, would be held in local jails.

## Covid-19 & prison populations

During the first months of 2020, U.S. prisons emerged as epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>a</sup> In light of this crisis, advocates and public health officials made repeated calls for elected officials to use clemency and other immediate measures to reduce state and federal prison populations. Vera requested additional data for the end of March or beginning of April 2020 to account for any prison population changes during the first quarter of the year. Data from 44 states and the BOP show that none had moved with the urgency required to meet the recommendations of public health officials to reduce incarceration. Across all jurisdictions that reported data to Vera, prison populations had decreased by only 1.6 percent.

Five states—Idaho, Iowa, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wyoming—had more people in prison on March 31, 2020, than they did on December 31, 2019. The remaining states showed only small declines. (See Table 2.) While Missouri's prison population declined 14.2 percent in 2019, it had declined only 1.2 percent during the first quarter of 2020.

The largest percentage reductions were in Vermont (down 11.6 percent), North Dakota (down 9.8 percent), and Oregon (down 8.3 percent). The largest reductions in the number of people in prison were from large states: Florida (down 2,100 people), California (down 1,700 people), and New York (down 1,500 people).

The BOP reduced its prison population by only 300 people during January, February, and March of 2020, a decline of 0.2 percent.

Delaware (down 5.4 percent), Hawaii (down 6.6 percent), Rhode Island (down 5.4 percent), and Vermont (down 11.6 percent) have unified prison and jail systems. A portion of those declines might be attributable to changes in pretrial detention.

<sup>a</sup> Hollie Silverman, "Coronavirus is tearing through prison and jail populations in Ohio and Illinois," CNN, April 20, 2020, <https://perma.cc/TUT9-G7ZT>.

**Table 2**  
**People in prison by jurisdiction, year-end 2019 and first quarter 2020**

Jurisdiction	December 31, 2019	March 31, 2020	December 31, 2019 to March 31, 2020	
			Percent change	Count change
<b>Sample Total</b>	1,308,009	1,287,416	-1.6%	-20,593
Federal	175,116	174,722	-0.2%	-394
State	1,132,893	1,112,694	-1.8%	-20,199
<b>Northeast</b>	138,445	134,735	-2.7%	-3,710
Connecticut <sup>a</sup>	12,293	11,885	-3.3%	-408
Maine	2,205	2,117	-4.0%	-88
Massachusetts	8,205	8,201	0.0%	-4
New Hampshire	2,622	2,586	-1.4%	-36
New Jersey	18,613	18,027	-3.1%	-586
New York	44,284	42,784	-3.4%	-1,500
Pennsylvania	45,875	45,120	-1.6%	-755
Rhode Island <sup>a</sup>	2,740	2,593	-5.4%	-147
Vermont <sup>a</sup>	1,608	1,422	-11.6%	-186
<b>Midwest</b>	195,791	194,804	-0.5%	-987
Indiana	27,268	27,172	-0.4%	-96
Iowa	9,282	9,691	4.4%	409
Kansas	10,177	10,031	-1.4%	-146
Michigan	38,053	37,846	-0.5%	-207
Missouri	26,044	25,740	-1.2%	-304
Nebraska	5,651	5,623	-0.5%	-28
North Dakota	1,794	1,619	-9.8%	-175
Ohio	49,762	49,751	0.0%	-11
South Dakota	3,804	3,794	-0.3%	-10
Wisconsin	23,956	23,537	-1.7%	-419
<b>South</b>	531,026	521,227	-1.8	-9,799
Alabama	28,266	27,386	-3.1%	-880
Delaware <sup>a</sup>	5,692	5,382	-5.4%	-310
Florida	96,009	93,903	-2.2%	-2,106
Georgia	55,556	55,025	-1.0%	-531
Kentucky	23,436	23,057	-1.6%	-379
Louisiana	31,609	31,096	-1.6%	-513
Mississippi	19,469	19,015	-2.3%	-454
North Carolina	34,510	34,335	-0.5%	-175
Oklahoma	25,712	25,472	-0.9%	-240
South Carolina	18,608	18,687	0.4%	79
Tennessee	26,539	26,124	-1.6%	-415
Texas <sup>b</sup>	158,820	154,927	-2.5%	-3,893
West Virginia	6,800	6,818	0.3%	18
<b>West</b>	267,631	261,928	-2.1%	-5,703
Alaska <sup>a</sup>	4,475	4,355	-2.7%	-120
Arizona	42,441	41,984	-1.1%	-457
California	125,507	123,778	-1.4%	-1,729
Colorado	19,714	19,357	-1.8%	-357
Hawaii <sup>a</sup>	5,179	4,836	-6.6%	-343
Idaho	9,437	9,494	0.6%	57
Montana	3,811	3,761	-1.3%	-50
Nevada	12,942	12,222	-5.6%	-720
Oregon	15,755	14,449	-8.3%	-1,306
Utah	6,731	6,409	-4.8%	-322
Washington	19,160	18,797	-1.9%	-363
Wyoming	2,479	2,486	0.3%	7

<sup>a</sup> Prisons and jails form one unified system.

<sup>b</sup> The population counts are based on the number of people in DOC custody and the estimated number of people held in local jails.

## Introduction

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) releases state and federal prison population data through the National Prison Statistics (NPS) data series. These reports provide a comprehensive analysis of prison populations, including by race and sex, for the previous calendar year. The most recent report, which provides year-end 2018 data, was released in April 2020.<sup>2</sup> In order to provide the public with more timely information, Vera collected year-end 2018 and 2019 prison population data directly from state departments of corrections and the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). This report will fill an information gap until BJS releases its reports.

All prison population counts in this report are estimates of the number of people under the *jurisdiction* of the correctional authority, not the number of people in *custody*. (See “Methodology” at page 5 for a definition of these terms and a detailed description of Vera’s methods.) Generally, Vera obtained data from departments’ official websites. In states where this data was not yet available, Vera requested and obtained the information from departments’ media relations or research and statistics divisions. Vera collected data for the total number of people under the jurisdiction of each state (available from 49 departments) and the BOP and, in the one state where this was not available, the total custodial population. Vera then adjusted the custody population figures to estimate the jurisdiction total. (See “Methodology” at page 5.)

## Prison population

The nearly 33,000-person drop in the number of people in state and federal prisons continues a 10-year decline in the total U.S. prison population. As of December 2019, there were 180,000 fewer people in prison since the peak population in 2009, representing an 11.1 percent reduction. Federal prisons held 175,100 people—a decrease of 2.7 percent from December 2018 (see Table 3). The federal prison population constituted 12.2 percent of the total U.S. prison population and accounted for 14.5 percent of the overall decline since 2018.

The BOP and 39 states reduced the number of people held in prison in 2019. California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and the BOP each reduced their prison populations by more than 1,000 people. Eight states had declines of at least 5 percent, led by Missouri (down 14.2 percent), Maine (down 8.4 percent),

Table 3

### People in prison under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities by jurisdiction, 2007-2019

Year	Total	Federal	State
2007	1,596,835	199,618	1,397,217
2008	1,608,282	201,280	1,407,002
2009	1,615,487	208,118	1,407,369
2010	1,613,803	209,771	1,404,032
2011	1,598,968	216,362	1,382,606
2012	1,570,397	217,815	1,352,582
2013	1,576,950	215,866	1,361,084
2014	1,562,319	210,567	1,351,752
2015	1,526,603	196,455	1,330,148
2016	1,508,129	189,192	1,318,937
2017	1,489,363	183,058	1,307,761
2018	1,468,523	179,898	1,288,625
2019	1,435,509	175,116	1,260,393

Oklahoma (down 7.2 percent), Connecticut (down 6.9 percent), New York (down 6.7 percent), Delaware (down 6.2 percent), Nevada (down 5.9 percent), and Massachusetts (down 5.6 percent).

The number of people in prison increased in 11 states in 2019: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, Utah, and West Virginia. Alabama (up 4.0 percent) added more than 1,000 people to its prisons in 2019. Idaho (up 8.9 percent) added the second largest number of people to its state prisons—773—in 2019. For a summary of the jurisdictions with the five highest and lowest prison population counts, see Table 1.

Between 2018 and 2019, the prison population in the Northeast region declined by 4.9 percent, the Midwest prison population declined by 2.7 percent, the South prison population declined by 1.7 percent, and the population in the West dropped by 1.5 percent. (See Table 4 at page 4.)

Between 2009 and 2019, the prison population in the Northeast region declined by 21.9 percent, while the population in the West declined by 13.5 percent. Populations in the Midwest and the South declined by only 6.7 and 7.6 percent respectively during that time period.

## Prison incarceration rate

At year-end 2019, the total prison incarceration rate for people under the jurisdiction of state authorities and the BOP

Table 4

## People in prison by jurisdiction, year-end 2009, 2018, and 2019

Jurisdiction	Percent change			Percent change	
	2018	2019	2018-2019	2009 <sup>a</sup>	2009-2019
<b>U.S. Total</b>	1,468,523	1,435,509	-2.2%	1,617,355	-11.2%
Federal	179,898	175,116	-2.7%	208,118	-15.9%
State	1,288,625	1,260,393	-2.2%	1,409,237	-10.6%
<b>Northeast</b>	145,561	138,445	-4.9%	177,361	-21.9%
Connecticut <sup>b</sup>	13,197	12,293	-6.9%	19,716	-37.6%
Maine	2,408	2,205	-8.4%	2,206	0.0%
Massachusetts	8,692	8,205	-5.6%	11,316	-27.5%
New Hampshire	2,647	2,622	-0.9%	2,731	-4.0%
New Jersey	19,362	18,613	-3.9%	25,382	-26.7%
New York	47,459	44,284	-6.7%	58,687	-24.5%
Pennsylvania	47,370	45,875	-3.2%	51,429	-10.8%
Rhode Island <sup>b</sup>	2,767	2,740	-1.0%	3,674	-25.4%
Vermont <sup>b</sup>	1,659	1,608	-3.1%	2,220	-27.6%
<b>Midwest</b>	250,750	244,032	-2.7%	261,603	-6.7%
Illinois	39,915	38,259	-4.1%	45,161	-15.3%
Indiana	26,877	27,268	1.5%	28,808	-5.3%
Iowa	9,419	9,282	-1.5%	8,813	5.3%
Kansas	10,218	10,177	-0.4%	8,641	17.8%
Michigan	38,761	38,053	-1.8%	45,478	-16.3%
Minnesota	10,101	9,982	-1.2%	9,986	0.0%
Missouri	30,369	26,044	-14.2%	30,563	-14.8%
Nebraska	5,456	5,651	3.6%	4,474	26.3%
North Dakota	1,695	1,794	5.8%	1,486	20.7%
Ohio	49,951	49,762	-0.4%	51,606	-3.6%
South Dakota	3,918	3,804	-2.9%	3,434	10.8%
Wisconsin	24,070	23,956	-0.5%	23,153	3.5%
<b>South</b>	613,692	603,562	-1.7%	653,150	-7.6%
Alabama	27,191	28,266	4.0%	31,874	-11.3%
Arkansas	17,799	17,759	-0.2%	15,208	16.8%
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	6,067	5,692	-6.2%	6,794	-16.2%
Florida	97,538	96,009	-1.6%	103,915	-7.6%
Georgia	54,870	55,556	1.3%	56,986	-2.5%
Kentucky	23,815	23,436	-1.6%	21,638	8.3%
Louisiana	32,397	31,609	-2.4%	39,780	-20.5%
Maryland	18,829	18,686	-0.8%	22,255	-16.0%
Mississippi	19,614	19,469	-0.7%	21,482	-9.4%
North Carolina	34,899	34,510	-1.1%	39,860	-13.4%
Oklahoma	27,696	25,712	-7.2%	26,397	-2.6%
South Carolina	19,033	18,608	-2.2%	24,288	-23.4%
Tennessee	26,853	26,539	-1.2%	26,965	-1.6%
Texas <sup>c</sup>	163,628	158,820	-2.9%	171,249	-7.3%
Virginia	36,688	36,091	-1.6%	38,092	-5.3%
West Virginia	6,775	6,800	0.4%	6,367	6.8%
<b>West</b>	278,622	274,354	-1.5%	317,123	-13.5%
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	4,380	4,475	2.2%	5,285	-15.3%
Arizona	41,937	42,441	1.2%	40,627	4.5%
California	128,935	125,507	-2.7%	171,275	-26.7%
Colorado	20,200	19,714	-2.4%	22,795	-13.5%
Hawaii <sup>b</sup>	5,375	5,179	-3.6%	5,891	-12.1%
Idaho	8,664	9,437	8.9%	7,400	27.5%
Montana	3,745	3,811	1.8%	3,605	5.7%
Nevada	13,751	12,942	-5.9%	12,482	3.7%
New Mexico	7,030	6,723	-4.4%	6,519	3.1%
Oregon	16,008	15,755	-1.6%	14,403	9.4%
Utah	6,685	6,731	0.7%	6,533	3.0%
Washington	19,369	19,160	-1.1%	18,233	5.1%
Wyoming	2,543	2,479	-2.5%	2,075	19.5%

<sup>a</sup> Heather C. West, William J. Sabol, and Sarah J. Greenman, *Prisoners in 2009* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010, revised 2011), 16, appendix table 1.<sup>b</sup> Prisons and jails form one unified system.<sup>c</sup> The 2019 population count is based on the number of people in DOC custody and the estimated number of people held in local jails.

was 437 people per 100,000 residents, a 2.6 percent decline from 2018. (See Table 5, below.) Not every state, however, reduced the rate of people incarcerated. Prison incarceration rates fell in 41 states and grew in nine others. (See Table 6 at page 6.) Among the states that reduced their prison incarceration rates in 2019, Missouri had the largest percentage decline, dropping by 14.5 percent from 496 people in prison per 100,000 residents to 424 per 100,000. Missouri also had the largest decline in prison incarceration rate in 2018 and is down 20.6 percent since 2017.

Among states with a higher prison incarceration rate in 2019 than in 2018, Idaho had the greatest percentage increase, growing by 6.7 percent from 495 people in prison per 100,000 residents to 528 per 100,000. Other states that had higher incarceration rates in 2019 than in 2018 were Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and West Virginia.

The prison incarceration rate declined by 4.8 percent in the Northeast, 2.8 percent in the Midwest, 2.4 percent in the South, and 2.2 percent in the West.

**Table 5**  
**Prison incarceration rate, 2007-2019**

Year	Total	Federal	State
2007	530	66	464
2008	529	66	463
2009	527	68	459
2010	522	68	454
2011	513	69	444
2012	500	69	431
2013	499	68	430
2014	490	66	424
2015	476	61	414
2016	466	58	408
2017	457	56	401
2018	449	55	394
2019	437	53	384

## Methodology

Vera researchers obtained prison population numbers for year-end 2018 and 2019 and first quarter 2020 directly from each state's department of corrections and from the BOP. When not available online, counts were obtained directly from the agencies' media relations or research and statistics divisions.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will release its own prison population estimates, along with estimates of several other prison-related incarceration measures, in the future. BJS, through the National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program, releases these figures in its *Prisoner Series* reports, as well as in the *Correctional Populations in the United States Series*.

The estimates presented in this paper 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.

In Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, prisons and jails form one unified system. For these states, jurisdiction counts include the number of both sentenced and unsentenced people held in the system, corresponding to people held in what would be called both prisons and jails in other states.

Vera obtained year-end 2018 and 2019 jurisdictional population counts from 48 states and the BOP. Many states provide year-end jurisdictional population counts in reports on state websites; when jurisdictional counts were not available from these sources, Vera obtained them by contacting the state department of correction directly. This was required for 26 states and the BOP: Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Single day, end-of-year counts were not available for Maryland. Instead, Vera used the April to June 2019 average daily population for Maryland. Vera was unable to access

Table 6

## Prison incarceration rate by jurisdiction, year-end 2009, 2018, and 2019

Jurisdiction	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019	Percent change		
			2018-2019	2009 <sup>b</sup>	
				2009-2019	
<b>U.S. Total</b>	449	437	-2.6%	527	-17.0%
Federal	55	53	-3.0%	68	-18.9%
State	394	384	-2.5%	459	-16.3%
<b>Northeast</b>	260	247	-4.8%	322	-23.1%
Connecticut <sup>c</sup>	370	345	-6.7%	554	-37.7%
Maine	180	164	-8.8%	166	-1.1%
Massachusetts	126	119	-5.7%	174	-31.4%
New Hampshire	196	193	-1.4%	208	-7.1%
New Jersey	218	210	-3.8%	290	-27.7%
New York	243	228	-6.3%	304	-25.1%
Pennsylvania	370	358	-3.2%	406	-11.7%
Rhode Island <sup>c</sup>	261	259	-1.1%	349	-25.8%
Vermont <sup>c</sup>	266	258	-3.0%	355	-27.5%
<b>Midwest</b>	367	357	-2.8%	392	-8.9%
Illinois	314	302	-3.8%	353	-14.4%
Indiana	401	405	0.9%	446	-9.2%
Iowa	299	294	-1.7%	291	1.2%
Kansas	351	349	-0.5%	305	14.5%
Michigan	388	381	-1.9%	459	-17.0%
Minnesota	180	177	-1.8%	189	-6.4%
Missouri	496	424	-14.5%	513	-17.2%
Nebraska	283	292	3.1%	247	18.4%
North Dakota	224	235	5.3%	223	5.3%
Ohio	428	426	-0.5%	448	-4.9%
South Dakota	446	430	-3.6%	425	1.1%
Wisconsin	414	411	-0.7%	408	0.7%
<b>South</b>	495	483	-2.4%	578	-16.4%
Alabama	556	576	3.6%	670	-13.9%
Arkansas	591	588	-0.5%	525	12.1%
Delaware <sup>c</sup>	628	585	-7.0%	762	-23.3%
Florida	459	447	-2.6%	557	-19.8%
Georgia	522	523	0.2%	592	-11.7%
Kentucky	534	525	-1.7%	501	4.7%
Louisiana	695	680	-2.2%	886	-23.2%
Maryland	312	309	-0.9%	388	-20.4%
Mississippi	658	654	-0.6%	726	-9.9%
North Carolina	336	329	-2.1%	422	-22.0%
Oklahoma	703	650	-7.6%	710	-8.5%
South Carolina	374	361	-3.5%	529	-31.7%
Tennessee	397	389	-2.0%	428	-9.1%
Texas <sup>d</sup>	572	548	-4.2%	690	-20.7%
Virginia	432	423	-2.0%	481	-12.0%
West Virginia	375	379	1.0%	345	10.1%
<b>West</b>	358	350	-2.2%	445	-21.2%
Alaska <sup>c</sup>	596	612	2.7%	756	-19.1%
Arizona	586	583	-0.5%	640	-9.0%
California	327	318	-2.8%	463	-31.5%
Colorado	355	342	-3.5%	458	-25.3%
Hawaii <sup>c</sup>	378	366	-3.3%	437	-16.4%
Idaho	495	528	6.7%	476	10.9%
Montana	353	357	1.0%	366	-2.7%
Nevada	454	420	-7.5%	465	-9.6%
New Mexico	336	321	-4.6%	320	0.2%
Oregon	383	374	-2.4%	378	-1.2%
Utah	212	210	-1.0%	240	-12.5%
Washington	257	252	-2.3%	273	-8.0%
Wyoming	440	428	-2.7%	371	15.6%

<sup>a</sup> The 2018 prison incarceration rate was computed from the number of people in prison in 2018 (see Table 4) and population estimates from the US Census Bureau.

<sup>b</sup> The 2009 prison incarceration rate was computed from the number of people in prison in 2009 (see Table 4) and population estimates from the US Census Bureau.

<sup>c</sup> Prisons and jails form one unified system.

<sup>d</sup> The 2019 population count is based on the number of people in DOC custody and the estimated number of people held in local jails.

jurisdiction population estimates for Texas. The method used to estimate the year-end jurisdiction count is detailed in the jurisdiction source notes below.

Vera obtained first quarter 2020 (through the end of March or beginning of April) jurisdictional population counts from 44 states and the BOP. Vera contacted the remaining states, but they were unable to provide the necessary data to include them in the report.

To validate the 2019 estimates, Vera researchers compared the 2018 jurisdictional population counts that they obtained from each state and the BOP to the 2018 numbers reported by BJS through the NPS program in April 2020. If the 2018 number in the individual jurisdiction source matched the number reported by BJS, the researchers assumed confidence in the reliability of the data. For states that did not match exactly, Vera researchers assessed whether these differences were due to newer, updated estimates, or due to a methodological or definitional issue that indicated the need to use an alternative method for estimating the prison population. An alternative method was required for Maryland, Oklahoma, and Tennessee (see “Jurisdiction source notes” for more information). Although there was slight variation in some states between the 2018 data collected by Vera and the data reported by BJS, this report uses the numbers obtained directly from the states in order to preserve internal consistency.

When responding to Vera’s public information request, 18 states reported updated figures for their 2018 jurisdictional populations alongside their 2019 jurisdictional populations. Thus, the jurisdictional population for these states—Alabama, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming—all differ slightly from the numbers published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.<sup>3</sup> On average, these 18 states reported 2.4 percent change from the figures recorded last year, while the total difference was an updated 2,331 fewer people in prison in 2018. A very large share of this difference was due to changes in methodology for Maryland, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. See the “Jurisdiction source notes” for these states for exact differences between this year and last.

The U.S. resident population counts used to compute incarceration rates were based on Census Bureau estimates for July 1, 2010 through 2019, and 2000 through 2010.<sup>4</sup> Vera researchers computed the incarceration rates shown in Tables 4 and 5—and those 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 state), and multiplying the result by 100,000.

This report uses recently released updated population counts for all states in 2018. Therefore, even for states that did not update their 2018 jurisdictional population numbers, 15 states had substantial enough changes in their resident population to produce a change in the incarceration rates for 2018. For those states with changed residential populations, the rates that appear in this report are on average 0.2 percent different from those previously reported by Vera.<sup>5</sup>

## Jurisdiction source notes

**Alabama:** For jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, see *Alabama Department of Corrections, Monthly Statistical Report for December 2019*, <https://perma.cc/F7ZV-4RYB>. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 350 people higher than the count of 26,841 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.<sup>6</sup> The jurisdictional count for April 10, 2020, is from the “Inmate Statistics” table published at <http://www.doc.state.al.us/InmateSearch>.

**Alaska:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Alaska Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Arizona:** For jurisdictional population for December 2018, see *Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, December 31, 2018*, page 2, under “Grand Total” column and row, <https://perma.cc/27S9-LL2B>. For jurisdictional population for December 2019, see *Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, December 31, 2019*, page 3, under “Grand Total” column and row, <https://perma.cc/5QZ9-TJ8R>. For jurisdictional population for March 31, 2020, see *Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Institutional Capacity Committed Population, March 31, 2020*, page 3, under “Grand Total” column and row, <https://perma.cc/A8UU-7YXG>.

**Arkansas:** For jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *Arkansas Division of Correction Board Report January 2019*, <https://perma.cc/JEX2-TU2N>. For jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *Arkansas Division of Correction Board Report January 2020*, <https://perma.cc/T4ZY-NB2N>.

**California:** 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. The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, were reported directly by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in response to a Vera public information request. For jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Monthly Total Population Report as of Midnight December 31, 2019*, <https://perma.cc/4BVC-B8HY>. For jurisdictional population on April 1, 2020, see *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Monthly Total Population Report as of Midnight April 1, 2020*, <https://perma.cc/CKH9-NQLB>.

**Colorado:** For jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *Colorado Department of Corrections, Monthly Population and Capacity Report as of December 31, 2018*, [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jlkjmxmt2279Q7kSkqqsAsTckV\\_REbc/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jlkjmxmt2279Q7kSkqqsAsTckV_REbc/view). For jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *Colorado Department of Corrections, Monthly Population and Capacity Report as of December 31, 2019*, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB21TrpBx507cUD-VNeHktekVCclNvUEM4bGUxRIJvMkxNLWdj/view>. For jurisdictional population on March 31, 2020, see *Colorado Department of Corrections, Monthly Population and Capacity Report as of March 31, 2020*, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LOZdNZZpObodkchAIj5VZpbCL3sXcYVI/view>.

**Connecticut:** For the jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, see *Connecticut Correctional Facility Population Count*, [https://cjis-dashboards.ct.gov/CJPPD\\_Reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Extracted\\_Data](https://cjis-dashboards.ct.gov/CJPPD_Reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Extracted_Data). The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 92 people fewer than the count of 13,289 reported in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report.

**Delaware:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Delaware Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request.

**Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP):** The jurisdictional populations for December 29, 2018; December 28, 2019; and March 28, 2020, were reported directly by the BOP in response to a Vera public information request.

**Florida:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and April 10, 2020, 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, 2019, see *Georgia Department of Corrections, Inmate Statistical Profile: All Active Inmates, January 2019*, page 4 table "Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups," <https://perma.cc/38PK-CVHW>. For the jurisdictional population on January 1, 2020, see *Georgia Department of Corrections*, page 4 table "Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups," <https://perma.cc/G8KH-5V5B>. For the jurisdictional population on April 1, 2020, *Georgia Department of Corrections, Inmate Statistical Profile: All Active Inmates, March 2020*, page 4 table "Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups," <https://perma.cc/ALE2-CRH9>.

**Hawaii:** For December 31, 2018, see *Hawaii Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, December 31, 2018*, table "Assigned Count Ending," <https://perma.cc/8F3U-K3CK>. For the jurisdictional population for December 31, 2019, see *Hawaii Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, December 31, 2019*, table "Assigned Count Ending," <https://perma.cc/DTN7-VVMJ>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2020, see *Hawaii Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, March 31, 2020*, table "Assigned Count Ending," <https://perma.cc/G93N-P8EN>.

**Idaho:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Idaho Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request.

**Illinois:** For the jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, see *Illinois Department of Corrections, Adult Inmate Population on December 31, 2019*, table "Historical Population - End of CY," <https://perma.cc/FAB6-H67E>.

**Indiana:** For jurisdictional populations on January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2020, see *Indiana Department of Correction, January 2020 Offender Population Report*, page 6, <https://perma.cc/6G2E-TYSK>. The jurisdictional numbers for both years were calculated by adding the DOC Adult Population and Jail DOC contract population. The jurisdictional population for March 31, 2020, was reported directly by the Indiana Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request.

**Iowa:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported



directly by the Iowa Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Kansas:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Kansas Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Kentucky:** For jurisdictional numbers on December 28, 2018, see *Kentucky Department of Corrections, Statewide Population Report December 28, 2018*, table “Grand Total,” <https://perma.cc/ZYM8-TWSU>. For jurisdictional numbers on December 30, 2019, see *Kentucky Department of Corrections, Statewide Population Report December 30, 2019*, table “Grand Total,” <https://perma.cc/FG8N-XATC>. For March 31, 2020, jurisdictional numbers, see *Kentucky Department of Corrections, Statewide Population Report March 31, 2020*, table “Grand Total,” <https://perma.cc/5HRW-S2RB>. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 321 people fewer than the count of 24,136 reported in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Louisiana:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and April 1, 2020, 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 populations in December 2018 and December 2019, see *2019 Year End, MDOC Adult Data Report*, page 2, table “Average Daily Population (ADP),” <https://perma.cc/U9FK-LUM6>. The jurisdictional population on April 7, 2020, was accessed via *Maine Department of Corrections, In-State Facility Capacity and Population*, row “Total MDOC In-State and Out-of-State Population,” <https://perma.cc/C4EF-2KKC>. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 18 people fewer than the count of 2,426 reported in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Maryland:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were not available directly from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The closest available data that corresponds to Bureau of Justice statistics was the average daily sentenced total population from FY 2019 Q2 (October-December 2018) and FY 2019 Q4 (April-June 2019), see *Division of Correction, FY 2019 Population Overview*, DPSCS Statewide Population Over Time, Sentenced Total, page 3 [http://dpscs.maryland.gov/community\\_releases/](http://dpscs.maryland.gov/community_releases/)

[DPSCS-Annual-Data-Dashboard.shtml](#). The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 1,014 people more than the count of 17,815 reported in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Massachusetts:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the Massachusetts Department of Correction in response to a Vera public information request. For the jurisdictional population on March 30, 2020, see *Massachusetts Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheet, March 30, 2020*, row “Total Jurisdictional Population,” <https://perma.cc/7SN8-EAHL>.

**Michigan:** For jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, see *Report to the Legislature Pursuant to P.A. 64 of 2019 Section 401 Prison Population Projection Report February 2020*, <https://perma.cc/J6JM-Z8RS>. The jurisdictional populations for March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Michigan Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Minnesota:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Mississippi:** The jurisdictional populations on January 2, 2019; January 3, 2020; and April 1, 2020, include the custody population, other custody count, and off-grounds medical population. For January 2019, see *Mississippi Department of Corrections, Fact Sheet as of January 2, 2019*, page 1 & table “Active Offender Population,” <https://perma.cc/TP59-PSSG>. For January 2020, see *Mississippi Department of Corrections, Fact Sheet as of January 3, 2020*, page 1 & table “Active Offender Population,” <https://perma.cc/SZ6H-HRNA>. For April 1, 2020, see *Mississippi Department of Corrections, Fact Sheet as of April 1, 2020*, page 1 & table “Active Offender Population,” <https://perma.cc/S83E-APVU>.

**Missouri:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Missouri Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**Montana:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Montana Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The

jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is one person more than the count of 3,745 reported in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report.

**Nebraska:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

**Nevada:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 29, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Nevada Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 111 people higher than the count of 13,640 reported in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report. This information can also be found online. For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *Nevada Department of Corrections, StatFacts Monthly, As of December 31, 2018*, page 1, table "Offender Population," row "Total Population," <https://perma.cc/T68B-LLB5>. For the jurisdictional population on December 29, 2019, see *Nevada Department of Corrections, StatFacts (Fiscal Year 2020) Date: December 29, 2019*, page 1, "Total Population," <https://perma.cc/K3EU-RZUY>.

**New Hampshire:** The jurisdictional population for January 1, 2019, was reported directly by the New Hampshire Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for January 2019 presented in this report is 30 people higher than the count of 2,647 published in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report. For the jurisdictional populations on January 1, 2020, and April 1, 2020, see *New Hampshire Department of Corrections Monthly Facility Population Summary Report -All-*, page 2, row "Total NH Sentenced," <https://perma.cc/QY5S-WTWN>.

**New Jersey:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, 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, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the New Mexico Corrections Department in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 223 people fewer than the count of 7,253 published in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report.

**New York:** For the jurisdictional populations on December 31, 2018, and January 1, 2020, see *New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Fact Sheet January 1, 2020*, page 3, table "DOCCS Security Staff and Inmate Population," and page 4 "Staffing and Population Differences," respectively, <https://perma.cc/4SQ3-5VLG>. For April 1, 2020, see *New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Fact Sheet April 1, 2020*, <https://perma.cc/T27L-Z53L>.

**North Carolina:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, 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, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in response to a Vera public information request. The December 2018 and 2019 population numbers can also be found online, see *DOCRA Adult Services Prison Population Information Prison Population on December 31, 2019 (Male and Female)*, page 1, <https://perma.cc/BMH8-3TXQ>.

**Ohio:** For the jurisdictional population on January 1, 2019, see *Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Population Count Sheets 2019-01-01*, <https://perma.cc/NJU7-W8H6>. For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Population Count Sheets 2019-12-31*, <https://perma.cc/6VZP-29N7>. The jurisdictional numbers for both years were calculated by adding the Total Population number, the Absent Without Leave (AWL) number, and the Out To Court (OTC) number. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 480 people fewer than the count of 50,431 published in *Vera's People in Prison 2018* report.

**Oklahoma:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *OK Department of Corrections Incarcerated Inmates and Community Supervision Offenders Daily Count Sheet*, rows "Grant Total" and "County Jail Transfers Pending," <https://perma.cc/H34H-AJCA>. For jurisdictional population on December 30, 2019, 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/B3Z4-GJ5G>. For jurisdictional population on March 30, 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/N9Z4-74R7>. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 753 more than the count of 26,943 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report because it includes people pending transfer to prison from county jail.

**Oregon:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and April 1, 2020, were reported directly by the Oregon Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 575 people more than the count of 15,433 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Pennsylvania:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Monthly Population Report as of December 31, 2018*, page 1, table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity,” <https://perma.cc/VDQ5-NB29>. For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Monthly Population Report as of December 31, 2019*, page 1, table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity,” <https://perma.cc/7Nzt-W8LH>. For the jurisdictional population on March 31, 2020, see *Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Monthly Population Report as of March 31, 2020*, page 1, table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity,” <https://perma.cc/6DLL-PCEP>.

**Rhode Island:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, 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, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the South Carolina Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**South Dakota:** The jurisdictional population for December 31, 2018, was reported directly by the South Dakota Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. Jurisdictional populations are reported as *Adult Population Statistics*, “State Total” for December 31, 2019, <https://perma.cc/8DWF-AZ6C>, and *Adult Population Statistics*, “State Total” for March 31, 2020, <https://perma.cc/LYW2-RKWQ>.

**Tennessee:** For December 2018, December 2019, and March 31, 2020 jurisdictional populations, see the “TDOC facilities” and “TDOC back up” numbers in *Tennessee Felon Population*

*Update March 2020*, page 4, table “Incarcerated Felon Populations, Fiscal Years 2012/13 - 2019/20, as of March 31, 2020” <https://perma.cc/9HPT-JFUC>. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report no longer includes people who were convicted of felonies but sentenced locally, and thus is 3,589 people fewer than the count of 30,128 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Texas:** The jurisdictional population for December 31, 2018, was reported directly by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is seven people fewer than the count of 163,635 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report. Texas was not able to report its jurisdiction numbers for December 31, 2019, or March 31, 2020, 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 TDCJ for December 31, 2019, and March 31, 2020, with statistics from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for January 1, 2020, and April 1, 2020. 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, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Utah Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 37 people more than the count of 6,648 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Vermont:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the Vermont Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 76 people fewer than the count of 1,735 published in Vera’s *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Virginia:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the

Virginia Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 652 people fewer than the count of 37,340 published in Vera's *People in Prison 2018* report.

**Washington:** For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2018, see *Washington State Department of Corrections, Fact Card December 31, 2018*, <http://perma.cc/D5JV-9YVC>. For the jurisdictional population on December 31, 2019, see *Washington State Department of Corrections, Fact Card December 31, 2019*, <https://perma.cc/Z86W-Z4LM>. The jurisdictional population on March 31, 2020, was reported directly by the Washington State Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

**West Virginia:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation in response to a Vera public information request.

**Wisconsin:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2019, were reported directly by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is six people more than the count of 24,064 published in Vera's *People in Prison 2018* report. The jurisdictional population on April 3, 2020, includes the total population in adult institutions and people held in county jails on probation and parole violations. See State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections, *Offenders Under Control on 04-03-2020, 1-2*, & tables "Adult Institutions" and "Probation and Parole in Custody," <https://perma.cc/P88S-LG9B>.

**Wyoming:** The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2018; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, were reported directly by the Wyoming Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional count for 2018 presented in this report is 34 people fewer than the count of 2,577 published in Vera's *People in Prison 2018* report.

## Endnotes

- 1 All 2018 and 2019 jurisdictional population estimates in this report are based on data collected by Vera, while pre-2018 estimates are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program. See Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Data Collection: National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program," <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=269>. Numbers in the body text may not sum due to rounding, but all tables provide exact estimates for prison population counts.
- 2 E. Ann Carson, *Prisoners in 2018* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2020), <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6846>.
- 3 Jacob Kang-Brown, Eital Schattner-Elmaleh, and Oliver Hinds, *People in Prison in 2018* (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2019), <https://www.vera.org/publications/people-in-prison-in-2018>.
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "State Population Totals and Components of Change: 2010-2019" (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019), 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-alldata) <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-total.html>; and U.S. Census Bureau, "National Intercensal Datasets: 2000-2010," <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/intercensal-2000-2010-national.html>.
- 5 Kang-Brown, Schattner-Elmaleh, and Hinds, *People in Prison in 2018*, 2019.
- 6 Ibid.

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## About citations

As researchers and readers alike rely more and more on public knowledge made available through the Internet, “link rot” has become a widely-acknowledged problem with creating useful and sustainable citations. To address this issue, the Vera Institute of Justice is experimenting with the use of Perma.cc (<https://perma.cc/>), a service that helps scholars, journals, and courts create permanent links to the online sources cited in their work.

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Public policy—including decisions related to criminal justice and immigration—has far-reaching consequences, but too often is swayed by political rhetoric and unfounded assumptions. The Vera Institute of Justice has created a series of briefing papers to provide an accessible summary of the latest evidence concerning justice-related topics. By summarizing and synthesizing existing research, identifying landmark studies and key resources, and, in some cases, providing original analysis of data, these briefs offer a balanced and nuanced examination of some of the significant justice issues of our time.