

An estimated 2,380 inmates were confined in Indian country jails at midyear 2014, a 4% increase from the 2,287 inmates confined in 2013. The number of inmates admitted in June 2014 (10,460) was nearly five times the size of the average daily population (2,170). The average expected length of stay upon admission to Indian country jails at midyear 2014 was 6 days.

Jail capacity

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of jail facilities operating in Indian country increased from 68 to 79. Over the 10-year period, 11 facilities permanently closed and 21 facilities were newly constructed. Due to the new jail construction, the number of inmates jails in Indian country were rated to hold increased to 3,720 inmates at midyear 2014 from 3,482 in midyear 2013. During the period between 2000 and 2014, the overall rated capacity grew at a faster rate (up 79%) than the midyear inmate population (up 34%). As a result, the percentage of occupied bed space declined from 86% in 2000 to 64% in 2014.

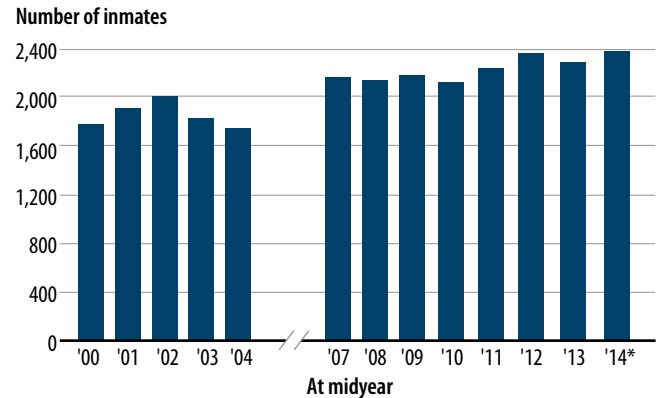
About the inmates

Slightly more than half (51%) of those in Indian country jails were convicted inmates at midyear 2014, down from the peak of 69% in 2009. While males made up the largest percentage (75%) of Indian country jail inmates, the percentage of female inmates increased from 20% to 25% between 2000 and 2014. During that same period, the juvenile population declined—down from 16% to 8%.

Inmates' offenses

About 30% of Indian country jail inmates were held for a violent offense at midyear 2014, a decline from a peak of 40 percent of inmates in 2007. The largest percentage of violent offenders were charged with domestic violence (12%) and aggravated or simple assault (9%). The percentage of inmates being held for a drug law violation also declined—down from 8% in 2000 to 5% in 2014. About 20% of inmates in Indian country jails were held for public intoxication and 9% of inmates were held for driving while intoxicated (DWI) or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (DUI). This was a decline from 16% of the jail population in 2000.

Inmates confined in Indian country jails, midyear 2000–2004 and 2007–2014



Note: The Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country was not conducted in 2005 and 2006. Midyear count is the number of inmates held on the last weekday in June.

*Data for 2014 are adjusted for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2000–2004 and 2007–2014.

Correctional staff

There were two inmates to every one jail operations employee in 2014, a ratio that has remained stable since 2010. At midyear 2014, nearly three-quarters of Indian country jail employees (72%) were operations staff members who spent more than 50% of their time supervising inmates. Other jail personnel included administrative employees; educational staff; technical or professional staff; clerical, maintenance, or food service staff; and staff performing other job functions. Overall, jail operations staff increased nearly 4% from midyear 2013 to midyear 2014 and 22% from midyear 2010 to midyear 2014.

Deaths and attempted suicides

Indian country jails reported three deaths, including one suicide, during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014. During the same period, 70 facilities reported 51 attempted suicides. The number of attempted suicides by inmates increased from 43 in 2013 to 49 in 2014, based on 66 facilities reporting data in both years. Attempted suicides in Indian country jails declined significantly after peaking in 2002.

The full report (*Jails in Indian Country, 2014*, NCJ 248974), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.

