PRISONERS IN
2014
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In September 2015, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin, *Prisoners in 2014*. This annual report highlights characteristics of the nation’s prison population. The following summarizes some key findings of the report, with emphasis on Ohio data wherever possible.

**Prison population and Imprisonment rate**

- The U.S. prison population decreased to 1,561,500 in 2014, an approximate 1.0% (15,400 prisoners) decrease from yearend 2013. This decrease was the second largest decline in the number of prisoners in more than 35 years. The female prison population increased by 1.4 percent between 2013 and 2014, while male prisoners decreased 1.2 percent.
  - Ohio experienced a 0.4 percent decrease in the prison population, from 51,729 at the end of 2013 to 51,519 at the end of 2014. The female prison population increased 1.4 percent, while the male prison population decreased 0.6 percent. Ohio ranked 6th of all states with the highest number of prisoners by yearend 2014.

- Nationwide, from 2005 to 2014, the annual rate of growth of female inmates averaged 0.8 percent, whereas the average rate of increase for male inmates was 0.3 percent.
  - Ohio has averaged a 2.9 percent increase in female inmates from 2005 to 2014, compared to an average rate of 1.1 percent for male prisoners during the same time period.
• The rate of imprisonment at the end of 2014 was 471 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents.
  ○ At the end of 2014, Ohio’s rate of imprisonment was 444 inmates per 100,000 residents, less than the U.S. imprisonment rate.

• By the end of 2014, women accounted for 7.2 percent of all prisoners. The imprisonment rate for sentenced females in 2014 was 65 per 100,000 population. For sentenced males, the imprisonment rate was about 14 times higher, at 890 per 100,000 population.
  ○ In Ohio, women accounted for 8.2 percent of all prisoners. The imprisonment rate for sentenced females in 2014 was 71 per 100,000 population. For sentenced males, the imprisonment rate was about 12 times higher, at 832 per 100,000 population.
Admission and Releases

- In 2014, the number of releases (636,346) from state and federal prisons was greater than the number of admissions (626,644). The number of persons admitted to state and federal prisons in 2014 decreased by 0.5 percent.
  - Ohio experienced an increase in both the number of releases and admissions (5.5 and 0.9 respectively). Also in Ohio, the number of releases (22,399) was greater than the number of admissions (22,189).

- At the end of 2014, the Federal prison system was operating at 28.0 percent over their highest prison capacity. In addition, 19 states were operating at or above their highest capacity.
  - Ohio’s prison system was operating at 31.9 percent over their highest capacity at yearend 2014.

Prisoner Demographics

- Approximately three percent of black male U.S. residents of all ages were imprisoned at least one year by yearend 2014, which is an estimated 2,724 inmates per 100,000 black male U.S. residents. White males were incarcerated at a rate of 465 per 100,000 white male U.S. residents.
  - The greatest difference in imprisonment rates between black and white males was for those ages 18 to 19 years. Black males were imprisoned at a rate of 1,072 per 100,000 population, which more than 10 times higher than for white males (102 inmates per 100,000 population).

- Black females were imprisoned at twice the rate of white females. Black females, of all ages, were imprisoned at a rate of 109 inmates per 100,000 black female U.S. residents and white females at a rate of 53 inmates per 100,000 white female U.S. residents.
  - The difference between black and white female inmates ages 18 to 19 was smaller than that of black and white males. Black females ages 18 to 19 were 4 times more likely to be imprisoned, at 32 inmates per 100,000 black females, than white females, at a rate of 8 inmates per 100,000 white females.
Offenses committed by prisoners

- The latest data available (yearend 2013) estimate that 53.2 percent of sentenced inmates in state prisons were held for violent offenses: murder/manslaughter, robbery, assault, and rape and other sexual assaults, and other violent offenses. In addition,
  - 19.3 percent were held for various property offenses
  - 15.7 percent were held for drug offenses
  - 11.0 percent were held for public order offenses, which includes but is not limited to: weapons, drunk driving, court offenses, commercialized vice, morals/decency charges, and liquor law violations

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ website: http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p14.pdf