PRISONERS IN 2012
Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012

In December 2013, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin, *Prisoners in 2012: Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991-2012*. 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**

- The U.S. prison population has declined for the 3rd straight year from 1,599,000 at yearend 2011 to 1,570,400 at yearend 2012 (down 1.8 percent). In 2009, prison releases exceeded admissions for the first time in more than 31 years, beginning the decline in total yearend prison population.
  - Ohio experienced a 0.2 percent decrease in the prison population, from 50,964 at the end of 2011 to 50,876 at the end of 2012. Ohio ranked 7th of all states in total prison population.

- The rate of imprisonment at the end of 2012 was 480 sentenced inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents.
  - At the end of 2012, Ohio’s rate of imprisonment was 440 inmates per 100,000 residents.

- In 2012, the number of admissions to state and federal prison in the U.S. was at its lowest since 1999. Overall, both prison admissions and releases nationwide have declined (down 9.2% and 7.8% respectively since 2011). The number of releases from U.S. prisons in 2012 exceeded that of admissions for the fourth consecutive year, contributing to the overall decline in the total U.S. prison population.
  - Ohio has also experienced a decrease in both the number of prison admissions and releases (down 2.8% and 5.6% respectively).
  - States reported an increase of 6.5% percent in unconditional releases and a decrease of 14.0% in conditional releases.

![Imprisonment Rate 2003 - 2012](source: BJS Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) – Imprisonment Rates 1978 - 2012)
At the end of 2012, the Federal prison system was operating at 37.3 percent over capacity. In addition, 20 states, including Ohio, were operating at or above their highest capacity.
  - At the end of 2012, Ohio prisons were operating at 18.4 percent over capacity.

**Prisoner demographics**

- By the end of 2012, women accounted for 6.9 percent of all prisoners. The imprisonment rate for sentenced females in 2012 was 63 per 100,000 population. For sentenced males, the imprisonment rate was 14 times higher, at 910 per 100,000 population.
  - In Ohio, women accounted for 7.6 percent of all prisoners. The imprisonment rate for sentenced females in 2012 was 65 per 100,000 population. For sentenced males, the imprisonment rate was 13 times higher, at 832 per 100,000 population.

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**Female Imprisonment Rate 2003 - 2012**

Source: BJS Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) – Female Imprisonment Rate 1978-2012

**Male Imprisonment Rate 2003 - 2012**

Source: BJS Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) – Male Imprisonment Rate 1978-2012
• Nationwide, the number of female prisoners decreased 2.3 percent during 2012. The number of male prisoners decreased 1.7 percent.
  • In Ohio, the number of female prisoners decreased 0.9 percent from 2011 to 2012, while the number of males decreased 0.1 percent during this time.

Ohio Female Prison Population
2003 - 2012


Ohio Male Prison Population
2003 - 2012


• Nationwide, from 2003 to 2012, the average annual rate of growth for state female inmates averaged 0.6 percent, whereas the average rate of increase for male inmates was 0.4 percent.
  • Ohio has averaged a 3.4 percent increase in female inmates from 2003 to 2012, compared to an average rate of 1.2 percent for male prisoners during the same time period.
Offenses committed by prisoners

- The latest data available (yearend 2011) estimate that 53.5 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,
  - 18.6 percent were held for various property offenses
  - 16.6 percent were held for drug offenses
  - 10.6 percent were held for public order offenses, which includes but is not limited to: weapons, drunk driving, court offenses, commercialized vice, morals/decency charges, liquor law violations, habitual offense sanctions and public order offenses

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ website: [http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p12tar9112.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p12tar9112.pdf)

A link to the Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ website: [http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps)