

For the Record

People in Prison in 2017

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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 in state and federal prisons on December 31, 2017 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 late 2018 or early 2019—which will include additional data, such as population breakdowns by race and sex.

At the end of 2017, there were an estimated 1,489,600 people in state and federal prisons, down 15,800 from year-end 2016 (1 percent decline).¹ There were 1,306,300 people under state prison jurisdiction, 9,900 fewer than in 2016 (0.7 percent decline); and 183,300 in the federal prison system, 5,900 fewer than in 2016 (3.1 percent decline).

The prison incarceration rate in the United States was 457 people in prison per 100,000 residents, down from 465 per 100,000 in the previous year, representing a 1.8 percent drop. (See Figure 1.) This brings the rate of prison incarceration down 14 percent since its peak in 2007.

The overall decline in the national prison incarceration rate was driven by the large decrease in the number of people in federal prisons, as well as greater than 5 percent declines in several states with large prison populations, such as Illinois, Louisiana, and Maryland. However, the declines were not universal. Mass incarceration is still on the rise in some states, such as Kentucky and Tennessee. (See Table 1 for a summary of the jurisdictions with the highest and lowest prison population counts, rates, and percent changes from 2016.)

Figure 1

Prison incarceration rate of people under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities per 100,000 U.S. residents, 1978-2017

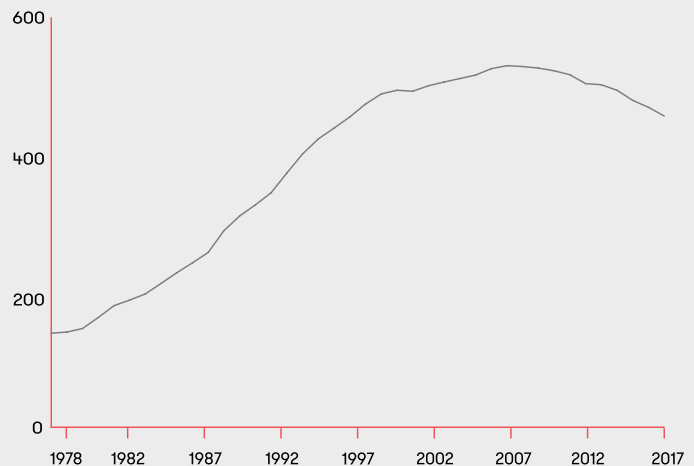


Table 1

Summary of jurisdictions with the highest and lowest populations, rates, and changes in 2017

Number of people in prison		Prison incarceration rate per 100,000 residents		Prison pop. change between 2016 and 2017	
Five highest					
Federal	183,261	Louisiana	720	Tennessee	6.6%
Texas	162,523	Oklahoma	687	Utah	4.9%
California	131,398	Mississippi	651	Kentucky	3.7%
Florida	98,504	Arkansas	602	South Dakota	3.6%
Georgia	53,834	Arizona	598	Wyoming	3.2%
Five lowest					
North Dakota	1,723	Massachusetts	134	Maryland	-9.6%
Vermont	1,763	Maine	181	Connecticut	-7.5%
Maine	2,414	Minnesota	192	Rhode Island	-7.5%
Wyoming	2,451	New Hampshire	199	Louisiana	-5.4%
New Hampshire	2,677	Utah	209	Illinois	-5.1%

Note: Delaware had a prison incarceration rate of 663 per 100,000. However, this rate is not comparable to the prison incarceration rates in other states because Delaware has a unified system for both pretrial and sentenced people. The high rate includes people who would be held in local jails in other states.

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 2016 data, was released in January 2018.² In order to provide the public with more timely information, Vera collected year-end 2017 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 report.

All prison population counts in this report are estimates of the number of people held 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 44 departments) and the BOP and, when this was not available, the total custodial population (which was available from six departments). Vera then adjusted the custody population figures to estimate the jurisdiction total.

Prison population

The 15,800-person drop in the number of people in state and federal prisons continues an eight-year decline in the total U.S. prison population. As of December 2017, there were 125,900 fewer people in prison since the peak population in 2009, representing an 8 percent reduction. Federal prisons held 183,300 people—a decrease of 3.1 percent from December 2016. (See Table 2.) The federal prison population constituted 12.3 percent of the total U.S. prison population and accounted for 37.5 percent of the overall decline since 2016.

The BOP and 30 states reduced the number of people held in prison in 2017. Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Texas, and the BOP each reduced their prison populations by more than 1,000 people. Six states had declines of at least 5 percent, led by Maryland (down 9.6 percent), Connecticut (down 7.5 percent), and Rhode Island (down 7.5 percent).

Declines were not universal, however. The number of people in prison increased in 20 states in 2017: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. California (up 0.8 percent) and Tennessee (up 6.6 percent) both added more than 1,000 people to their prisons in 2017.

Between 2016 and 2017, the prison population in the Northeast region declined by 2 percent, the Midwest prison population declined by 1.4 percent, and the population in the South dropped by 0.6 percent. As a whole, the prison population in western states increased by 0.1 percent. (See Table 3 at page 3.) Looking back further, between 2007 and 2017, the prison population in the Northeast region declined by 15.6 percent, while the population in the West declined by 12.1 percent. Populations in the South and the Midwest declined by only 2.7 and 3 percent, respectively, during that time period.

Table 2

People in prison under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities by jurisdiction, 2007-2017

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	1,505,397	189,192	1,316,205
2017	1,489,597	183,261	1,306,336

Table 3

People in prison by jurisdiction, year-end 2007, 2016, and 2017

Jurisdiction	2016 ^a	2017	Percent change		
			2016-2017	2007 ^b	2007-2017
U.S. total	1,505,397	1,489,597	-1.0%	1,596,835	-6.7%
Federal ^c	189,192	183,261	-3.1%	199,618	-8.2%
State	1,316,205	1,306,336	-0.7%	1,397,217	-6.5%
Northeast	154,166	151,055	-2.0%	179,001	-15.6%
Connecticut ^d	14,957	13,830	-7.5%	20,924	-33.9%
Maine	2,404	2,414	0.4%	2,148	12.4%
Massachusetts	9,403	9,207	-2.1%	11,436	-19.5%
New Hampshire	2,818	2,677	-5.0%	2,943	-9.0%
New Jersey	19,786	19,453	-1.7%	26,827	-27.5%
New York ^c	50,716	50,402	-0.6%	62,620	-19.5%
Pennsylvania	49,244	48,438	-1.6%	45,969	5.4%
Rhode Island ^d	3,103	2,871	-7.5%	4,018	-28.5%
Vermont ^d	1,735	1,763	1.6%	2,116	-16.7%
Midwest	258,805	255,276	-1.4%	263,039	-3.0%
Illinois ^e	43,657	41,427	-5.1%	45,215	-8.4%
Indiana	25,546	26,024	1.9%	27,132	-4.1%
Iowa	9,031	8,999	-0.4%	8,732	3.1%
Kansas	9,920	9,982	0.6%	8,696	14.8%
Michigan	41,122	39,666	-3.5%	50,233	-21.0%
Minnesota ^c	10,592	10,693	1.0%	9,468	12.9%
Missouri	32,461	32,225	-0.7%	29,857	7.9%
Nebraska	5,302	5,137	-3.1%	4,505	14.0%
North Dakota	1,791	1,723	-3.8%	1,416	21.7%
Ohio	52,175	51,478	-1.3%	50,731	1.5%
South Dakota	3,831	3,970	3.6%	3,311	19.9%
Wisconsin	23,377	23,952	2.5%	23,743	0.9%
South	624,803	621,277	-0.6%	638,228	-2.7%
Alabama	28,883	27,677	-4.2%	29,412	-5.9%
Arkansas	17,537	18,078	3.1%	14,314	26.3%
Delaware ^{d,f}	6,585	6,374	-3.2%	7,257	-12.2%
Florida	99,974	98,504	-1.5%	98,219	0.3%
Georgia	53,627	53,834	0.4%	54,256	-0.8%
Kentucky	23,022	23,870	3.7%	22,457	6.3%
Louisiana	35,682	33,739	-5.4%	37,540	-10.1%
Maryland	19,994	18,078	-9.6%	23,433	-22.9%
Mississippi	19,192	19,431	1.2%	22,431	-13.4%
North Carolina ^c	35,697	36,454	2.1%	37,970	-4.0%
Oklahoma	26,871	26,991	0.4%	24,603	9.7%
South Carolina	20,858	20,747	-0.5%	24,239	-14.4%
Tennessee	28,203	30,054	6.6%	26,267	14.4%
Texas	163,703	162,523	-0.7%	171,790	-5.4%
Virginia ^e	37,813	37,831	0.0%	37,984	-0.4%
West Virginia	7,162	7,092	-1.0%	6,056	17.1%
West	278,431	278,727	0.1%	316,949	-12.1%
Alaska ^d	4,434	4,314	-2.7%	5,167	-16.5%
Arizona	42,320	41,964	-0.8%	37,746	11.2%
California	130,390	131,398	0.8%	174,282	-24.6%
Colorado	19,981	19,792	-0.9%	22,841	-13.3%
Hawaii ^d	5,602	5,487	-2.1%	5,978	-8.2%
Idaho	8,252	8,410	1.9%	7,319	14.9%
Montana	3,814	3,700	-3.0%	3,431	7.8%
Nevada	13,757	13,281	-3.5%	13,400	-0.9%
New Mexico	7,055	7,053	0.0%	6,466	9.1%
Oregon	15,166	14,733	-2.9%	13,948	5.6%
Utah	6,182	6,488	4.9%	6,515	-0.4%
Washington	19,104	19,656	2.9%	17,772	10.6%
Wyoming	2,374	2,451	3.2%	2,084	17.6%

^a E. Ann Carson, Prisoners in 2016 (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018), 4, table 2.^b Heather C. West and William J. Sabol, Prisoners in 2007 (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008), 2, table 2.^c The 2017 population count is estimated using agency-reported 2016-2017 population rate of change and BJS-reported 2016 population figures.^d Prisons and jails form one unified system.^e The 2017 population count is based on the number of people in department of corrections (DOC) custody and the estimated number of people held in local jails.^f The 2017 population count is estimated using the 2017 custody count and the difference between jurisdiction and custody for 2015 and 2016.

Prison incarceration rate

At year-end 2017, the total prison incarceration rate for people under the jurisdiction of state authorities and the BOP was 457 people per 100,000 residents, a 1.8 percent decline from 2016. (See Table 4.) Again, declines were not observed across the board. Prison incarceration rates fell in 34 states and grew in 16 others. (See Table 5.) Among the states that reduced their prison incarceration rates in 2017, Maryland had the largest percentage decline, dropping by 10 percent, from 332 people in prison per 100,000 residents to 299 per 100,000. Among states with a higher prison incarceration rate in 2017 than in 2016, Tennessee had the greatest percentage increase, growing by 5.5 percent, from 424 people in prison per 100,000 residents to 447 per 100,000. Other states that had higher incarceration rates in 2017 than in 2016 were Arkansas, California, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The prison incarceration rate declined by 2.2 percent in the Northeast, 1.7 percent in the Midwest, 1.6 percent in the South, and 0.9 percent in the West.

Table 4
Prison incarceration rate, 2007-2017

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	465	58	407
2017	457	56	401

Table 5
Prison incarceration rate by jurisdiction, year-end 2007, 2016, and 2017

Jurisdiction	2016 ^a		Percent change		Percent change	
	2016 ^a	2017	2016-2017	2007 ^b	2007-2017	
U.S. total	465	457	-1.8%	530	-13.7%	
Federal ^c	58	56	-3.8%	66	-15.1%	
State	407	401	-1.5%	464	-13.5%	
Northeast	274	267	-2.2%	328	-18.3%	
Connecticut ^d	417	385	-7.5%	593	-35.0%	
Maine	181	181	-0.01%	162	11.6%	
Massachusetts	138	134	-2.6%	178	-24.5%	
New Hampshire	211	199	-5.6%	224	-11.1%	
New Jersey	220	216	-2.0%	309	-30.1%	
New York ^c	256	254	-0.7%	327	-22.4%	
Pennsylvania	385	378	-1.8%	366	3.4%	
Rhode Island ^d	293	271	-7.7%	380	-28.7%	
Vermont ^d	278	283	1.6%	339	-16.7%	
Midwest	381	374	-1.7%	397	-5.6%	
Illinois ^e	340	324	-4.9%	356	-9.1%	
Indiana	385	390	1.4%	425	-8.2%	
Iowa	288	286	-0.8%	291	-1.7%	
Kansas	341	343	0.4%	312	9.7%	
Michigan	414	398	-3.8%	502	-20.7%	
Minnesota ^c	192	192	0.02%	182	5.5%	
Missouri	533	527	-1.1%	507	3.9%	
Nebraska	278	268	-3.7%	253	5.9%	
North Dakota	237	228	-3.8%	217	5.2%	
Ohio	449	442	-1.6%	441	0.1%	
South Dakota	445	456	2.7%	418	9.1%	
Wisconsin	405	413	2.1%	423	-2.3%	
South	513	505	-1.6%	580	-12.8%	
Alabama	594	568	-4.5%	629	-9.8%	
Arkansas	587	602	2.5%	502	19.8%	
Delaware ^{df}	691	663	-4.1%	832	-20.4%	
Florida	484	469	-3.0%	535	-12.2%	
Georgia	520	516	-0.7%	580	-11.0%	
Kentucky	519	536	3.3%	528	1.6%	
Louisiana	761	720	-5.4%	858	-16.0%	
Maryland	332	299	-10.0%	414	-27.9%	
Mississippi	643	651	1.3%	766	-15.0%	
North Carolina ^c	351	355	1.0%	416	-14.8%	
Oklahoma	685	687	0.2%	677	1.4%	
South Carolina	421	413	-1.8%	545	-24.3%	
Tennessee	424	447	5.5%	425	5.2%	
Texas	587	574	-2.1%	721	-20.3%	
Virginia ^e	449	447	-0.6%	490	-8.9%	
West Virginia	392	391	-0.3%	330	18.3%	
West	363	360	-0.9%	455	-20.9%	
Alaska ^d	598	583	-2.5%	760	-23.2%	
Arizona	613	598	-2.4%	612	-2.3%	
California	332	332	0.2%	481	-30.9%	
Colorado	361	353	-2.3%	475	-25.8%	
Hawaii ^d	392	384	-2.0%	454	-15.4%	
Idaho	491	490	-0.3%	486	0.7%	
Montana	367	352	-4.1%	356	-1.0%	
Nevada	468	443	-5.4%	515	-14.0%	
New Mexico	338	338	-0.2%	325	4.0%	
Oregon	371	356	-4.2%	375	-5.1%	
Utah	203	209	3.0%	251	-16.6%	
Washington	262	265	1.2%	275	-3.5%	
Wyoming	406	423	4.2%	390	8.6%	

^a The 2016 prison incarceration rate was computed from the number of people in prison in 2016 (see Table 3) and population estimates from the US Census Bureau.

^b The 2007 prison incarceration rate was computed from the number of people in prison in 2007 (see Table 3) and population estimates from the US Census Bureau.

^c The 2017 population count is estimated using agency-reported 2016-2017 population rate of change

and BJS-reported 2016 population figures.

^d Prisons and jails form one unified system.

^e The 2017 population count is based on the number of people in DOC custody and the estimated number of people held in local jails.

^f The 2017 population count is estimated using the 2017 custody count and the difference between jurisdiction and custody for 2015 and 2016.

Methodology

Vera researchers obtained prison population numbers for 2016 and 2017 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.

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) that pay the prison system for a rented bed. 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 2017 jurisdictional population counts from 44 states and the BOP. (Many states provide year-end 2017 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 18 states: Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio,

Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Single day, end-of-year counts were not available for Connecticut. Instead, Vera used the average daily population for December 2017 as a year-end jurisdiction estimate.

To validate the 2017 estimates for these 45 jurisdictions, Vera researchers compared the 2016 jurisdictional population counts from each state and the BOP to that reported by BJS through the NPS program in the same year. If the 2016 number in the individual jurisdiction source matched the number reported by BJS, the researchers assumed confidence in the reliability of the 2017 data.

For four states—Georgia, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina—and the BOP, Vera found that the year-end 2016 population estimates reported by the corrections agencies did not match the estimates reported by BJS. Vera contacted each state and the BOP, but was unable to obtain an explanation for the discrepancy, or an estimate comparable to the NPS jurisdiction count. In these cases, Vera estimated the 2017 jurisdictional population by adjusting the 2016 jurisdictional population reported in the NPS by the rate of change between 2016 and 2017 population counts reported by the states and the BOP. For example, in 2016, the Minnesota Department of Corrections (MDOC) reported a jurisdictional population of 9,869, less than the count of 10,592 reported by BJS in the NPS. In 2017, MDOC reported a jurisdictional population of 9,963, a 0.95 percent increase from the agency's 2016 figure. (See "Jurisdiction source notes" at page 6.) To estimate a jurisdictional count for 2017 that is comparable to NPS, Vera applied this percentage increase to the 2016 number reported in the NPS, resulting in a count of 10,693.

For the remaining six states—Delaware, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Virginia—Vera was unable to access jurisdiction population estimates. Year-end 2017 custody counts were available, and Vera researchers used various methods to estimate year-end jurisdiction counts from these. These methods are detailed in the jurisdiction source notes at page 6.

The U.S. resident population used to compute incarceration rates is based on Census Bureau estimates for July 1, 2010–2017 and 2000–2010.³ 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 (U.S. or state), and multiplying the result by 100,000.

Jurisdiction source notes

Alabama: For jurisdictional populations for December 2016 and 2017, see the Research and Planning Division, *Monthly Statistical Report for December 2017 Fiscal Year 2018*, Alabama Department of Corrections, 2 & table “ADC Population Trend Summary,” <https://perma.cc/96NY-4QFJ>.

Alaska: The jurisdictional population for 2017 was reported directly by Alaska Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. For jurisdictional population for 2016, see E. Ann Carson, *Prisoners in 2016* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018), 4 & table 2, <https://perma.cc/A5LH-PK3S>.

Arkansas: For jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017 see Arkansas Department of Corrections *Board Reports January 2017*, 11 & table “Inmate Population Growth 2000-2023,” <https://perma.cc/XZS6-6KDS>.

Arizona: For jurisdictional population for December 2016, see Arizona Department of Corrections, *Corrections at a Glance December 2016*, 2 & table “ADC Census,” <https://perma.cc/5PU7-44NY>. For jurisdictional population for December 2017, see Arizona Department of Corrections, *Corrections at a Glance December 2017*, 2 & table “ADC Census,” <https://perma.cc/5ZVE-LF8Z>.

California: The jurisdictional populations include total population in custody and population out-to-court. For December 31, 2017, see California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *Monthly Total Population Report as of Midnight December 31, 2017*, 1 & table “Total CDCR Population,” <https://perma.cc/6ZD9-YSKW>. For December 31 2016, see California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *Monthly Total Population Report as of Midnight December 31, 2016*, 1 & table “Total CDCR Population,” <https://perma.cc/Z8VB-R97J>.

Colorado: The jurisdictional populations for December 2016 and 2017 are reported in figure “End of Month Inmate Population” in “Department Reports and Statistics: Dashboard Measures,” Colorado Official State Web Portal, accessed February 13, 2018, <https://perma.cc/8JFP-42LU>.

Connecticut: The Connecticut State Department of Correction reports the average daily population (ADP) for each month on its website. For the ADP for December 2016,

see Connecticut Department of Correction Research Unit, *Average Confined Inmate Population and Legal Status, January 1, 2017*, 1, <https://perma.cc/PLY6-YLFV>. For the ADP for December 2017, see Connecticut Department of Correction Research Unit, *Average Confined Inmate Population and Legal Status, January 1, 2018*, 1, <https://perma.cc/9FNM-4E5U>.

Delaware: Vera estimated the total population under the jurisdiction of the Delaware Department of Corrections using the 2017 year-end custody count and the NPS estimate of the difference between jurisdiction and custody counts for 2015 and 2016. The custody counts for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Delaware Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): The jurisdictional populations for December 30, 2017 and December 24, 2016 were reported directly by the BOP in response to a Vera public information request.

Florida: The jurisdictional population counts for year-end 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Florida Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Georgia: For the jurisdictional population for December 2016, see Georgia Department of Corrections, *Profile of All Inmates, December 2016*, 57 & table “Prison Sentence in Years,” <https://perma.cc/4HGJ-MK2L>. For December 2017, see Georgia Department of Corrections, *Profile of All Inmates, December 2017*, 58 & table “Prison Sentence in Years,” <https://perma.cc/274W-43CY>.

Hawaii: For the jurisdictional population for December 31, 2016, see Hawaii Department of Public Safety, *End of Month Population Report, December 31, 2016*, table “Assigned Count Ending,” <https://perma.cc/9XAH-CUHW>. For December 31, 2017, see Hawaii Department of Public Safety, *End of Month Population Report, December 31, 2017*, table “Assigned Count Ending,” <https://perma.cc/U2QH-LVY7>.

Idaho: For the jurisdictional populations for December 2016, see Idaho Department of Correction, *Population Snapshot January 2017*, 5 & figure “Overall Incarcerated Population Trend,” <https://perma.cc/5E37-FEJJ>. For December 2017, see Idaho Department of Correction, *Population Snapshot January 2018*, 5 & figure “Overall Incarcerated Population Trend,” <https://perma.cc/FE4S-C7QM>.

Illinois: For jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017, see Illinois Department of Corrections, *Adult Inmate Population on December 31, 2017*, table “Historical Population - End of CY,” <https://perma.cc/KTB5-TP9G>.

Iowa: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Iowa Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Indiana: The jurisdictional populations for January 1, 2017 and 2018 include the Department of Correction adult population and the jail contract population. For January 2017 figure, see Indiana Department of Correction, *January 2017 Offender Population Report*, 6, <https://perma.cc/EUZ8-5L45>. For January 2018 figure, see Indiana Department of Correction, *January 2018 Offender Population Report*, 6, <https://perma.cc/7Z3U-V2Y5>.

Kansas: Vera obtained the total jurisdictional population at the end of 2017 from the dashboard on the Kansas Department of Corrections website. Vera increased that estimate by 146, which is the average difference between BJS estimates and those reported by Kansas for 2015 and 2016. For 2016 and 2017 jurisdictional counts, see Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report: Adult KDOC Facility - Populations & Capacities*, <https://perma.cc/NK3Q-LMPL>.

Kentucky: For the jurisdictional population for December 15, 2016, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, *Inmate Profiles December 15, 2016*, 1 & table “Facility,” <https://perma.cc/5EW4-M8LM>. For December 15, 2017, see Kentucky Department of Corrections, *Inmate Profiles December 15, 2017*, 1 & table “Facility,” <https://perma.cc/P9VX-52FU>.

Louisiana: For jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017, see Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, *Briefing Book, January 2018 Update*, 15 & table “Trend,” <https://perma.cc/F3CT-P2EA>.

Maine: For custody counts for December 2016 and 2017, see State of Maine Department of Corrections, *2017 Year End MDOC Adult Data Report*, 3 & table “Average Daily Population,” <https://perma.cc/768N-LTZD>. The custodial population was taken to be a good estimate of the jurisdictional population because the two populations agree closely for year-end 2016, according to BJS. See Carson, *Prisoners in 2016*, at 4 & table 2 and 21 & table 16.

Maryland: The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in response to a Vera public information request.

Michigan: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Michigan Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Minnesota: The jurisdictional count was estimated from the state-reported 2016 and 2017 jurisdictional counts and the 2016 NPS jurisdictional count, as described in the Methodology section at page 5. For the state-reported count for January 1, 2018, see Minnesota Department of Corrections, *Adult Prison Population Summary as of 01/01/2018*, 1, <https://perma.cc/37MD-SDBE>. For the jurisdiction count for January 1, 2017, see Minnesota Department of Corrections, *Adult Inmate Profile as of 01/01/2017*, 1, <https://perma.cc/P37J-YKRM>.

Mississippi: The jurisdictional populations for January 3, 2017 and January 2, 2018 include the custody population, other custody count, and off-grounds medical population. For January 2018, see Mississippi Department of Corrections, *Fact Sheet as of January 2, 2018*, 1 & table “Active Offender Population,” <https://perma.cc/LQD6-F32L>. For January 2017, see Mississippi Department of Corrections, *Fact Sheet as of January 3, 2017*, 1 & table “Active Offender Population,” <https://perma.cc/3FV4-Z7FV>.

Missouri: Vera estimated the custodial population for 2017 using the number of people in Missouri Department of Corrections custody who had not completed their sentence. See Missouri Department of Corrections, “Sunshine Law Offender Data File,” <https://perma.cc/QZ72-PCAY> (accessed February 14, 2018). The custodial population was taken to be a good estimate of the jurisdictional population because the two populations agree closely for year-end 2016 according to BJS. See Carson, *Prisoners in 2016*, at 4 & table 2 and 21 & table 16.

Michigan: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by Michigan Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Montana: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Montana Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdiction count presented in this paper is for December 29, 2017, and includes people held in pre-release centers.

Nebraska: Vera computed the jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 using the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services “Inmate Database,” available for download at <https://perma.cc/8FVM-XN8H>.

New Hampshire: For the jurisdictional populations for January 1, 2018, see New Hampshire Department of Corrections, *NH DOC Monthly Facility Demographics Summary Report*, 1, <https://perma.cc/6UXZ-MLPX>, and for 2017, <https://perma.cc/PAT8-4CSK>.

Nevada: The jurisdiction count for 2017 is based on the in-house population estimate for December 24, 2017. See State of Nevada Department of Corrections, *Nevada Department of Corrections Stat Facts (Fiscal Year 2018)*, <https://perma.cc/8H5S-D368>. The jurisdiction count for 2016 is based on the population estimate for January 3, 2017. See State of Nevada Department of Corrections, *Nevada Department of Corrections Stat Facts*, <https://perma.cc/5NZQ-FEMX>.

New Jersey: For the jurisdictional population for January 2, 2018, see State of New Jersey Department of Corrections, *Offender Characteristics Report on January 2, 2018*, 5 & table “Total Inmates in New Jersey State Correctional Institutions and Satellite Units,” <https://perma.cc/N9HA-KR7P>. For 2016, see State of New Jersey Department of Corrections, *Offender Characteristics Report on January 3, 2017*, page 5, table “Total Inmates in New Jersey State Correctional Institutions and Satellite Units,” <https://perma.cc/K5VC-M5NX>.

New Mexico: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the New Mexico Corrections Department in response to a Vera public information request.

New York: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in response to a Vera public information request.

North Dakota: For the jurisdictional population for December 31, 2016, see North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *DOCR Adult Services Inmate Population Information: Inmate Population on December 31, 2016 (Male and Female)*, 1, <https://perma.cc/3MLD-MR3W>. For 2017, see North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *DOCR Adult Services Inmate Population Information: Inmate Population on December 31, 2017 (Male and Female)*, 1, <https://perma.cc/3XFC-EFRA>.

Ohio: The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction official who prepares the NPS questionnaire reported the 2017 jurisdictional count in response to an information request by Vera researchers.

Oklahoma: For the jurisdictional population for December 29, 2017, see State of Oklahoma Department of Corrections, *Oklahoma No. 2 in the Nation in Overall Incarceration in 2016; No. 1 in Female Incarceration*, <https://perma.cc/WS6J-AXRB> (accessed March 30, 2018). As in the NPS, Vera excluded people who were sentenced to serve under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections but were waiting to be transferred to DOC custody (1,162 people for 2017). *Ibid.* The same article provides further discussion of the issue of people waiting for transfer to DOC and whether they should be counted. For the jurisdictional population for December 28, 2016, see Oklahoma Department of Corrections, *OK Department of Corrections Institutional Capacity/Committed Population*, 2, <https://perma.cc/WRV2-N2PB>.

Oregon: The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Oregon Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Pennsylvania: For jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016, see Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, *Monthly Population Report as of December 31, 2016*, 1 & table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity,” <https://perma.cc/Y8QU-A5XB>; for December 2017, see Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, *Monthly Population Report as of December 31, 2017*, 1 & table “PA DOC Monthly Population v. Capacity,” <https://perma.cc/E9N6-VGY2>.

Rhode Island: The jurisdictional population for 2017 was reported directly by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. For the jurisdictional population for 2016, see Rhode Island Department of Corrections, *Calendar Year Population Update December 31, 2016*, 1 & figure “Average Total Population CY 2000 - CY 2016,” <https://perma.cc/UA7B-8APU>.

South Carolina: The jurisdictional populations for 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the South Carolina Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Tennessee: For the jurisdictional populations for December 2016 see Tennessee Department of Correction, *Felon Population Reports*, 3 & table “Incarcerated Felon Population Projections v. Actual: Fiscal Years 2014/15-2016/17,” <https://perma.cc/UB35-EJF7>. For December 2017, see Tennessee Department of Correction, *Felon Population Reports*, 3 & table “Incarcerated Felon Population Projections v. Actual: Fiscal Years 2015/16-2017/18,” <https://perma.cc/WFJ9-BS5M>.

Texas: The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in response to a Vera public information request.

Utah: The jurisdictional populations for December 31, 2016 and 2017 were reported directly by the Utah Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request.

Virginia: Vera estimated the jurisdictional population for 2017 by adding the number of people in Virginia Department of Corrections custody on December 31, 2017 to the estimated number of people held in local jails under state jurisdiction, which was taken to be the same as the number in 2016. See Virginia Department of Corrections, *Monthly Population Summary December 2017*, 2 & table “Executive Summary,” <https://perma.cc/9Y89-WQWW>.

Vermont: The jurisdictional population for 2017 was reported directly by the Vermont Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. The jurisdictional population for 2016 is reported in Vermont Department of Corrections, *FY 2018 Budget Presentation*, 15 & figure “Vermont Inmate Population,” <https://perma.cc/3MC9-A5LY>.

Washington: The jurisdictional population for December 31, 2017 was reported directly by the Washington State Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. For the jurisdictional population for December 31, 2016, see Washington State Department of Corrections, *Fact Card December 31, 2016*, <https://perma.cc/PQH3-RQ8Z>.

West Virginia: The jurisdictional population for December 29, 2017 was reported directly by the West Virginia Division of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. For the jurisdictional population for December 2016, see West Virginia Division of Corrections, *Annual Report: FY2017*, 45 & table 5, <https://perma.cc/QF54-9WNF>.

Wisconsin: The jurisdictional populations include the total population in adult institutions and people held in county jails on probation and parole violations. For December 30, 2016, see State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections, *Offenders Under Control on 12-30-2016*, 1-2 & tables “Adult Institutions” and “Probation and Parole in Custody,” <https://perma.cc/WXF9-XL7L>. For December 29, 2017, see State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections, *Offenders Under Control on 12-29-2017*, 1-2 & tables “Adult Institutions” and “Probation and Parole in Custody,” <https://perma.cc/KY6S-5SNC>.

Wyoming: The jurisdictional population for 2017 was reported directly by the Wyoming Department of Corrections in response to a Vera public information request. For the jurisdictional population for 2016, see Wyoming Department of Corrections, *Annual Report*, 2, <https://perma.cc/2P5M-T9TC>.

Endnotes

- 1 All 2017 jurisdictional population estimates in this report are based on data collected by Vera, while pre-2017 estimates are from Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program. See generally Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Data Collection: National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program,” <https://perma.cc/2N6A-M2T9>. 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 2016* (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018), <https://perma.cc/C8QT-3ABW>.
- 3 U.S. Census Bureau, “Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017,” (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017), <https://perma.cc/NW6S-PBCB?type=image>; and U.S. Census Bureau, “National Intercensal Datasets: 2000-2010,” <https://perma.cc/93K9-2M5M>.

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