The Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC): Twenty Years of Data

Dr. Jennifer Bronson, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics
Karla Eisen, Senior Study Director, Project Director, SJIC, Westat
Ben Korelitz, Project Manager, SJIC, Westat
Dr. Art Martinez, Consultant, SJIC, Westat

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) - Mid Year Conference

June 26, 2019
Presentation Agenda

• Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC) purpose
• History of SJIC
• Survey universe, response rate, mode of collection, data validation
• Key findings and trends
• Access to data
• Future directions
SJIC Sponsorship

• The SJIC is conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

• Westat is the current data collection agent under a cooperative agreement with BJS.
SJIC Purpose

• Counts and describes all known Indian Country correctional facilities operated by tribal authorities or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

• Provides important correctional data in support of the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA)
  • TLOA requires BJS to (1) establish and implement a tribal data collection system, and (2) support tribal participation in national records and information systems.

• Part of the BJS’ Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities for correctional facilities

• Tribal facilities use SJIC data to document a need for funding for the Tribal Justice Systems Infrastructure Program (TJSIP).
  • Ex: Changes in average daily population over time
History of the SJIC

• First conducted in 1998 and is conducted annually (excluding 2005 and 2006).

• Westat has been the data collection agent since 2007.

• Originally collected data on the number of inmates, facility staffing, and facility characteristics and needs.

• The survey has expanded to include inmate admissions offenses, expanded population measurements (e.g. average daily population, offense categories).
Survey Universe and Response Rate

- Number of eligible facilities (excludes non-operational and out-of-scope facilities).
- Facility status (e.g., open, operational, closed) varies over time.

Table 1. SJIC survey universe and response rate, 2004-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Survey Universe</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Rate</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Mode of Data Collection

- Multi-mode (e.g., email, fax, phone)
- Increase use of response via email (fillable pdf survey)

#### Table 2. SJIC survey responses by year and mode, 2012-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-respondents</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Validation

• Survey data are validated annually to minimize measurement errors and missing data.

• Based on analysis of current and historical survey responses, some respondents are re-contacted to review identified survey items from initial submission or to verify a response.

• Allows respondents to add context to responses and improves the quality of the data.
SJIC Key Findings - Inmates

• At midyear 2016, about 2,540 inmates were held in Indian country jails. This number increased 43% from 1,775 people held in 2000.

• The average number of inmates per facility increased from 26 in 2000 to 32 in 2016.

• The number and percent of adult females held in Indian country jails have increased 55% from 280 (16%) in 2000 to 620 (24%) in 2016.

• The number and percent of juveniles held in Indian country jails have decreased from 280 (16%) in 2000 to 170 (7%) in 2016.

• At midyear 2016, 30% of inmates were held for a violent offense and 19% for public intoxication.
FIGURE 1
Inmates confined in Indian country jails, midyear 2000 and 2010–2016

Number of inmates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>At midyear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013*</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014*</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015*</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016*</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SJIC Key Findings – Facilities

• The number of Indian country facilities increased from 69 (2000) to 80 (2016).

• From June 2000 to June 2016, the overall rated capacity increased by 97%, twice the rate of the midyear inmate population (up 43%).

• The ratio of inmates to jail operations employees was about 2:1 at midyear 2016, and has been stable since 2010.

• At midyear 2016, Indian country jails employed 1,810 people, a 19% increase from the 1,469 employees in 2010.

• In 2016, about 71% of all jail employees were jail operations staff (i.e., correctional officers).

• In 2016, there were 23 facilities that held 50 or more inmates, compared to 9 facilities of this size in 2000.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility size</th>
<th>Number Facilities</th>
<th>Number Inmates</th>
<th>Percent Facilities</th>
<th>Percent Inmates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2,540</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 or fewer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–49</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 or more</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1,590</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* Based on the rated capacity, or the maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official. The rated capacity was imputed for five facilities that did not respond to the survey. See Methodology for imputation procedures.

*b* The number of inmates held on the last weekday in June. Data were imputed for nonresponse and rounded to the nearest 10.

SJIC Reports and Data Availability

• BJS publishes an annual SJIC report, “Jails in Indian Country.”
  • [https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=276](https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=276) (link to report series)

• Public access data sets:
  • [https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/series/158](https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/series/158)
  • Data are currently available from 1998 through 2016.
Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country Series

Investigator(s): Bureau of Justice Statistics

This series was begun in 1996 by the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics and was collected as a component of the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ). The purpose of this data series was to gather data on all adult and juvenile jail facilities and detention centers in Indian reservations, pueblos, rancherias, and other Native American and Alaska Native communities throughout the United States. The survey provides data on the number of inmates, staffing, and facility characteristics and operations of all confinement facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), United States Department of the Interior.

1. **Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 1996: [United States]** (ICPSR 2979)
   United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics
   Released/Updated: 2001-10-31

2. **Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 1998: [United States]** (ICPSR 2980)
   United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics
   Released/Updated: 2001-10-31

3. **Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2000: [United States]** (ICPSR 3196)
   United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics
   Released/Updated: 2003-02-19
Data Collection - Current Plans

• The 2018 SJIC is currently in the field.
  • 84 facilities were identified as eligible.
  • 75 have returned a completed survey so far.

• “Jails in Indian Country, 2017” – will be published soon.

• A new solicitation to fund SJIC data collections through 2020-2023 closed in May 2019.
SJIC - Future Directions

• Produce Data Profiles for facility respondents - Individualized with each facility’s data.

• Field the survey addendum (projected 2023)
  • Identification of new survey items
  • Cognitive testing of new survey items
Jails in Indian Country – Facility Profile

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SRC) includes all Indian country correctional facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. BJS has conducted the SRC annually since 1996, excluding 2004 and 2005. The SRC collects detailed information on inmate counts, movements, facility operations, and staff.

SAMPLE Facility

At current 2018 (9/30/18), an estimated 2,546 inmates were held in 80 Indian country jails, at 1.7% above the 2,560 inmates held at the end of 2017 (9/30/17). At current 2017 (9/30/17), 2,452 inmates were held in SAMPLE Facility, down 1.9% from the 2,502 inmates held on current 2016 (as the chart below shows).

The average daily populations recorded for the current 2018, 2017, and 2016 time periods are as follows:

- 2018: 85 inmates
- 2017: 88 inmates
- 2016: 89 inmates

The chart below shows the number of persons confined (occupied bed space) divided by annual capacity at the facility.

The chart below shows the number of persons confined (occupied bed space) divided by annual capacity at the facility.

SAMPLE Facility

For the overall average across all facilities, occupied bed space has declined from 85% of annual capacity at midyear 2005 to 65% at midyear 2018.

Percent of rated capacity occupied, by facility size. June 2016 average

Note: "Occupied bed space" for purposes of this analysis, is defined here as the number of inmates held on a given day. Average daily population on this day is the number of inmates averaged over that day. The term is used as a measure of the number of inmates in a given facility on a given day, and includes inmates from all sources. These results are not comparable to results from earlier years. The term "occupied bed space" is no longer used in Justice Statistics, and the survey of jails in Indian Country, 2016.
Stakeholder Engagement Discussion

• New facility identification and operational status.

• SJIC data profiles - Is this useful for Tribal leadership and planning?

• What survey items are important to your work and for your communities?

• What additional survey items would be useful (i.e., health services offered in jails)?

• Stakeholder Involvement/Talking Circles for survey item input and identification of cognitive testing
Contact Information

BJS → www.bjs.gov
Jennifer Bronson, PhD, Statistician
Jennifer.Bronson@usdoj.gov
202-616-8937

Westat → www.Westat.com
Karla Eisen, Project Director
KarlaEisen@westat.com
301-529-2388

Ben Korelitz, Project Manager
BenjaminKorelitz@Westat.com
301-294-4459