



U.S. Department of Justice
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The Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC): Twenty Years of Data

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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

Year	2004	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Active Survey Universe	68	83	82	79	75	80	79	79	79	76	80
Response Rate	90%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	94%	91%	94%

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

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Fax	72	64	66	62	57
E-mail	6	10	8	8	18
Mail	1	2	0	0	0
Phone	0	1	0	0	0
Non-respondents	0	2	5	7	5

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.

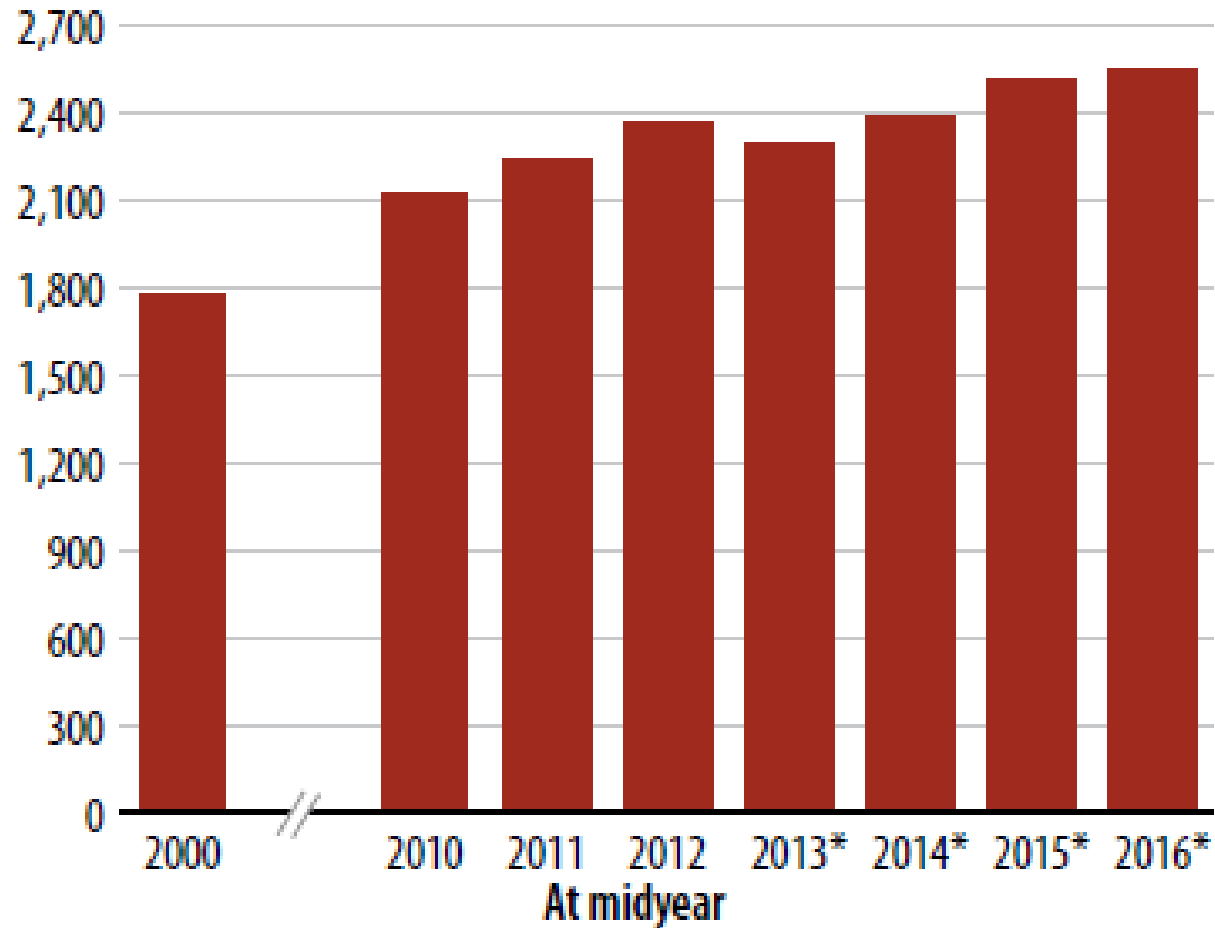
SJIC Key Findings - Inmates

- 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



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 3**Indian country jails and percent of inmate population, by facility size, midyear 2016**

Facility size ^a	Number		Percent	
	Facilities	Inmates ^b	Facilities	Inmates
Total	80	2,540	100%	100%
9 or fewer	5	10	6	0
10–24	20	210	25	8
25–49	32	730	40	29
50 or more	23	1,590	29	63

^aBased 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.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2016.



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> (link to report series)
- Public access data sets:
 - <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 1998 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.

- Studies
- Variables
- Publications

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	Study Title/ Investigator	Released/ Updated
1.	Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 1998: [United States] (ICPSR 2979) United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics more info	2001-10-31
2.	Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 1999: [United States] (ICPSR 2980) United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics more info	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	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

Sample Data Profile



Jails in Indian Country – Facility Profile

The Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC) 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 SJIC annually since 1998, excluding 2005 and 2006. The SJIC collects detailed information on inmate counts, movements, facility operations, and staff.

SAMPLE Facility

At midyear 2016 (6/30/16), an estimated 2,540 inmates were held in 80 Indian country jails, up 1.2% from the 2,510 inmates held at midyear 2015 (6/30/15) in 76 facilities.

At midyear 2017 (6/30/17), 46 inmates were held at SAMPLE Facility, down 17.9% from the 56 inmates held at midyear 2016 (as the chart below shows).

The average daily population represents the mean number of confined persons during a one-month period (June).

The chart below illustrates that, on average, 40 inmates were confined at SAMPLE Facility in June 2017, down 31% from the 58 inmates held, on average, in June 2016.


Number of Persons Confined (Q1)

Year	SAMPLE Facility	All Facilities (avg.)
2015	29	26.5
2016	56	29.8
2017	46	31.3

Average Daily Population (Q7a)

Year	SAMPLE Facility	All Facilities (avg.)
2015	36	28.9
2016	58	29.2
2017	40	28.5

The figure below maps the location and status of all facilities included in the SJIC universe.



The peak population represents the maximum number of confined persons during a one-month period (June).

The chart below shows that the highest number of inmates confined at SAMPLE Facility during June 2017 was 56, down 18.8% from the 69 inmates held in June 2016.

Peak Population (Q7c)

Year	SAMPLE Facility	All Facilities (avg.)
2015	49	37.3
2016	69	37.1
2017	56	37.9

SAMPLE Facility

The chart below shows the number of persons confined (occupied bed space) divided by rated capacity. At SAMPLE Facility, occupied bed space has risen 13% over a three-year period, from 97% of rated capacity at midyear 2015 to 110% at midyear 2017.

Per the overall average across all facilities, occupied bed space has declined from 86% of rated capacity at midyear 2000 to 62% at midyear 2016.

Occupied Bed Space over Rated Capacity, by year

Year	SAMPLE Facility	All Facilities (avg.)
2015	97%	64%
2016	112%	70%
2017	110%	83%

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

Facility size	Midyear ADP	Peak
Total	~60%	~85%
9 or fewer	~40%	~70%
10-24	~70%	~120%
25-49	~65%	~90%
50 or more	~60%	~80%

Note: Rated capacity is the maximum number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official. Midyear count is the number of inmates held on the last weekday in June. Average daily population (ADP) is the sum of the number of inmates confined in June, divided by 30. Peak population is the number of inmates held on the day in June in which the custody population of a facility was the largest. Data on inmate population and rated capacity were imputed for nonrespondents. See Methodology for imputation procedures.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual 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

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