

Eighty Indian country jails held an estimated 2,540 inmates at midyear 2016, which was up 1.2% from the 2,510 inmates held in 76 facilities at midyear 2015. Jails operating in Indian country increased from 68 facilities in 2004 to 80 in 2016. An estimated 1,280 jail operations employees oversaw inmates at midyear 2016, and the ratio of 1 jail operations employee for every 2 inmates has remained stable since 2010.

Jail facility trends

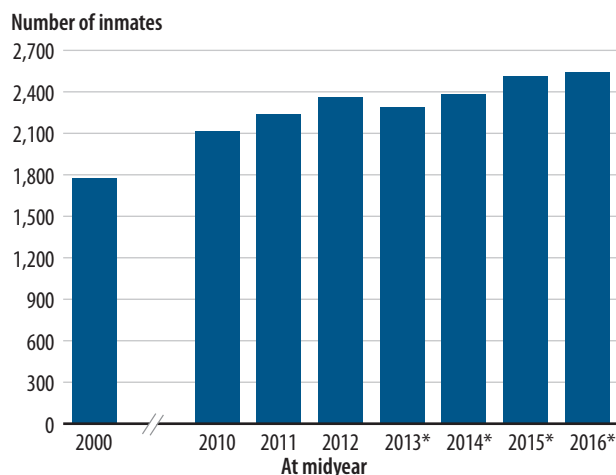
From midyear 2000 to midyear 2016, the overall rated capacity (up 97%) of Indian country jails grew at twice the rate of the midyear inmate population (up 43%). At midyear 2016, these facilities were rated to hold 4,090 inmates. This was an increase from 2015 (3,800) and nearly double the rated capacity in 2000 (2,076). On the most crowded day in June 2016, 27 Indian country jail facilities (34%) were operating above rated capacity, which was similar to 2015.

On average, each facility held 32 inmates at midyear 2016. This was similar to 2015 (33) but an increase from 2000 (26). At midyear 2016, the number of inmates held at each facility ranged from no inmates to 311, and 12 facilities held half of all inmates. The majority (91%) of Indian country jail inmates were held in 55 facilities rated to hold 25 inmates or more. Sixty-three percent of inmates were held in 23 facilities rated to hold 50 inmates or more.

Indian country jail admissions

An estimated 9,640 persons were admitted to Indian country jails in June 2016, which was down from 9,810 admissions in June 2015. The majority (84%) of admissions in June 2016 were to facilities rated to hold 25 inmates or more, which was down from 87% in June 2015. Jail admissions were nearly four times the size of the average daily population (ADP) in both June 2016 (2,480) and June 2015 (2,390). Overall, admissions declined and ADP increased, resulting in an increase in the expected average length of stay between June 2015 (about 7 days) and June 2016 (nearly 8 days).

Inmates confined in Indian country jails, midyear 2000 and 2010–2016



Note: Midyear count is the 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, 2000 and 2010–2016.

Inmate characteristics

From 2000 to 2016, demographic characteristics of Indian country jail inmates shifted. While males continued to make up the majority of Indian country jail inmates, the proportion of females increased from 20% of inmates in 2000 to 27% in 2016. The number of inmates age 17 or younger declined during this period, from 16% of the population in 2000 to fewer than 10% in 2013–2016.

Conviction status and most serious offense also changed in recent years. At midyear 2016, more than half (55%) of Indian country jail inmates were convicted, a decline from the peak observed in 2009 (69%). Each year from 2010 to 2016, 30% of inmates were held for a violent offense, down from 40% in 2007. The percentage of inmates held for DWI or DUI declined between 2000 (16%) and 2016 (7%). At midyear 2016, 8% of inmates were held for a drug violation, an increase to a level last observed in 2000.

The full report (*Jails in Indian Country, 2016*, NCJ 250981), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.