

Table 6.0010.2005

Deaths of prisoners in State correctional facilities

By cause of death and selected prisoner characteristics, 2001-2005^a

	State prisoner deaths					
	Total	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total ^b	15,308	2,878	2,946	3,167	3,138	3,179
Cause of death						
Illness	12,630	2,303	2,379	2,633	2,645	2,670
AIDS	1,023	270	245	210	145	153
Suicide	952	169	168	200	200	215
Homicide	244	39	48	50	51	56
Drug/alcohol intoxication	156	36	37	23	23	37
Accident	147	23	31	26	37	30
Other/unknown	156	38	38	25	37	18
Sex						
Male	14,660	2,773	2,811	3,039	3,001	3,036
Female	621	100	115	126	137	143
Race, Hispanic origin						
White, non-Hispanic	7,507	1,343	1,393	1,597	1,552	1,622
Black, non-Hispanic	5,864	1,159	1,151	1,205	1,187	1,162
Hispanic	1,620	314	330	311	330	335
Other/multiple races	262	52	46	45	68	51
Age						
Under 18 years	8	2	1	3	1	1
18 to 24 years	371	86	62	58	85	80
25 to 34 years	1,278	256	243	278	256	245
35 to 44 years	3,213	656	663	669	624	601
45 to 54 years	4,766	896	909	983	966	1,012
55 years and older	5,632	972	1,047	1,171	1,204	1,238

Note: These data are from the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program, which was launched by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in 2000 to implement the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-297). Data collection on deaths in local jail facilities began in 2000, followed by collection from State prison authorities in 2001. In 2002, collection of records of deaths from State juvenile correctional systems began. The U.S. Census Bureau has collected State data for BJS since 2003.

State prisons were instructed to report the death of any prisoner in their custody, even if the prisoner was held for other jurisdictions, such as county jail, another State, or the Federal Government. State prisoner death counts include deaths of any prisoners held in private facilities under contract to the State's department of correction. Deaths of prisoners in private facilities were counted in the State that had jurisdiction over the prisoner,

not the State where the private facility was located. State prisons also were instructed to include the death of any prisoner sent outside the prison facility for medical, mental health or substance abuse treatment services, or for work-release programs. Deaths of prisoners who were released on temporary furloughs or who had escaped the prison facility were excluded.

^aDetail may not add to total because of missing data.

^bThese data do not include deaths by execution.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Deaths in Custody Statistical Tables*, Table 1 and Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcrp/prisonindex.htm> [Aug. 16, 2007]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.