

Table 6.0010.2006

Deaths of prisoners in State correctional facilities

By cause of death and selected prisoner characteristics, 2001-2006<sup>a</sup>

	State prisoner deaths						
	Total	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total <sup>b</sup>	18,550	2,878	2,946	3,167	3,138	3,179	3,242
<b>Cause of death</b>							
Illness	15,335	2,303	2,379	2,633	2,645	2,670	2,705
AIDS	1,154	270	245	210	145	153	131
Suicide	1,172	169	168	200	200	215	220
Homicide	299	39	48	50	51	56	55
Drug/alcohol intoxication	213	36	37	23	23	37	57
Accident	180	23	31	26	37	30	33
Other/unknown	197	38	38	25	37	18	41
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	17,772	2,773	2,811	3,039	3,001	3,036	3,112
Female	751	100	115	126	137	143	130
<b>Race, Hispanic origin</b>							
White, non-Hispanic	9,135	1,343	1,393	1,597	1,552	1,622	1,628
Black, non-Hispanic	7,017	1,159	1,151	1,205	1,187	1,162	1,153
Hispanic	2,026	314	330	311	330	335	406
Other/multiple races	298	52	46	45	68	51	36
<b>Age</b>							
Under 18 years	9	2	1	3	1	1	1
18 to 24 years	431	86	62	58	85	80	60
25 to 34 years	1,529	256	243	278	256	245	251
35 to 44 years	3,776	656	663	669	624	601	563
45 to 54 years	5,829	896	909	983	966	1,012	1,063
55 years and older	6,936	972	1,047	1,171	1,204	1,238	1,304

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.

<sup>a</sup>Detail may not add to total because of missing data.

<sup>b</sup>These data do not include deaths by execution.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Deaths in Custody Statistical Tables, State Prison Deaths, 2001-2006*, Table 1 and Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcrp/tables/dcst06spt1.htm> and <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcrp/tables/dcst06spt4.htm> [July 3, 2008]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.