

2014 Alaska Department of Corrections Institutional Population

This article looks at highlights from the *2014 Alaska Offender Profile (Offender Profile)* published by the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC). All of the data in the report are point-in-time counts taken on either December 31 or June 30 of the year reported, as noted on the accompanying tables and figures. The focus here is on the 2014 *institutional population* (5,082 persons) defined as pretrial detainees, post-conviction inmates, and probation and/or parole violators housed in a correctional facility. (See “Alaska DOC: Unified Correctional System,” this page.) In 2014, 99.5 percent of Alaska’s institutional population were housed in Alaska, while the rest were housed in out-of-state facilities (Tables 1 and 2). From 2005 to 2014, the institutional population in the DOC system—housed in correctional facilities both in-state and out-of-state—increased by 20.1 percent.

Demographic Characteristics

Males comprise the majority of the DOC institutional population; Table 3 illustrates selected demographic characteristics of individuals in this population. Of the 5,082 persons in the total institutional population in 2014, 4,489 were male and 593 were female. Almost one third of the institutional population (60.3%) was sentenced, and 39.7 percent was unsentenced in 2014.

With regard to offense level, over three-quarters (76.0%) of the institutional population were charged with, or convicted of, a felony, and about 24 percent of a misdemeanor. Over one-third (36.3%) of the institutional population was in the age range of 25–34 years of

Alaska DOC: Unified Correctional System

Alaska is one of only six states with a *unified system of corrections*. The Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for providing supervision/custody for both *pretrial/pre-sentencing custody* and *post-sentencing incarceration*. In many other jurisdictions, pretrial/pre-sentencing populations are the responsibility of county jail systems. Typically, offenders in the pretrial/pre-sentencing population may remain in custody for much shorter time periods as compared to post-conviction sentenced offenders who are in continuing custody. In Alaska, it is not unusual to have pretrial detention, pre-sentencing custody, and post-sentencing custody occurring in the same facility—all of these populations comprise the DOC *institutional population*. DOC is also responsible for community supervision functions (community residential centers (CRCs) and electronic monitoring (EM)), and the Division of Probation and Parole is part of DOC.

All the above populations are part of the total correctional population under the authority of DOC, and each population has its own distinct characteristics and impact on growth and costs in the correctional system. According to the *2014 Alaska Offender Profile*, the populations under DOC authority in that year included the institutional population (5,082), as well as offenders in CRCs (675), in EM programs (390), and on probation and/or parole (5,981)—totaling 12,128 persons.

age. A little over 43 percent were in custody for 6 months or less between their admit date and June 30, 2014, and nearly 23 percent of the institutional population were in custody for 37 months or more (data not shown).

In terms of race/ethnicity, about 46 percent of the institutional population were White; nearly 37 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native; almost 10 percent were Black or African American; just over 4 percent were Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; and Hispanics/Latinos were just under 3 percent of this population (Table 3). Members of two minority groups, American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African Americans, were in custody at levels disproportionate to their percentages in the general population. Ac-

ording to the 2010 U.S. Census, American Indians or Alaska Natives comprised about 15–19 percent of Alaska’s *general population*, and Black or African Americans were 3–5 percent. In contrast, almost 37 percent of the institutional population in 2014 was American Indian or Alaska Native, and nearly 10 percent was Black or African American.

Offenders by Class of Offense

The *Offender Profile* reports the class of offense with which individuals in the institutional population have been charged or convicted. Table 4 shows the offense class, the number of persons in the institutional population charged with, or convicted of, each offense, and the change in the number of

Table 1. Institutional Population under the Authority of the Alaska Department of Corrections, 2005–2014

Includes both sentenced and unsentenced inmates in both jails and prisons.

Row percentages.

	Housed in-state		Housed out-of-state		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2005 ^a	3,447	81.5 %	784	18.5 %	4,231
2006 ^a	3,359	76.9	1,010	23.1	4,369
2007 ^a	3,633	80.7	869	19.3	4,502
2008 ^a	3,377	79.0	897	21.0	4,274
2009 ^a	3,643	81.1	847	18.9	4,490
2010 ^a	3,680	78.8	991	21.2	4,671
2011 ^a	3,663	77.4	1,071	22.6	4,734
2012 ^a	3,800	78.3	1,051	21.7	4,851
2013 ^b	4,669	92.8	362	7.2	5,031
2014 ^b	5,058	99.5	24	0.5	5,082

a. 2005–2012 counts are as of December 31 of reporting year.

b. 2013–2014 counts are as of June 30 of reporting year.

Source of data: 2005–2014 *Offender Profiles*, Alaska Department of Corrections

Table 2. Institutional Population under the Authority of the Alaska Department of Corrections, by Institution, June 30, 2014

Includes both sentenced and unsentenced inmates in both jails and prisons.

	Female	Male	Total
In-state	590	4,468	5,058
Anchorage Correctional Complex	30	820	850
Anvil Mountain Correctional Center (Nome)	12	103	115
Fairbanks Correctional Center	28	229	257
Goose Creek Correctional Center (Wasilla)	—	1,369	1,369
Hiland Mountain Correctional Center (Eagle River)	415	—	415
Ketchikan Correctional Center	17	54	71
Lemon Creek Correctional Center (Juneau)	34	214	248
Mat-Su Pretrial Facility (Palmer)	15	97	112
Palmer Correctional Center	—	492	492
Spring Creek Correctional Center (Seward)	—	525	525
Wildwood Correctional Center (Kenai)	28	381	409
Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center (Bethel)	11	184	195
Out -of-state	3	21	24
Colorado State Prisons	1	4	5
Federal Bureau of Prisons	2	17	19
Total	593	4,489	5,082

Source of data: 2014 *Alaska Offender Profile*, Alaska Department of Corrections

Table 3. Institutional Population under the Authority of the Alaska Department of Corrections, June 30, 2014: Demographic Characteristics

Includes both sentenced and unsentenced prisoners in both jails and prisons.

Column percentages.

	Female (N = 593)		Male (N = 4,489)		Total (N = 5,082)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Offense level					
Felony	376	63.4 %	3,486	77.7 %	3,862	76.0 %
Misdemeanor	215	36.3	999	22.3	1,214	23.9
Violation	2	0.3	4	0.1	6	0.1
Legal status						
Sentenced	301	50.8 %	2,763	61.6 %	3,064	60.3 %
Unsentenced	292	49.2	1,726	38.4	2,018	39.7
Primary race/ethnicity						
White	314	53.0 %	2,040	45.4 %	2,354	46.3 %
American Indian/ Alaska Native	220	37.1	1,657	36.9	1,877	36.9
Black/African American	35	5.9	469	10.4	504	9.9
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	19	3.2	195	4.3	214	4.2
Hispanic/Latino	5	0.8	128	2.9	133	2.6
Age						
19 years and under	6	1.0 %	60	1.3 %	66	1.3 %
20–24 years	88	14.8	616	13.7	704	13.9
25–29 years	142	23.9	808	18.0	950	18.7
30–34 years	130	21.9	761	17.0	891	17.5
35–39 years	73	12.3	505	11.2	578	11.4
40–44 years	62	10.5	461	10.3	523	10.3
45–49 years	40	6.7	429	9.6	469	9.2
50–54 years	35	5.9	379	8.4	414	8.1
55–59 years	9	1.5	247	5.5	256	5.0
60–64 years	4	0.7	121	2.7	125	2.5
65 years and over	4	0.7	102	2.3	106	2.1
Mean age	37.42 years		Median age		34.53 years	

Source of data: 2014 Alaska Offender Profile and additional data from the Alaska Department of Corrections

persons charged with, or convicted of, each offense class from 2005 to 2014.

By offense class, the largest increase in the institutional population over the period was for those charged with, or convicted of, sex offenses. There was a 54.6 percent increase in the institutional population charged with, or convicted of, sex offenses—from 353 persons in 2005 to 778 in 2014. The institutional population charged with, or convicted of, drug offenses rose 35.6 percent in 2014—increasing from 279 persons in 2005 to 433 in 2014. The next highest increases in the institutional population were for those charged with, or convicted of, property offenses (27.8%), person offenses (21.2%), and weapons offenses (21.2%). For public order/administration offenses, the institutional population increased 10.9 percent, while for probation/parole offenses, there was a slight increase of 1.9 percent in the institutional population over the period. The institutional population charged with, or convicted of, alcohol offenses decreased by 7.4 percent from 2005 to 2014—from 365 individuals to 340.

Figure 1 illustrates the proportion in the

institutional population by offense category in 2005 and 2014. The proportion of the institutional population in custody for sex offenses increased from 8.8 percent in 2005 to 15.3 percent in 2014. There were slight increases in the proportion of the institutional population charged with, or convicted of, drug crimes (increasing from 7.0% in 2005 to 8.5% in 2014) and for property crimes (increasing from 11.4% in 2005 to 12.4% in 2014). The proportion of the institutional population in custody for person crimes remained stable over the period at about 26 percent, while the proportion of the institutional population charged with, or convicted of, weapons offenses also stayed the same—at 1.3 percent. The proportion of the institutional population charged with, or convicted of, parole/probation offenses dropped from 20.2 percent in 2005 to 16.2 percent in 2014;

Table 4. Institutional Population under the Authority of the Alaska Department of Corrections, by Offense Class, 2005 and 2014

Custody count as of June 30 of reporting year.

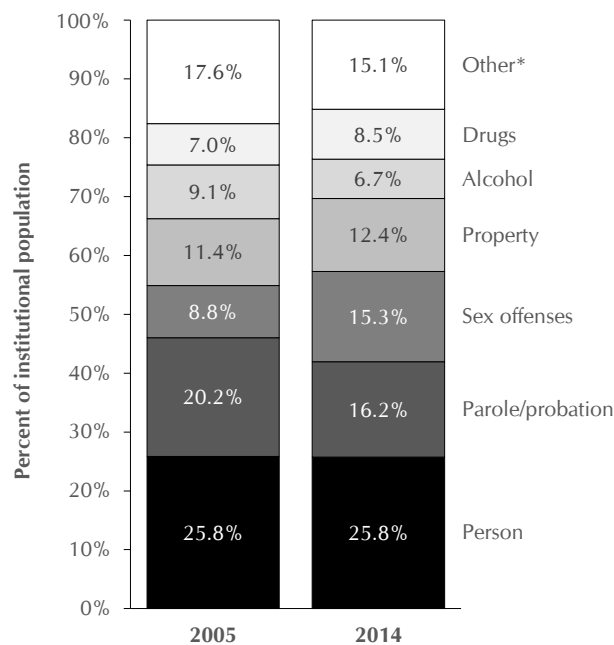
Column percentages.

Offense class (most serious offense)	2005	2014	% change 2005–2014
Person	1,032	1,309	21.2 %
Parole/probation	808	824	1.9
Sex offenses	353	778	54.6
Property	455	630	27.8
Public order/administration	480	539	10.9
Alcohol	365	340	-7.4
Drugs	279	433	35.6
Transportation (traffic/driving)	171	163	-4.9
Weapons	52	66	21.2
Fish & Game violation	1	—	—
Total	3,996	5,082	

Source of data: 2005 data from Alaska Department of Corrections; 2014 Alaska Offender Profile, Alaska Department of Corrections

Figure 1. Proportion of Alaska Department of Corrections Institutional Population by Offense Class, 2005 and 2014

Based on count of incarcerated population as of June 30 of reporting year.



* Other offense classes include: public order/administration; transportation (traffic/driving); weapons; and Fish & Game violation.

Source of data: 2005 data from Alaska Department of Corrections; 2014 Alaska Offender Profile, Alaska Department of Corrections

the proportion charged with, or convicted of, alcohol offenses declined from 9.1 percent to 6.7 percent, while the proportion charged with, or convicted of, public order/administration offenses fell from 12 percent to 10.6 percent.

A copy of the full report is available at http://www.correct.state.ak.us/admin/docs/Final_2014_Profile.pdf.