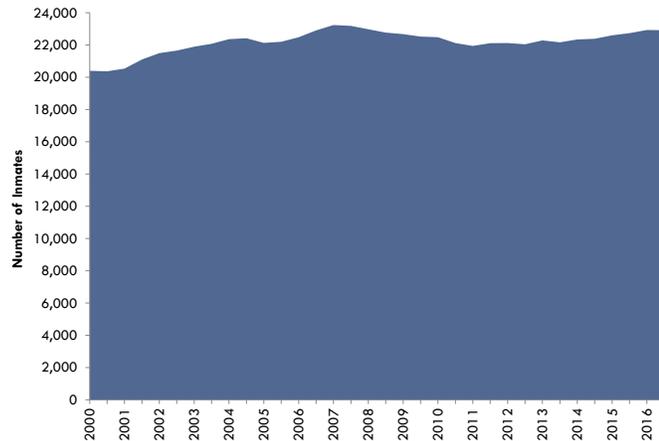




# WISCONSIN PRISON POINT-IN-TIME POPULATIONS: 2000-2016

The point-in-time population numbers presented below are “snapshots” of the prison population taken two times each year, that include inmates who were physically present in Wisconsin adult prisons or contracted facilities from 2000 to 2016. Point-in-time population counts exclude inmates who were in a prison or contracted facility for a temporary hold.

The prison population grew from 20,366 to 23,124 inmates between 2000 and 2016, a 13.5% increase. The population peaked in 2007 at 23,236 inmates, and then decreased until 2011 when it began to increase again.



## Highlights:

**Gender.** Males have consistently made up the majority (between 93% and 94%) of the prison population.

**Race.** Since 2000, White inmates have made up the largest proportion of the prison population at every point-in-time. At the end of 2016, White inmates made up 53.4% of the population while Black inmates made up 41.5%.

**Age.** From December of 2000 to 2016, the proportion of all inmates aged 45 or older increased by 120.9% (from 2,627 to 6,590 inmates). During that same time, the proportion of inmates aged 24 or younger decreased by 47.9% (from 5,184 to 3,066 inmates).

**Most Serious Offense.** Inmates whose most serious offense was a violent offense have consistently made up the majority of the prison population. In 2016, inmates with a violent offense represented 66.0% of the prison population, followed by those with a property offense (13.9%), drug offense (10.7%), and a public order offense (9.3%) as their most serious offense.

**Any Drug, Sex, or OWI Offense.** The percentage of drug offenders in prison has remained relatively consistent (around 20% of all inmates) from 2000 to 2016. The percentage of sex offenders has increased slightly from 20.1% in 2000 to 24.1% in 2016. The percentage of OWI offenders has increased substantially, from 3.2% in 2000 to 8.9% in 2016.

**Time Left to Serve.** Between 2000 and 2016, the percentage of inmates with less than five years left to serve decreased by 10.2%, whereas the percentage of inmates with five or more years left to serve increased by 28.1%.

**Inmates Serving Life Sentences.** The number of inmates serving a life sentence has increased from 700 inmates in December 2000 to 1,176 in December 2016.

For more detail, see the full Prison Point-in-Time Populations report on the WI DOC website: [Prison Point-in-Time Populations: 2000-2016](#)

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to the Data and Research Inquiries mailbox: [WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov](mailto:WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov)