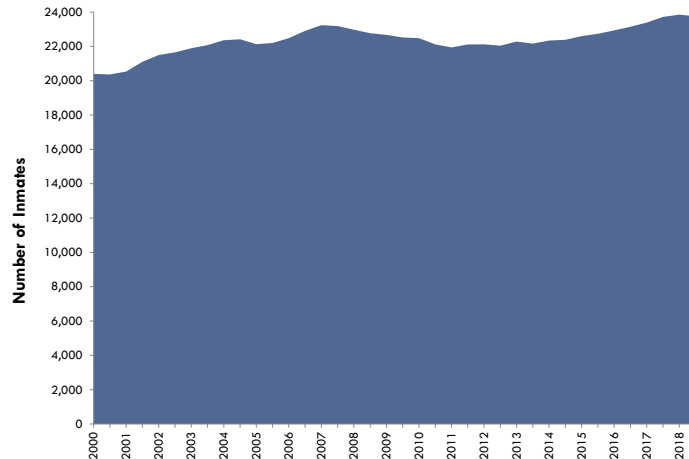




# WISCONSIN PRISON POINT-IN-TIME POPULATIONS: 2000-2018

The point-in-time population numbers presented below are “snapshots” of the prison population taken two times each year and include inmates who were physically present in Wisconsin adult prisons or contracted facilities from 2000 to 2018. 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 23,755 inmates between 2000 and 2018, a 16.6% increase. The population peaked in 2007 at 23,184 inmates, and then decreased until 2011 when it began to increase again.



## Highlights:

**Gender.** Males have consistently made up the majority (between 93% and 95%) 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 2018, White inmates made up 52.6% of the population while Black inmates made up 42.1%.

**Age.** From December of 2000 to 2018, the proportion of inmates aged 45 or older increased by 125.8% (from 12.8% to 28.9%). During that same time, the proportion of inmates aged 24 or younger decreased by 53.5% (from 25.4% to 11.8%).

**Most Serious Offense.** Inmates whose most serious offense was a violent offense have consistently made up the majority of the prison population. In 2018, inmates with a violent offense represented 67.7% of the prison population, followed by those with a property offense (12.6%), drug offense (11.2%), and a public order offense (8.5%) as their most serious offense.

**Any Drug, Sex, or OWI Offense.** The percentage of drug offenders in prison has remained around 20% of inmates from 2000 to 2018, reaching a low of 17.8% in 2013. In that same timeframe, the percentage of sex offenders has increased from 20.1% to 24.9%, and the percentage of OWI offenders has increased from 3.2% to 8.3%.

**Time Left to Serve.** Between 2000 and 2018, the proportion of inmates with less than five years left to serve decreased by 11.6%, whereas the proportion of inmates with five or more years left to serve increased by 38.9%.

**Inmates Serving Life Sentences.** The number of inmates serving a life sentence has increased from 921 inmates in December 2000 to 1,197 in December 2018.

For more details, see the full Prison Point-in-Time Populations report on the WI DOC website: [Prison Point-in-Time Populations: 2000-2018](#)

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