

WHO IS IN STATE JAIL?

SELECT DATA FOR THOSE ON-HAND AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

ID: 541

FEBRUARY 2013

OBJECTIVE

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) statutory mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime. TDCJ is organized into multiple divisions and organizational units. Five of the agency's divisions carry out its major responsibilities regarding offenders: the Community Justice Assistance Division, the Correctional Institutions Division, the Rehabilitation Programs Division, the Reentry and Integration Division, and the Parole Division.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ 77.8 percent of state jail offenders are male.
- ◆ Approximately one-third of state jail offenders are African American and approximately one-third are White.
- ◆ 51.4 percent of state jail offenders were incarcerated for a property offense.
- ◆ Of those incarcerated for a property offense 50.6 percent were incarcerated for larceny, 17.6 percent were incarcerated for burglary, and 11.5 percent were for forgery.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Government Code, Chapter 491

The data highlight general demographic characteristics of offenders in state jail facilities as of August 31, 2012. State jails house offenders convicted of state jail felonies. The punishment range for these offenders can range from 180 days to two years. The data do not include characteristics of prison offenders, Substance Abuse Felony Punishment participants, or parole violators in Intermediate Sanction facilities. The data were extracted from individual-level records submitted by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Executive Services and may differ from the TDCJ Statistical Report due to methodological differences.

GENDER

FIG. 1
GENDER OF THE STATE JAIL POPULATION, AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012

GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Male	9,125	77.8%
Female	2,604	22.2
Total	11,729	100.0%

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

FIG. 2
RACE AND ETHNICITY OF THE STATE JAIL POPULATION, AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012

GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
African American	4,237	36.1%
Hispanic	3,183	27.1
White	4,243	36.2
Other	66	0.6
Total	11,729	100.0%

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

OFFENSE CATEGORIZATION**FIG. 3
OFFENSE CATEGORIZATION, AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**

OFFENSE CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Violent	151	1.3%
Property	6,025	51.4
Drug	3,893	33.2
Other	1,660	14.2
Total	11,729	100.0%

NOTE: Percentages presented in this report do not always add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

KEY TERMS

Gender: A demographic variable in which offenders are classified as either male or female.

Race and Ethnicity: A demographic variable in which offenders are classified as African American, Hispanic, White or Other.

Offense Categorization: A demographic variable in which offenses are classified as violent, property, drug, or other. Violent offenses include homicide, kidnapping, and sexual assault, sexual assault against a child, robbery, and assault/terroristic threat. Property offenses include arson, burglary, larceny, stolen vehicle, forgery, fraud, and stolen/damaged property. Drug offenses include drug delivery, drug possession, and other drug offenses. Other offenses include commercialized sex offense, driving while intoxicated, escape or evading arrest, failure to register as a sex offender, family offense, sex offense against a child, obstruction/public order, weapons offense, and any other offense not previously mentioned.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/>

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Statistical Report FY2012

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Statistical_Report_FY2012.pdf

CONTACT

Laurie Molina or Jamie Gardner Email: Issuebrief@lbb.state.tx.us