



pennsylvania
COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY

2016

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREND REPORT SERIES:
County Prison Population

County Prison Population

Offenders sentenced to a maximum sentence of less than two years confinement serve their time in county prisons while those with five years or more are sentenced to state prison. Judges have discretion as to where to sentence offenders with a maximum confinement sentence of between two and five years.

Several factors should be considered in analyzing county prison population. First, county prison population data are limited to average daily population. Given the shorter sentences and faster turnaround of offenders, this is a more relevant measure. Second, the population data reflect the counties where offenders are housed and not necessarily the home counties of offenders or the sentencing counties. Some counties house offenders for other counties (such as Bedford, Clinton, Elk, Franklin, Warren, and Wyoming). This may reflect in seemingly higher incarceration rates for those counties. Third, five counties do not have county prisons: Cameron, Forest, Fulton, Juniata, and Sullivan. Lastly, data are not available annually for a few counties. In this instance, the most recent data are used.

Population

Pennsylvania's 2016 total average daily county prison population was 34,145 or 267.1 offenders per 100,000 population. The population decreased 1.4 percent since 2015 and 2.5 percent since 2007 (Figure 1).

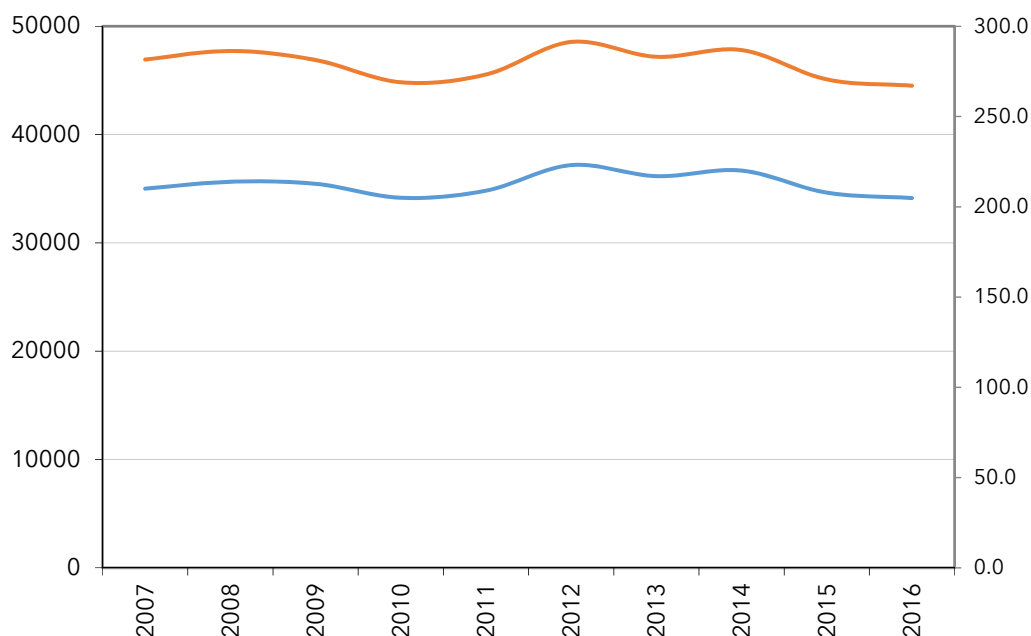


Figure 1. Number and rate per 100,000 population of average daily county prison population in Pennsylvania 2007 to 2016.

Table 1. Total average daily prison population and rate of county prisoners per 100,000
Population in Pennsylvania 2007 to 2016.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number	35,010	35,645	35,459	34,167	34,823	37,185	36,161	36,679	34,638	34,145
Rate	281.6	286.3	281.3	269.0	273.3	291.3	283.1	286.8	270.6	267.1

County Population

In Pennsylvania during 2016, five counties did not have a county prison. The average daily county prison population totals for counties with prisons ranged from 24 offenders in Montour County to 7,244 offenders in Philadelphia County (Table 2).

Table 2. Average daily county prison population in Pennsylvania 2016.

County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate
Adams	305	Clinton	220	Lackawanna	903	Pike	325
Allegheny	2,301	Columbia	198	Lancaster	960	Potter	39
Armstrong	147	Crawford	249	Lawrence	225	Schuylkill	253
Beaver	338	Cumberland	407	Lebanon	513	Snyder	112
Bedford	172	Dauphin	1,036	Lehigh	972	Somerset	95
Berks	1,024	Delaware	1,754	Luzerne	631	Sullivan	0
Blair	313	Elk	57	Lycoming	367	Susquehanna	66
Bradford	188	Erie	694	McKean	78	Tioga	89
Bucks	772	Fayette	231	Mercer	271	Union	29
Butler	352	Forest	0	Mifflin	161	Venango	163
Cambria	567	Franklin	441	Monroe	335	Warren	116
Cameron	0	Fulton	0	Montgomery	1,917	Washington	389
Carbon	226	Greene	71	Montour	24	Wayne	123
Centre	269	Huntingdon	43	Northampton	678	Westmoreland	617
Chester	817	Indiana	143	Northumberland	177	Wyoming	84
Clarion	113	Jefferson	149	Perry	120	York	2,327
Clearfield	145	Juniata	0	Philadelphia	7,244		

County Rates

County prison population rates per 100,000 ranged from 63.6 in Union County to 584.9 in Pike County (Figure 2). There were twenty-five counties with a rate higher than the Pennsylvania rate of 267.1 (Table 3).

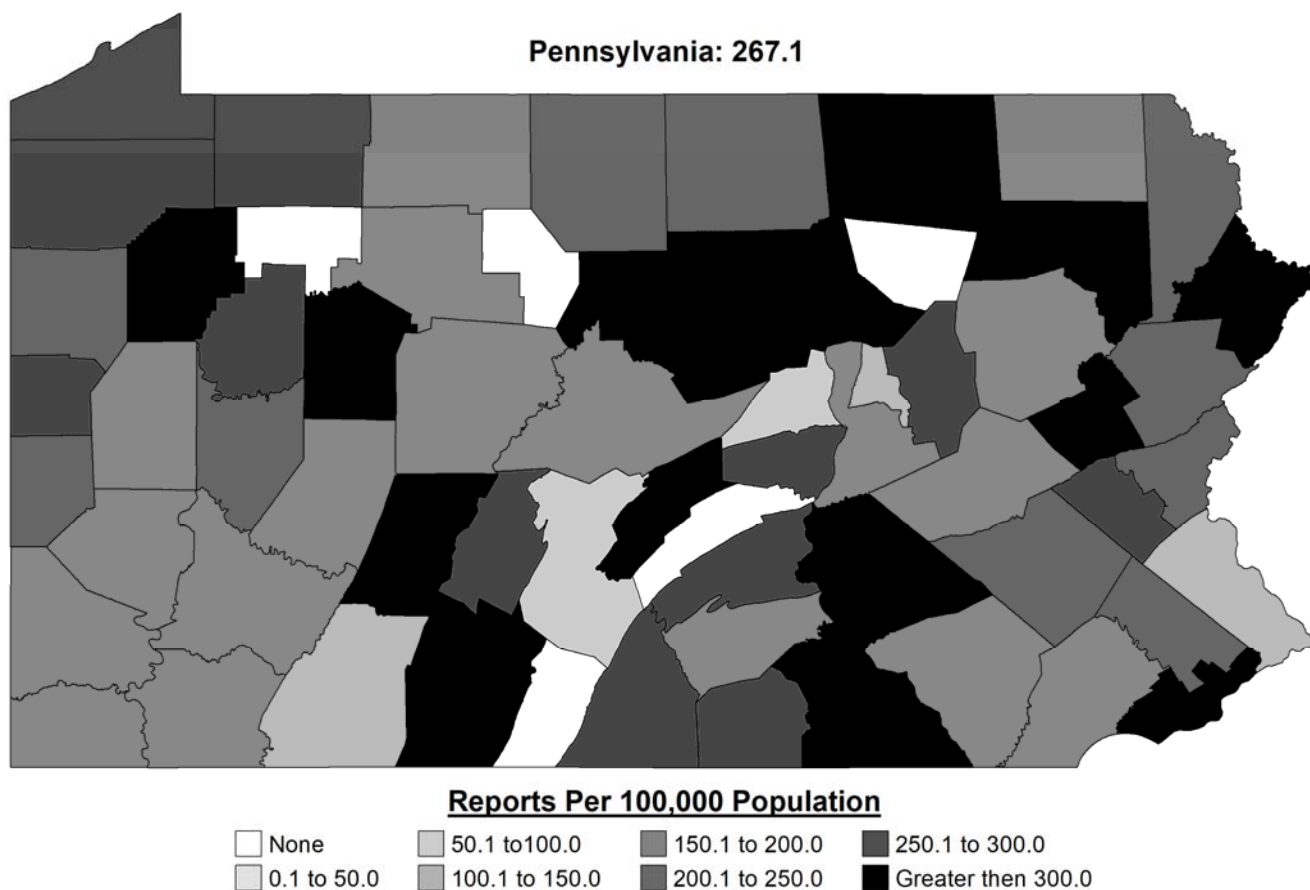


Figure 2. Average county prison population per 100,000 county population in Pennsylvania for 2016.

Table 3. Average daily county prison population per 100,000 county population in Pennsylvania 2016.

County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate
Adams	298.5	Clinton	560.8	Lackawanna	427.3	Pike	584.9
Allegheny	187.8	Columbia	298.1	Lancaster	178.3	Potter	231.0
Armstrong	221.1	Crawford	288.7	Lawrence	257.7	Schuylkill	176.2
Beaver	201.9	Cumberland	163.8	Lebanon	369.4	Snyder	276.8
Bedford	355.9	Dauphin	378.5	Lehigh	267.7	Somerset	126.6
Berks	246.9	Delaware	311.3	Luzerne	199.4	Sullivan	0.0
Blair	251.1	Elk	187.0	Lycoming	318.4	Susquehanna	161.5
Bradford	309.4	Erie	251.3	McKean	186.2	Tioga	214.6
Bucks	123.2	Fayette	174.0	Mercer	240.0	Union	63.6
Butler	188.4	Forest	0.0	Mifflin	347.4	Venango	310.0
Cambria	420.8	Franklin	286.6	Monroe	201.7	Warren	289.8
Cameron	0.0	Fulton	0.0	Montgomery	233.3	Washington	187.0
Carbon	355.4	Greene	190.9	Montour	130.8	Wayne	242.6
Centre	166.6	Huntingdon	94.2	Northampton	224.3	Westmoreland	173.6
Chester	158.2	Indiana	165.6	Northumberland	191.3	Wyoming	305.2
Clarion	293.4	Jefferson	338.1	Perry	261.9	York	524.4
Clearfield	179.9	Juniata	0.0	Philadelphia	462.0		