



pennsylvania

COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY

2015

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. Last, data are not available annually for a few counties. In this instance, the most recent data are used.

Population

Pennsylvania's 2015 total average daily county prison population was 34,638 or 270.6 offenders per 100,000 population. The population decreased 5.6 percent since 2014 and 1.7 percent since 2006 (Figure 1).

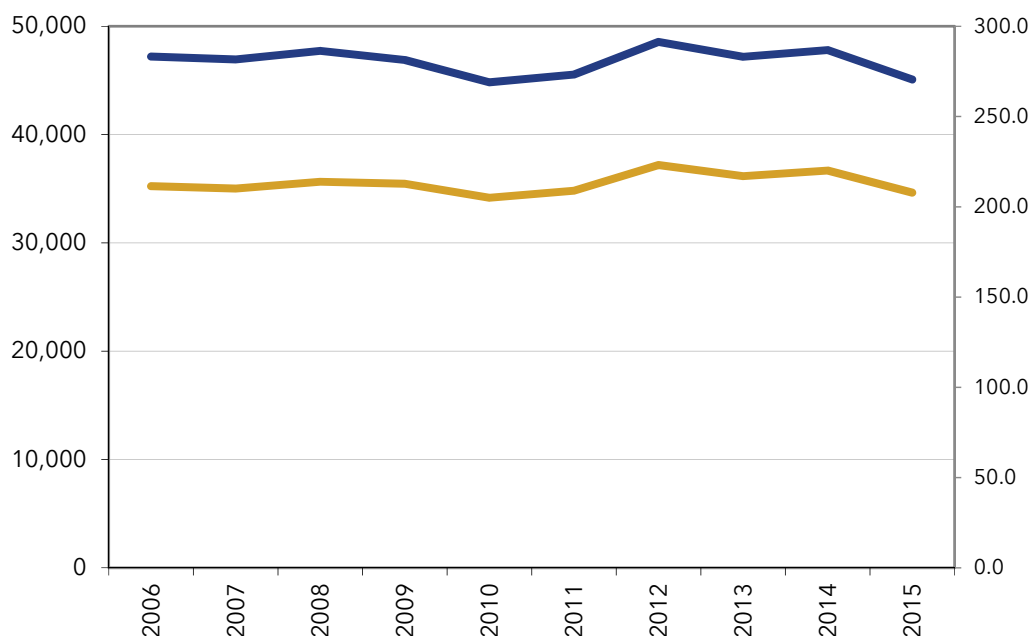


Figure 1. Number and rate per 100,000 population of average daily county prison population in Pennsylvania 2006 to 2015.

Table 1. Total average daily prison population and rate of county prisoners per 100,000
Population in Pennsylvania 2006 to 2015.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number	35,228	35,010	35,645	35,459	34,167	34,823	37,185	36,161	36,679	34,638
Rate	283.2	281.6	286.3	281.3	269.0	273.3	291.3	283.1	286.8	270.6

County Population

In Pennsylvania during 2015, five counties did not have a county prison. The average daily county prison population totals for counties with prisons ranged from 31 offenders in Montour County to 7,461 offenders in Philadelphia County (Table 2).

Table 2. Average daily county prison population in Pennsylvania 2006.

County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate
Adams	270	Clinton	226	Lackawanna	890	Pike	284
Allegheny	2,410	Columbia	223	Lancaster	960	Potter	42
Armstrong	156	Crawford	248	Lawrence	243	Schuylkill	305
Beaver	338	Cumberland	392	Lebanon	548	Snyder	104
Bedford	138	Dauphin	1,028	Lehigh	1,023	Somerset	93
Berks	1,171	Delaware	1,855	Luzerne	693	Sullivan	0
Blair	320	Elk	70	Lycoming	383	Susquehanna	65
Bradford	182	Erie	654	McKean	73	Tioga	83
Bucks	756	Fayette	238	Mercer	273	Union	34
Butler	372	Forest	0	Mifflin	151	Venango	139
Cambria	519	Franklin	401	Monroe	324	Warren	121
Cameron	0	Fulton	0	Montgomery	1,998	Washington	390
Carbon	195	Greene	71	Montour	31	Wayne	97
Centre	289	Huntingdon	44	Northampton	662	Westmoreland	580
Chester	893	Indiana	170	Northumberland	127	Wyoming	66
Clarion	105	Jefferson	128	Perry	119	York	2,277
Clearfield	137	Juniata	0	Philadelphia	7,461		

County Rates

County prison population rates per 100,000 ranged from 75.6 in Union County to 573.0 in Clinton County (Figure 2). There were twenty-one counties with a rate higher than the Pennsylvania rate of 270.6 (Table 3).

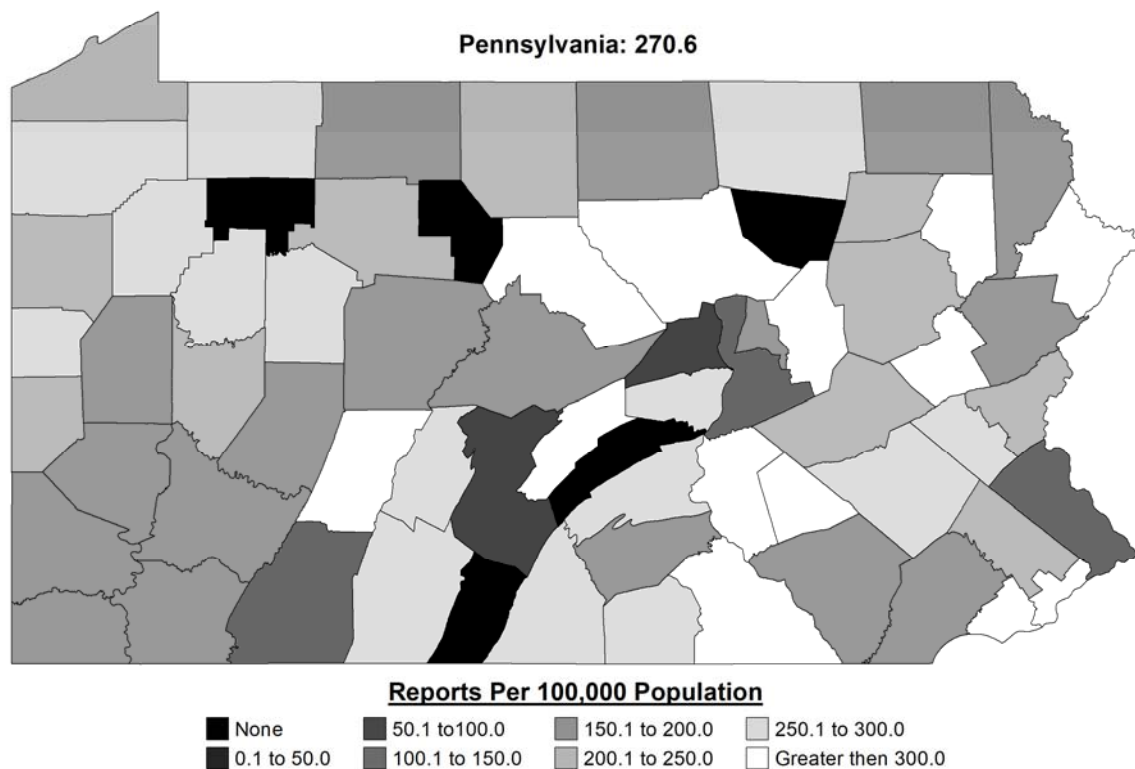


Figure 2. Average county prison population per 100,000 county population in Pennsylvania for 2015.

Table 3. Average daily county prison population per 100,000 county population in Pennsylvania 2006.

County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate
Adams	263.9	Clinton	573.0	Lackawanna	420.0	Pike	507.6
Allegheny	195.9	Columbia	334.5	Lancaster	178.9	Potter	245.7
Armstrong	232.7	Crawford	286.8	Lawrence	275.9	Schuylkill	210.9
Beaver	200.2	Cumberland	159.1	Lebanon	399.8	Snyder	257.1
Bedford	284.0	Dauphin	376.6	Lehigh	283.6	Somerset	123.1
Berks	282.0	Delaware	329.0	Luzerne	217.6	Sullivan	0.0
Blair	254.8	Elk	226.7	Lycoming	330.0	Susquehanna	156.0
Bradford	297.0	Erie	235.2	McKean	172.1	Tioga	198.2
Bucks	120.5	Fayette	178.1	Mercer	239.0	Union	75.6
Butler	199.1	Forest	0.0	Mifflin	324.7	Venango	261.7
Cambria	380.5	Franklin	261.0	Monroe	194.7	Warren	299.5
Cameron	0.0	Fulton	0.0	Montgomery	243.9	Washington	187.3
Carbon	304.9	Greene	189.2	Montour	167.1	Wayne	189.5
Centre	180.0	Huntingdon	96.3	Northampton	220.1	Westmoreland	162.0
Chester	173.1	Indiana	195.5	Northumberland	136.2	Wyoming	237.4
Clarion	265.8	Jefferson	288.1	Perry	260.5	York	514.1
Clearfield	169.1	Juniata	0.0	Philadelphia	476.0		