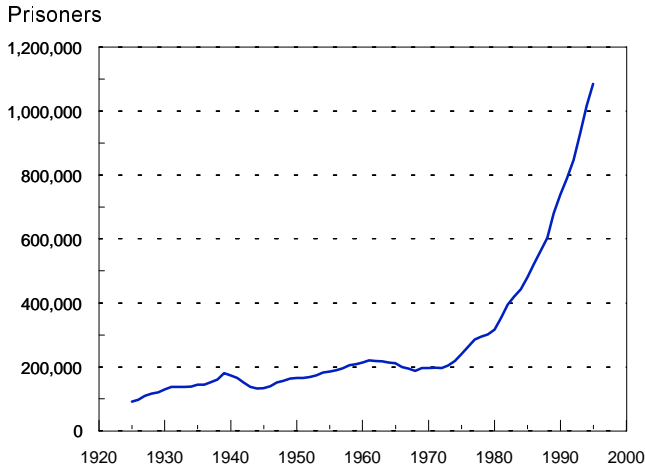


Figure 6.1

Sentenced prisoners in State and Federal institutions on December 31

United States, 1925-95



Note: Prison population data were compiled by a yearend census of prisoners held in custody in State and Federal institutions. Data for 1925 through 1939 include sentenced prisoners in State and Federal prisons and reformatories whether committed for felonies or misdemeanors. Data for 1940 through 1970 include all adult felons serving sentences in State and Federal institutions. Since 1971, the census has included all adults or youthful offenders sentenced to a State or Federal correctional institution with maximum sentences of over 1 year.

Beginning on Dec. 31, 1978, a distinction was made between prisoners "in custody" and prisoners "under jurisdiction." As defined in a 1978 report (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1978*, NPS Bulletin SD-NPS-PSF-6 (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1980)), "in custody" refers to the direct physical control and responsibility for the body of a confined person. "Under jurisdiction" is defined as follows: A State or Federal prison system has jurisdiction over a person if it retains the legal power to incarcerate the person in one of its own prisons. Jurisdiction is not determined by the inmate's physical location; jurisdiction is determined by the legal authority to hold the inmate. Examples of prisoners under the jurisdiction of a given system, but not in its custody, are those housed in local jails, in other States, or in hospitals (including mental health facilities) outside the correctional system; inmates on work release, furlough, or bail; and State prisoners held in Federal prisons or vice versa.

For information on methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 4.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners 1925-81*, Bulletin NCJ-85861, p. 2; *Prisoners in 1983*, Bulletin NCJ-92949, p. 3 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice); U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1985*, NCJ-103957, Table 5.1; *1986*, NCJ-111611, Table 5.1; *1987*, NCJ-118762, Table 5.1; *1988*, NCJ-124280, Table 5.1; *1989*, NCJ-130445, Table 5.1; *1990*, NCJ-135946, Table 5.1; *1991*, NCJ-142729, Table 5.1 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992*, NCJ-146413, Table 5.1; *1993*, NCJ-156241, Table 5.1; *1994*, NCJ-160091, Table 5.1; *1995*, NCJ-163916, Table 5.1 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice). Figure constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.