

WHO IS IN PRISON?

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

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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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

- ◆ 93.8 percent of prisoners are male.
- ◆ 60.7 percent of prisoners were incarcerated for a violent offense.
- ◆ Of those incarcerated for a violent offense 26.7 percent were incarcerated for robbery, 23.1 percent were incarcerated for assault/terroristic threat, and 19.5 percent were for homicide.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Government Code, Chapter 491

The data highlight general demographic characteristics of offenders in prison facilities as of August 31, 2012. Prisons house offenders convicted of third-degree felonies or higher. The punishment ranges for these offenders can range from two years to death. The data do not include characteristics of state jail 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 PRISON POPULATION, AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012

| GENDER | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Male | 128,574 | 93.8% |
| Female | 8,521 | 6.2 |
| Total | 137,095 | 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 PRISON POPULATION, AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012

| GENDER | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| African American | 49,238 | 35.9% |
| Hispanic | 45,772 | 33.4 |
| White | 41,391 | 30.2 |
| Other | 694 | 0.5 |
| Total | 137,095 | 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 | 83,285 | 60.7% |
| Property | 17,613 | 12.9 |
| Drug | 20,313 | 14.8 |
| Other | 15,884 | 11.6 |
| Total | 137,095 | 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

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