

# Stat Sheet

October 2024

CCJFSS 2024-10

## Jail Population Characteristics State and National Comparisons

By: Kaylee D. Faria, M.A.

Compared to prisons, less is known about the characteristics of jail confinement. For instance, many are often unaware that the population of a jail can be comprised of people who are serving a sentence, awaiting trial, waiting to be transferred, or waiting to be released. This Stat Sheet reviews characteristics of jail confinement in Nevada and across the United States.

### Key Stats



Source: Council on Criminal Justice, 2023

#### Rates of Jail and Prison Incarceration (Figure 1)

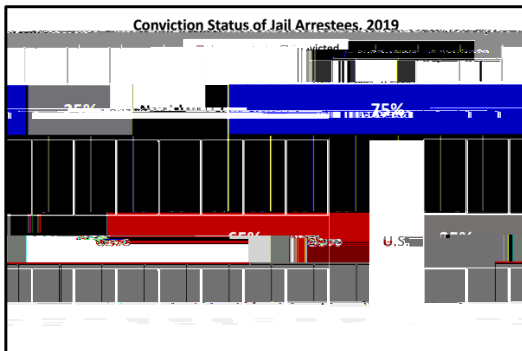
The extent of prison incarceration in the U.S. far outweighs that of jails. However, both have seen a steady decrease in their populations since the early 2000s. An even sharper decrease occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Only recently has there been an uptick in incarceration rates across jails and prisons, leveling back to pre-COVID rates.



Source: Census of Jails, 2019

#### Jail Incarceration Rates per State (Figure 2)

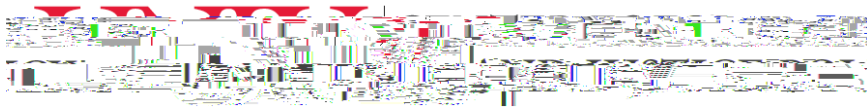
States vary widely in their use of jail incarceration. For example, Louisiana and Kentucky have the highest rates of jail incarceration, and New Hampshire and Alaska have the lowest. Nevada falls around the national average. Specific rates of jail incarceration for each state are provided on the back of this Stat Sheet.



Source: Census of Jails, 2019

#### Jail Conviction Rates for U.S. and Nevada, 2019 (Figure 3)

An unconvicted person in jail is an individual awaiting trial, transfer, or release. In both the United States and Nevada, a vast majority of people in jail are considered unconvicted. In fact, 75% of Nevada's jail population are persons who fall within this unconvicted category.



## Summary