

May 2000

**STATE AND
FEDERAL
PRISONERS**

**Profiles of Inmate
Characteristics in
1991 and 1997**



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United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

General Government Division

B-284249

May 24, 2000

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Rangel

In response to your request, we prepared profiles of felons incarcerated in federal and state correctional facilities, using data provided by the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) from its two most recent surveys¹ of inmates in federal² and state³ correctional facilities. As agreed with your office, we addressed the following questions:

- What were the overall profiles—personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation—for state and for federal prison inmates in 1997 and were there any differences between state and federal inmates or by current offense type,⁴ race, and gender?⁵
- In comparing the 1991 and 1997 profiles, were there any changes in the overall profiles for state and for federal inmates or by current offense type, race, and gender?

The BJS survey data provided detailed information on the individual characteristics of state and federal prison inmates, as reported by the inmates surveyed in 1991 and 1997. Appendix II contains additional information on how the surveys were conducted and analyzed.

Results in Brief

Below is a summary of key observations from the analysis presented in our report regarding the overall profiles for state and for federal prison

¹ BJS has sponsored regular periodic (i.e., every 5 or 6 years) surveys of inmates in state and/or federal correctional institutions. The facilities included federal or state prisons, which usually house felons (inmates sentenced to at least a year and a day for a criminal conviction), and not jails or juvenile facilities.

² Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities (SIFCF), 1991 and 1997.

³ Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities (SISCF), 1991 and 1997.

⁴ Current offense is the most serious offense for which the inmate was serving a sentence.

⁵ For additional information on female prison inmates, see also Women in Prison: Issues and Challenges Confronting U.S. Correctional Systems (GAO/GGD-00-22, Dec. 28, 1999).

inmates in 1997, with some comparisons across offense type, race, and gender. Comparing the 1991 and 1997 data, this discussion also identifies changes in the profiles. Appendixes III through VI include more detailed information on the overall profiles of state and federal prison inmates; differences by current offense type, race, and gender; and changes in profiles from 1991 to 1997.

Personal Demographics: Inmates' gender, race, age, marital status, children, education level, and employment status at the time of arrest comprised the personal demographics category. Key observations within this category included the following:

- In 1997, the majority of inmates in state and in federal prisons were male (94 percent of state inmates and 93 percent of federal inmates), minority (64 percent of state inmates and 65 percent of federal inmates were black or Hispanic), and unmarried (17 percent of state inmates and 30 percent of federal inmates were currently married).
- About 67 percent of federal and of state inmates in 1997 were between the ages of 25 and 45. A higher percentage of state inmates, however, were under age 25 (20 percent) than federal inmates (9 percent). Also, minorities were more likely to be under age 35 than whites in both state and federal prisons.
- Most inmates had either a high school degree (29 percent of state inmates and 46 percent of federal inmates) or its equivalent (31 percent of state inmates and 27 percent of federal inmates) in 1997. White inmates had more education than did minority inmates in state and federal prisons.
- In 1997, at least two-thirds of both federal and state inmates reported being employed in the month before their arrest.

Comparing 1991 and 1997, the primary changes in personal demographics involved the age of inmates in state prisons and racial composition of federal prisons:

- In state prisons in 1991, 32 percent of inmates were over age 35, as compared with 42 percent in 1997.
- In federal prisons, in 1991, whites comprised 38 percent and blacks 30 percent of inmates, compared with 30 percent whites and 38 percent blacks in 1997.

Family Background: Family background characteristics included the person with whom the inmate lived while growing up, whether either parent abused alcohol or drugs, and whether the inmate had been physically or sexually abused as a child. These data indicated the following:

- In 1997, 44 percent of state inmates and 54 percent of federal inmates reported growing up in homes with both parents present. However, a higher percentage of whites and Hispanics (half or more of white and Hispanic state inmates and about two-thirds of white and Hispanic federal inmates) than blacks (about one-third of black state and federal inmates) reported growing up in homes with both parents.
- Although in 1997, the majority of inmates reported no family history of drug or alcohol abuse, 31 percent of the state inmates and 20 percent of the federal inmates reported that they had lived with parents who abused drugs or alcohol.
- While most inmates in 1997, reported that they had experienced no sexual or physical abuse as children, differences between men and women were dramatic. Among female inmates in 1997, 36 percent of state inmates and 25 percent of federal inmates reported that they had been physically or sexually abused as children; the corresponding percentages for men were 14 percent in state prisons and 6 percent in federal prisons. In state and federal prisons in 1997, higher percentages of violent offenders (19 and 15 percent, respectively) reported that they had experienced some abuse as children, as compared with property offenders (15 and 7 percent, respectively) or drug offenders (9 and 5 percent, respectively).

No notable changes in family demographics occurred between 1991 and 1997.

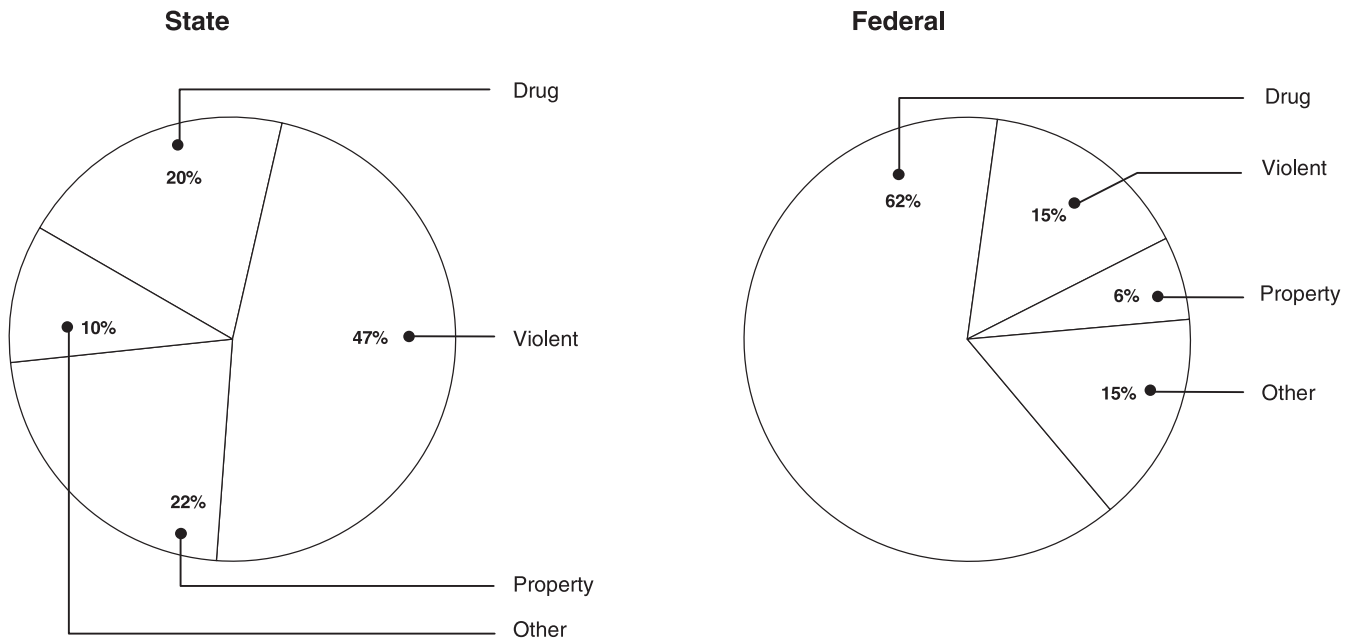
Criminal Record: The criminal record information for state and federal inmates included self-reported data on their current offense type; criminal justice status at the time of arrest; prior sentences; and for drug offenders, the type of drug involved in the current offense. Regarding criminal records, one of the most distinctive differences between the two prison systems in 1997 was in the types of offenders they housed. While state inmates were most frequently incarcerated for violent crimes, federal offenders were most frequently incarcerated for drug crimes:

- In state prisons in 1997, 47 percent of the inmates reported that they had been sentenced for violent crimes, 22 percent for property crimes, and 20

percent for drug crimes. By comparison, 15 percent of federal inmates reported that they had been sentenced for violent crimes, 6 percent for property crimes, and 62 percent for drug crimes, as shown in figure 1.

- In both federal and state prisons in 1997, minority inmates were more likely to be incarcerated for drug crimes. Female inmates were also more likely than male inmates to be incarcerated for drug crimes, while male inmates were more likely to be incarcerated for violent crimes.

Figure 1: State and Federal Inmate Populations in 1997, by Offense Type



Source: GAO analysis of data from Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities (SIFCF), 1997 and Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities (SISCF), 1997.

Most of state prison inmates reported that they had been incarcerated previously, and many reported that they were under judicial supervision at the time of their arrest. State inmates were more likely than federal inmates to have been previously incarcerated or under supervision at the time of their arrest.

- Seventy-five percent of state inmates and 60 percent of federal inmates in 1997 reported that they had served prior sentences.

-
- Forty-six percent of state inmates and 27 percent of federal inmates in 1997 reported that they were on probation or parole at the time of their most recent arrest.

Drug offenders in both state and federal prisons reported crack cocaine and powder cocaine as the drugs most commonly involved in the current conviction, followed by methamphetamines and marijuana. Among state and federal prison populations:

- Higher percentages of black drug offenders (state 59 percent and federal 54 percent) than Hispanic (17 percent and 7 percent) and white (11 percent and 6 percent) drug offenders reported crack cocaine as the associated drug.
- Although black drug offenders (state 30 percent and federal 40 percent) were also more likely than white drug offenders (29 percent and 30 percent) to indicate powder cocaine as the drug involved in their current offense, Hispanics (43 percent and 51 percent) were more likely than blacks or whites to report powder cocaine as the associated drug.
- In contrast, higher percentages of white drug offenders (state 36 percent and federal 32 percent) than black (0.7 percent and 0.2 percent) or Hispanic (10 percent and 7 percent) drug offenders identified methamphetamines as the drug associated with their current offense.
- White (state 20 percent and federal 30 percent) and Hispanic (18 percent and 26 percent) drug offenders were more likely than black (8 percent and 6 percent) drug offenders to indicate that marijuana was the drug associated with their current offense.

There were few changes between the 1991 and the 1997 criminal records reported by state prison inmates. However, there were a few differences for federal prison inmates:

- The percentage of federal inmates who reported no prior sentences decreased by almost 10-percentage points from 1991 to 1997, while the percentage of inmates who reported 3 or more prior sentences increased by 8 percentage points.
- In federal prisons, the percentage of drug offenses involving powder cocaine decreased from 53 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1997. In contrast, the percentage of reported crack-associated drug offenses increased from 9 percent in 1991 to 26 percent in 1997.

Drug Histories: The drug histories of the total populations of state and federal offenders included data on the percentages of inmates who reported (1) using various drugs in the month before their arrest or (2) being under the influence of various drugs at the time of their arrest. The data showed the following patterns for both state and federal inmates:

- For the most part, marijuana was most commonly reported by inmates as the drug used in the month before arrest. Female inmates in state prisons, however, reported having used crack cocaine slightly more often than marijuana in the month before their arrest.
- Moreover, more inmates reported that they had been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their arrest than any other drug.
- Drug and alcohol use were common among both nondrug offenders and drug offenders. For example, the percentages of property offenders in state prisons who reported that they had used crack or powder cocaine in the month before their current arrest, and who reported that they had been under the influence of crack or powder cocaine at the time of their arrest, were very similar to the percentages of drug offenders.

The patterns of drug use reported by inmates in state and federal prisons changed little in 1997, as compared with 1991.

- Higher percentages of federal inmates in 1997 (30 percent) than in 1991 (19 percent) reported using marijuana. The rates of marijuana use increased for both male and female federal inmates.
- The percentage of female state inmates who reported having used crack increased from 19 percent in 1991 to 30 percent in 1997.
- White and black federal inmates were more likely in 1997 (21 and 21 percent, respectively) than in 1991 (12 and 10 percent, respectively) to report being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest.
- Higher percentages of federal inmates in 1997 than in 1991 reported being under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense (20 and 11 percent, respectively).

Treatment Participation: We obtained data on reported inmate participation in alcohol/drug programs. In 1997, 56 percent of state inmates and 46 percent of federal inmates reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug treatment programs. The percentage of inmates who

reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug programs in 1997, as compared with 1991, did not change.

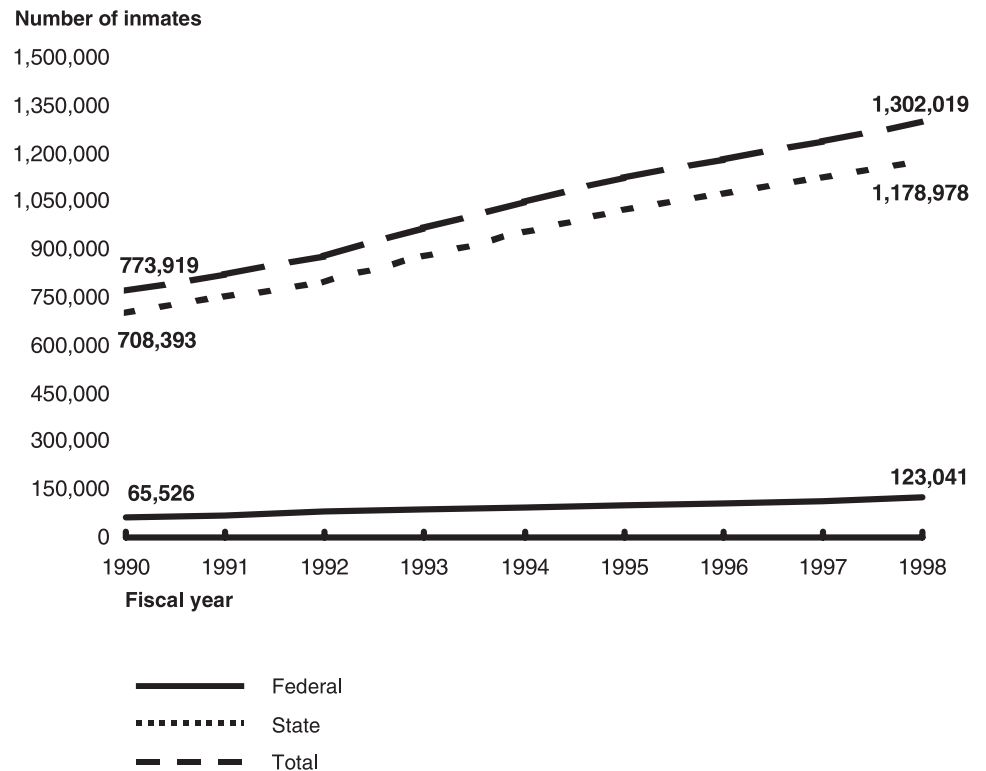
Additional profile information extracted from the BJS inmate surveys is presented in appendixes III through VI.

DOJ officials reviewed a draft of this report and commented that it (1) provided a comprehensive breakdown of state and federal populations by offense type, race, and gender and (2) was consistent with BJS findings on inmate characteristics, using the same survey data.

Background

According to BJS, between 1990 and the end of 1998 the rate of incarceration in our nation's prisons increased from 292 to 461 sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents. BJS data also showed that during that period the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal or state adult correctional facilities increased from 773,919 to 1,302,019—an average annual increase of 6.7 percent (see fig. 2).

Figure 2: Growth in U.S. Prison Population, 1990 Through 1998



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 1996 and Prisoners in 1998.

The relative percentage of inmates in state and federal prisons has remained the same, with approximately 91 and 9 percent of inmates in state and federal prisons, respectively. The states operate more than 1,000 prison facilities primarily to confine violators of state and territorial laws, and the federal government operates about 100 prison facilities primarily to confine persons convicted of federal crimes. The federal prison system is administered by the DOJ's Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

Scope and Methodology

The data on which we relied for the inmate profiles in this report came from surveys conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for BJS in 1991 and 1997. Between 1974 and 1997, BJS sponsored periodic surveys of inmates in state and federal correctional institutions⁶—five of state and two of federal prison inmates. The BJS survey data consisted of self-reported answers provided by a random, probability sample of inmates in confidential personal interviews conducted by Census Bureau interviewers in federal and state correctional facilities. The Census Bureau collected the data using standard social survey techniques. BJS has analyzed the sample survey data to provide estimates for the entire population of federal and state inmates. In addition, to obtain background information and perspective, we also reviewed selected relevant academic, BJS, and other publications.

In this report, we presented the characteristics of inmates incarcerated in federal and in state correctional facilities; identified changes in the 1997 characteristics reported, as compared with those reported in 1991; and pointed out differences in the characteristics of state and federal inmates. We did not, however, attempt to explain the characteristics, changes, or differences reported.

We performed our work from October 1999 through April 2000 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Appendix I of this report includes additional information on the methods we followed in analyzing and presenting these data.

Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We provided a draft of this report to the Attorney General for comment. Representatives of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), BJS, and BOP reviewed the draft. On May 16, 2000, the OJP liaison provided consolidated comments from these agencies. The officials stated that the report provided a comprehensive breakdown of state and federal inmate populations by offense type, race, and gender. In addition, they said that its

⁶ BOP officials noted that BOP had paid for the 1991 federal inmate survey and shared the cost of the 1997 survey.

findings, with regard to inmate personal demographics, family background, criminal records, and drug histories were consistent with those reported by BJS using the same survey data. DOJ officials also provided some technical comments, which have been incorporated, where appropriate.

As arranged with your office, unless you publicly announce the contents of this report earlier, we plan no further distribution until 30 days after the date of this report. At that time, we will send copies of this report to Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman, and Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Representative Henry Hyde, Chairman and Representative John Conyers, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on the Judiciary; the Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General; the Honorable Jan M. Chaiken, Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics; and the Honorable Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, Director, Bureau of Prisons. Copies of this report will be made available to others upon request.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me or Daniel C. Harris on (202) 512-8777. Key contributors to this assignment are acknowledged in appendix VII.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Stana". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard M. Stana
Associate Director,
Administration of Justice Issues

Contents

Letter		1
Appendix I		14
Objectives, Scope, and Methodology	Objectives	14
	Overview of Our Scope and Methodology	14
Appendix II		17
Bureau of Justice Statistics Surveys of State and Federal Prison Inmates	BJS Uses a Two-Stage Process to Develop Its Samples	17
	National Estimates of Prison Inmate Characteristics	18
	Other BJS Reports Provided Information on U.S. Prison Inmates	18
Appendix III		19
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates	Overall Profiles of State Inmates	19
	Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates	26
	Differences Between the Overall State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles	34
Appendix IV		36
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense	Profiles of State Inmates by Type of Current Offense	36
	Profile of Federal Inmates by Type of Current Offense	42
	Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles	49
Appendix V		52
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race	Profiles of State Inmates by Race	52
	Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles	68
Appendix VI		70
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender	Profiles of Male and Female State Inmates	70
	Profiles of Federal Male and Female Prison Inmates	76

Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles	83
Appendix VII	84
GAO Contacts and Staff	
Acknowledgments	
Glossary	85
Bibliography	87
Tables	
Table III.1: Overall Profile of State Prison Inmates, 1997	20
Table III.2: Overall Profile of State Prison Inmates, 1991	25
Table III.3: Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1997	27
Table III.4: Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1991	32
Table IV.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1997	37
Table IV.2: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1991	41
Table IV.3: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1997	43
Table IV.4: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1991	47
Table V.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Race, 1997	53
Table V.2: State Inmates With Children, by Race, 1997	55
Table V.3: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Race, 1991	57
Table V.4: State Inmates With Children, by Race, 1991	59
Table V.5: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Race, 1997	61
Table V.6: Federal Inmates With Children, by Race, 1997	63
Table V.7: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Race, 1991	66
Table V.8: Federal Inmates With Children, by Race, 1991	68
Table VI.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Gender, 1997	71
Table VI.2: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Gender, 1991	75

Contents

	Table VI.3: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Gender, 1997	77
	Table VI.4: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Gender, 1991	81
Figures	Figure 1: State and Federal Inmate Populations in 1997, by Offense Type	4
	Figure 2: Growth in U.S. Prison Population, 1990 Through 1998	7

Abbreviations

BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics
BOP	Bureau of Prisons
DOJ	Department of Justice
SIFCF	Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities
SISCF	Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities
OJP	Office of Justice Programs

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

Objectives

In response to a request from Congressman Charles B. Rangel, this report provides information on the self-reported characteristics of federal and state prison inmates in 1991 and 1997. Specifically, we developed profiles that address the following questions:

- What were the overall profiles—personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation—for state and for federal prison inmates in 1997 and were there any differences between state and federal inmates or by current offense type,¹ race, and gender?²
- In comparing the 1991 and 1997 profiles, were there any changes in the overall profiles for state and for federal inmates or by current offense type, race, and gender?

Overview of Our Scope and Methodology

To address each of the questions, we relied on federal and state prison inmate survey data collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Specifically, BJS provided information to us from its 1991 and 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities (SISCF) and 1991 and 1997 Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities (SIFCF). (See app. II for a description of the BJS survey.) For 1991, we obtained the SISCF and SIFCF survey data sets, which are publicly available from BJS. However, the data sets for BJS' 1997 surveys were not publicly available at the time of our review. To enable us to do our work, BJS provided data tables for specific information we requested from the 1997 SISCF and SIFCF surveys.³ In addition, we obtained BJS and Census Bureau documents and reports needed to interpret the 1991 and 1997 BJS survey data. The Census Bureau conducted the surveys in accordance with standard social survey methods.

The accuracy of the percentages derived from these surveys depends upon two types of errors: sampling errors and nonsampling errors. Sampling

¹ Current offense is the most serious offense for which the inmate was serving a sentence.

² For additional information on female prison inmates, see also Women in Prison: Issues and Challenges Confronting U.S. Correctional Systems (GAO/GGD-00-22, Dec. 28, 1999).

³ In response to the initial request, we attempted to obtain information on vocational training received by state and federal inmates; however, 1997 BJS survey data on vocational training were not available at the time of our review. We also attempted to obtain information on mental health problems among inmates and whether inmates had been treated for such problems; however, data for 1991 and 1997 were not comparable. Information on inmate mental health can be found in Paula Ditton, Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, U.S. Department of Justice, July 1999.

error is the variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was studied. Nonsampling errors arise from the practical difficulties of conducting a survey. For example, respondents may misinterpret questions or interviewers may not accurately record answers. For the BJS survey all of the information, including information about factual matters, comes from the inmates' own answers to the questionnaires. We made no attempt to independently verify inmates' answers about subjects such as type of offense or participation in educational programs. The amount of nonsampling error in these and other sample surveys cannot be fully assessed. The Census Bureau took steps to reduce nonsampling errors in the BJS surveys by pledging that answers would be confidential, drawing a sample from a complete list of the population, achieving a response rate of over 90 percent, and adjusting for some characteristics of nonrespondents. The use of similar questions in 1991 and 1997 facilitated comparisons between surveys--although in a few instances variations in question wording, ordering, or the context in which questions were asked made assessing changes over time more difficult. This was particularly true of questions pertaining to physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest.

The amount of uncertainty due to sampling errors can be expressed as confidence intervals. For the percentages in this report, the uncertainty is expressed using 95-percent confidence intervals that are ranges of values that would be expected to include the correct inmate population results 19 out of 20 times that a sample of this type is studied. The percentages presented in this report are for the total state and total federal inmate populations for both 1991 and 1997 and for eight subgroups of those populations based on sex, race (white, black, and Hispanic), and offender type (drug, violent, and property). Information available from the BJS survey reports indicated that the 95-percent confidence intervals for all but two of these groups are less than plus or minus 6-percentage points of the reported percentage. For the 1997 federal survey, the confidence intervals are estimated to be wider for two groups--violent offenders (+/- 7 percent) and property offenders (+/-11 percent). For comparisons of all other groups, we are 95-percent confident that differences of at least 8 percentage points between groups are statistically significant and thus are not due to sampling error. Many smaller differences would also be statistically significant. In this report, we primarily noted differences of at least 8 percentage points to identify differences that were statistically significant.

All of our estimated confidence intervals are based on approximate predictors of sampling errors calculated in the Census Bureau's analyses. We could not directly compute sampling errors because the 1997 data were not yet available for analysis and because the 1991 data set that we analyzed did not contain sufficient information about the respondents' sampling groups. The sampling errors from the Census Bureau's analyses were provided in the form of generalized variance functions that summarize the relationship between the size of a population group and the amount of sampling error for a broad range of variables. The Census Bureau's analyses provided these generalized variance functions for the total population; two gender groups and, for all but one of the 1991 federal prisons, three racial groups. For the three racial groups for federal prisons in 1991 and for the offender types (drug, violent, and property) in all years, we adopted a variance function from the same year and survey (state or federal) for the sex or race group that predicted the least precise sampling error. The estimate of the sampling error for each percentage discussed in this report is approximate since it represents a summary of the calculated sampling errors for many types of variables rather than the sampling error for the specific variable discussed.

To enhance our analysis and interpretation of the SISCF and SIFCF data, we reviewed related BJS reports, selected academic articles and other publications, and discussed our analysis of the BJS data with BJS officials. We incorporated this information as appropriate.

We conducted our work between October 1999 and April 2000, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Surveys of State and Federal Prison Inmates

To provide detailed information on individual characteristics of prison inmates, BJS has sponsored periodic (i.e., every 5 or 6 years) surveys of inmates in state and/or federal correctional institutions. Between 1974 and 1997, BJS sponsored five state and two federal prison inmate surveys. In 1991 and 1997, the U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Institutions (SISCF) for BJS and Survey of Inmates of Federal Correctional Institutions (SIFCF) for BJS and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Similar surveys of state inmates were also conducted in 1974, 1979, and 1986. For the 1991 survey year, BJS based its estimates on 765,649 inmates (711,642 inmates in state correctional facilities and 54,006 sentenced inmates in the custody of federally owned and operated facilities). For the 1997 survey, BJS based its estimates on 1,148,679 inmates (1,059,607 inmates in state correctional facilities and 89,072 sentenced inmates in the custody of federally owned and operated facilities). The questionnaires used in the state and federal facilities in 1991 and 1997 contained many identical questions that facilitated comparison between the surveys.

BJS Uses a Two-Stage Process to Develop Its Samples

All of these surveys are based on two-stage, probability sample designs. At the first stage a sample of prisons was selected. At the second stage a sample of inmates was selected from each prison.

Specifically, at the first stage a sample of prisons was selected from the universe of state and federal correctional institutions enumerated in the 1990 or 1995 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities or opened after the completion of the 1990 census or by June 30, 1996, respectively, for the 1991 and 1997 surveys. The universe of institutions for the 1991 survey included 1,239 state prisons and the 72 federally owned and operated facilities that held sentenced inmates as of March 1991. In 1997, the universe included 1,409 state prisons and 91 federally owned and operated facilities that held sentenced inmates as of June 30, 1996.

In each survey year, male and female facilities were sampled separately at different rates. The state sample of facilities was stratified by geographic area in both years. The samples of facilities were also stratified by facility type (confinement-based and community-based facilities) and/or security level. Within security levels, facilities were ordered by size of population and then selected with probability proportionate to size.

The number of facilities from which inmates samples were drawn were similar in both survey years. In 1991, the federal survey included 53 facilities (45 male, 8 female) and the state sample included 273 facilities (222 male, 47 female, and 4 facilities that housed both male and female

imates) of which 3 were ultimately not surveyed. In 1997, the initial federal survey sample included 40 facilities (32 male, 8 female), all of which were in the final sample. The initial 1997 state sample included 280 facilities (220 male, 60 female); however, 5 of the female facilities did not participate in the survey, leaving a total of 275 state facilities of which 55 were female.

At the second stage, inmates were systematically selected for interviews from lists of all inmates at the selected facilities, with a total number of interviews based on the size of the facility and sex of the inmates held. To obtain a more balanced sample at federal facilities in 1997, drug offenders in these facilities were subsampled at a lower rate than other offenders. The 1991 survey interviews were carried out from June to August in 1991, with 13,986 interviews (11,163 male, 2,823 female) and 6,572 interviews (4,991 male, 1,581 female) obtained for the state and federal surveys, respectively. The 1997 interviews were carried out from June to October 1997, with 14,285 interviews (11,344 male, 2,941 female) and 4,041 interviews (3,173 male, 868 female) completed for the state and federal surveys, respectively. The response rates were between 90 and 94 percent for both federal and state surveys in each year.

National Estimates of Prison Inmate Characteristics

The analyses of the survey data yield national estimates of the characteristics of the prison population at the middle of 1991 and 1997. To develop these estimates, BJS used weighting factors based on the original probabilities of being selected into the sample that were adjusted for nonresponse and information about the sex, race, age, and prison security level of the total population. In 1997, information about type of offense was also used.

Since the surveys are based on sample surveys, the results available from the studies are estimates of the population characteristics and are subject to sampling error. BJS provides information that allows readers to estimate these sampling errors from the results of their analysis of the general relationship between the estimated size of the population and the magnitude of the sampling errors.

Other BJS Reports Provided Information on U.S. Prison Inmates

BJS has released several reports that present data from the 1991 and 1997 surveys, including publications that examine selected findings from the survey results on issues such as the mental health of inmates and prior physical or sexual abuse. In addition, BJS has published reports using other data sources on state and federal prison inmates that are relevant to the discussion of the 1991 and 1997 survey information. (See bibliography.)

Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

This appendix presents overall profiles of state and of federal inmates, including data on their personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation. These profiles were developed from BJS self-reported survey data.¹ The 1997 profiles for both state and federal prison populations indicated that most inmates were male, minority, unmarried, and were employed in the month before their arrest. State inmates were younger than federal inmates, and most state and federal inmates had at least a high school degree or its equivalent. Most federal inmates and a large percentage of state inmates, as children, lived in two-parent households, and most had not experienced sexual or physical abuse or parental drug or alcohol abuse. The majority of both state and federal inmates had served prior sentences.

Comparing the 1991 and 1997 profiles, the data showed few changes for either the state or federal inmate populations. The federal inmate profiles indicated some changes in the racial distribution, criminal records, and drug histories.

State and federal inmate profiles showed several differences between the two populations. For example, state inmates were younger than federal inmates, and they tended to have more serious criminal records than federal inmates. Moreover, a higher percentage of federal inmates than state inmates were drug offenders, while higher percentages of state inmates were violent offenders and property offenders.

Overall Profiles of State Inmates

According to BJS' 1997 survey data, most state inmates were minority, male, between the ages of 25 and 44, and employed at the time they were arrested for their current offense. A slightly lower percentage of state inmates reported violent crimes, as their current offense than reported all categories of nonviolent crimes combined. Among drug offenders, state inmates most frequently identified either powder or crack cocaine as the drug associated with their current offense. However, state inmates most frequently reported that they used marijuana in the month prior to their arrest and were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense (Data on alcohol usage in the month before inmate's arrest were not collected.). Although a comparison of the 1991 and 1997 overall state

¹ Throughout appendixes III through VI, total percentages above or below 100 percent are usually due to rounding. Where indicated, however, inmates may have been allowed to indicate more than one answer, leading to total percentages greater than 100 percent. In some instances, missing data may result in total percentages less than 100 percent. In rounding, when the value was exactly half way between one desired rounding level and the next, we rounded the desired rounding level digit up when that digit was an odd number and did not change the desired rounding level digit (that is, rounded down) when it was an even number.

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

inmate profiles showed little change in general, the 1997 data showed a slightly larger percentage of inmates aged 35 or older.

Overall Profile of State Inmates, 1997

Table III.1 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in state prisons, estimated from BJS' 1997 survey of state prison inmates. The BJS survey results were based on a state prison inmate population of 1,059,607. All percentages presented below for state prison inmates in 1997 were calculated using this number as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table III.1: Overall Profile of State Prison Inmates, 1997

	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics		
Sex		
Male	993,364	93.7
Female	66,242	6.3
Race		
White	352,864	33.3
Black	492,676	46.5
Hispanic	179,998	17.0
Other	34,069	3.2
Age group		
Under 25	209,343	19.8
25-34	404,034	38.1
35-44	311,999	29.4
45+	134,231	12.7
Marital status		
Never married	604,093	57.0
Married	175,717	16.6
Other	277,992	26.2
Education		
Less than high school	415,804	39.2
GED	330,349	31.2
High school graduate	164,544	15.5
More than high school	141,137	13.3
Employment status in month before arrest		
Employed	704,993	66.5
Not employed	329,003	31.0
Have children		
Yes	695,160	65.6
No	354,655	33.5
Family background		
Person lived with while growing up		
Both mother and father	463,052	43.7
Mother only	408,275	38.5

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Father only	38,026	3.6
Grandparents	87,220	8.2
Other	53,726	5.1
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse		
None	711,567	67.2
Alcohol only	245,716	23.2
Drugs only	18,812	1.8
Alcohol and drugs	68,163	6.4
Abused as a child ^a		
Physical only	99,823	9.4
Sexual only	31,435	3.0
Physical and sexual	34,295	3.2
None	884,192	83.4
Criminal records		
Offense type		
Violent	494,349	46.7
Property	230,177	21.7
Drug	216,254	20.4
Other	105,926	10.0
Type of drug involved in drug offense ^b		
Powder cocaine	70,523	32.9
Crack cocaine	85,824	40.0
Heroin	27,015	12.6
Marijuana	27,145	12.7
Methamphetamines	20,907	9.8
Other	5,344	2.5
Criminal justice status at time of arrest		
None	551,072	52.0
Probation	255,007	24.1
Parole	231,745	21.9
Escape	7,359	0.7
Prior sentences		
None	248,195	23.4
1 to 2	341,847	32.3
3 or more	446,843	42.2
Drug histories		
Drug use in month before arrest ^c		
Heroin	96,529	9.1
Powder cocaine	167,858	15.8
Crack cocaine	152,979	14.4
Marijuana	409,798	38.7
Other	157,843	14.9
Under influence at time of offense ^{a, c}		
Heroin	58,018	5.5
Powder cocaine	78,390	7.4
Crack cocaine	87,719	8.3
Marijuana	156,933	14.8
Other	88,807	8.4
Alcohol	387,137	36.5

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Treatment participation		
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program		
Yes	591,469	55.8
No	456,464	43.1

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 1,059,607 inmates in state prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table III.2) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 214,299 inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

BJS' 1997 state prison inmate survey produced the following estimated demographic characteristics for inmates in state prisons:

- Ninety-four percent of state inmates were male and 6 percent were female.
- Minorities constituted the majority of state prison inmates; 46 percent were black, and 17 percent were Hispanic. One-third of state inmates were white.
- Sixty-eight percent of state inmates were between the ages of 25 and 44, while 20 percent were under age 25, and 13 percent were age 45 or older.
- More than half of state inmates had never been married, while 17 percent were married at the time of the survey.
- Sixty-six percent of state inmates had children at the time of the 1997 survey.
- Sixty percent of state inmates reported having at least a GED or high school diploma, while nearly 40 percent reported having less than a high school diploma.
- Two-thirds of the state inmates were employed during the month before their arrest.

Family Background

The 1997 survey revealed the following information about the reported family background of state inmates:

- Forty-four percent of state prison inmates reported that they had grown up in two-parent households; 38 percent reported that they had grown up with only their mothers, 8 percent with grandparents, 4 percent with fathers, and 5 percent with others.
- Almost 70 percent of state inmates reported that neither parent had abused drugs or alcohol. Twenty-three percent of inmates indicated that one of

Criminal Records

their parents had abused alcohol. Few inmates indicated parental abuse of both alcohol and drugs (6 percent) or drug abuse only (2 percent).

- Eighty-three percent of state prison inmates reported that they had not experienced physical or sexual abuse as a child; 9 percent reported that they had encountered physical abuse, 3 percent sexual abuse, and 3 percent both sexual and physical abuse.

Regarding criminal records, the BJS 1997 survey indicated the percentage of state inmates who reported their current offense as a violent crime was slightly less than the total percentage of inmates reporting all categories of nonviolent crimes combined. Specifically,

- forty-seven percent of state prison inmates reported they were violent offenders, and
- twenty percent reported they were drug offenders, 22 percent property offenders, and 10 percent indicated other² as their offense.

Drug offenders most frequently identified cocaine as the drug involved in their current offense:³

- Thirty-three percent of drug offenders indicated powder cocaine and 40 percent indicated crack cocaine as the drug associated with their current offense.
- Among the remaining drug offenders, 13 percent identified heroin, 13 percent marijuana, 10 percent methamphetamines, and 2 percent identified “other”⁴ as the drug involved in their current offense.

Most state prison inmates had served prior sentences, but were not under judicial supervision at the time of their arrest:

- Twenty-three percent reported having no prior sentence, 42 percent reported having 3 or more prior sentences, and 32 percent reported having 1 to 2 prior sentences.
- At the time of arrest for their current offense, 52 percent of state inmates had no criminal justice status, 24 percent were on probation, and 22 percent were on parole.

² Other offenses included the BJS’ categories of public-order offenses (i.e., weapons and other public order offenses, such as driving while intoxicated; escape from custody; regulatory violations; and commercialized vice) and other offenses, which are not enumerated.

³ More than one drug might be associated with a single offense.

⁴ Other drugs include depressants and hallucinogens.

Drug Histories

State inmates most frequently identified marijuana as the drug used during the month before their arrest and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense:⁵

- Almost 40 percent of state inmates indicated that they had used marijuana during the month before their arrest
- Sixteen percent reported that they had used powder cocaine, 14 percent crack cocaine, 9 percent heroin, and 15 percent used other drugs during the month before their arrest.
- State inmates most frequently (36 percent) reported being under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense. Fifteen percent reported that they were under the influence of marijuana at the time of their offense. Less than 10 percent of state inmates reported being under the influence of crack, powder cocaine, heroin, or other drugs at the time of their offense.

Treatment Participation

The 1997 BJS survey provided information on whether state inmates had ever participated in alcohol/drug programs. Fifty-six percent of state prison inmates said that they had participated in such programs.

Few Changes in the 1997,
Compared With the 1991
Overall State Inmate Profile

According to the BJS surveys, the total state prison population increased from 711,642 in 1991 to 1,059,607 in 1997. A comparison of table III.1 with table III.2, which provides information on selected characteristics from BJS' 1991 state prison inmate survey, showed few changes in the overall 1997 profiles of state inmates, as compared with 1991.

Most personal demographic characteristics of state inmates showed little change from 1991 to 1997, with the exception of slight changes in the age of inmates. The state inmate population aged slightly, with 42 percent of state inmates being age 35 or older in 1997, compared with 32 percent in 1991.

In 1997, as compared with 1991, there were no significant changes in state inmates' family background characteristics, criminal records, and drug histories. Since in 1991 BJS did not collect data on the drug involved in the current offense of state drug offenders, we could not ascertain whether there had been any changes in the drugs associated with drug offenses.

⁵ A single inmate might report more than one drug used in the month before or at the time of arrest.

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

Table III.2: Overall Profile of State Prison Inmates, 1991

	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics		
Sex		
Male	672,847	94.5
Female	38,796	5.5
Race		
White	252,038	35.4
Black	324,165	45.6
Hispanic	118,634	16.7
Other	16,807	2.4
Age group		
Under 25	155,881	21.9
25-34	325,429	45.7
35-44	161,651	22.7
45+	68,682	9.7
Marital status		
Never married	389,302	54.7
Married	127,389	17.9
Other	187,045	26.3
Education		
Less than high school	295,352	41.5
GED	174,979	24.6
High school graduate	136,087	19.2
More than high school	104,238	14.7
Employment status in month before arrest		
Employed	476,726	67.0
Not employed	232,280	32.6
Have children		
Yes	456,409	64.1
No	255,234	35.9
Family background		
Person lived with while growing up		
Both mother and father	305,082	42.9
Mother only	277,423	39.0
Father only	27,798	3.9
Grandparents	54,228	7.6
Other	43,677	6.1
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse		
None	517,111	72.7
Alcohol only	156,405	22.0
Drugs only	5,730	0.8
Alcohol and drugs	26,074	3.7
Abused as a child		
Physical only	48,503	6.8
Sexual only	17,118	2.4
Physical and sexual	30,668	4.3
None	615,354	86.5
Criminal records		

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Offense type		
Violent	327,958	46.1
Property	174,534	24.5
Drug	150,304	21.1
Other	58,846	8.3
Criminal justice status at time of arrest		
None	378,834	53.2
Probation	162,688	22.9
Parole	156,415	22.0
Escape	7,856	1.1
Prior sentences		
None	145,376	20.4
1 to 2	253,114	35.6
3 or more	313,153	44.0
Drug histories		
Drug use in month before arrest^a		
Heroin	62,930	8.8
Powder cocaine	144,512	20.3
Crack cocaine	71,055	10.0
Marijuana	226,978	31.9
Other	93,843	13.2
Under influence at time of offense^a		
Heroin	42,237	5.9
Powder cocaine	79,741	11.2
Crack cocaine	36,036	5.1
Marijuana	81,788	11.5
Other	58,336	8.2
Alcohol	229,090	32.2
Treatment participation		
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program		
Yes	387,306	54.4
No	324,336	45.6

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 711,642 inmates in state prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates

The 1997 BJS federal prison inmate survey showed that most federal inmates were male, minority, and between the ages of 25 and 44. Federal inmates most frequently cited drug crimes as their current offense. Among drug offenders, powder and crack cocaine were the drugs most often identified with their current offense. Among all offenders, marijuana was the drug most often reported having been used in the month before arrest. (Data on alcohol usage in the month before the inmate's arrest were not collected.) Regarding drug use at the time of their arrest, in 1997, the largest percentage of inmates (20 percent) reported being under the influence of alcohol. Comparing the 1991 and 1997 profiles, few changes in the federal inmate population were identified. However, the percentage of

**Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates**

black inmates increased somewhat, and the percentage of white inmates decreased by the same percentage points. In addition, the percentages of inmates indicating marijuana use in the month before arrest and being under the influence of alcohol or marijuana at the time of the offense increased.

Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1997

Table III.3 presents an overall profile of federal prison inmates using self-reported data from BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey. According to the survey, the federal prison population in 1997 was 89,072 inmates. All percentages presented below for federal prison inmates for 1997 were calculated using this number as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table III.3: Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1997

	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics		
Sex		
Male	82,646	92.8
Female	6,426	7.2
Race		
White	26,616	29.9
Black	33,697	37.8
Hispanic	24,349	27.3
Other	4,411	5.0
Age group		
Under 25	7,933	8.9
25-34	32,634	36.6
35-44	27,259	30.6
45+	21,247	23.9
Marital status		
Never married	36,989	41.5
Married	27,000	30.3
Other	24,900	28.0
Education		
Less than high school	23,101	25.9
GED	23,632	26.5
High school graduate	17,757	19.9
More than high school	23,544	26.4
Employment status in month before arrest		
Employed	61,946	69.5
Not employed	24,428	27.4
Have Children		
Yes	68,434	76.8
No	19,745	22.2
Family background		
Person lived with while growing up		
Both mother and father	47,955	53.8

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Mother only	28,044	31.5
Father only	2,532	2.8
Grandparents	6,712	7.5
Other	2,864	3.2
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse		
None	69,504	78.0
Alcohol only	14,604	16.4
Drugs only	735	0.8
Alcohol and drugs	2,767	3.1
Abused as a child ^a		
Physical only	3,837	4.3
Sexual only	1,297	1.5
Physical and sexual	1,100	1.2
None	81,719	91.7
Criminal records		
Offense type		
Violent	13,021	14.6
Property	5,826	6.5
Drug	55,069	61.8
Other	13,712	15.4
Type of drug involved in drug offense ^b		
Powder cocaine	22,579	41.1
Crack cocaine	14,398	26.2
Heroin	5,318	9.7
Marijuana	10,198	18.6
Methamphetamines	5,869	10.7
Other	1,887	3.4
Criminal justice status at time of arrest		
None	64,240	72.1
Probation	11,952	13.4
Parole	11,811	13.3
Escape	248	0.3
Prior sentences		
None	34,075	38.3
1 to 2	27,386	30.7
3 or more	25,610	28.8
Drug histories		
Drug use in month before arrest ^c		
Heroin	4,762	5.3
Powder cocaine	14,452	16.2
Crack cocaine	5,606	6.3
Marijuana	26,561	29.8
Other	9,352	10.5
Under influence at time of offense ^{a, c}		
Heroin	2,634	3.0
Powder cocaine	5,706	6.4
Crack cocaine	2,852	3.2
Marijuana	9,381	10.5
Other	5,471	6.1

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Alcohol	17,829	20.0
Treatment participation		
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program		
Yes	40,755	45.8
No	47,084	52.9

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on a total estimated population of 89,072 inmates in federal prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table III.4) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 54,933 inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey indicated the following demographic characteristics for those in federal correctional facilities:

- Ninety-three percent of federal prison inmates were male and 7 percent were female.
- Blacks constituted the largest single group of inmates (38 percent) followed by whites (30 percent), Hispanics (27 percent), and other (5 percent).
- Two-thirds of federal inmates were between 25 and 44 years of age, 37 percent were between 25 and 34 years of age, and 31 percent were between 35 and 44 years of age. Twenty-four percent of federal inmates were over age 45 and 9 percent were under age 25.
- The largest percentage of federal inmates (42 percent) had never married, while 30 percent were married at the time of the survey.
- Seventy-seven percent of federal inmates had children at the time of the 1997 survey.
- Twenty-six percent of federal inmates had more than a high school diploma, with another 46 percent reporting either a high school diploma or GED. However, 26 percent of federal inmates had less than a high school education.
- Seventy percent of federal inmates were employed during the month before their arrest.

Family Background

Regarding family background, the 1997 BJS survey showed the following:

- Fifty-four percent of federal inmates reported that they had grown up in households with two parents, and 32 percent reported that they had lived

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- with their mother only. Eight percent reported that they had lived with grandparents, 3 percent with fathers, and 3 percent with other relatives.
- Seventy eight percent of federal inmates indicated that neither parent had abused alcohol or drugs. Another 16 percent, however, indicated parental alcohol abuse, while 1 and 3 percent, respectively, specified parental drug or drug and alcohol abuse.
 - The overwhelming majority of federal inmates (92 percent) reported no physical or sexual abuse as a child. Four percent indicated they had been physically abused, and 2 and 1 percent, respectively, reported either sexual abuse or physical and sexual abuse.

Criminal Records

In 1997, federal inmates most frequently indicated drug crimes (62 percent) as their current offense type. Violent (15 percent), property (6 percent), and other offenses (15 percent) were reported less frequently.

Federal drug offenders in 1997 most often identified cocaine as the type of drug involved in their current offense:⁶

- Of those indicating that cocaine was involved in their offense, 41 percent specified powder cocaine and 26 percent crack cocaine.
- In addition, 19 percent of federal inmates identified marijuana, 11 percent, methamphetamines, 10 percent heroin, and 3 percent “other” drug as the type of drug associated with their offense.

Most federal offenders reported that they had served prior sentences, although they were not necessarily on parole or probation at the time of arrest for their current offense:

- Thirty-eight percent of federal inmates had no prior sentence, 31 percent had 1 or 2, and 29 percent had 3 or more prior sentences.
- Seventy-two percent of the inmates had no criminal justice status at the time of their arrest, while 13 percent were on parole and 13 percent were on probation.

Drug Histories

Federal offenders most frequently cited marijuana as the drug used in the month before their arrest and being under the influence of alcohol when they committed their offense:⁷

⁶ More than one drug might be associated with a single offense.

⁷ A single inmate might report more than one drug when reporting drug use during the month before or at the time of arrest.

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- Thirty percent indicated that they had used marijuana during the month before their arrest and 10 percent reported being under the influence of marijuana at the time of the offense.
 - Powder cocaine (16 percent) was the next most frequently reported drug used in the month before arrest.
 - Twenty percent of federal inmates reported having been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense.
 - Reported usage of all other drugs either in the month before or at the time of arrest was less than 10 percent.

Treatment Participation

The 1997 BJS survey included information on whether federal inmates had ever participated in alcohol/drug programs. Forty-six percent of federal prison inmates reported having participated in such programs.

Few Changes in the 1997, Compared With the 1991 Overall Federal Prison Inmate Profile

According to BJS, the total federal prison population increased from 54,006 to 89,072 between 1991 and 1997. Table III.4 depicts selected characteristics of federal prison inmates in 1991. A comparison of tables III.4 and III.3 indicated few changes in the 1997 as compared with the 1991 overall federal inmate profile.

Comparing the 1991 and 1997 federal inmate profiles indicated few changes in the personal demographics of federal inmates:

- While the number of male and female inmates increased, the relative proportion of male and female inmates in federal prisons remained essentially the same.
- In 1991, whites comprised the largest single racial/ethnic group of inmates, (38 percent), followed by blacks (30 percent), Hispanics (28 percent), and other (4 percent). In contrast, in 1997, the proportions of whites and blacks were reversed (30 and 38 percent, respectively), with the percentages of Hispanics and other remaining essentially the same.
- The percentage of inmates who had never been married increased from 32 percent to 42 percent.

Comparing the 1991 and 1997 federal inmate profiles revealed few changes in the criminal record of federal inmates:

- The percentage of federal inmates reporting more serious criminal records increased slightly. Those reporting having had no prior sentences decreased by almost 10-percentage points between 1991 and 1997.
- Among those incarcerated for drug offenses, powder cocaine remained the drug most frequently associated with the current offense, although the percentage of those reporting powder cocaine decreased from 53 percent

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

to 41 percent, and the percentage reporting crack cocaine as the associated drug increased from 9 to 26 percent.

There were also few changes in inmates' drug histories reported in 1997, compared with 1991. Higher percentages of federal inmates in 1997 (30 percent) than in 1991 (19 percent) reported using marijuana, and higher percentages of inmates in 1997 (20 percent) than in 1991 (11 percent) said they were under the influence of alcohol when they committed their offense.

Table III.4: Overall Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1991

	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics		
Sex		
Male	49,784	92.2
Female	4,222	7.8
Race		
White	20,732	38.4
Black	16,143	29.9
Hispanic	15,101	28.0
Other	2,031	3.8
Age group		
Under 25	5,012	9.3
25-34	19,431	36.0
35-44	17,769	32.9
45+	11,794	21.8
Marital status		
Never married	17,382	32.2
Married	20,225	37.4
Other	15,710	29.1
Education		
Less than high school	12,837	23.8
GED	12,336	22.8
High school graduate	11,851	21.9
More than high school	16,809	31.1
Employment status in month before arrest		
Employed	39,881	73.8
Not employed	13,833	25.6
Have Children		
Yes	40,776	75.5
No	13,230	24.5
Family background		
Person lived with while growing up		
Both mother and father	31,219	57.8
Mother only	15,237	28.2
Father only	1,815	3.4
Grandparents	3,032	5.6

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Other	2,246	4.2
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse		
None	44,885	83.1
Alcohol only	7,827	14.5
Drugs only	159	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	593	1.1
Abused as a child		
Physical only	1,937	3.6
Sexual only	539	1.0
Physical and sexual	720	1.3
None	50,810	94.1
Criminal records		
Offense type		
Violent	9,265	17.2
Property	4,582	8.5
Drug	31,103	57.6
Other	9,056	16.8
Type of drug involved in drug offense^a		
Powder cocaine	16,579	53.4
Crack cocaine	2,957	9.5
Heroin	3,460	11.1
Marijuana	5,993	19.3
Methamphetamines	1,951	6.3
Other	968	3.1
Criminal justice status at time of arrest		
None	40,794	75.5
Probation	6,284	11.6
Parole	6,250	11.6
Escape	483	0.9
Prior sentences		
None	26,221	48.6
1 to 2	16,479	30.5
3 or more	11,306	20.9
Drug histories		
Drug use in month before arrest^b		
Heroin	2,714	5.0
Powder cocaine	7,350	13.6
Crack cocaine	2,003	3.7
Marijuana	10,229	18.9
Other	3,544	6.6
Under influence at time of offense^b		
Heroin	1,952	3.6
Powder cocaine	3,563	6.6
Crack cocaine	994	1.8
Marijuana	3,197	5.9
Other	2,001	3.7
Alcohol	5,906	10.9
Treatment participation		
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program		

Appendix III
Overall Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates

	Estimated number	Percent
Yes	24,001	44.4
No	30,004	55.6

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 54,006 inmates in federal prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 31,052 inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^bMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Differences Between the Overall State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles

Although the state and federal inmate profiles in 1997 were generally similar, we observed several differences.

We identified a few differences in the personal demographics reported by state and federal inmates:

- Although minorities constituted the majority of inmates in both federal and state prisons, the composition of the minority prison populations differed between state and federal facilities. Blacks constituted a higher percentage of state inmates (46 percent) compared with federal inmates (38 percent). In contrast, there was a higher percentage of Hispanics in federal prisons (27 percent) than in state prisons (17 percent).
- Overall, federal inmates were older than state inmates. Over half of federal inmates (54 percent) were age 35 or older; however, fifty-eight percent of state inmates were age 34 or younger.
- Fifty-seven percent of state inmates, compared with 42 percent of federal inmates, reported never being married. At the same time, 30 percent of federal inmates, compared with 17 percent of state inmates, reported being married.
- A higher percentage of state inmates (39 percent) than federal inmates (26 percent) had less than a high school education and a higher percentage of federal inmates (26 percent) than state inmates (13 percent) had more than a high school education.

Regarding family background characteristics, federal and state inmates were generally similar, with a few exceptions:

- A greater percentage of federal inmates (54 percent) than state inmates (44 percent) reported that they had grown up in a two-parent household.
- A higher percentage of state (16 percent) than federal (7 percent) inmates reported that they had experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, although a majority of inmates in both populations reported not encountering these situations (83 percent of state inmates and 92 percent of federal inmates).

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- A higher percentage of state (31 percent) than federal (20 percent) inmates reported having lived in a family where a parent abused drugs or alcohol, although a majority of both populations did not (67 percent of state inmates and 78 percent of federal inmates).

One of the largest differences between state and federal inmates was in the type of crime for which they were incarcerated.

- Drug offenders accounted for over 60 percent of federal inmates in 1997 but for 20 percent of state inmates.
- In contrast, violent offenders accounted for 47 percent of state inmates but 15 percent of federal inmates in 1997.
- A higher percentage of state inmates (22 percent) than federal inmates (6 percent) were property offenders.
- In addition, in 1997 higher percentages of federal than state inmates reported serving no prior sentence (38 percent of federal inmates and 23 percent of state inmates) and having no criminal justice status at the time of arrest (72 percent of federal inmates and 52 percent of state inmates).

There were few differences in the drug histories of state and federal inmates. However, higher percentages of state inmates than federal inmates used marijuana in the month before their arrest (39 percent of state inmates and 30 percent of federal inmates) and were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense (36 percent of state inmates and 20 percent of federal inmates).

Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense

This appendix presents profiles of state and federal inmates by the type of their current offense, including self-reported data on their personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation. While the demographic and family background characteristics reported by state inmates were quite similar across different types of offenders, federal inmates differed substantially. The criminal records of both state and federal inmates differed considerably across offender types. For example, in state prisons a higher percentage of property offenders than drug or violent offenders had served three or more prior sentences, and in the federal system a higher percentage of violent offenders than drug or property offenders had served three or more prior sentences. Drug and alcohol use tended to be more common among state than federal inmates; for example, higher percentages of property offenders in state prisons than in federal prisons used crack or powder cocaine and marijuana in the month before their arrest.

Comparing the 1991 and 1997 profiles, the data indicated some changes across crime types. The percentage of black federal drug offenders rose from 28 percent to 41 percent. Finally, although the drug histories of violent offenders and property offenders in federal prisons changed little, the percentage of drug offenders who had used marijuana in the month preceding their arrest increased from 18 percent to 32 percent.

Profiles of State Inmates by Type of Current Offense

The 1997 state inmate profile, by type of current offense, indicated some differences reported across offense types. Although state inmates did not report substantial differences for most personal and family background characteristics, the data showed some differences in race, education, and experience of child abuse. For example, a higher percentage of blacks was found among drug offenders than among violent or property offenders and a higher percentage of inmates without a high school education was found among drug offenders.

Reported criminal records also differed substantially across offense types. For example, a greater percentage of property offenders reported having served three or more prior sentences than violent or drug offenders. Generally, inmate drug histories were similar across crime types, except drug and property offenders more frequently than violent offenders reported using crack cocaine in the month before their arrest. A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 state inmate profiles indicated few notable changes in characteristics; for example, the percentage of drug offenders using marijuana in the month prior to their arrest increased.

**Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense**

**Profile of State Prison
Inmates by Type of Current
Offense, 1997**

Table IV.1 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities separately for violent, property, and drug offenders, as reported in BJS' 1997 state prison inmate survey. BJS reported a total population of 493,349 violent offenders, 230,177 property offenders, and 216,254 drug offenders in state prisons in 1997. All percentages presented in table IV.1 were calculated using these numbers as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table IV.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1997

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	475,794	96.2	212,689	92.4	193,630	89.5
Female	18,554	3.8	17,488	7.6	22,624	10.5
Race						
White	163,043	33.0	98,109	42.6	40,917	18.9
Black	235,604	47.7	93,148	40.5	121,827	56.3
Hispanic	77,774	15.7	32,888	14.3	48,934	22.6
Other	17,929	3.6	6,032	2.6	4,576	2.1
Age group						
Under 25	110,344	22.3	43,235	18.8	37,103	17.2
25-34	171,168	34.6	97,291	42.3	88,671	41.0
35-44	139,450	28.2	69,531	30.2	65,381	30.2
45+	73,386	14.8	20,120	8.7	25,099	11.6
Marital status						
Never married	281,152	57.0	133,398	58.0	126,057	58.3
Married	79,326	16.1	34,971	15.2	41,975	19.4
Other	132,933	26.9	61,633	26.8	48,029	22.2
Education						
Less than high school	181,818	36.8	86,154	37.4	99,711	46.1
GED	170,800	34.6	76,059	33.0	51,669	23.9
High school graduate	75,706	15.3	34,311	14.9	34,258	15.8
More than high school	62,765	12.7	31,890	13.9	29,273	13.5
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	338,458	68.6	153,352	66.6	131,097	60.6
Not employed	143,758	29.1	71,142	30.9	81,184	37.5
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	216,244	43.8	100,582	43.7	91,222	42.2
Mother only	191,154	38.7	86,353	37.5	87,866	40.6
Father only	16,760	3.4	9,614	4.2	7,580	3.5
Grandparents	39,483	8.0	19,672	8.5	19,008	8.8
Other	26,350	5.3	12,014	5.2	9,364	4.3

**Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense**

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	328,754	66.6	151,221	65.7	152,568	70.6
Alcohol only	116,008	23.5	56,810	24.7	44,369	20.5
Drugs only	8,708	1.8	3,068	1.3	5,237	2.4
Alcohol and drugs	33,352	6.8	16,175	7.0	11,659	5.4
Abused as a child^a						
Physical only	55,743	11.3	20,689	9.0	12,377	5.7
Sexual only	18,336	3.7	5,778	2.5	3,690	1.7
Physical and sexual	19,964	4.0	7,307	3.2	3,634	1.7
None	395,752	80.2	194,626	84.6	194,801	90.1
Criminal records						
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	324,655	65.8	84,596	36.8	98,875	45.7
Probation	76,925	15.6	65,014	28.2	55,459	25.6
Parole	85,443	17.3	76,421	33.2	58,658	27.1
Escape	2,807	0.6	1,901	0.8	1,098	0.5
Prior sentences						
None	147,509	29.9	32,307	14.0	46,693	21.6
1 to 2	167,753	34.0	66,345	28.8	73,660	34.1
3 or more	168,838	34.2	126,733	55.1	91,888	42.5
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^b						
Heroin	32,067	6.5	27,456	11.9	27,756	12.8
Powder cocaine	67,991	13.8	44,303	19.2	44,519	20.6
Crack cocaine	47,502	9.6	49,803	21.6	45,404	21.0
Marijuana	197,001	39.9	89,106	38.7	88,468	40.9
Other	68,286	13.8	39,678	17.2	32,879	15.2
Under influence at time of offense^{a, b}						
Heroin	17,890	3.6	16,043	7.0	18,335	8.5
Powder cocaine	34,676	7.0	19,267	8.4	19,476	9.0
Crack cocaine	27,500	5.6	27,370	11.9	27,958	12.9
Marijuana	80,756	16.4	31,742	13.8	33,323	15.4
Other	40,664	8.2	21,067	9.2	18,093	8.4
Alcohol	202,032	41.0	78,447	34.1	58,728	27.2
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	245,521	49.8	142,550	61.9	132,329	61.2
No	242,869	49.2	85,817	37.3	82,147	38.0

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 493,349 violent offenders, 230,177 property offenders, and 216,254 drug offenders in state prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table IV.2) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

According to the BJS 1997 survey data, the primary types of offenders (violent, property, and drug) in state prisons did not vary substantially by sex, age, marital status, and employment status at the time of their arrest. The data did, however, indicate differences in race and education between groups:

- A higher percentage of drug offenders (56 percent) than property offenders (41 percent) was black; 48 percent of violent offenders were black. Property offenders (43 percent) were more likely than violent offenders (33 percent) to be white and violent offenders more likely than drug offenders (19 percent) to be white.
- Similar percentages of all three offender types reported having graduated from high school or having more than a high school education. However, a higher percentage of drug offenders (46 percent) than violent offenders (37 percent) and property offenders (37 percent) had less than a high school education. Also, higher percentages of violent offenders (35 percent) and property offenders (33 percent) than drug offenders (24 percent) had earned a GED.

Family Background

Violent, property, and drug offenders had similar family backgrounds. Fewer than half of the inmates in all three groups grew up in two-parent families. About two-thirds of each group reported that neither parent abused alcohol or drugs. The only notable difference across offender types involved reports of abuse as a child. A higher percentage of drug offenders (90 percent) than violent offenders (80 percent) reported no physical or sexual abuse; and property offenders (85 percent) were in between the other two categories of offenders.

Criminal Records

The BJS data showed substantial differences in criminal records across the three groups of offenders:

- Higher percentages of property offenders (28 percent) and drug offenders (26 percent) were on probation at the time of their arrest than violent offenders (16 percent). Similarly, higher percentages of property offenders (33 percent) and drug offenders (27 percent) than violent offenders (17 percent) were on parole at the time of their arrest.
- A lower percentage of property offenders (14 percent) than violent offenders (30 percent) had served no prior sentences.
- A higher percentage of property offenders (55 percent) than violent offenders (34 percent) and drug offenders (42 percent) had served three or more prior sentences.

Drug Histories

The use of most drugs in the month before arrest and the likelihood of having been under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense were quite similar for violent, property, and drug offenders, with two exceptions:

- Higher percentages of drug offenders (21 percent) and property offenders (22 percent) reported that they had used crack cocaine in the month before their arrest than violent offenders (10 percent).
- A higher percentage of violent offenders (41 percent) than drug offenders (27 percent) reported that they had been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense; 34 percent of property offenders reported being under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense.

Treatment Participation

Violent, property, and drug offenders differed in their participation in alcohol/drug programs. Higher percentages of property offenders (62 percent) and drug offenders (61 percent) had participated in such programs than violent offenders (50 percent).

Few Notable Changes in Profiles of State Violent, Property, and Drug Offenders in 1997, Compared With 1991

A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 BJS data, indicated few notable changes in the characteristics of violent, property, and drug offenders in state prisons.

- The percentage of inmates who were age 35 or older rose from 25 percent to 39 percent among property offenders and from 30 percent to 42 percent among drug offenders.
- The percentage of drug offenders who had used marijuana in the month preceding their arrest increased from 31 percent to 41 percent.
- The percentage of drug offenders who were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense increased from 18 percent to 27 percent.

**Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense**

Table IV.2: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1991

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	315,557	96.2	163,510	93.7	137,672	91.6
Female	12,400	3.8	11,024	6.3	12,633	8.4
Race						
White	121,972	37.2	75,015	43.0	29,751	19.8
Black	151,629	46.2	70,621	40.5	80,126	53.3
Hispanic	45,437	13.9	24,182	13.9	38,807	25.8
Other	8,920	2.7	4,716	2.7	1,620	1.1
Age group						
Under 25	62,164	19.0	48,021	27.5	34,730	23.1
25-34	146,393	44.6	83,396	47.8	69,843	46.5
35-44	78,062	23.8	34,533	19.8	34,517	23.0
45+	41,339	12.6	8,584	4.9	11,215	7.5
Marital status						
Never married	172,841	52.7	103,117	59.1	85,571	56.9
Married	55,540	16.9	27,697	15.9	31,980	21.3
Other	96,118	29.3	41,654	23.9	31,248	20.8
Education						
Less than high school	129,060	39.4	73,194	41.9	69,365	46.1
GED	89,101	27.2	44,832	25.7	28,235	18.8
High school graduate	63,196	19.3	31,349	18.0	29,534	19.6
More than high school	46,283	14.1	25,018	14.3	22,839	15.2
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	227,333	69.3	112,438	64.4	94,093	62.6
Not employed	99,343	30.3	61,696	35.3	55,547	37.0
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	142,361	43.4	73,206	41.9	61,094	40.6
Mother only	127,222	38.8	66,892	38.3	63,052	41.9
Father only	11,764	3.6	8,673	5.0	5,281	3.5
Grandparents	23,889	7.3	13,397	7.7	12,419	8.3
Other	20,854	6.4	11,674	6.7	7,825	5.2
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	235,413	71.8	119,821	68.7	119,446	79.5
Alcohol only	75,013	22.9	43,150	24.7	24,650	16.4
Drugs only	2,090	0.6	1,886	1.1	1,535	1.0
Alcohol and drugs	12,272	3.7	8,154	4.7	3,619	2.4
Abused as a child						
Physical only	26,670	8.1	12,612	7.2	5,513	3.7
Sexual only	10,163	3.1	3,675	2.1	1,930	1.3
Physical and sexual	18,611	5.7	6,190	3.5	3,116	2.1
None	272,514	83.1	152,058	87.1	139,747	93.0
Criminal records						

**Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense**

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	215,841	65.8	64,775	37.1	76,588	51.0
Probation	52,163	15.9	50,403	28.9	41,943	27.9
Parole	55,951	17.1	55,791	32.0	30,009	20.0
Escape	3,217	1.0	2,725	1.6	963	0.6
Prior sentences						
None	90,138	27.5	14,878	8.5	31,248	20.8
1 to 2	117,386	35.8	58,088	33.3	60,244	40.1
3 or more	120,433	36.7	101,568	58.2	58,812	39.1
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^a						
Heroin	20,096	6.1	20,072	11.5	19,091	12.7
Powder cocaine	54,912	16.7	38,173	21.9	42,896	28.5
Crack cocaine	23,210	7.1	21,739	12.5	22,860	15.2
Marijuana	108,128	33.0	59,417	34.0	46,601	31.0
Other	42,401	12.9	26,411	15.1	18,503	12.3
Under influence at time of offense^a						
Heroin	12,727	3.9	14,112	8.1	12,979	8.6
Powder cocaine	31,756	9.7	21,195	12.1	22,731	15.1
Crack cocaine	12,907	3.9	10,843	6.2	11,419	7.6
Marijuana	43,636	13.3	20,477	11.7	14,370	9.6
Other	29,962	9.1	15,165	8.7	9,884	6.6
Alcohol	122,955	37.5	55,562	31.8	27,167	18.1
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	159,971	48.8	105,246	60.3	88,345	58.8
No	167,986	51.2	69,289	39.7	61,960	41.2

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 327,958 violent offenders, 174,534 property offenders, and 150,304 drug offenders in state prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Profile of Federal Inmates by Type of Current Offense

The 1997 federal offender profile, by current offense type, showed substantial differences in demographic characteristics, family background, and criminal records reported across crime types. For example, property offenders were better educated and more likely to have been employed than violent or drug offenders. Federal violent offenders had more serious criminal records than either drug or property offenders. The percentage of federal inmates who reported having participated in alcohol/drug programs also differed according to offense type, with a smaller percentage of property offenders than violent or drug offenders reported having participated in such programs. A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 BJS federal survey data indicated few sizable changes in the

Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense

characteristics of the three offender groups. However, drug and property offenders showed some change in their criminal records, with the percentage who reported having no prior histories decreasing for drug offenders and increasing for property offenders.

Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1997

Table IV.3 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in federal correctional facilities for each of the three types of offenses, as reported in BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey. The federal prison population was made up of 13,021 violent offenders, 5,826 property offenders, and 55,069 drug offenders in 1997. All percentages presented below for federal prison inmates for 1997 were calculated using these numbers as the base; and adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table IV.3: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1997

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	12,592	96.7	5,064	86.9	50,486	91.7
Female	429	3.3	762	13.1	4,583	8.3
Race						
White	4,895	37.6	3,347	57.4	13,026	23.7
Black	5,080	39.0	1,389	23.8	22,350	40.6
Hispanic	1,649	12.7	623	10.7	17,876	32.5
Other	1,397	10.7	466	8.0	1,817	3.3
Age group						
Under 25	1,391	10.7	296	5.1	4,901	8.9
25-34	4,291	33.0	1,691	29.0	20,978	38.1
35-44	4,050	31.1	1,731	29.7	16,902	30.7
45+	3,289	25.3	2,108	36.2	12,287	22.3
Marital status						
Never married	6,466	49.6	1,629	28.0	22,886	41.6
Married	2,216	17.0	2,190	37.6	17,777	32.3
Other	4,278	32.9	2,008	34.5	14,315	26.0
Education						
Less than high school	2,752	21.1	842	14.5	15,090	27.4
GED	4,411	33.9	900	15.4	14,058	25.5
High school graduate	2,409	18.5	1,130	19.4	11,895	21.6
More than high school	3,352	25.7	2,886	49.5	13,428	24.4
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	8,155	62.6	4,617	79.2	38,218	69.4
Not employed	4,442	34.1	1,066	18.3	15,687	28.5

**Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense**

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	6,273	48.2	3,787	65.0	29,619	53.8
Mother only	4,440	34.1	1,390	23.9	17,849	32.4
Father only	521	4.0	209	3.6	1,322	2.4
Grandparents	1,000	7.7	328	5.6	4,164	7.6
Other	677	5.2	195	3.3	1,530	2.8
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	9,368	71.9	4,746	81.5	43,779	79.5
Alcohol only	2,658	20.4	963	16.5	8,483	15.4
Drugs only	140	1.1	34	0.6	368	0.7
Alcohol and drugs	615	4.7	153	2.6	1,651	3.0
Abused as a child ^a						
Physical only	1,339	10.3	176	3.0	1,521	2.8
Sexual only	345	2.6	125	2.1	621	1.1
Physical and sexual	308	2.4	90	1.5	588	1.1
None	10,868	83.5	5,517	94.7	51,670	93.8
Criminal records						
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	8,318	63.9	4,156	71.3	41,605	75.6
Probation	1,281	9.8	1,023	17.6	7,537	13.7
Parole	3,170	24.3	755	13.0	5,562	10.1
Escape	140	1.1	0	0.0	93	0.2
Prior sentences						
None	3,614	27.8	2,962	50.8	22,717	41.3
1 to 2	3,440	26.4	1,255	21.5	18,526	33.6
3 or more	5,749	44.2	1,556	26.7	12,909	23.4
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest ^b						
Heroin	1,571	12.1	212	3.6	2,178	4.0
Powder cocaine	2,165	16.6	507	8.7	10,078	18.3
Crack cocaine	1,287	9.9	200	3.4	3,450	6.3
Marijuana	4,201	32.3	988	17.0	17,435	31.7
Other	1,476	11.3	497	8.5	5,963	10.8
Under influence at time of offense ^{a, b}						
Heroin	901	6.9	83	1.4	1,355	2.5
Powder cocaine	873	6.7	139	2.4	4,003	7.3
Crack cocaine	579	4.4	82	1.4	1,911	3.5
Marijuana	1,304	10.0	230	3.9	6,595	12.0
Other	824	6.3	323	5.5	3,632	6.6
Alcohol	3,112	23.9	885	15.2	10,714	19.5
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	6,554	50.3	1,890	32.4	25,602	46.5
No	6,282	48.2	3,863	66.3	28,744	52.2

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 13,021 violent offenders, 5,826 property offenders, and 55,069 drug offenders in federal prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table IV.4) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

The demographic characteristics reported by violent, property, and drug offenders in federal prisons in 1997 differed substantially:

- A smaller percentage of violent offenders (3 percent) than property offenders (13 percent) were female; 8 percent of drug offenders were female.
- Property offenders (57 percent) were more likely than violent offenders (38 percent) to be white, and violent offenders were more likely than drug offenders (24 percent) to be white. A larger percentage of violent offenders (39 percent) and drug offenders (41 percent) than property offenders (24 percent) were black, while a larger percentage of drug offenders (32 percent) than violent offenders (13 percent) and property offenders (11 percent) were Hispanic.
- Property offenders tended to be older than the other two groups. Thirty-six percent of property offenders were 45 or older, compared with 25 percent of violent offenders and 22 percent of drug offenders.
- A considerably smaller percentage of violent offenders (17 percent) were married than property offenders (38 percent) and drug offenders (32 percent).
- Property offenders were better educated than the other two groups. A higher percentage of property offenders (50 percent) than violent offenders (26 percent) and drug offenders (24 percent) had more than a high school education.
- Property offenders were also more likely to have been employed at the time of their arrest (79 percent) than drug offenders (69 percent) and violent offenders (63 percent).

Family Background

The family backgrounds reported by violent, property, and drug offenders in federal prisons in 1997 were quite dissimilar:

- A higher percentage of property offenders (65 percent) grew up in two-parent families than drug offenders (54 percent) and violent offenders (48 percent).

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- The percentages of property offenders (82 percent) and drug offenders (80 percent) whose parents had not abused drugs were higher than the percentage of violent offenders (72 percent).
 - The percentages of property offenders (95 percent) and drug offenders (94 percent) who reported that they had not been abused as children were also higher than the percentage of violent offenders (83 percent).

Criminal Records

Reported criminal records also differed across the three types of offenders in federal prisons in 1997:

- A higher percentage of violent offenders (24 percent) than property offenders (13 percent) and drug offenders (10 percent) were on parole at the time of their arrest, while a higher percentage of drug offenders (76 percent) than violent offenders (64 percent) were under no form of criminal justice supervision. Seventy-one percent of property offenders were not under criminal justice supervision.
- A higher percentage of violent offenders (44 percent) had served three or more prior sentences than property offenders (27 percent) and drug offenders (23 percent). While 51 percent of property offenders had never served time before, the same was true of 41 percent of drug offenders and 28 percent of violent offenders.

Drug Histories

Reported drug and alcohol use in the month prior to arrest and being under the influence at the time of the offense did not differ markedly across the three types of offenders, with a few exceptions:

- A higher percentage of drug offenders (18 percent) than property offenders (9 percent) reported having used powder cocaine in the month before their arrest; 17 percent of violent offenders reported having used powder cocaine.
- A smaller percentage of property offenders (17 percent) than violent offenders (32 percent) or drug offenders (32 percent) reported having used marijuana in the month prior to their arrest.
- A higher percentage of violent offenders (24 percent) than property offenders (15 percent) reported having been under the influence of alcohol when they committed their offenses; 20 percent of drug offenders were under the influence of alcohol.

Treatment Participation

Participation in alcohol/drug programs was less common among the property offenders than among the other two groups. While 50 percent of violent offenders and 46 percent of drug offenders reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug programs, 32 percent of property offenders reported having done so.

Few Significant Changes in 1997, Compared With the 1991 Inmate Profiles of Federal Violent, Property, and Drug Offenders

A comparison of 1991 and 1997 BJS federal survey data indicated few sizable changes in the characteristics of different types of offenders. The changes identified included the following:

- The percentage of black drug offenders rose from 28 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1997.
- The percentage of married drug offenders declined from 42 percent in 1991 to 32 percent in 1997.
- The criminal records of violent offenders in federal prisons were similar in 1991 and 1997, though property offenders and drug offenders showed some changes in their prior sentences. The percentage of federal prison inmates with no prior sentences rose from 42 percent to 51 percent among property offenders, and declined from 57 percent to 41 percent among drug offenders.
- The drug histories of violent offenders and property offenders in federal prisons changed little between 1991 and 1997: however, there was some change for drug offenders. The percentage of drug offenders who had used marijuana in the month preceding their arrest increased from 18 percent to 32 percent, and the percentage of drug offenders who were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense increased from 8 to 20 percent.

Table IV.4: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense, 1991

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	8,943	96.5	4,018	87.7	28,341	91.1
Female	323	3.5	564	12.3	2,762	8.9
Race						
White	3,878	41.9	2,713	59.2	9,548	30.7
Black	3,585	38.7	1,419	31.0	8,817	28.3
Hispanic	905	9.8	297	6.5	12,084	38.9
Other	897	9.7	153	3.3	654	2.1
Age group						
Under 25	714	7.7	272	5.9	3,395	10.9
25-34	3,437	37.1	1,464	32.0	11,691	37.6
35-44	3,240	35.0	1,524	33.3	10,061	32.3
45+	1,874	20.2	1,322	28.8	5,956	19.2
Marital status						
Never married	4,049	43.7	1,181	25.8	9,699	31.2
Married	1,955	21.1	1,800	39.3	13,031	41.9
Other	3,147	34.0	1,566	34.2	7,997	25.7

Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Education						
Less than high school	1,638	17.7	669	14.6	8,451	27.1
GED	3,314	35.8	812	17.7	6,314	20.3
High school graduate	2,023	21.8	702	15.3	7,310	23.5
More than high school	2,238	24.2	2,389	52.1	8,937	28.7
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	5,654	61.0	3,566	77.8	23,716	76.2
Not employed	3,562	38.4	1,013	22.1	7,221	23.2
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	4,648	50.2	2,847	62.1	18,253	58.7
Mother only	2,962	32.0	1,103	24.1	8,714	28.0
Father only	283	3.1	189	4.1	1,135	3.6
Grandparents	687	7.4	252	5.5	1,582	5.1
Other	596	6.4	175	3.8	1,150	3.7
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	6,830	73.7	3,803	83.0	26,833	86.3
Alcohol only	2,077	22.4	702	15.3	3,639	11.7
Drugs only	45	0.5	12	0.3	86	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	234	2.5	41	0.9	232	0.7
Abused as a child						
Physical only	491	5.3	151	3.3	868	2.8
Sexual only	104	1.1	80	1.7	237	0.8
Physical and sexual	228	2.5	117	2.6	241	0.8
None	8,442	91.1	4,234	92.4	29,757	95.7
Criminal records						
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	5,661	61.1	3,044	66.4	25,674	82.5
Probation	1,100	11.9	877	19.1	3,075	9.9
Parole	2,262	24.4	547	11.9	2,224	7.1
Escape	232	2.5	104	2.3	79	0.3
Prior sentences						
None	2,693	29.1	1,925	42.0	17,605	56.6
1 to 2	3,134	33.8	1,528	33.3	9,206	29.6
3 or more	3,438	37.1	1,129	24.6	4,292	13.8
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^a						
Heroin	1,101	11.9	250	5.5	1,069	3.4
Powder cocaine	1,717	18.5	423	9.2	4,271	13.7
Crack cocaine	540	5.8	117	2.6	1,040	3.3
Marijuana	2,415	26.1	472	10.3	5,728	18.4
Other	964	10.4	216	4.7	1,825	5.9
Under influence at time of offense^a						
Heroin	732	7.9	182	4.0	848	2.7
Powder cocaine	827	8.9	157	3.4	2,121	6.8
Crack cocaine	280	3.0	60	1.3	462	1.5
Marijuana	689	7.4	172	3.8	1,830	5.9

Appendix IV
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Type of Current Offense

	Violent		Property		Drugs	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Other	510	5.5	178	3.9	1,050	3.4
Alcohol	1,890	20.4	341	7.4	2,559	8.2
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	4,951	53.4	1,585	34.6	13,742	44.2
No	4,314	46.6	2,996	65.4	17,361	55.8

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 9,265 violent offenders, 4,582 property offenders, and 31,103 drug offenders in federal prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles

Comparing state and federal inmate profiles showed several differences between types of offenders in state and federal prison.

Regarding the personal background characteristics reported by state and federal inmates for 1997, the data showed the following:

- The percentage of white property offenders was higher in federal prisons (57 percent) than in state prisons (43 percent), while the percentage of black property offenders was lower in federal prisons (24 percent) than in state prisons (40 percent).
- The percentage of Hispanic drug offenders was higher in federal prisons (32 percent) than in state prisons (23 percent), while the percentage of black drug offenders was lower in federal prisons (41 percent) than in state prisons (56 percent).
- The percentage of black violent offenders was higher in state prisons (48 percent) than in federal prisons (39 percent).
- The percentages of older inmates among all three groups of offenders were higher in federal prisons than in state prisons. While 25 percent of violent offenders, 36 percent of property offenders, and 22 percent of drug offenders were age 45 or older in federal prisons, the corresponding percentages in state prisons were 15, 9, and 12 percent, respectively.
- The percentages of married inmates were also higher in federal prisons than in state prisons for property offenders (38 versus 15 percent) and drug offenders (32 versus 19 percent).
- The level of education was higher for all three groups of offenders among federal inmates than among state inmates. The percentages of violent offenders, property offenders, and drug offenders with more than a high school education in federal prisons were 26, 50, and 24 percent, respectively, compared with 13, 14, and 14 percent, respectively, in state prisons.

- Property offenders in the two prison systems also differed in their employment status; 79 percent of property offenders were employed at the time of their arrest among federal prison inmates, compared with 67 percent of property offenders among state prison inmates.

Differences in family background reported were found across crime types, for example:

- The percentages of inmates who grew up in two-parent families were higher for both property offenders (65 percent) and drug offenders (54 percent) in federal prisons than for property offenders (44 percent) and drug offenders (42 percent) in state prisons.
- A higher percentage of property offenders (82 percent) and drug offenders (80 percent) in federal prisons than in state prisons (66 percent and 71 percent, respectively) reported that neither parent had abused alcohol or drugs. However, a higher percentage of property offenders in state prisons (25 percent) than in federal prisons (16 percent) said that their parents had abused alcohol only.
- A higher percentage of property offenders in federal prisons (95 percent) than in state prisons (85 percent) said that they had never been physically or sexually abused as children.

The criminal records reported by federal and state inmates differed in several instances:

- The percentages of property offenders (18 percent) and drug offenders (14 percent) in federal prisons who were on probation at the time of their arrest were lower than the percentages of property offenders (28 percent) and drug offenders (26 percent) in state prisons.
- Similar differences existed in the percentages of property offenders and drug offenders on parole (13 and 10 percent, respectively) in federal prisons, compared with state prisons (33 and 27 percent, respectively).
- The percentages of property offenders (71 percent) and drug offenders (76 percent) in federal prisons who had no criminal justice status at the time of their arrest were higher than the percentages of property offenders (37 percent) and drug offenders (46 percent) in state prisons.
- There was no difference in the percentage of inmates with no prior sentences among violent offenders in state and federal prisons, though higher percentages of property offenders (51 percent) and drug offenders (41 percent) in federal prisons than in state prisons (14 and 22 percent, respectively) had no prior sentences.
- Violent offenders in federal prisons were more likely to have three or more prior sentences than violent offenders in state prisons (44 versus 34

percent); however, lower percentages of property offenders (27 percent) and drug offenders (23 percent) in federal prisons than in state prisons (55 and 42 percent, respectively) had three or more prior sentences.

Moreover, the data showed the following differences in drug histories among offender groups:

- Property offenders in federal prisons were less likely than their state counterparts to have used powder cocaine (9 versus 19 percent), crack cocaine (3 versus 22 percent), and marijuana (17 versus 39 percent) in the month before their arrest.
- Higher percentages of drug offenders in state prisons used crack cocaine (21 percent), marijuana (41 percent), and heroin (13 percent) compared with drug offenders in federal prisons (6 percent used crack cocaine, 32 percent used marijuana, and 4 percent used heroin) in the month before arrest.
- Property offenders in federal prisons were also less likely than those in state prisons to have been under the influence, at the time of the offense, of crack cocaine (1 versus 12 percent), marijuana (4 versus 14 percent), and alcohol (15 versus 34 percent).
- No similar difference existed for drug offenders, and the only substantial difference for violent offenders in federal and state prisons involved alcohol. Twenty-four percent of violent offenders in federal prisons, compared with 41 percent of violent offenders in state prisons, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offense.

Regarding participation in alcohol/drug programs by federal and state inmates, the data indicated differences for some types of offenders but not others:

- While no differences were found for violent offenders in the two prison systems, the data showed differences for drug offenders and property offenders. Lower percentages of property offenders (32 percent) and drug offenders (46 percent) in federal prisons had participated in such programs than property offenders (62 percent) and drug offenders (61 percent) in state prisons.

Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

This appendix presents profiles of state and federal inmates by race, including self-reported information on their personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation. The BJS 1991 and 1997 state and federal surveys indicated that inmates were quite similar across racial and ethnic groups, although some differences were revealed. In 1997, minority inmates were more likely than white inmates to be under 35 years of age, and overall, they had less education. A higher percentage of white and Hispanic state and federal inmates reported that they had grown up in two-parent households. In both federal and state prisons, minority inmates were more likely than white inmates to have been convicted of a drug crime. Federal and state drug offenders varied, by race and ethnicity, in the drug associated with their current offense. A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 profiles showed few changes. However, higher percentages of white and black federal inmates reported that they had been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their arrest. In addition, for federal drug offenders, crack cocaine was the drug involved for a higher percentage of black inmates in 1997 than in 1991, and a higher percentage of whites in 1997 than in 1991 identified methamphetamines as the drug involved.

Profiles of State Inmates by Race

The 1997 state prison inmate profiles by race revealed some differences. Personal demographic and family background characteristics showed that a higher percentage of minority inmates were younger and had less education than white inmates, and smaller percentages of whites than blacks and Hispanics reported that they had experienced no childhood physical or sexual abuse. Drug offenders in state prisons differed by race in the drug associated with their current offense, with a higher percentage of white inmates reporting methamphetamines, black inmates reporting crack cocaine, and Hispanic inmates citing powder cocaine. White inmates more frequently than black or Hispanic inmates reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug programs.

A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 profiles showed few changes. However, the percentage of black and white inmates age 35 and older increased and a higher percentage of black state inmates used marijuana in the month before their arrest in 1997 than in 1991.

Profile of State Prison Inmates by Race, 1997

Table V.1 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities by race, as reported in BJS' 1997 state prison inmate survey. BJS reported a total population of 352,864 white inmates, 492,676 black inmates, and 179,998 Hispanic inmates in state prisons in 1997. All percentages presented in table V.1 for

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

white, black, and Hispanic state prison inmates in 1997 were calculated using these numbers as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table V.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Race, 1997

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	330,852	93.8	461,088	93.6	169,799	94.3
Female	22,013	6.2	31,588	6.4	10,199	5.7
Age group						
Under 25	55,615	15.8	100,915	20.5	44,445	24.7
25-34	124,790	35.4	194,590	39.5	72,315	40.2
35-44	110,951	31.4	146,856	29.8	45,590	25.3
45+	61,508	17.4	50,315	10.2	17,649	9.8
Marital status						
Never married	151,559	43.0	334,929	68.0	97,870	54.4
Married	59,573	16.9	69,197	14.0	41,288	22.9
Other	140,861	39.9	87,702	17.8	40,755	22.6
Education						
Less than high school	94,574	26.8	214,711	43.6	94,420	52.5
GED	135,335	38.4	134,480	27.3	48,722	27.1
High school graduate	60,350	17.1	79,982	16.2	19,910	11.1
More than high school	60,401	17.1	59,506	12.1	15,548	8.6
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	256,374	72.7	302,826	61.5	123,844	68.8
Not employed	88,187	25.0	177,910	36.1	52,176	29.0
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	197,630	56.0	161,186	32.7	89,136	49.5
Mother only	100,310	28.4	236,213	47.9	59,923	33.3
Father only	17,883	5.1	13,063	2.7	5,346	3.0
Grandparents	18,609	5.3	52,373	10.6	13,884	7.7
Other	15,966	4.5	24,746	5.0	10,140	5.6
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	210,056	59.5	349,489	70.9	131,287	72.9
Alcohol only	106,028	30.0	96,570	19.6	34,193	19.0
Drugs only	5,094	1.4	10,734	2.2	2,629	1.5
Alcohol and drugs	27,398	7.8	28,036	5.7	9,457	5.3
Abused as a child ^a						
Physical only	49,516	14.0	31,926	6.5	13,856	7.7
Sexual only	14,645	4.2	12,628	2.6	3,311	1.8
Physical and sexual	20,657	5.9	9,114	1.8	3,514	2.0
None	265,529	75.2	433,775	88.0	157,390	87.4
Criminal records						
Offense type						

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Violent	163,043	46.2	235,604	47.8	77,774	43.2
Property	98,109	27.8	93,148	18.9	32,888	18.3
Drug	40,917	11.6	121,827	24.7	48,934	27.2
Other	44,664	12.7	37,631	7.6	19,062	10.6
Type of drug involved in offense^b						
Powder cocaine	11,642	28.7	36,884	30.5	20,731	43.0
Crack cocaine	4,442	10.9	71,861	59.4	8,012	16.6
Heroin	4,263	10.5	11,309	9.3	10,987	22.8
Marijuana	8,076	19.9	9,763	8.1	8,534	17.7
Methamphetamines	14,489	35.7	887	0.7	4,643	9.6
Other	2,622	6.5	1,091	0.9	1,397	2.9
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	193,536	54.8	245,735	49.9	92,663	51.5
Probation	80,676	22.9	106,724	21.7	37,272	20.7
Parole	70,034	19.8	132,114	26.8	46,620	25.9
Escape	3,870	1.1	2,450	0.5	659	0.4
Prior sentences						
None	82,768	23.5	103,777	21.1	52,877	29.4
1 to 2	100,184	28.4	173,135	35.1	58,633	32.6
3 or more	164,054	46.5	203,188	41.2	65,096	36.2
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^c						
Heroin	32,546	9.2	32,952	6.7	28,456	15.8
Powder cocaine	54,162	15.3	72,595	14.7	36,960	20.5
Crack cocaine	36,973	10.5	96,193	19.5	16,524	9.2
Marijuana	134,596	38.1	201,195	40.8	60,861	33.8
Other	94,954	26.9	31,266	6.3	25,423	14.1
Under influence at time of offense^{a, c}						
Heroin	18,171	5.1	18,827	3.8	19,663	10.9
Powder cocaine	23,445	6.6	33,920	6.9	19,471	10.8
Crack cocaine	20,169	5.7	57,529	11.7	8,480	4.7
Marijuana	52,308	14.8	77,434	15.7	23,100	12.8
Other	52,018	14.7	19,525	4.0	13,668	7.6
Alcohol	148,679	42.1	159,455	32.4	65,063	36.1
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	223,376	63.3	262,654	53.3	86,182	47.9
No	126,403	35.8	223,615	45.4	91,958	51.1

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 352,864 white inmates, 492,676 black inmates, and 179,998 Hispanic inmates in state prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in 1991 (see table V.3) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 40,566 white inmates, 120,980 black inmates, and 48,255 Hispanic inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Table V.2: State Inmates With Children, by Race, 1997

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Do you have children						
Male						
Yes	199,874	60.9	310,257	68.0	114,103	67.7
No	128,147	39.1	146,068	32.0	54,317	32.3
Female						
Yes	17,058	77.9	25,617	81.8	7,985	78.7
No	4,849	22.1	5,688	18.2	2,164	21.3

Note: These percentages were based on the estimated population of 328,022 white, 456,325 black, and 168,420 Hispanic male state inmates and 21,907 white, 31,305 black, and 10,149 Hispanic female state inmates in 1997.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

Among state inmates in the 1997 survey, the profiles revealed few differences in demographics based on race or ethnicity:

- In state prisons, higher percentages of minority inmates were under the age of 35 than white inmates. Sixty-five percent of Hispanic inmates, 60 percent of black inmates, and 51 percent of white inmates were under age 35.
- Higher percentages of minorities in state prisons than whites had never been married. Sixty-eight percent of black, 54 percent of Hispanic, and 43 percent of white inmates had never been married.
- Fifty-two percent of Hispanic and 44 percent of black state prison inmates had less than a high school degree or its equivalent, compared with 27 percent of white inmates.
- Seventy-three percent of white state inmates were employed in the month before their arrest, compared with about 62 percent of black inmates; 69 percent of Hispanic inmates were employed.

Family Background

Family backgrounds reported by state inmates differed among racial and ethnic groups, including the following:

- Higher percentages of white (56 percent) and Hispanic (50 percent) state inmates than black inmates (33 percent) lived with both parents when growing up. A higher percentage of black state inmates had lived with only their mother (48 percent), compared with white (28 percent) and Hispanic (33 percent) inmates.

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- Seventy-one percent of black and 73 percent of Hispanic state inmates said that neither parent had abused alcohol or drugs, compared with 60 percent of white inmates. A higher percentage of white inmates (30 percent) than black (20 percent) or Hispanic (19 percent) inmates said that a parent had abused alcohol only.
 - Although most state inmates had not experienced physical or sexual abuse as a child, a lower percentage of white (75 percent) than black (88 percent) and Hispanic (87 percent) inmates had not been abused.

Criminal Records

The types of nonviolent crimes committed and the types of drugs involved in drug crimes differed by racial or ethnic group:

- Regardless of race or ethnicity, state inmates in 1997 most frequently had been convicted of a violent crime. However, concerning nonviolent crimes, a higher percentage of white inmates (28 percent) than black (19 percent) and Hispanic (18 percent) inmates were in prison for a property crime, while a higher percentage of black (25 percent) and Hispanic (27 percent) inmates than white inmates (12 percent) were in prison for a drug crime.
- Among drug offenders, the type of drug involved in the crime varied by racial group. A higher percentage of black state inmates (59 percent) than Hispanic (17 percent) or white inmates (11 percent) who were convicted of drug crimes said that crack cocaine was involved in the crime. However, a higher percentage of Hispanic inmates (43 percent) than black (30 percent) and white (29 percent) inmates said that powder cocaine was involved.
- Methamphetamines were involved for a higher percentage of white inmates convicted of drug crimes (36 percent) than Hispanic (10 percent) or black (1 percent) inmates.
- Marijuana was more likely to be involved for white (20 percent) and Hispanic (18 percent) inmates than black (8 percent) inmates. A higher percentage of Hispanic inmates (23 percent) than white (10 percent) and black inmates (9 percent) indicated heroin.
- A higher percentage of white (47 percent) than Hispanic (36 percent) inmates had served three or more prior sentences; 41 percent of black inmates had served three or more prior sentences.

Drug Histories

The drug histories reported by state inmates in 1997 across the racial and ethnic groups were quite similar, with the following exceptions:

- In the month before arrest, a higher percentage of black state inmates (20 percent) than white (10 percent) and Hispanic (9 percent) inmates used crack cocaine.

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

- A higher percentage of Hispanic inmates (16 percent) than black inmates (7 percent) used heroin; 9 percent of white inmates used heroin during this period.
- White inmates (27 percent) were more likely than Hispanic (14 percent) and black (6 percent) inmates to have used a drug other than marijuana, cocaine, or heroin during the month before their arrest.
- A higher percentage of white inmates (42 percent) than black inmates (32 percent) were under the influence of alcohol when they committed their offense; 36 percent of Hispanic inmates were under the influence of alcohol.

Treatment Participation

State inmates' reports of participation in alcohol/drug programs differed across racial and ethnic groups. A higher percentage of white inmates (63 percent) than black (53 percent) and Hispanic (48 percent) inmates reported that they had participated in such programs.

Changes in 1997, Compared With 1991 Profiles of White, Black, and Hispanic Inmates in State Prisons

A comparison of table V.1 with table V.3, which provides information on selected characteristics from BJS' 1991 inmate survey of state prison inmates, showed little change in state inmate profiles based on race or ethnicity between 1991 and 1997. There were a few differences, however:

- The percentages of white and black state inmates under age 35 decreased from 1991 (62 and 71 percent, respectively) to 1997 (51 and 60 percent, respectively).
- A higher percentage of black state inmates had used marijuana in the month before their arrest in 1997 (41 percent) than in 1991 (30 percent).

Table V.3: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Race, 1991

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	238,012	94.4	306,329	94.5	113,113	95.3
Female	14,026	5.6	17,836	5.5	5,521	4.7
Age group						
Under 25	47,296	18.8	76,923	23.7	27,923	23.5
25-34	108,839	43.2	153,577	47.4	55,830	47.1
35-44	59,857	23.7	72,640	22.4	24,802	20.9
45+	36,045	14.3	21,025	6.5	10,079	8.5
Marital status						
Never married	104,821	41.6	216,330	66.7	60,395	50.9
Married	46,512	18.5	47,336	14.6	29,825	25.1
Other	97,551	38.7	56,569	17.5	27,735	23.4

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Education						
Less than high school	75,408	29.9	148,543	45.8	65,669	55.4
GED	78,262	31.1	67,647	20.9	24,027	20.3
High school graduate	52,948	21.0	64,108	19.8	16,628	14.0
More than high school	45,191	17.9	43,310	13.4	12,110	10.2
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	183,015	72.6	202,958	62.6	80,221	67.6
Not employed	68,171	27.0	119,909	37.0	37,998	32.0
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	140,935	55.9	102,804	31.7	54,463	45.9
Mother only	69,366	27.5	160,184	49.4	42,680	36.0
Father only	12,269	4.9	9,757	3.0	4,784	4.0
Grandparents	12,954	5.1	32,294	10.0	8,092	6.8
Other	15,469	6.1	17,222	5.3	8,216	6.9
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	158,675	63.0	257,248	79.4	91,633	77.2
Alcohol only	76,397	30.3	53,493	16.5	20,552	17.3
Drugs only	1,812	0.7	2,346	0.7	1,533	1.3
Alcohol and drugs	13,359	5.3	7,952	2.5	3,795	3.2
Abused as a child						
Physical only	26,712	10.6	14,540	4.5	5,648	4.8
Sexual only	9,849	3.9	5,105	1.6	1,890	1.6
Physical and sexual	19,149	7.6	6,849	2.1	2,824	2.4
None	196,328	77.9	297,671	91.8	108,273	91.3
Criminal records						
Offense type						
Violent	121,972	48.4	151,926	46.9	45,437	38.3
Property	75,015	29.8	70,621	21.8	24,182	20.4
Drug	29,751	11.8	80,126	24.7	38,807	32.7
Other	25,299	10.0	21,789	6.7	10,207	8.6
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	140,585	55.8	168,446	52.0	60,920	51.4
Probation	56,501	22.4	74,734	23.1	27,932	23.5
Parole	48,695	19.3	75,743	23.4	28,048	23.6
Escape	4,370	1.7	2,418	0.7	663	0.6
Prior sentences						
None	52,520	20.8	60,486	18.7	28,601	24.1
1 to 2	79,605	31.6	126,081	38.9	42,688	36.0
3 or more	119,912	47.6	137,597	42.4	47,344	39.9
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^a						
Heroin	17,013	6.8	22,993	7.1	22,116	18.6
Powder cocaine	44,882	17.8	66,187	20.4	30,551	25.8
Crack cocaine	16,218	6.4	44,535	13.7	9,461	8.0
Marijuana	90,880	36.1	96,856	29.9	33,571	28.3
Other	55,955	22.2	19,685	6.1	14,348	12.1

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Under influence at time of offense^a						
Heroin	11,579	4.6	13,590	4.2	16,533	13.9
Powder cocaine	25,272	10.0	37,382	11.5	15,354	12.9
Crack cocaine	7,484	3.0	24,045	7.4	4,115	3.5
Marijuana	33,740	13.4	34,993	10.8	11,049	9.3
Other	36,005	14.3	12,482	3.9	7,159	6.0
Alcohol	99,860	39.6	83,889	25.9	37,969	32.0
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	151,902	60.3	161,861	49.9	63,281	53.3
No	100,136	39.7	162,303	50.1	55,352	46.7

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated population of 252,038 white inmates, 324,165 black inmates, and 118,634 Hispanic inmates in state prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Table V.4: State Inmates With Children, by Race, 1991

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Do you have children						
Male						
Yes	136,990	57.6	204,573	66.8	75,397	66.7
No	101,022	42.4	101,756	33.2	37,716	33.3
Female						
Yes	10,322	73.6	14,086	79.0	4,490	81.3
No	3,703	26.4	3,749	21.0	1,031	18.7

Note: These percentages were based on the estimated population of 238,012 white, 306,329 black, and 113,113 Hispanic male state inmates and 14,025 white, 17,835 black, and 5,521 Hispanic female state inmates in 1991.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The 1997 federal prison inmate profiles revealed a few differences in personal demographics and family background based on race or ethnicity. While federal inmates of all races were most likely to report that their current incarceration was for a drug crime, the likelihood of committing drug crimes, as opposed to violent or property crimes varied across racial groups. Moreover, among drug offenders, the drugs likely to be associated with the current offense differed by race and ethnicity. For example, a higher percentage of white drug offenders than other drug offenders cited methamphetamines, black drug offenders were more likely than other drug

offenders to report crack cocaine, and Hispanic drug offenders were more likely than other drug offenders to report powder cocaine as the associated drug. Moreover, greater percentages of white and black federal inmates than Hispanic inmates had serious criminal records. The drug histories of federal inmates also varied by race and ethnicity, with a greater percentage of black inmates reporting that they had used marijuana in the month before arrest, a greater percentage of Hispanic inmates reporting that they had used powder cocaine, and a greater percentage of white inmates reporting that they had used other drugs. In 1997, higher percentages of white and black federal inmates than Hispanic inmates reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug programs.

A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 federal profiles showed few changes by race. However, white and black inmates were more likely in 1997 than 1991 to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their arrest. In addition, a higher percentage of black drug offenders in 1997 than in 1991 said crack cocaine was the drug involved in their current offense, and a higher percentage of white inmates identified methamphetamines as the drug involved.

**Profile of Federal Prison
Inmates by Race, 1997**

Table V.5 summarizes selected self-reported personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in federal correctional facilities derived from BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey. The federal prison population included 26,616 white, 33,697 black, and 24,349 Hispanic inmates. All percentages presented below for federal prison inmates for 1997 were calculated using those numbers as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing responses to a particular question.

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

Table V.5: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Race, 1997

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	24,746	93.0	31,481	93.4	22,280	91.5
Female	1,870	7.0	2,216	6.6	2,069	8.5
Age group						
Under 25	1,099	4.1	4,216	12.5	1,981	8.1
25-34	6,134	23.0	16,119	47.8	8,849	36.3
35-44	9,111	34.2	8,537	25.3	8,309	34.1
45+	10,272	38.6	4,825	14.3	5,210	21.4
Marital status						
Never married	6,978	26.2	20,169	59.9	7,812	32.1
Married	8,016	30.1	7,681	22.8	10,001	41.1
Other	11,548	43.4	5,754	17.1	6,518	26.8
Education						
Less than high school	3,105	11.7	10,117	30.0	8,985	36.9
GED	7,556	28.4	8,594	25.5	6,372	26.2
High school graduate	5,495	20.6	7,555	22.4	3,873	15.9
More than high school	10,188	38.3	7,169	21.3	4,682	19.2
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	18,955	71.2	21,545	63.9	18,207	74.8
Not employed	6,946	26.1	11,235	33.3	5,169	21.2
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	17,991	67.6	12,286	36.5	15,380	63.2
Mother only	6,173	23.2	15,381	45.6	5,325	21.9
Father only	836	3.1	743	2.2	829	3.4
Grandparents	645	2.4	4,031	12.0	1,553	6.4
Other	560	2.1	1,014	3.0	988	4.1
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	19,562	73.5	26,228	77.8	20,523	84.3
Alcohol only	5,281	19.8	5,274	15.7	3,047	12.5
Drugs only	163	0.6	441	1.3	66	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	994	3.7	1,311	3.9	326	1.3
Abused as a child ^a						
Physical only	1,861	7.0	937	2.8	535	2.2
Sexual only	478	1.8	426	1.3	318	1.3
Physical and sexual	630	2.4	235	0.7	164	0.7
None	23,137	86.9	31,810	94.4	23,010	94.5
Criminal records						
Offense type						
Violent	4,895	18.4	5,080	15.1	1,649	6.8
Property	3,347	12.6	1,389	4.1	623	2.6
Drug	13,026	48.9	22,350	66.3	17,876	73.4
Other	4,839	18.2	4,359	12.9	3,956	16.2
Type of drug involved in offense ^b						

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Powder cocaine	3,833	29.5	8,990	40.3	9,153	51.3
Crack cocaine	769	5.9	12,165	54.5	1,298	7.3
Heroin	618	4.8	1,650	7.4	2,639	14.8
Marijuana	3,832	29.5	1,366	6.1	4,607	25.8
Methamphetamines	4,177	32.2	42	0.2	1,305	7.3
Other	921	7.1	542	2.4	255	1.4
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	19,809	74.4	22,767	67.6	17,960	73.8
Probation	2,534	9.5	5,617	16.7	3,290	13.5
Parole	3,911	14.7	4,989	14.8	2,730	11.2
Escape	121	0.5	18	0.1	93	0.4
Prior sentences						
None	9,950	37.4	9,294	27.6	12,468	51.2
1 to 2	7,649	28.7	11,759	34.9	7,019	28.8
3 or more	8,421	31.6	12,004	35.6	4,193	17.2
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^c						
Heroin	1,916	7.2	1,186	3.5	1,532	6.3
Powder cocaine	4,027	15.1	4,520	13.4	5,510	22.6
Crack cocaine	1,417	5.3	3,178	9.4	786	3.2
Marijuana	7,871	29.6	12,411	36.8	5,109	21.0
Other	6,269	23.6	984	2.9	1,348	5.5
Under influence at time of offense^{a, c}						
Heroin	1,009	3.8	715	2.1	830	3.4
Powder cocaine	1,493	5.6	2,012	6.0	2,094	8.6
Crack cocaine	678	2.5	1,534	4.6	479	2.0
Marijuana	2,519	9.5	4,999	14.8	1,520	6.2
Other	3,948	14.8	687	2.0	383	1.6
Alcohol	5,697	21.4	6,989	20.7	4,011	16.5
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	13,975	52.5	16,119	47.8	8,764	36.0
No	12,045	45.3	17,208	51.1	15,317	62.9

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 26,616 white inmates, 33,697 black inmates, and 24,349 Hispanic inmates in federal prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table V.7) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 12,982 white inmates, 22,302 black inmates, and 17,833 Hispanic inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

Table V.6: Federal Inmates With Children, by Race, 1997

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Do you have children						
Male						
Yes	16,985	69.7	25,885	82.9	17,591	79.8
No	7,383	30.3	5,325	17.1	4,460	20.2
Female						
Yes	1,453	77.9	1,844	83.7	1,771	85.6
No	412	22.1	360	16.3	298	14.4

Note: These percentages were based on the estimated population of 24,368 white, 31,210 black, and 22,051 Hispanic male federal inmates and 1,866 white, 2,205 black, and 2,069 Hispanic female federal inmates in 1997.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

Examination of BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey data revealed few differences between racial and ethnic groups in their general demographic characteristics:

- In federal prisons in 1997, minority inmates were more likely than white inmates to be under the age of 35. Sixty percent of black inmates were under the age of 35, with nearly half (48 percent) being between 25 and 34 years old; 44 percent of Hispanic inmates were younger than 35, with about one-third (36 percent) being between 25 and 34. About one-quarter of white inmates (27 percent) were younger than 35 years old. A higher percentage of white (39 percent) than other inmates (14 percent of black and 21 percent of Hispanic inmates) were 45 years of age or older.
- Concerning marital status, black federal inmates (60 percent) were the most likely to report never having been married, Hispanic inmates (41 percent) were the most likely to indicate being married currently, and white inmates (43 percent) were the most likely to report marital statuses other than never married or married (i.e., divorced, separated, or widowed).
- A higher percentage of white federal inmates had more education than did minority inmates. Specifically, 38 percent of white inmates had more education than a high school degree or GED, compared with 21 percent of black and 19 percent of Hispanic inmates. Greater percentages of Hispanic (37 percent) and black (30 percent) federal inmates had less than a high school degree than did white inmates (12 percent).
- A higher percentage of Hispanic inmates (75 percent) than black inmates (64 percent) were employed in the month before their arrest; 71 percent of white inmates were employed.

Family Background

- Black (83 percent) and Hispanic (80 percent) male federal inmates were more likely than white male inmates (70 percent) to have children.

While there were few racial differences in the family background characteristics reported by federal prison inmates in 1997, we found the following:

- In federal prisons, higher percentages of white (68 percent) and Hispanic (63 percent) inmates than black inmates (37 percent) reported that they had lived with both parents when growing up. Forty-six percent of black inmates (46 percent) lived with only their mother, compared with white (23 percent) and Hispanic (22 percent) inmates.
- Hispanic inmates (84 percent) were more likely than white inmates (74 percent) to report no parental abuse of alcohol or drugs; 78 percent of black inmates reported no parental abuse of alcohol or drugs.

Criminal Records

There were differences in federal inmates' criminal records, according to race or ethnicity. The type of current offense reported varied across racial groups in the following ways:

- Higher percentages of Hispanic (73 percent) and black (66 percent) inmates than white inmates (49 percent) were drug offenders.
- White (18 percent) and black (15 percent) inmates were more likely than Hispanic inmates (7 percent) to be violent offenders.
- A higher percentage of white inmates (13 percent) than black (4 percent) and Hispanic (3 percent) inmates were property offenders.

There were racial and ethnic differences in the types of drugs federal drug offenders said were associated with their current offense:

- Drug offenders who were members of minority groups were more likely than white drug offenders to cite powder cocaine as the drug involved in their current offense. Fifty-one percent of Hispanic inmates, 40 percent of black inmates, and 30 percent of white inmates cited powder cocaine.
- Fifty-four percent of black drug offenders compared with 7 percent of Hispanic and 6 percent of white drug offenders indicated crack cocaine as the drug involved in their current offense.
- White drug offenders (32 percent) were more likely than Hispanic (7 percent) or black (0.2 percent) drug offenders to identify methamphetamines as the associated drug.
- Marijuana was involved in the current offense for a higher percentage of white (30 percent) and Hispanic (26 percent) drug offenders than black drug offenders (6 percent).

There were some racial and ethnic differences among federal inmates in their reported previous experience with the criminal justice system:

- Hispanic inmates (51 percent) were more likely than white inmates (37 percent) and white inmates more likely than black inmates (28 percent) to have served no prior sentences.
- Black (36 percent) and white (32 percent) inmates were about twice as likely as Hispanic inmates (17 percent) to have served three or more prior sentences.

Drug Histories

The drug histories reported by federal inmates also differed across racial groups:

- Higher percentages of black (37 percent) and white (30 percent) inmates than Hispanic inmates (21 percent) had used marijuana in the month prior to the arrest for their current offense.
- Hispanic inmates (23 percent) were more likely than white (15 percent) or black (13 percent) inmates to have used powder cocaine in the month prior to their arrest.
- Twenty-four percent of white inmates compared with 6 percent of Hispanic and 3 percent of black inmates used a drug other than marijuana, cocaine, or heroin in the month before their arrest.

Treatment Participation

In 1997, the percentage of federal prison inmates who reported they had participated in alcohol/drug programs differed by race and ethnicity, with greater percentages of white and black inmates than Hispanic inmates having participated in such treatment. White (52 percent) and black (48 percent) federal inmates were more likely than Hispanic inmates (36 percent) to report having participated in alcohol/drug programs.

Few Changes in 1997, Compared With 1991 Profiles of Federal White, Black, and Hispanic Inmates

A comparison of table V.5 with table V.7, which provides information on selected characteristics from BJS' 1991 inmate survey of federal prison inmates, generally, showed little overall change in federal inmate profiles by race and ethnicity between 1991 and 1997. However, some changes did occur:

- Higher percentages of black and Hispanic inmates in 1997 (60 and 32 percent, respectively) than in 1991 (50 and 23 percent, respectively) were never married.
- A higher percentage of black inmates in 1997 (66 percent) than in 1991 (55 percent) was in prison for a drug crime.
- Black inmates were nearly twice as likely to cite crack cocaine in 1997 (54 percent) than in 1991 (29 percent) as the drug involved, and the percentage

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

of white inmates who indicated methamphetamines nearly doubled also between 1997 (32 percent) and 1991 (17 percent).

- Lower percentages of Hispanic and black federal inmates in 1997 (51 and 28 percent, respectively) than in 1991 (65 and 40 percent, respectively) had served no prior sentences. A higher percentage of black inmates in 1997 (36 percent) than in 1991 (26 percent) had served three or more prior sentences.
- A greater percentage of Hispanic federal inmates had used powder cocaine in the month before their arrest in 1997 (23 percent) than in 1991 (13 percent). A higher percentage of white inmates in 1997 (21 percent) than in 1991 (12 percent) had used a drug other than marijuana, cocaine, or heroin.
- White and black federal inmates were more likely in 1997 (21 and 21 percent, respectively) than in 1991 (12 and 10 percent, respectively) to report being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest.

Table V.7: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Race, 1991

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics						
Sex						
Male	19,506	94.1	14,514	89.9	13,856	91.8
Female	1,226	5.9	1,629	10.1	1,245	8.2
Age group						
Under 25	950	4.6	2,475	15.3	1,330	8.8
25-34	6,205	29.9	6,717	41.6	5,667	37.5
35-44	7,221	34.8	4,805	29.8	5,149	34.1
45+	6,356	30.7	2,147	13.3	2,955	19.6
Marital status						
Never married	4,899	23.6	8,150	50.5	3,445	22.8
Married	7,549	36.4	4,520	28.0	7,556	50.0
Other	7,979	38.5	3,199	19.8	4,010	26.6
Education						
Less than high school	3,024	14.6	4,562	28.3	4,718	31.2
GED	4,653	22.4	3,534	21.9	3,592	23.8
High school graduate	4,724	22.8	3,639	22.5	3,097	20.5
More than high school	8,259	39.8	4,369	27.1	3,642	24.1
Employment status in month before arrest						
Employed	15,368	74.1	10,921	67.7	12,033	79.7
Not employed	5,241	25.3	5,107	31.6	3,012	19.9
Family background						
Person lived with while growing up						
Both mother and father	14,202	68.5	6,520	40.4	9,375	62.1

**Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race**

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Mother only	4,281	20.6	6,777	42.0	3,717	24.6
Father only	765	3.7	491	3.0	483	3.2
Grandparents	572	2.8	1,398	8.7	827	5.5
Other	755	3.6	740	4.6	626	4.1
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse						
None	16,334	78.8	13,358	82.7	13,650	90.4
Alcohol only	3,815	18.4	2,358	14.6	1,228	8.1
Drugs only	47	0.2	60	0.4	51	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	345	1.7	149	0.9	47	0.3
Abused as a child						
Physical only	1,125	5.4	392	2.4	314	2.1
Sexual only	296	1.4	144	0.9	88	0.6
Physical and sexual	396	1.9	196	1.2	77	0.5
None	18,915	91.2	15,412	95.5	14,621	96.8
Criminal records						
Offense type						
Violent	3,878	18.7	3,585	22.2	905	6.0
Property	2,713	13.1	1,419	8.8	297	2.0
Drug	9,548	46.1	8,817	54.6	12,084	80.0
Other	4,593	22.2	2,322	14.4	1,815	12.0
Type of drug involved in offense^a						
Powder cocaine	4,354	45.6	4,500	51.1	7,477	62.0
Crack cocaine	87	0.9	2,570	29.2	290	2.4
Heroin	451	4.7	1,305	14.8	1,437	11.9
Marijuana	2,712	28.4	477	5.4	2,731	22.7
Methamphetamines	1,652	17.3	30	0.3	203	1.7
Other	502	5.3	396	4.5	48	0.4
Criminal justice status at time of arrest						
None	15,538	74.9	11,259	69.7	12,363	81.9
Probation	2,281	11.0	2,362	14.6	1,428	9.5
Parole	2,519	12.1	2,375	14.7	1,182	7.8
Escape	344	1.7	83	0.5	56	0.4
Prior sentences						
None	8,996	43.4	6,376	39.5	9,756	64.6
1 to 2	6,664	32.1	5,631	34.9	3,731	24.7
3 or more	5,072	24.5	4,136	25.6	1,614	10.7
Drug histories						
Drug use in month before arrest^b						
Heroin	869	4.2	950	5.9	780	5.2
Powder cocaine	2,925	14.1	2,279	14.1	1,974	13.1
Crack cocaine	586	2.8	1,139	7.1	216	1.4
Marijuana	4,395	21.2	3,629	22.5	1,876	12.4
Other	2,348	11.3	608	3.8	399	2.6
Under influence at time of offense^b						
Heroin	634	3.1	693	4.3	550	3.6
Powder cocaine	1,481	7.1	1,077	6.7	931	6.2
Crack cocaine	238	1.1	636	3.9	99	0.7

Appendix V
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Race

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Marijuana	1,268	6.1	1,157	7.2	665	4.4
Other	1,426	6.9	294	1.8	163	1.1
Alcohol	2,410	11.6	1,600	9.9	1,274	8.4
Treatment participation						
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program						
Yes	10,778	52.0	6,602	40.9	5,730	37.9
No	9,954	48.0	9,541	59.1	9,371	62.1

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 20,732 White inmates, 16,143 Black inmates, and 15,101 Hispanic inmates in federal prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 9,538 white inmates, 8,804 black inmates, and 12,056 Hispanic inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^bMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Table V.8: Federal Inmates With Children, by Race, 1991

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Do you have children						
Male						
Yes	13,613	69.8	11,307	77.9	11,227	81.0
No	5,893	30.2	3,206	22.1	2,629	19.0
Female						
Yes	929	75.7	1316	80.7	1,040	83.5
No	297	24.3	314	19.3	205	16.5

Note: These percentages were based on the estimated population total of 19,506 white, 14,513 black, and 13,856 Hispanic male federal inmates and 1,226 white, 1,630 black, and 1,245 Hispanic female federal inmates in 1991.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles

We identified several differences between state and federal inmate populations in 1997 that were related to race:

- White and Hispanic state inmates tended to be younger than white and Hispanic federal inmates. Higher percentages of white and Hispanic state inmates were under age 35 (51 and 65 percent, respectively), while higher percentages of white and Hispanic federal inmates were age 35 or older (73 and 56 percent, respectively).
- Higher percentages of white (68 percent) and Hispanic (63 percent) inmates in federal prisons than in state prisons (56 percent of white and 50

percent of Hispanic inmates) lived with both parents when growing up. A higher percentage of Hispanic state inmates (33 percent) than Hispanic federal inmates (22 percent) lived with their mother only.

- Higher percentages of white (74 percent) and Hispanic (84 percent) inmates in federal prisons than in state prisons (60 percent of whites and 73 percent of Hispanics) said that neither parent had abused alcohol or drugs. However, a higher percentage of white state inmates (30 percent) than white federal inmates (20 percent) said that a parent had abused alcohol only.
- A lower percentage of white state inmates (75 percent) than white federal inmates (87 percent) said that they had not been physically and/or sexually abused as a child.
- A higher percentage of white state inmates (23 percent) than white federal inmates (10 percent) said that they had been on probation at the time of their arrest. Higher percentages of state black (27 percent) and Hispanic inmates (26 percent) than federal black (15 percent) and Hispanic inmates (11 percent) were on parole at the time of their arrest.
- Among drug offenders, higher percentages of federal black inmates (40 percent) and Hispanic inmates (51 percent) than state black inmates (30 percent) and Hispanic inmates (43 percent) cited powder cocaine as the drug involved in the crime. Higher percentages of federal white inmates (30 percent) and Hispanic inmates (26 percent) than state white inmates (20 percent) and Hispanic inmates (18 percent) indicated marijuana.
- Higher percentages of state white inmates (46 percent) and Hispanic inmates (36 percent) than federal white inmates (32 percent) and Hispanic inmates (17 percent) had served 3 or more prior sentences.
- A higher percentage of black state inmates (20 percent) than black federal inmates (9 percent) had used crack cocaine in the month before their arrest, and a higher percentage of Hispanic state inmates (34 percent) than Hispanic federal inmates (21 percent) had used marijuana.
- Higher percentages of state white (63 percent) and Hispanic inmates (48 percent) than federal white (52 percent) and Hispanic inmates (36 percent) had participated in alcohol/drug programs.

Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

This appendix presents profiles of state and federal inmates by gender, including their self-reported personal demographics, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation.¹ While few differences were found between male and female inmates in state and federal prisons in 1991 and 1997, some differences were striking. In 1997, 36 percent of female state inmates and 23 percent of female federal inmates reported being physically and/or sexually abused as children, compared with 14 and 6 percent of male state and federal inmates, respectively. In both state and federal prisons, female inmates were more likely than male inmates to report drug crimes as their current offense; whereas, a higher percentage of male state inmates reported that their current offense was a violent crime. Moreover, among state inmates, females were more likely than males to report having used crack cocaine in the month before arrest; however, males were more likely to report using marijuana. Among federal inmates, similar percentages of males and females reported using all types of drugs except marijuana in the month before arrest. Higher percentages of males than females reported using marijuana.

Profiles of Male and Female State Inmates

The 1997 state inmate survey revealed some differences between male and female inmates. In state prisons, males were somewhat younger than females. Although the majority of state inmates reported no sexual or physical abuse as a child, female inmates more frequently reported abuse than male inmates. Male and female state prison inmates also had different current offenses. A higher percentage of male than female inmates were currently incarcerated for violent crimes, while a higher percentage of female than male inmates were incarcerated for drug crimes. Male and female inmates also reported different drug use patterns. For example, while a higher percentage of male than female inmates reported using marijuana in the month before arrest, a higher percentage of female inmates reported using crack cocaine or heroin in the month their arrest. Comparing the 1997 and 1991 profiles, few changes were identified. However, the percentage of female state inmates who reported having experienced physical and sexual abuse as a child decreased, and the percentage of female inmates who used crack cocaine in the month before arrest increased.

Profile of Male and Female State Inmates, 1997

Table VI.1 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information for inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities separately for males

¹ For additional information on female prison inmates, see also *Women in Prison: Issues and Challenges Confronting U.S. Correctional Systems* (GAO/GGD-00-22, Dec. 28, 1999).

Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

and females, as reported in BJS' 1997 state prison inmate survey. BJS reported a total population of 993,364 males and 66,242 females in state prisons in 1997. All percentages presented below for male and female state prison inmates in 1997 were calculated using these numbers as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table VI.1: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Gender, 1997

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics				
Race				
White	330,852	33.3	22,013	33.2
Black	461,088	46.4	31,588	47.7
Hispanic	169,799	17.1	10,199	15.4
Other	31,626	3.2	2,443	3.7
Age group				
Under 25	201,713	20.3	7,631	11.5
25-34	375,253	37.8	28,781	43.4
35-44	289,378	29.1	22,621	34.1
45+	127,021	12.8	7,210	10.9
Marital status				
Never married	572,976	57.7	31,117	47.0
Married	164,289	16.5	11,428	17.3
Other	254,490	25.6	23,502	35.5
Education				
Less than high school	388,476	39.1	27,328	41.3
GED	314,058	31.6	16,291	24.6
High school graduate	153,503	15.5	11,041	16.7
More than high school	130,101	13.1	11,036	16.7
Employment status in month before arrest				
Employed	671,999	67.6	32,994	49.8
Not employed	296,951	29.9	32,052	48.4
Family background				
Person lived with while growing up				
Both mother and father	435,818	43.9	27,234	41.1
Mother only	382,702	38.5	25,572	38.6
Father only	35,697	3.6	2,328	3.5
Grandparents	80,557	8.1	6,663	10.1
Other	49,912	5.0	3,814	5.8
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse				
None	670,786	67.5	40,781	61.6
Alcohol only	228,188	23.0	17,529	26.5
Drugs only	17,322	1.7	1,490	2.2
Alcohol and drugs	62,773	6.3	5,390	8.1
Abused as a child ^a				
Physical only	92,390	9.3	7,432	11.2

**Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender**

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Sexual only	24,022	2.4	7,413	11.2
Physical and sexual	25,135	2.5	9,159	13.8
None	842,772	84.8	41,420	62.5
Criminal records				
Offense type				
Violent	475,794	47.9	18,554	28.0
Property	212,689	21.4	17,488	26.4
Drug	193,630	19.5	22,624	34.2
Other	98,858	10.0	7,069	10.7
Type of drug involved in drug offense ^b				
Powder cocaine	64,652	33.7	5,871	26.3
Crack cocaine	74,780	38.9	11,044	49.5
Heroin	23,593	12.3	3,422	15.4
Marijuana	25,713	13.4	1,432	6.4
Methamphetamines	19,046	9.9	1,860	8.3
Other	4,567	2.4	778	3.5
Criminal justice status at time of arrest				
None	520,670	52.4	30,403	45.9
Probation	209,627	21.1	22,118	33.4
Parole	243,122	24.5	11,885	17.9
Escape	6,821	0.7	538	0.8
Prior sentences				
None	225,444	22.7	22,751	34.3
1 to 2	320,714	32.3	21,133	31.9
3 or more	426,187	42.9	20,656	31.2
Drug Histories				
Drug use in month before arrest ^c				
Heroin	85,977	8.7	10,552	15.9
Powder cocaine	154,136	15.5	13,723	20.7
Crack cocaine	132,590	13.3	20,389	30.8
Marijuana	392,449	39.5	17,349	26.2
Other	147,557	14.9	10,286	15.5
Under influence at time of offense ^{a, c}				
Heroin	51,221	5.2	6,797	10.3
Powder cocaine	71,972	7.2	6,418	9.7
Crack cocaine	75,331	7.6	12,388	18.7
Marijuana	151,492	15.3	5,441	8.2
Other	83,115	8.4	5,692	8.6
Alcohol	368,194	37.1	18,943	28.6
Treatment participation				
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program				
Yes	551,780	55.5	39,689	59.9
No	430,817	43.4	25,647	38.7

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 993,364 male inmates and 66,242 female inmates in state prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in 1991 (see table VI.2) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 192,006 male inmates and 22,293 female inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

Examination of BJS' 1997 state prison inmate survey data revealed a few differences between male and female state prison inmates in their general demographic characteristics:

- A higher percentage of male (20 percent) than female (11 percent) state inmates were under age 25.
- While about 17 percent of both male and female inmates were married, 58 percent of the male inmates had never been married, compared with 47 percent of the female inmates. Likewise, a higher percentage of female (36 percent) than male (26 percent) inmates had some "other" marital status (i.e., divorced, separated, widowed).
- Two-thirds of state male inmates were employed in the month before their arrest, compared with half of female inmates.

Family Background

While male and female state inmates in 1997 had similar family backgrounds, higher percentages of females than males reported having been sexually and/or physically abused as a child. About 25 percent of female state inmates reported some kind of sexual abuse, compared with 5 percent of male inmates.

Criminal Records

Male and female state inmates in 1997 reported different crimes and criminal records:

- Forty-eight percent of the male state inmates were incarcerated for violent crimes, compared with 28 percent of the female inmates. A larger percentage of female than male inmates, however, were incarcerated for drug crimes--34 percent of females, compared with 20 percent of male inmates.
- While about half of both male and female state inmates had no criminal justice status at the time of arrest, 33 percent of the female inmates were on probation when arrested, compared with 21 percent of the male inmates.
- Male inmates were more likely to have served prior sentences than female state inmates. While 23 percent of male state inmates had not served prior sentences, 34 percent of female inmates had served no prior sentences.

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- Among drug offenders, 50 percent of female inmates, compared with 39 percent of male inmates, were incarcerated for offenses involving crack cocaine.

Drug Histories

Male and female state inmates also reported different patterns of drug use:

- Almost 40 percent of male state inmates indicated that they had used marijuana during the month before their arrest, compared with 26 percent of female inmates. A higher percentage of female state inmates (31 percent) than males (13 percent) reported using crack cocaine in the month before their arrest.
- Female state inmates were more than twice as likely as male state inmates to have been under the influence of crack cocaine when they committed their offense. Nineteen percent of female state inmates reported being under the influence of crack cocaine, compared with 8 percent of male inmates.

Treatment Participation

In 1997, male and female state inmates had similar rates of participation in alcohol/drug programs.

Few Changes in 1997, Compared With 1991 Male and Female State Inmate Profiles

A comparison of table VI.1 with table VI.2, which provides information on selected characteristics from BJS' 1991 inmate survey of state prison inmates, shows that while the differences between male and female state prison inmates were similar in 1991 and 1997, there were a few changes:

- The percentage of female state inmates who reported being both sexually and physically abused as a child decreased from 24 percent in 1991 to 14 percent in 1997. The percentages for male state inmates remained about the same, and as a result, the difference between male and female inmates was less in 1997 than in 1991.
- A higher percentage of female state inmates in 1997 (31 percent) than in 1991 (19 percent) reported they had used crack cocaine in the month before their arrest. Male inmates showed little change. Moreover, the percentage of female inmates who reported being under the influence of crack cocaine at the time of committing the offense increased from 10 percent in 1991 to 19 percent in 1997.

Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

Table VI.2: Profile of State Prison Inmates by Gender, 1991

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics				
Race				
White	238,012	35.4	14,026	36.2
Black	306,329	45.5	17,836	46.0
Hispanic	113,113	16.8	5,521	14.2
Other	15,393	2.3	1,414	3.6
Age group				
Under 25	149,534	22.2	6,346	16.4
25-34	305,883	45.5	19,545	50.4
35-44	151,766	22.6	9,885	25.5
45+	65,663	9.8	3,020	7.8
Marital status				
Never married	371,928	55.3	17,374	44.8
Married	120,731	17.9	6,658	17.2
Other	172,577	25.6	14,467	37.3
Education				
Less than high school	279,066	41.5	16,287	42.0
GED	166,994	24.8	7,985	20.6
High school graduate	128,501	19.1	7,587	19.6
More than high school	97,374	14.5	6,864	17.7
Employment status in month before arrest				
Employed	458,780	68.2	17,946	46.3
Not employed	211,558	31.4	20,722	53.4
Family background				
Person lived with while growing up				
Both mother and father	288,876	42.9	16,206	41.8
Mother only	262,415	39.0	15,008	38.7
Father only	26,504	3.9	1,295	3.3
Grandparents	50,645	7.5	3,583	9.2
Other	41,138	6.1	2,538	6.5
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse				
None	491,491	73.0	25,620	66.0
Alcohol only	146,281	21.7	10,124	26.1
Drugs only	5,111	0.8	618	1.6
Alcohol and drugs	23,895	3.6	2,179	5.6
Abused as a child				
Physical only	45,048	6.7	3,455	8.9
Sexual only	13,543	2.0	3,575	9.2
Physical and sexual	21,391	3.2	9,278	23.9
None	592,865	88.1	22,488	58.0
Criminal records				
Offense type				
Violent	315,557	46.9	12,400	32.0
Property	163,510	24.3	11,024	28.4
Drug	137,672	20.5	12,633	32.6

Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Other	56,107	8.3	2,739	7.1
Criminal justice status at time of arrest				
None	358,220	53.2	20,614	53.1
Probation	151,403	22.5	11,285	29.1
Parole	150,161	22.3	6,254	16.1
Escape	7,587	1.1	269	0.7
Prior sentences				
None	138,038	20.5	11,339	29.2
1 to 2	238,822	35.5	14,291	36.8
3 or more	299,986	44.6	13,166	33.9
Drug histories				
Drug use in month before arrest^a				
Heroin	57,211	8.5	5,719	14.7
Powder cocaine	134,438	20.0	10,074	26.0
Crack cocaine	63,706	9.5	7,348	18.9
Marijuana	219,105	32.6	7,873	20.3
Other	88,249	13.1	5,594	14.4
Under influence at time of offense^a				
Heroin	37,877	5.6	4,360	11.2
Powder cocaine	73,899	11.0	5,842	15.1
Crack cocaine	31,984	4.8	4,052	10.4
Marijuana	79,975	11.9	1,812	4.7
Other	55,299	8.2	3,037	7.8
Alcohol	220,488	32.8	8,601	22.2
Treatment participation				
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program				
Yes	365,234	54.3	22,073	56.9
No	307,613	45.7	16,723	43.1

Note: All percentages above were based on an estimated total population of 672,847 male inmates and 38,796 female inmates in state prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Profiles of Federal Male and Female Prison Inmates

The 1997 federal survey showed some differences between males and females. As with state inmates, a higher percentage of female than male federal inmates reported having experienced some sexual abuse as a child. The offenses and criminal records of male and female federal inmates were also somewhat different. While both male and female federal inmates were most frequently incarcerated for drug offenses, the percentage of females serving a sentence for a drug crime was greater than the percentage was for males. Male federal inmates were more likely than females to have had a criminal justice status at the time of arrest and to have served prior sentences. Male federal inmates more frequently reported using marijuana in the month before arrest than female inmates.

Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

There were few significant changes in the gender differences reported by federal inmates from 1991 to 1997. However, while the percentage of female and male drug offenders who said that powder cocaine was associated with their drug crime decreased from 1991 to 1997, the decrease was greater for females than males.

Profile of Federal Prison Inmates, 1997

Table VI.3 summarizes selected personal demographic, family background, criminal record, drug history, and treatment participation information about inmates incarcerated in federal correctional facilities, as reported in BJS' 1997 federal prison inmate survey. The federal prison population was made up of 82,646 male inmates and 6,426 female inmates. All percentages presented below for federal prison inmates for 1997 were calculated using these numbers as the base; adjustments were not made to compensate for missing response rates to a particular question.

Table VI.3: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Gender, 1997

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics				
Race				
White	24,746	29.9	1,870	29.1
Black	31,481	38.1	2,216	34.5
Hispanic	22,280	27.0	2,069	32.2
Other	4,139	5.0	272	4.2
Age group				
Under 25	7,380	8.9	553	8.6
25-34	30,361	36.7	2,273	35.4
35-44	25,202	30.5	2,056	32.0
45+	19,704	23.8	1,543	24.0
Marital status				
Never married	34,834	42.1	2,155	33.5
Married	25,107	30.4	1,893	29.5
Other	22,522	27.3	2,378	37.0
Education				
Less than high school	21,513	26.0	1,588	24.7
GED	22,004	26.6	1,627	25.3
High school graduate	16,424	19.9	1,333	20.7
More than high school	21,699	26.3	1,845	28.7
Employment status in month before arrest				
Employed	57,903	70.1	4,043	62.9
Not employed	22,093	26.7	2,335	36.3
Family background				
Person lived with while growing up				
Both mother and father	44,447	53.8	3,508	54.6
Mother only	26,183	31.7	1,861	29.0

**Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender**

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Father only	2,344	2.8	188	2.9
Grandparents	6,103	7.4	609	9.5
Other	2,650	3.2	213	3.3
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse				
None	64,784	78.4	4,719	73.4
Alcohol only	13,341	16.1	1,263	19.7
Drugs only	647	0.8	88	1.4
Alcohol and drugs	2,486	3.0	281	4.4
Abused as a child ^a				
Physical only	3,293	4.0	544	8.5
Sexual only	762	0.9	534	8.3
Physical and sexual	717	0.9	383	6.0
None	76,834	93.0	4,885	76.0
Criminal records				
Offense type				
Violent	12,592	15.2	429	6.7
Property	5,064	6.1	762	11.9
Drug	50,486	61.1	4,583	71.3
Other	13,140	15.9	573	8.9
Type of drug involved in drug offense ^b				
Powder cocaine	20,868	41.4	1,711	37.3
Crack cocaine	13,255	26.3	1,143	24.9
Heroin	4,471	8.9	847	18.5
Marijuana	9,435	18.7	763	16.6
Methamphetamines	5,279	10.5	589	12.9
Other	1,740	3.5	147	3.2
Criminal justice status at time of arrest				
None	58,800	71.1	5,441	84.7
Probation	11,128	13.5	682	10.6
Parole	11,703	14.2	249	3.9
Escape	201	0.2	47	0.7
Prior sentences				
None	29,778	36.0	4,297	66.9
1 to 2	26,069	31.5	1,317	20.5
3 or more	24,870	30.1	740	11.5
Drug histories				
Drug use in month before arrest ^c				
Heroin	4,467	5.4	295	4.6
Powder cocaine	13,784	16.7	668	10.4
Crack cocaine	5,105	6.2	502	7.8
Marijuana	25,259	30.6	1,302	20.3
Other	8,597	10.4	754	11.7
Under influence at time of offense ^{a, c}				
Heroin	2,410	2.9	223	3.5
Powder cocaine	5,498	6.7	208	3.2
Crack cocaine	2,648	3.2	203	3.2
Marijuana	8,957	10.8	425	6.6

Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Other	5,045	6.1	426	6.6
Alcohol	16,876	20.4	954	14.8
Treatment participation				
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program				
Yes	38,191	46.2	2,563	39.9
No	43,310	52.4	3,774	58.7

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on a total estimated population of 82,646 male inmates and 6,426 female inmates in federal prisons in 1997. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aSome of the differences in the 1991 (see table VI.4) and 1997 inmate reports of physical and sexual abuse and being under the influence of alcohol at the time of arrest may have been due to changes in question wording, order, and context.

^bThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 50,350 male inmates and 4,583 female inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^cMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Personal Demographics

The personal demographic characteristics of male and female federal inmates in 1997 were quite similar. The only difference was that 27 percent of male federal inmates were unemployed in the month before their arrest, compared with 36 percent of female inmates.

Family Background

Male and female federal inmates in 1997 had similar family backgrounds. More female inmates, however, reported that they had experienced physical and/or sexual abuse as a child. Twenty-three percent of female federal inmates reported abuse, compared with 6 percent of males. About 14 percent of female federal inmates reported some kind of sexual abuse, compared with about 2 percent of male inmates.

Criminal Records

Male and female federal inmates in 1997 reported different offenses and criminal records:

- While both male and female federal inmates were most often incarcerated for drug offenses, the rate was higher for females (71 percent) than for males (61 percent).
- About 85 percent of female federal inmates had no criminal justice status at the time of the arrest that resulted in their current incarceration, compared with 71 percent of male inmates. Male federal inmates (14 percent) were more likely than female inmates (4 percent) to be on parole at the time of their arrest.

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- Male federal inmates were more likely to have prior sentences than females. Thirty-two percent of female federal inmates reported having prior sentences, compared with 62 percent of the male inmates.
 - While both female and male federal drug offenders were more often incarcerated for offenses involving powder cocaine than any other drug, more female offenders (18 percent) were incarcerated for offenses involving heroin than male offenders (9 percent).²

Drug Histories

Male and female federal inmates in 1997 generally had similar drug histories. However, a higher percentage of males (31 percent) than females (20 percent) reported using marijuana in the month before arrest.³

Treatment Participation

Male and female inmates reported that they had participated in alcohol/drug programs at about the same rates.

Few Changes in 1997,
Compared With 1991
Federal Prison Inmate
Profiles, by Gender

A comparison of table VI.3 with table VI.4, which provides information on selected characteristics from BJS' 1991 inmate survey of federal prison inmates, showed that in general the differences between male and female inmates were similar in 1991 and 1997. A few changes, however, stand out:

- In 1997, as compared with 1991, the racial distributions of male and female federal inmates were more similar. In 1991, 39 percent of male federal inmates were white, but 29 percent of female federal inmates were white. In 1997, 30 percent of male federal inmates were white, as were 29 percent of the female federal inmates. The percentage of black male inmates increased from 29 percent in 1991 to 38 percent in 1997; however, the percentage of black female inmates remained about the same—39 percent in 1991 and 34 percent in 1997.
- Male federal inmates were less likely in 1991 than in 1997 to have reported a prior criminal record. A lower percentage of male inmates in 1997 (36 percent) than in 1991 (47 percent) reported that they had not served any prior sentences.
- Female federal drug offenders who indicated powder cocaine as the drug associated with their current incarceration decreased from 61 percent in 1991 to 37 percent in 1997, compared with male drug offenders whose reported usage decreased from 53 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1997.

² More than one drug might be associated with a single offense.

³ An inmate might have used more than one drug in the month before arrest.

**Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender**

Table VI.4: Profile of Federal Prison Inmates by Gender, 1991

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Personal demographics				
Race				
White	19,506	39.2	1,226	29.0
Black	14,514	29.2	1,629	38.6
Hispanic	13,856	27.8	1,245	29.5
Other	1,908	3.8	122	2.9
Age group				
Under 25	4,535	9.1	477	11.3
25-34	17,733	35.6	1,699	40.2
35-44	16,448	33.0	1,322	31.3
45+	11,069	22.2	725	17.2
Marital status				
Never married	16,028	32.2	1,355	32.1
Married	19,019	38.2	1,207	28.6
Other	14,082	28.3	1,628	38.6
Education				
Less than high school	11,681	23.5	1,156	27.4
GED	11,504	23.1	832	19.7
High school graduate	10,889	21.9	962	22.8
More than high school	15,545	31.2	1,264	29.9
Employment status in month before arrest				
Employed	37,221	74.8	2,660	63.0
Not employed	12,281	24.7	1,552	36.8
Family background				
Person lived with while growing up				
Both mother and father	29,005	58.3	2,213	52.4
Mother only	13,949	28.0	1,289	30.5
Father only	1,713	3.4	102	2.4
Grandparents	2,653	5.3	379	9.0
Other	2,022	4.1	224	5.3
Either parent alcohol or drug abuse				
None	41,504	83.4	3,382	80.1
Alcohol only	7,154	14.4	674	16.0
Drugs only	130	0.3	29	0.7
Alcohol and drugs	483	1.0	111	2.6
Abused as a child				
Physical only	1,684	3.4	253	6.0
Sexual only	282	0.6	257	6.1
Physical and sexual	336	0.7	384	9.1
None	47,482	95.4	3,328	78.8
Criminal records				
Offense type				
Violent	8,943	18.0	323	7.6
Property	4,018	8.1	564	13.4

**Appendix VI
Profiles of State and Federal Prison Inmates by Gender**

	Male		Female	
	Estimated number	Percent	Estimated number	Percent
Drug	28,341	56.9	2,762	65.4
Other	8,482	17.0	574	13.6
Type of drug involved in drug offense^a				
Powder cocaine	14,899	52.7	1,680	60.9
Crack cocaine	2,663	9.4	294	10.7
Heroin	3,093	10.9	367	13.3
Marijuana	5,712	20.2	281	10.2
Methamphetamines	1,781	6.3	170	6.2
Other	873	3.1	96	3.5
Criminal justice status at time of arrest				
None	37,337	75.0	3,457	81.9
Probation	5,769	11.6	515	12.2
Parole	6,033	12.1	217	5.1
Escape	455	0.9	28	0.7
Prior sentences				
None	23,356	46.9	2,865	67.9
1 to 2	15,511	31.2	967	22.9
3 or more	10,916	21.9	390	9.2
Drug Histories				
Drug use in month before arrest^b				
Heroin	2,436	4.9	278	6.6
Powder cocaine	6,840	13.7	510	12.1
Crack cocaine	1,738	3.5	265	6.3
Marijuana	9,742	19.6	487	11.5
Other	3,239	6.5	305	7.2
Under influence at time of offense^b				
Heroin	1,729	3.5	222	5.3
Powder cocaine	3,277	6.6	286	6.8
Crack cocaine	869	1.7	125	3.0
Marijuana	3,071	6.2	126	3.0
Other	1,822	3.7	179	4.2
Alcohol	5,682	11.4	225	5.3
Treatment participation				
Ever participated in alcohol/drug program				
Yes	22,383	45.0	1,619	38.3
No	27,401	55.0	2,603	61.7

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all percentages above were based on a total estimated population of 49,784 male inmates and 4,222 female inmates in federal prisons in 1991. Percentages may not add to 100 because of missing data or rounding.

^aThese percentages were based on the estimated population total of 28,292 male inmates and 2,759 female inmates who reported being sentenced for drug offenses.

^bMore than one drug may have been indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Differences Between State and Federal Prison Inmate Profiles

We identified several differences between state and federal inmate profiles in 1997:

- A higher percentage of female federal inmates (63 percent) than female state inmates (50 percent) reported that they had been employed in the month before their arrest. There was no difference in the percentages of male federal and state inmates who reported being employed at the time of arrest.
- A higher percentage of female federal inmates (76 percent) than female state inmates (62 percent) had not been physically and/or sexually abused as a child.
- Female federal drug offenders were more likely to be incarcerated for crimes involving powder cocaine or marijuana (37 and 17 percent, respectively) than female state drug offenders (26 and 6 percent, respectively).
- Female state inmates were more likely to report having used heroin (16 percent), powder cocaine (21 percent), or crack cocaine (31 percent) in the month before arrest than female federal inmates (5 percent used heroin, 10 percent used powder cocaine, and 8 percent used crack cocaine). There was no difference in the use of these drugs for males. A higher percentage of male state inmates (40 percent) than male federal inmates (30 percent) had used marijuana. There was no difference in the use of marijuana between female state and federal inmates.
- A higher percentage of female state inmates (19 percent) than female federal inmates (3 percent) indicated that they were under the influence of crack cocaine when they committed their offense. There was no difference in whether male state and federal inmates were under the influence of crack cocaine.

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Glossary

Inmate Profile Terms	This glossary includes definitions of terms used in the inmate profiles presented in this report. These definitions were taken from the 1991 and 1997 BJS surveys, which were the source of the data presented in our report.
Violent offenses	Violent offenses include murder, negligent manslaughter, kidnapping, rape, other sexual assault, robbery, assault, and other violent offenses (e.g., extortion, hit-and-run driving, and criminal endangerment).
Property offenses	Property offenses include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, fraud, stolen property, and other property (e.g., destruction of property, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools).
Drug offenses	Drug offenses include possession, trafficking, and other/unspecified (e.g., forged prescriptions, possession of drug paraphernalia, and unspecified drug violations).
Other offenses	Other offenses include the Bureau of Justice Statistics' categories of public-order offenses (i.e., weapons and other public order offenses, such as driving while intoxicated, escape from custody, regulatory violations, and commercialized vice) and other offenses, which are not enumerated.
Current offense	Current offense is the most serious offense for which the inmate was serving a sentence.
Prior offenses	Prior offenses are offenses for which an inmate was sentenced before the current offense.
Drugs	The categories of drugs used without prescription include: Marijuana: Marijuana and hashish Heroin/opiates: Heroin, opiates, and methadone Barbiturates: Barbiturates and Quaaludes or downers Stimulants: Amphetamines and methamphetamines Hallucinogens: LSD, PCP, and other hallucinogens
Race and Hispanic origin	White, black, and other categories presented for race include only inmates describing themselves as non-Hispanic. Inmates with Asian, Native American, or Pacific Islander heritage were categorized as other. Hispanic

Glossary

inmates include persons of all races who reported having a Hispanic background. Where statistics for Hispanic inmates are reported with statistics for white or black inmates, the categories do not overlap.

Abuse

Abuse (sexual or physical), in the BJS survey questions, relied on the respondents definition, within the context of their own lives, to recall their pasts, and to report what they remembered.

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