

# INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

## INTRODUCTION

### GENERAL

This report presents statistics on all persons 14 years old and over who were inmates of certain types of institutions at the time of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940. The institutions included are prisons or reformatories; local jails or workhouses; mental institutions; homes for the aged, infirm, or needy; and other institutions of these general classes which could not be assigned to one of these specific types. The tables show the age, marital status, highest grade of school completed, and citizenship of the institutional population, by type of institution, color, and sex, for the United States, regions, and States, urban and rural. In addition, less detailed data are shown for each urban place and each county.

One of the purposes of this report is to provide the basis for determining the extent to which the characteristics of the population of a given area are affected by the presence of a relatively large institutional population. Where the population of a small area is abnormally distributed according to such characteristics as age, sex, or average population per family, the presence of a large institutional population in the area may provide an explanation.

Related reports.—The characteristics shown in this report for the institutional population are also shown for the general population in the second and fourth series of Population bulletins, to which this bulletin may be considered a supplement. In addition, the statistics on employment status in the second series of Population bulletins show the institutional population 14 years old and over by race and nativity for States, urban and rural, for cities of 100,000 or more, and for metropolitan districts, and without cross-classification, for cities of 10,000 to 100,000 and counties.

Additional statistics for the institutional population appear in a bulletin entitled "Characteristics of persons not in the labor force," based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the population.

Arrangement of tables.—The detailed tables in the present report are arranged on the basis of the areas for which figures are presented. Tables 1, 2, and 3 present the total and institutional population 14 years old and over and 25 years old and over, for the United States, by regions, divisions, and States. In tables 4 to 7,

characteristics of the institutional population are shown for the United States and for its urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas. Similar statistics are shown in tables 8 to 11 for the North, the South, and the West, and in table 12 for States. The number of inmates of institutions is given in tables 13 to 15 for each city of 100,000 or more, and table 16 presents the characteristics of the institutional population of these cities. Figures on the institutional population are shown in table 17 for urban places of 50,000 to 100,000, in table 18 for urban places of 2,500 to 50,000, and in table 19 for counties, and are presented only for those areas having institutional population. Table 20 presents more detailed characteristics for the 389 counties which have an institutional population of at least 500.

Availability of unpublished data.—The statistics in this report based on the special tabulation of the institutional population are shown in full detail for the United States and each region. Similar statistics have been tabulated for counties, for all urban places, for census tracts, and for metropolitan districts. Because of space limitations, however, the data for the smaller areas are published only in condensed form. Additional data, up to the limit of the tabulation, can be made available for the cost of preparing and reproducing them. Requests for these data, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, including an estimate of the cost of preparing the figures.

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Institutional population.—The institutional population as shown in this report consists of persons 14 years old and over who at the time of the 1940 Census were inmates of public or private establishments organized to care for resident prisoners, delinquents, mental patients, or for aged, infirm, or needy persons. Officials and attendants in institutions were excluded from the statistics of the institutional population. In many of the tables in this report the institutions concerned are subdivided into the following general types:

- a. Federal or State prisons or reformatories, including convict camps, penal farms, training schools and other institutions for juvenile delinquents, and all other penal establishments under Federal or State control.

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b. Local jails or workhouses, including all penal establishments not under Federal or State control.

c. Mental institutions, including homes and hospitals for the mentally diseased, the feeble-minded, and epileptics.

d. Homes for the aged, infirm, or needy, including almshouses and homes for the blind, the deaf, incurables, orphans, and disabled or aged soldiers and sailors.

e. "Other and not reported," including institutions that combine the usual functions of two or more of the foregoing types with no clear majority of inmates classifiable under one of the first four categories. This type also includes a small group of institutions of these general classes for which the information reported was not sufficient to determine the specific type.

By limiting the coverage of institutions to these five types, it was possible in most cases to assign an institution to its proper class on the basis of its name or by means of supplementary information provided by the enumerator. In some cases, however, the type of institution was determined by reference to a classified list of institutions.

Patients in general hospitals were not included, except for those in hospitals such as Veterans' Administration Facilities where mental patients or incurables were in the majority. Persons in monasteries, convents, and similar establishments of religious orders were not included unless the functions of the establishment were clearly of such a nature as to place it in one of the types specified above. Patients in tuberculosis sanitariums, who number about 70,000, were not included in the institutional population for which data are presented in this report.

The limitation of the institutional population to persons 14 years old and over excludes the majority of the approximately 150,000 children in orphanages and in homes for dependent and neglected children. On the other hand, a substantial majority of the 15,000 to 20,000 juvenile delinquents in reformatories and detention homes were 14 years old and over and were, therefore, included. There were about 18,000 patients under 14 years old in mental institutions in 1940.

The number of persons 14 years old and over in institutions and the ratio of the institutional population to the general population are shown for each type of institution in table I.

Table I. INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES, BY SIZE OF PLACE AND BY REGIONS: 1940

AREA	Total	Prison or re- formatory	Local jail or work- house	Mental insti- tution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
United States.....	1,176,993	217,919	99,249	591,365	245,026	23,434
Urban.....	488,838	64,719	68,232	224,700	120,319	10,866
Cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more..	195,338	15,540	35,703	64,799	73,537	5,759
Places of less than 100,000 inhabitants	293,498	49,179	32,529	159,901	46,782	5,107
Rural-nonfarm.....	554,275	123,654	22,812	318,307	79,462	10,040
Rural-farm.....	133,882	29,546	8,205	48,358	45,245	2,528
The North.....	744,820	110,839	42,291	402,470	173,961	15,259
The South.....	305,755	83,620	41,492	129,852	46,358	4,433
The West.....	126,418	23,460	15,466	59,043	24,707	3,742
RATE PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER						
United States.....	1,164	216	98	585	242	23
Urban.....	819	108	114	376	202	18
Cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more..	632	50	116	210	238	19
Places of less than 100,000 inhabitants	1,019	171	113	555	162	18
Rural-nonfarm.....	2,764	617	114	1,587	396	50
Rural-farm.....	627	138	38	226	212	12
The North.....	1,242	185	71	671	290	25
The South.....	1,013	277	137	430	154	15
The West.....	1,153	214	141	539	225	34

Comparability with data from previous censuses. Inquiries on the number of mentally diseased and defective persons and on the number of persons in prisons were made at each census of population from 1850 to 1890, inclusive, and in 1910. Institutional statistics were also compiled in 1923 and 1933.

The total number of persons of all ages enumerated as residents of institutions in 1930 was published in volume VI of the Fifteenth Decennial Census Reports. This number (1,533,034 for the entire United States) cannot be compared with the 1,176,993 inmates 14 years old and over in institutions in 1940. Furthermore, the figure for 1930

includes resident officials and attendants as well as the inmates of institutions and covers not only the five types of institutions shown in 1940 but also certain other institutions.

Since 1926 the Bureau of the Census has published annual reports on the population in Federal or State prisons or reformatories and in mental institutions, based on schedules received from cooperating institutions. The figures published in the annual reports include persons of all ages and in other respects are not directly comparable with those appearing in this bulletin.

**Urban and rural areas.**—In several tables, statistics are presented for the institutional population found in urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. In addition, certain densely populated townships or other civil divisions, not incorporated as municipalities, have been classified as urban under special rules. The remainder of the population is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. (For further details, see the first series of Population bulletins.)

Inmates of an institution are classified as urban, rural-nonfarm, or rural-farm according to the location of the institution, not according to the original residence of the inmates. Nearly 90 percent of the institutional population is located in nonfarm areas, and the rural-farm totals for most States are very small. Data for the institutional population classified by urban and

rural residence are shown in tables 4 to 12, inclusive.

**Sex and color.**—Because of the importance of the classification of the institutional population by sex, all of the data in this bulletin are presented separately for males and females. Moreover, as far as feasible, the data are also presented by color. Only two color groups are distinguished in the tabulations, white and nonwhite, the latter including Negroes and other nonwhite races (Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, etc.). The great majority of the nonwhite population consists of Negroes, except in the Pacific States, where there are many Chinese and Japanese, and in Oklahoma and certain Mountain States, where many of the nonwhites are Indians. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white.

The characteristics of the institutional population by color (total, white, and nonwhite) are shown for the United States and its regions, urban and rural. The characteristics of all inmates and of nonwhite inmates are shown separately for each State as a whole, and for cities of 100,000 or more total population having 100 or more nonwhites in institutions. Total figures for nonwhite inmates are presented by type of institution and sex for cities of 50,000 or more total population having 25 to 99 nonwhite inmates; and for all other urban places and counties having 25 or more nonwhite inmates. In addition, an age distribution of the nonwhite inmates is shown for cities of 50,000 to 100,000 total population and for the 389 counties with a total institutional population of 500 or more having 100 or more nonwhite inmates.

The sex and color composition of the total and institutional population is shown in table II.

Table II. COLOR AND SEX OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

COLOR, SEX, AND MALES PER 100 FEMALES	Total population 14 years old and over	INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER					
		Total	Prison or reforma- tory	Local jail or work- house	Mental insti- tution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
Total.....	101,102,924	1,176,993	217,919	99,249	591,365	245,026	23,434
Male.....	50,553,748	767,474	202,098	90,040	317,812	145,597	11,927
Female.....	50,549,176	409,519	15,821	9,209	273,553	99,429	11,507
White.....	91,428,165	1,008,090	152,994	66,042	536,629	231,538	20,887
Male.....	45,823,031	637,570	141,753	60,465	288,238	136,833	10,281
Female.....	45,605,134	370,520	11,241	5,577	248,391	94,705	10,606
Nonwhite.....	9,674,759	168,903	64,925	33,207	54,736	13,488	2,547
Male.....	4,730,717	129,904	60,345	29,575	29,574	8,764	1,646
Female.....	4,944,042	38,999	4,580	3,632	25,162	4,724	901
PERCENT NONWHITE							
Total.....	9.6	14.4	29.8	33.5	9.3	5.5	10.9
Male.....	9.4	16.9	29.9	32.8	9.3	6.0	13.8
Female.....	9.8	9.5	28.9	39.4	9.2	4.8	7.8
MALES PER 100 FEMALES							
Total.....	100.0	187.4	1,277.4	977.7	116.2	146.4	103.6
White.....	100.5	172.1	1,261.0	1,084.2	116.0	144.5	96.9
Nonwhite.....	95.7	333.1	1,317.6	814.3	117.5	185.5	182.7

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Age.—The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1940, that is, age in completed years. In the 1940 census tabulations, when the age of a person was not reported, it was estimated on the basis of other information on the Population schedule.

All of the statistics presented in this report for the institutional population show the number of persons 14 years old and over, except that the classification of inmates by years of school completed is restricted to persons 25 years old and over.

Considerable differences are to be expected be-

tween the age distribution of the total population and that of the institutional population and among distributions for inmates of various types of institutions. The median age of inmates in mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, or needy is higher than that of the general population. Table III shows the percentage distribution by age and the median age for the total population 14 years old and over and for the institutional population by type of institution. The median age is that age which divides the population into two equal groups, one-half older and one-half younger than the median.

Table III. AGE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER,  
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

AGE	Total population 14 years old and over	INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER					
		Total	Prison or reforma- tory	Local jail or work- house	Mental insti- tution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
Total.....	101,102,924	1,176,993	217,919	99,249	591,365	245,026	23,434
14 to 19 years.....	14,739,253	130,494	38,154	14,277	31,765	39,963	6,335
20 to 24 years.....	11,587,835	94,862	38,456	17,753	33,661	2,745	2,247
25 to 44 years.....	39,672,246	390,551	111,035	48,951	209,525	14,843	6,197
45 to 64 years.....	26,084,276	339,121	27,423	16,251	228,440	61,845	5,162
65 years and over.....	9,019,314	221,965	2,851	2,017	87,974	125,630	3,493
Median age.....	36.5	43.6	29.7	31.2	46.6	65.0	34.5
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 19 years.....	14.6	11.1	17.5	14.4	5.4	16.3	27.0
20 to 24 years.....	11.5	8.1	17.6	17.9	5.7	1.1	9.6
25 to 44 years.....	39.2	33.2	51.0	49.3	35.4	6.1	26.4
45 to 64 years.....	25.8	28.8	12.6	16.4	38.6	25.2	22.0
65 years and over.....	8.9	18.9	1.3	2.0	14.9	51.3	14.9

Marital status.—The terms "single," "married," "widowed," and "divorced" refer to marital status at the time the census was taken. Persons classified as "married" include both those who have been married only once and those who have remarried after having been divorced or widowed. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census

returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried. The marital status of inmates of institutions is shown for the United States in table 5, for regions in table 9, for States in table 12, and for cities of 100,000 or more in table 16.

The distribution by marital status of persons in each type of institution is presented in table IV.

Table IV. MARITAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS AND OVER,  
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

SEX AND MARITAL STATUS	Total	Prison or reforma- tory	Local jail or work- house	Mental insti- tution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
Male.....	767,474	202,098	90,040	317,812	145,597	11,927
Single.....	468,046	117,911	51,478	210,565	81,537	6,555
Married.....	204,514	66,989	31,673	79,216	23,085	3,551
Widowed.....	61,154	5,817	2,730	17,408	33,970	1,229
Divorced.....	33,760	11,381	4,159	10,623	7,005	592
Female.....	409,519	15,821	9,209	273,553	99,429	11,507
Single.....	203,286	11,041	4,690	132,380	47,020	8,155
Married.....	116,957	3,355	3,338	99,338	8,859	2,067
Widowed.....	77,143	914	732	31,902	42,486	1,109
Divorced.....	12,133	511	449	9,933	1,064	176

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Table IV. MARITAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS AND OVER, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940--Con.

SEX AND MARITAL STATUS	Total	Prison or reformatory	Local jail or work-house	Mental institution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>						
Male.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	61.0	58.3	57.2	66.3	56.0	55.0
Married.....	26.6	33.1	35.2	24.9	15.9	29.8
Widowed.....	8.0	2.9	3.0	5.5	23.3	10.3
Divorced.....	4.4	5.6	4.6	3.3	4.8	5.0
Female.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	49.6	69.8	50.9	48.4	47.3	70.9
Married.....	28.6	21.2	36.2	36.3	8.9	18.0
Widowed.....	18.8	5.8	7.9	11.7	42.7	9.6
Divorced.....	3.0	3.2	4.9	3.6	1.1	1.5

Highest grade of school completed.—The 1940 Census, for the first time, included a question on the formal educational attainment of each person. The question on the schedule referred to the last full grade of school that the person had completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college, or university.

Statistics on the number of years of school completed are presented for the institutional population 25 years old and over, practically all of whom have completed their formal education. The figures are thus comparable with those for the total population 25 years old and over which have appeared in the second series of Population bulletins.

In interpreting these figures, certain characteristics of the institutional population should be considered. In comparison with the general population, the institutional population has a much larger proportion of aged persons, who tend to have a lower average educational attainment than those who received their schooling more

recently. The average educational level of inmates is relatively low, also, because of the inclusion of many defectives who have not been able to attend school, and because large numbers of inmates are from classes for which there are fewer educational opportunities.

Table V presents data on the educational attainment of the institutional population in terms of the median year of school completed, which may be defined as that year which divides the population group into two equal parts, one-half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. These medians are expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years of school completed. For example, the completion of the first year of high school is indicated by 9, and the last year of college by 16. For the sake of comparability, the first year of high school is uniformly represented by 9, although there are some areas with only 7 years of elementary school.

Table V. MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES, BY SIZE OF PLACE, AND REGIONS, (WITH COLOR FOR THE UNITED STATES): 1940

AREA AND COLOR	Total population 25 years old and over	INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER					
		Total	Prison or reformatory	Local jail or work-house	Mental institution	Homes for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
United States.....	8.4	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.1	7.2	7.9
Urban.....	8.7	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.4	7.7
Cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more....	8.5	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.7
Places of less than 100,000 inhabitants.	9.1	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.1	7.7	7.8
Rural-nonfarm.....	8.4	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.3	8.2
Rural-farm.....	7.7	5.8	6.0	6.8	4.5	5.9	7.3
The North.....	8.5	7.3	7.7	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.8
The South.....	7.8	5.9	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	7.6
The West.....	9.4	7.8	8.3	8.3	7.5	8.0	8.3
White.....	8.6	7.4	7.8	8.0	7.2	7.3	8.0
Nonwhite.....	5.8	4.8	5.2	5.7	3.8	3.2	5.5

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Citizenship.—The classification in regard to citizenship embraces, first, the two major categories, citizen and alien. Citizens are subdivided into native and naturalized; and the aliens are subdivided into those having first papers—that is, those having made formal declaration of intention to become citizens of the United States—and those not having first papers. In addition to

the citizen and alien categories, there is a third group made up of foreign-born persons for whom no report on citizenship was obtained, designated "Citizenship not reported." It is likely that most of these persons are aliens.

Statistics on citizenship of the institutional population 14 years old and over are presented, by type of institution, in table VI.

Table VI. NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP	Total	Prison or reforma- tory	Local jail or work- house	Mental insti- tution	Home for aged, infirm, or needy	Other and not reported
Total.....	1,176,993	217,919	99,249	591,365	245,026	23,434
Native.....	991,457	207,178	92,540	481,737	189,366	20,636
Foreign born.....	185,536	10,741	6,709	109,628	55,660	2,798
Citizen-Naturalized.....	71,350	3,454	2,318	35,897	28,163	1,518
Alien-First papers.....	5,377	622	518	2,418	1,697	122
Alien-No papers.....	66,217	5,656	2,776	38,285	18,766	734
Citizenship not reported....	42,592	1,009	1,097	33,028	7,034	424
PERCENT OF TOTAL						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native.....	84.2	95.1	93.2	81.5	77.3	88.1
Foreign born.....	15.8	4.9	6.8	18.5	22.7	11.9
PERCENT OF FOREIGN BORN						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Citizen-Naturalized.....	38.5	32.2	34.6	32.7	50.6	54.3
Alien-First papers.....	2.9	5.8	7.7	2.2	3.0	4.4
Alien-No papers.....	35.7	52.7	41.4	34.9	33.7	26.2
Citizenship not reported.....	23.0	9.4	16.4	30.1	12.6	15.2

Use of data for States and smaller areas. Users of data for States, cities, or counties should bear in mind that the data compiled for certain types of institutions in these areas may represent the work of a very small number of enumerators (often only one or two). Consequently, the data for such areas are subject to a wider

margin of error than is to be expected for larger areas. The misinterpretation by an enumerator of instructions pertaining to a particular item may cause a significant bias in the statistics for a State, city, or county, even though it may have a negligible effect upon the figures for a larger area.