

Between 2001 and 2014, inmate deaths in state and federal prisons, including private prisons, totaled 50,785 people. Of those individuals, 45,640 died in state prisons while 5,145 died in federal prisons.

The average state prisoner annual mortality rate (256 per 100,000 state prisoners) was 14% higher than the federal prisoner mortality rate (225 per 100,000 federal prisoners) between 2001 and 2014. What is published:

Illness was the leading cause of death in federal prisons from 2001-2014. A total of 4,543 federal prisoners are reported to have died. While state prisoner cause of death data are available for deaths from cancer, heart disease, liver disease, AIDS-related, and respiratory illness, are available, cause of death data for federal prisoners were not available for all causes and exclude deaths that occurred in private facilities.

Two hundred and twenty-two federal prisoners committed suicide between 2001 and 2014.

Fifty-one federal prisoners died in accidents. Drug and alcohol intoxication deaths are included here.

Homicide (committed by other inmates, incidental to the use of staff force, or resulting from assaults

sustained prior to incarceration) was the recorded cause of death for 130 federal prisoners.

Federal deaths are submitted as aggregate counts by the Federal Bureau of Prisons,

with only limited details regarding the cause of death and exclude deaths in private facilities.

Data in the Bureau of Justice Statistics report "Mortality in State Prisons 2001-2014 - Statistical

Tables" (available at [bjs.gov](http://bjs.gov)), is compiled from the annual Deaths in Custody Reporting Program.

The Deaths in Custody Reporting Program is the only national statistical collection of comprehensive information about deaths in adult correctional facilities. It includes information on cause of death, selected decedent characteristics, and prisoner mortality rates by state. But includes only limited, aggregate data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

A friend of mine who made some unwise choices and will be in federal custody for a decade writes:  
"Of course, nobody ever dies on the compound. Since there's no MD around, the cadavers are placed in an ambulance and not pronounced dead until they arrive at the hospital. The compound has an excellent record... seriously!"  
Seriously?

**LIES,  
DAMNED LIES,  
... OR STATISTICS?**

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