



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[OMB Number 1121-0100]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Reinstatement of a Previously Approved Collection Census of Jails 2024-26

AGENCY: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice.

ACTION: 30-day notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Department of Justice (DOJ), will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information was published in the *Federal Register* on December 11, 2023, allowing a 60-day comment period. Following publication of the 60-day notice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics received three comments. Responses to these comments will be included in the final clearance package submitted to OMB.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 30 days until [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Zhen Zeng, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531 (email: Zhen.Zeng@usdoj.gov; telephone: 202-598-9955).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Evaluate whether and if so how the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected can be enhanced; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

1. Type of Information Collection: Reinstatement of a previously approved collection.
2. The Title of the Form/Collection: Census of Jails (COJ).
3. Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department sponsoring the collection: The COJ contains one form—CJ-3: Census of Jails. The applicable component within the Department of Justice is the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in the Office of Justice Programs.
4. Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as the obligation to respond: The affected public that will be asked to respond to the COJ includes jail administrators and staff from approximately 2,900 city, county, regional, and private jails. The obligation to respond is voluntary.

Abstract: Since 1970, BJS has conducted the Census of Jails (COJ, OMB Control No. 1121-0010) every 5-6 years to gather data on jail facilities and inmate populations. The most recent COJ was conducted in 2019 and collected data from around 2,900

U.S. local jail respondents, representing approximately 3,100 jail facilities. The COJ is BJS's most comprehensive collection of jail data and serves as the sampling frame for BJS's other jail surveys. In the years when the COJ is not fielded, BJS administers the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ, OMB Control No. 1121-0094) to one third of the local jails nationwide. However, the ASJ's sample size is not sufficient to produce state-level estimates. To address this gap, BJS proposes to replace the ASJ with an annual census starting in 2025. The change will ensure that policymakers, correctional administrators, and government officials have timely and relevant data for policy development, budget planning, and oversight. The 2025 and 2026 COJ forms will be shorter, resembling the ASJ form in scope, with 16 items related to jail populations and facility characteristics. In 2024, the COJ will collect comprehensive data on jail population size and characteristics, such as one-day counts, demographics, conviction status, holds for federal and state prison authorities. It will also cover facility characteristics and jail programs. Notably, the 2024 COJ includes a special module on opioids use disorder screening and treatment which updates data first collected in 2019.

5. An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: The total estimated number of respondents is 2,900 for each year of collection.

It takes 150 minutes to complete the 2024 COJ form. About 70% of the respondents (2,030) will be contacted for data quality follow-up and each follow-up will take 10 minutes. The total burden for the 2024 COJ is 7,588 hours. The 2025 and 2026 COJ forms are shorter than the 2024 form and take 80 minutes per response. The estimated time and number of respondents for data quality follow-up remain the same. In addition, it takes 5 minutes to verify jail status and point-of-contact per jail for the 2025 and 2026 COJ. The burden for the 2025 and 2026 COJ is 4,447 hours for each

collection. Jail verification takes 10 minutes per jail for the 2024 COJ. This burden is covered by BJS’s generic clearance agreement (OMB Control Number 1121-0339) and excluded from the current OMB application.

6. An estimate of the total annual burden (in hours) associated with the collection: The average annual burden is 5,494 hours, or 16,482 hours for three years of data collection.
7. An estimate of the total annual cost burden associated with the collection, if applicable: The estimated cost is \$534,016.80.

Total Burden Hours

Activity	Number of respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average reporting time	Total annual burden (Hours)
2024 COJ					
Data collection	2,900	Annual	2,900	150 min	7,250 hrs
Data quality follow-up	2,030	Annual	2,030	10 min	338 hrs
Unduplicated Totals	2,900				7,588 hrs
2025 COJ					
Data collection	2,900	Annual	2,900	80 min	3,867 hrs
Data quality follow-up	2,030	Annual	2,030	10 min	338 hrs
Jail status and point-of-contact verification	2,900	Annual	2,900	5 min	242 hrs
Unduplicated Totals	2,900				4,447 hrs
2026 COJ					
Data collection	2,900	Annual	2,900	80 min	3,867 hrs
Data quality follow-up	2,030	Annual	2,030	10 min	338 hrs
Jail status and point-of-contact verification	2,900	Annual	2,900	5 min	242 hrs

Unduplicated Totals	2,900				4,447 hrs
Unduplicated Totals for 2024, 2025, and 2026 COJ	2,900				16,482 hrs

If additional information is required contact: Darwin Arceo, Department Clearance Officer,
United States Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff,
Two Constitution Square, 145 N Street, NE, 4W-218, Washington, DC.

Dated: February 20, 2024.

Darwin Arceo,

Department Clearance Officer for PRA,

U.S. Department of Justice.

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