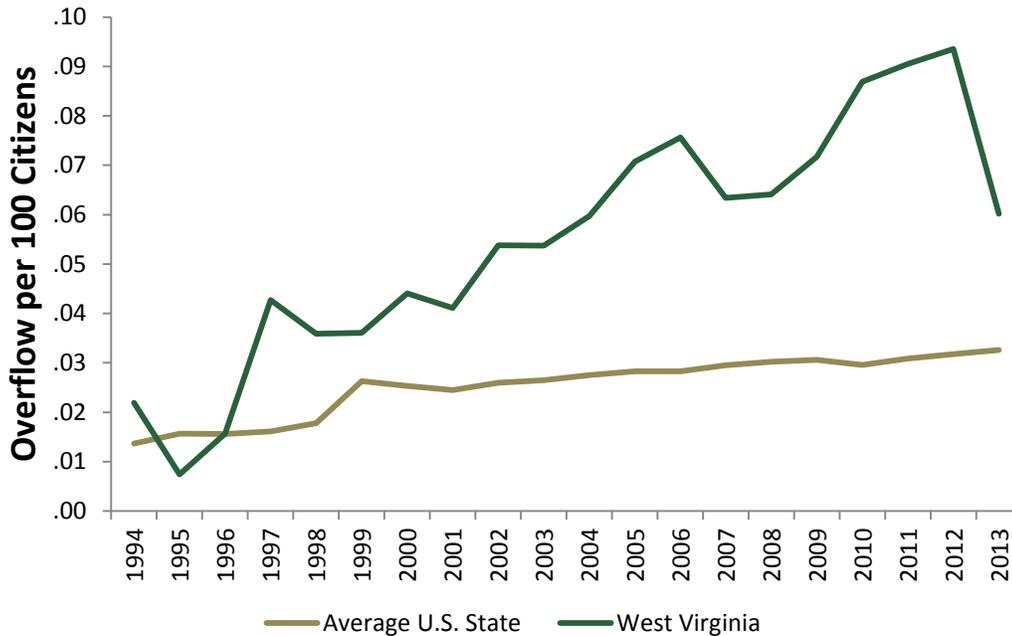


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The prison overflow rate refers to the number of prison inmates per 100 citizens who could not be housed in state prisons due to insufficient beds. In West Virginia, these offenders are housed in regional jails until new prison beds become available.

Figure 10 presents the prison overflow rate over time for West Virginia and the average U.S. state.

Figure 10: Prison Overflow (per 100 Citizens), 1994-2013



Source: West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional facility Authority TAG database; U.S. Annual Survey of Jails.

Findings: The prison overflow rate has been growing at a much faster in West Virginia than in the average U.S. state. Although the prison overflow rate in West Virginia decreased in 2013, it is still roughly twice as high as the prison overflow rate in the average U.S. state. This decrease in the overflow rate also appears to have been accomplished primarily through an increase in the number of prison beds in 2013 and decrease in the number of new prison commitments.