

# prisonbrief: An R package that returns tidy data from the World Prison Brief website

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## Software

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## Summary

`prisonbrief` is an R package that downloads, cleans and returns tidy data (Wickham 2014) from the [World Prison Brief website](#) (Institute for Criminal Policy Research 2017). The World Prison Brief (WPB) is an online database compiled by the [Institute for Criminal Policy Research](#) with information on prison systems around the world. WPB data currently cover 223 jurisdictions and have been collected from public sources. The `prisonbrief` package provides three easy-to-use functions that convert WPB data into a format convenient for statistical analysis. Researchers interested in comparative prison systems – such as criminologists, sociologists and economists – can use the output from functions in the package to create maps, plot time series graphs and calculate descriptive statistics with only a few lines of code.

## References

Institute for Criminal Policy Research. 2017. “World Prison Brief.” Edited by Institute for Criminal Policy Research. <http://www.prisonstudies.org>.

Wickham, Hadley. 2014. “Tidy Data.” *Journal of Statistical Software* 59 (10). Foundation for Open Access Statistics:1–23.