

Incarceration Trends in MARYLAND

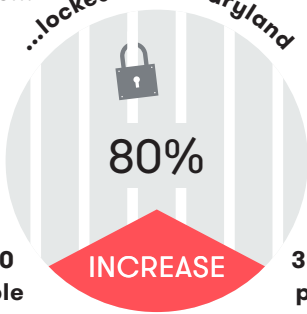
Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK
3 of 5 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Maryland



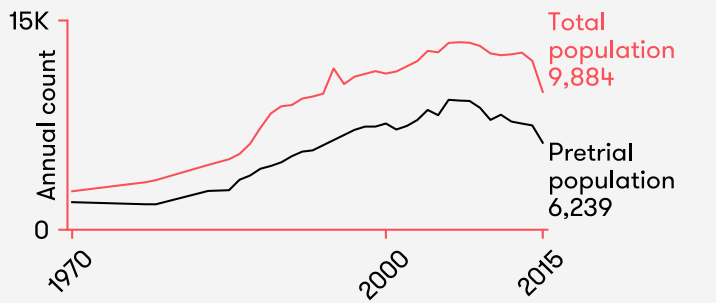
17,130 people (1983) → 30,835 people (2015)

Since 1970, the rate of incarceration in America has expanded more than fourfold, and the United States leads the world in locking people up. Many places in America have begun to reduce their use of prisons and jails, but progress has been uneven. Although the number of people sent to state prisons and county jails from urban areas has decreased, that number has continued to rise in many rural places. Racial disparities in incarceration remain strikingly wide. Women constitute a rising number of those behind bars.

This fact sheet provides at-a-glance information about how many people are locked up in both state prisons and county jails and shows where the state stands on a variety of metrics, so that policymakers and the public can better determine where to target reforms.

STATE TOTALS

JAILS

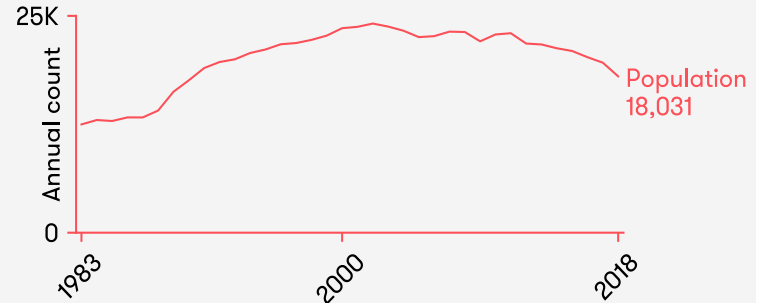


% change in jail population

SINCE 1970: 258% ↑
SINCE 2000: -12% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 258%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 63% of the total jail population in Maryland.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983: 44% ↑
SINCE 2000: -24% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 44%. In 2018, there were 18,031 people in the Maryland prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

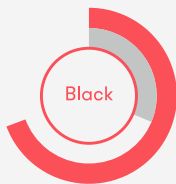
JAILS

31% of state pop. | 52% of jail pop.



PRISONS

31% of state pop. | 69% of prison pop.



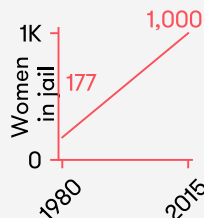
In Maryland, Black people constituted 31% of state residents, but 52% of people in jail and 69% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

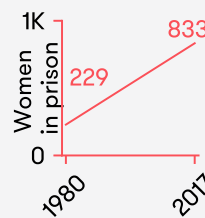
JAILS

462% ↑



PRISONS

264% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 462%, and the number of women in prison has increased 264%.

GEOGRAPHY

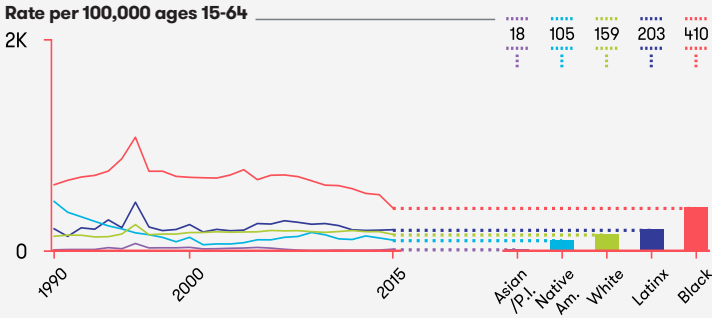
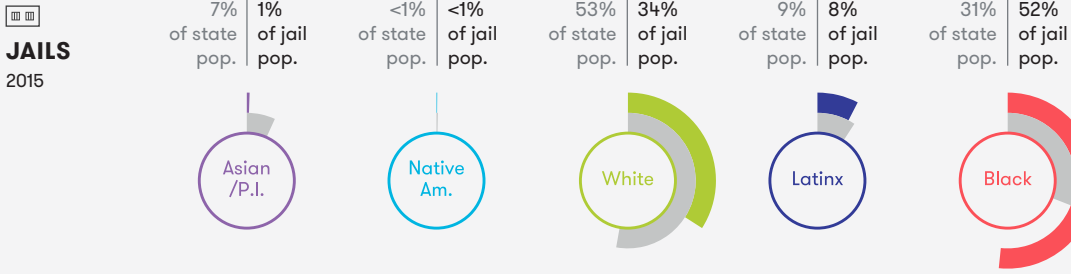
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Top admission rates (rate per 100K)

2015		2013	
COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Wicomico	11,824	Baltimore City	783
Worcester	7,738	Dorchester	639
Dorchester	7,044	Wicomico	551
Calvert	6,778	Worcester	462
Caroline	5,617	Somerset	454

Incarceration is not only an urban phenomenon. In fact, on a per capita basis, the most rural places in the state often lock up the most people in jail and send the most people to prison.

RACE AND ETHNICITY



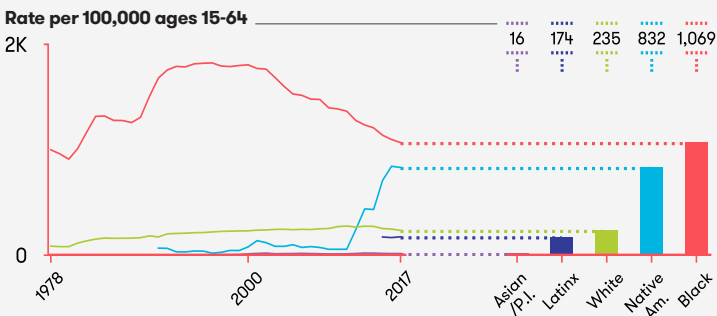
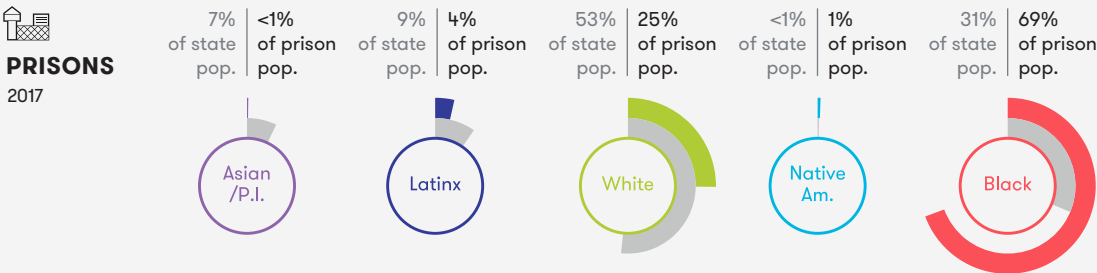
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 35 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 2.6 times the rate of white people.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The overrepresentation of Black Americans in the justice system is well documented. Black men constitute about 13 percent of the male population, but about 35 percent of those incarcerated. One in five Black people born in 2001 is likely to be incarcerated in their lifetime, compared to one in 10 Latinx people and one in 29 white people.

Discriminatory criminal justice policies and practices at all stages of the justice process have unjustifiably disadvantaged Black people, including through disparity in the enforcement of seemingly race-neutral laws. Studies have found that Black people are more likely to be stopped by the police, detained pretrial, charged with more serious crimes, and sentenced more harshly than white people—even when controlling for things like offense severity.

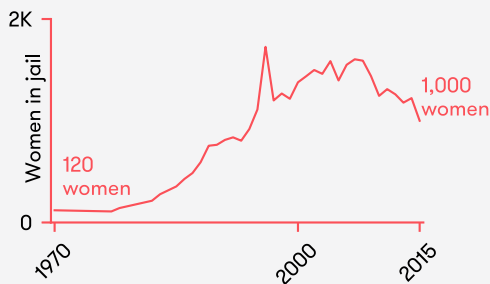
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure the effects of racism for incarcerated people of other racial groups.



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 7 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 4.5 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 3.5 times the rate of white people.

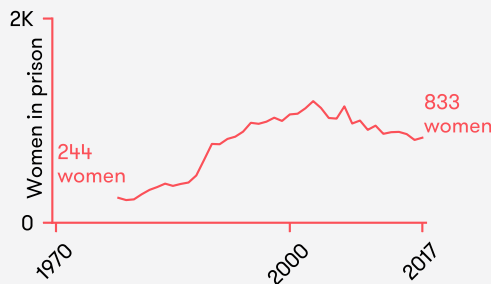
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Maryland's jails has increased more than eightfold, from 120 in 1970 to 1,000 in 2015.

PRISONS



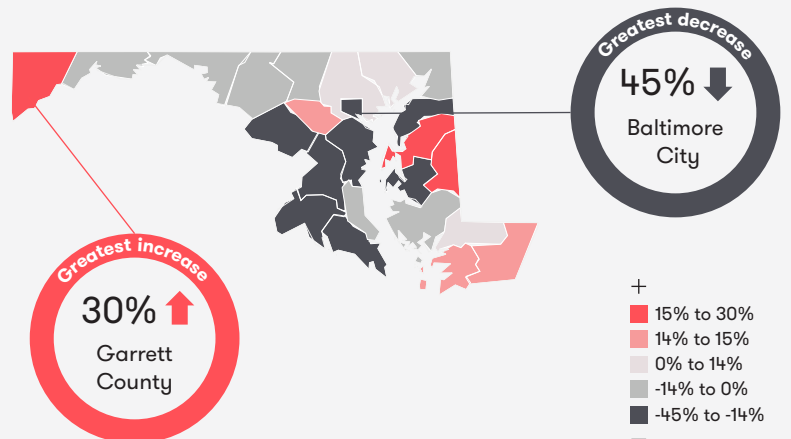
The number of women in Maryland's prisons has increased more than threefold, from 244 in 1978 to 833 in 2017.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Although men's jail admissions have declined by 26 percent since 2008, women's admissions have increased both as a total number and as a proportion of all jail admissions. Women now make up almost one out of every four jail admissions, up from fewer than one in 10 in 1983. Since 1970, the number of women in U.S. jails has increased 14-fold—from fewer than 8,000 to nearly 110,000 in 2013—and women in jail now account for approximately half of all women behind bars in the country.

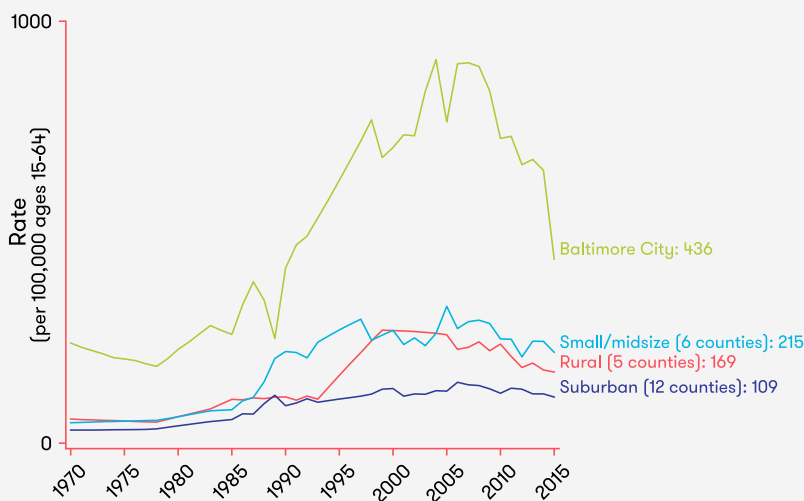
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline in larger counties. It is critical to examine incarceration trends in every corner of the state, because although the largest counties may have the most people in jails—the highest rates of incarceration are in smaller cities and rural counties.

% change in jail population from 2005 to 2015



Comparing the jail populations for 2005 and 2015, counties shaded dark gray had fewer people in jail and those shaded dark red had more people in jail.

JAILS Pretrial population



Since 2000, the state's use of pretrial detention has taken different trajectories in different types of counties. The pretrial incarceration rate has decreased 38% in the state's one urban county, 37% in the state's five rural counties, 19% in the state's six small/medium counties, and 16% in the state's 12 suburban counties.

Vera's analysis of the urban-rural continuum changes the six categories defined by the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties to four. A county is labeled "urban" if it is one of the core counties of a metropolitan area with 1 million or more people and is labeled "suburban" if it is within the surrounding metropolitan area. Vera turns the remaining four categories into two by combining small and medium metropolitan areas ("small and midsize metro") and micropolitan and noncore areas ("rural").

JAIL ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 93 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Wicomico	11,824	Baltimore City	16,902
Worcester	7,738	Baltimore	11,614
Dorchester	7,044	Prince George's	11,534
Calvert	6,778	Wicomico	8,069
Caroline	5,617	Montgomery	7,718
Kent	4,579	Anne Arundel	5,914
Somerset	4,283	Harford	4,488
Queen Anne's	4,189	Calvert	4,148
Cecil	4,118	Charles	3,501
Talbot	4,075	Frederick	3,177

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 93 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Baltimore City	783	Baltimore City	3,424
Dorchester	639	Baltimore	1,174
Wicomico	551	Prince George's	748
Worcester	462	Harford	521
Somerset	454	Washington	442
Washington	446	Anne Arundel	402
Caroline	427	Wicomico	376
Kent	342	Montgomery	362
Harford	312	Charles	281
Talbot	272	Frederick	201

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Maryland	2,484	-28%
2	Pennsylvania	2,410	-16%
3	New Jersey	2,125	-35%
4	New York	1,693	-27%
5	Delaware	521	105%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Pennsylvania	267	15%
2	Delaware	202	-12%
3	New Jersey	180	-17%
4	Maryland	155	-27%
5	New York	133	-13%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Delaware	202	-0.3%
2	Pennsylvania	164	-0.1%
3	Maryland	91	-0.2%
4	New Jersey	75	0.0%
5	New York	60	-0.3%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Pennsylvania	244	14%
2	Maryland	221	-19%
3	New York	162	-20%
4	New Jersey	155	-35%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Delaware	613	-10%
2	Pennsylvania	569	-2%
3	Maryland	444	-25%
4	New York	364	-21%
5	New Jersey	330	-25%

Data

This fact sheet uses data from four U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data series and is supplemented with data obtained directly from state governments for the more recent years for which BJS data is not yet available, when available. The Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jails, and National Corrections Reporting Program provides data through 2016; the National Prisoner Statistics program provides data through 2017, and 2018 data is sourced from state agencies. Rates are per 100,000 residents aged 15 to 64. See *Data and Methods for Vera's State Fact Sheets*: www.vera.org/incarceration-trends-fact-sheets-data-and-methods.pdf for complete details. County-level data is available at trends.vera.org.

Acknowledgments

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Credits

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For more information

For more information, visit www.vera.org. For more information about this fact sheet, contact Jacob Kang-Brown, senior research associate, at jkangbrown@vera.org.