

## Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



### REGIONAL RANK

**3** of 6 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Connecticut

396%

**INCREASE**

3,189 people

15,816 people

1978

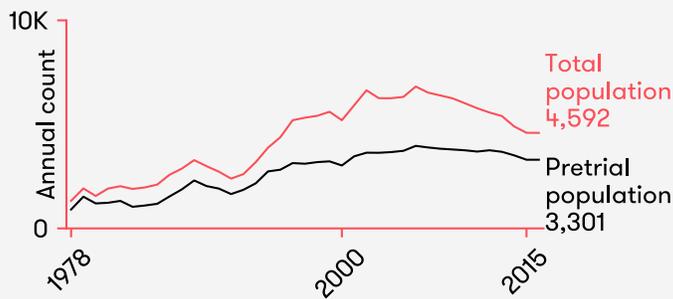
2015

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

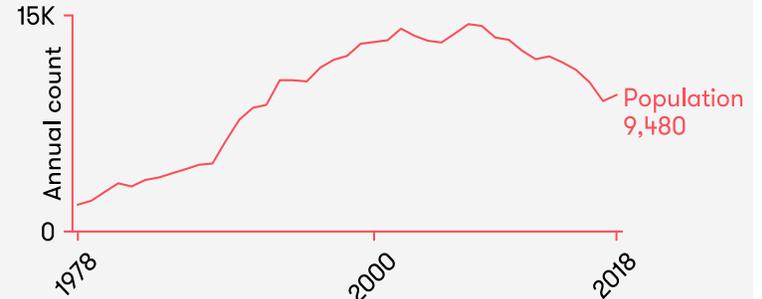
SINCE 2000

247% ↑

-12% ↓

Since 1978, the total jail population has increased 247%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 72% of the total jail population in Connecticut.

### PRISONS



#### % change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

409% ↑

-28% ↓

Since 1978, the prison custody population has increased 409%. In 2018, there were 9,481 people in the Connecticut prison system.

## RACE

more on pg 2 →

### TOTAL INCARCERATION 2015

11% of state pop. | 41% of incarcerated pop.



In Connecticut, Black people constituted 11% of state residents, but 41% of the incarcerated population.

## GENDER

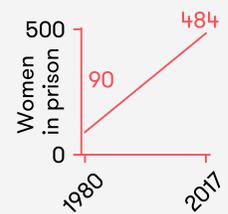
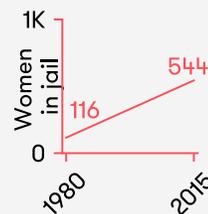
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### JAILS\*

369% ↑

### PRISONS

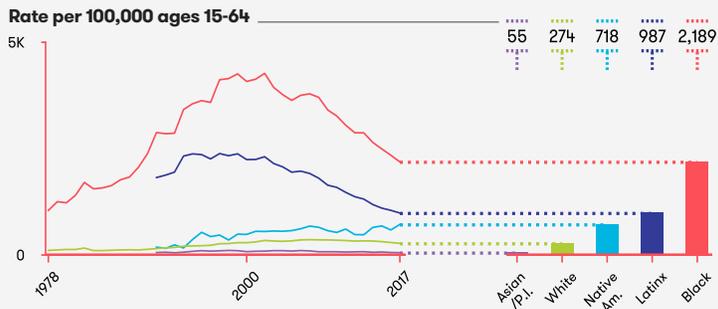
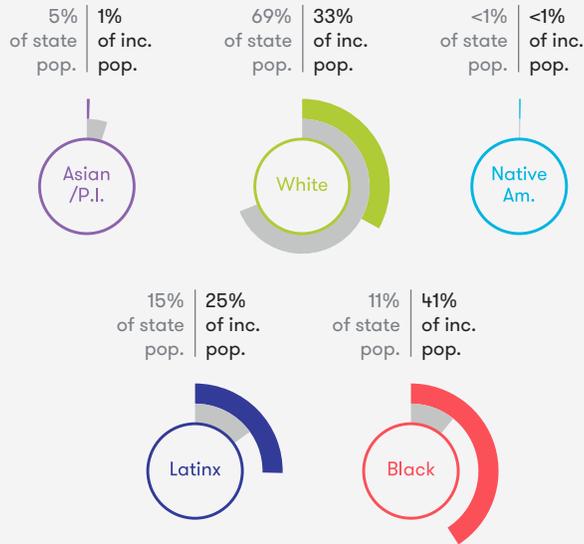
438% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 369%, and the number of women in prison has increased 438%.

# RACE AND ETHNICITY

## TOTAL INCARCERATION 2017



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 109 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 8.0 times the rate of white people, and Native American 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.

# GENDER

## JAILS\*



The number of women in Connecticut's jails has increased more than sevenfold, from 70 in 1978 to 504 in 2016.

## PRISONS



The number of women in Connecticut's prisons has increased more than sixfold, from 75 in 1978 to 484 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.

## JAILS\*



## Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Maine	4,520	-2%
2	New Hampshire	2,329	10%
3	Massachusetts	1,274	-37%
4	Vermont	408	-25%
5	<b>Connecticut</b>	232	-19%
6	Rhode Island	89	-31%

## Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	<b>Connecticut</b>	137	-13%
2	Maine	126	12%
3	Massachusetts	126	7%
4	New Hampshire	124	7%
5	Vermont	87	-2%
6	Rhode Island	86	-16%

## Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Massachusetts	107	-0.4%
2	Maine	79	0.2%
3	New Hampshire	78	0.0%
4	Rhode Island	67	-0.5%
5	<b>Connecticut</b>	54	-0.5%
6	Vermont	23	-0.4%

## PRISONS



## Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	New Hampshire	173	-41%
2	Maine	79	14%
3	Massachusetts	45	-26%

## Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	<b>Connecticut</b>	400	-33%
2	Vermont	298	-20%
3	New Hampshire	293	-1%
4	Maine	282	15%
5	Rhode Island	255	-27%
6	Massachusetts	188	-27%



**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. Connecticut does not have local jails, and instead uses a “unified” corrections system whereby the state administers facilities that hold people in both pretrial and sentenced status. The “jails” data in this document includes people in pretrial status and with sentences of 1 year or less. 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](http://www.vera.org/incarceration-trends-fact-sheets-data-and-methods.pdf) for complete details. County-level data is available at [trends.vera.org](http://trends.vera.org).

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## Credits

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## For more information

For more information, visit [www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org). For more information about this fact sheet, contact Jacob Kang-Brown, senior research associate, at [jkangbrown@vera.org](mailto:jkangbrown@vera.org).