

Incarceration Trends in FLORIDA

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

6 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Florida

275%

INCREASE

40,897 people

153,405 people

1983

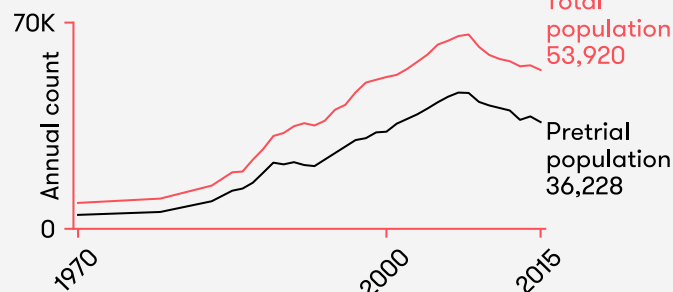
2015

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

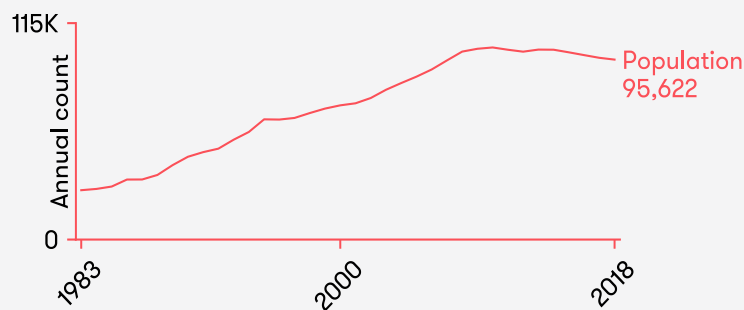
SINCE 2000

513% ↑

5% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 513%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 67% of the total jail population in Florida.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

265% ↑

34% ↑

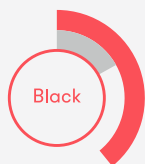
Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 265%. In 2018, there were 95,622 people in the Florida prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

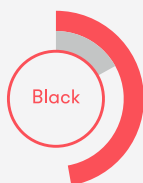
JAILS 2015

17% of state pop. | 39% of jail pop.



PRISONS 2017

17% of state pop. | 47% of prison pop.



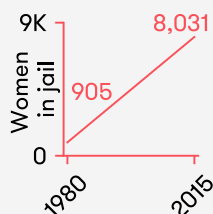
In Florida, Black people constituted 17% of state residents, but 39% of people in jail and 47% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

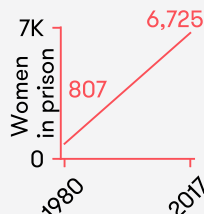
JAILS

787% ↑



PRISONS

733% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 787%, and the number of women in prison has increased 733%.

GEOGRAPHY

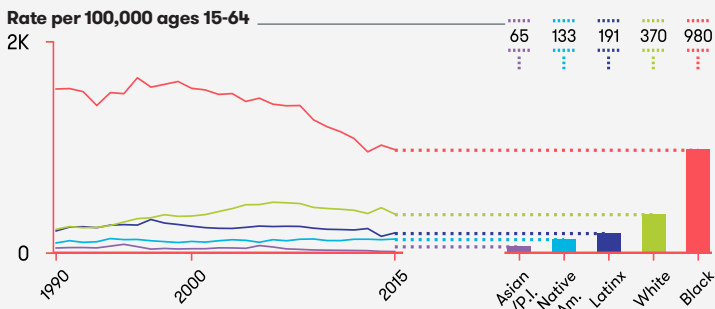
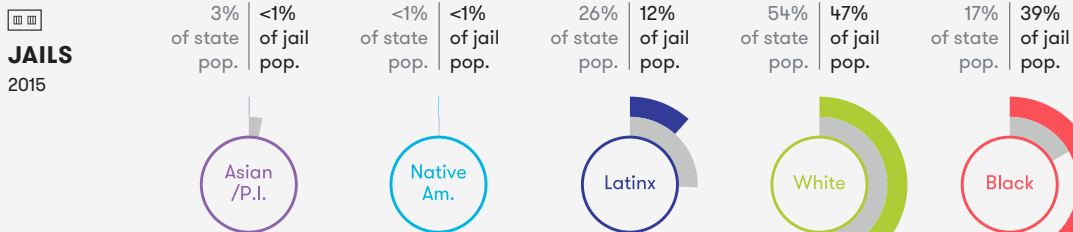
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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Glades	20,352	Bradford	762
Baker	18,959	Holmes	752
Gulf	16,534	Columbia	715
Calhoun	15,691	Okeechobee	710
Franklin	14,260	Bay	693

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



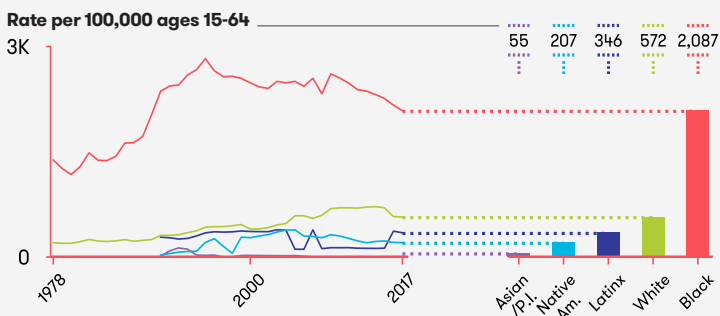
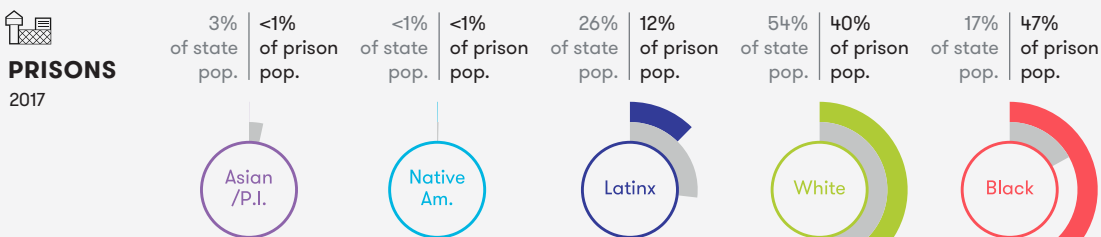
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 37 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 2.6 times the rate of white people.

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 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.

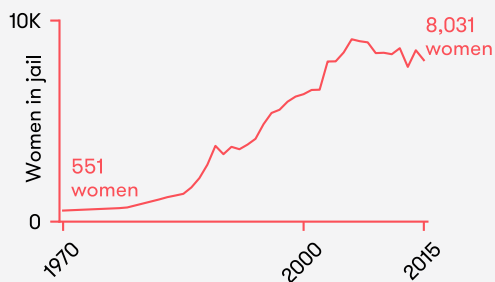
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure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



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 51 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.6 times the rate of white people.

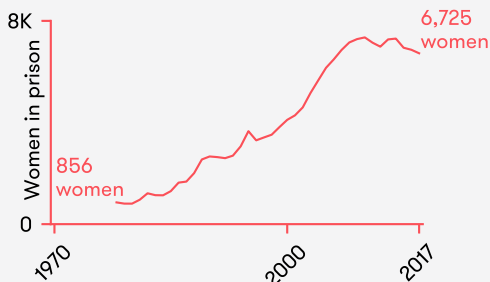
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Florida's jails has increased more than 14-fold, from 551 in 1970 to 8,031 in 2015.

PRISONS



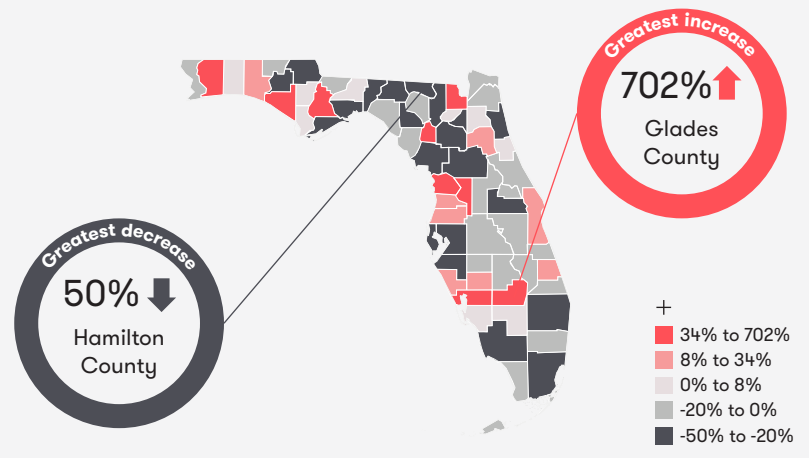
The number of women in Florida's prisons has increased more than sevenfold, from 856 in 1978 to 6,725 in 2017.

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.

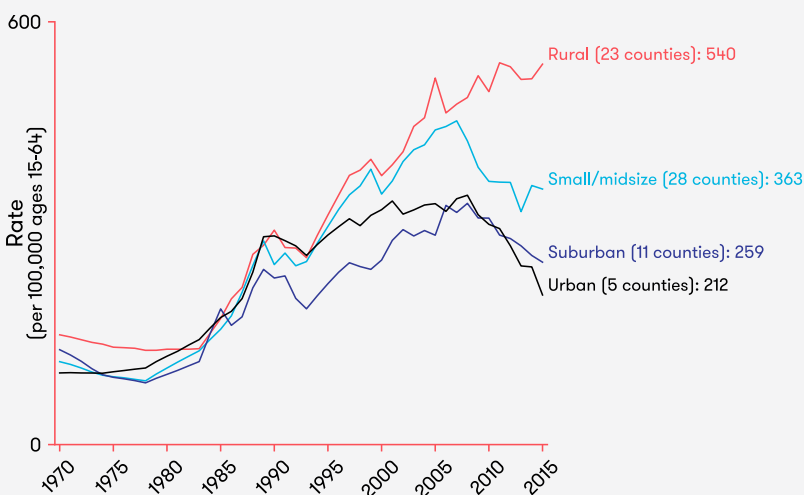
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 increased 41% in the state's 23 rural counties, and 2% in the state's 28 small/medium counties. It has decreased 36% in the state's five urban counties, and 1% in the state's 11 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 67 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Glades	20,352	Miami-Dade	64,399
Baker	18,959	Orange	43,136
Gulf	16,534	Broward	42,431
Calhoun	15,691	Hillsborough	41,416
Franklin	14,260	Pinellas	37,931
Bradford	14,177	Palm Beach	36,219
Hamilton	12,550	Duval	31,605
Bay	12,274	Polk	28,309
Taylor	11,587	Volusia	24,271
Hendry	10,988	Lee	22,792

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 67 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Bradford	762	Broward	2,227
Holmes	752	Duval	1,975
Columbia	715	Miami-Dade	1,972
Okeechobee	710	Polk	1,876
Bay	693	Hillsborough	1,740
Putnam	658	Pinellas	1,524
Liberty	642	Orange	1,455
Taylor	620	Palm Beach	1,189
Suwannee	559	Volusia	1,095
Hardee	524	Brevard	929

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Arkansas	15,853	80%
2	Louisiana	9,174	-19%
3	Mississippi	8,335	13%
4	Georgia	7,747	-26%
5	South Carolina	6,559	-15%
6	Alabama	5,660	-39%
7	Florida	5,166	-37%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	456	-4%
2	Mississippi	350	9%
3	Georgia	313	-30%
4	Florida	284	-23%
5	Alabama	261	-19%
6	Arkansas	258	22%
7	South Carolina	252	-17%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	506	0.0%
2	Mississippi	290	0.1%
3	Georgia	242	0.3%
4	Arkansas	152	0.2%
5	Florida	139	-0.2%
6	Alabama	113	-0.3%
7	South Carolina	107	0.1%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Arkansas	531	64%
2	Louisiana	518	-1%
3	Mississippi	385	-26%
4	Alabama	366	10%
5	Georgia	258	-27%
6	Florida	225	-26%
7	South Carolina	210	-35%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Louisiana	1,062	-17%
2	Mississippi	1,013	-13%
3	Arkansas	928	18%
4	Alabama	848	-12%
5	Georgia	791	-2%
6	Florida	734	-13%
7	South Carolina	587	-26%

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.