

Incarceration Trends in LOUISIANA

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

1 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Louisiana

152%

INCREASE

19,088 people

48,070 people

1983

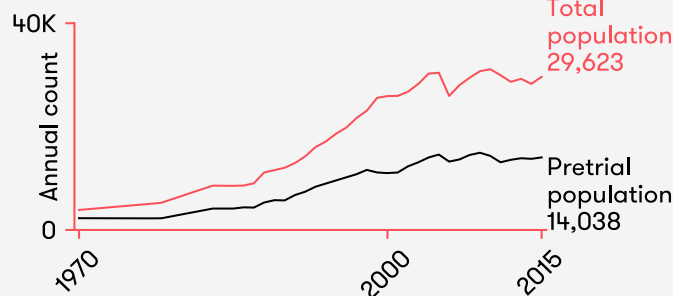
2015

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

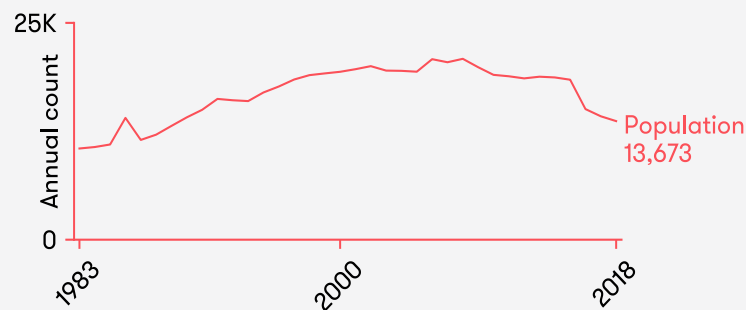
SINCE 2000

665% ↑

14% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 665%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 47% of the total jail population in Louisiana.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

30% ↑

-29% ↓

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 30%. In 2018, there were 13,673 people in the Louisiana prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS

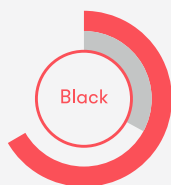
2015

33% of state pop. | 52% of jail pop.

PRISONS

2017

33% of state pop. | 67% of prison pop.



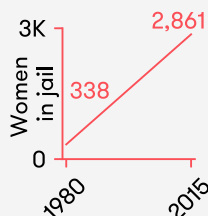
In Louisiana, Black people constituted 33% of state residents, but 52% of people in jail and 67% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

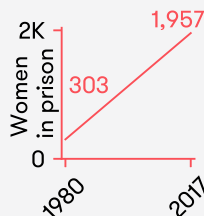
JAILS

746% ↑



PRISONS

546% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 746%, and the number of women in prison has increased 546%.

GEOGRAPHY

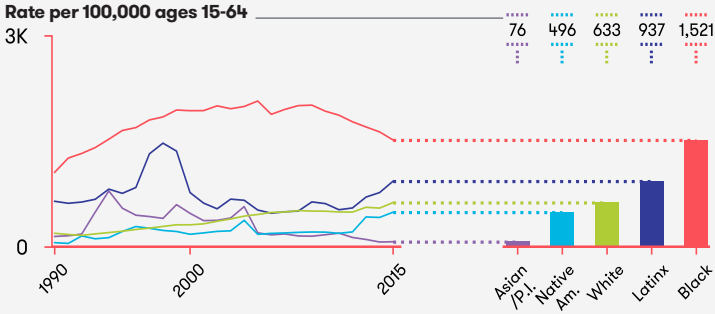
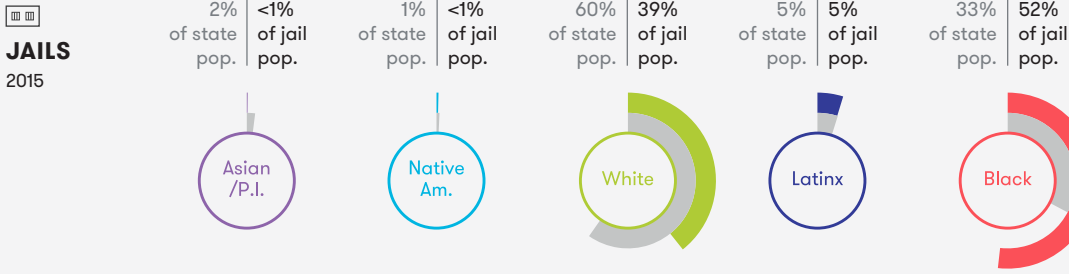
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Top admission rates (rate per 100K)

PARISH	2015 JAILS	2014 PRISONS
East Carroll	424,090	Concordia 1,040
Madison	217,517	Tensas 997
Catahoula	68,726	Richland 965
Avoyelles	67,881	La Salle 942
Union	55,767	Winn 934

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



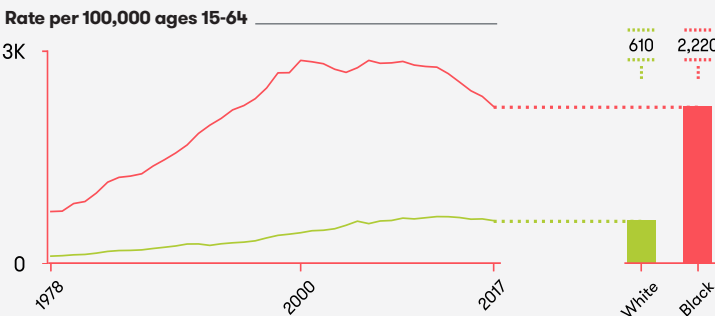
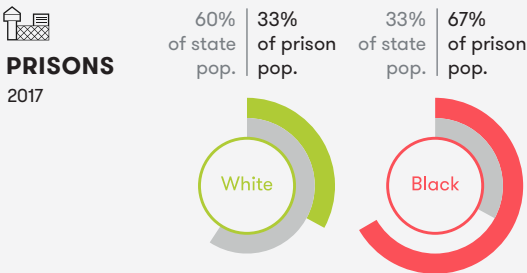
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 43 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 2.4 times the rate of white people.

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.

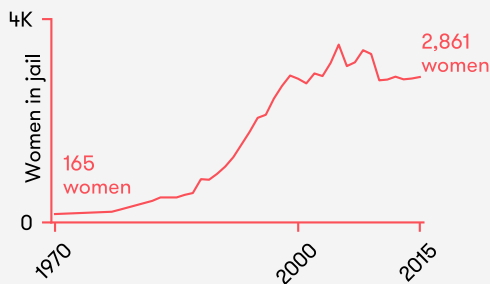
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure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



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 201 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.6 times the rate of white people. Prison incarceration rates of other racial groups are not available because Louisiana does not report comprehensive prison data disaggregated by race.

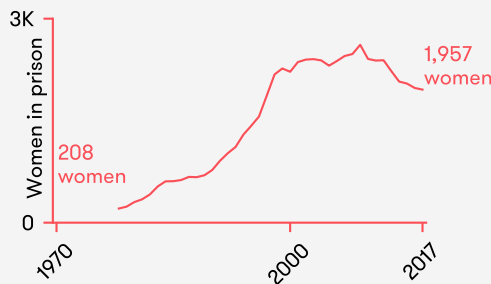
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Louisiana's jails has increased more than 17-fold, from 165 in 1970 to 2,861 in 2015.

PRISONS



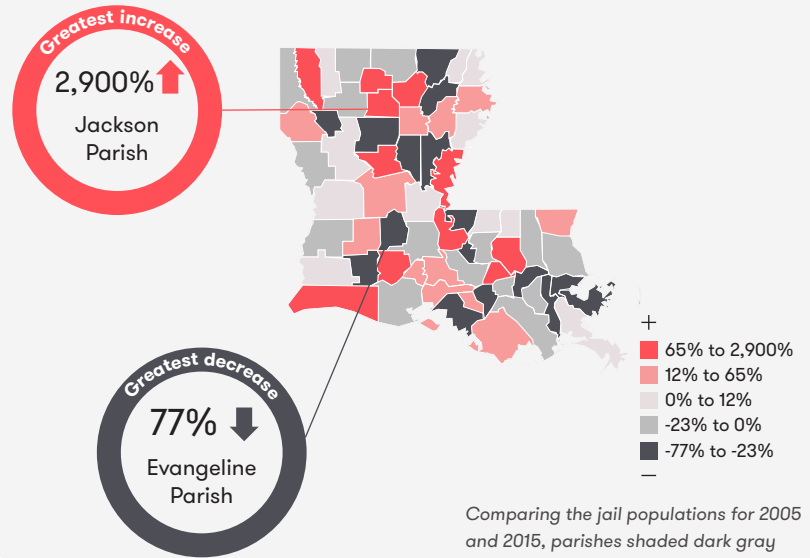
The number of women in Louisiana's prisons has increased more than ninefold, from 208 in 1970 to 1,957 in 2017.

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.

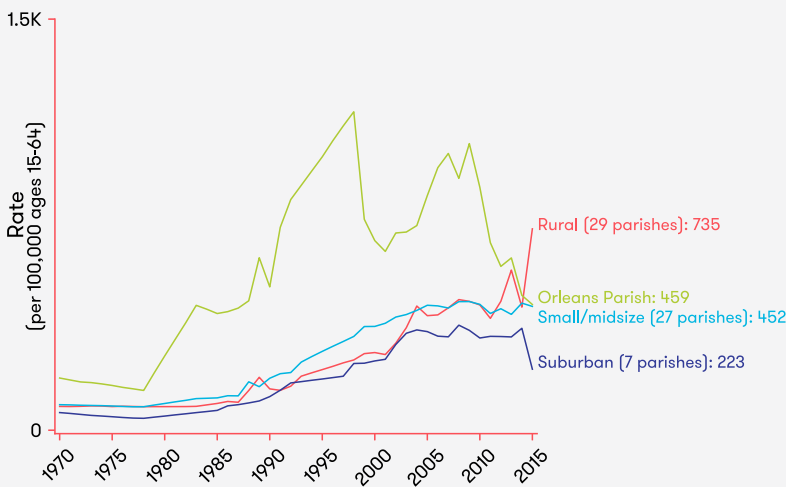
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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, parishes 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 parishes. The pretrial incarceration rate has increased 19% in the state's 27 small/medium parishes, and 159% in the state's 29 rural parishes. It has decreased 34% in the state's one urban parish, and 12% in the state's seven suburban parishes.

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 64 PARISHES)

PARISH	Rate (per 100K)	PARISH	Annual count
East Carroll	424,090	Orleans	39,266
Madison	217,517	East Carroll	20,632
Catahoula	68,726	East Baton Rouge	18,727
Avoyelles	67,881	Avoyelles	18,025
Union	55,767	Madison	17,049
Concordia	45,095	Rapides	13,674
St. Helena	25,170	Lafayette	12,796
Jackson	18,945	Ouachita	11,609
Rapides	16,092	Caddo	9,798
Franklin	14,590	St. Tammany	8,245

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 64 PARISHES)

PARISH	Rate (per 100K)	PARISH	Annual count
Concordia	1,040	Orleans	1,611
Tensas	997	Jefferson	1,431
Richland	965	East Baton Rouge	1,110
La Salle	942	Caddo	1,098
Winn	934	St. Tammany	990
Washington	923	Ouachita	660
Webster	870	Lafayette	613
West Carroll	865	Calcasieu	539
Franklin	854	Terrebonne	475
Bienville	834	Rapides	436

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Arkansas	15,853	80%
2	Oklahoma	11,183	21%
3	Tennessee	9,609	4%
4	Louisiana	9,174	-19%
5	Mississippi	8,335	13%
6	Alabama	5,660	-39%
7	Texas	5,604	-29%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	456	-4%
2	Mississippi	350	9%
3	Tennessee	339	18%
4	Oklahoma	324	18%
5	Alabama	261	-19%
6	Arkansas	258	22%
7	Texas	252	-11%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	506	0.0%
2	Tennessee	308	0.1%
3	Mississippi	290	0.1%
4	Oklahoma	182	0.6%
5	Arkansas	152	0.2%
6	Alabama	113	-0.3%
7	Texas	106	-0.3%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Arkansas	531	64%
2	Louisiana	518	-1%
3	Texas	424	-7%
4	Mississippi	385	-26%
5	Alabama	366	10%
6	Oklahoma	347	-4%
7	Tennessee	298	-10%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Oklahoma	1,066	4%
2	Louisiana	1,062	-17%
3	Mississippi	1,013	-13%
4	Arkansas	928	18%
5	Texas	874	-17%
6	Alabama	848	-12%
7	Tennessee	687	5%

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.