

Incarceration Trends in MISSISSIPPI

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons

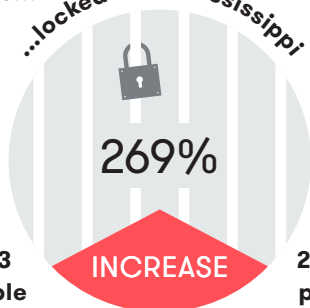


REGIONAL RANK

3 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Mississippi



7,183 people (1983) | **26,478** people (2015)

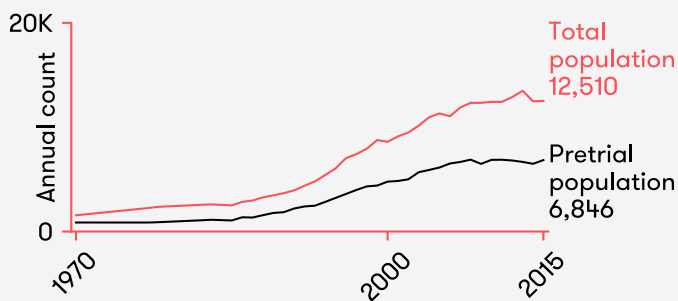
1983 | 2015

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

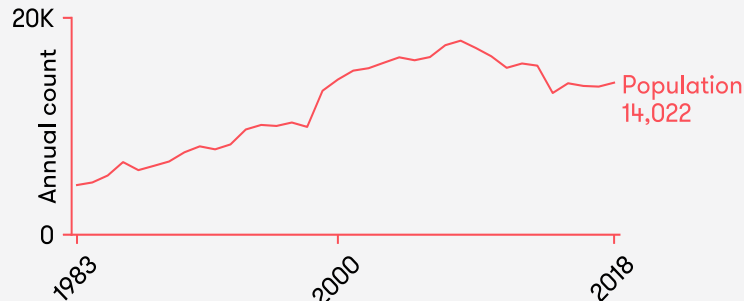


% change in jail population

SINCE 1970	SINCE 2000
704% ↑	46% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 704%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 55% of the total jail population in Mississippi.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983	SINCE 2000
206% ↑	-2% ↓

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 206%. In 2018, there were 14,022 people in the Mississippi prison system.

RACE

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JAILS 2015

39% of state pop. | 57% of jail pop.



PRISONS 2017

39% of state pop. | 62% of prison pop.



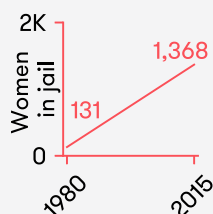
In Mississippi, Black people constituted 39% of state residents, but 57% of people in jail and 62% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

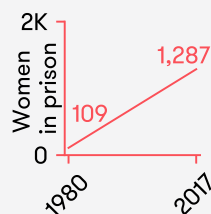
JAILS

944% ↑



PRISONS

1,081% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 944%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,081%.

GEOGRAPHY

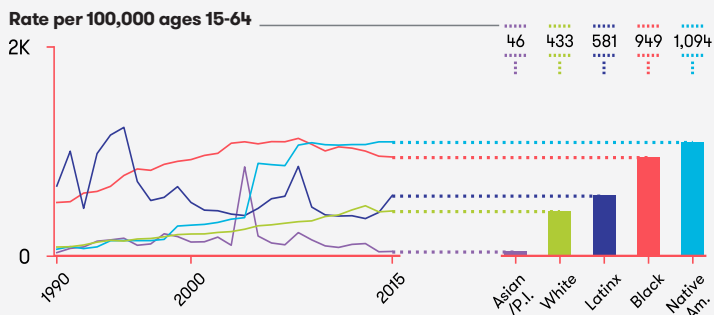
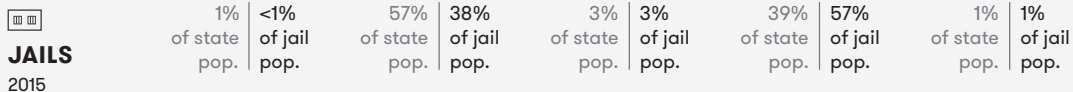
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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Marion	136,838	Marion	719
Tunica	78,852	Clay	651
Sharkey	63,883	Forrest	606
Issaquena	62,741	Tunica	563
Winston	34,594	Pike	557

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



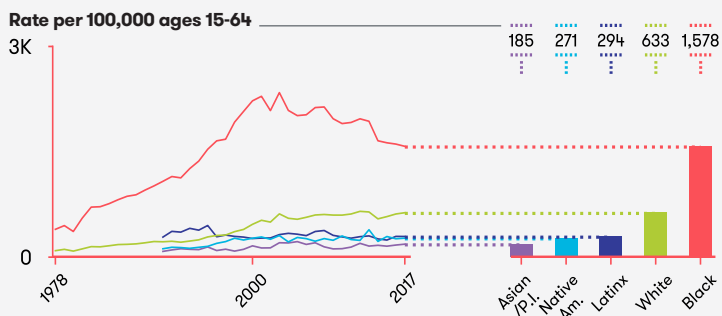
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 85 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 2.2 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 2.5 times the rate of white people.

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.

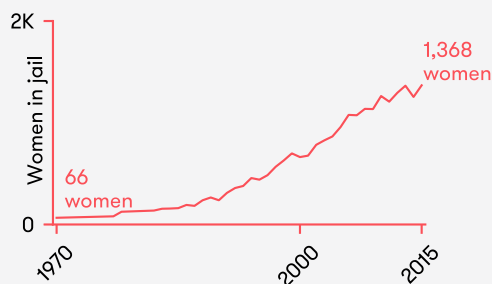
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure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



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 298 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 2.5 times the rate of white people.

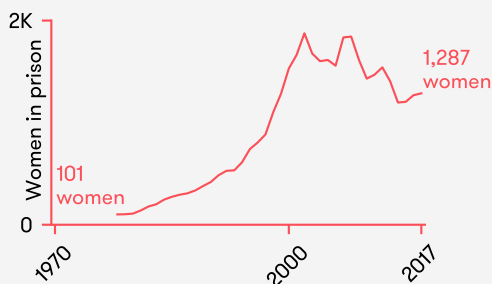
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Mississippi's jails has increased more than 20-fold, from 66 in 1970 to 1,368 in 2015.

PRISONS

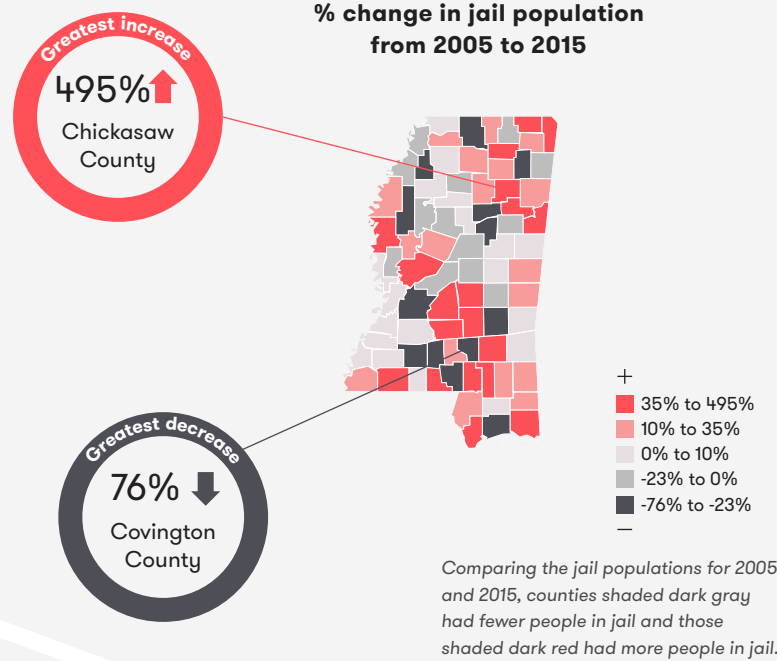


The number of women in Mississippi's prisons has increased more than 12-fold, from 101 in 1978 to 1,287 in 2017.

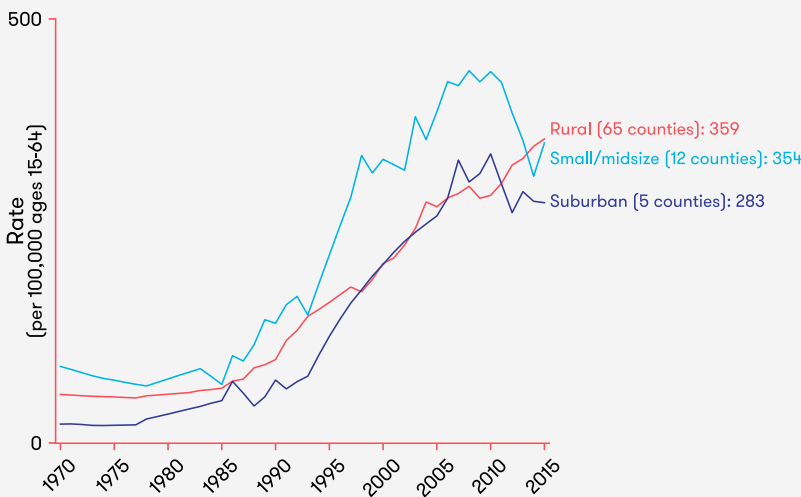
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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.



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 69% in the state's 65 rural counties, 6% in the state's 12 small/medium counties, and 35% in the state's five 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 82 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Marion	136,838	Marion	22,254
Tunica	78,852	Harrison	9,871
Sharkey	63,883	DeSoto	9,021
Issaquena	62,741	Oktibbeha	7,127
Winston	34,594	Hinds	6,109
Alcorn	23,692	Alcorn	5,586
Oktibbeha	19,512	Madison	5,518
Grenada	16,674	Rankin	5,500
Chickasaw	16,305	Tunica	5,319
Coahoma	15,506	Lauderdale	4,380

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 82 COUNTIES)

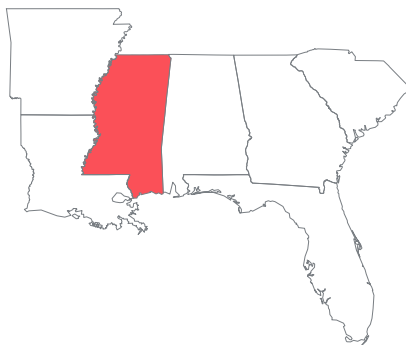
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Marion	719	Harrison	675
Clay	651	Jackson	412
Forrest	606	Rankin	397
Tunica	563	Hinds	351
Pike	557	DeSoto	326
Pearl River	544	Forrest	312
Prentiss	536	Madison	248
Jones	530	Jones	228
Lowndes	528	Lauderdale	215
Harrison	514	Lowndes	207

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.