

Incarceration Trends in MISSOURI

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

4 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Missouri

268%

INCREASE

11,851 people

43,667 people

1983

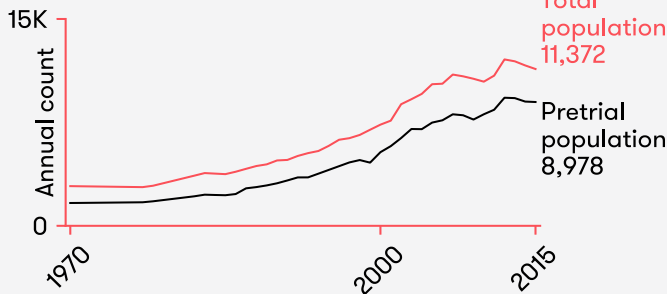
2015

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

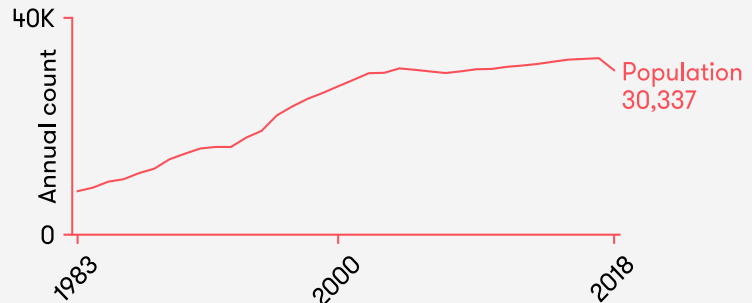
SINCE 2000

295% ↑

55% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 295%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 79% of the total jail population in Missouri.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

278% ↑

11% ↑

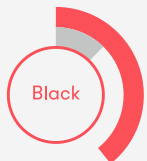
Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 278%. In 2018, there were 30,337 people in the Missouri prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

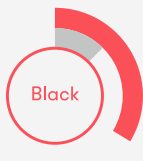
JAILS

12% of state pop. | 39% of jail pop.



PRISONS

12% of state pop. | 34% of prison pop.



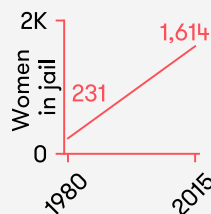
In Missouri, Black people constituted 12% of state residents, but 39% of people in jail and 34% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

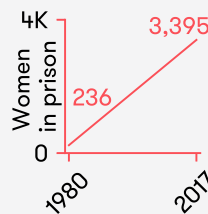
JAILS

596% ↑



PRISONS

1,339% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 596%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,339%.

GEOGRAPHY

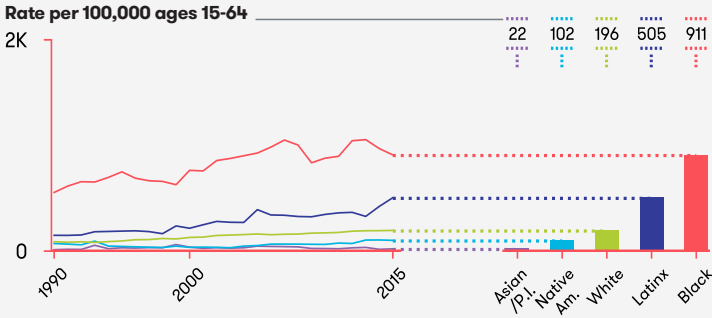
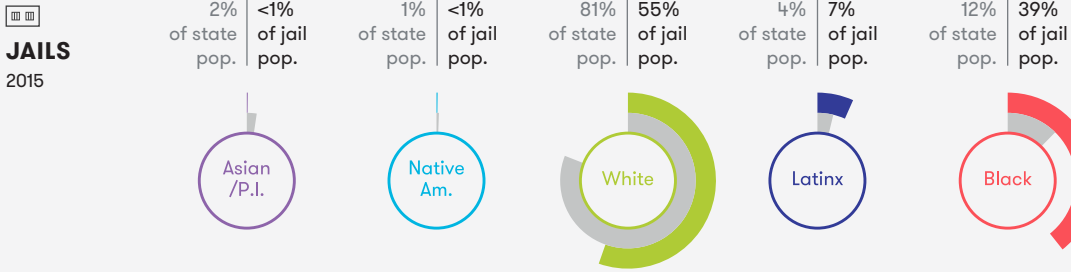
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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Daviess	47,768	Livingston	1,970
Mississippi	22,966	Lafayette	1,636
Caldwell	21,390	Dunklin	1,547
Pemiscot	20,009	Pemiscot	1,462
Johnson	18,719	New Madrid	1,287

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



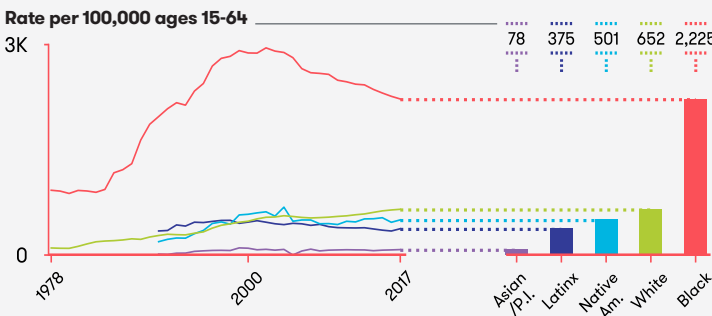
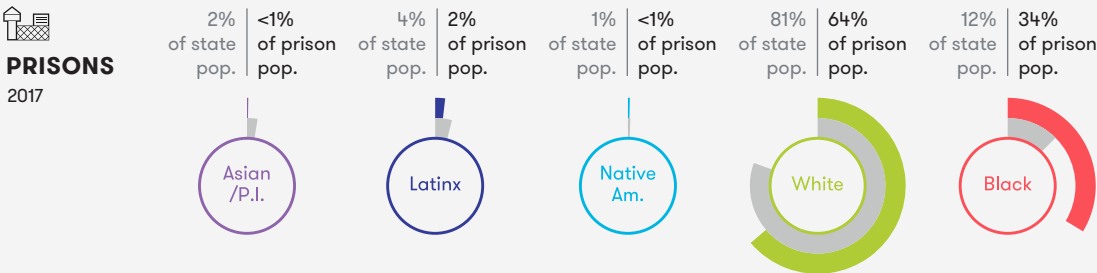
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 64 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 4.6 times the rate of white people.

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.

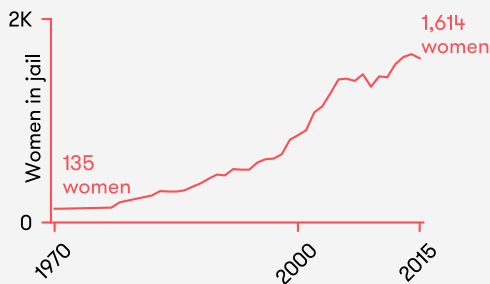
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure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



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 141 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.4 times the rate of white people.

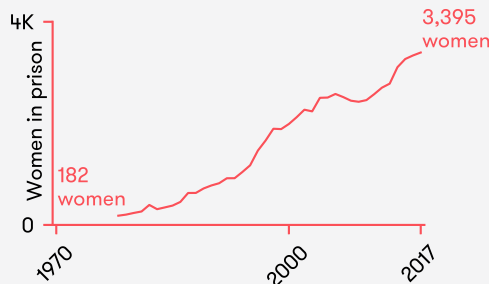
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Missouri's jails has increased more than 11-fold, from 135 in 1970 to 1,614 in 2015.

PRISONS



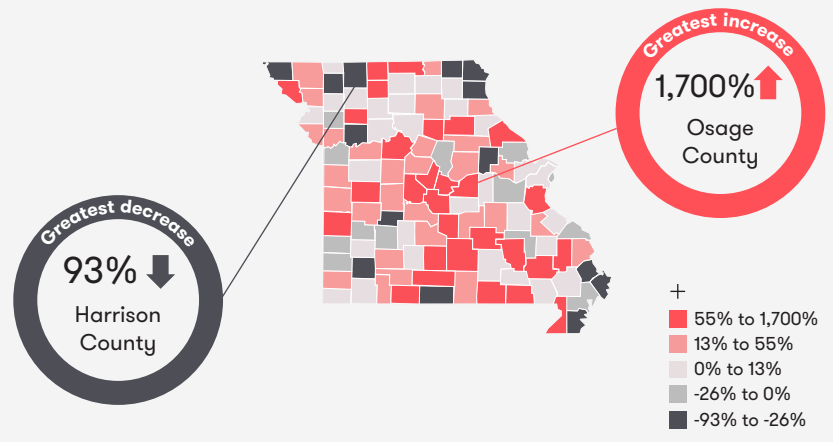
The number of women in Missouri's prisons has increased more than 18-fold, from 182 in 1970 to 3,395 in 2017.

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.

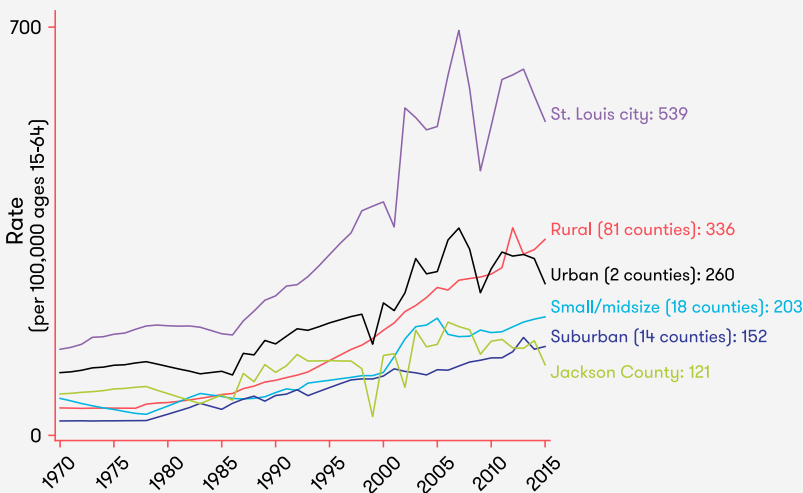
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 88% in the state's 18 small/medium counties, 87% in the state's 81 rural counties, 50% in the state's 14 suburban counties, and 15% in the state's two urban 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 115 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Daviess	47,768	St. Louis City	15,100
Mississippi	22,966	Greene	14,629
Caldwell	21,390	St. Louis	10,298
Pemiscot	20,009	Jackson	9,094
Johnson	18,719	Johnson	7,091
Morgan	16,058	Boone	6,831
Vernon	14,592	St. Charles	6,636
Warren	14,290	Cole	6,383
Ste. Genevieve	14,049	Franklin	6,205
Pettis	13,814	Clay	5,944

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 115 COUNTIES)

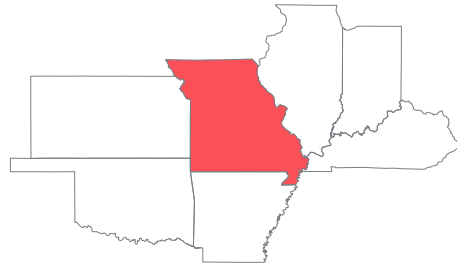
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Livingston	1,970	St. Louis City	1,384
Lafayette	1,636	St. Louis	1,377
Dunklin	1,547	Jackson	1,017
Pemiscot	1,462	Greene	1,001
New Madrid	1,287	St. Charles	674
Mercer	1,264	Buchanan	612
Saline	1,248	Clay	576
Butler	1,164	Jefferson	562
Laclede	1,152	Boone	488
Henry	1,148	St. Francois	450

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Arkansas	15,853	80%
2	Oklahoma	11,183	21%
3	Kentucky	9,631	-9%
4	Kansas	7,764	-10%
5	Missouri	5,315	-11%
6	Indiana	5,247	-24%
7	Illinois	3,808	-17%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Oklahoma	324	18%
2	Kentucky	312	3%
3	Indiana	272	8%
4	Arkansas	258	22%
5	Missouri	226	16%
6	Kansas	205	6%
7	Illinois	157	-19%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Kentucky	410	0.4%
2	Oklahoma	182	0.6%
3	Arkansas	152	0.2%
4	Kansas	125	-0.1%
5	Indiana	114	-0.3%
6	Illinois	64	0.5%
7	Missouri	60	-0.2%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Kentucky	694	39%
2	Arkansas	531	64%
3	Missouri	465	-7%
4	Oklahoma	347	-4%
5	Kansas	345	23%
6	Illinois	299	-36%
7	Indiana	297	-29%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Oklahoma	1,066	4%
2	Arkansas	928	18%
3	Kentucky	831	10%
4	Missouri	768	0.2%
5	Indiana	620	-6%
6	Kansas	547	18%
7	Illinois	472	-10%

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.