

Incarceration Trends in NEVADA

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK
3 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Nevada



4,134 people
1983

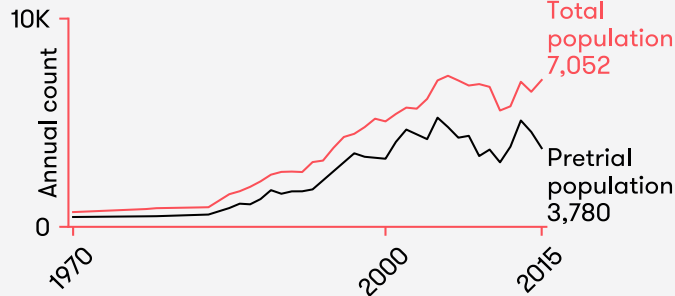
20,287 people
2015

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

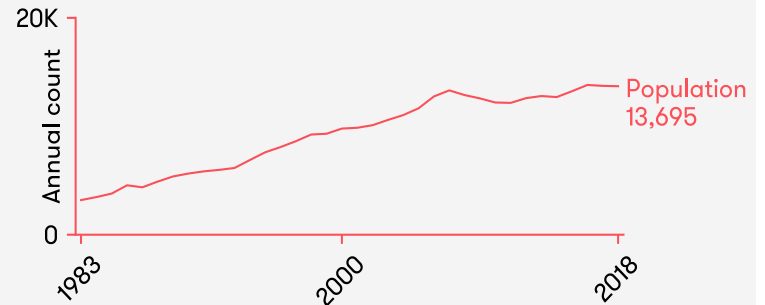


% change in jail population

SINCE 1970	SINCE 2000
896% ↑	39% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 896%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 54% of the total jail population in Nevada.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983	SINCE 2000
329% ↑	40% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 329%. In 2018, there were 13,695 people in the Nevada prison system.

RACE

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JAILS

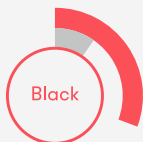
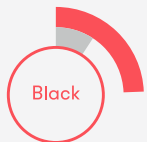
2015

9% of state pop. | 24% of jail pop.

PRISONS

2017

9% of state pop. | 31% of prison pop.



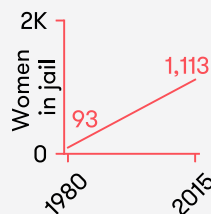
In Nevada, Black people constituted 9% of state residents, but 24% of people in jail and 31% of people in prison.

GENDER

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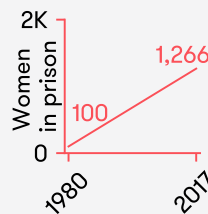
JAILS

1,088% ↑



PRISONS

1,166% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 1,088%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,166%.

GEOGRAPHY

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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Esmeralda	52,183	Esmeralda	1,455
Lincoln	19,395	Mineral	681
Mineral	17,543	Churchill	675
Eureka	15,706	White Pine	567
Lander	13,484	Carson City	467

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

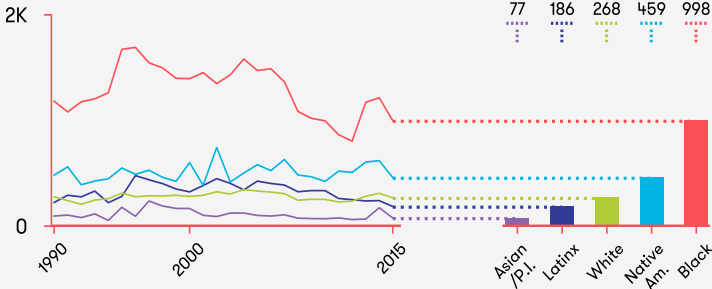


JAILS 2015

10% of state pop. | 2% of jail pop. | 28% of state pop. | 14% of jail pop. | 52% of state pop. | 37% of jail pop. | 1% of state pop. | 1% of jail pop. | 9% of state pop. | 24% of jail pop.



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 16 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 3.7 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 1.7 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.

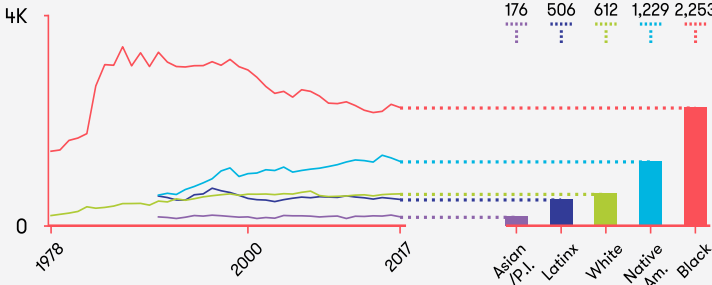


PRISONS 2017

10% of state pop. | 2% of prison pop. | 28% of state pop. | 20% of prison pop. | 52% of state pop. | 43% of prison pop. | 1% of state pop. | 2% of prison pop. | 9% of state pop. | 31% of prison pop.



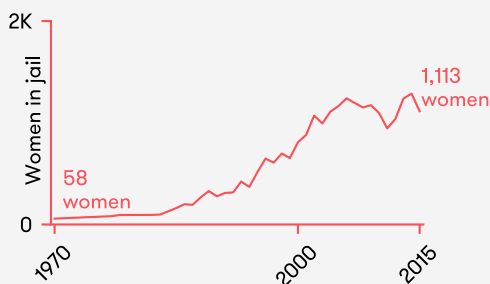
Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 58 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.7 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 2.0 times the rate of white people.

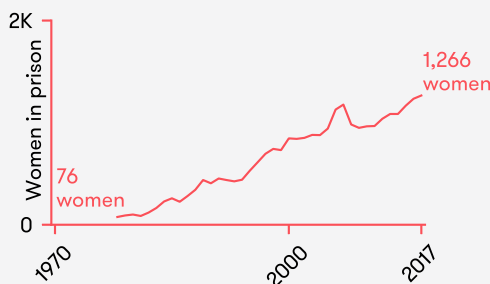
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Nevada's jails has increased more than 19-fold, from 58 in 1970 to 1,113 in 2015.

PRISONS



The number of women in Nevada's prisons has increased more than 16-fold, from 76 in 1970 to 1,266 in 2017.

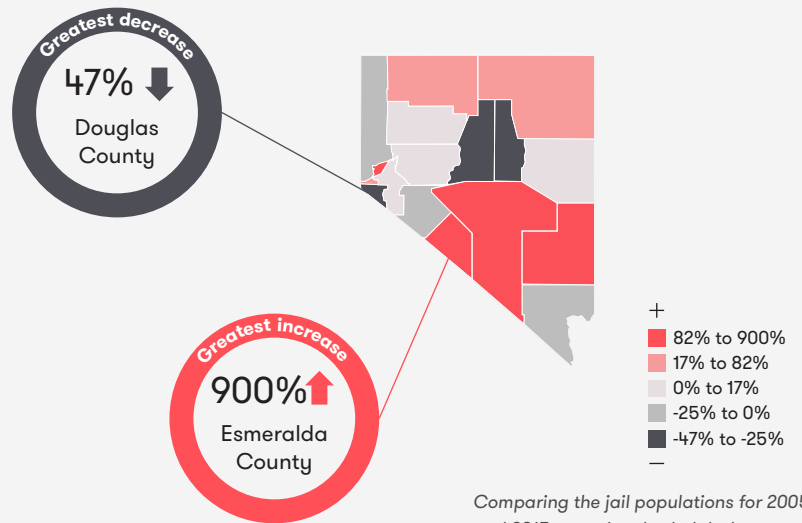
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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.

GEOGRAPHY

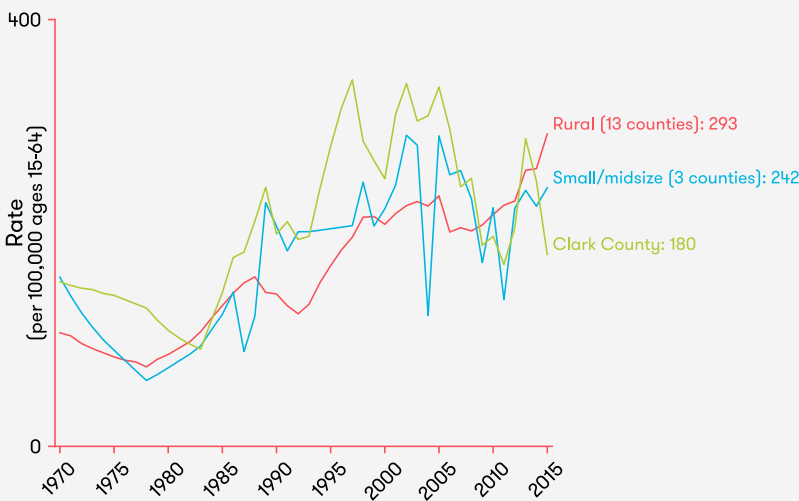
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 9% in the state's three small/medium counties, and 41% in the state's 13 rural counties. It has decreased 28% in the state's one urban county.

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 17 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Esmeralda	52,183	Clark	104,362
Lincoln	19,395	Washoe	20,612
Mineral	17,543	Elko	3,545
Eureka	15,706	Douglas	2,776
Lander	13,484	Nye	2,304
Churchill	11,387	Churchill	1,721
Elko	9,959	Lyon	1,408
Douglas	9,637	Humboldt	850
Nye	9,209	Lincoln	615
Storey	7,820	Lander	519

PRISON ADMISSIONS

(TOP 10 OF 17 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Esmeralda	1,455	Clark	4,246
Mineral	681	Washoe	946
Churchill	675	Carson City	162
White Pine	567	Nye	116
Carson City	467	Elko	106
Nye	464	Churchill	102
Humboldt	413	Lyon	73
Pershing	359	Douglas	58
Washoe	323	Humboldt	47
Clark	308	White Pine	38

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Nevada	7,517	-22%
2	Oregon	6,568	-7%
3	Idaho	6,268	-34%
4	Utah	5,457	-17%
5	Arizona	4,584	-27%
6	Washington	4,422	-27%
7	California	3,830	-26%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Idaho	236	-3%
2	Arizona	234	-21%
3	Nevada	202	-36%
4	Utah	188	-8%
5	California	155	-30%
6	Oregon	137	-10%
7	Washington	127	-12%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Utah	207	0.0%
2	Nevada	175	0.6%
3	California	138	0.3%
4	Idaho	118	-0.2%
5	Arizona	82	-0.1%
6	Oregon	80	-0.3%
7	Washington	78	-0.5%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Idaho	549	27%
2	Nevada	331	-9%
3	Arizona	315	-13%
4	Oregon	190	-14%
5	Utah	173	-19%
6	Washington	154	-16%
7	California	136	-76%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Arizona	935	-3%
2	Idaho	797	9%
3	Nevada	700	-1%
4	Oregon	569	2%
5	California	489	-29%
6	Washington	393	-1%
7	Utah	334	-12%

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

This series would not be possible without the excellent work of researchers at the Bureau of Justice Statistics—E. Ann Carson, Todd Minton, and Zhen Zeng—who maintain the Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jails, National Corrections Reporting Program, and National Prisoner Statistics program. This report was designed by Paragini Amin and created by Christian Henrichson, Eital Schattner-Elmaleh, Jacob Kang-Brown, Oliver Hinds and James Wallace-Lee. This report was made possible by the support of Arnold Ventures. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Arnold Ventures.

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.