

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

3 of 6 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Oklahoma

332%

INCREASE

9,270 people

40,047 people

1983

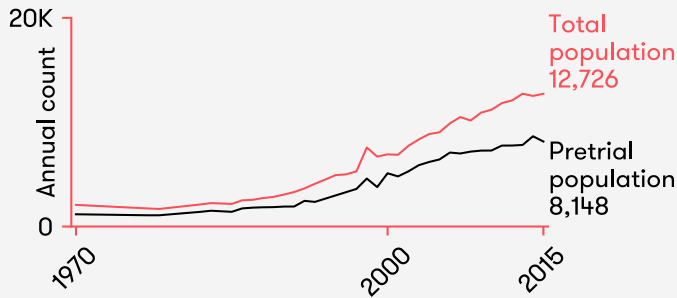
2015

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

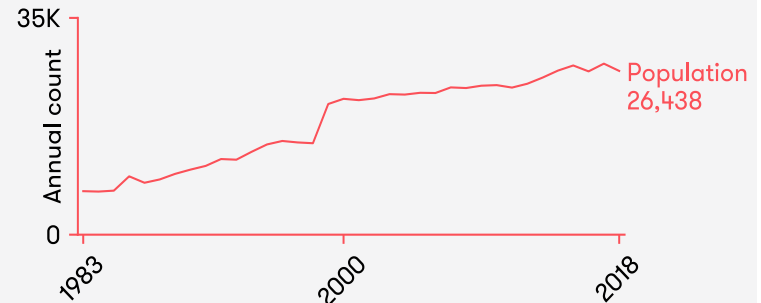
SINCE 2000

513% ↑

84% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 513%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 64% of the total jail population in Oklahoma.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

276% ↑

21% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 276%. In 2018, there were 26,438 people in the Oklahoma prison system.

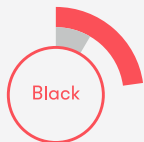
RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS

2015

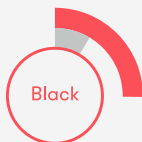
8% of state pop. | 23% of jail pop.



PRISONS

2017

8% of state pop. | 25% of prison pop.



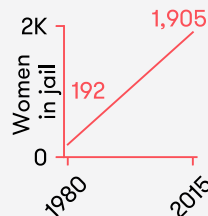
In Oklahoma, Black people constituted 8% of state residents, but 23% of people in jail and 25% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

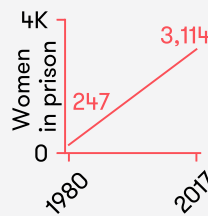
JAILS

891% ↑



PRISONS

1,161% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 891%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,161%.

GEOGRAPHY

more on pg 3 →

Top admission rates (rate per 100K)

2015		2014	
COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Marshall	473,828	Greer	975
Garvin	175,345	Okmulgee	959
Custer	30,392	Roger Mills	902
Lincoln	19,578	Jackson	876
Seminole	17,556	Cotton	853

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



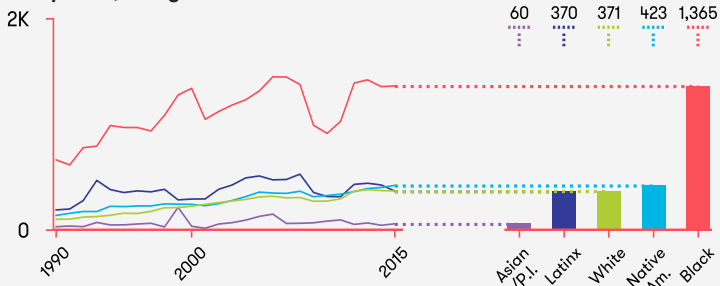
JAILS

2015

3% of state pop. | <1% of jail pop. | 9% of state pop. | 7% of jail pop. | 70% of state pop. | 51% of jail pop. | 9% of state pop. | 8% of jail pop. | 8% of state pop. | 23% of jail pop.



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 105 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 3.7 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 1.1 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.



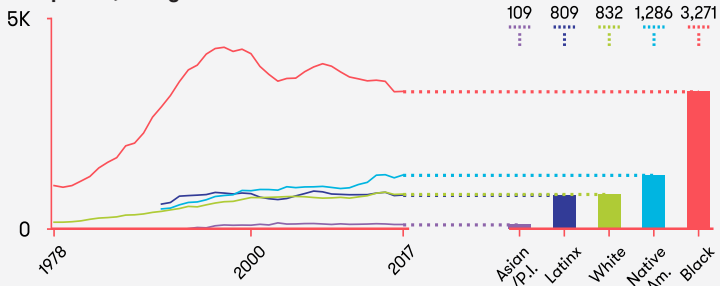
PRISONS

2017

3% of state pop. | <1% of prison pop. | 9% of state pop. | 7% of prison pop. | 70% of state pop. | 52% of prison pop. | 9% of state pop. | 11% of prison pop. | 8% of state pop. | 25% of prison pop.



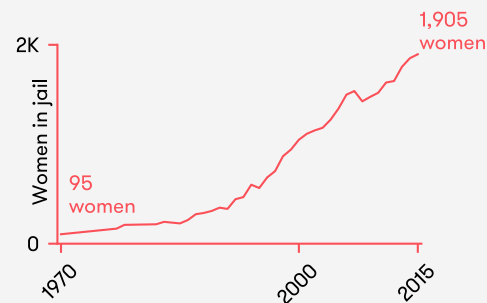
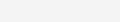
Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 217 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.9 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 1.5 times the rate of white people.

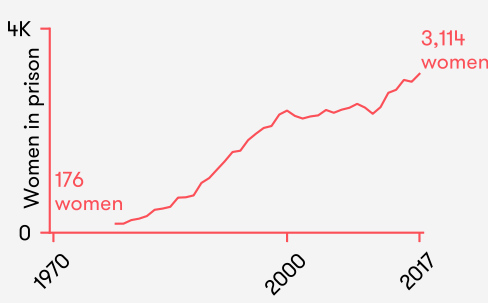
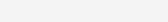
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Oklahoma's jails has increased more than 20-fold, from 95 in 1970 to 1,905 in 2015.

PRISONS



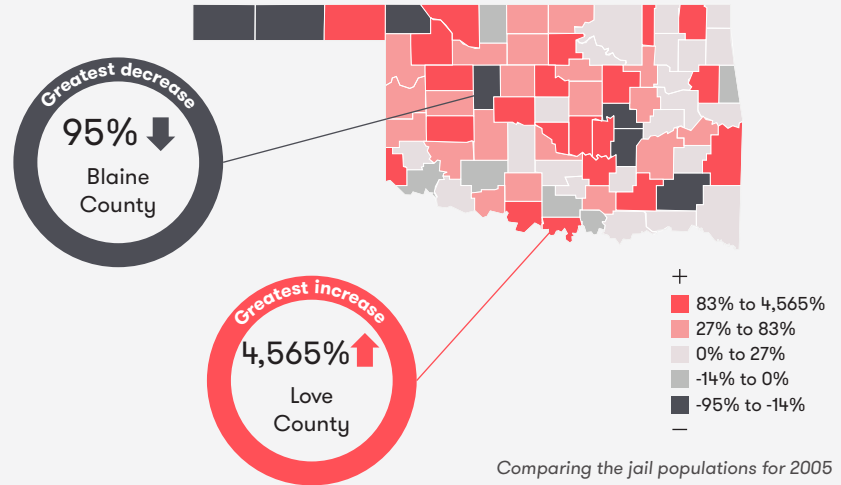
The number of women in Oklahoma's prisons has increased more than 17-fold, from 176 in 1978 to 3,114 in 2017.

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.

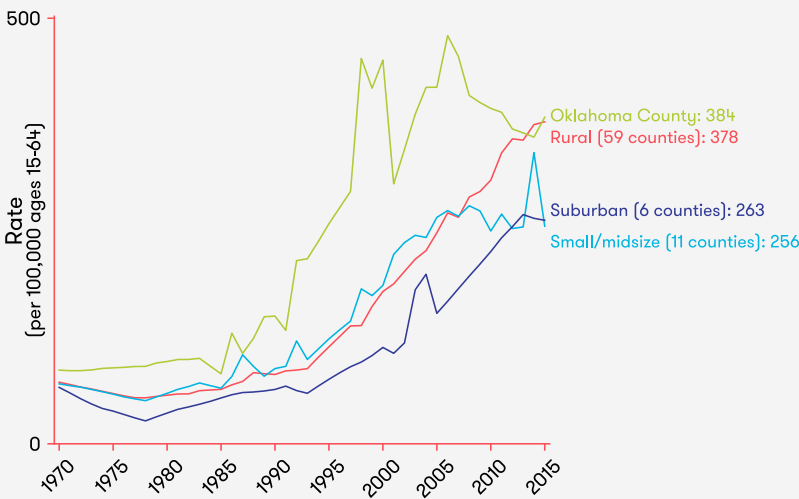
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 grey 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 37% in the state's 11 small/medium counties, 132% in the state's six suburban counties, and 111% in the state's 59 rural counties. It has decreased 15% 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 77 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Marshall	473,828	Oklahoma	51,641
Garvin	175,345	Marshall	45,298
Custer	30,392	Garvin	29,977
Lincoln	19,578	Tulsa	27,597
Seminole	17,556	Cleveland	10,869
Grant	17,074	Pottawatomie	6,000
Choctaw	16,140	Muskogee	5,944
Jackson	15,695	Custer	5,896
Love	15,221	Carter	4,328
Adair	15,184	Payne	4,243

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 77 COUNTIES)

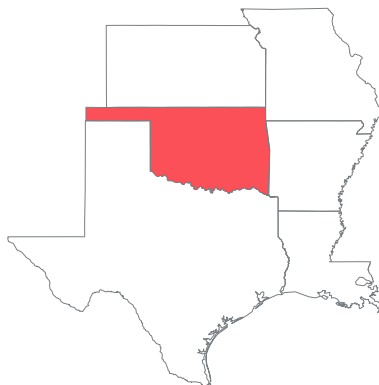
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Greer	975	Oklahoma	2,236
Okmulgee	959	Tulsa	1,688
Roger Mills	902	Cleveland	421
Jackson	876	Garfield	332
Cotton	853	Creek	305
Garfield	845	Comanche	285
Ottawa	836	Pottawatomie	247
Blaine	832	Okmulgee	239
Seminole	791	Stephens	218
Stephens	778	Muskogee	210

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Arkansas	15,853	80%
2	Oklahoma	11,183	21%
3	Louisiana	9,174	-19%
4	Kansas	7,764	-10%
5	Texas	5,604	-29%
6	Missouri	5,315	-11%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	456	-4%
2	Oklahoma	324	18%
3	Arkansas	258	22%
4	Texas	252	-11%
5	Missouri	226	16%
6	Kansas	205	6%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Louisiana	506	0.0%
2	Oklahoma	182	0.6%
3	Arkansas	152	0.2%
4	Kansas	125	-0.1%
5	Texas	106	-0.3%
6	Missouri	60	-0.2%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Arkansas	531	64%
2	Louisiana	518	-1%
3	Missouri	465	-7%
4	Texas	424	-7%
5	Oklahoma	347	-4%
6	Kansas	345	23%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Oklahoma	1,066	4%
2	Louisiana	1,062	-17%
3	Arkansas	928	18%
4	Texas	874	-17%
5	Missouri	768	0.2%
6	Kansas	547	18%

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

© Vera Institute of Justice December 2019. All rights reserved.

An electronic version of this report is posted on Vera's website at www.vera.org/state-incarceration-trends. The Vera Institute of Justice is a justice reform change agent. Vera produces ideas, analysis, and research that inspire change in the systems people rely upon for safety and justice, and works in close partnership with government and civic leaders to implement it. Vera is currently pursuing core priorities of ending the misuse of jails, transforming conditions of confinement, and ensuring that justice systems more effectively serve America's increasingly diverse communities.

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.