

Incarceration Trends in ARIZONA

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons

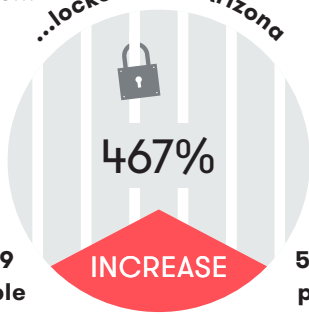


REGIONAL RANK

2 of 6 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Arizona



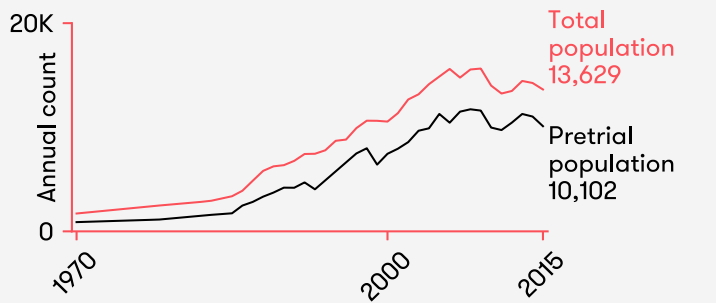
9,829 people (1983) → 55,757 people (2015)

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

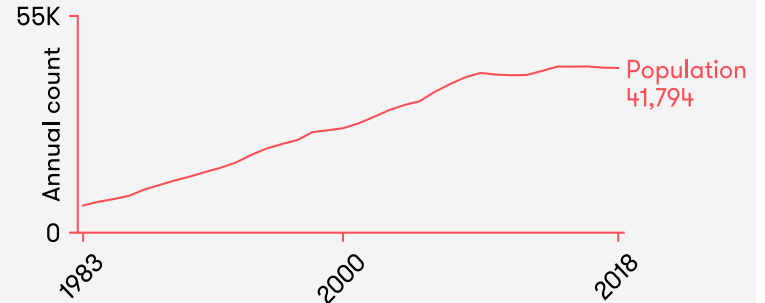


% change in jail population

SINCE 1970	SINCE 2000
695% ↑	29% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 695%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 74% of the total jail population in Arizona.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983	SINCE 2000
507% ↑	58% ↑

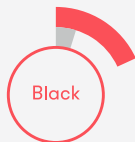
Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 507%. In 2018, there were 41,794 people in the Arizona prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS

2015
5% of state pop. | 18% of jail pop.



PRISONS

2017
5% of state pop. | 14% of prison pop.



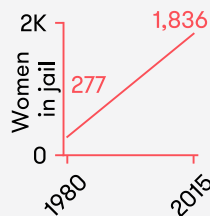
In Arizona, Black people constituted 5% of state residents, but 18% of people in jail and 14% of people in prison.

GENDER

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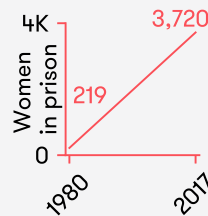
JAILS

563% ↑



PRISONS

1,599% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 563%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,599%.

GEOGRAPHY

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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
La Paz	14,554	Graham	677
Coconino	10,762	La Paz	676
Gila	9,775	Gila	616
Greenlee	8,302	Yavapai	548
Santa Cruz	8,088	Yuma	531

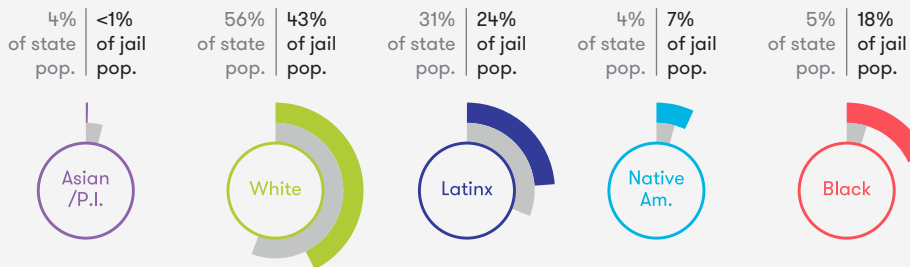
Incarceration is not only an urban phenomenon. In fact, on a per capita basis, the most rural places in the state often lock up the most people in jail and send the most people to prison.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

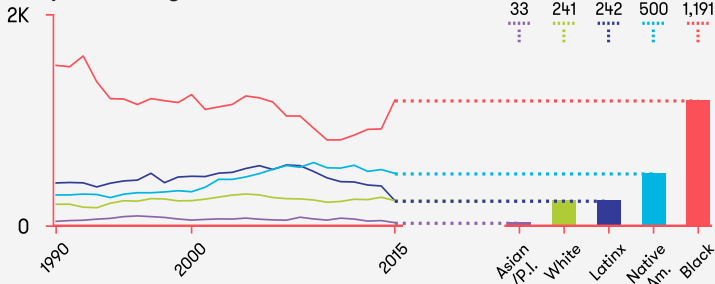


JAILS

2015



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64

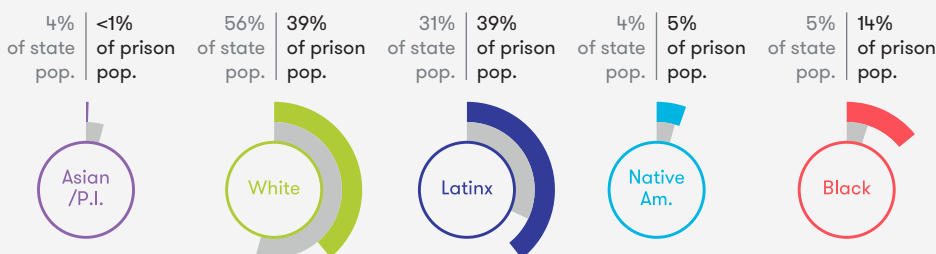


Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 22 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 4.9 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 2.1 times the rate of white people.

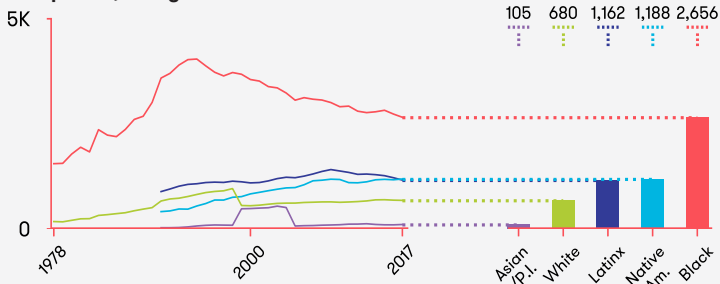


PRISONS

2017



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 71 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.9 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 1.7 times the rate of white people.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

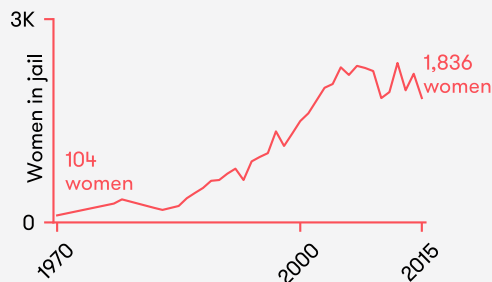
The overrepresentation of Black Americans in the justice system is well documented. Black men constitute about 13 percent of the male population, but about 35 percent of those incarcerated. One in five Black people born in their lifetime, compared to one in 10 Latinx people and one in 29 white people.

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.

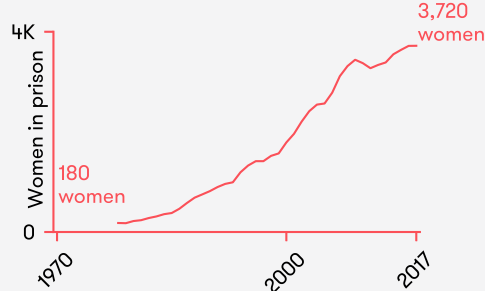
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Arizona's jails has increased more than 17-fold, from 104 in 1970 to 1,836 in 2015.

PRISONS



The number of women in Arizona's prisons has increased more than 20-fold, from 180 in 1978 to 3,720 in 2017.

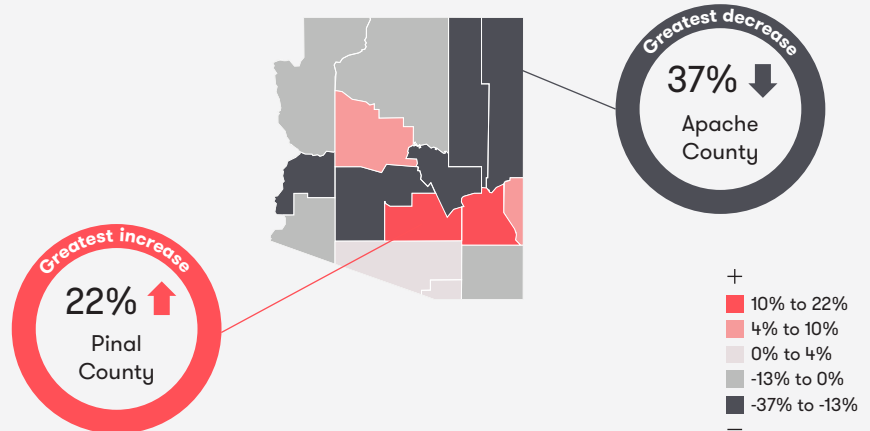
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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

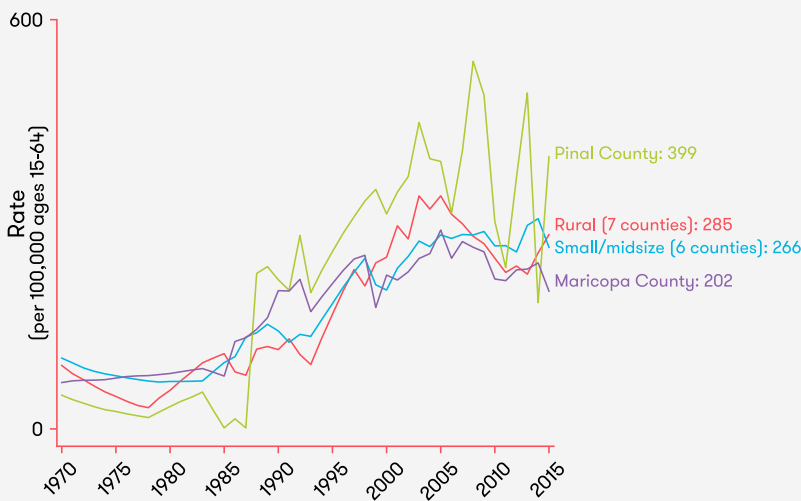
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 31% in the state's six small/medium counties, 27% in the state's one suburban county, and 13% in the state's seven rural counties. It has decreased 10% 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 15 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
La Paz	14,554	Maricopa	99,525
Coconino	10,762	Pima	32,508
Gila	9,775	Pinal	11,599
Greenlee	8,302	Coconino	10,494
Santa Cruz	8,088	Yavapai	9,297
Graham	7,506	Mohave	8,310
Yavapai	7,401	Yuma	7,073
Mohave	7,102	Cochise	4,515
Navajo	6,773	Navajo	4,457
Cochise	5,779	Gila	2,920

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 15 COUNTIES)

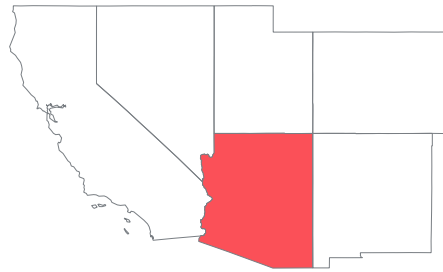
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Graham	677	Maricopa	10,506
La Paz	676	Pima	2,285
Gila	616	Pinal	1,241
Yavapai	548	Yavapai	688
Yuma	531	Yuma	656
Pinal	511	Mohave	596
Mohave	509	Cochise	316
Greenlee	443	Navajo	282
Navajo	429	Coconino	280
Cochise	404	Gila	184

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	New Mexico	11,996	18%
2	Nevada	7,517	-22%
3	Colorado	5,782	-26%
4	Utah	5,457	-17%
5	Arizona	4,584	-27%
6	California	3,830	-26%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	New Mexico	460	-4%
2	Arizona	234	-21%
3	Nevada	202	-36%
4	Utah	188	-8%
5	Colorado	179	-14%
6	California	155	-30%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Utah	207	0.0%
2	Nevada	175	0.6%
3	Colorado	150	-0.2%
4	New Mexico	143	-0.2%
5	California	138	0.3%
6	Arizona	82	-0.1%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Nevada	331	-9%
2	Arizona	315	-13%
3	New Mexico	269	-19%
4	Colorado	236	-30%
5	Utah	173	-19%
6	California	136	-76%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Arizona	935	-3%
2	Nevada	700	-1%
3	New Mexico	543	14%
4	Colorado	533	-22%
5	California	489	-29%
6	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

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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.