

Incarceration Trends in IDAHO

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons

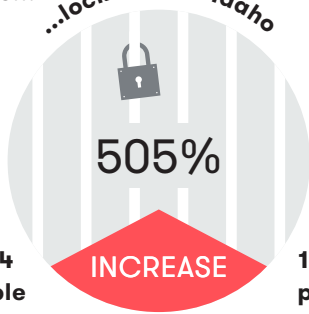


REGIONAL RANK

1 of 8 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Idaho



1,804 people

10,918 people

1983

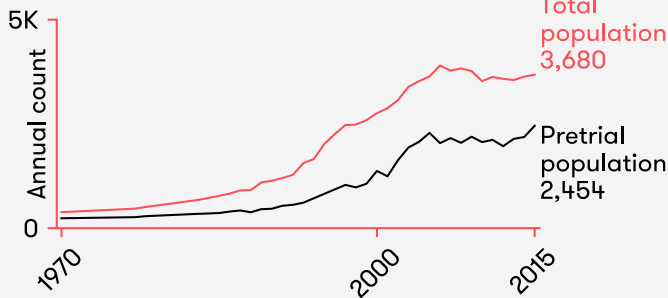
2015

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

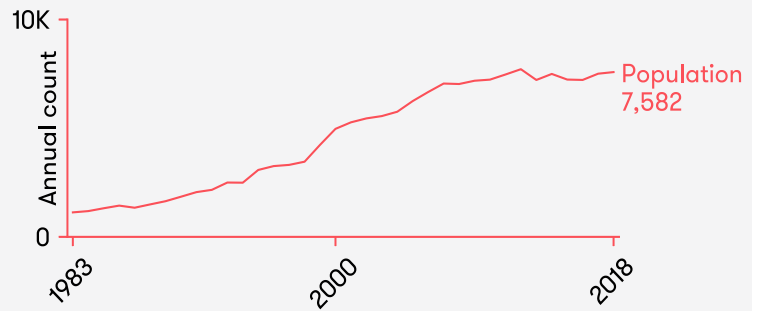
SINCE 2000

861% ↑

33% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 861%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 67% of the total jail population in Idaho.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

573% ↑

53% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 573%. In 2018, there were 7,582 people in the Idaho prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS

2015

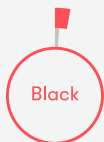
1% of state pop. | 3% of jail pop.



PRISONS

2017

1% of state pop. | 3% of prison pop.



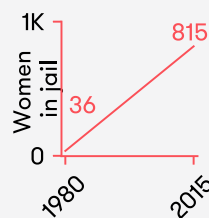
In Idaho, Black people constituted 1% of state residents, but 3% of people in jail and 3% of people in prison.

GENDER

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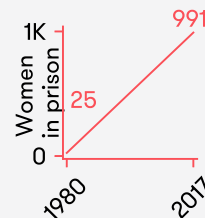
JAILS

2,127% ↑



PRISONS

3,864% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 2,127%, and the number of women in prison has increased 3,864%.

GEOGRAPHY

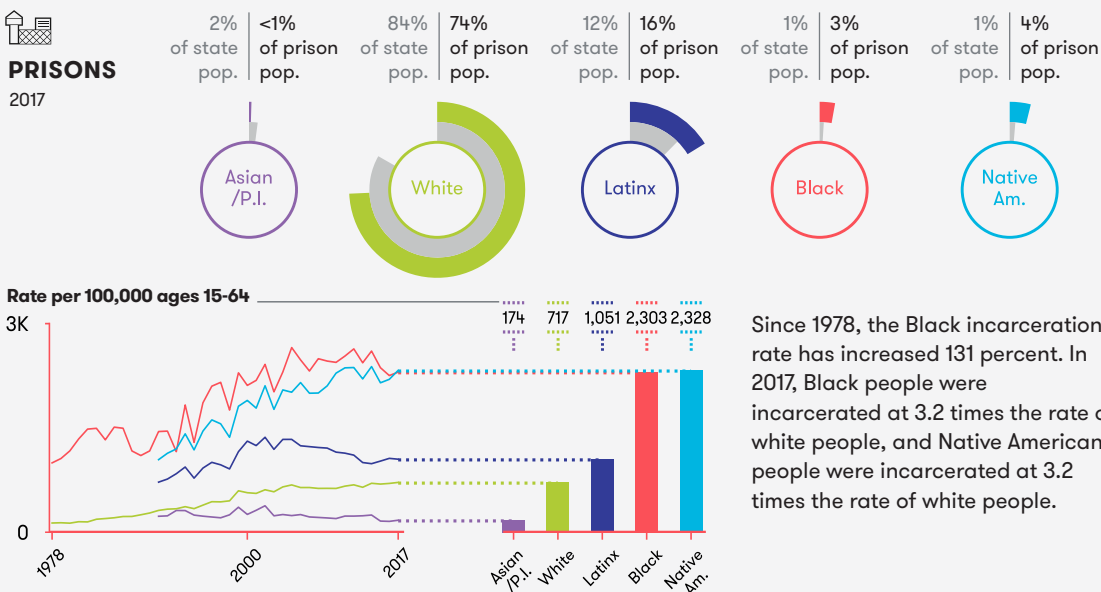
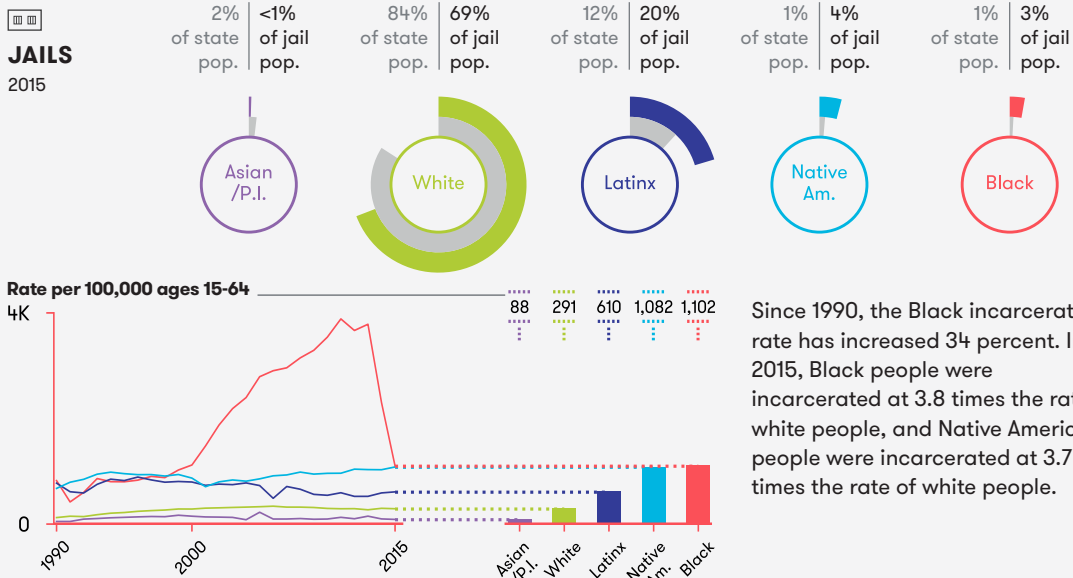
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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Shoshone	23,402	Butte	708
Adams	21,662	Twin Falls	653
Cassia	21,309	Nez Perce	559
Caribou	17,990	Cassia	546
Valley	14,503	Jerome	543

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



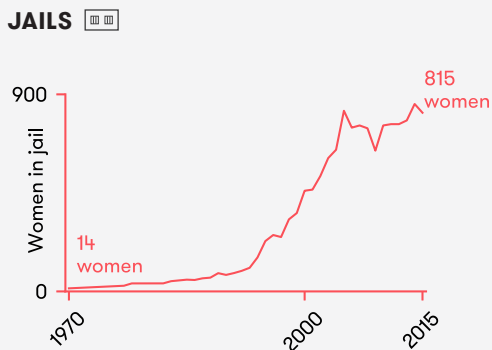
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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.

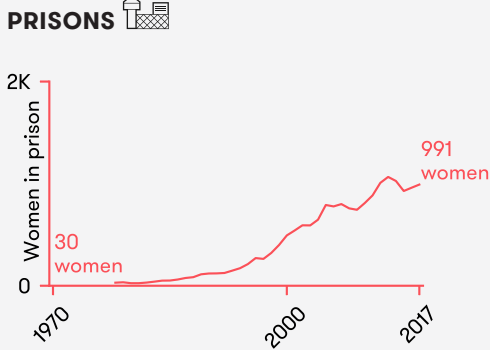
Discriminatory criminal justice policies and practices at all stages of the justice process have unjustifiably disadvantaged Black people, including through disparity in the enforcement of seemingly race-neutral laws. Studies have found that Black people are more likely to be stopped by the police, detained 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.

GENDER



The number of women in Idaho's jails has increased more than 58-fold, from 14 in 1970 to 816 in 2015.



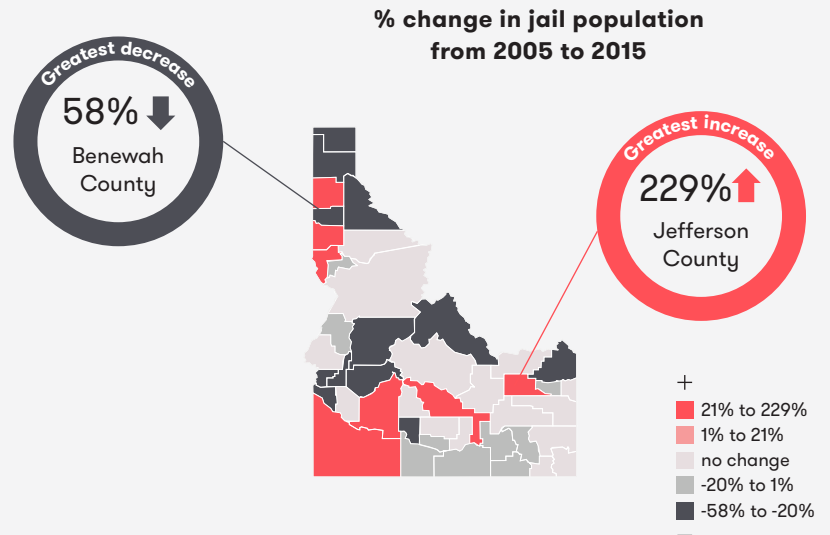
The number of women in Idaho's prisons has increased more than 33-fold, from 30 in 1978 to 991 in 2017.

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.

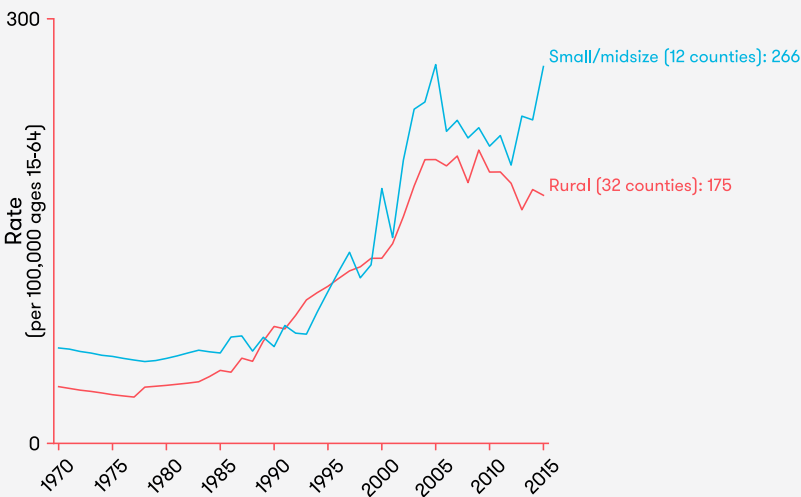
GEOGRAPHY

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.



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 48% in the state's 12 small/medium counties, and 34% in the state's 32 rural 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 44 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Shoshone	23,402	Ada	10,857
Adams	21,662	Canyon	9,268
Cassia	21,309	Kootenai	8,000
Caribou	17,990	Bonneville	5,733
Valley	14,503	Bannock	4,282
Nez Perce	11,577	Cassia	2,965
Lewis	9,671	Nez Perce	2,920
Jerome	8,857	Twin Falls	2,816
Lemhi	8,855	Bingham	1,986
Bonneville	8,642	Shoshone	1,801

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 44 COUNTIES)

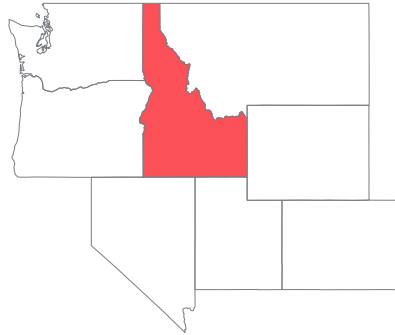
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Butte	708	Ada	1,138
Twin Falls	653	Canyon	519
Nez Perce	559	Kootenai	457
Cassia	546	Twin Falls	327
Jerome	543	Bonneville	286
Kootenai	489	Bannock	242
Clearwater	459	Nez Perce	141
Power	455	Bingham	86
Minidoka	451	Bonner	77
Bannock	448	Cassia	76

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Wyoming	8,021	-16%
2	Nevada	7,517	-22%
3	Montana	6,753	-9%
4	Oregon	6,568	-7%
5	Idaho	6,268	-34%
6	Colorado	5,782	-26%
7	Utah	5,457	-17%
8	Washington	4,422	-27%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Idaho	236	-3%
2	Wyoming	222	-14%
3	Montana	203	17%
4	Nevada	202	-36%
5	Utah	188	-8%
6	Colorado	179	-14%
7	Oregon	137	-10%
8	Washington	127	-12%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Utah	207	0.0%
2	Wyoming	175	-0.1%
3	Nevada	175	0.6%
4	Colorado	150	-0.2%
5	Montana	145	-0.1%
6	Idaho	118	-0.2%
7	Oregon	80	-0.3%
8	Washington	78	-0.5%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Idaho	549	27%
2	Montana	402	9%
3	Nevada	331	-9%
4	Wyoming	263	10%
5	Colorado	236	-30%
6	Oregon	190	-14%
7	Utah	173	-19%
8	Washington	154	-16%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Idaho	797	9%
2	Nevada	700	-1%
3	Wyoming	691	22%
4	Oregon	569	2%
5	Montana	558	3%
6	Colorado	533	-22%
7	Washington	393	-1%
8	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.