

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

7 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Minnesota

284%

INCREASE

4,233 people

16,270 people

1983

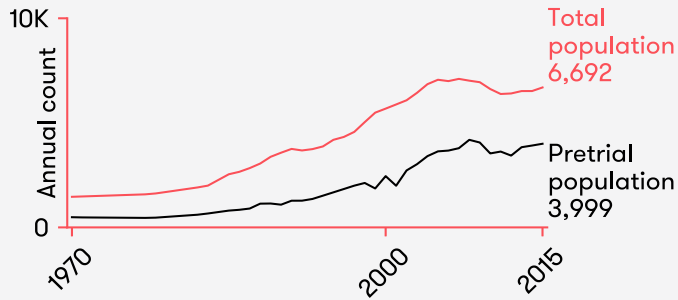
2015

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

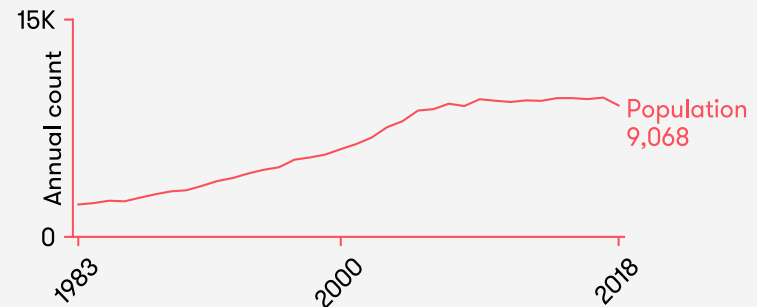
SINCE 2000

357% ↑

18% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 357%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 60% of the total jail population in Minnesota.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

306% ↑

50% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 306%. In 2018, there were 9,068 people in the Minnesota prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS

2015

1% of state pop. | 7% of jail pop.



PRISONS

2017

1% of state pop. | 10% of prison pop.



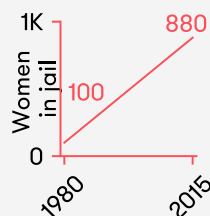
In Minnesota, Native American people constituted 1% of state residents, but 7% of people in jail and 10% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

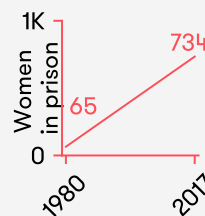
JAILS

779% ↑



PRISONS

1,029% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 779%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,029%.

GEOGRAPHY

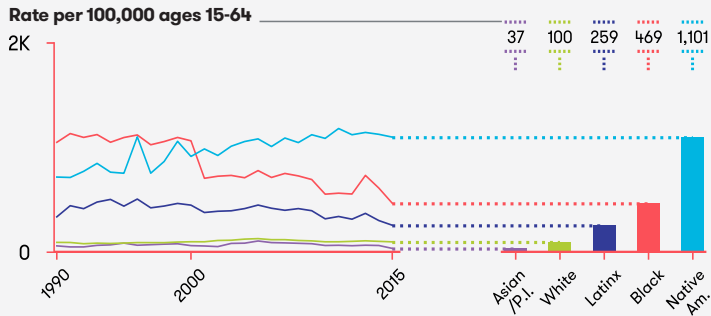
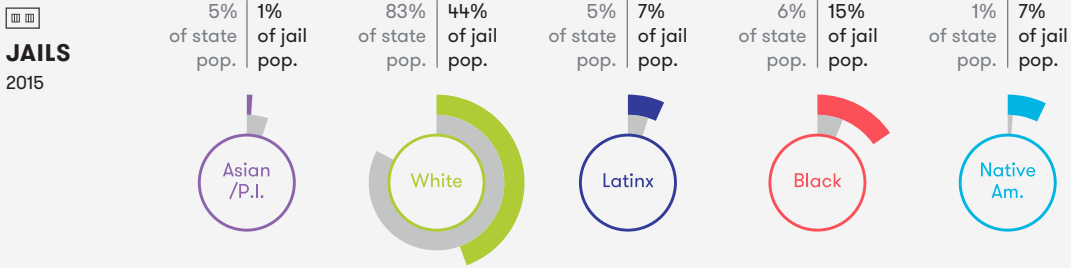
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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Clearwater	15,218	Marshall	801
Mille Lacs	14,323	Polk	764
Cass	11,727	Mille Lacs	643
Aitkin	10,139	Itasca	574
Red Lake	10,030	Redwood	544

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



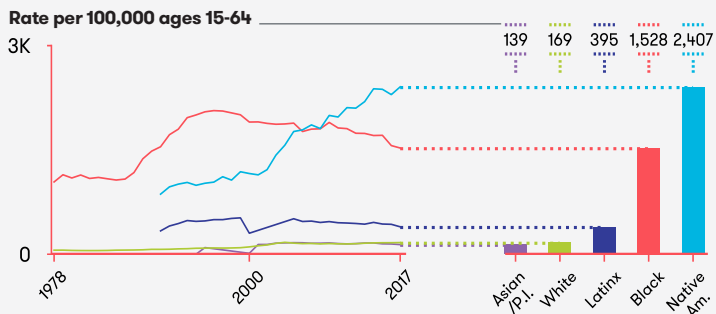
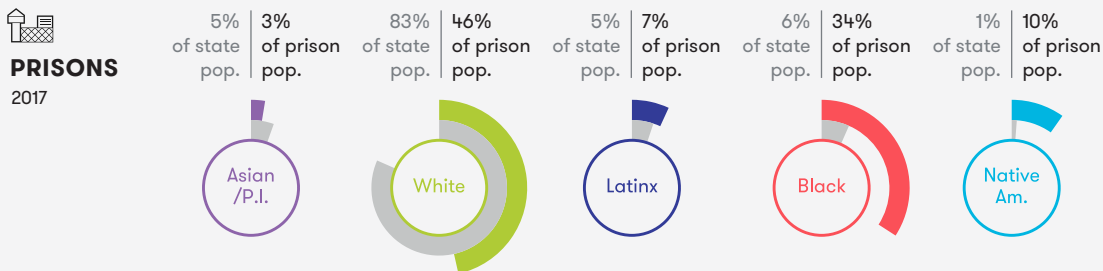
Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 55 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 4.7 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 11.0 times the rate of white people.

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 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.

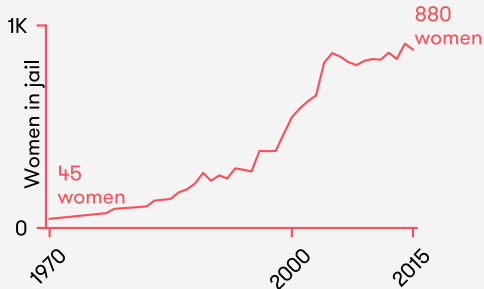
Nationally, Latinx people are also overrepresented in prisons and jails, yet common data misclassification leads to distorted, lower estimates of Latinx incarceration rates and distorted, higher estimates of white incarceration rates. Smaller and inconsistent data reporting make it difficult to measure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



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 47 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 9.1 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 14.3 times the rate of white people.

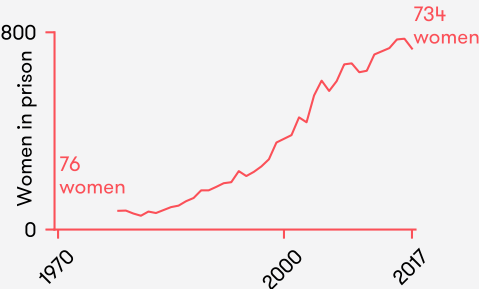
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Minnesota's jails has increased more than 19-fold, from 45 in 1970 to 881 in 2015.

PRISONS

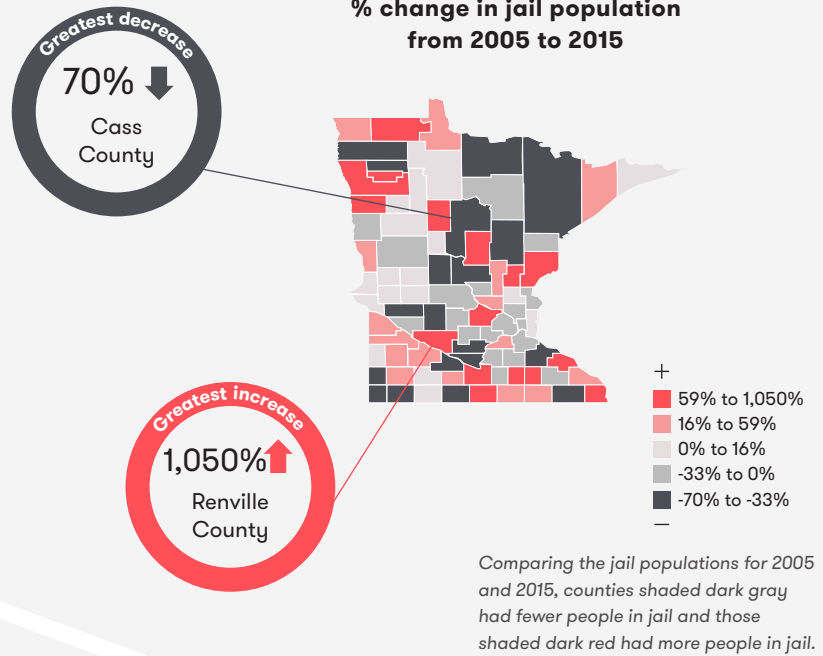


The number of women in Minnesota's prisons has increased more than ninefold, from 76 in 1978 to 734 in 2017.

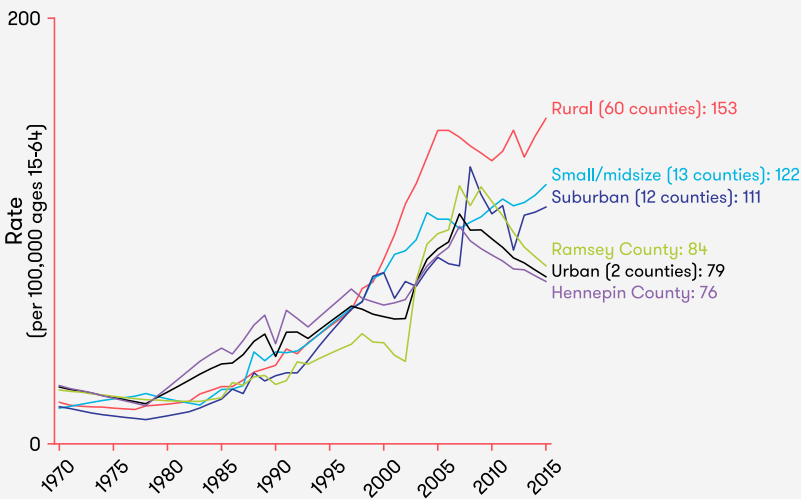
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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.



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 76% in the state's 60 rural counties, 52% in the state's 13 small/medium counties, 38% in the state's 12 suburban counties, and 31% 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 87 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Clearwater	15,218	Hennepin	39,190
Mille Lacs	14,323	Ramsey	25,713
Cass	11,727	Anoka	11,615
Aitkin	10,139	Dakota	11,419
Red Lake	10,030	Stearns	7,428
Norman	10,030	Washington	7,374
Polk	9,956	Sherburne	5,594
Pine	9,868	Olmsted	4,060
Hubbard	9,812	Scott	4,014
Yellow Medicine	9,750	Wright	3,893

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 87 COUNTIES)

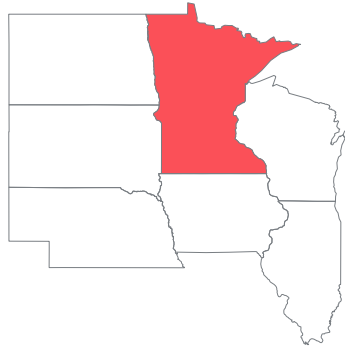
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Marshall	801	Hennepin	1,606
Polk	764	Ramsey	1,031
Mille Lacs	643	Dakota	375
Itasca	574	St. Louis	363
Redwood	544	Stearns	318
Beltrami	530	Anoka	299
Becker	527	Washington	255
Mahnomen	480	Olmsted	206
Cass	467	Scott	177
Yellow Medicine	457	Itasca	161

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	South Dakota	11,426	-3%
2	North Dakota	8,529	10%
3	Iowa	6,216	-11%
4	Nebraska	5,820	-28%
5	Wisconsin	5,352	-18%
6	Minnesota	5,268	-6%
7	Illinois	3,808	-17%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	South Dakota	231	58%
2	Nebraska	211	23%
3	North Dakota	201	68%
4	Wisconsin	158	1%
5	Iowa	158	5%
6	Illinois	157	-19%
7	Minnesota	111	5%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Wisconsin	181	-0.2%
2	North Dakota	90	0.0%
3	Nebraska	80	0.0%
4	South Dakota	77	-0.5%
5	Minnesota	75	-0.2%
6	Illinois	64	0.5%
7	Iowa	54	0.2%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	South Dakota	552	15%
2	North Dakota	325	28%
3	Illinois	299	-36%
4	Iowa	298	-11%
5	Minnesota	223	6%
6	Nebraska	192	12%
7	Wisconsin	175	-24%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	South Dakota	713	11%
2	Wisconsin	637	3%
3	Illinois	472	-10%
4	Iowa	469	5%
5	Nebraska	446	16%
6	North Dakota	345	4%
7	Minnesota	279	-0.7%

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.