

Incarceration Trends in NEW YORK

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

5 of 5 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in New York



47,106 people

77,073 people

1983

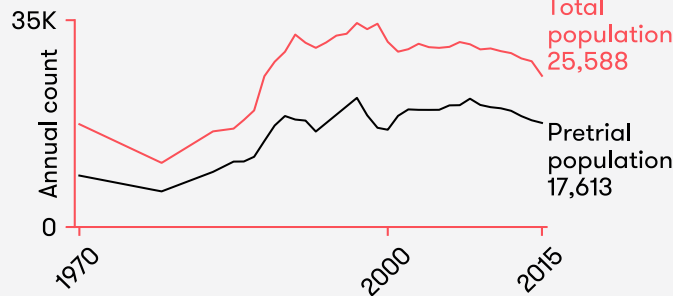
2015

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

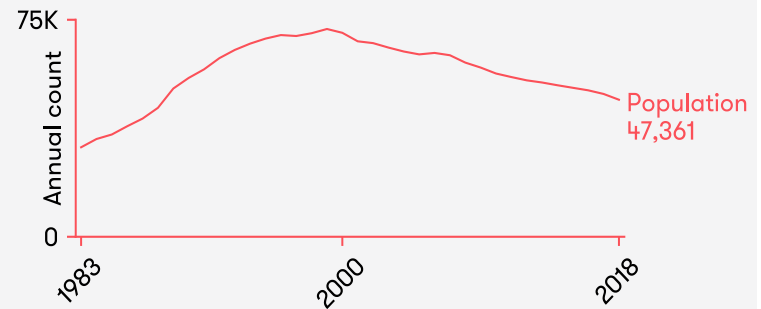
SINCE 2000

47% ↑

-18% ↓

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 47%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 69% of the total jail population in New York.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

53% ↑

-33% ↓

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 53%. In 2018, there were 47,361 people in the New York prison system.

RACE

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JAILS

2015
15% of state pop. | 43% of jail pop.



PRISONS

2017
15% of state pop. | 48% of prison pop.



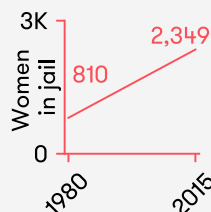
In New York, Black people constituted 15% of state residents, but 43% of people in jail and 48% of people in prison.

GENDER

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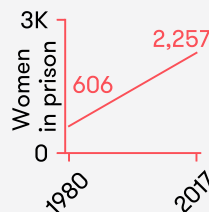
JAILS

190% ↑



PRISONS

272% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 190%, and the number of women in prison has increased 272%.

GEOGRAPHY

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Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Chemung	4,786	Warren	418
Broome	4,543	Ontario	400
Onondaga	3,773	Clinton	392
Chautauqua	3,699	Genesee	356
Clinton	3,554	Cortland	327

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

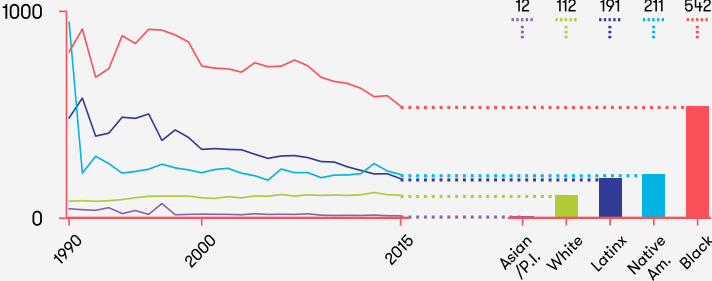


JAILS 2015

9% of state pop. | 1% of jail pop. | 56% of state pop. | 33% of jail pop. | 19% of state pop. | 19% of jail pop. | <1% of state pop. | <1% of jail pop. | 15% of state pop. | 43% of jail pop.



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has decreased 33 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 4.9 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 1.9 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.

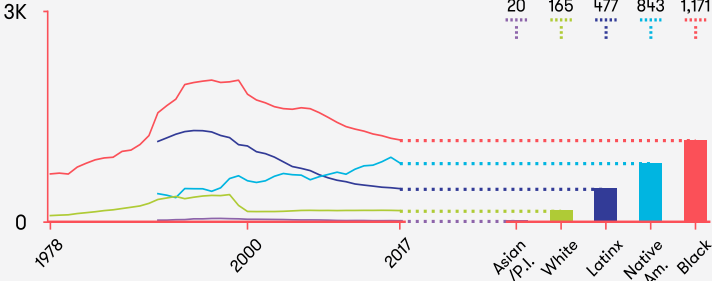


PRISONS 2017

9% of state pop. | <1% of prison pop. | 56% of state pop. | 24% of prison pop. | 19% of state pop. | 24% of prison pop. | <1% of state pop. | 1% of prison pop. | 15% of state pop. | 48% of prison pop.



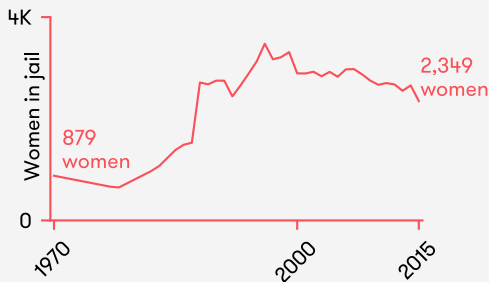
Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 71 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 7.1 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 5.1 times the rate of white people.

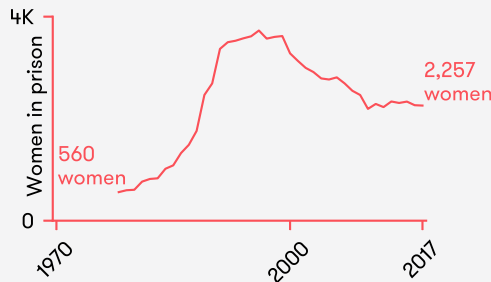
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in New York's jails has increased more than twofold, from 879 in 1970 to 2,349 in 2015.

PRISONS



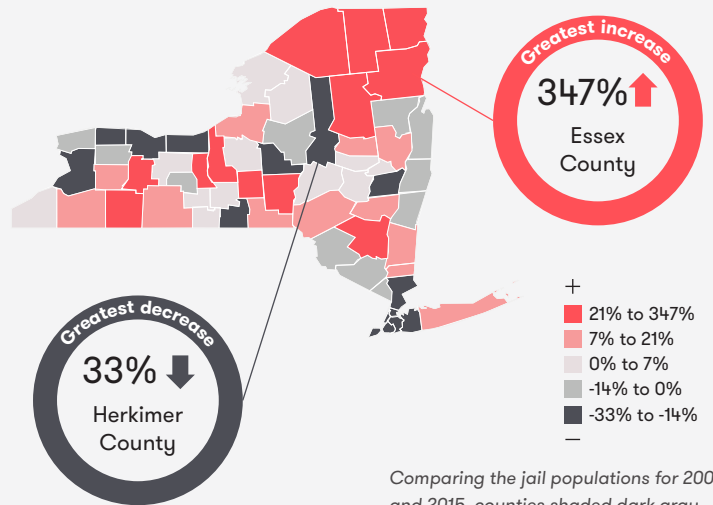
The number of women in New York's prisons has increased more than fourfold, from 560 in 1970 to 2,257 in 2017.

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.

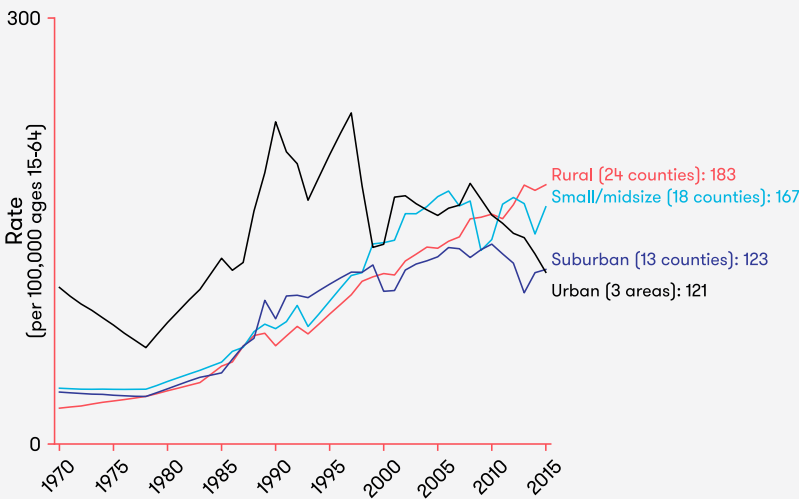
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 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 52% in the state's 24 rural counties, 18% in the state's 18 small/medium counties, and 14% in the state's 13 suburban counties. It has decreased 14% in the state's three urban areas.

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 62 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Chemung	4,786	New York City	62,985
Broome	4,543	Nassau	17,380
Onondaga	3,773	Erie	15,581
Chautauqua	3,699	Suffolk	14,777
Clinton	3,554	Onondaga	11,807
Niagara	3,469	Monroe	11,682
Montgomery	3,415	Albany	6,363
Essex	3,183	Westchester	6,193
Genesee	3,092	Orange	5,968
Cayuga	3,083	Broome	5,950

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 62 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Warren	418	New York City	7,757
Ontario	400	Monroe	1,176
Clinton	392	Suffolk	908
Genesee	356	Erie	875
Cortland	327	Onondaga	765
Broome	323	Albany	677
Orleans	319	Nassau	672
Albany	317	Orange	472
Schenectady	316	Westchester	445
Cayuga	309	Oneida	426

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Maryland	2,484	-28%
2	Pennsylvania	2,410	-16%
3	New Jersey	2,125	-35%
4	New York	1,693	-27%
5	Delaware	521	105%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Pennsylvania	267	15%
2	Delaware	202	-12%
3	New Jersey	180	-17%
4	Maryland	155	-27%
5	New York	133	-13%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Delaware	202	-0.3%
2	Pennsylvania	164	-0.1%
3	Maryland	91	-0.2%
4	New Jersey	75	0.0%
5	New York	60	-0.3%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Pennsylvania	244	14%
2	Maryland	221	-19%
3	New York	162	-20%
4	New Jersey	155	-35%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Delaware	613	-10%
2	Pennsylvania	569	-2%
3	Maryland	444	-25%
4	New York	364	-21%
5	New Jersey	330	-25%

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

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