

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

4 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in North Dakota

378%

INCREASE

669 people

3,199 people

1983

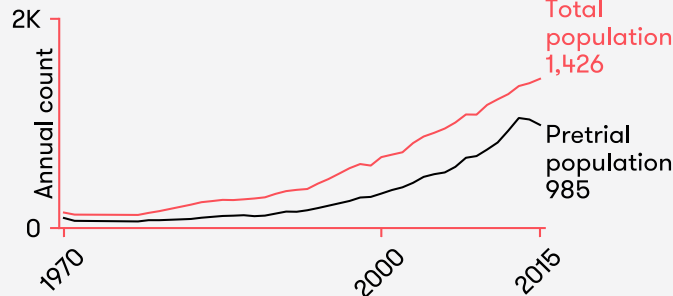
2015

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

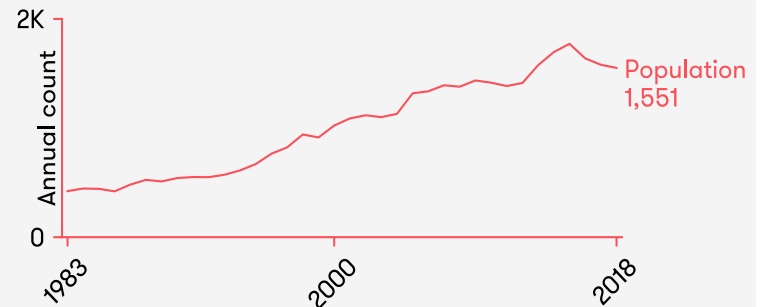
SINCE 2000

863% ↑

110% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 863%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 69% of the total jail population in North Dakota.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

268% ↑

52% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 268%. In 2018, there were 1,551 people in the North Dakota prison system.

RACE

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JAILS 2015

5% of state pop. | 22% of jail pop.



PRISONS 2017

5% of state pop. | 20% of prison pop.



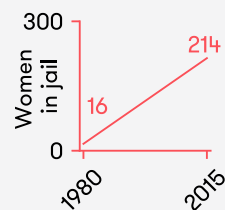
In North Dakota, Native American people constituted 5% of state residents, but 22% of people in jail and 20% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

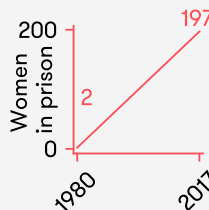
JAILS

1,238% ↑



PRISONS

9,750% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 1,238%, and the number of women in prison has increased 9,750%.

GEOGRAPHY

more on pg 3 →

Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Pierce	48,119	Ramsey	1,103
McLean	31,624	McKenzie	605
Stutsman	16,163	Walsh	524
Eddy	14,272	Pierce	465
Ramsey	14,101	Divide	420

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

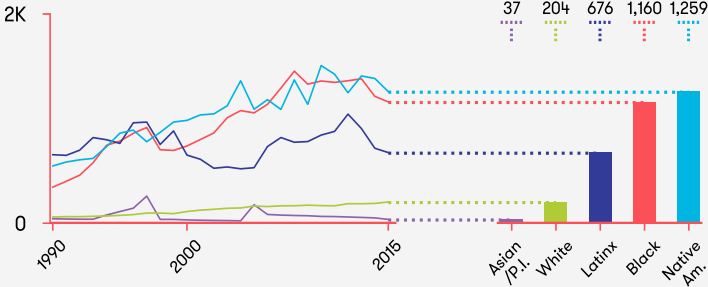


JAILS 2015

2% of state pop. | <1% of jail pop. | 88% of state pop. | 61% of jail pop. | 3% of state pop. | 7% of jail pop. | 2% of state pop. | 9% of jail pop. | 5% of state pop. | 22% of jail pop.



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 236 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 5.7 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 6.2 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.

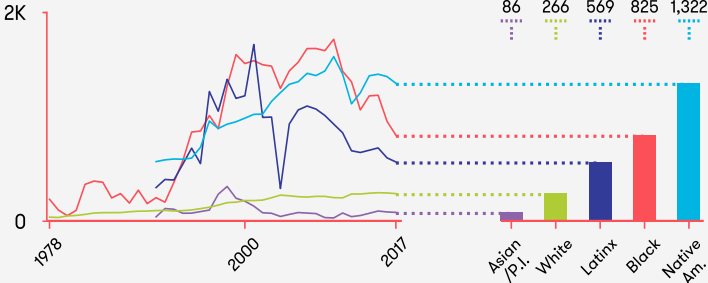


PRISONS 2017

2% of state pop. | <1% of prison pop. | 88% of state pop. | 66% of prison pop. | 3% of state pop. | 6% of prison pop. | 2% of state pop. | 8% of prison pop. | 5% of state pop. | 20% of prison pop.



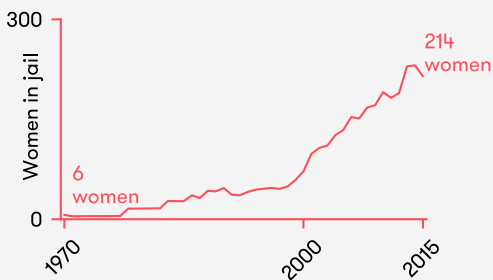
Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 290 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 3.1 times the rate of white people, and Native American people were incarcerated at 5.0 times the rate of white people.

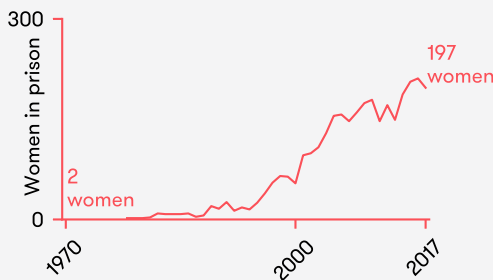
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in North Dakota's jails has increased more than 33-fold, from 6 in 1970 to 214 in 2015.

PRISONS



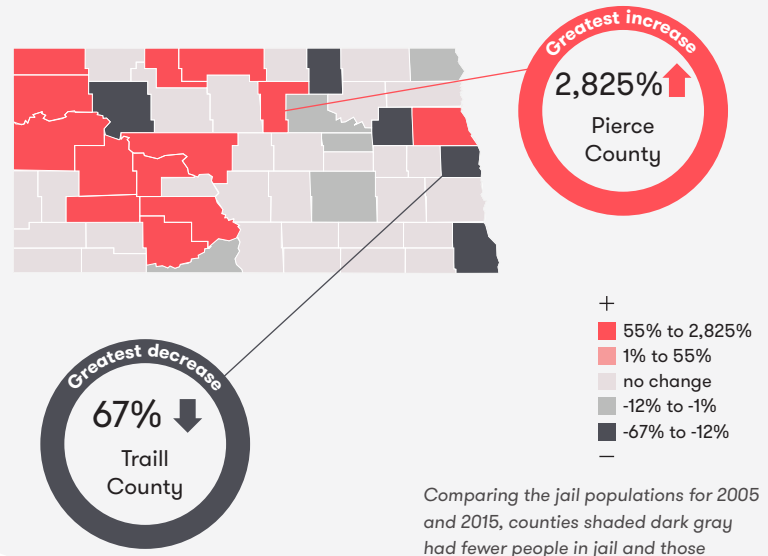
The number of women in North Dakota's prisons has increased more than 98-fold, from 2 in 1978 to 197 in 2017.

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.

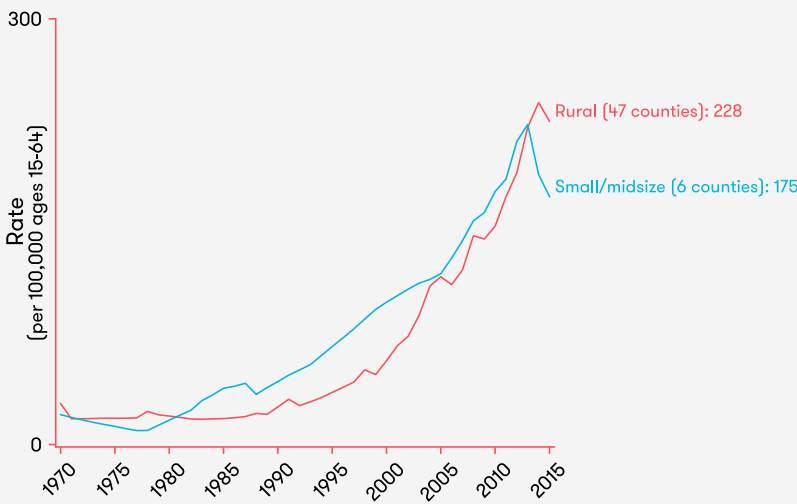
Statewide trends alone do not tell the whole story of incarceration: there is wide variation in the use of incarceration across the state. Today, the highest rates of prison admissions are in rural counties, and pretrial detention continues to increase in smaller counties even as it is on the decline 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 74% in the state's six small/medium counties, and 286% in the state's 47 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 53 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Pierce	48,119	Cass	5,773
McLean	31,624	Burleigh	5,648
Stutsman	16,163	Grand Forks	4,860
Eddy	14,272	Ward	4,693
Ramsey	14,101	Morton	2,576
Benson	13,979	Stutsman	2,242
Nelson	13,851	Williams	2,154
Towner	13,842	Stark	1,988
Morton	13,170	McLean	1,825
Barnes	12,332	Pierce	1,241

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 53 COUNTIES)

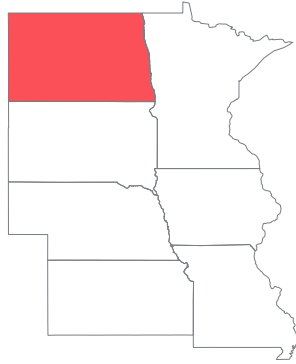
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Ramsey	1,103	Burleigh	243
McKenzie	605	Cass	235
Walsh	524	Ward	187
Pierce	465	Grand Forks	138
Divide	420	Williams	88
Burleigh	405	Ramsey	80
Williams	399	Morton	59
Ward	392	Stutsman	48
Stutsman	346	McKenzie	44
Cavalier	319	Stark	38

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	South Dakota	11,426	-3%
2	North Dakota	8,529	10%
3	Kansas	7,764	-10%
4	Iowa	6,216	-11%
5	Nebraska	5,820	-28%
6	Missouri	5,315	-11%
7	Minnesota	5,268	-6%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	South Dakota	231	58%
2	Missouri	226	16%
3	Nebraska	211	23%
4	Kansas	205	6%
5	North Dakota	201	68%
6	Iowa	158	5%
7	Minnesota	111	5%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Kansas	125	-0.1%
2	North Dakota	90	0.0%
3	Nebraska	80	0.0%
4	South Dakota	77	-0.5%
5	Minnesota	75	-0.2%
6	Missouri	60	-0.2%
7	Iowa	54	0.2%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	South Dakota	552	15%
2	Missouri	465	-7%
3	Kansas	345	23%
4	North Dakota	325	28%
5	Iowa	298	-11%
6	Minnesota	223	6%
7	Nebraska	192	12%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Missouri	768	0.2%
2	South Dakota	713	11%
3	Kansas	547	18%
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.