

Incarceration Trends in OHIO

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons

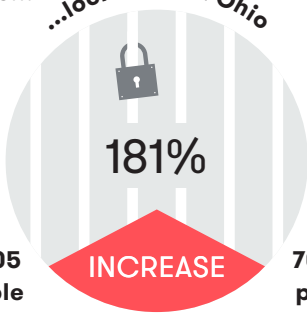


REGIONAL RANK

4 of 7 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Ohio



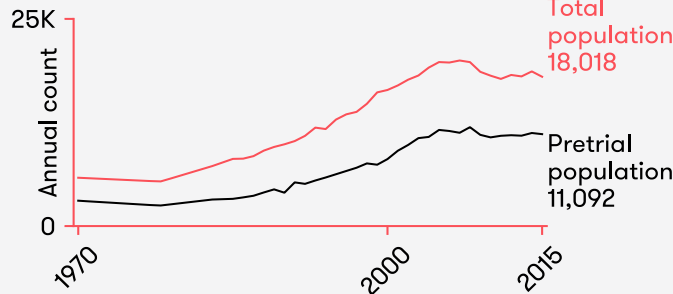
25,005 people (1983) to 70,258 people (2015)

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

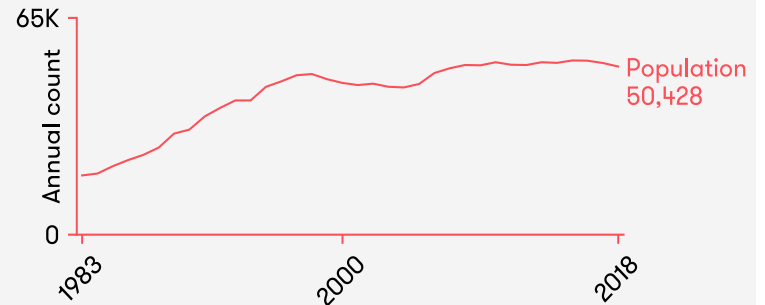


% change in jail population

SINCE 1970	SINCE 2000
209% ↑	10% ↑

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 209%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 62% of the total jail population in Ohio.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983	SINCE 2000
184% ↑	11% ↑

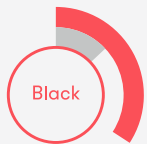
Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 184%. In 2018, there were 50,428 people in the Ohio prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS 2015

13% of state pop. | 34% of jail pop.



PRISONS 2017

13% of state pop. | 45% of prison pop.



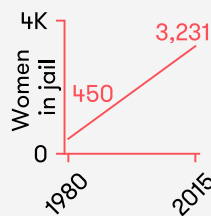
In Ohio, Black people constituted 13% of state residents, but 34% of people in jail and 45% of people in prison.

GENDER

more on pg 2 →

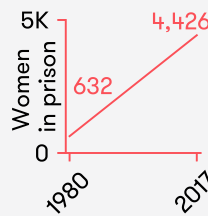
JAILS

617% ↑



PRISONS

600% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 617%, and the number of women in prison has increased 600%.

GEOGRAPHY

more on pg 3 →

Top admission rates, 2015 (rate per 100K)

COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Morrow	12,693	Fayette	656
Ross	10,880	Crawford	572
Fayette	8,887	Adams	552
Clinton	8,474	Vinton	532
Richland	8,352	Scioto	525

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



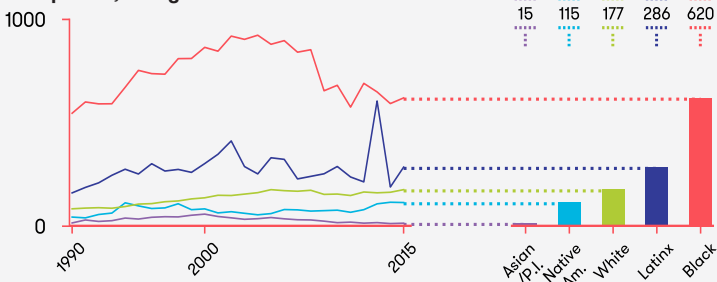
JAILS

2015

2% of state pop. | <1% of jail pop. | <1% of state pop. | <1% of jail pop. | 81% of state pop. | 61% of jail pop. | 3% of state pop. | 4% of jail pop. | 13% of state pop. | 34% of jail pop.



Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1990, the Black incarceration rate has increased 14 percent. In 2015, Black people were incarcerated at 3.5 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.



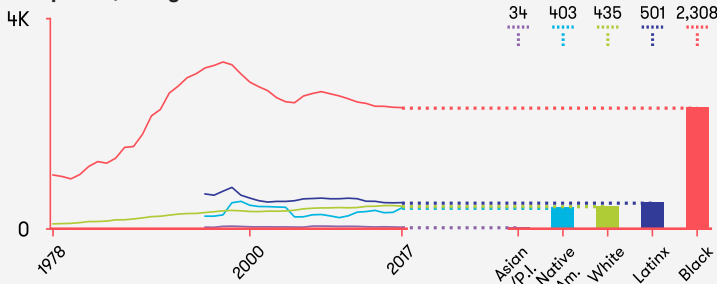
PRISONS

2017

2% of state pop. | <1% of prison pop. | <1% of state pop. | <1% of prison pop. | 81% of state pop. | 51% of prison pop. | 3% of state pop. | 3% of prison pop. | 13% of state pop. | 45% of prison pop.



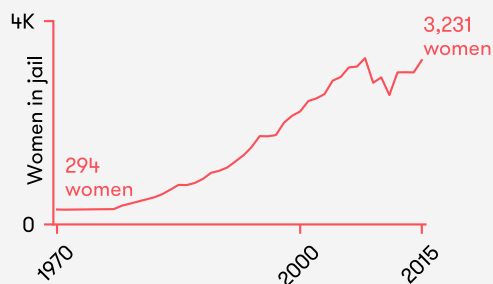
Rate per 100,000 ages 15-64



Since 1978, the Black incarceration rate has increased 125 percent. In 2017, Black people were incarcerated at 5.3 times the rate of white people.

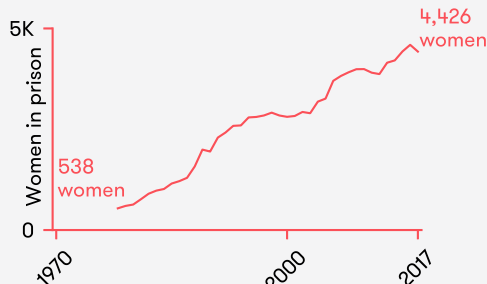
GENDER

JAILS



The number of women in Ohio's jails has increased more than tenfold, from 294 in 1970 to 3,232 in 2015.

PRISONS



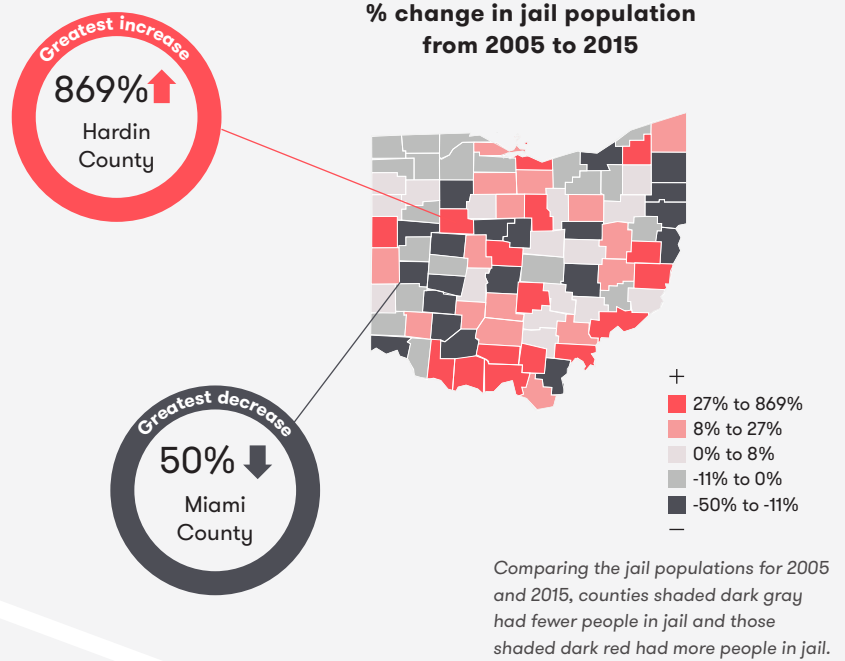
The number of women in Ohio's prisons has increased more than eightfold, from 538 in 1978 to 4,426 in 2017.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

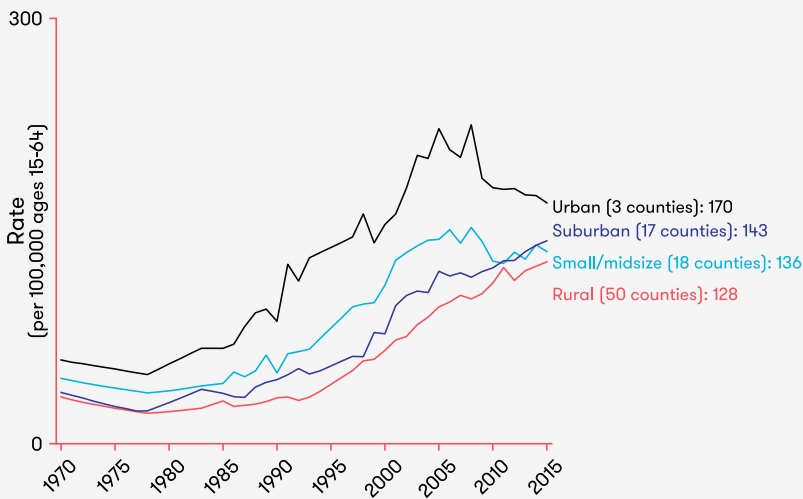
Although men's jail admissions have declined by 26 percent since 2008, women's admissions have increased both as a total number and as a proportion of all jail admissions. Women now make up almost one out of every four jail admissions, up from fewer than one in 10 in 1983. Since 1970, the number of women 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.



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 95% in the state's 50 rural counties, 85% in the state's 17 suburban counties, 21% in the state's 18 small/medium counties, and 10% in the state's three 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 88 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Morrow	12,693	Franklin	52,056
Ross	10,880	Cuyahoga	36,636
Fayette	8,887	Hamilton	31,481
Clinton	8,474	Montgomery	25,215
Richland	8,352	Lucas	17,560
Williams	8,126	Butler	12,584
Henry	8,122	Stark	11,419
Fulton	8,120	Summit	11,217
Defiance	8,117	Lorain	8,098
Seneca	8,042	Clermont	6,592

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 88 COUNTIES)

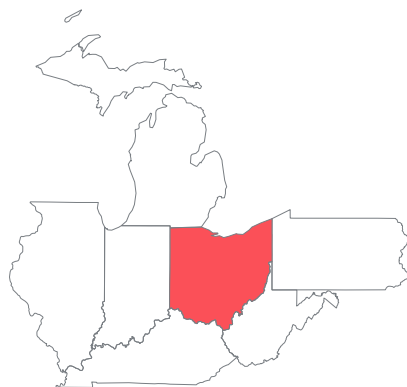
COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Fayette	656	Cuyahoga	2,670
Crawford	572	Hamilton	1,495
Adams	552	Franklin	1,402
Vinton	532	Summit	1,112
Scioto	525	Montgomery	951
Wyandot	513	Stark	788
Brown	486	Butler	649
Hocking	484	Lucas	582
Richland	482	Mahoning	412
Lawrence	473	Richland	375

JAILS



Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Kentucky	9,631	-9%
2	Indiana	5,247	-24%
3	Ohio	5,029	-15%
4	Michigan	4,680	-21%
5	West Virginia	4,071	11%
6	Illinois	3,808	-17%
7	Pennsylvania	2,410	-16%



Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Kentucky	312	3%
2	Indiana	272	8%
3	Pennsylvania	267	15%
4	West Virginia	192	39%
5	Illinois	157	-19%
6	Ohio	146	-4%
7	Michigan	126	-4%

Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Kentucky	410	0.4%
2	West Virginia	173	-0.1%
3	Pennsylvania	164	-0.1%
4	Michigan	119	-0.2%
5	Indiana	114	-0.3%
6	Ohio	91	-0.2%
7	Illinois	64	0.5%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Kentucky	694	39%
2	West Virginia	302	30%
3	Ohio	300	-28%
4	Illinois	299	-36%
5	Indiana	297	-29%
6	Pennsylvania	244	14%
7	Michigan	192	-12%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Kentucky	831	10%
2	Ohio	666	-1%
3	Indiana	620	-6%
4	Michigan	594	-18%
5	West Virginia	584	18%
6	Pennsylvania	569	-2%
7	Illinois	472	-10%

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.