

Incarceration Trends in OREGON

Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons



REGIONAL RANK

2 of 5 in total incarceration

Total people...

...locked up in Oregon

260%

INCREASE

5,655 people

20,334 people

1983

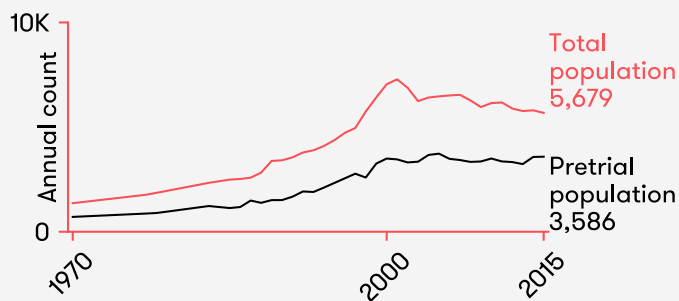
2015

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

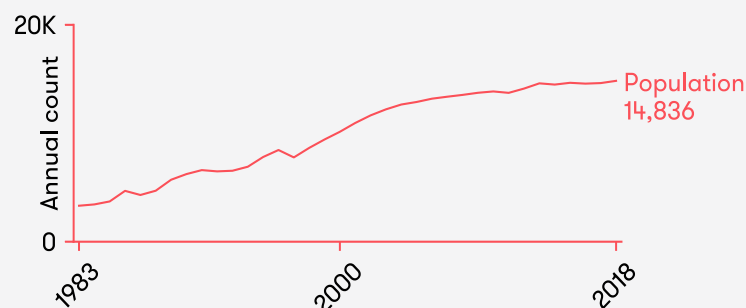
SINCE 2000

316% ↑

-19% ↓

Since 1970, the total jail population has increased 316%. In 2015, pretrial detainees constituted 63% of the total jail population in Oregon.

PRISONS



% change in prison population

SINCE 1983

SINCE 2000

347% ↑

46% ↑

Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 347%. In 2018, there were 14,836 people in the Oregon prison system.

RACE

more on pg 2 →

JAILS 2015

2% of state pop. | 9% of jail pop.



PRISONS 2017

2% of state pop. | 9% of prison pop.



In Oregon, Black people constituted 2% of state residents, but 9% of people in jail and 9% of people in prison.

GENDER

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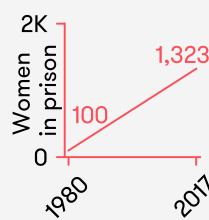
JAILS

601% ↑



PRISONS

1,223% ↑



Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 601%, and the number of women in prison has increased 1,223%.

GEOGRAPHY

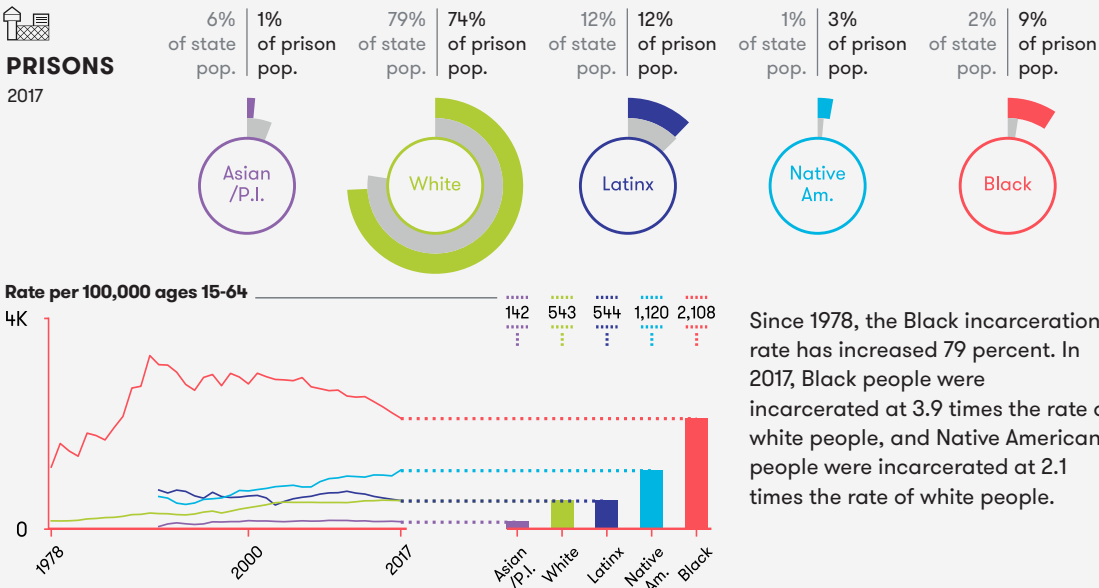
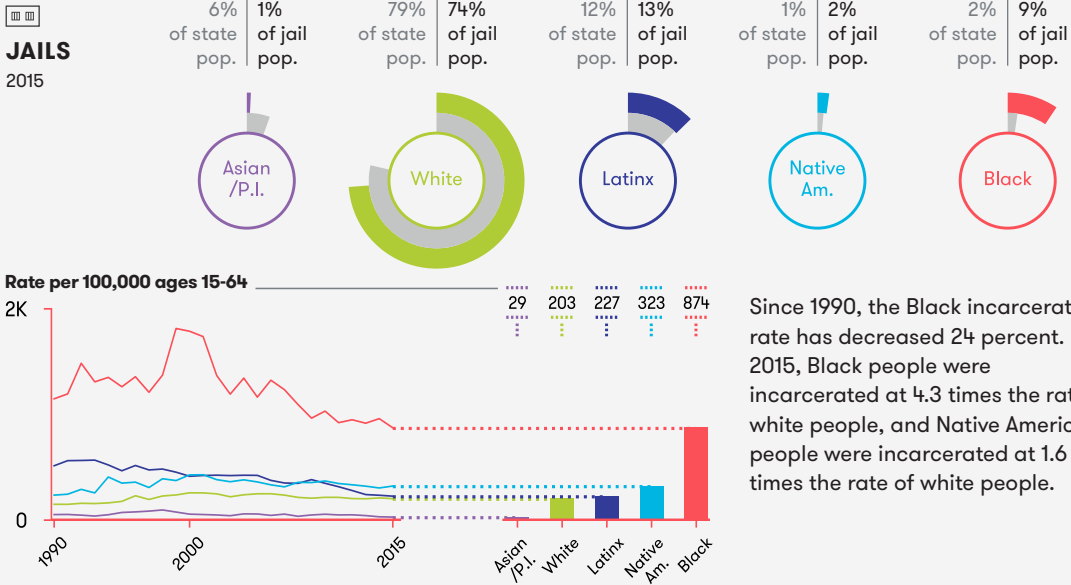
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Top admission rates (rate per 100K)

2015		2014	
COUNTY	JAILS	COUNTY	PRISONS
Jefferson	19,997	Marion	333
Malheur	17,493	Klamath	322
Coos	13,881	Jefferson	316
Lincoln	11,348	Clatsop	299
Grant	11,285	Linn	293

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



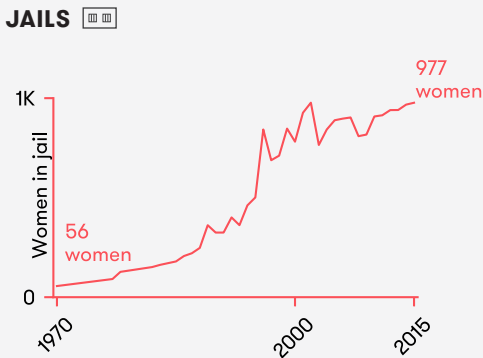
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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 their lifetime, compared to one in 10 Latinx people and one in 29 white people.

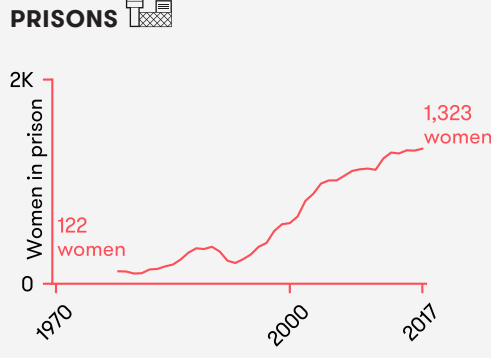
Discriminatory criminal justice policies and practices at all stages of the justice process have unjustifiably disadvantaged Black people, including through disparity in the enforcement of seemingly race-neutral laws. Studies have found that Black people are more likely to be stopped by the police, detained 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 Oregon's jails has increased more than 17-fold, from 56 in 1970 to 977 in 2015.

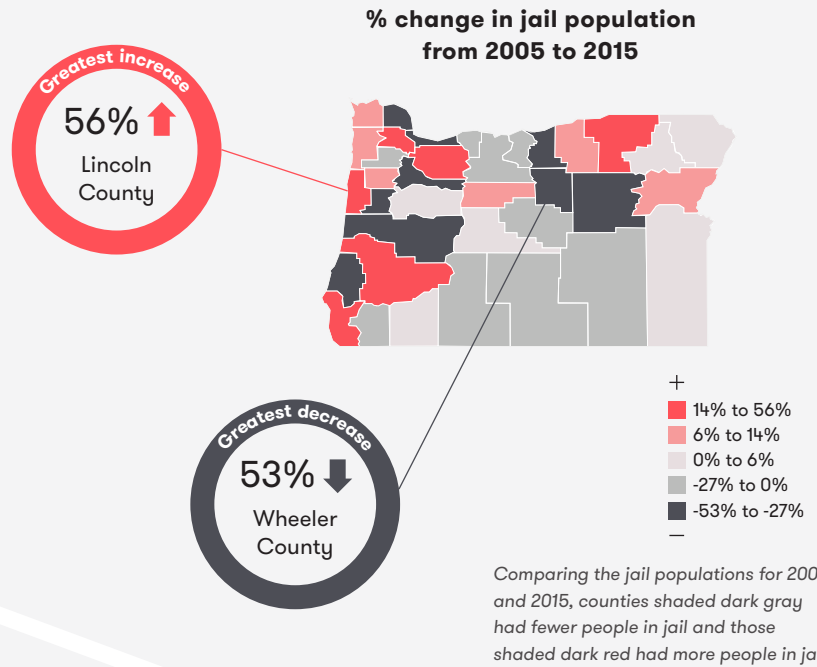


The number of women in Oregon's prisons has increased more than tenfold, from 122 in 1970 to 1,323 in 2017.

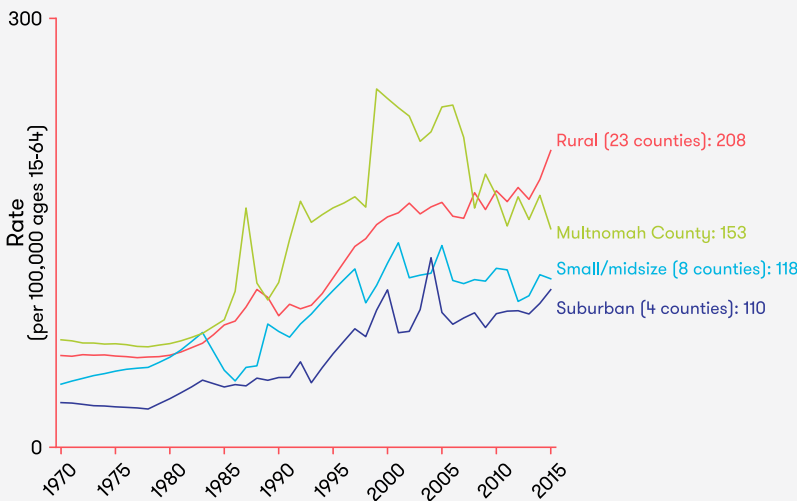
NATIONAL CONTEXT

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 29% in the state's 23 rural counties, and 0% in the state's four suburban counties. It has decreased 8% in the state's eight small/medium counties, and 37% in the state's one urban county.

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 36 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Jefferson	19,997	Multnomah	34,776
Malheur	17,493	Washington	17,173
Coos	13,881	Clackamas	16,138
Lincoln	11,348	Lane	14,756
Grant	11,285	Marion	11,941
Wheeler	11,172	Jackson	11,482
Douglas	10,672	Douglas	6,883
Hood River	10,429	Deschutes	6,779
Clatsop	10,418	Coos	5,266
Wasco	10,354	Yamhill	4,276

PRISON ADMISSIONS (TOP 10 OF 36 COUNTIES)

COUNTY	Rate (per 100K)	COUNTY	Annual count
Marion	333	Multnomah	901
Klamath	322	Marion	693
Jefferson	316	Lane	528
Clatsop	299	Washington	507
Linn	293	Clackamas	364
Lincoln	279	Linn	221
Josephine	274	Deschutes	218
Wasco	252	Jackson	200
Coos	229	Josephine	136
Lane	220	Klamath	134

JAILS

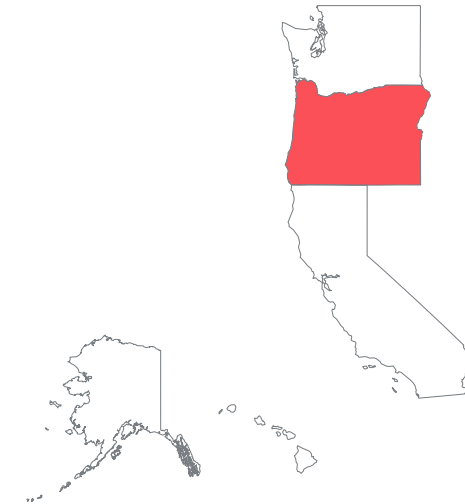


Jail admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Oregon	6,568	-7%
2	Washington	4,422	-27%
3	California	3,830	-26%
4	Alaska	838	38%
5	Hawaii	169	-12%

Jail pretrial population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Alaska	373	10%
2	California	155	-30%
3	Oregon	137	-10%
4	Washington	127	-12%
5	Hawaii	115	-6%



Jail sentenced population

Rank	State	Rate (2015)	Rate change ('05-'15)
1	Alaska	231	1%
2	California	138	0.3%
3	Hawaii	113	0.5%
4	Oregon	80	-0.3%
5	Washington	78	-0.5%

PRISONS



Prison admissions

Rank	State	Rate (2016)	Rate change ('06-'16)
1	Oregon	190	-14%
2	Washington	154	-16%
3	California	136	-76%

Prison population

Rank	State	Rate (2018)	Rate change ('08-'18)
1	Oregon	569	2%
2	California	489	-29%
3	Alaska	416	-31%
4	Washington	393	-1%
5	Hawaii	382	-20%

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.