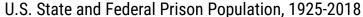
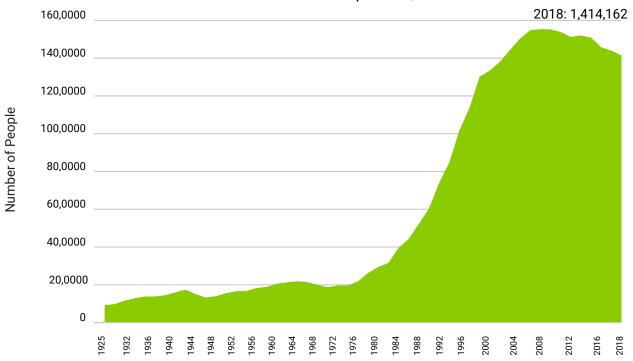


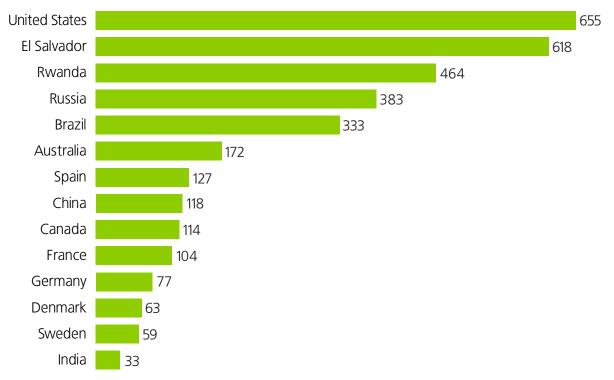
Trends in U.S. Corrections





Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners Series.

International Rates of Incarceration per 100,000



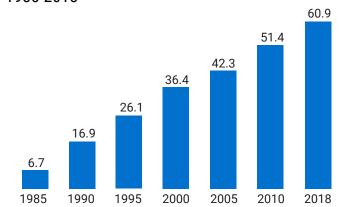
Source: Walmsley, R. (2019). World Prison Brief. London: Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research. Available online: http://www.prisonstudies.org/world-prison-brief



MASS INCARCERATION

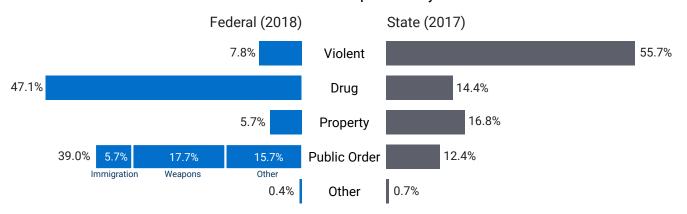
The United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons and jails — a 500% increase over the last forty years. Changes in sentencing law and policy, not changes in crime rates, explain most of this increase. These trends have resulted in prison overcrowding and fiscal burdens on states to accommodate a rapidly expanding penal system, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not an effective means of achieving public safety.

State Expenditures on Corrections in Billions, 1985-2018



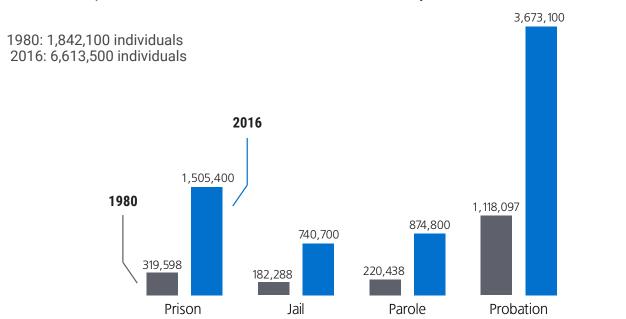
Source: National Association of State Budget Officers (1985-2018). State Expenditure Report Series. Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Officers.

State & Federal Prison Population by Offense



Source: Carson E.A. (2020). Prisoners in 2018. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Population Under Control of the U.S. Corrections System, 1980 and 2016



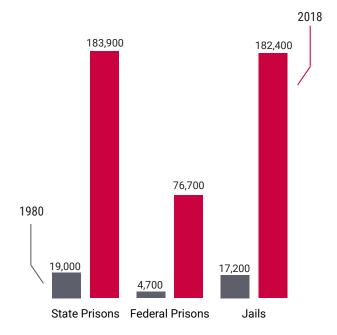
Sources: Kaeble, D. and Cowhig, M. (2018). Correctional Populations in the United States, 2016. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Key Statistics: Total Correctional Population. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Totals adjust for individuals with multiple correctional statuses to prevent double counting.

2



Number of People in Prisons and Jails for Drug Offenses, 1980 and 2018

1980: 40,900 individuals 2018: 443,200 individuals



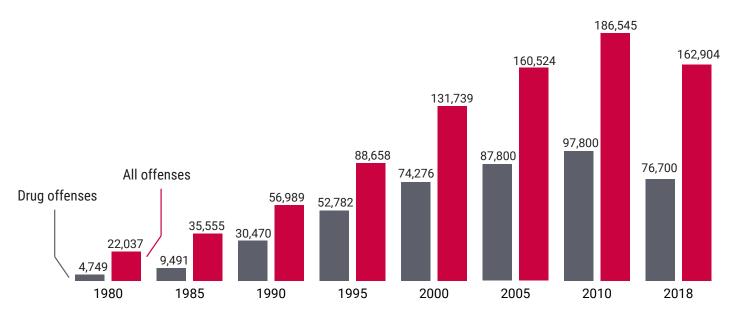
Sources: Carson, E.A. (2020). *Prisoners in 2018*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; James, D.J. (2004). *Profile of Jail Inmates, 2002*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Zeng, Z. (2020). *Jail Inmates in 2018*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

DRUG POLICY

Sentencing policies of the War on Drugs era resulted in dramatic growth in incarceration for drug offenses. Since its official beginning in the 1980s, the number of Americans incarcerated for drug offenses has skyrocketed from 40,900 in 1980 to 443,200 in 2018. Furthermore, harsh sentencing laws such as mandatory minimums keep many people convicted of drug offenses in prison for longer periods of time: in 1986, people released after serving time for a federal drug offense had spent an average of 22 months in prison. By 2004, people convicted on federal drug offenses were expected to serve almost three times that length: 62 months in prison.

At the federal level, people incarcerated on a drug conviction make up nearly half the prison population. At the state level, the number of people in prison for drug offenses has increased ninefold since 1980, although it has begun declining in recent years. Most are not high-level actors in the drug trade, and most have no prior criminal record for a violent offense.

Number of Sentenced People in Federal Prisons for Drug Offenses, 1980-2018



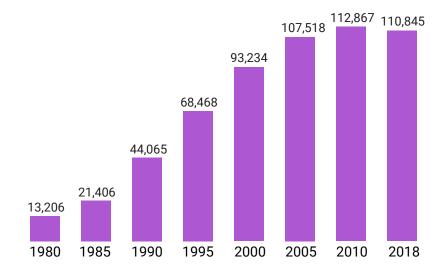
Sources: Prisoners Series. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



WOMEN

The number of women in prison has been increasing at twice the rate of growth for men since 1980. Women in prison often have significant histories of physical and sexual abuse, high rates of HIV, and substance abuse problems. Women's imprisonment in femaleled households leads to children who suffer from their mother's absence and breaks in family ties.

Number of Women in State and Federal Prisons, 1980-2018



Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*; Minor-Harper, S. (1986). *State and Federal Prisoners*, 1925-1985. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Highest and Lowest State Incarceration Rates (per 100,000), 2018

Women (All States = 56)

Women (7th ota	1100
State	Rate
HIGHEST	
Oklahoma	155
Kentucky	134
South Dakota	130
Idaho	123
Wyoming	119
LOWEST	
Massachusetts	10
Rhode Island	11
New Jersey	17
New York	21
Maine	24

Overall (All States = 381)

State	Rate
HIGHEST	
Louisiana	695
Oklahoma	693
Mississippi	626
Arkansas	589
Arizona	559
LOWEST	
Maine	135
Massachusetts	145
Rhode Island	158
Minnesota	179
Vermont	187

Men (All States = 716)

State	Rate
HIGHEST	
Louisiana	1,348
Oklahoma	1,242
Mississippi	1,204
Arkansas	1,106
Arizona	1,017
LOWEST	
Maine	251
Massachusetts	288
Rhode Island	313
Minnesota	335
Vermont	348

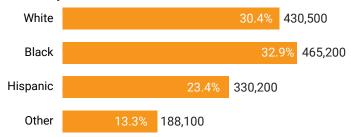
Source: Carson, E.A. (2020). Prisoners in 2018. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



RACIAL DISPARITIES

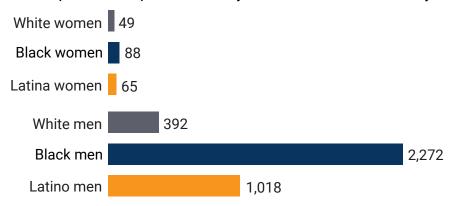
More than 60% of the people in prison today are people of color. Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as white men and Hispanic men are 2.7 times as likely. For black men in their thirties, about 1 in every 12 is in prison or jail on any given day.

People in State and Federal Prisons, by Race and Ethnicity, 2018



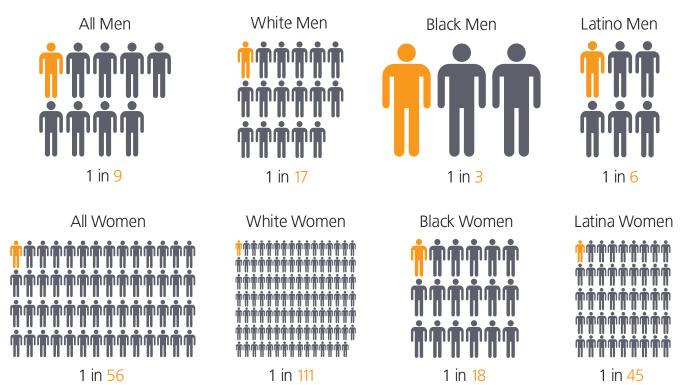
Source: Carson, E.A. (2020). *Prisoners in 2018*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Rate of Imprisonment per 100,000, by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity, 2018



Source: Carson, E.A. (2020). Prisoners in 2018. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment of U.S. Residents Born in 2001



Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

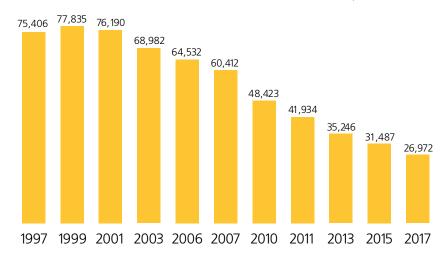
5



YOUTH

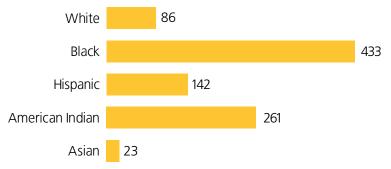
Since 1999, commitment to secure juvenile facilities for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent has been steadily declining from a high point of 77,835 in 1999 to 31,487 in 2015. Still, troubling problems remain. Youth of color enter the system much more frequently than white youth and are more likely to be sentenced to harsher terms of punishment. In addition, young people are transferred to the adult system each year and tried as if they were adults, and many are sent to adult prisons and jails to serve their sentences.

Number of Youth Committed to Juvenile Facilities, 1999-2017



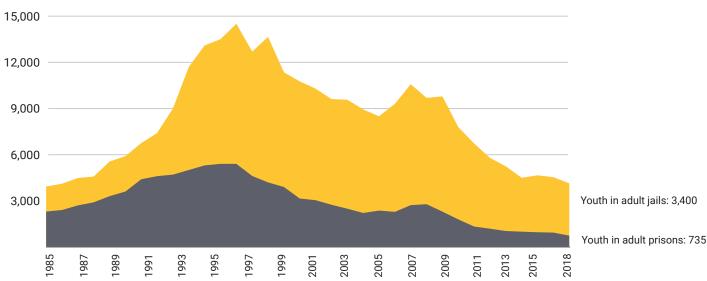
Source: Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: 97-17. Available: http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp.

Rate of Youth in Residential Placement per 100,000, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015



Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2016). *Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*. Available: http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp.

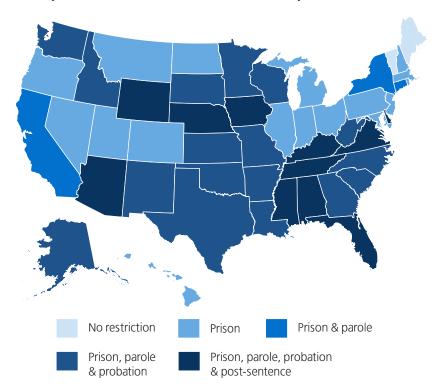
Number of Youth Held in Jails and State Prisons, 1985-2018



Sources: Austin, J., Johnson, K. D., & Gregoriou, M. (2000). Juveniles in Adult Prisons and Jails: A National Assessment. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Assistance; Bureau of Justice Statistics Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear Series; Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoner Series; Strom, K. J. (2000). Profile of State Prisoners under Age 18, 1985-1997. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



Felony Disenfranchisement Restrictions by State, 2016

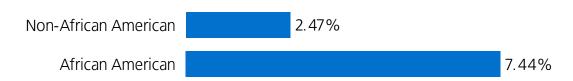


Source: Chung, J. (2019). Felony Disenfranchisement: A Primer. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project.

FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT

In 48 states, a felony conviction can result in the loss of an individual's voting rights. The period of disenfranchisement varies by state, with some states restoring the vote upon completion of a prison term, and others effectively disenfranchising for life. As a result of the dramatic expansion of the criminal justice system in the last 40 years, felony disenfranchisement has affected the political voice of many communities. As of 2016, 6.1 million Americans were unable to vote due to state felony disenfranchisement policies.

Rate of Disenfranchisement, by Race, 2016



Source: Uggen, C., Larson, R., & Shannon, S. (2016). 6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimates of Felon Disenfranchisement, 2016. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project.

Disenfranchised Population by Incarceration Status, 2016



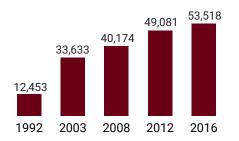
Source: Uggen, C., Larson, R., & Shannon, S. (2016). 6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimates of Felon Disenfranchisement, 2016. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project.



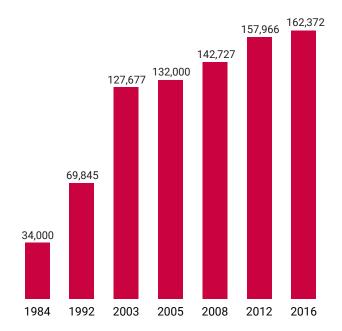
LIFE SENTENCES

The number of people serving life sentences with or without parole continues to grow even while serious, violent crime has been declining for the past 20 years and little public safety benefit has been demonstrated to correlate with increasingly lengthy sentences. This population has nearly quintupled since 1984. One in nine people in prison is serving a statutorily defined life sentence and nearly a third of lifers have been sentenced to life without parole.

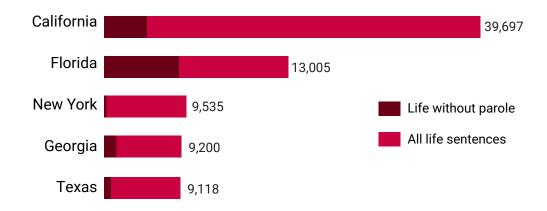
Number of People Serving Life Without Parole Sentences, 1992-2016



Number of People Serving Life Sentences, 1984-2016



States with the Most People Serving Life Sentences, 2016



Source: Nellis, A. (2016). Still Life: America's Increasing Use of Life and Long-Term Sentences. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project.



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This fact sheet was updated August 2020.

The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.