

Latinx Disparities in Youth Incarceration

Latinx Youth 28% More Likely Than Whites to be Held

Latinx youth were 28% more likely to be detained or committed in juvenile facilities than their white peers, according to nationwide data collected in October 2019 and recently released. In 2011, Latinx youth's incarceration rate was 80% higher than their white peers, a rate roughly equivalent to the preceding 10 years. The disparity fell in 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. Though still significant, the Latinx-white placement disparity has dropped by roughly one-third since 2011.¹

Juvenile facilities, including 1,510 detention centers, residential treatment centers, group homes, and youth prisons² held 36,479 youths as of October 2019. (These data do not include the 653 people under 18 in prisons at year-end 2019³ or the estimated 2,900 people under 18 in jails at midyear 2019.⁴)

Across the 42 states that are home to at least 8,000 Latinx youths, Latinx youth are more likely to be in custody than white youth in 31 states and less likely in 11 states.

Between 2011 and 2019, juvenile placements fell by 41%. During these years, Latinx youth placements declined faster than white youth placements (26% vs. 19%), resulting in a smaller but still considerable disparity.

Nationally, the youth placement rate was 114 per 100,000. The Latinx youth placement rate was 92 per 100,000, compared to the white youth placement rate of 72 per 100,000. Disparities grew by more than 10% in 13 states and decreased by at least 10% in 22 states.

- In five states, Latinx youth are at least 50% more likely to be held in placement as are white youth: Maryland, Washington state, Virginia, Texas, and Tennessee.
- Mississippi and Minnesota have seen their disparity grow by at least one-fifth.
- Five states decreased their racial disparity by at least half: New Mexico, Missouri, Florida, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

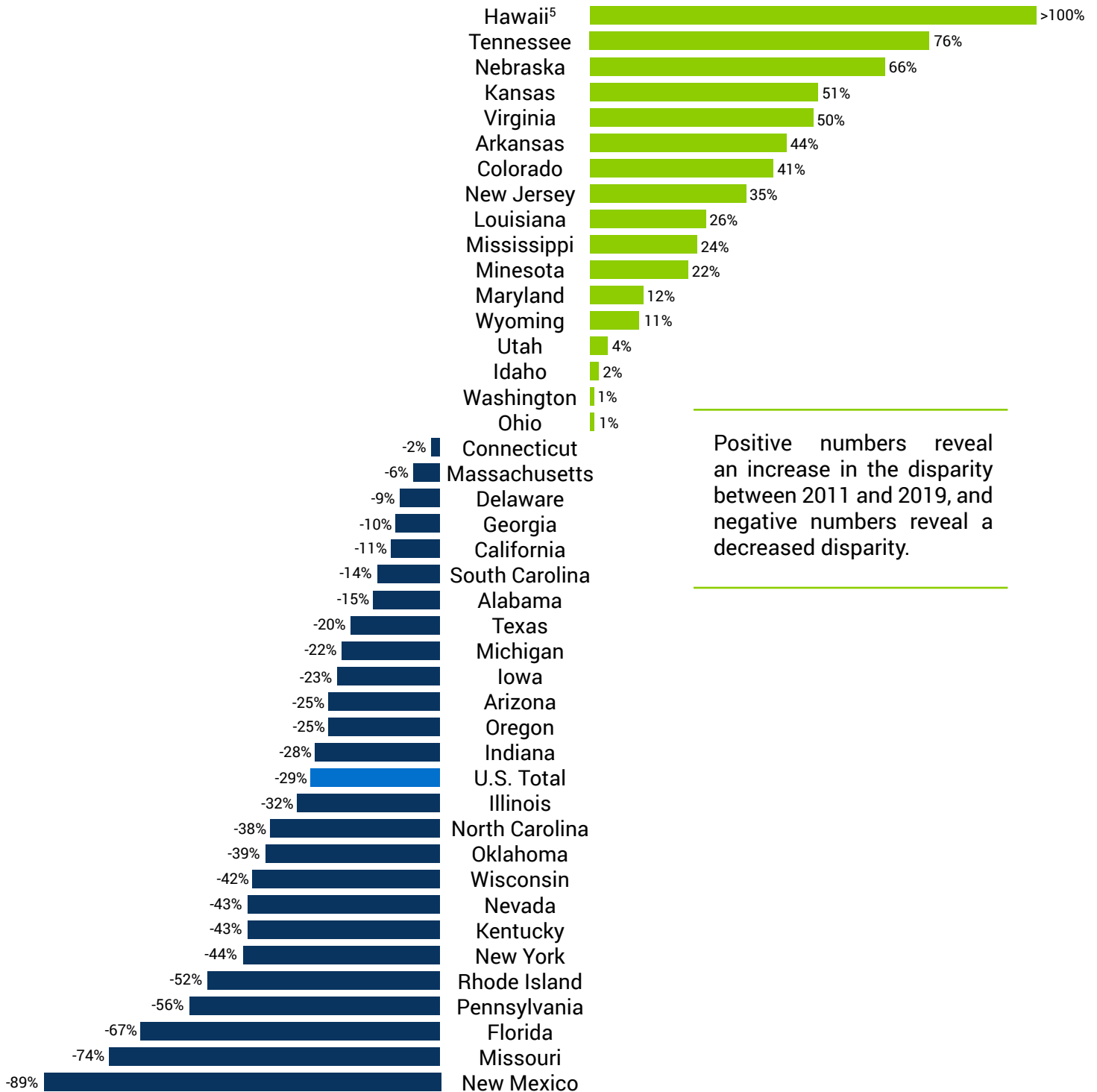
Latinx/White Youth Placement Rate per 100,000 (2019)

State	Latinx Rate	White Rate	L/W Racial Disparity
Alabama	65	106	0.6
Arizona	67	62	1.1
Arkansas	129	96	1.3
California	113	48	2.4
Colorado	160	76	2.1
Connecticut	36	7	5.1
Delaware	61	44	1.4
Florida	7	90	0.1
Georgia	47	40	1.2
Hawaii	61	25	2.4
Idaho	176	137	1.3
Illinois	39	32	1.2
Indiana	72	138	0.5
Iowa	116	83	1.4
Kansas	110	81	1.4
Kentucky	75	89	0.8
Louisiana	41	49	0.8
Maryland	55	29	1.9
Massachusetts	108	19	5.7
Michigan	88	85	1.0
Minnesota	198	73	2.7
Mississippi	40	27	1.5
Missouri	24	80	0.3
Nebraska	197	69	2.9
Nevada	117	140	0.8
New Jersey	58	14	4.1
New Mexico	58	277	0.2
New York	37	30	1.2
North Carolina	34	37	0.9
Ohio	86	84	1.0
Oklahoma	37	53	0.7
Oregon	169	146	1.2
Pennsylvania	108	73	1.5
Rhode Island	77	72	1.1
South Carolina	49	63	0.8
Tennessee	42	27	1.6
Texas	116	74	1.6
Utah	110	38	2.9
Virginia	103	57	1.8
Washington	112	60	1.9
Wisconsin	53	43	1.2
Wyoming	202	242	1.2
U.S. Total	92	72	1.3

The table above and the figure on page 2 are limited to the 42 states with at least 8,000 Latinx residents between 10- and 17-years old.

Numbers greater than one in the last column reveal the extent to which Latinx youth are more likely to be incarcerated than white youth. For example, in Arizona, Latinx youth are 1.1 times (approximately 10%) more likely to be held in a juvenile facility than their white peers. Numbers less than one reveal white youth are more likely than Latinx youth to be held in that state.

Change in Latinx/White Placement Disparity; 2011 vs. 2019



Positive numbers reveal an increase in the disparity between 2011 and 2019, and negative numbers reveal a decreased disparity.

1 Most data in this report are derived from Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Puzzanchera, C., & Kang, W. (2021). *Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*. National Center for Juvenile Justice. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

2 Puzzanchera, C., Hockenberry, S., Sladky, T.J., and Kang, W. (2020). *Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook*. National Center for Juvenile Justice. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/jrfcdb/>

3 Carson, E.A. (2020). *Prisoners in 2019*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. NCJ 25115. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/p19.pdf>

4 Zeng, Z. and Minton, T. (2021). *Jail Inmates in 2019*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. NCJ 255608. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji19.pdf>

5 Hawaii's Latinx-white disparity changed from a reverse disparity in 2011 (when white youth were more likely than Latinx to be incarcerated) to a standard disparity.