

Excerpts from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incarceration_in_the_United_States#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20U.S.%20Bureau,18%25%20of%20the%20female%20population.

Prison populations^[edit]

Main article: [List of U.S. states by incarceration and correctional supervision rate](#)

US and territories. ^[28] Incarcerated population. Adult and juvenile inmates.	Number of inmates in 2008
Total	2,418,352
Federal and state prisons	1,518,559
Local jails	785,556
Juvenile facilities (2007) ^[11]	86,927
Territorial prisons	13,576
ICE facilities	9,957
Jails in tribal territories	2,135
Military facilities	1,651

As of 2016, 2.3 million people were incarcerated in the United States, at a rate of 698 people per 100,000.^[29] Total US incarceration peaked in 2008. Total correctional population ([prison](#), [jail](#), [probation](#), [parole](#)) peaked in 2007.^[2] In 2008 the US had around 24.7% of the world's 9.8 million prisoners.^{[1][28][30]}

In 2016, almost 7 million people were under some type of control by the correction industry (incarcerated, on probation or parole, etc.).^[29] 3.6 million of those people were on probation and 840,000 were on parole.^[29] In recent decades the U.S. has experienced a surge in its prison population, quadrupling since 1980, partially as a result of [mandatory sentencing](#) that came about during the "[War on Drugs](#)." Nearly 53,000 youth were incarcerated in 2015.^[31] 4,656 of those were held in adult facilities, while the rest were in juvenile facilities. Of those in juvenile facilities, 69% are 16 or older, while over 500 are 12 or younger.^[31] The [Prison Policy Initiative](#) broke down those numbers, finding that "black and American Indian youth are overrepresented in juvenile facilities while white youth are underrepresented."^[31] Black youth comprise 14% of the national youth population, but "43% of boys and 34% of girls in juvenile facilities are Black. And even excluding youth held in Indian country facilities, American Indians make up 3% of girls and 1.5% of boys in juvenile facilities, despite comprising less than 1% of all youth nationally."^[31]

As of 2009, the three states with the lowest ratios of imprisoned people per 100,000 population are [Maine](#) (150 per 100,000), [Minnesota](#) (189 per 100,000), and [New Hampshire](#) (206 per 100,000). The three states with the highest ratio are [Louisiana](#) (881 per 100,000), [Mississippi](#) (702 per 100,000) and [Oklahoma](#) (657 per 100,000).^[32] A 2018 study by the [Prison Policy Initiative](#) placed Oklahoma's incarceration rate as 1,079, supplanting Louisiana (with a rate of 1,052) as "the world's prison capital."^{[33][34]}

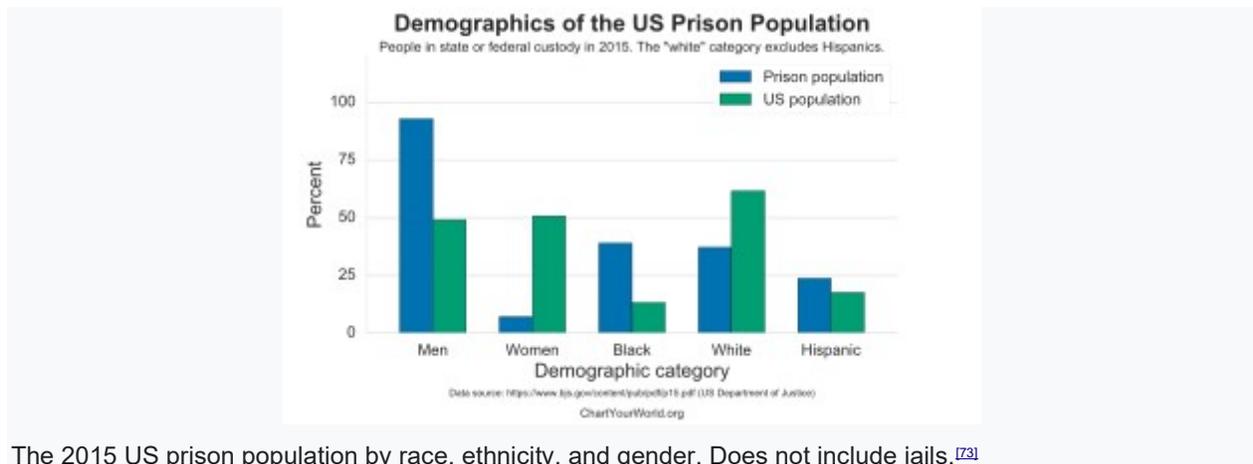
A 2005 report estimated that 27% of federal prison inmates are noncitizens, convicted of crimes while in the country legally or illegally.^[35] However, federal prison inmates account for six percent of the total incarcerated population; noncitizen populations in state and local prisons are more difficult to establish.

Ethnicity^[edit]

See also: [Race and crime in the United States](#) and [Racial inequality in the American criminal justice system](#)

2010. Inmates in adult facilities, by race and ethnicity. Jails, and state and federal prisons.^[72]

Race, ethnicity	% of US population	% of U.S. incarcerated population	National incarceration rate (per 100,000 of all ages)
White (non-Hispanic)	64	39	450 per 100,000
Hispanic	16	19	831 per 100,000
Black	13	40	2,306 per 100,000
Asian	5.6	1.5	210 per 100,000



The 2015 US prison population by race, ethnicity, and gender. Does not include jails. ^[73]

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) in 2018 Black males accounted for 34% of the total male prison population, white males 29%, and Hispanic males 24%. White females comprised 47% of the prison population in comparison to Black females who accounted for 18% of the female population. The imprisonment rate for Black females (88 per 100,000 Black female residents) was 1.8 times as high as for white females (49 per 100,000 white female residents), while the imprisonment rate for Black males (2,272 per 100,000 Black male residents) was 5.8 times as high as for white males (392 per 100,000 white male residents). Out of all ethnic groups, [African Americans](#), [Puerto Rican Americans](#), and [Native Americans](#) have some of the highest rates of incarceration. ^{[74][75][76][77][78][79][80][81][82]} Though, of these groups, the Black population is the largest, and therefore make up a large portion of those incarcerated in US prisons and jails. ^{[clarification needed][83]}

Hispanics (of all races) were 20.6% of the total jail and prison population in 2009. ^[84] Hispanics comprised 16.3% of the US population according to the 2010 US census. ^{[85][86]} The Northeast has the highest incarceration rates of Hispanics in the nation. ^[87] Connecticut has the highest Hispanic-to-White incarceration ratio with 6.6 Hispanic males for every white male. The National Average Hispanic-to-White incarceration ratio is 1.8. Other states with high Hispanic-to-White incarcerations include Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York. ^{[88][89]}

In 2010, adult Black non-Hispanic males were incarcerated at the rate of 4,347 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. Adult white males were incarcerated at the rate of 678 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. Adult Hispanic males were incarcerated at the rate of 1,755 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. ^[1] (For female rates see the table below.) Asian Americans have lower incarceration rates than any other racial group, including white Americans. ^[90]

There is general agreement in the literature that Black people are more likely to be arrested for violent crimes than white people in the United States. Whether this is the case for less serious crimes is less clear. ^[91] Black-majority cities have similar crime statistics for Black people as do cities where majority of population is white. For example, white-plurality San Diego has a slightly lower crime rate for Black people than does Atlanta, a city which has Black-majority in population and city government. ^[92]

In 2013, by age 18, 30% of Black males, 26% of Hispanic males, and 22% of white males have been arrested. By age 23, 49% of Black males, 44% of Hispanic males, and 38% of white males have been arrested. ^[93] According to Attorney Antonio Moore in his Huffington Post article, "there are more African American men incarcerated in the U.S. than the total prison populations in India, Argentina, Canada, Lebanon, Japan, Germany, Finland, Israel and England combined." There are only 19 million African American males in the United States, but collectively these countries represent over 1.6 billion people. ^[94] Moore has also shown using data from the World Prison Brief ^[95] & United States

Department of Justice^[96] that there are more Black males incarcerated in the United States than all women imprisoned globally. To give perspective there are just about 4 billion woman in total globally, there are only 19 million Black males of all ages in the United States.^[citation needed]

Gender^[edit]

2010 adult incarceration rates by race, ethnicity, and sex per 100,000 adult US residents ^[1]		
Race or ethnicity	Male	Female
White	678	91
Black	4,347	260
Hispanic	1,775	133

See also: [Incarceration of women in the United States](#)

In 2013, there were 102,400 adult females in local jails in the United States, and 111,300 adult females in state and federal prisons.^[2] Within the US, the rate of female incarceration increased fivefold in a two decade span ending in 2001; the increase occurred because of increased prosecutions and convictions of offenses related to [recreational drugs](#), increases in the severities of offenses, and a lack of community sanctions and treatment for women who violate laws.^[97] In the United States, authorities began housing women in correctional facilities separate from men in the 1870s.^[98]

In 2013, there were 628,900 adult males in local jails in the United States, and 1,463,500 adult males in state and federal prisons.^[2] In a study of sentencing in the United States in 1984, David B. Mustard found that males received 12 percent longer prison terms than females after "controlling for the offense level, criminal history, district, and offense type," and noted that "females receive even shorter sentences relative to men than whites relative to blacks."^[99] A later study by Sonja B. Starr found sentences for men to be up to 60% higher when controlling for more variables.^[100] Several explanations for this disparity have been offered, including that women have more to lose from incarceration, and that men are the targets of discrimination in sentencing.^[101]

Youth^[edit]

Main article: [Youth incarceration in the United States](#)

Juveniles in residential placement, 1997–2015. US^[11]

Year	Male	Female	Total
1997	90,771	14,284	105,055
1999	92,985	14,508	107,493
2001	89,115	15,104	104,219
2003	81,975	14,556	96,531
2006	78,998	13,723	92,721
2007	75,017	11,797	86,814
2010	61,359	9,434	70,793
2011	53,079	8,344	61,423
2013	46,421	7,727	54,148
2015	40,750	7,293	48,043

Through the [juvenile courts](#) and the adult [criminal justice](#) system, the United States incarcerates more of its youth than any other country in the world, a reflection of the larger trends in incarceration practices in the United States. This has been a source of controversy for a number of reasons, including the overcrowding and violence in youth detention facilities, the prosecution of youths as adults and the long term consequences of incarceration on the individual's chances for success in adulthood. In 2014, the [United Nations Human Rights Committee](#) criticized the United States for about ten judicial abuses, including the mistreatment of juvenile inmates.^[102] A UN report published in 2015 criticized the US for being the only nation in the world to sentence juveniles to life imprisonment without parole.^[103]

According to federal data from 2011, around 40% of the nation's juvenile inmates are housed in [private facilities](#).^[104]

The incarceration of youths has been linked to the effects of family and neighborhood influences. One study found that the "behaviors of family members and neighborhood peers appear to substantially affect the behavior and outcomes of disadvantaged youths".^[105]

Aged^[edit]

The percentage of prisoners in federal and state prisons aged 55 and older increased by 33% from 2000 to 2005 while the prison population grew by 8%. The [Southern Legislative Conference](#) found that in 16 southern states, the elderly prisoner population increased on average by 145% between 1997 and 2007. The growth in the elderly population brought along higher health care costs, most notably seen in the 10% average increase in state prison budgets from 2005 to 2006.

The SLC expects the percentage of elderly prisoners relative to the overall prison population to continue to rise. Ronald Aday, a professor of aging studies at [Middle Tennessee State University](#) and author of *Aging Prisoners: Crisis in American Corrections*, concurs. One out of six prisoners in California is serving a [life sentence](#). Aday predicts that by 2020 16% percent of those serving life sentences will be elderly.^{[106][107]}

State governments pay all of their inmates' housing costs which significantly increase as prisoners age. Inmates are unable to apply for [Medicare](#) and [Medicaid](#). Most Departments of Correction report spending more than 10 percent of the annual budget on elderly care.^{[106][107]}

The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) published a report in 2012 which asserts that the elderly prison population has climbed 1300% since the 1980s, with 125,000 inmates aged 55 or older now incarcerated.^[108]

LGBT people^[edit]

[LGBT](#) (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender) youth are disproportionately more likely than the general population to come into contact with the [criminal justice](#) system. According to the [National Center for Transgender Equality](#), 16 percent of transgender adults have been in prison and/or jail, compared to 2.7 percent of all adults.^[109] It has also been found that 13–15 percent of youth in detention identify as LGBT, whereas an estimated 4-8 percent of the general youth population identify as such.^[110]

The reasons behind these disproportionate numbers are multi-faceted and complex.^[citation needed] [Poverty](#), [homelessness](#), [profiling](#)^[citation needed] by law enforcement, and imprisonment are disproportionately experienced by transgender and [gender non-conforming](#) people.^[110] LGBT youth not only experience these same challenges, but many also live in homes unwelcoming to their identities.^[111] This often results in LGBT youth running away and/or engaging in criminal activities, such as the drug trade, sex work, and/or theft, which places them at higher risk for arrest. Because of discriminatory practices and limited access to resources, transgender adults are also more likely to engage in criminal activities to be able to pay for housing, health care, and other basic needs.^[111]

[LGBT people in jail and prison](#) are particularly vulnerable to mistreatment by other inmates and staff. This mistreatment includes [solitary confinement](#) (which may be described as "protective custody"), physical and sexual violence, verbal abuse, and denial of medical care and other services.^{[109][112]} According to the National Inmate Survey, in 2011–12, 40 percent of transgender inmates reported sexual victimization compared to 4 percent of all inmates.^[113]

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