

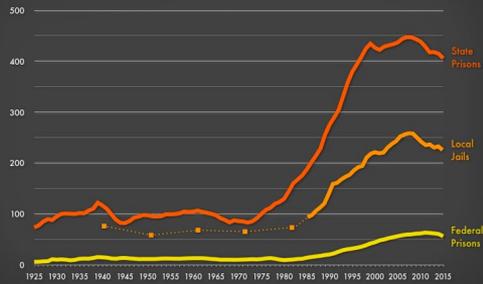
# Justice Reform in the United States

Nicole Berube

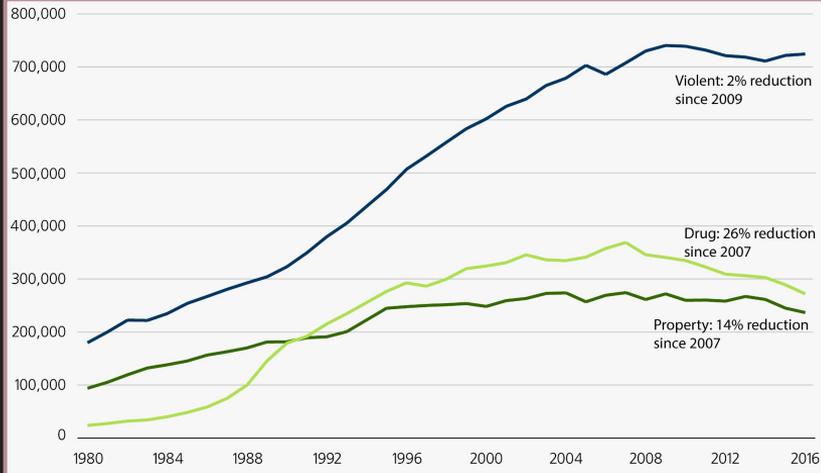
# Introduction

## STATE POLICY DRIVES MASS INCARCERATION

(Number of people incarcerated by federal, state or local governments, 1925 – 2015)

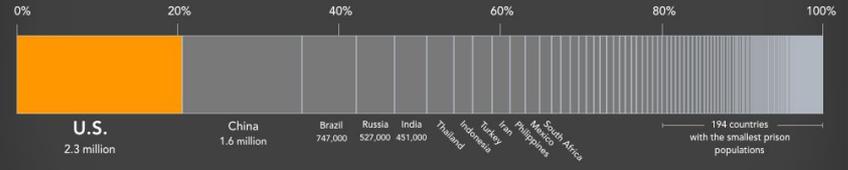


PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE  
 For detailed sourcing, see <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2016/12/29/bjjs2016/> and [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/graphs/state\\_driver\\_rates\\_1925-2015.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/graphs/state_driver_rates_1925-2015.html)



## 1 out of 5 prisoners in the world is incarcerated in the U.S.

Eleven million people around the world are in prisons and jails. The U.S. locks up a larger share of these people than any other country, with as many prisoners as the 194 countries with the smallest incarcerated populations combined.



Sources: U.S. incarcerated population from Prison Policy Initiative, *Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2019*, and all other data from Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, *World Prison Brief* downloaded January 2020.

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# Demographics

## Aging Inmates

People entering or re-entering prison later in life make up a growing share of incarcerated adults.

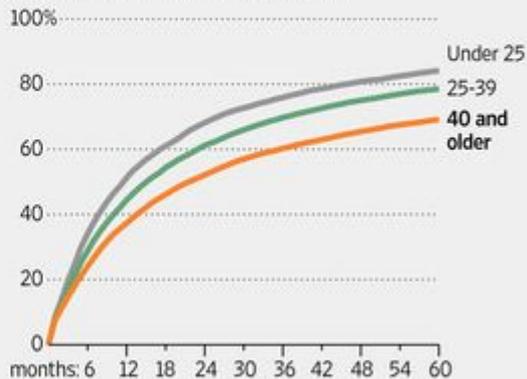
Share of prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction, by age



\*Based on inmates released in 2005 from prisons in 30 states.

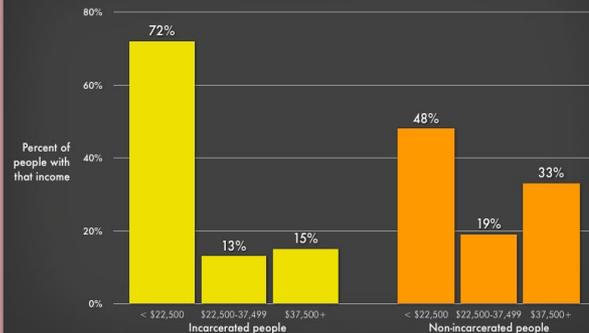
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Percentage of prisoners re-arrested by months after being freed, by age at release\*



The Wall Street Journal

Distribution of annual incomes for incarcerated women prior to incarceration and non-incarcerated women, ages 27-42

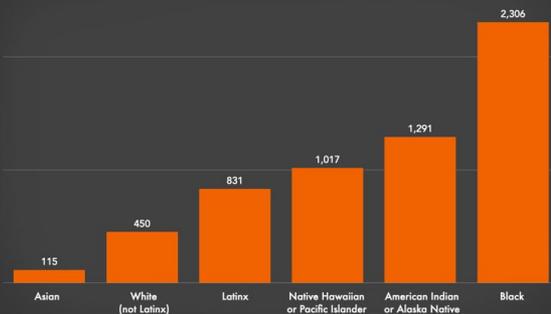


Source: Compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 2004 and the American Community Survey Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, 2004 and then adjusted for inflation to 2014 dollars. See methodology at <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/income.html>.

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## U.S. incarceration rates by race and ethnicity, 2010

Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in each racial or ethnic category



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Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. For the full data set and sourcing details, see [www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race\\_ethnicity\\_gender\\_2010.xlsx](http://www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_ethnicity_gender_2010.xlsx)

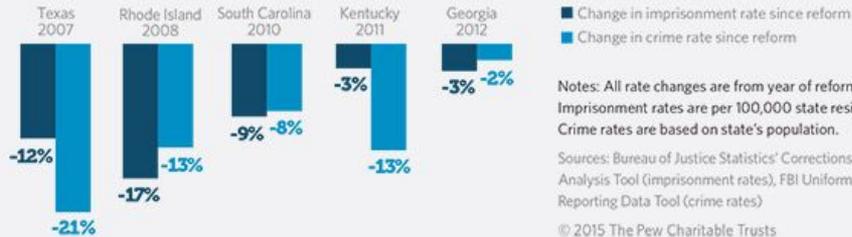
# Reforms Passed in Recent Years

- Solitary Confinement Reform Act
- Clean Slate Act
- HB6594
  - Sentence modifications and drug-free zones
- SB753
  - Counting incarcerated individuals to determine state legislative and municipal voting districts

# Impacts

# \$87 Billion

## After Reforms, States Cut Imprisonment and Crime Rates Data-driven policies yielded significant reductions



Notes: All rate changes are from year of reform to 2013. Imprisonment rates are per 100,000 state residents. Crime rates are based on state's population.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics' Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (imprisonment rates), FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Data Tool (crime rates)

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# Policy Options

- Reverse Mass Incarceration Act
- Drug law reform
- Expansion of alternative sentences
- Mandatory minimum sentence adjustments
- Extend opportunities for those released from prison
- Alter fines and bail fees

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