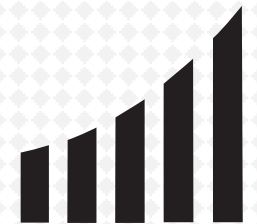


Overview of Mass Incarceration in West Virginia

presented by 

TED BOETTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
@WVCBP

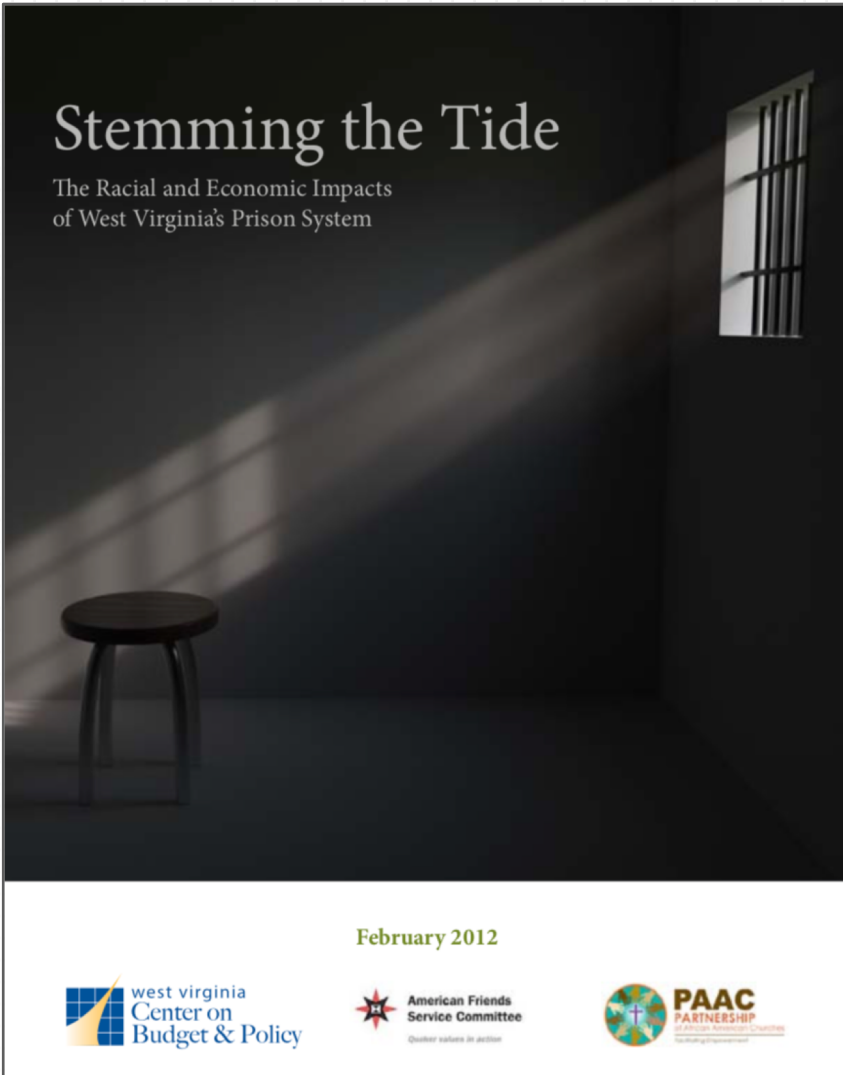
Mountain State Racial Justice Summit 2018
Bridge Valley Community & Technical College–
November 30-December 1, 2018



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Data-driven policies. Shared prosperity.

TODAY'S AGENDA

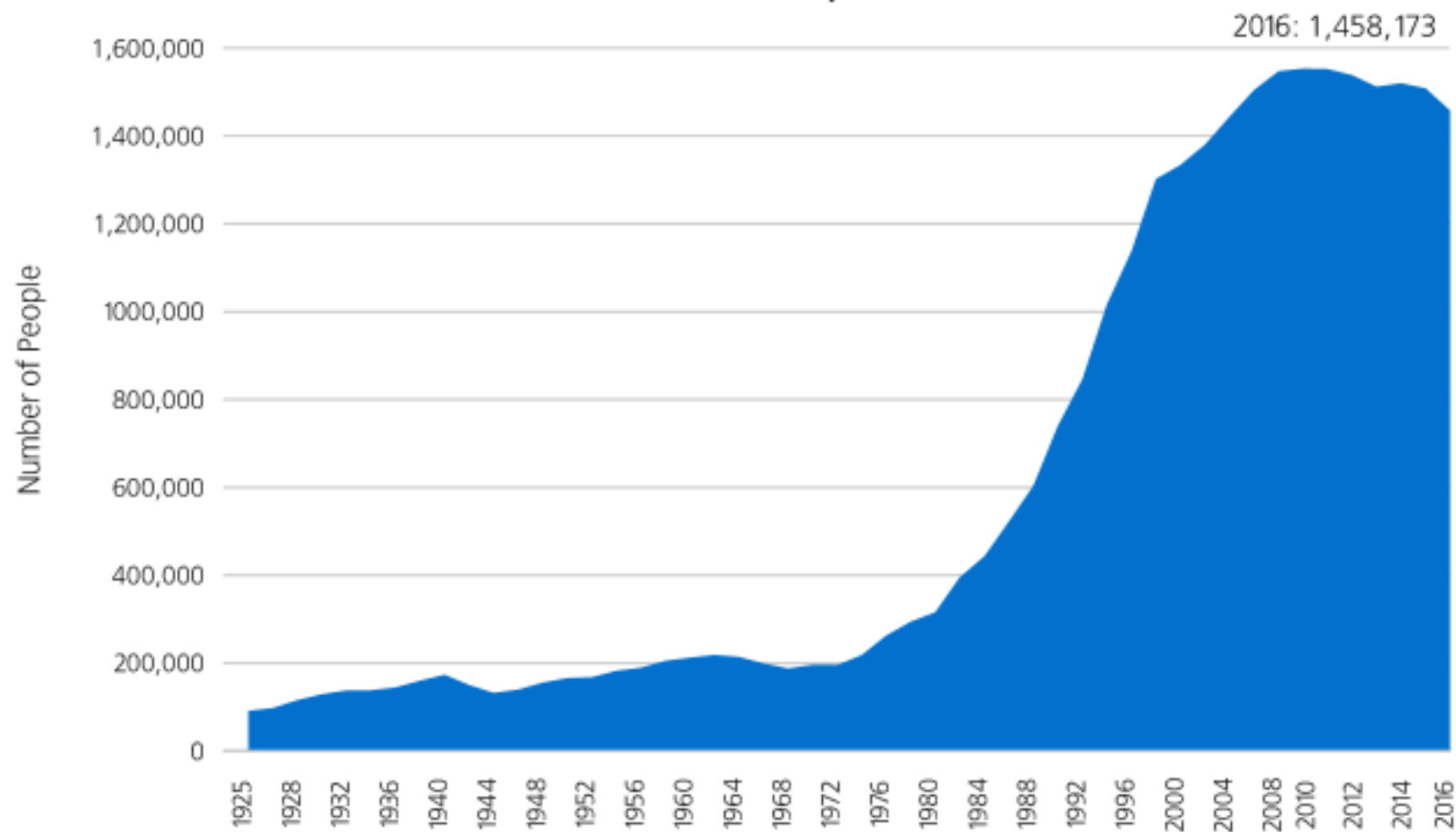


- **Ted Boettner:** Brief overview mass incarceration in the United States and West Virginia
- **Lida Shepherd (AFSC):** Policies to address mass incarceration in West Virginia.
- **Rev. Ron English:** Restorative Justice (Healing Justice)

Special thanks to WVCBP Public Policy Fellow Tara Holmes for helping compile the data in this presentation.

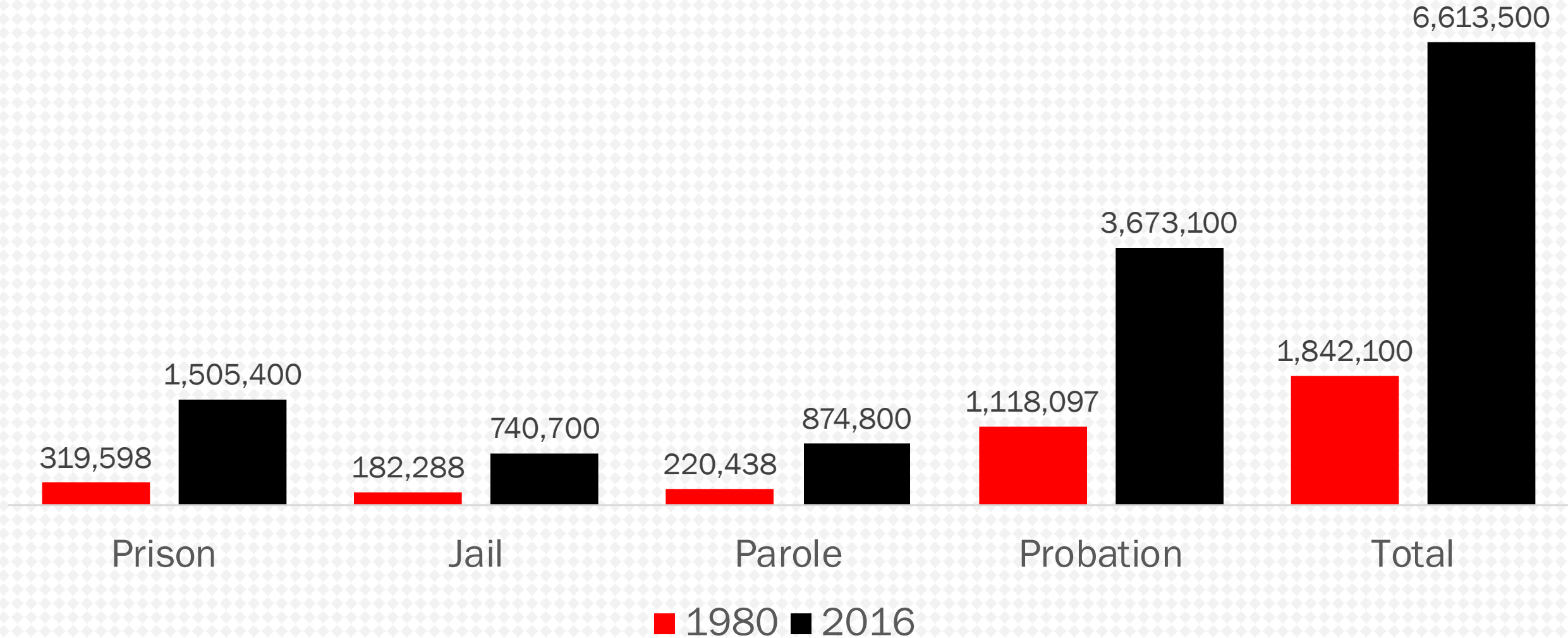
Incarceration in the United States

U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2016



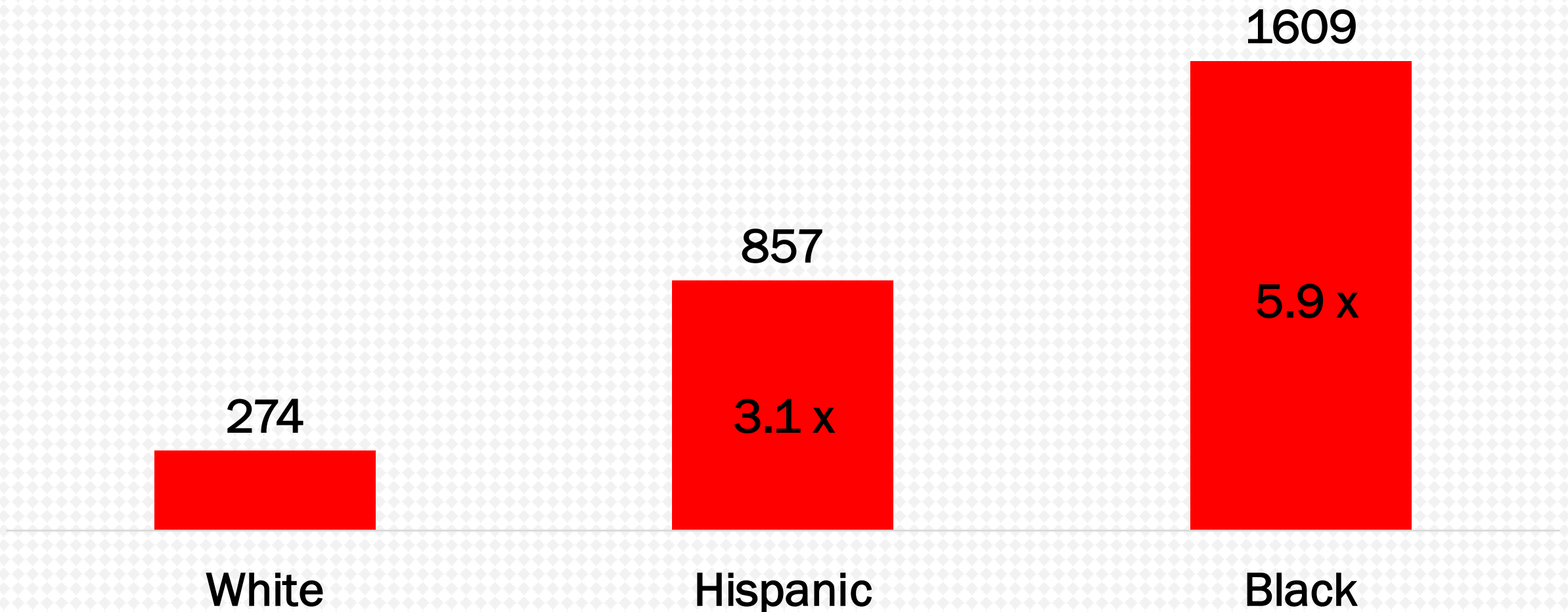
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.

Population Under Control of US Corrections System, 1980 and 2016

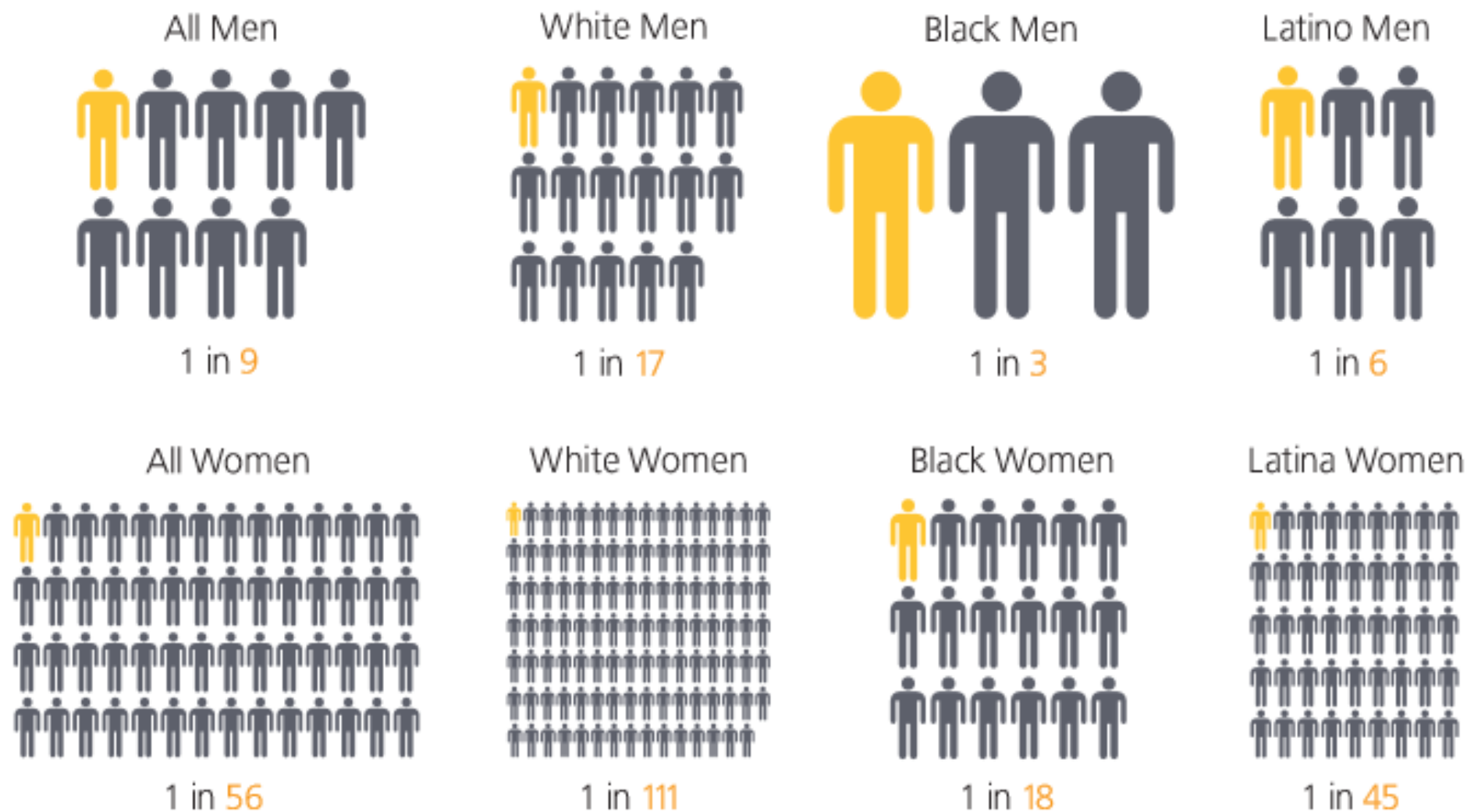


Source: The Sentencing Project

Incarceration Rates per 100,000 United States Residents by Race and Ethnicity, 2016



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



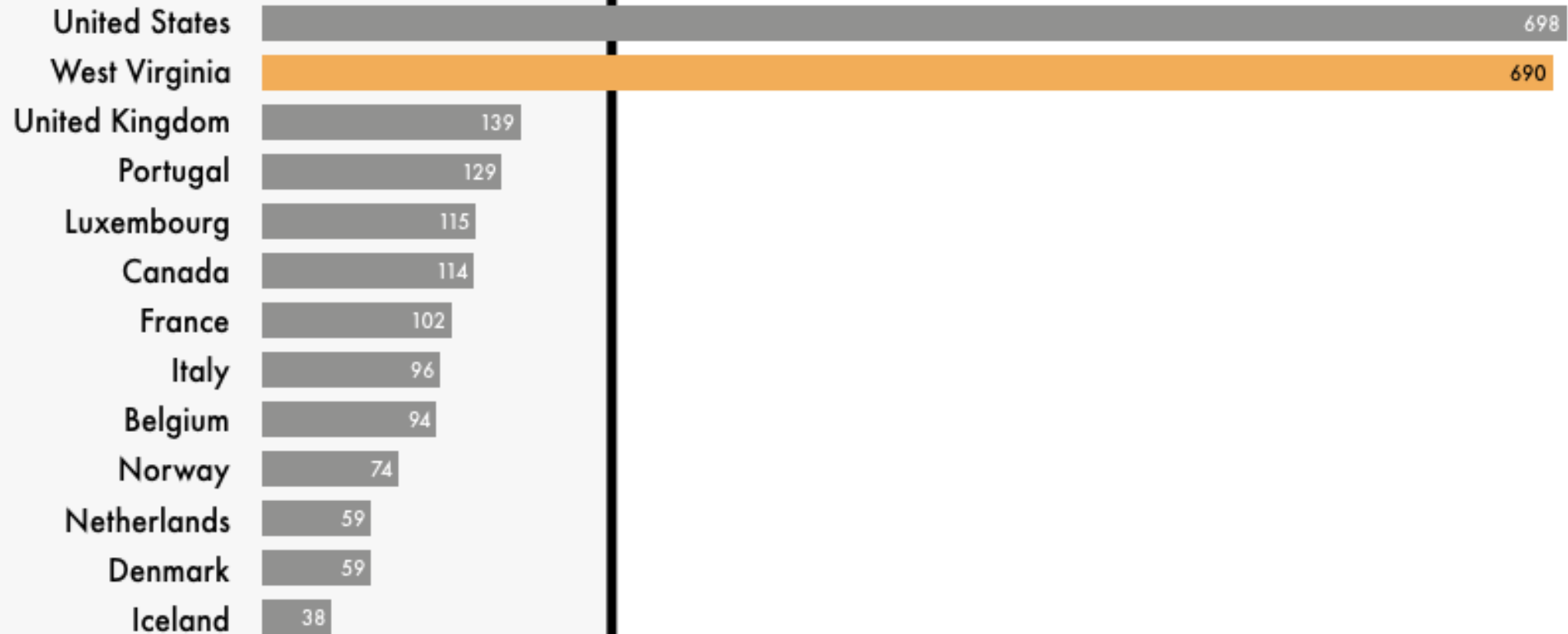
Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



Incarceration in West Virginia

INCARCERATION RATES

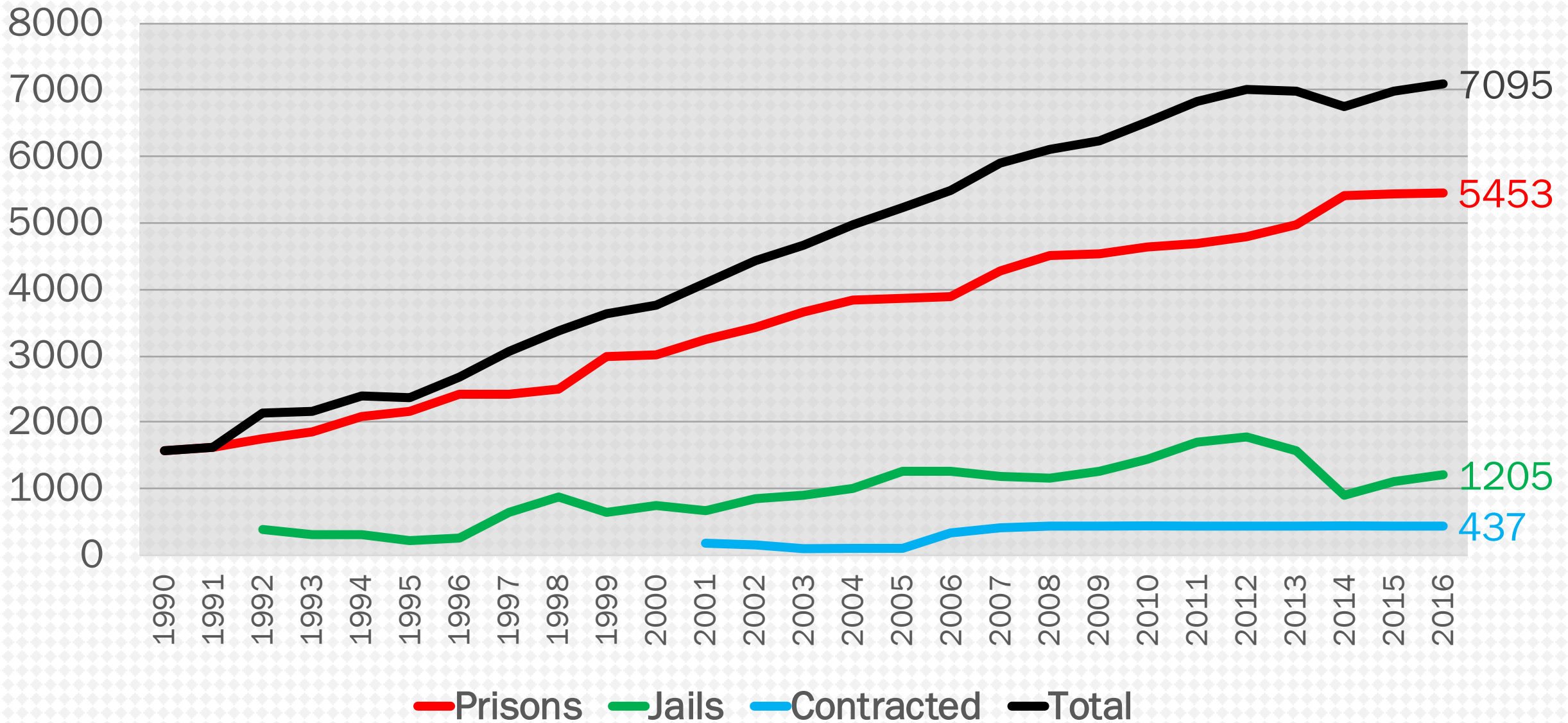
COMPARING WEST VIRGINIA
AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES



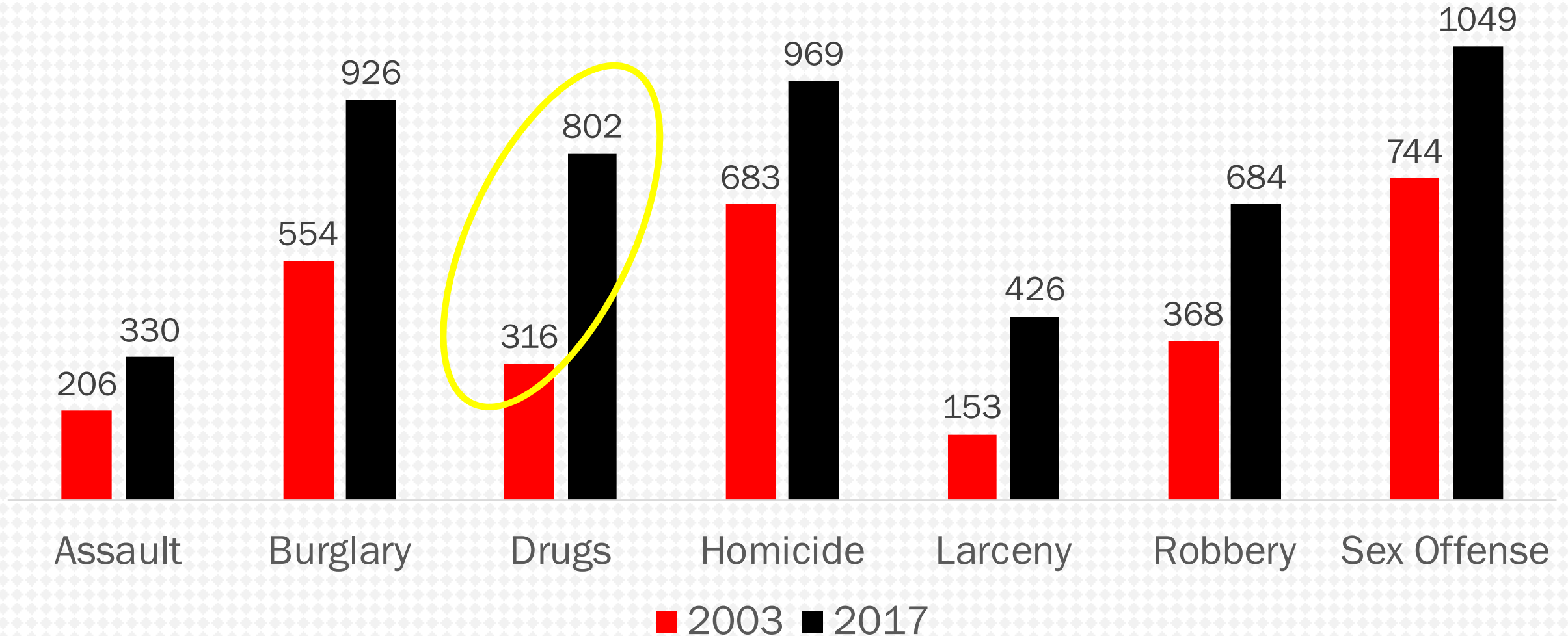
Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>

West Virginia Average DOC Population, 1990-2016



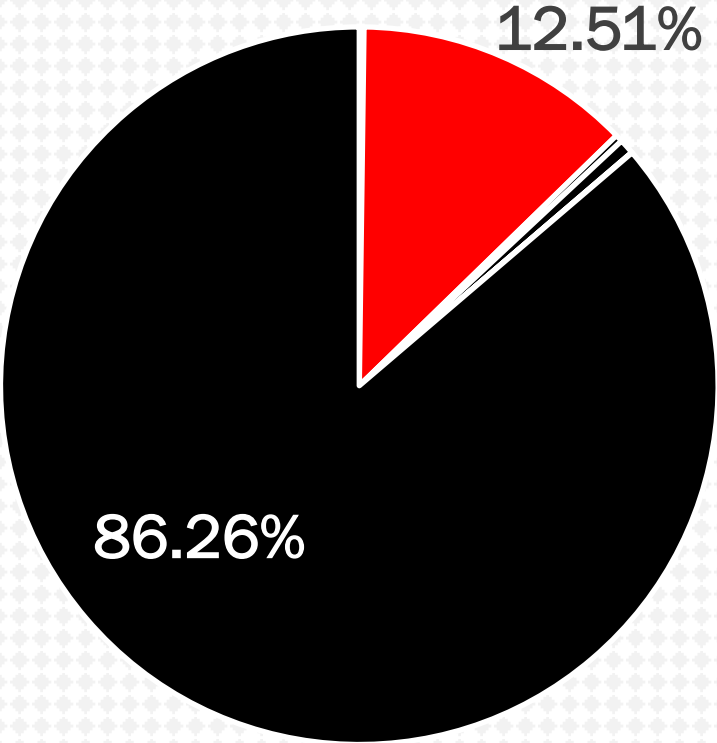
Inmates in Custody of DOC by Most Serious Offense, 2003 vs 2017



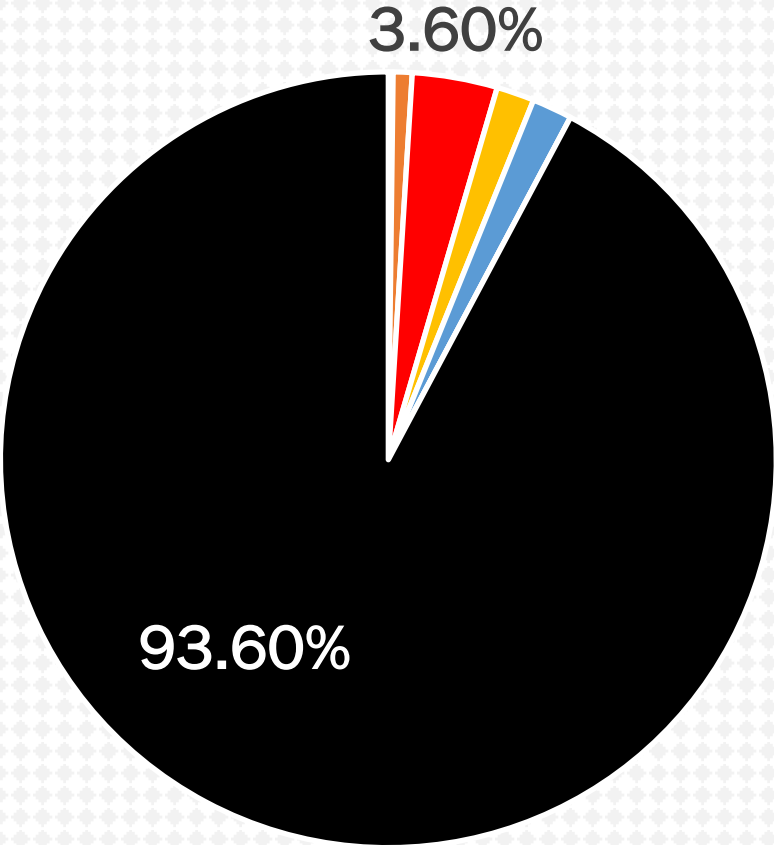
Source: West Virginia Division of Corrections Annual Reports

Black People are Disproportionately Represented in the State's Corrections System

WVDOC Prison Population by Race and Ethnicity



WV Population by Race and Ethnicity

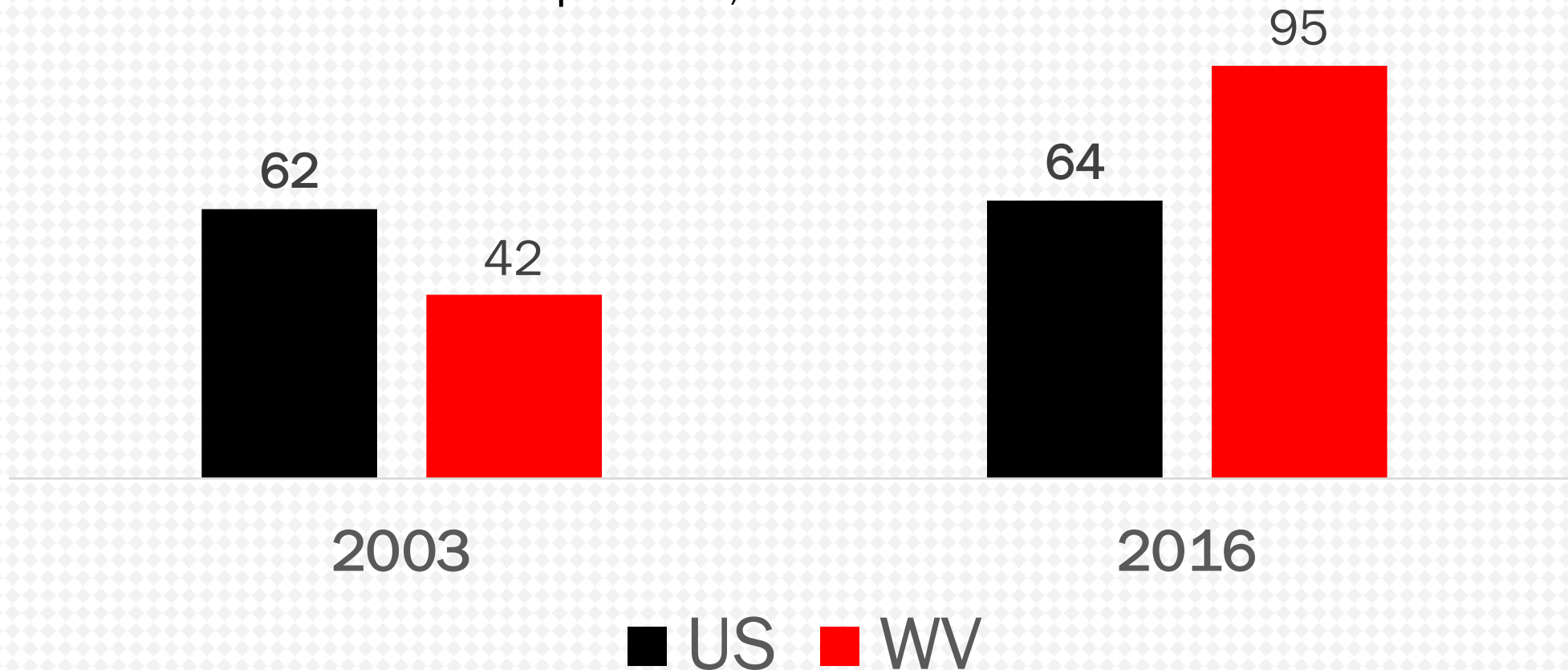


- American Indian
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander
- White

Source: West Virginia Division of Corrections Annual Reports and Census Bureau

WV Female Imprisonment Rate has doubled since 2003

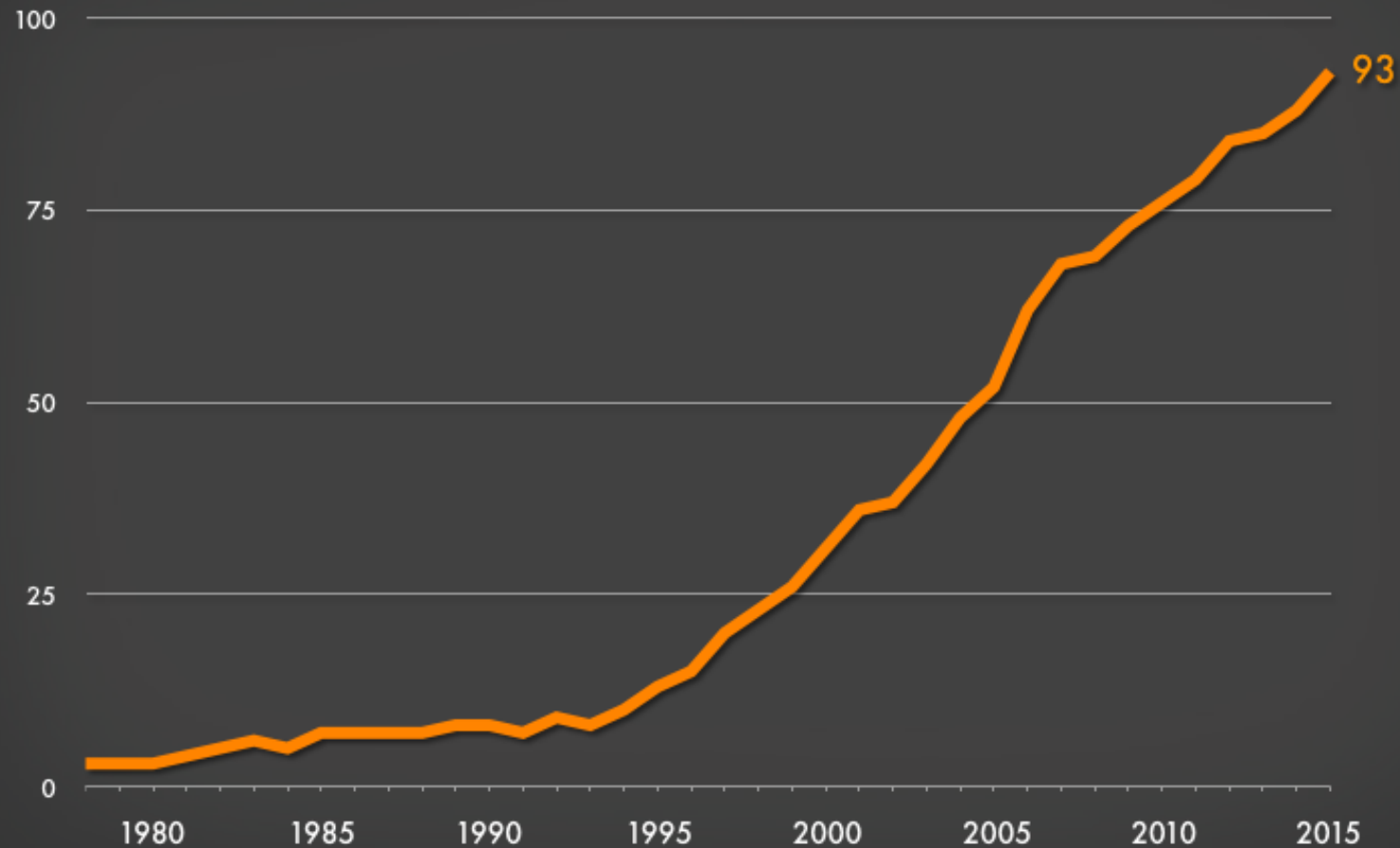
Female Imprisonment Rate in WV and US, 2003 vs 2016
per 100,000 Women



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

West Virginia prison incarceration rates: Women

Number of women incarcerated in West Virginia prisons per 100,000 female residents, 1978-2015

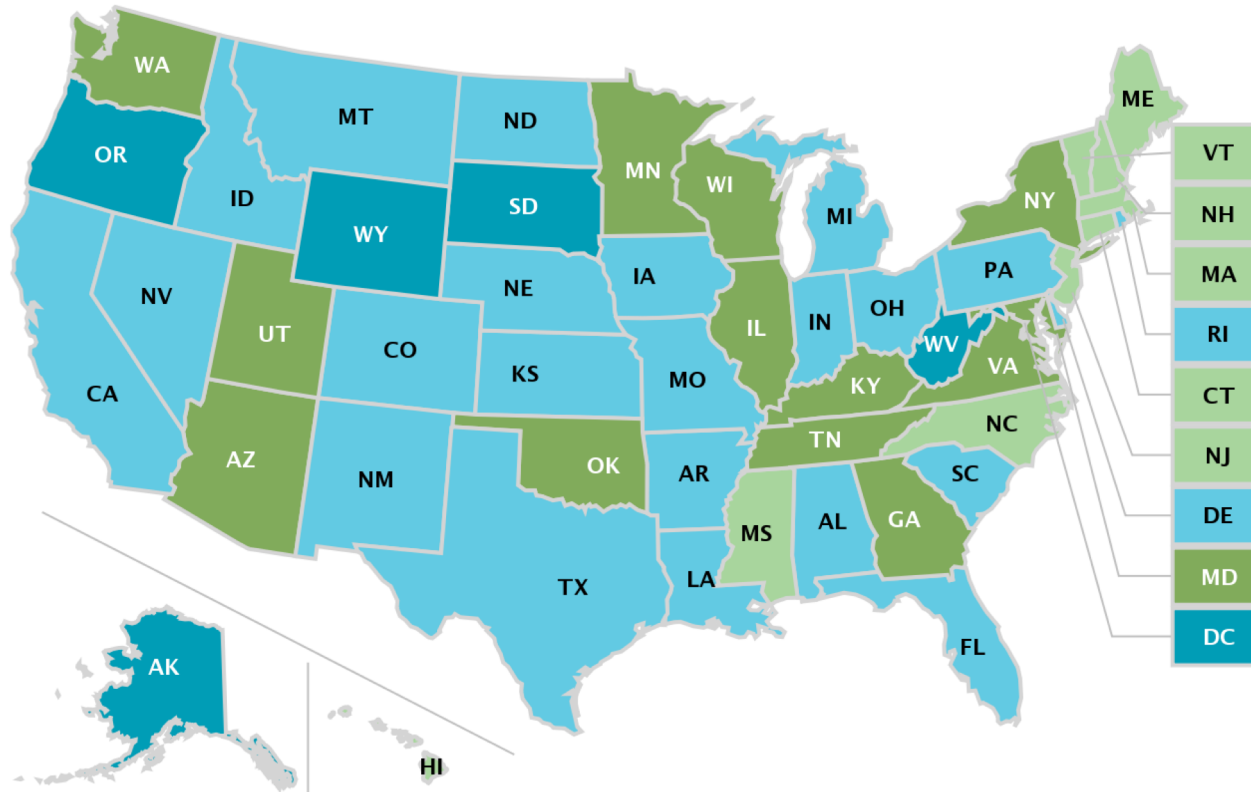


Rate based on jurisdictional population with sentences greater than one year.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Correctional Statistical Analysis Tool.

PRISON
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Juvenile residential placement rates by State, 2015
Total

- 38 to <95 (9)
- 152 to <240.5 (23)
- 95 to <152 (13)
- 240.5 to <=329 (6)



West Virginia has the highest rate of juvenile offenders in custody in the nation at 329 per 100,000 juveniles

Source: OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/qa08601.asp?qaDate=2015>. Released on June 01, 2017.

Causes and Consequences of Mass Incarceration

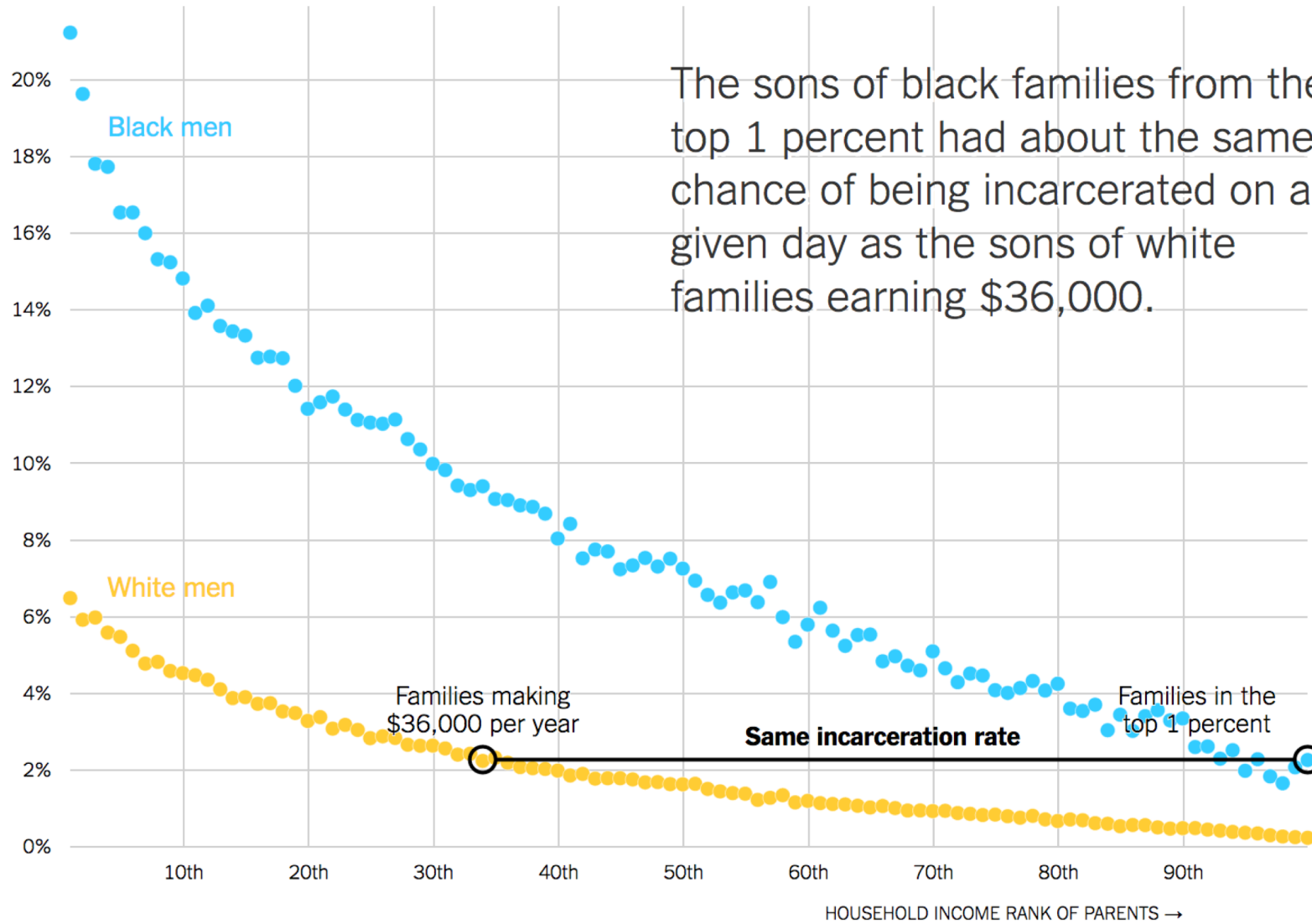
Changes in sentencing policy is the main driver of mass incarceration

Policy choices in the 1960s-1980s expanded the use of incarceration in a number of ways:

- Prison time became required for minor offenses
- Sentence lengths were significantly increased for violent crimes and repeat offenders
- Intensified enforcement of drug laws, particularly in urban areas
- Increased likelihood of incarceration given an arrest
- Mandatory minimums of 5, 10, and 20 years for drug offenses and violent crime

Source: National Research Council. 2014. *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/18613>.

Share of the men incarcerated on April 1, 2010

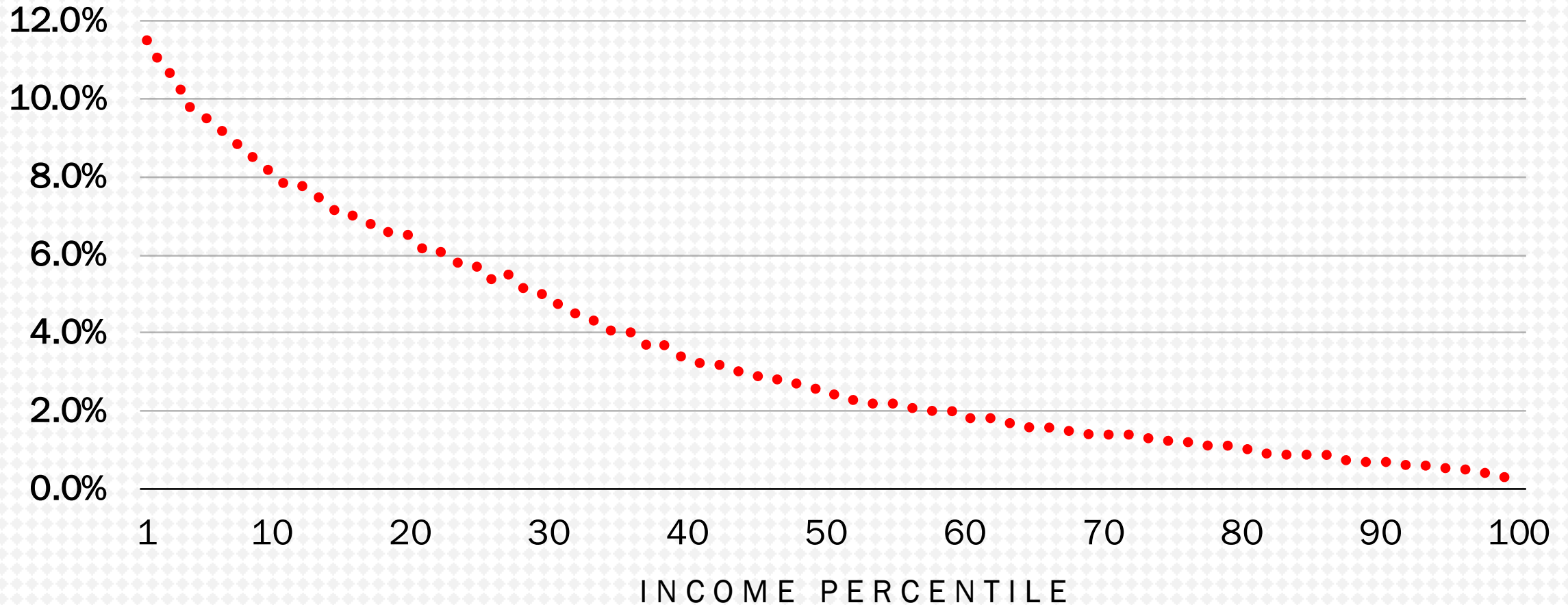


Includes men who were ages 27 to 32 in 2010.

Extensive data shows punishing reach of racism.

Education and poverty also large contributing factors

Share of men incarcerated by income percentile of parents



Source: The Brookings Institute (Looney and Turner, March 2018)

The Consequences of Incarceration Growth

On prisoners:

As prison populations have grown, inmates have had **fewer opportunities** for educational and vocational programs that could prepare them for release. Applicants with a criminal record are disproportionately denied jobs.

On children and families:

Fathers' incarceration is linked to **family hardship, housing insecurity, and developmental problems** in children.

On communities:

The effects of incarceration's rise have been most acute in minority communities that already face significant social, economic, and public health **disadvantages**.

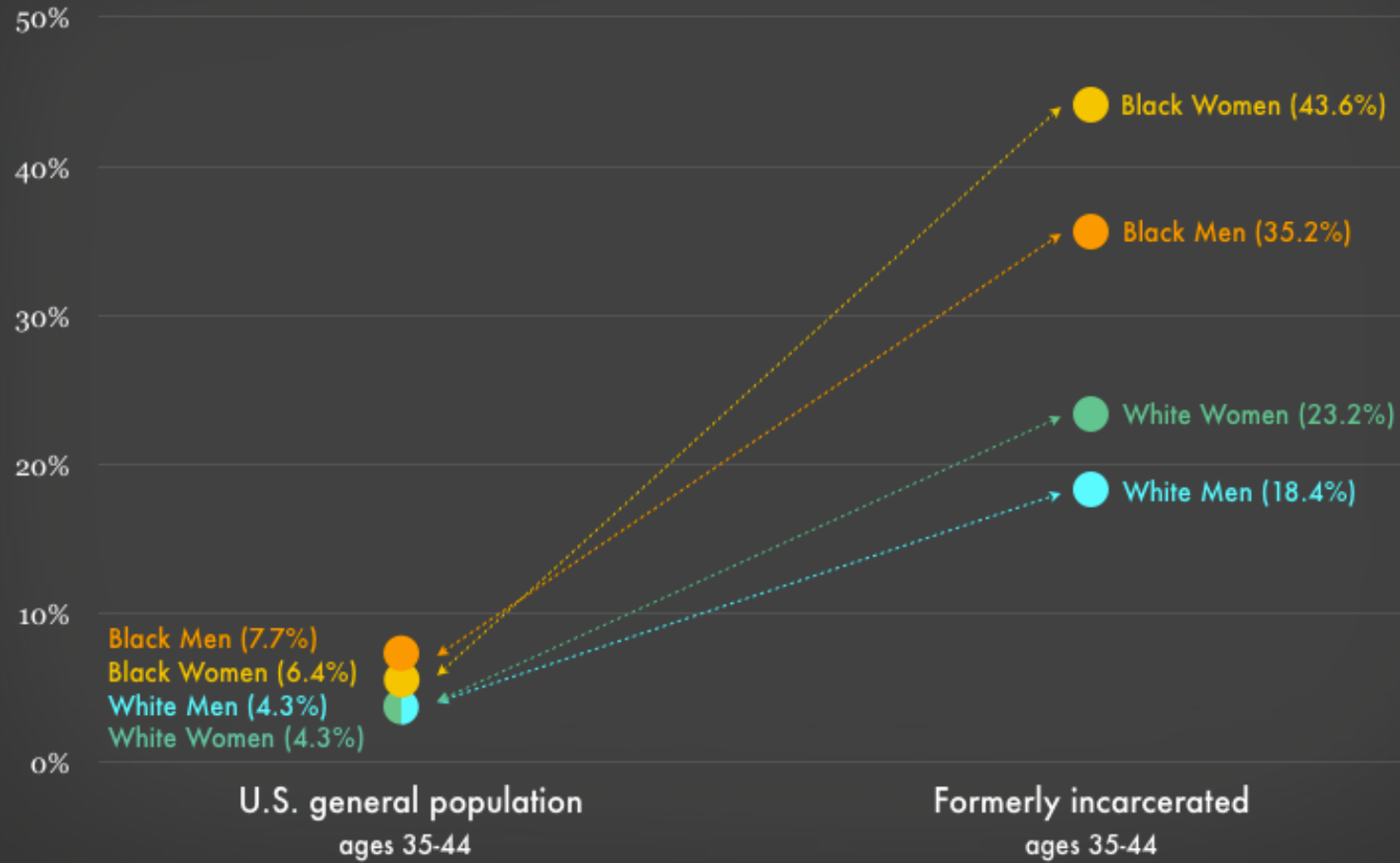
On society:

Incarceration has contributed to the **political marginalization** of minority communities. From 1980-2009, state spending on corrections increased by just over 400%, reducing the funds available for other public purposes.

Source: National Research Council. 2014. *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/18613>.

The “prison penalty” in unemployment

Unemployment among formerly incarcerated people is much higher than among the general public.
This disparity is especially dramatic for formerly incarcerated Black people and women.

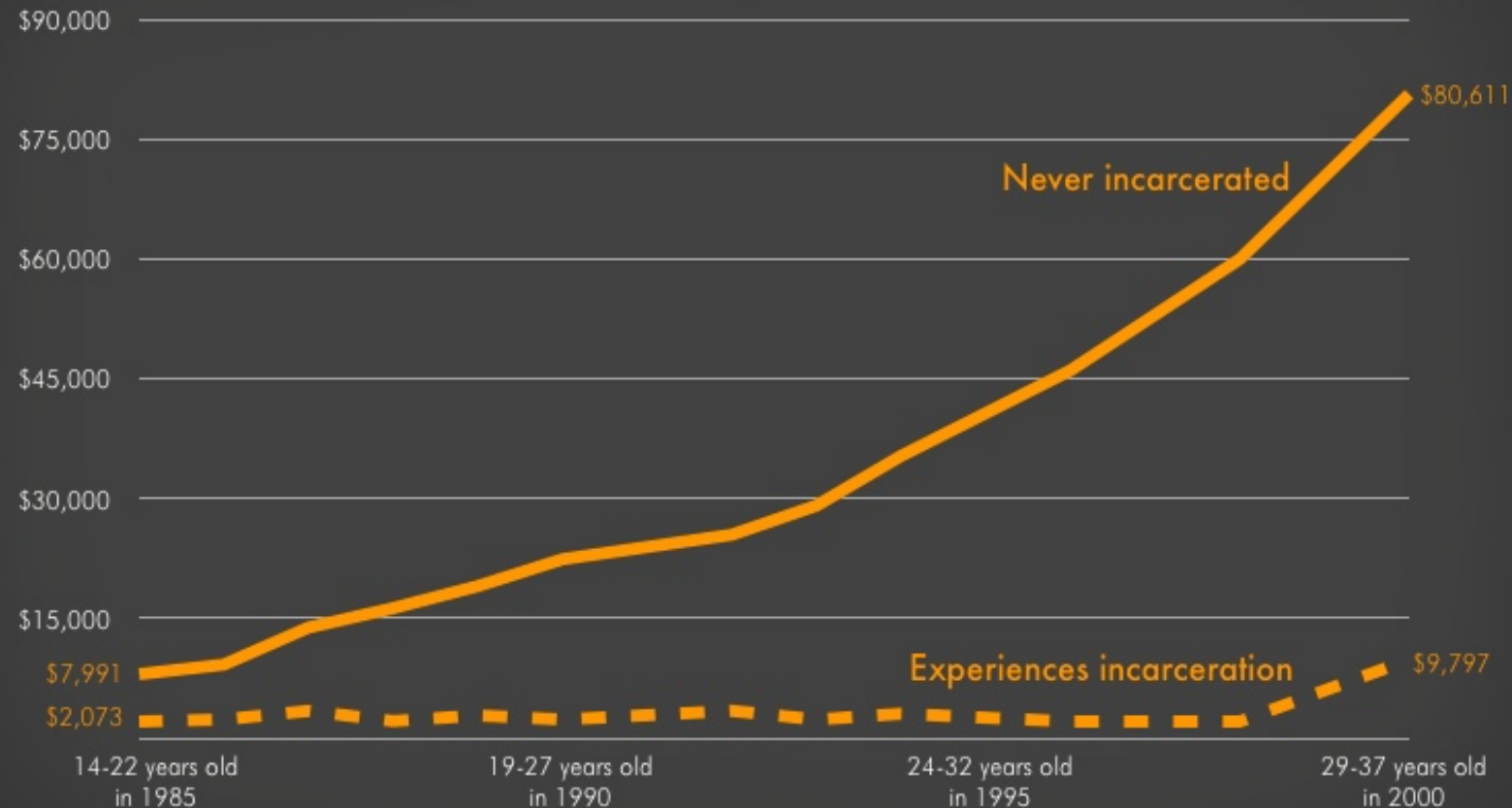


Sources & data notes: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html#methodology>

PRISON
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Wealth accumulation and incarceration

Dividing young men into two groups — those who experience incarceration and those who never do — shows a shocking disparity in wealth accumulation



Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from Table 4 of Zaw et. al, Race, Wealth and Incarceration: Results from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (2016).

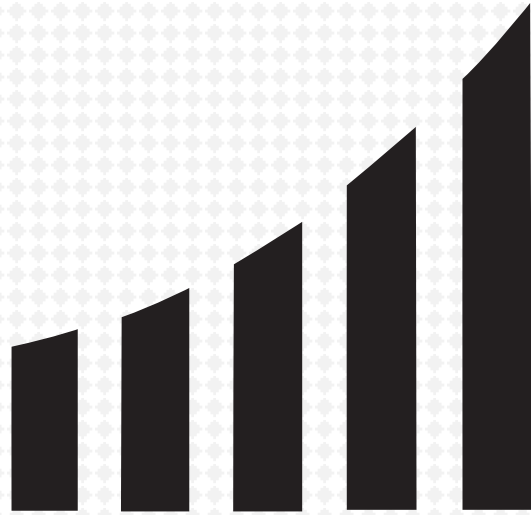
PRISON
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Where do we go from here?

We need to start by...

- Eliminating mandatory minimums and cutting back on long prison sentences
- Shifting resources to community-based prevention and treatment for substance abuse
- Investing in interventions that promote youth development and promoting age-appropriate and evidence-based responses to delinquency
- Examining and addressing policies and practices that perpetuate racial inequity at every stage of the justice system
- Removing barriers that make it harder for individuals previously involved in the justice system to turn their lives around

The End.



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Further reading...

