**Overall**

* Black and Hispanic people are disproportionately represented within state prisons and local jails relative to the general U.S. population and to the state populations in California, Arizona, and Texas.
* Compared to the general U.S. population, incarcerated people have higher rates of unemployment and homelessness (pre-incarceration), are less likely to have at least a high school education, and are more likely to have an income of < $22,500 (pre-incarceration).

**Race, sex, and some SES variables for state incarcerated populations compared to U.S. general population**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **State incarcerated population** | **U.S. general population (18+)** | **Source** |
| Race |  |  | Beyond the count: A deep dive into state prison populations from the Prison Policy Initiative, 2022. <https://nicic.gov/weblink/beyond-count-deep-dive-state-prison-populations-2022>    -data are from Bureau of Justice Statistics’ 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates  -data are not regularly collected; most recent year available |
| White | 32% | 62% |
| Black | 34% | 12% |
| Hispanic | 21% | 17% |
| Sex |  |  |
| Men | 93% | 49% |
| Women | 7% | 51% |
| Unemployment rate  (pre-incarceration) | 14.8% | 4.7% |
| Percent homeless  (pre-incarceration) | 4.9% | 0.2% |
| Percent with less than high school education | White: 52%  Black: 68%  Hispanic: 69% | Overall: 12% |
| Percent with annual income of  < $22,500 (pre-incarceration) | 57% | 23% | Prisons of poverty: Uncovering the pre-incarceration incomes of the imprisoned, 2015  <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/income.html> |

Note: the Prison Policy Initiative Reports are all based on Bureau of Justice Statistics

* For the race variable, these numbers are consistent when looking at populations incarcerated in local jails
  + In 2022, black people made up 12% of general population but 26% of the jail population across 595 jails included in the Jail Data Initiative Dataset
  + <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2023/05/racial-disparities-persist-in-many-us-jails>

**Race of incarcerated population compared to state population for CA, TX, AZ**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **State incarcerated population** | **State general population** | **Source** | **Year** |
| **California** |  |  | California’s Prison Population Fact Sheet from Public Policy Institute of California, 2017 <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-prison-population/> | 2017 |
| Black men | 28.5% | 5.6% |
| Black women | 25.9% | 5.7% |
| Incarceration rate for black men | 4,236 / 100,000 |  |
| Incarceration rate for white men | 422 / 100,000 |  |
| **Texas** |  |  | Texas state profile from Prison Policy Initiative, 2023  <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/TX.html> | 2021 |
| Black | 33% prisons, 28% jails | 12% |
| White | 34% prisons, 40% jails | 41% |
| Hispanic | 33% prisons, 31% jails | 40% |
| **Arizona** |  |  | Incarceration trends in Arizona from Prison Policy Initiative, 2023 <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/AZ.html> | 2021 |
| Black | 15% prisons, 16% jails | 4% |
| White | 38% prisons, 55% jails | 53% |
| Hispanic | 39% prisons, 20% jails | 32% |
| NA/AN | 6% prisons, 8% jails | 4% |

These numbers are consistent with:

* Nellis, A. 2016. The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparities in state prisons. The Sentencing Project. <https://dataspace.princeton.edu/handle/88435/dsp01bz60d032q>

**Aging incarcerated population:**

California’s Prison Population Fact Sheet from Public Policy Institute of California, 2017 <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-prison-population/>

* Share of incarcerated people age 50 and older increased from 4% → 23% between 2000 and 2017

Beyond the count: A deep dive into state prison populations from the Prison Policy Initiative, 2022. <https://nicic.gov/weblink/beyond-count-deep-dive-state-prison-populations-2022>

* Women of color are 51% of state prison population compared to 47% white women
* More than 1 in 8 people in state prisons (13%) are over the age of 55
  + Average age of prison pop has gone from 35 → 39 since 2004