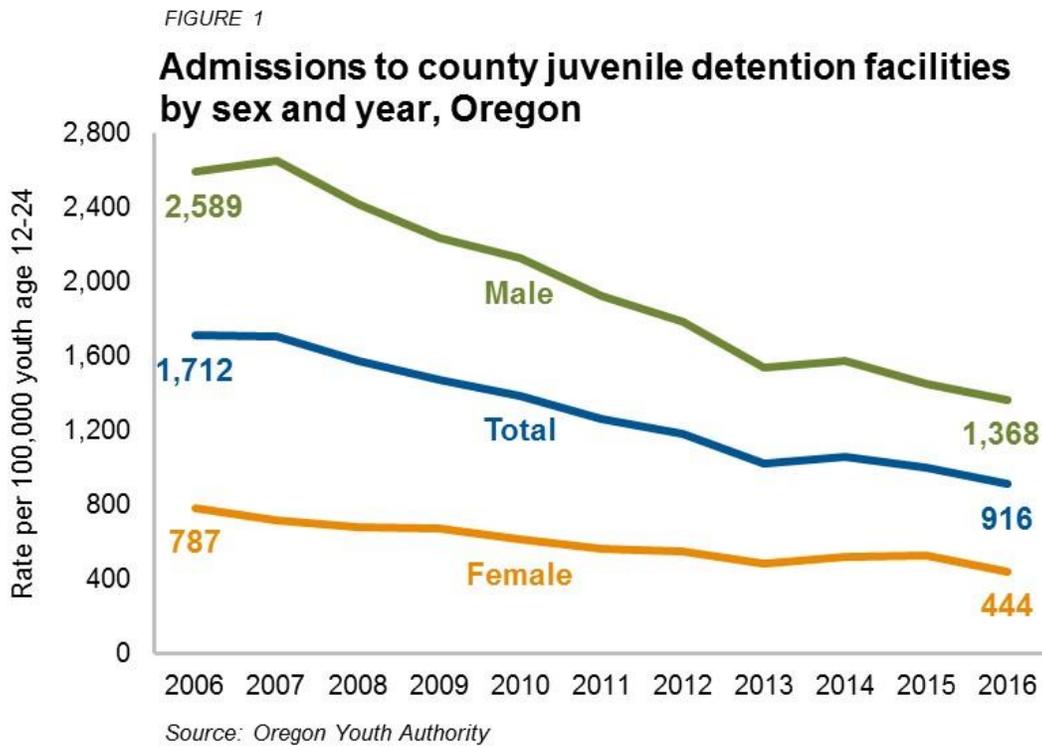


Social and Economic Context

Incarceration

At any given time in Oregon, there are roughly 1,800 people incarcerated in the Sherwood Federal Prison, 15,000 adults incarcerated in state prisons, 5,500 people in county jails across the state and 550 youth in state youth correctional facilities. This does not include those on probation or parole. While incarceration rates in Oregon and the U.S. rose throughout the 1980's, 1990's and early 2000's, they have been declining in recent years with a few exceptions.

Overall, the rate of admissions to county, short-term juvenile detention facilities in Oregon declined steadily since 2007 (Figure 1).



Despite this decline, Oregon still has a higher youth incarceration rate than the U.S. average (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2

Youth in residential custody, Oregon & U.S., October 1997–2015

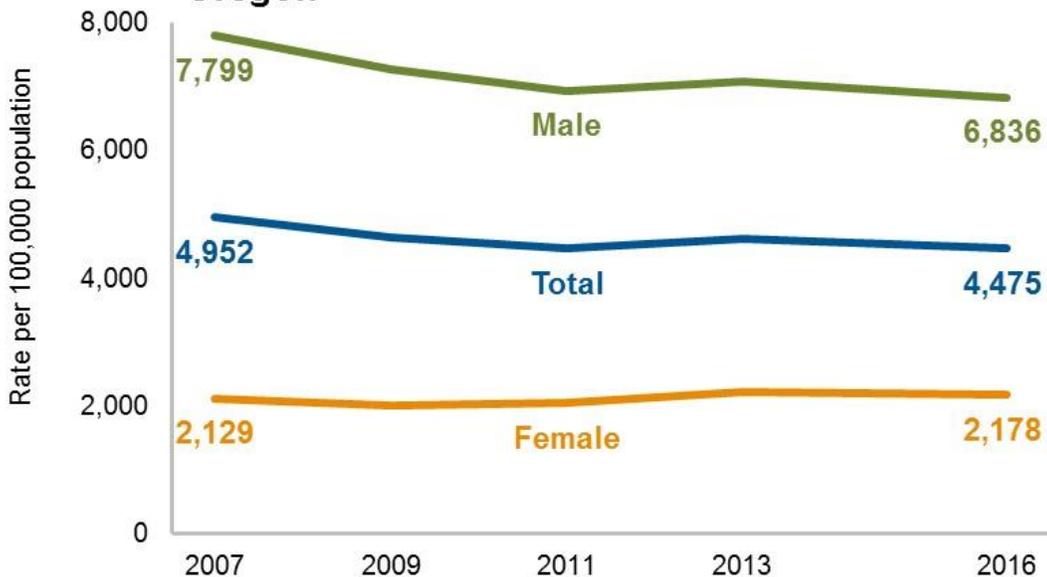


Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) and Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC)

The rates of bookings to county jails and admissions to state prisons have also declined in both the U.S. and Oregon. But in Oregon, the decline is primarily among men (Figure 3 & Figure 4). As a result, the percent of inmates who are female is increasing. Overall, Oregon has a lower adult incarceration rate than the U.S. as a whole.

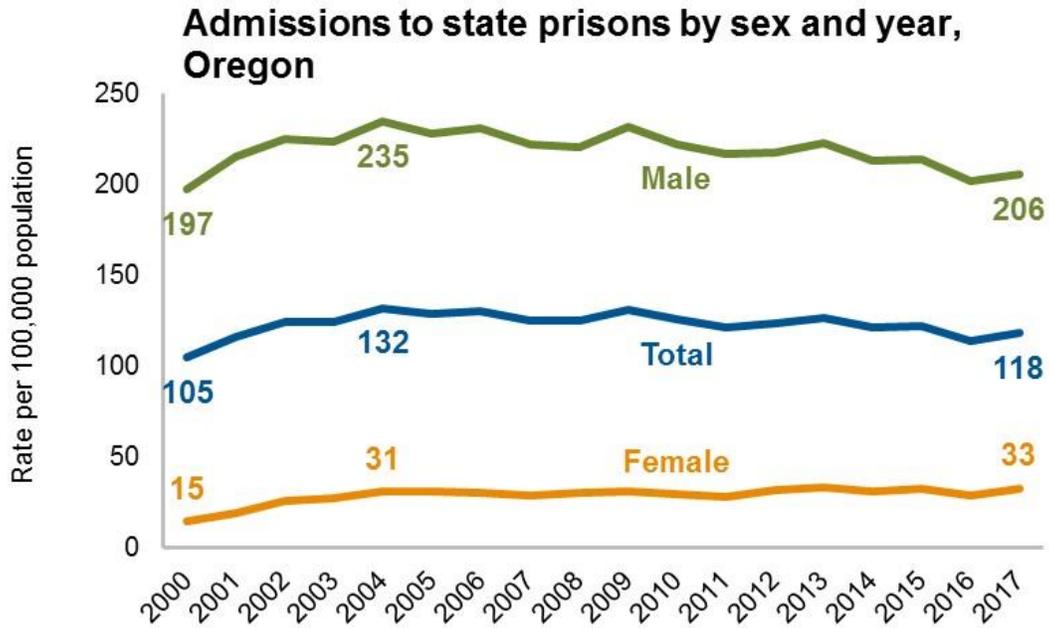
FIGURE 3

Bookings to county jail facilities by sex and year, Oregon



Source: Oregon Sheriff's Jail Command

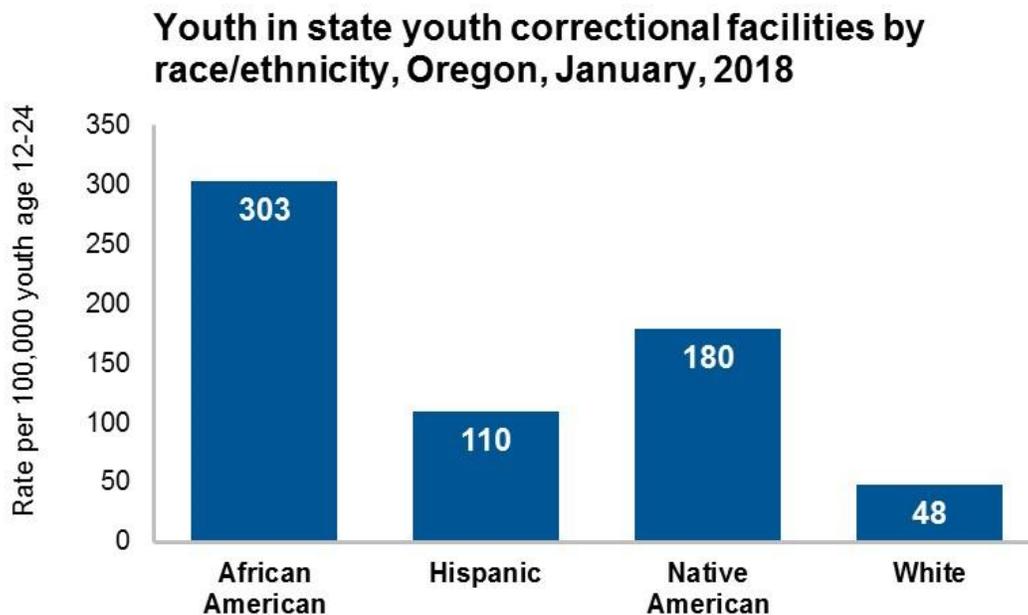
FIGURE 4



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

In Oregon, males and persons of color are disproportionately incarcerated compared to other demographic groups. The youth incarceration rate is 6 times higher for African American youth than for white youth (Figure 5).

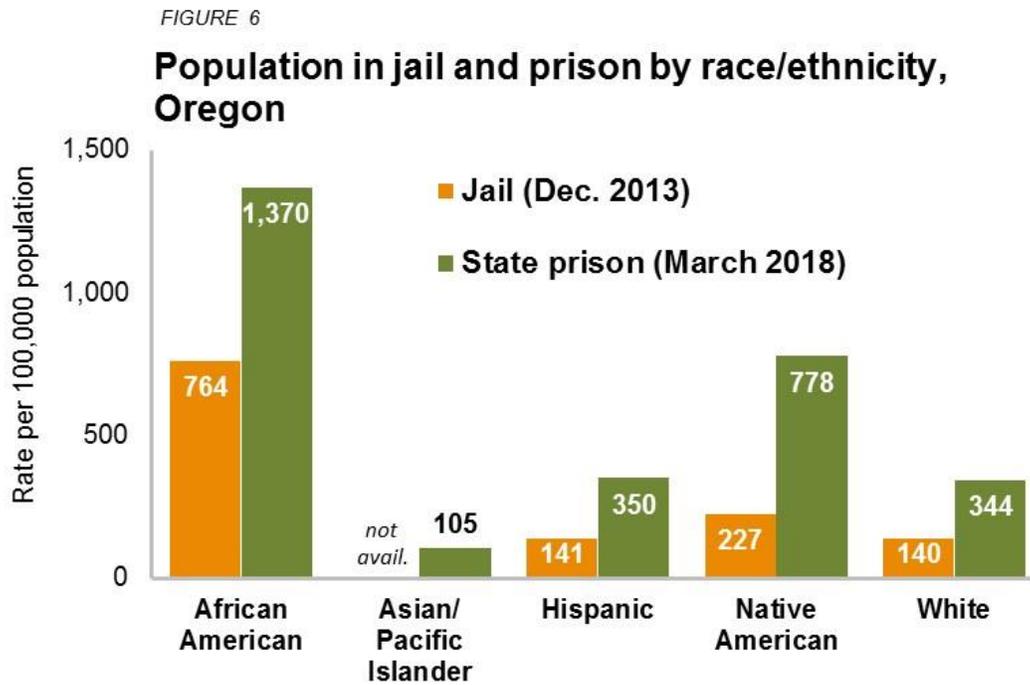
FIGURE 5



Note: All other races shown exclude Hispanic ethnicity. Rates for other groups not available.

Source: Oregon Youth Authority

The pattern of disparities by race/ethnicity is very much the same for the Oregon county jail and prison population (Figure 6).



Note: All other races shown exclude Hispanic ethnicity.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics (jails) and Oregon Department of Corrections (prisons)

People with incarceration histories are at higher risk for many chronic and communicable diseases. The prevalence of mental health and substance abuse issues and developmental disabilities is also far higher among incarcerated populations than among the general population. About 50% of all Oregon prison inmates have been diagnosed with a mental illness or developmental disability¹. These problems follow them from the community into correctional institutions and back to the community when they're released.

Every year in Oregon an estimated 26,000 people are released from jails and 5,500 are released from state and federal prison. Former inmates returning to the community face many challenges including reconnecting with loved ones; securing housing, health care and employment; supporting children; and establishing healthy societal connections. Oftentimes ex-inmates are not allowed to access certain types of programs (e.g., housing) or apply for certain jobs because of their felony record. Especially for young offenders, incarceration can have lifelong effects.

¹ Issue Brief: Behavioral Health Services (BHS). Oregon Department of Correction. 6/10/14

Additional Resources: [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)

About the Data: Data used here come from multiple state and federal sources.

- Oregon Youth Authority
- Oregon Sheriff's Jail Command Council
- Oregon Department of Corrections
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) and Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails and National Prisoner Statistics
- Federal Bureau of Prisons

Data from disparate sources are generally not combined in this report to avoid comparisons between different case definitions. So, a national source was used for Oregon data when comparing rates between the U.S. and Oregon. Otherwise, an Oregon source was used for Oregon data.

Data represent either new admissions to correctional facilities in a given year or the number of persons in those facilities on a specific day of that year. "Correctional facilities" include youth correctional and detention facilities, county jails and state and federal prisons. There are 14 state prisons and one federal prison in Oregon. While trends in the number of persons incarcerated on a given day versus the number of new admissions track each other roughly, changes in the length of stay of inmates account for some differences. In some cases – such as bookings to county jails – the same person may be counted multiple times in the same year. In addition, the same person may be counted in both the jail and prison statistics for the same year. All data are shown as rates relative to the size of the total population rather than just the count of incarcerated persons. The number of people incarcerated in Oregon may be increasing even in circumstances where the rate is decreasing.

For More Information Contact: Katrina Hedberg, Katrina.Hedberg@state.or.us

Date Updated: March 9, 2018

[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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