

CPHI Data Brief

August 2017

Mass Incarceration in the United States

Key Facts:

- ✓ Although the U.S. only contributes 5% of the world's population, it incarcerates 25% of the global prisoners
- ✓ In the last 40 years the jail/prisoner population has increased at a rate of 500%
- ✓ 93% of prisoners are men, with the remaining 7% of prisoners being women
- ✓ 2.7% of the adult population in the U.S. is under a type of correctional supervision
- ✓ Approximately 46% of the prisoners held in state prisons were convicted of nonviolent drug, property or public order crimes
- ✓ African Americans are incarcerated at five times the rate of White Americans
- ✓ The prisoner population would decrease by 40% if African Americans were incarcerated at the same rate as White Americans

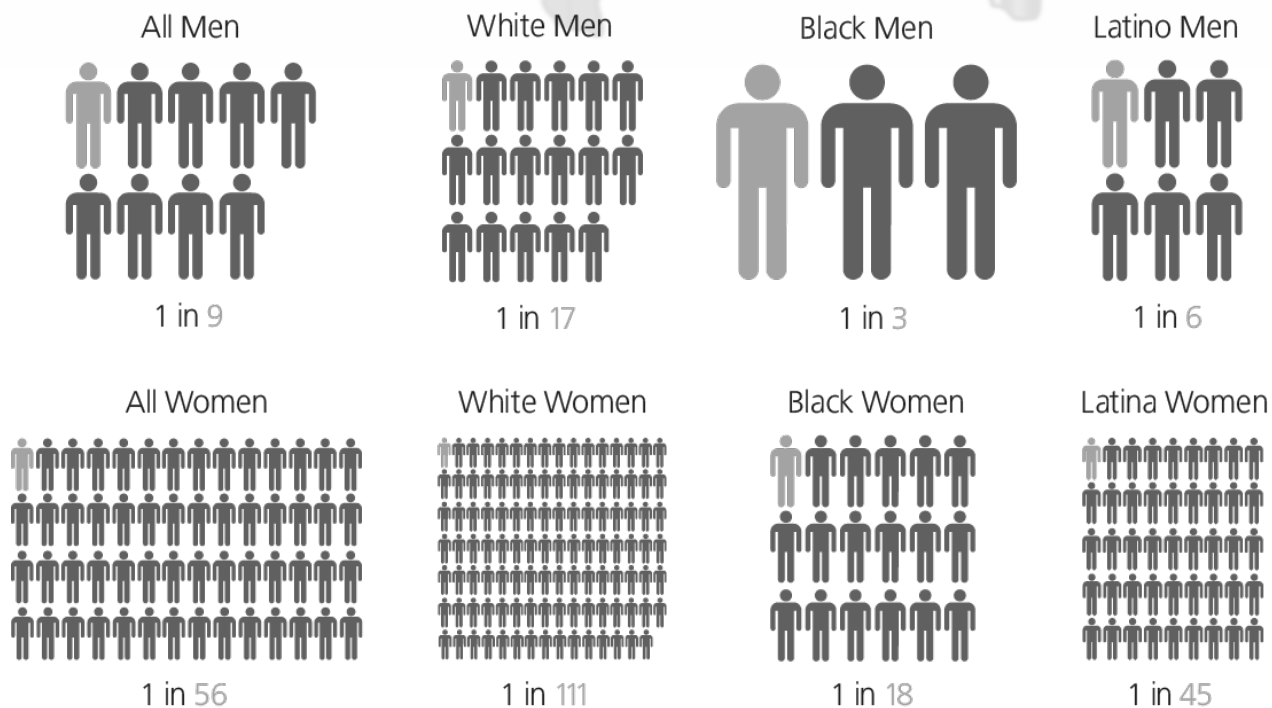


Figure 1: Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment for American Residents (Born in 2001)

Contributing Factors to Mass Incarceration:

- ✓ The ongoing "War on Drugs"
- ✓ Institutionalized racism which leads to drug/arrest rate discrepancies between races
- ✓ The adoption of Zero Tolerance policies to stop violence in schools which in turn led to adverse effects on African American students
- ✓ Mandatory minimum sentences
- ✓ Socioeconomic isolation creating more vulnerable populations

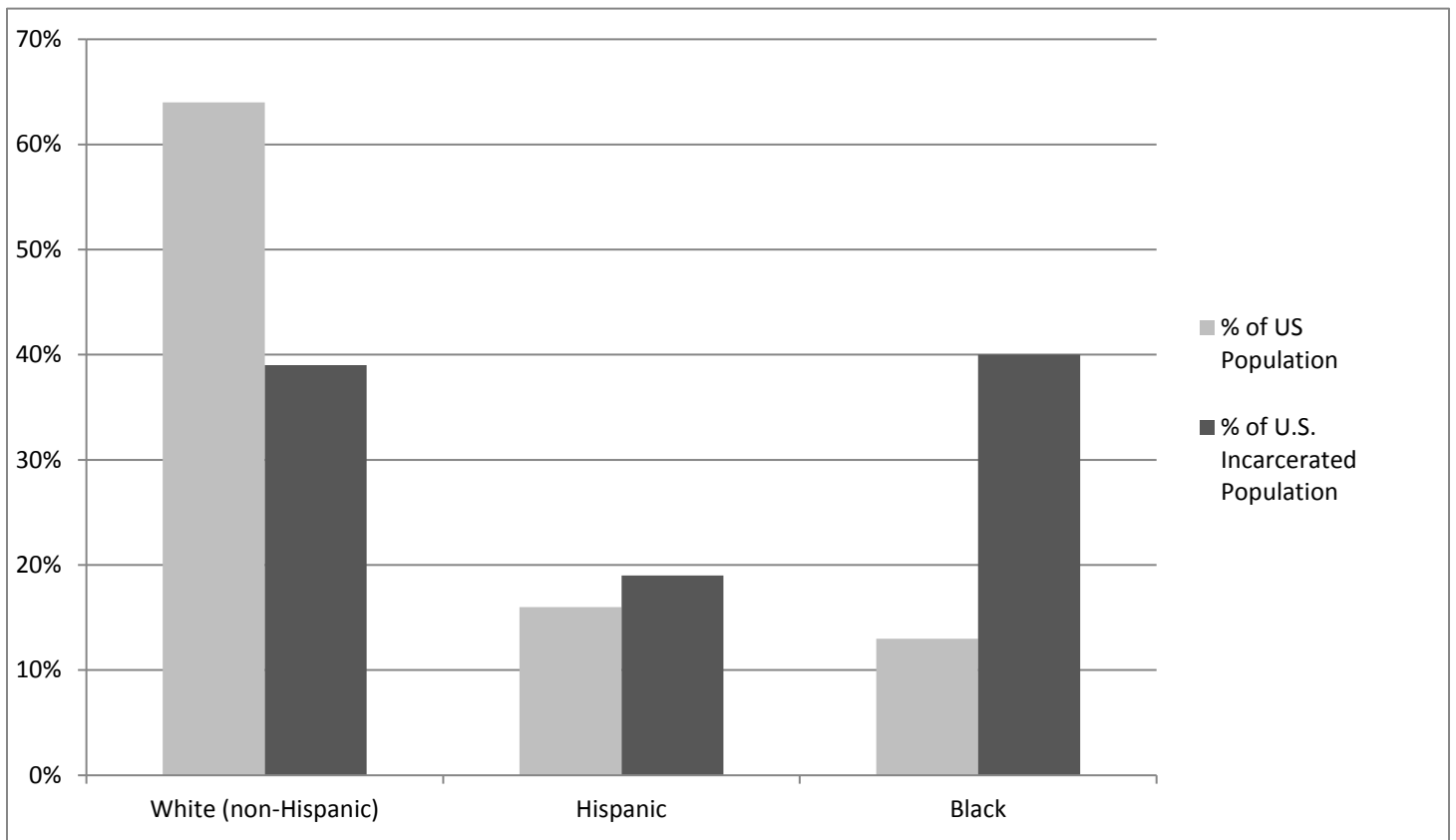


Figure 2: Prisoner and Population Percentages based on Race

Effects of Mass Incarceration:

- ✓ Economic impact (Approximately 80 billion dollars spent on correctional facilities in the year 2012) and is growing at a much faster rate than the education budget
- ✓ Lasting effects of a criminal record on the individual in the professional market
- ✓ Infectious disease contraction rates in correctional facilities are high compared to the general population
- ✓ Widening the gap of social and economic disparities between races in the United States

Works Cited:

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