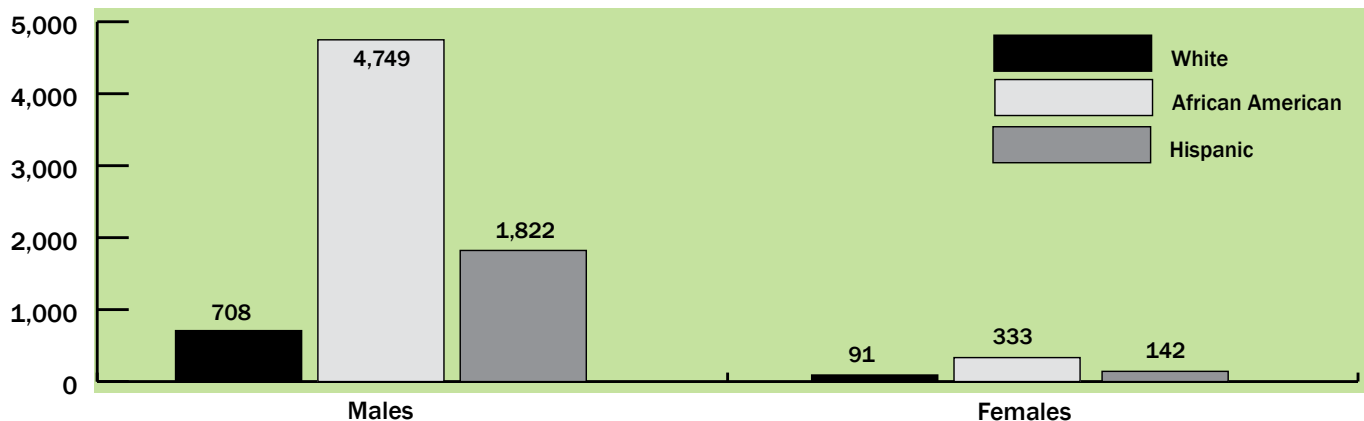




Minority Populations Incarcerated at Disproportionately High Rates; Disparities Influenced by Sentencing and Drug Policies

Minority populations in the United States are incarcerated at rates much higher than their white counterparts. In 2009, the incarceration¹ rate (number per 100,000 population) among African-American males was almost 7 times higher than that among white males (4,749 African-American v. 708 white), and the rate among Hispanic males was more than 2.5 times higher (1,822 Hispanic) than that among white males.² The rate among African-American females was more than 3.5 times the rate of white females (333 African-American v. 91 white), and the rate for Hispanic females was 1.5 times higher (142 Hispanic) than that among white females. Racial and ethnic disparities in incarceration rates have been significantly influenced by state and federal sentencing and drug policies.

Number Incarcerated in the U.S. per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 2009



Sources:

Mauer, M. and King, R.S. *Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity*. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project, 2007.

West, H.C. *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2009 – Statistical Tables*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice, 2010.

Notes:

¹ Incarceration in federal and state prisons and local jails.

² Bureau of Justice Statistics methodology excludes all individuals identified as “Hispanic” from being counted also in racial categories (i.e., “Black” and “White”). As a result, individuals are counted only in one category.

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