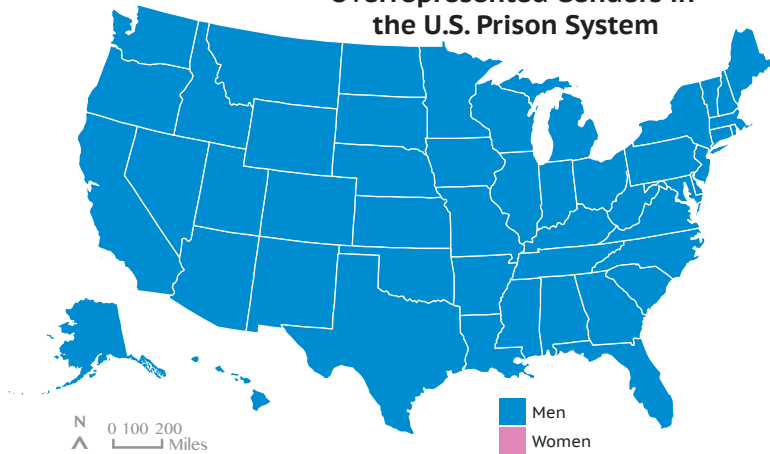


# REPRESENTATION MATTERS

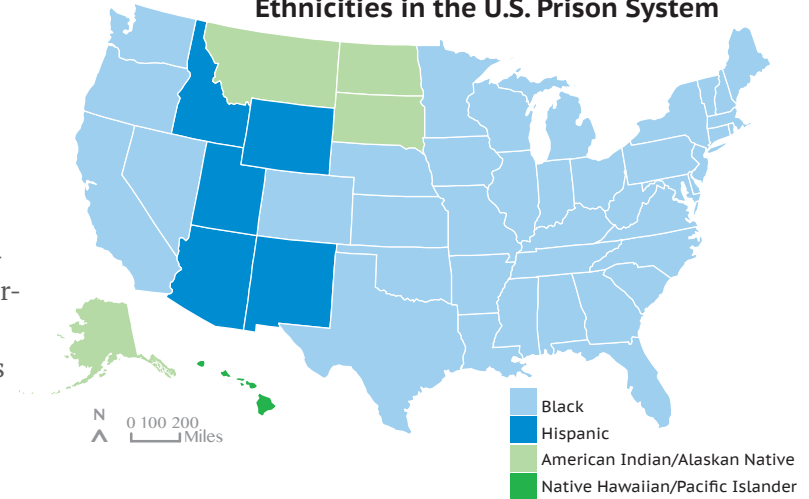
Overrepresented Genders in the U.S. Prison System



## Did You Know?

- Men make up **93%** of the U.S. prison population, but only 49% of the total U.S. population.
- News coverage of crime overrepresents violent crimes committed by men of color against white women, even though **intra-racial male-on-male violence** is more common.
- Despite making up only 64% of the total U.S. population, Whites make up only **39%** of the incarcerated population in the U.S.
- Implicit bias research has shown that racial biases impact **bail, charging, and sentencing.**

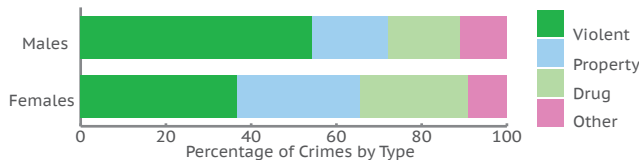
Overrepresented Races and Ethnicities in the U.S. Prison System



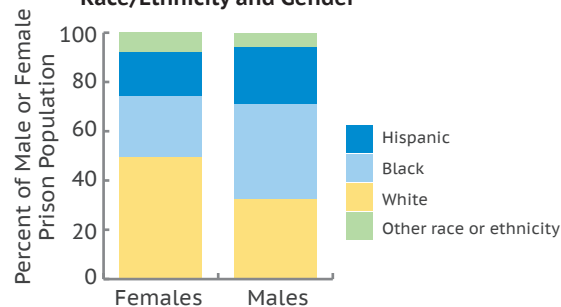
## Why Are Men So Overrepresented?

- Media representations of men tend to focus on men as being **aggressive** and **emotionless**, while women passive, dependent, and nurturing. Additionally, women are far more likely to be portrayed as **victims of male violence.**

Crime Rates Across Genders



U.S. Prison Population by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



## Why Are POC So Overrepresented?

- Portrayals of minority men in the news and popular media are more likely to be **physically violent** and **aggressive**, and anyone who consumes any kind of media is likely to be influenced by these representations. That includes criminal justice officials, even those given anti-bias training, who are responsible for doling out sentences, as well as minorities, whose **self-esteem and self-perception** is influenced by these media representations.



- **Unequal enforcement** of anti-drug laws across races disproportionately impacts POC; drug use is about the same across races and ethnicities, but the harsh criminalization and implementation of **mandatory minimum** sentences is more common to drugs associated with impoverished minority communities.

## Trans Erasure in Prison Populations



Transgender experiences are often **excluded** from data collections in mainstream census taking, and the prison census was no exception. Because there is no national standard for the treatment of trans inmates, many are placed in the incorrect facilities for their gender identity, leading to sexual and **violent harassment** by both other inmates and guards. Furthermore, trans inmates are routinely **denied hormone treatment** and placed in solitary confinement for “protection” despite known links between solitary confinement and mental health problems.

Data Sources:  
 PrisonPolicy.org <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/rates.html>  
 The Sentencing Project [http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd\\_Race\\_and\\_Punishment.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_Race_and_Punishment.pdf)  
 Natural Earth Data Project  
 The Bureau of Justice Statistics for Prisoners in 2011 and 2014  
 The American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/factsheet-erm.aspx>  
 Media Smarts <http://mediasmarts.ca/gender-representation/men-and-masculinity/how-media-define-masculinity>  
 The National Center for Transgender Equality [http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE\\_Blueprint\\_2015\\_Prisoners.pdf](http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE_Blueprint_2015_Prisoners.pdf)  
 Julia T. Wood <https://www.nyu.edu/classes/jackson/causes.of.gender.inequality/Readings/Wood%20-%20Gendered%20Media%20-%202014.pdf>  
 Transgender Icon by Sophia Lee  
 Man Icon by Lisa Staudinger  
 Map by Ainsley Nelson December 17, 2015

Contiguous U.S. Metadata:  
 NAD 1983 HARN Contiguous USA  
 Albers Equal Area Conic Projection  
 Central Meridian: 96° W  
 Standard Parallel 1: 29.5° N  
 Standard Parallel 2: 45.5° N  
 Latitude of Origin: 23° N  
 Scale 1: 50,000,000

Alaska Metadata:  
 NAD 1927 Alaska Albers  
 Equal Area Conic Projection  
 Central Meridian: 154° W  
 Standard Parallel 1: 55° N  
 Standard Parallel 2: 65° N  
 Latitude of Origin: 50° N  
 Scale 1: 150,000,000

Hawaii Metadata:  
 Hawaii Albers Equal Area Conic Projection  
 Central Meridian: 157° W  
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 Scale 1: 50,000,000