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# THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## *Black Lives Matter Movement*

Information sourced from Ben & Jerry's | <https://www.benjerry.com>

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Black people are 13% of our population and 40% of our prisoners are black, this doesn't add up. The reason for this is that if a black person and a white person commit the same crime the black person is much more likely to get arrested. After this, they are also more likely to be convicted than white people.

Lastly, they are sent to jail and their sentences are usually longer than white people's are. Their sentences are usually worse as well. Even after this, once they are released, they lose their right to vote depending on where they live. Currently, up to 13% of black men are restricted from voting.

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## CHANGES OVER THE YEARS

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### 2010

President Obama signed something called the "Fair Sentencing Act" which was meant for, "[...] narrowing sentencing disparities between those convicted of crack cocaine and powder cocaine."

### 2015

Black people make up 13% of the population while white people make up 64%. Yet, "black people are incarcerated five times as frequently as white people." This isn't because they commit five times more crimes.

### 2018

Abc news reports that, "On Election Day, nearly 1.4 million voting-age black men—more than one in eight—will be ineligible to cast ballots because of state laws that strip felons of the right to vote."

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## INTERESTING FACTS

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-An article in The Atlantic explains that, "Many men who are incarcerated classify themselves as the breadwinners of the family so, in turn, the family is left with the financial burden of legal fees, phone time, visit, in addition to household maintenance."

-The same article also explains that in an experiment that was conducted where four men, two black and two white all applied for jobs. A black man and a white man applied with criminal records while the other two did not. After the experiment, it was observed that both black men received harsh rejection as opposed to the white man. Furthermore, the white man with a criminal record was let down less harshly.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know?  
In the state of Pennsylvania, the average cost per student is about 13,000 dollars, while the average cost per prisoner is about 40,000