

WORKING ON JAIL DECARCERATION AND RACIAL EQUITY IN SMALLER AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Session facilitated by the Vera Institute of Justice

October 3, 2019

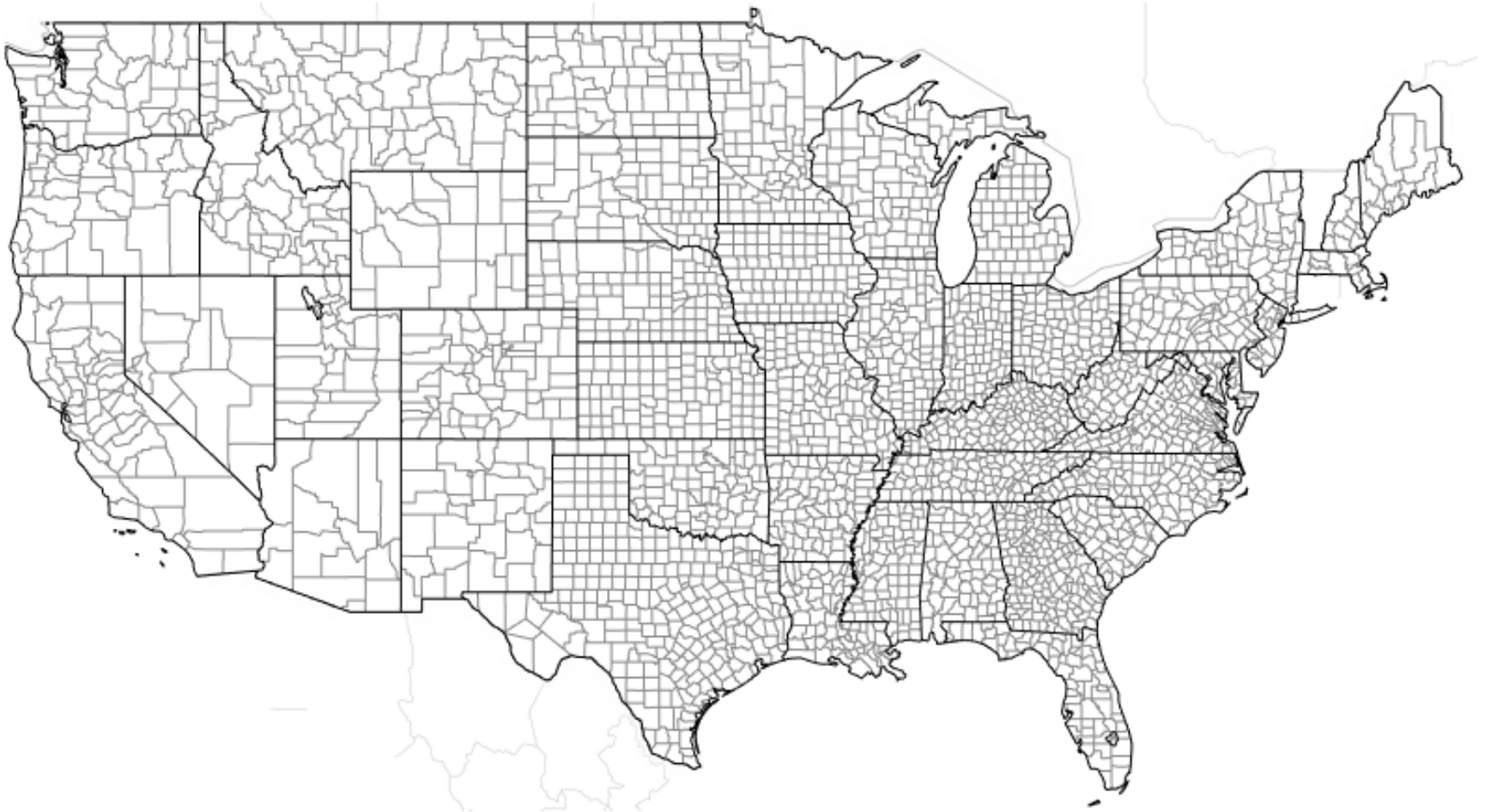


Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

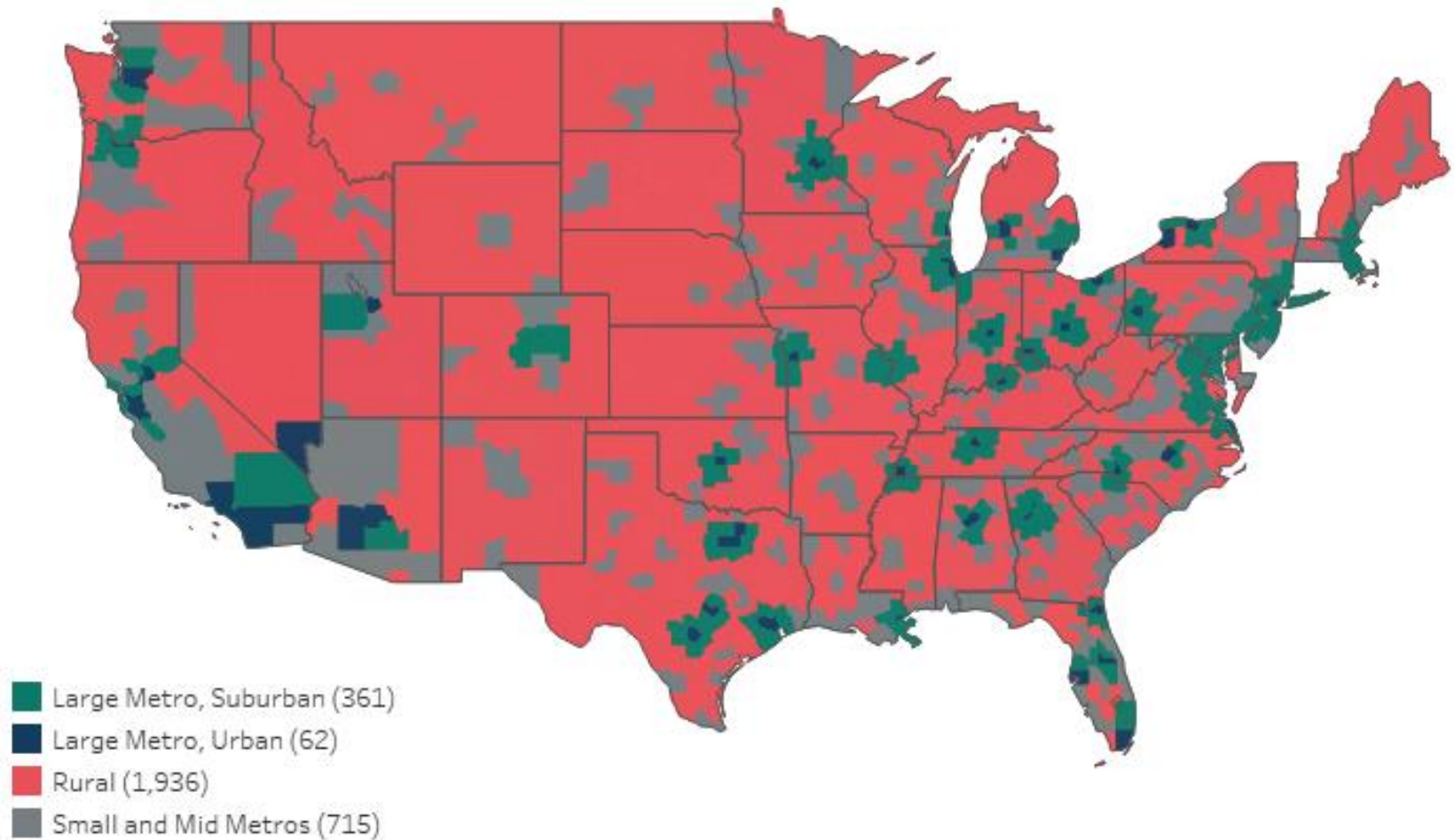
Overview of Session

- Introductions
- Snapshot of rural jail data trends (Vera)
- Reflections on metrics, data, and equity in small/rural areas (Prof. Howard Henderson, TSU)
- Roundtable discussion on challenges and advances in smaller/rural SJC counties
- Small group discussions
- Recaps & Conclusions

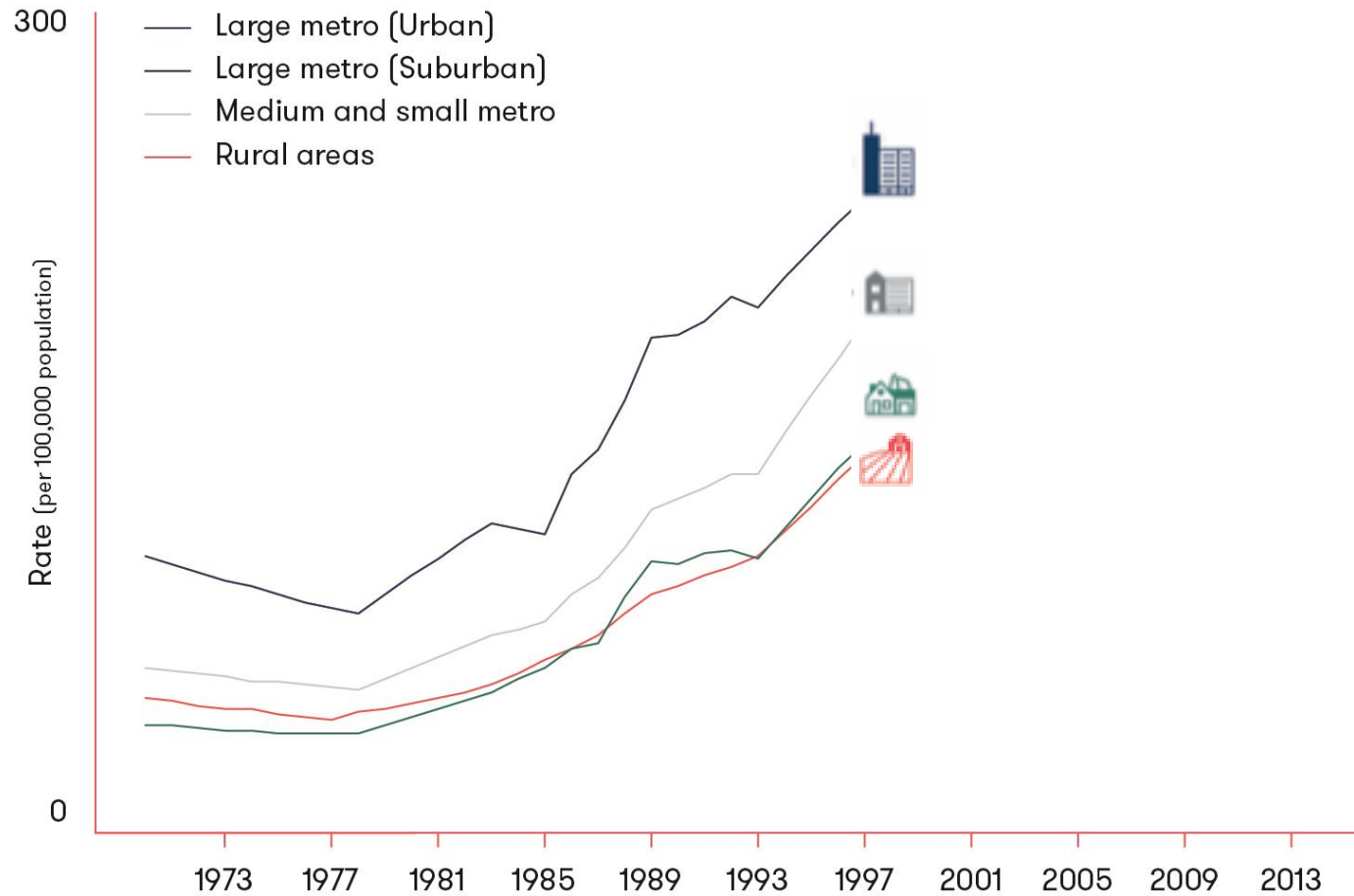
Over 3,000 counties - nearly every one has a jail



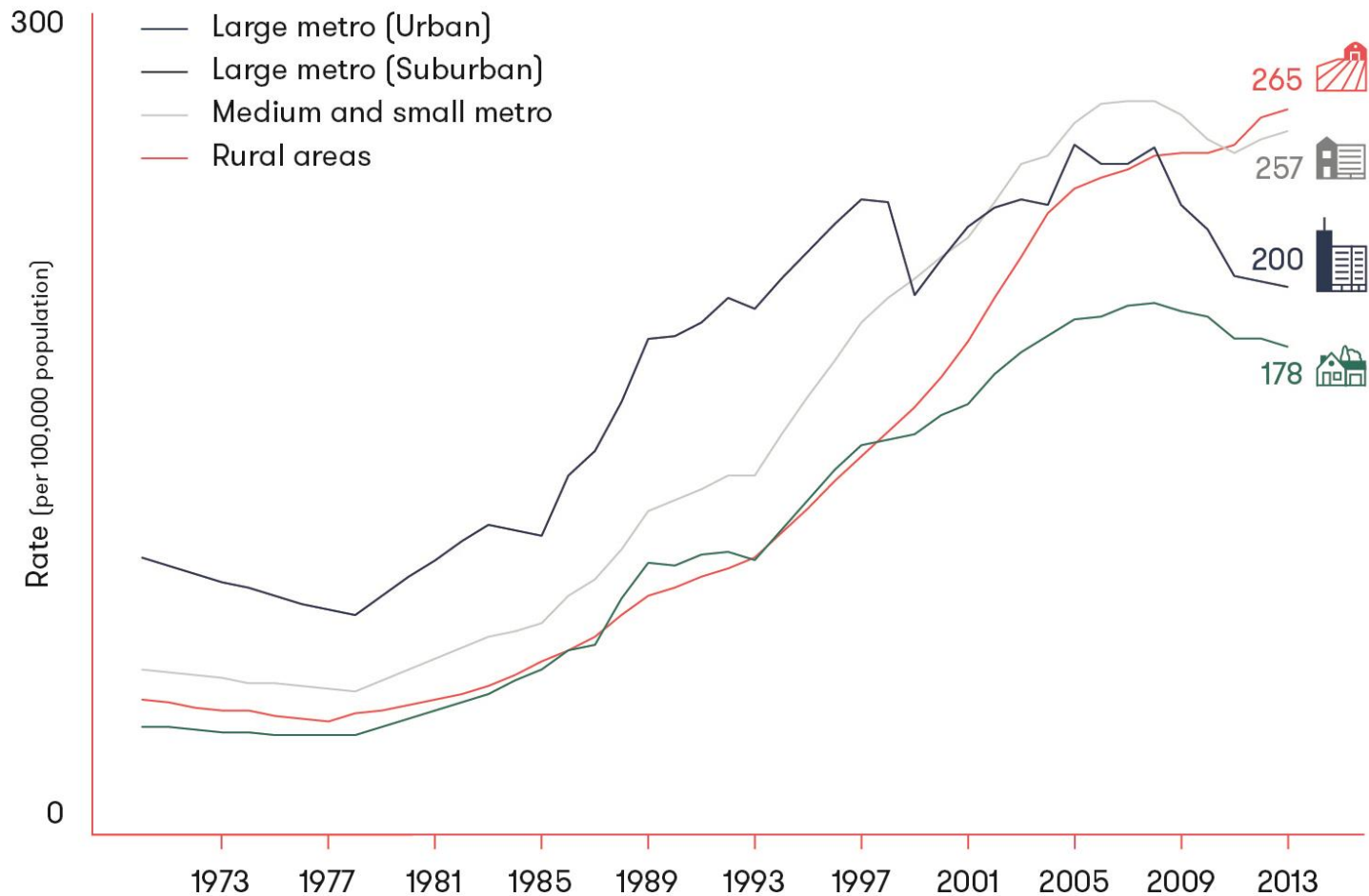
**2,000 of these jails are in rural counties;
700+ are in small / mid-sized metropolitan counties**



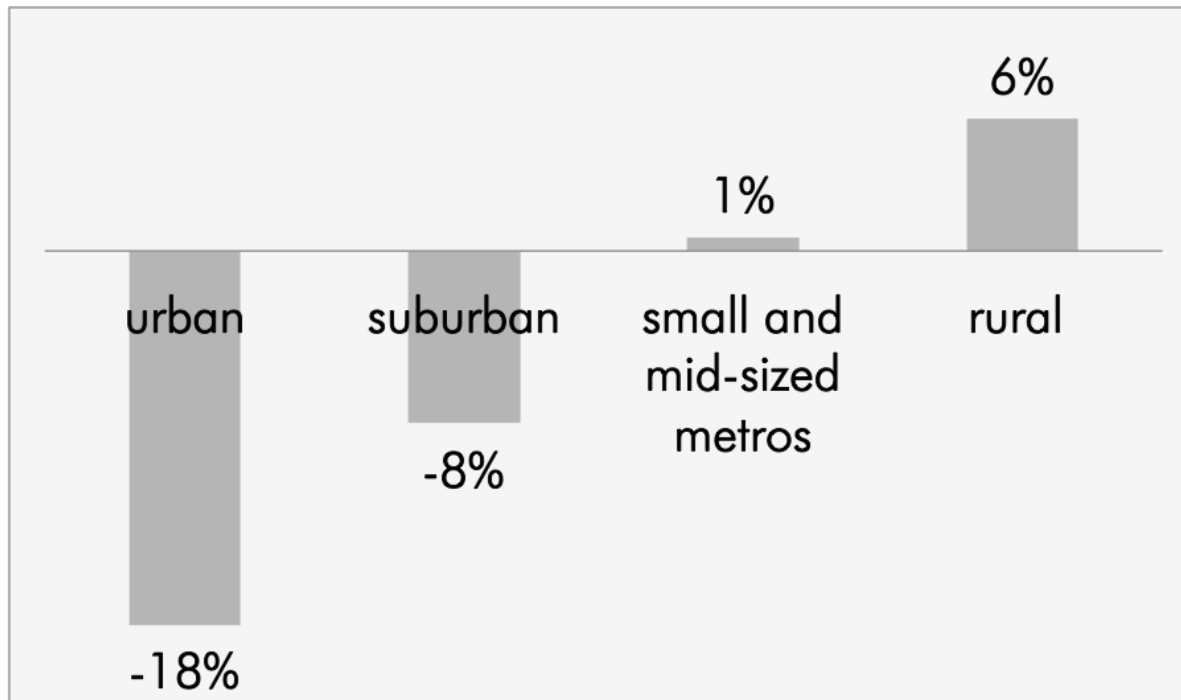
High pretrial incarceration rates: historically an urban phenomenon



Now pretrial incarceration is most prevalent in smaller counties



The urban-rural divide worsens: Changes in jail incarceration rates, 2013-2018

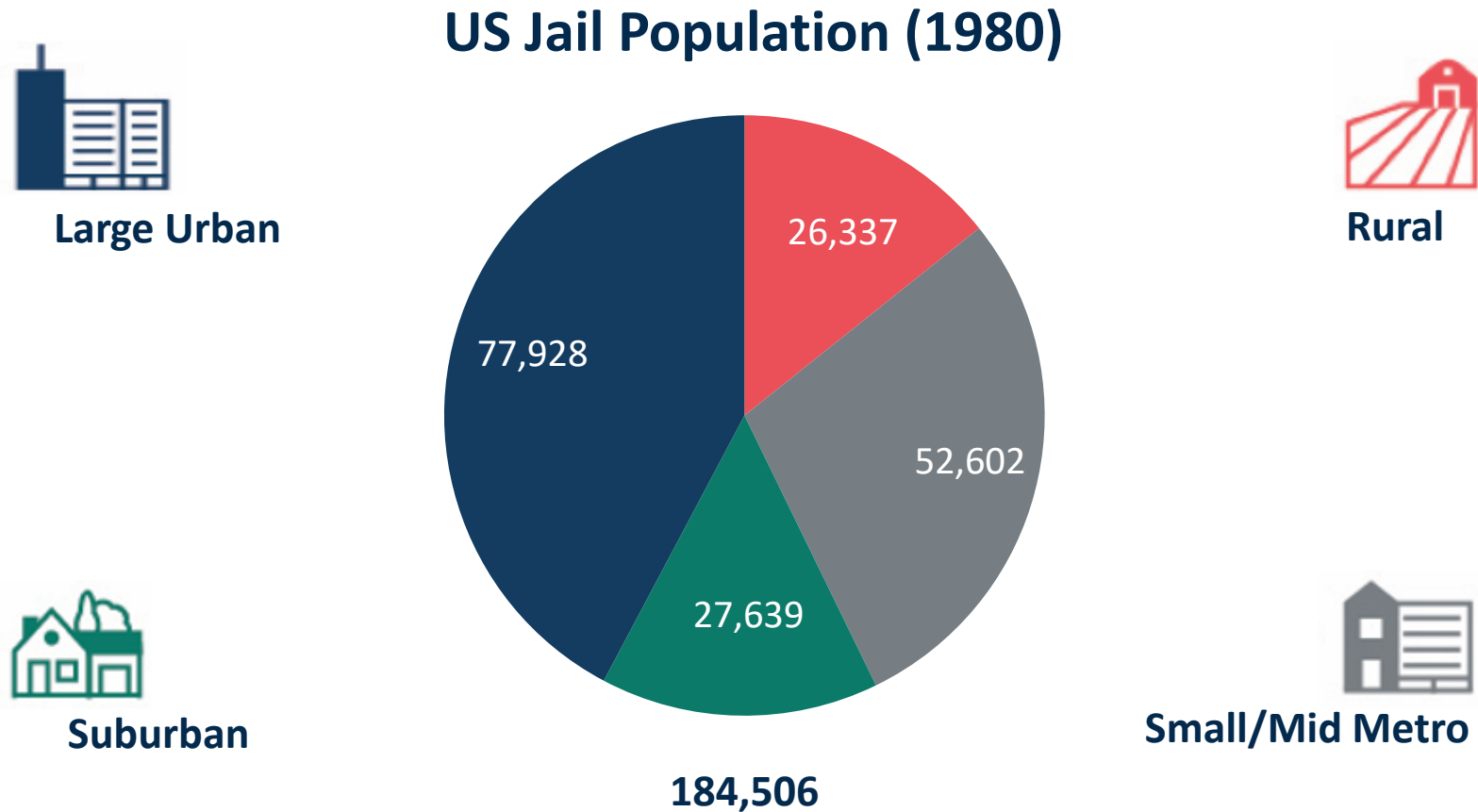


Rural jail incarceration rates now well over **double** urban jail incarceration rates

Data collected from **1,864 counties** in June – July 2018.

2013-2018 change in jail incarceration rates per 100,000 working age residents.

But small numbers in rural areas don't add up to much overall, right?



But small numbers in rural areas don't add up to much overall, right?

US Jail Population (2015)



Large Urban



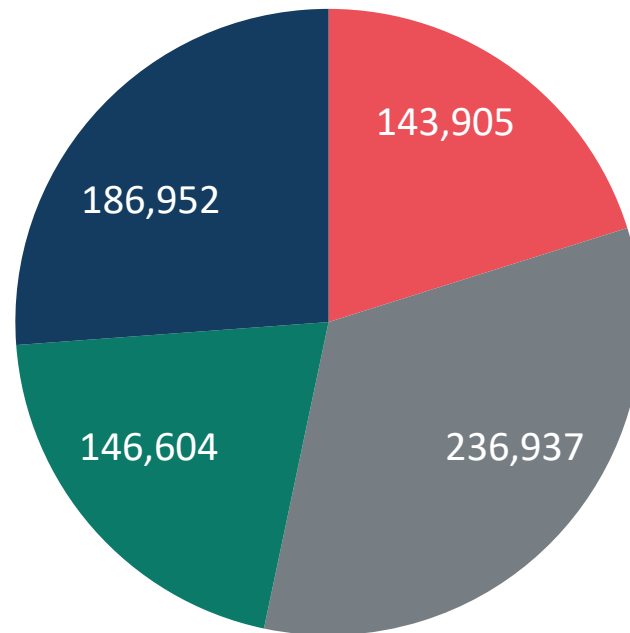
Rural



Suburban

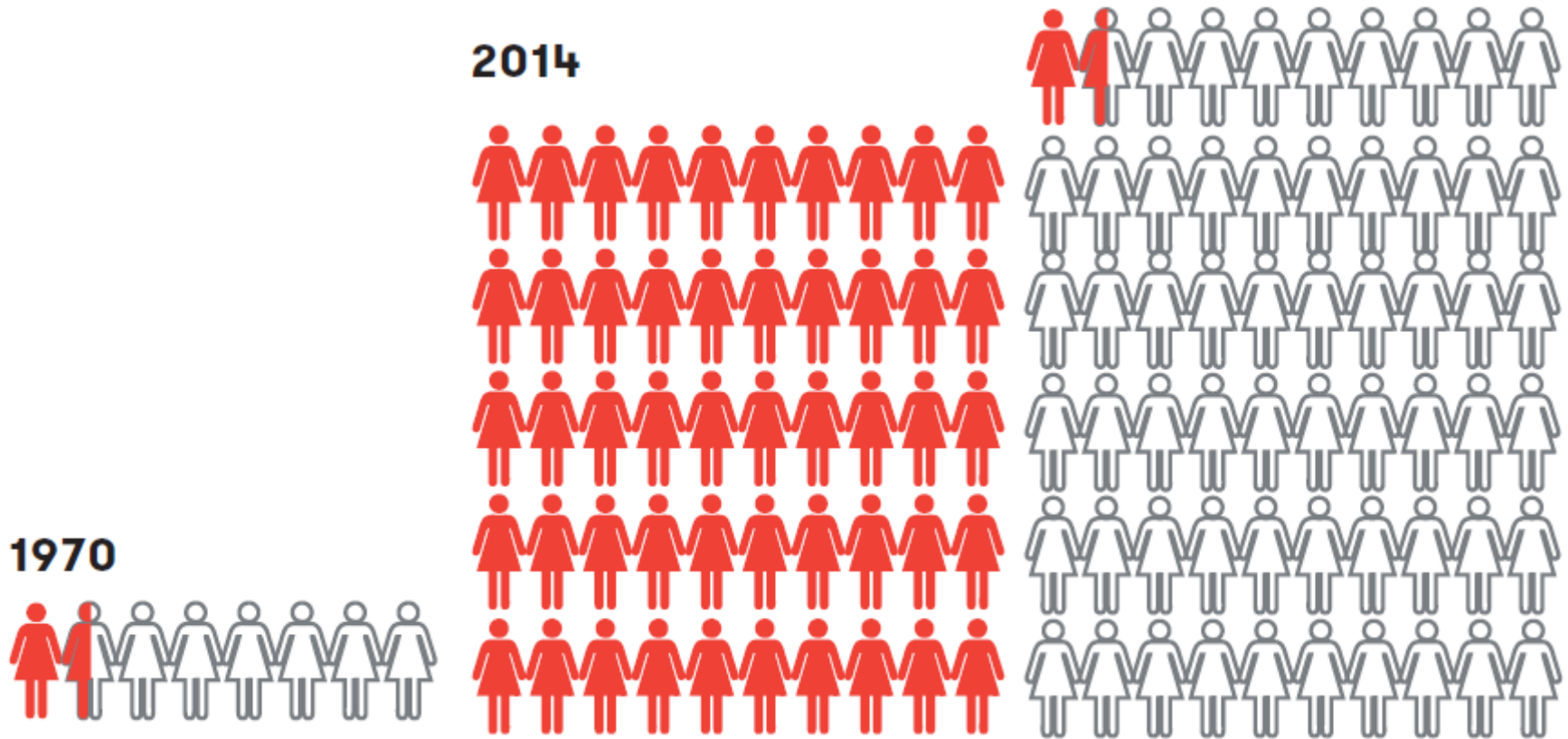


Small/Mid Metro




714,398

Women in small county jails now make up nearly one half of all women in jail

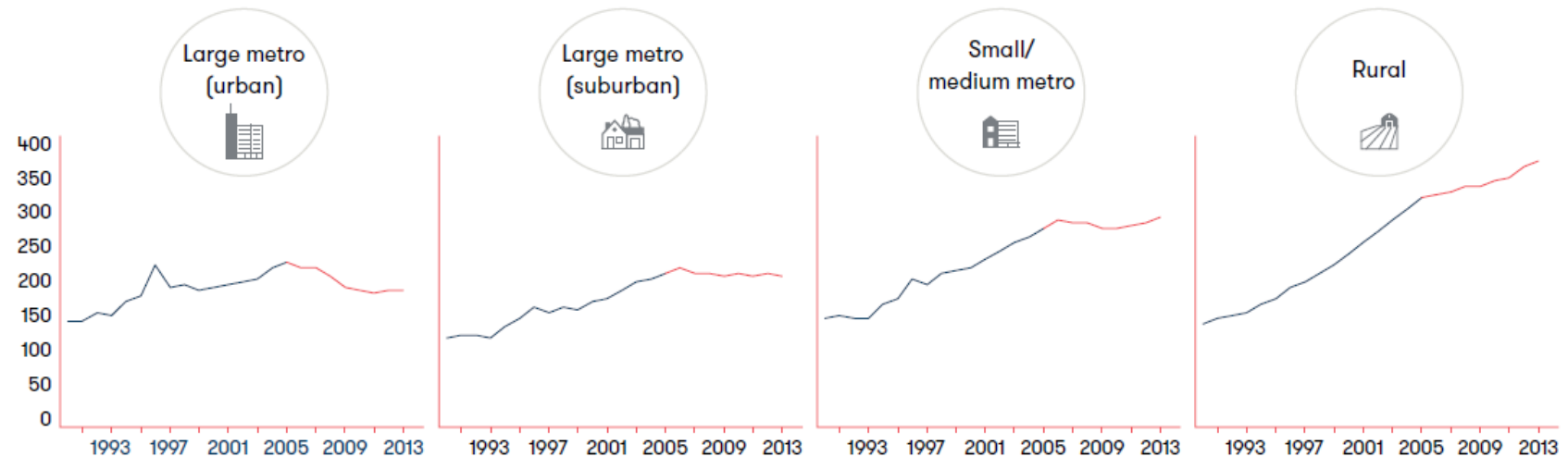


Between 1970 and 2014, the number of women in jails increased from under 8,000 to nearly 110,000. In small counties, the number increased from approximately 1,700 to 51,600.

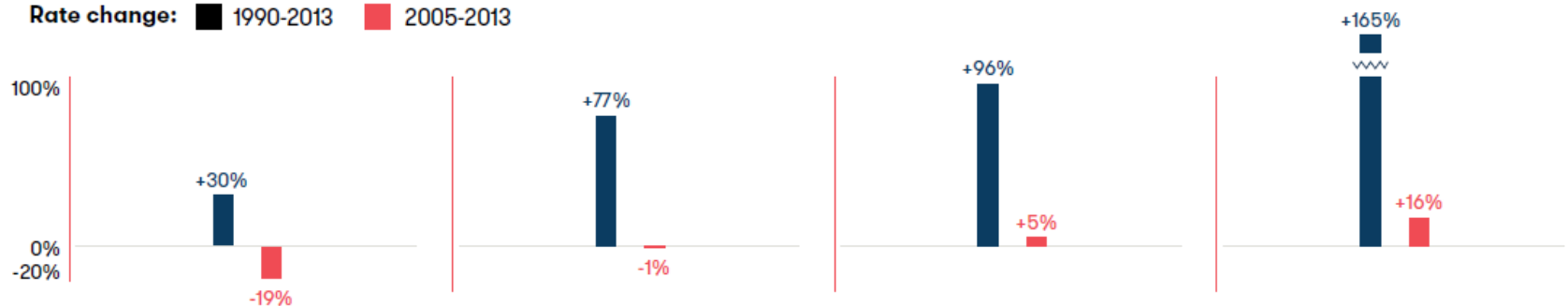
 = 1,000 women in jail

 Women in jail in small counties

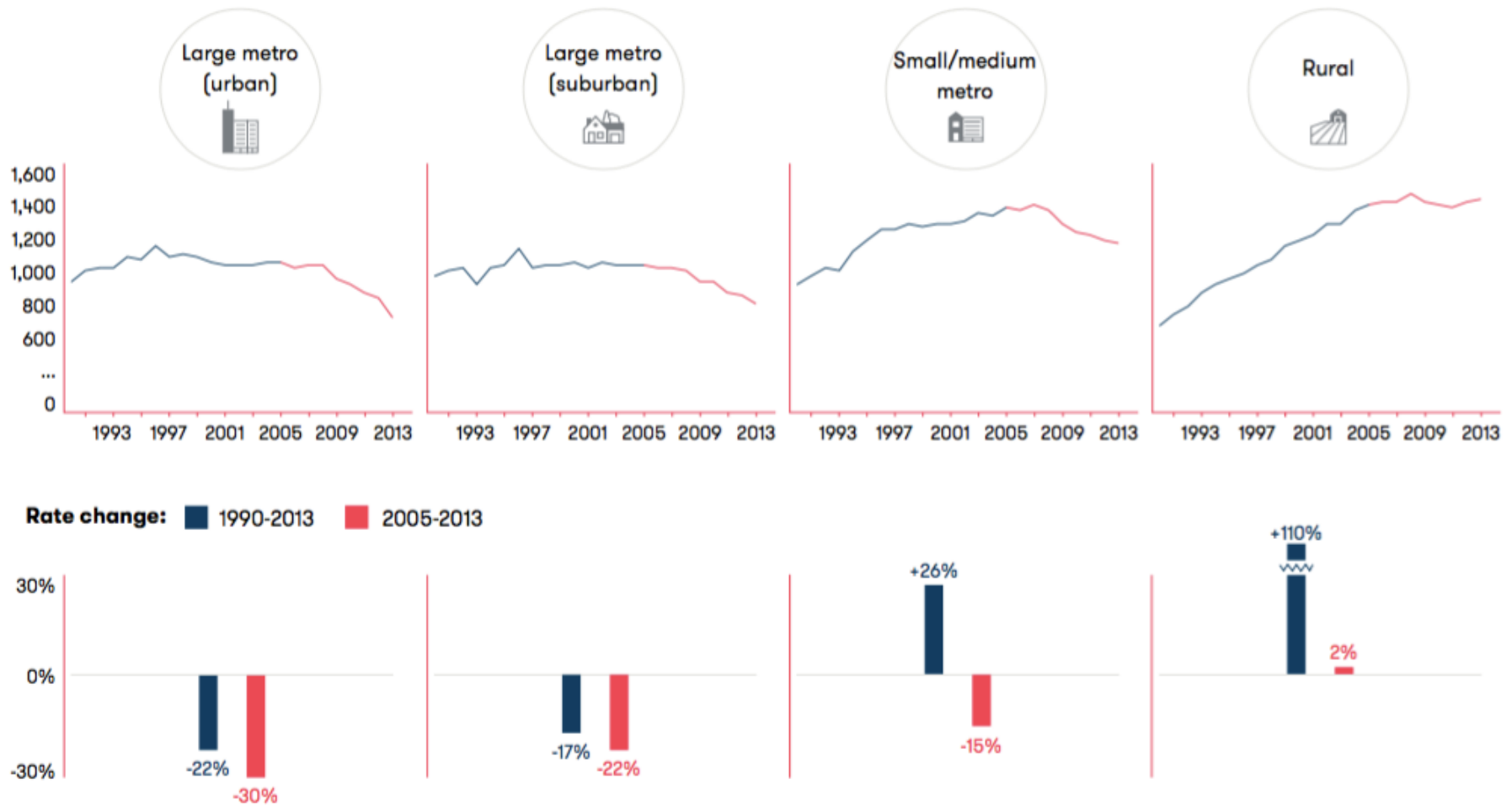
The jail incarceration rate for white people has grown the most in small/rural counties



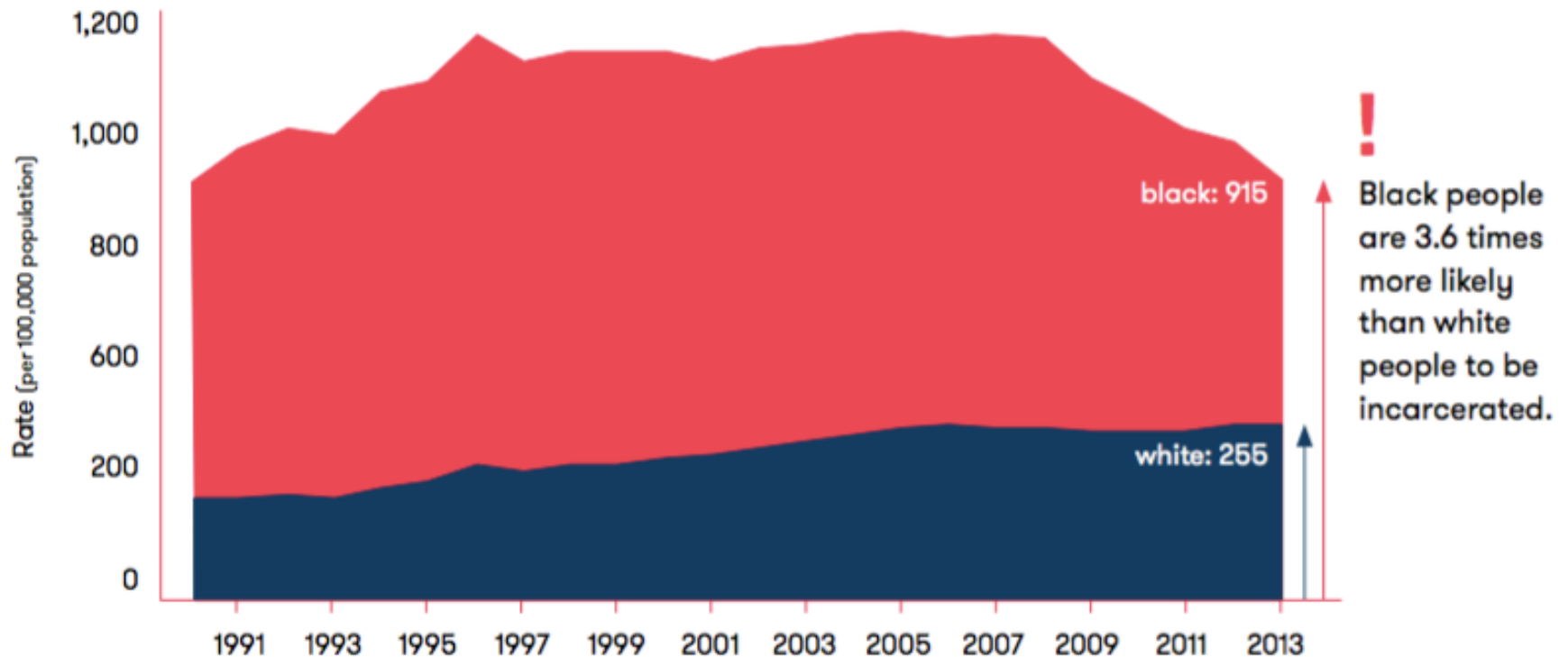
Rate change: ■ 1990-2013 ■ 2005-2013



The jail incarceration rate for black people -- generally the highest -- has not abated in rural counties



Despite recent trends, the jail incarceration rate for black people is 3.6x greater than for white people



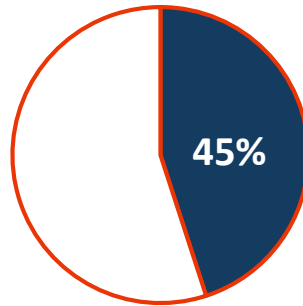
Local attitudes?

Vera/GQRR National Poll (spring 2018)

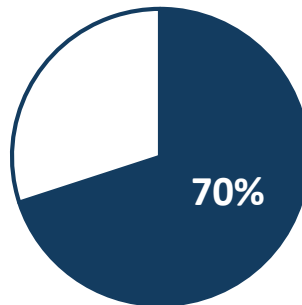


Urban Counties

Incarceration rates in my community are too high.

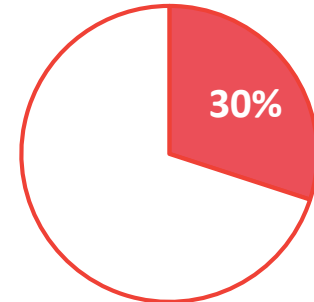


I would be concerned if incarceration rates in my community were higher than in others.

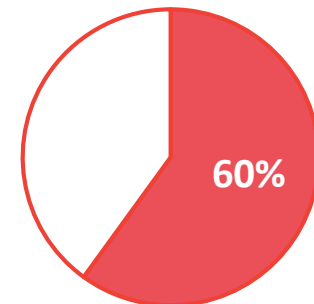


Rural Counties

30%



60%

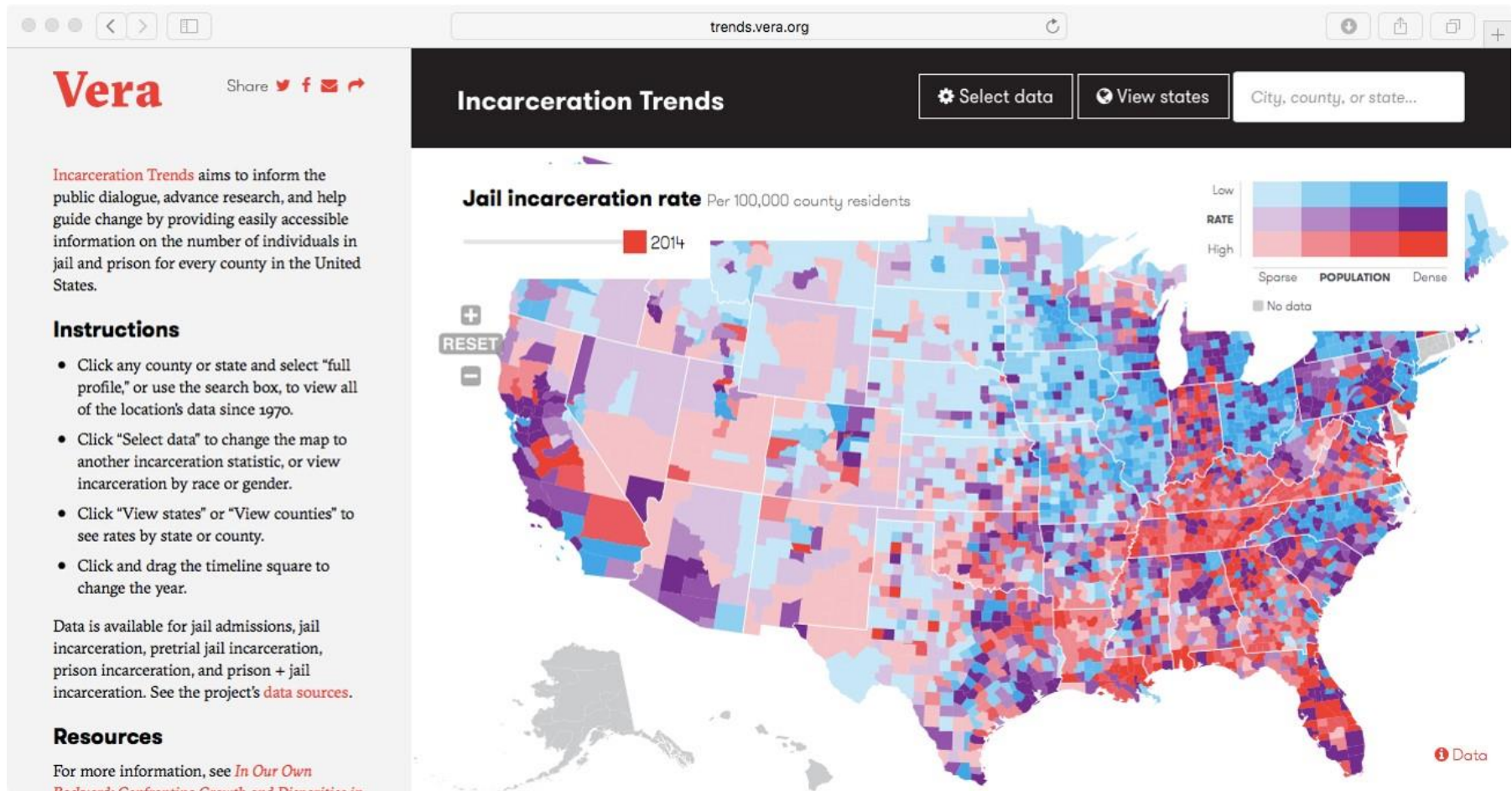


Thinking about Characteristics and Assets of Rural Counties...

- Closer, intertwined personal, social, professional, and system-based relationships – a different kind of discretion?
- Smaller numbers and budgets → different metrics
- Less frequent/consistent presence of CJ institutions (e.g. court hearings) & social services
- Fewer people with many hats & many demands
 - Also more collaboration across sectors and counties
 - More presence of faith and inter-faith groups in social issues
- Relationships with neighboring Native American governments and communities – on and off reservations

Vera's Incarceration Trends Data Tool

trends.vera.org



Thank you!

www.vera.org/rural-jails-research-and-policy-network



SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org