

AAU 

Criminal Justice is a huge, complex & multifaceted subject.

- **We don't have time to talk about all the enormous issues of our day:**
 - a. **Use of Force**
 - b. **Racial justice, racial disparity**
 - c. **Addiction**
 - d. **Mental illness**
 - e. **Lack of Citizen Oversight of Law Enforcement**



Criminal Justice

- **No one has all the answers in this field.**
- **No one sees all aspects of how criminal justice functions.**

More than 1 million women are behind bars or under the control of the criminal justice system in the USA.

- **Women are the fastest growing segment of the incarcerated population.**
- **No, women aren't becoming more criminal (men aren't either).**



Criminal Justice

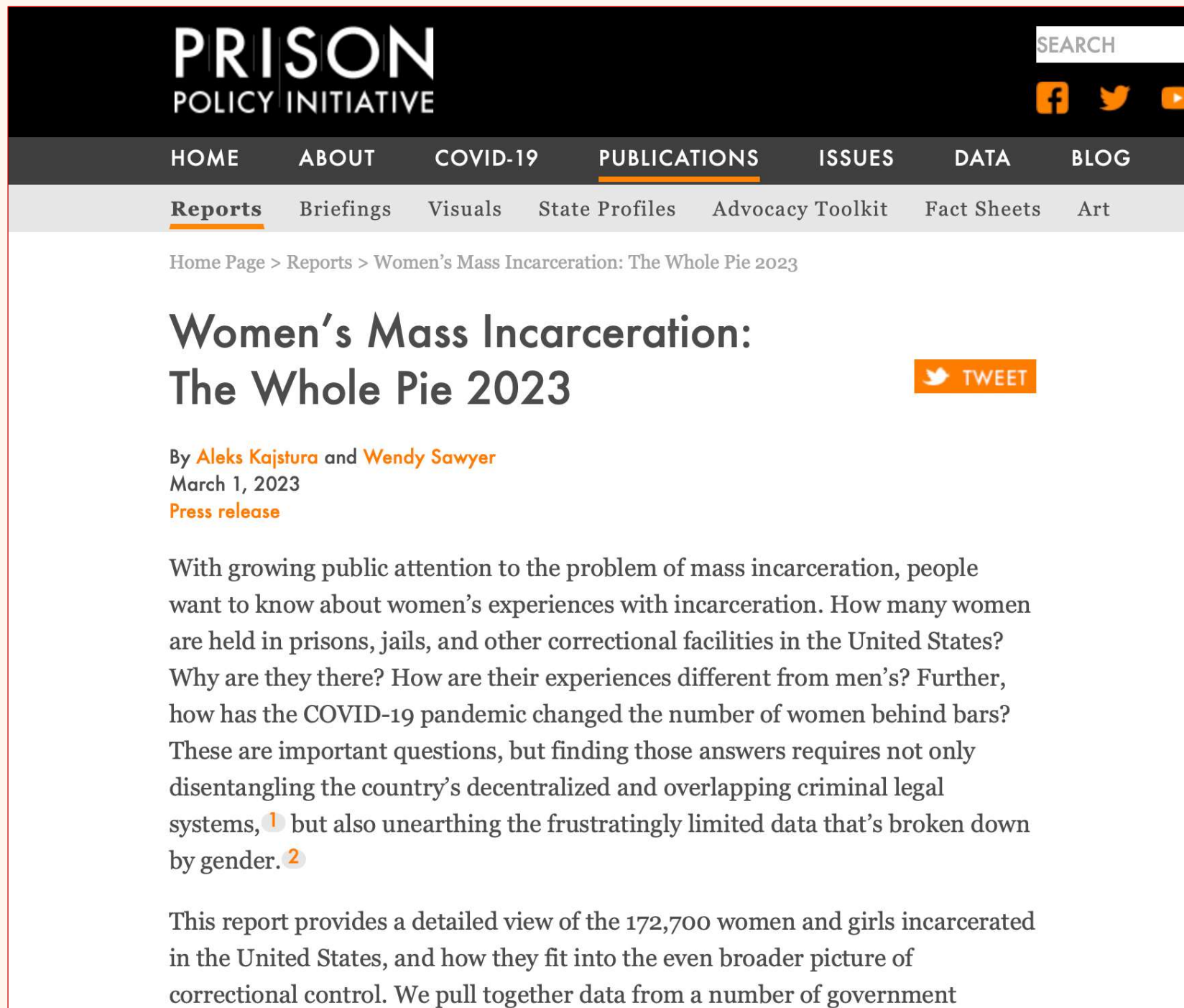
People are incarcerated because of changes in crime policy and what we regard as criminal behavior.

- **The rate of incarceration for violent crimes continues to decline but property offenses and nonviolent drug offenses have increased.**

Be skeptical about criminal justice data - it is incomplete.

- ❖ **In 2022, only 31 out of 881 law enforcement agencies in California provided use of force data.**
- ❖ **In 2021, the FBI estimated that the crime data they posted was from 15 out of 740 law enforcement agencies.**

Sources: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023women.html>



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Prison Policy Initiative website. The logo 'PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE' is on the left, and a search bar is on the right. Below the logo are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'COVID-19', 'PUBLICATIONS' (which is underlined), 'ISSUES', 'DATA', and 'BLOG'. A secondary menu under 'PUBLICATIONS' includes 'Reports' (underlined), 'Briefings', 'Visuals', 'State Profiles', 'Advocacy Toolkit', 'Fact Sheets', and 'Art'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home Page > Reports > Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2023'. The article title 'Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2023' is prominently displayed, with a 'TWEET' button to its right. The authors are listed as 'Aleks Kajstura and Wendy Sawyer', dated 'March 1, 2023', with a 'Press release' tag. The introductory text discusses the growing public attention to mass incarceration and the challenges of finding answers due to decentralized legal systems and limited data.

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Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2023

TWEET

By Aleks Kajstura and Wendy Sawyer
March 1, 2023
[Press release](#)

With growing public attention to the problem of mass incarceration, people want to know about women's experiences with incarceration. How many women are held in prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities in the United States? Why are they there? How are their experiences different from men's? Further, how has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the number of women behind bars? These are important questions, but finding those answers requires not only disentangling the country's decentralized and overlapping criminal legal systems,¹ but also unearthing the frustratingly limited data that's broken down by gender.²

This report provides a detailed view of the 172,700 women and girls incarcerated in the United States, and how they fit into the even broader picture of correctional control. We pull together data from a number of government

Pretrial Detention

Most people in jail are not convicted, but are locked up awaiting trial.

Why?

Many are detained in local jails because they cannot afford to pay the bail amount set to secure their release.

The median bail amount for felonies is \$10,000, which represents 8 months' income for a typical person detained because they can't pay bail.

But jails are not the only places detaining people pretrial. The federal government and other authorities detain another 39,000 people.

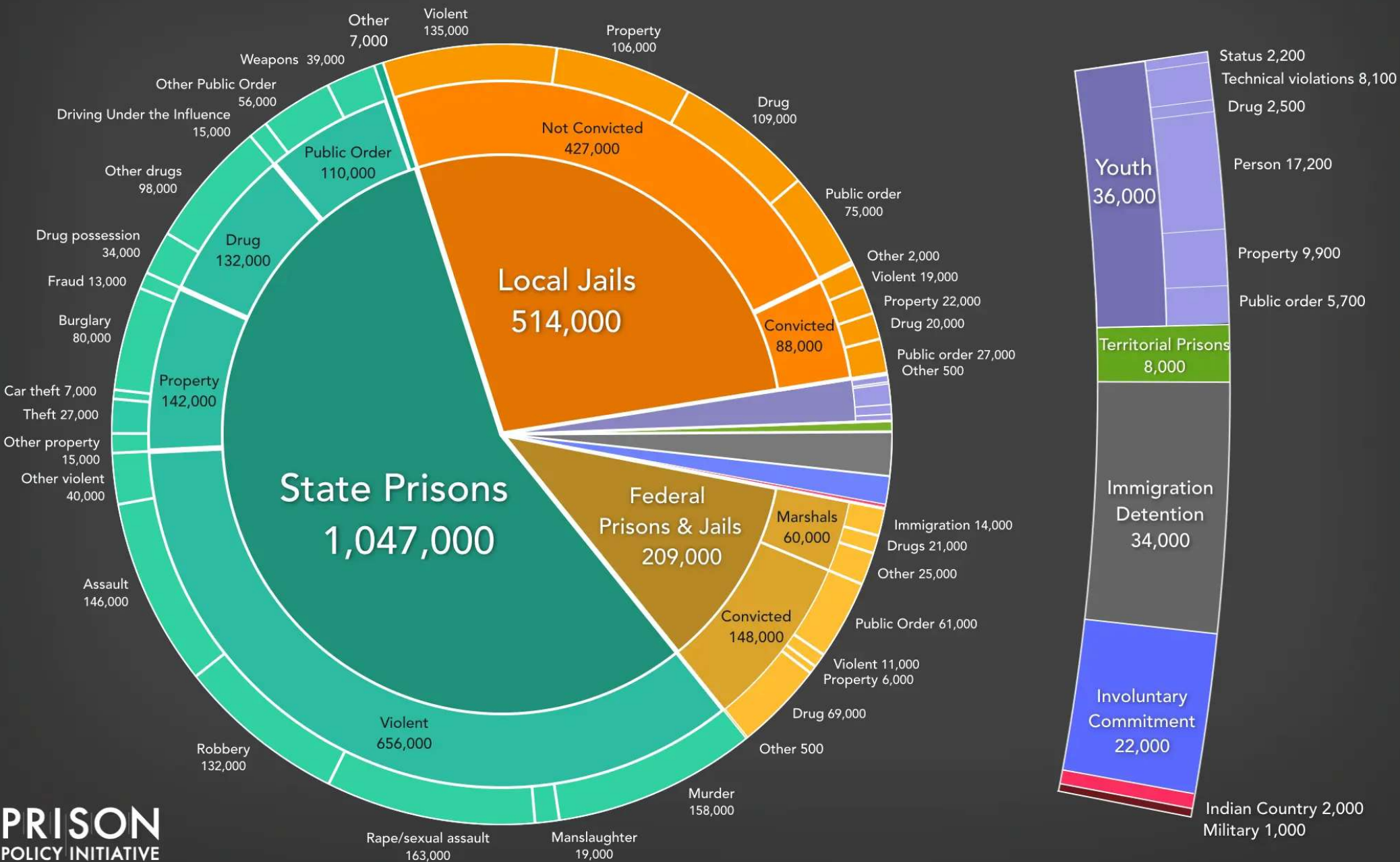


Local jails
427,000

Youth 14,000
Psychiatric evaluation or treatment 9,000
Indian Country 1,000
Federal 15,000

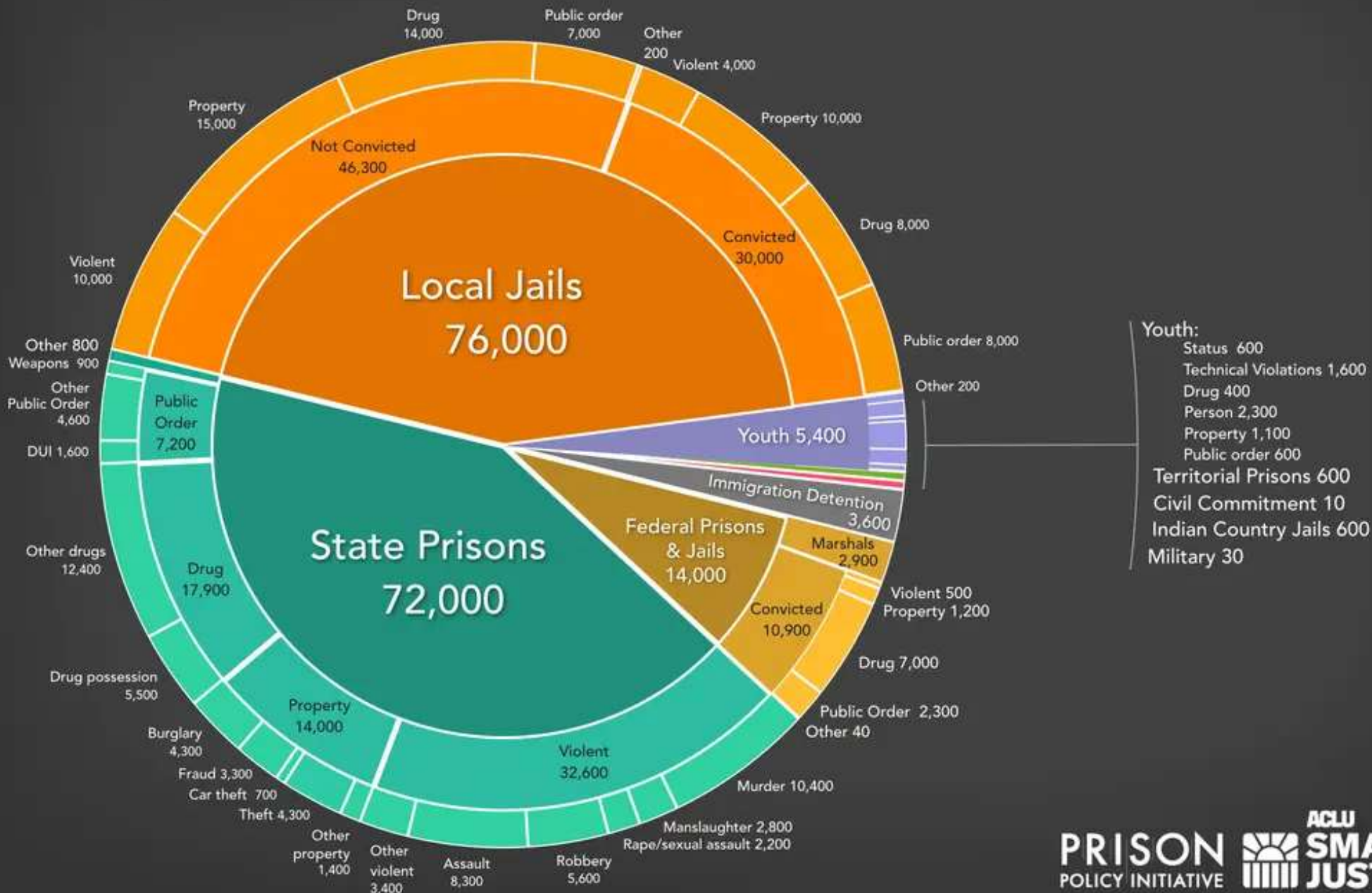
How many people are locked up in the United States?

The U.S. locks up more people per capita than any other nation, at the staggering rate of 565 per 100,000 residents. But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* 1.9 million people are confined nationwide.



How many women are locked up in the United States?

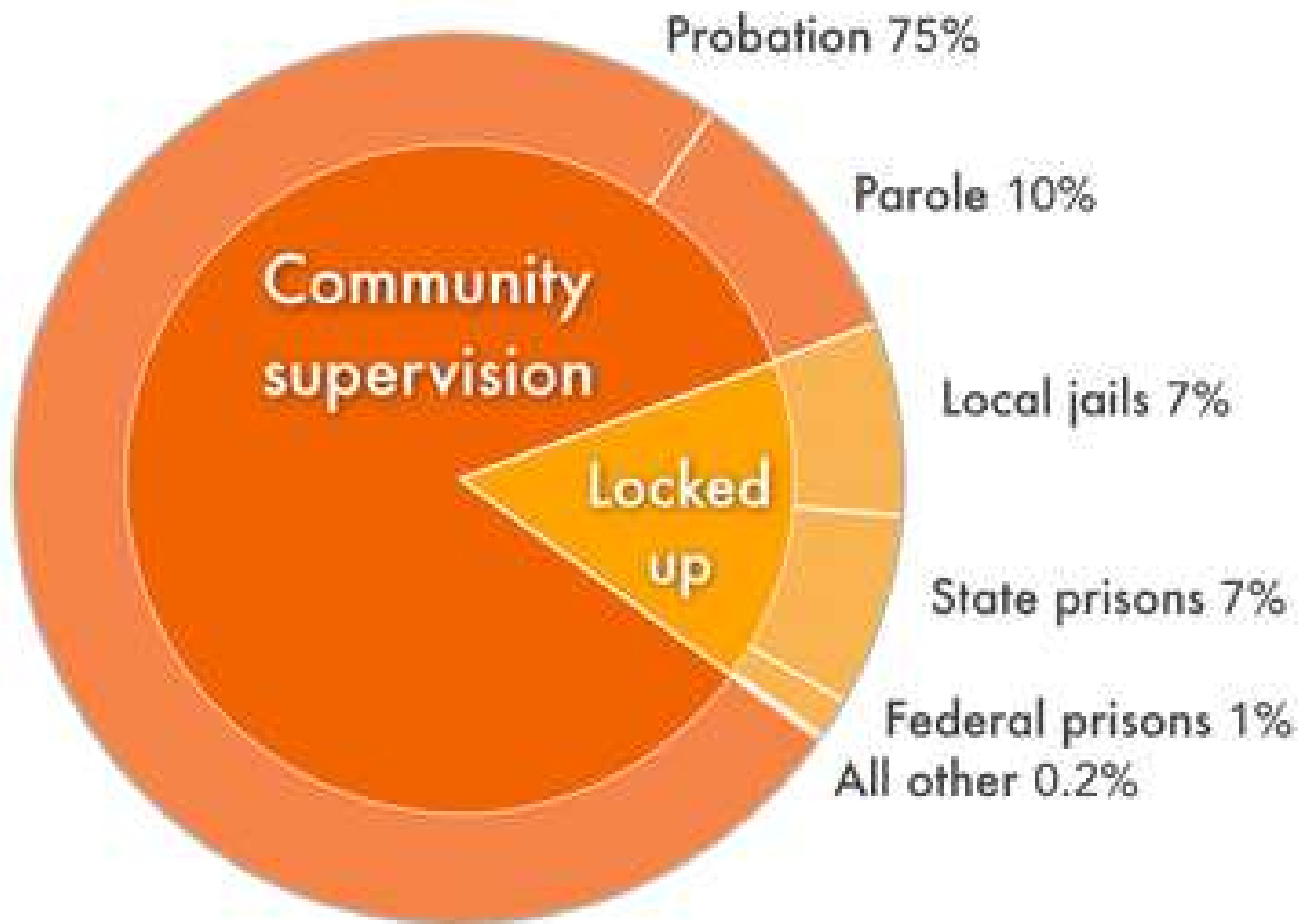
The United States is one of the top incarcerators of women in the world. Changing that will require knowing where the 173,000 incarcerated women fall within our decentralized and overlapping systems of mass incarceration.



Nearly half of incarcerated women are held in jails



Correctional control of women



USA has highest rate of incarceration in the world:

- *127 women per 100,000*

Canada incarcerates about:

- *11 women per 100,000*

USA has 4% of world's female population but,

- **Of all the incarcerated women in the world—**
- **30% of them are incarcerated in the United States.**

Source: Prison Policy Initiative



Characteristics of female offenders

Are there typical characteristics of female offenders?

- **No.**

There is no clear definition of what a female offender looks like or how she might act but,

- **There are 3 fairly common factors often shared by women offenders:**



Characteristics of female offenders

- 1. Victimization - starting in childhood.**
 - 70%-suffer serious violence in young years.**
 - 60% - report sexual abuse.**
 - 92% of all women in prisons report having been battered and abused.**

2. Lack of ‘human capital:’

- **Lack of life skills - capacity and basic knowledge.**
- **Lack of training and experience.**
- **Simply makes life harder & has a domino effect.**
- **May even contribute to criminal behavior.**



Characteristics of female offenders

3. Poverty stricken background:

- Many offenders live in poverty.
- Poverty often leads to repeat offenses.
- Poverty doesn't end when a person is released from jail or prison - it is only amplified.
- Impoverished people can't pay bail, fines or fees.
- Criminal debt cripples families.



Children

What about the children?

- **2/3's of female state prisoners are mothers of a minor child.**
- **1.5 million children have a parent in prison.**
- **More than 8.3 million children have a parent under correctional supervision.**

Source: Fair Punishment Team 2022