

Black people are grossly overrepresented in provincial correctional facilities in Ontario

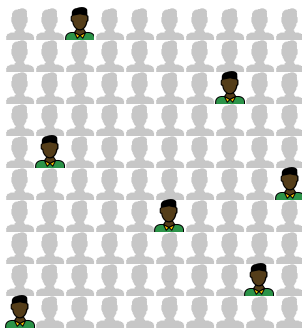
Substantial US evidence has described mass incarceration and its inequitable health and social impacts on Black Americans. While structural racism profoundly impacts the lives of Black people in Canada, we lack systematic data on incarceration rates by race. We used population-based data for 45,956 males and 6,357 females who were in custody in provincial correctional facilities in Ontario in 2010 to explore the overrepresentation of Black people.

Key findings:

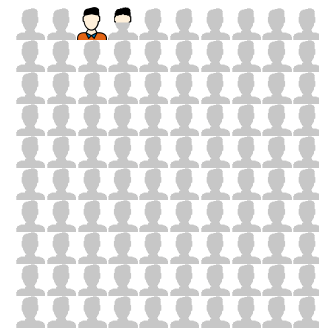
- Compared with White people, Black males were **5.3 times** as likely and Black females were **2.7 times** as likely to be incarcerated in 2010.
- Compared with others who were incarcerated in 2010, a higher proportion of Black males (44%) and Black females (47%) came from low-income neighbourhoods, highlighting the profound relationship between poverty and incarceration for Black people.
- **1 in 14** Black males aged 18 to 34 spent any time in a provincial correctional facility during 2010.



7.1% of Black males aged 18-34 experienced incarceration in Ontario in 2010



1.4% of White males aged 18-34 experienced incarceration in Ontario in 2010



Bottom line:

Black males and females are substantially overrepresented in provincial correctional facilities, and a large proportion of Black males in Ontario experience incarceration each year.

Evidence-based action is urgently needed to prevent exposure to criminogenic factors for Black people and to address the inequitable treatment of Black people within the criminal justice system.

Read the full article:

Owusu-Bempah A, Jung M, Sbaï F, Wilton AS, Kouyoumdjian F. [Race and Incarceration: The Representation and Characteristics of Black People in Provincial Correctional Facilities in Ontario, Canada](#). Race and Justice 2021.

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