



WOMEN & INCARCERATION

Vermont



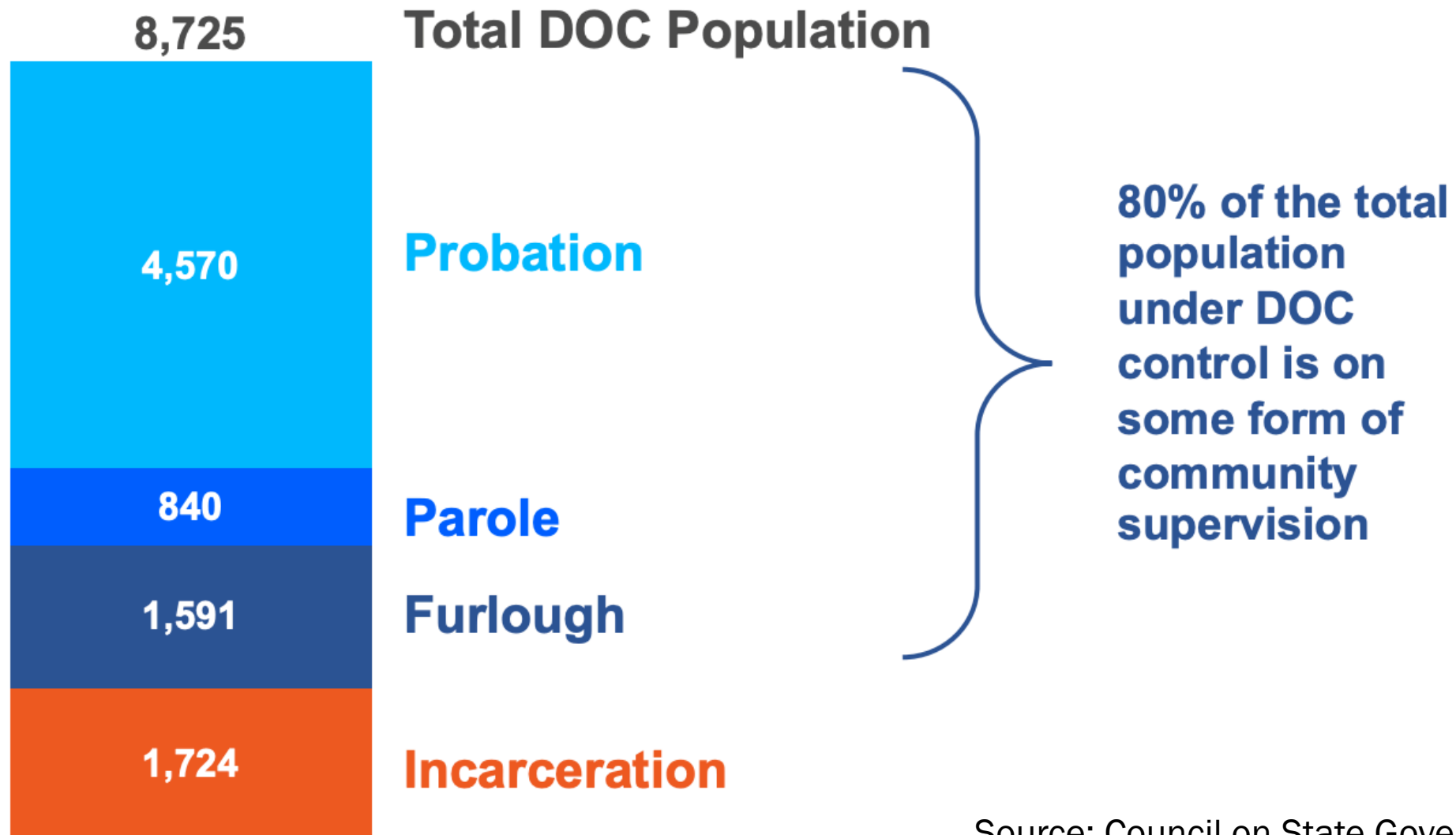
VT's Correctional Facilities

5 male prisons:

Swanton, Newport, St. Johnsbury,
Rutland, Springfield

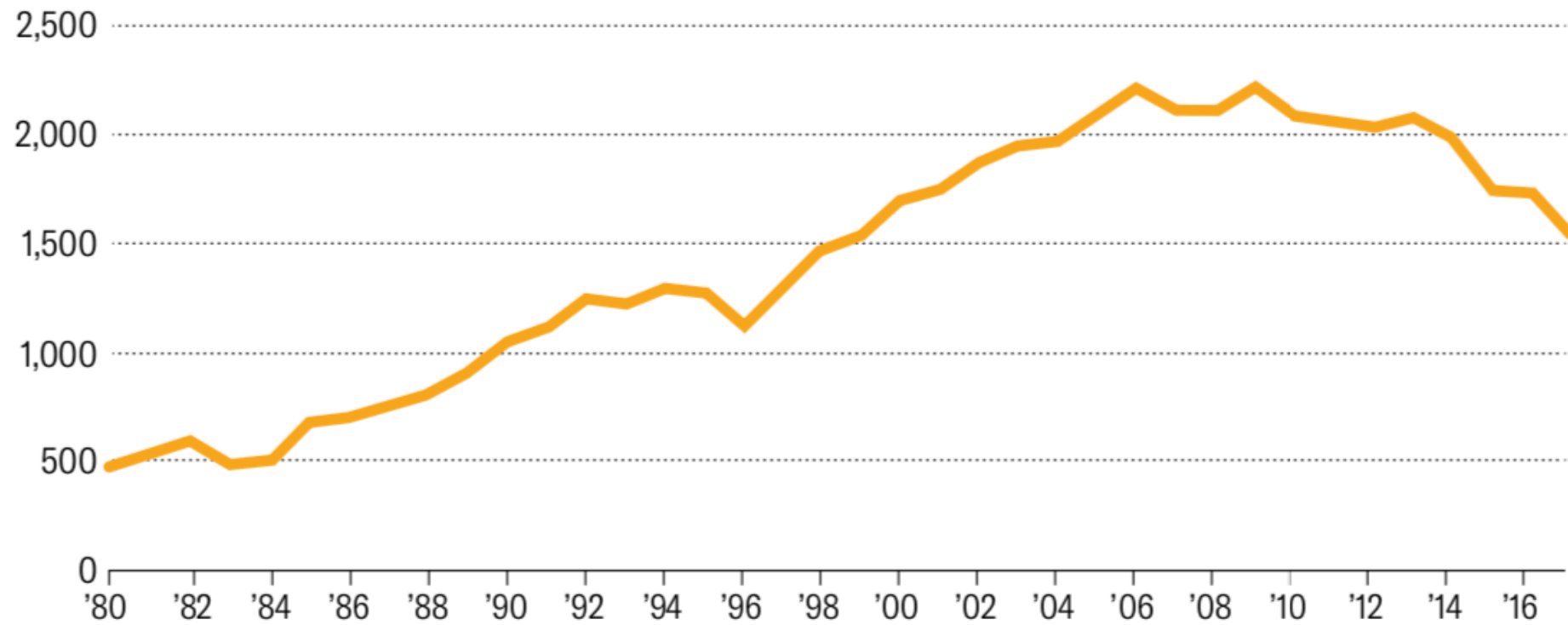
1 female prison:

Chittenden Regional Correctional
Facility, So. Burlington



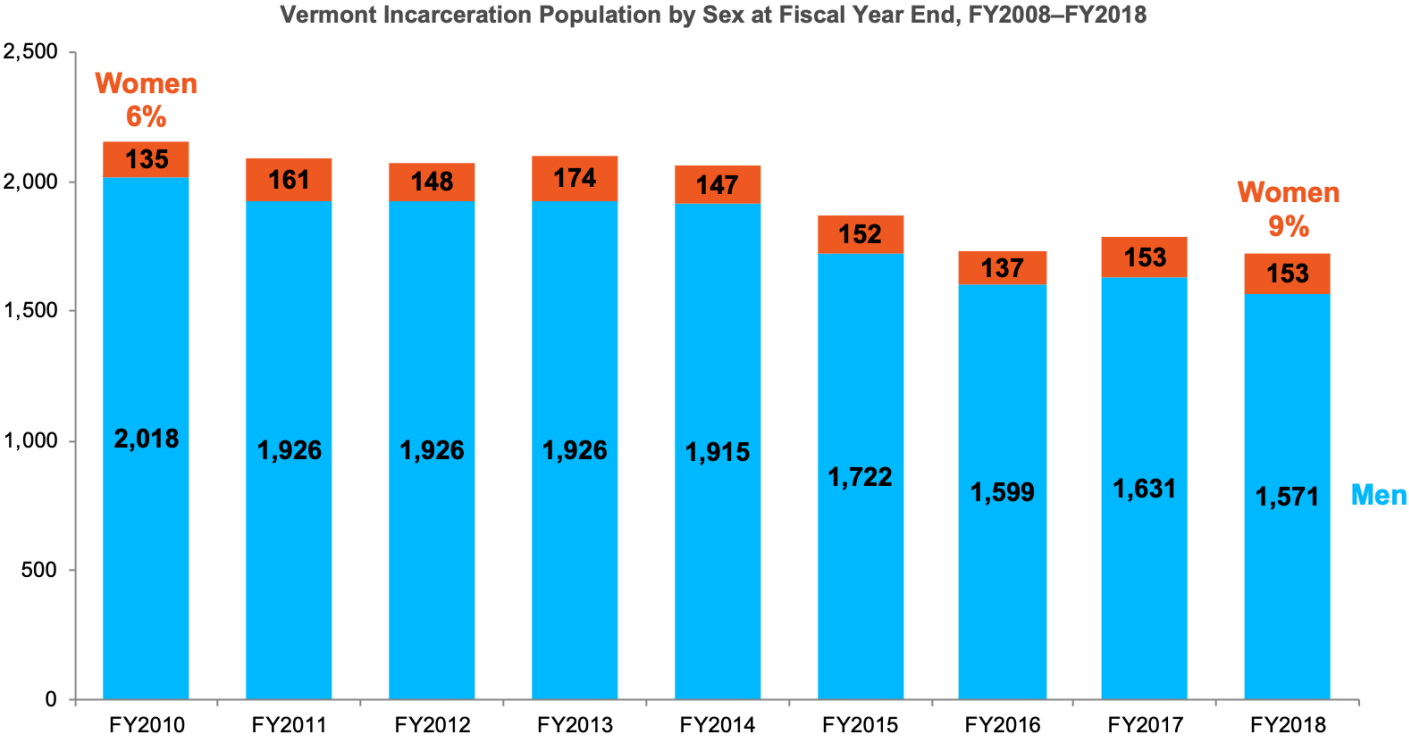
Source: Council on State Governments

VERMONT INCARCERATED POPULATION (1980-2016)



Source: ACLU Smart Justice

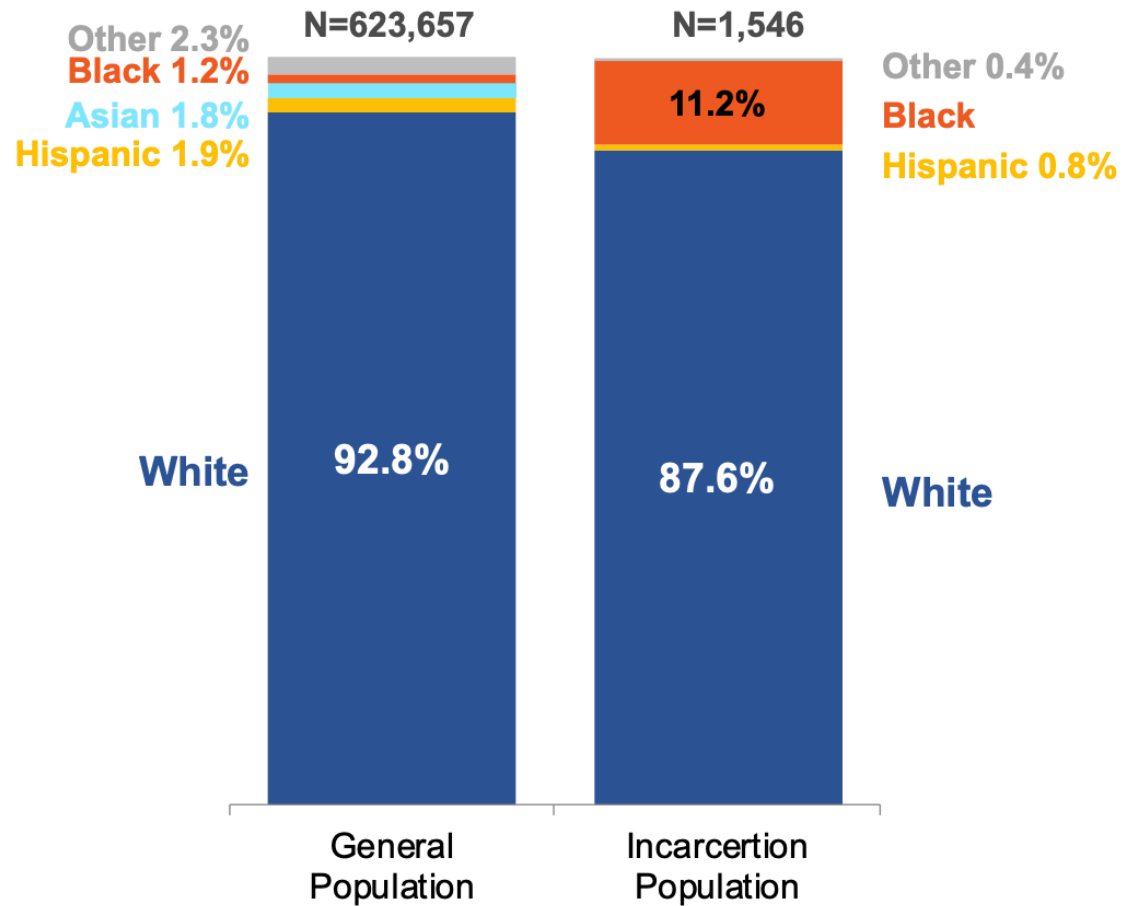
The proportion of women incarcerated in Vermont has increased, while the number of men in jail and prison has decreased.



Sources: Vermont Department of Corrections.

Source: Council on State Governments

Vermont General Population and Incarceration
 Snapshot Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



- As of 2017, the incarceration rate for black people in Vermont was nearly 10 times that of the incarceration rate for white people.
- In 2017, the legislature established the Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel to further examine this issue, and in 2019 Governor Scott appointed the state's first Racial Equity Executive Director.

Source: Council on State Governments

Women's unique pathways –

Dr. Stephanie Covington

- Gender matters
- Sexual/domestic violence;
human trafficking
- Trauma/mental illness
- Substance misuse
- Crimes of survival

Women's Caucus – composition

- Legislators from House & Senate
- VT Commission on Women
- Advocates: VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence:
ACLU; VT'ers for Criminal Justice Reform;
state employees

Women's Caucus –

biennium focus: women & incarceration

- Educational deep-dive
- Listening session at CRCF (Feb.)
- Tour & mtg w/ DOC at SSCF (Sept.)
- Strategy-setting meeting (Oct.)
- Fridays at noon, Ethan Allen Room

Justice Reinvestment I

Council on State Governments – 2007

- Method:
 - data-driven, evidence-based approach
 - analyze data & engage stakeholders
- Aim
 - reduce corrections spending
 - reinvest savings in new policies
- Outcome
 - reduce recidivism
 - increase public safety

Justice Reinvestment I

reinvestment legislation

- Transitional housing; electronic monitoring; substance misuse treatment in prisons (2009-2013)
- Statewide definition of recidivism; investment in programs with outcomes (2011)
- Statewide pretrial services (2014)
- Medication-assisted treatment expanded (2018)

Justice Reinvestment II

August – December 2019

- Certain categories of violent crime & recidivism rates are increasing
- State's pretrial population continues to rise
- Prison facilities above design capacity
- Community supervision (80%) – impact & nature of supervision revocations not clear
- CRCF & NWSCF facilities in decline
- Policymakers need more nuanced data

Blueprint for Smart Justice

Vermont



- Reducing admissions
- Expanding alternatives
- Expanding treatment for mental health & substance use disorders
- Eliminating of cash bail
- Prosecutorial reform
- Decarcerate women
- Reduce P&P revocations
- Improve community supervision
- Increase data collection to reduce racial disparities



Maine Department of Corrections

Women's Reentry Center





Beginning Oct.
10 at CRCF!