The United States incarcerates more people than anywhere else in the world. The numbers are disheartening for the country and for Allegheny County, where Pittsburgh is the regional center. That’s especially the case when looking at racial disparities and at those incarcerated without having been convicted of a crime.

**Behind the Bars**

The United States incarcerates 698 people per 100,000 residents, for a current total of **2.3 million**.

**Source:** Prison Policy Initiative

612,000 of those incarcerated individuals are in local jails rather than state or federal prisons. Of that group, 462,000, or **75%**, are in pre-trial detention and have not been convicted of a crime.

**Source:** Prison Policy Initiative

**75%**

Black Americans are incarcerated at **six times** the rate of whites.

**Source:** University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Report—"Criminal Justice in the 21st Century: Improving Incarceration Policies and Practices in Allegheny County"

On any given day more than **80,000** Pennsylvanians are in prison or jail. Nearly 25% of Pennsylvania’s prisoners are in jail awaiting trial and haven’t been convicted. **Half** of the state’s prisoners are black, even though only **11%** of the state’s population is black.

**Source:** Pennsylvania Prison Society

**50% | 11%**

**750,000** people with disabilities are incarcerated in America.

**Source:** RespectAbility.org

The current Allegheny County Jail opened in 1995 with a capacity to hold 1,850, and a daily population was about 1,450. Today the average population is about **2,321**, 60% more than when the jail opened.

**Source:** Allegheny County Department of Human Services