In **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**, incarceration trends reveal significant disparities based on race. Let’s delve into the data:

1. **Local Incarceration Rates**:
   * The number of people in jail is influenced by decisions made by local law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole officers, and the implementation of local, state, and federal laws.
   * Locally elected officials have the power to reduce jail populations by changing enforcement priorities, reducing pretrial detention, pursuing alternatives to incarceration, and ending contracts to hold people for other agencies.
   * The **number of people incarcerated per 100,000 residents ages 15 to 64** in Allegheny County has evolved over time. Here’s a glimpse:
     + In **1970**, the rate was approximately **250**.
     + By **2020**, it had increased to around **1,250**.
   * [The **sentenced population** includes individuals serving sentences in local jails, typically for misdemeanor or low-level felony convictions1](https://trends.vera.org/state/pa/county/allegheny_county/).
2. **Women’s Incarceration**:
   * The number of women held in local jails has grown significantly over the last few decades, surpassing rates of growth for men.
   * Women in custody face unique challenges, including trauma, unmet mental and physical health needs, single motherhood, and coming from low-income communities of color.
   * The charts below illustrate women’s jail population and admission counts and rates in Allegheny County since **1970**:
     + **Jail population**: Ranging from **0 to 175 per 100,000 residents**.
     + [**Jail admissions**: Varying from **0 to 2,500**](https://trends.vera.org/state/pa/county/allegheny_county/)[1](https://trends.vera.org/state/pa/county/allegheny_county/).
3. **Racial Disparities in Incarceration**:
   * Black people experience harsher treatment than white people at every stage of the criminal legal process.
   * Consequently, people of color, especially Black individuals, are incarcerated at significantly higher rates than white people in jails and prisons across the country.
   * Let’s compare the proportion of people in jail from each racial group against their share of the general resident population in Allegheny County:
     + **Black/African American**: Represents **64%** of the jail population but constitutes only **13%** of the general population.
     + **White**: Makes up **33%** of the jail population and **78%** of the general population.
     + [**Asian American/Pacific Islander**, **Latinx**, and **Native American** populations also exhibit disparities](https://trends.vera.org/state/pa/county/allegheny_county/)[1](https://trends.vera.org/state/pa/county/allegheny_county/).

These statistics highlight the urgent need for equitable reforms in the criminal justice system to address racial disparities and promote fairness and justice for all.