

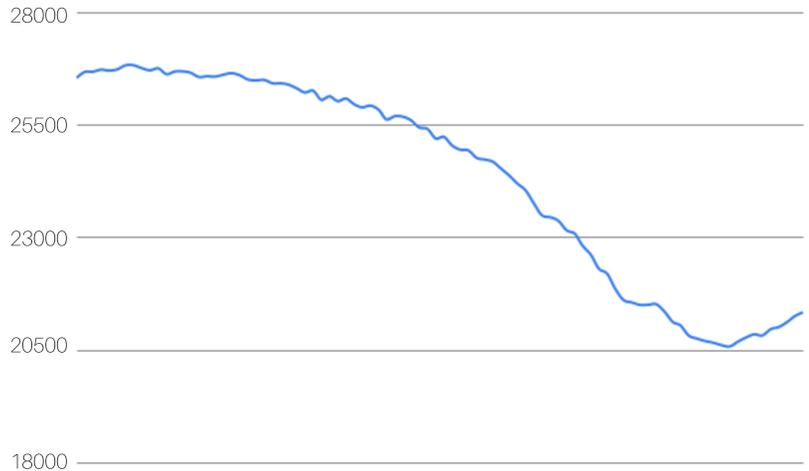


ALABAMA PRISON FACTS

There is a prison crisis in Alabama.

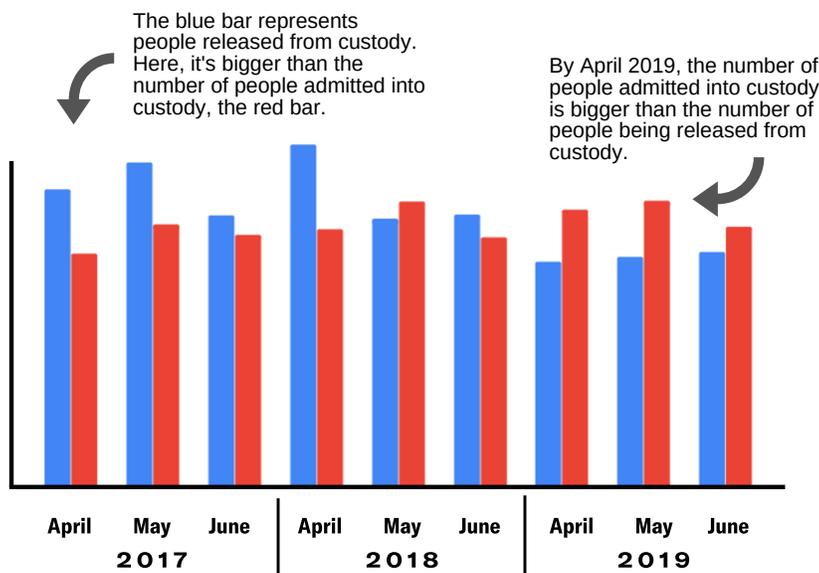
- Alabama prisons are the **most violent** in the nation.
- State prisons are currently **over 160 percent capacity**, and are severely understaffed.
- It costs an **average of \$60 a day** to incarcerate each person in Alabama prisons, which is **over \$22,000 a year**. It costs twice as much to incarcerate someone over 50.
- In 2018, **ADOC spent \$495 million** to incarcerate approximately 26,000 people. That money could instead fund public health, economic development, child development, mental health services and Medicaid.

ALABAMA PRISON POPULATION, IN-CUSTODY
January 2012 - June 2019



After five years of declines, Alabama's prison population has steadily increased since August 2018.

As of April 2019, there are more people entering ADOC custody than there are exiting.



	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019
YTD admissions	4214	4683	4961
YTD releases	5040	5339	4308

*figure data from ADOC Monthly Statistics Reports

For more information about the coalition, our sentencing recommendations, or these facts, please visit our website at alabamafairjustice.org.

Convictions for drug crimes are a major contributor to prison admissions.

- Drug offenses currently account for **more new prison admissions** than any other type of crime.
- Alabama spends **\$22 million per year** enforcing marijuana possession laws.
- Drug possession and distribution are the **top two convictions** that result in new prison admissions in Alabama.
- Possession cases alone account for **30% of all convictions**.

How do we fix it?

Modify marijuana laws and controlled substance laws.

Alabama must address drug addiction as a matter of public health concern, rather than with a punitive reaction.

Longer sentences keep our prisons unnecessarily overcrowded.

- Almost half (46.7%) of the people incarcerated in Alabama are serving sentences of **20 years or longer**.
- 45% of the people incarcerated in AL prisons are **over 40 years old**.
- Close to **500 people are serving sentences of life without parole** for non-homicide crimes under Alabama's habitual felony offender law.
- **1 in 4 people** in Alabama prisons are serving life or life without parole.
- Alabama has the **highest per capita death sentencing rate** in the nation.

How do we fix it?

Repeal or modify the Habitual Felony Offender Act, make guidelines fully retroactive, and redefine "violent offenses."

Alabama must recognize that lengthy sentences are costly, harmful, and ineffective, and shift priorities towards restorative justice, rehabilitative programming and accountability.

Alabama's prison population disproportionately impacts Black people.

- Black men and women make up **over half of Alabama's prison population**, even though only 26% of Alabama's overall population is Black.
- **1 in 30 Black men** was imprisoned in Alabama as of 2017.

How do we fix it?

Modify laws that are used to disproportionately target and profile Black communities, such as drug and property theft laws.