

# READING INVISIBLE NO MORE FACT SHEET

Some of the facts and stats contained in *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color* are included in the study guide in sections called “The Numbers.” Many more can be found in this fact sheet! For sources and citations, please see the endnotes to the book.

## PATTERNS OF POLICING AND INCARCERATION

- × **More than 2.2 million women were arrested in 2014**, making up a quarter of all arrests.
- × **The women’s prison population has increased 700% since the 1970s**, and the population of women in jails has increased 14 times over the same period.
- × **The women’s prison population has increased at a rate 50% greater than the men’s population** over the same period.
- × **Black women** continue to be **incarcerated at twice the rate of white women**.
- × **Two-thirds of women in local jails are women of color:** 44% Black, 15% Latinx, and 5% other women of color.
- × **Drug, property, and public-order offenses are responsible for 60 percent of the women in state prisons;** the remaining 38 percent have been convicted of violent offenses, often in self-defense in the context of family or gender-based violence. In local jails across the country, 32 percent of women are being held for property offenses, 29 percent for drug offenses, and 21 percent for public-order offenses.
- × **Drug use and drug selling occur at similar rates across racial and ethnic groups, yet black and Latina women are more likely to be criminalized for drug law violations than white women.** Black, Latinx, and Indigenous women make up a grossly disproportionate share of women incarcerated for drug offenses, even though whites are nearly five times as likely as Blacks to use marijuana and three times as likely as Blacks to have used crack.
- × **From 2010 to 2014, women’s drug arrests increased by 9 percent** while men’s decreased by 7.5 percent.

## POLICING GIRLS

- × **The rate at which students are charged with lower-level offenses more than doubles** when a school has regular contact with a “school resource officer.”
- × **Black girls make up 16% of the population of girls in schools, but 37% of arrests and 43% of referrals to law enforcement.**
- × **Nationally Native students are three times as likely as white students to be referred to law enforcement.** In Utah, Native students from kindergarten to sixth grade were referred to law enforcement more frequently than any other group. They were also four times as likely as other students of color to be arrested at school and six times as likely as white students.
- × **Native young women are nearly five times more likely than white girls to be detained in juvenile facilities,** largely the result of arrests for minor and family offenses.

## POLICING DISABILITY

- × **A third to a half of all people killed by police are disabled.** According to one advocacy group the risk of being killed by police is 16 times greater for individuals with untreated mental illness than for other people.
- × **Arrest rates among recipients of public mental health services are four and a half times those in the general population;** most of these arrests are for “public nuisance” offenses.

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### POLICE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- × According to The Buffalo News, **between 2005 and 2015 a law enforcement official was caught in an act of sexual misconduct every 5 days.** In more than 70% of cases, officers targeted motorists, crime victims, informants, students and young people in job-shadowing programs.
- × **A study of young women in New York City found that almost two in five young women described sexual harassment by police officers.** Thirty-eight percent were Black, 39 percent Latinx, and 13 percent Asian or Pacific Islander.
- × Two studies conducted in 2002 and 2003 found that 40% of cases of police **sexual misconduct reported in the media involved teenagers**, and 34% took place in the context of a traffic stop.
- × **A decade-long study of police sexual violence found that 41.5% of cases involved a repeat offender**, who had targeted four people on average, and had between two and twenty-one prior allegations of police sexual violence.
- × **In 2002 there were 400 cases of sexual misconduct by police officers** and only 25% resulted in any sanction for the officers responsible.
- × Studies of revocations of **law enforcement licenses in Missouri and Florida found that sexual misconduct was the basis for revocations in almost 25 percent of cases.**
- × According to the Associated Press, **a thousand officers nationwide lost their licenses between 2009 and 2014 as a result of their sexual misconduct.**
- × **A quarter of Latinx immigrant trans women surveyed in Los Angeles, the majority of whom were undocumented, reported sexual assault by law enforcement agents**, primarily police officers and undercover.
- × **A 2014 study found that 59% of transgender respondents had been asked for sex by police**, compared with 12% of cisgender respondents. 43% of respondents of color had been asked for sex by police, compared with 11% of white respondents.

### POLICING GENDER

- × **More than half of transgender participants in the 2015 US Transgender Survey who interacted with officers who knew the participants were transgender reported some form of violence or abuse by police. Native trans women were most likely to report police violence, followed by Black trans women and multiracial trans women.** In studies conducted in New York and Los Angeles, more than half to two-thirds of respondents reported verbal or physical abuse by police, with Black, Native and Latinx trans respondents consistently reporting abuse at higher rates.
- × **30% of Black trans women, 25% of Latinx trans women, 23% of Native trans women, and 20% of Asian trans women** who participated in the 2015 National Transgender Survey and **reported interactions with police who knew they were transgender described being profiled as being engaged in prostitution.**

### POLICING SEX

- × **85% of people charged for loitering for purposes of prostitution in New York City between 2012 and 2015 were Black and Latinx**, despite the fact that these groups make up only 54 percent of the city's population.
- × **Half of Black transgender respondents to the 2015 US Transgender Survey who were or were perceived to be involved in the sex trades were arrested**, reporting higher arrest rates than non-Black respondents.
- × **A study of prostitution arrests in three North Carolina cities between 1993 and 2000 found that law enforcement's focus on outdoor prostitution leads Black women to be arrested for prostitution at higher rates than white women.**
- × **Three studies of street-based prostitution in a Midwestern city conducted between 1998 and 2004 found that 26% of women had experienced some form of police violence—including slapping, kicking, choking, stalking, or robbery—in the past year.** In two New York City studies, 30% of street-based sex workers and 14% of indoor sex workers reported physical violence by police officers, including kicking and beating.

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- × **86% of trans people surveyed in Atlanta had been approached by police officers in the preceding year;** almost half were targeted for prostitution-related offenses.
- × **Nearly nine out of ten respondents to the 2015 US Transgender Survey who reported involvement in the sex trades also reported police harassment, assault, or mistreatment.**
- × **Nationally, more than 25% of respondents to the 2015 US Transgender Survey who were or were perceived to be involved in the sex trades were sexually assaulted by police,** and an additional 14% reported extortion of sex in order to avoid arrest.
- × Two studies by the Sex Workers Project in New York City found that up to **17% of indoor and outdoor sex workers reported sexual harassment or violence by police officers.**
- × In a study of three Midwestern cities, **15.4% of women reported being forced to have sex with a police officer, 45% had engaged in paid sex with police, and 18 percent reported being extorted for free sex by an officer.**
- × In Washington, DC, a survey by **Different Avenues found that one in five sex workers approached by police had been asked for sex.**
- × **Forty-four percent of respondents to the 2015 US Transgender Survey said the police considered condoms to be evidence of prostitution.**

### POLICING MOTHERHOOD

- × **A study of more than four hundred US arrests of pregnant and parenting women between 1973 and 2005 concluded that law enforcement overwhelmingly targeted low-income women, and disproportionately targeted women of color.** In two-thirds of the cases, there was no evidence whatsoever of harm to the fetus or child.
- × **Misdemeanor child welfare arrests tripled in New York City in the 1990s** under the theory of “broken windows” policing.

### POLICE RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE

- × **Almost a third of respondents to a 2015 survey of survivors of violence and service providers said that police sometimes or often used inappropriate force against survivors.** More than half reported anti-Black, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBTQ attitudes among responding officers.
- × **Among survivors of homophobic and transphobic violence who reported it to the police, 39% said police were hostile, 33% experienced verbal abuse and 16% experienced physical abuse by police.**
- × **More than half of respondents to the 2015 US National Transgender Survey said they would feel uncomfortable asking the police for help if they needed it.** Middle Eastern, Black, and multiracial respondents, as well as people living with disabilities and in poverty were most likely to feel uncomfortable seeking assistance from police.
- × **In Los Angeles and Maryland, the number of women arrested for domestic violence tripled after enactment of mandatory arrest policies.** In New York City, 85% of survivors arrested had a documented history of prior abuse, and 66% were Black or Latina.
- × **Incidents of “misarrest” of LGBTQ people increased 144% from 2008 to 2009.** In 2015, misarrest of survivors increased to 31% from the 17% reported in 2014.

 **COLORING**

Use this coloring page to take a break, reflect, breathe, and celebrate the lives and resistance of the women featured. For more coloring sheets, please visit [invisiblenomorebook.com/study-guide](http://invisiblenomorebook.com/study-guide)

