

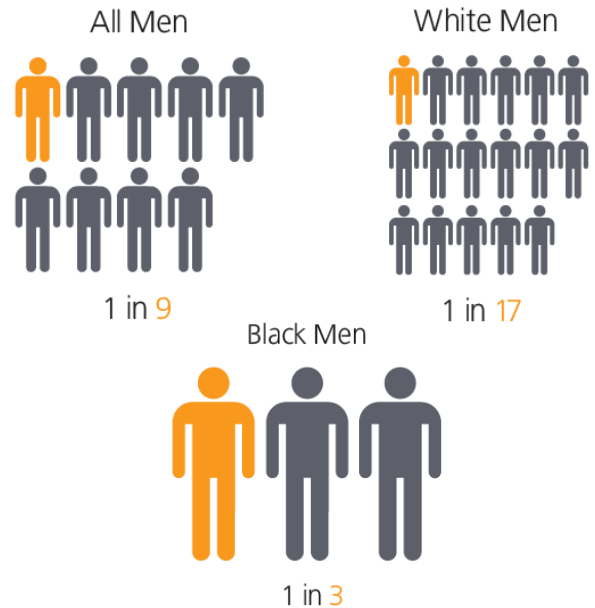
# Prison Reform

The Quick Facts, by the RISE club

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## The Numbers

- African Americans - 35% of incarcerated population and 12.3% of U.S. population
- If incarceration rates were racially equal, US incarcerated population would decrease by 40%
- Every year approximately 4,000 federal prisoners released, however within 3 years half of them will be back in prison.



## Legal Representation

- 1/3 criminal defendants are too poor to afford a lawyer
- Public defenders are overworked

## Mental Health

- Incorrect diagnosis (lack of information)
- 1.2 million people in jails have a mental illness

## New York Reform

- Raised age for criminal responsibility from 16-18.
- Strengthened domestic violence/human trafficking law.

## Education of Prisoners

- About 40% of prisoners do not have a high school diploma
- Approximately 58% of prisoners do not receive an education program while in prison

## Federal Reform

- Placed incentives to participate in programs.
  - Prohibited the practice of shackling pregnant and laboring mothers.
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