

CRIMINALIZATION AND IMMIGRANT DETENTION

#StoptheHate Series

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What is Criminalization?

- Passing laws that criminalize certain behaviors and actions
 - *Examples: making “sleeping on the street,” “public urination,” or non-payment of fines and tickets criminal offenses*
- Targeting enforcement efforts in low-income neighborhoods or communities dominated by people of color and immigrants
 - *Examples: setting up police “check points” only in some neighborhoods; “no tolerance” policies; racial profiling*
- Creating and perpetuating narratives that anyone who “violates the law” or has interactions with law enforcement agencies is undeserving of the same dignity or respect as other people in the community

Interactive Exercise/ Questions

- Do you think it's fear that we Criminalize people in general ?

Criminalization of Black and Brown Communities

- Everyday, people of color in the United States are being criminalized for their economic condition, their race, their migrant status, gender and so much more. There is a pandemic of mass criminalization that is ravaging our neighborhoods and our society.
- [Video: The Real Crime by: BAJI](#)
 - *Watch the video to learn more about how this is happening and what we can do to stop the real crime in our communities.*

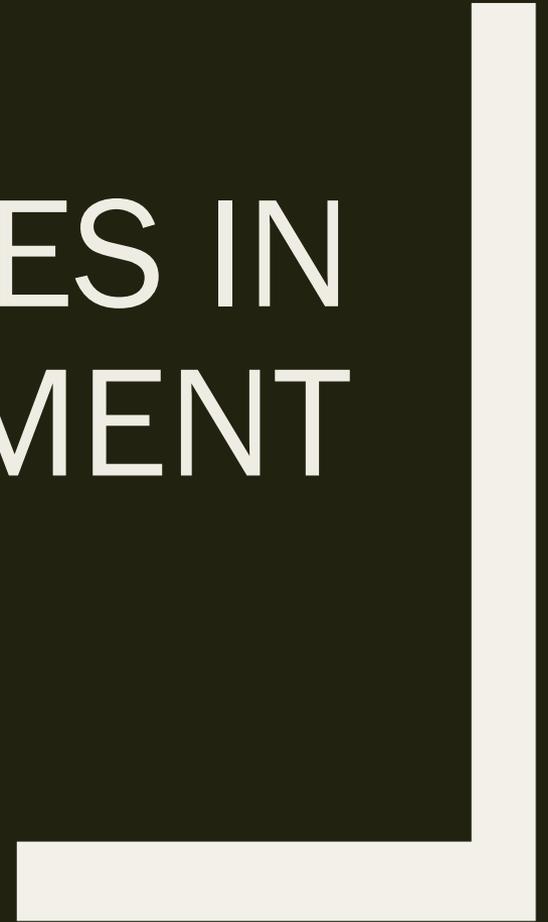
How do we criminalize immigrant communities?

- Using the word “illegal” to refer to someone living in the US without documentation
- Excluding access to legal status (DACA, TPS, green cards) based on any type of criminal conviction
 - *Any felony conviction and some misdemeanors disqualify applicants, this can include DUI’s, possession of small amounts of drugs, and domestic violence charges*
- Supporting policies that deport “felons, not families”
- Singling out people from specific countries or regions for more scrutiny
 - *After 9/11 Muslim communities were heavily monitored by law enforcement agencies*
- Equating ability to access legal documents with moral worth or value
 - *Ignores the history of discrimination and racism in immigration law and who has been allowed, or not allowed, to enter the country with legal status.*

Interactive Exercise/ Questions

- What are some of your thoughts after seeing the video?

CHANGES IN ENFORCEMENT



Immigration Policy Changes in 2017

- Since the inauguration on January 20, 2017, President Trump has signed multiple executive orders targeting immigrant and refugee communities, increasing internal enforcement, and expanding barriers to immigration to the United States
- The interior enforcement executive order has resulted in a massive expansion of immigrant detention and deportation.

Increased Internal Enforcement

- Hire 10,000 additional ICE agents
- Reinstitute *Secure Communities*
- Rescind prior federal policy on "priorities for removal" so all non-citizens now have equal enforcement priority
- Expand expedited removal – removal without a hearing – to include anyone found anywhere in the U.S. who can't prove they have been here for two years
- Make detention the default for nearly all people apprehended by DHS

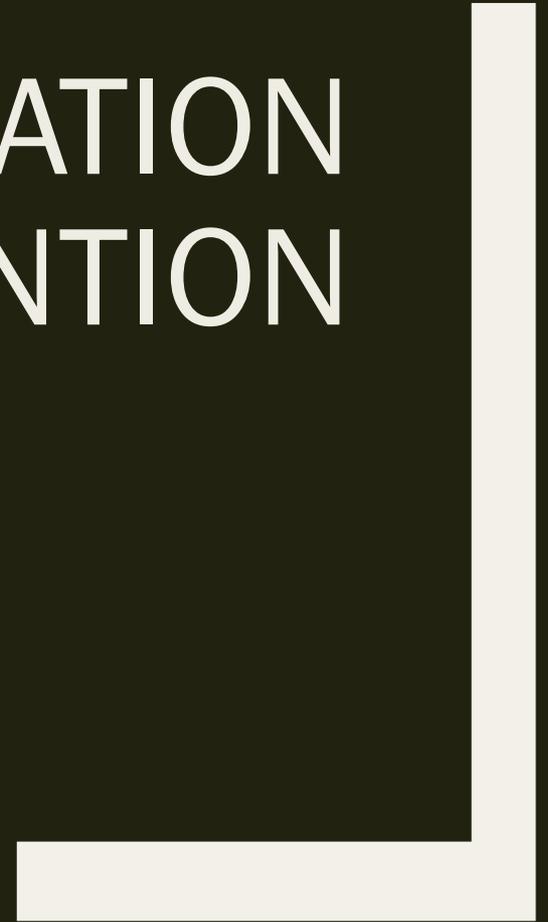
More People in Detention and/or Deported

- Detention of non-citizens for civil immigration issues has more than doubled over 2016 numbers
- Deportation orders up more than 30%
- More than 90% of cases heard in detention centers end in deportation
- Detention and deportation affect children, families, and communities

Impact on Communities and Families

- More people are being swept into detention
- Parents are afraid to leave their homes; children are not going to school
- Parents scrambling to designate caregivers/temporary guardians
 - *46% of undocumented adults have minor children, many of whom are U.S. Citizens*
- Government exhorting law enforcement to serve as ICE officers
 - *Loss of trust in law enforcement making communities less safe*

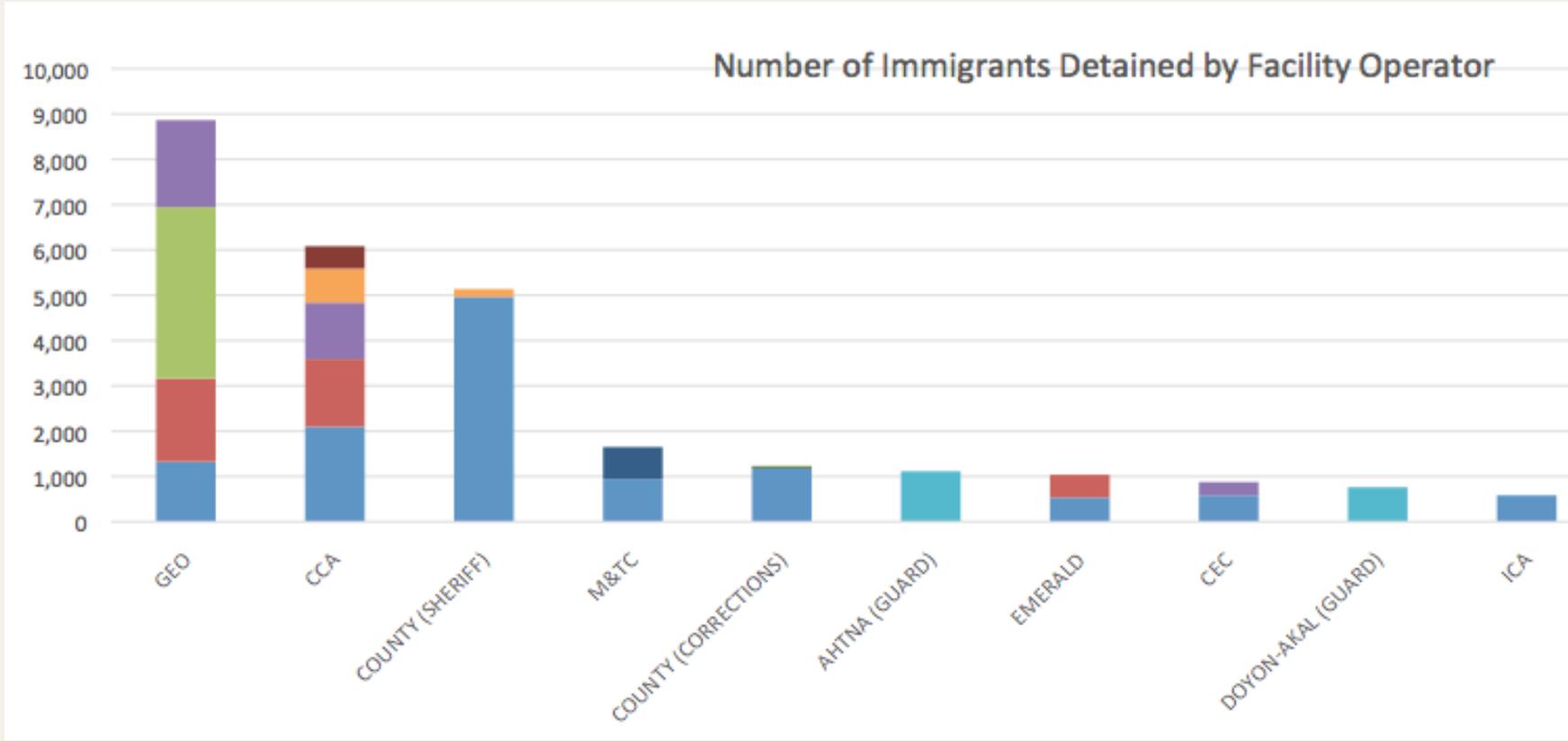
MASS INCARCERATION AND DETENTION



Where are Immigrants Detained?

- Federal facilities
- Private facilities
 - *Almost half of immigrants detainees are being held in private facilities*
- Beds leased at county and municipal jails

Detention by Facility Operator

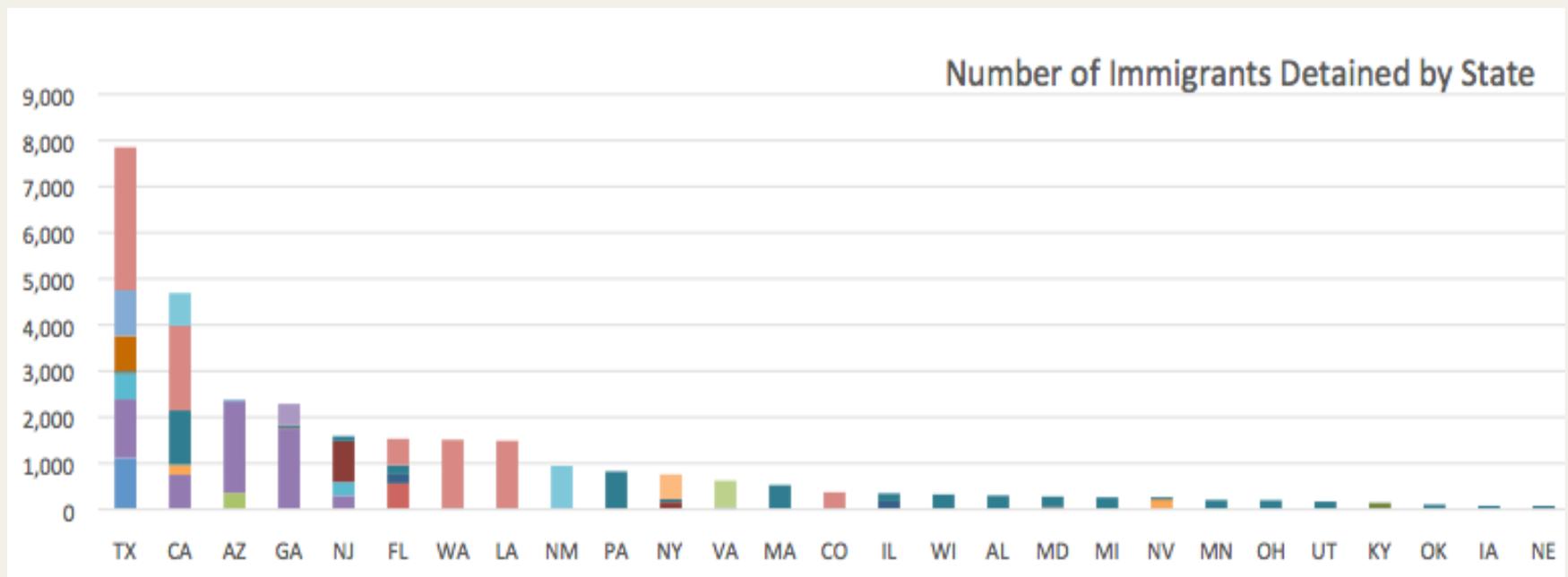


How many people are detained in private facilities?

- Over 60 percent of people are held in privately-run immigration detention facilities.
- GEO Group and Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) together detain approximately 15,000 people in immigration detention per day.
- Correction Corporation of America (now known as Core Civic) is the largest detention contractor with ICE. CCA owned or controlled 66 facilities and managed another 11, with total of 88,500 beds in 20 states as of the end of 2015.

What states detain the most immigrants?

- Texas, California, Arizona, Georgia and New Jersey are the top five states with the largest number of people detained in the U.S. _



How Much Does Detention Cost?

- On average, taxpayers money pays \$90.43 to detain a person in a private immigration detention facility, compared to an average of \$72.69 in a municipal jail.
- According to Grassroots Leadership, “Companies have significantly augmented their profits since the implementation of the quota, CCA from \$133,373,000 in 2007 to \$195,022,000 in 2014. GEO experienced an even more dramatic profit increase from \$41,845,000 in 2007 to \$143,840,000 in 2014, a 244 percent increase.”

Conditions at Detention Centers

- Conditions violate both the international standards of detention and the national detention standards of the U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Unhealthy food: *“Once, for a whole week, we were fed beans that had maggots growing in them. I did not notice until the second day.”* – Detainee at Georgia facility
- Sexual assault: A recent civil rights complaint alleges that the DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received at least 1,016 reports of sexual abuse filed between May 2014 and July 2016
- Lack of medical attention: *“My daughter has been having diarrhea for about three weeks now and we went to see a doctor but they did not give us any medication not even serum.”* - Mother at Berks Family Detention Center

Where Are Immigrants Detained in PA?

- York County Prison
- Pike County Correction Facility
- Clinton County Correctional Facility
- Berks Family Residential Center

Berks Family Detention Center

- One of three family detention centers in the country.
- Facility is owned by Berks County and leased to ICE
 - *Since 2011 Berks county has made nearly \$7 million from operating the detention center for ICE. Berks made more than 1 million in 2016 from family detention*
- Federal court order requires any facility holding children to be licensed and “unsecure”
 - *Currently all family detention centers are considered secure – have locked doors, limit movement of detainees, etc.*
 - *None of the facilities, including Berks, has a license*
- Federal court order states that families may only be detained for a maximum of 21 days. Berks has a history of holding families for much longer.

TAKE ACTION!



Disrupting the Deportation Machine

- Fight to protect the DACA program and immigrant youth.
- Urge the administration to renew expiring TPS designations for the full 18-months.
- Oppose any money in the 2018 budget that will be put towards:
 - *Building a border wall*
 - *Increasing number of ICE officers*
 - *Increasing immigration enforcement at the border or in the interior*
 - *Increasing number of detention beds*
- Pass municipal level policies to end collaboration and communication between local agencies and ICE

#ShutDownBerks and End Family Detention

- Support the families in detained at Berks
- Attend regular vigils at the detention center
- If you live in Berks County – contact and meet with the County Commissioners and demand they end their relationship with ICE
- Contact the PA Dept. of Human Services and Gov. Wolf and ask they close the doors to the detention center
- Ask the PA Dept. of Human Services to finalize the revocation of the license for the detention center

Resources

- <http://blackalliance.org/therealcrime/>
- <http://www.endisolation.org/resources/immigration-detention/>
- <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Immigrants-Berks-Asylum-Detention-Supreme-Court-418574003.html>
- <http://www.alternet.org/privatized-profit-immigrant-detention-centers-abuse-report>

Disclaimer

The Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition is a diverse coalition of over 50 member organizations across the state. PICC is committed to educating and engaging allies to be more effective advocates for pro-immigrant legislation. Our biweekly #StoptheHate Conference calls are the main platform for allies to learn how they can take action to advance immigrant rights. All presentations produced by PICC and its partners are intended for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice.

Questions?

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