



# RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT NOTE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES  
MARYLAND ▪ GENERAL ▪ ASSEMBLY

2022 Session  
HB0127

---

## Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – Division of Correction – Data Requirement

---

### Summary

This bill adds correctional services data, consisting of arrest and incarceration data of the Division of Correction within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to the data collected, analyzed, and reported on by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center. The center must also conduct research relating to correctional services data.

---

### Maryland Demographics

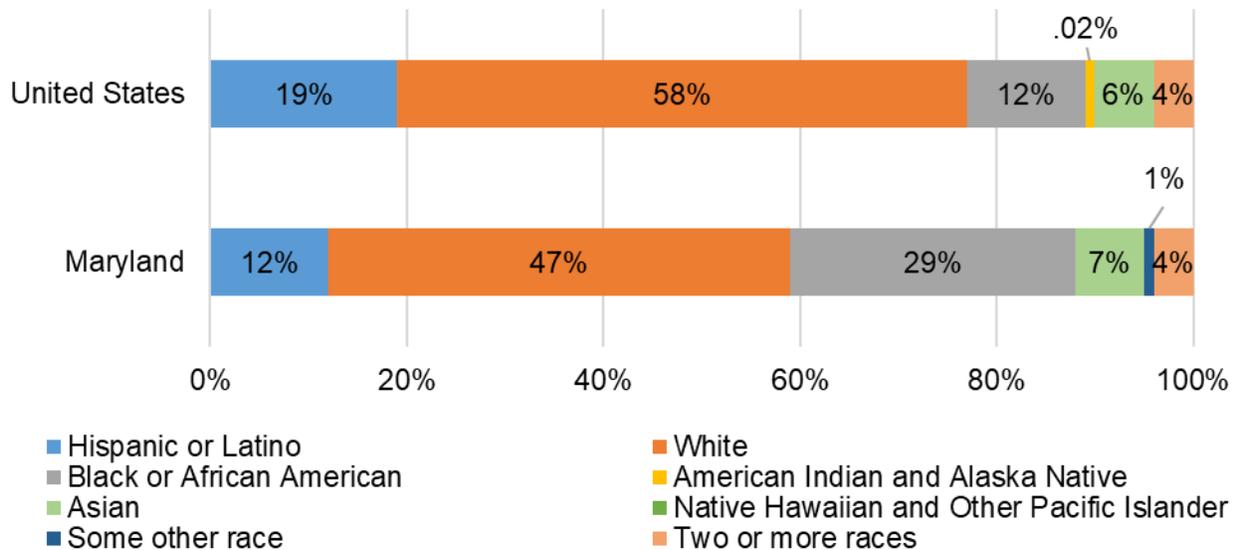
#### *Race and Ethnicity of the Maryland Population*

Maryland's 2020 census population is 6,177,244, a 7% increase from the 2010 census count and approximately 2% higher than the 2019 census population estimates. In addition to an increase in population, Maryland's racial demographics have become more diverse. Maryland is now a state in which racial minorities make up a majority of its total population. Notable changes relevant to this shift are the increase in groups who identify as "other" and "multiracial" (*i.e.*, two or more racial identities), which total 5% of the State's population. Additionally, the change in demographics is due to the decrease in the number of individuals who only report "White" as their racial group. Despite this decrease, non-Hispanic Whites remain the largest single race demographic group in the State at 47% of the State's population.

Compared to the U.S. population overall, Maryland's population of individuals who identify as a single race is more diverse. Maryland is ranked as the fourth most diverse state by the U.S. Census Bureau's [Diversity Index](#). As shown in **Exhibit 1**, in Maryland, 47% identify as White alone compared to 58% of the national population. Similarly, 51% of the population identify as non-White or multi-racial compared to 38% of the national population. In both the State and national populations, the largest shares of the non-White population are individuals who are Black or African American, with 29% of the State population identifying only as Black or African

American and another 2.5% identifying as Black in combination with some other race. Maryland’s Asian population is 7%, which is slightly higher than the Asian share of the national population of 6%. The State’s overall population by ethnicity, however, is slightly less diverse than the U.S. population; 12% of the State’s population identified as Hispanic or Latino compared to 19% of the U.S. population.

**Exhibit 1**  
**U.S. and Maryland Population by Race and Ethnicity**  
**2020**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Table ID P2, HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE

### **Racial Equity Impact Statement**

Data sharing to inform decision making is a common practice at every level of government. Many governmental entities, such as Montgomery County, engage in data sharing to assess racial disparities throughout their institutions and agencies.

Racial disparities are widely seen across various agencies in the State, notably in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). The most recent available inmate characteristics report (2018) indicates that Blacks make up over 70% of the inmate population in Maryland, which far exceeds their proportion of the State population (29%). These disparities reflect the over-representation of communities of color on indicators that suggest disparate impacts in a number of areas, including education, criminal and juvenile justice, health care, and economic development.

Part of the mission of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDSC) is to conduct research using student data, workforce data, and – under the bill – correctional services data, to improve the State’s educational system and guide decision making by State and local governments. Specifically, the bill requires the Division of Correction within DPSCS to exchange de-identified inmate data, including demographic data, information on participation in prison-based education, work-release, and training programs, recidivism, and reason for incarceration.

Longitudinal data collection as proposed by the bill could offer at least three contributions to research on the effects of education and employment characteristics on the adult correctional population. First, it will provide an historical record on the impact of adult educational programs on inmates’ employment opportunities by race and ethnicity. Second, data will provide additional insights on poverty and racial disparities among formerly incarcerated populations. Finally, detailed data collection on prisoner reentry can improve understanding of adult education programs and barriers to employment.

Collection of DPSCS’s correctional services data by MLDSC would likely be advantageous to assessing the racial impacts of legislation on both the State and local level. The research, analysis, and reporting of this data would provide insight into the impacts of various policies, particularly in the education and criminal justice areas.

---

## Conclusion

There is a lack of comprehensive data to fully assess the racial impacts of various programs and policies in the State. This hinders the ability to determine the need for wraparound services that could be provided through the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Human Services, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the Division of Correction within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The data sharing provisions of the bill would likely help policymakers assess racial inequities relevant to education, correctional services, public safety, health, and human services programs in Maryland.

---

**Information Sources:** Racial Equity Profile Report for Montgomery County (2019); Department of Legislative Services

**Analysis by:** Dr. Jasmón Bailey

**Published:** 01/25/2022

---