



### **N.C. Race & Justice Email Digest**

Promoting productive, data-informed discourse on race & criminal justice in N.C.

#### **Research**

[Crime in 2016: Final Year-End Data](#): "This analysis finds that Americans are safer today than they have been at almost any time in the past 25 years."

-Brennan Center for Justice

[Out of Sight: The Growth of Jails in Rural America](#): "During the past decade, the use of jails has declined sharply in urban areas while it has grown ever-higher in rural areas. Mass incarceration affects cities and towns of every size — and the most outsized jails are now in the least populous areas. It is not surprising this phenomenon has gone undetected; scholarship, advocacy, and media tend to focus on big cities."

-Vera Institute for Justice, Safety & Justice Challenge, fact sheet [here](#)

[Language from police body camera footage shows racial disparities in officer respect](#): "Using footage from body-worn cameras, we analyze the respectfulness of police officer language toward white and black community members during routine traffic stops."

-Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, related article [here](#)

[Federal Prisons at a Crossroads](#): "The number of people incarcerated in federal prisons has declined substantially in recent years. In fact, while most states

enacted reforms to reduce their prison populations over the past decade, the federal prison system has downsized at twice the nationwide rate. But recently enacted policy changes at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and certain Congressional proposals appear poised to reverse this progress.”

-The Sentencing Project

### **NC News & Analysis**

[Amid district challenges, NC Supreme Court faces another test on race:](#) “Citizens participate directly in American democracy in two primary ways: when they vote and when they serve on a jury. North Carolina has a long tradition of withholding both of these rights from African-Americans. It’s a tradition that, shamefully, continues in some respects today. Unfortunately, our state’s highest courts have on occasion shown themselves unwilling to stand up to even blatant discrimination.”

-News & Observer

[In the Matter of T.K.: Does a Student’s Use of Profanity in the Hallway Constitute Disorderly Conduct at School?:](#) With children of color disproportionately disciplined and arrested in schools, this look at the legal landscape of disorderly conduct charges is particularly relevant.

-UNC School of Government

[Draft policing reforms for Wake schools come up short say children’s advocates:](#) “A draft agreement that sets campus police policy in North Carolina’s largest school system has yet to be publicly released, but the much anticipated document is already fetching criticism from youth justice advocates.”

-NC Policy Watch

### **National News & Analysis**

[The two-tiered justice system: “Money bail in historical perspective:](#) “The debate over how to reform the bail system is an old one, it turns out....The punitive nature of our bail system is rooted in history.....especially our views of poverty, our assumptions about the interconnectivity of race and crime, and the financialization of our criminal justice system. Looking back offers a chance to reflect on how to

reform the system moving forward.”

-Southern Poverty Law Center

[A Pivotal Moment in the Movement for Pretrial Justice:](#) “The past few years have brought stunning successes in the movement to improve pretrial justice in America....And yet, our opponents are not backing down....Like us, they know that time is on our side. And that means their only hope is to stop us. Not delay us. Not limit our success. But stop us. Now.”

-Pretrial Justice Institute

[The private-prison industry has one big client that no one talks about:](#) “The largest jail system in the United States has no buildings of its own. Instead, it’s a shadowy complex of agreements that tucks detainees in wherever there’s available space. It has swelled substantially over the past two decades, and it is likely to grow further.”

-Quartz

**Have an article, report, study or event announcement to share?**

**Please email [rob@ncj.com](mailto:rob@ncj.com)**

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