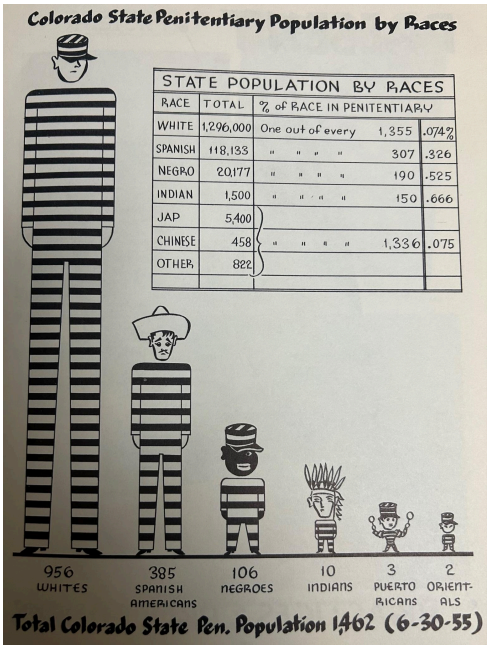
History Colorado
We Are Colorado. Somos Colorado.

COLORADO BLACK EQUITY STUDY

Research Update
January 2026

Since fall 2025, the Colorado Black Equity Study team has:

- Continued to conduct archival research on criminal justice, banking, business, education, and housing in collections at History Colorado, the State Archives, the Denver Public Library, the University of Denver, and the University of Colorado–Boulder. *[Image: Colorado State Prison Report, 1955.]*



- Compiled a database of all known Black prisoners in the state penitentiary from 1870 to 1980 and another database of Black businesses in operation in the early 20th century.

- Completed a detailed study of the Black prisoner population in Colorado since the 1980s, assessing the effects of different sentencing changes on Black incarceration rates.

- Completed a detailed study of Black suburbanization in the Denver metro area since the 1970s, analyzing the push and pull factors that have made Arapahoe County home to Colorado's largest Black population.

- Drafted the section of the report covering the early twentieth century (1910–1935), showing how whites created segregated neighborhoods and schools as well as how Black Coloradans tried to resist and worked to build refuges such as Lincoln Hills.

In early 2026, the Colorado Black Equity Study team is:

- Completing a study on Colorado Springs since World War II
- Continuing research on criminal justice and banking from the 1970s to the present.
- Conducting oral histories around the state at a rate of 1–2 per week.
- Conducting an online survey to collect Black Coloradans' experiences.

Moving forward, the Colorado Black Equity Study team will:

- Continue in-depth research on business, health, education, and environmental justice
- Continue to draft the report and plan supplementary resources
- Facilitate community listening sessions in:
    - Boulder: 12–2 p.m. on Saturday, 3/21, at Museum of Boulder
    - Durango: 12–2 p.m. on Saturday, 4/11, at Fort Lewis College
    - Colorado Springs: 12–2 p.m. on Saturday, 5/2, at Colorado College